



# Australian SAR Waves Dataset and Its Validation

2nd International Workshop on Waves, Storm Surges and Coastal Hazards

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Australia's National Science Agency



# Outline

- Objective
- Australian SAR Waves Dataset
- Validation Against WW3 Hindcast
- Conclusions, Challenges and Outlook

# Objective

# Objective

- Develop a long-term, open-access database of well-calibrated satellite SAR wave observations
- Support Australian marine scientific and industrial community
- Feedback our Australian efforts into global initiatives

*SAR Database of  
directional ocean swell spectra  
and partitions: swell  $H_s$ , period  
and direction*



# Australian SAR Waves Dataset

# Australian SAR Waves Dataset

**Satellites:** Sentinel-1 A and B

**Source:** ESA Level-2 OCN wave mode data - <http://www.copernicus.gov.au/>

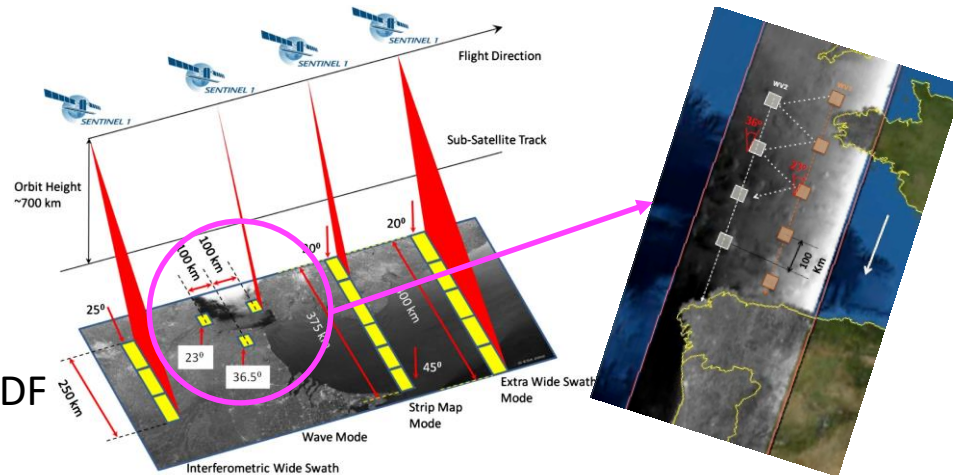
Copernicus Australasia regional hub

## Delayed Mode Dataset

- Duration: July-2015 to May-2019
- Format: Daily/monthly along-track netCDF
- CF 1.6 & IMOS 1.4 compliant
- Processing time: ~1 day

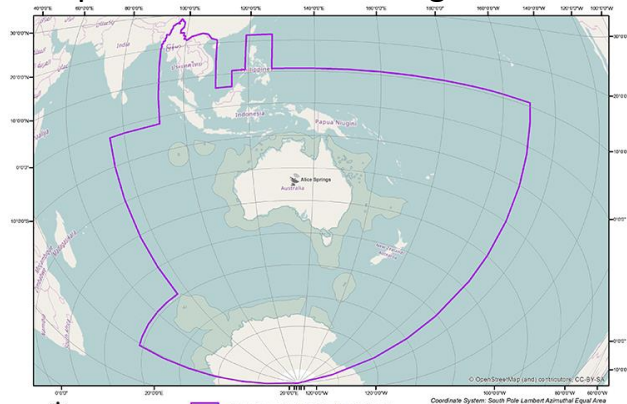
## NRT Dataset

- Latest 24 hours of SAR waves 6-hourly
- Same format and conventions
- Previous files archived
- Processing time: ~few minutes



Interferometric Wide Swath Mode

Copernicus Australasia Regional Hub



# QA/QC Highlights

- Source data inconvenient: 1 netCDF/obs (~15k obs/month/plat.)
- Source data inconsistent: netCDF file structure changes such as:
  - Var missing, data type changes, dimension changes, var attributes partially defined

All inconsistencies handled via trial and error

- Not CF compliant
- No consistent time variable
- WAVNUM coord changes over time
- Both WAVNUM and DIR coords sometimes exhibit floating point imprecisions
- Some erroneous measurements over land even after using land flag

# Format of netCDF files

Dec 2016  
monthly file

```
→ Dimensions: (DIRECTION: 72, PARTITION: 5, TIME: 18807, WAVNUM: 60)
→ Coordinates:
  * DIRECTION (DIRECTION) float32 0.0 5.0 10.0 ... 345.0 350.0 355.0
  * PARTITION (PARTITION) int8 0 1 2 3 4
  * WAVNUM (WAVNUM) float32 0.005235988 0.00557381 ... 0.2094395
  * TIME (TIME) datetime64[ns] 2016-12-01T07:40:56 ... 2016-12-31T22:57:46
→ Data variables:
  AMBI_FAC_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
  AZ_CUTOFF (TIME) float32 ...
  AZ_CUTOFF_DIR (TIME, DIRECTION) float32 ...
  BOT_DEPTH (TIME) float32 ...
  DP_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
  EKTH (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) float32 ...
  EKTH_PART (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) int8 ...
  EKTH_quality_control (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) int8 ...
  HEADING (TIME) float32 ...
  HS_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
  HS_WIND_SEA (TIME) float32 ...
  INC_ANGLE (TIME) float32 ...
  INV_CONF_PART (TIME, PARTITION) int8 ...
  INV_WAVE_AGE (TIME) float32 ...
  LAND_COVERAGE (TIME) float32 ...
  LATITUDE (TIME) float32 ...
  LONGITUDE (TIME) float32 ...
  NRCS (TIME) float32 ...
  POLARISATION (TIME) object ...
  RG_CUTOFF (TIME) float32 ...
  SNR (TIME) float32 ...
  SOURCE_NETCDF (TIME) object ...
  SOURCE_SAFE (TIME) object ...
  WDIR_ECMWF (TIME) float32 ...
  WDIR_SAR (TIME) float32 ...
  WP_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
  WSPD_ECMWF (TIME) float32 ...
  WSPD_SAR (TIME) float32 ...
```

