



4DSpace



UiO

# Short-term Regional Ionosphere Imaging at Mid- and High-Latitudes: A four-Dimensional Ensemble-based Variational Approach

\*Nicholas Ssessanga<sup>1</sup>, Miloch Wojciech Jacek<sup>1</sup>, Daria Kotova<sup>1</sup> and Yaqi Jin<sup>1</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup>4DSpace, Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Blindern, N-0316 Oslo, Norway

E-mail: [nikizxx@gmail.com](mailto:nikizxx@gmail.com)\*/ [nicholas.ssessanga@fys.uio.no](mailto:nicholas.ssessanga@fys.uio.no)



## Ionosphere Observations



## DATA ASSIMILATION TECHNIQUE

- **Goal: Resolve time-evolving structures in 3D**
- **Observations are irregular in Space and Time**

← Model (Prior)

## Data

- **Ground GNSS data**
- Radio occultation Data

Base - Starting point!

- ISR data
- Ionosonde data

- To avoid averaging ionospheric dynamics use  
**4D-Variational (Var) techniques**  
4D => Spatial (3D) and Time

**Incremental Strong constraint 4D Var approach (SC4DVar-INC)**

**Strong constraint 4D-Ensemble Var approach (SC4DEnVar)**

# DATA ASSIMILATION TECHNIQUE

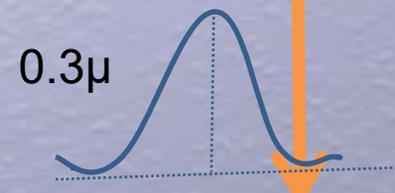
Intialize from IRI-2016

**Strong constraint 4D-Ensemble Var approach (SC4DEnVar)**

**Sensitivities**

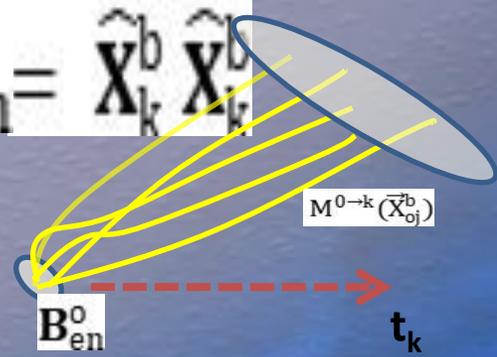
$$\tilde{\mathbf{M}}_k \times \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{X}}_k}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{I}}_k = \frac{\partial h_k}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{X}}_k}$$

Use Ensembles: Perturb IRI inputs  
e.g: Rz12, IG12, F10.7 daily, hmF2, Kp :- 30 Members

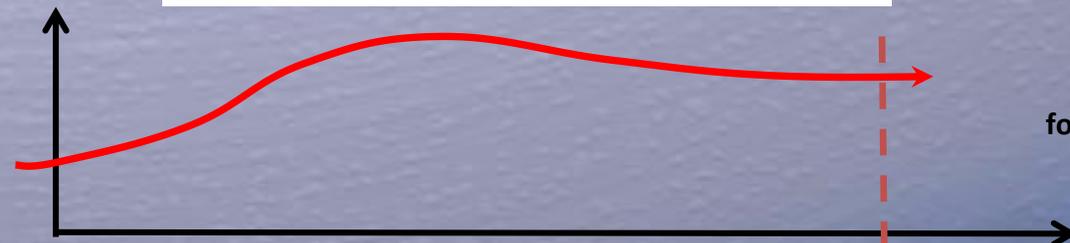


$$\vec{\bar{X}}_{k+1} = \vec{\bar{X}}_b^{k+1} + (\vec{\bar{X}}_k - \vec{\bar{X}}_b^k) * \exp(-dT/\tau)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{en}^k = \hat{\mathbf{X}}_k^b \hat{\mathbf{X}}_k^b$$



3D

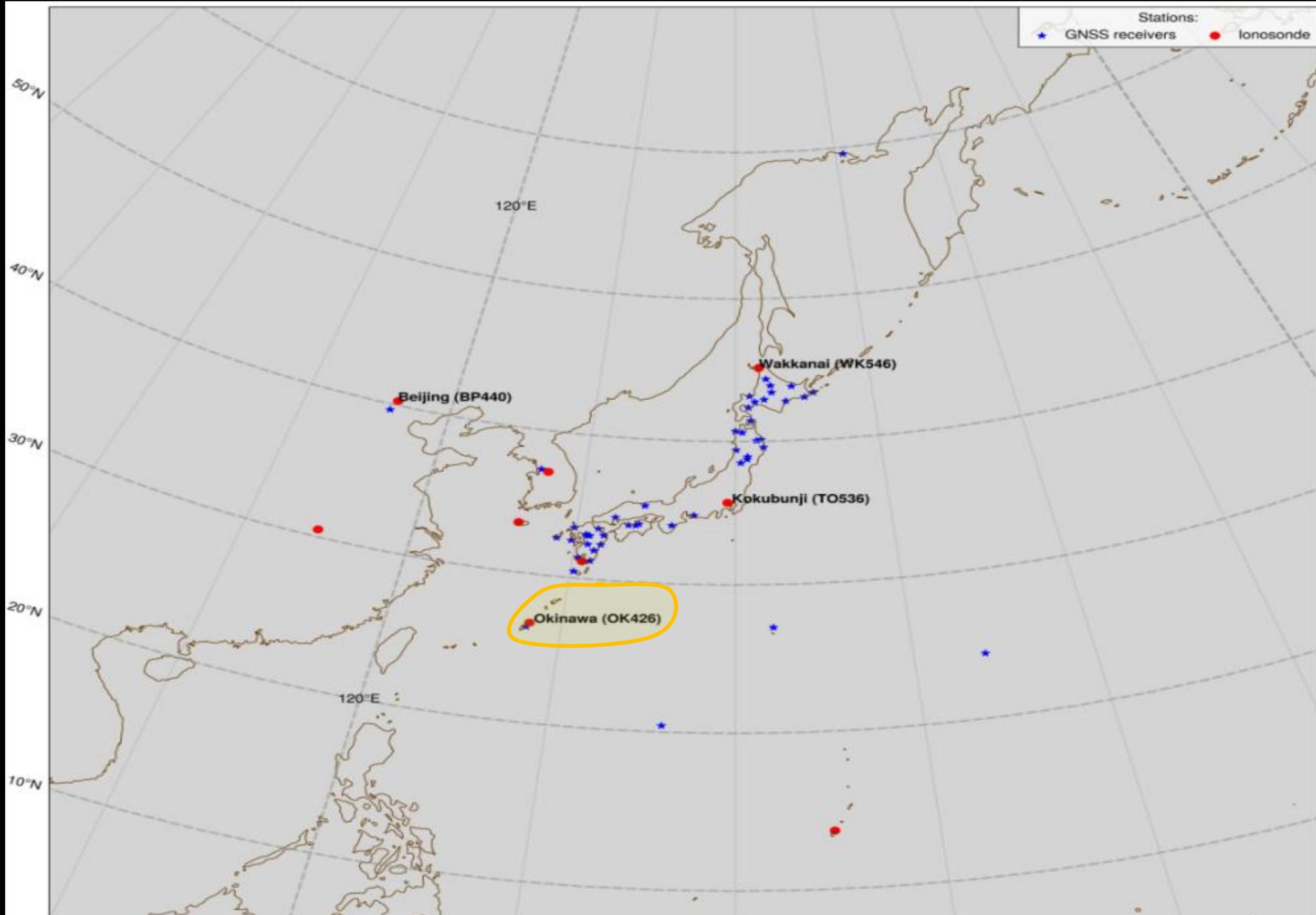


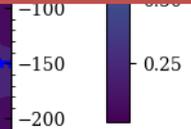
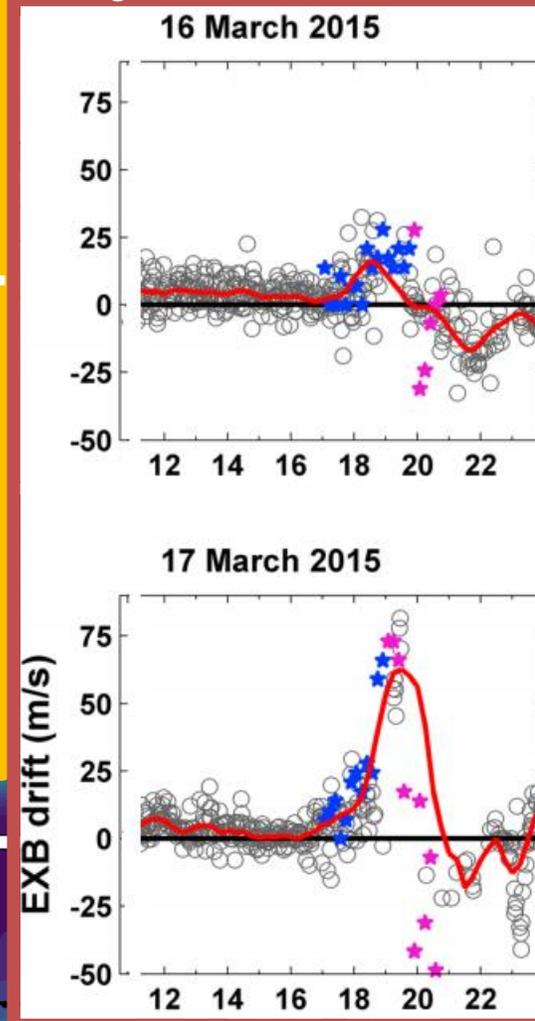
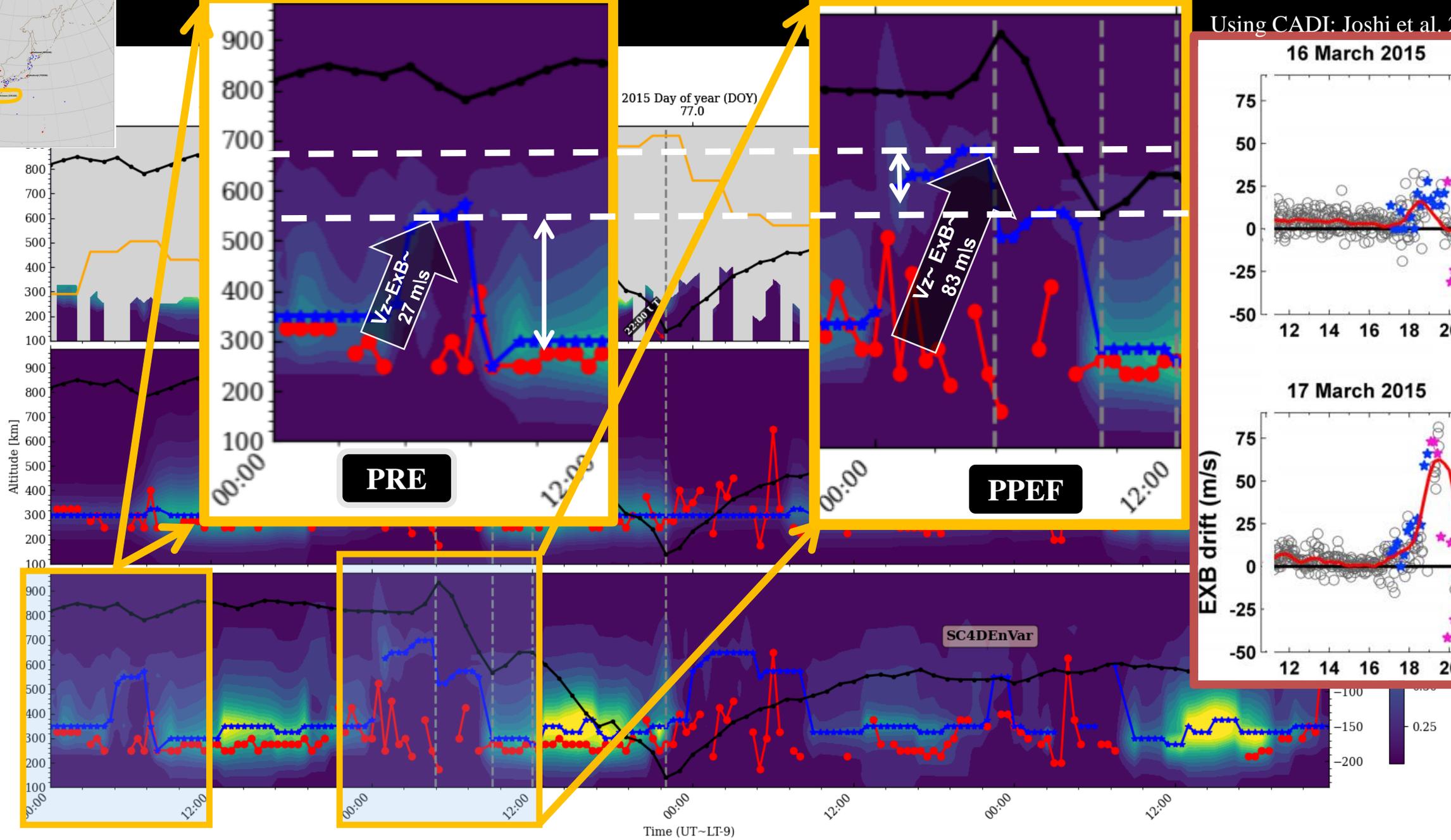
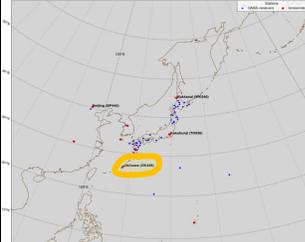
Assimilation window (30min)

