

# On the usage of a pixel-based dark-object database for the estimation of aerosol optical depth and its incorporation in a large area Landsat processing framework

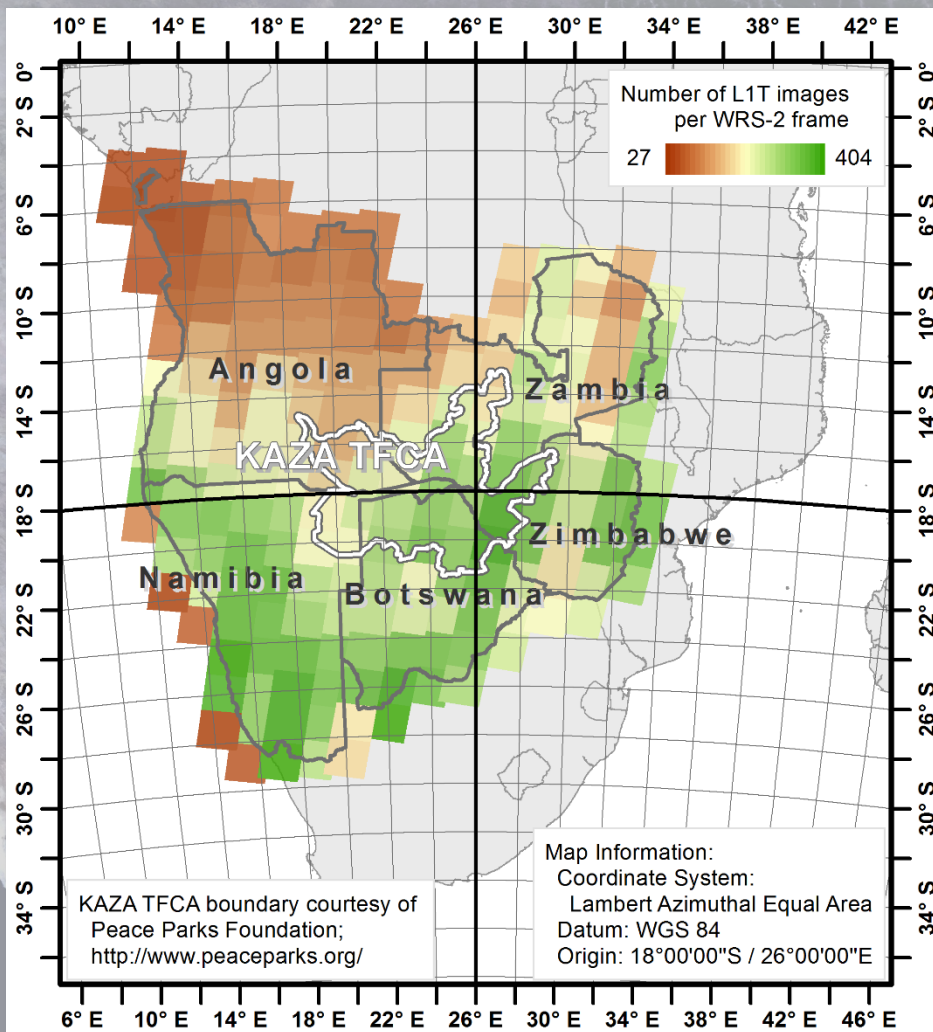
*MultiTemp 2015*

*8th International Workshop on the Analysis  
of Multitemporal Remote Sensing Images  
July 22-24, 2015 – Annecy, France*

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FB VI Regional and Environmental Sciences,  
Trier University

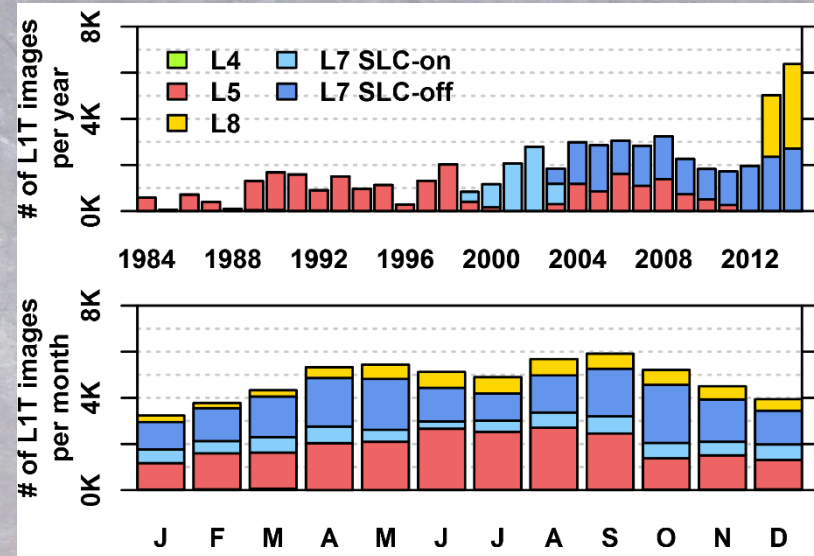


# STUDY AREA



## Centered at the upcoming Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA)

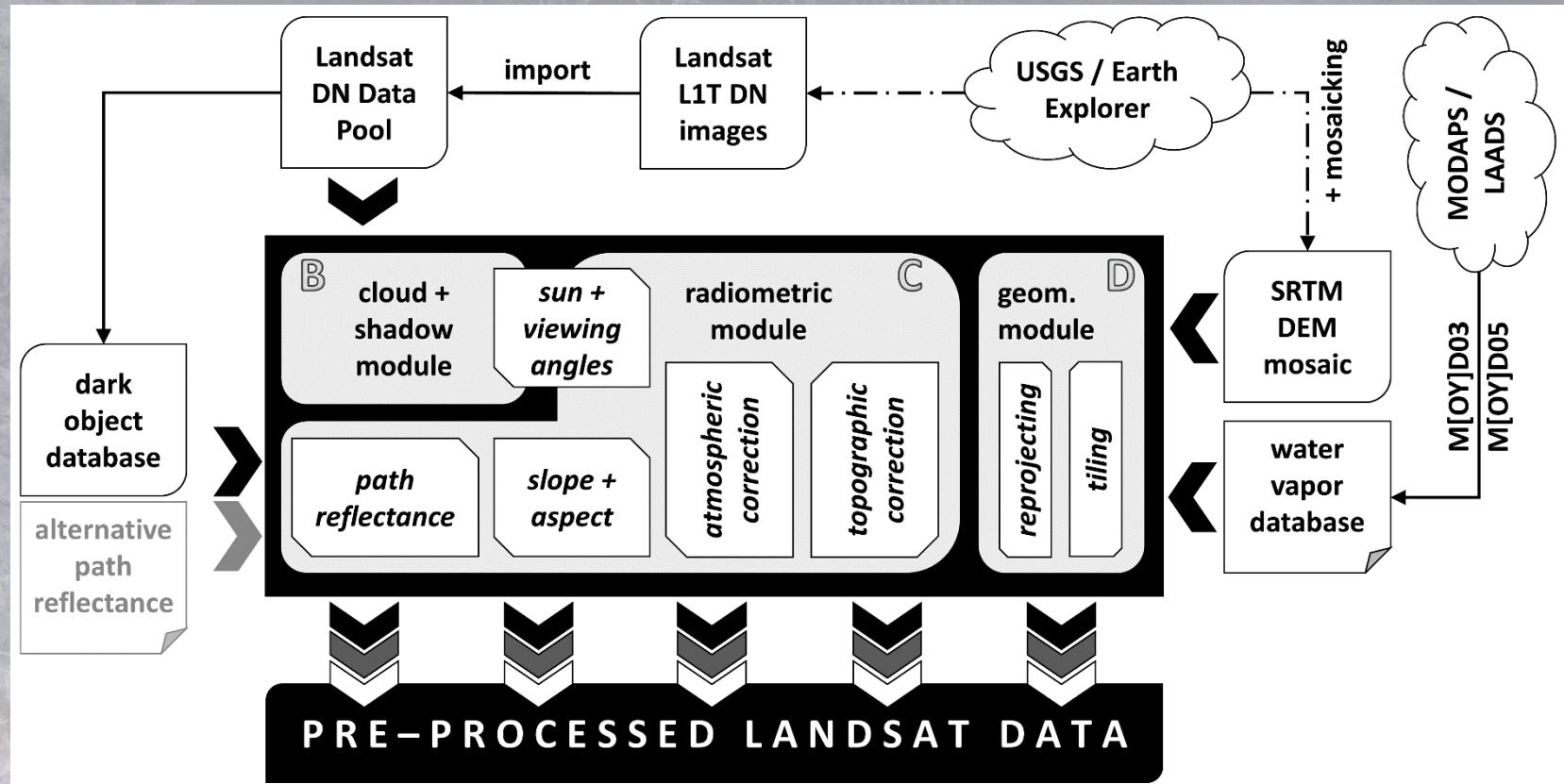
- ~ 3.7 Mio. km<sup>2</sup>
- 194 WRS-2 frames
- 57,371 L1T Landsat images
- ~ 15 TB