Concat data along TIME

- Daily
- Monthly
- Yearly
- All data

All consistent vars from OCN  
Level-2 included



# Wavenumber spectra

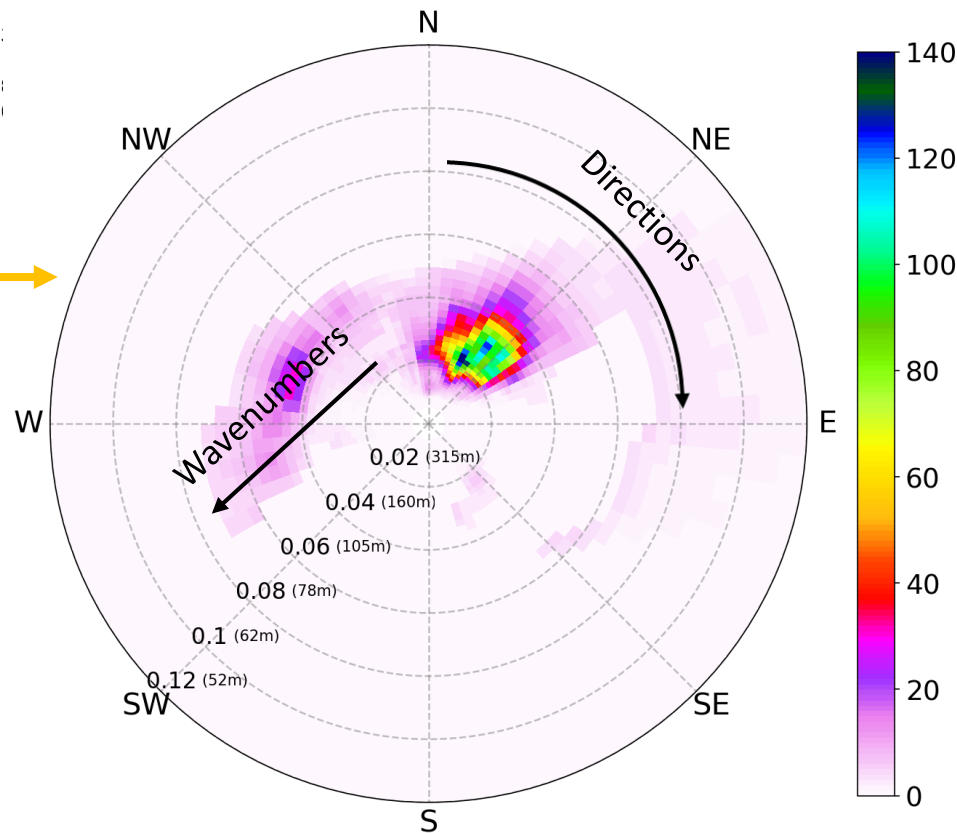
Dimensions: (DIRECTION: 72, PARTITION: 5, TIME: 18807, WAVNUM: 60)

Coordinates:

```
* DIRECTION (DIRECTION) float32 0.0 5.0 10.0 ...
* PARTITION (PARTITION) int8 0 1 2 3 4
* WAVNUM (WAVNUM) float32 0.005235988 0.0055738
* TIME (TIME) datetime64[ns] 2016-12-01T07:40
```

Data variables:

```
AMBI_FAC_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
AZ_CUTOFF (TIME) float32 ...
AZ_CUTOFF_DIR (TIME, DIRECTION) float32 ...
BOT_DEPTH (TIME) float32 ...
DP_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
EKTH (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) float32 ...
EKTH_PART (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) int8 ...
EKTH_quality_control (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) int8 ...
HEADING (TIME) float32 ...
HS_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
HS_WIND_SEA (TIME) float32 ...
INC_ANGLE (TIME) float32 ...
INV_CONF_PART (TIME, PARTITION) int8 ...
INV_WAVE_AGE (TIME) float32 ...
LAND_COVERAGE (TIME) float32 ...
LATITUDE (TIME) float32 ...
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NRCS (TIME) float32 ...
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SNR (TIME) float32 ...
SOURCE_NETCDF (TIME) object ...
SOURCE_SAFE (TIME) object ...
WDIR_ECMWF (TIME) float32 ...
WDIR_SAR (TIME) float32 ...
WP_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
WSPD_ECMWF (TIME) float32 ...
WSPD_SAR (TIME) float32 ...
```



# Partition Bulks

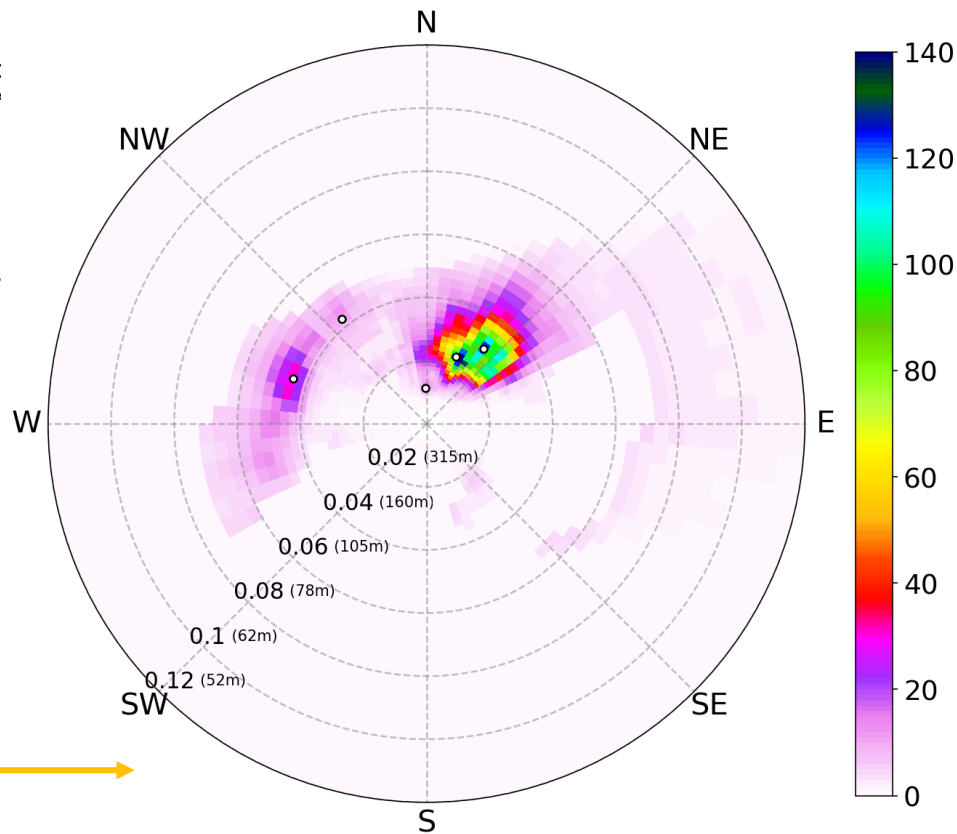
Dimensions: (DIRECTION: 72, PARTITION: 5, TIME: 18807, WAVNUM: 60)

