

# Observations: data rescue and reprocessing



Climate Change

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## Acknowledgements

### Reanalysis

Hans Hersbach, Bill Bell, Adrian Simmons, Cornel Soci, Dinand Schepers, Raluca Radu, Paul Berrisford, Joaquin Sabater, Patricia de Rosnay

### Satellite observations

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### In-situ observations

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## Outline

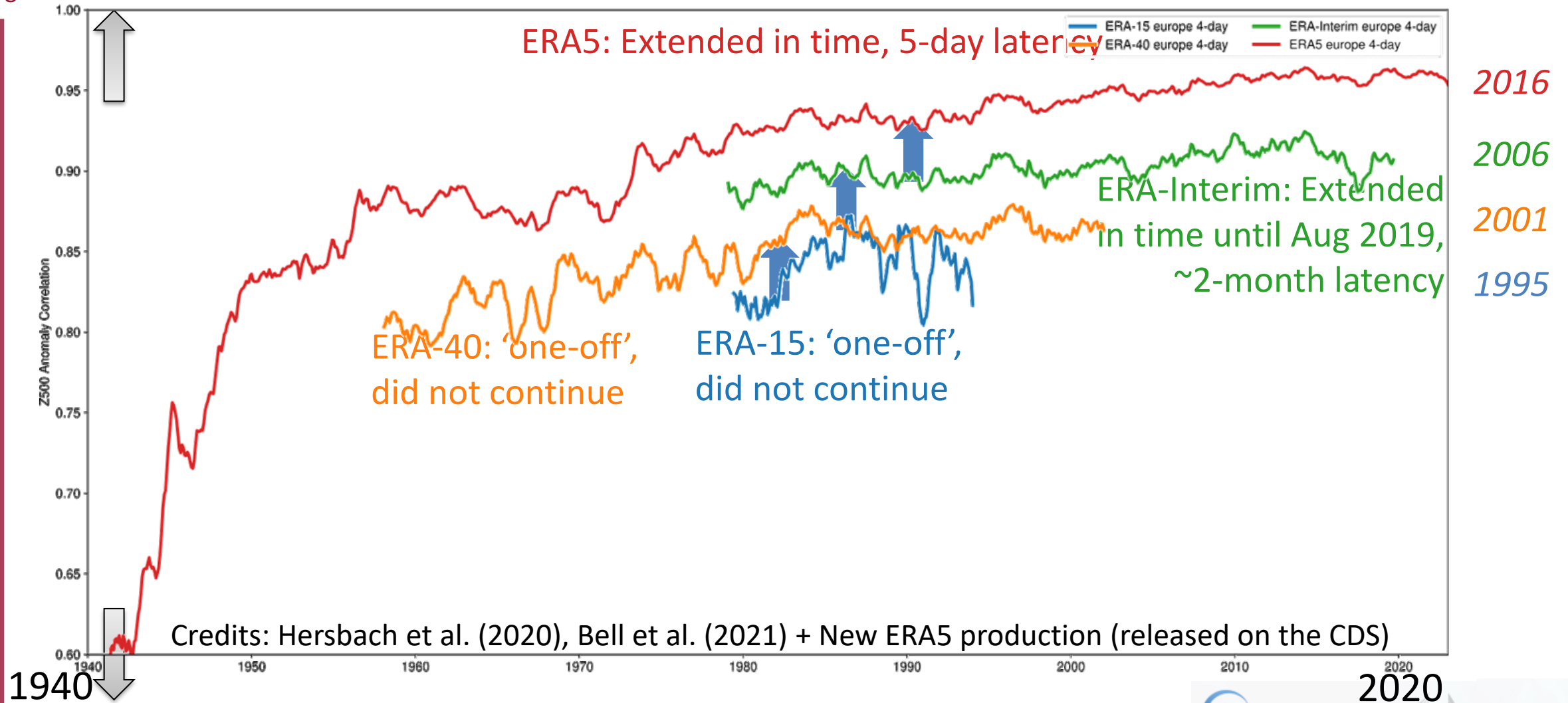
- I. Introduction: On the importance of observations in reanalysis
  
- II. Reanalyze, Rescue, Reprocess
  
- III. Axes of improvement
  - 1) Improving the availability
  - 2) Improving the quality
  - 3) Improving the usage
  
- IV. Discussion and conclusions



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# Part I. On the importance of observations in reanalysis

## “Perfect forecast”



Correlation of 4-day forecasts of geopotential height anomalies at 500 hPa with corresponding analyses



European Commission



# How useful are the observations? Let's look at *explained variance*

$$d_b = y^0 - h(x^b)$$

$$y^0 = y^t + \epsilon_0$$

$$d_b = \epsilon_0 - \epsilon_b - \epsilon_h$$

$$EV_b = \frac{Var(y^0) - Var(d_b)}{Var(y^0)}$$

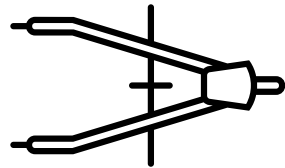
← Explained Variance  
(in the observations, by the background)

$$EV_b = \frac{\sigma_t^2 + \sigma_0^2 - \sigma_b^2 - \sigma_h^2 - \sigma_0^2}{\sigma_t^2 + \sigma_0^2}$$

$$EV_b = \frac{\sigma_t^2 - \sigma_b^2 - \sigma_h^2}{\sigma_t^2 + \sigma_0^2}$$

Explained Variance Gain

$$EGV = EV_a - EV_b$$



$$EV_a = \frac{\sigma_t^2 - \sigma_a^2 - \sigma_h^2}{\sigma_t^2 + \sigma_0^2}$$

- $d$  Observation departure
- $y^0$  Observation
- $x_b$  Background
- $x_a$  Analysis
- $h(\ )$  Observation operator
- $y^t$  Truth in obs. space
- $\epsilon_0$  Observation error
- $\epsilon_b$  Background error
- $\epsilon_h$  Representativeness error
- $\epsilon_a$  Analysis error
- $\sigma$  Standard deviation
- $\sigma'$  Assumed standard deviation

### Notes:

1. Assuming normal distributions, uncorrelated error sources
2. Normalization by assumed obs. error standard deviation,  $\sigma'_0$ , makes it possible to run this diagnostic across variables, across geographical regions, and across vertical levels.
3. For a large data sample, one would hope that  $\sigma_t^2 \gg \sigma_0^2$  (or else the observations would be of little value!)

$$d_b^n = \frac{y^0 - h(x^b)}{\sigma'_0}$$



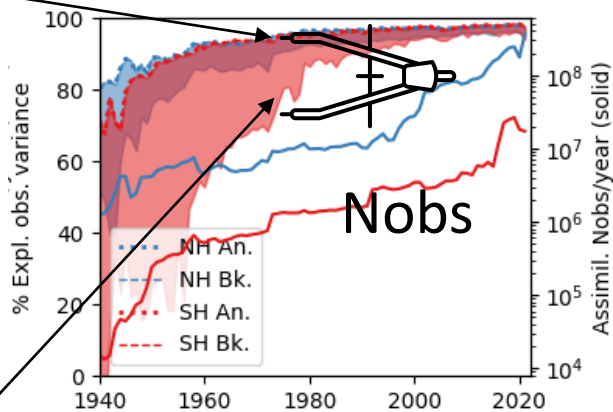
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# How useful are the observations? Explained variance gains in ERA5

% observation variance explained by ERA5 analysis

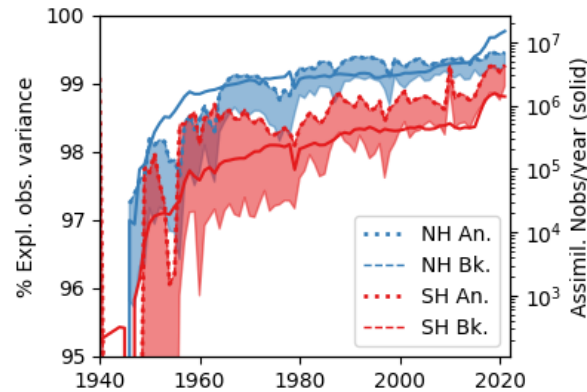
% observation variance explained by ERA5 background

Troposphere, zonal wind

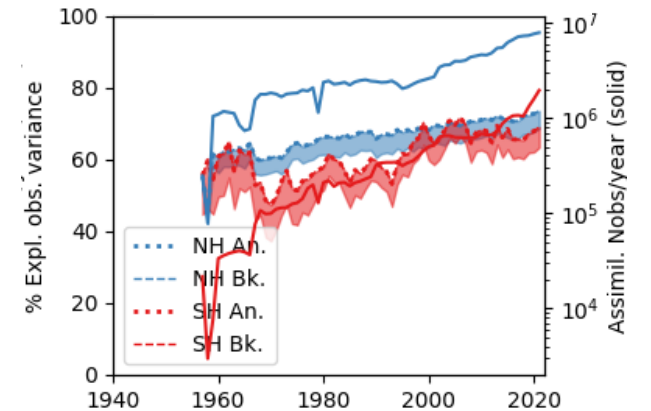


20°N-90°N  
20°S-90°S

Stratosphere, temperature



Near-surface, humidity





## Part II. Why aren't all observations already online and ready to use?

- Observations were (are) acquired **in all cases** for specific purpose(s) (*decision making*).
  - This purpose was **generally not**, 'documenting the present for eternity'
  - Observations do not escape principles of **Intellectual Property**
  - Observations got lost, or got saved, for a myriad of different reasons.
    - With the notable exception of climatological archives, observations were rarely kept *by design*, more *by circumstance*. (e.g., as accepted good practice, as not for any individual to decide on destruction).
    - This lack of intention/long-term planning explains why so many archives got lost when institutions moved or changed guardianship
- Why so little interest in (what is perceived as) "investing in the past"?
  - The phrase says it all. It's about costs and timeliness. (the more) recent and present are the data → (the faster) the reaction time that is expected to handle them – in order to *make a decision*. Conversely, the more distant (the older) the data → the lower the priority
  - However, from a pure cost point of view, **the expenses of making the observation were already made.**
  - Saving what still exists today, only costs a **fraction** of what it did cost at the time to acquire these observations in the first place.
- Unsurprisingly, there are *rather few* large-scale data rescue programmes.
  - But there are many bottom-up initiatives!



US Army signal service,  
Cape Mendocino (1888)  
Credits: NOAA

→ For more on this topic:  
Griffin, 2015  
[DOI:10.1016/j.grj.2015.02.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.grj.2015.02.004)



## Data rescue: Four myth-busters

- X** *“Data rescue consists in turning back the clock”*

  - ✓ Data rescue consists in placing ancient data in the context of modern data and science.
  
- X** *“Old data can’t possibly teach us anything we don’t know already”*

  - ✓ Forgotten observations, by definition, cannot have been confronted with present knowledge.
  
- X** *“We have many observations today (in digital form), why bother with adding just a few (from analog records)”*

  - ✓ Any switchover date (analog to digital records) is an artefact of data management practices (or change in obs. system), and the Earth system may have changed before or after.
  
- X** *“Old data with their unknown errors can only corrupt large-sample-statistics obtained from modern data”*

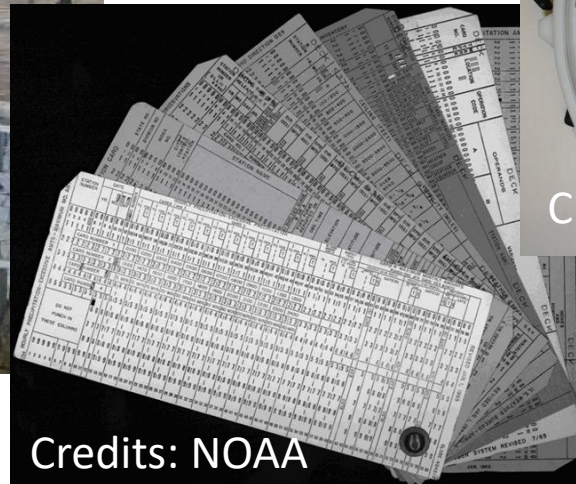
  - ✓ The value of observations that all agree is far inferior to that of outliers: these indicate that science needs to be refined.



## Data rescue: One golden priority

### *Golden priority: safeguard data “at risk” from complete loss*

- e.g., ink fade, discs demagnetization, reading device (often specialized items at the time) obsolescence, destruction (war, earthquake, flood, fire...), unavailability (war, building unsafe, asbestos...), retirement of individuals with unique knowledge of how to read/interpret the data...



Credits: NOAA



Credits: NASA



Credits: Johan van der Knijff  
[\(web article\)](#)

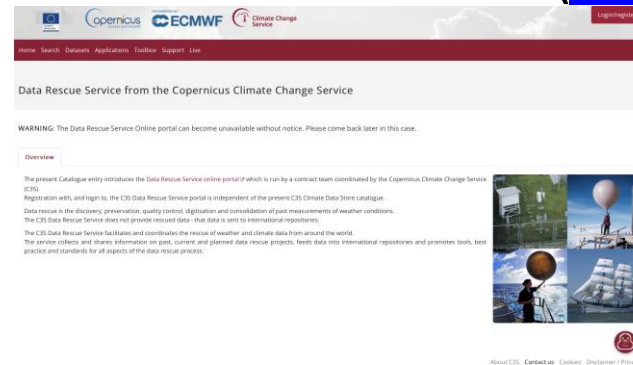
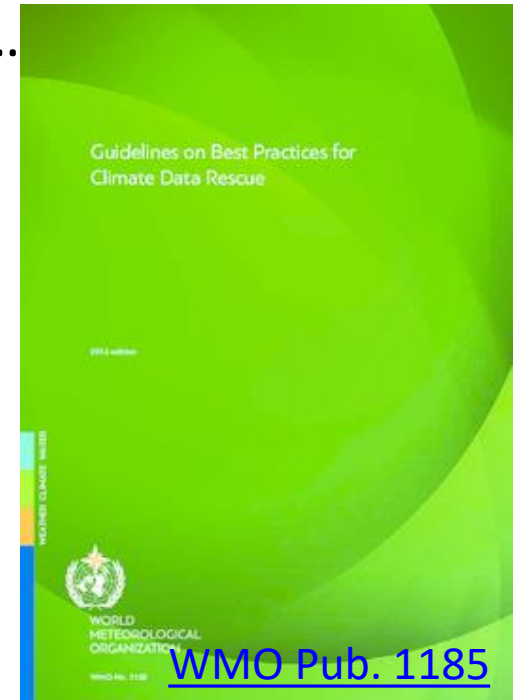




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# Some data rescue programmes and activities

- [Euro-Climhist](#): weather, climate, phenology, socio-political data, ...
- Atmospheric Circulation Reconstructions over the Earth ([ACRE](#))
- International Environmental Data Rescue Organization ([IEDRO](#))
- [NASA](#): Nimbus data
- [US Geological Survey](#): Landsat data, bird phenology, glaciers, ...
- Copernicus Climate Change Service Data Rescue Service ([C3S](#))
- National Meteorological Services, under [WMO-IDARE](#)



## Key aspects

History of the networks	Metadata	Quality Controls
Data sources, media	Data formats	Corrections
Special value of the observations	Priorities	Credits/attribution



→ For more on this topic:  
Chimani et al., 2021 [DOI:10.1002/gdj3.128](https://doi.org/10.1002/gdj3.128)

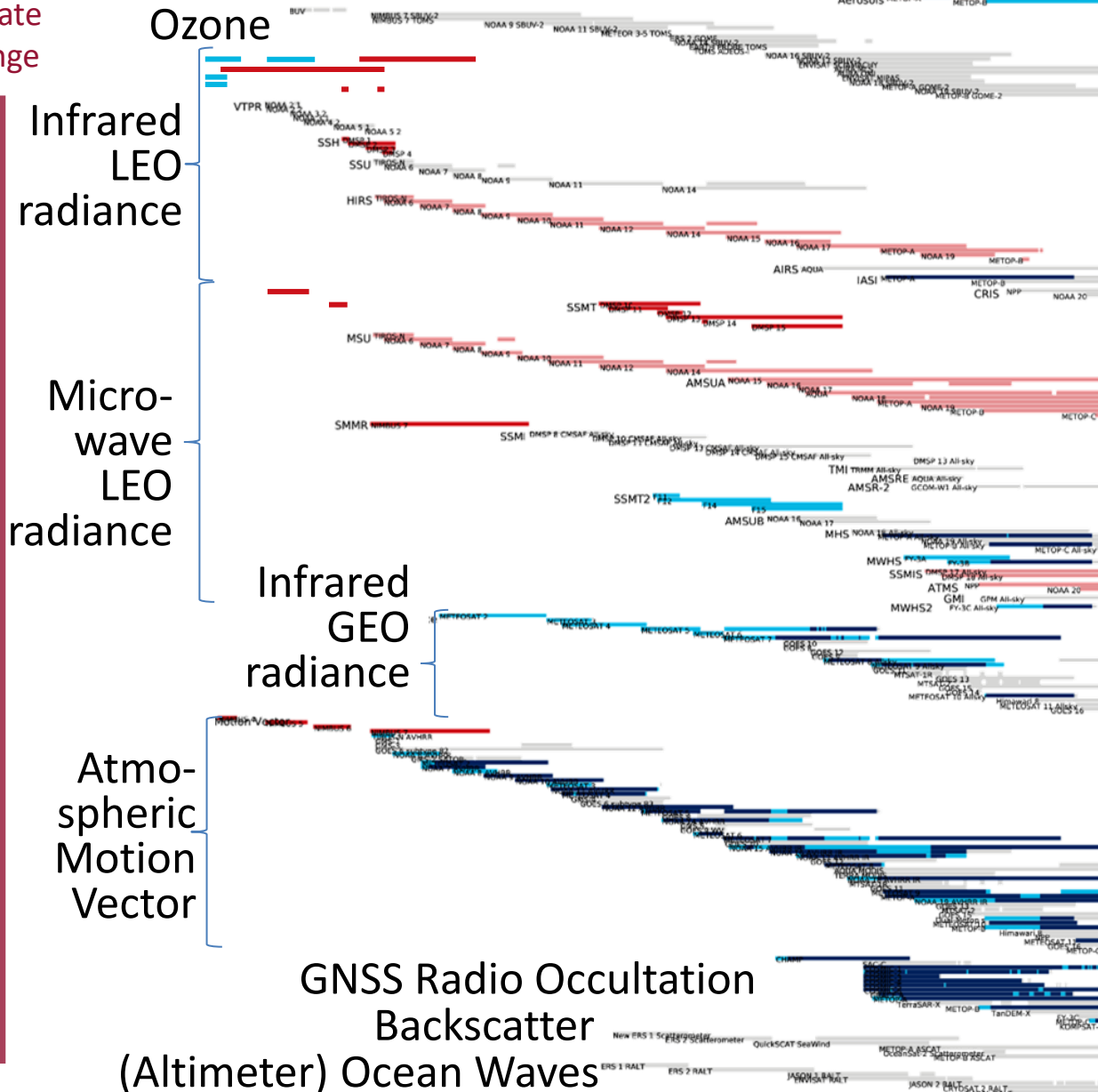


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# Rescued/reprocessed satellite observations

