



CONSISTENT ALGORITHM SCIENCE ACROSS SATELLITE SENSORS FOR AOD RETRIEVAL

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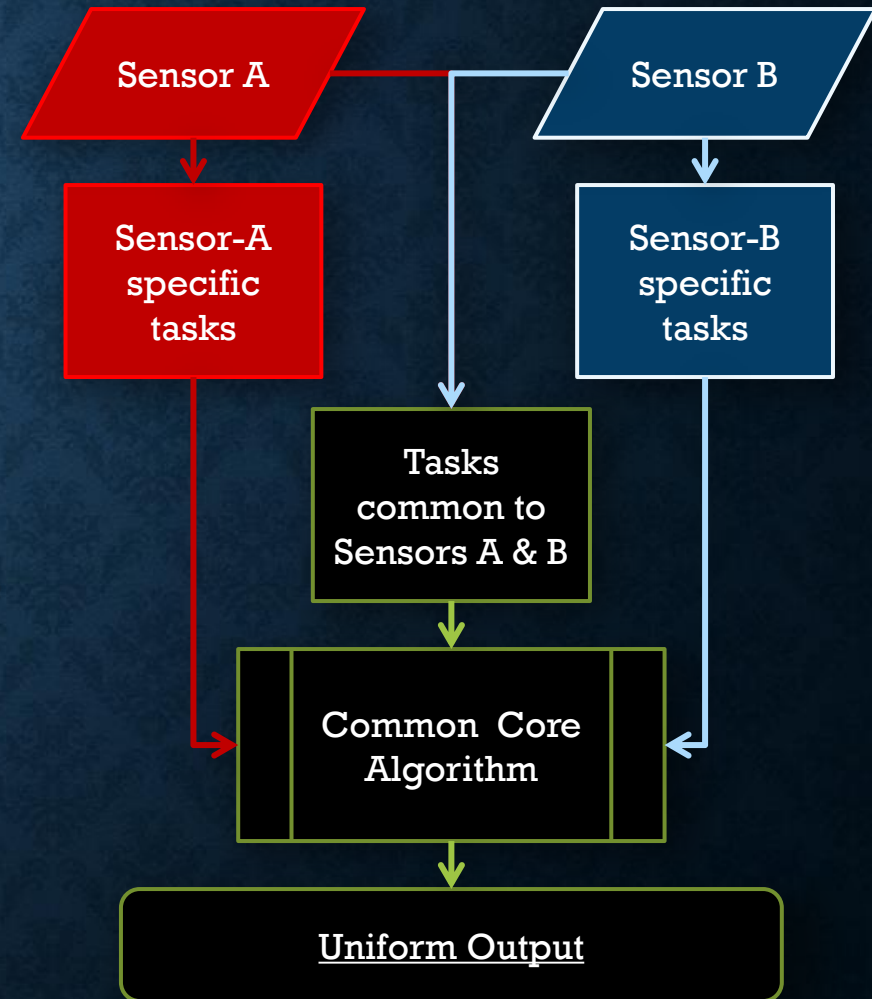
NOAA/NESDIS/STAR



6th AeroSat Meeting, College Park, MD October 18, 2018

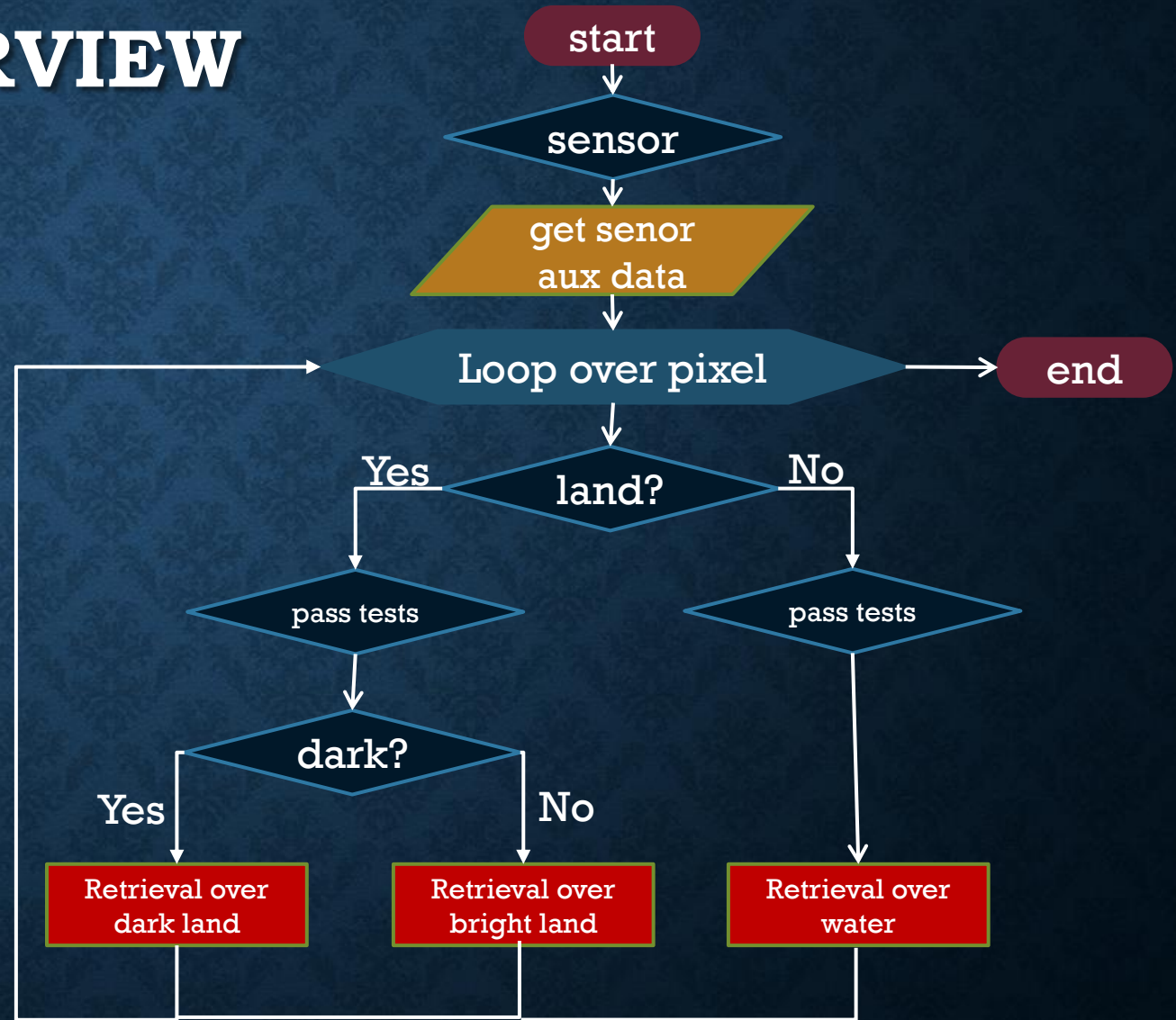
ENTERPRISE APPROACH

- Same **method** (physics and assumptions) and its **realization** (software) are applied to retrieve aerosol optical depth (AOD) regardless of source of satellite input.
- The “enterprise” algorithm is NOT a “proper subset” algorithm (not only algorithm $A \cap$ algorithm B)
 - does not ignore information available from a more capable sensor;
 - instrument specific tasks are built around a common core.



