



# Satellite Remote Sensing of Air Quality – An Overview

Pawan Gupta  
NASA ARSET- AQ – EPA Training  
September 29, 2014

**ARSET - AQ**

**Applied Remote Sensing and Training – Air Quality**

A project of NASA Applied Sciences



# ARSET

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# NASA Applied Sciences and Capacity Building

National and international activities to engage and train users applying NASA Earth Science satellites and modeling data in their decision making activities



## NASA Satellite Images Will Help Farmers Conserve Water

Share Tweet +1 E-mail 0 Comments Print

By VINNEE TONG

Listen 3:35

Flood Irrigation in a Los Banos alfalfa field.  
Vinee Tong

1 of 3

# NASA Applied Science : Capacity Building Program



## Applied Remote SEnsing Training, ARSET (GSFC)

On-line and hands on basic/advanced trainings tailored to end-users organizations

## **DEVELOP (LaRC national office)**

Dual student/local government capacity building using collaborative projects

## **SERVIR Coordination Office (MSFC)**

Building international capacity with hubs in

- East Africa
- Hindu Kush - Himalaya
- Mesoamerica

## **Gulf of Mexico Initiative, GOMI (SSC)**

Building Gulf region's capacity for local environmental management

# NASA Earth Science Applied Sciences Program

## Applications to Decision Making: Thematic Areas

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**Agricultural  
Efficiency**



**Air Quality**



**Climate**



**Disaster  
Management**



**Ecological  
Forecasting**



**Public Health**



**Water  
Resources**



**Weather**

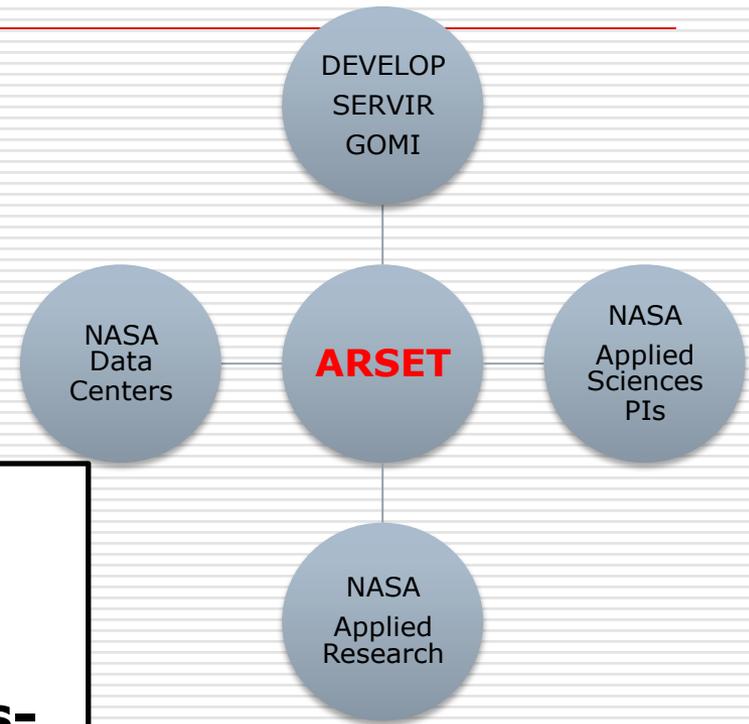
# Applied Remote Sensing Training (ARSET)

## GOAL:

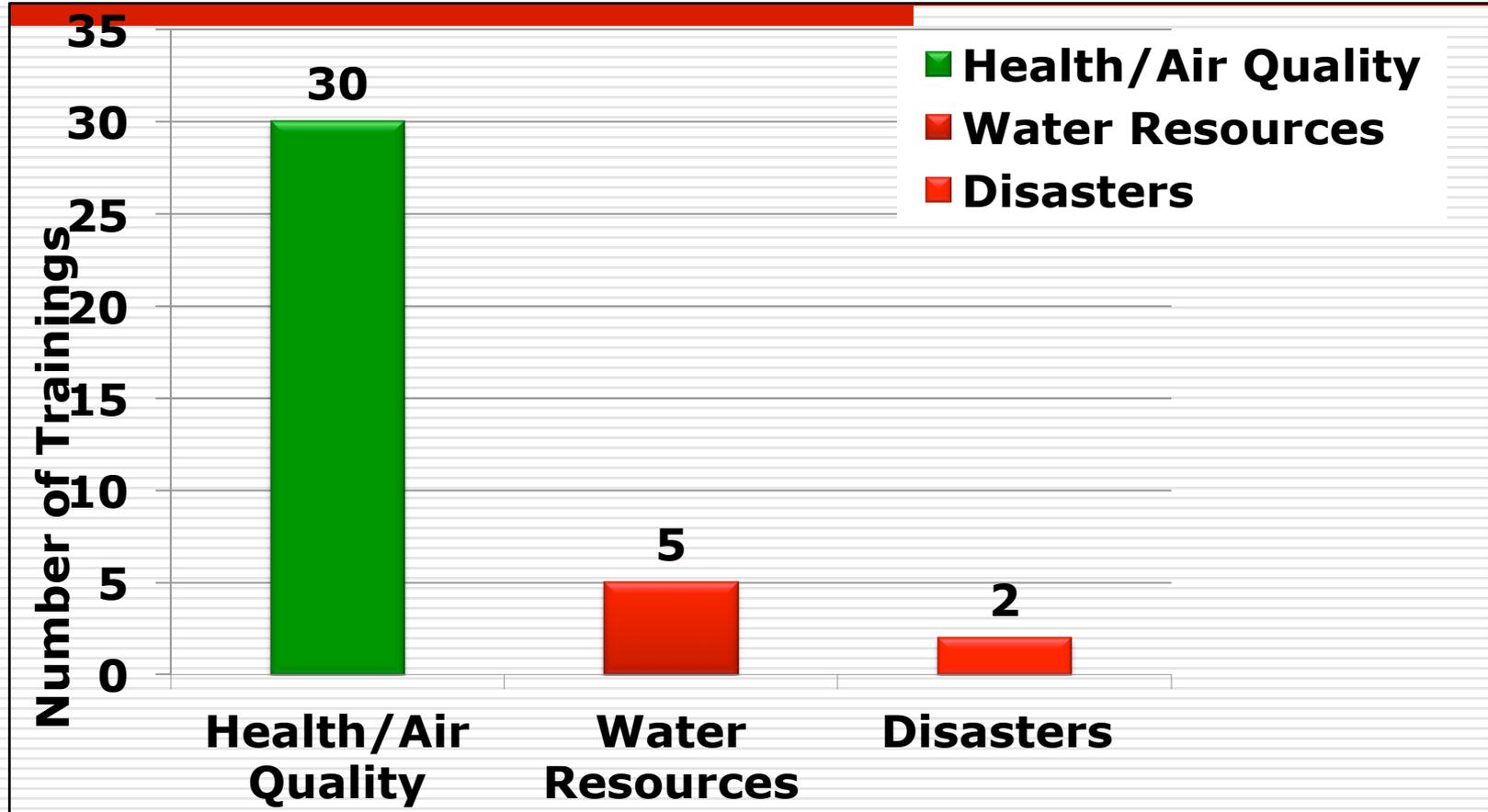
Increase utilization of NASA observational and model data for decision-support

## Objectives:

- Provide end-user communities and institutions with **professional hands-on technical workshops**
- Build long term partnerships with end-user communities and institutions in the public and private sectors



# ARSET Trainings by Societal Benefit Area

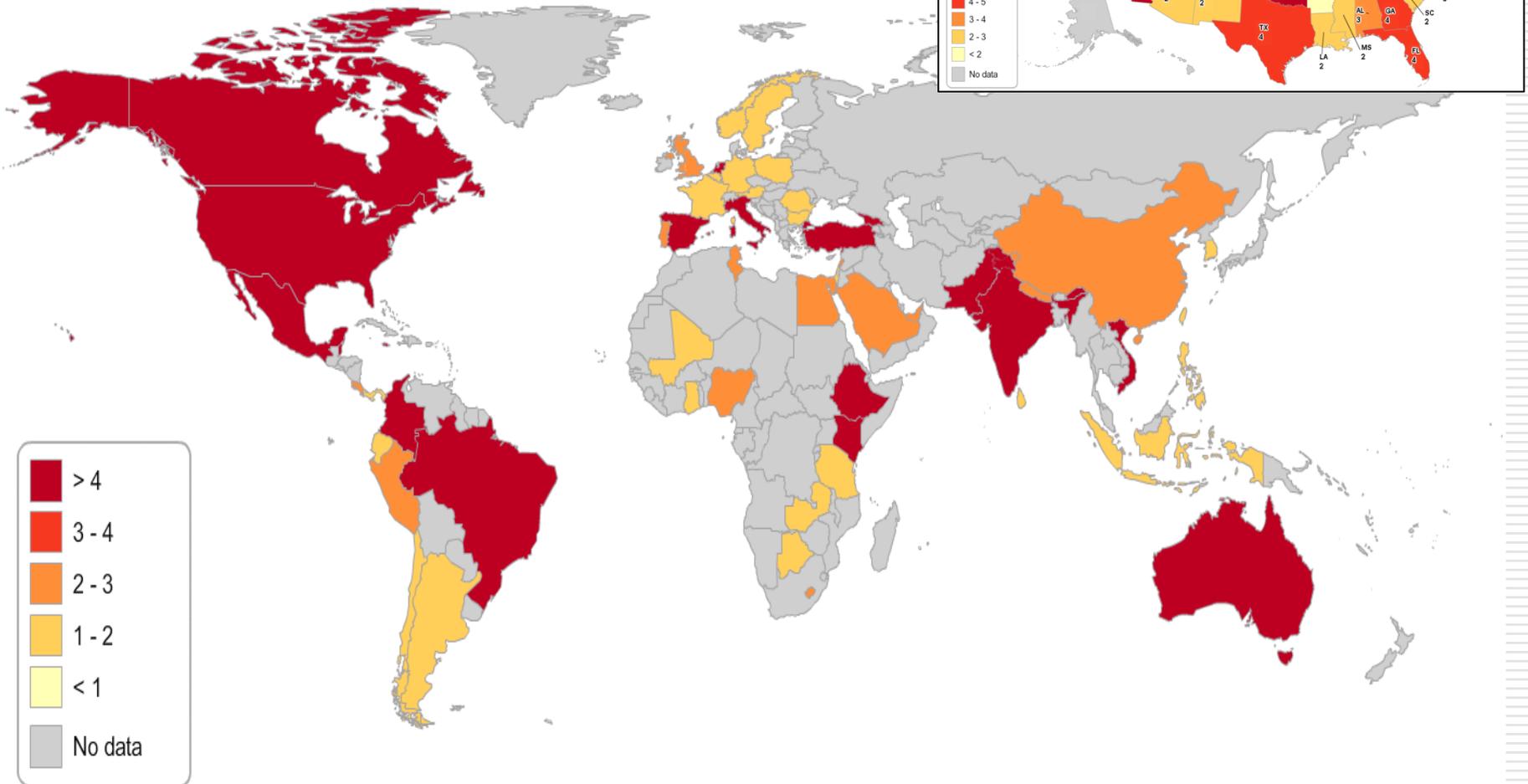


**2008 – 2014: + 1600 End-users  
: + 400 organization**

# ARSET: 2008 – 2014

+1600 End-users Reached

Number of participating organizations per country: Air Quality, Water Resources, Flood Monitoring.



**?**

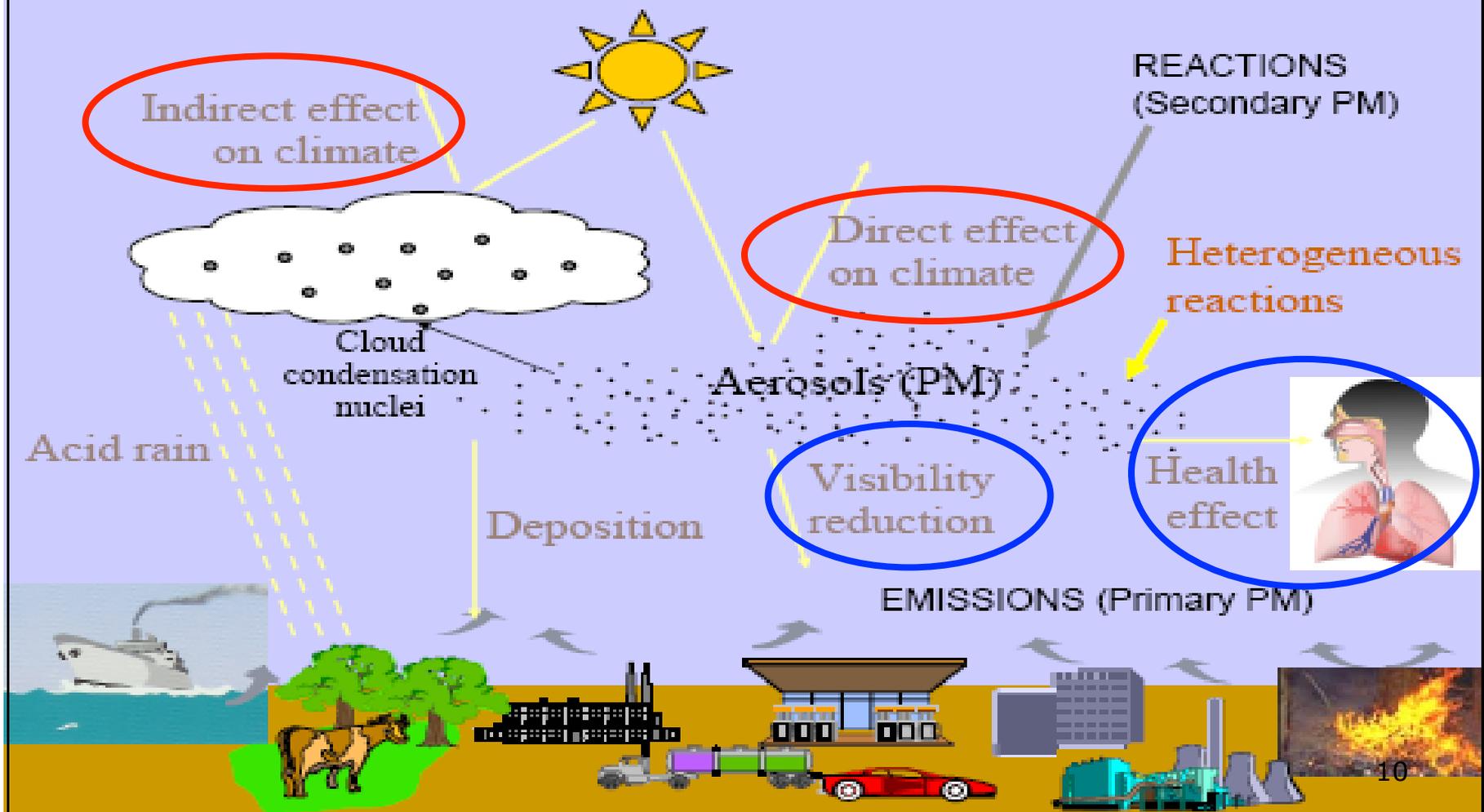
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# **Satellite Remote Sensing of Air Quality**

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# Motivation – tiny but Potent

## Effects of Atmospheric Aerosols



# Pollution and Breathing

## News Focus

Particle air pollution clearly causes substantial deaths and illness, but what makes fine particles so toxic—the size, the chemical compound, or both?

## Mounting Evidence Indicts Fine-Particle Pollution



**At risk.** Studies with elderly volunteers have shown that slight changes in outdoor particle levels can change heart rate variability.

### Industrial Air Pollution: Possible Effect on Lung Cancer

*Abstract. Higher lung cancer mortality rates occurred in males living in certain heavily industrialized areas of Los Angeles County, California. These areas were characterized by elevated concentrations of benzo[a]pyrene and other polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons of primarily industrial origin in the soil and air.*

***Industrial pollution  
linked to lung cancer***

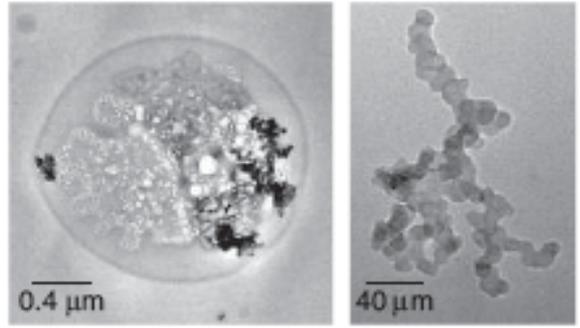
# Pollution and Health

## Air Pollution–Related Illness Effects of Particles

André Nel

**W**orldwide epidemiological studies show a consistent increase in cardiac and respiratory morbidity and mortality from exposure to particulate matter (PM) (1–3). PM is a key ingredient of polluted air and is estimated to kill more than 500,000 people each year (4).