# LANDSAT PRE-PROCESSING

**SASSCAL**

Southern African  
Savanna Science Centre for  
Climate Change and  
Adaptive Land Management



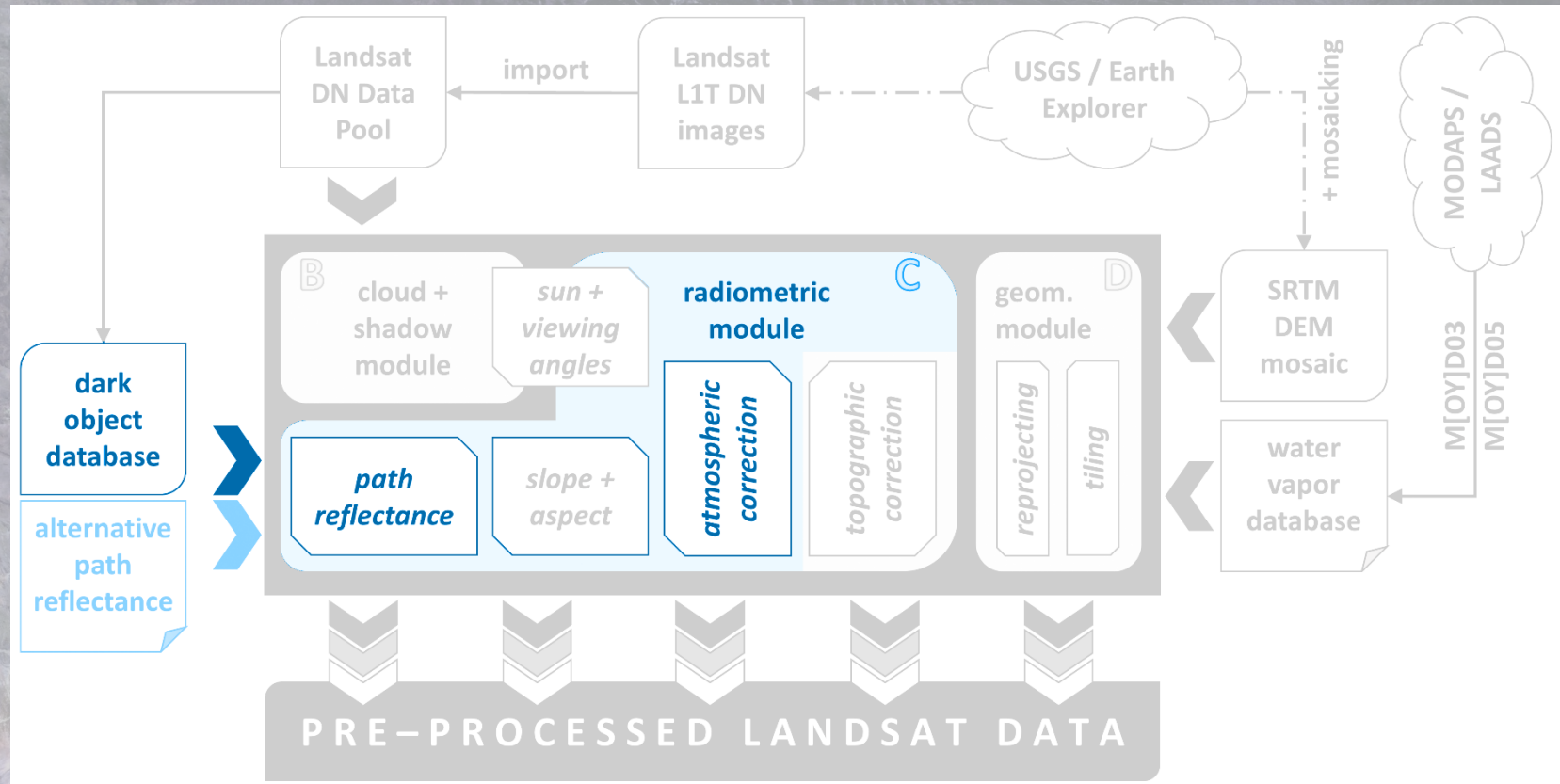
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# LANDSAT PRE-PROCESSING

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Using a pixel-based dark-object database for AOD estimation in large area Landsat pre-processing



Histogram-based method

→ Path reflectance  $\rho_p$  over the darkest targets in image

Assumption:

signal over the darkest pixels is mainly composed of scattered radiation, i.e.

- Molecular scattering (Rayleigh scattering  $\tau_{\downarrow r} = 0.0088 \cdot \lambda^{\uparrow -4.15 + 0.2\lambda}$ )
  - Forward and backward scattering at aerosols  $\tau_{\downarrow a}$ , i.e. AOD
- Total optical depth:  $\tau = \tau_{\downarrow a} + \tau_{\downarrow r}$



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- Total optical depth:  $\tau = \tau_{\downarrow a} + \tau_{\downarrow r}$

$$\tau_{\downarrow a} = (\rho_{\downarrow p} \cdot 4\mu_{\downarrow v} \mu_{\downarrow s} - \tau_{\downarrow r} P_{\downarrow r}) / P_{\downarrow a}$$

*single scattering approximation*

$$P_{\downarrow r} = 0.75 \cdot (1 + \cos^2 \psi_-)$$

$$P_{\downarrow a} = (1 - g_{\downarrow 1} \uparrow^2) \cdot \alpha / [1 + g_{\downarrow 1} \uparrow^2 - 2g_{\downarrow 1} \cos \psi_-] \uparrow^{1.5} + (1 - g_{\downarrow 2} \uparrow^2) \cdot (1 - \alpha) / [1 + g_{\downarrow 2} \uparrow^2 + 2g_{\downarrow 2} \cos \psi_-] \uparrow^{1.5}$$

$$\psi_- = \cos^{-1} \{ -\mu_{\downarrow v} \mu_{\downarrow s} - [(1 - \mu_{\downarrow v} \uparrow^2)(1 - \mu_{\downarrow s} \uparrow^2)] \uparrow^{0.5} \cos(\phi_{\downarrow v} - \phi_{\downarrow s}) \}$$

*J. Hill and B. Sturm, "Radiometric correction of multitemporal Thematic Mapper data for use in agricultural land-cover classification and vegetation monitoring," International Journal of Remote Sensing, vol. 12, no. 7, pp. 1471-1491, Jul., 1991*



Histogram-based method

→ Path reflectance  $\rho_p$  over the darkest targets in image

Assumption:

signal over the darkest pixels is mainly composed of scattered radiation, i.e.

