4STAR: Spectrometer for Sky-Scanning, Sun-Tracking Atmospheric Research Development and Results from First Test-flights

A collaboration involving:



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NASA GSFC: B. Holben, S. Sinyuk

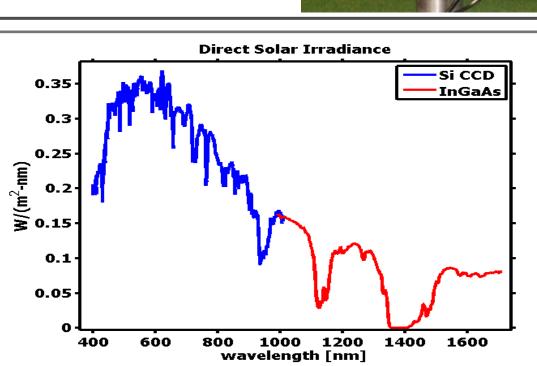


4STAR: Spectrometer for Sky-Scanning, Sun-Tracking Atmospheric Research

AERONET-like capability

Ground-based direct beam + sky scanning yields columnintegrated properties:

- AOD
- Size distributions
- Single-scattering albedo
- Asymmetry parameter
- Sphericity
- Cloud OD

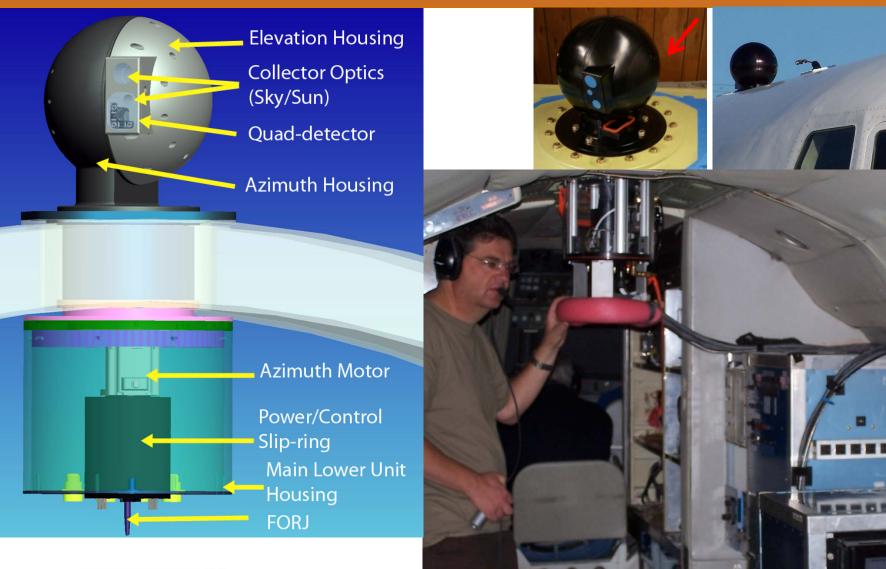




AATS-like capability: AOD at 13 wavelengths H₂O horizontally and vertically resolved



