

# NASA LaRC satellite products and tools for ACTIVATE

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ACTIVATE Science Team Meeting, Nov 7-8 2022

\*The **S**atellite **C**lOud and **R**adiation Property retrieval **S**ystem

# Products

## **GOES-16 ABI satellite sensor**

- Satellite imagery
  - Visible, infrared, water vapor channel (6.2  $\mu\text{m}$ ) multi-channel RGB images and animations
- Satellite cloud retrievals
  - Cloud mask and phase (clear, liquid, and ice), cloud top temperature and height (and pressure), base height (and pressure).
  - Cloud optical depth, particle effective size (ice and liquid), water path (ice and liquid), and cloud droplet number concentration
  - Radiative fluxes, aircraft icing potential (of supercooled liquid water).
  - 2-km pixel resolution (nadir) produced every 20 min.
- **CERES MODIS retrievals**
  - 1°x1° daytime cloud retrievals and MERRA-2 reanalysis data archived in the ACTIVATE repository
  - Dataset was used to describe synoptic-scale processes over the ACTIVATE domain (Painemal et al., 2022 JGR).

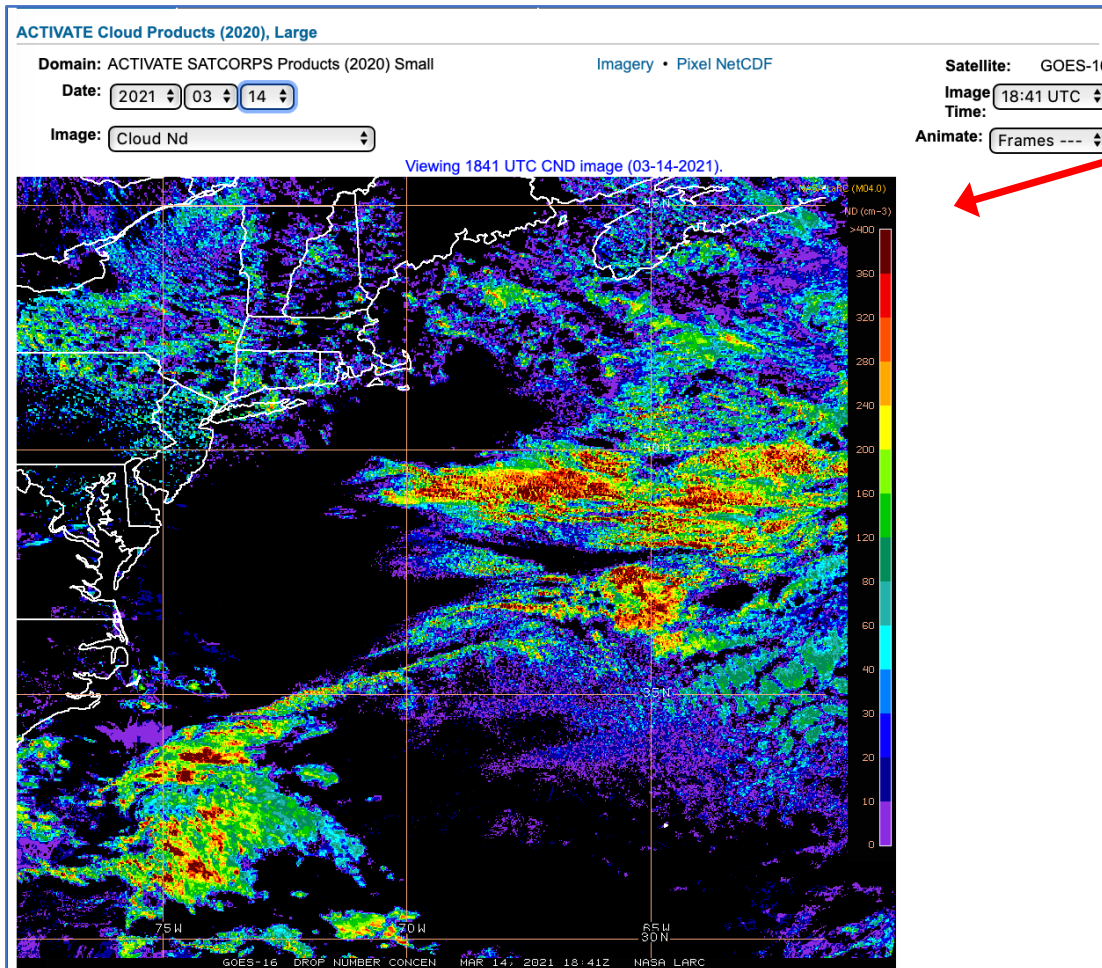


NASA LANGLEY CLOUD AND RADIATION RESEARCH

Satellite products are provided for two domain sizes: small (ACTIVATE domain, 2-km resolution) and large (4-km resolution, see above)



