GNSS-Based Space Weather Systems Including COSMIC Ionospheric Measurements

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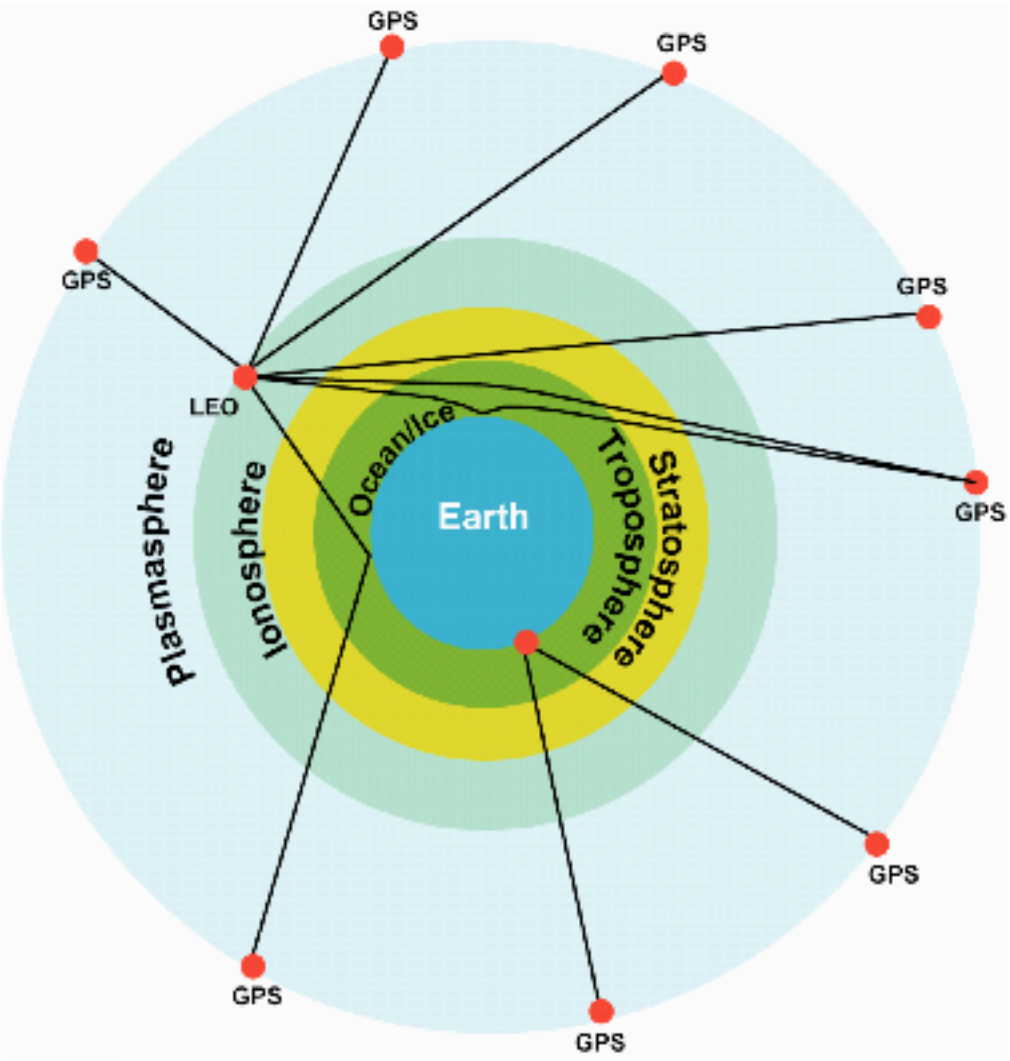
Outline

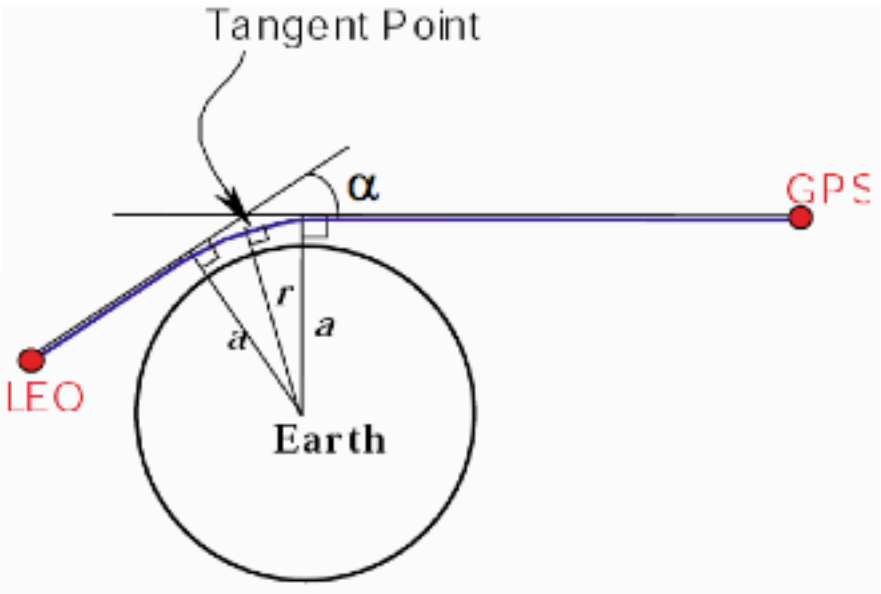
- Introduction
- UCAR and JPL product comparisons
  - Abel profiles
  - Calibrated TEC
- Assimilating ground-based GPS and COSMIC into JPL/USC GAIM (June 2006)
- JPL/USC GAIM Validation using:
  - Arecibo ISR
  - Jason-2 VTEC
  - Abel profiles
- Conclusions & Future Plans

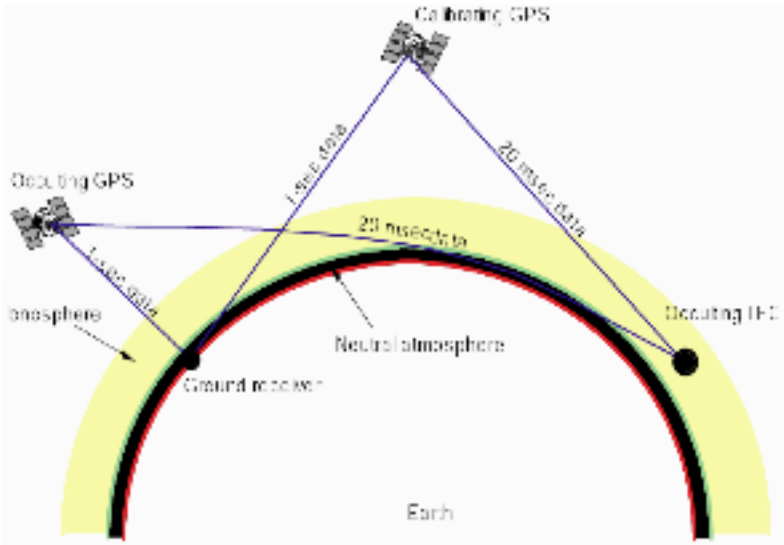
Overview of GPS Remote Sensing Applications

- **FROM GROUND**
  - Troposphere
  - Ionosphere
- **FROM SPACE**
  - Troposphere
  - Stratosphere
  - Ionosphere
  - Plasmasphere
- **Ocean Reflection**



Occultation Geometry





- **Single Frequency Retrievals**
- **Dual Frequency Retrievals**
  - **TEC = const. x (L1 – L2)**
  - **α ~ dTEC/dt**

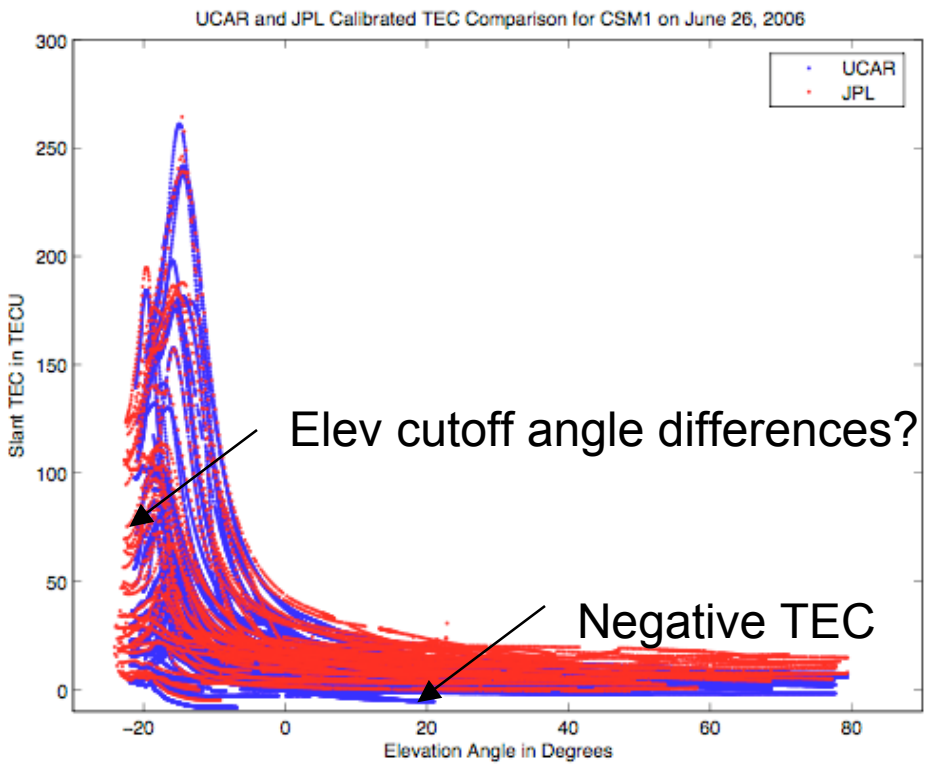
$$\alpha(a) = 2a\int_a^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{a'^2 - a^2}} \frac{d\ln(n)}{da'} da'$$