Coordinates:

```
* DIRECTION (DIRECTION) float32 0.0 5.0 10.0 ...
* PARTITION (PARTITION) int8 0 1 2 3 4
* WAVNUM (WAVNUM) float32 0.005235988 0.00557:
* TIME (TIME) datetime64[ns] 2016-12-01T07:00:00.000000000
```

Data variables:

```
AMBI_FAC_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
AZ_CUTOFF (TIME) float32 ...
AZ_CUTOFF_DIR (TIME, DIRECTION) float32 ...
BOT_DEPTH (TIME) float32 ...
DP_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
EKTH (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) float32 ...
EKTH_PART (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) int8 ...
EKTH_quality_control (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) int8 ...
HEADING (TIME) float32 ...
HS_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
HS_WIND_SEA (TIME) float32 ...
INC_ANGLE (TIME) float32 ...
INV_CONF_PART (TIME, PARTITION) int8 ...
INV_WAVE_AGE (TIME) float32 ...
LAND_COVERAGE (TIME) float32 ...
LATITUDE (TIME) float32 ...
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NRCS (TIME) float32 ...
POLARISATION (TIME) object ...
RG_CUTOFF (TIME) float32 ...
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SOURCE_NETCDF (TIME) object ...
SOURCE_SAFE (TIME) object ...
WDIR_ECMWF (TIME) float32 ...
WDIR_SAR (TIME) float32 ...
WP_PART (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
WSPD_ECMWF (TIME) float32 ...
WSPD_SAR (TIME) float32 ...
```



# 180° Directional Ambiguity

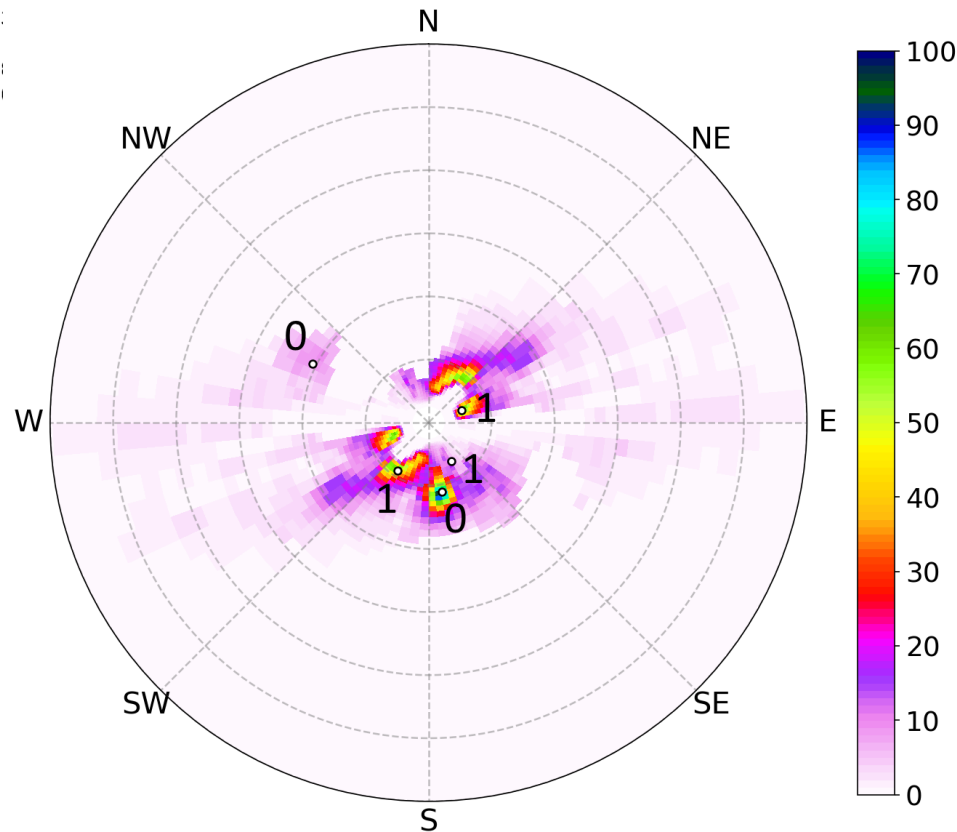
Dimensions: (DIRECTION: 72, PARTITION: 5, TIME: 18807, WAVNUM: 60)

Coordinates:

```
* DIRECTION      (DIRECTION) float32 0.0 5.0 10.0 ...
* PARTITION      (PARTITION) int8 0 1 2 3 4
* WAVNUM         (WAVNUM) float32 0.005235988 0.0055738
* TIME           (TIME) datetime64[ns] 2016-12-01T07:40
```

Data variables:

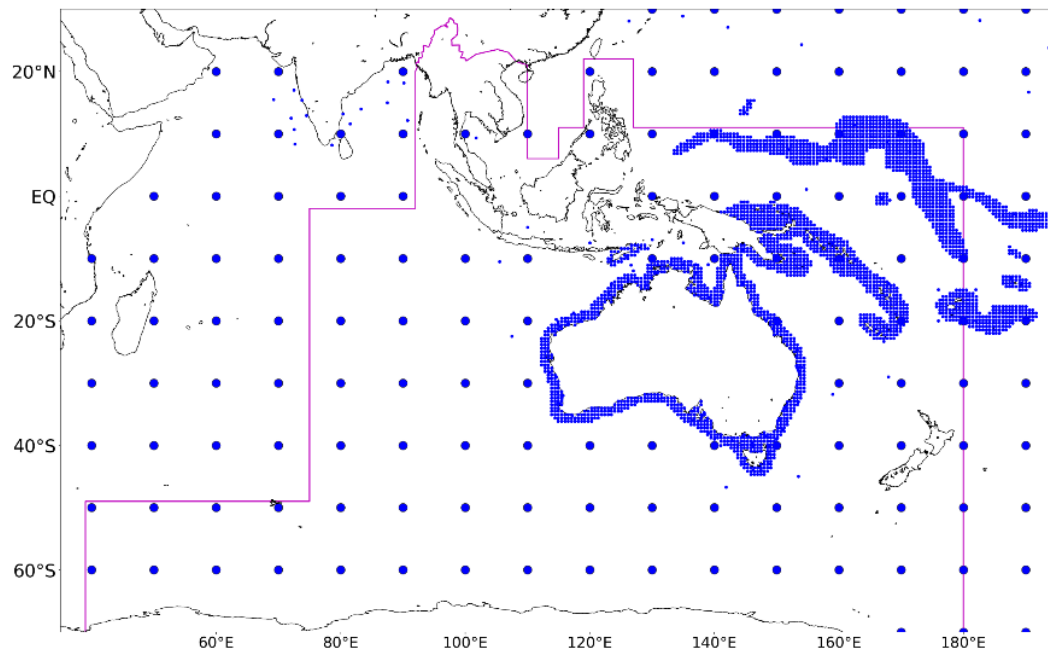
```
AMBI_FAC_PART    (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
AZ_CUTOFF        (TIME) float32 ...
AZ_CUTOFF_DIR    (TIME, DIRECTION) float32 ...
BOT_DEPTH        (TIME) float32 ...
DP_PART          (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
EKTH             (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) float32 ...
EKTH_PART        (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) int8 ...
EKTH_quality_control (TIME, DIRECTION, WAVNUM) int8 ...
HEADING          (TIME) float32 ...
HS_PART          (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
HS_WIND_SEA      (TIME) float32 ...
INC_ANGLE        (TIME) float32 ...
INV_CONF_PART    (TIME, PARTITION) int8 ...
INV_WAVE_AGE     (TIME) float32 ...
LAND_COVERAGE   (TIME) float32 ...
LATITUDE         (TIME) float32 ...
LONGITUDE        (TIME) float32 ...
NRCS             (TIME) float32 ...
POLARISATION     (TIME) object ...
RG_CUTOFF        (TIME) float32 ...
SNR              (TIME) float32 ...
SOURCE_NETCDF    (TIME) object ...
SOURCE_SAFE      (TIME) object ...
WDIR_ECMWF       (TIME) float32 ...
WDIR_SAR         (TIME) float32 ...
WP_PART          (TIME, PARTITION) float32 ...
WSPD_ECMWF       (TIME) float32 ...
WSPD_SAR         (TIME) float32 ...
```



# Validation against WW3 hindcast

# WW3 CAWCR Hindcast (1979-present)

WW3 – Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research  
(CAWCR) Hindcast (Durrant et al. 2014)



- WAVEWATCH III v4.18 model
- Forced using CFSR winds and ice concentration (0.2°, hourly winds and 6-hourly ice)
- Australian part of 10° global grid, hourly spectra
- 4' nested grid, hourly spectra around Australia and Pacific Islands

# Sentinel-1

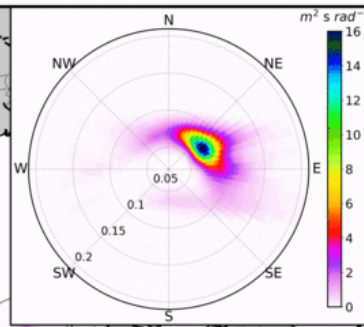
20°N

0°

20°S

40°S

60°S



Mean  
Spectra

40°E

60°E

80°E

100°E

120°E

140°E

160°E

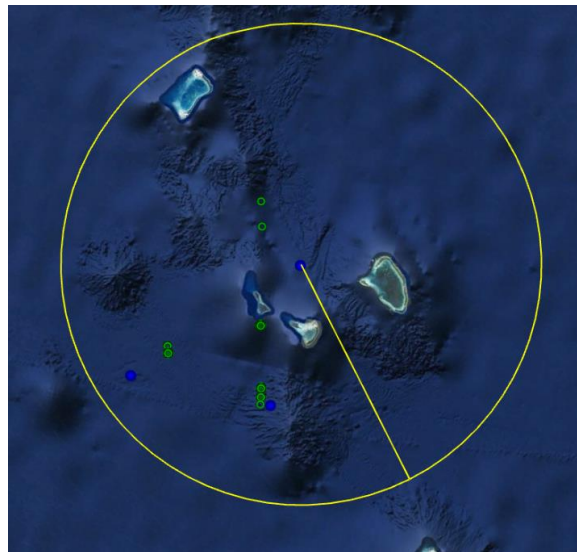
180°

# Collocations

Criteria: distance  $\leq 100\text{km}$ ,  $\pm 30$  min, depth  $> 30\text{m}$ , swell  $H_s > 1\text{m}$

