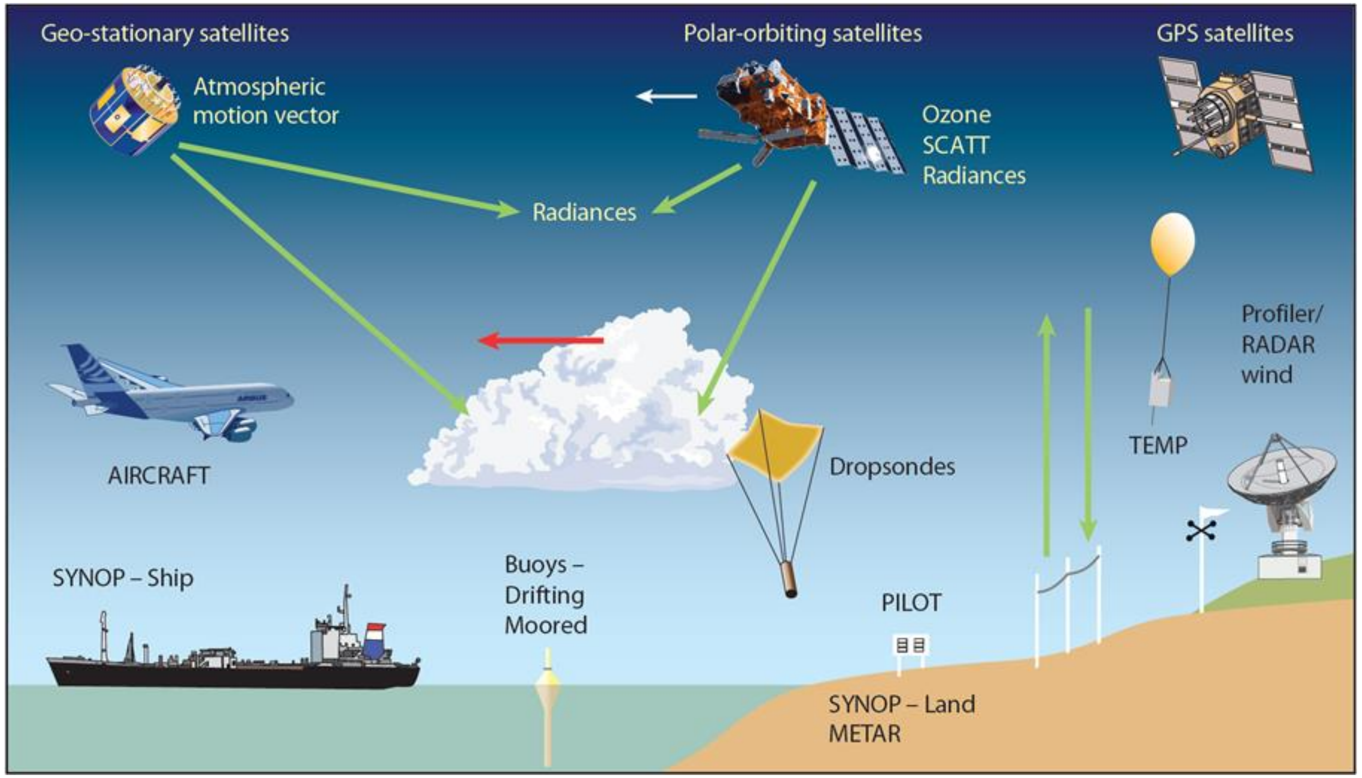
MTG-IRS L2 data assimilation into the ECMWF model

Contract No. EUM/CO/15/4600001613/TA
13.12.2019

Kirsti Salonen and Anthony McNally

Contact: kirsti.salonen@ecmwf.int

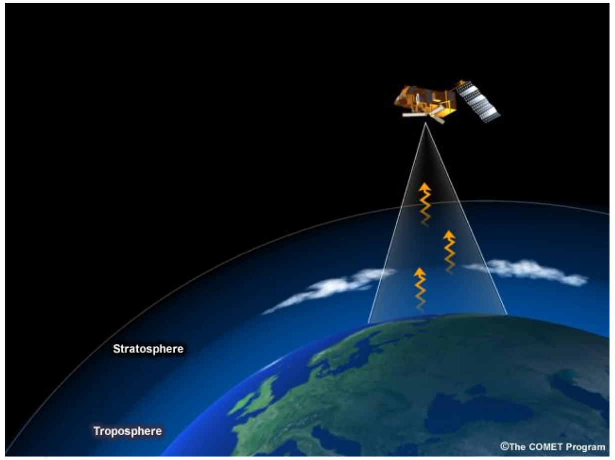
ECMWF model and use of observations

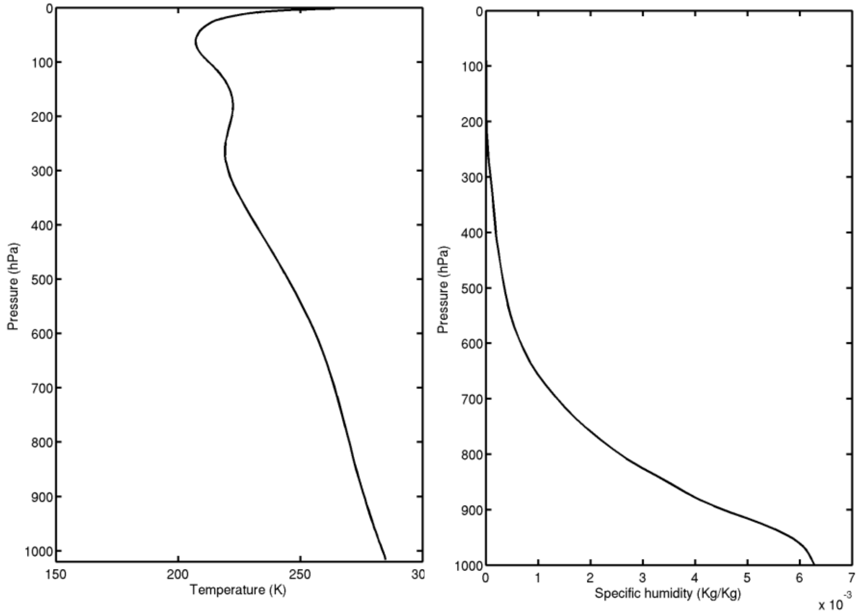


- ECMWF develops and operates a global numerical weather prediction system.
- Currently ~400 million observations are present in a 12-hour assimilation window, the vast majority of these are satellite measurements.
- Radiance assimilation, together with conventional observations, are the main drivers of the headline scores.
- Alternative approaches to radiance assimilation
  - PC scores or reconstructed radiances
  - Retrievals, traditional or transformed

Forecast independent infrared only statistical retrievals from IASI

- Baseline for MTG-IRS L2 retrievals.
- Atmospheric temperature, humidity and ozone profiles, surface temperature and emissivity with quality information.
- Retrieval technique based on piece-wise linear regression.
- Training data set from ERA-5.
- All sky conditions.





What has been done in the project (1)

1. Technical developments
   - Data received in hdf5. Tools to create ODB files have been developed in order to ingest the data into the IFS system.
   - Interface to 4D-var system has been developed to enable passive monitoring and active assimilation
   - Screening and quality control procedures have been developed and implemented
     - Blacklisting
     - Thinning
     - First guess check
   - Implementing the use of scene dependent observation errors and error correlations.
   - Extension of the diagnostic tools to analyse the results.

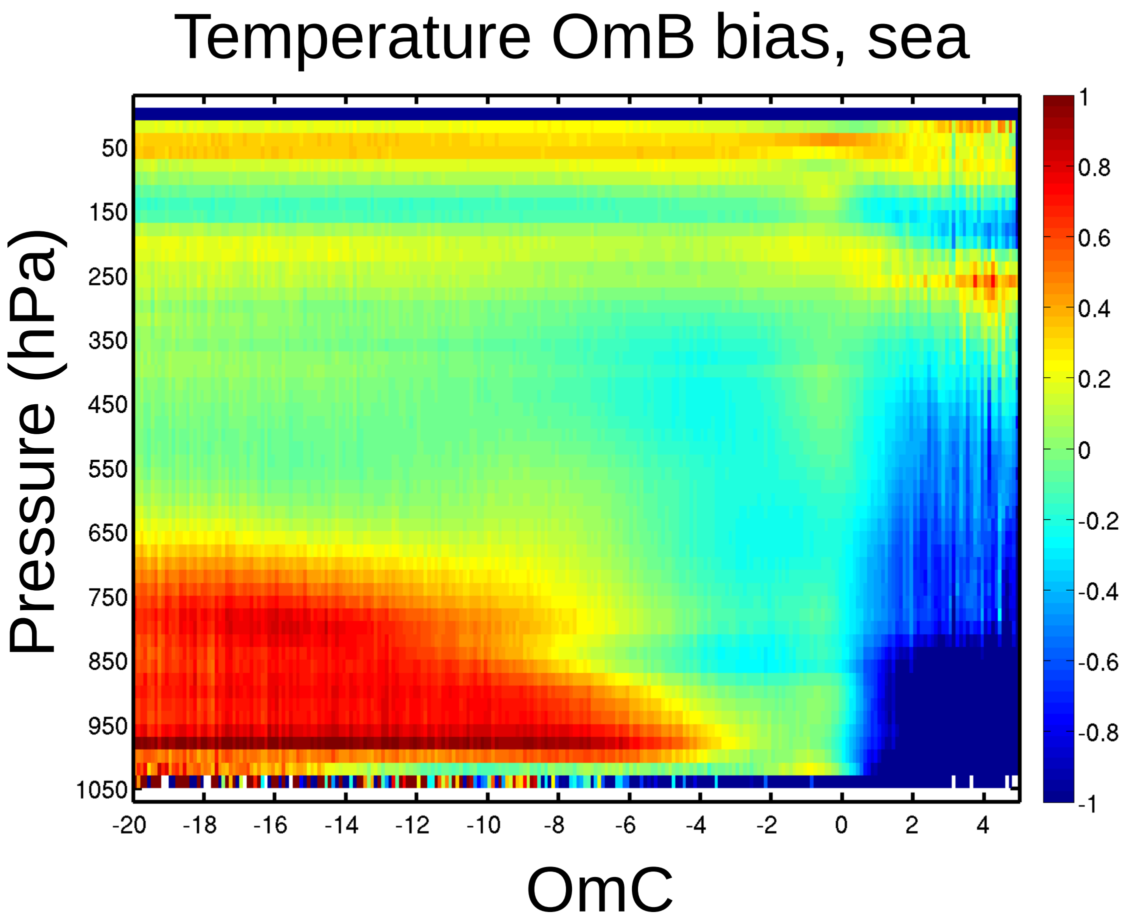
What has been done in the project (2)

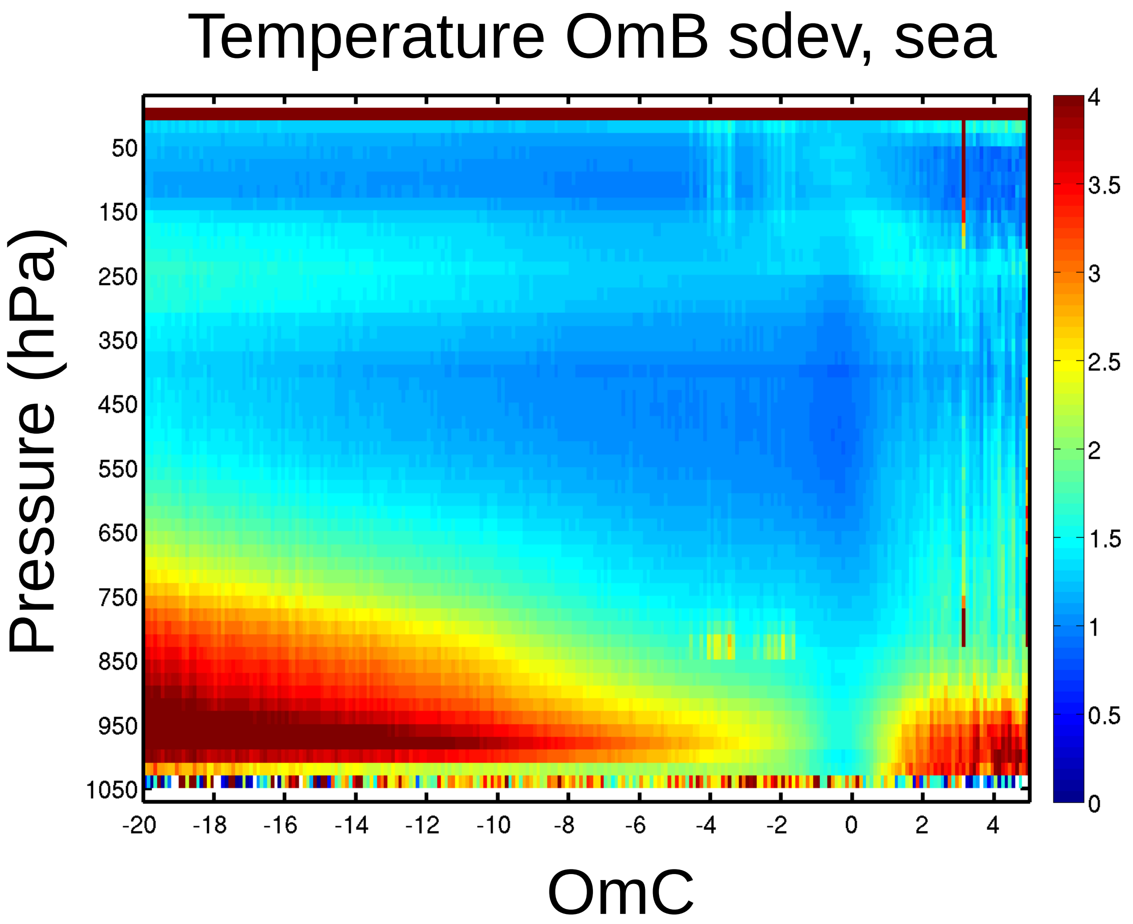
2. Quality assessment
   - Understand the data characteristics
   - Design quality control
   - Estimate realistic observation errors and error correlations
3. Data assimilation experiments in clear sky situations
   - Depleted observing system: degraded quality but easy to demonstrate impact
   - Full observing system: operational quality, more difficult to demonstrate impact
4. Data assimilation experiments with cloud affected retrievals
   - Focus on humidity retrievals
   - Investigations on scene dependent observation errors and error correlations

Quality assessment

Measure of cloudiness OmC

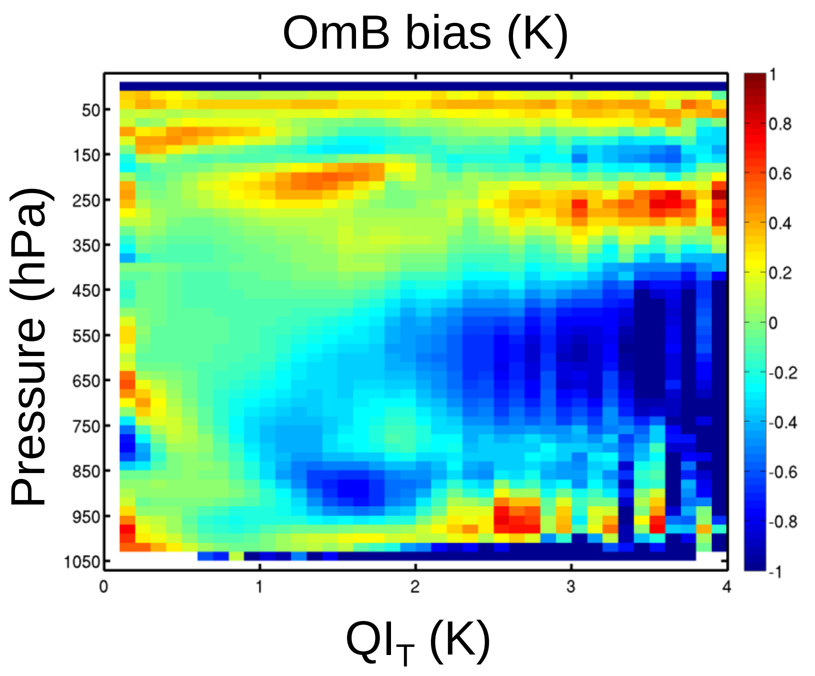
- OmC: observed window channel brightness temperature minus the corresponding brightness temperature computed by a forward model with clear-sky assumption
- Criterion used to select cloud free data |OmC| < 1

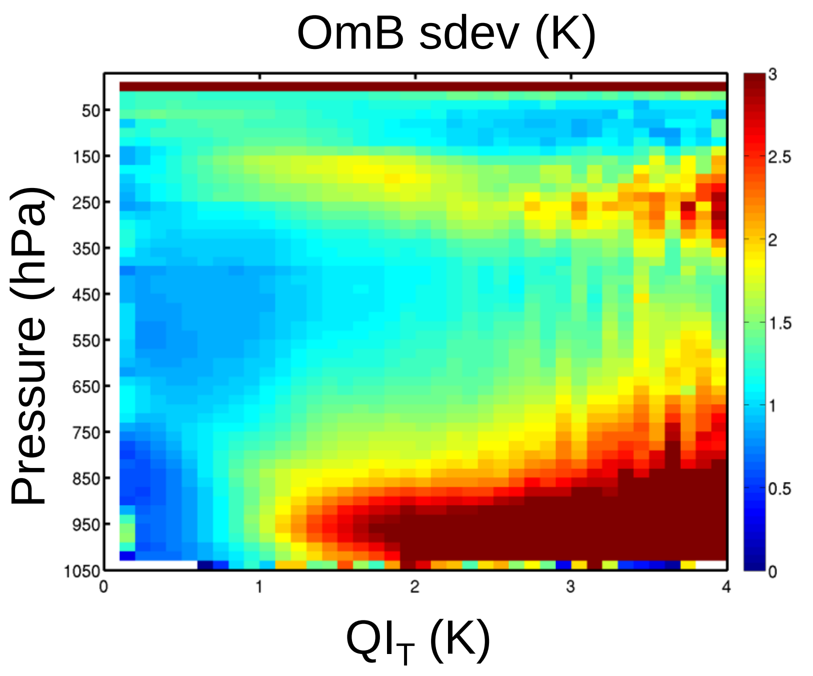


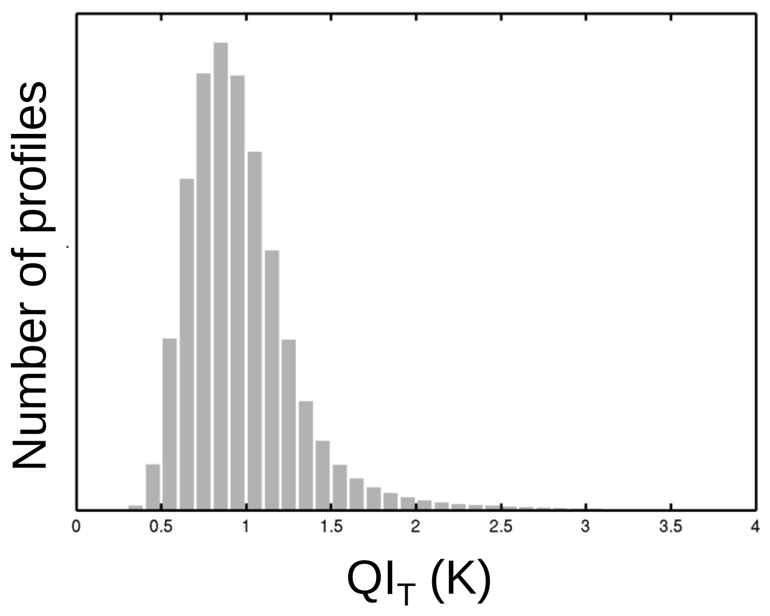


Quality indicator QI_T

- QI_T: uncertainty estimate of the low tropospheric temperature
- Additional screening for high quality data, $QI_T < 1.5$
  - Over sea majority of the data fulfil the criterion

