

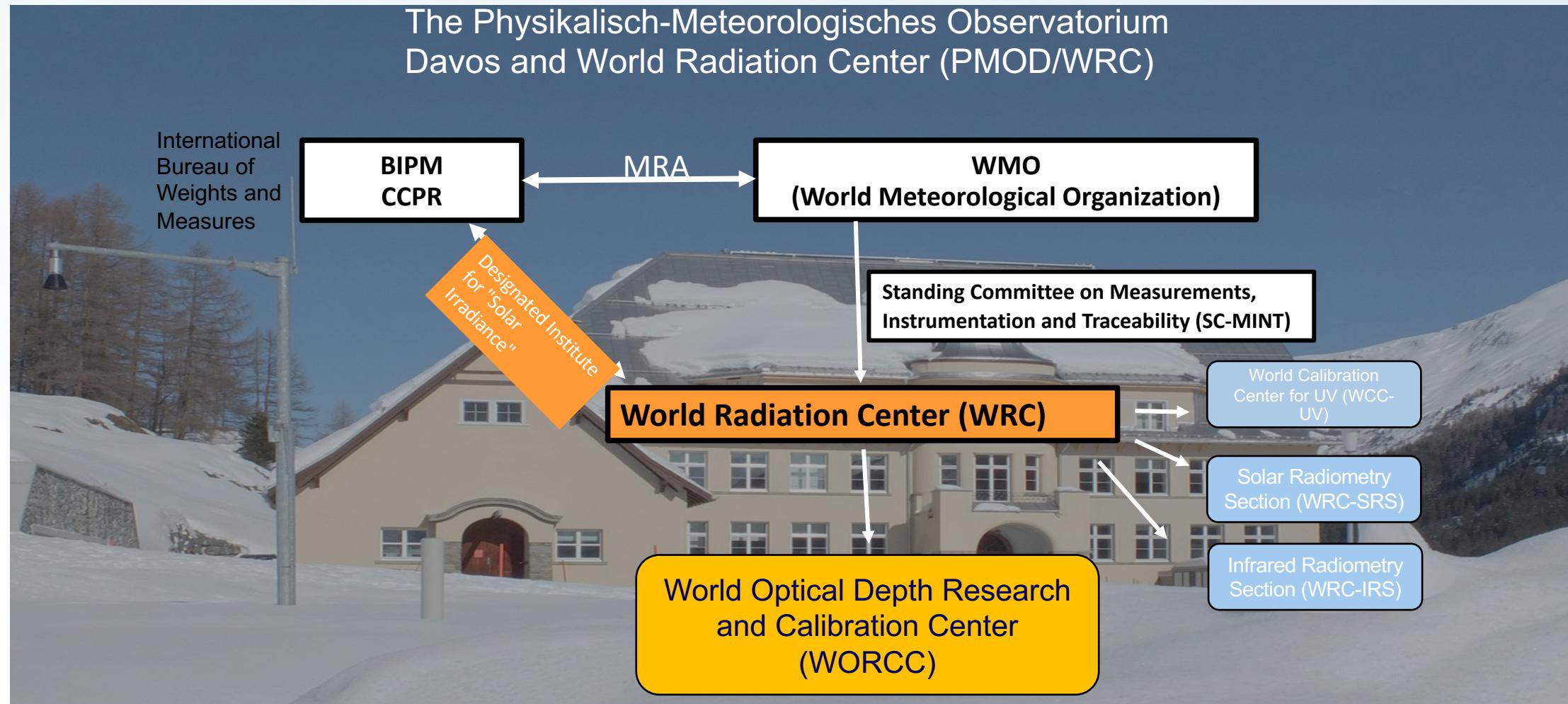
# The Global Atmospheric Watch and homogenization activities of aerosol networks at PMOD/WRC

PMOD/WRC  
Physics Meteorology Observatory Davos,  
World Radiation Center, Switzerland

Stelios Kazadzis, N. Kouremeti and J. Gröbner

Davos, FRC-5, 29.09.2021

# PMODWRC aerosol remote sensing



**Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD)** is a quantitative estimate of the amount of aerosol present in the atmosphere it is a measure of the extinction of a ray of light as it passes through the atmosphere. (main aerosol radiative impacts variable)

# The Global Atmospheric Watch of WMO

Addressing atmospheric composition on all scales: from global and regional to local and urban.



The mission of GAW is to:

- Maintaining and applying global, long-term observations composition and selected physical characteristics of the atmosphere emphasizing quality assurance and quality control
- Reduce environmental risks to society and meet the requirements of environmental conventions

*to support:*

- *the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),*
- *the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS),*
- *the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and to*
- *the development of Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)."*



GAW Station Information System  
(GAWSIS, <http://gawsis.meteoswiss.ch>)

# The Global Atmospheric Watch of WMO

Addressing atmospheric composition on all scales: from global and regional to local and urban.



WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

Weather · Climate · Water

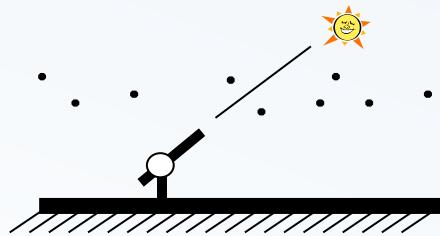
## ECV: multi-wavelength Aerosol Optical Depth

WMO has designated PMODWRC - **World Optical depth Research and Calibration Center (WORCC)** as the primary aerosol optical depth (AOD) reference center.

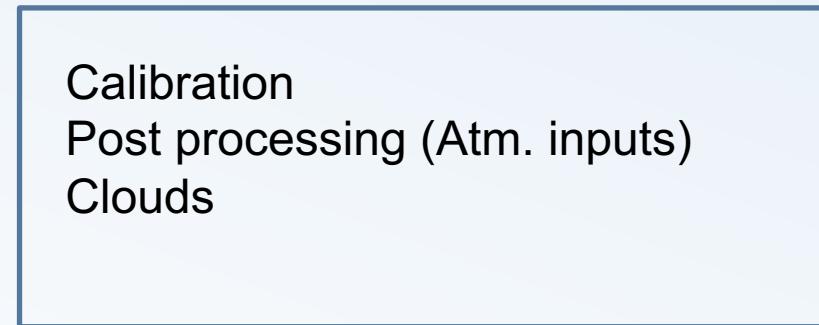
WORCC provides the traceability of AOD measurements guaranteeing the data quality needed in climate studies



# Essential Climate Variables: Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD)



**Signal  
Volts ( $\lambda$ )**



$$I_\lambda = I_\lambda^0 * e^{-\tau_\lambda m}$$

$$T(\lambda) = \frac{\ln I_0/I}{m} - \sum_i \tau_{att(i)} m_{att(i)} / m$$

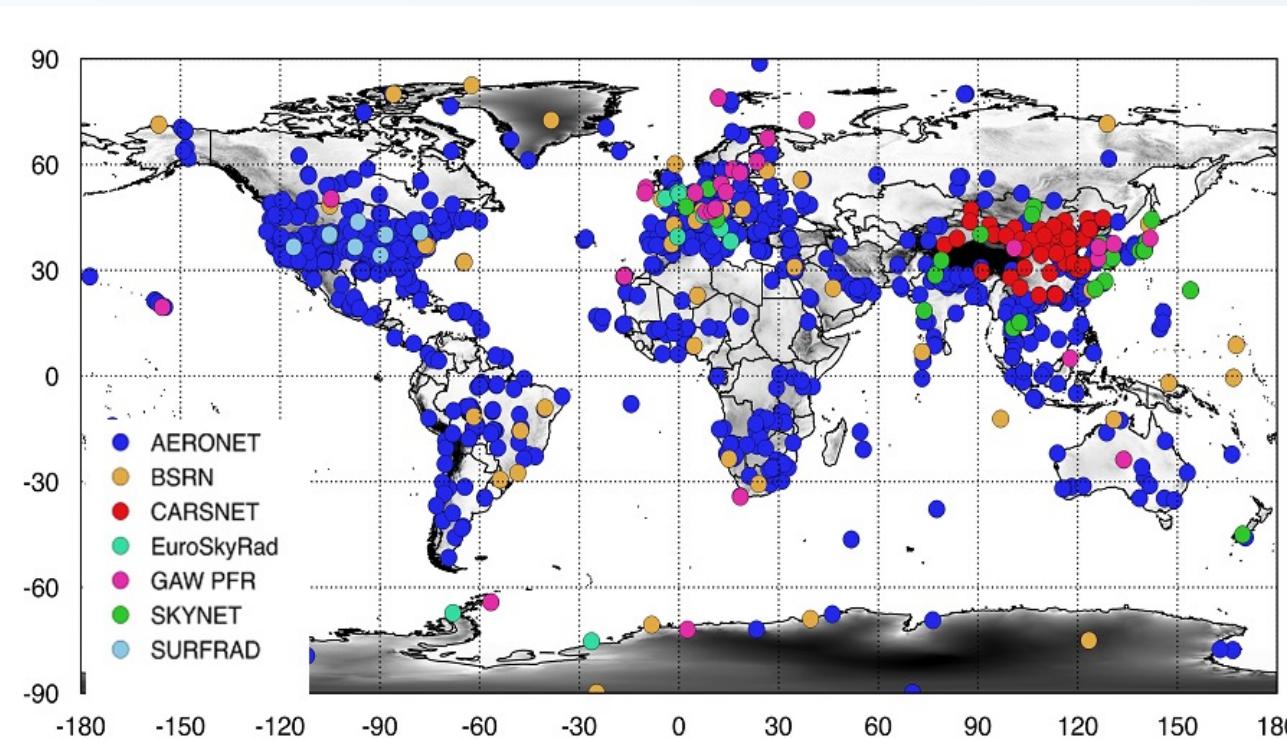
$$\tau_\lambda = \tau_{\text{O}_3} + \tau_{\text{aer}} + \tau_{\text{Ray}} + \tau_{\text{clouds}} + \tau_{\text{NO}_2}$$

Instrument homogenization

- Calibration
- Processing (inputs, algorithms)
- Instrument technical differences
- Maintenance & individual post corrections

# AOD Networks

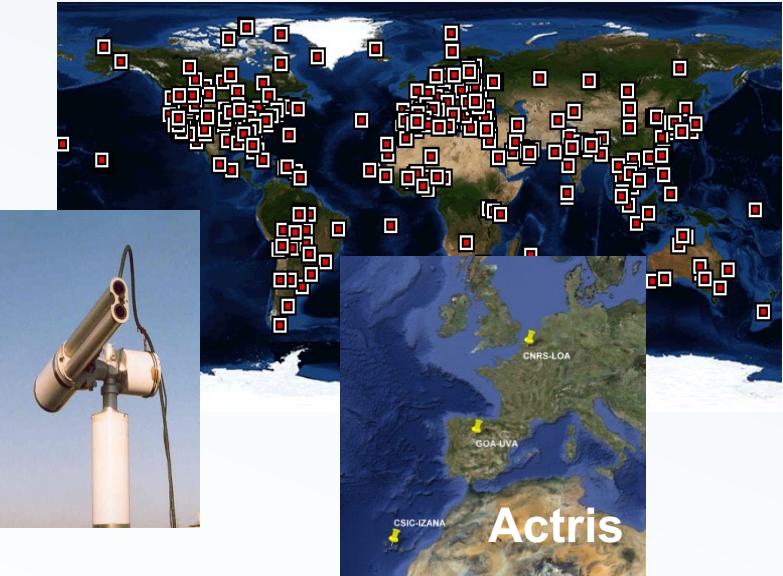
Global networks for aerosol remote sensing



WORCC mandate: initiate global homogenization activities for sun-photometric AOD

# AOD Networks and calibration and post processing hierarchy

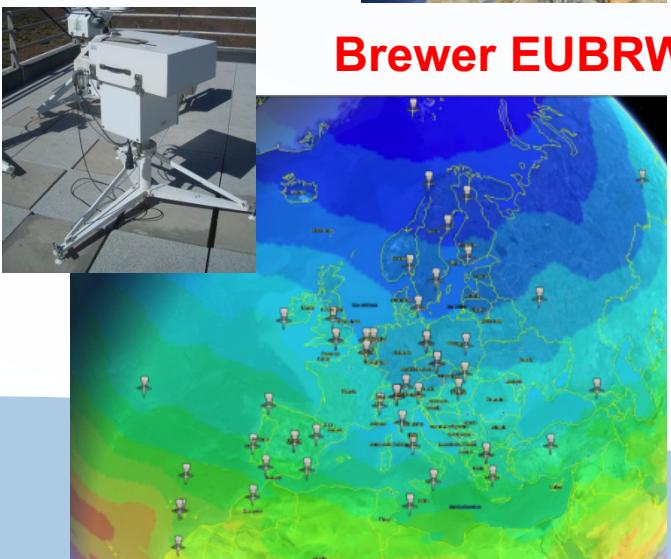
**AERONET Europe**



**Skynet**



**Brewer EUBRWNET**



**GAW - PFR**



# Homogenization / reference Triad

$$I_\lambda = I_\lambda^0 * e^{-\tau_\lambda m}$$

$$\tau_\lambda = \tau_{O_3} + \tau_{aer} + \tau_{Ray} + \tau_{clouds} + \tau_{NO_2}$$

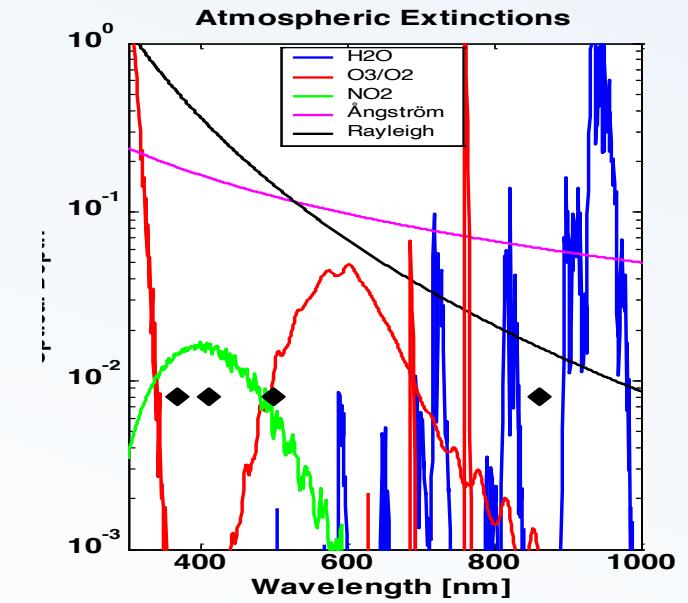
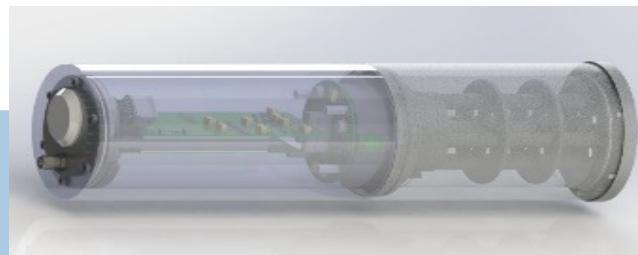
- Definition of a reference scale or set of instruments

WMO has defined the World Optical depth Research and Calibration Center (WPRCC at PMODWRC) as the responsible institute/group for maintaining the AOD scale.



