

### 2019 International Workshop on Radiative Transfer Models for Satellite Data Assimilation

### **WMO GSICS Requirements on Radiative Transfer**

Mitch Goldberg, NOAA Chief Scientist for Low Earth Orbiting Satellites GSICS EP Chair



### **Global Space-based Inter-Calibration System**

#### • What is GSICS?

- Global Space-based Inter-Calibration System
- Initiative of CGMS and WMO
- Effort to produce consistent, well-calibrated data from the international constellation of Earth Observing satellites

#### • What are the basic strategies of GSICS?

- Improve on-orbit calibration by developing an integrated inter-comparison system
  - Initially for GEO-LEO Inter-satellite calibration
  - Being extended to LEO-LEO
  - Using external references as necessary
- Best practices for calibration & characterisation

#### • This will allow us to:

- Improve consistency between instruments
- Reduce bias in Level 1 and 2 products
- Provide traceability of measurements
- Retrospectively re-calibrate archived data
- Better specify future instruments
- Develop a cadre of experts in calibration
- Easy access to the health of observing systems.









JMA



KMA





NASA

IMD

CMA



WMO



ROSHYDROMET

ESA

ISRO

USGS







ROSCOSMOS



### **GSICS** Organization





### **Do we Care about Satellite Biases in NWP?**

### After McNally, Bell, et al. ECMWF, 2005 & 2009

#### Yes! Because:

- 1) We wish to understand the origin of the bias and ideally correct instrument / RT / NWP model at source
- 2) In principle we do not wish to apply a correction to unbiased satellite data if it is the NWP model which is biased. Doing so is likely to:
  - Re-enforce the model bias and degrade the analysis fit to other observations
  - Produce a biased analysis (bad for reanalysis / climate applications)

More accurate satellite observations will facilitate discovery of model errors and their correction. Additional gains in forecast accuracy can be expected.





# Critical building blocks for accurate measurements and intercalibration

 Extensive pre-launch characterization of all instruments traceable to SI standards

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- Benchmark instruments in space with appropriate accuracy, spectral coverage and resolution to act as a standard for inter-calibration
- Independent observations
  - Calibration/validation sites, ground based, aircraft

#### NISTIR 7637

Best Practice Guidelines for Pre-Launch Characterization and Calibration of Instruments for Passive Optical Remote Sensing

(Report to Global Space-based Inter-Calibration System (GSICS) Executive Panel, NOAA/NESDIS, World Weather Building. Camp Springs, Maryland 20746)

> R. U. Datla, J. P. Rice, K. Lykke and B. C. Johnson NIST Optical technology Division

> > J.J. Butler and X. Xiong NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

> > > September 2009



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Gary Locke, Secretary

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY Patrick D. Gallagher, Director



### **Reference Instruments – IASI and CrIS**

### **Example Cal/Val Result: SNOs with IASI and AIRS**

Differences with IASI-B, and NOAA20/SNPP differences via IASI-B (All FOV means)



Differences with AIRS, and NOAA20/SNPP differences via AIRS (All FOV means)



Dave Tobin

- Differences between NOAA20 CrIS and SNPP CrIS are less than 0.1K
- > Differences from IASI-B are less than 0.2K, Differences from AIRS are less than 0.4K
- Larger diffs observed for cold SW scenes, but with NOAA20 CrIS agreeing better with IASI and AIRS as compared to SNPP CrIS. Expect some improvements with polarization correction.



### **Building Blocks for Satellite Intercalibration**

- Collocation
  - Determination and distribution of locations for simultaneous observations by different sensors (space-based and in-situ)
  - Collocation with benchmark measurements
- Data collection
  - Archive, metadata easily accessible
- Coordinated operational data analyses
  - Processing centers for assembling collocated data
  - Expert teams
- Assessments
  - communication including recommendations
  - Vicarious coefficient updates for "drifting" sensors