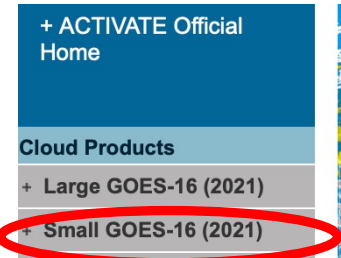
# Visualization tool for “small” domain



*Cloud droplet number concentration*

## Contact:

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- Retrievals and images are available every 20-min for deployment periods.
- For other periods, data are produced every 30-min
- GOES-16 data matched with aircraft tracks will be made available.
- Netcdf files can be downloaded from the ACTIVATE repository:
- <https://www-air.larc.nasa.gov/missions/activate/index.html>, under the “Satellite” link

<https://satcorps.larc.nasa.gov>

## RGB image

ACTIVATE

+ ACTIVATE Official Home

Cloud Products

+ Large GOES-16 (2021-22)

**+ Small GOES-16 (2021-22)**

+ GOES-16 (2019)

Satellite Imagery

+ Large GOES-16 (2021-22)

+ Small GOES-16 (2021-22)

+ GOES-16 (2019)

Viewers / Tools

+ Legacy Satellite Predictor

Related Datasets

+ NAAMES

Flight Track Overlay

+ All Planes

+ All Planes (2022)

+ All Planes (2021)

+ All Planes (2020)

+ B200 (All Years)

+ B200 (2021)

+ B200 (2020)

+ Falcon (All Years)

+ Falcon (2021)

+ Falcon (2020)

Datasets

+ Large GOES-16 KML

+ Small GOES-16 KML

ACTIVATE

+ Large GOES-16 (2021-22)

+ Small GOES-16 (2021-22)

