

# Near-global Variability of Stratospheric Water Vapor observed by SAGE III/ISS

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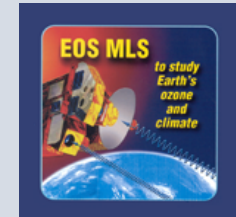


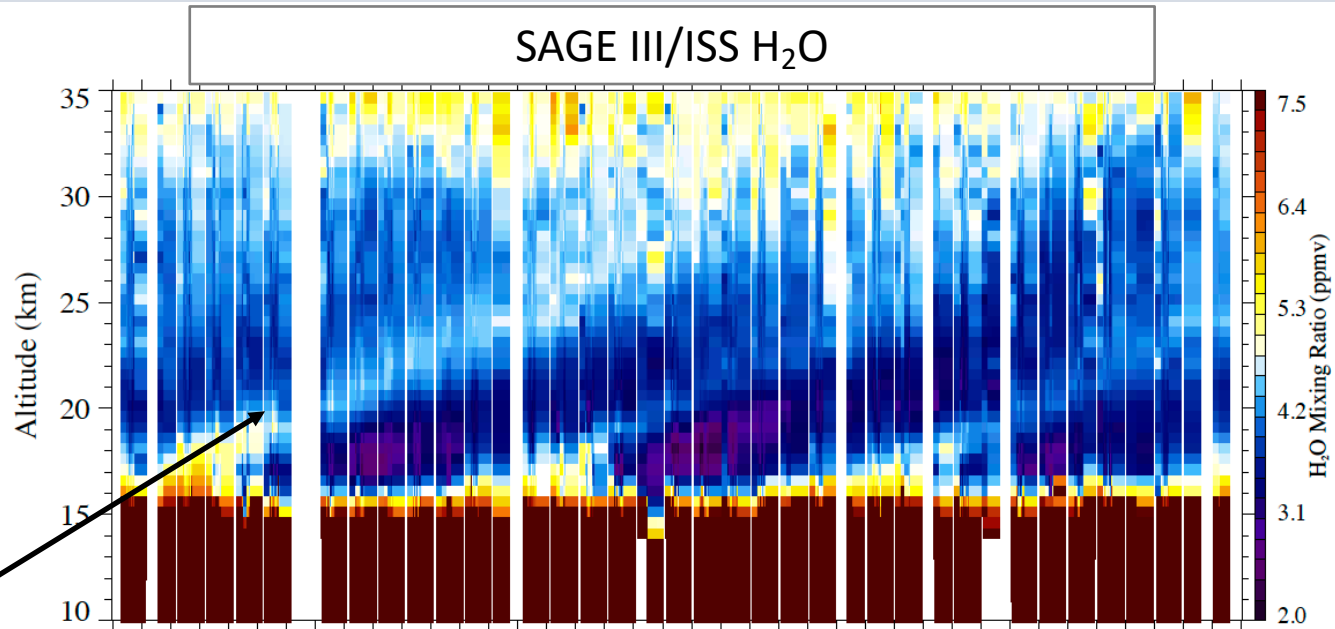
# SAGE III/ISS and **MLS** H<sub>2</sub>O

1. H<sub>2</sub>O Tape Recorder in the Tropical Stratosphere
2. Data Screening and Aerosol Sensitivity
3. Relative Humidity (RH)
4. Seasonal Variability

Data - SAGE III/ISS v5.1 H<sub>2</sub>O (Jun 2017-May 2020)

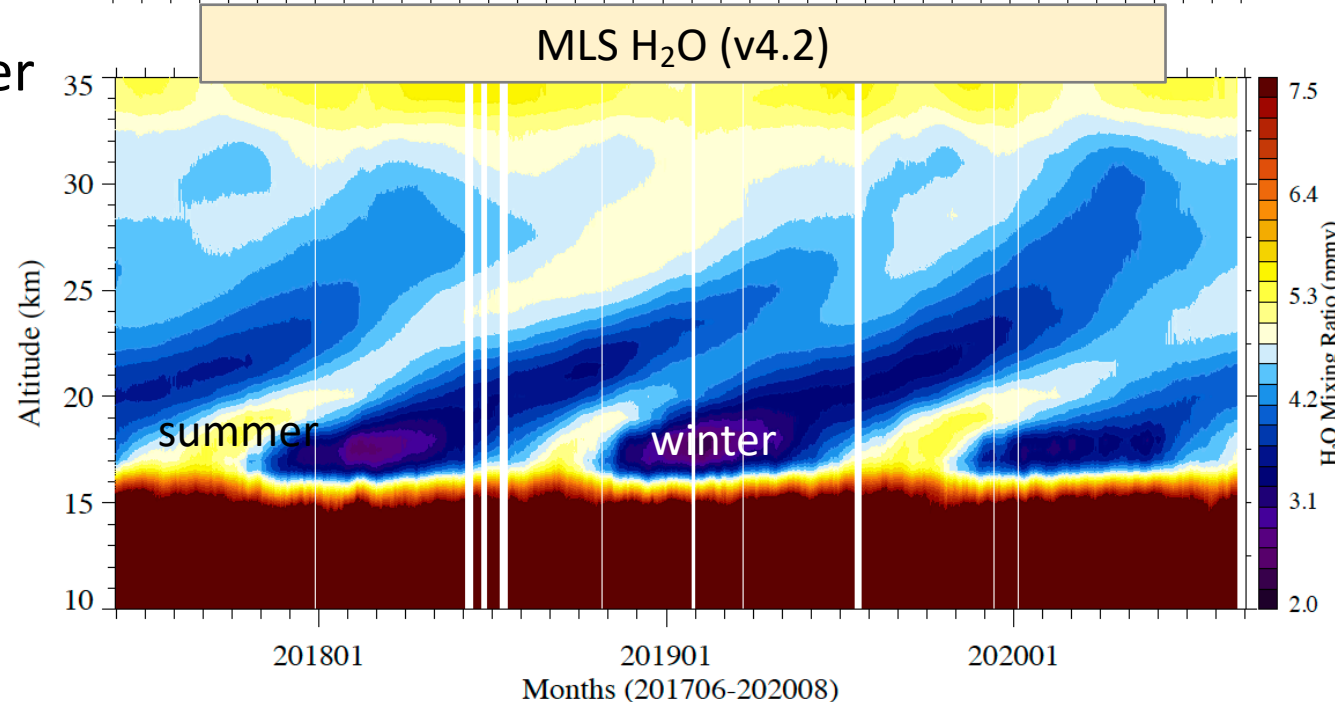
MLS H<sub>2</sub>O v4.2 and v5.0 (interpolated to an altitude grid)



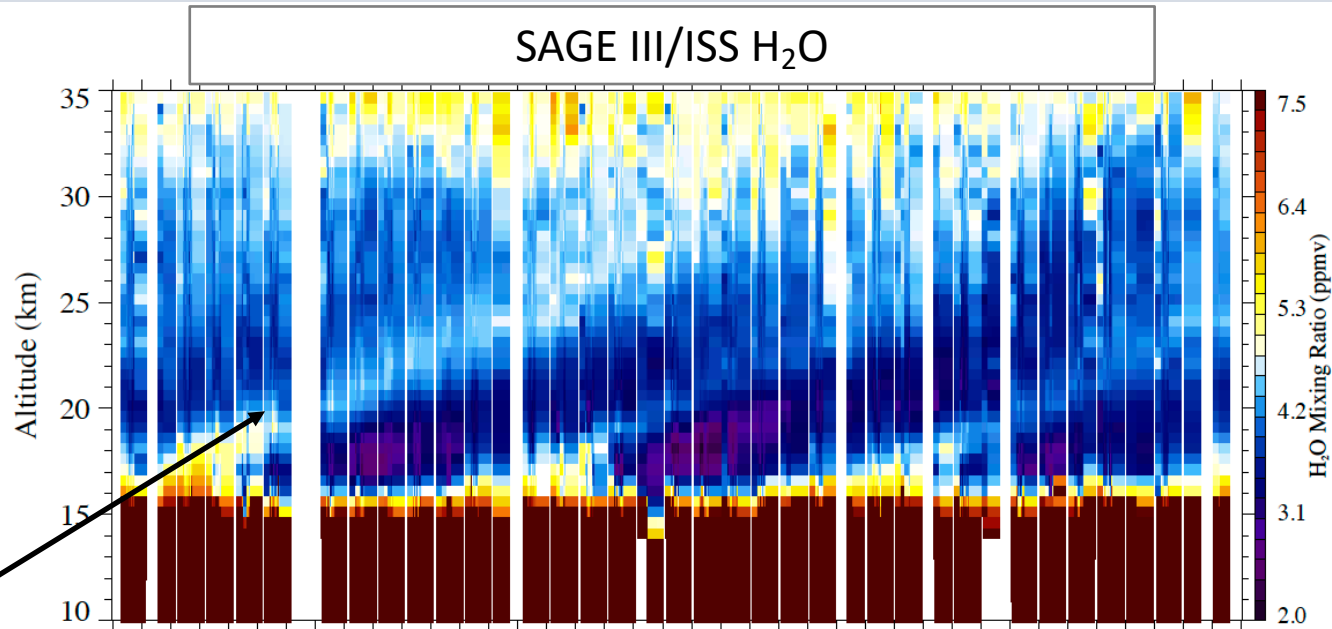


SAGE III/ISS and MLS  
H<sub>2</sub>O agree in phase and  
amplitude (16-30 km).

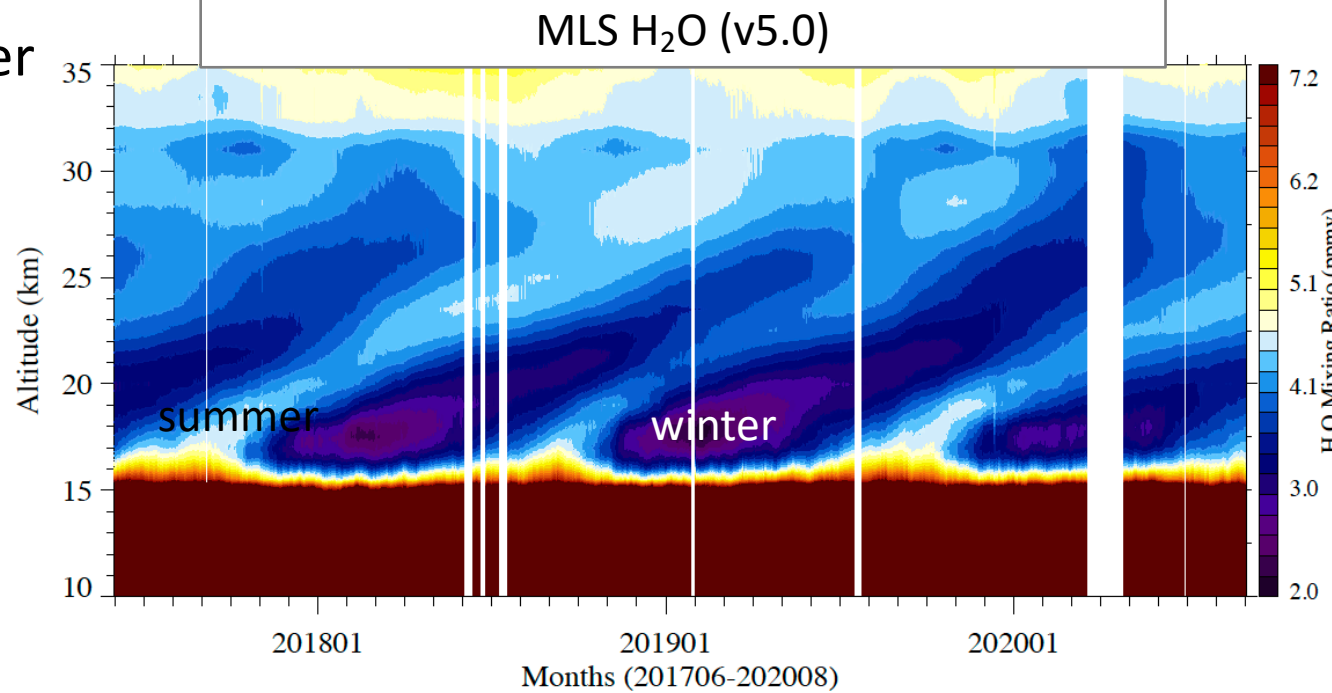
H<sub>2</sub>O tape recorder  
(wet phase/  
dry phase)



SAGE III/ISS ~ 10 % drier  
than MLS v4.2 H<sub>2</sub>O in  
the stratosphere (Davis  
et al., 2020).