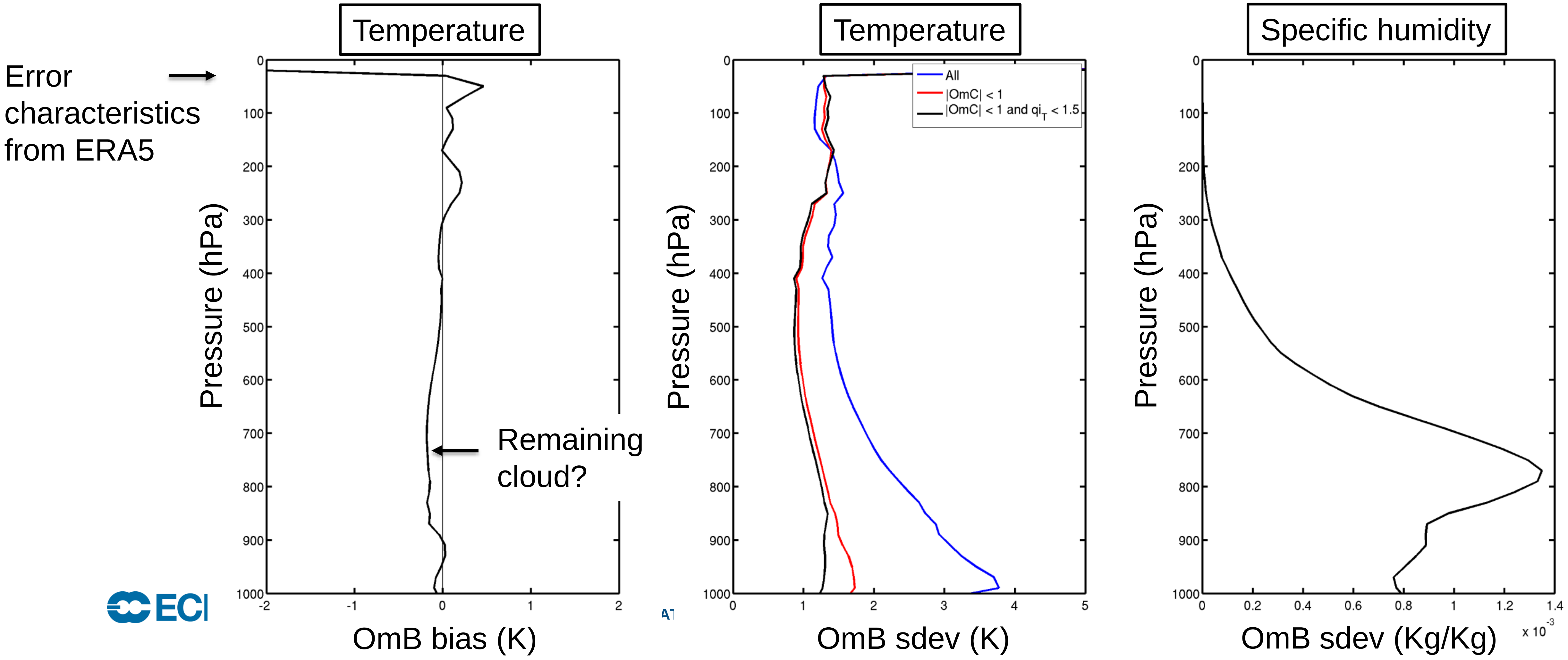






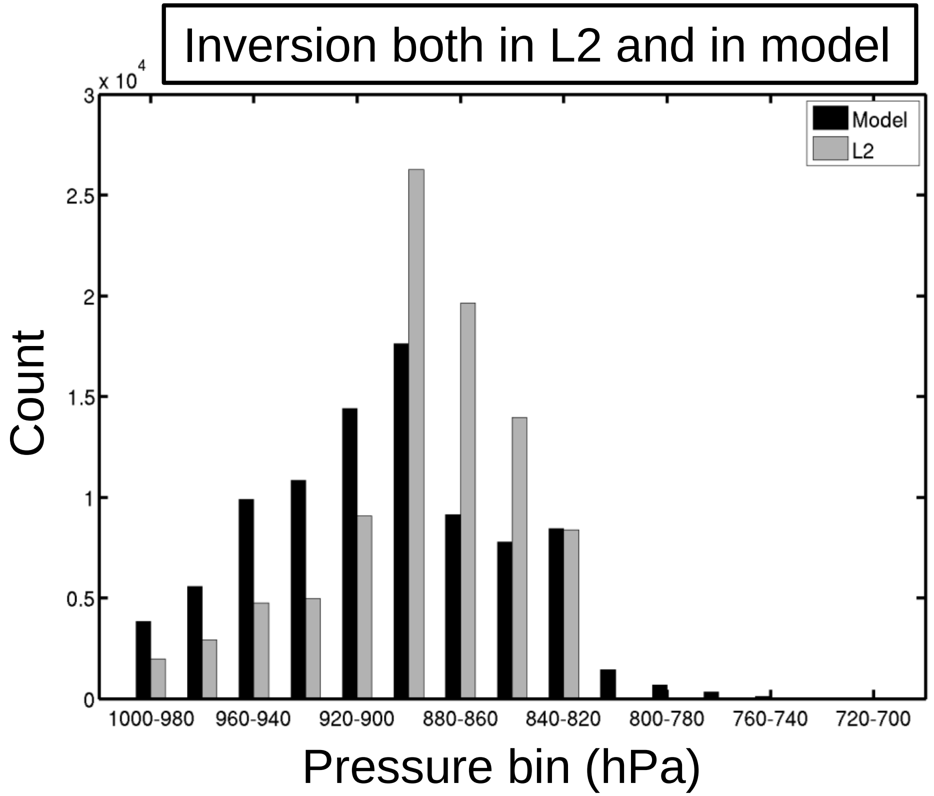
Applying quality criteria

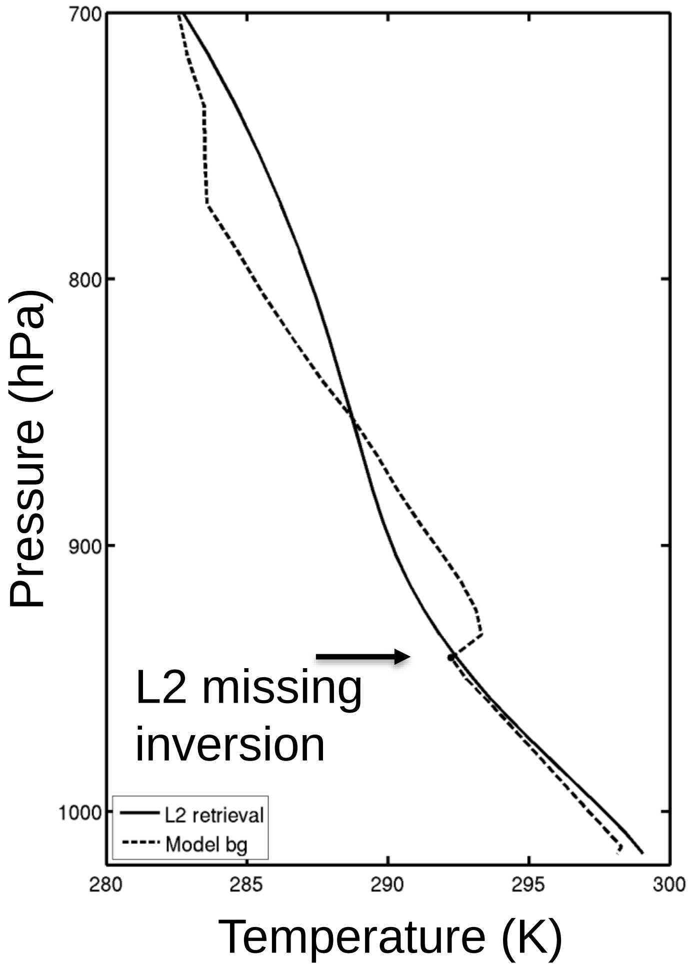
- The overall quality of the retrievals is relatively good as long as strict quality criteria are applied to exclude cloudy scenes. (Focus on data over sea only.)
- All, cloud free retrievals |OmC| < 1, additional quality screening for cloud free retrievals $QI_T < 1.5$



L2 has challenges to capture low level inversions

- Model is capturing the low level temperature inversions much more frequently than L2.
- L2 inversions are smooth, and on average found from higher altitudes than the model inversions.



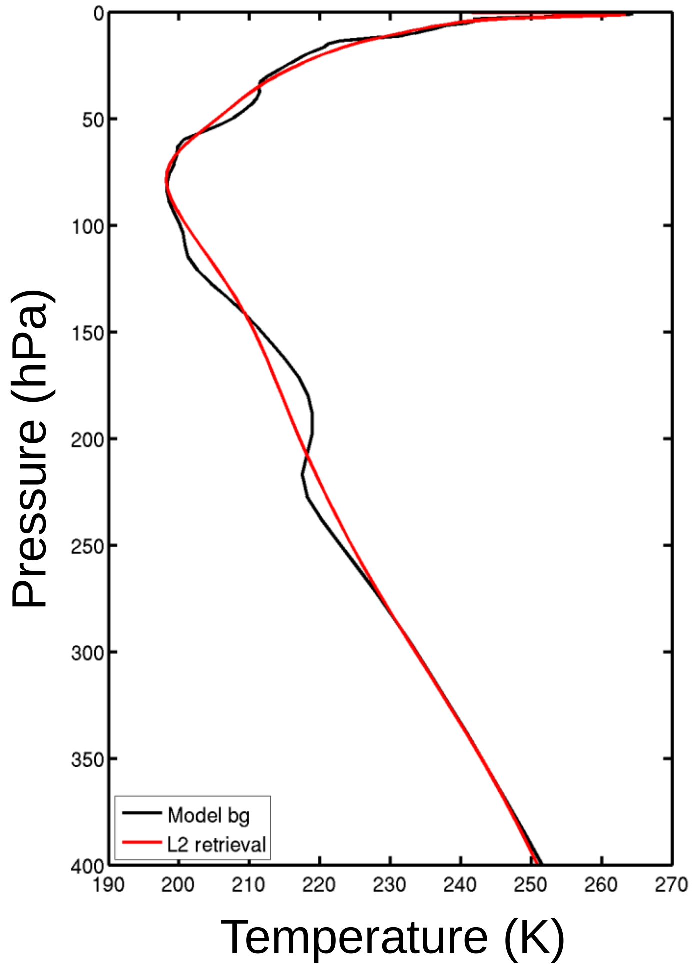


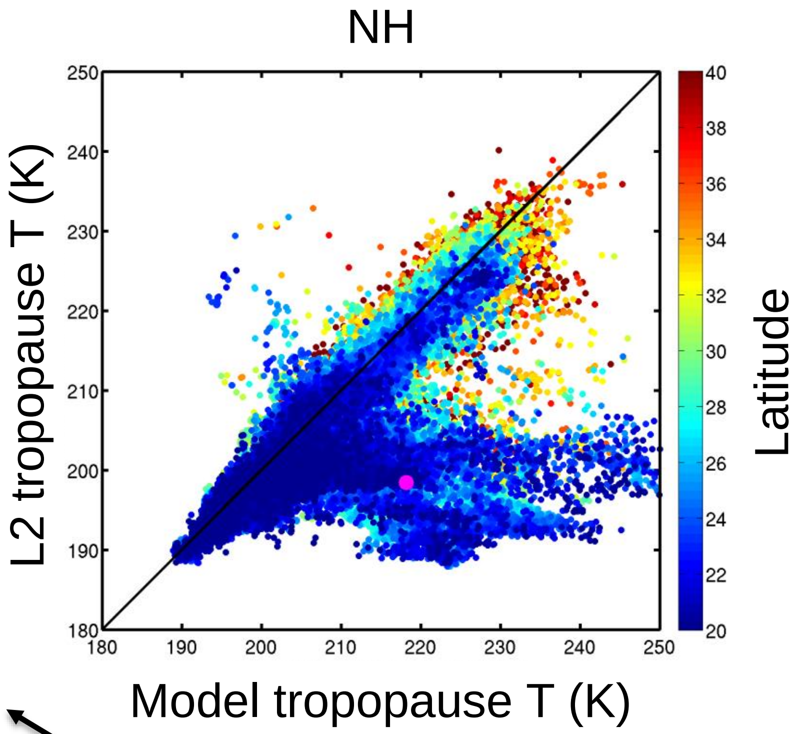
	Model: % of low level inversions 1.1-31.3.2017	L2 profiles: % of low level inversions 1.1-31.3.2017	Model: % of low level inversions 1.6-31.8.2017	L2 profiles: % of low level inversions 1.6-31.8.2017
Geodisc NH	64.6	10.8	79.3	33.4
Geodisc TR	67.3	17.6	67.0	18.2
Geodisc SH	67.6	19.4	68.5	14.0

Tropopause structure

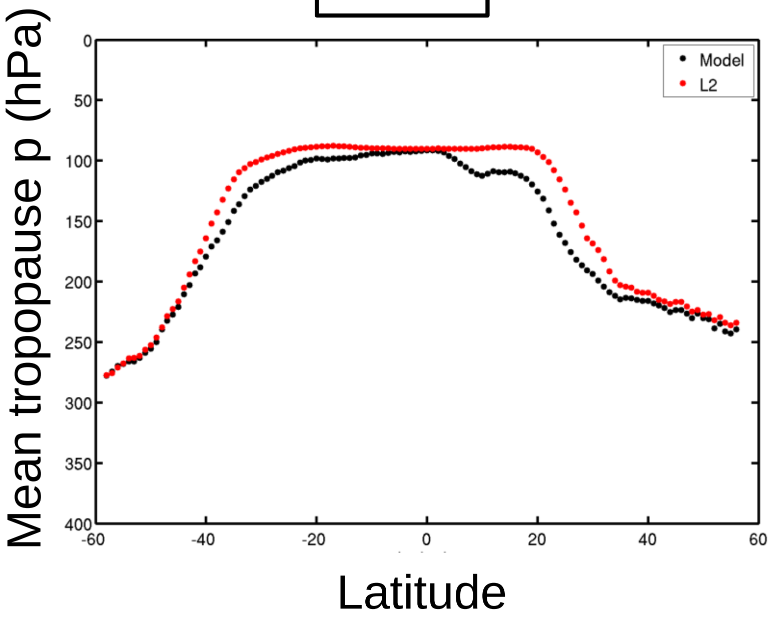
- The model tropopause is on average warmer and at lower altitude than the L2 tropopause.
- Model captures more often the double tropopause structure in the midlatitudes

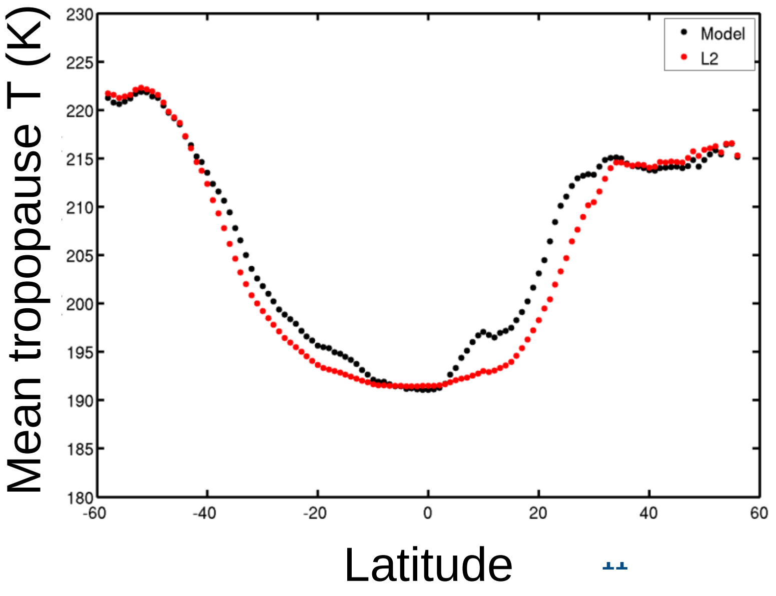
Model
L2





• Example profile





Summary of the quality assessment

- Quality of the retrievals is highly situation and location dependent
  - Cloud free profiles have the best quality
  - Errors increase rapidly for cloud affected data
  - Generally the data quality is better over sea than over land

- QI_T is useful for filtering good quality data especially over land
  - |OmC| < 1, 11% of all data
  - QI_T < 1.5 K, 35% of all data
  - |OmC| < 1 and QI_T < 1.5 K 9 % of all data

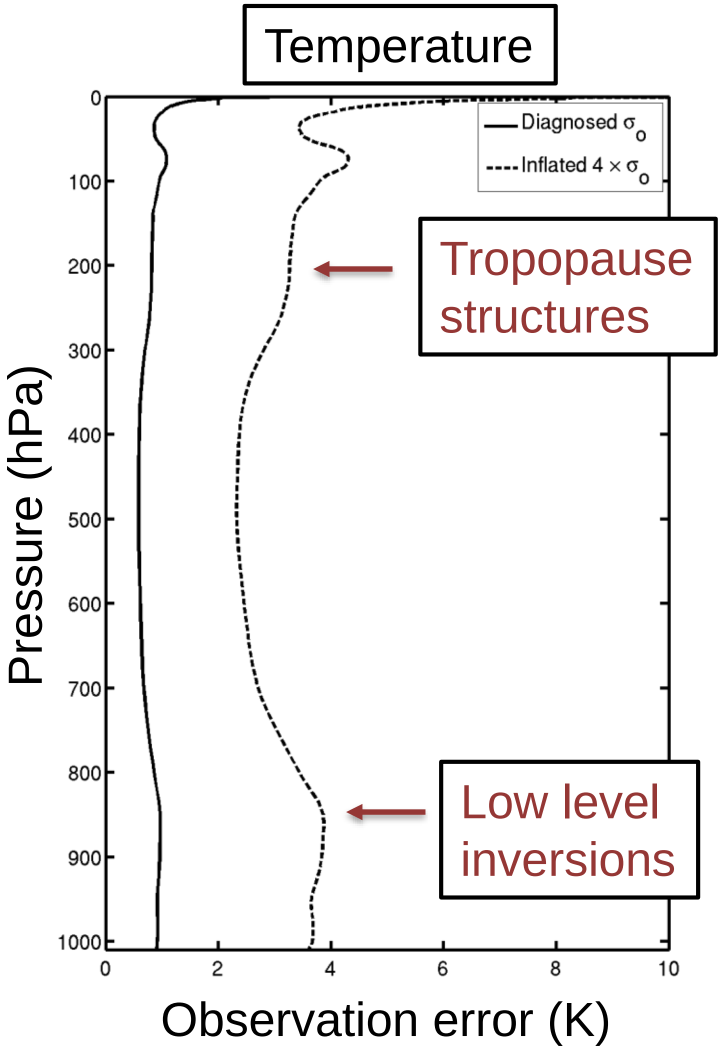
- Model is capturing the low level inversions much more frequently than L2.
- The model tropopause is on average warmer and at lower altitude than the L2 tropopause
  - Model has more often the double tropopause structure in the midlatitudes

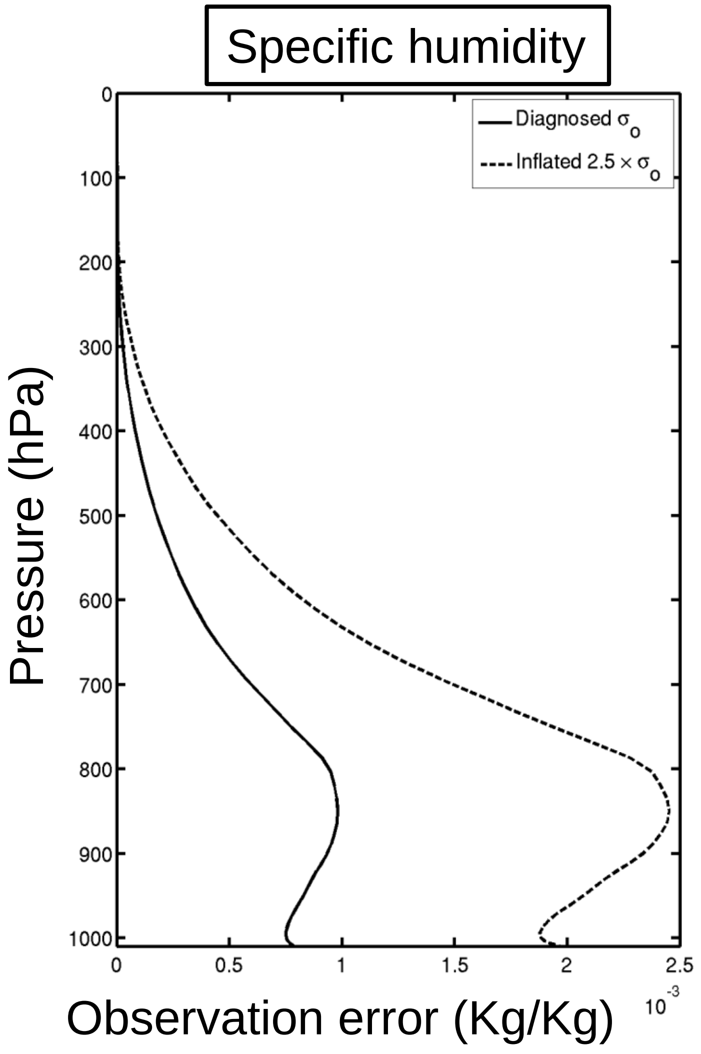
Impact assessment of clear sky retrievals

Estimating observation errors in clear sky

- Observation errors diagnosed with Desroziers method.

