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NASA's operational approach for the vicarious calibration of  
on-orbit ocean color satellites (using Gordon and Wang 1994)

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## The vicarious calibration ...

... makes use of a single set of fractional gains, where unity indicates no correction

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(minimize difference between satellite  $L_w$  and ground-truth  $L_w$ )

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... was updated for SeaWiFS Reprocessing 4 (July 2002)

$$L_t = L_{r,g,wc,\dots} + L_a + t_d L_w$$

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pre-Reprocessing 4 (launch – July 2002)

gain calculated using  $L_w$

$$g = L_w^{target} / L_w$$

assign  $g$  and iterate until mean radiance ratio reaches unity

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post-Reprocessing 4 (July 2002 – present)

gain calculated at  $L_t$

$$g = L_t^{target} / L_t$$

satellite atmospheric parameters used to propagate  $L_w^{target}$  to TOA

\* no iteration (less computationally expensive)

\* permits exploration of gain offset

\* requires disabling correction for non-negligible  $L_w$ (NIR)

methods agree to within 0.04%



$$L_t = L_{r,g,wc,\dots} + L_a + t_d L_w$$

$$L_t^{target} = L_{r,g,wc,\dots} + \underline{L_a} + t_d L_w^{target}$$

all terms are computed for  
the full relative spectral  
response of each sensor band

post-Reprocessing 4 (July 2002 – present)

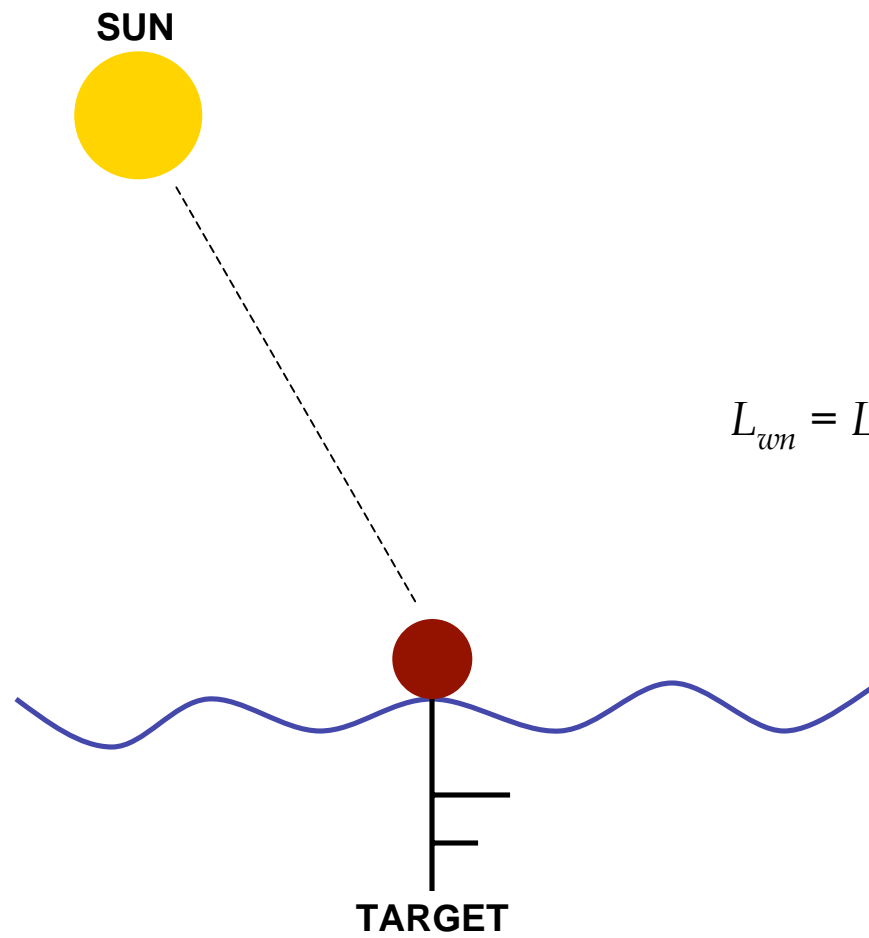
gain calculated at  $L_t$

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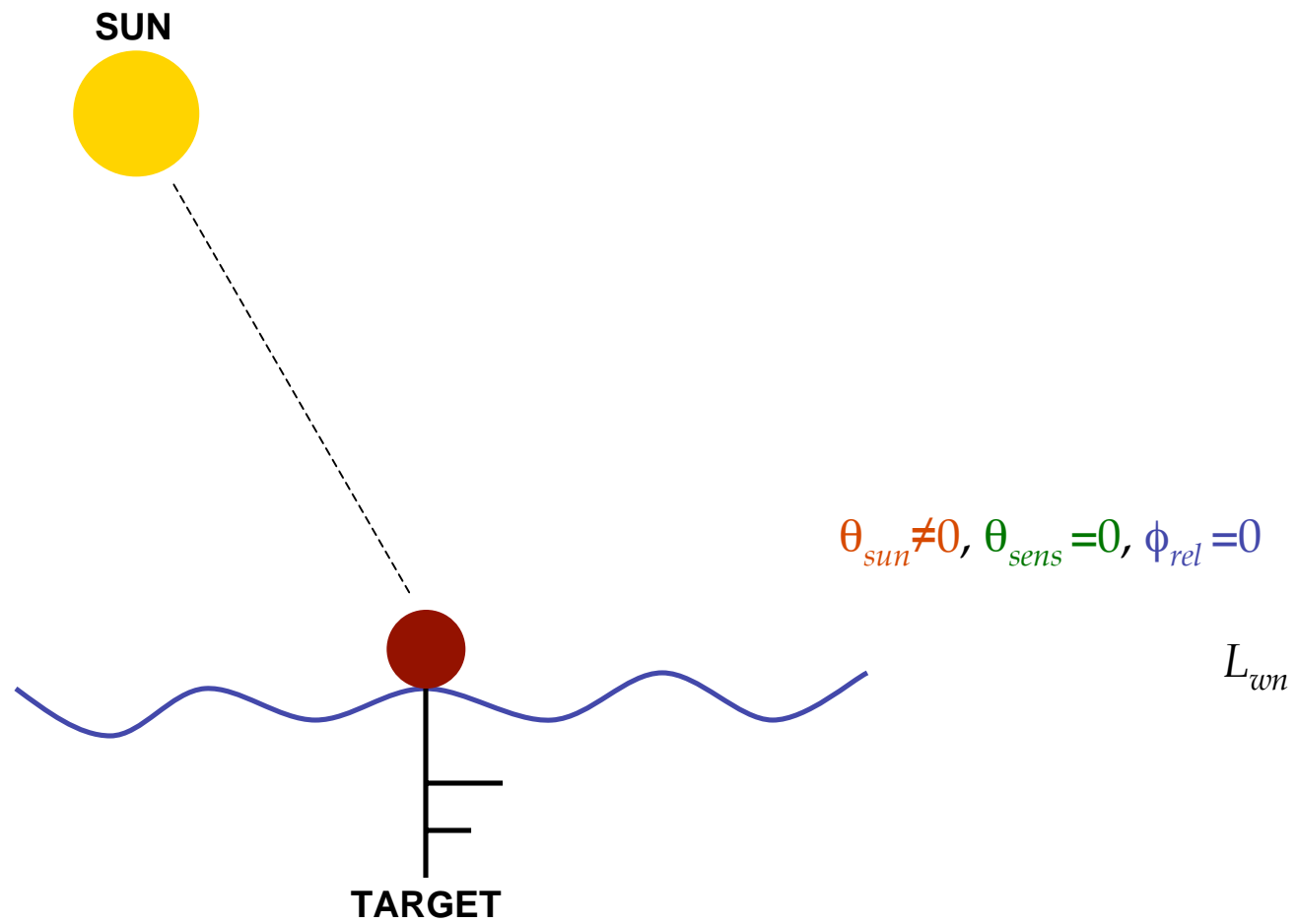
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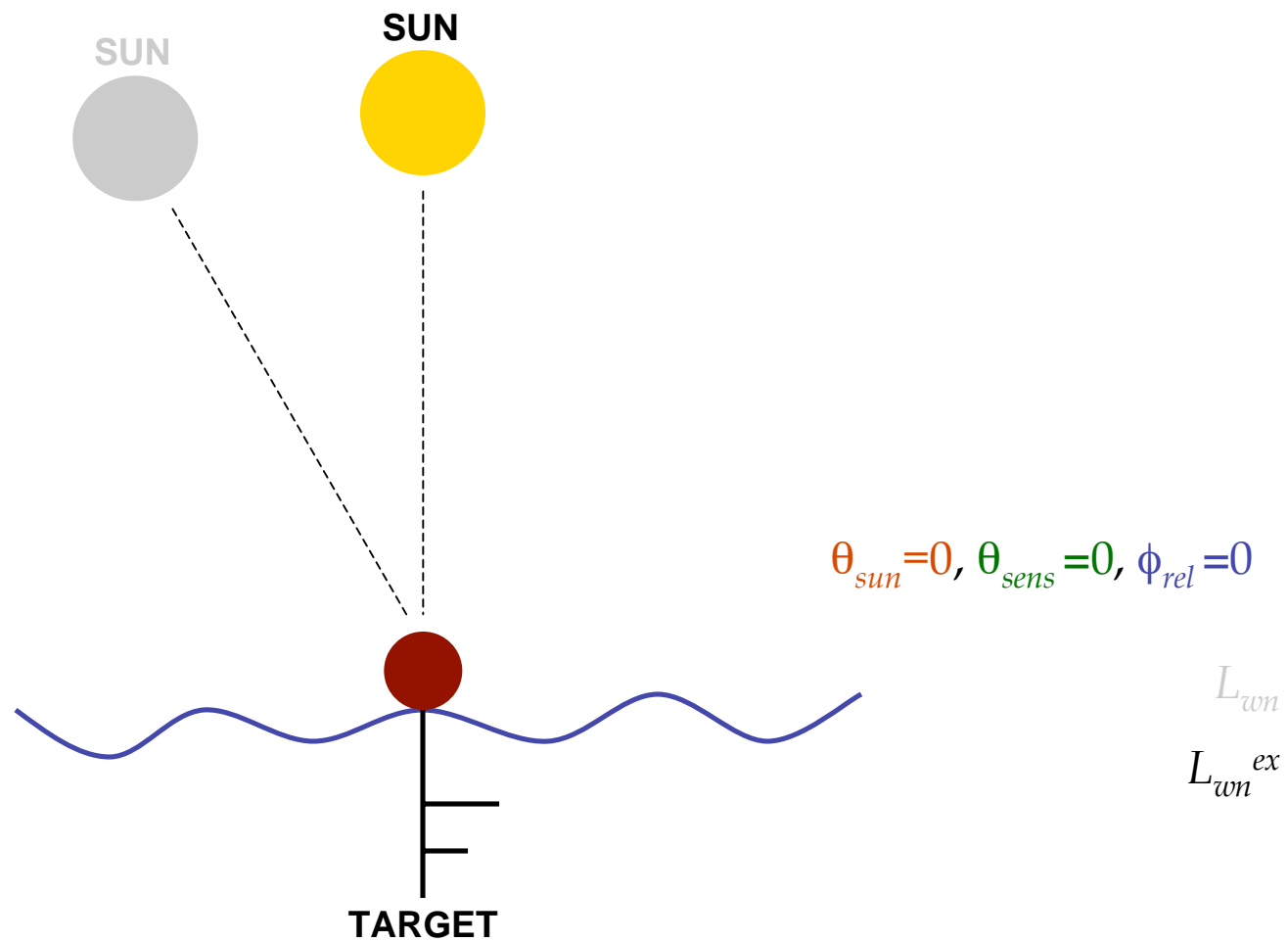
methods agree to within 0.04%