# Real Observations (Mid-Low Latitudes)

St. Patrick's Day 2015 Geomagnetic Storm

## IONOSONDE COMPARISON





## Summary: SC4DVar-INC Vs. **SC4DEnVar**

Comparison factor	SC4DVar-INC	SC4DEnVar
Height Variation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Density estimation: Areas populated with data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Remote Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
During chaotic conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Integration through the 3D structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Computation expense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintainance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parallelization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under-sampling and rank deficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

\*This makes **SC4DEnVar** a favourable candidate for real-time applications and remote areas

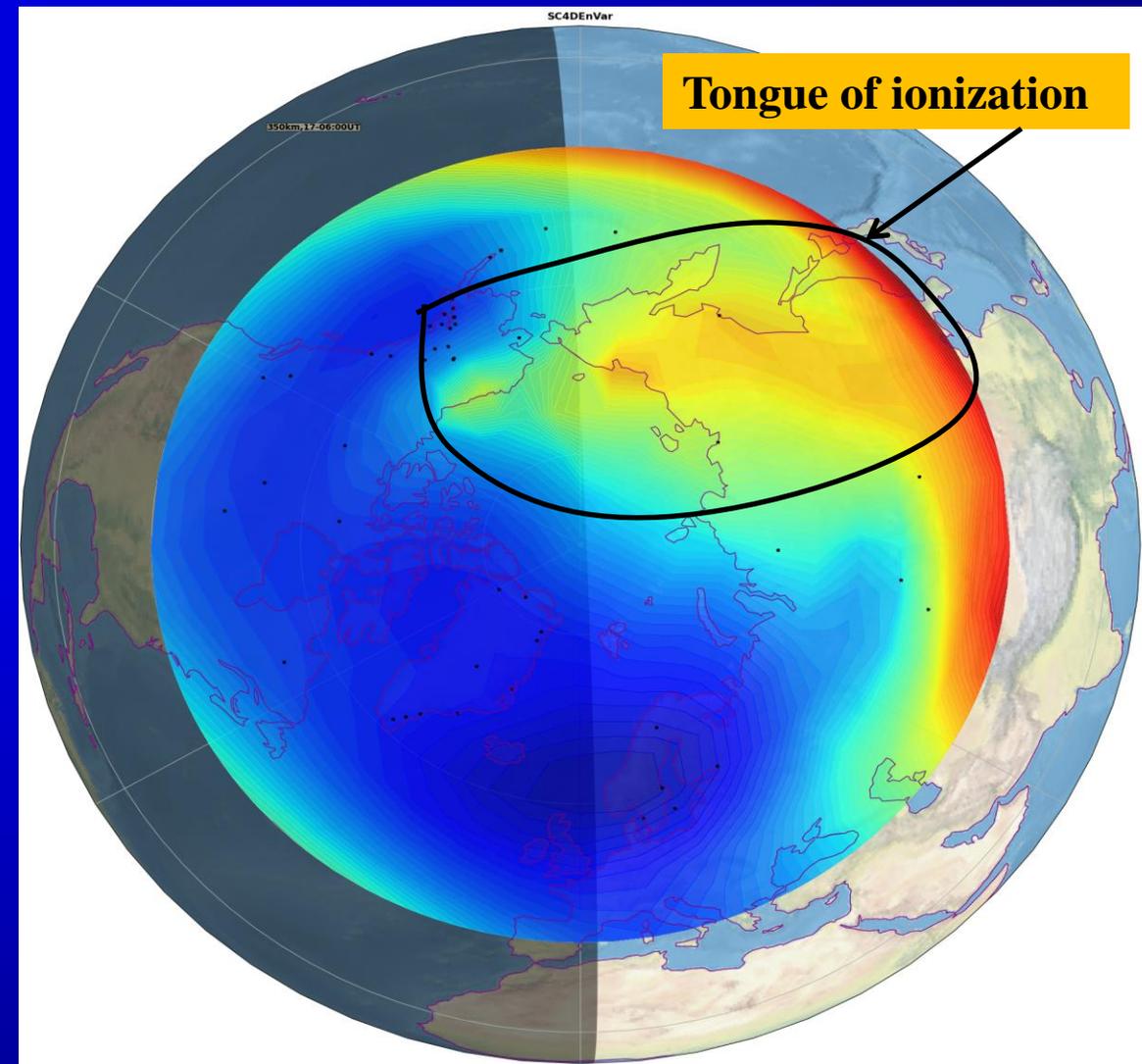
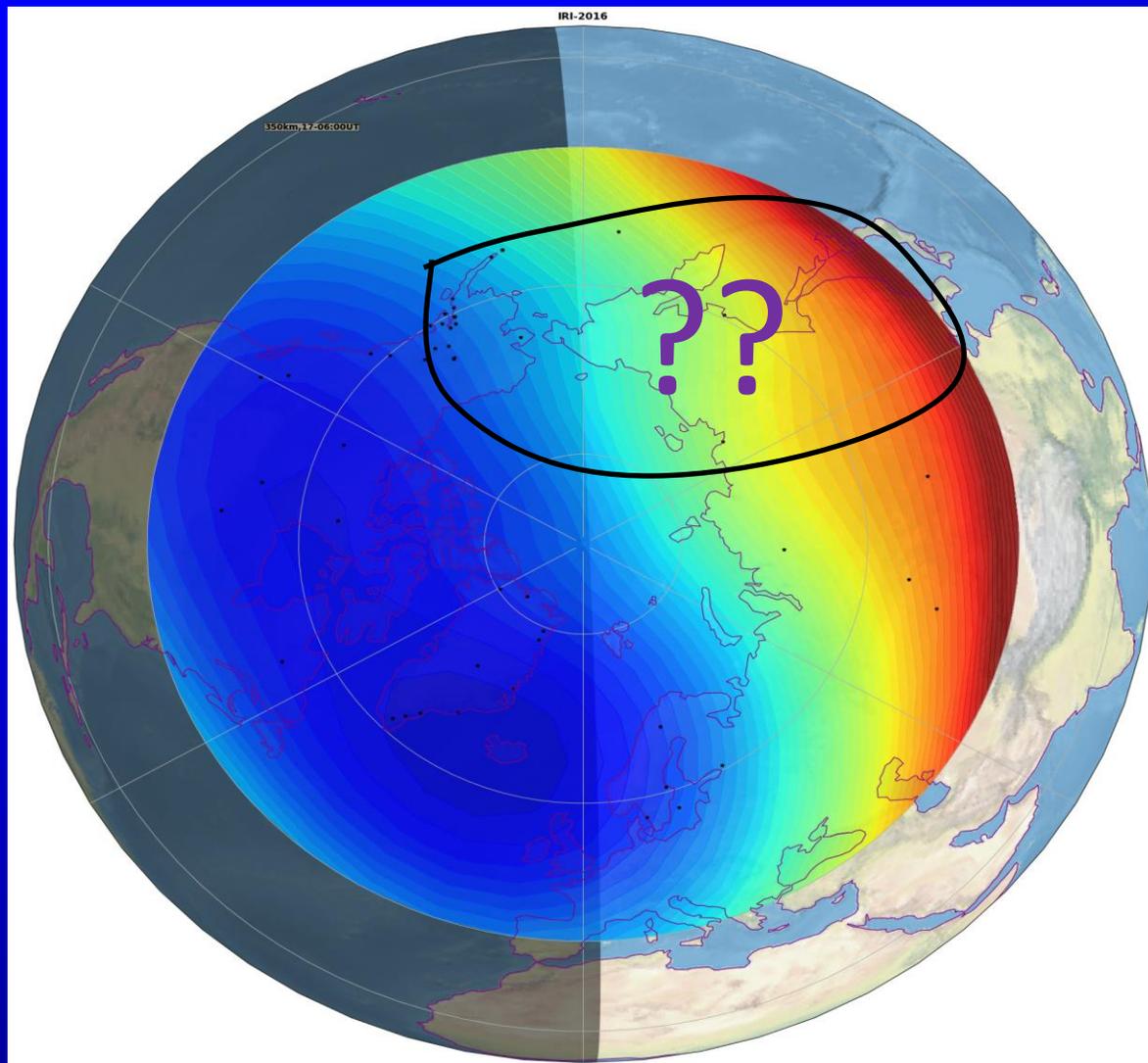
## **FINAL TARGET :-**

**Transfer the technical know-how to  
High Latitudes  
and track 4D Evolution of Polar cap Structures**

Slice at Altitude: 350km

Background (IRI-2016): 2015-03-17

SC4DnVar: 2015-03-17



$10^{11} \times \text{el}/\text{m}^3$



## SWARM Satellites (A, B) in situ electron densities

*Impact*

$$= \left( \frac{\text{IRI2016_squared deviations} - \text{SC4DEnVar_squared deviations}}{\text{IRI2016_squared deviations}} \right)$$



