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# Aerosol Radiative Forcing

The AeroCom Prescribed Experiment:  
Towards the Quantification of Host Model Errors

AeroCom Meeting, Oxford  
29/09/2010

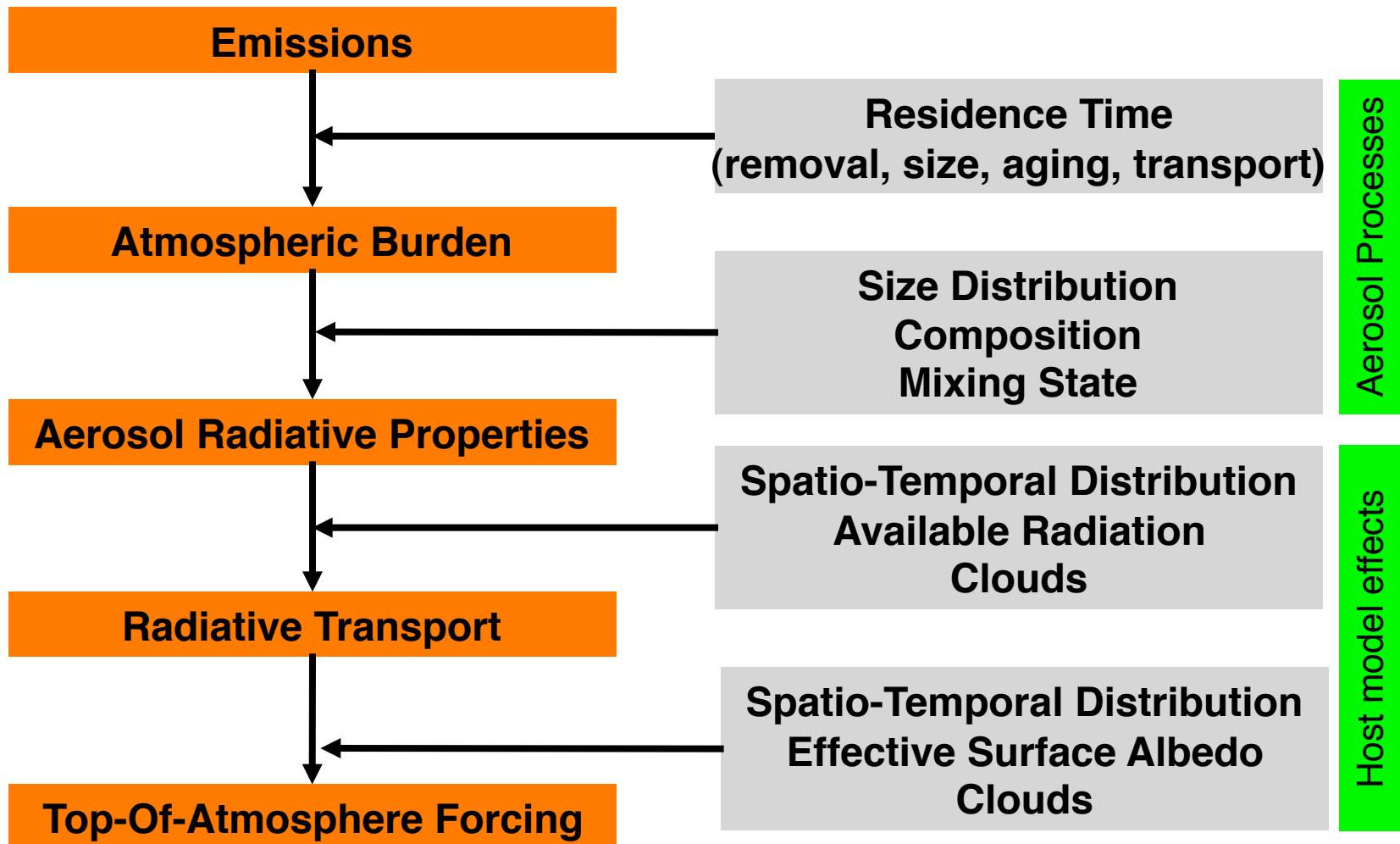
Philip Stier

Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics / Oriel College  
University of Oxford



# Assessment of aerosol direct radiative forcing

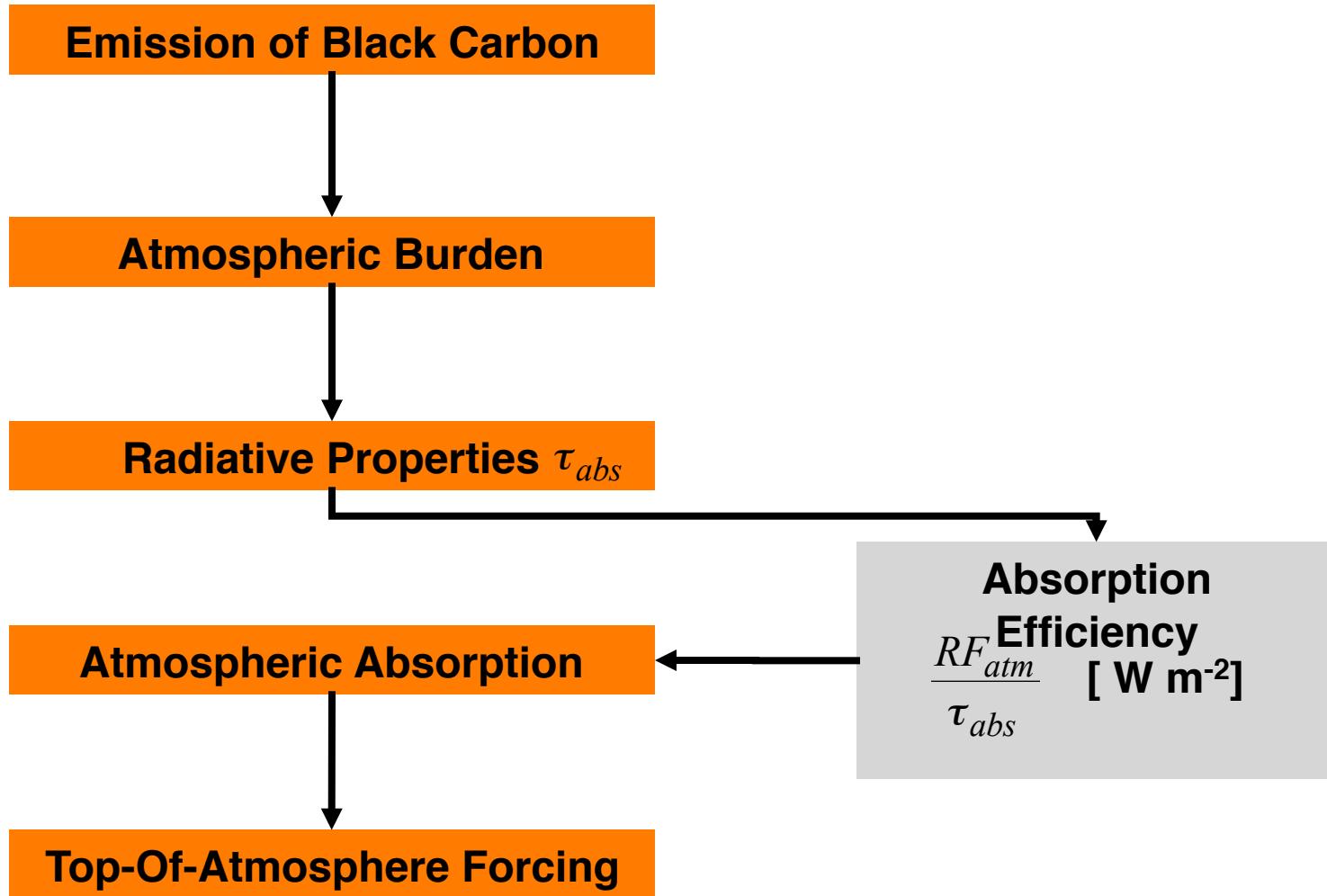
**AeroCom:** Intercomparison and assessment of the underlying process representations



