



# ESA-JAXA Pre-Launch EarthCARE Science and Validation Workshop

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K2W, a methodology for evaluating spaceborne W-band Doppler radar using Micro Rain Radar and disdrometer: results from an Italian station in Antarctica

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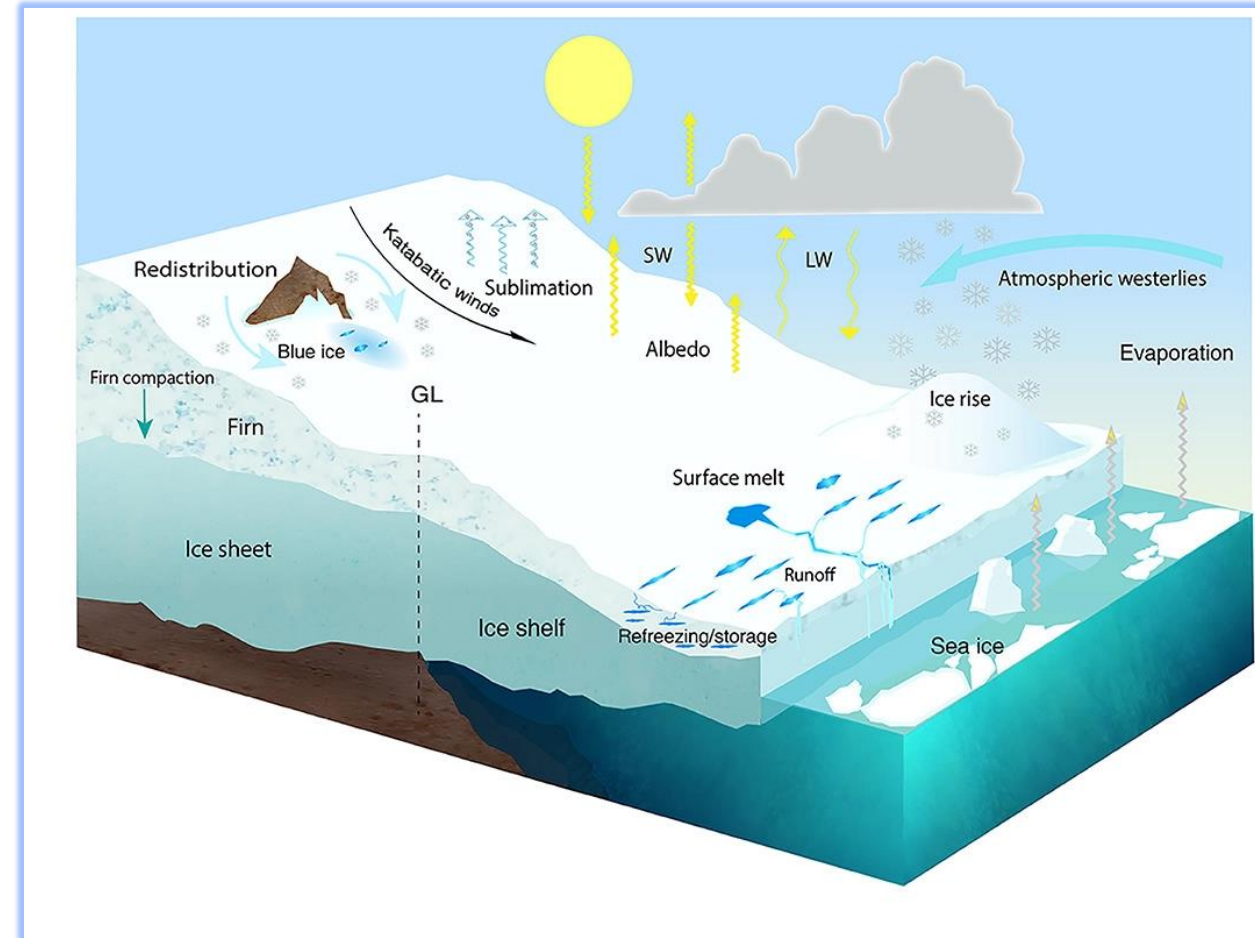
<sup>2</sup> Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan

<sup>3</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy





## Importance of Antarctic precipitation



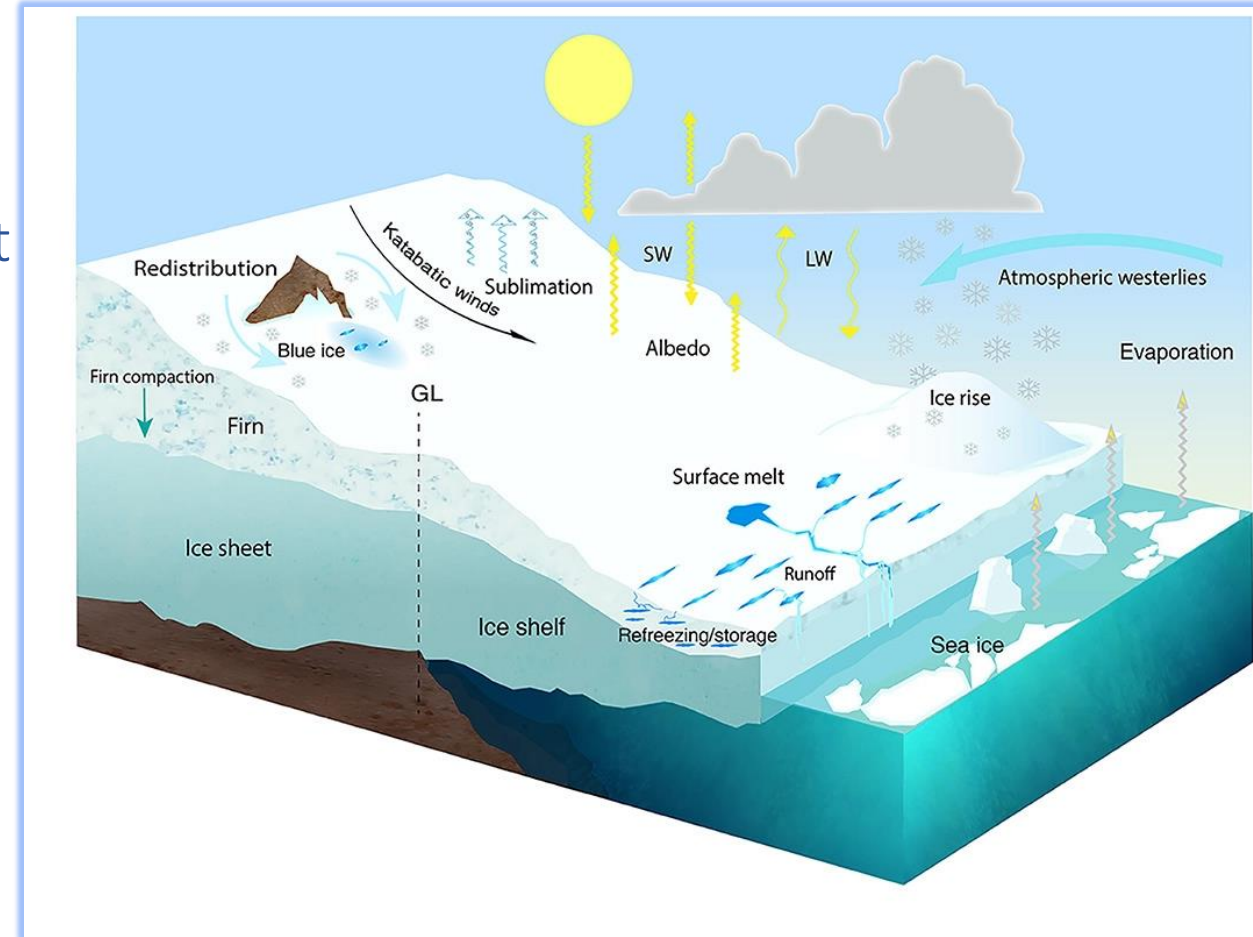
Observing and Modeling Ice Sheet Surface Mass Balance  
(10.1029/2018RG000622)



Importance of Antarctic precipitation



Surface Mass Balance of Antarctic Ice Sheet (AIS)



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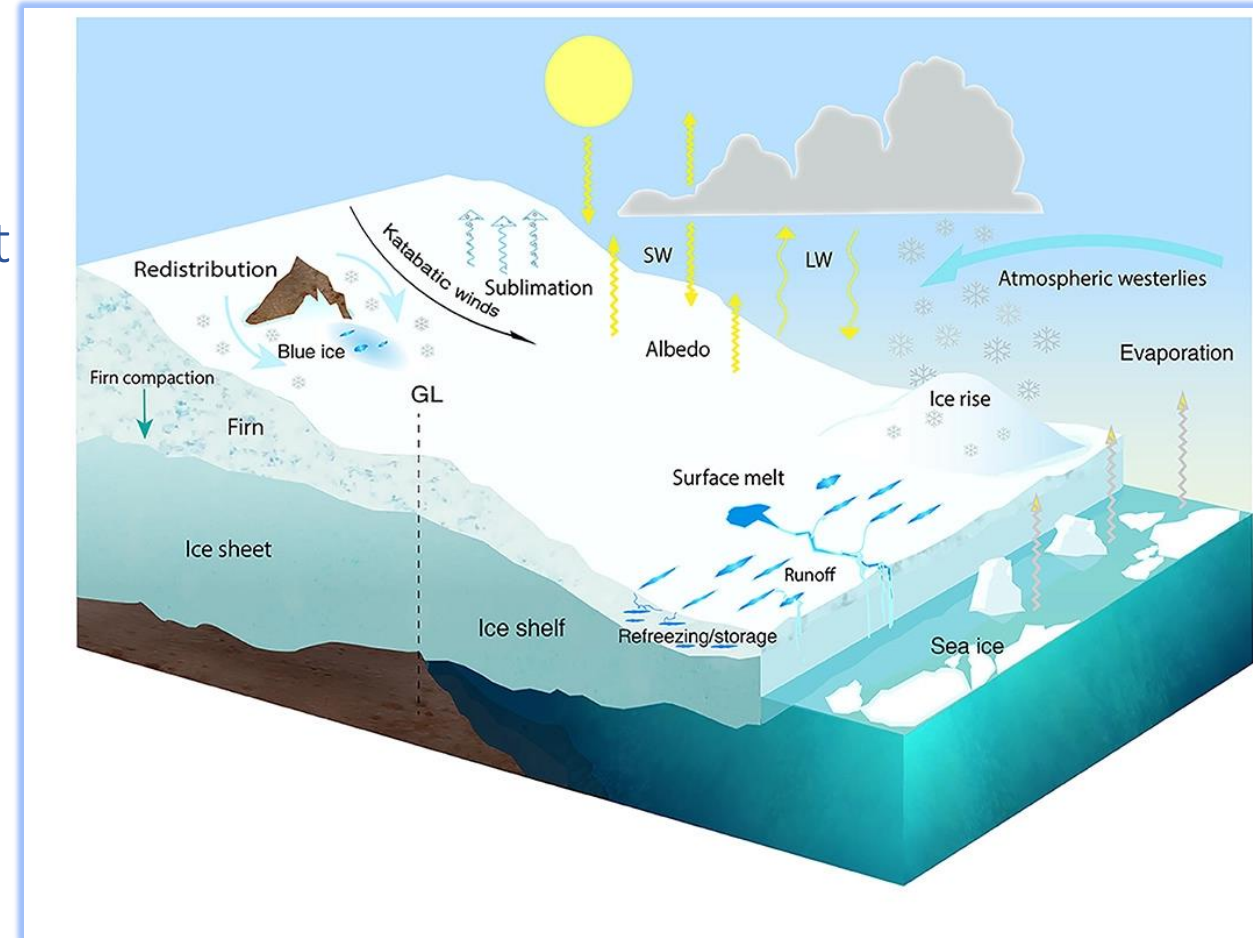


## Importance of Antarctic precipitation



## Surface Mass Balance of Antarctic Ice Sheet (AIS)

- During precipitation and deposition mass accumulates at the surface
- Snowfall is the **primary input of mass** for the AIS and its variability and change have an impact on the ice sheet mass balance



Observing and Modeling Ice Sheet Surface Mass Balance  
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Importance of Antarctic precipitation

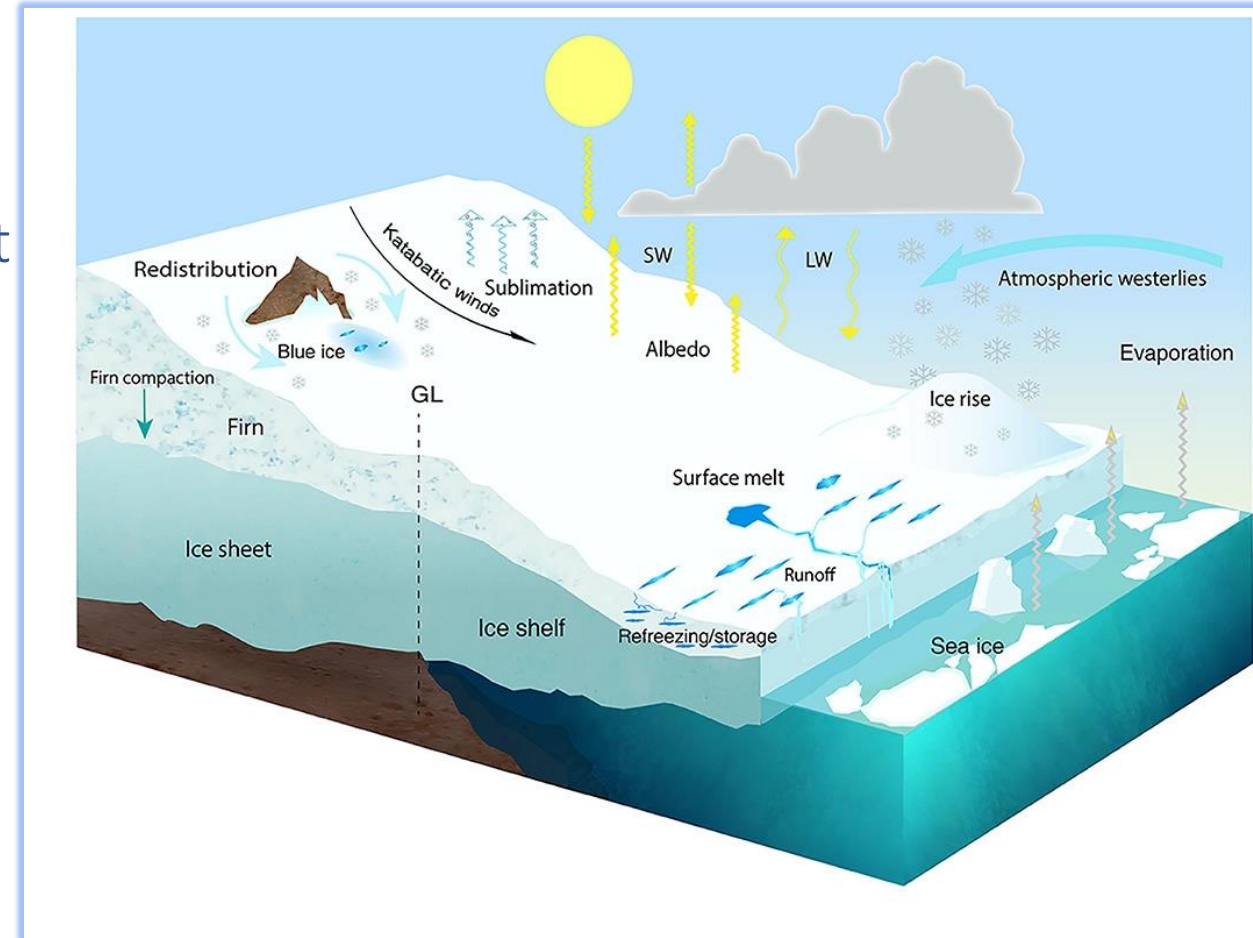


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Impact on global sea level



Observing and Modeling Ice Sheet Surface Mass Balance  
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# Rationale



