Statistically based calibration/validation control of ATLID L1 data

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Abstract

We propose a set of parameters, which would characterize the behavior of the ATLID lidar system on a day-to-day basis using the L1 data as an input. With the help of this set we will trace:

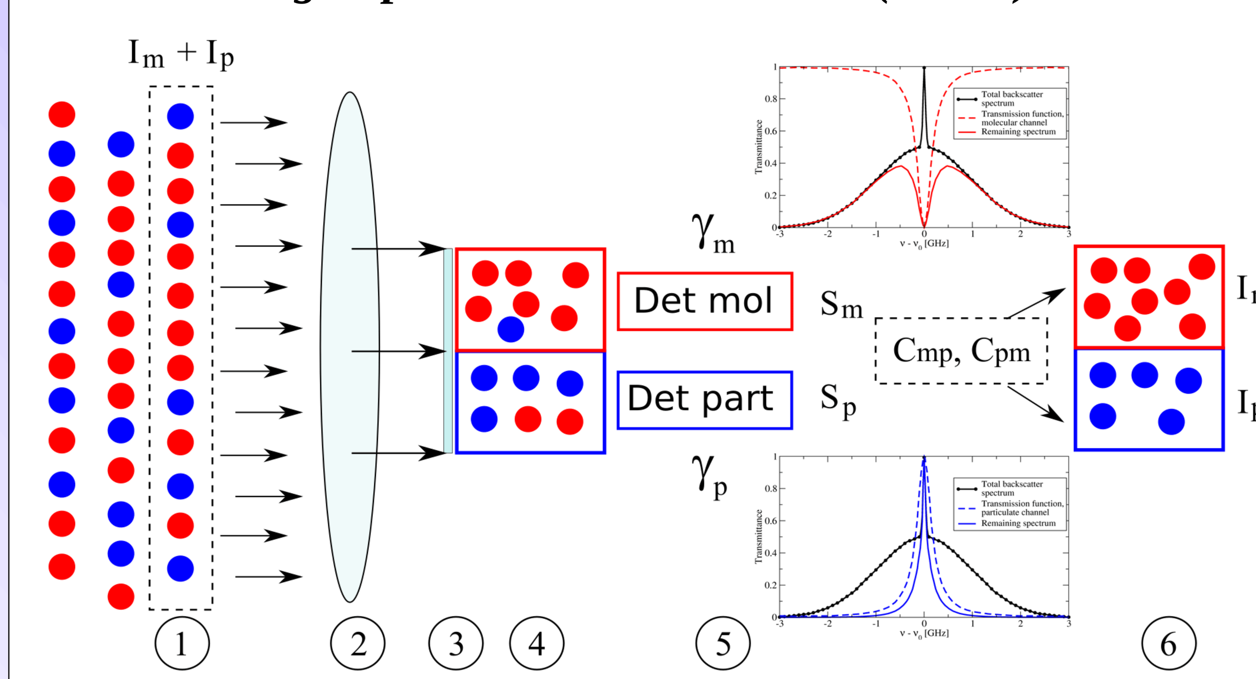
(a) the stability of the detection chain for ATLID channels (Rayleigh, Mie, and the cross-polarized one);
(b) the accuracy of cross-talk coefficients;
(c) the stability of day- and nighttime noise;
(d) the stability of the radiation detection for all atmospheric scenarios and over the whole globe using a clustering algorithm applied to the scattering ratio (SR) histograms.

We define 11 parameters: 3 related to surface reflection, 6 related to stratospheric day- and nighttime noise for 3 channels, and 2 related to the SR histogram analysis. We demonstrate the feasibility of the approach using CALIOP L1 data for polarized and cross-polarized attenuated backscatter (ATB) components in 2008−2015.

Calibrating space-borne instruments

- Calibration in the laboratory: high precision, repeatability, versatility. Not 100% consistent with the instrument after launch.
- Calibration in space using onboard sources and/or known external sources (stars, moon): typical for passive instruments.
- Calibration through collocation: ground-based stations, balloons, aircraft – compares the products (L2), involves L0→L1→L2 conversion, limited number of overlaps.
- Statistically based **quality control**: not equal to calibration, helps to identify issues in calibration and performance of the instrument, needs only a day-to-day flow of L1 data.