ACTIVATE Cloud Products (2020), Large

Domain: ACTIVATE SATCORPS Products Small

Date: 2022 01 18

Image: Multi-Channel RGB

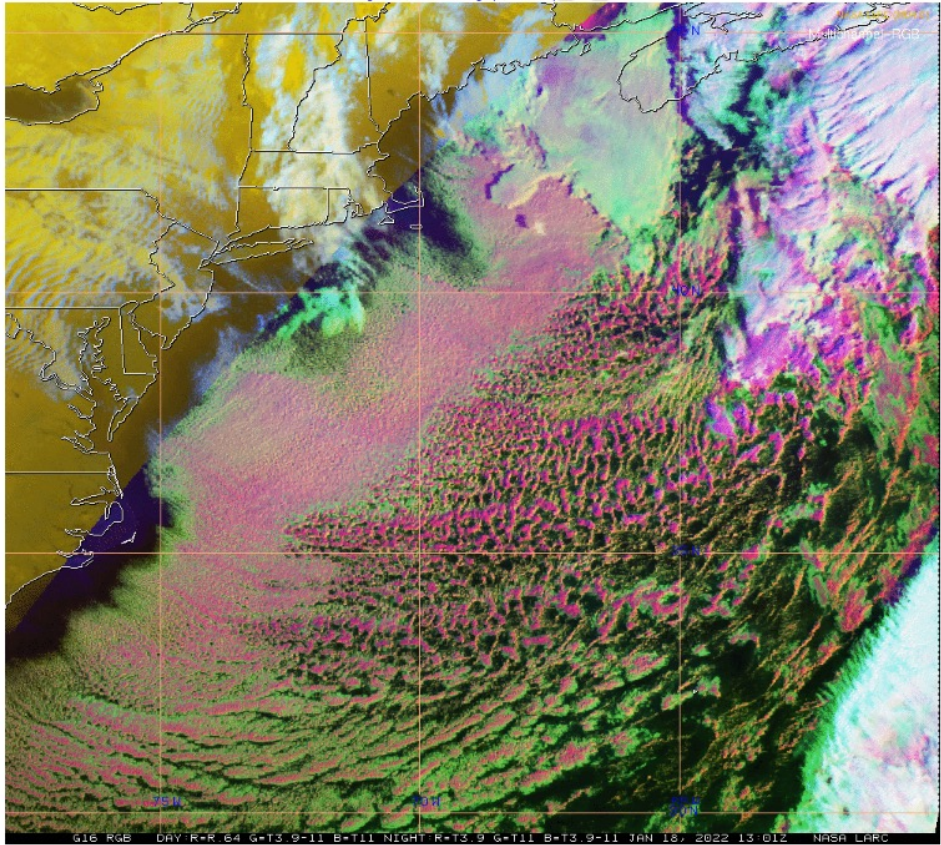
Imagery • Pixel NetCDF

Satellite: GOES-16

Image Time: 13:01 UTC

Animate: Frames ---

Viewing 1301 UTC RGB Image (01-18-2022)




+ Freedom of Information Act

+ Budgets, Strategic Plans and Accountability Reports

+ The President's Management Agenda

+ Privacy Policy and Important Notices



NASA Official: William Smith

Website Curator: Louis Nguyen

+ Contact Us now



<https://satcorps.larc.nasa.gov>

## Cloud phase

### ACTIVATE

+ ACTIVATE Official Home

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#### Cloud Products

- + Large GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + Small GOES-16 (2021-22)**
- + GOES-16 (2019)

#### Satellite Imagery

- + Large GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + Small GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + GOES-16 (2019)

#### Viewers / Tools

- + Legacy Satellite Predictor

#### Related Datasets

- + NAAMES

#### Flight Track Overlay

- + All Planes
- + All Planes (2022)
- + All Planes (2021)
- + All Planes (2020)
- + B200 (All Years)
- + B200 (2021)
- + B200 (2020)
- + Falcon (All Years)
- + Falcon (2021)
- + Falcon (2020)

#### Datasets

- + Large GOES-16 KML
- + Small GOES-16 KML

## Cloud phase

The screenshot shows the ACTIVATE Cloud Products (2020), Large interface. The main map displays a GOES-16 Cloud Phase image for January 18, 2022, at 13:01Z. The map is color-coded to show different cloud phases: green for Cloud-free, red for Ice, cyan for Supercooled liquid, and blue for Warm liquid. The legend on the right side of the map provides the key for these colors. The map shows a large area of supercooled liquid clouds over the Atlantic Ocean, with ice clouds to the north and warm liquid clouds to the south.



<https://satcorps.larc.nasa.gov>

## Cloud top height

ACTIVATE

+ ACTIVATE Official Home

Cloud Products

+ Large GOES-16 (2021-22)

+ Small GOES-16 (2021-22)

+ GOES-16 (2019)

Satellite Imagery

+ Large GOES-16 (2021-22)

+ Small GOES-16 (2021-22)

+ GOES-16 (2019)

Viewers / Tools

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+ B200 (2020)

+ Falcon (All Years)

+ Falcon (2021)

+ Falcon (2020)

Datasets

+ Large GOES-16 KML

+ Small GOES-16 KML

ACTIVATE Cloud Products (2020), Large

Domain: ACTIVATE SATCORPS Products Small

Date: 2022 01 18

Image: Cloud Top Height

Imagery • Pixel NetCDF

Viewing 1301 UTC ZTOP image (01-18-2022)

