

On the treatment of random and systematic errors in  
satellite data assimilation for NWP

# **CVarBC** **(Constrained Variational Bias Correction)**

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ECMWF/EUMETSAT NWP SAF Workshop  
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# Outline

## ● Background

- The bias correction is an ill-posed problem
- PRIORI information for observation bias

## ● Methodology

- Use of priori information as constraint
- Constrained BC(**CBC**) and Constrained VarBC (**CVarBC**)

## ● **CBC in GRAPES (2014) and CVarBC in ECMWF IFS (2016,2018)**

- Window channel and Upper sounding channels
- **Stratospheric** Temperature sounding AMSUA Ch14

## ● Summary and Discussions

- Using Prior: Radiance Uncertainty (RU)
- Optimal estimate of parameters in CVarBC

# Motivation

$$\delta J = \left\langle \frac{\partial J}{\partial \mathbf{y}}, \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{b} \right\rangle$$

*FSO: Forecast sensitivity to observation  
Over or under bias correction could lead to negative impact*

## ● Interaction between Bias Correction and Quality Control

- **Window channel:** cloud contamination
- Bias estimation for **Non-Gaussian** observations (IR: cold tail; MW: warm tail)

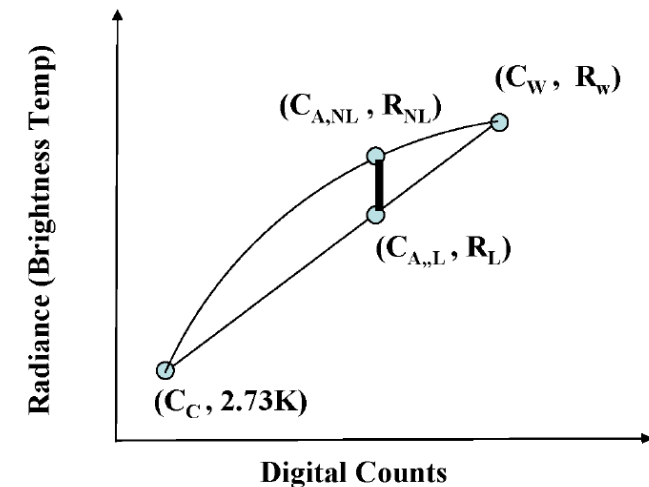
## ● How to separate observation bias and model bias from O-B?

- Temperature sounding channels in **stratosphere**
- **Trace gas** sounding channels, e.g. IASI Ozone channels
- **Humidity** sounding channels
- Developing NWP systems

## ● What did we know about Observation Bias?

- **Radiometric Uncertainty** Estimation
- Systematic differences from **GSICS**
- RT model uncertainty

## ● Using the **PRIORI** information to **constrain BC**

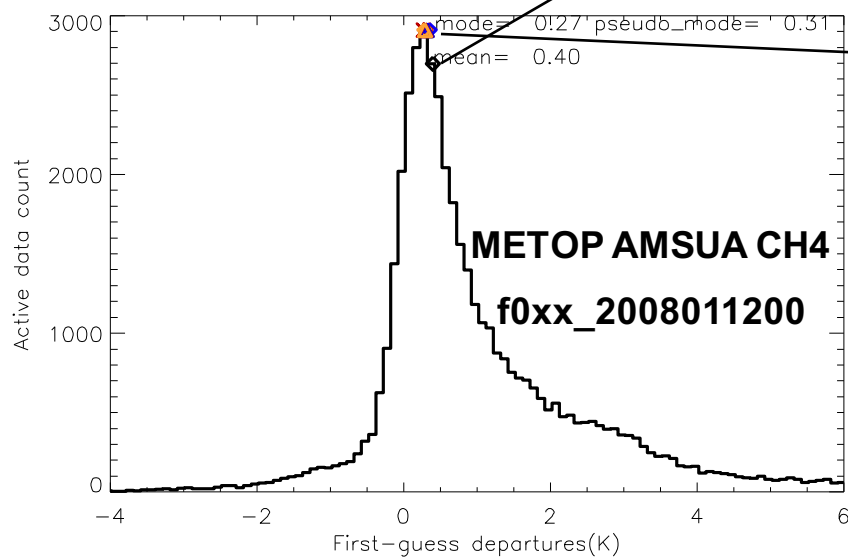
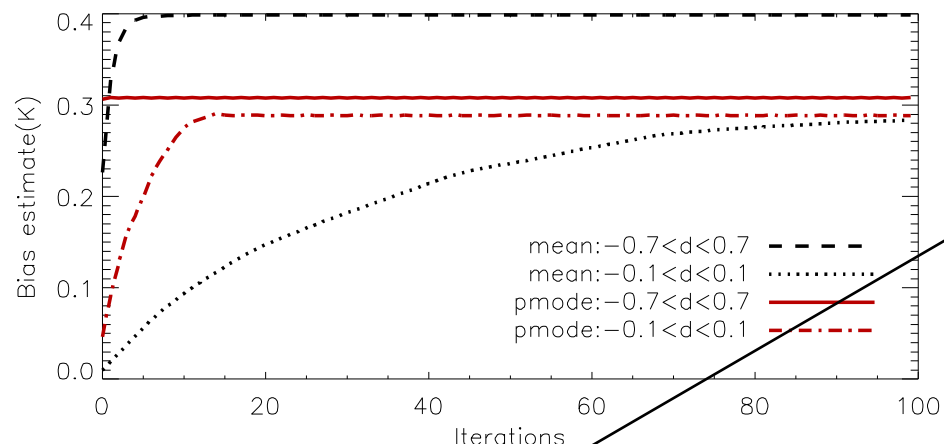


$$R_A = R_C + S(C_A - C_C) + \mu S^2 (C_A - C_C)(C_A - C_W)$$

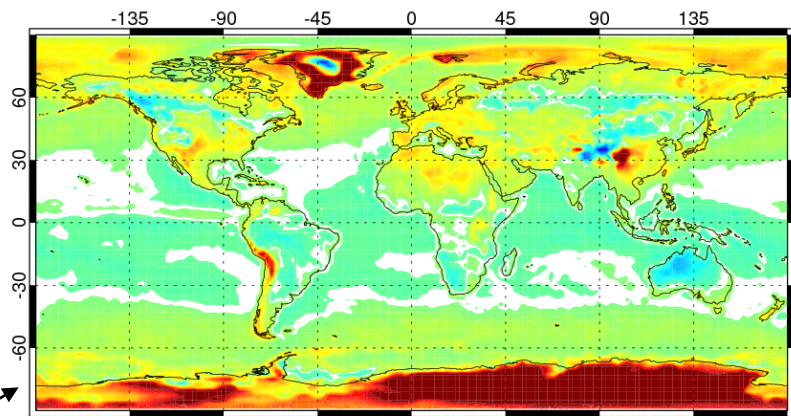
# BC and QC interaction

**Mean:** If bias is estimated by  $\langle O-B \rangle$ , It will strongly depend on the QC,

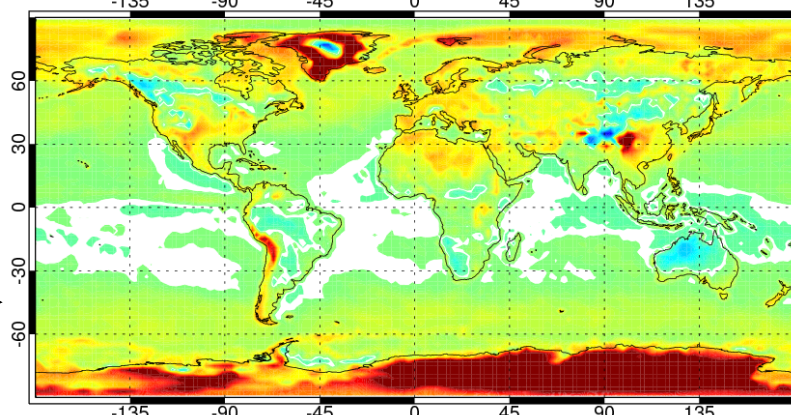
$0.7 \rightarrow b=0.4$ ;  $0.1 \rightarrow b=0.28$



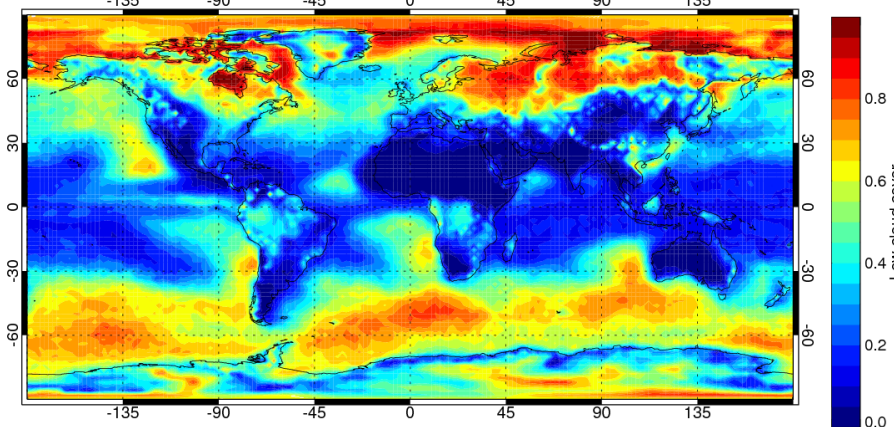
Mean Based 2007D08JF,ECMWF,IFS



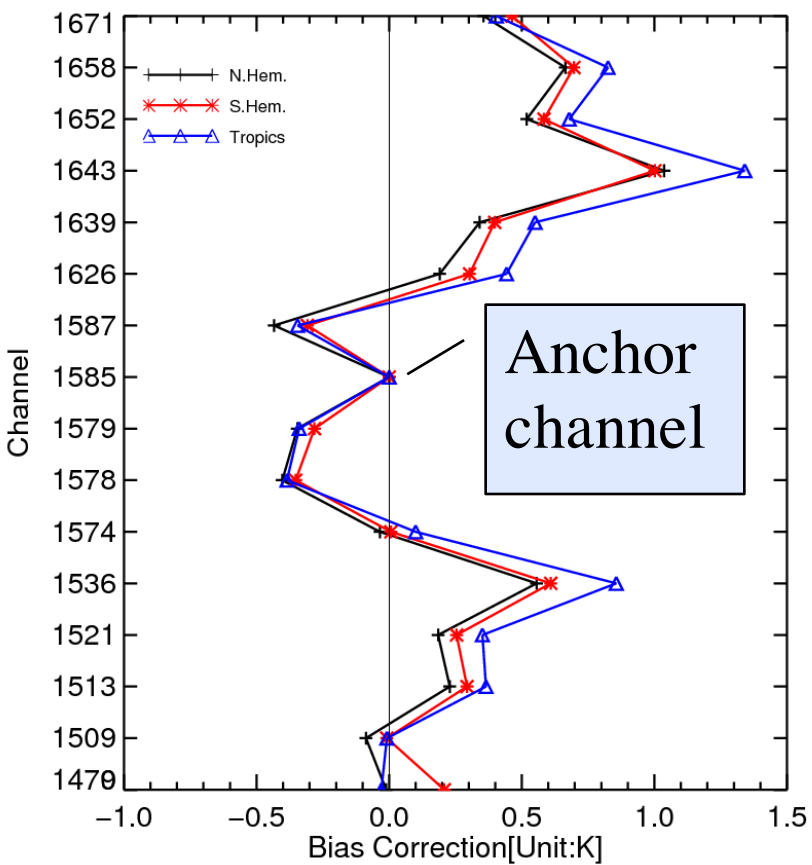
Mode Based



Low cloud cover



# “Anchor channel” method for IASI ozone channels



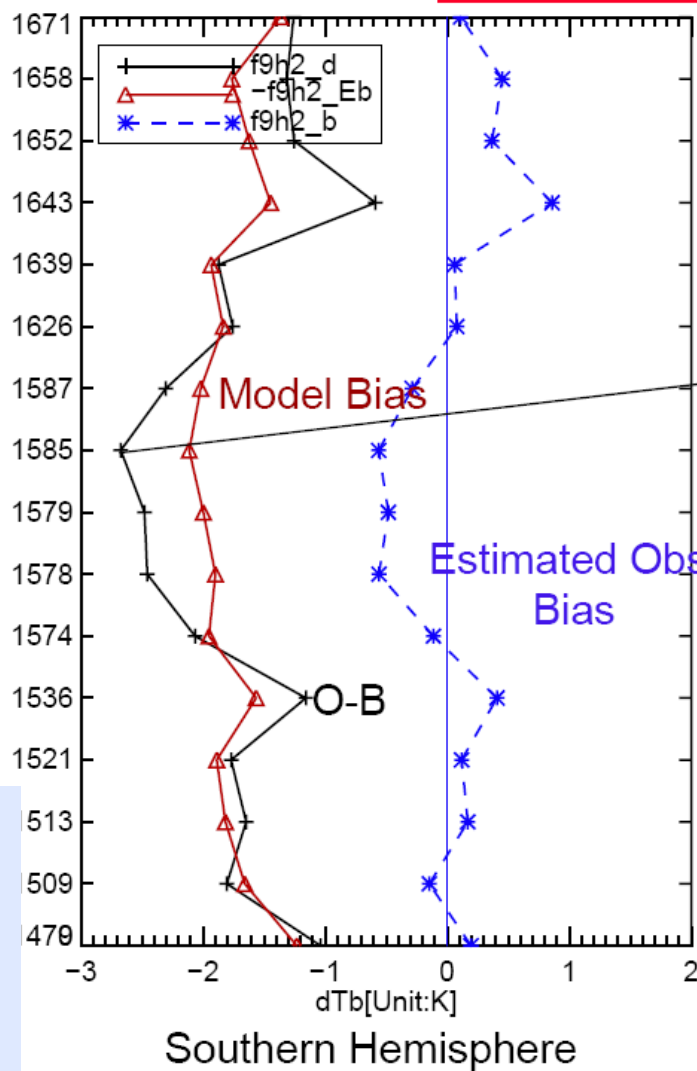
**MLS → Model Bias and Obs. Bias**

$$d = Y_o - Hx = (Y_t + b) - H(X_t + E_b)$$

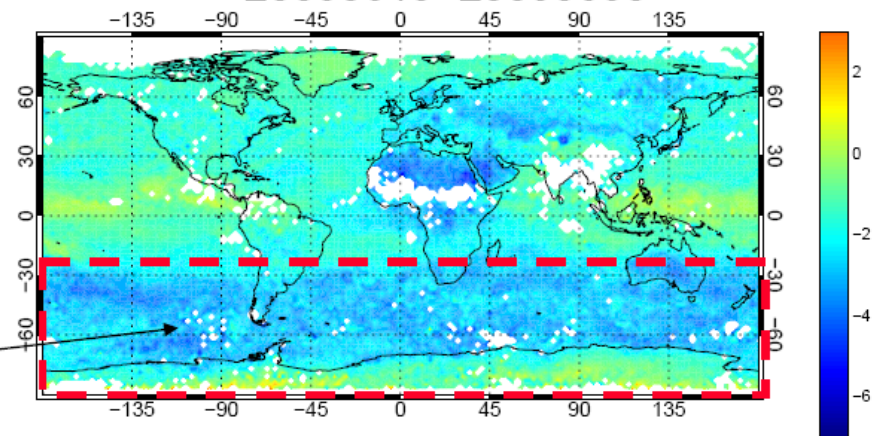
$$\langle d \rangle = \langle b \rangle - H(E_b)$$

$$\langle b \rangle = \langle d \rangle + H(E_b)$$

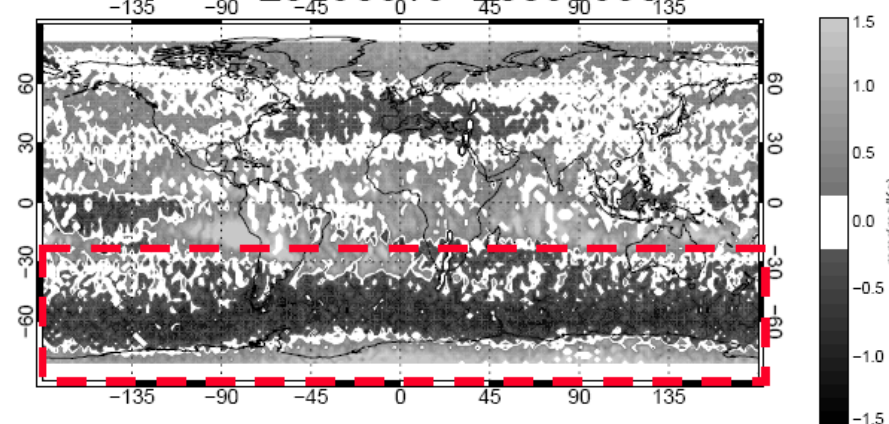
$\langle O-B \rangle, CH1585$



20090615~20090630



20090615~20090630



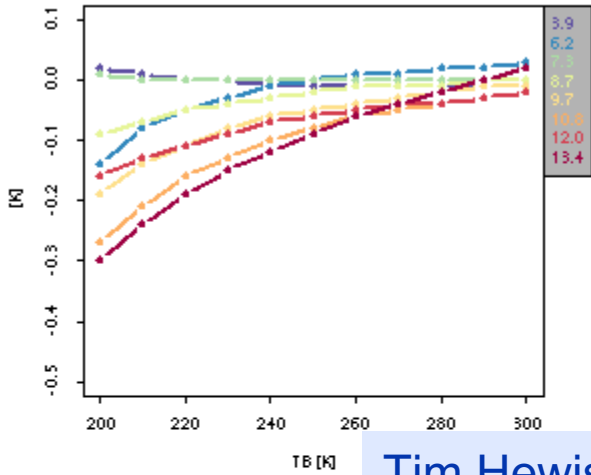
Han W. and McNally AP. 2010: The 4D-Var assimilation of ozone-sensitive infrared radiances measured by IASI. *Q. J. R. Meteorol. Soc.* 136: 2025–2037. DOI:10.1002/qj.708

# Radiometric Uncertainty

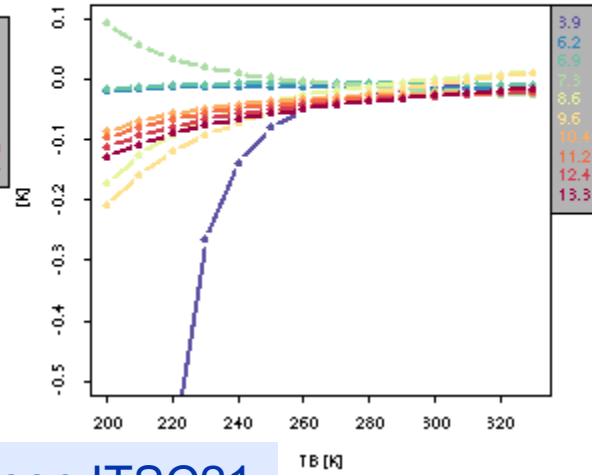
Meteosat-10/SEVIRI IR  
2013-03-01/2017-03-01