1970 70 1972 1974 1976 1978 1980 1982 1984 1986 1988 1990 1992 1994 1996 1998 2000 2002 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

2020



**Aerosols**  
 THIR  
 SCR & PMR  
 SIRS  
 IRIS  
 SI-1  
 SSH

**HIRS**

**NEMS**  
**SCAMS**  
**SSM/T**  
**MSU**  
**AMSU-A**

**SMMR \***  
**SSMIS \***  
**ATMS \***

*Japan. GEO*  
 THIR AMV \*

Unchanged, as in ERA5  
 Done in Cop1  
 Ongoing/plans for Cop2  
New data  
Improved data  
 \* Yet to be confirmed

+ For high-resolution reanalyses ( Europe & Arctic )

MFG & MFG Rapid-scan radiances and AMV (\* for MFG)  
 Metop AVHRR LAC AMV R3

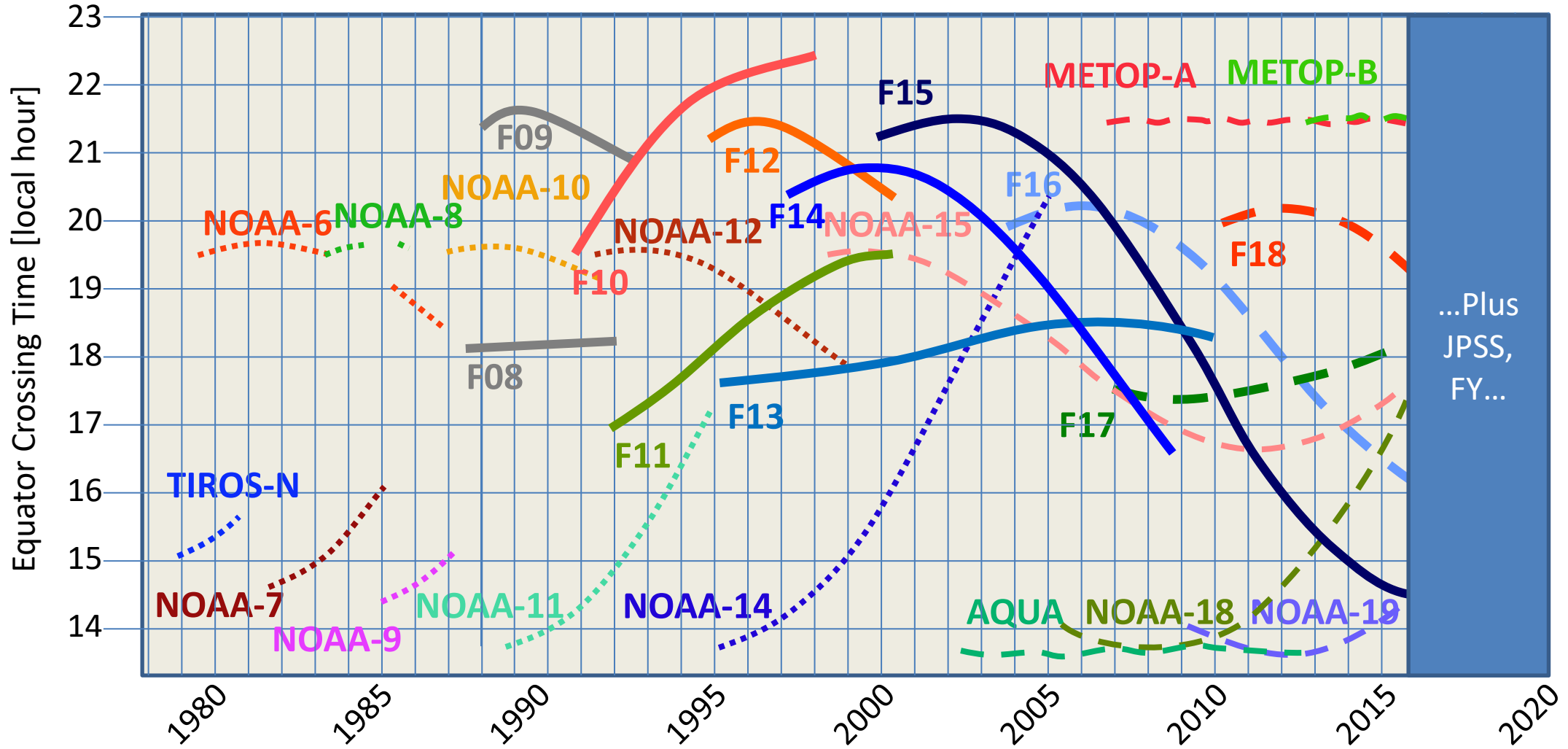
Credits: EUMETSAT, SPASCIA (C3S), with collaborations with international partners





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# Why would an instrument like SSM/T (not used in NWP at the time) help today?



After REMSS and BCU ISR

Current radiance data available to global reanalyses for temperature sounding in the band 50-60 GHz:

... MSU: 4 channels    - - AMSU-A or SSMIS: 12 or 13 channels

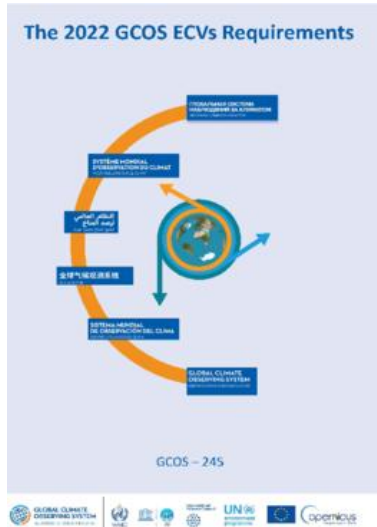
Thanks to NOAA holdings, EUMETSAT (C3S) has reprocessed:    - SSMT: 7 channels





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# Part III.1: Improving the quantity of observations: GCOS, WMO requirements



## GCOS requirements

## WMO OSCAR requirements

These requirements mostly act for new observing systems 'going forward'. However, the GCOS implementation plan 2022 includes several actions to help prepare climate archives for the future:

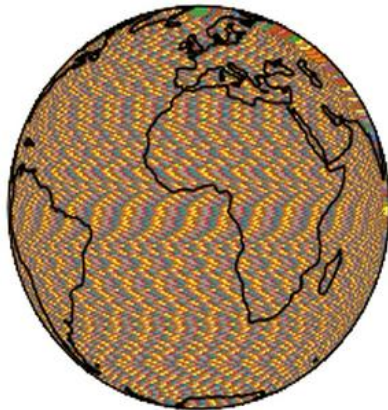
Theme	Actions	Implementing Bodies												
		WMO	NMHS	Space agencies	GOOS	Reanalysis Centers	Global Data Centers	Research organizations	National Agencies	Parties to UNFCCC	Academia	Funding Agencies	GCOS	
<b>A: ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY</b>	A1. Ensure necessary levels of long-term funding support for in situ networks, from observations to data delivery	x	x						x			x	x	x
	A2. Address gaps in satellite observations likely to occur in the near future			x										
	A3. Prepare follow-on plans for critical satellite missions			x										
	A4. Develop reference networks (in situ and satellite Fiducial Reference Measurement (FRM) programs)	x	x	x					x				x	x
<b>B: FILLING DATA GAPS</b>	B1. Development and implementation of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)	x	x		x									x
	B2. New Earth observing satellite missions to fill gaps in the observing systems			x										
	B3. Expand surface and in situ monitoring of trace gas composition and aerosol properties		x						x	x				x
	B4. Implementing global hydrological networks	x	x	x					x					
	B5. Expand and build a fully integrated global ocean observing system		x	x	x				x	x			x	
	B6. Augmenting ship-based hydrography and fixed-point observations with biological and biogeochemical parameters				x				x					
	B7. Coordinate observations and data product development for ocean CO <sub>2</sub> and N <sub>2</sub> O	x			x				x	x				
	B8. Improve estimates of latent and sensible heat fluxes and wind stress		x	x	x				x				x	
	B9. Identify gaps in the climate observing system to monitor the global energy, water and carbon cycles								x					x
	B10. Develop monitoring standards, guidance and best practices for each ECV	x		x	x									x
<b>C: IMPROVING DATA QUALITY, AVAILABILITY AND UTILITY, INCLUDING REPROCESSING</b>	C1. General improvements to satellite data processing methods		x							x			x	
	C2. General improvements to in situ data products for all ECVs										x		x	
	C3. New and improved reanalysis products				x				x				x	
	C4. ECV-specific satellite data processing method improvements			x		x								
	C5. Undertake additional in situ data rescue activities	x	x										x	x
<b>D: MANAGING DATA</b>	D1. Define governance and requirements for Global Climate Data Centres	x								x				x
	D2. Ensure Global Data Centres exist for all in situ observations of ECVs	x	x		x						x			x
	D3. Improving discovery and access to data and metadata in Global Data Centres	x	x	x						x				x
	D4. Create a facility to access co-located in situ cal/val observations and satellite data for quality assurance of satellite products	x	x	x							x			
	D5. Foster regional engagement in GCOS	x	x										x	x
<b>E: ENGAGING WITH COUNTRIES</b>	E1. Promote national engagement in GCOS	x	x		x							x	x	x
	E2. Enhance support to national climate observations		x									x	x	x
	E3. Responding to user needs for higher resolution, real time data	x	x	x							x		x	x
<b>F: OTHER EMERGING NEEDS</b>	F1. Improved ECV satellite observations in polar regions			x							x		x	
	F2. Improve monitoring of coastal and Exclusive Economic Zones		x	x	x						x		x	
	F3. Improve climate monitoring of urban areas	x	x								x	x	x	x
	F4. Develop an Integrated Operational Global GHG Monitoring System	x		x							x	x	x	x
	F5. Develop an Integrated Operational Global GHG Monitoring System	x		x							x	x	x	x



## Metrics for measuring observation density

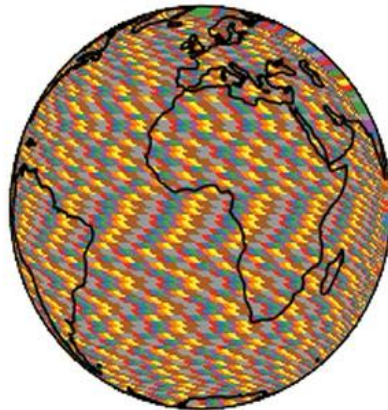
- WMO OSCAR and GCOS requirements:
  - Target horizontal resolution (as a distance, in km),
  - Target observation cycle (as a time difference, in hours)
  - Per variable, per application, and for several levels (threshold or target / breakthrough / goal)
- Looking at these, the following ‘key levels’ are retained: *example for surface pressure*

*~GCOS breakthrough*

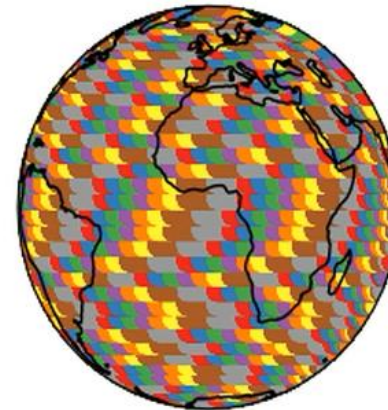


1 obs every 1° (111 km),  
every 3 hours

*~GCOS target*



1 obs every 2° (222 km),  
every 6 hours



1 obs every 500 km,  
every 12 hours



1 obs every 1000 km,  
every day

- ➔ We count as “1” each bin that has at least one observation. Otherwise, that bin counts as “0”.
- ➔ Doing this over all possible bins in a month yields **monthly percentage of coverage, for a given target resolution.**

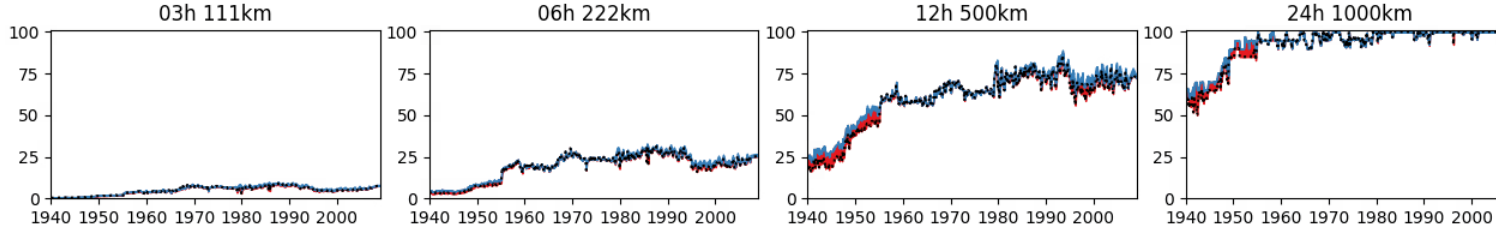


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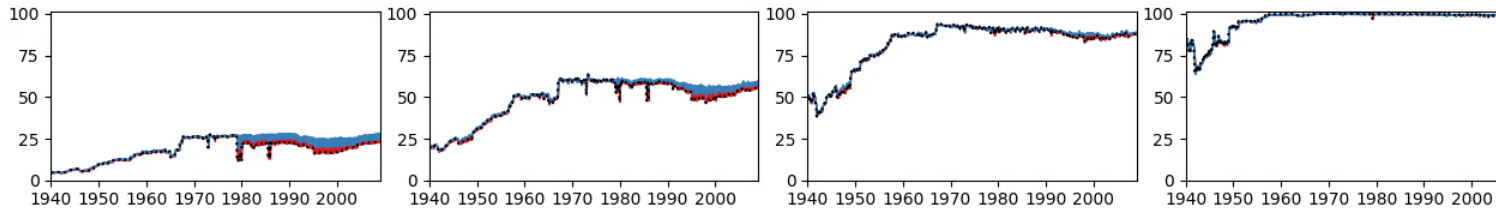
# Improvements in coverage: surface (or mean-sea-level) pressure obs. density

1 obs every 1° (111 km), 1 obs every 2° (222 km), 1 obs every 500 km, 1 obs every 1000 km, every 3 hours, every 6 hours, every 12 hours, every day

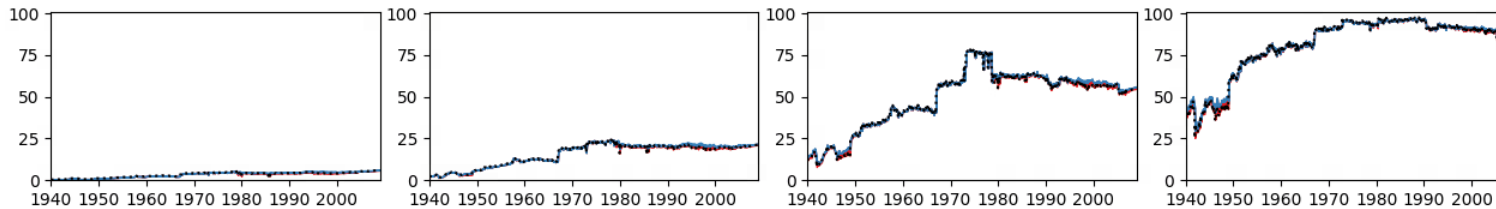
70°N-90°N



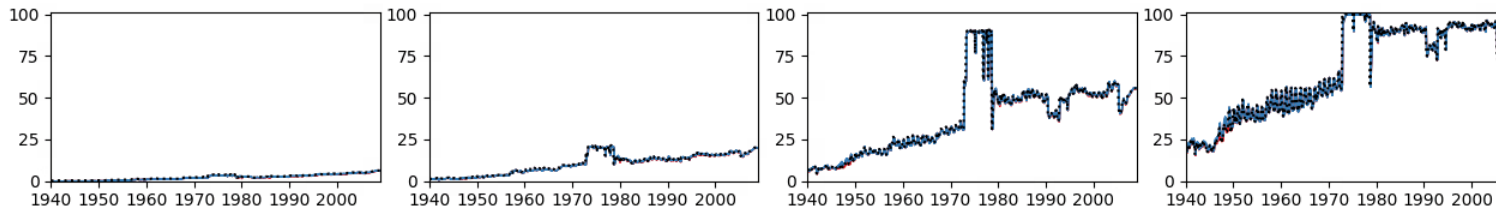
20°N-70°N



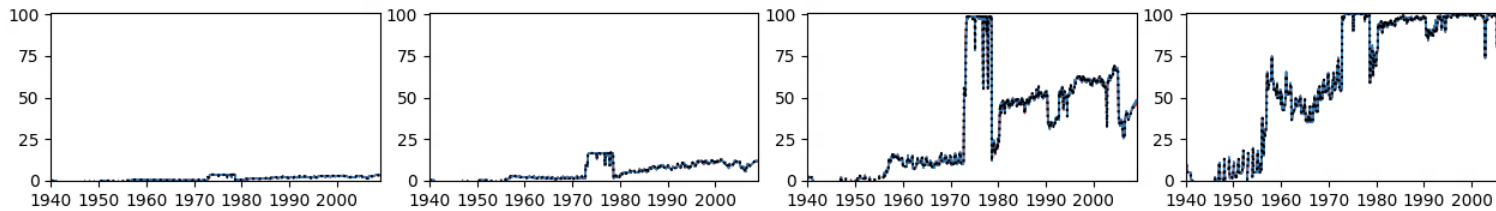
20°S-20°N



20°S-70°S



70°S-90°S



■ Impact of adding ISPD v4.7 over land

■ Impact of adding C3S comprehensive surface dataset

..... ERA5 (baseline)

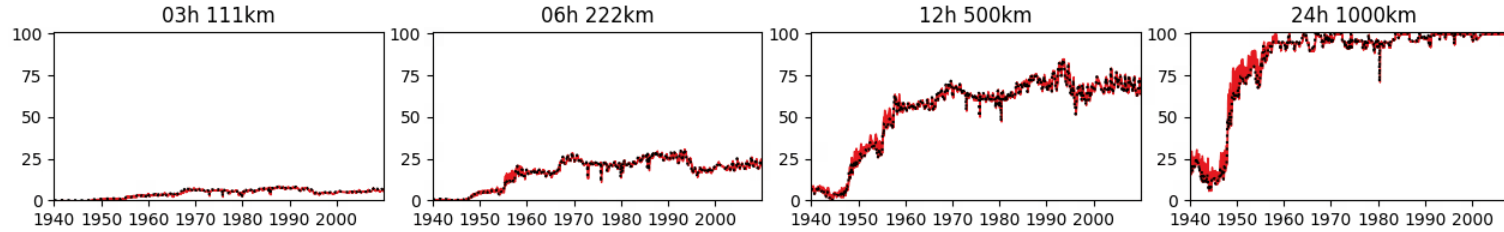


Climate Change

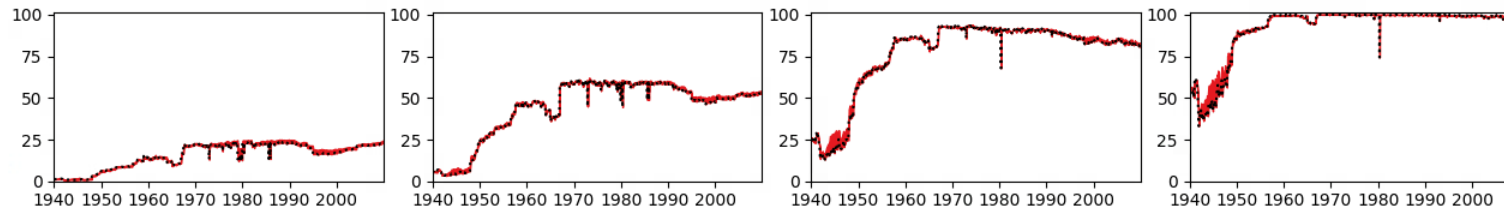
# Improvements in coverage: 2-metre temperature obs. density