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- Ground-based observations of precipitation are **sparse** over Antarctica, due also to complex logistical operations, extreme climatic conditions, difficult accessibility and instrument maintenance



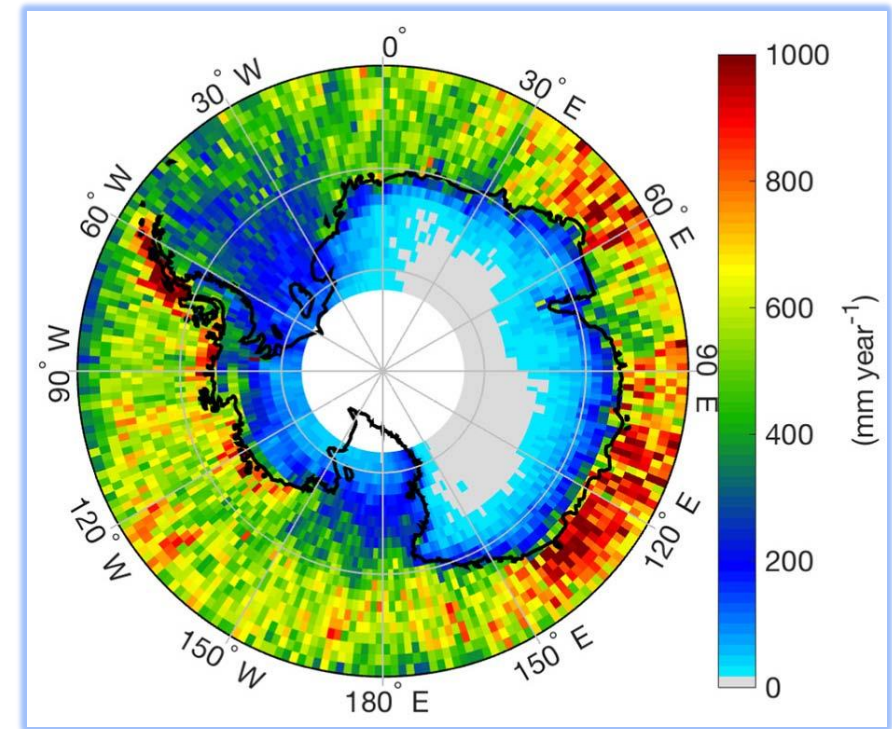


What do we know about Antarctic precipitation?



Unfortunately, not much

- Ground-based observations of precipitation are **sparse** over Antarctica, due also to complex logistical operations, extreme climatic conditions, difficult accessibility and instrument maintenance
- Precipitation estimations over the Continent rely on numerical model and **satellite measurements**
- Both **need ground observations for validating** and improving precipitation parameterizations and for minimizing the impact of intrinsic limitations of the measurement techniques

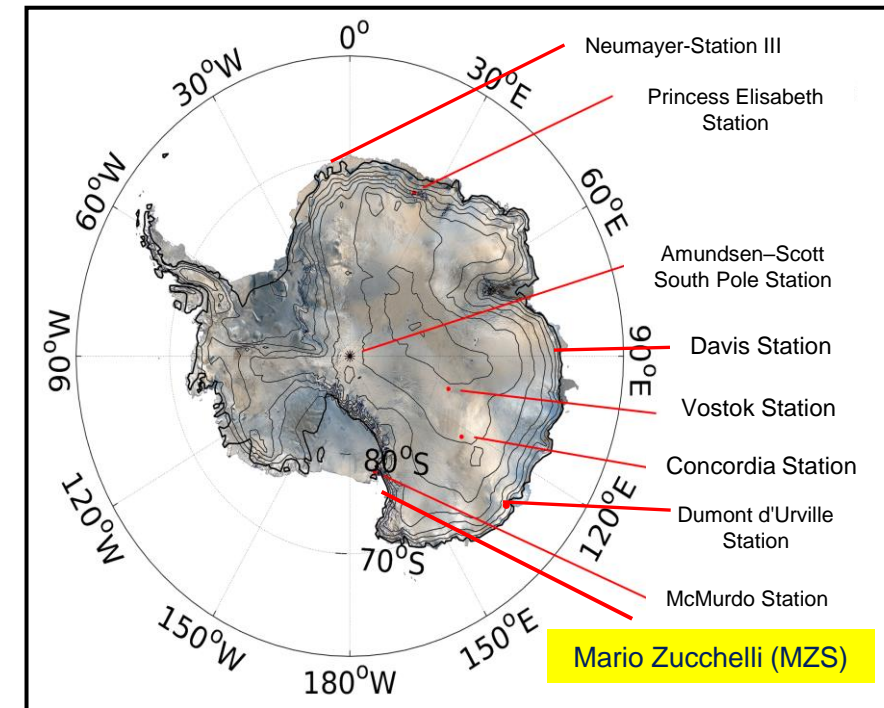


CloudSat: Mean annual snowfall over Antarctica  
(Milani et al., 2018)

# Rationale



Availability of ground-based radar profilers for validation purposes

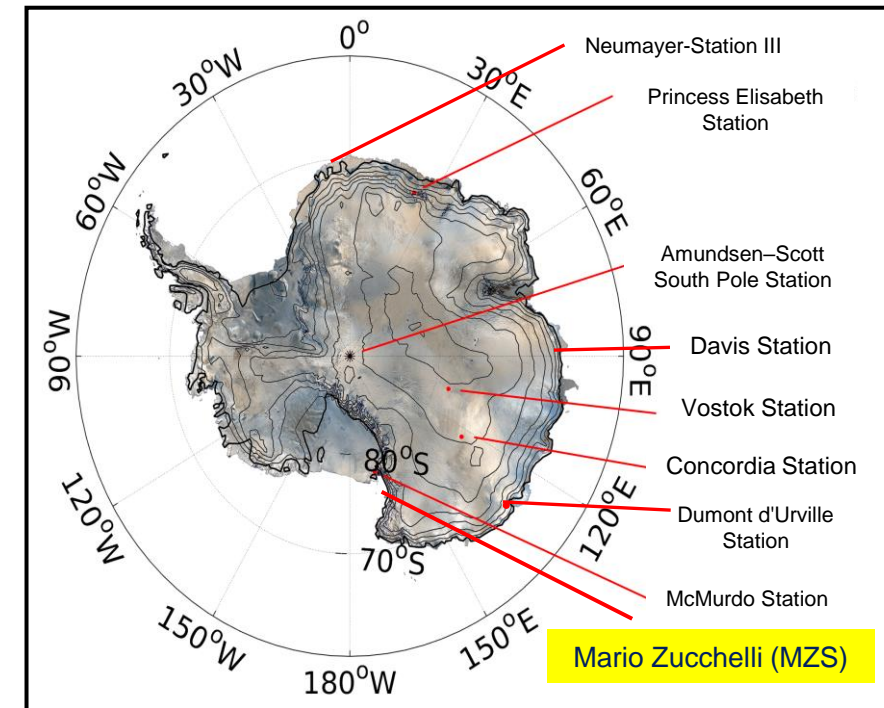


Research stations (precipitation monitoring)



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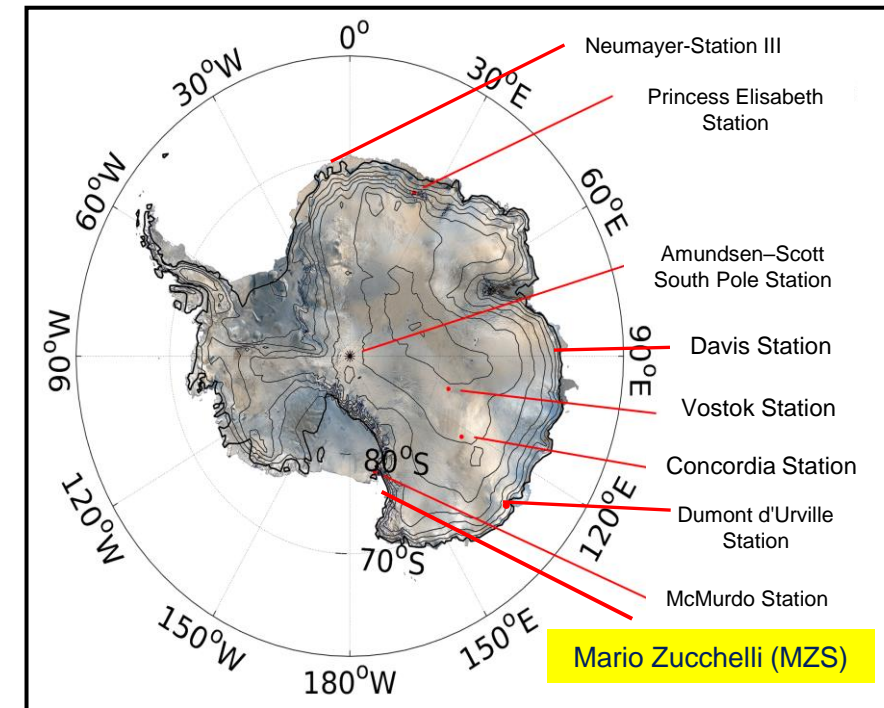
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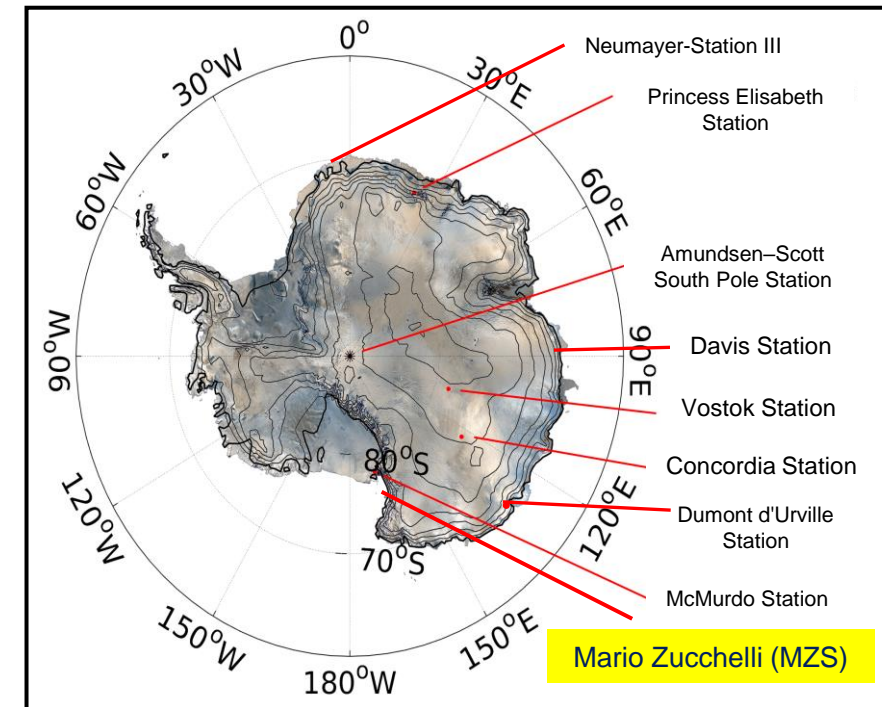
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  - 4 @ Princess Elisabeth (Gorodetskaya, 2015; Ferrone, 2023) F T T T
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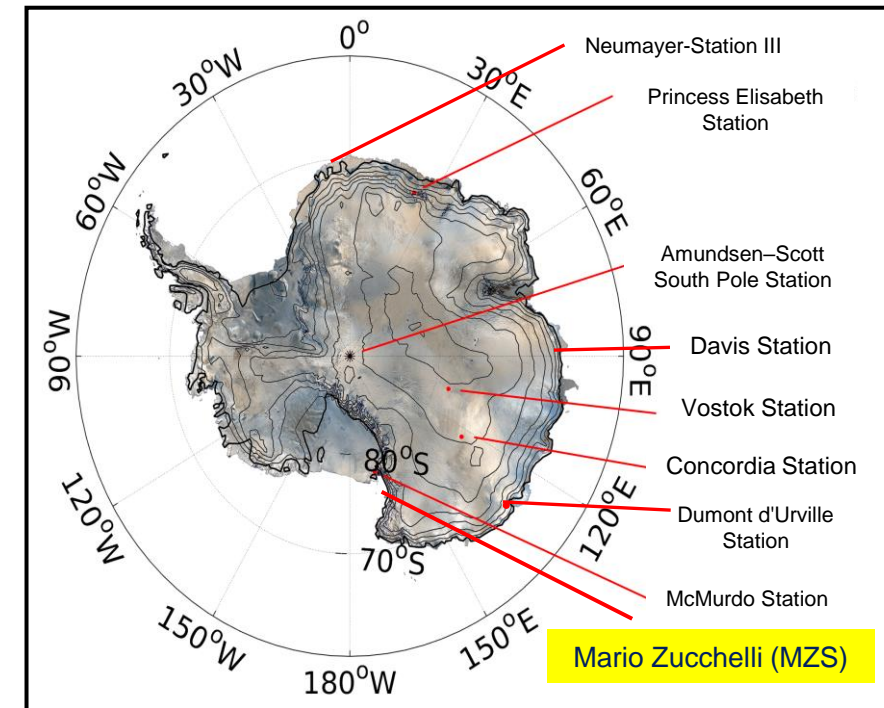
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## Simulation of Doppler spectra at W-band using K-band Doppler Spectra



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- Metek - **MRR** is a K-band profiling Doppler radar, typically used in vertical pointing mode to derive Doppler spectra in 64 bins over 32 vertical range bins. Set with 35 m as vertical resolution -> range probed: 105-1050 m a.g.l.
- OTT - **Parsivel** is an optical laser disdrometer that measures the sizes and fall velocities of the hydrometeors (binned in  $32 \times 32$  diameter/speed classes)





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- MRR and Parsivel have been installed since December 2016 at Mario Zucchelli Station (**MZS**) in the framework of the project “Antarctic Precipitation Properties” (APP) of the Italian National Antarctic Research Program (PNRA)



**PARSIVEL**



**MRR**



**MZS**





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- Extensive DDA **database of single-scattering properties** of simulated pristine crystals and aggregate particles (Kuo, JAMC-2016) was selected, being the most comprehensive database including the K-band and W-band simulations. We considered aggregate particles during CloudSat overpass based on habit classification (Bracci, RS-2021)



