



Deep Learning-Based Retrievals from Spire's Hyperspectral Microwave Sounder (HyMS)

International TOVS Study Conference, May 2025
Goa, India

Kristen Bathmann,⁽¹⁾ Richard Whitehead,⁽²⁾ Manju Henry,⁽²⁾ Mo Belal,⁽²⁾

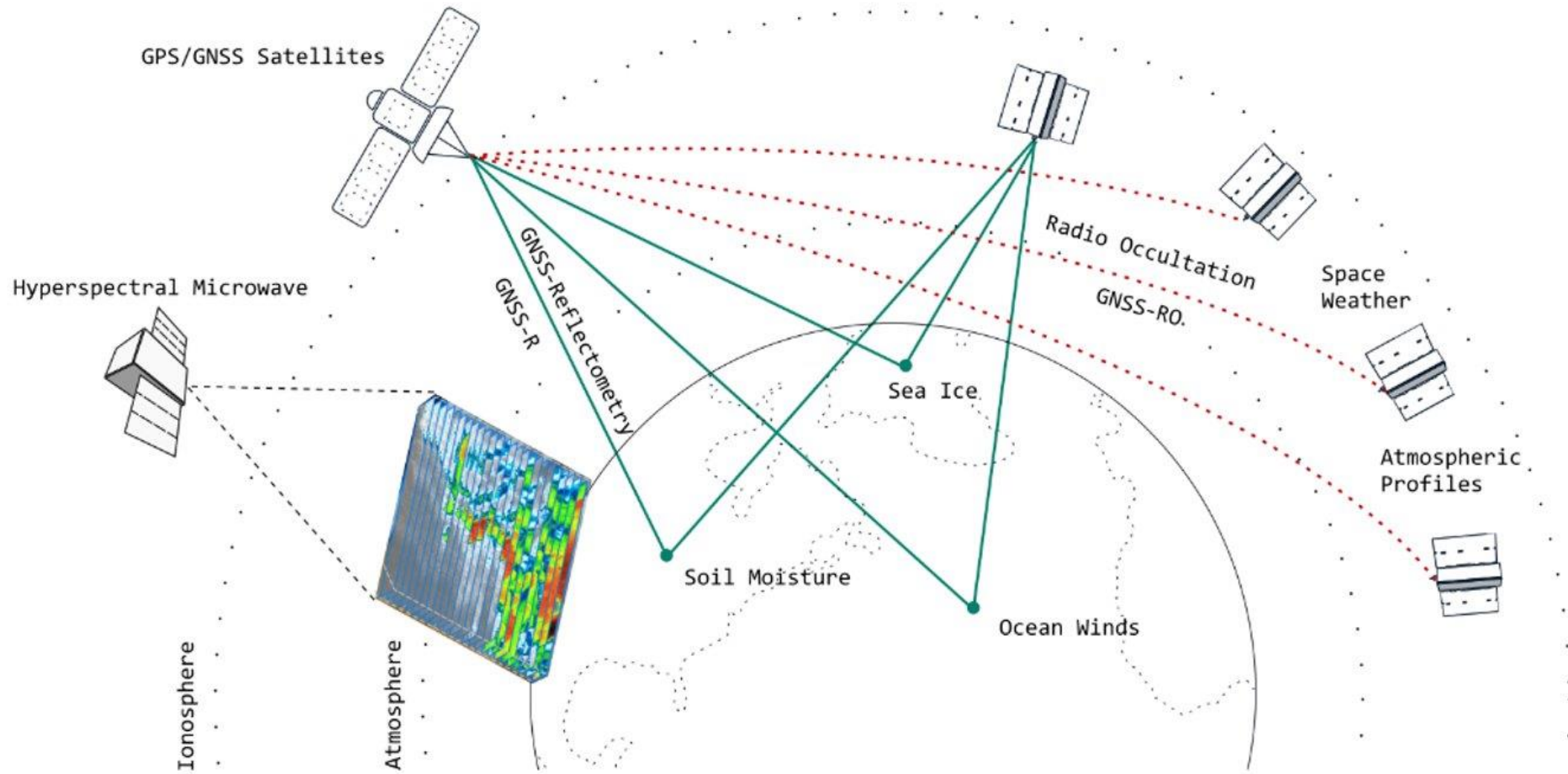
1. Spire Global Inc. Boulder, CO, USA,

2. Spire Global UK Ltd., Microwave Technologies, Electron Building, Harwell
Campus, OX11 0QR

Kristen.Bathmann@spire.com



Spire's Observing System

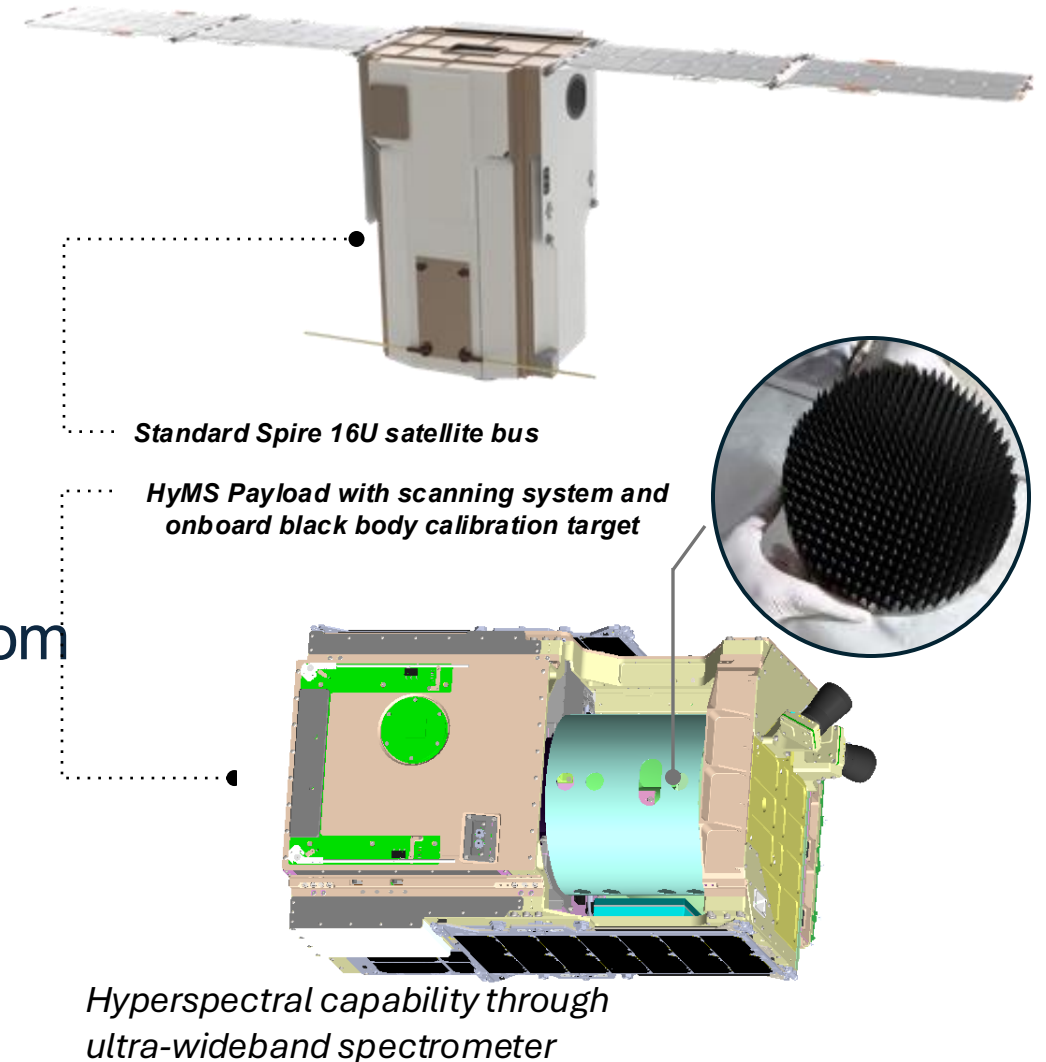


In-Orbit Demonstration of the HyMS:

- Integrate instrument into Spire 16U LEMUR spacecraft
- Sample oxygen and water vapor bands from space
- Demonstrate free-flying instrument performance in orbit