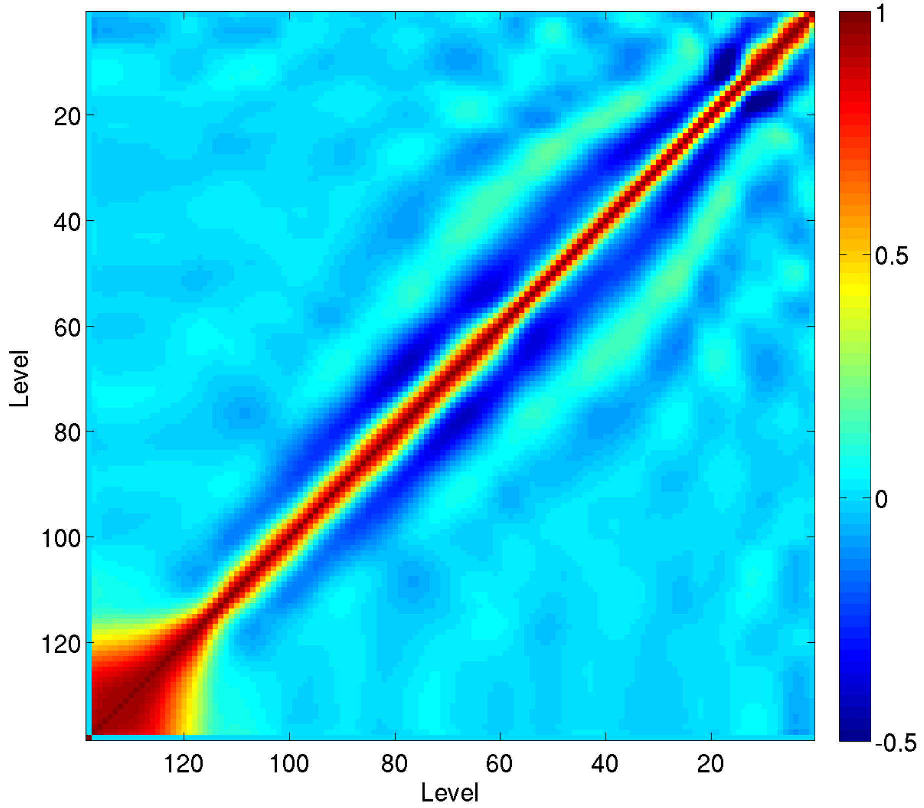
- Temperature errors require significant inflation, 4*σ_{oT} used in the assimilation experiments.
  - Increased errors at low level inversion and tropopause levels.
- Inflation for humidity errors moderate, 2.5*σ_{oq}



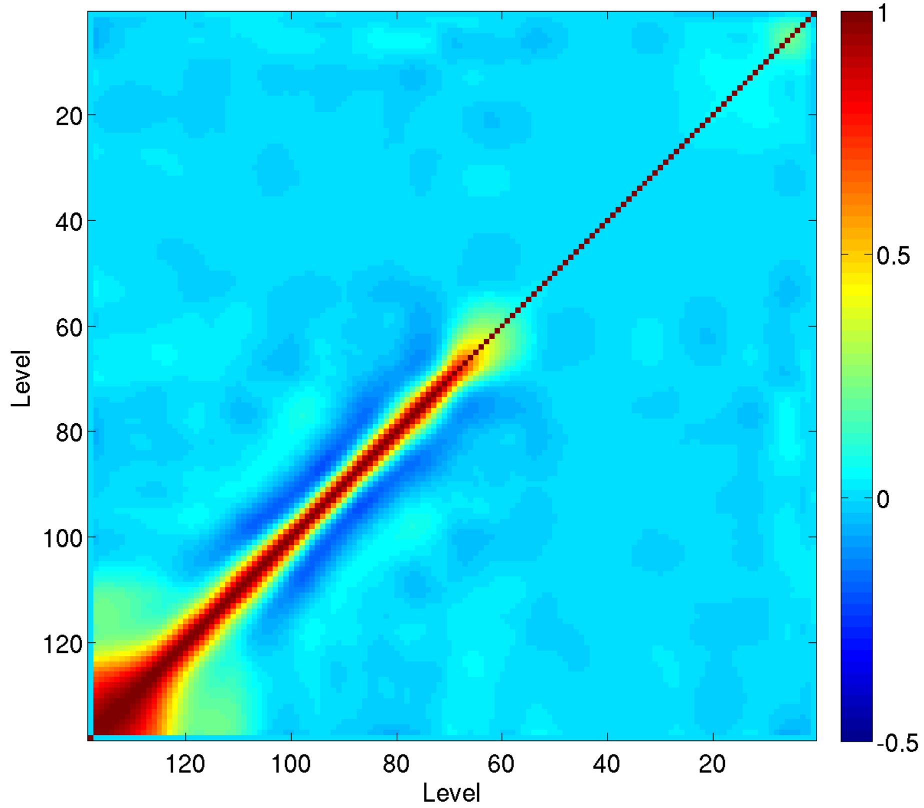


Observation error correlations in clear sky

IASI L2 temperature



IASI L2 specific humidity

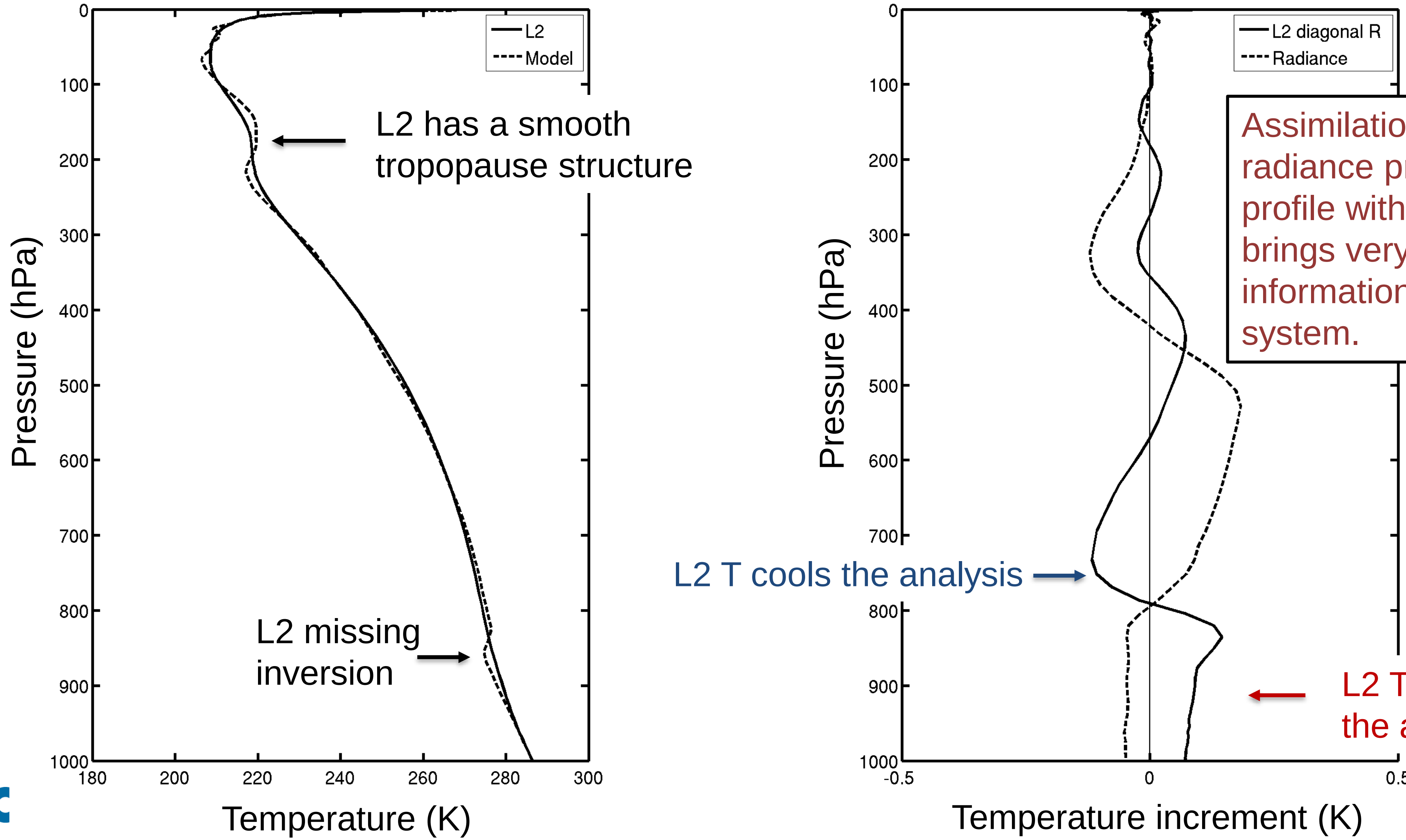


Reconditioning required, especially for the humidity **R**

Single observation experiment, temperature

- 1.1.2017, 12.38 UTC
- 39.26 N, 33.41 W
- All IASI channels are cloud free according to ECMWF cloud detection scheme
- High quality clear sky L2 temperature profile
  - OmC = 0.36
  - QI_T = 0.75

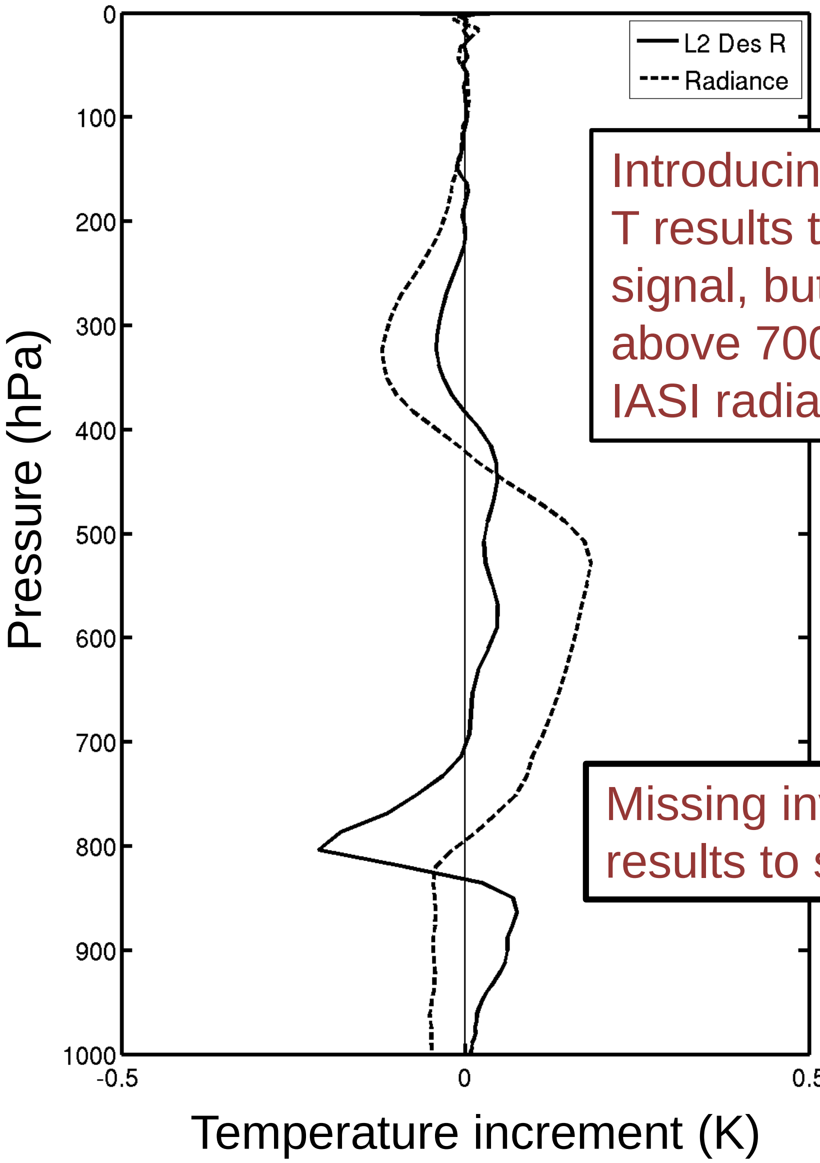
Single observation experiment, using diagonal **R**



Assimilation of the IASI radiance profile or L2 T profile with diagonal **R** brings very different information into the system.

Single observation experiment, using full **R**

- It is very important to take the vertical error correlations into account.
- Missing inversion results to strong signal in the analysis increment despite significantly inflated σ_{oT}.



Introducing full **R** for L2 T results to more similar signal, but weaker, above 700 hPa than IASI radiance.

Missing inversion results to strong signal.

Data assimilation experiments, Jan – Feb and Jun – Jul 2017

- Depleted observing system

  CTL: Conventional observations + AMSU-A

  L2: **CTL** + L2 temperature and specific humidity

  IASI: **CTL** + IASI radiances

- Full observing system

  CTL: Full observing system without IASI

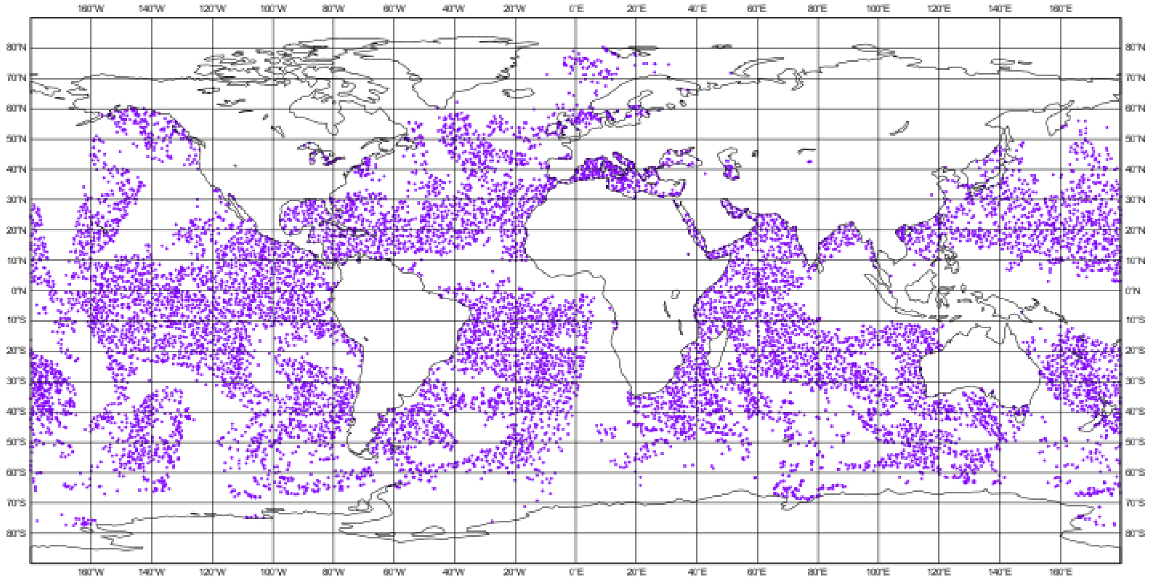
  L2: **CTL** + L2 temperature and specific humidity

  IASI: **CTL** + IASI radiances

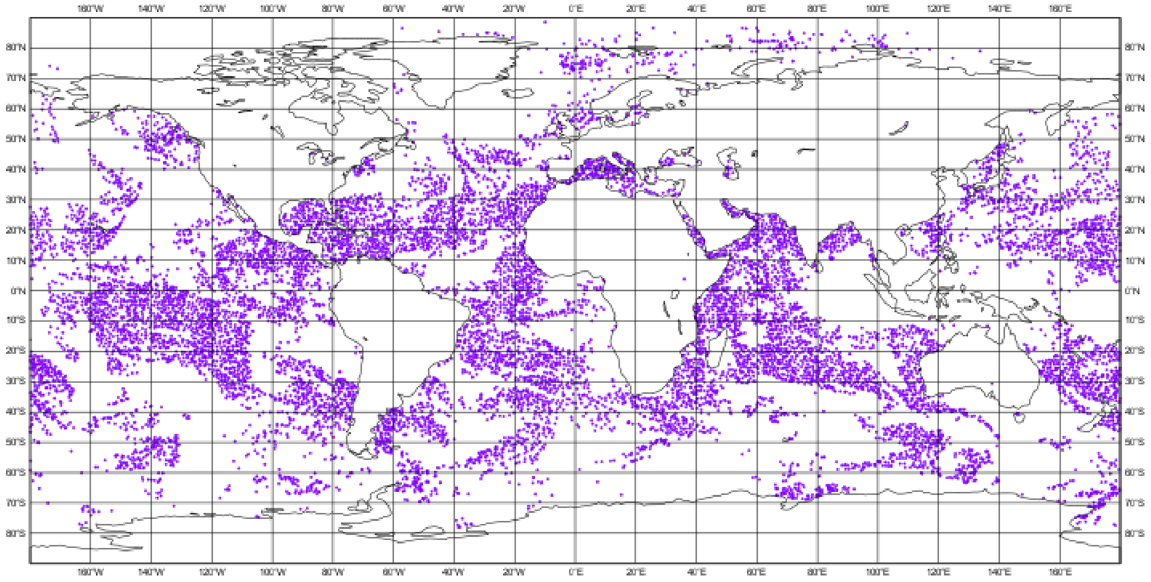
12-hour sample coverage for active data

- Data selection as similar as possible for L2 profiles and radiances
  - Horizontal thinning 125 km
  - Clear sky data over sea only
  - IASI radiances blacklisted at the edges of the swath
  - L2 data blacklisted above ~30 hPa due to large temperature bias