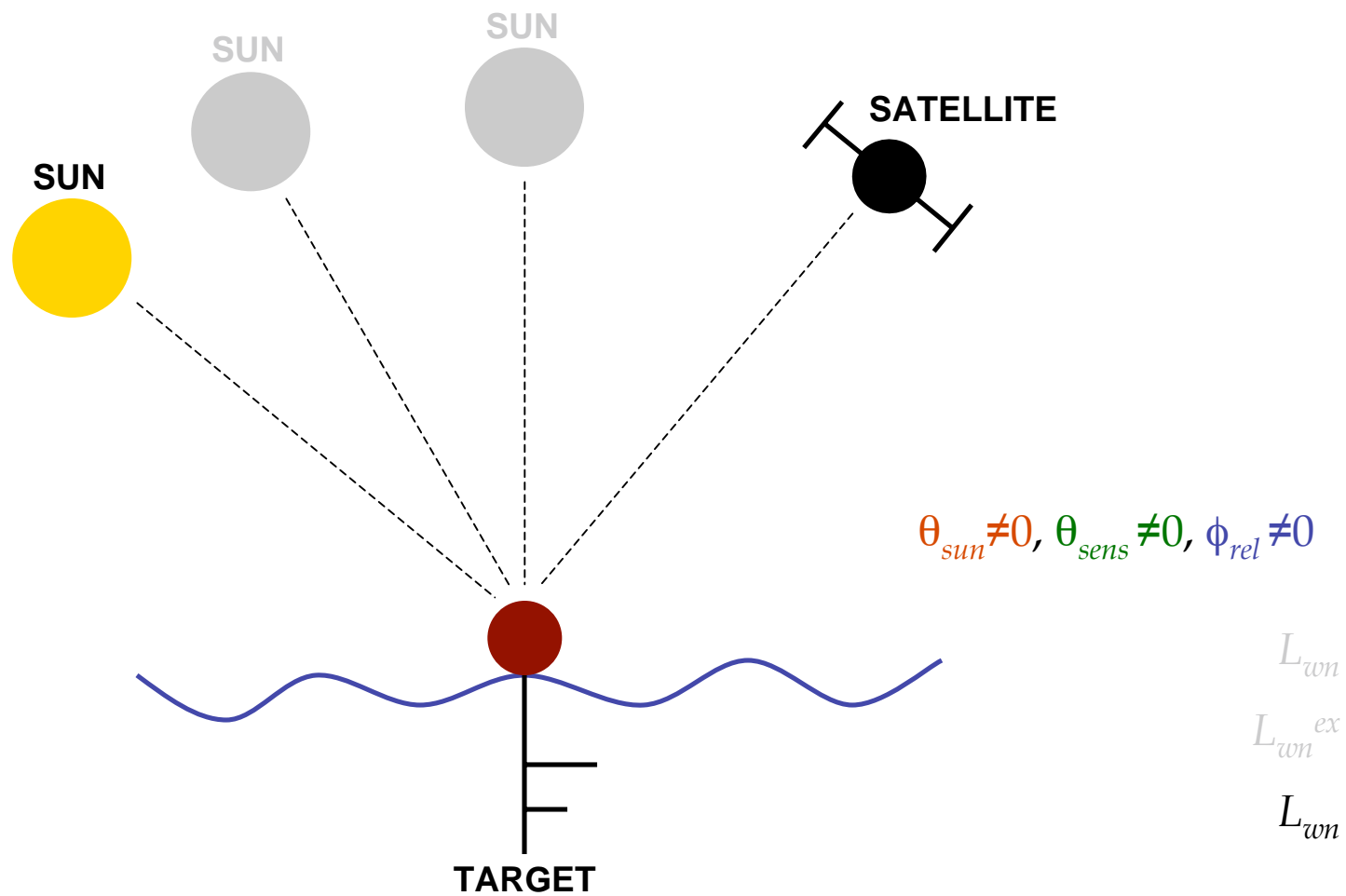
$$L_{wn} = L_w / ( \cos(\theta_{sun}) t_d F_{dist} )$$



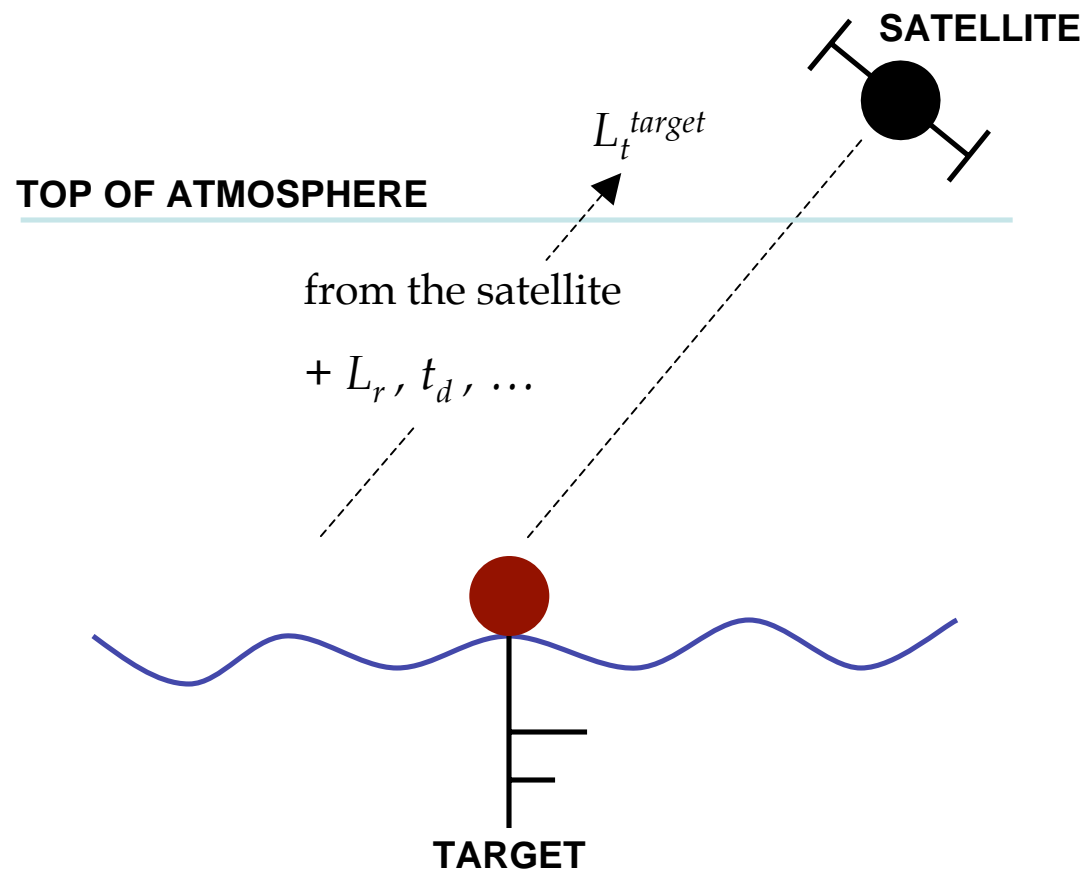
$f/Q$  from Morel et al. 2002



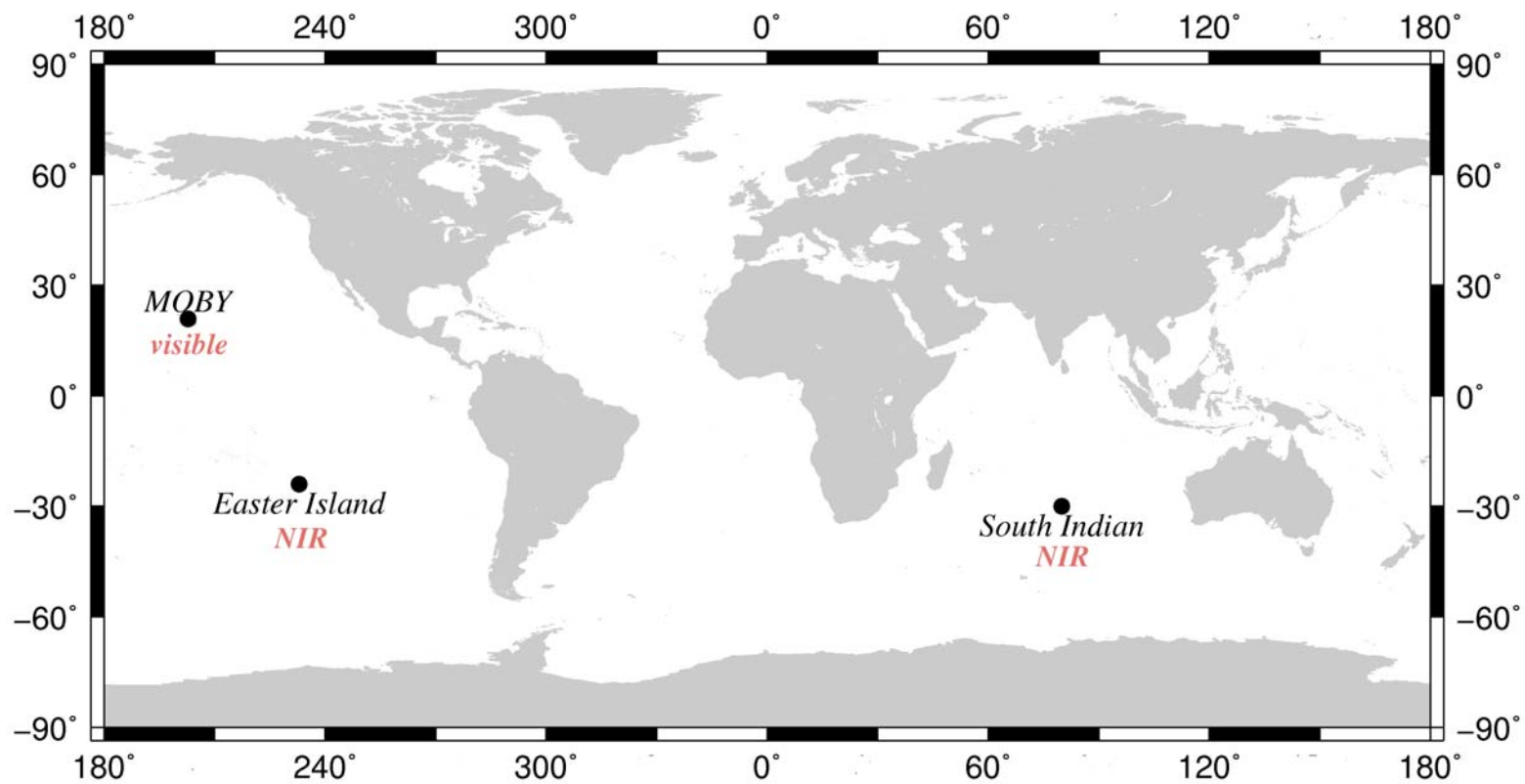
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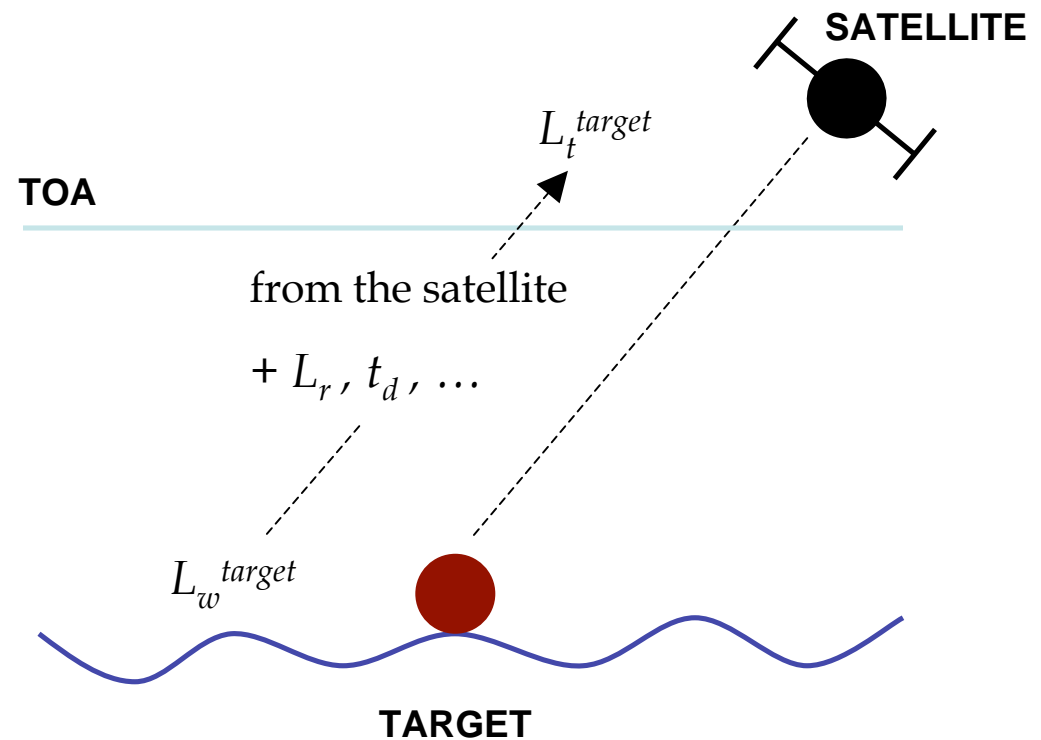


our operational targets ...