### **Calibration Support Segments (CSS)**

- The GSICS Calibration Support Segments (CSS) will be carried out by participating satellite agencies, national standards laboratories, major NWP centers, and national research laboratories. CSS activities are:
- Prelaunch Characterisation, reference instruments, SI traceability
- Earth-based reference sites, such as stable desert areas, long-term specially equipped ground sites, and special field campaigns, will be used to monitor satellite instrument performance.
- Extra-terrestrial calibration sources, such as the sun, the moon, and the stars, will
  provide stable calibration targets for on-orbit monitoring of instrument
  calibration
- Model simulations will allow comparisons of radiances computed from NWP analyses of atmospheric conditions with those observed by satellite instruments
- Benchmark measurements of the highest accuracy by special satellite, airborne and ground-based instruments will help nail down satellite instrument calibrations



### Four Earth-based reference sites in China

Site	Characteristic	Location	Purpose	
Dunhuang	Gebi Desert, homogenous surface, dry atmosphere, and high visibility	40° 10' N, 94° 20' E Elevation: 1176 m	On-orbit calibration for VNIR band	
Qinghai	Lake, Good Lambertian feature, dry atmosphere, and high visibility	36° 45' N, 100° 20' E Elevation: 3196 m	On-orbit calibration for TIR band	
Beijing	Laboratory on the top of NSMC building	116.46° N, 39.92° E Elevation: 48 m	<ul> <li>Validation for the calculation from radiation transfer code with very high spectral resolution</li> <li>Benchmark measurements</li> </ul>	
Lijiang	Local meteorological observation station, dry atmosphere, high visibility	100.25° N, 26.86° E Elevation: 2300 m	Pre-launch calibration for VNIR band of engineering and flight model	

Inter-Calibration Syste

### Simultaneous Nadir Overpass (SNO) Method -a core component in the Integrated Cal/Val System



#### **POES** intercalibration

•Has been applied to microwave, vis/nir, and infrared radiometers for on-orbit performance trending and climate calibration support

•Capabilities of 0.1 K for sounders and 1% for vis/nir have been demonstrated in pilot studies

• Useful for remote sensing scientists, climatologists, as well as calibration and instrument scientists

 Support new initiatives (GEOSS and GSICS)

 Significant progress are expected in GOES/POES intercal in the near future



### **Intercalibration Algorithm**

- Key match-up conditions between GEO and LEO
  - Difference of observing times < 1800 (sec)</li>
  - Difference of 1/cos( sat. zenith angles ) < 0.05</li>
  - Environment uniformity check



Environment box

- To choose only spatially uniform area to alleviate navigation error, MTF, observing time difference, optical path difference, etc.
- Environment domain = 11x11 IR pixel box (MTSAT-1R vs. AIRS)
- env\_stdv\_tb < (TBD)</li>
- Representation check of LEO-size GEO pixels in the environment
  - z-test
  - LEO FOV = 5x5 IR pixel box (MTSAT-1R vs. AIRS)
  - abs( fov\_mean\_tb env\_mean\_tb ) < Gaussian x env\_stdv\_tb / 5</li>



GSICS Research Working Group Meeting II on 12-14 June 2007

### **Radiance Comparison and TB Comparison**





### **TB Comparison and Radiance Comparison**



Inter-Calibrat

GSICS Research Working Group Meeting II on 12-14 June 2007

### JMA F90 Modules

#### New satellite implemented by replacing either GEO module "access\_geo" or LEO module "access\_leo"

program **geo\_leo\_intercal\_ir** [variable definition] geo, leo, colloc

call open\_geo(geo, GeoFile)

call get\_geo\_radiance( geo )

call open\_leo( leo, LeoFile )

call get\_leo\_data( leo )

call colloc\_geo\_leo( geo, leo, colloc )

call get\_simgeo\_convolution call get\_simgeo\_constrain ( geo, leo, colloc )

call write\_colloc\_netcdf/HDF ( geo, leo, colloc, CollocFile)

call close\_geo( geo )

call close\_leo( leo )

module common\_constants

Basic constants defined

#### module access\_geo

- Definition of GEO data structure
- Subroutines to open/close GEO, get GEO data, deallocate arrays

#### module access\_leo

- Definition of LEO data structure
- Subroutines to open/close LEO, get LEO data, deallocate arrays

### module collocate\_geo\_leo

- Definition of collocation data structure
- Subroutines to collocate GEO-LEO, deallocate arrays