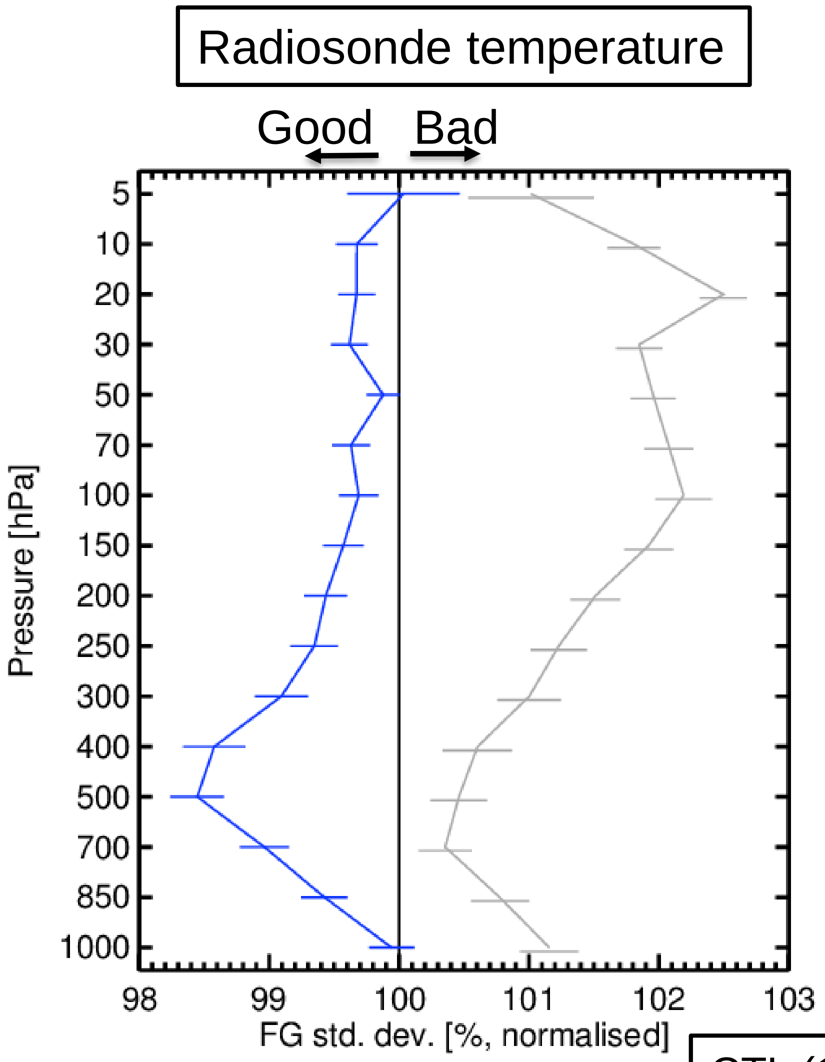
IASI radiances, channel 3049 (~11700 obs)

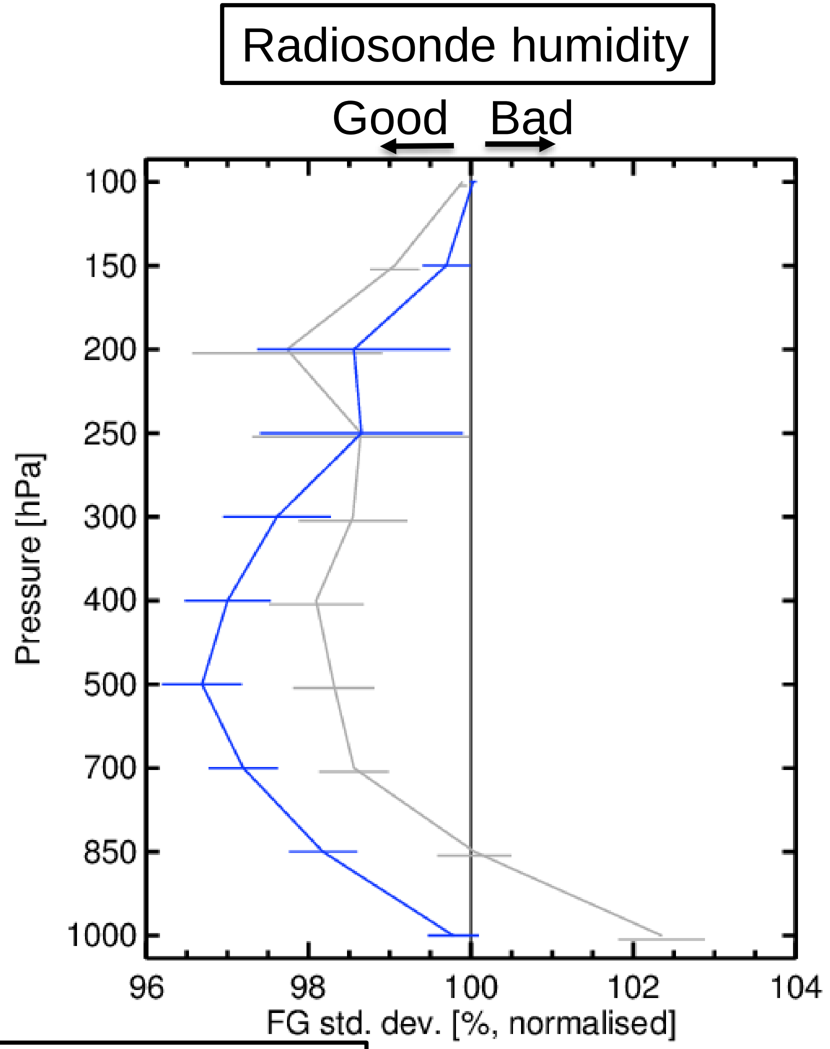


L2 humidity profiles (~12400 obs)



Short range forecast impact, depleted observing system

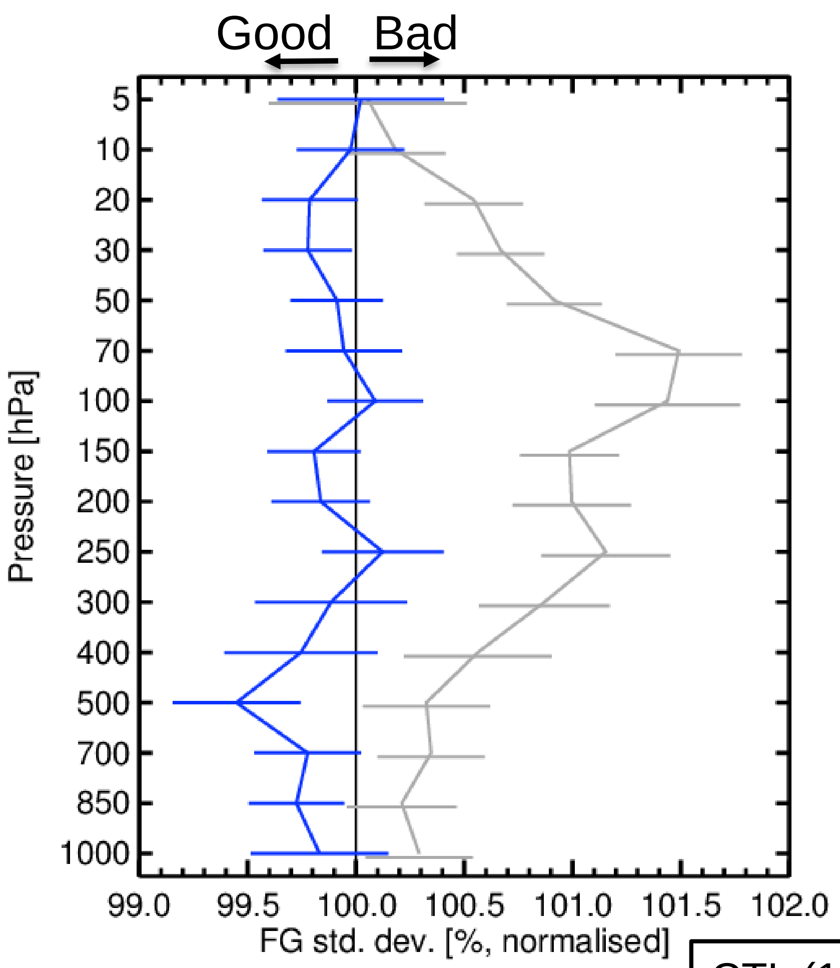




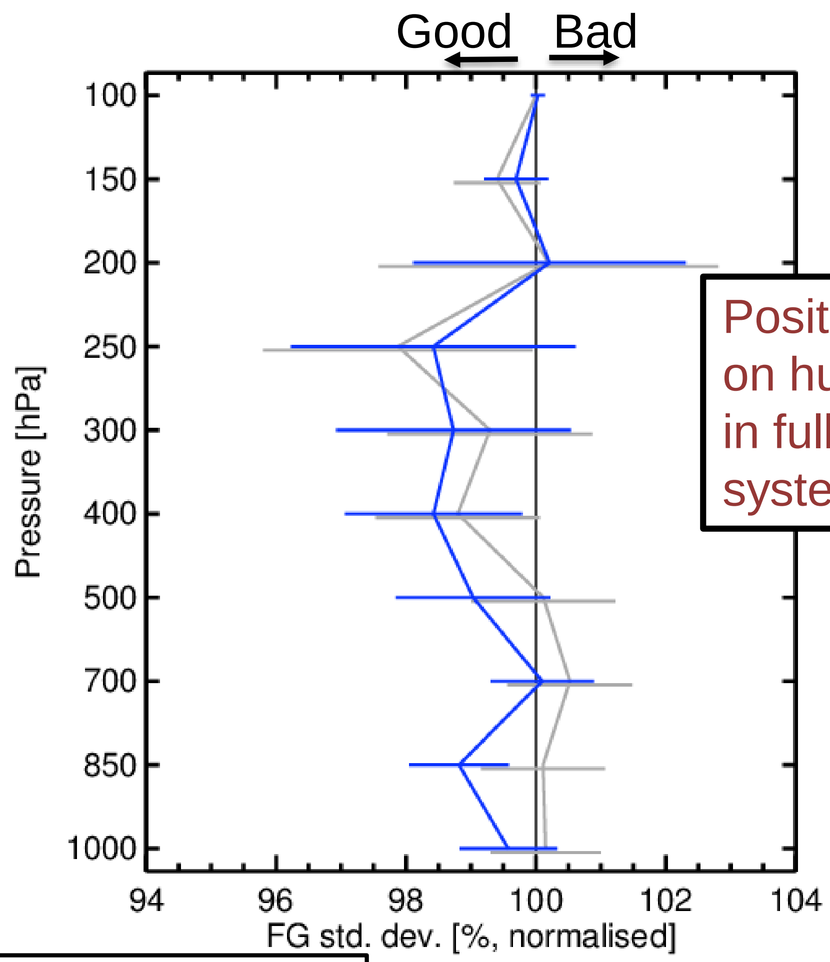
CTL (100%): Conv + AMSU-A
CTL + IASI L2 T and q with full **R**
CTL + IASI radiances

Short range forecast impact, full observing system

Radiosonde temperature



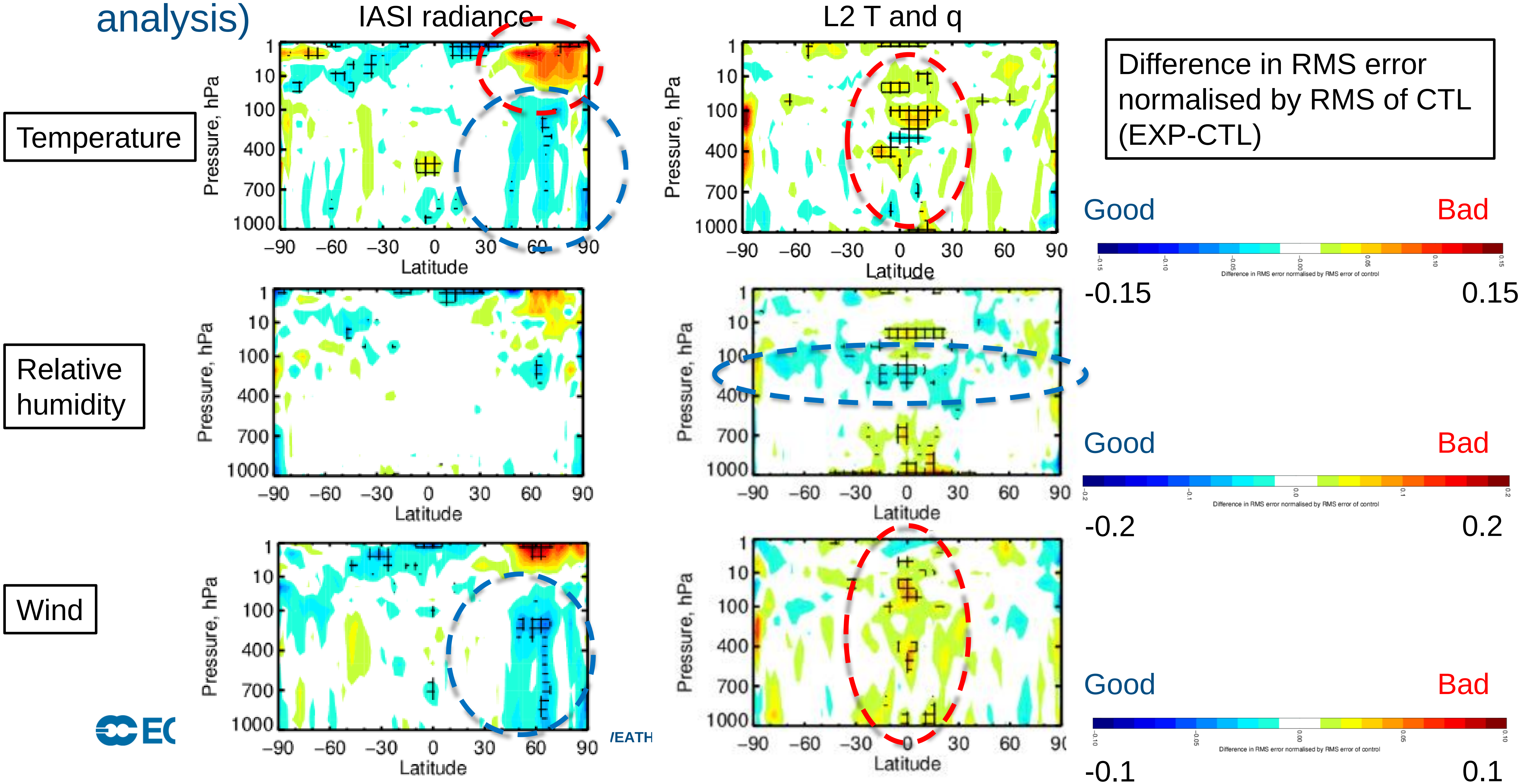
Radiosonde humidity



Positive impact on humidity even in full observing system!

CTL (100%): Full observing system without IASI
CTL + IASI L2 T and q with full **R**
CTL + IASI radiances

Forecast impact day 5, full observing system (verification against own analysis)



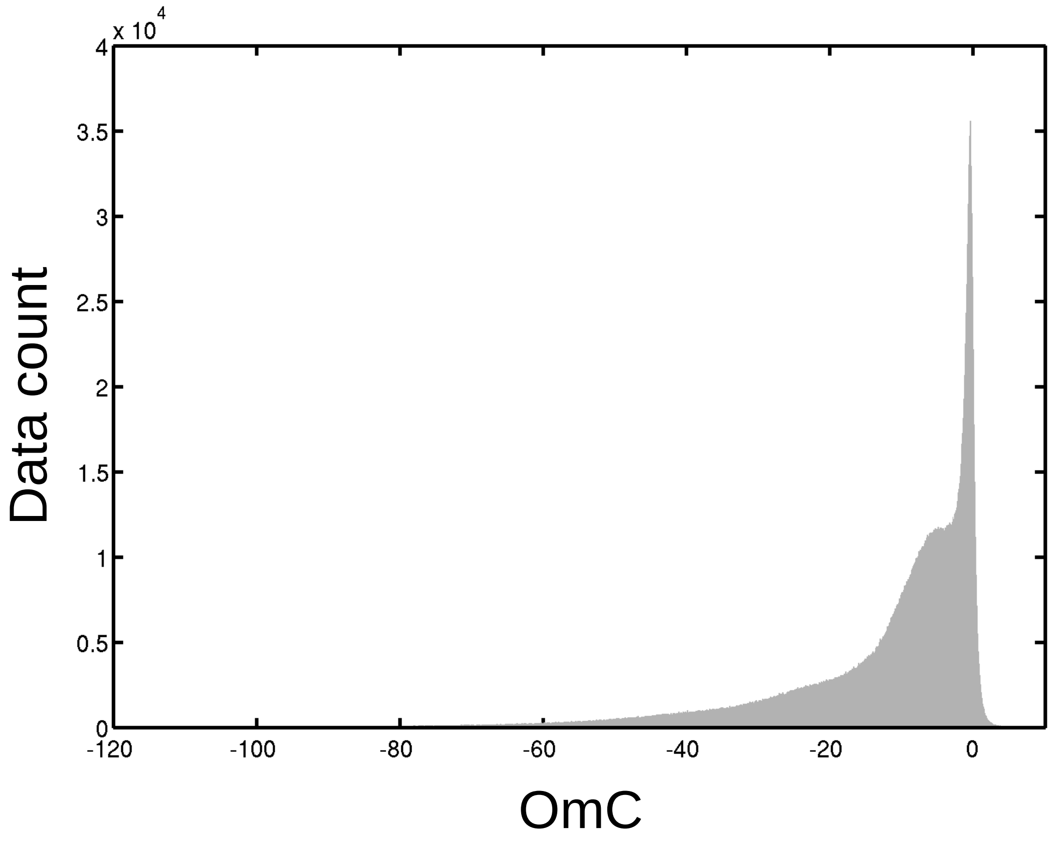
Summary of the L2 impact in clear sky conditions

- Positive impact from L2 humidity
  - Benefit comparable to IASI radiances
- Negative impact from L2 temperature
  - Most likely due to smoothing of inversions and tropopause structures
- Results are consistent in depleted and full NWP systems
  - Smaller impact in full system
- L2 impact is very sensitive to the diagnosed error correlations
  - It is essential to take observation error correlations into account