Himawari-8/AHI IR  
2015-07-01/2017-06-30

Mean Difference dTb [K]

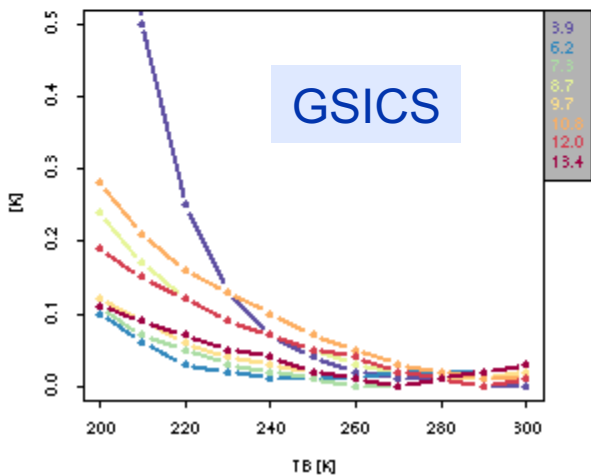


Mean Difference dTb [K]

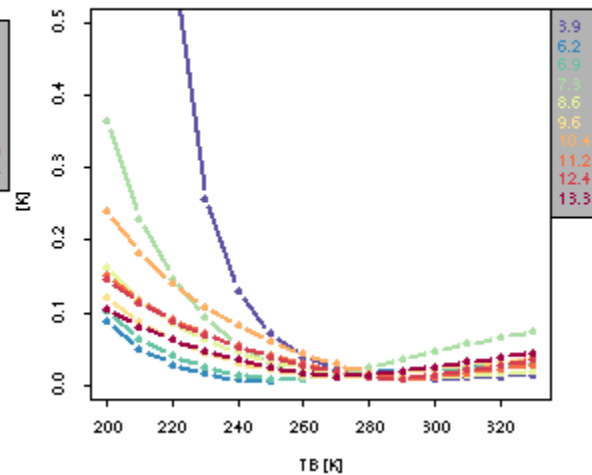


Tim Hewison, ITSC21

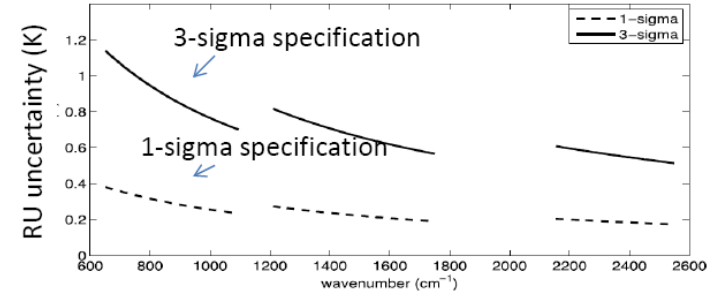
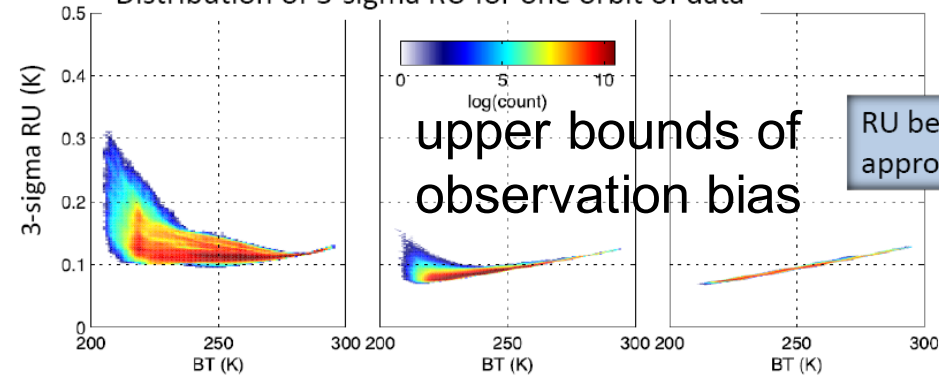
Uncertainty on Mean Difference u(dTb) [K] k=1



Standard Deviation Difference dTb [K]



Distribution of 3-sigma RU for one orbit of data



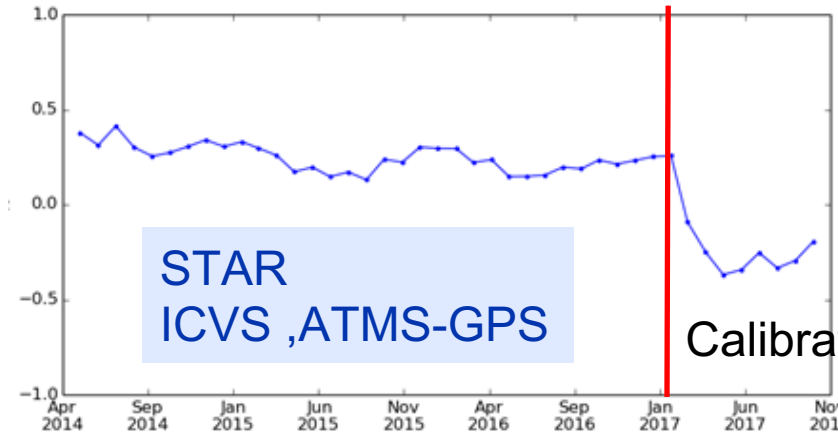
Tobin et al, 2013

Uncertainty specification  
@287K blackbody

Tobin et al. 2013, JGR

S-NPP ATMS Ch.10 O-B Trend w.r.t. GPS RO

57.29034 GHz, over ocean, latitude: [-60,60]

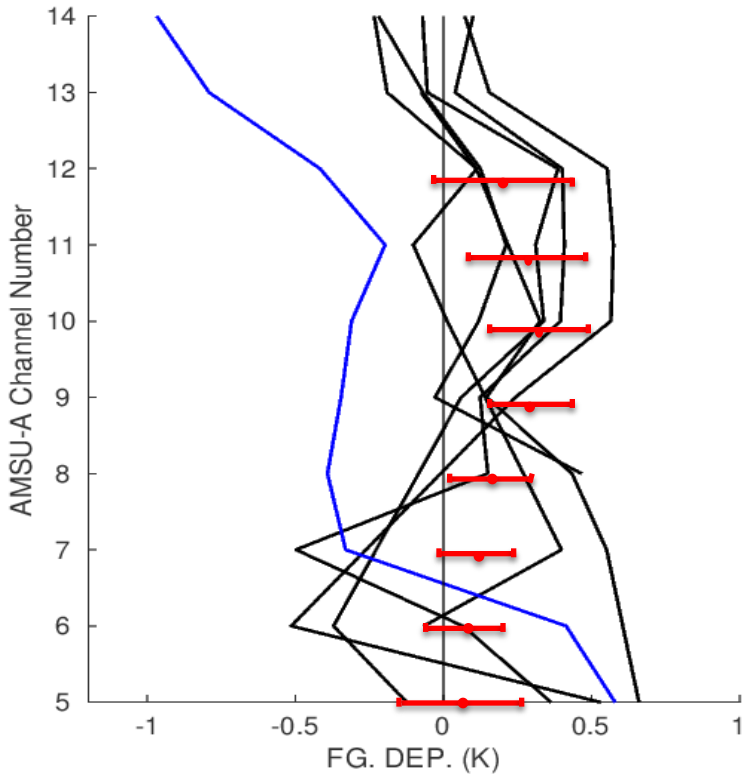


GPS RO as reference

Calibration update

# Uncertainty estimation of Satellite observations: GCOS reference Upper-air Network

GCOS Reference Upper-Air Network



GAIA-CLIM project(ECMWF,UKMO)

# Comparison of IASI radiances with NWP models from four operational centres

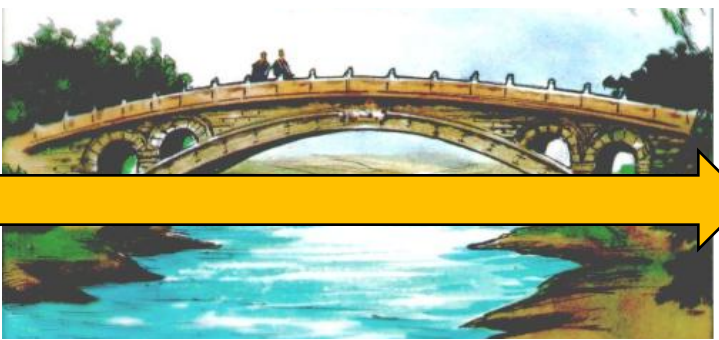
Constrained Bias Correction

Fiona Hilton<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Collard<sup>2</sup>, Lars Fiedler<sup>3</sup>, Lydie Lavanant<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Met Office <sup>2</sup>ECMWF <sup>3</sup>EUMETSAT <sup>4</sup>Météo-France/CMS

How to use the **UNCERTAINTY INFORMATION (Priori)** From GSICS, calibration and RT model in **BIAS CORRECTION**?

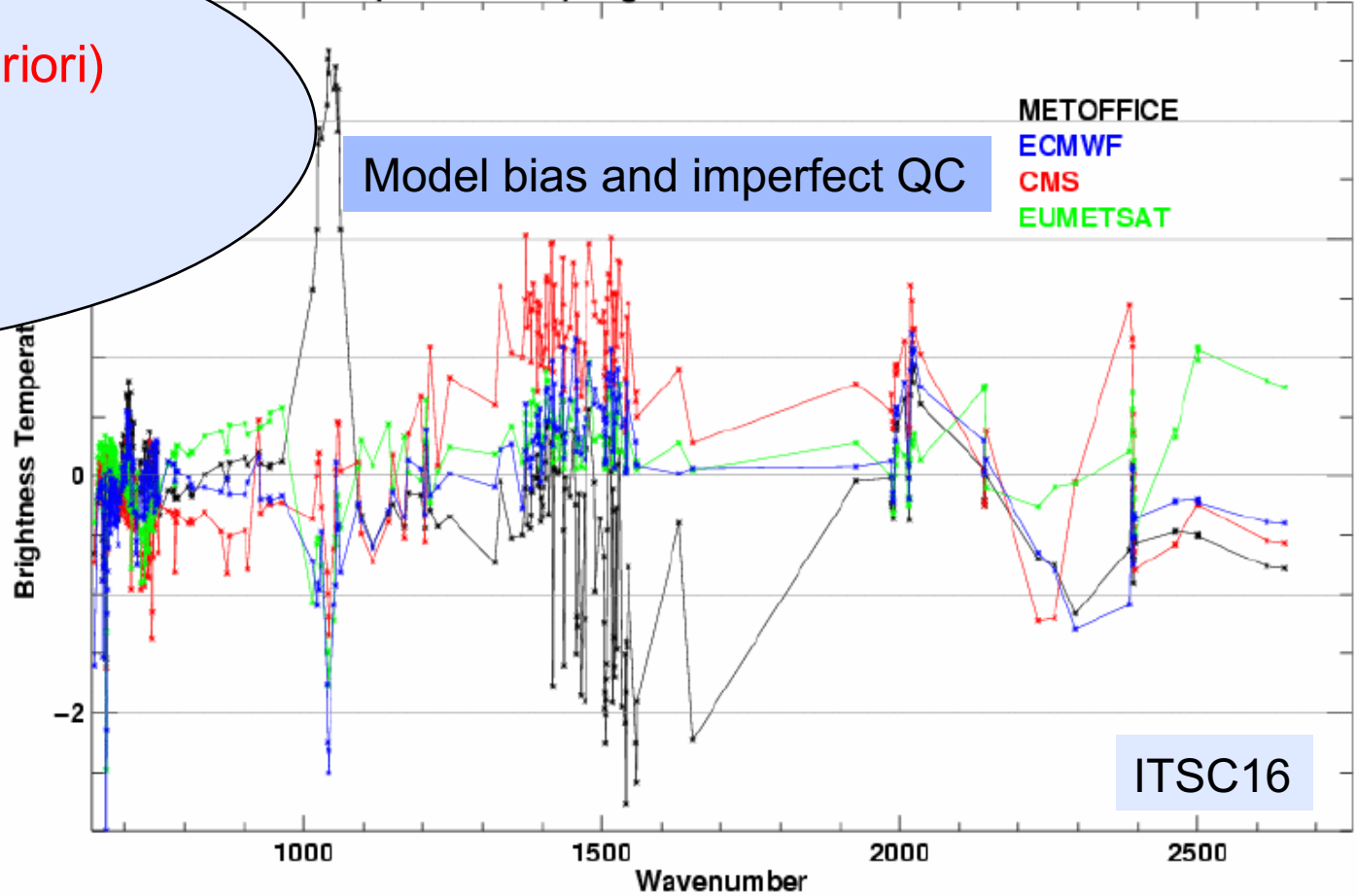
UNCERTAINTY



BIAS CORRECTION

Connect the two GROUP

Mean(Obs - Calc) Night/Sea/Clear No Bias Correction



Model bias and imperfect QC



# Methodology: Constrained Variational Bias Correction (CvarBC)

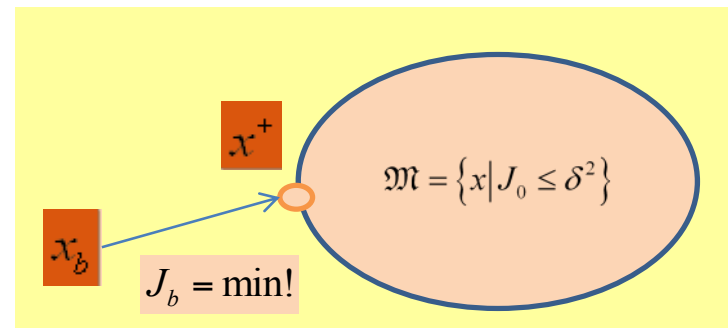
$$2J(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = (\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{B}_x^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x}) + (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b)^T \mathbf{B}_\beta^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b) + [\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})]^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} [\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})]$$

$$||h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - b_0|| \leq \delta^2$$

Constrain the total size of bias correction to each channel  
(Weak Constraint)

$$2J(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = (\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{B}_x^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x}) + (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b)^T \mathbf{B}_\beta^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b) + [\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})]^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} [\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})] + \alpha^2 [h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - \mathbf{b}_0]^T \mathbf{R}_b^{-1} [h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - \mathbf{b}_0]$$

$$\|\mathbf{b}\| \leq \|\mathbf{e}\|_{\text{calibration}} + \|\mathbf{e}\|_{RT \text{ model}} + \|\mathbf{e}\|_{\text{other}}$$



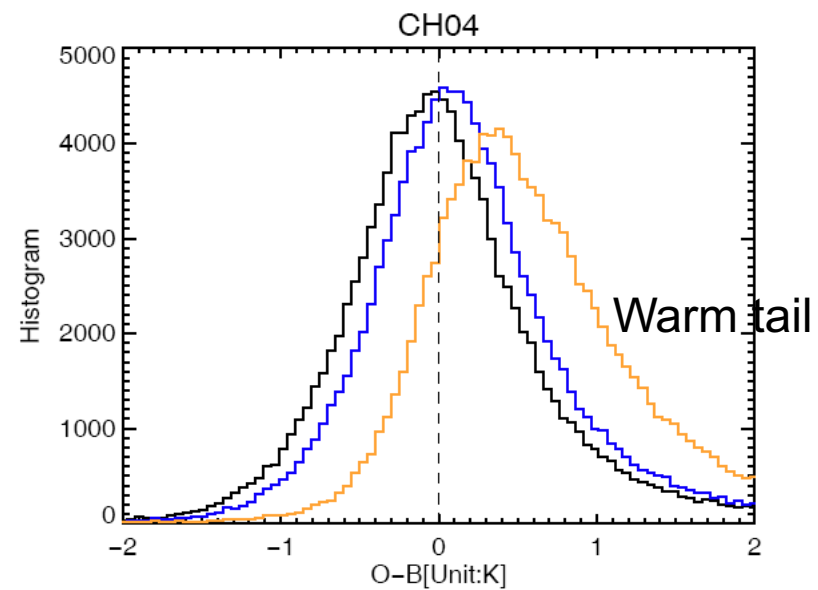
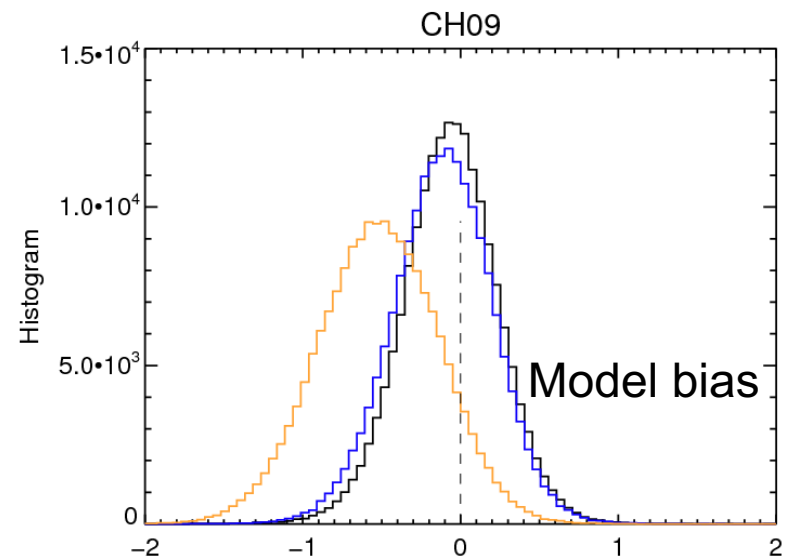
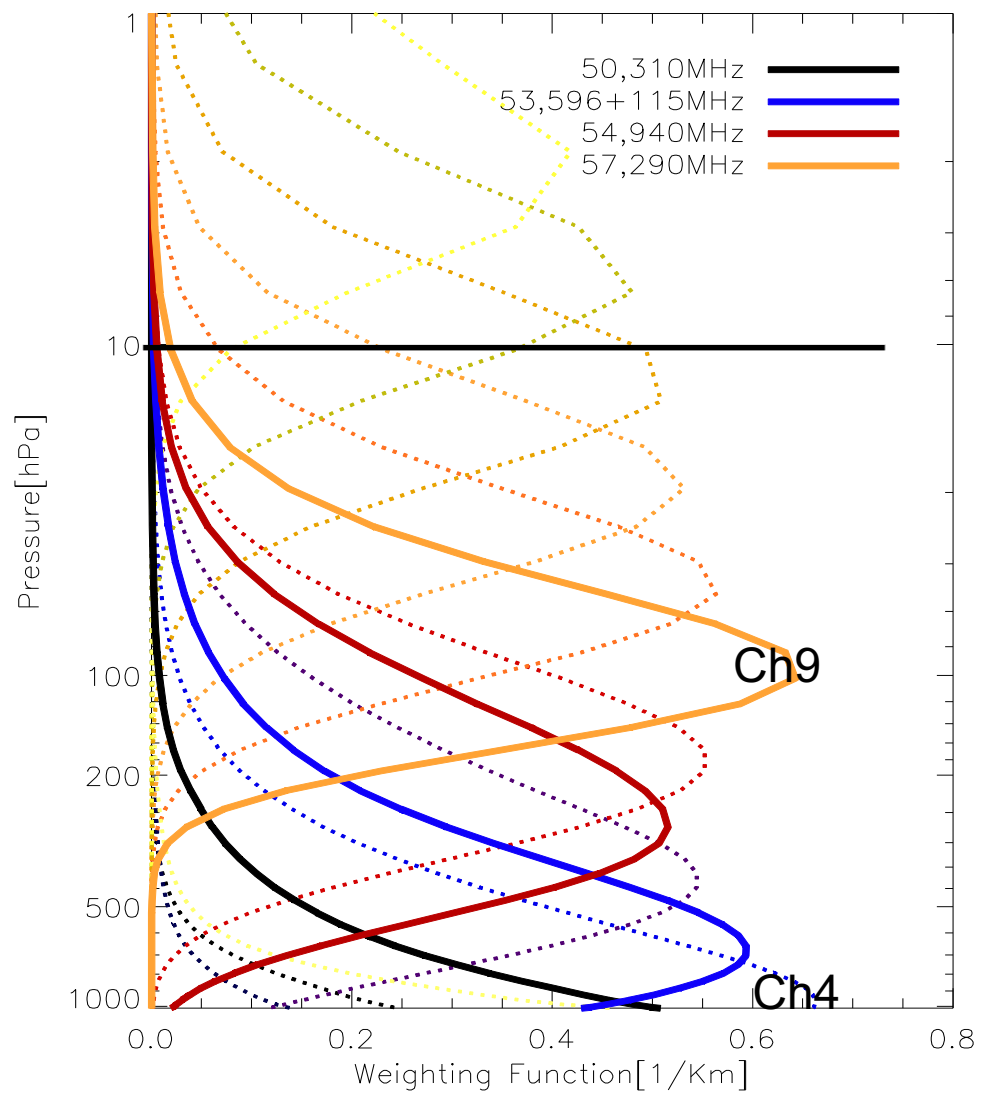
$$J_b = \min_{x \in m} \quad m = \{x \mid J_0 \leq \delta\}$$

$$\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\mathbf{P}\boldsymbol{\beta} = h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})$$

