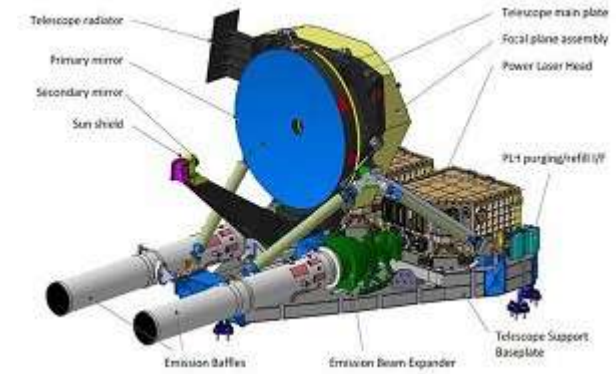




ATLID Level 1 product verification and validation needs



D.P. Donovan, G-J van Zadelhoff

M. Haarig (Tropos)

F Marnas, A. Chantry (ESTEC)



About EarthCARE

Earth Explorers are research missions designed to address key scientific challenges, while demonstrating breakthrough technology in observing techniques. Every Earth Explorer mission provides an important contribution to further understanding of our planet.

What
The largest and most complex Earth Explorer to date, it is ESA's cloud, aerosol and radiation explorer mission.

Where
EarthCARE is a joint venture between ESA and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency).

Aim
EarthCARE will improve current climate and numerical weather prediction models, advancing our knowledge of:
- how water vapor, clouds and aerosols play in reflecting incident solar radiation back into space
- how infrared radiation emitted from Earth's surface is trapped in the atmosphere

Innovation
EarthCARE will employ high-performance lidar and radar technology, which has never been flown in space before. The high-Spectral Resolution Lidar operates in the UV and also filters on- and cross-polarized signals. The Cloud Profiling Radar offers Doppler capability.

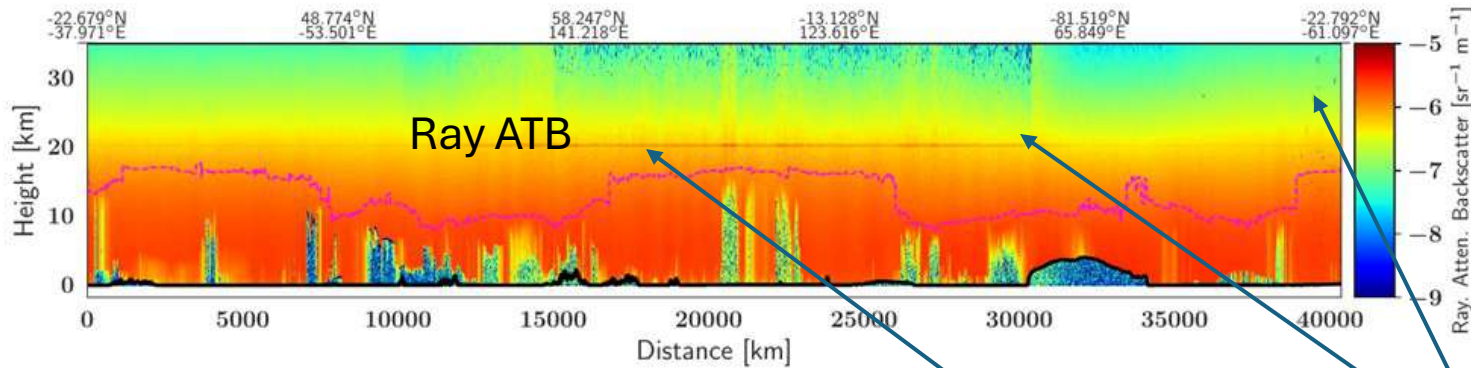
Instruments
EarthCARE carries a suite of instruments: an atmospheric lidar (ATLAS), a cloud profiling radar (CPR), a multi-polarized imager (MPSI) and a broad-band radiometer (BRB).
The two active instruments, ATLAS and CPR, probe the atmosphere to collect data at a microscopic level, measuring clouds, aerosols and precipitation. The two passive instruments, MPSI and BRB, provide complementary optical and radiation measurements, necessary for scientific products.
The mission will help scientists to improve atmospheric models by "seeing the forest" providing an actual measurement of the radiation balance that will also be calculated by models fed with observation data collected by the active instruments.

Curiosity
EarthCARE is 12 m long with the solar panel deployed. The solar wing is an essential part of the satellite, providing the energy for EarthCARE to do its job.

EarthCARE mission page: earth.esa.int/eoportal/missions/earthcare

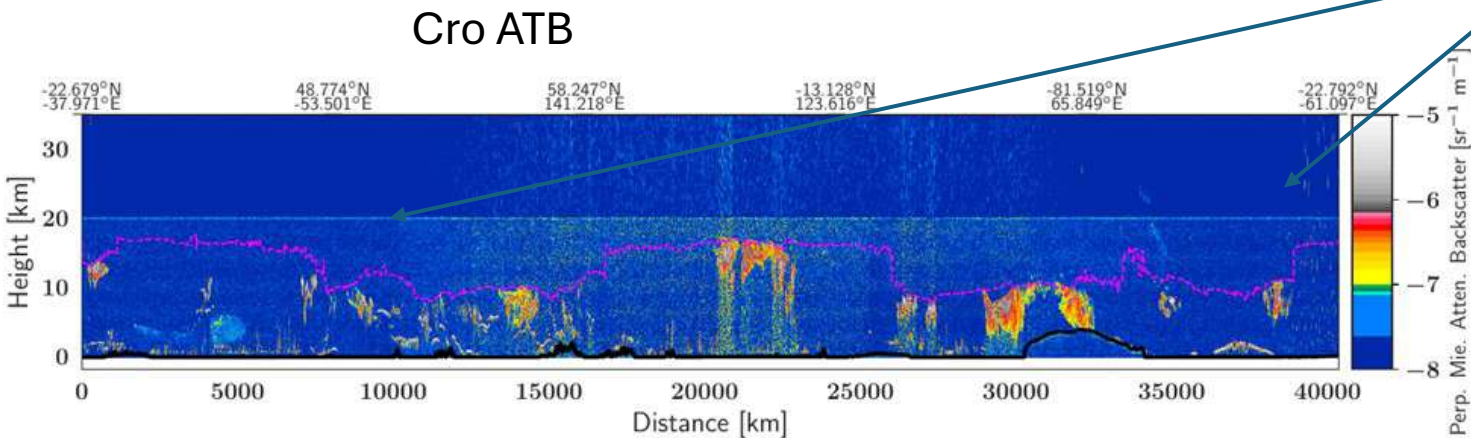
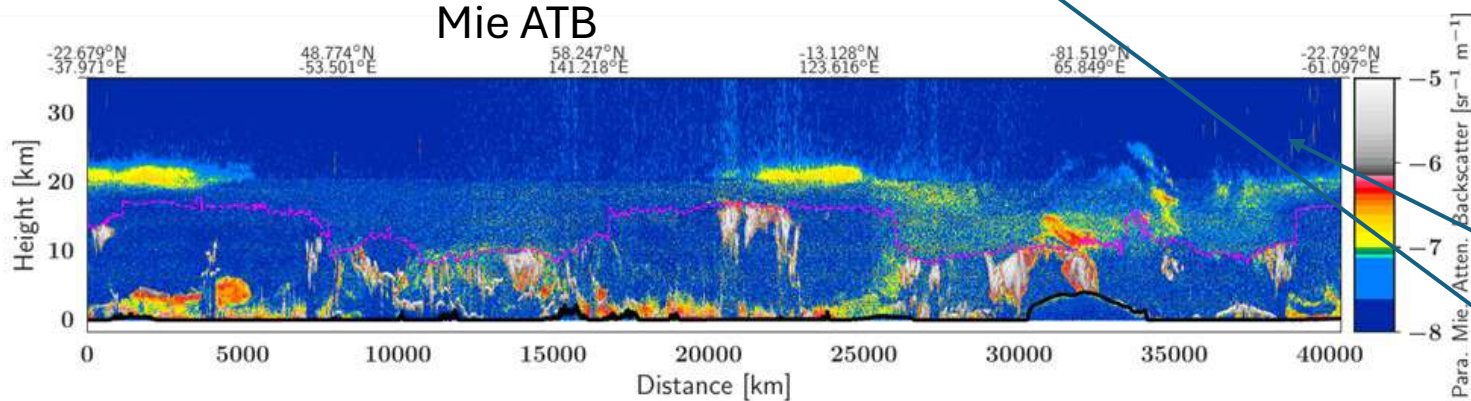
Outline

- Overview of ATLID L1 data
- Main noted Issues and solutions
 - Background and Offset removal issues.
 - Radiation noise
 - Hot Pixels
 - 20km (Charge Transfer Efficiency related) features.
 - Depolarization channel issues
- Summary



Sample output from the operational processor for one orbit.

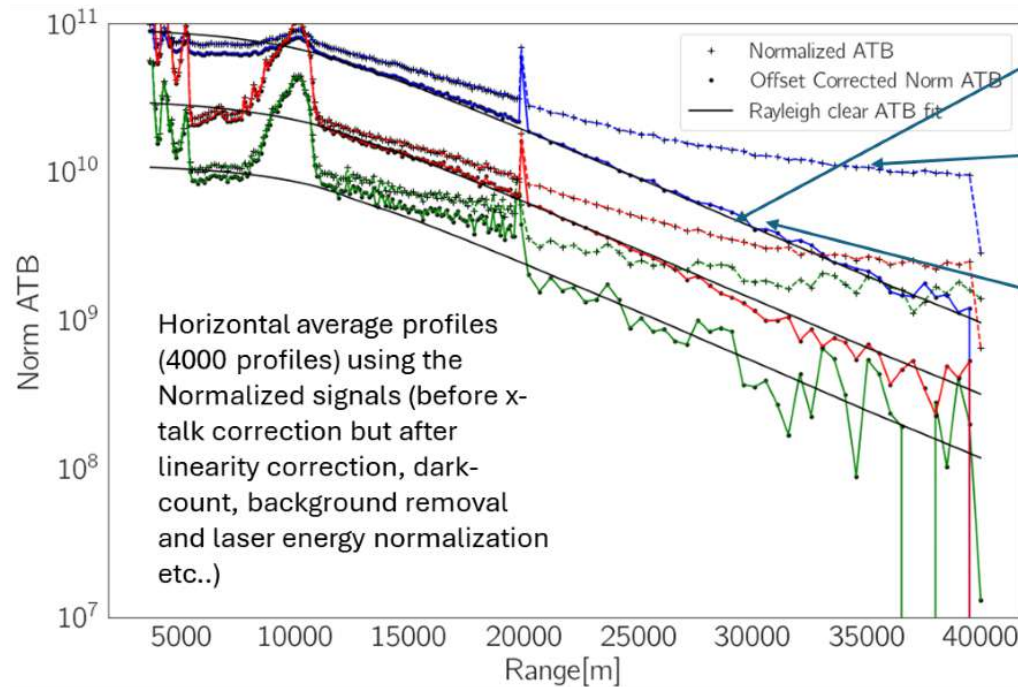
Aug 14 Example.



1. Discontinuities due to bad calibrations, especially in daylight.
2. Radiation speckle noise
3. Hot Pixels
4. 20km feature in the Ray and Mie
5. Cold Pixel
6. Jumps between HR and LR
7. Offset Bug
8. Depolarization issues

Background Removal was not working well enough: Relationship between signal acquired in the background sections of the detection CCD and the signal sections of the CCD were not accurate enough !

High background case: 01055D



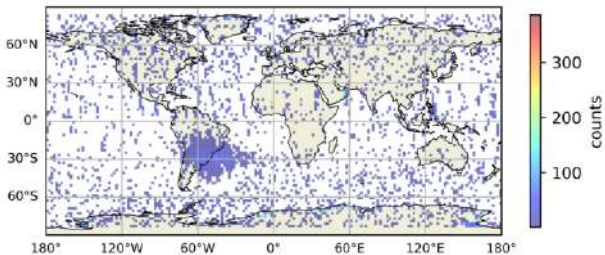
Solid Lines are fits to the expected Rayleigh Clear Signal.

Using Normalized signals without an offset adjustment fits very badly !

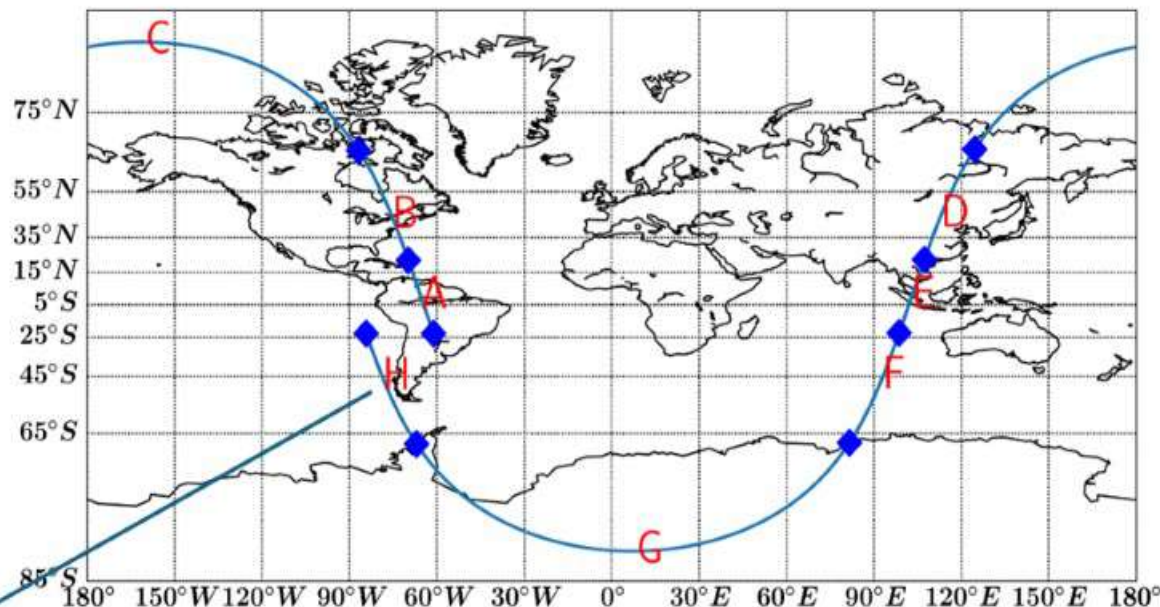
Allowing for an offset (i.e. allowing for a small error in the background removal) results in very much better fits !

This explains why the calibration is off in daylight and other effects (but does not explain the 20km spike features).

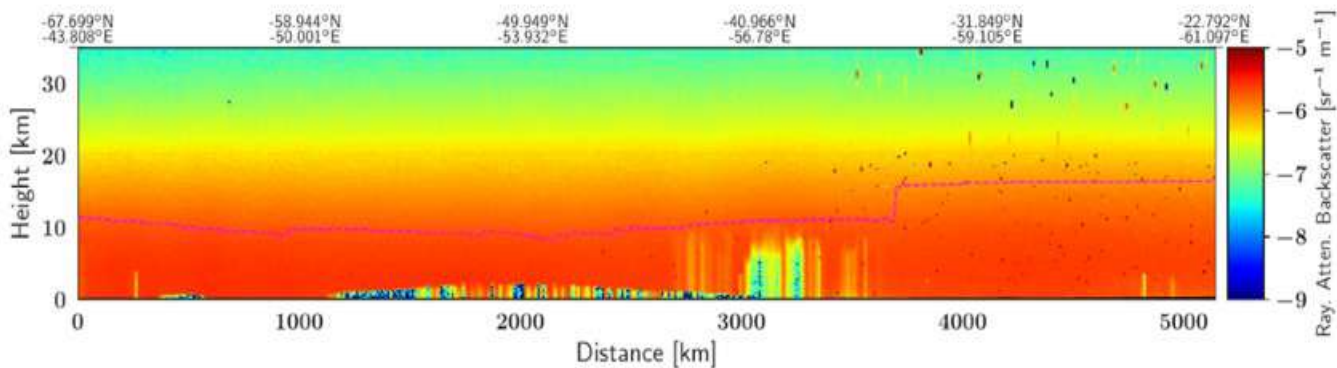
Shape of signal is all wrong.
Extinction and backscatter derived using such signals will be way off !



Radiation Noise



Rate is about 20- 30 per 1e+5 profiles per day.



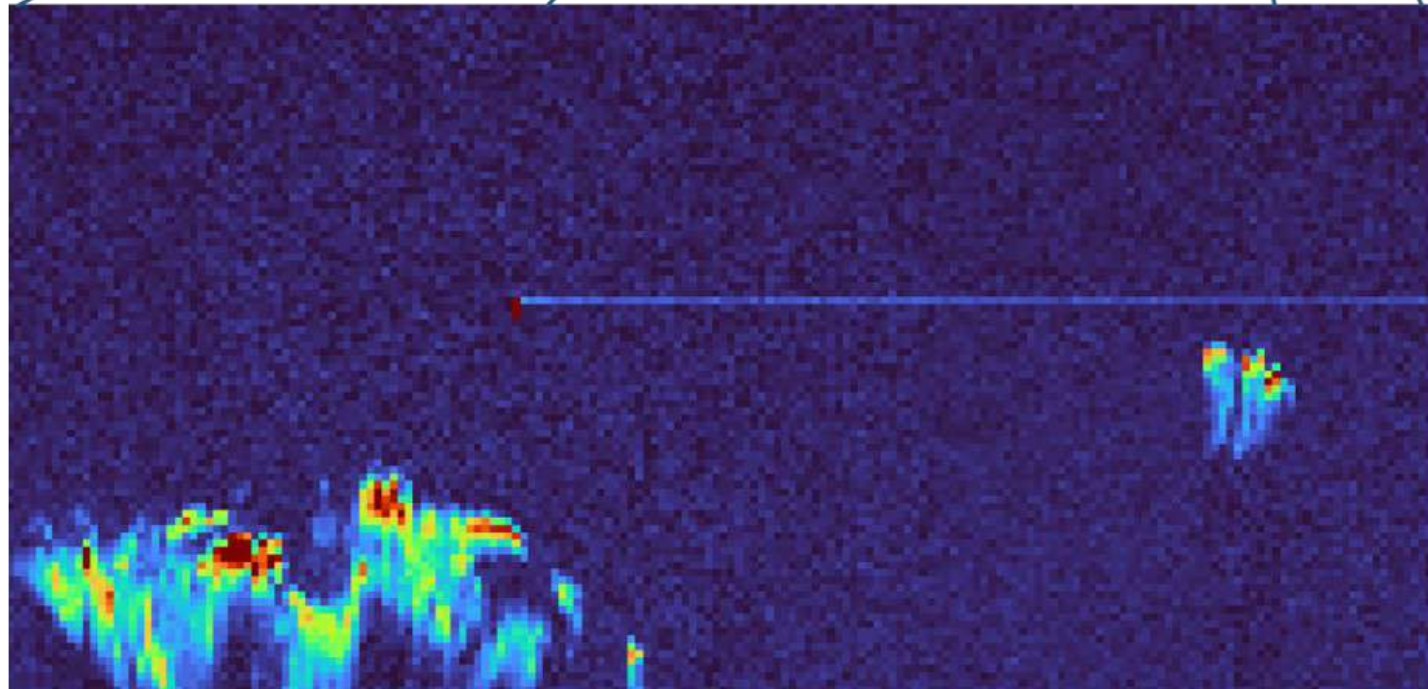
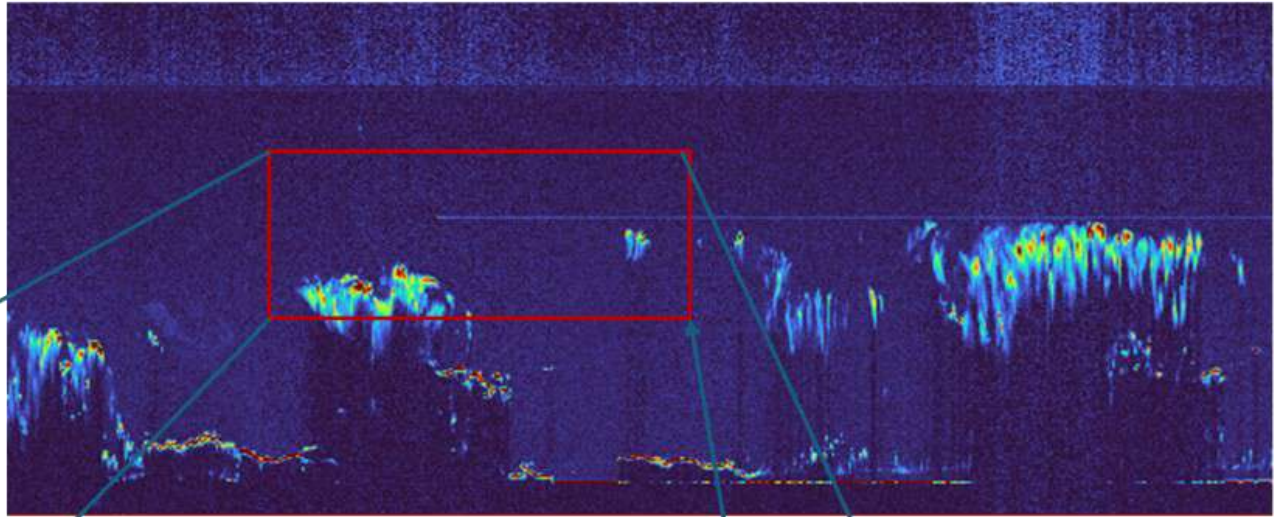
Can be detected by

- 1) Finding the e.g. 99 percentile level
- 2) Flagging pixels e.g. 10x higher than this level
- 3) Checking for false positives by comparing to other channels