ALGORITHM OVERVIEW

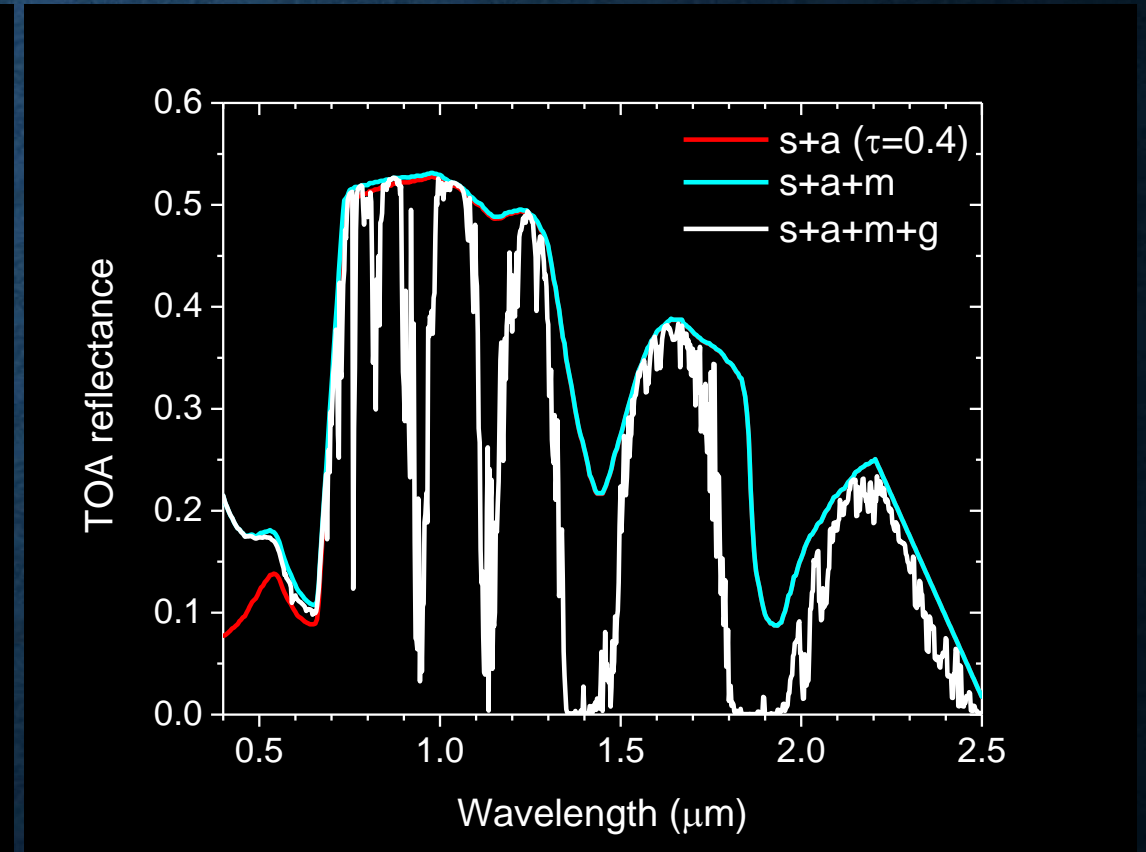
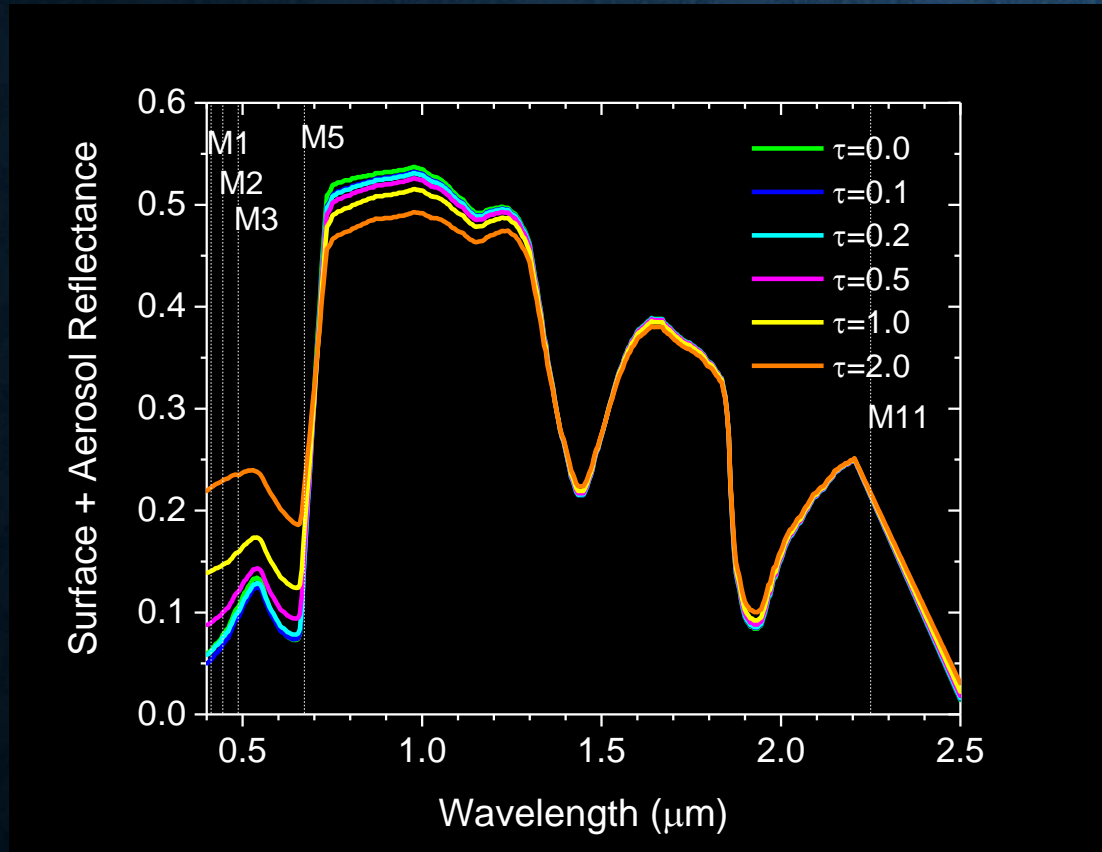
- Retrieve AOD from multispectral, single-look, unpolarized reflectances
- Separate retrievals over land and water
- Separate paths over dark and bright land
- At pixel-level



OVER-WATER COMMON CORE ALGORITHM

- MODIS heritage (Tanré et al., 1997; Remer et al., 2005)
- Surface reflectance
 - calculated from model as sum of bidirectional and Lambertian (water-leaving and white foam) reflectances
 - depends on wind speed and direction
 - coupling of atmosphere and surface is calculated outside of lookup table
- Aerosol model:
 - four fine mode and five coarse mode aerosol models (*MODIS C5 models*)
- Assumes aerosol TOA reflectance is fine-mode-weighted average of fine and coarse mode reflectances
- TOA reflectances calculated in selected channels are compared to observed ones to retrieve AOD, pair of fine and coarse mode aerosol models and fraction of fine mode simultaneously.
- Require a reference channel (0.86 μ m) and at least one residual channel

CHANNELS USED OVER LAND



OVER-LAND COMMON CORE ALGORITHM

- MODIS heritage (Kaufman et al., 1997; Levy et al., 2007; Vermote et al., 2008, Hsu et al., 2013)
- Surface reflectance
 - assumed to be lambertian
 - prescribed spectral relationship as a function of surface type and geometry
- Aerosol model:
 - four aerosol models: dust, generic, urban and smoke (*MODIS C5 models*)
- In general, AOD, aerosol model and surface reflectance are retrieved simultaneously
- Matchup of the calculated and observed TOA reflectances is performed at the blue channel where lower surface reflection and stronger aerosol reflection coexist within the SW spectrum.
- Require the measurements at blue and red/SWIR channels

OVER DARK LAND - SURFACE

For healthy vegetation, blue, red and SWIR (2.2 μ m) surface reflectances (ρ) are correlated (*Kaufman et al. , 1997*) – Used to decrease number of unknowns.