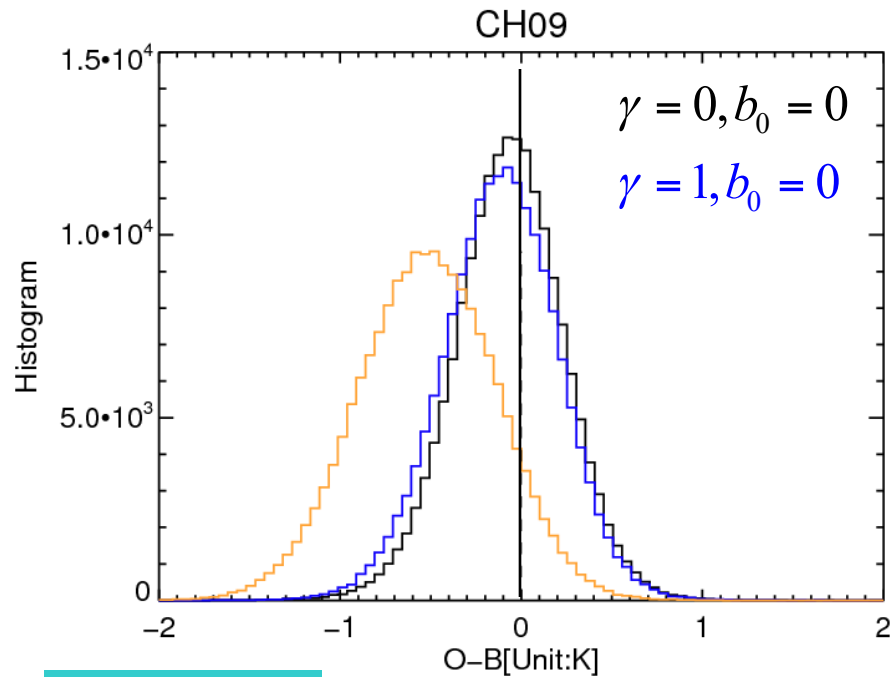
$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} J(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) &= \mathbf{B}_\beta^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b) - \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} [\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{P}\boldsymbol{\beta}] + \alpha^2 \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{R}_b^{-1} [\mathbf{P}\boldsymbol{\beta} - \mathbf{b}_0] \\ &= (\mathbf{B}_\beta^{-1} + \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{P} + \alpha^2 \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{R}_b^{-1} \mathbf{P}) \boldsymbol{\beta} - (\mathbf{B}_\beta^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta}_b + \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{d} + \alpha^2 \mathbf{P}^T \mathbf{R}_b^{-1} \mathbf{b}_0) \end{aligned}$$

# Experiments in GRAPES

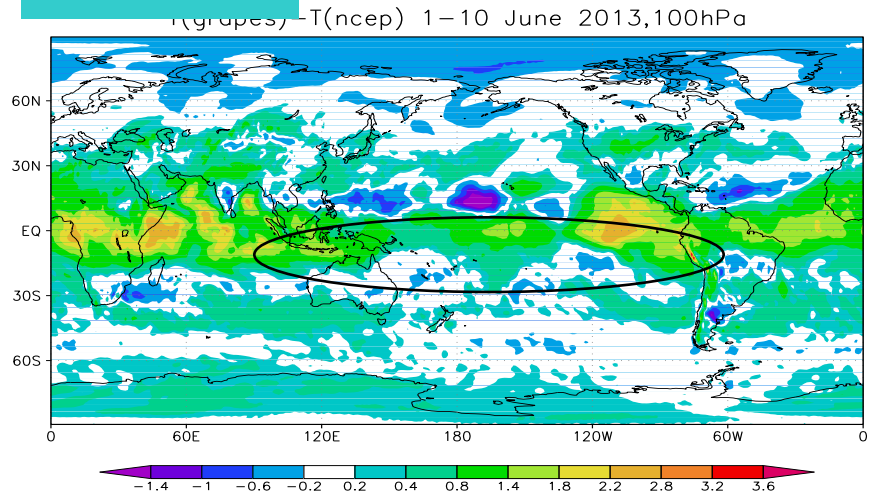


# AMSUA CH9(Metop\_A)

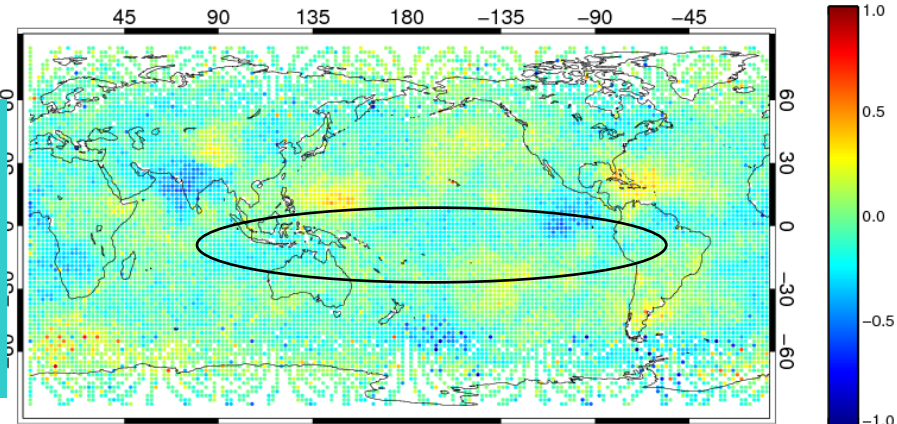
1-10 June 2013



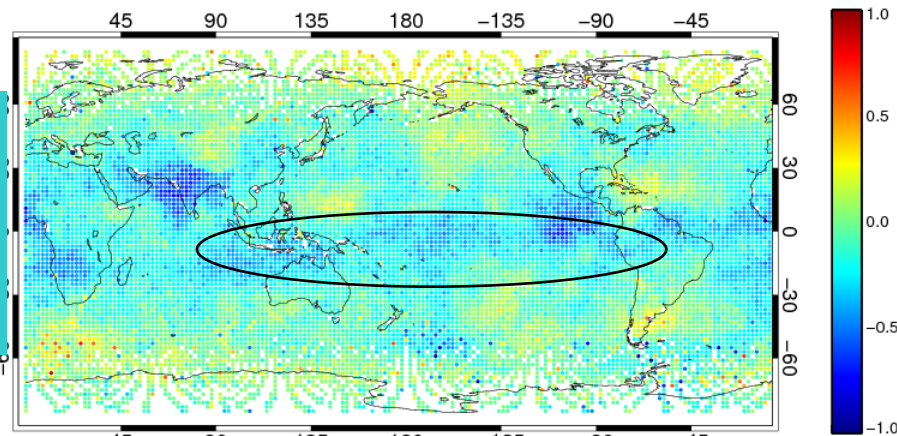
## Model Bias



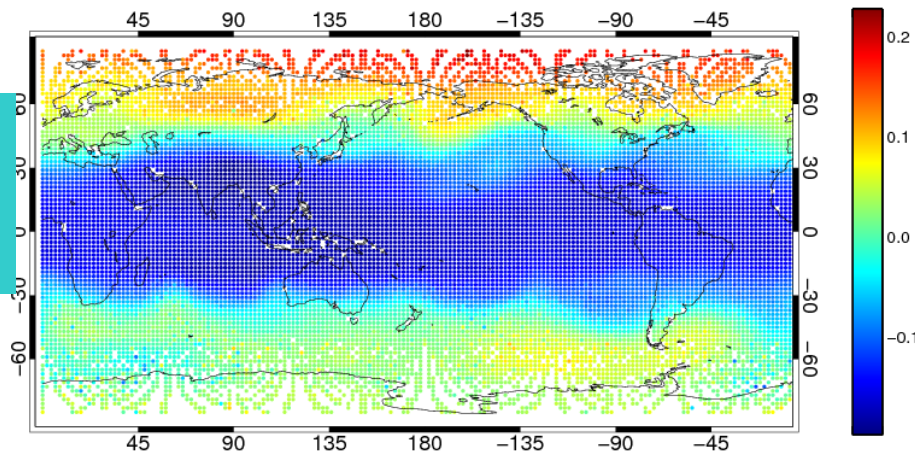
$\langle O-B \rangle_{\text{ori BC}}$



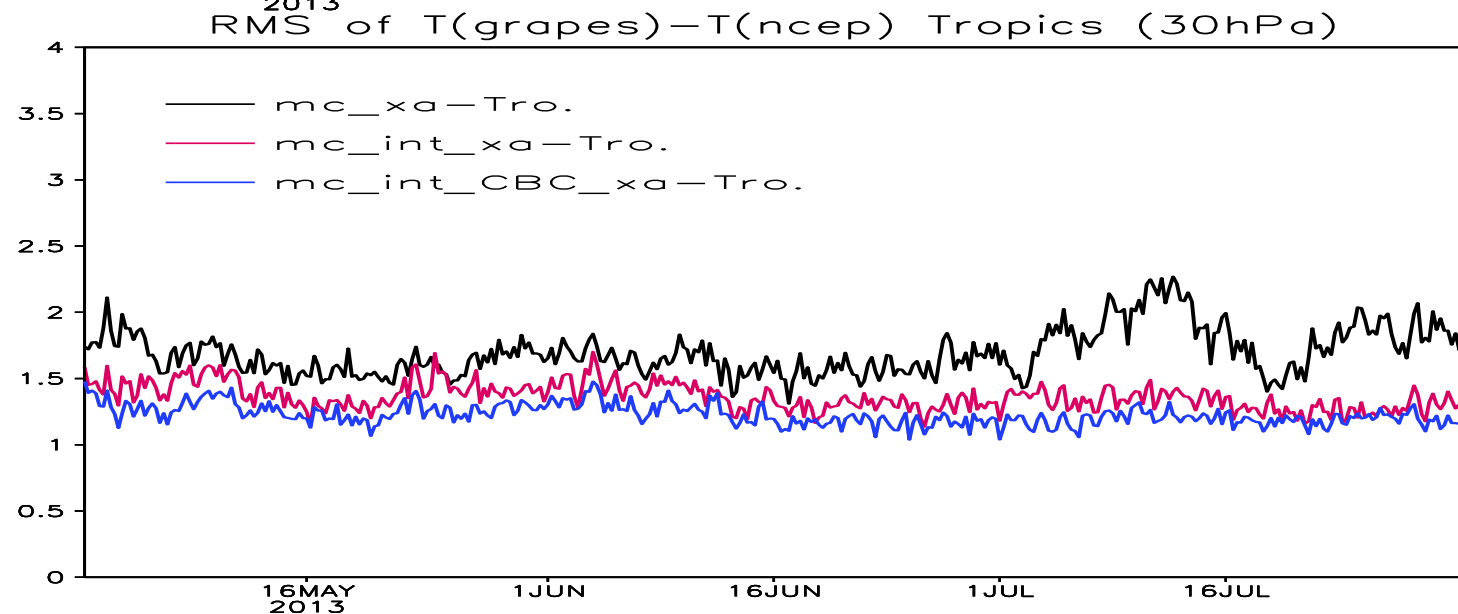
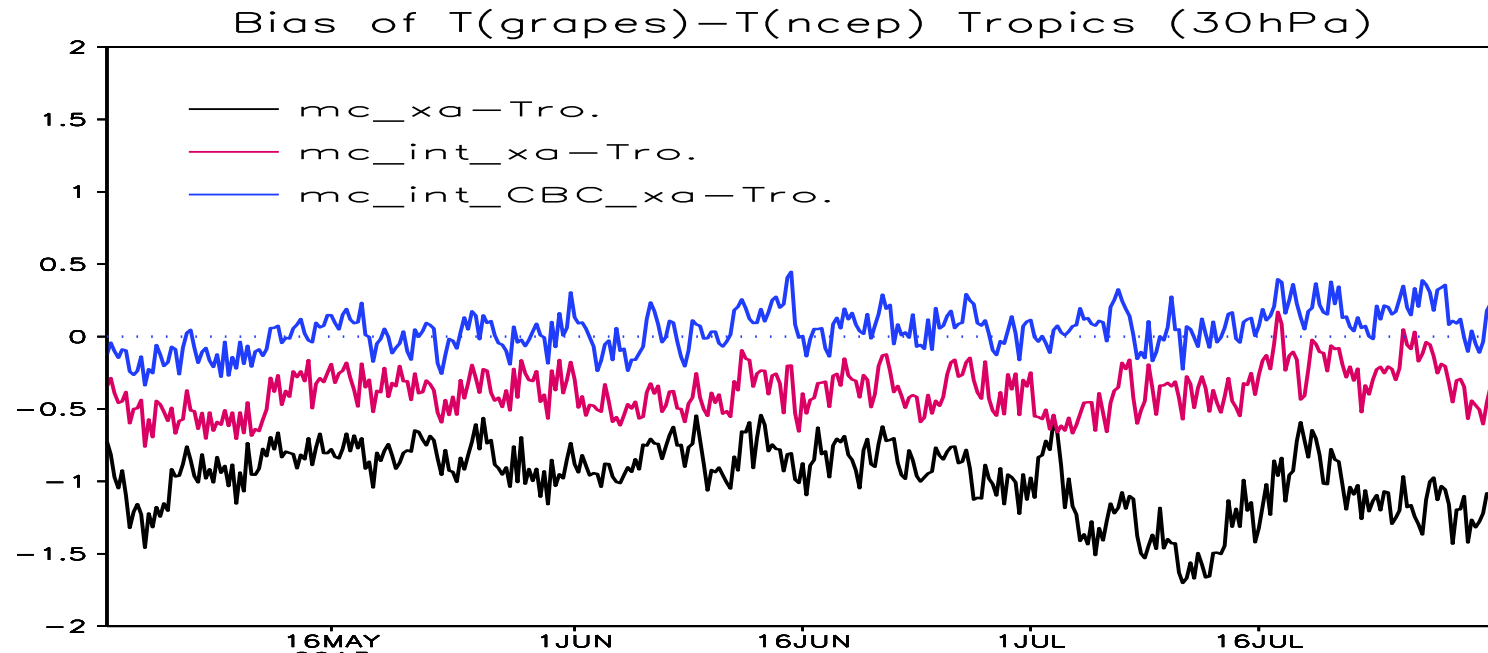
$\langle O-B \rangle_{\text{CBC}}$



$\langle b_1 - b_0 \rangle$



# Two months cycle experiments in GRAPES global May-June 2013

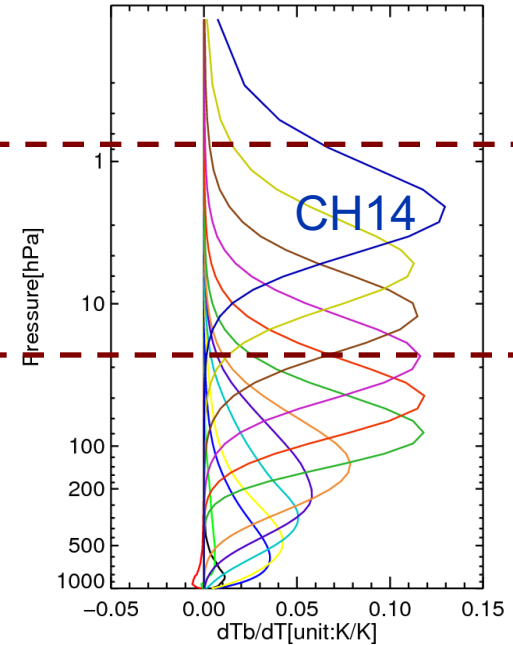
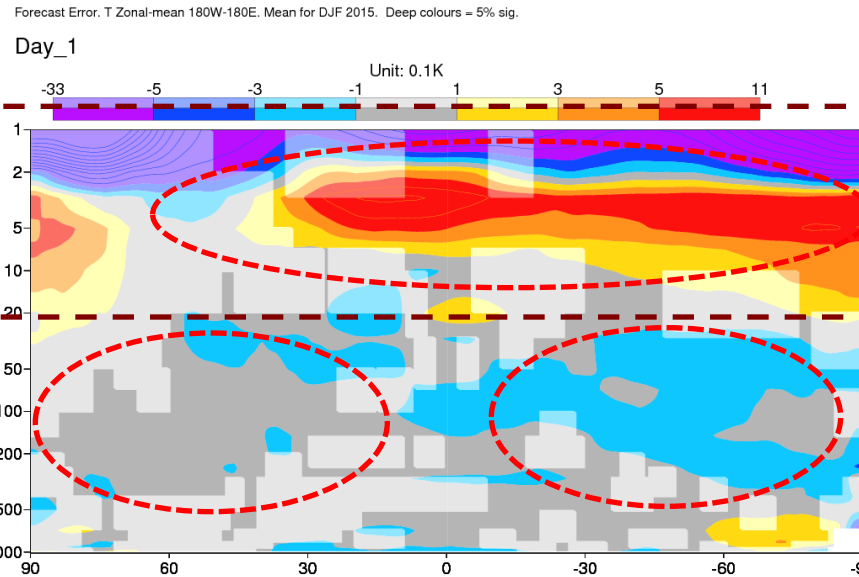
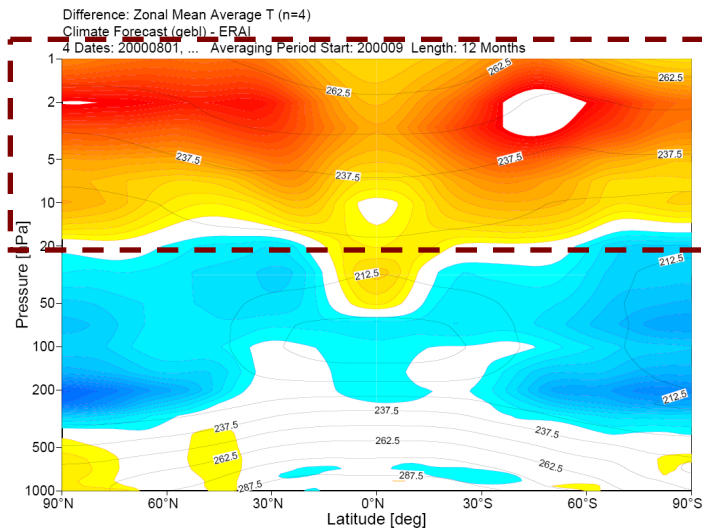


# CVarBC for AMSU-A Ch14 in ECMWF IFS: Background

There are systematic errors in model background,  
IF there are not enough unbiased observations to constrain the analysis.