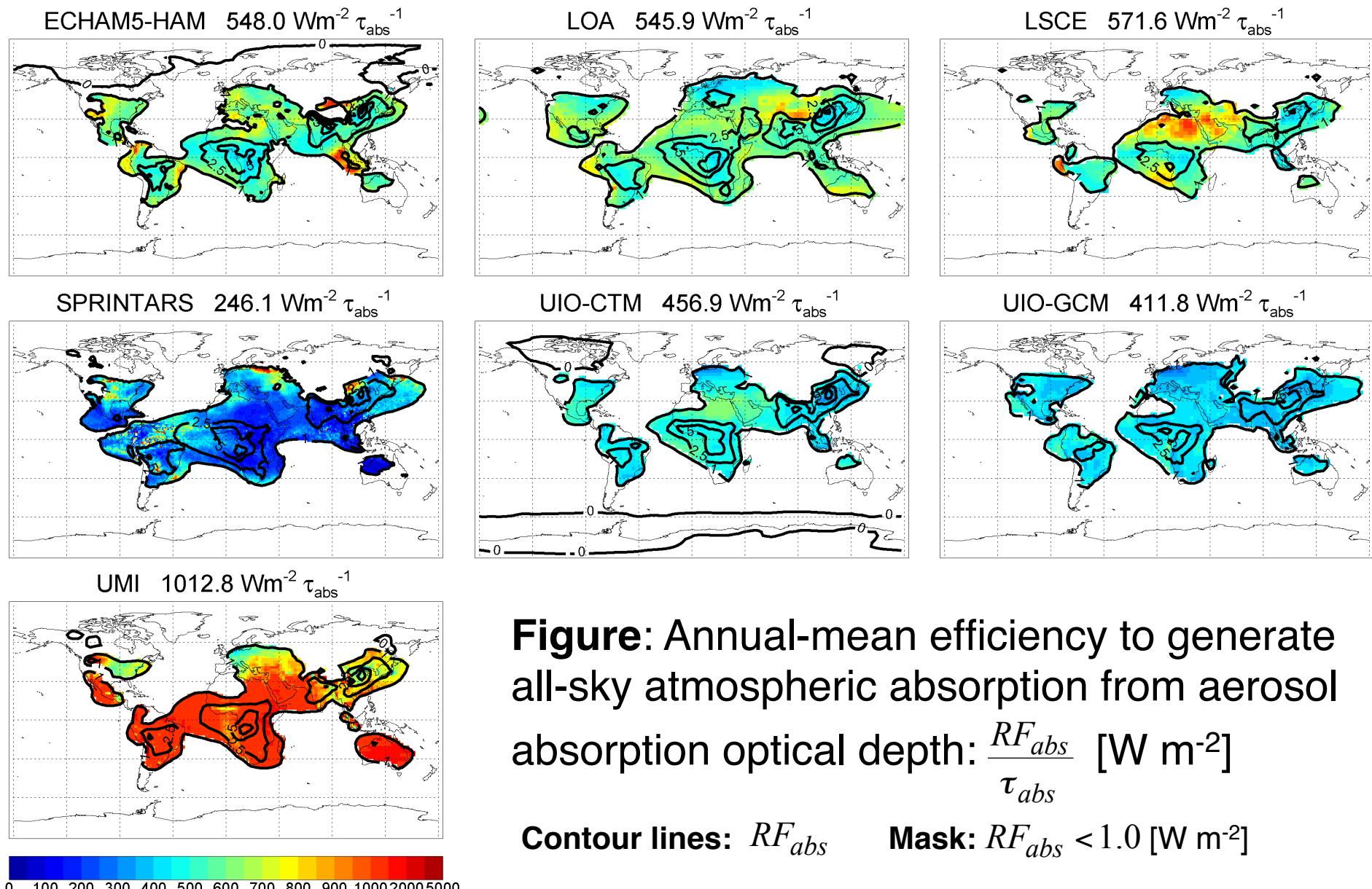
# Assessment of aerosol direct radiative forcing

## Analysis of AeroCom forcing experiment:

Large diversity in absorption efficiency from aerosol radiative properties:

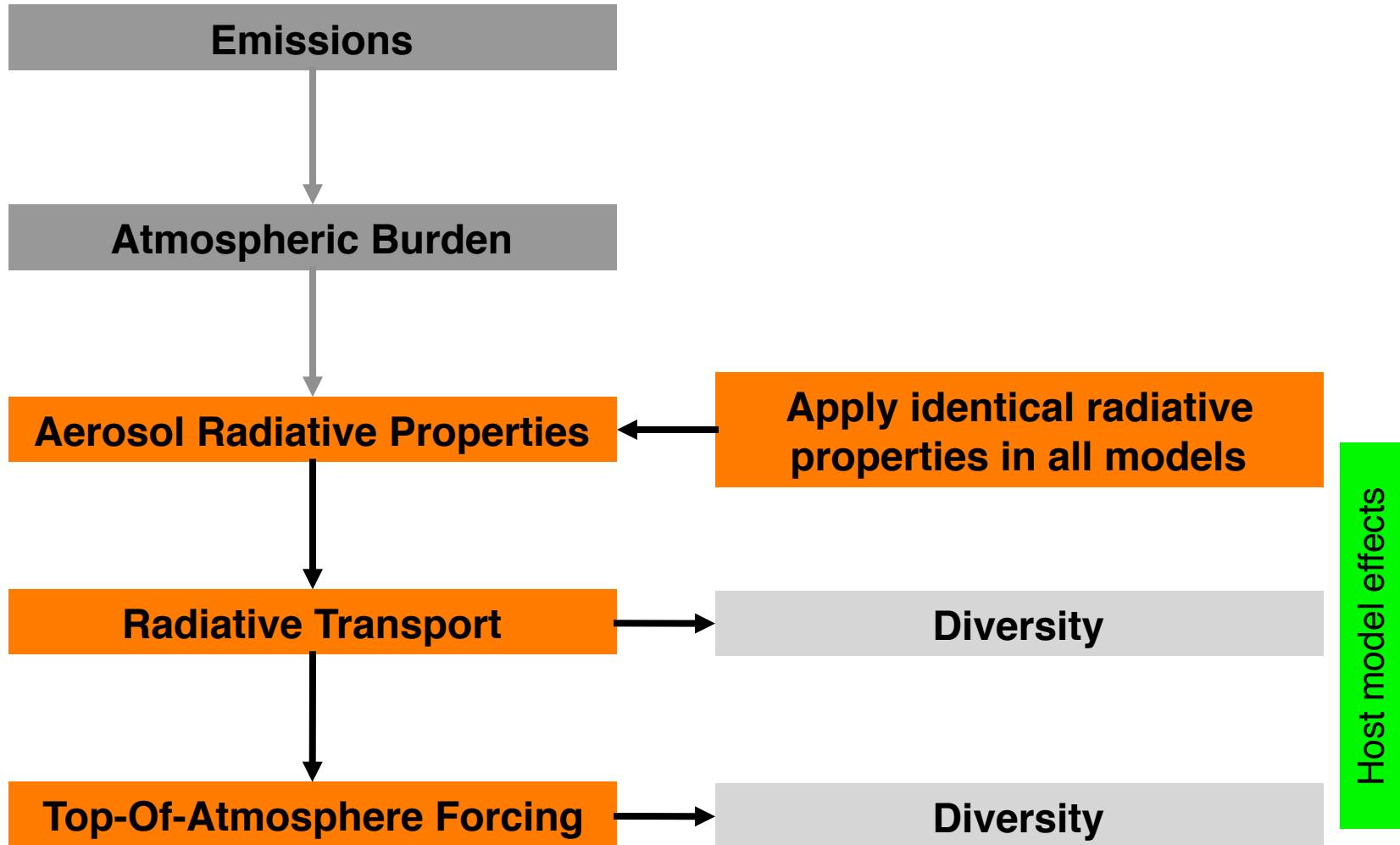


# Analysis of AeroCom Forcing Experiment



# The AeroCom Prescribed Experiment

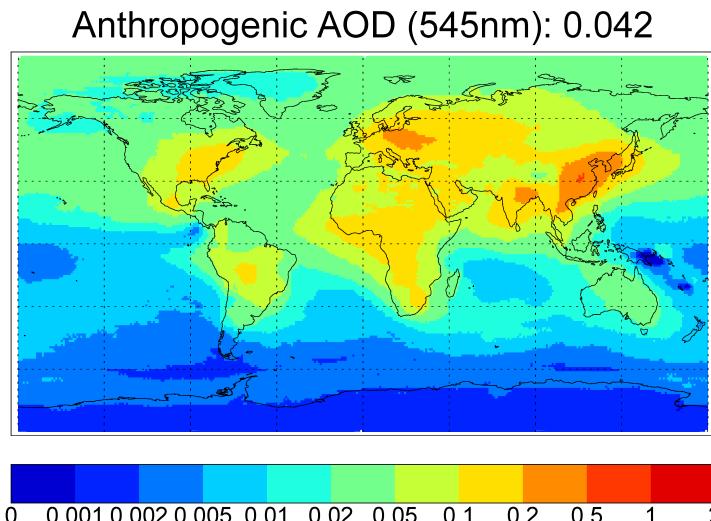
Facilitate inter-comparability through fixing 3D aerosol radiative properties



# AeroCom Prescribed - Set-up

Prescribe **aerosol radiative properties** identically in all “**models**”:

- Extinction, Single Scattering Albedo, Asymmetry Factor:
  - 3D distributions
  - 24 SW wavelengths
  - “fool proof” offline mapping tools to model resolution and radiation bands



**Figure:** Annual-mean anthropogenic and total aerosol optical depth at 550 nm derived from AeroCom median model and AERONET.



# AeroCom Prescribed - Set-up

Prescribe **aerosol radiative properties** identically in all “**models**”:

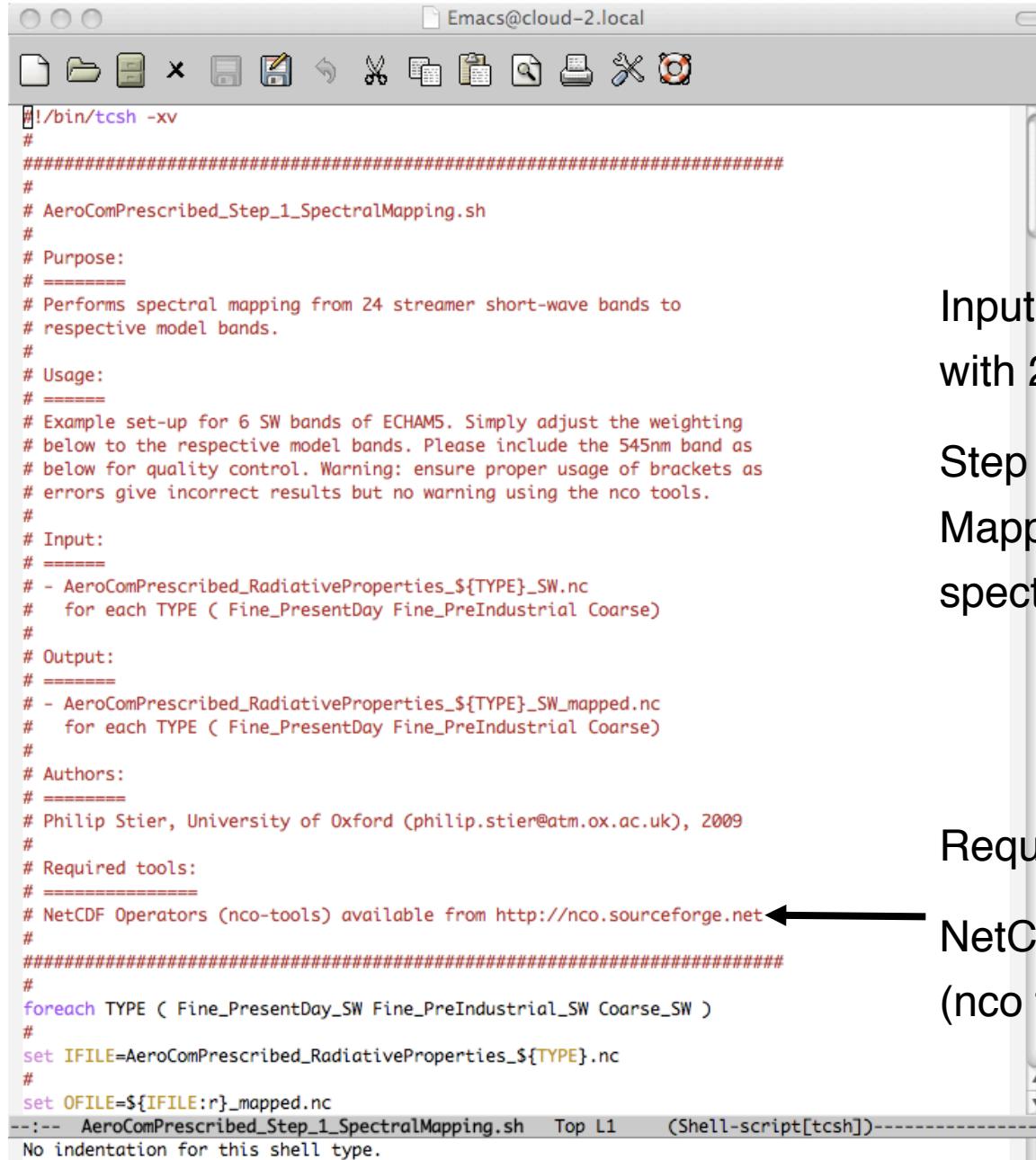
- Extinction, Single Scattering Albedo, Asymmetry Factor:
  - 3D distributions
  - 24 SW wavelengths
  - “fool proof” offline mapping tools to model resolution and radiation bands

To make this very clear:

- You do not need to run your aerosol model for this experiment
- You may want to run parts of it anyway to keep your AeroCom diagnostics routines