**PARSIVEL**



**MRR**



**MZS**



## Simulation of Doppler spectra at W-band using K-band Doppler Spectra



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- I. Spectral reflectivity density with respect to Doppler velocity:  $\eta_v(v_s, R) = \frac{\eta(s, R)}{\Delta v}$





## Simulation of Doppler spectra at W-band using K-band Doppler Spectra

- I. Spectral reflectivity density with respect to Doppler velocity:  $\eta_v(v_s, R) = \frac{\eta(s, R)}{\Delta v}$
- II. Particle size distribution is obtained by:
  - I. Expressing spectral reflectivity density with respect to particle diameter  $\eta_D(D) = \eta_v(v) \frac{\partial v}{\partial D}$
  - II. Dividing by backscattering cross-section  $N(D) = \frac{\eta_D(D)}{C_{bk}(D)}$



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MRR Retrieval  
(Peters, 2002)



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III. Making explicit the frequency dependencies:

$$N(D) = \frac{\eta_{D,K}(D)}{C_{bk,K}(D)}$$

as well as

$$N(D) = \frac{\eta_{D,W}(D)}{C_{bk,W}(D)}$$

considering same snow habit





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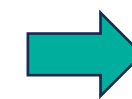
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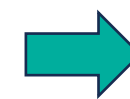
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$z_{e,W}$   
 $v_{D,W}$

K2W



## DATA @MZS

Consistency test

Nov 2019 – Feb 2020

CloudSat overpass

4 December 2018

# Results

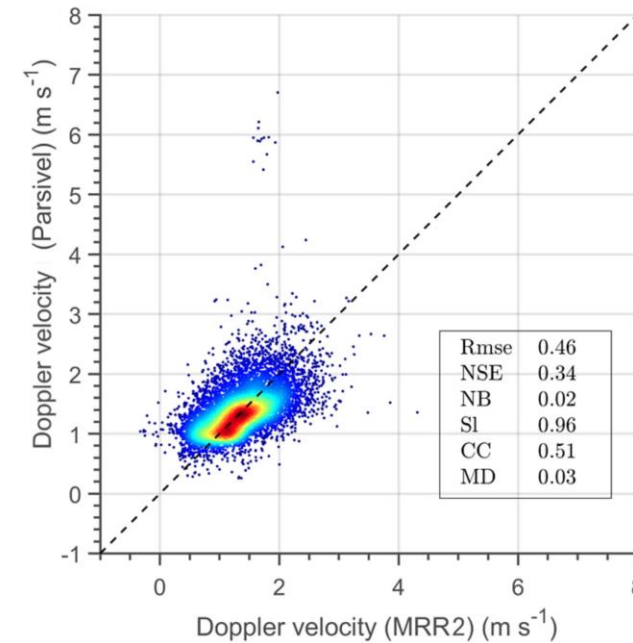
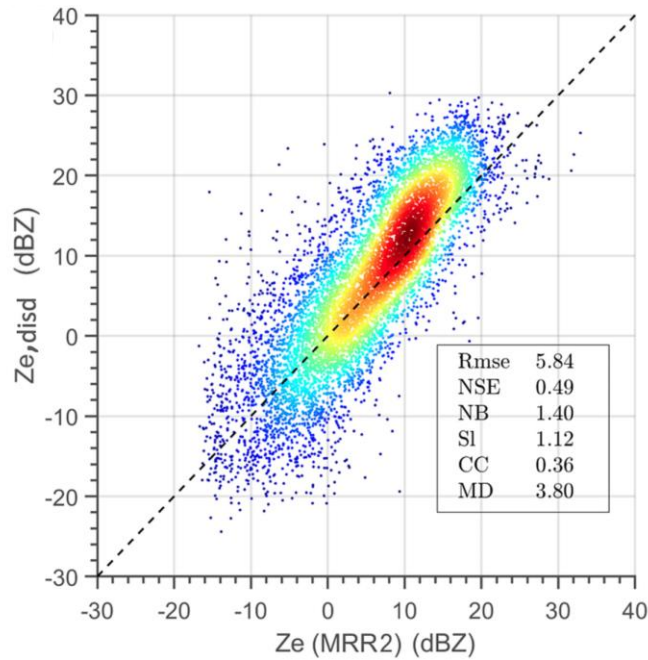


- Consistency test
  - Dataset of >9000 min of solid precipitation collected by MRR and disdrometer





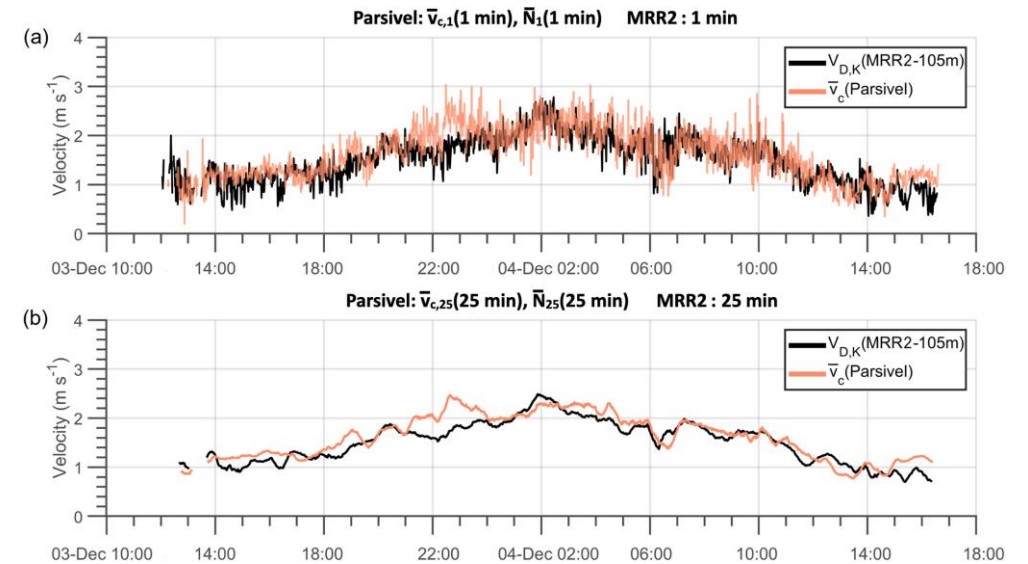
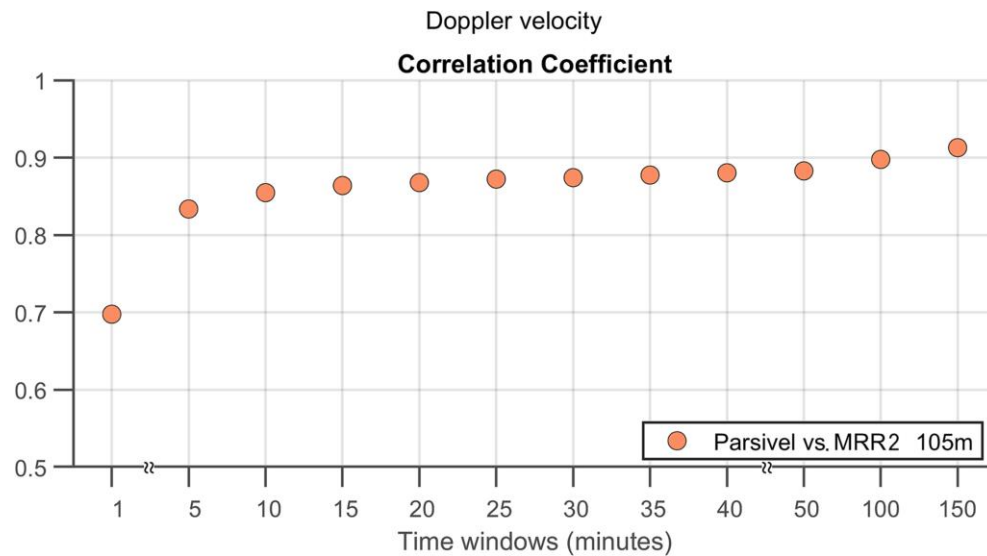
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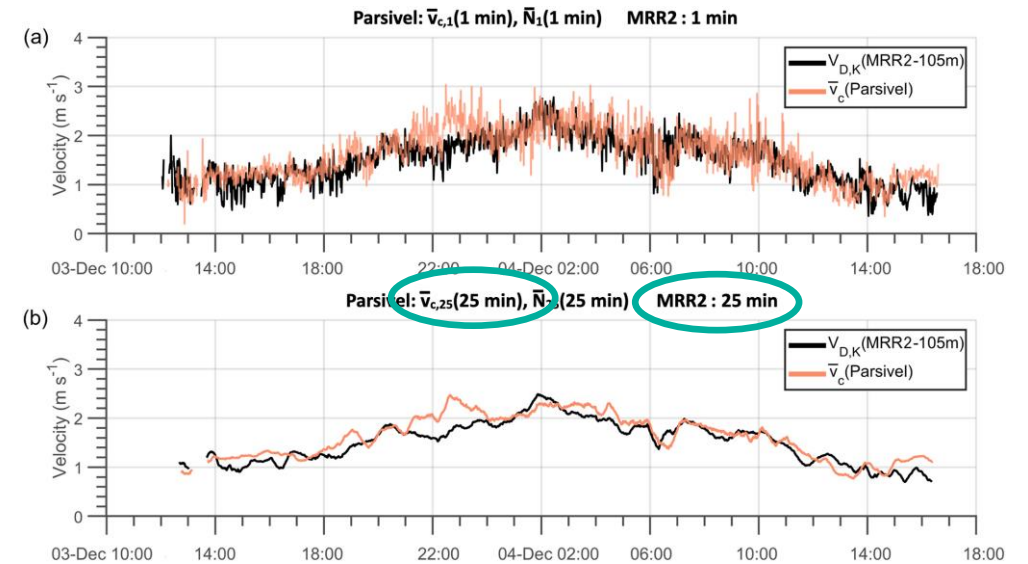
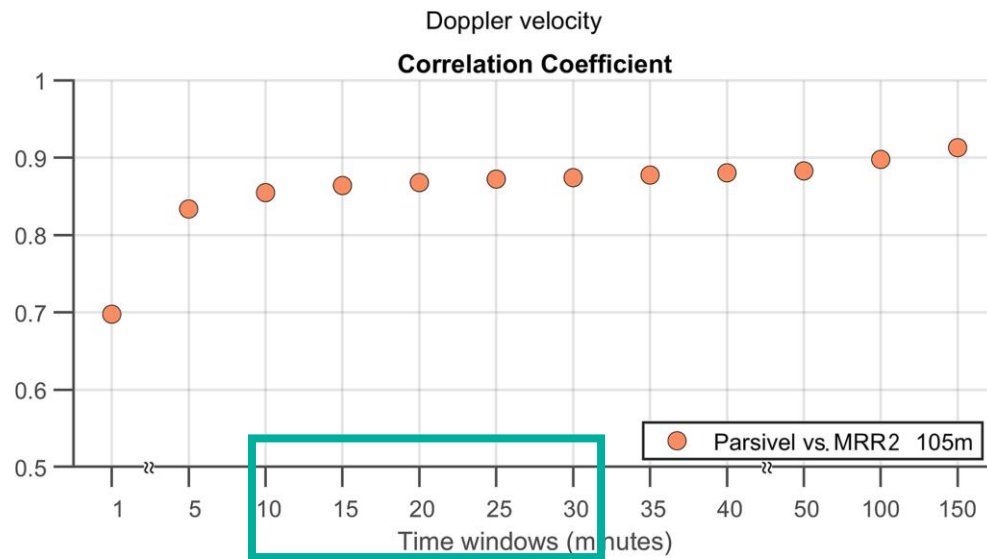
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  - Set trade-off for averaging time required for the most reliable correspondence



# Results



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  - Dataset of >9000 min of solid precipitation collected by MRR and disdrometer
  - Agree for most frequent reflectivity values (~10 dBZ) and Doppler velocities (1-min time resol.)
  - Set trade-off for averaging time required for the most reliable correspondence



# Results



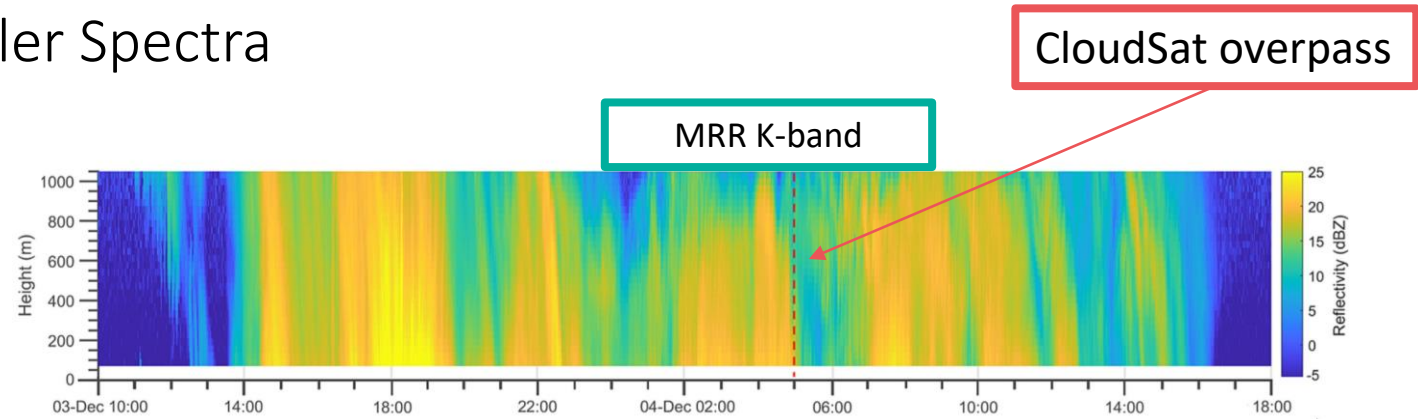
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# Results