H<sub>2</sub>O tape recorder  
(wet phase/  
dry phase)

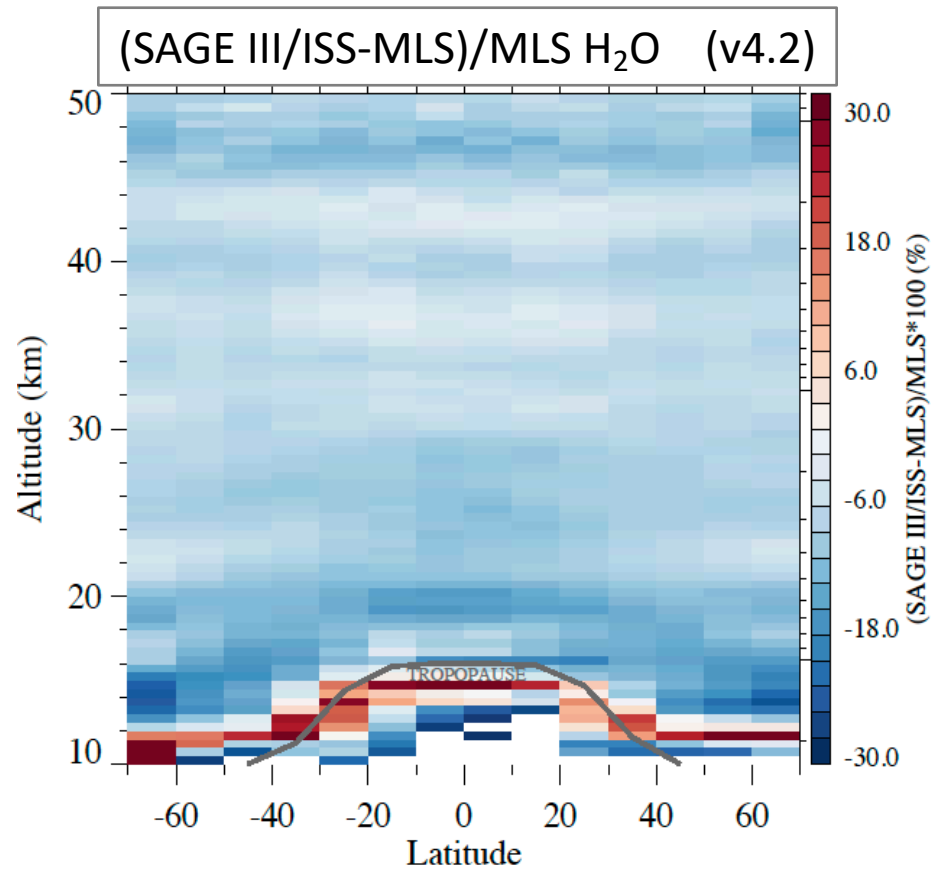


SAGE III/ISS agrees with  
MLS v5.0 H<sub>2</sub>O in the  
stratosphere.

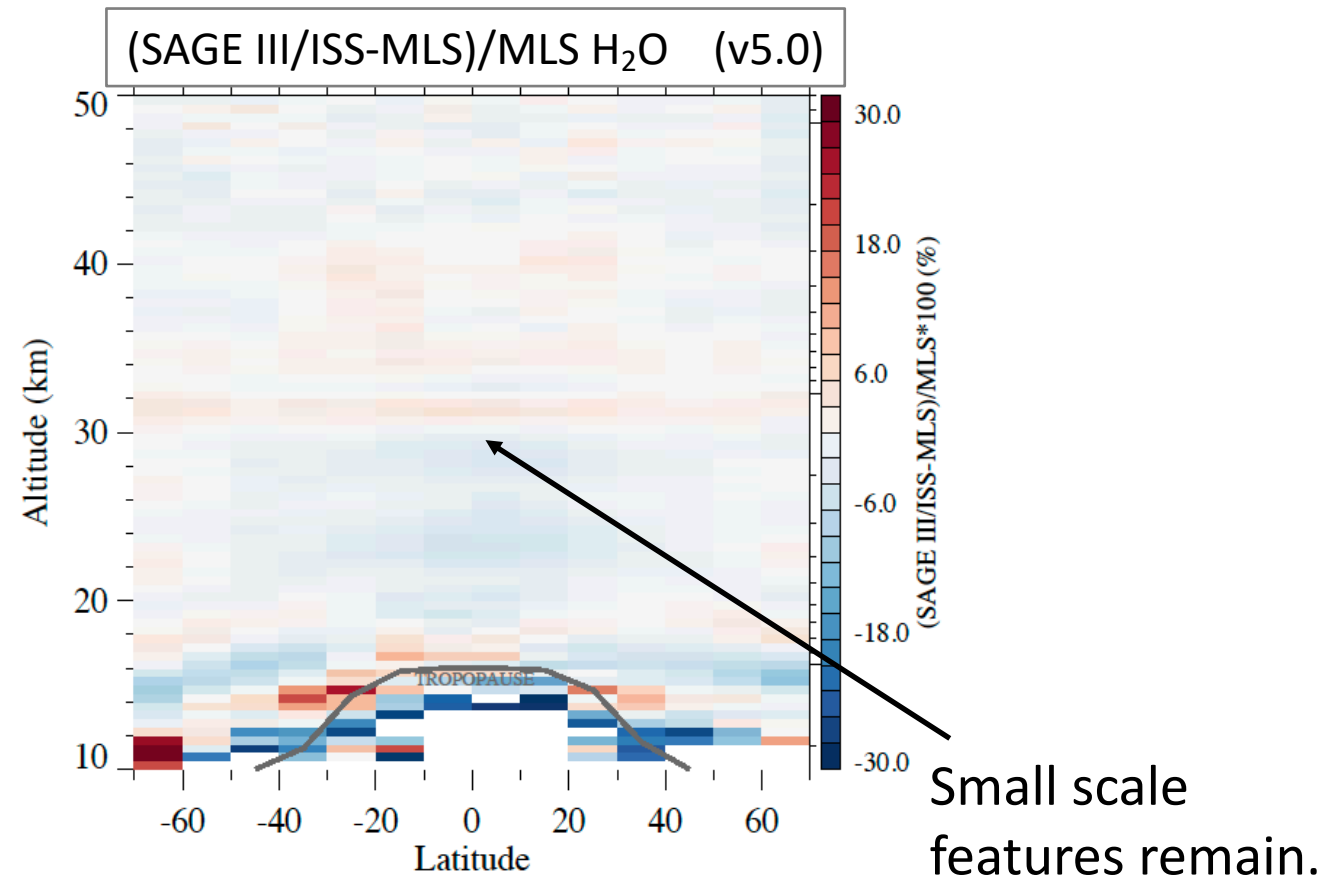
MLS v5.0 is ~5-10 drier  
than v4.2 (instrument  
drift issues).



# SAGE III/ISS & MLS H<sub>2</sub>O Differences (v4.2 & v5.0)

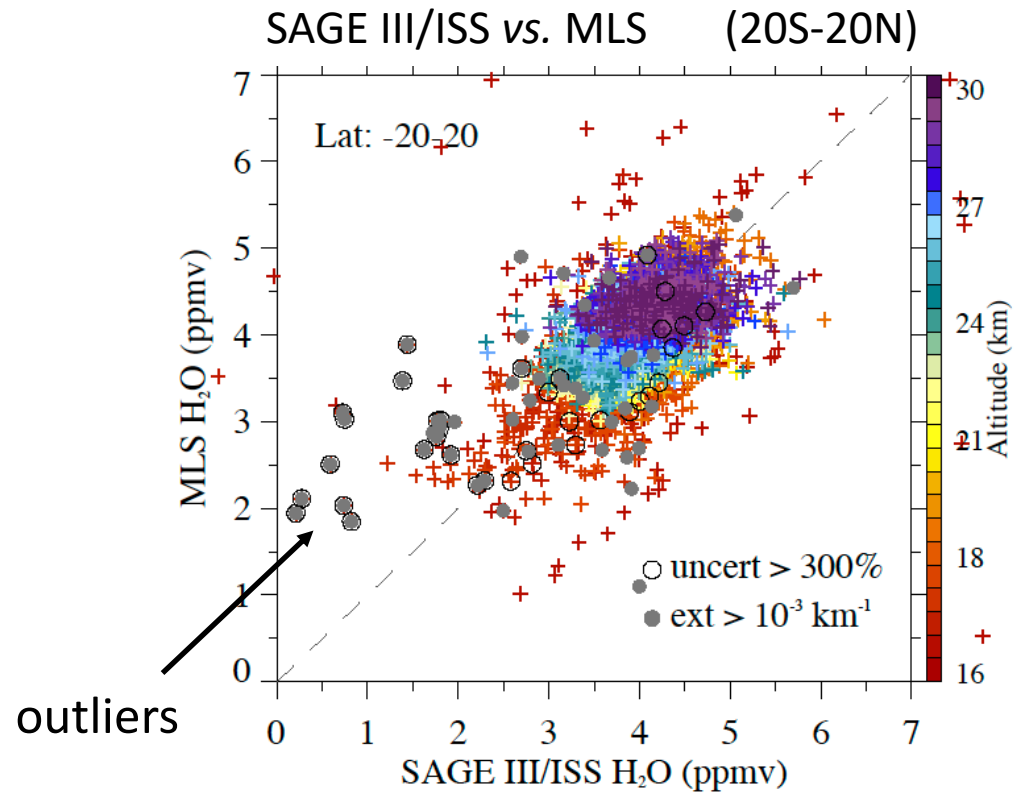


SAGE III/ISS ~ 10 % drier than  
MLS v4.2 H<sub>2</sub>O in the stratosphere.