4STAR Integration and test flights on PNNL/Battelle G-1, Aug-Sep 2010





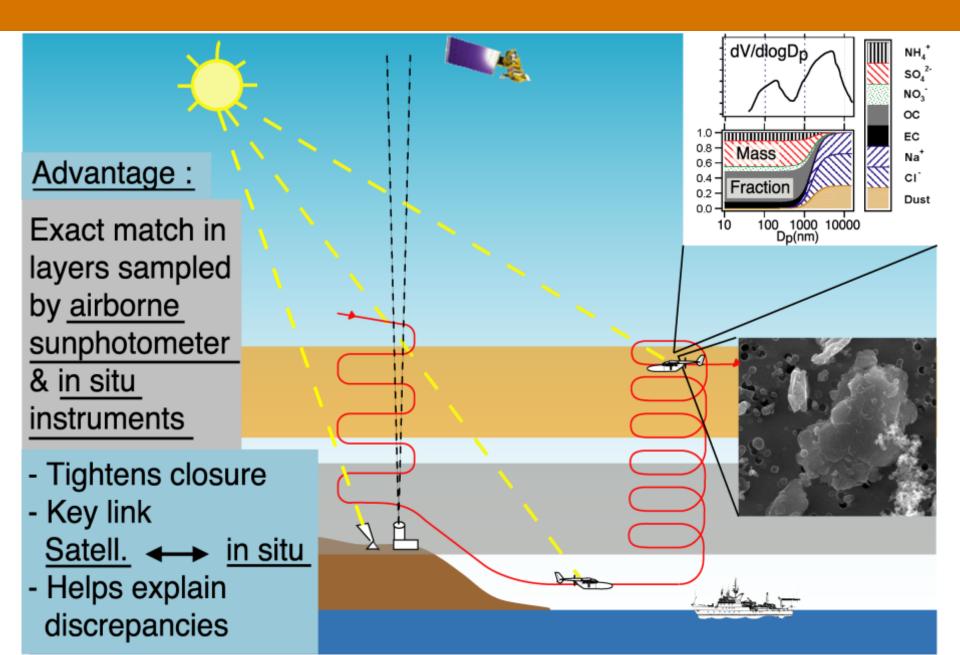
Anticipated 4STAR data products:

Solar Direct Beam

- Atmospheric Transmittance
- Aerosol Optical Depth and Ångstrom exponent
- Aerosol Extinction (via aircraft vertical profiling)
- Gases: H₂O, O₃, NO₂, CO₂ (column and in profile)
- Angularly-resolved sky radiance inversions
 - Scattering phase function, asymmetry parameter
 - Aerosol size distributions, fine/coarse mode fraction
 - Aerosol absorption
 - Aerosol sphericity
- Zenith radiance cloud retrievals
 - Cloudy/clear transition zone (Marshak, Chiu)
 - Cloud Optical Depth, Droplet effective Radius (with auxilliary measurements, Barker et al.)
 - Water vapor, liquid water, ice water fractionation (Daniels et al.)



4STAR and its Use...

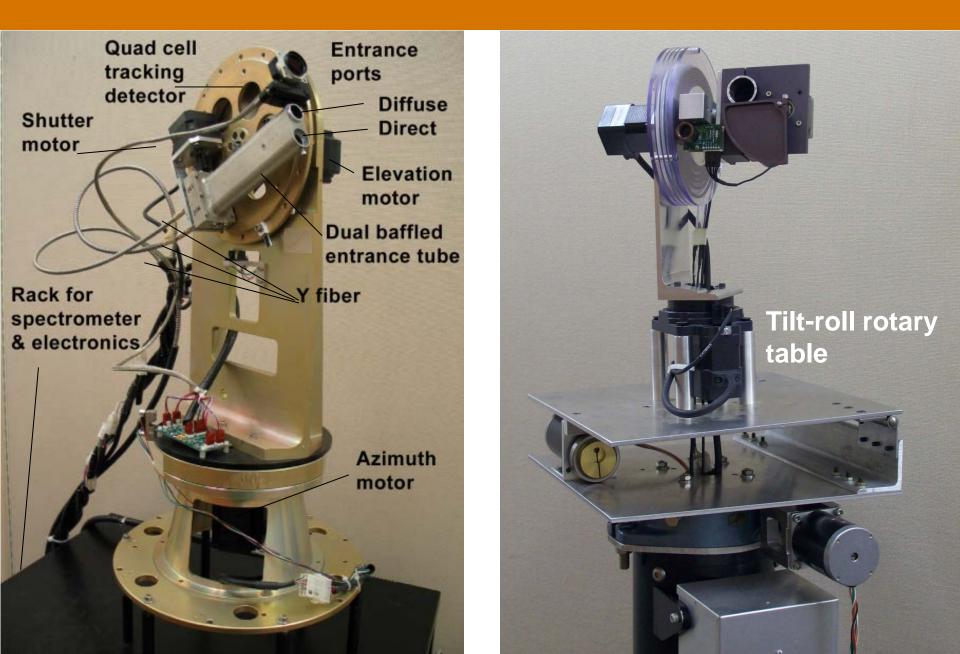


Key Technological Hurdles

- Sun tracking across pressure differential
- Fiber optic couplings with <1% calibration stability (Connections/Rotation)
- Irradiance calibration to 1% over a period of months.
- Radiance calibration to a few percent.
- Stray light rejection: measure skylight down to within 3° of sun
- Entrance window contamination
- Sky scan within 100 seconds (10 km in flight)
- Stray light inside spectrometers