High Spectral Resolution Lidar (HSRL)

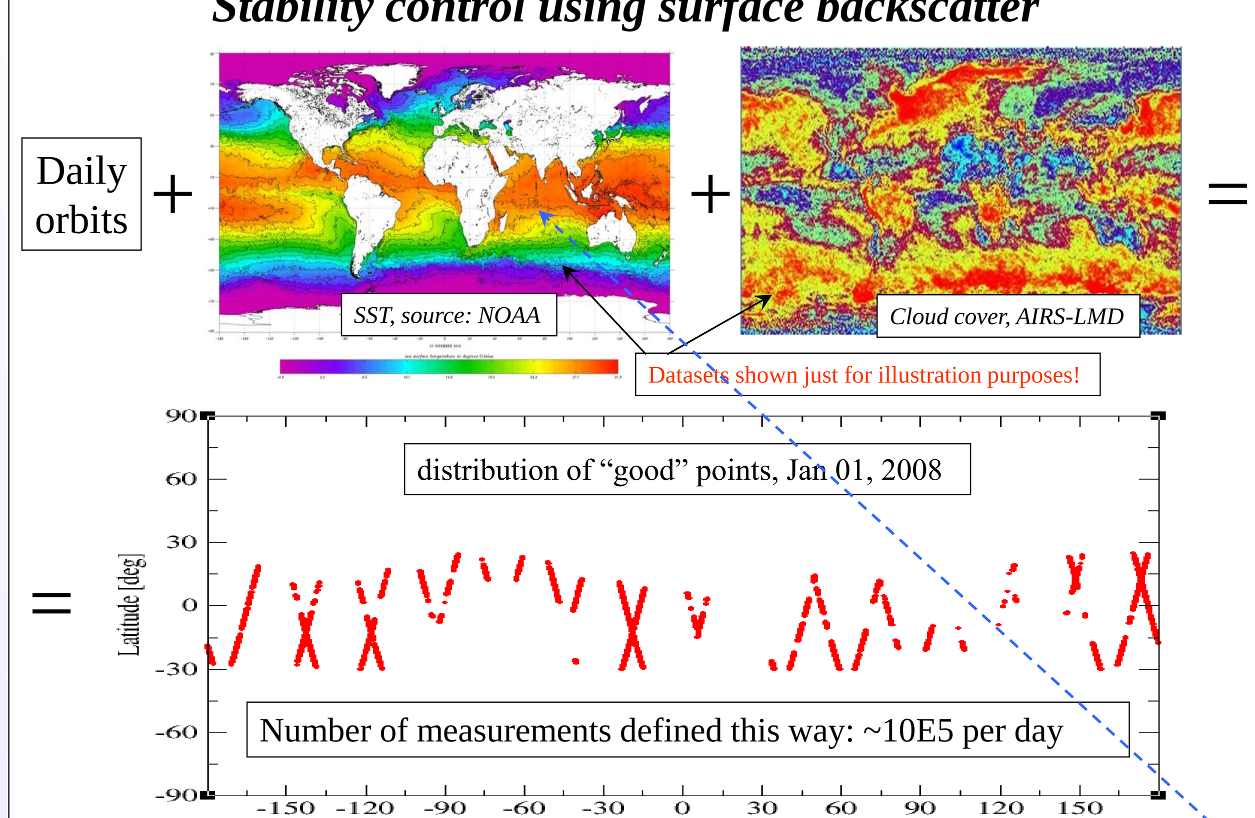


Schematic view of HSRL registering and treating the Rayleigh- (red) and Mie-scattered (blue) photons: (1) incoming flux, (2) telescope and optics, (3) HSRL splitting the components, (4) detectors, (5) transmission and spectra, (6) cross-talk free Rayleigh- and Mie-components