CY42R1: Climate Run Tbias  
2000-2001

CY42R1: 24h Forecast T bias  
2014D15JF



Sonde as anchor in N.H.

Constrained VarBC in IFS

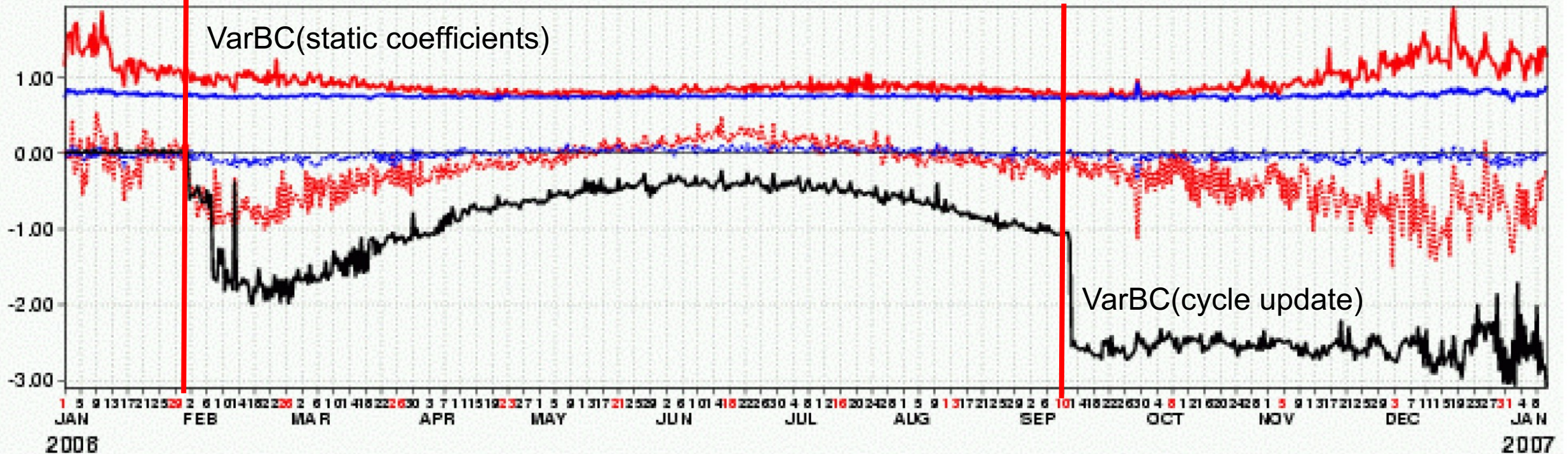
# CVarBC for AMSU-A Ch14 in ECMWF IFS : Background

## Anchor channel

0001 (DA) : NESDIS\_TOVS-1C\_noaa-18\_AMSU-A\_Tb Ch 14 Northern Hemisphere

Used data

St. dev. and bias (K) OB-FG (red) OB-AN (blue) BIASCOR (mean)-0.13



McNally, A.P. (2007), The assimilation of uncorrected AMSU-A channel 14 to anchor the VarBC system in the stratosphere. Research Department Memorandum, ECMWF, R43.8/AM/0715.

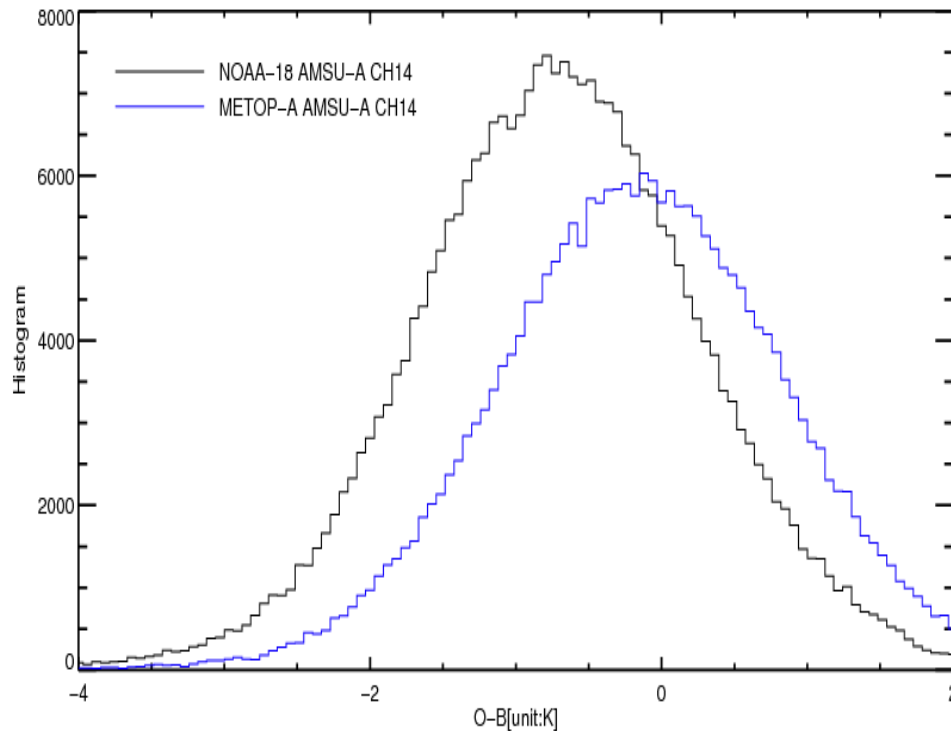
# CVarBC for AMSU-A Ch14 in ECMWF IFS : Background

There are two issues need to be revisited:

1) Inter-satellite biases; 2) Scan biases.

exp:0001 LWDA 2015082500-2015092400(12)

All TOVS-1C noaa-18 AMSU-A Tb N.Hemis

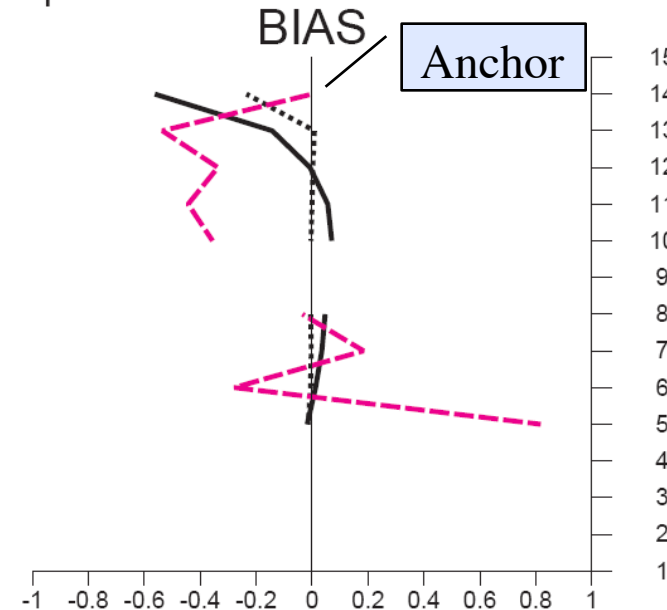


Constrained VarBC in IFS

--- Bias correction of obs  
..... Analysis departure (o-a)  
—— Background departure (o-b)

nobsexp

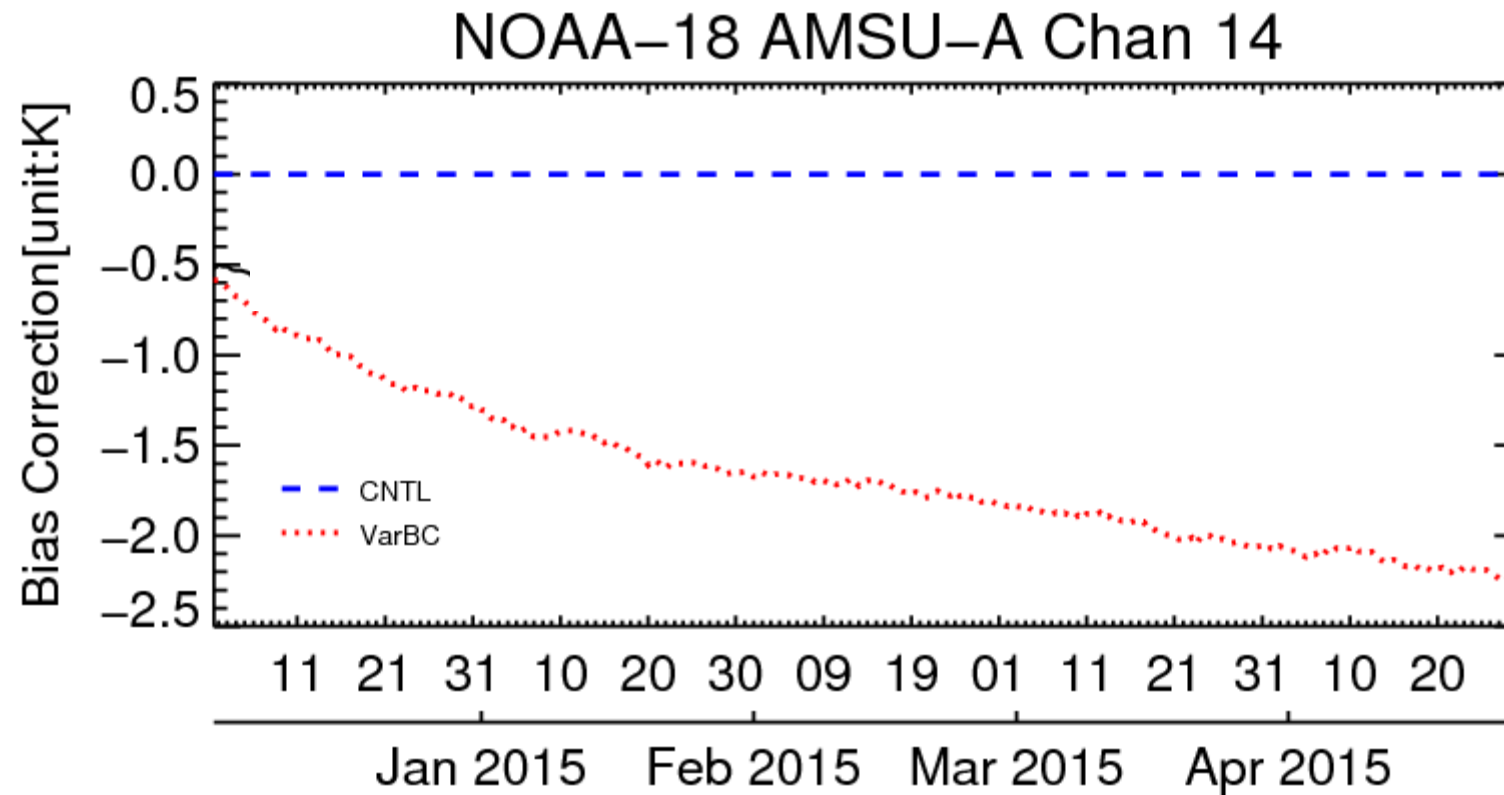
0  
582705  
581162  
582659  
582799  
582742  
0  
519697  
515195  
452393  
396733  
0  
0  
0  
0



# Drift to model bias without anchor

Bias correction of AMSU-A Ch14 in IFS CY41R2:

- 1) Free VarBC will drift gradually;
- 2) It will also affect the bias correction of Ch13 and Ch12;



Constrained VarBC in IFS



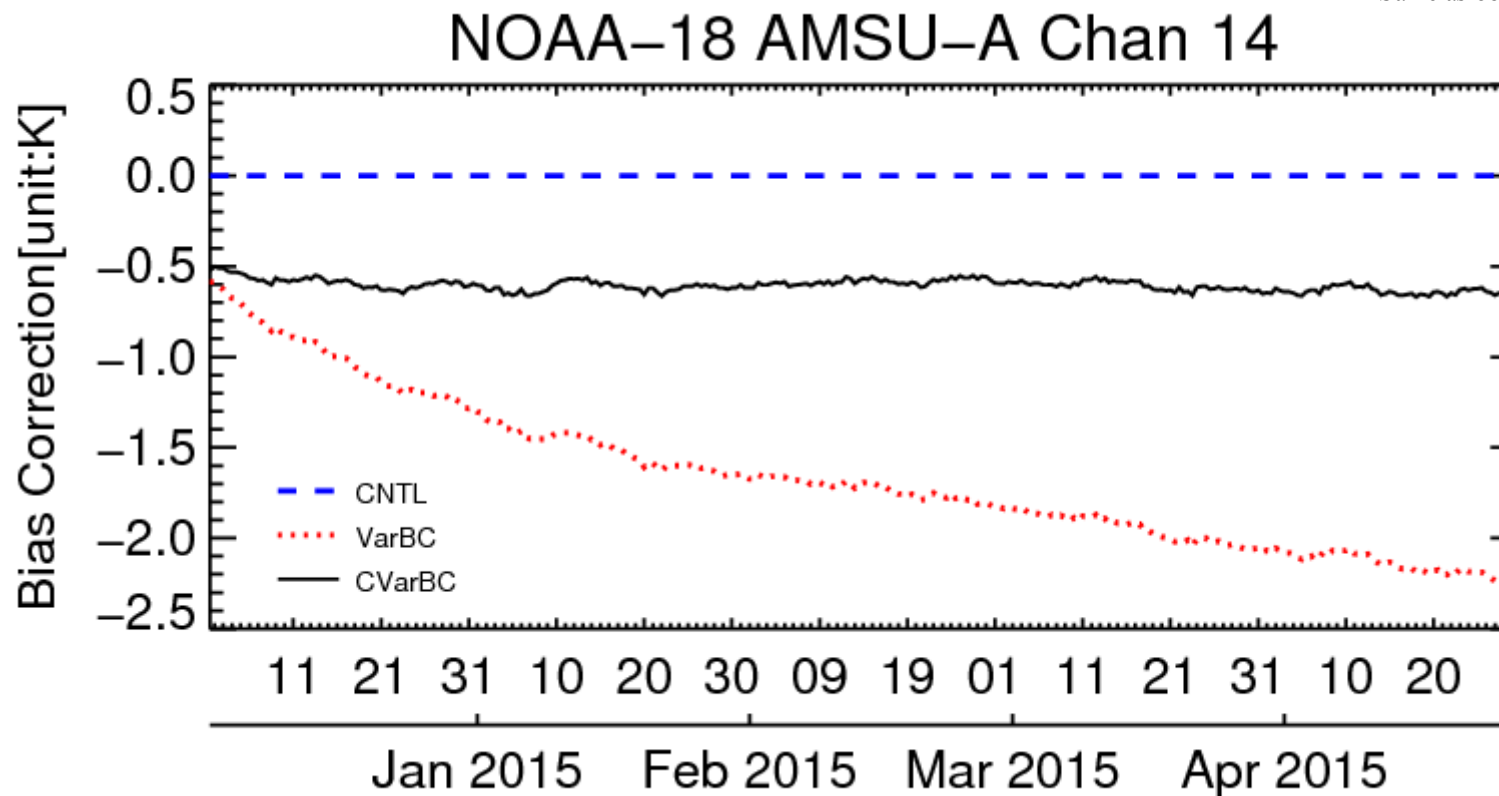
# Implementation of Constrained VarBC in IFS and CY41R2 experiments

$$\alpha^2 [h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - \mathbf{b}_0]^T \mathbf{R}_b^{-1} [h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - \mathbf{b}_0]$$

CVarBC

AMSU-A	alpha	Bias0	B(bias0)*
Channel 14	0.3	0	1.4
Channel 13	0.0	0	0.85
Channel 12	0.0	0	0.5

