

An Extensive, All-Weather Comparison of Pyrheliometers

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Presenting

Instrument contributors include:

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David Halliwell, Meteorological Service of Canada

Eppley Laboratory

Hukseflux

Kipp and Zonen

Middleton Solar

- Ideally, direct normal irradiance (DNI) should be measured by an open cavity radiometer
- Direct normal irradiance is the source of the largest uncertainty in solar measurements

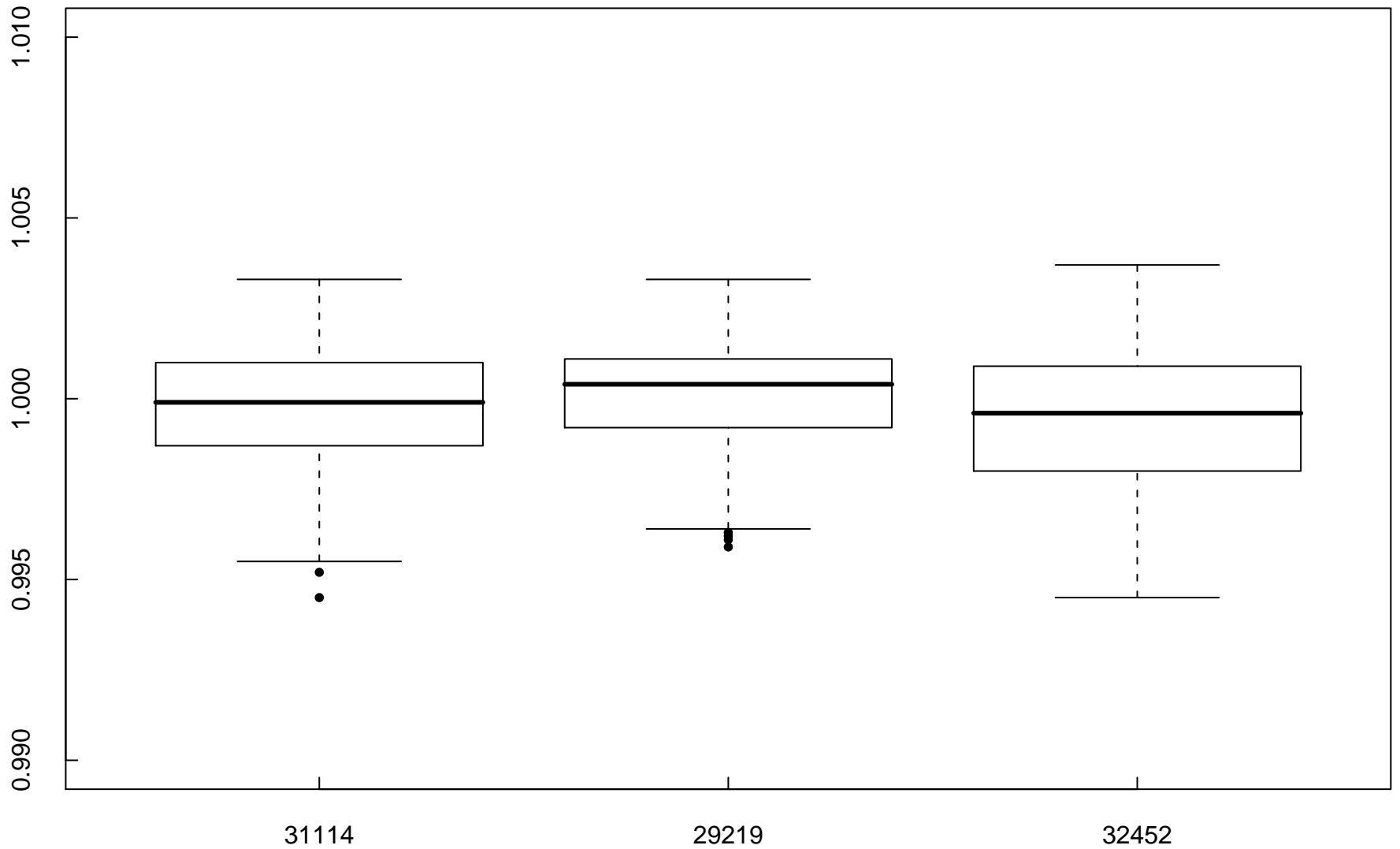
Experiment (Various Conditions Pyrheliometer Comparison - VCPC)

- Ten-month comparison of 33 pyrheliometers
- Site was NREL's Solar Radiation Research Laboratory
- Cleaned on weekdays
- One-minute averages of two-second samples
- 29 pyrheliometers compared to three windowed cavities during comparison
- Approximately monthly calibrations with open cavities that are traceable to WRR
- If temperature correction provided, it was applied

More on Calibrations

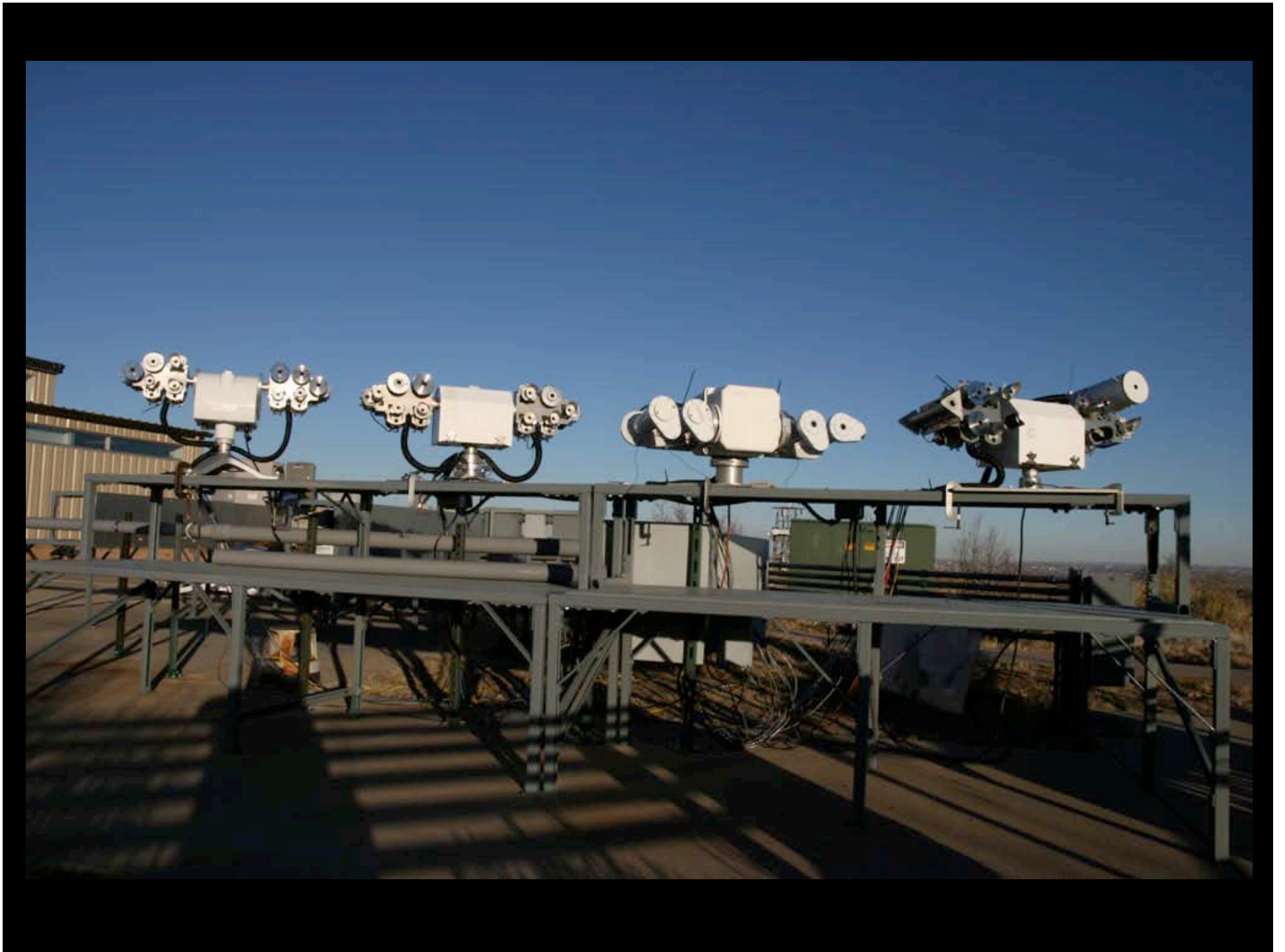
- Four open cavities
- Almost monthly open-cavity calibrations
- Electrical calibration was performed every 20 minutes
- Average calibration at 45° from the monthly calibrations used for the entire data set
- Between open-windowed calibrations the average of three windowed cavities was the standard

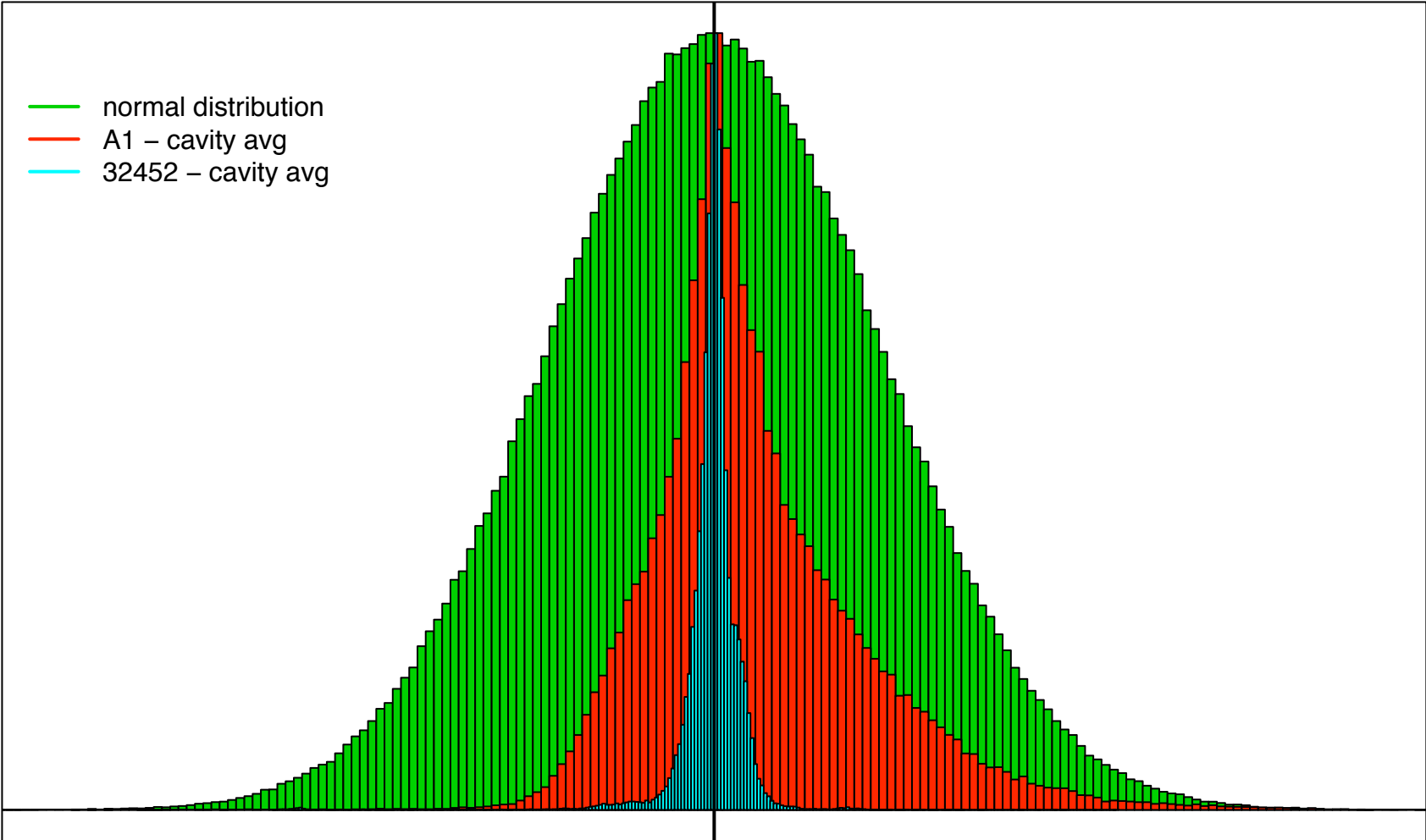
WRR Factors @ 45 degs over Nine Months



How is this different from other comparisons (IPC's and NPC's)?

- IPCs are clear (direct $> 700 \text{ W/m}^2$), calm, and with no hint of clouds
- VCPC was all-sky conditions (clear --> cloudy)
- Lasted 10 months, therefore, all seasons, temperatures, wind conditions, typical of mid-latitude, continental conditions
- Anonymous analysis





Test Instrument Minus 3-Cavity Average

95% of measurements are within range indicated

Black dots are medians; red dots are means

Magenta lines separate groups of pyrhemliometers

40
30
20
10
0
-10
-20
-30

2.5% of data greater than this top bar
2.5% of data less than this bottom bar

CAV

A

B

C

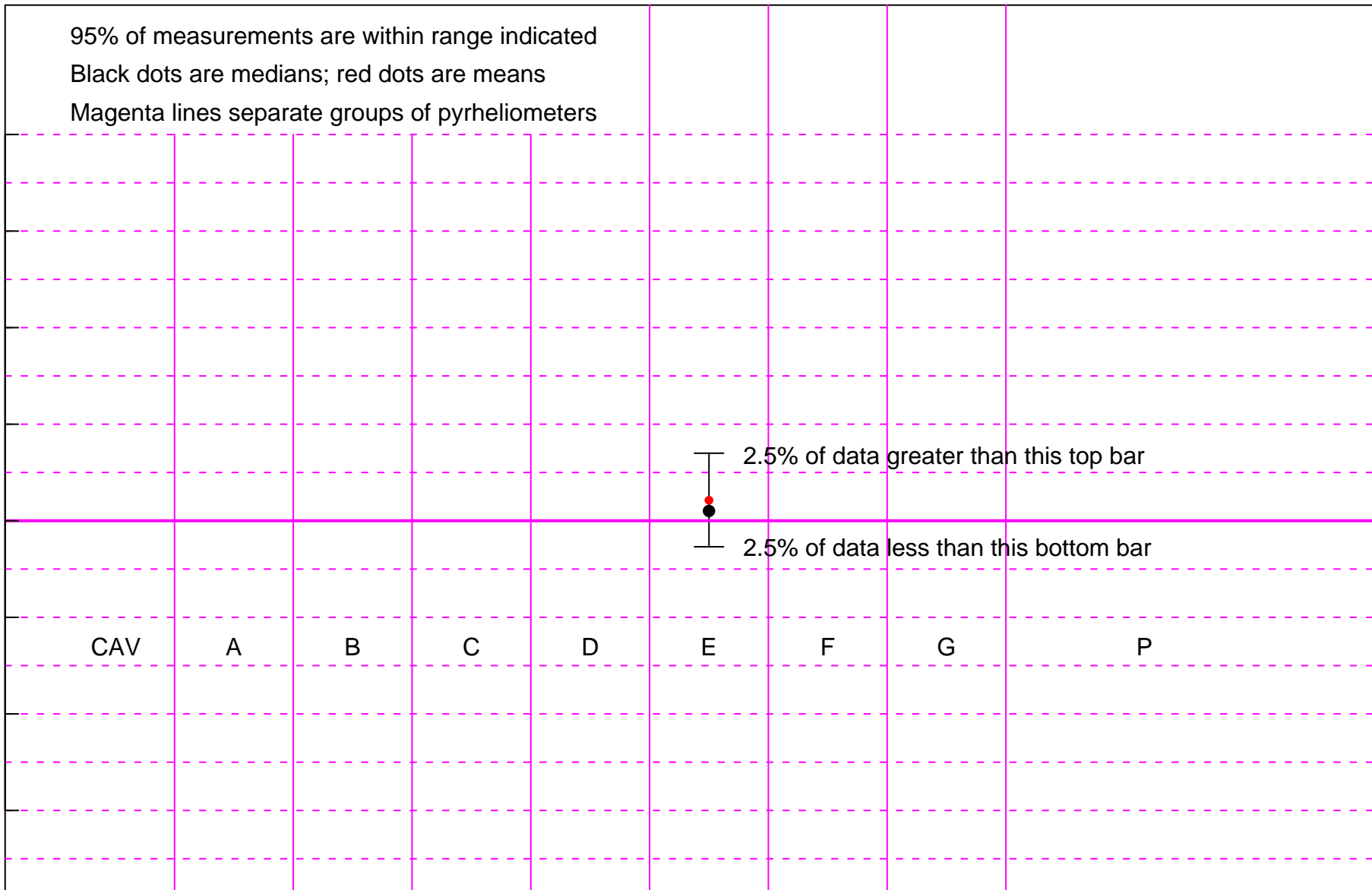
D

E

F

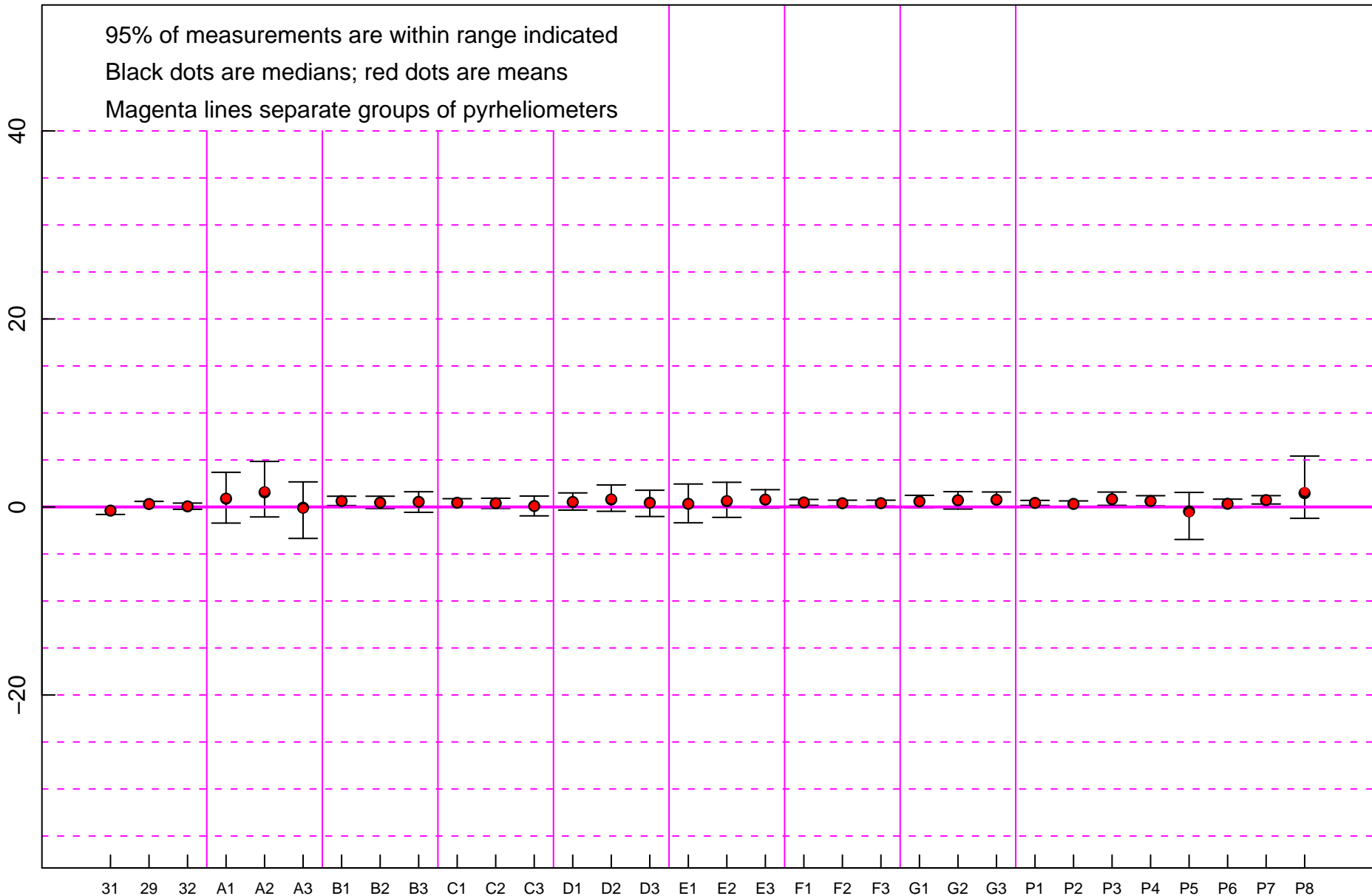
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P