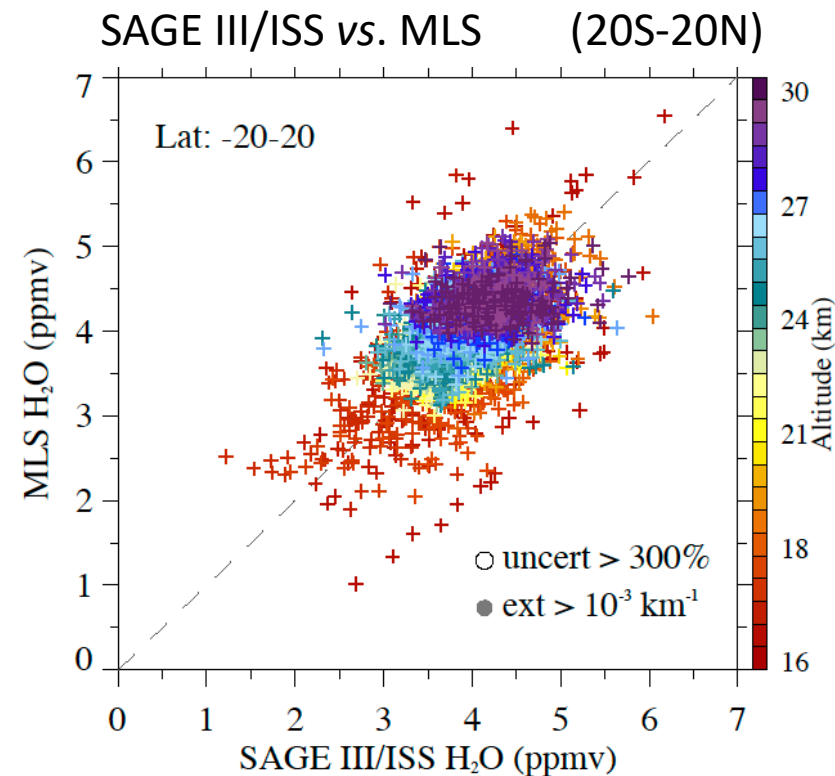
SAGE III/ISS agrees with MLS  
v5.0 H<sub>2</sub>O in the stratosphere.

## Before Screening



Uncertainty (300 %)  
Aerosol Ext. at 1022 nm (10<sup>-3</sup> km<sup>-1</sup>)

## After Screening



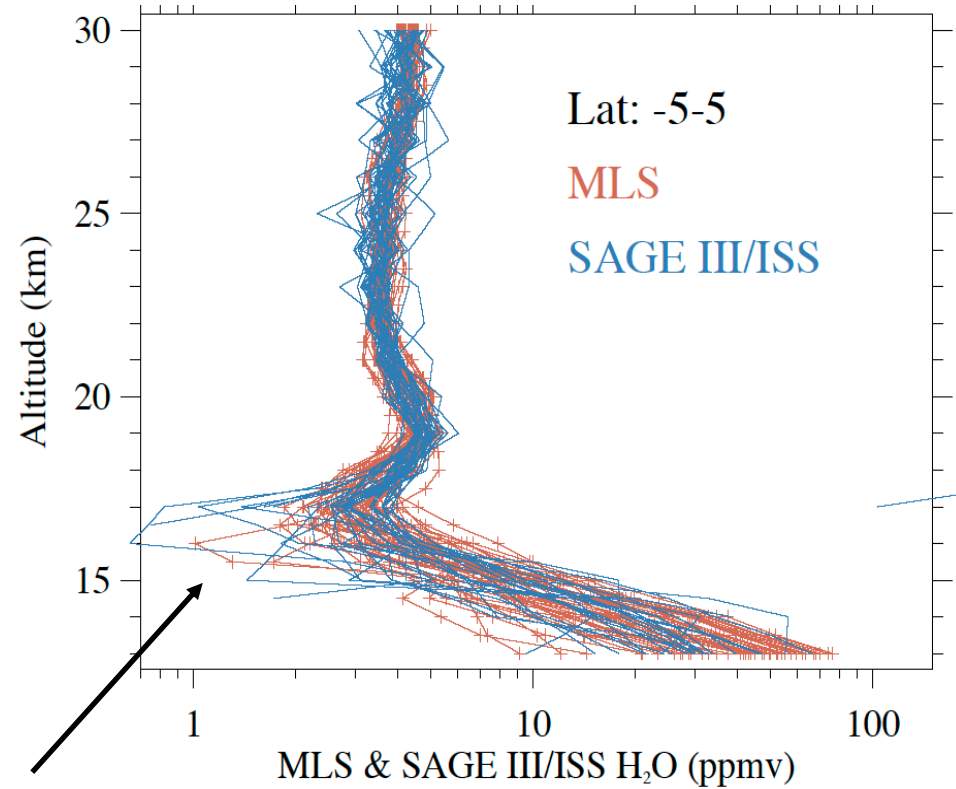
The screening filters out obvious outliers  
but not all (~1.2 % of total profiles).

Screening Criteria  
(Davis et al. 2020)

Anomalous events  
Keel over  
Color ratio (B1022/B520)

