



T211

EarthCARE 2026 Science and Validation workshop

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Comparison of NICAM-SPRINTARS with aerosol observation by EarthCARE in ECOMIP

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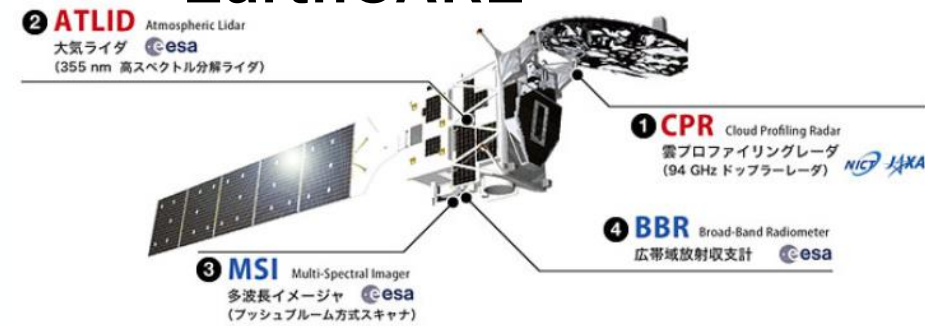
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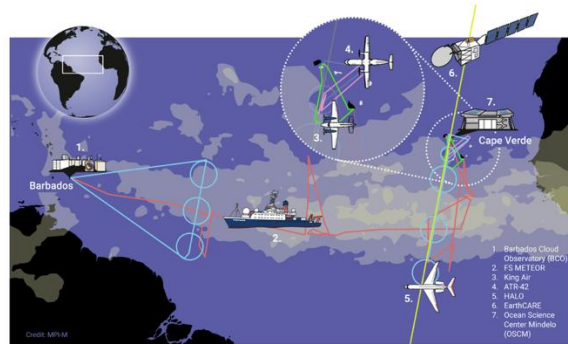
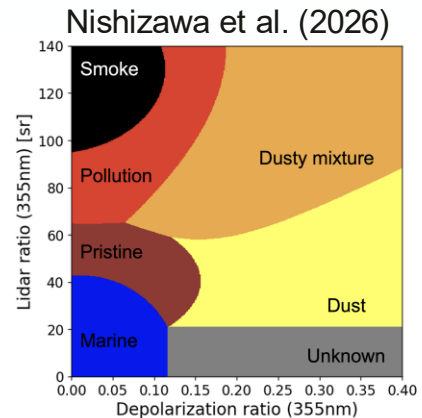
ECOMIP: Comparison of EarthCARE with models



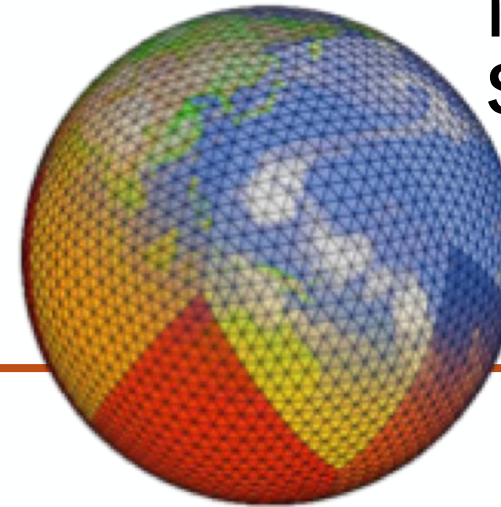
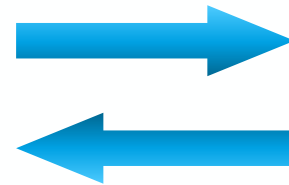
EarthCARE



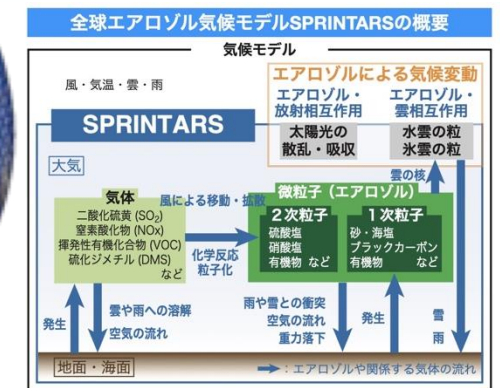
1. “Lidar ratio”, new observable by ATLID
→ For better classification of aerosol type
 2. High sensitivity and Doppler capability by CPR
→ New insights on in-cloud dynamics
- New perspective on aerosol-cloud interaction



<https://orcesta-campaign.org/intro.html>



NICAM-SPRINTARS



1. NICAM: Global storm-resolving model
2. SPRINTARS: aerosol module

➤ Evaluation of aerosol model with new observation in ECOMIP

EarthCARE • 13th AUG 2024, ECOMIP

- event-to-orbit comparison

1. ATLID: ATL-CLA vCb

- High Spectral Resolution Lidar
- ✓ aerosol mass extinction coef.

2. CPR: AC-CLP vBb

- Cloud Profiling radar
- radar reflectivity and Doppler velocity
- Retrieval product on microphysics

3. MSI: MSI-CLP vCa

- multi spectral imager
- ✓ optical thickness, effective radius

MODIS

– MOD08_M3

- 1° grid AOT

GCOM-C

– SGLI L3.ATMOS

- 0.083° grid COTW/COTI

NICAM v21.0 (Satoh et al. 2008, 2014)

- 14km resolution (glevel9)
- NDW6 (Seiki et al. 2022, Goto et al. 2024)
 - 2-moment bulk cloud microphysics

1. 2-day experiment: 13th AUG 2024

target case for aerosol event

2. monthly experiment: AUG 2024

Nudging to ERA 6hourly ERA (u_h, T)

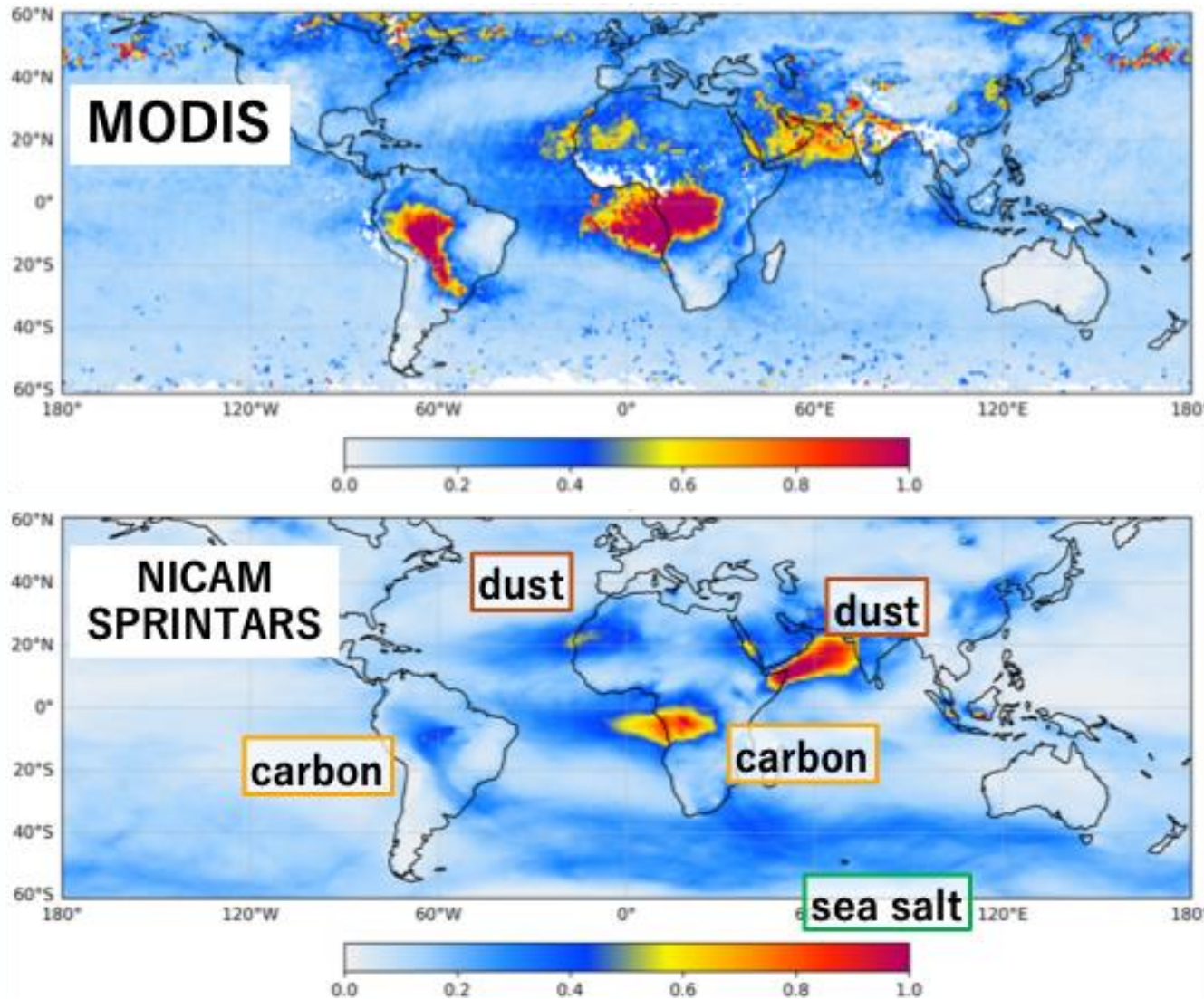
SPRINTARS (Takemura et al. 2005 JGR)

- based on Goto et al. (2024 GMD)
- interaction with NDW6 nucleation
- emission as boundary condition