1 obs every 1° (111 km), 1 obs every 2° (222 km), 1 obs every 500 km, 1 obs every 1000 km, every 3 hours, every 6 hours, every 12 hours, every day

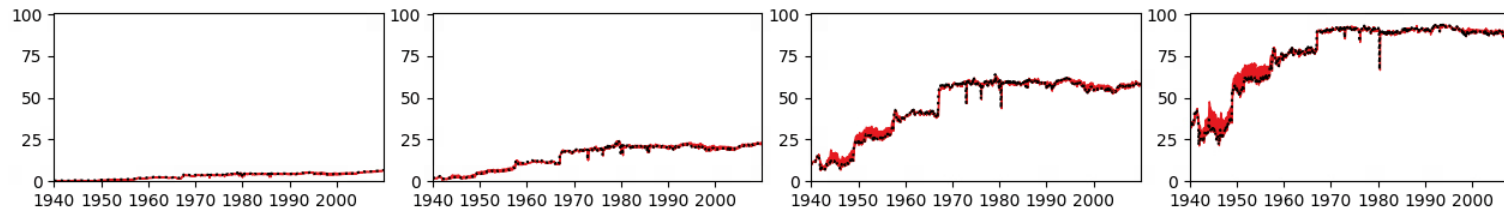
70°N-90°N



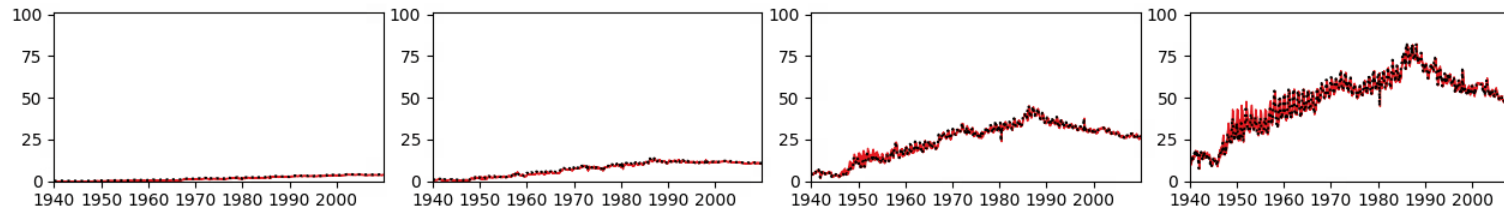
20°N-70°N



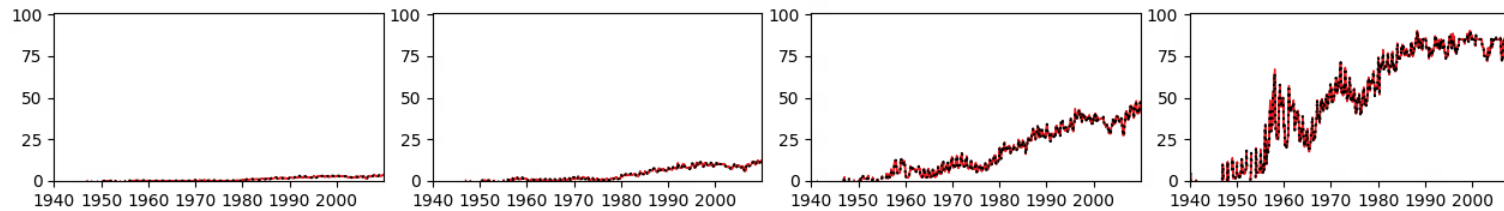
20°S-20°N



20°S-70°S



70°S-90°S



Impact of adding C3S comprehensive surface dataset

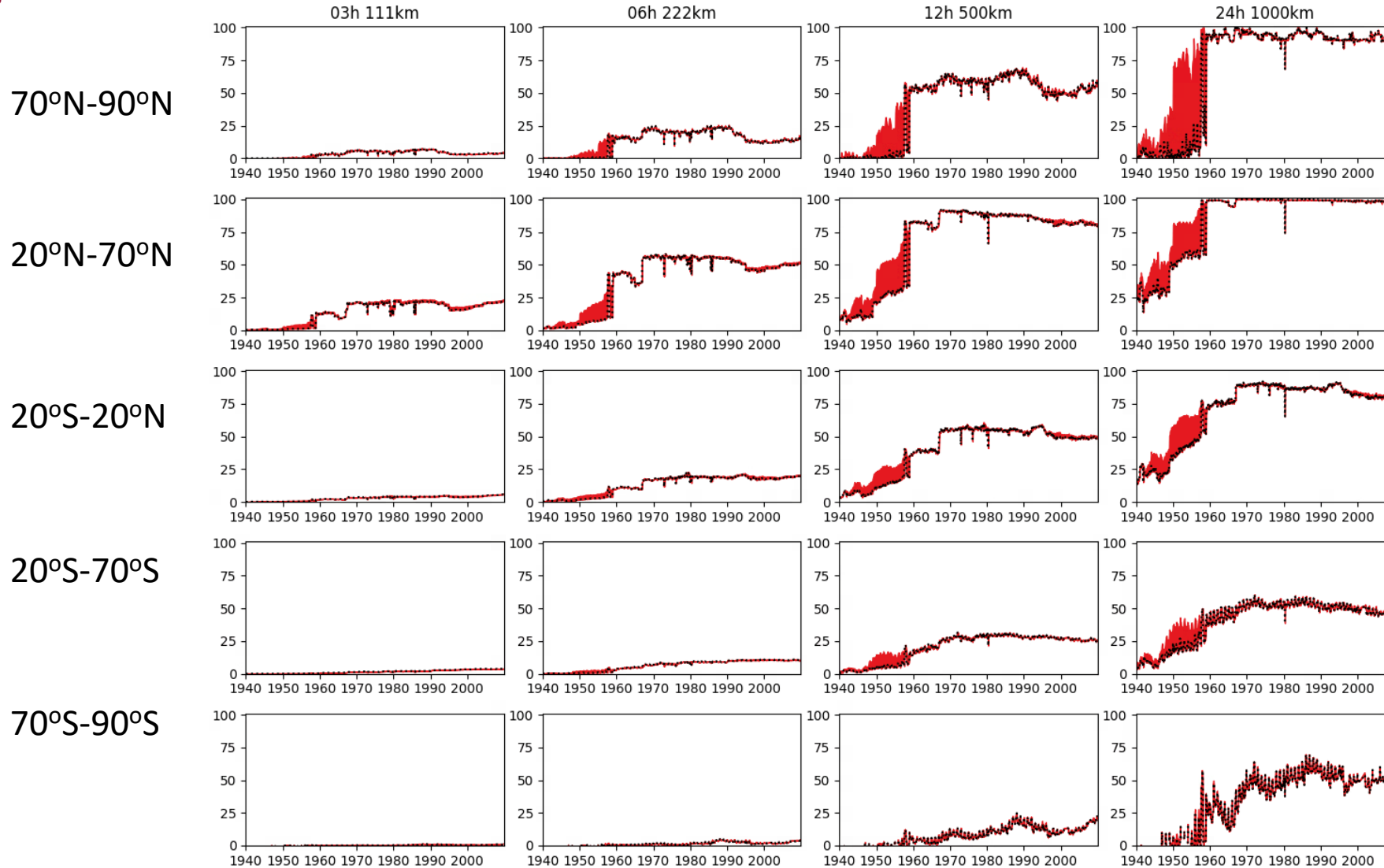
..... ERA5 (baseline)



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# Improvements in coverage: 2-metre dew point temperature obs. density

1 obs every 1° (111 km), every 3 hours    1 obs every 2° (222 km), every 6 hours    1 obs every 500 km, every 12 hours    1 obs every 1000 km, every day



■ Impact of adding C3S comprehensive surface dataset

..... ERA5 (baseline)

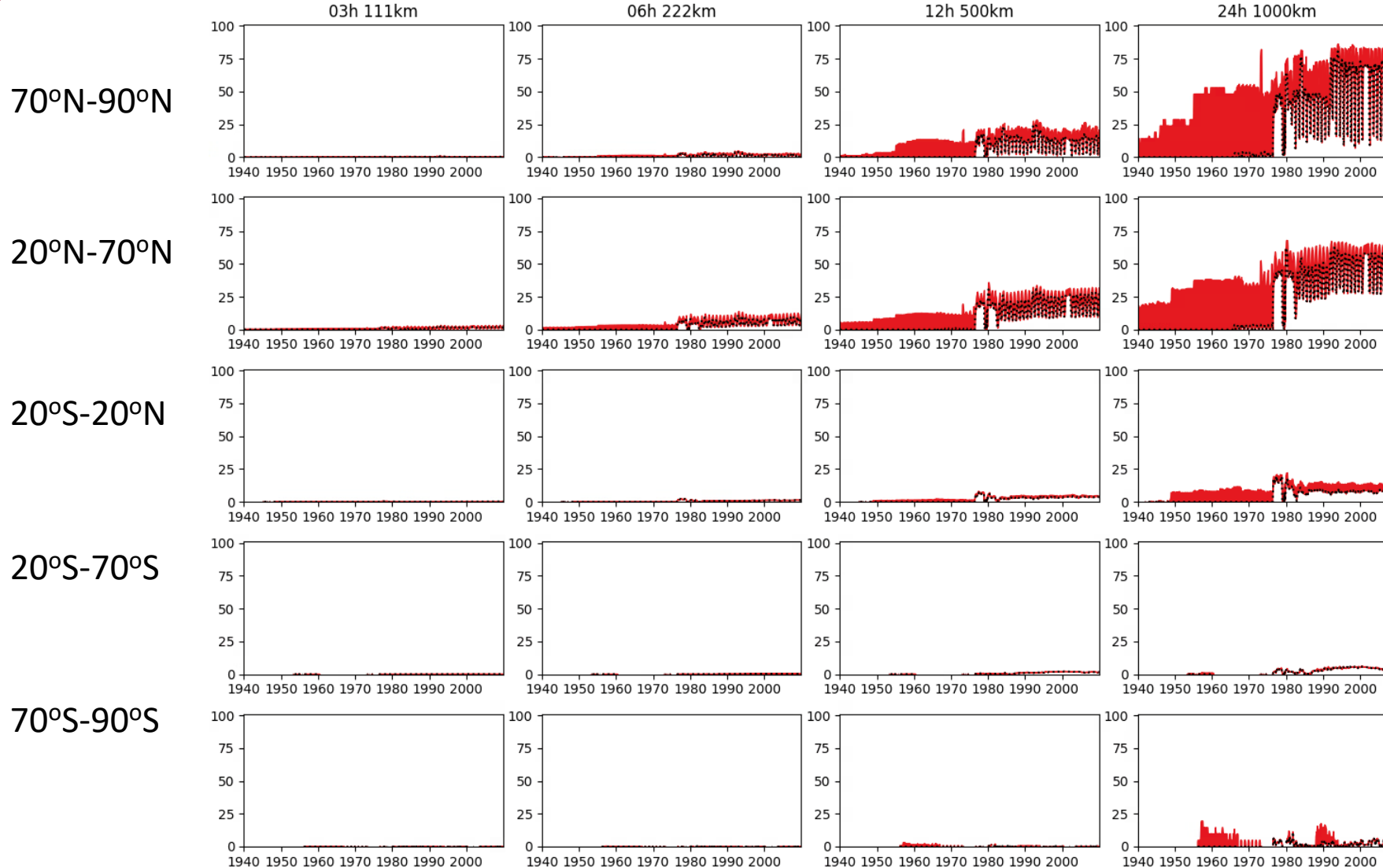




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# Improvements in coverage: snow depth obs. density

1 obs every 1° (111 km), every 3 hours    1 obs every 2° (222 km), every 6 hours    1 obs every 500 km, every 12 hours    1 obs every 1000 km, every day



■ Impact of adding C3S comprehensive surface dataset

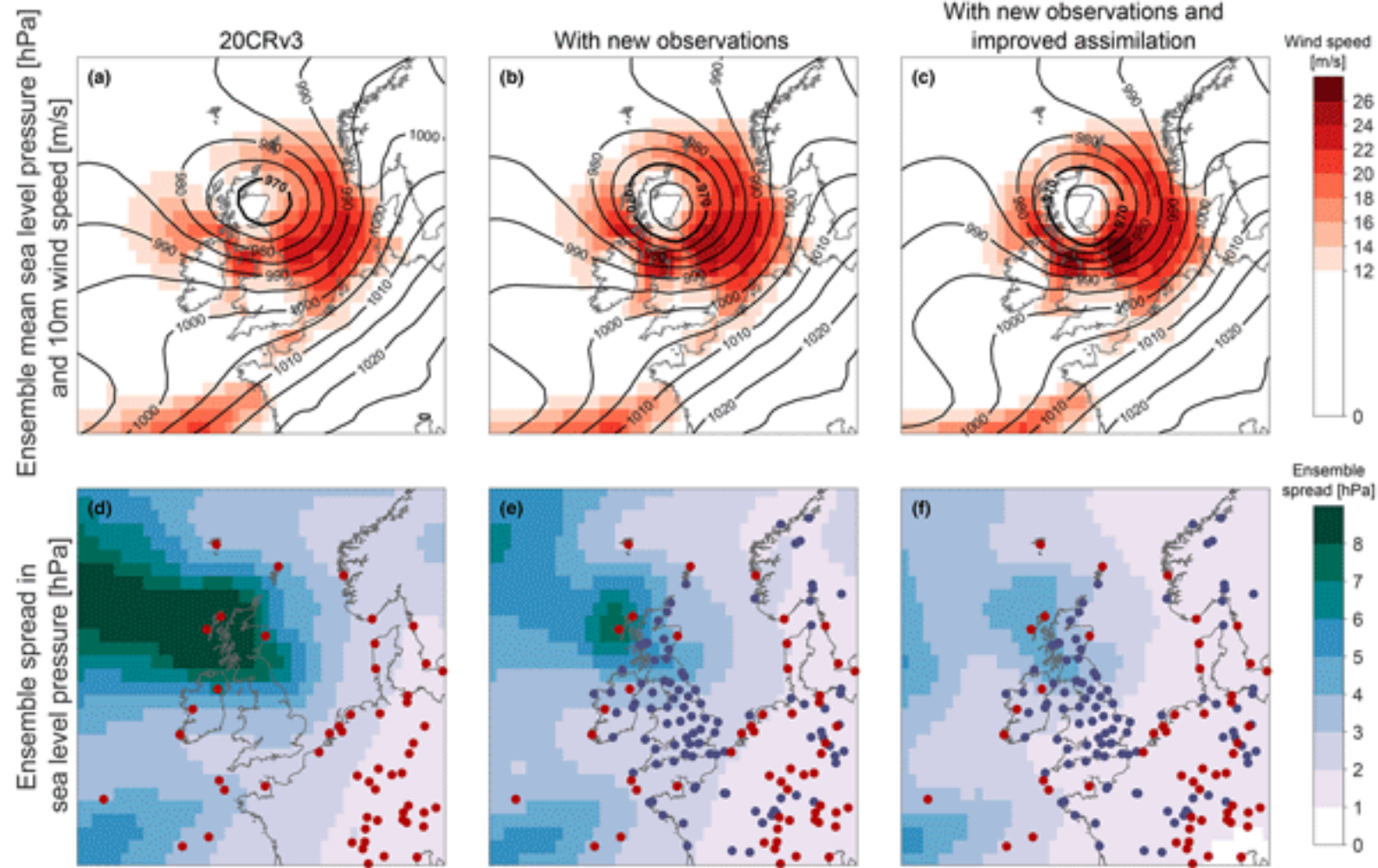
..... ERA5 (baseline)



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# Going full circle: reanalyzing rescued observations for the Ulysses storm

Reanalyses for 27 February 1903 at 09:00 UTC



→ For more on this topic: Hawkins et al., 2023 [DOI:10.5194/nhess-23-1465-2023](https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-23-1465-2023)

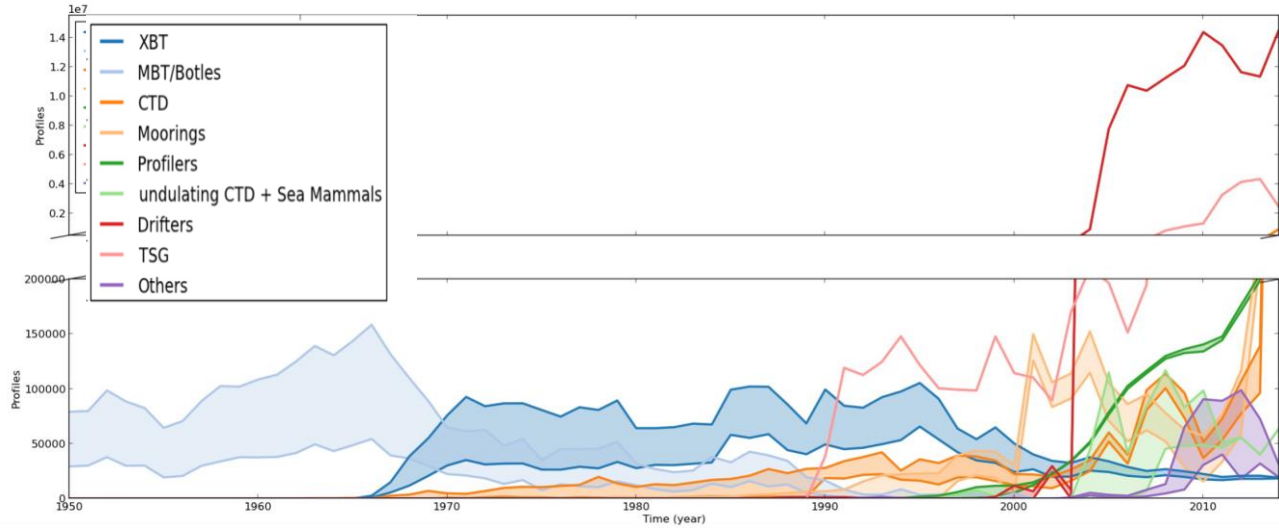


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# Merging archives: more complex than it seems, but well worth the effort



