



# Seeing the Earth in 4-D

AGU Chapman Conference  
26 June 2013

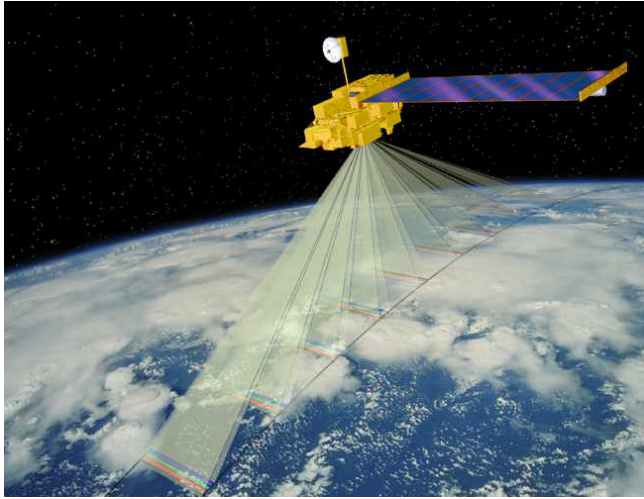
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Feng Xu

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California Institute of Technology



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# MISR on Terra spacecraft



1999 launch

Nine view angles:  $70^\circ$  forward to  $70^\circ$  backward

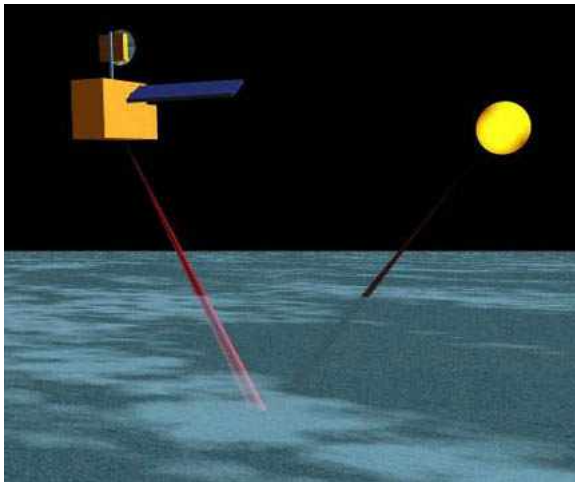
Four spectral bands: 446, 558, 672, 866 nm

275 m sampling

400-km swath

# Multangle observations on microscales (0.1 $\mu\text{m}$ – 100 $\mu\text{m}$ )

- particle size and shape



“Radiometric” approach

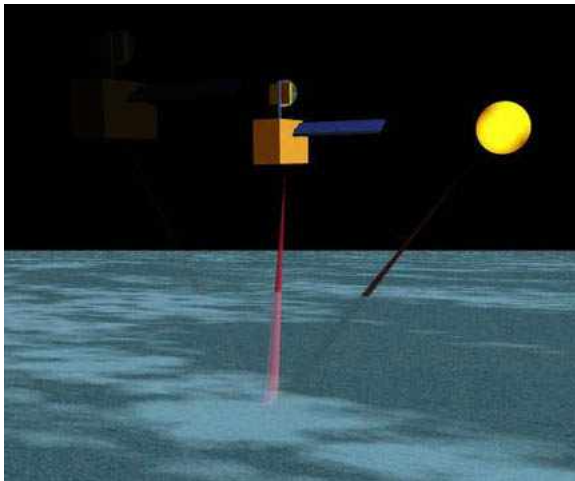


70° view



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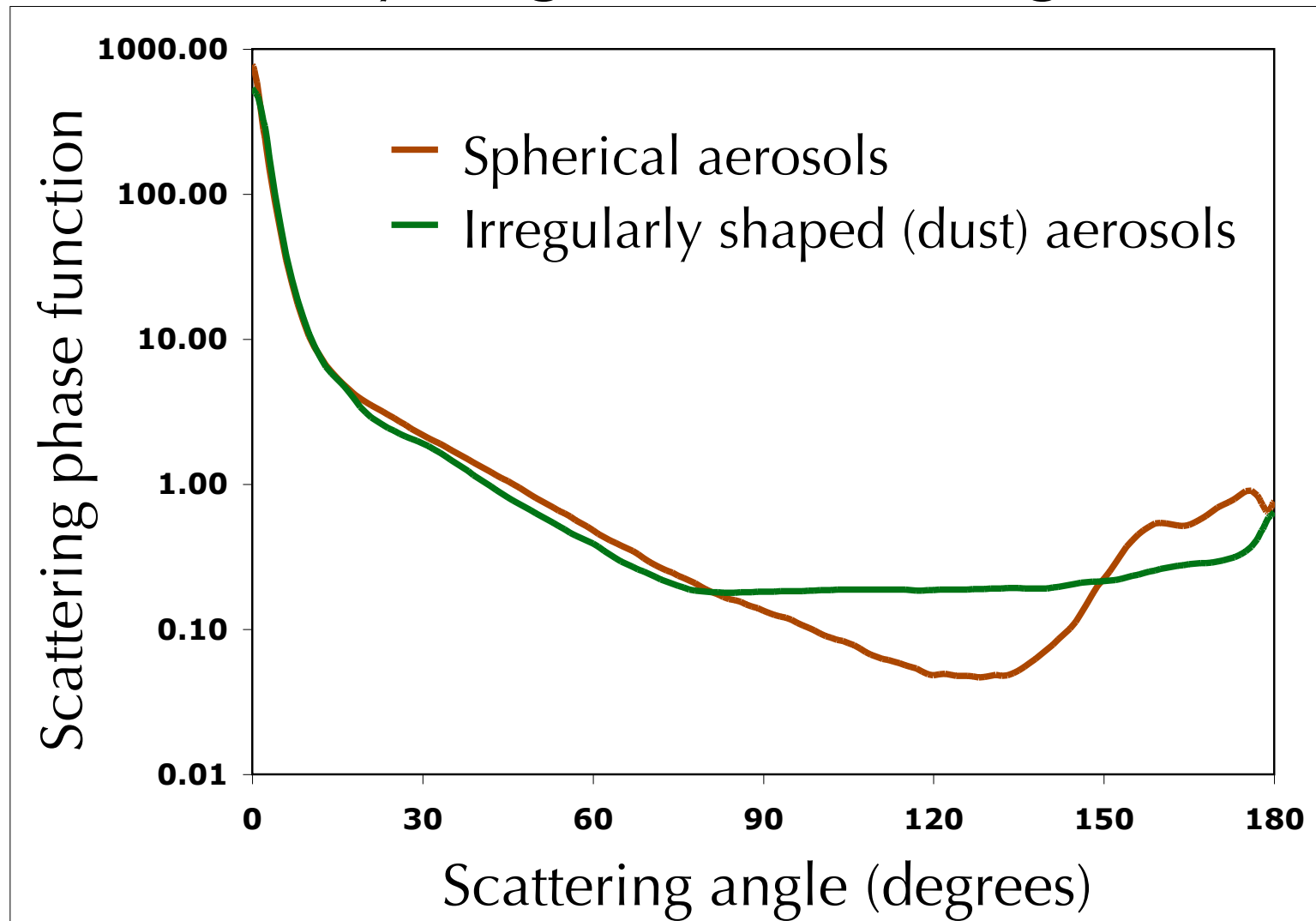