Ground Prototypes (4STAR-G)

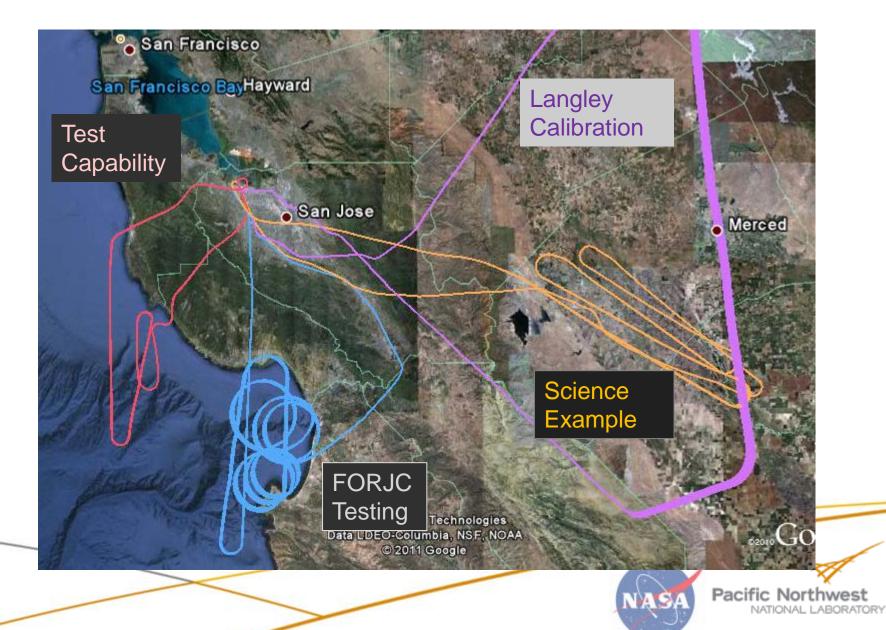


Aircraft Integration and Flight Testing of 4STAR – supported by ARM AAF

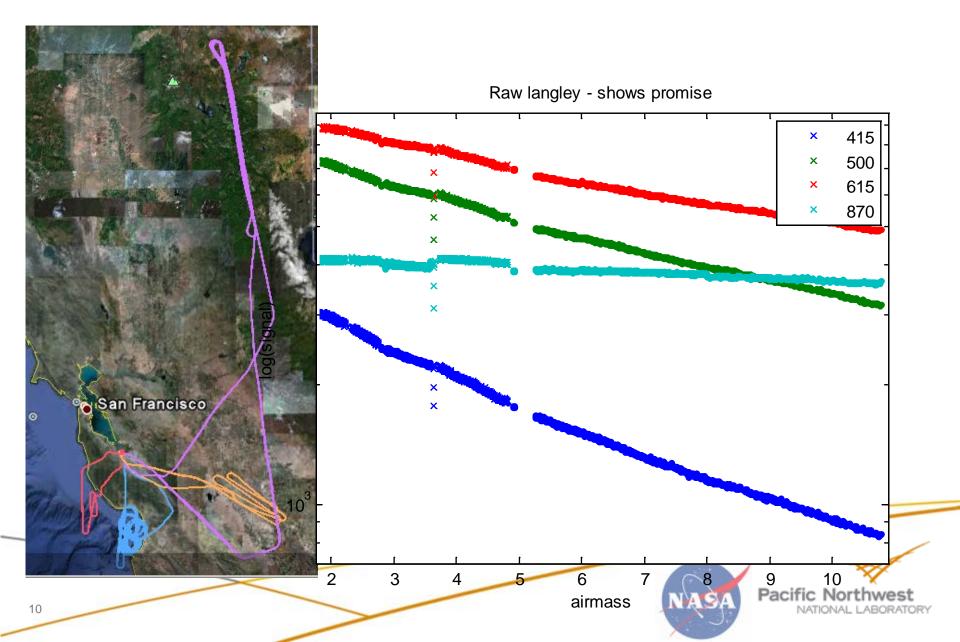
FY 2010: Aircraft integration, safety flight, pressure seal. Sept 28: 2010: Moffet Field, sun tracking tests, profiling