• SWIR-scheme: $\rho_{\text{SWIR}} \rightarrow \rho_{\text{Red}} \rightarrow \rho_{\text{Blue}}$

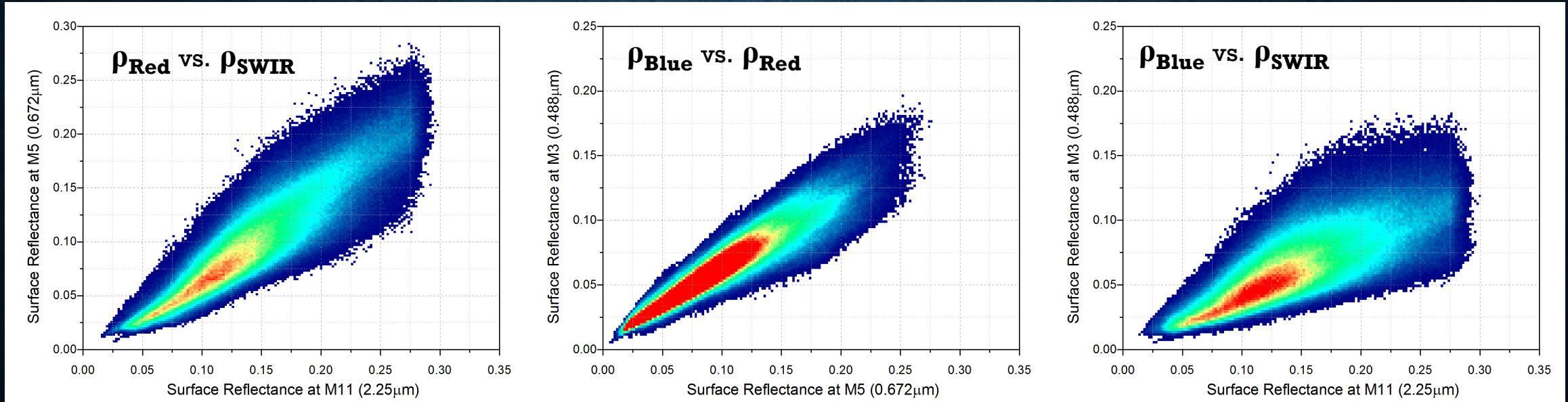
Pros: transparent at SWIR channel

Cons: uncertainty of the relationship

• SW-scheme: $\rho_{\text{Red}} \rightarrow \rho_{\text{Blue}}$

Pros: less uncertainty of the relationship

Cons: less transparent at red channel



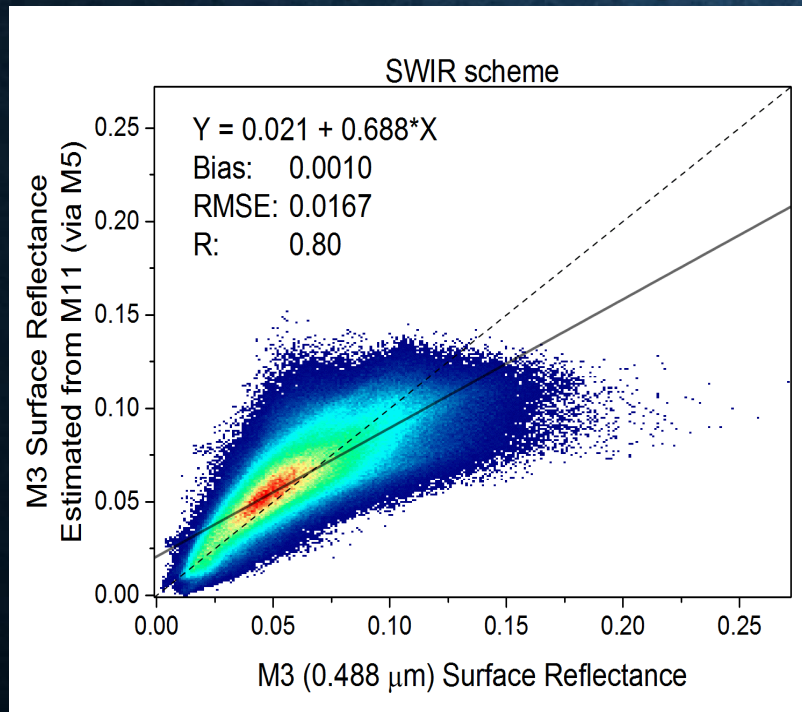
OVER DARK LAND - SURFACE

For healthy vegetation, blue, red and SWIR (2.2 μm) surface reflectances (ρ) are correlated (*Kaufman et al.*, 1997) – Used to decrease number of unknowns.

• **SWIR-scheme:** $\rho_{\text{SWIR}} \rightarrow \rho_{\text{Red}} \rightarrow \rho_{\text{Blue}}$

Pros: transparent at SWIR channel

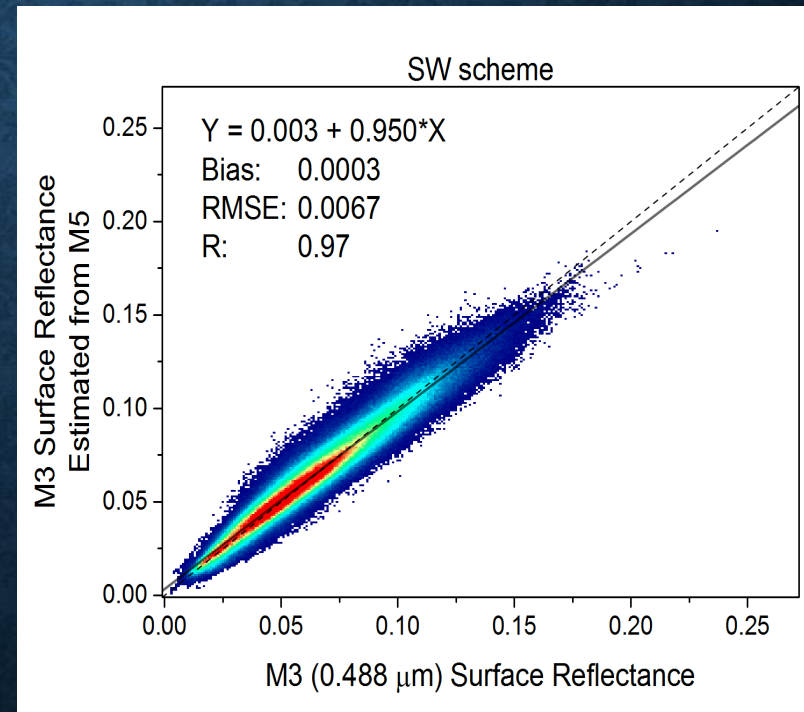
Cons: uncertainty of the relationship



• **SW-scheme:** $\rho_{\text{Red}} \rightarrow \rho_{\text{Blue}}$

Pros: less uncertainty of the relationship

Cons: less transparent at red channel



OVER DARK LAND - RETRIEVAL

○ Two variants of the dark-target approach:

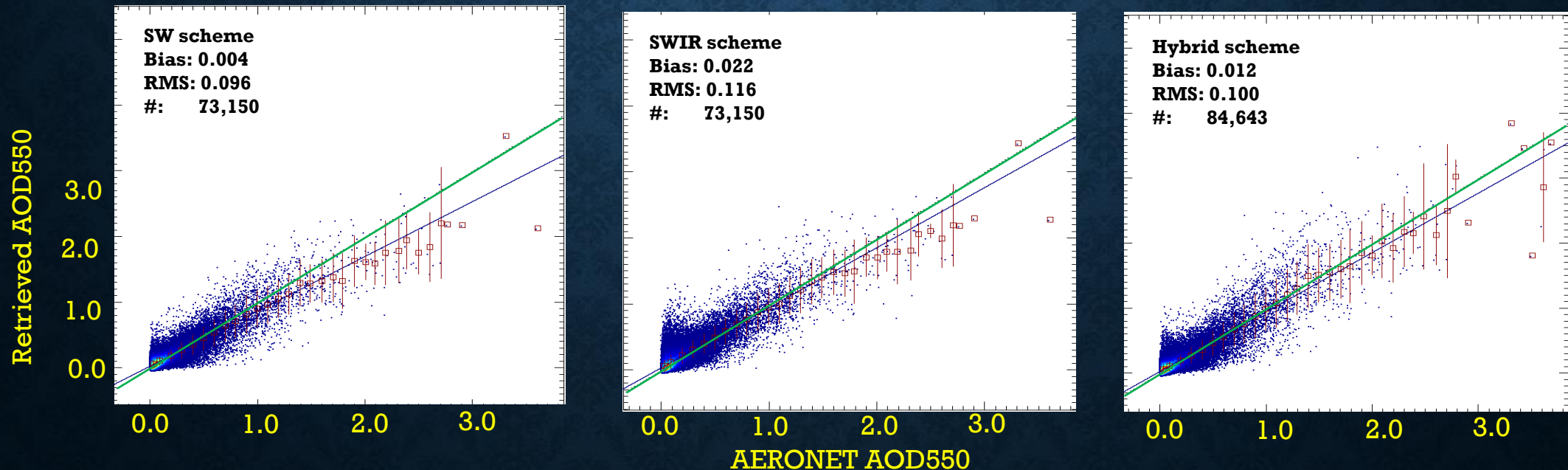
- **SW-scheme** : blue and red channels as the reference, preferred for low AOD
- **SWIR-scheme** : blue and SWIR channels as the reference, preferred for high AOD