“Radiometric” approach



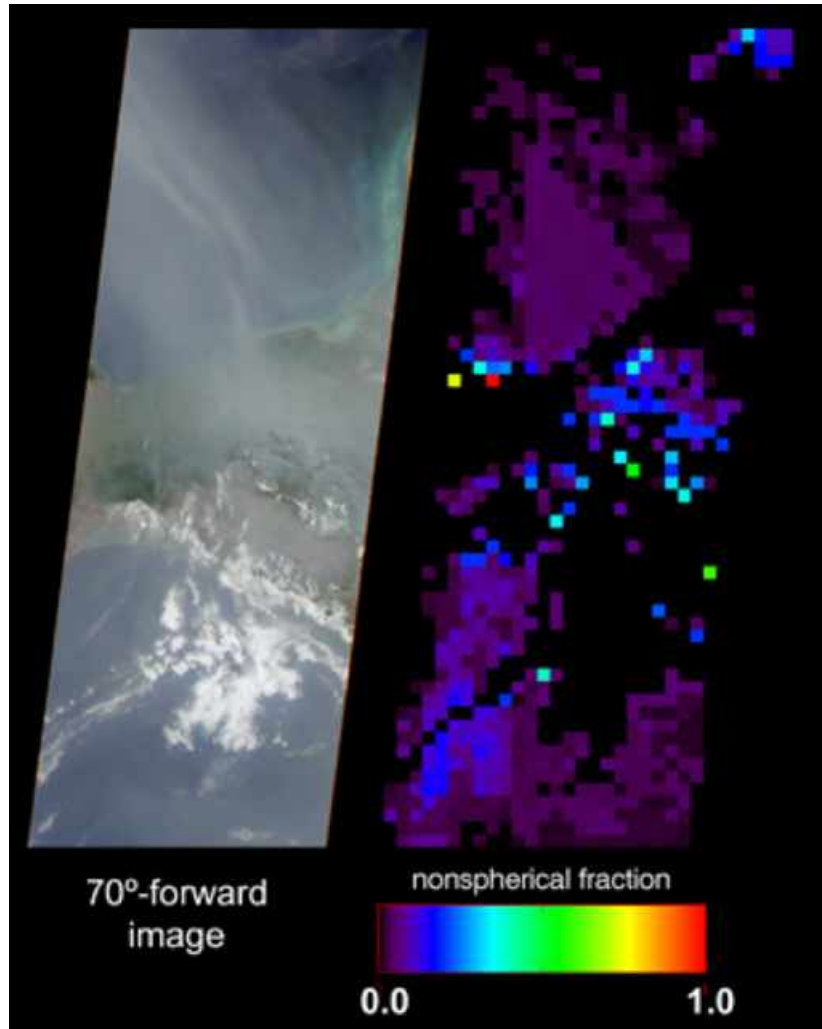
nadir view

# Differentiating particle type by angular scattering

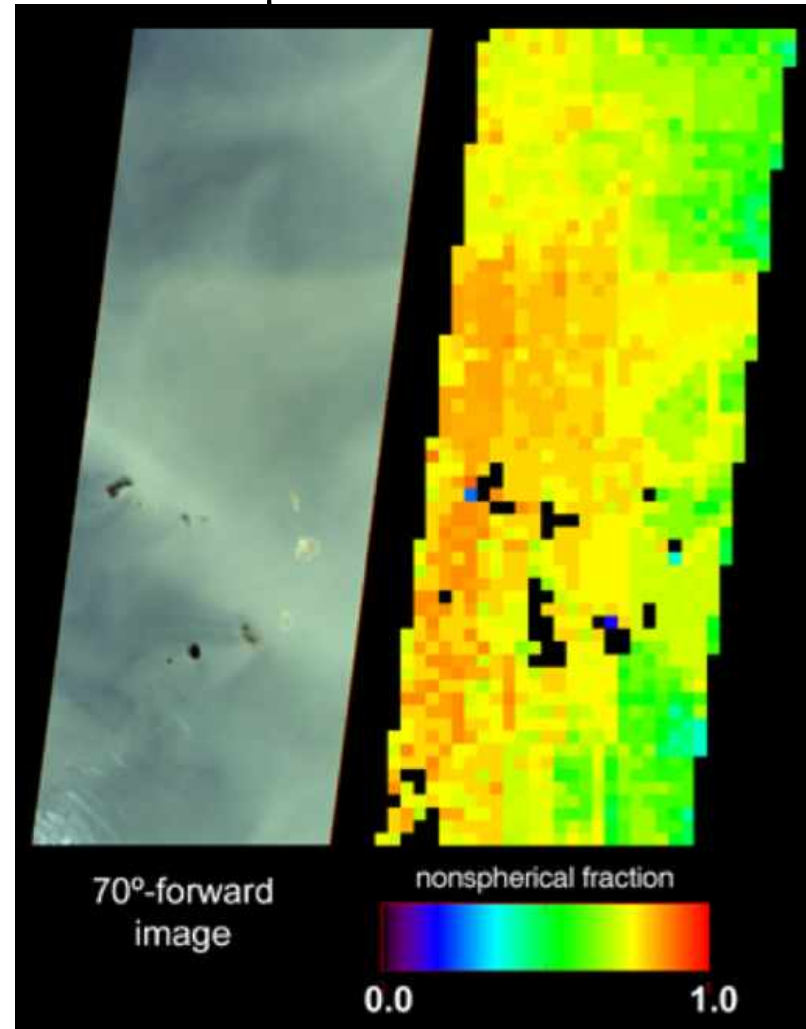


# MISR sensitivity to aerosol particle shape

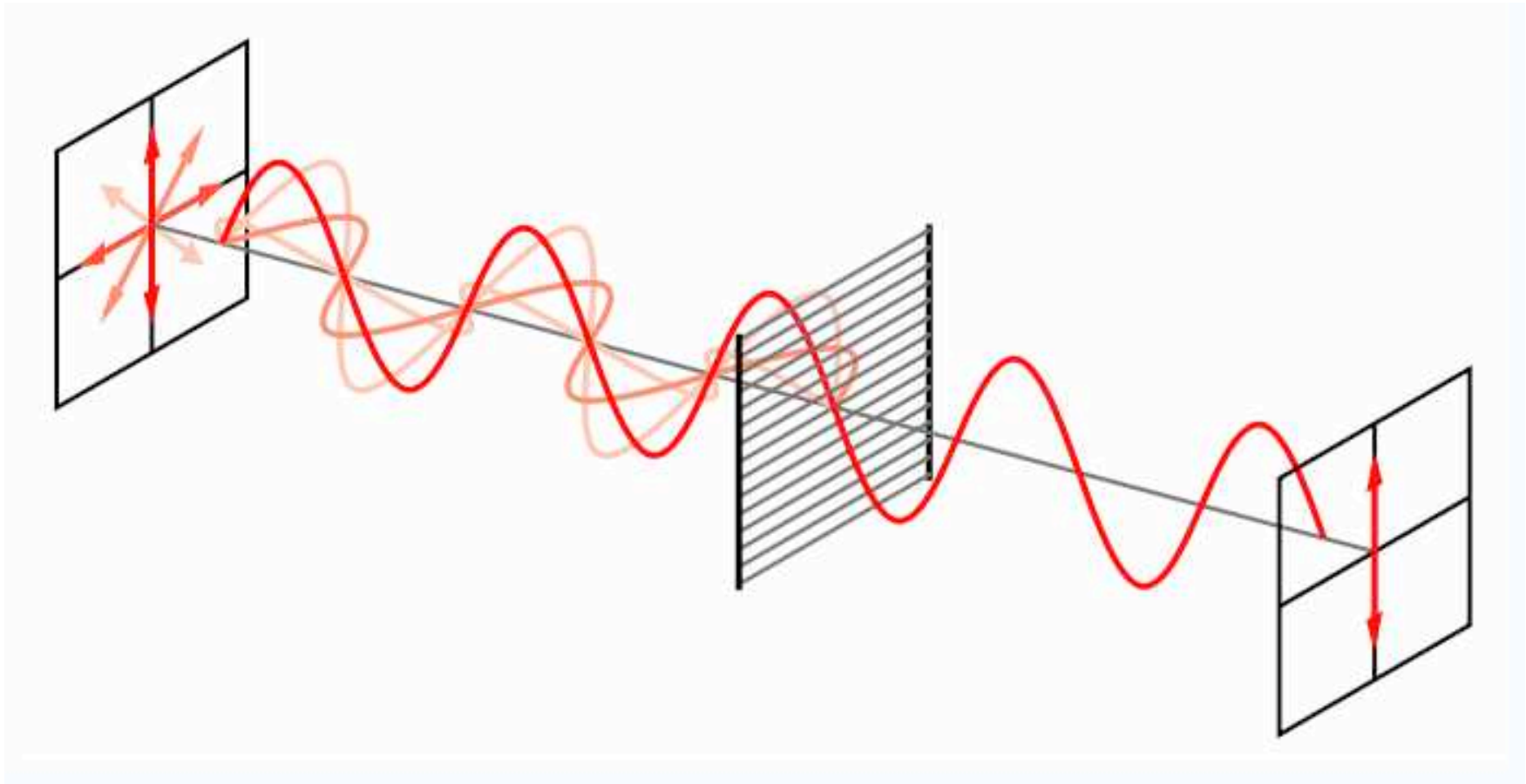
Smoke over the  
Yucatan Peninsula



Airborne Saharan dust over  