Enhanced online at  
[www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/308/5723/894](http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/308/5723/894)



**Dangerous dirt.** (Left) Electron micrograph of a fine mode particle collected by an impactor from air outside an engineering laboratory at the University of California, Los Angeles. A halo surrounds residues of what are probably inorganic salts and polar organic compounds dissolved in the original aqueous droplet. Sootlike particles are also present. (Right) Aggregates of ultrafine particles collected on the last stage of an eight-stage impactor. These are soot particles emitted from diesel engine sources such as buses. More volatile particles may have evaporated in the electron microscope.

*Increase in cardiac and respiratory illnesses*

# Pollution Suppresses Rain

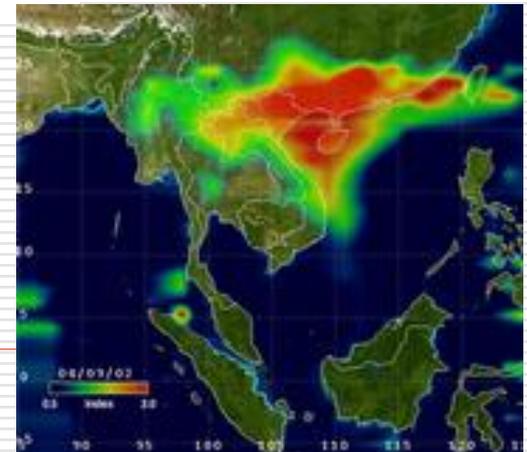
## Suppression of Rain and Snow by Urban and Industrial Air Pollution

Daniel Rosenfeld

Direct evidence demonstrates that urban and industrial air pollution can completely shut off precipitation from clouds that have temperatures at their tops of about  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  over large areas. Satellite data reveal plumes of reduced cloud particle size and suppressed precipitation originating from major urban areas and from industrial facilities such as power plants. Measurements obtained by the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission satellite reveal that both cloud droplet coalescence and ice precipitation formation are inhibited in polluted clouds.

**Pollution reduces size of  
cloud droplets**

**Shuts off rain processes**



# Pollution affects rice harvest

## Air pollution and climate change both reduce Indian rice harvests

Wolfgang Cramer\*

Department of Global Change and Natural Systems, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, D-14412 Potsdam, Germany

An ever-changing mix of anthropogenic pollutants alters the chemical and physical properties of the atmosphere and thereby causes potentially negative impacts on human society. To establish a robust cause-and-effect chain, all the way from a particular kind of emission to its economic and/or social impacts, remains a transdisciplinary tour de force with several risks of failure along the way. The first major link along such a chain, that between increased aerosol loads ("atmospheric brown clouds" or ABC) over the Indian subcontinent, globally increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations, and regional changes in temperature, rainfall, and surface-near radiation, requires consideration of chemical and physical



Despite remaining open questions, the basic mechanisms linking regional climatic conditions in South Asia to ABC are known from a combination of measurement campaigns and model simulations (7). First, the radiation budget is strongly affected by the presence of haze (Fig. 1), which reduces direct radiation at the surface (land or ocean, approximately  $-10$  to  $-15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , during the 1990s) and warms the troposphere by approximately the same amount of energy. On average, the net solar forcing at the top of the atmosphere changes by  $<1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , but much higher values may occur between January and May. Particularly during this period, substantial dimming of solar radiation

**Pollution reduces sunlight and rainfall**  
**11% drop in yields**

from India and Bangladesh satellite's MODIS 2001 (Image courtesy <http://visiblaearth.com>).

# No boundaries for pollution

## Global Air Pollution Crossroads over the Mediterranean

J. Lelieveld,<sup>1\*</sup> H. Berresheim,<sup>2</sup> S. Borrmann,<sup>1,3</sup> P. J. Crutzen,<sup>1,4</sup>  
F. J. Dentener,<sup>5</sup> H. Fischer,<sup>1</sup> J. Feichter,<sup>6</sup> P. J. Flatau,<sup>4,7</sup> J. Heland,<sup>8</sup>  
R. Holzinger,<sup>1</sup> R. Korrman,<sup>1</sup> M. G. Lawrence,<sup>1</sup> Z. Levin,<sup>9</sup>  
K. M. Markowicz,<sup>4,10</sup> N. Mihalopoulos,<sup>11</sup> A. Minikin,<sup>8</sup>  
V. Ramanathan,<sup>4</sup> M. de Reus,<sup>1</sup> G. J. Roelofs,<sup>12</sup> H. A. Scheeren,<sup>12</sup>  
J. Sciare,<sup>13</sup> H. Schlager,<sup>8</sup> M. Schultz,<sup>6</sup> P. Siegmund,<sup>14</sup> B. Steil,<sup>1</sup>  
E. G. Stephanou,<sup>11</sup> P. Stier,<sup>6</sup> M. Traub,<sup>1</sup> C. Warneke,<sup>15</sup>  
J. Williams,<sup>1</sup> H. Ziereis<sup>8</sup>

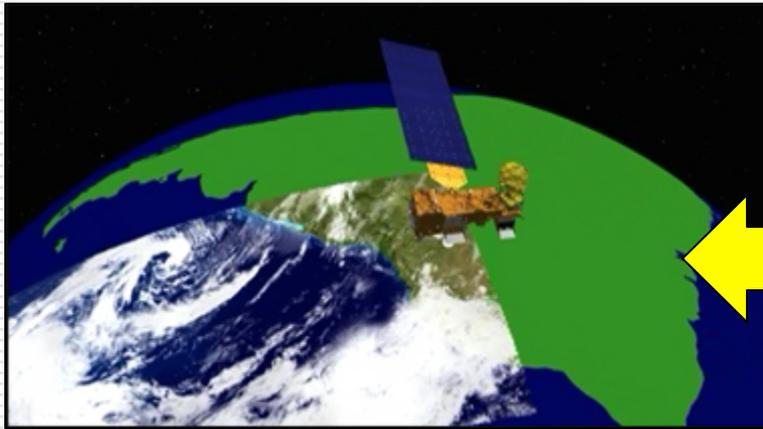
The Mediterranean Intensive Oxidant Study, performed in the summer of 2001, uncovered air pollution layers from the surface to an altitude of 15 kilometers. In the boundary layer, air pollution standards are exceeded throughout the region, caused by West and East European pollution from the north. Aerosol particles also reduce solar radiation penetration to the surface, which can suppress precipitation. In the middle troposphere, Asian and to a lesser extent North American pollution is transported from the west. Additional Asian pollution from the east, transported from the monsoon in the upper troposphere, crosses the Mediterranean tropopause, which pollutes the lower stratosphere at middle latitudes.



***Intercontinental transport***

***Air pollution standard  
exceeded***

# Thus Monitoring...



**From Space**



**From Surface**

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# Why Satellite ?

# Global Status of PM2.5 Monitoring

★ Many countries do not have PM2.5 mass measurements

★ Spatial distribution of air pollution from existing ground network does not support high population density

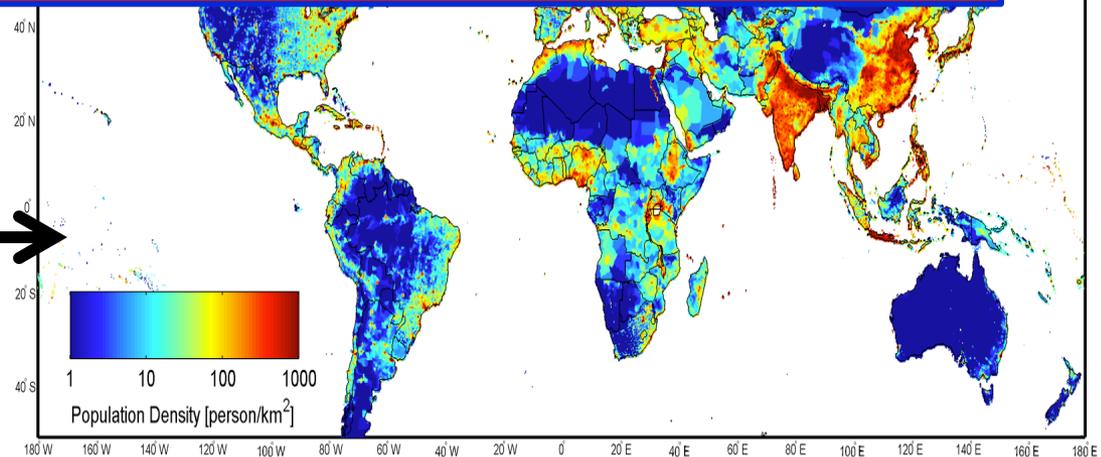
★ Surface measurements are not cost effective

★ How about using remote sensing satellites?

■ 2400 out of 3100 counties in the US (31% of total population) have no PM monitoring in the county.

Ground  
Sensor  
network

Population  
Density

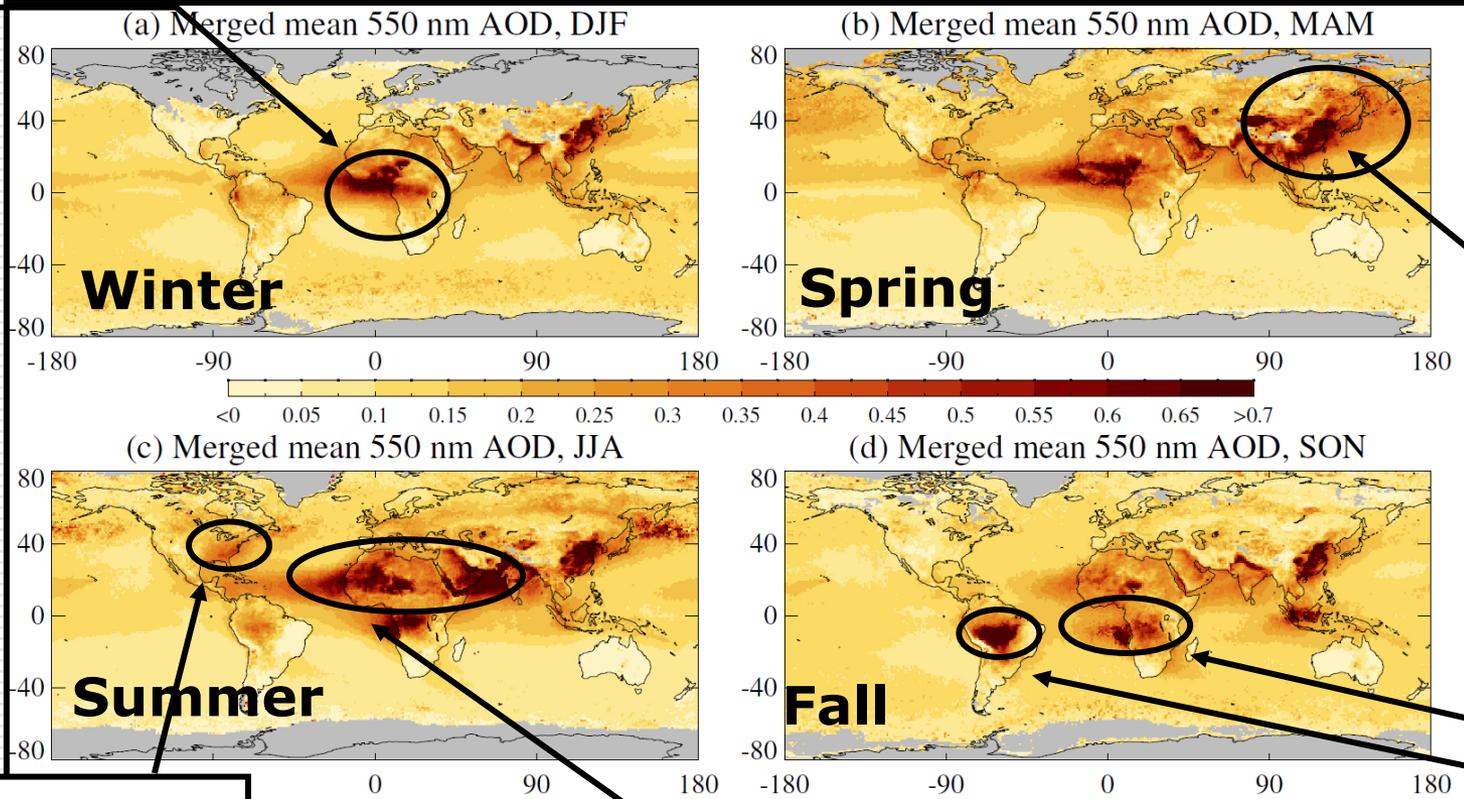


Brauer M, Ammann M, Burnett R et al.  
GBD 2010 Outdoor Air Pollution Expert Group  
2011 Submitted –under review

# Aerosols from satellite

## Aerosol Optical Thickness MODIS AQUA

**Biomass  
Burning**



**Pollution &  
dust**

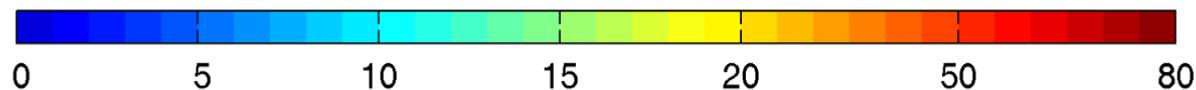
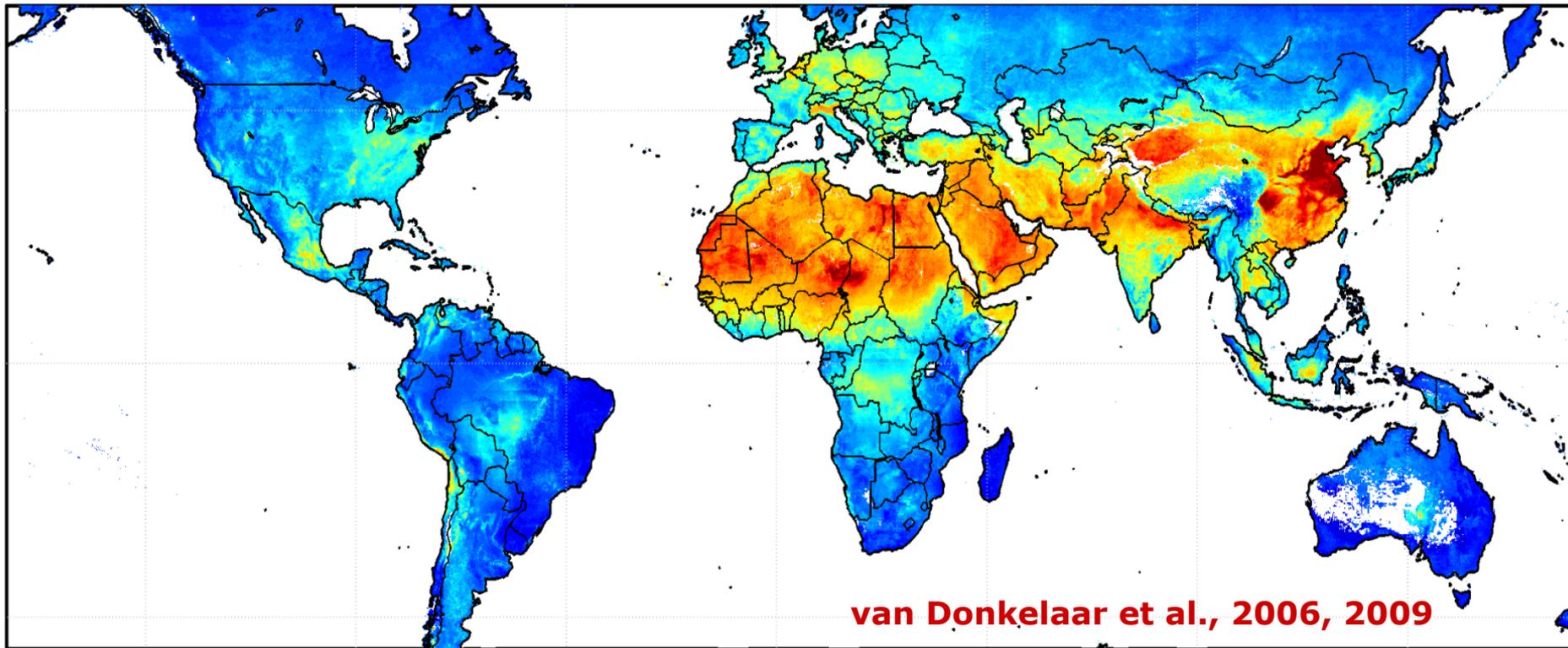
**Haze &  
Pollution**