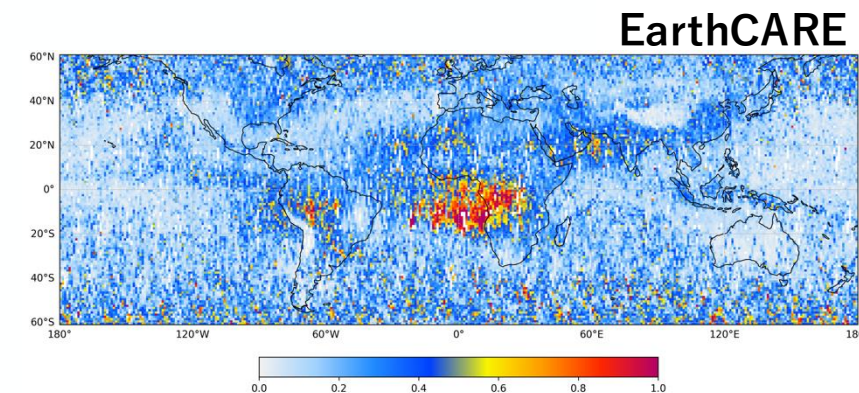
Joint-Simulator (Masunaga et al. 2010)

- for radar parameters (Z_e and v_d)

monthly mean AOT

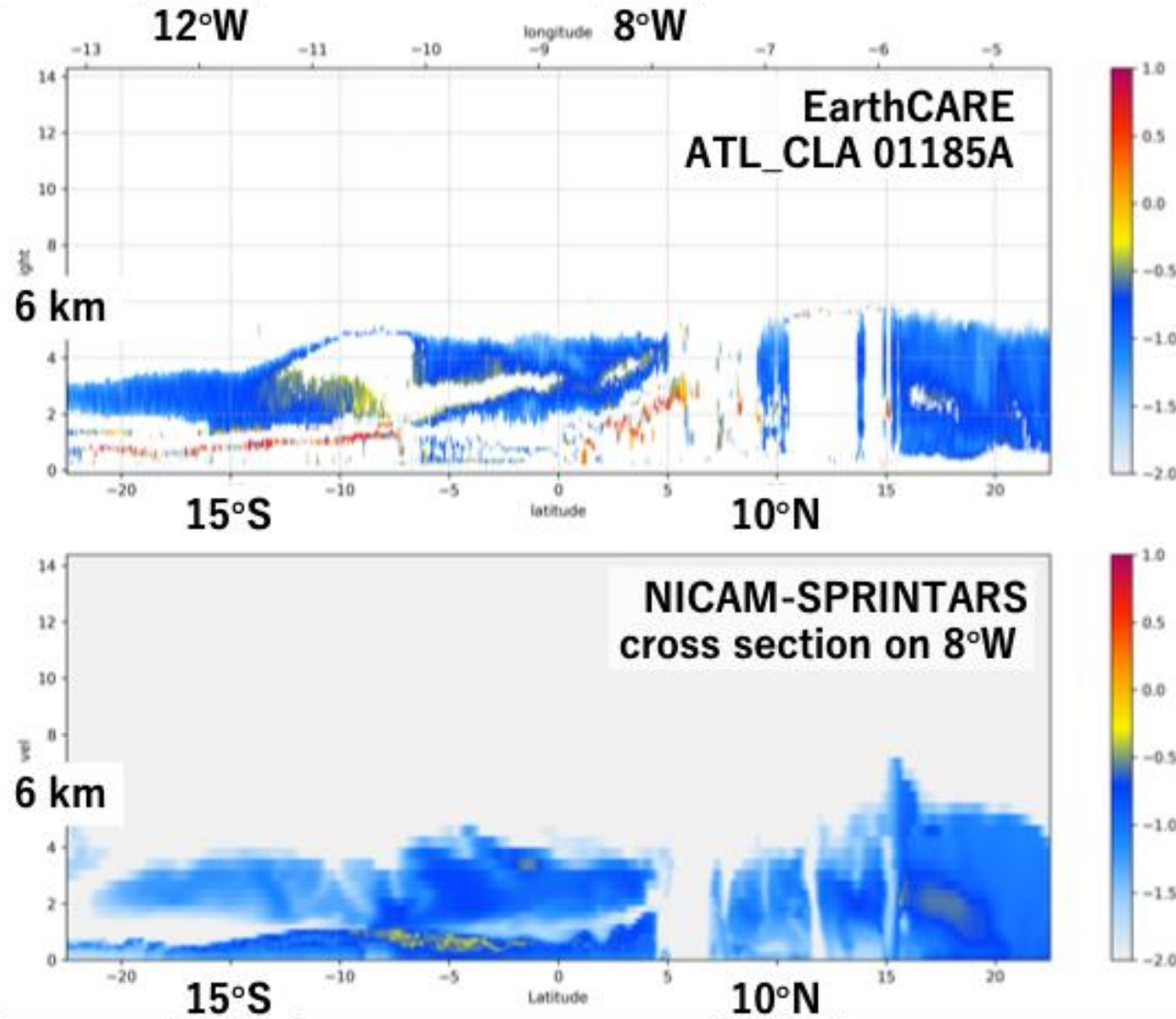


- good regional distribution corresponding to aerosol components
- underestimation over lands
→ The emission dataset should be updated.
- overestimation over southern ocean



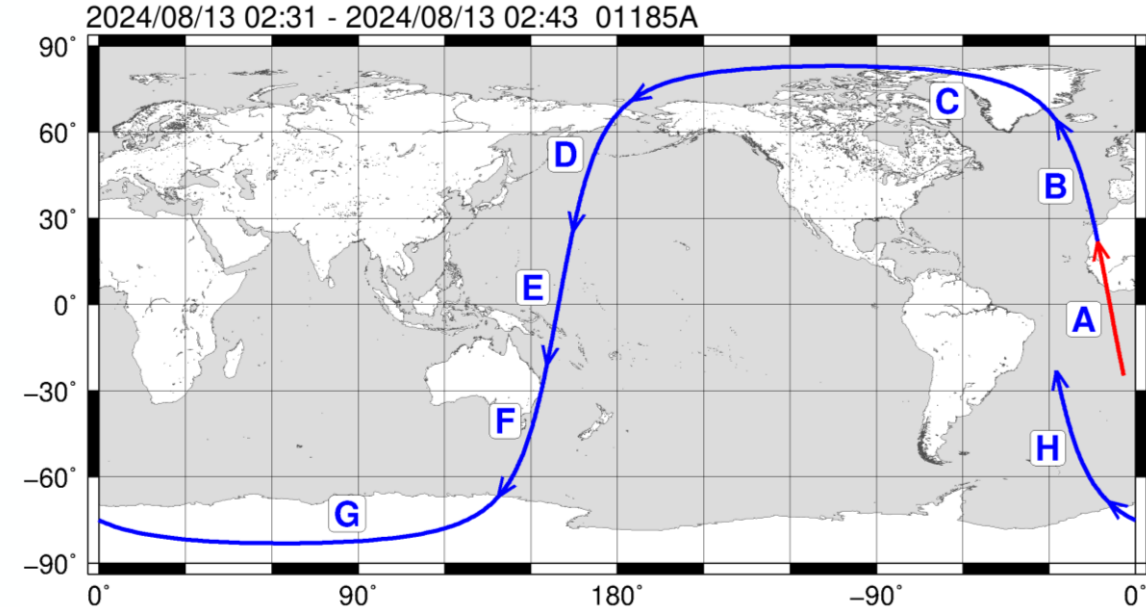
AOT Estimation by EarthCARE ATLID
as vertical integration of extinction