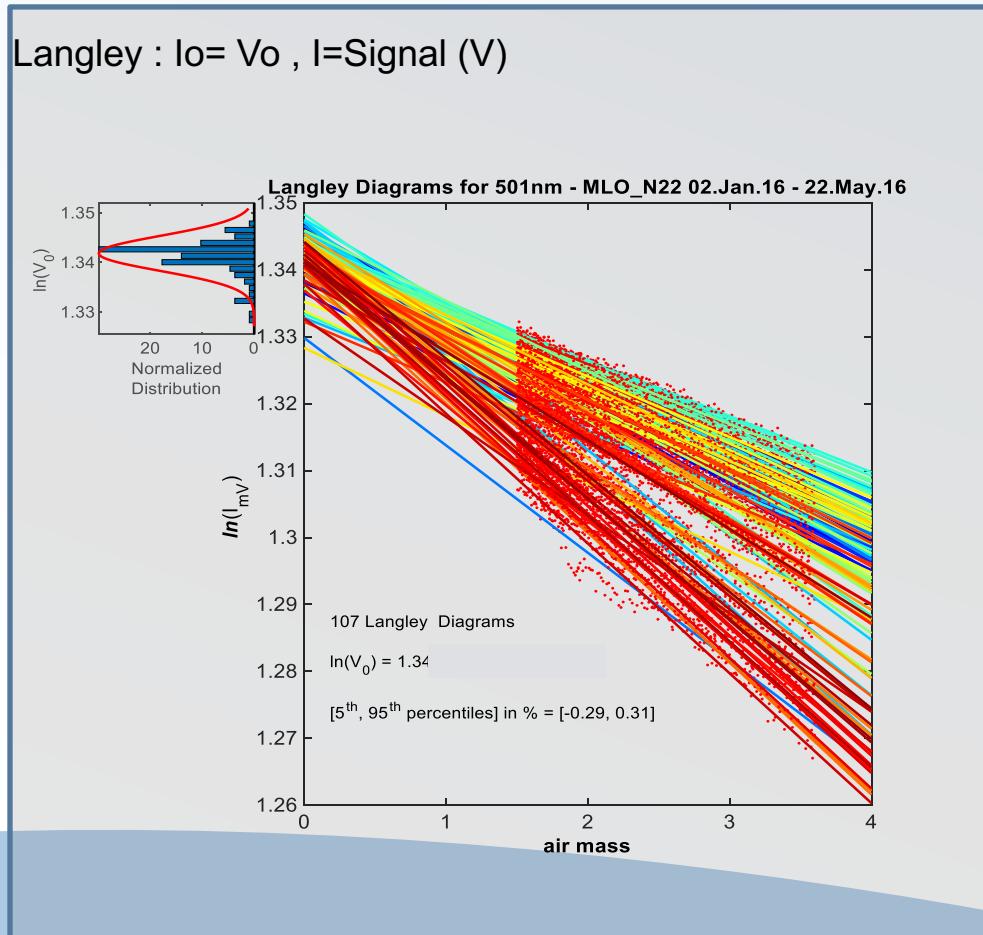
WORCC/WMO reference

AOD @ 368nm, 412nm, 500nm, 865nm



# Homogenization Reference PFR triad

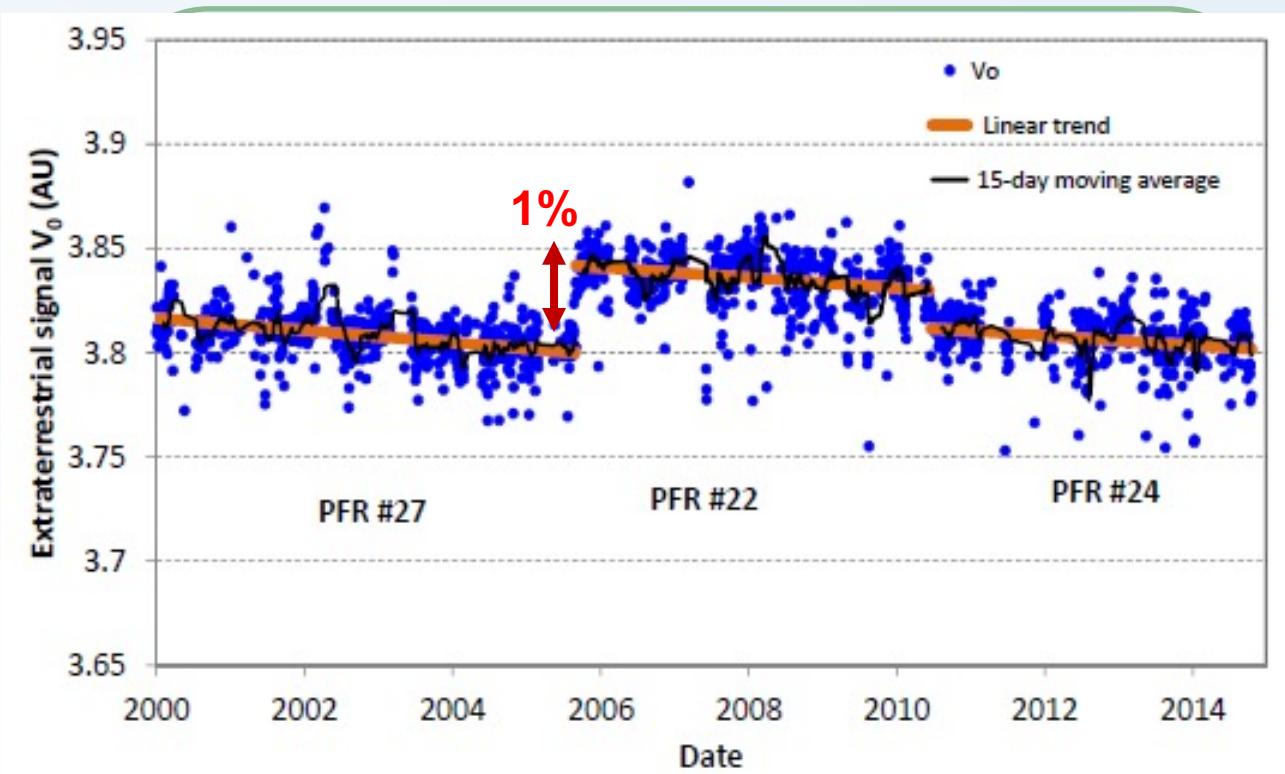
Langley calibration at high mountain stations  
Relative calibration



Top of the Atmosphere

$$I_\lambda = I_\lambda^0 * e^{-\tau_\lambda m} \quad m = 0$$

Mauna Loa, PFR 2000-2015



Toledano et al., 2018

# Long term stability of the reference PFR triad

- Definition of a reference scale or set of instruments

(U95): 95% within  $\pm(0.005 + 0.01/m)$  op. depths

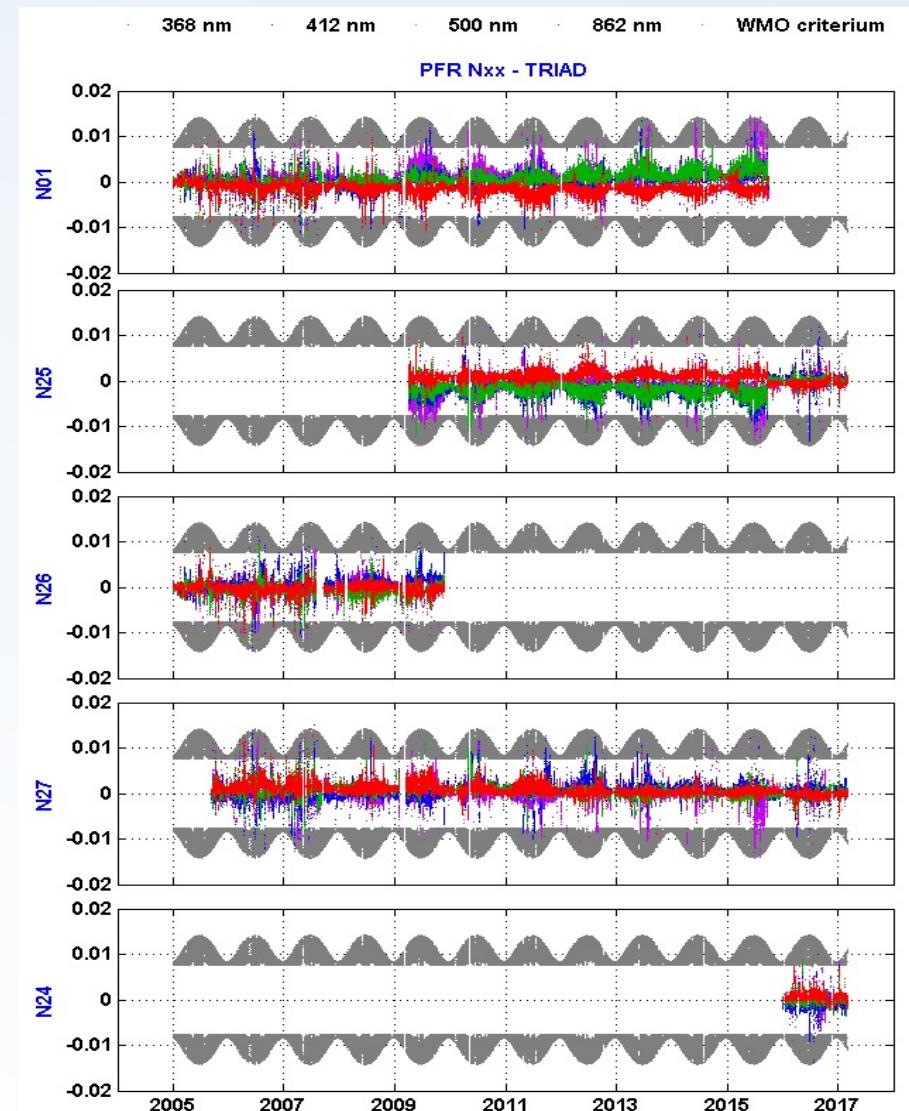
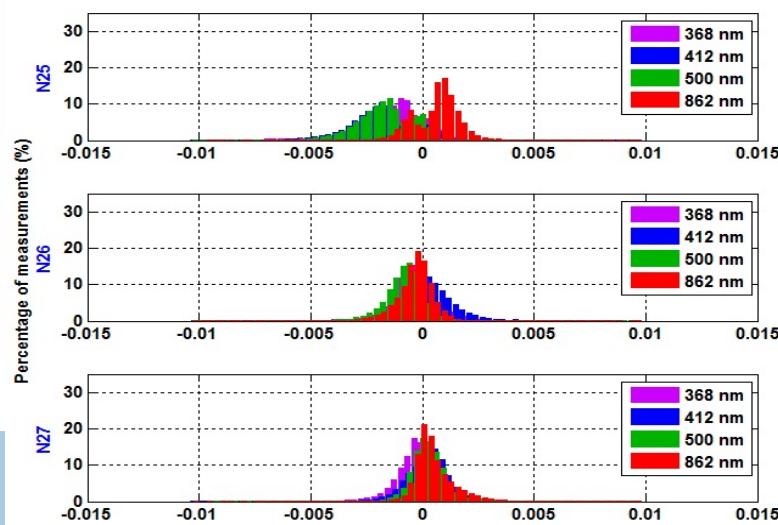
0.005: post processing and instrumental uncertainty sources

0.01/m: 1% calibration uncertainty

$$\Delta\tau \approx \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{\Delta I_0}{I_0} \right)$$

2005-2019 99.5% of 1 minute data within U95

## Triad 2005-2019



# Homogenization

- Organization of campaigns and comparisons

## What to compare ?

*WMO Report No. 162 discusses criteria for AOD quality*

*“The ability to trace calibration to a primary reference(s) (i.e. traceability) not currently possible based on physical meas. systems. Hence, traceability based on AOD difference criteria”*

## Compare synchronous AODs

# Homogenization

- Organization of campaigns and comparisons

What to compare ?

$$I(\lambda, \theta, r) = \frac{I_0(\lambda)}{r^2} * e^{-[\delta_R * m_R(\theta) + \delta_\tau * m_\tau(\theta) + \delta_G * m_G(\theta)]}$$

$$AOD = \delta_\tau(\lambda) = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{I_0(\lambda)}{I * r^2}\right) - \frac{p}{p_0} m_R(\theta) \delta_R(\lambda) - m_{O3}(\theta) \delta_{O3}(\lambda) - m_{NO2}(\theta) \delta_{NO2}(\lambda)}{m_\tau(\theta)}$$

WMO Report No. 162 discusses criteria for AOD quality

*“The ability to trace calibration to a primary reference(s) (i.e. traceability) not currently possible based on physical meas. systems. Hence, traceability based on AOD difference criteria”*

Compare synchronous AODs

## Differences

- Algorithms
- NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, Rayleigh inputs
- Calibration
- Technical, e.g. FOV
- Cloud flagging

# Filter-Radiometer Comparison

- **5<sup>th</sup> Filter-Radiometer Comparison (FRC-V)**
- 13<sup>th</sup> International Pyrheliometer Comparison (IPC-XIII)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Pyrgeometer Comparison (IPgC-III).