## 2018 merged datasets: CORA and EN4



+1.4 million XBT	+80 000 profilers	+2.0 million MBT/bottles
+72 000 moorings	+600 000 CTD	+ 80 000 drifters
+36 000 Sea mammals	+45 000 scanfish	

Lower line show CORA alone, upper line show CORA + EN4 (after CORA data removed). Shaded areas show the improvement in terms of number of profiles

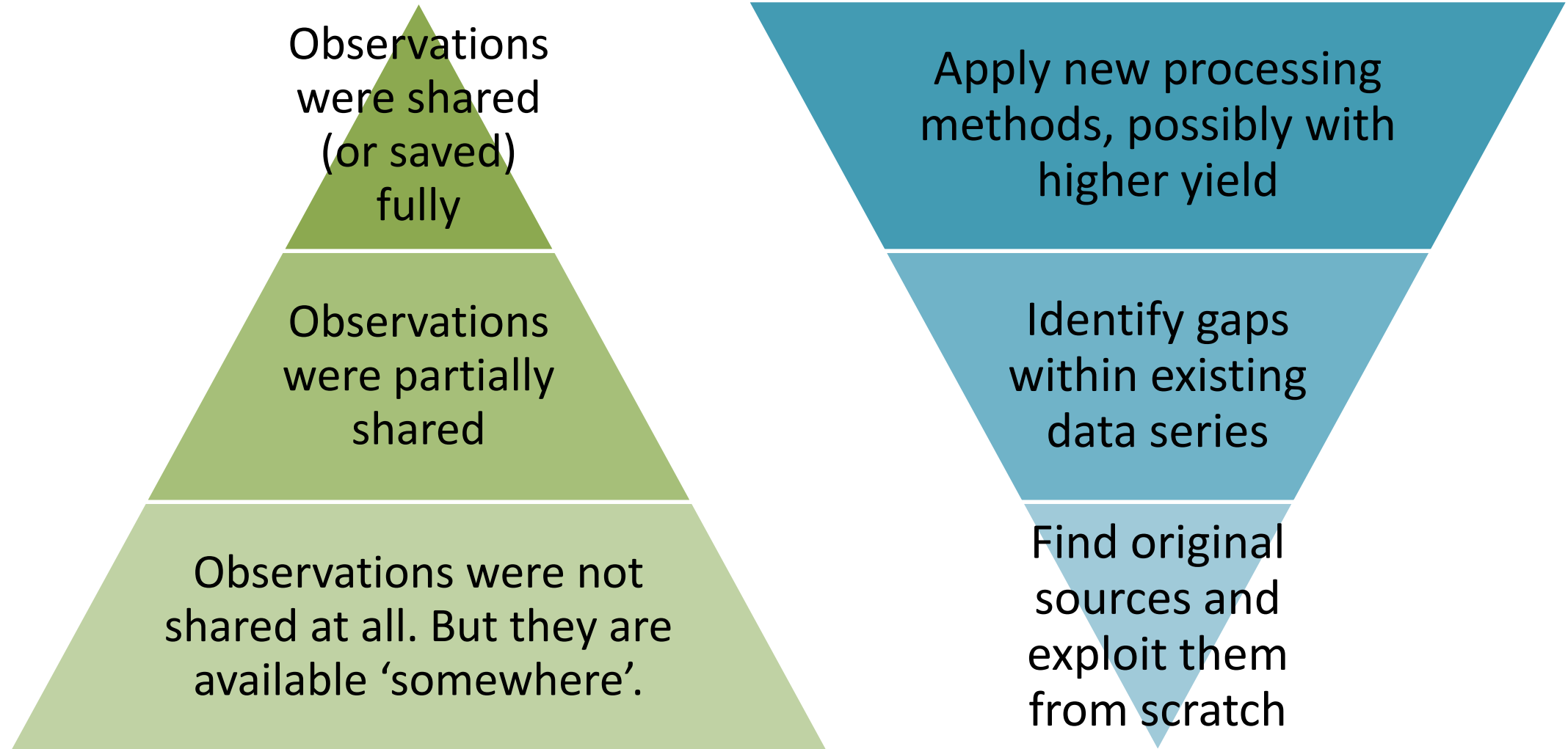
N.B. data is cleaned from duplicates

[DOI:10.17882/46219](https://doi.org/10.17882/46219)

Credits: Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service



## *“Data reprocessing”*

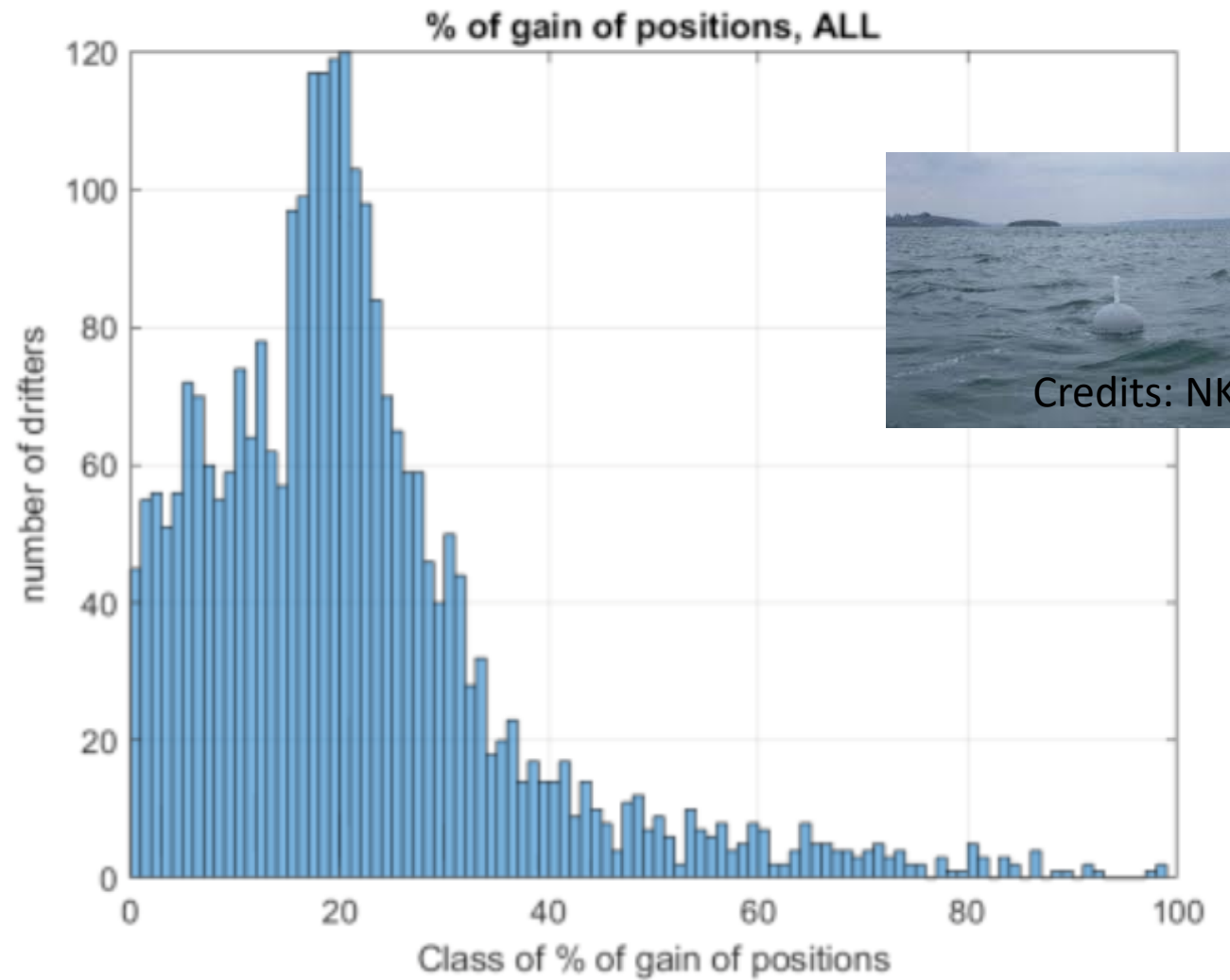
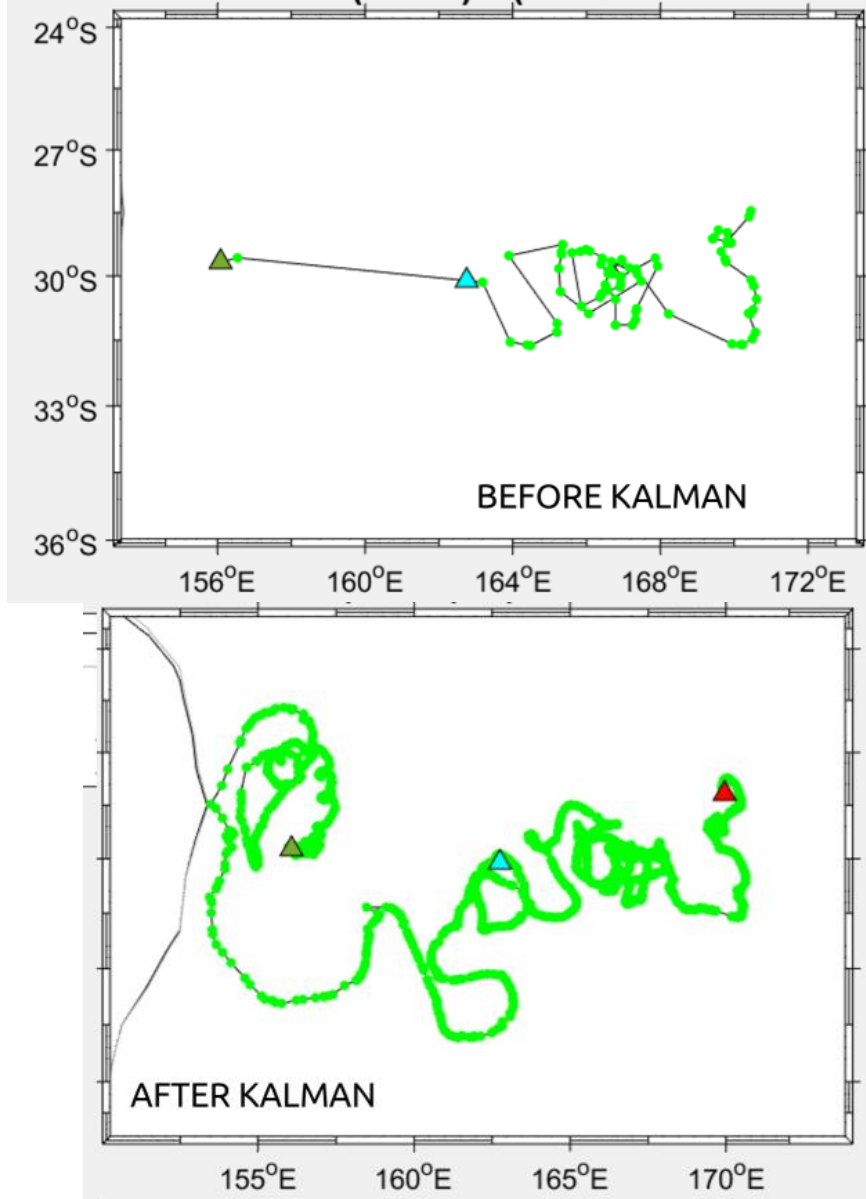


## *“Data rescue”*



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# Improving geolocation quality: reprocessing drifting buoy trajectories



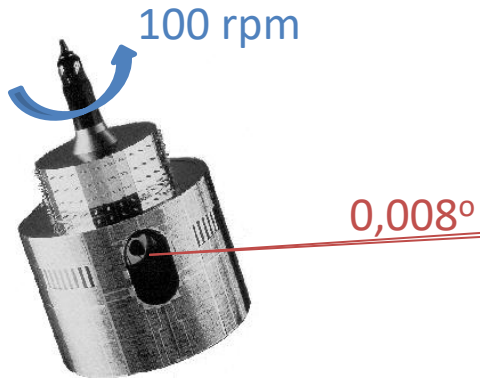
Credits: Rodriguez and Rannou, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.13155/92124> Copernicus In Situ EEA C-RAID project





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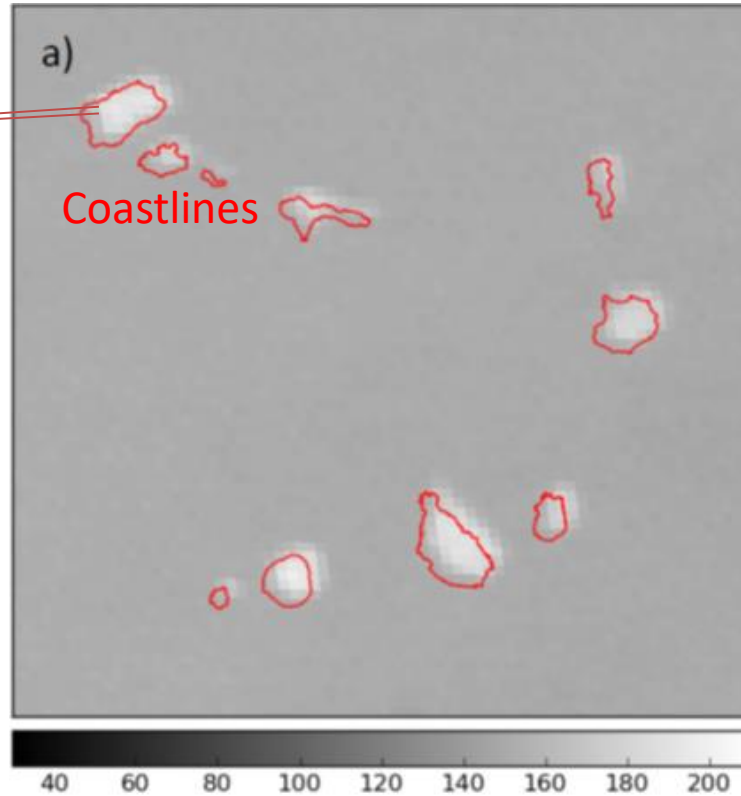
# Improving geolocation quality: satellite



European Space Operations Centre in 1978 (credits: ESA)

Credits: EUMETSAT (C3S)

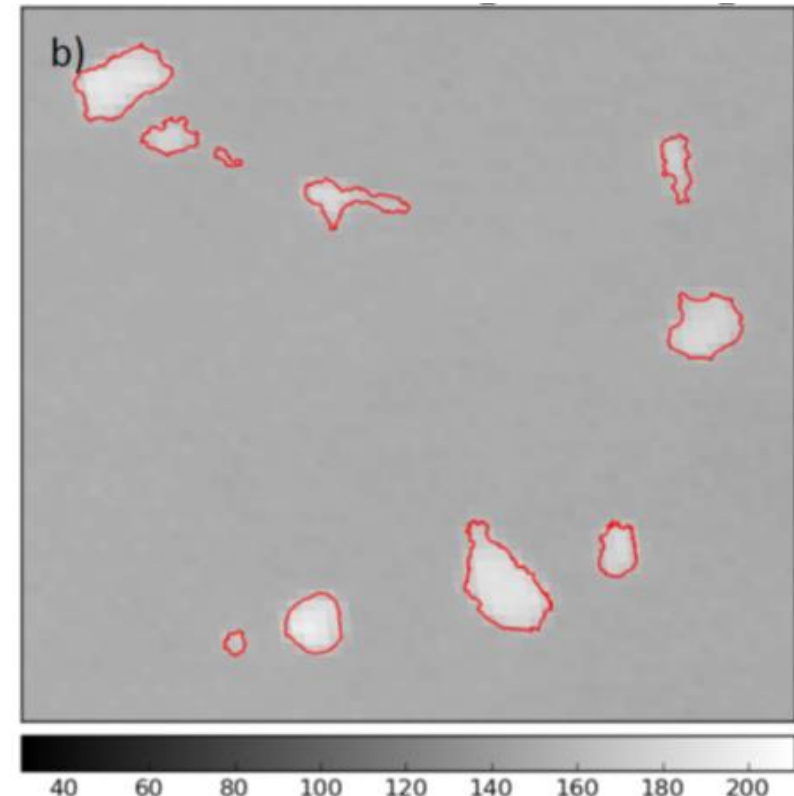
## Original data



Sensor count (0-254; 255=missing)

Meteosat-2, 13 June 1985

## Reprocessed



➔ Differences on the order of 1-2 pixels, i.e. 5-10 km

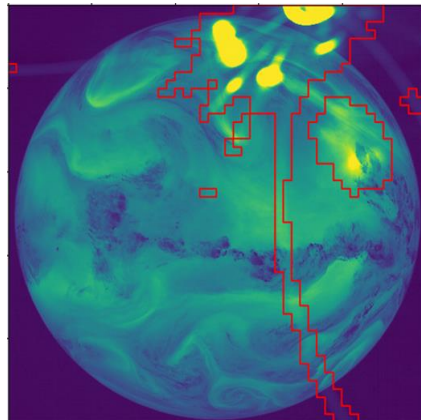


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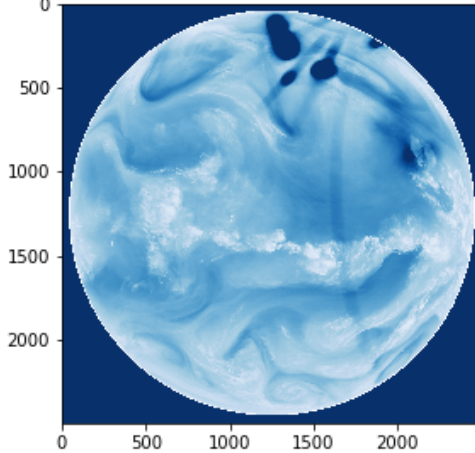
# Improving data quality: satellite radiances

