



# Enterprise Comparison of Atmospheric Profiles Derived Polar Satellite and GNSS Constellations



Tony Reale  
(NOAA NESDIS STAR)  
tony.reale@noaa.gov

Bomin Sun, Ryan Smith, Michael Pettey, Nick Nalli  
(IMSG / STAR)

Christopher Grassotti (CISESS, Univ Md.)

Thomas August (EUMETSAT)

23<sup>rd</sup> International *A*TOVS Study Conference (ITSC-23)  
25 June 2021



# Outline

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)

Enterprise Assessment

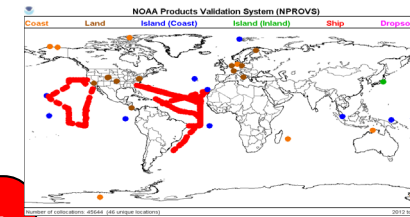
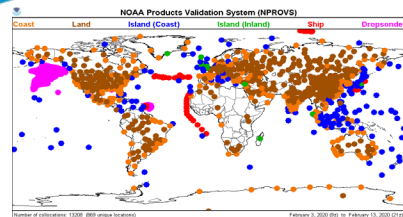
Sampling Strategy (Polar and GNSS)

Results

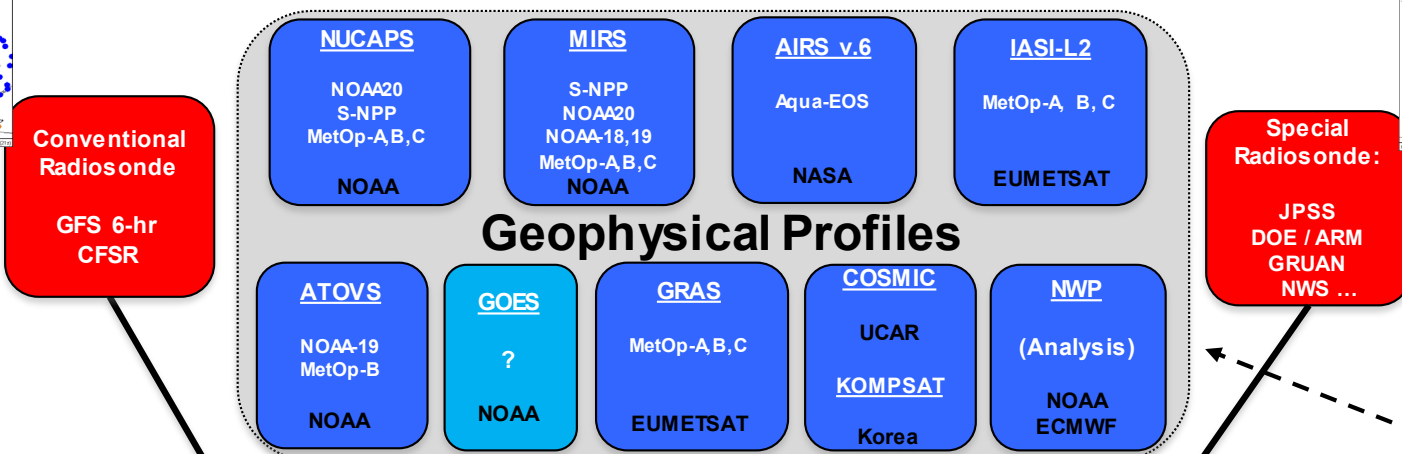
*Paper supports ITOVS WG on Products and Software (WGPS) Action 4:  
Foster the continuous improvement of products through validation and inter-  
comparison studies among the different methods to derive level-2 data ...*



# NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)

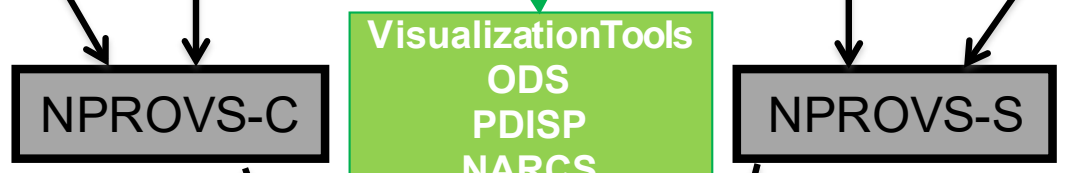


**INPUTS**

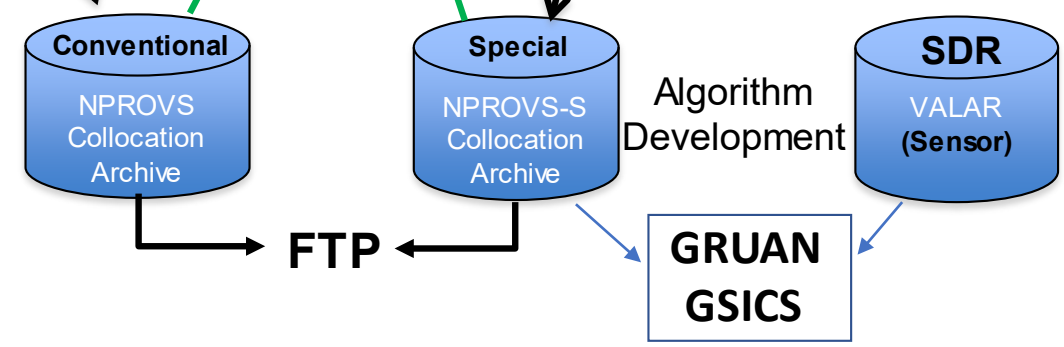


**Parallel Test Systems**  
All

**Collocation Processing (daily)**



**OUTPUT (Collocated Radiosonde and Satellite Observations)**





# Enterprise Assessment

The capability to routinely inter-compare two or more data platforms against identical ground truth using the same sampling constraints



# Sampling Constraints

- Single Closest to Raob per satellite suite: +/- 6hr, 100 km (250km for GNSS)
  - <https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/opdb/nprovs/>
- Subsampled for Report: +/- 2hr, 100km (200km for GNSS); August 18-28, 2020
- **Polar Satellite Suites: MetOp-B**
  - NOAA Unique Combined Atmospheric Processing System (NUCAPS), IR+MW pass QC
  - EUMETSAT, IR+MW successful
  - NOAA Microwave integrated Retrieval System (MiRS), **Microwave-only** (RainRate = 0)
- **Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) Suites**
  - Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere and Climate-2 (COSMIC-2)
  - GNSS Receiver for Atmospheric Sounding (GRAS), MetOp-A,B,C ... near-real-time \*\*

\*\* GRAS are “nrt” product and for demonstration only ... we are working to replace with GRAS “post-processed” as recommended by EUMETSAT Satellite Application Facility (SAF, J Nielsen (DMI))



# Sampling Constraints (cont)

- Statistics are at 100 effective pressure (approximate 1km layer means in troposphere) ... *legacy from AIRS (RT model layers) and products distributed to Users (NWS forecasters ...)*
  - Retrieval Temperature (K)
  - H2O Vapor Mixing Ratio Fraction (%) ...  $(Sat - Raob) / Raob$
  
- Conventional Global Radiosonde, sorted by
  - All Radiosondes
  - Only Vaisala RS41
  
- Enterprise Assessment

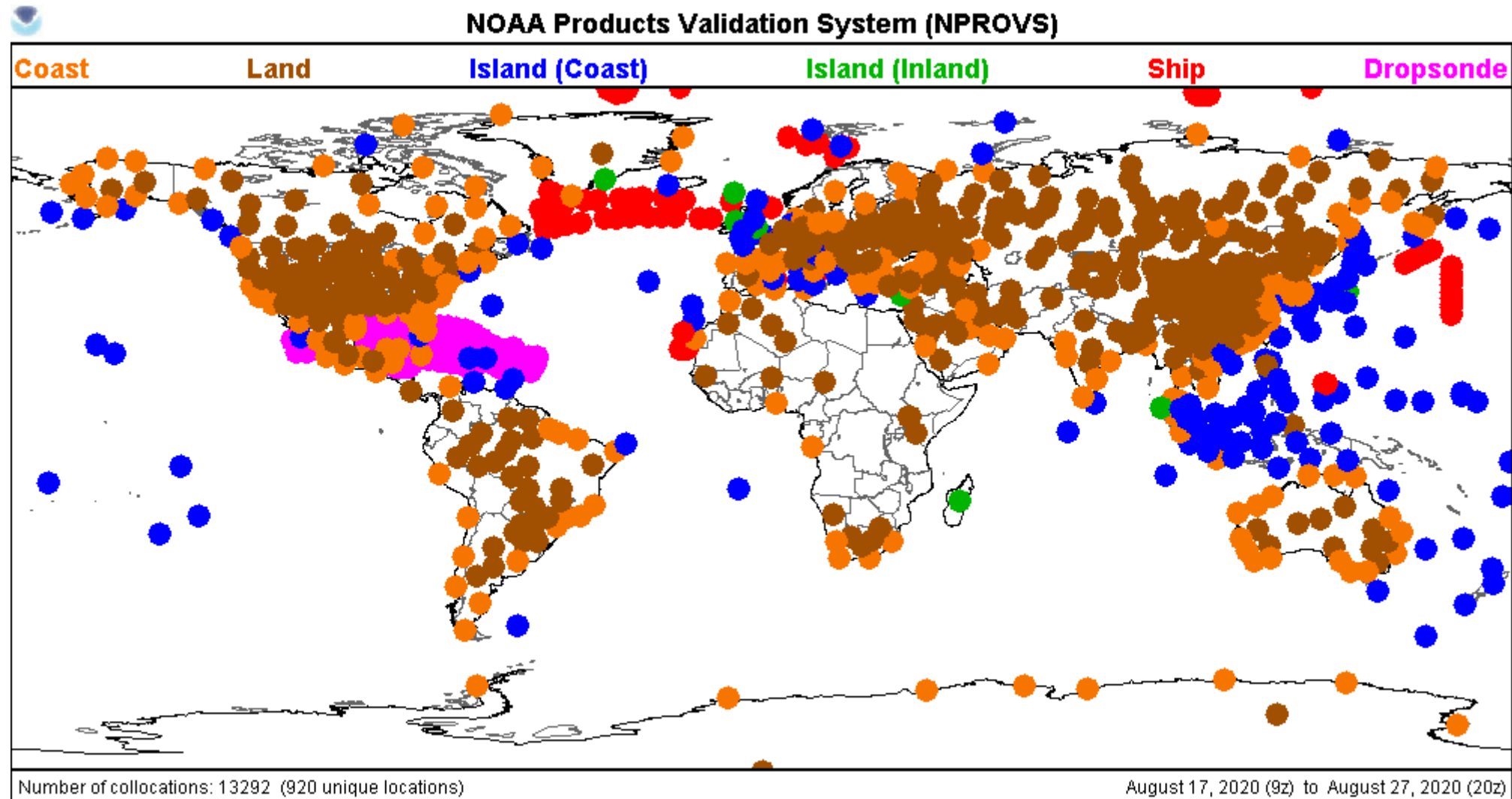


# Side Notes on Sampling Constraints

- Readily applied using NPROVS Profile Display (PDISP) application (JAVA), available at: <https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/opdb/nprovs/> ... *includes datasets*
- Enterprise comparison works best for (polar) satellites in similar orbital configurations
- Mismatch constraints (time and distance) are relative to baseline (Raob) which means any given pair of collocated satellite observations could exceed this constraint ... *more prevalent for GNSS*
- Mismatch constraint is determined (in NPROVS) at:
  - surface for polar satellites
  - 100 hPa for GNSS
- **Disclaimer: GRAS are nrt product and for demonstration only ... we are working to replace with GRAS post-processed as recommended by EUMETSAT Satellite Application Facility (J Nielsen, DMI)**