**Dust**

**Biomass  
Burning**

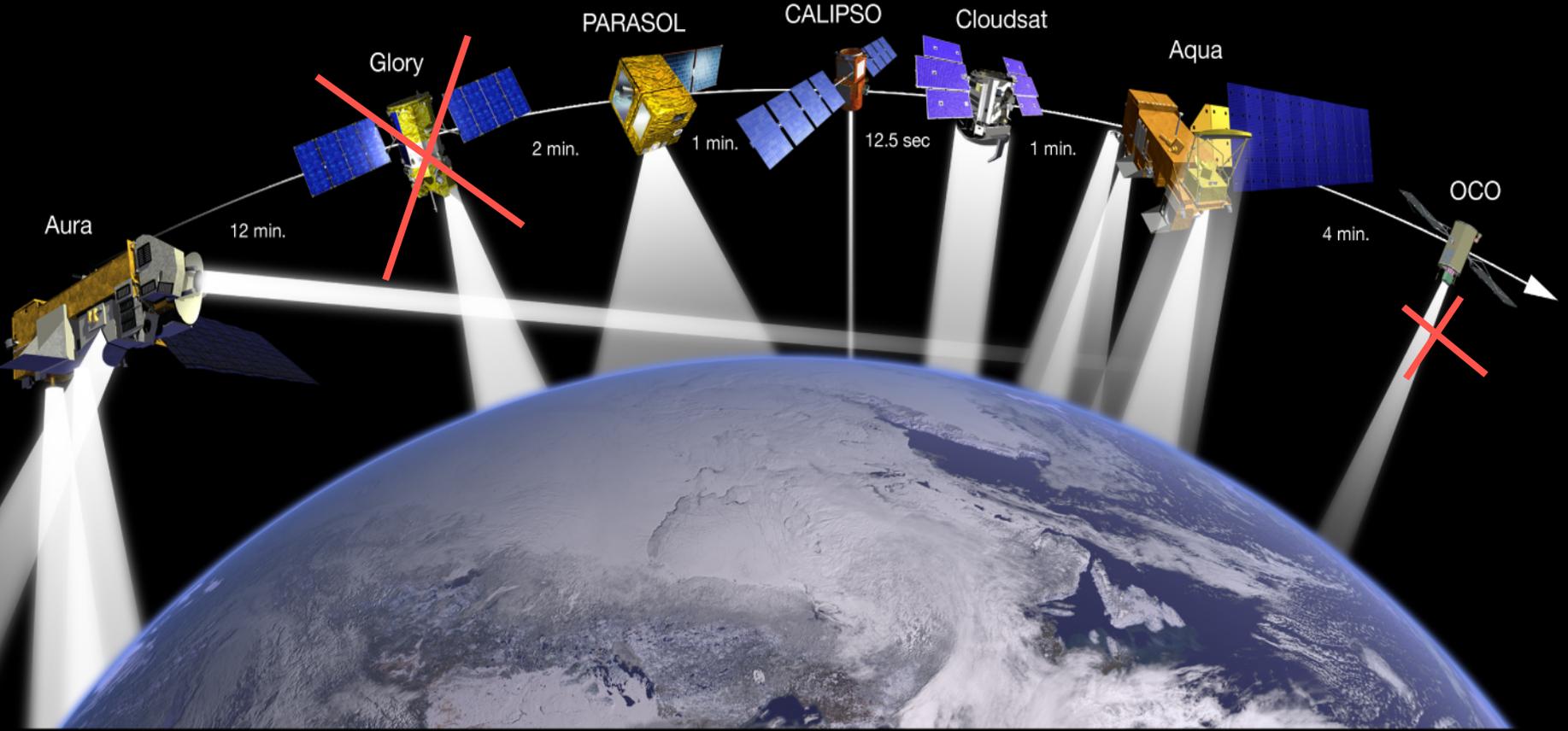
**Several satellites provide state-of-art aerosol measurements over global region on daily basis**

# Annual Mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> from Satellite Observations



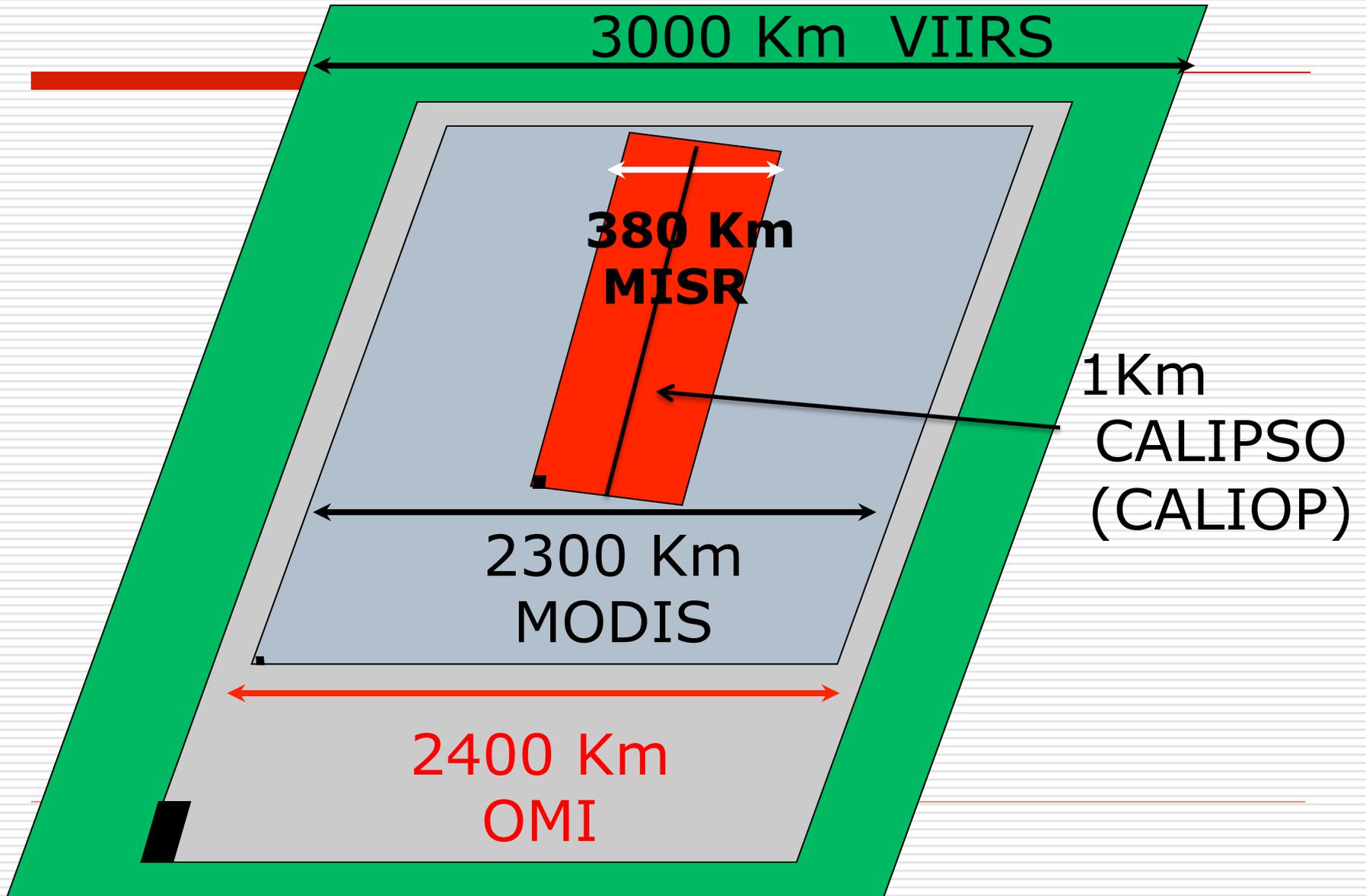
Satellite-Derived PM<sub>2.5</sub> [ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ]

# The Afternoon Constellation “A-Train”



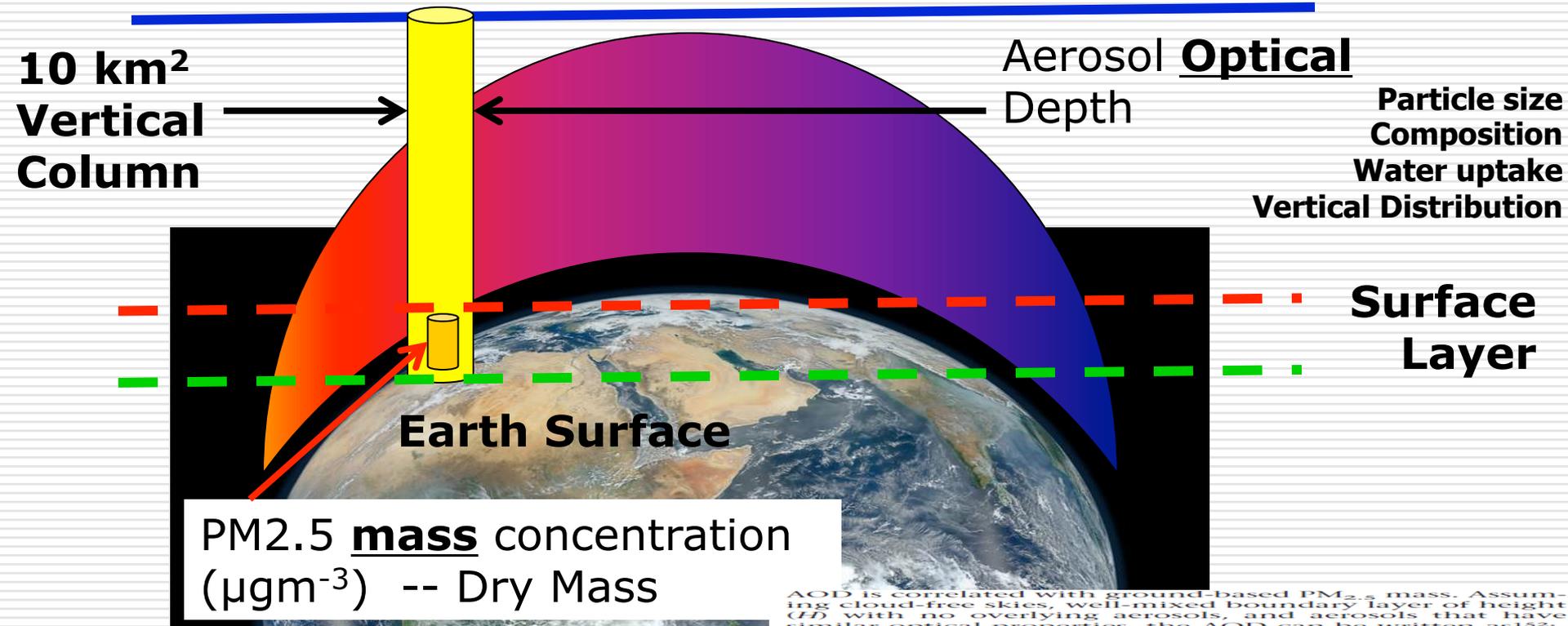
**Number of Earth Observing Satellites Provides Measurements of Atmosphere, Land and Ocean**

# Principal Satellites in Air Quality Remote Sensing



# What is our interest and what we get from satellite?

To of the Atmosphere



AOD is correlated with ground-based PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass. Assuming cloud-free skies, well-mixed boundary layer of height ( $H$ ) with no overlying aerosols, and aerosols that have similar optical properties, the AOD can be written as<sup>152</sup>:

$$AOD = PM_{2.5} H f(RH) \frac{3Q_{ext,dry}}{4\rho r_{eff}} = PM_{2.5} H S \quad (10)$$

where  $f(RH)$  is the ratio of ambient and dry extinction coefficients,  $\rho$  is the aerosol mass density ( $g \cdot m^{-3}$ ),  $Q_{ext,dry}$  is the Mie extinction efficiency, and  $r_{eff}$  is the particle effective radius (the ratio of the third to second moments of the size distribution).  $S$  is the specific extinction efficiency ( $m^2 \cdot g^{-1}$ ) of the aerosol at ambient relative humidity (RH).

# Empirical Ways to Estimate PM<sub>2.5</sub>

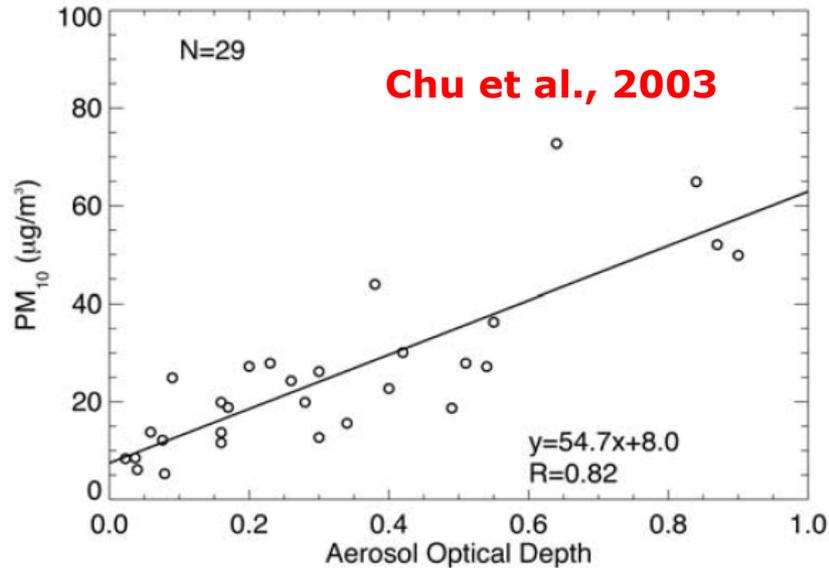


Figure 14. Relationship between 24-hour  $PM_{10}$  concentrations and daily averaged AERONET  $\tau_a$  measurements from August to October 2000 in northern Italy.

