

How to determine launching points to deploy ARGO floats drifting with average spacing of 300 km

Shinya Kakuta ^{*1}, Yasunori Sasaki ^{*2}, and Kisaburo Nakata ^{*3}

- 1 *Independent Administrative Institution, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC),
3173-25, Showa-machi, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama 236-0001, Japan*
- 2 *National Defense Academy, 1-10-20, Hashirimizu, Yokosuka, Kanagawa 239-8686, Japan*
- 3 *Tokai University, 3-20-1, Orido, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka 424-8610, Japan*

Received : December, 12, 2003 Accepted : March, 28, 2005

Abstract

The scientific mission of the project ARGO is to build a real-time, high-resolution monitoring system for upper and middle layers of the world ocean, which consists of Argo floats, satellite-communication systems, and information-processing technologies. The ocean monitoring system will obtain the high quality data of upper and middle layers of the world ocean almost simultaneously with very high space-time resolution. That will help us to understand large scale, on going oceanic variations. An easy-to-use method of determining launching points to deploy floats drifting with certain average spacing is proposed. Counting the number of floats drifting within a certain radius from the last launching point, this method determines the next launching point successively. It is easy to adopt this method even on cruise tracks curved or broken.