Negative impact



Positive impact



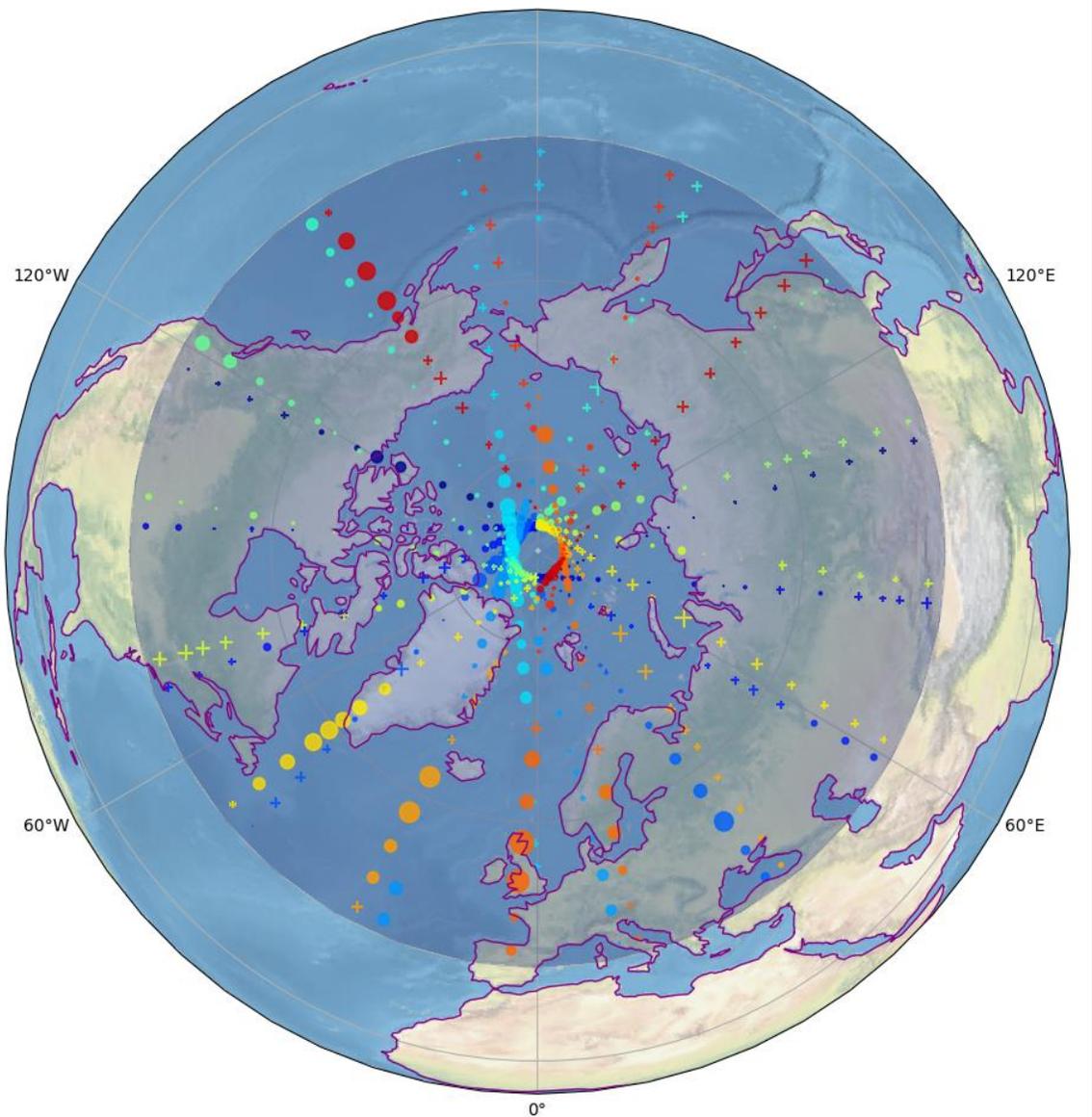
Negative impact



Positive impact

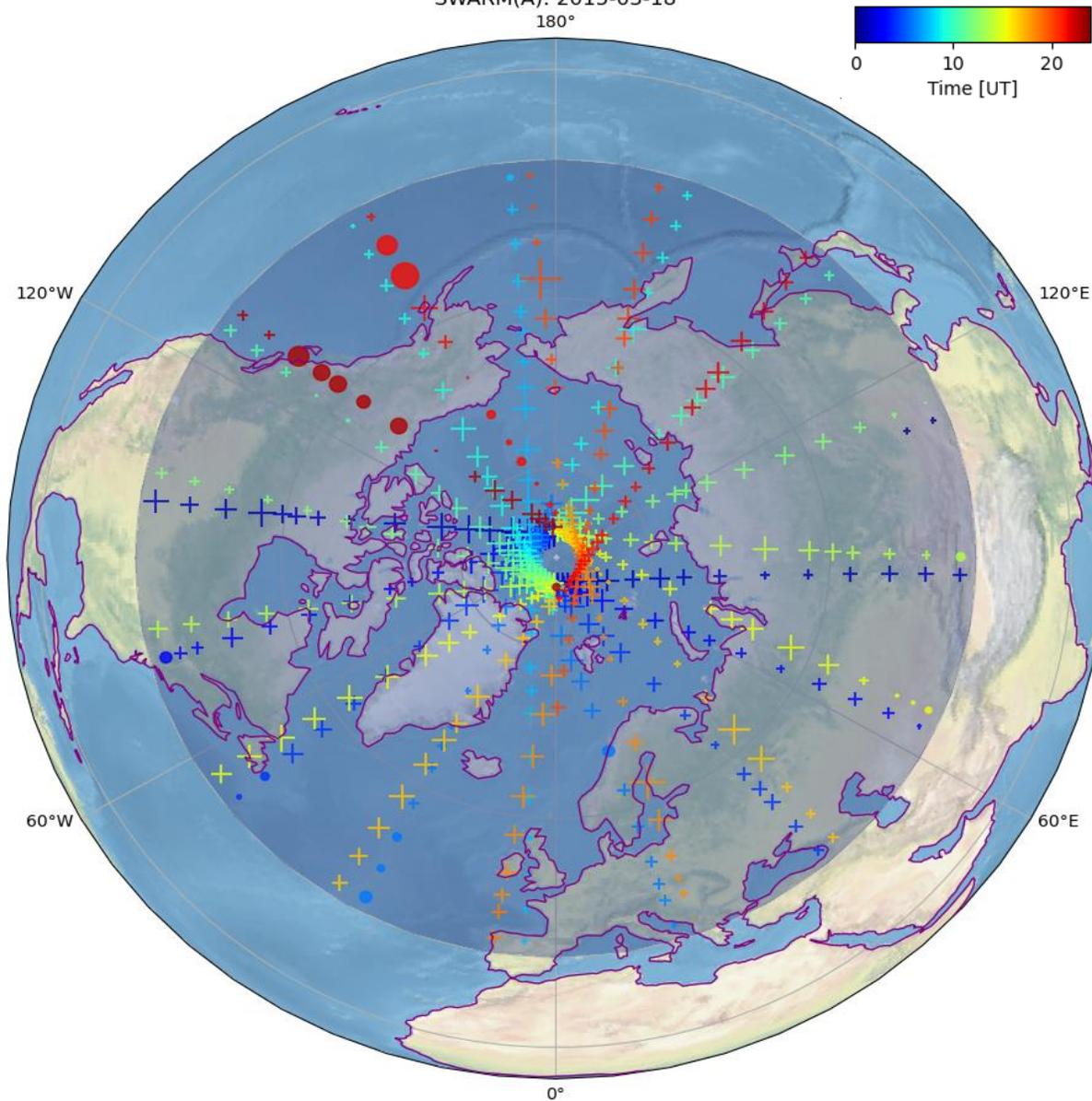
### Quiet Period: 2015-03-14

SWARM(A): 2015-03-14  
180°

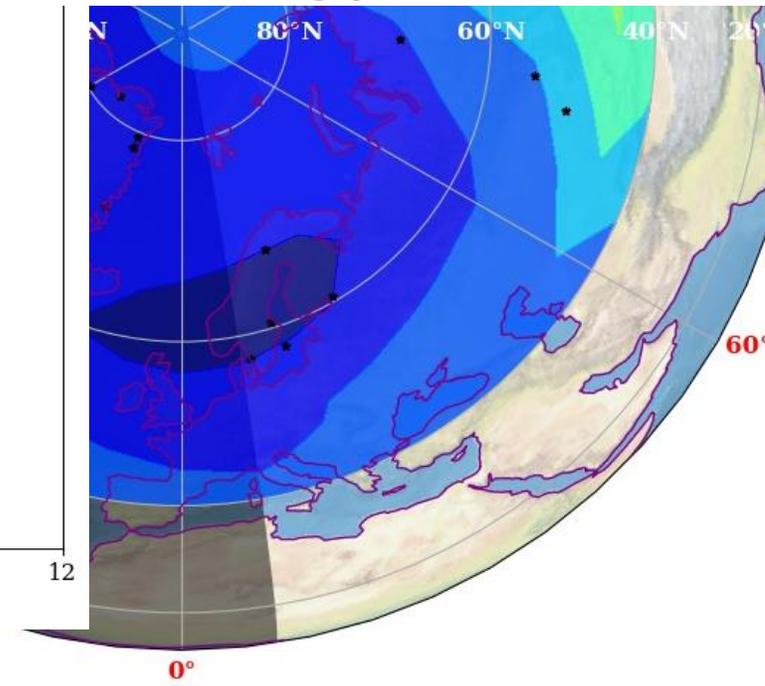
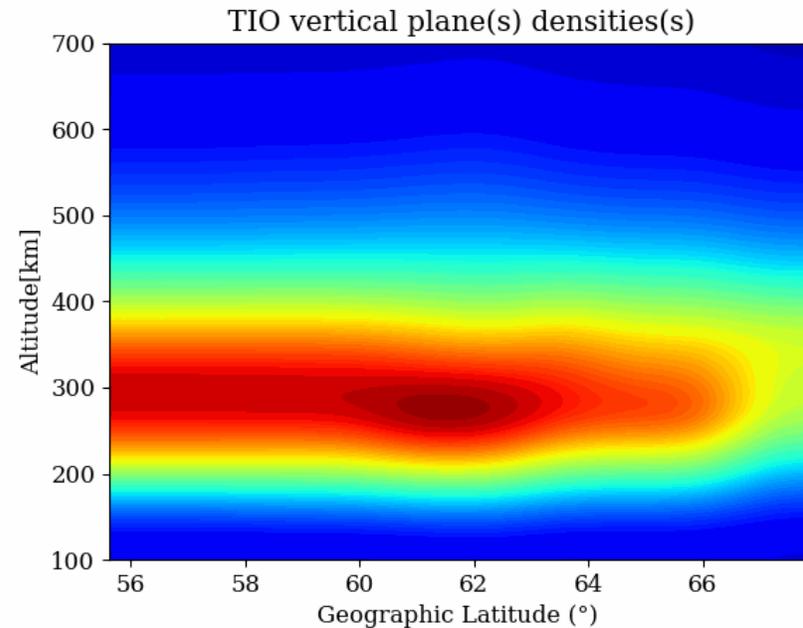
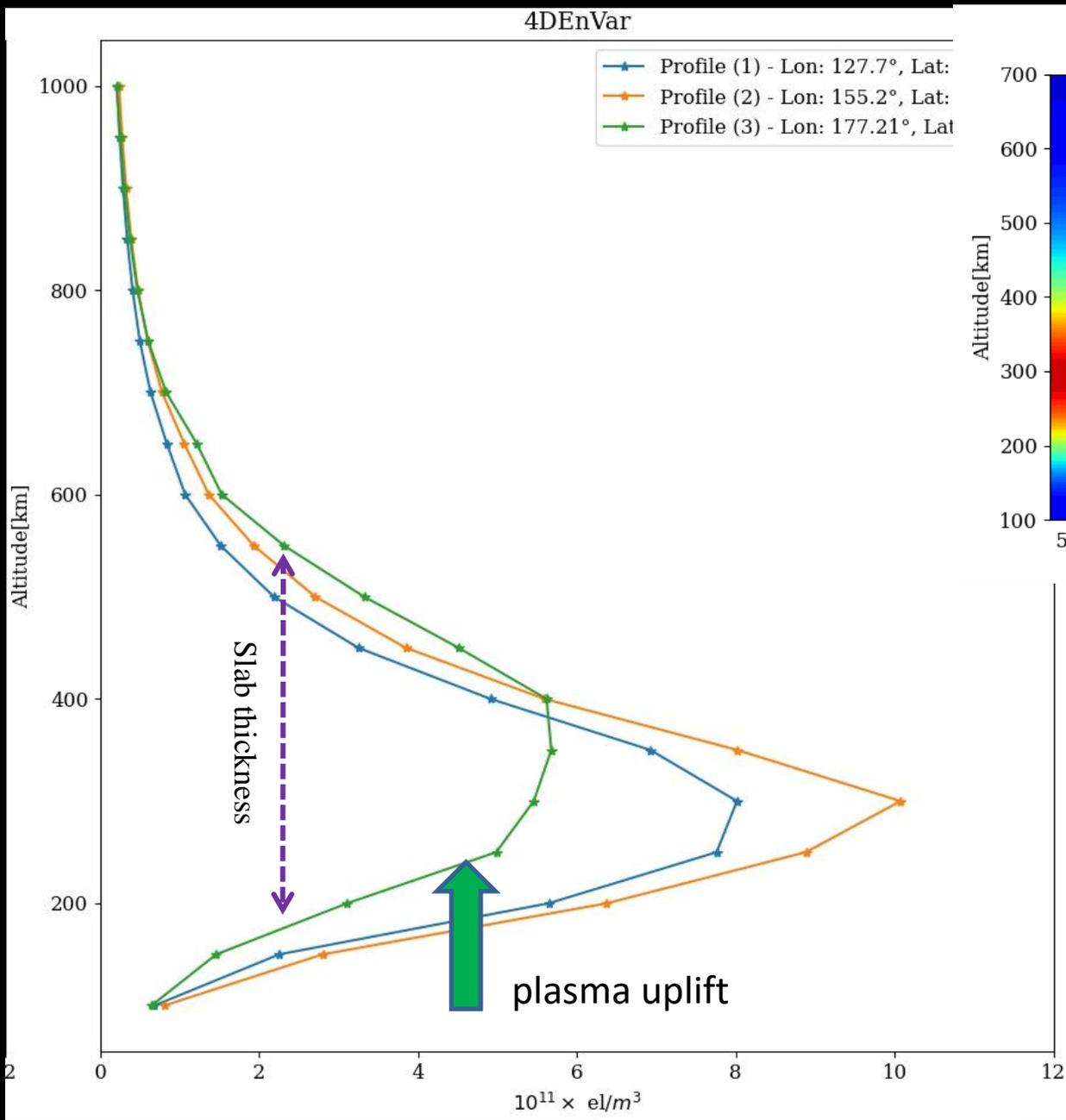
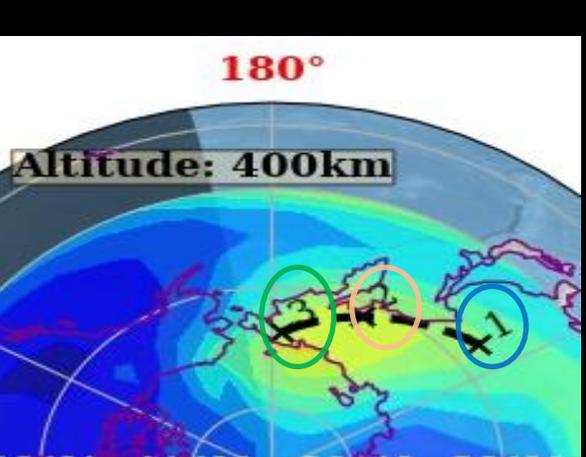
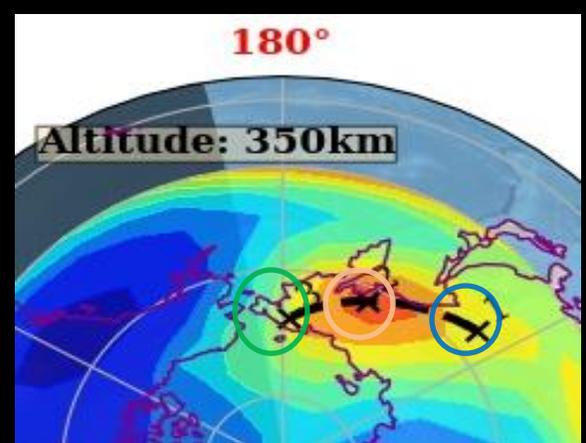
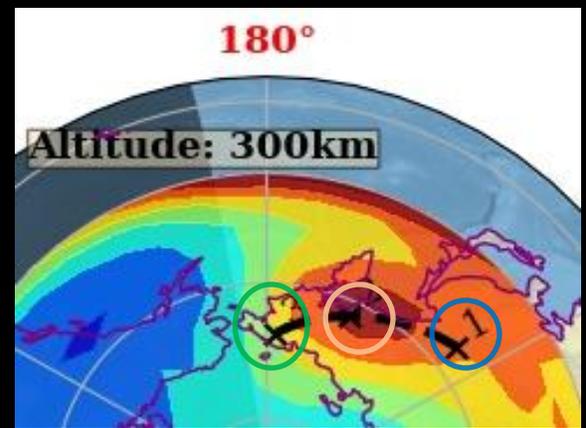