- Assess and understand data collected from HyMS

See Manju Henry's presentation for more information

SRFs, NEDTs, CRTM coefficients available upon request



HyMS Retrievals

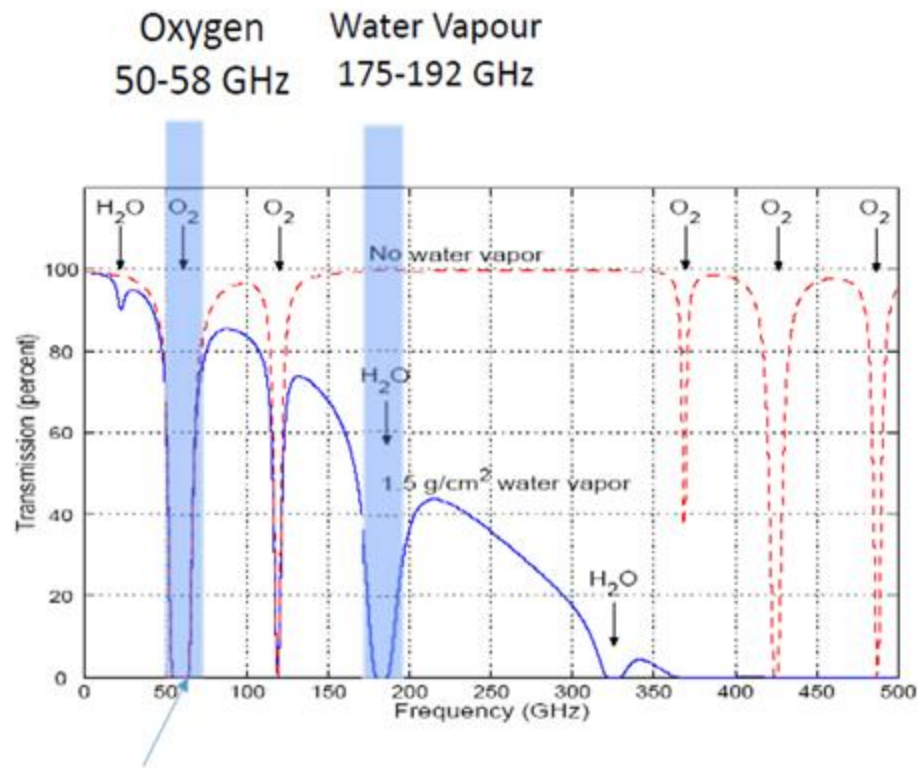
Goal: Generate retrievals of temperature, humidity, pressure, cloud profiles and precipitation

Motivation for developing retrieval algorithm:

- Understand theoretical capabilities of novel HyMS instrument, over all surface types, and in clear, cloudy and precipitating scenes
- Understand resolution trade-off and perform channel selection

Method: Generate synthetic HyMS observations from the CRTM in a variety of scenes and train a deep neural network on ECMWF analyses.