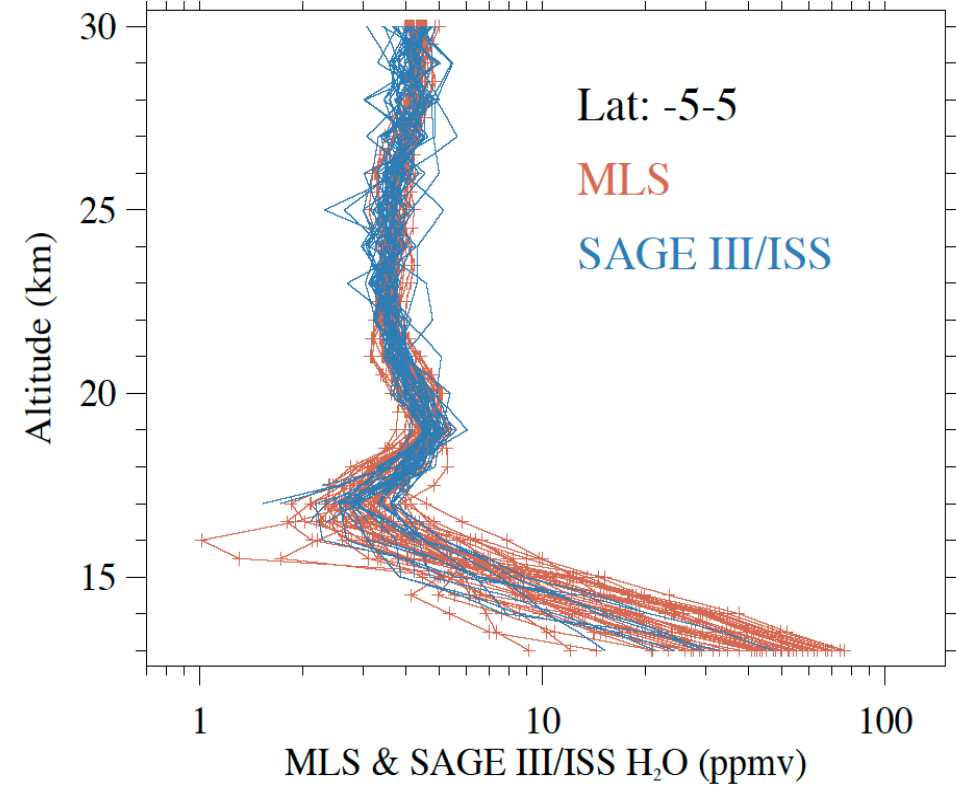


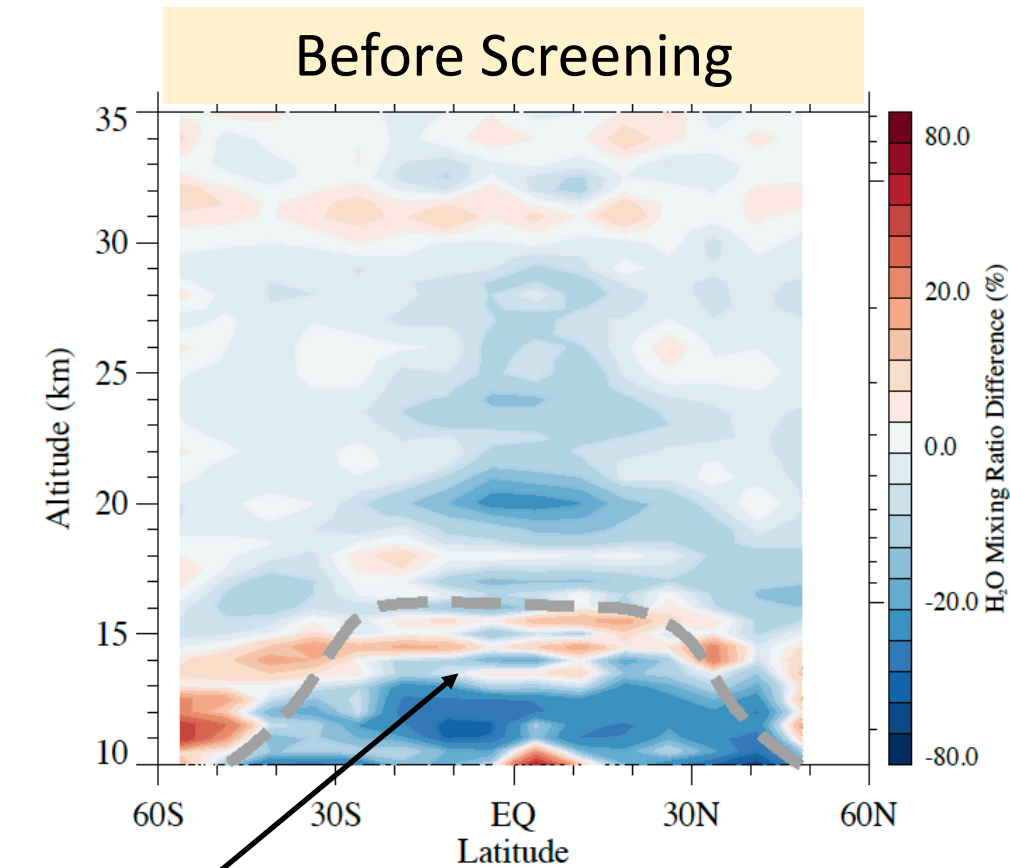
Before Screening



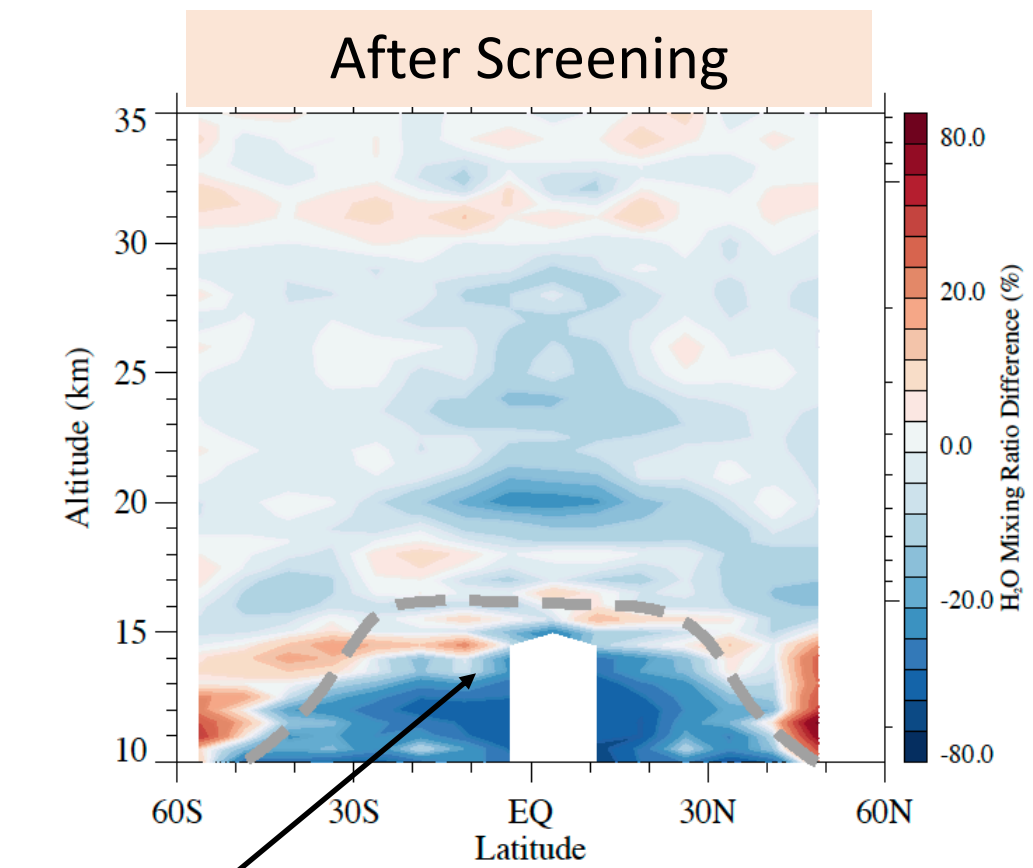
outliers & very low H<sub>2</sub>O

After Screening



$(\text{SAGE III/ISS} - \text{MLS}) / \text{MLS}$ 

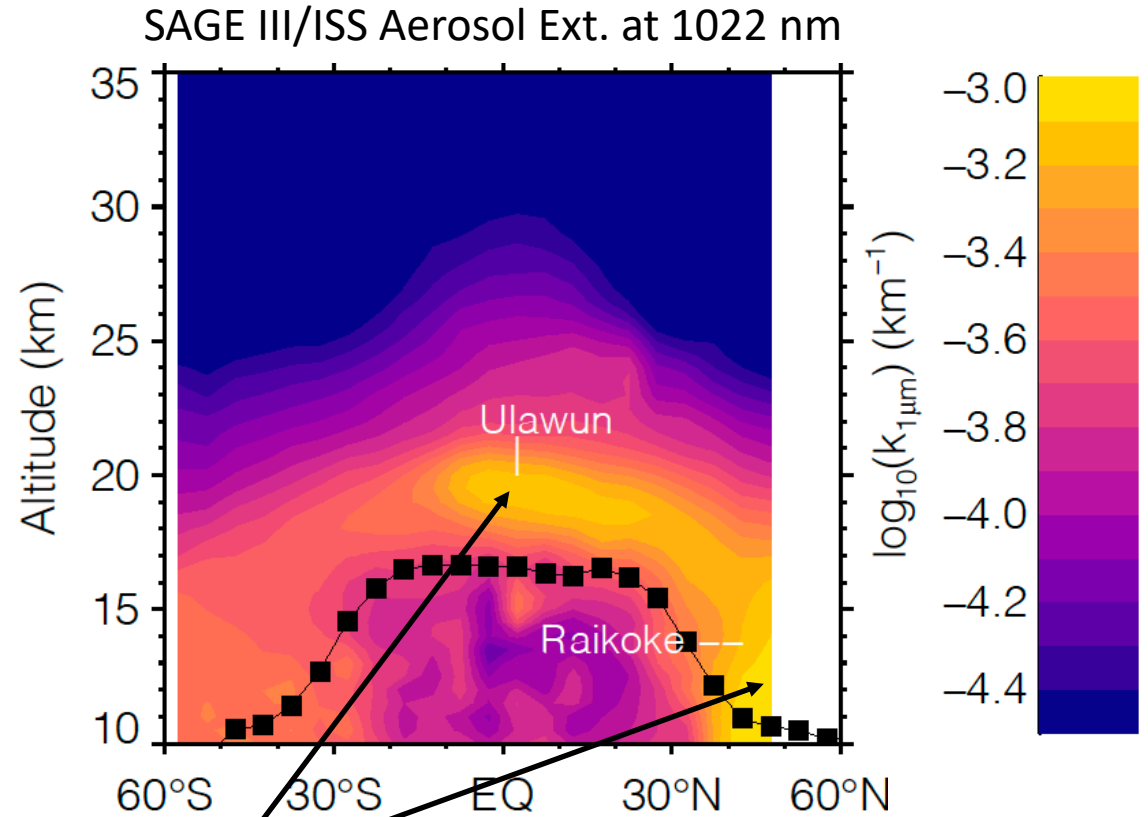
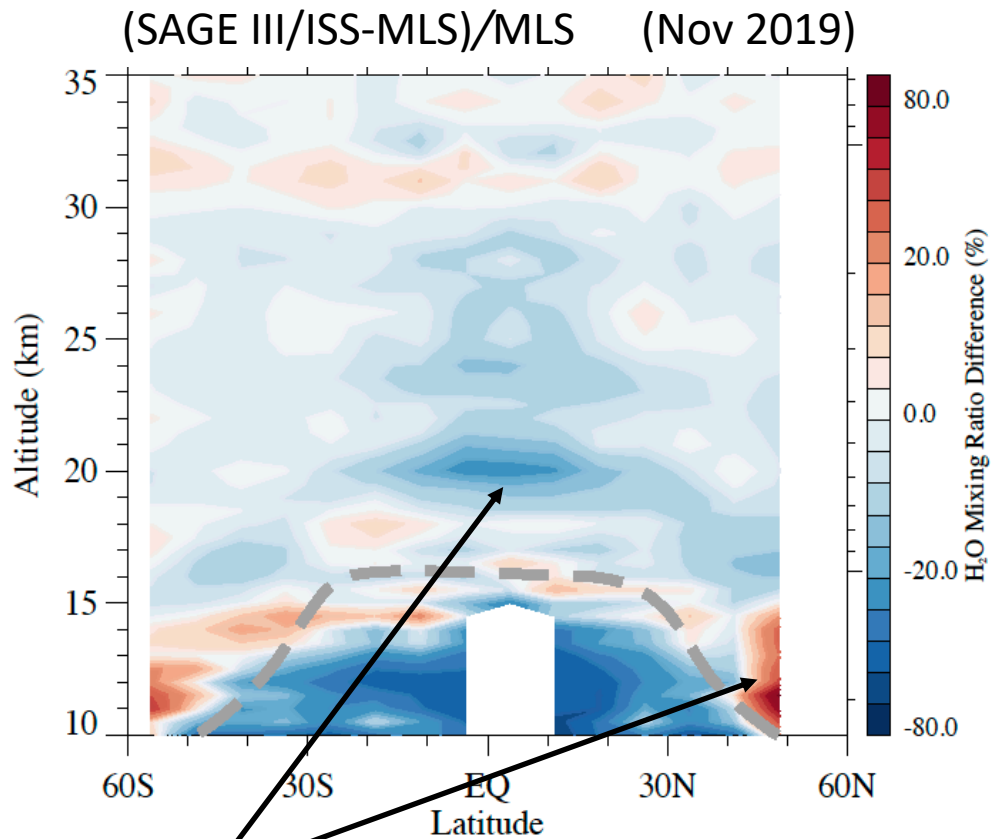
Noise



Filtered

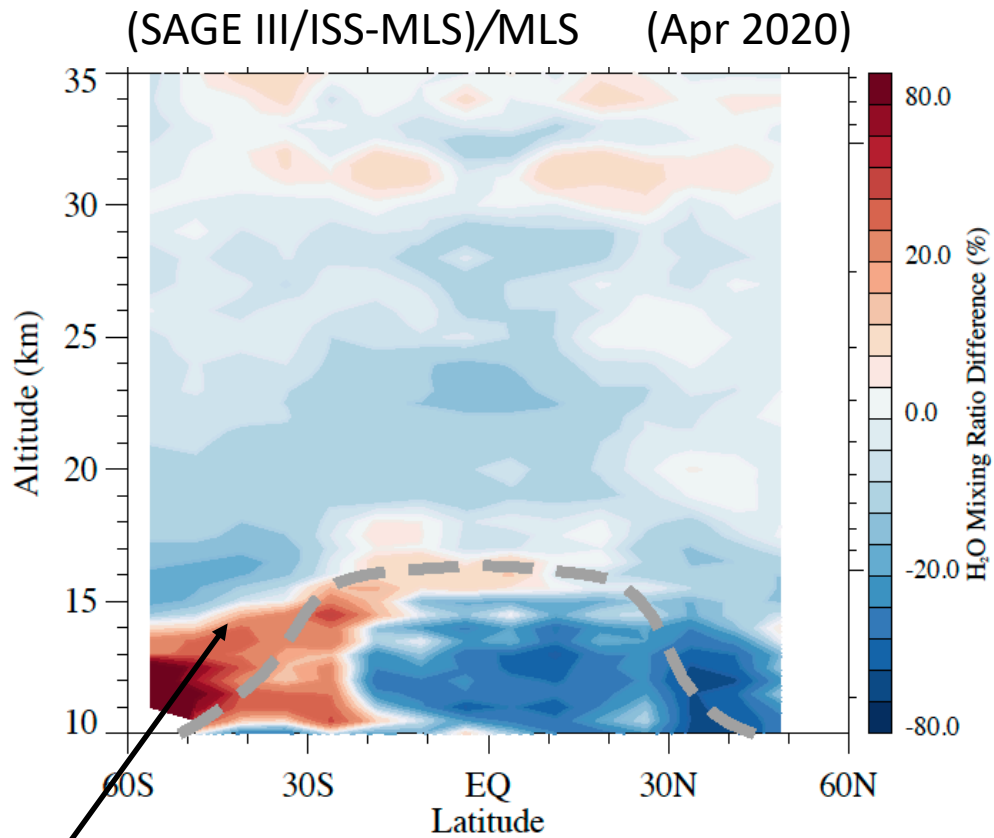
Filtering affects low altitudes.





Larger difference coincides with high aerosol loadings related to volcanic eruptions.

Figure made by  
Rob Damadeo



Larger difference coincides with high aerosol loadings related to volcanic eruptions.