13th AUG event comparison: lidar

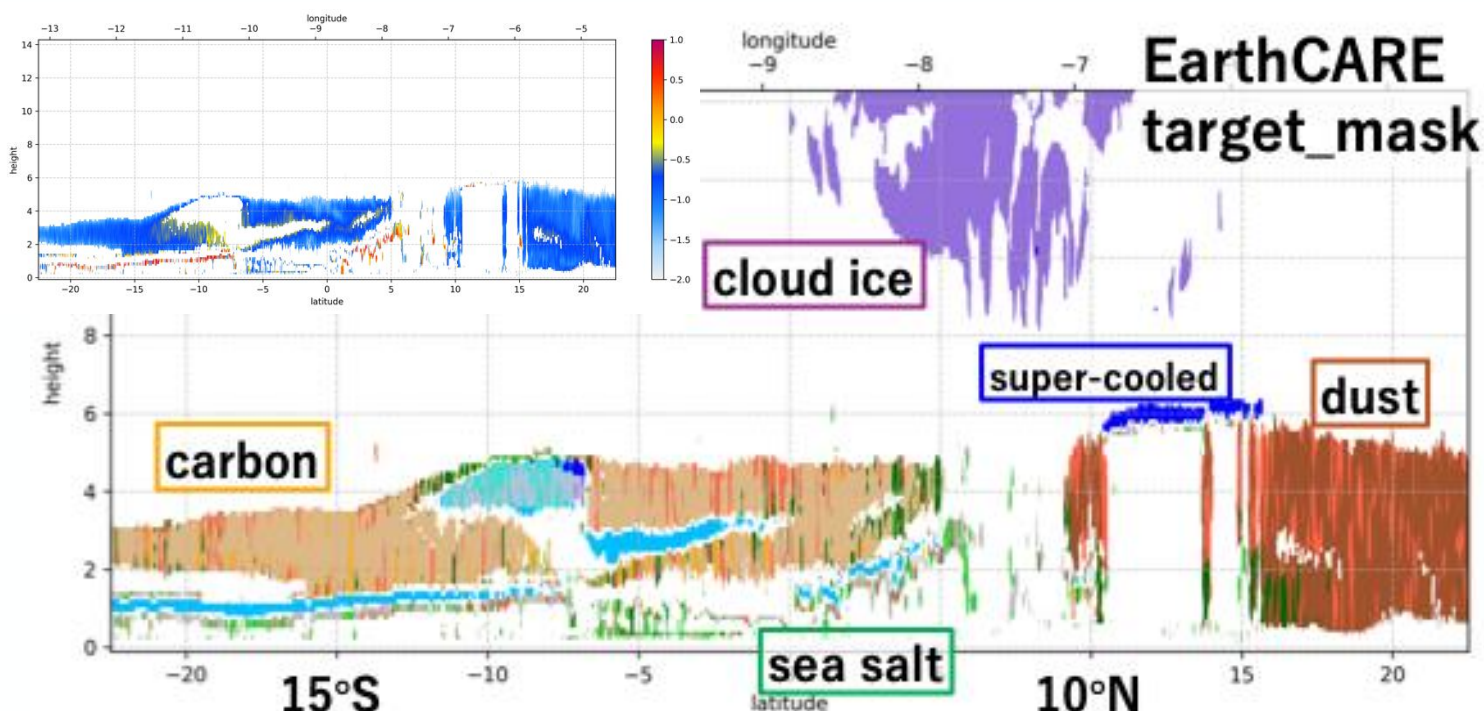


aerosol mass extinction coef. $\log_{10}[\text{km}^{-1}]$

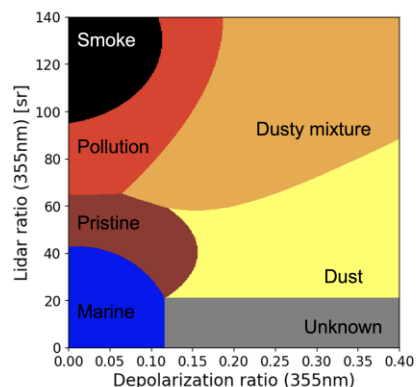
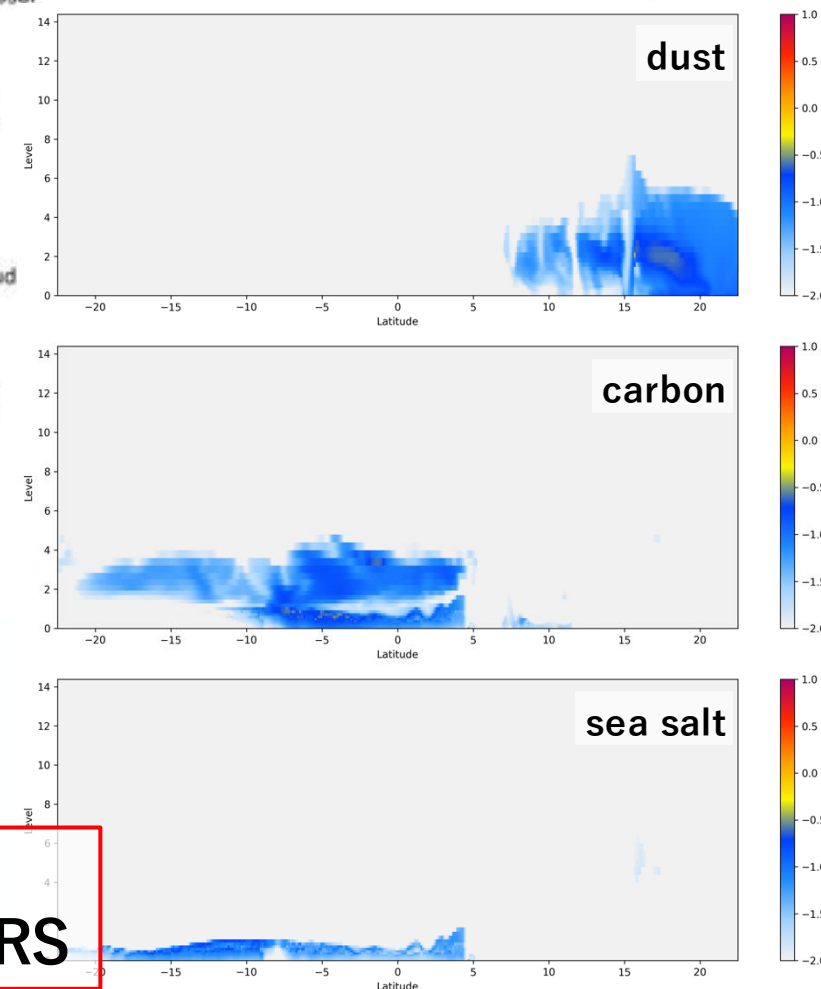
- NICAM-SPRINTARS has good agreements with EarthCARE ATLID.
- Quantitatively good, too
- Missing is due to clouds.



13th AUG event comparison: particle type



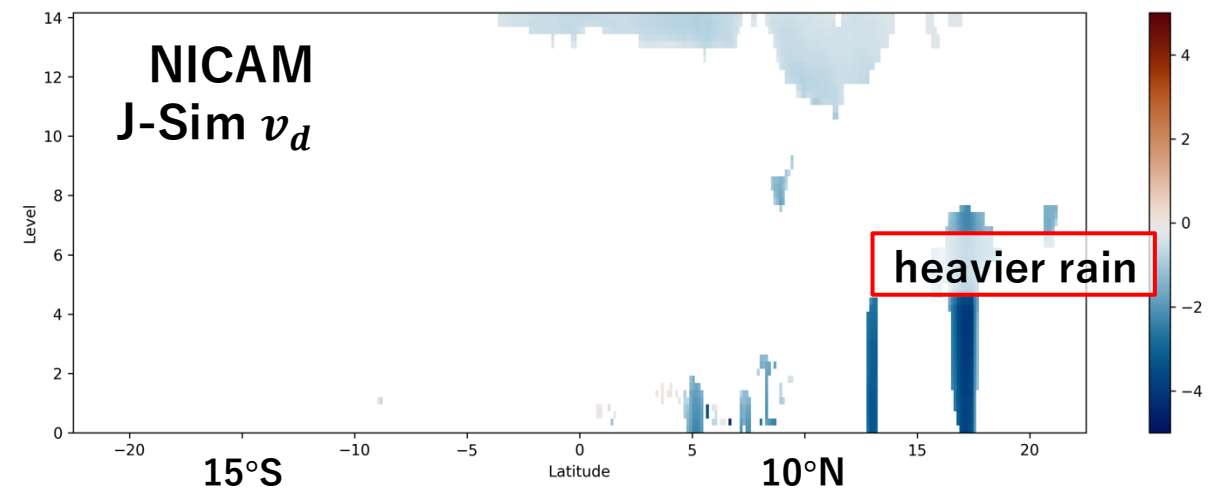
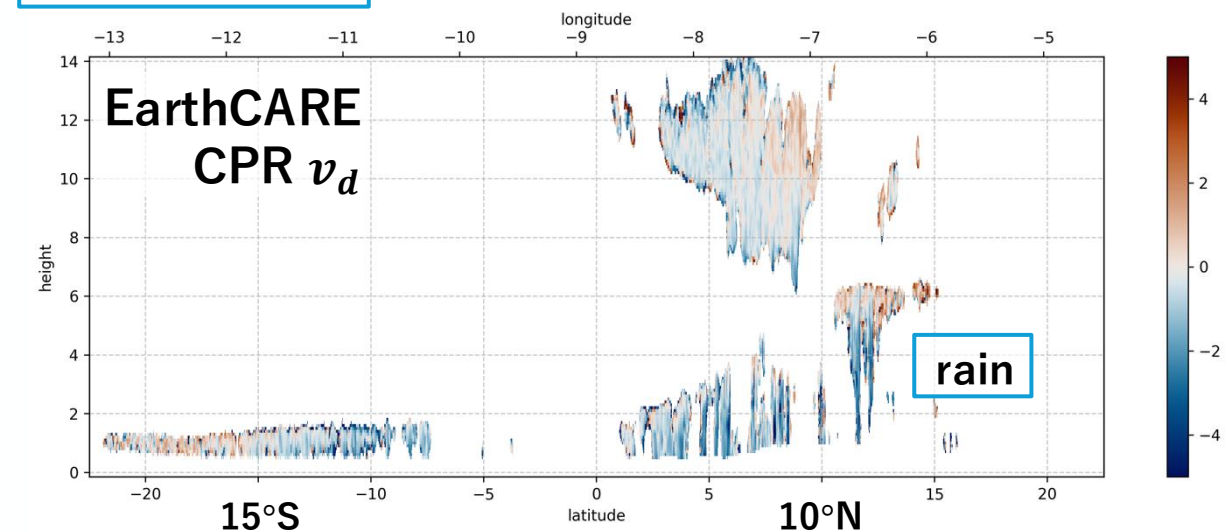
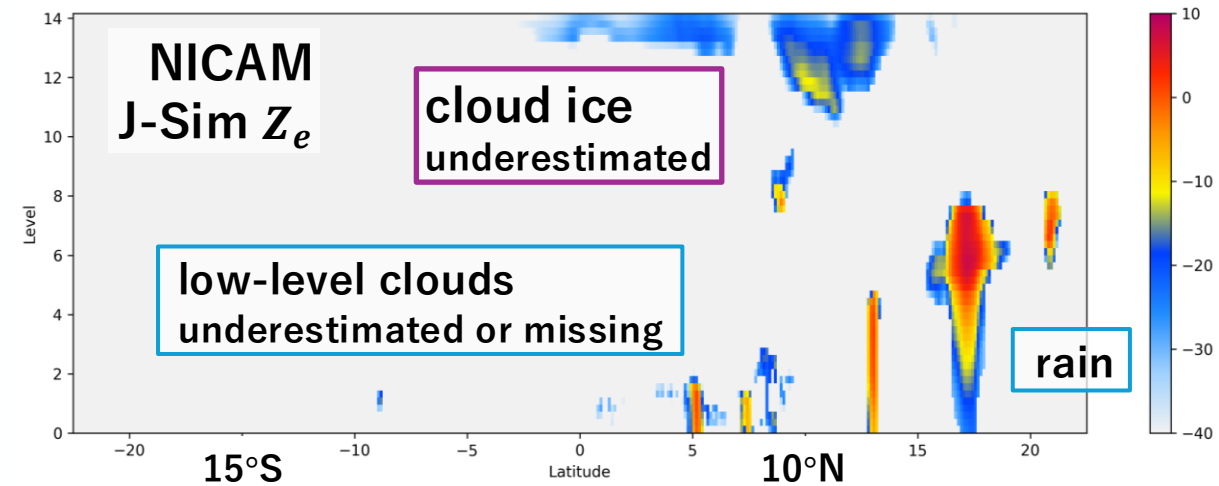
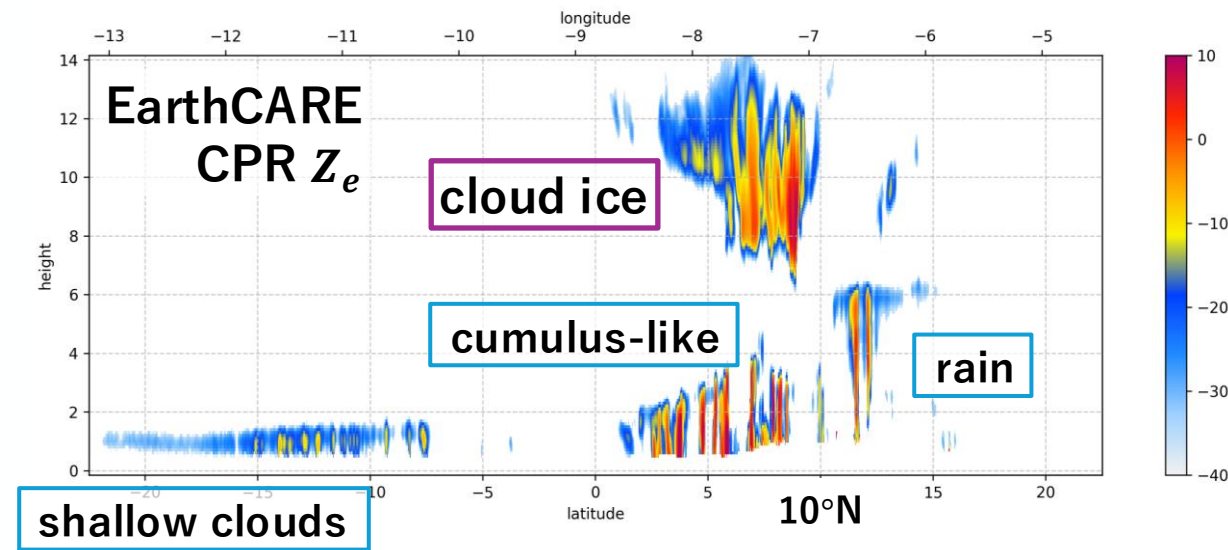
SPRINTARS aerosol component