Band Selection and Spectral Resolution



Two key molecular species:

- Atmospheric oxygen (50-58 GHz)
- Atmospheric water vapor (175-192 GHz)

Spectral Resolution: 1714 channels

- 5 MHz for oxygen band
- 40 MHz for water vapor band

Neural Network Retrieval Study

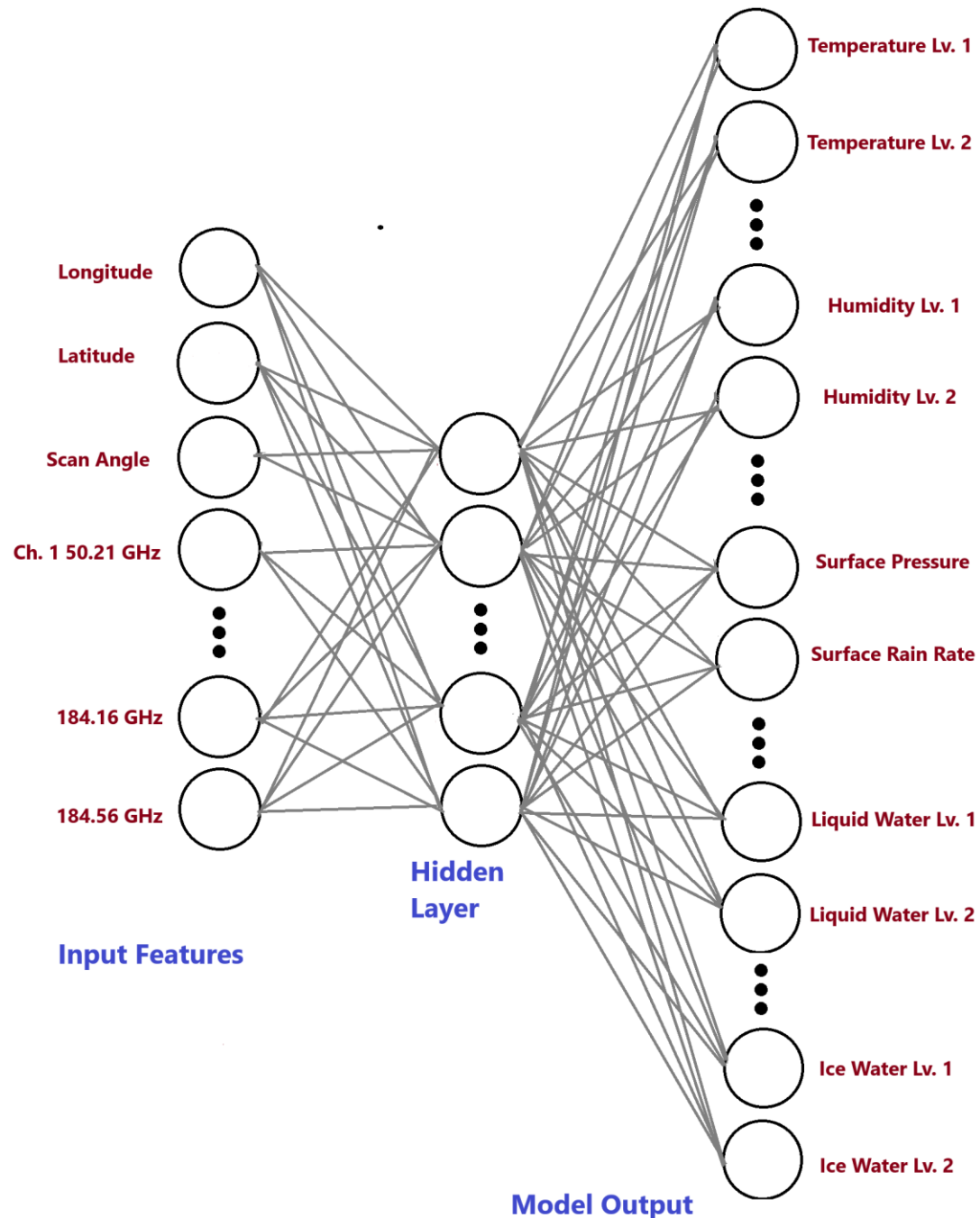
Input features: Simulated HyMS brightness temperature spectrum, location and scan angle

One hidden layer with 250 nodes

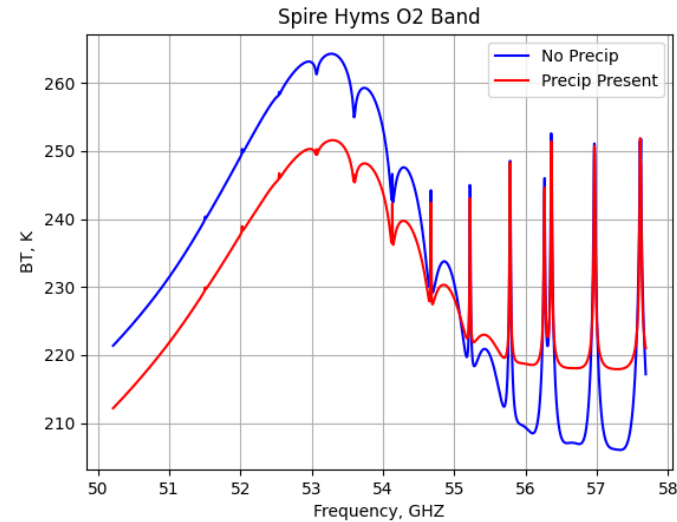
Output: temperature and humidity profiles, surface pressure, surface rain rate

