



# Estimation de la salinité par radiométrie microonde depuis l'espace

J. Boutin<sup>(1)</sup> , N. Reul <sup>(2)</sup>, J. Font <sup>(3)</sup>, X. Yin<sup>(1)</sup>,  
J. Tenerelli<sup>(4)</sup> , N. Martin<sup>(1)</sup>, J.L. Vergely <sup>(5)</sup>, P. Spurgeon<sup>(6)</sup>  
*And ESA level 1 and level 2 teams*

(1) LOCEAN/IPSL, Paris, France

(2) IFREMER, Brest, France

(3) ICM/CSIC, SMOS/BEC, Barcelona

(4) CLS, Brest, France

(5) ACRI-st, Paris, France

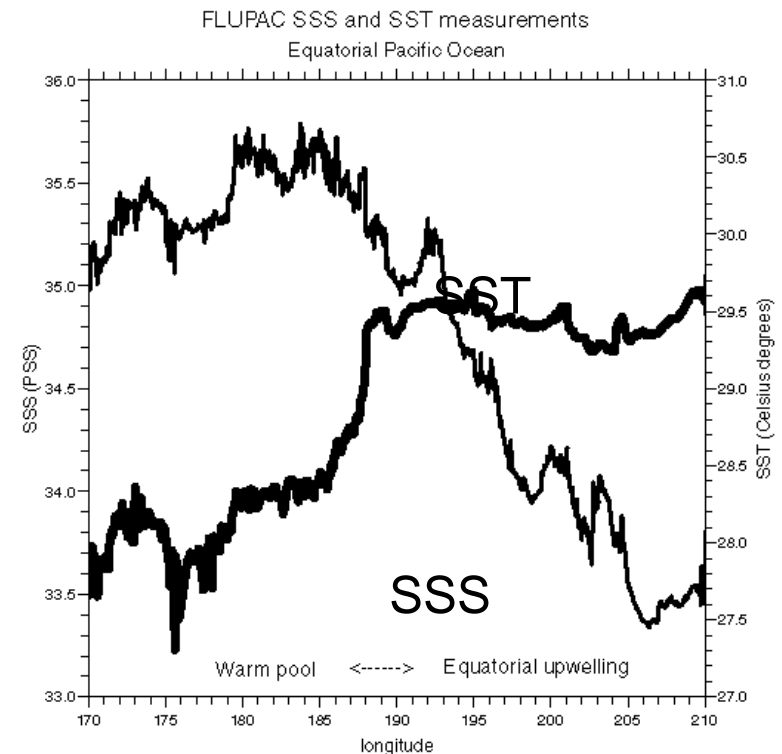
(6) ARGANS, Plymouth, UK

...



# Why measuring Sea Surface Salinity (SSS) ?

- Influence of salinity on water density  
→ oceanic circulation
- Detect surface fronts better seen on SSS than on SST (because SST more affected by atmospheric exchanges)
- Better constrain fresh water fluxes at the ocean surface

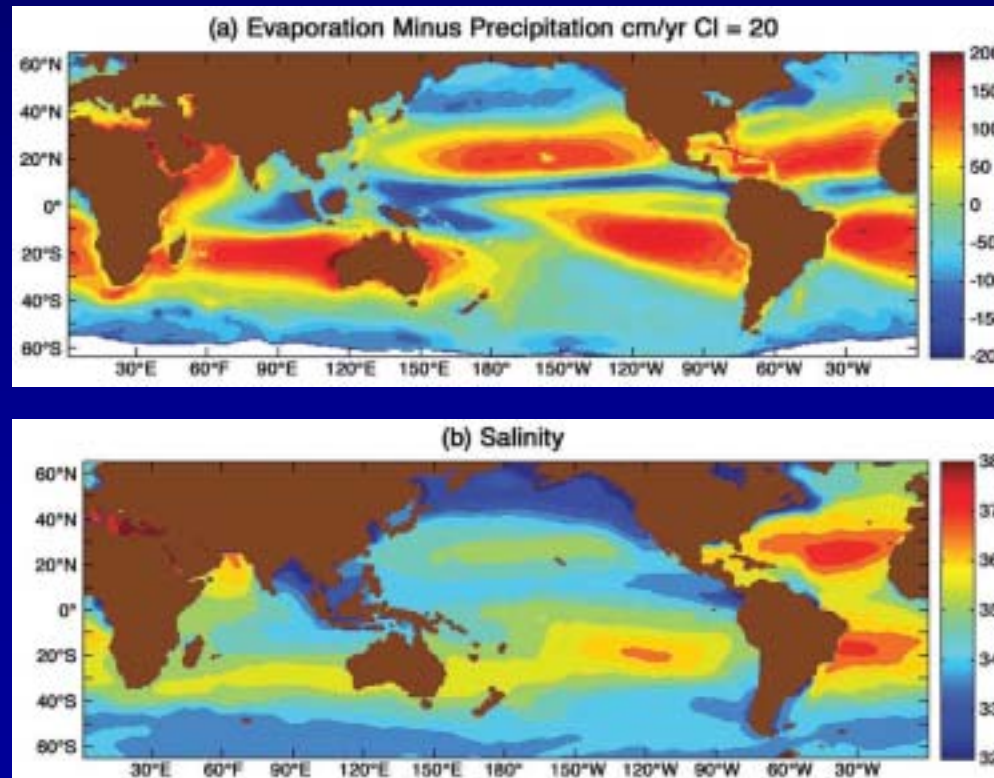


*Rodier et al., JPO, 2000)*

# Ocean role in the water cycle

- 86% of evaporation over the ocean
- 78% of precipitations over the ocean

Sea surface salinity is a tracer of this fresh water flux:



Climatological mean of  $E - P$  (top) , Annual mean of SSS from World Ocean Database (bottom).

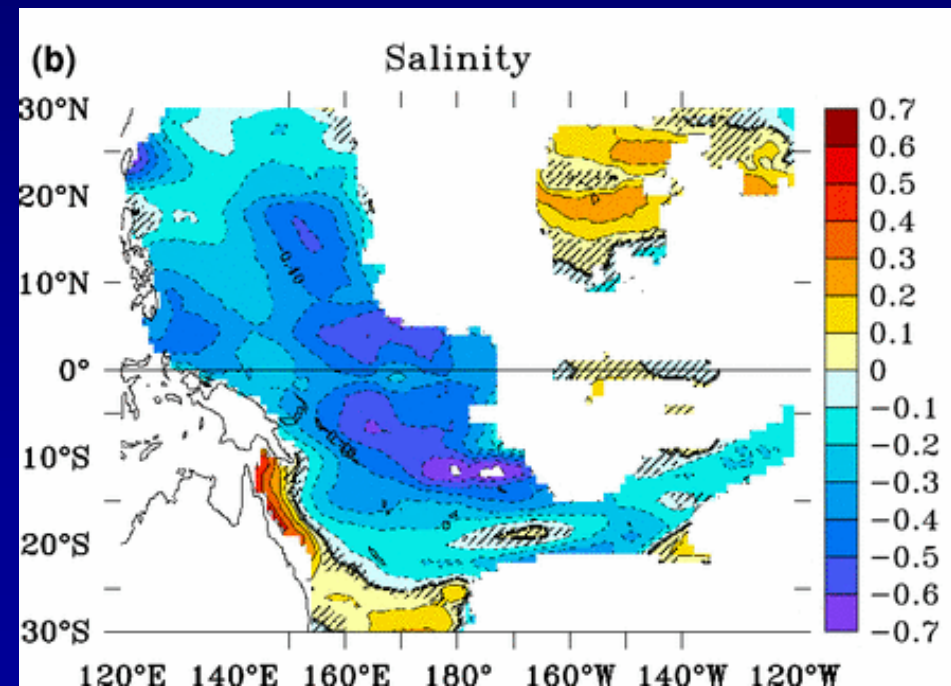
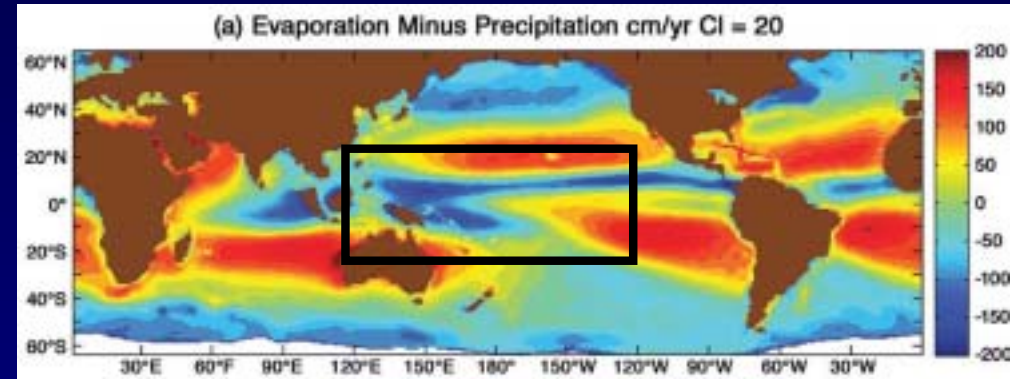
# Ocean role in the water cycle

- ↗ atmospheric temperature=>  
↗ evaporation in warm regions;  
↗ content of water vapor in the atmosphere =>  
↗ precipitations in rainy areas

but this thermodynamic theory is partly balanced by atmospheric circulation

- Observations???

**Need for long temporal series of observations well sampled in space and time**

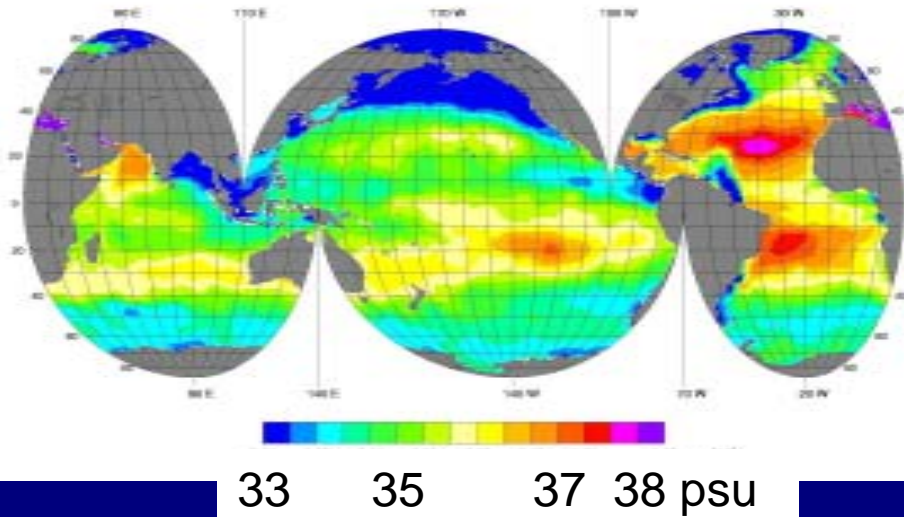


Linear trends in SSS. Units are pss/50 years. Cravatte et al. 2009

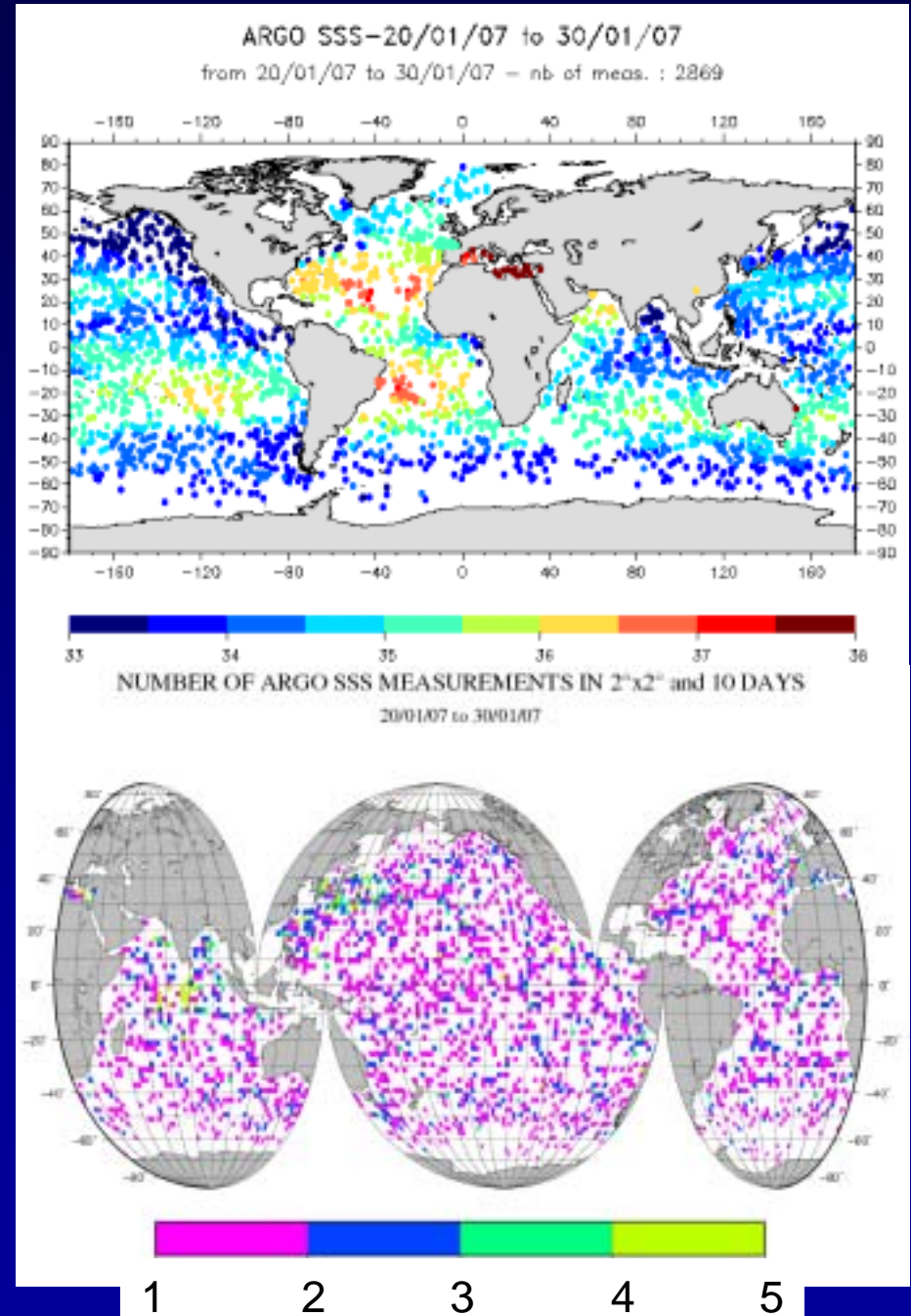
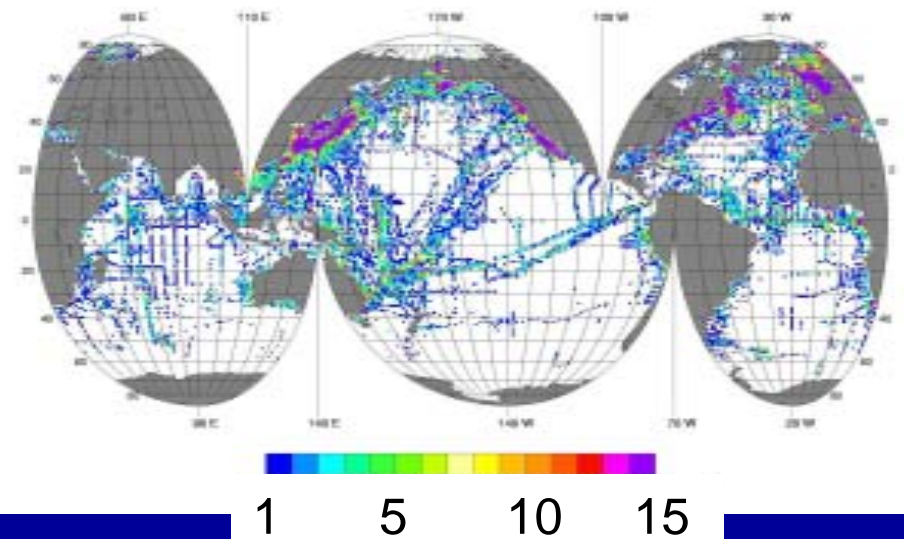