## Intercomparison between satellite-derived AOT and $PM_{2.5}$ mass: Implications for air quality

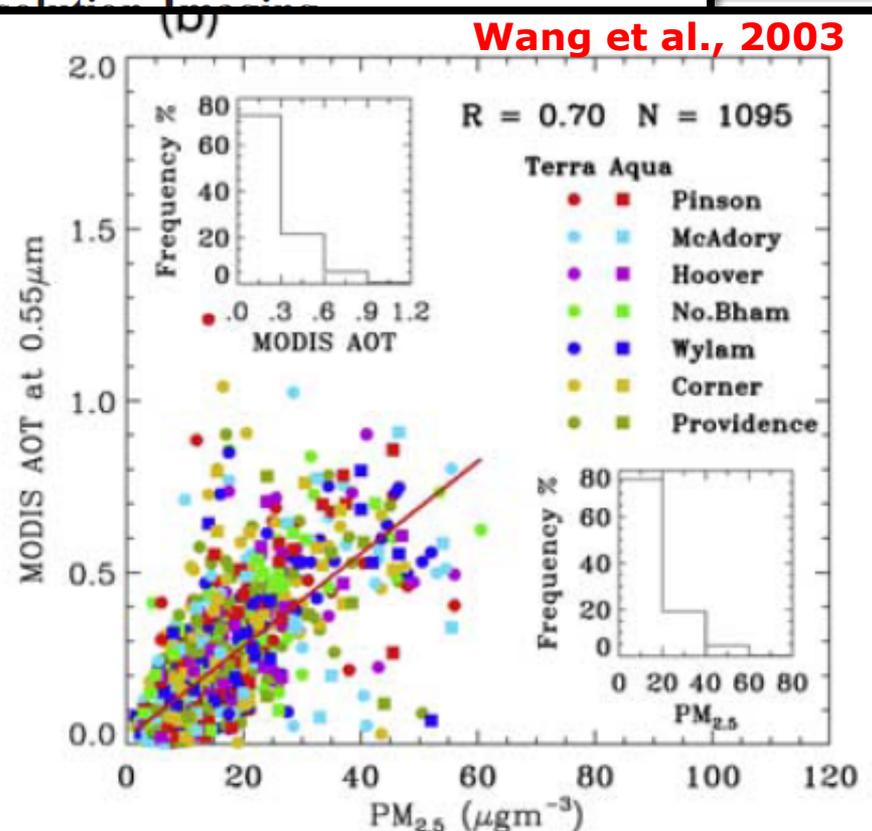
Jun Wang and Sundar A. Christopher

Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alabama in Huntsville

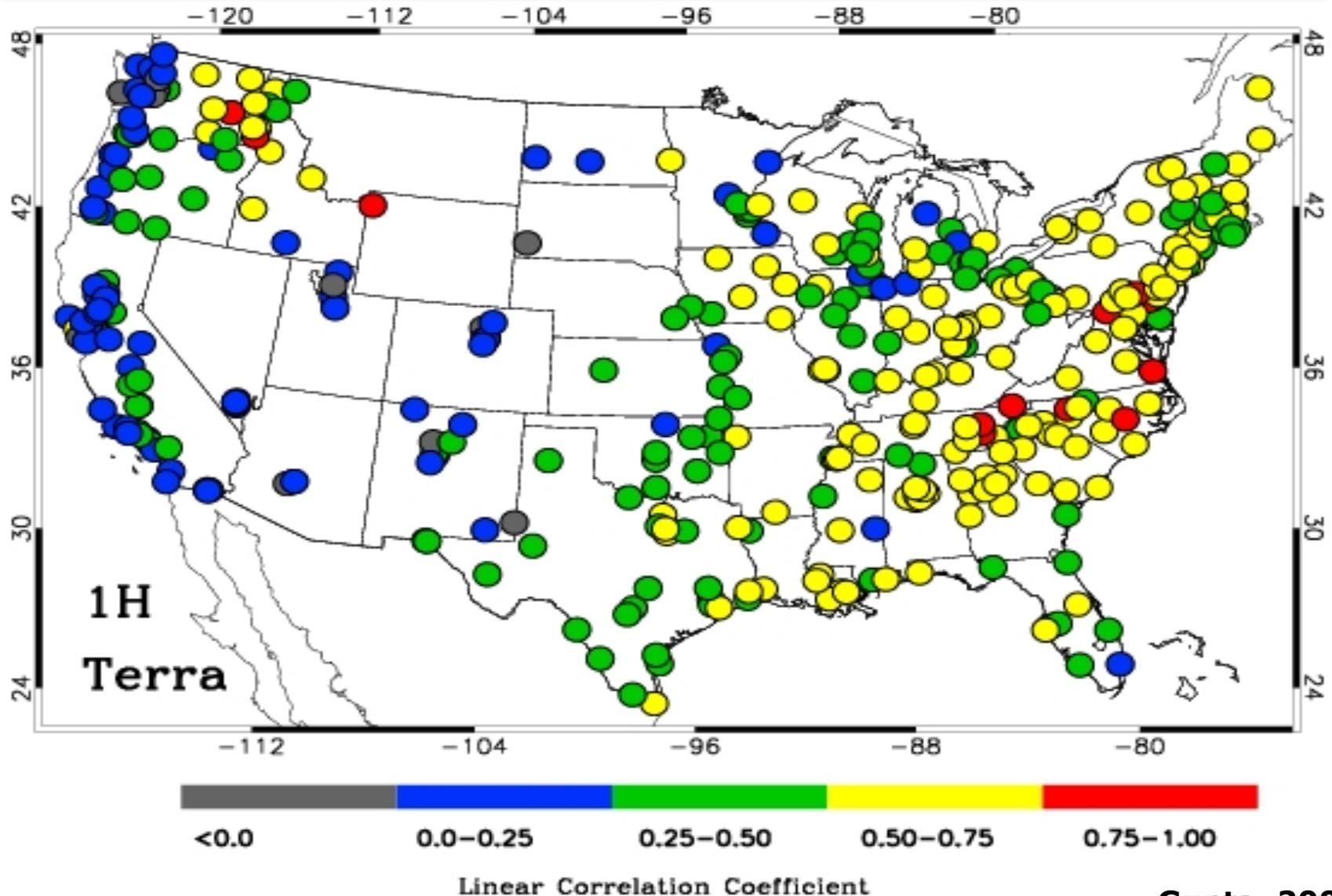
Received 14 July 2003; revised 13 August 2003; accepted 10 September 2003

J. Geophys. Res., Vol. 108, NO. D21, 4661, doi:10.1029/2002JD003179, 2003

Over land from the Earth

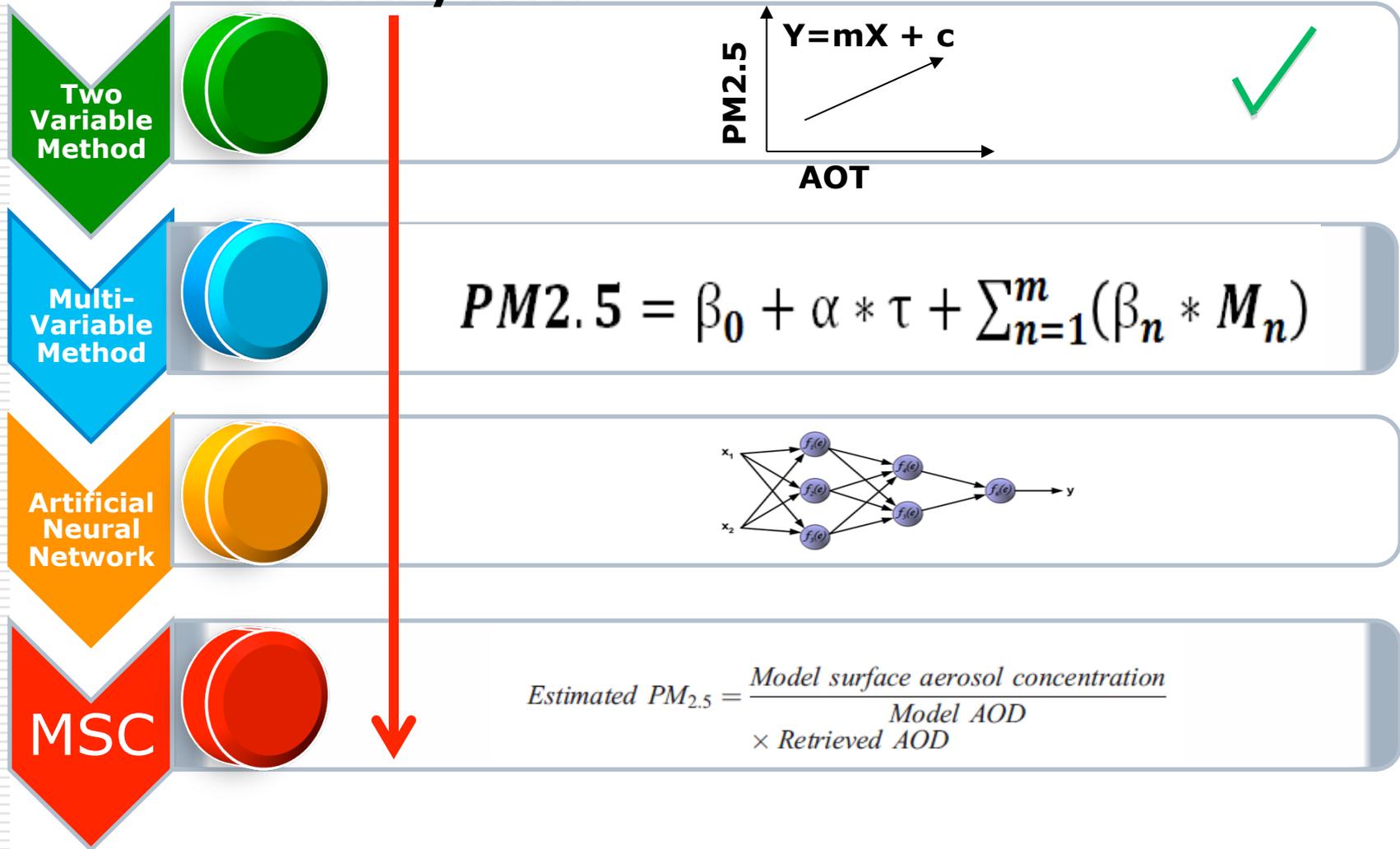


# AOT-PM2.5 Relationship



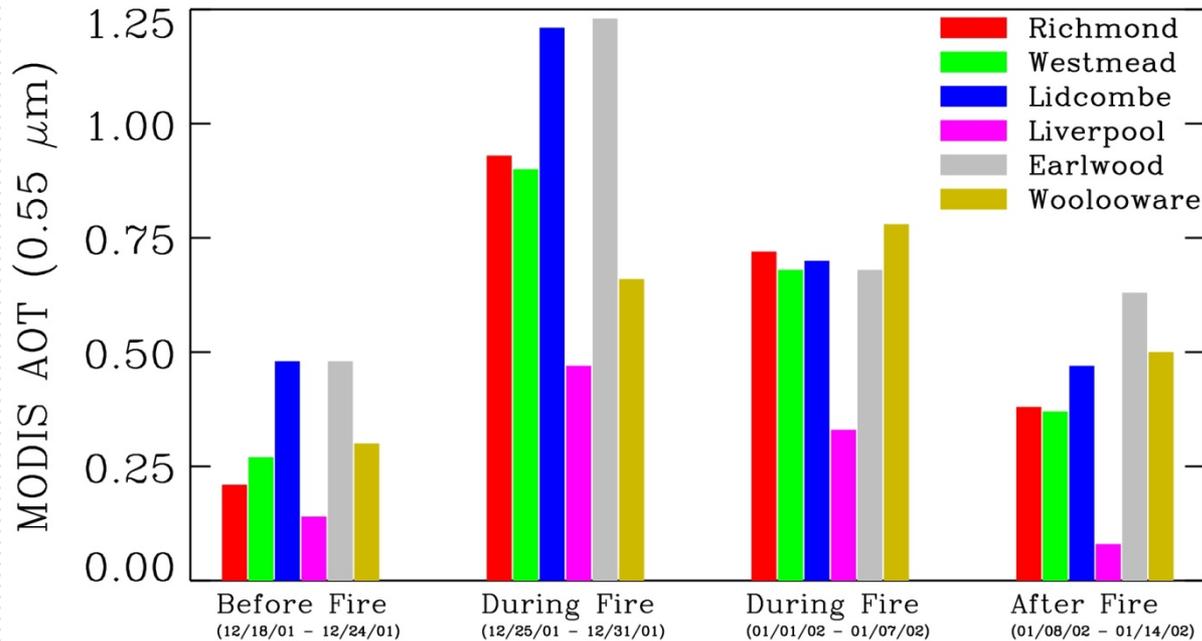
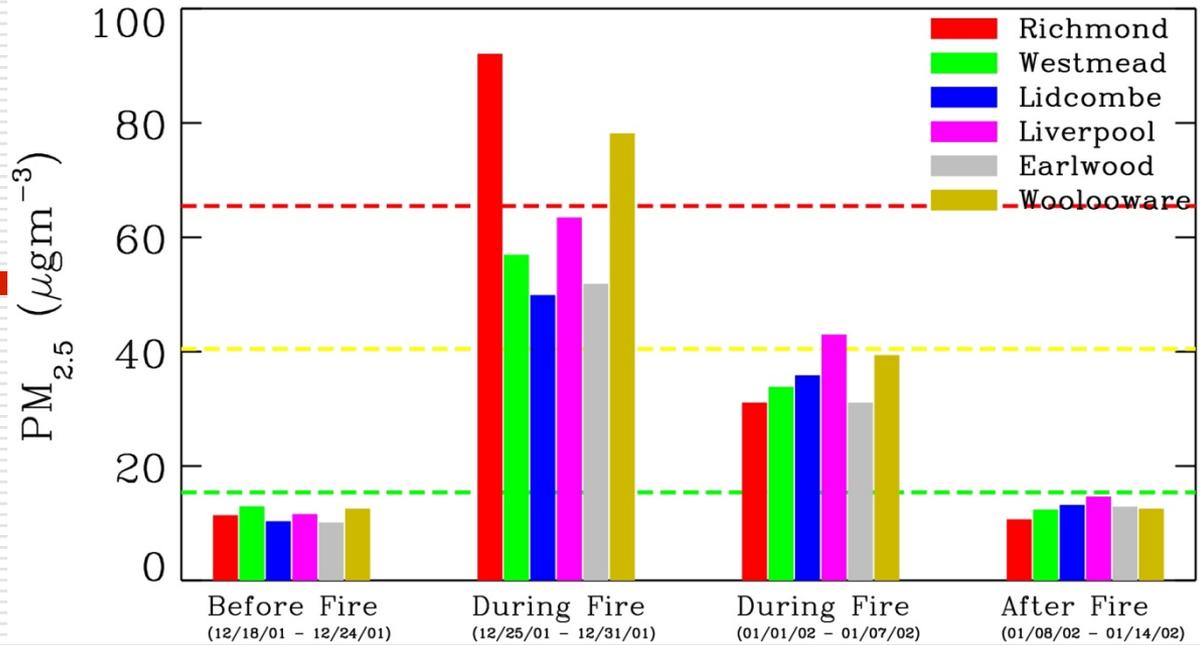
# PM2.5 Estimation: Popular Methods

