

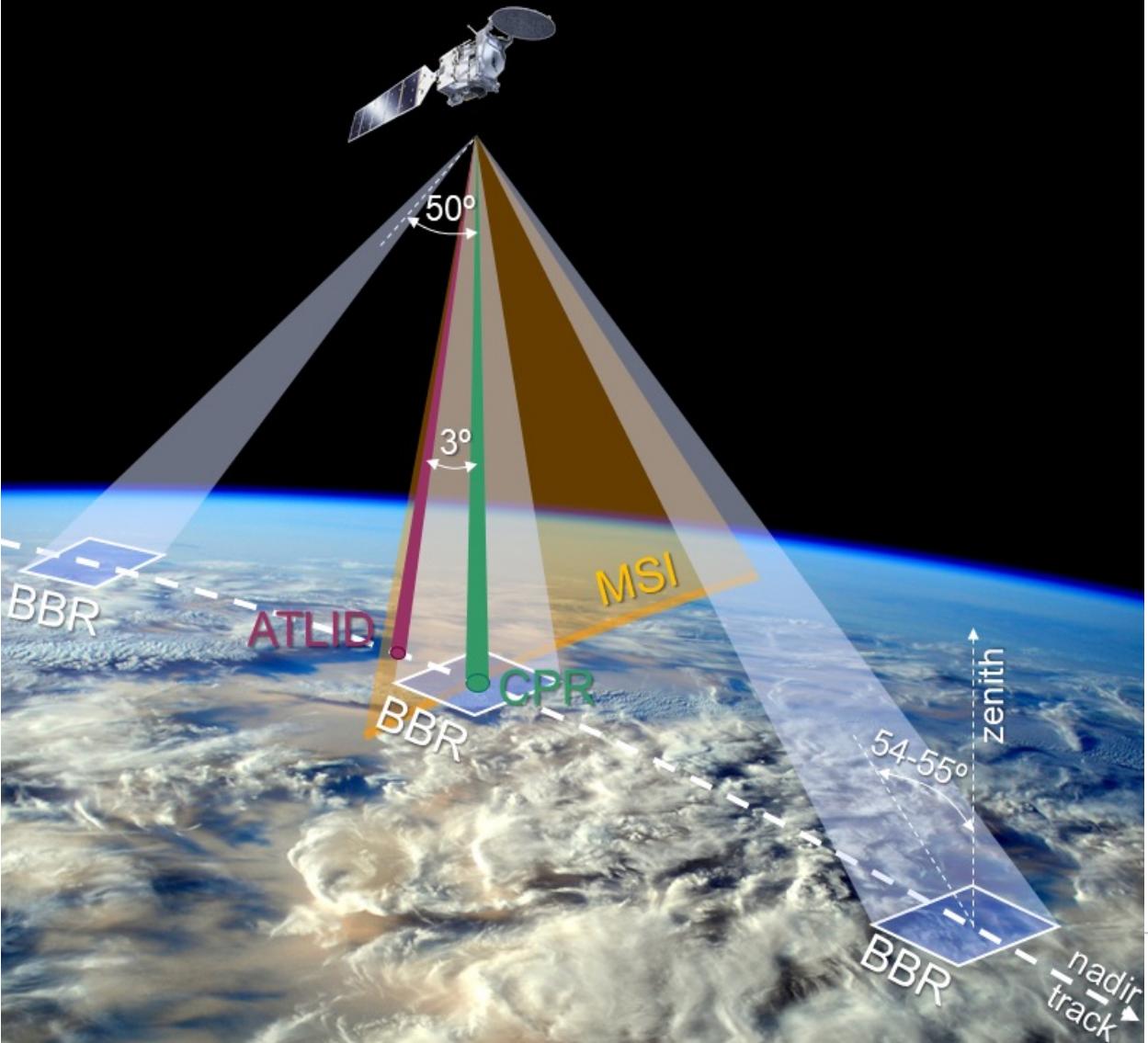
EarthCARE instrumentation:

BBR – Broad Band Radiometer

MSI – Multi-Spectral Imager (7 channels)

CPR – Cloud Profiling Radar (profiler at 94 GHz)

ATLID – Atmospheric Lidar (HSRL at 355 nm)



EarthCARE Mission overview & CCRES Cal/Val

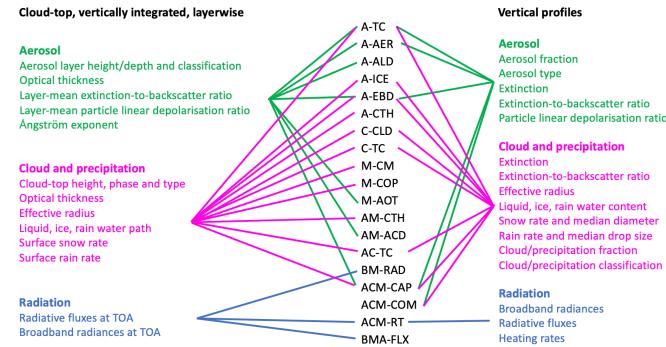
Lukas Pfitzenmaier

Nathan Feuillard, Felipe Toledo Bittner,
Ewan O'Conner, Simo Tukiainen,
and many more...

CCRES/CLU Training school, Munich, 2-5 Sept. 2025

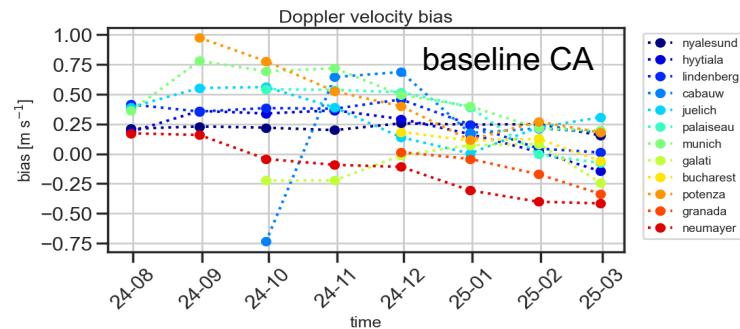
Content

EarthCARE overview:

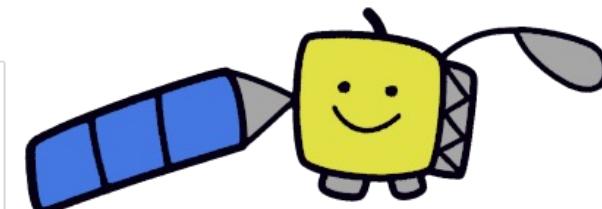


Status
Instrumentation
Data products
Synergy to ACTRIS
Open validation questions

CCRES validation activities



Summary and outlook

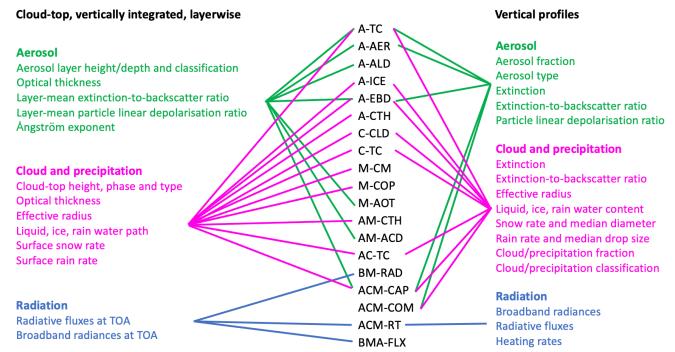


Information
Tools
Links

L2 validation?

Content

EarthCARE overview:



Status
Data products
Open questions

Tobias Wehr et al., 2023, AMT

EarthCARE instrumentation

BBR

- 3 different views – zenith and 50° off zenith front and back
- Footprint 10 x 10 km every 1 km along track

MSI

- 7 channels - 0.67, 0.865, 1.65, 2.21, 8.8, 10.8, and 12.0 μm
- Swath - 115 km (right) 35 km (left)
- Footprint nadir – 0.5 x 0.5 km
- Distribute zenith information along swath pixels
 - radiation closure

CPR

- 94 GHz profiling radar
- Footprint 800m - L1: 0.5 km and L2 1 km along track integration
- 100 m range resolution – 500 m pulse oversampling – noise correlation
- Doppler velocity SNR ok down to -20 /-21 dBZ – no Doppler below in L2!

ATLID

- Impressive performance – “a milestone for future space-borne Lidars” (NASA)
- Footprint – L1 ~ 30m for L2 up to 20 km depends on product
- Range resolution lower 20 - 40 km

Tobias Wehr et al., 2023, AMT, & Illingworth et al., 2015, BAMS

Instrument	Characteristics	Example products and synergy
Atmospheric lidar (ATLID) 355 nm	Transmits 38 mJ pulses at 51 Hz. High-spectral-resolution receiver with Rayleigh and Mie copolar and total cross-polar channels. Telescope diameter 0.62 m. Beam divergence 45 μrad , ground footprint about 30 m. Receiver field of view 65 μrad . Pointing 3° off-nadir along track to avoid specular reflection from ice crystals. Vertical-resolution 103 m from -1 to 20 km in height and 500 m from 20 to 40 km. Horizontal resolution 285 m (two shots).	Aerosol products: profiles of extinction, backscatter, depolarization ratio, lidar ratio (all with uncertainties), and aerosol type. Cloud products: IWC, effective radius, cloud-top height, cloud and aerosol synergy products with CPR and MSI.
Cloud profiling radar (CPR) 94.05 GHz	2.5-m antenna. Nadir pointing. 0.095° (3 dB) beam width; 660-m ground footprint. Extended Interaction Klystron (EIK), 3.3- μs pulses. Pulse repetition frequency 6100–7500 Hz. Doppler capability. 500-m vertical resolution, oversampled at 100 m down to 1 km below the surface. Horizontal sampling 500 m.	Cloud and vertical motion products. Synergy with ATLID and MSI: narrow swath profiles of liquid and ice-cloud content and extinction, particle size and concentration, and precipitation rates (all with uncertainties).
Multispectral imager (MSI)	Nadir pushbroom imager with seven channels: 0.670, 0.865, 1.65, 2.21, 8.80, 10.80, and 12.00 μm . To reduce sunglint the swath is tilted to right of ground track looking forward along the orbit, so it is 115 km to the right, 35 km to the left. Sampling 500 m \times 500 m at nadir.	Cloud and aerosol products. Radiances used to construct 3D cloud-aerosol scenes around narrow swath of retrieved profiles, leading to estimates of radiative flux and heating rate profiles.
Broadband radiometer (BBR)	Channels: 0.25–50 μm , 0.25–4 μm ; three fixed telescopes: nadir, forward, and backward (at 50° viewing zenith angles). Radiometric accuracy: SW 2.5 $\text{W m}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1}$; LW 1.5 $\text{W m}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1}$. Mean radiances averaged to 10 km \times 10 km will be oversampled and reported every ~1 km along track.	Observed solar and thermal radiances and their derived fluxes are compared with those predicted by radiative transfer models applied to 3D constructed scenes.

Level 0 (L0) product	Raw instrument science packets, ordered in time, with duplicates removed, annotated with quality flags and time stamps related to the data acquisition at the ground station. For expert users only, not distributed.
Level 1b (L1b) product	Calibrated instrument data processed to physical units, with error bars, quality flags and geolocations.
Level 1c (L1c) product	MSI-only: L1b data re-sampled onto the grid of one selected MSI reference channel.
Level 1d (L1d) product	Special/auxiliary products created to support higher-level processing of EarthCARE products. (The only L1d product is the joint standard grid.)
Level 2 (L2) product	Derived geophysical variables, either at the same resolution and location as L1b data (“native grid”) or re-sampled to a common grid (joint standard grid), with error bars, quality flags and geolocations.
Level 2a (L2a) product	(EarthCARE-specific definition) L2 product derived from one single EarthCARE instrument.
Level 2b (L2b) product	(EarthCARE-specific definition) L2 product synergistically derived from two or more EarthCARE instruments.

BBR

- Works well
- Validation needs

MSI

- Calibration issues for VNS bands - diffuser does not work as expected
 - ad-hoc vicarious calibration of MSI solar bands has been implemented for baseline (BA)
 - further updates will be developed based on vicarious calibration, e.g. additional information/satellites cross-validation or development of new techniques (needs time, people, money)
- L1 and further L2 products require careful handling – please read the documentation.

CPR

- Doppler velocity can be used down to -20 /-21 dBZ
- Doppler velocity bias varies with time
 - CPR antenna heating by solar radiation ([Publication by B. Puigdonèch Treserras et al., AMTD, 2025](#))

ATLID

- Impressive performance – “a milestone for future space-borne Lidars” (NASA)
- Lots of extinction products for different purposes – more explanation needed
- Read the documentation!

EarthCARE product overview ESA

Overview of the L2 product chain from ESA

singles sensor products

ATLID red box

CPR greed box

MSI yellow box

Combined products

AM = ATLID + MSI

AC = ATLID + CPR

BM = BBR + MSI

ACM = ATLID + CPR + MSI

BMA = BBR + MSI + ATLID

EGU special issue

https://amt.copernicus.org/articles/special_issue1156.html

Cloud-top, vertically integrated, layerwise

Aerosol

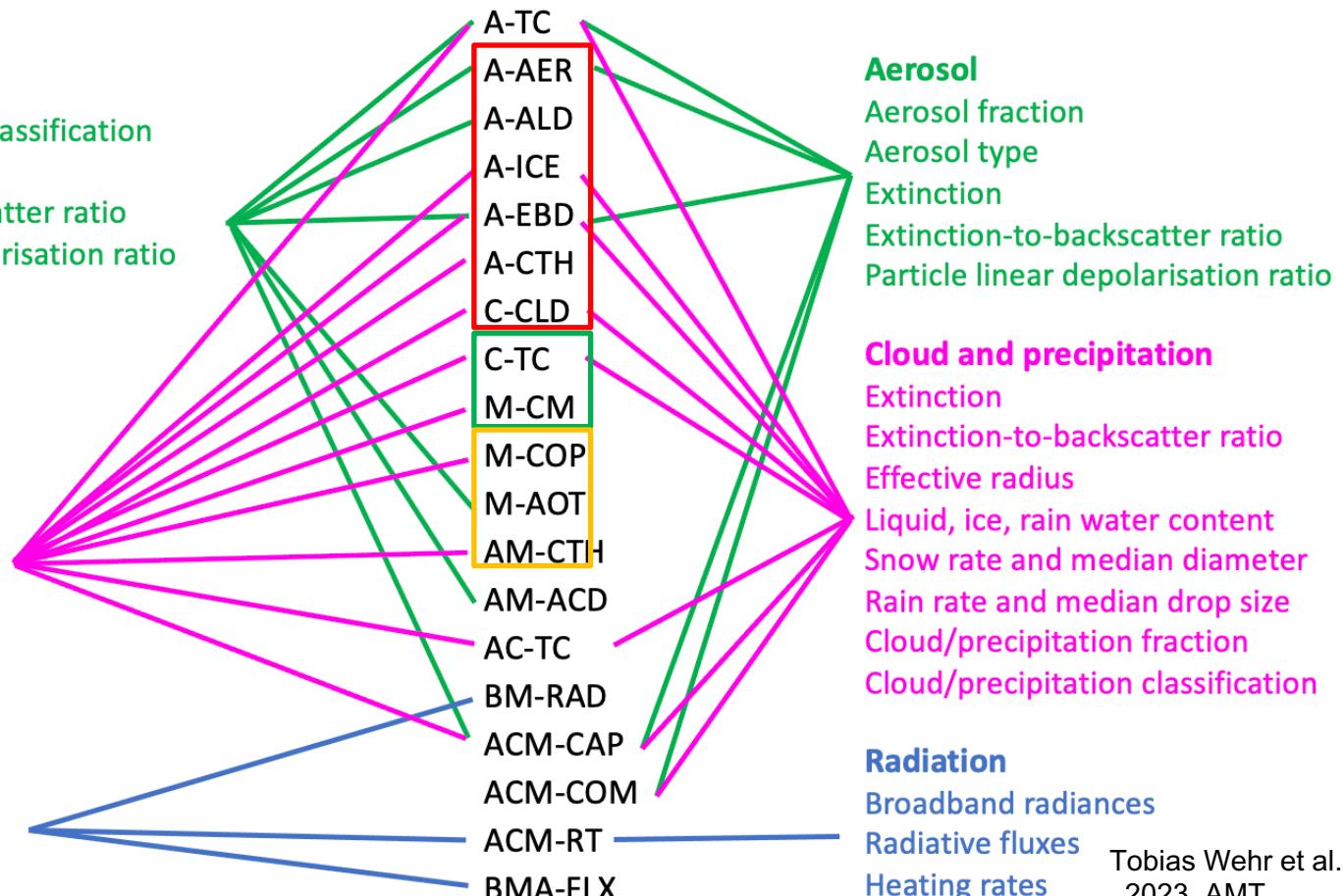
Aerosol layer height/depth and classification
Optical thickness
Layer-mean extinction-to-backscatter ratio
Layer-mean particle linear depolarisation ratio
Ångström exponent

Cloud and precipitation

Cloud-top height, phase and type
Optical thickness
Effective radius
Liquid, ice, rain water path
Surface snow rate
Surface rain rate

Radiation

Radiative fluxes at TOA
Broadband radiances at TOA



Vertical profiles

Aerosol

Aerosol fraction
Aerosol type
Extinction
Extinction-to-backscatter ratio
Particle linear depolarisation ratio

Cloud and precipitation

Extinction
Extinction-to-backscatter ratio
Effective radius
Liquid, ice, rain water content
Snow rate and median diameter
Rain rate and median drop size
Cloud/precipitation fraction
Cloud/precipitation classification

Radiation

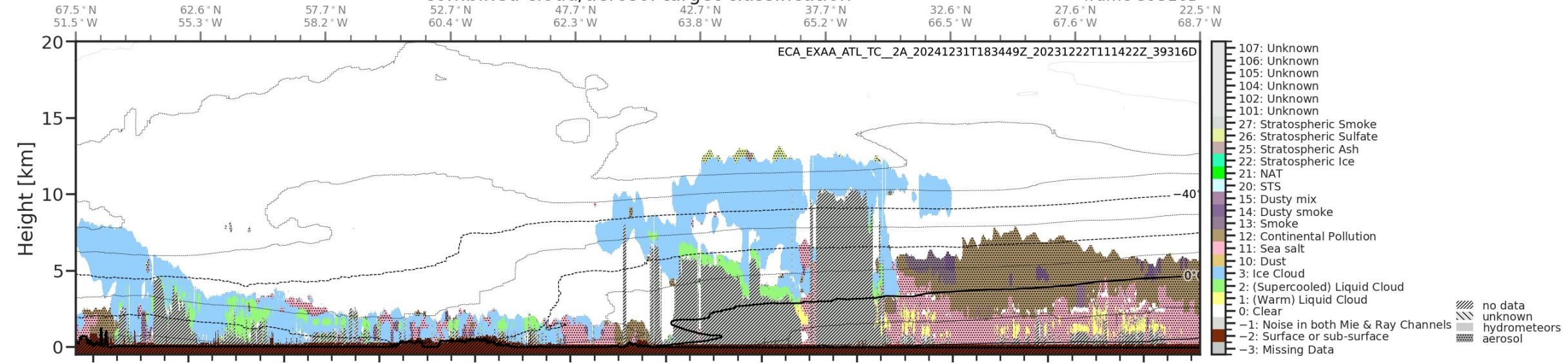
Broadband radiances
Radiative fluxes
Heating rates