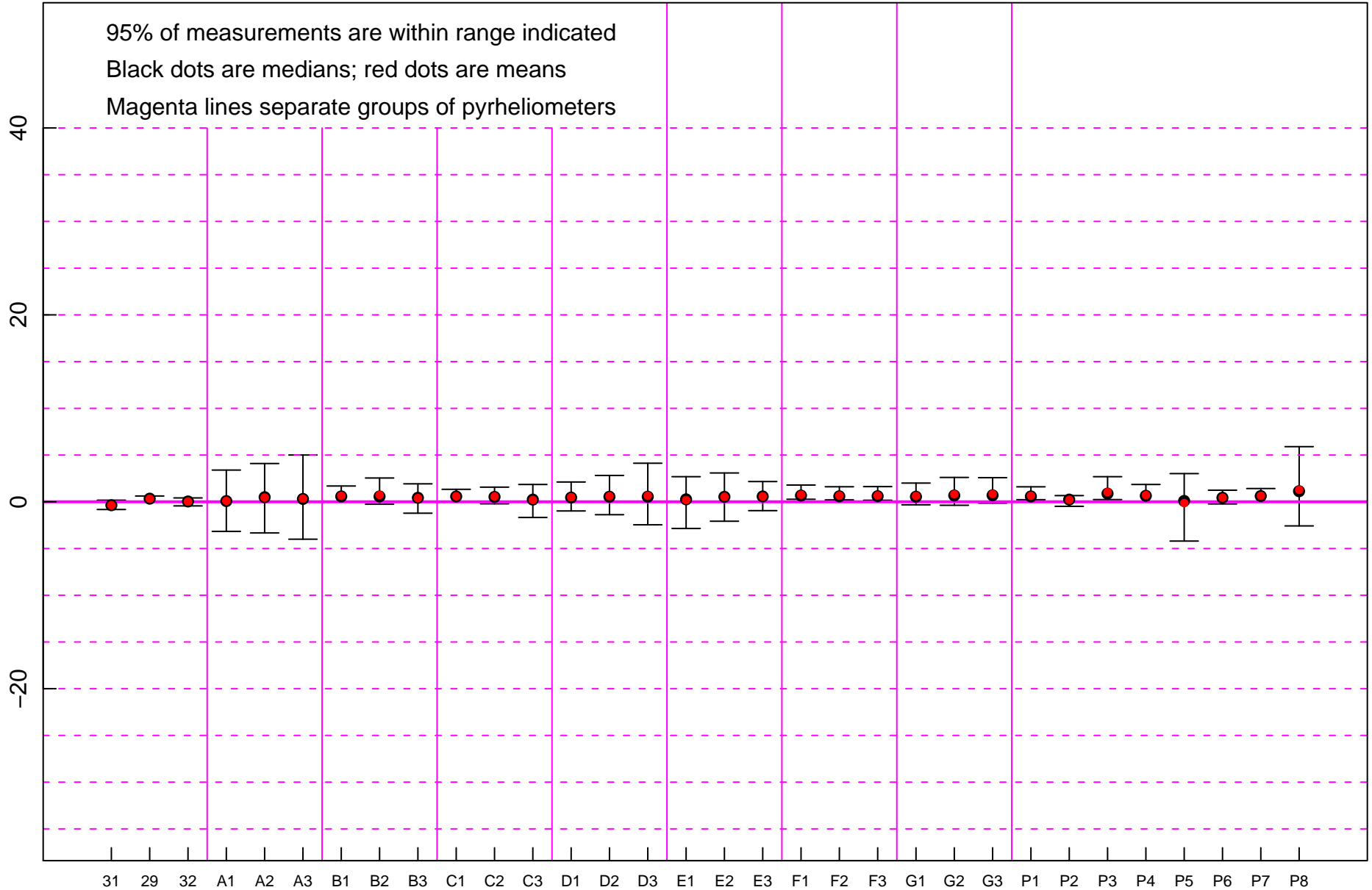
Conditions	Criteria	313000	Mean Direct
Night	sza > 91.2 degs	160000	< 1 W/m²
Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
Daytime	sza < 91.2 degs	154000	410 W/m ²
Passing clouds	sza < 91.2 & direct > 50 & stddev > 10	23000	476 W/m ²
Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700	56000	903 W/m ²
Very Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & stddev < 2 W/m ²	41000	918 W/m ²
Clear/Calm	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws < 2 m/s	39000	894 W/m ²
Clear/Windy	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws > 5 m/s	3900	952 W/m ²
Clear/Cold	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp < 0 degs	3300	896 W/m ²
Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Night



Conditions	Criteria	313000	Mean Direct
Night	sza > 91.2 degs	160000	< 1 W/m ²
Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m²	44000	< 1 W/m²
Daytime	sza < 91.2 degs	154000	410 W/m ²
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Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Cloudy



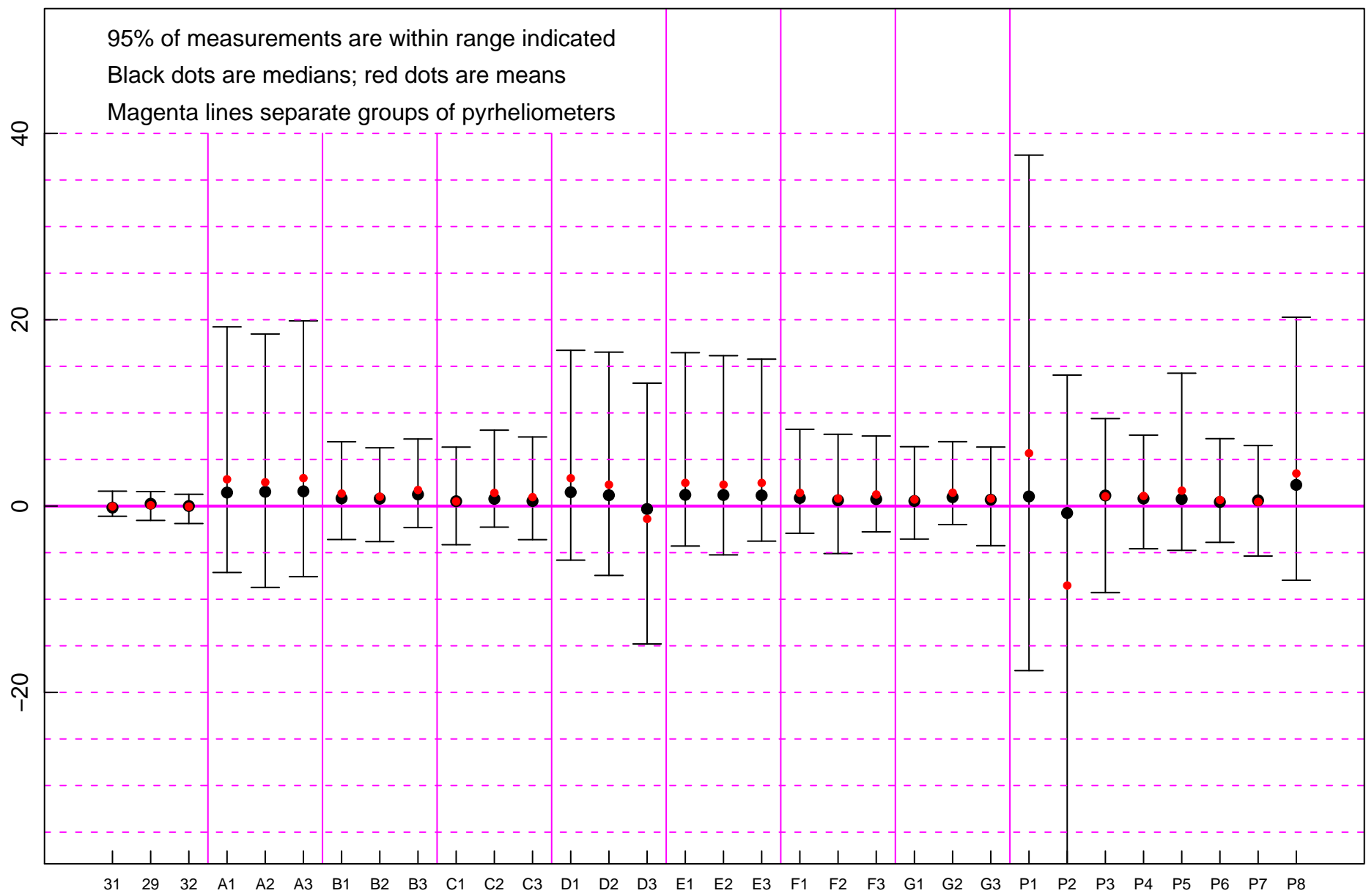
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Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
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Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Daytime

95% of measurements are within range indicated

Black dots are medians; red dots are means

Magenta lines separate groups of pyrheliometers



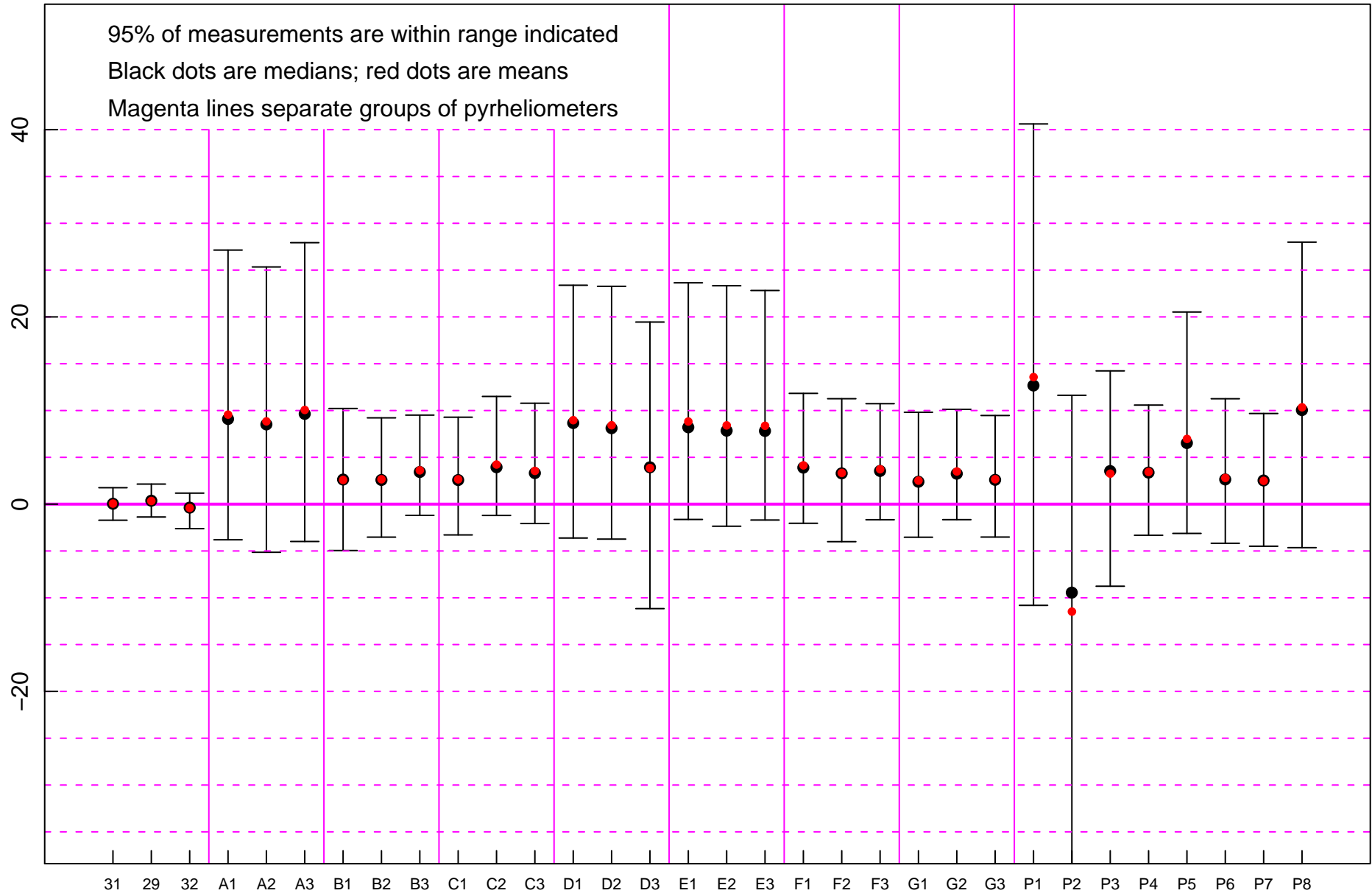
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Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
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Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Passing Clouds

95% of measurements are within range indicated

Black dots are medians; red dots are means

Magenta lines separate groups of pyrhelimeters



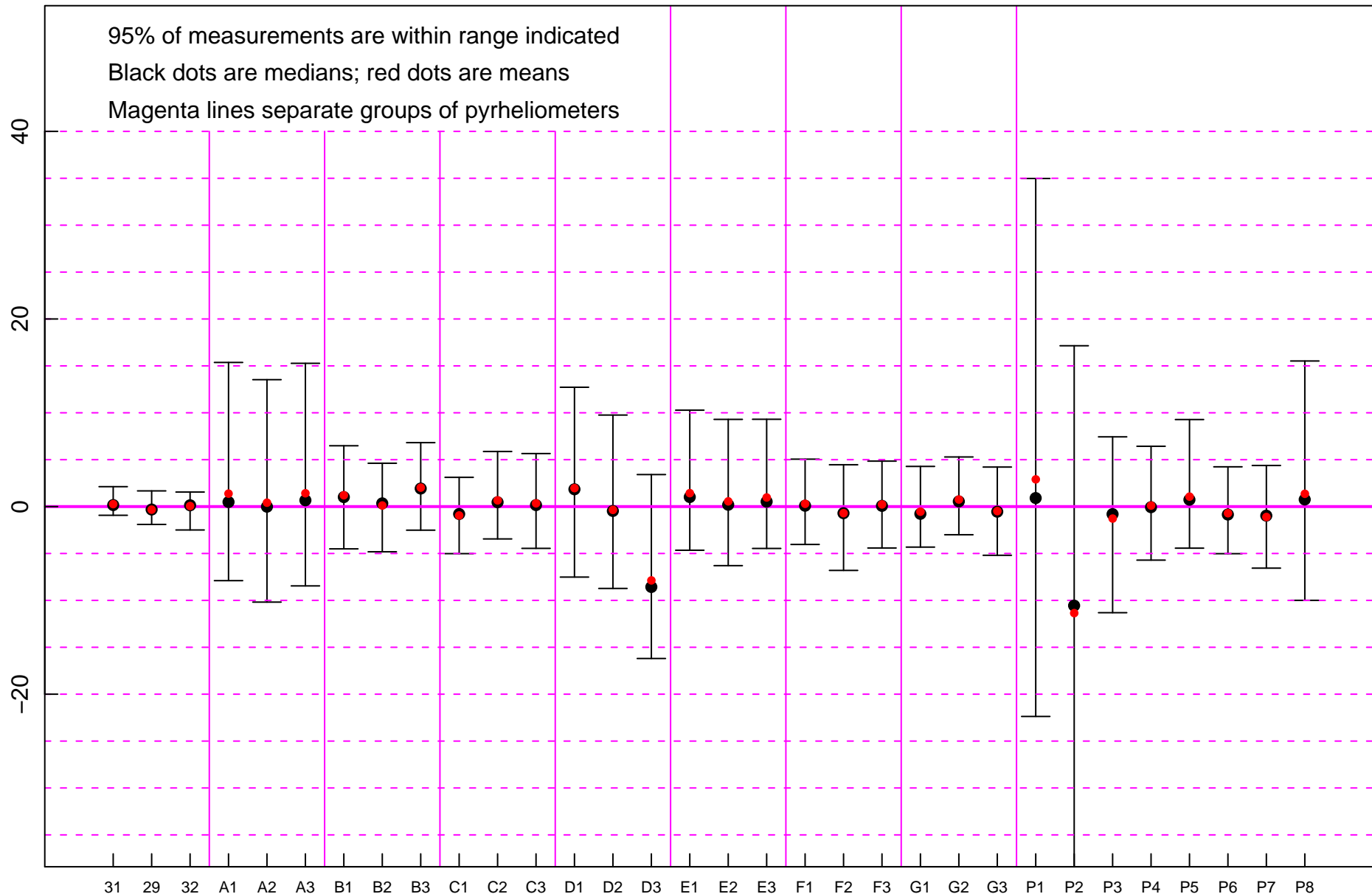
Conditions	Criteria	313000	Mean Direct
Night	sza > 91.2 degs	160000	< 1 W/m ²
Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
Daytime	sza < 91.2 degs	154000	410 W/m ²
Passing clouds	sza < 91.2 & direct > 50 & stddev > 10	23000	476 W/m ²
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Clear/Windy	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws > 5 m/s	3900	952 W/m ²
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Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Clear

95% of measurements are within range indicated

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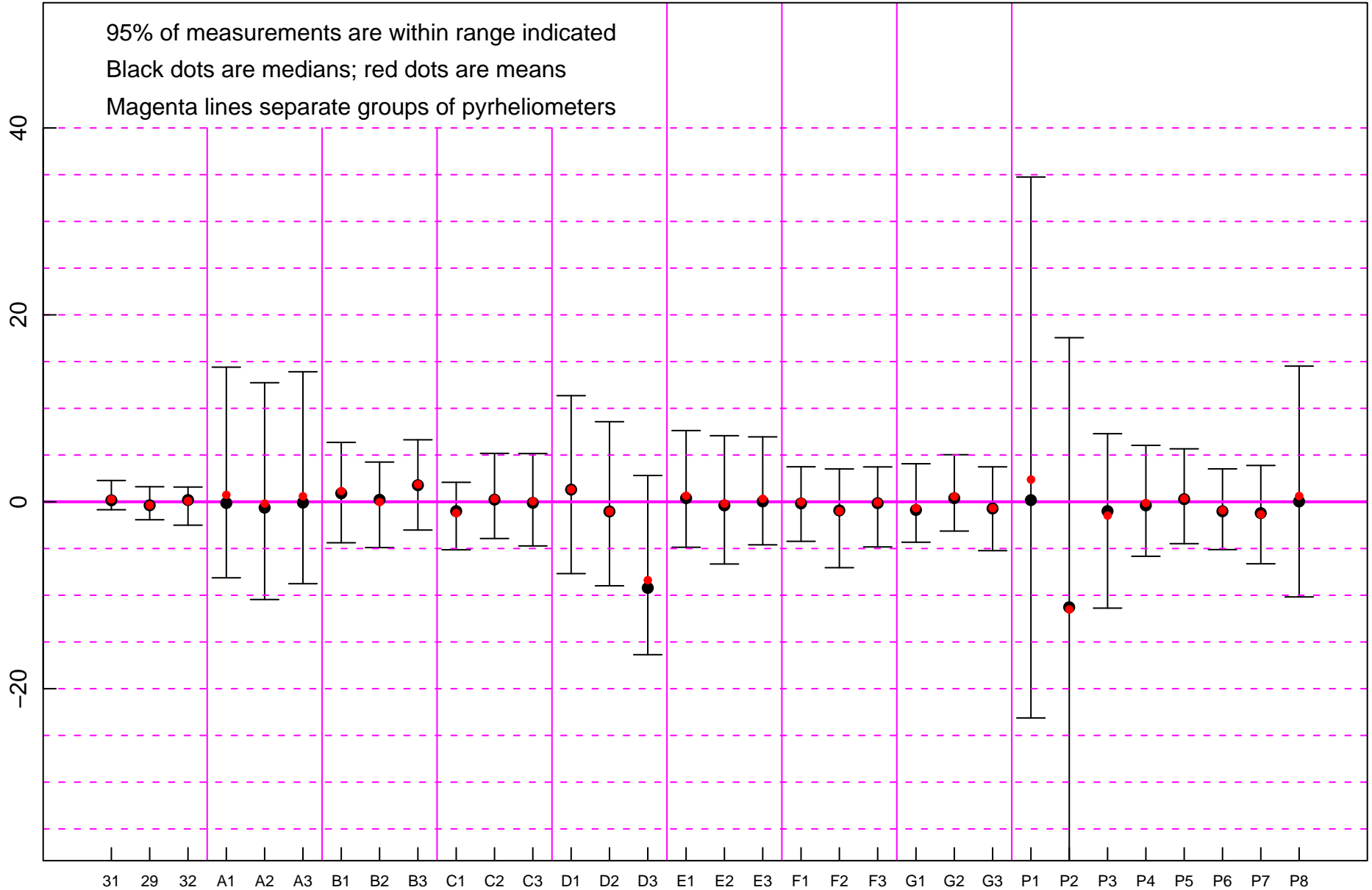
Magenta lines separate groups of pyrhemliometers