### Storm Period: 2015-03-18

SWARM(A): 2015-03-18  
180°



**Slice at different altitudes: 300km, 350km, 400km and 450km**



# New-Additions

- Revised - prognostic model to add some physics (ExB drift)

$$\vec{X}_{k+1} = \vec{X}_b^{k+1} + (\vec{X}_k - \vec{X}_b^k) * \exp(-dT/\tau) \quad + \quad \frac{dN}{dt} = P - L - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (N\vec{v}_{||}) - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (N\vec{v}_{\perp})$$

*Assumptions  
(30 minutes window):*

$$P - L \approx 0$$

$$-\vec{\nabla} \cdot (N\vec{v}_{||}) \approx 0$$

*Perpendicular contribution*  
 $= -\vec{v}_{\perp} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} N) - (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v}_{\perp}) N$

Here:  
 $X_k = N$

# New-Additions

- Revised - prognostic model to add some physics (EXB drift)

$$\vec{X}_{k+1} = \vec{X}_b^{k+1} + (\vec{X}_k - \vec{X}_b^k) * \exp(-dT/\tau) \quad + \quad \frac{dN}{dt} = P + L - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (N\vec{v}_{||}) - \vec{\nabla} \cdot (N\vec{v}_{\perp})$$

*Perpendicular contribution*

$$= -\vec{v}_{\perp} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} N) - (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v}_{\perp}) N$$

Assuming a dipole field in spherical (r,θ,φ):

(Bittencourt et al, 2007; Datta-Barua et al, 2009)

$$\vec{v}_{\perp}$$

$$= v_{exb} \cos I \hat{r} - v_{exb} \sin I \hat{\theta} + v_{\phi} \hat{\phi}$$

❖ field lines are assumed nearly vertical

- Altitudes 100 ~ 1000 km
- Latitude 50 ~ 90 degrees Northern hemisphere

**Where:**

$$X_k = N$$

$$X_{k+1} = m(X_k, \alpha_o)$$

$$\alpha_o = v_{exb}, v_{\phi}$$

$$x_0 = x_0^f + C_{x_0, \lambda_0} \lambda_0,$$

$$\theta = \theta^f + C_{\theta \theta} \sum_{k=0}^K M_{\theta, k}^T \lambda_{k+1}$$

$$x_{k+1} = m(x_k, \theta),$$

# New-Additions

- Use strong-constraint-Lagrange 4DVar to estimate  $v_{exb}$

## Error Covariances (B)

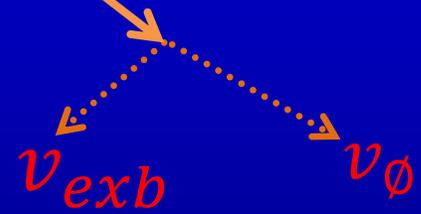
For densities  $--> B_{X_0}$

For  $v_{exb}$  and  $v_\phi$   $--> B_\alpha$

$$X_0 = X_b + B_{X_0} \lambda_0$$

$$\alpha_0 = \alpha_b + B_{\alpha_0} \sum_{k=0}^k M_{\alpha, k}^T \lambda_{k+1}$$