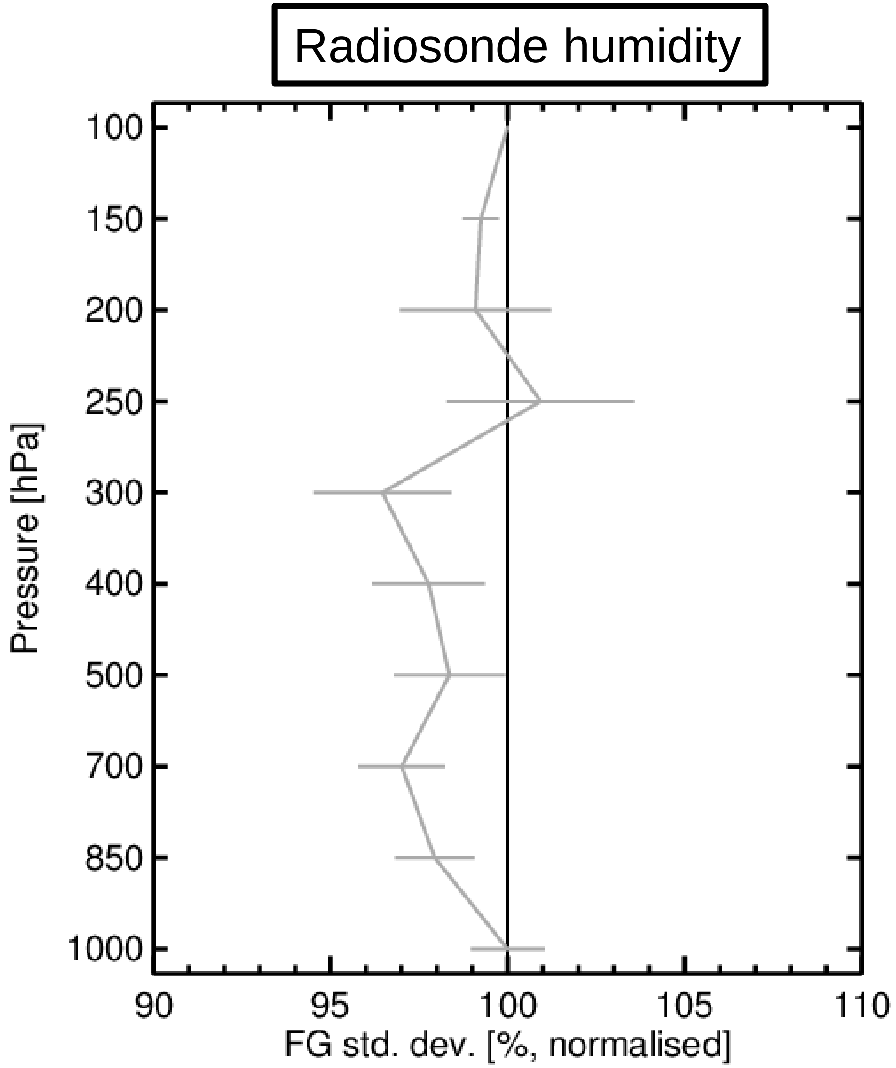
Impact assessment of cloud affected humidity retrievals

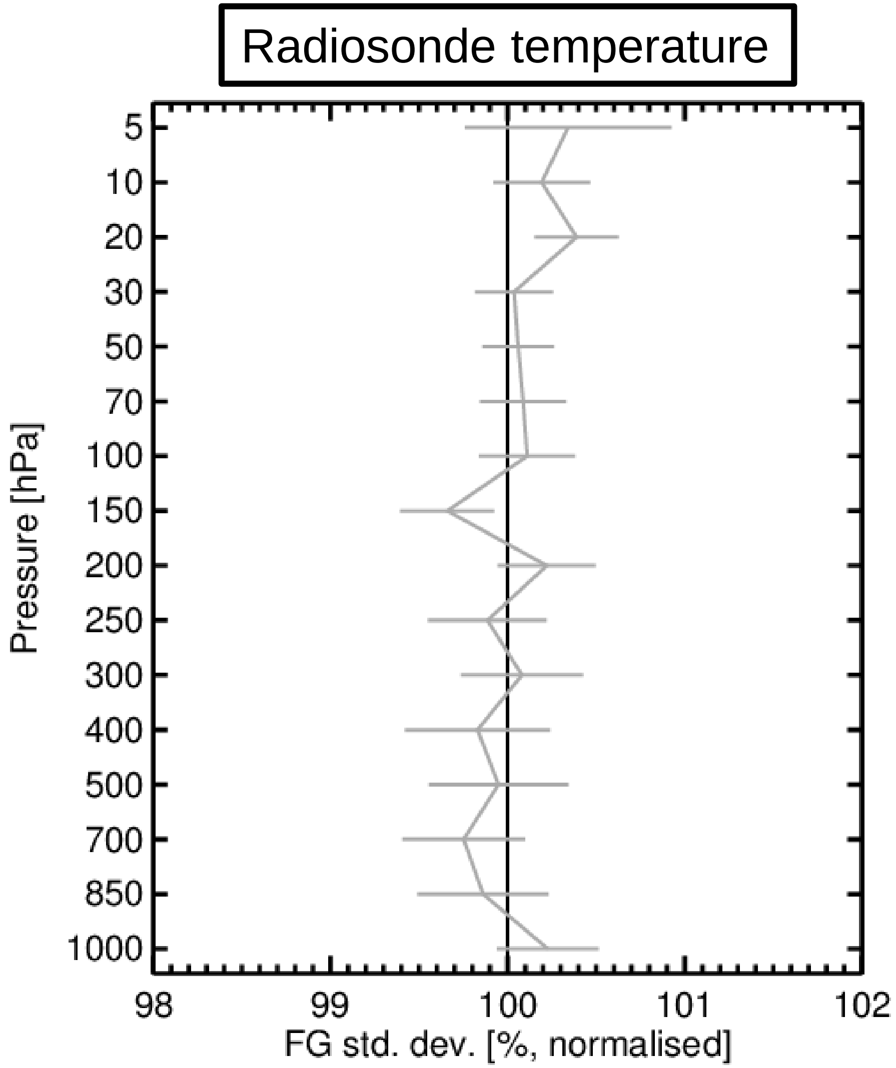
Depleted observing system experiments

- **CTL**: Conventional observations + AMSU-A
- **L2**: **CTL** + L2 humidity profiles <u>over sea</u>
  - Varying criteria for accepted OmC
    1. |OmC| < 1
    2. -5 < OmC < 1
    3. -15 < OmC < 1
    4. -30 < OmC < 1
    5. -45 < OmC < 1
    6. -60 < OmC < 1
  - Observation errors and error correlations diagnosed for cloud free situations.



Short range impact on humidity and temperature, -1 < OmC < 1

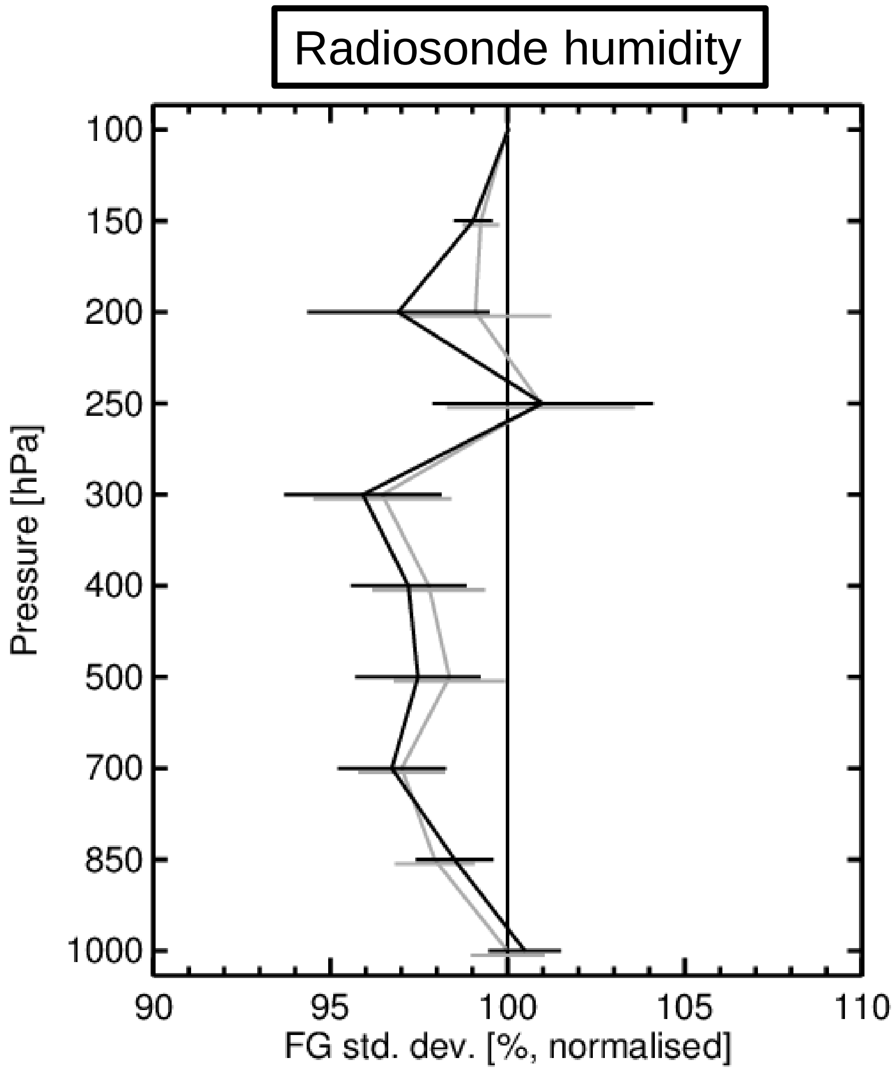


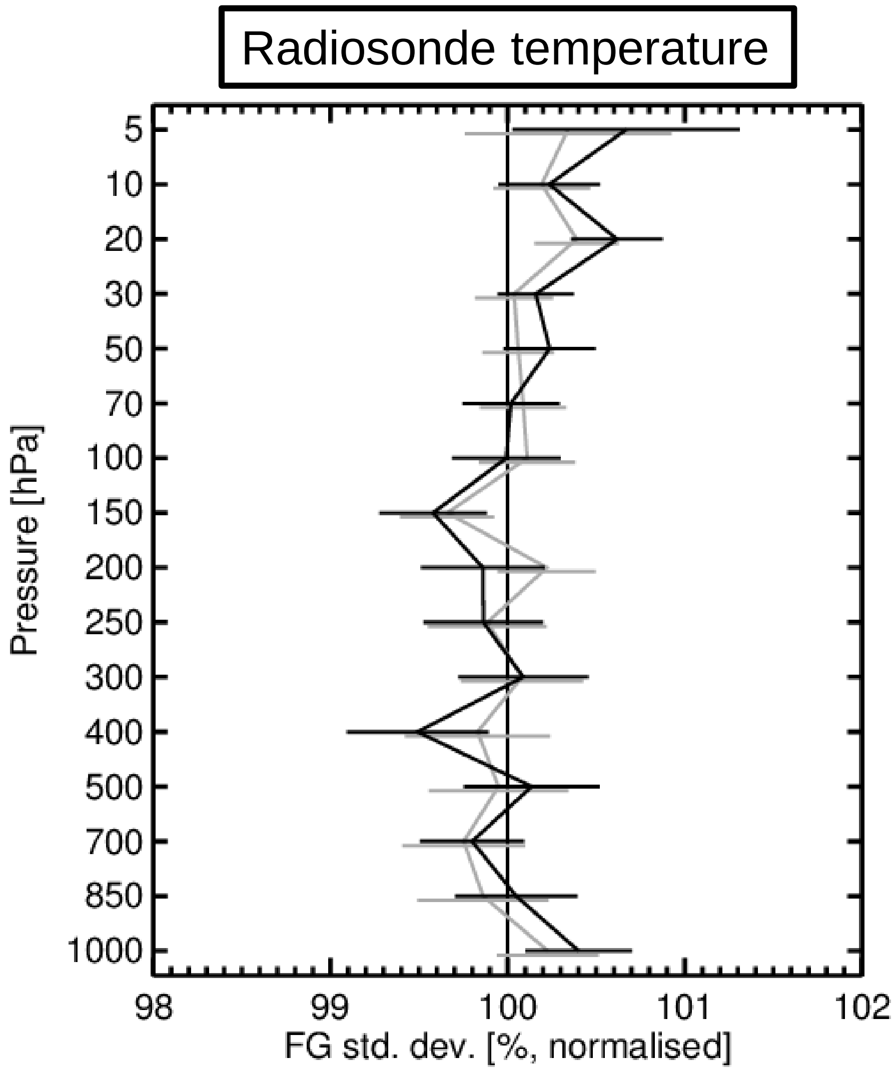


Reference: assimilation of cloud free humidity retrievals

- Positive impact on humidity, neutral on temperature

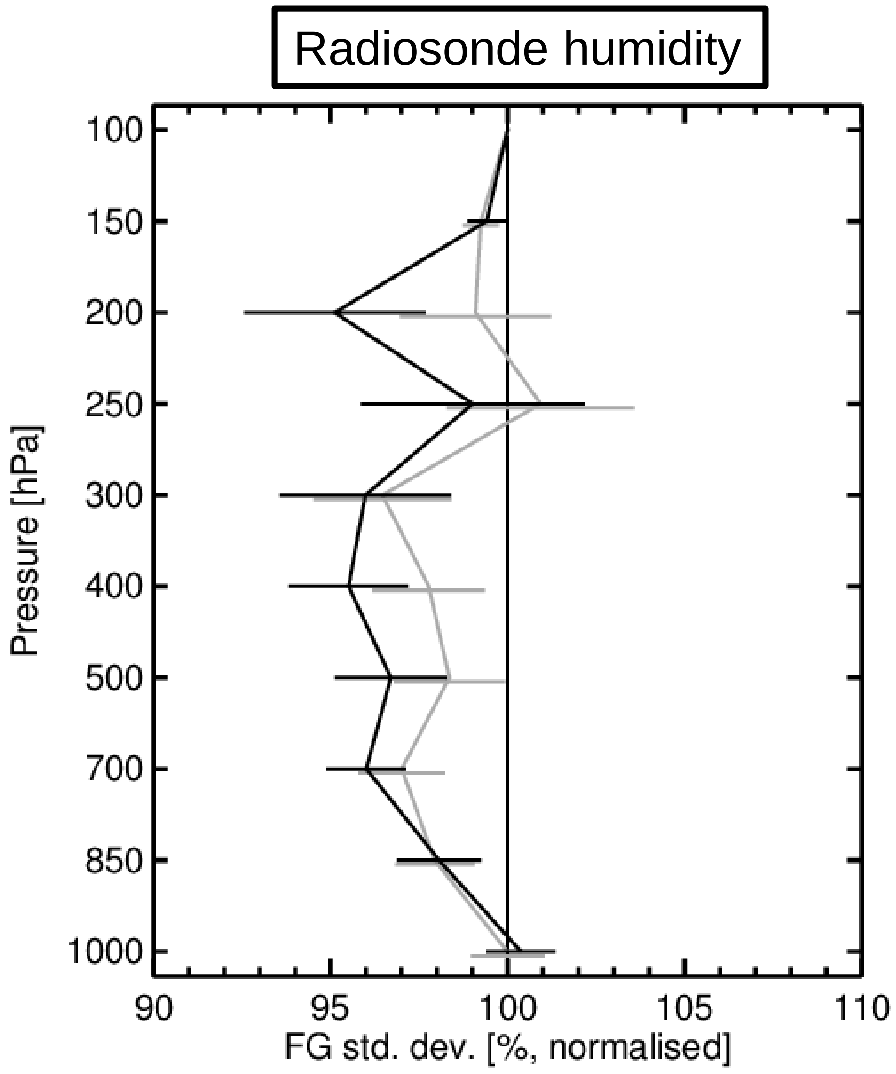
Short range impact on humidity and temperature, -5 < OmC < 1

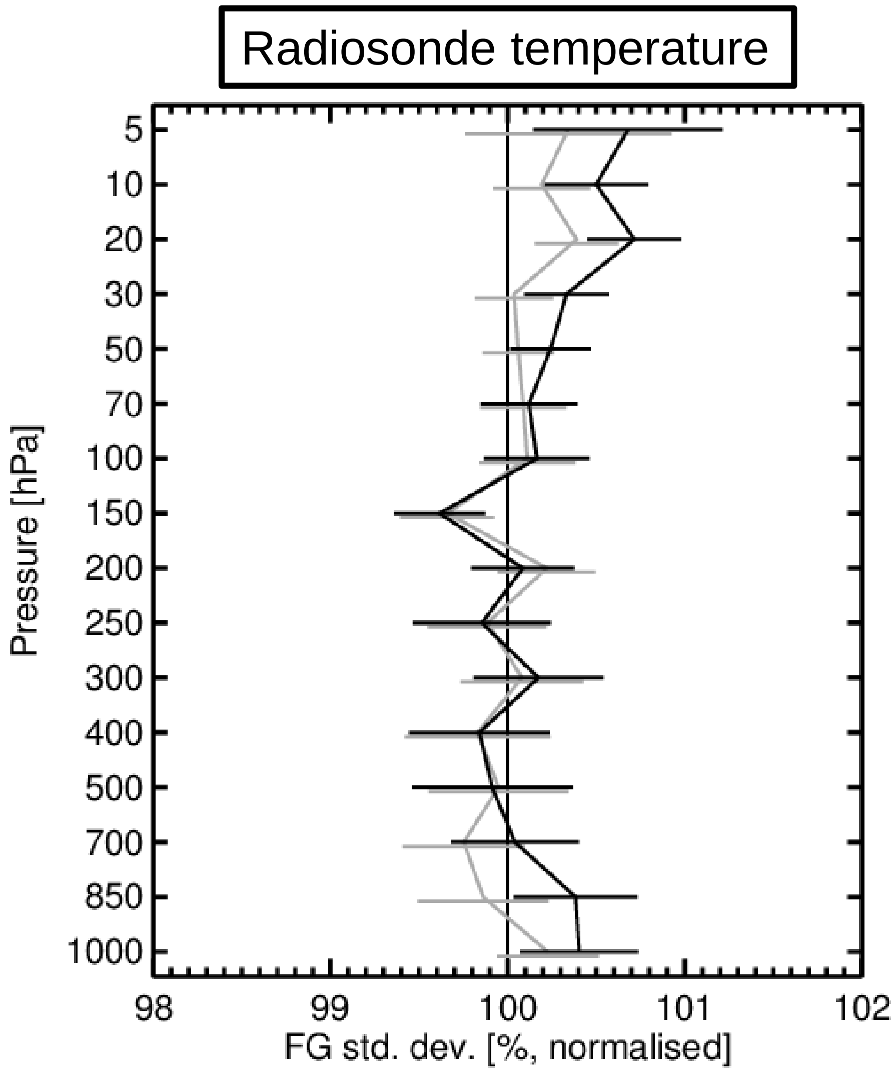




Assimilation of cloud affected humidity retrievals improves the short range humidity forecasts