○ Combination: SW to SWIR switch

- $|\rho_{M3}(\text{SW}) - \rho_{M3}(\text{SWIR})| > \text{threshold}$

○ Model selection

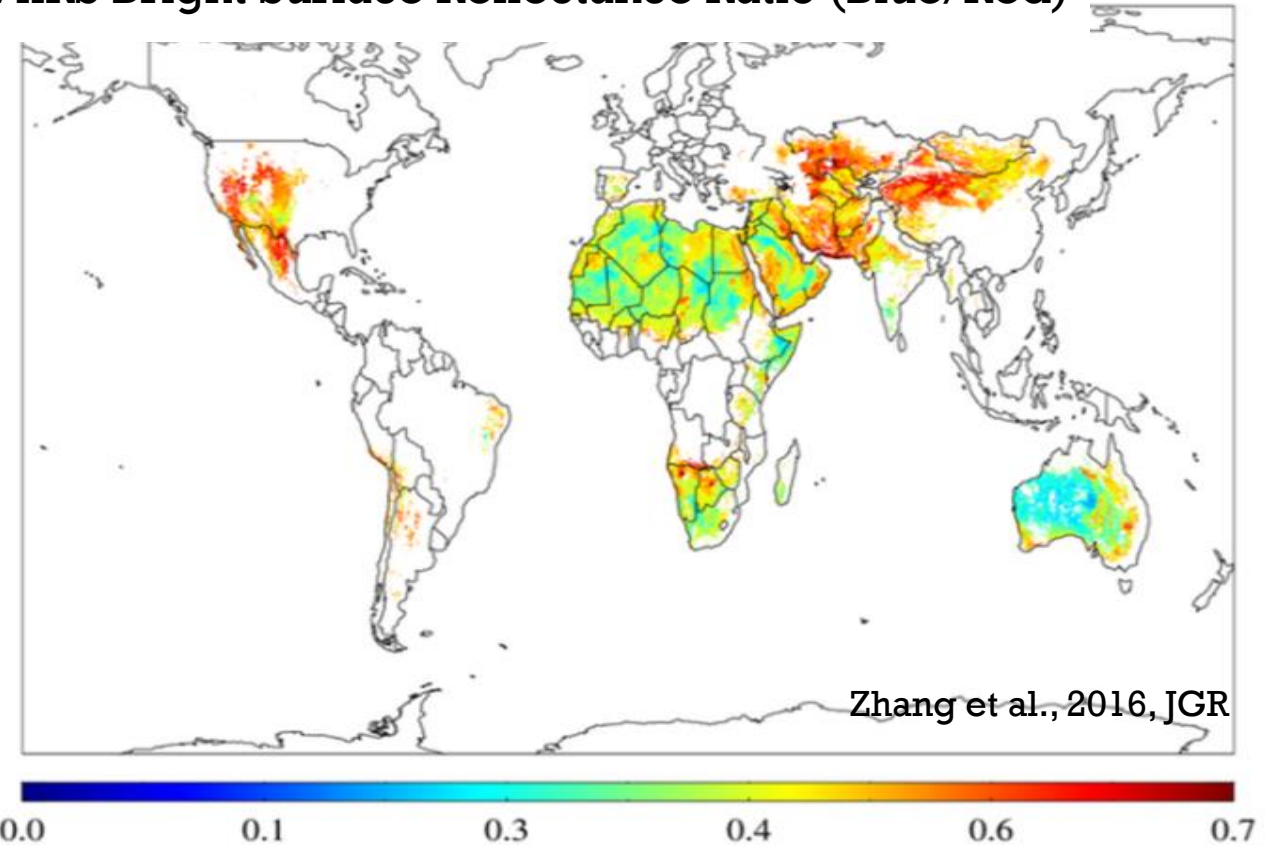
- Select the aerosol model with minimum difference of the calculated and measured reflectance at the residual channels



OVER BRIGHT LAND

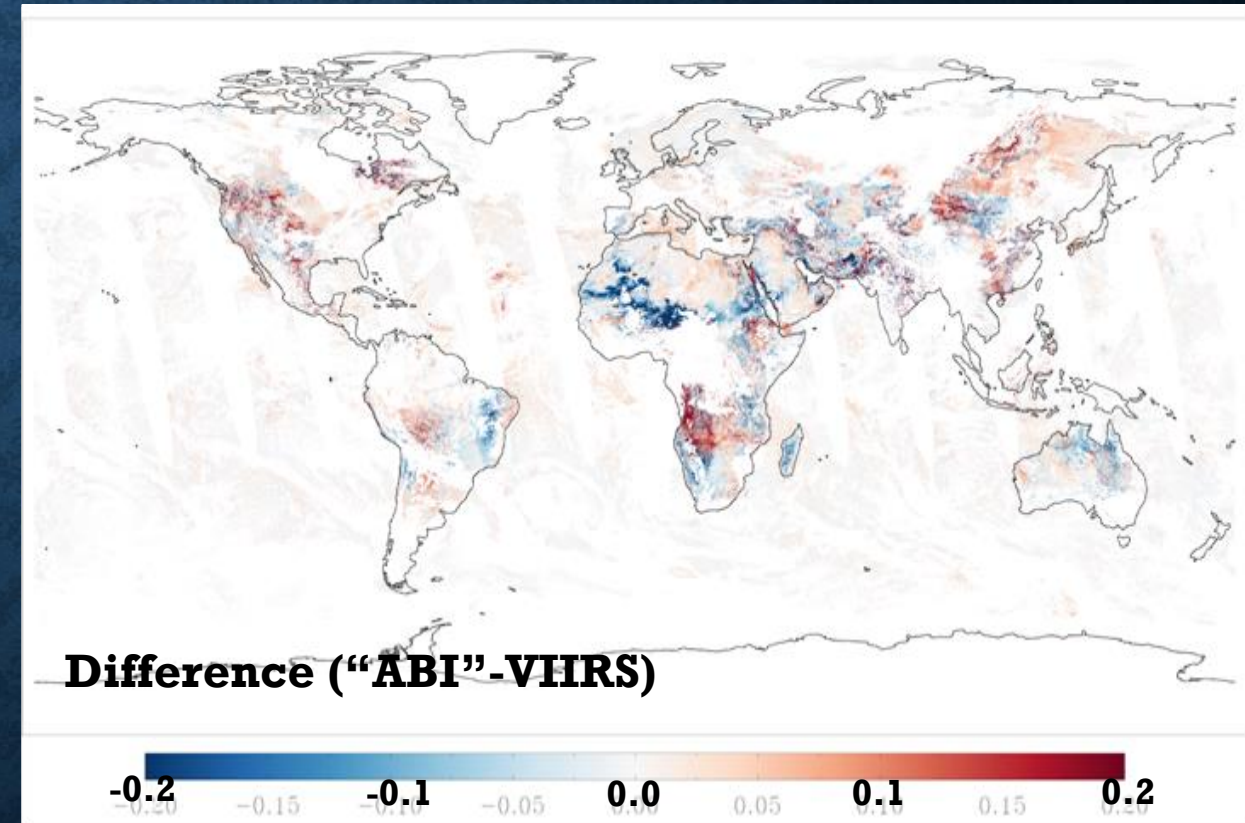
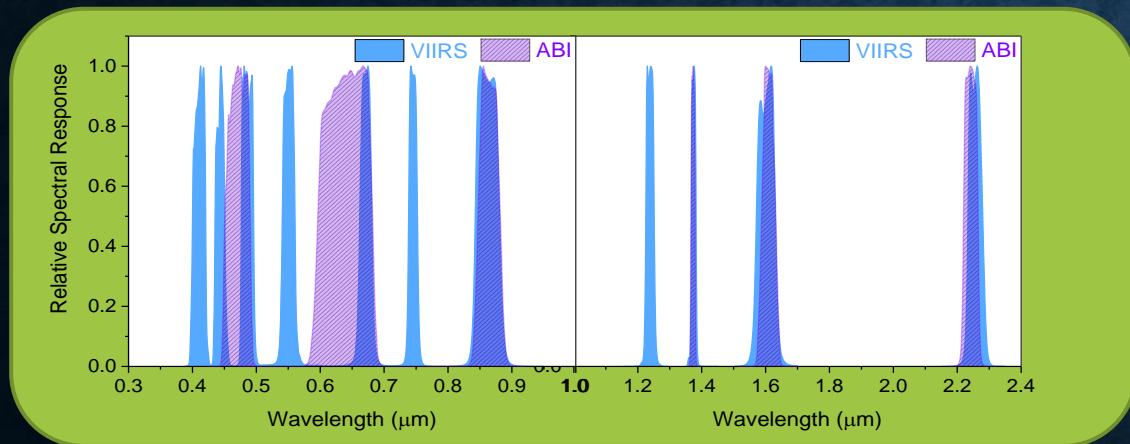
- Derive regional ($0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$) database of bright surface spectral reflectance relationship
 - Ratios tend to be less variable than albedos
 - Function of geometry
- Retrieval uses blue/deep-blue and red channels