$$L_t(\text{NIR}) = L_{r,g,wc,\dots}(\text{NIR}) + L_a(\text{NIR}) + t_d L_w(\text{NIR})$$

assumptions:





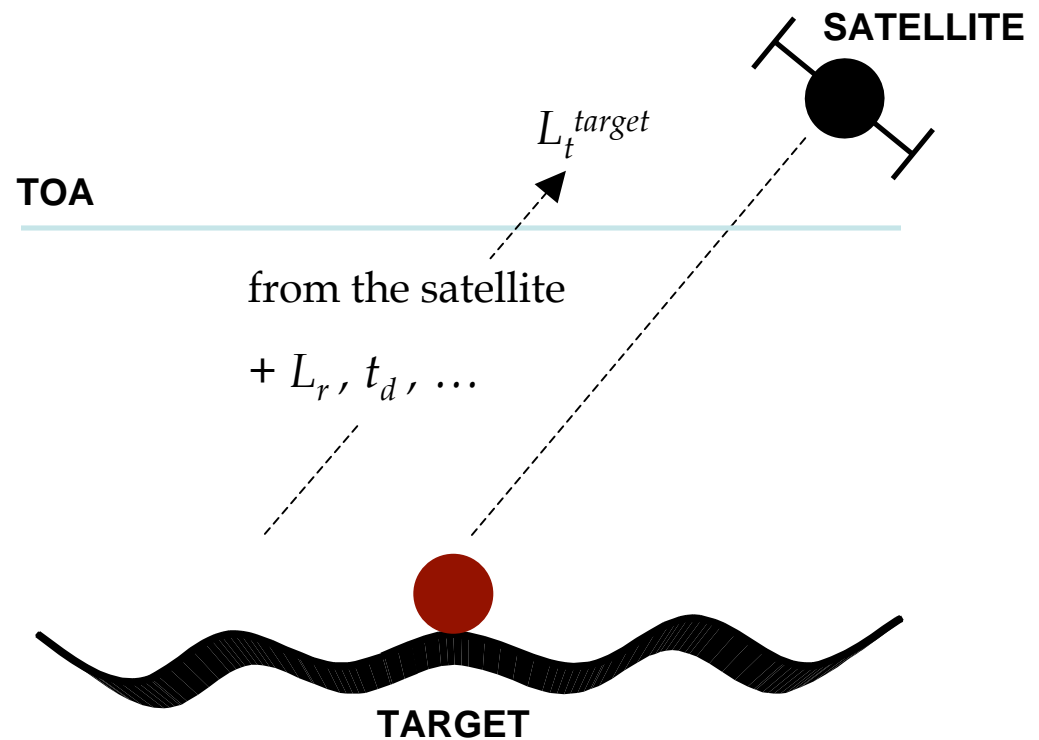
$$L_t(\text{NIR}) = L_{r,g,wc,\dots}(\text{NIR}) + L_a(\text{NIR}) + t_d L_w(\text{NIR})$$

0

M90

assumptions:

- (1) target sites exist where aerosol type is known  
and  $L_w(\text{NIR})$  is negligible



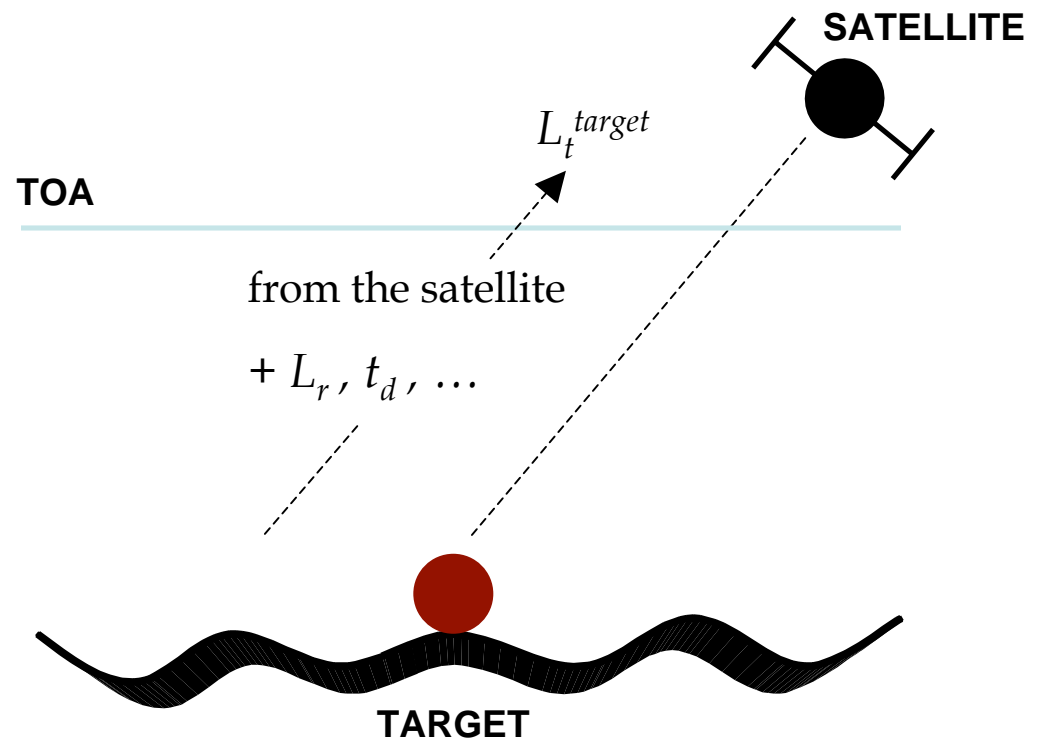
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- (2) 865-nm perfectly calibrated,  
such that  $g(865) = 1.0$



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M90

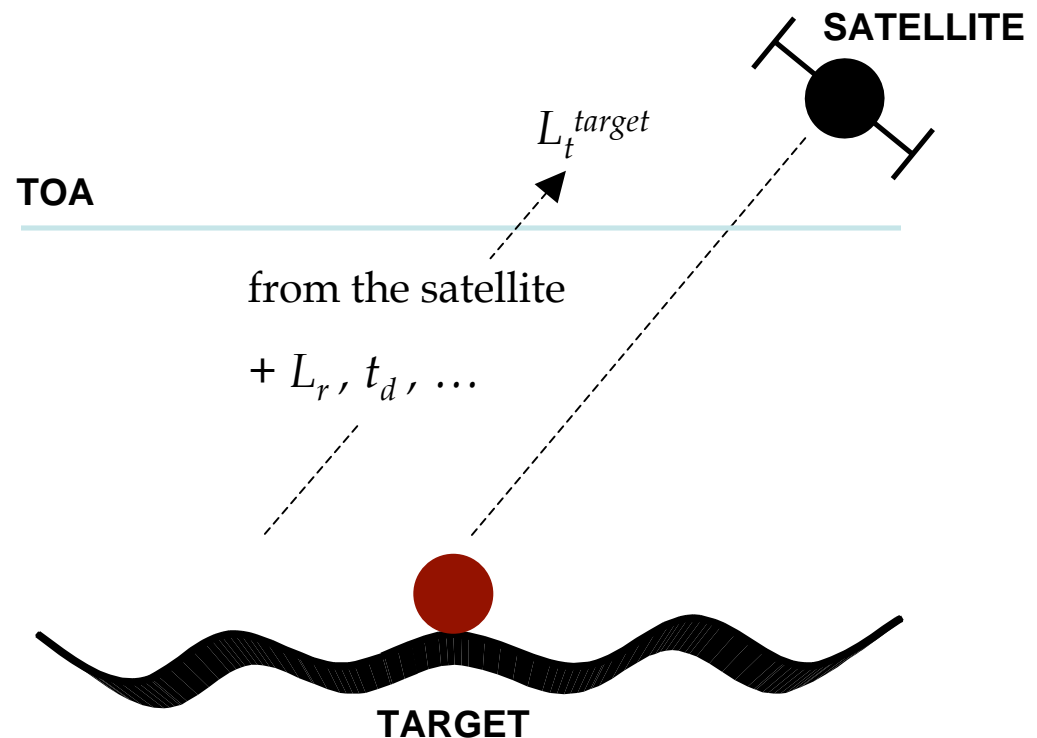
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such that  $g(865) = 1.0$

implementation:

knowledge of the aerosol type  
and  $L_a(865)$  permits the  
estimation of  $L_a(765)$

once  $L_a(765)^{\text{target}}$  known,  
calculate  $L_t(765)^{\text{target}}$



the NIR calibration is completed prior to the VIS calibration ... the  $g(\text{NIR})$  are now fixed

the OBPG use data from the Marine Optical Buoy (MOBY) for the VIS calibration

MOBY provides hyperspectral  $L_{wn}(\text{VIS})$  measured during the satellite overpass

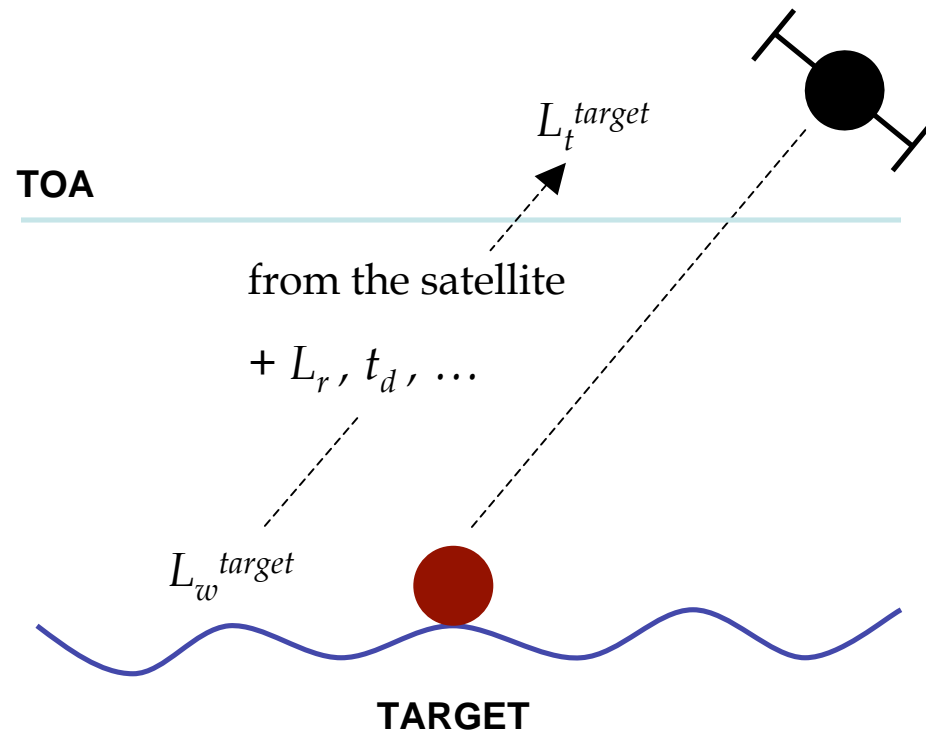
$$L_t(\text{VIS}) = L_{r,g,w_c,\dots}(\text{VIS}) + L_a(\text{VIS}) + t_d L_w(\text{VIS})$$