Conditions	Criteria	313000	Mean Direct
Night	sza > 91.2 degs	160000	< 1 W/m ²
Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
Daytime	sza < 91.2 degs	154000	410 W/m ²
Passing clouds	sza < 91.2 & direct > 50 & stddev > 10	23000	476 W/m ²
Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700	56000	903 W/m ²
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Clear/Calm	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws < 2 m/s	39000	894 W/m ²
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Clear/Cold	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp < 0 degs	3300	896 W/m ²
Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

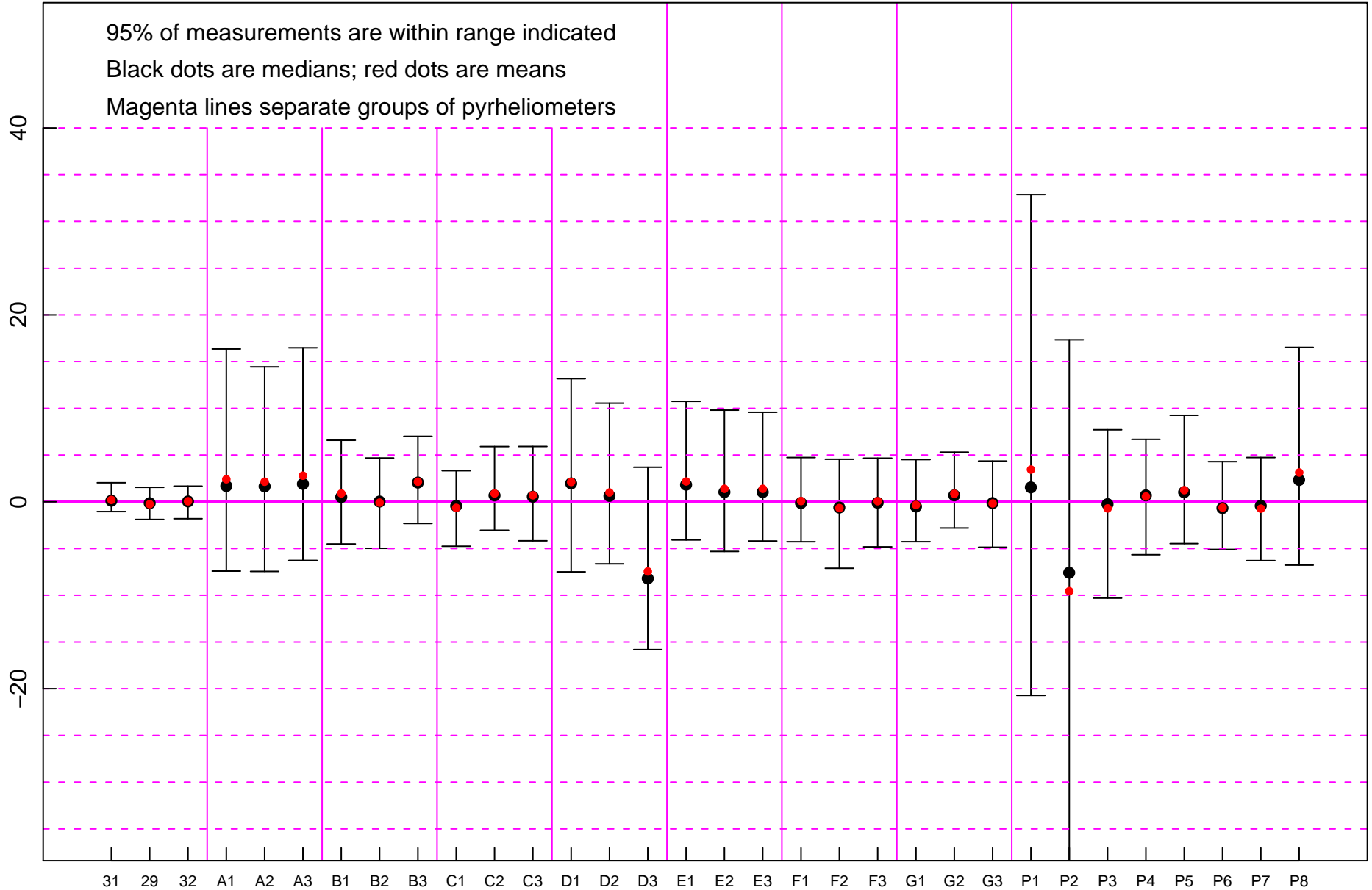
Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Very Clear

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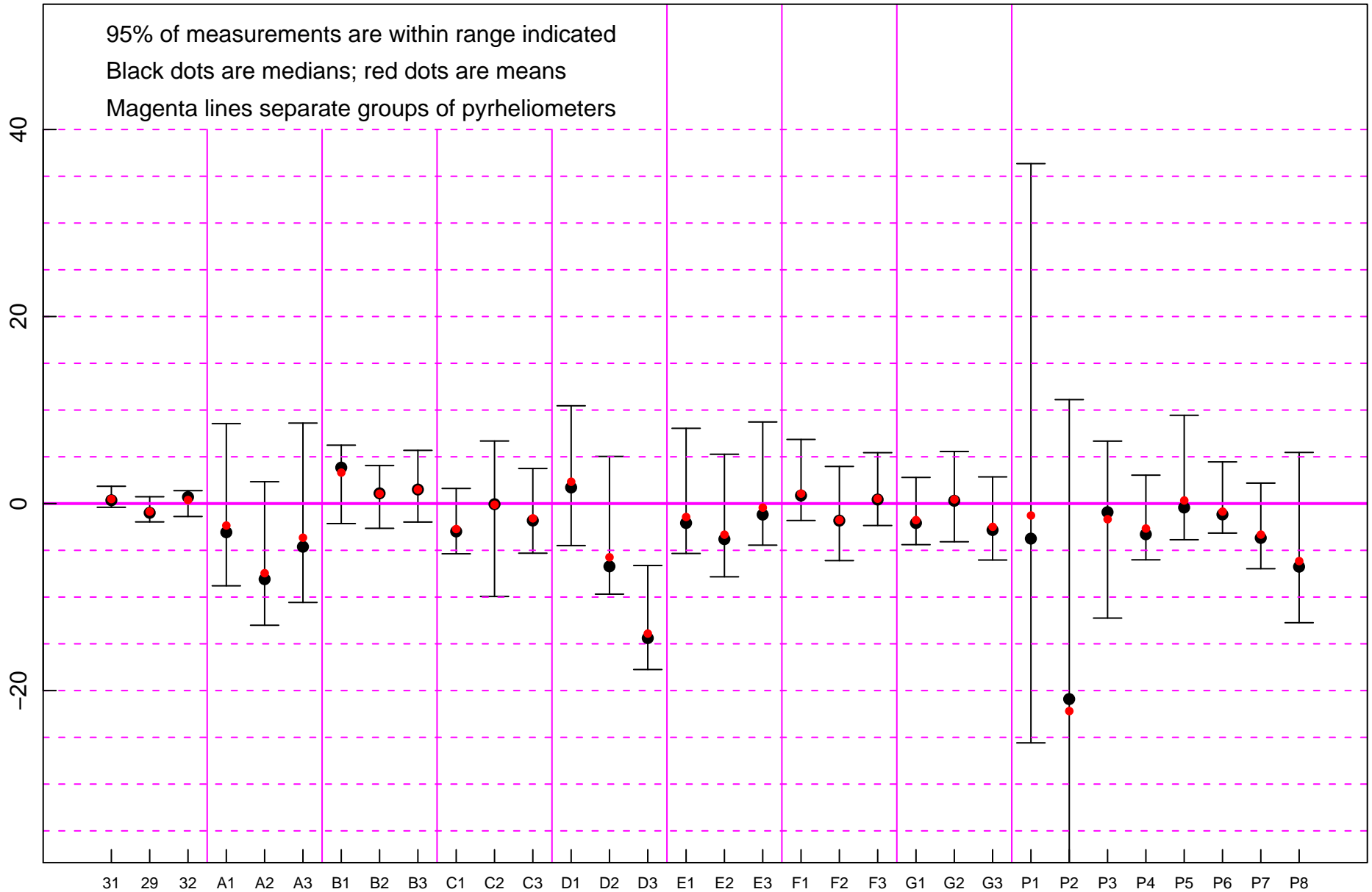
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Very Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & stddev < 2 W/m ²	41000	918 W/m ²
Clear/Calm	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws < 2 m/s	39000	894 W/m²
Clear/Windy	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws > 5 m/s	3900	952 W/m ²
Clear/Cold	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp < 0 degs	3300	896 W/m ²
Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Calm



Conditions	Criteria	313000	Mean Direct
Night	sza > 91.2 degs	160000	< 1 W/m ²
Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
Daytime	sza < 91.2 degs	154000	410 W/m ²
Passing clouds	sza < 91.2 & direct > 50 & stddev > 10	23000	476 W/m ²
Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700	56000	903 W/m ²
Very Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & stddev < 2 W/m ²	41000	918 W/m ²
Clear/Calm	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws < 2 m/s	39000	894 W/m ²
Clear/Windy	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws > 5 m/s	3900	952 W/m²
Clear/Cold	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp < 0 degs	3300	896 W/m ²
Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

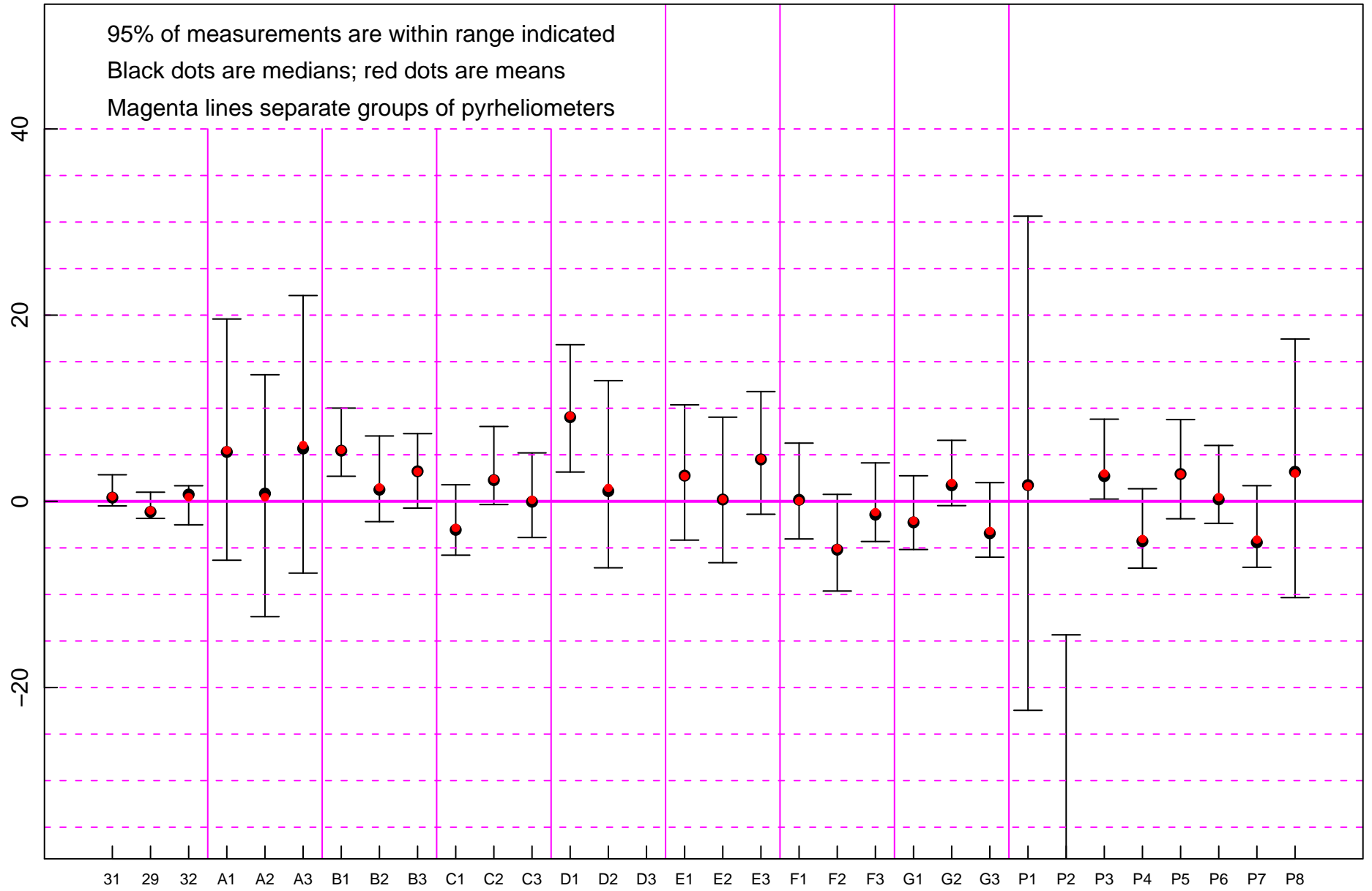
Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Windy



Conditions	Criteria	313000	Mean Direct
Night	sza > 91.2 degs	160000	< 1 W/m ²
Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
Daytime	sza < 91.2 degs	154000	410 W/m ²
Passing clouds	sza < 91.2 & direct > 50 & stddev > 10	23000	476 W/m ²
Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700	56000	903 W/m ²
Very Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & stddev < 2 W/m ²	41000	918 W/m ²
Clear/Calm	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws < 2 m/s	39000	894 W/m ²
Clear/Windy	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws > 5 m/s	3900	952 W/m ²
Clear/Cold	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp < 0 degs	3300	896 W/m²
Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Cold

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Magenta lines separate groups of pyrhemliometers



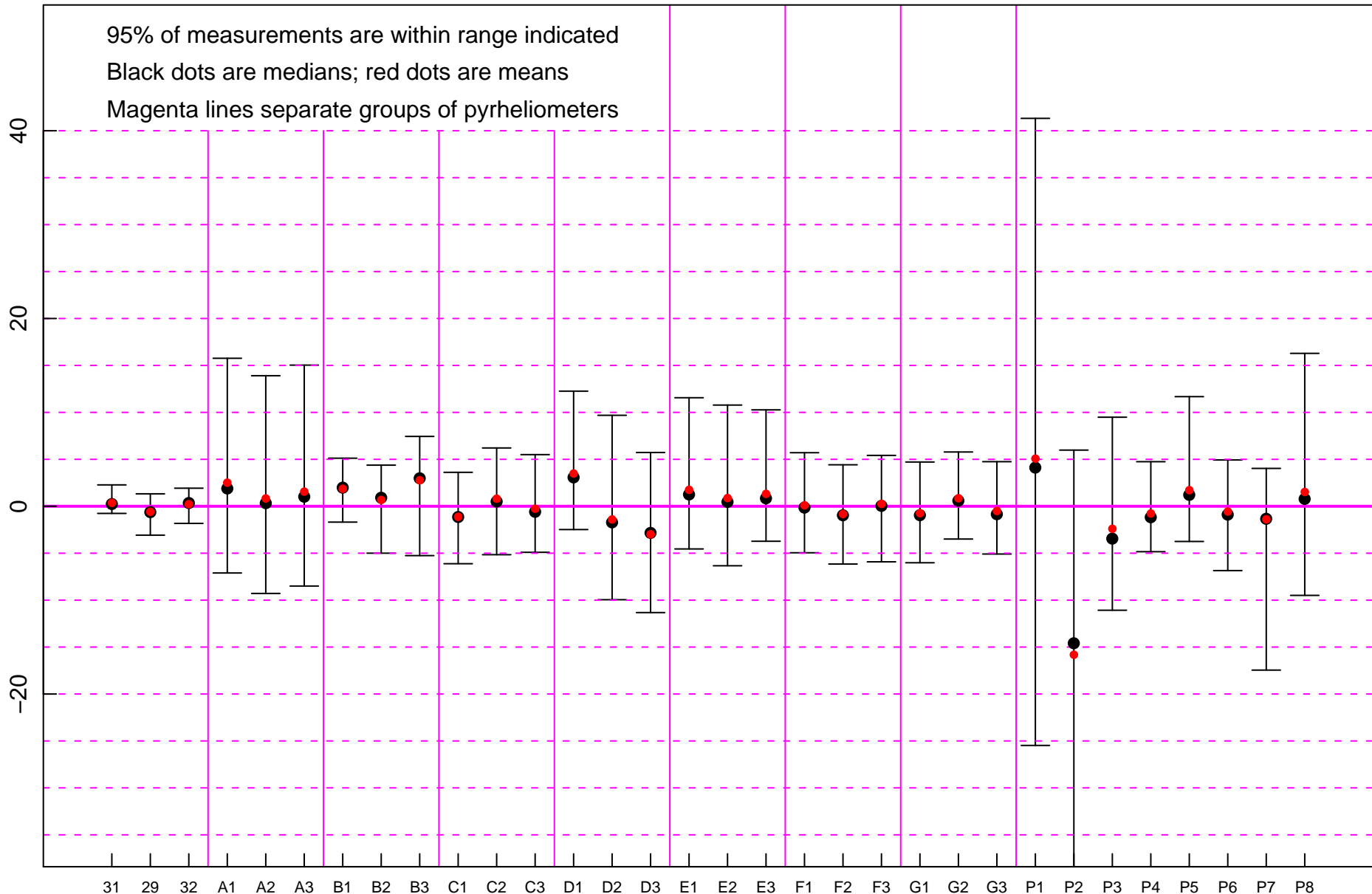
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Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
Daytime	sza < 91.2 degs	154000	410 W/m ²
Passing clouds	sza < 91.2 & direct > 50 & stddev > 10	23000	476 W/m ²
Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700	56000	903 W/m ²
Very Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & stddev < 2 W/m ²	41000	918 W/m ²
Clear/Calm	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws < 2 m/s	39000	894 W/m ²
Clear/Windy	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws > 5 m/s	3900	952 W/m ²
Clear/Cold	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp < 0 degs	3300	896 W/m ²
Clear/Mild	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Mild