August 17 – 27, 2020

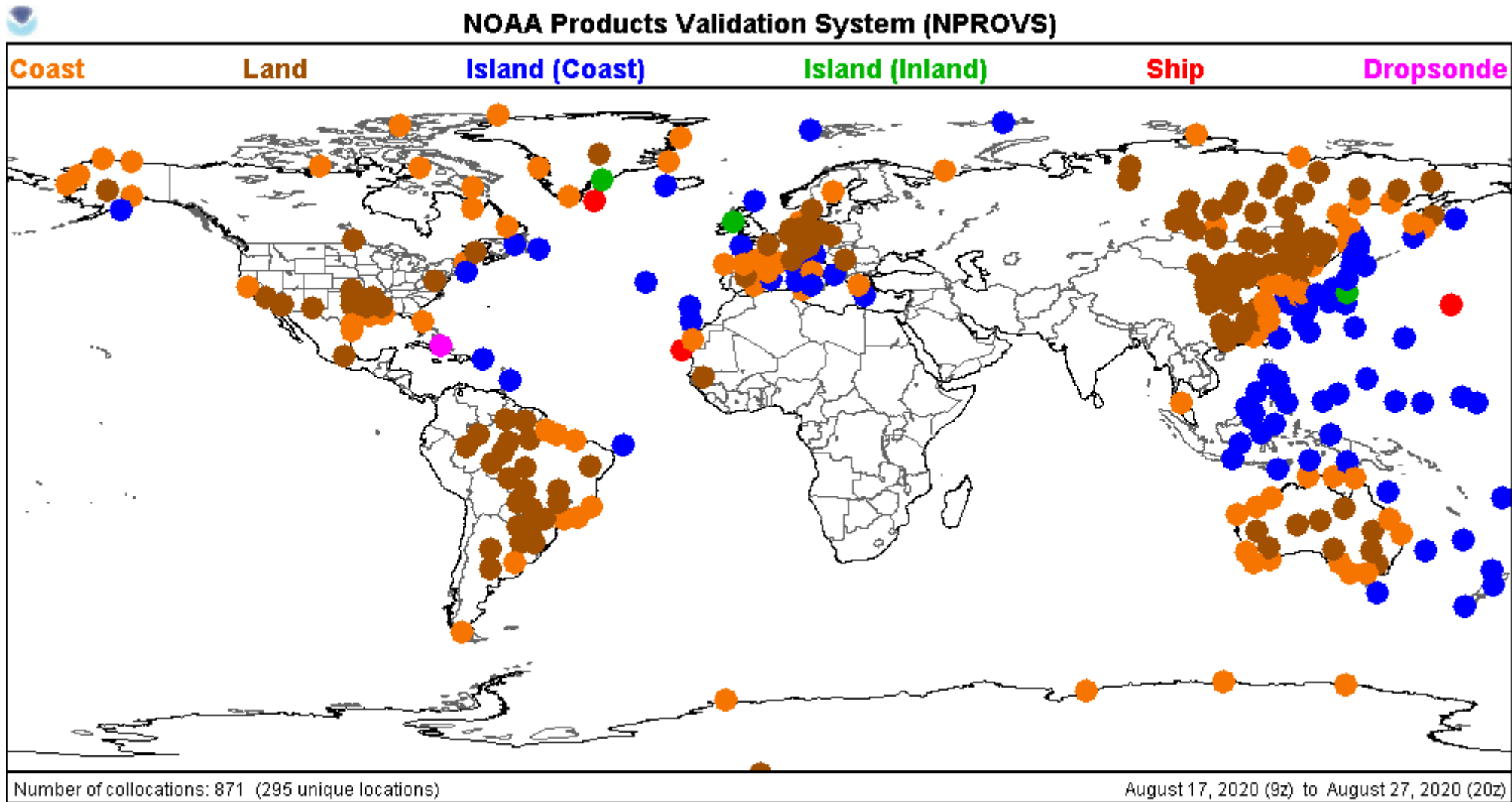


All Radiosonde Sites  
(1320 at 920 locations)





# August 17 – 27, 2020 All Radiosondes

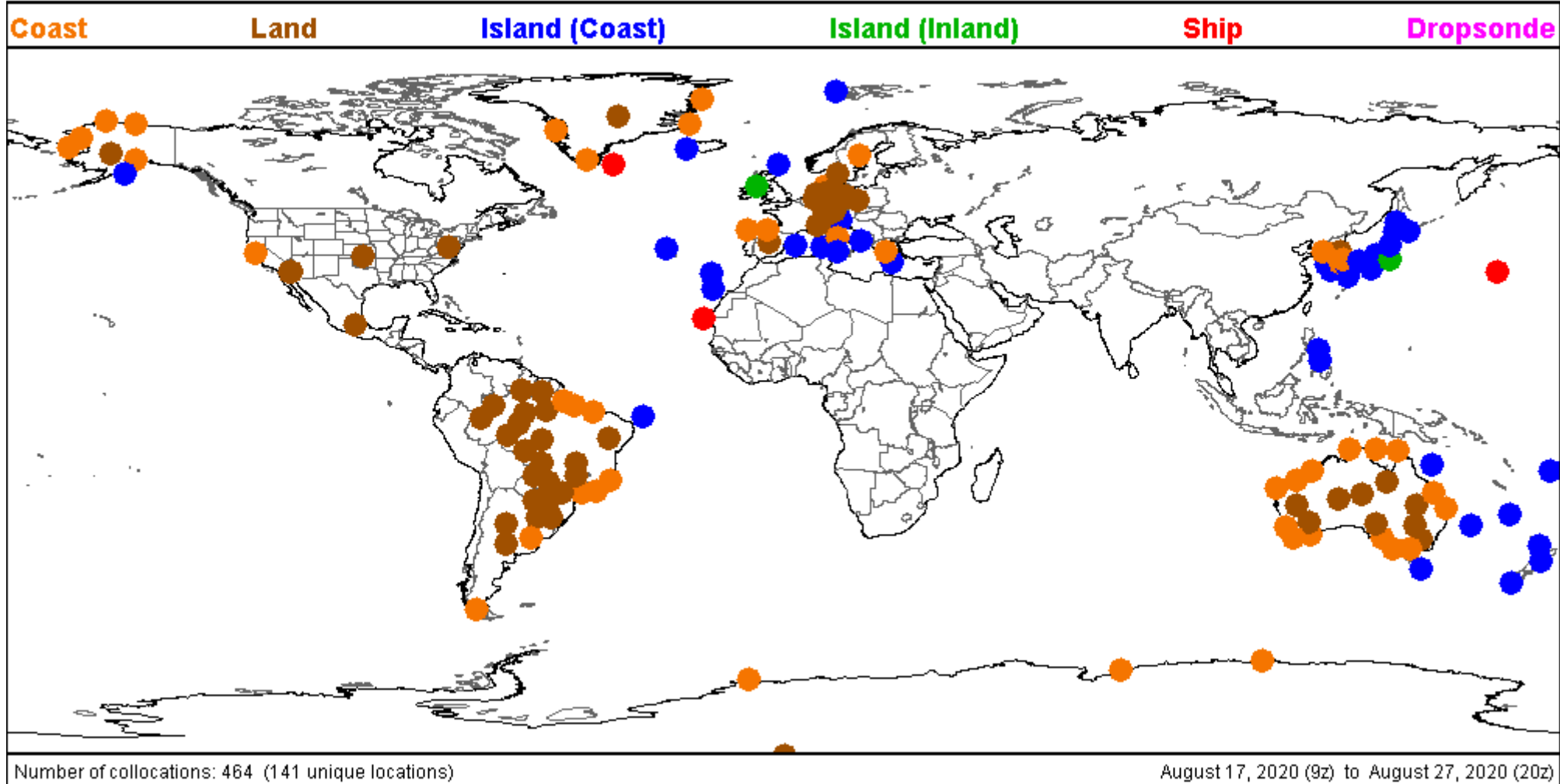


Collocated Radiosonde and MetOp-B NUCAPS, EUMETSAT and MiRS soundings; +/- 2 hours, 100km  
(871 Radiosondes at 295 sites)



# August 17 – 27, 2020 Vaisala RS41 Radiosondes

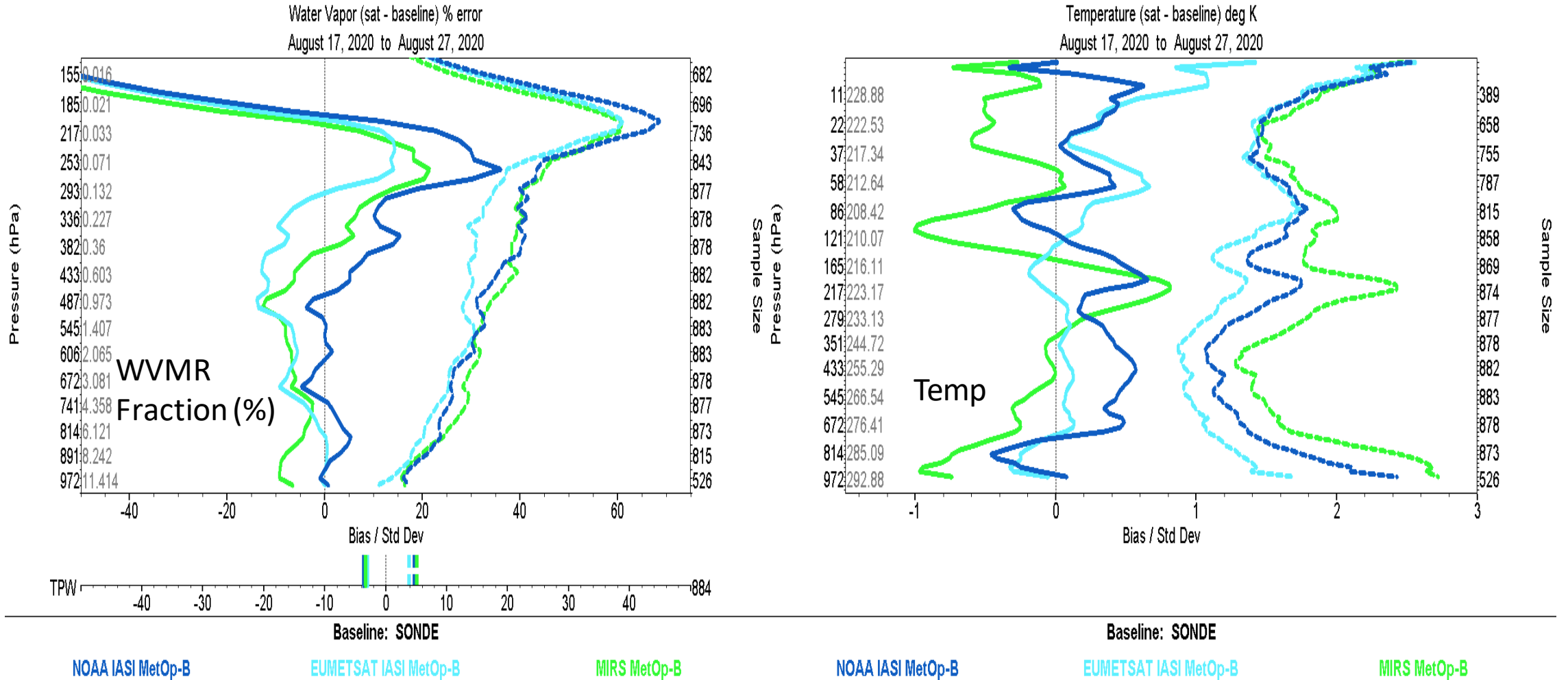
NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)