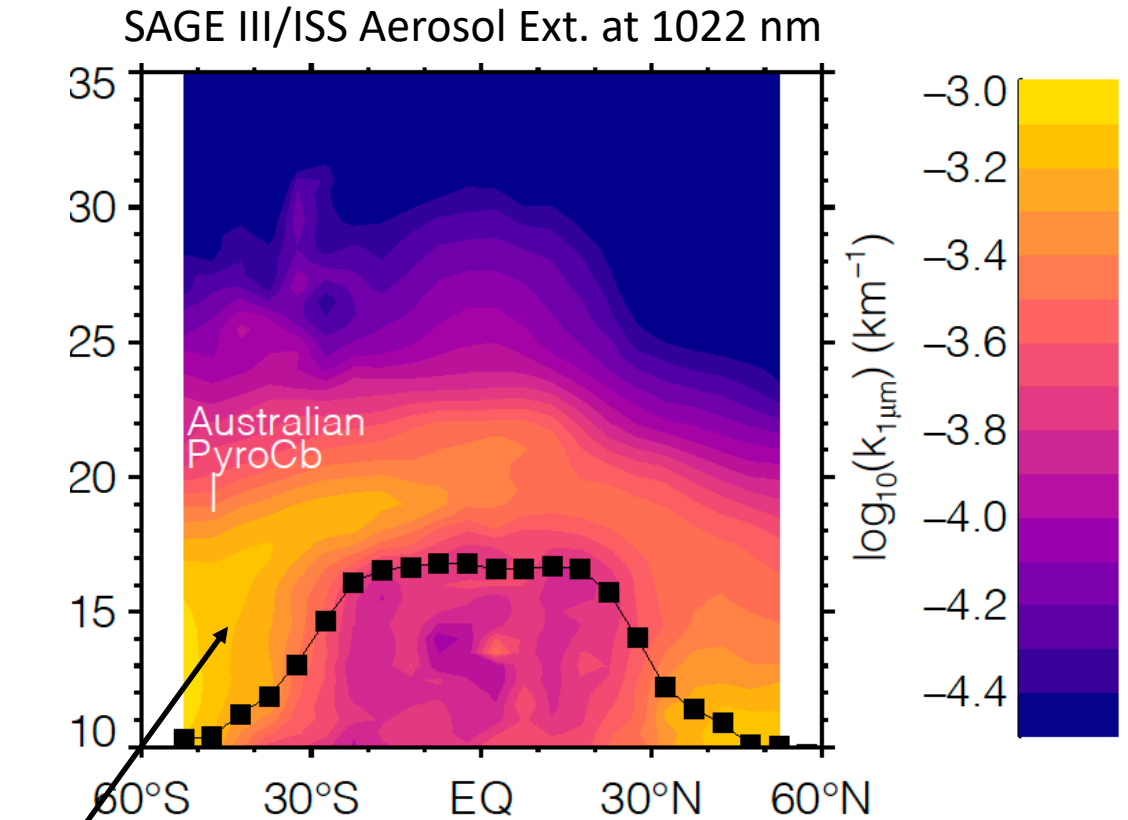
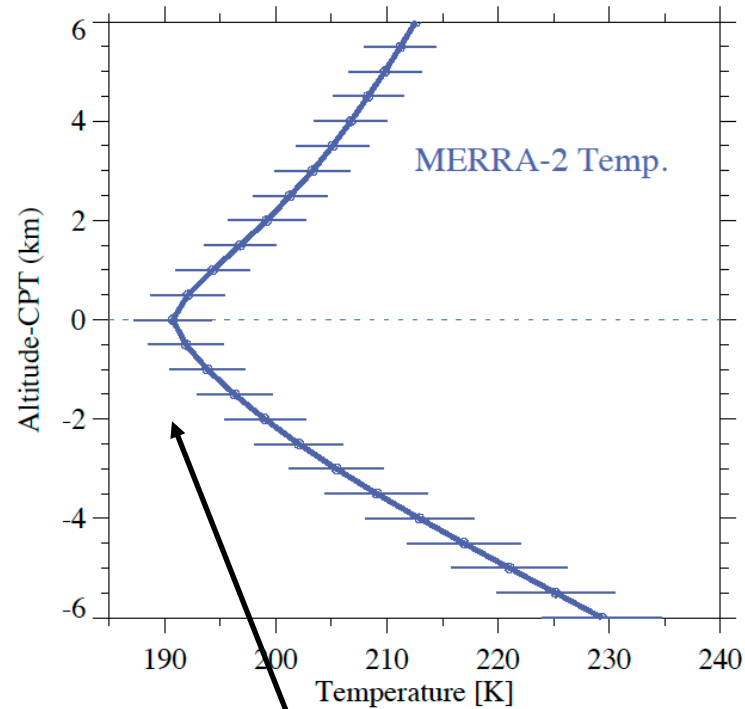


Figure made by  
Rob Damadeo



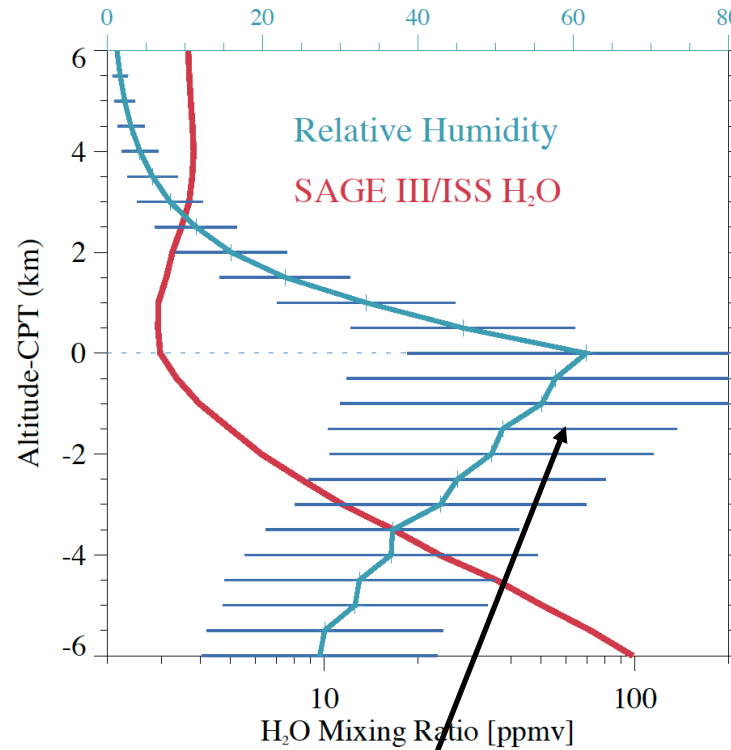
# SAGE III/ISS H<sub>2</sub>O – Temperature - Relative Humidity (RH)

Temperature 15S-15N (Jan-Mar)



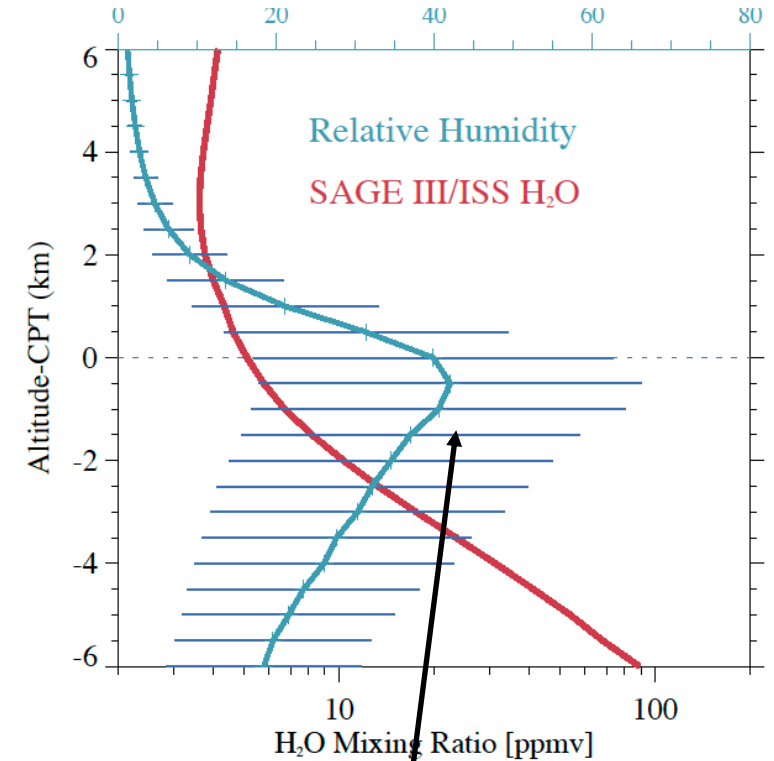
CPT  
(Tropics, winter)

RH & H<sub>2</sub>O 15S-15N (Jan-Mar)

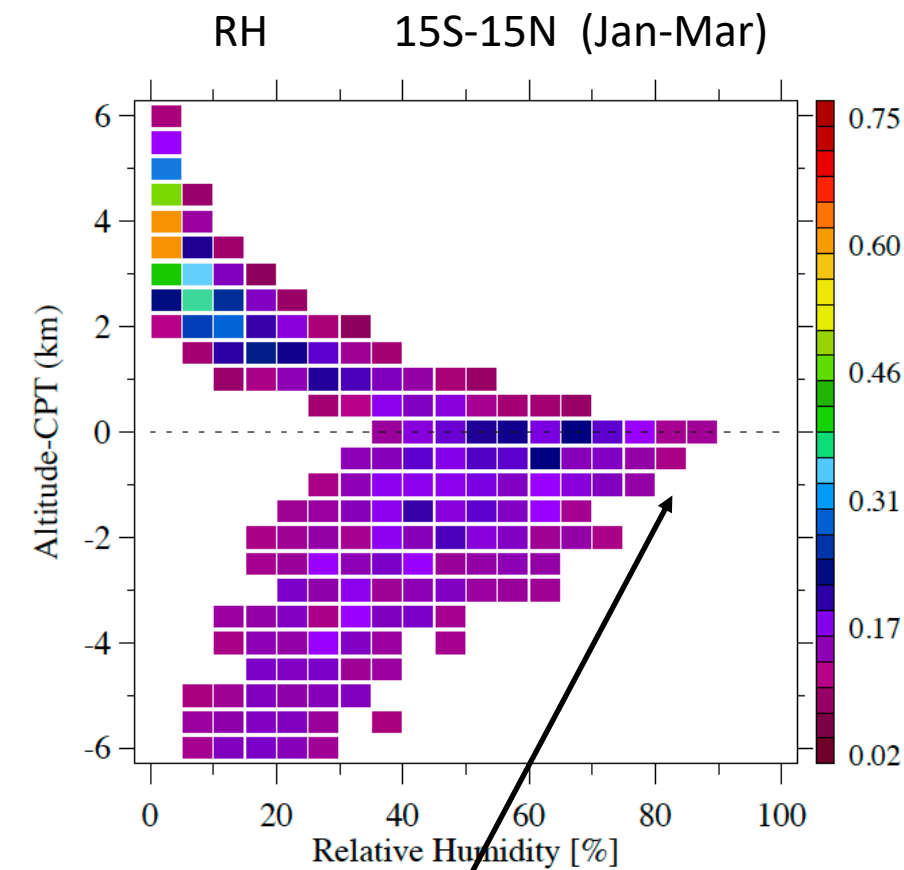


High RH  
(Tropics, winter)

RH & H<sub>2</sub>O 15-35N (Jun-Aug)



Drier  
(Subtropics, summer)



Max RH at CPT then sharp decrease above the CPT.