- Molecular scattering (Rayleigh scattering  $\tau_{lr} = 0.0088 \cdot \lambda^{-4.15 + 0.2\lambda}$ )
  - Forward and backward scattering at aerosols  $\tau_{la}$ , i.e. AOD
- Total optical depth:  $\tau = \tau_{la} + \tau_{lr}$

$$\tau_{la} = (\rho_{lp} \cdot 4\mu_{lv}\mu_{ls} - \tau_{lr} P_{lr}) / P_{la}$$

single scattering approximation

$$P_{lr} = 0.75 \cdot (1 + \cos^2 \psi_-)$$

$$P_{la} = (1 - g_{l1}^2) \cdot \alpha / [1 + g_{l1}^2 - 2g_{l1} \cos \psi_-]^{1.5} + (1 - g_{l2}^2) \cdot (1 - \alpha) / [1 + g_{l2}^2 + 2g_{l2} \cos \psi_-]^{1.5}$$

$$g_{l1} = 0.836$$

$$g_{l2} = 0.537$$

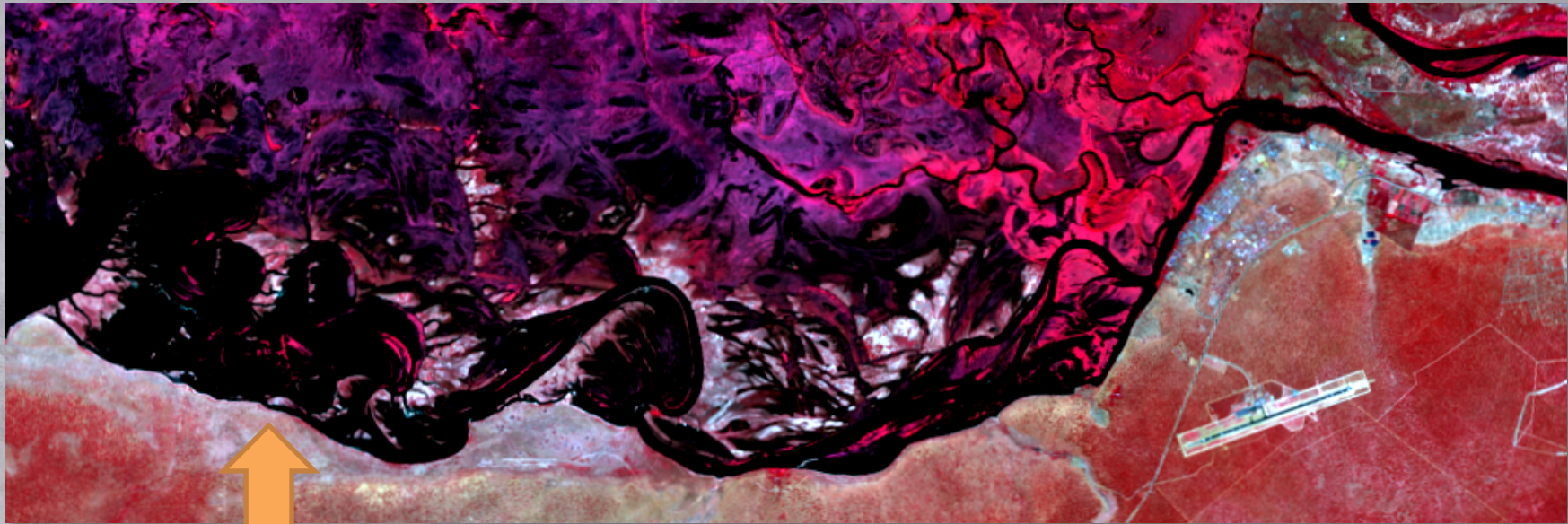
$$\alpha = 0.968$$

→ continental  
aerosol model

$$\psi_- = \cos^{-1} \left\{ \frac{-\mu_{lv}\mu_{ls} - [(1 - \mu_{lv}^2)(1 - \mu_{ls}^2)]^{0.5} \cos(\phi_{lv} - \phi_{ls})}{1 - \mu_{lv}^2 - \mu_{ls}^2} \right\}$$

J. Hill and B. Sturm, "Radiometric correction of multitemporal Thematic Mapper data for use in agricultural land-cover classification and vegetation monitoring," *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, vol. 12, no. 7, pp. 1471-1491, Jul., 1991