Collocated Radiosonde and MetOp-B NUCAPS, EUMETSAT and MiRS soundings; +/- 2 hours, 100km  
(464 Radiosondes at 141 sites)



# August 17 – 27, 2020 All Radiosondes

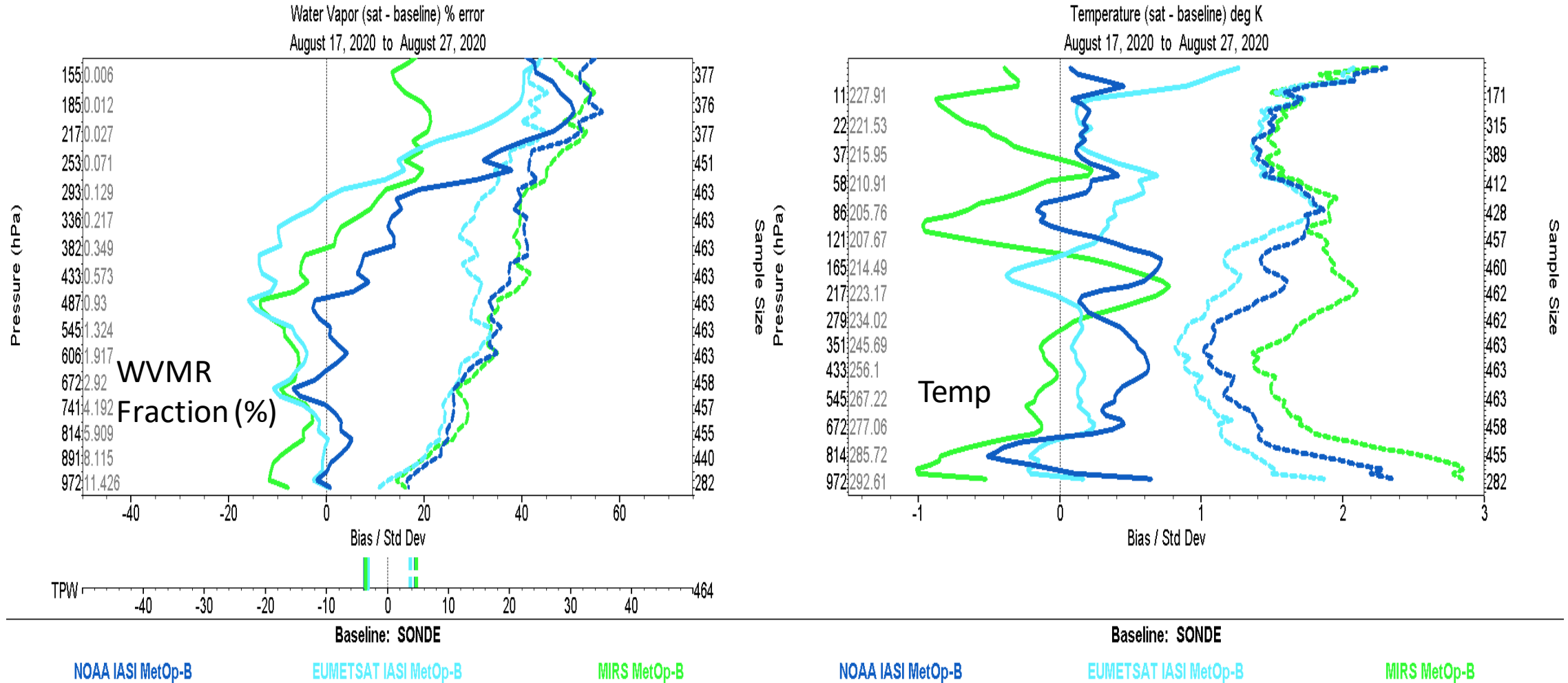


(X – Raob) Vertical Statistics for Bias (solid) and Standard Deviation (dash)  
 NUCAPS, EUMETSAT and MiRS soundings from MetOp-B  
 +/- 2 hours, 100km



# August 17 – 27, 2020

## Vaisala RS41 Radiosondes



(X – Raob) Vertical Statistics for Bias (solid) and Standard Deviation (dash)  
 NUCAPS, EUMETSAT and MiRS soundings from MetOp-B  
 +/- 2 hours, 100km

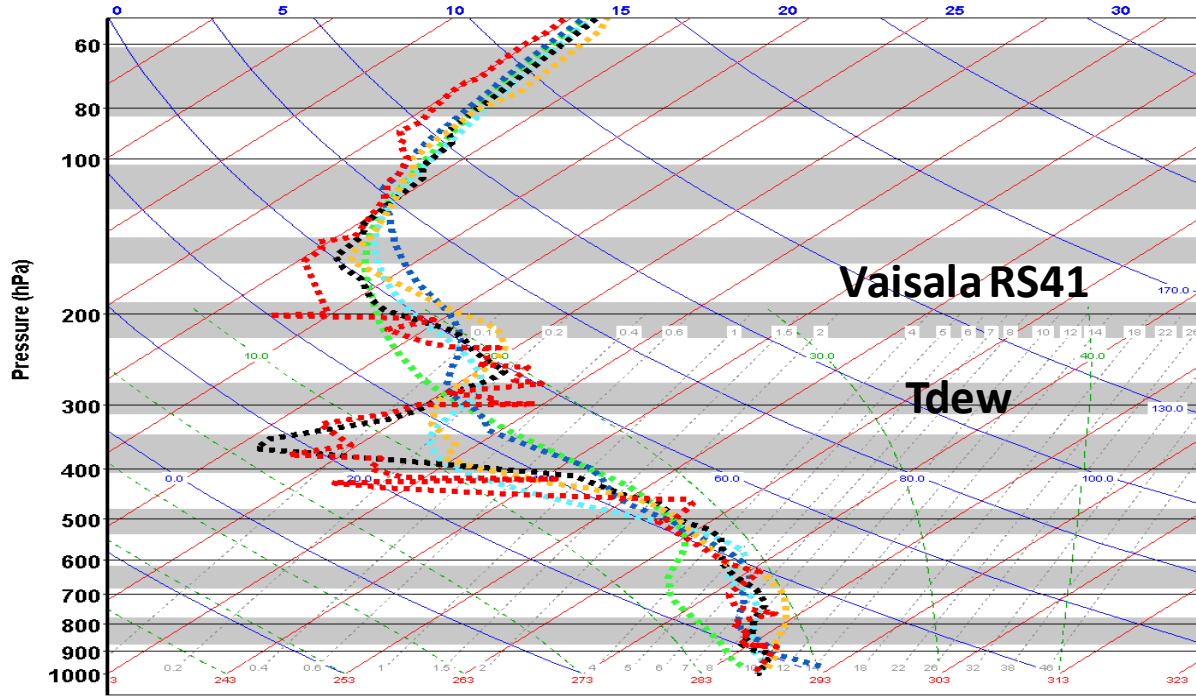


# August 17, 2020 at 18Z

## Vaisala RS41

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)

Dewpoint / Temperature (deg K)



Vaisala RS41

Tdew

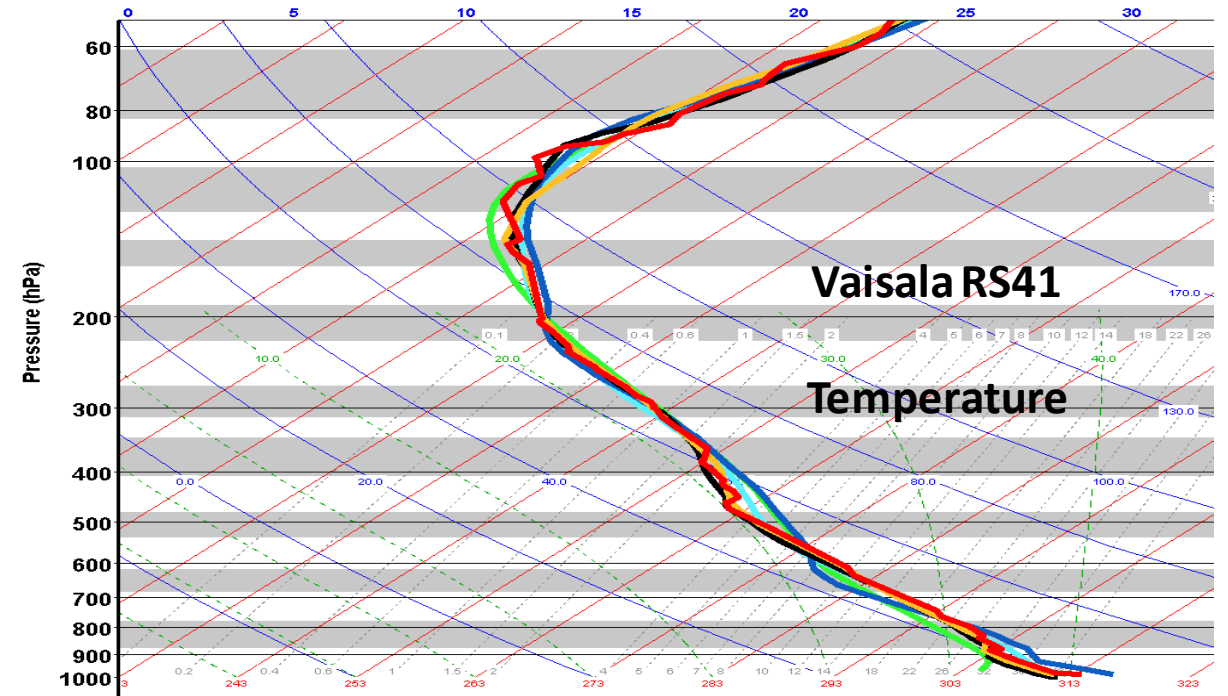
SONDE 74005 (141) SONDE  
 SONDE 74005 (141) GFS 6 Hour  
 ECMWF  
 NOAA IASI MetOp-B  
 EUMETSAT IASI MetOp-B  
 MIRS MetOp-B (0) MIRS MetOp-B

8/17/2020 18:31:00Z  
 8/17/2020 18:31:00Z  
 8/17/2020 18:00:00Z (-0.5 hours)  
 8/17/2020 17:49:22Z (-0.7 hours)  
 8/17/2020 17:49:23Z (-0.7 hours)  
 8/17/2020 17:49:19Z (-0.7 hours)