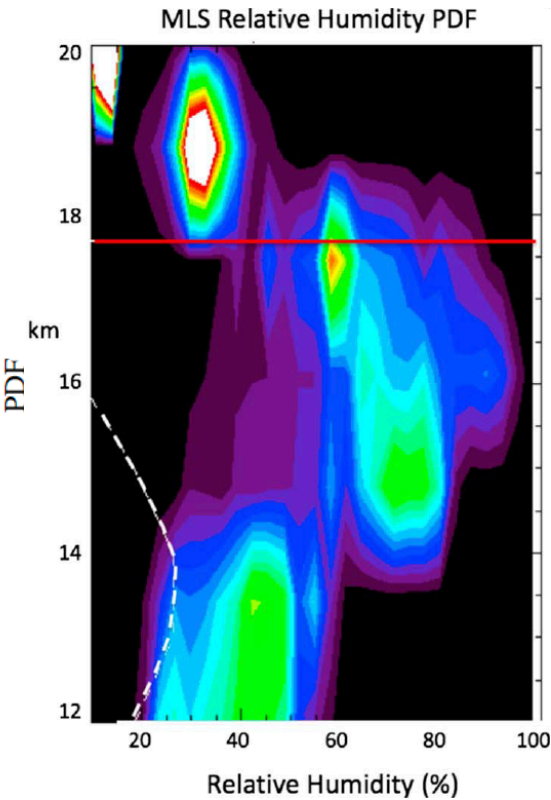
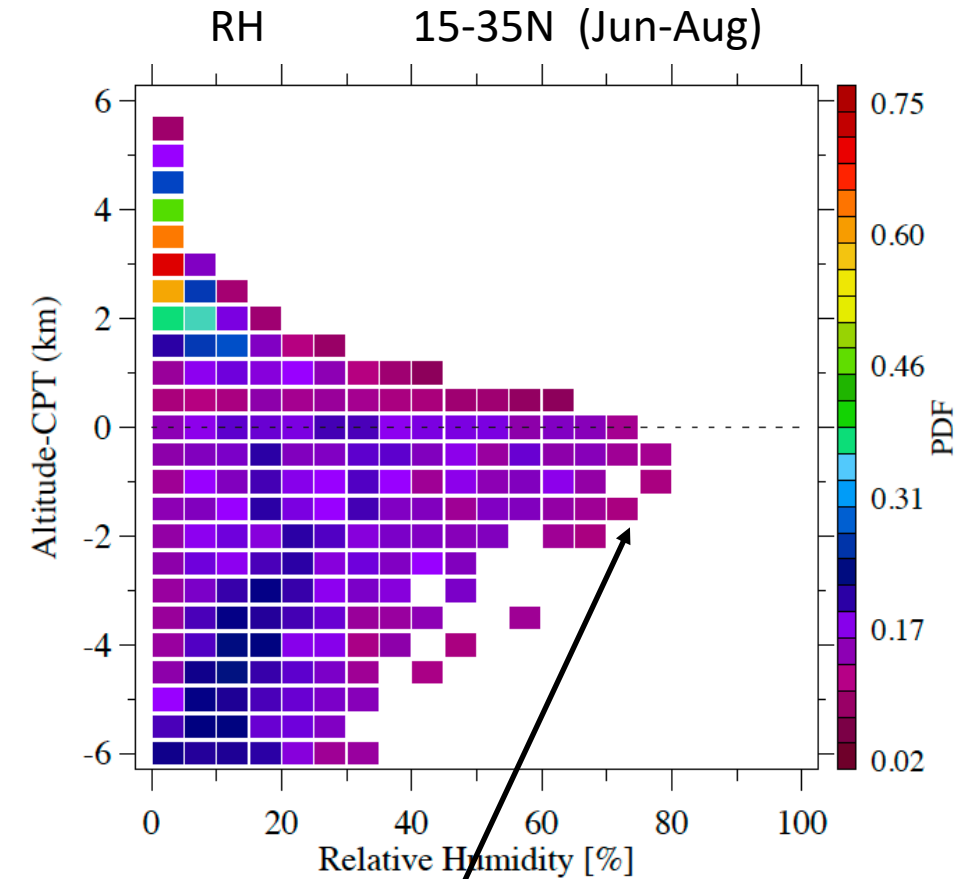
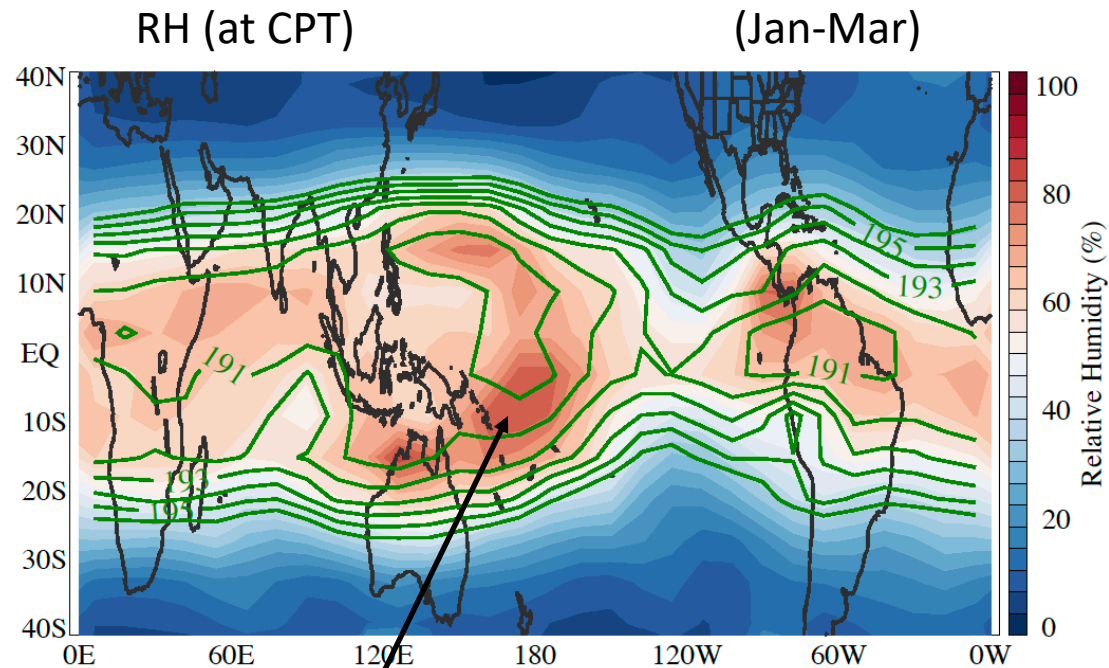


Fig. 4 - Schoeberl et al. (2019)

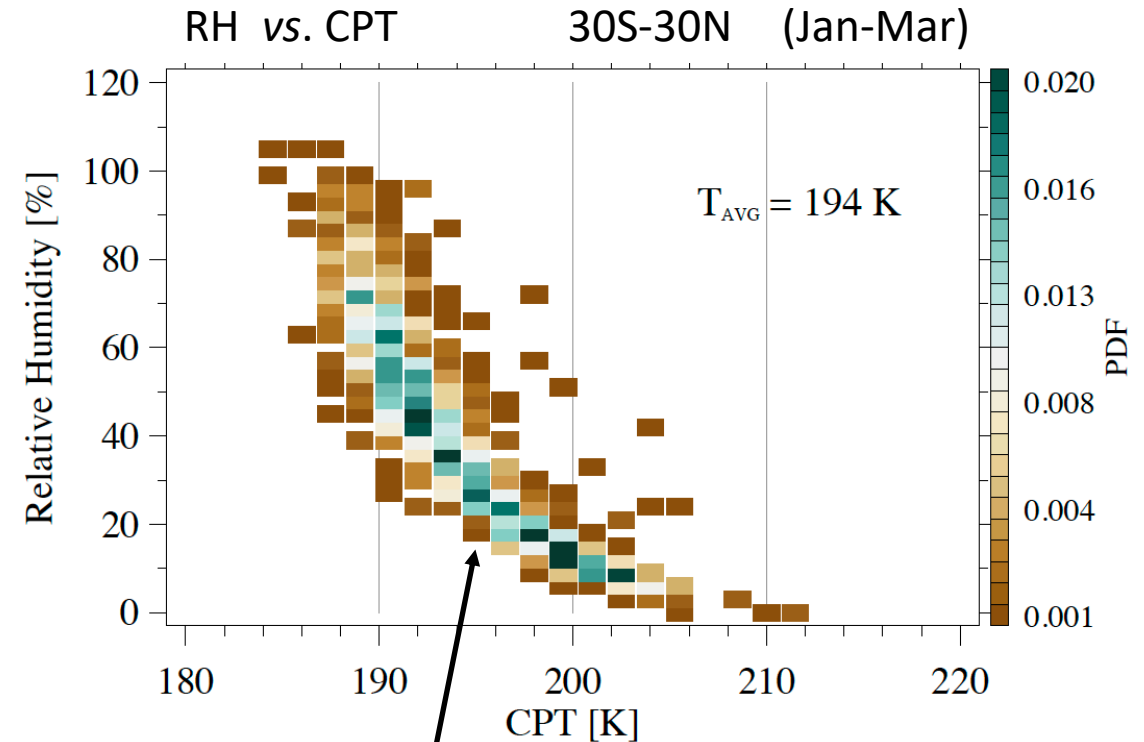


Drier than tropics. Max RH below the CPT. CPT is not well defined.