#### module **simulate\_georad\_convolution** module **simulate\_georad\_constrain**

 Subroutines to estimate GEO radiances from LEO data, deallocate arrays

#### module write\_colloc

• Subroutine to write out results

## **CMA Modules**

New satellite implemented by replacing either GEO module "access\_geo" or LEO module "access\_leo"



call open\_geo( geo, GeoFile )

call get\_geo\_radiance( geo )

call open\_leo( leo, LeoFile )

call get\_leo\_data( leo, rc )

call colloc\_geo\_leo( geo, leo, colloc )

call get\_simgeo\_convolution(geo,leo,colloc)

call get\_simgeo\_constrain(geo,leo,colloc)

call output( geo, leo, colloc )

call close\_geo( geo )

call close\_leo( leo )

call destroy\_geo( geo )

call destroy\_leo( leo )

call destroy\_colloc( colloc )

call destroy\_simgeo\_\*\*\*()

module common\_constants

Basic constants defined

#### module access\_geo

- Definition of GEO data structure
- Subroutines to open/close GEO, get GEO data, deallocate arrays

#### module access\_leo

- Definition of LEO data structure
- Subroutines to open/close LEO, get LEO data, deallocate arrays

#### module collocate\_geo\_leo

- Definition of collocation data structure
- Subroutines to collocate GEO-LEO, deallocate arrays

#### module simulate\_georad\_convolution module simulate\_georad\_constrain

 Subroutines to estimate GEO radiances from LEO data, deallocate arrays

#### module (output)

Subroutine to write out results

## **GSICS** Deliverables

- GSICS Products for users of satellite data, including calibration corrections/coefficients
- GSICS Algorithms, which describe intercalibration processes, (described by ATBD)
- GSICS Monitoring Reports, assessments
- GSICS Reference datasets, including Solar spectrum, ...
- GSICS Tools for use by inter-calibration developers, (GIRO, SBAF, ...)
- GSICS recommended standards, conventions and guidelines,
- GSICS User Services, information, Websites





### New Visualization Feature on GSICS Product Catalog - more than 50 products

#### https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/GCC/ProductCatalogImages.php



### **CMA** is a significant contributor to GSICS







## Look! CMA GSICS team!









GSICS 2018 Annual Meeting on March 19~23, Shanghai, China

### **Example from CMA for HIRAS monitoring**





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### **GSICS Annual State of the Observing System**

Annual assessment of observing system performance with respect to reference instruments using a common template



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Inter	Calibra	Space-b ation Sy	ased stem

	Channel Name (Central Wavelength in µm)	BAND07 (3.9)	BAND08 (6.2)	BAND09 (6.9)	BAND10 (7.3)	BAND11 (8.6)	BAND12 (9.6)	BAND13 (10.4)	BAND14 (11.2)	BAND15 (12.4)	BAND16 (13.3)
	Std. Radiance as Tb (K)	286.0	234.6	243.9	254.6	283.8	259.5	286.2	286.1	283.8	269.7
Metop-A/ IASI	Mean Bias (K)	-0.11	-0.173	-0.212	-0.129	-0.05	-0.216	0.036	0.045	-0.04	0.078
	Stdv. of Bias (K)	0.008	0.012	0.009	0.014	0.012	0.017	0.018	0.019	0.017	0.015
S-NPP/ CrIS	Mean Bias (K)	-0.07	-0.16	-0.24	-0.15	N/A	-0.23	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.03
	Stdv/ of Bias (K)	0.039	0.011	0.012	0.026	N/A	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.010	0.005

#### Summary Statistics of Himawari-8/AHI IR Calibration Performance in 2017 (All uncertainties are k=1)

- The statistics are derived from Himawari-8/AHI GSICS Re-Analysis Correction (<u>ATBD</u>)
- Standard Radiance: typical scene defined by GSICS for easy inter-comparison of sensors' inter-calibration biases







#### Summary Statistics of GOES-16/ABI IR Calibration Performance in December 2017 (All uncertainties are k=1)

	Channel Name (Central Wavelength in µm)	BAND07 (3.9)	BAND08 (6.2)	BAND09 (6.9)	BAND10 (7.3)	BAND11 (8.6)	BAND12 (9.6)	BAND13 (10.4)	BAND14 (11.2)	BAND15 (12.4)	BAND16 (13.3)
	Std. Scene Tb (K)	286.0	234.5	244.0	254.5	284.0	259.5	286.0	286.0	283.5	269.5
Metop-B/ IASI	Bias at Std. Scene(K)	-0.167	-0.196	-0.218	-0.170	-0.204	-0.227	-0.210	-0.141	-0.153	-0.294
	Stdv. of Bias (K)	0.120	0.082	0.093	0.108	0.147	0.110	0.160	0.165	0.169	0.160
S-NPP/ CrIS	Bias at Std. Scene(K)	-	-	-0.259	-0.202	-	-0.160	-0.227	-0.167	-0.176	-0.282
	Stdv of Bias (K)	-	-	0.045	0.052	-	0.047	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.094