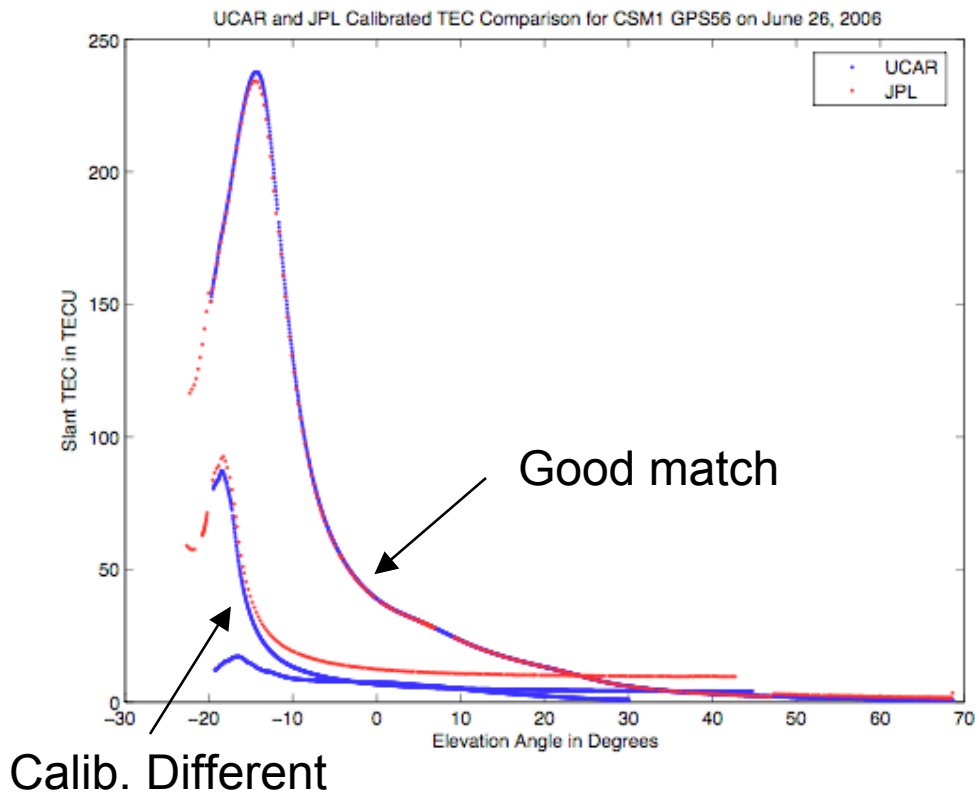
$$\ln(n(r)) = \frac{1}{\pi}\int_{nr}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{a^2 - r^2 n^2}} da$$

Derivation of Electron Density

$$N = (n-1)\times 10^6 = a_1 \frac{P}{T} + a_2 \frac{P_w}{T^2} - 40.3\times 10^6 \frac{n_e}{f^2}$$

Comparison of Calibrated Slant TEC Measurements for June 26, 2006

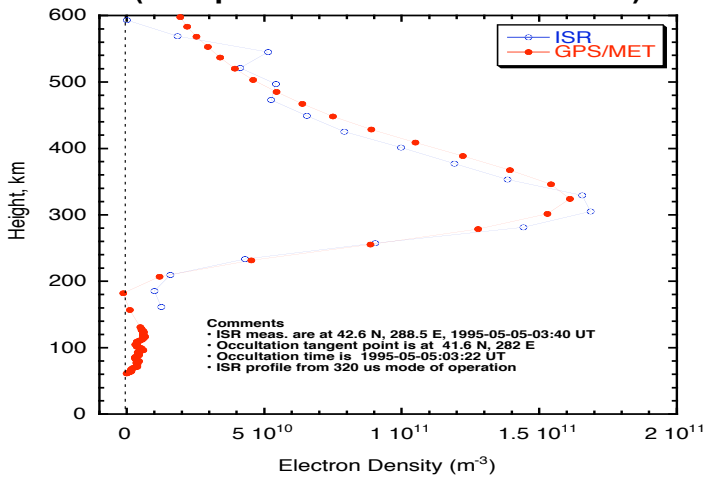




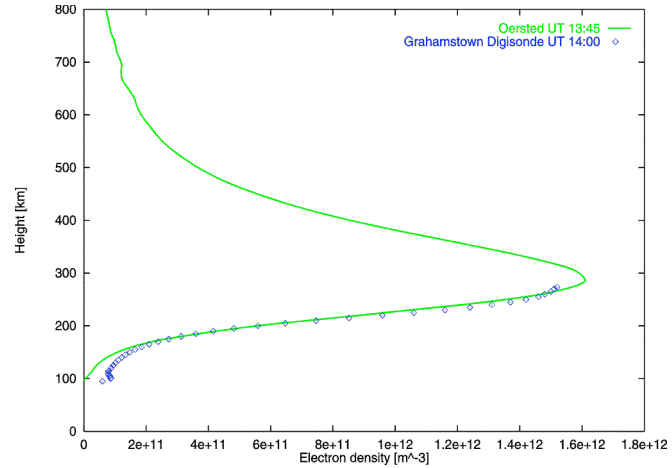
- An example of comparison of calibrated TEC between JPL and UCAR
- There appears to be a 2-3 TECU bias between JPL and UCAR slant TEC
- Negative TEC, differences between UCAR and JPL elevation cutoff angles
- Similar data volumes between JPL and UCAR

Historic examples of Abel electron density profiles

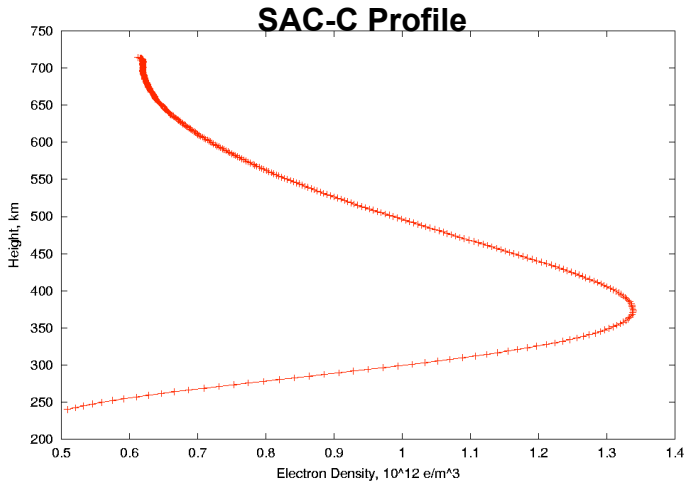
GPS/MET Profile
(Compared to Millstone hill radar)



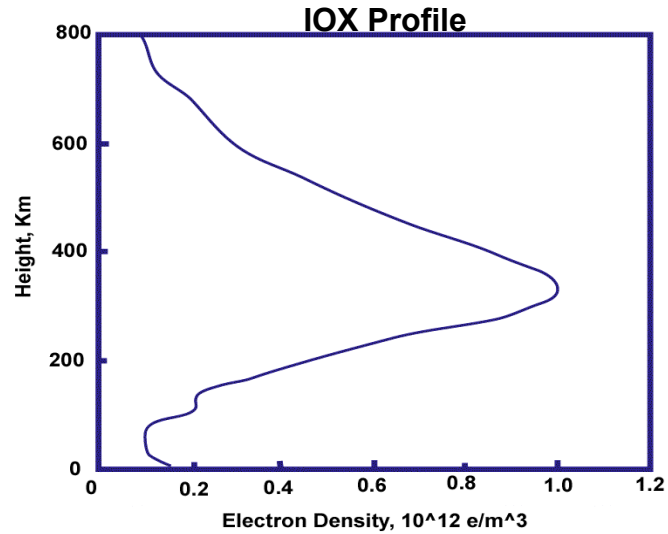
Oersted Profile
(Compared to nearby ionosonde)