# Input Data Set-up - Step 1 out of 3



The screenshot shows a window titled "Emacs@cloud-2.local" displaying a tcsh script. The script is a shell script named "AeroComPrescribed\_Step\_1\_SpectralMapping.sh". It contains comments explaining its purpose, usage, and example setup for ECHAM5. It also specifies input files (RadiativeProperties.nc) and output files (RadiativeProperties\_mapped.nc) for different model types (Fine, PresentDay, Fine, PreIndustrial, Coarse). The script includes information about authors (Philip Stier, 2009) and required tools (NetCDF Operators, nco-tools). A note at the bottom indicates no indentation for this shell type.

```
#!/bin/tcsh -xv
#
#####
# AeroComPrescribed_Step_1_SpectralMapping.sh
#
# Purpose:
# =====
# Performs spectral mapping from 24 streamer short-wave bands to
# respective model bands.
#
# Usage:
# =====
# Example set-up for 6 SW bands of ECHAM5. Simply adjust the weighting
# below to the respective model bands. Please include the 545nm band as
# below for quality control. Warning: ensure proper usage of brackets as
# errors give incorrect results but no warning using the nco tools.
#
# Input:
# =====
# - AeroComPrescribed_RadiativeProperties_${TYPE}_SW.nc
#   for each TYPE ( Fine_PresentDay Fine_PreIndustrial Coarse)
#
# Output:
# =====
# - AeroComPrescribed_RadiativeProperties_${TYPE}_SW_mapped.nc
#   for each TYPE ( Fine_PresentDay Fine_PreIndustrial Coarse)
#
# Authors:
# =====
# Philip Stier, University of Oxford (philip.stier@atm.ox.ac.uk), 2009
#
# Required tools:
# =====
# NetCDF Operators (nco-tools) available from http://nco.sourceforge.net
#
#####
foreach TYPE ( Fine_PresentDay_SW Fine_PreIndustrial_SW Coarse_SW )
#
set IFILE=AeroComPrescribed_RadiativeProperties_${TYPE}.nc
#
set OFILE=${IFILE:r}_mapped.nc
--- AeroComPrescribed_Step_1_SpectralMapping.sh Top L1 (Shell-script[tcsh]) ---
No indentation for this shell type.
```

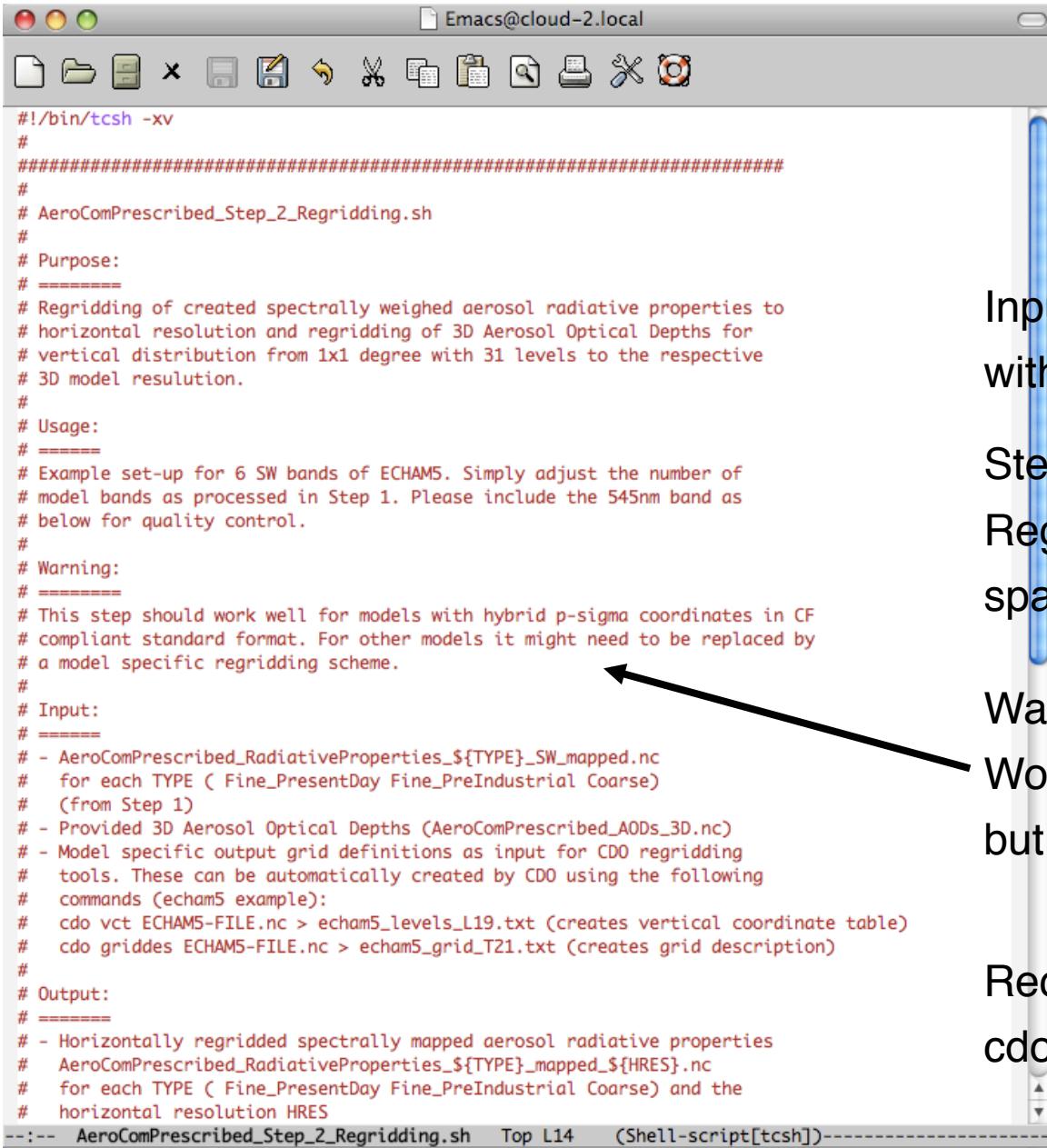
Input data on 2D 1x1 degree  
with 24 spectral bands

Step 1:  
Mapping to model specific  
spectral bands.

Required:  
NetCDF operators  
(nco tools)



## Input Data Set-up - Step 2 out of 3



```
#!/bin/tcsh -xv
#
#####
# AeroComPrescribed_Step_2_Regridding.sh
#
# Purpose:
# -----
# Regridding of created spectrally weighed aerosol radiative properties to
# horizontal resolution and regridding of 3D Aerosol Optical Depths for
# vertical distribution from 1x1 degree with 31 levels to the respective
# 3D model resolution.
#
# Usage:
# -----
# Example set-up for 6 SW bands of ECHAMS. Simply adjust the number of
# model bands as processed in Step 1. Please include the 545nm band as
# below for quality control.
#
# Warning:
# -----
# This step should work well for models with hybrid p-sigma coordinates in CF
# compliant standard format. For other models it might need to be replaced by
# a model specific regridding scheme.
#
# Input:
# -----
# - AeroComPrescribed_RadiativeProperties_${TYPE}_SW_mapped.nc
#   for each TYPE ( Fine_PresentDay Fine_PreIndustrial Coarse)
#   (from Step 1)
# - Provided 3D Aerosol Optical Depths (AeroComPrescribed_AODs_3D.nc)
# - Model specific output grid definitions as input for CDO regridding
#   tools. These can be automatically created by CDO using the following
#   commands (echam5 example):
#   cdo vct ECHAMS-FILE.nc > echam5_levels_L19.txt (creates vertical coordinate table)
#   cdo griddes ECHAMS-FILE.nc > echam5_grid_T21.txt (creates grid description)
#
# Output:
# -----
# - Horizontally regridded spectrally mapped aerosol radiative properties
#   AeroComPrescribed_RadiativeProperties_${TYPE}_mapped_${HRES}.nc
#   for each TYPE ( Fine_PresentDay Fine_PreIndustrial Coarse) and the
#   horizontal resolution HRES
---:-- AeroComPrescribed_Step_2_Regridding.sh  Top L14  (Shell-script[tcsh])---
```

Input data on 2D 1x1 degree  
with 24 spectral bands

Step 2:  
Regridding to respective  
spatial model resolution.