Short range impact on humidity and temperature, -10 < OmC < 1

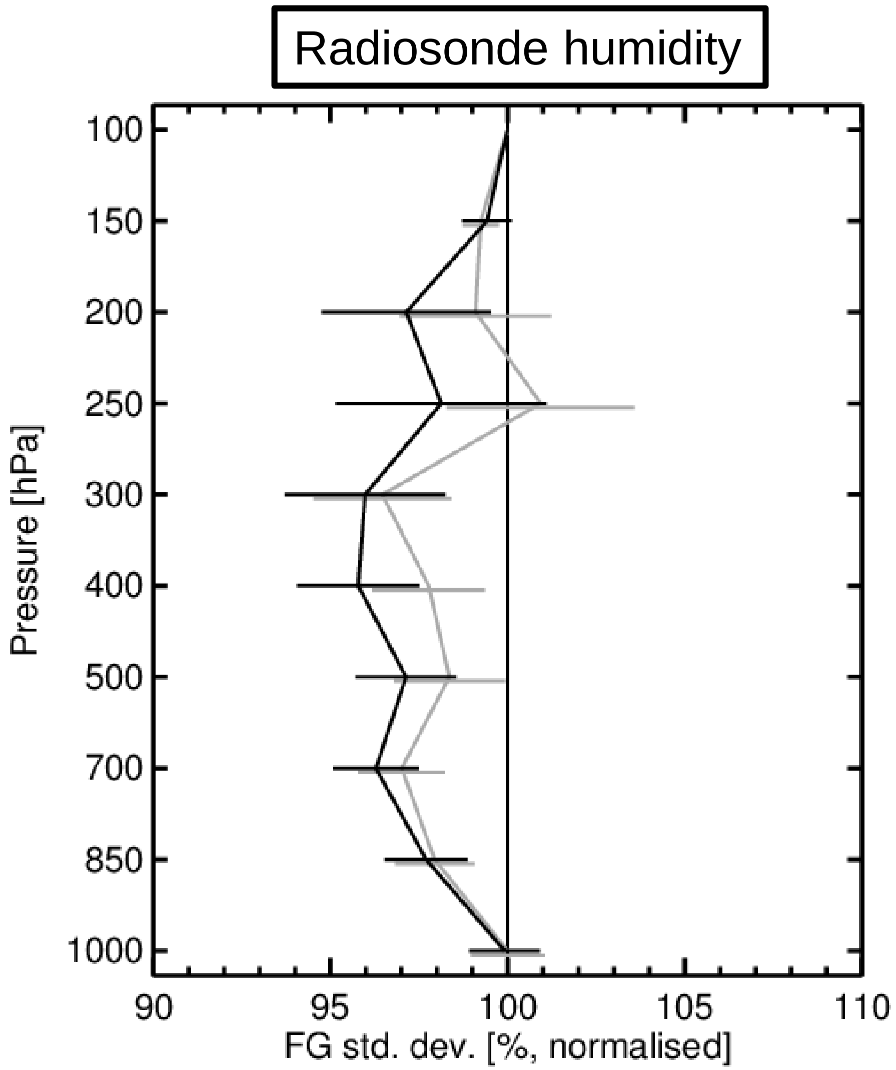


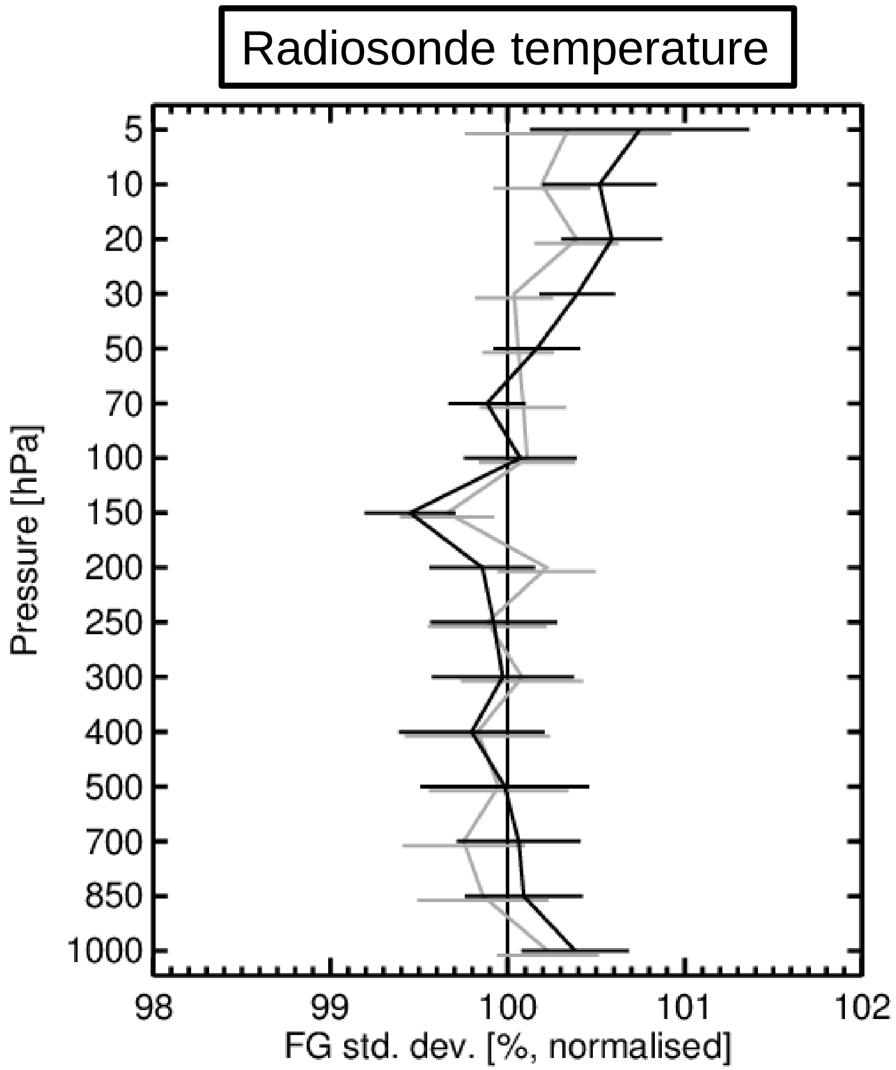


Assimilation of cloud affected humidity retrievals improves the short range humidity forecasts

ECMWF

Short range impact on humidity and temperature, -15 < OmC < 1

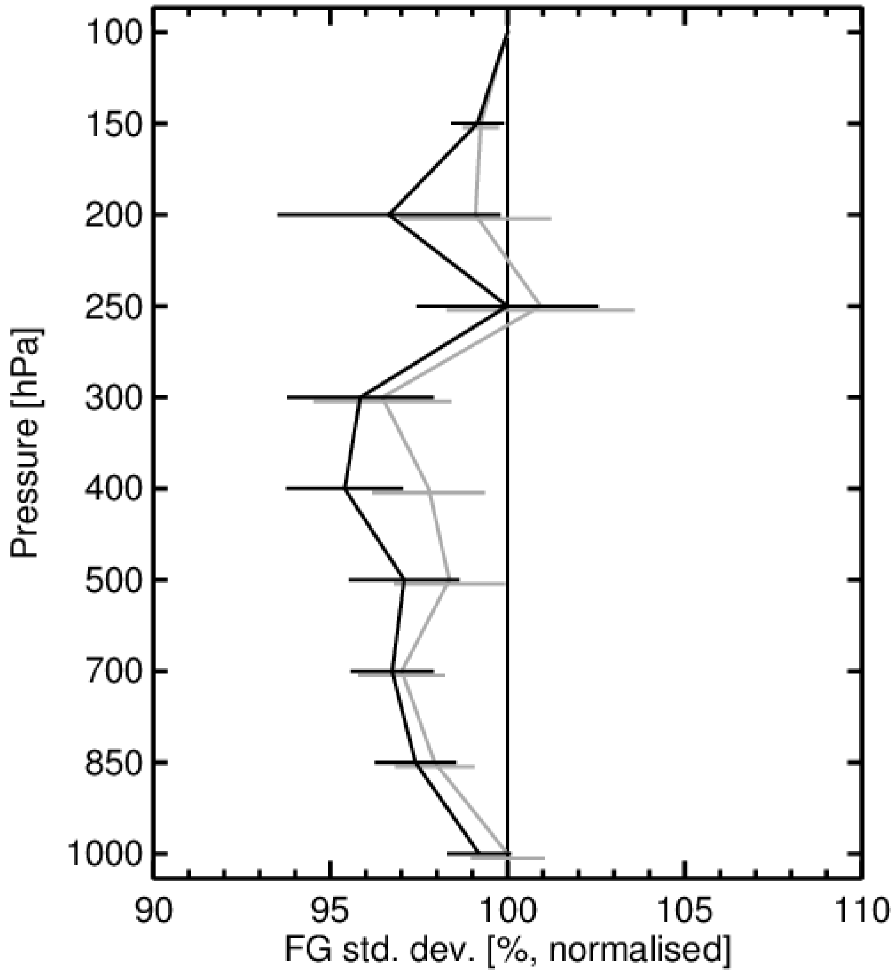




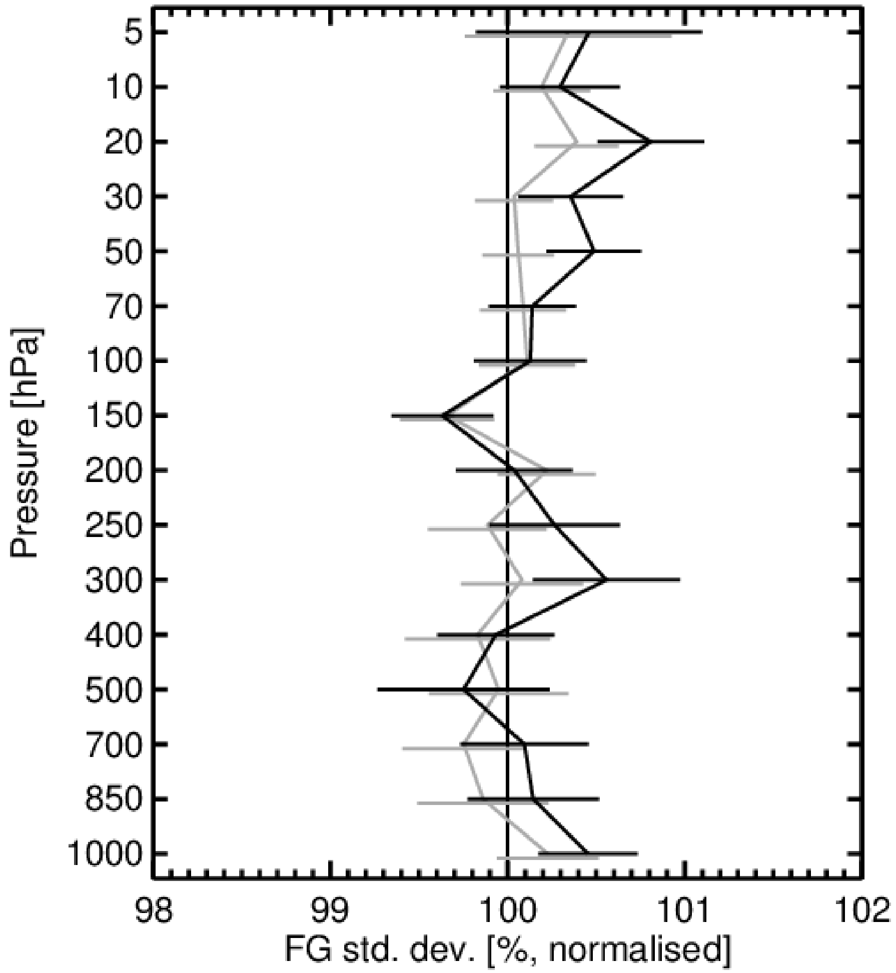
Assimilation of cloud affected humidity retrievals improves the short range humidity forecasts