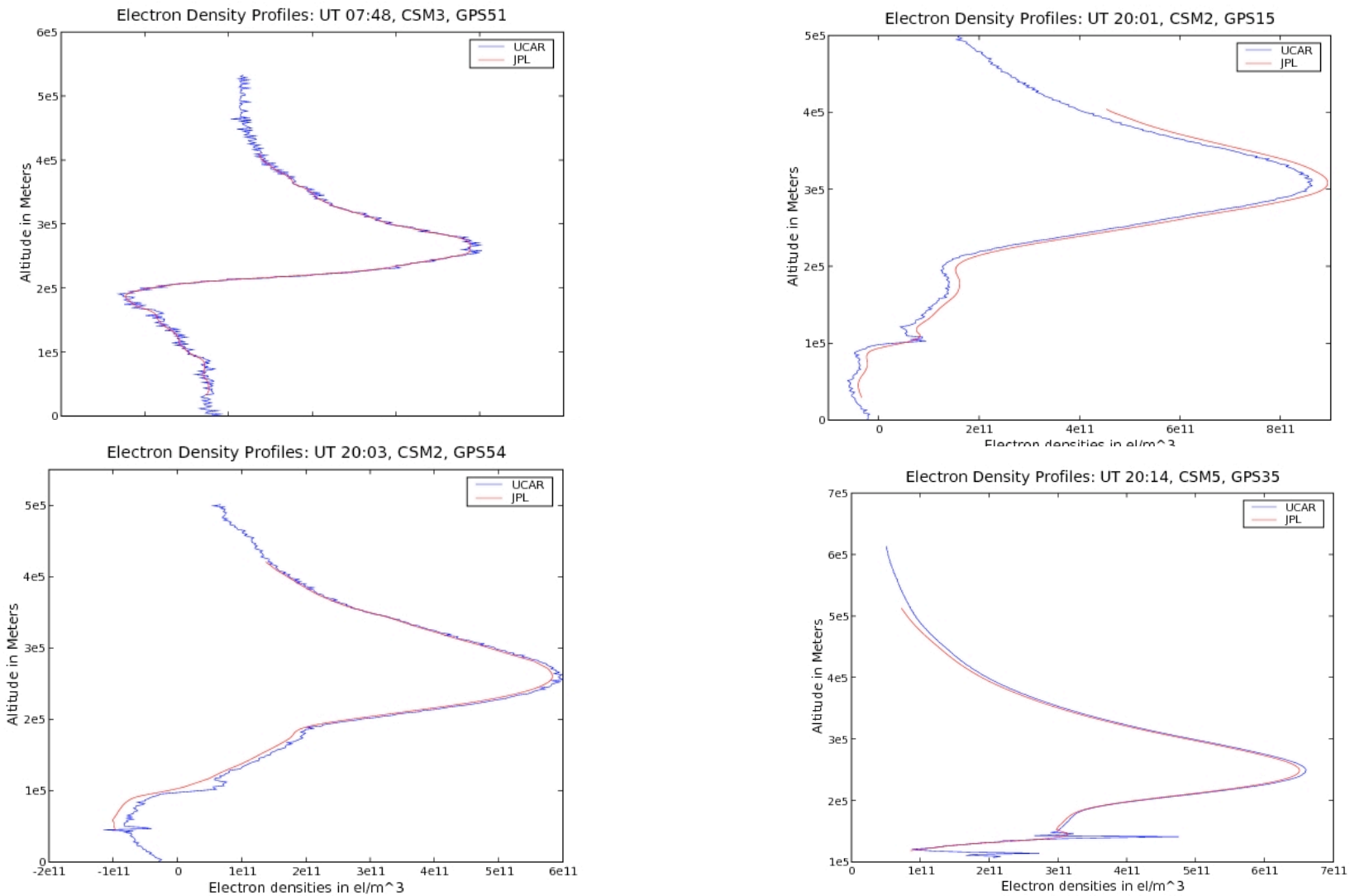
SAC-C Profile



IOX Profile

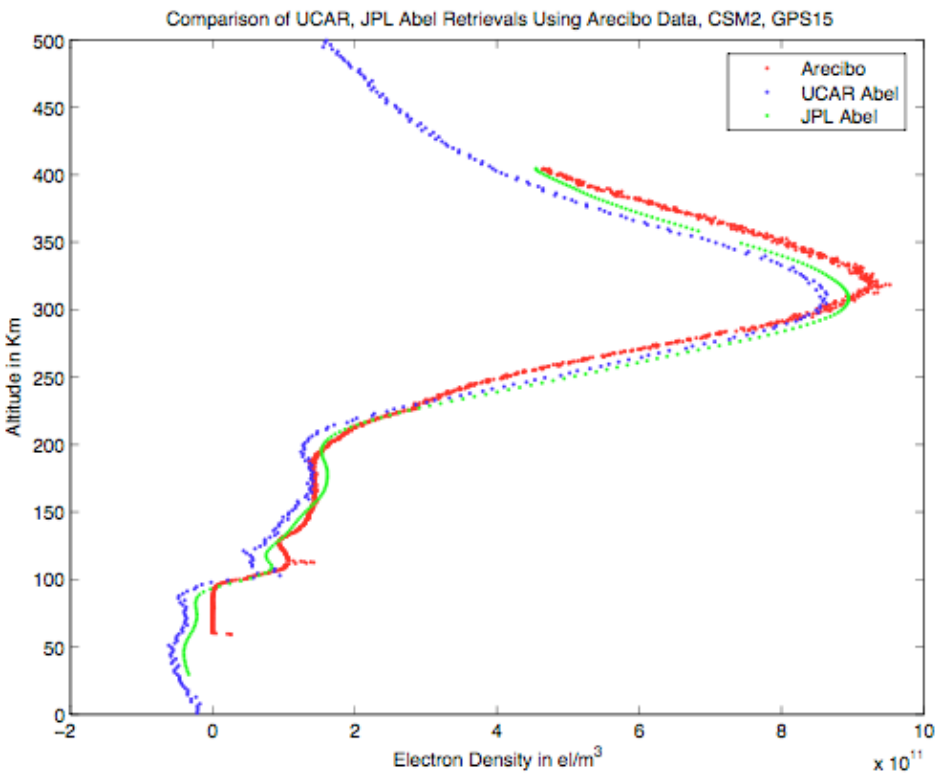


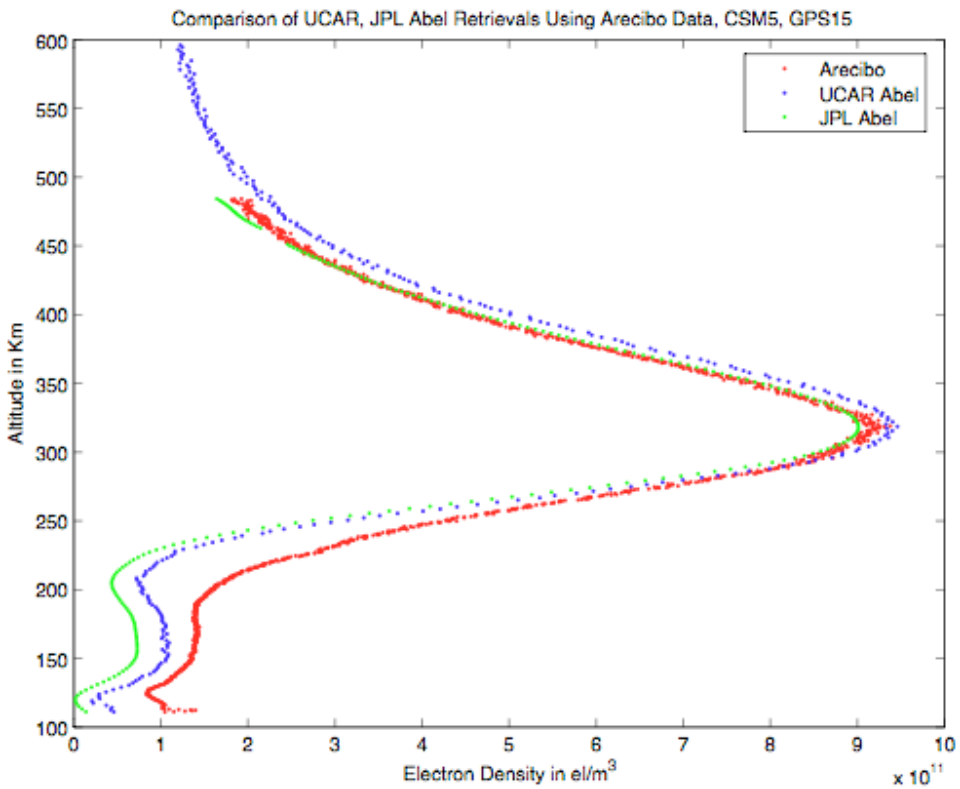
Comparison of UCAR and JPL Abel Profiles June 26, 2006



UCAR and JPL Abel profiles usually agree well

Validating UCAR and JPL Abel Profiles Using Arecibo ISR Measurements for June 26, 2006

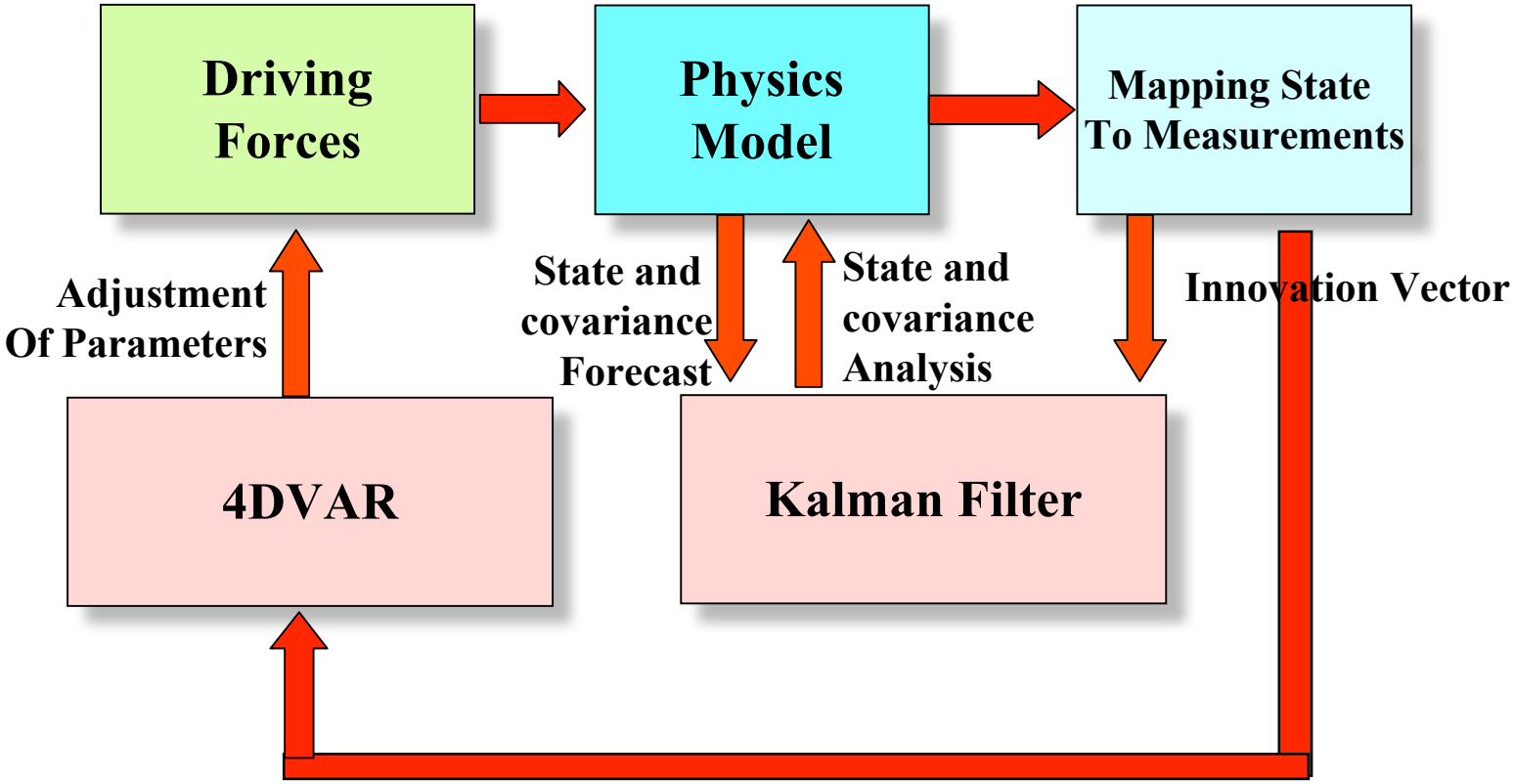




- E-region error in naive Abel profiles: negative electron densities
- Spacecraft not yet in final orbital altitudes so Abel inversions more difficult
- JPL smoothed, UCAR unsmoothed profiles

Arecibo calibrated profiles are courtesy of Prof M. Kelley and V. Wong of Cornell University

Global Assimilative Ionospheric Model
Data Assimilation Process



- 4-Dimensional Variational Approach
  - Minimization of cost function by estimating driving parameters
  - Non-linear least-square minimization
  - Adjoint method to efficiently compute the gradient of cost function
  - Parameterization of model "drivers"
- Kalman Filter
  - Recursive Filtering
  - Covariance estimation and state correction