Tobias Wehr et al., 2023, AMT

Example ESA Target Classification

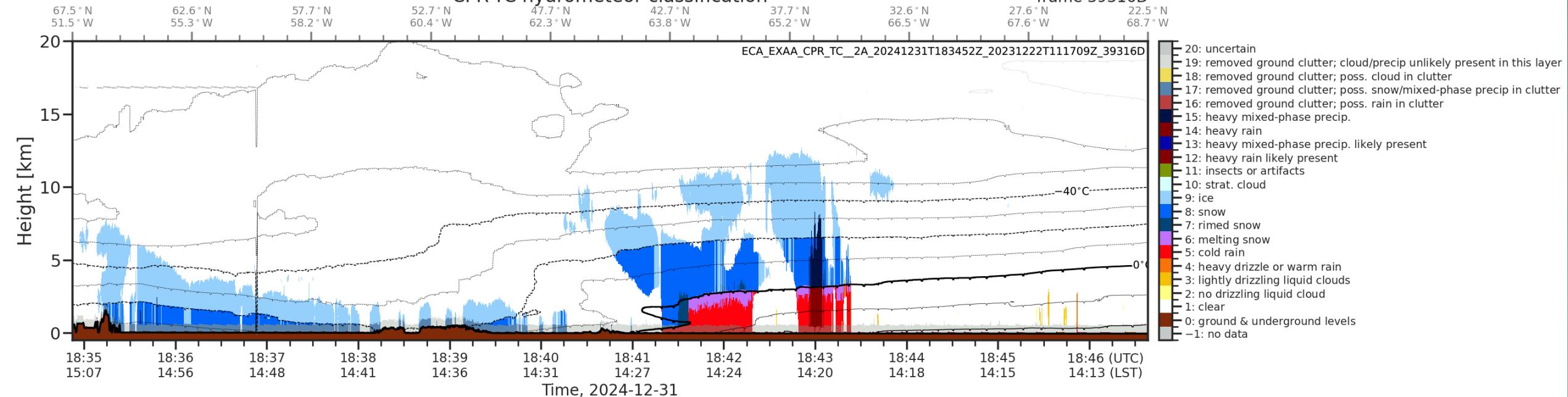
ATL-TC medium horizontal resolution
combined cloud/aerosol target classification

frame 39316D

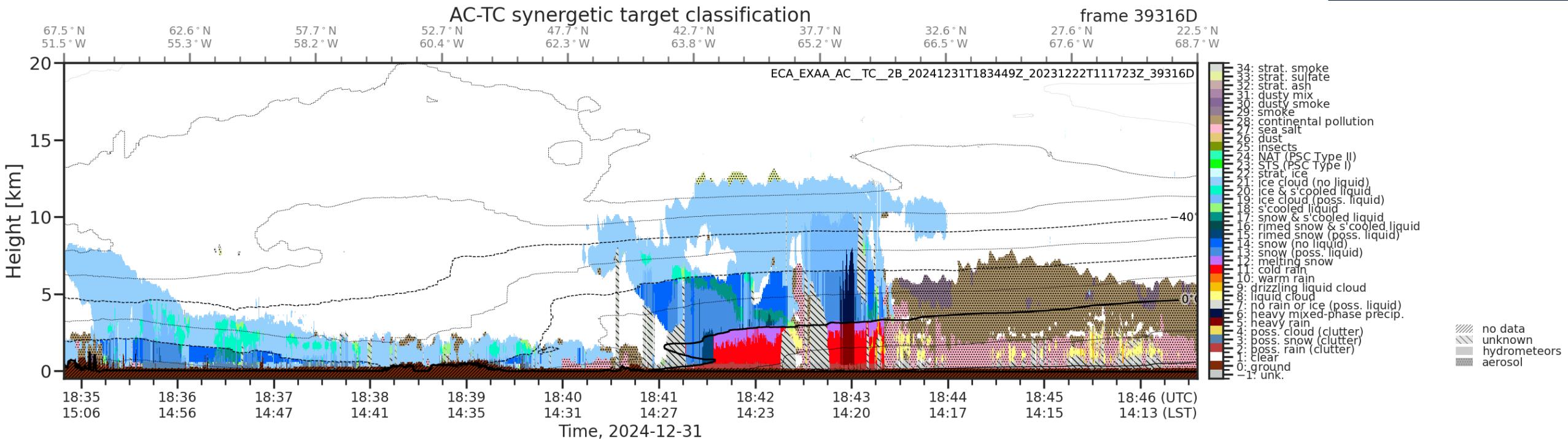


CPR-TC hydrometeor classification

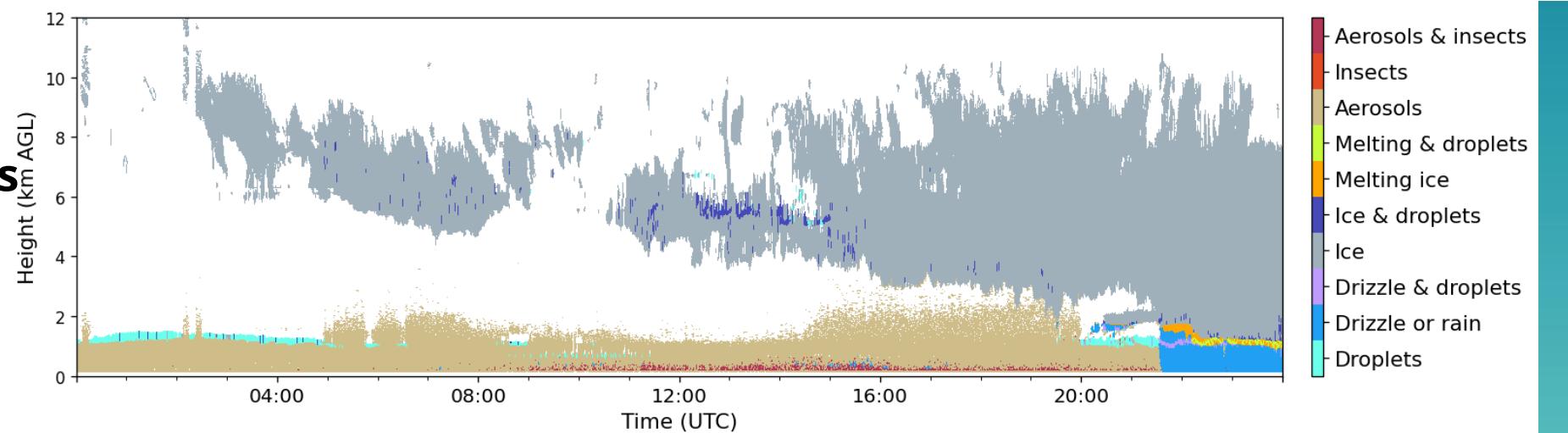
frame 39316D



Example ESA Target Classification



**Differences
in the
classifications
from ground
and space**



EarthCARE product overview ESA

Overview of the L2 product chain from JAXA

singles sensor products

ATLID red box

CPR greed box

MSI yellow box

AM = ATLID + MSI

AC = ATLID + CPR

BM = BBR + MSI

ACM = ATLID + CPR + MSI

BMA = BBR + MSI + ATLID

Different products!

Different retrievals!

Sometimes even different parameters!

Lots of possibilities to validate and compare!

EGU special issue

https://amt.copernicus.org/articles/special_issue1156.html

Overview of JAXA L2 products

Cloud-top, vertically integrated, layerwise

Aerosol

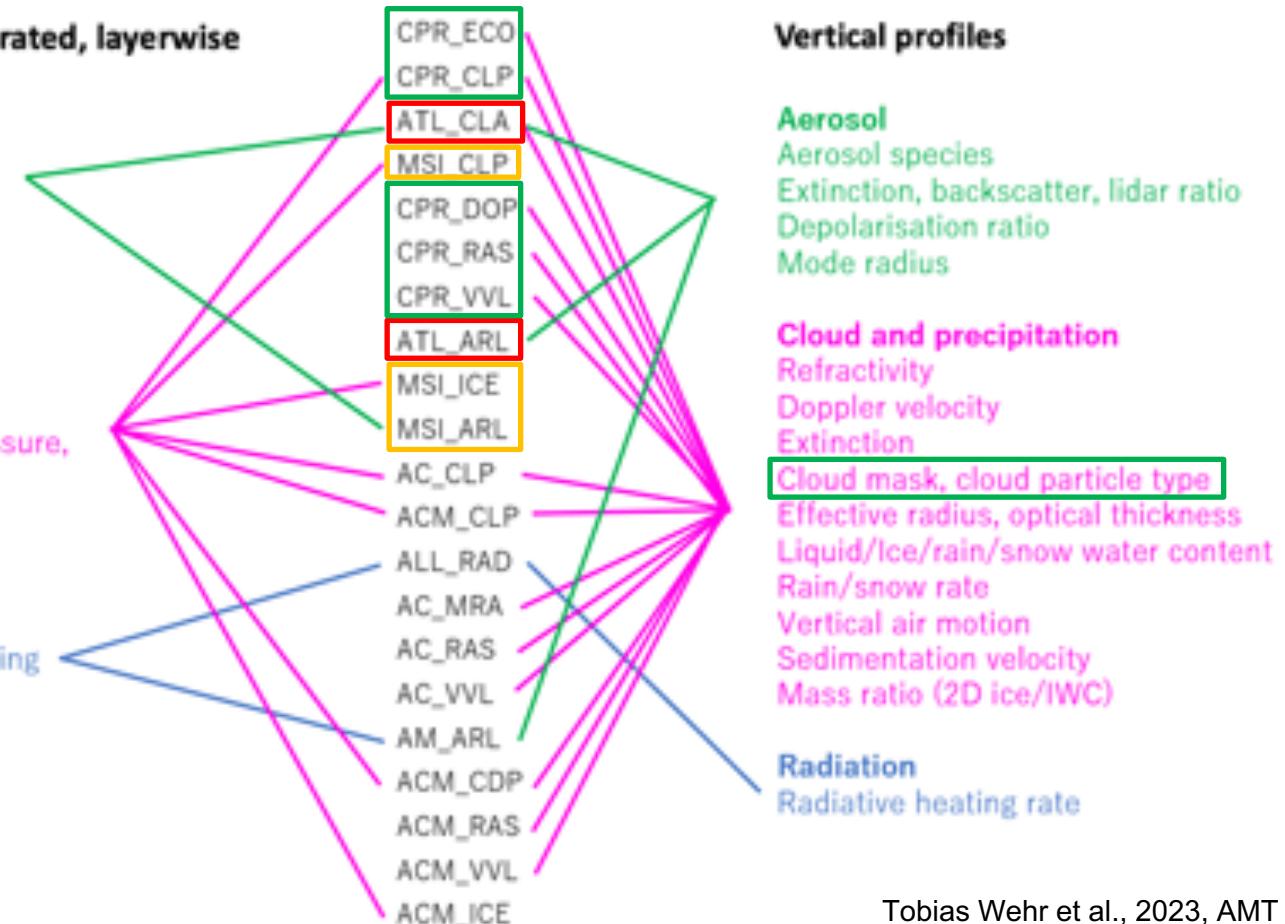
Boundary layer height
Aerosol optical thickness
Ångström exponent

Cloud and precipitation

Cloud phase
Optical thickness
Effective radius
Cloud-top temperature, pressure,
and height
Liquid, ice water path

Radiation

Radiative flux at TOA/BOA
Aerosol direct radiative Forcing
at TOA/BOA



Vertical profiles

Aerosol

Aerosol species
Extinction, backscatter, lidar ratio
Depolarisation ratio
Mode radius

Cloud and precipitation

Refractivity
Doppler velocity
Extinction

Cloud mask, cloud particle type

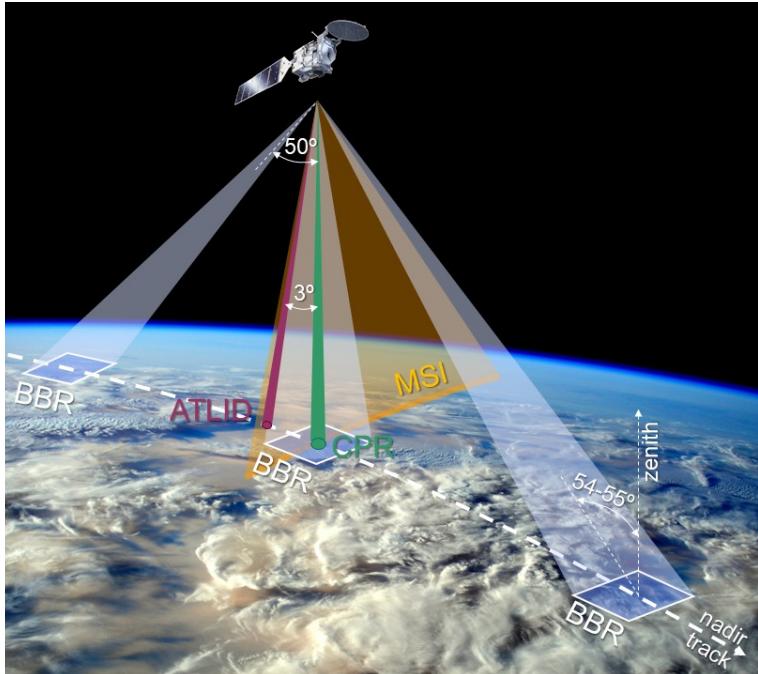
Effective radius, optical thickness
Liquid/ice/rain/snow water content
Rain/snow rate
Vertical air motion
Sedimentation velocity
Mass ratio (2D ice/IWC)

Radiation

Radiative heating rate

Tobias Wehr et al., 2023, AMT

EarthCARE status validation possibilities

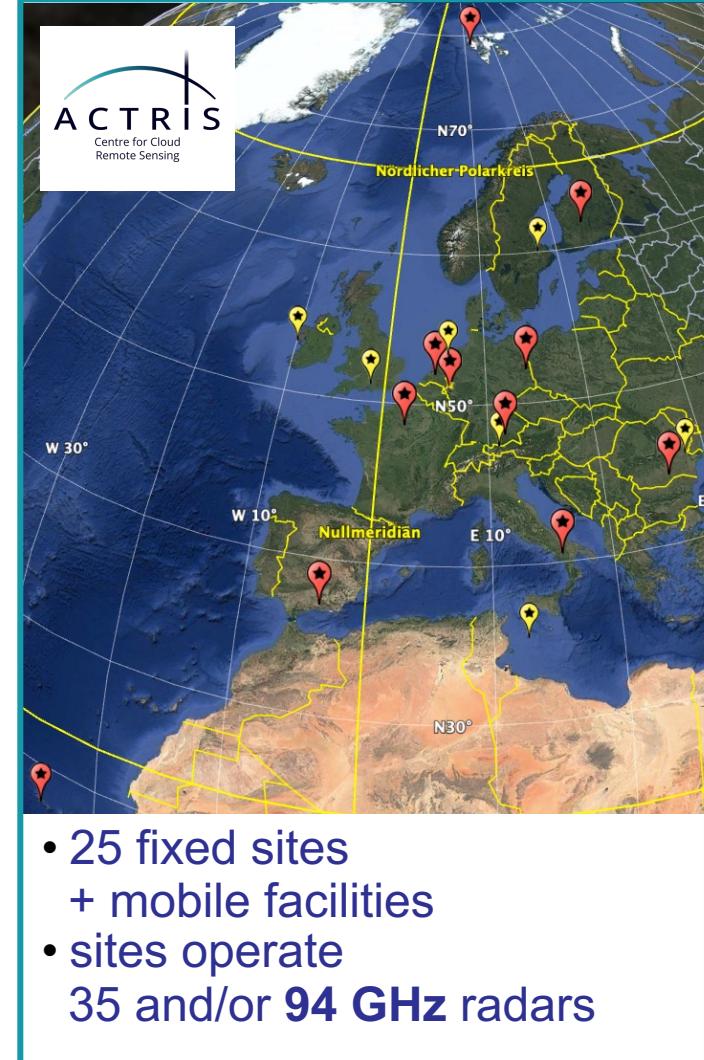


- Operating since July 2024
- L1 and L2 data available
- Download ESA server:
<https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/earthcare/data>
- Download tool ESA:
<https://github.com/koenigleon/oads-download>

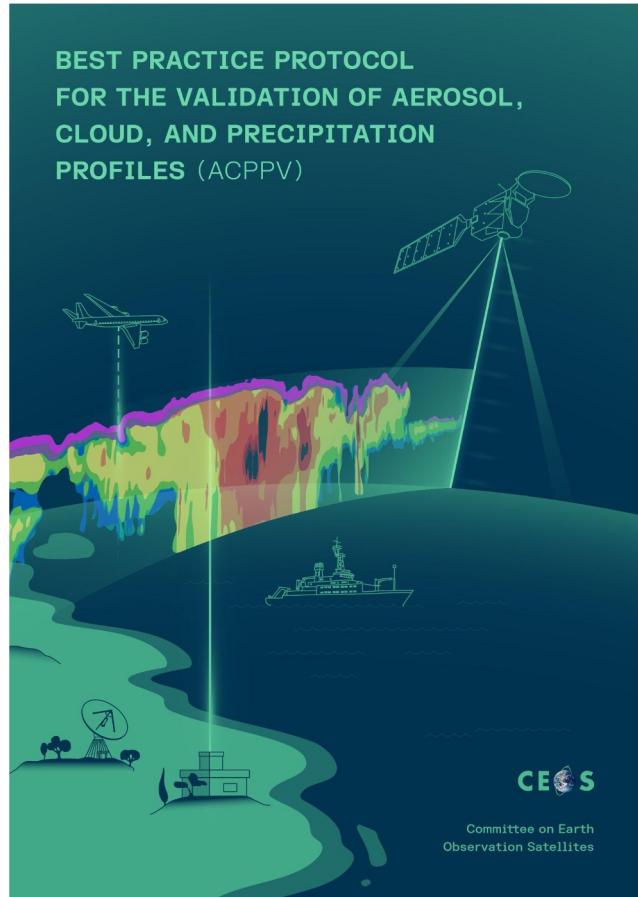
Similar Instrumentation
EarthCARE = ACTRIS
site from space

ACTRIS Cloud Remote Sensing

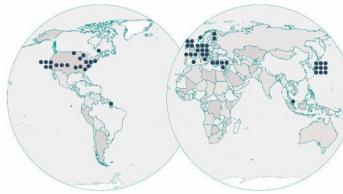
- Centralised homogeneous processing
- Data Quality control
- Good geographical coverage
- Cloudnet classification → L2 ready?
- Database for EarthCARE validation
 - Case study
 - Statistical comparison



Best practice protocol for validation



BEST PRACTICE PROTOCOL
FOR THE VALIDATION OF AEROSOL,
CLOUD, AND PRECIPITATION
PROFILES (ACPPV)



DOI assignment in Zenodo:
<https://zenodo.org/records/15025627>

Published in CEOS portal

97 authors from 58 institutions

Amiridis, Vassilis; Marinou, Eleni; Hostetler, Chris; Koopman, Rob; Cecil, Daniel; Moiseev, Dmitri; Tackett, Jason; Grof, Silke; Baars, Holger; Redemann, Jens; Marenco, Franco; Baldini, Luca; Taneli, Simone; Fielding, Mark; Janiskova, Marta; Tanaka, Toshiyuki; O'Connor, Ewan; Fjaeraa, Ann Mari; Paschou, Peristera; Voudouri, Kalliopi Artemis; Ferrare, Richard; Burton, Sharon; Schuster, Gregory; Kato, Seiji; Winker, David; Shook, Michael; Bley, Sebastian; Haarig, Moritz; Floutsi, Athena Augusta; Wandinger, Ulla; Trapon, Dimitri; Pfitzenmaier, Lukas; Papagiannopoulos, Nikolaos; Mona, Lucia; Posselt, Derek; Mason, Shannon; Rennie, Michael; Benedetti, Angela; Hogan, Robin; Sogacheva, Larisa; Balis, Dimitris; Michailidis, Konstantinos; van Zadelhoff, Gerd-Jan; Nowotnick, Edward; Yorks, John; Mroz, Kamil; Donovan, David; L'Ecuyer, Tristan; Okamoto, Hajime; Sato, Kaori; Henderson, David; Nishikawa, Tomoaki; Barker, Howard; Cole, Jason; Qu, Zhipeng; Clerbaux, Nicolas; Nakajima, Takashi; Chase, Randy; Wolff, David; Landulfo, Eduardo; Kirstetter, Pierre-Emmanuel; Mather, Jim; Ohigashi, Tadayasu; Ryder, Claire; Tzallas, Vasileios; Tsikoudi, Ioanna; Tsekeri, Alexandra; Tsichla, Maria; Koutsoupi, Iliana; Kubota, Takuji; Siomos, Nikolaos; Takahashi, Nobuhiro; Horie, Hiroaki; Suzuki, Kentaroh; Mace, Jay; McLean, William; Borderies, Maria; Mangla, Rohit; Escribano, Jerónimo; Moradi, Isaac; Zhang, Jianglong; Juli, Rubin; Ikuta, Yasutaka; Marbach, Thierry; Bojkov, Bojan; Accadia, Christophe; Fougne, Bertrand; Spezzi, Loredana; Bozzo, Alessio; Chimot, Julien; Jafariserajehlou, Soheila; Flament, Thomas; Mattioli, Vinia; Strandgren, Johan; Barlakas, Vasileios; Kollias, Pavlos.