NASA Langley (M04.0)

ZTOP (km)

>8.0

7.0

6.0

5.0

4.0

3.5

3.0

2.5

2.0

1.5

1.0

0.5

0.0

GOES-16 CLOUD-TOP HEIGHT JAN 18, 2022 13:01Z NASA LARC



<https://satcorps.larc.nasa.gov>

## Cloud droplet effective radius

ACTIVATE

+ ACTIVATE Official Home

**Cloud Products**

- + Large GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + **Small GOES-16 (2021-22)**
- + GOES-16 (2019)

**Satellite Imagery**

- + Large GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + Small GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + GOES-16 (2019)

**Viewers / Tools**

- + Legacy Satellite Predictor

**Related Datasets**

- + NAAMES

**Flight Track Overlay**

- + All Planes
- + All Planes (2022)
- + All Planes (2021)
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- + Falcon (All Years)
- + Falcon (2021)
- + Falcon (2020)

**Datasets**

- + Large GOES-16 KML
- + Small GOES-16 KML

ACTIVATE Cloud Products (2020), Large

Domain: ACTIVATE SATCORPS Products Small

Date: 2022 01 18

Image: Effective Water Radius

Imagery • Pixel NetCDF

Viewing 1301 UTC REFF image (01-18-2022)

GOES-16 EFFECTIVE WATER RADIUS JAN 18, 2022 13 01Z NASA LARC

NASA Official: V  
Website Curator



<https://satcorps.larc.nasa.gov>

## Cloud droplet number concentration

ACTIVATE

+ ACTIVATE Official Home

**Cloud Products**

- + Large GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + **Small GOES-16 (2021-22)**
- + GOES-16 (2019)

**Satellite Imagery**

- + Large GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + Small GOES-16 (2021-22)
- + GOES-16 (2019)

