

# Potential Future NASA Satellite Data and Applications for Tropical Cyclones

Dan Cecil

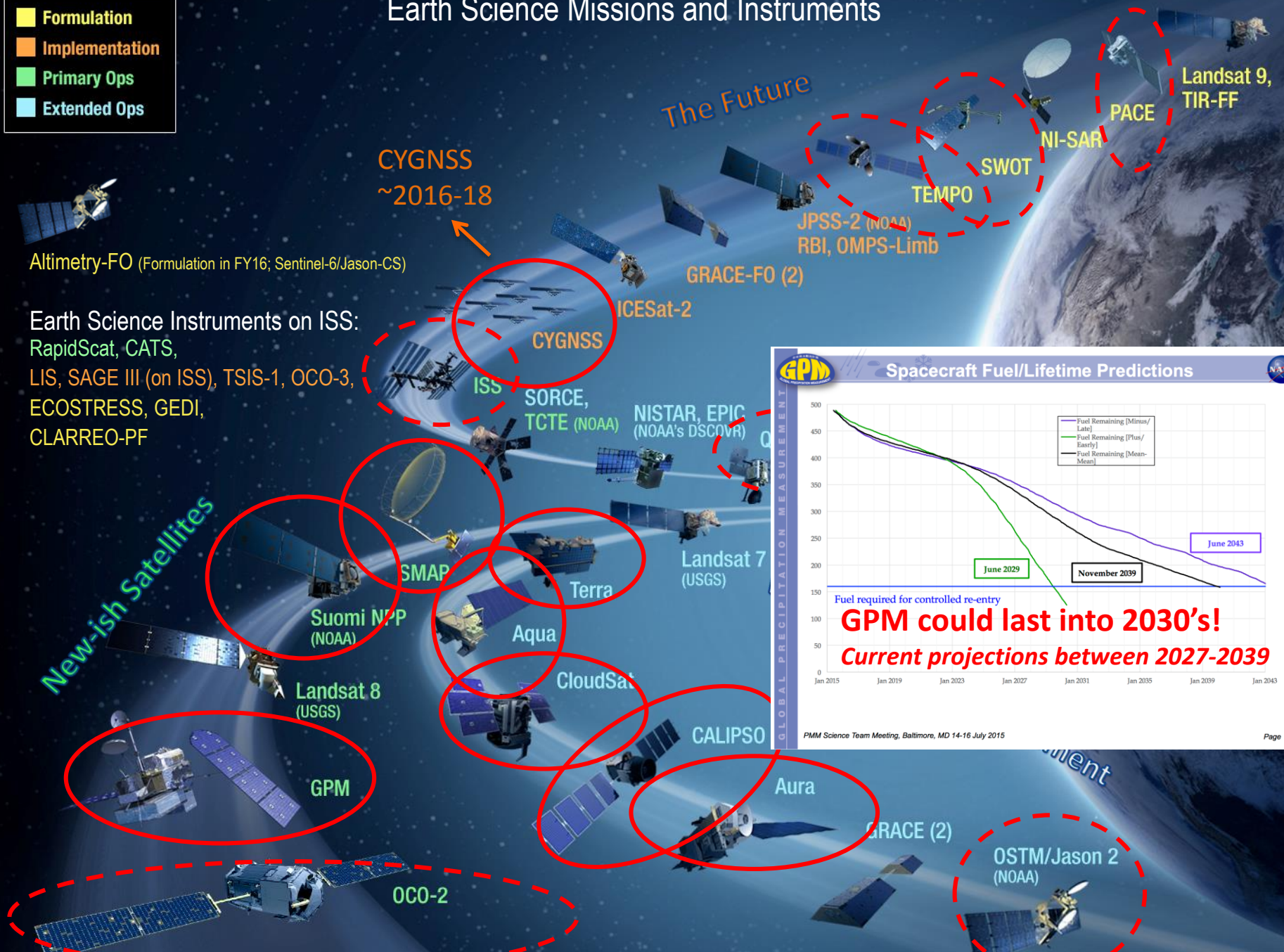
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

[Daniel.J.Cecil@nasa.gov](mailto:Daniel.J.Cecil@nasa.gov)

*With contributions from many others*

# Earth Science Missions and Instruments

- Formulation
- Implementation
- Primary Ops
- Extended Ops



Altimetry-FO (Formulation in FY16; Sentinel-6/Jason-CS)

