Climatology of Aerosol Radiative Properties in the Free Troposphere

E. Andrews[1,2], J.A. Ogren[1], P. Bonasoni[3], A. Marinoni[3], E. Cuevas[4], S. Rodriguez[4,5], J. Sun[6], D. Jaffe[7], E. Fischer[7], U. Baltensperger[8], E. Weingartner[8], M. Collaud-Coen[9], S. Sharma[10], A. Macdonald[10], R. Leaitch[10], N.-H. Lin[11], P. Laj[12], J. Stamenov[13], I. Kalapov[13], A. Jefferson[1,2], P. Sheridan[1]

[1]NOAA, ESRL, Boulder, CO, 80305, USA
[2]University of Colorado, CIRES, Boulder, CO, 80305, USA
[3]Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, CNR, Bologna I-40129, Italy
[4]Izaña Atmospheric Research Centre, AEMET, 38071, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain
[5]University of Huelva, Joint Research Unit with CSIC, 38071 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain
[6]Key Laboratory for Atmospheric Chemistry, CAMS, CMA, Beijing 100081, China
[7]Dept. Atmos. Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 98195,USA
[8]PSI, Laboratory of Atmospheric Chemistry,Villigen PSI, CH-5232, Switzerland
[9]Federal Office of Meteor. and Climatology, MeteoSwiss, CH-1530 Payerne, Switzerland
[10]Environment Canada, Toronto, Ontario, M3H 5T4, Canada
[11]Dept. of Atmos. Sciences, National Central University, Chung-Li 320, Taiwan
[12]Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Géophysique de l'Environnement, University of Grenoble, 38 402 St Martin d'Hères Cedex, France
[13]Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia BG-1784, Bulgaria

Scientific Questions

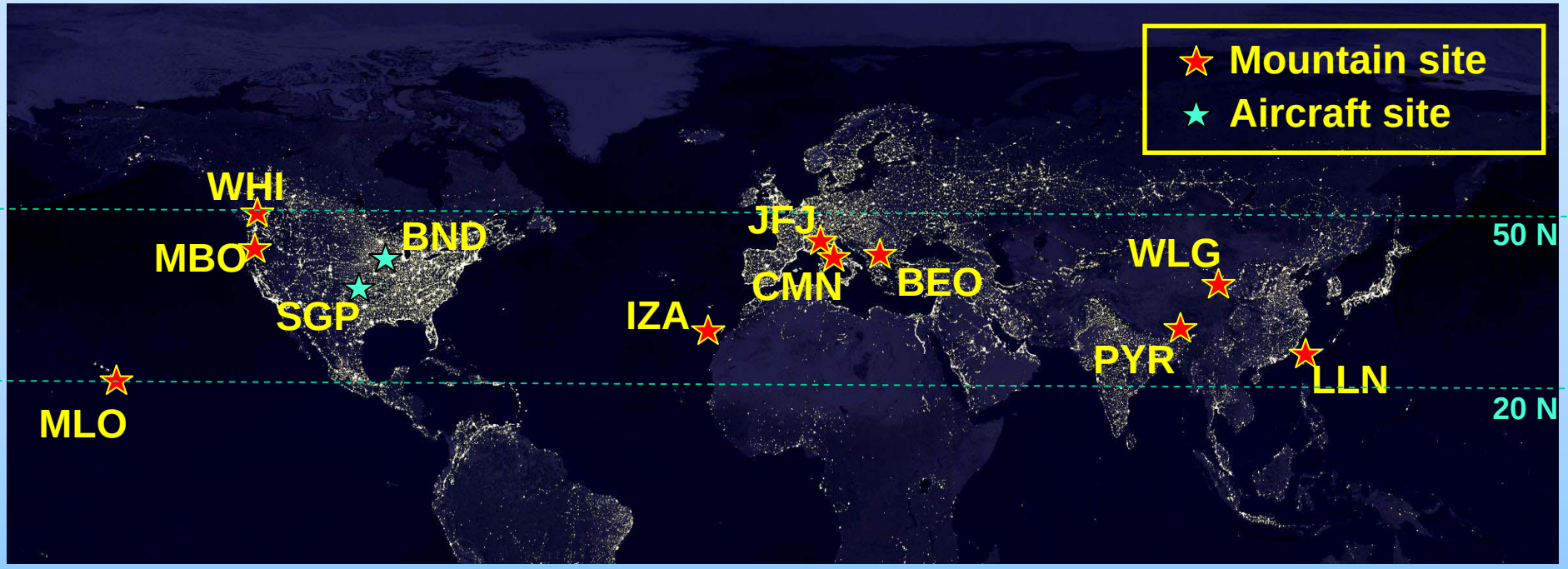
1. What is the climatology of FT aerosol measurements at a range of sites?

2. Do FT aerosol properties vary systematically?

3. How do in-situ climatologies of FT aerosol loading compare to the satellite-derived climatology presented by Kent et al., 1998?