\*Same as observation error

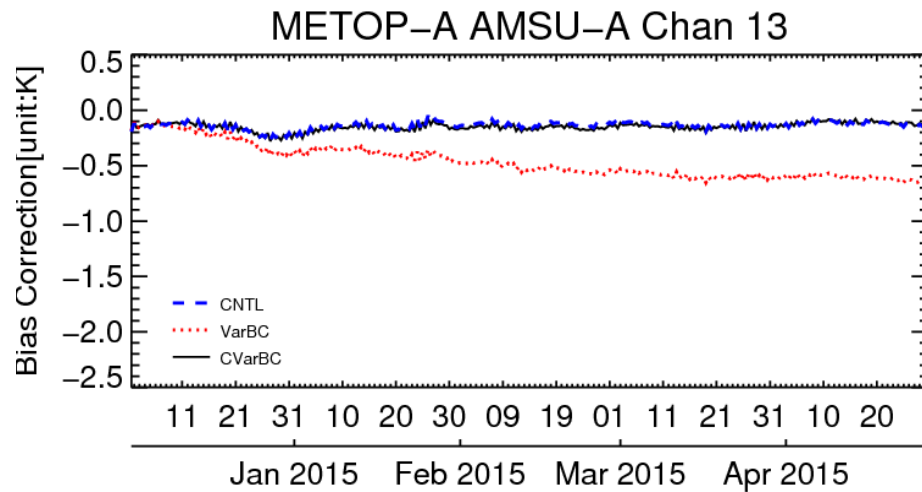
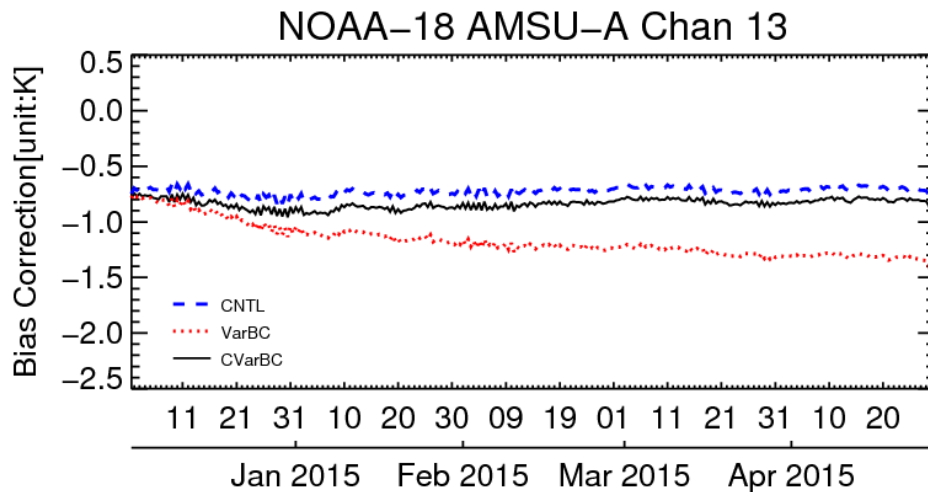
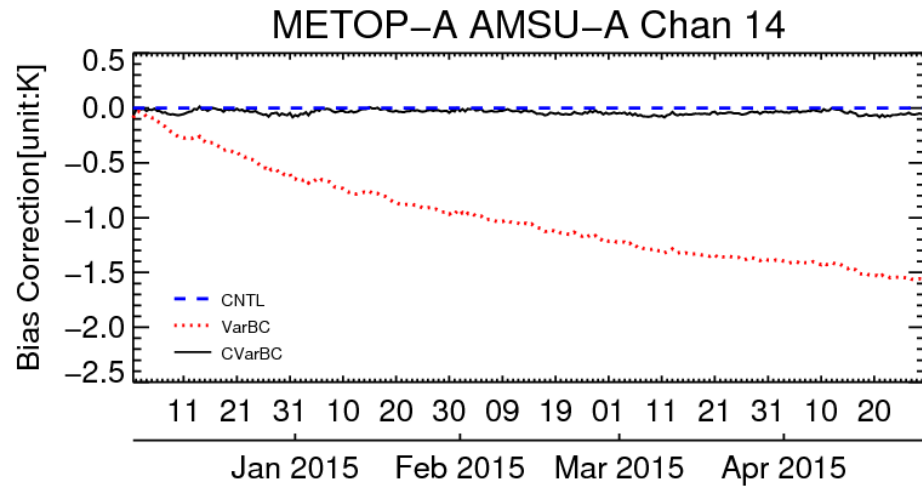
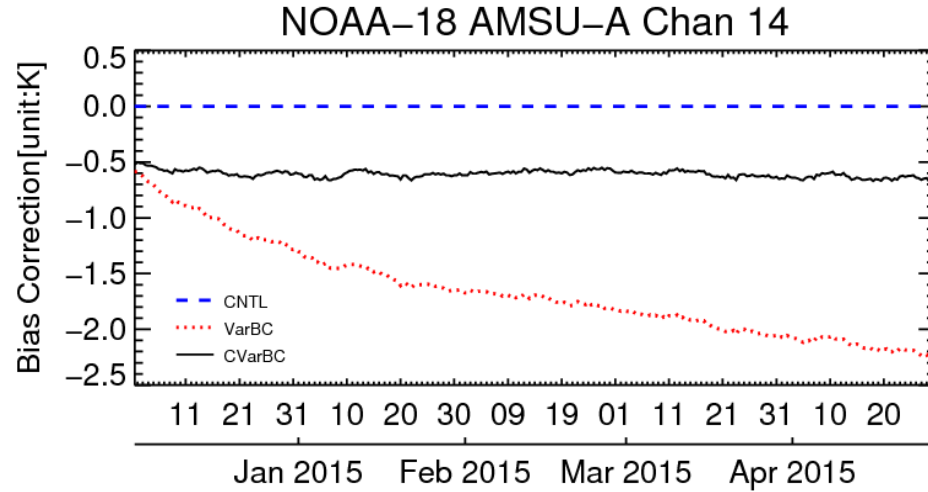


Constrained VarBC in IFS

# Temporal Evolution of bias correction

NOAA-18

METOP-A



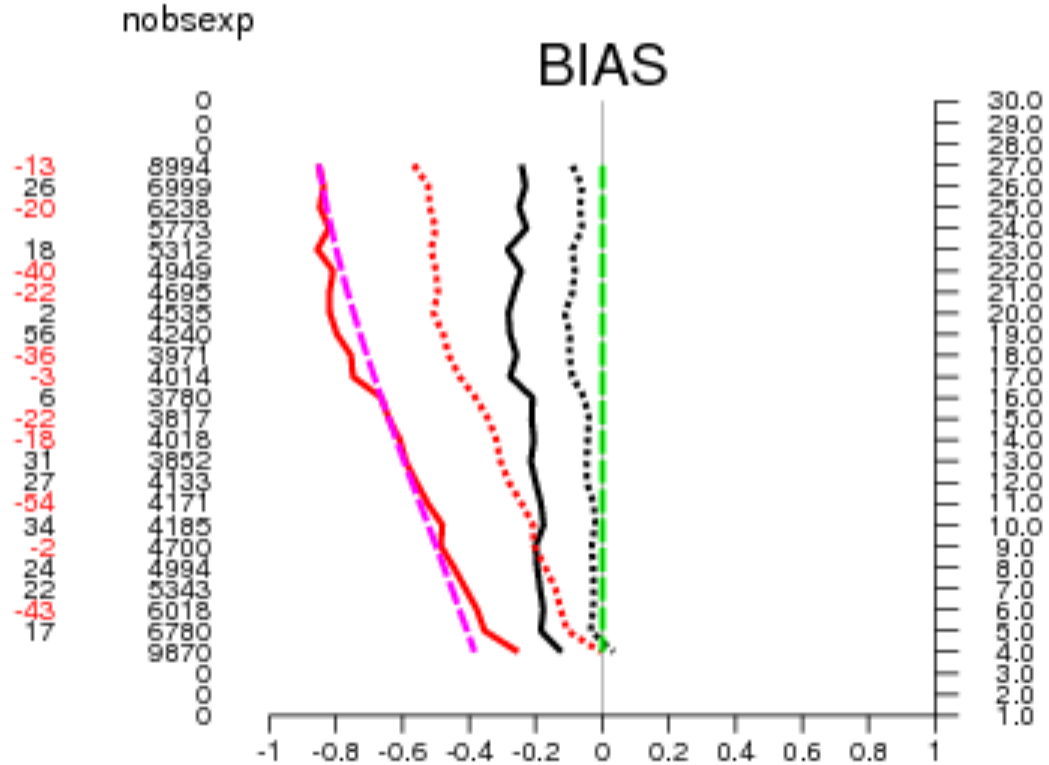
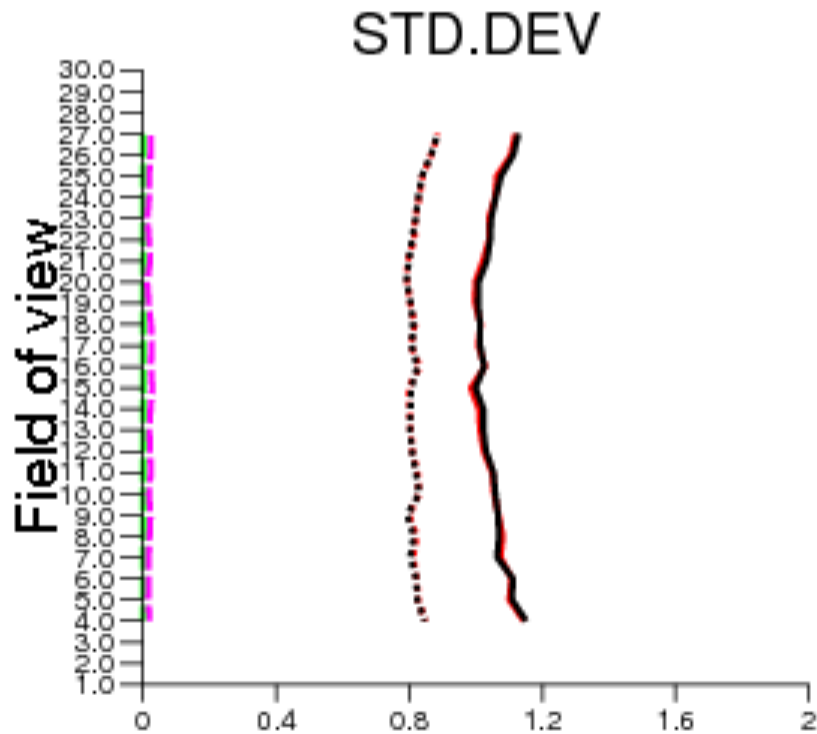
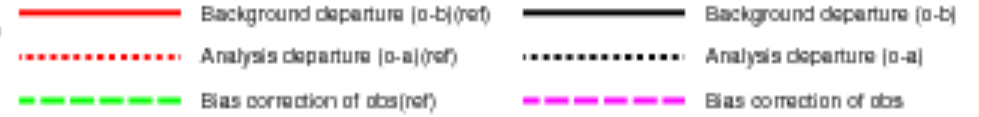
Constrained VarBC in IFS

# Scan bias correction

CNTL: anchor channel

CVarBC

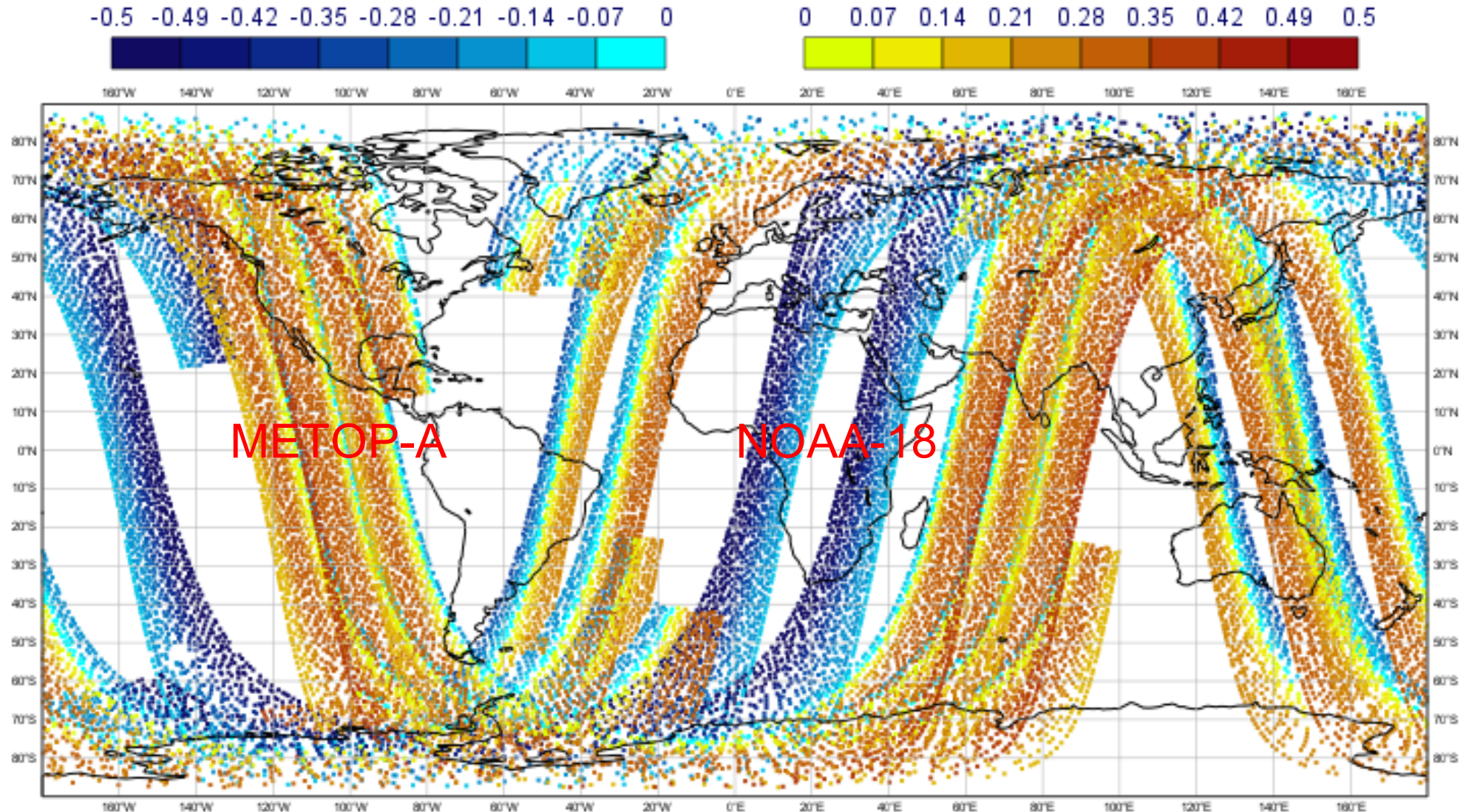
exp:gei1 /LWDA (black) v. ge8m/LWDA 2015010100-2015010712(12)  
 NOAA-18 AMSU-A Tb N.Hemis Channel=14  
 used Tb noaa-18 amsu-a