Eventually plan to add cloud properties (liquid and ice water)

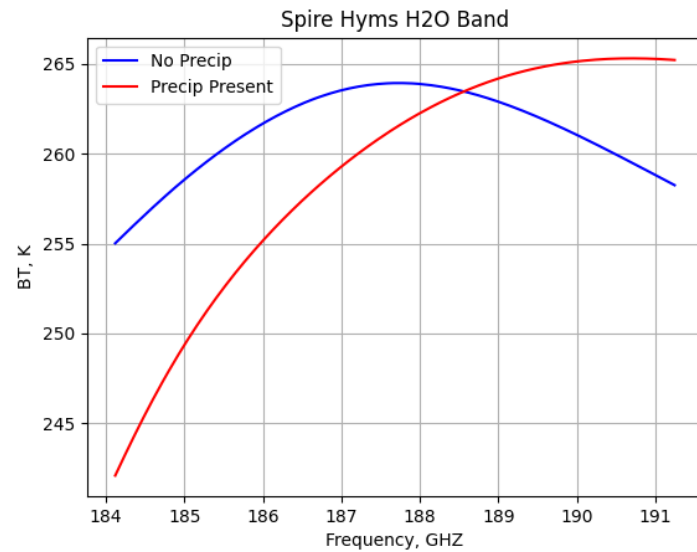
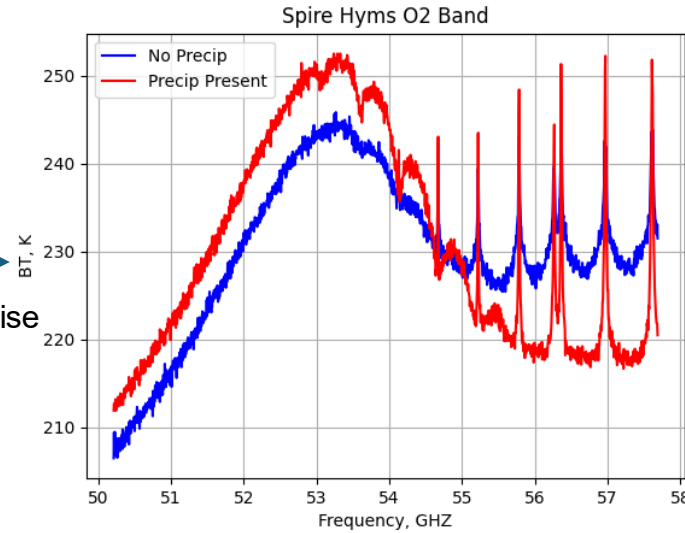
Training set generated from 25K randomly sampled HyMS spectra generated from ECMWF profiles from Jan-April 2025.



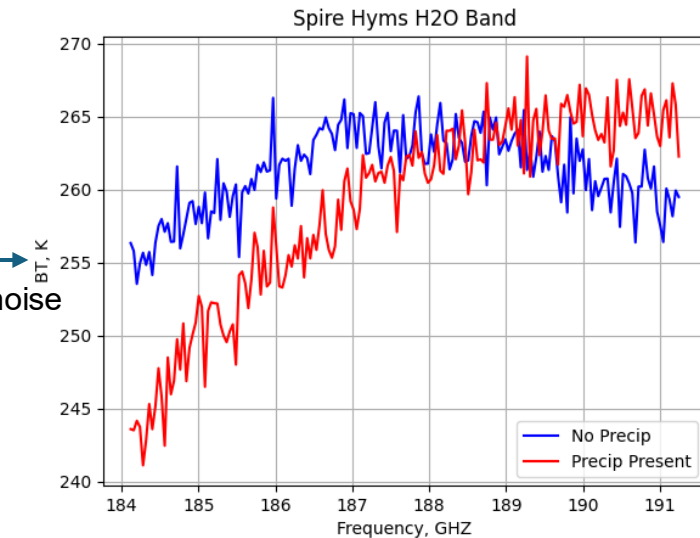
Retrieval Study



Add noise



Add noise



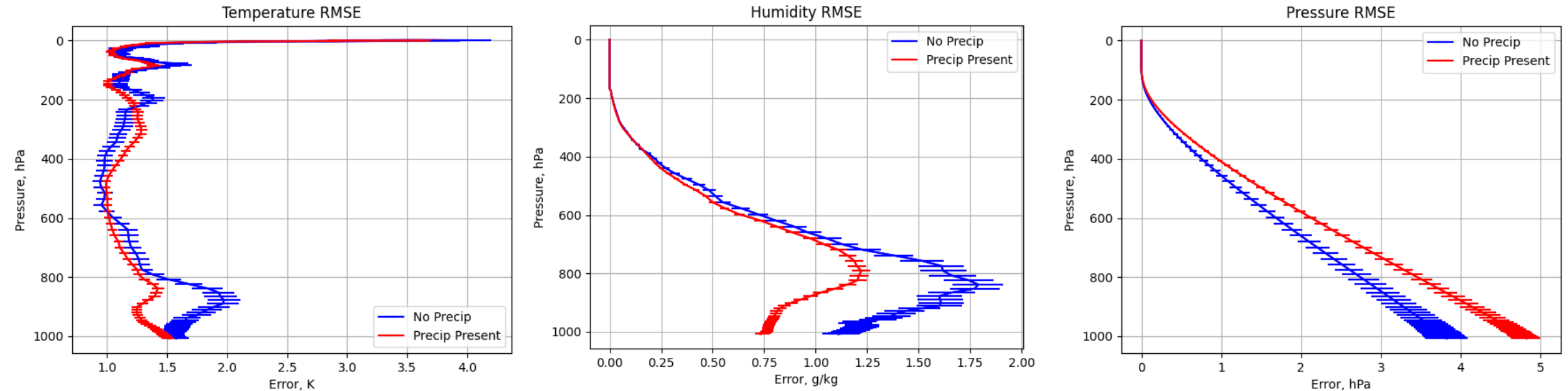
Initially test with 1714 HyMS channels, with 5 MHz resolution in the oxygen band and 40 MHz resolution in the water vapor band.

