



ESA EarthCARE MSI cloud products

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TROPOS / FU-Berlin

2nd ESA-JAXA EarthCARE In-Orbit Validation Workshop
17-20 March 2025 | VIRTUAL EVENT

MSI level 2 products M-CM and M-COP



MSI L2 products since July until now

M-CM

the cloud mask product

cloud_mask
cloud_type
cloud_phase
surface_classification

quality status
cloud_mask_quality_status
cloud_type_quality_status
cloud_phase_quality_status

Ancillary
data set

MSI L1c

M-CM

Cloud flag
Cloud phase
Cloud type

M-COP

Cloud optical depth
Cloud effective radius
LWP/IWP
Cloud top temperature/
pressure/ height

M-CLD

MSI Cloud Product Processor

M-COP

the cloud optical and physical
properties product

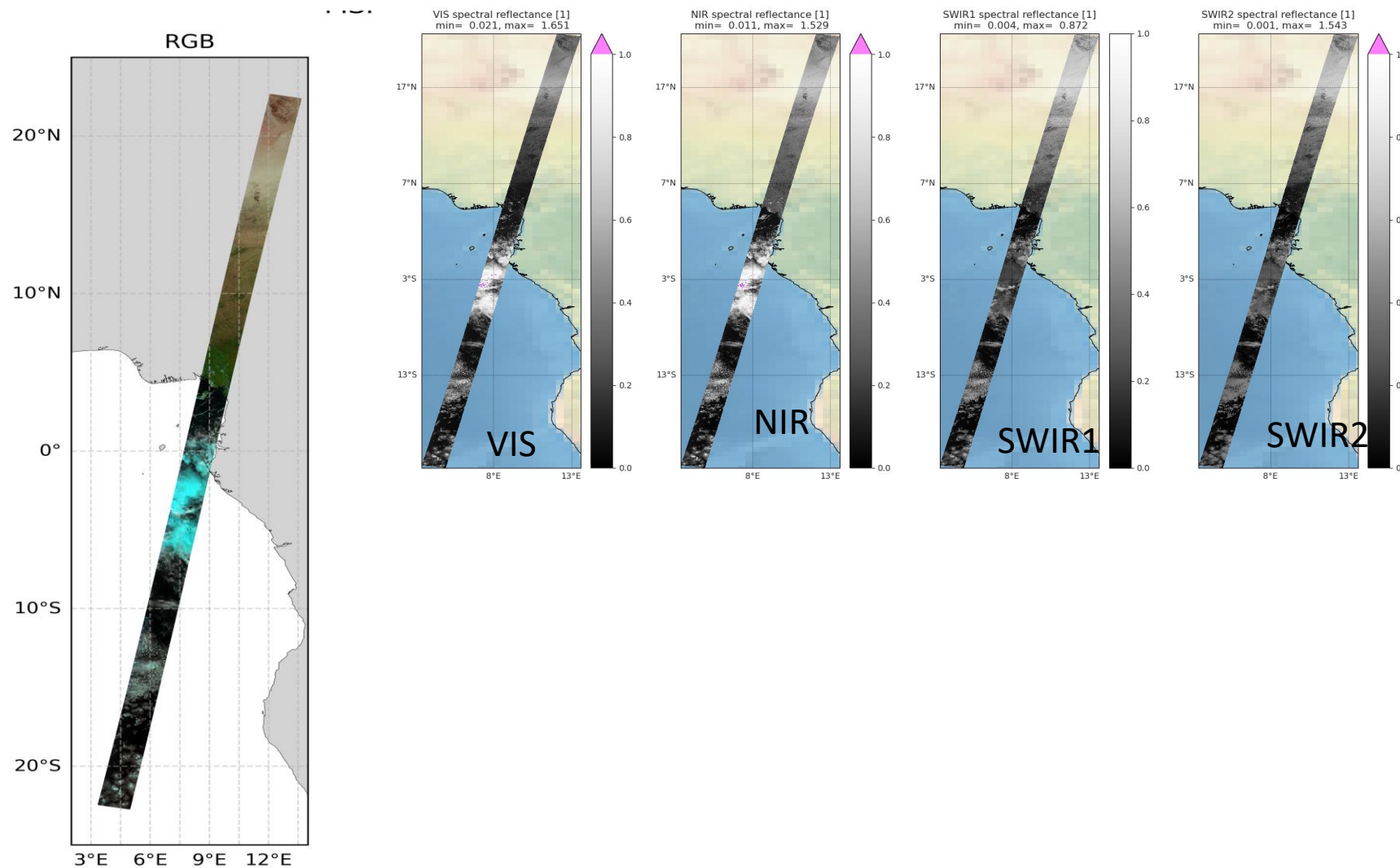
cloud_optical_thickness
cloud_effective_radius
cloud_top_temperature
cloud_top_pressure
cloud_top_height
cloud_water_path

cloud_optical_thickness_error
cloud_effective_radius_error
cloud_top_temperature_error
cloud_water_path_error
Quality status

Hünerbein, A. et al., 2023
<https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-16-2821-2023>

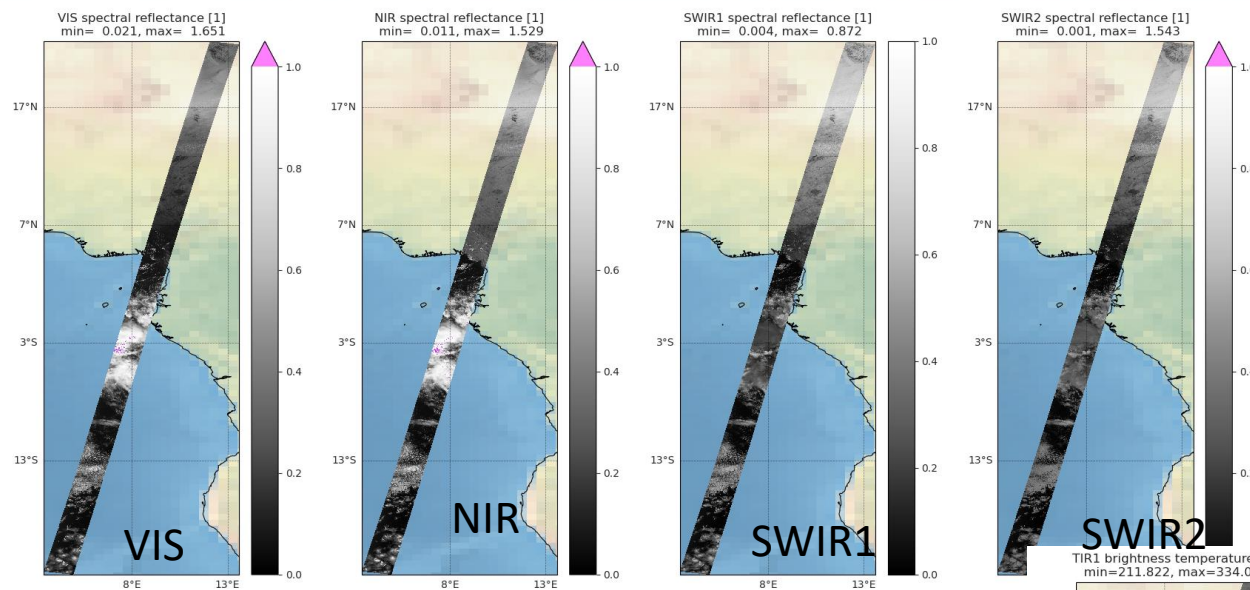
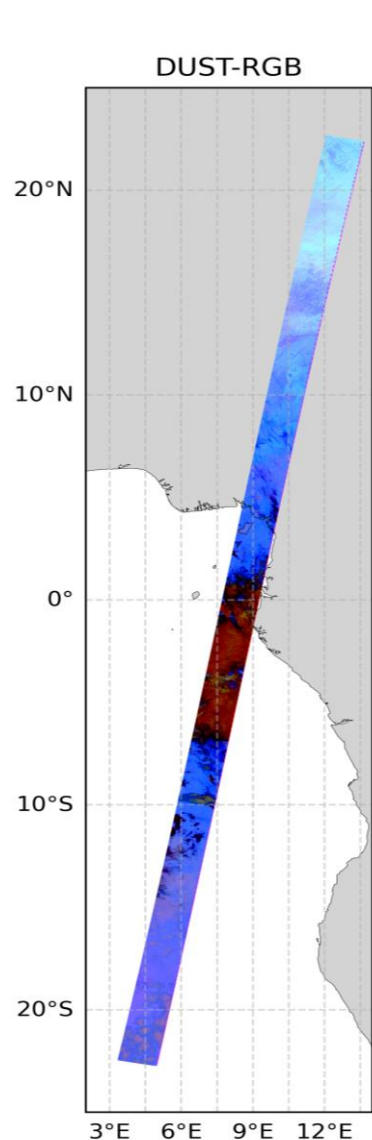
Hünerbein, A. et al., 2024
<https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-17-261-2024>

MSI-Multi-Spectral Imager

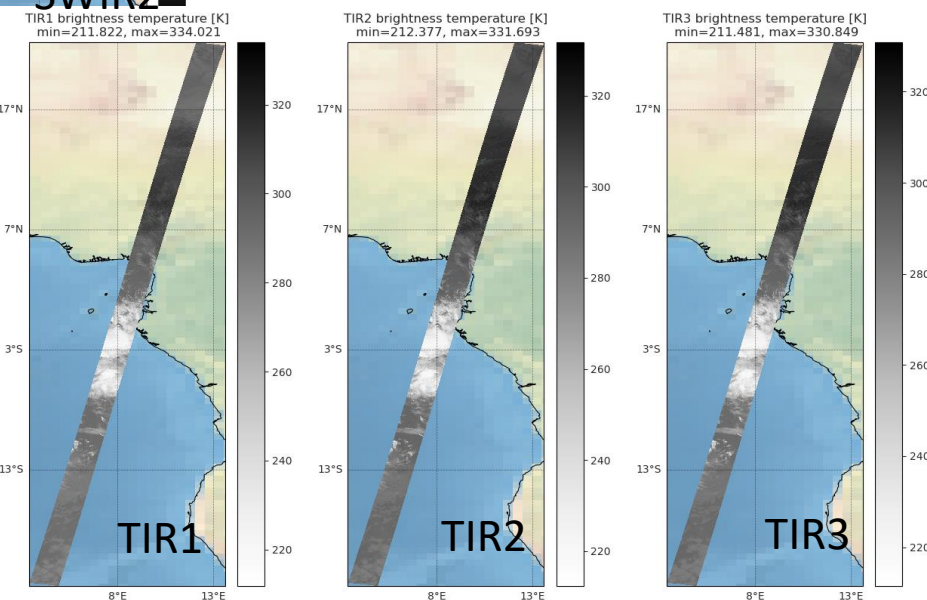


The instrument operates in a pushbroom mode with two bands in the VNIR (Visible and Near Infrared), and two bands in the SWIR (Short Wave Infrared).

MSI-Multi-Spectral Imager



Three bands are in the TIR (Thermal Infrared) part of the spectrum. The instrument is nadir-pointing with a spatial resolution of 500 m and a swath width of 150 km.