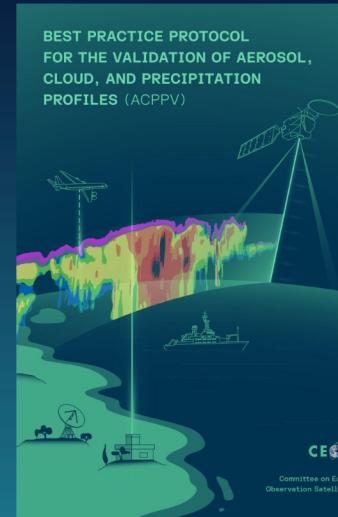
Best practice protocol for validation

chapter 1: Introduction [Contact: Vassilis Amiridis, Dan Cecil]

- Overview of past, present, and future space missions
- Validation objectives for space profilers
- Cal/Val definitions/nomenclature and validation metrics

Chapter 2: Validation needs for Space Profilers [Contact: Luca Baldini, Tristan l'Ecuyer, Hajime Okamoto]

- Detailed list of products from space profilers (CALIOP, CATS, CloudSat, GPM, EarthCARE ATLID & CPR, INCUS)
- Validation needs from the product developer's perspective



Best practice protocol for validation

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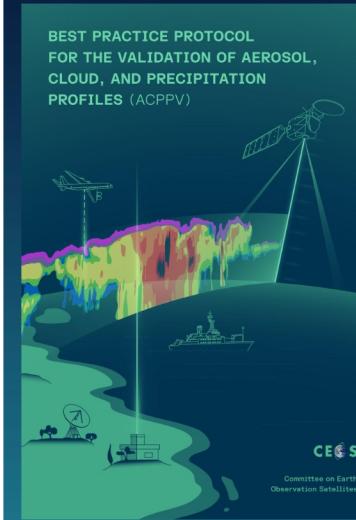
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- Validation needs from the product developer's perspective

Chapter 3: Survey of validation measurements [Contact: Jens Redemann, Silke Gross, Franco Marenco]

- Types of validation instruments & specific instruments
- Spatiotemporal representativeness, scene homogeneity and co-location criteria for correlative measurements
- Quality of measurements

Chapter 4: Correlative metadata and data format [Contact: Ewan O'Connor, Ann Mari Fjæraa]

- Guidelines on a proper definition of metadata and data formats for Cal/Val archives



Best practice protocol for validation

Chapter 5: Guidance for the validation of lidar and aerosol products [Contact: Eleni Marinou, Holger Baars]

- Guidelines for validation of different lidar and aerosol products with ref. on past studies

Chapter 6: Guidance for validation of radar, cloud, and precipitation products [Contact: Dmitri Moisseev, Simone Tannelli]

- Guidelines for validation of different radar, cloud, and precipitation products with ref. on past studies

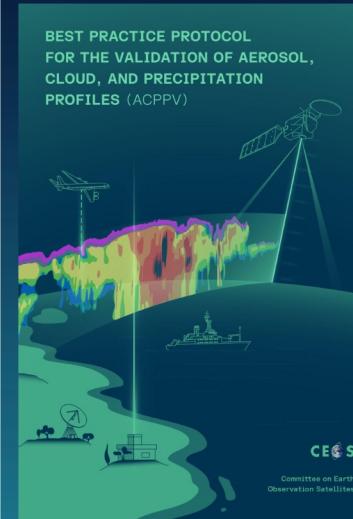
Chapter 7: Statistical validation [Contact: Jason Tackett]

- Near-instantaneous comparisons
- Climatological comparisons

Chapter 8: Near-real time validation through data assimilation [Contact: Mark Fielding, Marta Janisková]

- Key considerations and data quality principles
- Demonstrations of data quality monitoring

Chapter 9: Gaps and Challenges [Contact: Holger Baars]



EarthCARE status validation possibilities



Radiation measurements

- Many sites have radiation sensors

Microwave Radiometer

- 14-channel HatPro and possible passive channels from RPG radar

Cloud Radar

- Minimum one frequency
- Doppler spectra deconvoluting → Doppler velocity validation!

Ceilometer / Lidar

- Attenuation from the ground

Questions/Discussion:

- Quantify convection in the cloud!
- Missing ice particle characterisation within Cloudnet?
- Measure the inhomogeneity of a cloud and in cloud fields?
- Detection of mixed-phase layers from the ground?

- Retrieval of particle sedimentation velocities → validation with EarthCARE (*Kim et al, 2025, EGU discussion*)
- Explore and implement multiple frequency approaches
- Explore and implement scans
- Use AI ML methods to improve microphysical understanding and targeting

EarthCARE instrumentation:

BBR – Broad Band Radiometer

MSI – 7 channels

CPR – zenith at 94 GHz

ATLID – HSRL at 355 nm

EarthCARE status validation possibilities

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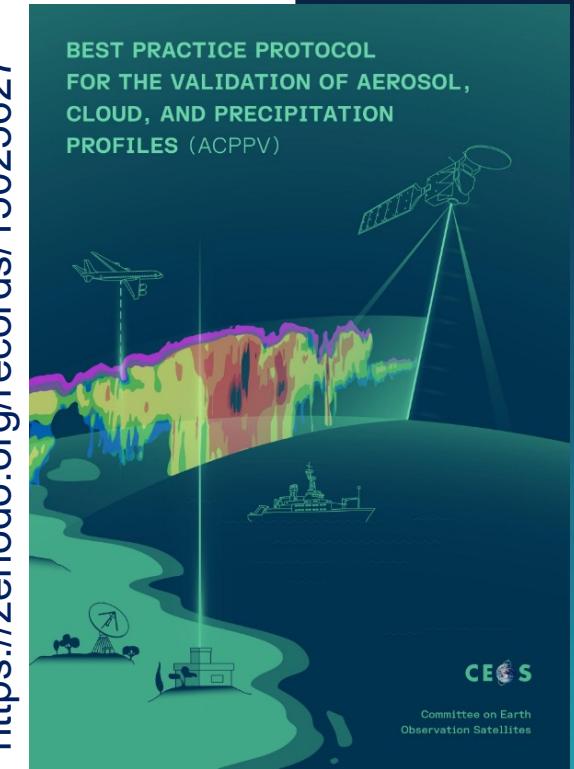
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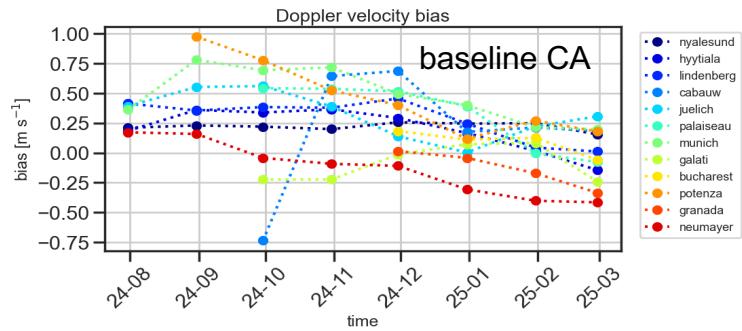
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→ Discussion: CCRES and the community how and what we want to address...

<https://zenodo.org/records/15025627>



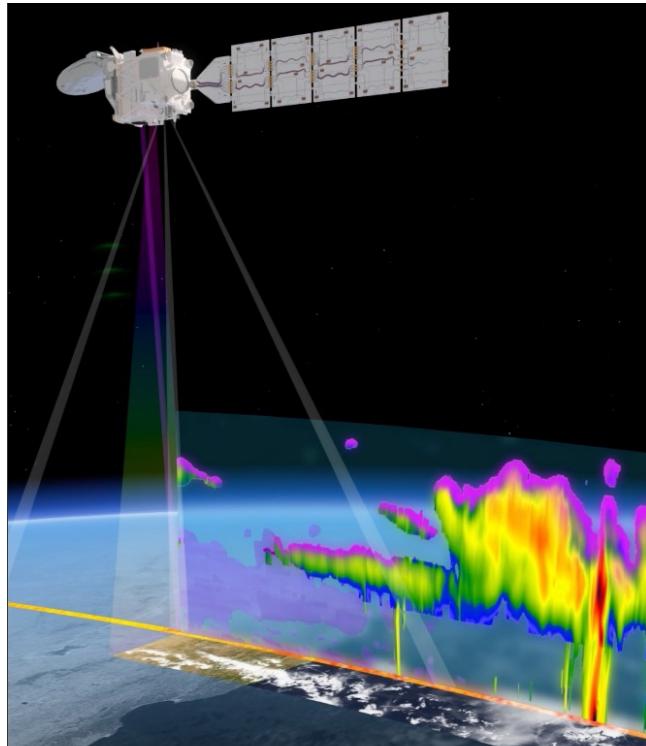
CCRES validation activities



**CPR validation of
Reflectivity and
Doppler velocity**

L2 validation?

Why and what we validate?



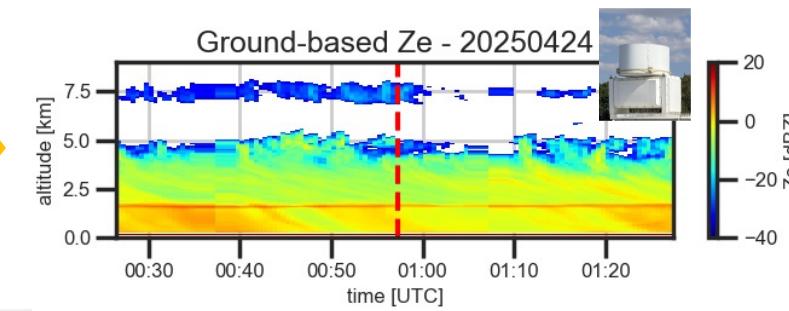
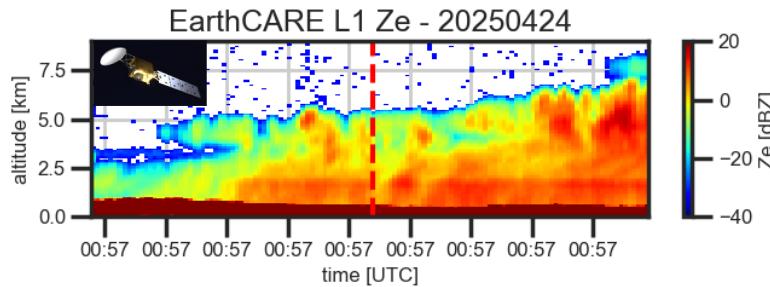
Use the **ground-based** instrumentation to **validate** the **satellite**.

If instrumentation is comparable, we can ask.

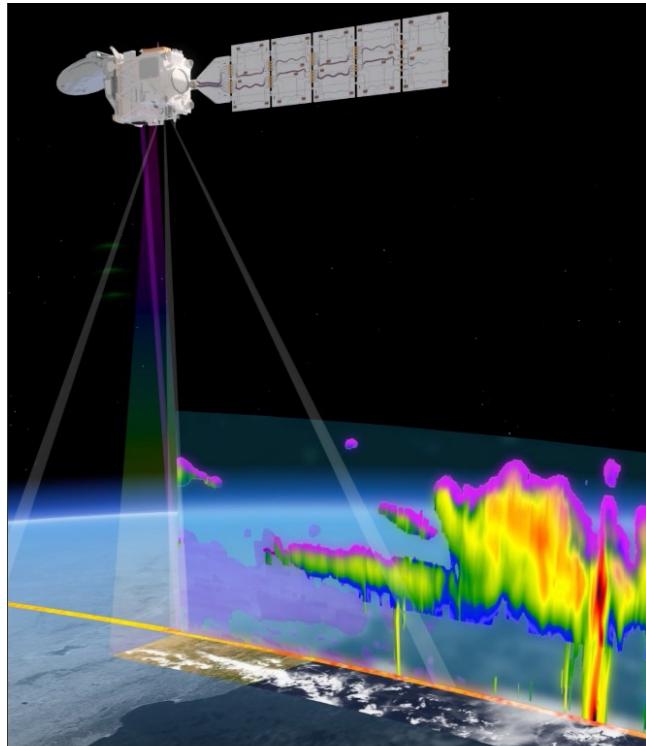
1) Do the instruments measure the same?

Do the values agree?

2) Can we also compare retrieved properties?



Why and what we validate?

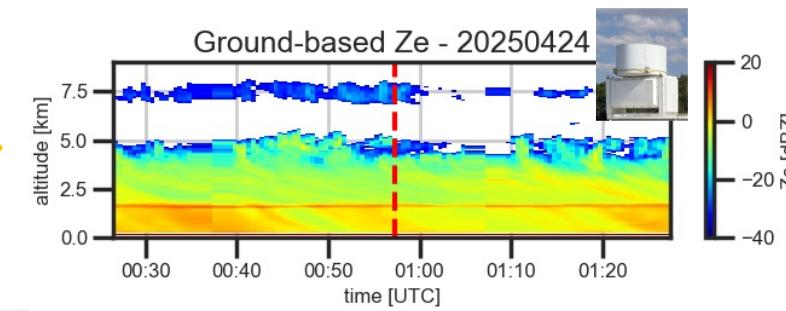
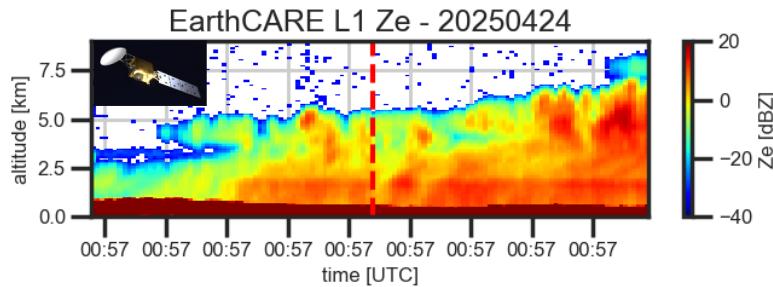


Use the ground-based instrumentation to validate the satellite.

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EarthCARE reflectivity validation – case study

EarthCARE overpass >2 km to the site
(15.01.25, Ny-Ålesund)

“Golden case”:

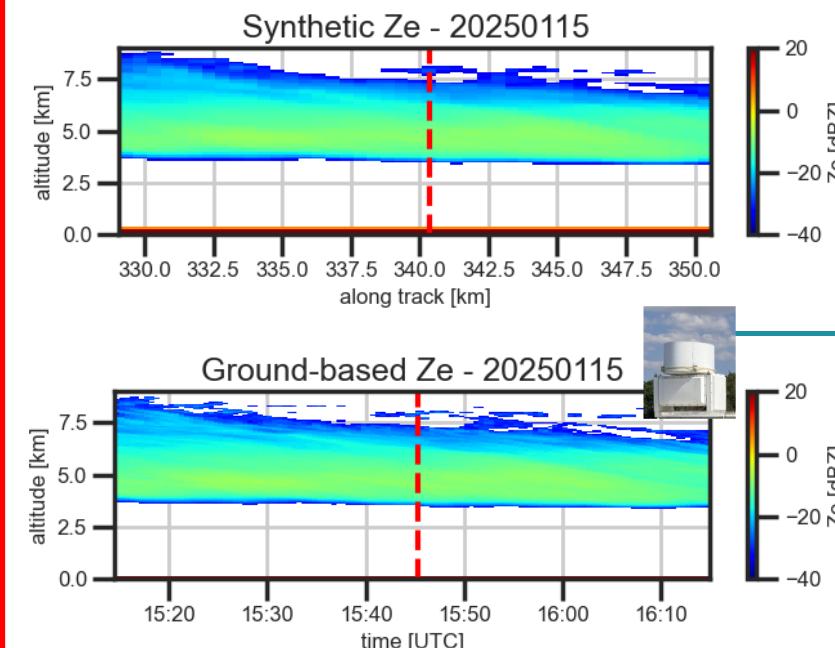
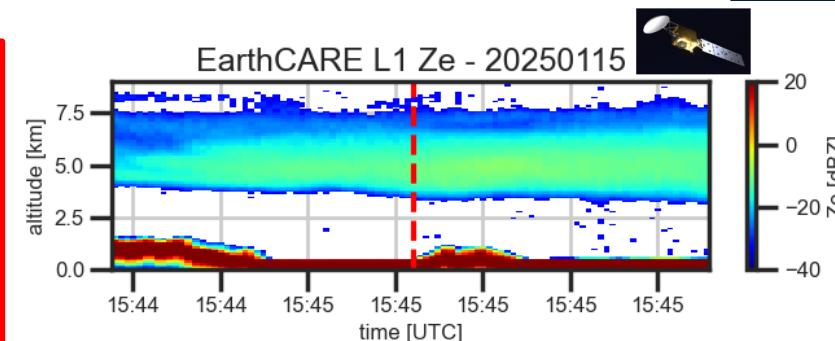
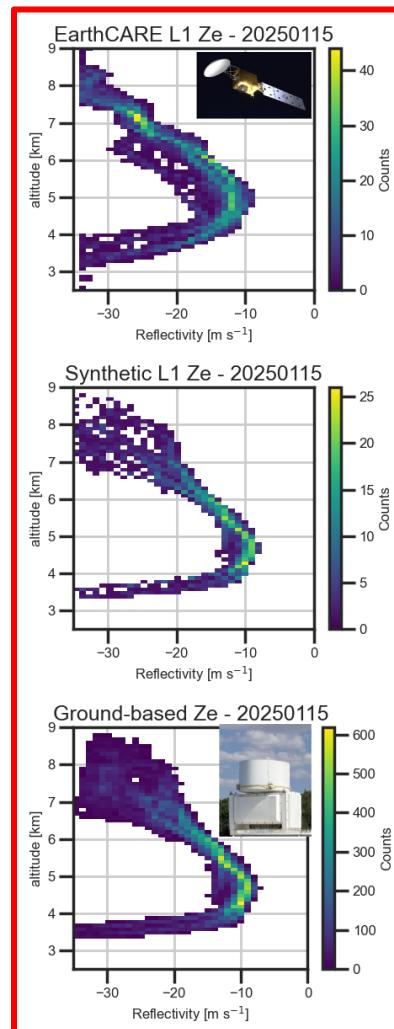
- Excellent Ze comparison
- Ze offset estimate ~ 3 dBZ

General remarks:

- Ze-comparison to the W-band
- EarthCARE Ze is calculated with a different dielectric constant
- Range averaging: mimic the correct pulse response functions