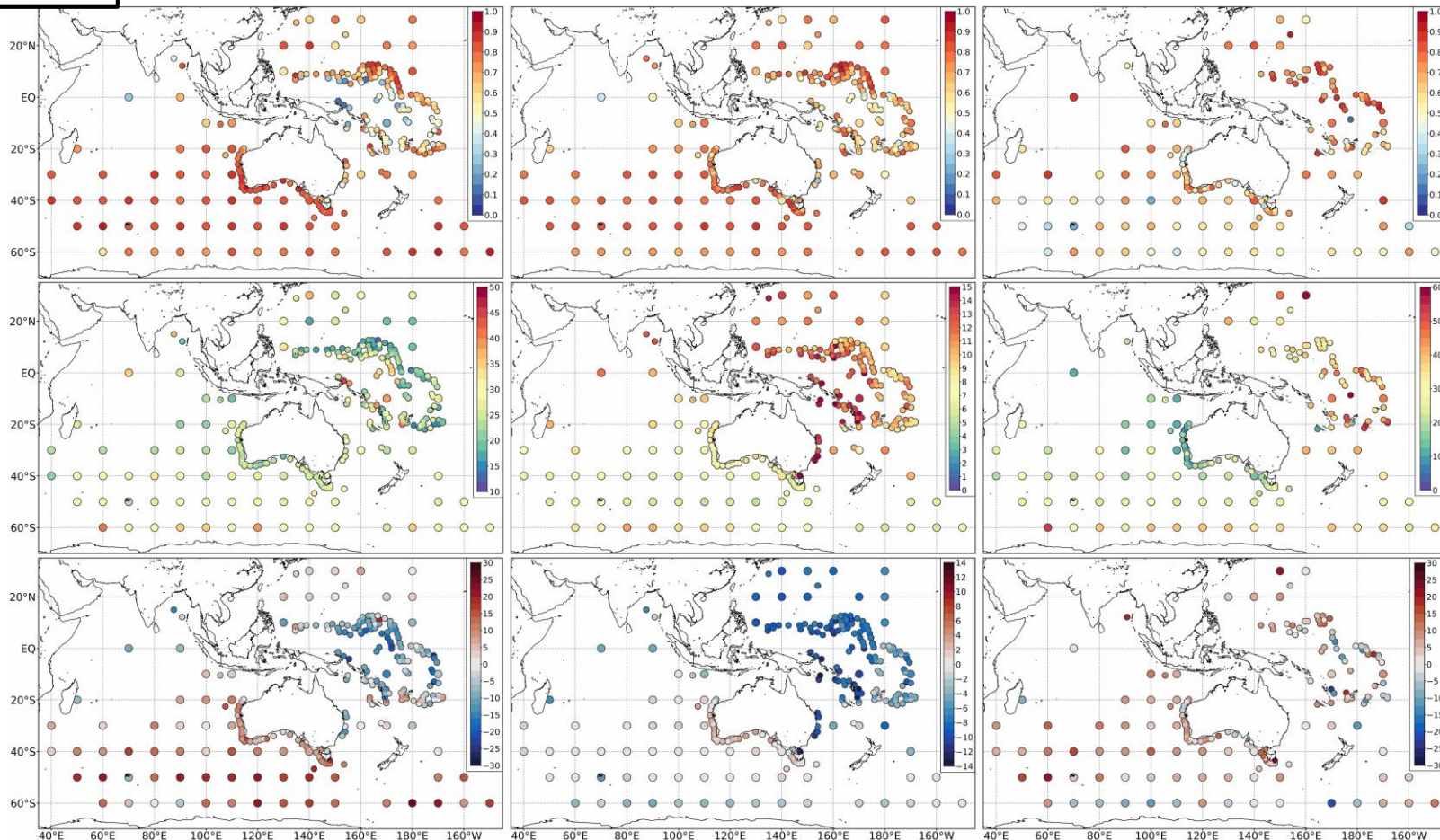
At least 30 collocations to compute statistics

Most problematic island collocations removed





Corr.