32.9 N / 114 W  
 32.9 N / 114 W  
 32.8 N / 114 W (12.5 km)  
 32.7 N / 114.3 W (26.8 km)  
 32.8 N / 114.1 W (10.7 km)  
 32.9 N / 114 W (6.8 km)

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)

Dewpoint / Temperature (deg K)



Vaisala RS41

Temperature

SONDE 74005 (141) SONDE  
 SONDE 74005 (141) GFS 6 Hour  
 ECMWF  
 NOAA IASI MetOp-B  
 EUMETSAT IASI MetOp-B  
 MIRS MetOp-B (0) MIRS MetOp-B

8/17/2020 18:31:00Z  
 8/17/2020 18:31:00Z  
 8/17/2020 18:00:00Z (-0.5 hours)  
 8/17/2020 17:49:22Z (-0.7 hours)  
 8/17/2020 17:49:23Z (-0.7 hours)  
 8/17/2020 17:49:19Z (-0.7 hours)

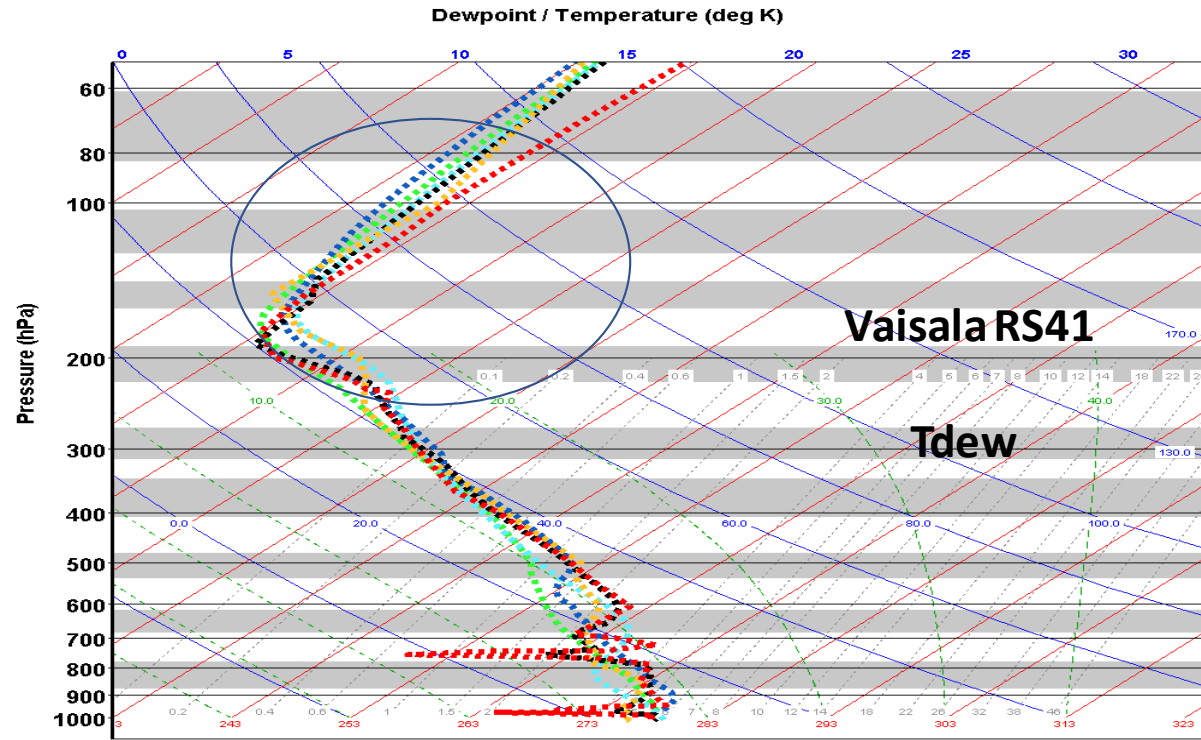
32.9 N / 114 W  
 32.9 N / 114 W  
 32.8 N / 114 W (12.5 km)  
 32.7 N / 114.3 W (26.8 km)  
 32.8 N / 114.1 W (10.7 km)  
 32.9 N / 114 W (6.8 km)

Example of collocated profiles, Tdew (left) and Temperature (right) for  
 NUCAPS, EUMETSAT and MiRS soundings from MetOp-B, ECMWF Analysis and GFS 6-hr Forecast  
 ... Satellite soundings at nearly identical time and location



# August 21, 2020 at 23Z

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)

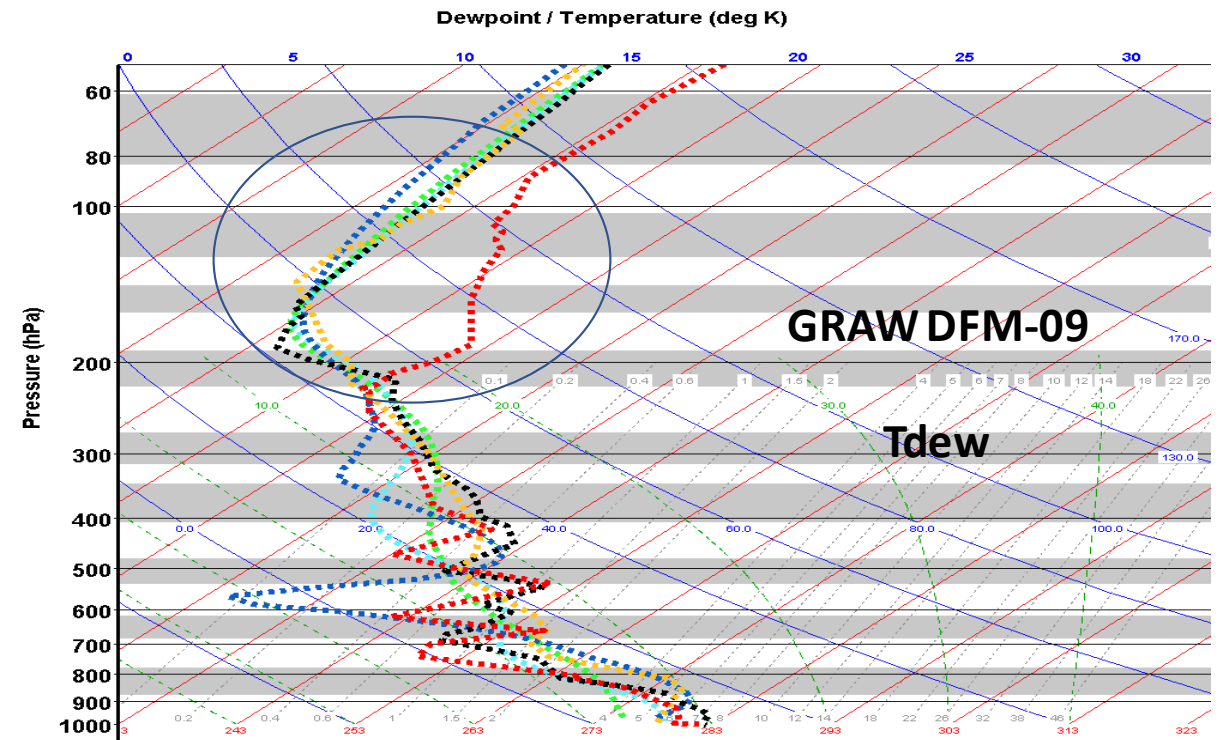


Vaisala RS41

Tdew

SONDE 70165 (123) SONDE	8/21/2020 23:30:00Z	70.5 N / 149.9 W
SONDE 70165 (123) GFS 6 Hour	8/21/2020 23:30:00Z	70.5 N / 149.9 W
ECMWF	8/22/2020 0:00:00Z (0.5 hours)	70.5 N / 150 W (4.3 km)
NOAA IASI MetOp-B	8/21/2020 22:58:33Z (-0.5 hours)	70.2 N / 150 W (28.2 km)
EUMETSAT IASI MetOp-B	8/21/2020 22:58:33Z (-0.5 hours)	70.5 N / 150 W (7.5 km)
MIRS MetOp-B (0) MIRS MetOp-B	8/21/2020 22:58:30Z (-0.5 hours)	70.6 N / 150.1 W (12.5 km)

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)



GRAW DFM-09

Tdew

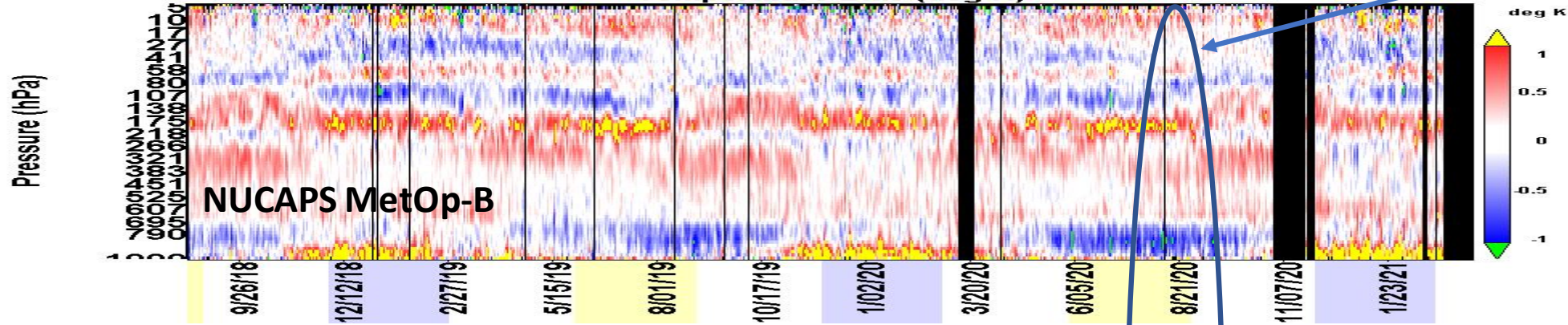
SONDE 71957 (117) SONDE	8/21/2020 23:15:00Z	68.3 N / 133.5 W
SONDE 71957 (117) GFS 6 Hour	8/21/2020 23:15:00Z	68.3 N / 133.5 W
ECMWF	8/22/2020 0:00:00Z (0.8 hours)	68.2 N / 133.5 W (7.9 km)
NOAA IASI MetOp-B	8/21/2020 21:18:09Z (-1.9 hours)	68.6 N / 133.8 W (34.2 km)
EUMETSAT IASI MetOp-B	8/21/2020 21:18:09Z (-1.9 hours)	68.4 N / 133.7 W (14.8 km)
MIRS MetOp-B (0) MIRS MetOp-B	8/21/2020 21:18:11Z (-1.9 hours)	68.3 N / 133.4 W (3.9 km)

Example of collocated Tdew for RS41 (left) and GRAW DFM-09 (right) for  
 NUCAPS, EUMETSAT and MiRS soundings from MetOp-B, ECMWF Analysis and GFS 6-hr Forecast  
 ... Satellite soundings at nearly identical time and location