    Optimal interpolation

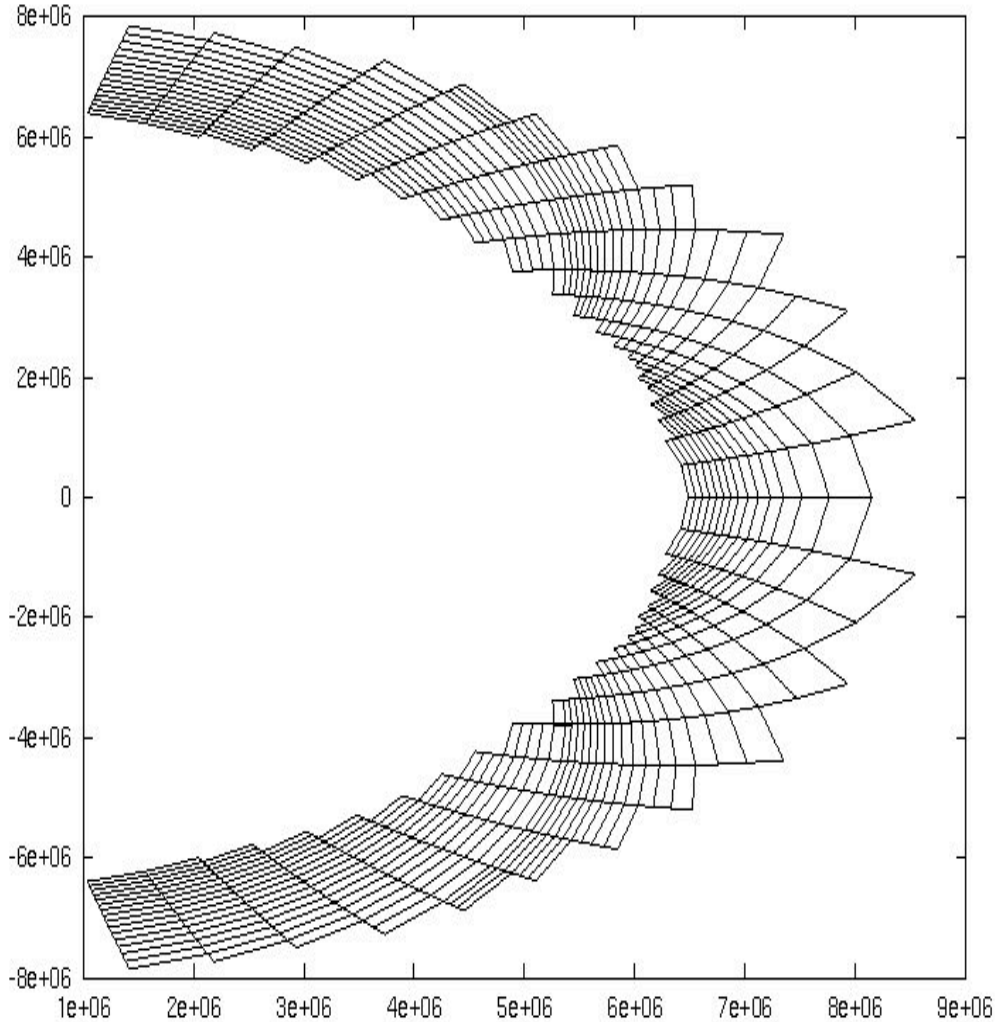
    Band-Limited Kalman filter

Input Data Types

- **Ground GPS Data (Absolute TEC)**
  - >200 5-min. to Hourly Global GPS Ground Stations
  - Assimilate >300,000 TEC points per day
- **Space GPS Data (Absolute or Relative TEC)**
  - CHAMP (@ 440 km)
  - SAC-C (@ 700 km)
  - IOX (@ 800 km)
  - GRACE (@ 350 km)
  - Topex/Poseidon (@1330 km) (Upward looking only)
  - Jason 1 (@1330 km) (Upward looking only)
  - C/NOFS & COSMIC constellation
- **UV airglow data (135.6 nm radiance)**
  - LORAAS on ARGOS, GUVI on TIMED
  - SSUSI/SSULI on DMSP
  - TIP on COSMIC
- **Other Data Types**
  - TEC from TOPEX/JASON Altimeters
  - Ionosonde bottomside profiles
  - DMSP in situ
  - CHAMP in situ
  - GRACE cross-links

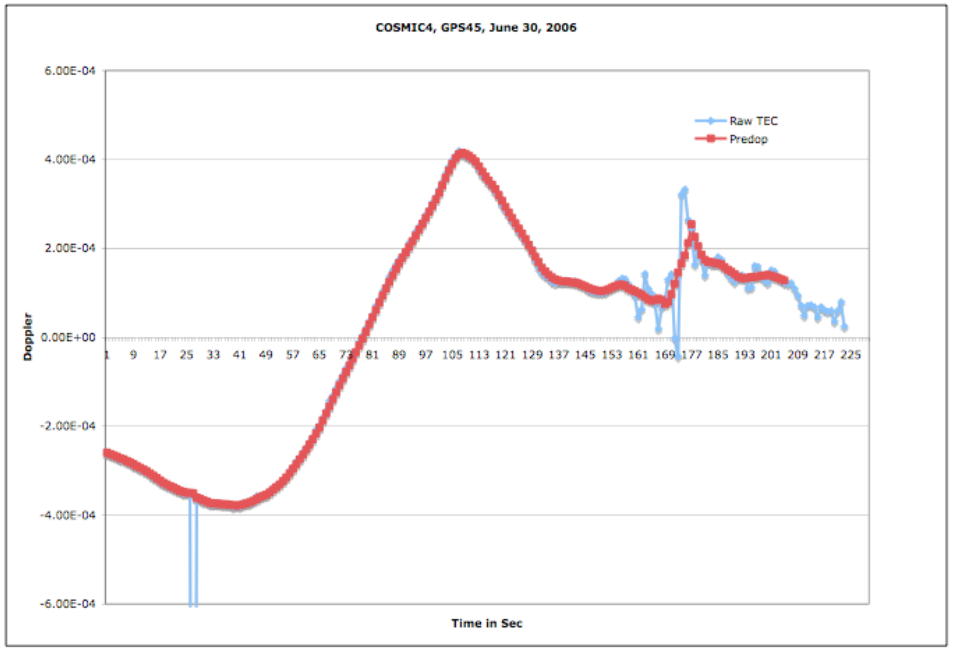
Kalman Assimilation Runs for June 26, 2006

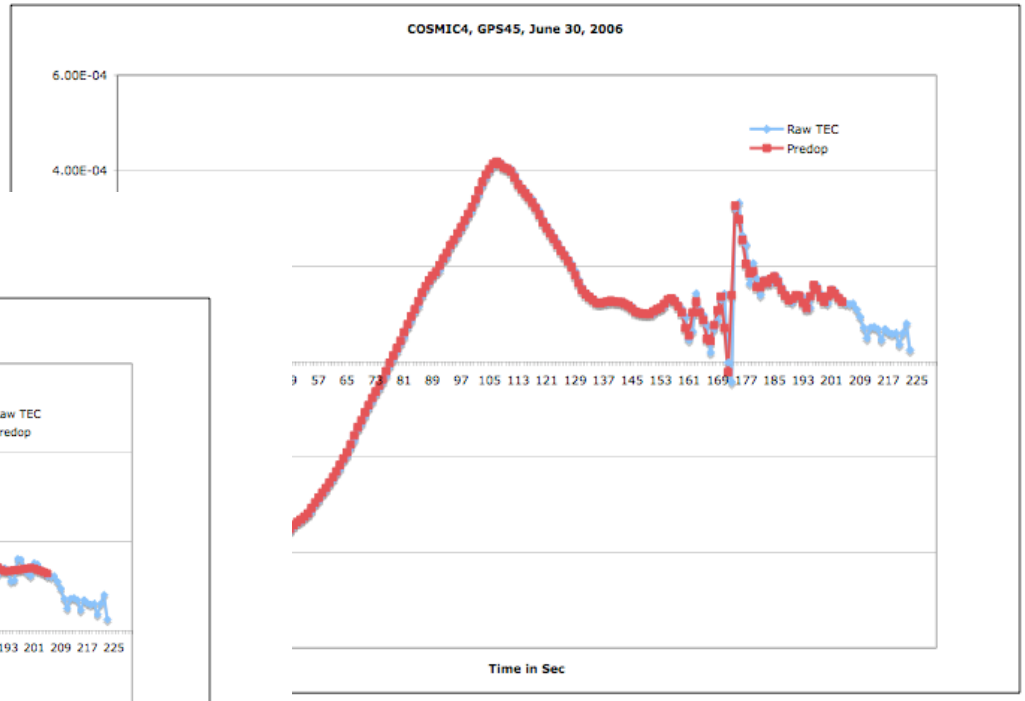
- **Three runs:**
  - **GAIM Climate (no data)**
  - **Ground GPS TEC (200 sites)**
  - **Ground + COSMIC links (upward & occultation)**
- **Resolution: 2.5 deg. Lat.**
  10 deg. Lon.
  40 km Alt.
- **No. of grid cells: 100,000**
- **Sparse Kalman filter:**
  - Update & propagate covariance
  - Truncate off-diagonal covariance that is beyond physical correlation lengths