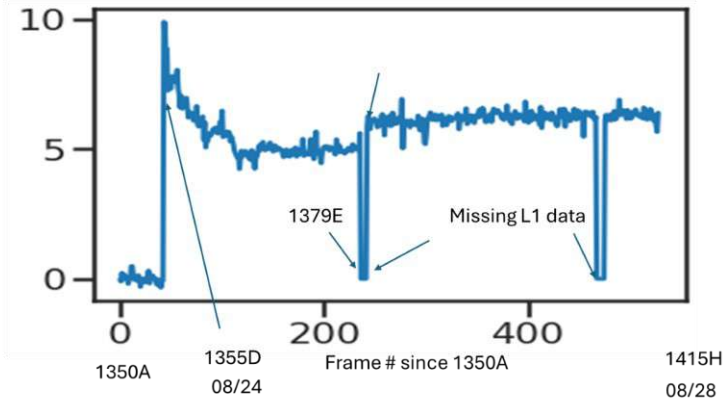
Birth of a Hot Pixel

Cross-Polar Channel

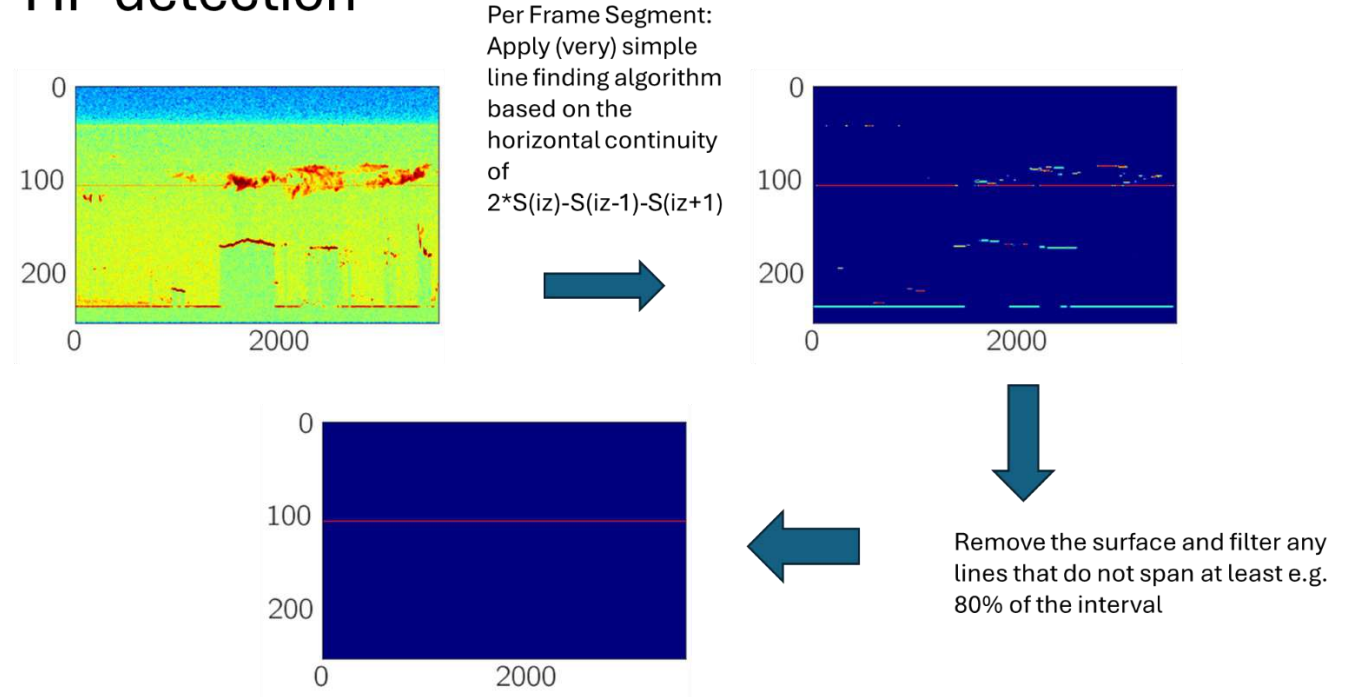
Frame 1355D 08/24 : 0305



Estimated offset in Background in Cro Normalized Signals



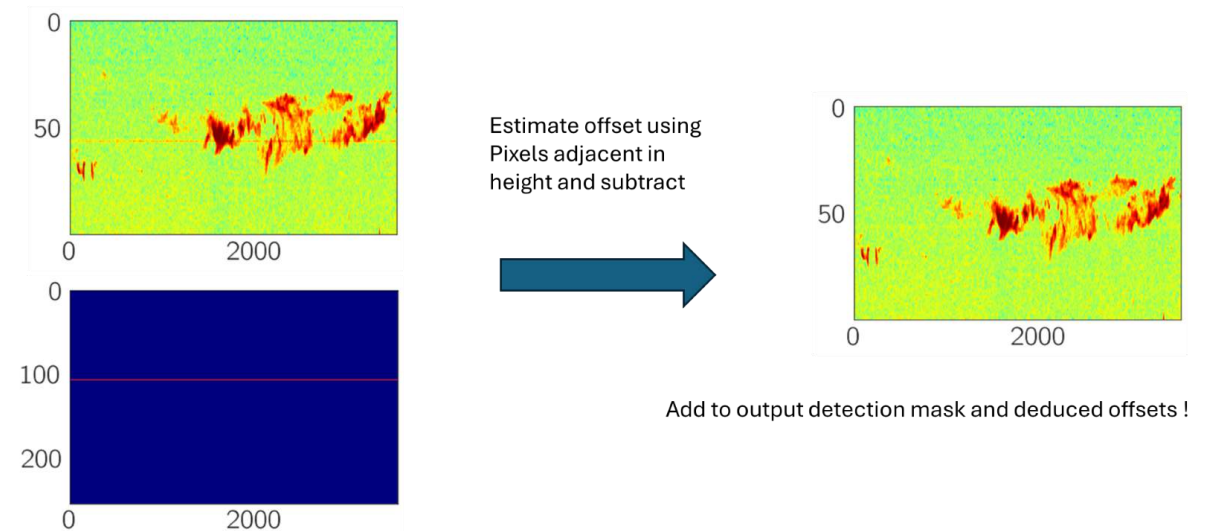
HP detection



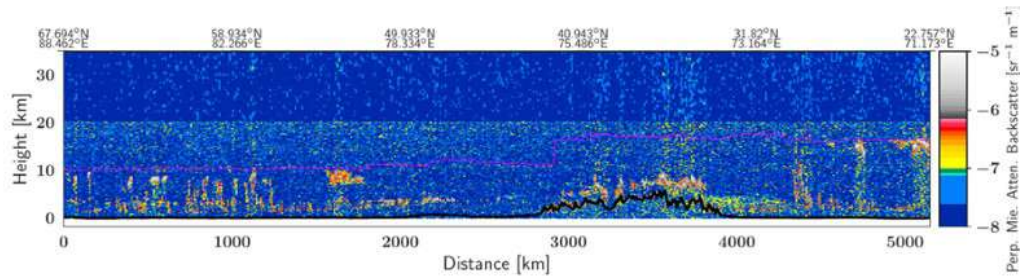
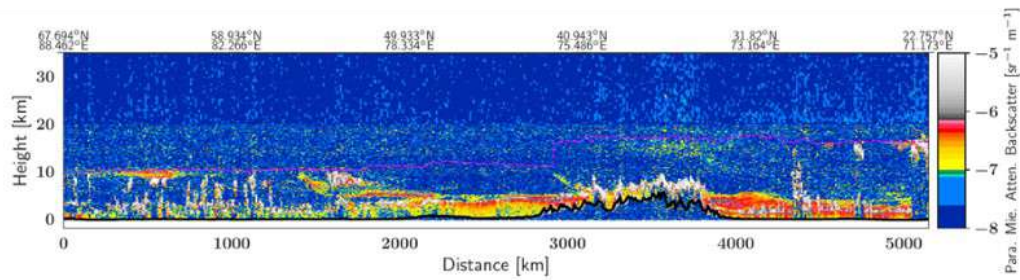
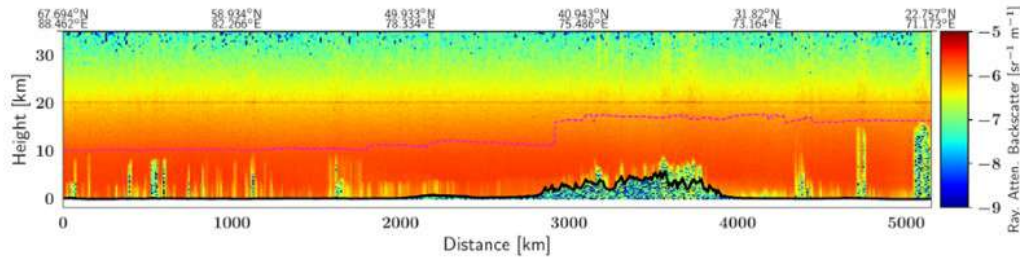
A prototype Software detection and correction algorithm has been developed and being tested.

Weekly Dark-Current maps have been implemented !

HP replacement



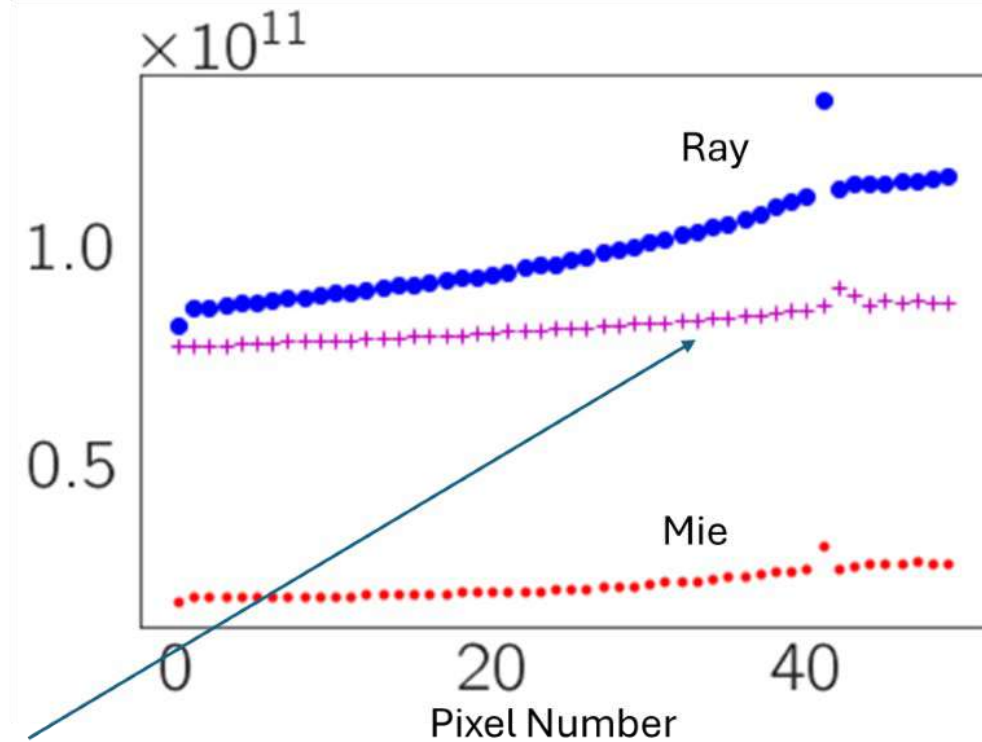
20 Km features in the Ray and Mie Channels



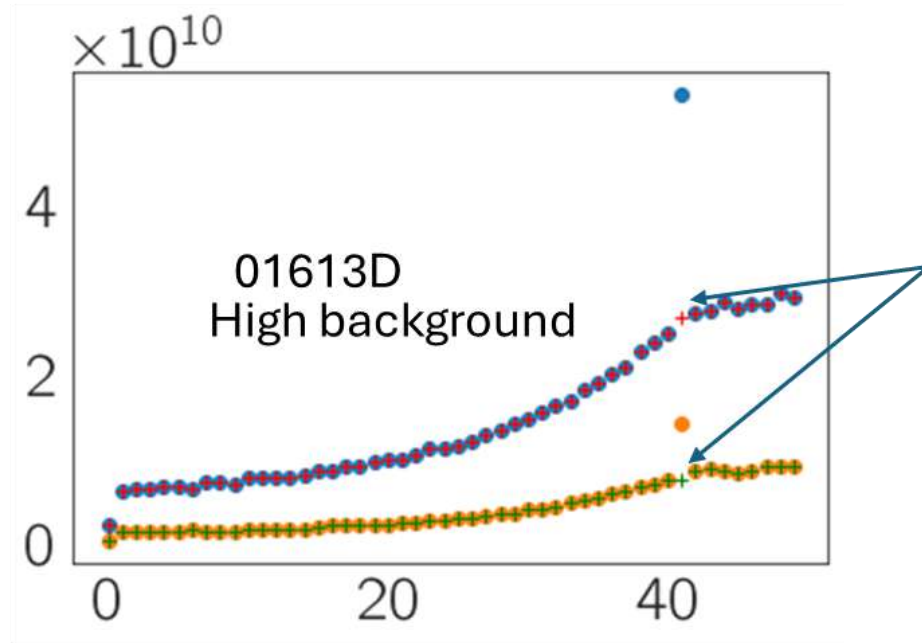
Crosspolar channel is different...?

Recent DCM → Two adjacent Hot Pixels!

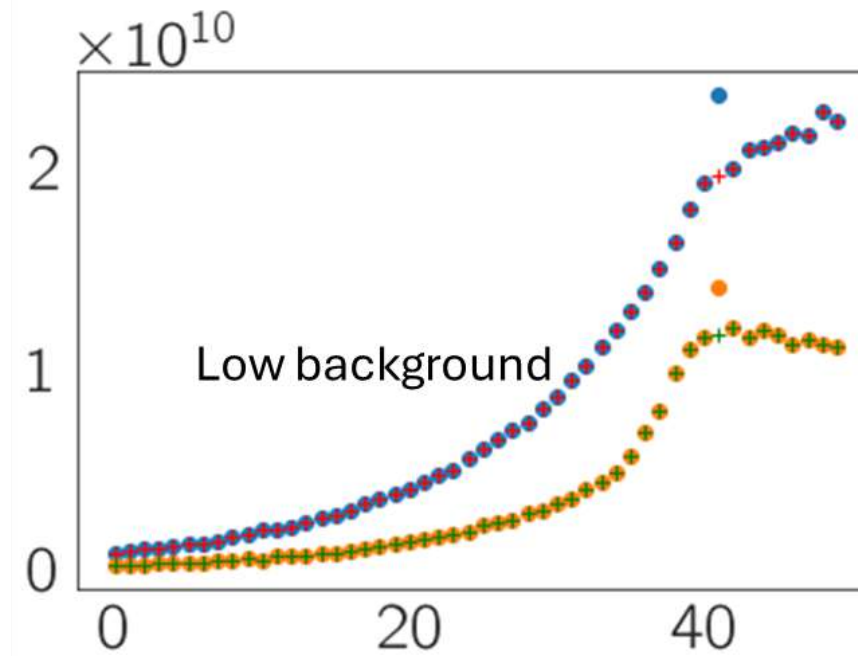
The result of averaging the Raw signals (minus the offset and corrected for the range bin width) for the first 4000km for fn01329D as a function of pixel number.



Shown are the raw_signals divided by the bin_width and multiplied by the range^2

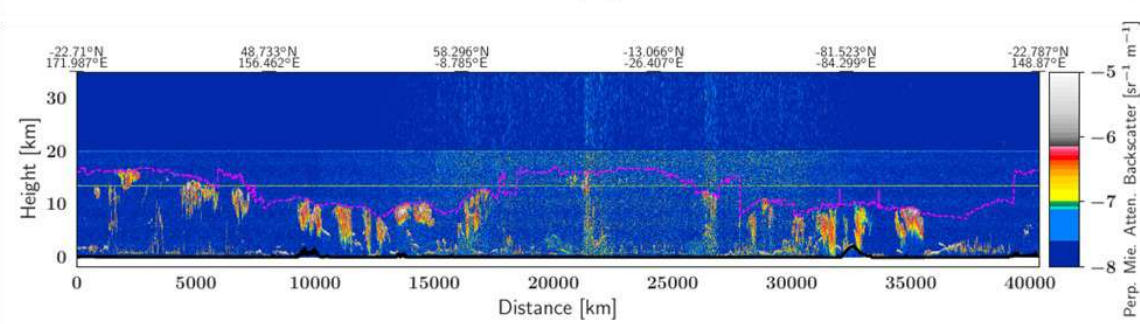
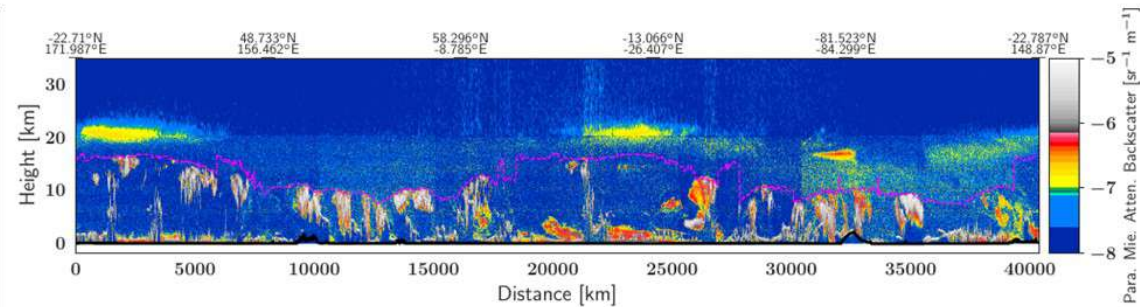
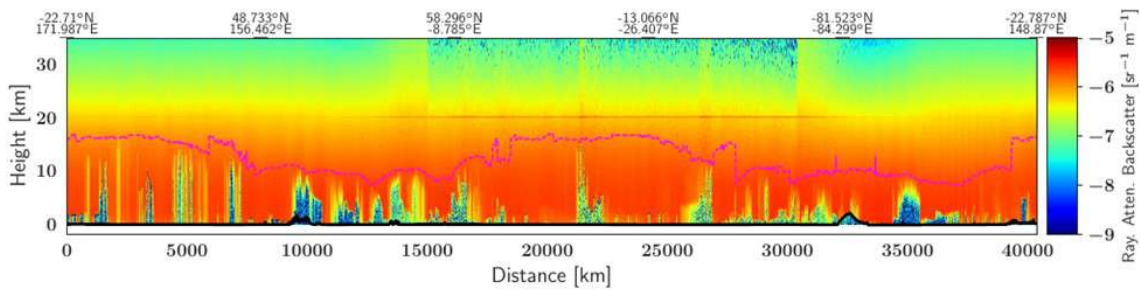


$$\text{Raw_corrected}[41] = \text{Raw}[41] - 0.04 * \text{Raw}[40]$$



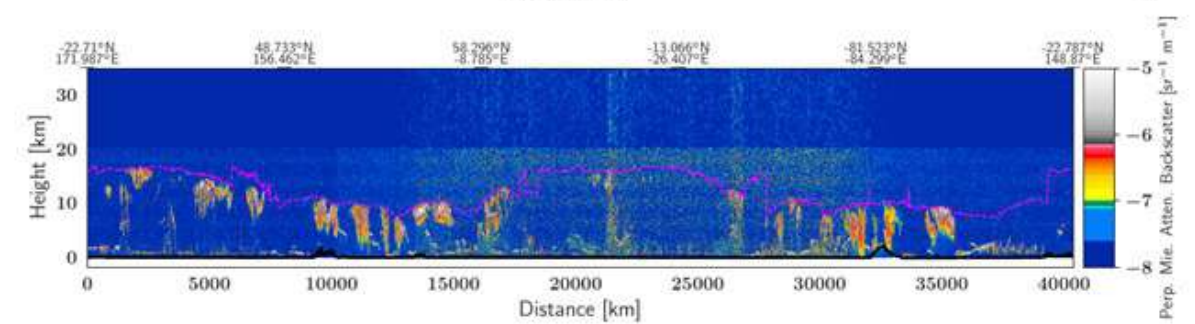
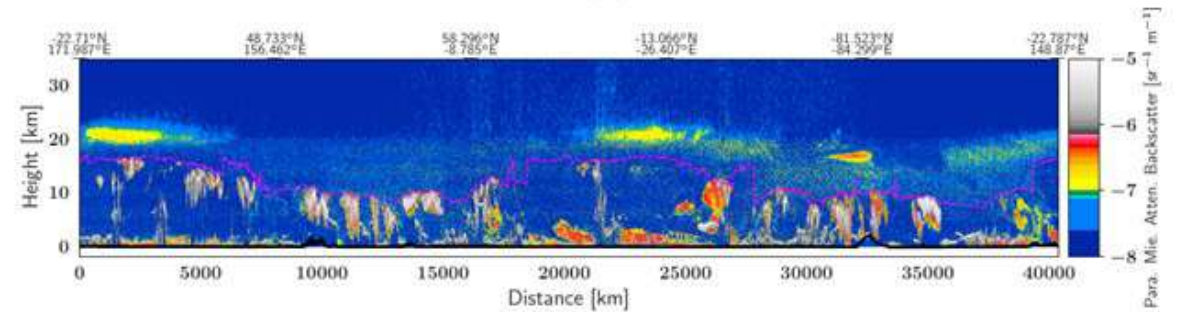
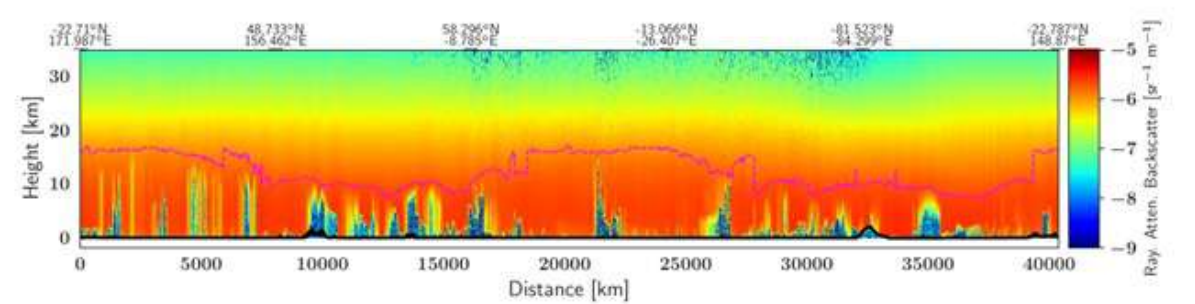
Orbit 01613: Sept 09 2024

