EXPANDING AND TESTING ORBIT PROPAGATION CAPABILITIES USING CCMC-HOSTED MODELS

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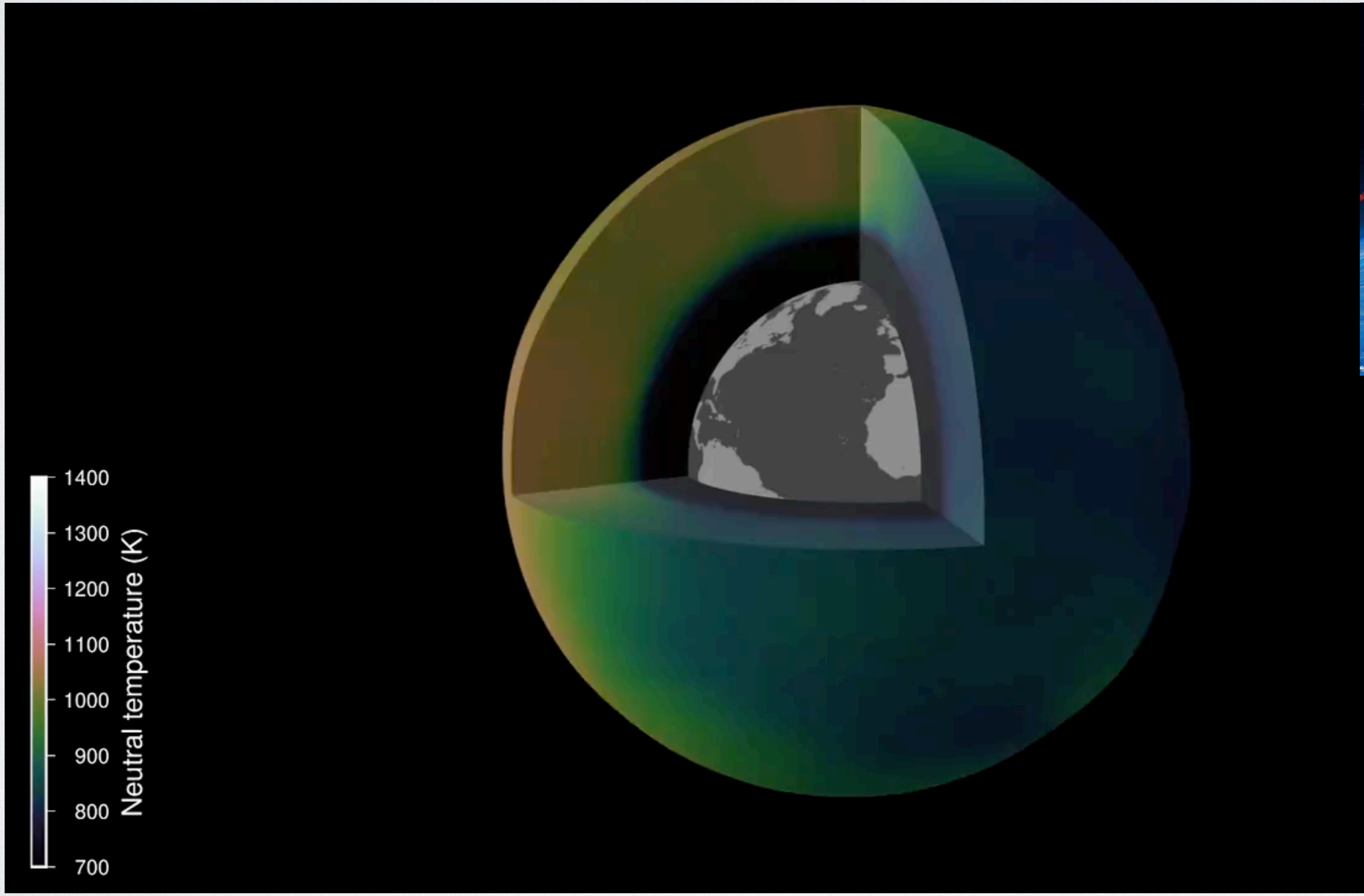
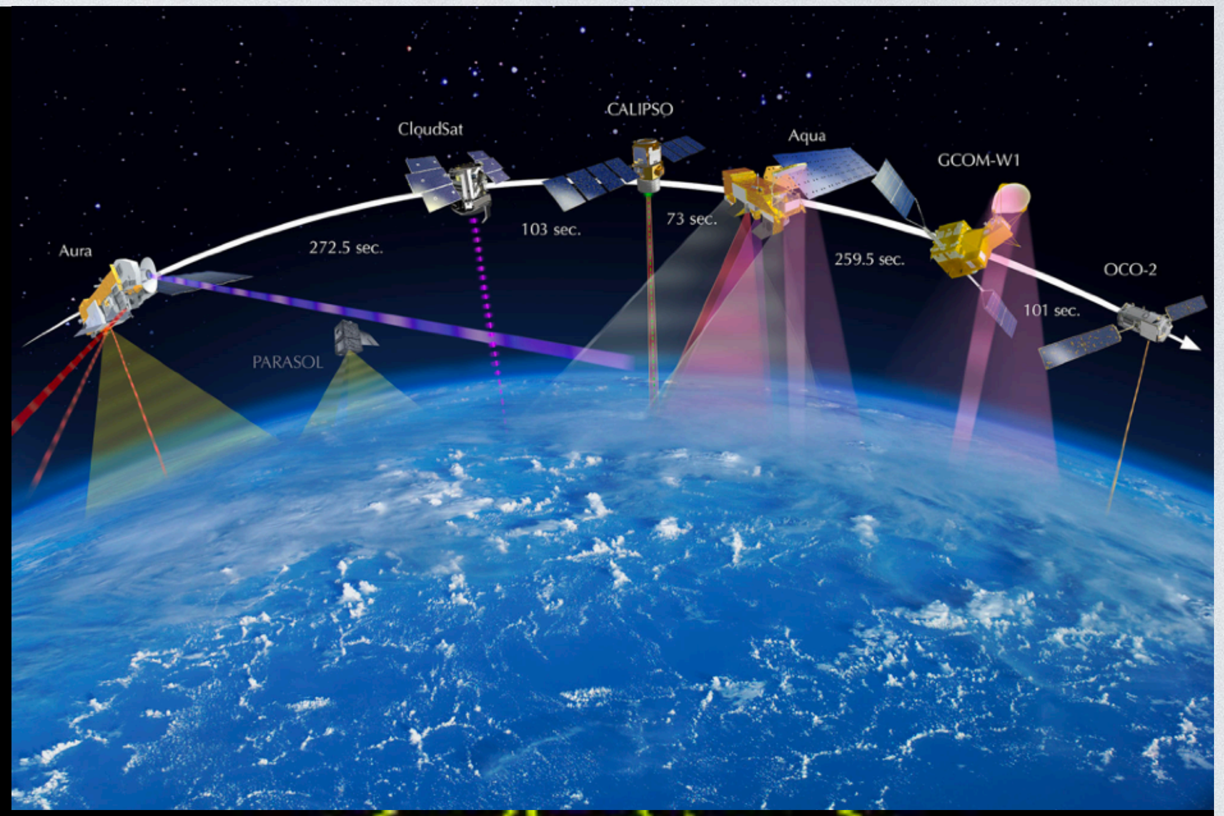
UNCERTAINTY IN THERMOSPHERIC DRAG LEADS TO UNCERTAINTY IN SATELLITE TRAJECTORY