Difficulty Level

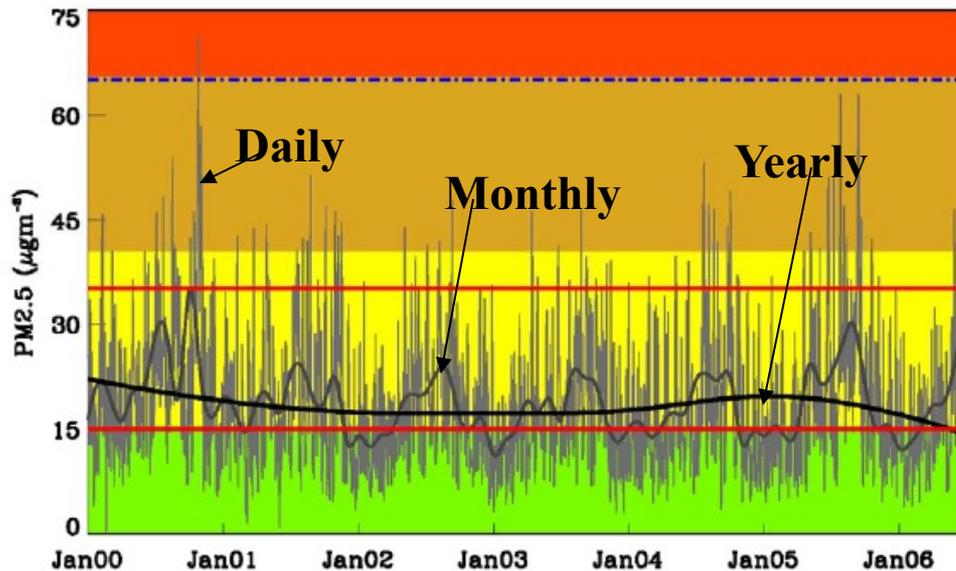


**and Empirical Methods, Data Assimilation etc. are under utilized**

# Application of Satellite Observations during bushfires in Sydney, Australia

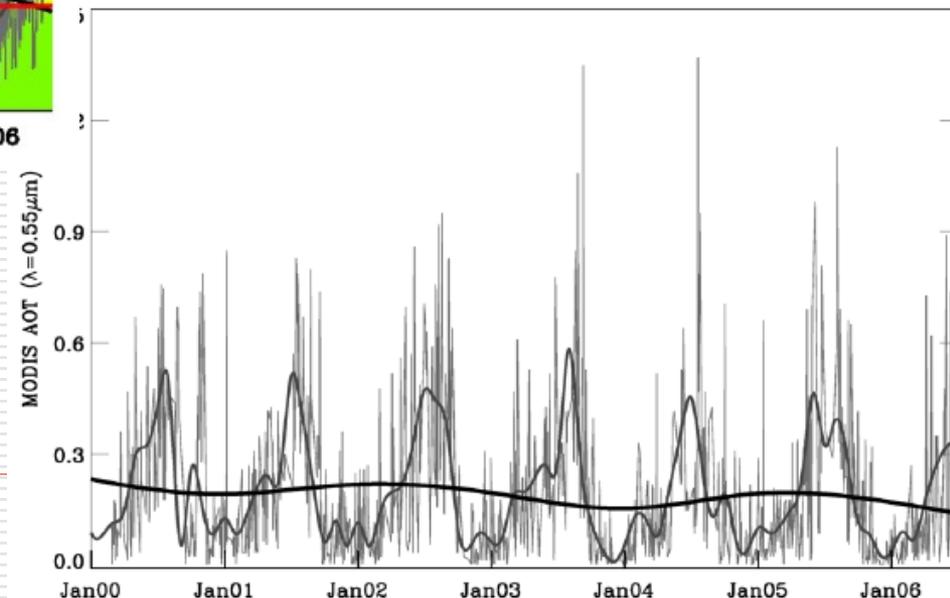


# Air Quality Trends: Birmingham, AL

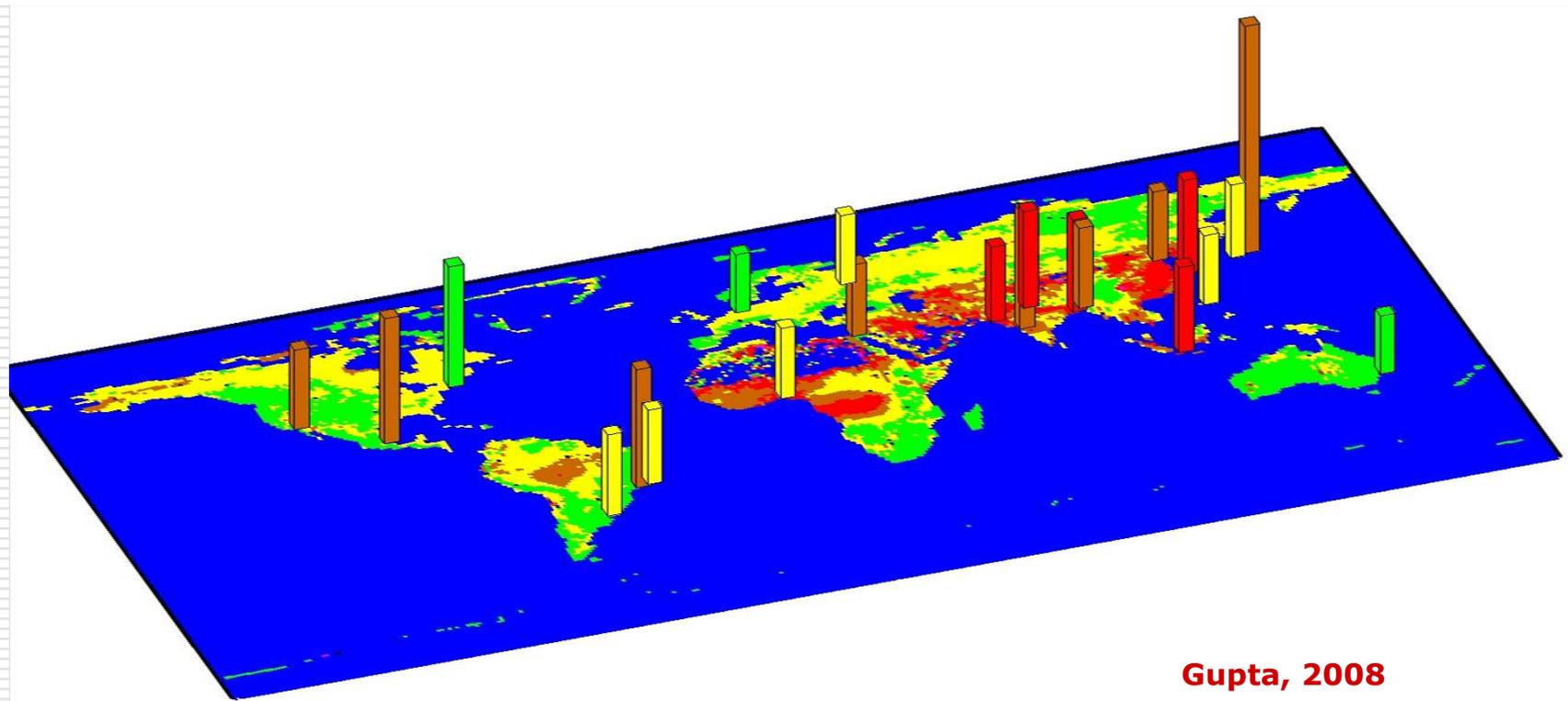


**A decreasing trend in annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> was noted with the almost 22% reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass concentration was observed in 2006 compared to 2002.**

**MODIS-Terra Collection 5,  
Level 2, 10 km<sup>2</sup> AOTs for  
2000-2006**

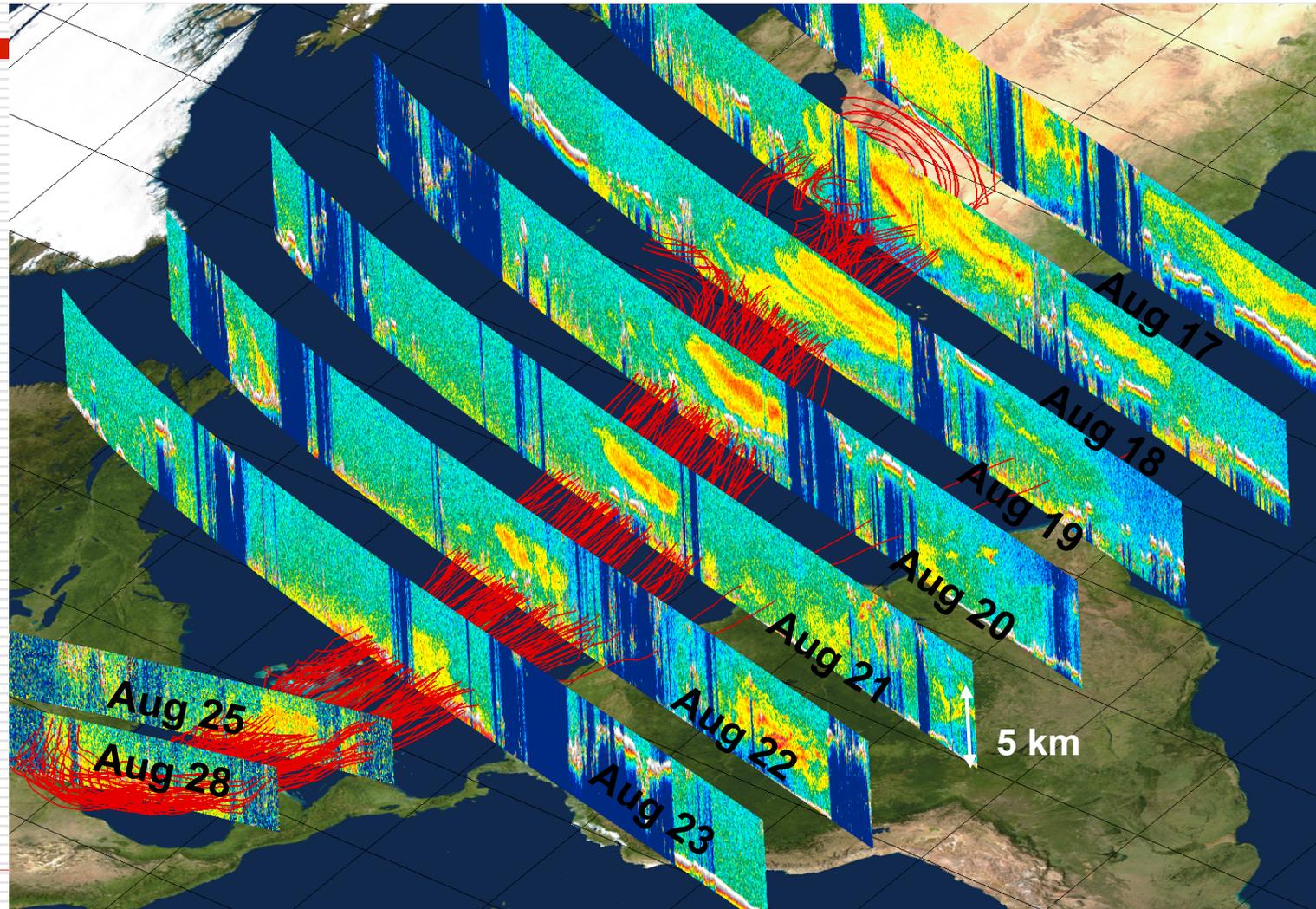


# Another view of air quality over global regions



**Satellite derived air quality conditions are poor in almost all of the global mega cities with population more than 10 million**

# *Example of CALIPSO Data: Major Saharan Dust Transport Event: Aug 17-28*



(courtesy of Dave Winker, P.I. CALIPSO)

# Aerosols - Particulate Matter (PM10, PM2.5)

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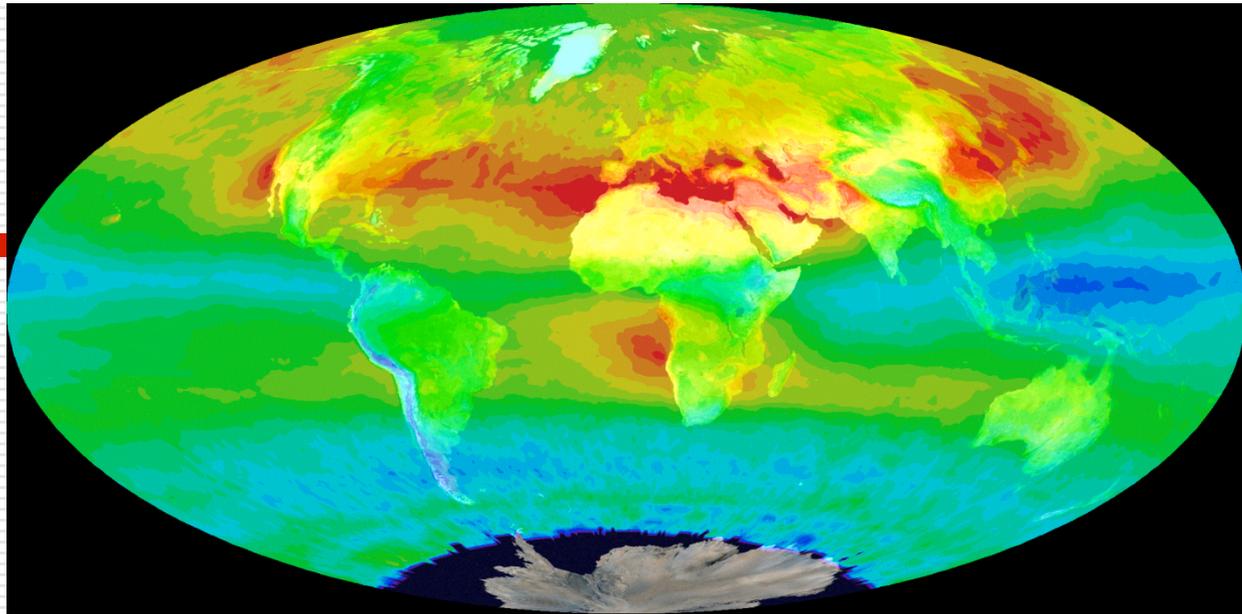
- MODIS
  - MISR
  - OMI
  - VIIRS
  - POLDER
  - CALIPSO
  - GOES
    - GOES-R
    - TEMPO
    - PACE
  - GEO-CAPE
-

# Trace Gases

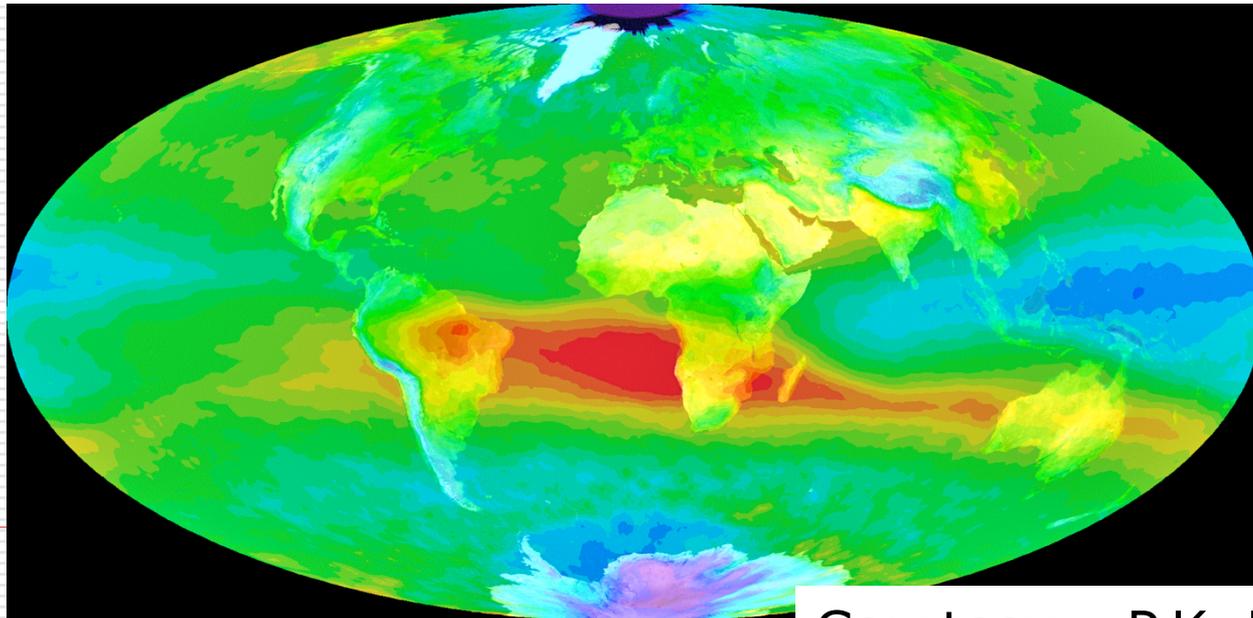
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# Ozone below 10 km from a NASA satellite