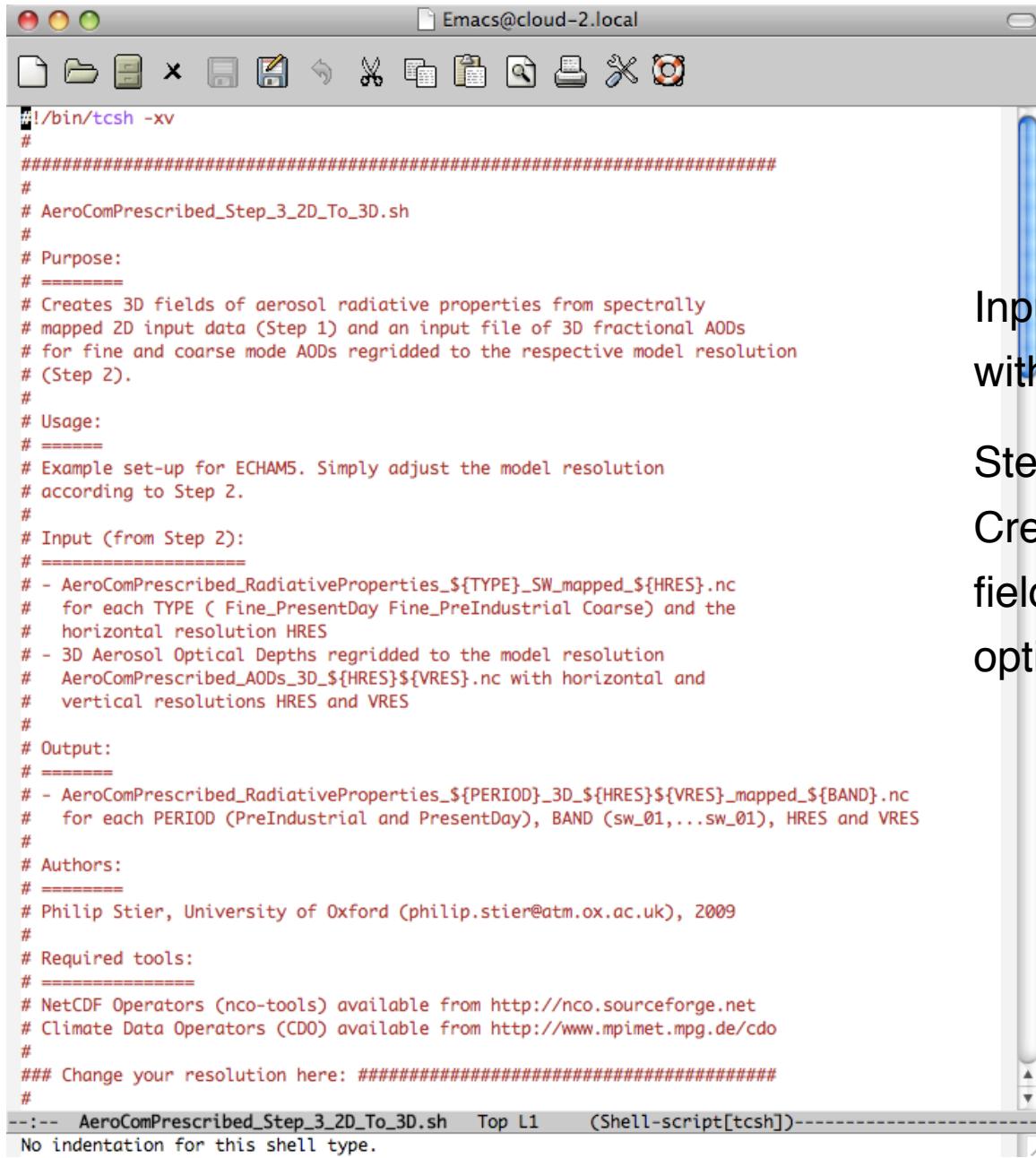
Warning:  
Works with hybrid p-sigma  
but not all grids

Required:  
cdo climate data operators





# Input Data Set-up - Step 3 out of 3



The screenshot shows a Mac OS X desktop environment with an Emacs window titled "Emacs@cloud-2.local". The window contains a shell script named "AeroComPrescribed\_Step\_3\_2D\_To\_3D.sh". The script is written in tcsh and performs several tasks:

- Creates 3D fields of aerosol radiative properties from spectrally mapped 2D input data.
- Creates an input file of 3D fractional AODs for fine and coarse mode AODs regridded to the respective model resolution.
- Provides usage examples for ECHAMS.
- Specifies input files required, including AeroComPrescribed\_RadiativeProperties and AeroComPrescribed\_AODs\_3D.
- Specifies output files, such as AeroComPrescribed\_RadiativeProperties\_3D.
- Lists authors (Philip Stier).
- Specifies required tools (NetCDF Operators and Climate Data Operators).
- Allows for changing resolution.

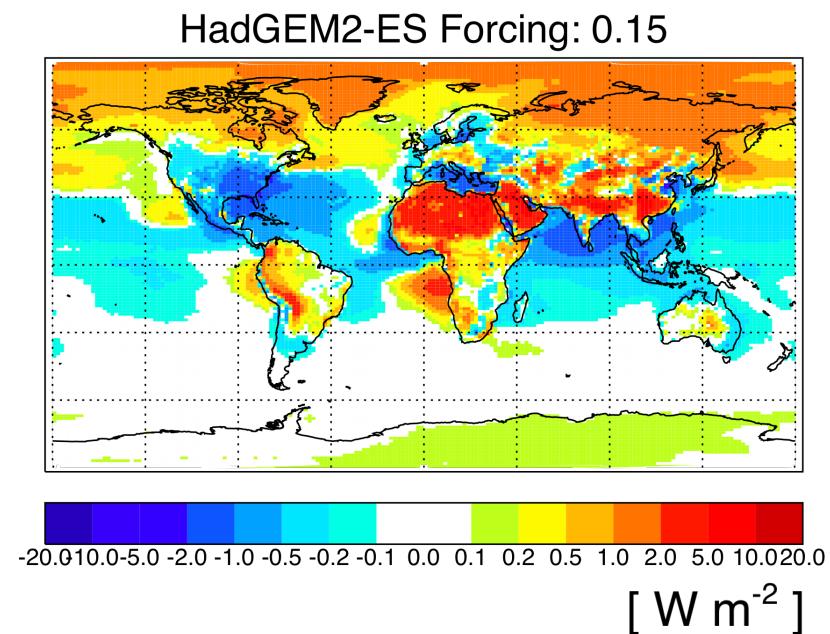
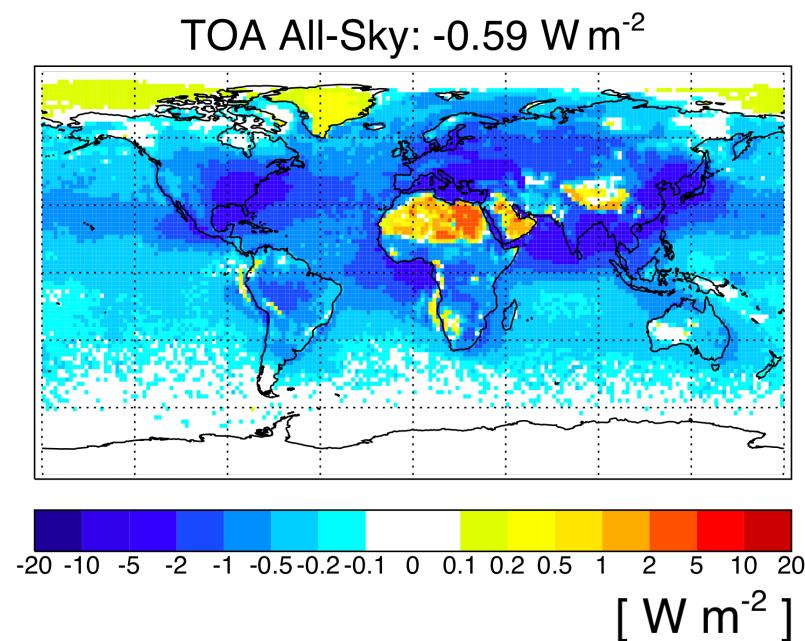
The script ends with a footer indicating it is a shell script in tcsh.