movie credit: Eelco Doonbos, KNMI

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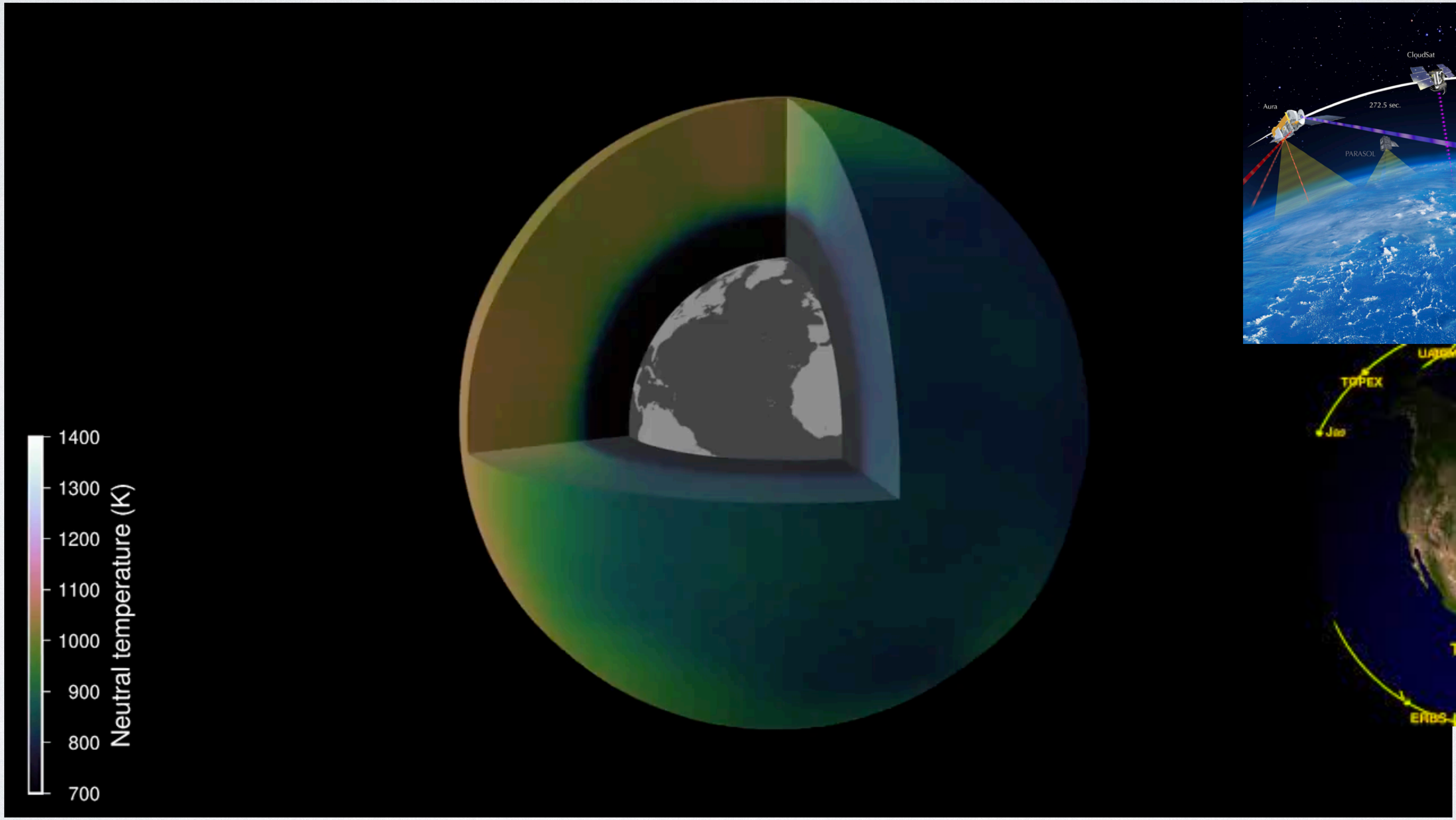

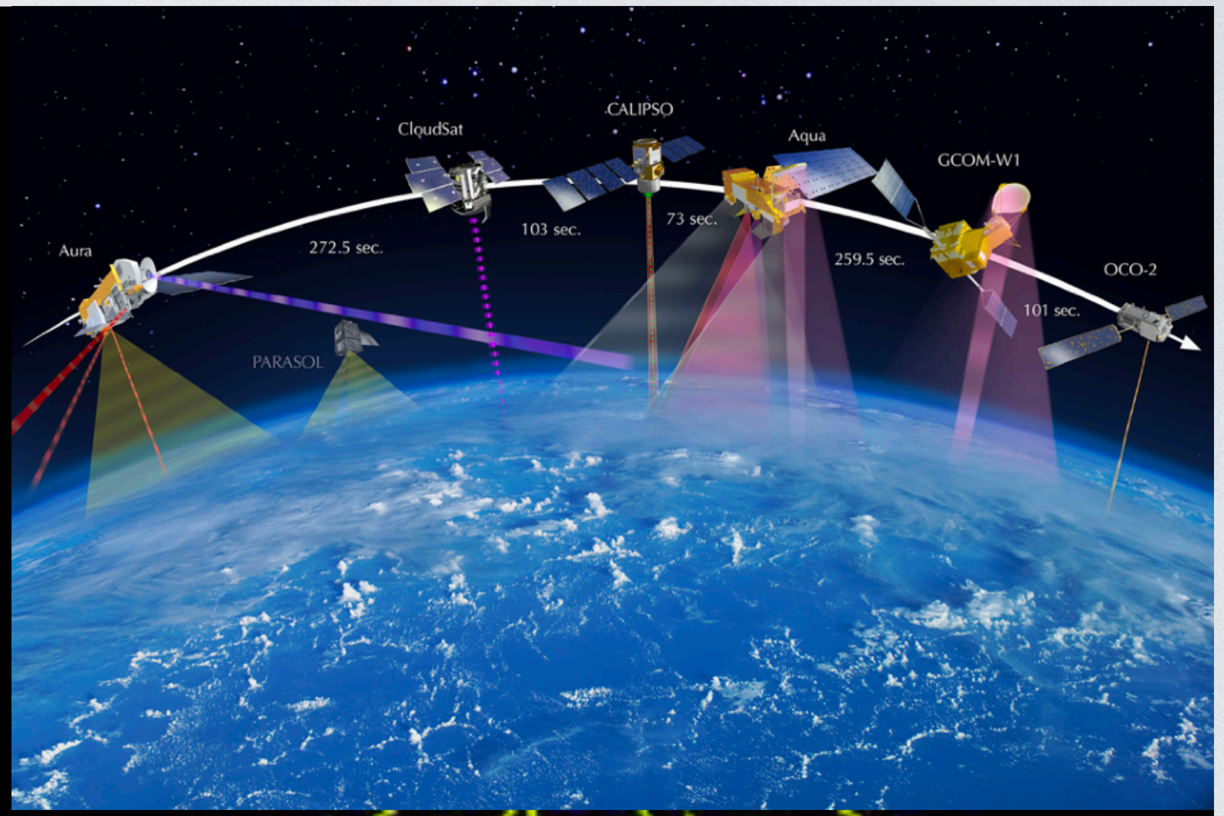

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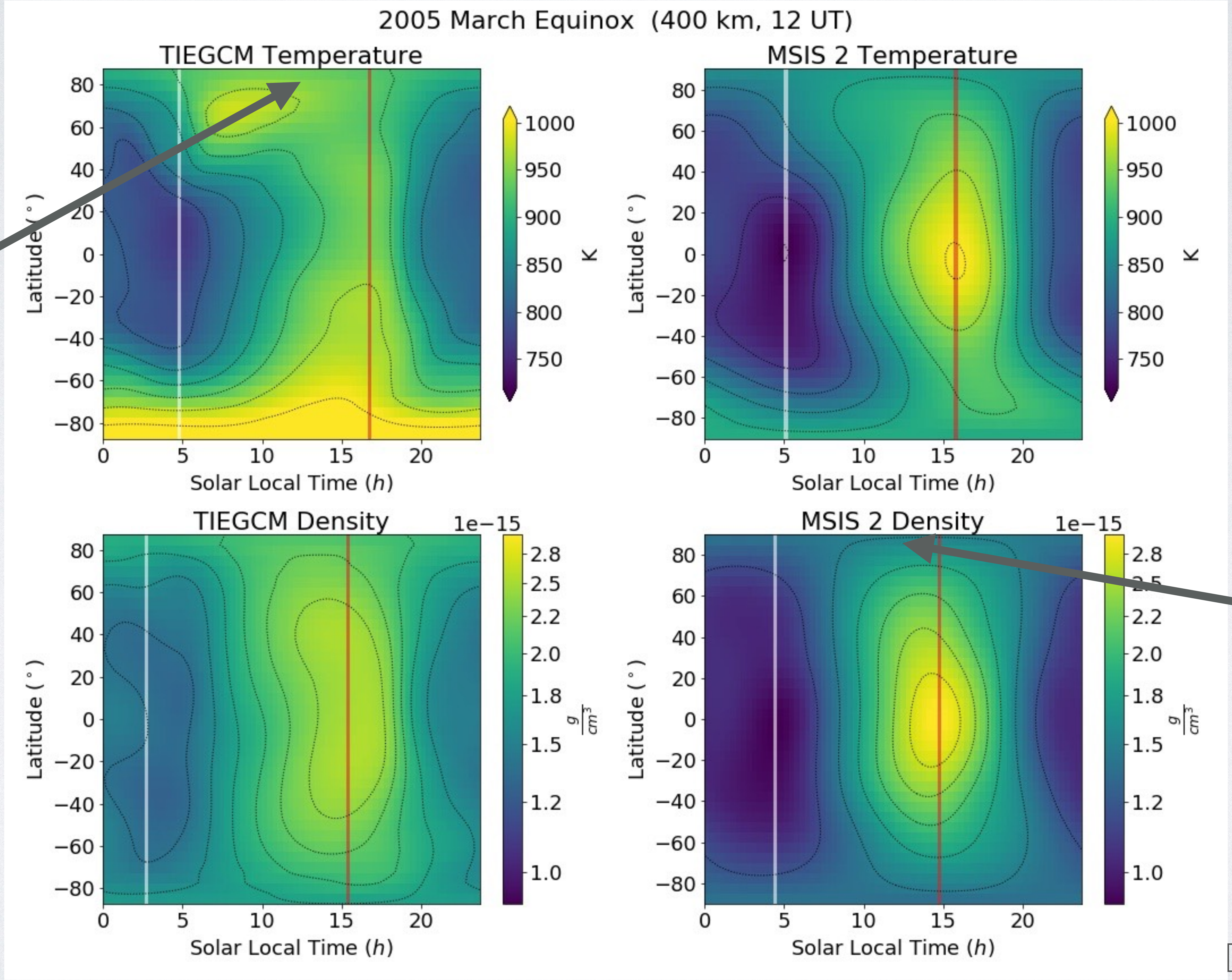
EMPIRICAL AND PHYSICS-BASED MODELS