Conversions are implemented in the “orbital radar” tool running on CLU

But “Golden Cases” are rare



EarthCARE
+/-25 km
distance
from site

Orbital radar
tool +/-25
min around
overpass

ACTRIS radar
+/-25 min
around
overpass

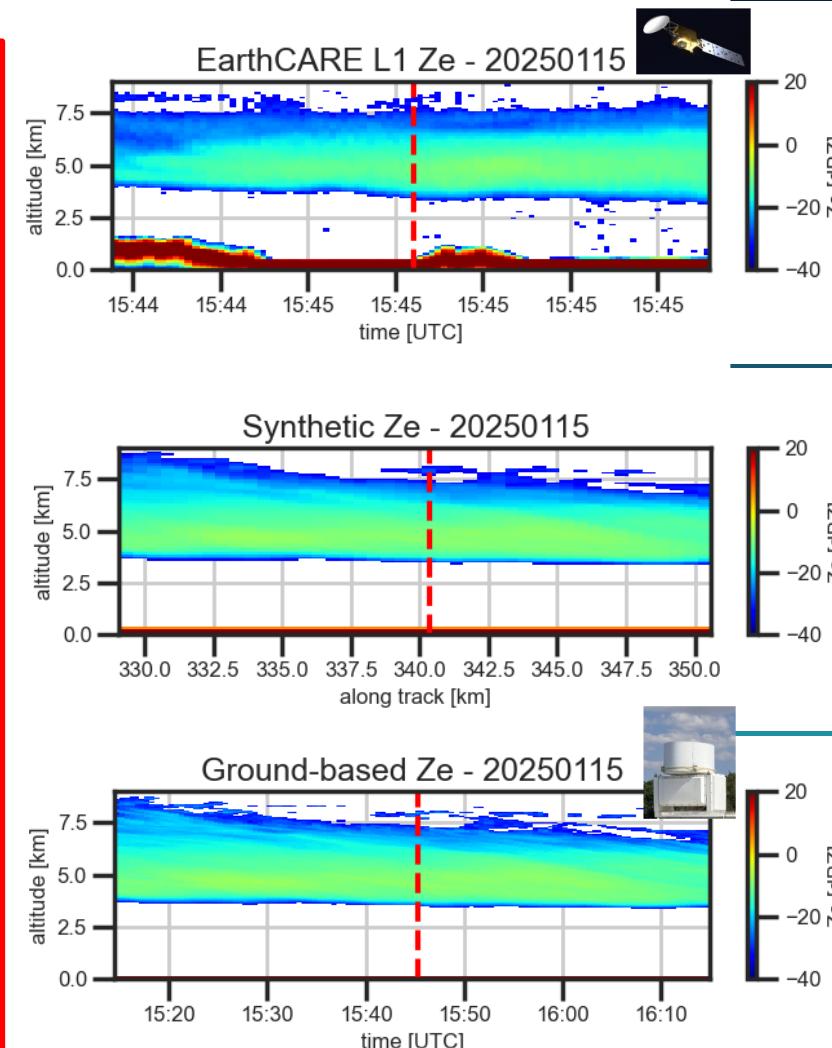
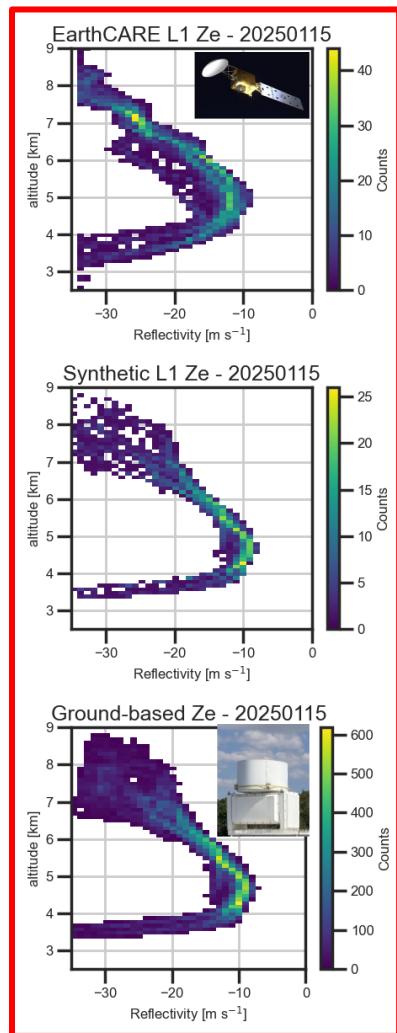
EarthCARE reflectivity validation – case study

EarthCARE overpass >2 km to the site
(15.01.25, Ny-Ålesund)

But “Golden Cases” are not usual cases

ACTRIS, a statistical approach is used:

- Method based on Protate et al. 2010
 - EarthCARE data:
Within a defined radius to the site
 - Ground-based data:
Time window around the overpass



EarthCARE
+/-25 km
distance
from site

Orbital radar
tool +/-25
min around
overpass

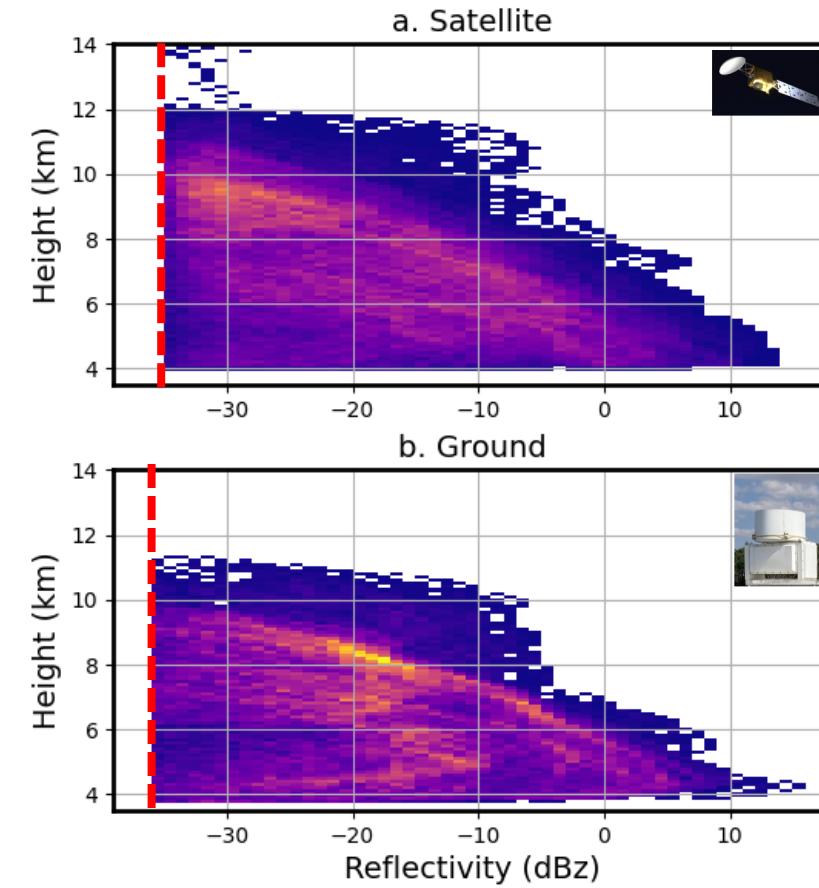
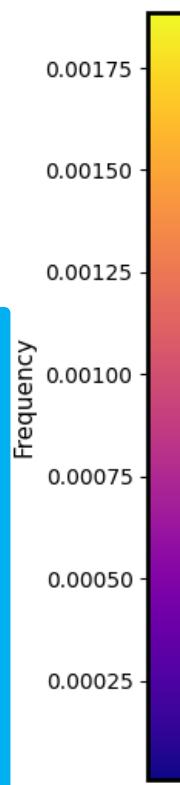
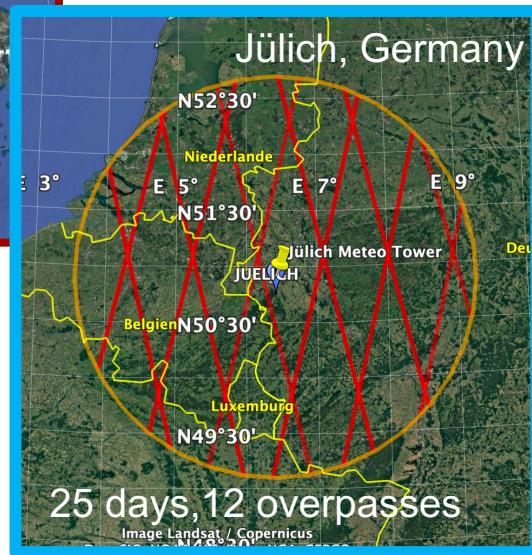
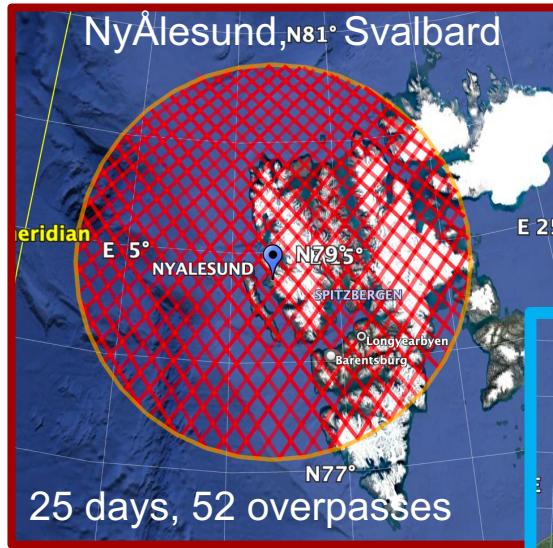
ACTRIS radar
+/-25 min
around
overpass

EarthCARE reflectivity validation – statistical approach

Nathan Feuillard, Felipe Toledo Bittner, Lukas Pfitzenmaier, Ulrich Löhnert, Ewan O'Conner

Filter the data before the comparison:

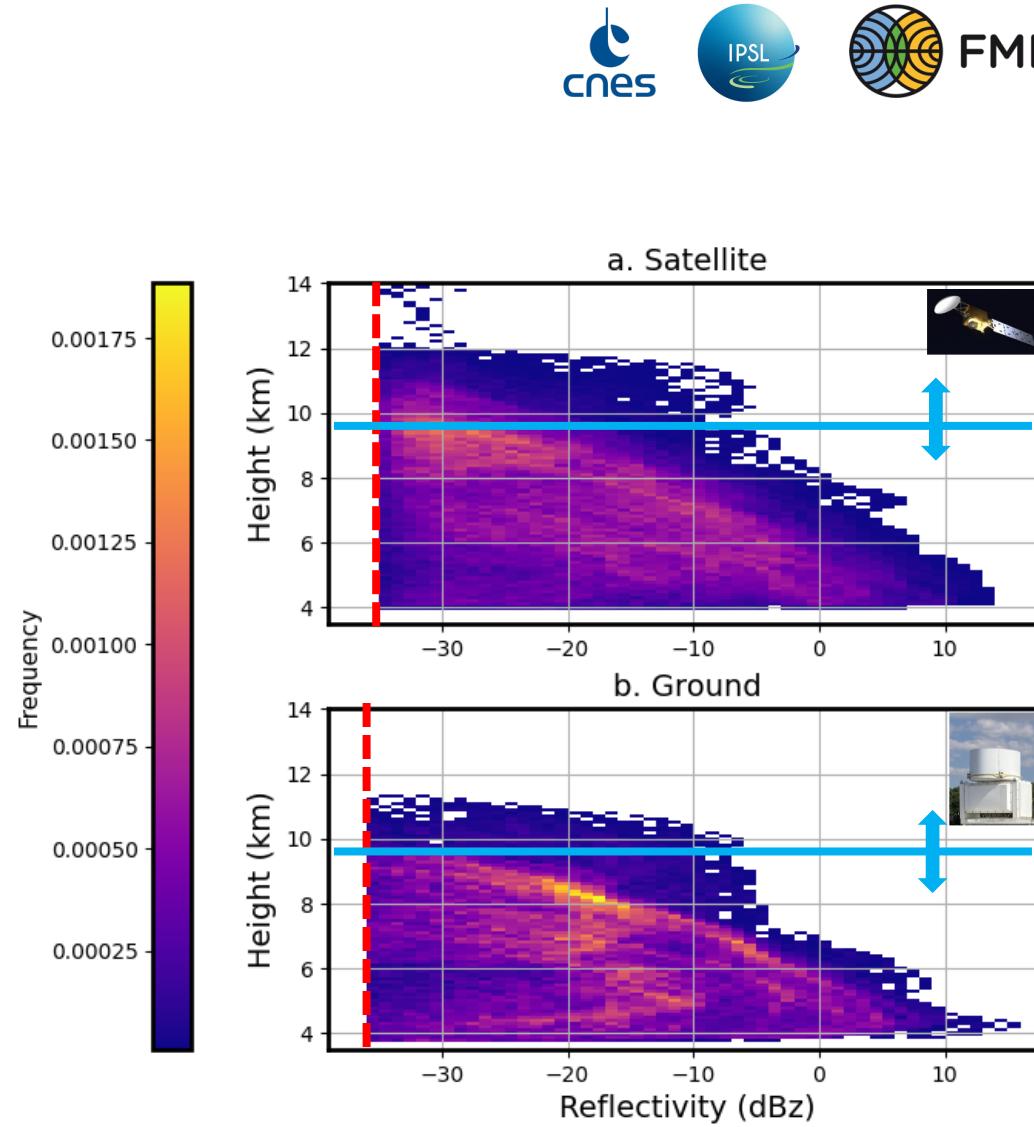
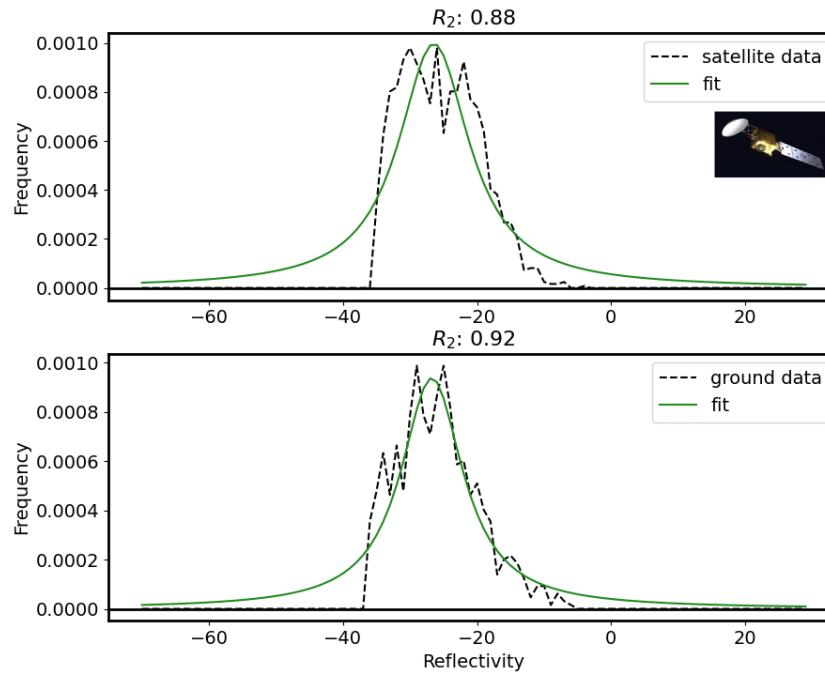
- avoid liquid attenuation – only ice clouds
- **Adjust sensitivities of the data sets**



EarthCARE reflectivity validation – statistical approach

Filter the data before the comparison:

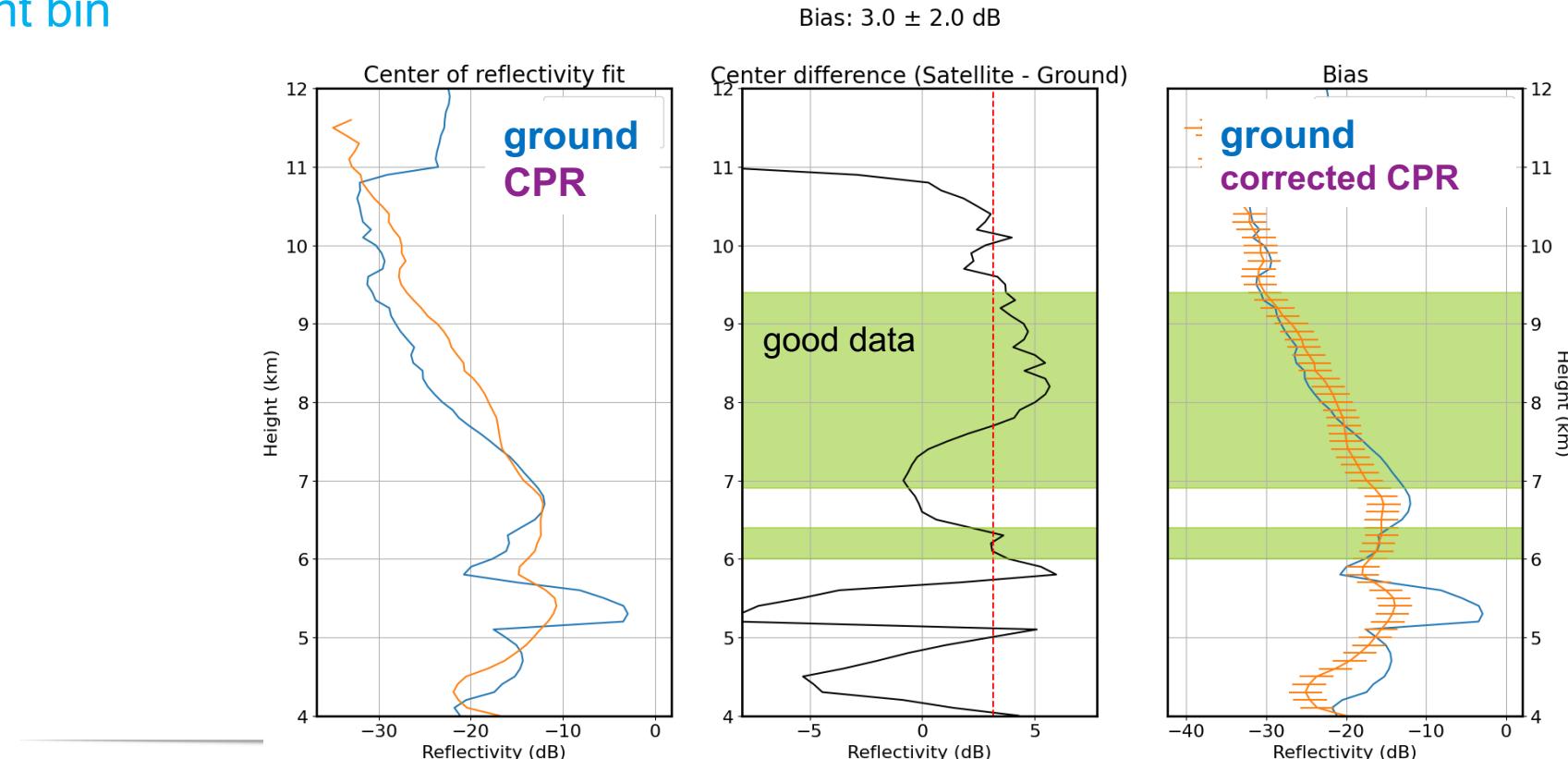
- avoid liquid attenuation – only ice clouds
- **Adjust sensitivities of the data sets**
- **statistical test to select comparable data for each height bin**



EarthCARE reflectivity validation – statistical approach

Filter the data before the comparison:

- avoid liquid attenuation – only ice clouds
- **Adjust sensitivities of the data sets**
- **statistical test to select comparable data for each height bin**



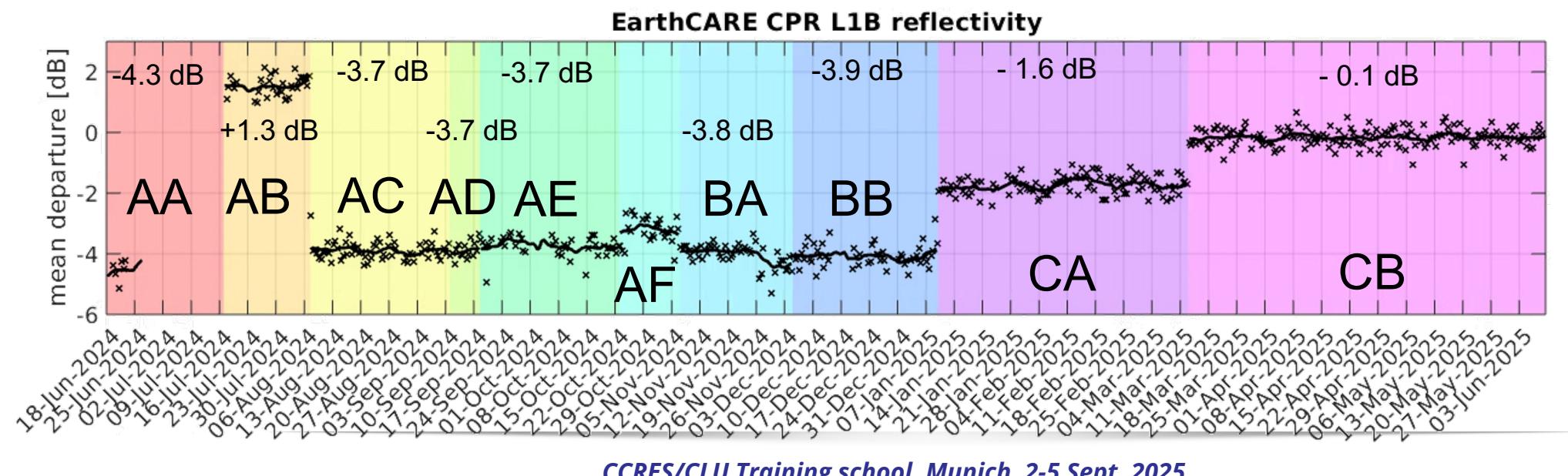
EarthCARE reflectivity validation – statistical approach

Filter the data before the comparison:

- avoid liquid attenuation – only ice clouds
- statistical test to select comparable data

Results are stable over time.