Short range impact on humidity and temperature, -30 < OmC < 1

Radiosonde humidity



Radiosonde temperature

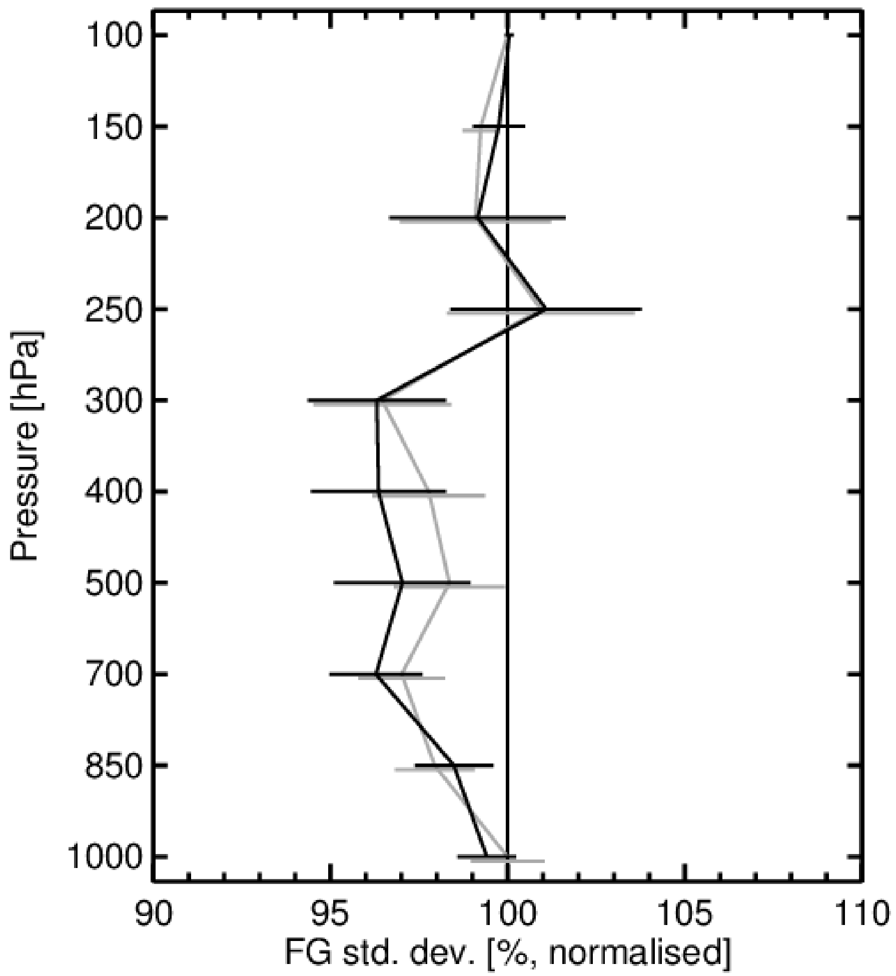


BUT the temperature forecasts starts to degrade for OmC < -15

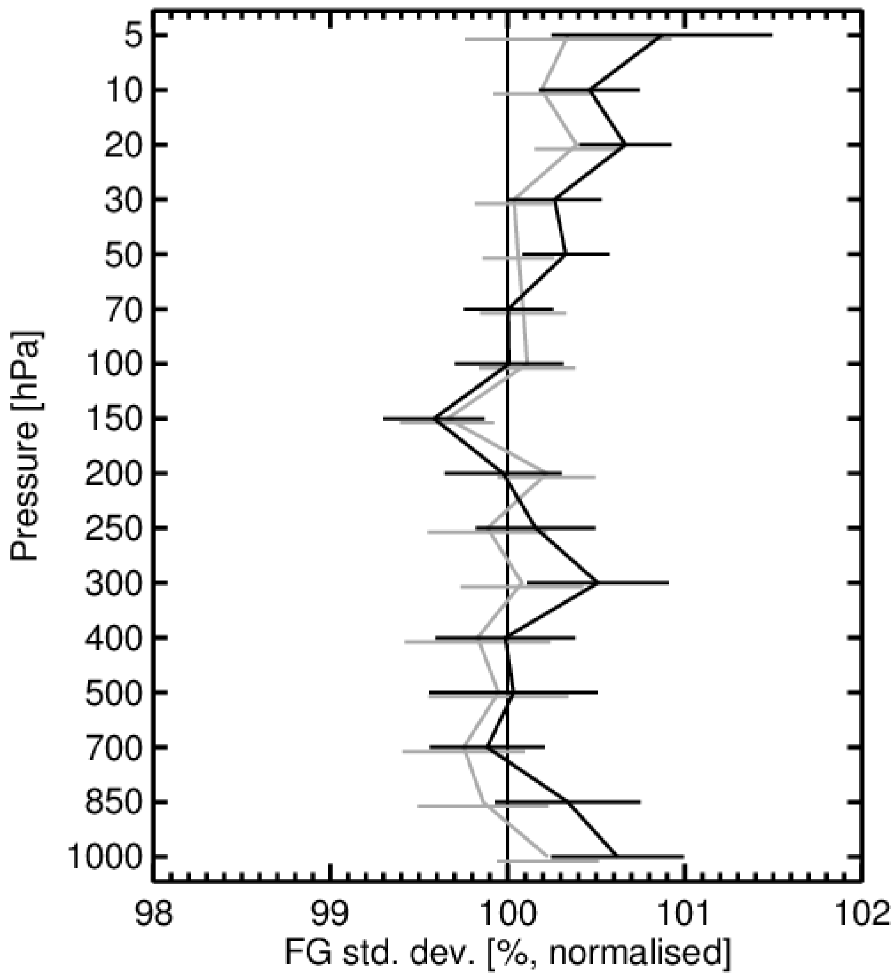
ECMWF

Short range impact on humidity and temperature, -45 < OmC < 1

Radiosonde humidity



Radiosonde temperature

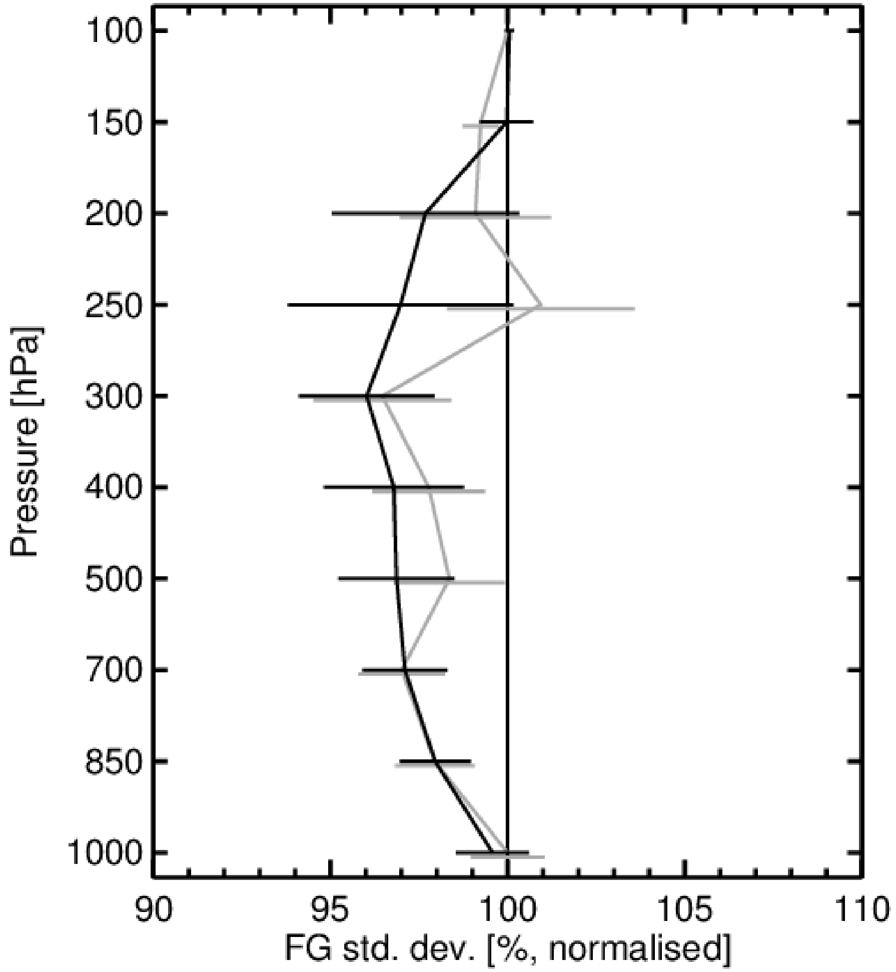


BUT the temperature forecasts starts to degrade for OmC < -15

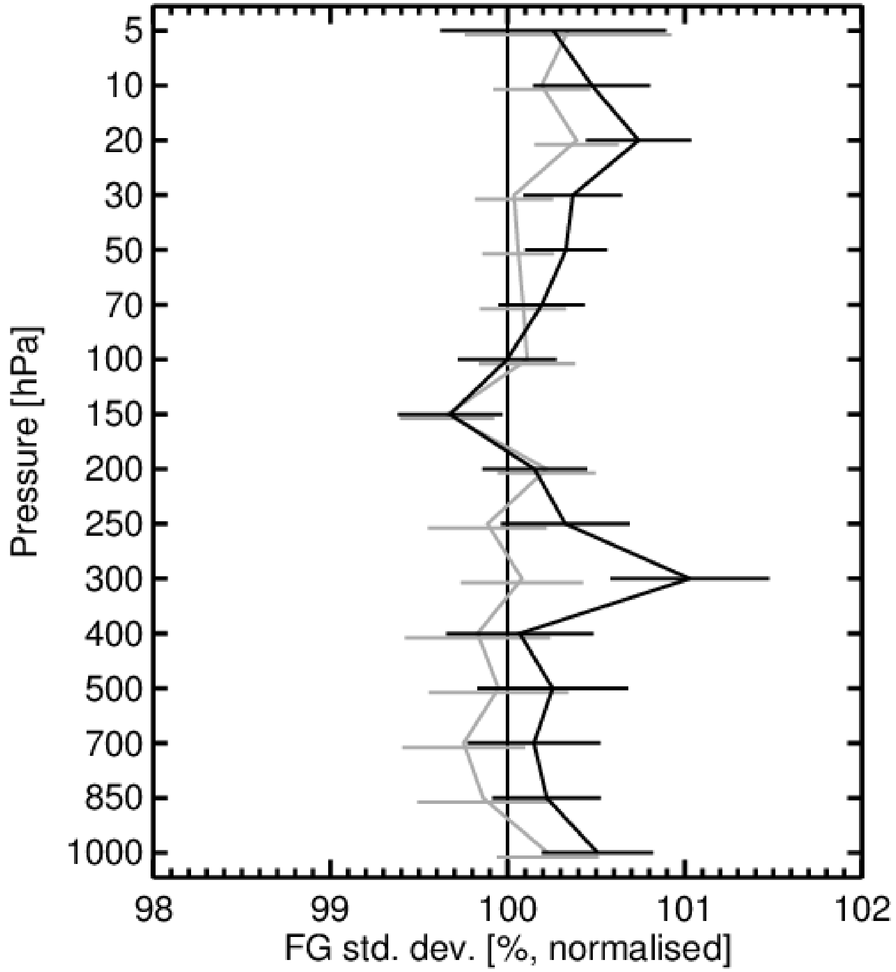
ECMWF

Short range impact on humidity and temperature, -60 < OmC < 1

Radiosonde humidity

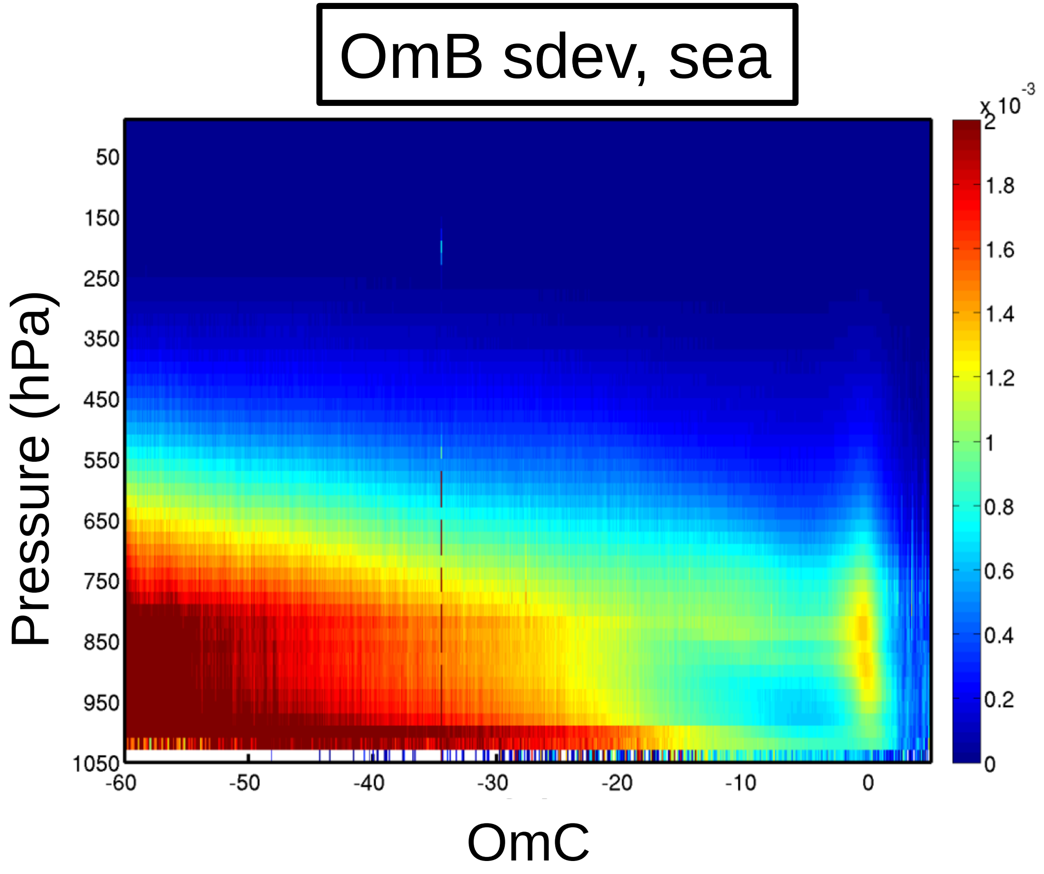


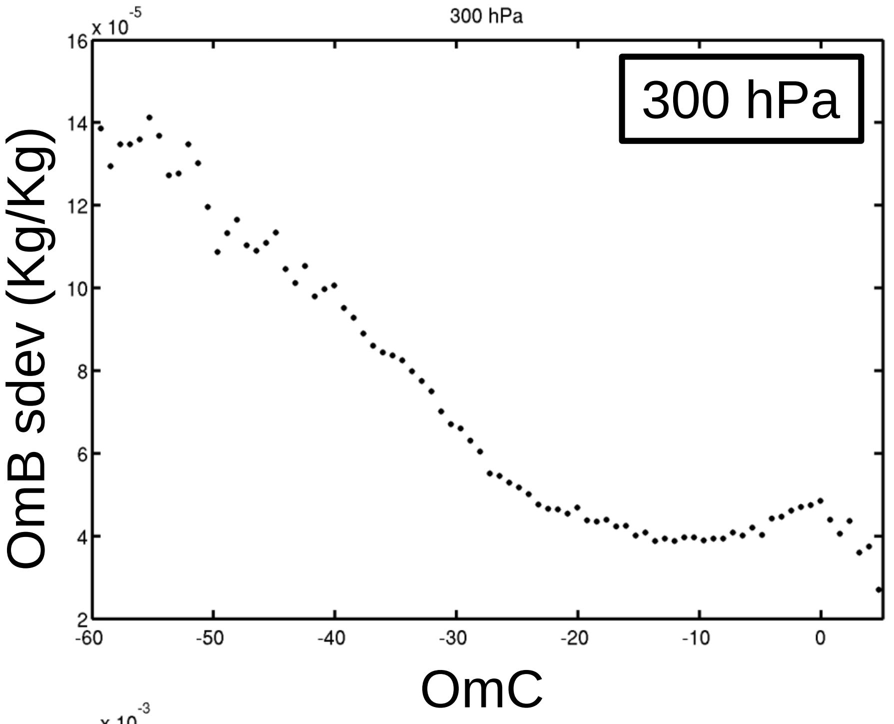
Radiosonde temperature

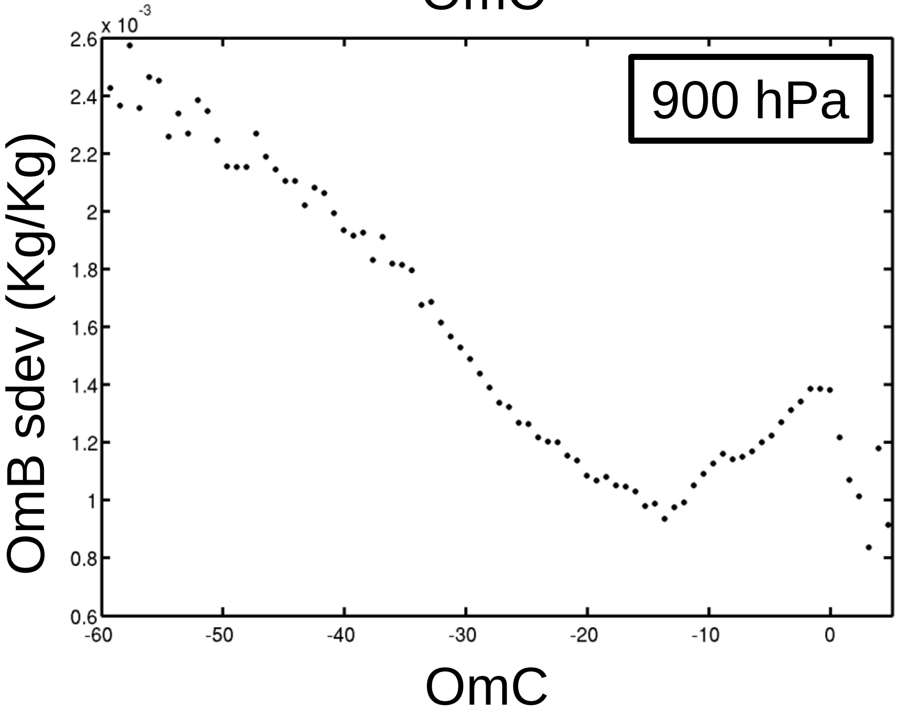


BUT the temperature forecasts starts to degrade for OmC < -15

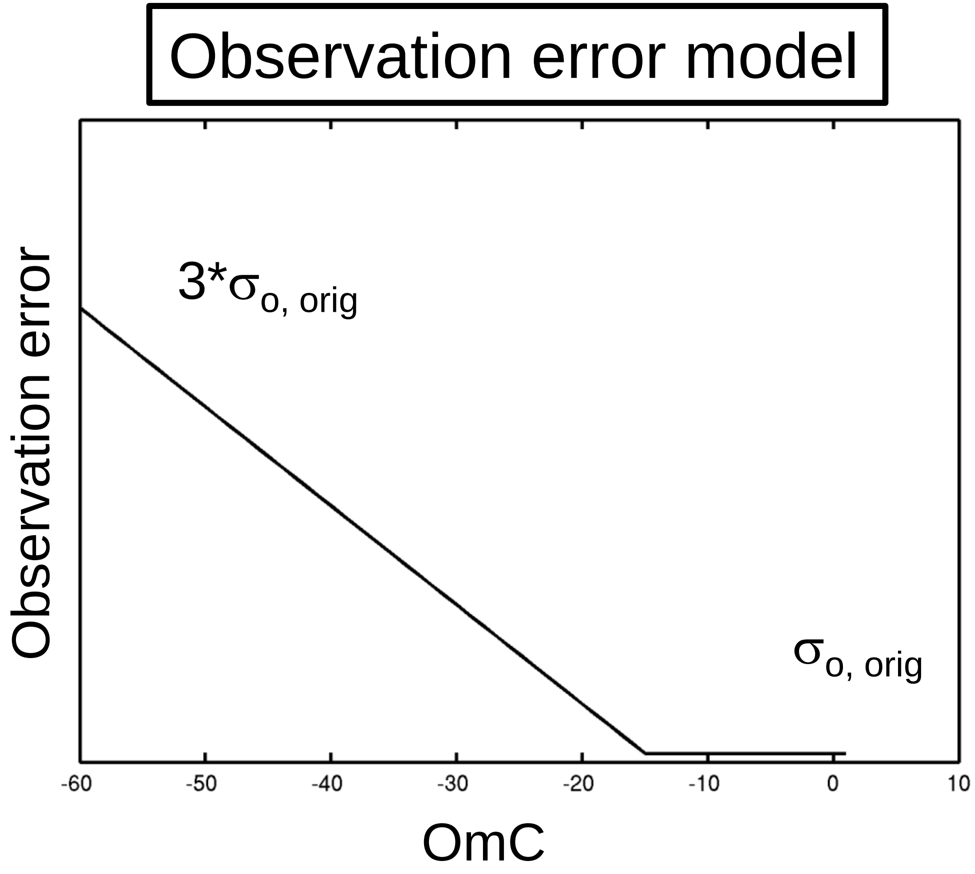
Behaviour of the OmB standard deviation

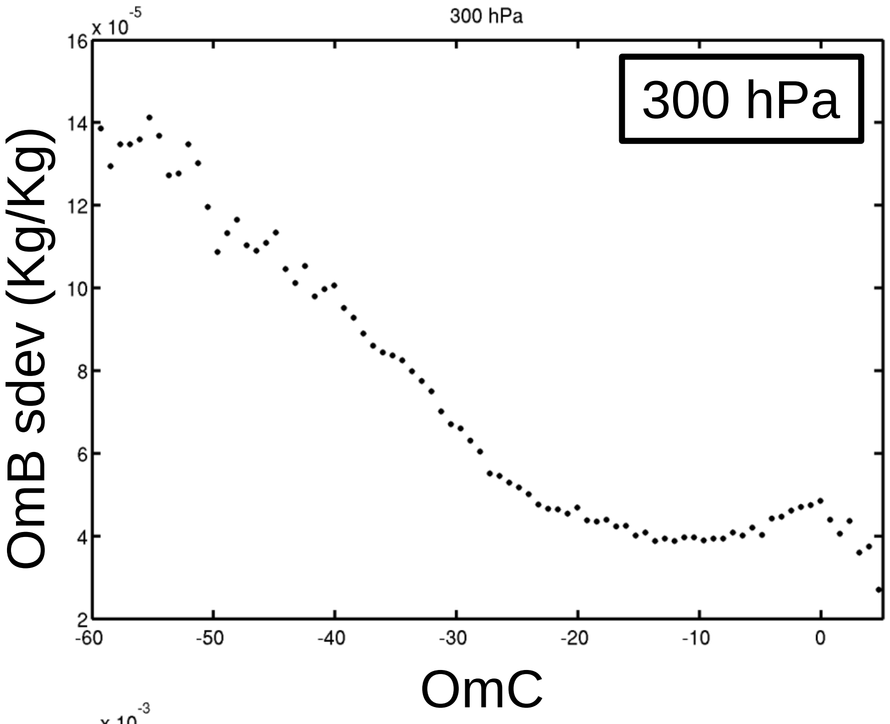


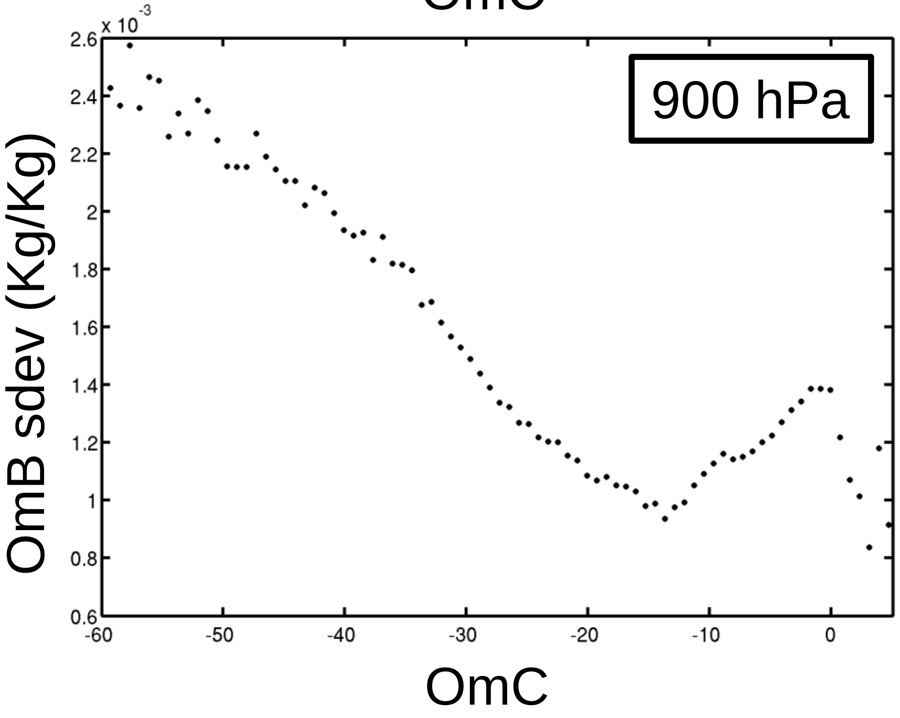




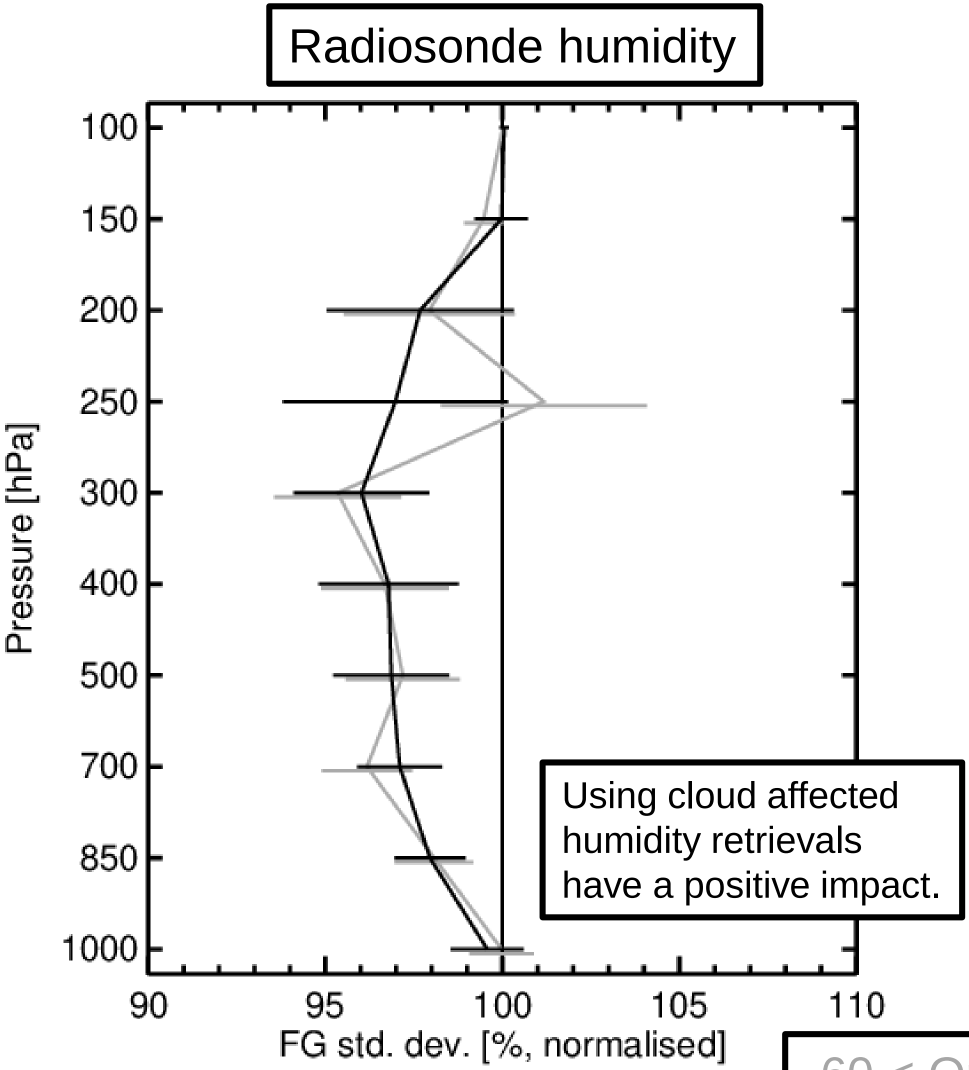
Modify the observation errors

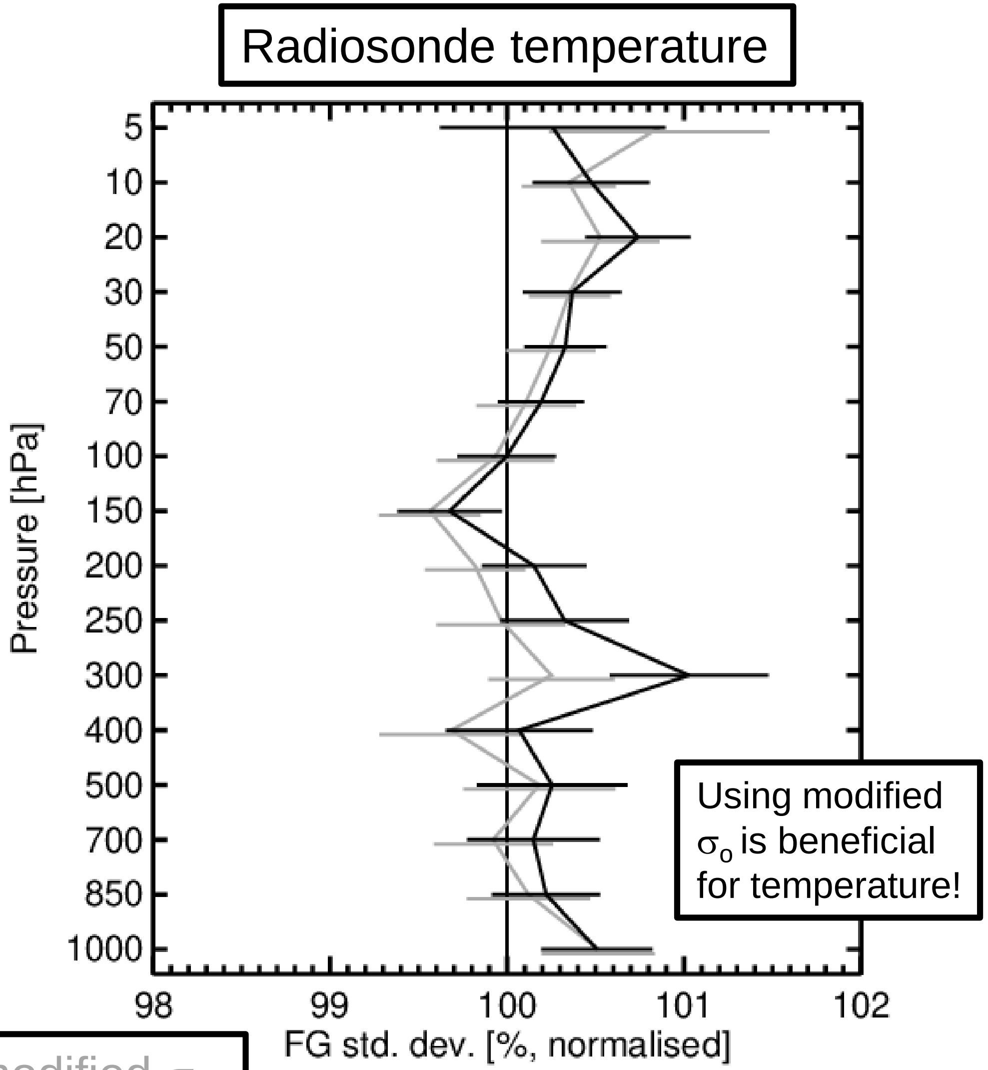






Impact of using the observation error model, depleted observing system

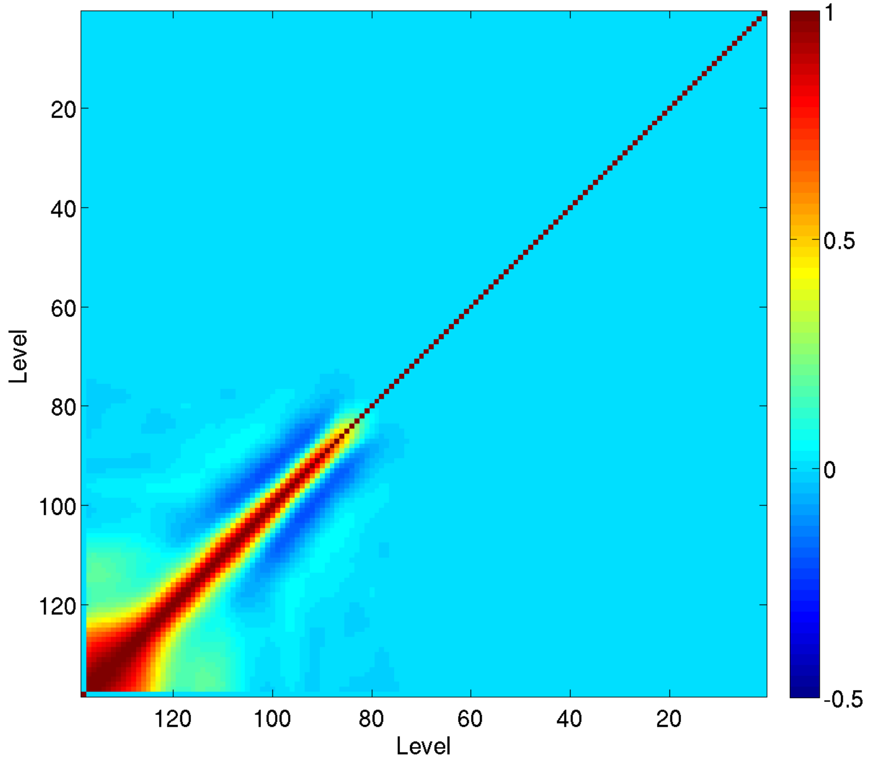




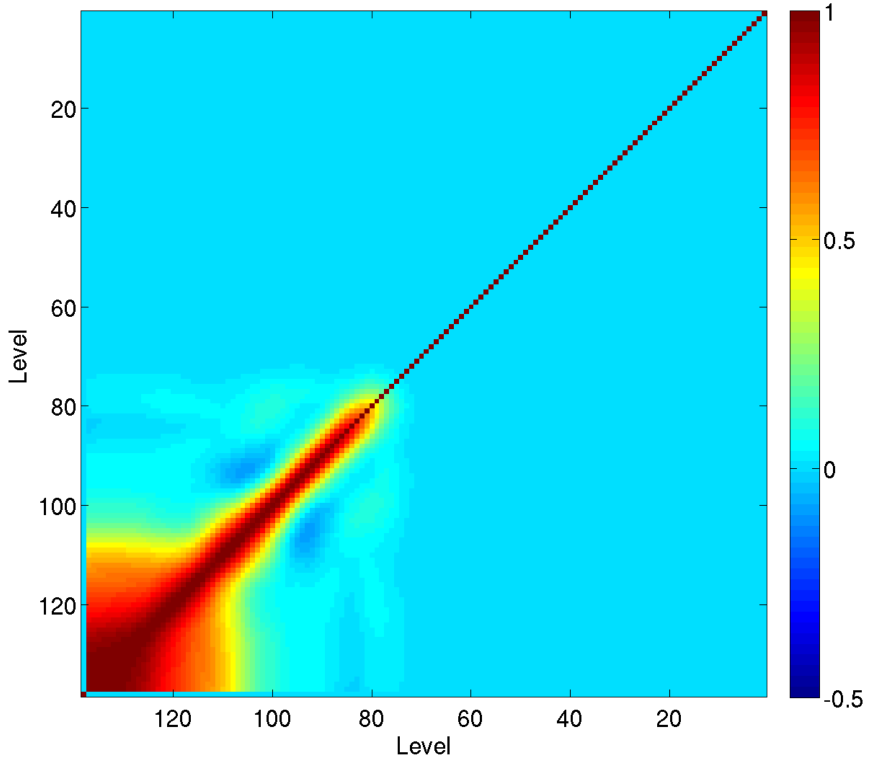
-60 < OmC < 1, modified σ_o
-60 < OmC < 1, clear sky σ_o

Clear vs cloud affected observation error correlations

Diagnosed clear sky **R**

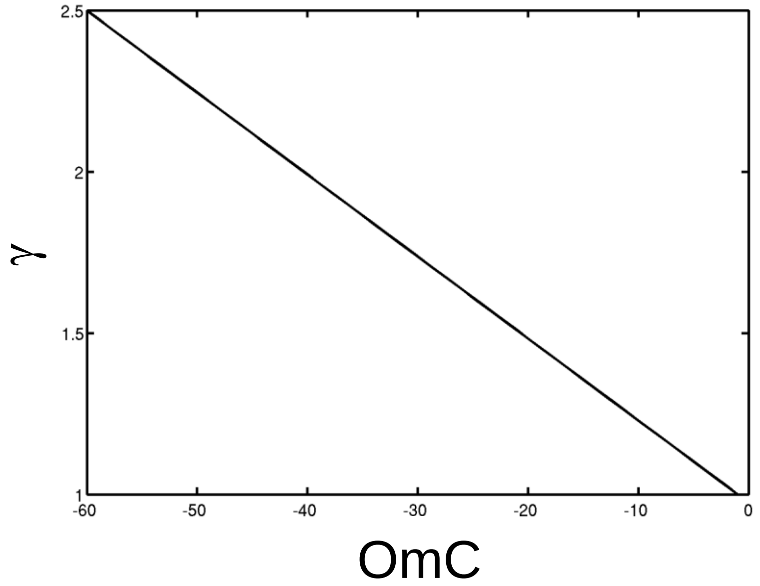


Diagnosed **R**: -45<OmC<-30

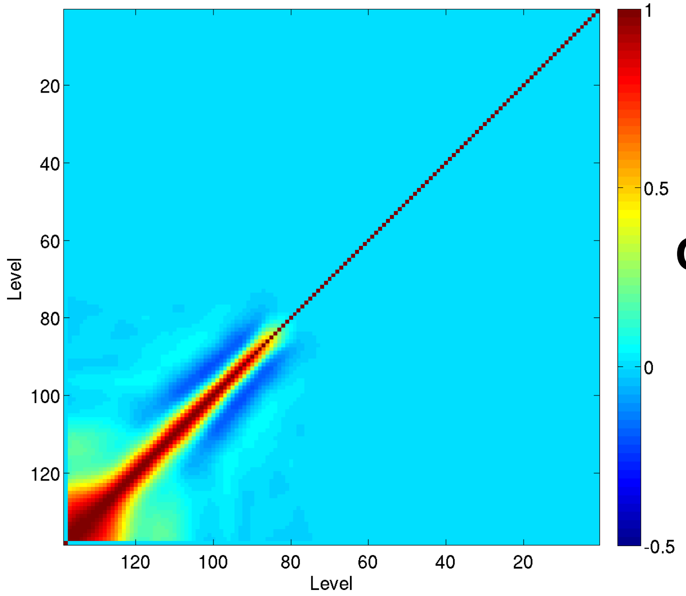


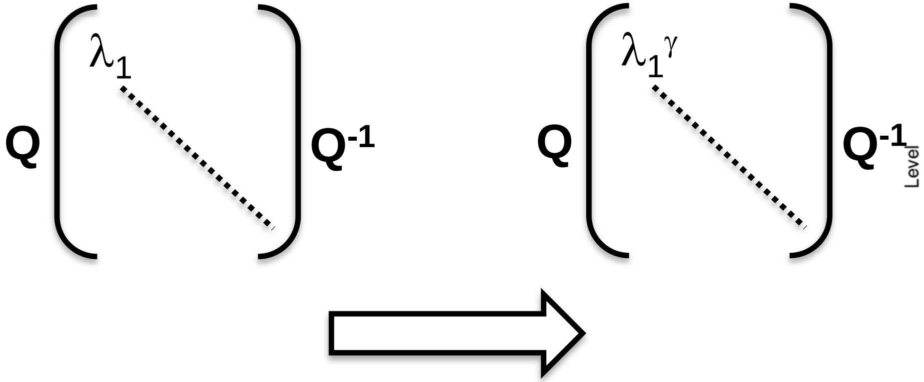
Modifying the observation error correlations

- Error correlation matrix can be sharpened/broadened by applying a multiplication factor γ to the eigenvalues of **R**.
- Eigendecomposition: $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{Q}\Lambda\mathbf{Q}^{-1}$
- First test: modify the 1st eigenvalue.

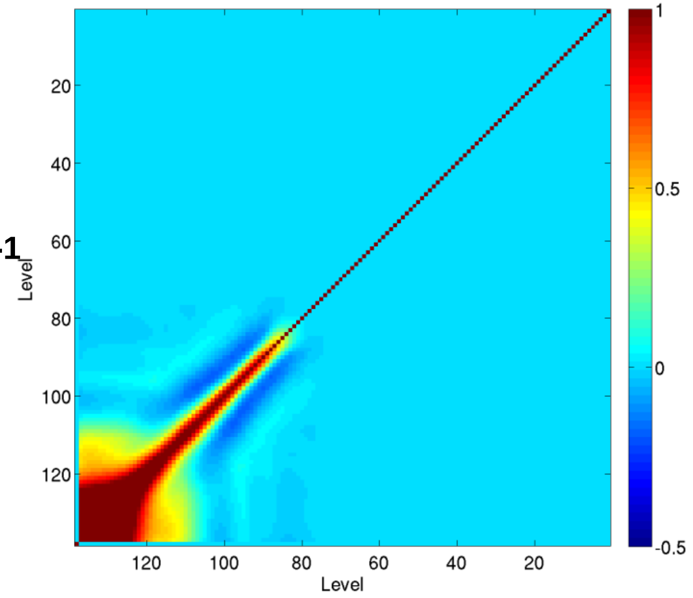


Diagnosed clear sky **R**





Inflated **R**



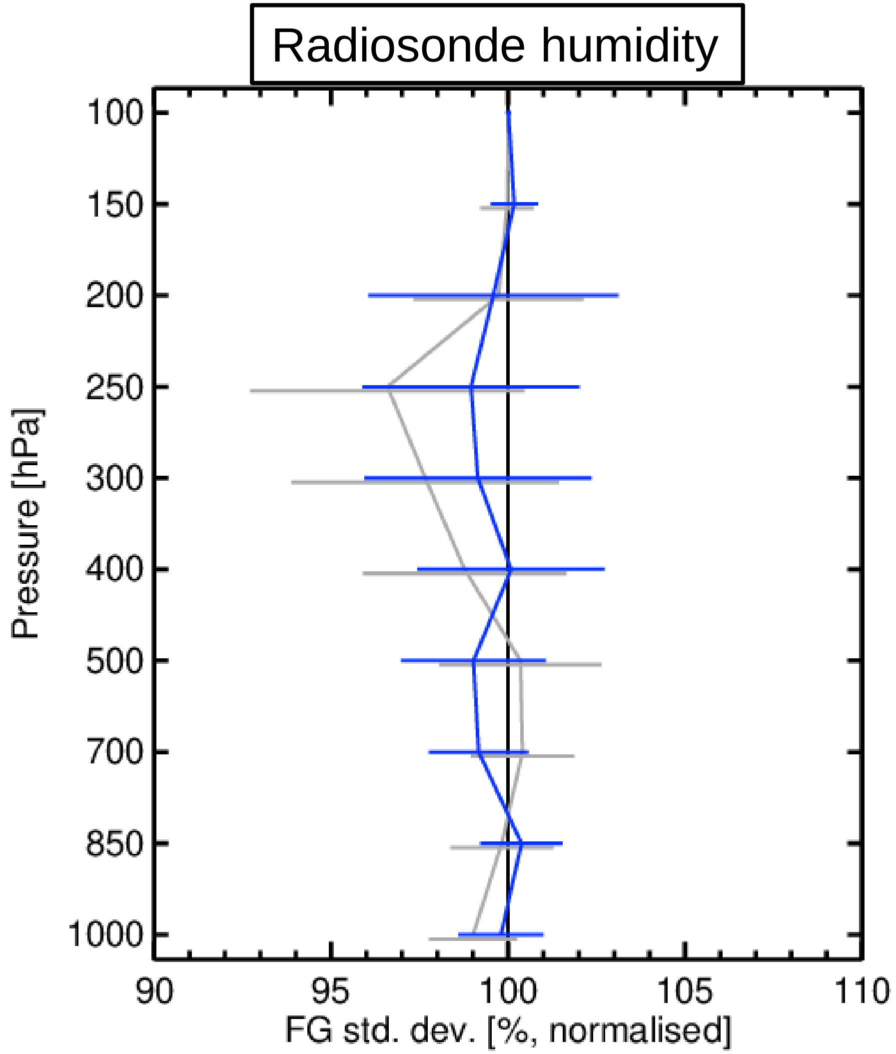
Preliminary impact of inflating the observation error correlations

- Further benefits can be obtained by introducing the scene dependent observation errors and error correlations.

CTL (100%): Conv + AMSU-A + L2 q with clear sky errors and correlation

CTL + IASI L2 q with scene dependent σ_o but clear sky error correlation

CTL + IASI L2 q with scene dependent σ_o and error correlations



Summary of assimilation of cloud affected humidity retrievals

- Assimilation of cloud affected humidity retrievals using observation errors and error correlation derived for clear sky situations indicate:
  - Improvements for the short range humidity forecasts
  - Temperature forecasts starts to degrade for OmC < -15
- Using the modified observation error model
  - Has neutral to positive impact on short range humidity forecasts
  - Is beneficial for temperature forecasts, the degradation is decreased significantly
- Inflating the observation error correlations
  - Brings further benefits on top of using scene dependent observation errors
- Results are consistent in full and the depleted system experiments

Overall conclusions

- Very clear positive impact from assimilation of humidity retrievals