physics-based

empirical

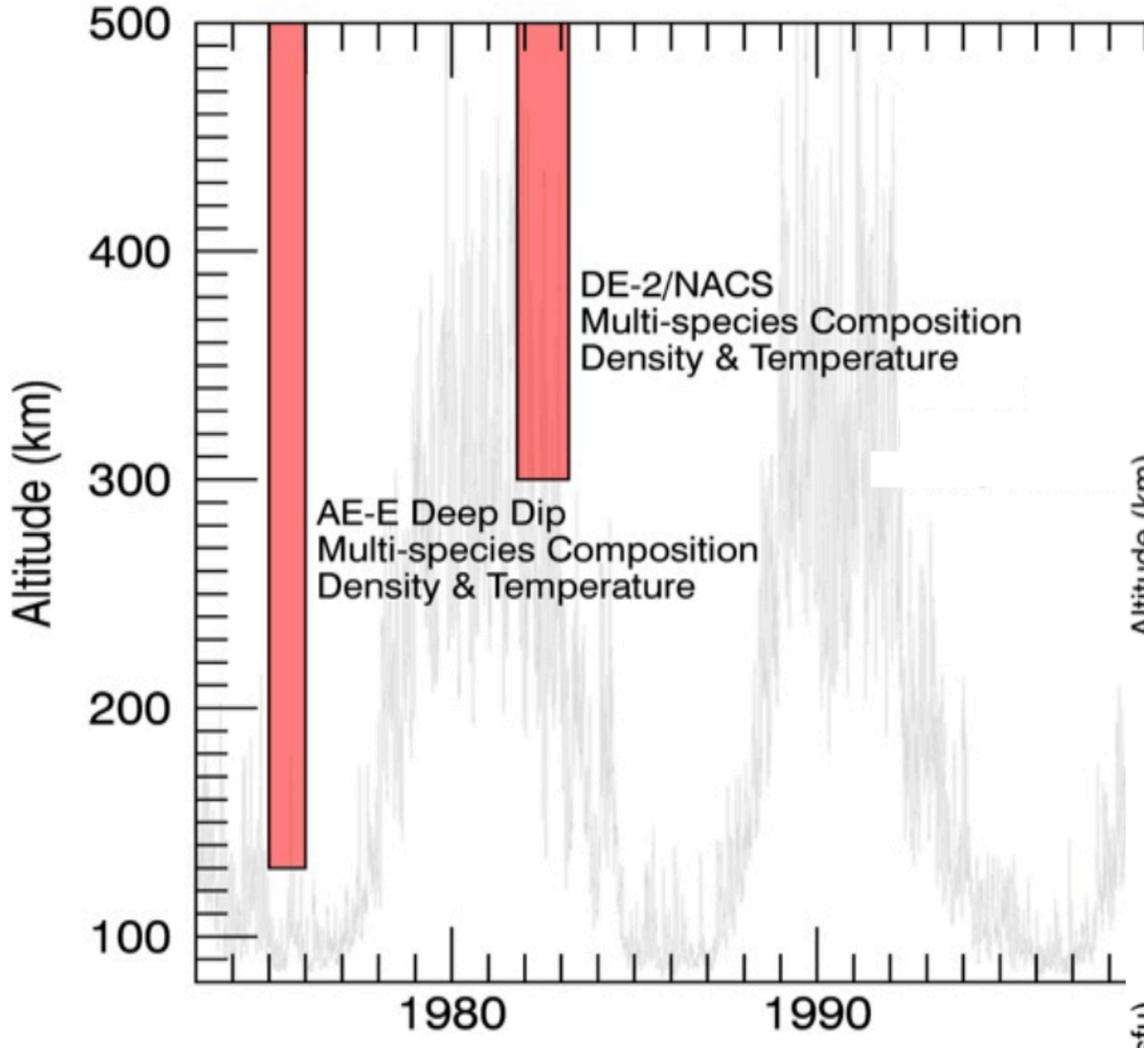
high-latitude heating



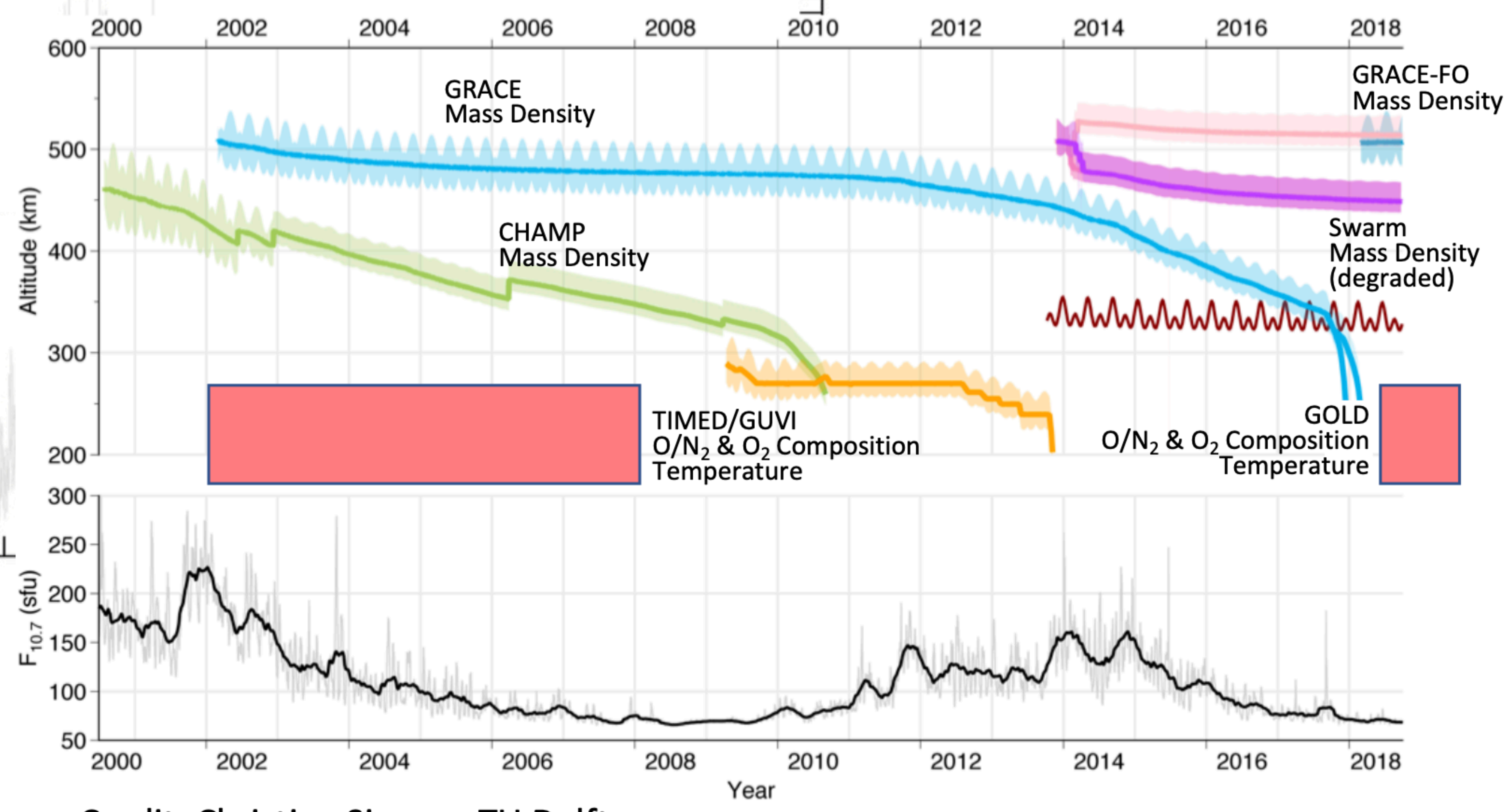
lower density

[Waldron, Masters Thesis, 2020]