The uncertainty and statistics are calculated following the GSICS standard GEO-LEO IR inter-calibration algorithm

 GOES-16 ABI IR calibration is very stable with mean Tb bias to CrIS/IASI less than 0.3K. No significant scene dependent Tb bias to the reference instruments for all the IR channels

• GOES-16 ABI post-launch test started in Jan. 2017 and became operational on 18 December 2017. L1B data are available to the public since after the provisional maturity on 1 June 2017.

 Stable reference and monitored instruments can guickly detect and identify calibration events (e.g. Metop-B/IASI and GOES-16 ABI Ground updates) and validate the algorithm (e.g. ABI cal. algorithm update in October 2017)



Time series of GOES-16 ABI daily mean Tb bias to SNPP/CrIS and Metop-B/IASI for ABI B12

Scene dependent Tb bias to SNPP/CrIS for ABI B16



IASI

₽

#### Scene dependent Tb bias to Metop-B/IASI for ABI B16





Channel Name	IR3.9	IR6.2	IR7.3	IR8.7	IR9.7	IR10.8	IR12.0	IR13.4
Standard Radiance as Tb (K)	284	236	255	284	261	286	285	267
Mean Bias (K)	+0.57	-0.16	+0.38	+0.01	-0.08	+0.04	+0.01	+0.35
Standard Deviation of Bias (K)	0.03	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.40
Mean Drift Rate of Bias (K/yr)	-0.07	-0.10	-0.22	-0.04	-0.14	-0.05	-0.05	+0.35

Summary Statistics of Meteosat-8/SEVIRI IR Calibration Performance in 2017 (All uncertainties are k=1)

• The statistics are derived from Meteosat-8/SEVIRI Operational GSICS Re-Analysis Correction vs. Metop-A/IASI

• Biases defined for Standard Radiance: typical scene for easy inter-comparison of sensors' inter-calibration biases

• Decontaminations introduce calibration jumps – most obvious in the IR13.4 channel due to ice contamination

Time series of Meteosat-8/SEVIRI Tb biases w.r.t. Metop-A/IASI at standard radiance





#### Summary Statistics of COMS/MI IR Calibration Performance in 2017 (All uncertainties are k=1)

		MetOp	-A/IASI		MetOp	-B/IASI		
Channel Name	IR3.8	IR6.8	IR10.8	IR12.0	IR3.8	IR6.8	IR10.8	IR12.0
Std Rad as Tb (K)	286	238	286	285	286	238	286	285
Mean Bias (K)	0.16	-0.02	0.12	0.004	0.15	-0.06	0.11	0.004
Stdv of Bias (K)	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.03
Mean Drift Rate of Bias (K/yr)	-0.14	-	-0.12	-0.01	-0.15	-	-0.14	-0.04

_			Snpp	/CrIS	Aqua/AIRS				
	Channel Name	IR3.8	IR6.8	IR10.8	IR12.0	IR3.8	IR6.8	IR10.8	IR12.0
	Std Rad as Tb (K)	286	238	286	285	286	238	286	285
	Mean Bias (K)	-	-0.23	-0.03	-0.02	-0.19	-0.30	-0.02	0.02
	Stdv of Bias (K)	-	0.01	0.14	0.08	0.07	0.02	0.14	0.09
	Mean Drift Rate of Bias (K/yr)	-	-	+0.03	+0.03	+0.19	-	-0.005	-0.007

- The statistics are derived from COMS/MI Operational GSICS Re-Analysis Correction vs. Metop-A/IASI, Metop-B/IASI, Aqua/AIRS, Snpp/CrIS
- Biases defined for Standard Radiance: typical scene for easy inter-comparison of sensors' inter-calibration biases
- Operation of MI with shifted WV SRF of 3.5cm<sup>-1</sup> started in 5 December 2017.