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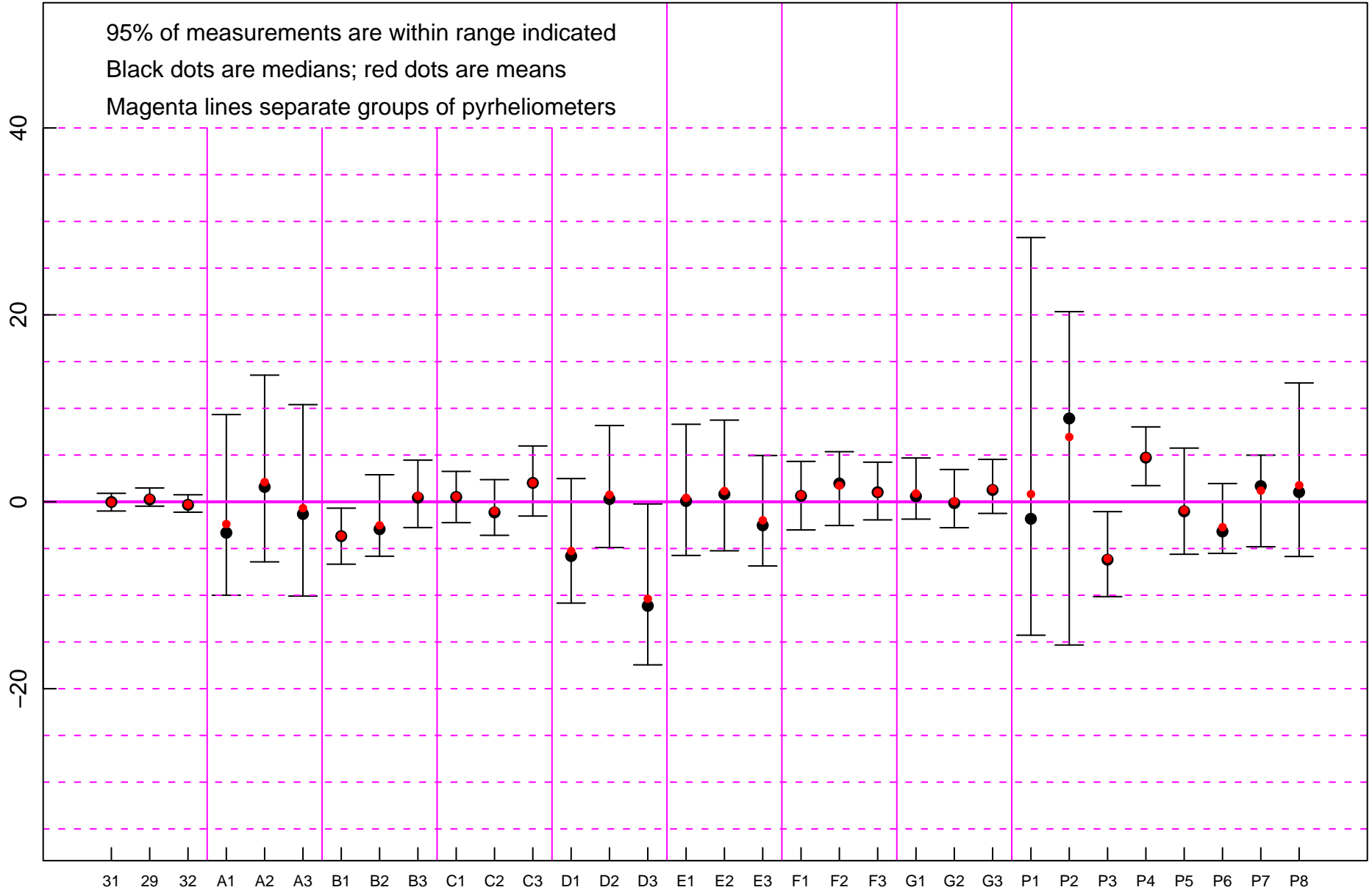
Magenta lines separate groups of pyrhemliometers



Conditions	Criteria	313000	Mean Direct
Night	sza > 91.2 degs	160000	< 1 W/m ²
Cloudy	sza < 91.2 degs & direct < 4 W/m ²	44000	< 1 W/m ²
Daytime	sza < 91.2 degs	154000	410 W/m ²
Passing clouds	sza < 91.2 & direct > 50 & stddev > 10	23000	476 W/m ²
Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700	56000	903 W/m ²
Very Clear	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & stddev < 2 W/m ²	41000	918 W/m ²
Clear/Calm	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws < 2 m/s	39000	894 W/m ²
Clear/Windy	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & ws > 5 m/s	3900	952 W/m ²
Clear/Cold	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp < 0 degs	3300	896 W/m ²
Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m²

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Hot

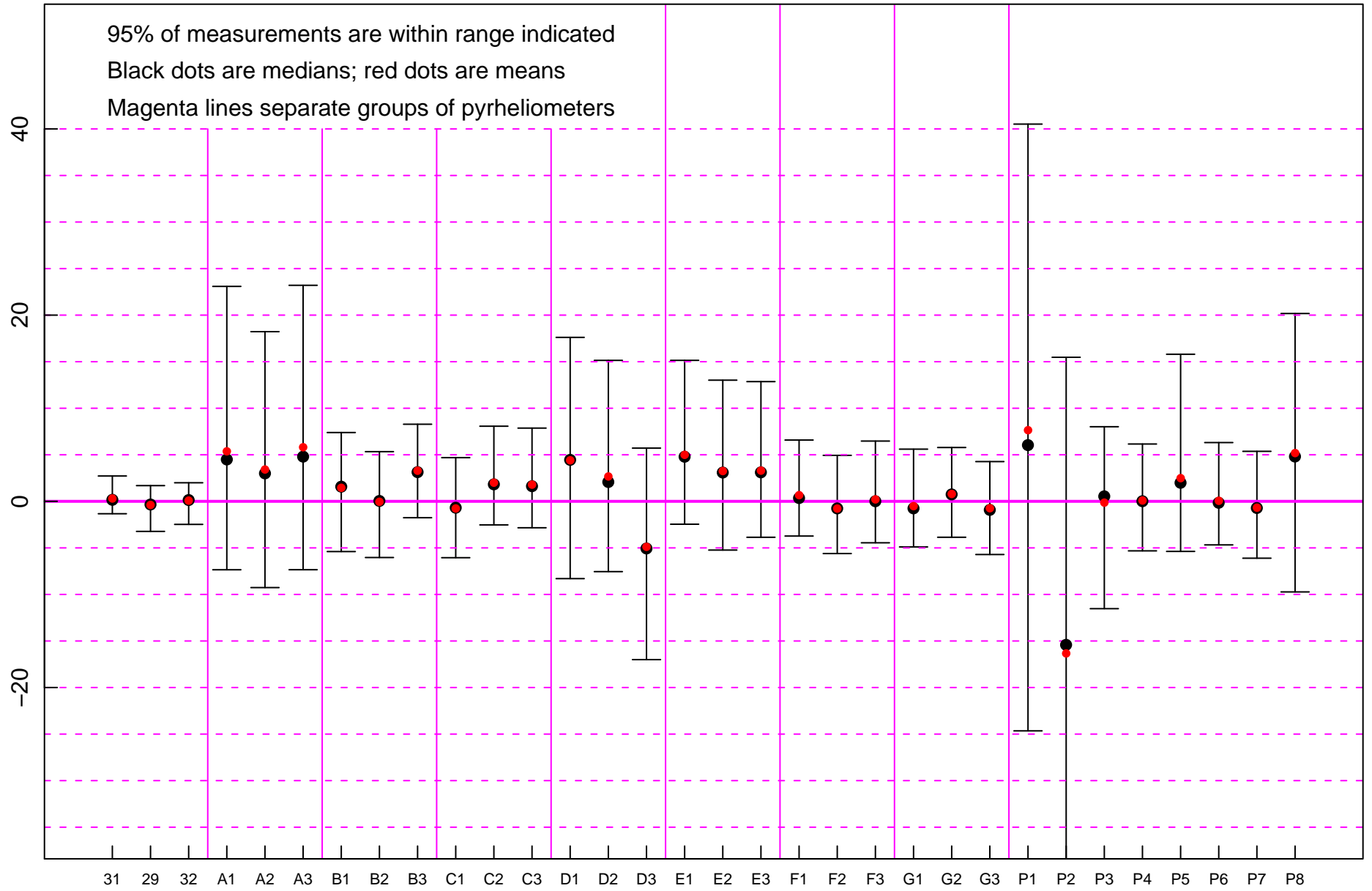
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Clear/Moderate	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 10 & < 20 degs	16500	905 W/m ²
Clear/Hot	sza < 91.2 & direct > 700 & temp > 30 degs	3300	899 W/m ²
Temperature change	Increase of more than 1 C in 5 mins & > 700	280	848 W/m²
	Decrease of more than -1 C in 5 mins & > 700	330	811 W/m²

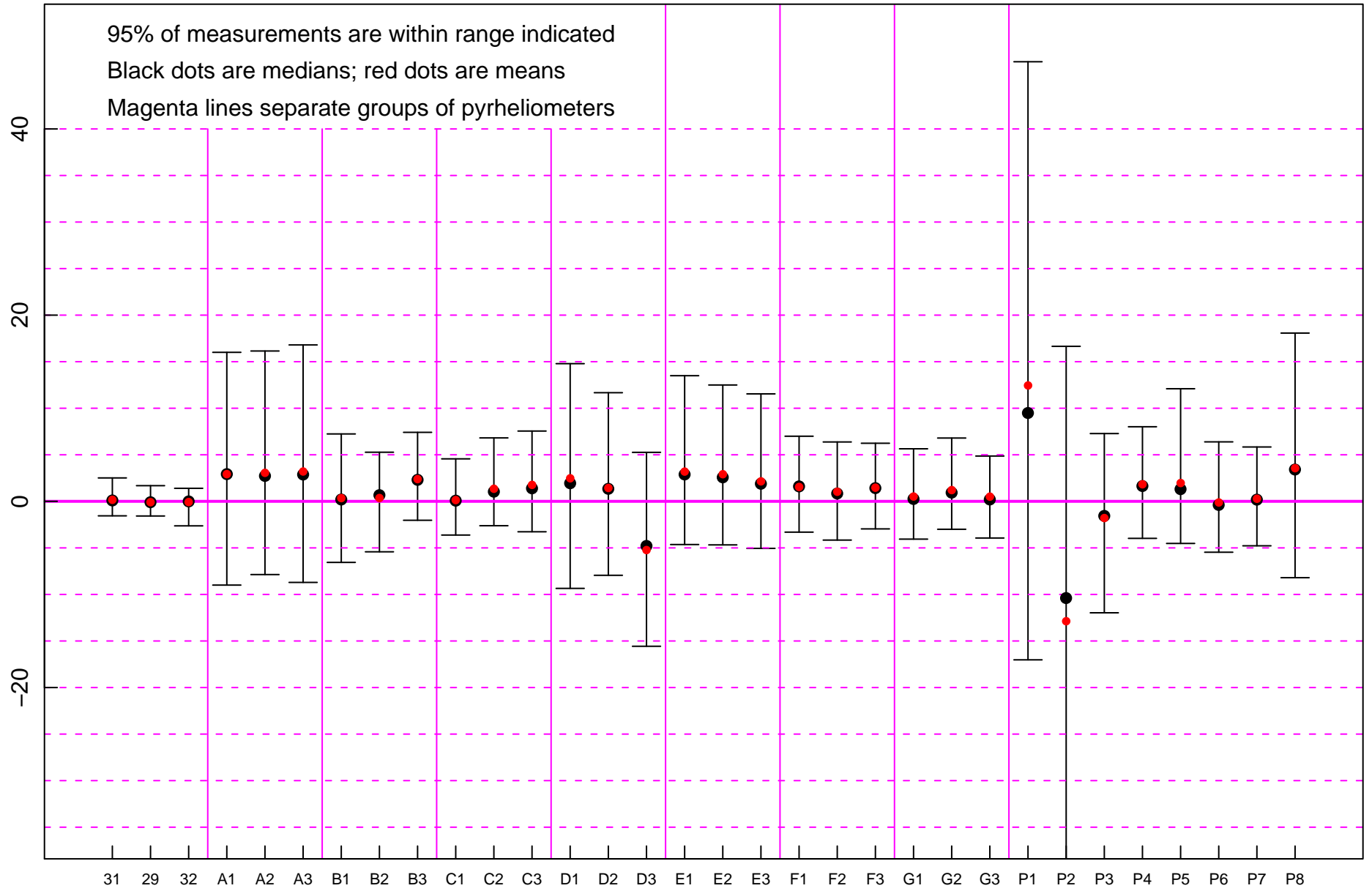
Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Increasing Temps

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Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Decreasing Temps

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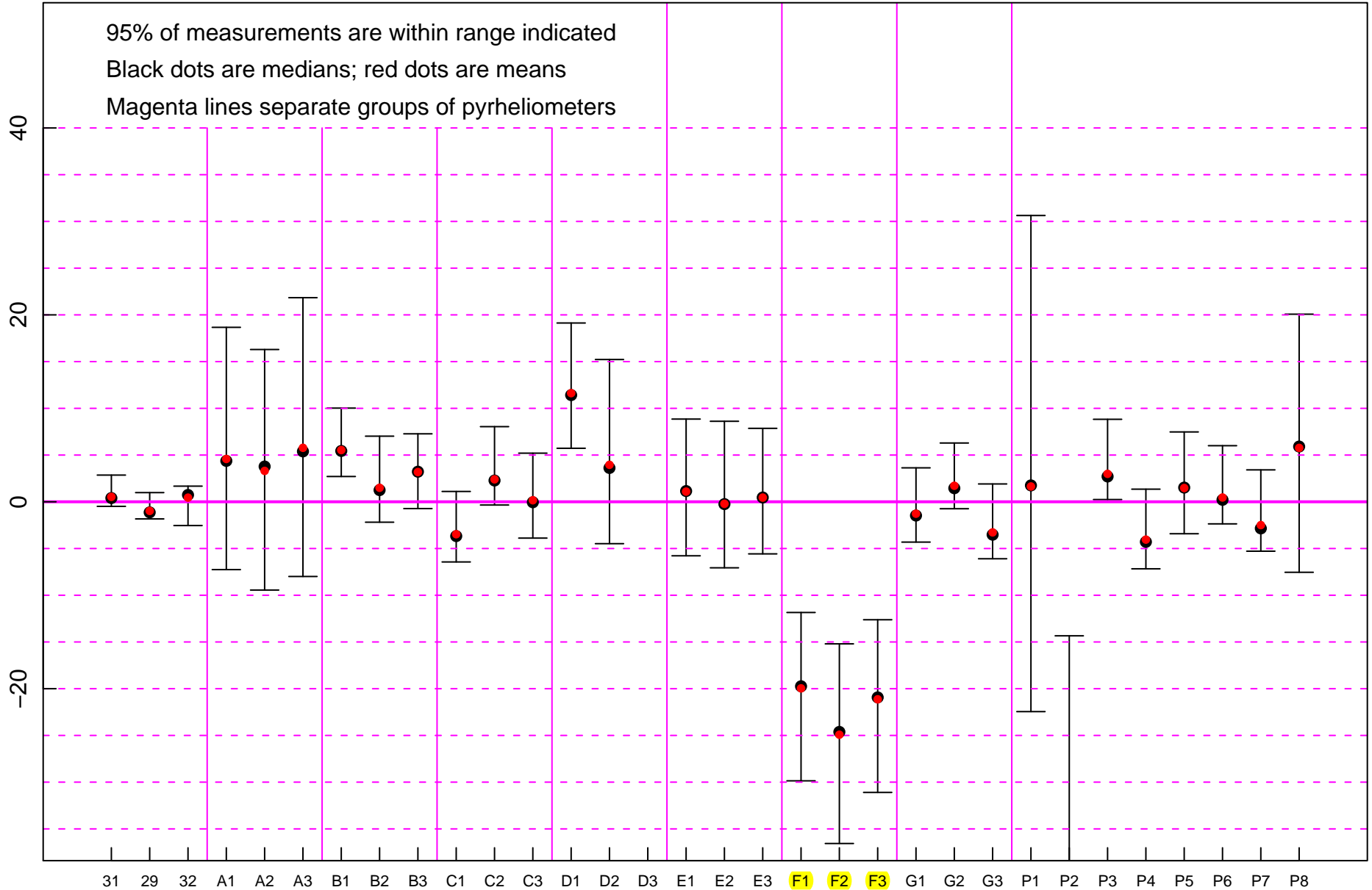


Importance of Temperature Correction or Compensation

- Focus only on **F1, F2, F3**
- Cold (< 0 C) uncorrected; then corrected
- Hot (> 30 C) uncorrected; then corrected

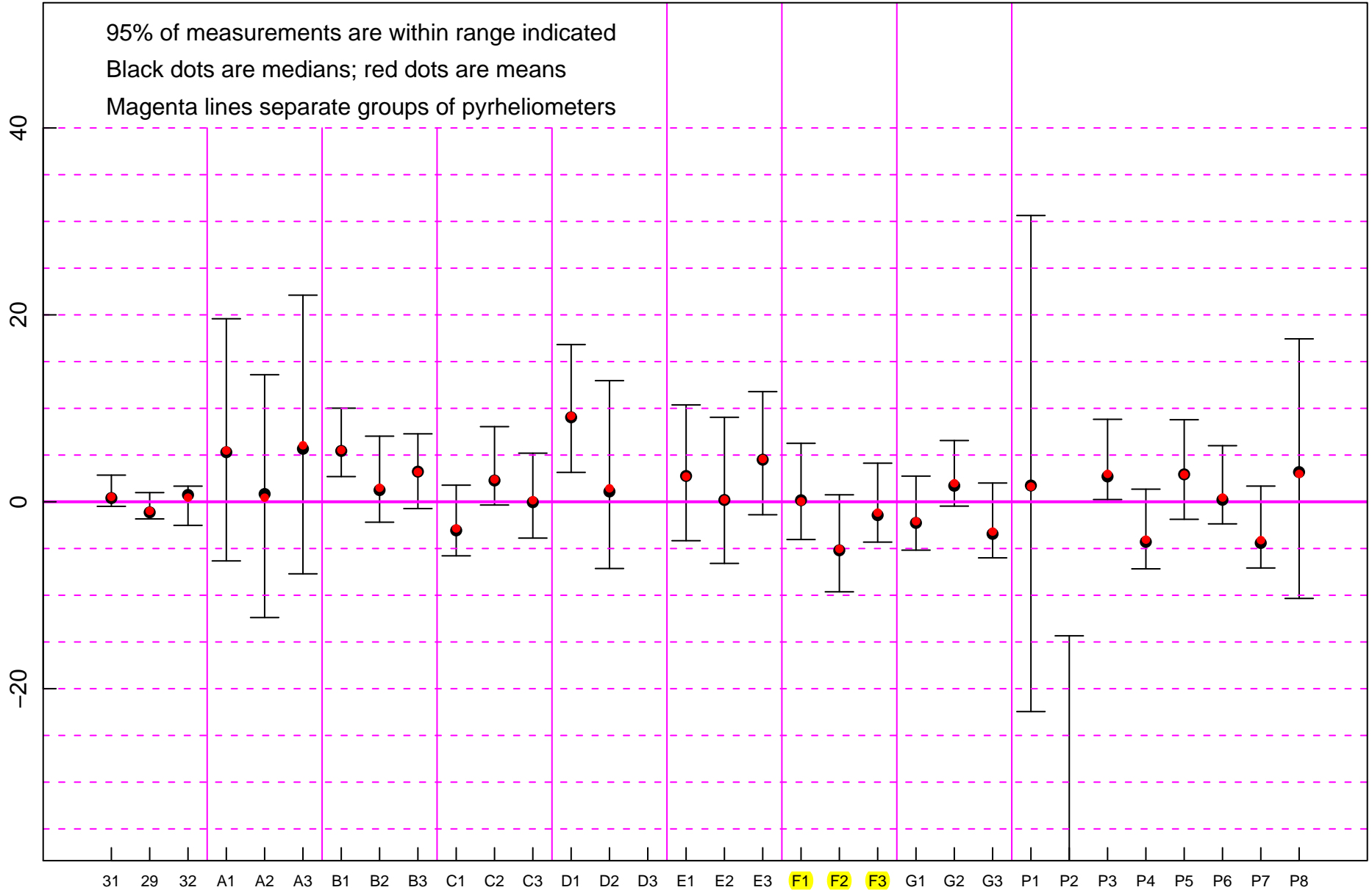
Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Cold