- Excellent agreement with Ze-offsets obtained using other methods
(return of the sea surface, ECMWF model comparison, our radars...)



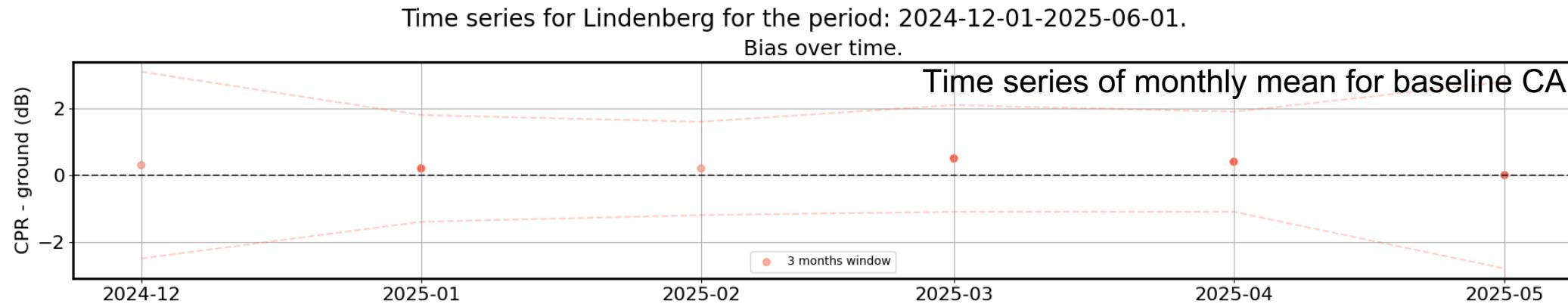
EarthCARE reflectivity validation – statistical approach

Filter the data before the comparison:

- avoid liquid attenuation – only ice clouds
- statistical test to select comparable data

Results are stable over time.

- Excellent agreement with Ze-offsets obtained using other methods (return of the sea surface, ECMWF model comparison, our radars...)
- Displays consistent Ze offset over time



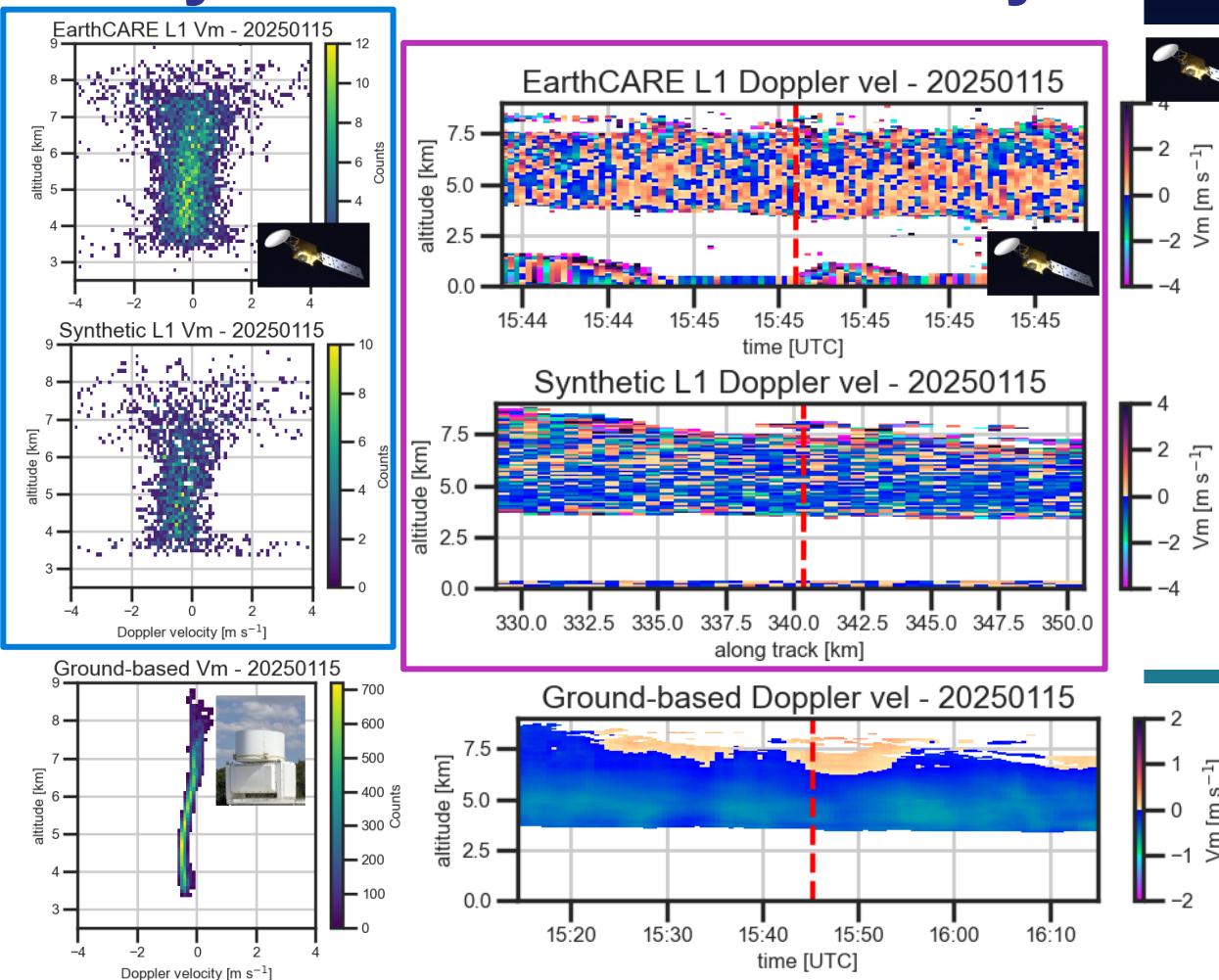
All depends on the clouds sampled – might be different results for different seasons.

EarthCARE Doppler velocity validation – case study

EarthCARE overpass
(15.01.25, Ny-Ålesund)

“Golden case”:

- “Orbital radar” tool shows realistic noise characteristics
- Noise along range is less correlated
- Bias L1 to Synthetic $\sim 0.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$



EarthCARE L1
+/-25 km
distance
from site

Orbital radar
tool +/-25
min around
overpass

ACTRIS radar
+/-25 min
around
overpass

EarthCARE Doppler velocity validation – case study

EarthCARE overpass
(15.01.25, Ny-Ålesund)

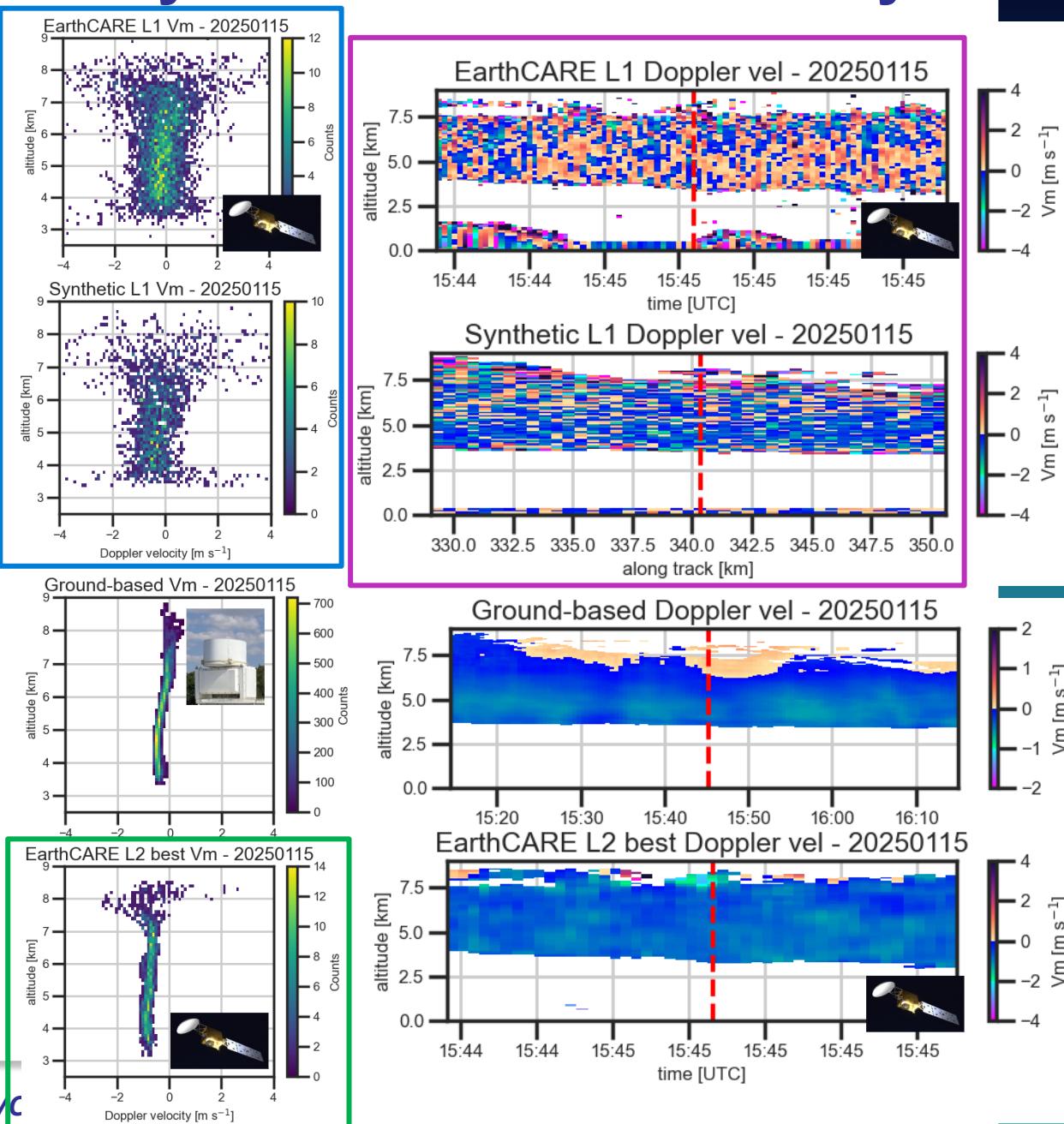
“Golden case”:

- “Orbital radar” tool shows realistic noise characteristics
- Noise along range is less correlated
- Bias L1 to Synthetic $\sim 0.1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
- Bias L2 to Synthetic $\sim 0.65 \text{ m s}^{-1}$

Missing references to validate bias!

But “Golden Cases” are not usual cases

ACTRIS, the statistical approach based on Protat et al. 2010 is adjusted for Doppler velocities.



CTRIS
CCRES

EarthCARE L1
+/-25 km
distance
from site

Orbital radar
tool +/-25
min around
overpass

ACTRIS radar
+/-25 min
around
overpass

EarthCARE L2
+/-25 km
distance
from site

EarthCARE Doppler velocity validation - statistical approach

Lukas Pfitzenmaier, Nathan Feuillard, Felipe Toledo Bittner, Ulrich Löhnert, Ewan O'Conner

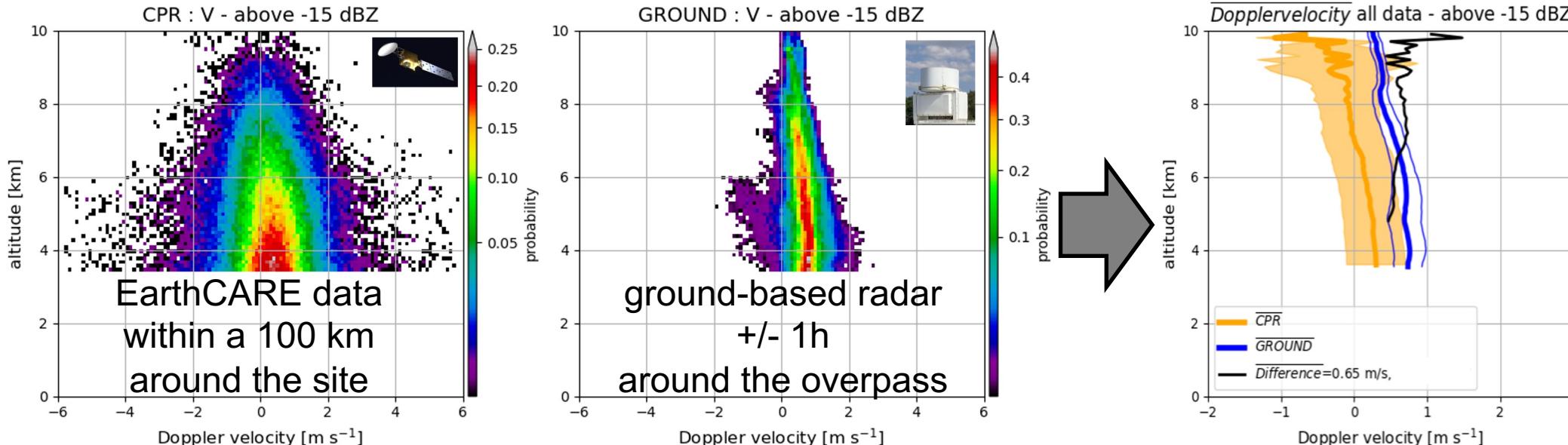
Adopt the method from Protate et al. 2010

Apply filtering to homogenise data:

- With a high noise characteristic → only V_m where $Ze > -15$ dBZ
- Doppler velocity folding
- Orographic effects

} Site and height dependent filtering (work in progress)

Example ~60 overpasses: Ny-Ålesund, and EarthCARE Baseline BA



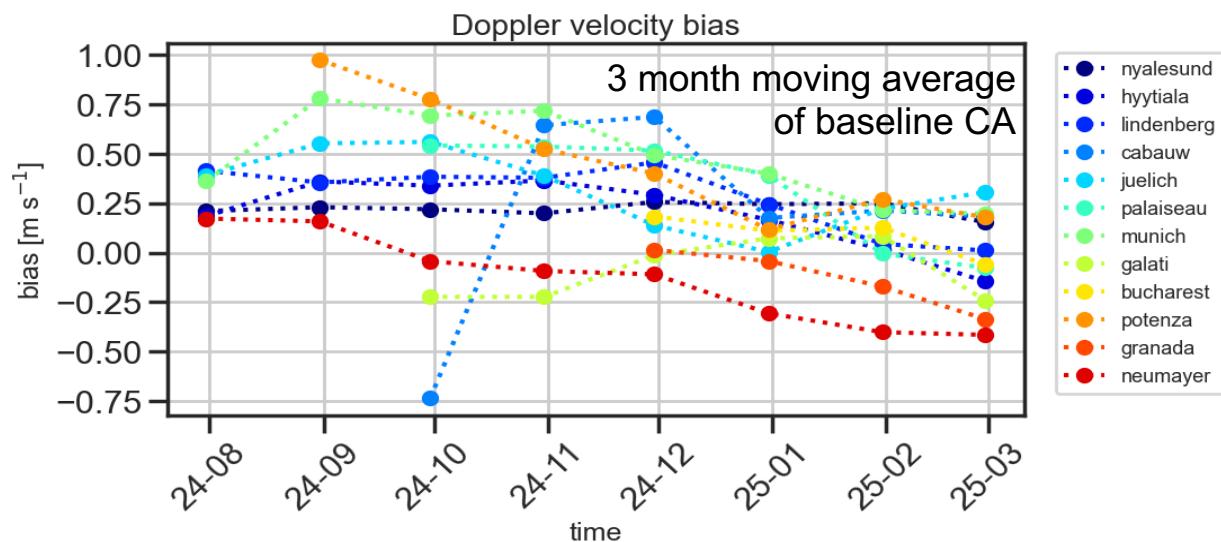
EarthCARE Doppler velocity validation - statistical approach

Adopt the method from Protate et al. 2010

Apply filtering to homogenise data:

- With a high noise characteristic
- Doppler velocity folding
- Orographic effects

Temporal evolution of Doppler velocity bias



EarthCARE Doppler velocity validation - statistical approach

Temporal evolution of Doppler velocity bias

- Solar radiation heats the CPR antenna → deformation → Doppler velocity bias
- Monitoring based on sea surface velocity

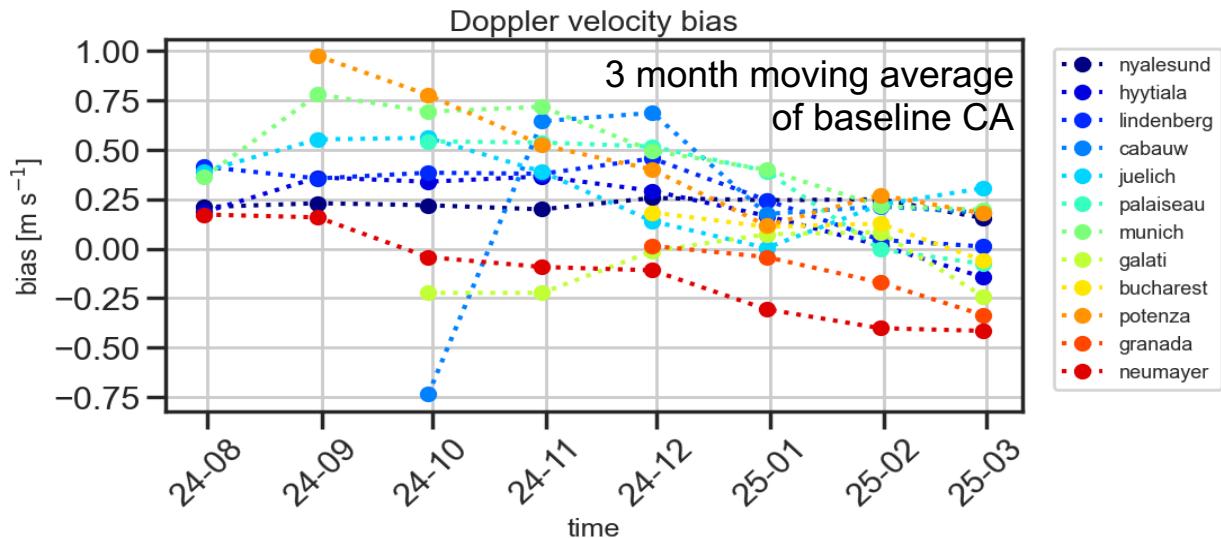
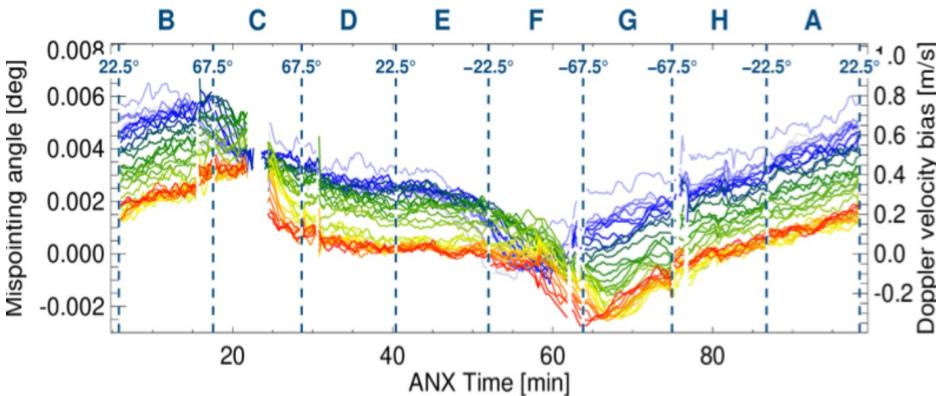


Figure 4 from Puigdomènech Treserras et al., 2025, EGUsphere shows the **Doppler velocity bias** caused by mispointing, which depends on the amount of solar radiation heating the CPR antenna.