- dust in northern part
- carbon in southern part
- sea salt near surface

The aerosol distribution is consistent between EarthCARE and NICAM-SPRINTARS

13th AUG event comparison: radar

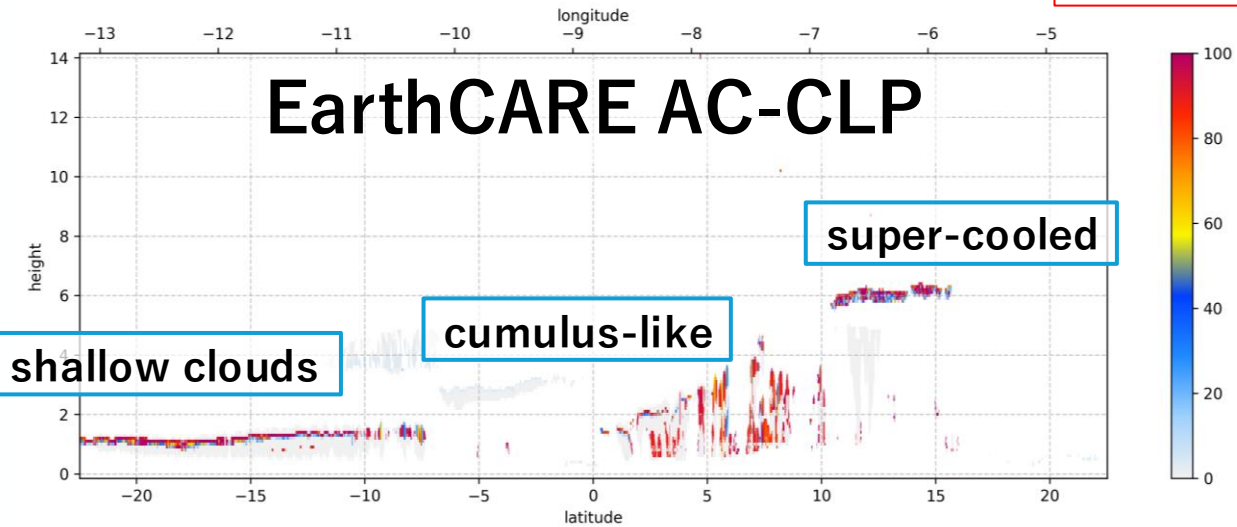


13th AUG event comparison: retrieval product

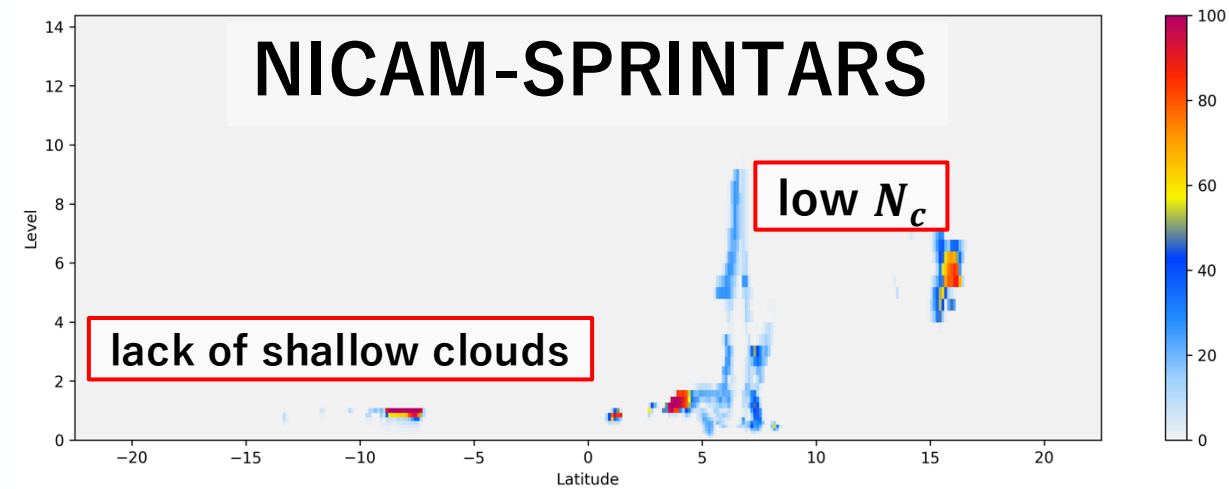


number concentration of cloud liquid [$10^6 \text{ \#}/\text{m}^3$]