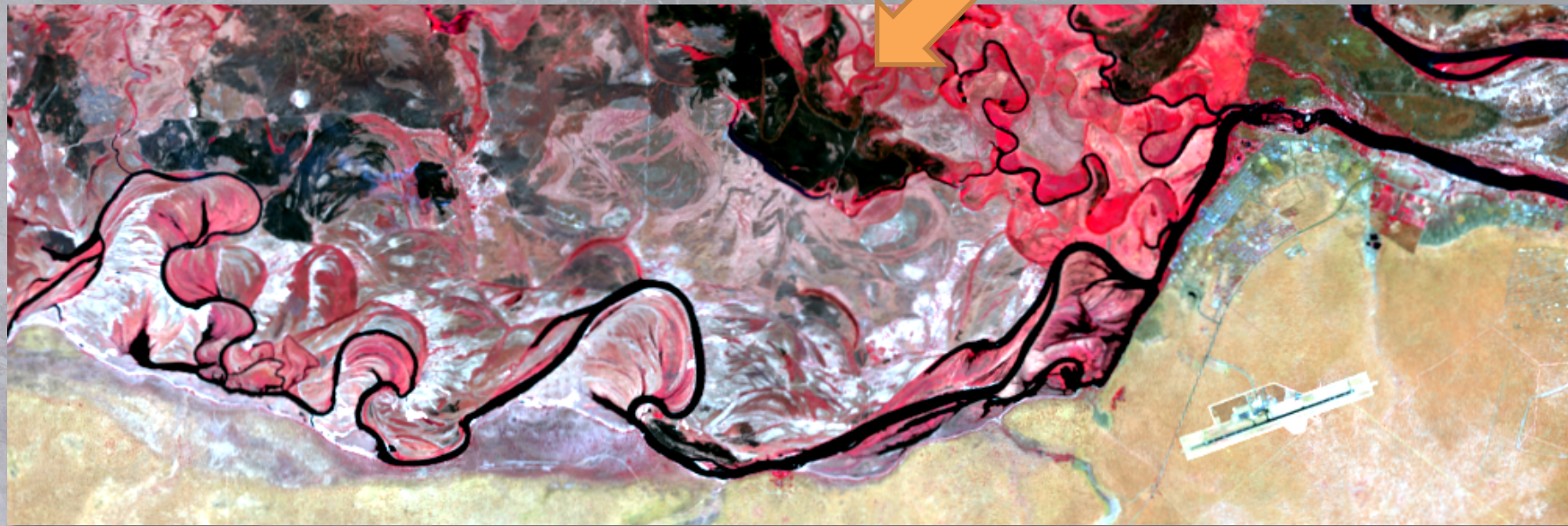


**flood water**

**Wet Season [24 March 2013]**

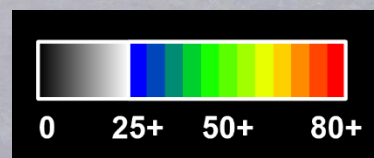
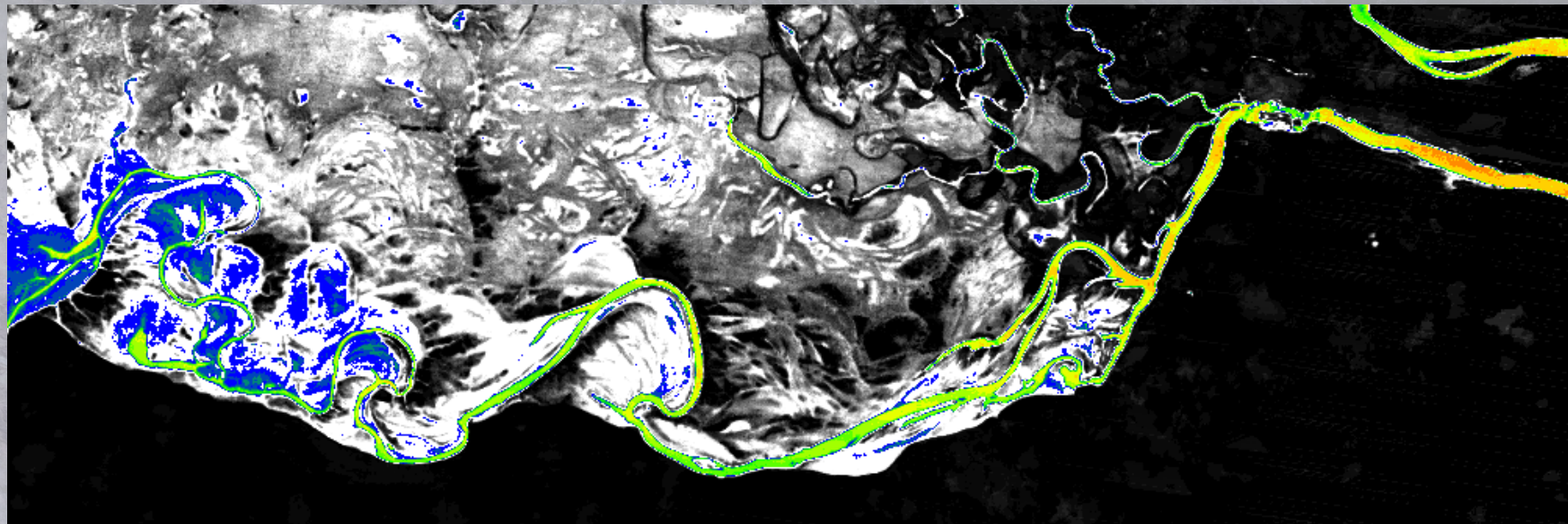


**burned area**



**Dry Season [17 October 2013]**





Dark Object Persistence  
[2005,2015]

Pre-analysis of all available Landsat DN images

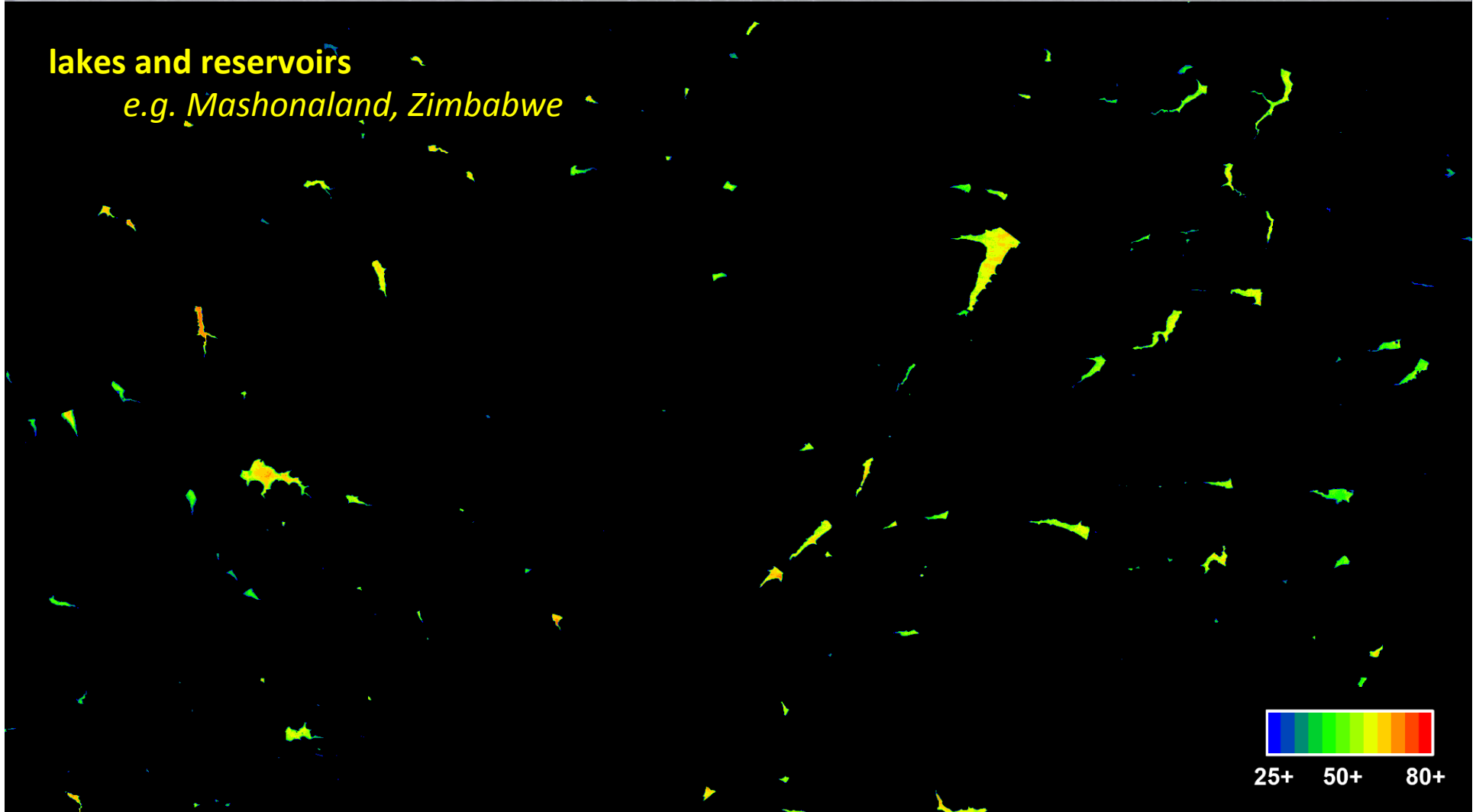
- Find darkest pixels in each image
- Determine the dark object persistence (DOP), i.e. the percentage of the time a pixel is dark

Atmospheric correction:  $\rho_p$  is determined from the most persistent available pixels