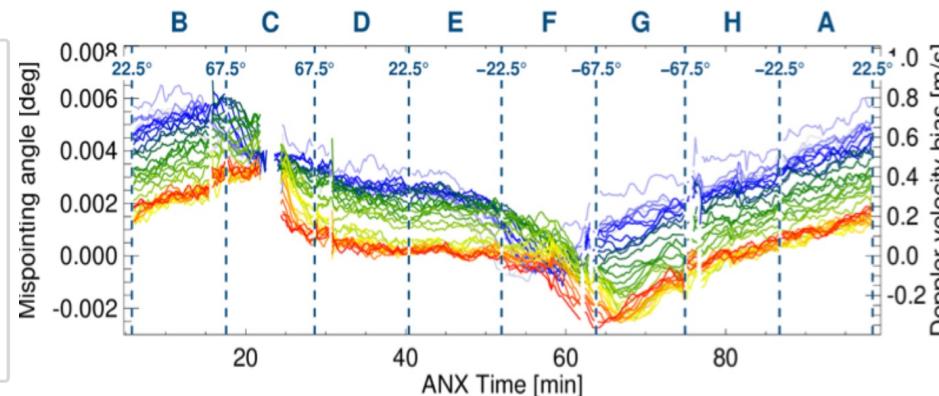
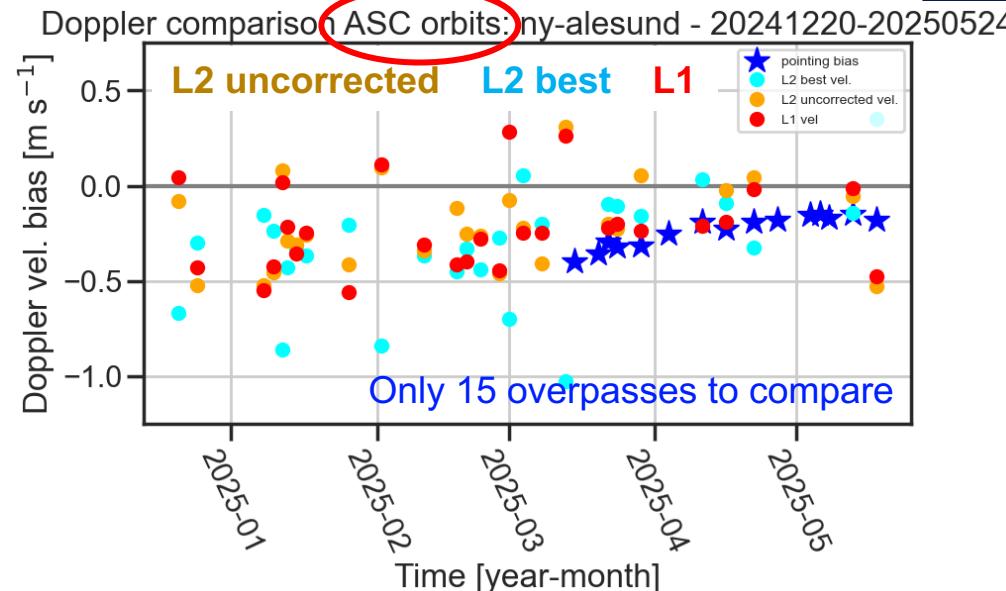
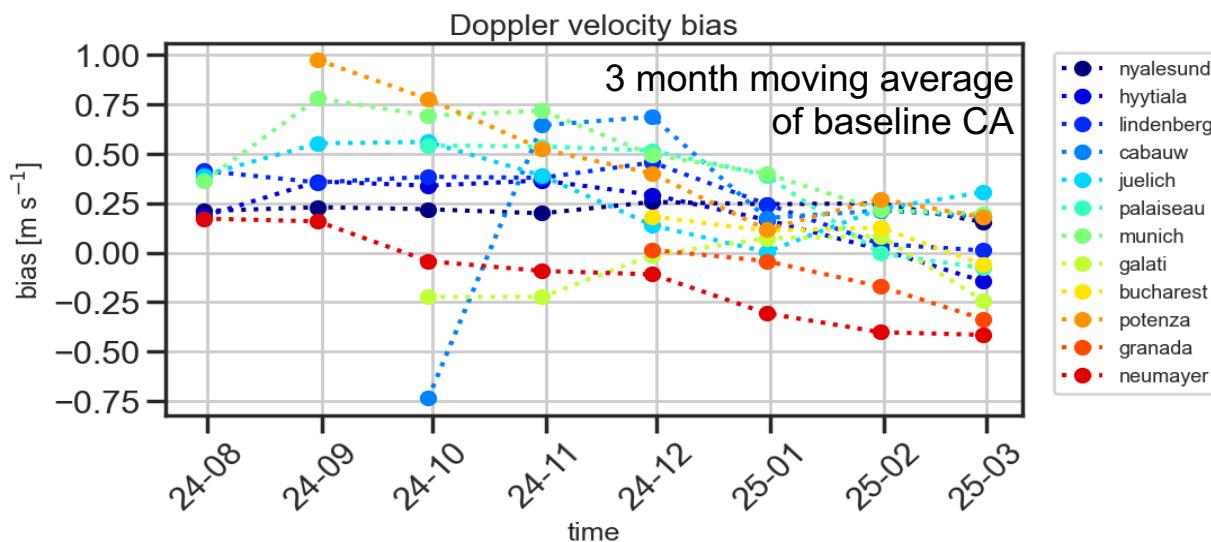
EarthCARE Doppler velocity validation - statistical approach

Temporal evolution of Doppler velocity bias

- Solar radiation heats the CPR antenna → deformation → Doppler velocity bias
- Monitoring based on sea surface velocity

ACTRIS monitoring of pointing bias:

- In development
- Differences between ascending and descending



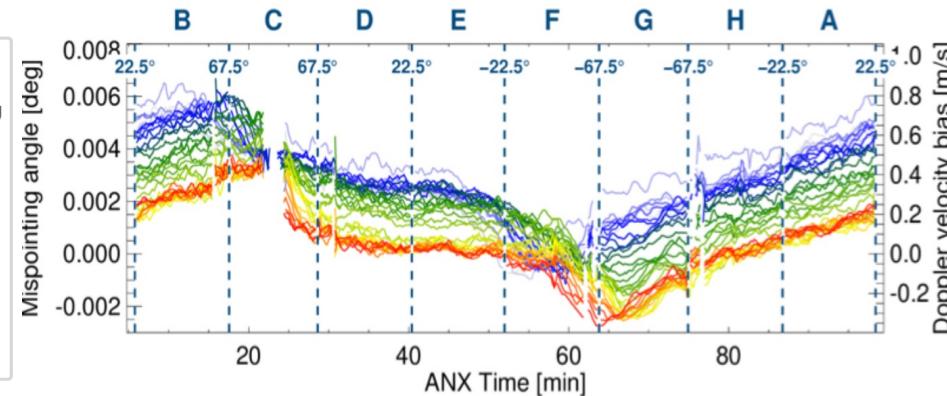
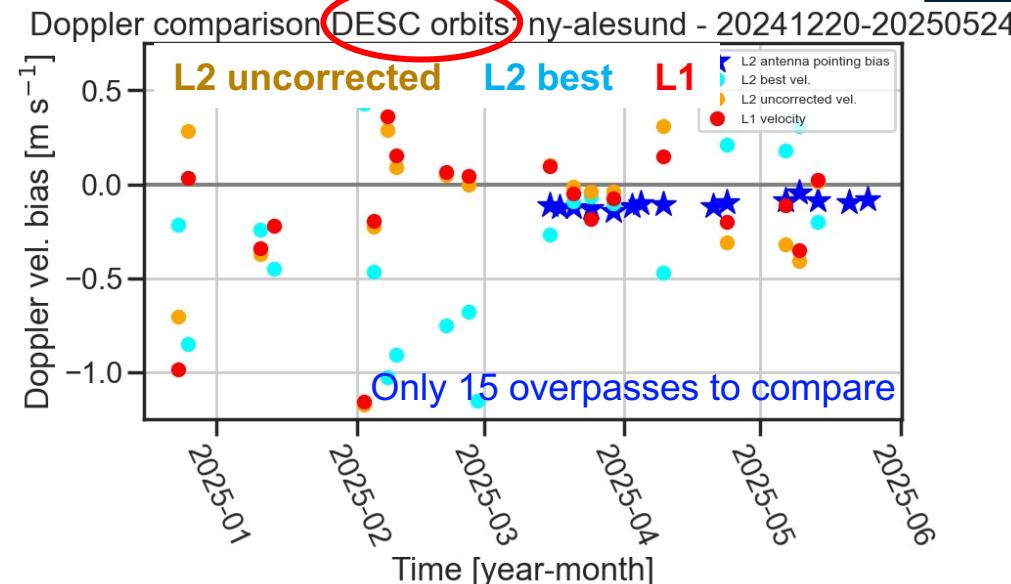
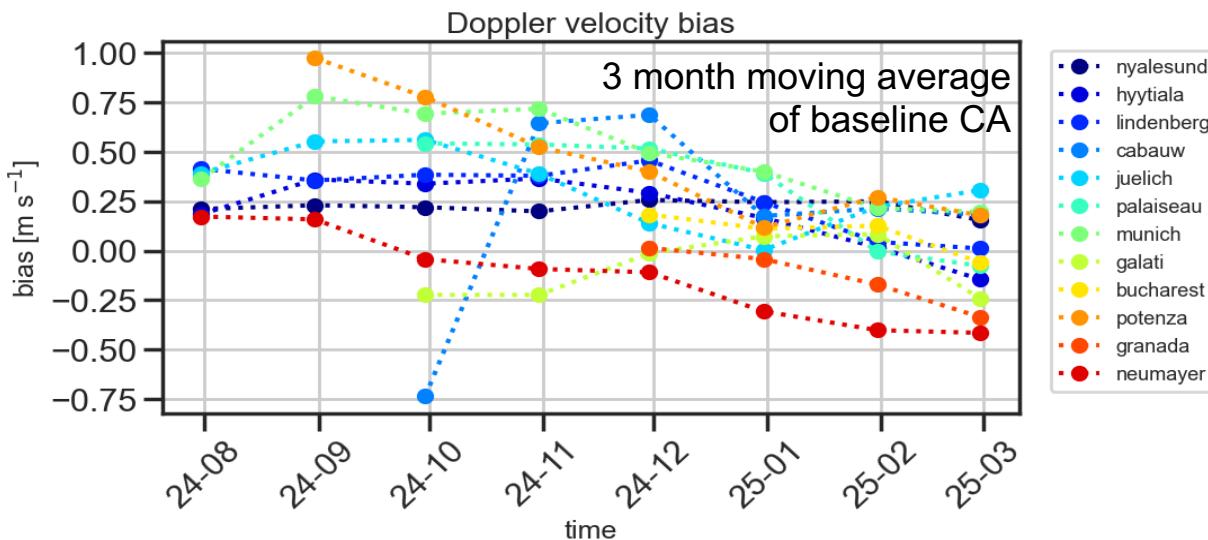
EarthCARE Doppler velocity validation - statistical approach

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ACTRIS monitoring of pointing bias:

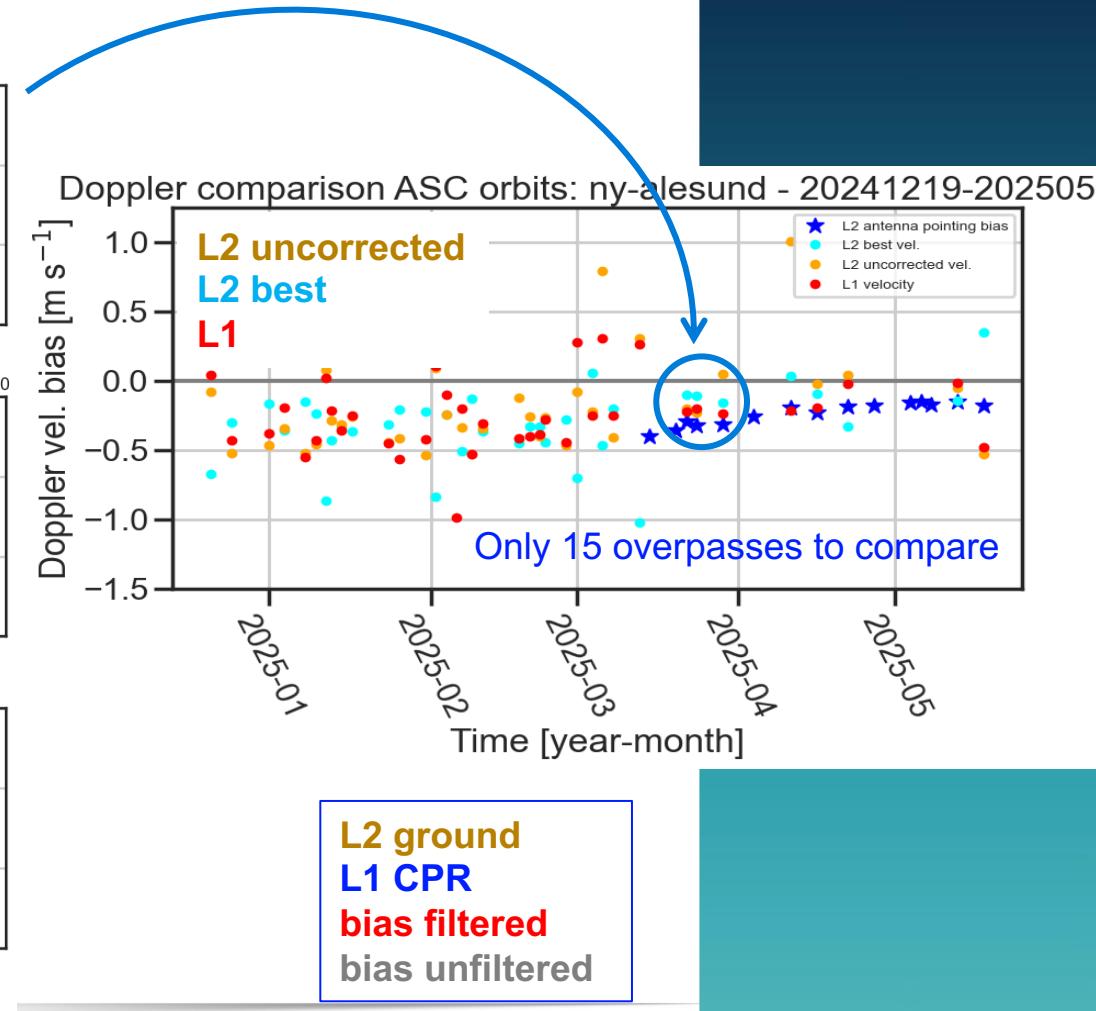
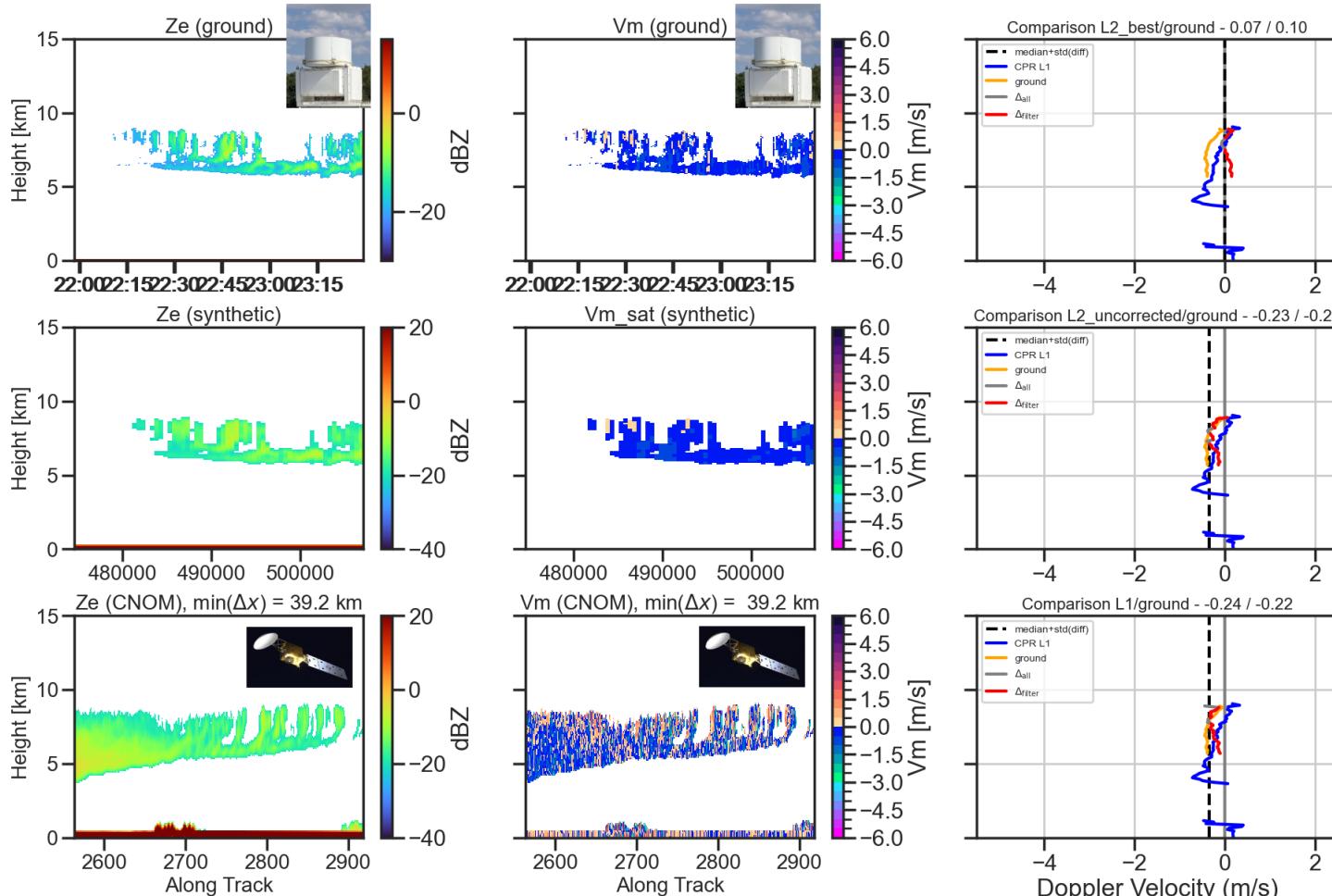
- In development
- Differences between ascending and descending