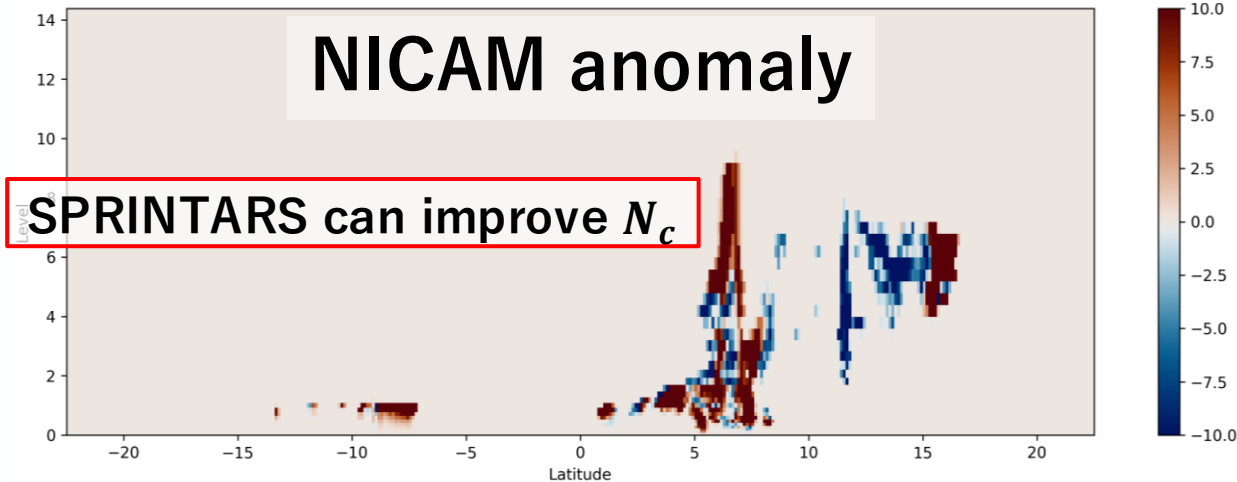
EarthCARE AC-CLP



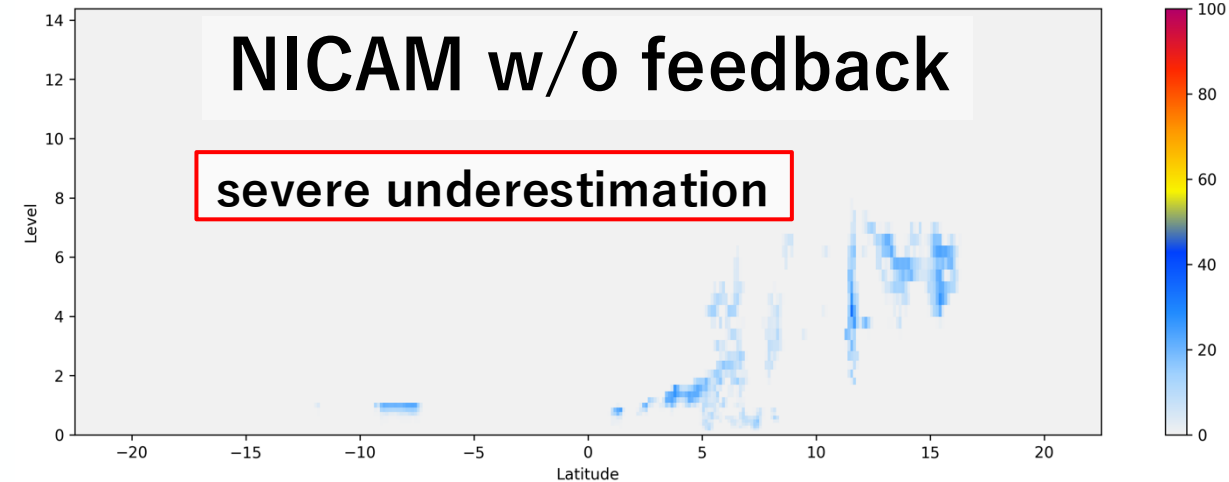
NICAM-SPRINTARS



NICAM anomaly



NICAM w/o feedback



1. Comparison of NICAM-SPRINTARS with EarthCARE

- Monthly mean AOT shows good overall agreement, but quantitative differences.
- The target case is **13th AUG 2024**, within ECOMIP

2. Good consistent results by NICAM-SPRINTARS

- Each aerosol component, dust, carbon, and sea salt, is reproduced separately.
- From view of radar signals, shallow clouds are missing in NICAM-SPRINTARS.
- N_c is underestimated by NICAM, but SPRINTARS can mitigate it.

➤ future work..

1. higher horizontal resolution to avoid resolution-dependent biases
2. detailed process analysis on aerosol-cloud interaction
3. cloud radiative effect

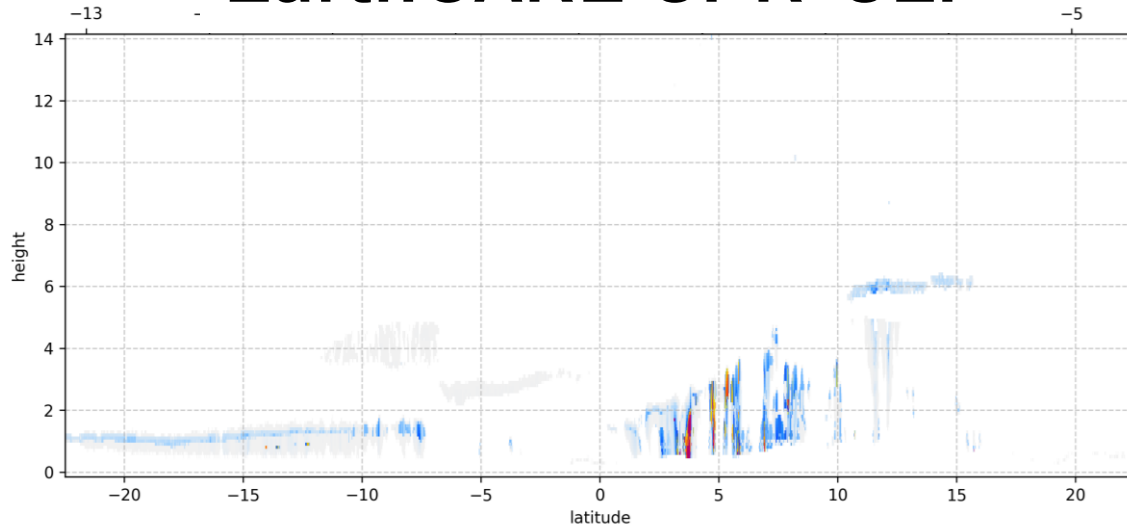
supplement...



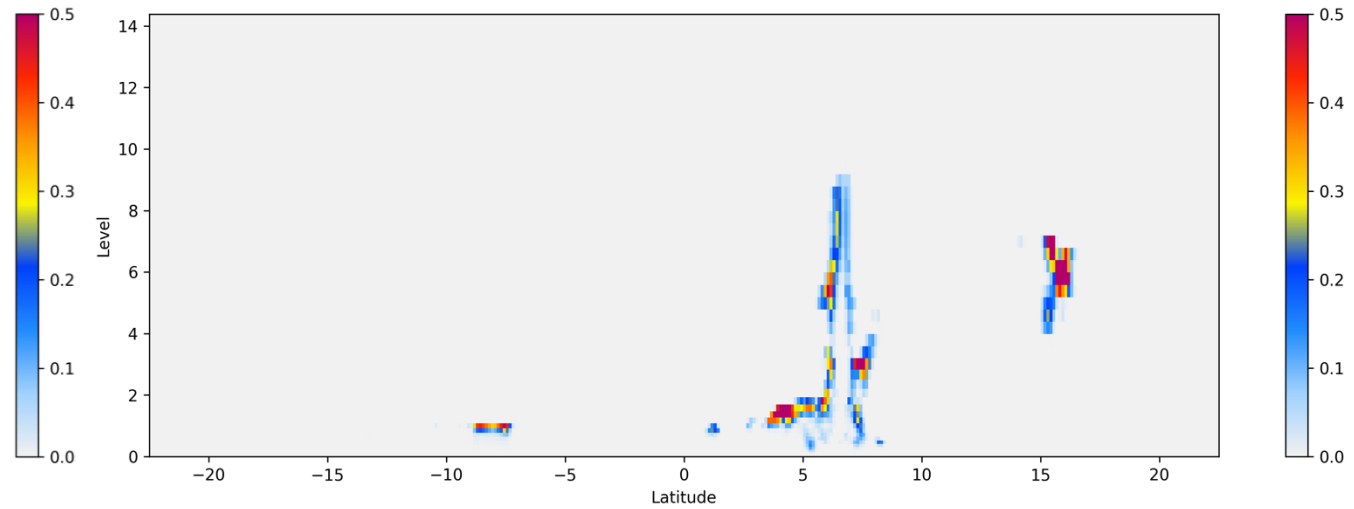
13rd AUG event comparison: retrieval

mixing ratio of cloud liquid [g/kg]