The Impact of Smoothing on Abel for June 26, 2006

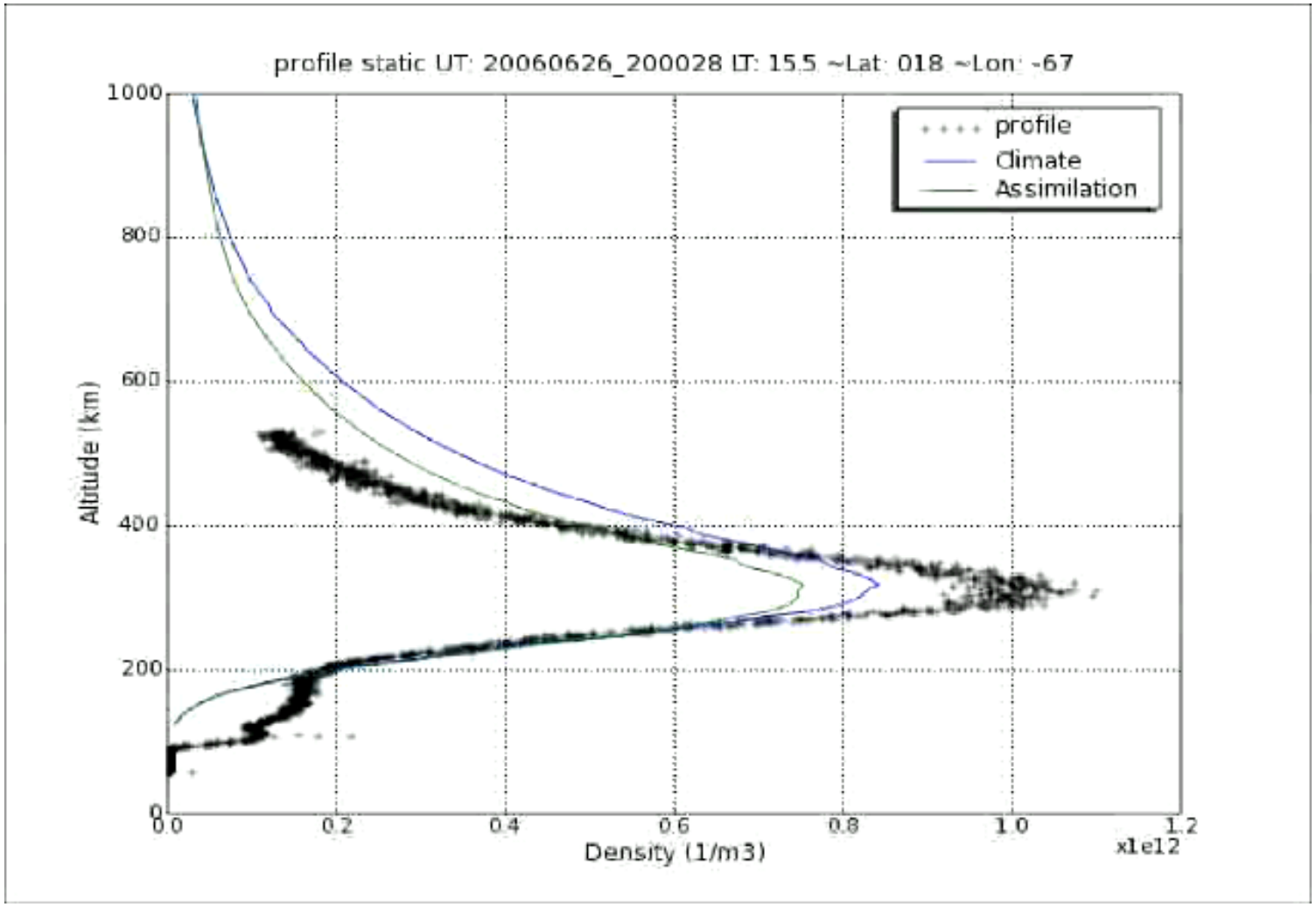
Smoothing filter



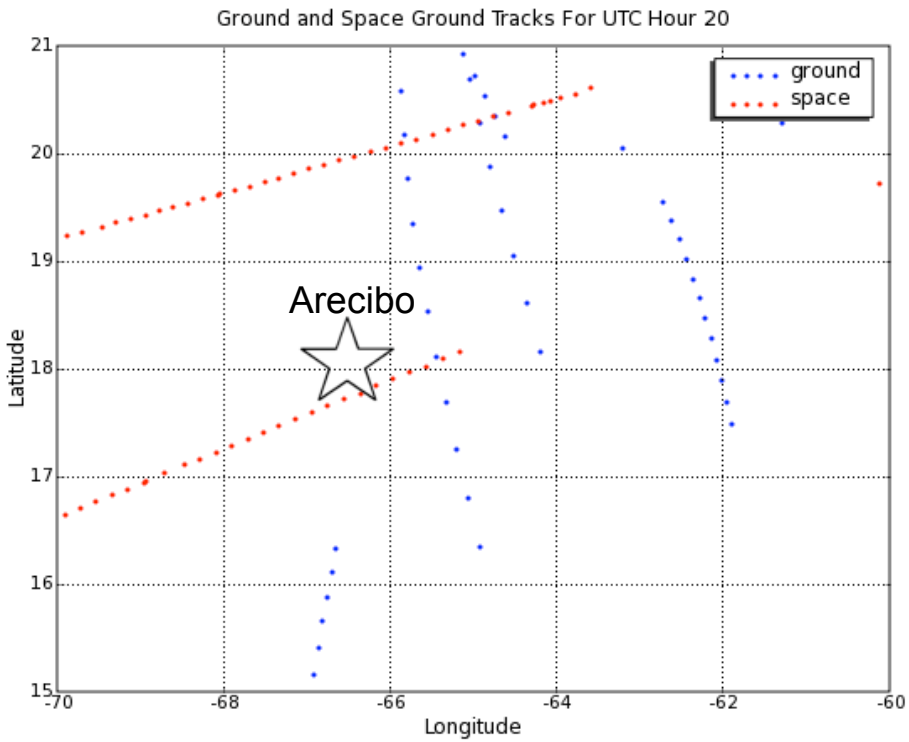


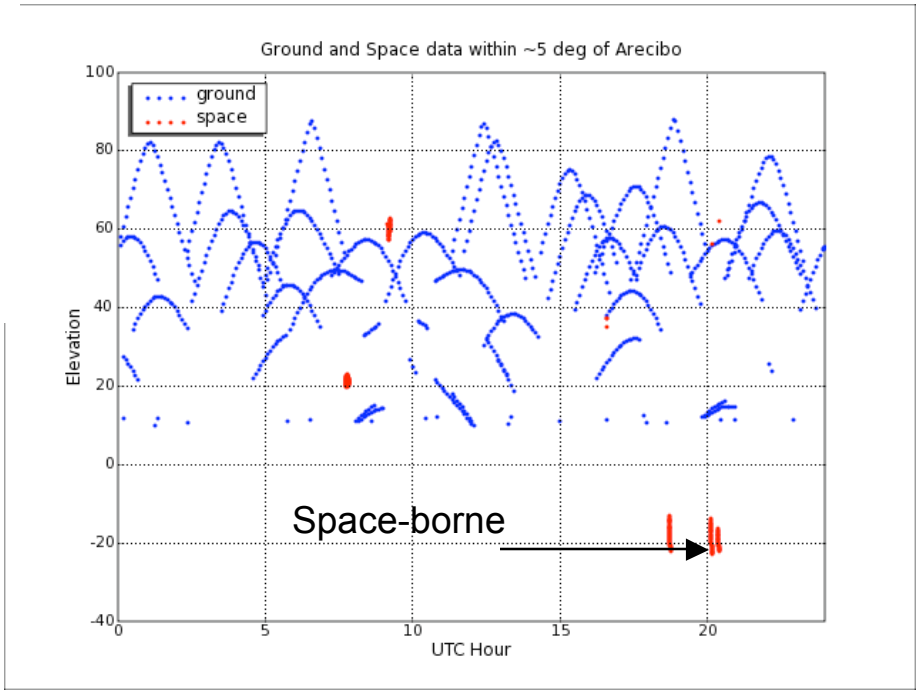
No Smoothing

GAIM Assimilation Using Ground and COSMIC Data

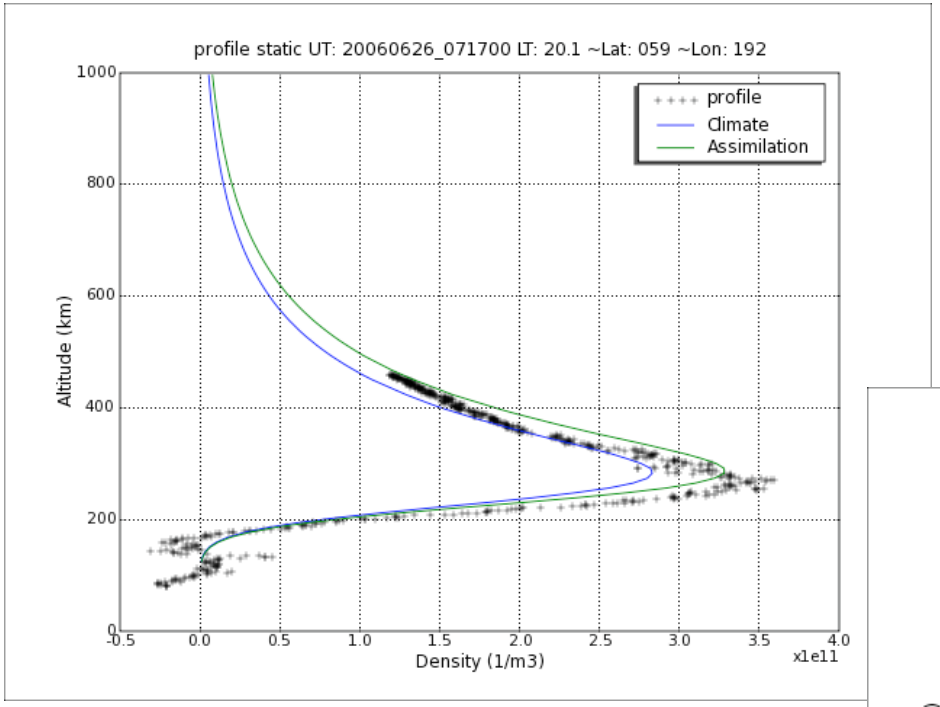


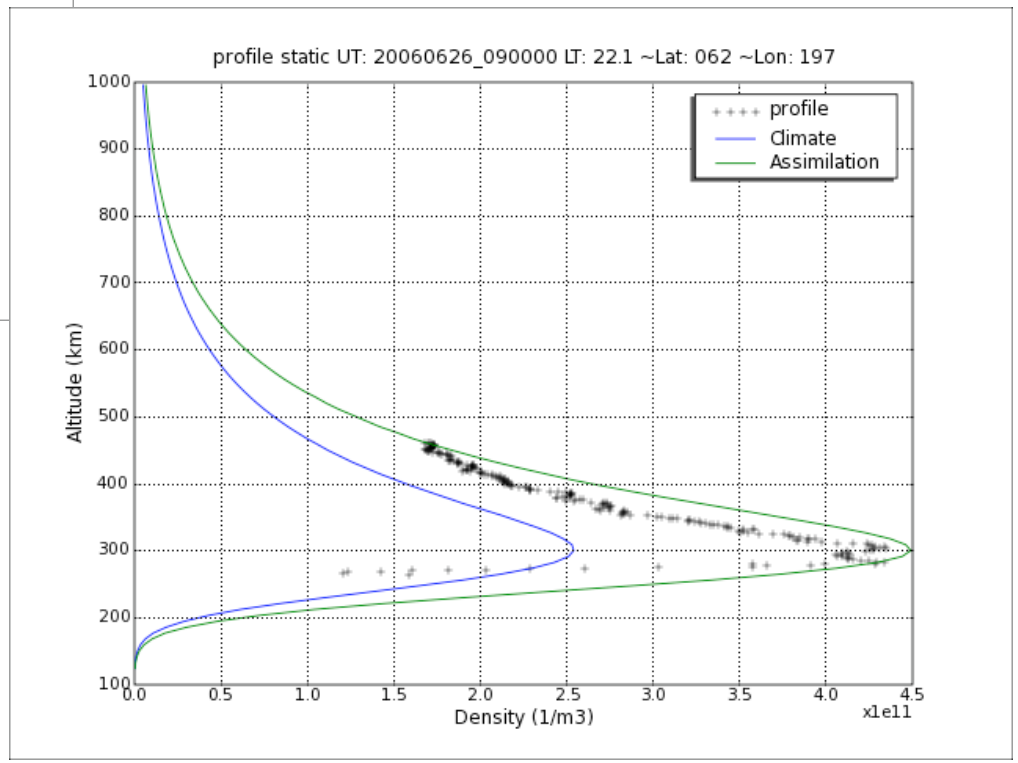
Ground Tracks: GAIM Assimilation for June 26, 2006 Using Ground and COSMIC Data