### L1.0 Image

Anomaly areas

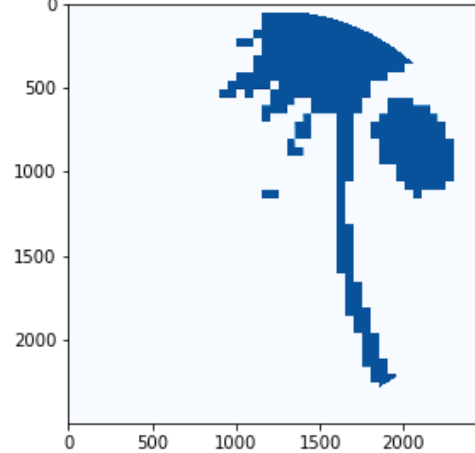


### L1.5 Image

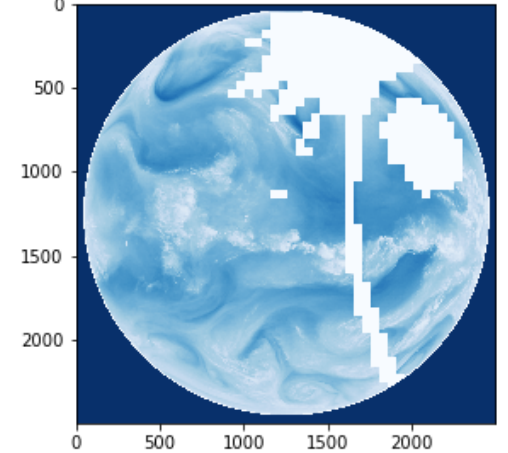


### L1.5 Anomalies

Anomaly areas



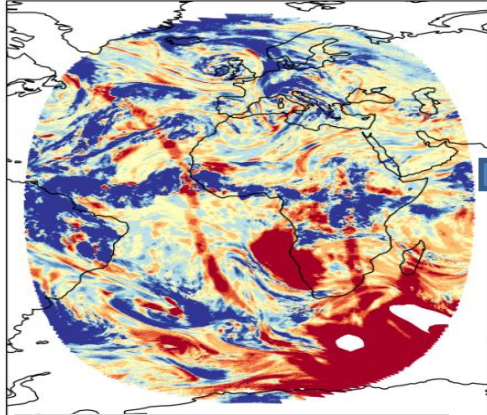
### L1.5 Image – Anomalies Flagged



MET5  
1996/10/16  
00 UTC

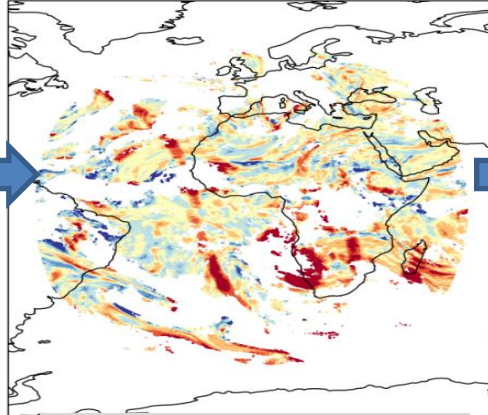
WV  
channel

Ch.2 (WV): Basic OC  
 $\mu$  Obs-Calc= -0.7 K,  $\sigma$  Obs-Calc= 5.4 K, N = 4,250,306



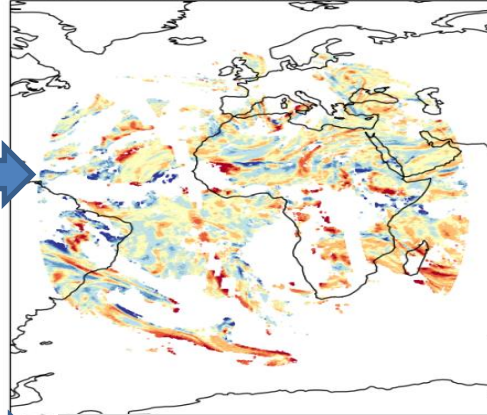
$\mu = -0.7$  K  
 $\sigma = 5.4$  K (4.3 M pixels)

Ch.2 (WV): Basic OC Clear  
 $\mu$  Obs-Calc= 0.3 K,  $\sigma$  Obs-Calc= 1.9 K, N = 1,116,541

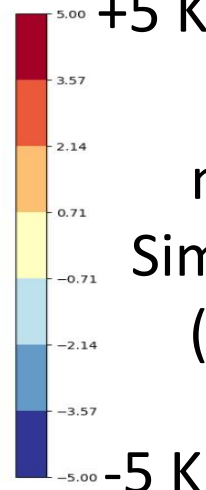


$\mu = 0.3$  K  
 $\sigma = 1.9$  K (1.1 M pixels)

Ch.2 (WV): Basic OC Clear No anomaly  
 $\mu$  Obs-Calc= 0.0 K,  $\sigma$  Obs-Calc= 1.4 K, N = 1,017,465



$\mu = 0.0$  K  
 $\sigma = 1.4$  K (1.0 M pixels)



+5 K  
Obs  
minus  
Simulation  
(ERA5)  
-5 K

→ For more on this topic:  
Poli al., 2023  
[DOI:10.22541/essoar.167591063.34033446/v1](https://doi.org/10.22541/essoar.167591063.34033446/v1)

Leave out cloudy areas    Leave out anomaly-flagged areas

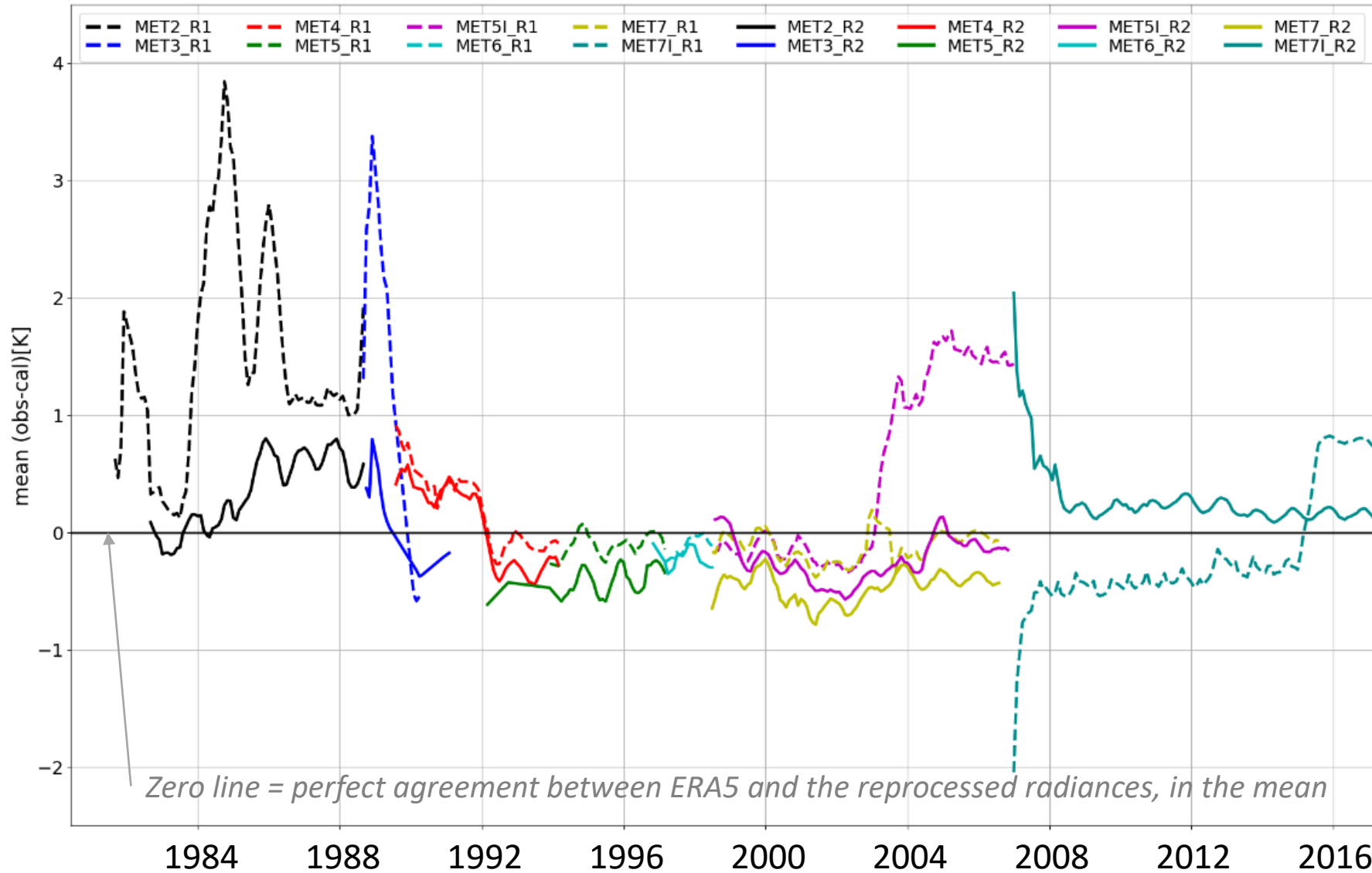
Credits: EUMETSAT (C3S)





Climate  
Change

# Improving data quality: improvement between 2 major reprocessings



-- 1st Reproc.  
- 2nd Reproc.

**3 factors  
contributing to  
improvement:**

- ✓ *Geolocation*
- ✓ *Handling image anomalies*
- ✓ *Calibration*

**Meteosat water vapor channel, observations compared with radiative transfer simulations using ERA5**

Credits: EUMETSAT (C3S)







# Recovering data from a 'forgotten' instrument: DMSP SSH

- Example with the Special Sensor H, also known as Multichannel Filter Radiometer (MFR), flown on 4x DMSP block 5D-1 satellites F-1 to F-4 (1976-1980)
- Important sensor to potentially improve reanalyses in the late 1970s
- Issue: the data documentation is inconsistent about channel ordering

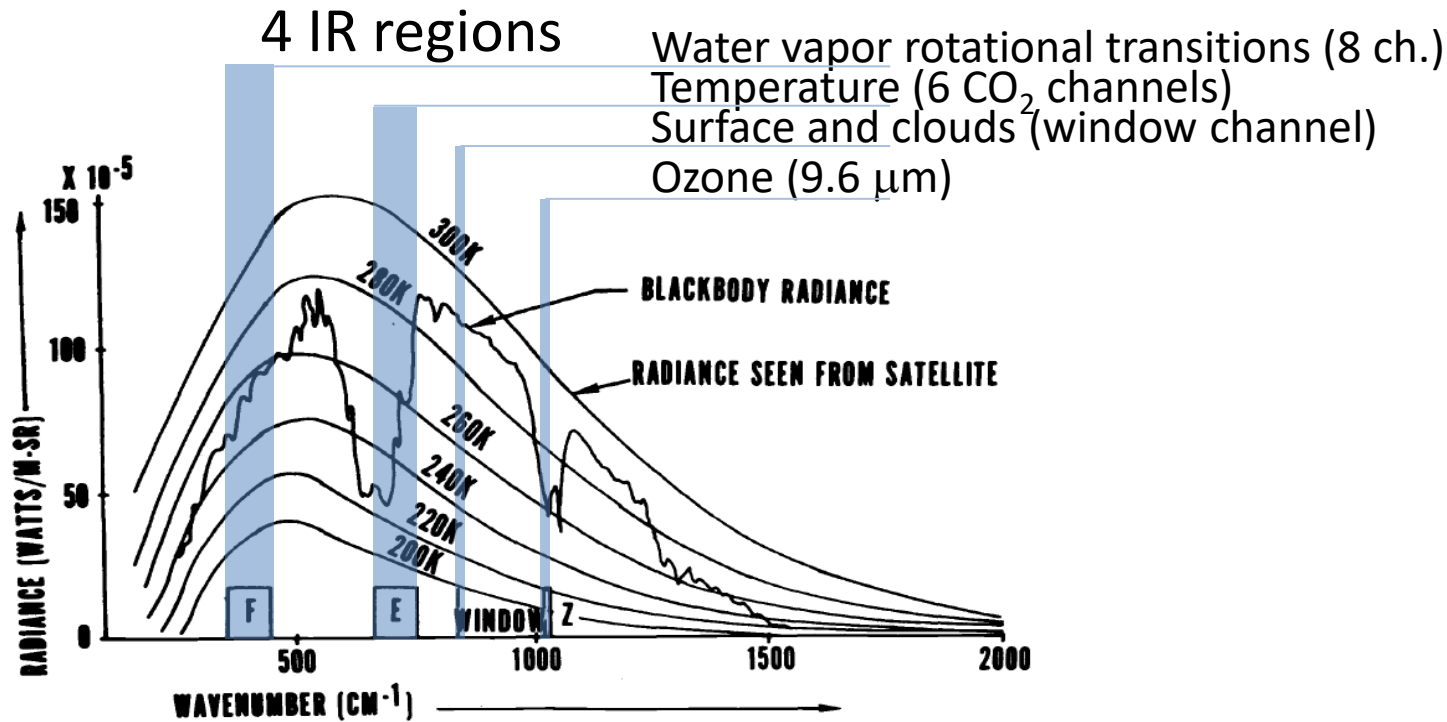
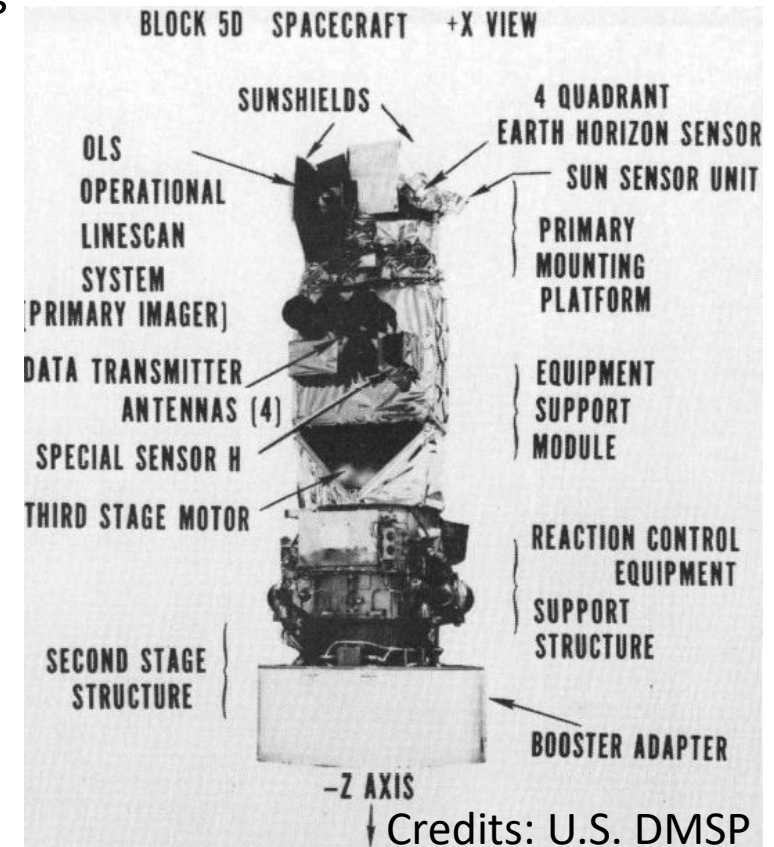


Fig. 1. Atmospheric Absorption Bands.

Excerpt from Nichols (1975)



↓ Credits: U.S. DMSP

Later instrument: SSH-2, but **no data source known** at present.



Climate Change

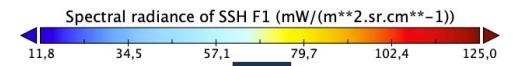
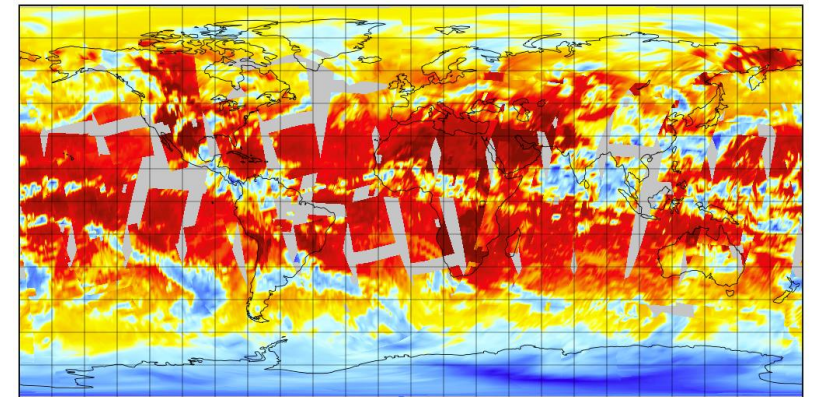
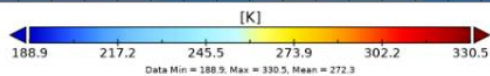
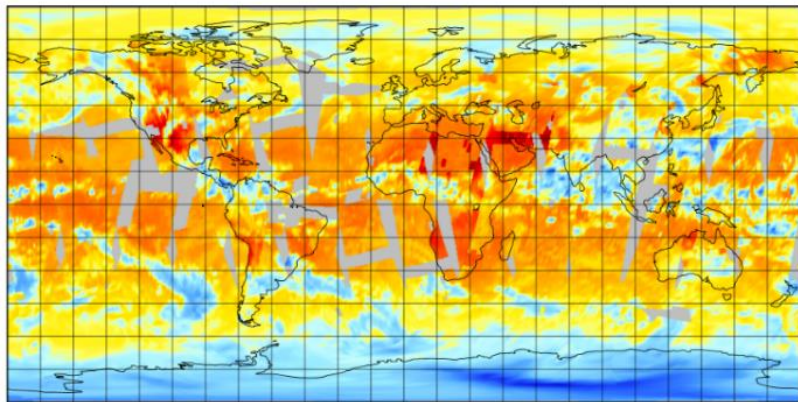
# DMSP SSH sampling: F1 1977/06/20

Data encoded with FRAMIS database running on VAX 11/780 computer with a VMS operating system. NASA restored the data from ageing tapes. Acknowledgements to the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for having kept a copy of this code.