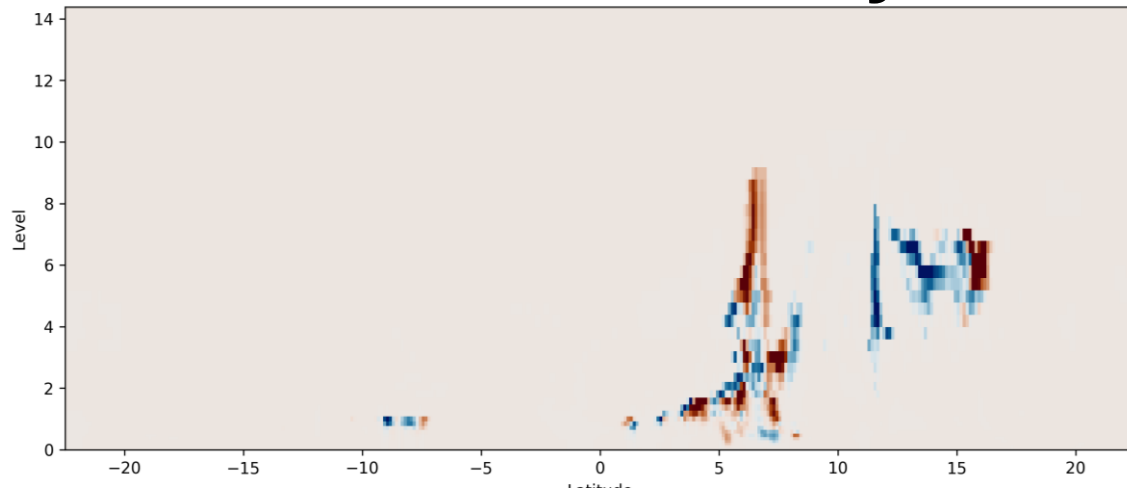
EarthCARE CPR-CLP



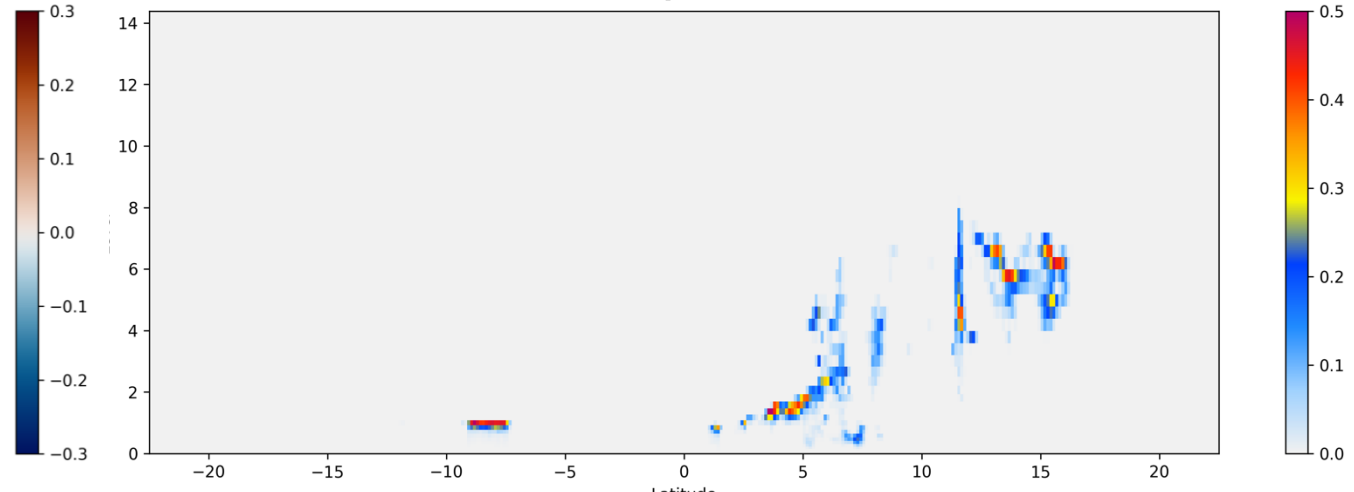
NICAM-SPRINTARS



NICAM anomaly



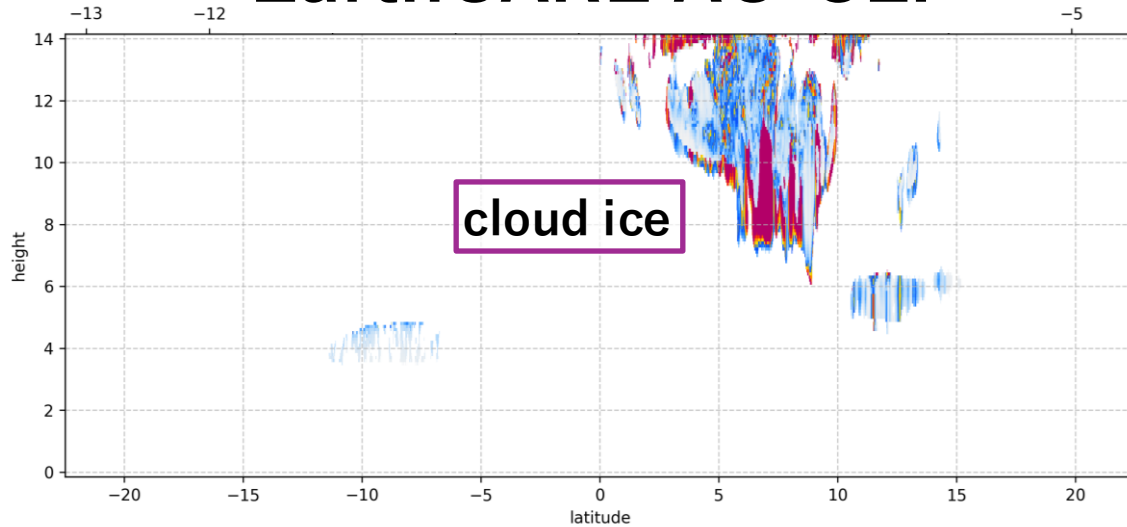
NICAM w/o feedback



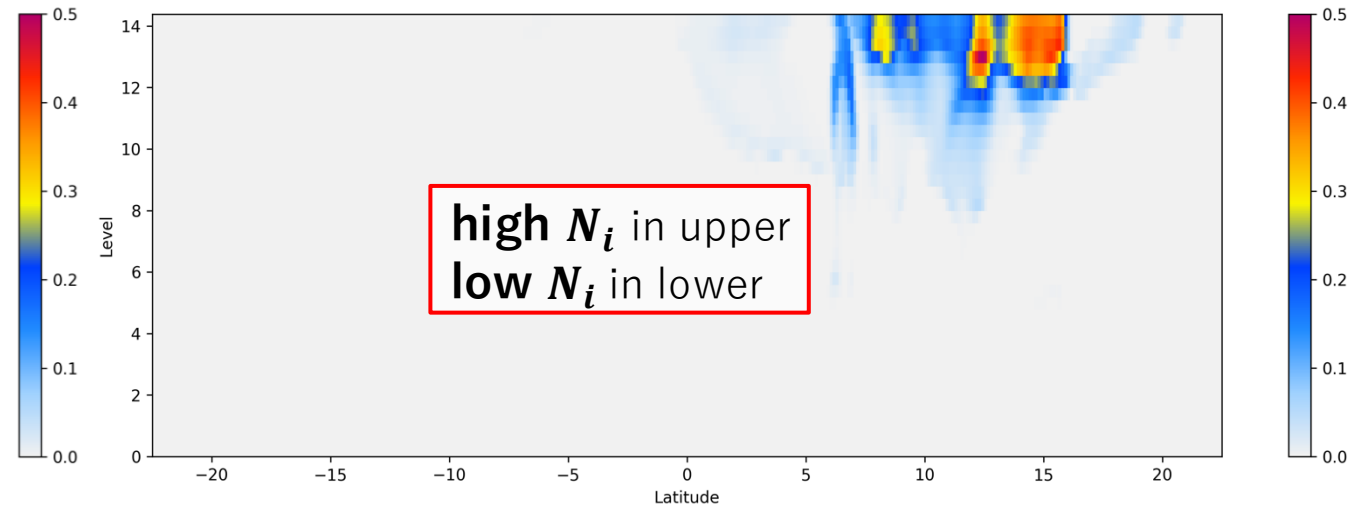
13rd AUG event comparison: retrieval

number concentration of cloud ice [$10^6 \text{ \#}/\text{m}^3$]