Norm.  
RMSENorm.  
bias



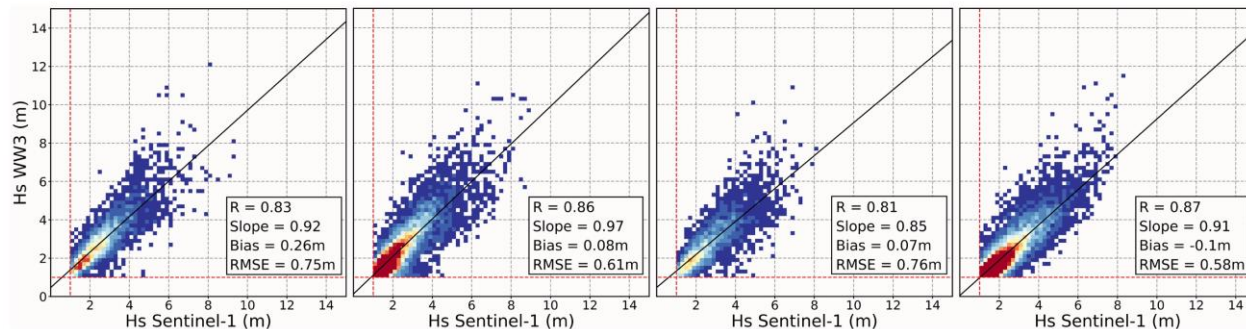
WV1

WV2

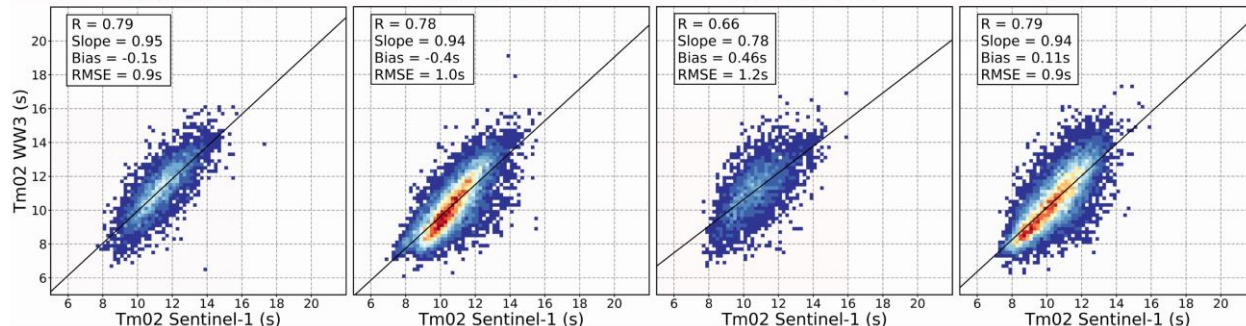
WV1

WV2

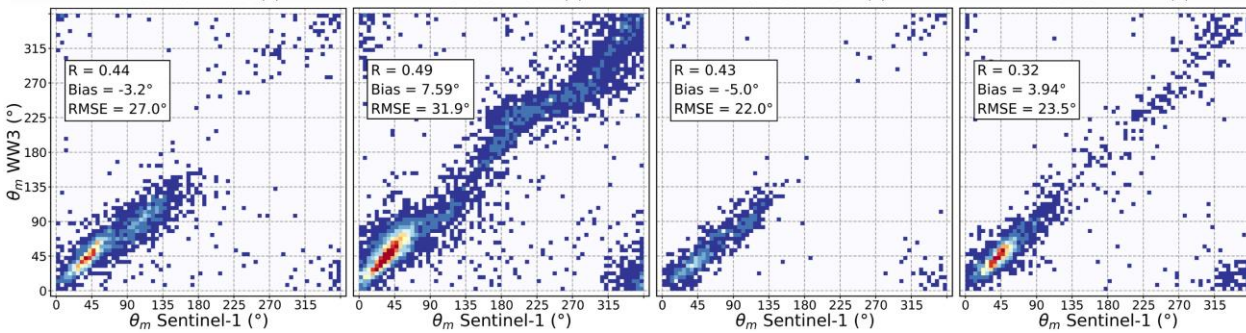
Swell Hs



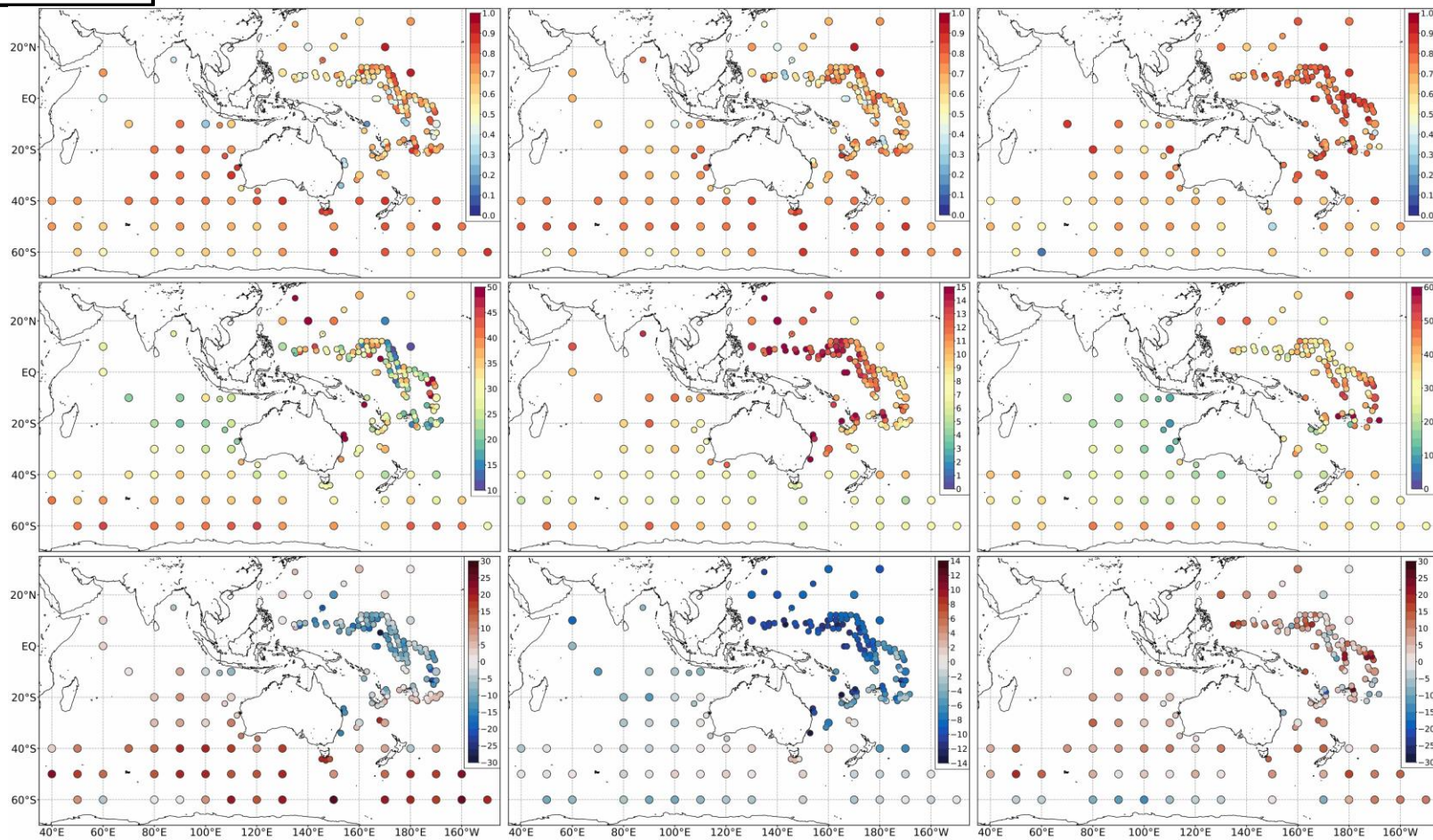
Tm02



Dm



Corr.