Formulation of the problem

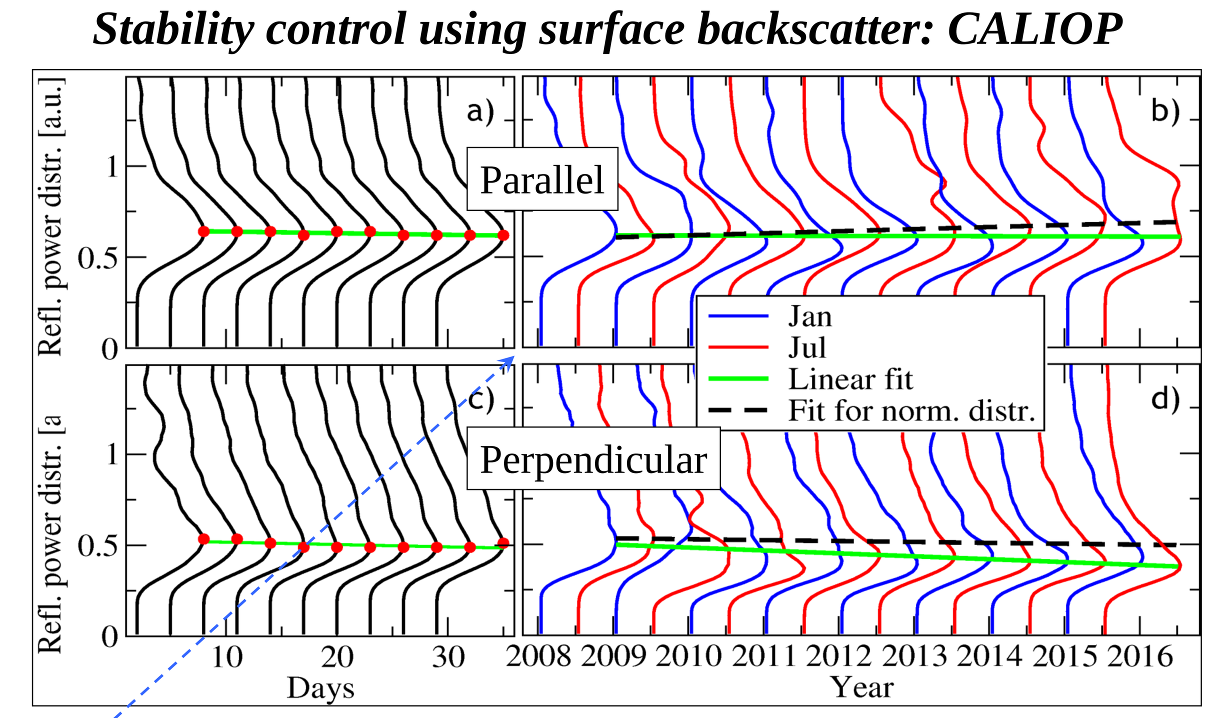
- Elements of spaceborne lidar, related to calibration:
  - molecular channel
  - aerosol channel
  - cross-polarized channel
  - laser power measurement
  - sending and receiving optics (alignment, coatings, degradation)
  - data acquisition system (noise, electronic cross talk, etc)
- L0→L1 conversion requires knowledge of HSRL cross-talk coefficients (+ cross-talk for cross-polarized channel)
- How to detect drifts and offsets using only a flow of L1 data?
- Ideally, a set of parameters calculated on a day-to-day basis is needed: Δ_i < threshold$_i$ (i=1…N)