Generate synthetic observations, and add noise

Nedt=0.6 for oxygen band

Nedt = 1.6 for water vapor band

Retrieval Study

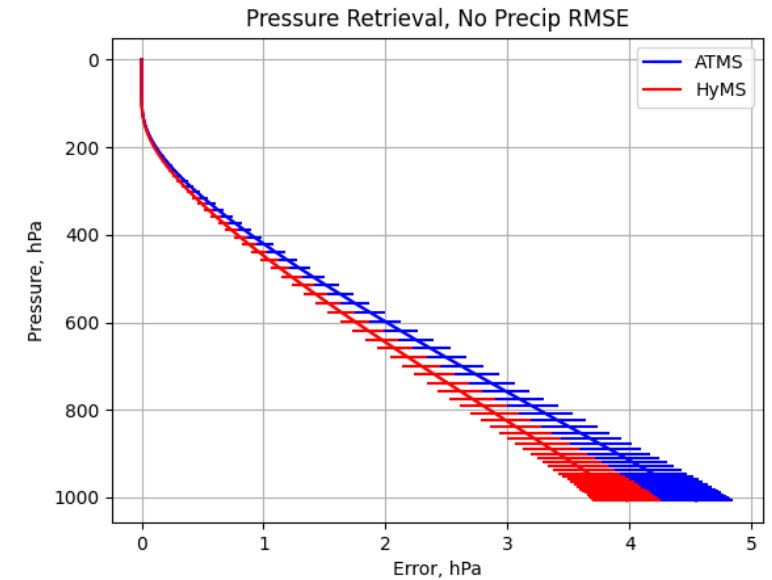
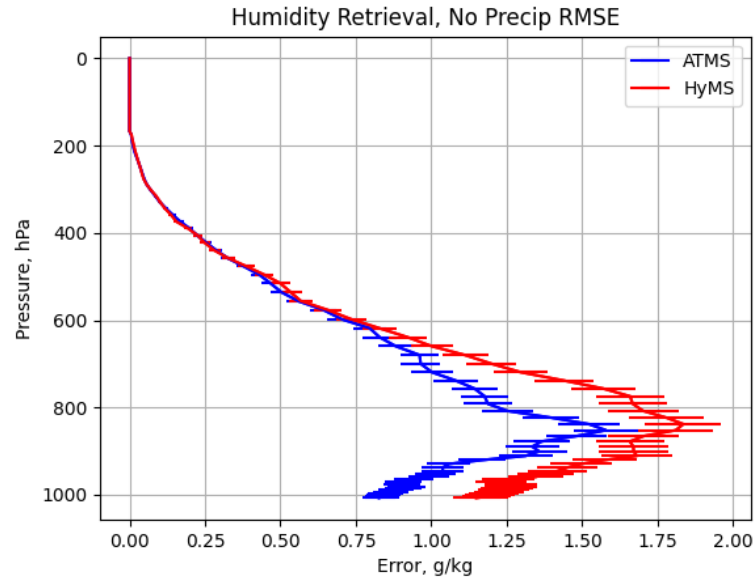
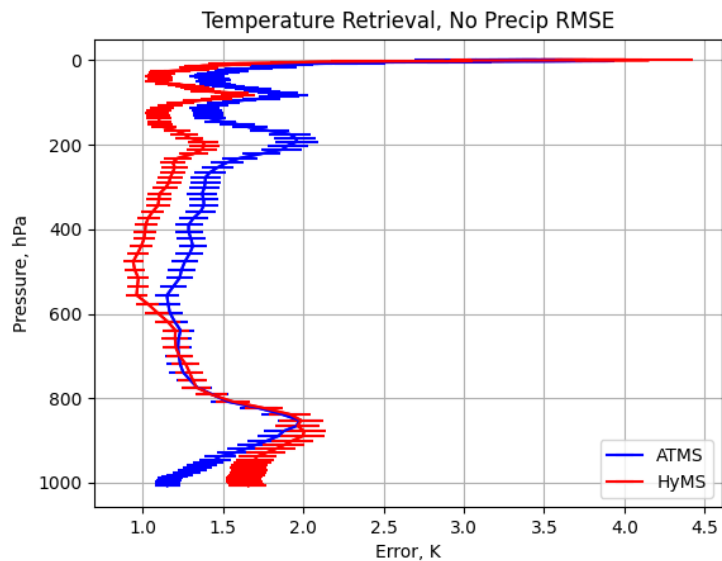


HyMS temperature, humidity and pressure retrieval accuracy, in the absence and presence of precipitation.