**lakes and reservoirs**

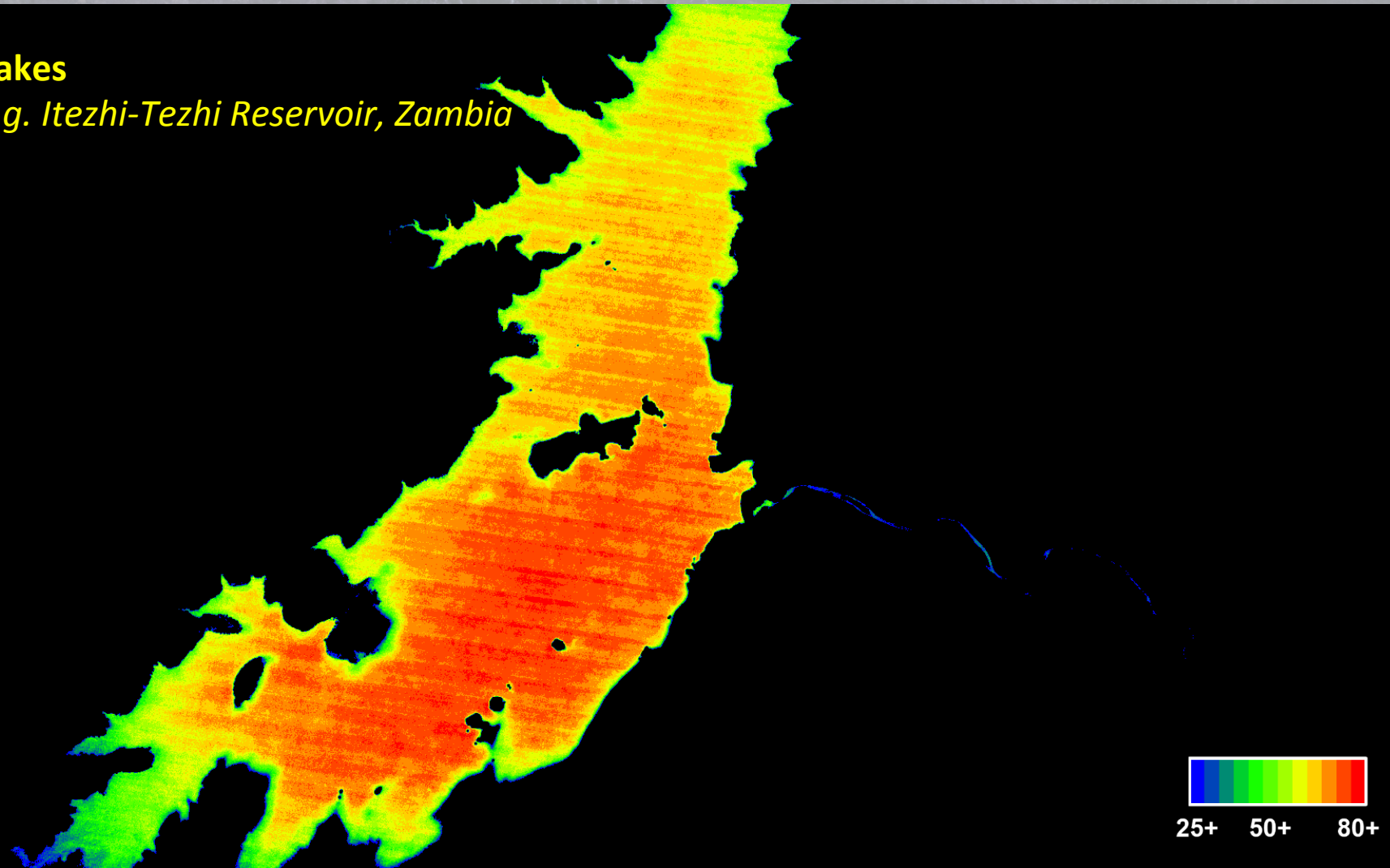
*e.g. Mashonaland, Zimbabwe*





large lakes

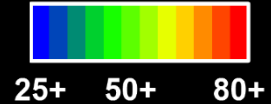
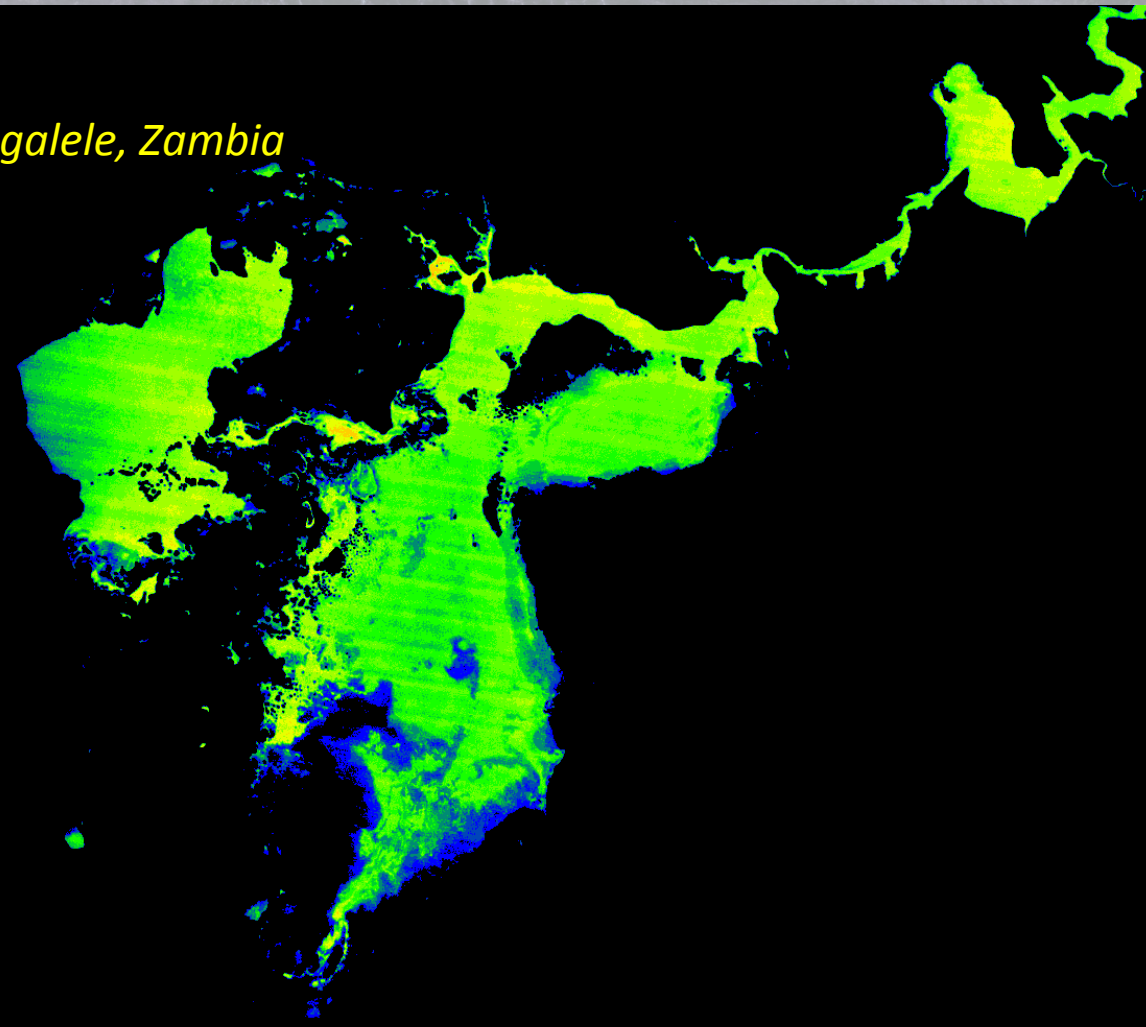
*e.g. Itezhi-Tezhi Reservoir, Zambia*