The instrument operates in a pushbroom mode with two bands in the VNIR (Visible and Near Infrared), and two bands in the SWIR (Short Wave Infrared).

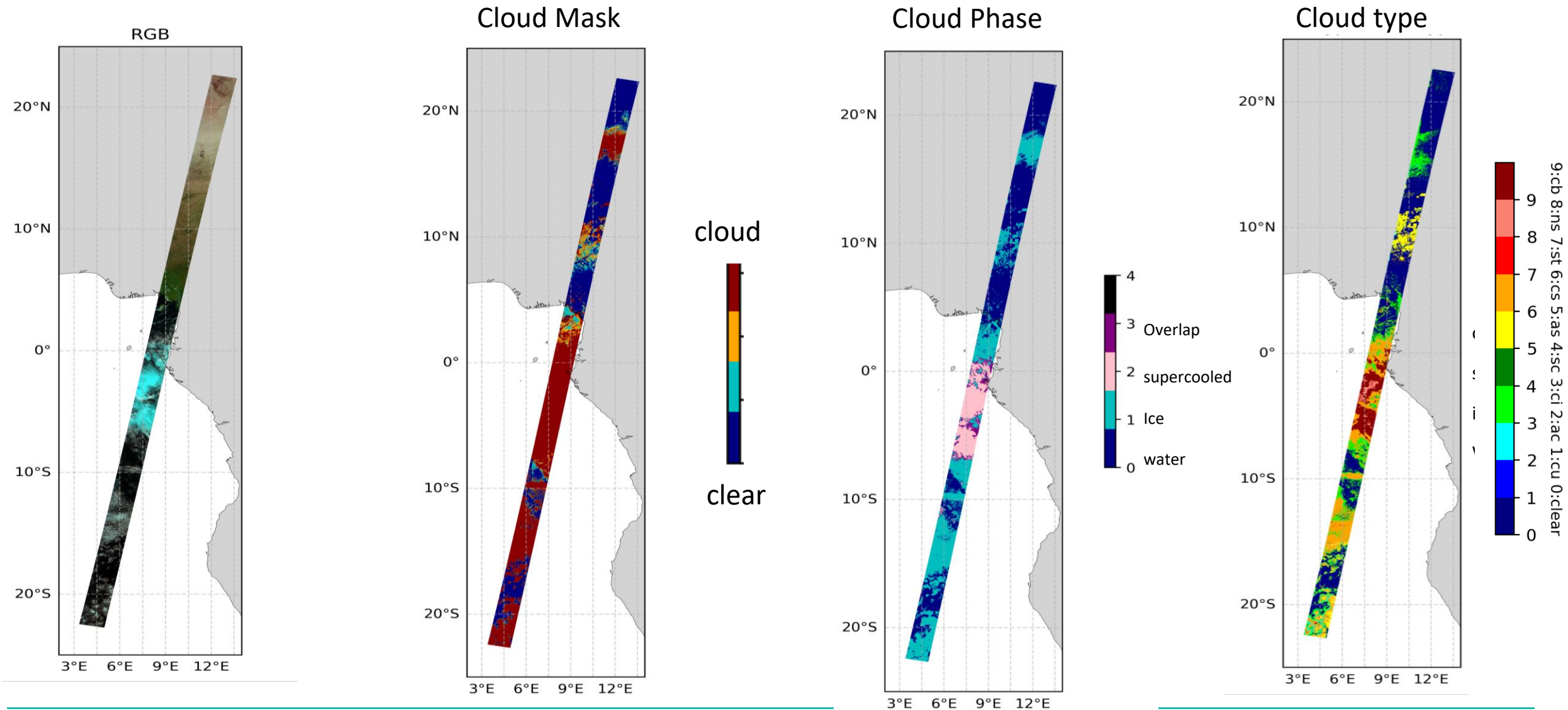
MSI cloud mask (M-CM)

- Cloud flag (Threshold Technique based on MODIS (binary cloud flag)
- Cloud type (Maximum-Likelihood Classifier, ISCCP)
- Cloud phase (Pavolonis et al. 2005)

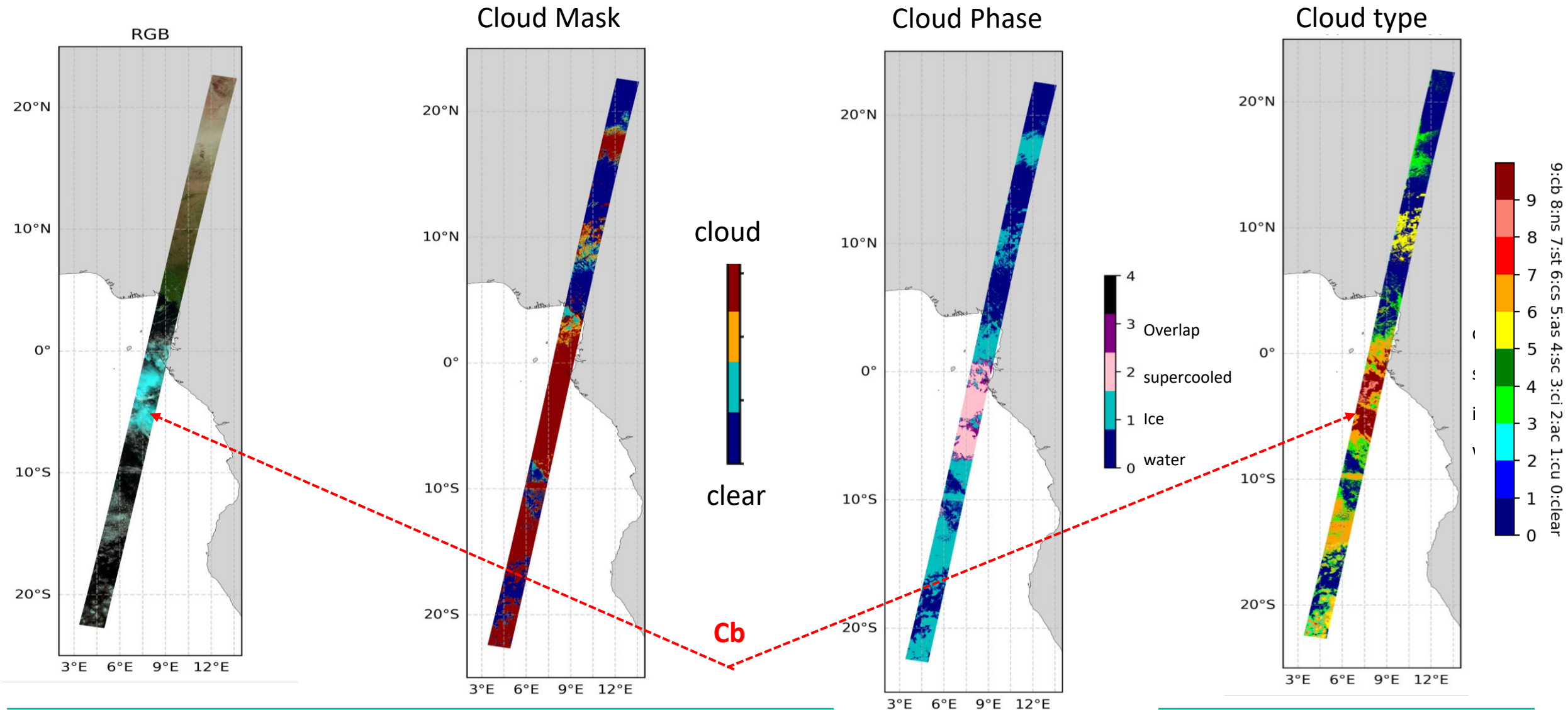
Channel	Center Wavelength μm	Bandwidth (50%)
VIS	0.67	20 nm
NIR	0.865	20 nm
SWIR-1	1.65	50 nm
SWIR-2	2.21	0.1 μm
TIR 1	8.80	0.9 μm
TIR 2	10.80	0.9 μm
TIR 3	12.00	0.9 μm

Hünerbein, A. et al., 2023
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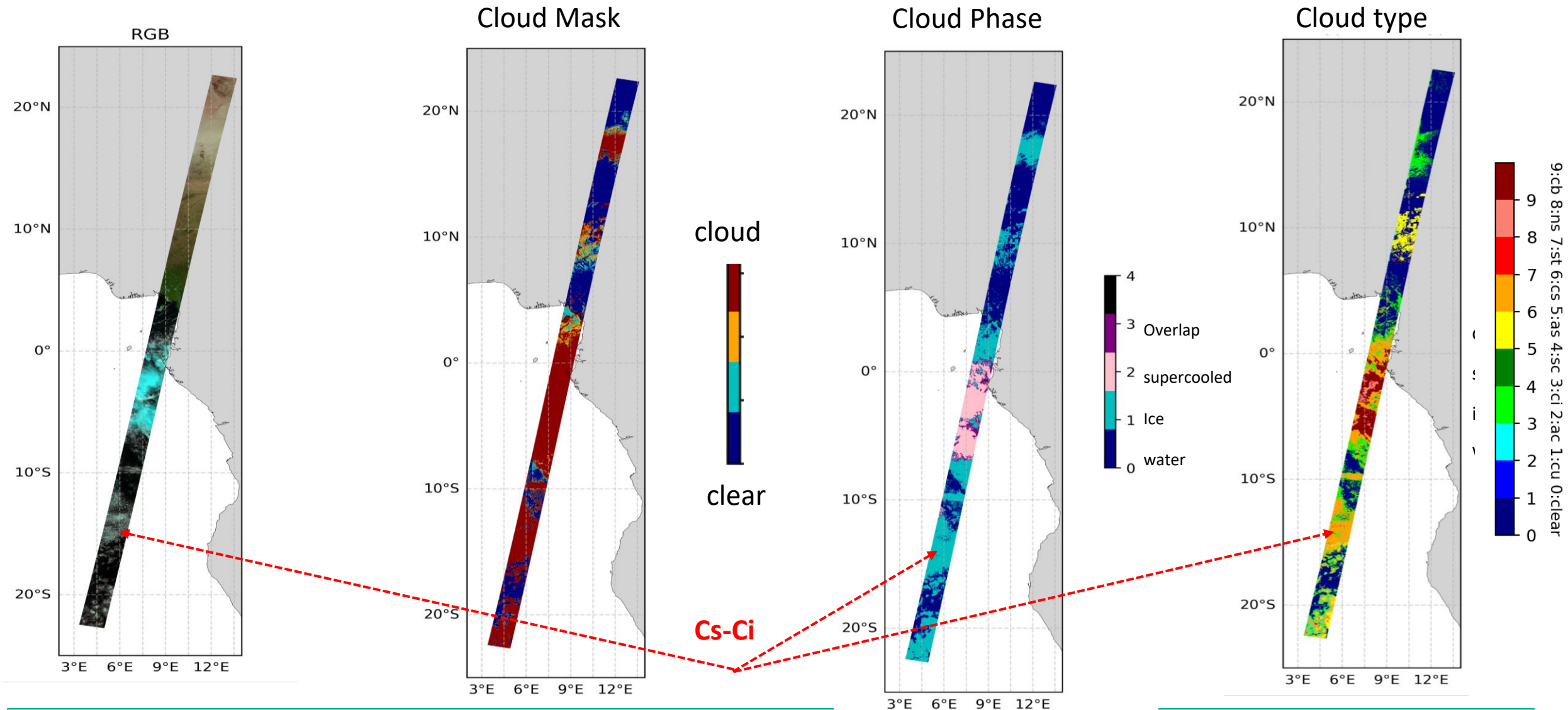
MSI level 2 products M-CM