the Cape Verde Islands



# Adding polarization



# AirMSPI on ER-2 aircraft



Operational since 2010

Selectable view angles:  $67^\circ$  forward to  $67^\circ$  backward

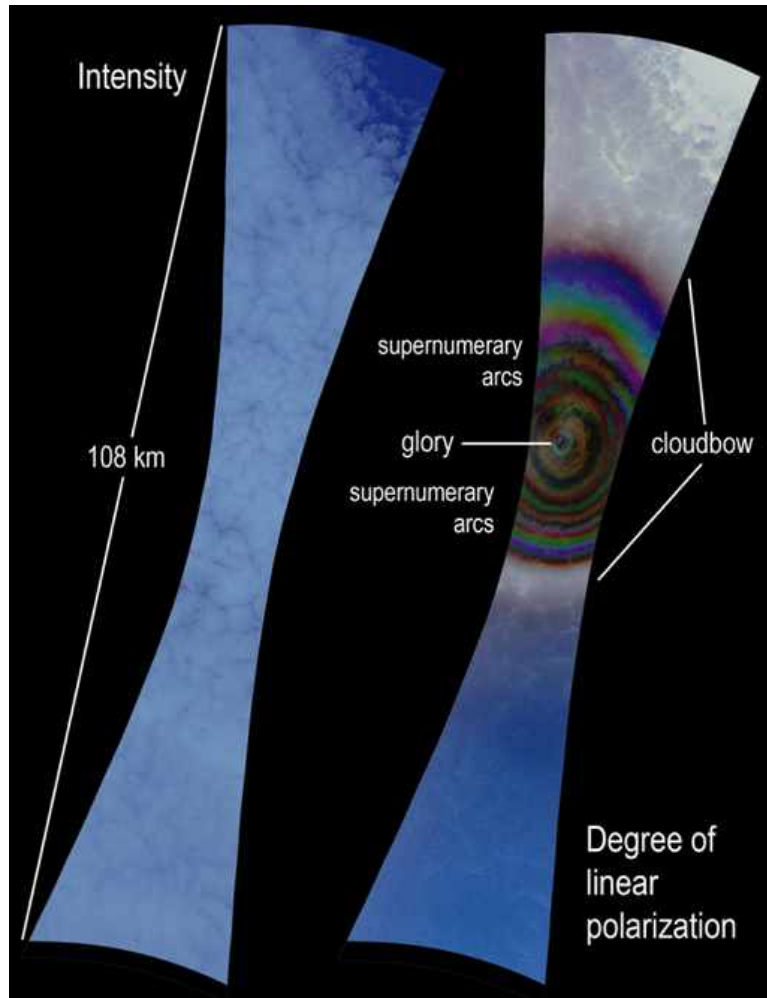
Eight spectral bands 355, 380, 445, 470\*, 555, 660\*, 865\*, 935 nm \*polarimetric (photoelastic modulators)