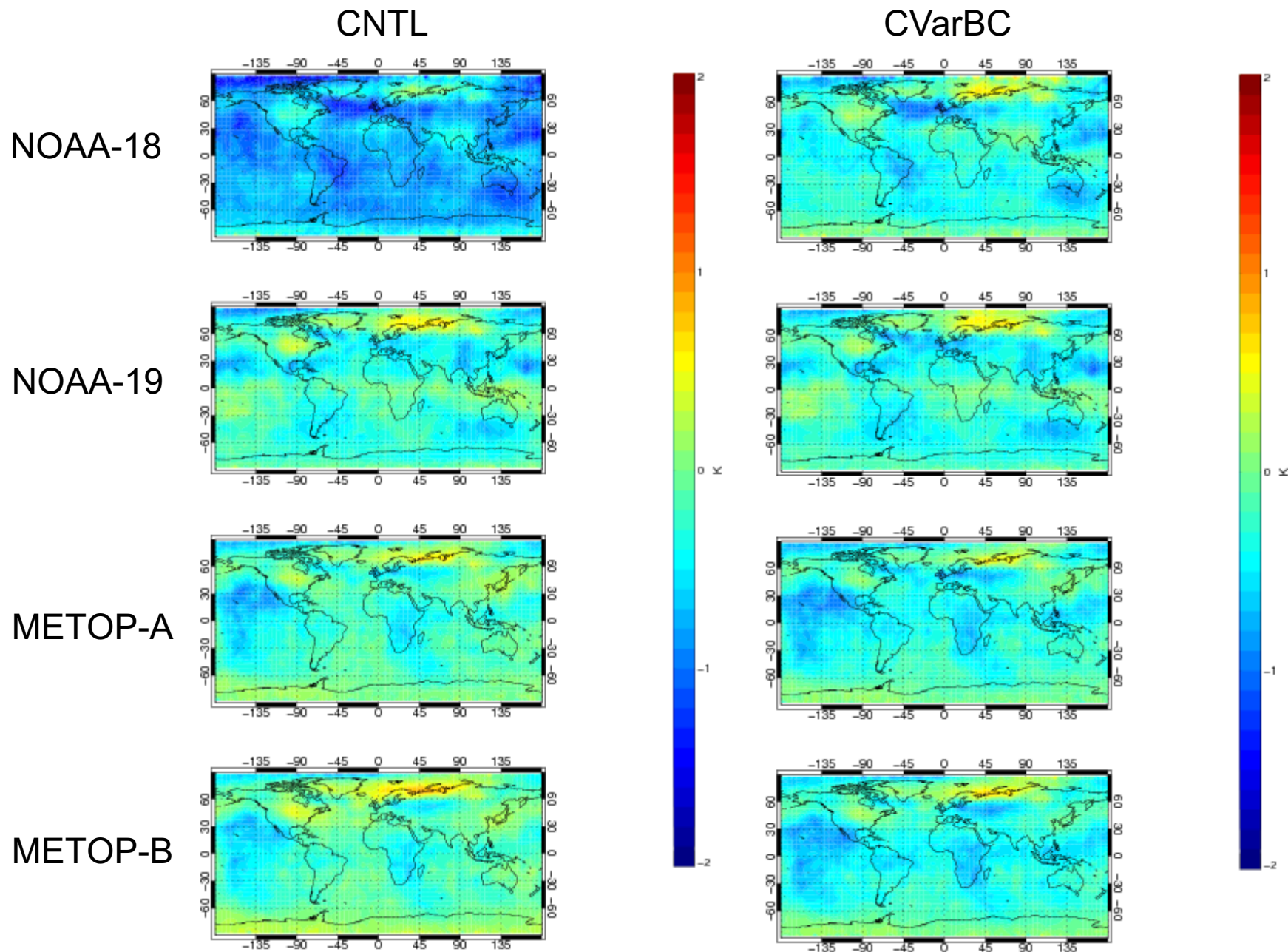
Constrained VarBC in IFS

# CVarBC: AMSU-A 14 bias corrections

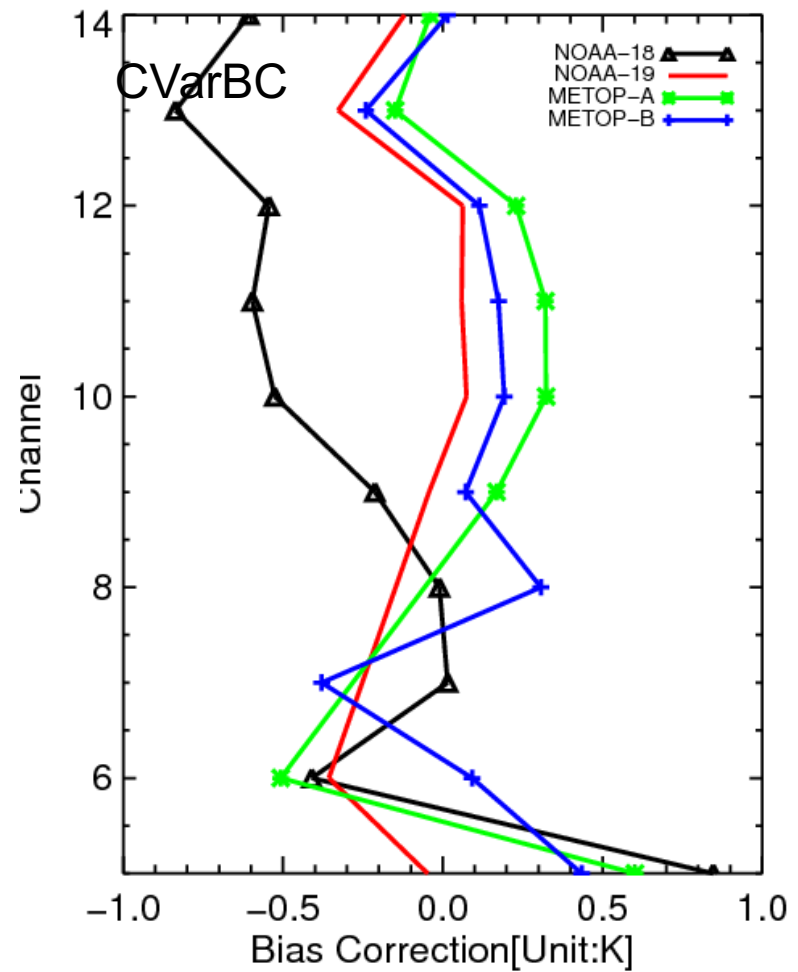
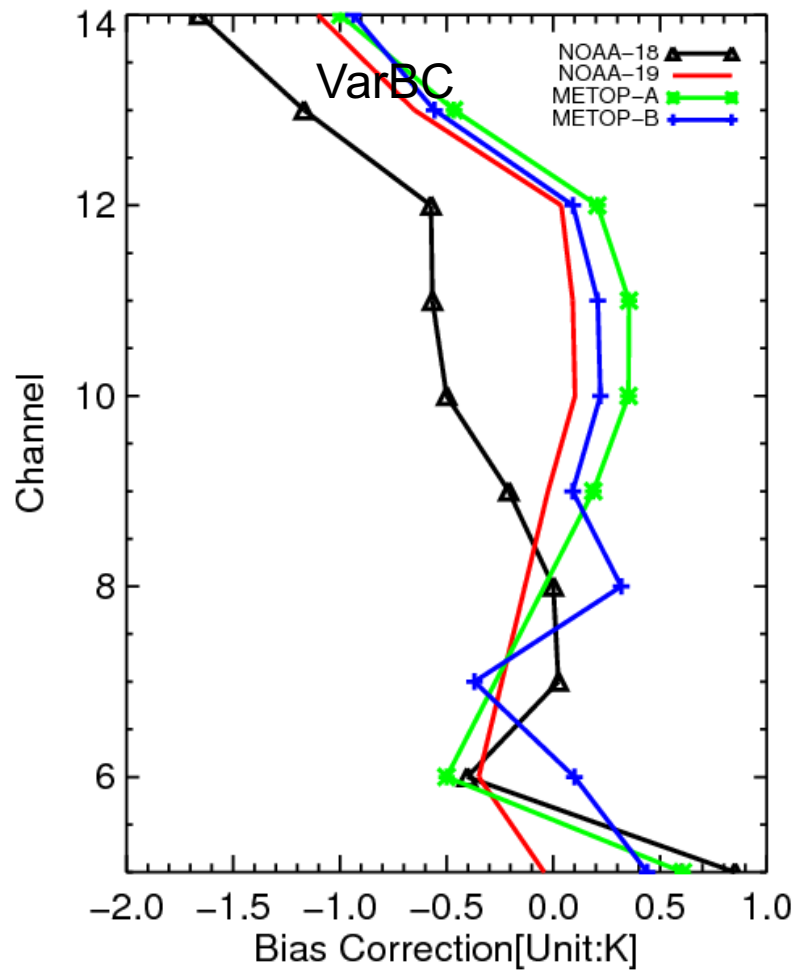
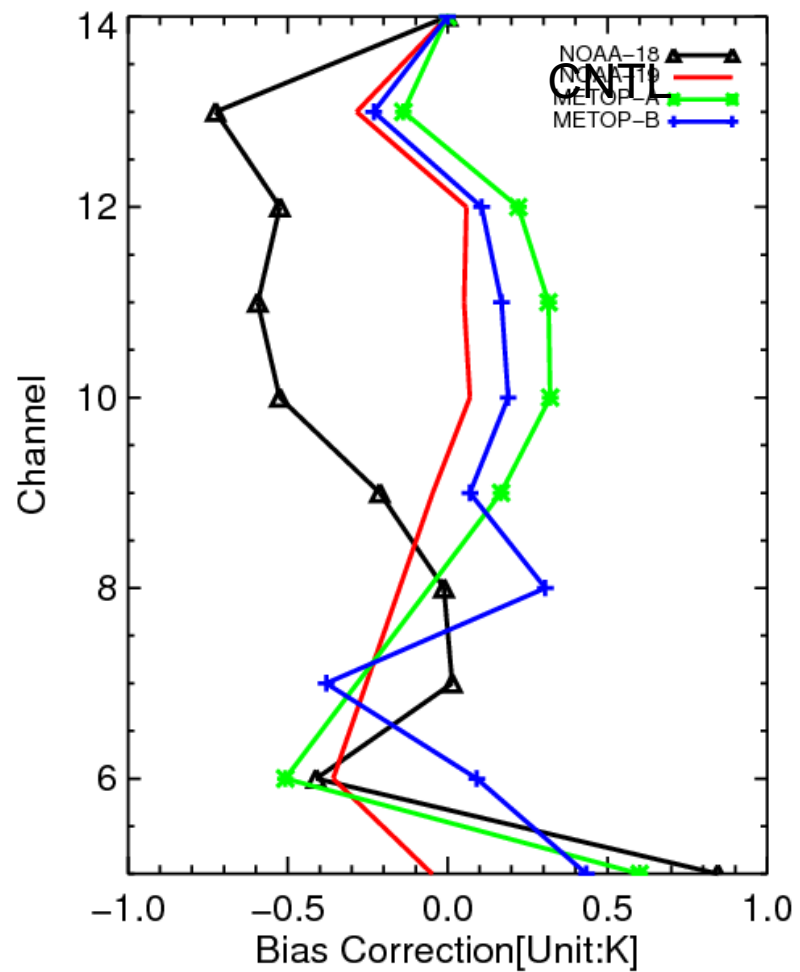
- Total size of bias correction
- Inter-satellite biases
- Scan biases