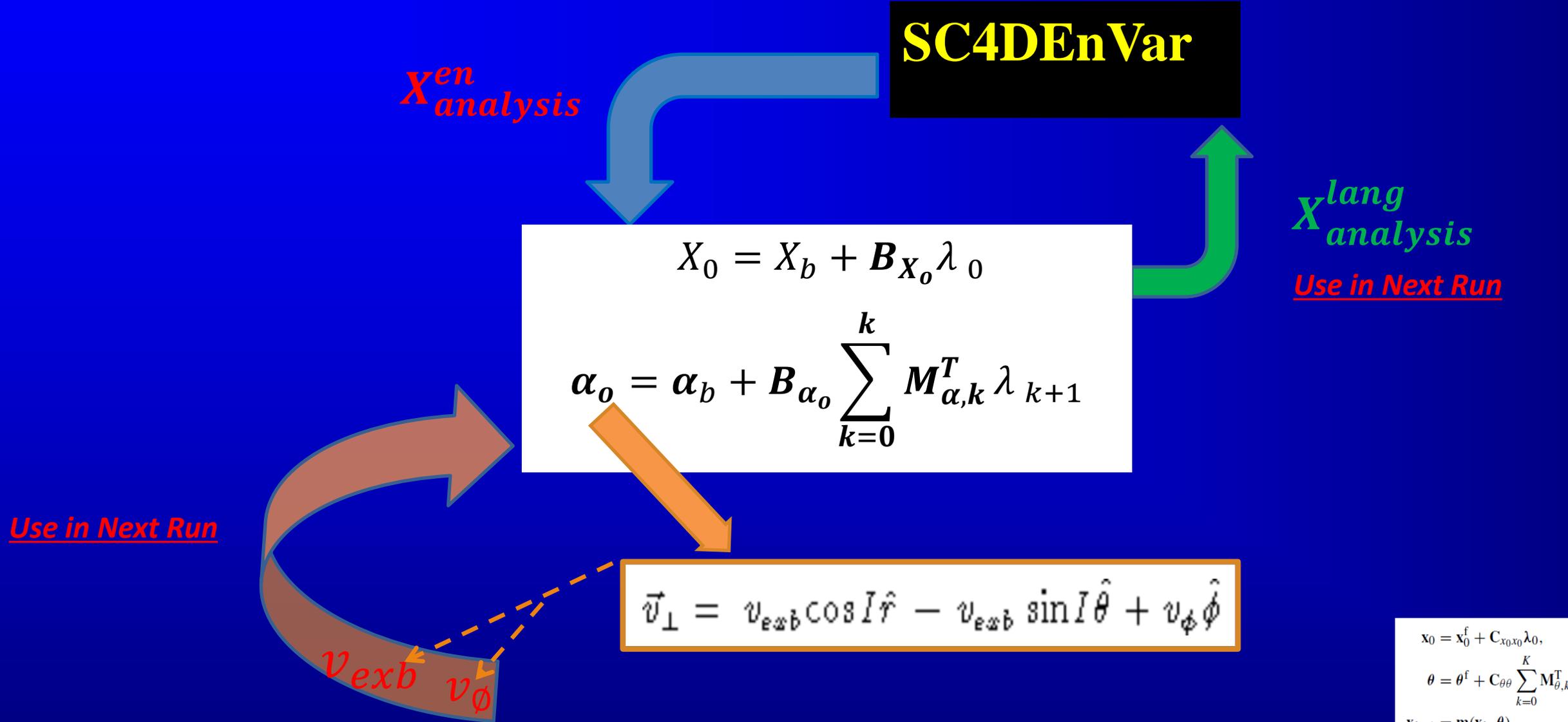
Ground GNSS  
STEC



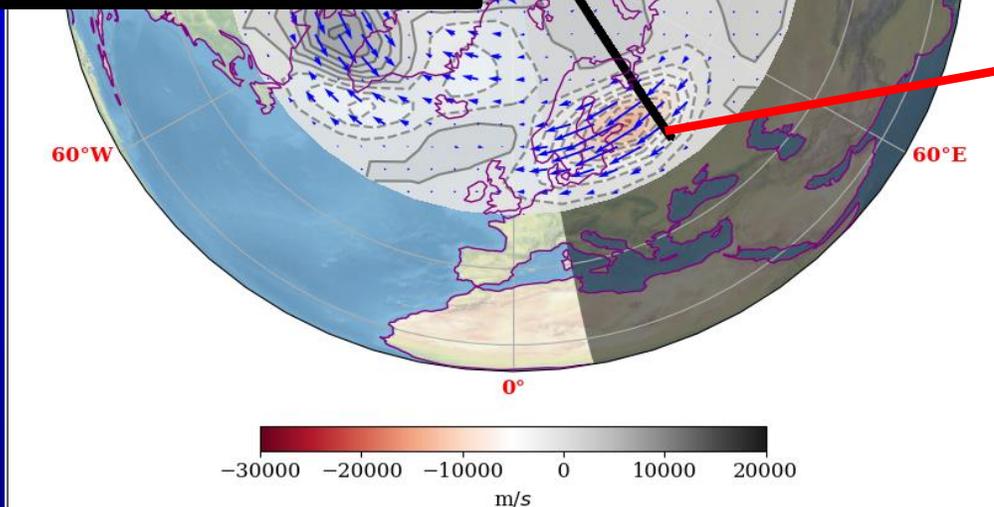
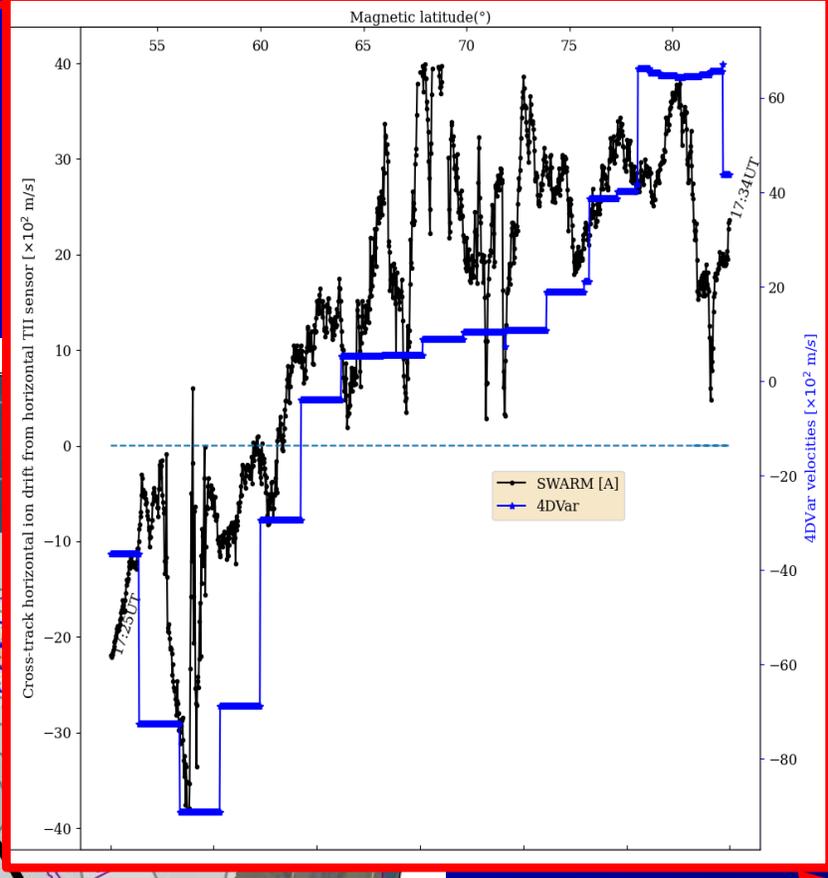
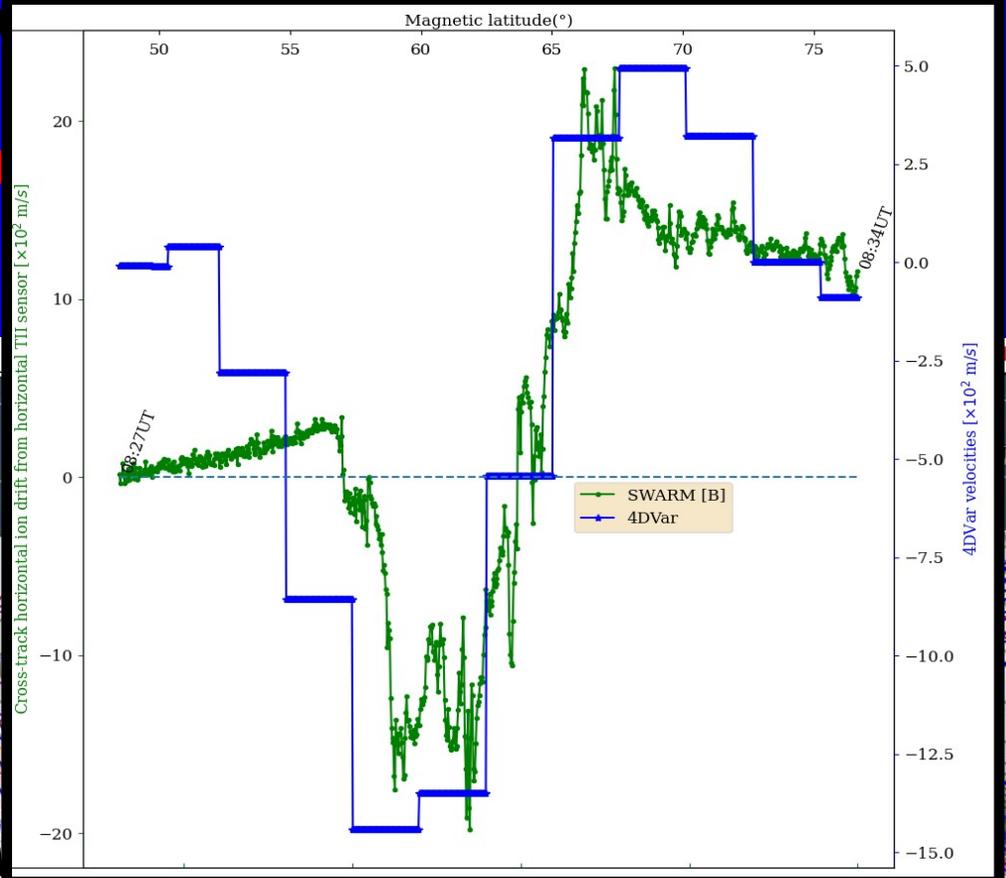
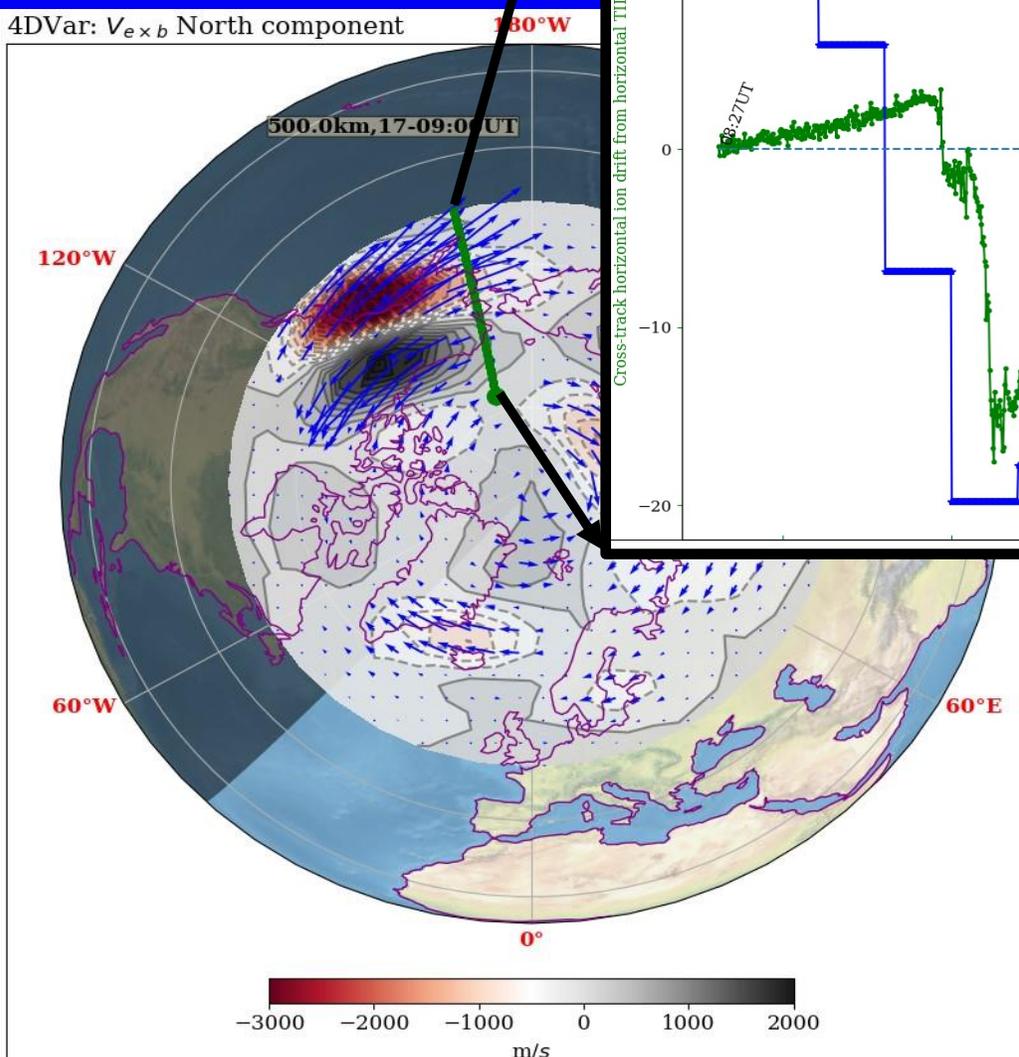
$$\vec{v}_\perp = v_{exb} \cos I \hat{r} - v_{exb} \sin I \hat{\theta} + v_\phi \hat{\phi}$$

# New-Additions

- Use strong-constraint-Lagrange 4DVar to estimate  $v_{exb}$



# New-Addition



# RO density Profiles (COSMIC)

# ASSIMILATING OTHER DATA TYPES:

Ground GNSS  
STEC

Ionosonde data  
(densities)

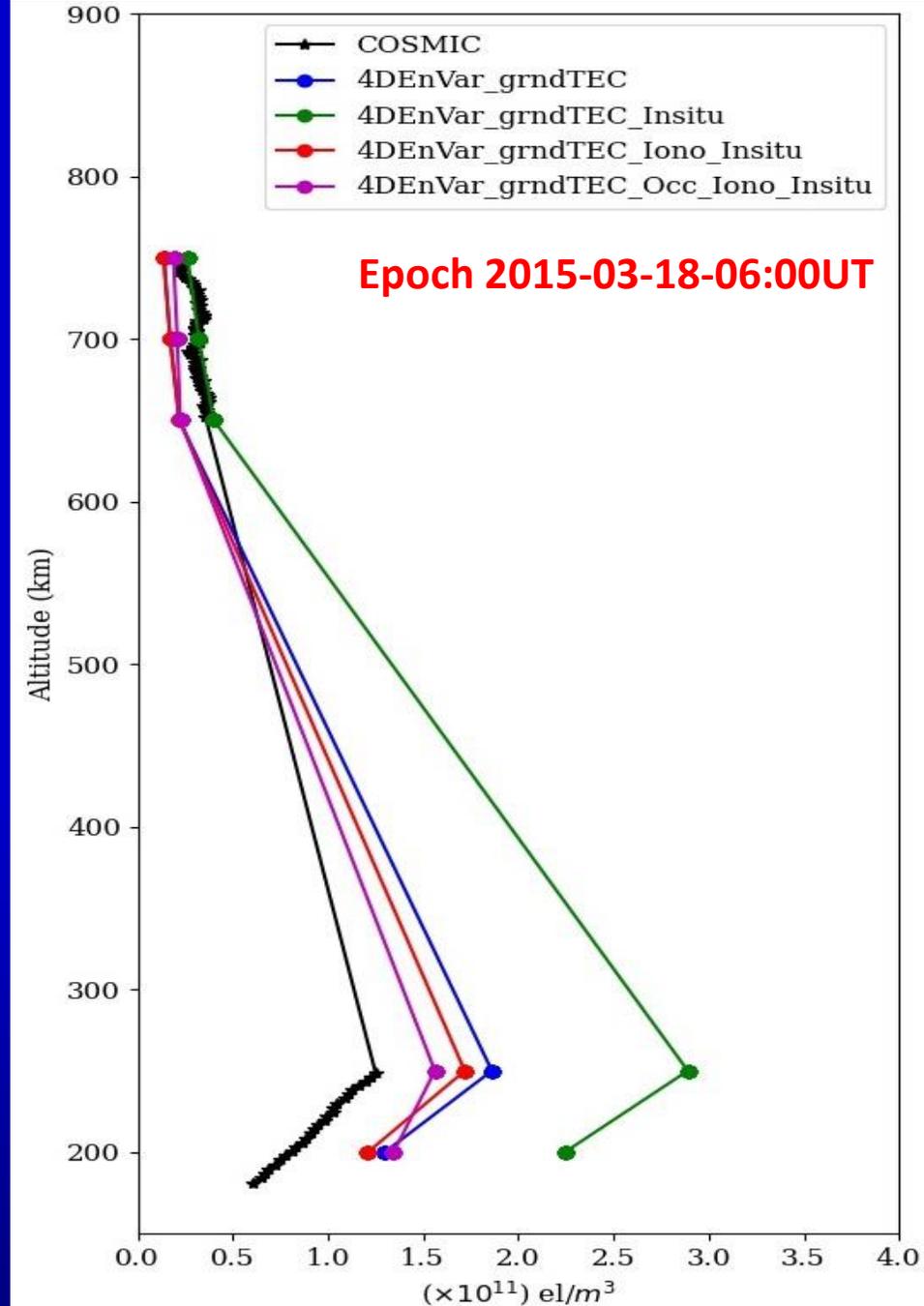
**Strong constraint 4D-  
Ensemble Var approach  
(SC4DEnVar)**

In situ densities  
(Swarm)

Radio occultation  
STEC (OCC)