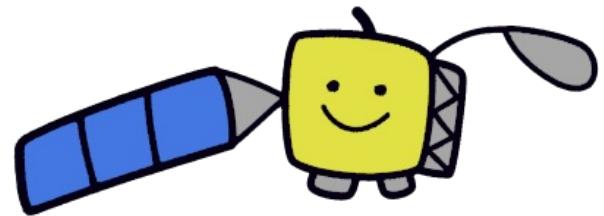
EarthCARE Doppler velocity validation - statistical approach

Work in progress: Identify good and bad cases – adjust filtering of Doppler data – ect

ny-alesund: Reflectivity and Doppler velocity comparison to EarthCARE within 100 km radius at 20250321



Summery and outlook

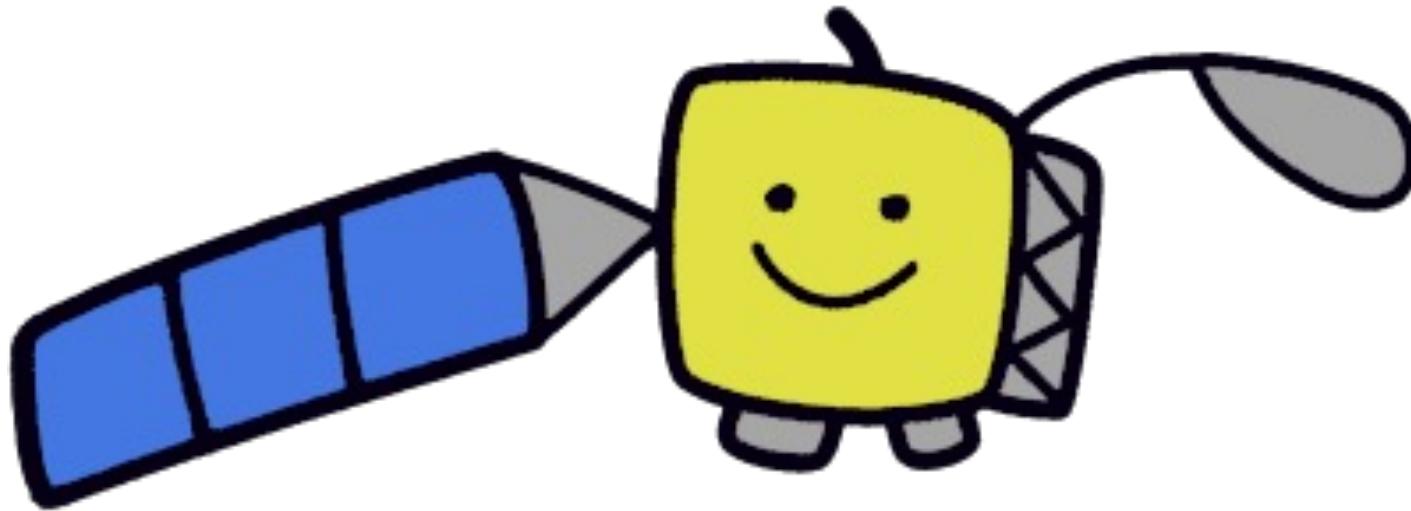


Information
Tools
Links

[L2 validation?](#)

<https://www.earthcarescience.net>

Summery and outlook



ESA announced at the Living Planet Symposium, that
EARTHCARE will fly for at least 10 years!

EarthCARE CPR tool → synthetic CPR data for all ACTRIS site



Geosci. Model Dev., 18, 101–115, 2025
https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-18-101-2025
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Geoscientific
Model Development
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EGU

Model description paper

Orbital-Radar v1.0.0: a tool to transform suborbital radar observations to synthetic EarthCARE cloud radar data

Lukas Pfizenmaier¹, Pavlos Kollias^{1,2}, Nils Risse¹, Imke Schirmacher¹, Bernat Puigdomenech Treserras³, and Katia Lamer⁴

¹Institute for Geophysics and Meteorology, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

²School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA

³Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

⁴Environmental and Climate Sciences Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY, USA

Correspondence: Lukas Pfizenmaier (l.pfizenmaier@uni-koeln.de)

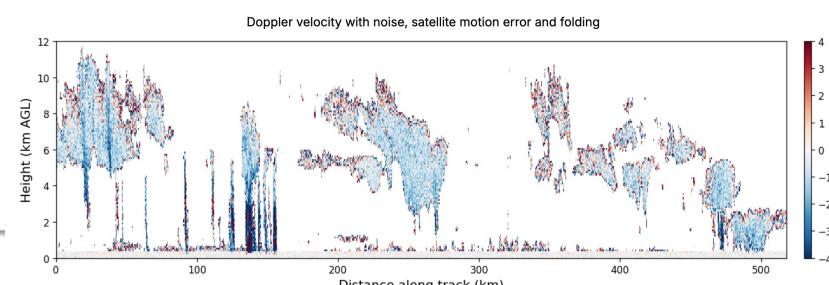
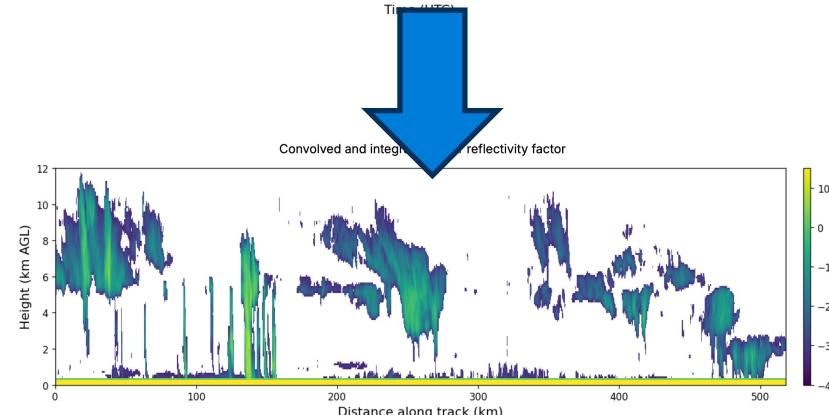
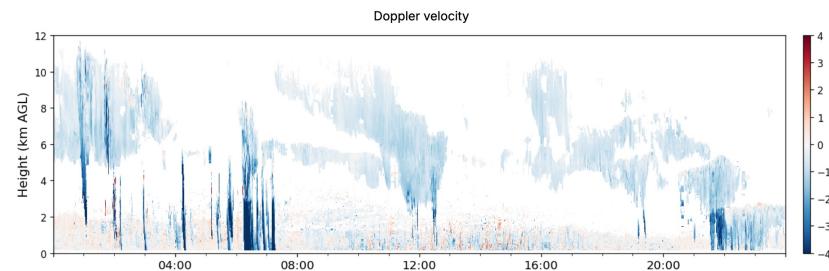
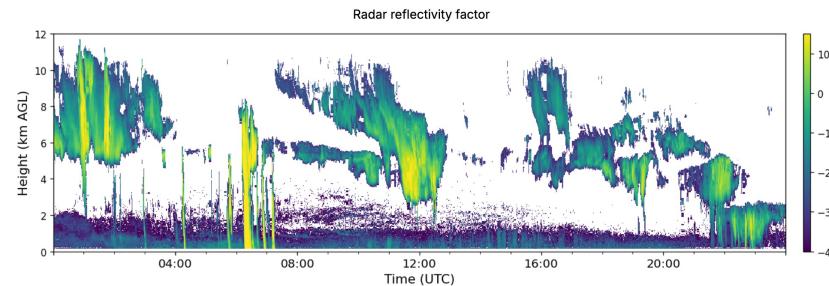
Received: 8 July 2024 – Discussion started: 3 September 2024

Revised: 30 October 2024 – Accepted: 4 November 2024 – Published: 14 January 2025

1 Introduction

Spaceborne radars offer a unique opportunity to monitor clouds and precipitation globally. For instance, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) CloudSat Cloud Profiling Radar (CloudSat CPR; Stephens et al., 2008, 2018) enabled several advances in cloud and precipitation physics (Rapp et al., 2013; Stephens et al., 2018; Battaglia et al., 2020b). In 2024, the next-generation CPR in space was launched on board the Earth Cloud, Aerosol and Radiation Explorer (EarthCARE) satellite (Illingworth et al., 2015; Wehr et al., 2023). The EarthCARE CPR is the first Doppler radar in space, thus providing the first set of global Doppler velocity measurements (Kollias et al., 2022). In addition to the Doppler capability, the EarthCARE CPR has higher sensitivity than its predecessor (-35 dBZ vs. -30 dBZ) as well as a smaller footprint (0.8 km vs. 1.4 km) and shorter along-track integration (500 m vs. 1.1 km).

Spaceborne radars operate from platforms that orbit the Earth at speeds that exceed 7 km^{-1} and employ relatively long pulses to map the vertical structure of hydrometeors in the atmosphere. The strongest echo a spaceborne radar detects is from the Earth's surface. Instrument simulators are a well-established methodology for accounting for the effects of the observing system sampling geometry on its performance (i.e. detection limit, measurement uncertainty). For example, Lamer et al. (2020) developed an instrument forward simulator to evaluate the impact of different spaceborne CPR configurations on our ability to detect low-level clouds



EarthCARE CPR tool → synthetic CPR data for all ACTRIS site



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³Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

⁴Environmental and Climate Sciences Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY, USA

Correspondence: Lukas Pfizenmaier (l.pfizenmaier@uni-koeln.de)

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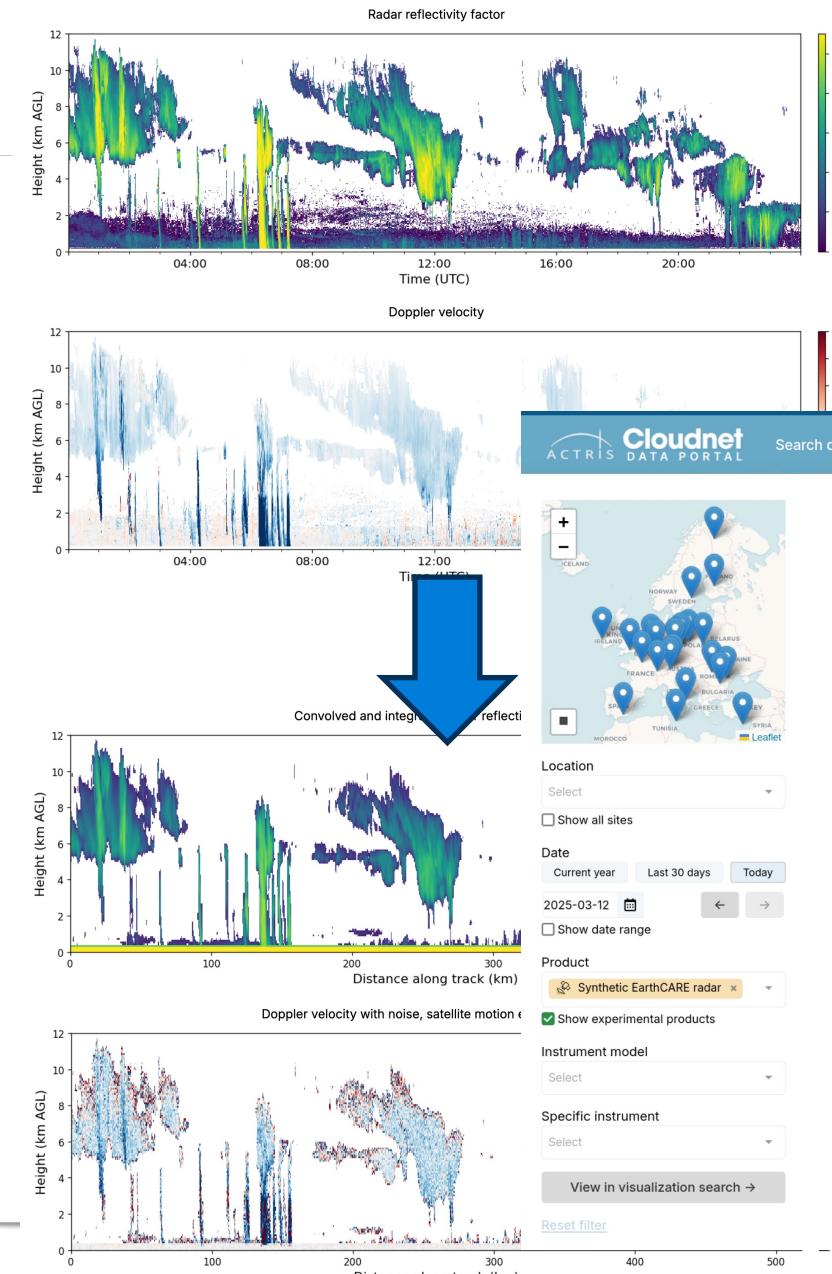
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Model description paper



Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

Cloudnet ACTRIS DATA PORTAL

Search data Visualise data Documentation Sites Instruments Products Contact

Results
Found 13 results

Data object	Date
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Bucharest	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Galati	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Granada	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Hyttiäliä	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Jülich	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Leipzig	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Limassol	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Lindenberg	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Mindelo	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Munich	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Neumayer Station	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Palaiseau	2025-03-12
Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Payerne	2025-03-12

Synthetic EarthCARE radar from Bucharest
12 March 2025

Convolved and integrated radar reflectivity factor

Download Details →

Product Synthetic EarthCARE radar
Location Bucharest, Romania
Date 2025-03-12
Size 23.8 MB
Last modified 2025-03-12 11:36:40 UTC
Quality check Pass

Download all 13 files (283.8 MB)

EarthCARE tools – software:



oads-download – (L. König, TROPOS, python)

- Download scripts for all ESA products – JAXA might come in the future
- Select data per time, orbit, area,...
- select products, baselines,...
- <https://github.com/koenigleon/oads-download>

ectools – (s. Mason, ECMWF, python)

- Data reader and plotting tool for ALL ESA products
- <https://bitbucket.org/smason/ectools>

Atmosphere Virtual Lab – (ESA)

- Virtual environment of ESA
- No data download necessary – ACTRIS and EarthCARE data are on the server
- <https://atmospherevirtuallab.org/earthcare>

<https://www.earthcarescience.net>

EarthCARE tools – data viewer:



MAAP EarthCARE Timeline Viewer – (KNMI, online)

- ATLID and MSI data (others coming soon)
- <https://portal.maap.eo.esa.int/ini/earthcare/timelineviewer/viewer/>

ATLID and MSI data (others coming soon) – (McGill, online)

- Monitoring of ATLID and CPR geolocation & CPR antenna pointing
- Lots of CPR QA/QC parameters are plotted
- <https://web.meteo.mcgill.ca/EarthCARE/>

JAXA EarthCARE Quicklooks – (JAXA, online)

- ATLID, CPR, MSI and BBR products from JAXA
- No legends for the products
- <https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/EARTHCARE/Quicklook/index.html?date=20250901&orbit=07163&frame=B>

<https://www.earthcarescience.net>

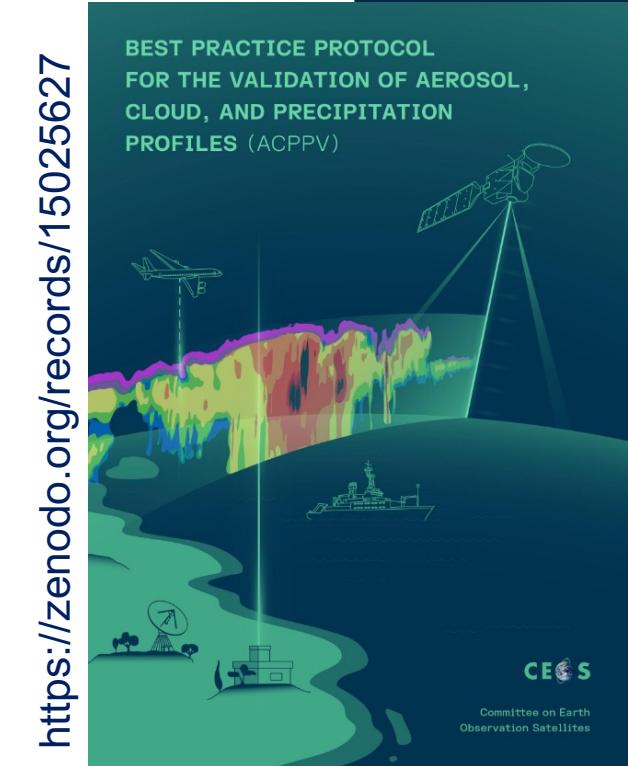
CCRES validation possibilities

Questions/Discussion:

- Quantify convection in the cloud!
- Missing ice particle characterisation within Cloudnet?
- Measure the inhomogeneity of a cloud and in cloud fields?
- Detection of mixed-phase layers from the ground?

- Retrieval of particle sedimentation velocities → validation with EarthCARE (*Kim et al, 2025, EGU discussion*)
- Explore and implement multiple frequency approaches
- Explore and implement scans
- Use AI ML methods to improve microphysical understanding and targeting

→ CCRES and the community on how and what we want to address...



Outcome Living Planet Symposium



Usage of Datasets for AI training!

- “Do you have any suggestions for a training data set?”
- No question related to what the data set is, only about data sets!
- Do we need a **best practice user guide** for all the ACTRIS CCRES data
 - Explain errors and uncertainties?
- Because: **No cloud remote sensing experts take data for AI**
 - What will the algorithms create?
 - We need careful validation.

Discussion?