*organized by the World Radiation Center (WRC) on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).*



2000



2005



2010



2015



# History

2000: FRC – I

Instrument signal comparison

7 wavelengths, 17 radiometers, 1 day measurements

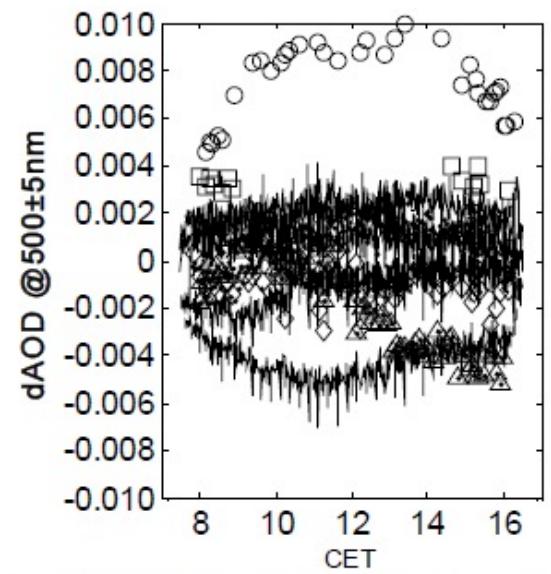
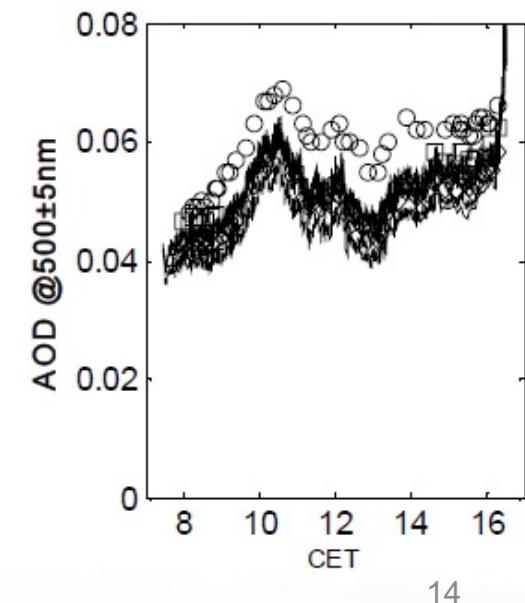
common processing →  $\partial\delta \approx 0.016$  @ 500nm (N=8)



2005: FRC – II AOD results

12 instruments at wavelengths  $500 \pm 3\text{nm}$  &  $865 \pm 5\text{nm}$ ,  
specific processing

comparison according to WMO recommendations  
(2004)



# History

2010: FRC – III AOD results

17 instruments at wavelengths  $500\pm3\text{nm}$  &  $865\pm5\text{nm}$ ,

Individual processing



FRC-IV 2015

AOD Comparison at wavelengths  $367\pm5\text{nm}$ ,  $412\pm5\text{nm}$ ,  $500\pm3\text{nm}$  &  $865\pm5\text{nm}$ ,  
Ångström exponents

specific processing by participants comparison according to WMO  
recommendations (2004)

30 Instruments, 12 countries



2021

## 33 INSTRUMENTS – 15 GROUPS – 12 COUNTRIES

**PFR**

WORCC Triad-CH (3)  
 SMHI-SE  
 DWD-DE (2)  
 PMOD-CH (3) +new  
 MeteoSwiss-CH  
 NIMS-KO  
 UIIMP (AT)



Direct sun  
 wl: 368, 412, 500,  
 863 nm  
 Fwhm: 3.8-5.4nm  
 FOV=2.5 deg  
 Meas: 1 minute

**CIMEL**

PMOD-CH  
 IZANA-ESP  
 Valliadolid-ESP  
 MeteoSwiss-Ch  
 Un. Lille (FR)  
 Carsnet (CN)

**PSR**

DWD-DE (2)  
 PMOD-CH (3)  
 BOM-AU (1)

**POM-2**

DWD-DE  
 CNR-IT  
 JMA-JP  
 K. ABDALA-SA

**SPO2**

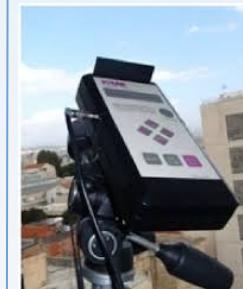
BMa-AU  
 BMb-AU

**G-Pho**

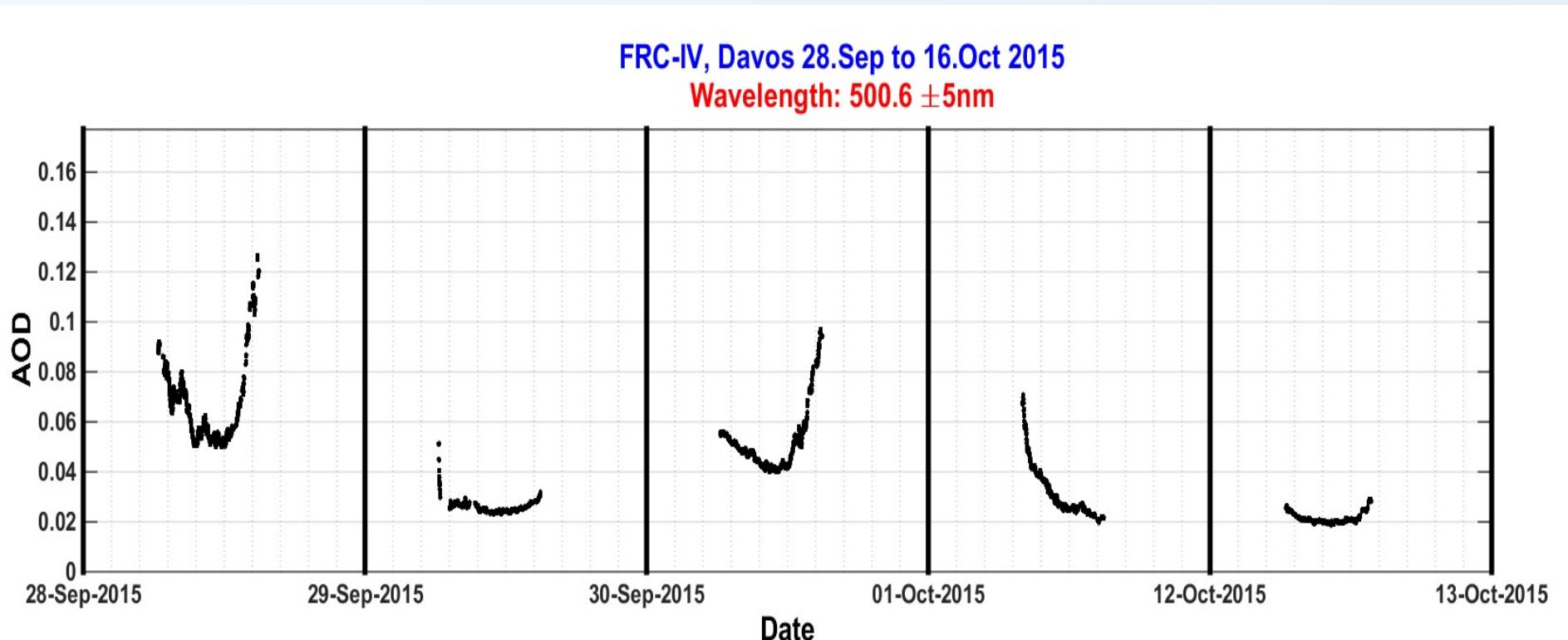
GPHO-CN

**Microtops**

MIC-AR



# 2015 - AOD variability



samples at 500nm (PFR, POM-2, SPO, MFRSR, PSR, SIM: 1100-2000, CIMEL: ~300, 750, MIC: 350)

Duration  $\geq 5$  days OK

AOD<sub>500</sub> within  $0.040 \div 0.200$  OD .. OK

$$U95: dAOD \leq 0.005 + 0.01/m$$

# FRC/Participating Instruments - 2015

30 instruments – 15 groups – 12 countries

PFR

GAW-PFR



CIMEL

AERONET-EU



MFRSR

SURFRAD



PSR

DWD



POM-2

SKYNET



SPO2

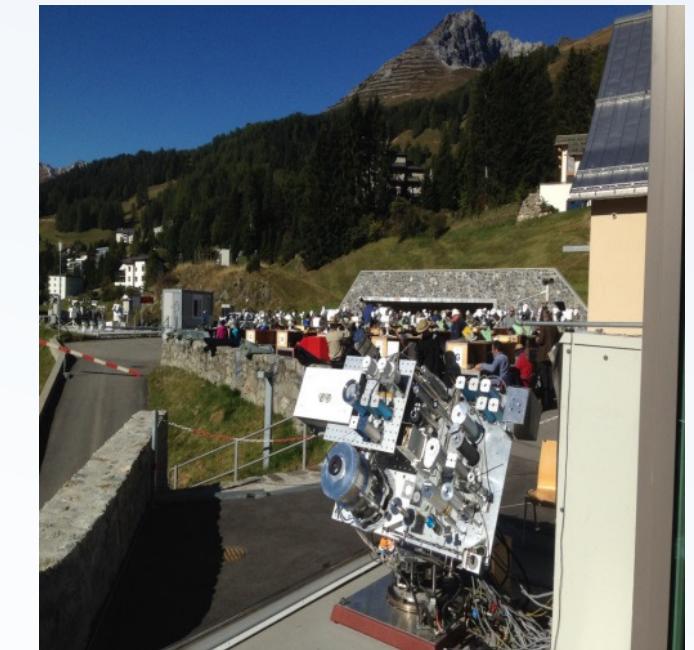
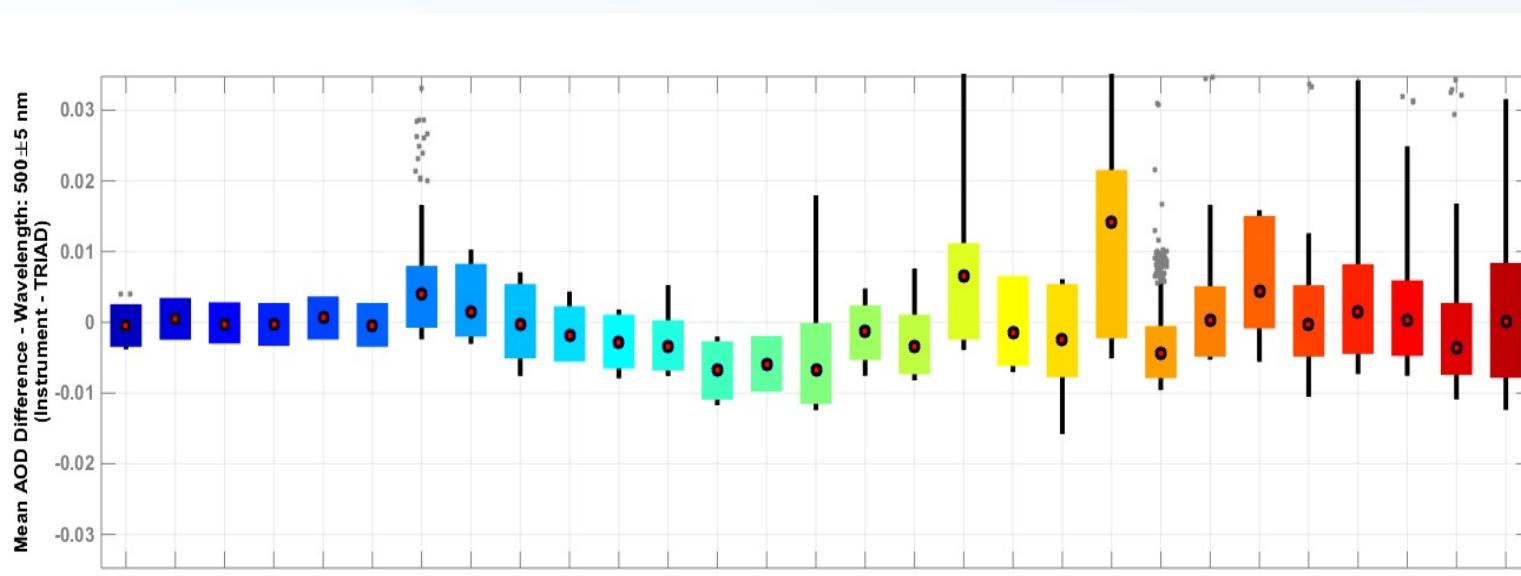
AU-NET