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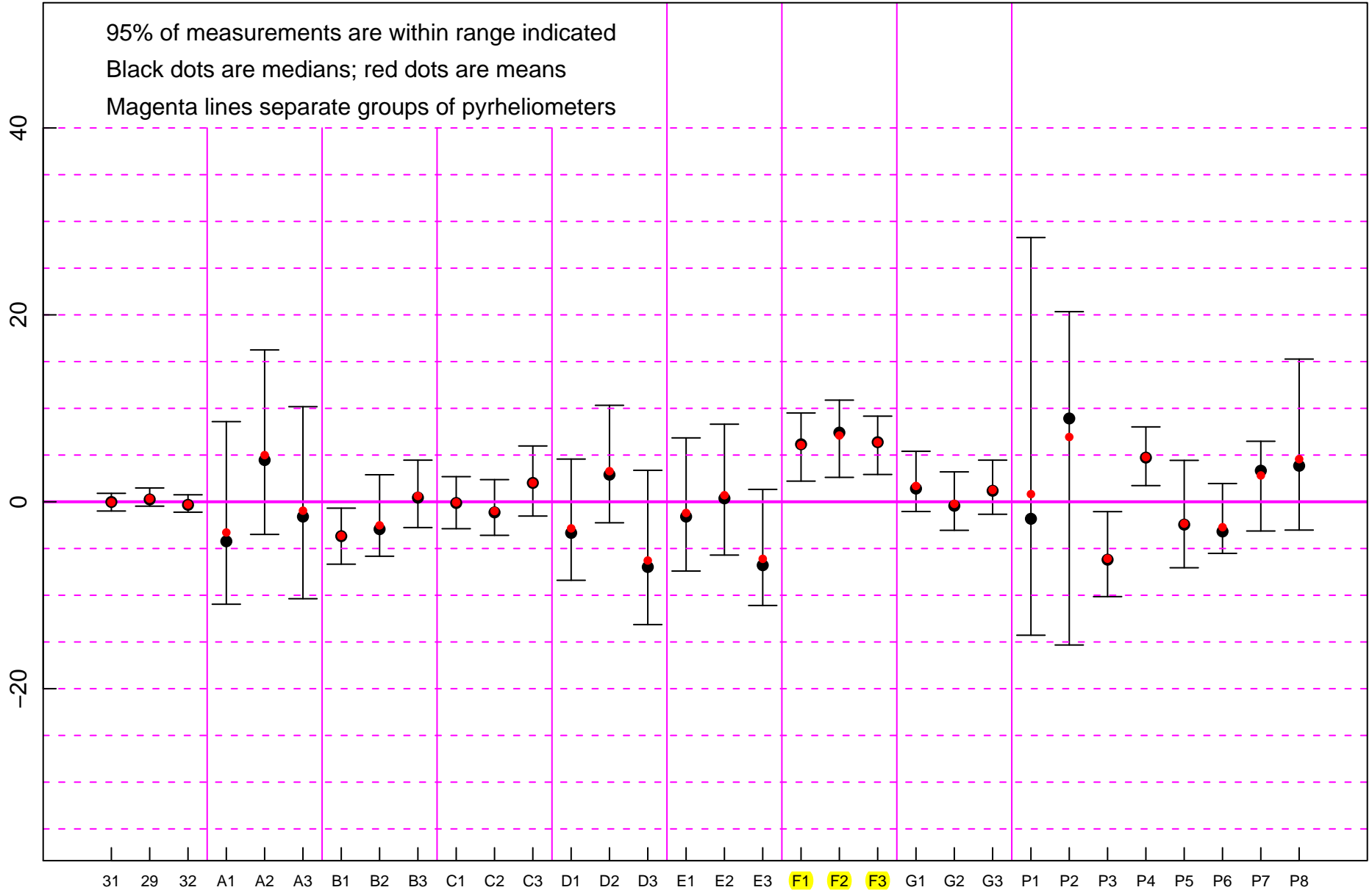
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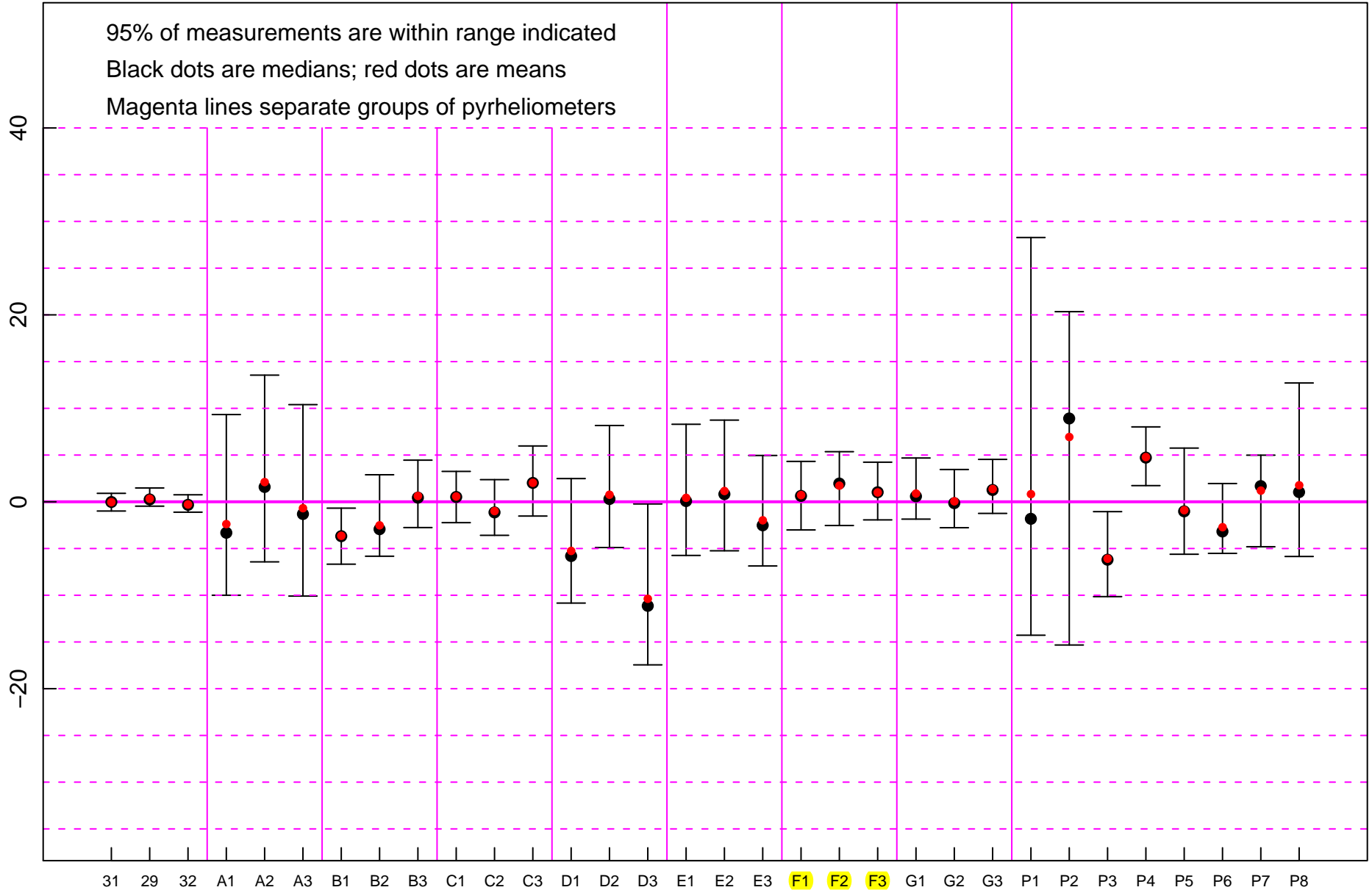
Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Hot

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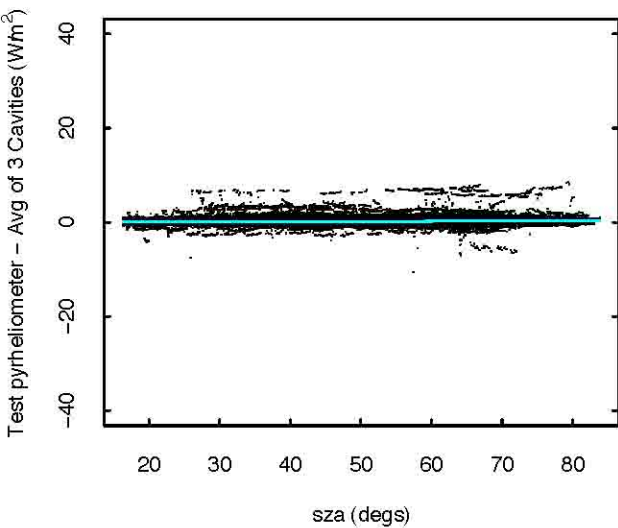


Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Hot

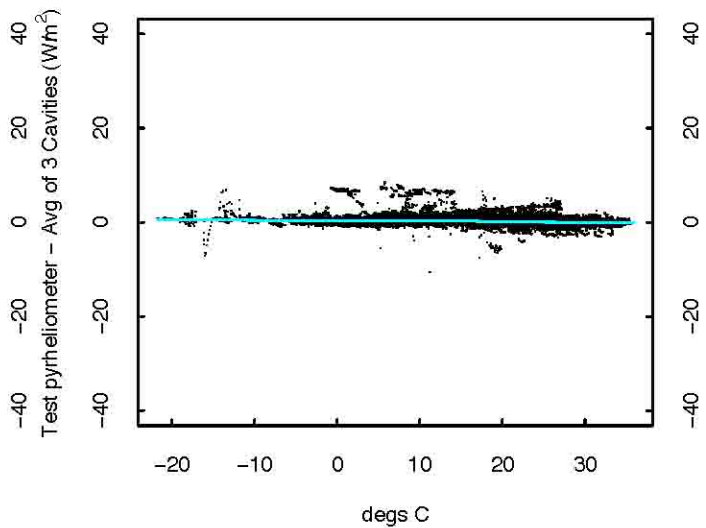
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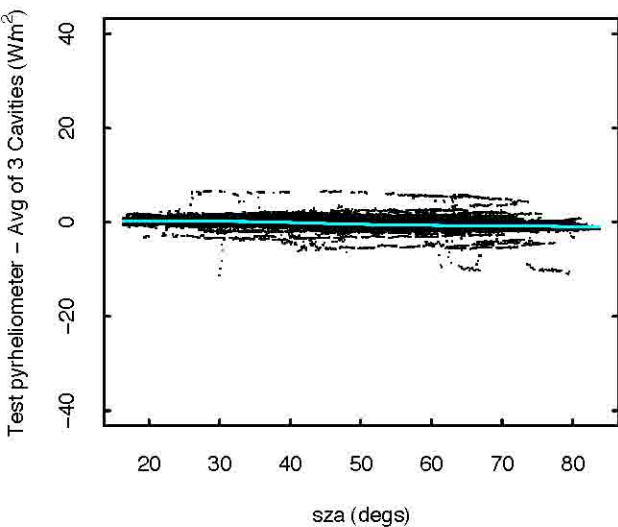
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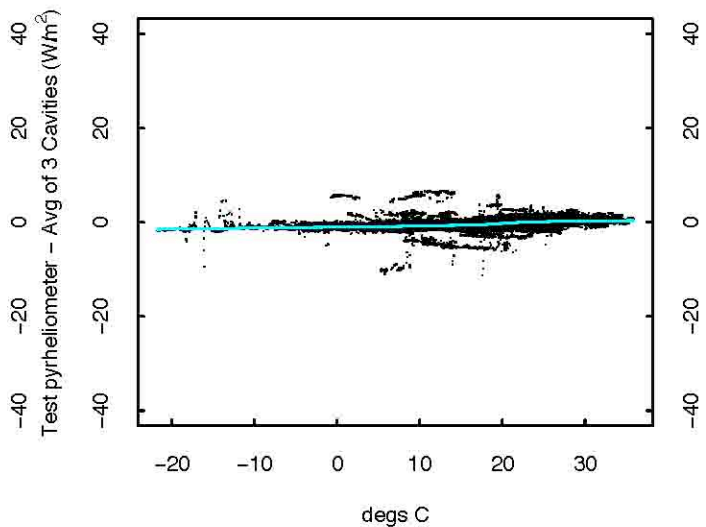
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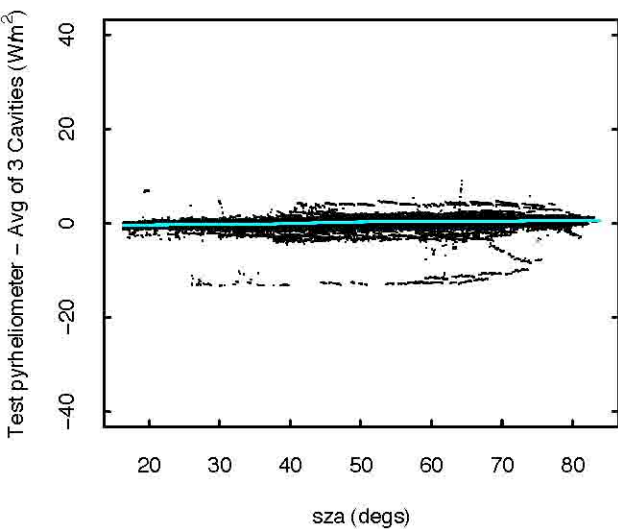
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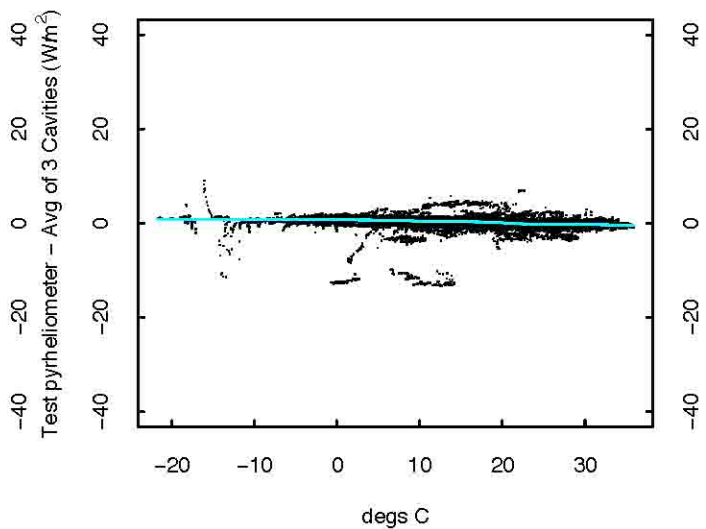
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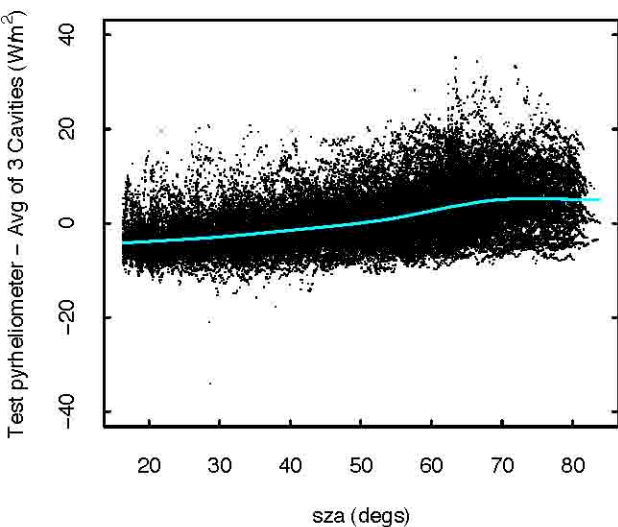
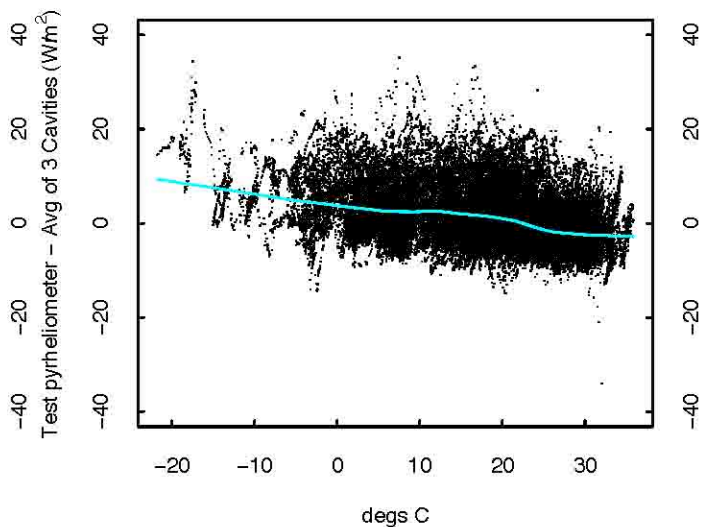
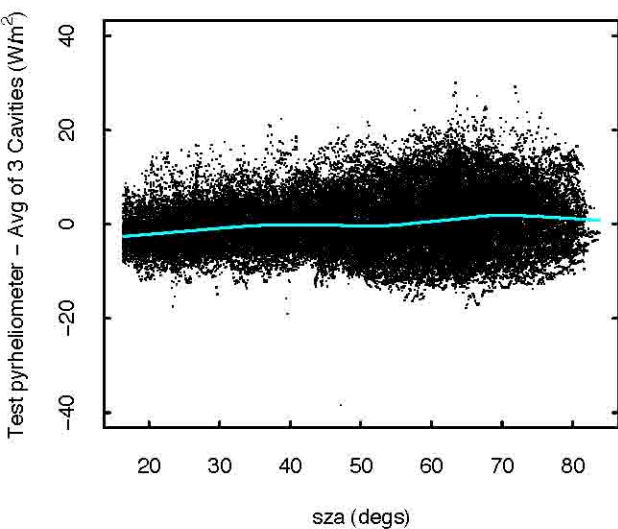
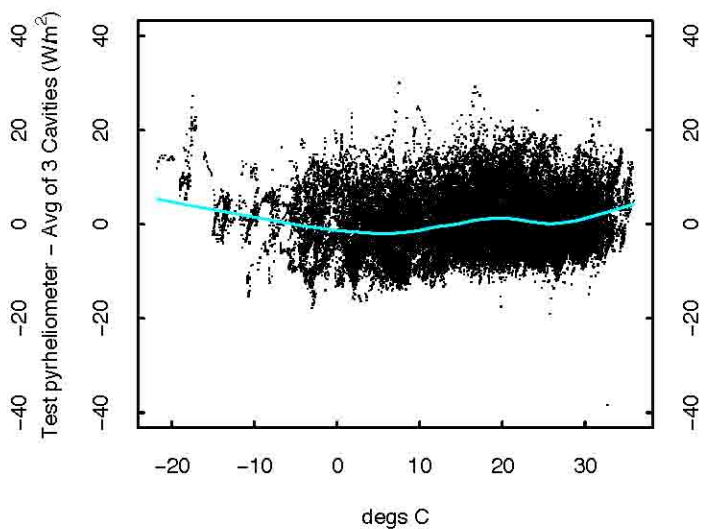
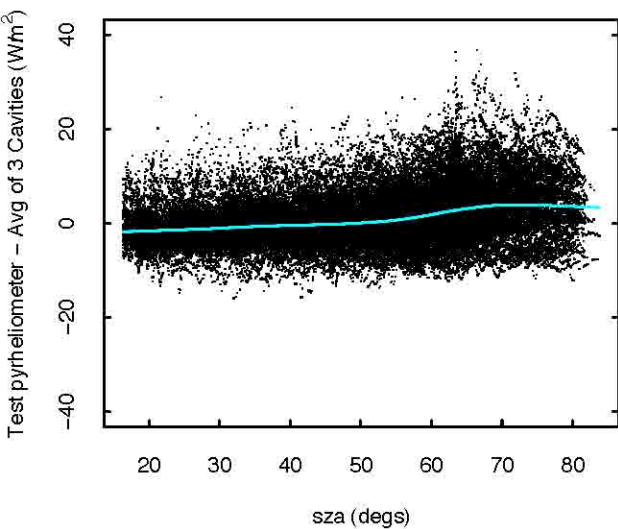
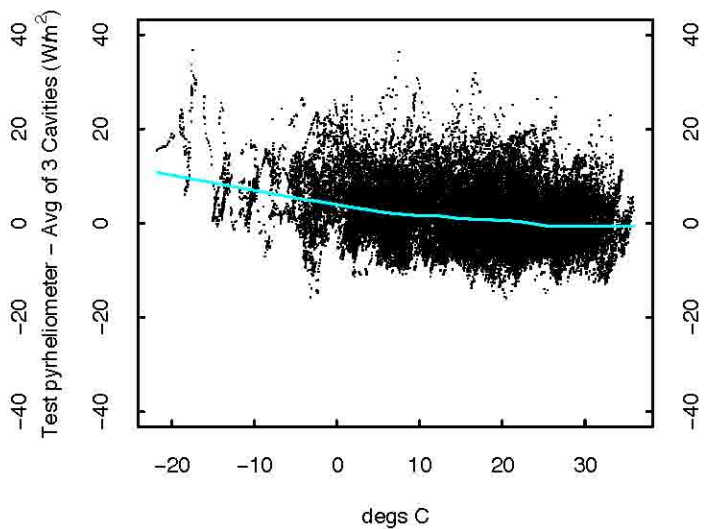