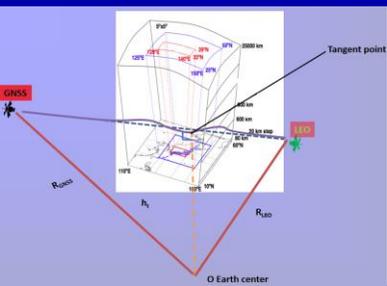


# RO electron density profile(s)



RO - COSMIC Vs SC4DEnVar

Focus is on the Tangent point in Volume

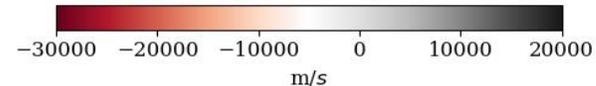
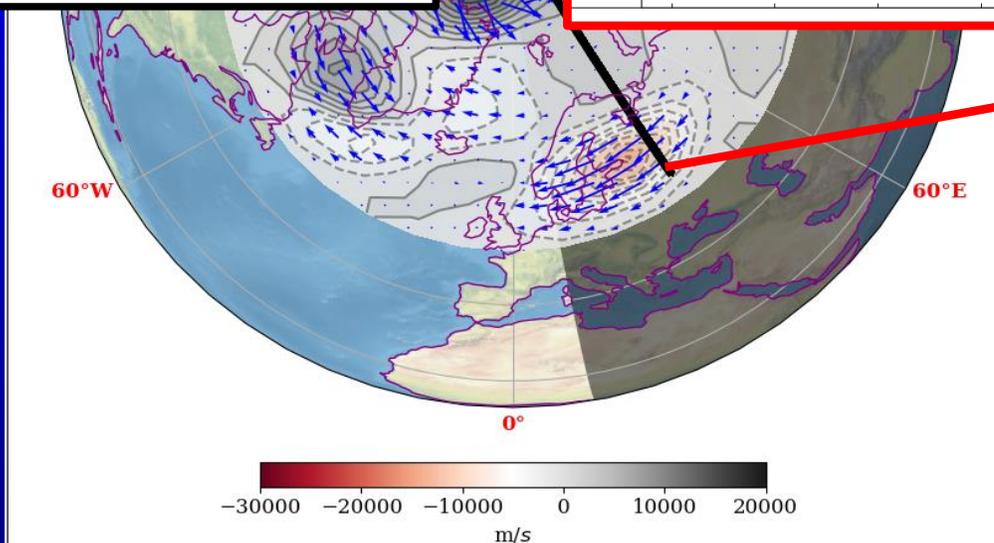
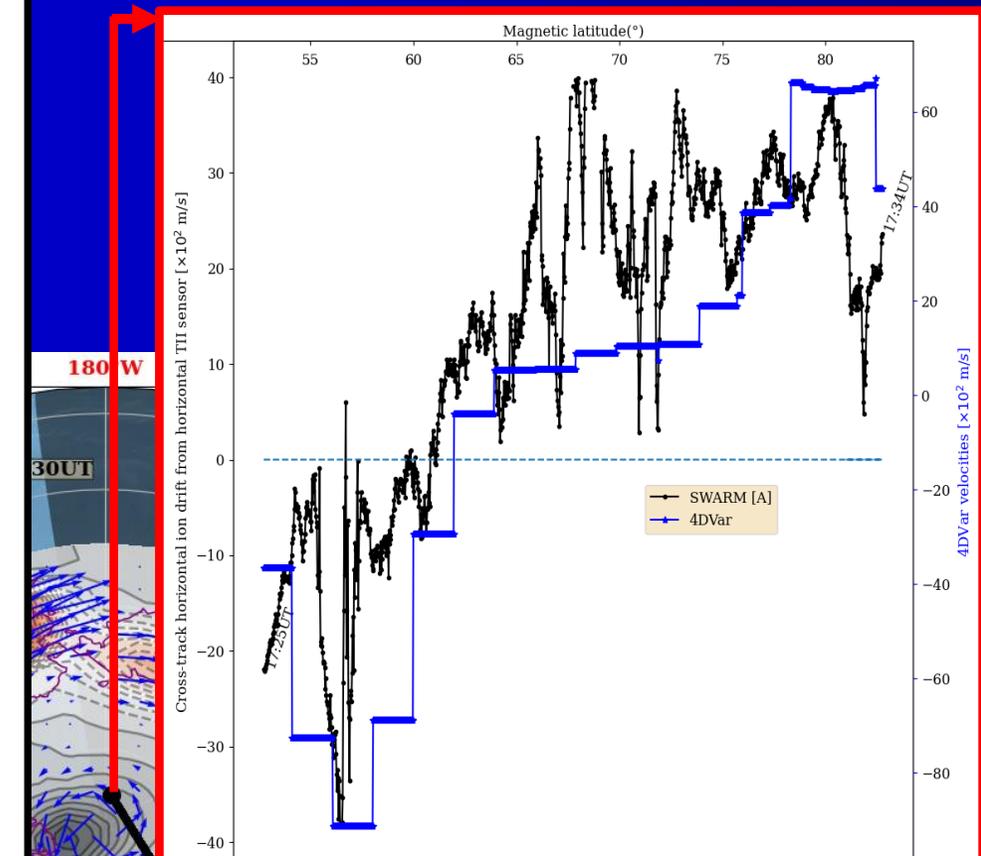
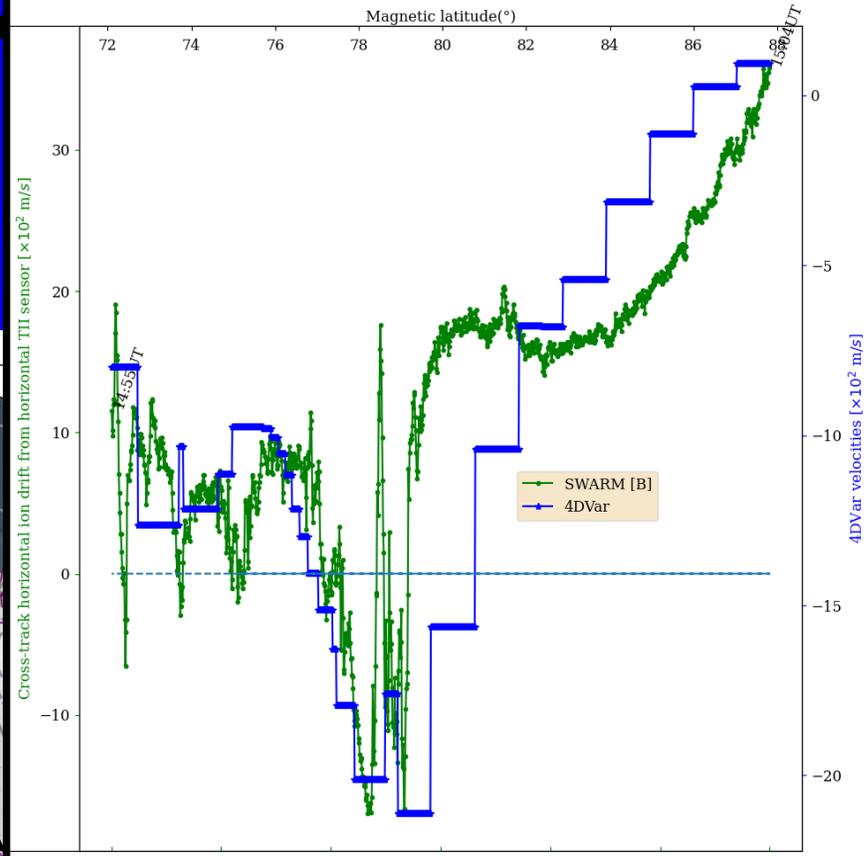
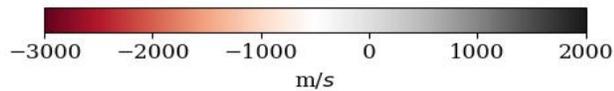
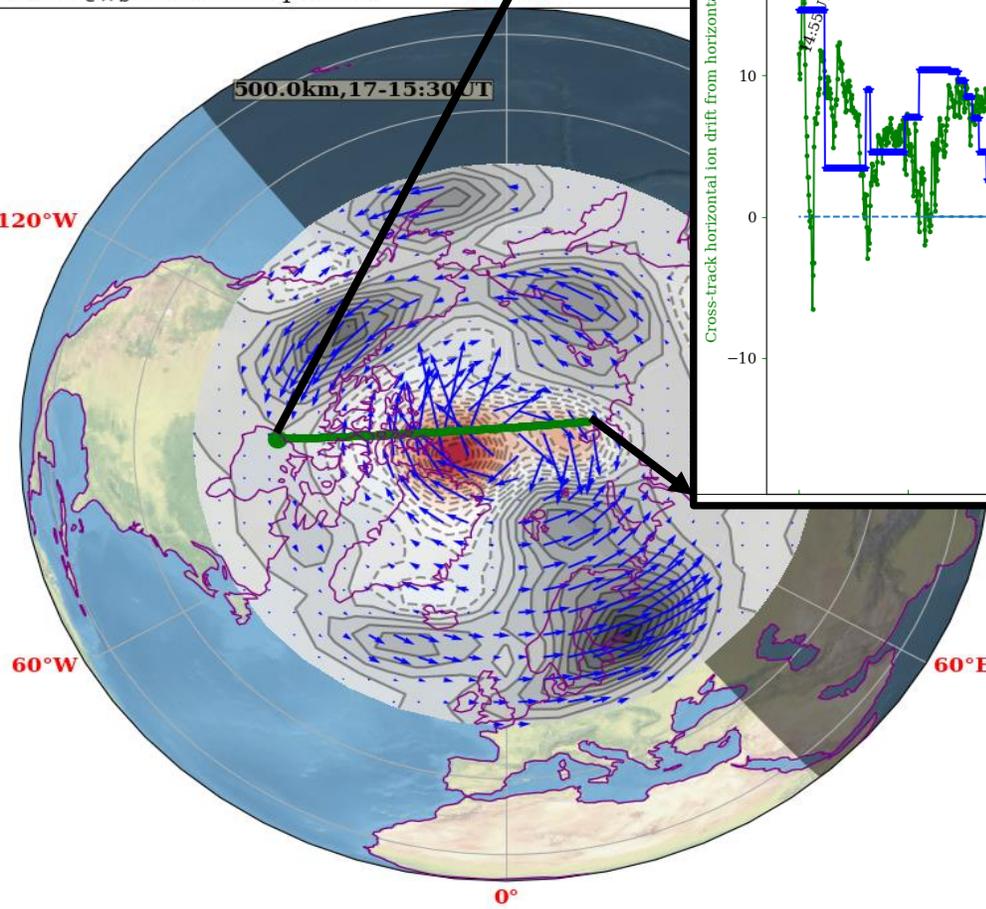