SSIM

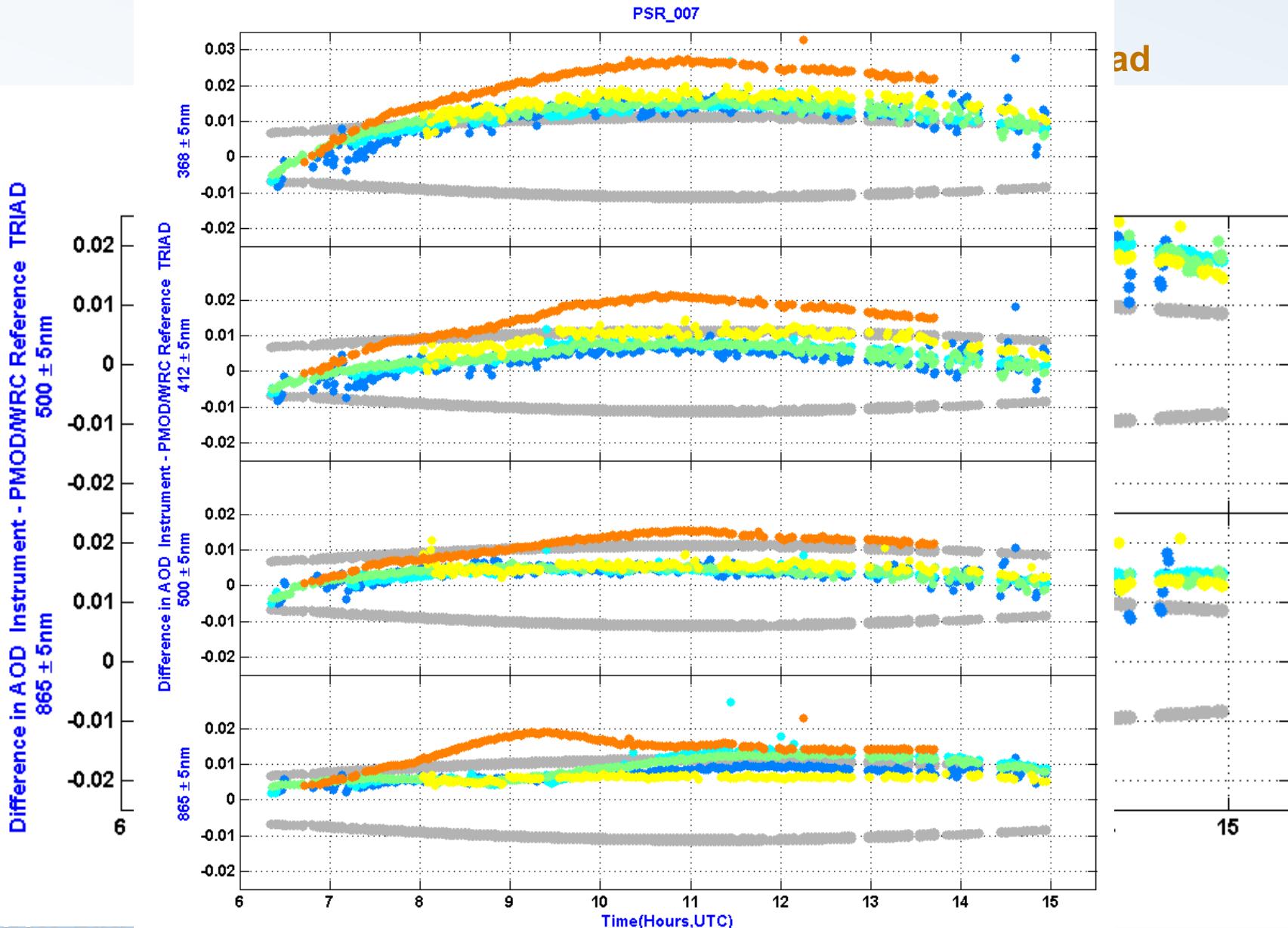


Microtops

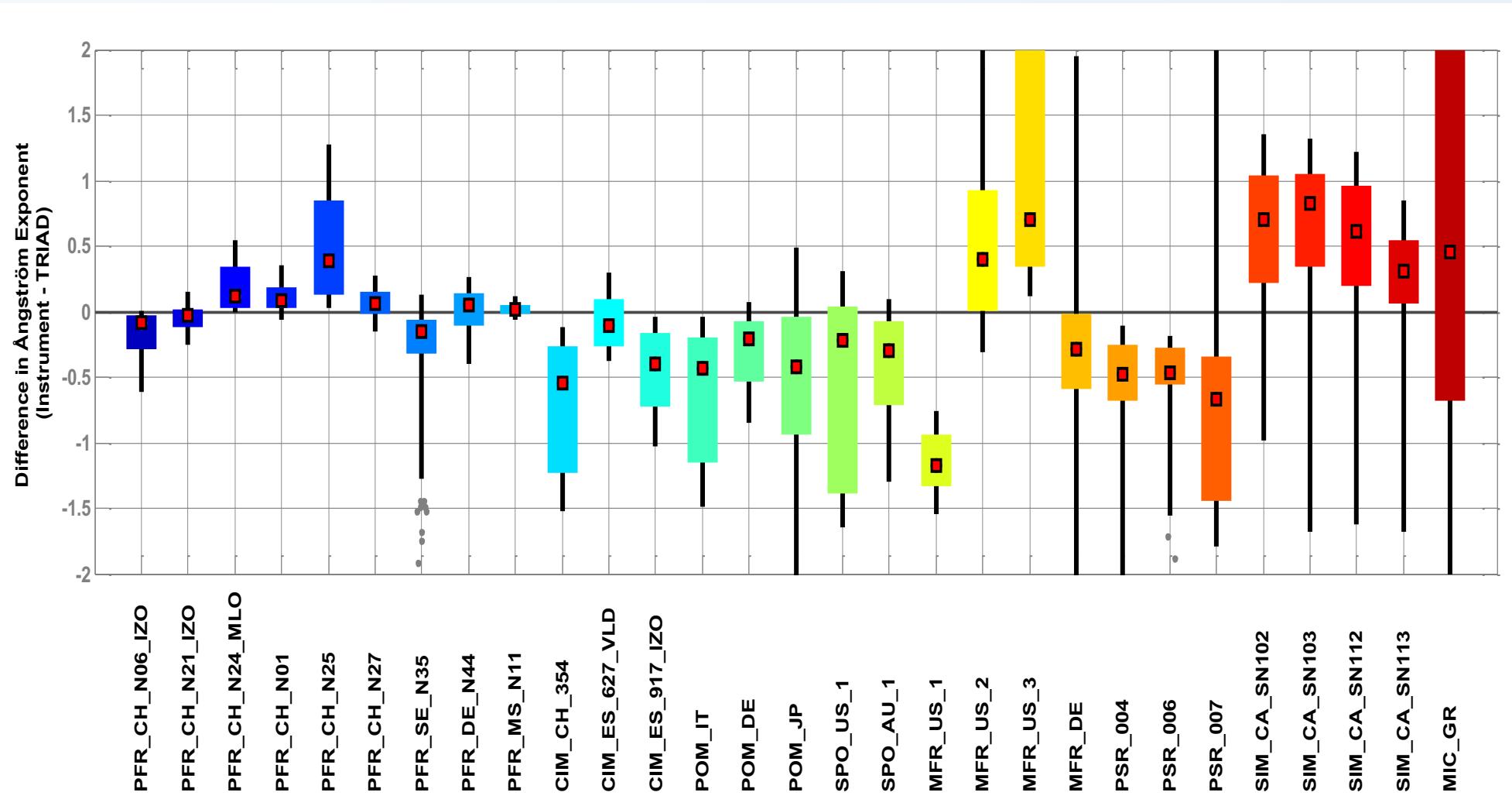


# The 4<sup>th</sup> Filter Radiometer Comparison

● 28.Sep ● 29.Sep ● 30.Sep ● 01.Oct ● 12.Oct



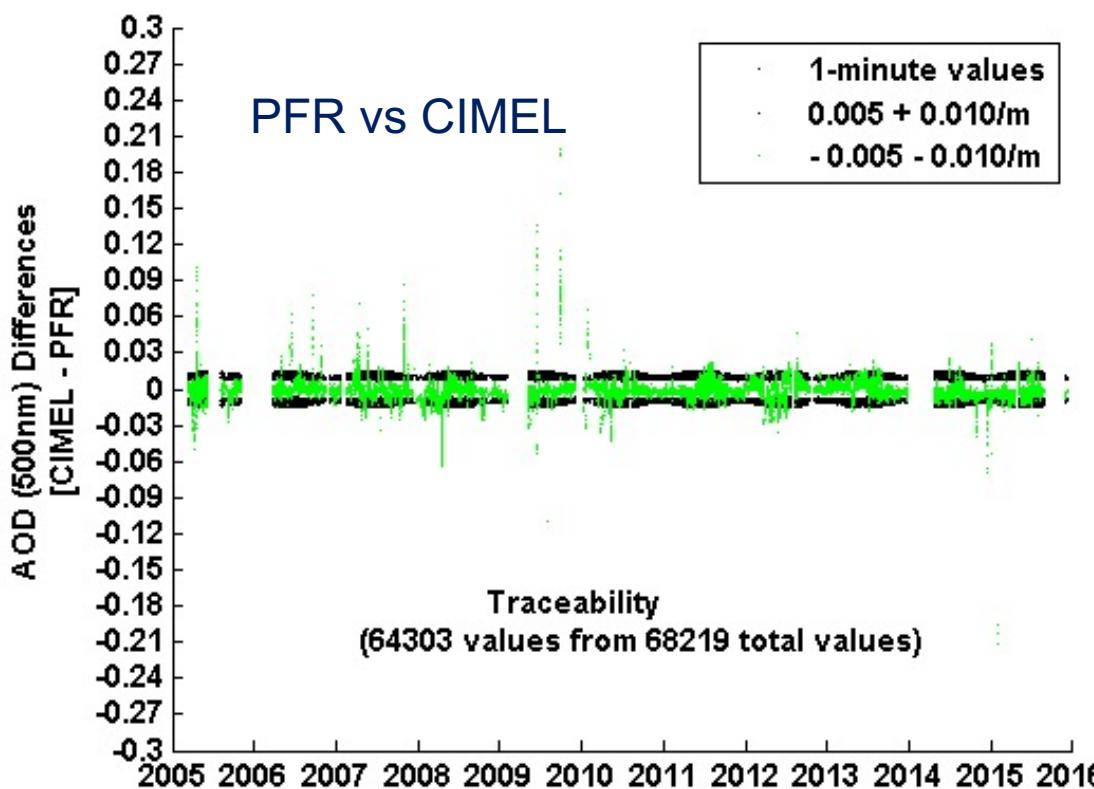
# Ångström Exponents



# Long term measurements at CIMEL “reference” locations: Izana, Spain (AEMET)

Long term AOD CIMEL / PFR analysis:

60K-70K synchronous AODs



WMO-U95 criterion “95% within the limits for reference instruments”

380 nm	440 nm	500 nm	865 nm
92.3%	95.1%	96.2 %	97.8%

## Differences:

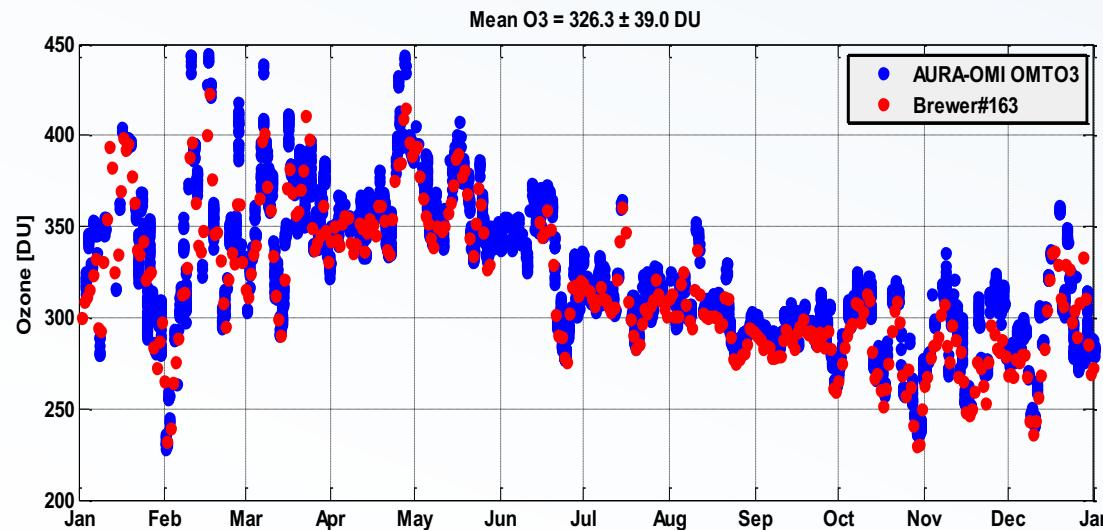
- Processing algorithms
- NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, pressure inputs
- Small wavelength/filter differences
- Instrument issues