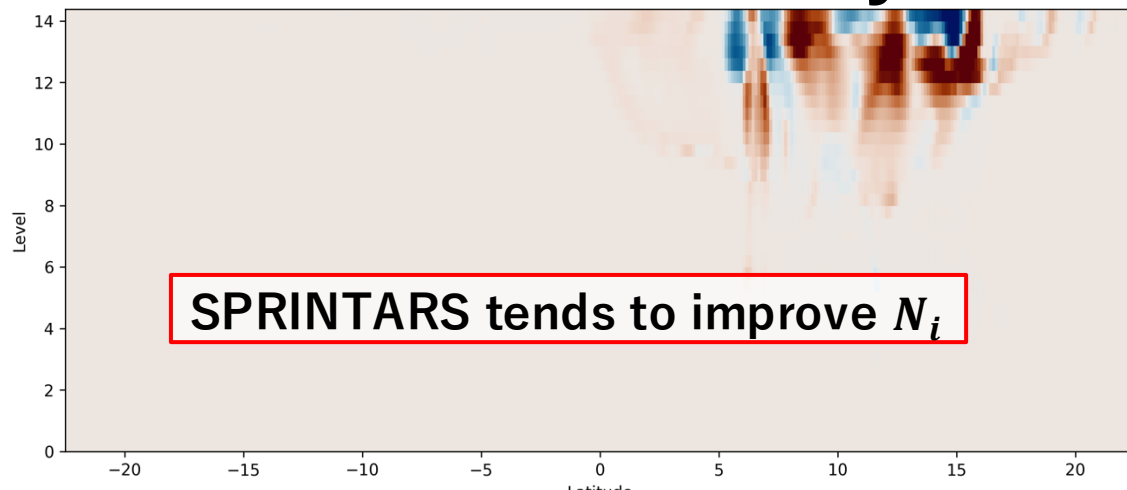
EarthCARE AC-CLP



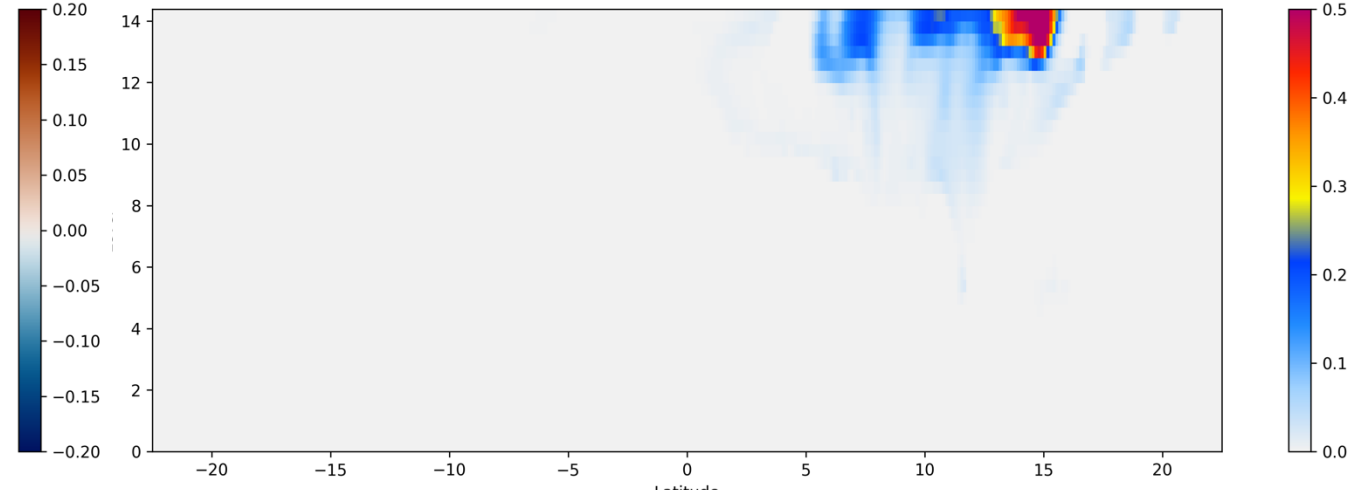
NICAM-SPRINTARS



NICAM anomaly



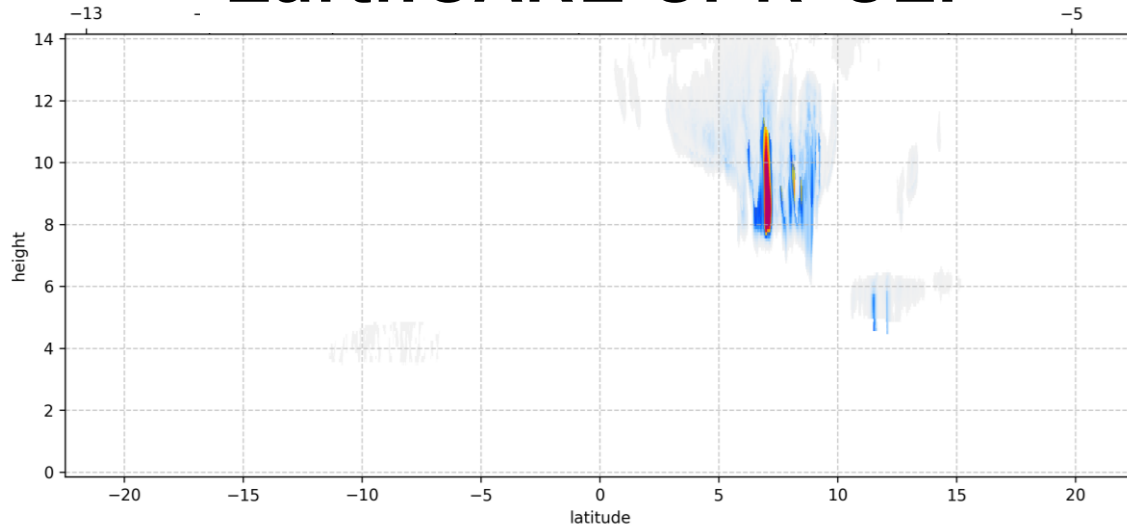
NICAM w/o feedback



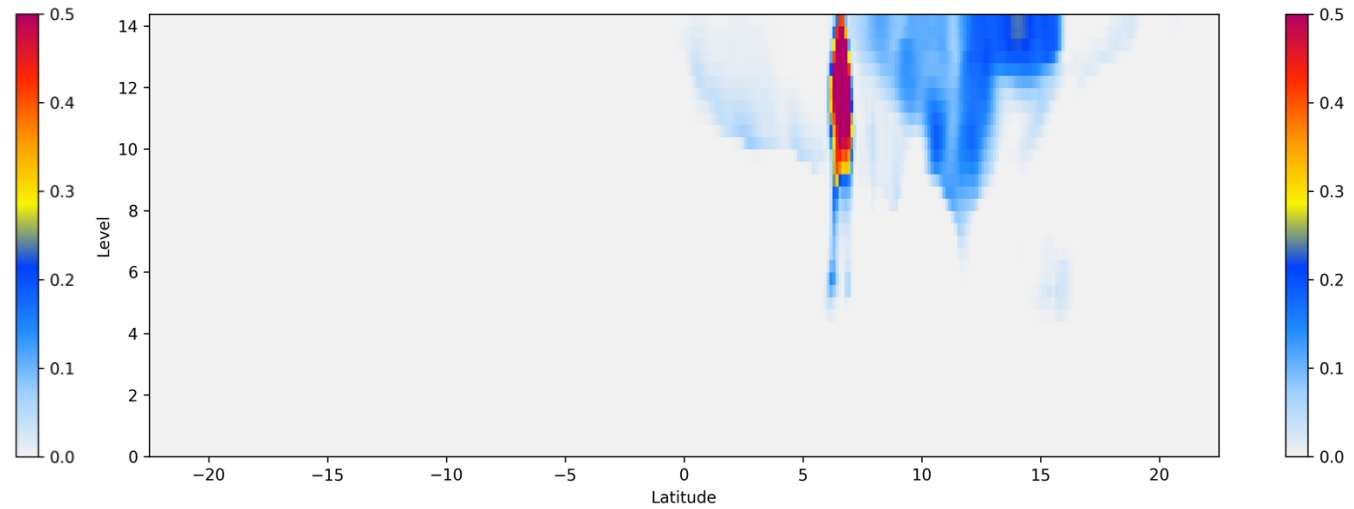
13rd AUG event comparison: retrieval

mixing ratio of cloud ice [g/kg]