Uses 1714 with 5 MHz resolution in oxygen band (NEDT=0.6K), 40 MHz resolution in water vapor band (NEDT=1.6K). Atmospheric pressure is computed based on retrieved surface pressure.

Retrieval Study-Comparison to ATMS N20

No Precipitation Present



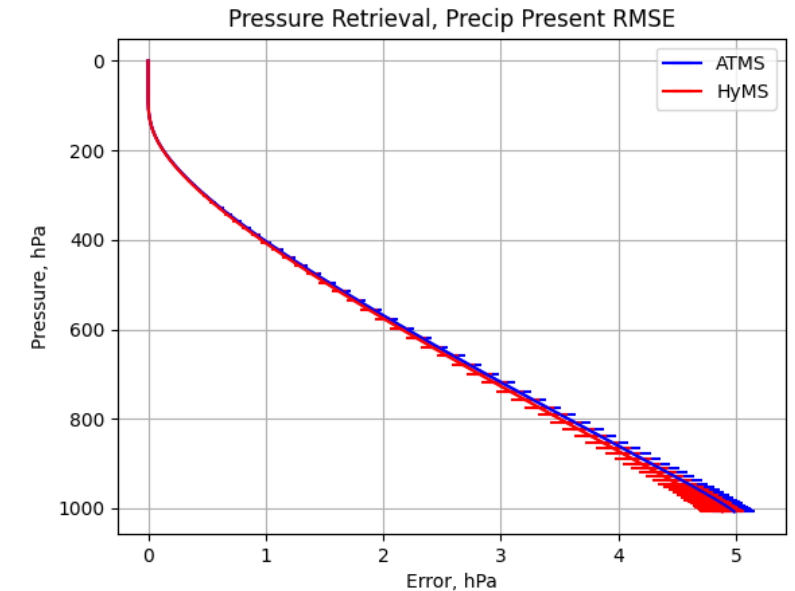
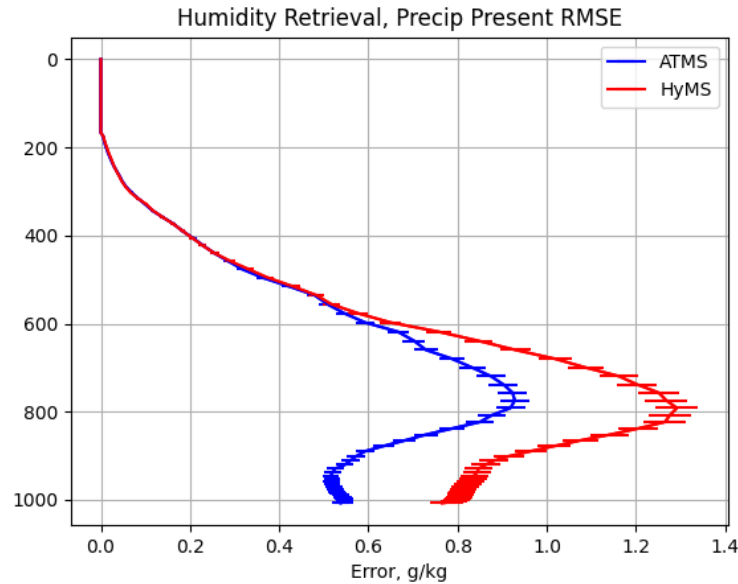
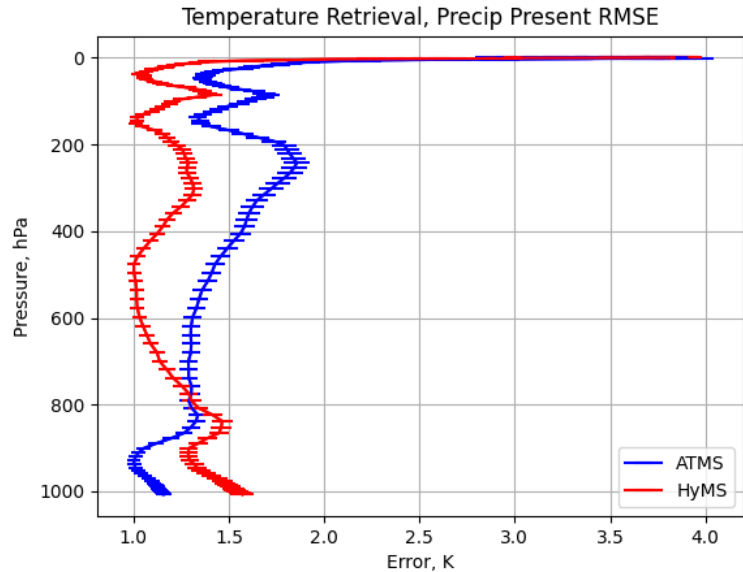
HyMS and ATMS N20 temperature, humidity and pressure retrieval accuracy, in the absence of precipitation.

HyMS retrievals used 1714 with 5 MHz resolution in oxygen band (NEDT=0.6K), 40 MHz resolution in water vapor band (NEDT=1.6K).

ATMS retrievals were generated from simulated observations, with noise added.