# *In situ* measurements of SSS

Atlas Levitus – Juillet 1998



Nombre de mesures bateau(1°x1°)



SSS measurement using  
microwave radiometry:

L-band (1.4GHz, 21cm)

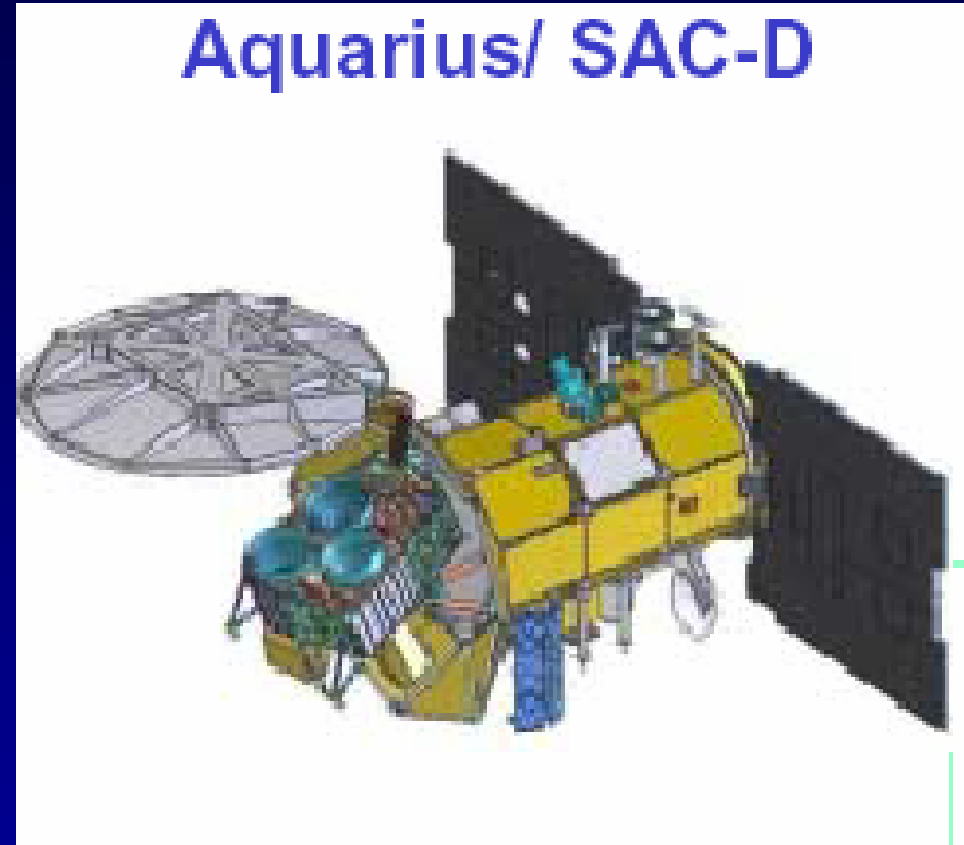
# SSS remote sensing: 2 L-band radiometers

*objective: precision 0.1-0.2 on SSS averaged 200x200km<sup>2</sup> 10 days*



**SMOS**

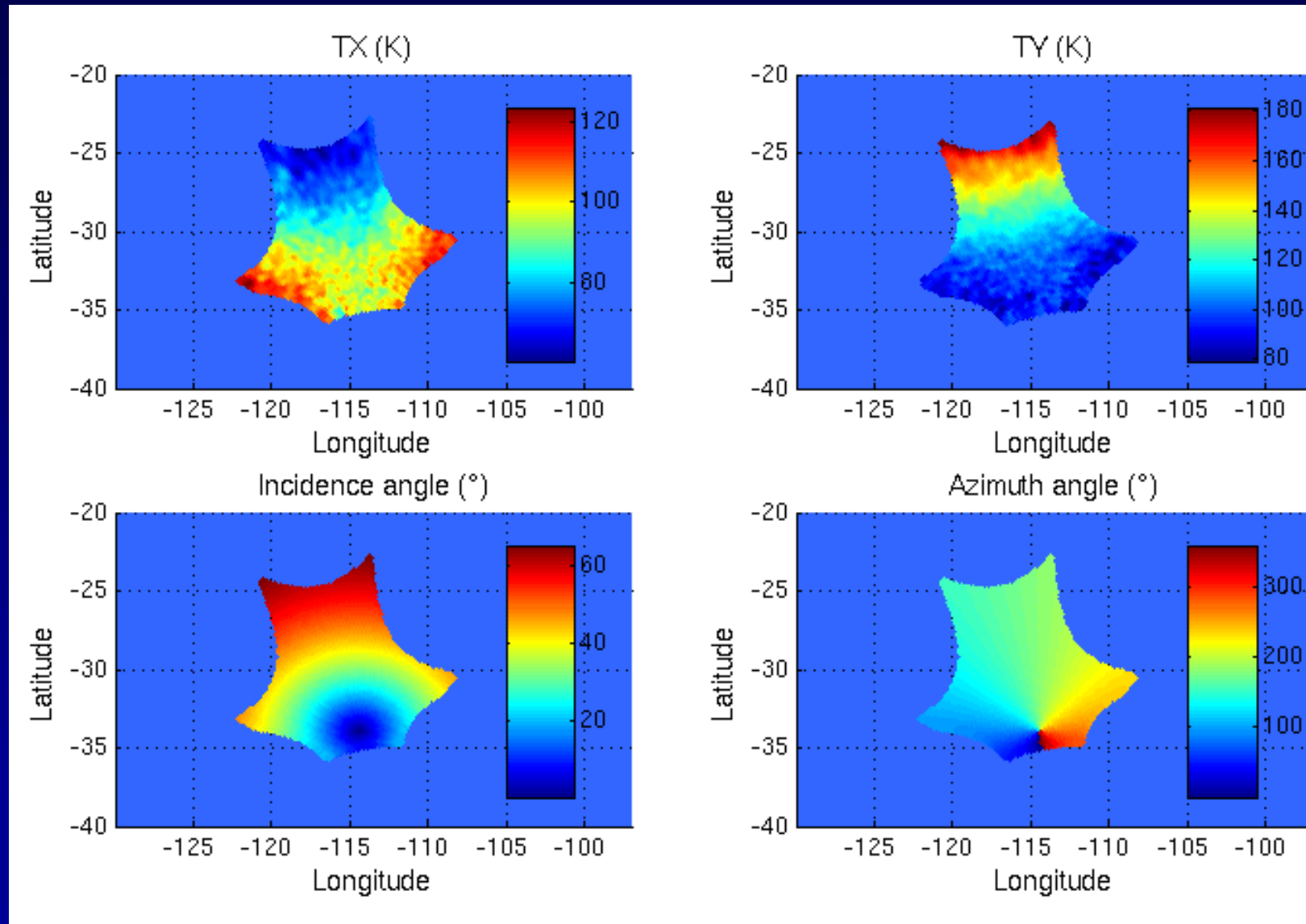
**MIRAS onboard SMOS mission:**  
**2-D interferometer;**  
**Field of View ~1000x1000km;**  
**spatial resolution ~40km**  
**Launched in Nov 2009**



**Aquarius/ SAC-D**

**Aquarius onboard SAC-D:**  
**3 real aperture antennas; Field**  
**of View ~300km;**  
**~70-150km spatial resolution;**  
**Launched in June 2011**

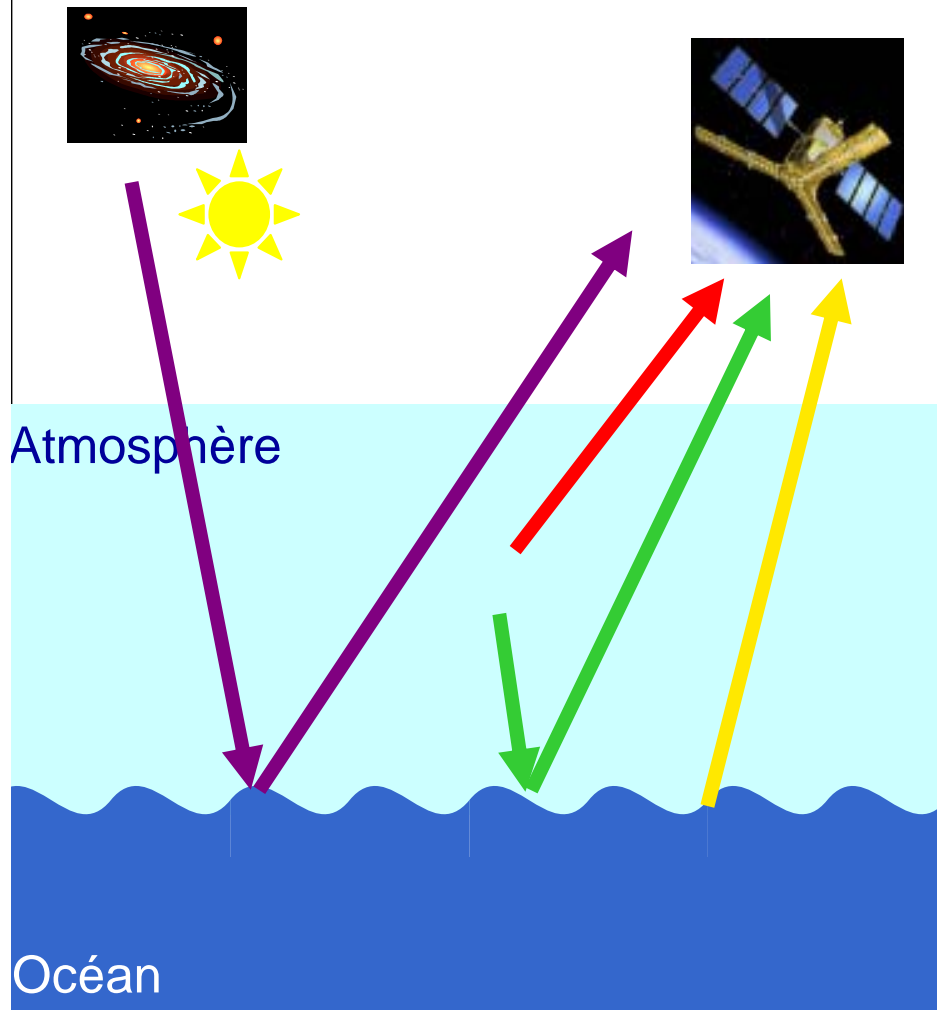
# Example of SMOS ocean measurements





# Validation of SMOS measurements and pre-launch direct model

# Pre-launch Forward Model (ESA L2OS processor)



## Sea surface emissivity models

**Dielectric constant** of sea water (Klein and Swift, 1977)

**Roughness** model: Dinnat et al., 2003  
(2-scale, Durden and Vesecky spectrum $\times 2$ )

no **Foam**

## Other contributions

### Atmosphere

Tropospheric contribution (Liebe, 1993)