10 m sampling

11-km swath

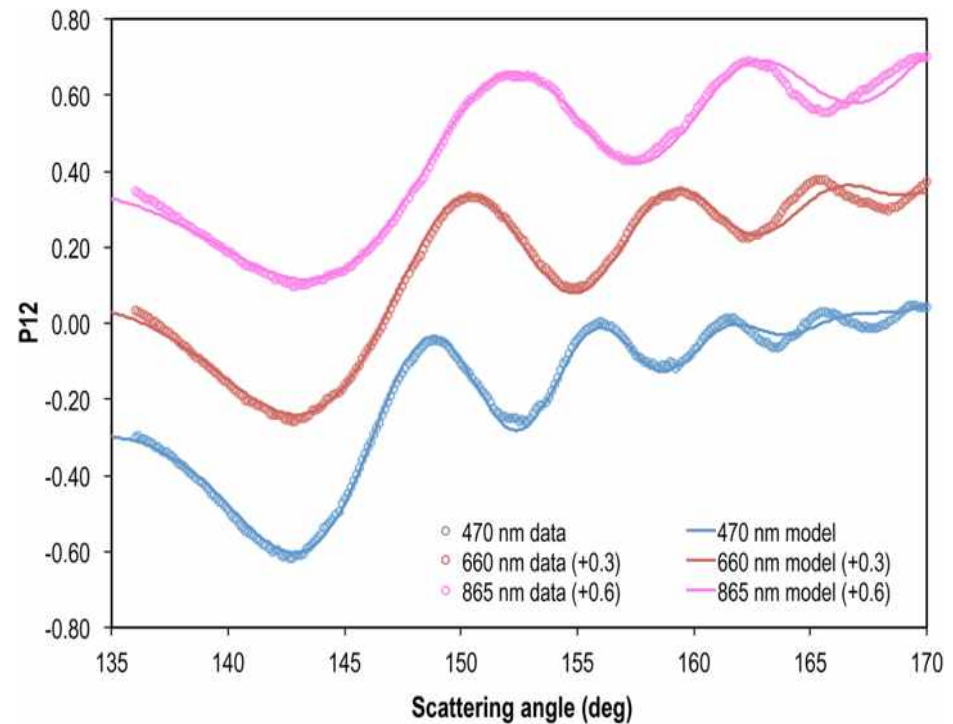


# Polarimetry and cloud microphysics



Stratocumulus clouds off the California coast

The glory, supernumerary bows, and cloudbow tell us the particles are spherical.



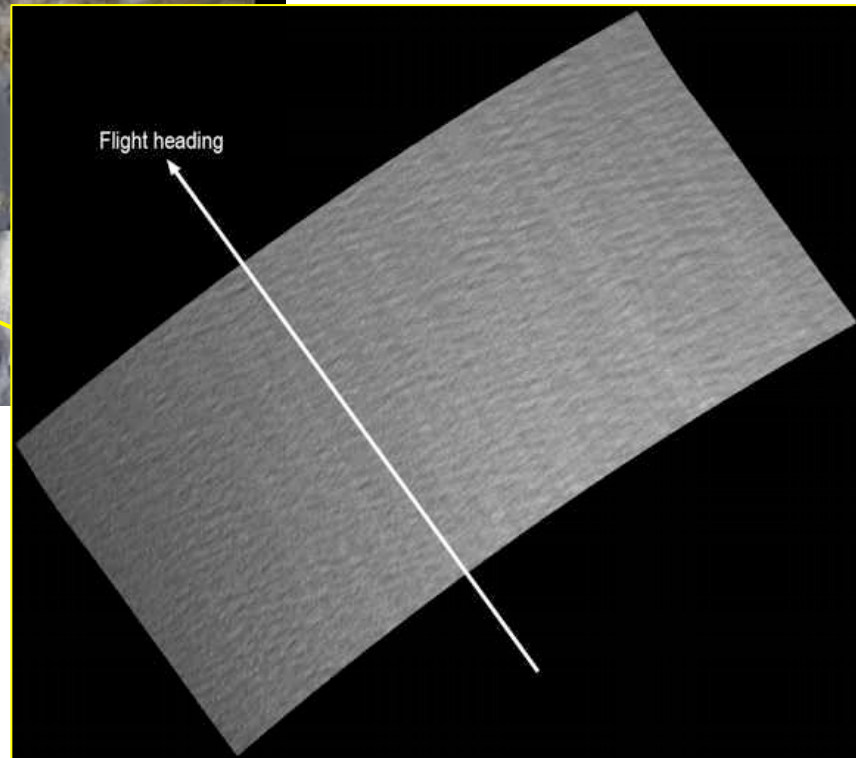
Following Bréon and Goloub (1998), the fringes correspond to mode radius =  $7.5 \mu\text{m}$ .