Stability control using surface backscatter



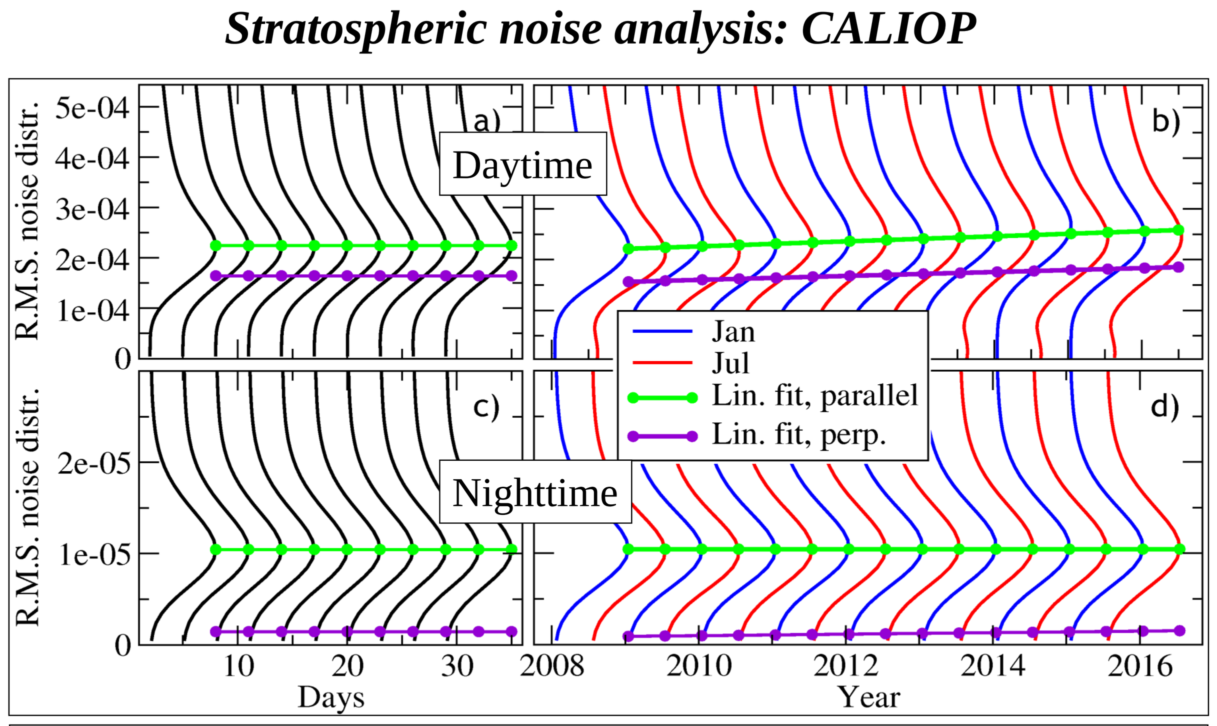
In the operation quality control, ERA Interim Sea Surface Temperature (SST) product will be used.

Stability control using surface backscatter: CALIOP



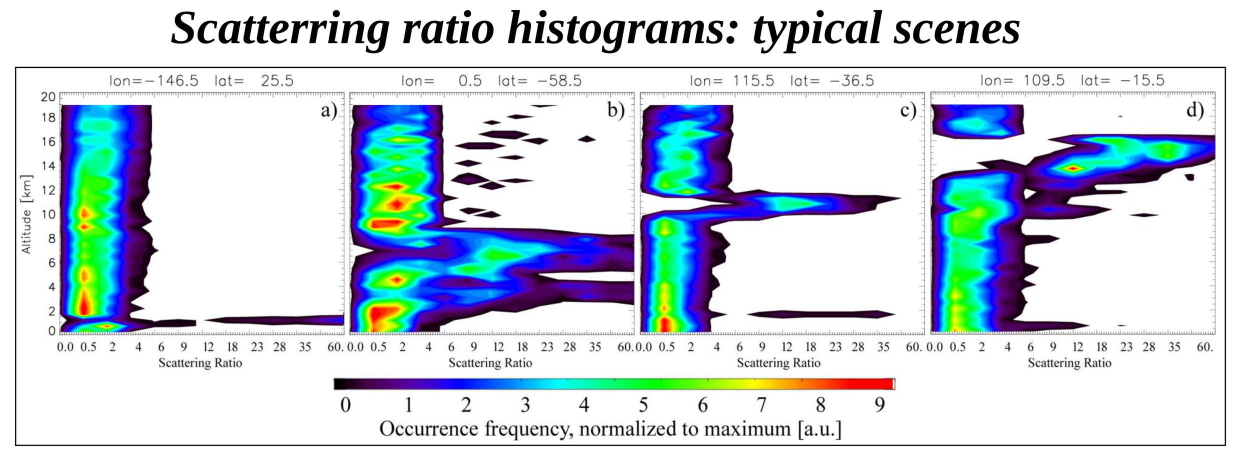
Stability control using surface reflection for CALIOP L1 data: (a) parallel component, 3-day statistics for January 2008; (b) same as (a), but for 2008−2015; (c, d) same as (a, b) but for perpendicular component. Dashed: linear fit for laser power-normalized ATB histograms.