implementation:

calibrated NIR bands used to determine

local aerosol type and concentration,

which provides  $L_a(\text{VIS})^{\text{target}}$



$$L_t(\text{VIS}) = L_{r,g,wc,\dots}(\text{VIS}) + L_a(\text{VIS}) + t_d L_w(\text{VIS})$$

implementation:

calibrated NIR bands used to determine

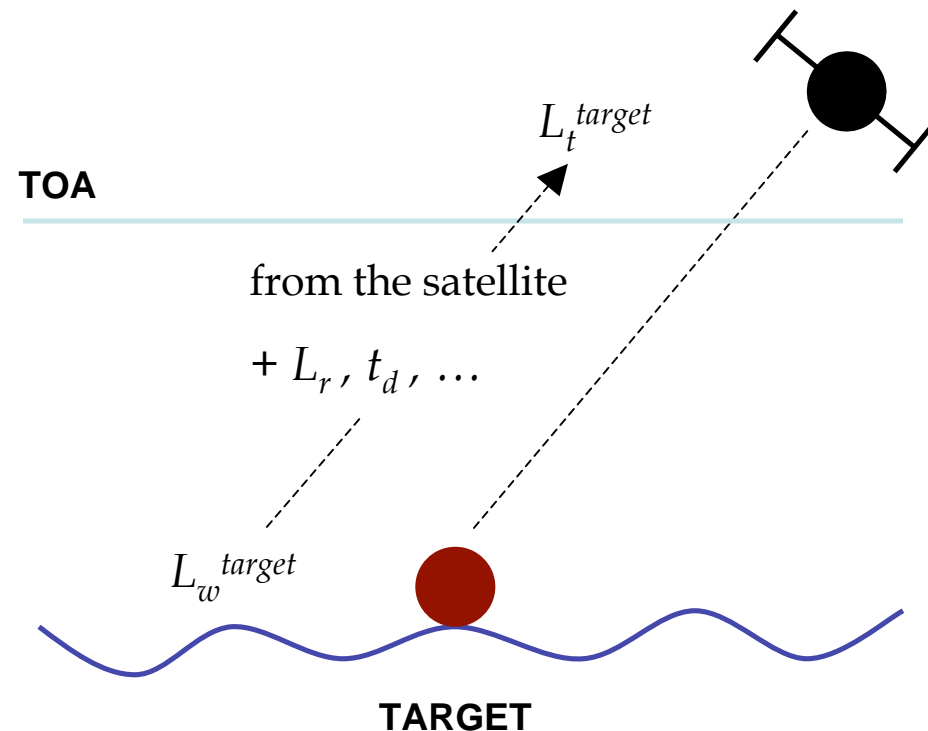
local aerosol type and concentration,

which provides  $L_a(\text{VIS})^{target}$

calculate  $L_t(\text{VIS})^{target}$  using

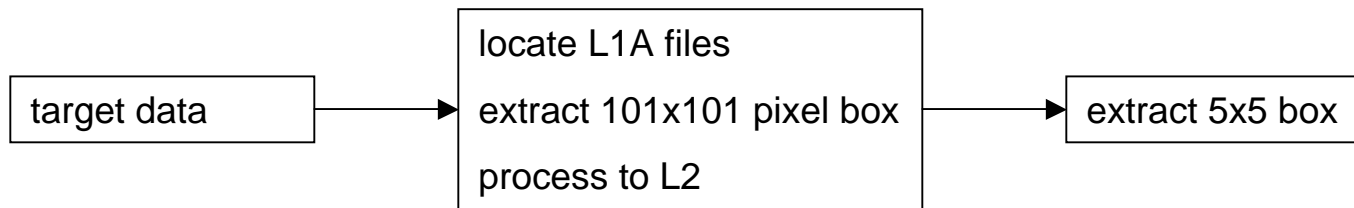
$L_a(\text{VIS})^{target}$ ,  $L_w(\text{VIS})^{target}$ ,

and satellite  $t_d$ , ...

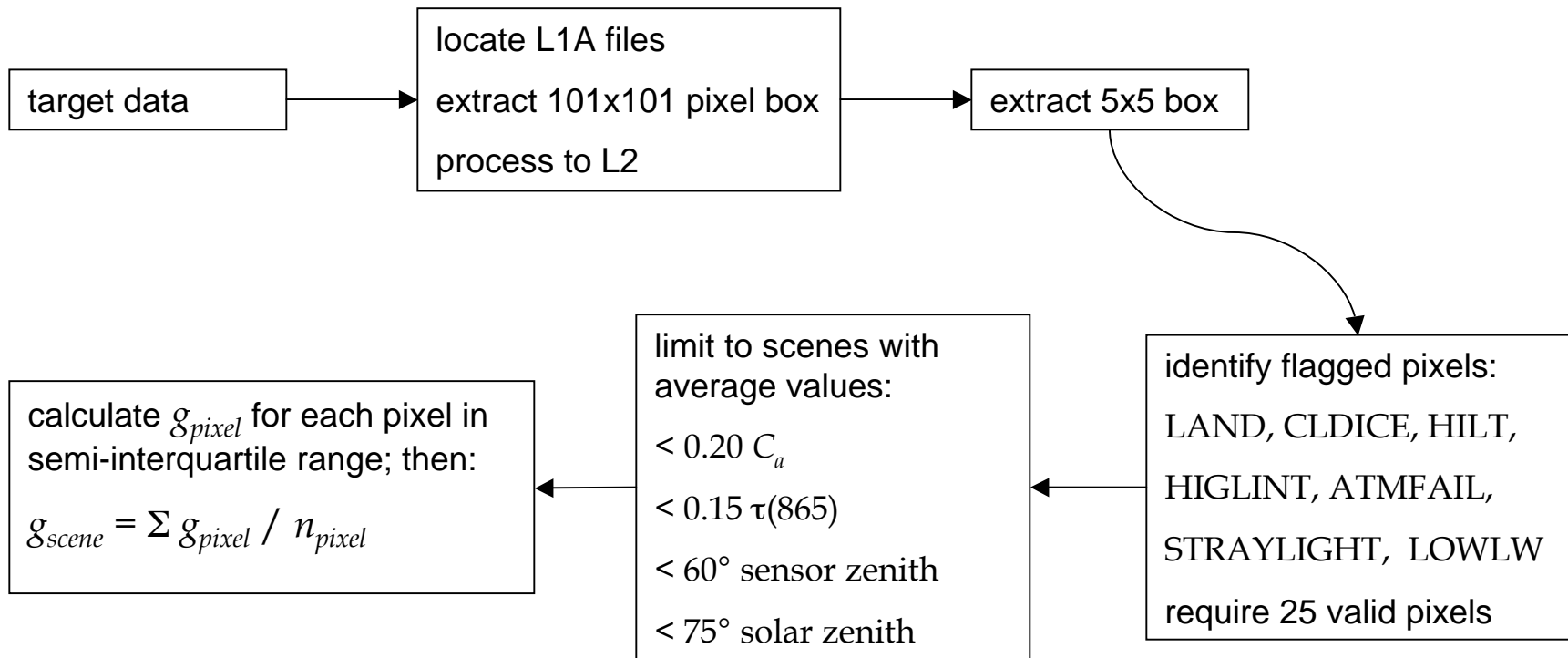


various complications:

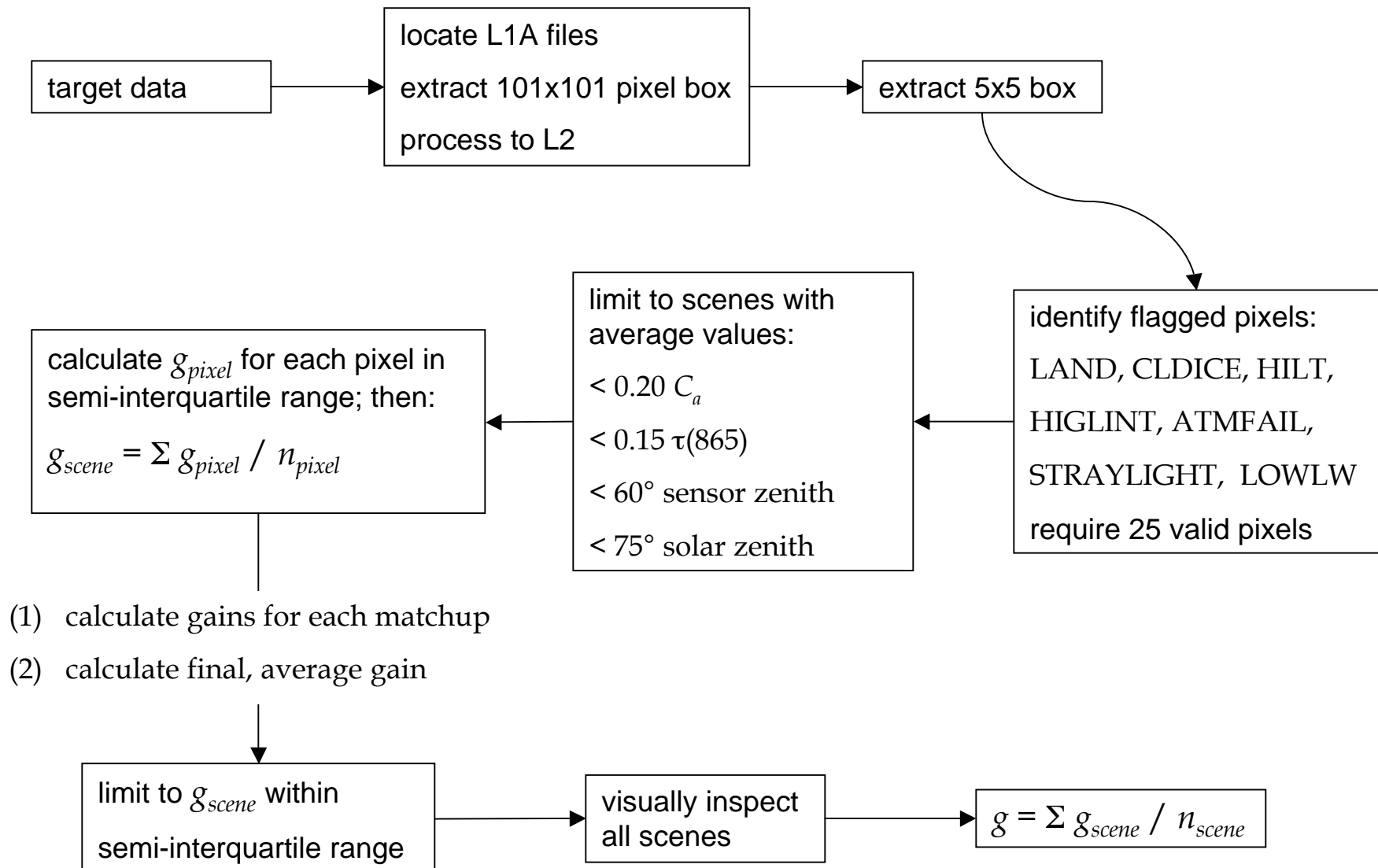
- (1)  $f/Q$  requires an estimation of  $C_a$
- (2) non-hyperspectral targets (conceptually) require adjustment to the satellite spectral bandpass
- (3) non-clear water targets require an estimation of  $L_w(\text{NIR})$
- (4) polarization can be problematic as the correction depends on the observed radiances