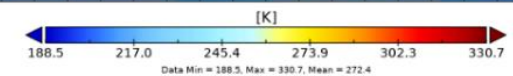
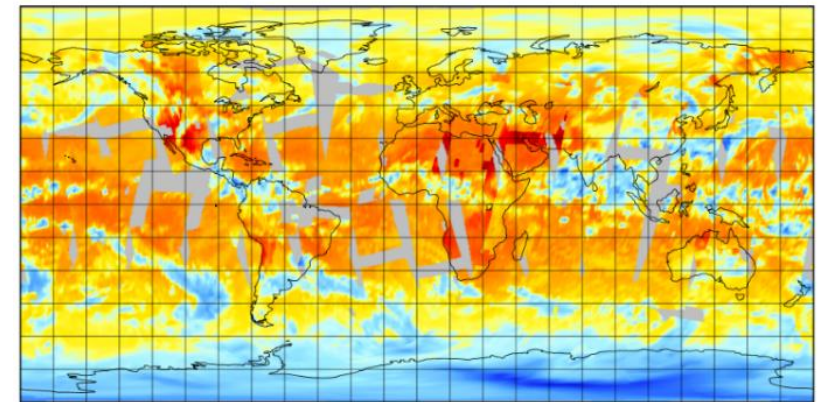


Radiance in the original data (for all channels)

B.T. in the original data, but for a few channels only, e.g. window channel



B.T. computed from the radiances



→ We are positive this is the window channel for cloud detection

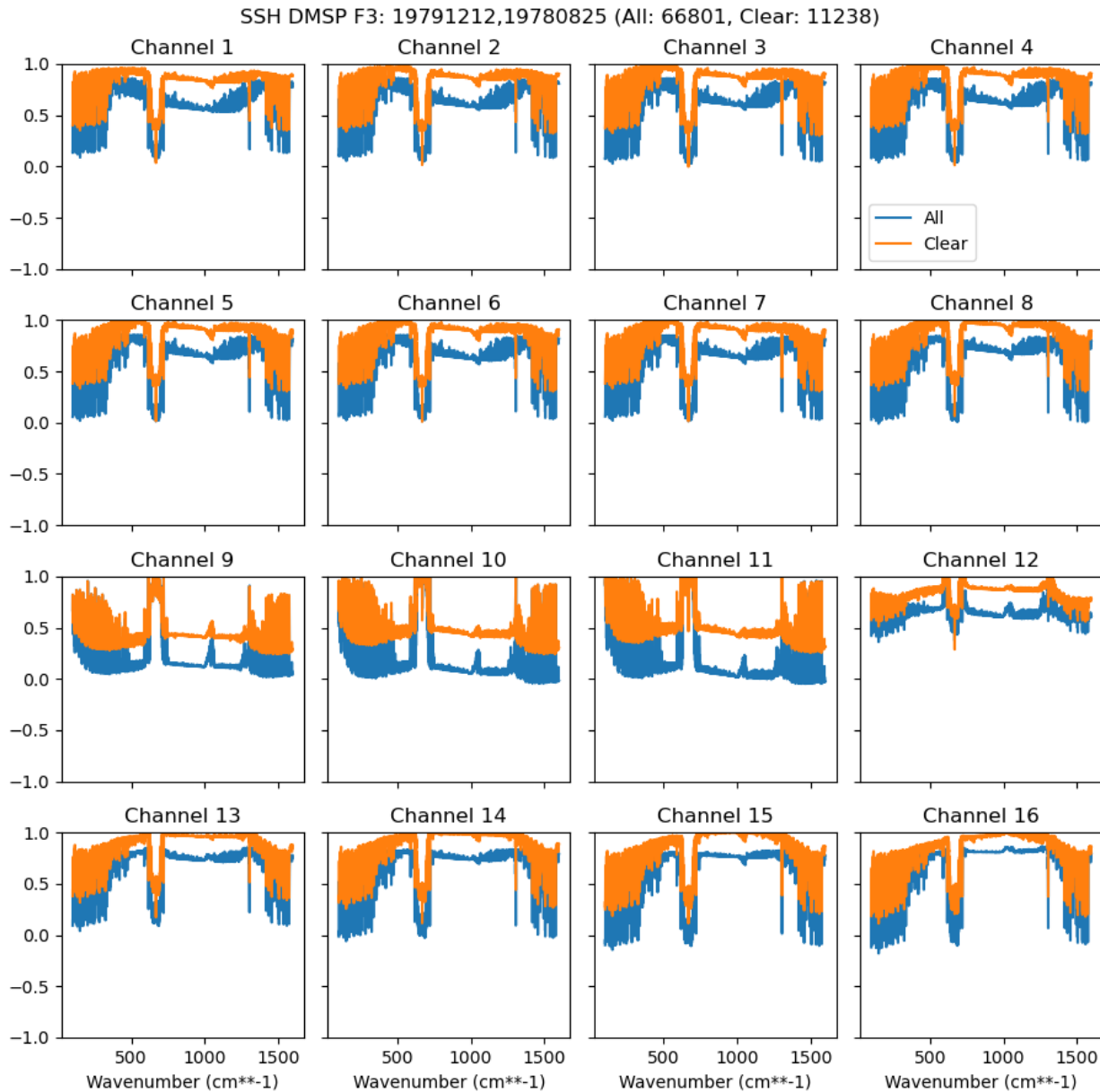
Credits: [NASA GES DISC](#)

Credits: EUMETSAT (C3S2\_310)





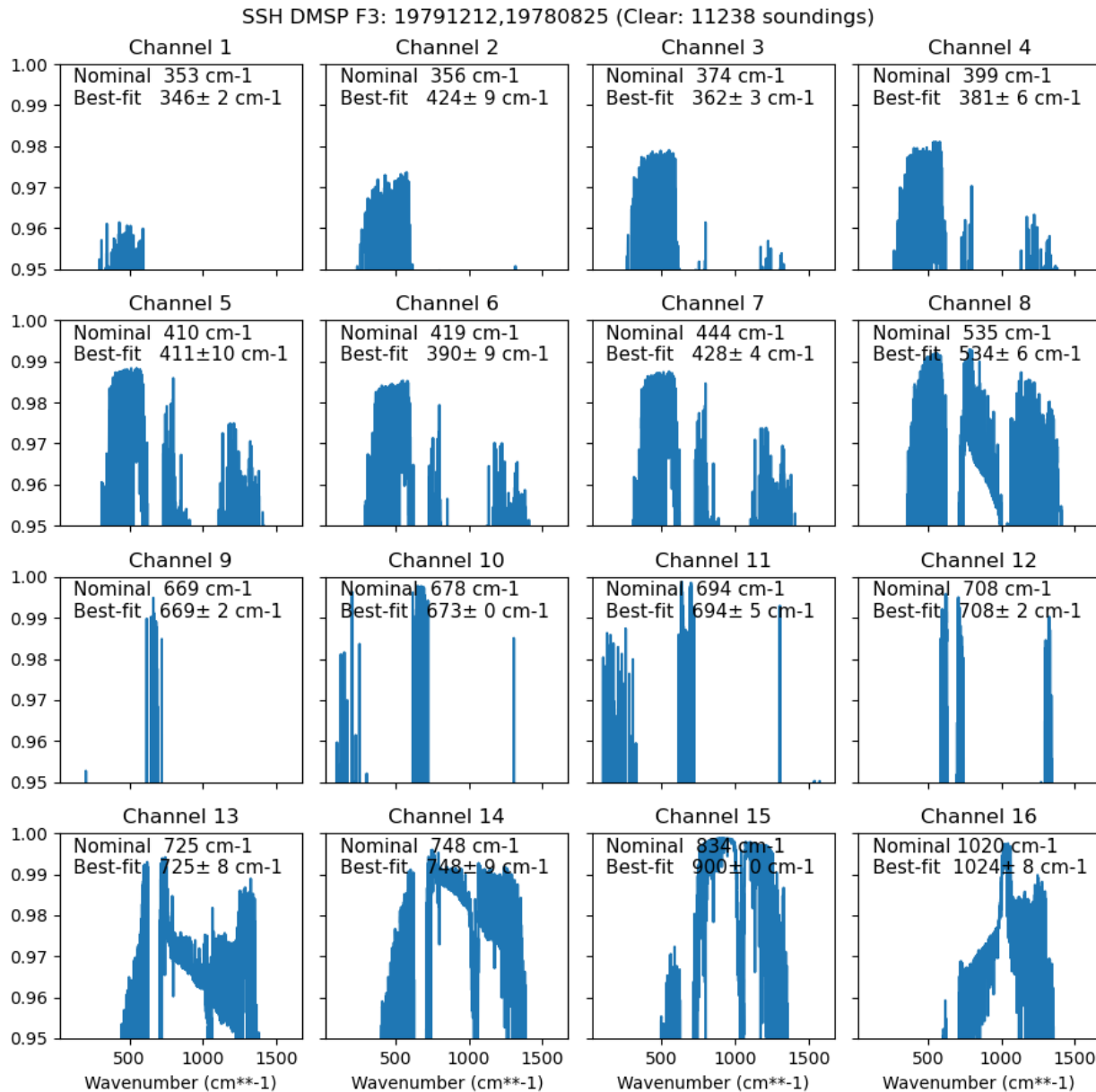
# Using ERA5, simulation of the FORUM instrument at $0.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ resolution



- Correlate the simulated radiances with the observed radiances
  - For each simulated FORUM channel ( $100\text{-}1600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )
    - Results in blue
- Repeat this after applying a window check for cloud detection
  - Obs - Calc in the range  $[-2\text{K}, 3\text{K}]$
  - Results in orange



# Zoom on high correlations [0.95 – 1.00]



We may then figure out a “most likely” wavenumber

Then, given the limited number of expected wavenumbers from documentation (16), we can find the most likely channel width by applying a moving average of varying width

Beware not to over-interpret the results, given biases in the R.T. simulations!



# SSH wavenumbers estimated from simulations

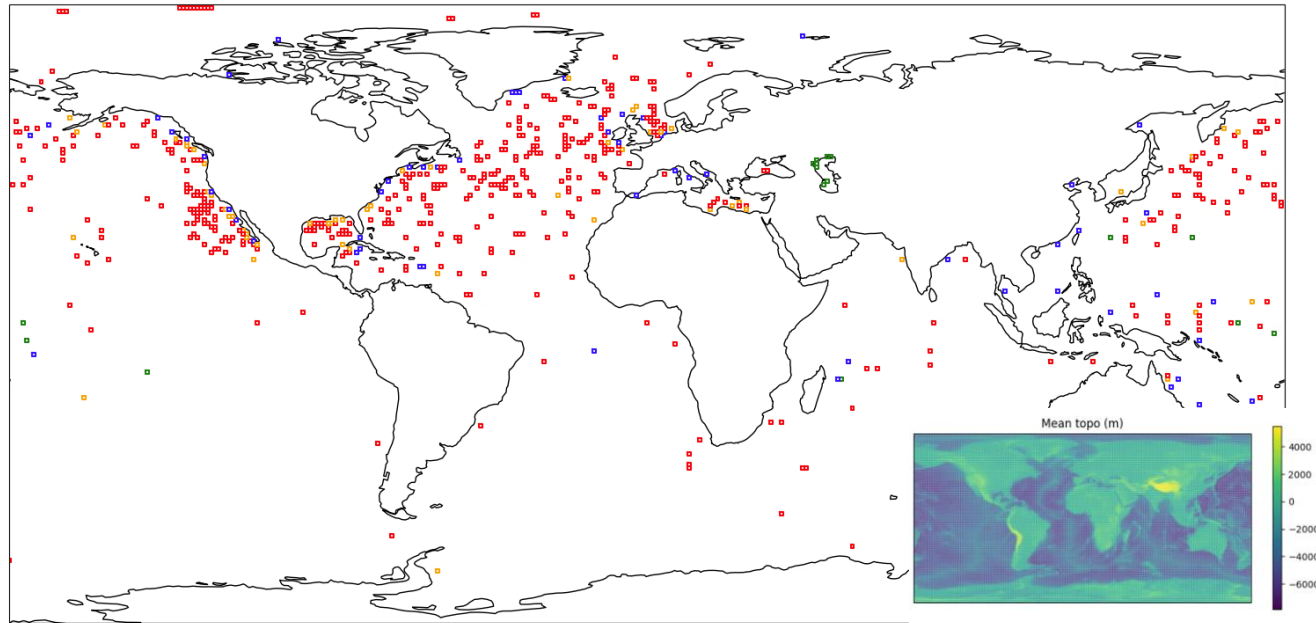
Nominal Estimated, by comparing with FORUM simulations using ERA5

Satellite	F1		F2		F3		F4	
Channel	$\bar{\nu}_N$	$\bar{\nu}_E$	$\bar{\nu}_N$	$\bar{\nu}_E$	$\bar{\nu}_N$	$\bar{\nu}_E$	$\bar{\nu}_N$	$\bar{\nu}_E$
1	354	347± 4	355	346± 4	353	346± 2	353	346± 2
2	356	424±10	356	361± 6	356	424± 9	355	346± 4
3	373	380± 6	373	362± 8	374	362± 3	375	362± 4
4	398	390± 9	399	405± 1	399	381± 6	399	390±10
5	410	409±10	407	410±10	410	411±10	409	410±10
6	418	428± 4	419	390± 4	419	390± 9	419	405± 2
7	442	439± 5	442	428± 4	444	428± 4	442	428± 4
8	-	-	534	534± 5	535	534± 6	535	534± 6
9	669	669± 4	669	670± 1	669	669± 2	668	669± 2
10	678	673±10	678	680± 0	678	673± 0	679	673± 0
11	694	695± 3	694	694± 5	694	694± 5	694	694± 0
12	708	708± 0	707	707± 2	708	708± 2	707	707± 6
13	726	725± 9	724	724± 6	725	725± 8	724	724± 5
14	747	746± 0	746	746± 2	748	748± 9	749	749± 7
15	839	900± 6	835	900± 6	834	900± 0	835	900± 5
16	1020	1025± 6	1019	1020± 4	1020	1024± 8	1021	1021± 3
Dates	19770702, 19770421		19780825, 19790825		19780825, 19791212		19790825, 19791212	
All	90,418		96,649		66,801		116,358	
Clear	16,210		17,700		11,238		20,662	



## Part III.3: Improving how the observations are used: in situ data location

- Station positions: latitude, longitude, elevation. Difficulties:
  1. Referentials have changed over time. Now it is rather stable: WGS84 for latitude, longitude. Still no unique referential for vertical (EGM96 or EGM2008...). However, differences get generally to be small (e.g., RMS 0.5 m between these two)
  2. Precision of encoding. Now WMO mandates 0.001 degrees for metadata but it has not always been the case.
  3. Stations have physically moved. Actual position changes were sometimes not propagated in the data at the same time.
  4. And all this is saying nothing of the installation of instrumentation itself
- Example: International Surface Pressure Databank v4.7: [DOI:10.5065/9EYR-TY90](https://doi.org/10.5065/9EYR-TY90), (Compo et al., 2019)  
Comparison of land stations' altitudes with ETOPO2022 [DOI:10.25921/fd45-gt74](https://doi.org/10.25921/fd45-gt74) (NOAA NCEI, 2022): dataset combining elevation over land and bathymetry over ocean
  - Enables better to spot differences between stations altitudes (often near sea-level) and the bedrock bathymetry.
  - Suspicious land stations from 1940:



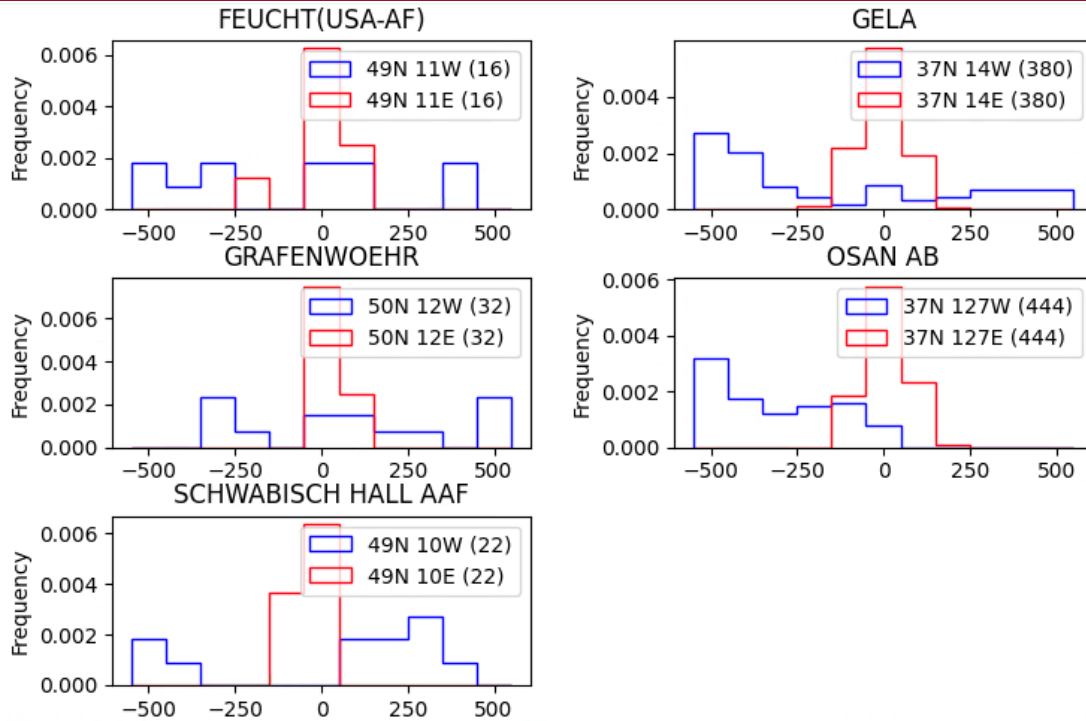
red = 466 locations with nearest coastline at least 50 km away;  
orange = 58 locations with nearest coastline between 20 and 50 km away;  
blue = 60 locations with nearest coastline within 20 km ;  
green = 16 locations over a land mass but max. elevation reported to be at least 10 meters minus below sea-level)

Looking at **each site**, one finds:

Confirmed locations of **moored buoys, met. ships, or ocean platforms** (~85)  
Several stations sometimes positioned at **(0,0)** exactly, for a short part of the record  
Stations with a matching name found by **swapping the sign of the latitude or longitude** (or both), or by **changing a single digit** in latitude or longitude (~55)



# Confirmation of 'better' locations: Assimilation of wrong & corrected positions



Considering all data:  
Easy to see which one has the **wrong** vs **corrected** position...

ECMWF IFS, June 1980

	(Lat, Lon), and Estimated sigma_o (and number of assimilated data)	
Station	Original location	Modified location
"GELA"	(37N, 14W) 1.23 hPa (12)	(37N, 14E) 0.50 hPa (190)
"OSAN AB"	(37N, 127W) 0.67 hPa (12)	(37N, 127E) 0.43 hPa (222)
"GRAFENWOEHR"	(50N, 12W) 1.83 hPa (5)	(50N, 12E) 0.26 hPa (16)

Wrong position:

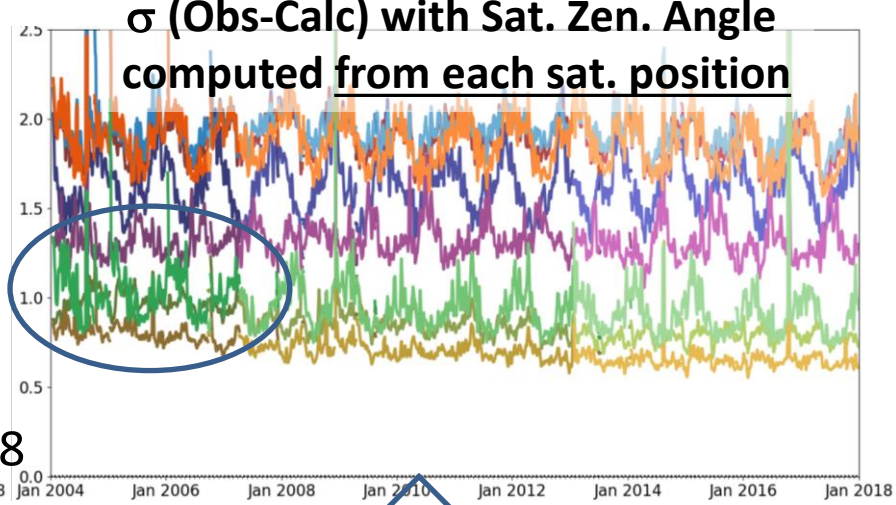
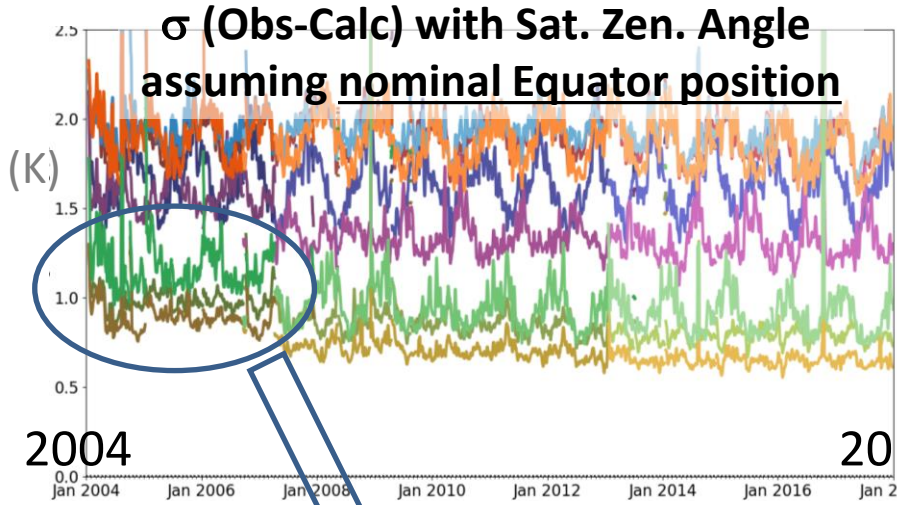
- Many data rejected
- Still quite a few data assimilated!