Operational Processor

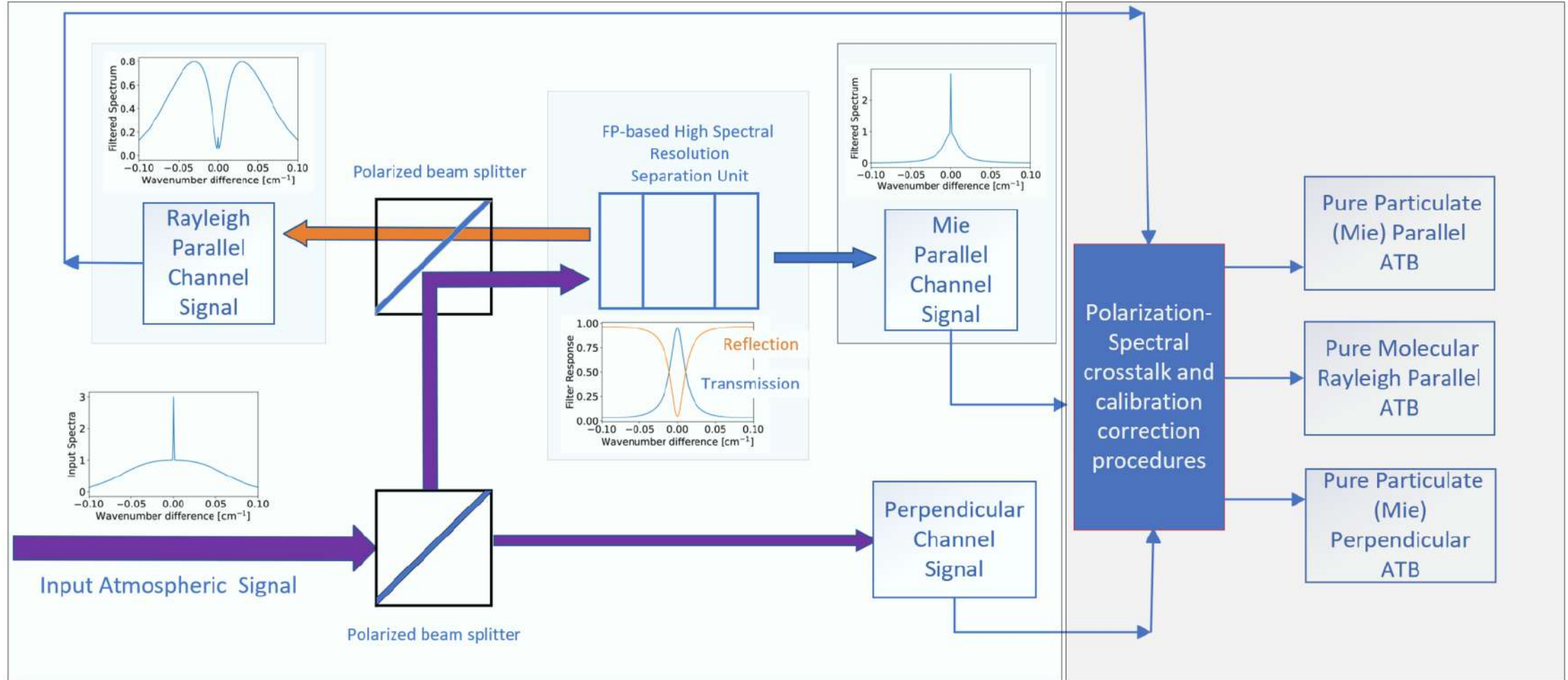


Orbit 01613: Sept 09 2024

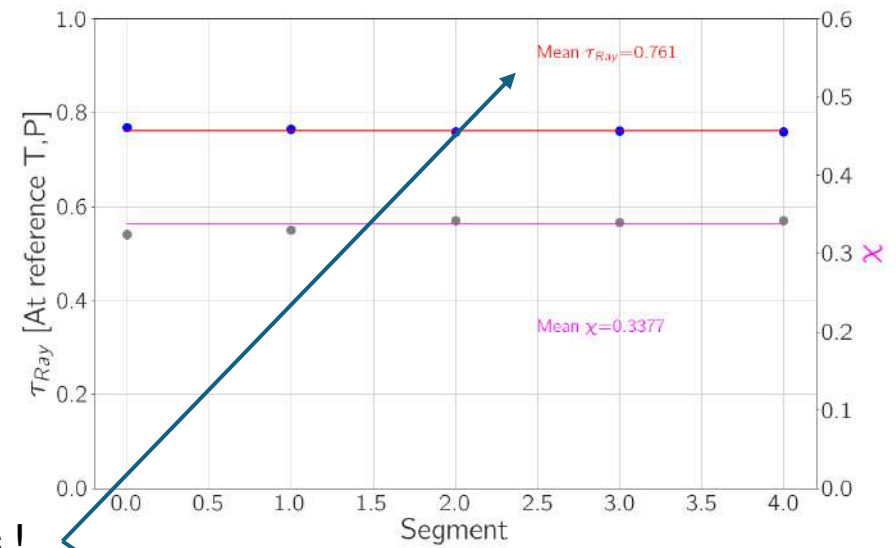
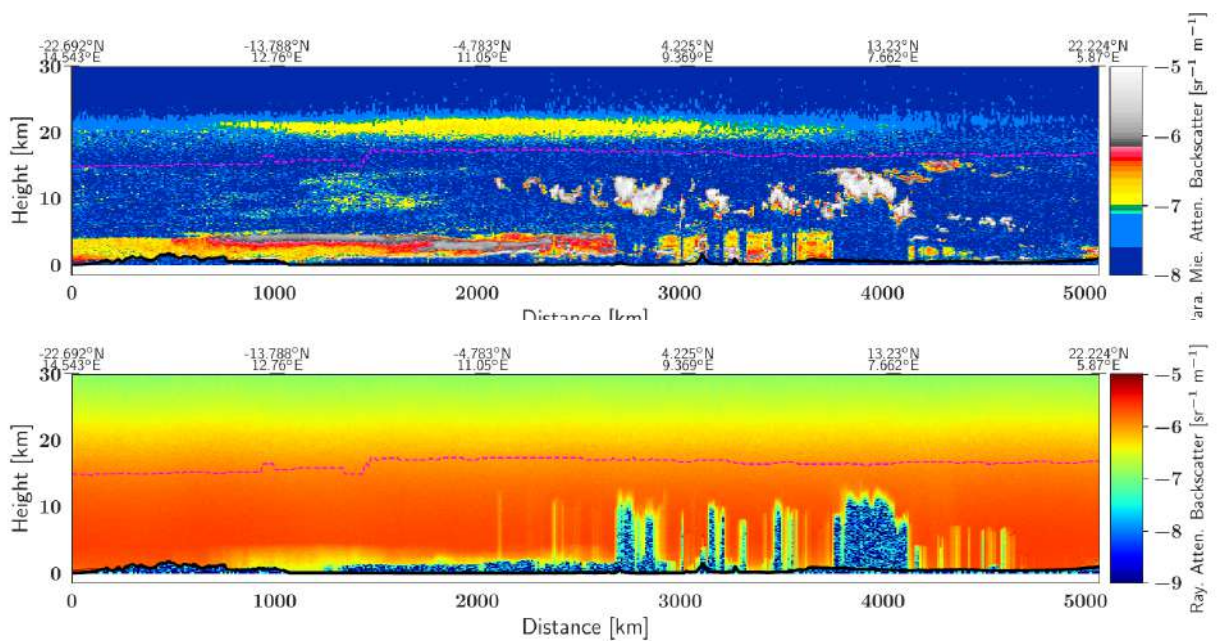
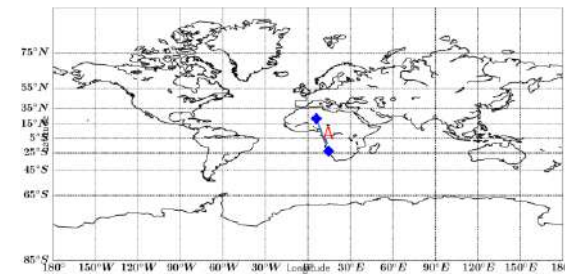
KNMI Post-Processor Prototype



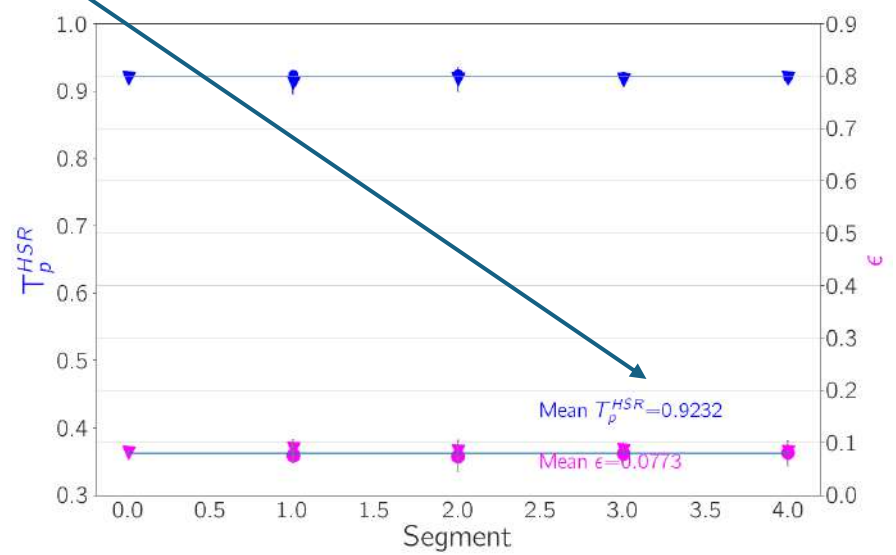
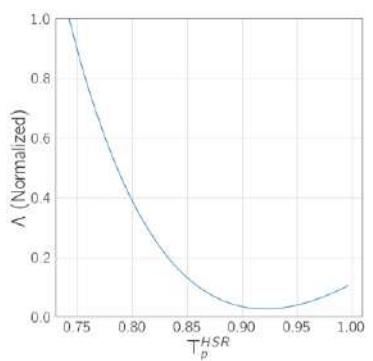
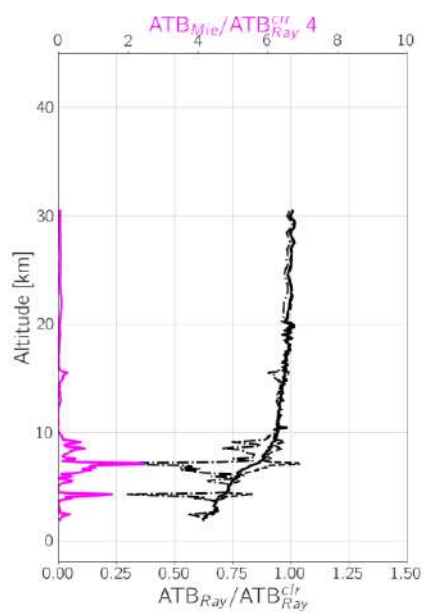
Spectral Cross Talk determinations



Cross-talk update 01542A: Sept 09



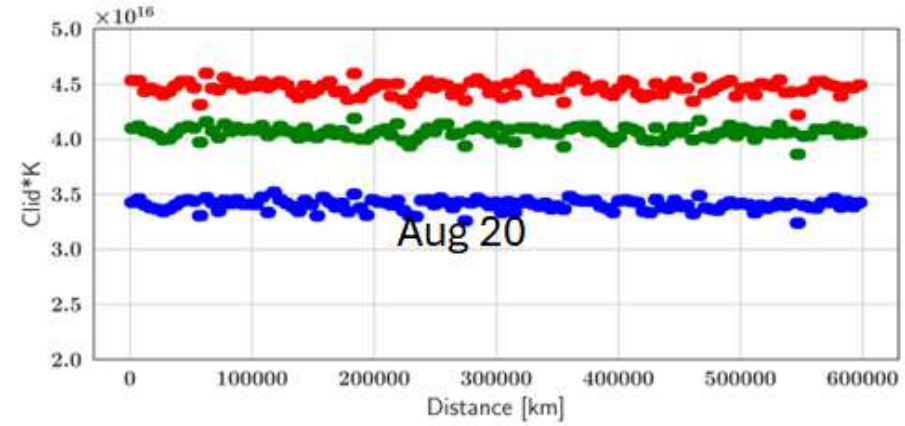
Very close to expected values !



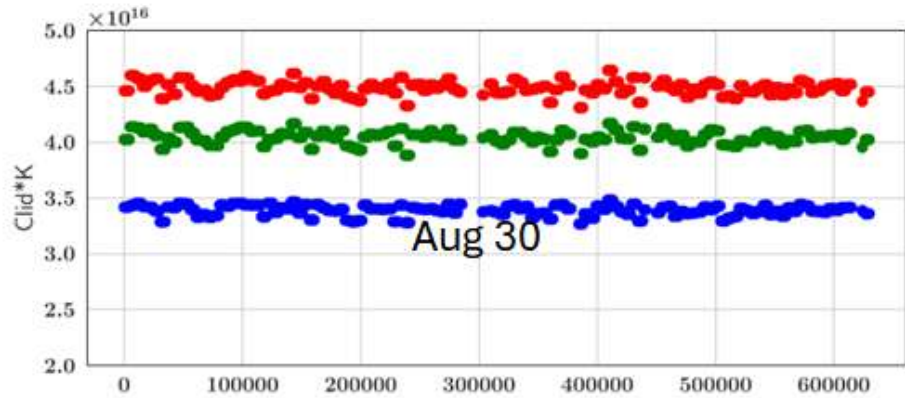
Monitoring

Per-channel effective calibration coefficients.

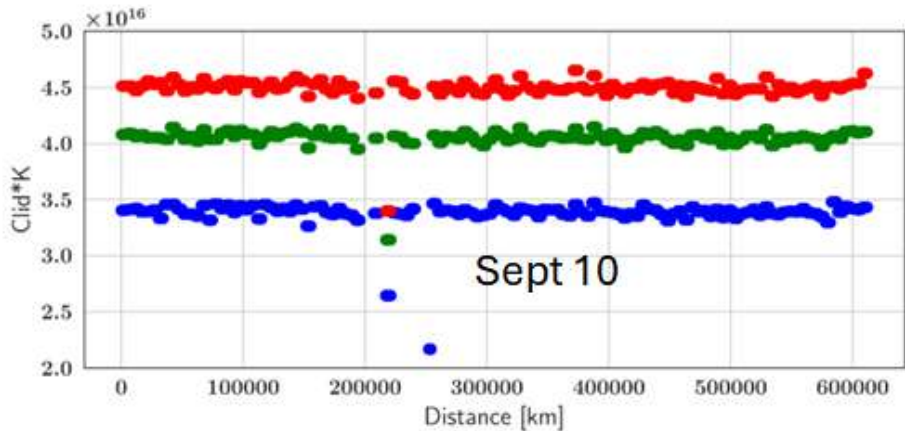
Ray



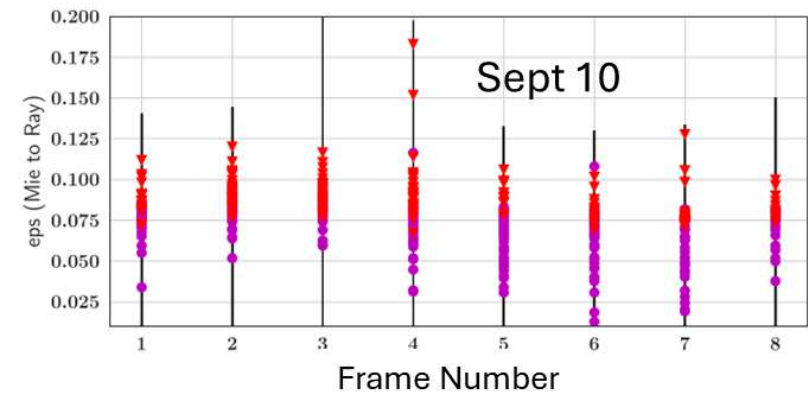
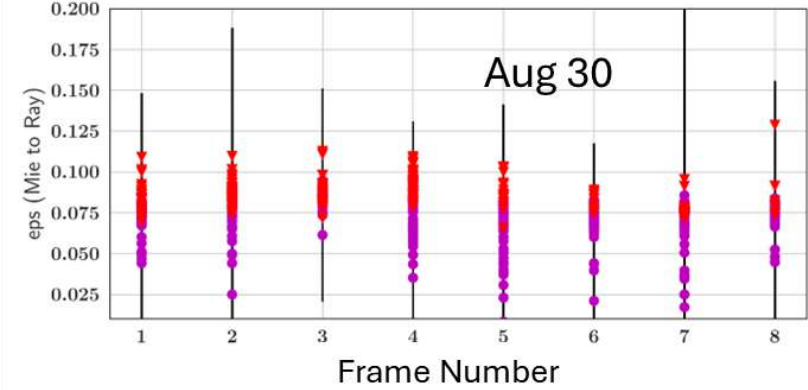
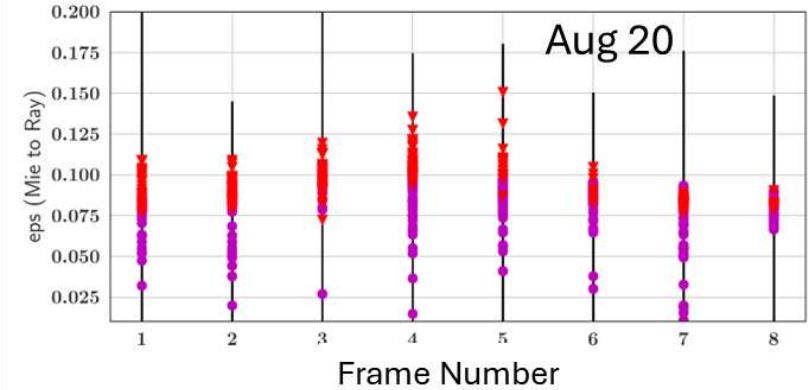
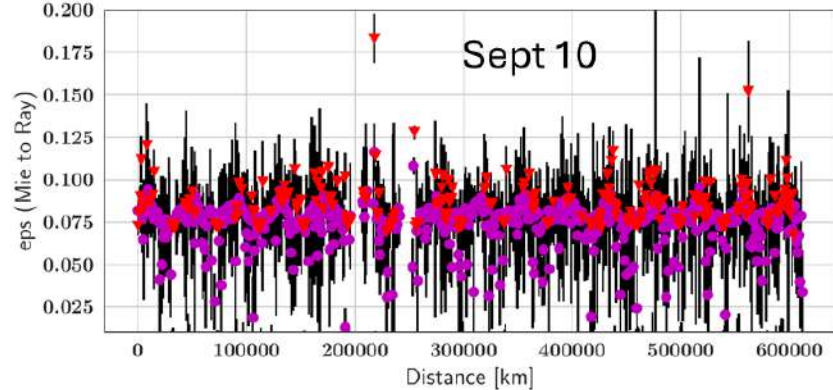
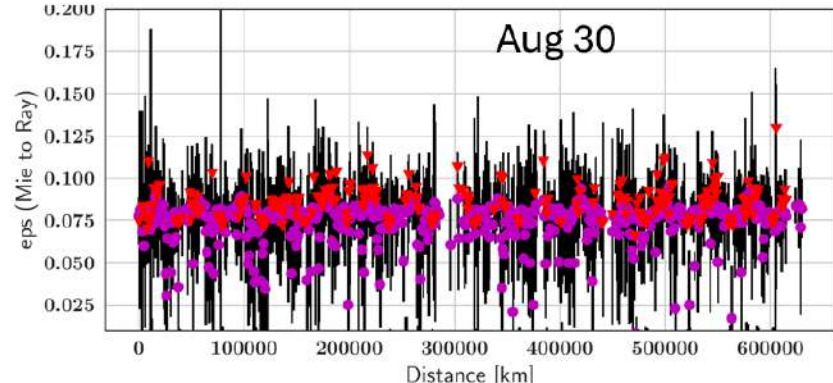
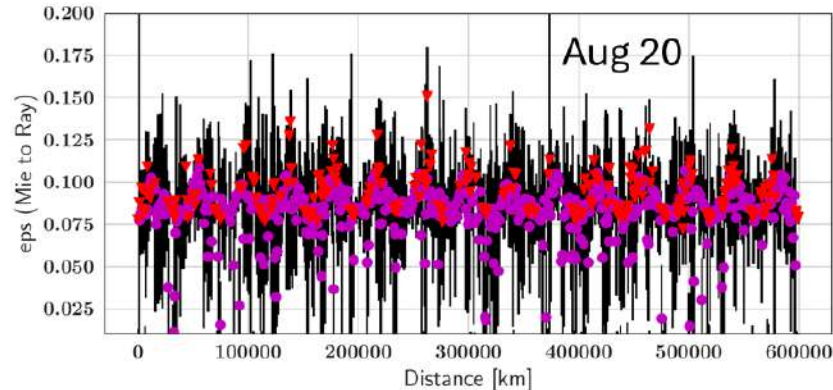
Mie



