## Cloud and lightning observations with ASIM and TOTEM on the ISS

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### Typical ASIM Clouds and Lightning

3 consecutive frames; colour scale adjusted to max/min values



## Outline

- Discuss issues with observations of clouds and lightning towards nadir based on ASIM data
  - Reflections in lower clouds
  - Clouds tend to block the view and displace the lightning location
  - Clouds may complicate the identification of a leader relative to a cloud edge
- The TOTEM project idea
  - To observe at 45 deg from Nadir to resolve the 3-D structure of clouds
  - TOTEM relative to present and coming lightning space missions
  - Status of TOTEM
  - Invitation to join the TOTEM investigations



#### Cloud reflections



### Clouds blocking the view



CHU2 Frame 2, 2019-04-21 08:58:15.058468+00:00















#### Lightning observations with ISS-LIS and GOES/GLM



Van der Velde et al., jgr 2020; ASIM-LIS –GLM : Columbia 181113-02:02

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### Summary of nadir observations

- We suggest that:
  - Clouds tend to bias the location assigned to events, caused by cloud reflections and blocking of light ... or to completely block emissions when viewed at large angles.
  - if one considers, for instance, the MTG or GOES, some information is available to help quantify the problem, in the cloud imager data, as these identify high cloud structures.
  - Perhaps imaging in a different viewing geometry would help to quantify the data quality ...

#### Slanted view

#### Thunderstorm clouds from the ISS, Andreas Mogensen.

#### ASIM Limb on the ISS



# TOTEM for Bartolomeo on the ISS



2 cameras (337, 777 nm; 300 m resolution) 12 fps 3 photometers (180-235; 337, 777 nm; 10μs resolution)





- ASIM Limb gives better than ~1 km spatial resolution (TBD)
  - The move to the limb position is currently scheduled to no later than 22 January 2022
- TOTEM resolution gives better than ~300 m (TBD) from ??
- The imagers may be the only in space that gives altitude resolution of clouds and electrical activity.
- We suggest it could be useful for validation and scientific use of MTG/LI and GOES/GLM and other EO instruments directed towards the nadir.

TOTEMs main goal is anchored in thunderstorms and climate research.

TOTEM is in a feasibility study at ESA

You are invited to join the TOTEM science team. Write me at:

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