MSI level 2 products M-CM

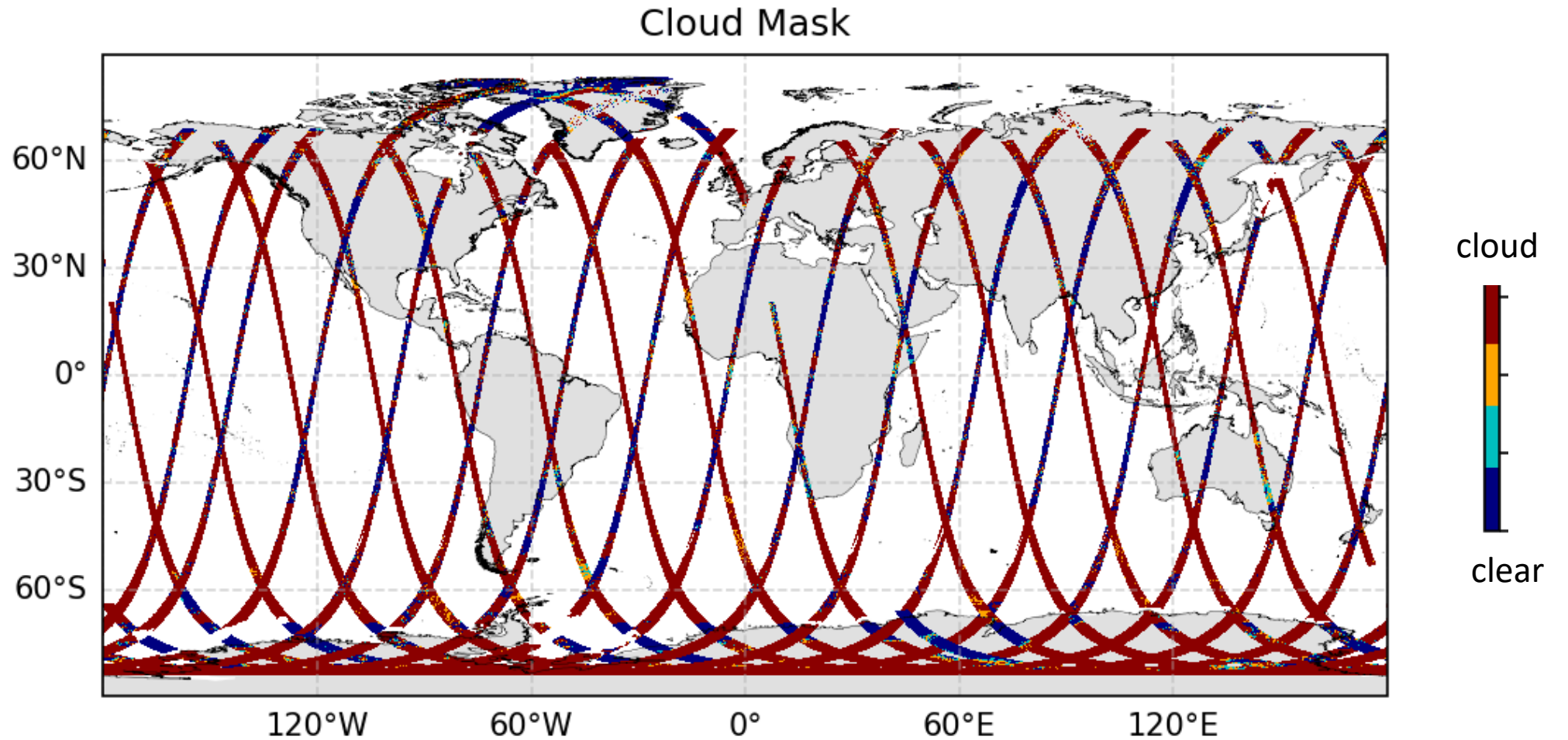


MSI level 2 products M-CM



M-CM

Daily
coverage
of the
cloud
mask



MSI cloud optical and physical properties (M-COP)

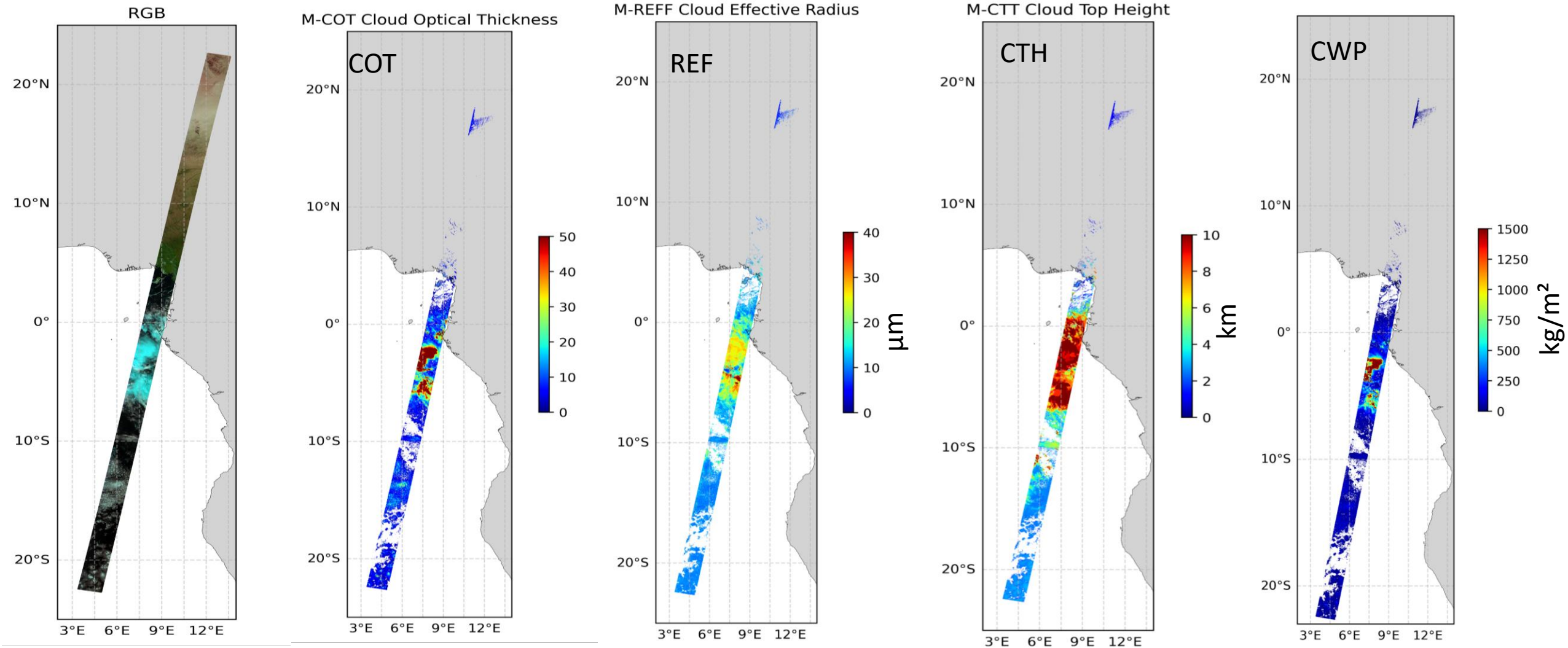
Optimal estimation approach are used:

- Cloud optical thickness
- Cloud effective radius
- Cloud top temperature (height, pressure)