VIIRS Bright Surface Reflectance Ratio (Blue/Red)

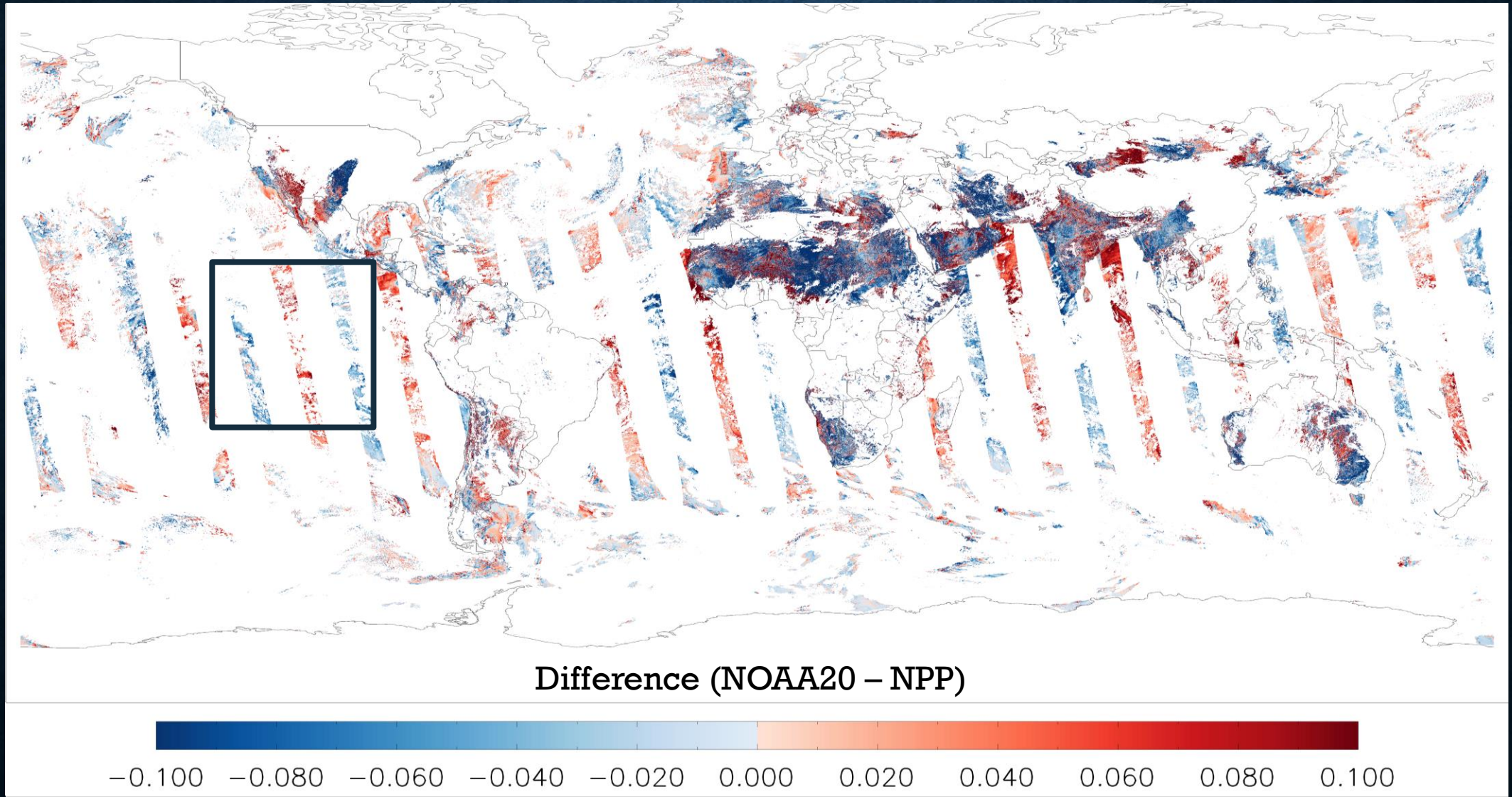


ACROSS SENSORS – CHANNEL DIFFERENCE

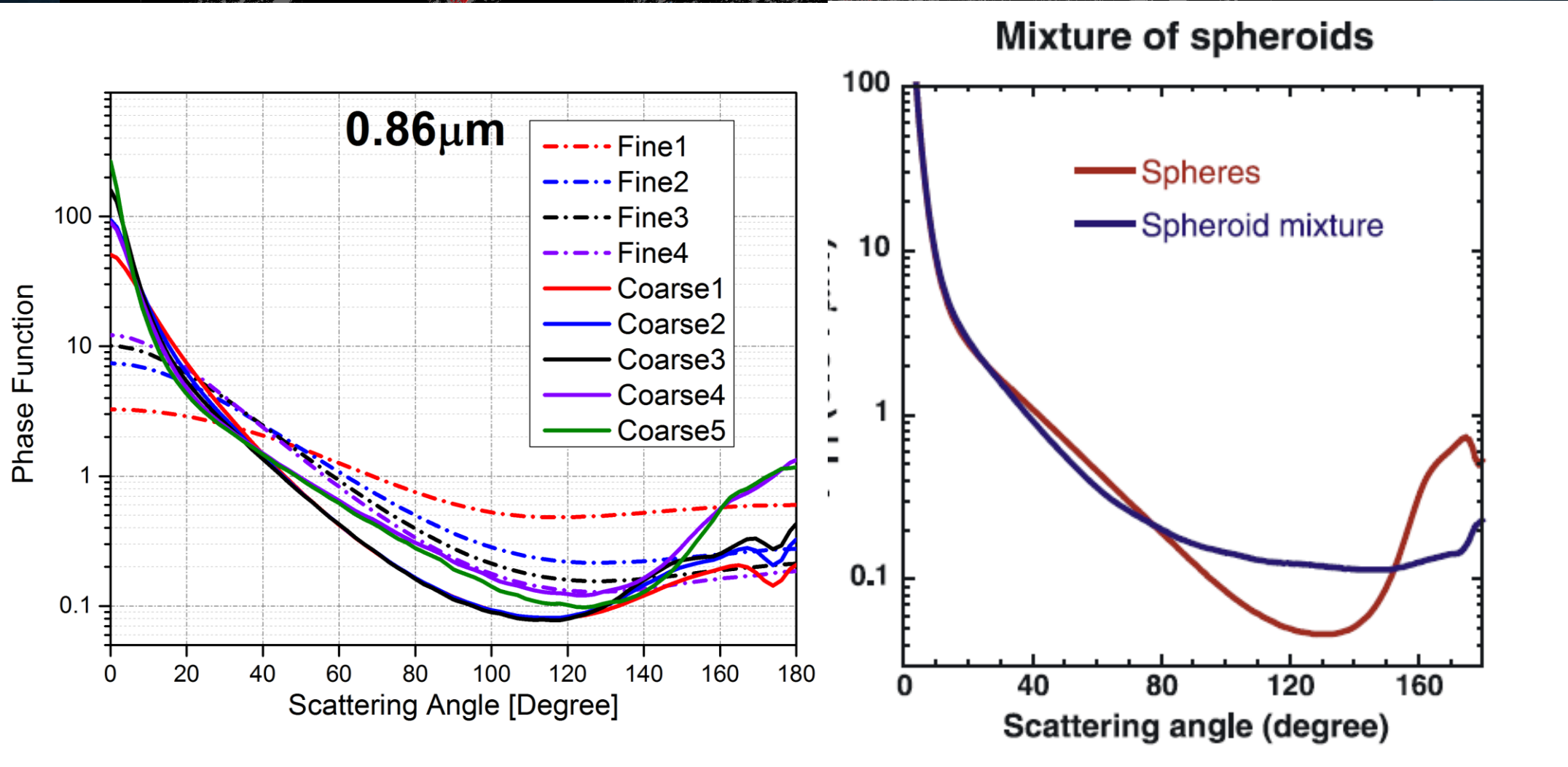
- Lookup tables, coefficients and land surface