**Thank You!**

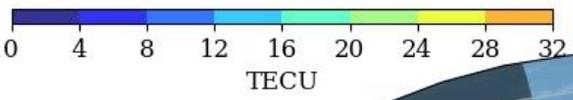
# New-Addition

Var:  $V_{e \times b}$  North component

180°W

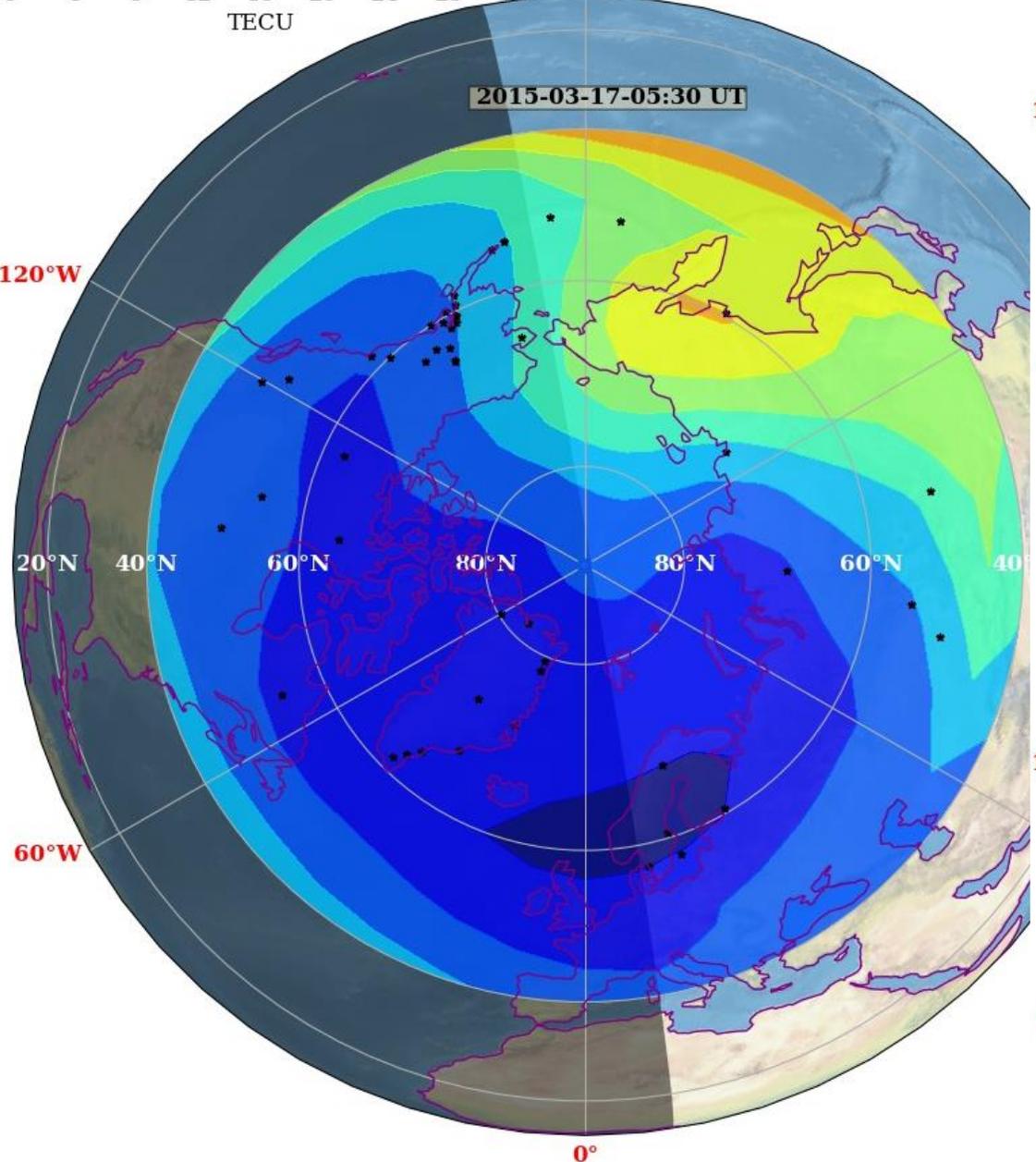


# Slice at different altitudes: 300km, 350km, 400km and 450km



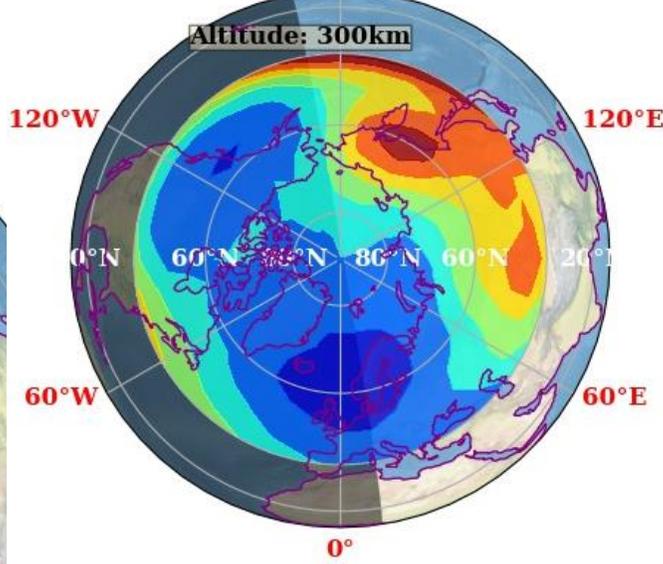
180°

2015-03-17-05:30 UT



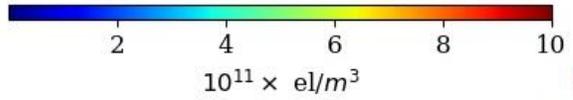
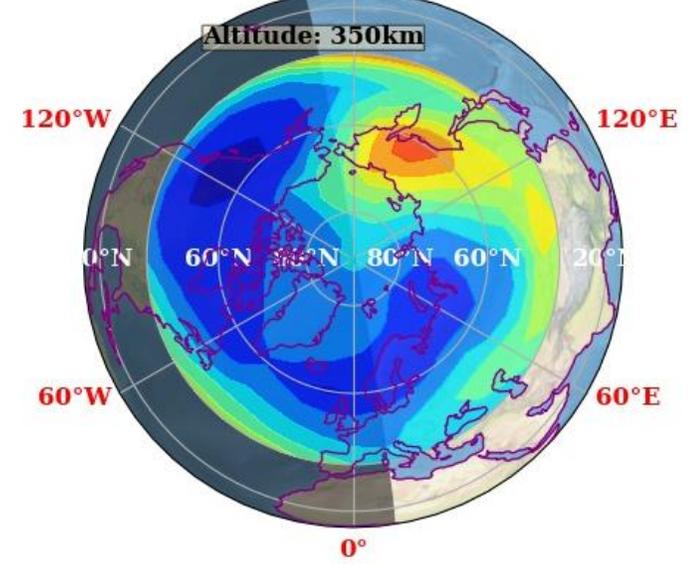
180°

Altitude: 300km



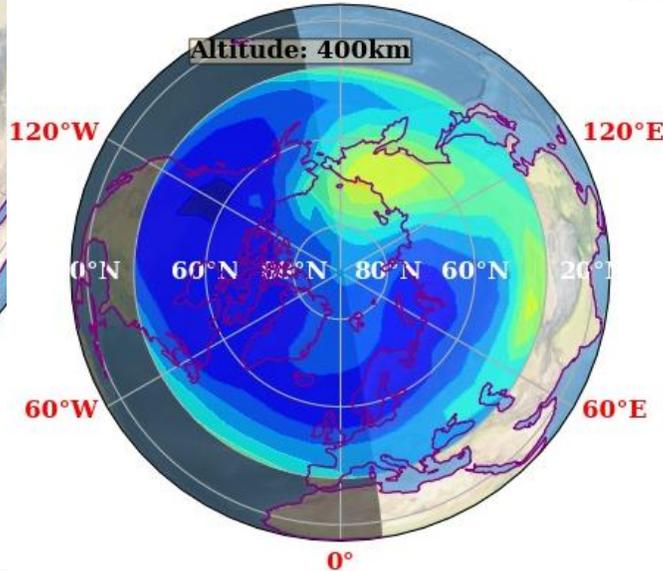
180°

Altitude: 350km



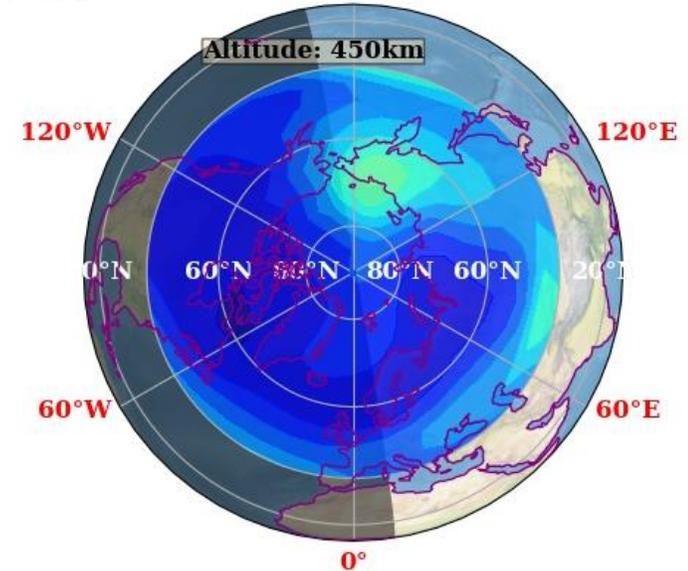
180°

Altitude: 400km

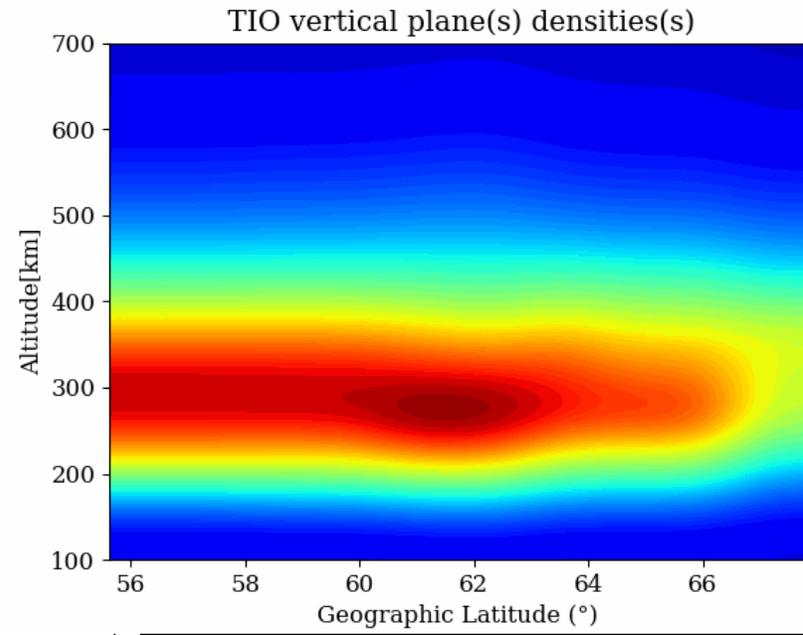
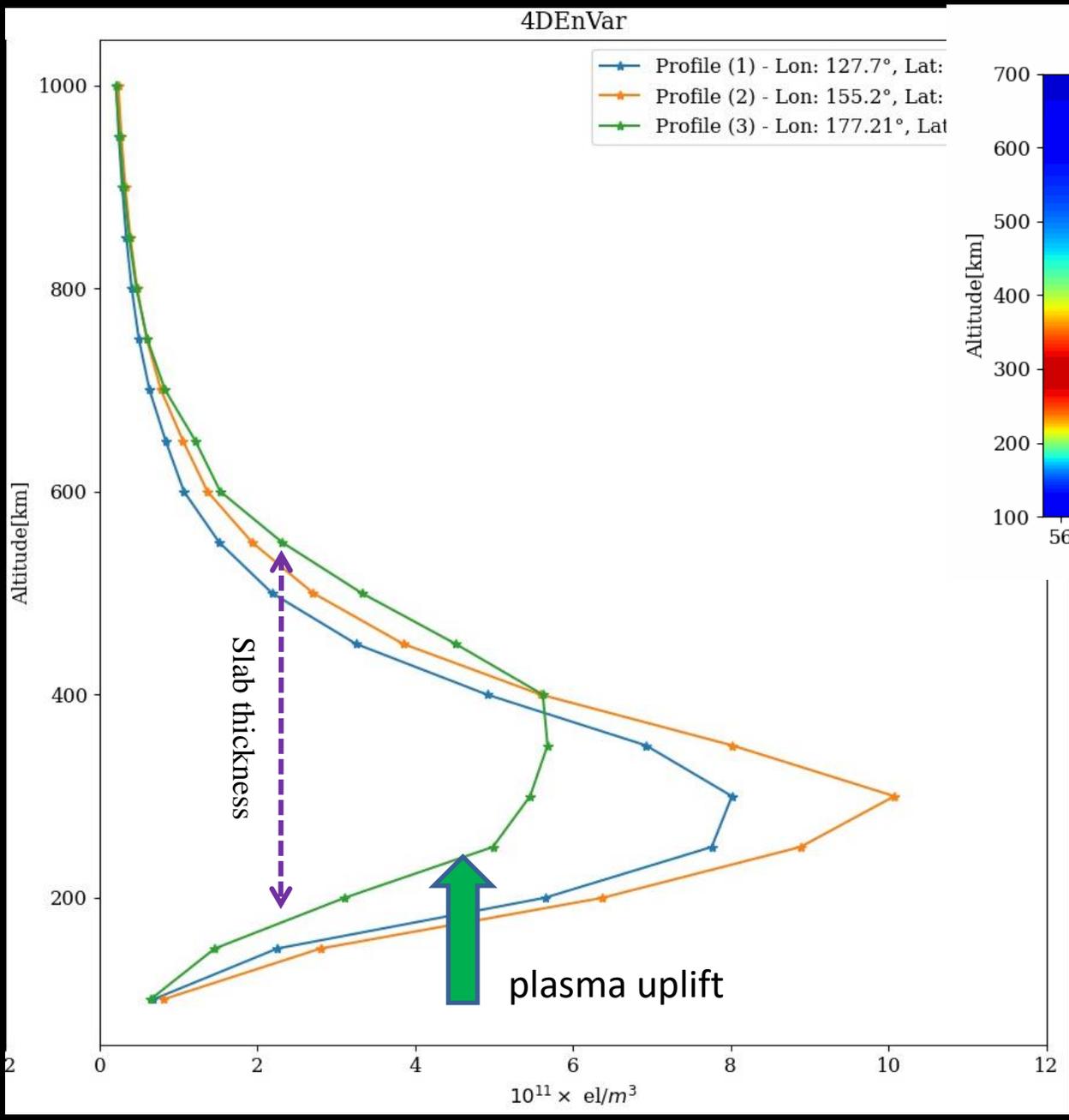
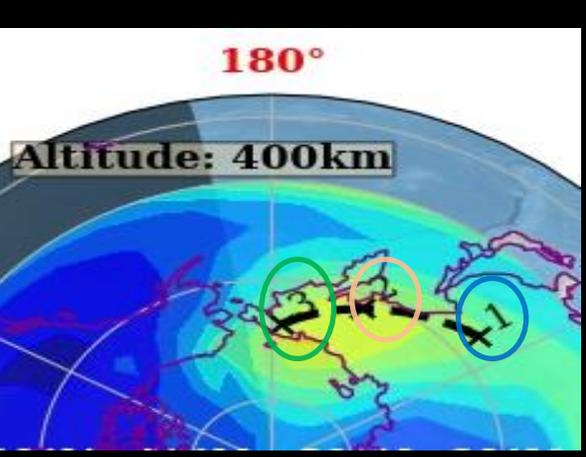
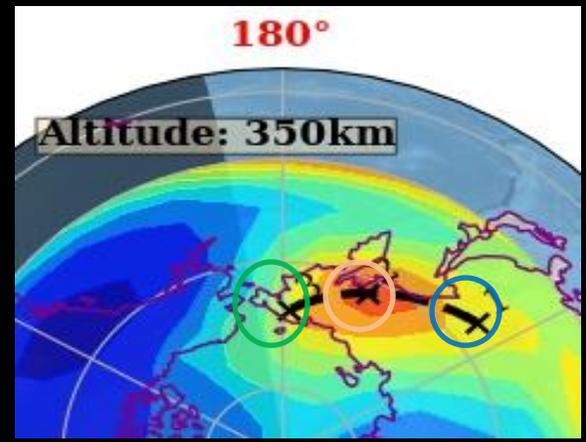
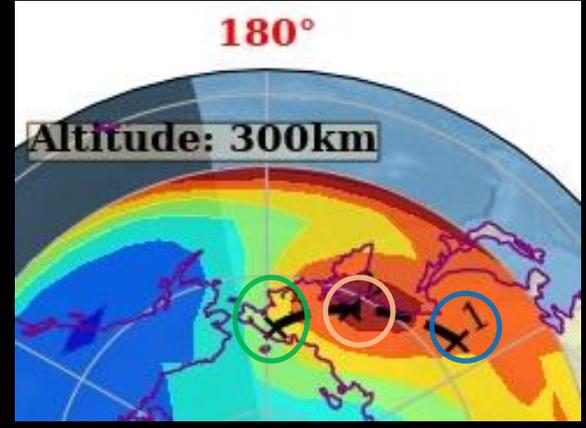