PROMISE AND PITFALLS OF THERMOSPHERIC VALIDATION



Credit: Ed Thiemann, CU/LASP



*not an exhaustive list,
but these are the major missions

Credit: Christian Siemes, TU Delft

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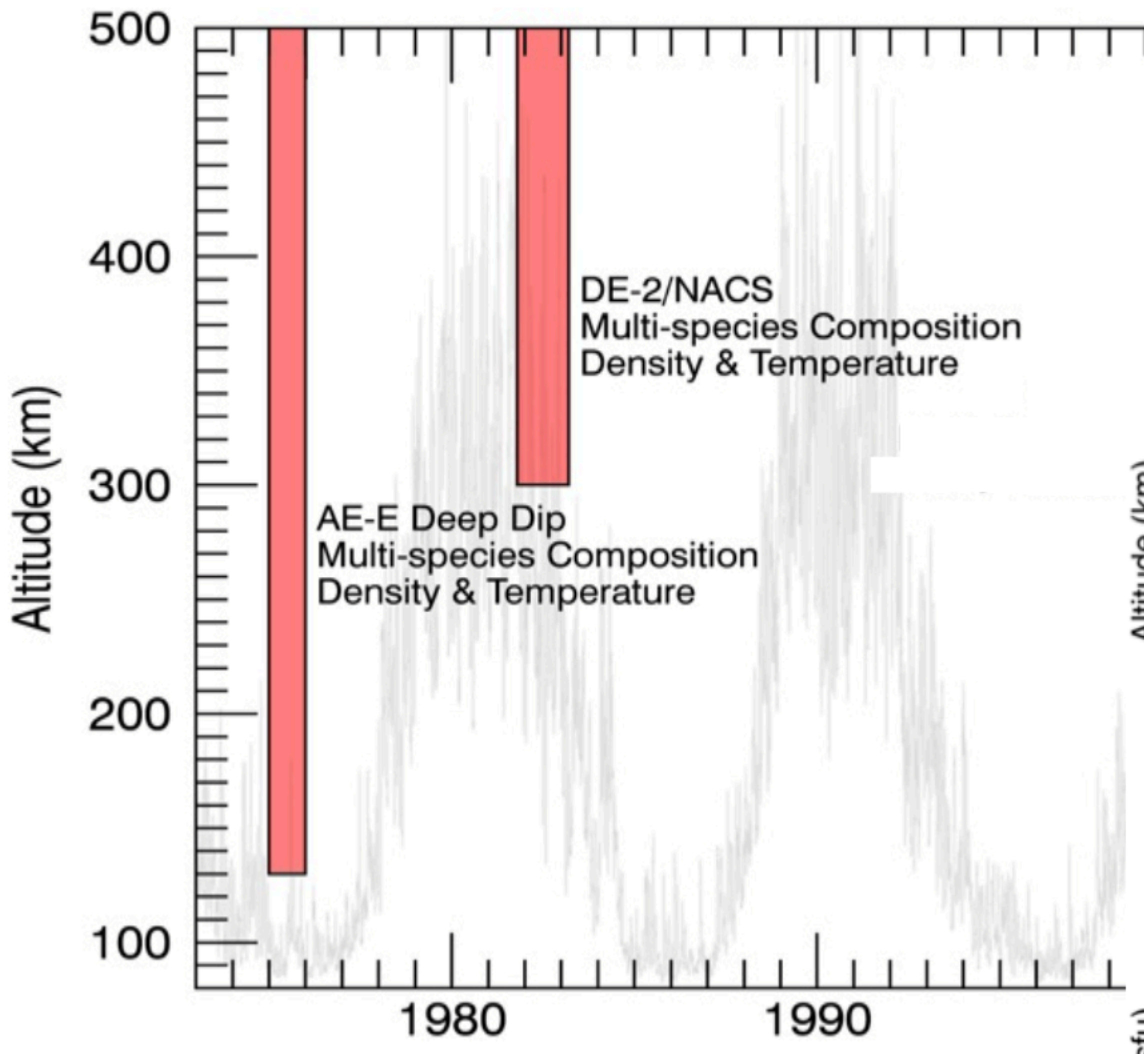

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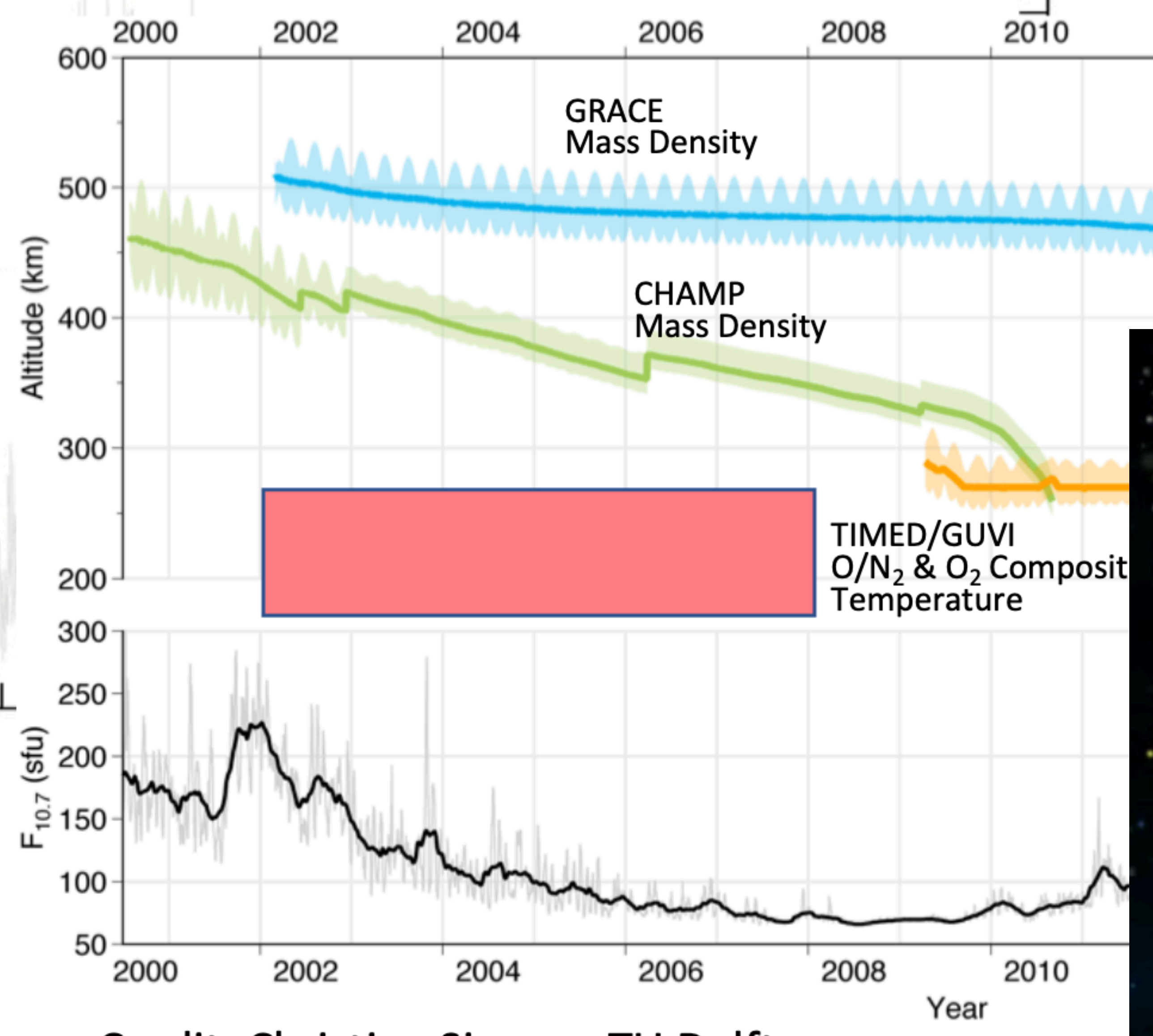

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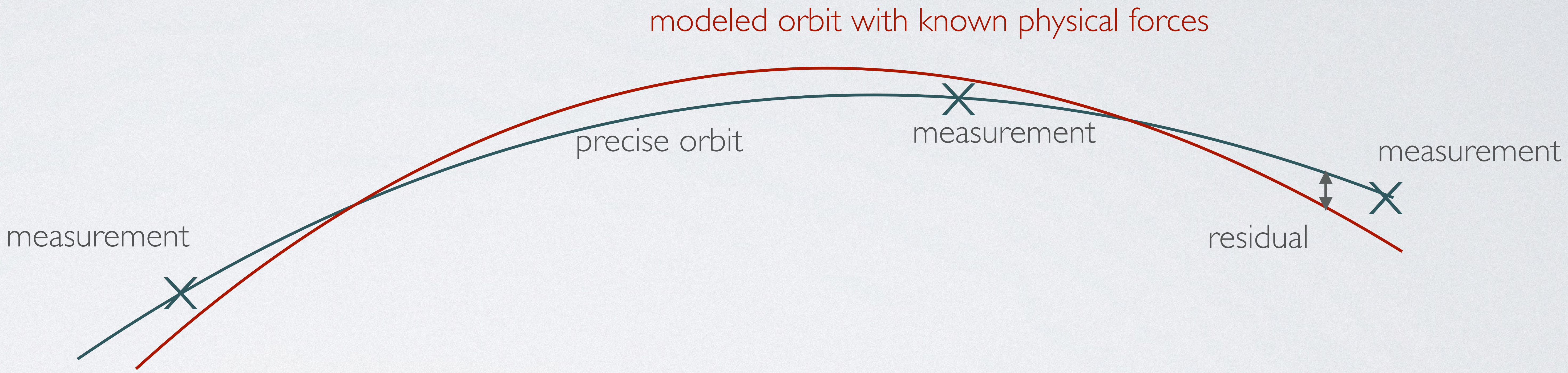