Retrieval Study-Comparison to ATMS N20

Precipitation Present



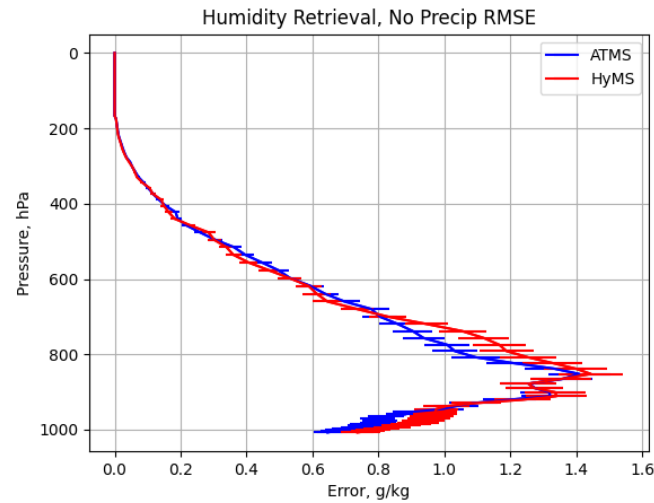
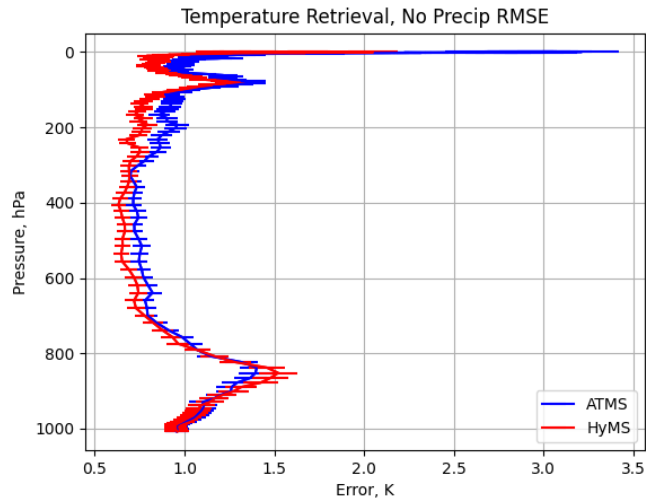
HyMS and ATMS N20 temperature, humidity and pressure retrieval accuracy, in the presence of precipitation.

HyMS retrievals used 1714 with 5 MHz resolution in oxygen band (NEDT=0.6K), 40 MHz resolution in water vapor band (NEDT=1.6K).

ATMS retrievals were generated from simulated observations, with noise added.

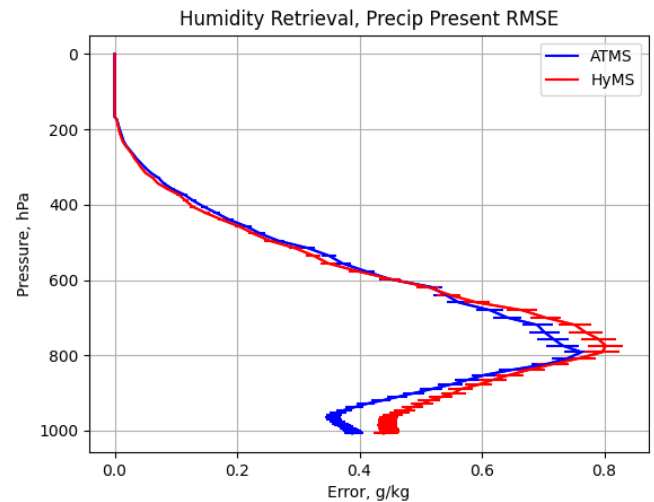
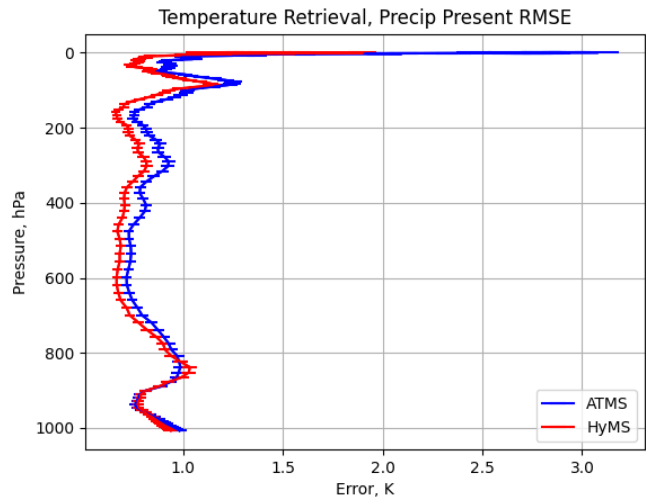
Retrieval Study-Comparison to ATMS N20

No Noise Added to Observations



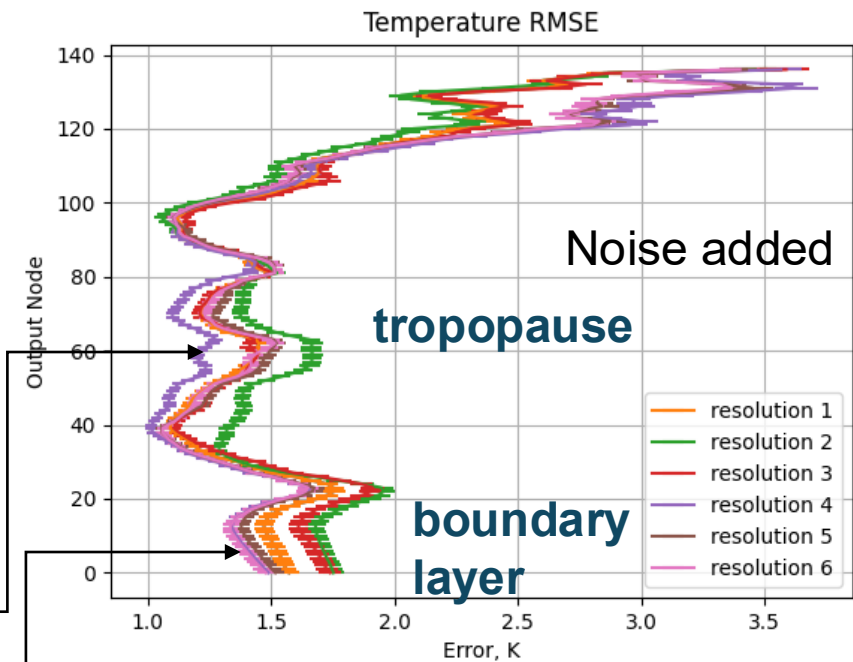
Perceived improvements to retrievals from ATMS are somewhat due to noise