Norm.  
RMSENorm.  
bias



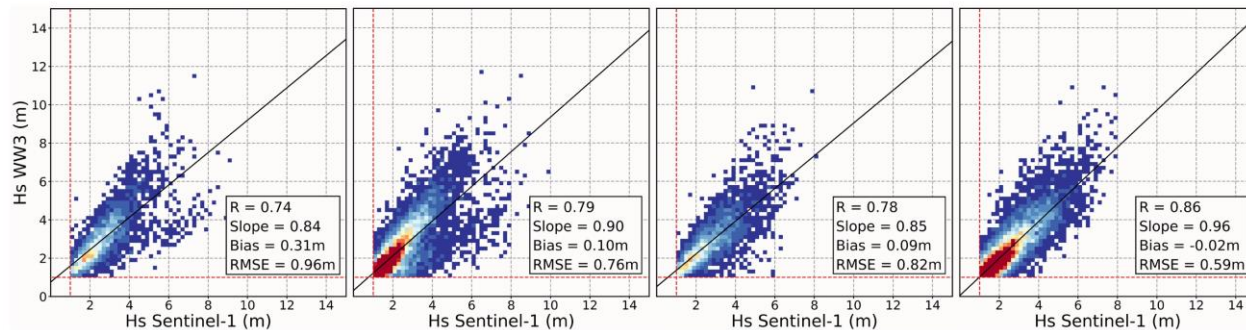
WV1

WV2

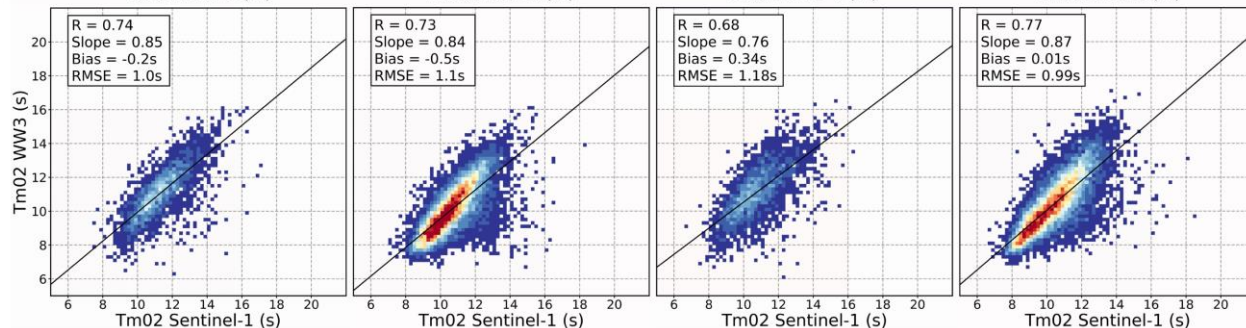
WV1

WV2

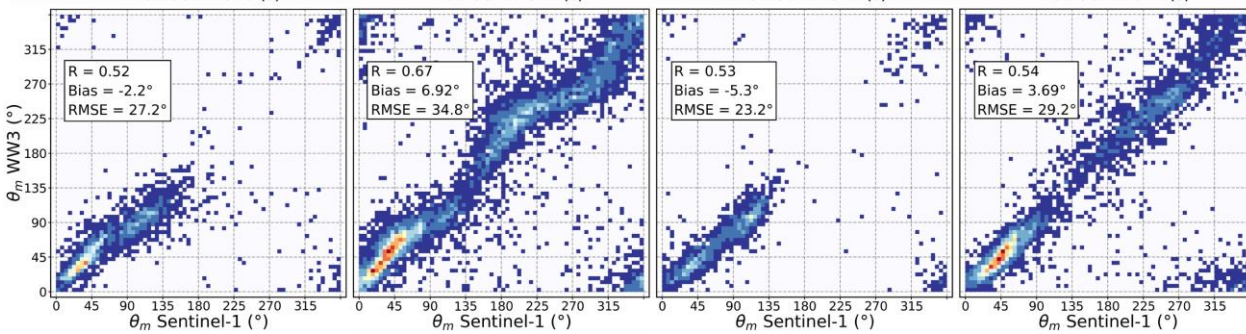
Swell Hs



Tm02



Dm



# Conclusions, Challenges and Outlook

# Conclusions and Challenges

## Conclusions:

- Model and SAR bulks match reasonably well. Dm, less so
- Database suitable for full-duration analysis: CAL/VAL, potentially trends
- Database suitable for analysing extreme events and case studies
- Database (Jul-2015 to Oct-2019) in process of being published at AODN

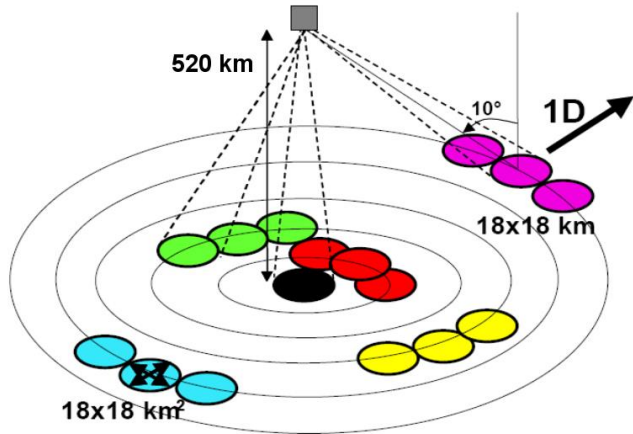
## Challenges:

- Lack of in-situ, reference directional buoy data
- Complex island collocations

# Outlook



- CFOSAT SWIM instrument measuring nadir and off-nadir waves and scatterometers winds simultaneously for the first time
- Initial calibration and validation performed
- Full directional wave spectra to be included in database in future
- Measures between 70m – 600m wavelengths



Courtesy CNES



- Copernicus continuation Sentinel-1 C & D > 2021
- Inclusion of historical ENVISAT waves obs

# Questions?

## Thank you

**Oceans and Atmosphere**

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Australian SAR Waves Dataset