Stratospheric noise analysis: CALIOP



Histograms of stratospheric (35−40 km) signals for parallel component and linear fit of parallel (green line) and perpendicular (violet line) histogram maxima for: (a,b) daytime and (c,d) nighttime; (a, c) are zoomed versions of the first month of (b, d), respectively

Scattering ratio histograms: typical scenes

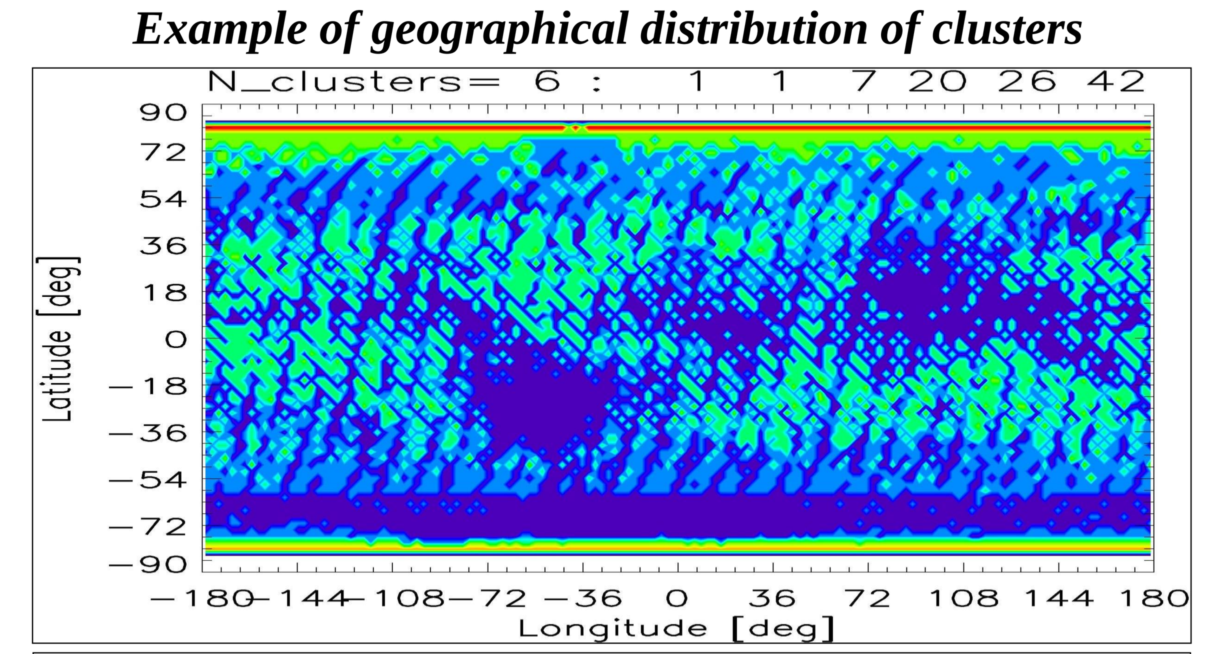


Examples of height-intensity SR histograms calculated for CALIOP: a) clear sky; b) multi-layer middle level cloud; c) high semi-transparent cloud; d) thick high cloud.

Approach already used by Marchand et al. [2008] for CloudSat and Chepfer et al., [2010] for CALIOP. Further development – **clustering** the same-type SR histograms:

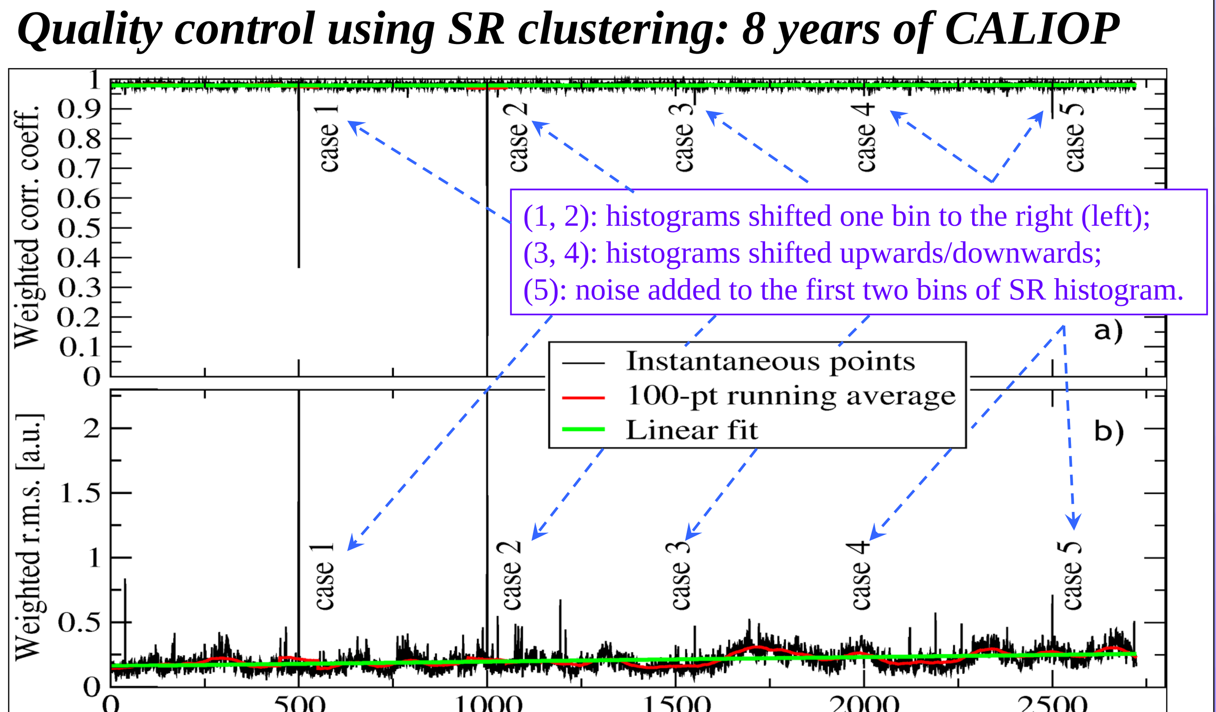
- "Clustering … groups a set of objects in such a way that objects in the same group are more similar to each other than to those in other groups" [Everitt, 1993].
- Clustered histograms have good signal-to-noise ratio due to large statistics and they do not change in time rapidly. If new or rare phenomenon appears, it will be detected as such and it won't spoil the analysis.