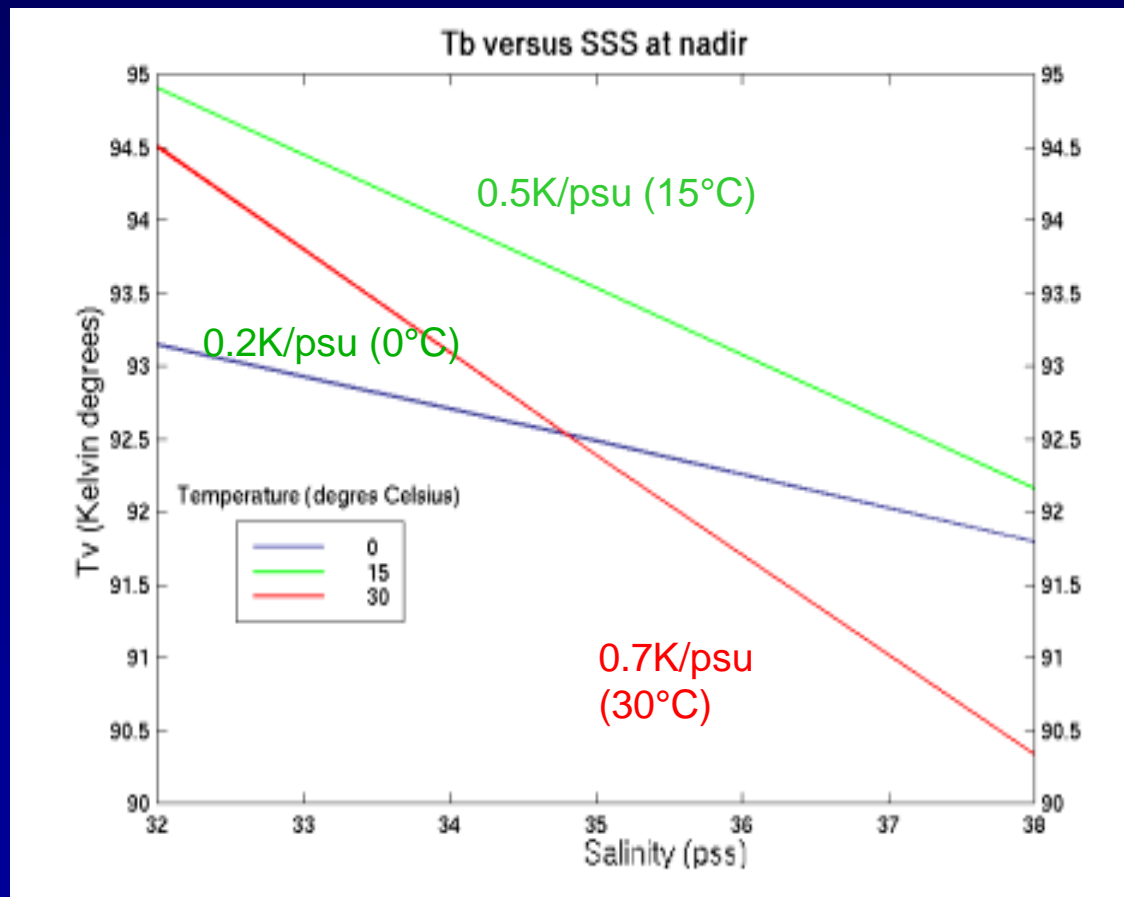
Faraday rotation

**Sky radiation** (reflected/scattered) (Reul et al 2007)

Compare SMOS Level 1c Tb with Tb simulated with forward model using ECMWF forcings and WOA05 SSS climatology, **in SMOS instrument coordinates.**

# Sensitivity of Tb (L band) to SSS and SST

## Flat sea (*Klein and Swift model*)



$dT_b/dSSS$  weak:  
always  $< 1K/psu$   
(need for a very good  
precision)

Better sensitivity in warm  
waters

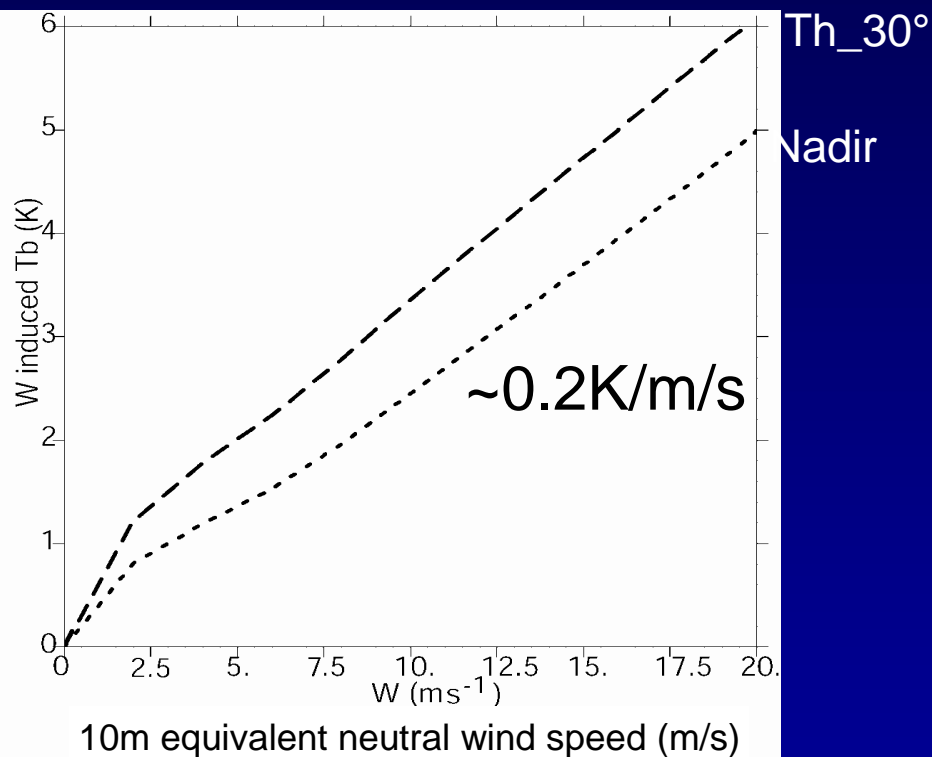
$dT_b/dSST$  always very weak :

- 0.1 K/°C à 0 °C
- 0.005 K/°C à 15°C
- -0.16 K/°C à 30°C

# Pre-launch roughness model 1 (2-scale-DV2 model (Dinnat et al.))

2 scale emissivity model: small waves superimposed on large tilted waves

Wave spectrum from Durden and Vesecki multiplied by an **arbitrary factor 2 (to fit data)**

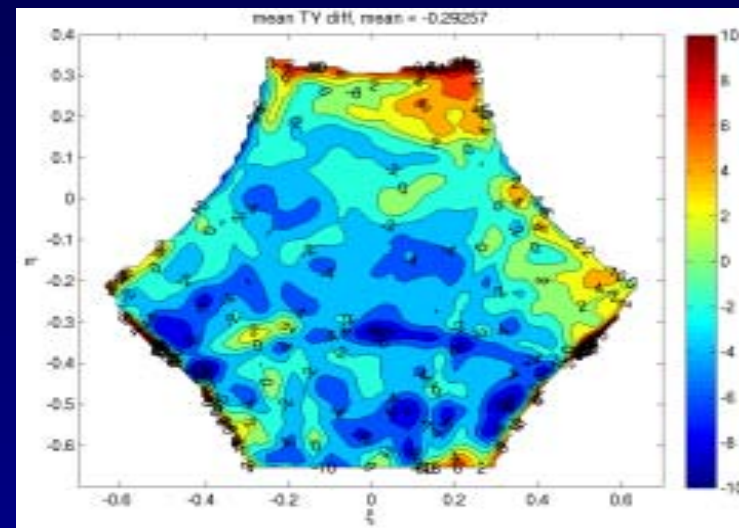
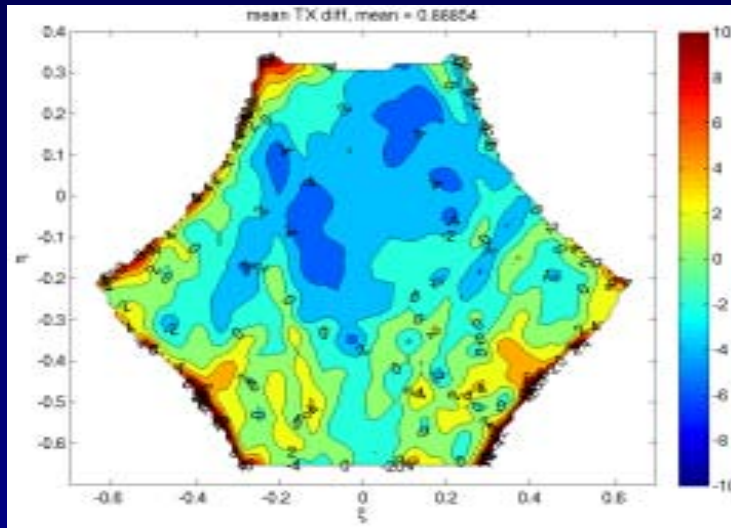


Rough sea (without foam)

At  $15^\circ\text{C}$ , a  $0.1\text{K}$   $T_b$  variation can be generated by :  
-  $0.2\text{psu}$  SSS variation  
or  
-  $0.5\text{m/s}$  wind speed variation

# Systematic biases of Tb in the FOV

- Measured minus modeled Tb

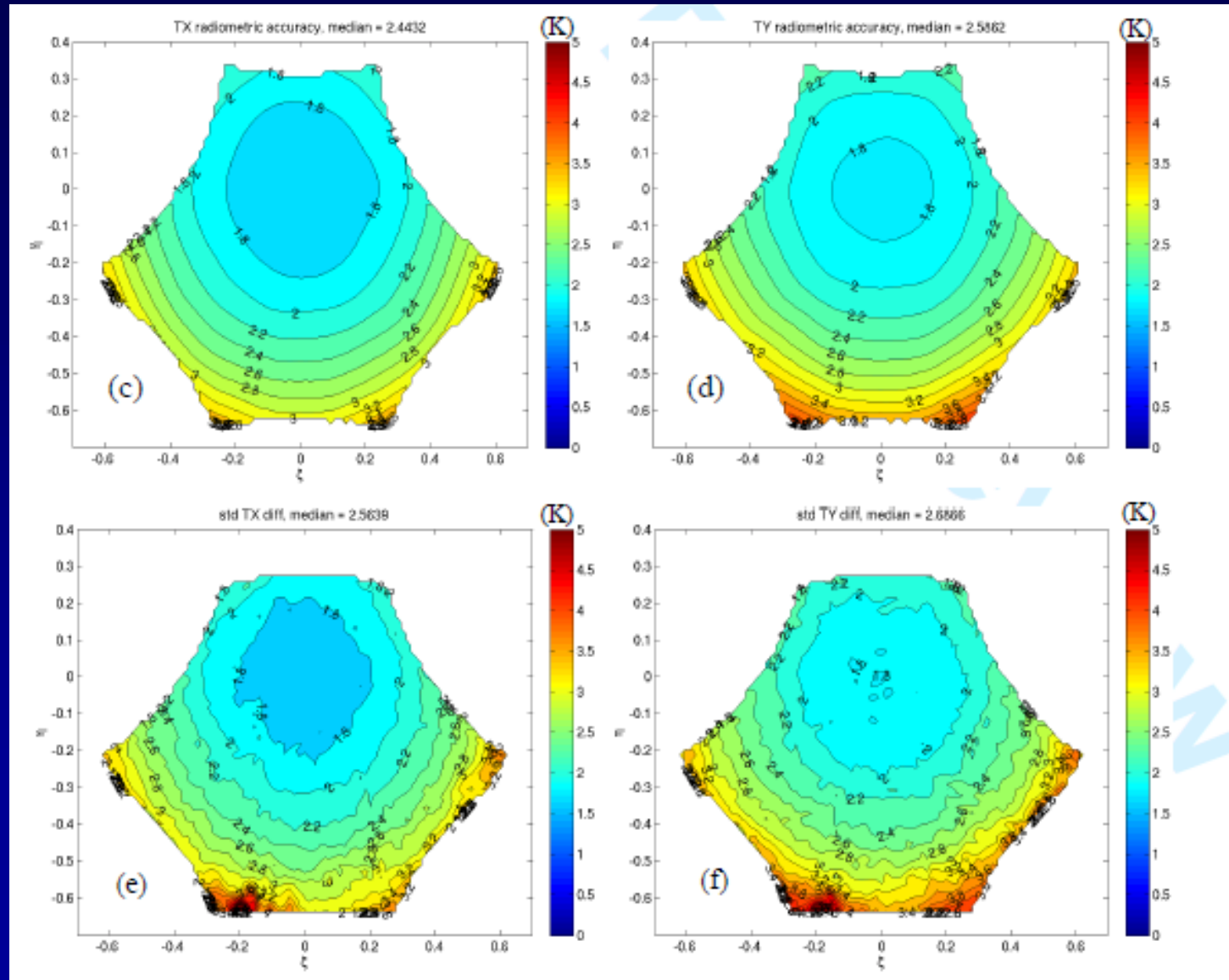


- Spatial pattern persistent along and in different orbits
- Similar using different ocean emissivity models: mainly related to instrument and image reconstruction imperfections
- Removal techniques being tested: Ocean Target Transformation (OTT, mean residual bias over homogeneous ocean areas) now implemented in operational processor