Cro



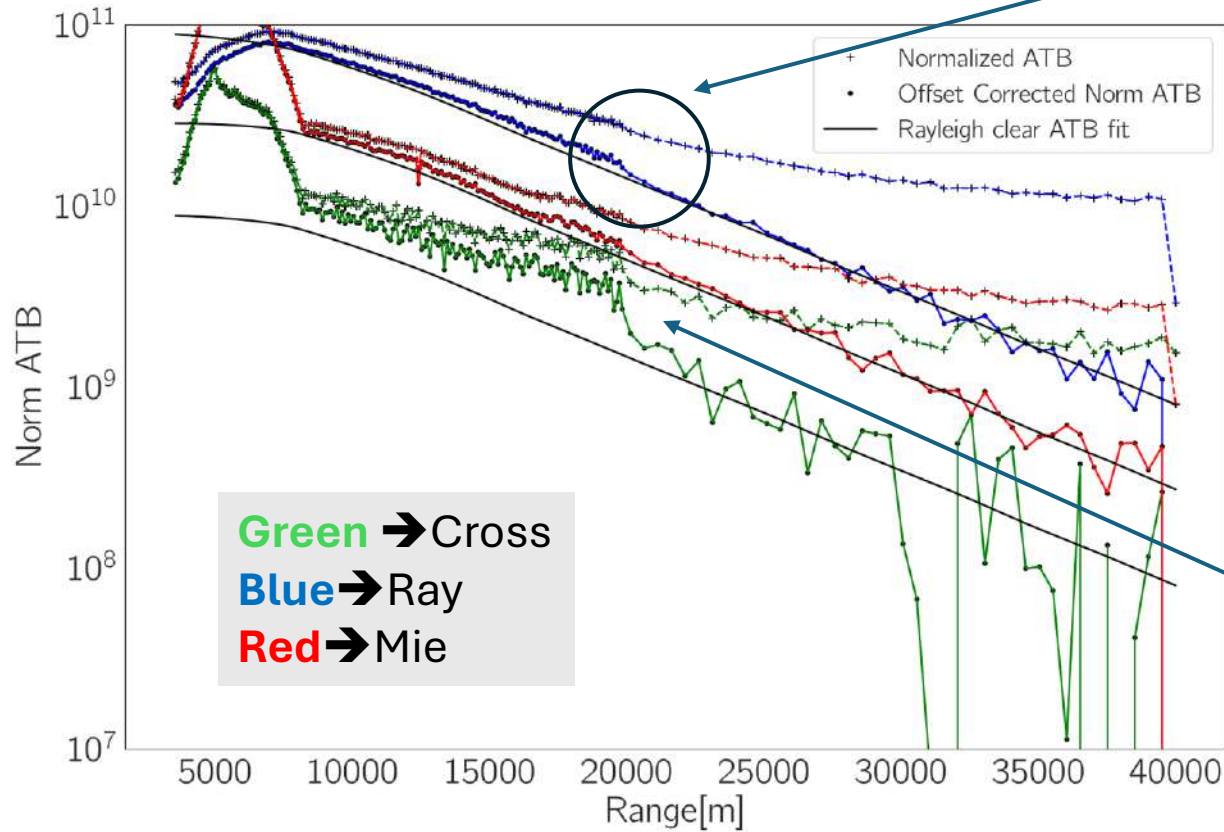
Eps: Mie \rightarrow Ray



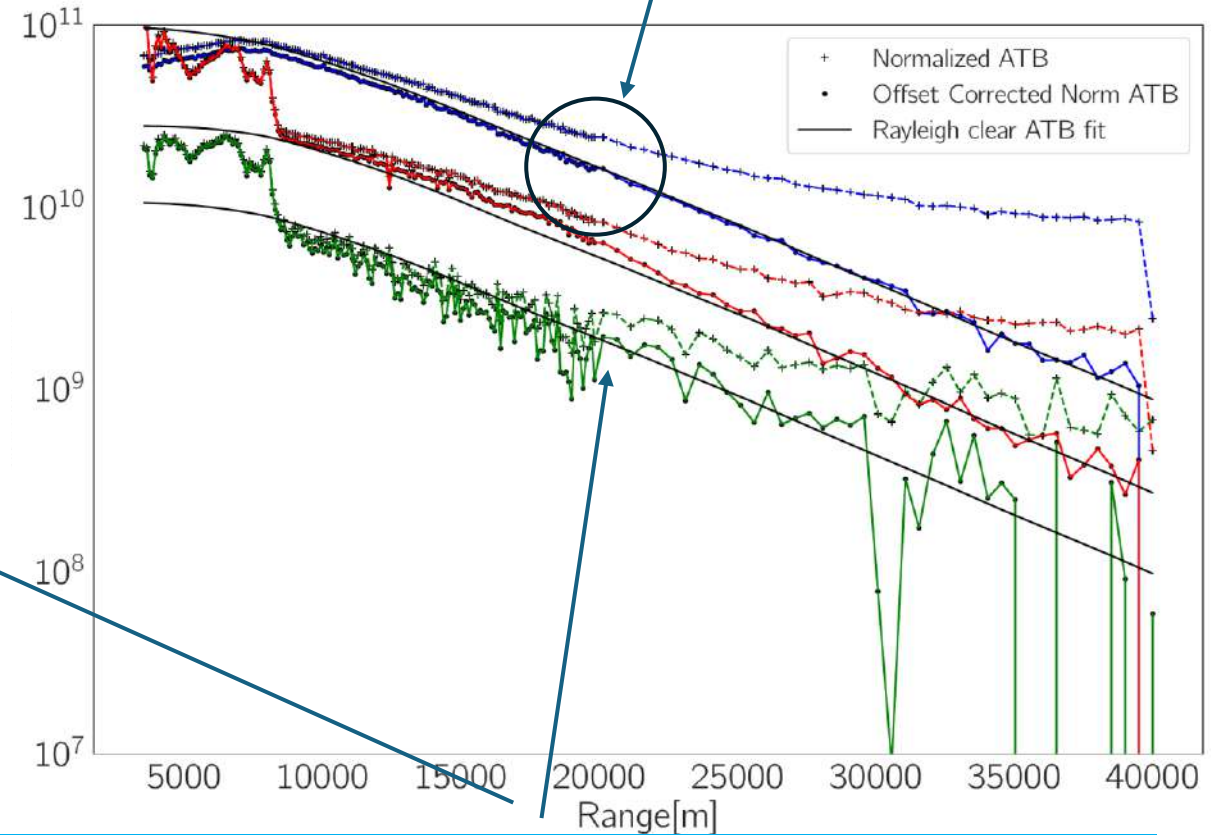
Detection Chain-offset fix really improved things !

Looks like now HR-vs-LR Bkgrn facs are less than 1 !

Before Offset Fix:
No CONT correction
No HR-vs-LR Bkgrn fac



After Offset Fix:
No CONT correction
No HR-vs-LR Bkgrn fac

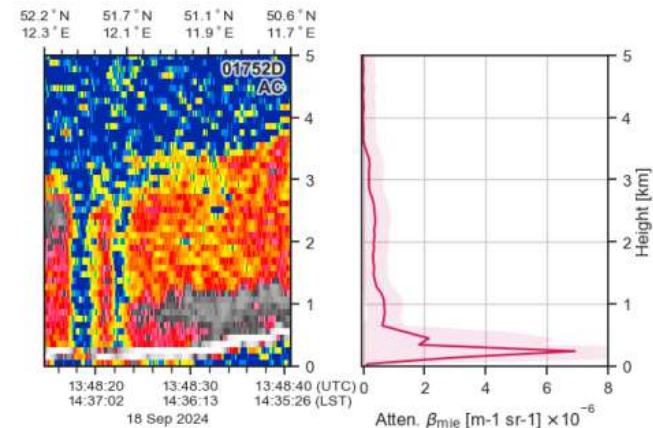
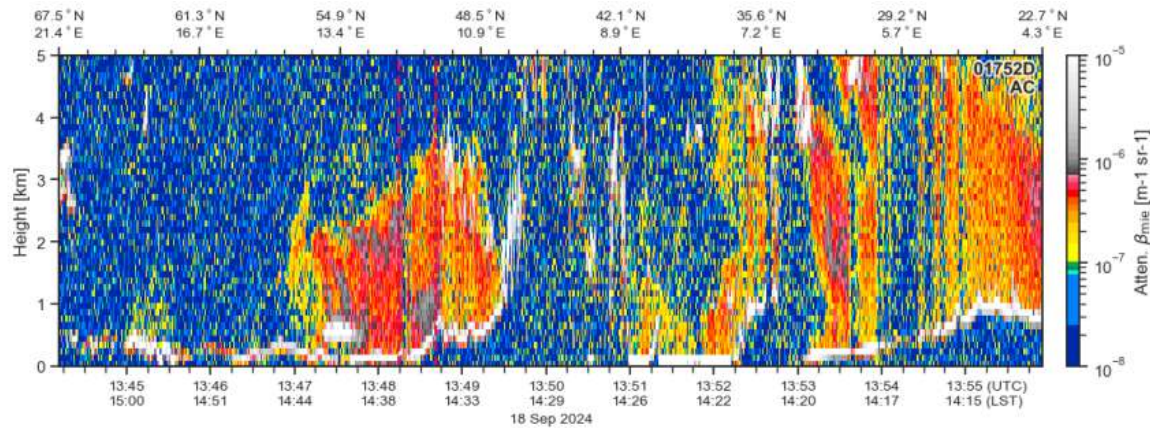
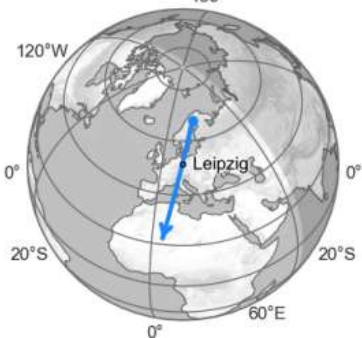


Depol channel continuity above and below 20km looks much better !

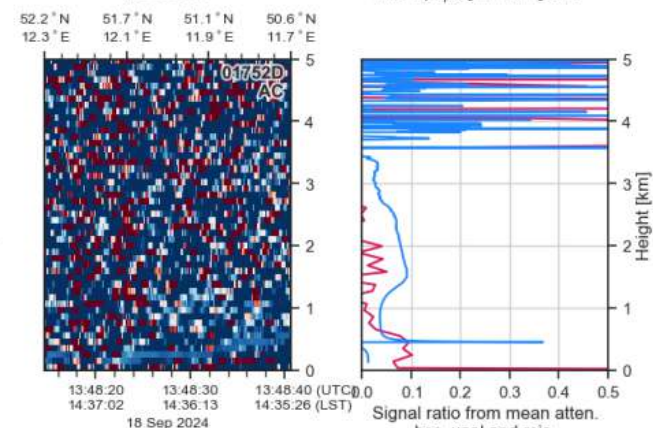
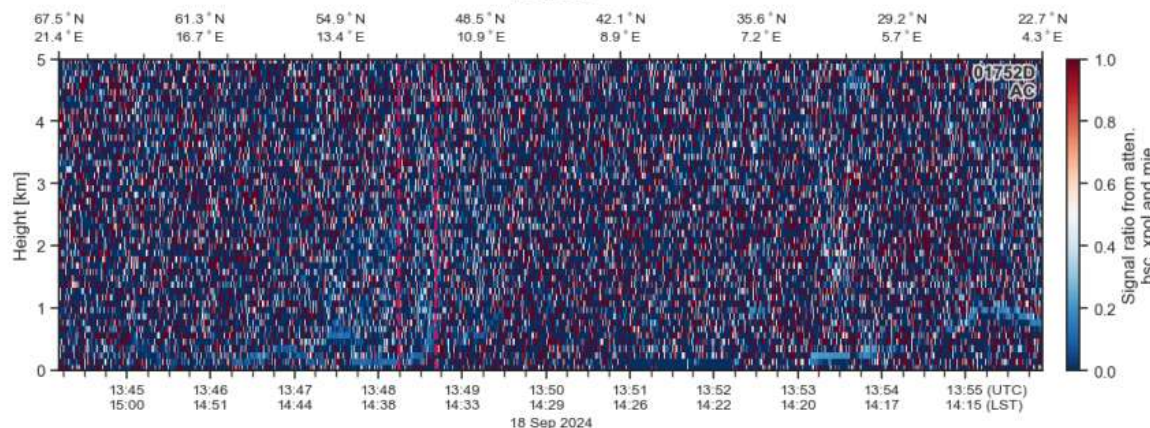
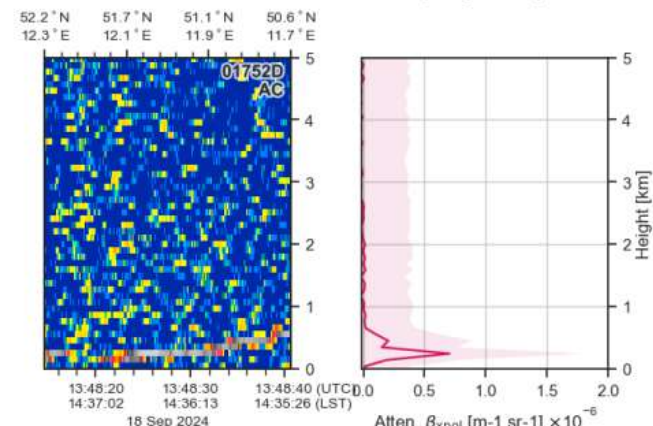
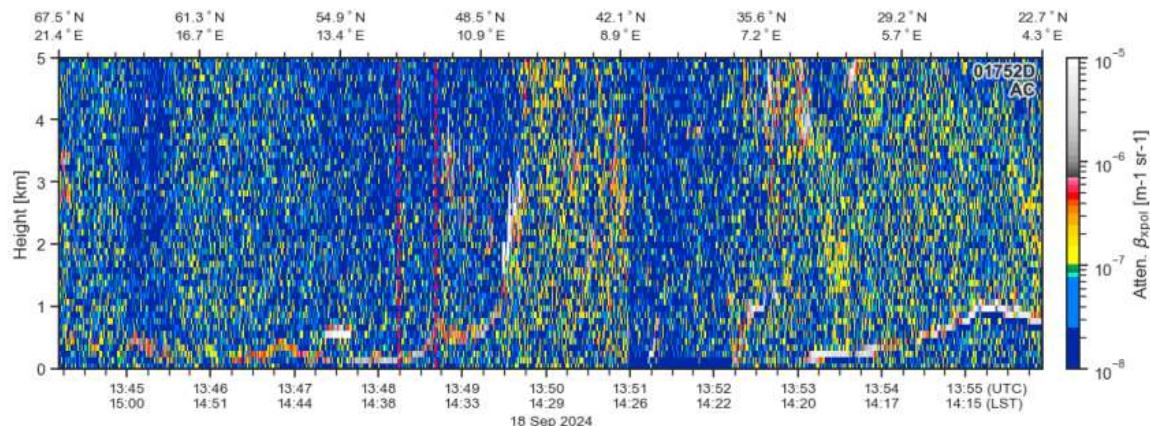
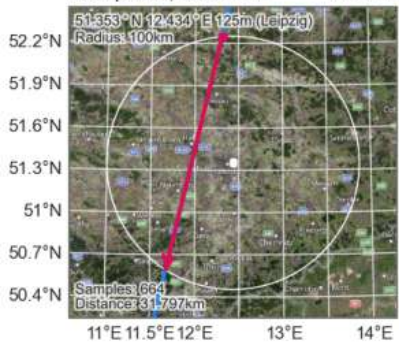
Depolarization

- Could only be really investigated in depth after the background and offset issues were sorted out.
 - Recently a lot of progress has been made though.
 - Most recently inconsistencies between the calibration database definitions of a few relevant factors and the definitions used in the processor were identified.

18 Sep 2024, 13:48 UTC 01752D

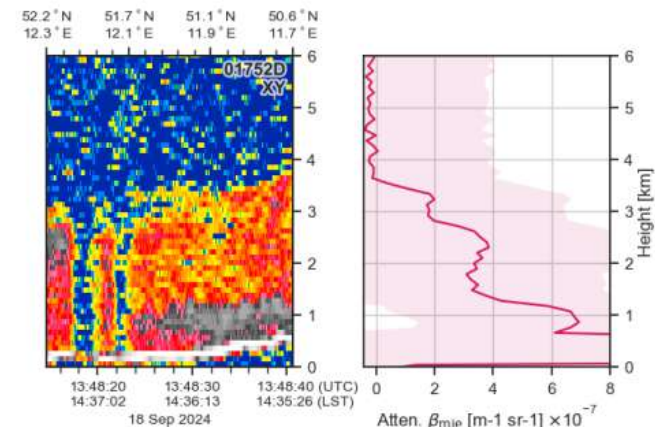
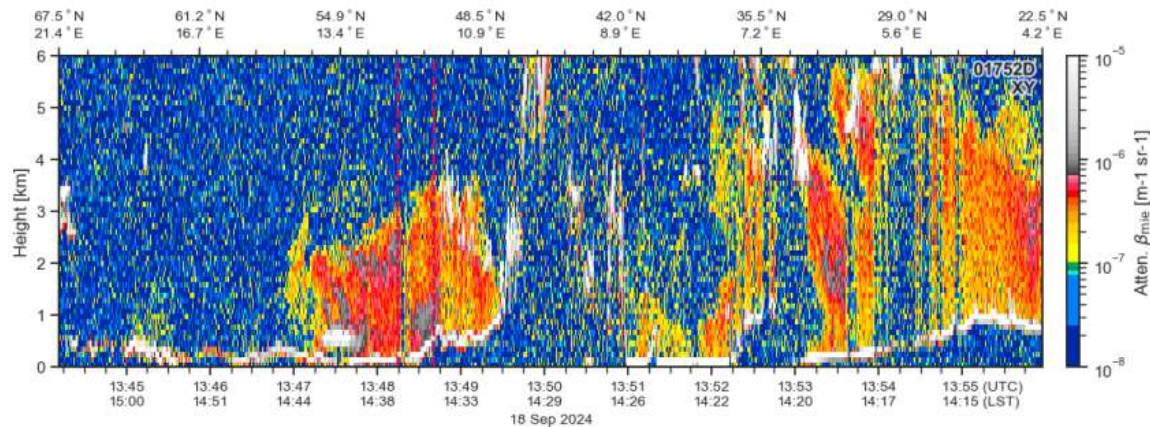
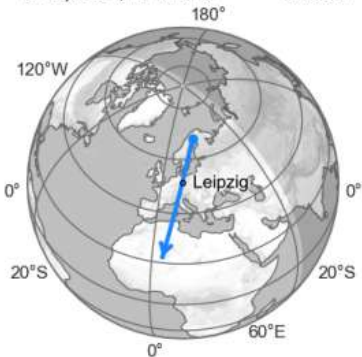


18 Sep 2024, 13:48 UTC 01752D

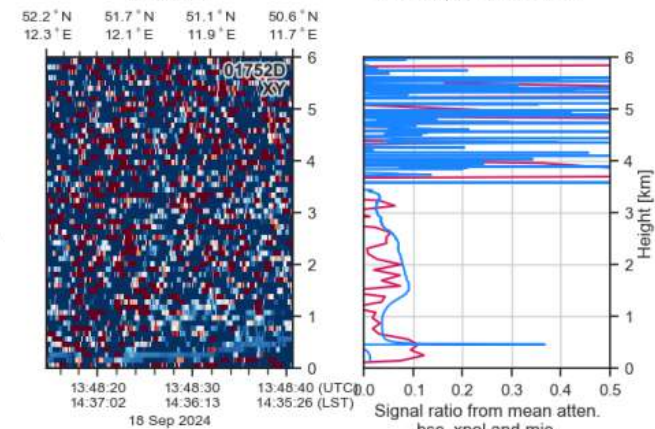
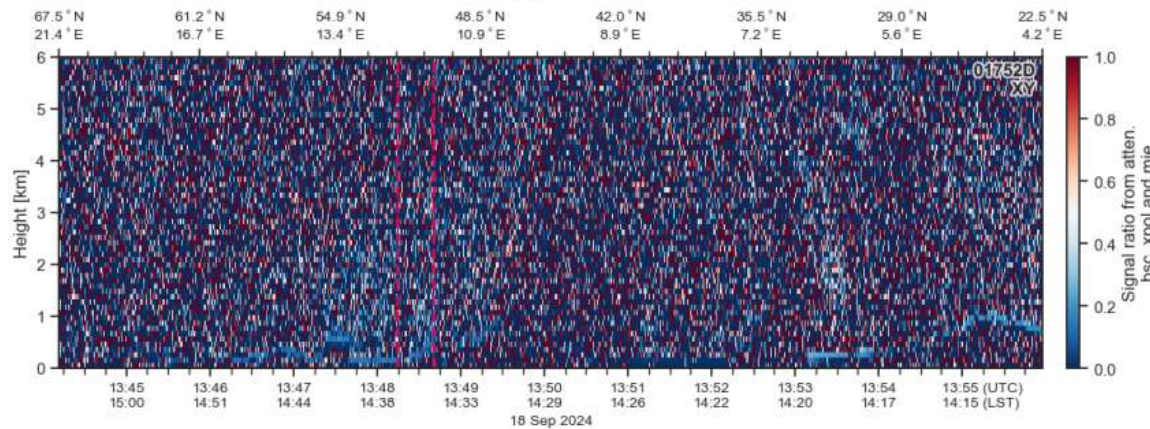
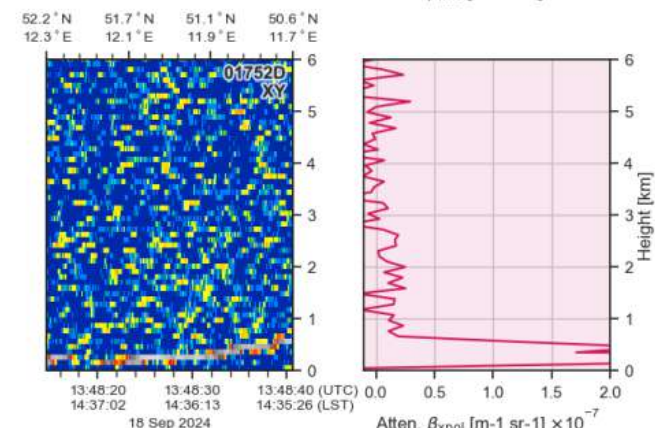
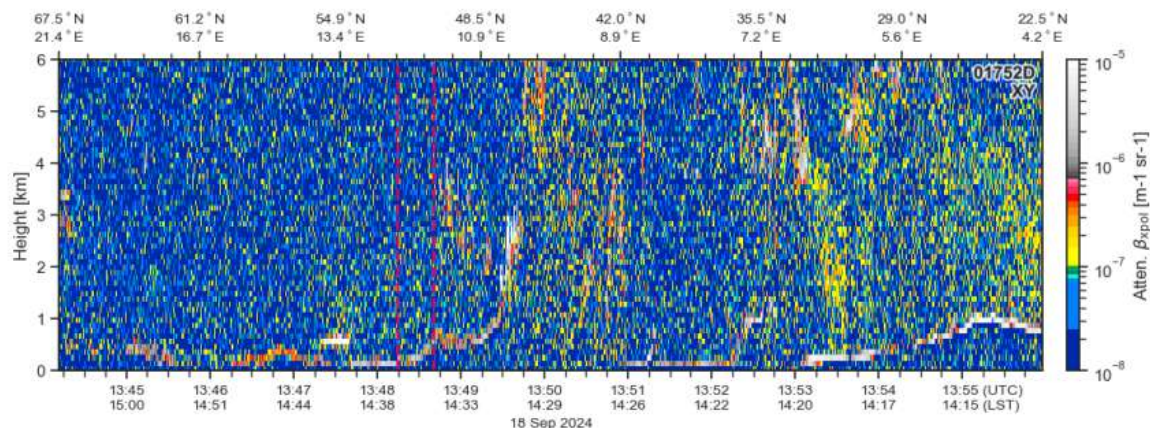
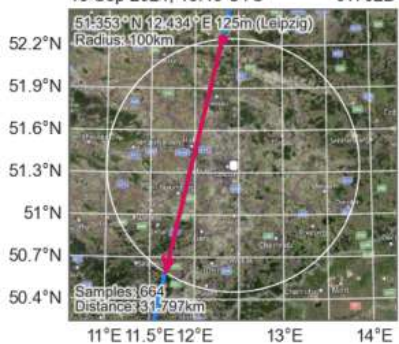