CCRES/CLU Training school, Munich, 2-5 Sept. 2025

Extra Slides

measurement examples for MSI and ATLID

please contact authors of the work for information

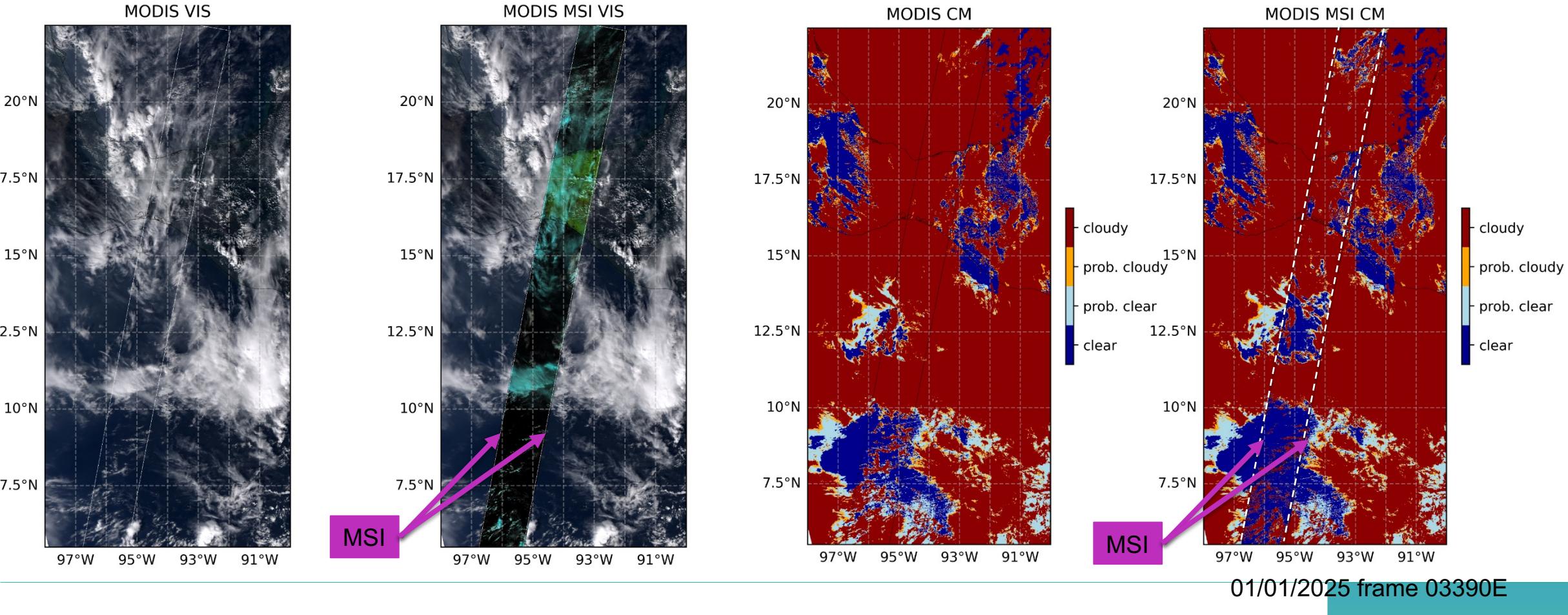
MSI example: M-CM vs MODIS

1st EarthCARE in orbit Cal/Val work shop

Geostationary SEVIRI/ polar orbiting MODIS (Aqua 30min differences)

30min difference between the overpasses

Comparing the cloud masks

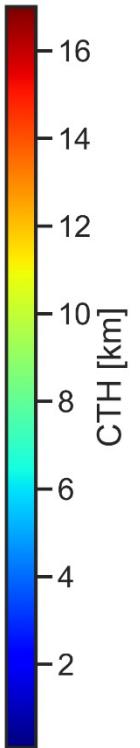
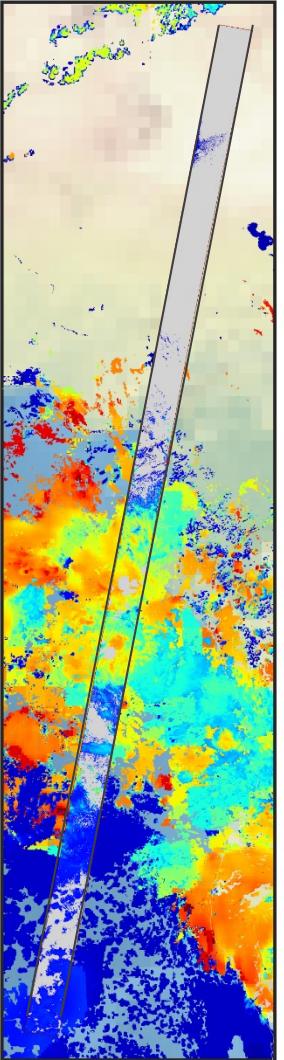
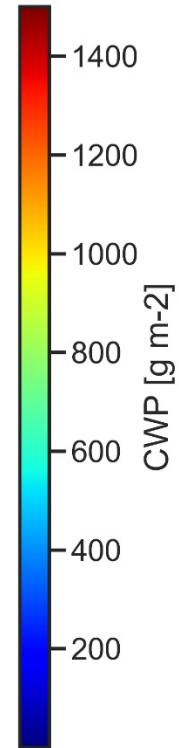
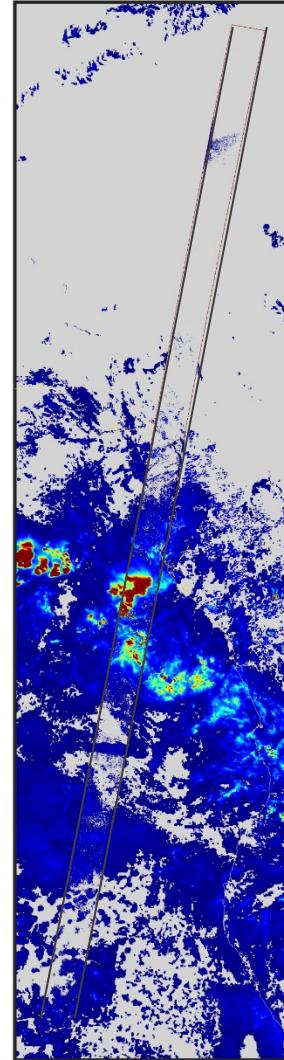
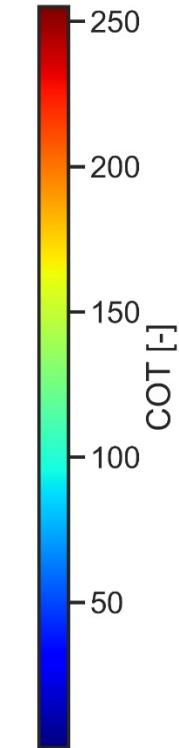
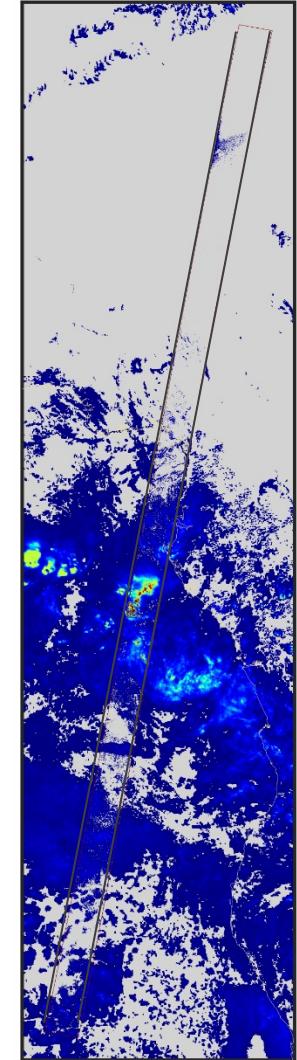
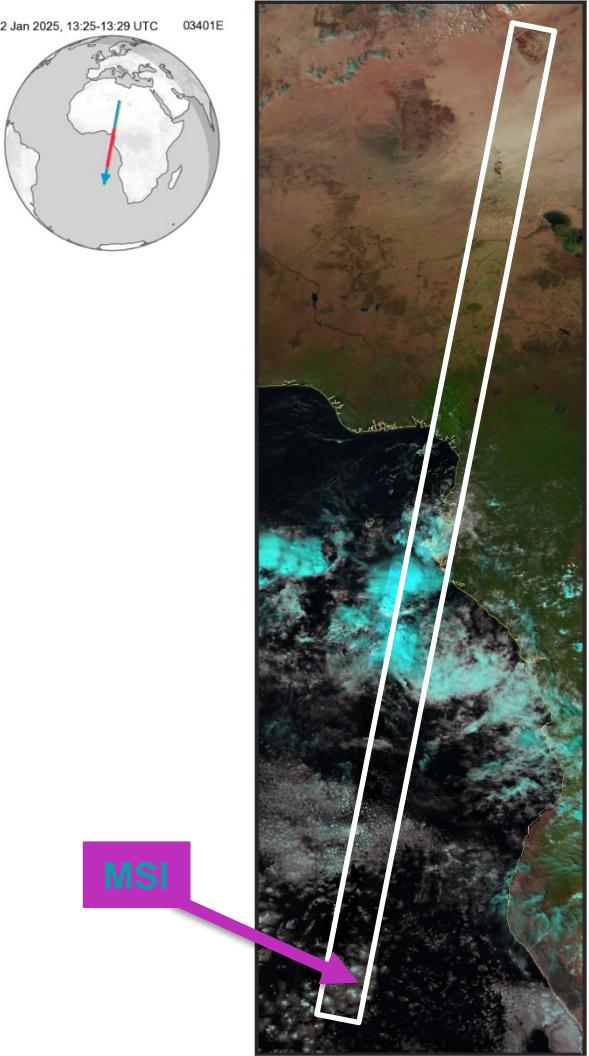


MSI example: M-COP vs SEVIRI

1st EarthCARE in orbit Cal/Val work shop

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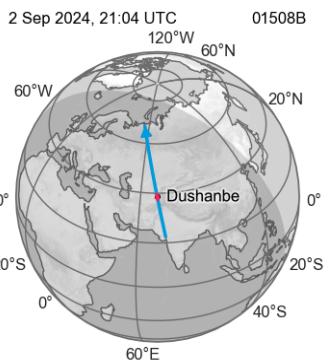
SEVIRI_20250102T133011Z_20250102T134243Z



Thanks to Anja Hünerbein and their colleagues from TROPOS for sharing

ATLID example: 1st EarthCARE in orbit Cal/Val work shop

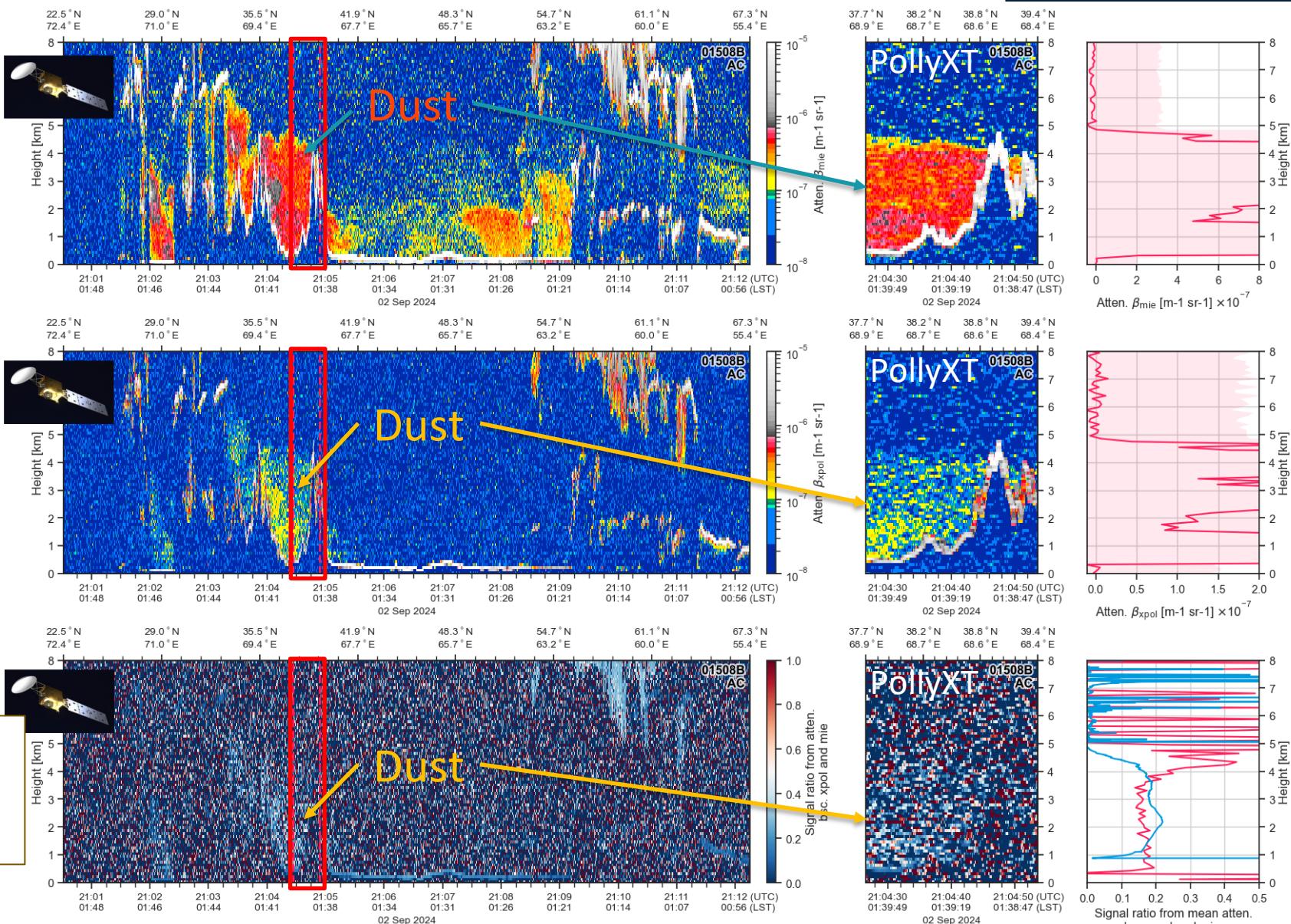
Frame 1508B
Overpass over
PollyXT at
Dushanbe,
Tajikistan



ATLID
nicely
observes
the optically
thick dust
layer



Thanks to Holger Baars and
Moritz Haarig and the colleagues
from TROPOS for sharing!!!



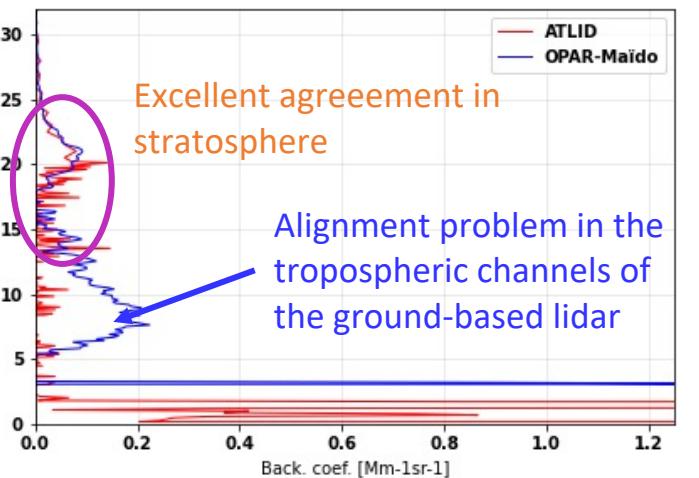
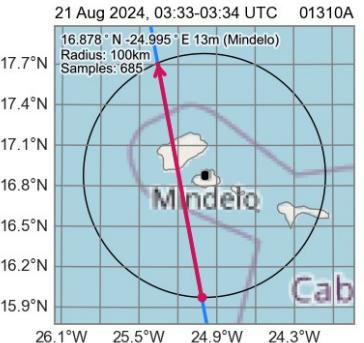
ATLID example:

1st EarthCARE in orbit Cal/Val work shop

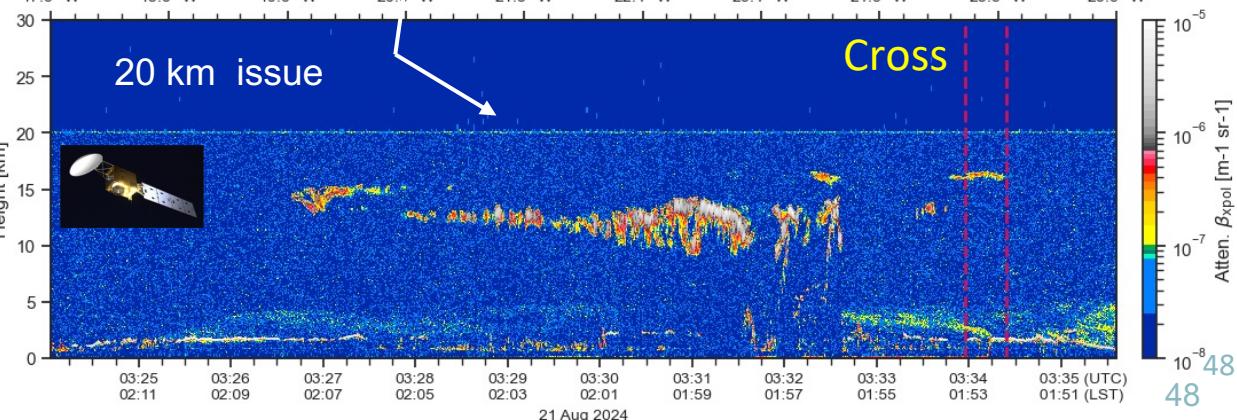
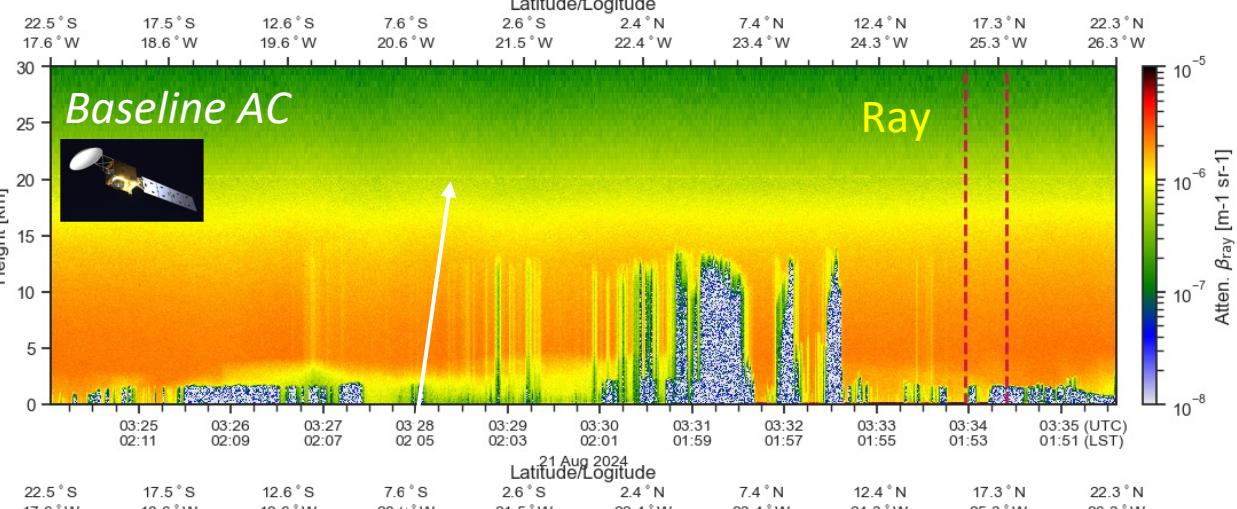
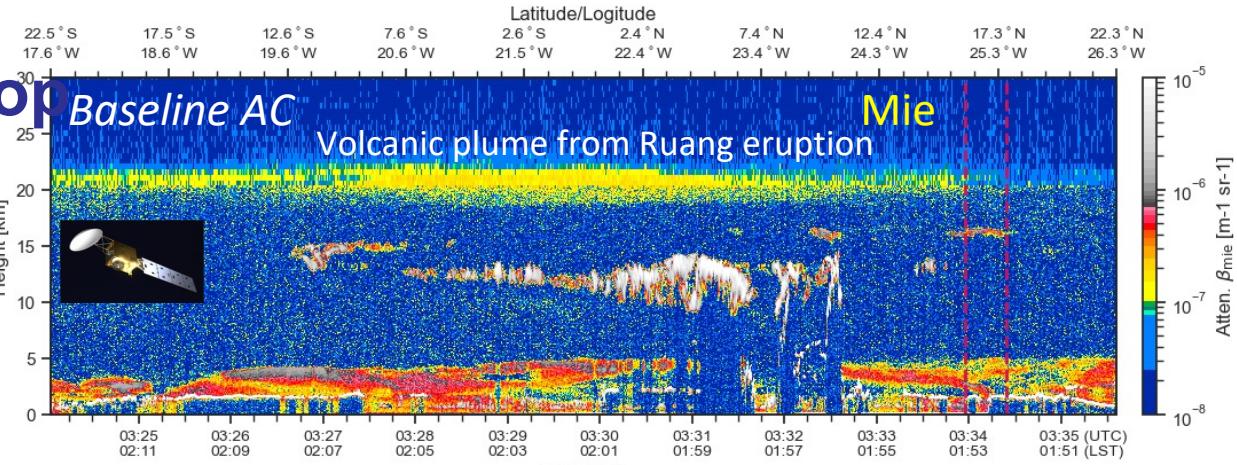
21. 08.2024

- Nighttime

Early EarthCARE overpass over ACTRIS supersite at Mindelo, Cabo Verde during Orchestra Validation Campaign



Thanks to Holger Baars and Moritz Haarig and the colleagues from TROPOS for sharing!!!





Thank you !