# MISR and AirMSPI



MISR overpass on 19 July 2012

AirMSPI data acquired  
~30 min later

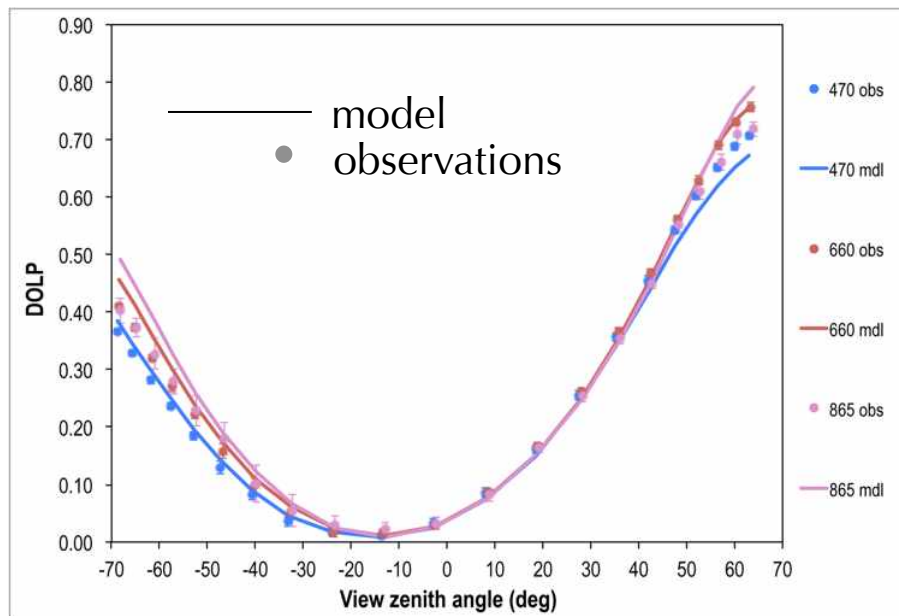


AirMSPI 865 nm nadir intensity

# Polarimetric sensitivity to aerosol size

## Monomodal aerosol model

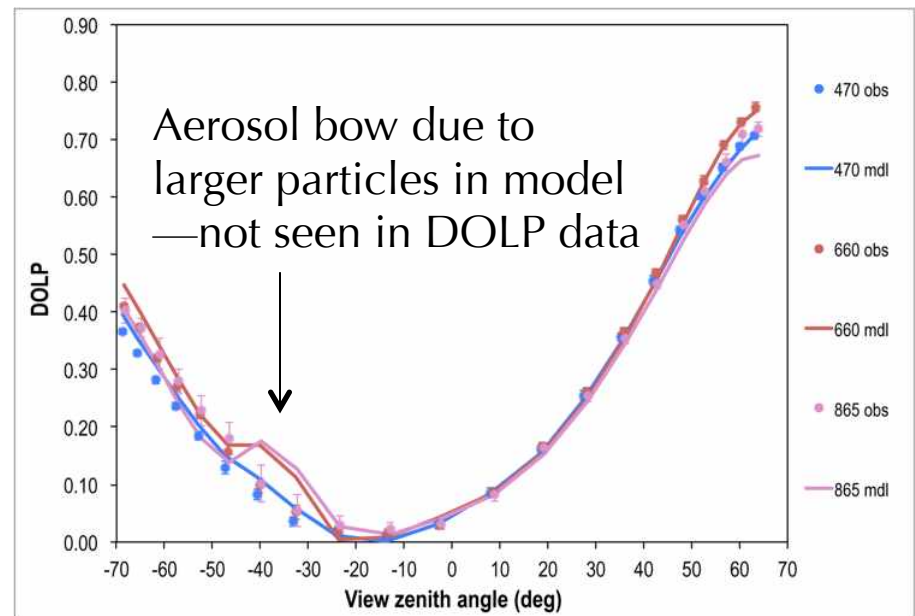
Median particle radius  $0.06 \mu\text{m}$



## Bimodal aerosol model

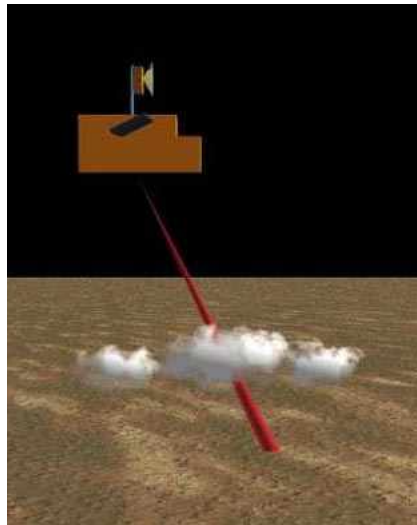
40% fine mode, median particle radius =  $0.03 \mu\text{m}$