— ATLID
— parDepol_klett_355

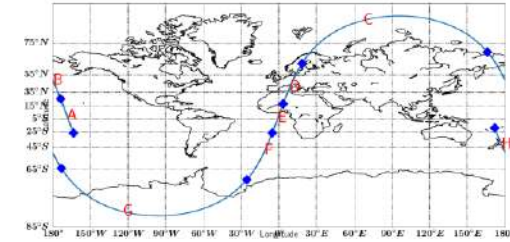
18 Sep 2024, 13:48 UTC 01752D



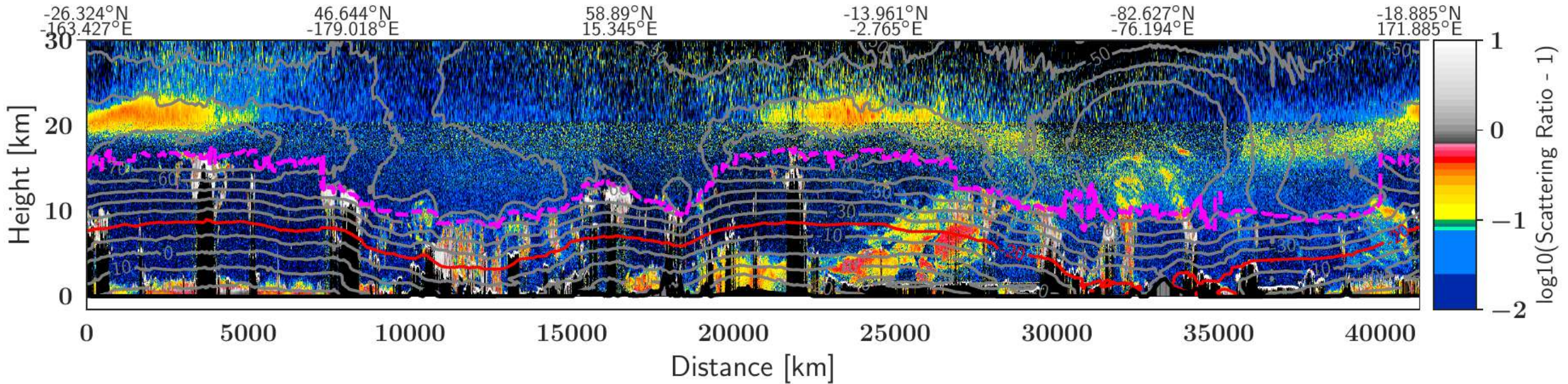
18 Sep 2024, 13:48 UTC 01752D



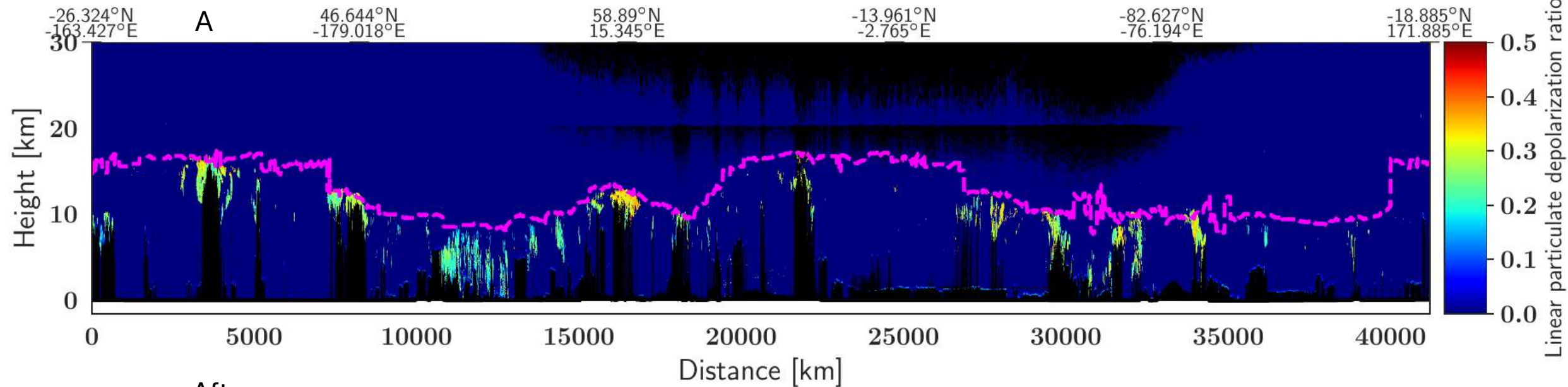
— ATLID
— parDepol_klett_355



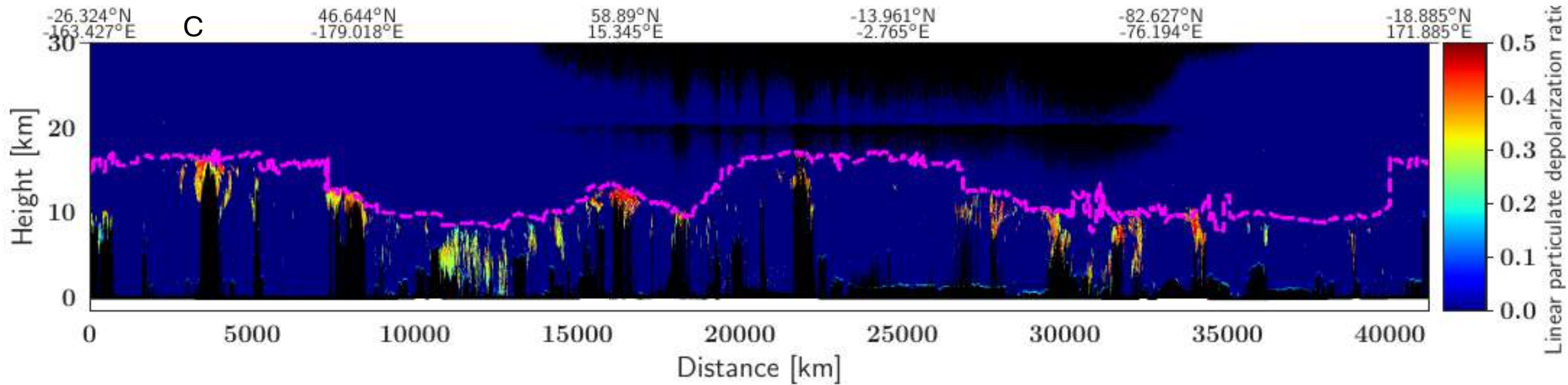
Example Orbit (01752) with Offset fix



Before



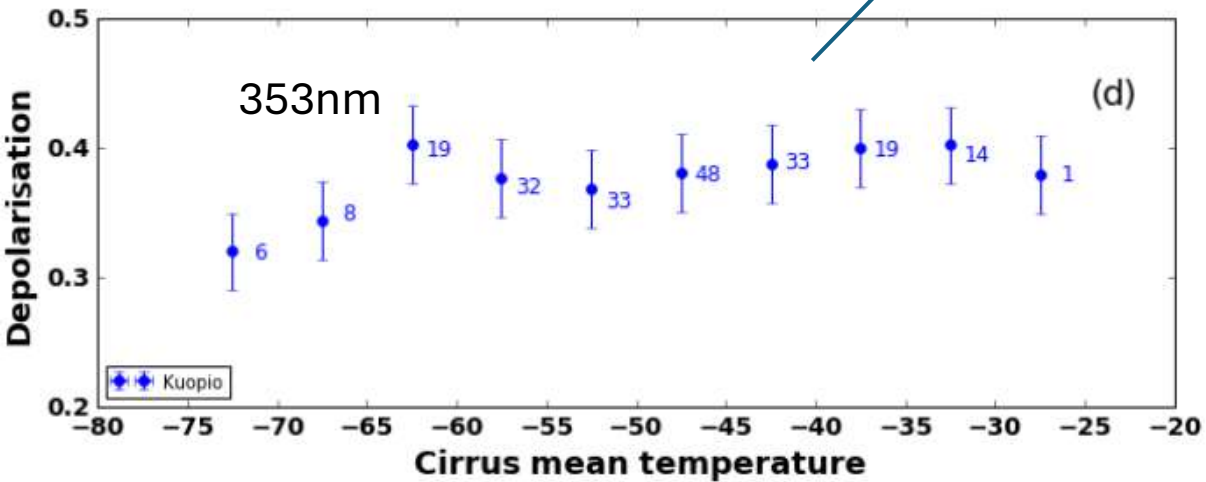
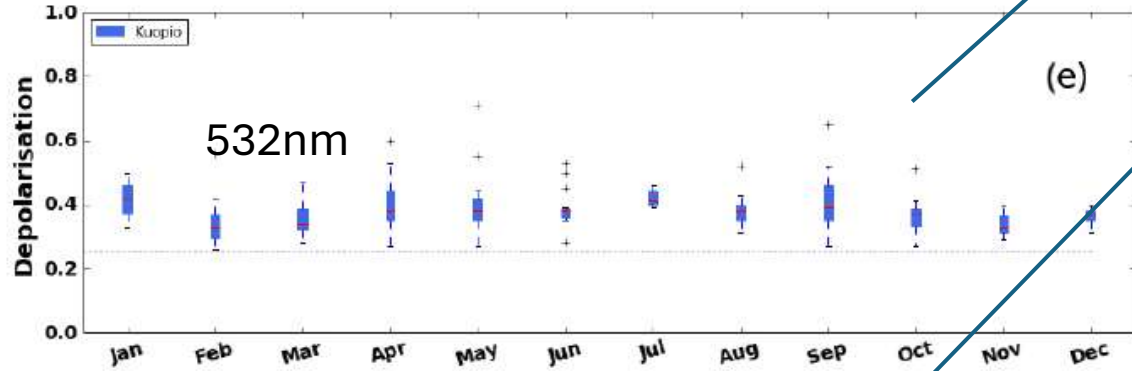
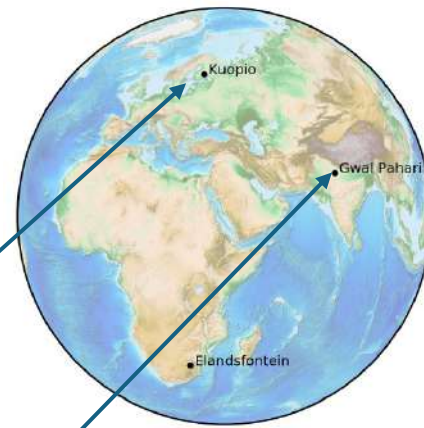
After



Comparison with results in

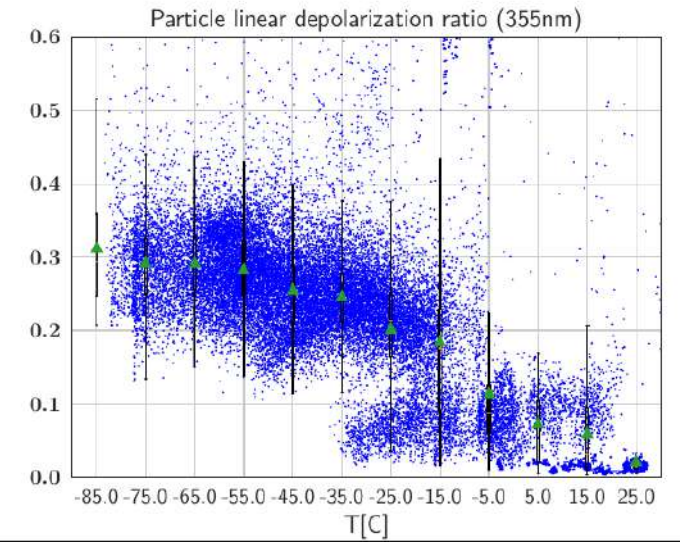
Variability in cirrus cloud properties using a Polly^{XT} Raman lidar over high and tropical latitudes

Kalliopi Artemis Voudouri¹, Elina Giannakaki^{2,3}, Mika Komppula³, and Dimitris Balis¹

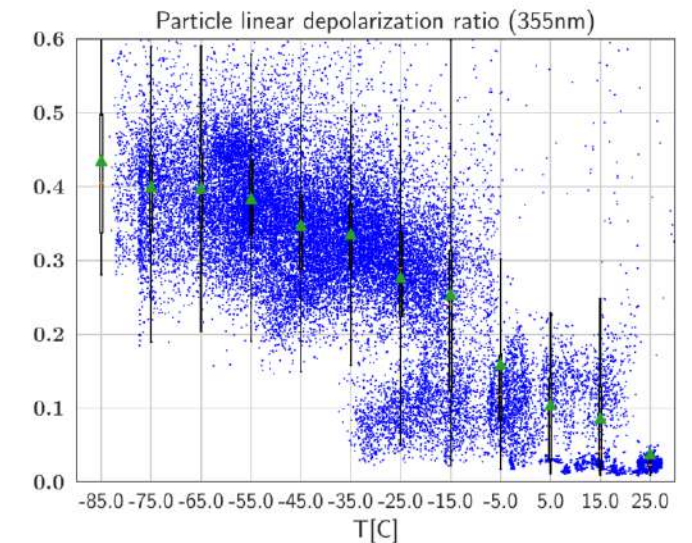


Cirrus properties	Gwal Pahari
<i>N</i>	11 (7 d, 4 n)
% subvisible	0
% thin	20
% opaque	80
LR 355	27 ± 12 23 ± 8 d 31 ± 15 n
LR 532	28 ± 22 23 ± 3 d 33 ± 11 n
COD 355	0.60 ± 0.25 0.40 ± 0.30 d 0.80 ± 0.20 n
COD 532	0.45 ± 0.30 0.30 ± 0.40 d 0.60 ± 0.20 n
CR (355/532)	1.50 ± 0.80

Operational Processor A



Prototype Processor C



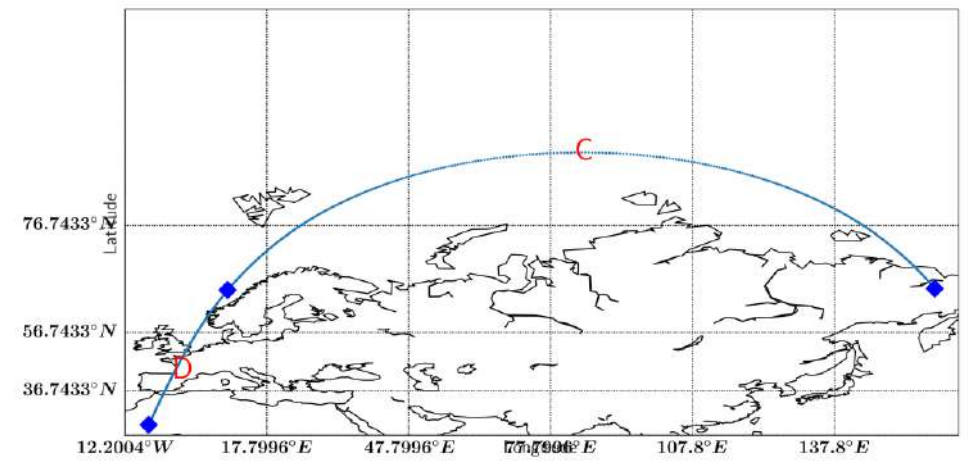
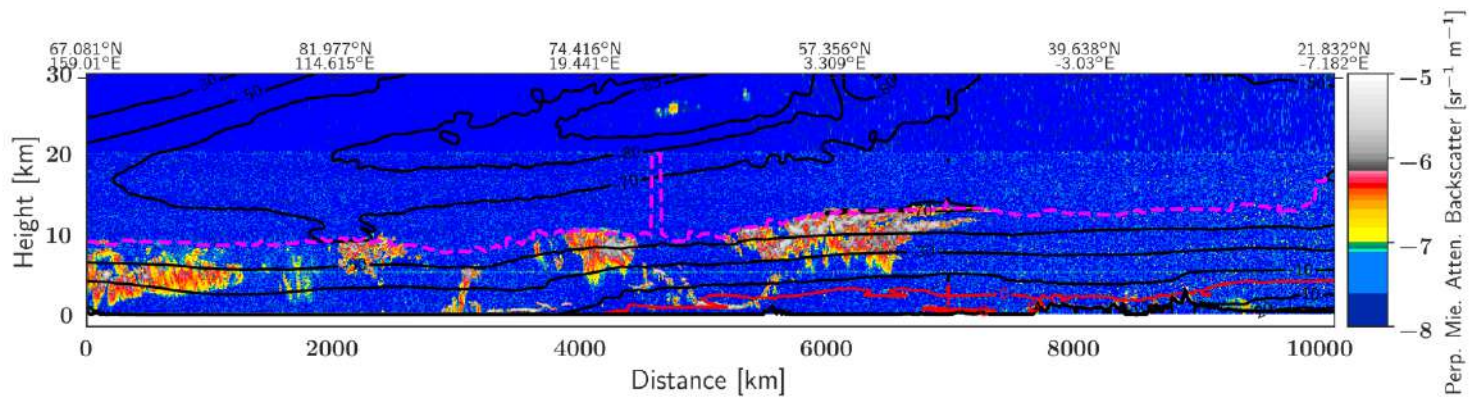
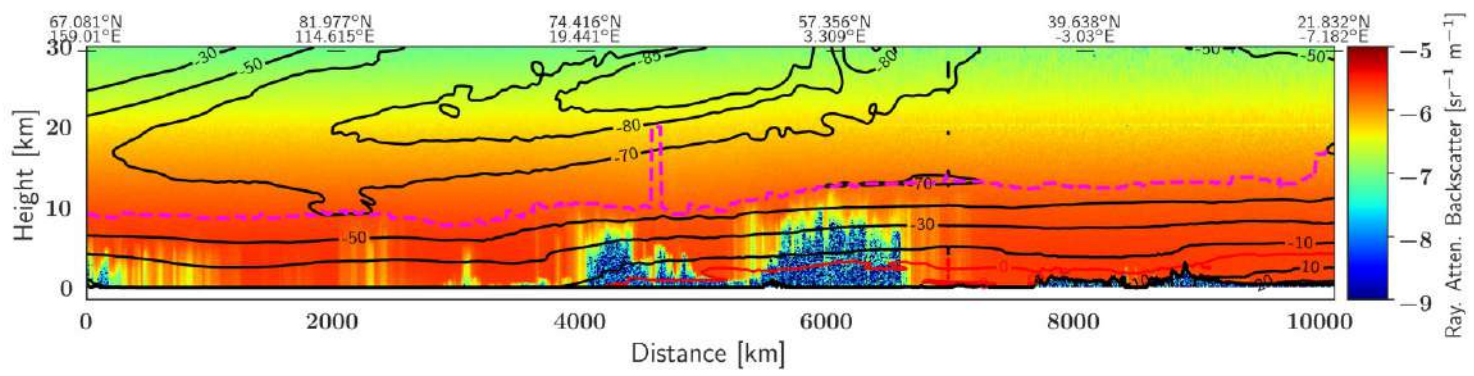
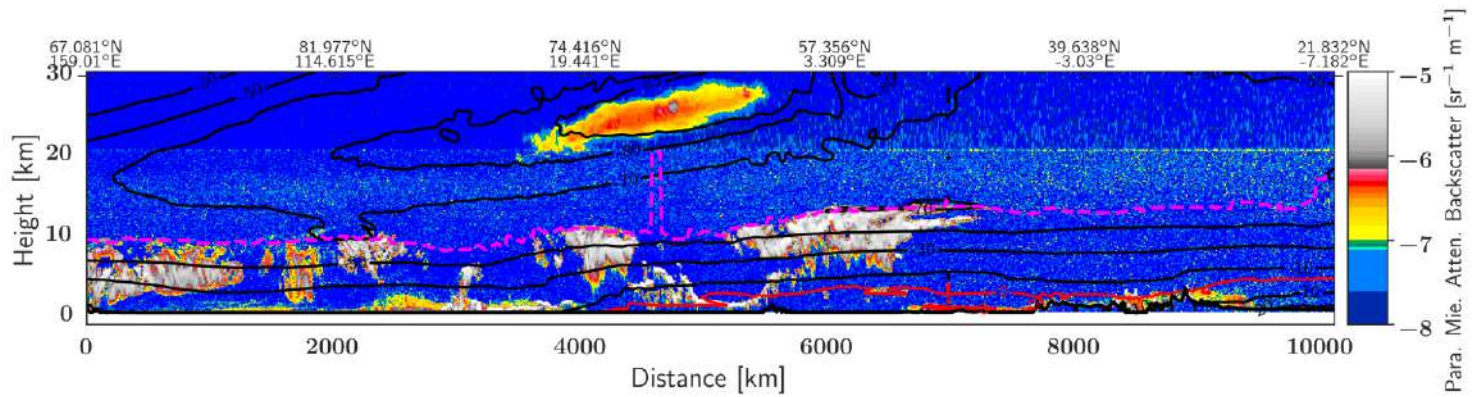
Summary (I)