4. Do aerosol events have a significant influence on FT climatological values?

Location of Free Troposphere Sites

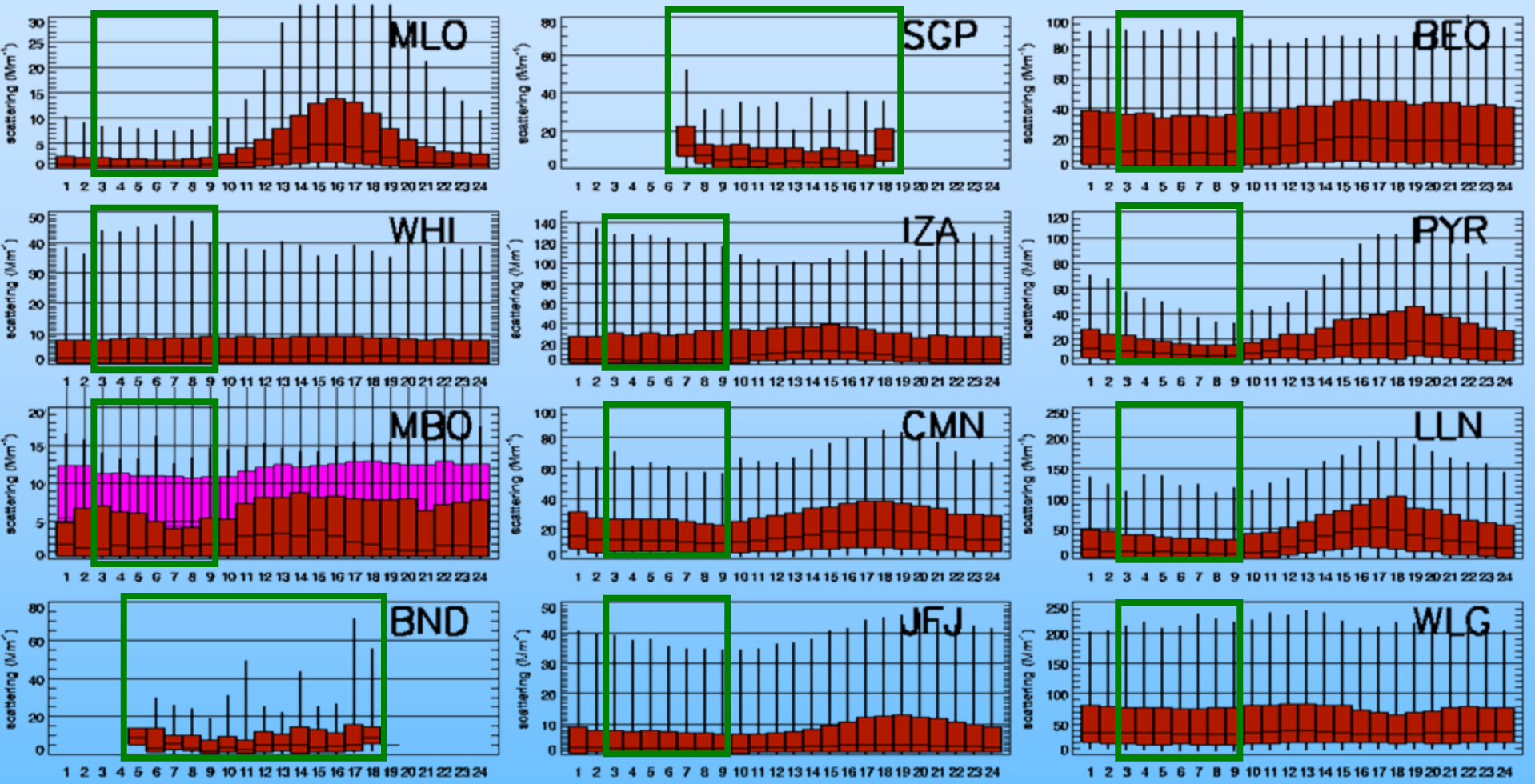


MLO – Mauna Loa, USA (3.4 km)
MBO – Mt Bachelor, USA (2.4 km)
WHI – Whistler, Canada (2.2 km)
SGP – Oklahoma, USA (3-5 km)
BND – Illinois, USA (3-5 km)
IZA – Izana, Spain (2.4 km)

JFJ – Jungfraujoch, Switzerland (3.6 km)
CMN – Monte Cimone, Italy (2.2 km)
BEO – Beo Moussala, Bulgaria (2.4 km)
PYR – Pyramid, Nepal (5.1 km)
WLG – Mt Waliguan, China (3.8 km)
LLN – Mt Lulin, Taiwan (2.9 km)

All sites have scattering and absorption data (except BEO).
Results adjusted to and presented at STP and 550 nm (where possible)