## Long term homogenization measurements

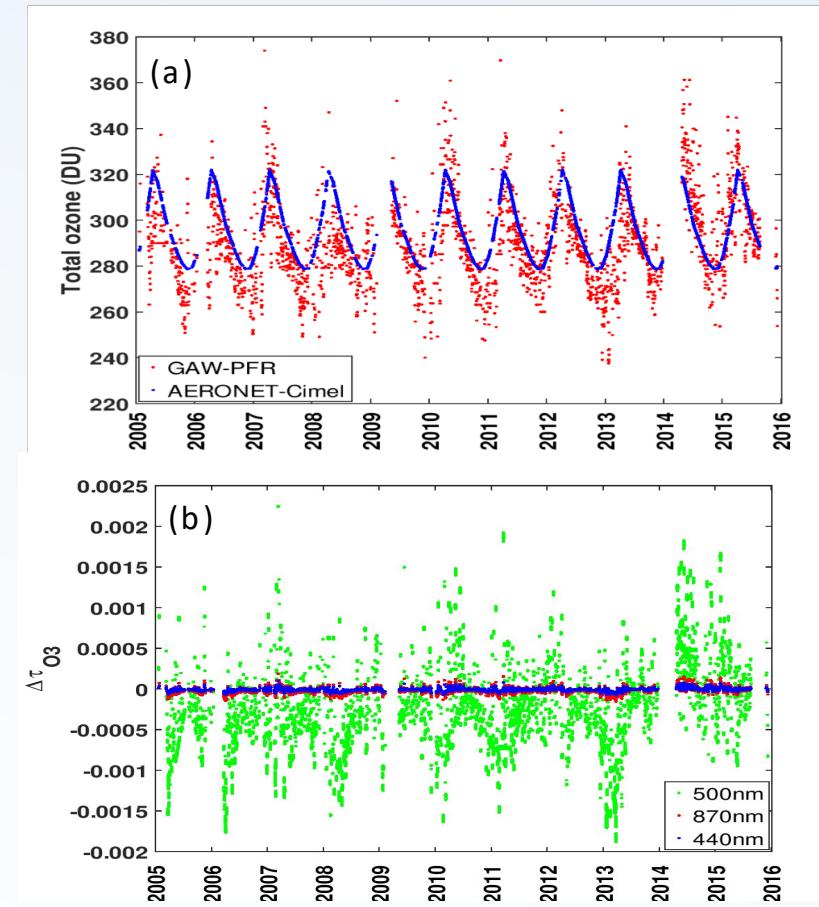
AOD processing: Ozone

$$\tau_\lambda = \tau_{\text{O}_3} + \tau_{\text{aer}} + \tau_{\text{Ray}} + \tau_{\text{clouds}} + \tau_{\text{NO}_2}$$

- *Climatology*
- *Satellite*
- *Measurement*



## Uncertainties / Differences



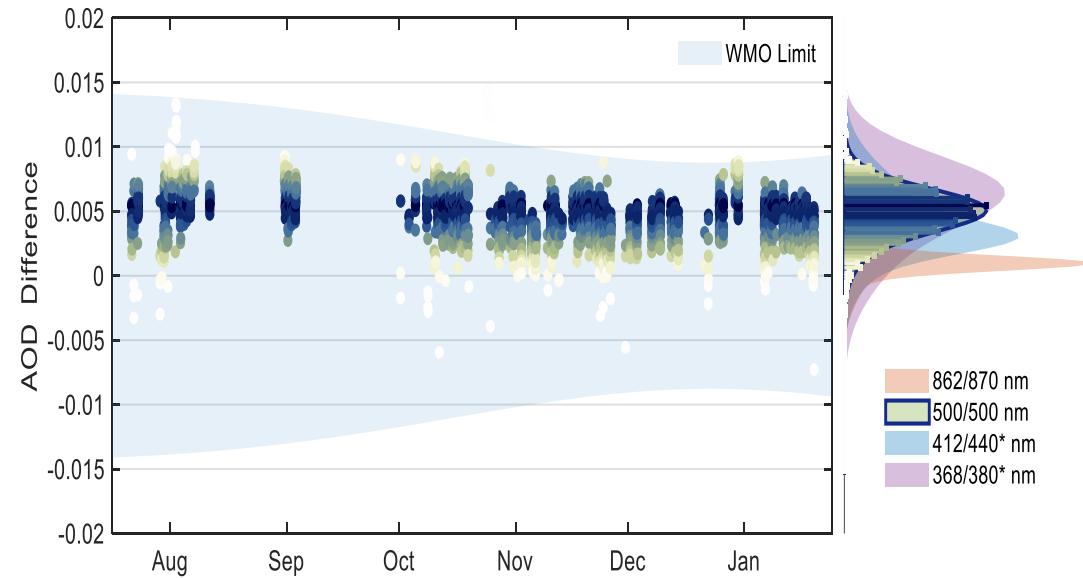
Ohp, France



# Actris European infrastructure & WMO



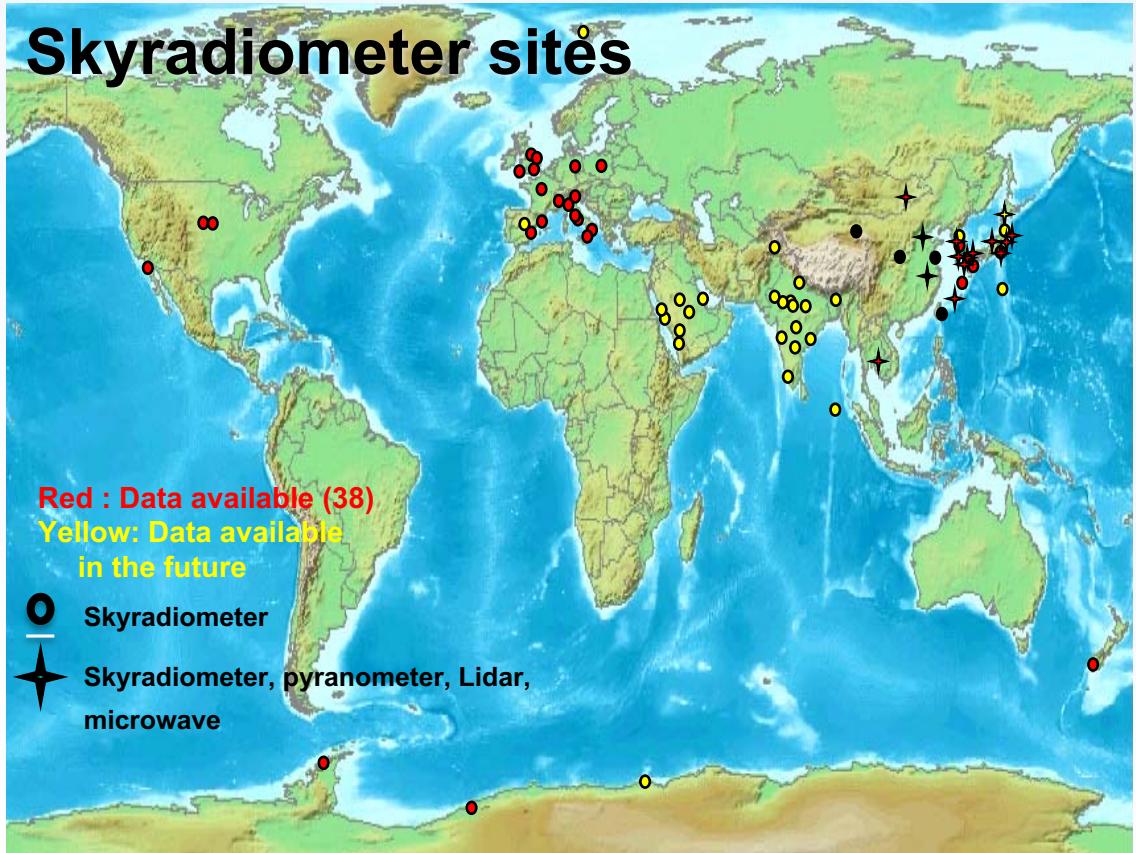
CARS/ACTRIS: Ohp, France (Univ. Lille) 2020-21



## ACTRIS Calibration Aerosol Remote Sensing

*Establish traceability of AOD measurements within CARS/ACTRIS to the primary WMO AOD reference*

# WMO and Skynet



MoU Comparison with reference instr.  
Measurements at reference/calibration sites

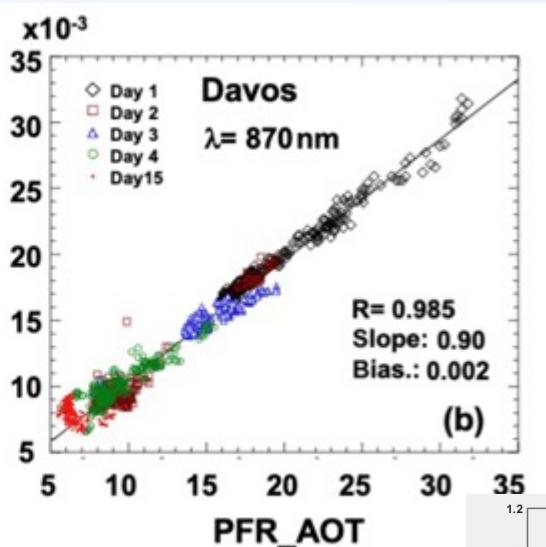
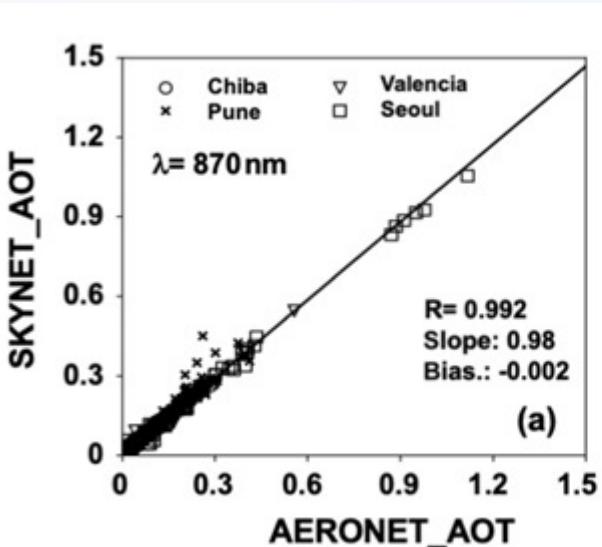
MoU with CNR, Italy for Skynet reference traceability to WORCC  
(WMO-SAG aerosol: Skynet to WDCA)

2015 FRC-4 at Davos  
2016 Chiba/Japan and Valencia/Spain  
2017 Davos – WORCC  
2017-18 Quatram camp., Rome (IT)  
2018 Davos - WORCC  
2018-19 Quatram camp. 2, Rome (IT)