Example of geographical distribution of clusters



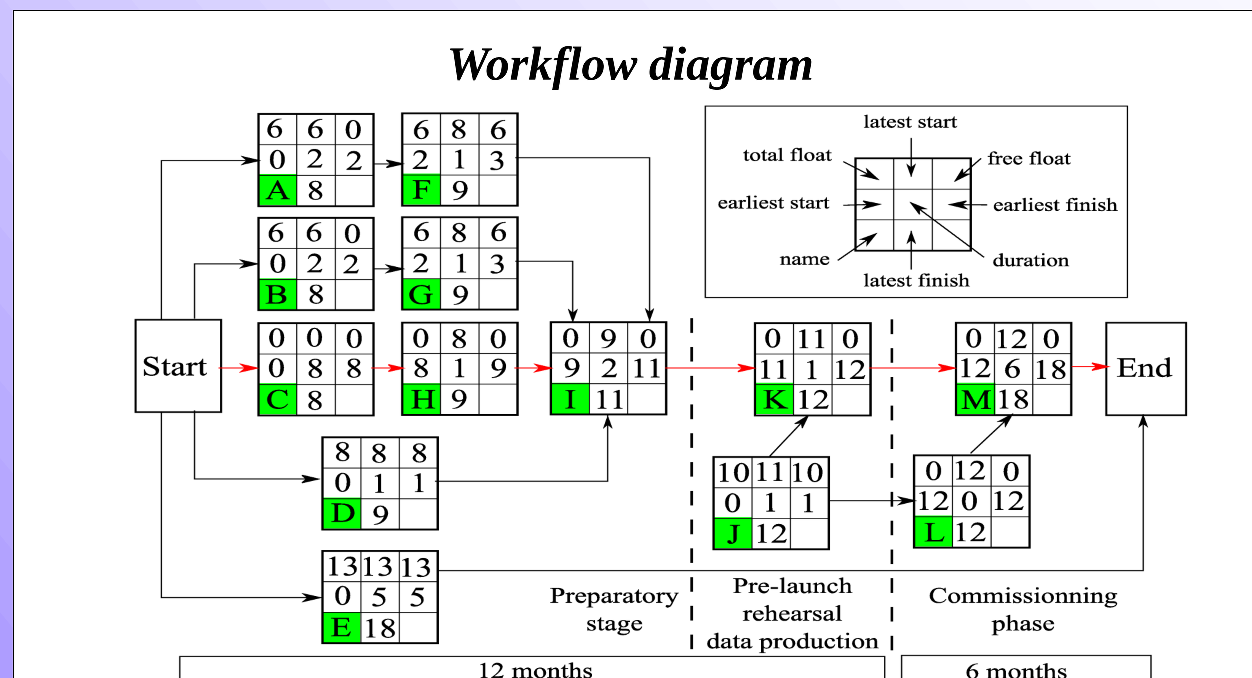
Results depend on the number of clusters prescribed to the algorithm. Optimal number is yet to be determined. Current estimate: 6−10.
Movement of air masses changes the location of clouds and aerosols, but the SR clusters remain the same (!). Natural day-to-day variability will determine the "allowed" quality control limits and can be estimated from CALIOP and simulations.

Quality control using SR clustering: 8 years of CALIOP



Daily quality criteria: (a) weighted correlation coefficient; (b) weighted r.m.s. of the difference. In 5 test cases the histograms were perturbed to simulate calibration issues.

Workflow diagram

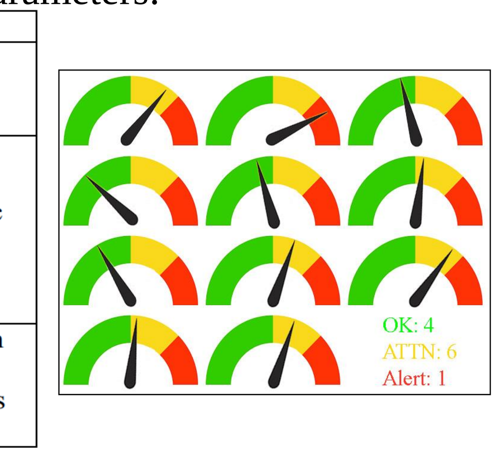


(A) surface reflection analysis → 3 ATLID channels + ECMWF SST; (B) stratospheric analysis → 3 ATLID channels; (C) SR histogram clustering algorithm → ATLID; (D): Input interface → ATLID data, output interface → EarthCARE teams; (E): Documentation code transfer; (F, G, H) Testing the (A, B, C) algorithms ; (I) Testing the joint package; (J) Pre-launch rehearsal; (K) Testing the pre-launch data treatment; (L) Launch of the mission; (M) Operational analysis.

Summary

- We propose a set of 11 quality control parameters:

N	Channel/data	Description
1	Mol.	Center values of histograms of radiance reflected from the ocean with T_{surf}= 300±1 K.
2	Part.	
3	Perp.	
4	Mol. day	Center values of histograms of daytime and nighttime stratospheric molecular signal (~35km) or noise (higher altitudes).
5	Part. day	
6	Perp. day	
7	Mol. night	
8	Part. night	
9	Perp. night	
10	K_{corr}, SR histo	Weighted average of the correlation coefficient or deviation for the clustered scattering ratio histograms w.r.t. the reference or the first day
11	R.M.S., SR histo	



- We demonstrate the feasibility using 8 years of CALIOP data.
- The deliverables are:
  (1) an operational quality control algorithm adapted to ATLID L1;
  (2) the results of day-to-day quality control using 11 parameters;
  (3) a set of daily SR histograms;
  (4) a Web-interface dynamically updating quality control results.