Diurnal cycle of light scattering – all data



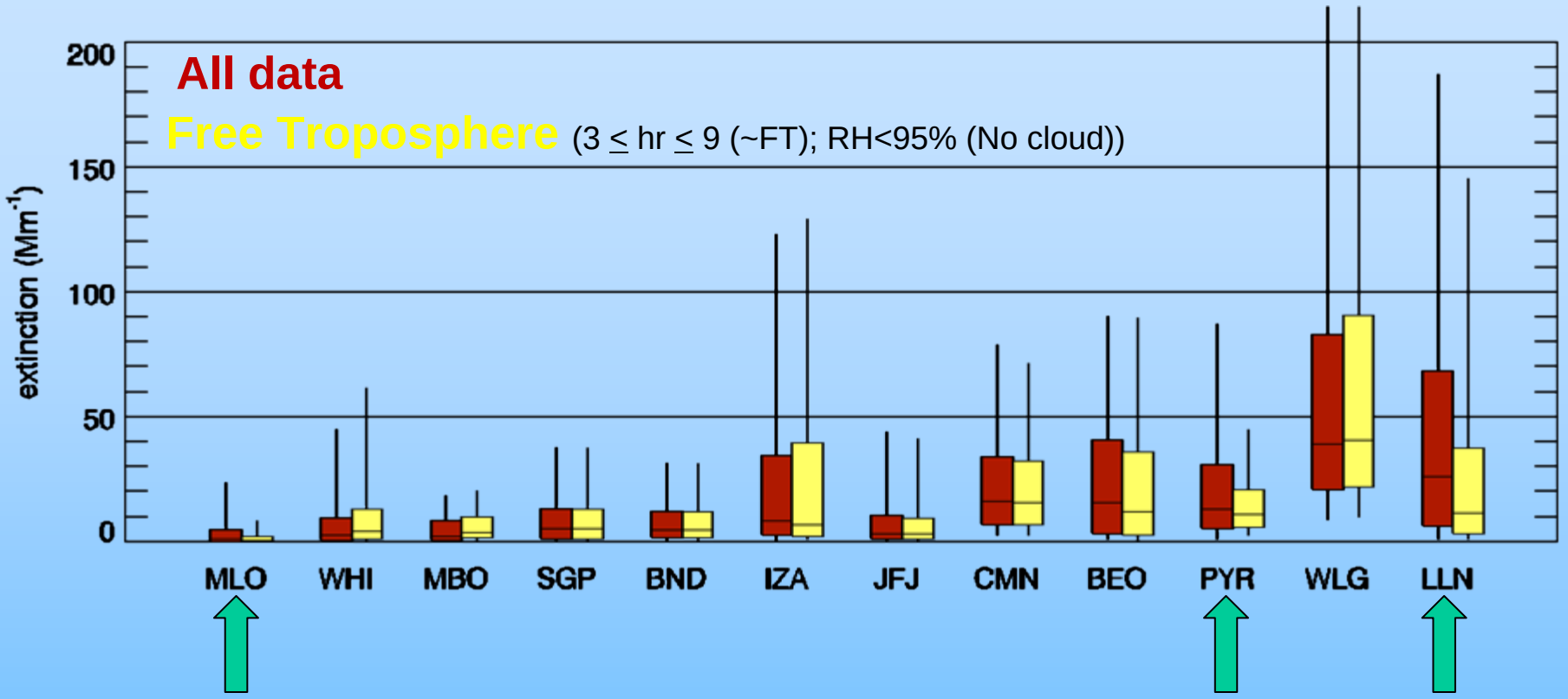
Data presented in local time

Green boxes indicate FT time period.

MBO April-June (1um, 550 nm) All year (1um, 530 nm)
CMN (520 nm)

E. Andrews 10/18/2010

Extinction (all data vs. ~ free troposphere)