Earth Science Instruments on ISS:  
 RapidScat, CATS,  
 LIS, SAGE III (on ISS), TSIS-1, OCO-3,  
 ECOSTRESS, GEDI,  
 CLARREO-PF

CYGNSS  
 ~2016-18

The Future

JPSS-2 (NOAA)  
 RBI, OMPS-Limb

PACE  
 Landsat 9,  
 TIR-FF

GRACE-FO (2)

TEMPO

SWOT

NI-SAR

CYGNSS

ISS

SORCE,  
 TCTE (NOAA)

NISTAR, EPIC  
 (NOAA's DSCOVR)

New-ish Satellites

SMAP

Suomi NPP  
 (NOAA)

Landsat 8  
 (USGS)

GPM

Aqua

CloudSat

CALIPSO

Aura

GRACE (2)

OSTM/Jason 2  
 (NOAA)

Landsat 7  
 (USGS)

Terra

Aqua

Suomi NPP

Landsat 8

GPM

Aqua

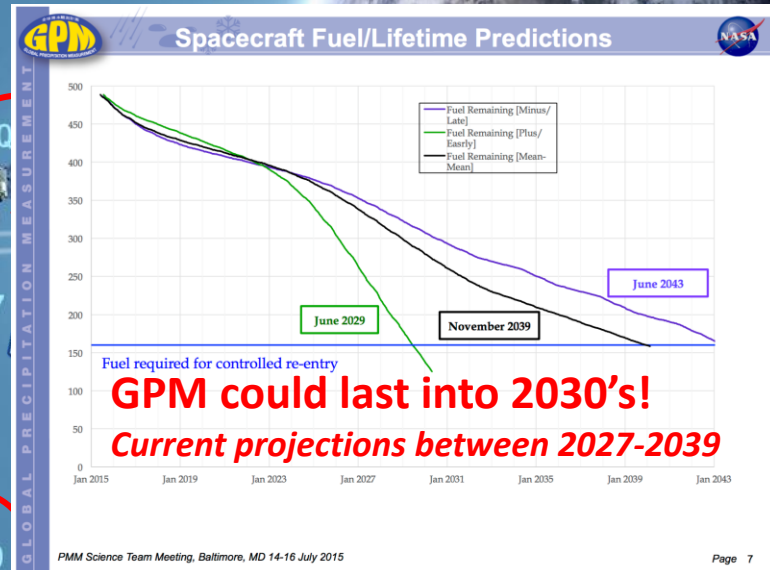
CloudSat

CALIPSO

Aura

GRACE (2)

OSTM/Jason 2



PMM Science Team Meeting, Baltimore, MD 14-16 July 2015

# NASA's Role is Technology Development and Research

*Earth Venture Mission (full satellite missions) competed every 4 years*

- **CYGNSS selected in EVM-1**, launch NET Oct 2016
  - Small sat constellation to measure ocean surface wind speed in hurricanes