HyMS channels are in the 58 GHz and 183 GHz bands. ATMS has channels in these bands and other frequencies



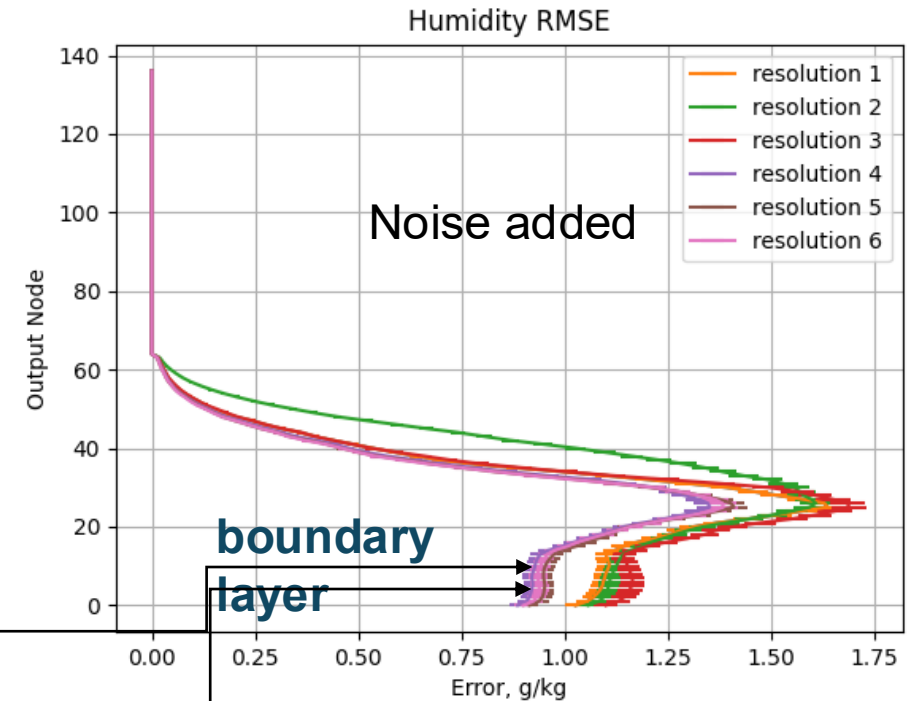
Retrieval Study-Spectral Resolution Tradeoff

Scheme	Description	Total Number of Channels
Resolution 1	1.22 MHz resolution within 15 MHz of absorption peaks, 57.6 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 21 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band.	4128
Resolution 2	1.22 MHz resolution within 7.5 MHz of absorption peaks, 57.6 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 78.1 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band.	1843
Resolution 3	As Resolution 1, but with 57.6 MHz resolution below 53 GHz.	2245
Resolution 4	4.8 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 42 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band	1714
Resolution 5	4.8 MHz resolution within 15 MHz of absorption peaks, 115.2 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 42 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band.	679
Resolution 6	4.8 MHz resolution within 15 MHz of absorption peaks, 57.6 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 42 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band.	768



Retrieval Study-Spectral Resolution Tradeoff

Scheme	Description	Total Number of Channels
Resolution 1	1.22 MHz resolution within 15 MHz of absorption peaks, 57.6 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 21 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band.	4128
Resolution 2	1.22 MHz resolution within 7.5 MHz of absorption peaks, 57.6 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 78.1 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band.	1843
Resolution 3	As Resolution 1, but with 57.6 MHz resolution below 53 GHz.	2245
Resolution 4	4.8 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 42 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band	1714
Resolution 5	4.8 MHz resolution within 15 MHz of absorption peaks, 115.2 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 42 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band.	679
Resolution 6	4.8 MHz resolution within 15 MHz of absorption peaks, 57.6 MHz resolution in O ₂ band, 42 MHz resolution in H ₂ O band.	768



Conclusion

- The HyMS neural network retrieval algorithm was able to retrieve temperature, humidity and pressure profiles, in all-sky conditions
- Surface rain rate was also retrieved, with an RMSE of $2.56\text{e-}4 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ an approximate 4.3% error
- Retrievals had lower RMSE in the presence of precipitation. The spectra may capture scattering signatures across frequencies. This could improve temperature and humidity accuracy by constraining model errors.
- Comparisons with retrievals from simulated ATMS observations highlight differences between the assumed configurations: No surface channels used in the HyMS retrievals, and larger NEDT on HyMS 183GHz channels
- Upcoming work will add the 89 GHz channel to the retrieval algorithm, perform a deeper examination of surface rain retrieval, perform retrievals of cloud properties, and perform real retrievals once the HyMS is in orbit.