- Condensation \rightarrow dry air purge
- Apr 14, 2011: Pasco, Sun & Sky
 - Real-time NAV data and ephemeris for tracking recovery
 - Elevation home switch \rightarrow adjust tolerances
 - Light budget issues \rightarrow Improve optics train
- July 11, Ground intensive at Moffett Field
 - Rotational corrections interdependent with FOV and tracking
 - FOV needs to be flat spatially AND spectrally
- Aug 29-31: Moffet Field, test all measurement modes
 - Orbit / spiral tests
 - Langley "calibration" flight demonstrates sensitivity
 - Sun tracking and sky scanning, profiling

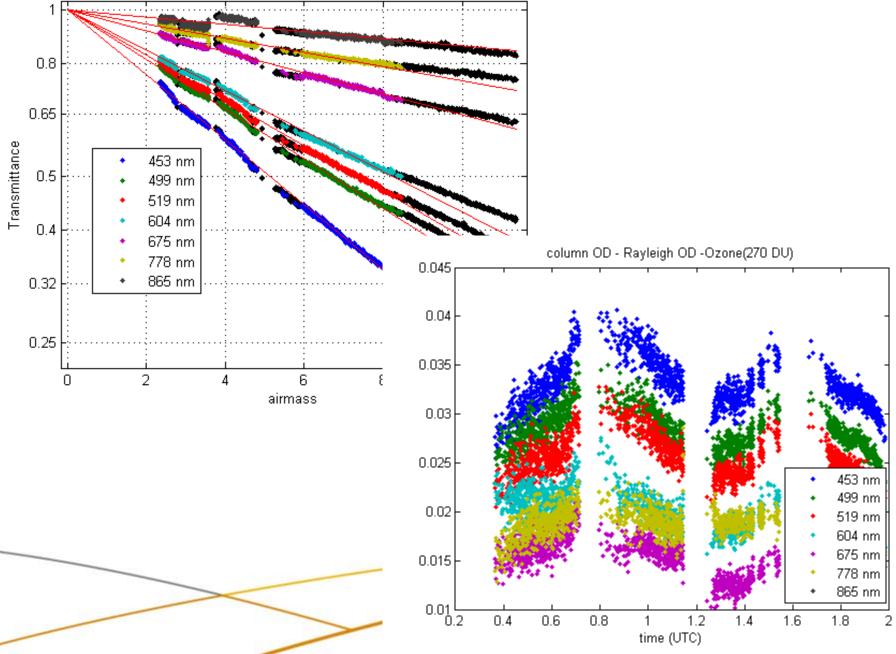
Final flight series Late Aug 2011



Final flight series Late Aug 2011



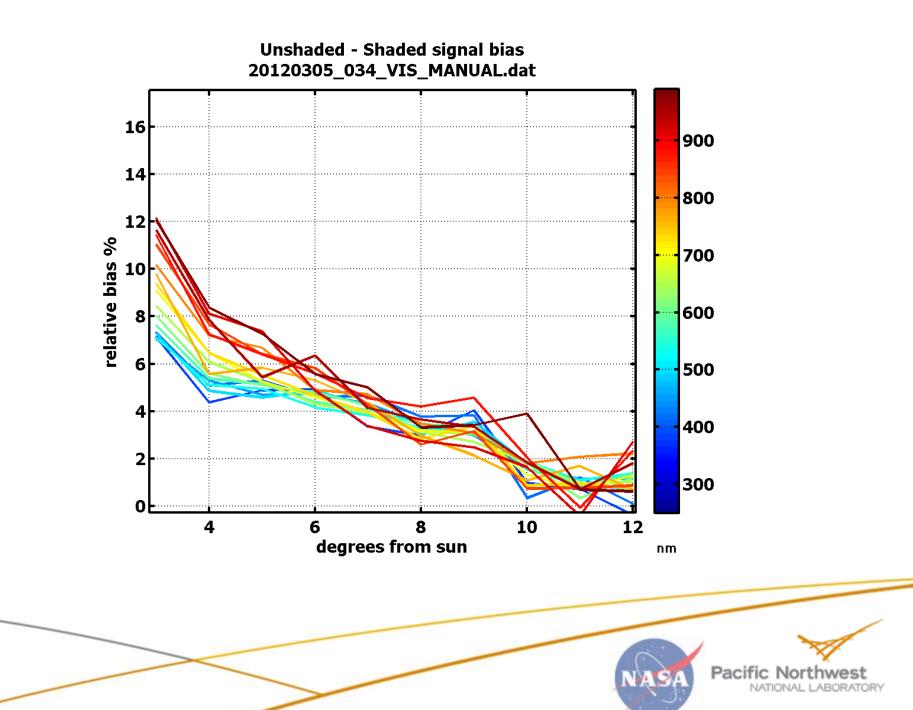