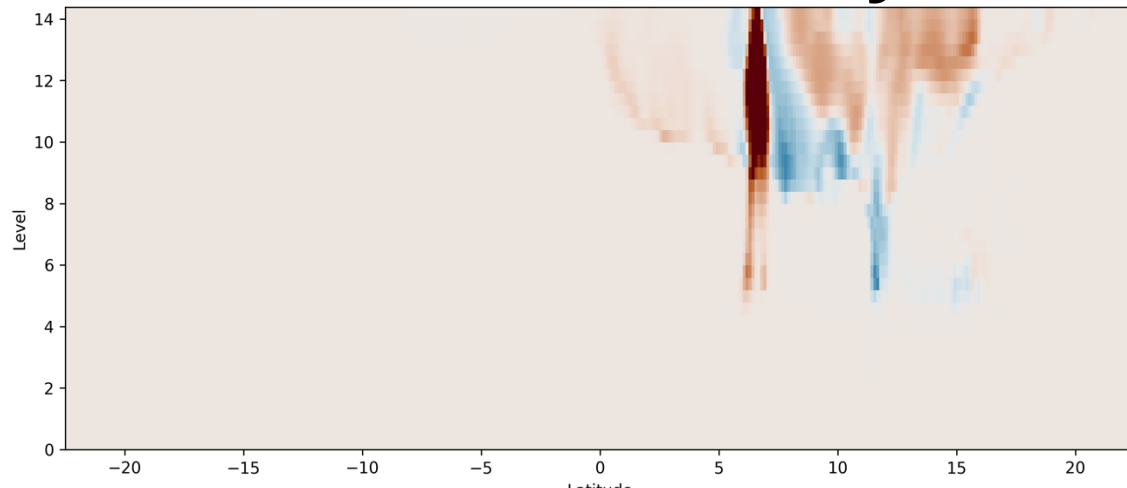
EarthCARE CPR-CLP



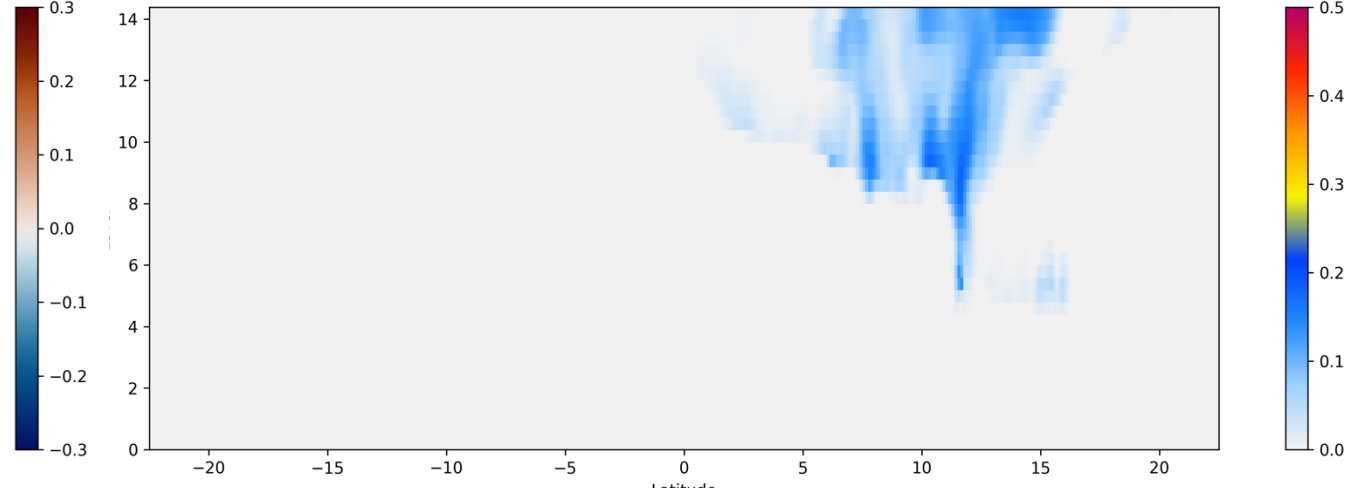
NICAM-SPRINTARS



NICAM anomaly



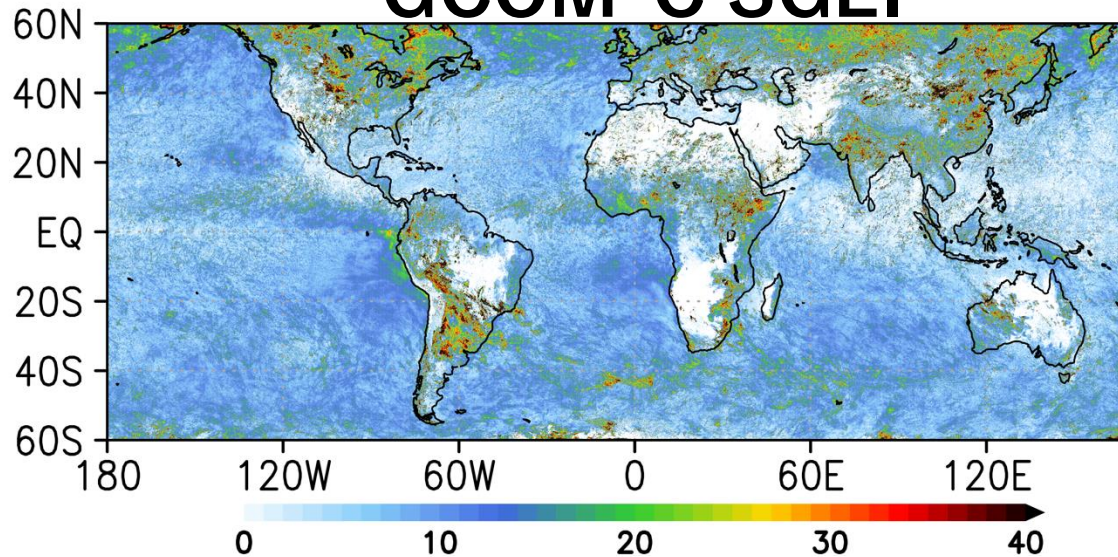
NICAM w/o feedback



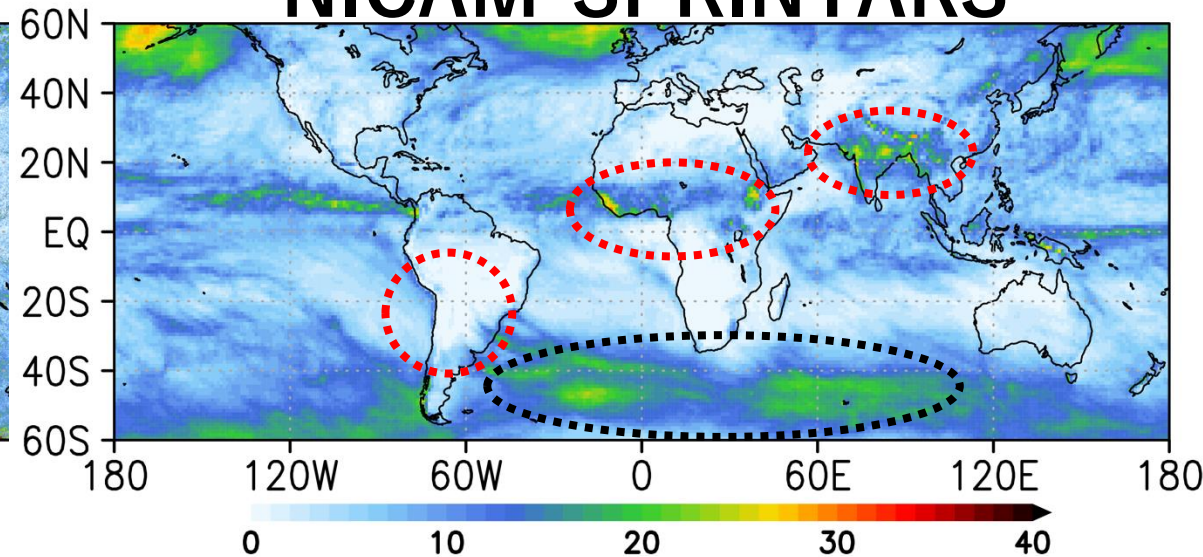
AUG 2024 monthly mean comparison

cloud optical thickness

GCOM-C SGLI

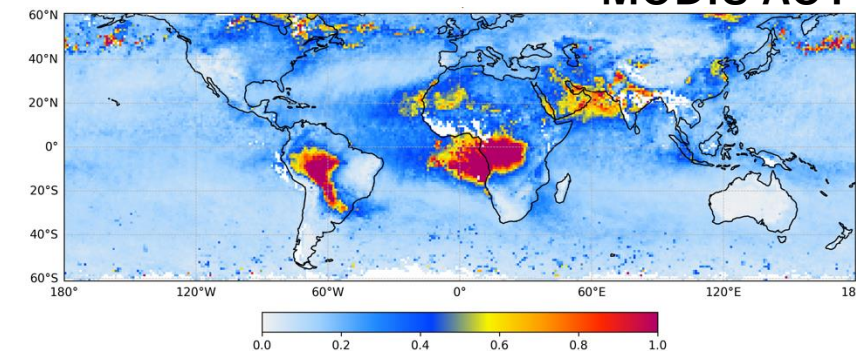


NICAM-SPRINTARS



- **underestimated over lands:** around high concentrations area of carbon and dust aerosols
→ consistent with case study
- **overestimated over southern ocean:** sea salt AOT is overestimated in NICAM
→ This can be coupled bias for southern ocean clouds.

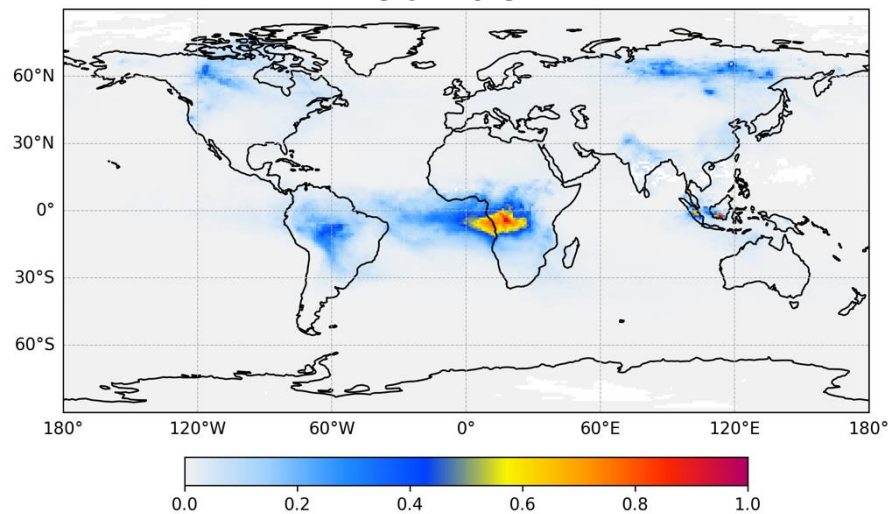
MODIS AOT



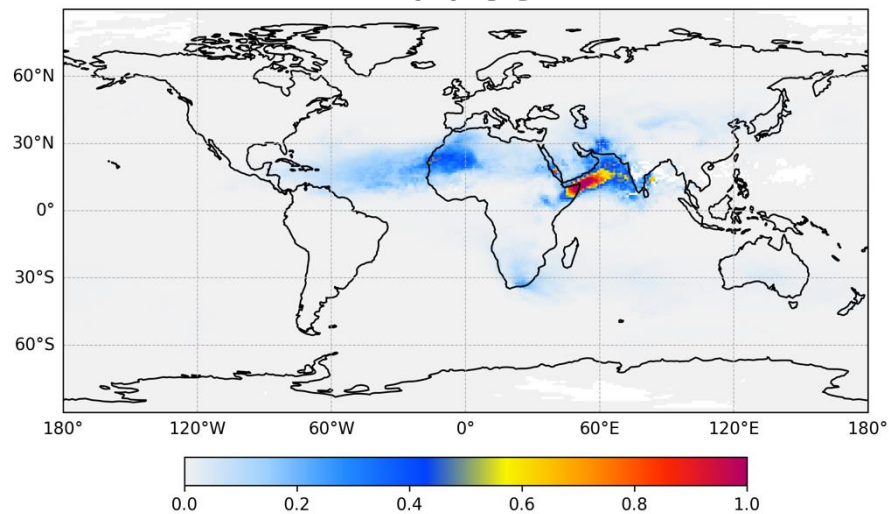
AOT decomposition NICAM-SPRINTARS

2024 AUG monthly mean, 1° deg

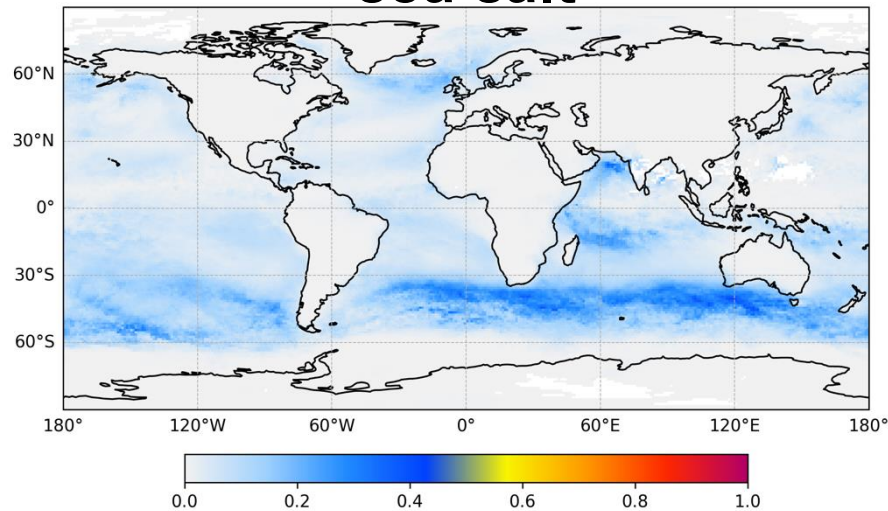
carbon



dust



sea salt



sulfate