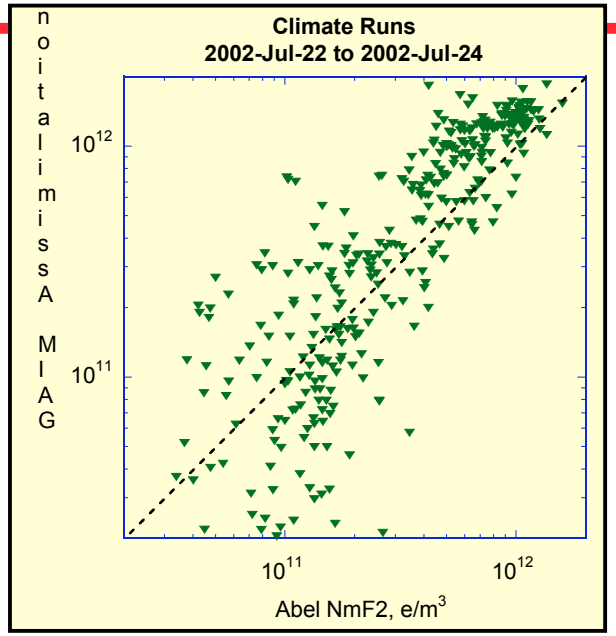


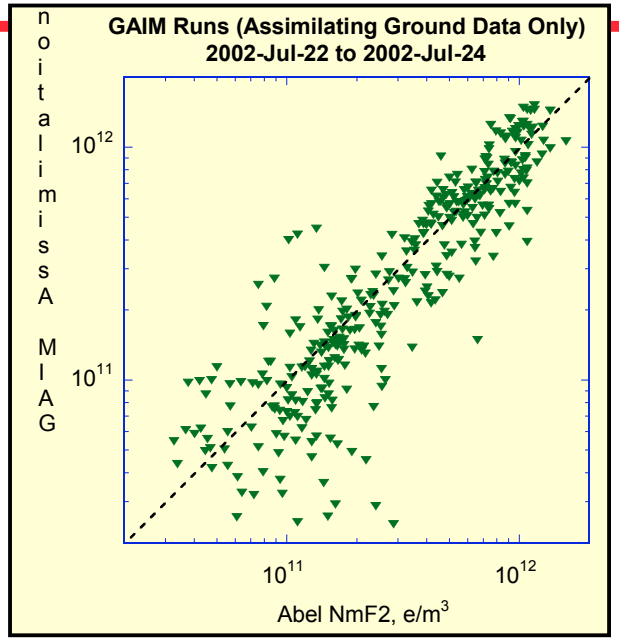
GAIM Validation Using Arecibo Profiles

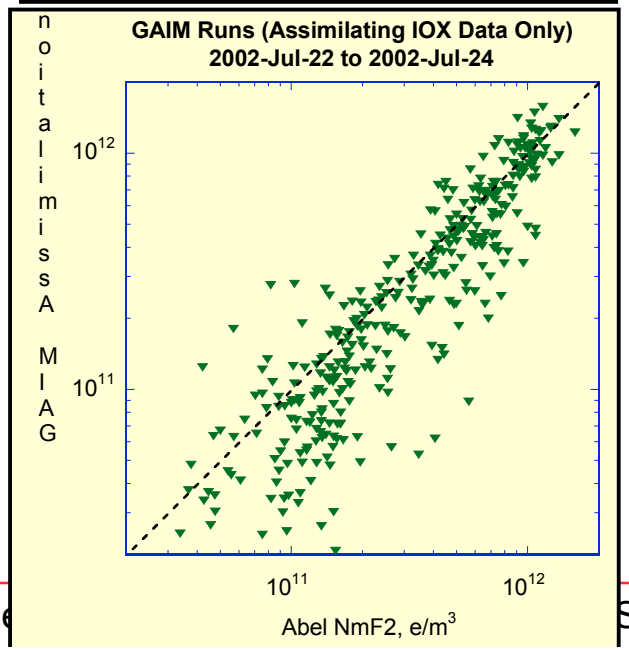


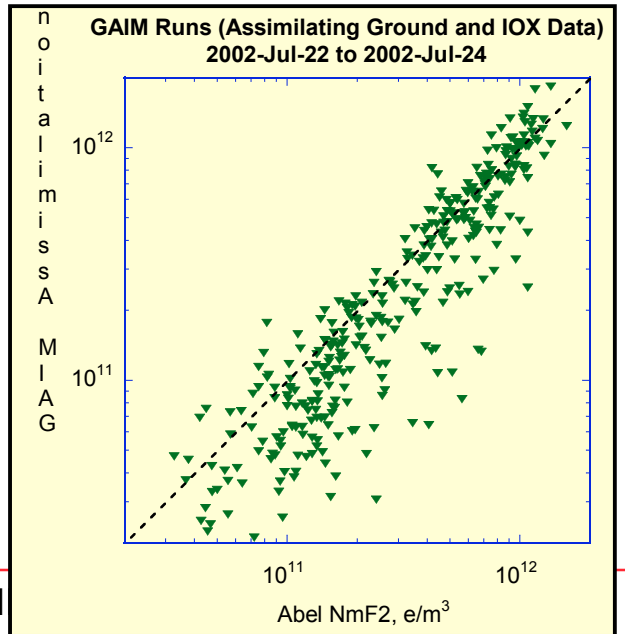


GAIM vs. Abel NmF2 Comparison

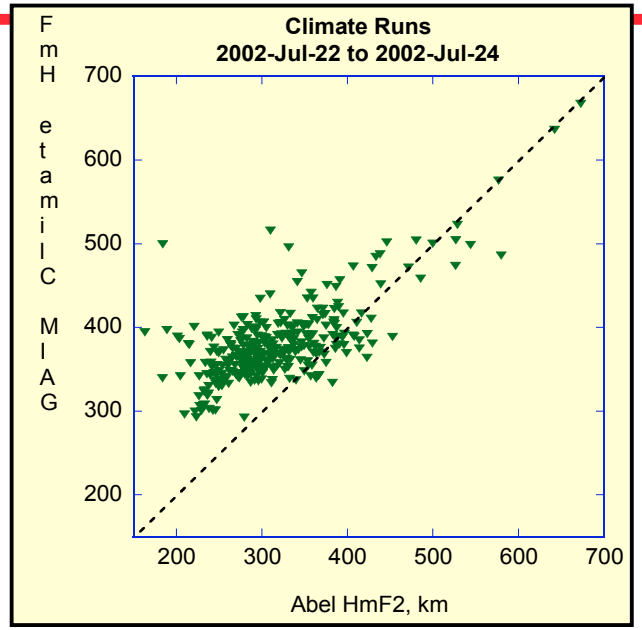


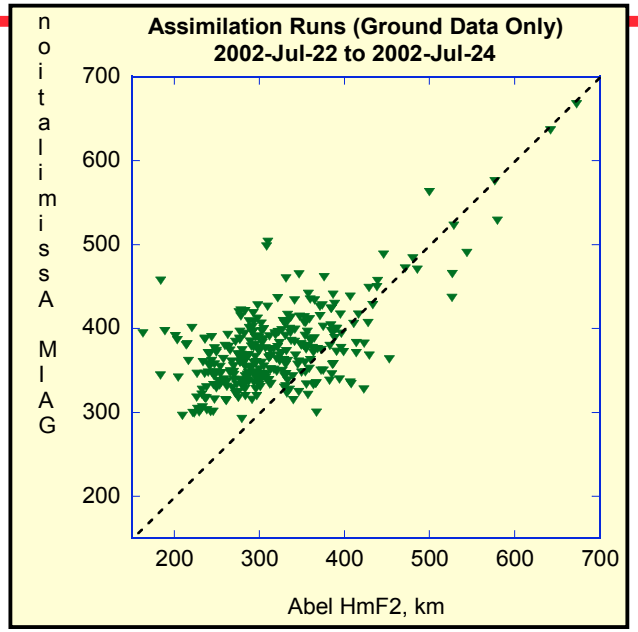


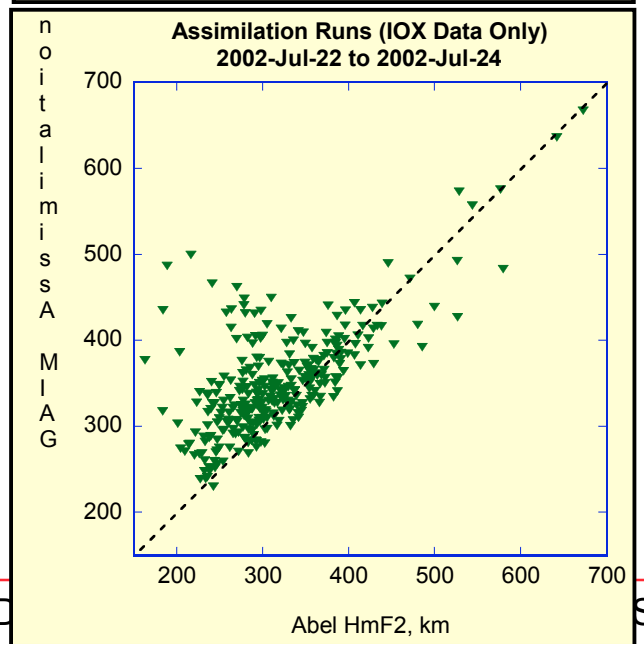


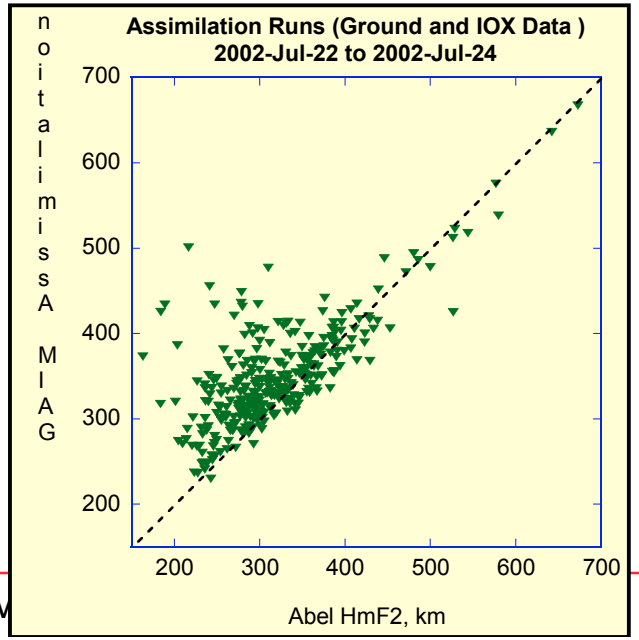


GAIM vs. Abel HmF2 Comparison