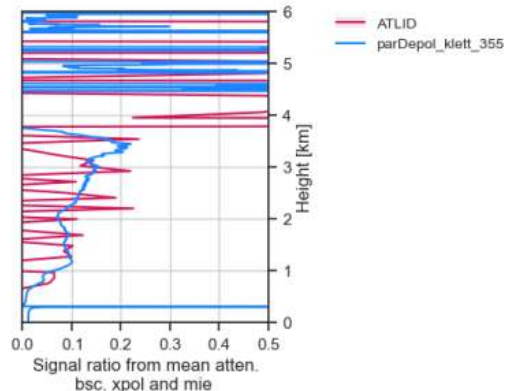
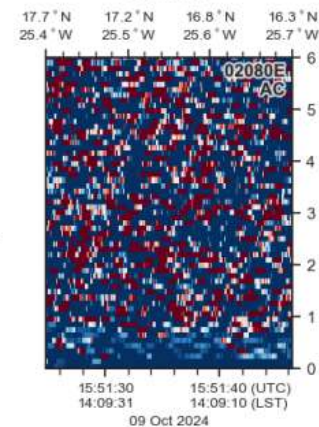
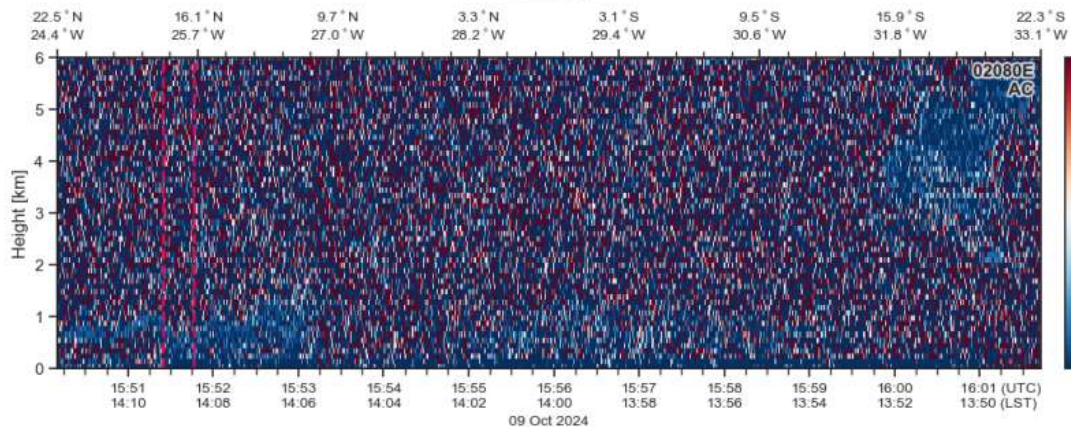
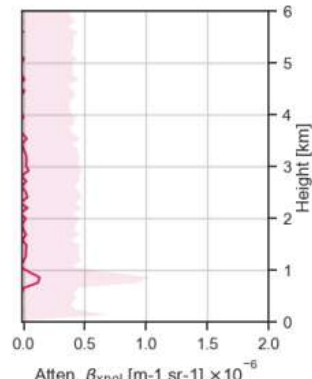
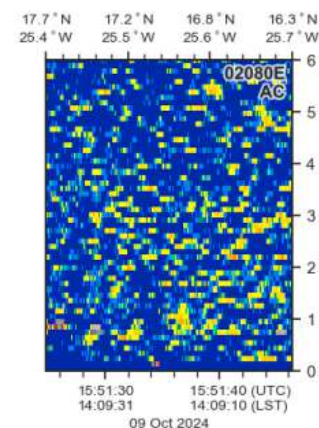
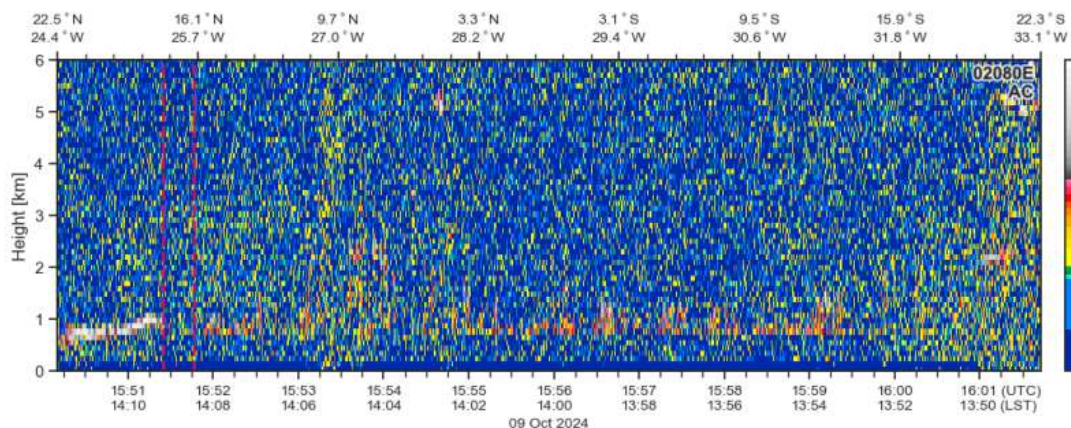
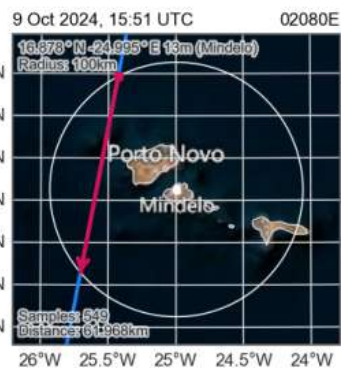
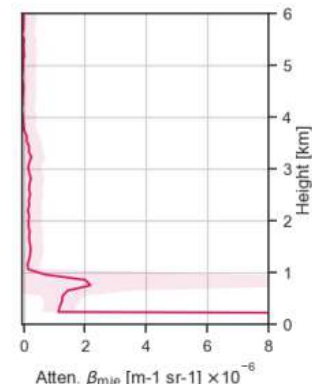
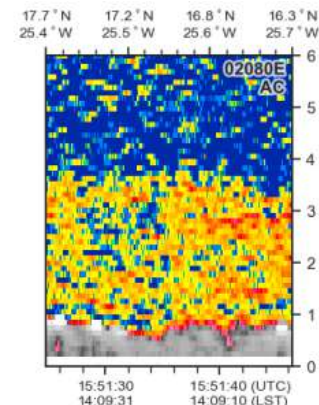
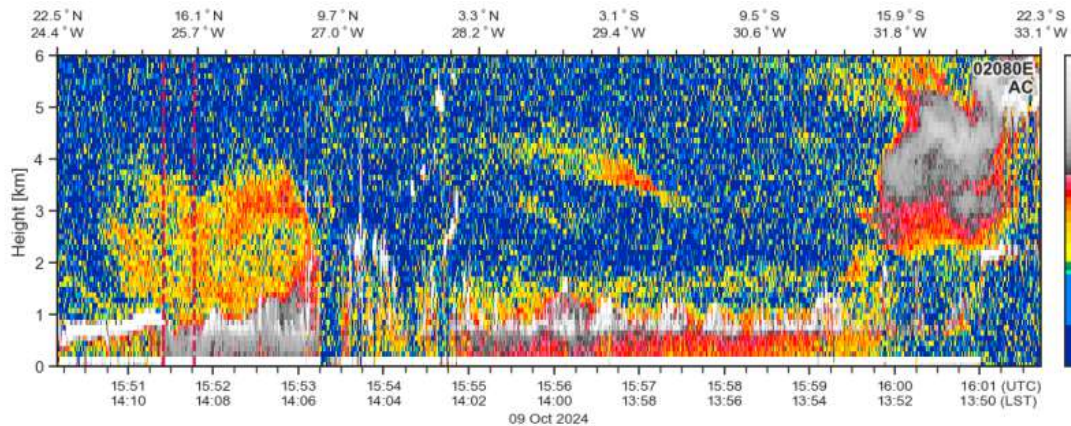
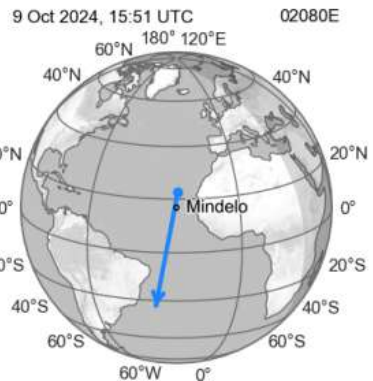
- L1 data is of good quality ! In the first public release
 - Offset fix has been implemented
 - Background fix has been implemented
 - Spurious (protonic) noise spikes filtering
 - Update of the transmission factors → “better but not yet good enough Depol !”
 - Further work and checks required.
- Still to do :
 - 20km (Charge Transfer Efficiency) spikes correction
 - Missed Hot / Cold Pixel correction / filtering
 - Update of the detector sensitivity values (i.e reading them directly from CCDB) → even better Depol

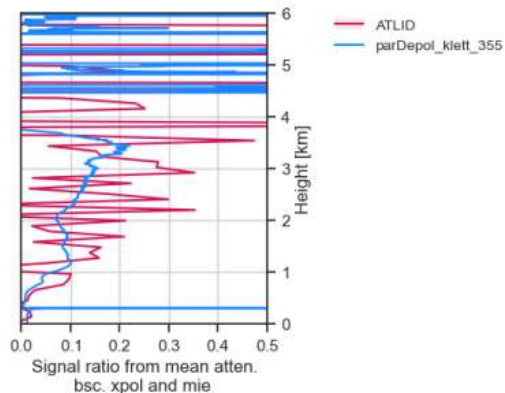
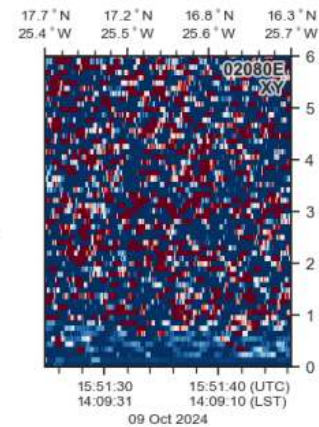
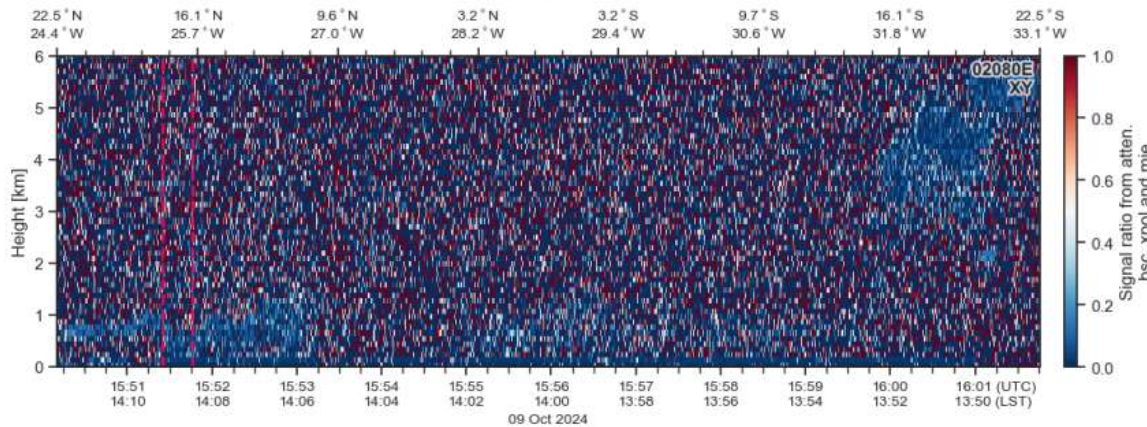
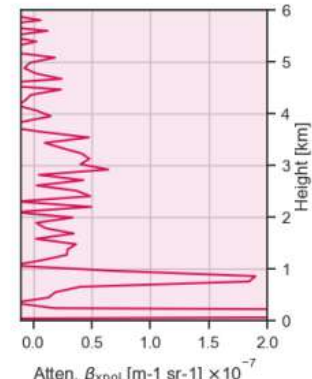
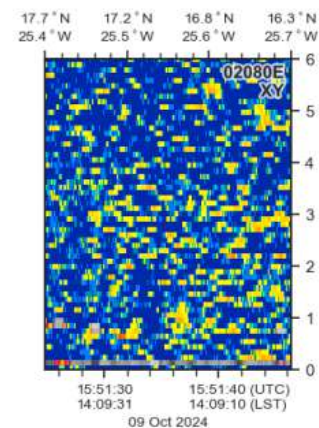
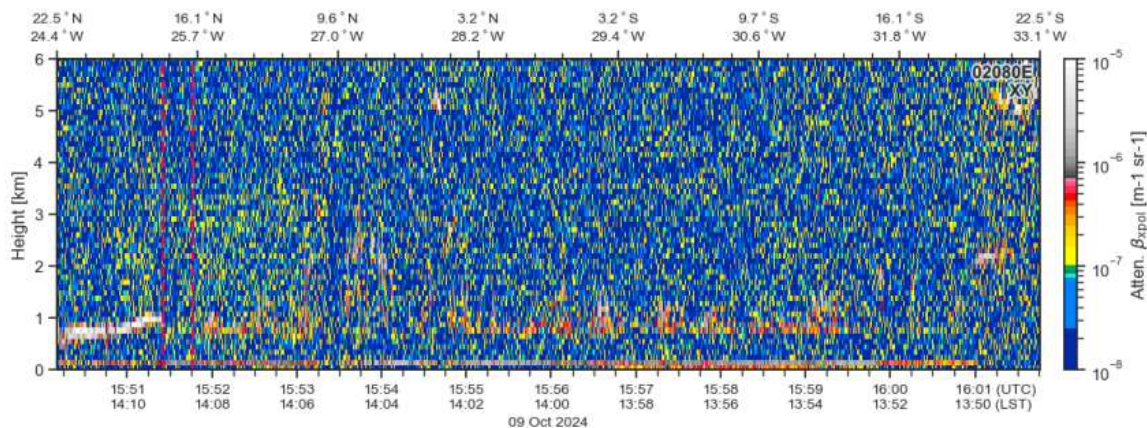
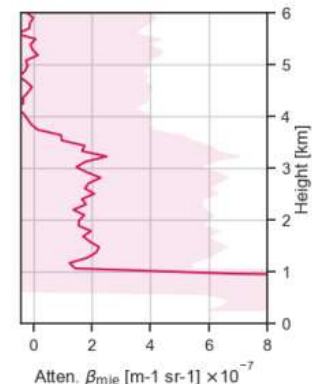
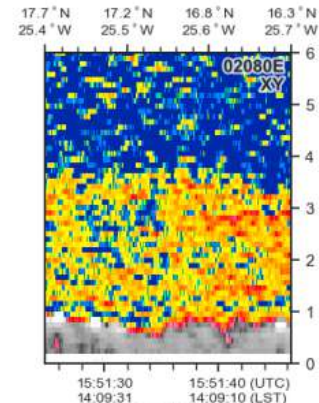
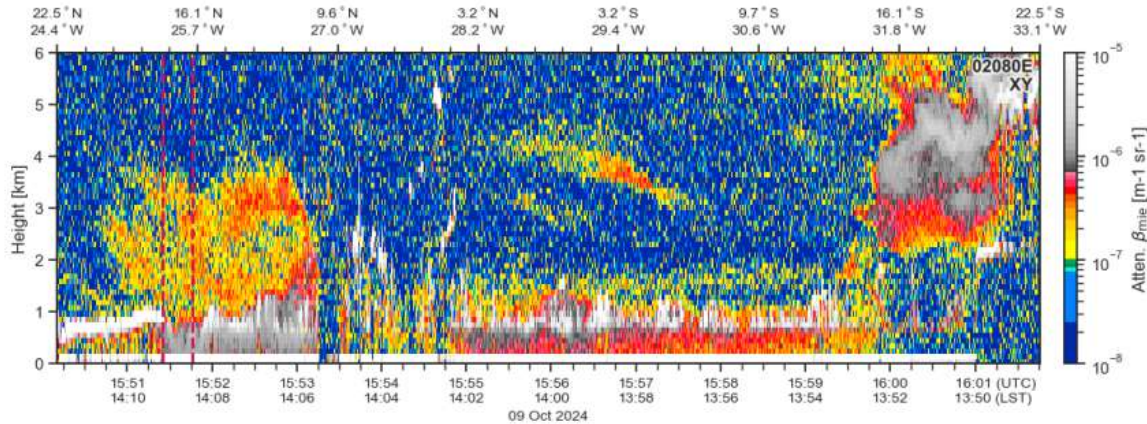
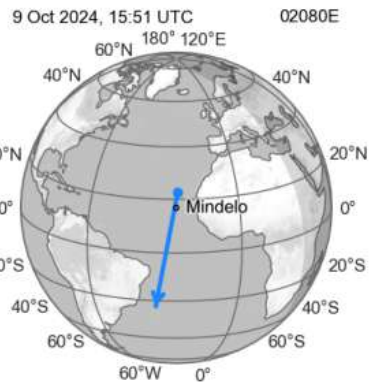
Summary (II)

- Range of good Cal/Val cases covering a range of conditions (Day/Night) still useful esp. w.r.t Depol measurements

And to finish..... a nice PSC over Europe CASE !







Cold Pixel

4.2.5 Cold Pixel

The Yop-Panel of Figure 13 shows the cold-pixel (102) present in the Mie channel. In contrast to the hot pixels it appears as a line of lowered intensity. A prototype algorithm for the detection and correction of cold-pixels is described in the companion L1 processor document [RD6].

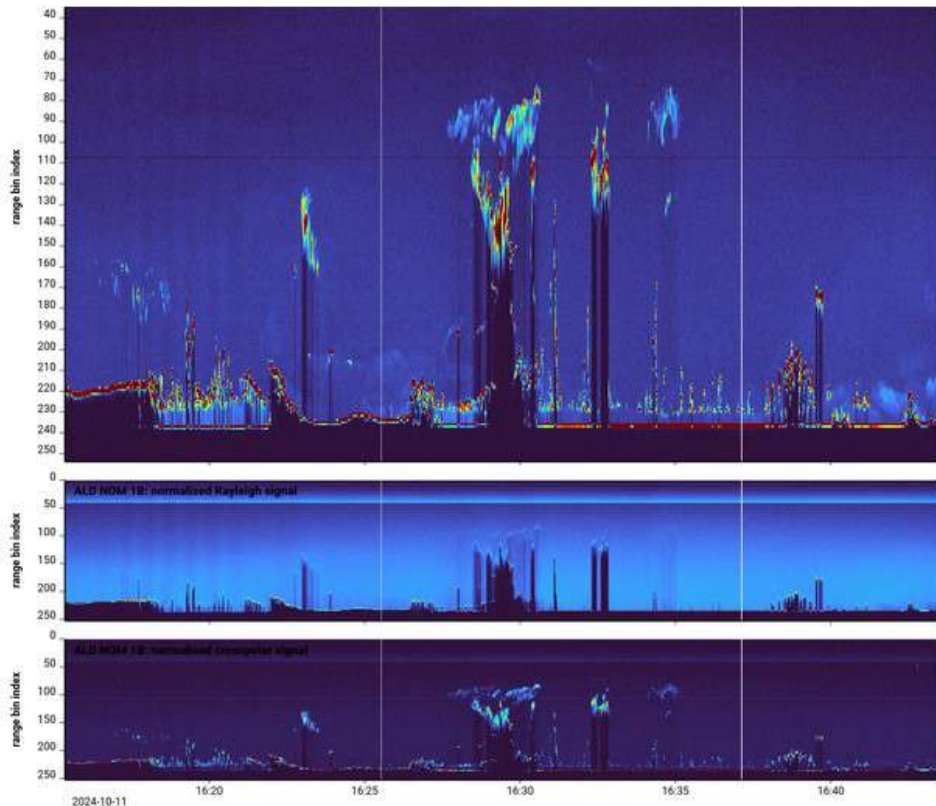


Figure 13. Normalized signals from the Mie, Rayleigh and cross-polar channels. The y-axis is stretched for the Mie channel in order to make the cold-pixel (pixel 102) visible.