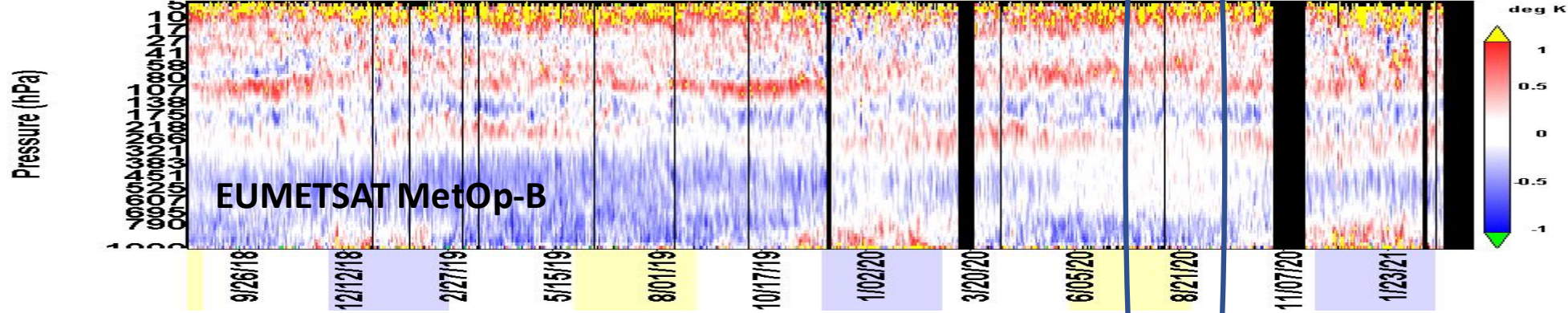


NUCAPS MetOp-B IR + MW All Terrain(Passed) - Sonde All Terrain  
Temperature Bias (deg K)

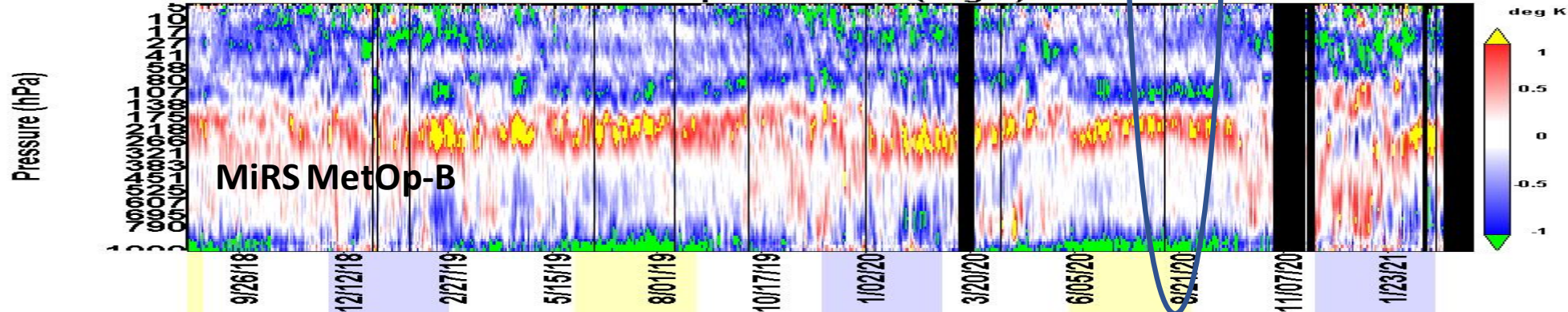
Aug 17-27, 2020



EUMETSAT MetOp-B IR + MW All Terrain(Passed) - Sonde All Terrain  
Temperature Bias (deg K)



MIRS MetOp-B MW All Terrain(Passed) - Sonde All Terrain  
Temperature Bias (deg K)



Long Term Time Series (2018-2021), Temperature Bias; +/- 2hr, All Raobs ... *not enterprise*

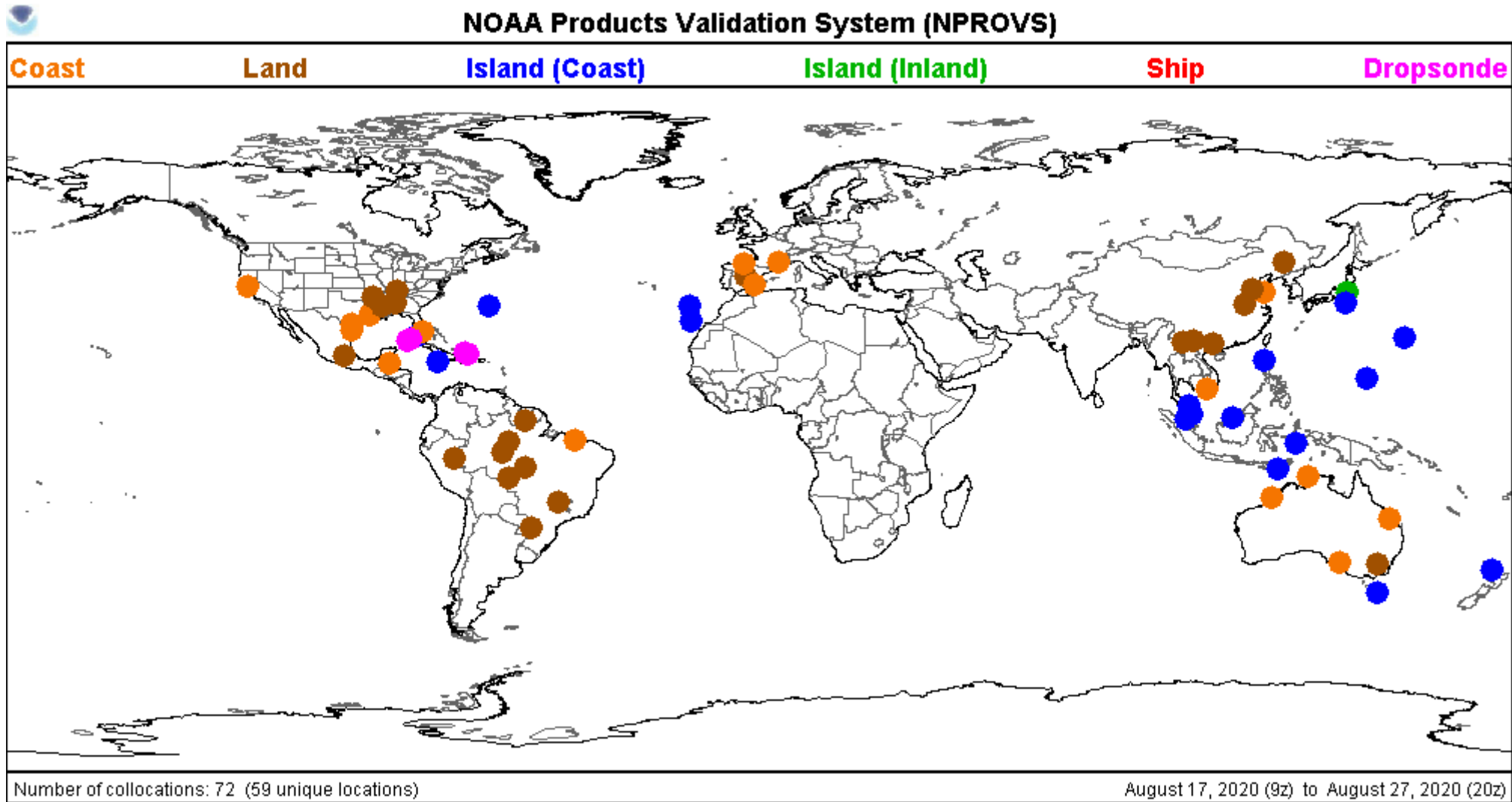


# GNSS





# August 17 – 27, 2020 All Radiosondes



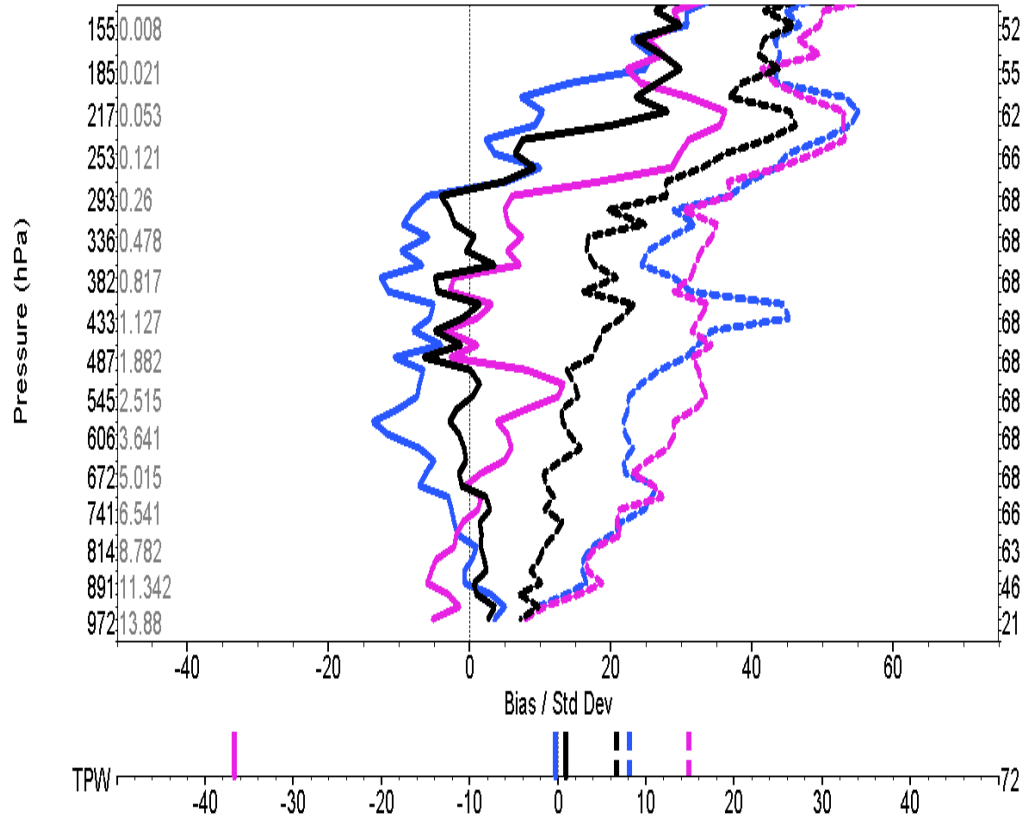
Collocated Radiosonde, COSMIC-2 (C2) and GRAS (MetOp) soundings; +/- 2 hours, 200km  
(72 Radiosondes 69 sites)