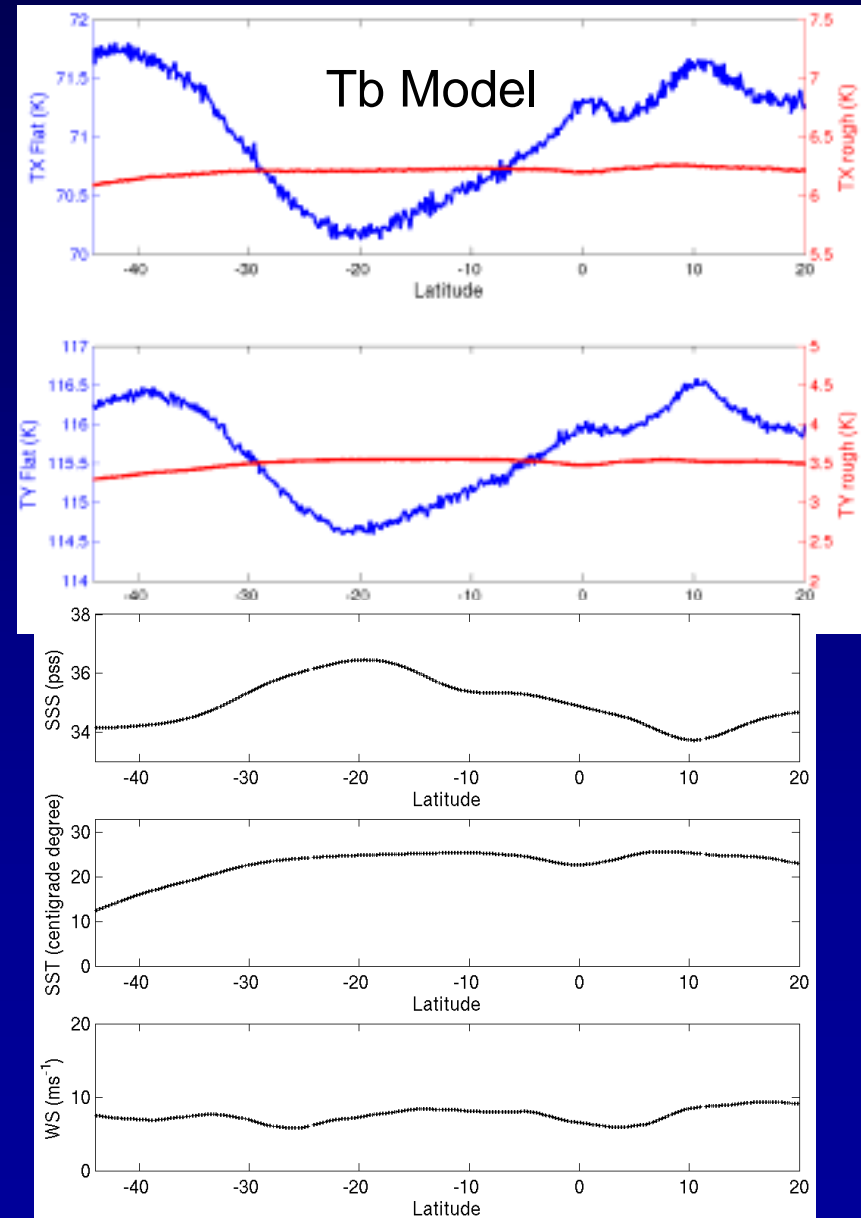
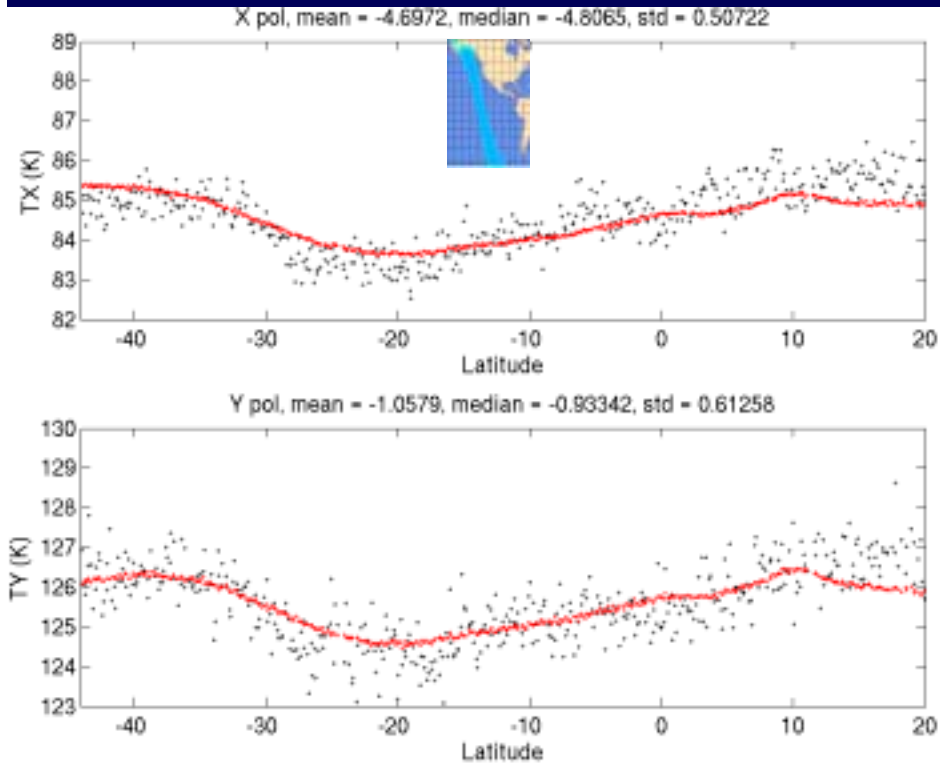
# Measured radiometric noise very similar to expected one

Expected radiometric accuracy



Observed radiometric accuracy (std( $T_{bmeas} - T_{bmodel}$ ))

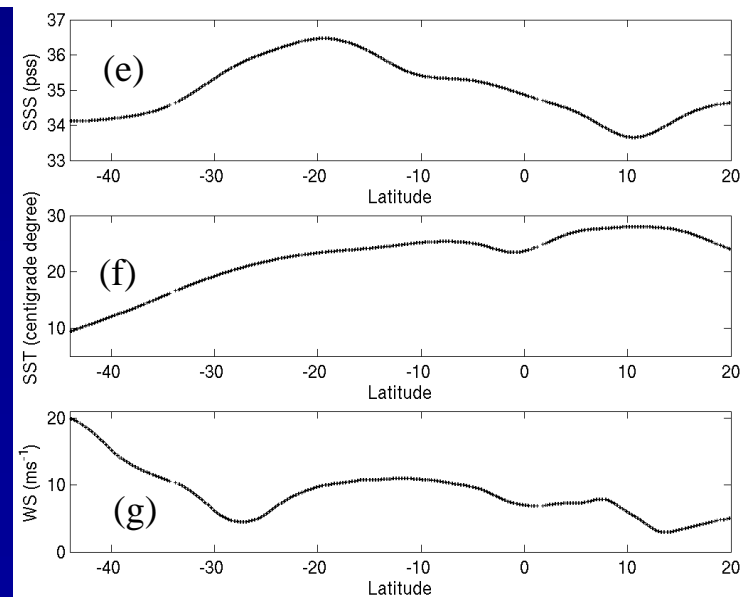
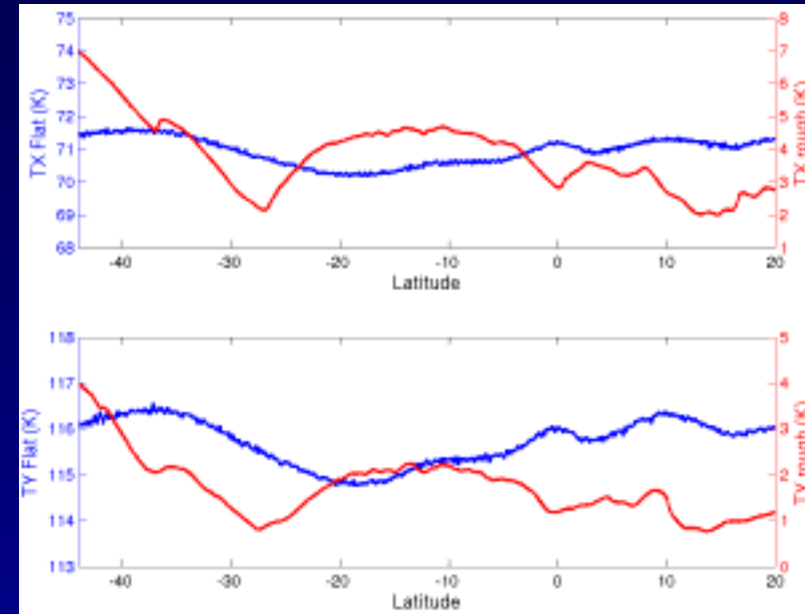
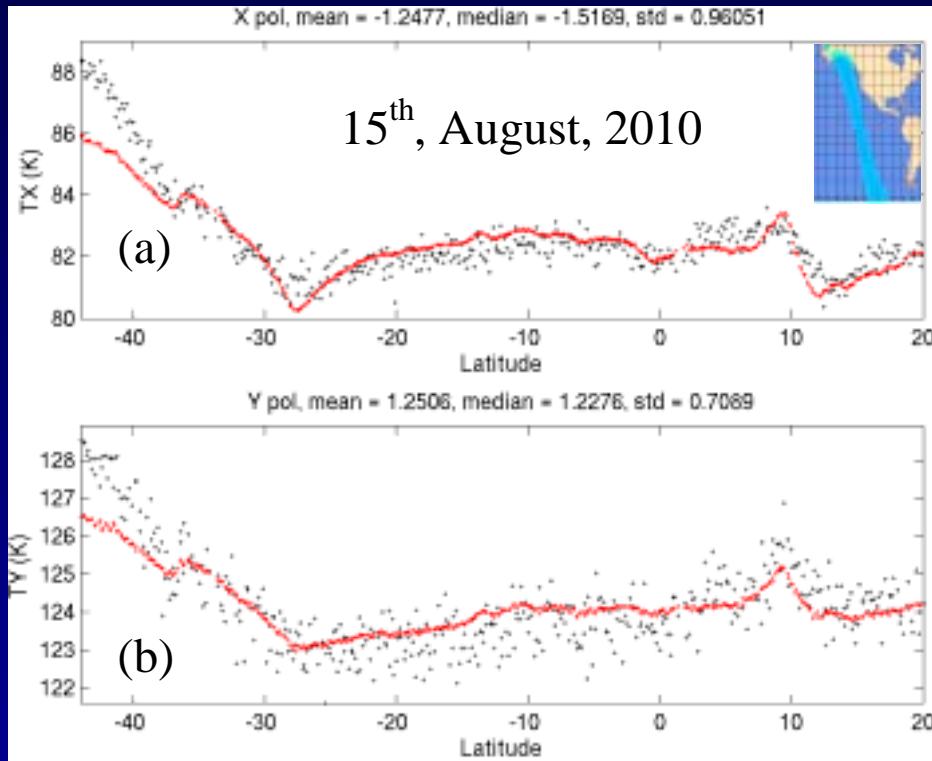
# Interpretation of first SMOS Tbs moderate wind speed



Measurements (black) & model (red)

Yin et al. 2011

# Interpretation of first SMOS Tbs (high wind speed latitudinal gradient)



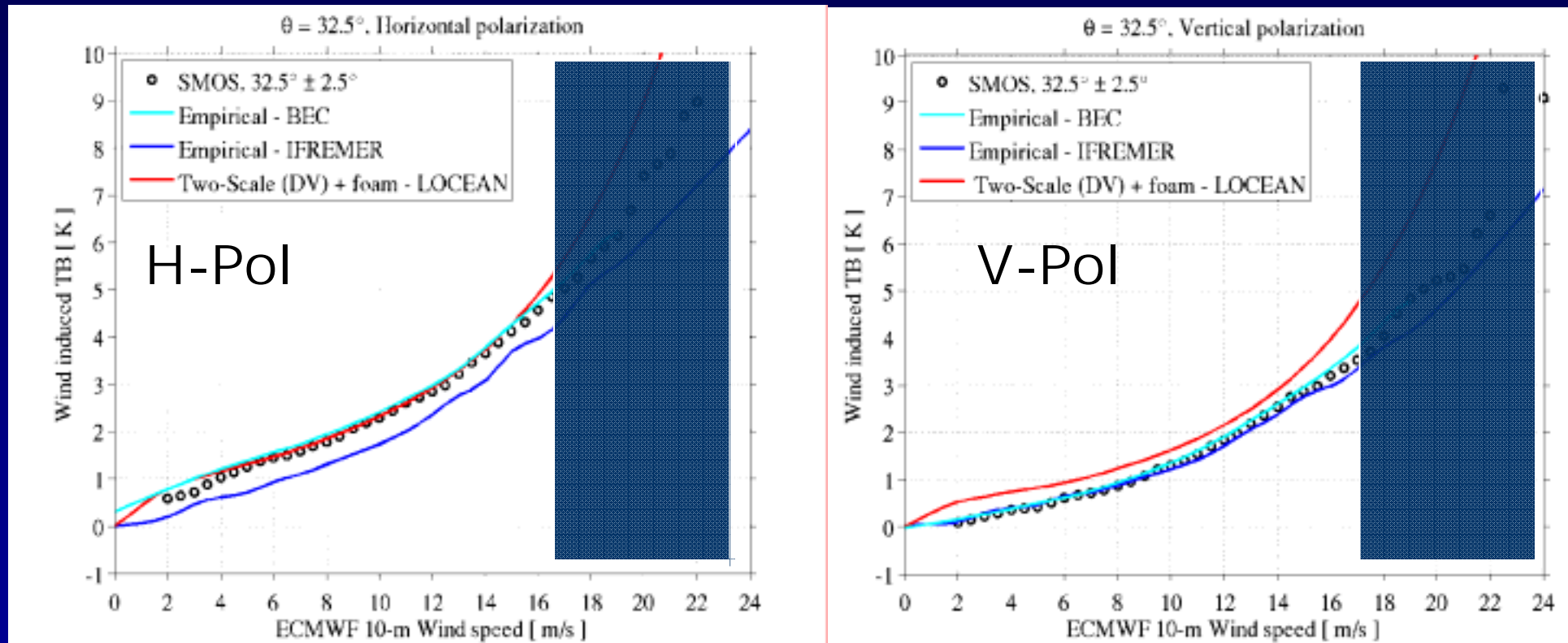
Measurements (black) & model (red)

August 2010

Yin et al. 2011

# Forward model improvement

Wind induced brightness temperature at  $\theta=32.5^\circ$



- Relatively good agreement between all tuned models and SMOS sensitivity to ECMWF wind speed
- Clear non-linear behavior with wind speed

*Guimbard et al. 2011*

# SMOS SSS retrieval method (along track)

SMOS SSS along track is retrieved through a least square minimisation of the quadratic difference between SMOS and modeled  $T_b$ .