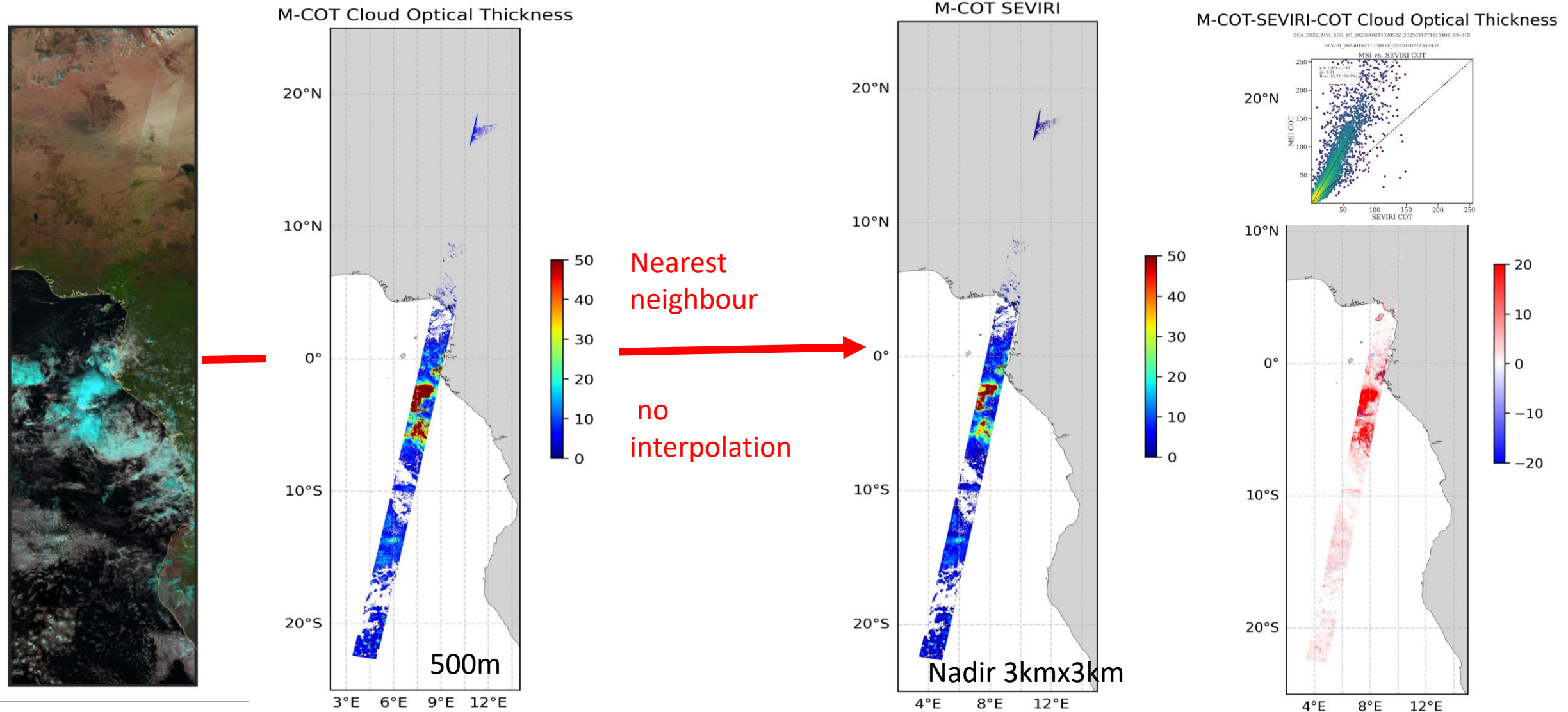
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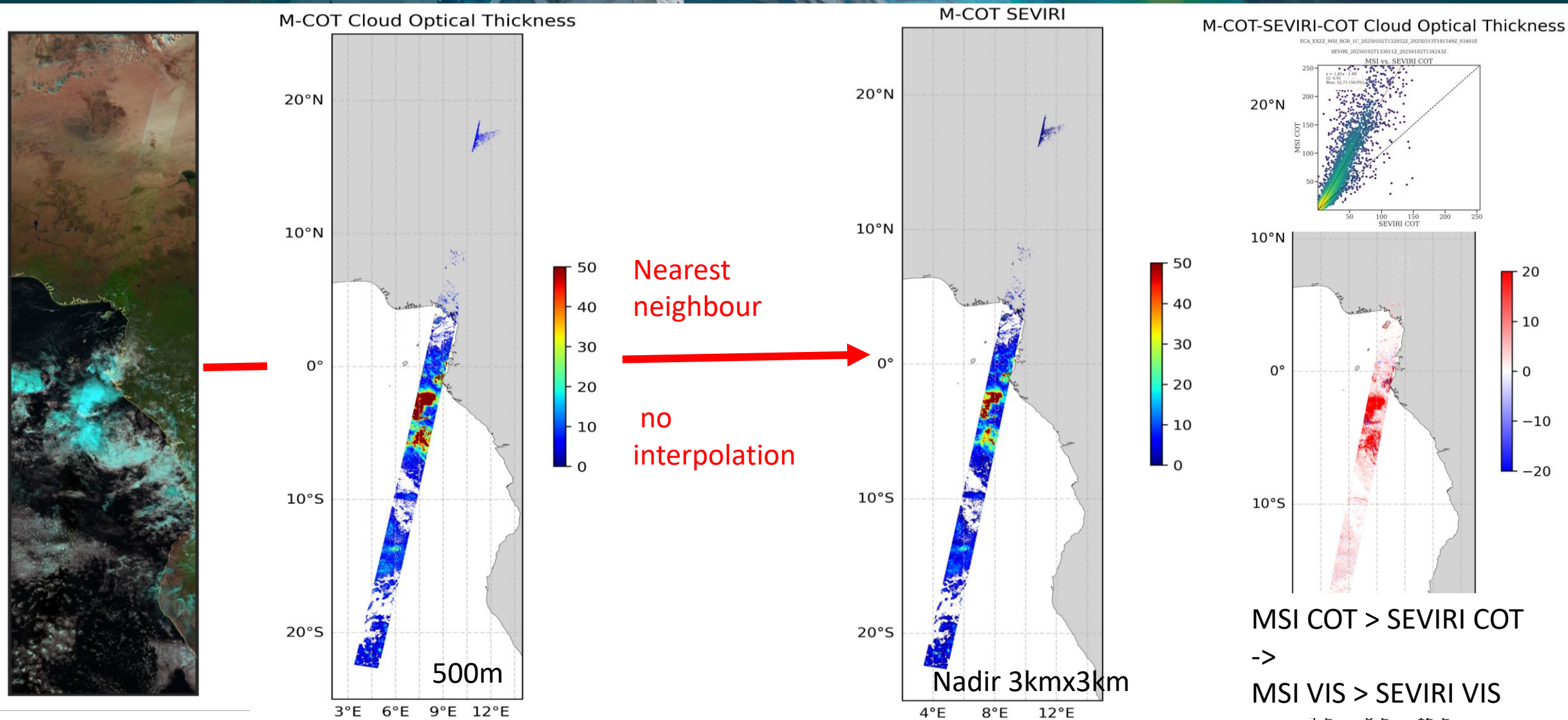
MSI level 2 products M-COP



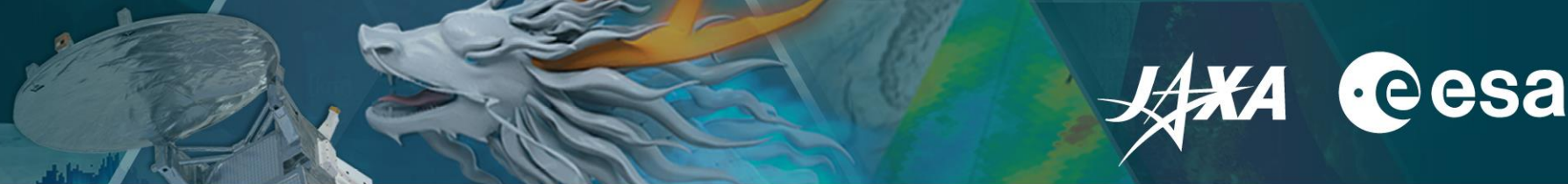
MSI level 2 products M-COP: Comparison with SEVIRI



MSI level 2 products M-COP: Comparison with SEVIRI



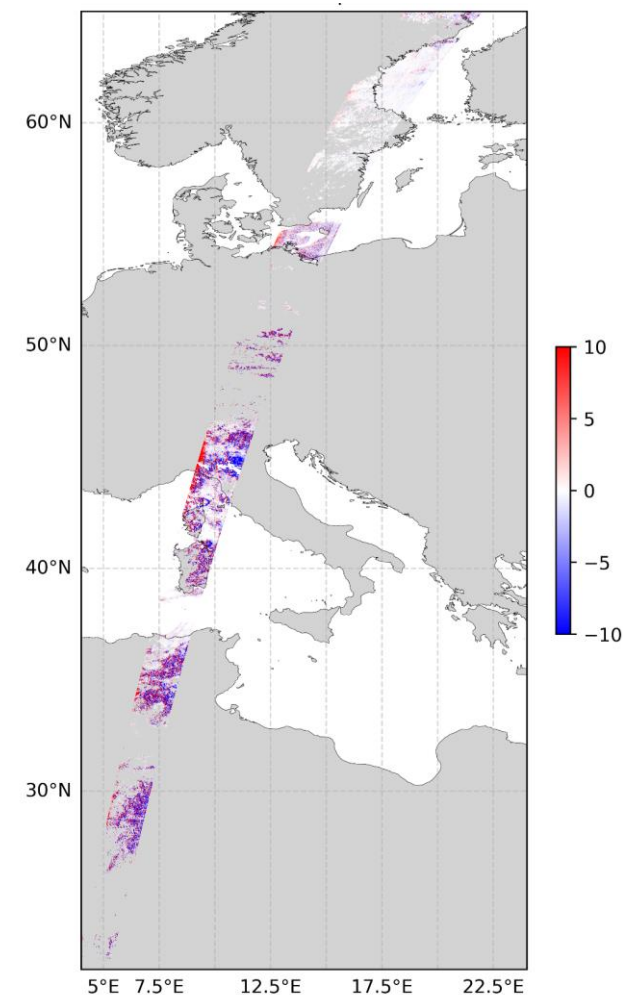
Known issues



- Currently at version 11.30 – baseline AB (since 11.03.2025 implemented- frame 04458B)

Input baseline	Output baseline	Period	Notes
M-RGR	M-CLD		
AF	AB	28 Jan 2025 (03807C) -	M-RGR baseline AF, CCDB v14 issues reported in [RD-3]
AF	AB	27 Jan 2025 - 28 Jan 2025	M-RGR baseline AF, CCDB v13 issues reported in [RD-3])
AE	AB	13 Jan 2025 – 27 Jan 2025	M-CM and M-COP products quality is affected by known M-RGR issues, [RD-3])

M-COP AE-AF



- Example highlights influence of changed VIS spectral solar irradiance change specifically for M-COT

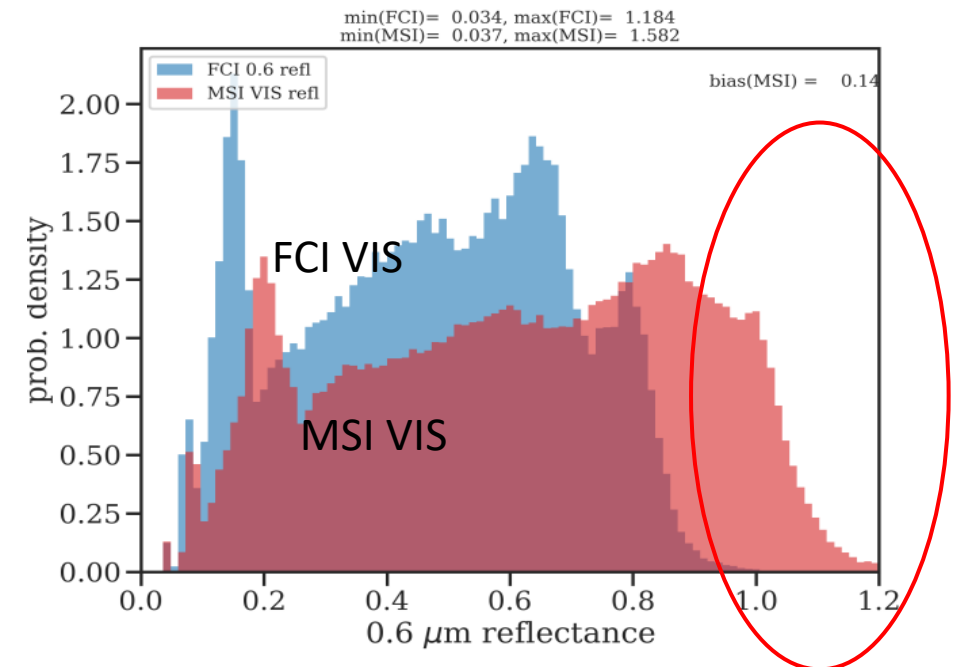
Known issues - Disclaimer

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VIS and NIR channel reflectance

- Can be far over 1, which leads to misclassification in the M-Ctype as well as no results in the M-COP products



Known issues - Disclaimer



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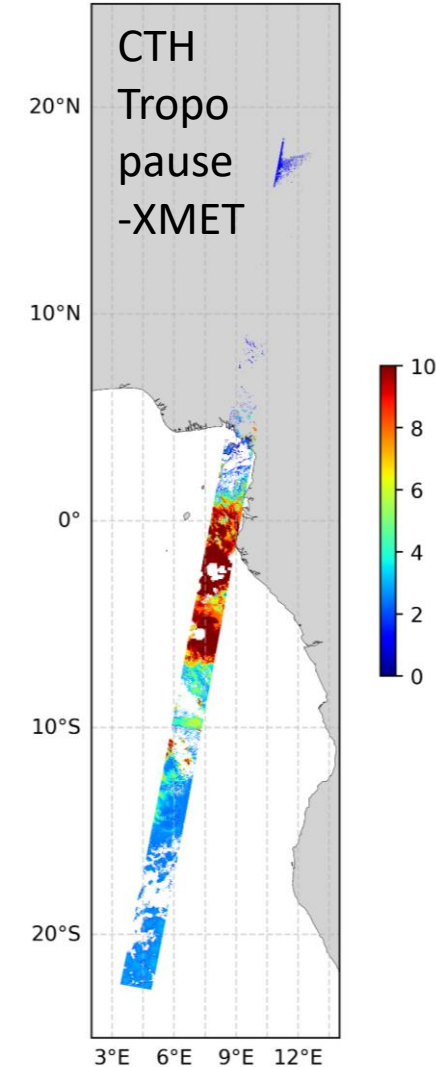
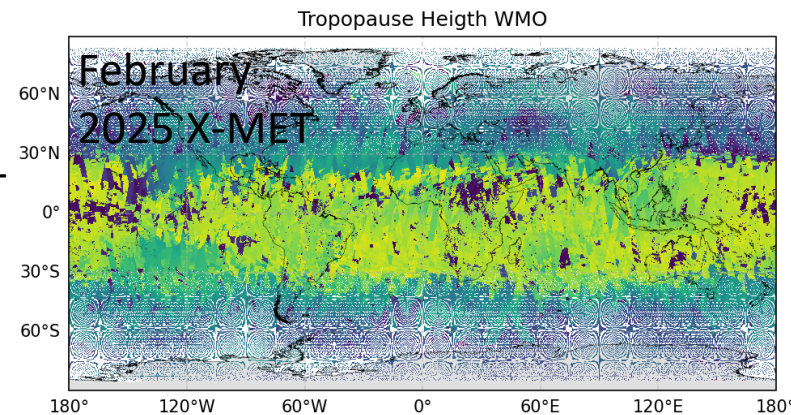
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Low tropopause height in X-MET