- K2W: Simulation of W-band Doppler Spectra
- Radar Reflectivity time series

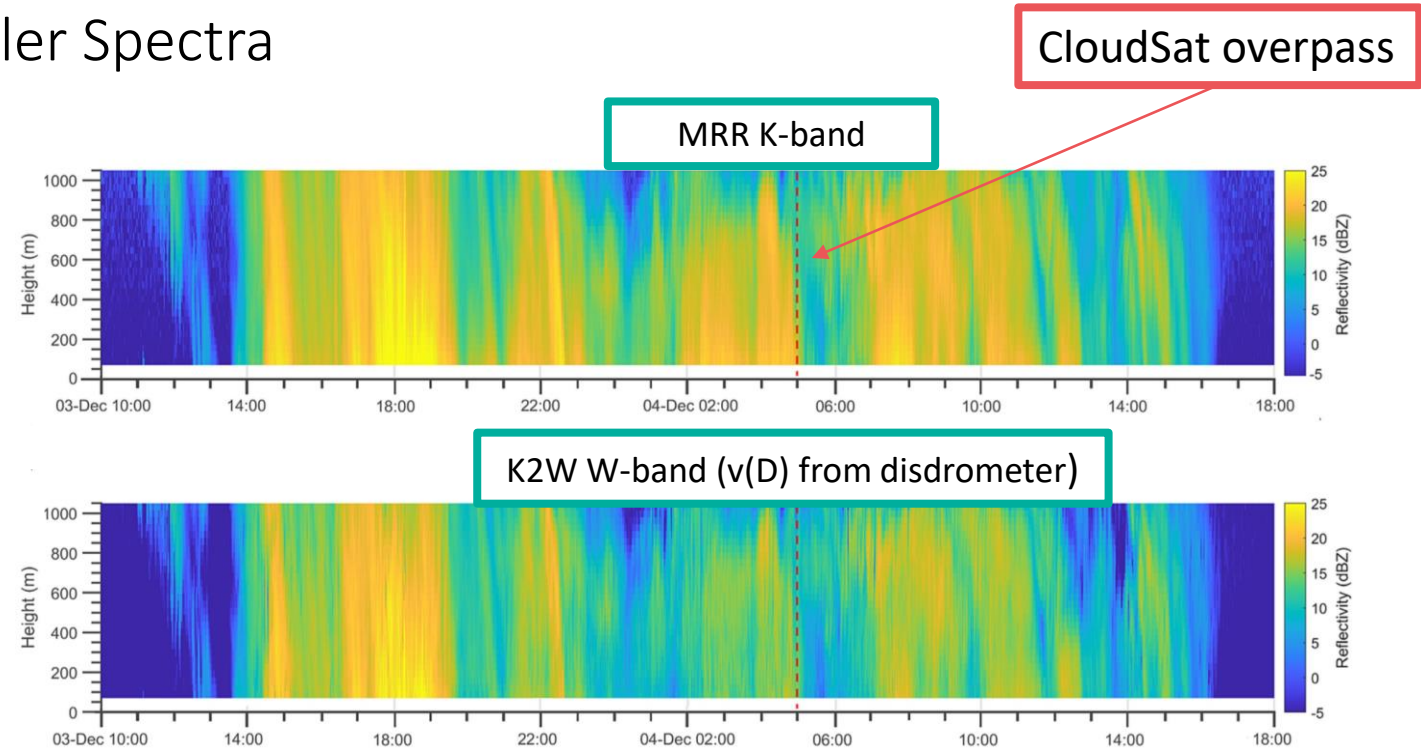


# Results



- K2W: Simulation of W-band Doppler Spectra

- Radar Reflectivity time series
  - W-band values lower than K-band

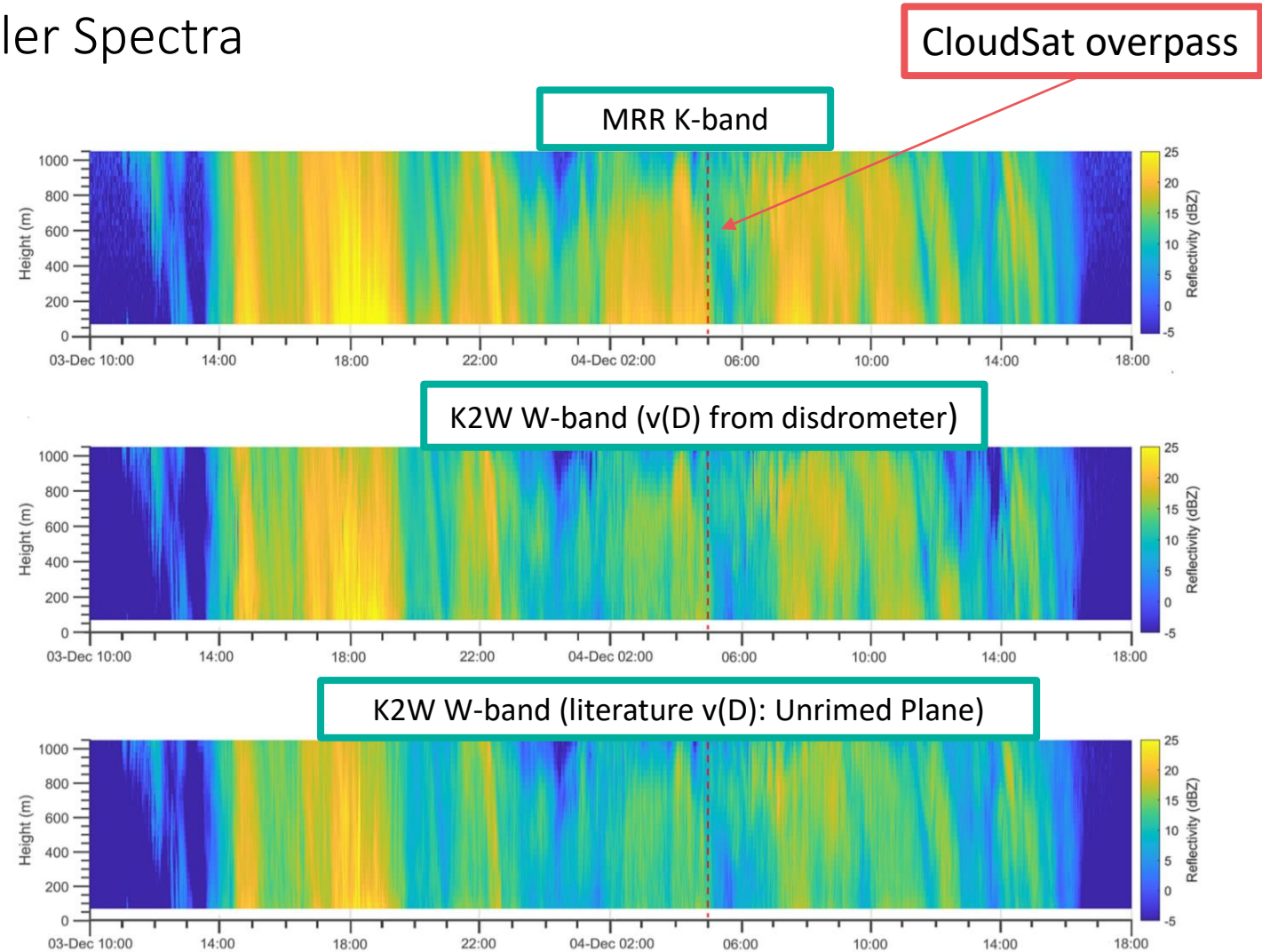


# Results



- K2W: Simulation of W-band Doppler Spectra

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  - Impact of  $v(D)$  relationship used in K2W





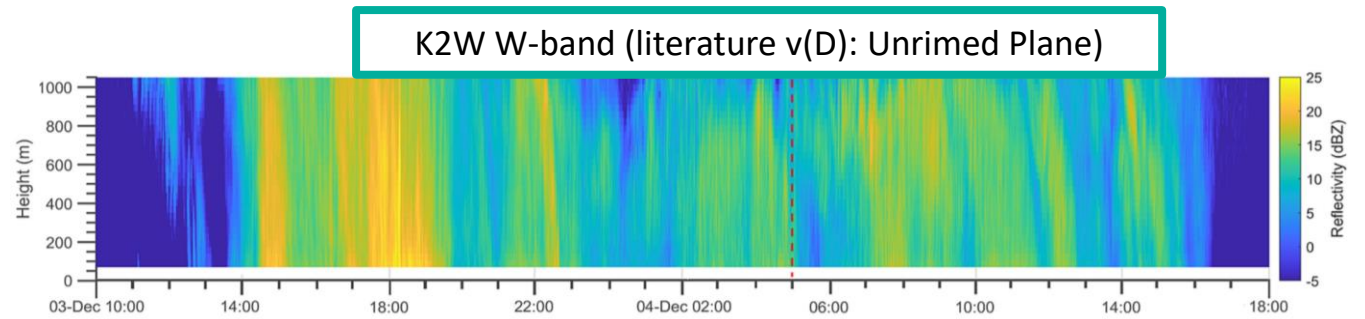
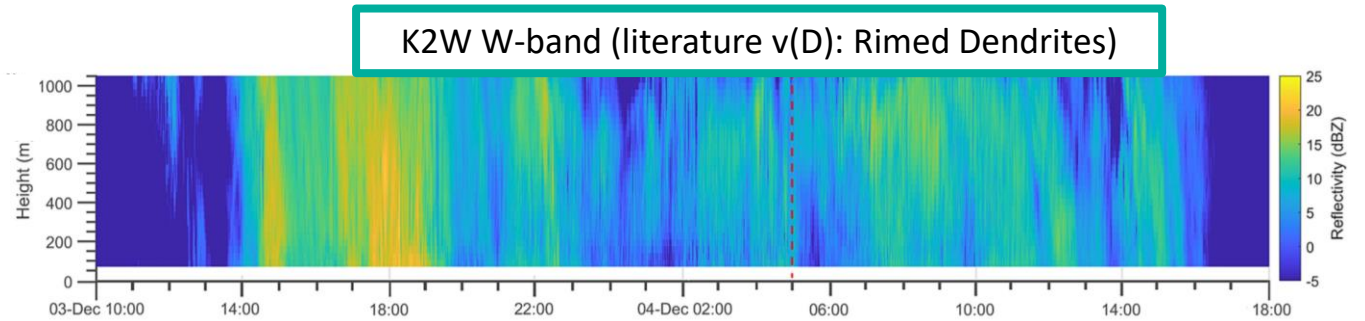
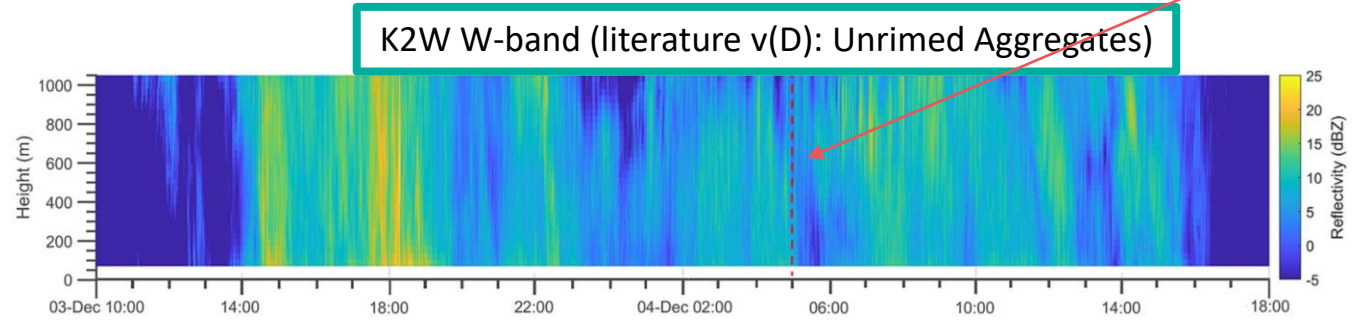
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CloudSat overpass

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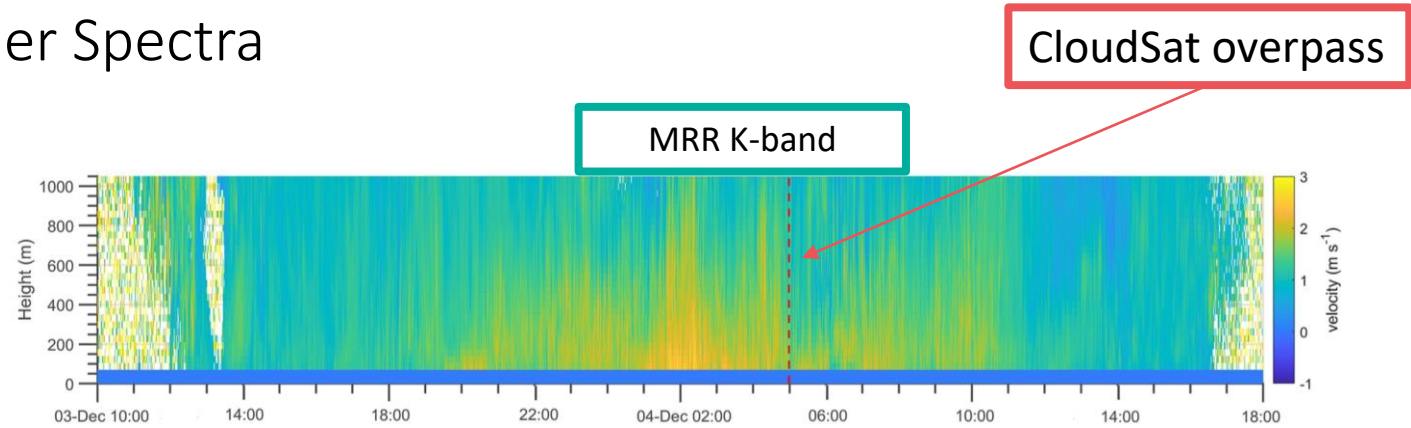


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- Doppler Velocity time series



# Results

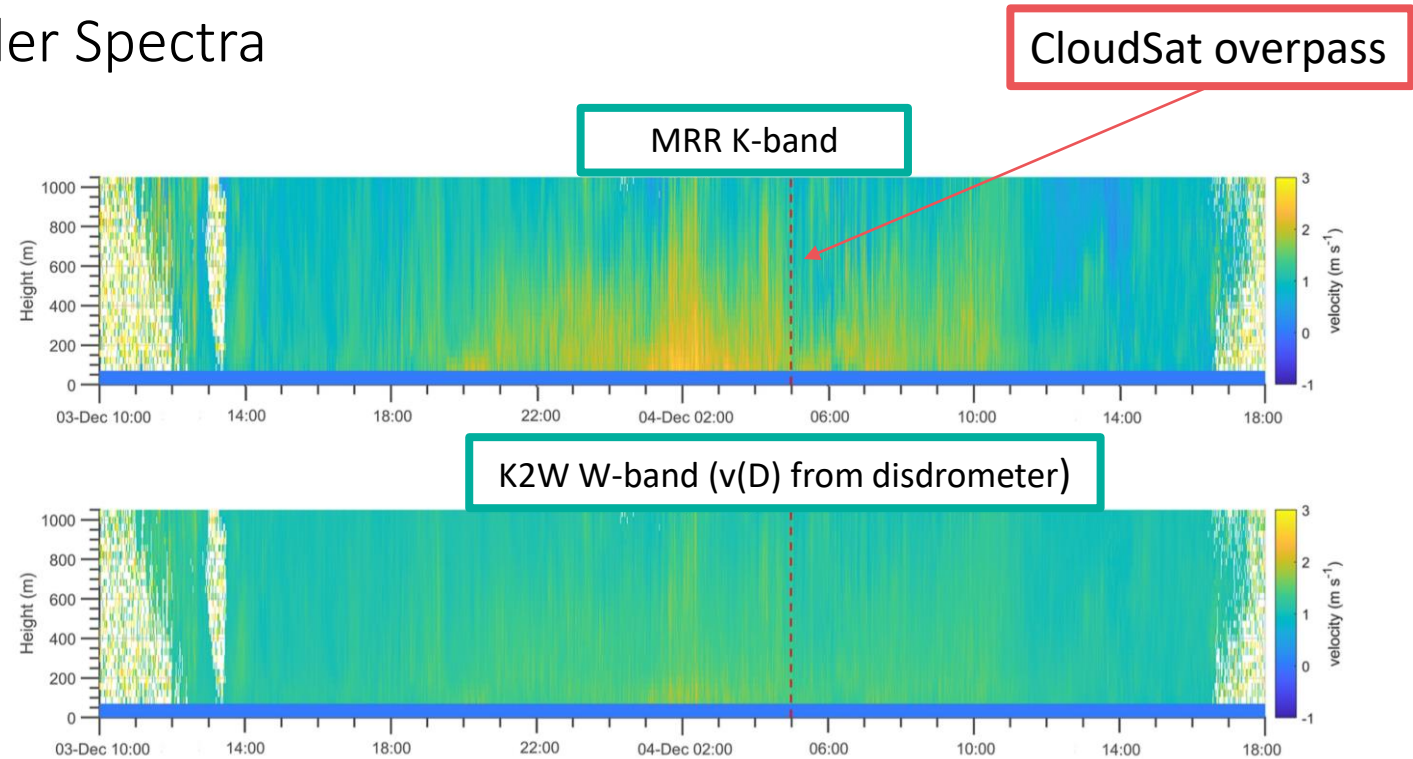


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- Similar values for velocity  $< 1.5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$
- $V_{d,K} > V_{d,W}$  for  $v > 1.5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$