Retrieval of SSS ( $\sigma=100\text{psu}$ ), SST ( $\sigma=1^\circ\text{C}$ ), WS ( $\sigma=2\text{m/s}$ ) through the minimisation of:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=0}^{Nm-1} \frac{[T_{bi}^{meas} - T_{bi}^{mod}(\theta, P)]^2}{\sigma_{T_{bi}}^2} + \sum_{j=0}^{Np-1} \frac{[P_j - P_{j, prior}]^2}{\sigma_{P_j}^2}$$

=> estimate of SSS error

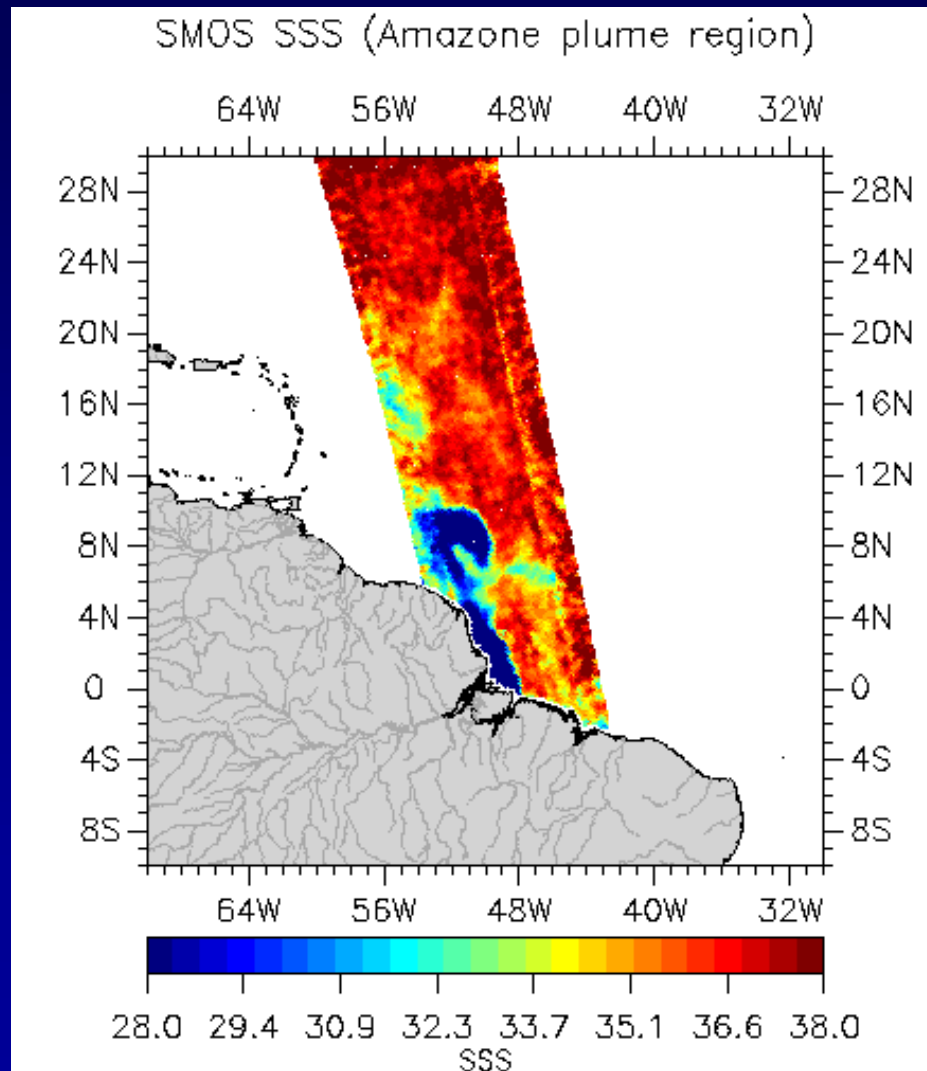
(Levenberg & Marquard algorithm)

Use of :

- SMOS  $T_b$ s after removal of a systematic bias estimated over an ascending orbit in the south east Pacific (50S-10N ascending orbit on 5th August)
- ECMWF wind and SST fields as prior



# Amazon plume



July 2010, L1 & L2 V500

# SMOS SSS retrieval method (along track)

SMOS SSS along track is retrieved through a least square minimisation of the quadratic difference between SMOS and modeled  $T_b$ .

Retrieval of SSS ( $\sigma=100\text{psu}$ ), SST ( $\sigma=1^\circ\text{C}$ ), WS ( $\sigma=2\text{m/s}$ ) through the minimisation of:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=0}^{N_m-1} \frac{[T_{bi}^{meas} - T_{bi}^{mod}(\theta, P)]^2}{\sigma_{T_{bi}}^2} + \sum_{j=0}^{N_p-1} \frac{[P_j - P_{j,prior}]^2}{\sigma_{P_j}^2}$$

=> estimate of SSS error

(Levenberg & Marquard algorithm)

Use of :

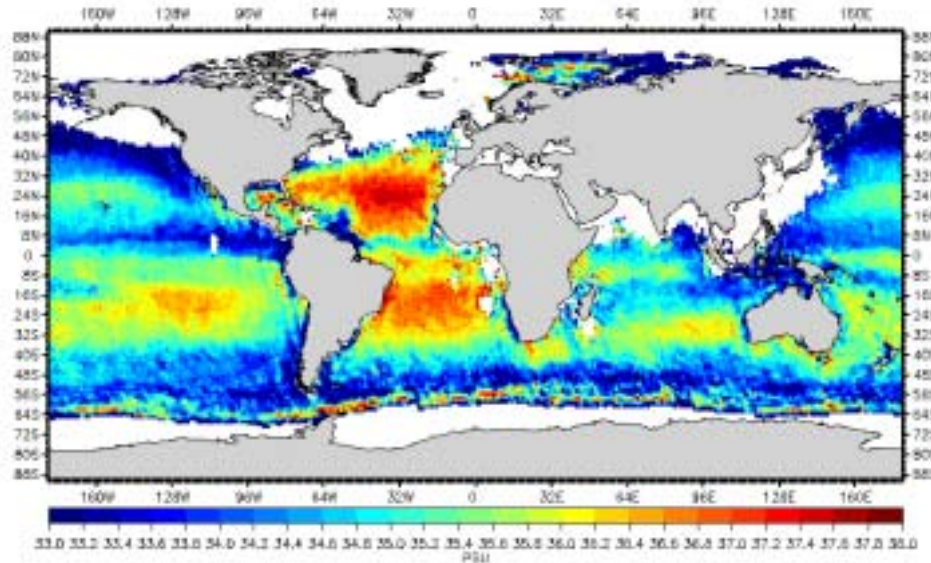
- SMOS  $T_b$ s after removal of a systematic bias estimated over an ascending orbit in the south east Pacific (50S-10N ascending orbit on 5th August)

- ECMWF wind and SST fields as prior

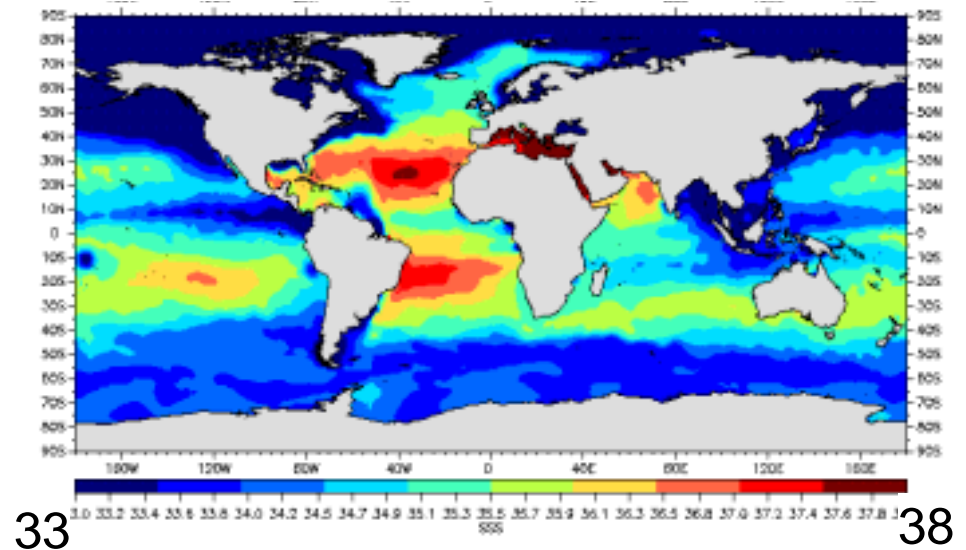
**10days-100km SSS maps computed from averages of SMOS SSS weighted by their spatial resolution and error (derived by the retrieval)**

# SSS retrieved along track in July 2010 L2 v5.00 Ascending & center swaths

L1 v500



ARGO objective analysis (Gaillard et al.



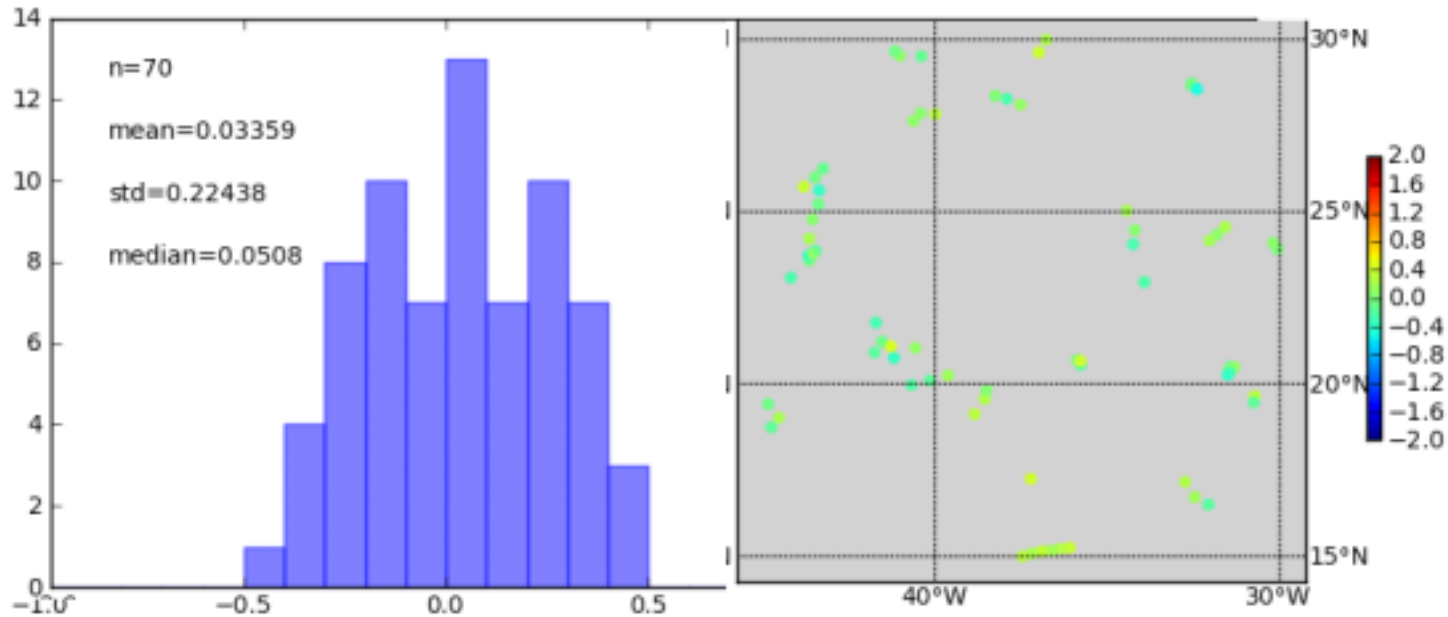
Spatial features of SSS well reproduced:  
-Salty Atlantic & Subtropics  
-fresh convergence zones & high latitudes, Amazon plume )

-Some biases remain close to land and ice  
(*Pb in image reconstruction under study*)  
-Spots of low SSS in the Southern Ocean  
-RFI in northern oceans and close to asiatic coasts prevent from SSS retrieval

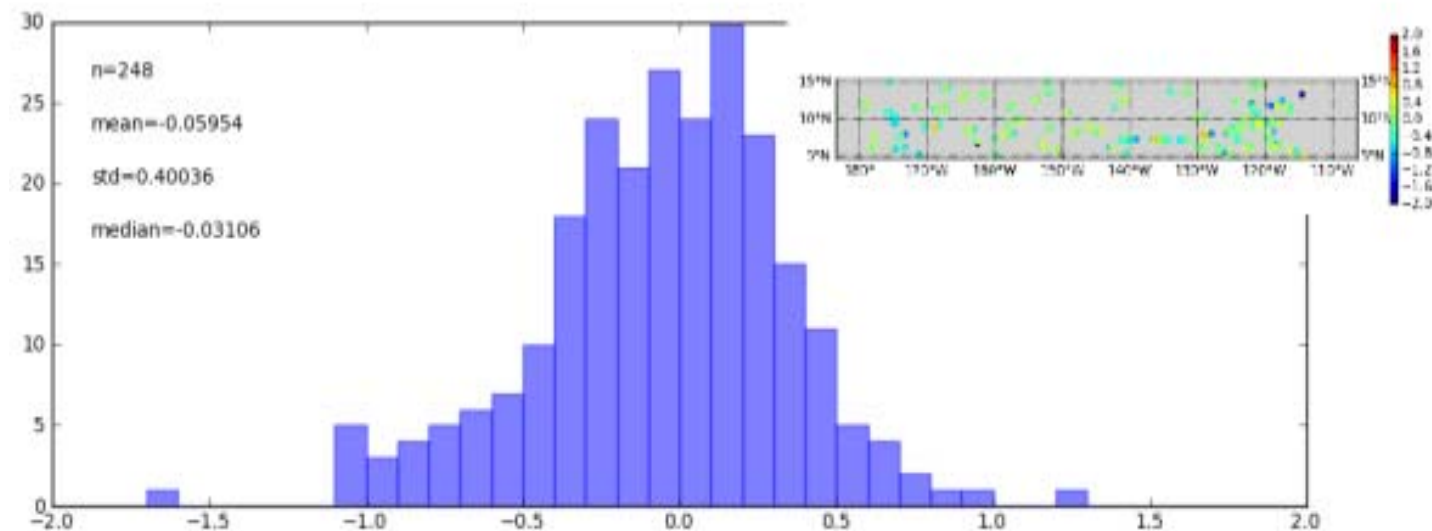
Comparison with ARGO (SMOS averaged at +/-5 days and +/-50km around ARGO SSS):  
Mid-latitude (0-30N) : precision 0.2 to 0.4 (in rainy ITCZ region)  
High latitudes (50S-30S): precision 0.6