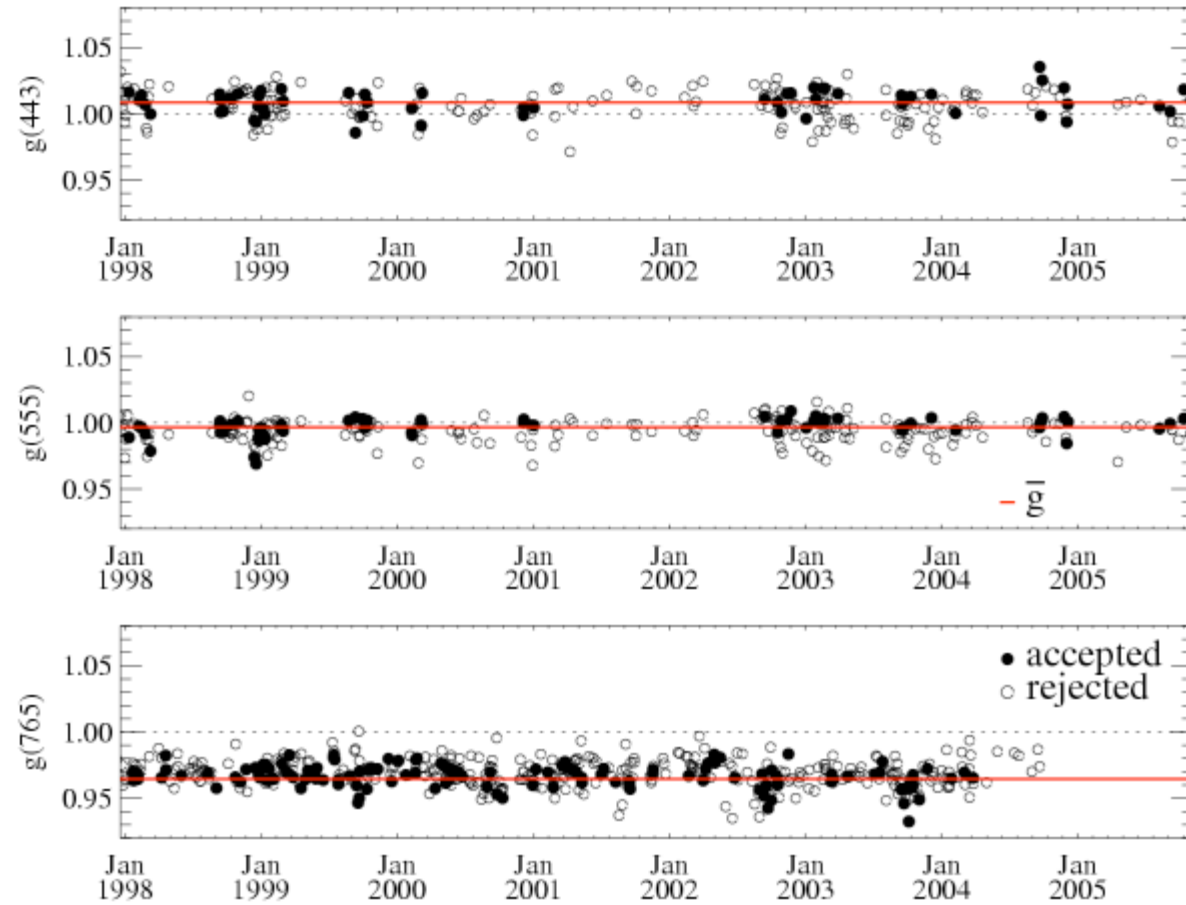




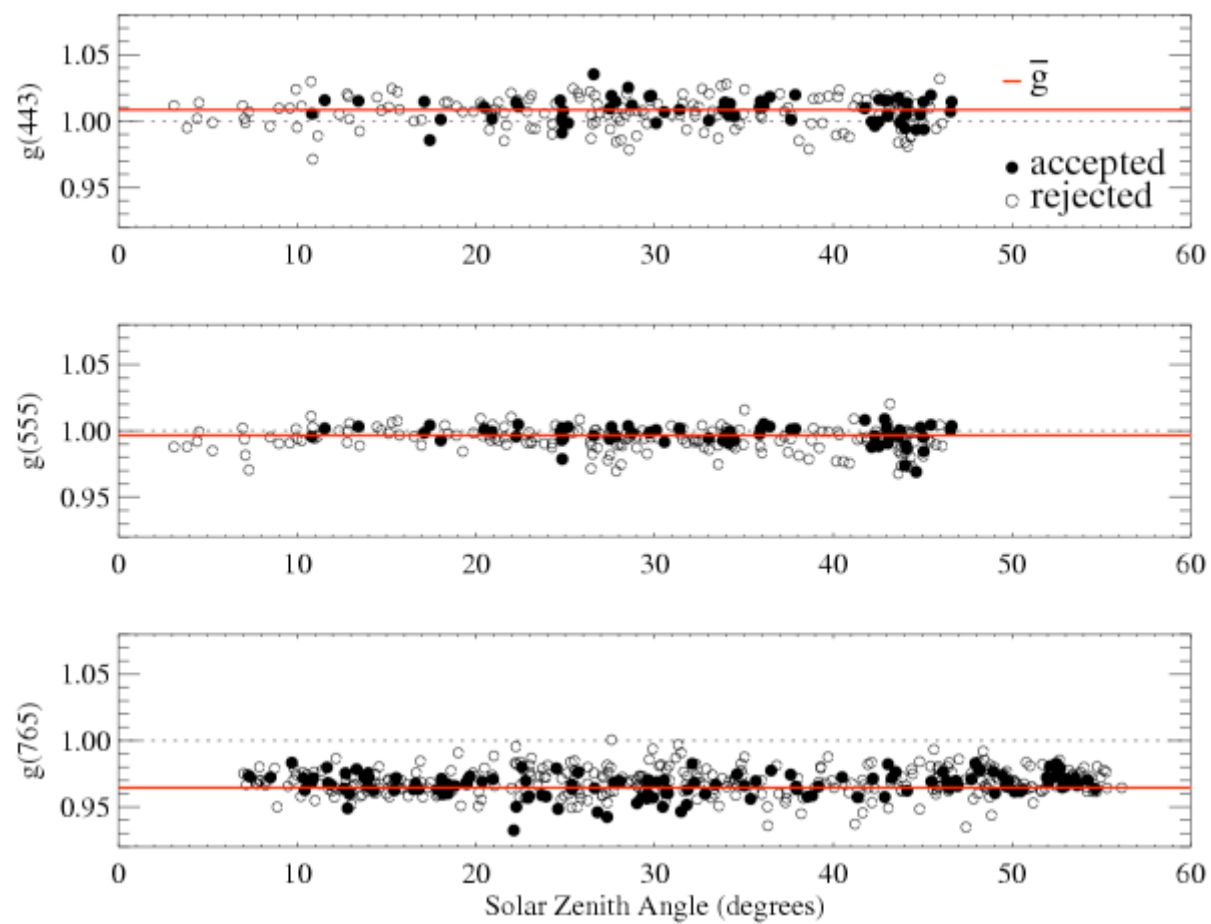
(1) calculate gains for each matchup



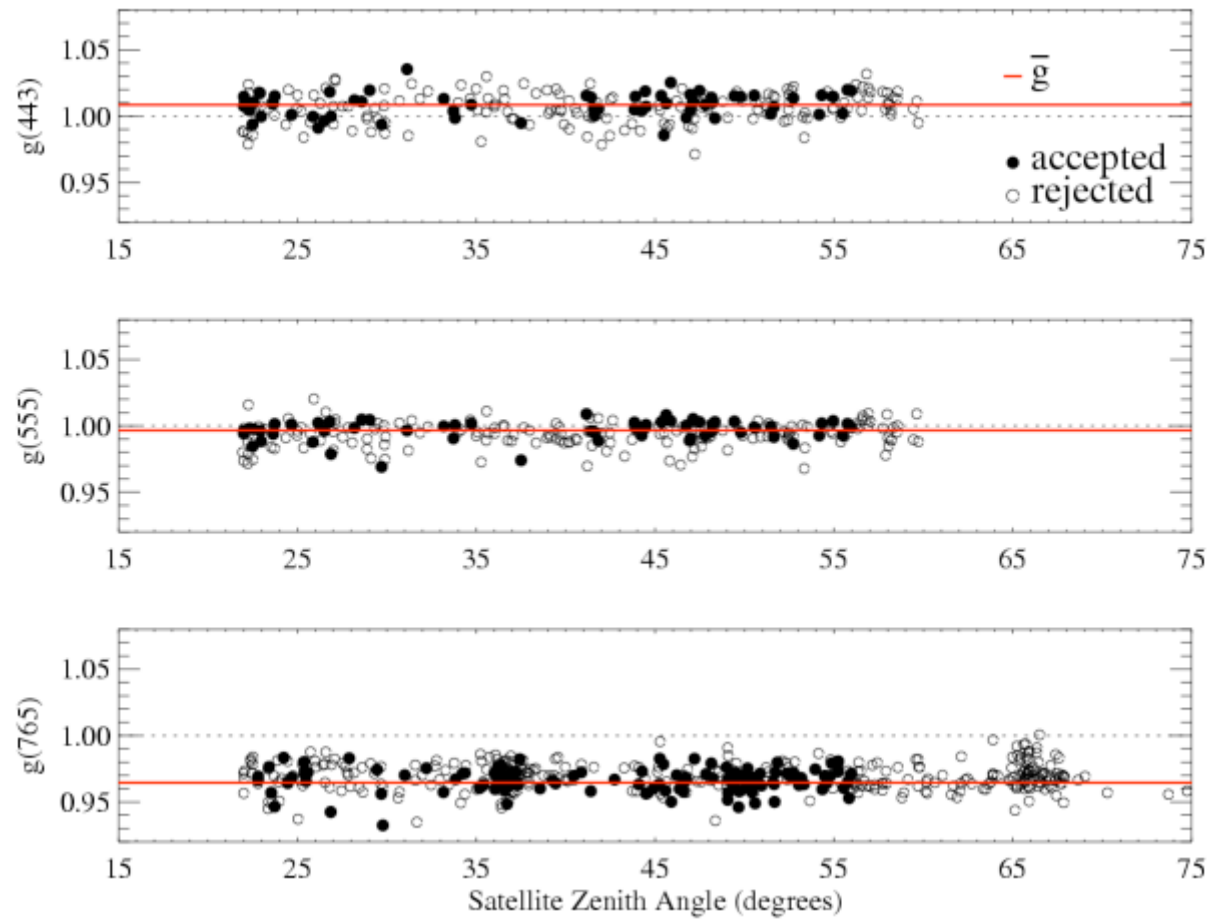
# SeaWiFS Gain Vs. Time



### SeaWiFS Gain Vs. Solar Zenith Angle



### SeaWiFS Gain Vs. Satellite Zenith Angle



$g$  remains stable as a function of time, both long-term and seasonally

- \* verifies temporal calibration
- \* suggests consistency in MOBY deployments
- \* scatter (5%) underscores need for independent temporal calibration  
(SeaWiFS 443-nm has degraded 2% since launch)

$g$  consistent with both solar and sensor zenith angles

variations with geometry might suggest problems with

- \* the atmospheric correction
- \* the  $f/Q$  correction
- \* the *in situ* determination of  $L_w$  under certain sky conditions

input the calibration scenes into validation system ...

Regression Statistics for SeaWiFS “Validation” Using MOBY Calibration Targets

	412	443	490	510	555	670
N	60	60	60	60	60	60
r <sup>2</sup>	0.96	0.91	0.73	0.50	0.41	0.36
RMS	0.053	0.052	0.038	0.035	0.024	0.009
→ bias	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
MPD	2.1	1.9	2.2	3.1	5.4	37.2
→ ratio	1.008	1.011	1.009	1.010	1.003	1.081

satellite-to-*in situ* biases and mean ratios approach zero and unity, respectively

input the calibration scenes into validation system ...