June-Aug  
2006

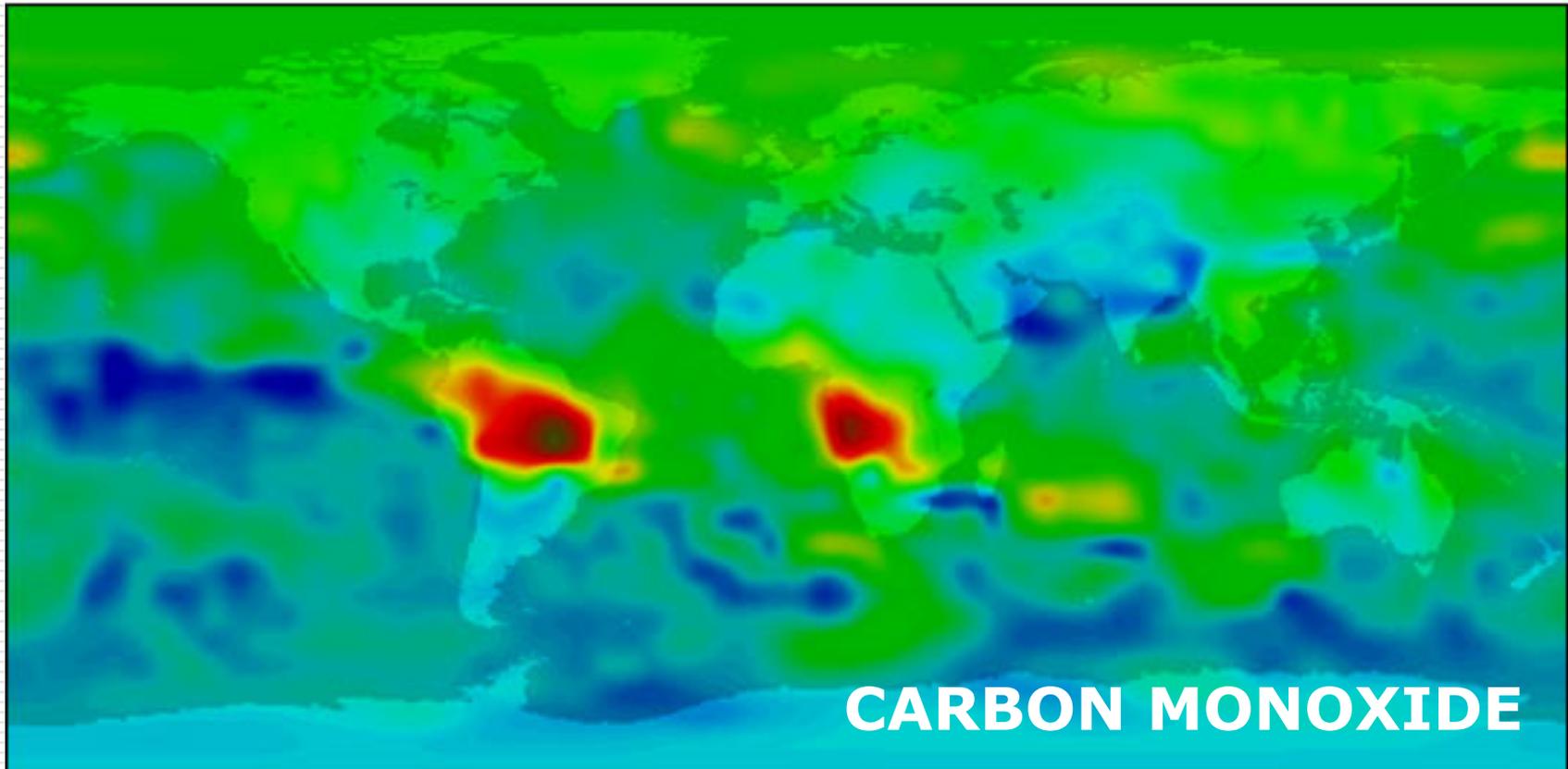


Sept-Nov  
2006



Courtesy – P.K. Bhartia

# Pollution Gas - MOPITT



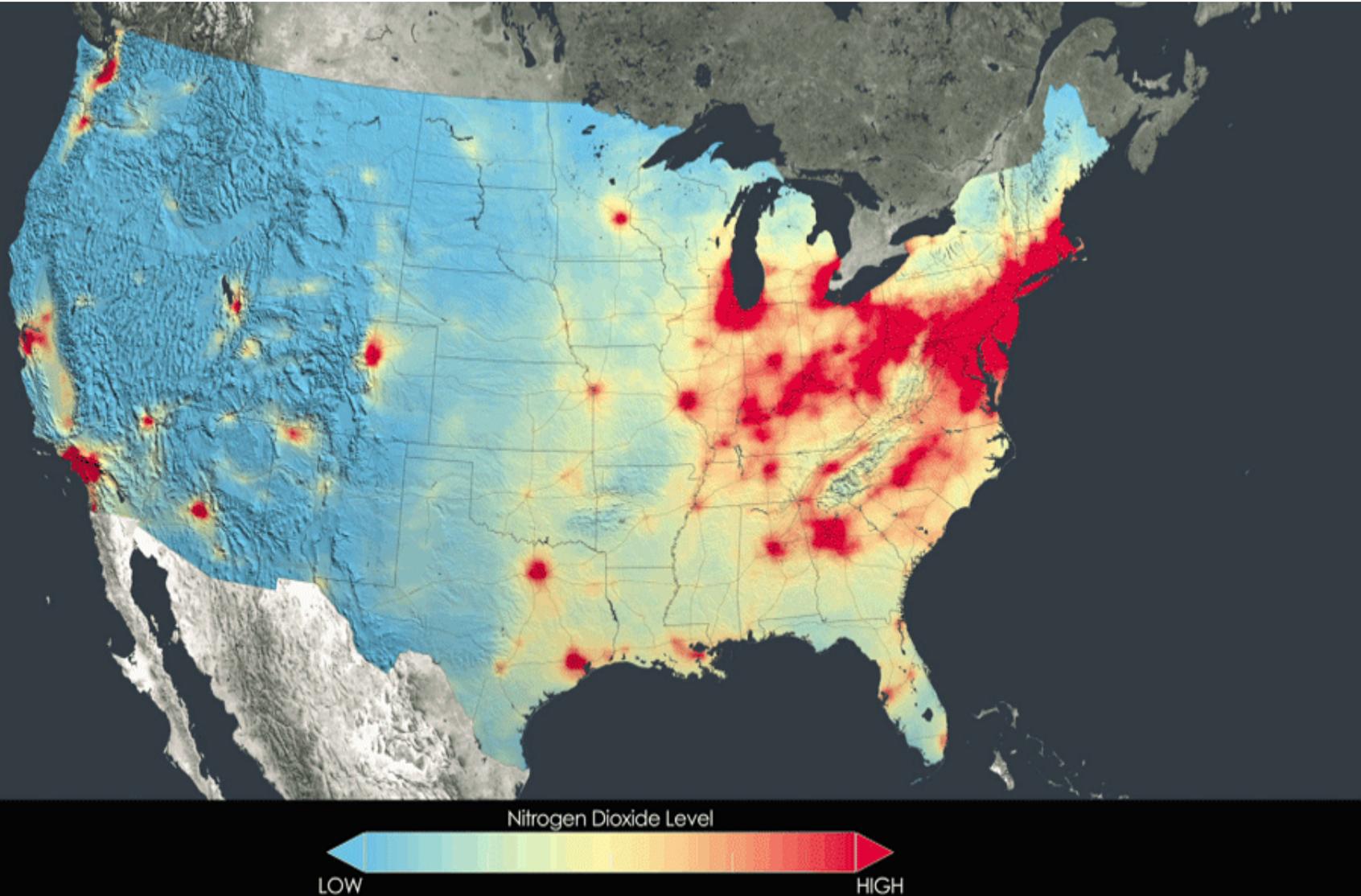
October 30, 2000

Carbon Monoxide Concentration (parts per billion)



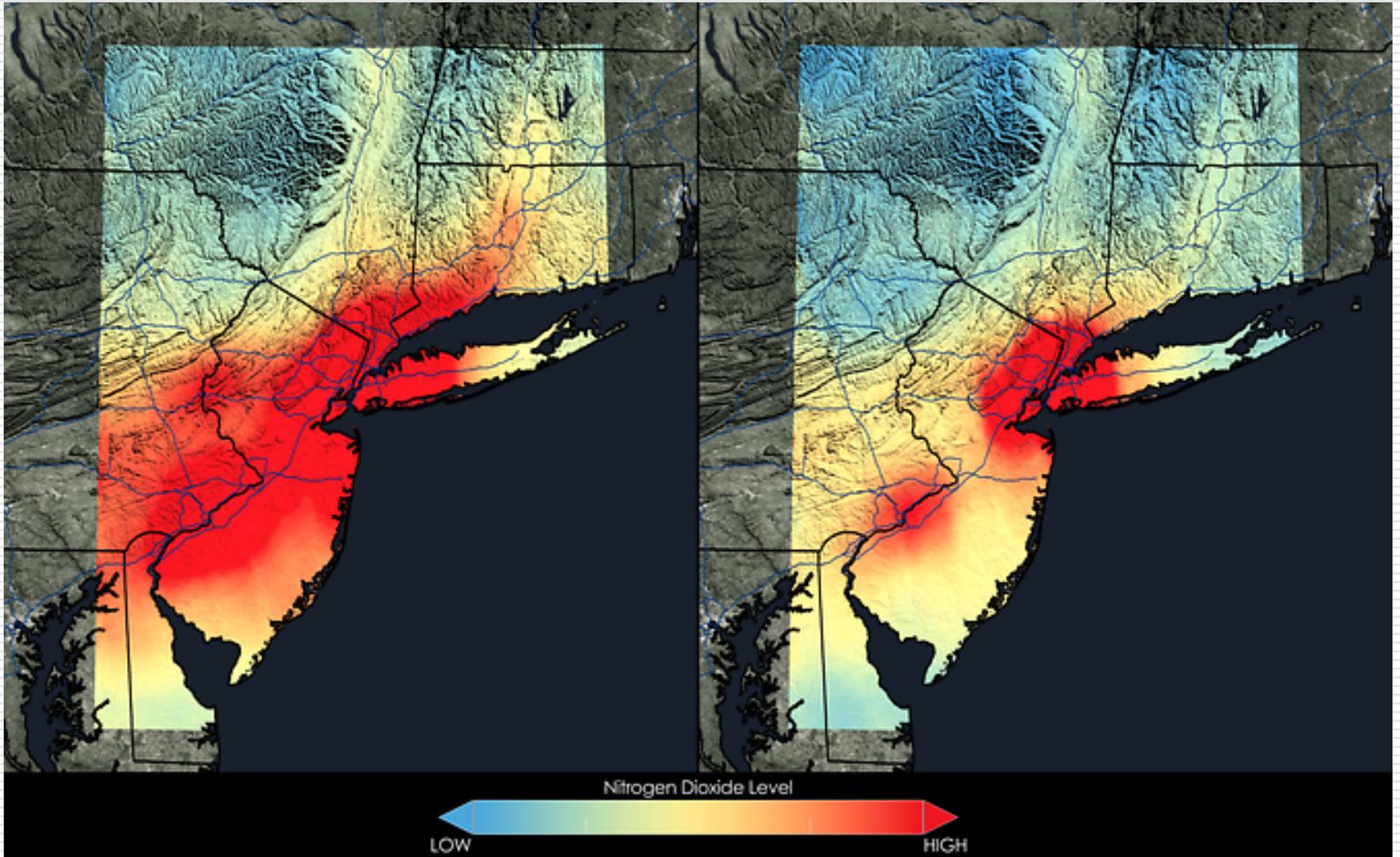
Courtesy – P.K. Bhartia

# NO2 Trends over United States

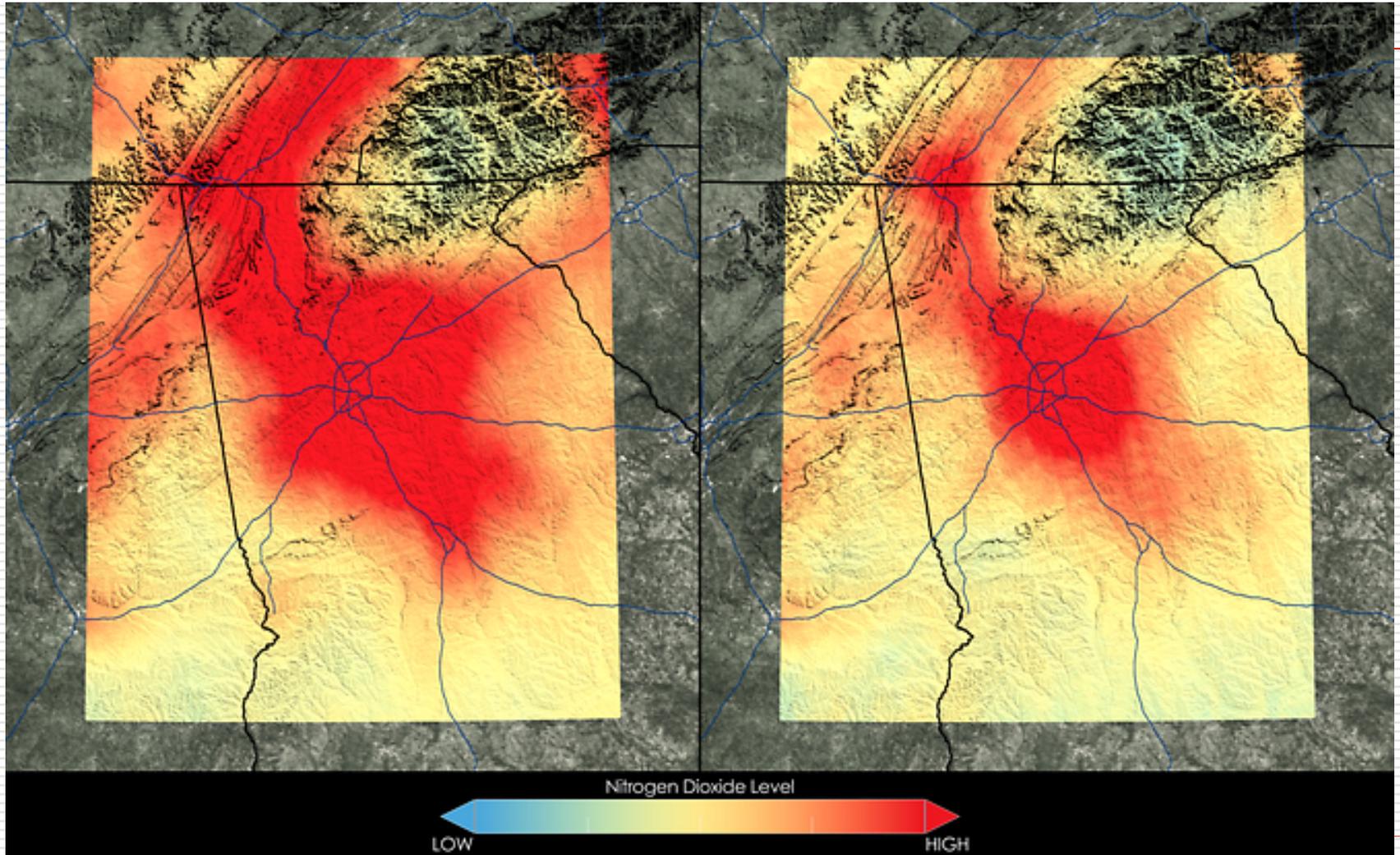


[http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/new-nasa-images-highlight-us-air-quality-improvement/#.VBmon\\_IdWS0](http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/new-nasa-images-highlight-us-air-quality-improvement/#.VBmon_IdWS0)

# NO2 Trends over New York City

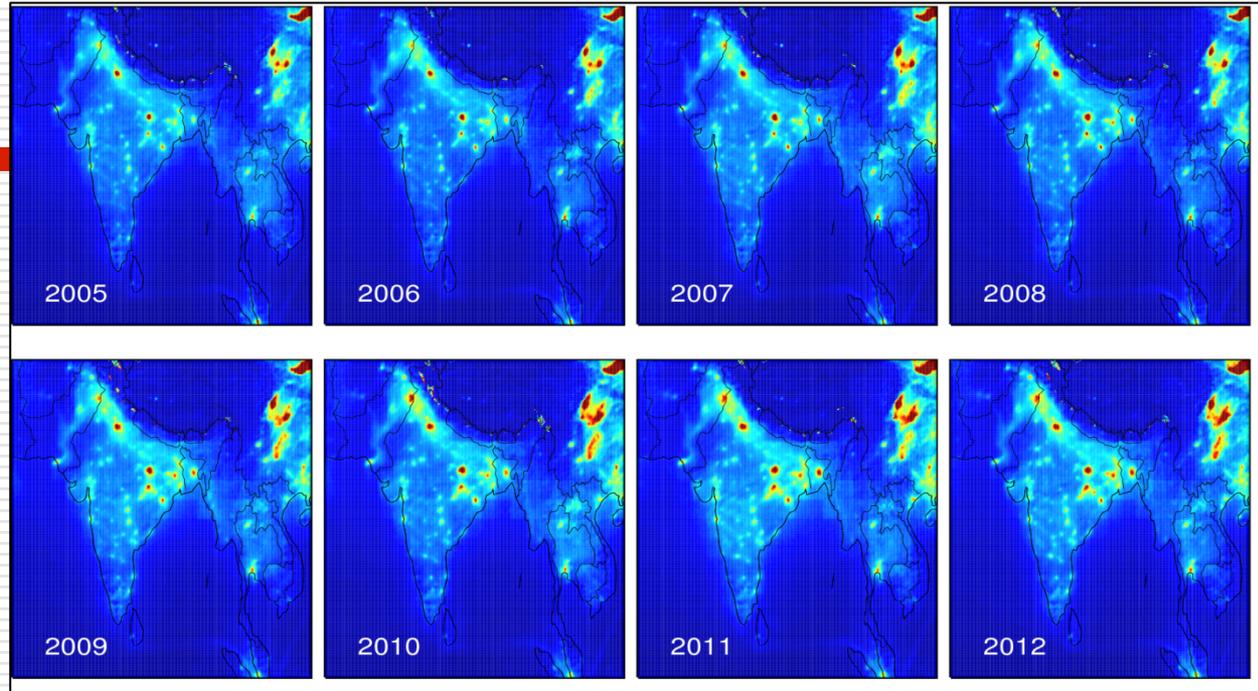


# NO2 Trends over Atlanta

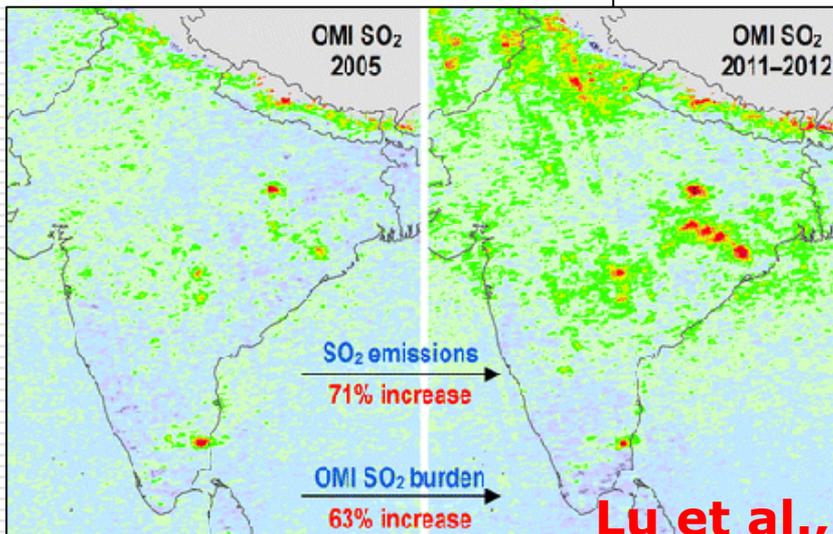


# NO<sub>2</sub> & SO<sub>2</sub> from OMI

**OMI NO<sub>2</sub>  
Trends**



courtesy: Lok Lamsal



**Lu et al., 2013**

**OMI SO<sub>2</sub>  
Trends**

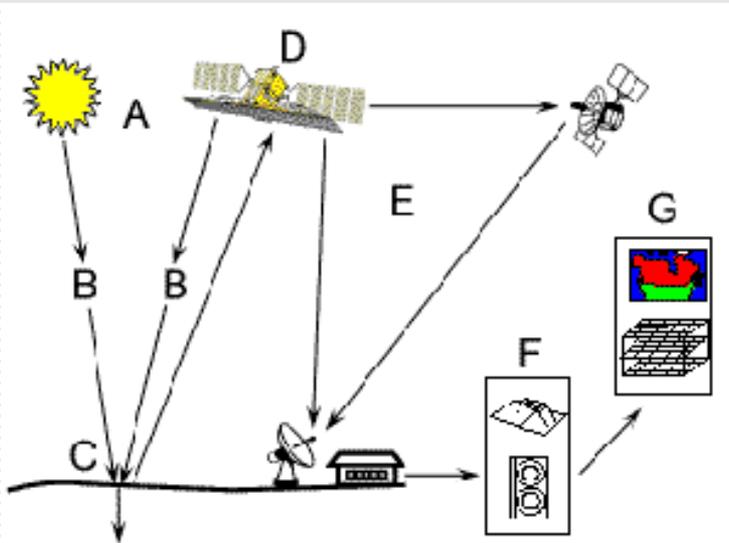
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**What you get to learn at a  
typical ARSET training?**