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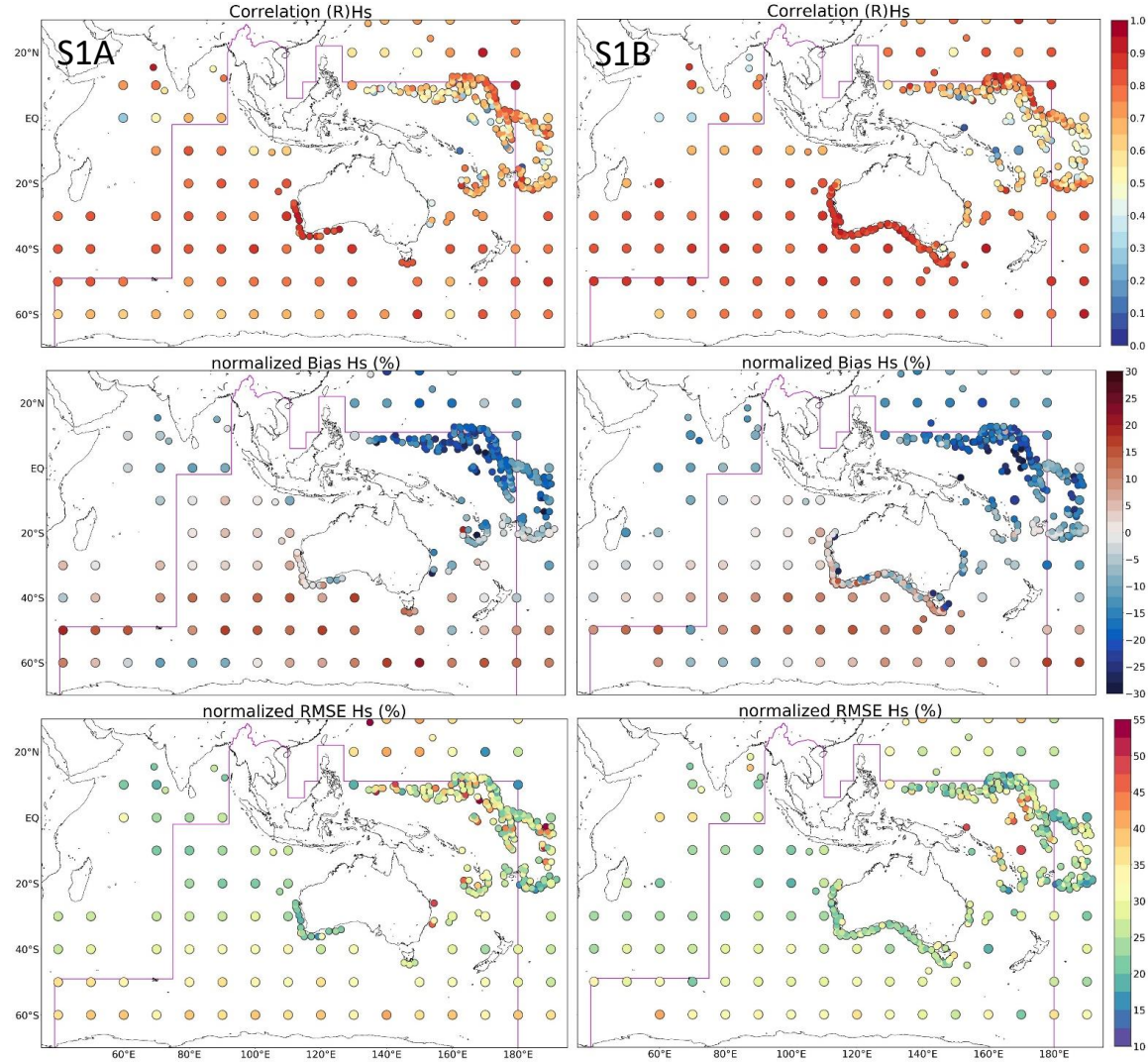
Australia's National Science Agency



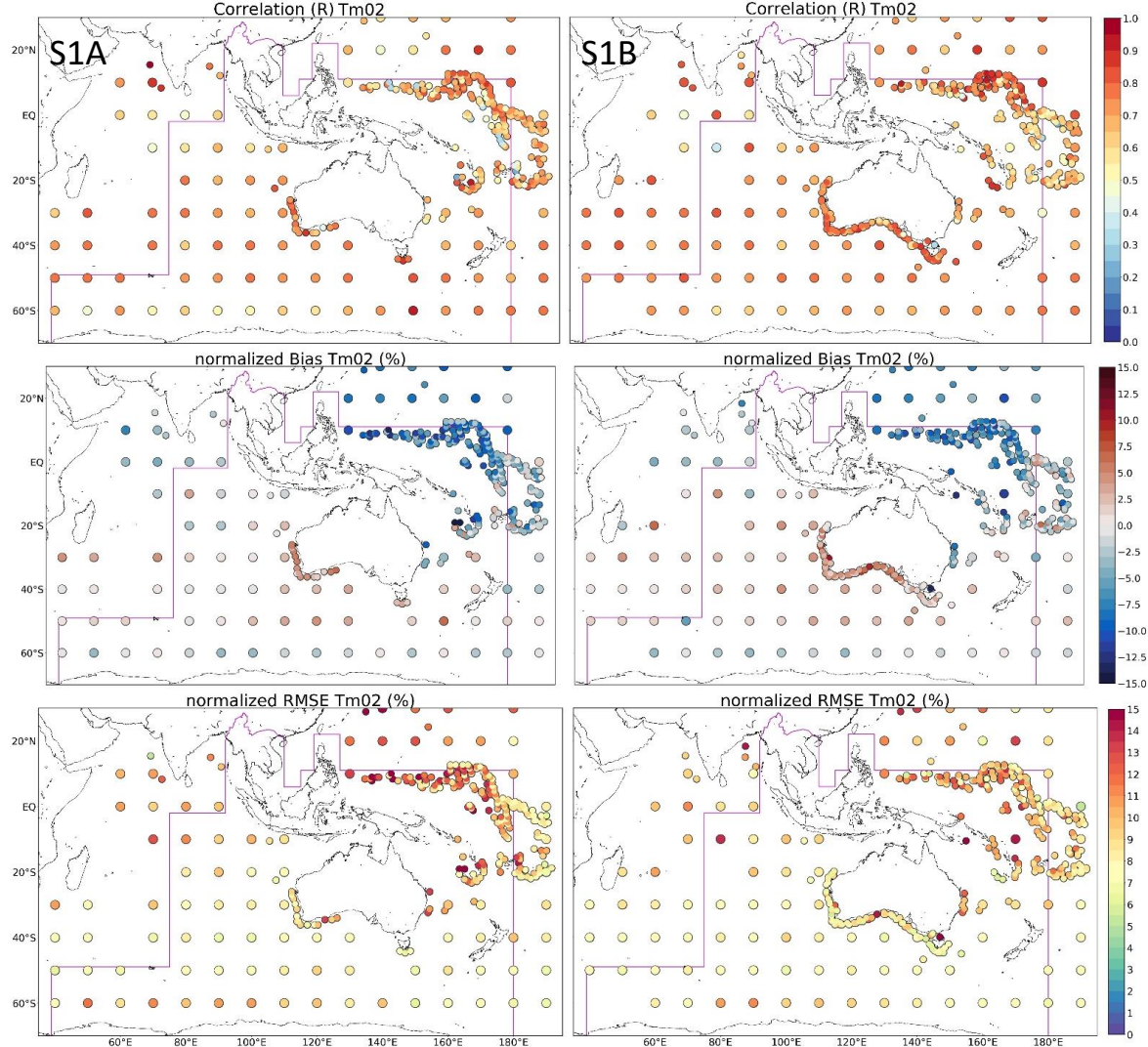
# Extra slides



# Hs stats by location



# Tm02 stats by location



# Dm stats by location