2021 Rome  
2021 FRC 5 Davos

# WMO and Skynet

Nakajima et al., 2020

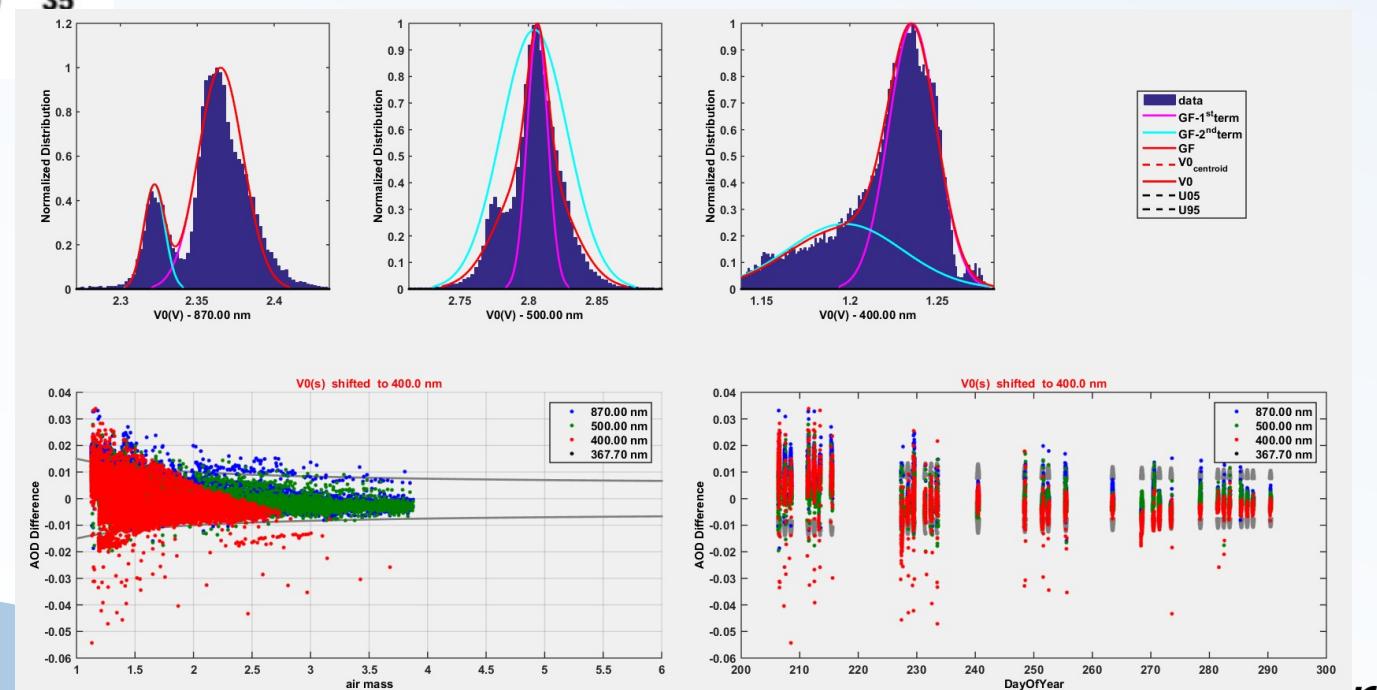


Chiba, Japan 2017

$$I_\lambda = I_\lambda^0 * e^{-\tau_\lambda m}$$



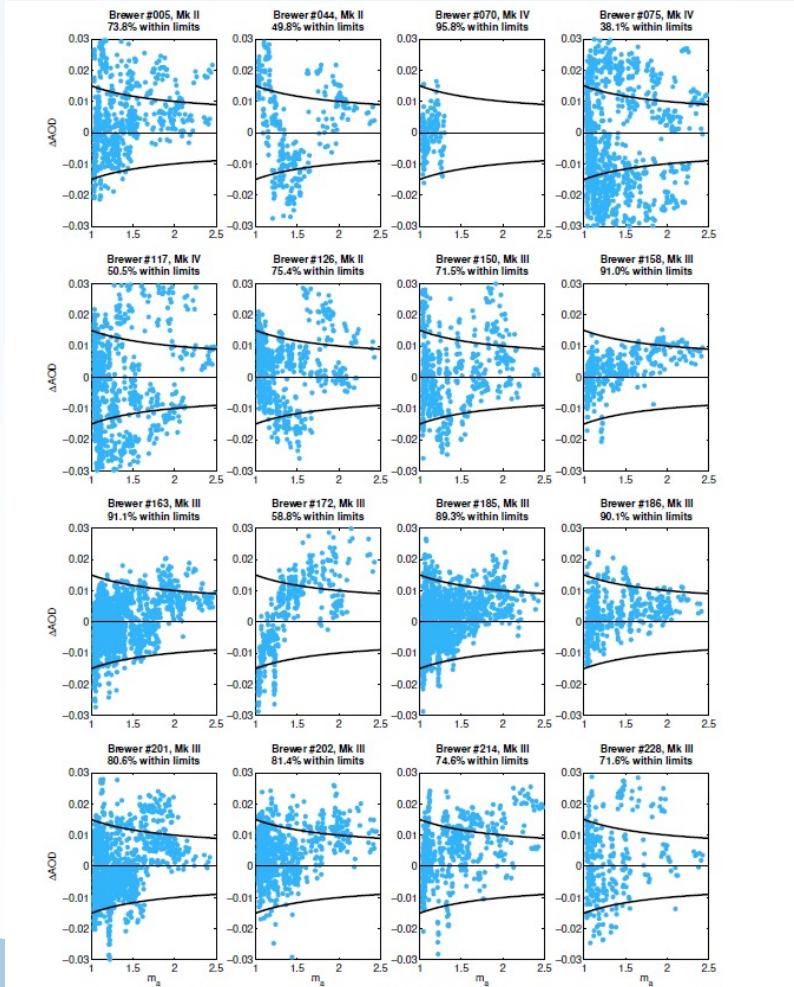
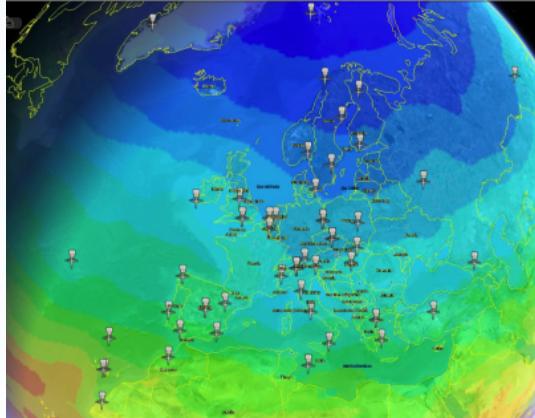
- Quatram campaign: Rome



# European brewer Network

Development of a traveling UV-PFR reference for calibrating Brewer instruments

Participation in 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Brewer Calibration Campaign, Huelva, Spain, 2015



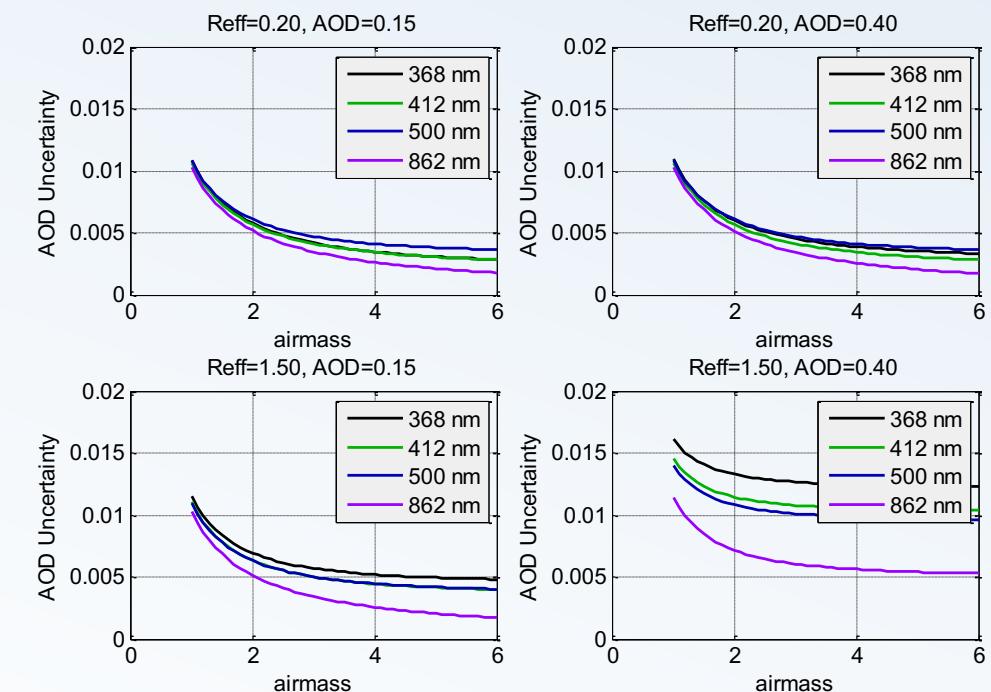
16 Brewers vs UV-PFR,  
AOD comparison  
at 313.5 nm,

Ozone !!

Solano et al., 2018  
Carlund et al., 2017

# Uncertainty estimation

Source	Uncertainty	Impact on	$\delta\text{AOD}$ (wavelengths(nm))
1. Measurement & tracking	0.0025	Meas. Voltage/AOD	$0.0025/m$
2. calibration Uncertainty	<0.01	AOD	$0.01/m$
3. Pressure	$\pm 5\text{hPa}$	$\tau_{ray}$	$0.0002(862) - 0.0025(368)$
4. NO <sub>2</sub>	$\pm 0.05\text{nm}$	$\tau_{NO_2}$	$0(862) - 0.003(368)$
5. Ozone	$\pm 10\text{DU}$	$\tau_{O_3}$	$0(\text{all}) - 0.0003(500)$
6. Field of View	Depending on aerosol type and AOD	Meas. Voltage/AOD	$0 - 0.12(368, \text{AOD}=0.4, \text{eff. Radius} = 1.5\mu\text{m})$



# Instruments: possible problems !!

## Quality control and assurance procedures

**Recalibration\* (When ?)**

**Solar Pointing tolerance and link with the initial calibration (0.05 deg)**

**AOD retrieval inputs: e.g. Ozone, pressure, e.t.c.**

**Cloud flagging algorithm**

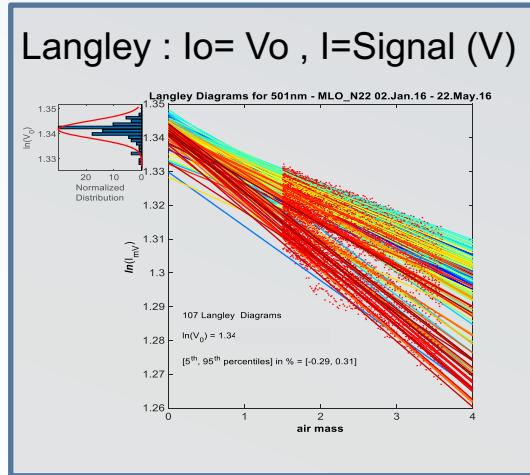
**Temperature**

**Wavelength crossing checks (negative AEs ?)**

**Ångström parameter thresholds**

**Visual inspections**

field calibrations  
Langley  
Relative (signals)  
Calibration



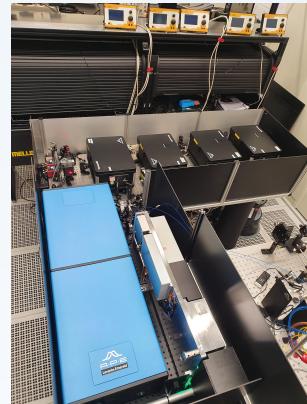
$$I_\lambda = I_\lambda^0 * e^{-\tau_\lambda m}$$

↓      ↓

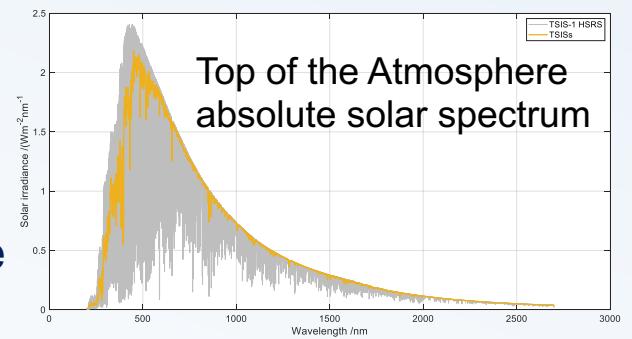
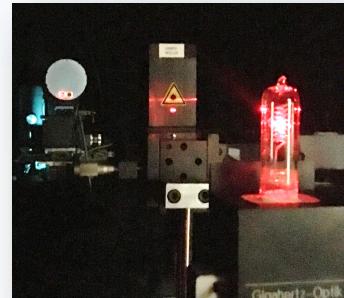
$m = 0$

Volts

To **SI traceable absolute calibration** of the PFR  
using in addition a Top of the Atmosphere absolute solar spectrum