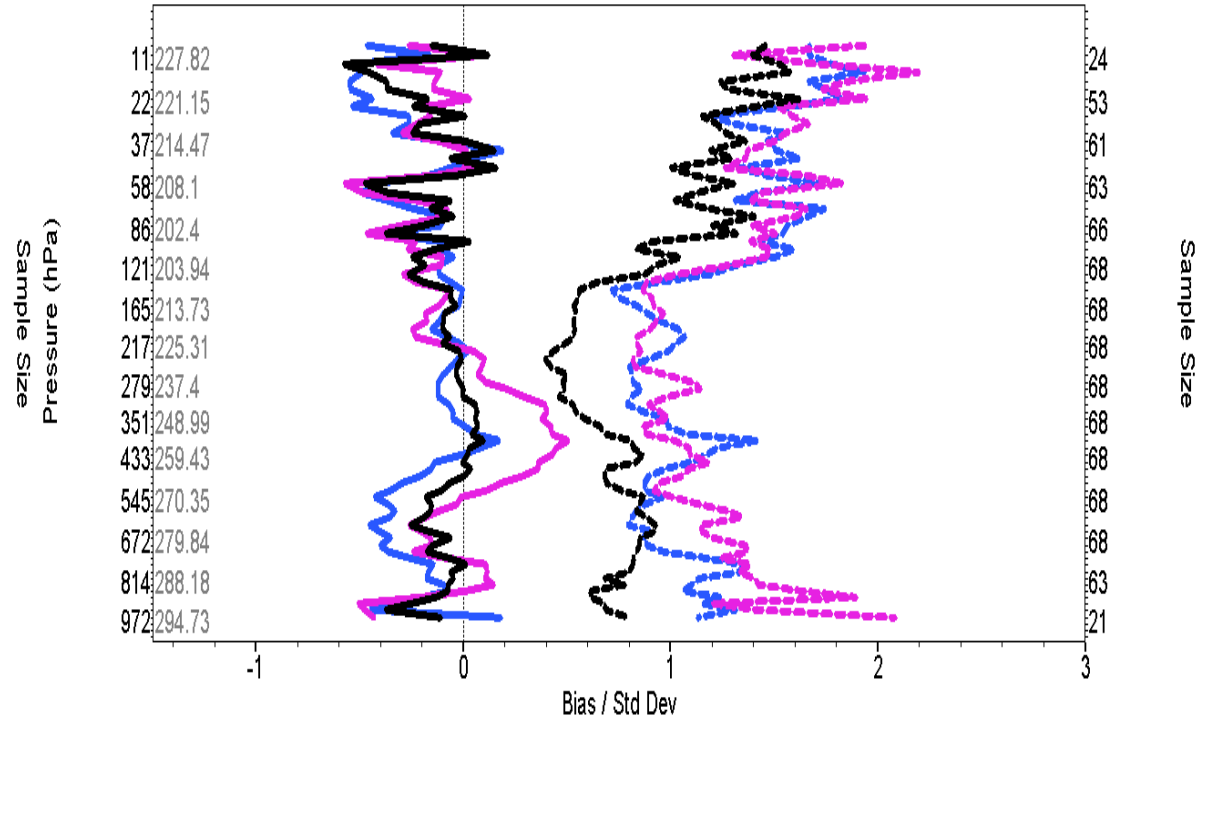
# August 17 – 27, 2020

## All Radiosondes

Water Vapor (sat - baseline) % error  
August 17, 2020 to August 27, 2020



Temperature (sat - baseline) deg K  
August 17, 2020 to August 27, 2020



Baseline: SONDE

ECMWF

COSMIC2 UCAR

GRAS

Baseline: SONDE

ECMWF

COSMIC2 UCAR

GRAS

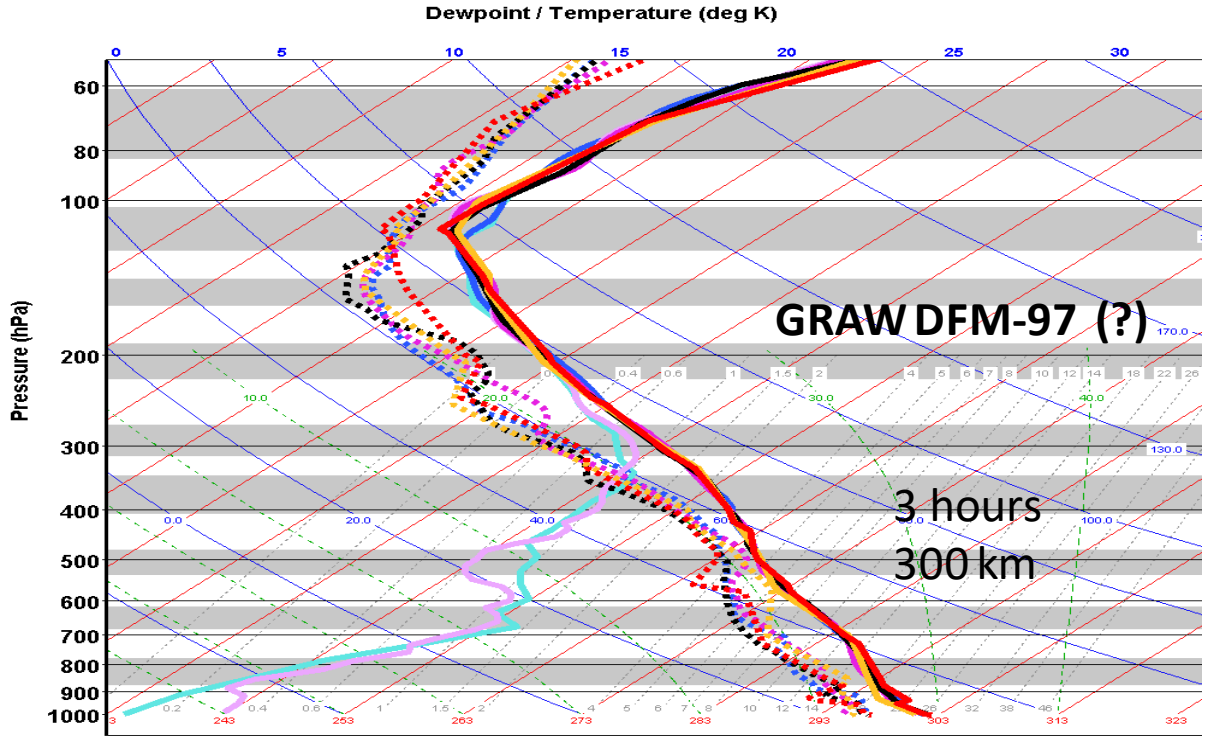
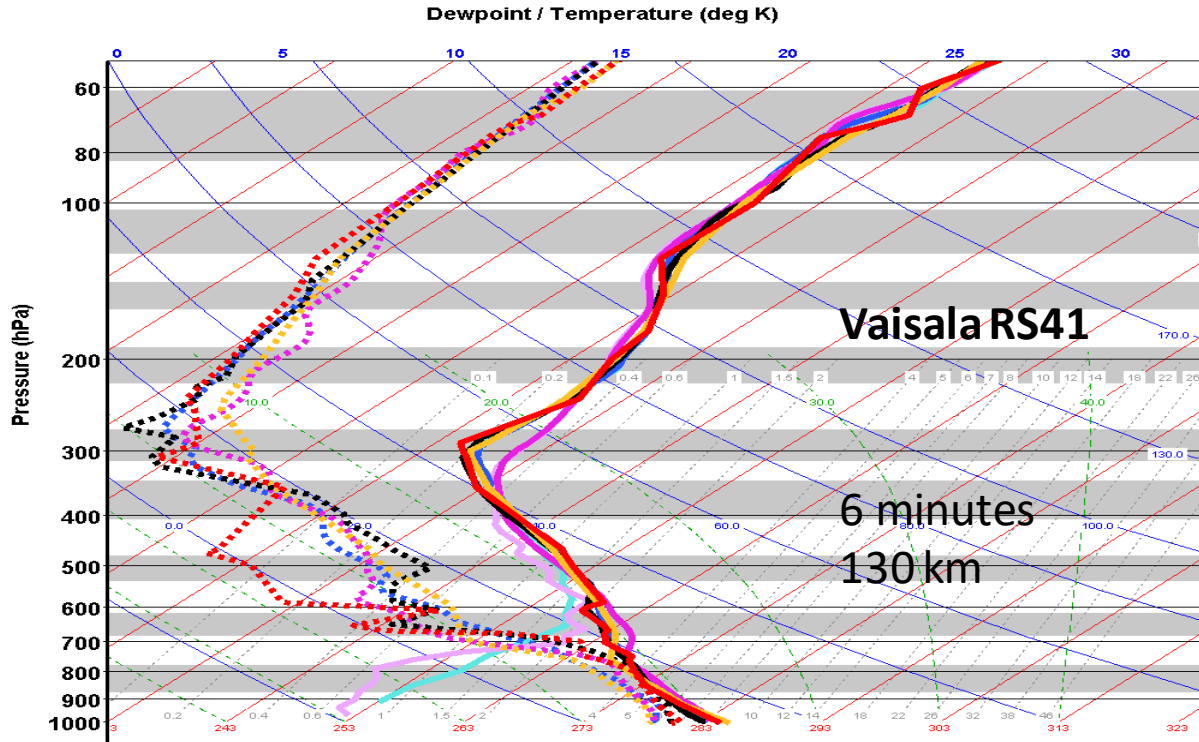
(X - Raob) Vertical Statistics for Bias (solid) and Standard Deviation (dash)  
**GRAS (MetOp), COSMIC-2 (UCAR), ECMWF Analysis (Black)**  
 +/- 2 hours, 100km



# August 20, 2020 at 11Z

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)



SONDE 94672 (141) SONDE	8/20/2020 11:15:00Z	35 S / 138.5 E
SONDE 94672 (141) GFS 6 Hour	8/20/2020 11:15:00Z	35 S / 138.5 E
ECMWF	8/20/2020 12:00:00Z (0.8 hours)	35 S / 138.5 E (5.9 km)
COSMIC2 UCAR	8/20/2020 11:04:30Z (-0.2 hours)	34 S / 139.4 E (131.7 km)
COSMIC2 UCAR Raw Dry	8/20/2020 11:04:30Z (-0.2 hours)	34 S / 139.4 E (131.7 km)
GRAS	8/20/2020 11:09:29Z (-0.1 hours)	34.5 S / 138.2 E (62.4 km)
GRAS Raw Dry	8/20/2020 11:09:29Z (-0.1 hours)	34.5 S / 138.2 E (62.4 km)

SONDE 48615 (154) SONDE	8/20/2020 11:34:00Z	6.2 N / 102.3 E
SONDE 48615 (154) GFS 6 Hour	8/20/2020 11:34:00Z	6.2 N / 102.3 E
ECMWF	8/20/2020 12:00:00Z (0.4 hours)	6.2 N / 102.2 E (9.3 km)
COSMIC2 UCAR	8/20/2020 10:45:48Z (-0.8 hours)	5.2 N / 102.9 E (122.7 km)
COSMIC2 UCAR Raw Dry	8/20/2020 10:45:48Z (-0.8 hours)	5.2 N / 102.9 E (122.7 km)
GRAS	8/20/2020 13:31:36Z (2 hours)	7.4 N / 101 E (198.5 km)
GRAS Raw Dry	8/20/2020 13:31:36Z (2 hours)	7.4 N / 101 E (198.5 km)

Example of collocated profiles, Tdew (dash) and Temperature (solid) for  
**COSMIC-2**, **GRAS**, ECMWF Analysis (black) and **GFS 6-hr Forecast**

... Satellite soundings on left within 6 minutes and 130km; on right within 3 hours and 300km



Too few C2 and GRAS within 2 hr/150km (of Raob) for comparison against Vaisala RS41 only ... *larger period*