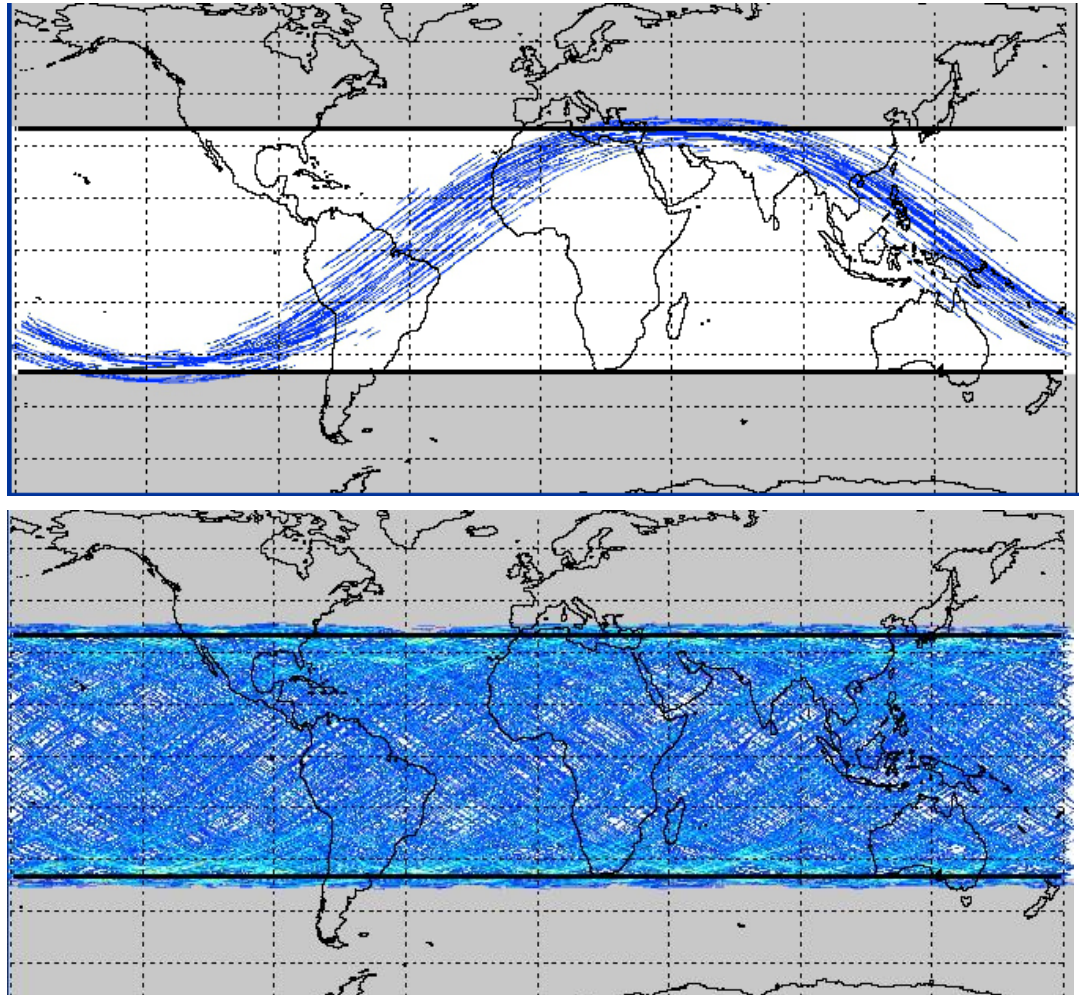
*Earth Venture Instrument (satellite instruments and cubesat missions) competed every 18 months*

- **TROPICS selected in EVI-3**, launch ~2019-ish
  - Cubesat constellation with sounding radiometers to measure thermodynamic and precip structure with frequent (~hourly?) re-visits

Other programs support initial instrument development, testing

# CYGNSS Earth Coverage

- 90 min (one orbit) coverage showing all specular reflection contacts by each of 8 s/c
- 24 hr coverage provides nearly gap free spatial sampling within +/- 35 deg orbit inclination



*Courtesy Chris Ruf, University of Michigan, [cruf@umich.edu](mailto:cruf@umich.edu)*



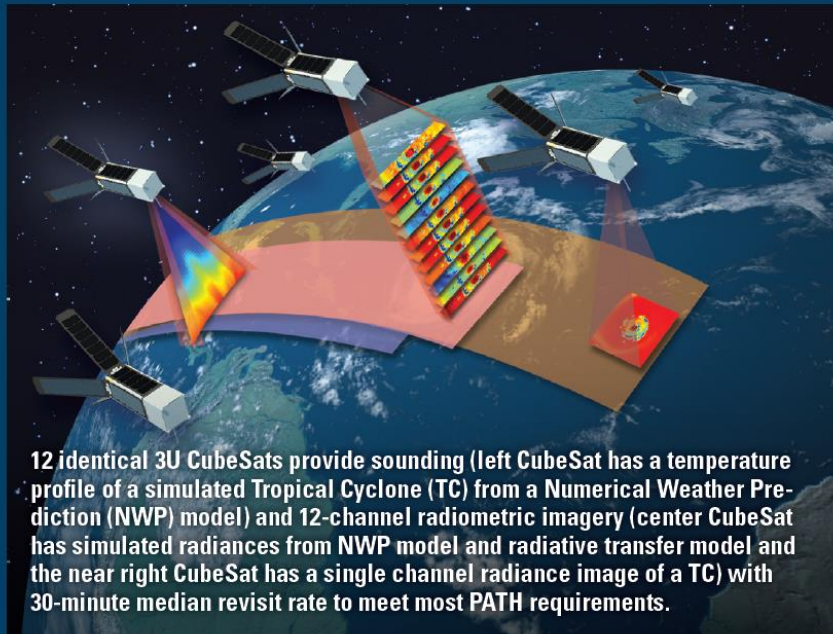
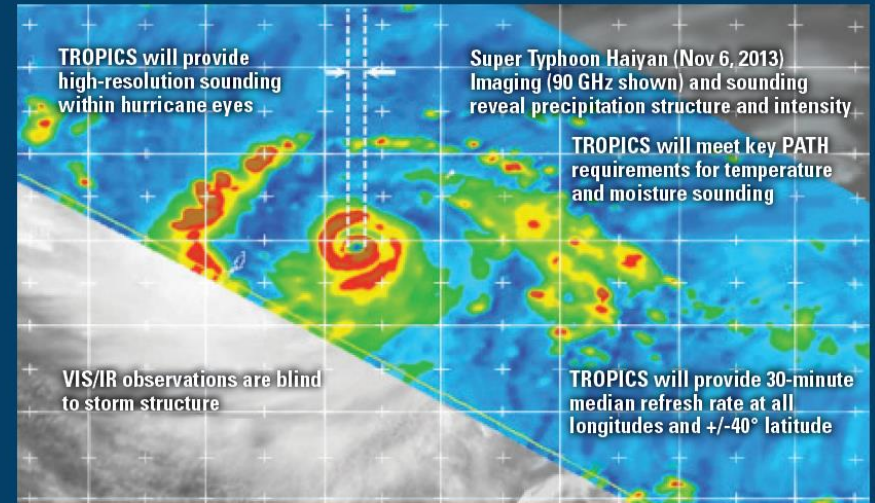
# Time-Resolved Observations of Precipitation structure and storm Intensity with a Constellation of Smallsats