### How is GSICS Integrated into WIGOS

### **Recognizing GSICS as an element of WIGOS**

- ✓ The new Manual on WIGOS requires calibration along GSICS standards
- ✓ WIGOS/OSCAR will contain links to GSICS calibration information



Reference:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/meetings/do cuments/GSICS-EP-16\_Doc\_06-01\_referencedocuments.pdf





WEATHER CLIMATE WATER

Please visit our public website: http://public.wmo.int

Global Space-based

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The Task Team on the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System	The Task Team on the WIGOS Data and Partnerships

#### TT-WSI

Terms of Reference

observing components.

Membership

#### 4.3.1 Calibration and traceability

4.3.1.1 **Satellite operators shall perform a detailed instrument characterization before Jaunch**.

### 4.3.1.2 After launch, satellite operators shall calibrate all instruments on a routine basis against reference instruments or calibration targets.

Notes:

- 1. Advantage should be taken of satellite collocation to perform on-orbit instrument intercomparison and calibration.
- 2. Calibration must be done in accordance with methodologies established and documented by the Global Spacebased Inter-calibration System and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Calibration and Validation.

### 4.3.1.3 Satellite operators shall ensure traceability to the International System of Units (SI) standards.

Note: The Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC (2010 Update), GCOS-138 (WMO/TD-No. 1523) calls for sustained measurement of key variables from space traceable to reference standards and recommends implementing and evaluating a satellite climate calibration mission.

### 4.3.1.4 To ensure traceability to the International System of Units (SI) standards, satellite operators shall define a range of ground-based reference targets for calibration purposes.





Integrated Calibration / Validation System Long-Term Monitoring

Animate All Products

150 E

180 E

Finder

NOAA / NESDIS / STAR

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ATMS

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Integrated Calibration / Validation System Long-Term Monitoring

oring and characterizing satellite instrument performance for weather, climate and environmental applications About I Personn STAR ICVS Home NOAA-20 ATMS • NPP Ins Animate Selected Product 26 Apr 2019 - 18:36 ET / 22:36 UTC **On-orbit Events &** Descript Anomalies **STAR JF TDR Global Image** Select a parameter: Select a Date: • Suomi NPP Researc Channel 1 ----Submit • NOAA-20 ✓ TDR Global Image < 04-26-2019 SDR Global Image **On-orbit** NOAA-20 RDR Channel NEAT Anomali Spacecraft NOAA-20 ATMS TDR Ch.1 23.8 GHz QV-POL **RDR** Channel Gain Suomi N ATMS >> **RDR Space View Count** 2019-04-26 NOAA-2 • Cris **RDR Warm Load Count** Ascending • CrIS FSR **RDR 4-Wire PRT Temperature** NOAA-2 • VIIRS **RDR Receiver Shelf 2-Wire PRTs** • OMPS Nadir Mapper Spacecr **RDR Main Motor Position (Angle)**  OMPS Nadir Profiler • ATMS **RDR 2-Wire PRT Temperature RDR Health and Status** · Cris Suomi NPP TDR Quality Flag (QF1-QF19) • Cris Fsi Spacecraft TDR Quality Flag (QF-20) • VIIRS • ATMS TDR Quality Flag (QF-21) • OMPS N • CrIS TDR Quality Flag (QF-22) • CrIS FSR • OMPS N **TDR Operational Mode** • VIIRS **TDR Granule Data Status** • OMPS Nadir Mapper Suomi N TDR Daily Global O-B Bias (ECMWF) OMPS Nadir Profiler Spacecr TDR Monthly O-B Bias (GPS-RO) • OMPS Limb Profiler · ATMS TDR Inter-sensor Bias (SNO) **GEO Status** Cris GOES Cris Fsi EQ MetOp-B • VIIRS AMSU-A • OMPS N 15 S • MHS • OMPS N • AVHRR • OMPS L . HIRS 30 S GOES NOAA-19 45 S AMSU-A MetOp-E • MHS • AVHRR 60 S AMSU-A HIRS . MHS • AVHRR 75 S MetOp-A • HIRS AMSU-A 90 S • MHS NOAA-1 • AVHRR 180 W 150 W 90 W 60 W 30 W 0 30 E 60 E 90 E 120 E 120 W AMSU-A • HIRS κ • MHS NOAA-18 AVHRR AMSU-A 150 175 200 225 250 275 300 Gap • HIRS • MHS Descending AVHRR MetOp-A • HIRS 90 N . AMSU-A • MHS NOAA-15 75 N AVHRR AMSU-A • HIRS