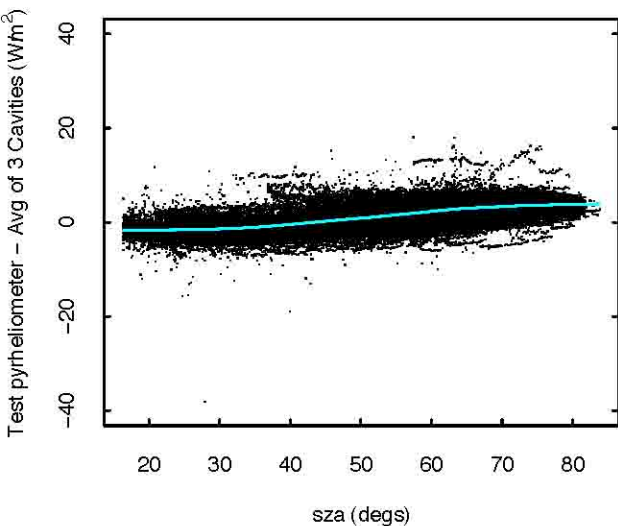
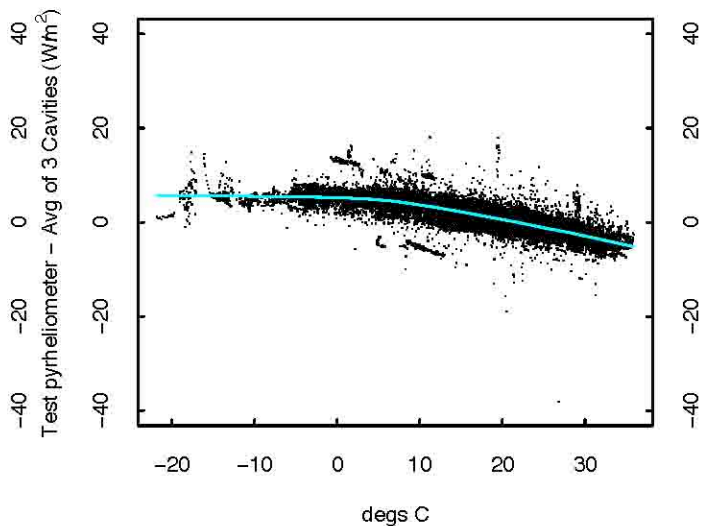
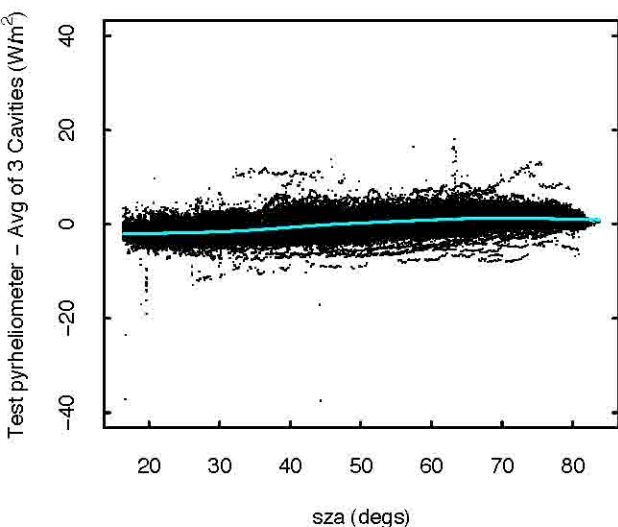
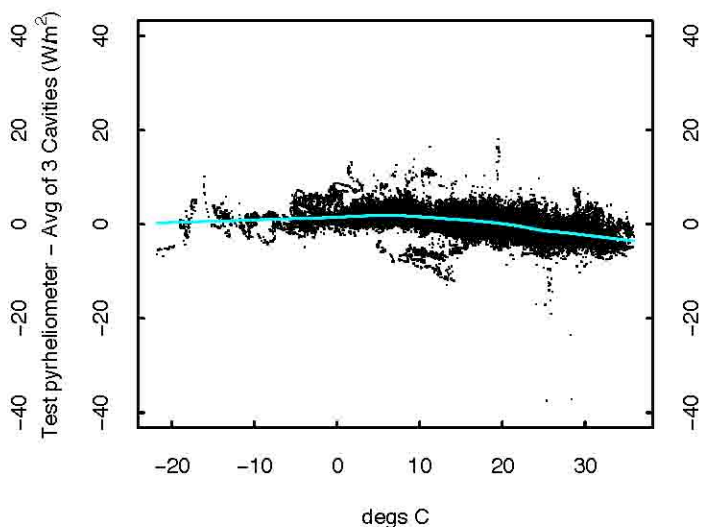
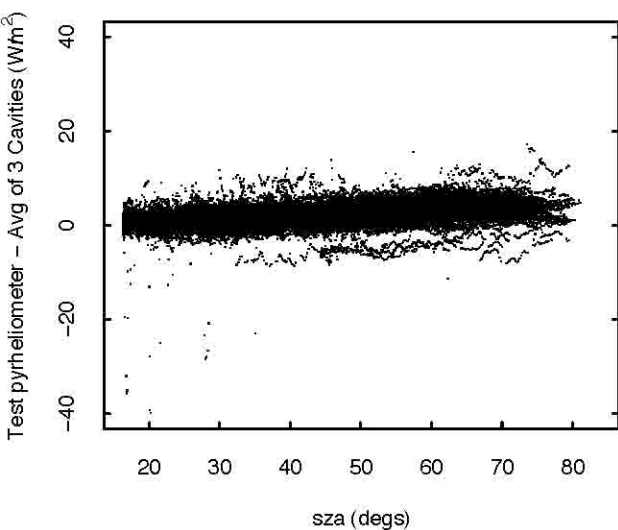
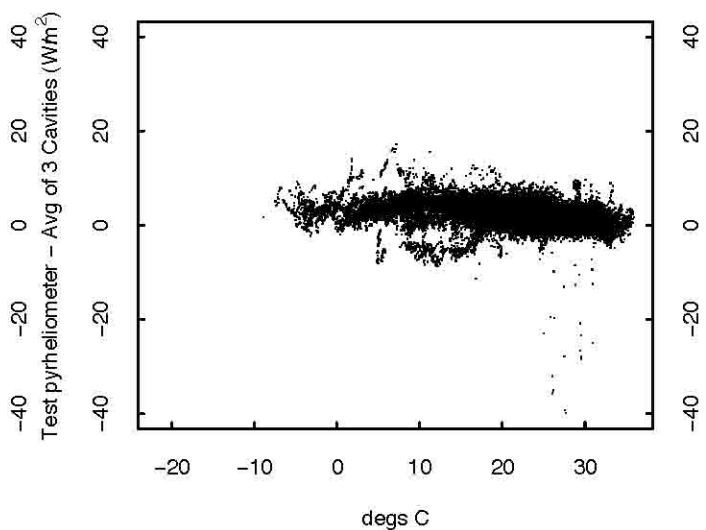
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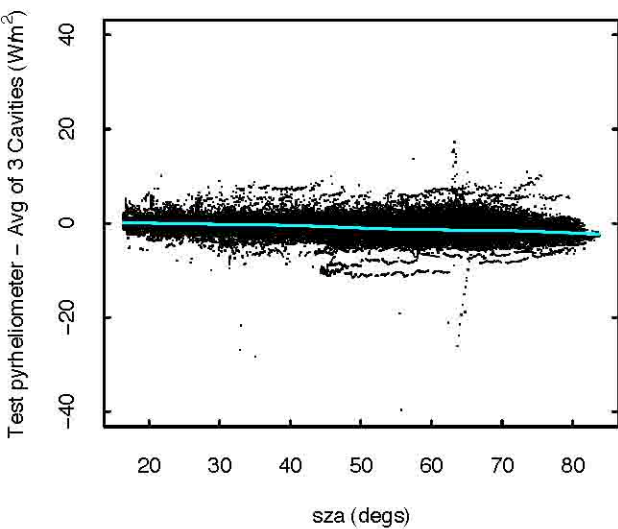
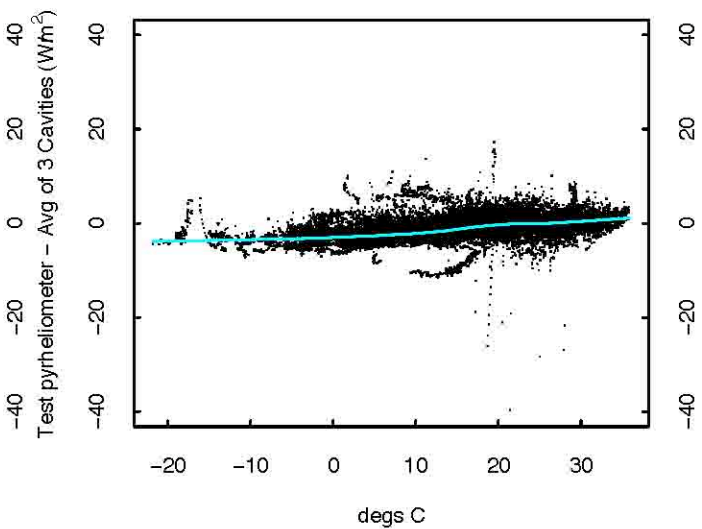
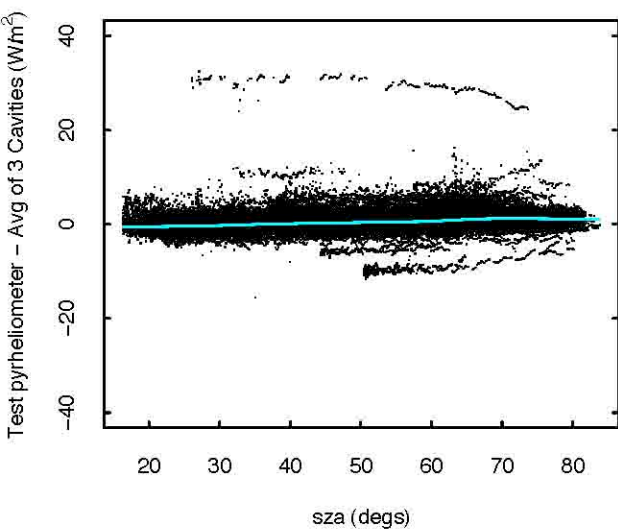
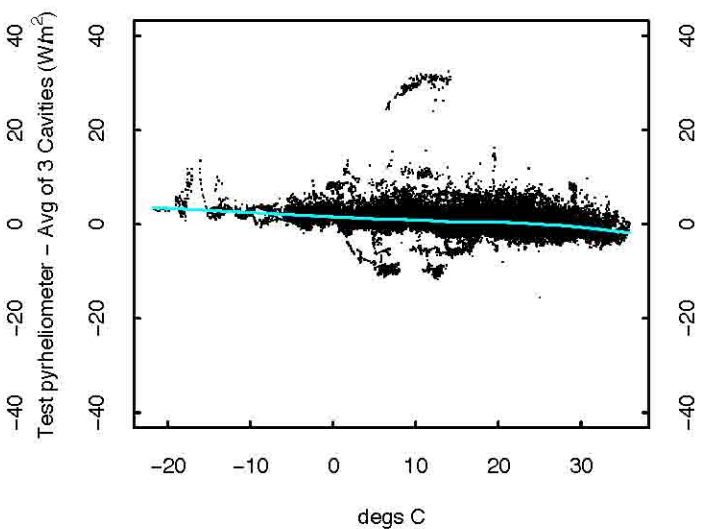
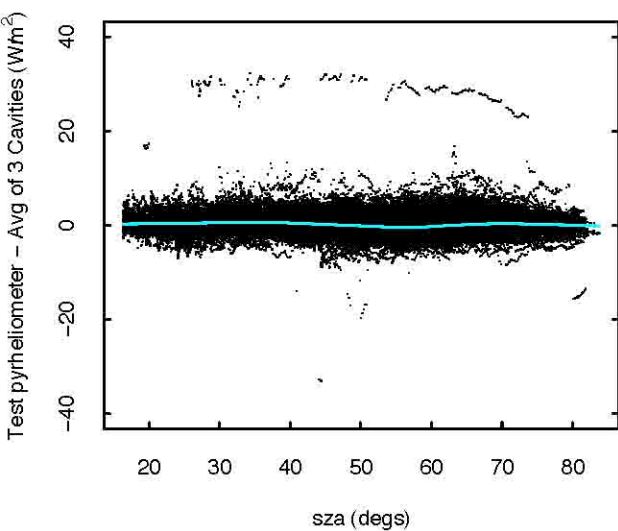
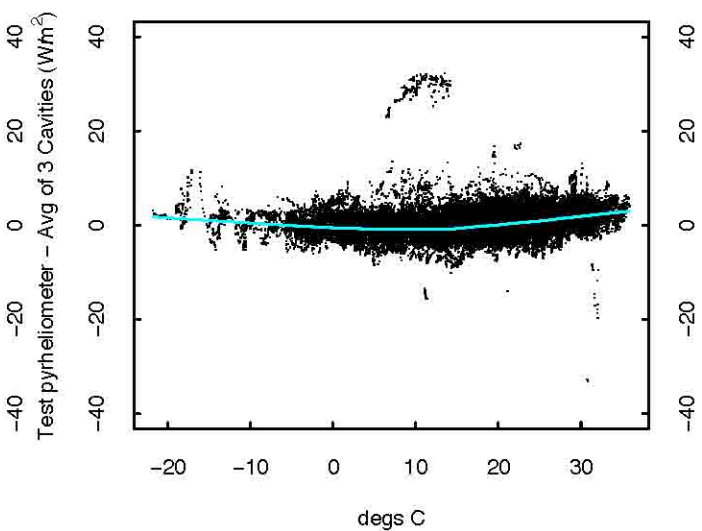