PTB German metrology Institute



$$I_\lambda = I_\lambda^0 * e^{-\tau_\lambda m}$$

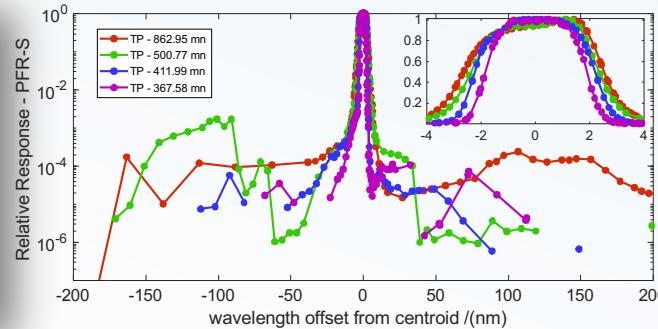
↓      ↓

$\text{W/m}^2 \cdot \text{nm}$

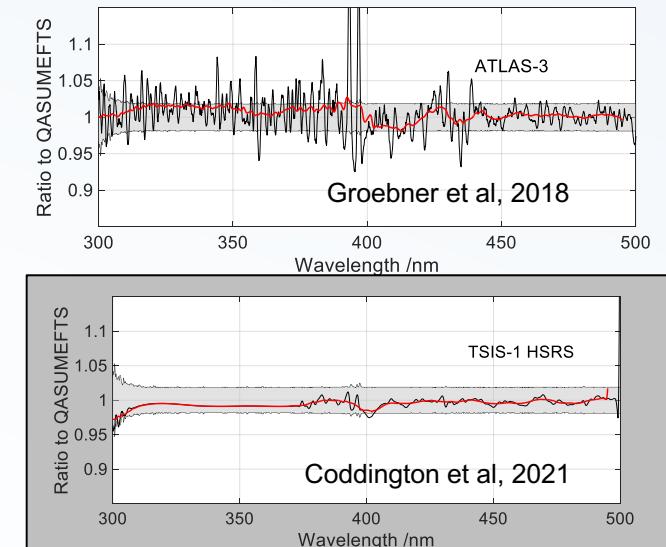
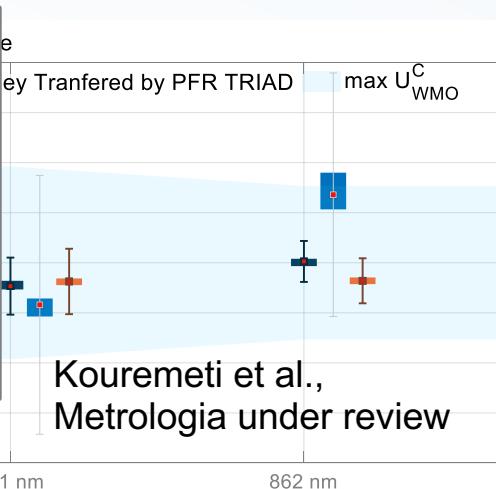
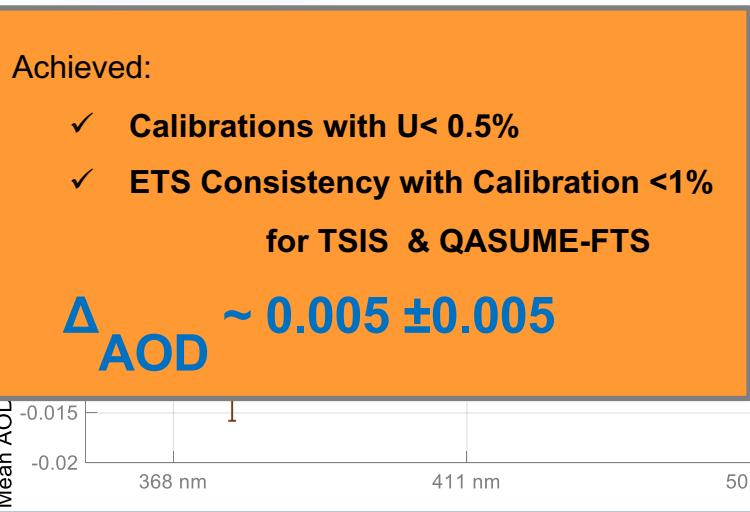
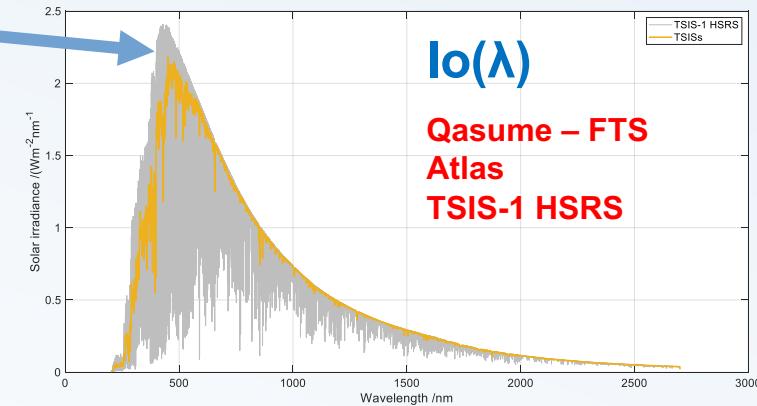
# Metrology for Aerosol optical properties / MAPP project

$$I_\lambda = I_\lambda^0 e^{-\tau_\lambda m}$$

TULIP setup PTB

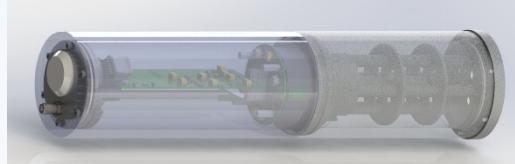


$$AOD = \frac{\ln I_0/I}{m} - \sum_i \tau_{att(i)} m_{att(i)} / m_a$$



# World aerosol Optical depth Research and calibration Center vs global networks

Precision Filter Radiometer (PFR)  
Sun-photometer  
WMO reference



World Reference AOD triad

Mauna Loa, Hawaii, USA



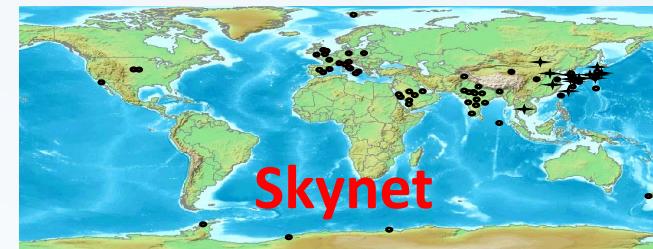
Davos, CH PFR triad



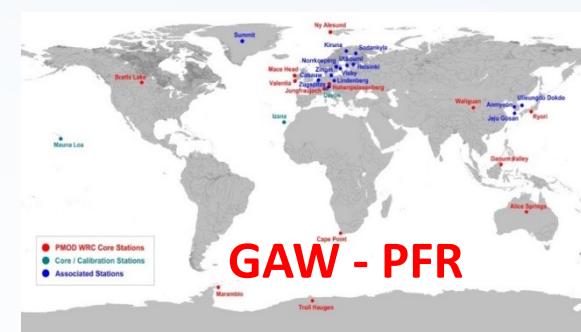
Izaña, Tenerife, Spain



AERONET



Skynet

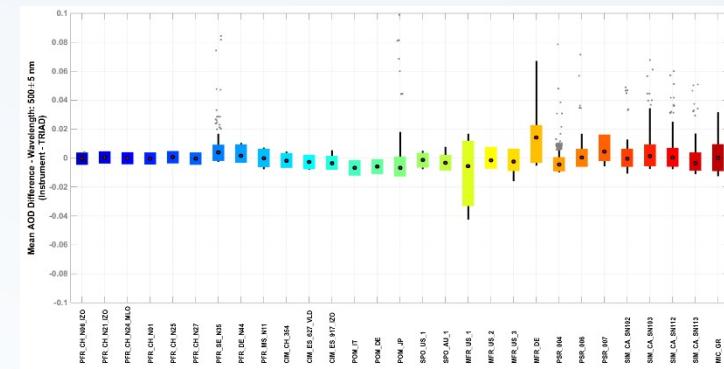


GAW - PFR



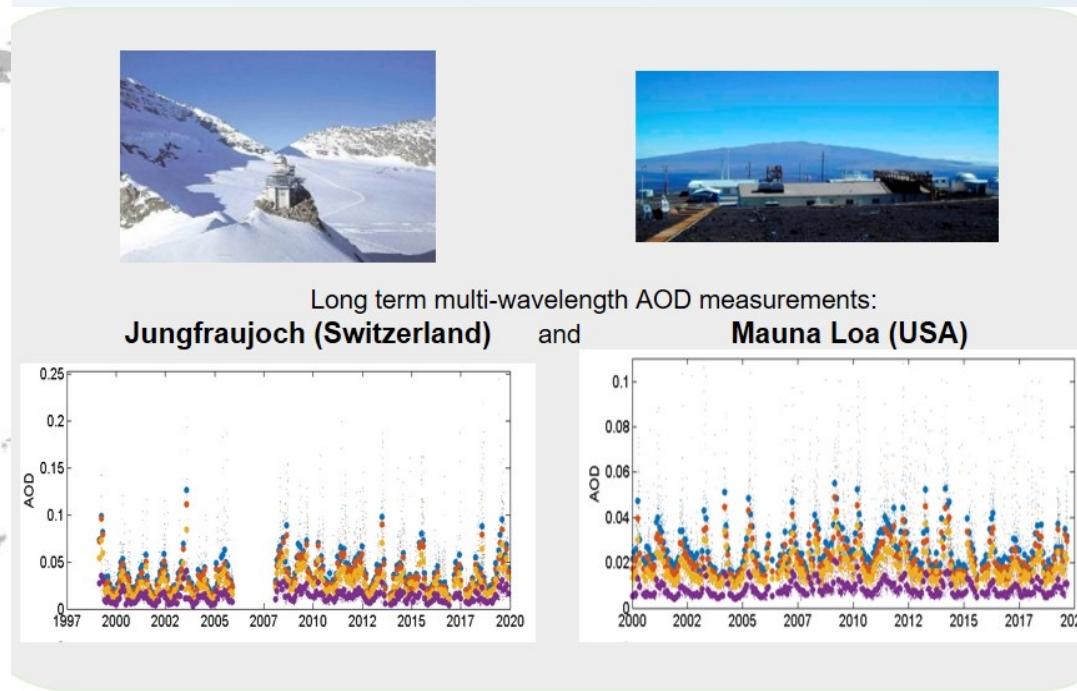
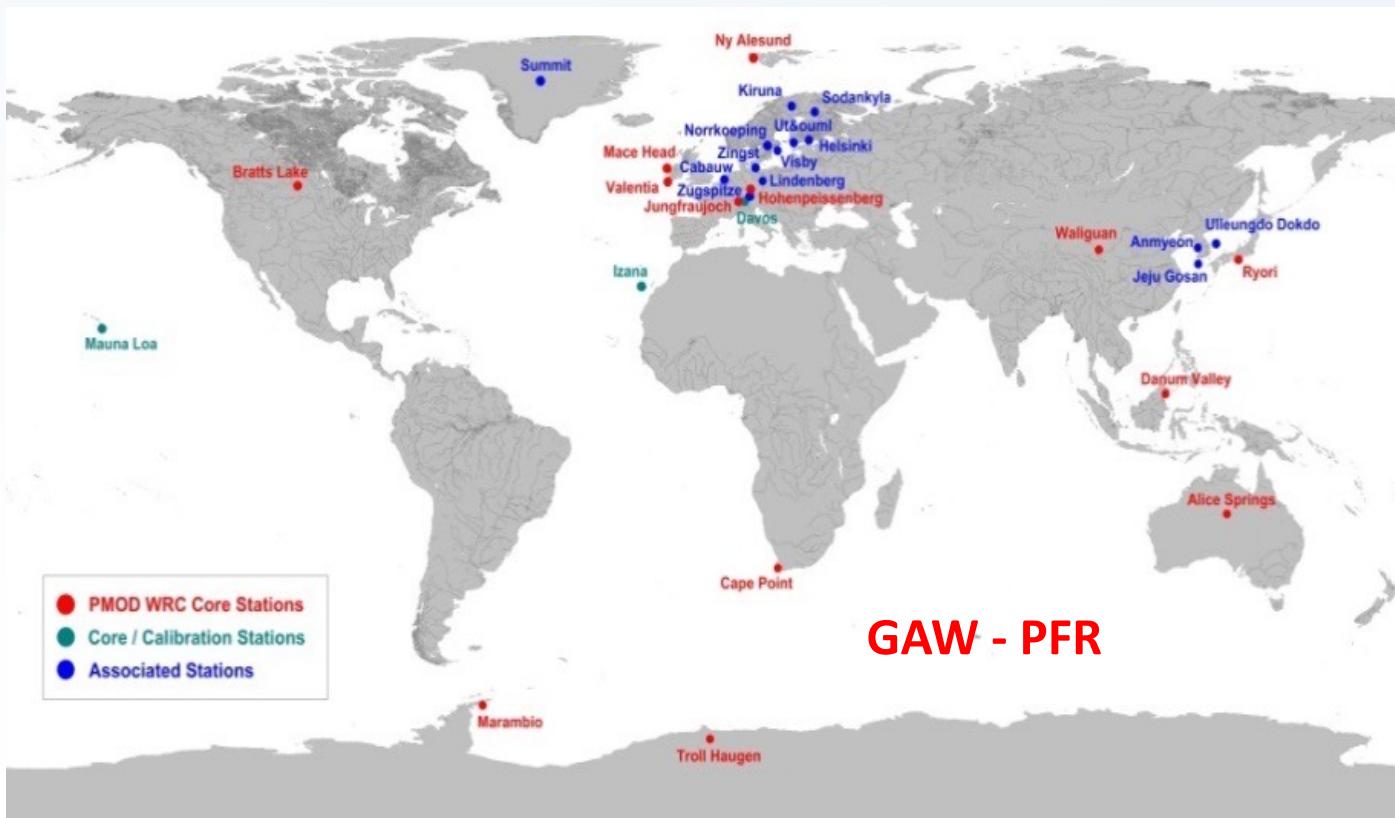
Brewer EUBRNENET

Filter Radiometer Comparisons (2000-2021)



# Aerosol Optical Depth / WMO-Global Atmosphere Watch network GAWPFR

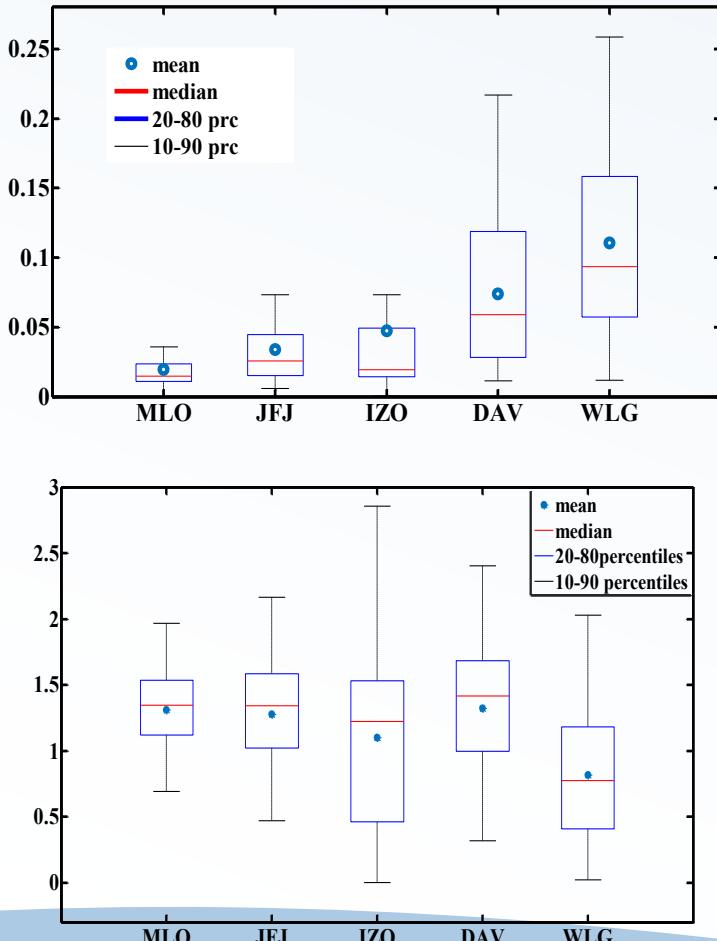
~30 stations, operated and maintained by PMOD/WRC.