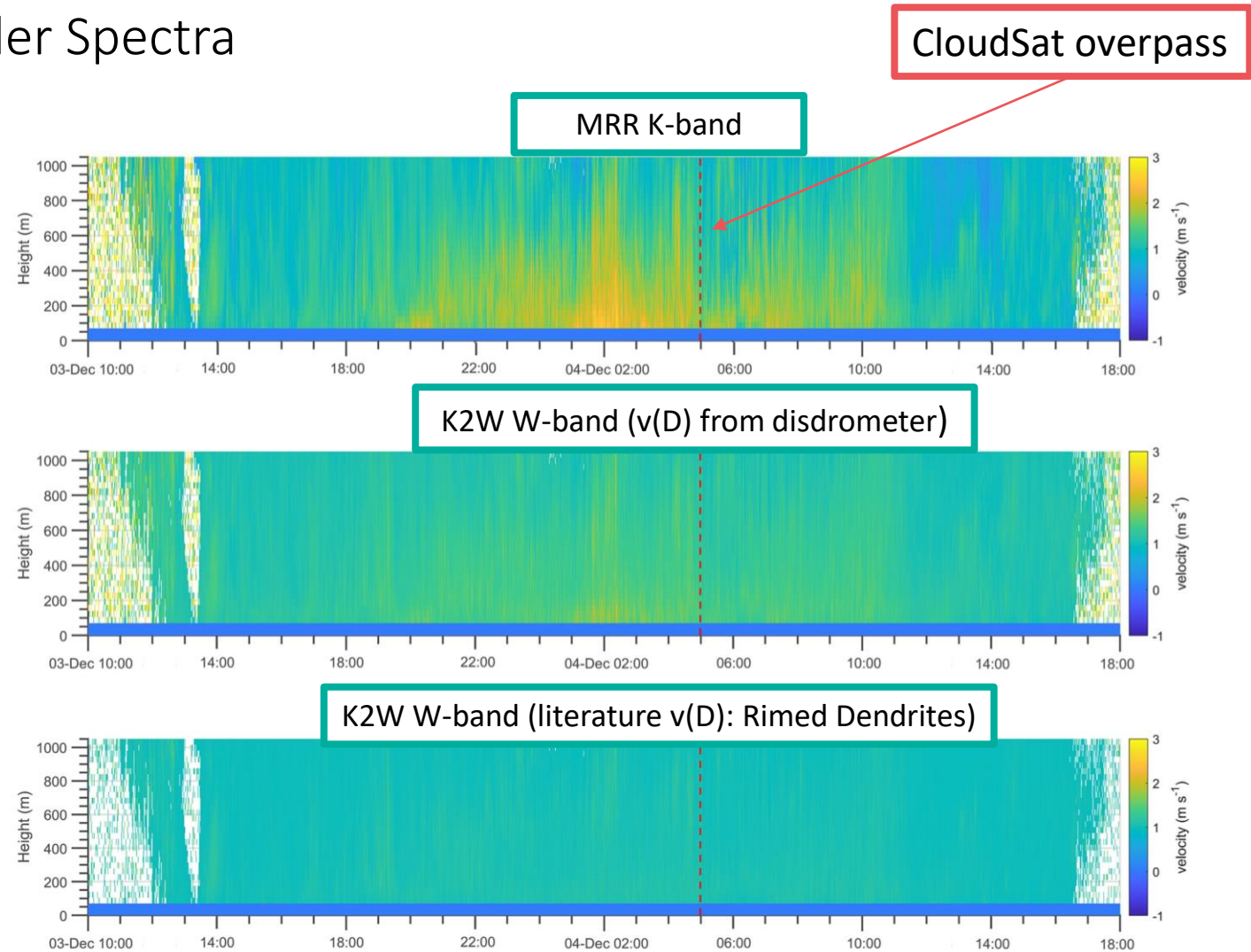
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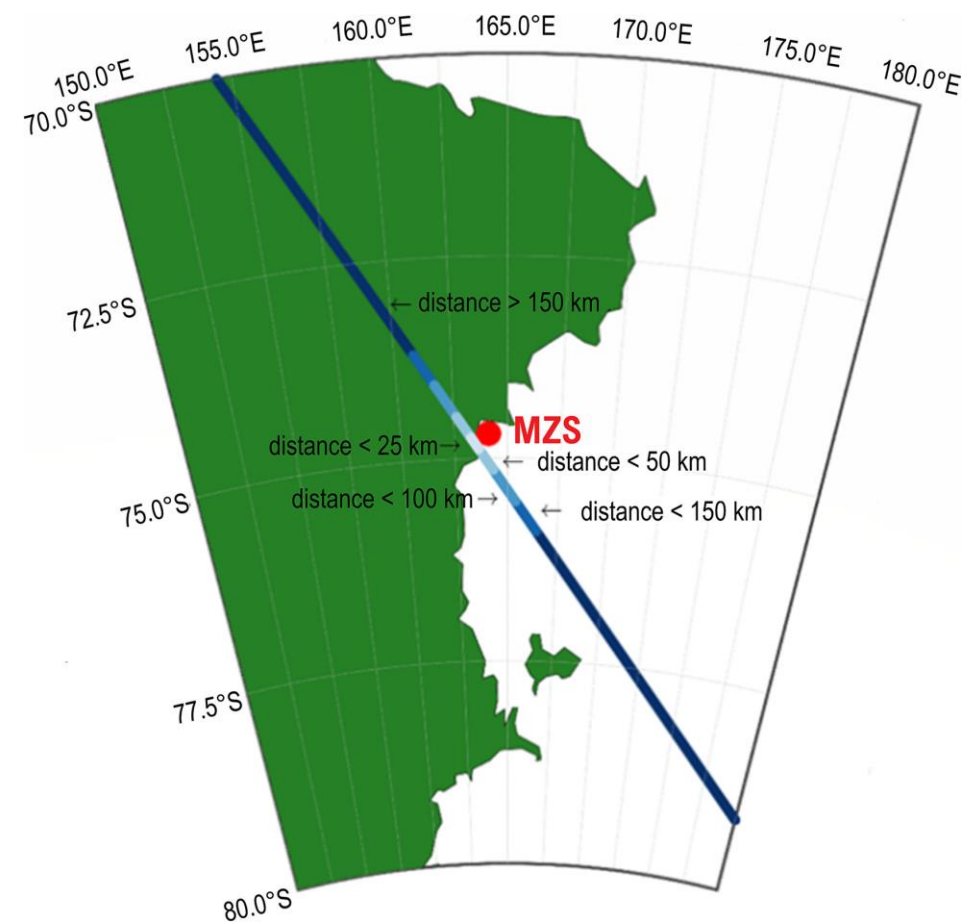
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  - Large differences using literature  $v(D)$





# Results: Comparison CloudSat-K2W profiles

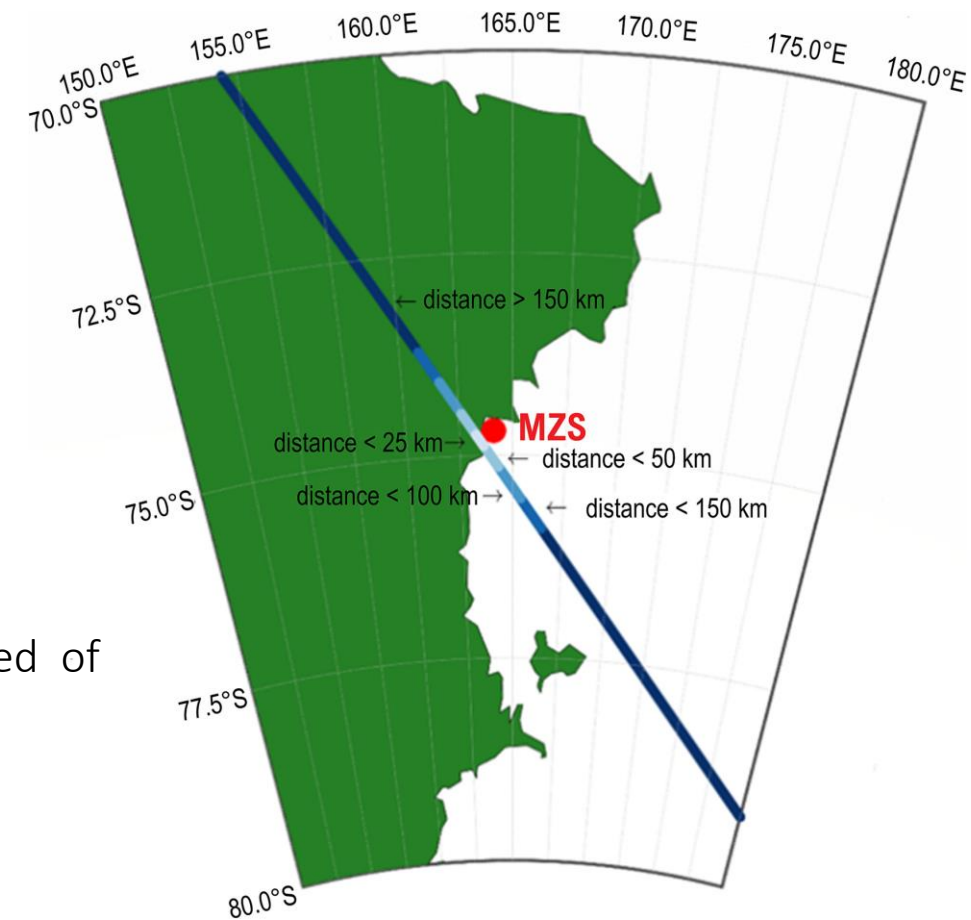




# Results: Comparison CloudSat-K2W profiles



- Comparison CloudSat-K2W profiles
  - Overpass: 5:00 UTC on 4 December 2018
  - Minimum distance from MZS: 22.9 km
  - Lowest CloudSat range gates (720, 960 m a.s.l)
  - 8 MRR range gates averaged to match CS vertical resolution
  - $15 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  horizontal wind speed at the ground -> moving speed of precipitating system (first approximation)



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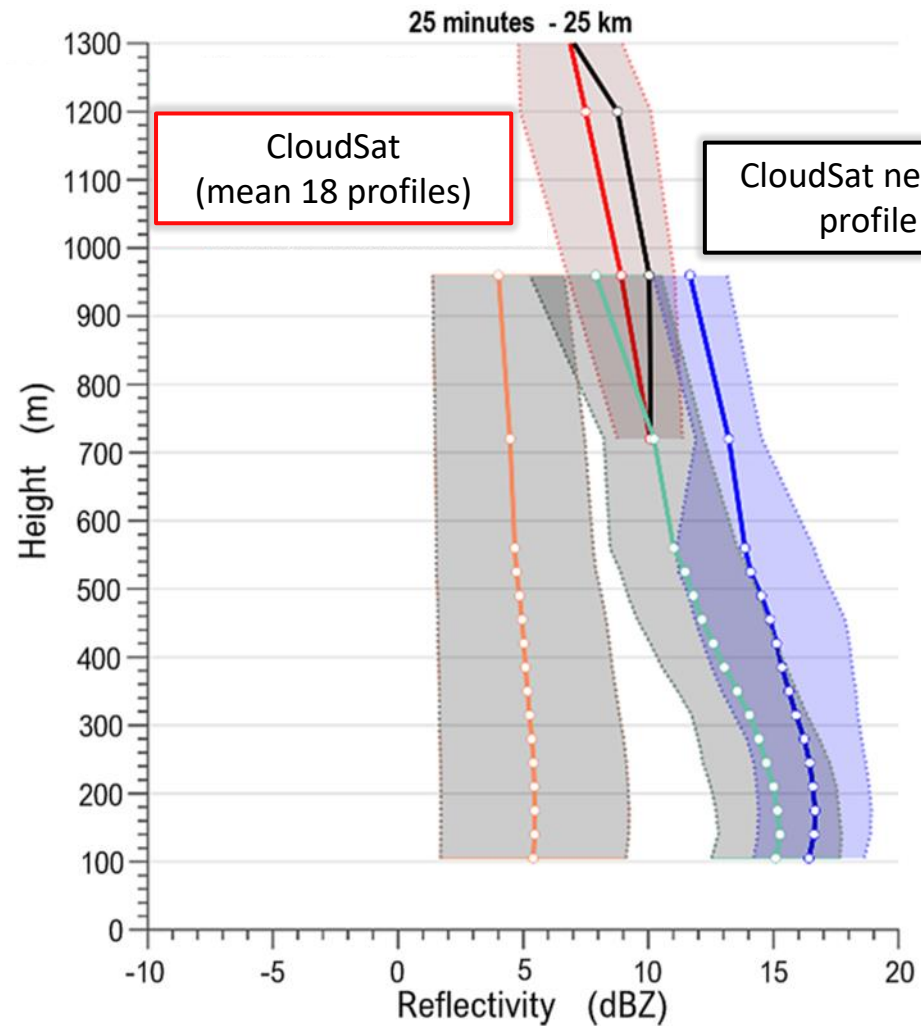