Key Technological Hurdles

- Sun tracking across pressure differential Yes
- Radiance calibration to a few percent. Yes
- Sky scan within 100 seconds (10 km in flight) Yes
- Stray light inside spectrometers Yes
- Fiber optic couplings with <1% calibration stability (Connections/Rotation) Yes*
- Irradiance calibration to 1% over a period of months. Not yet.
- Stray light rejection: measure skylight down to within 3° of sun
- Entrance window contamination





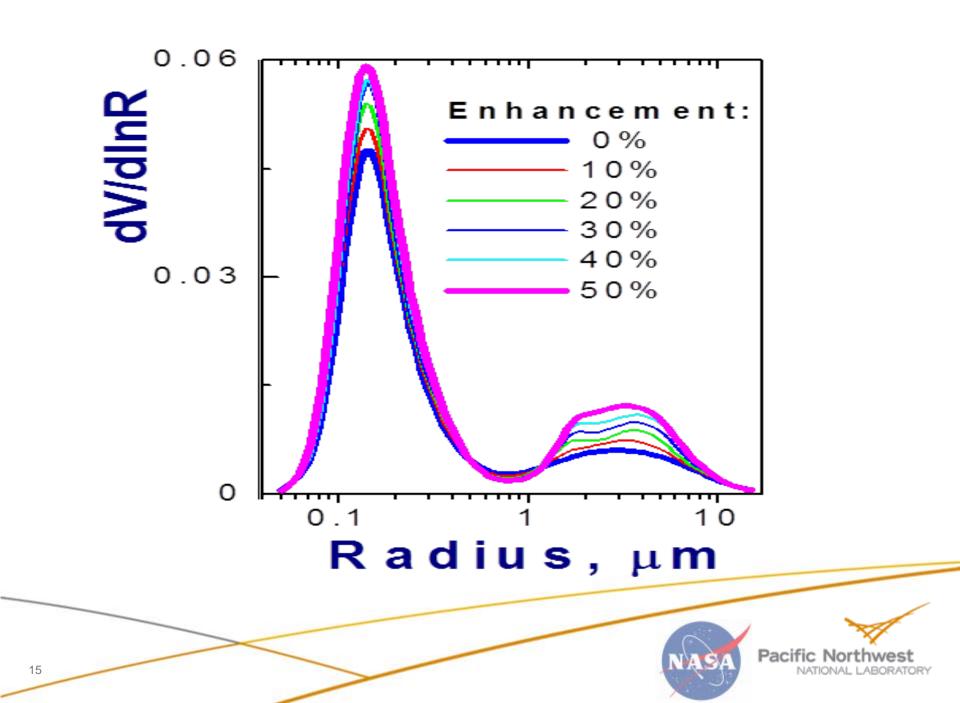
Aerosol Retrievals from 4STAR Observations in Support of TCAP: Sensitivity Tests

Evgueni Kassianov, et al

Modeled impact of sky radiance "enchancement" and "offset" on retrievals of aerosol intensive properties via the Aeronet retrieval code.