# AMSU-A Ch14 <O-B>(2014-12-15~ 2014-12-31)



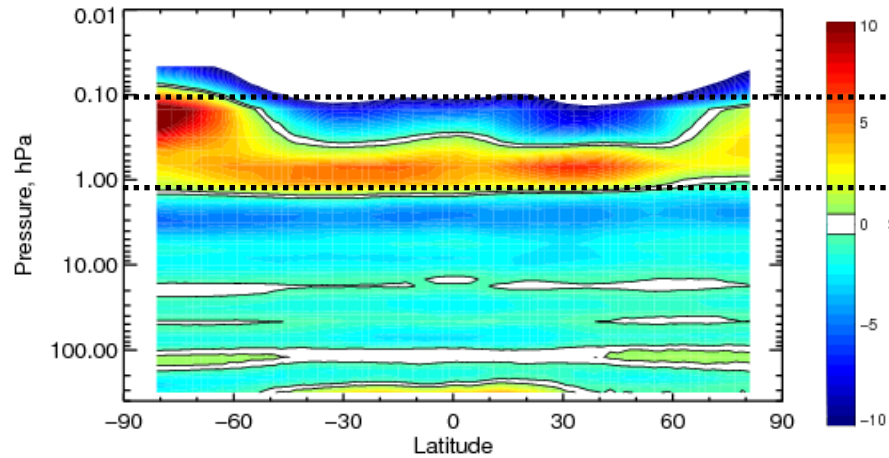
# Mean Bias Correction in 2014D15JF



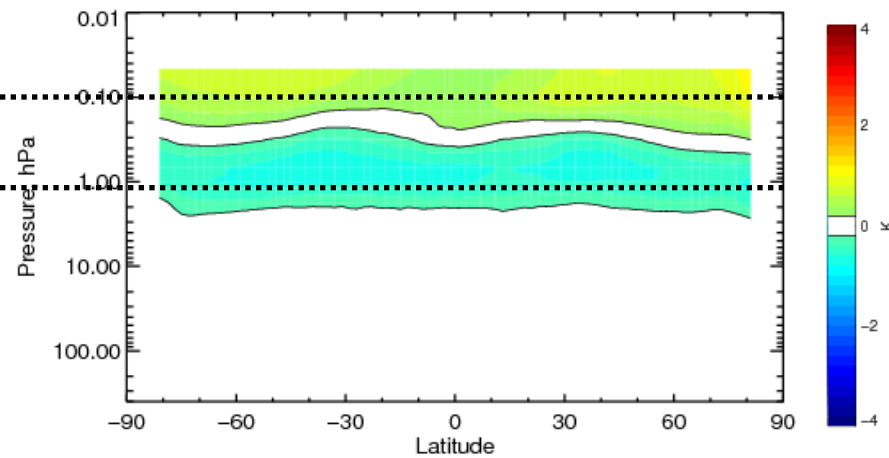
Constrained VarBC in IFS

# Verification using MLS Temperature retrieval

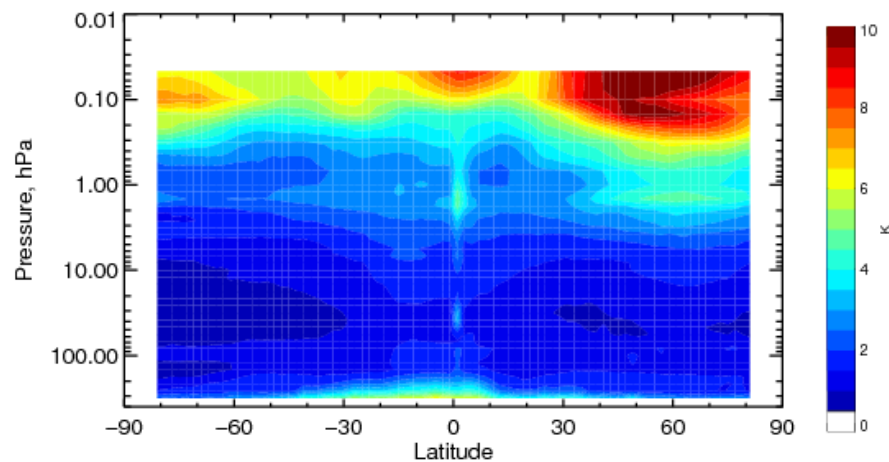
MEAN(MLS-CNTL),2014D15JF



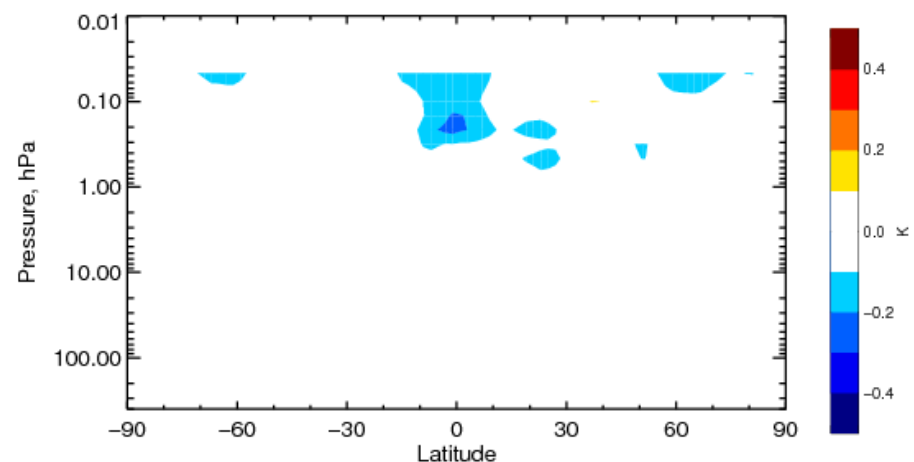
MEAN(CNTL-CVarBC), 2014D15JF



STD(MLS-CNTL),2014D15JF



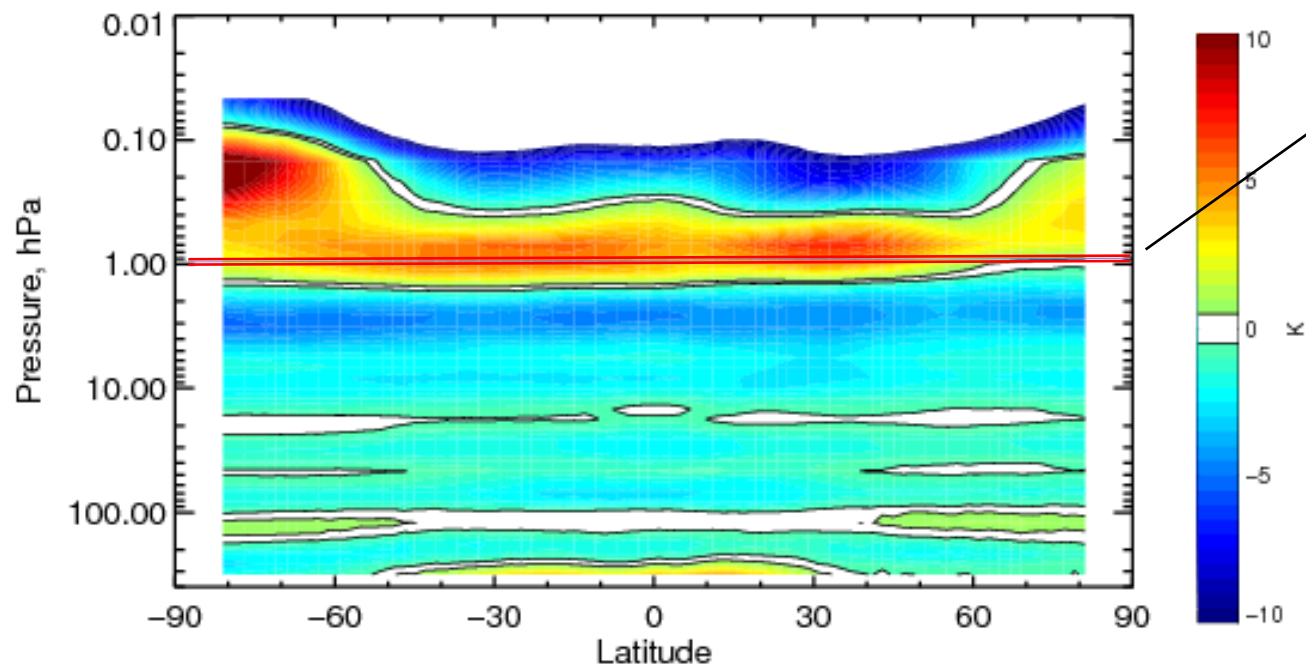
<STD\_CVarBC-STD\_CNTL>, 2014D15JF



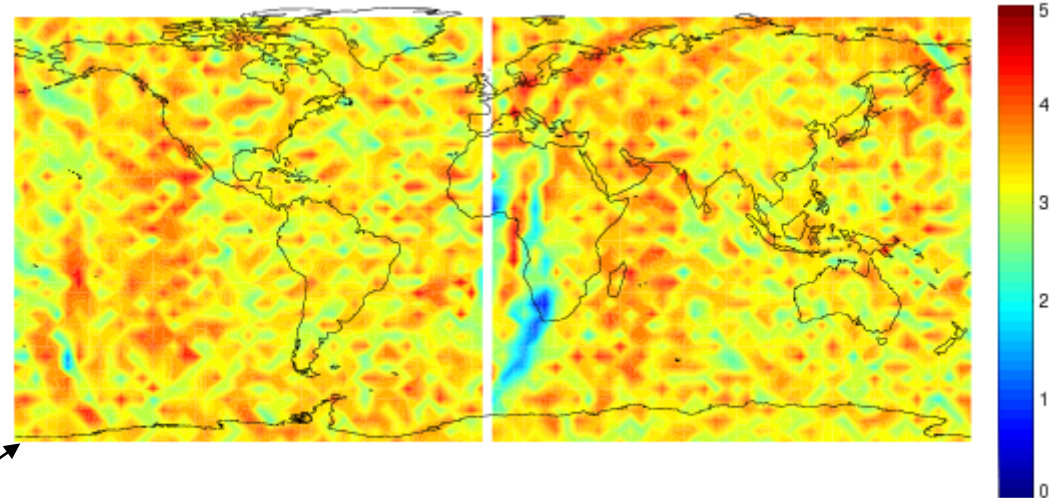
# Temperature bias at 1hPa

Using **MLS** Temperature as reference

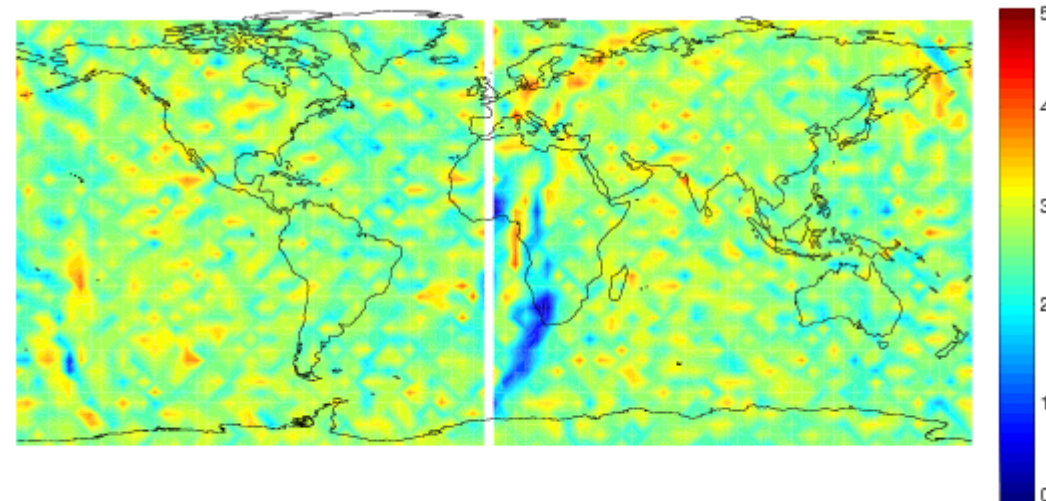
MEAN(MLS-CNTL),2014D15JF



MEAN(MLS-CNTL),2014D15JF

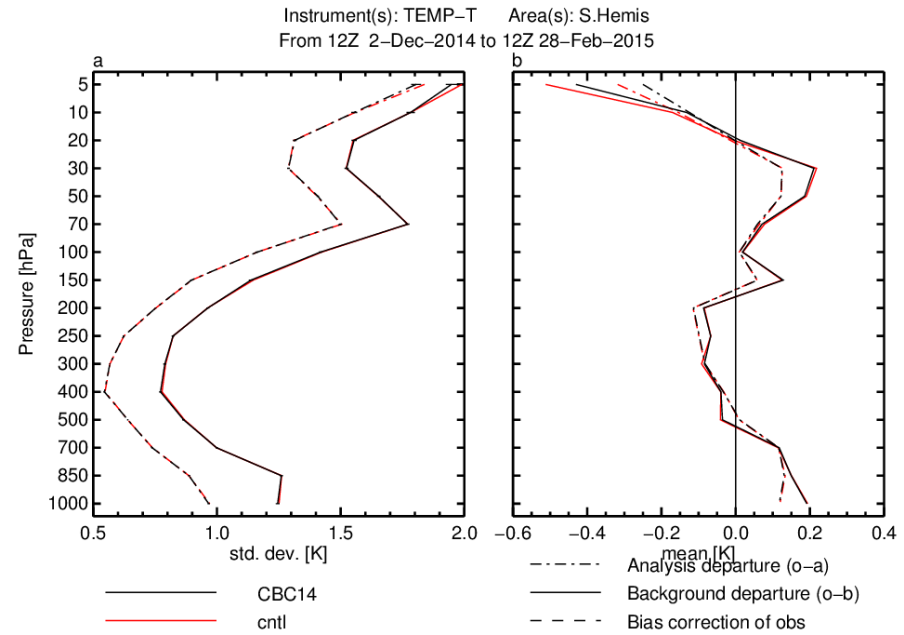
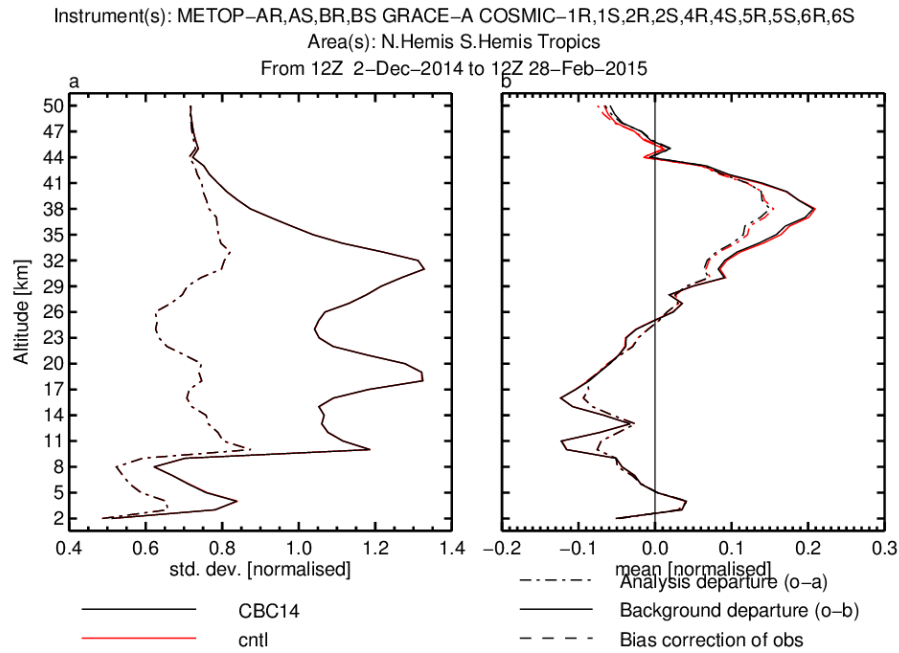
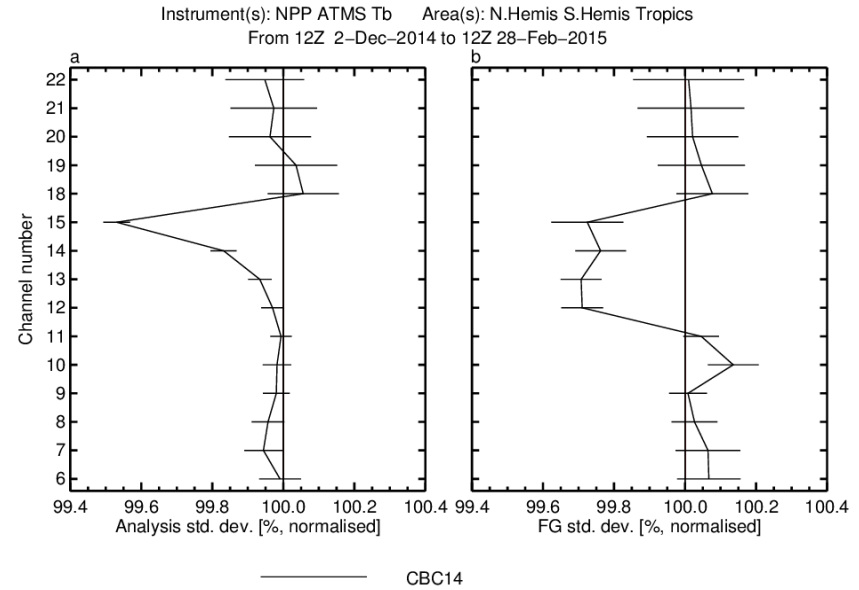
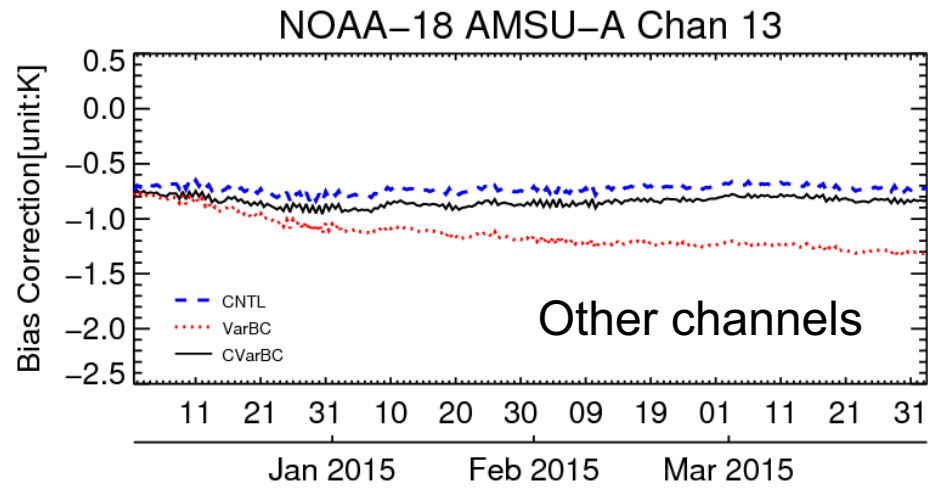


MEAN(MLS-CVarBC), 2014D15JF



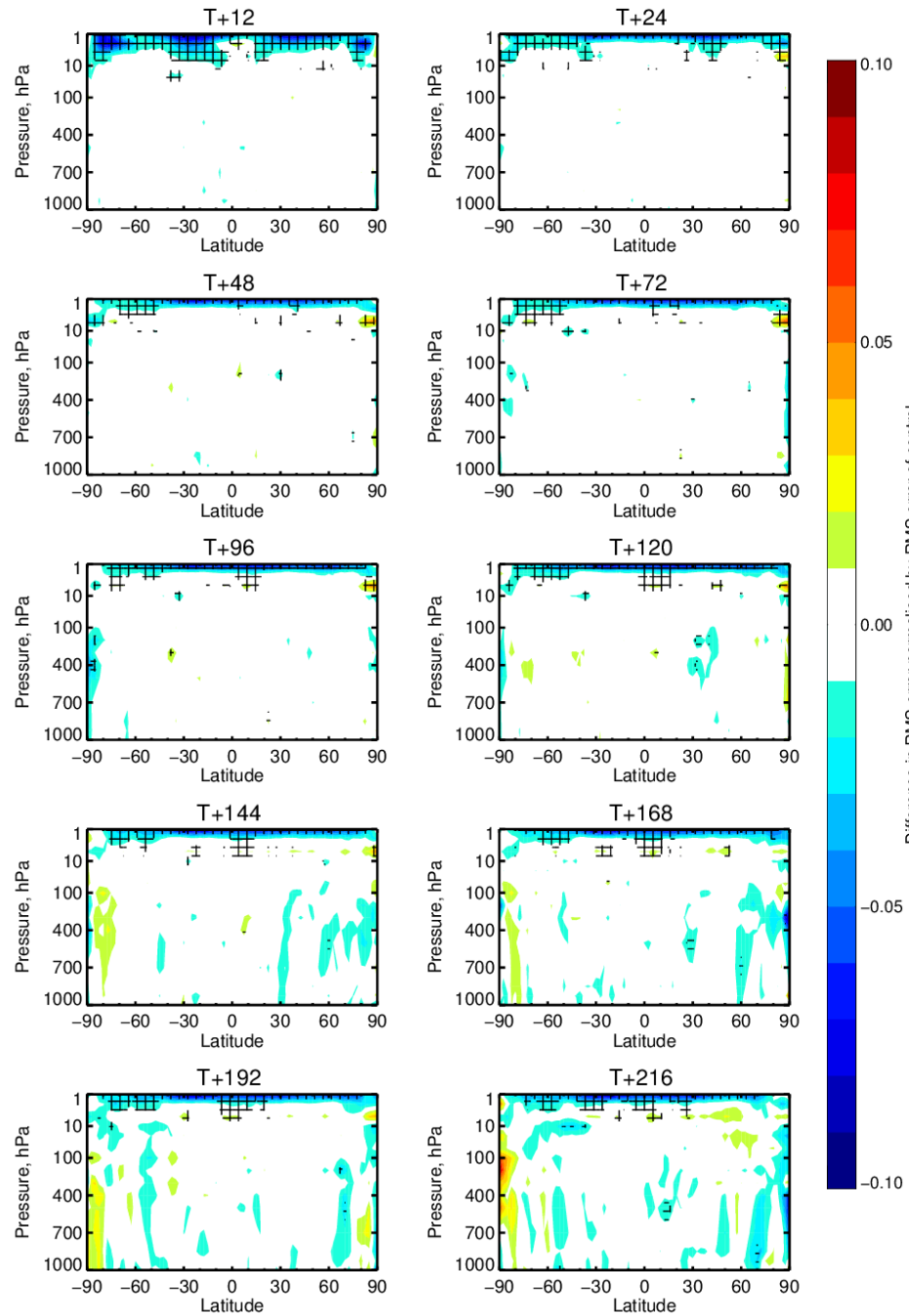


# Impact on the fit of other observations



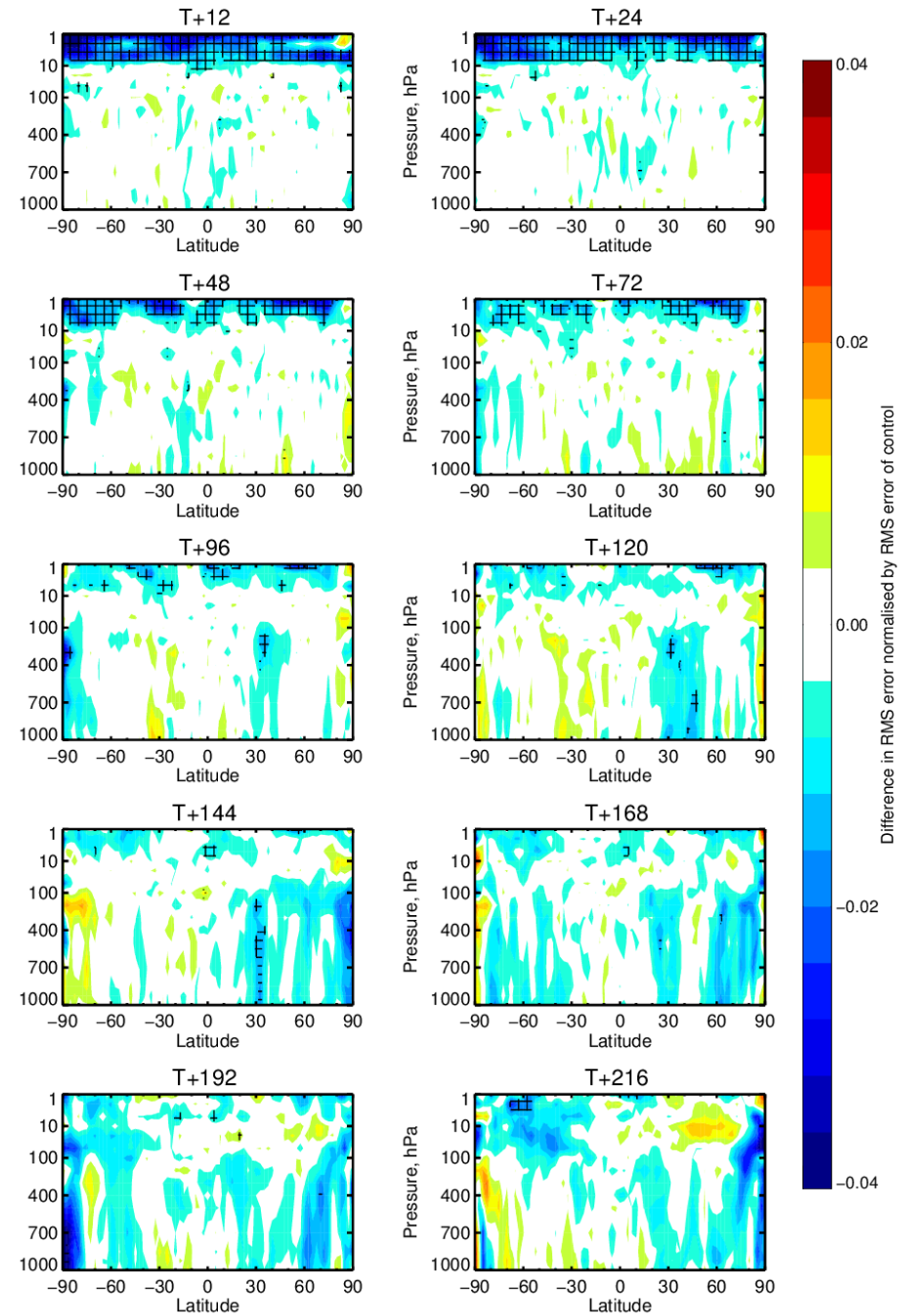
### Change in error in T (CBC14-CNTL), 2-Dec-2014 to 31-Aug-2015

From 322 to 360 samples. Cross-hatching indicates 95% confidence. Verified against own-analysis.



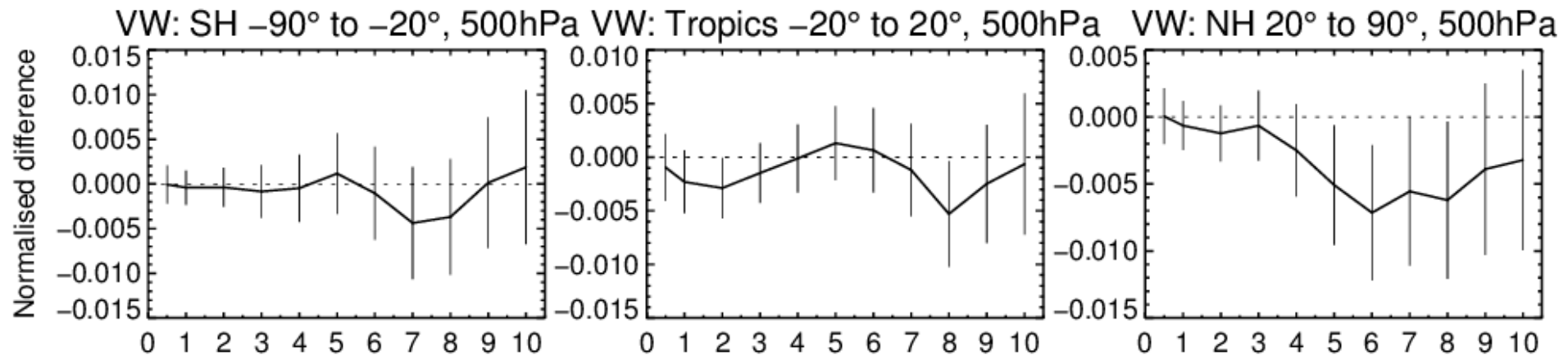
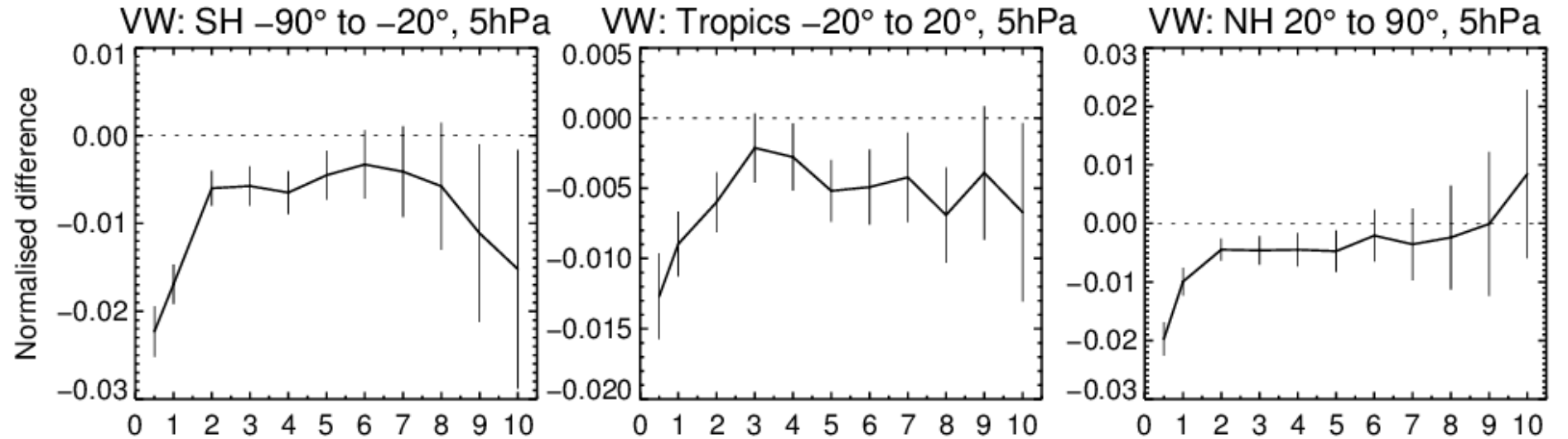
### Change in error in VW (CBC14-CNTL), 2-Dec-2014 to 31-Aug-2015

From 322 to 360 samples. Cross-hatching indicates 95% confidence. Verified against own-analysis.