  - Impact on humidity comparable to IASI radiances!
  - Assimilation of cloud affected humidity retrievals brings further benefits

- Very clear negative impact from assimilation of temperature retrievals
  - The degradation is most likely due to assimilating the smooth or missing vertical structures for temperature, without taking the limited vertical resolution of the retrievals fully into account.

Feasibility to import situation dependent L2 observation error specifications from EUMETSAT

Feasibility of importing the L2 observation errors

- In this study retrievals in native grid have been investigated (option 3)
  - Data per pixel = 137 levels x 3 (T/Q/Ozone) + surface x 3 (T/Q/Ozone) + quality information/profile
  - Results to similar data amounts than monitored IASI radiances at ECMWF
  - Notable efforts required from the user to diagnose the errors and correlations as they vary with location / season and with cloud amount

Decreasing optimality of product use →

Option 1: Disseminate retrieval on **native grid** with **scene dependent** error covariance / averaging kernels	Option 2: Disseminate retrieval on native grid with **climatological** error covariance / averaging kernels	Option 3: Disseminate retrieval on **native grid** and allow user to **diagnose** covariance	Option 4: Disseminate retrieval on a **reduced grid / layering** with full covariance data

← **Increasing dissemination data volumes**

Feasibility of importing the L2 observation errors

- Option 1 would be the most sophisticated way to use the data but it results to unsustainable data amounts.
  - Scene dependent covariances 137 x 137 x 3 more data per pixel
  - Scene dependent averaging kernels 137 x 137 x 3 more data per pixel
- Option 4 would be a “lighter“ version of option 1. The retrievals do not contain 137 independent pieces of information.

Decreasing optimality of product use

Option 1:	Option 2:	Option 3:	Option 4:
Disseminate retrieval on **native grid** with **scene dependent** error covariance / averaging kernels	Disseminate retrieval on native grid with **climatological** error covariance / averaging kernels	Disseminate retrieval on **native grid** and allow user to **diagnose** covariance	Disseminate retrieval on a **reduced grid / layering** with full covariance data

Increasing dissemination data volumes

Feasibility of importing the L2 observation errors

- Plans to continue the study by investigating option 2 and averaging kernels
  - Set of climatological averaging kernels covering wide range of scenes would be provided and a suitable one is selected for each profile from a lookup table
  - Averaging kernels can be provided off-line, no change in daily dissemination compared to option 3.

Decreasing optimality of product use →

Option 1:	Option 2:	Option 3:	Option 4:
Disseminate retrieval on **native grid** with **scene dependent** error covariance / averaging kernels	Disseminate retrieval on native grid with **climatological** error covariance / averaging kernels	Disseminate retrieval on **native grid** and allow user to **diagnose** covariance	Disseminate retrieval on a **reduced grid / layering** with full covariance data

← **Increasing dissemination data volumes**

Thank you for your attention!