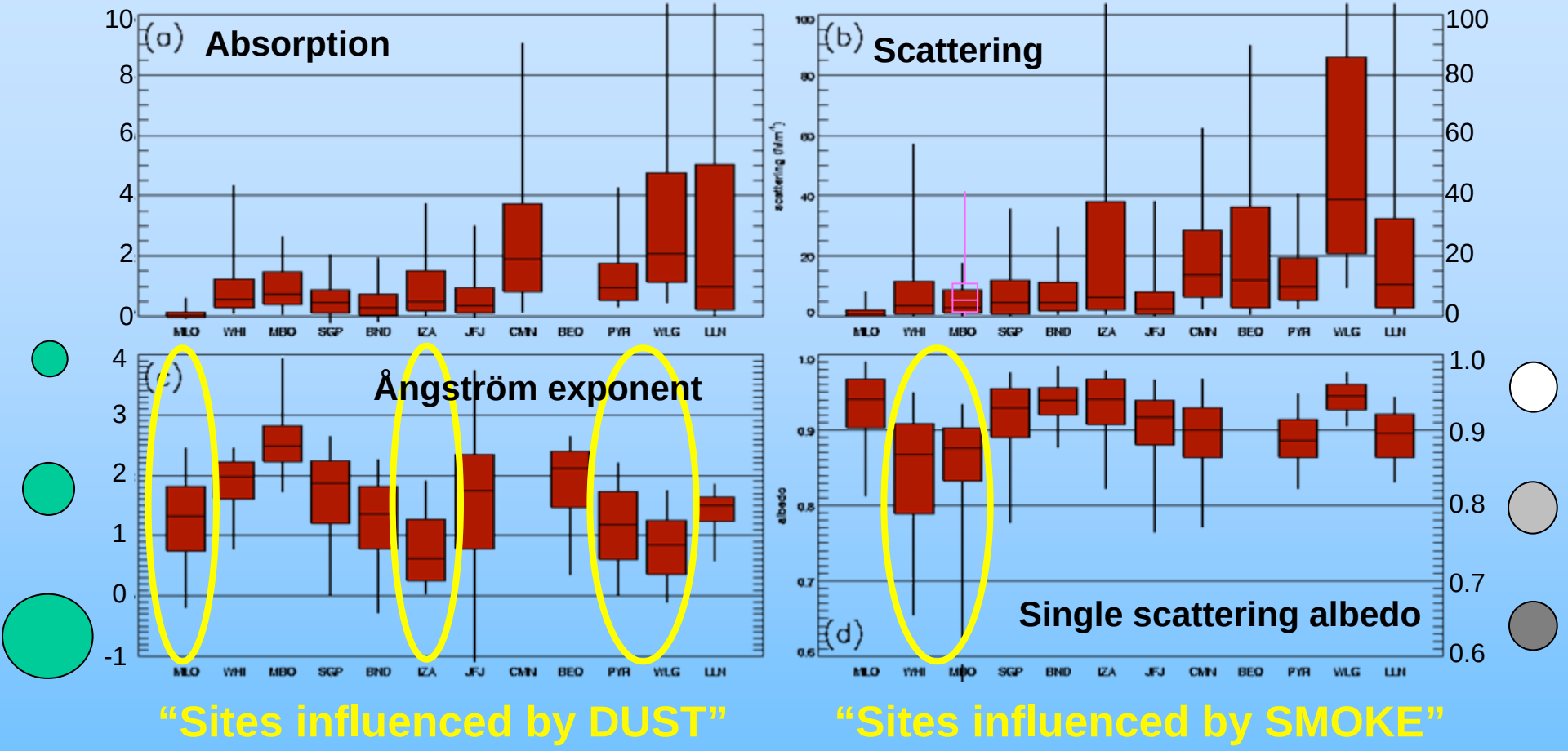


Increase in aerosol loading from west to east (almost split by hemisphere)

Difference between 'all data' and 'FT' data largest for sites with strongest diurnal cycle (MLO, PYR, LLN).

BEO →scattering

Comparison of FT aerosol optical properties



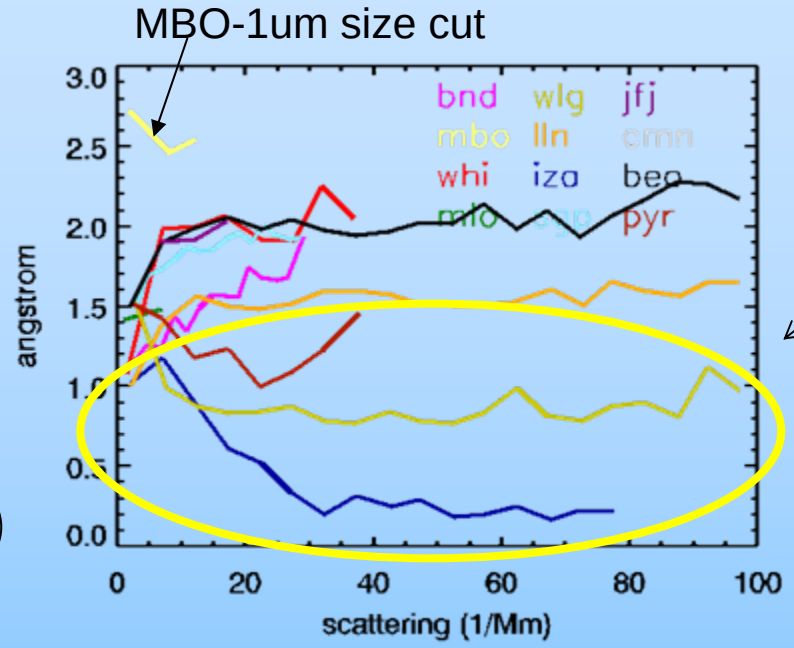
"Sites influenced by DUST"

"Sites influenced by SMOKE"

Ovals indicate sites known to be influenced by specific sources – the source signature can be seen in the value of the parameter

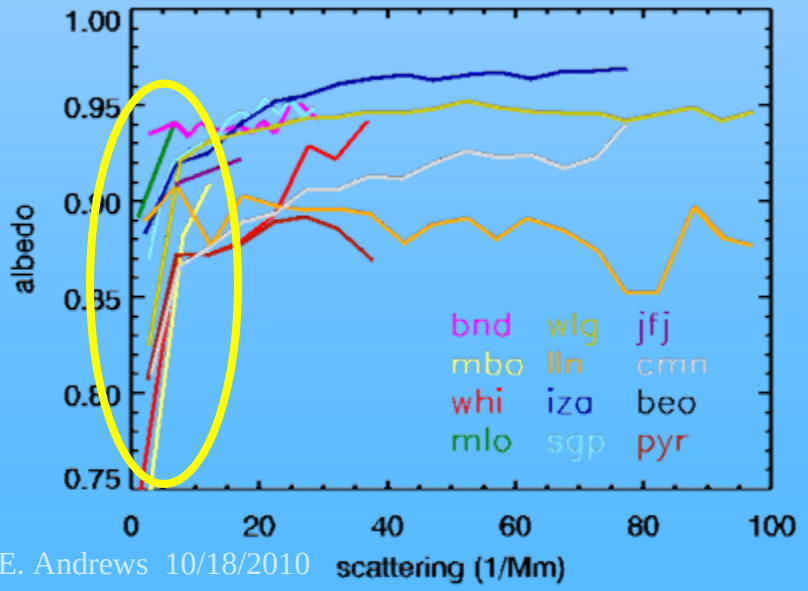
MBO-size cut=1um (hence higher Ångström exponent!); CMN – at 520 nm

Systematic variation of aerosol properties with loading



→atmospheric processing/sources
→aerosol parameterizations

Ångström exponent
These three sites (**IZA**, **WLG**, **PYR**) impacted by dust. Note: **MLO** is also experiences dust events, but is more distant from source of dust (gives larger particles more time to deposit out?)