>20 years data sets

# The GAW-PFR Network

Addressing atmospheric composition on all scales: from global and regional to local and urban.



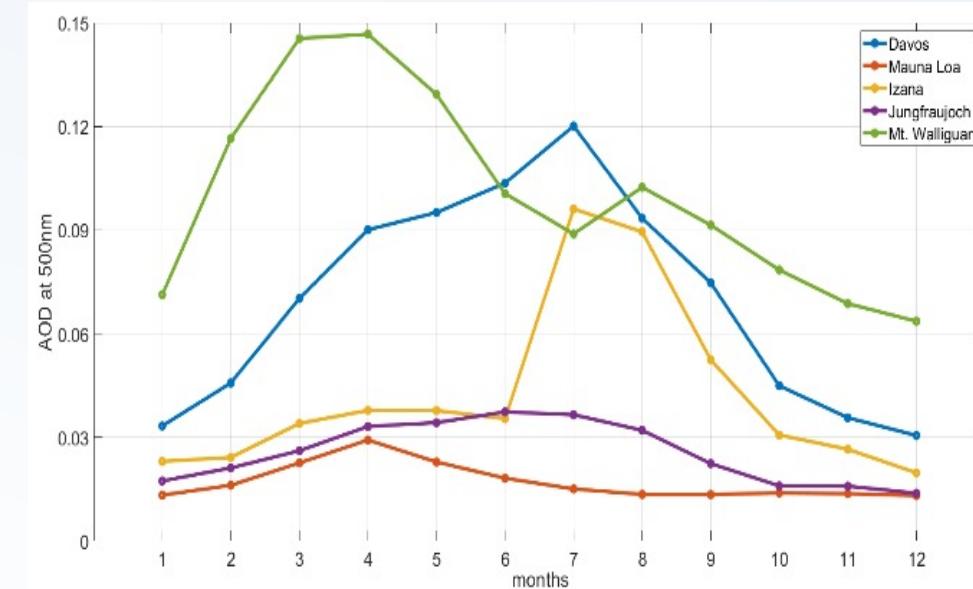
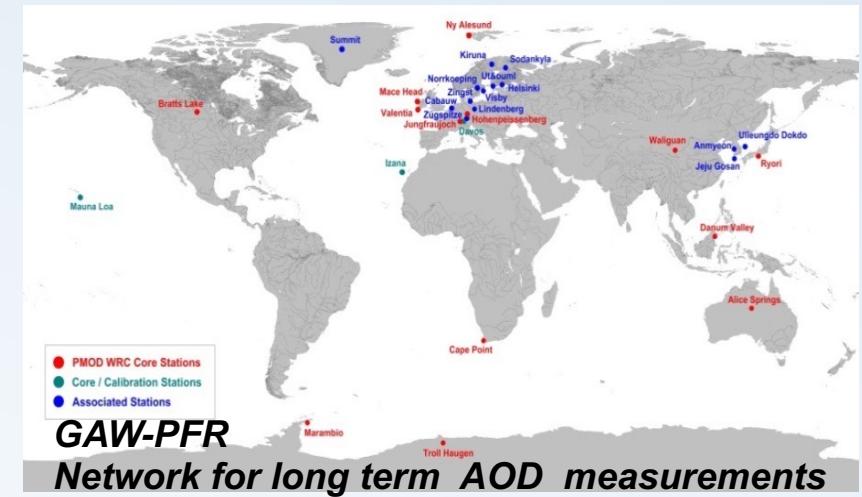
**Mauna Loa**  
(USA) -3.4Km,

**Jungfraujoch**  
(Switzerland) - 3.6Km,

**Izana** (Spain)  
-2.3Km,

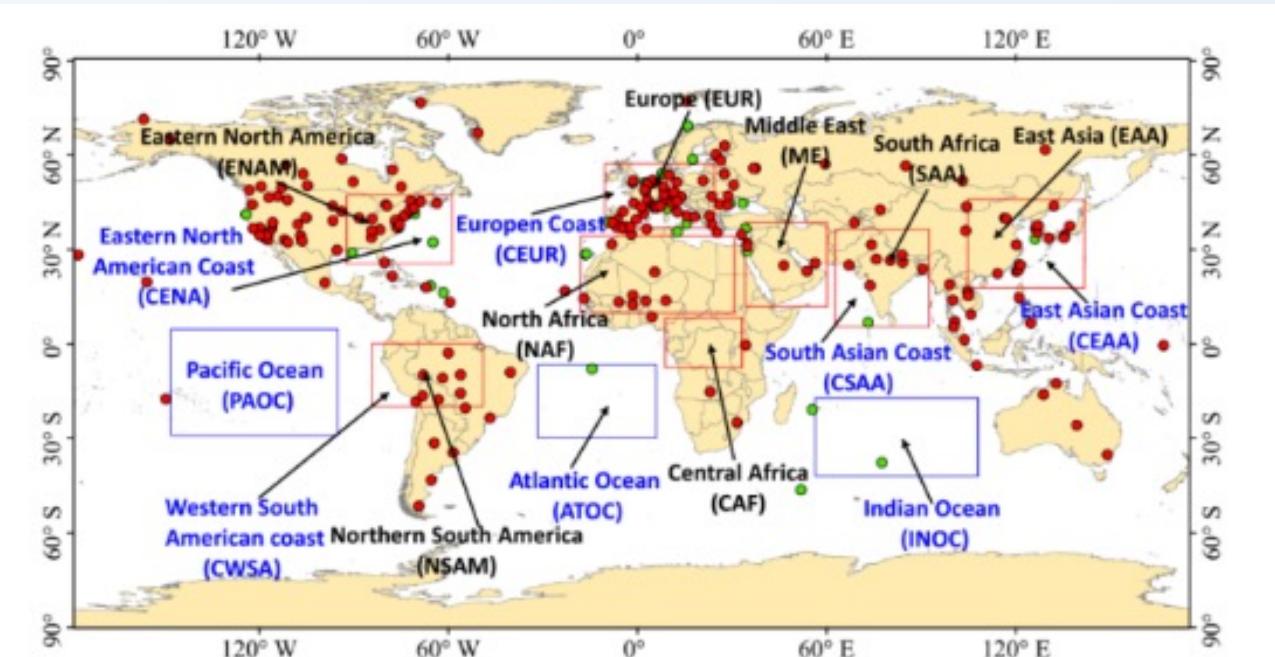
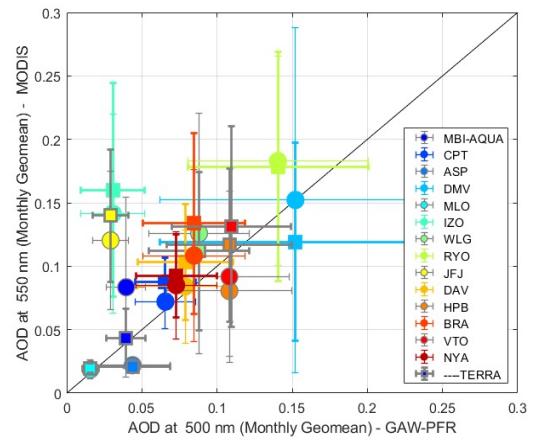
**Davos** (Switzerland)  
-1.5Km,

**Mount Walliguan** (China)  
-3.8Km

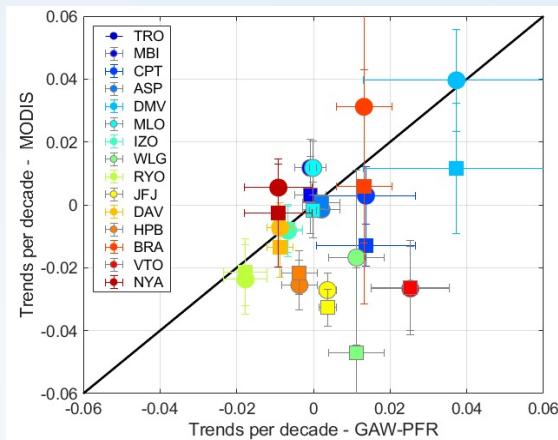


# Why do we need homogenized surface based measurements of AOD ?

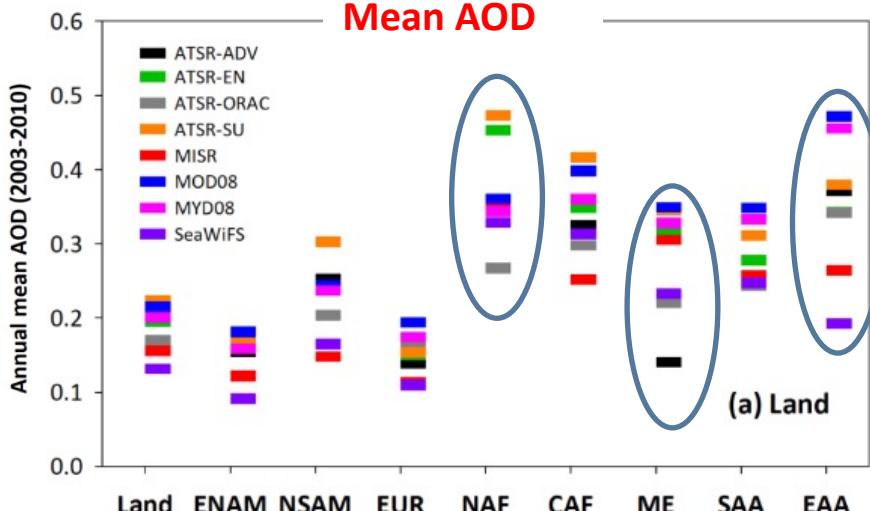
comparison



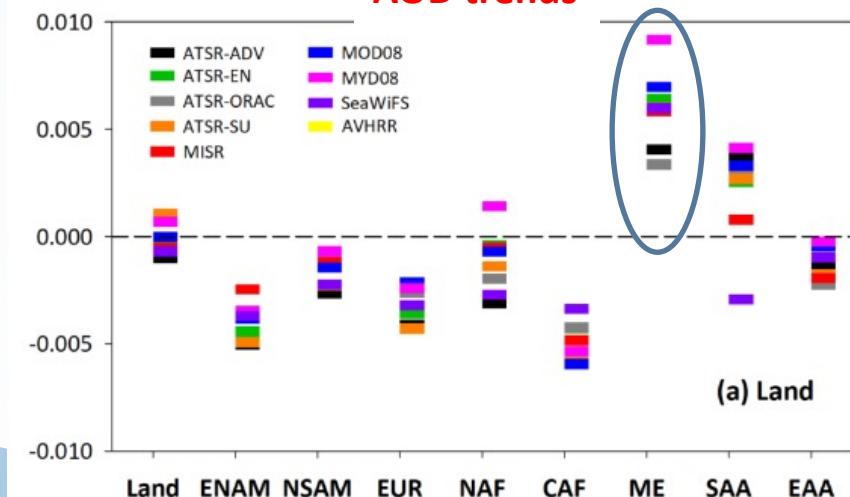
trends



Mean AOD



AOD trends



## **Summary and thoughts**

### **Homogenization activities for AOD**

**Aim:** Try to have global AOD surface based measurements with minimum uncertainties, independently of the instrument/network used.

**Harmonize:** Calibration, algorithms, input options, instrument characterization, maintenance and technical characteristics

**Organize experimental field and lab based campaigns**

**Try to link calibration of AOD with SI units related traceability**

**Carefully estimate instrument / network uncertainties**

**Find common statistical ways to correctly present AOD trends**

**Expand measurement capabilities (e.g. spectral measurements)**

# Thank you

Stelios.kazadzis@pmodwrc.ch



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# Assessment of AOD Quality

WMO Report No. 162 (2005) discusses criteria for AOD quality

Compare AODs

- an inter-comparison or co-location traceability will be established if AOD difference between networks is within specific limits
- Inter-comparisons should be long enough such that:
  - a)  $\geq 1000$  coincident AOD data points
  - b) Minimum 5 sunny days
  - c) AOD (500 nm)  $\sim 0.040 - 0.200$
- For traceability, 95% of AOD difference should lie within:  
$$U_{95} < \pm(0.005 + 0.010/\text{airmass})$$