## Radar Reflectivity

# Results: Comparison CloudSat-K2W profiles



## Radar Reflectivity

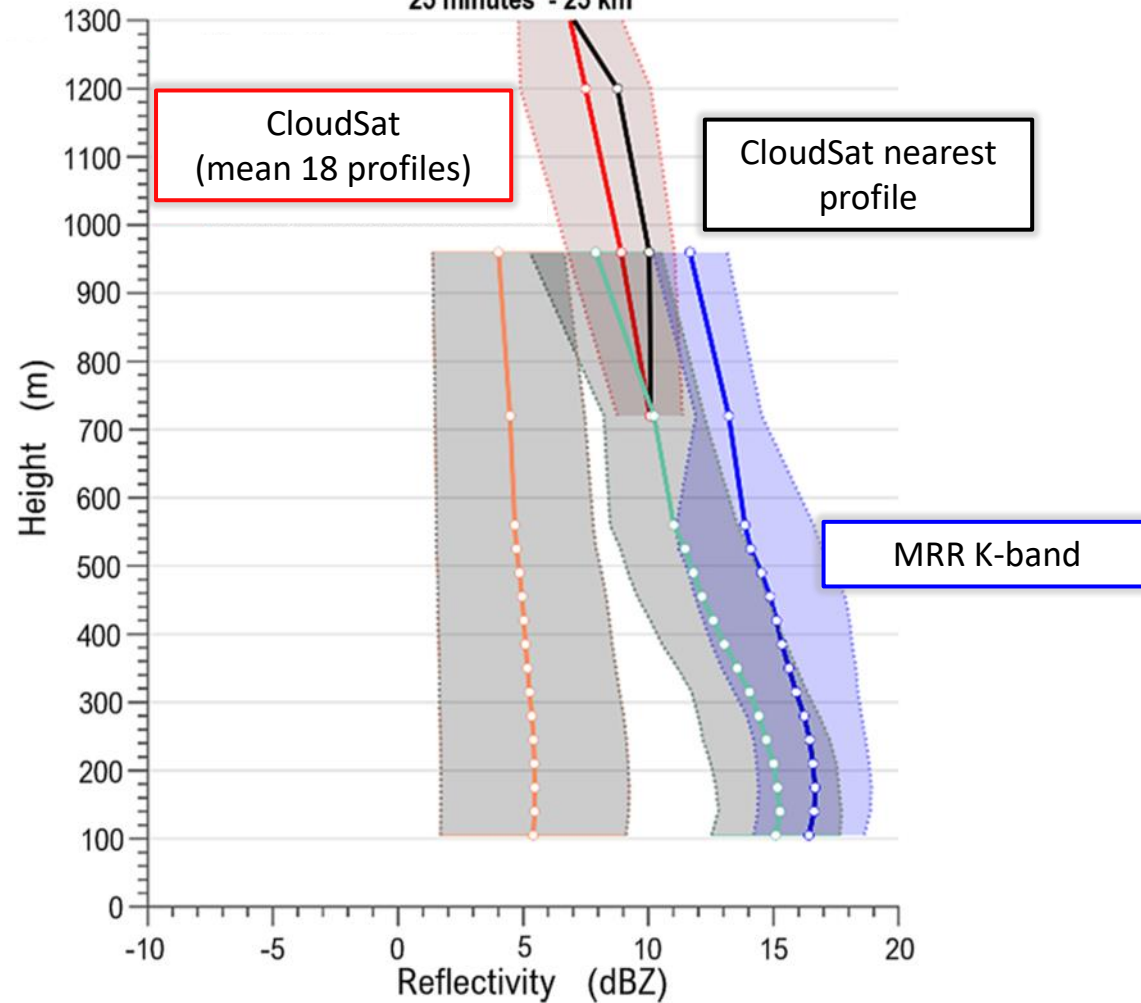


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## Radar Reflectivity

25 minutes - 25 km

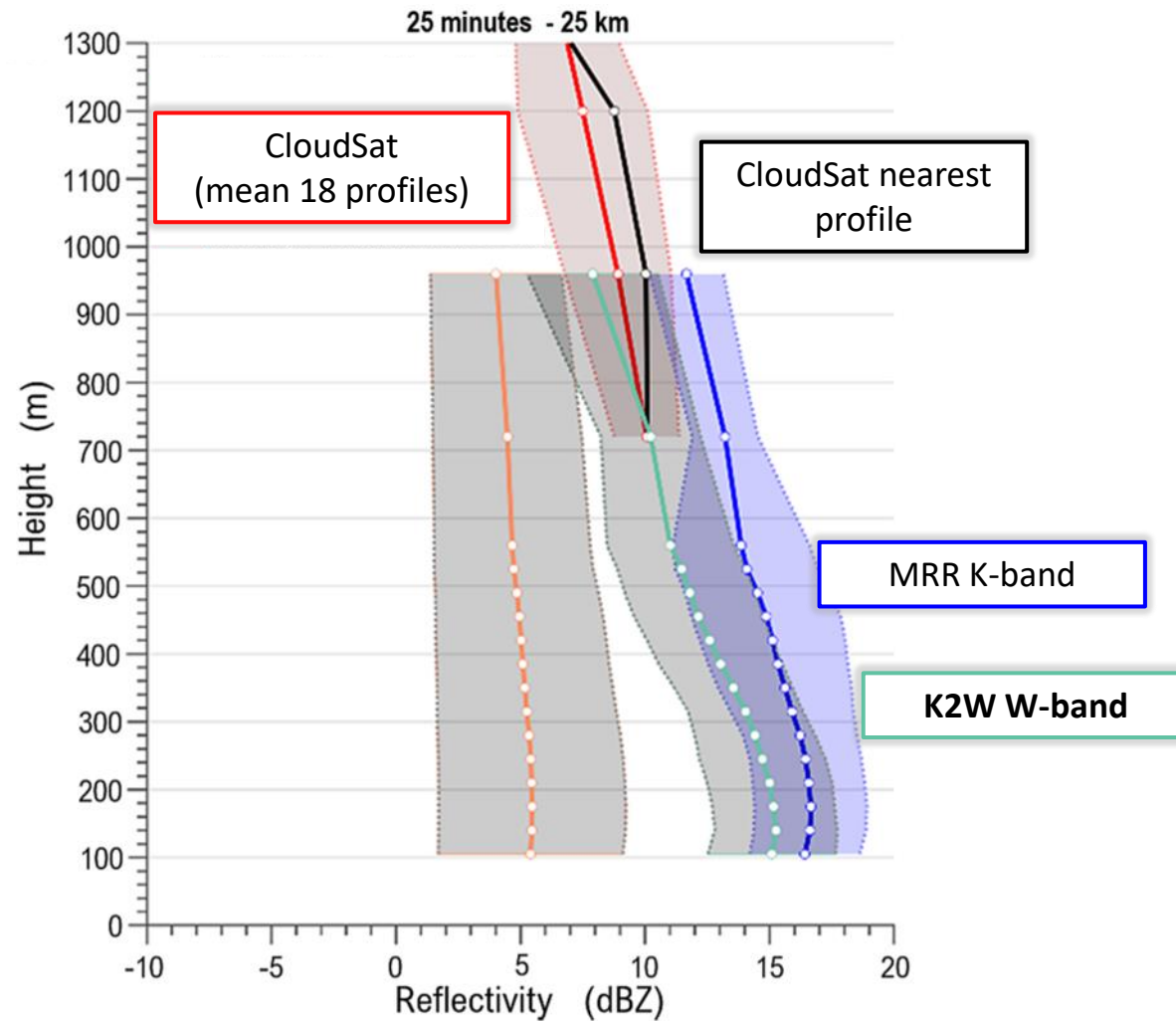




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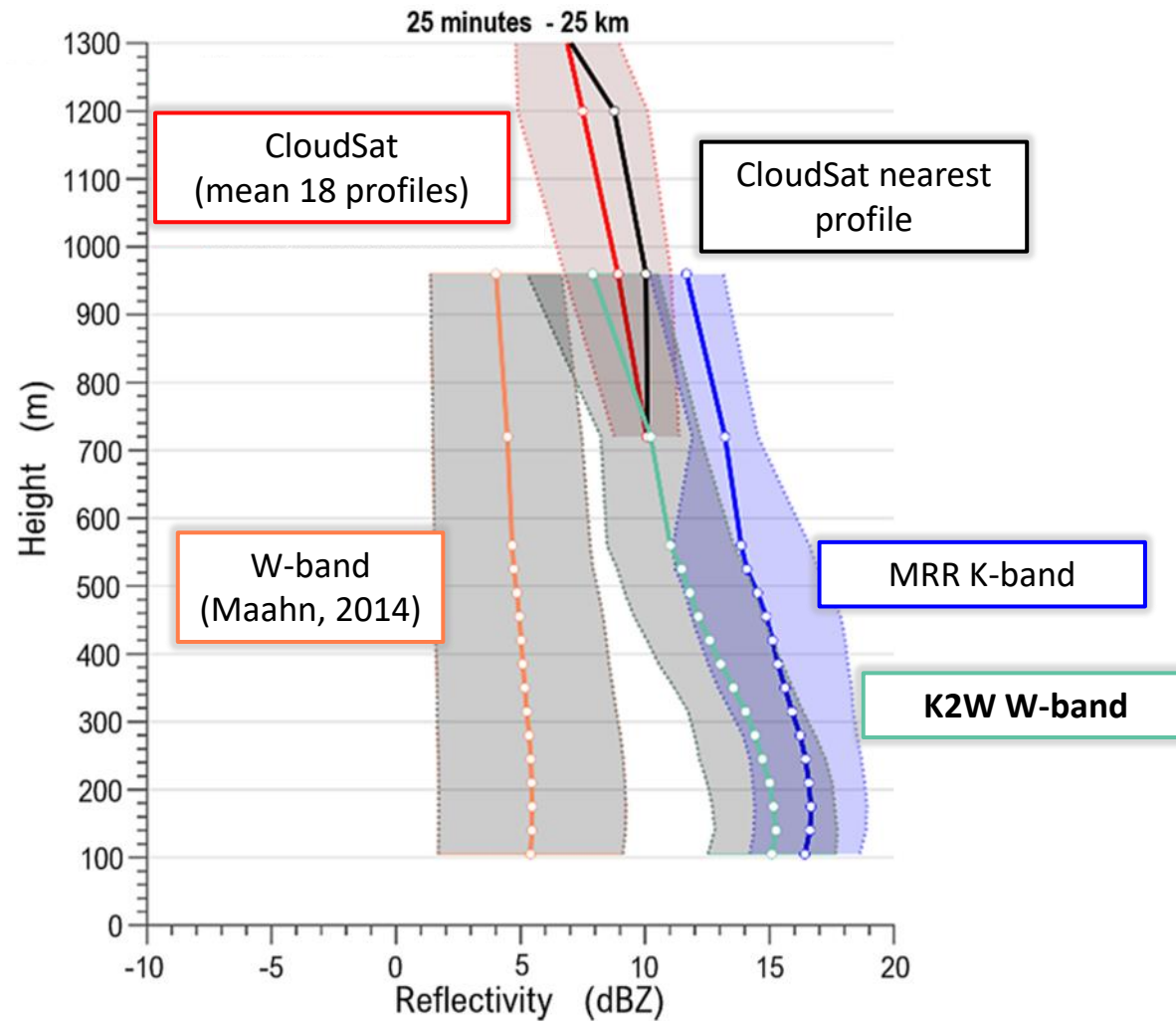
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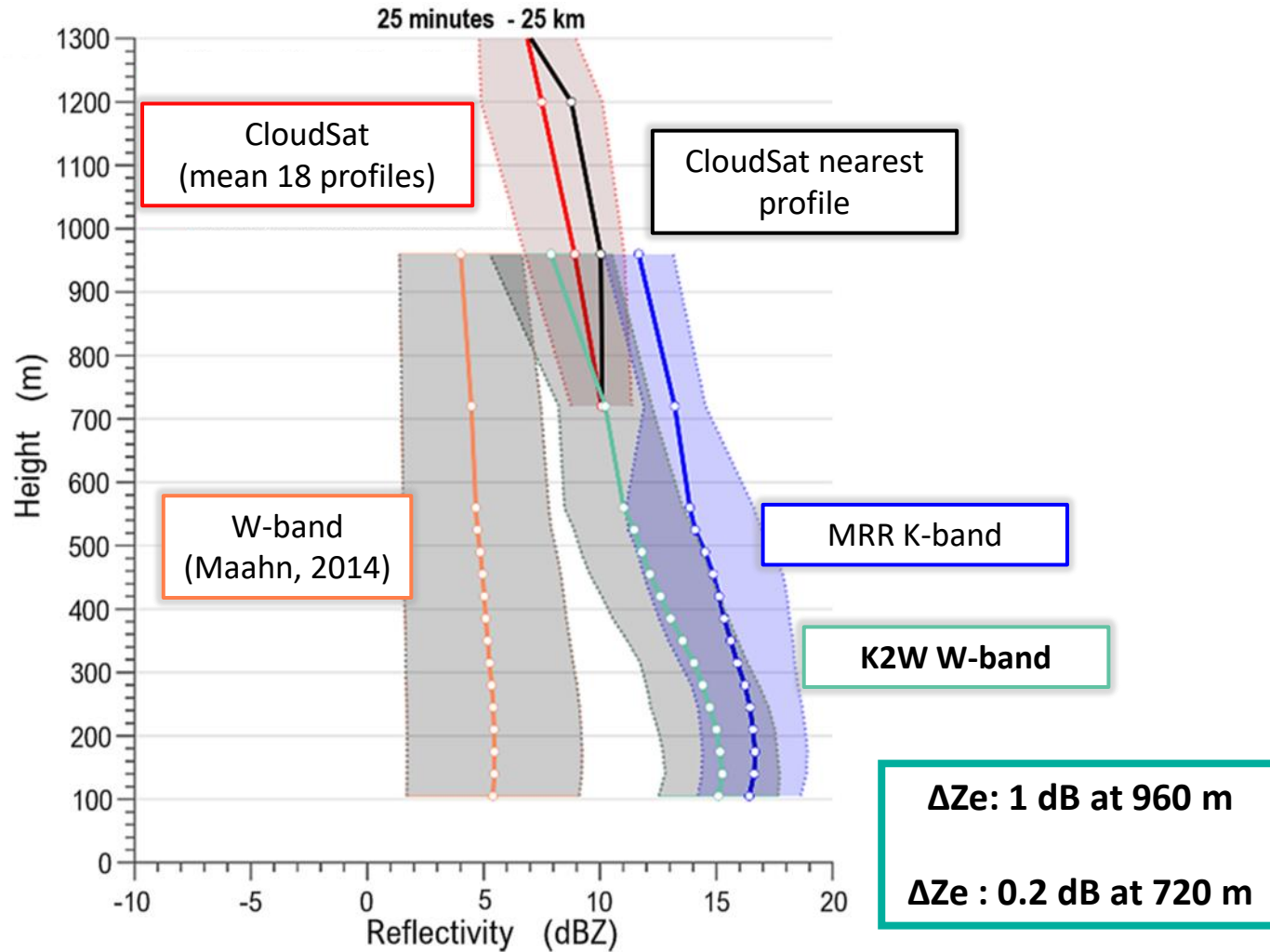
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# Results: Comparison CloudSat-K2W profiles