**Viewers / Tools**

- + Legacy Satellite Predictor

**Related Datasets**

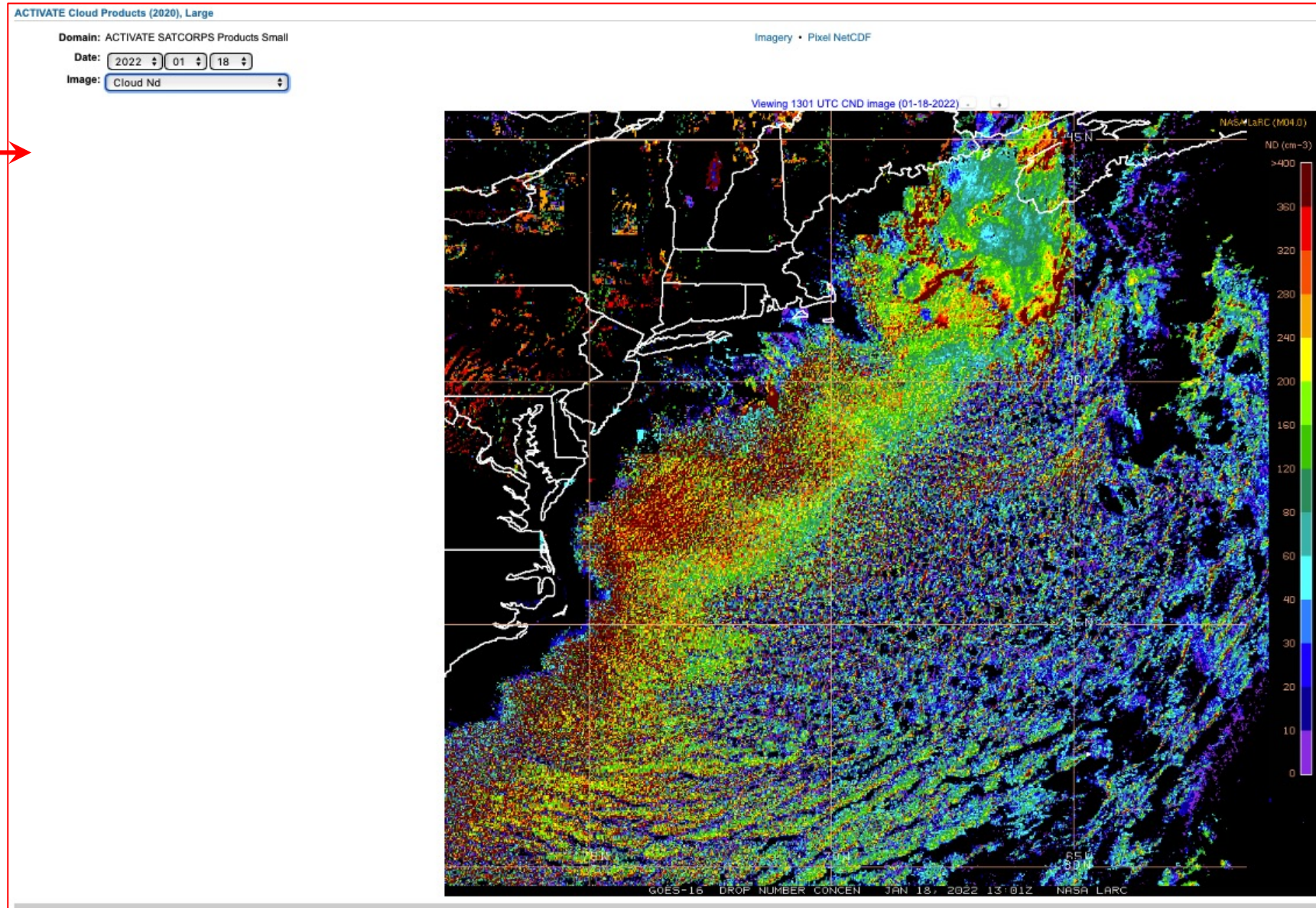
- + NAAMES

**Flight Track Overlay**

- + All Planes
- + All Planes (2022)
- + All Planes (2021)
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- + B200 (All Years)
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- + Falcon (2021)
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**Datasets**

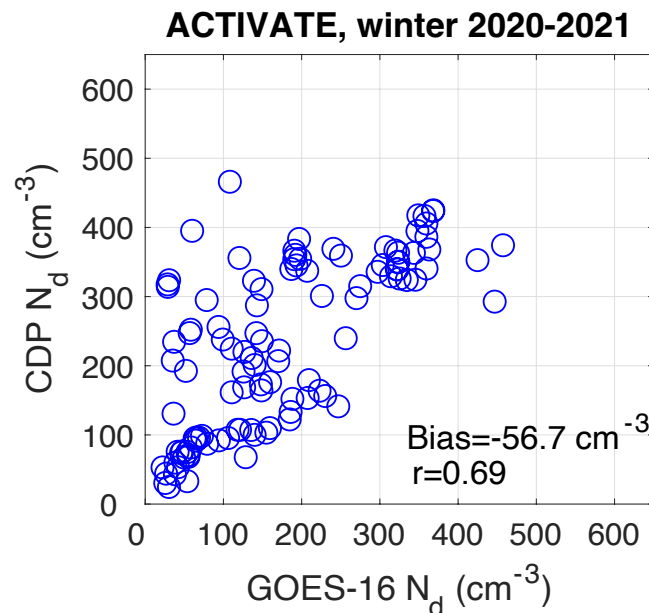
- + Large GOES-16 KML
- + Small GOES-16 KML



# Preliminary assessment of GOES-16 cloud droplet effective radius and number concentration ( $N_d$ )

$$N_d = \Gamma_{\text{appr}}^{1/2} \frac{10^{1/2} \tau^{1/2}}{4\pi \rho_w^{1/2} k r_e^{5/2}}$$