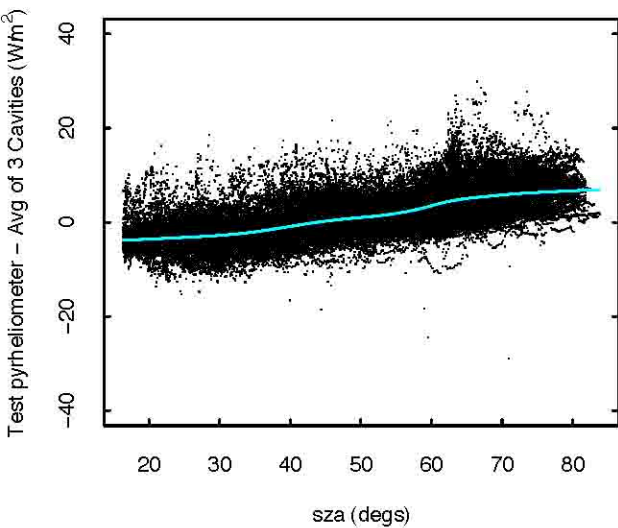
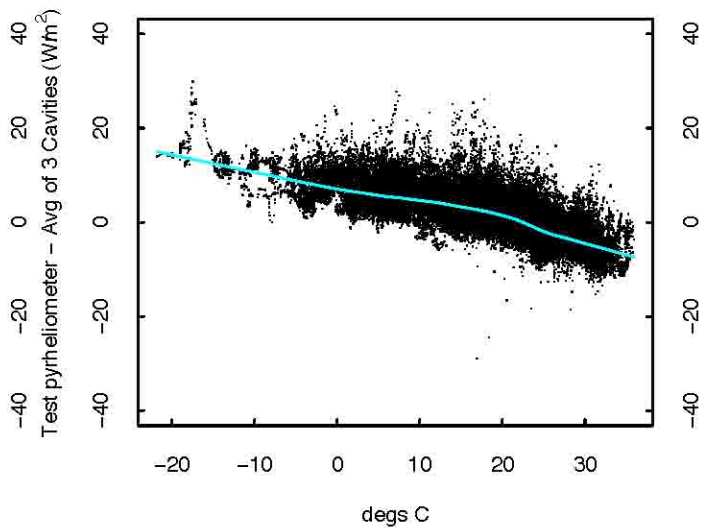
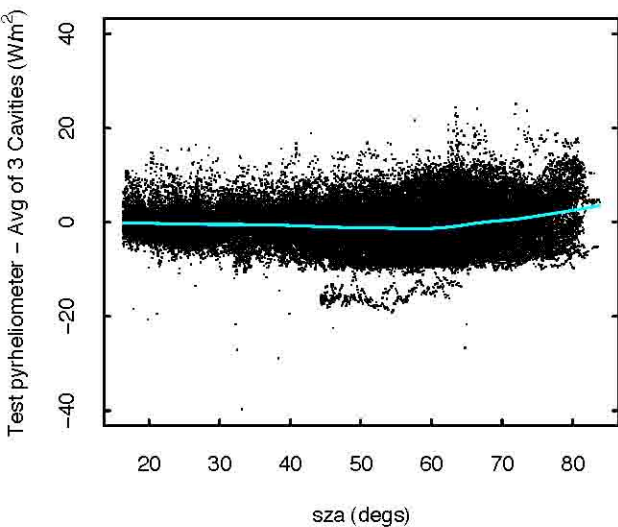
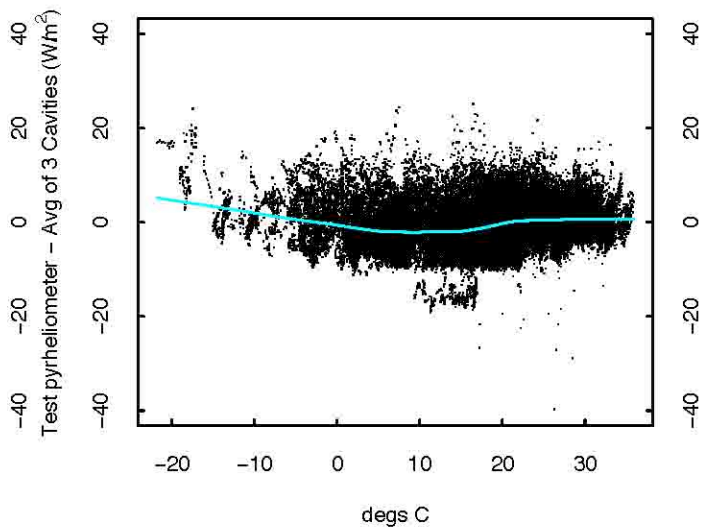
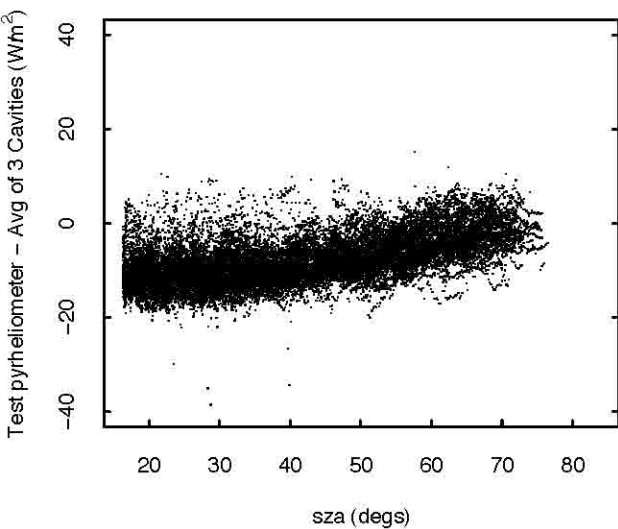
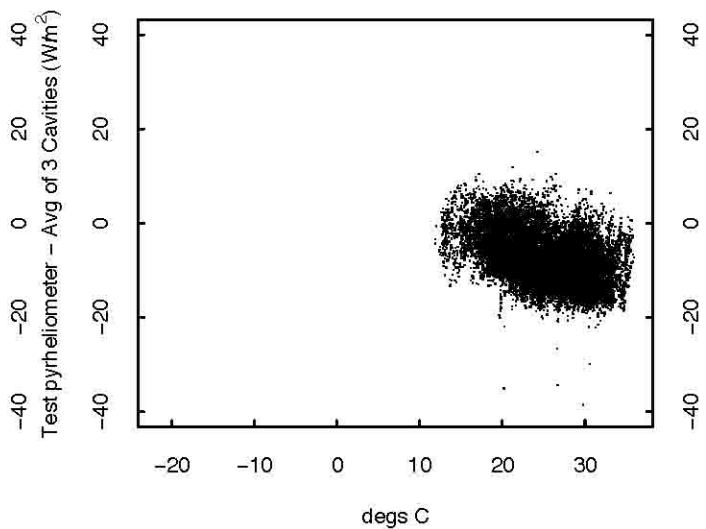
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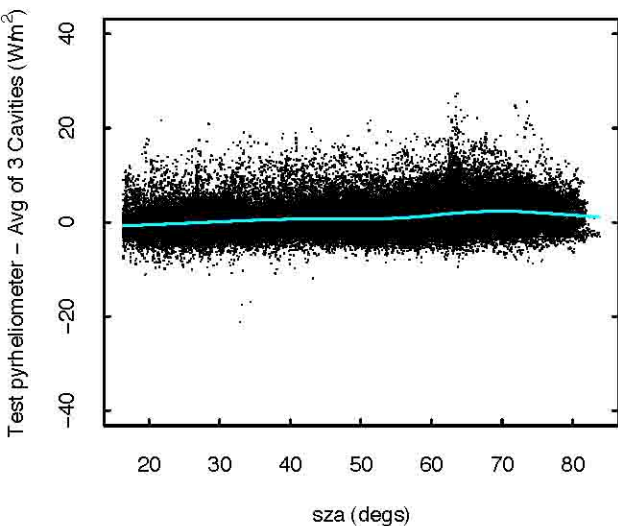
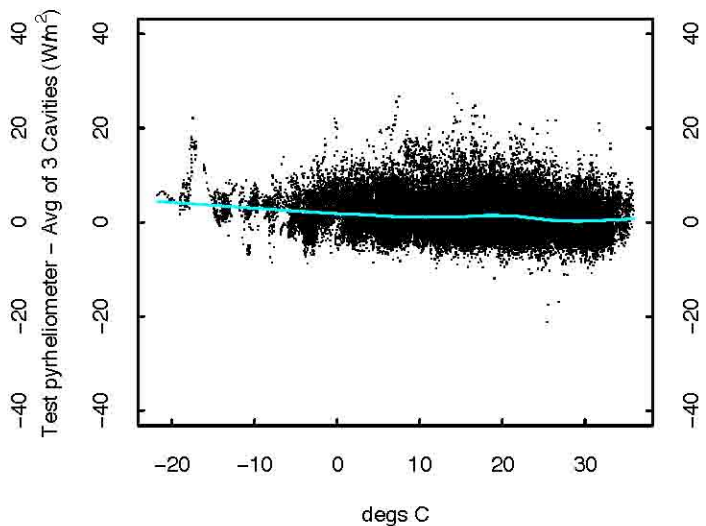
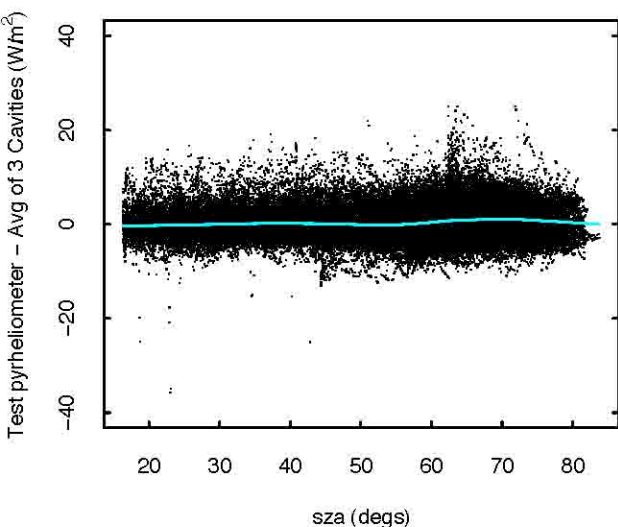
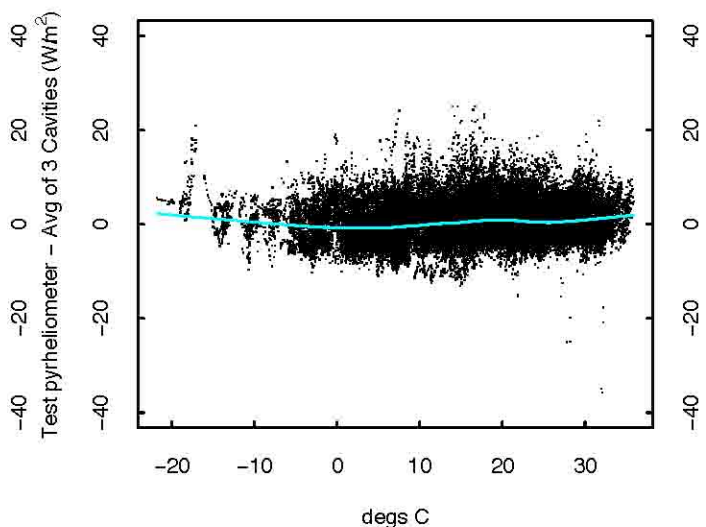
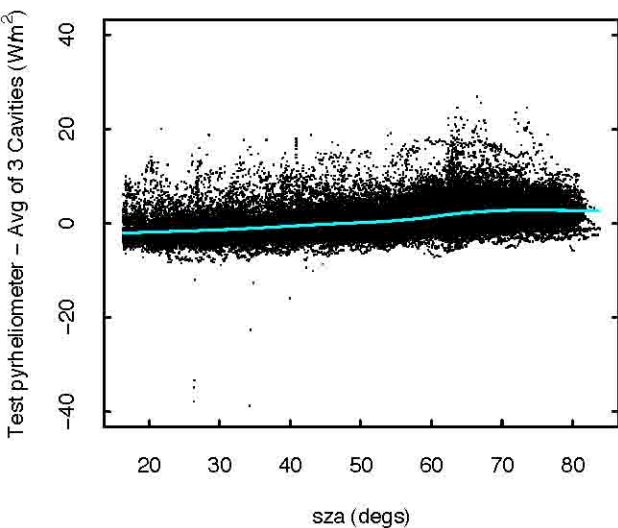
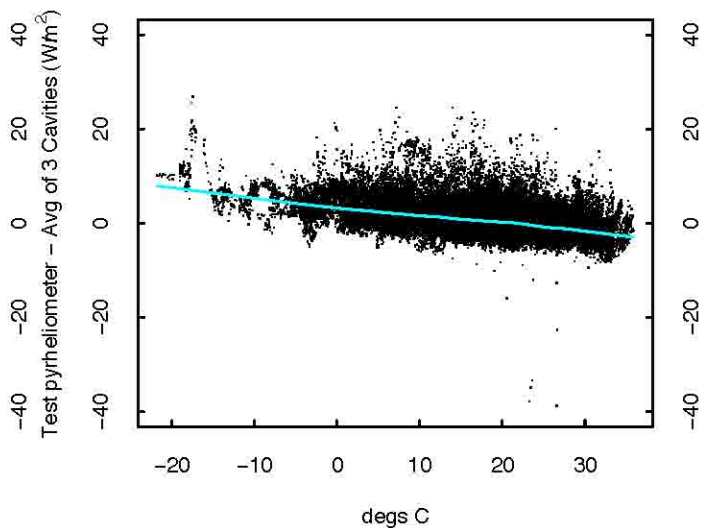