# Impact of Constrained VarBC on AMSUA CH14 on Forecast (2014D15JF and 2015JJA)

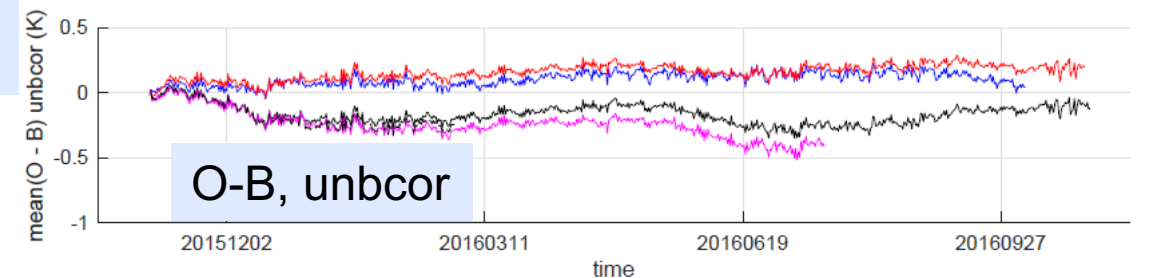
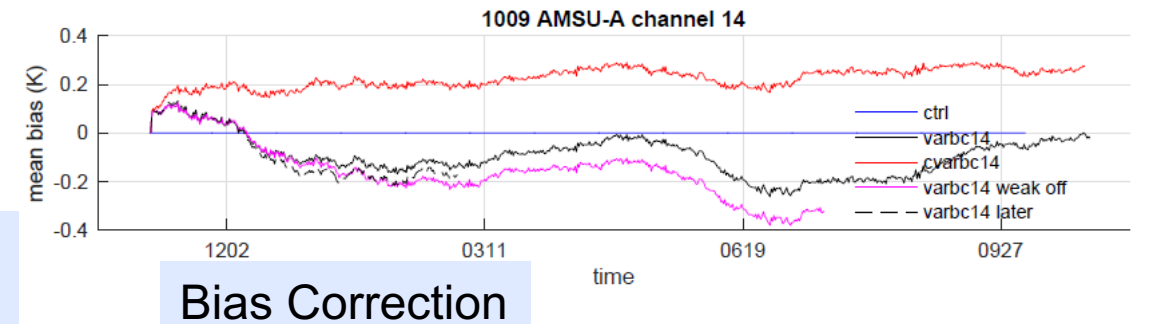
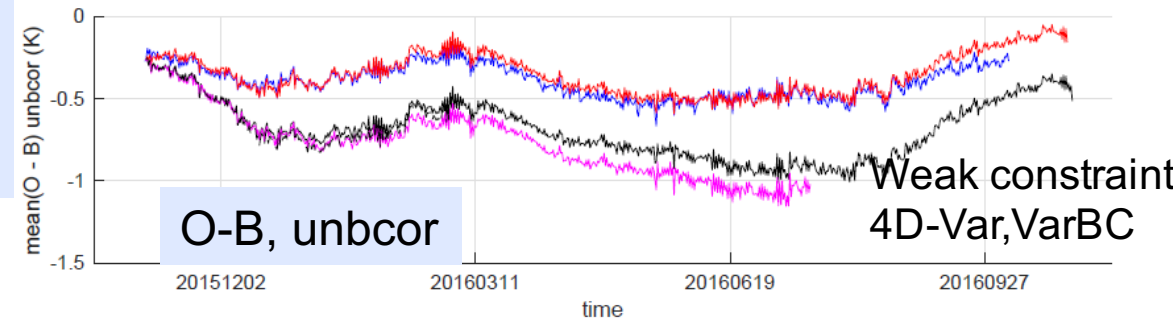
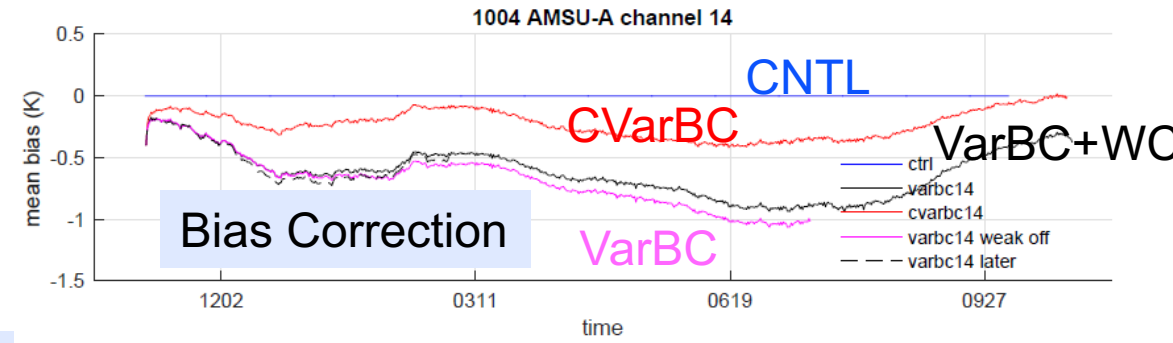
2-Dec-2014 to 31-Aug-2015 from 322 to 360 samples. Confidence range 95%. Verified against own-analysis.



# One year experiments (2015-2016)

- Test the implementation for **a long time series** and with **weak constraint 4D-Var**

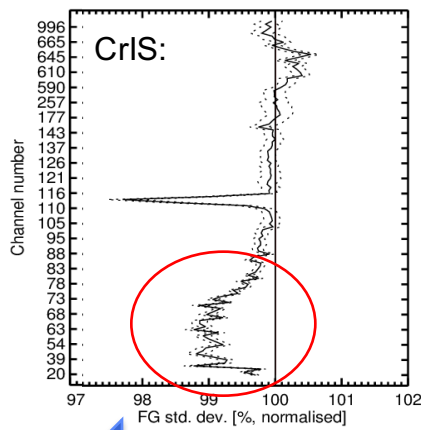
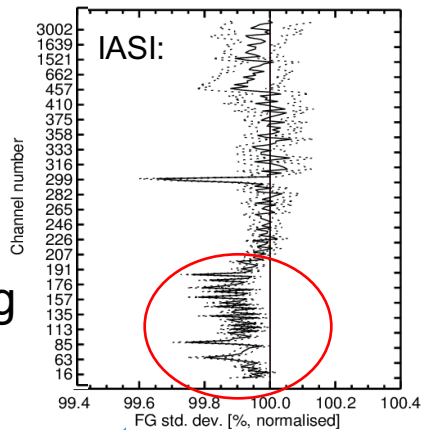
$$\begin{aligned}
 2J(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\eta}) = & (\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{B}_x^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x}) \\
 & + (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b)^T \mathbf{B}_\beta^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b) \\
 & + [\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})]^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} [\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})] \\
 & + \alpha^2 [h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - \mathbf{b}_0]^T \mathbf{R}_b^{-1} [h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - \mathbf{b}_0] + (\boldsymbol{\eta} - \boldsymbol{\eta}_b)^T \mathbf{Q}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\eta} - \boldsymbol{\eta}_b)
 \end{aligned}$$



NOAA-18

METOP-B

STDEV O - B:



High peaking channels

← improvement

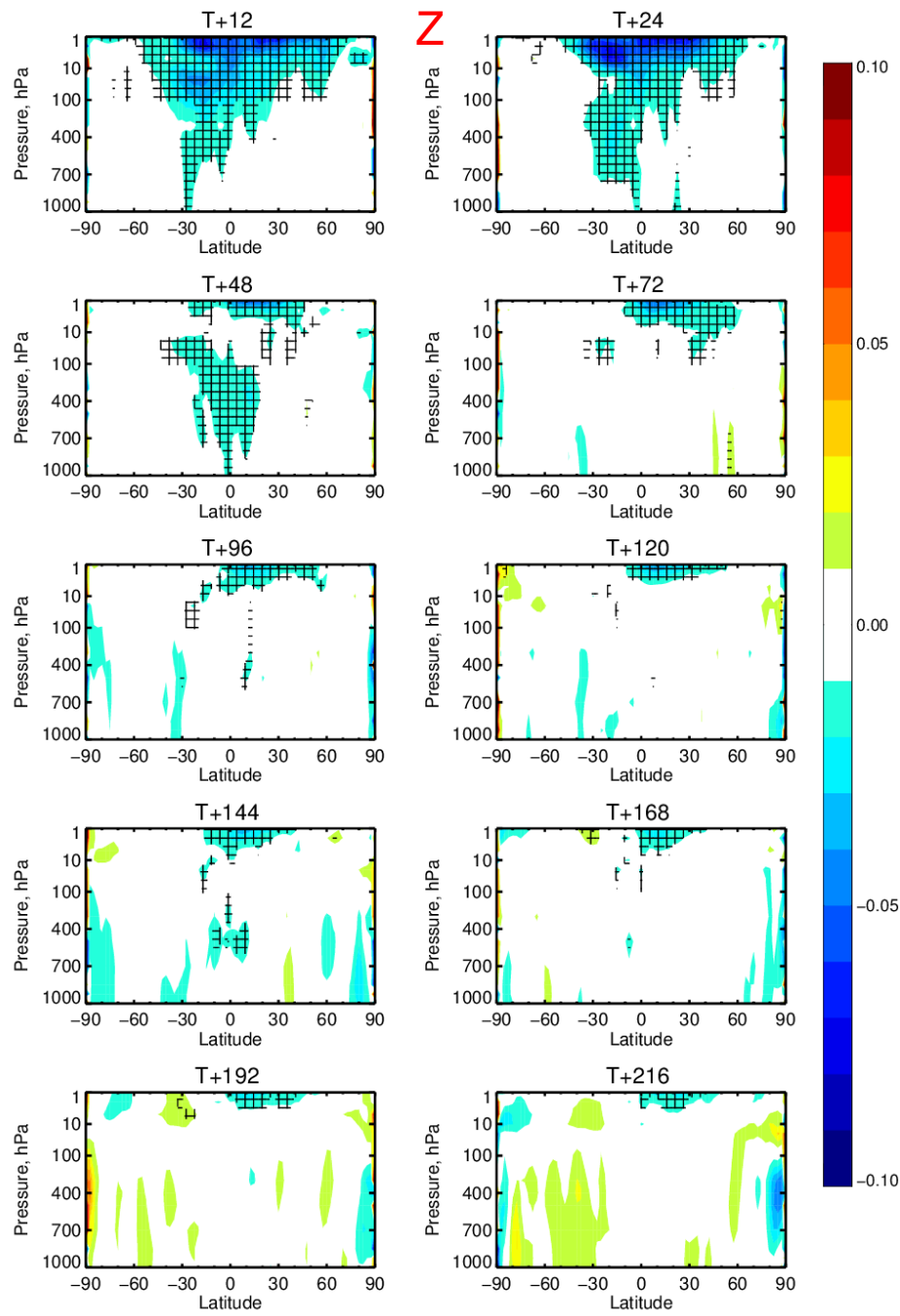
← improvement

Heather Lawrence, 2017

# CVarBC of AMSUA Ch14: Impact on forecasts

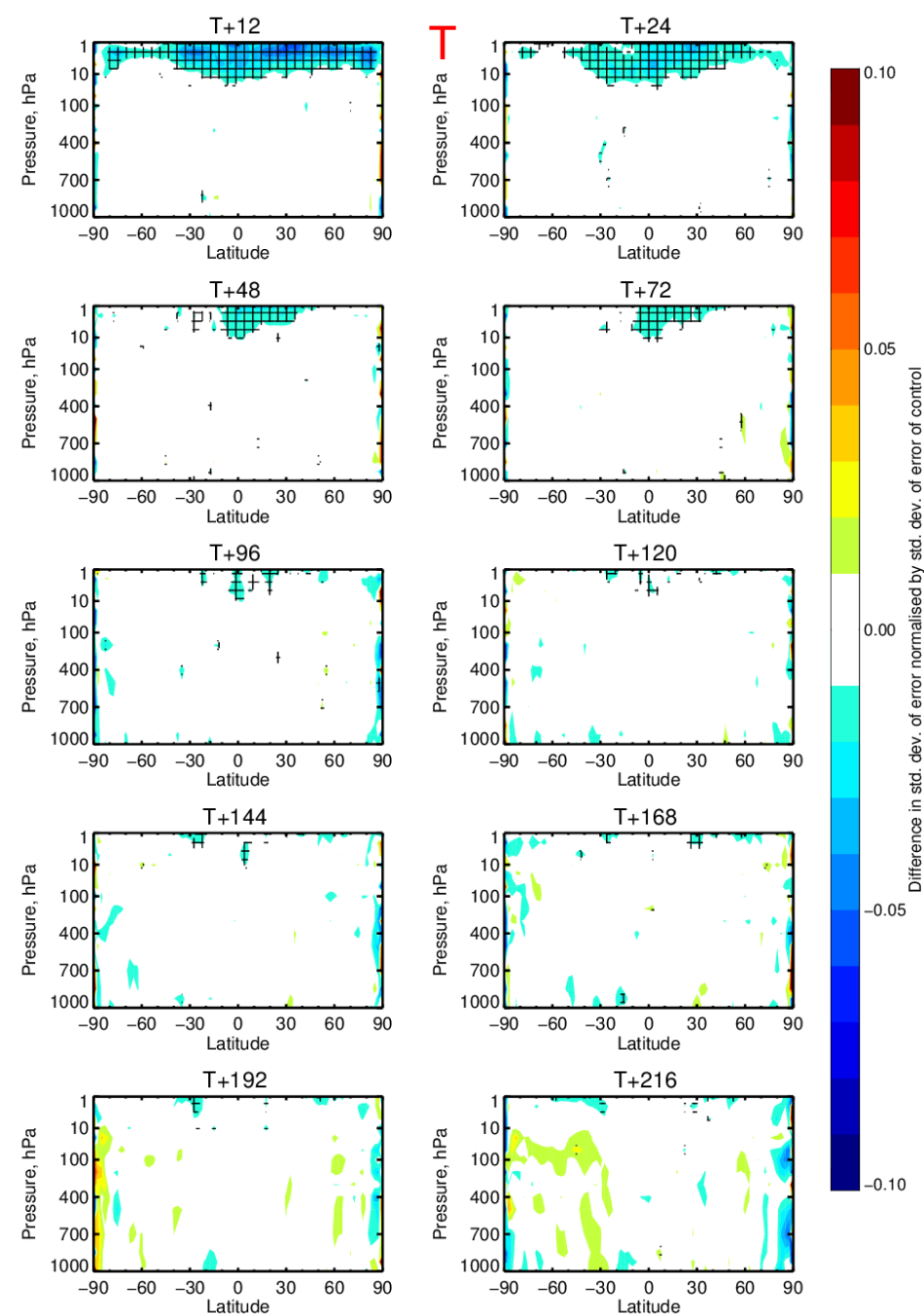
Change in error in Z (cvarbc 14 atms + amsua-control)

1-Mar-2016 to 3-Nov-2016 from 476 to 495 samples. Cross-hatching indicates 95% confidence. Verified against own-analysis.



Change in error in T (cvarbc 14 atms + amsua-control)

1-Mar-2016 to 3-Nov-2016 from 476 to 495 samples. Cross-hatching indicates 95% confidence. Verified against own-analysis.



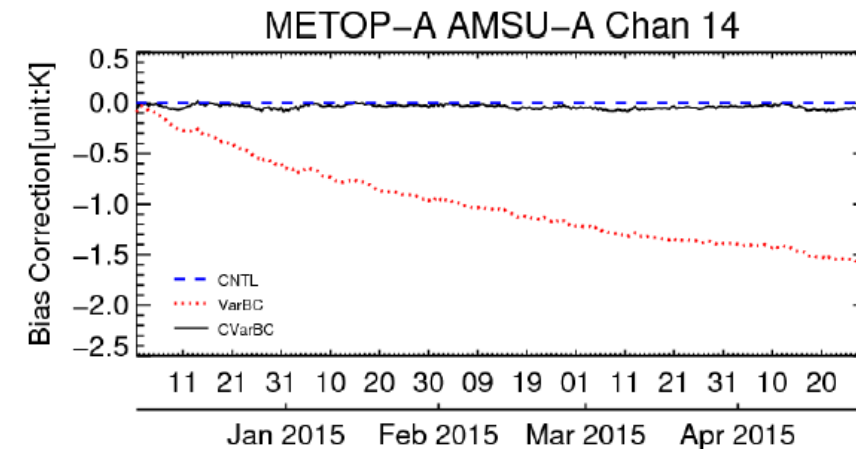
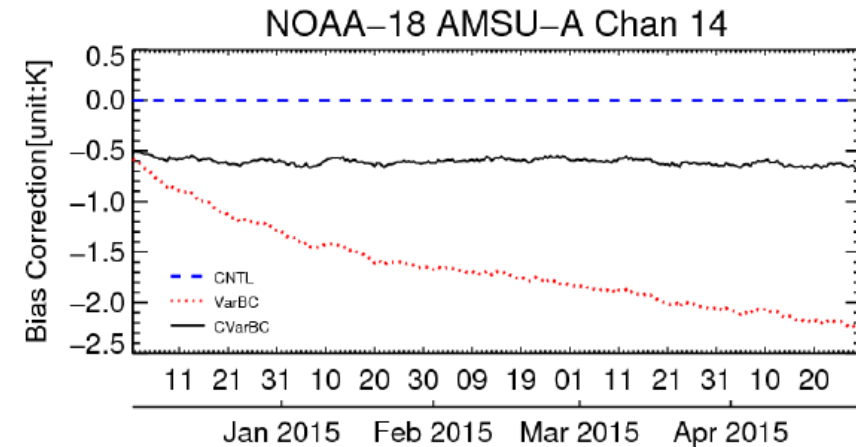
# CVarBC (since 5 June 2018, IFS CY45R1)

## Constrained Variational Bias Correction (Wei Han, SAF visiting scientist from CMA)

- Issue: Unrealistic drifts of VarBC in the presence of model bias (e.g., stratosphere; ozone)
- Previous solution: Use selected “anchor channels” with no bias correction (despite known biases)
- New CVarBC: Allow correction of bias, but penalise the size of the bias correction according to uncertainty in the bias.
- → Known bias pattern can be captured, such as different biases for different satellites, but unrealistic drifts are still avoided.
- **Used operationally since 5 June 2018 (cy 45R1)**



Andy Brown, 2018



<https://confluence.ecmwf.int/display/FCST/Implementation+of+IFS+cycle+45r1>

# Summary and Discussions

## ● Potential use of CVarBC

- Reanalysis
- Window channels
- Stratosphere and mesosphere sounding
- Humidity sounding
- Chemistry DA

$$\begin{aligned} 2J(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = & (\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{B}_x^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_b - \mathbf{x}) \\ & + (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b)^T \mathbf{B}_\beta^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\beta} - \boldsymbol{\beta}_b) \\ & + [\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})]^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} [\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta})] \\ & + \alpha^2 [h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - \mathbf{b}_0]^T \mathbf{R}_b^{-1} [h(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) - \mathbf{b}_0] \end{aligned}$$

## ● Priori information of observation Bias

- Systematic bias
- Uncertainty
- GSICS, GAIA-CLIM?

$\mathbf{b}_0$

$\mathbf{R}_b$

Quantitative use of RU and RT uncertainty:  
**DA+Calibration**

## ● How to determine the regularization parameter?

$\alpha$

- Posteriori estimation ?
- Balance with anchor observations?
- Deal with model bias?

Regularization Parameter Estimation:  
**DA+Inverse Problem**

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