Bill Blackwell, MIT-LL

[wjb@ll.mit.edu](mailto:wjb@ll.mit.edu)

## Science Objectives

- Relate precipitation structure evolution, including diurnal cycle, to the evolution of the upper-level warm core and associated intensity changes
- Relate the occurrence of intense precipitation cores (convective bursts) to storm intensity evolution
- Relate retrieved environmental moisture measurements to coincident measures of storm structure (including size) and intensity
- Assimilate microwave radiances and/or retrievals in mesoscale and global numerical weather prediction models to assess impacts on storm track and intensity



12 identical 3U CubeSats provide sounding (left CubeSat has a temperature profile of a simulated Tropical Cyclone (TC) from a Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) model) and 12-channel radiometric imagery (center CubeSat has simulated radiances from NWP model and radiative transfer model and the near right CubeSat has a single channel radiance image of a TC) with 30-minute median revisit rate to meet most PATH requirements.

## Significance to NASA

- First high-revisit microwave nearly global observations of precipitation, temperature, and humidity
- Fulfills most of PATH Decadal Survey mission objectives using a low-cost, easy-to-launch CubeSat constellation
- Complements GPM, CYGNSS, and GOES-R missions with high refresh, near-all-weather measurements of precipitation and thermodynamic structure
- Increases understanding of critical processes driving significant and rapid changes in storm structure/intensity

# In-Space Validation of Earth Science Technologies (InVEST)

*Not necessarily a complete list:*

- The Microwave Radiometer Technology Acceleration (MiRaTA) CubeSat (Jan 2017, JPSS-1)
- Precipitation Profiling Radar in a CubeSat (RainCube – launch NET Aug 2017)
- Compact Infrared Radiometer in Space (CIRiS)
- CubeSat Infrared Atmospheric Sounder (CIRAS)

# Concepts in Various Stages of Development

- Next slides cover some concepts I'm aware of that are relevant... *not all-inclusive*
- *This does not imply any official endorsement*