reflectance relationship need to be generated for each sensor.
- Selection of aerosol model is impacted due to different residual channels used.

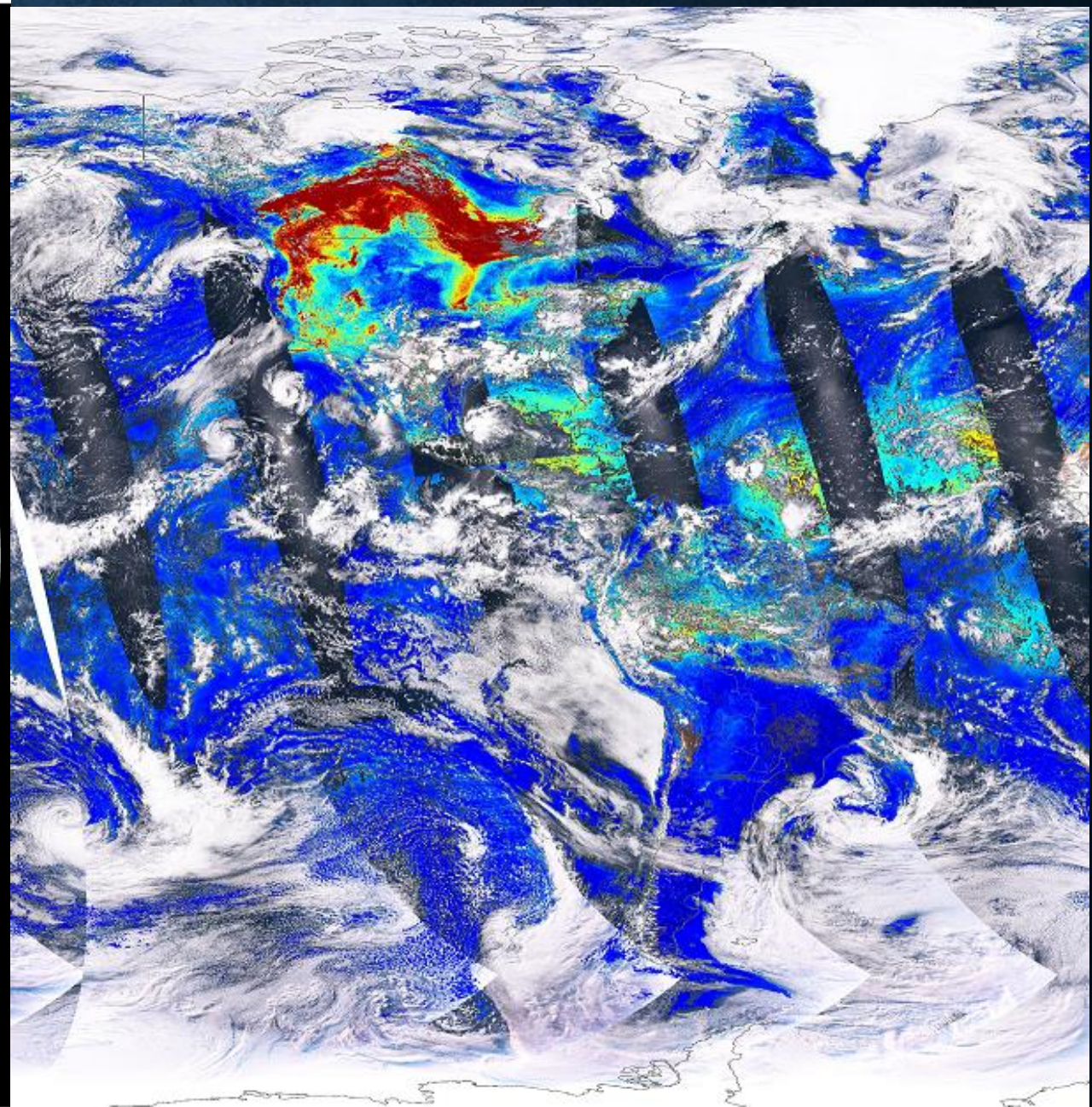
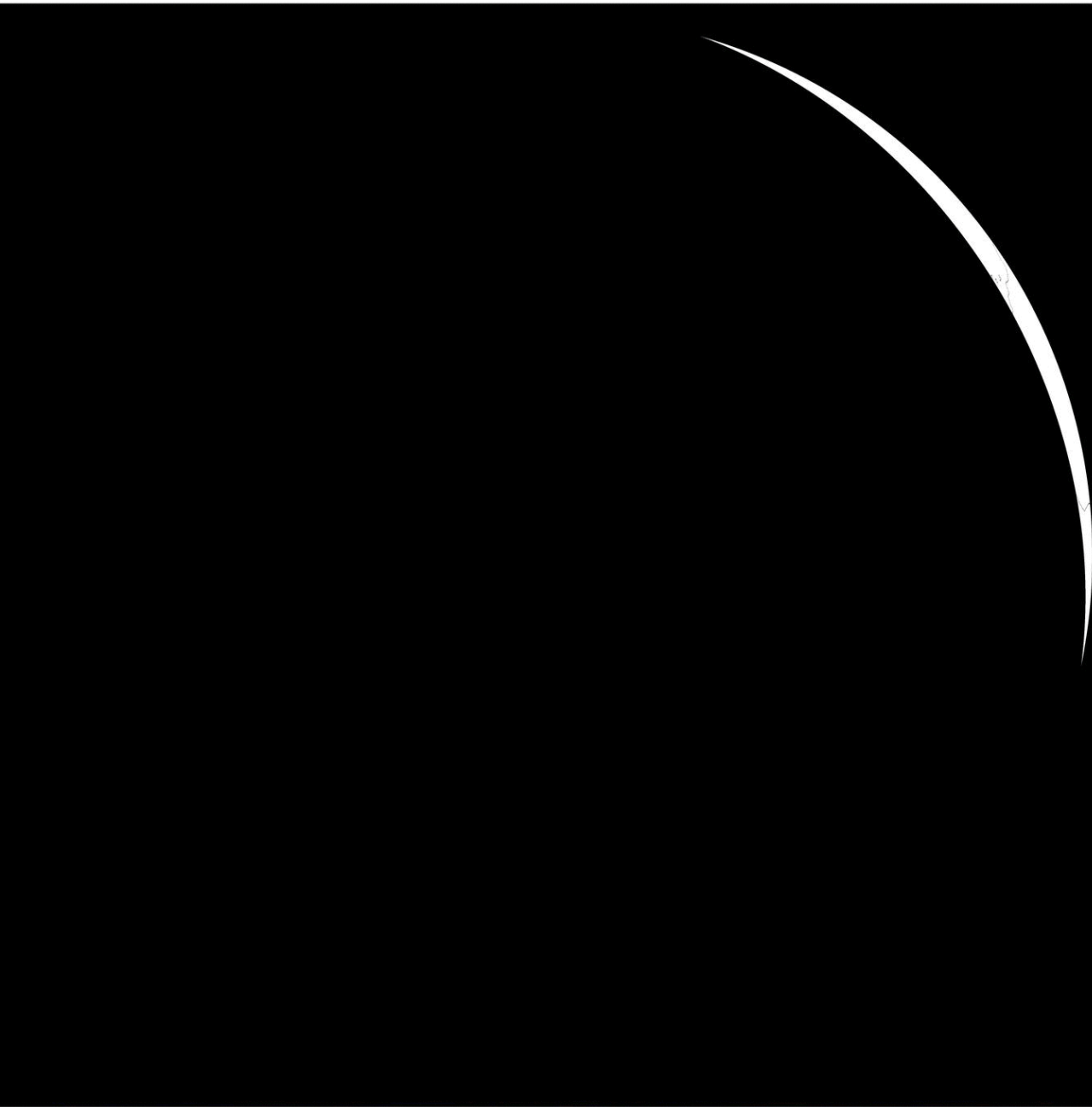