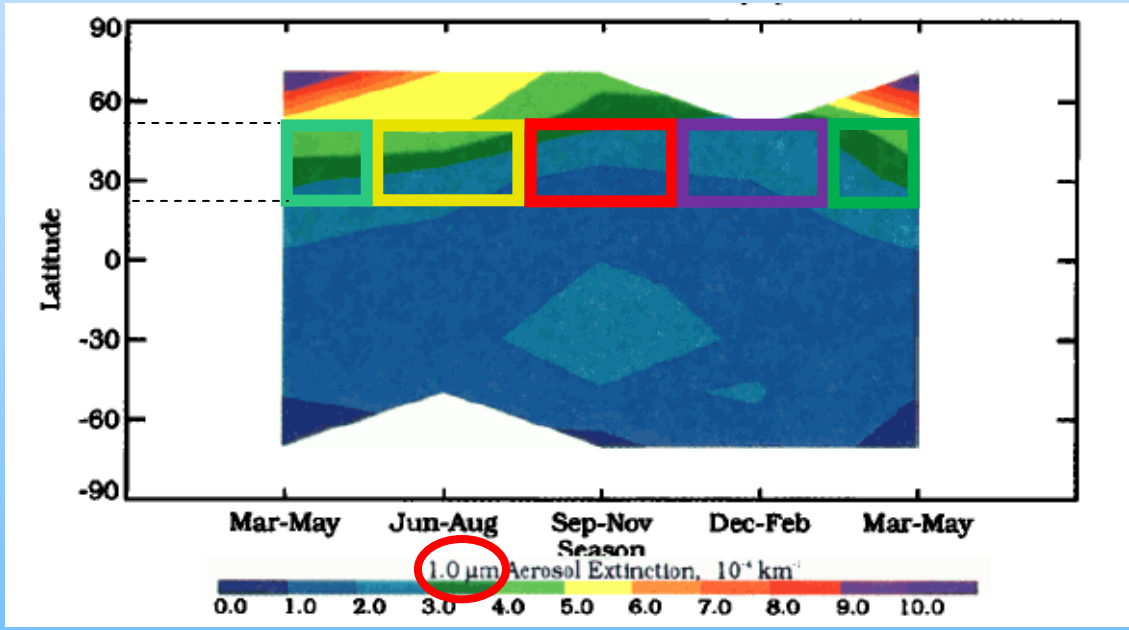


Single scattering albedo
Most sites show lower single scattering albedo values for clean air (low scattering).
→cloud processing? Preferential removal of more hygroscopic scattering aerosol?

LLN and BND do not show this behavior.
→Why!?!