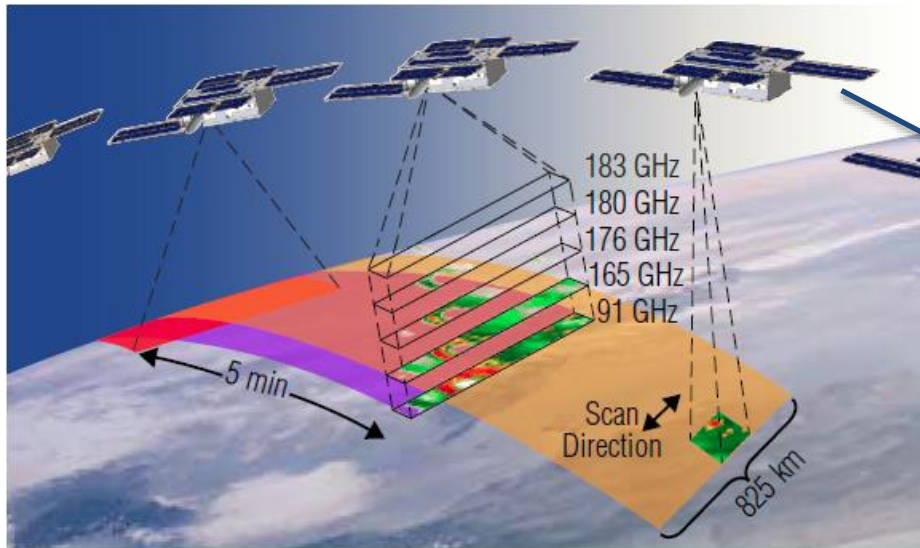
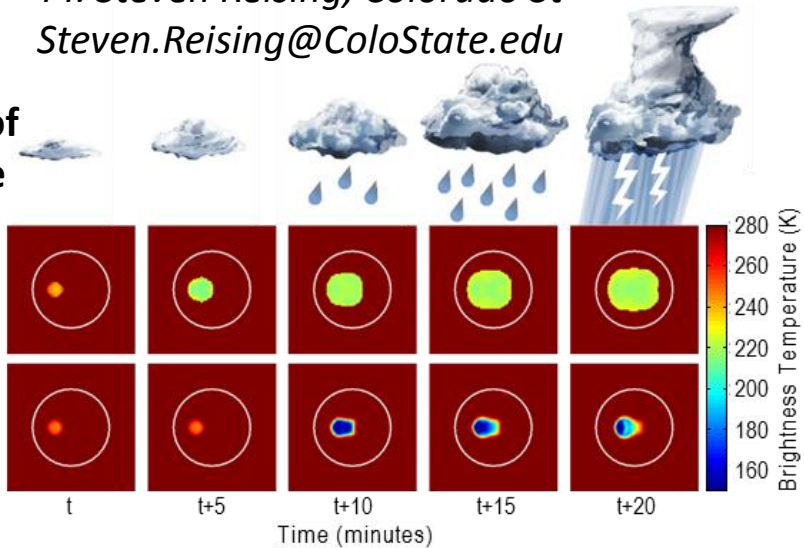
# Temporal Experiment for Storms and Tropical Systems (TEMPEST)

PI: Steven Reising, Colorado St  
 Steven.Reising@ColoState.edu

## BENEFITS AND STRENGTHS

- First global observations of time evolution of precipitation
- Low-cost approach using 6U-Class satellites
- Unique data sets to enable improved weather and climate prediction models
- Significant impacts on agricultural forecasting, forest management and disaster preparedness
- Experienced collaborative team: Colorado State University (CSU), Caltech JPL and BCT

Temporal evolution of convective system



5 identical 6U CubeSats, each with an identical 5-channel radiometer, flying 5 minutes apart



MASC prototype (S. Padmanabhan)





# RainCube and MASC

**RainCube & MASC** are instruments developed at JPL for deployment in **6U CubeSats**.

They will enable **affordable LEO constellations** to observe **cloud and precipitation processes** as they evolve at the timescales needed to validate and improve weather and climate models.

## RainCube

- nadir-pointing Ka-band precipitation radar (35.7 GHz)
- novel architecture to achieve the required sensitivity with low-power radar electronics that fit in 2U
- High performance pulse compression to reduce surface clutter contamination and achieve sensitivity and range resolution.
- Lightweight Deployable antenna stows in 1.5 U (not included in airborne version, replaced by a horn-lens antenna).

## MASC (Microwave Atmospheric Sounder on CubeSat)

- 8 channel mm-wave radiometer (4 channels near 118GHz, 4 channels near 183 GHz)
- Cross-track scanning ( $\pm 50^\circ$ )

MASC POC: *Sharmila Padmanabhan, JPL*  
*Sharmila.Padmanabhan@jpl.nasa.gov*

## Ongoing Developments for next decade:

*Scanning Doppler radars in low earth orbit, to provide a swath of precipitation and vertical motion with acceptable (a few km) horizontal resolution*

Both operated successfully on the NASA DC-8 for their first airborne test and demonstration during PECAN (Jun. 28 – Jul. 11, 2015)

*Courtesy Simone Tanelli, JPL*  
*simone.tanelli@jpl.nasa.gov*



# Hurricane Imaging Radiometer

Dual-polarization version of HIRAD to measure wind speed and direction from Low Earth Orbit

Want to develop airborne version of this capability first, then LEO

POC: Dan Cecil, NASA MSFC,  
[Daniel.J.Cecil@nasa.gov](mailto:Daniel.J.Cecil@nasa.gov)

(HIE)