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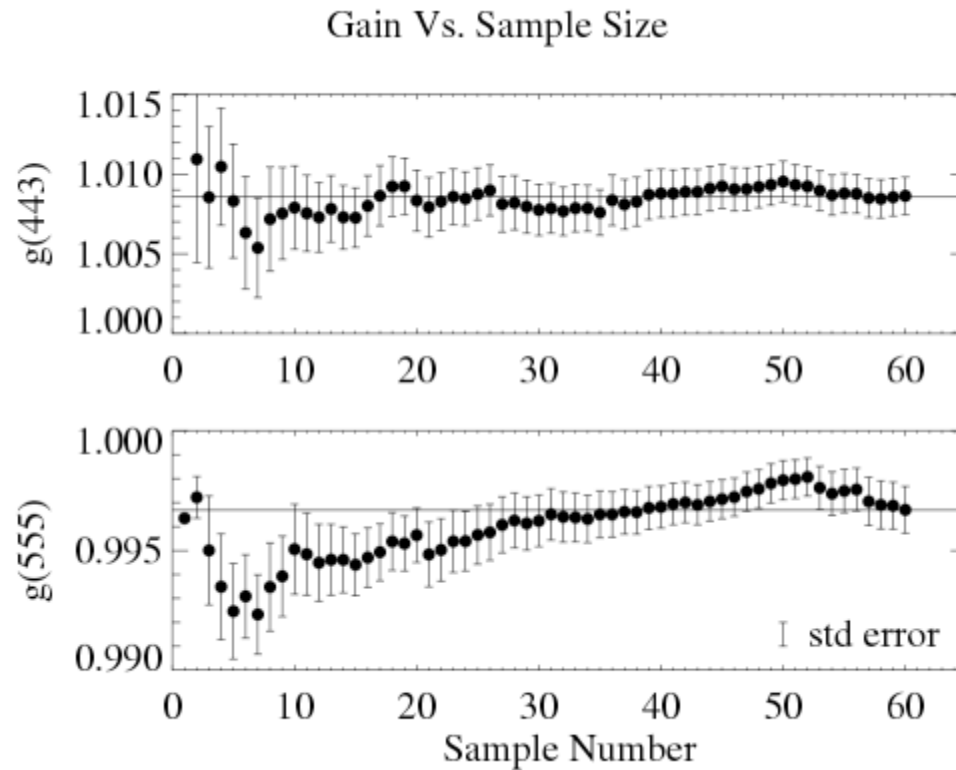
satellite-to-*in situ* biases and mean ratios approach zero and unity, respectively

RMSs and absolute MPDs not entirely negligible

compare with MPD of 13% for deep water validation set at 443-nm



changes in  $g$  with increasing sample size ...



standard error of  $g$  decreases to 0.1%

overall variability (min vs. max  $g$ ) approaches 0.5%

provides insight into temporal calibration

future ruminations ...

... statistical and visual exclusion criteria influence  $g$  only slightly, yet they reduce the standard deviations ... can uncertainties be quantified for the assigned thresholds?

... how do the uncertainties of the embedded models (e.g.,  $f/Q$ , the NIR-correction, etc.) propagate into the calibration?

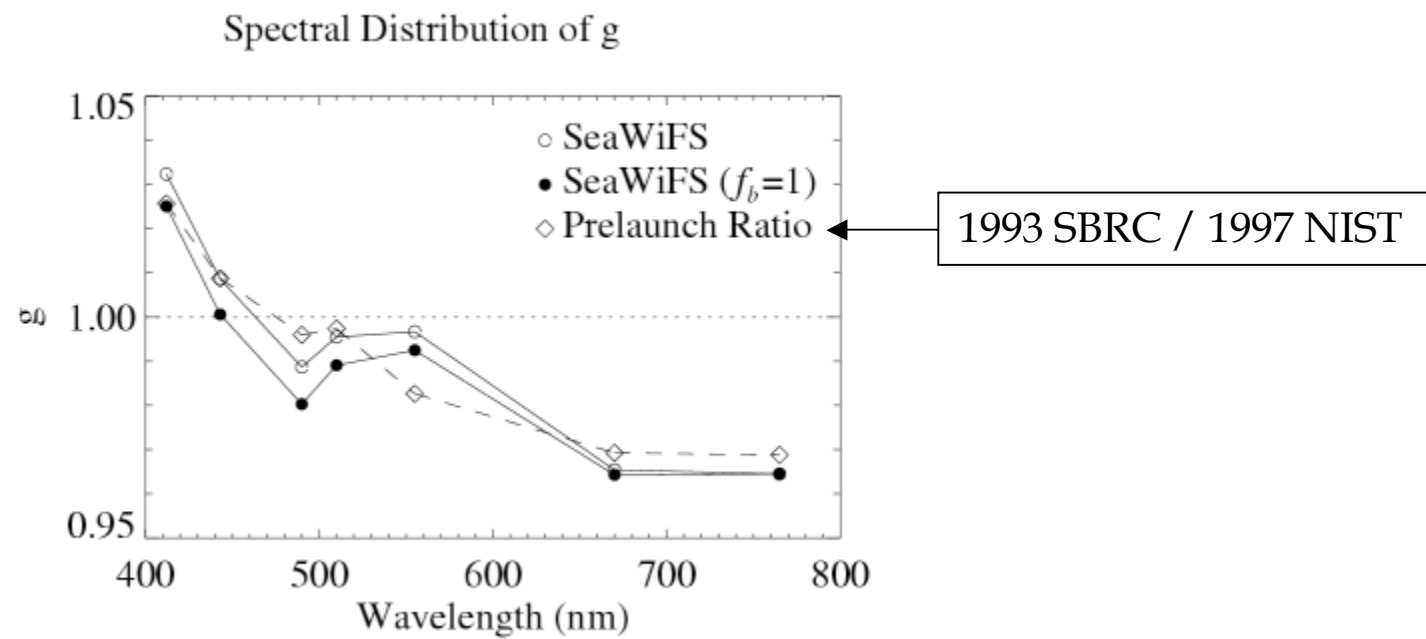
... what are the uncertainties associated with  $L_w^{target}$ ?

SeaWiFS Preliminary Vicarious Gains and Standard Deviations for Reprocessing 6 (Spring 2007)

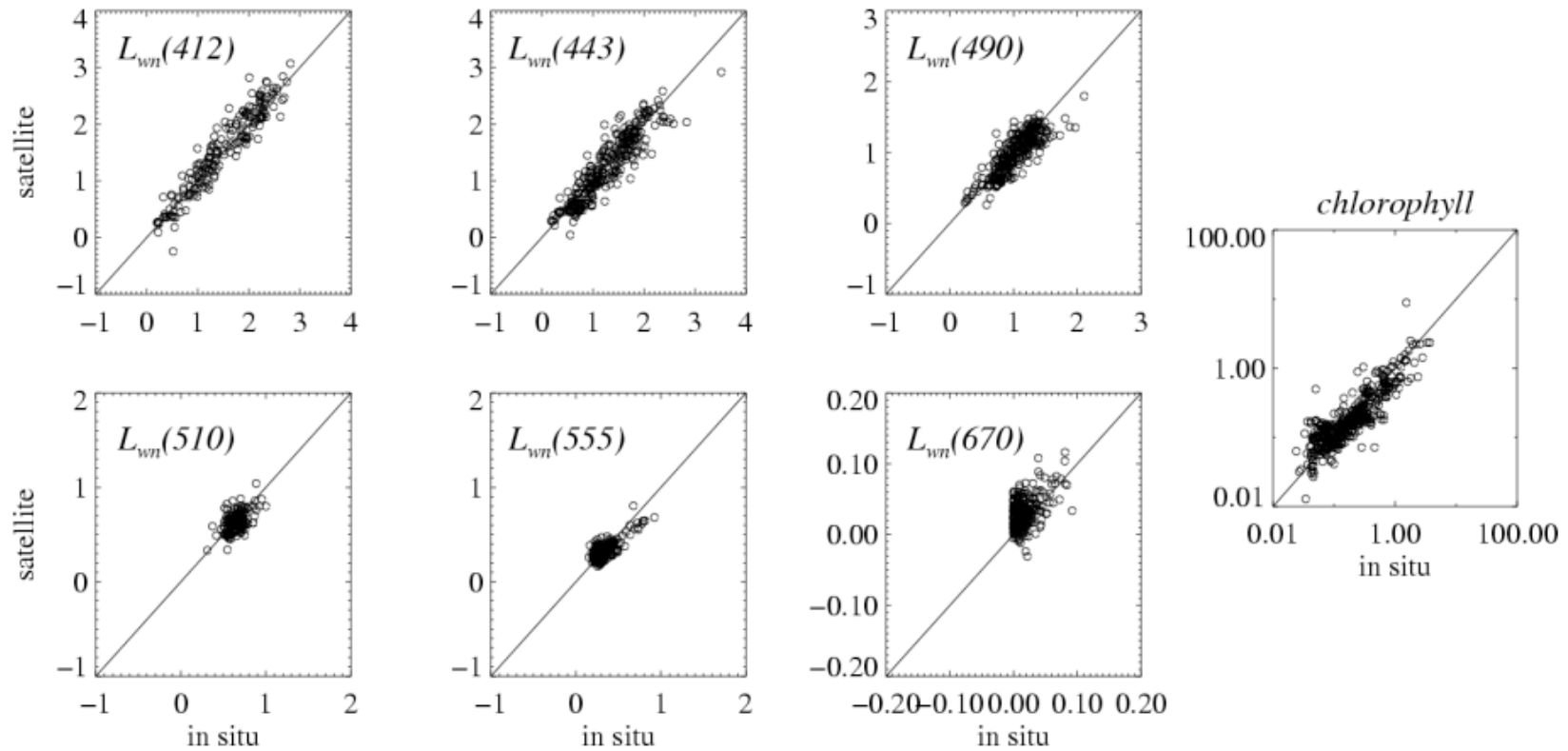
	412	443	490	510	555	670	765	865
$\bar{g}$	1.0324	1.0086	0.9887	0.9955	0.9967	0.9654	0.9645	1
$s$	0.010	0.009	0.007	0.007	0.008	0.005	0.004	0

SeaWiFS Vicarious Gains, as Above, with the BRDF Correction Disabled ( $f_b = 1$ )

	412	443	490	510	555	670	765	865
$\bar{g}$	1.0251	1.0006	0.9803	0.9891	0.9925	0.9643	0.9645	1
$s$	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.005	0.004	
%	-1.05	-1.19	-1.08	-0.65	-0.14	0.17		



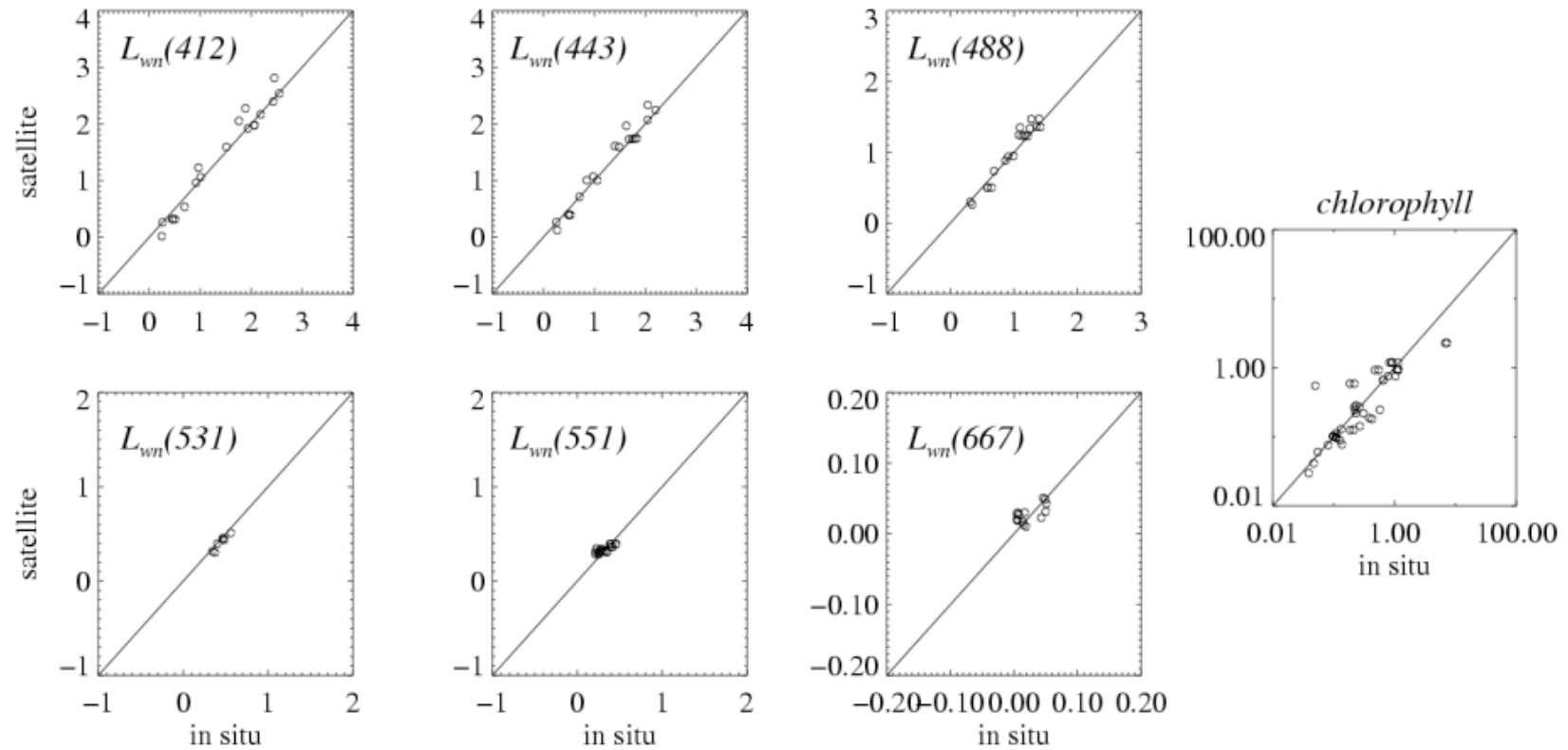
## SeaWiFS validation for the deep water subset:



MODIS-Aqua Vicarious Gains and Standard Deviations for Reprocessing 1.1 (August 2005)

	412	443	488	531	551	667	678	748	870
$\bar{g}$	0.9710	0.9848	0.9795	0.9870	0.9850	0.9797	0.9776	0.9855	1
$s$	0.006	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.003	0.004	0.004	0

## MODIS-Aqua validation for the deep water subset:



Backup slides ...



$$L_t = (L_r + L_a + t_{dv}L_f + t_{dv}L_w)t_{gv}t_{gs}f_p \quad (1)$$

$$L_{wn} = L_w(\mu_s t_{ds} f_s f_b f_\lambda)^{-1} \quad (2)$$

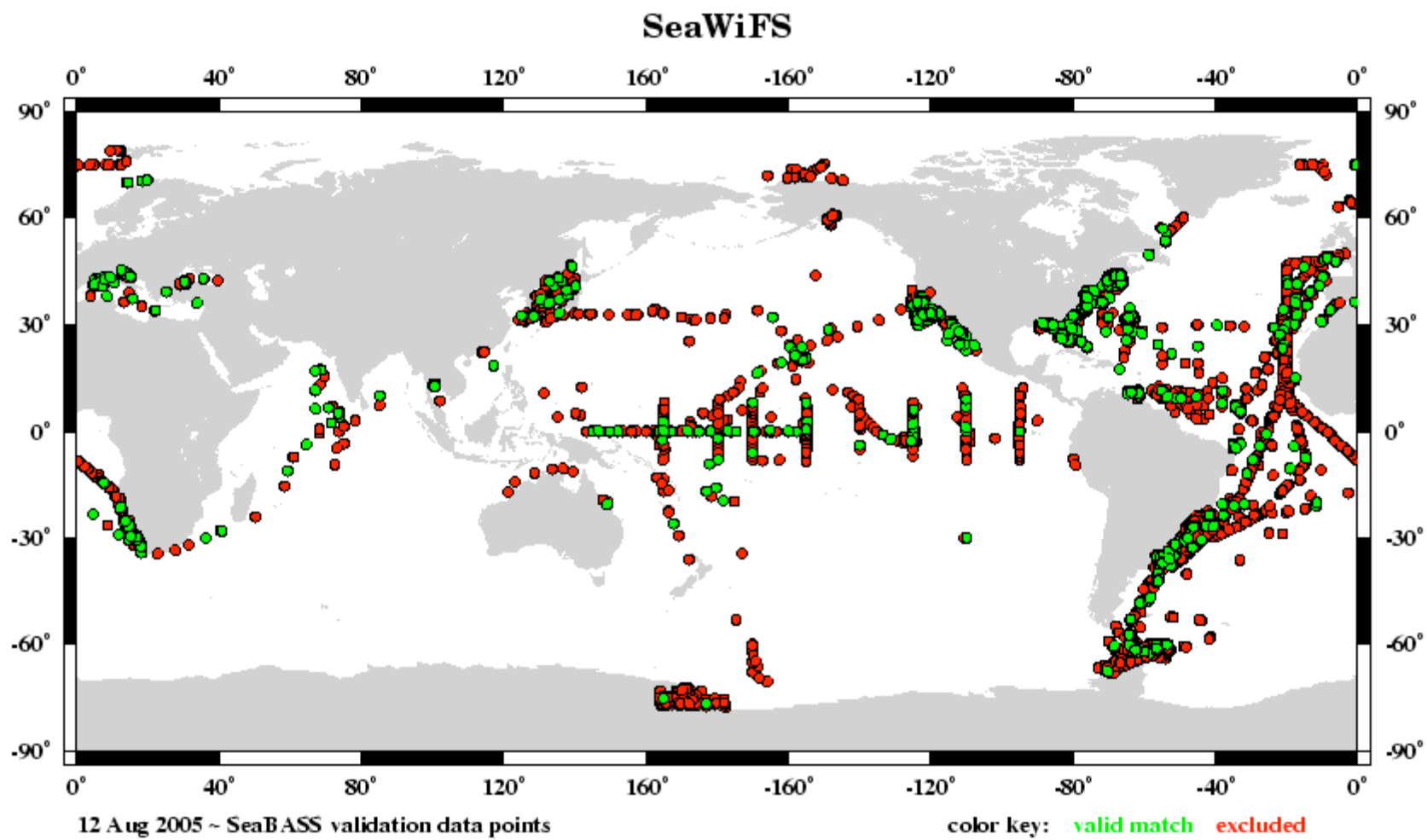
$$L_{wn}^t = L_w^t(\mu_s^t t_{ds}^t f_s^t f_b^t f_\lambda^t)^{-1} \quad (3)$$

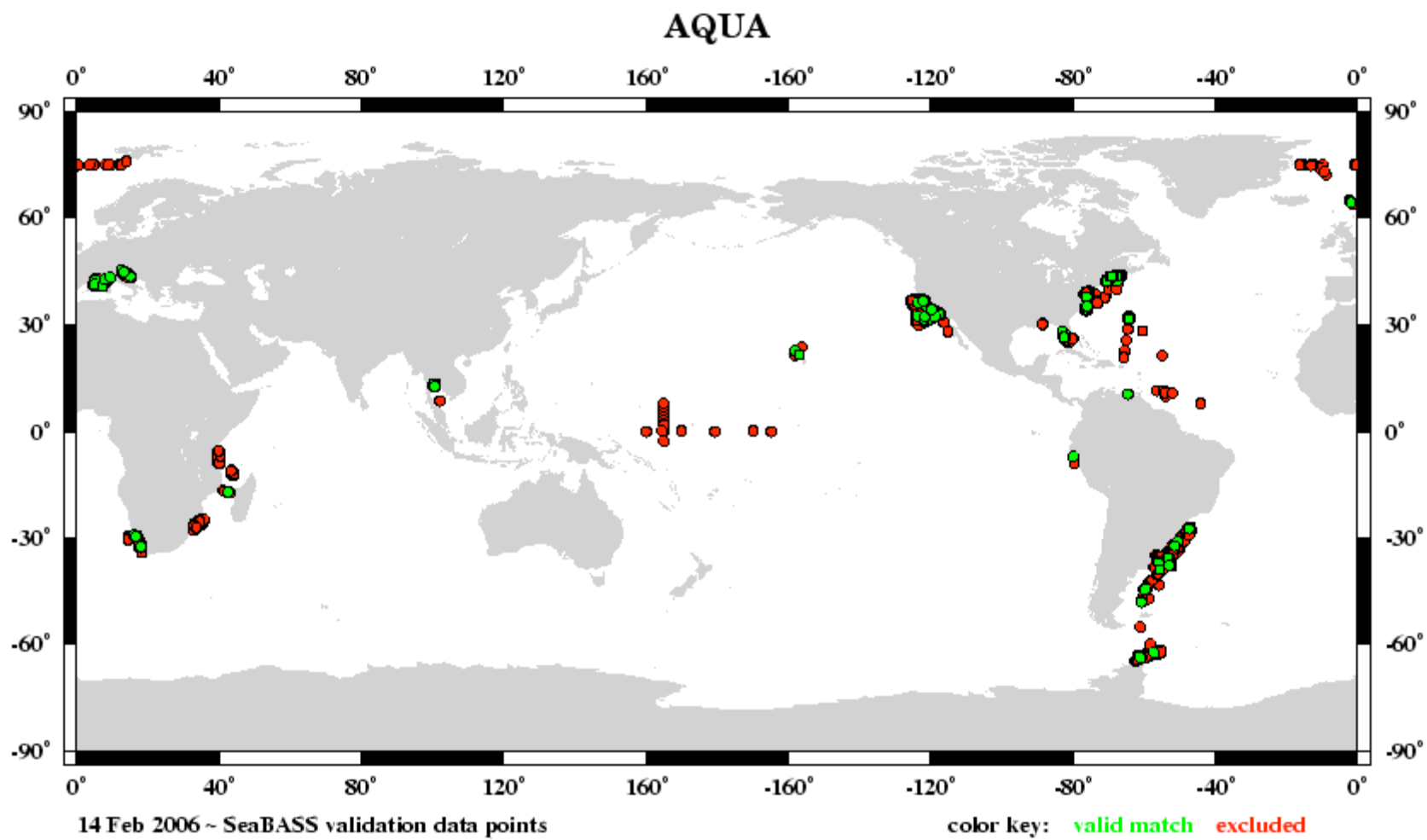
$$L_t^t = \{L_r + L_a + t_{dv}L_f + t_{dv}L_{wn}^t(\mu_s t_{ds} f_s f_b f_\lambda)\}t_{gv}t_{gs}f_p \quad (4)$$