STAR I

NOAA-18 AMSU-A

. MUC

tion System





Inter-Calibration System

#### NOAA GPRC – quantifying differences between ATMS and AMSUs Example of SNPP-NOAA-20 ATMS CH11 difference



#### TDR Double difference NPP – NOAA-20 ~ 0.20 K

Global Space-based

USING ECMWF AS A REFERENCE FOR DOUBLE DIFFERENCE

Using GPSRO - Double difference ~ 0.25



#### USING GPSRO AS A REFERENCE FOR DOUBLE DIFFERENCE



### Double difference: [RT – NPP] – [RT – N20] (RT=0)

Is there an advantage of two satellites in the same exact orbit for intersatellite calibration?



From Isaac Moradi

### Double difference: [RT – NPP] – [RT – N20]



During the Provisional Review Time, we observed the orbit-shape difference between SNPP LST and N20 LST. Mitch suggested that such difference may be significantly reduced in the mean LST difference of certain time period at least cover one orbit-repeat period. The LST team made up the mean differences images and plots then, illustrated in the next few slides.



#### Condition

- NOAA20 and SNPP LST were generated using the latest LUT
- Two days in each month of 2018 were selected for comparison
- LST difference for day (Left) and night (Right) were presented

#### Results

- Daytime LST diff. presents an orbit-related pattern particularly at mid and low latitude
- The LST diff. is small at high latitude area for both daytime and nighttime

NOAA-20 LST Provisional Maturity Review



00°N

30°N

o

30°S

S°09

32 Day Mean LST: Day





135°W

-10

-15

90°W

45°W

-5

0°

Longitude

0

45°E

5

90°E

135°E

15

10

220

220

240

0 280 SNPP I ST(K)

300

320

340

260

6498

### What are the GSICS requirements on Radiative Transfer?

- Assume that IASI and CrIS are within 0.01 and there is absolutely no drift.
- But how is the data used? You need radiative transfer to project the data into the geophysical parameters you are after.
- The projection efficiency will be a function of the accuracy of the RT.
- At the same time we need truth data GRUAN-like quality radiosondes allow us to test RT models – which model fits the radiance better?
- And reference quality satellites can test the truth



### **Reference Instruments – IASI and CrIS**

### **Example Cal/Val Result: SNOs with IASI and AIRS**

Differences with IASI-B, and NOAA20/SNPP differences via IASI-B (All FOV means)



Differences with AIRS, and NOAA20/SNPP differences via AIRS (All FOV means)



Dave Tobin

- Differences between NOAA20 CrIS and SNPP CrIS are less than 0.1K
- > Differences from IASI-B are less than 0.2K, Differences from AIRS are less than 0.4K
- Larger diffs observed for cold SW scenes, but with NOAA20 CrIS agreeing better with IASI and AIRS as compared to SNPP CrIS. Expect some improvements with polarization correction.







# Reference instruments can be used to see which model analysis agree with the observations









### **Frost-Point Observations Show Significant Deviations**

Frost-Point Observations by H. Voelmer: NOAA Boulder Represents far fewer observations than RS-90's and inconsistencies day vs night.



Diamonds are  $CO_2$  Biases for channels with similar peaking weighting functions.



From Larrabee Strow

### Lindenberg; ch2 -TMT (middle-troposphere) GRUAN computed using MW weighting function





GPSRO data is provided by Johannes Nielsen at EUMETSAT ROM SAF at DMI



- GSICS uses radiative transfer models to monitor instrument performance in addition to satellite intercomparisons.
- We need "reference" radiative transfer model endorsed by a community of RT experts working to together.
  - verified using "reference" satellites observations (GSICS ) and " reference" ground truth (GRUAN)
- Remember McNally and Bell:
  - We wish to understand the origin of the bias and ideally correct instrument / RT / NWP model at source
  - It was not just the instrument -- includes the RT.