Poster session MUST SEE!

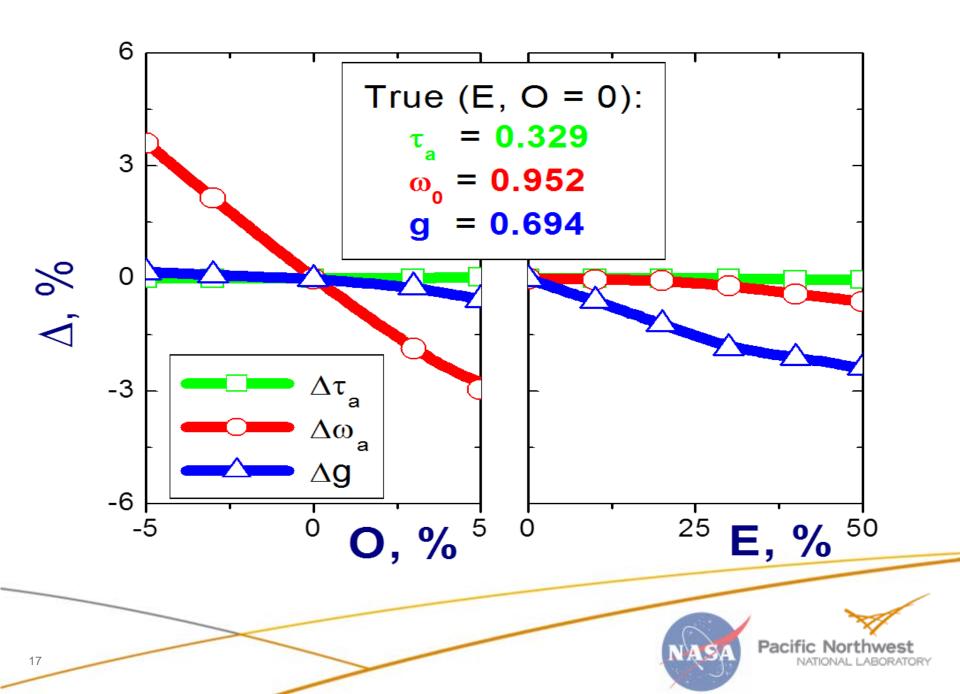




Key Technological Hurdles

- Sun tracking across pressure differential Yes
- Radiance calibration to a few percent. Yes
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- Stray light inside spectrometers Yes
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- Irradiance calibration to 1% over a period of months. Not yet.
- Stray light rejection: measure skylight down to within 3° of sun Yes*
- Entrance window contamination ?





Absolute calibration of both sun barrel and sky barrel is IMPORTANT.

- Continue rotational (FORJC) assessment.
- Solidly assess linearity with integration time.
- Fully characterize spectrometer internal artifacts.
- Radiance cals of 4STAR and Prede at NASA Ames.
- Irradiance cals of 4STAR, Prede, ARM Cimel at MLO.
 - Also provides independent radiance comparison.
- Ground-based comparison of 4STAR, Prede, Cimel at airport before and after flights during TCAP to track relative calibrations in irradiance and radiance.



Meanwhile... retrieval work is in progress.

- Adapt AATS code for direct beam to 4STAR.
- Incorporate real-time AOD and PWV retrievals to instrument display.
- Continue work to adapt the ground-based AERONET retrieval code to flight mode.
- Refine gas phase retrievals. E.g., multi-component linear regression of NO₂,O₃,O₄, H₂O courtesy of Michal Segal Rosenheimer.



Retrieval results from the 440-490 nm spectral range