60% coarse mode, median particle radius =  $1.00 \mu\text{m}$

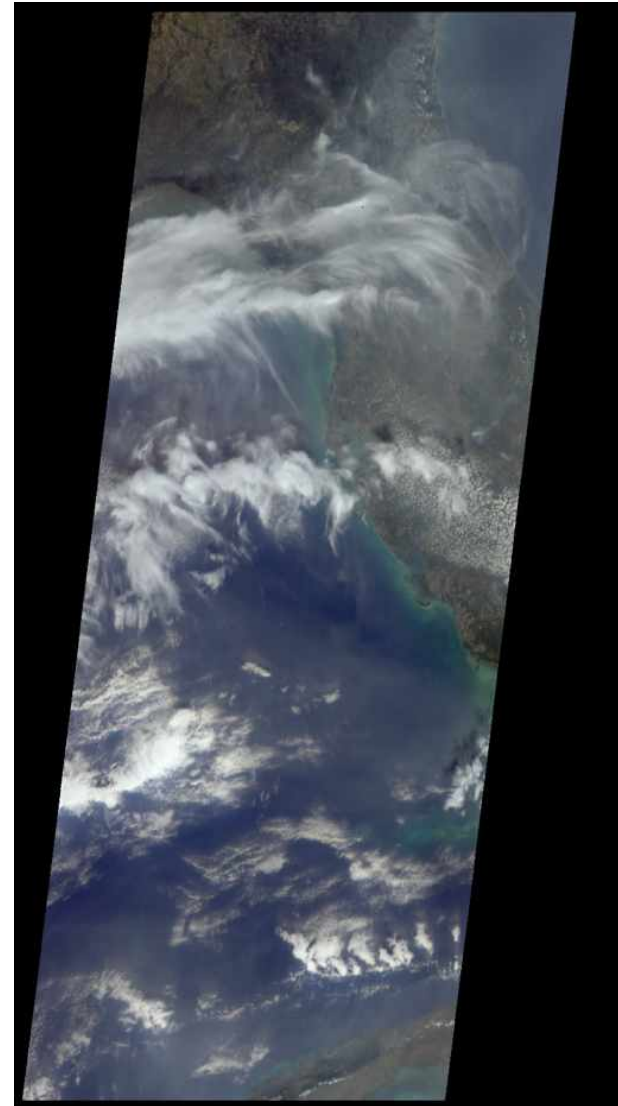


# Multangle observations on mesoscales (km's - hundreds of km)

- cloud fields
- aerosol plumes



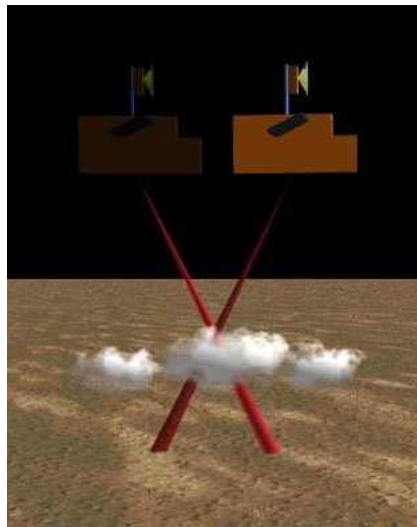
“Geometric” approach





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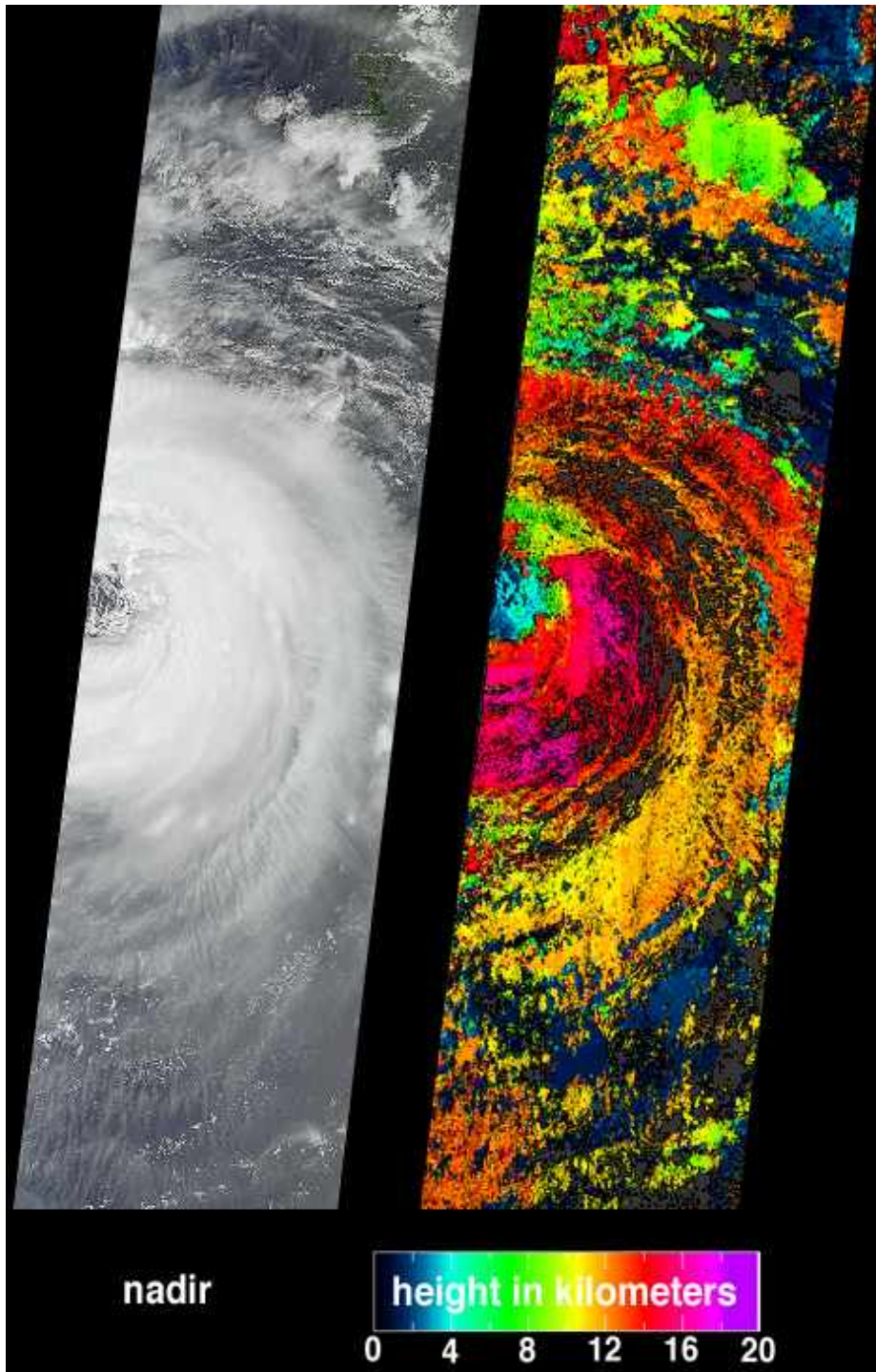
“Geometric” approach



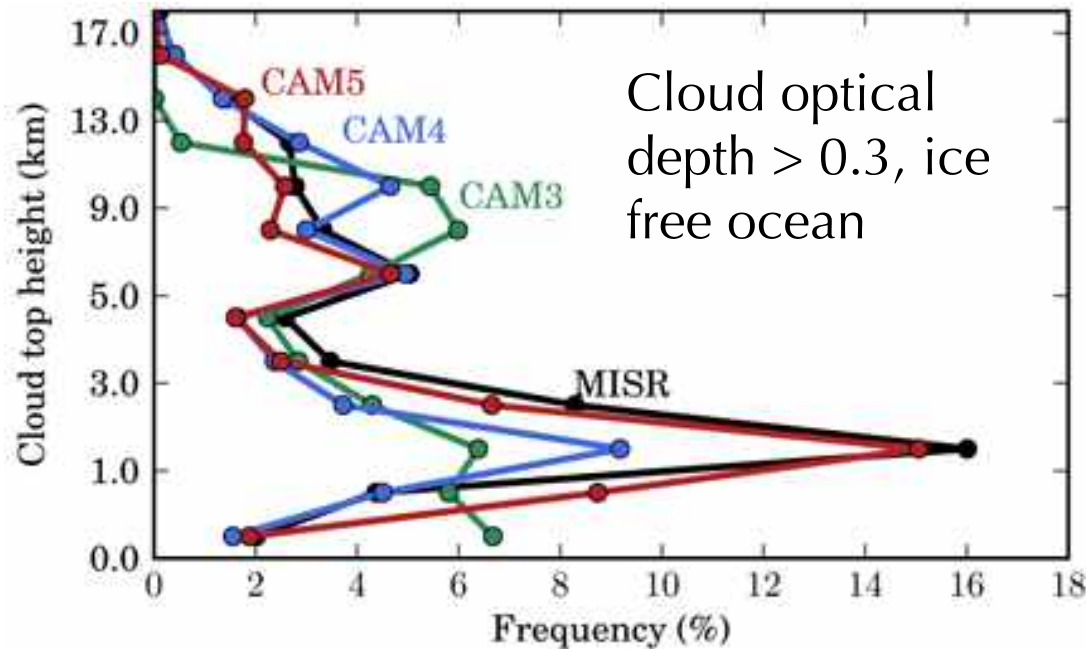
# Stereoscopic cloud height retrievals

- ✧ purely geometric, using pattern matching
- ✧ insensitive to temperature profile or inversions
- ✧ insensitive to absolute radiometric calibration drift
- ✧ useful for other solar system planets

Typhoon Sinlaku  
(Sept 2002)



# Climate model evaluation



**CAM3 (2004)**

**CAM4 (2010)**

Changes to deep convection, cloud parameterizations, default dynamical core

**CAM5 (2010)**

New treatment of boundary layer, shallow convection, stratiform clouds, radiation

Improved representation of cloud vertical distribution, especially low clouds, is especially important for climate feedbacks.