**Or**

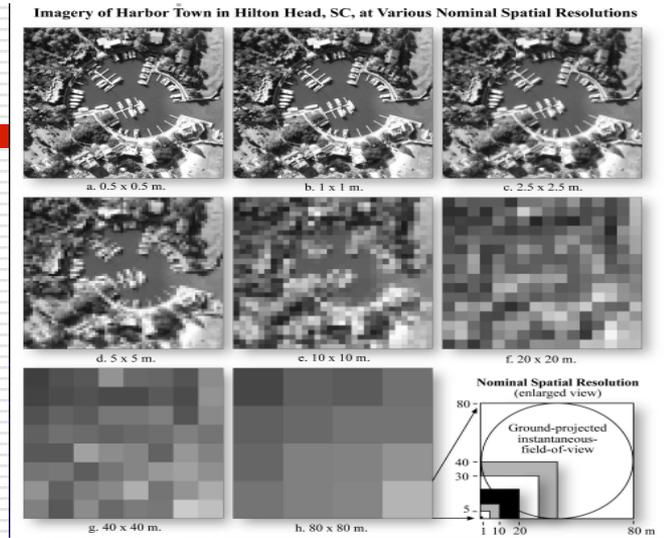
**How ARSET can help?**

# Fundamental of Satellite Remote Sensing

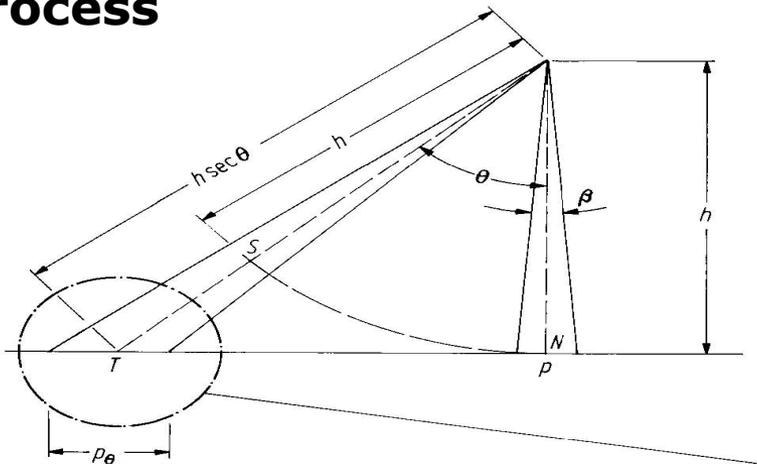


**Remote Sensing Process**

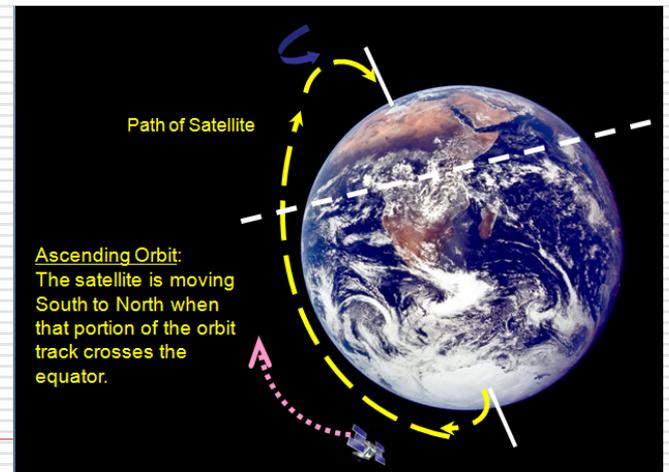
© CCRS / CCT



**Resolutions**



**Observation Geometry**



**Orbits**

# Earth Observing Systems



# What can we learn from true color imagery? Access & Interpretation

MODIS Terra  
Image from April  
19 2013

Clouds

Snow

Aerosol  
s over  
land

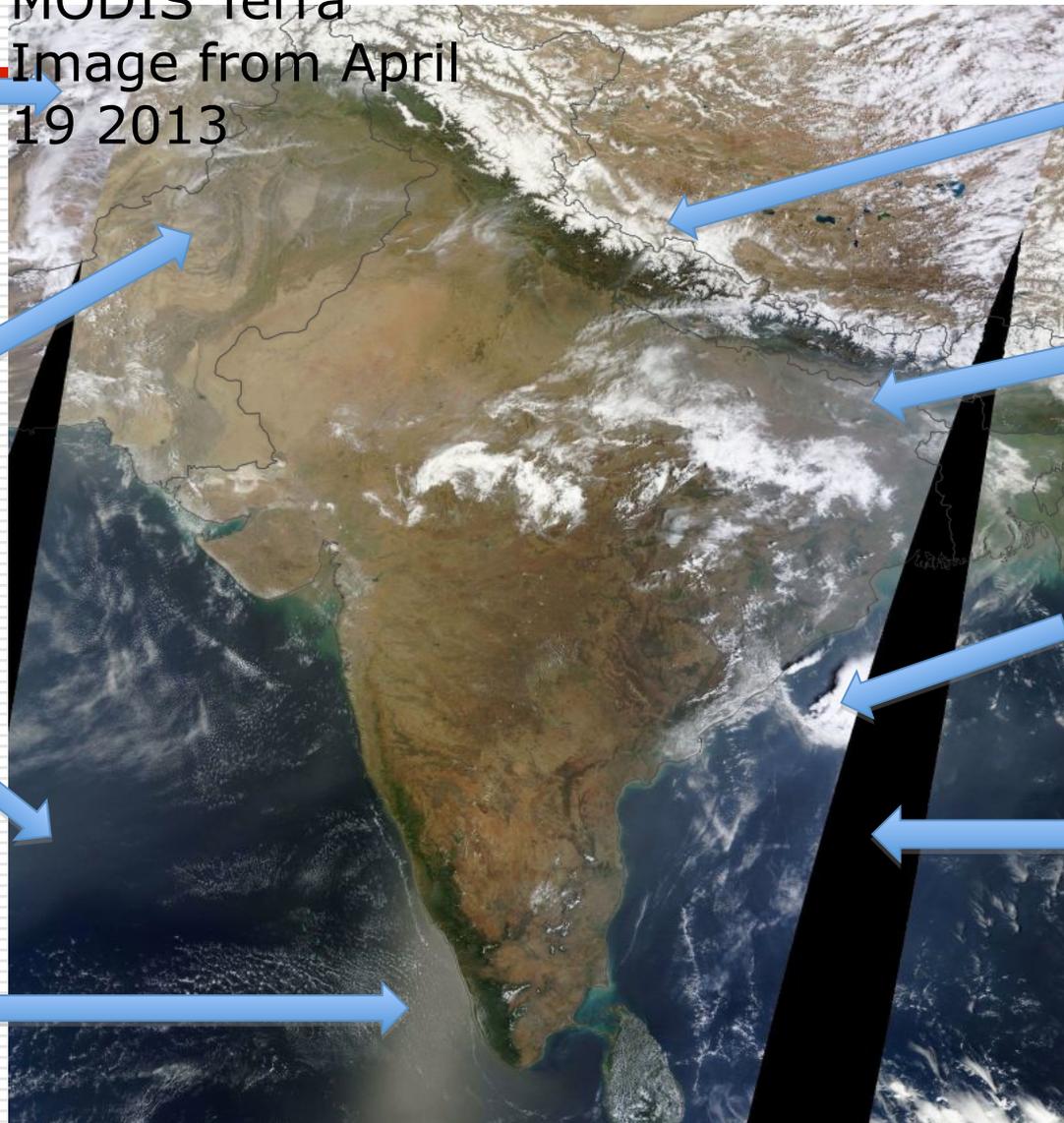
Aerosols  
over land

Aerosol  
s over  
ocean

Clouds

Data  
collection  
gap

Glint

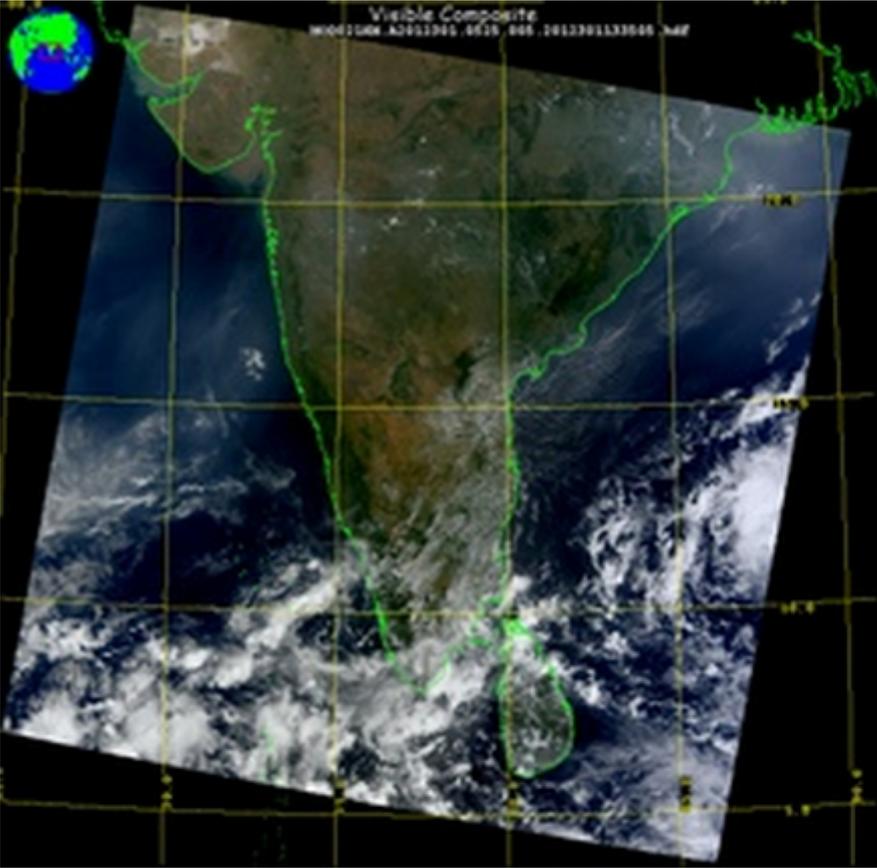


# Satellite Algorithms

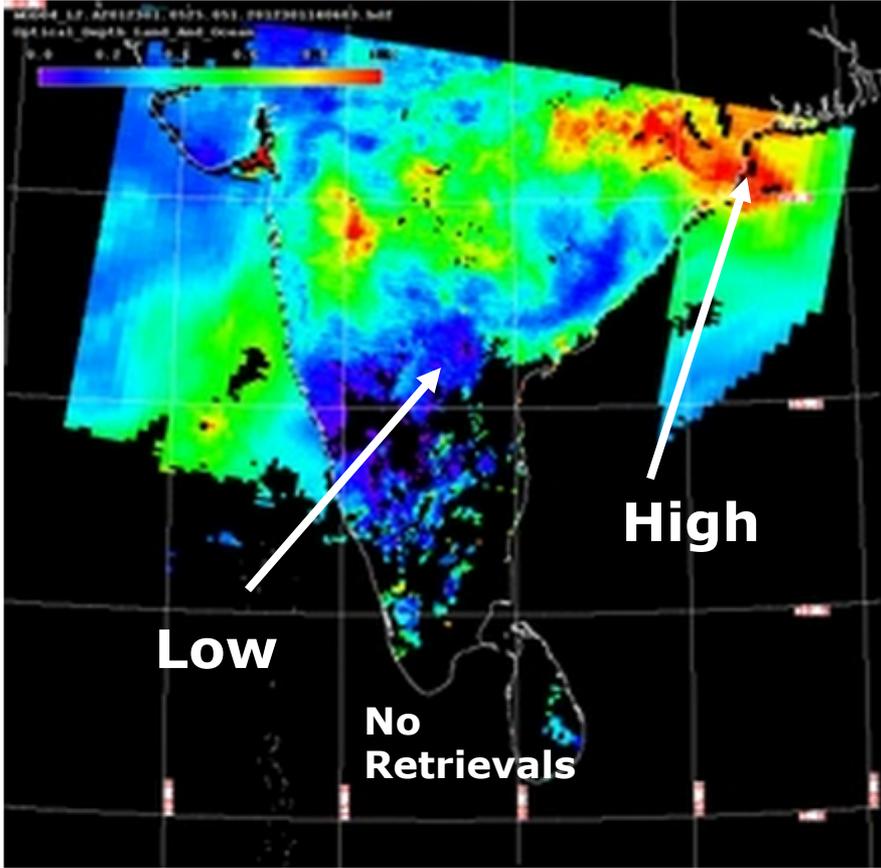
## Radiance -to- Aerosol Products



RGB



Aerosol Optical Depth



# Data Formats, Reading, Understanding & Visualization

SDS list

- 1: ( 203 x 135 ) Longitude
- 2: ( 203 x 135 ) Latitude
- 3: ( 203 x 135 ) Scan\_Start\_Time
- 4: ( 203 x 135 ) Solar\_Zenith
- 5: ( 203 x 135 ) Solar\_Azimuth
- 6: ( 203 x 135 ) Sensor\_Zenith
- 7: ( 203 x 135 ) Sensor\_Azimuth
- 8: ( 203 x 135 ) Cloud\_Mask\_QA
- 9: ( 203 x 135 ) Scattering\_Angle
- 10: ( 203 x 135 ) Optical\_Depth\_Land\_And\_Ocean
- 11: ( 203 x 135 ) Image\_Optical\_Depth\_Land\_And\_Ocean
- 12: ( 203 x 135 ) Optical\_Depth\_Ratio\_Small\_Land\_And\_Ocean

SDS selection

10: ( 203 x 135 ) Optical\_Depth\_Land\_And\_Ocean Show attributes

Multidimensional SDS: layer selection (layer index, or \* for all)

Height  Width

Width  Height

(MODIS) (Orthographic) Lat(34.217,55.629) Lon(-142.939,-107.782)

Set map additions...

Automatic mask detection

Show SDS as values

Show SDS as a plot

AERONET (Optical thickness)

(MODIS) ("Day"): 2008: 7:18 (200) 19h30

.... DUMP DATA ON DISK ....

Show SDS as an image

Display a MODIS reprojected

Show one layer

Show (RGB) image

Show (RGB) Thermal anomalies

Show (RGB) thermal image

Show (RGB) SWIR composite

Show (RGB) User defined ...



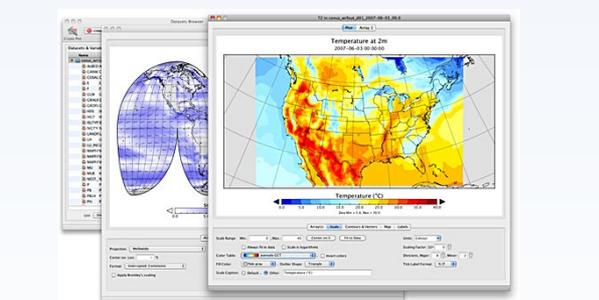
- Slice and plot specific latitude-longitude, longitude-vertical, or time-latitude arrays from larger multidimensional variables.
- Combine two arrays in one plot by differencing, summing or averaging.
- Plot lon-lat data on a global or regional map (using any of over 75 map projections) or make a zonal average lineplot.
- Overlay continent outlines or masks on lon-lat plots.
- Use any ACT, CPT, GGR, or PAL color table for scale colorbar.
- Save plots to disk: GIF, JPEG, PNG or TIFF bitmap images or as PDF or PostScript graphics files.
- Export lon-lat map plots in KMZ format.
- Export animations as AVI or MOV video or as a collection of individual frame images.
- Explore remote THREDDS and OpenDAP catalogs and open datasets served there.



The current version of Panoply is 3.2.1, released 2013-09-30.

Panoply requires that your computer have a Java SE 6 runtime environment, or better, installed.

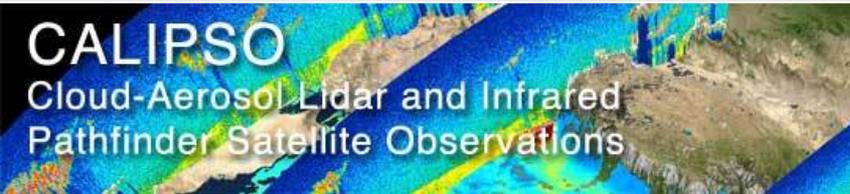
To be plotted by Panoply, dataset variables must be tagged with metadata information using a convention such as CF.