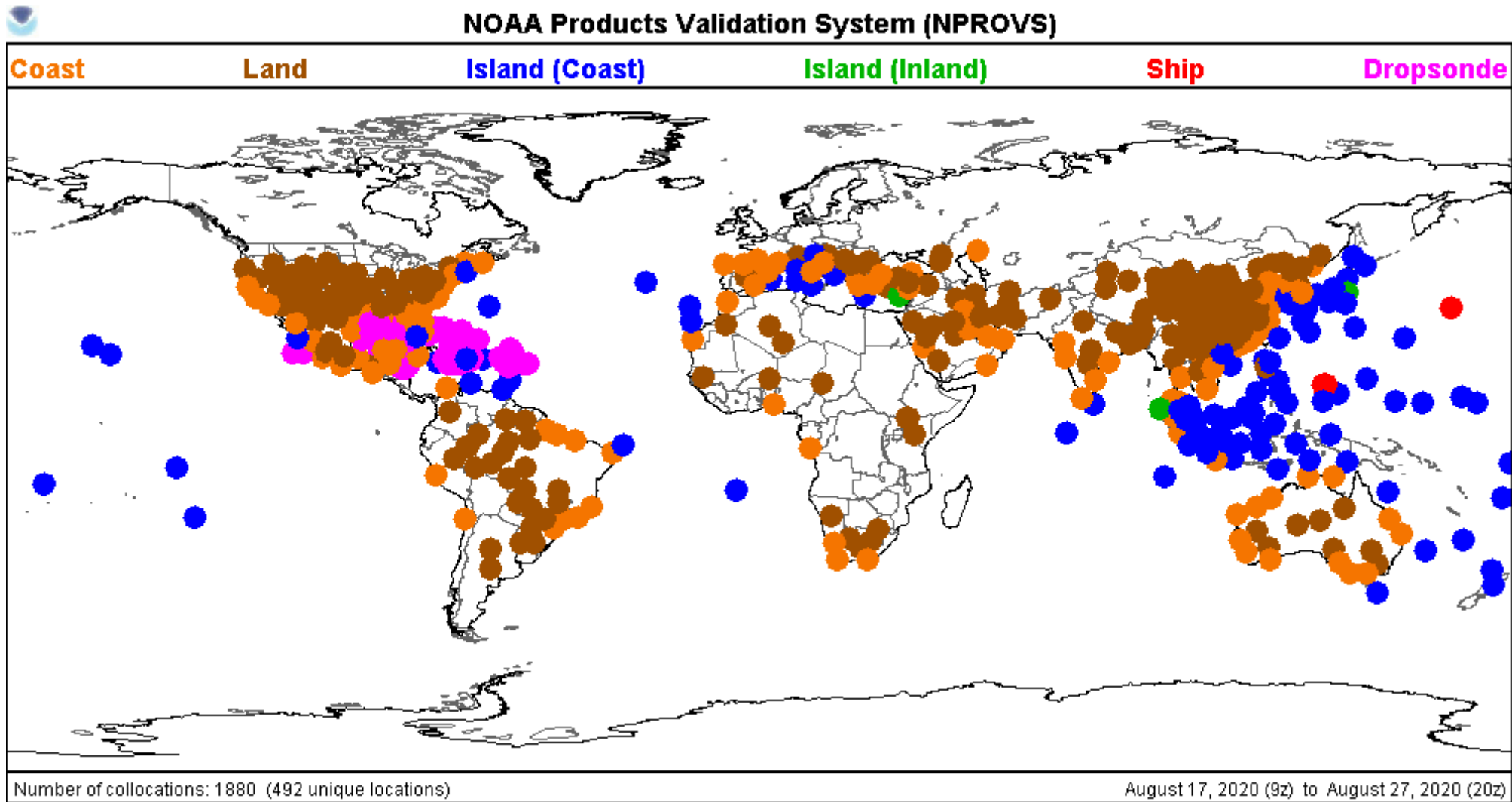
Compare C2 only against:

All Raob

RS41 Raob



# August 17 – 27, 2020 All Radiosondes

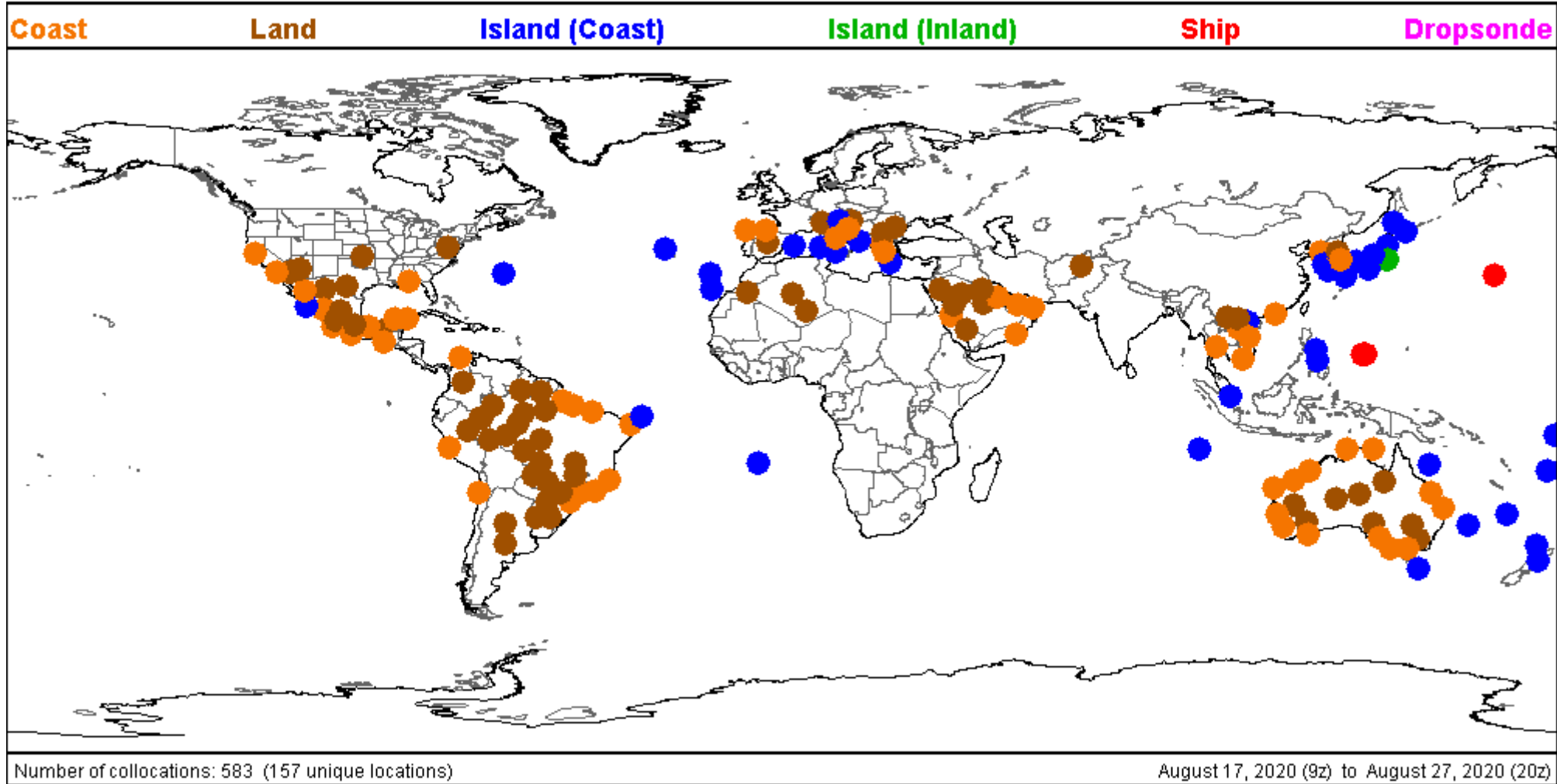


Collocated Radiosonde and COSMIC-2 (C2) soundings; +/- 2 hours, 200km  
(1880 Radiosondes at 492 sites)



# August 17 – 27, 2020 Vaisala RS41 Radiosondes

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS)



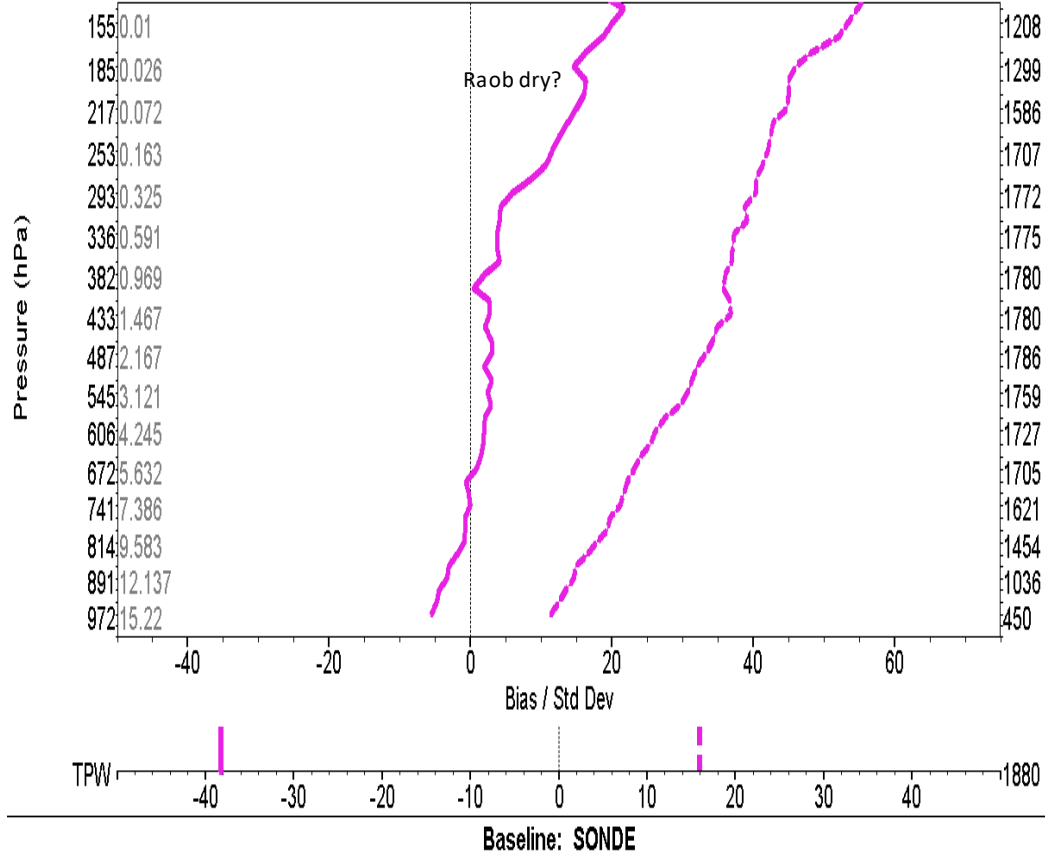
Collocated Radiosonde and COSMIC-2 (C2) soundings; +/- 2 hours, 200km  
(583 Radiosondes at 157 sites)