# Comparison SMOS-ARGO SSS (SMOS 10 days-100x100km<sup>2</sup>)

Smos vs Argo - July 2010 - [15N30N-45W30W] - Orbit A - Coloc[R=50km; $\Delta T \pm 5$ days] -  $|X_{smos}| \in [0;300km]$  - Smean



Subtropical  
Atlantic



ITCZ Pacific



# First SSS products from SMOS generated at the Centre Aval des Données SMOS

Nicolas Reul<sup>1</sup>, J. Tenerelli<sup>2</sup>, J. Boutin<sup>3</sup>, B. Chapron<sup>1</sup>,  
F. Gaillard<sup>4</sup>, CATDS & GLOSCAL teams

<sup>1</sup>IFREMER, Laboratoire d'Océanographie  
Spatiale, LPO<sup>4</sup>, Plouzané, France

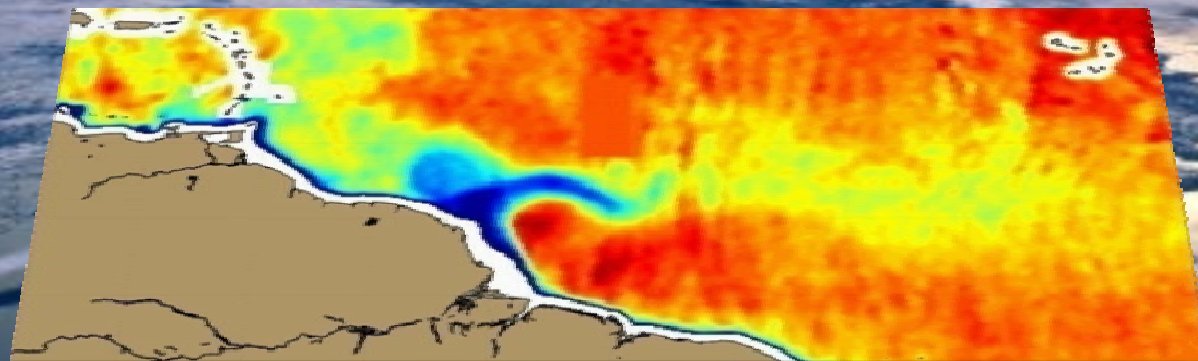
<sup>2</sup>CLS, Plouzané, France

<sup>3</sup>LOCEAN, Paris



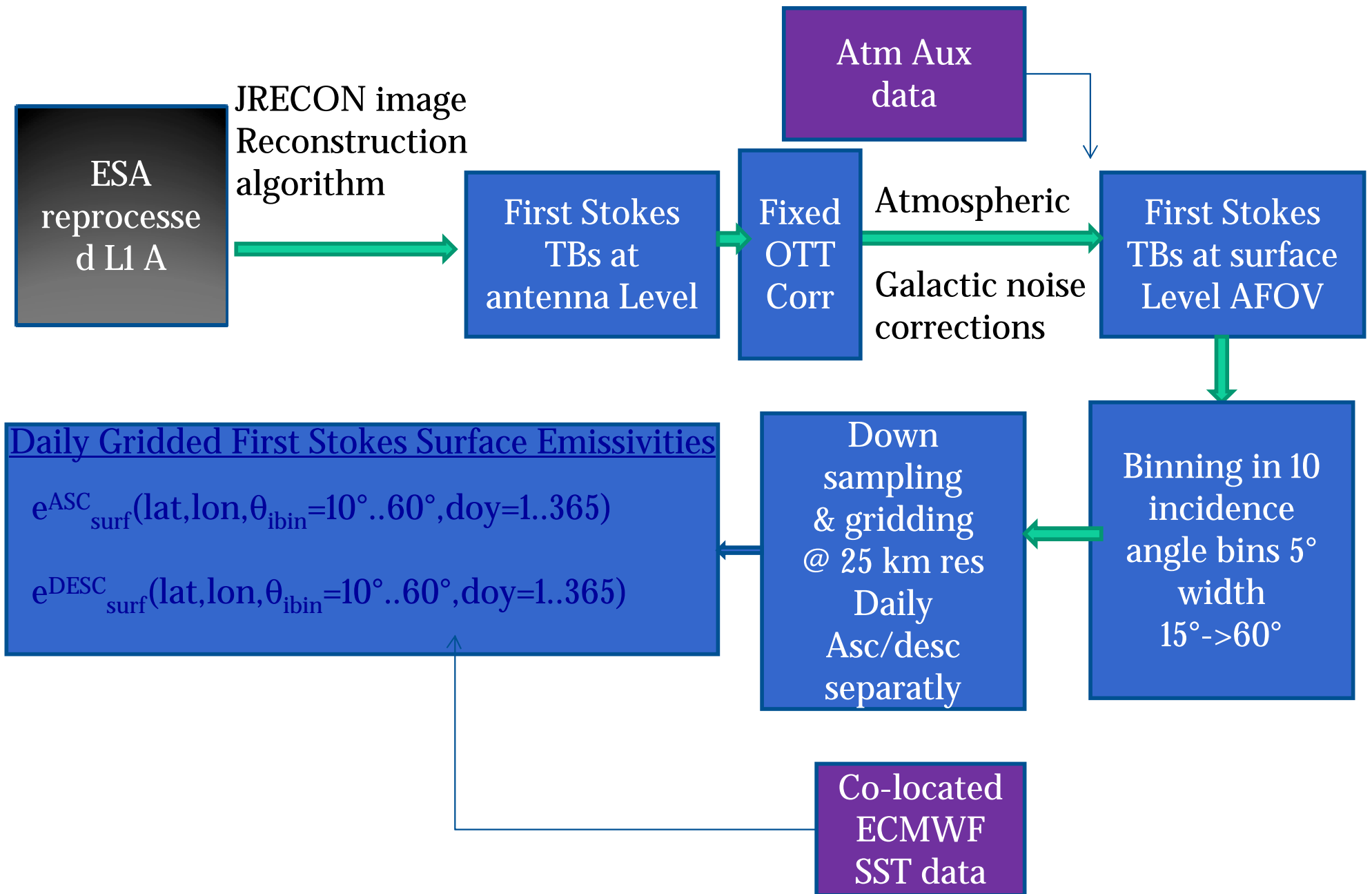
for more informations, see the dedicated web site:

<http://www.salinityremotesensing.ifremer.fr/>

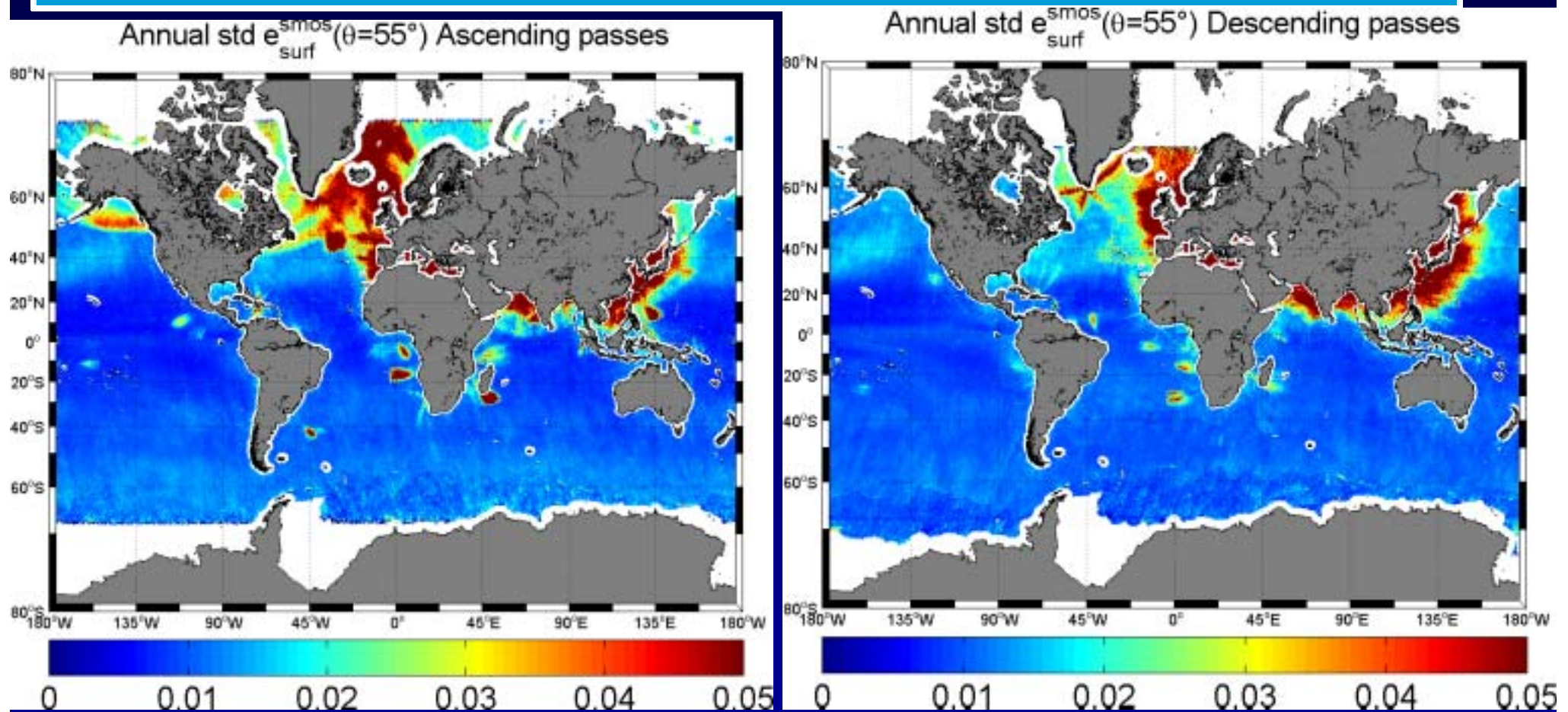




# Algorithm Overview: Part I From L1A to Surface emissivities

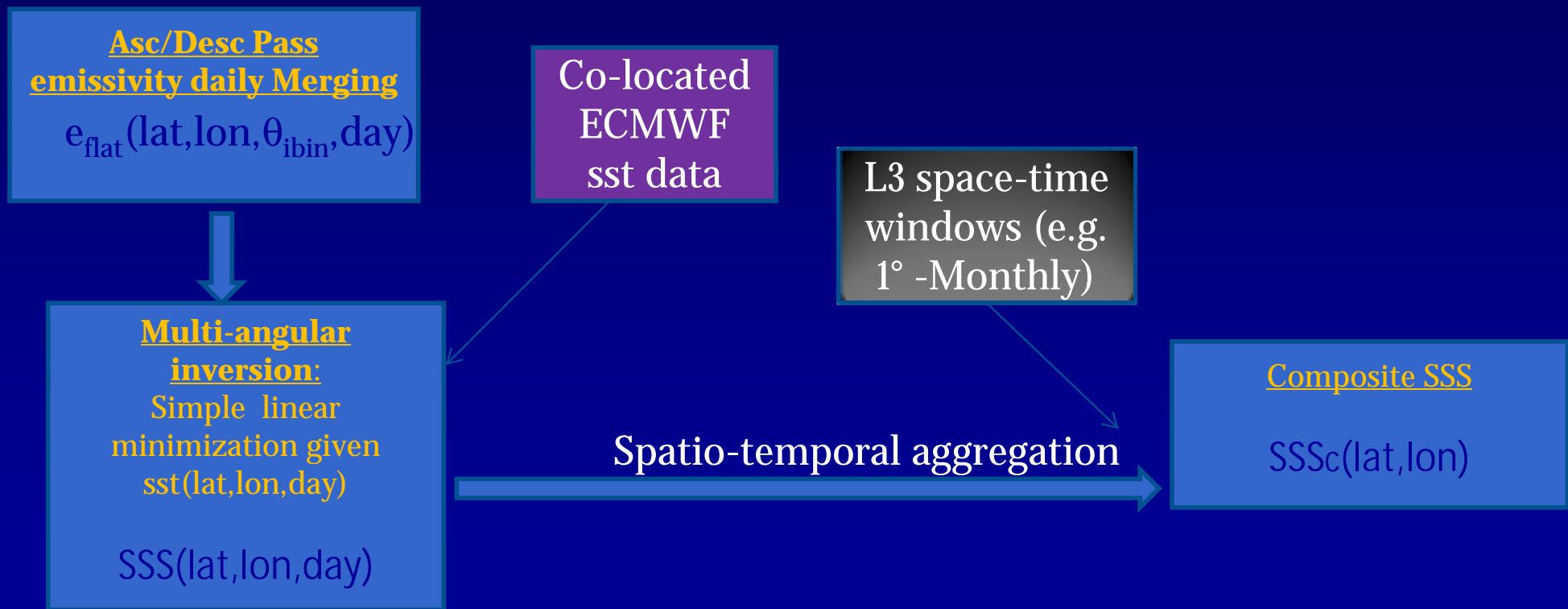


# The RFI contamination issue Over the oceans



Annual Variance of the surface emissivity over 2010 from  $15^\circ$  to  $55^\circ$  incidence  
-both passes  
All area with variances higher than 0.03-0.04 are clearly RFI contaminated zones