Input data on 2D 1x1 degree with 24 spectral bands

Step 3:  
Creation of 3D files from 2D fields using 3D fractional optical depth input file.

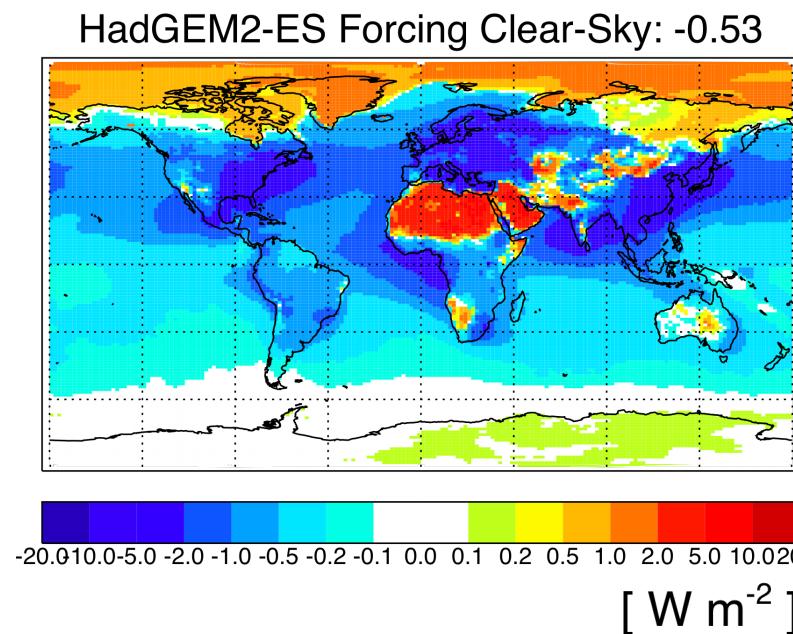
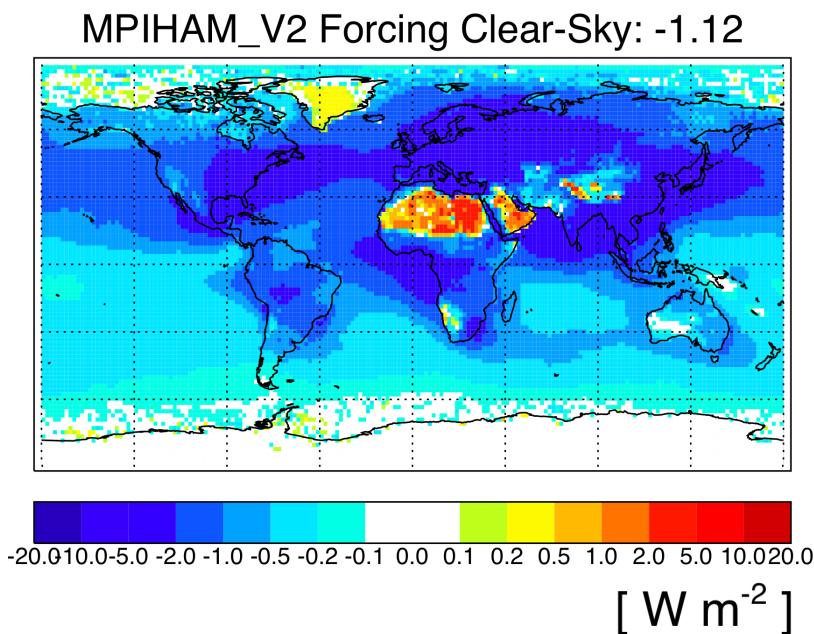
# First results - Forcing

Present-Day – Pre-Industrial Aerosol Radiative Forcing:



# First results - Forcing

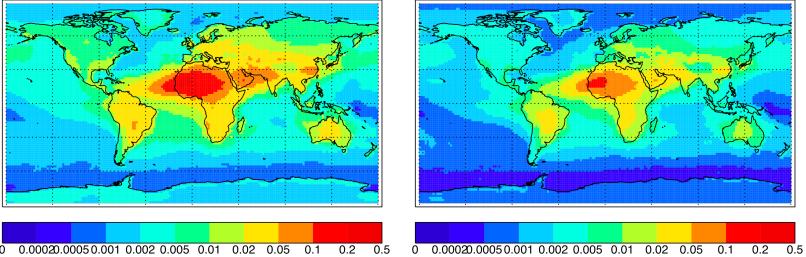
Present-Day – Pre-Industrial Aerosol Radiative Forcing Clear-Sky:



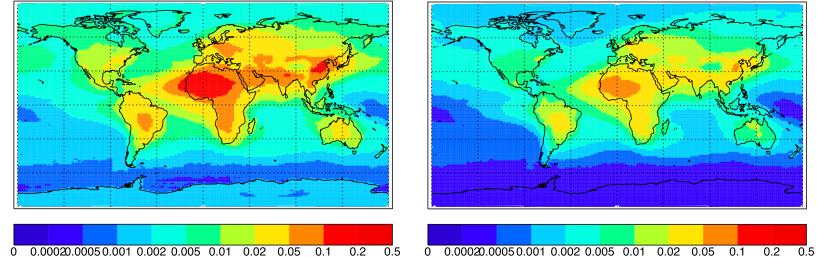
# First results - Input Data

## Present-Day Aerosol Absorption Optical Depth:

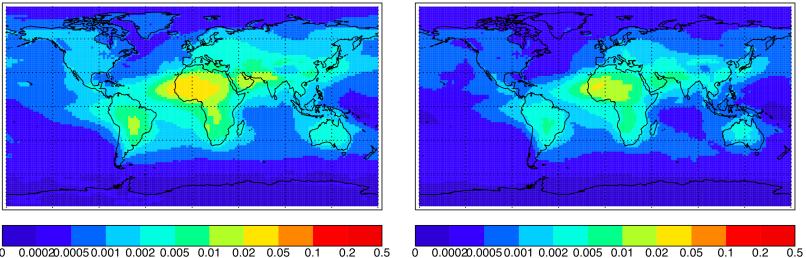
MPIHAM\_V2 2000 AAOD (Band sw1): 0.0139 MPIHAM\_V2 2000 AAOD (Band sw2): 0.0070