180°

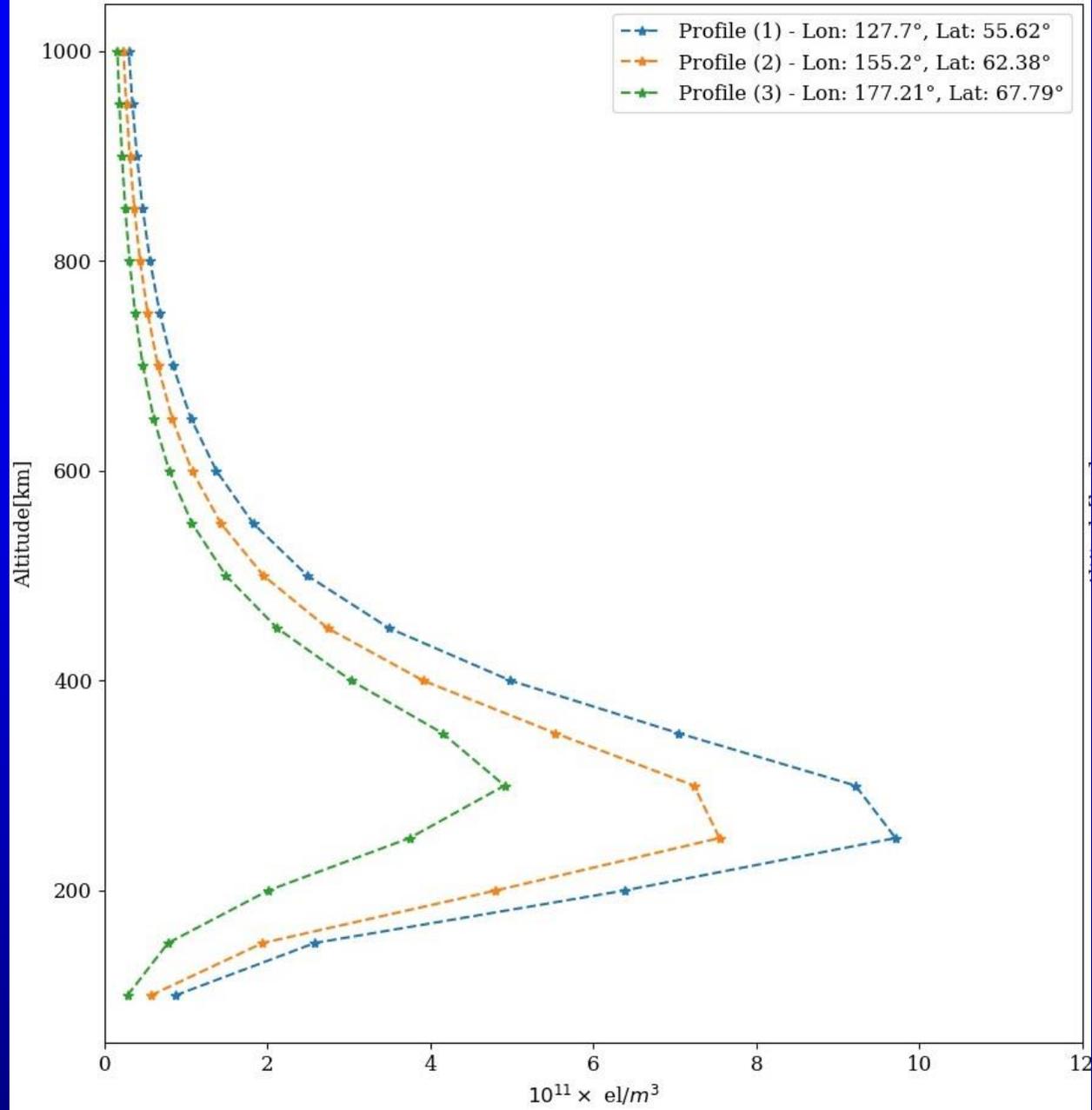
Altitude: 450km



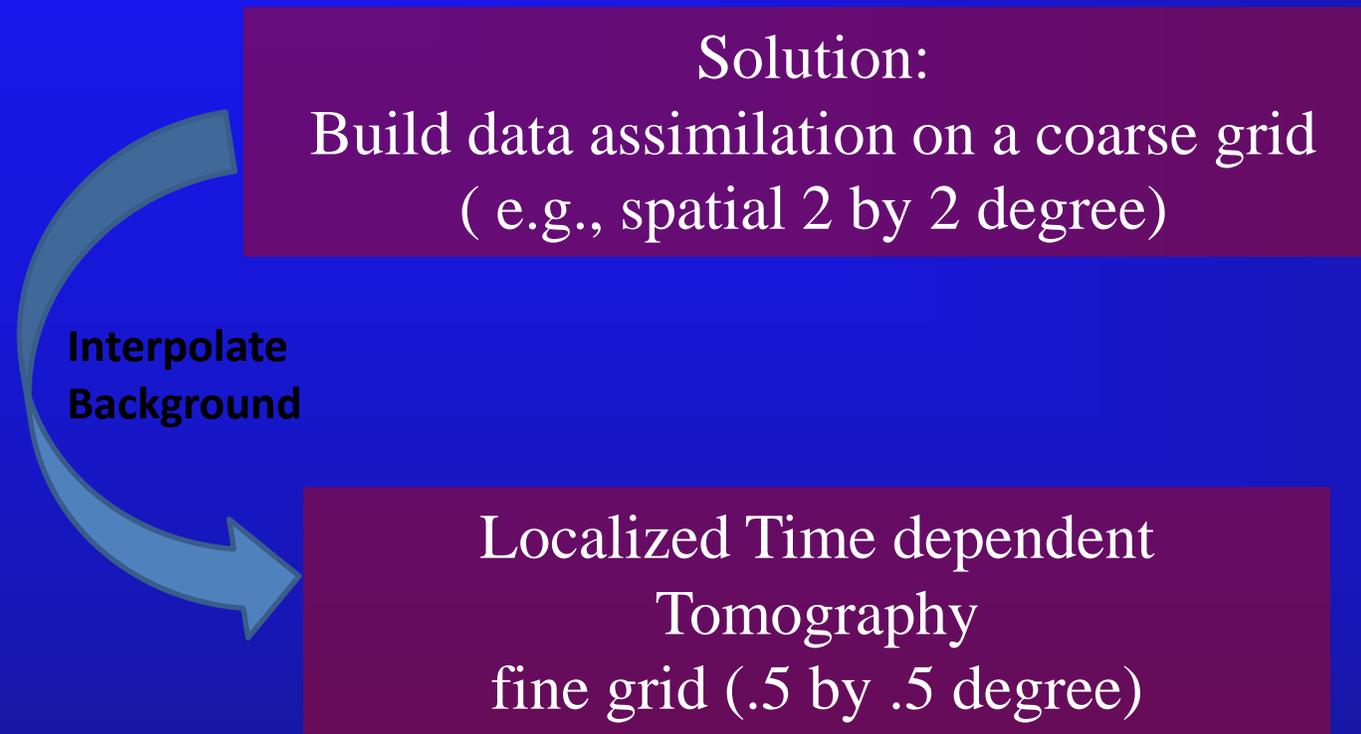
**Slice at different altitudes: 300km, 350km, 400km and 450km**



Background: IRI-2016



- In most cases the imaged structures requires a high spatial and temporal resolution. Particularly at the the edge of a patch or TOI, where we could have horizontal gradients.



# DATA ASSIMILATION TECHNIQUE

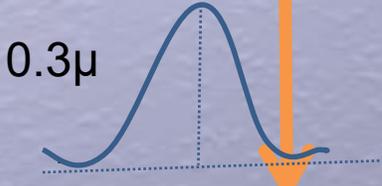
Initialize from IRI-2016

**Strong constraint 4D-Ensemble Var approach (SC4DEnVar)**

## 1. Sensitivities

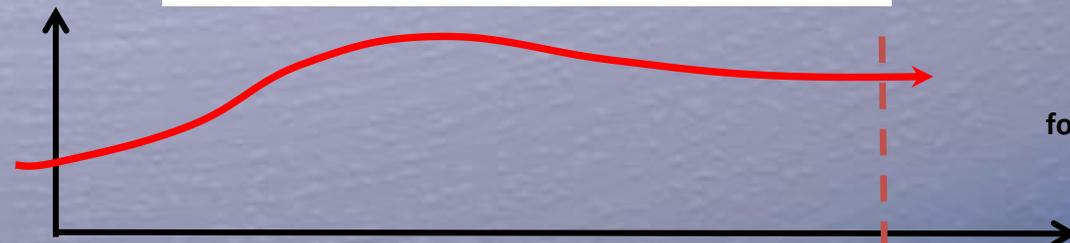
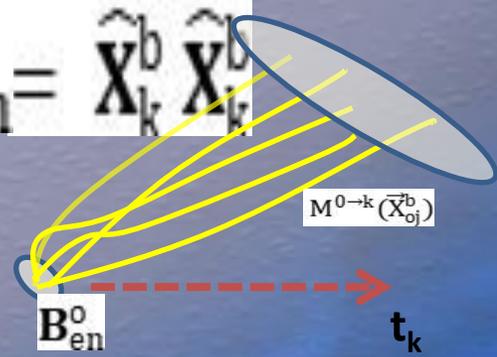
$$\tilde{\mathbf{M}}_k \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}_k}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{X}}_k}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{H}}_k = \frac{\partial \mathbf{h}_k}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{X}}_k}$$

Use Ensembles: Perturb IRI inputs  
 e.g: Rz12, IG12, F10.7 daily, hmF2, Kp :- 30 Members

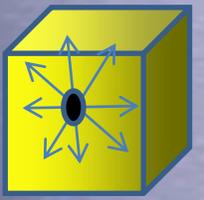


$$\mathbf{B}_{en}^k = \hat{\mathbf{X}}_k^b \hat{\mathbf{X}}_k^b$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{X}}_{k+1} = \vec{\mathbf{X}}_b^{k+1} + (\vec{\mathbf{X}}_k - \vec{\mathbf{X}}_b^k) * \exp(-dT/\tau)$$



## 2. Spread of new information Error Covariances (B)



**B**

3D