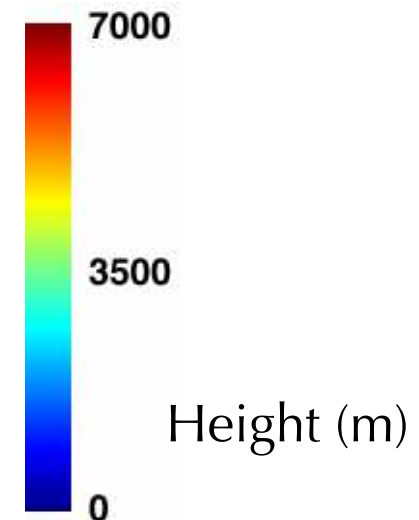
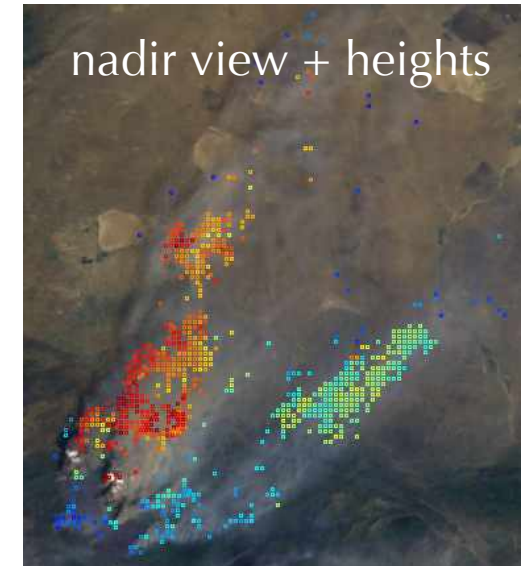
Kay, J. E., et al. (2012). *J. Climate* **25**, 5190-5207

# Wildfire smoke plume injection heights



45° backward view

Credit: D. Nelson (Raytheon/JPL)

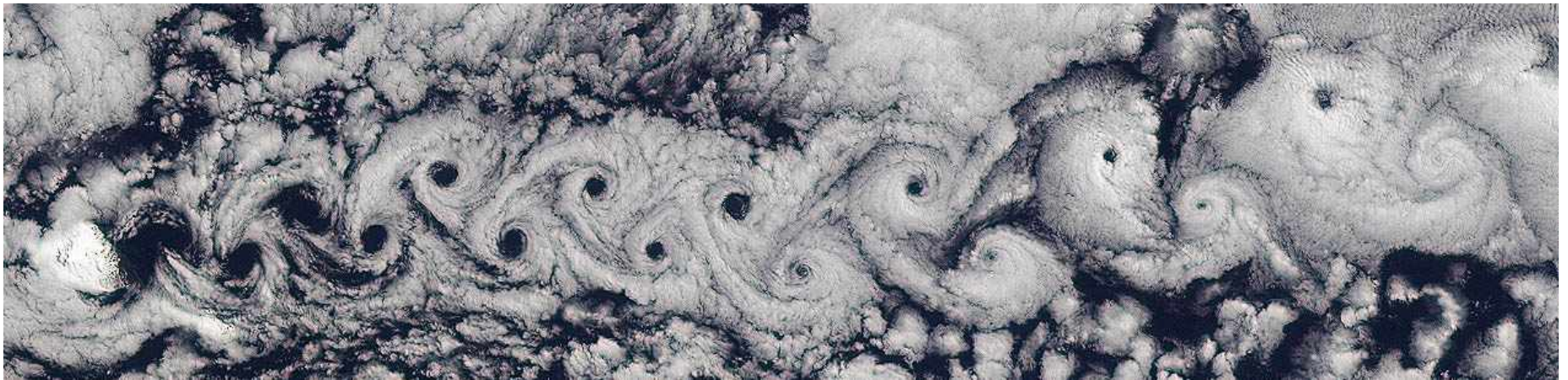




# Adding the temporal dimension

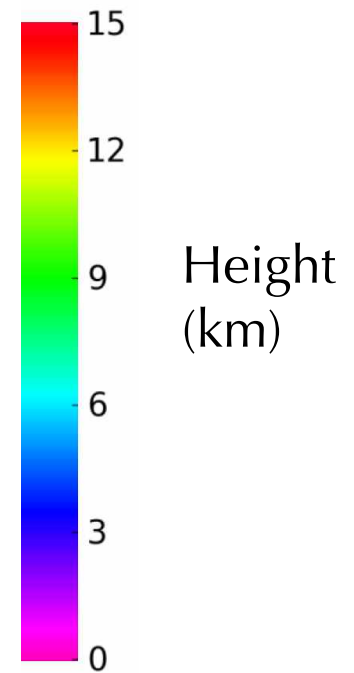
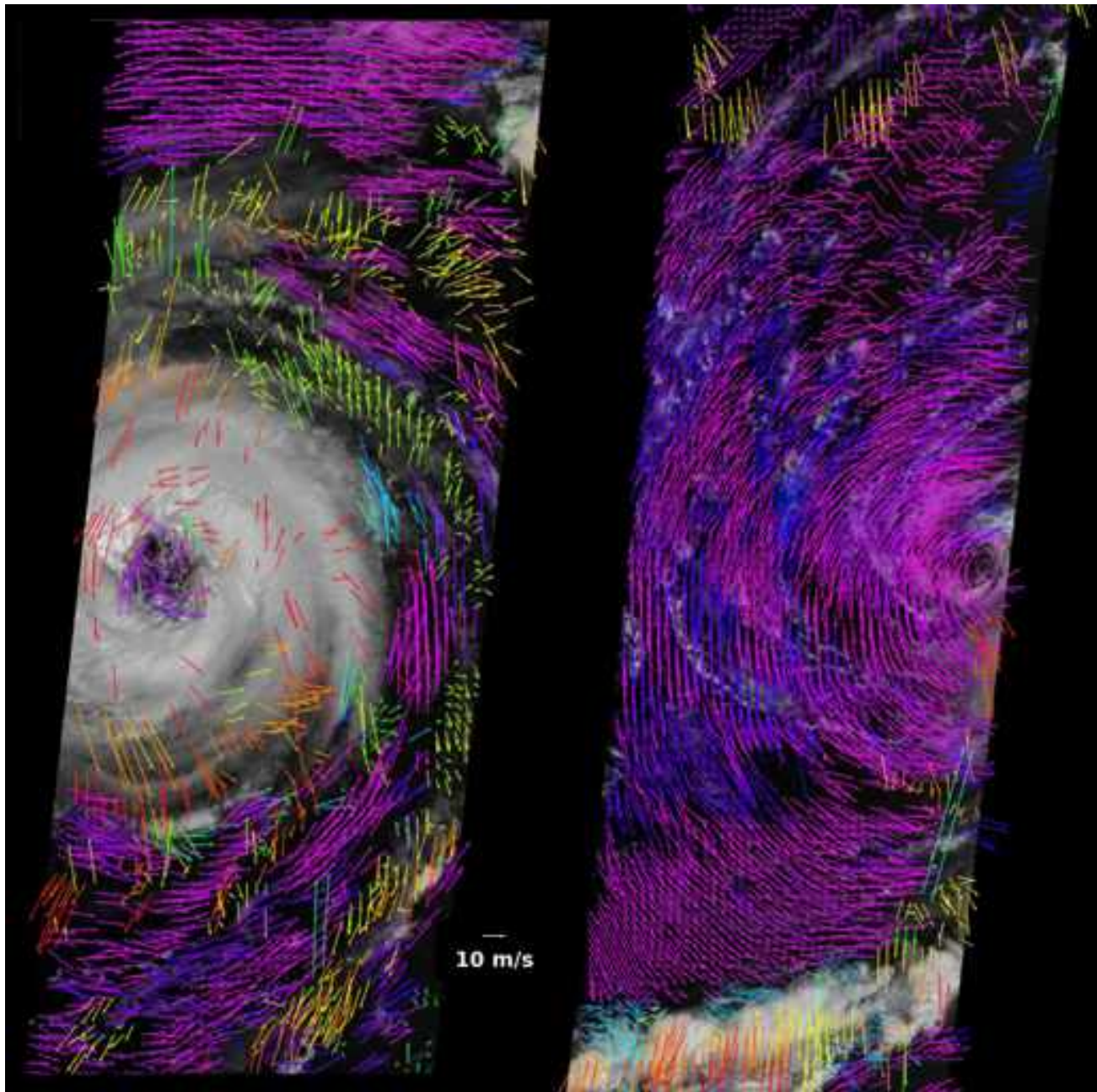