swamps

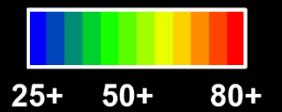
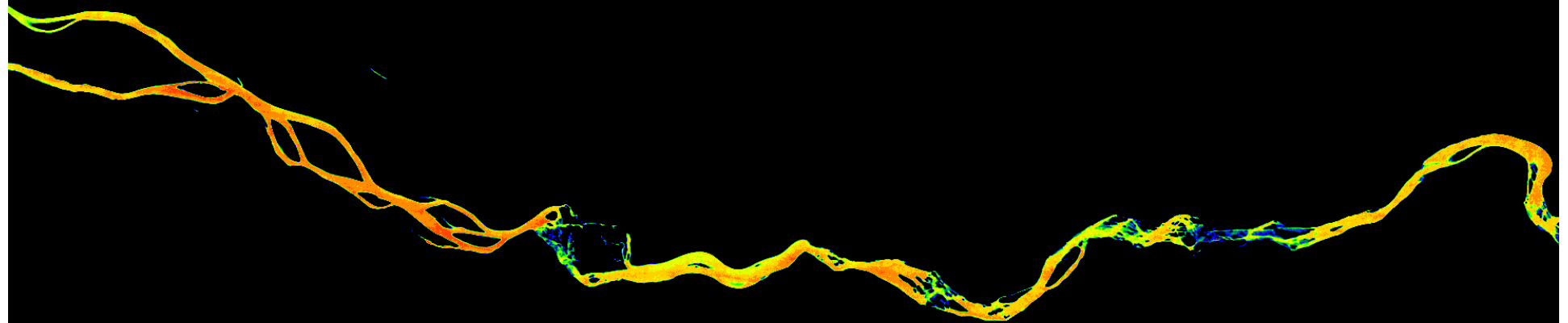
*e.g. Lake Tshangalele, Zambia*





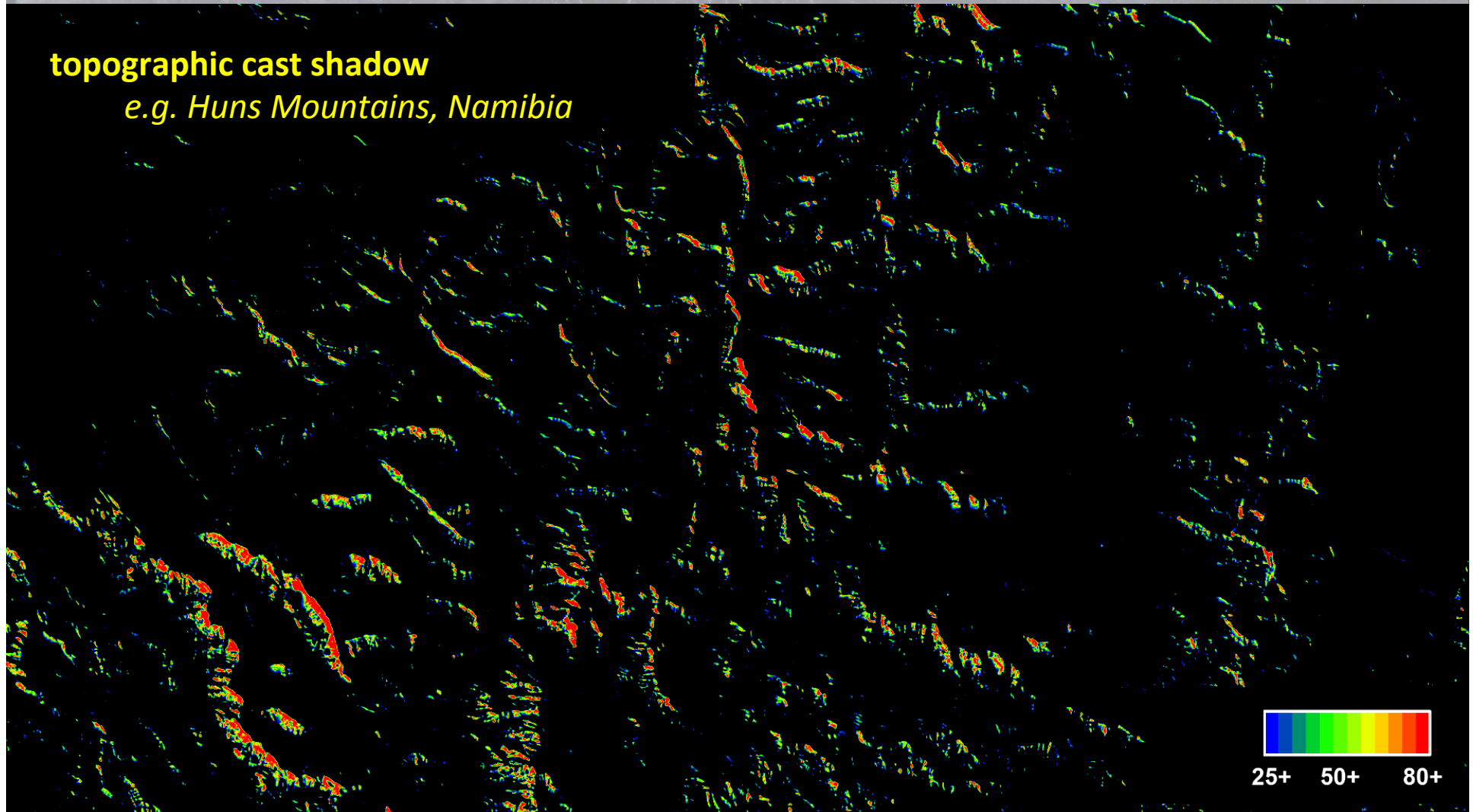
**perennial rivers**

*e.g. Zambezi, Zambia*





**topographic cast shadow**  
*e.g. Huns Mountains, Namibia*





## Violation of assumptions

Dark objects are not available in every scene

1. General brightness of the study area  
*especially in the savannas in Namibia and Botswana*
2. Increasing effect in the dry season
  - landscape brightness is increasing
  - water availability is decreasing



## Violation of assumptions

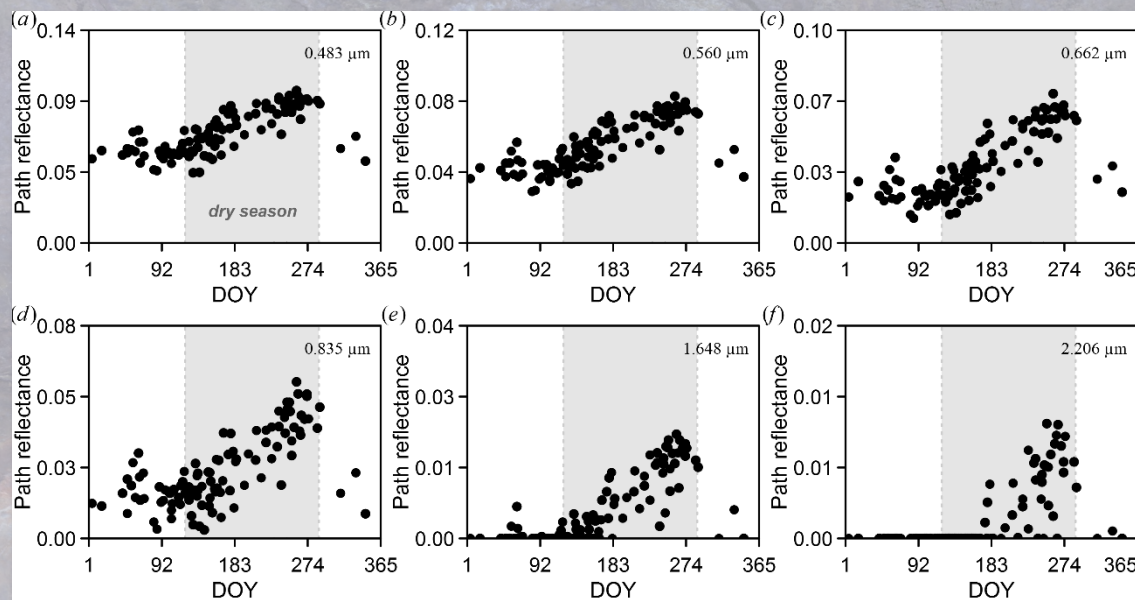
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## Environmental settings