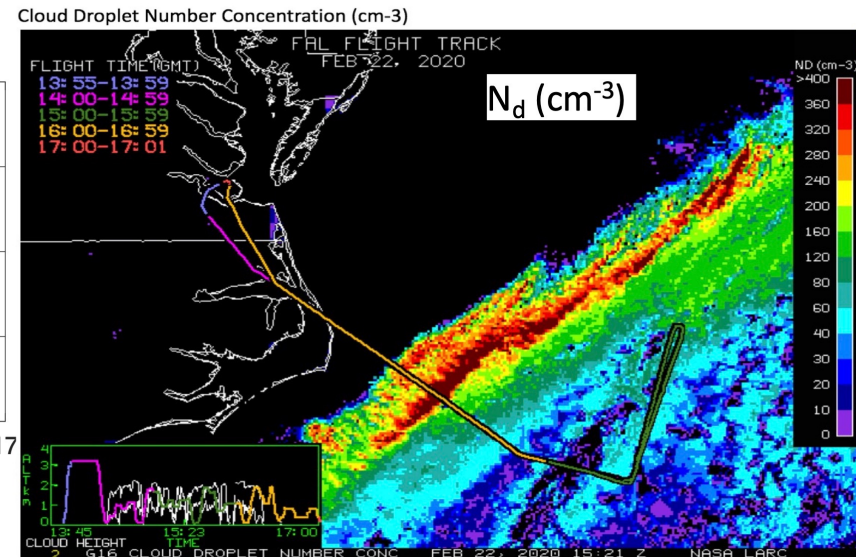
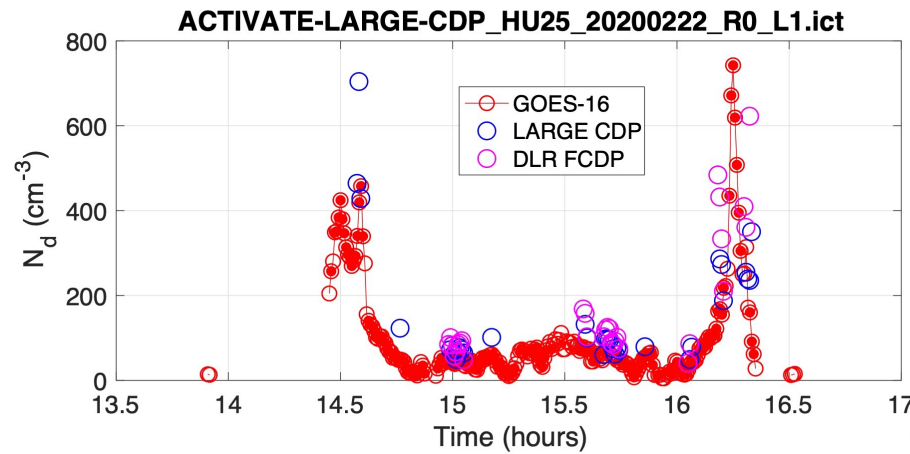
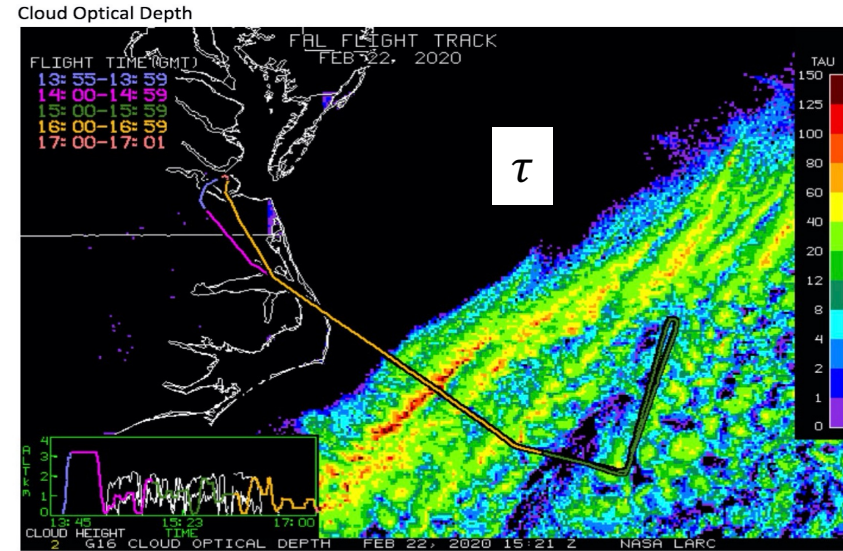
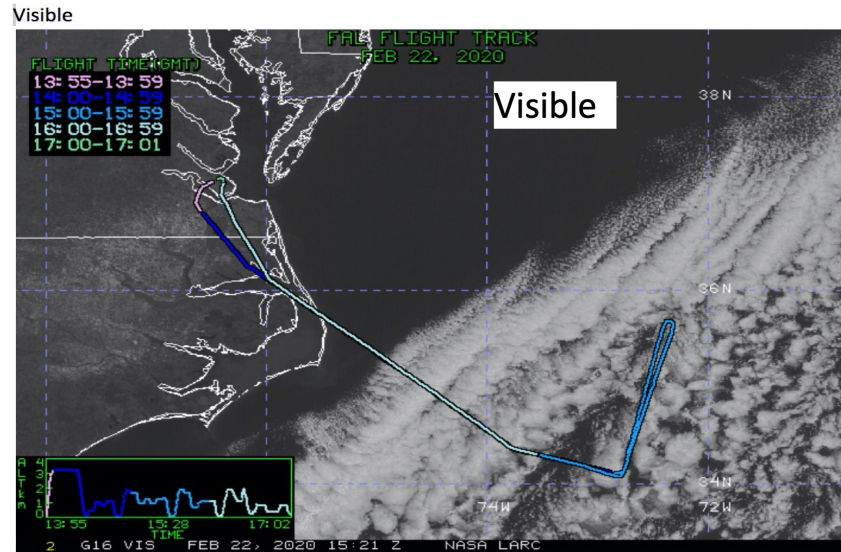
Adiabatic increase of water content with height
Cloud optical depth  
Parameter associated with the width of the droplet size distribution