- Affects the M-CTT/M-CTH/M-CTP products



Known issues - Disclaimer



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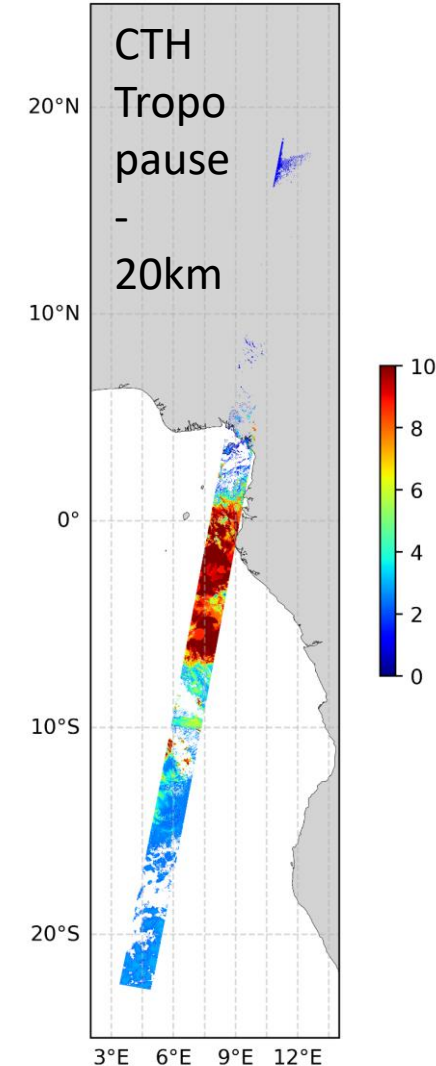
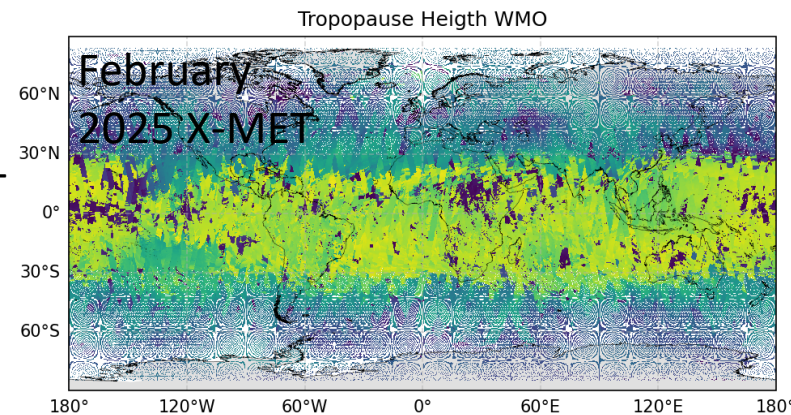
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VIS and NIR channel reflectance

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Low tropopause height in X-MET

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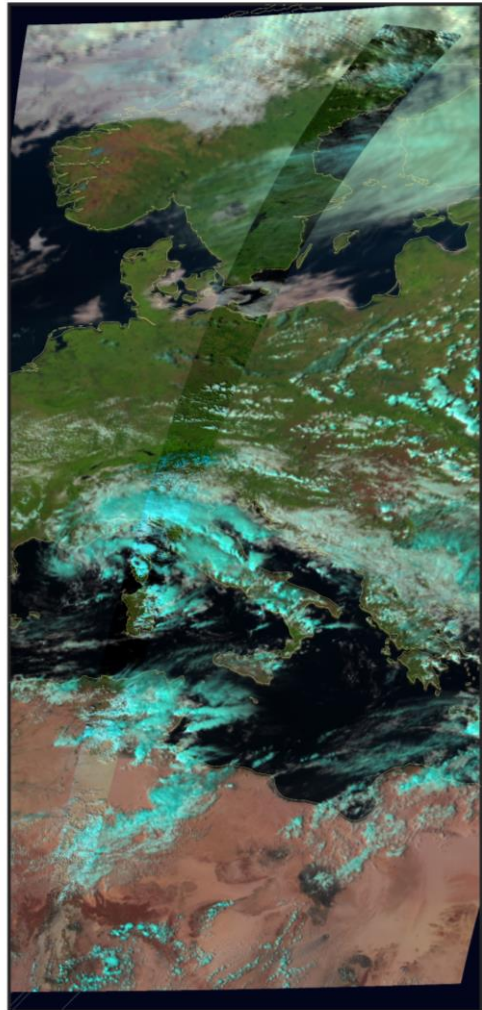


Thank you!