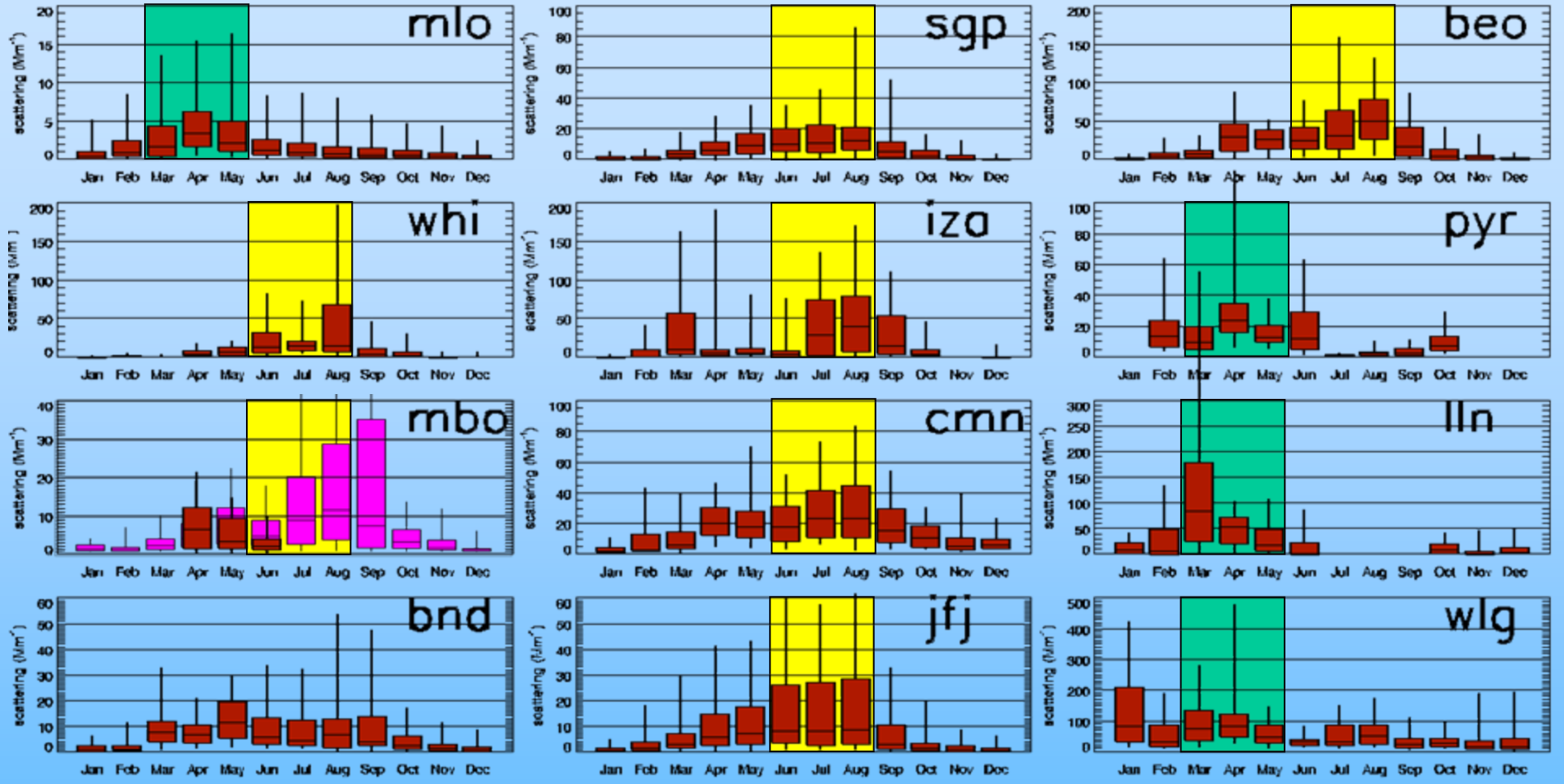
Comparison with satellite climatology

A zonally-averaged climatology of free troposphere aerosol extinction based on satellite measurements (Kent et al., 1998) shows: Extinction is highest in spring (MAM); Extinction is lowest in winter (DJF).



- Measurement wavelength is 1000 nm.
- Extinction scale is 0 to 1 Mm^{-1}.
- Measurements above 6km.
- Daytime measurements only.
- Ambient RH conditions.
- Measurements made pre-1998.

Monthly in-situ FT climatologies (scattering)



Peaks in summer months (JJA)

Peaks in spring months (MAM)

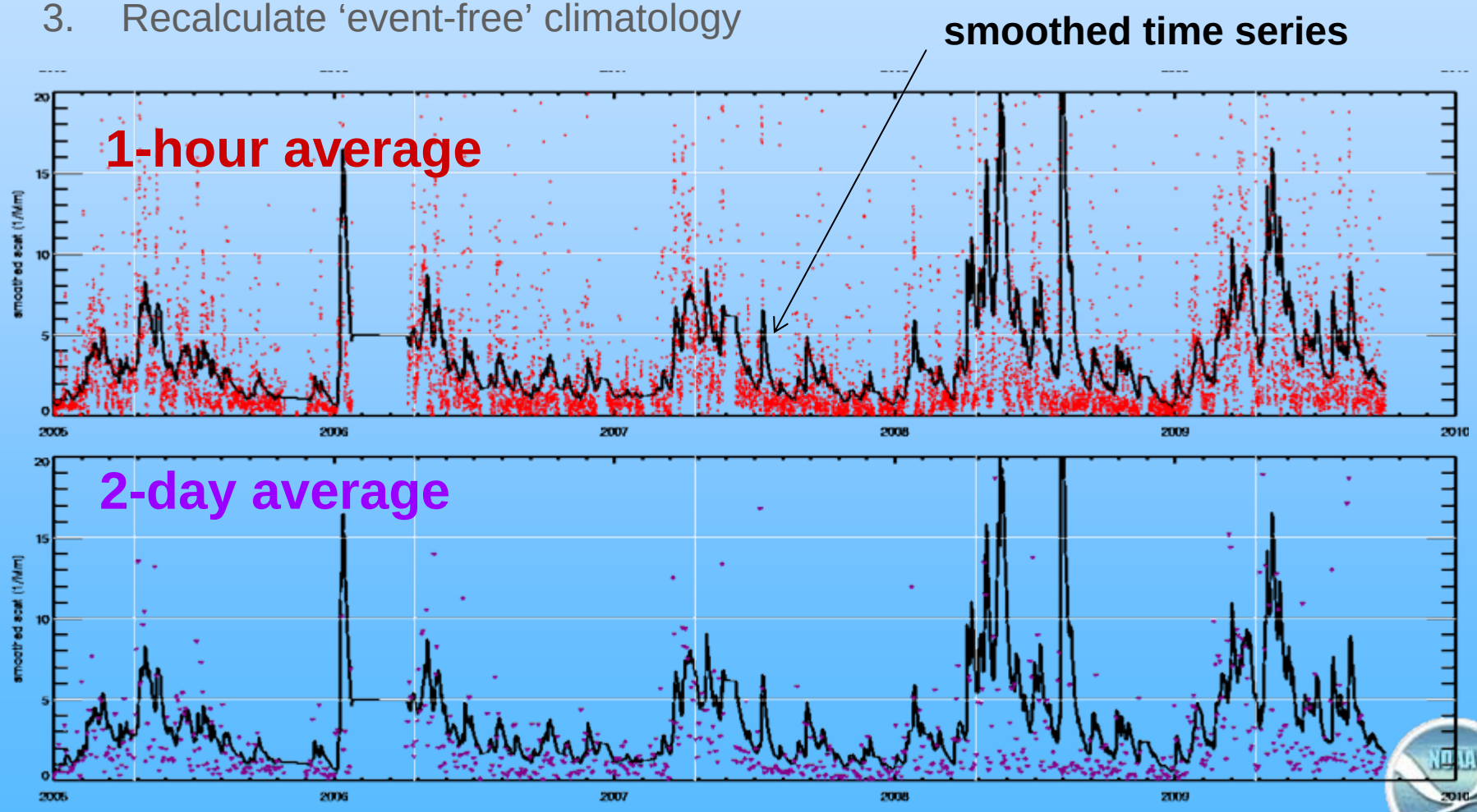
Most sites with springtime maxima are dust-impacted sites (bigger aerosol)

Springtime scattering values range from ~1 Mm^{-1} to ~100 Mm^{-1}.