## Radar Reflectivity

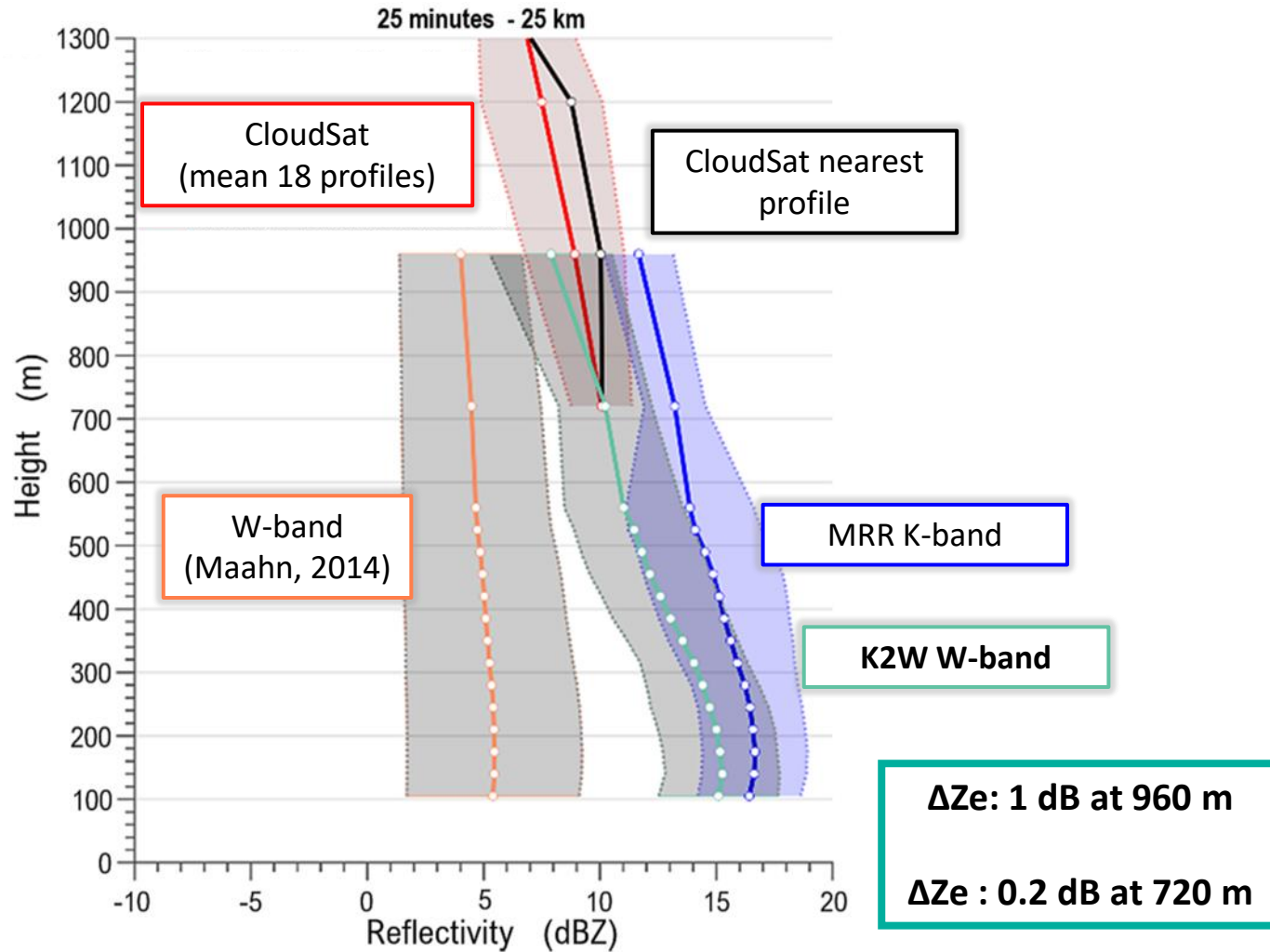


# Results: Comparison CloudSat-K2W profiles



## Radar Reflectivity

## Doppler Velocity



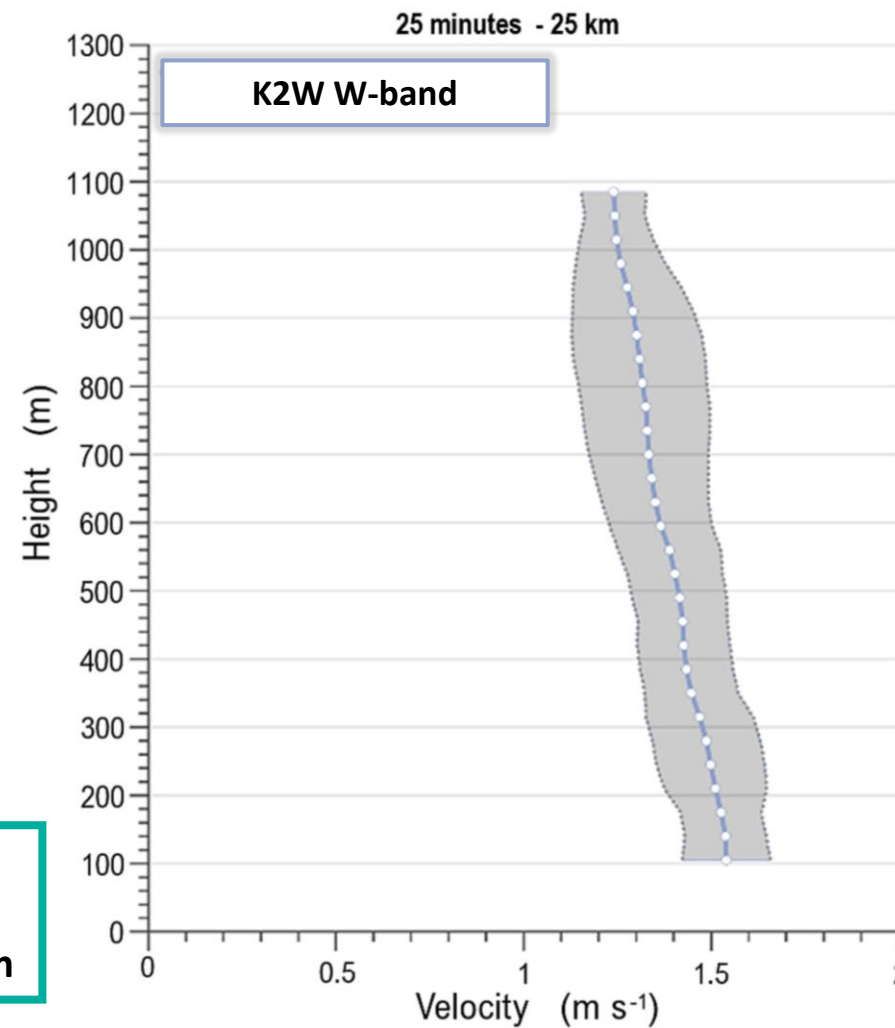
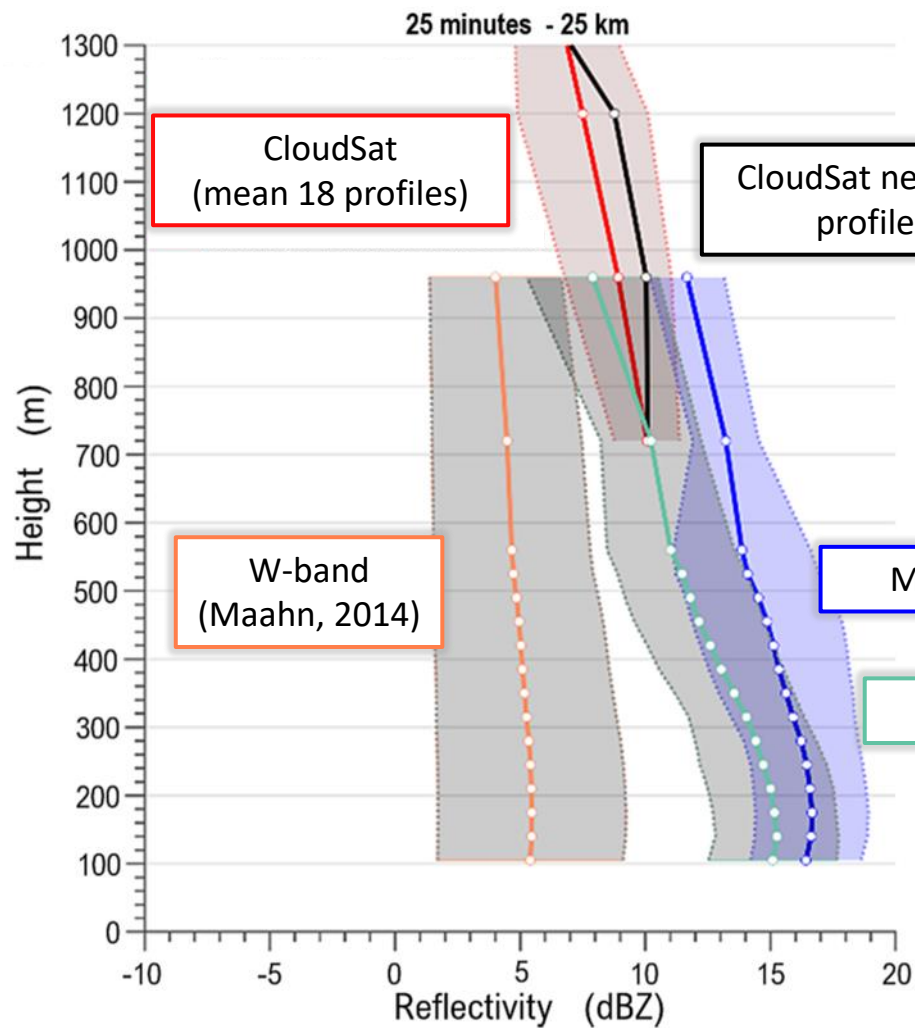


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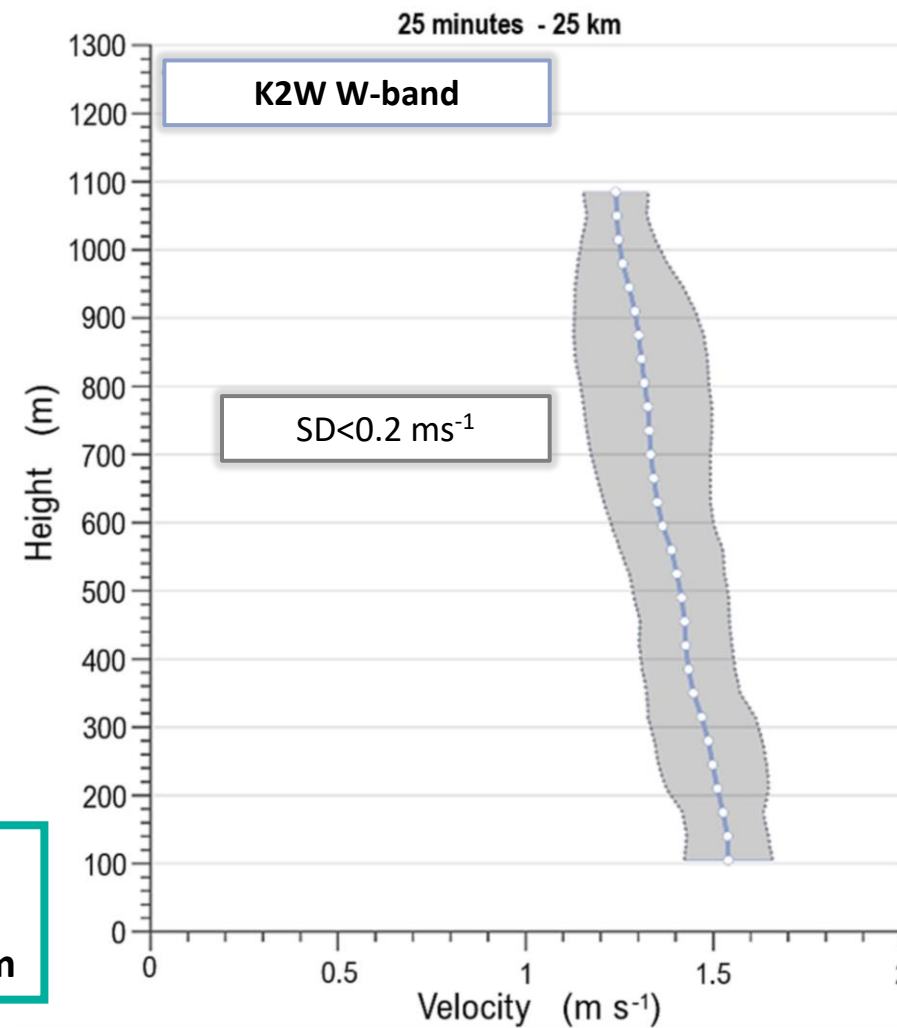
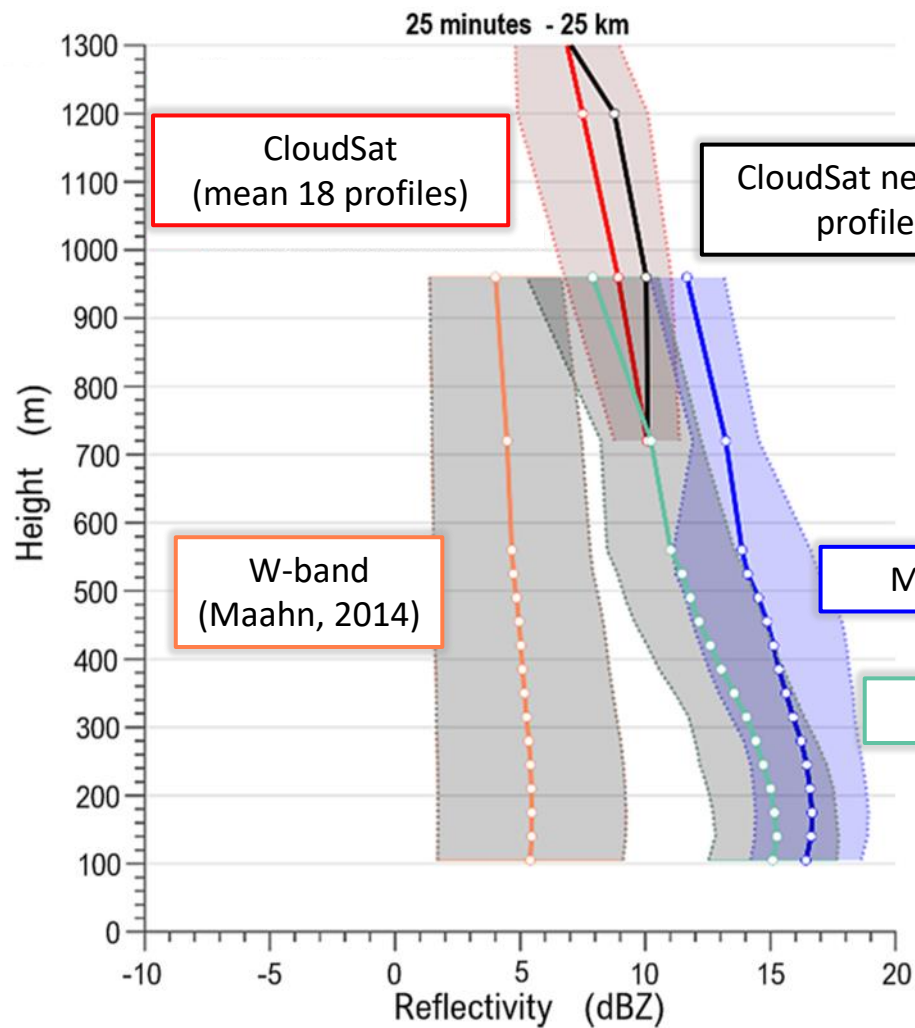


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## Radar Reflectivity

## Doppler Velocity



# Results: Comparison CloudSat-K2W profiles



- Radar Reflectivity (sensitivity analysis)
  - Change time window and distance from MZS to consider spatial variability of precipitation during CloudSat overpass