4.2.5 Cold Pixel(s)

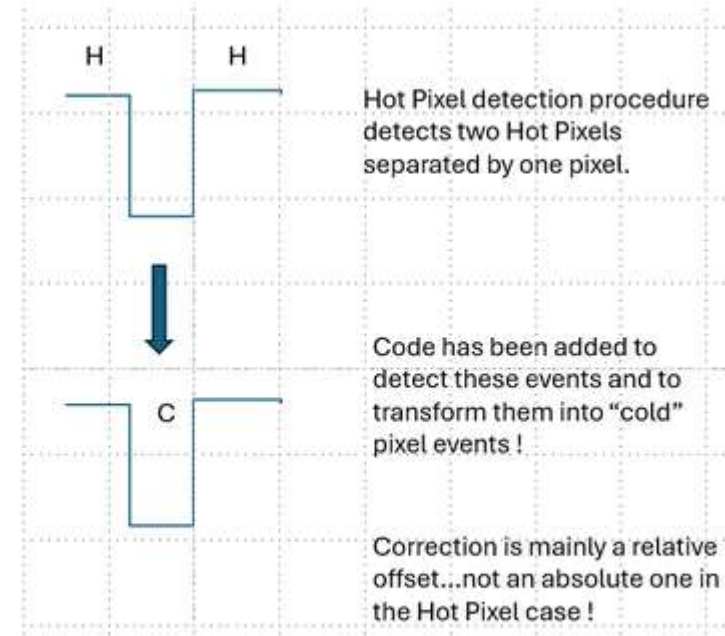


Figure 7: Extension of the HP detection routine to detect CPs.

HR-LR 'Jumps'

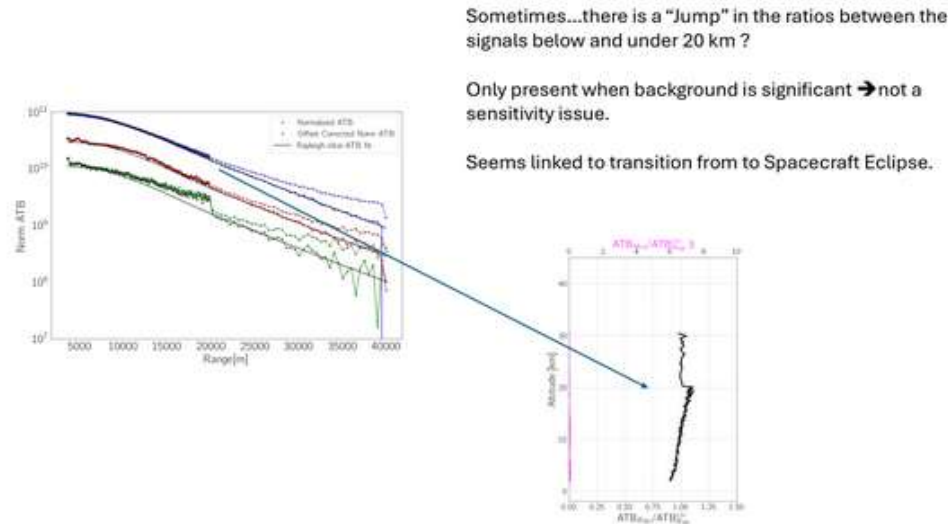
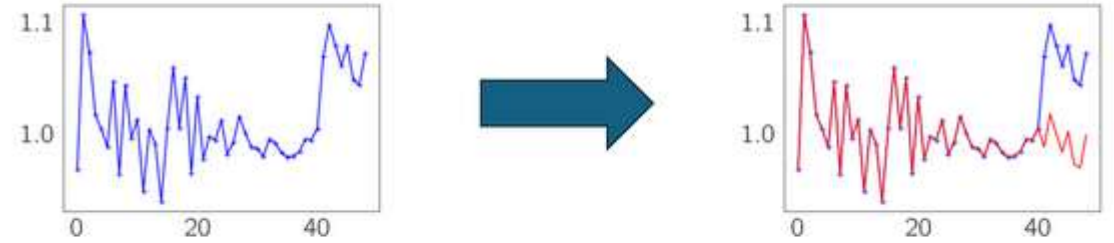
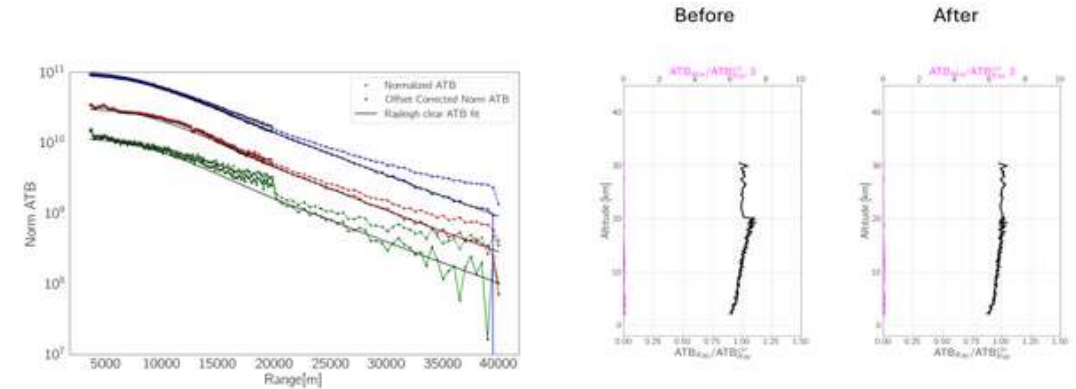


Figure 14. Illustration of the "jumps" sometimes present between the high and low-resolution sections of the signal profiles.

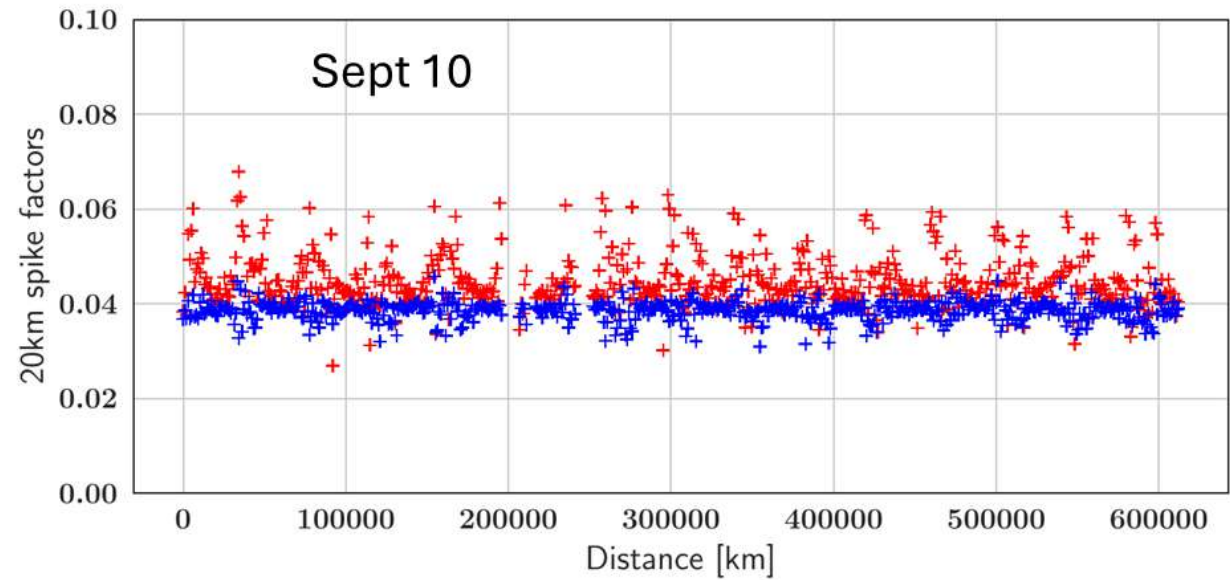
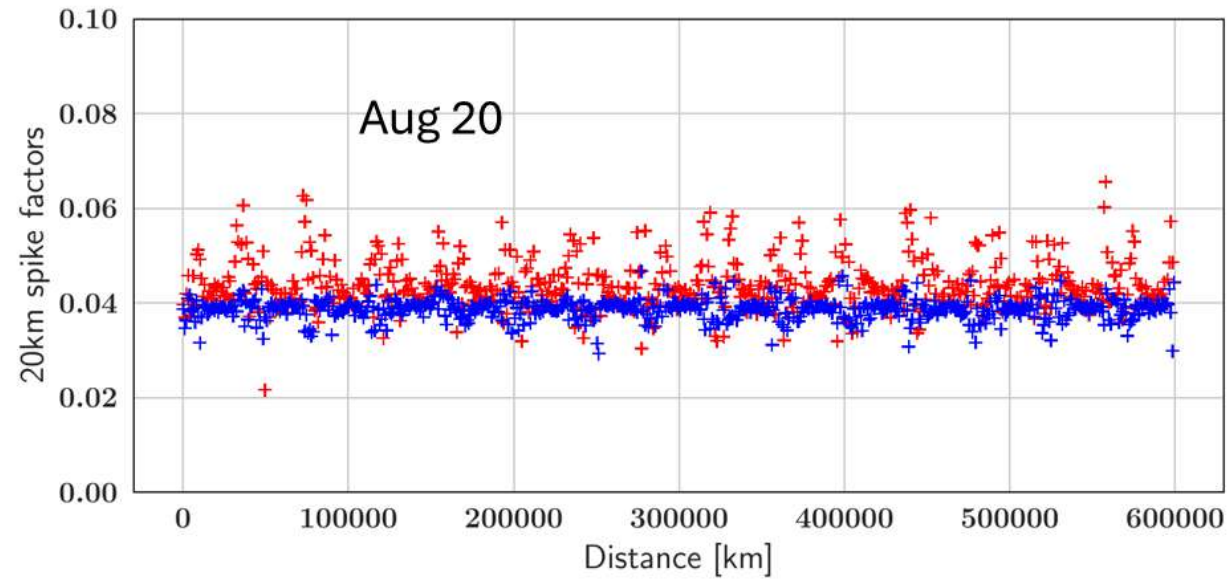
Continuity test and correction has been implemented.



Use the Ray signals to determine what the relative additional background needs to be subtracted from the HR samples ! Use this factor to scale the Cro and Mie default values.

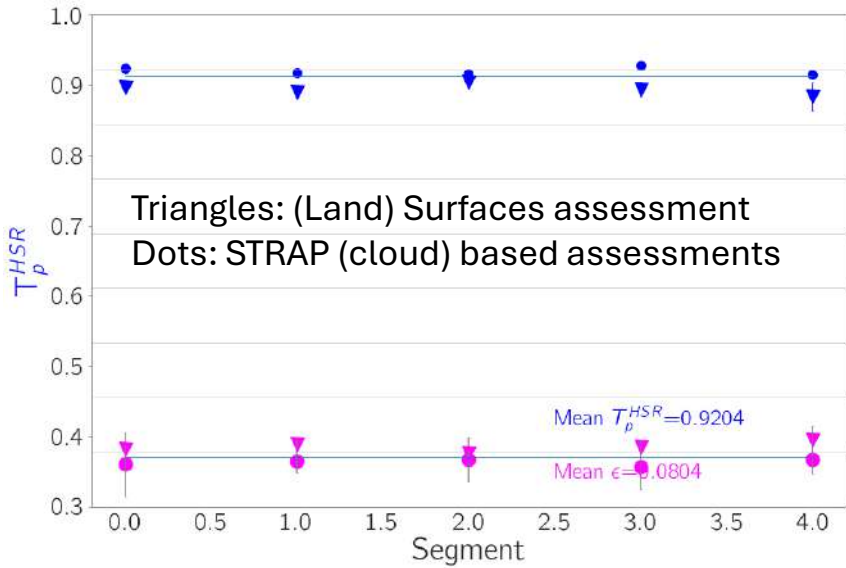
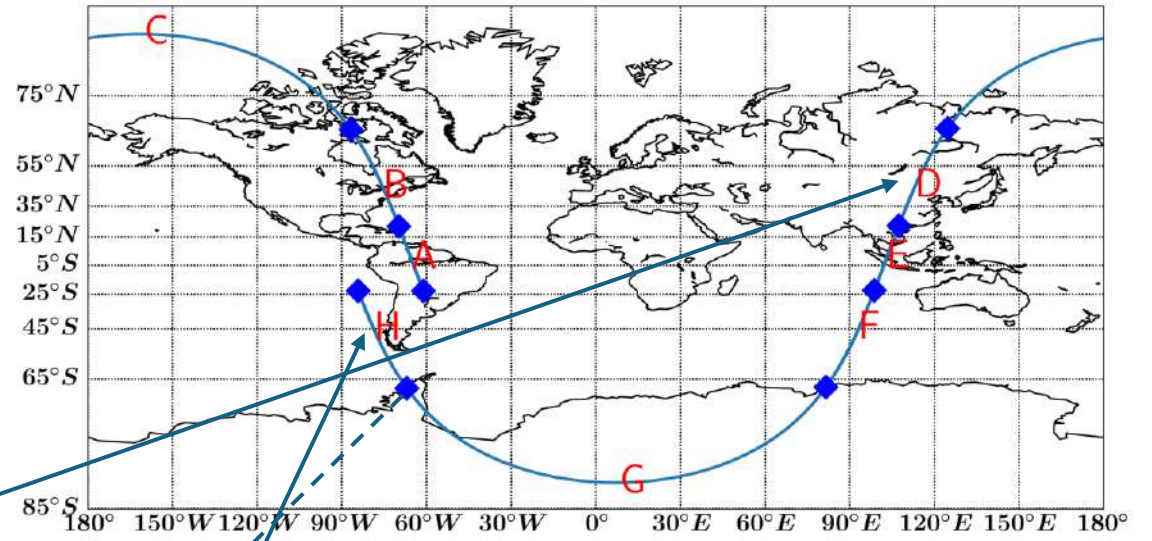


Work by Annabel at ESA revealed a problem with the Offset correction ! This is (very) likely the root cause of the "jumps" and fixing it improves the situation !

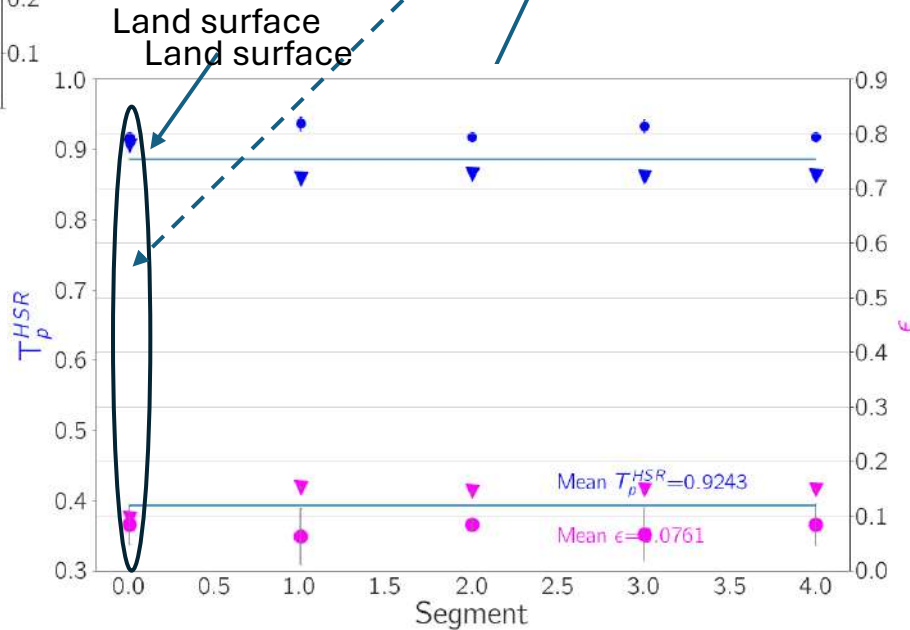


Estimated 20 km spike correction factors for two complete days (Aug 20 and Sept 10). Red corresponds to the Mie channel and Blue corresponds to the Rayleigh channel

Use of Ocean Surface Returns for eps assessment ?

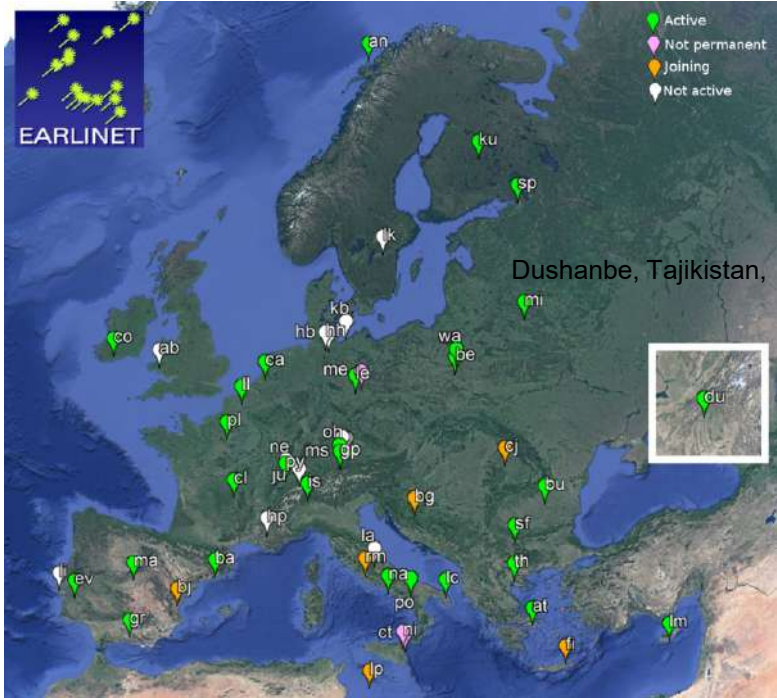
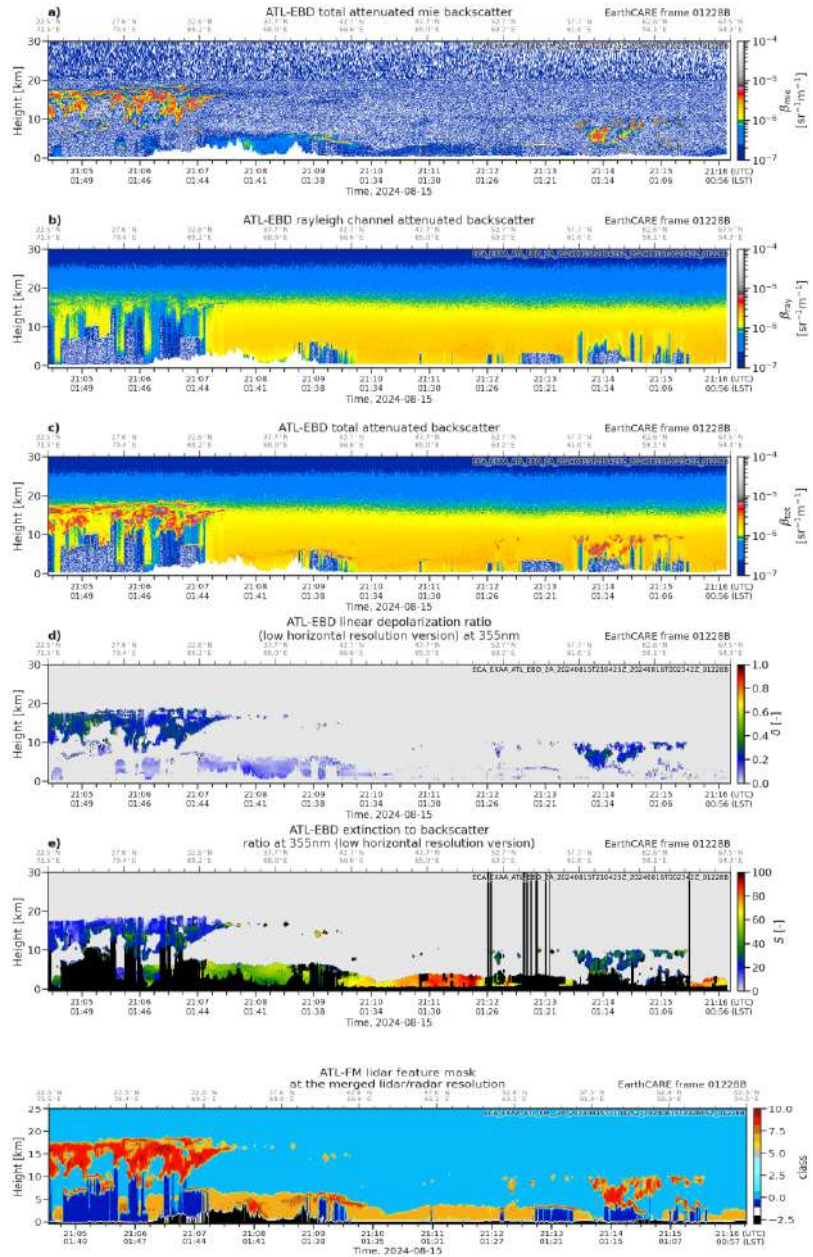