Identification of ‘events’ in climatologies

How we did this:

1. Identify ‘events’ – Use 48 hr low pass filter to smooth data
2. Remove events – defined as points above smoothed curve
3. Recalculate ‘event-free’ climatology

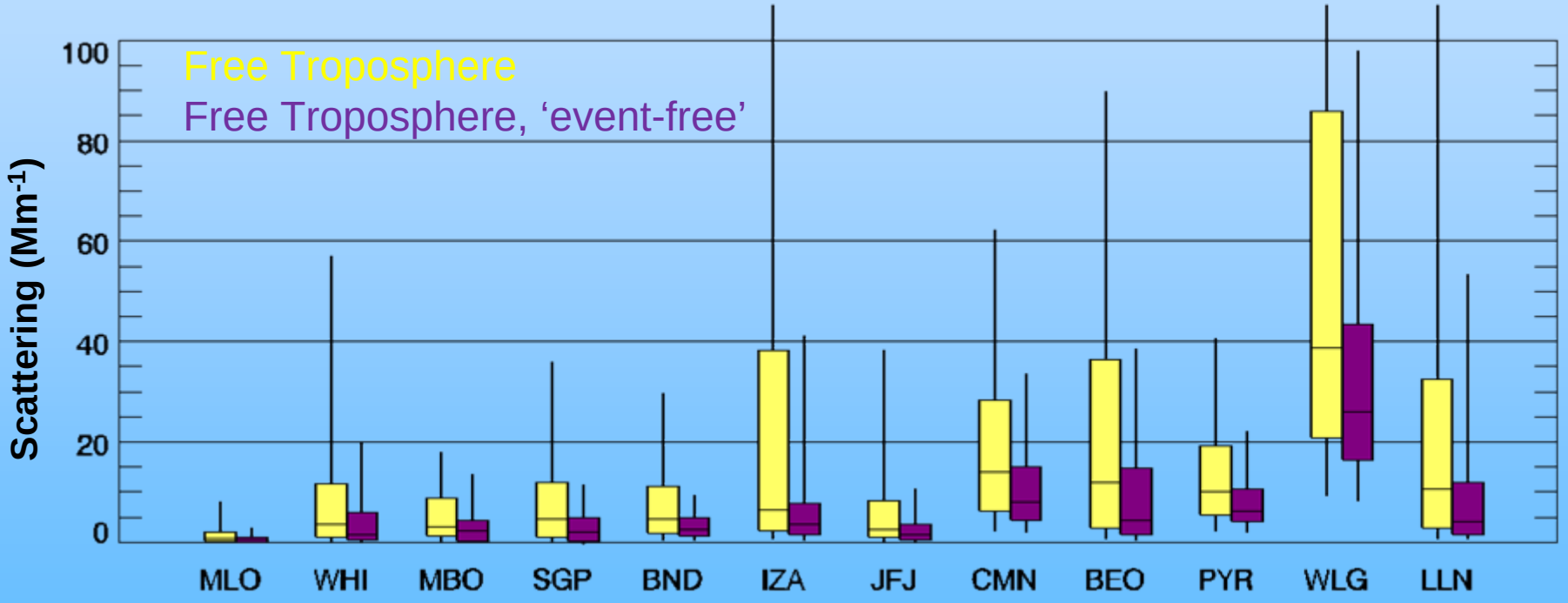


Example showing 5 years of MLO data

Importance of events on FT climatologies

How to do this:

1. Identify ‘events’ – 48 hr low pass filter to smooth data
2. Remove ‘events’
3. Calculate ‘event-free’ climatology



→Significant decrease in FT scattering when ‘events’ removed
→(Obviously) choice of event identification method will change results
→Different event identification method may be needed for each site

Conclusions

- What is climatology of FT aerosol at a range of sites?
- →Order of magnitude difference in amount of aerosol among sites
- →See influence of sources (e.g., dust) on aerosol optical properties
- →Values increase from west to east – appear to be 2 groups of sites

- Do FT aerosol properties vary systematically?
- →Dust-influenced sites Ångström exponent decreases with loading
- →Most sites have low SSA for low loading (cloud processing?)

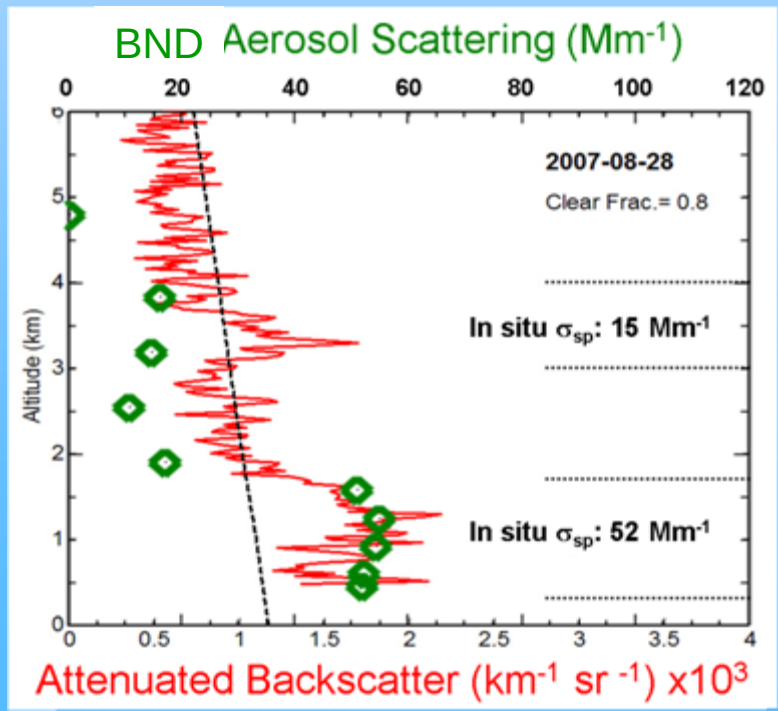
- How do in-situ climatologies of free tropospheric light extinction compare to the satellite-derived climatology presented by Kent et al.?
- →Sites 'in-phase' with satellite are strongly dust-influenced.