Aerosol loading is not constant and inhibits a strong variability

1. Pronounced seasonality

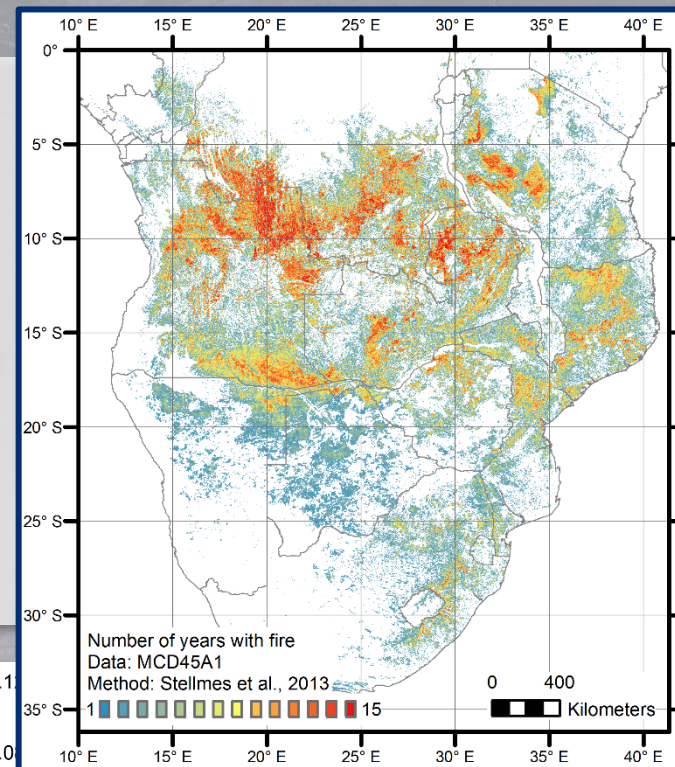




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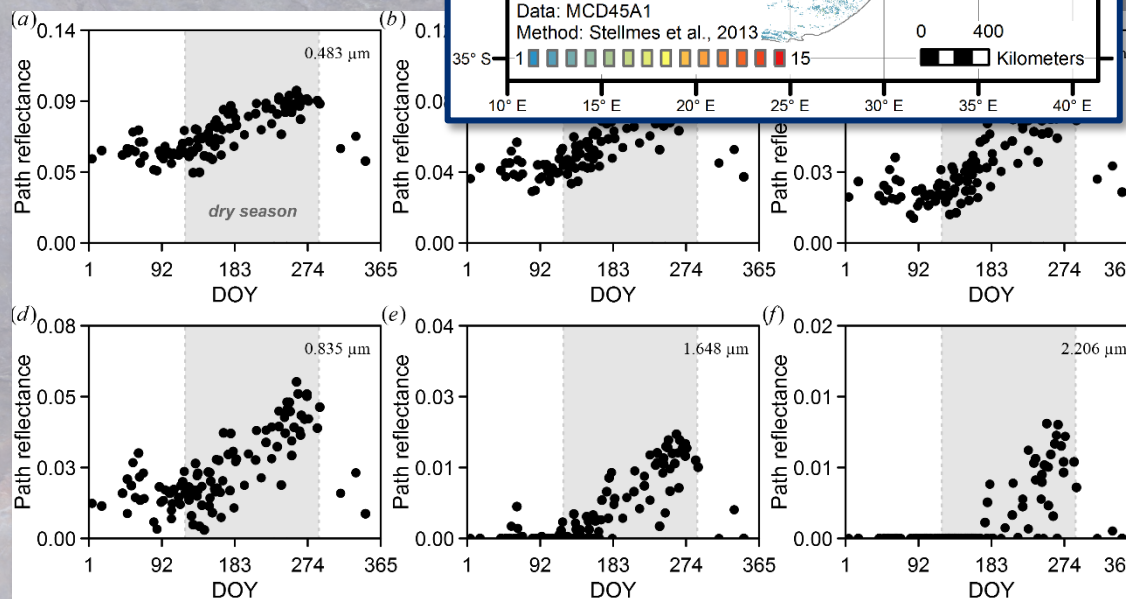
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Dry season = **Fire**





### Violation of assumptions

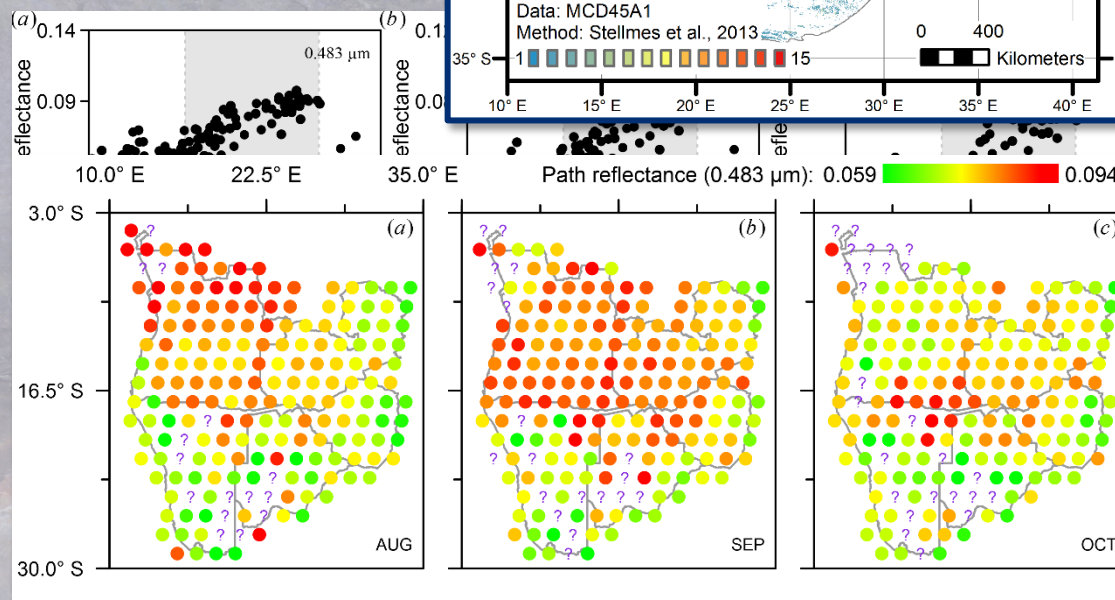
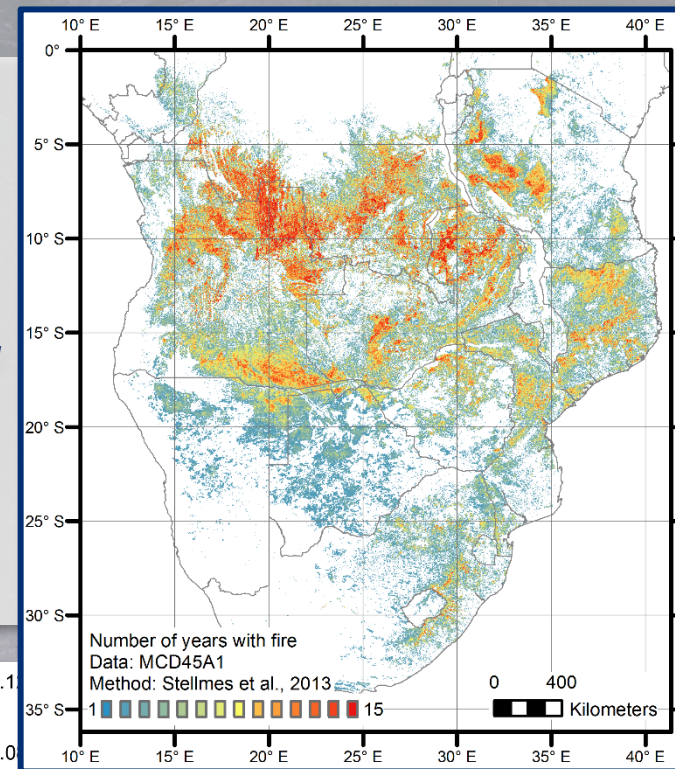
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Aerosol loading is not constant and inhibits a strong variability