Corrected position:

- More data assimilated
- Reduced sigma\_o estimate

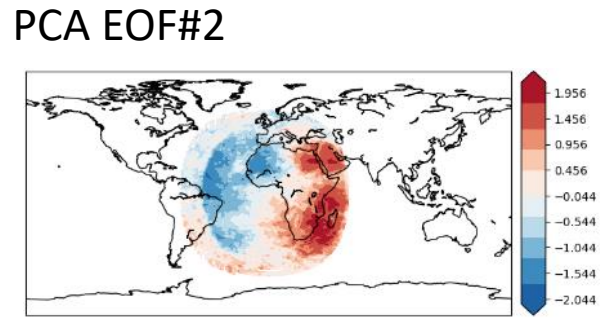
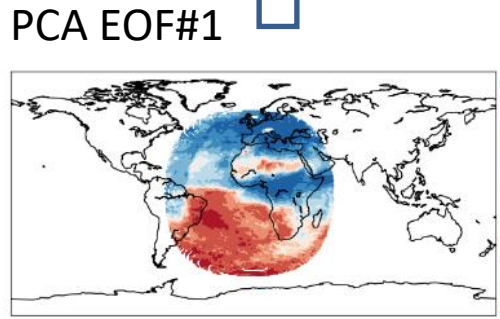
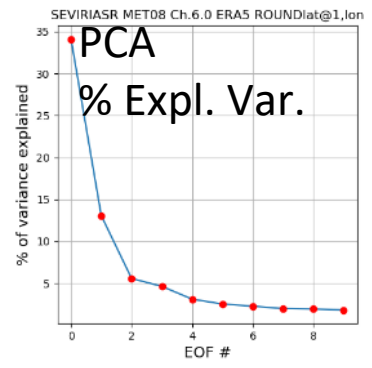


# Using the 'right' satellite viewing angle: example with Meteosat Sec. Generation



→ For more on this topic:  
 Poli al., 2023  
[DOI:10.22541/essoar.167591063.34033446/v1](https://doi.org/10.22541/essoar.167591063.34033446/v1)

- MET08 Ch.4 IR 3.9  $\mu\text{m}$  (night only)
- MET10 Ch.4 IR 3.9  $\mu\text{m}$  (night only)
- MET08 Ch.5 IR 6.2  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET09 Ch.5 IR 6.2  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET10 Ch.5 IR 6.2  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET08 Ch.6 IR 7.3  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET09 Ch.6 IR 7.3  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET10 Ch.6 IR 7.3  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET08 Ch.7 IR 8.7  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET09 Ch.7 IR 8.7  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET10 Ch.7 IR 8.7  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET08 Ch.8 IR 9.7  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET09 Ch.8 IR 9.7  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET10 Ch.8 IR 9.7  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET08 Ch.9 IR 10.8  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET09 Ch.9 IR 10.8  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET10 Ch.9 IR 10.8  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET08 Ch.10 IR 12.0  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET09 Ch.10 IR 12.0  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET10 Ch.10 IR 12.0  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET08 Ch.11 IR 13.4  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET09 Ch.11 IR 13.4  $\mu\text{m}$
- MET10 Ch.11 IR 13.4  $\mu\text{m}$



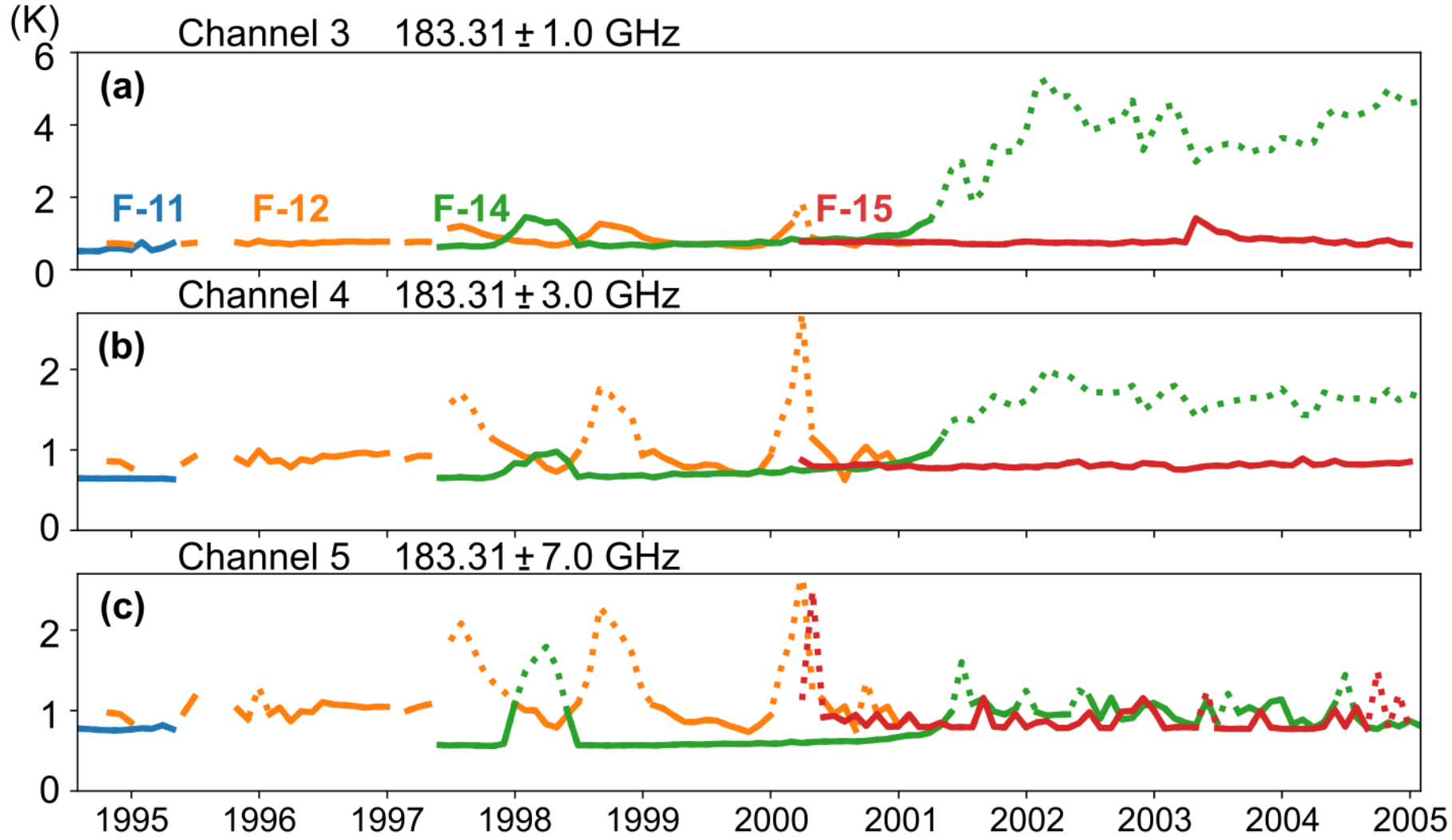
If the changes in the satellite viewing angle are 'large enough' to be visible (and explained) in differences between simulations, then it will quite likely propagate into regional applications - unless it is corrected, or accounted for, somehow...





Climate Change

# Using uncertainty information to avoid 'bad' time periods



Data source:  
[DOI:10.15770/EUM\\_SEC\\_CLM\\_0050](https://doi.org/10.15770/EUM_SEC_CLM_0050)

→ For more on this topic:  
 Poli al., 2023  
[DOI:10.22541/essoar.167591063.34033446/v1](https://doi.org/10.22541/essoar.167591063.34033446/v1)

Root sum square of uncertainties estimated using FIDUCEO methodology.

Compared to instrument specifications.

Credits: EUMETSAT (C3S)

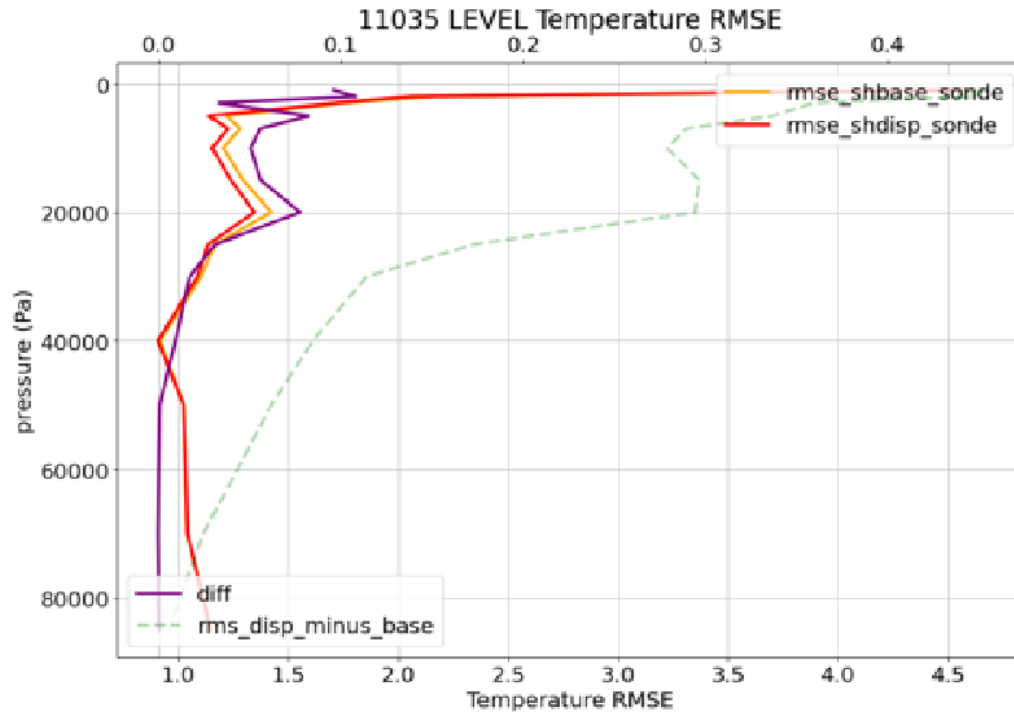




Climate Change

# Using *better* 'old' observations, with 'new' methods: balloon drift

## Year 1970



Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) between sonde temperatures and ERA5 (K). The difference between **non-displaced (or base) sonde statistics (in orange)** and **displaced-sonde statistics (in red)** is shown in purple. The **positive values indicated by the purple line** correspond to improvements, i.e., higher consistency between the sonde observations and ERA5.

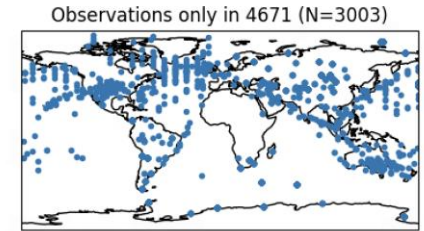
Data from Vienna Hohe Warte, Austria.

Credits: Haimberger, Voggenberger, Ambrogi, 2023. UNIVIE (C3S)

Assimilation trial June-July 1980

Assimilated upper air temperature observations (RS or aircraft)

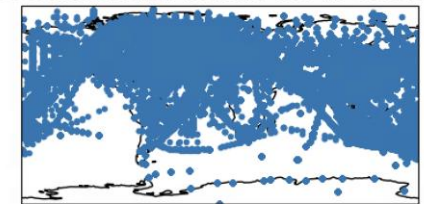
Data only in control experiment >>



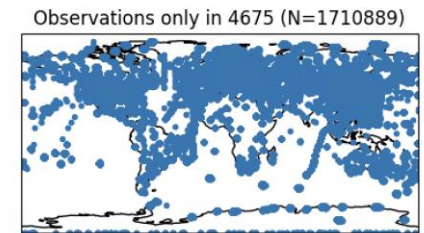
Data in both >>

Estimated $\sigma_0$	Control	Balloon drift
RS LAND (N=36.3 M)	1.3 K	1.2 K
RS SHIP (N=1.1 M)	1.3 K	1.1 K

Observations both in 4671 and 4675 (N=37587885)



Data only in 'balloon drift' experiment >>



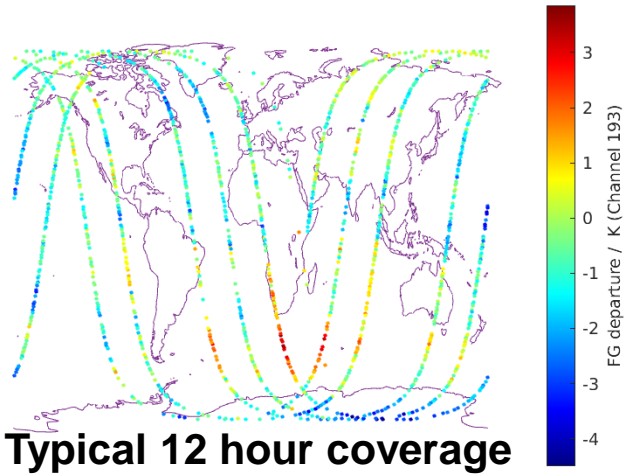
Desroziers et al. (2005), [DOI:10.1256/qj.05.108](https://doi.org/10.1256/qj.05.108)



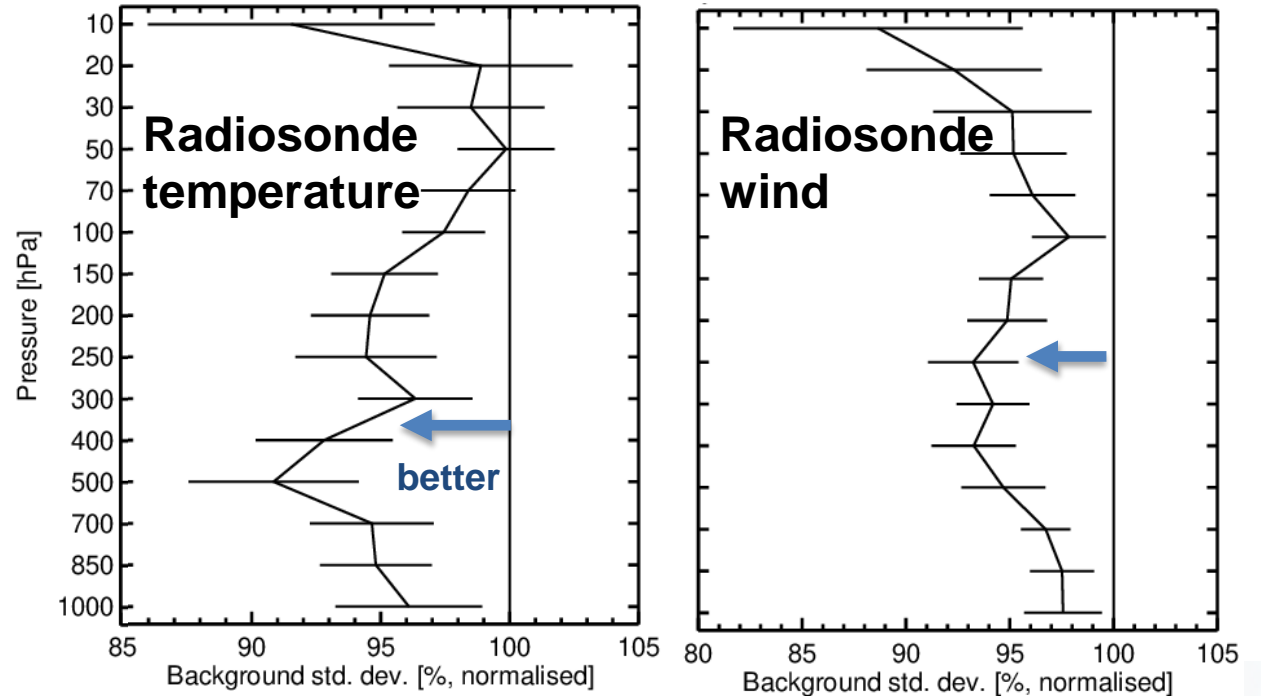
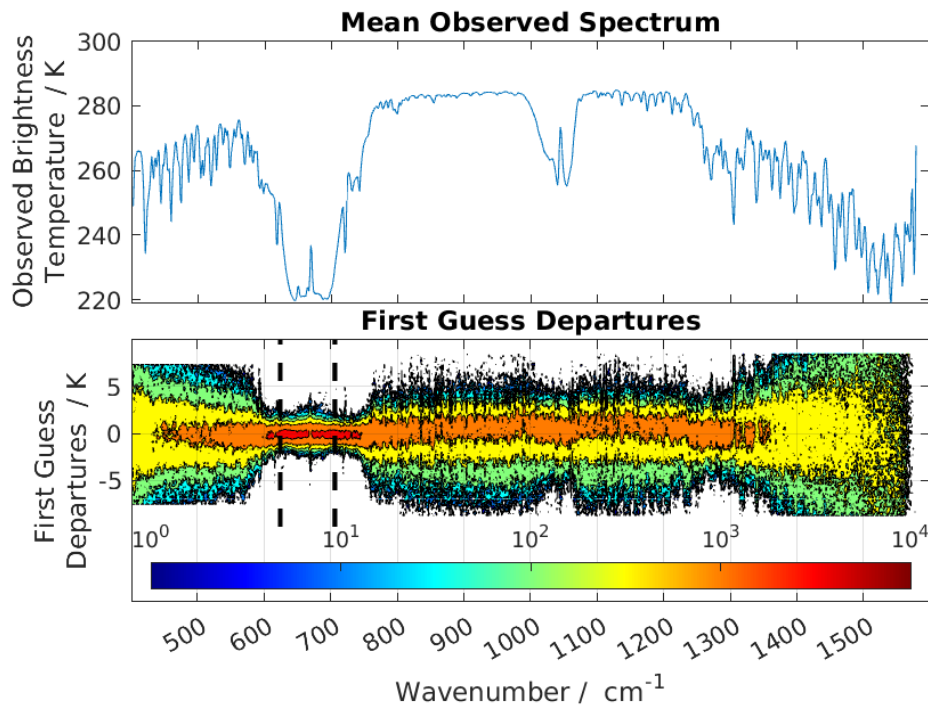
See also [webinar by Ingleby](#)



# Using early hyperspectral sounder on Nimbus-4 (1970)



- Operated on Nimbus-4, from April 1970 – January 1971
- Nadir only observations. Coverage to 80°N to 80°S
- Spectral range 400 – 1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , resolution: 2.53  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to 2.69  $\text{cm}^{-1}$
- 94 km footprint, 13 s measurement time
- Assimilation experiment: TCO399 (25 km res.), L137, 01 June – 12 Aug 1970
- 60  $\text{CO}_2$  temperature sounding channels actively assimilated (624 – 706  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
- Diagonal errors:  $R = 1.0\text{K}$ , VarBC: Offset and 4 thickness predictors
- McNally & Watts cloud detection, parameters from Poli & Brunel (2016)
- IRIS RTTOV coefficients include several advanced effects (spectral shift, numerical apodisation, self-apodisation due to finite field-of-view...)