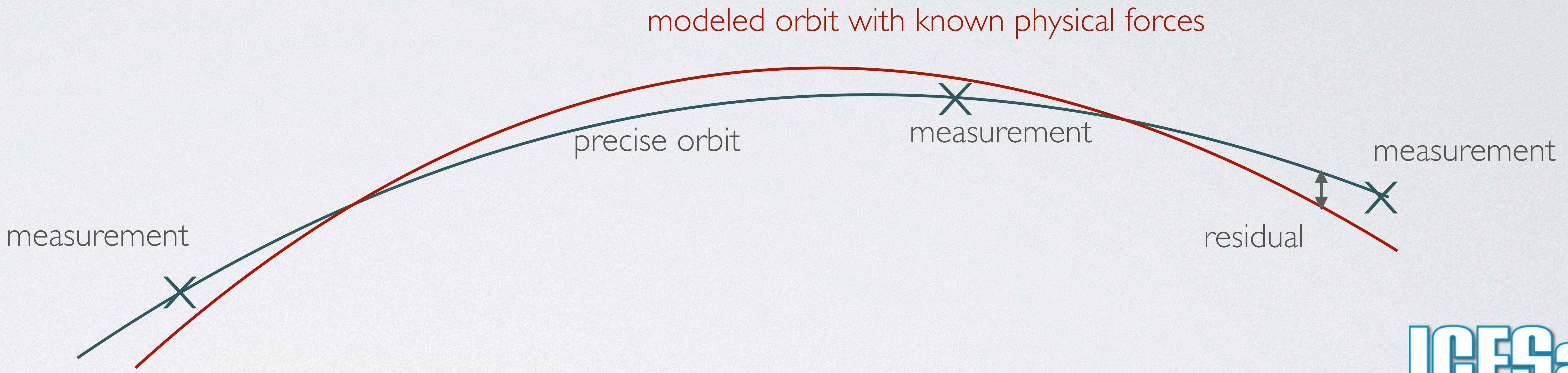
- Adjustment of acceleration
- Adjustment of drag coefficient

Partially compensate for inaccuracies in thermospheric model

- Knowledge of future measurements
- Knowledge of future thermospheric state

Validation of past vs predictive modeling

PROMISE AND PITFALLS OF THERMOSPHERIC VALIDATION



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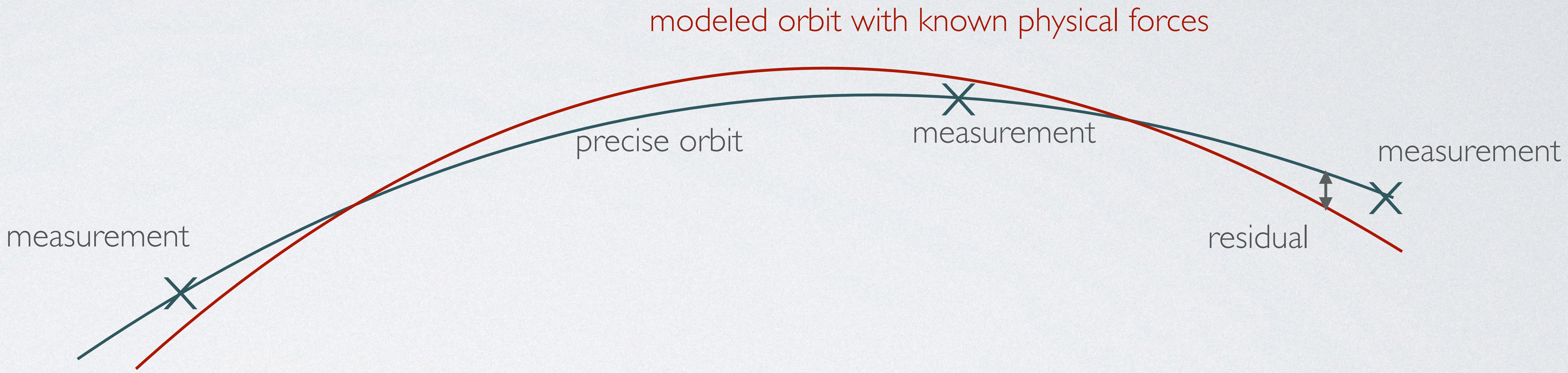

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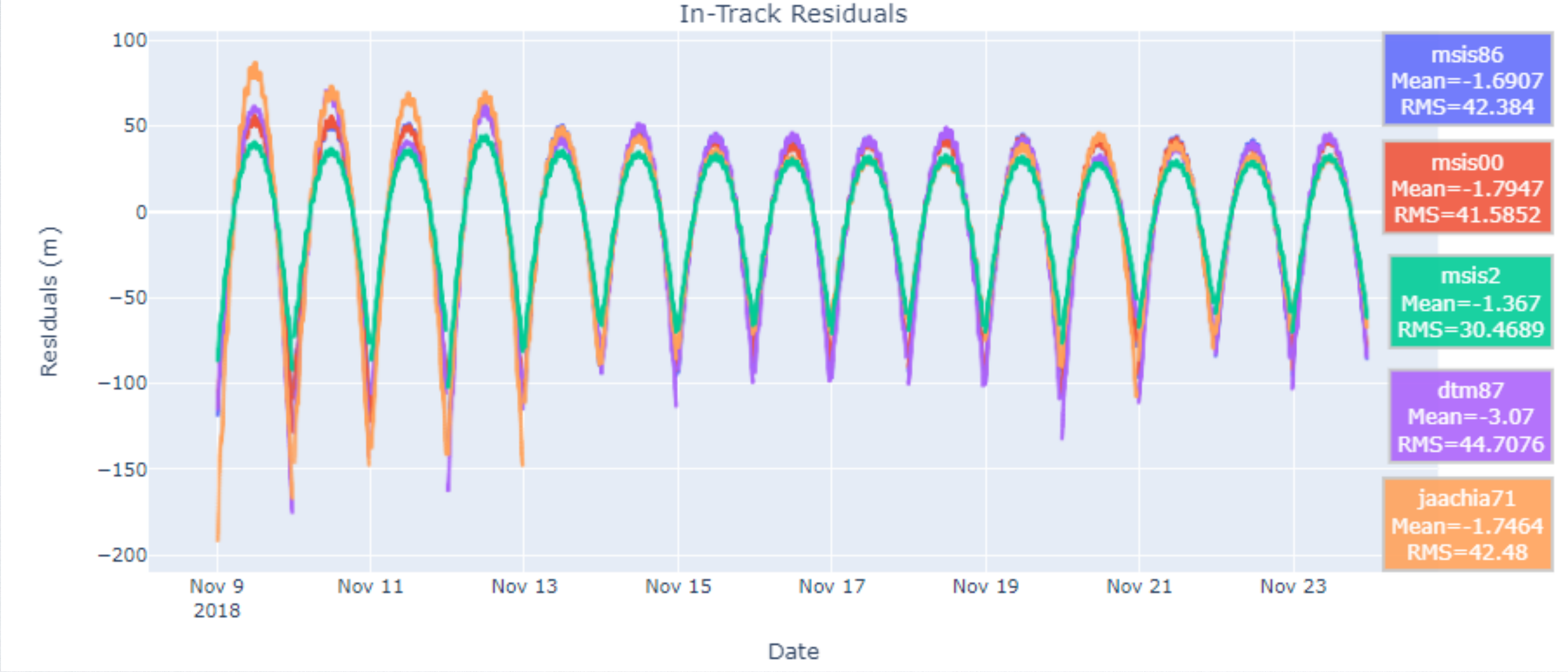
ADDING CUTTING-EDGE EMPIRICAL THERMOSPHERE MODELS