# Algorithm Overview: Part III: emissivity data composite and SSS inversion



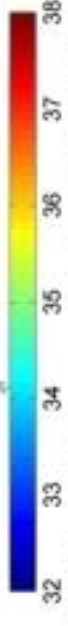
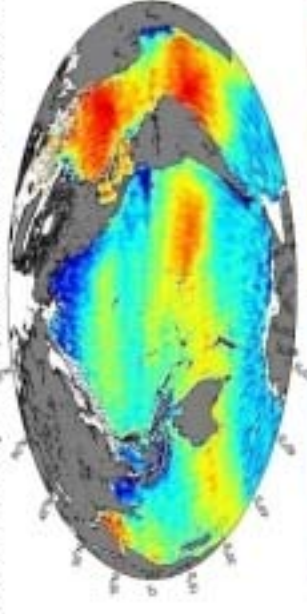
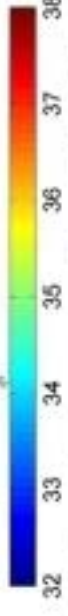
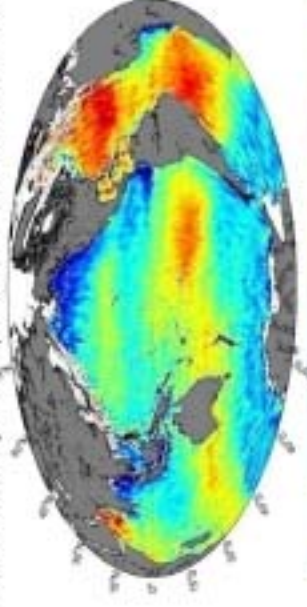
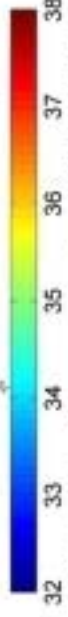
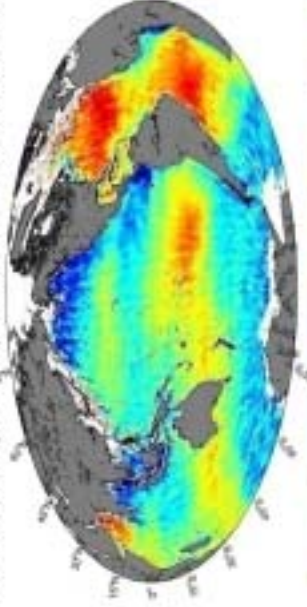
# The L3 SSS CATDS-CECOS Products

Product Validation  
&  
Oceanographic consistency

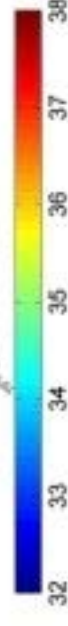
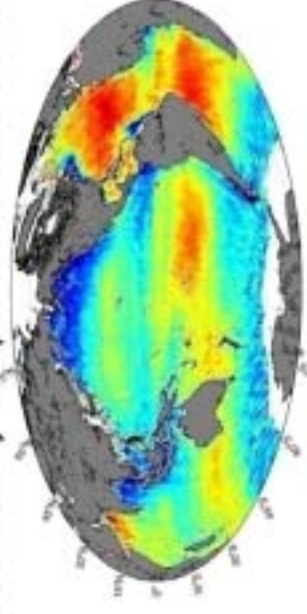
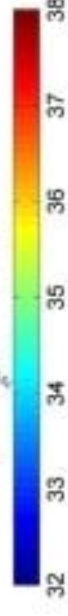
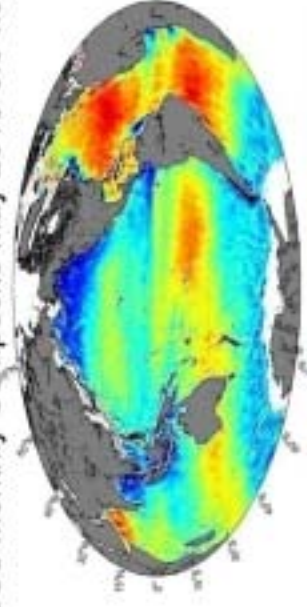
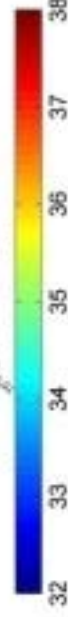
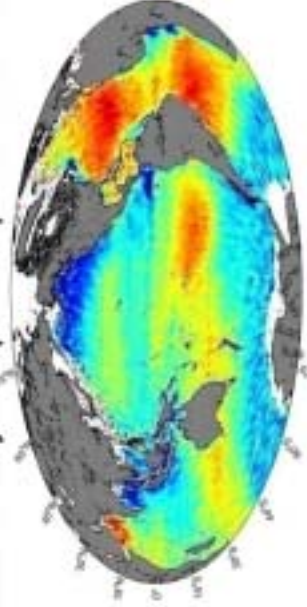


# Exemple Monthly products at 0.5° Res: January to June 2010

SSS Monthly Composite Jan 2010-0.5°x0.5° SSS Monthly Composite Feb 2010-0.5°x0.5° SSS Monthly Composite Mar 2010-0.5°x0.5°



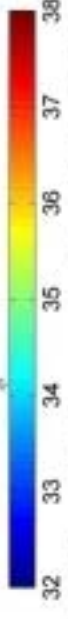
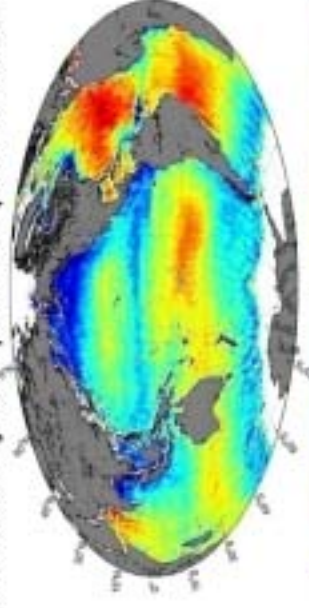
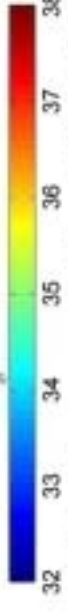
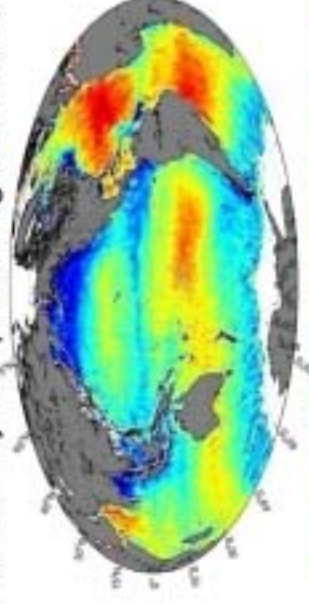
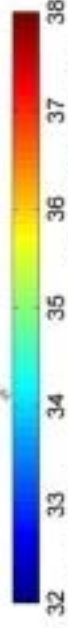
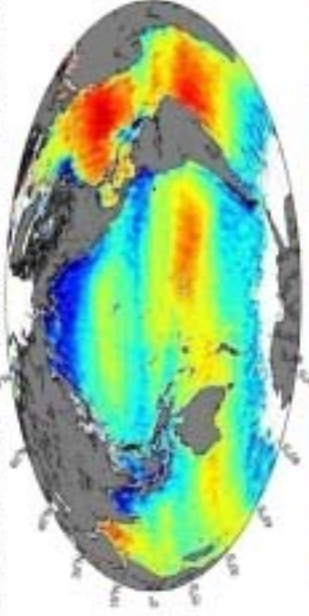
SSS Monthly Composite Apr 2010-0.5°x0.5° SSS Monthly Composite May 2010-0.5°x0.5° SSS Monthly Composite Jun 2010-0.5°x0.5°



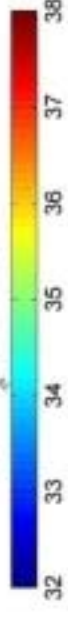
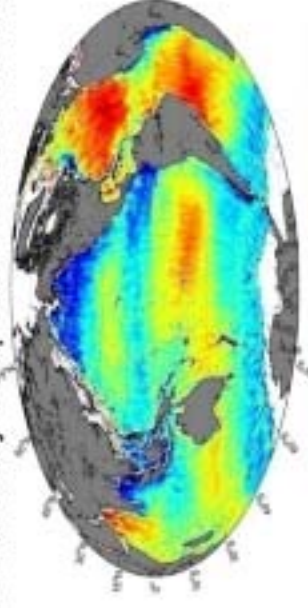
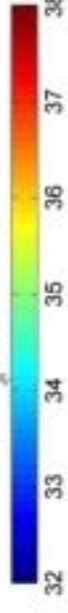
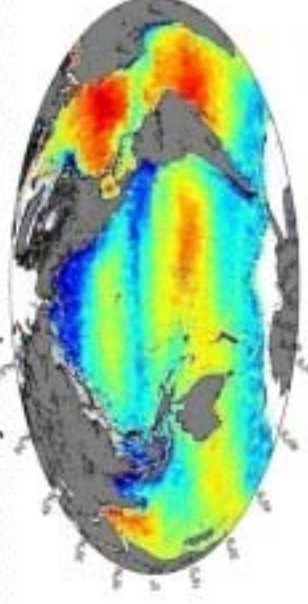
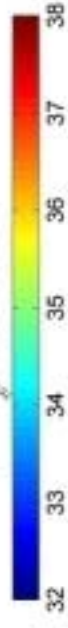
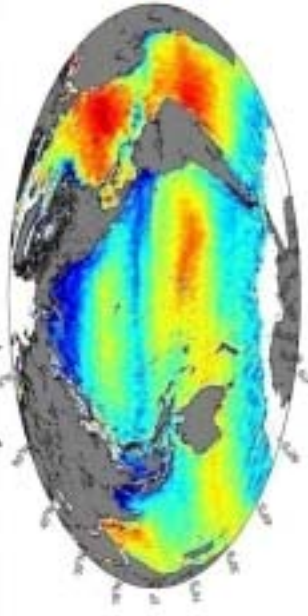


# Exemple Monthly products at 0.5° Res: July to December 2010

SSS Monthly Composite Jul 2010-0.5°x0.5° SSS Monthly Composite Aug 2010-0.5°x0.5° SSS Monthly Composite Sep 2010-0.5°x0.5°



SSS Monthly Composite Oct 2010-0.5°x0.5° SSS Monthly Composite Nov 2010-0.5°x0.5° SSS Monthly Composite Dec 2010-0.5°x0.5°



# Averaged Spatial Distribution of $\Delta SSS = SSS_{in\ situ} - SSS_{SMOS}$

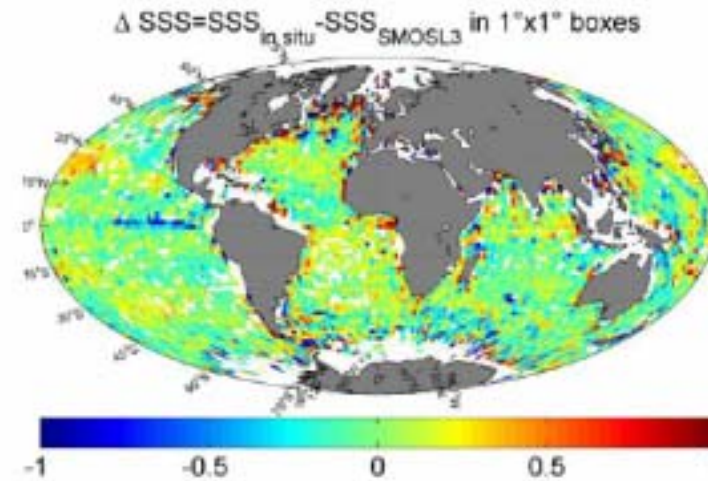


Figure: Spatial distribution of  $SSS_{in\ situ} - SSS_{SMOS}$  monthly composite data at  $0.25^\circ$  resolution after averaging the  $\Delta SSS$  2010 data over  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  boxes. Left: Map centered on the Pacific. right: same map but centered on the Atlantic. Note that positive values signify  $SSS_{SMOS} < SSS_{in\ situ}$

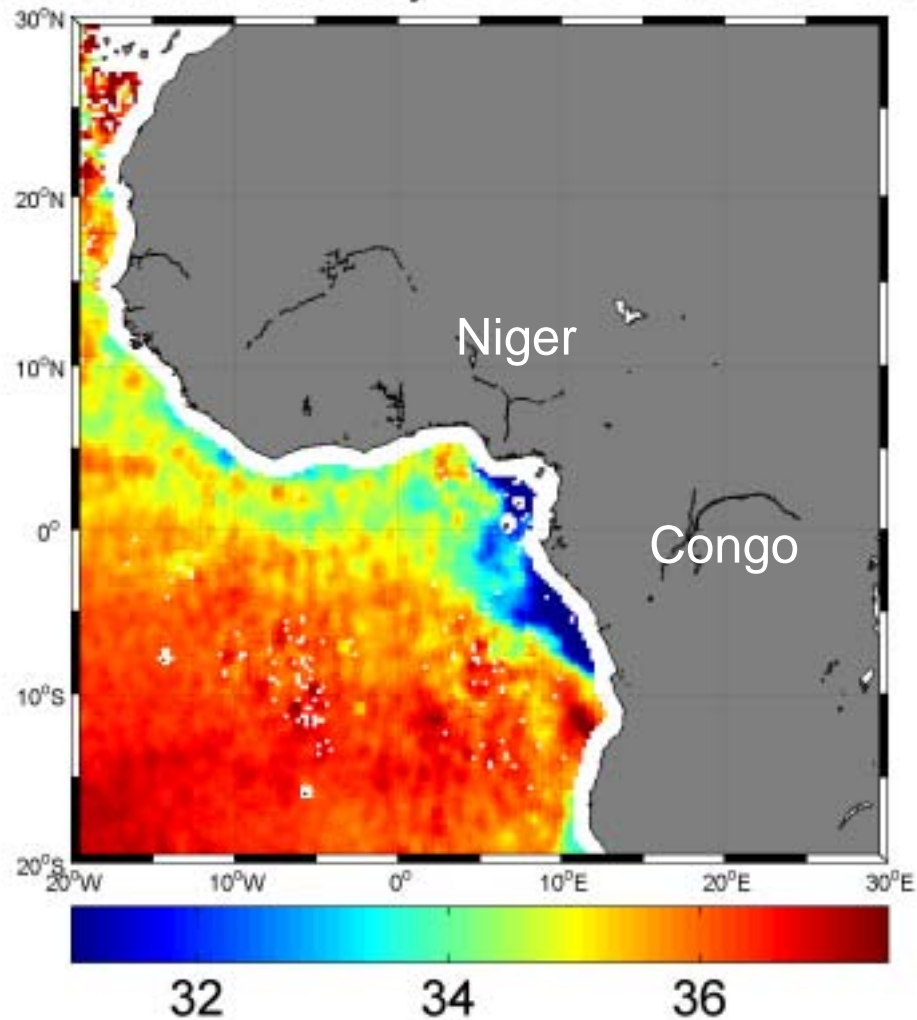
TABLE III: SMOS LEVEL 3  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  MONTHLY COMPOSITE  $\Delta SSS$  95% PERCENTILE ERROR STATISTICS (PSS) OVER THE COMPLETE YEAR 2010