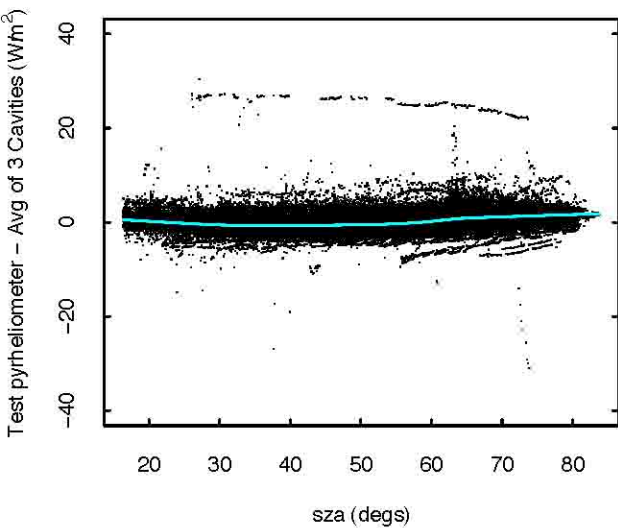
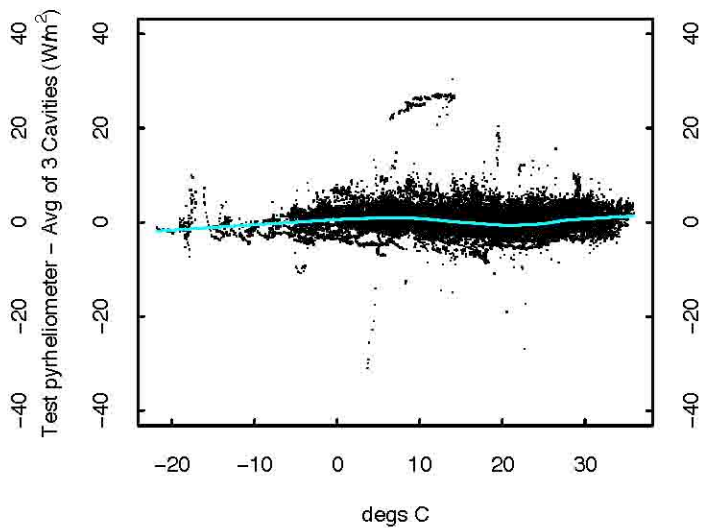
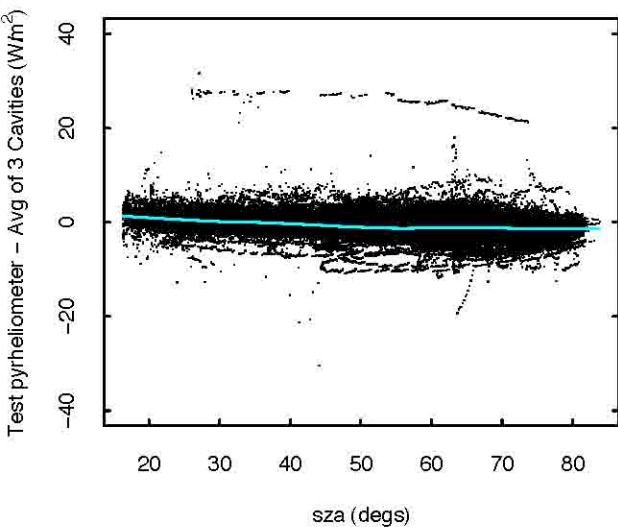
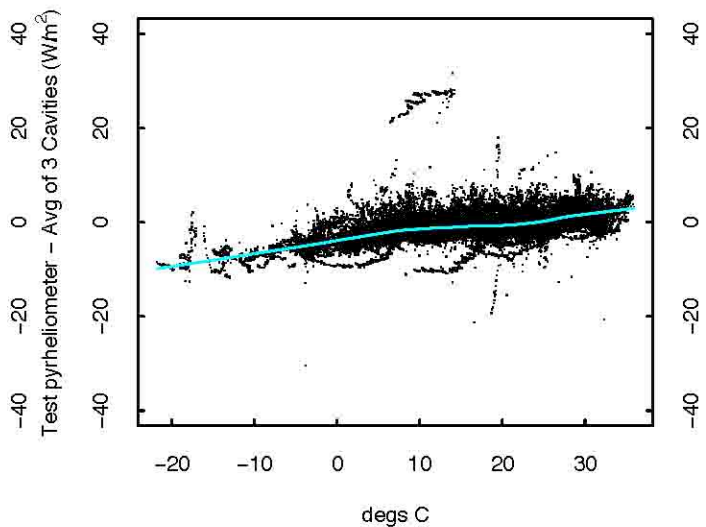
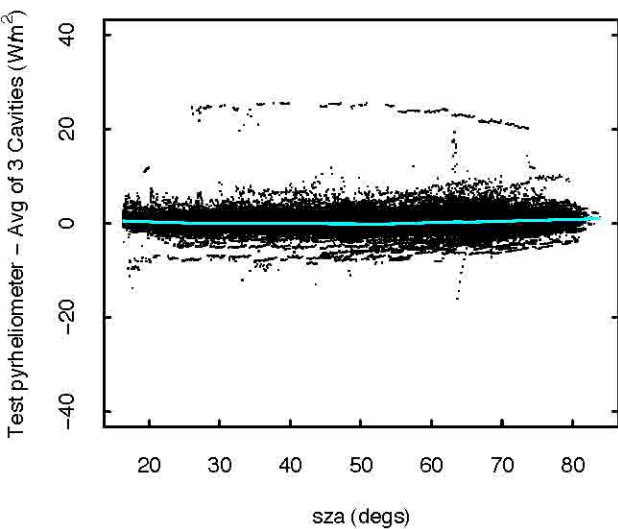
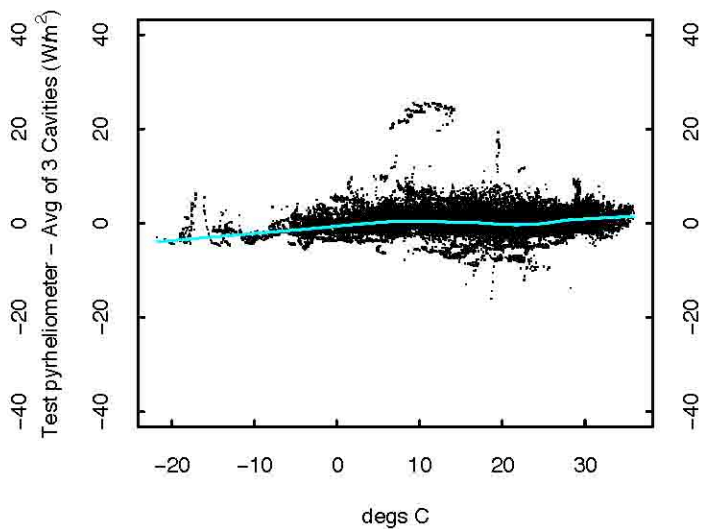
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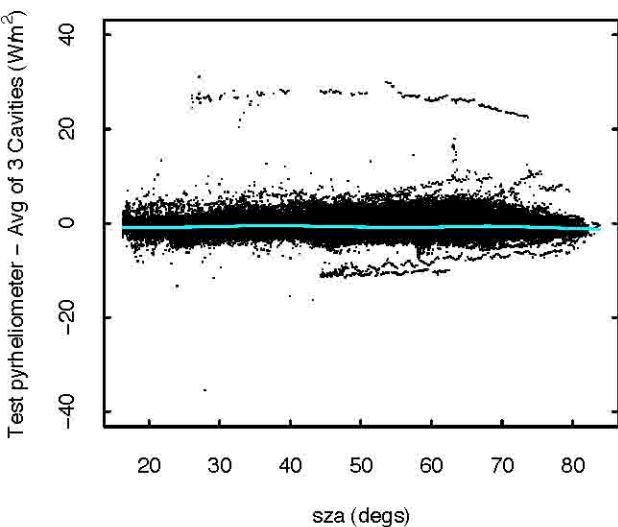
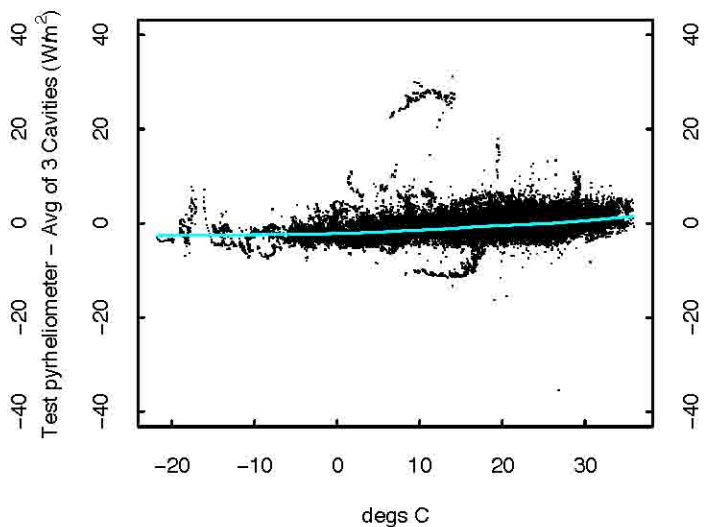
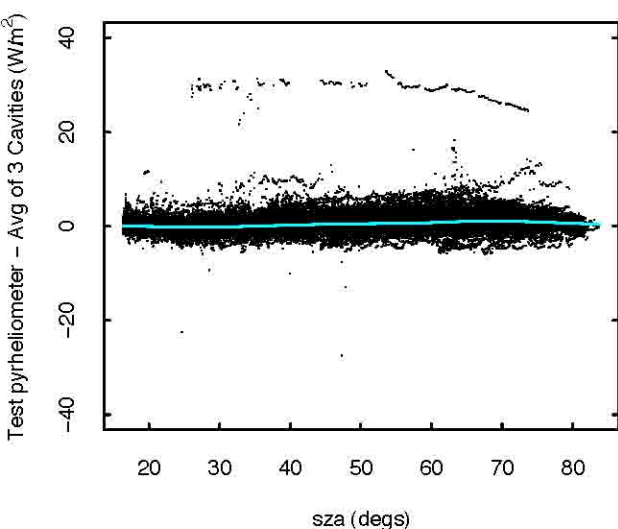
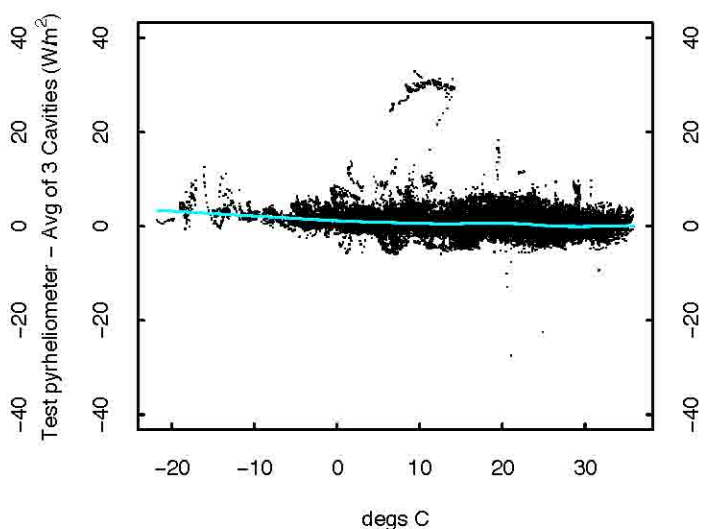
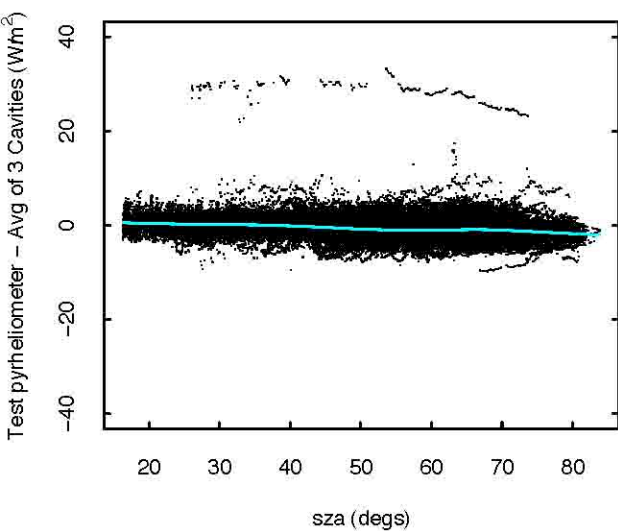
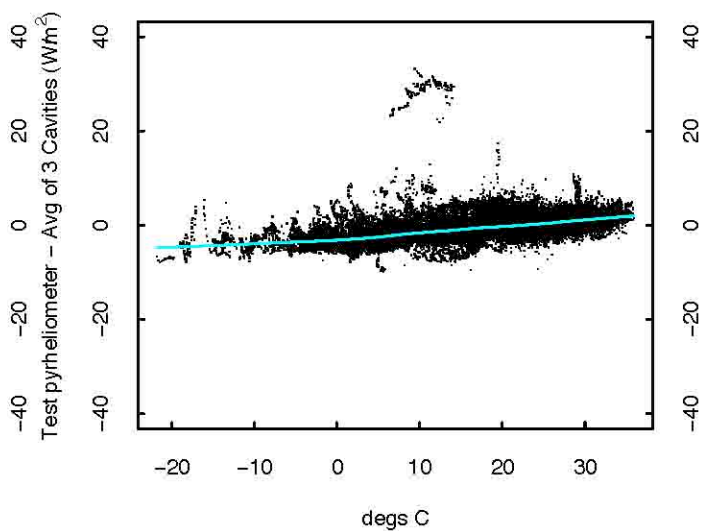
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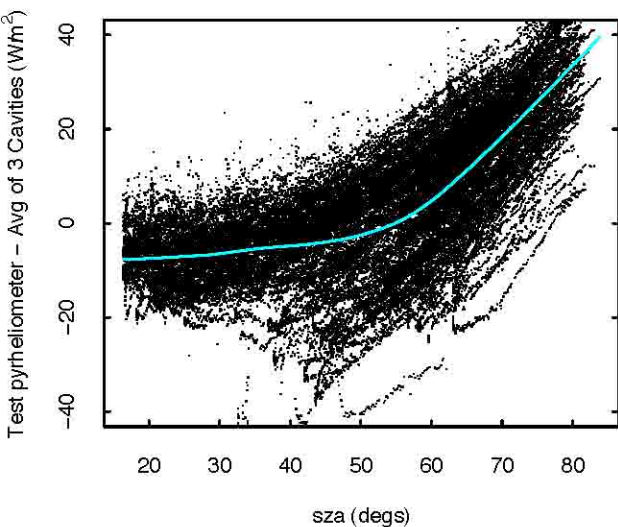
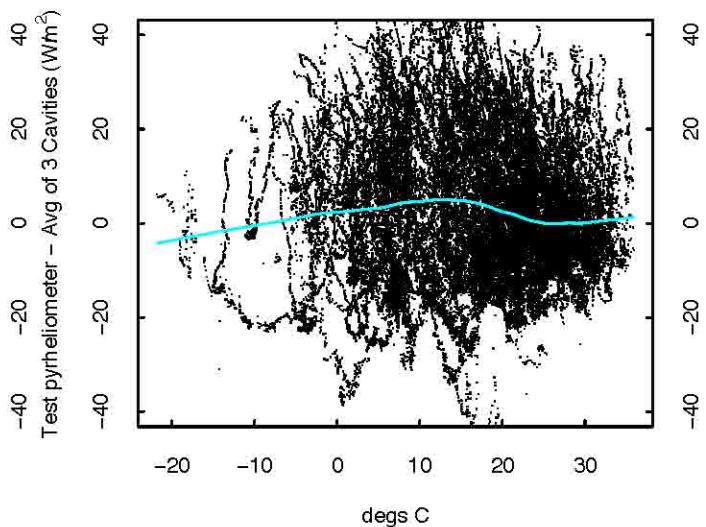
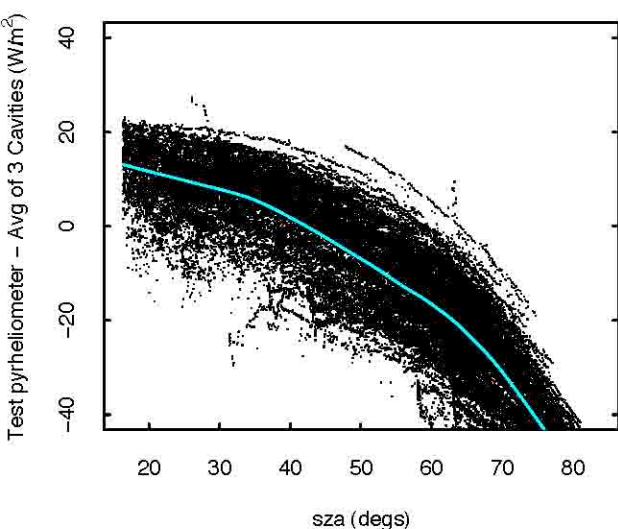
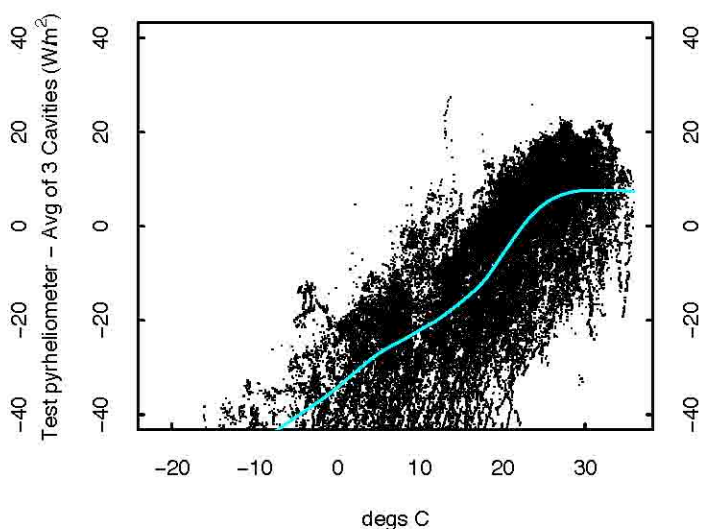
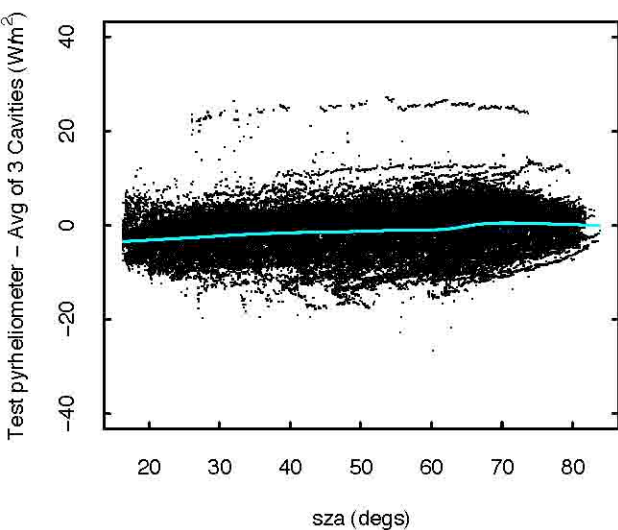
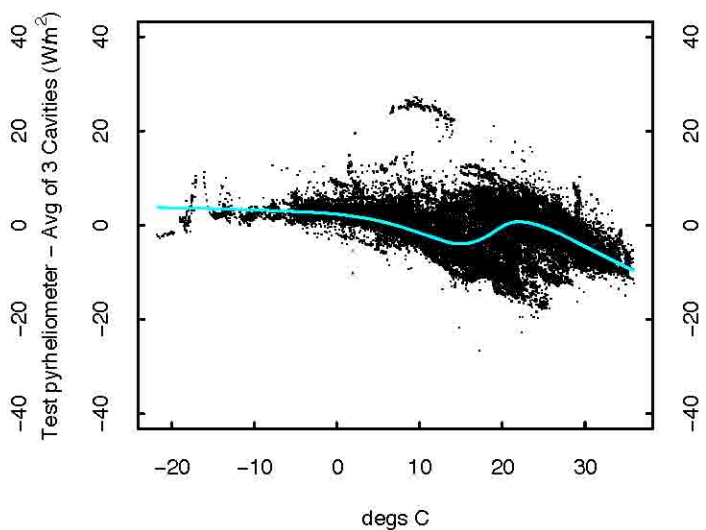
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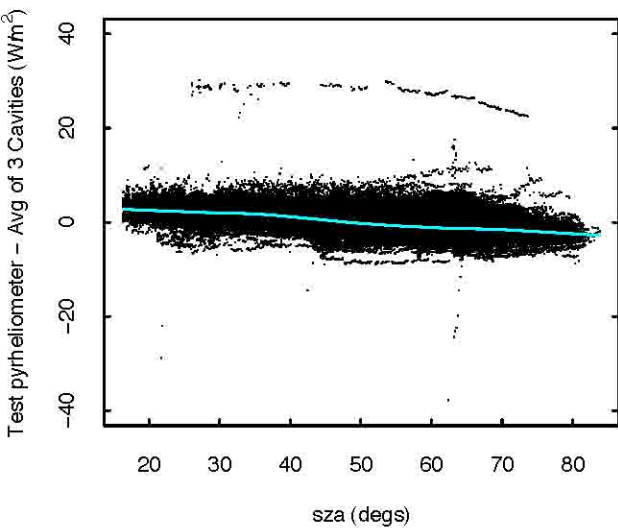
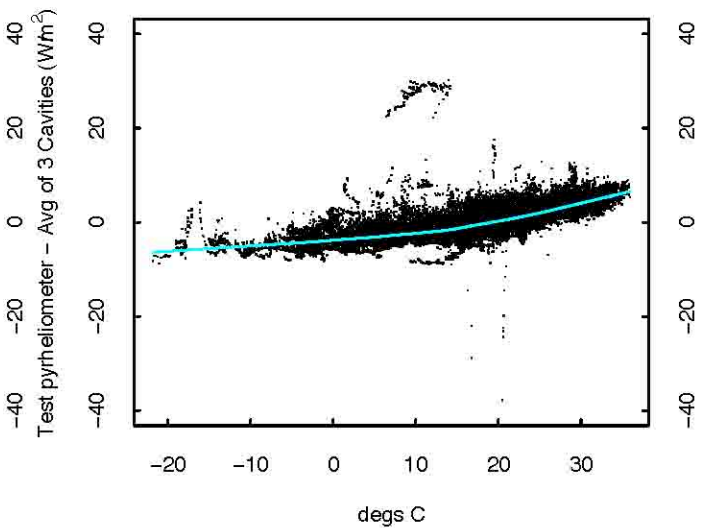
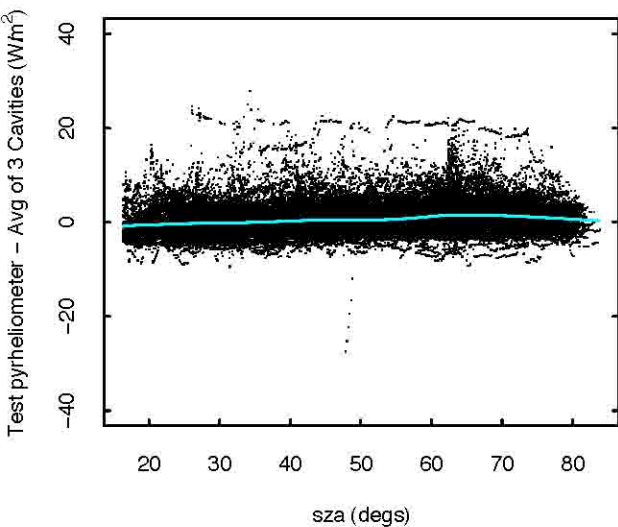
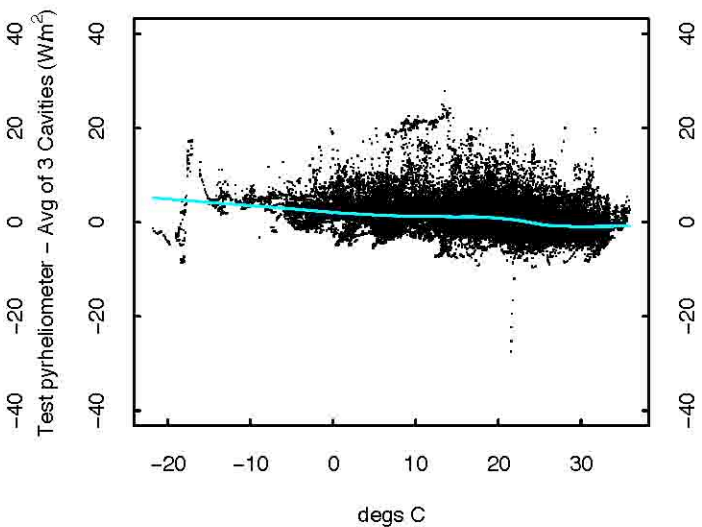
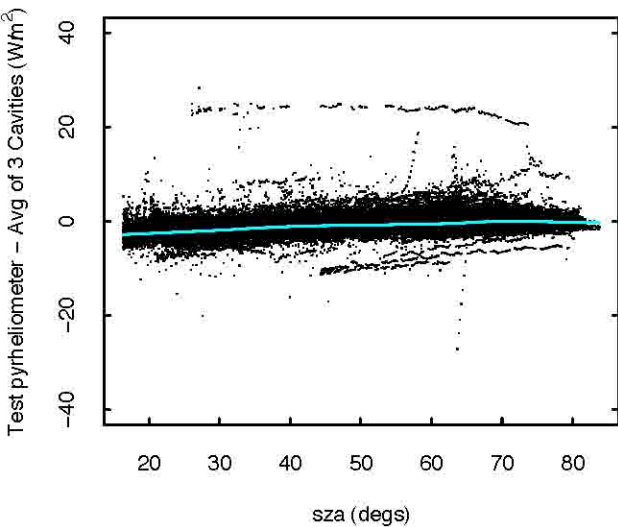
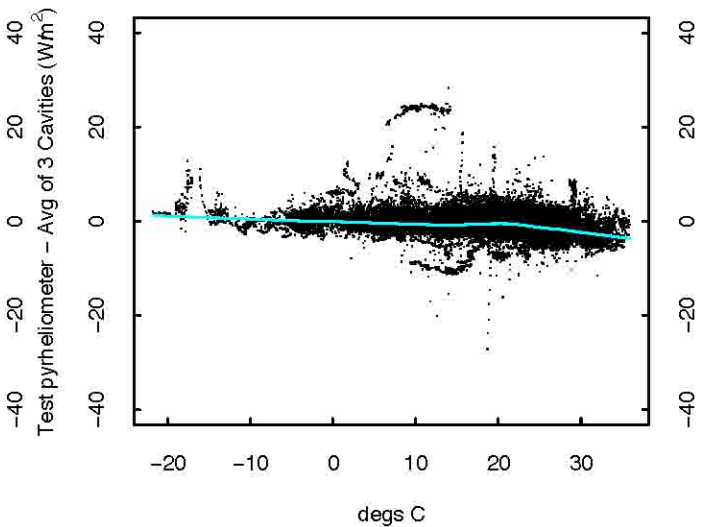
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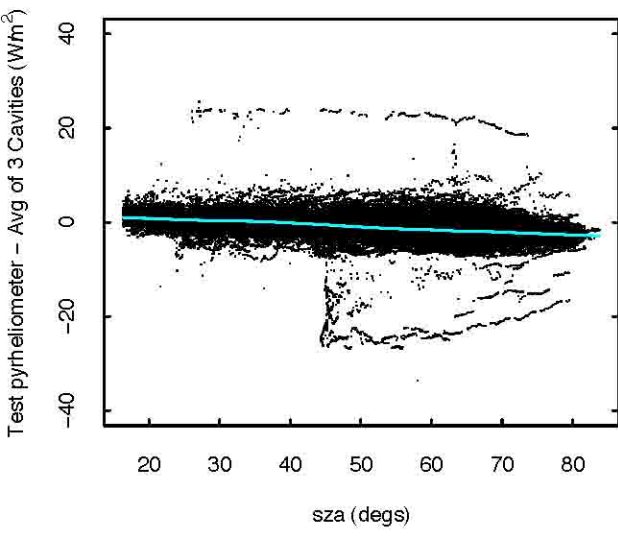
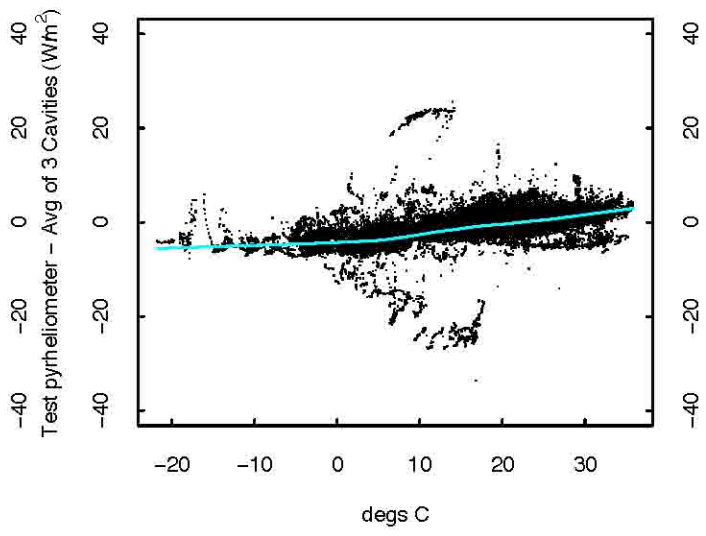
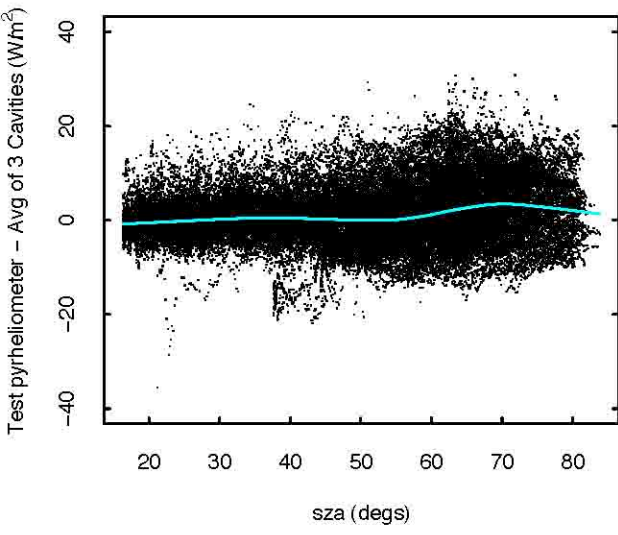
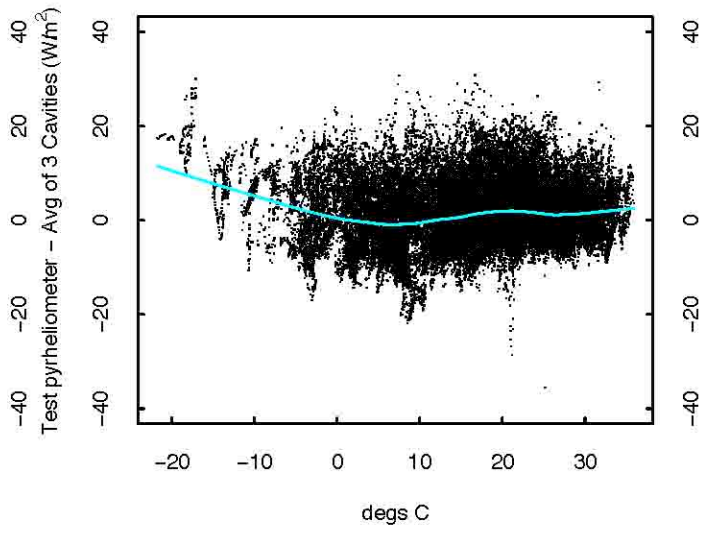
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F1-203**F1-203****F2-204****F2-204****F3-205****F3-205**

G1-106**G1-106****G2-106****G2-106****G3-108****G3-108**

P1-109**P1-109****P2-201****P2-201****P3-206****P3-206**

P4-102**P4-102****P5-109****P5-109****P6-103****P6-103**

P7-202**P7-202****P8-203****P8-203**

Uncertainty Estimates for VCPC – Clear