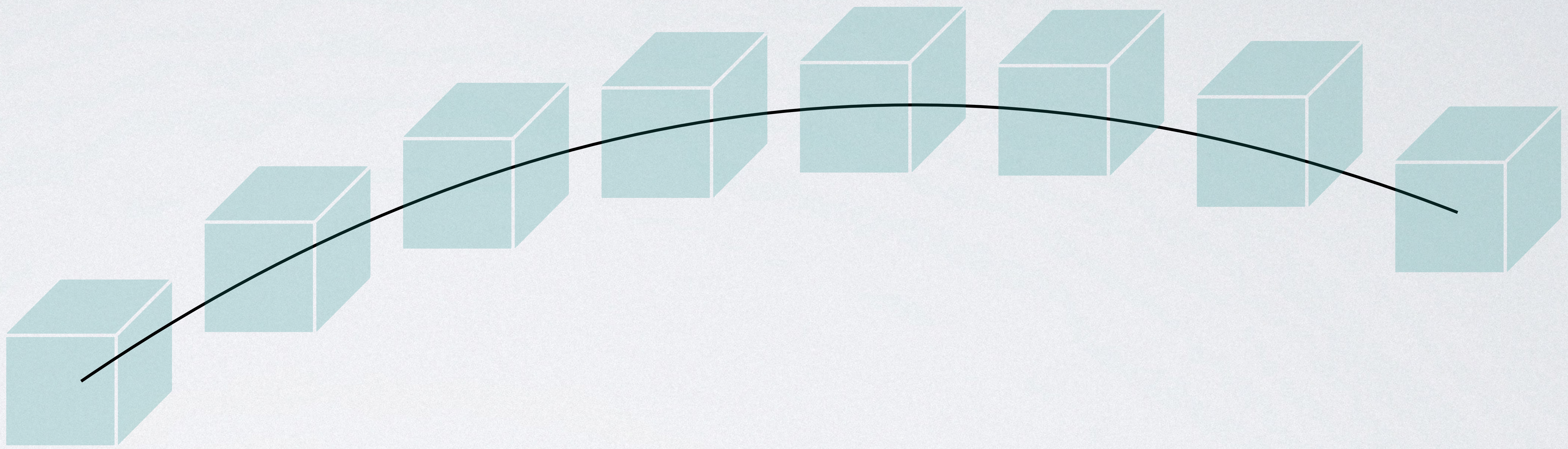


- NRL-MSISE00 and MSIS2.0 added to GEODYN
- Modern empirical models show improved performance

COMMUNITY COORDINATED MODELING CENTER

ADDING PHYSICS-BASED MODELS

- Repeated 4D interpolation of simulation output is computationally expensive



- Solution:
  - estimate orbit based on MSIS2.0 orbit determination
  - use Kamodo's vectorized satellite flythrough to extract cubes along the orbit
  - interpolate to exact satellite location within cubes
  - re-run flythrough based on most recent complete orbit if the trajectory ends up outside of initial estimates
- Speed is crucial for operational users!
- Expect even more speed up with continued Kamodo work

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See Rebecca Ringuette's poster SA45D-2243

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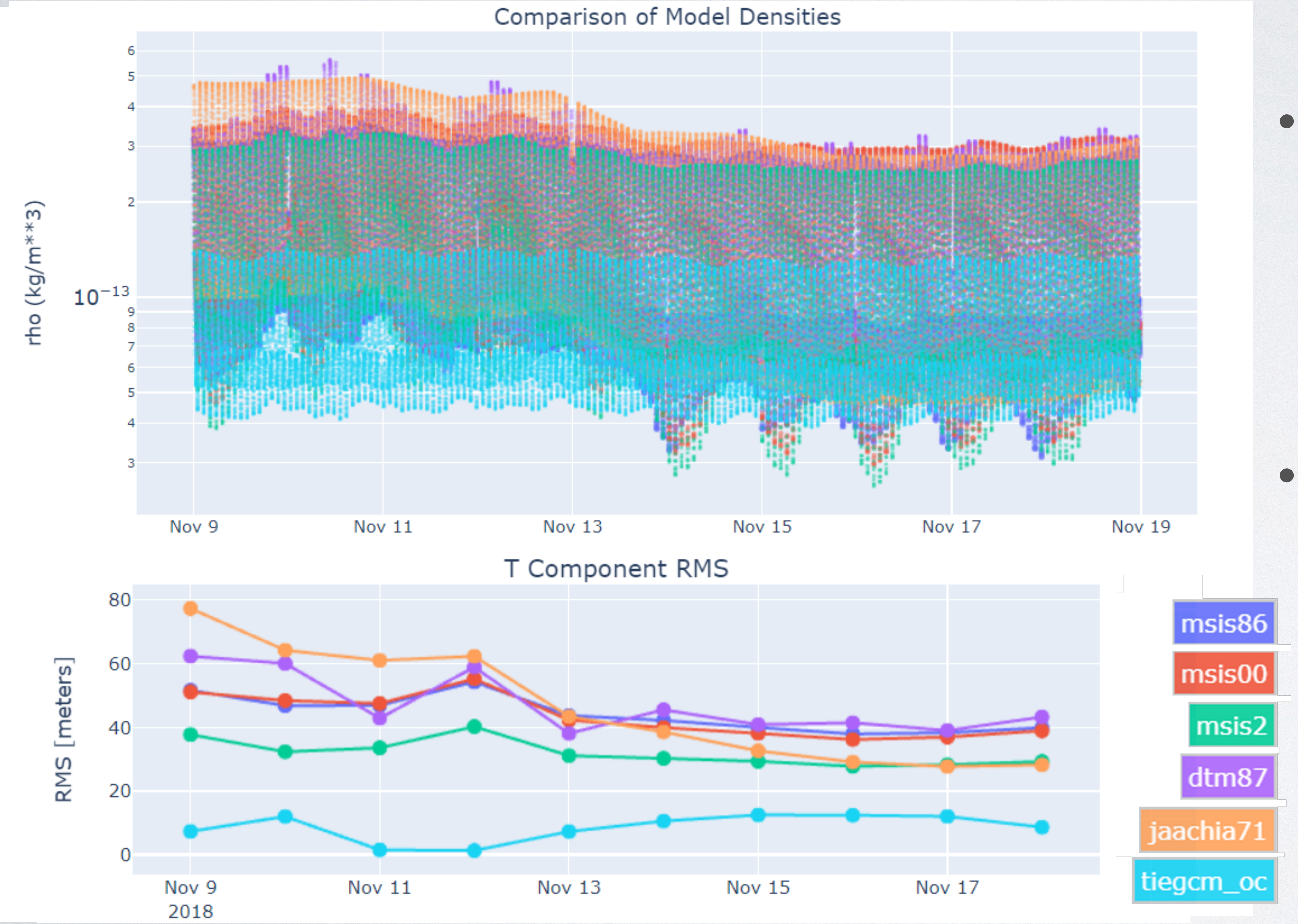
COMPARING MODELS



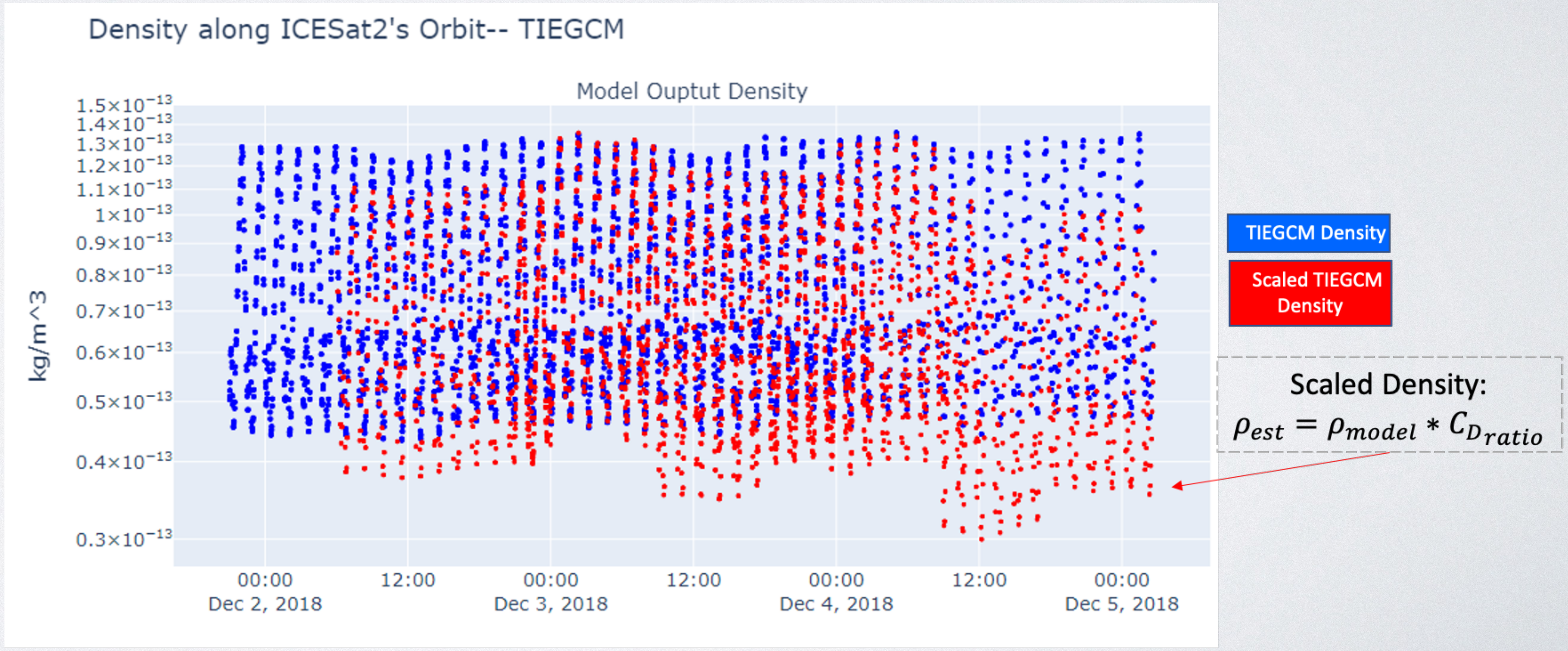
- TIEGCM is an outlier when it comes to modeled density
- RMS error is smallest for MSIS2.0 among the empirical models, much smaller for TIEGCM