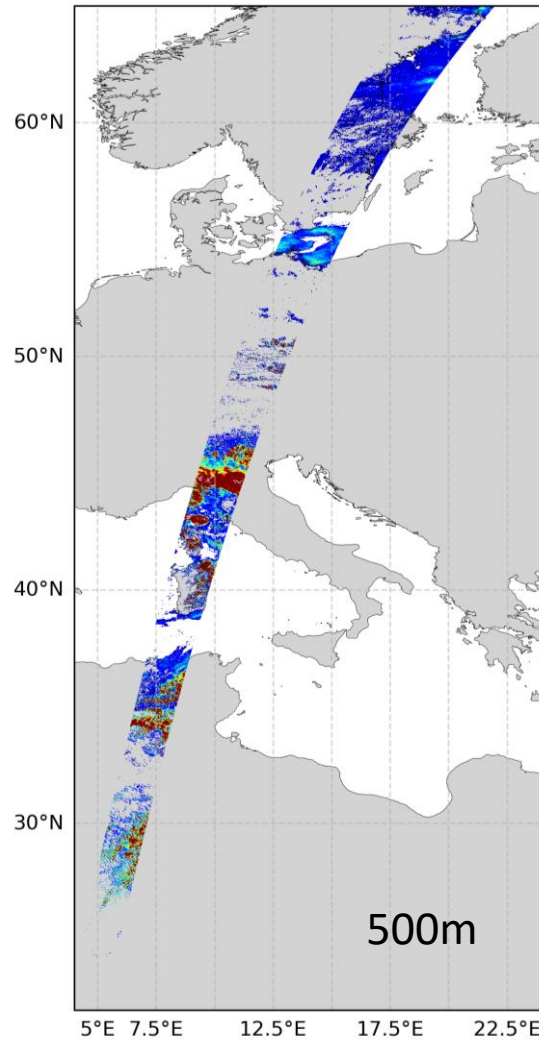
MSI level 2 products M-COP



SEVIRI_20240918T134510Z_20240918T135743Z



M-COT Cloud Optical Thickness

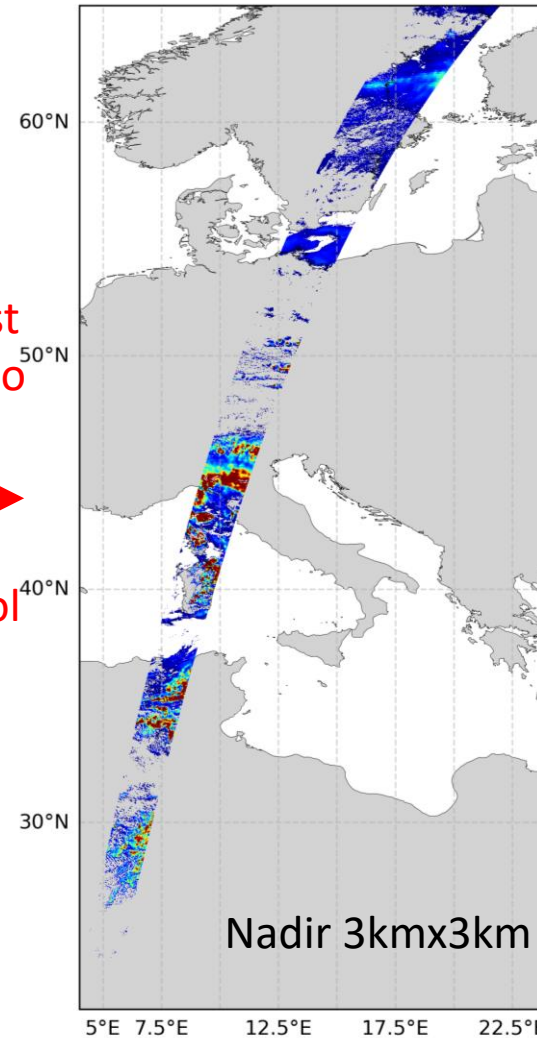


Nearest
neighbor

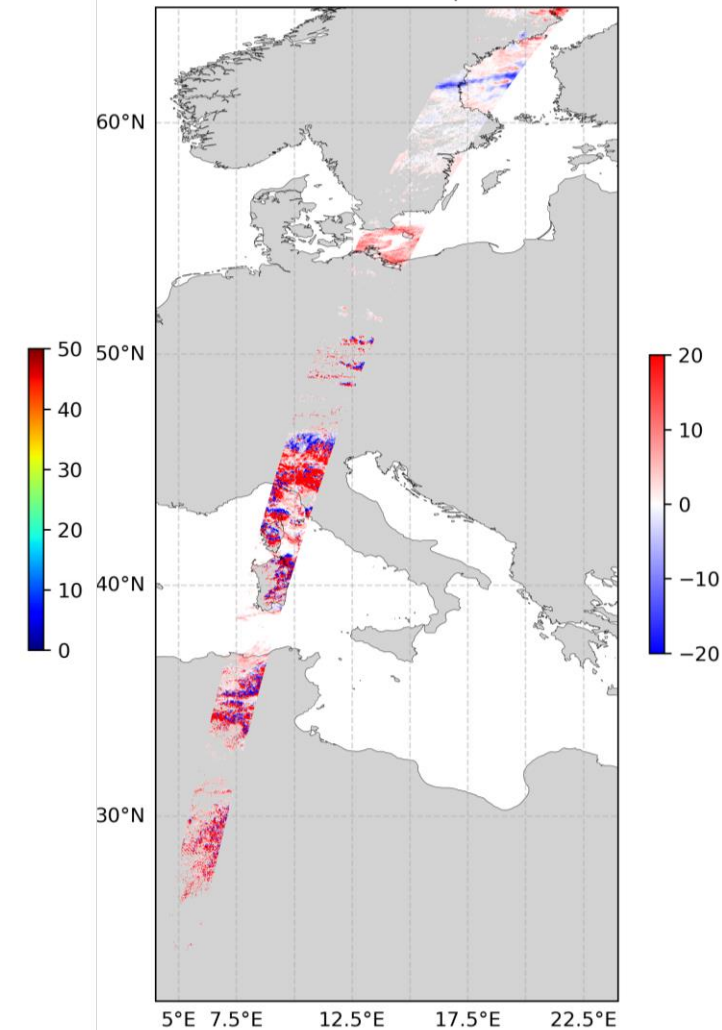


interpolation

M-COT SEVIRI



M-COT-SEVIRI-COT Cloud Optical Thickness

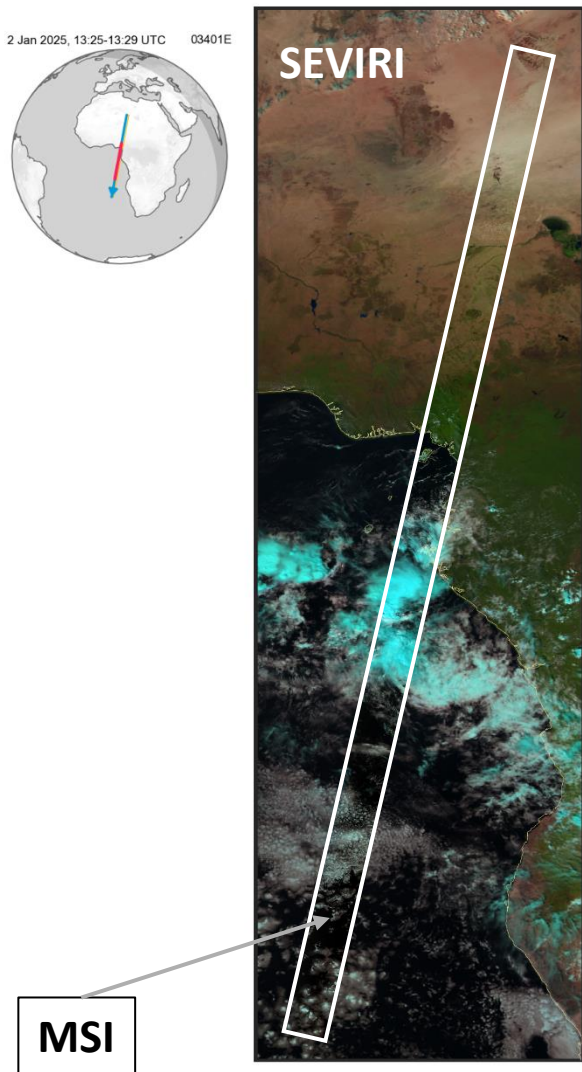


MSI level 2 products M-CM

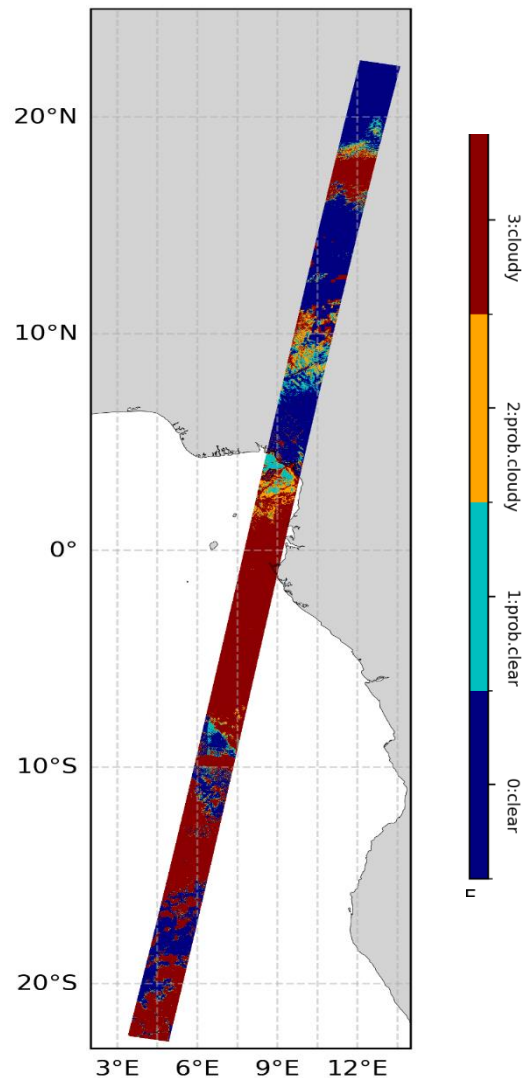


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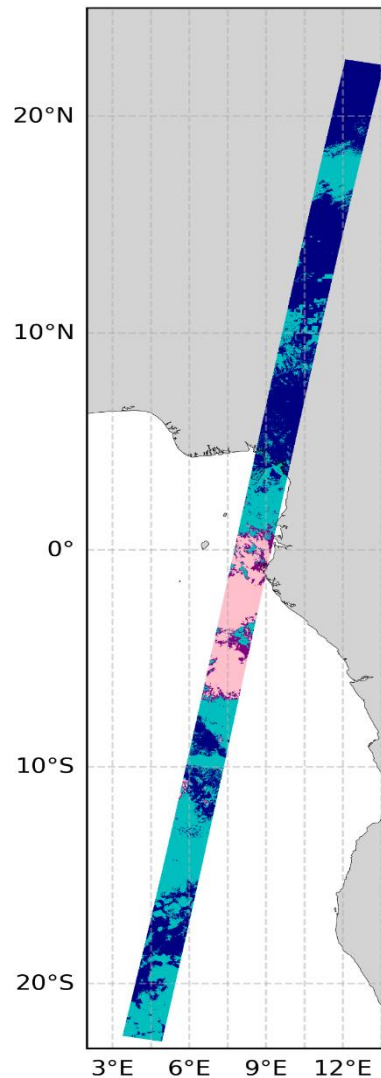
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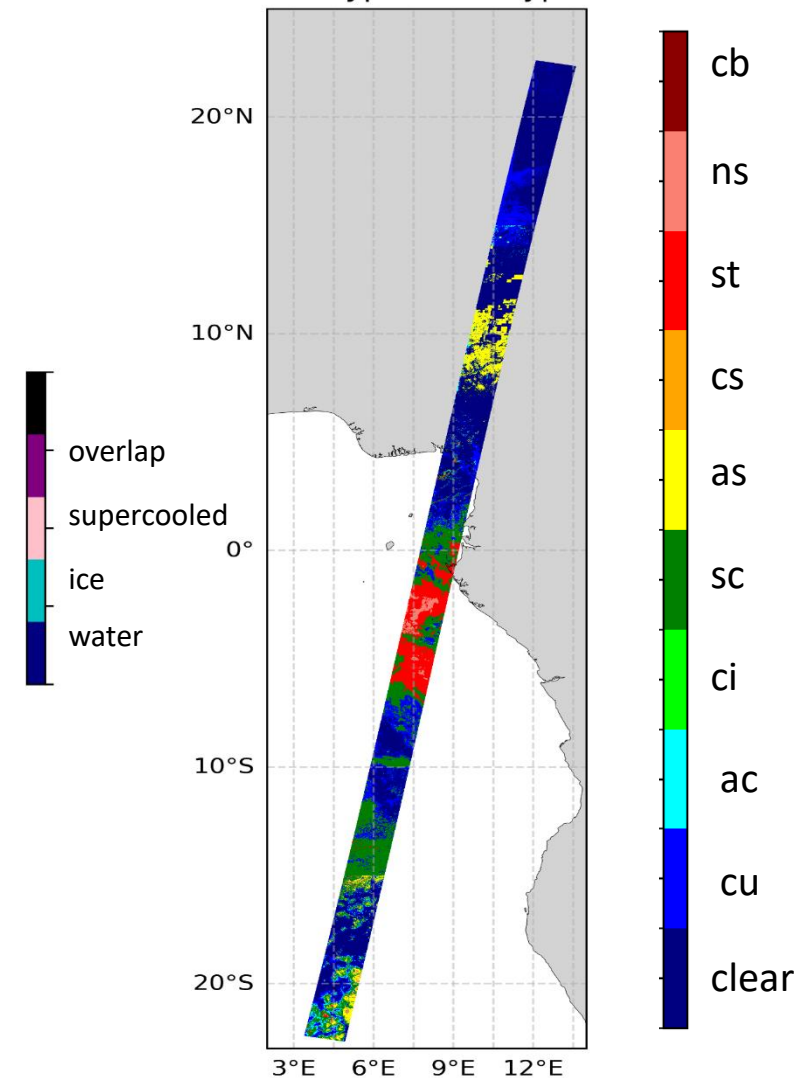
M-CM Cloud Mask



M-CP Cloud Phase



M-Ctype Cloud Type

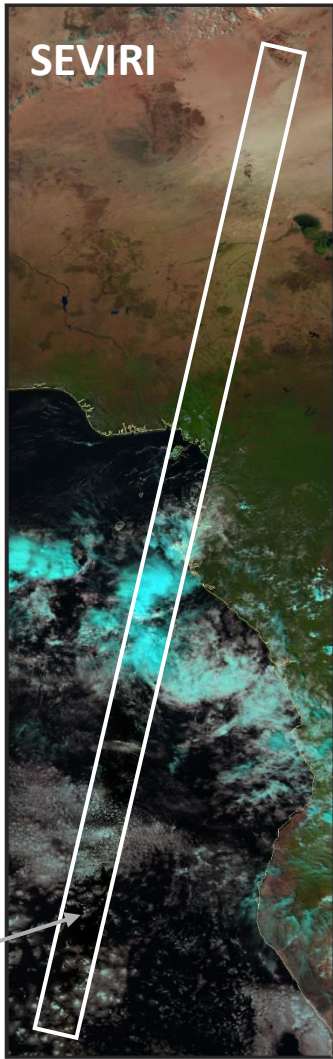
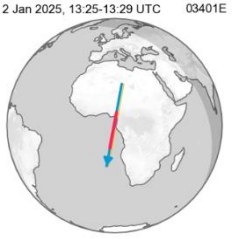