1. Pronounced seasonality  
Dry season = **Fire**
2. Spatial variability  
**Fire** regime (fuel, climate, etc.)





## Modelling

→ Spatio-temporal  $\rho_p$  climatology

- On basis of the succesful  $\rho_p$  retrievals
- **Fallback** strategy when actual AOD cannot be retrieved from dark targets

$$\rho_{p,b} = c_{\downarrow 0} + c_{\downarrow 1} X + c_{\downarrow 2} Y + c_{\downarrow 3} XY + c_{\downarrow 4} X^2 + c_{\downarrow 5} Y^2 + c_{\downarrow 6} (\text{DOY}) + c_{\downarrow 7} (\text{DOY})^2 +$$

$$c_{\downarrow 8} X \sin(2\pi(\text{DOY})/365) + c_{\downarrow 9} X \cos(2\pi(\text{DOY})/365) +$$

$$c_{\downarrow 10} Y \sin(2\pi(\text{DOY})/365) + c_{\downarrow 11} Y \cos(2\pi(\text{DOY})/365) +$$

$$c_{\downarrow 12} X \sin(4\pi(\text{DOY})/365) + c_{\downarrow 13} X \cos(4\pi(\text{DOY})/365) +$$

$$c_{\downarrow 14} Y \sin(4\pi(\text{DOY})/365) + c_{\downarrow 15} Y \cos(4\pi(\text{DOY})/365) +$$

$$c_{\downarrow 16} X \sin(6\pi(\text{DOY})/365) + c_{\downarrow 17} X \cos(6\pi(\text{DOY})/365) +$$

$$c_{\downarrow 18} Y \sin(6\pi(\text{DOY})/365) + c_{\downarrow 19} Y \cos(6\pi(\text{DOY})/365)$$

Geolocation (X,Y)

Acquisition DOY

Weighted least squares fitting; cyclic prediction; weights: Dark Object Persistency (DOP) of input  $\rho_p$

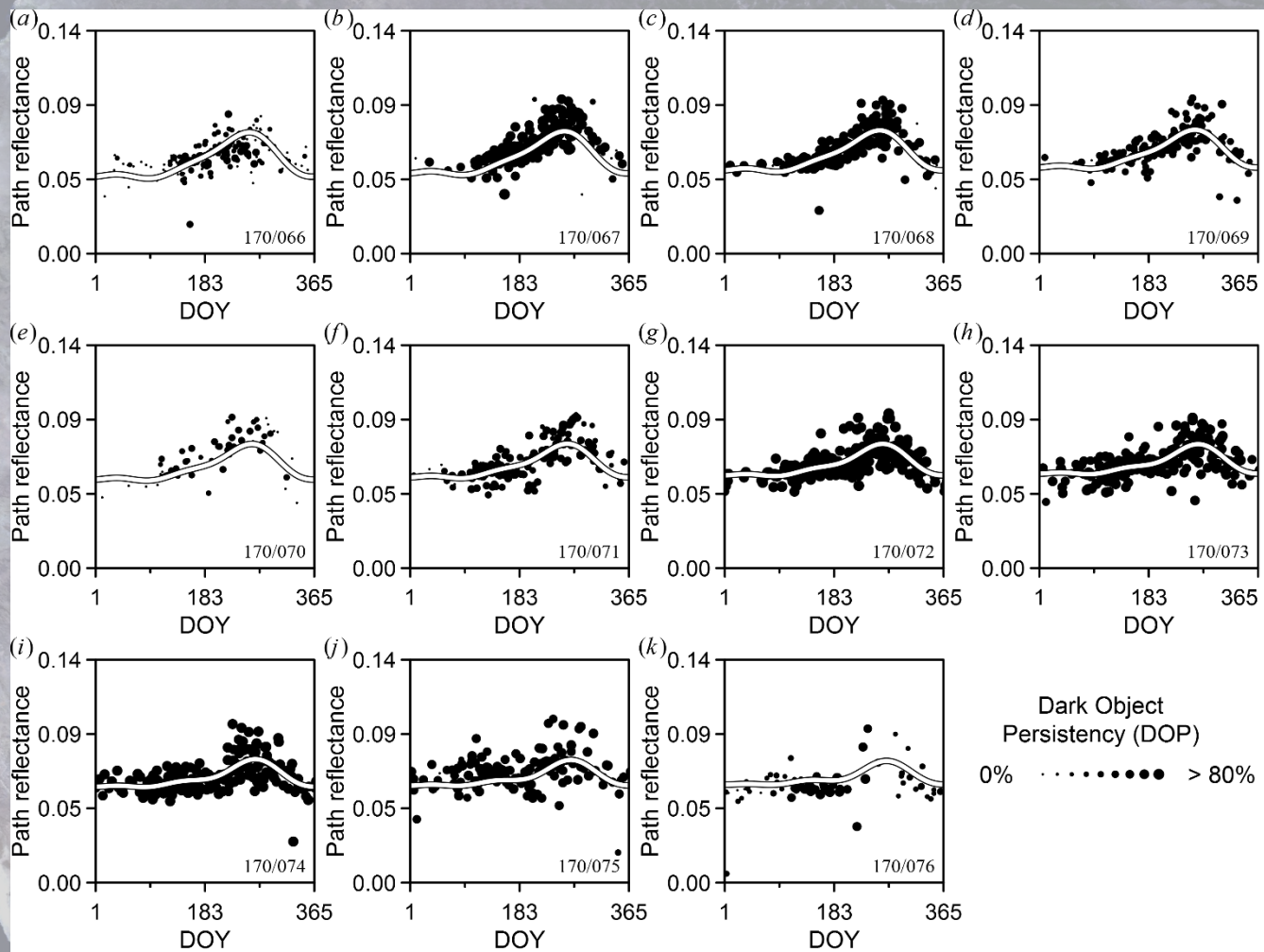
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