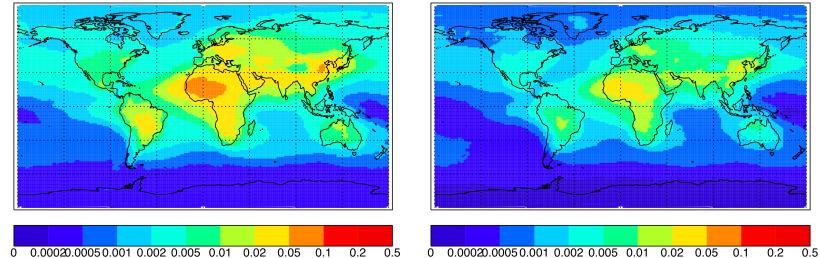
HadGEM2-ES 2006 AAOD (Band sw1): 0.0167 HadGEM2-ES 2006 AAOD (Band sw2): 0.0072



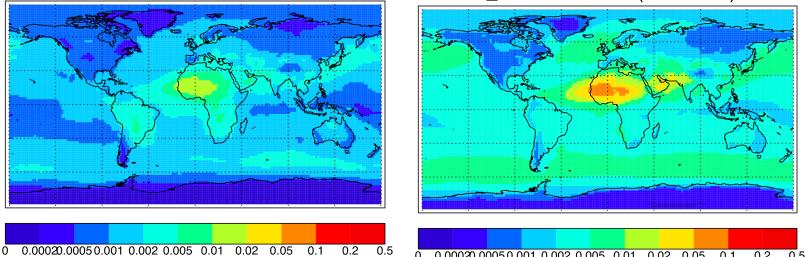
MPIHAM\_V2 2000 AAOD (Band sw3): 0.0025 MPIHAM\_V2 2000 AAOD (Band sw4): 0.0013



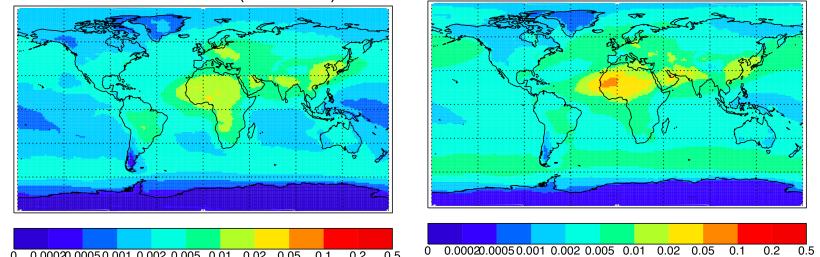
HadGEM2-ES 2006 AAOD (Band sw3): 0.0072 HadGEM2-ES 2006 AAOD (Band sw4): 0.0031



MPIHAM\_V2 2000 AAOD (Band sw5): 0.0017 MPIHAM\_V2 2000 AAOD (Band sw6): 0.0048



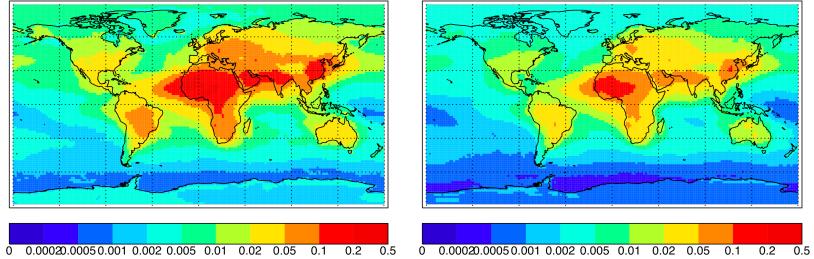
HadGEM2-ES 2006 AAOD (Band sw5): 0.0035 HadGEM2-ES 2006 AAOD (Band sw6): 0.0052



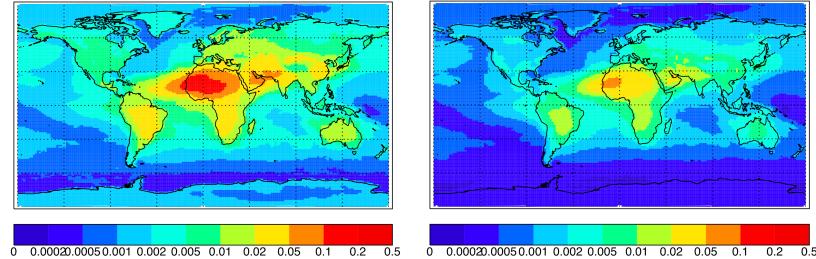
# First results - Input Data

## Pre-Industrial Aerosol Absorption Optical Depth:

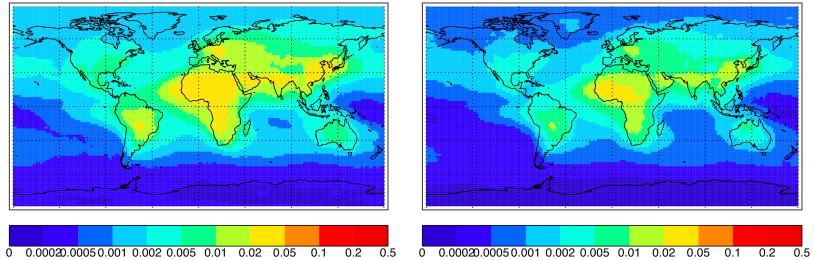
MPIHAM\_V2 1850 AAOD (Band sw1): 0.0244 MPIHAM\_V2 1850 AAOD (Band sw2): 0.0133



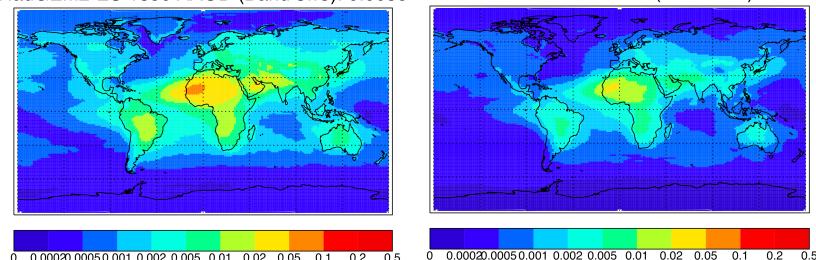
HadGEM2-ES 1850 AAOD (Band sw1): 0.0093 HadGEM2-ES 1850 AAOD (Band sw2): 0.0035



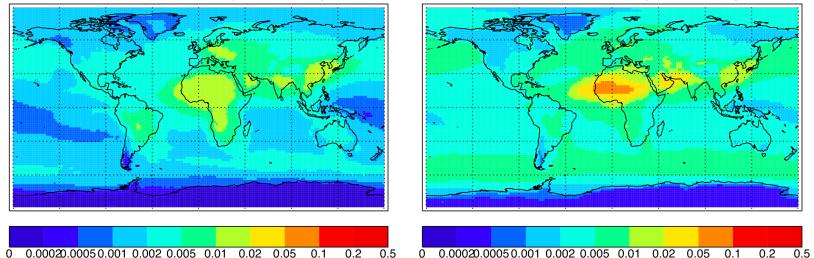
MPIHAM\_V2 1850 AAOD (Band sw3): 0.0055 MPIHAM\_V2 1850 AAOD (Band sw4): 0.0029



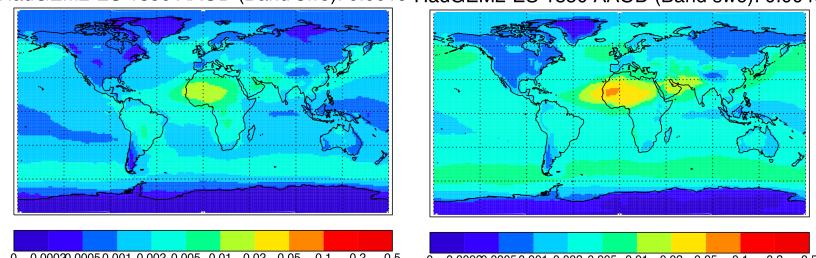
HadGEM2-ES 1850 AAOD (Band sw3): 0.0035 HadGEM2-ES 1850 AAOD (Band sw4): 0.0014