MSI level 2 products M-CM, M-CO2, M-CAT

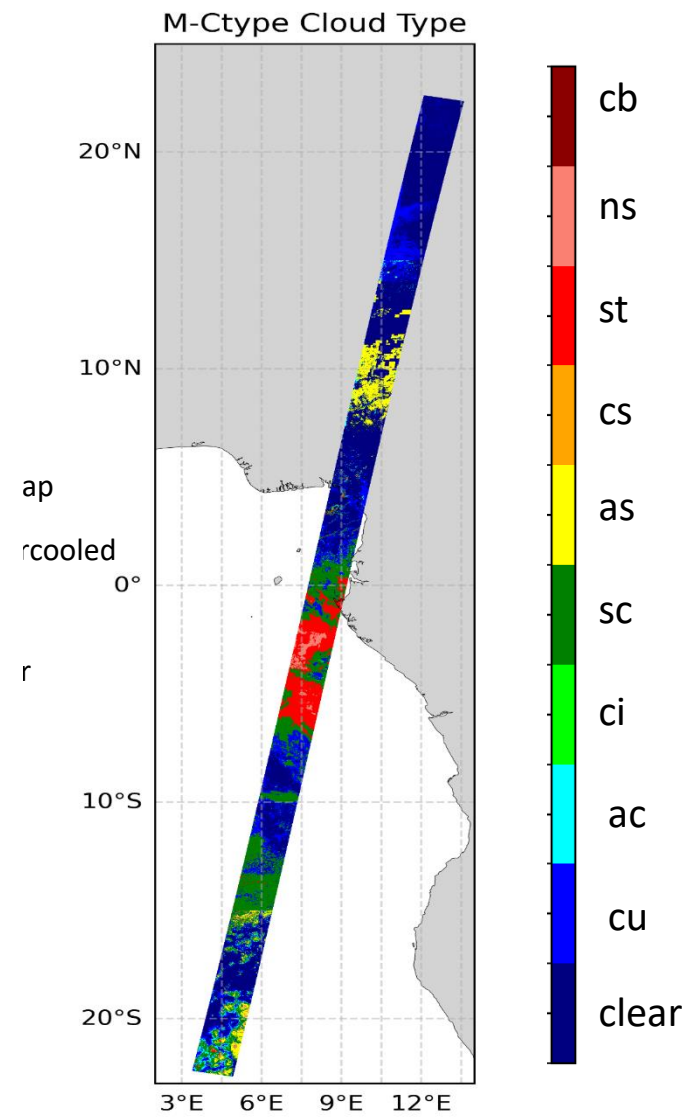
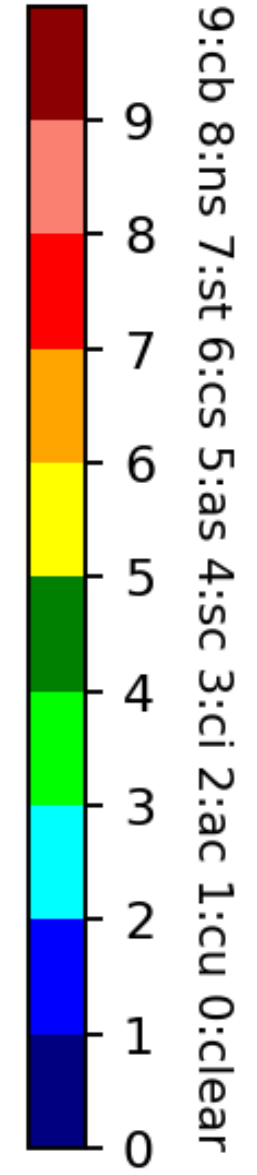
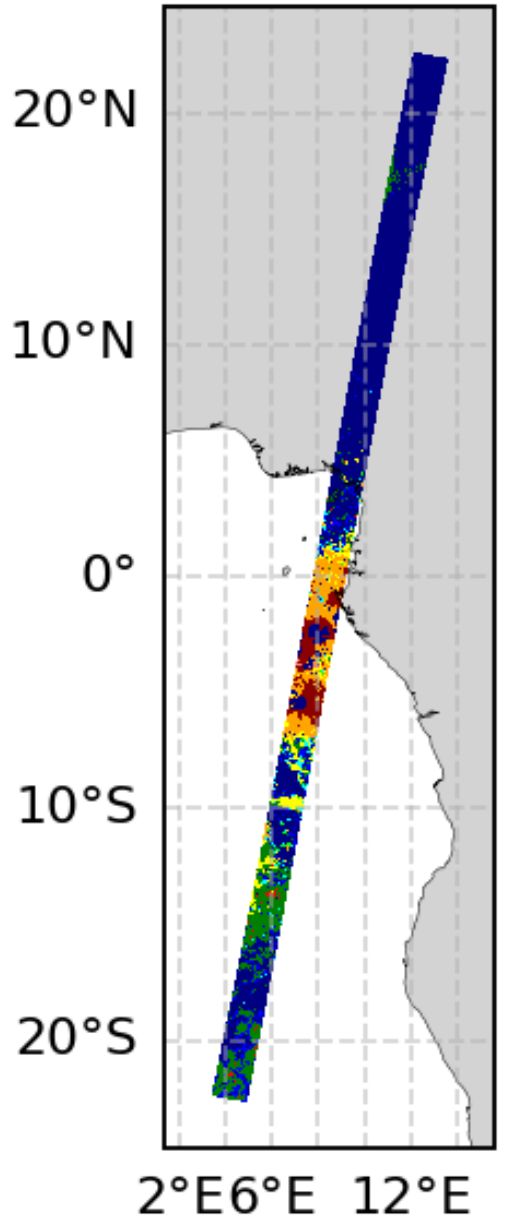
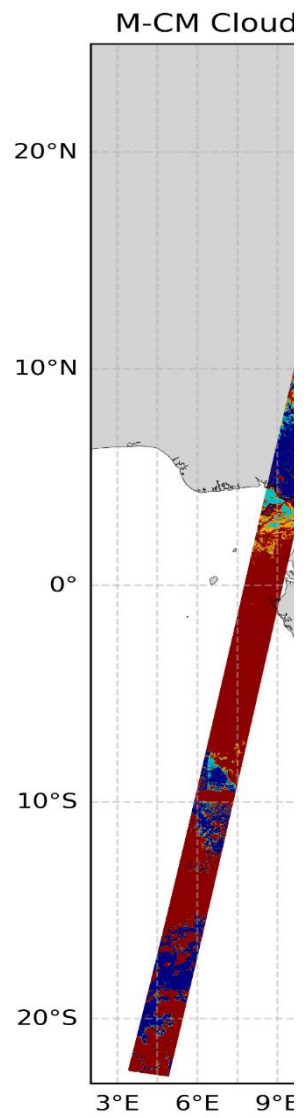


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MSI

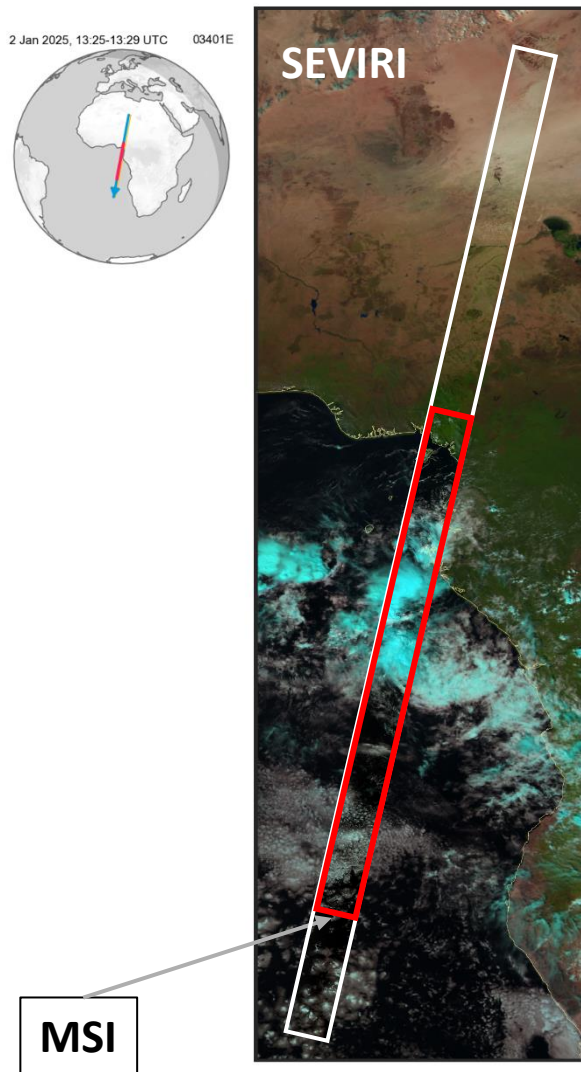


MSI level 2 products M-COP

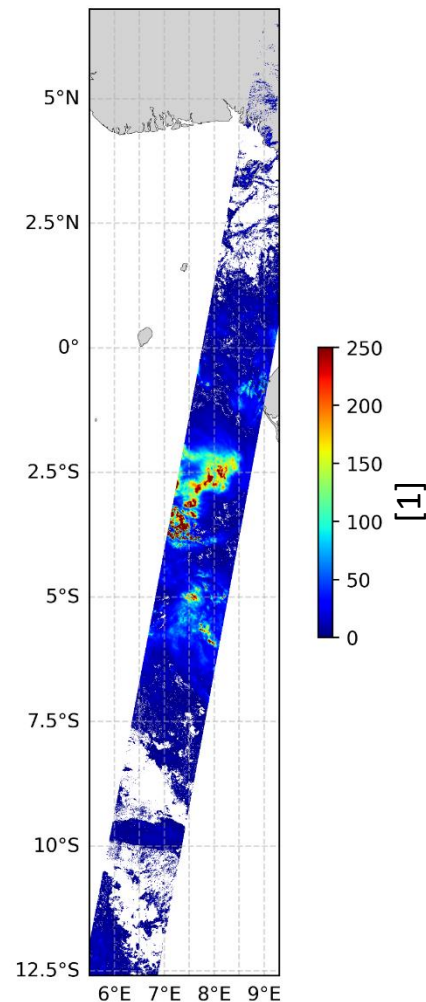


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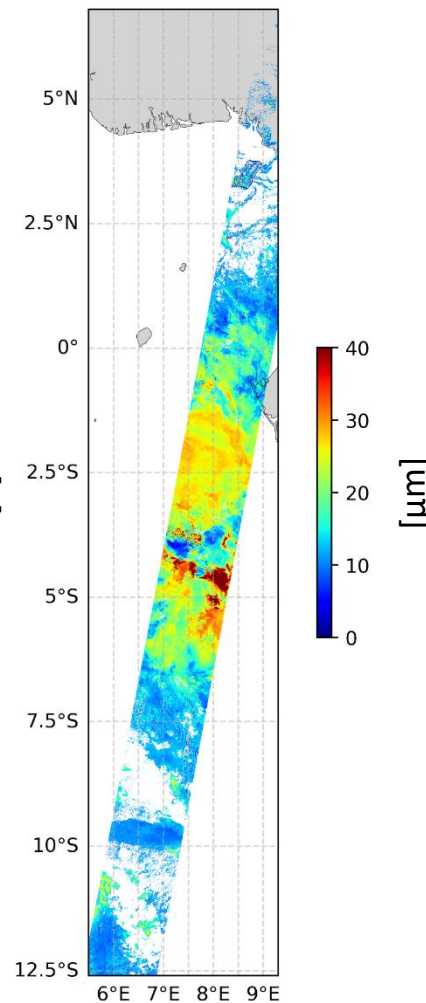
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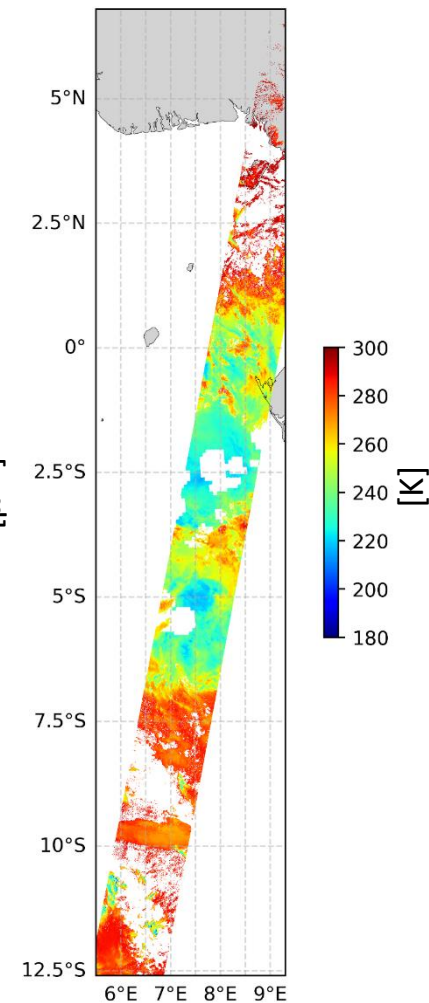
M-COT
Cloud optical thickness