# Vertical Profiles of Aerosols

**CALIPSO**

Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared  
Pathfinder Satellite Observations



Smoke Plume

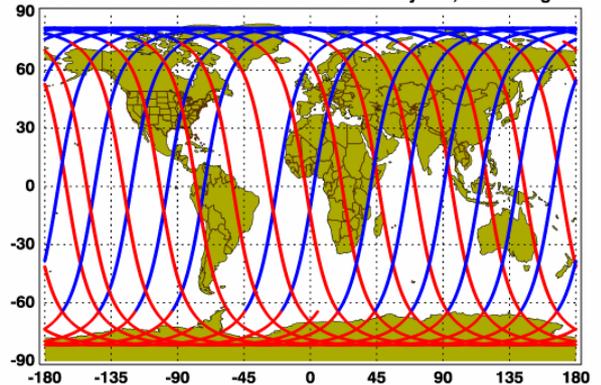
5 km

CALIPSO

Wallow Fire  
(Near Springerville, Arizona)

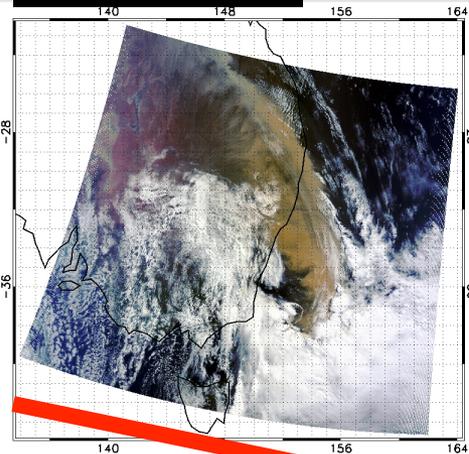
MODIS  
9 hours

2013-01-18 Version: 3.02 Nominal Red is Daytime, Blue is Nighttime



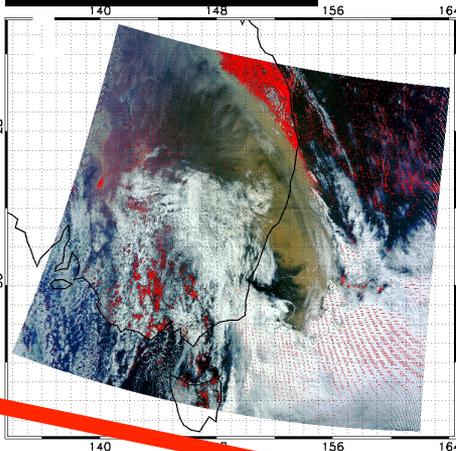


**RGB**

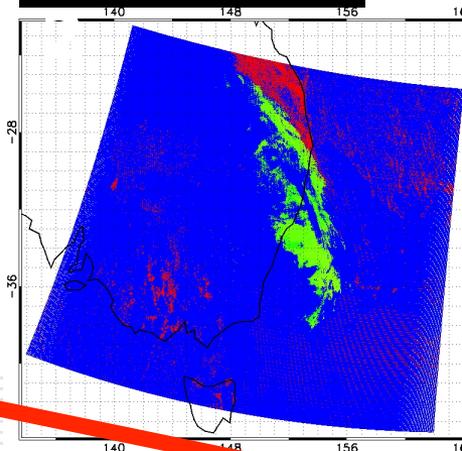


# Dust & Smoke Monitoring

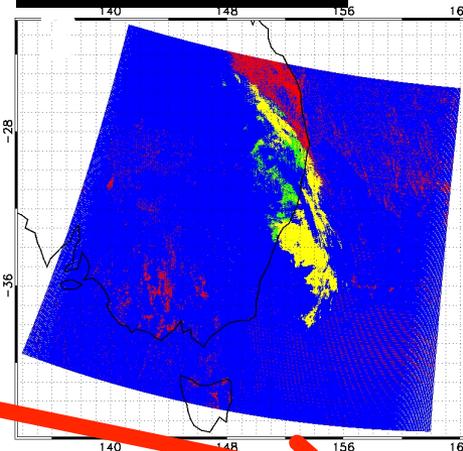
**TEST #**



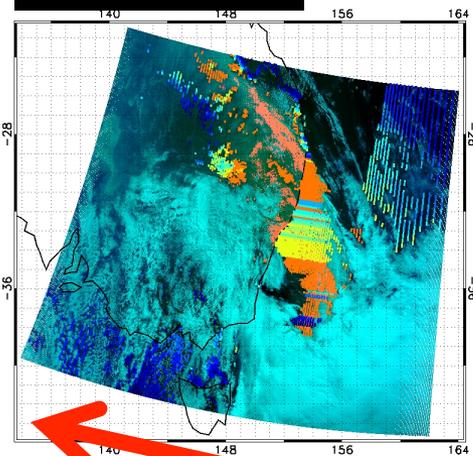
**TEST #**



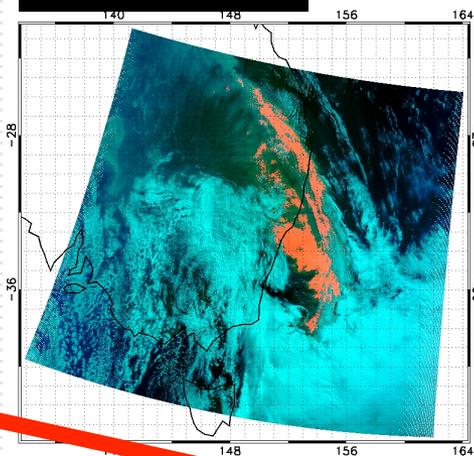
**TEST #**



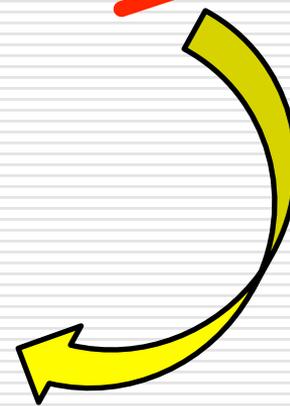
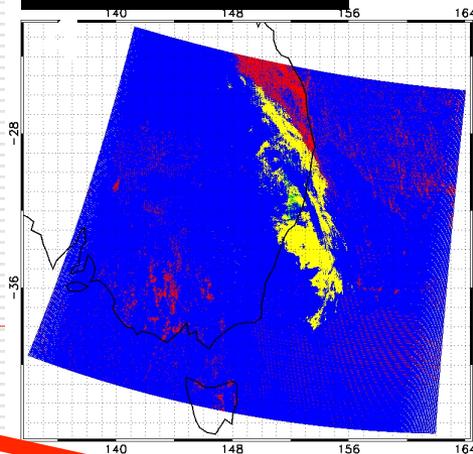
**AOD**



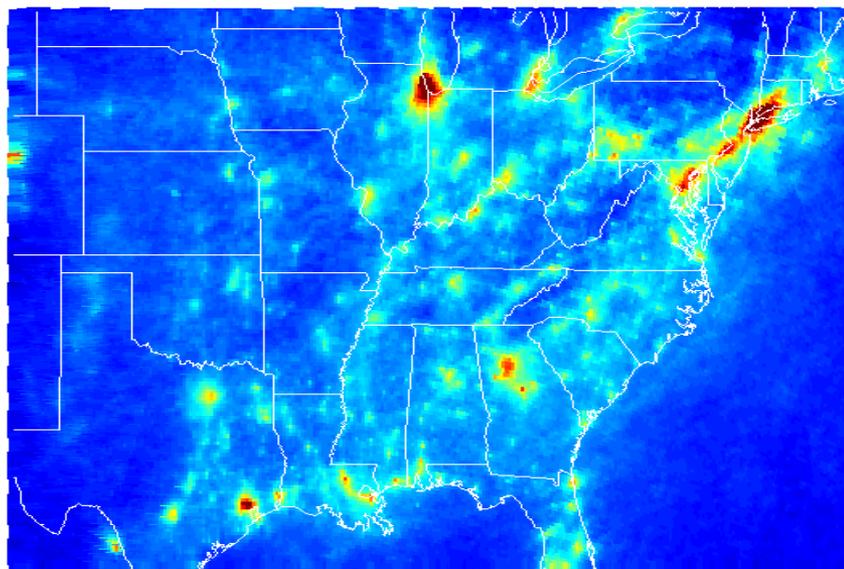
**DUST**



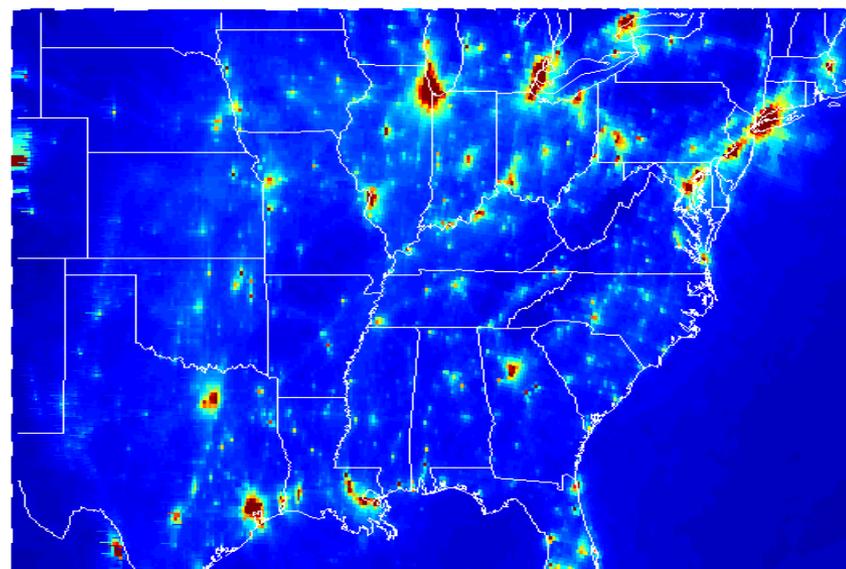
**TEST #**



# Model-Satellite Inter-comparison

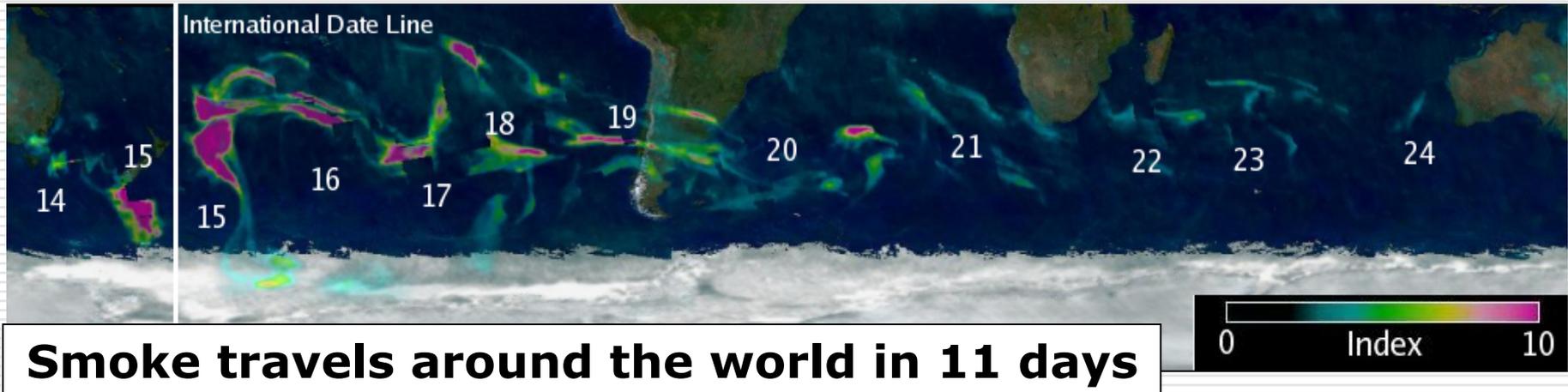
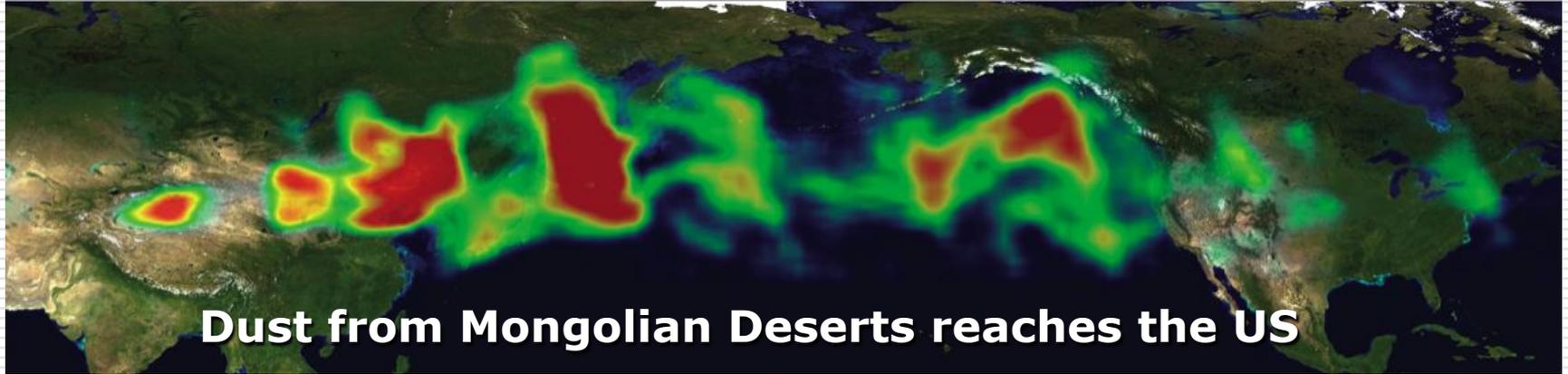


**CMAQ Model NO<sub>2</sub>**



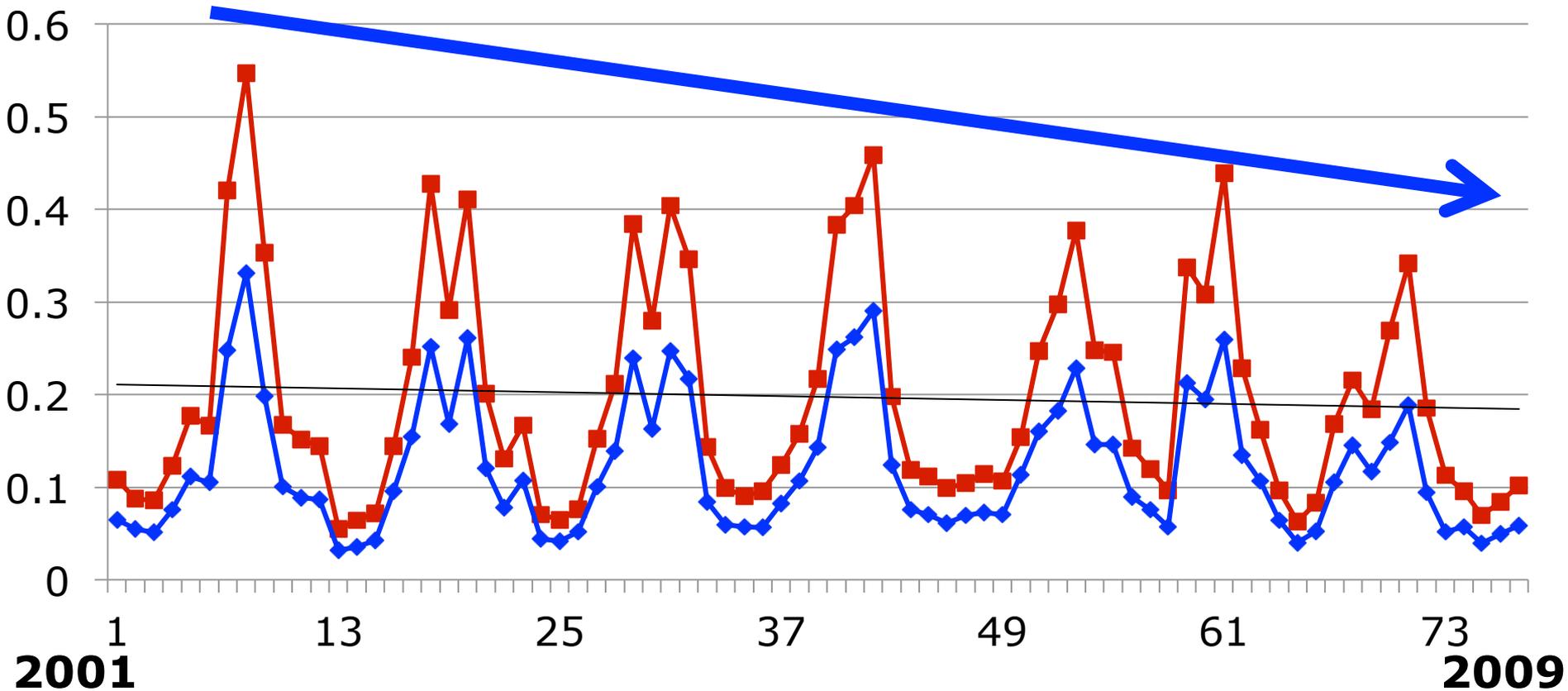
**OMI NO<sub>2</sub>**

# Long Range Transport



# Air Quality Trends

## AERONET over CCNY



# Data User Guide

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(<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1352231014004270>)

**An ARSET/AQAST Collaboration**