MPIHAM\_V2 1850 AAOD (Band sw5): 0.0033 MPIHAM\_V2 1850 AAOD (Band sw6): 0.0058

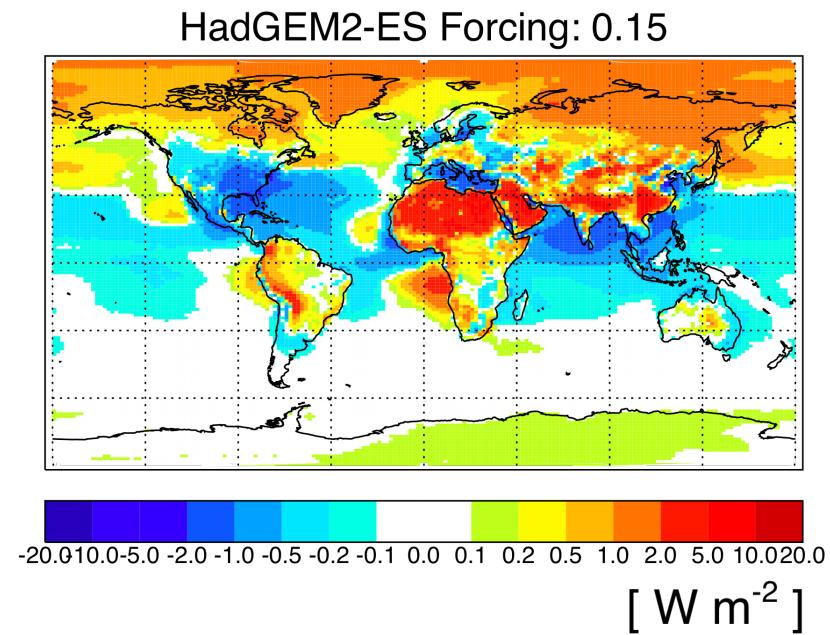
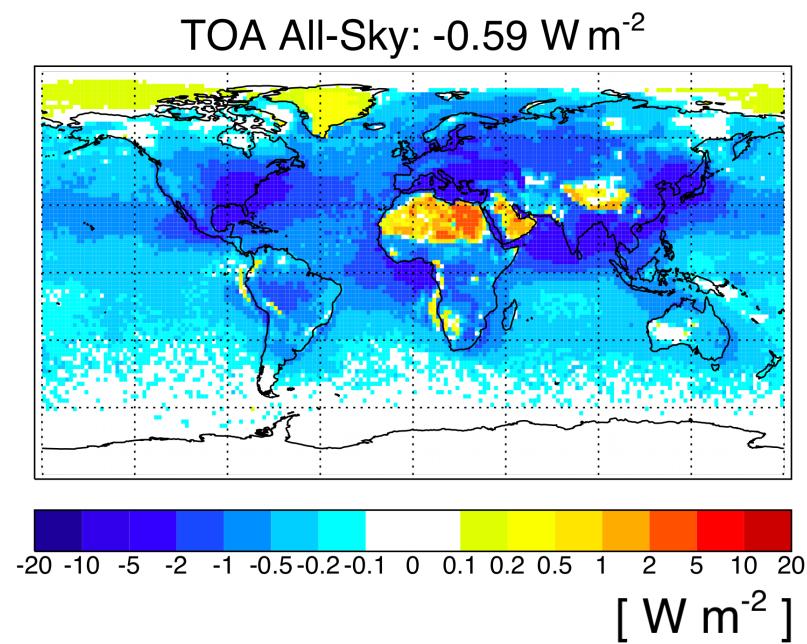


HadGEM2-ES 1850 AAOD (Band sw5): 0.0019 HadGEM2-ES 1850 AAOD (Band sw6): 0.0040



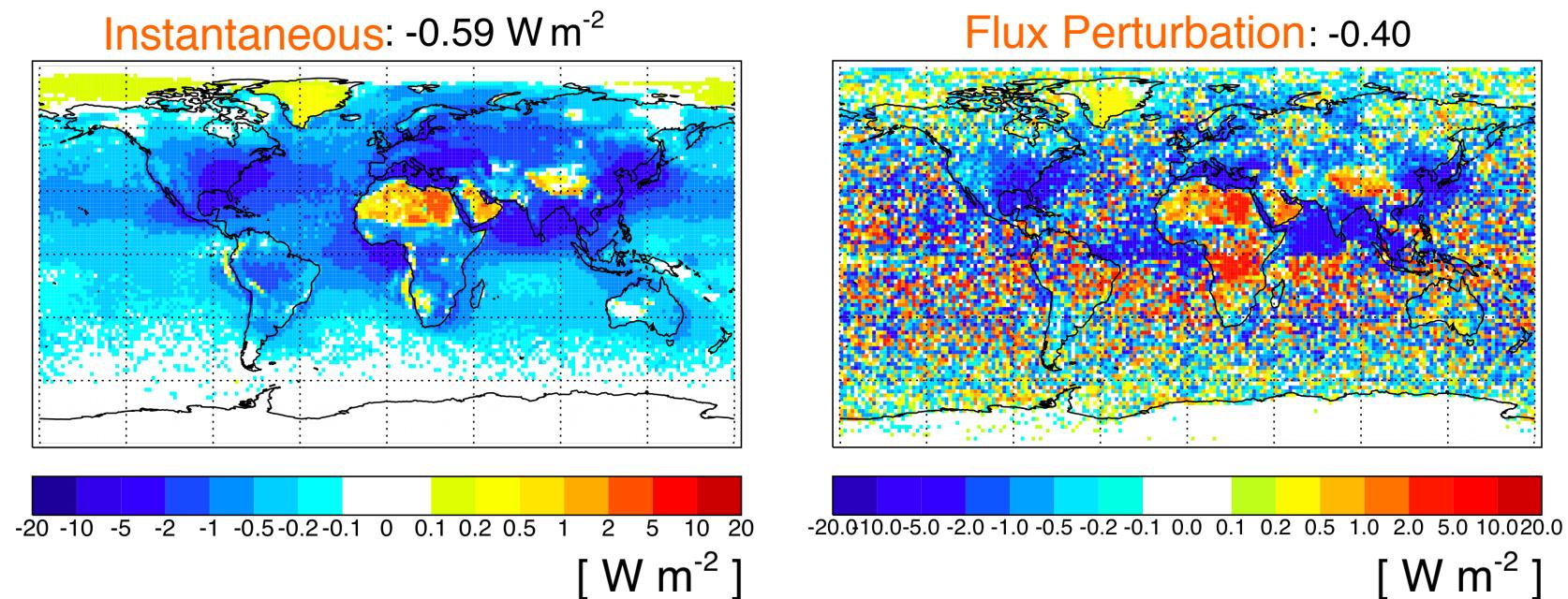
# First results - Forcing

Present-Day – Pre-Industrial Aerosol Radiative Forcing:



# First results - “Forcing”?

**ECHAM instantaneous forcing versus radiative flux perturbation:**  
(Nudged, aerosols online and coupled to radiation)



We requested flux perturbations in the AeroCom protocol but not total aerosol instantaneous forcing (just by component).



# Participation

**Interested? Speak to me.**