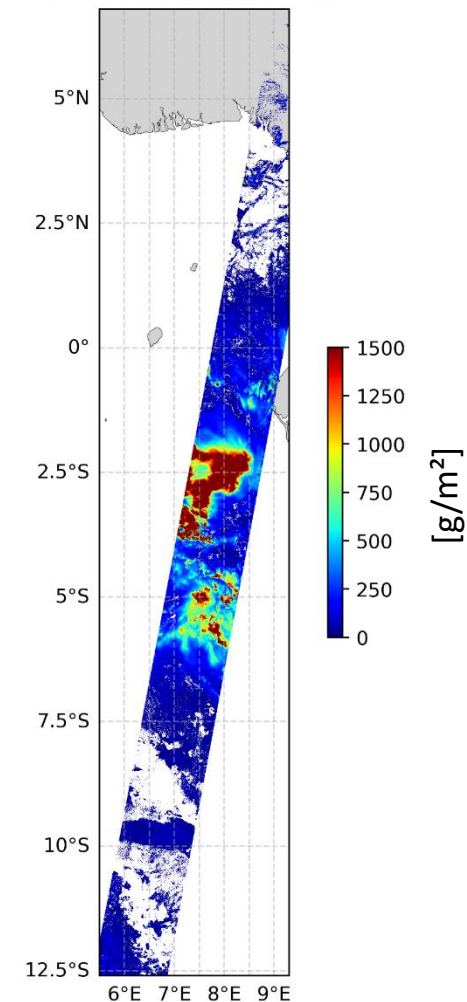
M-REFF
Cloud effective Radius



M-CTT
Cloud Top Temperature



M-CWP
Cloud Water Path



M-COP vs SEVIRI



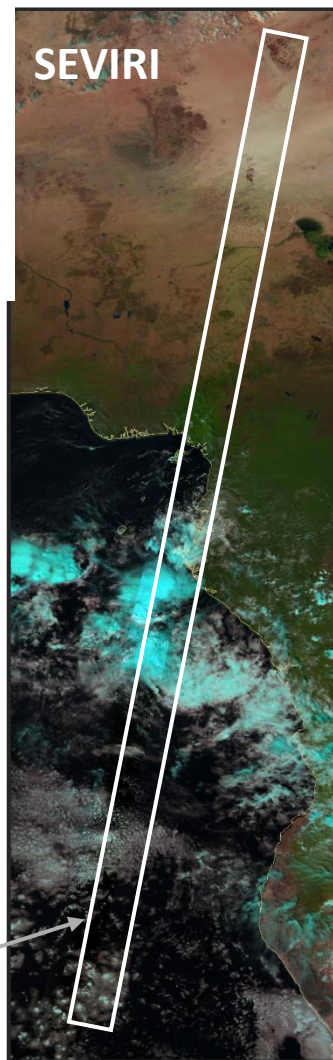
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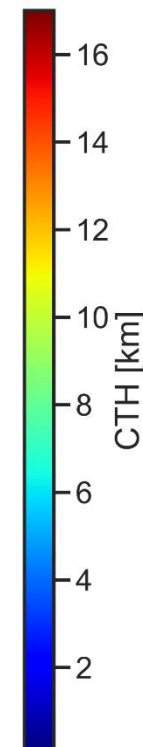
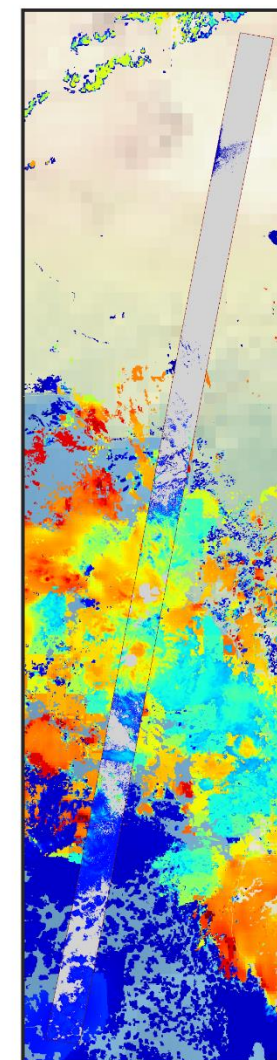
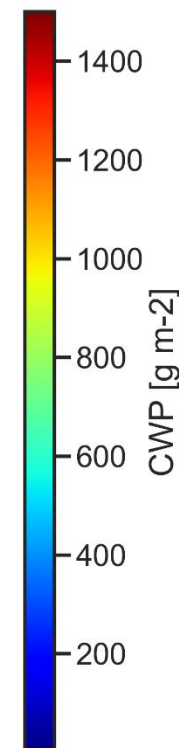
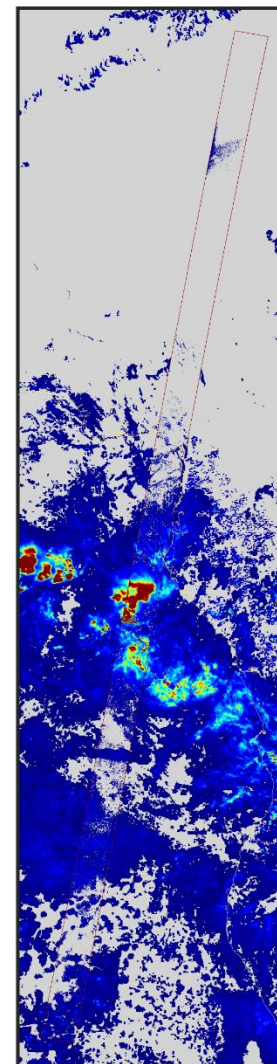
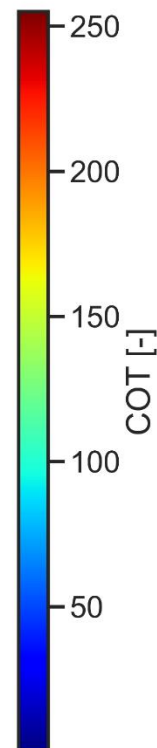
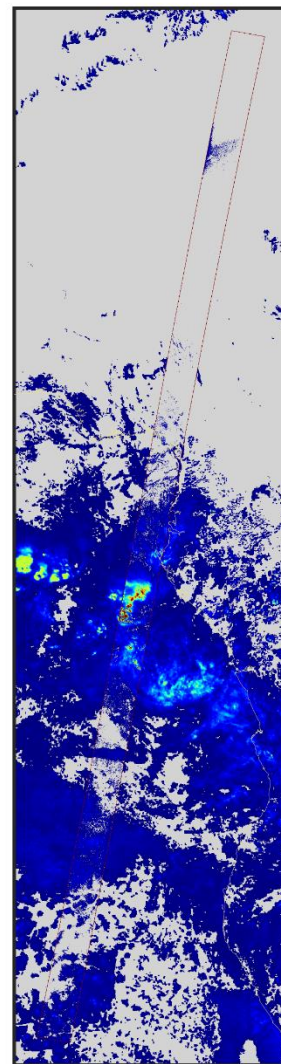
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SEVIRI



MSI

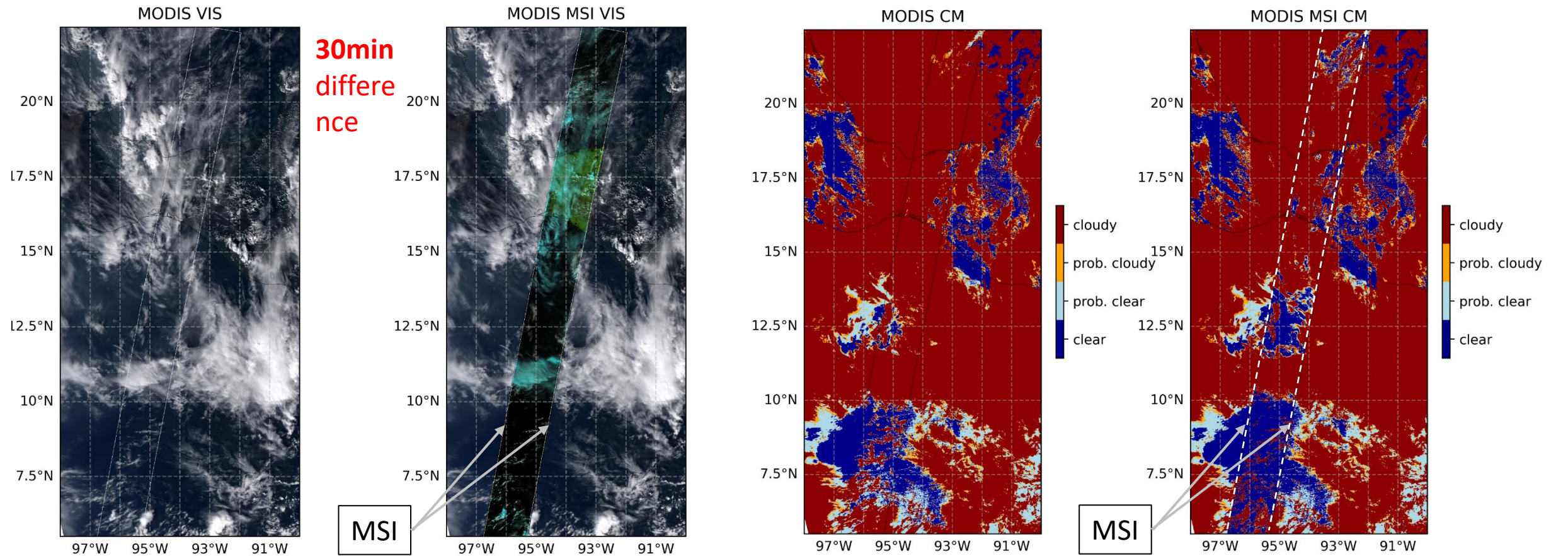


M-CM vs MODIS



Geostationary SEVIRI/ polar orbiting MODIS (Aqua 30min differences)

Cloud mask



01/01/2025 frame 03390E