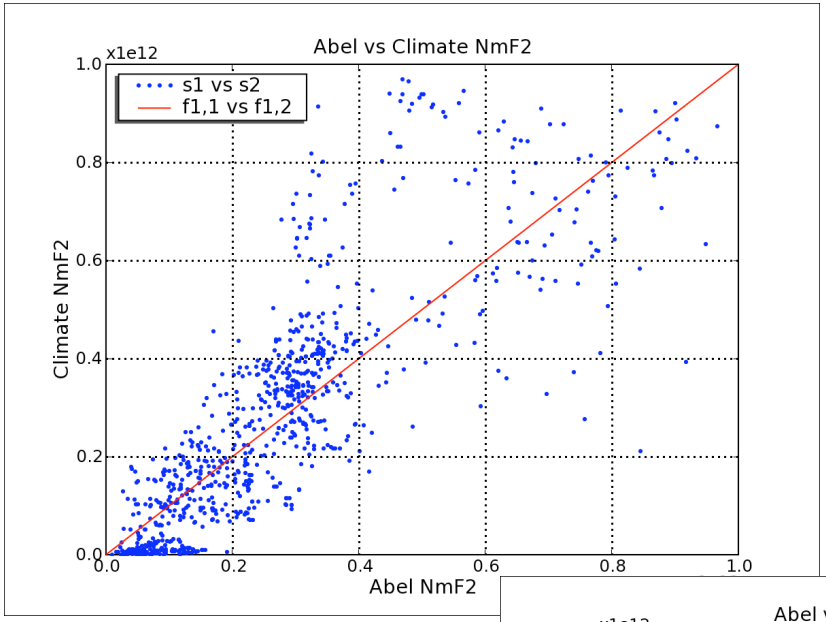




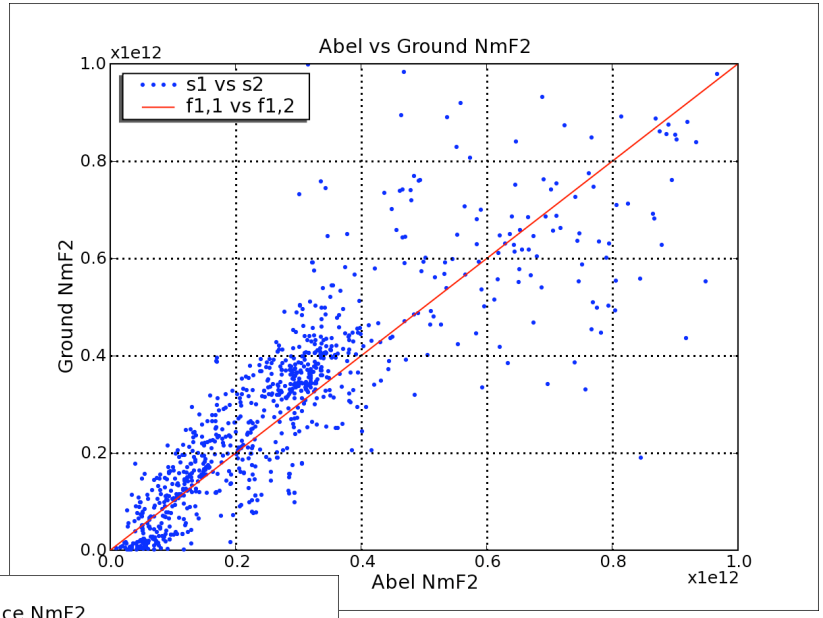




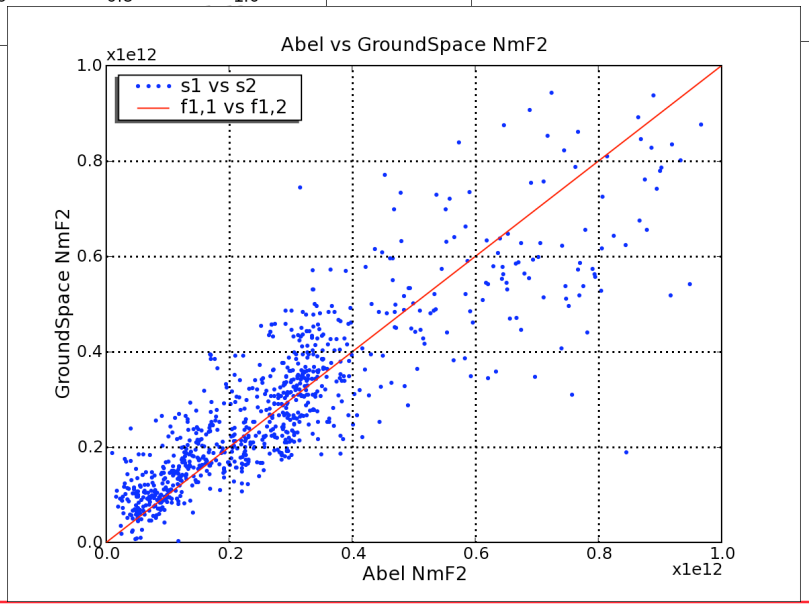
Comparing GAIM NmF2 to Abel: June 26, 2006



Climate (no data)

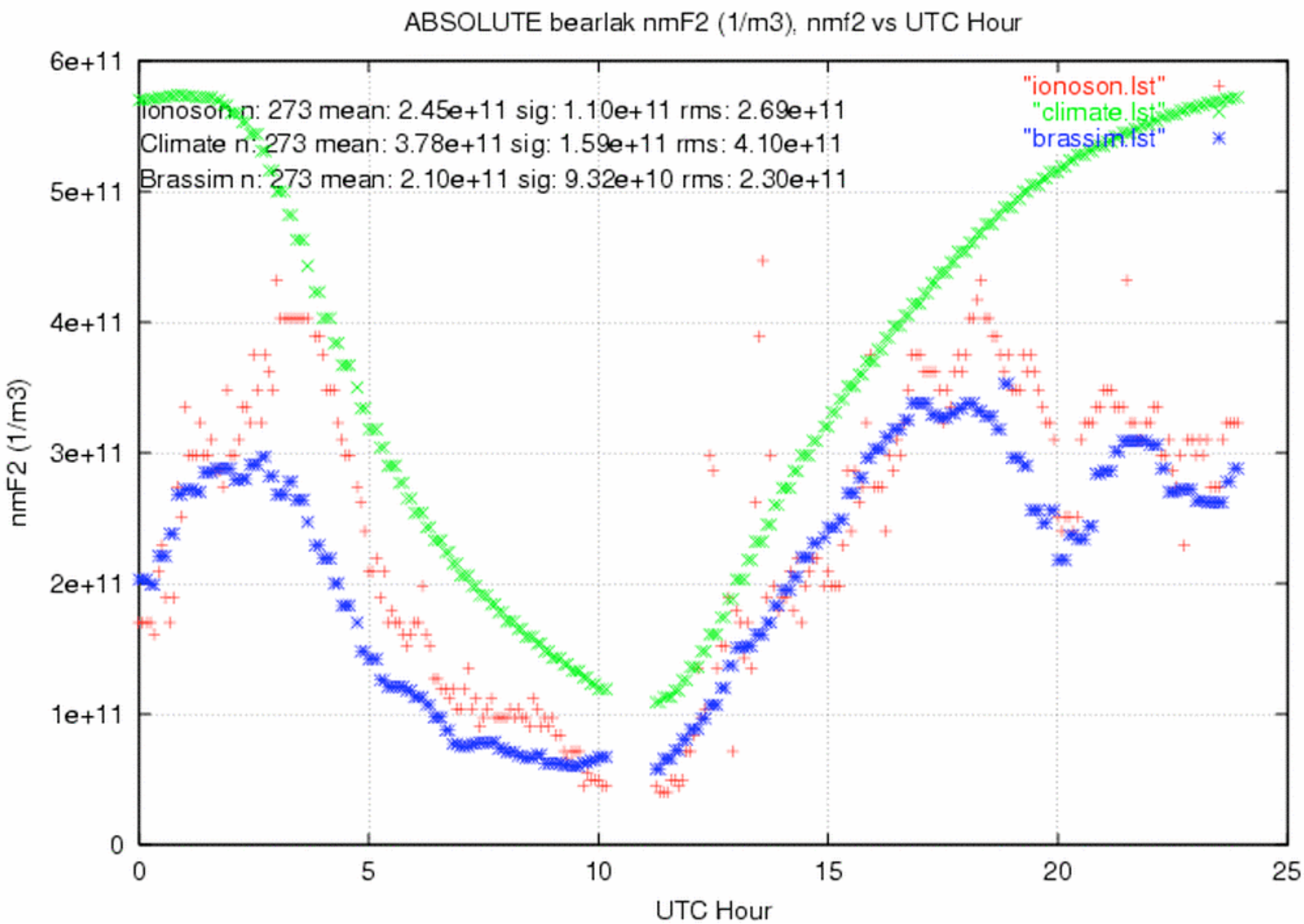


Ground only

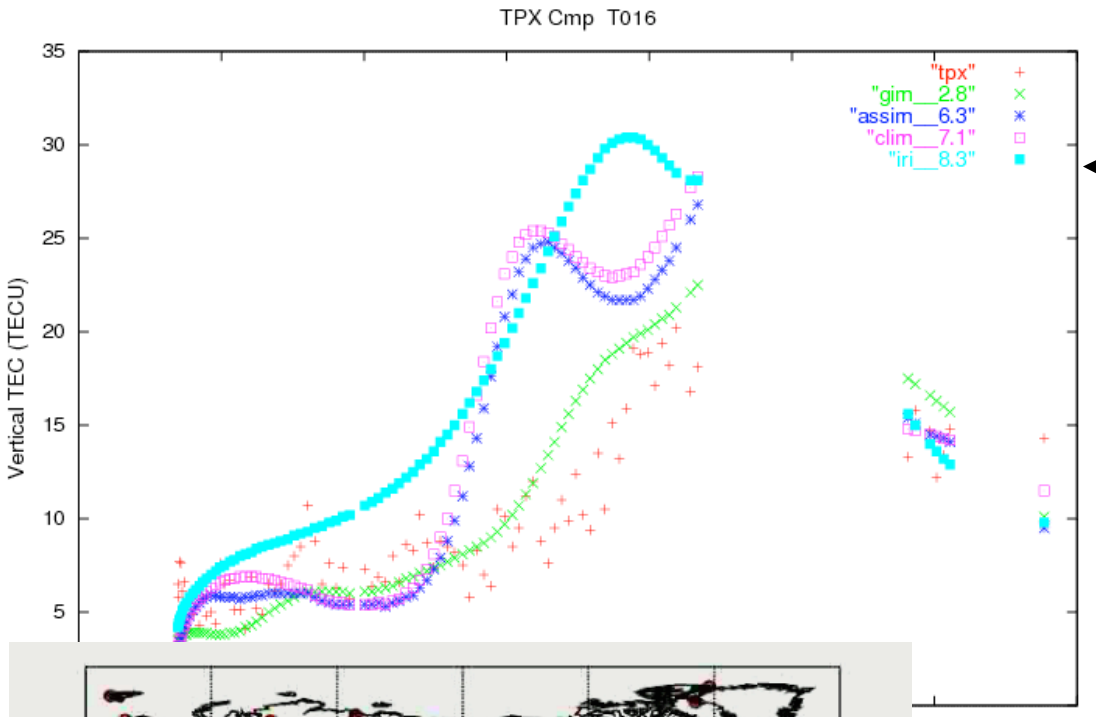


Ground + Space

NmF2 Comparison: Bear Lake

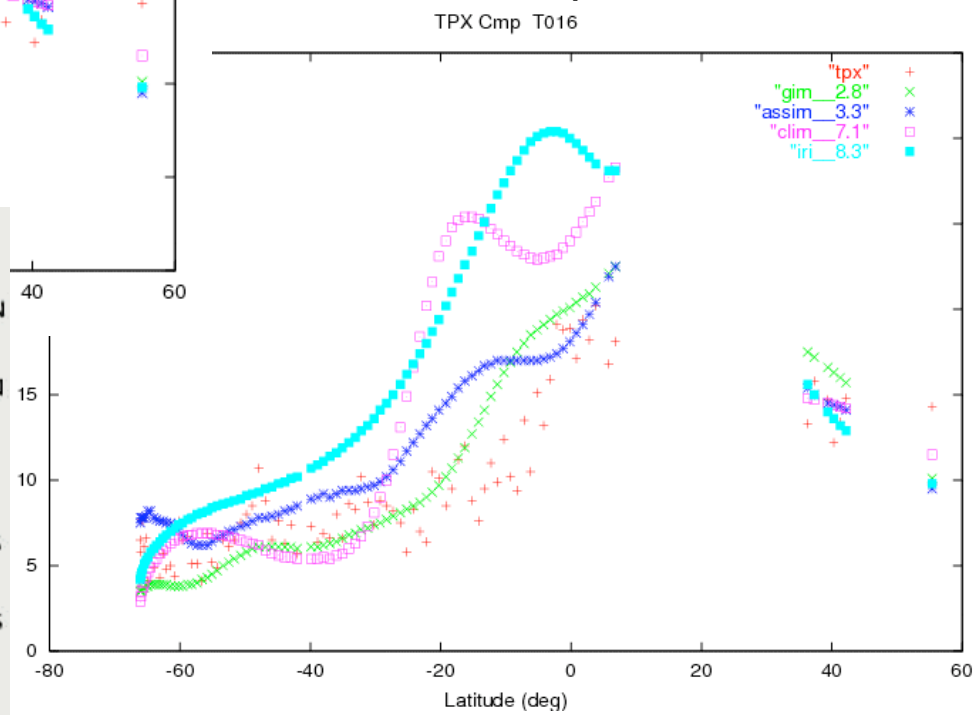


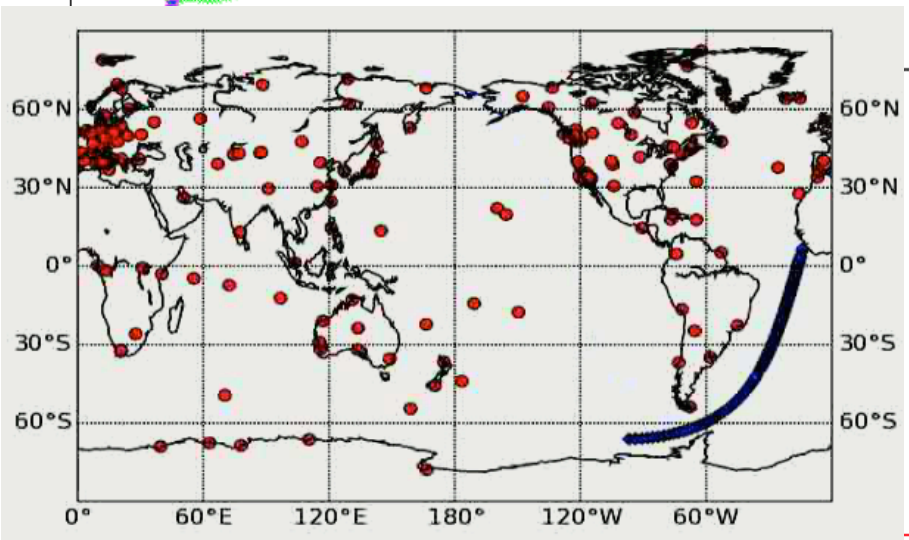
GAIM Validation Using Jason-2 Vertical TEC