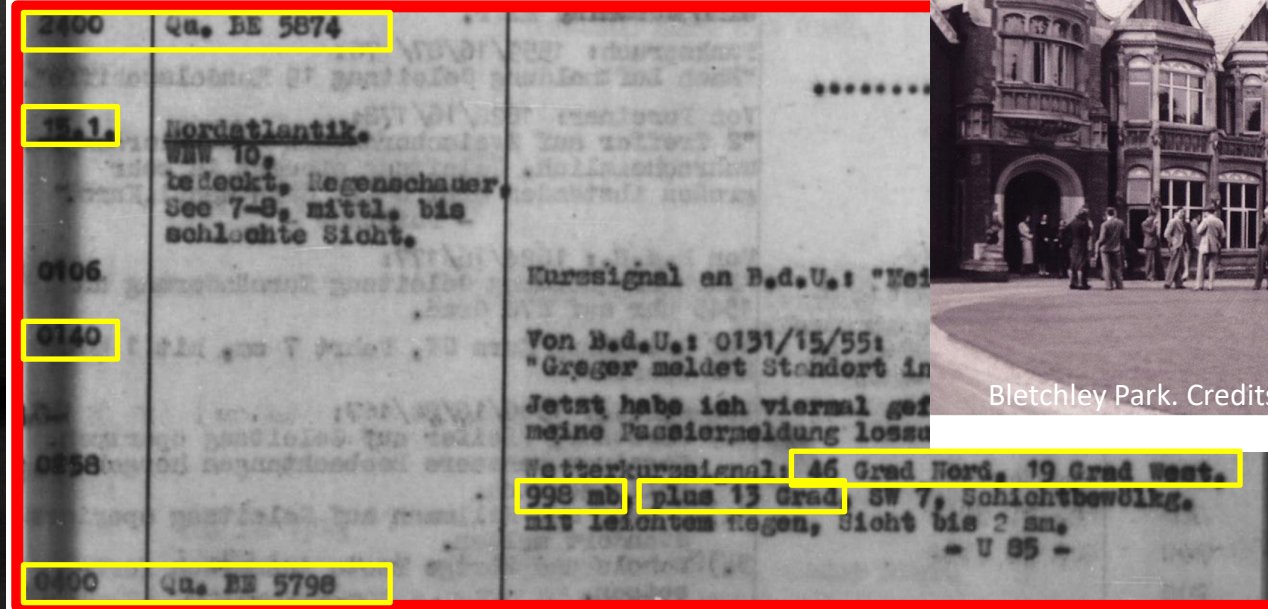
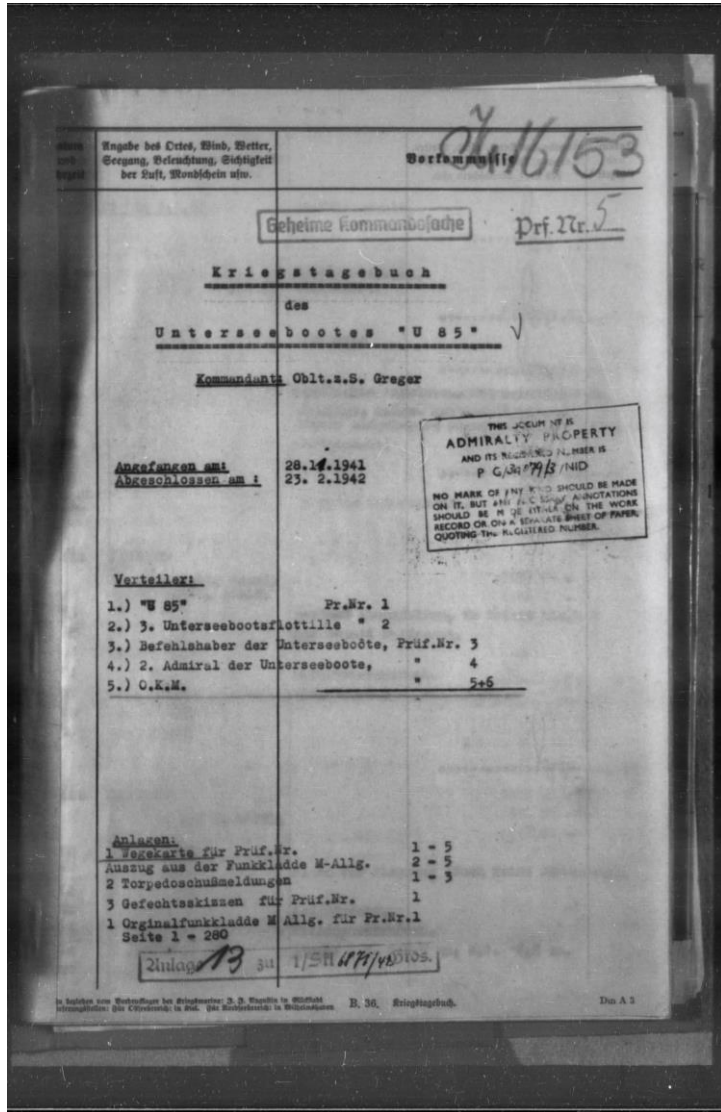


Observation minus Background

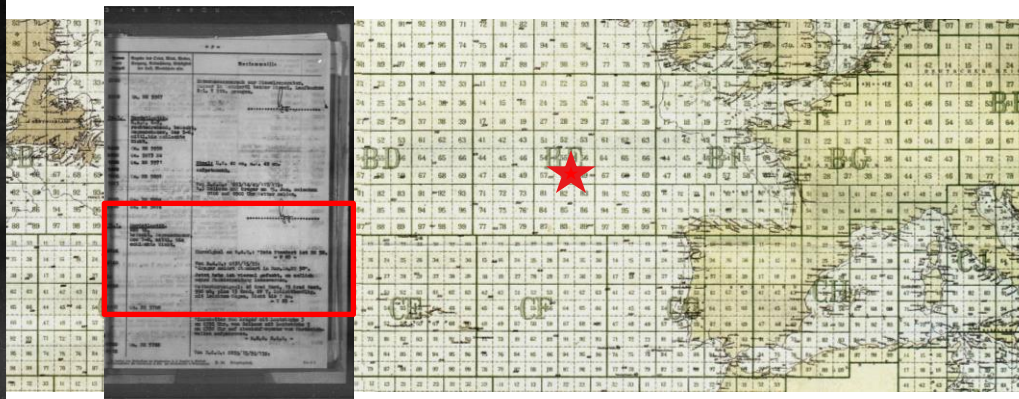


Climate Change

# Part IV. Is there more to do? Example of 'never-shared data': Unterseebooten



Bletchley Park. Credits: Sir John Dermot Turing.



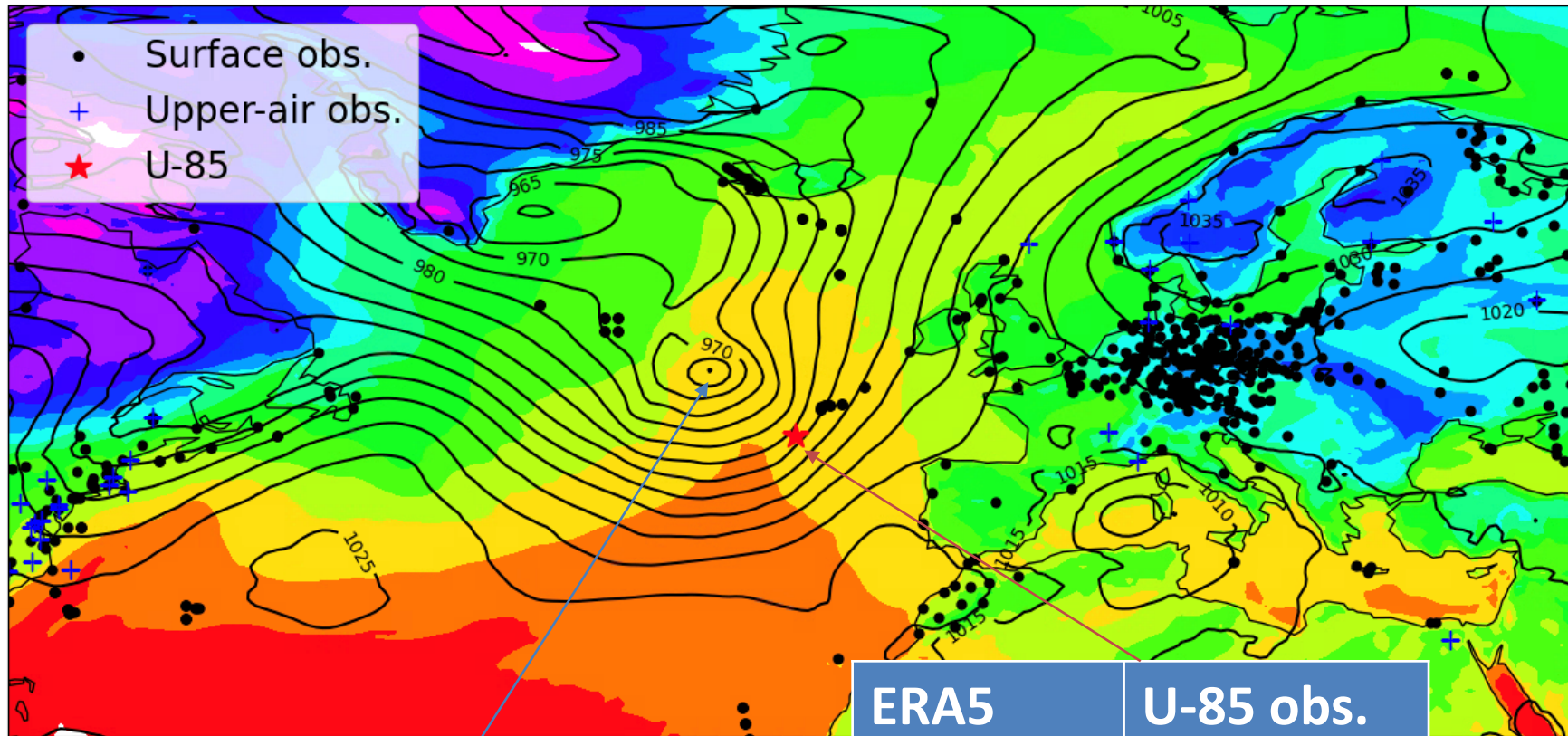
A Colossus Mark 2 computer. Credits: The National Archives (United Kingdom)

Data source: Records from the German Naval Archives microfilmed by the United States Navy, Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) at the Admiralty, London. "Kriegstagebuch der Unterseebootes U 85, Kommandant Greger". PG 30079, National Archives Microfilm Publication T1022, roll 2932.



# How would such an observation help?

ERA5 mean-sea-level pressure (black contours) and 2-m temperature (colors) on 15 Jan 1942, 03 UTC



ERA5 low: 960 hPa, suspiciously low!

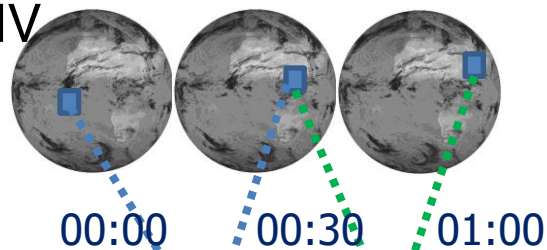


Climate Change

# Improving data yield: Meteosat Atmospheric Motion Vectors (AMV)

## Reprocessed AMV Input to ERA5

Period  
0°: 1982 – 2001  
IODC: 1998 - 2017



2 intermediate products



The vector height is NOT linked with tracking

Final product every 1.5 hr  $V_f$

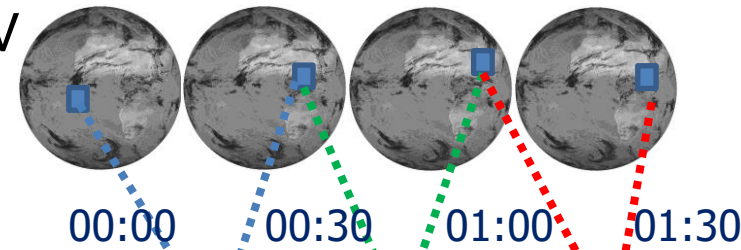


Number of AMVs  
QI>70 & spd> 1m/s: **722**

Number of AMVs  
QI>70 & spd> 1m/s: **1186**

## Reprocessed AMV For ERA6

Period  
0°: 1982 – 2006  
IODC: 2007 - 2017

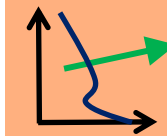


3 intermediate products



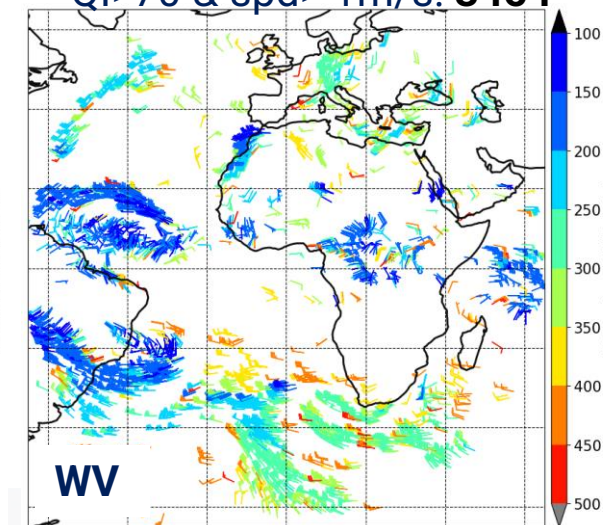
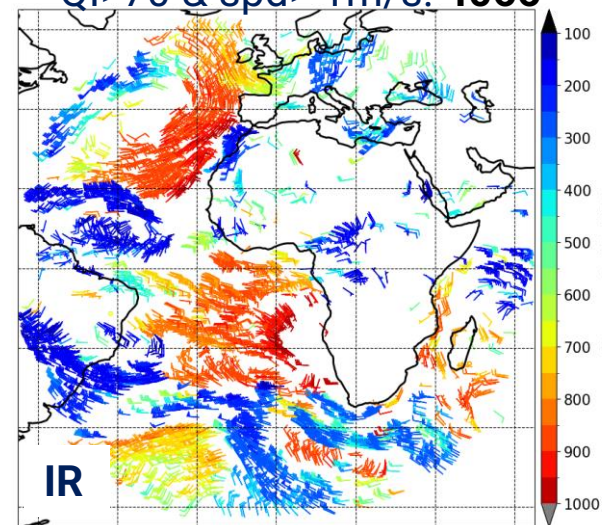
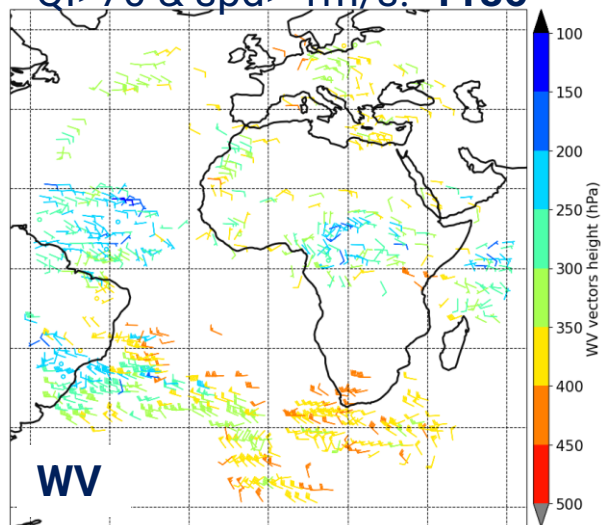
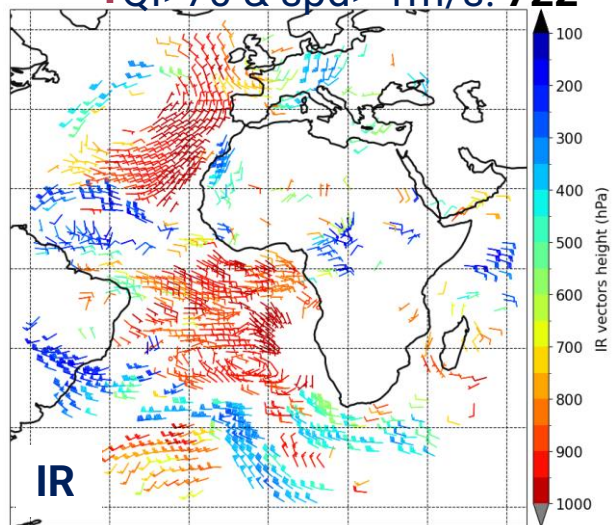
The vector height is linked with tracking

Final product every 2 hrs  $V_f$



Number of AMVs  
QI>70 & spd> 1m/s: **4066**

Number of AMVs  
QI>70 & spd> 1m/s: **3454**



Credits: EUMETSAT

Meteosat-7, 11 June 1998, 00 UTC





## Conclusions

- The pool of past observations is **finite**, and **at risk** -- until secured in modern archives
- Getting out of this loop requires **long-term data management planning** (e.g., ISO/TC 171/SC 1 on “Quality, preservation and integrity of information”)
- Citizens’ science allows to widen the effort base towards data rescue
- Assembling datasets requires consolidating the **information gained over time**, keeping **traceability** to the sources, **learning from other efforts**, with pre-assimilation feedback, post-assimilation observation feedback exchange, and sharing of issues found
- **Data reprocessing** allows to extract more information from previous records
- Importance of **quantifying the impact**: Value Of Information (Weatherhead et al., 2017)
- Planning future new systems:
  - **Data assimilation systems, radiative transfer models**: support ‘old’ obs. (e.g., EUMETSAT NWP-SAF RTTOV)
  - **Observing systems**: long-term data management incl. reprocessing, GCOS requirements, high calibration standards



Picture from <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Pkuczynski>



# Observations: data rescue and reprocessing



Climate Change

Thank you for your attention!