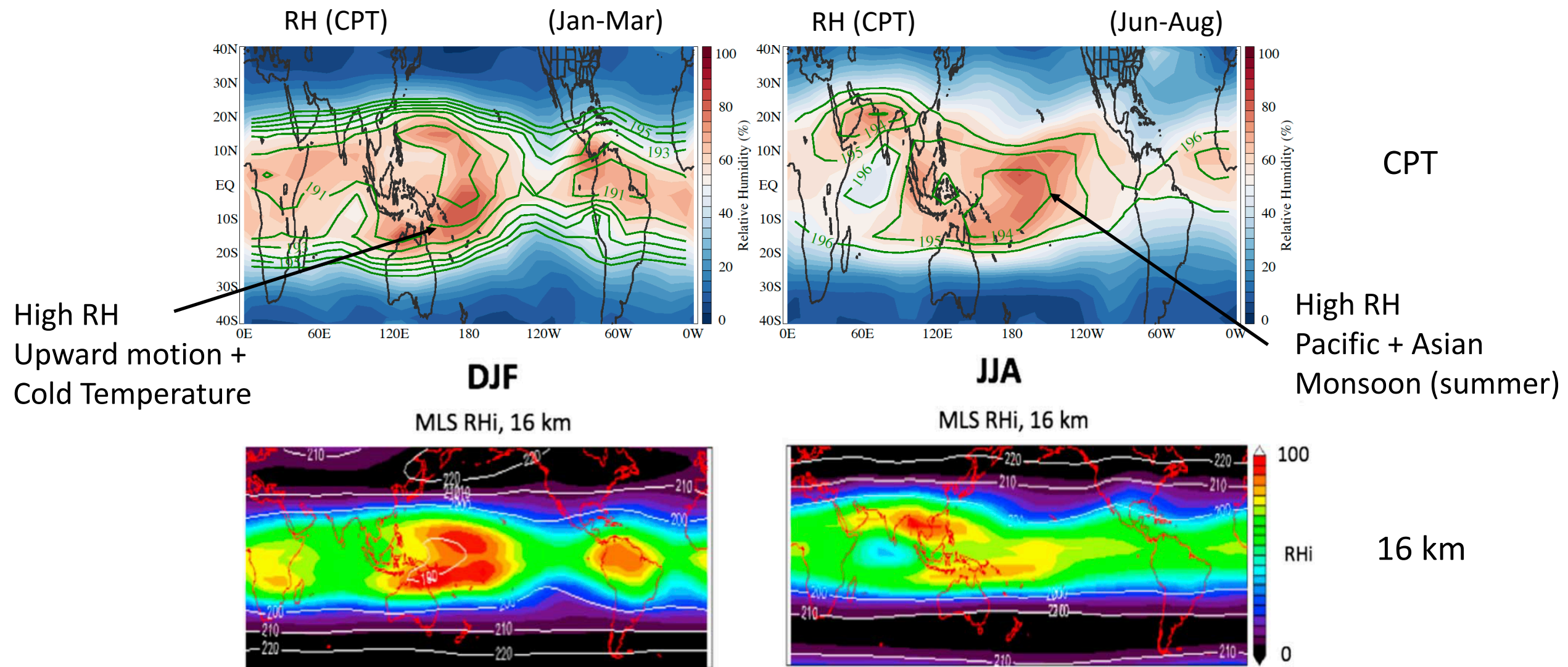




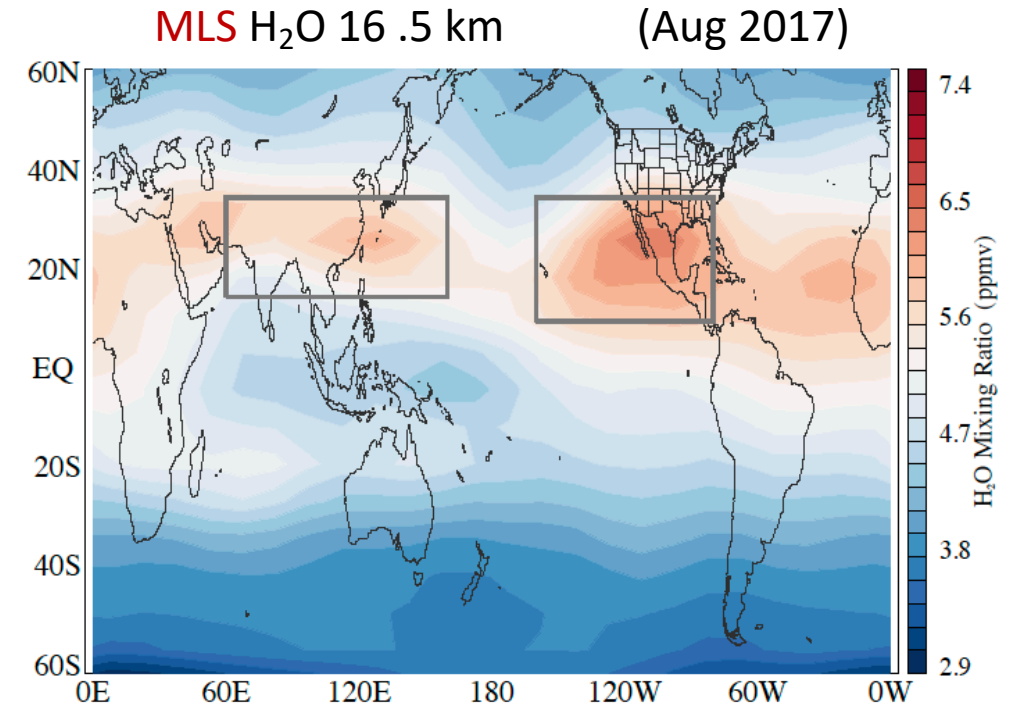
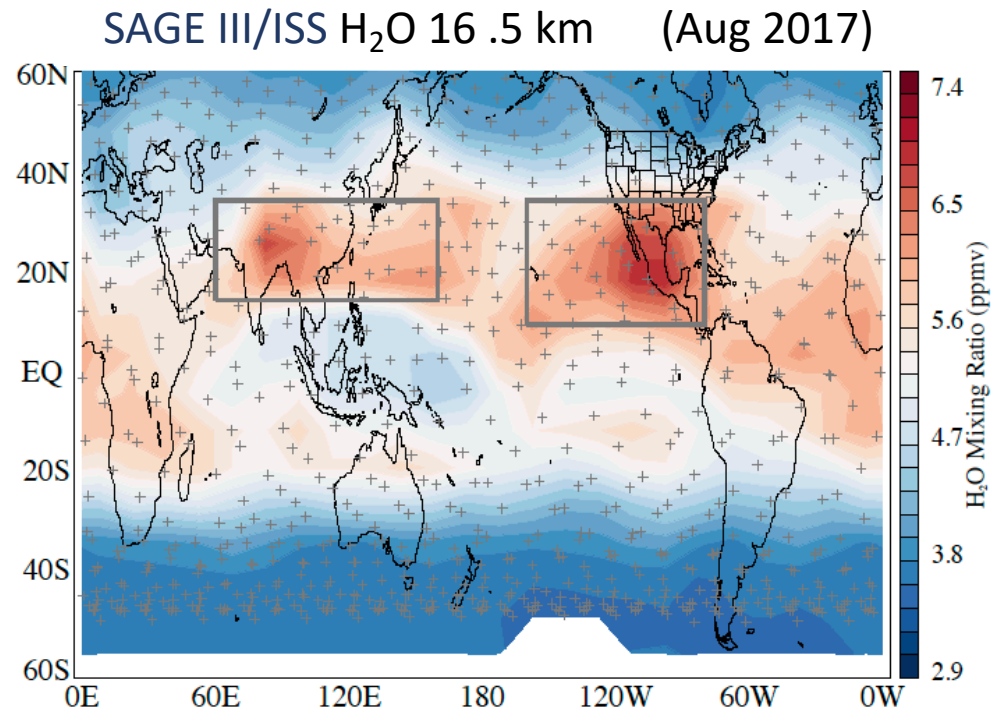
Max RH over Western Pacific, South America and Africa where CPT is cold.



CPT – 190-200 K (average=194K)  
RH – 0-60 %



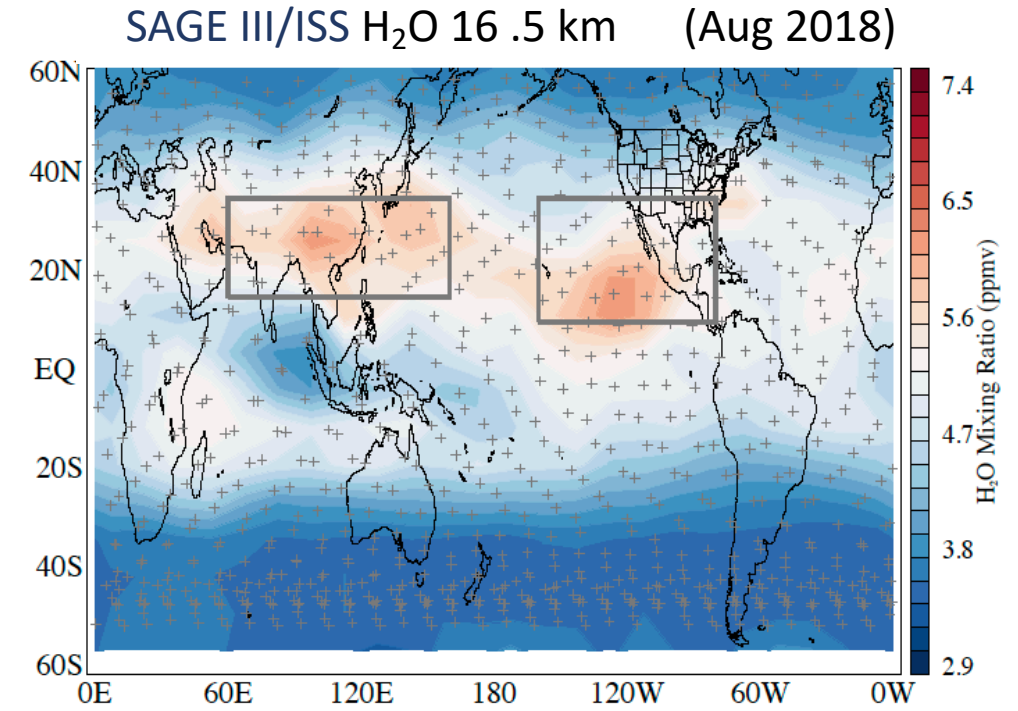
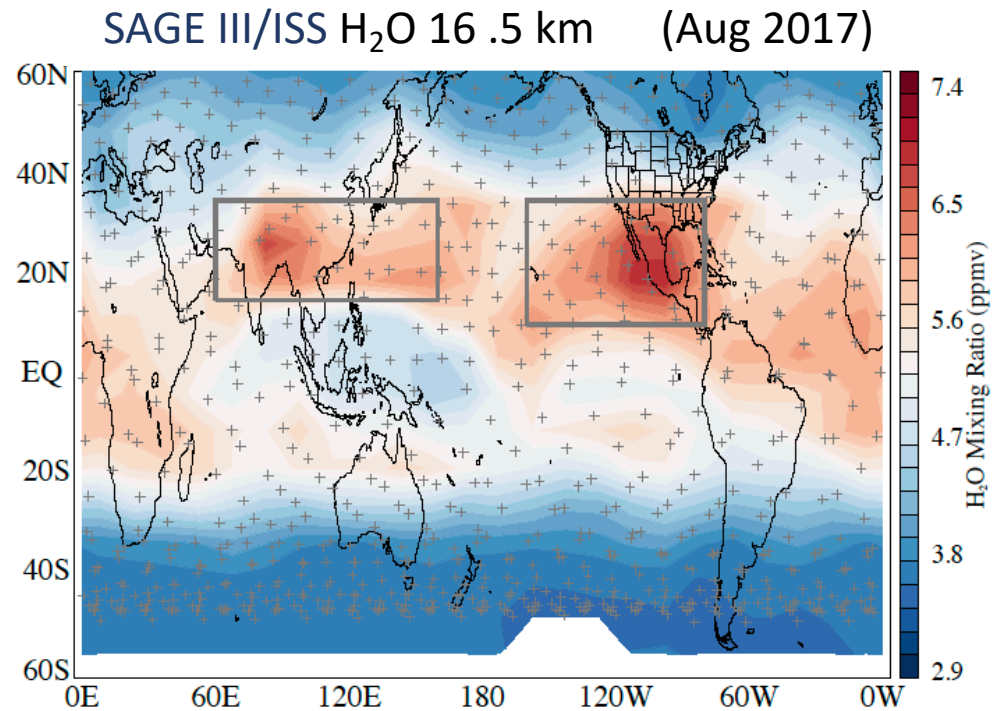
Schoeberl et al. (2019) – Figure 2 (8-year average RHI from MLS H<sub>2</sub>O + MERRA-2 Temperature)