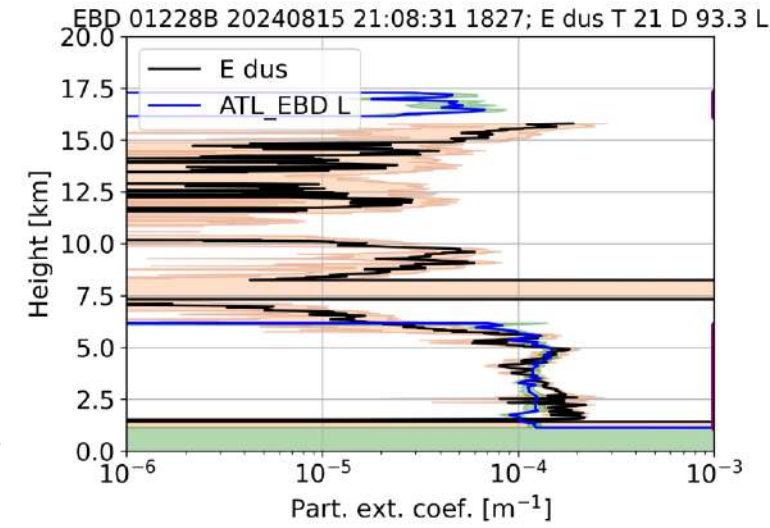
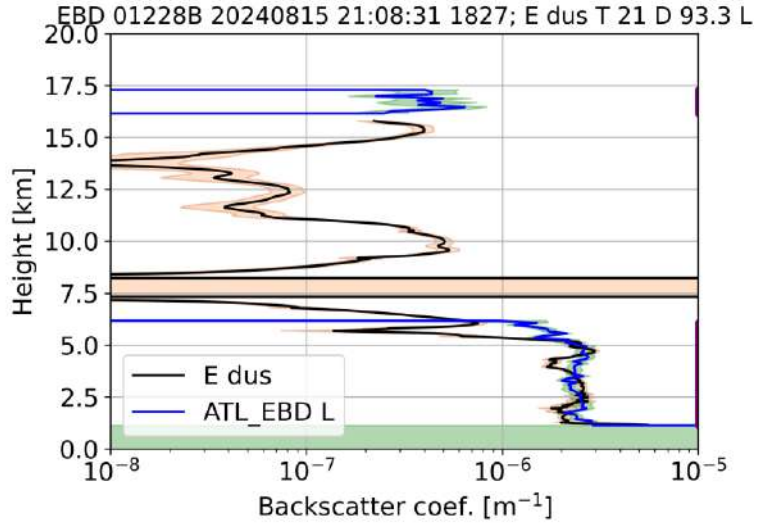
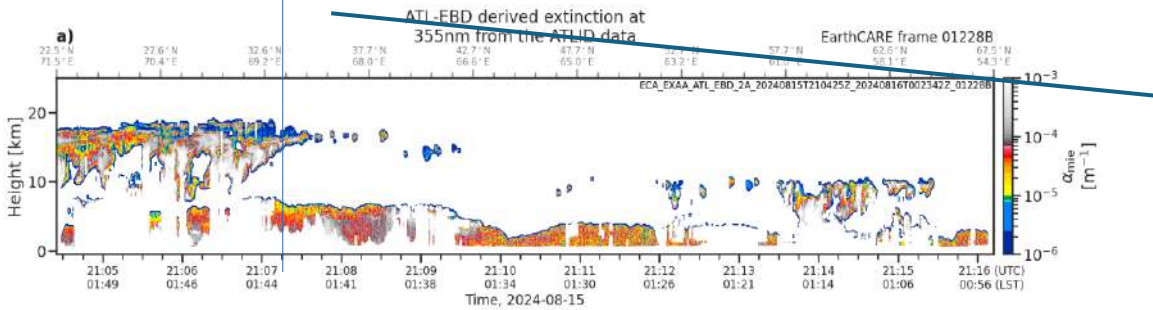
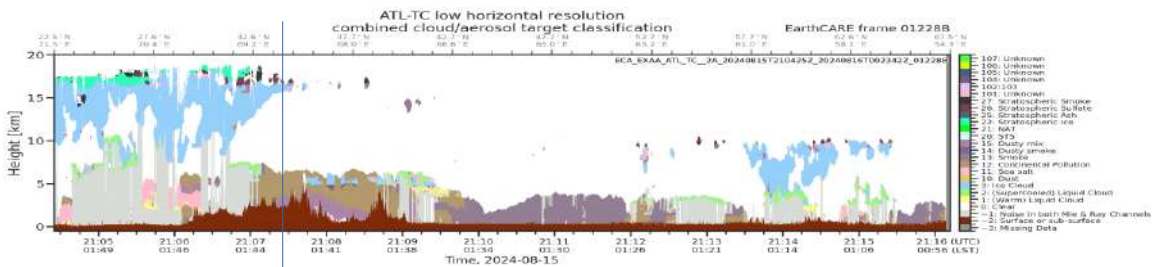
Using land returns the STRAP and surface-based eps assessments usually agree well !



Using water returns the STRAP and surface-based assessments tend to be significantly different !

A-FM and A-PRO preliminary comparison with EARLINET data :An example



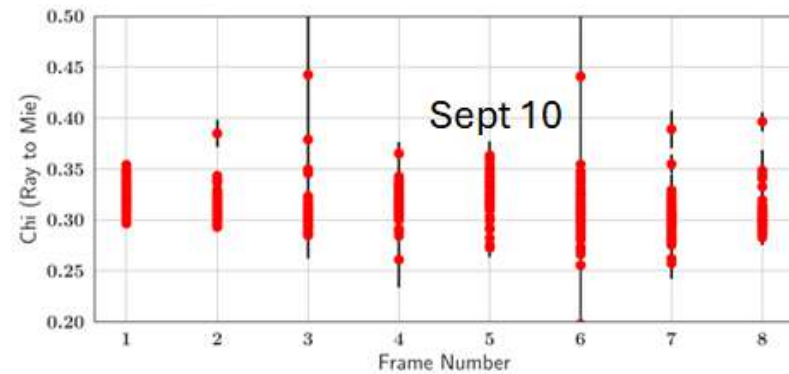
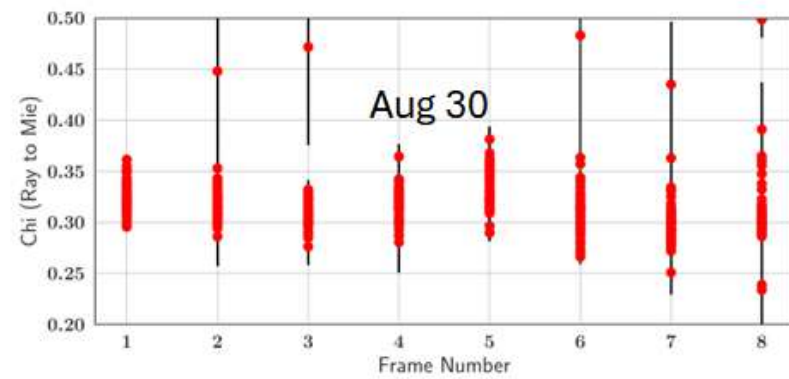
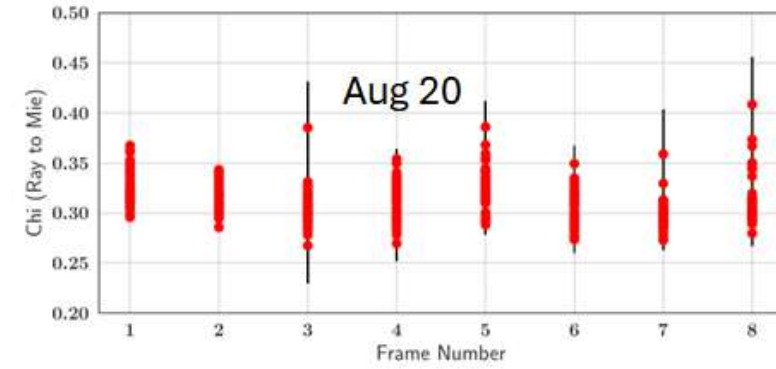
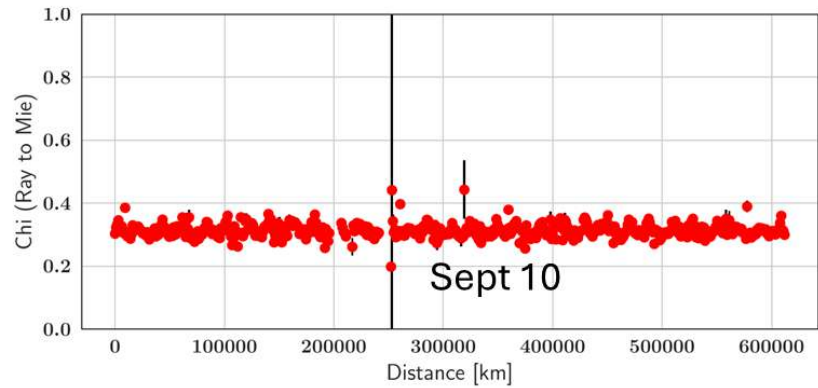
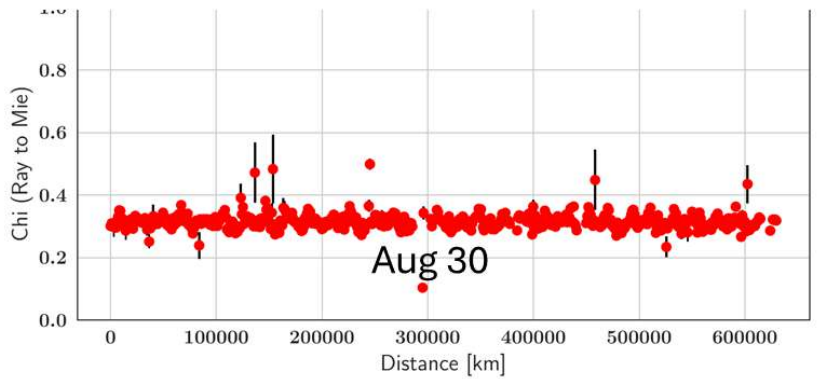
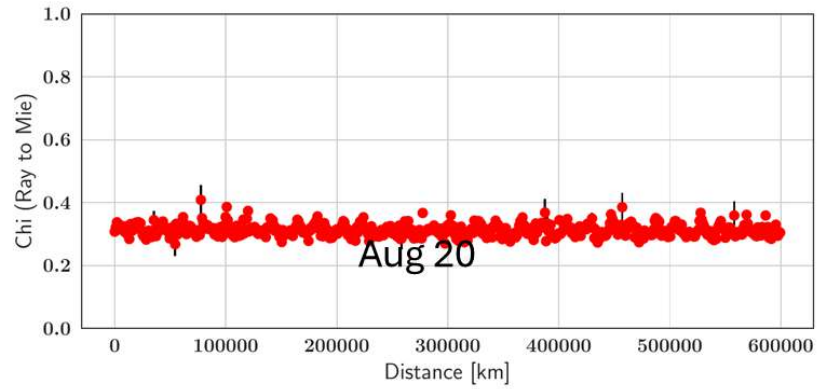


Comparisons for nighttime conditions are reasonable.
Daylight retrievals are bad ! (BB Bug)

Other known issues: Thick aerosol is misidentified as (water)cloud !

Working on a fix now.

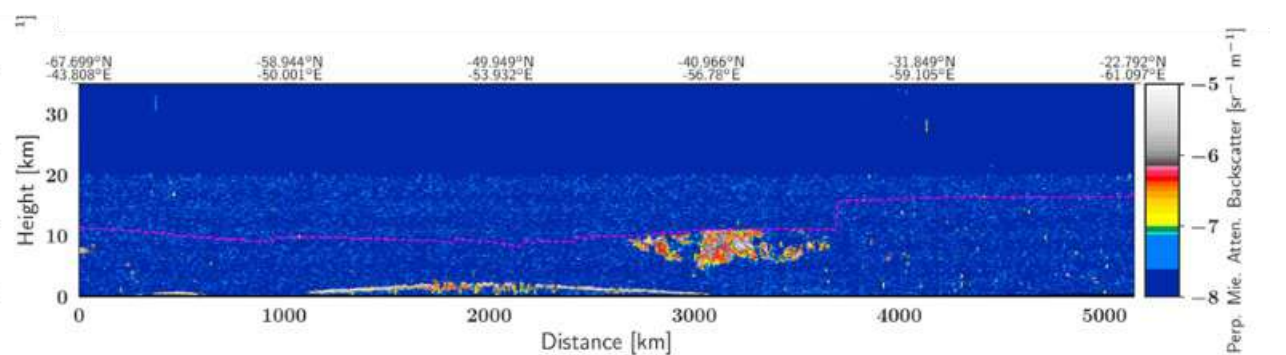
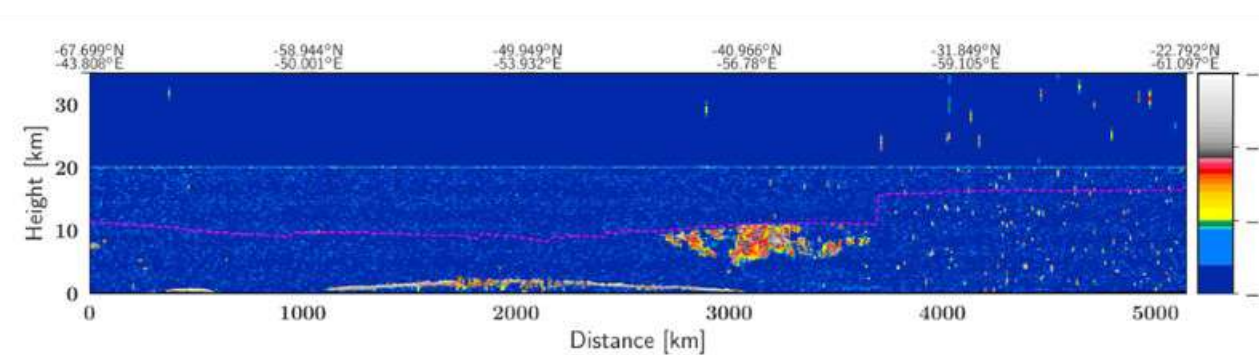
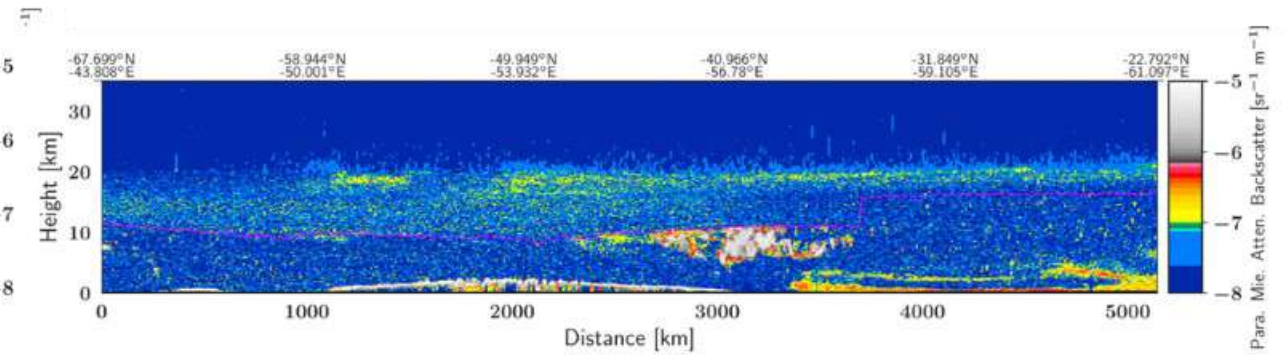
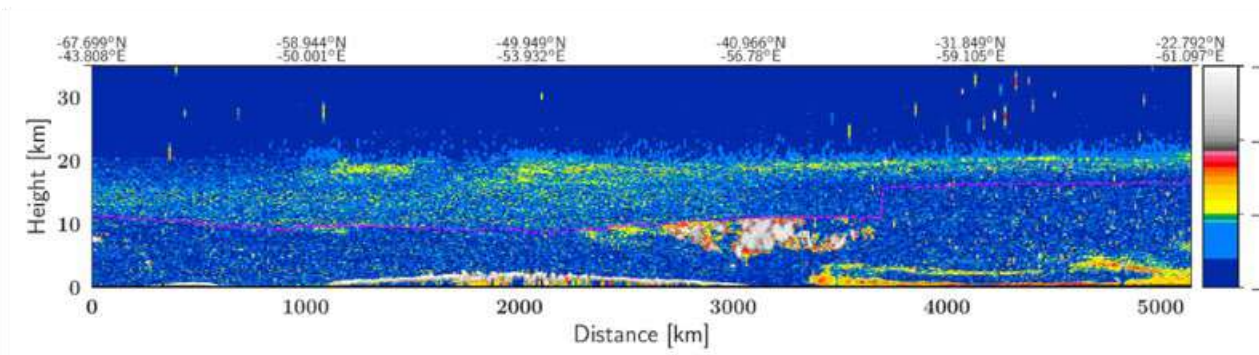
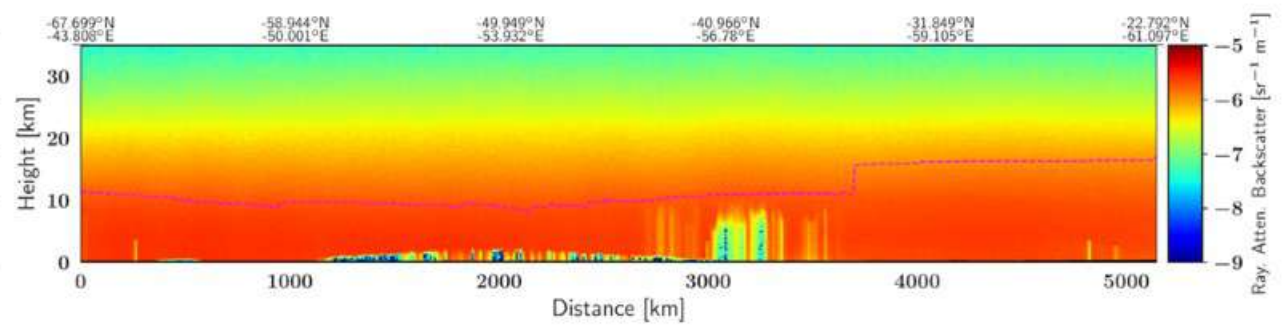
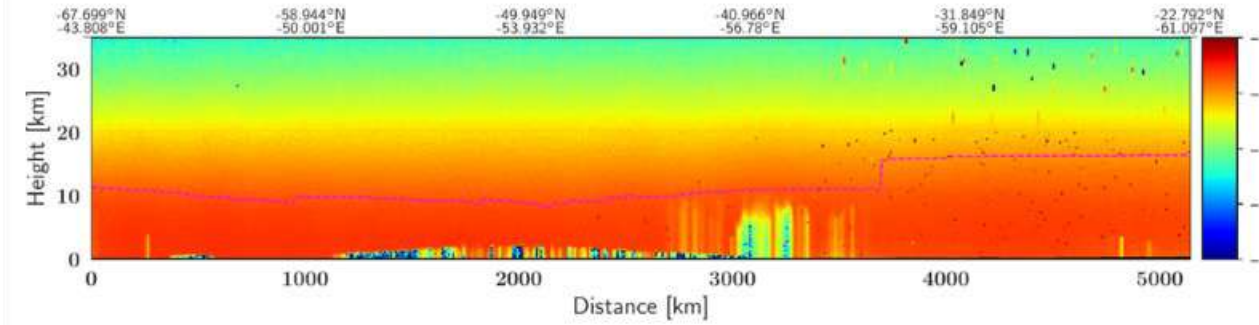
Chi: Ray \rightarrow Mie



Orbit 01202 Frame H

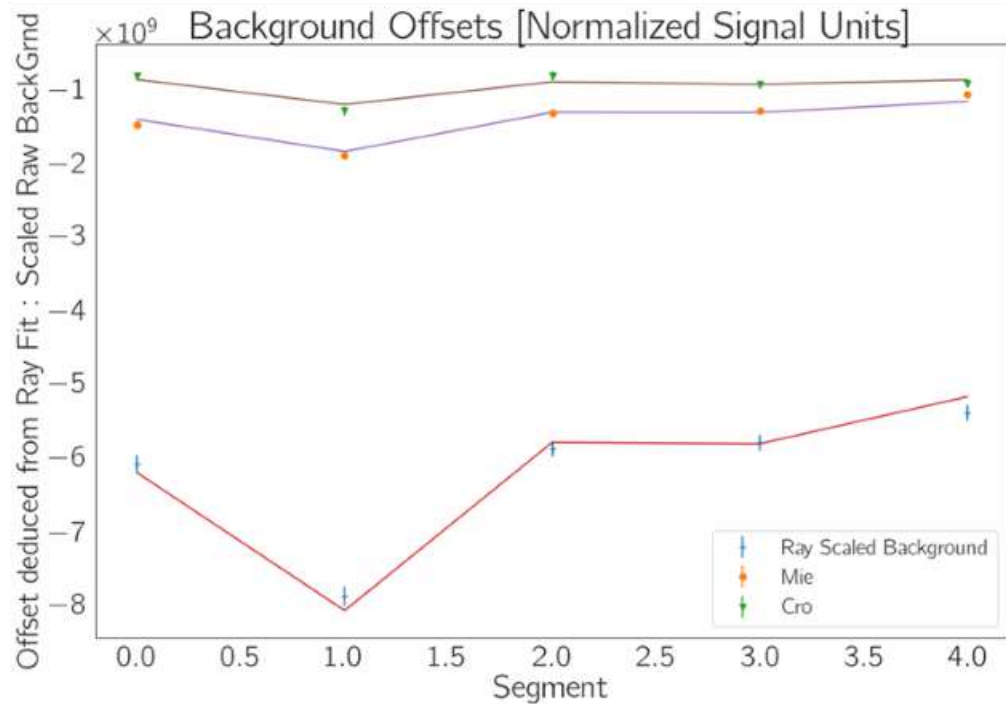
Operational Processor Aug 14 2024

KNMI Post-Processor Aug 26 2024



What does the code do when the background-bug flag is set ?

- 1) Allows for an offset in the Rayleigh Clear fits
- 2) Correlates the determined offsets with the Signal Background (available each shot).
- 3) Subtracts the scaled Signal Background from the Normalized signals for each shot.



The correlation is quite good !

Using the raw signals, it looks like the background subtraction is off by a constant factor for all three channels.

B Offset_factor_ray= 0.04941458318431666

B Offset_factor_mie= 0.04537184433544129

B Offset_factor_cro= 0.007548013527471745

About 5% more signal needs to be subtracted in the Mie and Ray channels and 0.75% in the Cro.