$$g = L_t^t L_t^{-1} \quad (5)$$

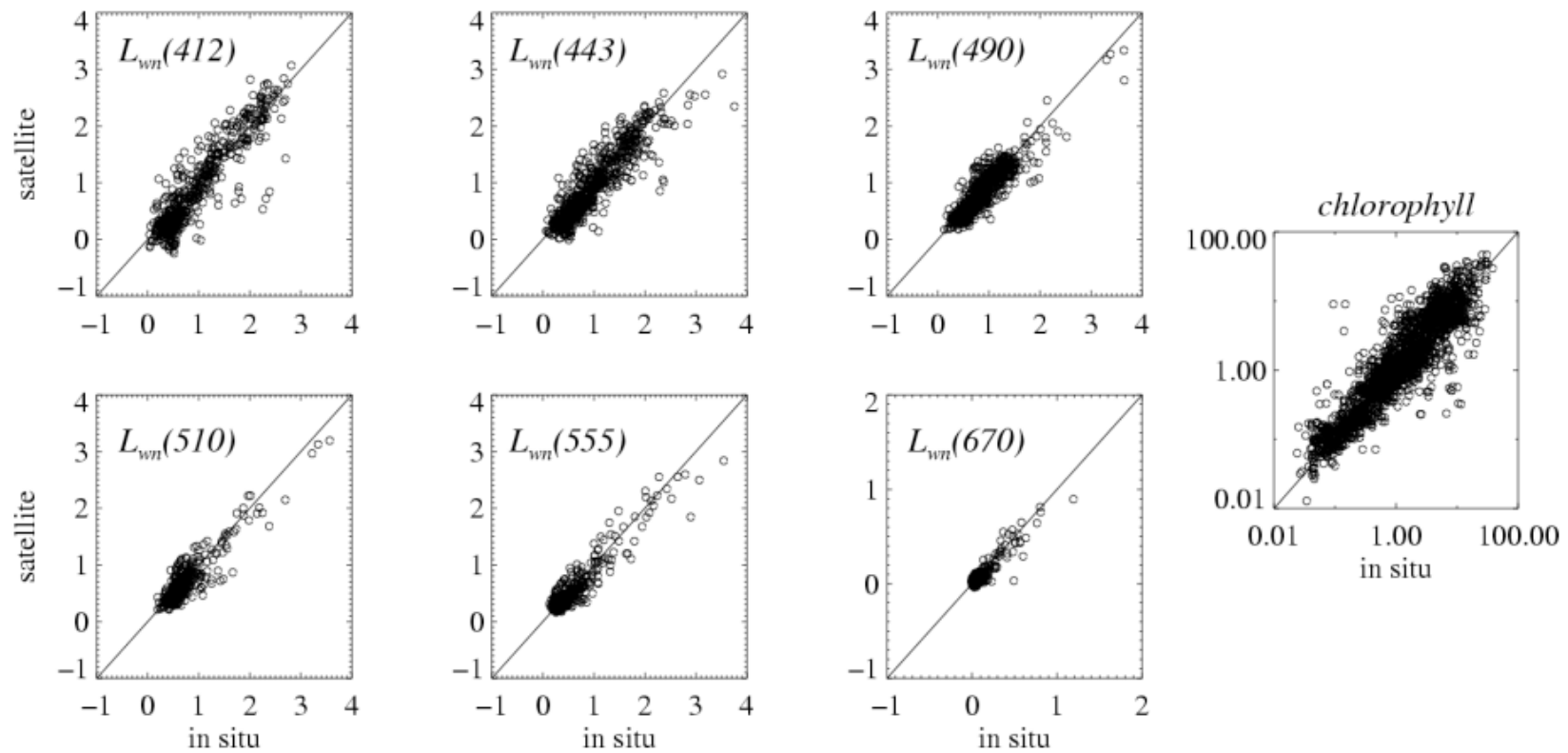
$$L_t = (L_r + L_a + t_{dv}L_f)t_{gv}t_{gs}f_p \quad (6)$$

$$L_t^t = (L_r + L_a^t + t_{dv}L_f)t_{gv}t_{gs}f_p \quad (7)$$

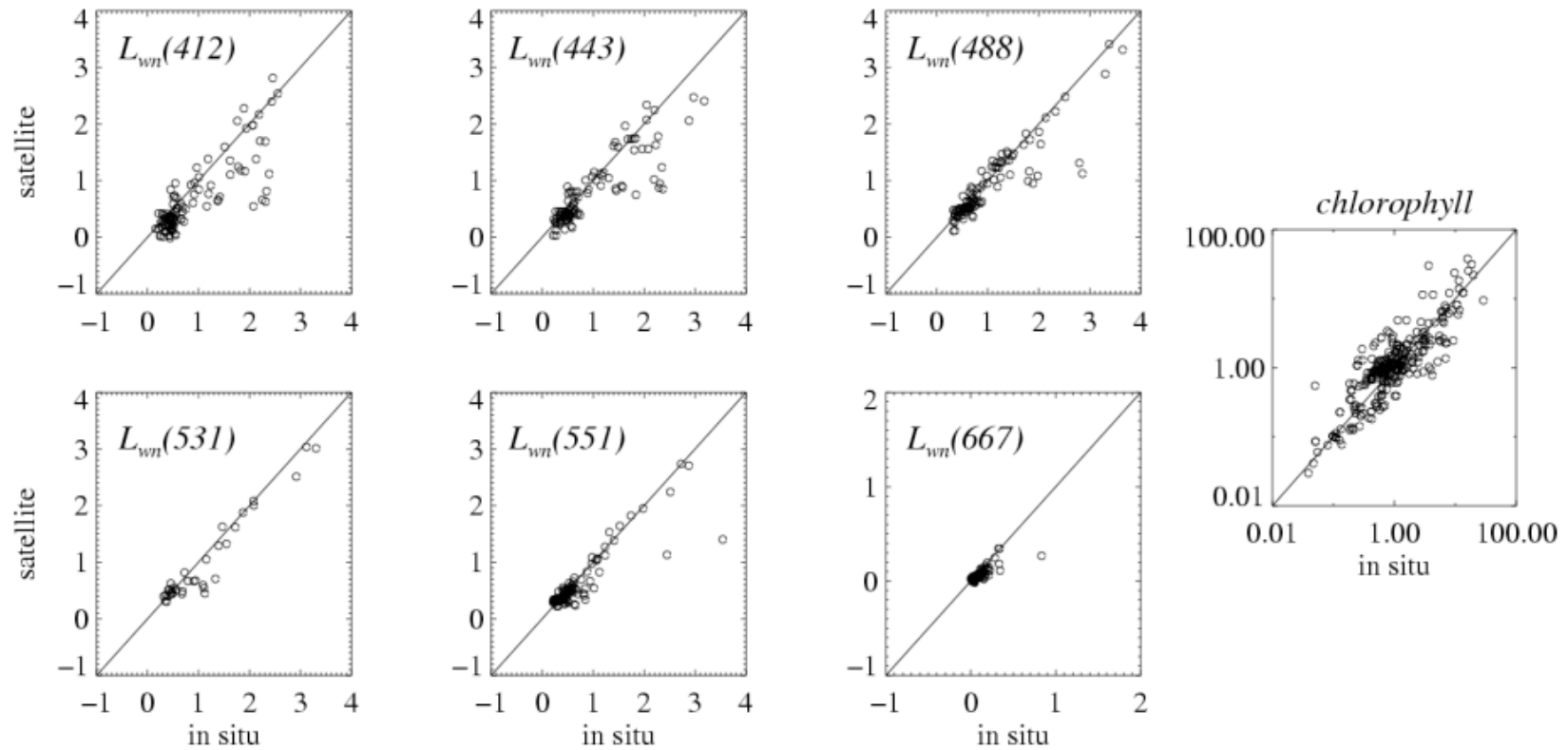




## SeaWiFS validation for the global data set:



## MODIS-Aqua validation for the global data set:



## SeaWiFS validation statistics:

### Deep Water Only

Band	N	Median Ratio <sup>+</sup>	% Difference <sup>**</sup>	r <sup>2</sup>	Bias	rms <sup>+</sup>	In Situ Range	Satellite Range
lw412	154	1.030	10.783	0.904	0.049	0.232	0.200 - 2.789	-0.246 - 3.069
lw443	242	0.962	13.348	0.845	-0.036	0.232	0.185 - 2.815	0.046 - 2.582
lw490	242	0.956	12.134	0.744	-0.052	0.174	0.232 - 2.076	0.262 - 1.796
lw510	127	0.976	11.084	0.478	-0.011	0.103	0.315 - 0.965	0.333 - 1.042
lw555	242	0.976	16.637	0.676	-0.007	0.077	0.167 - 0.917	0.163 - 0.805
lw670	238	1.618	84.442	0.453	0.013	0.025	0.000 - 0.091	-0.031 - 0.116
chlorophyll	271	0.922	25.966	0.833	-0.083	0.443	0.024 - 3.721	0.030 - 8.882
kd490	149	0.993	13.543	0.897	0.002	0.013	0.014 - 0.278	0.017 - 0.258
aot865	65	1.413	43.136	0.678	0.037	0.064	0.018 - 0.358	0.026 - 0.424

<sup>+</sup> median of all satellite / in situ ratios

<sup>\*\*</sup> median absolute percent difference

<sup>+</sup>  $\sqrt{\sum(\text{satellite} - \text{in situ})^2 / n}$

chlorophyll data were log transformed prior to calculation of slope, intercept, r<sup>2</sup>, rms and bias statistics

median ratio and median absolute percent difference were performed on non-transformed data

## MODIS-Aqua validation statistics:

### Deep Water Only

Band	N	Median Ratio <sup>+</sup>	% Difference <sup>**</sup>	r <sup>2</sup>	Bias	rms <sup>+</sup>	In Situ Range	Satellite Range
lw412	13	1.023	5.618	0.966	0.045	0.178	0.240 - 2.586	0.017 - 2.812
lw443	17	0.998	10.858	0.929	-0.044	0.224	0.251 - 2.232	0.124 - 2.337
lw488	17	1.040	5.967	0.844	-0.035	0.180	0.307 - 1.415	0.260 - 1.474
lw531	5	0.930	6.961	0.882	-0.028	0.037	0.338 - 0.480	0.302 - 0.456
lw551	13	1.140	14.020	0.574	0.032	0.058	0.217 - 0.440	0.283 - 0.388
lw667	17	1.813	81.317	0.591	0.011	0.017	0.000 - 0.050	0.010 - 0.049
chlorophyll	28	0.956	28.282	0.740	-0.027	0.709	0.039 - 7.258	0.030 - 2.287
kd488	12	1.149	14.864	0.997	0.015	0.029	0.021 - 0.147	0.022 - 0.224
aot869	14	1.552	55.187	0.646	0.043	0.058	0.018 - 0.171	0.047 - 0.256

<sup>+</sup> median of all satellite / in situ ratios

<sup>\*\*</sup> median absolute percent difference

<sup>+</sup>  $\sqrt{\sum(\text{satellite} - \text{in situ})^2 / n}$

chlorophyll data were log transformed prior to calculation of slope, intercept, r2, rms and bias statistics

median ratio and median absolute percent difference were performed on non-transformed data

## SeaWiFS validation statistics:

### Global Results

Band	N	Median Ratio <sup>+</sup>	% Difference <sup>++</sup>	r <sup>2</sup>	Bias	rms <sup>+</sup>	In Situ Range	Satellite Range
lw412	480	0.905	24.098	0.827	-0.079	0.332	0.037 - 2.789	-0.246 - 3.069
lw443	629	0.915	17.480	0.830	-0.049	0.262	0.065 - 3.421	-0.010 - 3.019
lw490	587	0.918	15.101	0.821	-0.054	0.207	0.126 - 4.172	0.173 - 3.337
lw510	406	0.918	13.739	0.849	-0.042	0.177	0.195 - 4.174	0.214 - 3.295
lw555	629	0.915	16.878	0.931	-0.040	0.146	0.131 - 4.770	0.163 - 4.255
lw670	603	0.920	45.717	0.876	-0.007	0.045	0.000 - 1.181	-0.037 - 0.996
chlorophyll	1293	0.998	33.086	0.796	-0.006	0.657	0.024 - 32.181	0.030 - 33.621
kd490	247	1.038	15.043	0.743	-0.001	0.052	0.014 - 0.721	0.017 - 0.421
aot865	126	1.422	43.376	0.717	0.030	0.055	0.002 - 0.358	0.017 - 0.424



## MODIS-Aqua validation statistics:

### Global Results

Band	N	Median Ratio <sup>+</sup>	% Difference <sup>**</sup>	r <sup>2</sup>	Bias	rms <sup>+</sup>	In Situ Range	Satellite Range
lw412	120	0.747	30.898	0.742	-0.228	0.420	0.219 - 2.586	-0.014 - 2.812
lw443	133	0.862	18.811	0.815	-0.136	0.317	0.223 - 2.897	0.036 - 2.470
lw488	109	0.923	14.563	0.907	-0.094	0.222	0.307 - 3.540	0.113 - 3.410
lw531	32	0.933	11.178	0.934	-0.117	0.239	0.338 - 3.234	0.302 - 3.037
lw551	120	0.940	12.255	0.943	-0.074	0.164	0.217 - 3.186	0.224 - 3.045
lw667	107	0.682	36.392	0.735	-0.027	0.049	0.000 - 0.349	-0.018 - 0.345
chlorophyll	263	1.084	40.406	0.780	0.084	0.644	0.039 - 29.004	0.030 - 37.837
kd488	32	1.179	19.067	0.795	0.018	0.046	0.021 - 0.394	0.022 - 0.298
aot869	23	1.567	56.686	0.682	0.042	0.057	0.018 - 0.171	0.033 - 0.256