DRAG COEFFICIENT EFFECTS

- Drag coefficient adjustments are correcting for modeled thermosphere discrepancies

$$\bar{a}_D = -\frac{1}{2} C_D \frac{A_S}{m_S} \rho v_r \bar{v}_r$$

- Adjustments can be inverted to correct mass density



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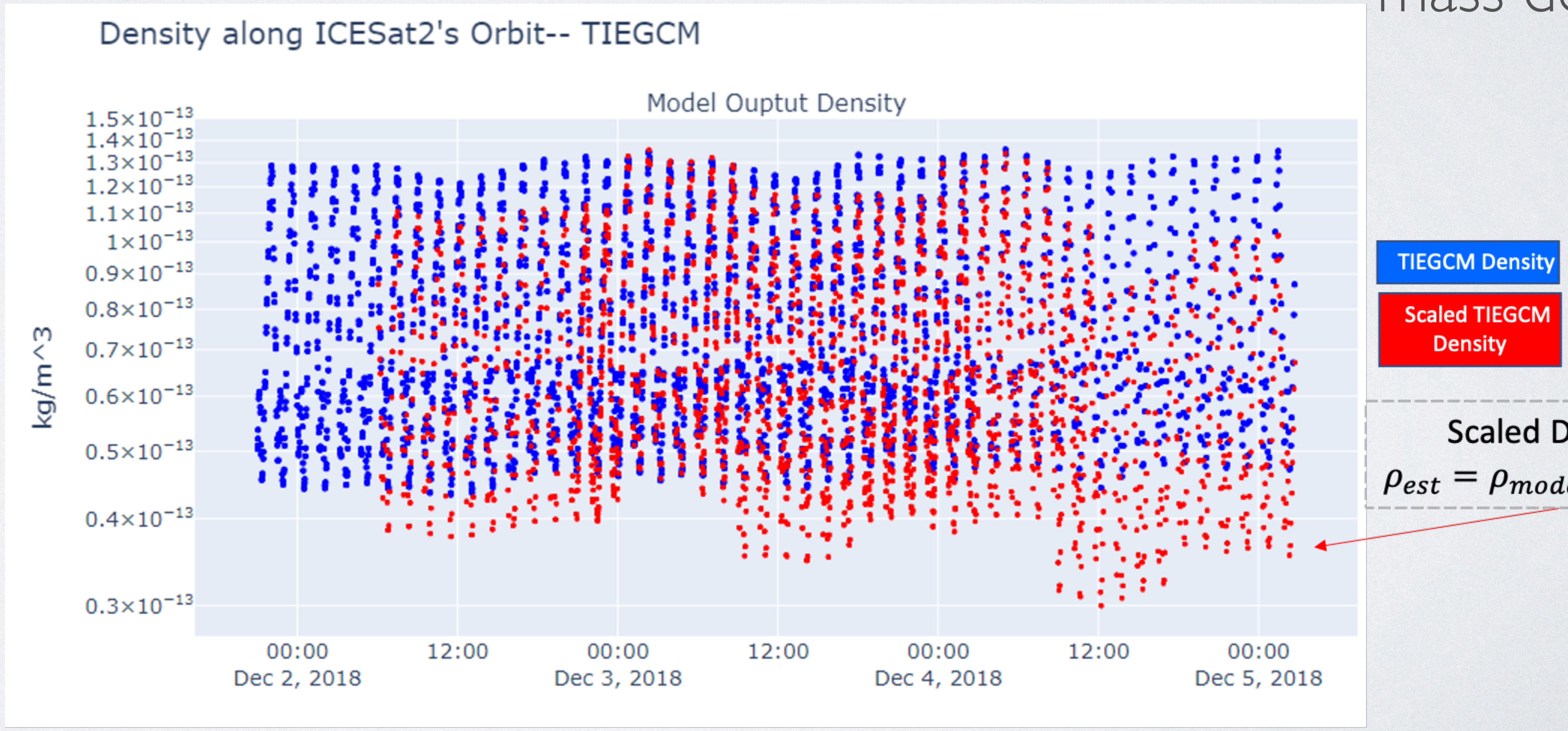
mass density



Scaled Density:

$$\rho_{est} = \rho_{model} * C_{D_{ratio}}$$

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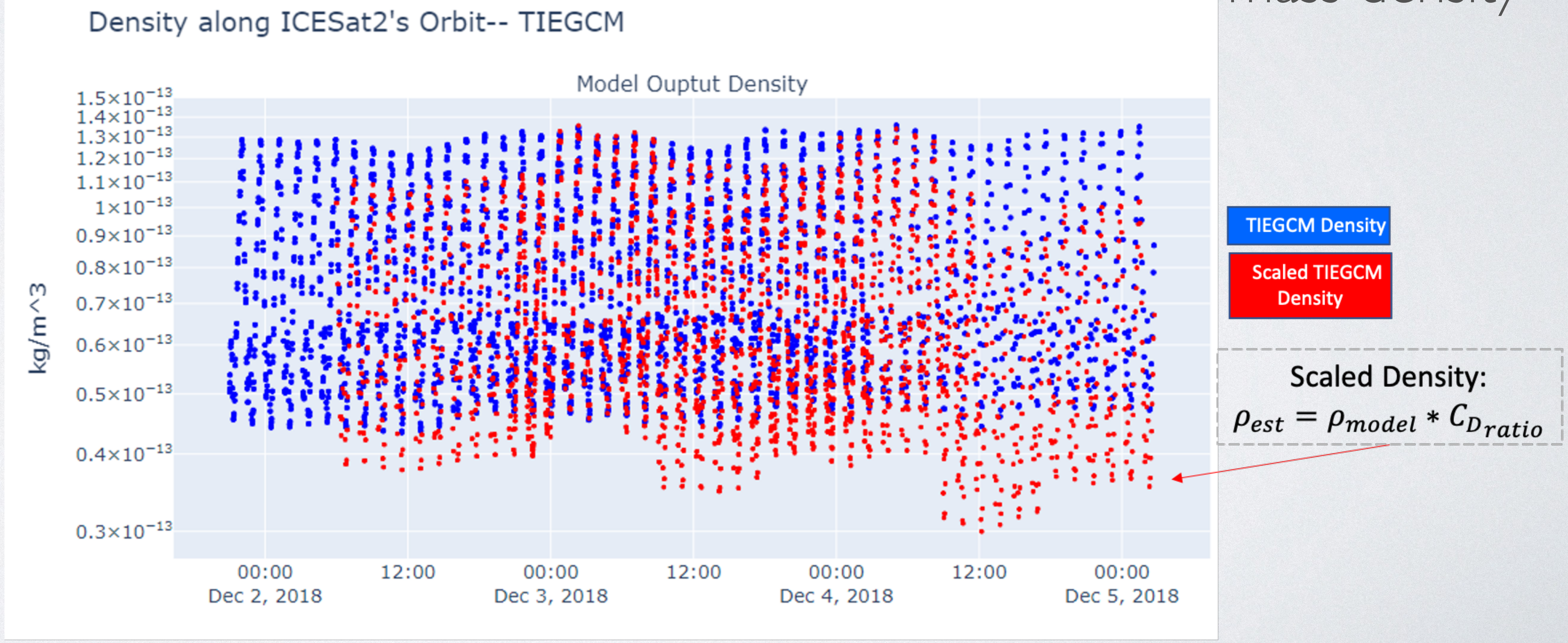
drag acceleration