# Time-lapse of MISR views



Von Karman vortex street  
near Jan Mayen Island

# Wind retrievals



Height  
(km)

Credit:  
K. Mueller (JPL)

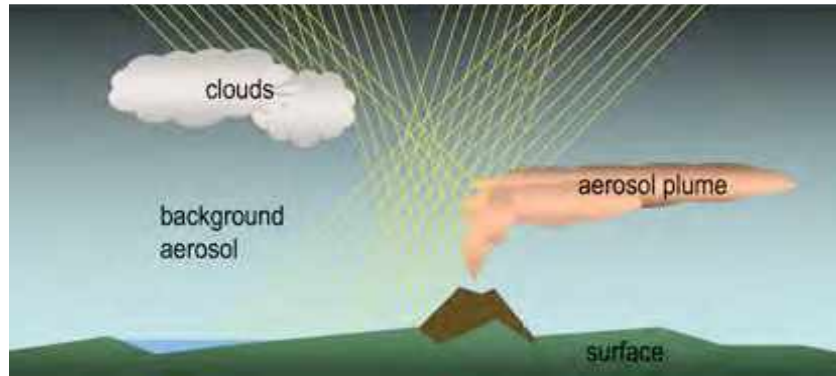
Hurricane Alberto (2000)      Tropical Storm Franklin (2005)

# Looking ahead





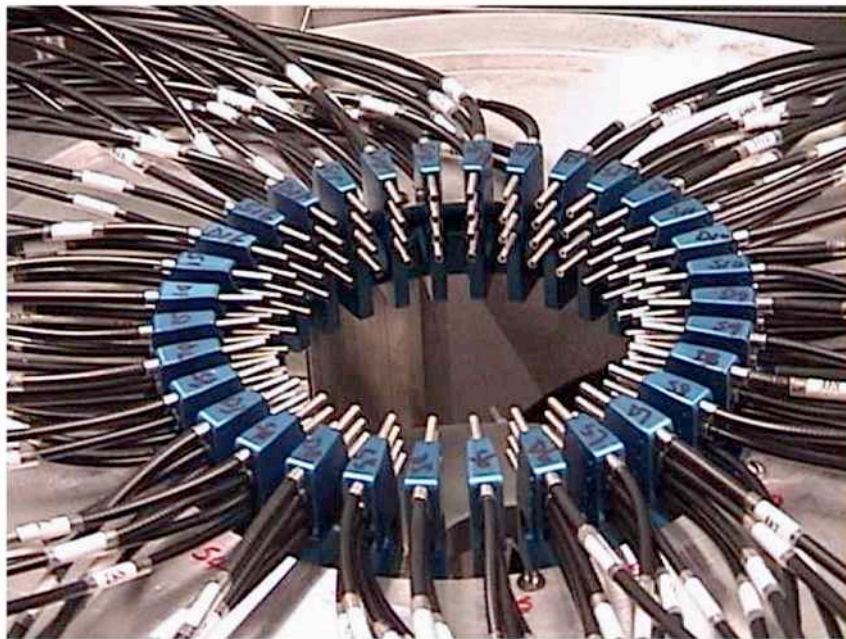
# Future paradigm



- Atmosphere is modeled as a continuum of particle densities (3-D multi-pixel retrievals)



# Optical tomography



*The recovery of the cross-sectional distribution of optical parameters inside a highly scattering medium from information contained in measurements that are performed on the boundaries of the medium.*

(Klose and Hielscher, 2003, *Inv. Problems* **19**, 387-409)

# Tele-immersion

“Sea of cameras” approach (UNC Chapel Hill)  
(Fuchs et al., 1994, *Proc. First Int. Conf. on Medical Robotics and Computer Assisted Surgery*)



Lanier, J. (2001). “Virtually there.”  
*Sci. Amer.*, April, 66-75.

# Conclusions

- Passive multiangle remote sensing captures 3-D spatial structure + dynamics (“4-D”)
- Modern technologies enable broad spectral coverage and accurate polarimetric imaging
- Compact versions of the instruments described here have applications to future Earth and planetary observing systems, e.g.,
  - Particle properties and cloud-tracked winds and on Mars, Venus, and Titan
- Fast computational methods are needed for a more realistic representations of particle-laden atmospheres
  - Supplementing stereoscopic pattern matchers and particle property retrievals with tomographic, virtual reality algorithms + 3-D vector radiative transfer codes