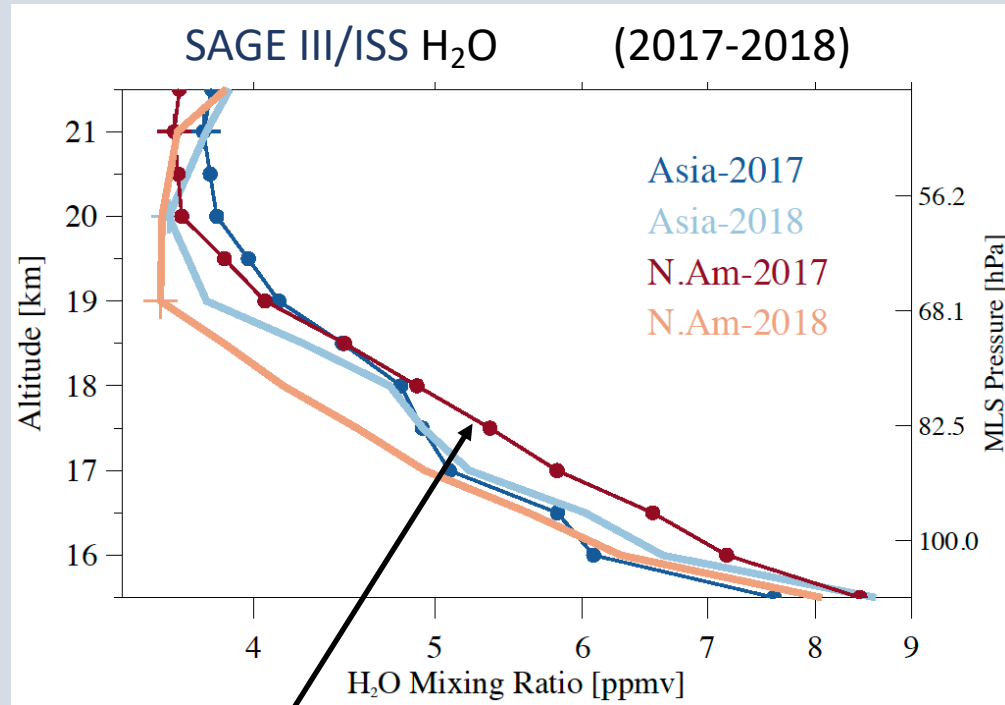
Max H<sub>2</sub>O over Asian and North American monsoons.

Max over N. America is larger than one over Asia (SAGE III/ISS and MLS).

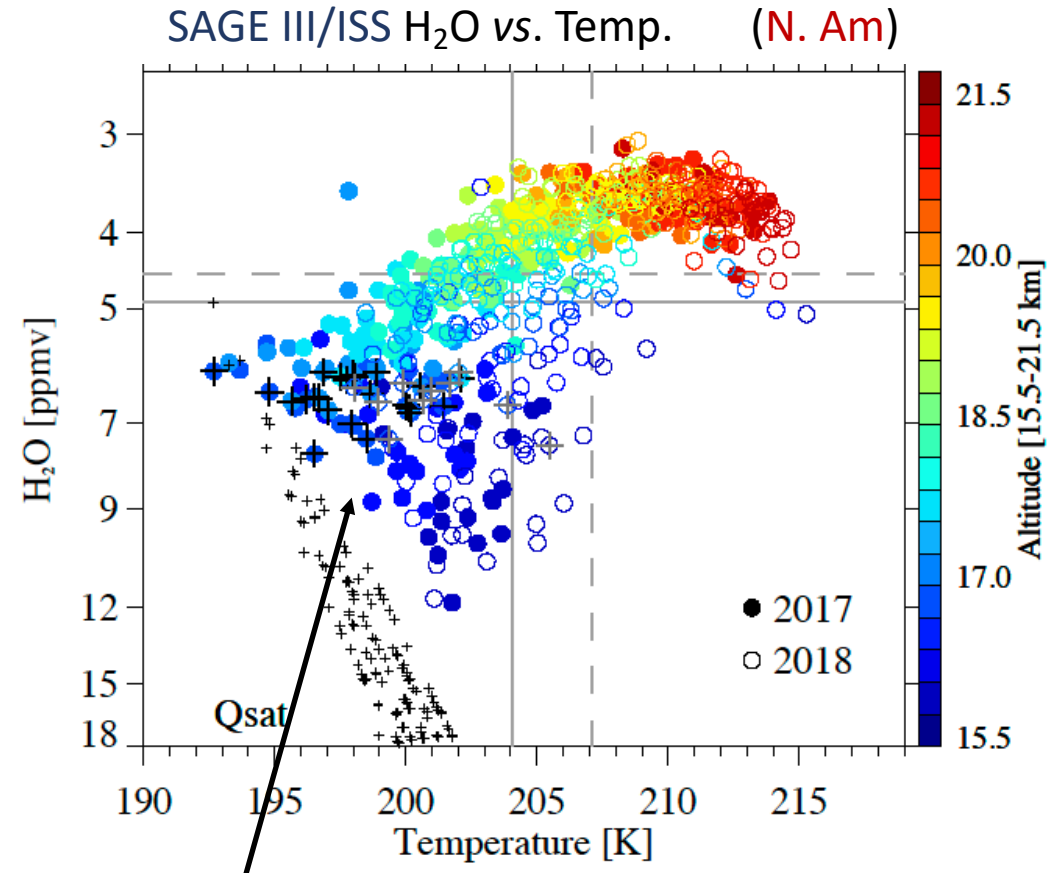




Max H<sub>2</sub>O over Asian and North American monsoons.  
Max over North America is larger in 2017 than 2018.

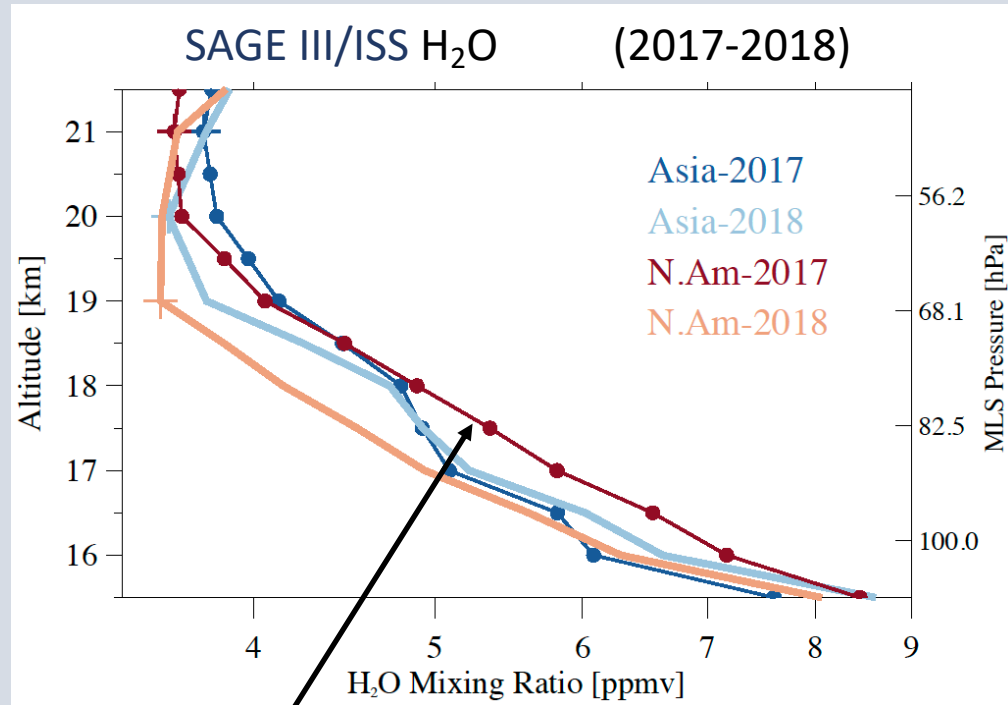


N. America (2017) – Highest H<sub>2</sub>O  
(16-18.5 km)

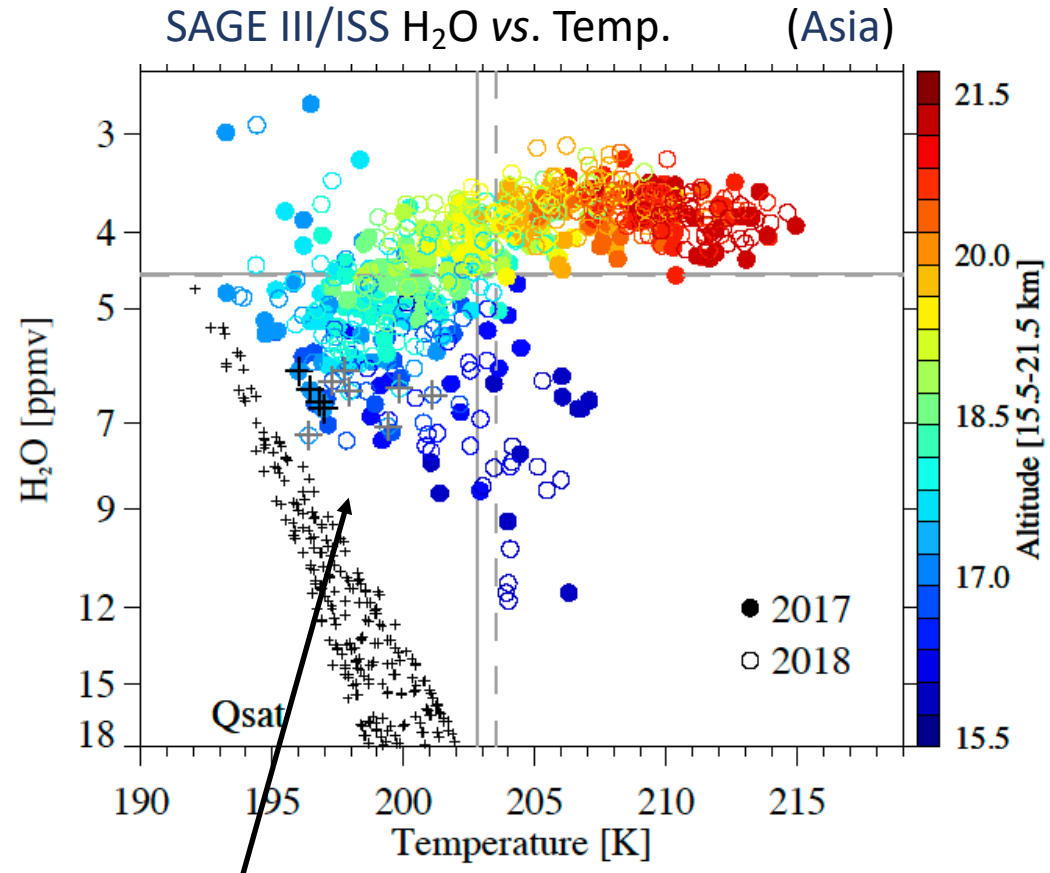


North America (2017)

- High H<sub>2</sub>O & Low Temperature
- H<sub>2</sub>O > 6 ppm (above CPT)



N. America (2017) – Highest H<sub>2</sub>O  
(16-18.5 km)



Asia (2017 & 2018)

- Low H<sub>2</sub>O & Low Temperature
- Very few H<sub>2</sub>O > 6 ppm exists above CPT



# Summary

- **SAGE III/ISS** agrees with **MLS** H<sub>2</sub>O version 5 in terms of spatial and temporal variability in the stratosphere for June 2017-May 2020.
- Relative humidity (RH) calculated from **SAGE III/ISS** H<sub>2</sub>O at CPT show seasonal maxima over the Western Pacific and Africa in NH winter and central Pacific and Asian monsoon region in NH summer.
- **SAGE III/ISS** H<sub>2</sub>O retrieval sensitivity to stratospheric aerosol loadings needs further evaluation. Looking forward to **version 5.2** release!