mass density



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drag acceleration

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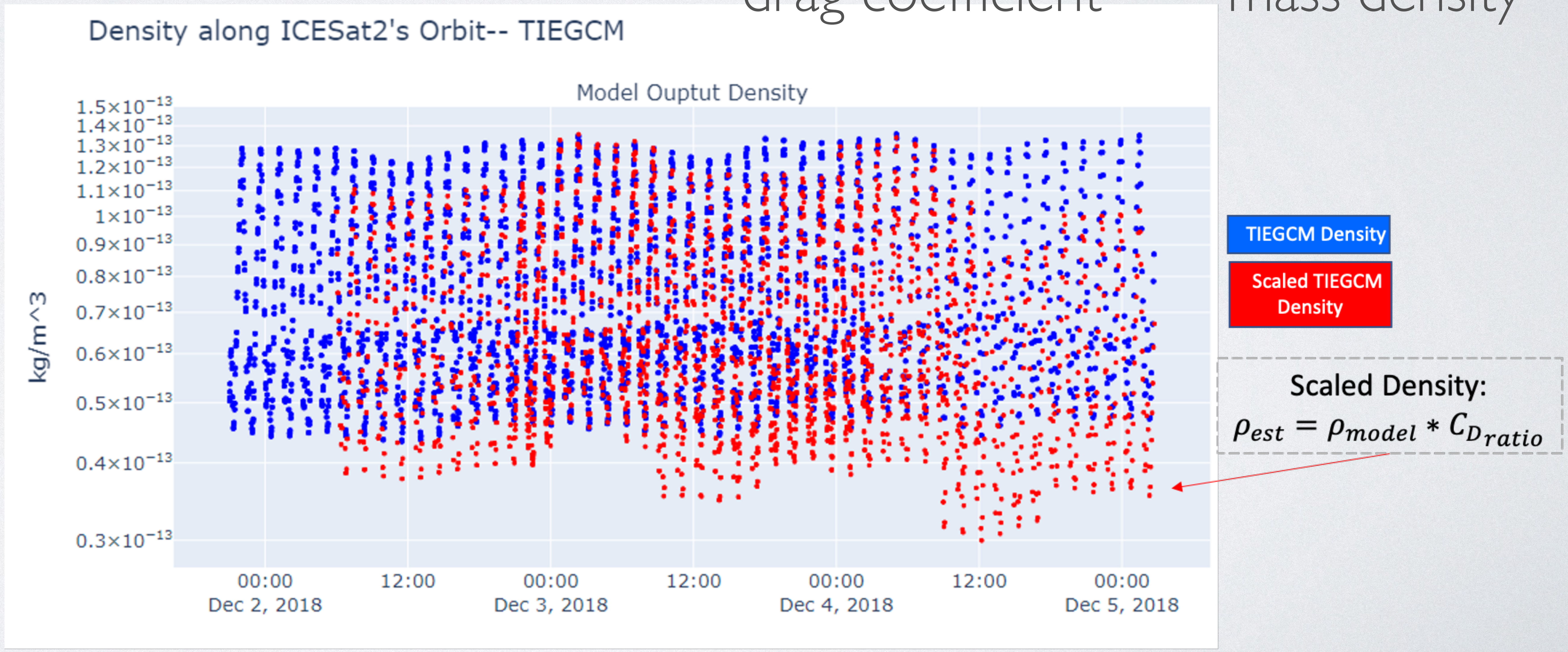
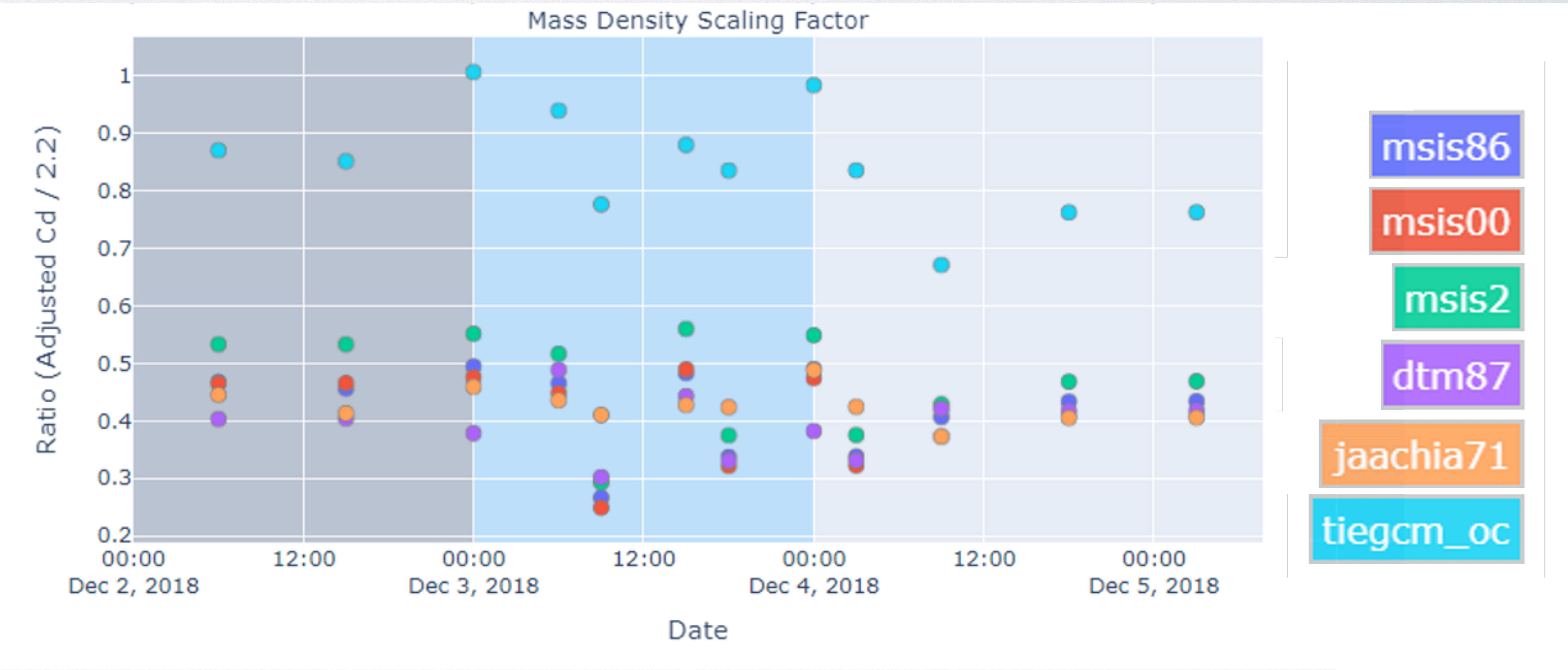
mass density



DRAG COEFFICIENT EFFECTS

- Drag coefficient adjustments are correcting for modeled thermosphere discrepancies
- Adjustments can be inverted to correct mass density
- TIEGCM requires less adjustment in order to reduce residuals

$$\bar{a}_D = -\frac{1}{2} C_D \frac{A_S}{m_S} \rho v_r \bar{v}_r$$



FUTURE VALIDATION

- Extend validation using low-altitude ICESAT-2 satellite
- Use high altitude Starlette and Stella satellites to validate newly-installed high altitude TIEGCM at both low and high latitudes

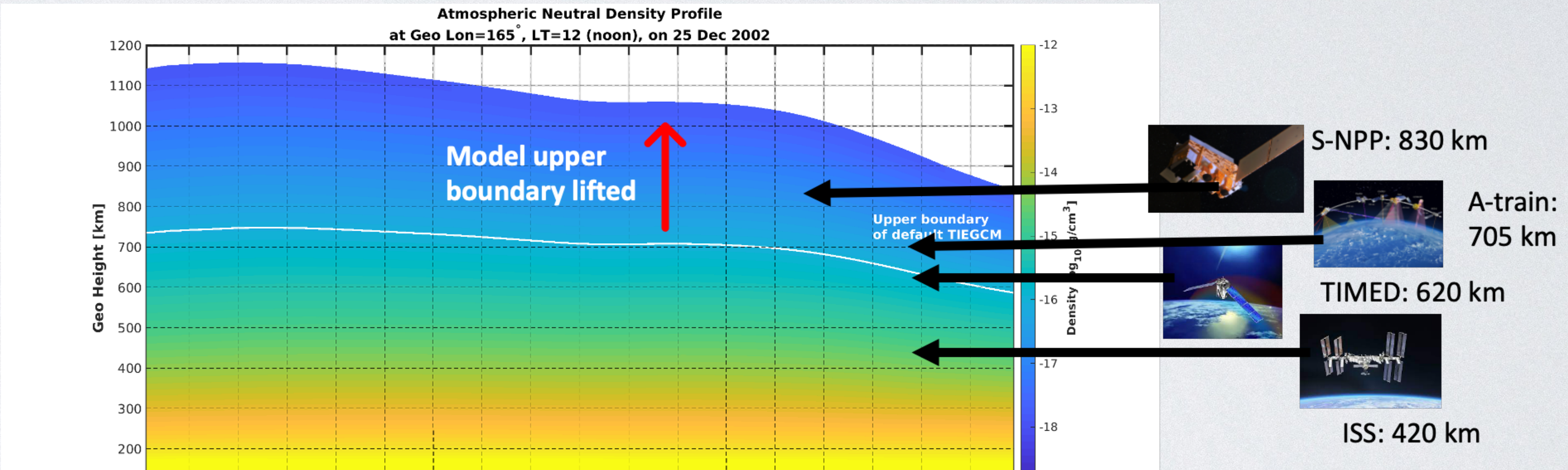


Image credit: Jia Yue

- Include additional CCMC-hosted models: GITM, CTIPe, DTM2020

Space weather-focused model validation

ORBIT PROPAGATION CAPABILITIES AT CCMC

- Collaboration for GMAT orbit propagator for flight dynamics at GSFC

Kamodo ↔ 

CCMC-hosted neutral density models

geodynamics science missions

planning heliophysics missions to LEO

space weather operations