# August 17 – 27, 2020

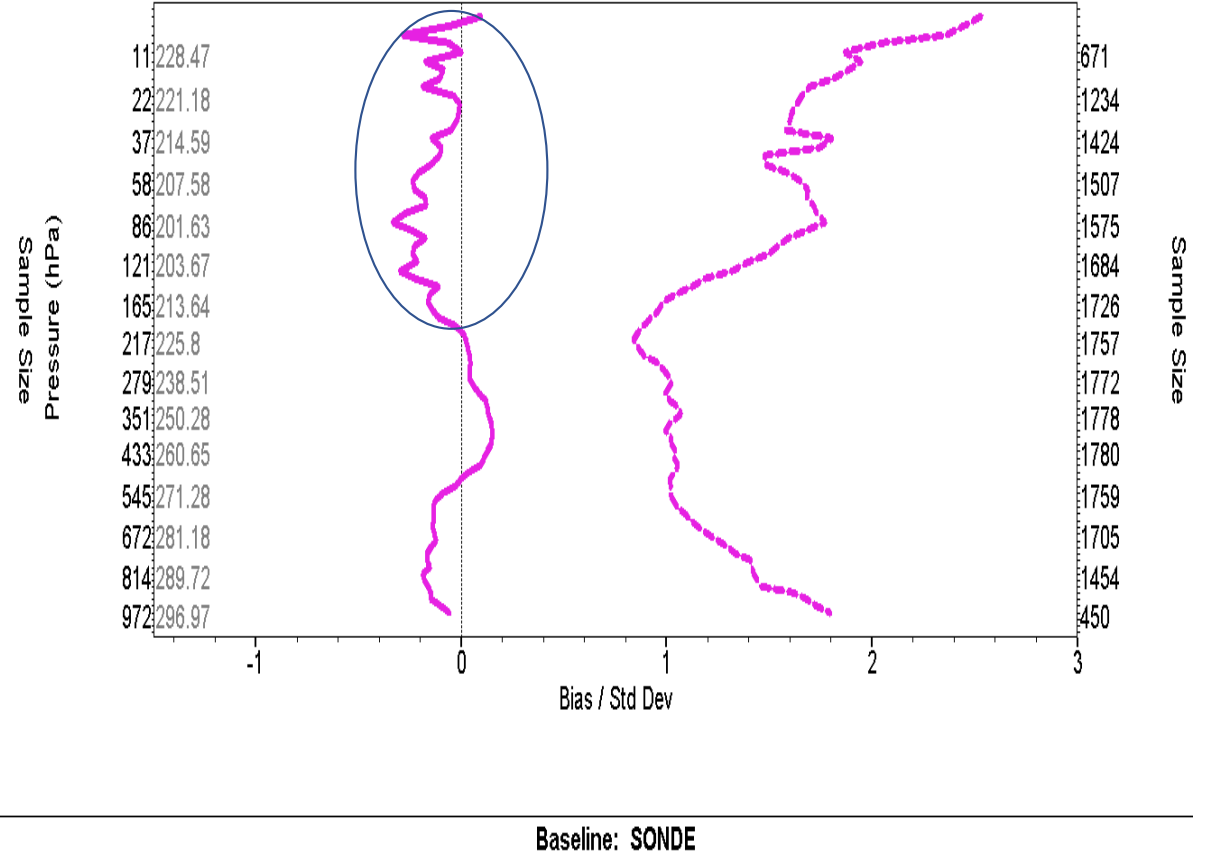
## All Radiosondes

Water Vapor (sat - baseline) % error  
August 17, 2020 to August 27, 2020



COSMIC2 UCAR

Temperature (sat - baseline) deg K  
August 17, 2020 to August 27, 2020



COSMIC2 UCAR

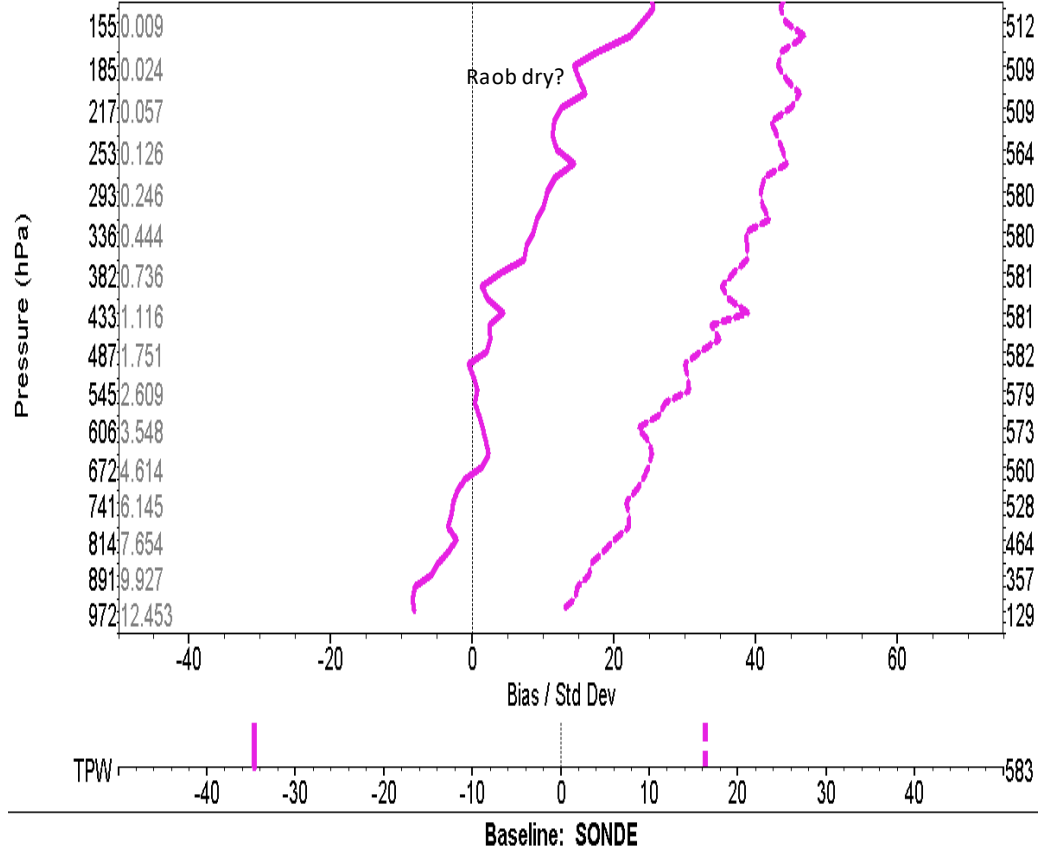
(SAT – Raob) Vertical Statistics for Bias (solid) and Standard Deviation (dash)  
COSMIC-2 (UCAR); +/- 2 hours, 100km



# August 17 – 27, 2020

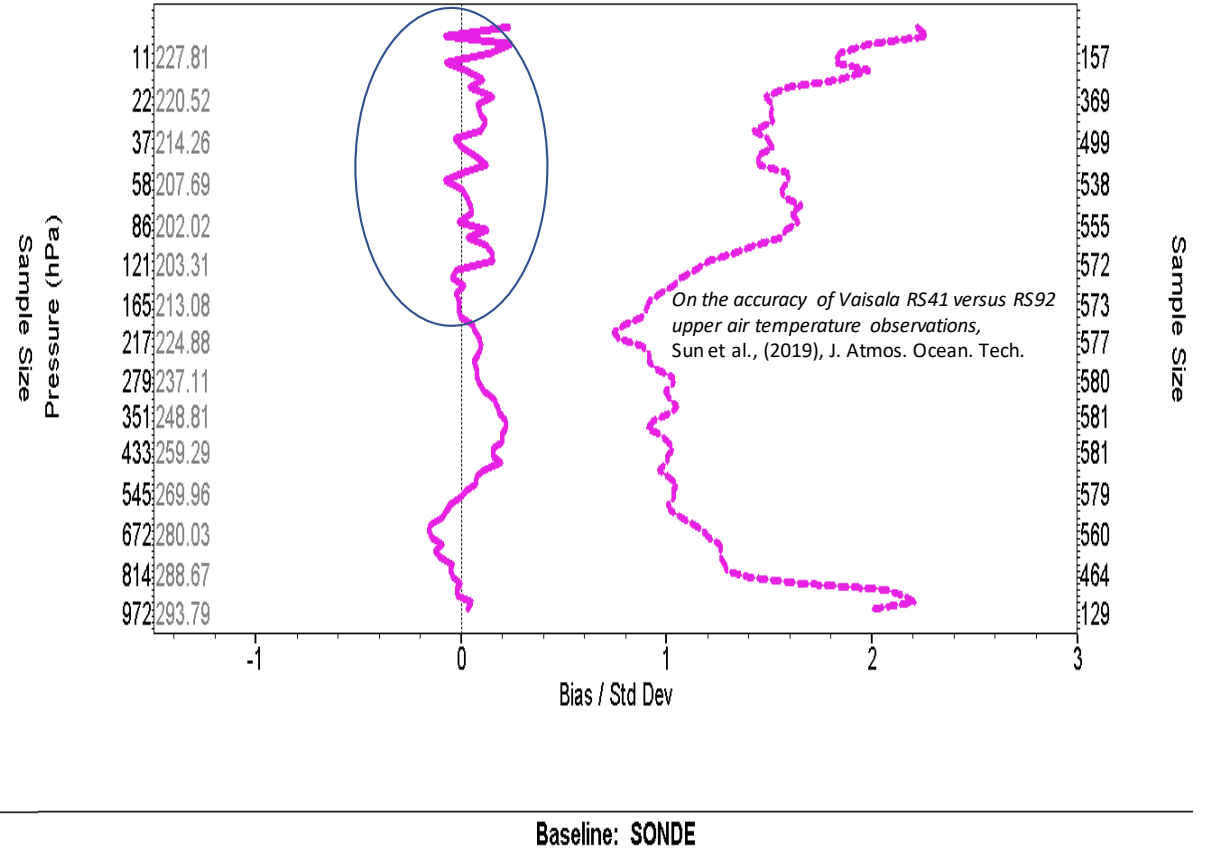
## Vaisala RS41 Radiosondes

Water Vapor (sat - baseline) % error  
August 17, 2020 to August 27, 2020



COSMIC2 UCAR

Temperature (sat - baseline) deg K  
August 17, 2020 to August 27, 2020



COSMIC2 UCAR

(SAT – Raob) Vertical Statistics for Bias (solid) and Standard Deviation (dash)  
COSMIC-2 (UCAR); +/- 2 hours, 100km





# Summary

NOAA Products Validation System (NPROVS) provides routine compilation of collocated radiosonde and satellite observations from over 20 products suites facilitating enterprise assessment

Examples of sampling strategies are shown for selected polar satellite (MetOp-B) and GNSS (COSMIC-2 and GRAS) sounding product suites against global conventional radiosondes for a 10-day period in August, 2020.

Results comparing NOAA (NUCAPS) and EUMETSAT hyper-spectral IR based and NOAA (MiRS) MW-only soundings from MetOp-B are provided; **mismatch among these data are minimal lending high confidence**

Results comparing GNSS COSMIC-2 versus GRAS retrievals are provided; **mismatch among these data is larger (than for polar satellites) lending moderate confidence**

Overall, enterprise assessment differences among polar satellites appear larger (despite smaller mismatch) than for GNSS

Results comparing GNSS COSMIC-2 retrievals against RS41 radiosonde shows reduced C2 bias aloft consistent with improved RS41 radiation correction (order of 0.3K)

Ready to share (WGSP) ...