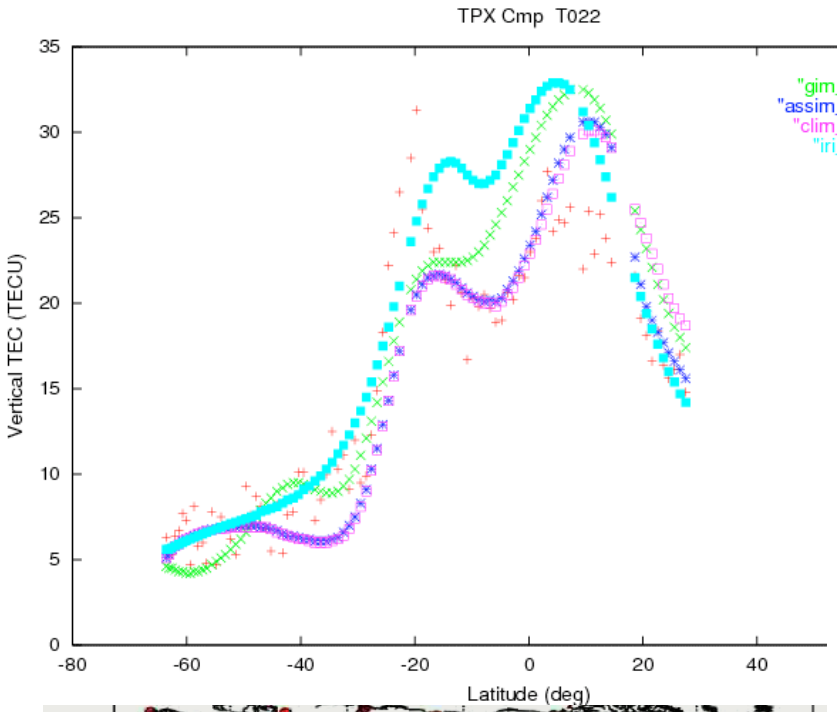
Ground-data only

Ground and space data



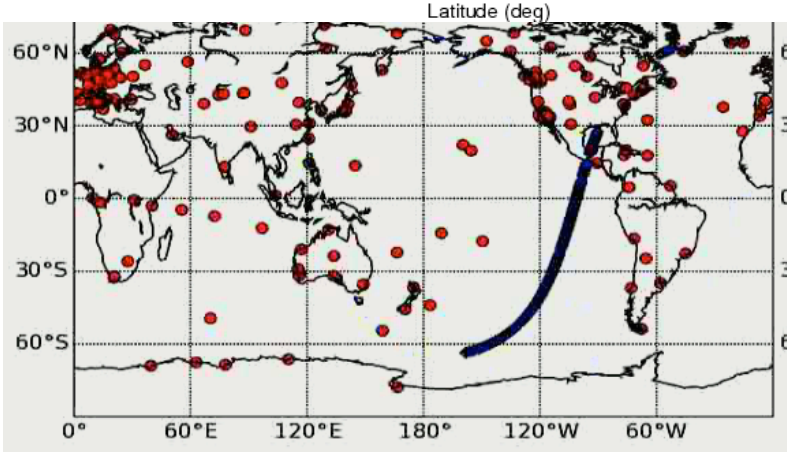


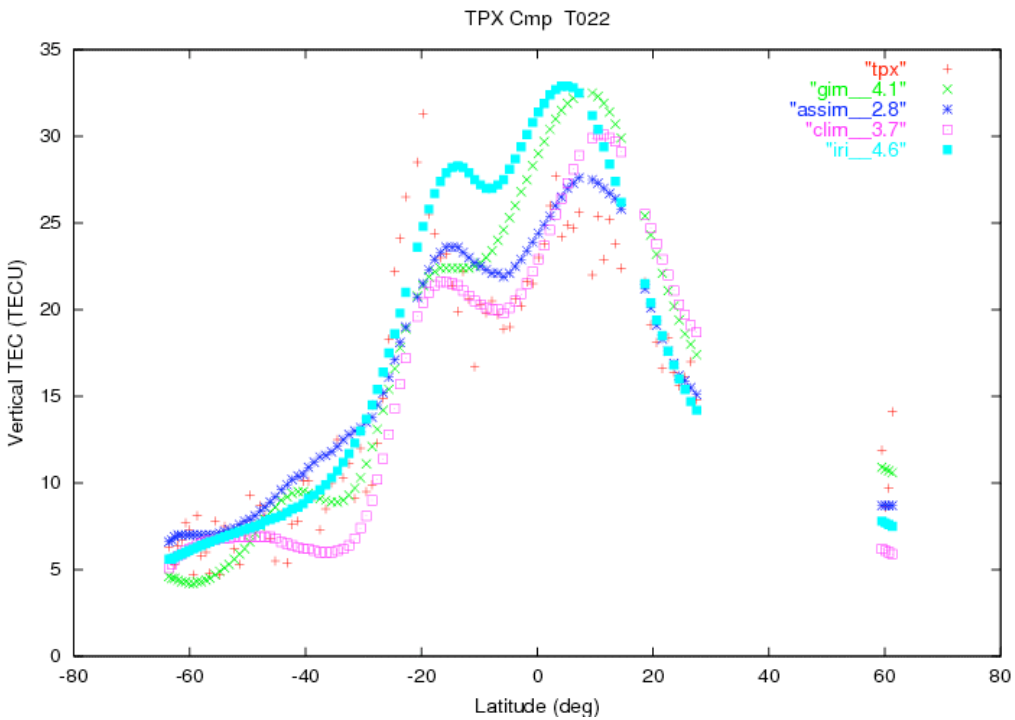
GAIM Validation Using Jason-2 Vertical TEC



Ground-data only

Ground and space data

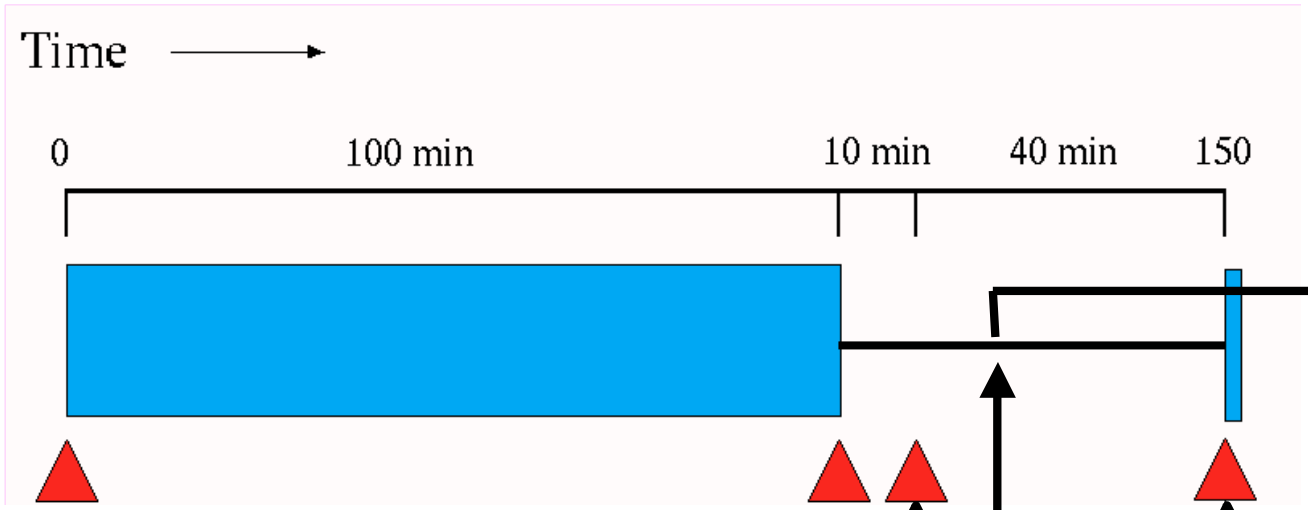


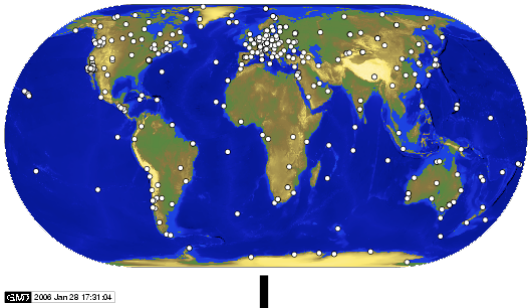


COSMIC Demo 2007

Global ground network data: 5-minute and 1-hour latency

COSMIC data: 120+ minutes latency





GAIM

3-D global electron density grids
15-minute cadence

Start of orbit

End of orbit; data downloaded

Data received at CDAAC

Limb TEC available

Profiles (Abel) available

CDAAC: COSMIC Data Analysis and Archiving Center at UCAR

Conclusions

- Now routinely generate calibrated TEC and Abel electron density retrievals using COSMIC data.
- Have compared UCAR and JPL COSMIC products for June 26, 2006:
  - There appears to be a 2-3 TECU level bias between JPL and UCAR calibrated TEC files.
  - JPL and UCAR Abel profiles usually match well.
- Performed GAIM assimilation using data from 200 ground-based GPS and six COSMIC satellites for June 26.
  - GAIM profiles are validated using Arecibo density, Jason VTEC and Abel profiles.
  - After assimilation Nmf2 shows very good improvement over climate predictions.
  - Jason validation shows “ground+space” improvement over “ground-only” assimilation in all cases.

Future Plans

- **Inter-compare receiver bias estimates, calibrated TEC, and Abel profiles between UCAR and JPL.**
- **Compare GAIM and Abel profiles to ISR's for Sep. 20-22, 2006**
- **NRT GAIM Demo ingesting Ground GPS TEC and COSMIC TEC**
  - Operational demo
  - Accumulate validation statistics
    - Density profiles vs. Abel
    - Density profiles vs. ISR
    - VTEC vs. JASON
- **4DVAR Driver Estimation for low & mid-latitudes**
  - Input Ground and COSMIC TEC
  - Estimate two drivers simultaneously:
    - **ExB drift velocity**
    - **Neutral wind**