STATISTICS	GLOBAL OCEAN	ARCTIC OCEAN	NORTH ATLANTIC	TROPICAL ATLANTIC	SOUTH ATLANTIC	NORTH PACIFIC	TROPICAL PACIFIC	SOUTH PACIFIC	INDIAN OCEAN	SOUTHERN OCEAN
Mean	0.0060	1.6256	-0.0473	0.0698	0.0528	0.0132	0.0170	-0.0151	0.0279	-0.0266
Standard Deviation	<b>0.2876</b>	1.0250	0.5720	<b>0.2775</b>	0.2580	0.3046	<b>0.2525</b>	0.2095	<b>0.2470</b>	0.2559

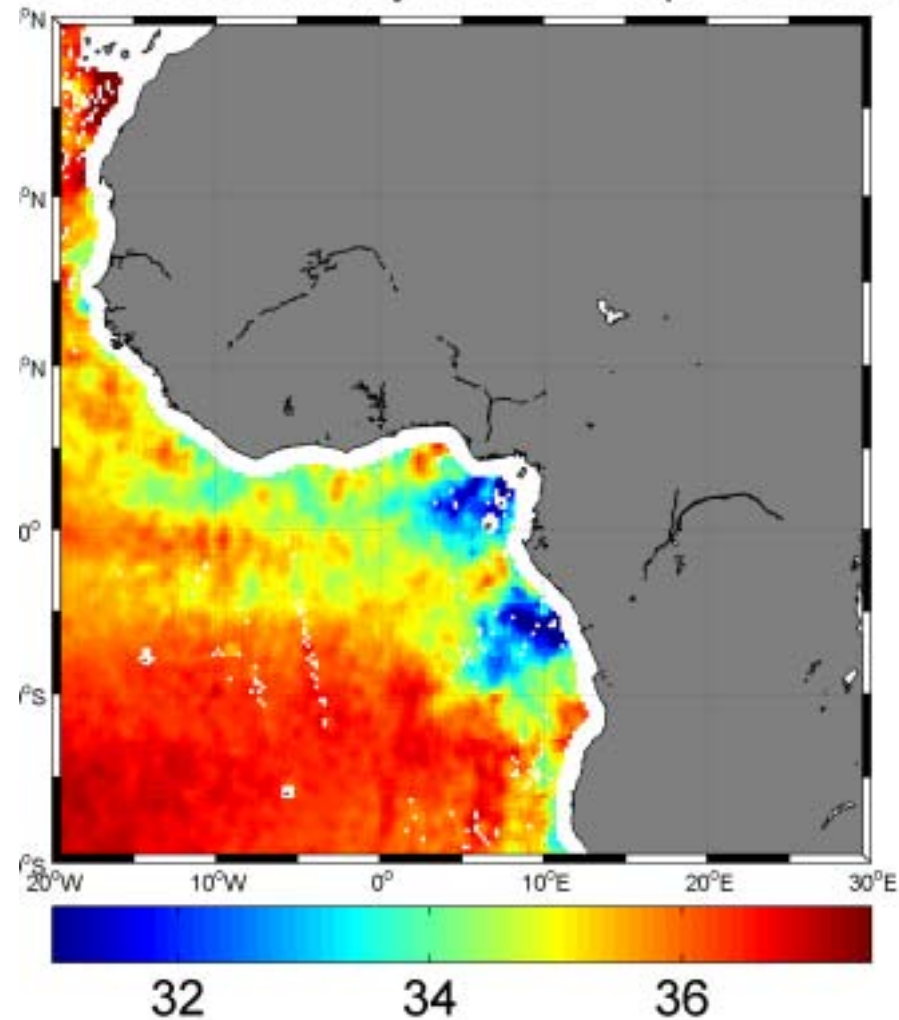


# Fresh water plumes in the Gulf of Guinea

2010 SMOS Monthly L3 SSS -Jan 0.25°x0.25°



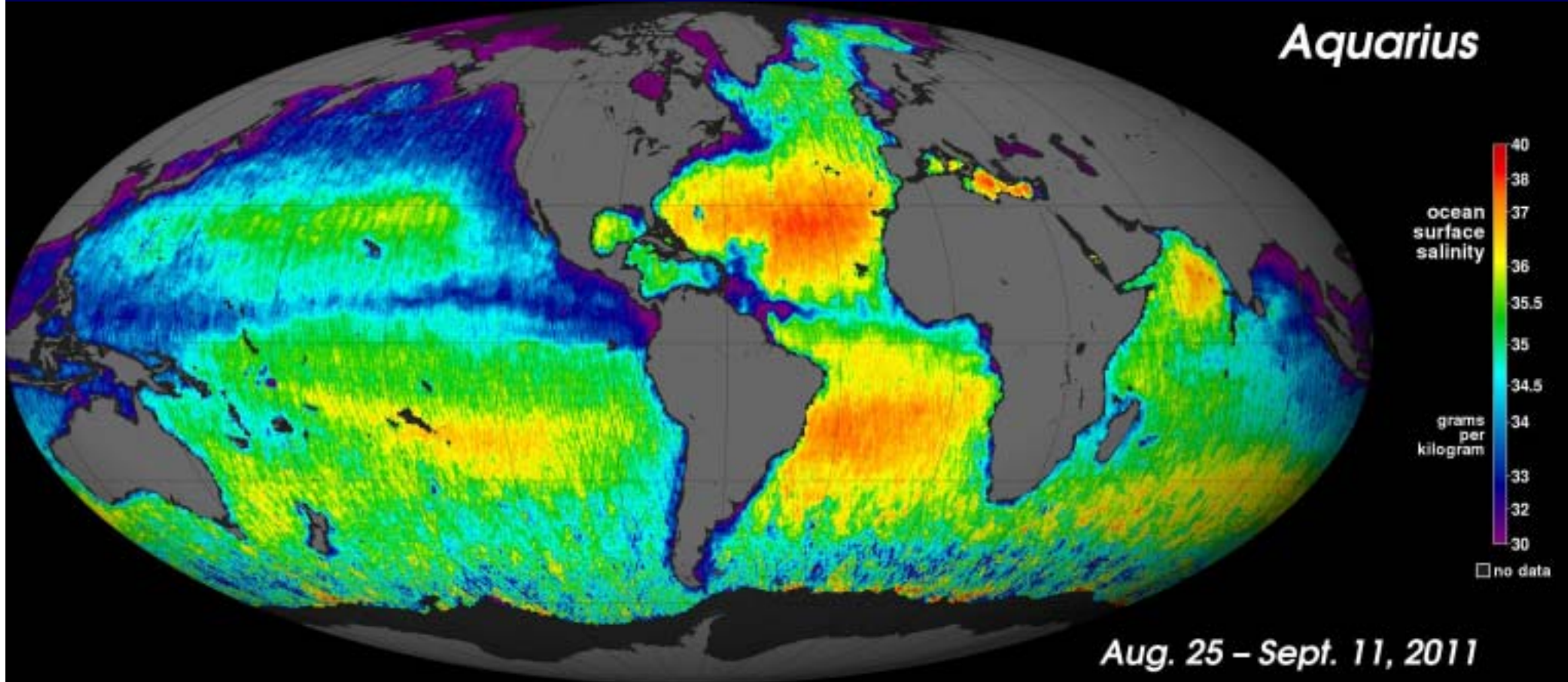
10 SMOS Monthly L3 SSS -Apr 0.25°x0.25°



# SSS SMOS

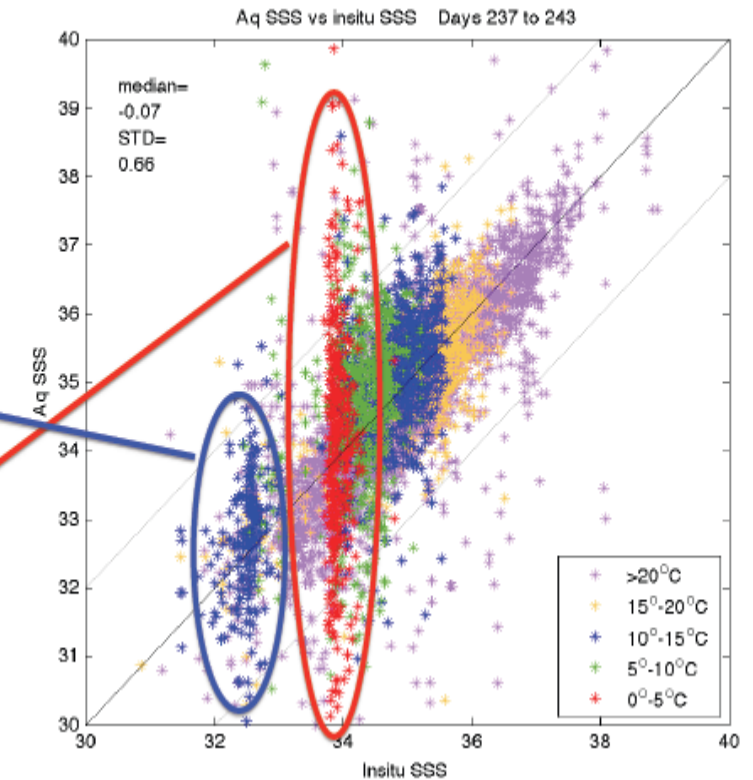
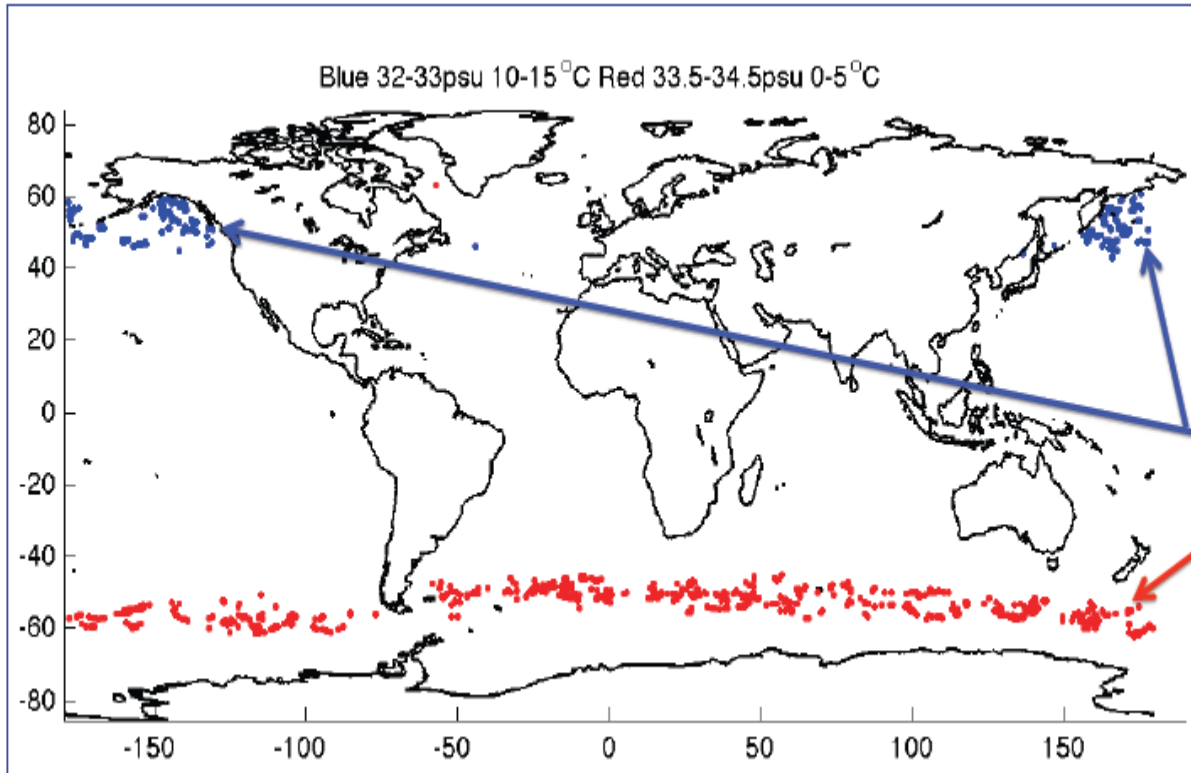
- Reprocessing ESA (v5.xx. dispo début 2011): des bugs (soleil) corrigés, inversion itérative => cohérence des Tb le long de dwell lines et inversion d'un vent 'radiométrique'
- Traitement CEC CATDS (2010 dispo): des bugs L1 corrigés, filtrage des Tb/angle d'incidence => amélioration du tri RFI, inversion simple

# First SSS image from Aquarius (NASA)



Less affected by RFI than SMOS but  
roughness issue in the SO and radiometer drifts  $\sim 0.1\text{K/week}$

# First comparisons of Aquarius and Argo SSS



Lagerloef et al, WCRP, 2011





# Summary

- L-band radiometry => remote sensing of SSS works – With today processings, in optimal conditions, SSS precision  $\sim .3$  over 10 days-100km – How can we improve that???
- Still some drifts due to imperfect sun and galactic signal corrections, to imperfect modelling of antenna temperature response (SMOS)
- Interferometer radiometer works ... still room for improvements in image reconstruction and for the conception of future radiometers (respect Nyquist criteria!)