- Do aerosol events (e.g., smoke transport) have a significant influence on free troposphere climatological values?
- →Yes! By our simple method, factor of 2 difference in scattering at many sites.

Future Work

- Add more sites to analysis
- Try other FT identification options (e.g., gases, RH, wind)
- Try other 'event' identification options and look at event influence on additional aerosol radiative properties
- Effect of clouds on aerosol properties (RH surrogate)
- Model comparisons
- Compare lidar (surface/spaced based) with in-situ FT climatologies

We are beginning to do comparisons of our in-situ aircraft profiles with CALIPSO measurements. CALIPSO derives aerosol extinction at 532 nm
→wavelength means more similar comparison than SAGE.
→CALIPSO may not be as sensitive at low aerosol loadings

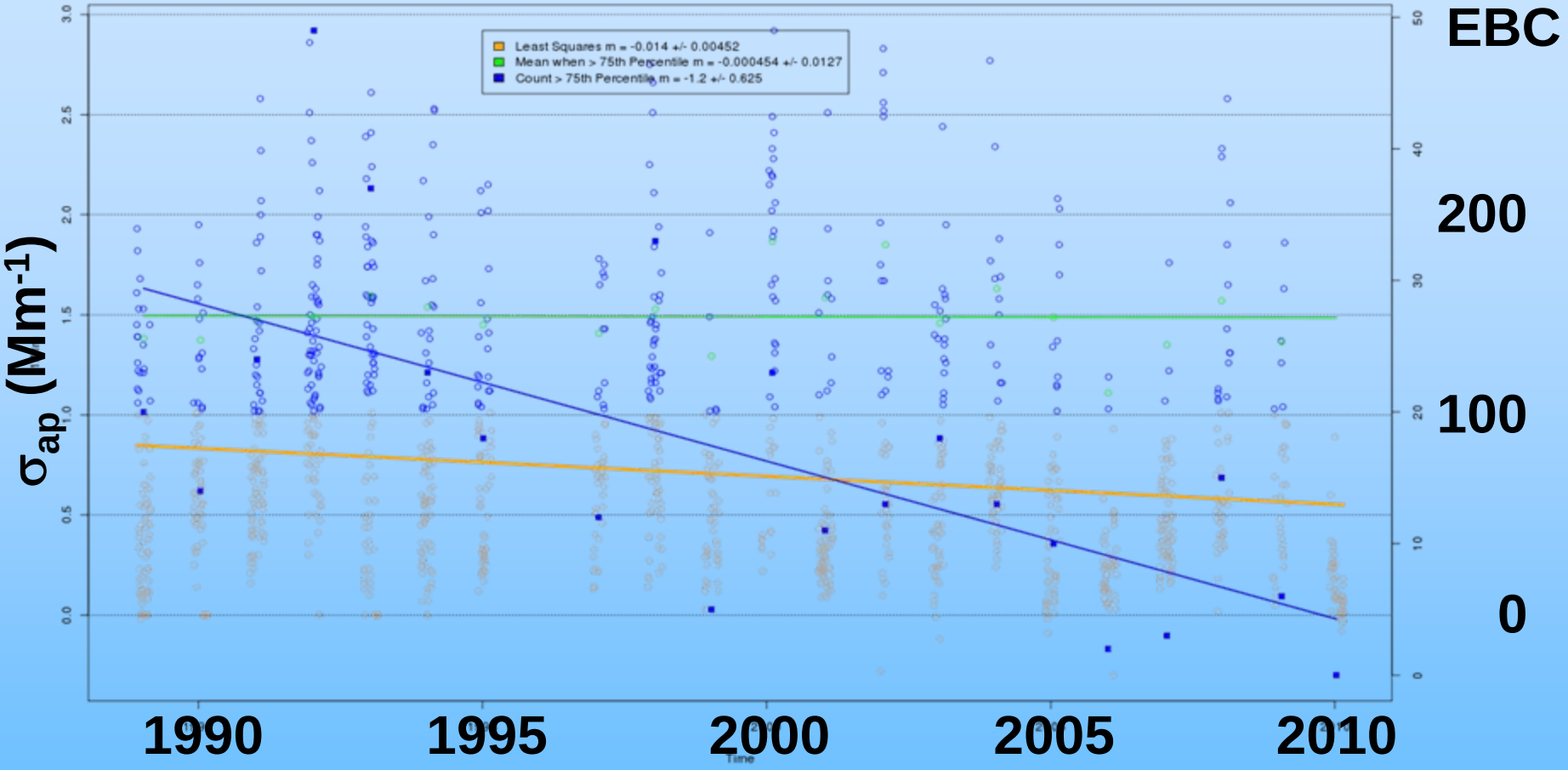


 T. Anderson provided CALIPSO data

Bonus Material

Trends in Absorption at Barrow, Alaska

Trend in Wintertime Episodes at BRW



- Blue line shows trend in number of days per summer above 75th percentile of all summer days
- Green line shows trend in mean value of absorption on "episode" days (not significantly different from zero)