ACROSS SENSORS – GEOMETRY DIFFERENCE



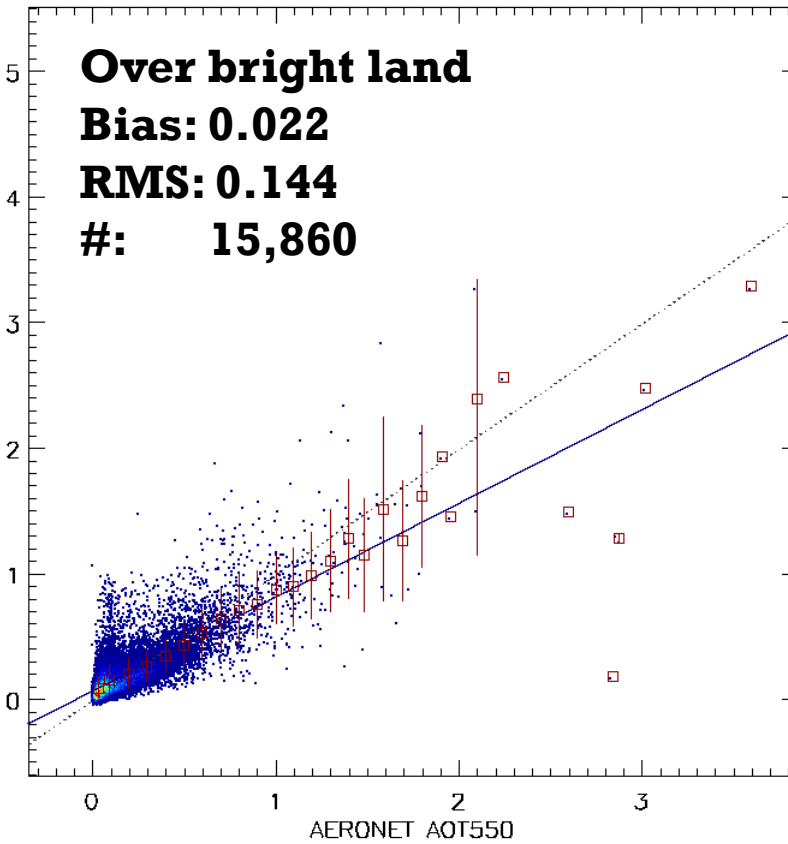
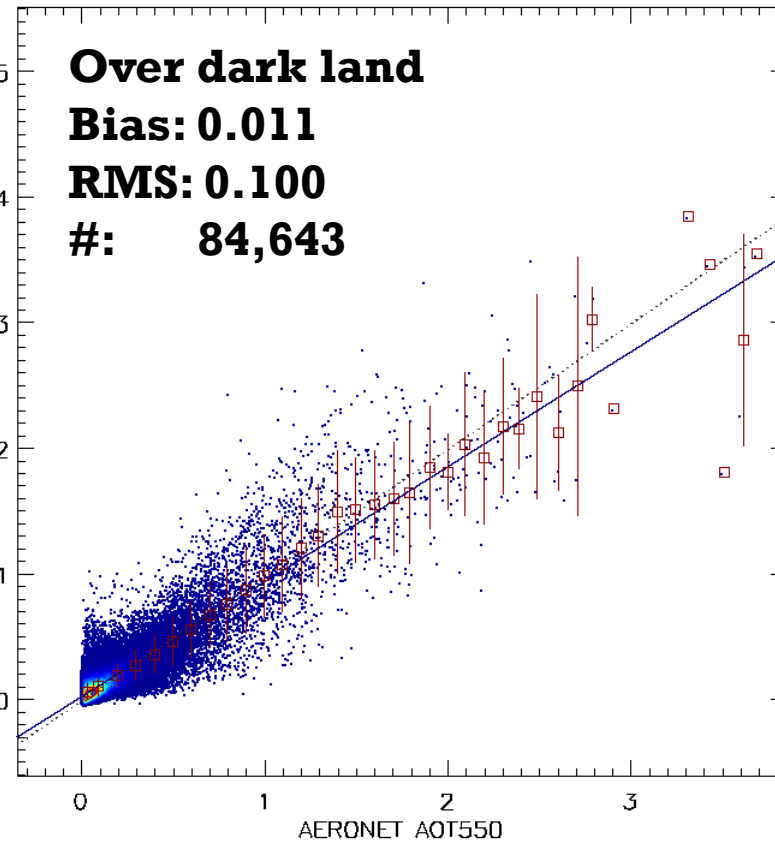
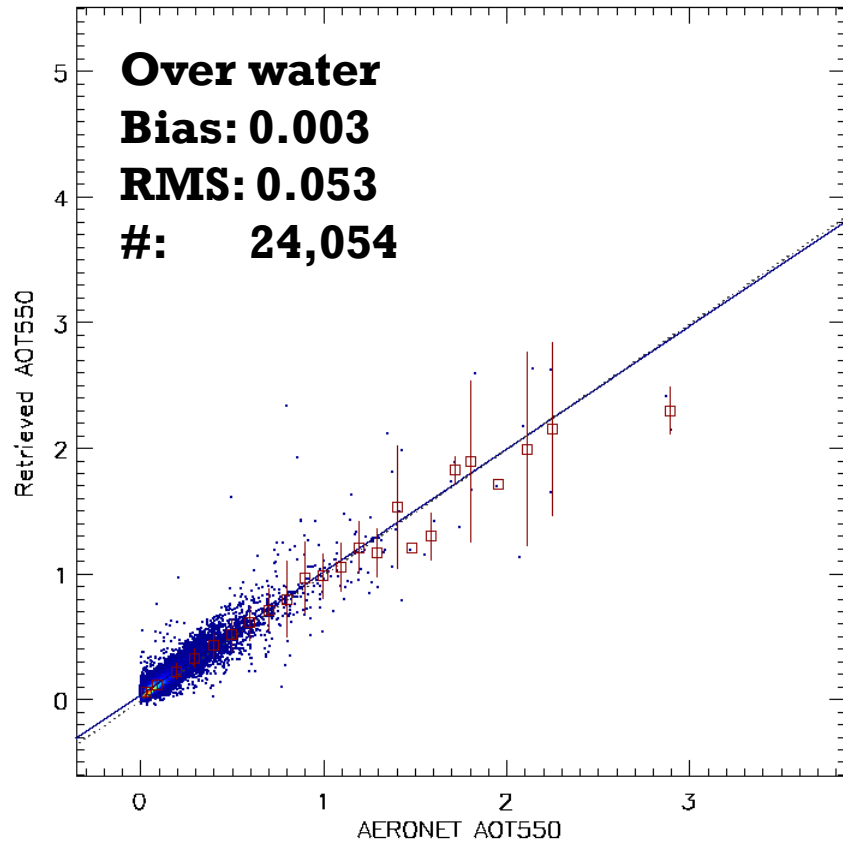
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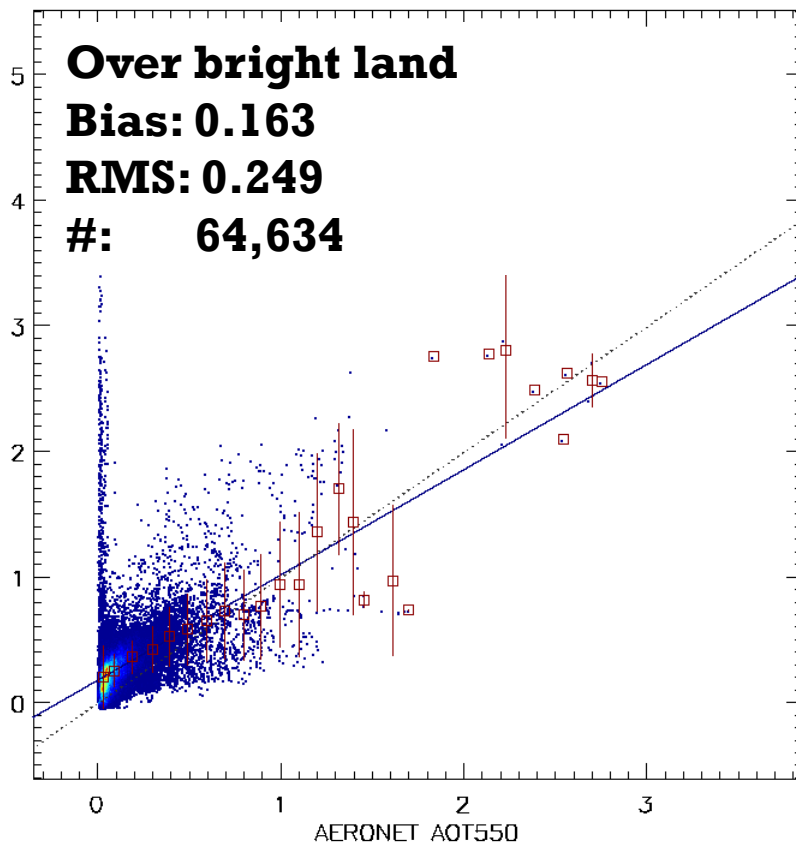
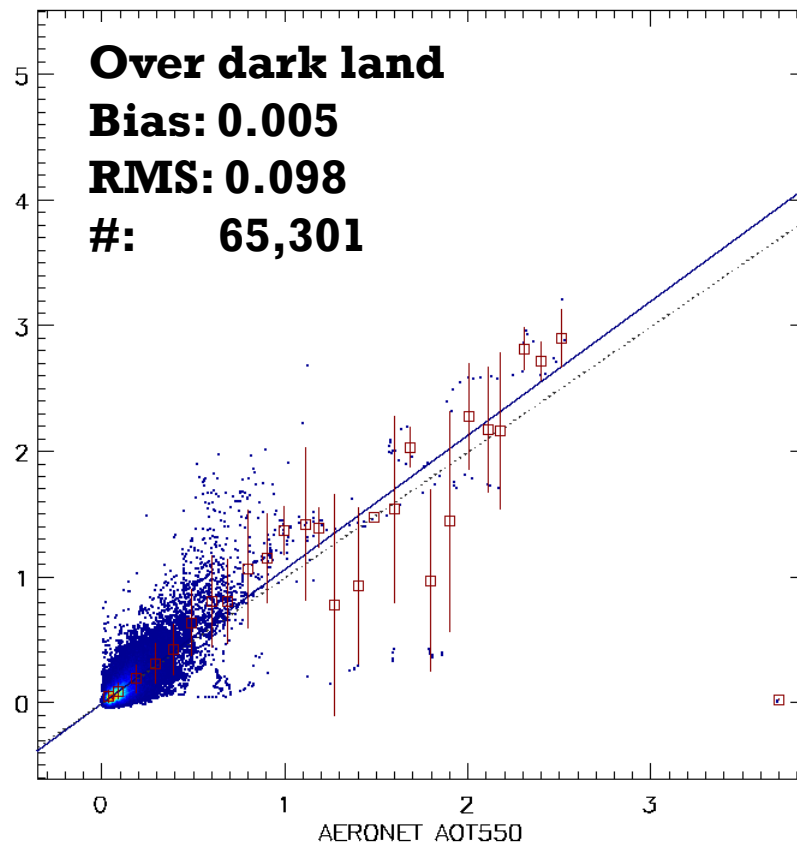
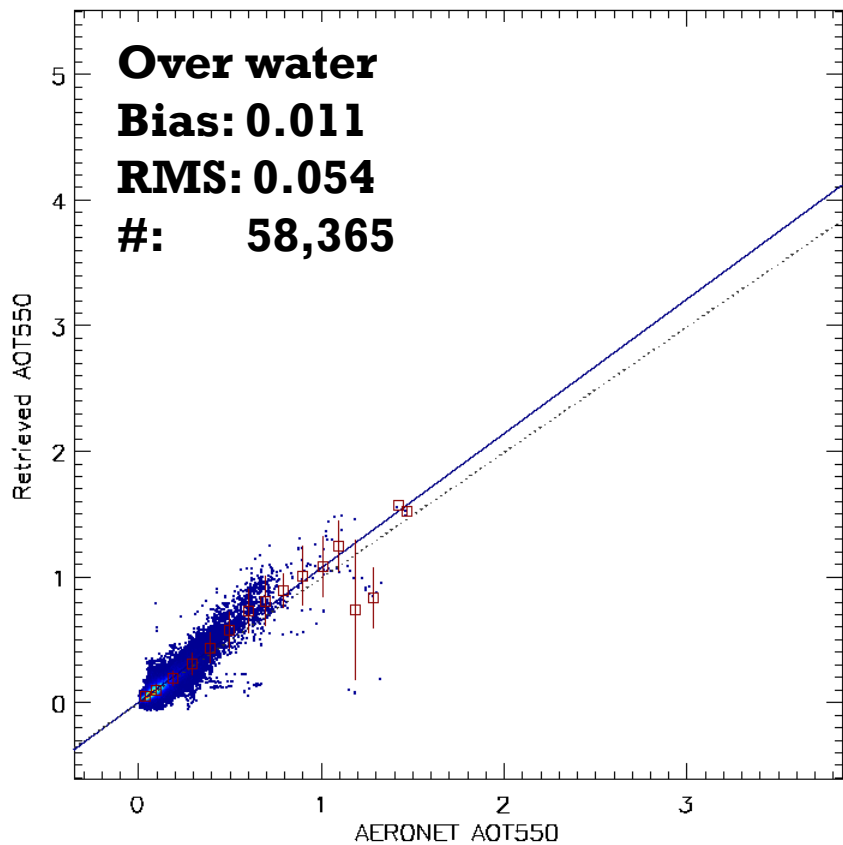
NPP VIIRS AOD VALIDATION

NOV. 2012 – DEC. 2017



GOES16 EPS AOD VALIDATION

DEC. 14, 2017 – OCT. 6, 2018



CHALLENGES

- Surface reflectance
 - Better parameterization
 - Globally general or regionally specific ?
- Aerosol model
 - Continuous vs. discrete
 - Specified vs. selection
- Algorithm design
 - Consistency vs. variation
 - Constraint vs. independence