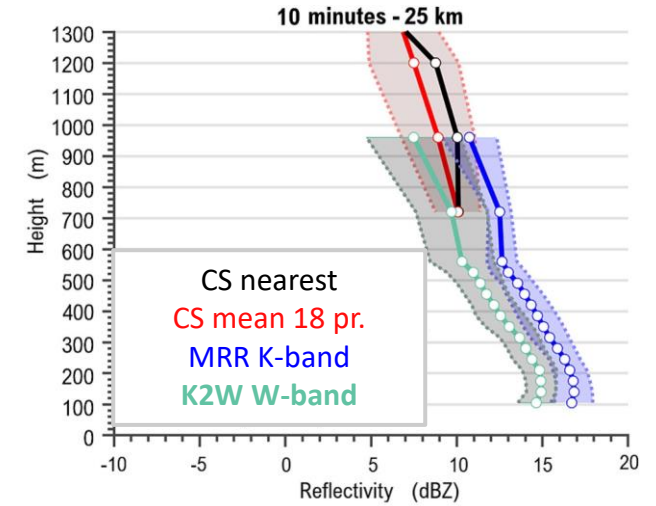
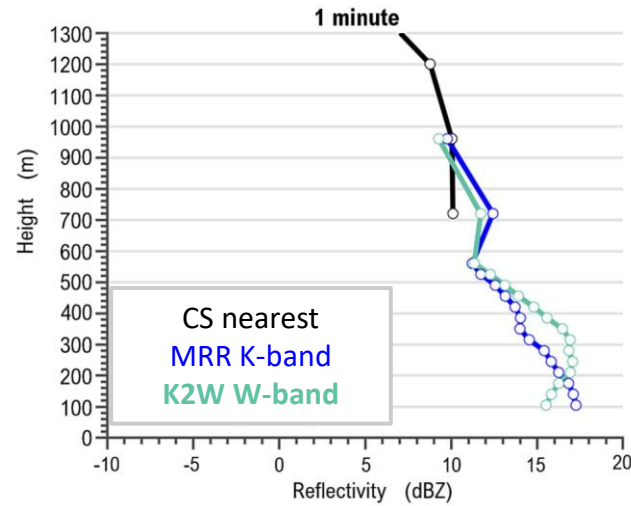
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## Narrowing

- 1-min: K2W fails to convert
- 10-min:  $\Delta Z_e > 1.4\text{dB}$





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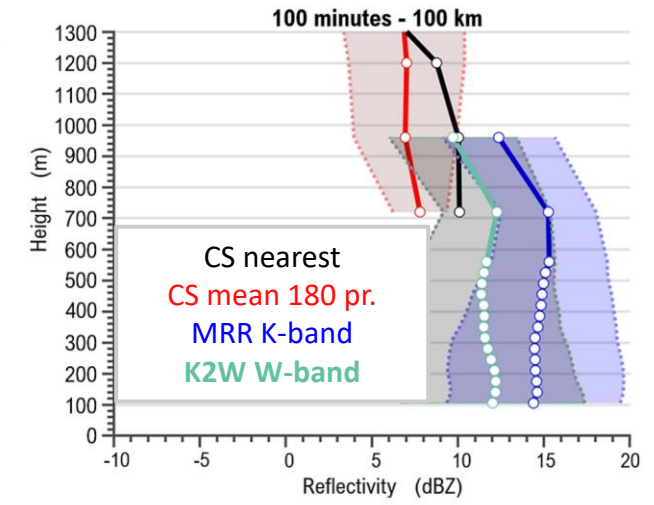
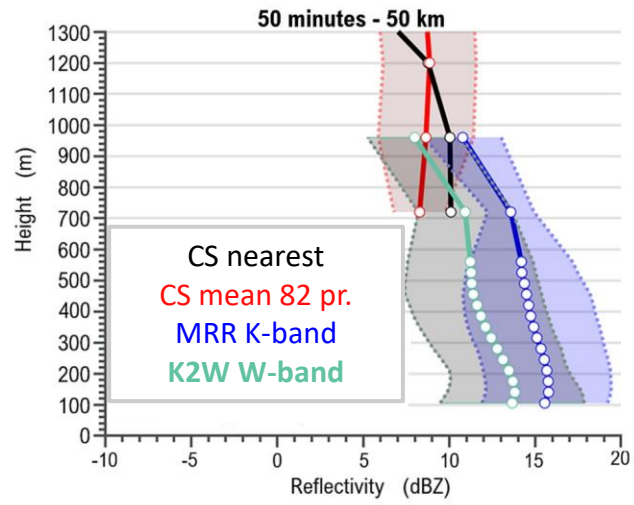
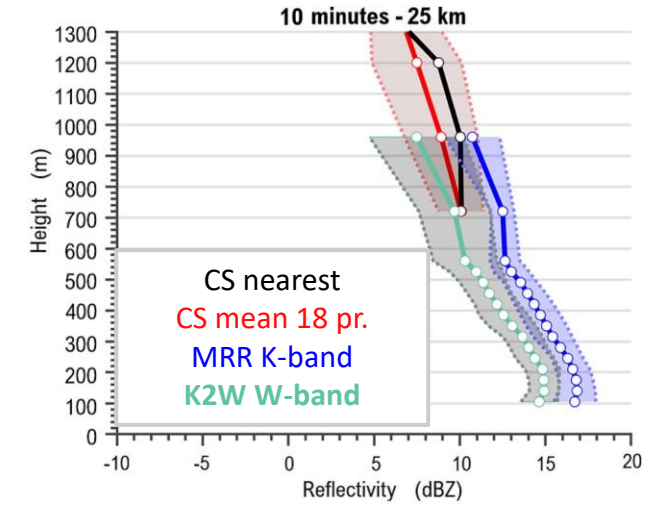
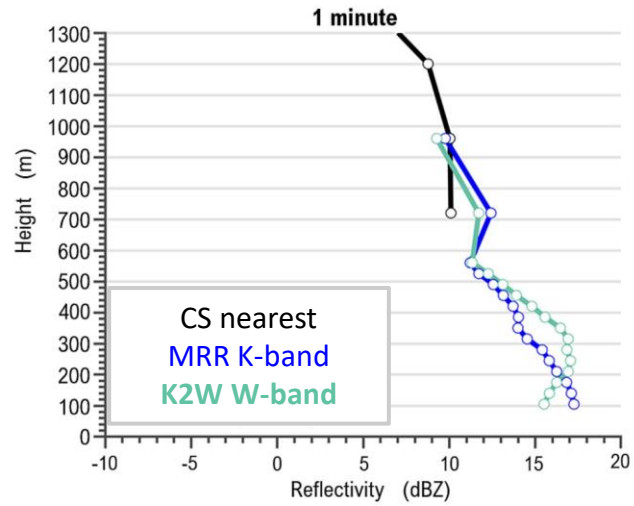
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**Widening**

- Profiles start to be quite distinct
- Led to worsening of correspondence



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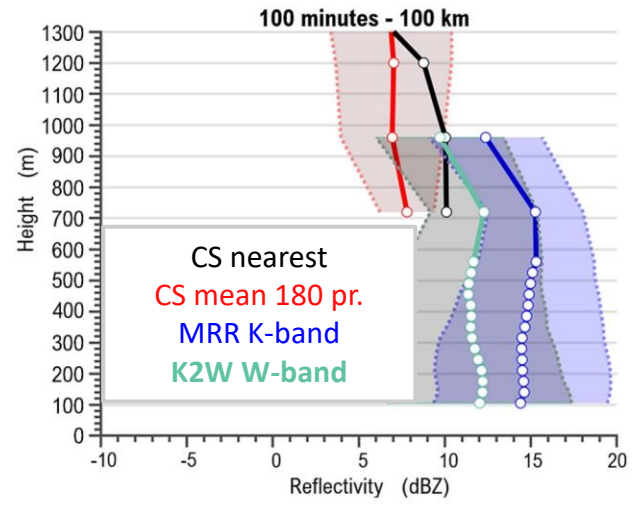
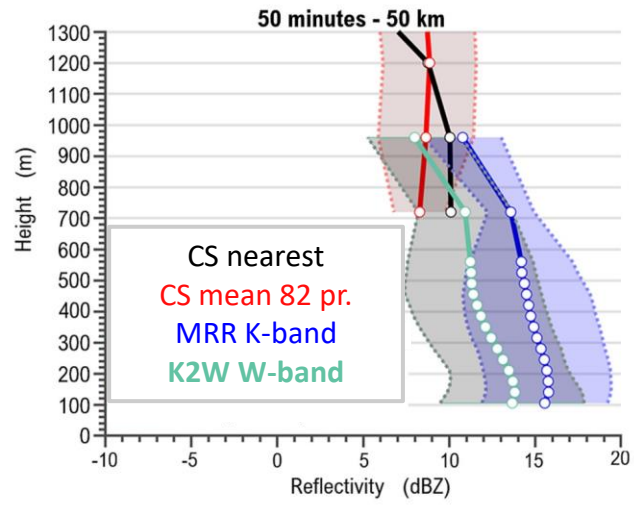
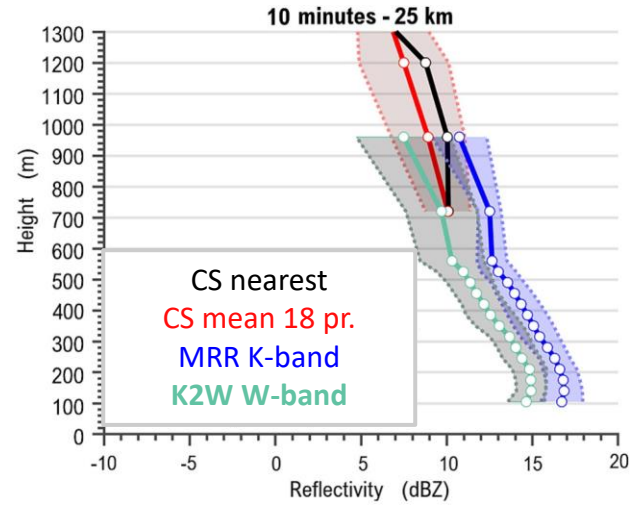
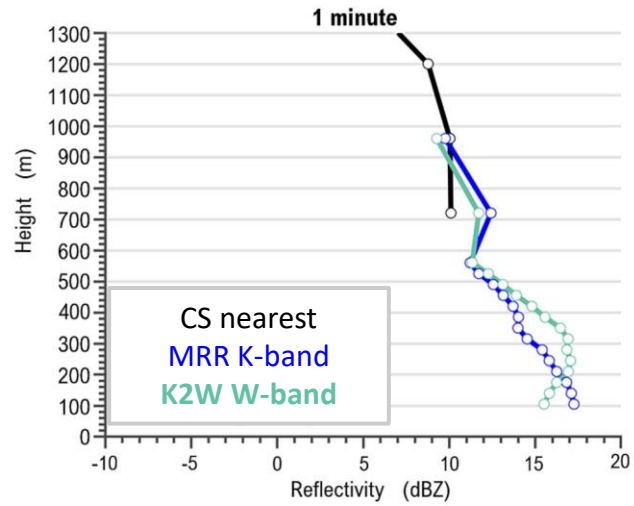
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Best correspondence for 25-min time averaging

Good agreement for 10-30 min time averaging  
< CPR calibration error (2dB)



# Conclusions



- Satellites are the major source of information about precipitation in Antarctica -> development of a reliable validation strategy for the satellite measurements is in high demand
- **K2W** methodology combines MRR Doppler spectra and disdrometer data to simulate 94 GHz reflectivity and Doppler measurements
- **K2W** was assessed using CloudSat overpass over MZS for a typical snowfall event:
  - **K2W reproduces** CloudSat  $Z_e$  profile with 0.2 dB mean difference at the lowest radar range bin and 0.5 dB difference on average below 1 km altitude
  - **K2W simulates** the  $Z_e$  profile within the CloudSat blind zones. This unattenuated W-band profile can be used to evaluate spaceborne W-band radar retrievals
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- More details about K2W methodology can be found in:



Remote Sensing of Environment  
Volume 294, 15 August 2023, 113630



Development of a methodology for evaluating spaceborne W-band Doppler radar by combined use of Micro Rain Radar and a disdrometer in Antarctica

Alessandro Bracci<sup>a, b</sup> ✉, Kaori Sato<sup>c</sup> ✉, Luca Baldini<sup>a</sup> ✉, Federico Porcù<sup>b</sup> ✉, Hajime Okamoto<sup>c</sup> ✉



# Outlooks

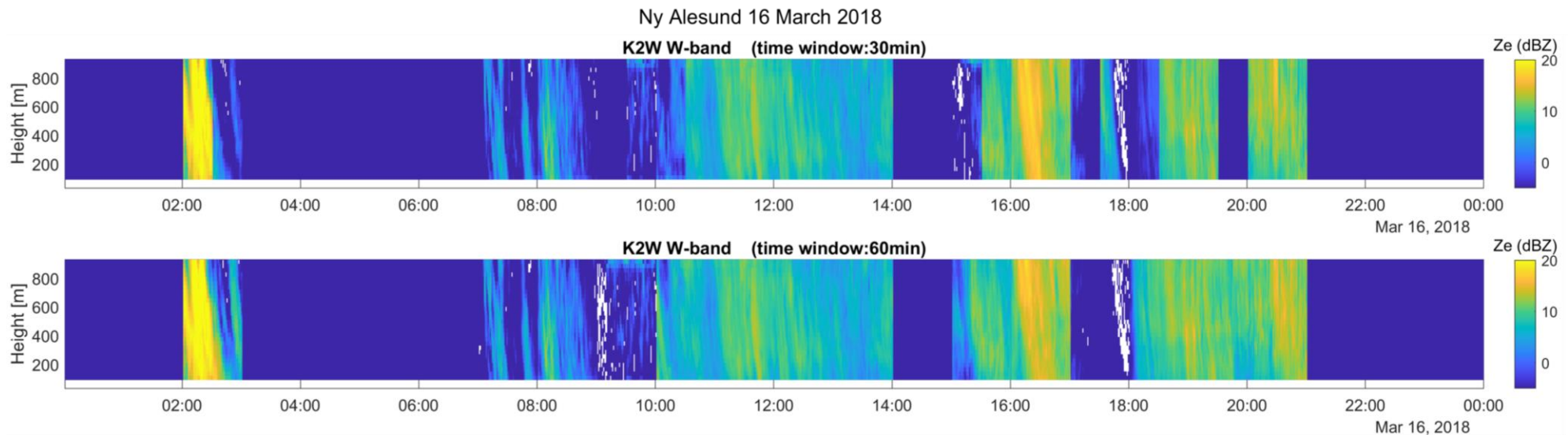


- Pairs of MRR-disdrometer are available in many ground observation sites worldwide and in most of the research stations in Antarctica -> K2W method has a wide application

Data from Ebell, Zenodo-2020



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- New tests of K2W methodology:
  - Ny-Ålesund (Svalbard): Solid precipitation with a collocated ground-based MRR, disdrometer and W-band radar
  - L' Aquila (Italy): Liquid/solid precipitation with a collocated ground-based MRR, disdrometer and W-band radar (take a look at the poster by Montopoli et al.)



Data from Ebell, Zenodo-2020



Thanks for your attention!

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