- Satellite  $N_d$  is derived using 2-km pixel-level data. 4x4  $N_d$  pixels are averaged before comparing GOES with in-situ data.
- In-situ  $N_d$  (CDP and FCDP) are limited to samples with water content  $\geq 0.03$  g/m<sup>3</sup>. In-situ data are temporally averaged (30-s window).
- GOES and in-situ  $N_d$  are matched within 10 min.

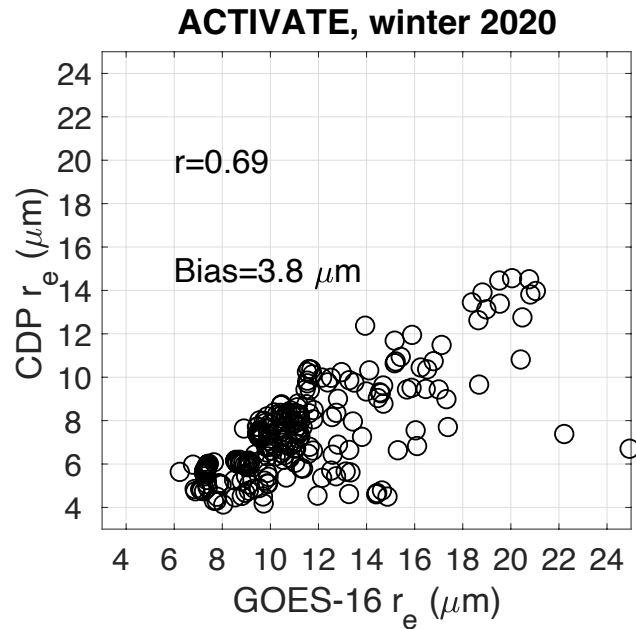


# Examples: Postfrontal clouds and closed-cell Sc



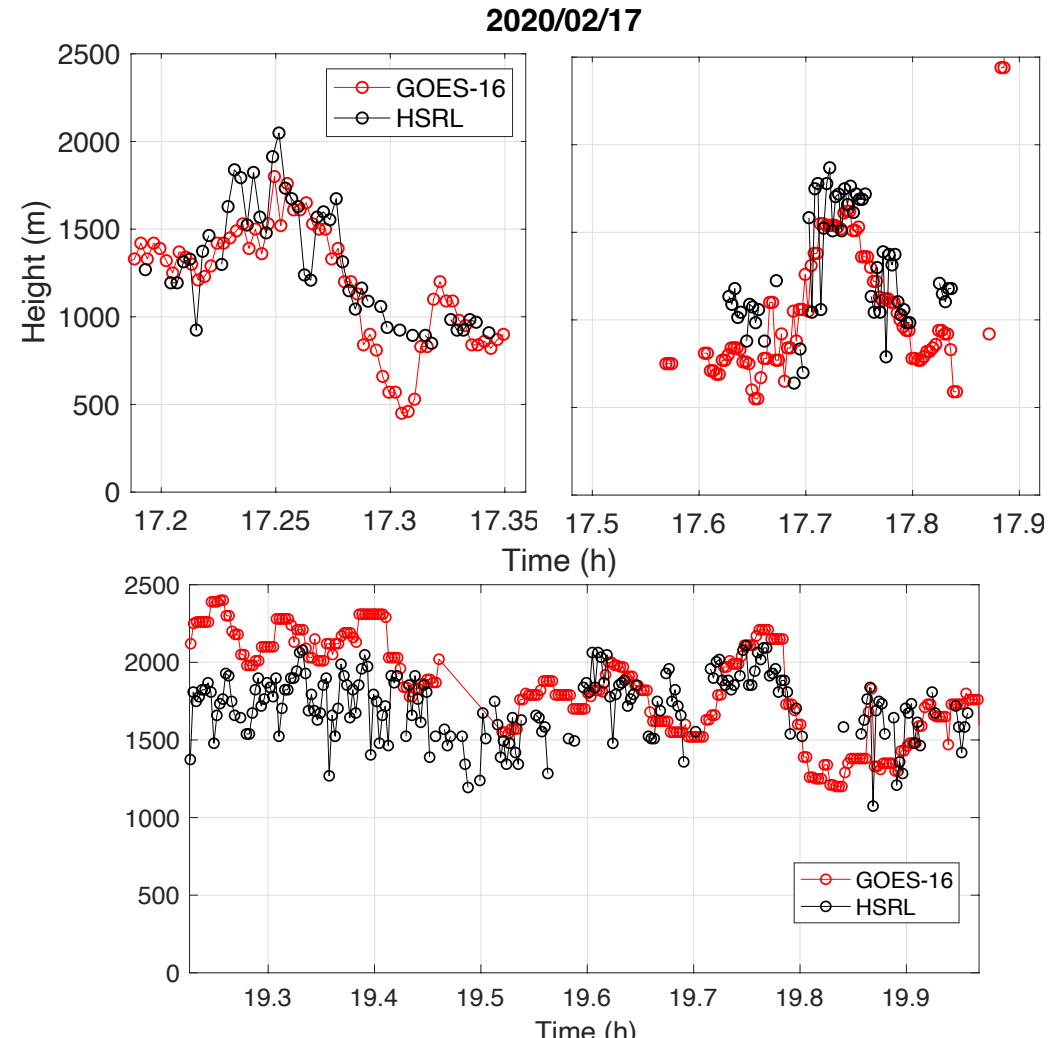
# Preliminary assessments: cloud height and droplet effective radius

- Cloud droplet effective radius



- GOES effective radius overestimates the in-situ observation, consistent with previous studies.
- GOES cloud height consistent with the airborne HSRL
- Comparison against RSP retrievals is ongoing.

- Cloud top height





## Final remarks

- GOES-16 retrievals are suitable for synoptic-scale, Lagrangian, and diurnal cycle studies, as well as for model evaluation.
- Pixel-level retrievals can be more uncertain in highly broken scenes. Screening methods can be devised for removing problematic data.
- Retrieval improvements are ongoing, aiming at reducing the retrieved droplet size.