

# Building a Multi-Channel Hail Climatology in the GPM Domain

**Dr. Sarah D. Bang**

NASA Postdoctoral Program, Marshall Space Flight Center

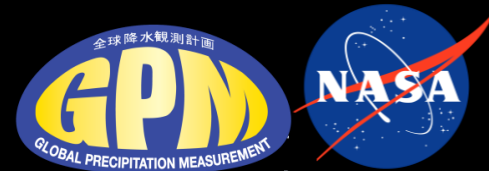
**Dr. Daniel J. Cecil**

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Huntsville, AL USA



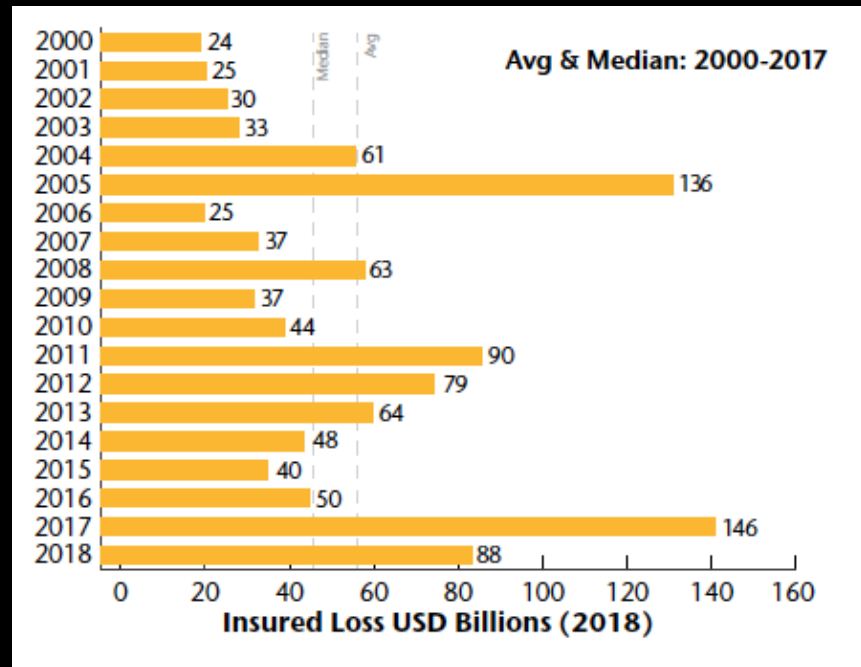
EGU General Assembly • Vienna, Austria



# Hail Damage and Threat

Annual insured losses due to severe weather average at \$66 Billion (€58Billion) since 2008

- (in the US) Hail accounts for ~70% of this loss



Aon, Weather, Climate, and Catastrophe Insight  
(2018 Annual Report)

# Observing Hail

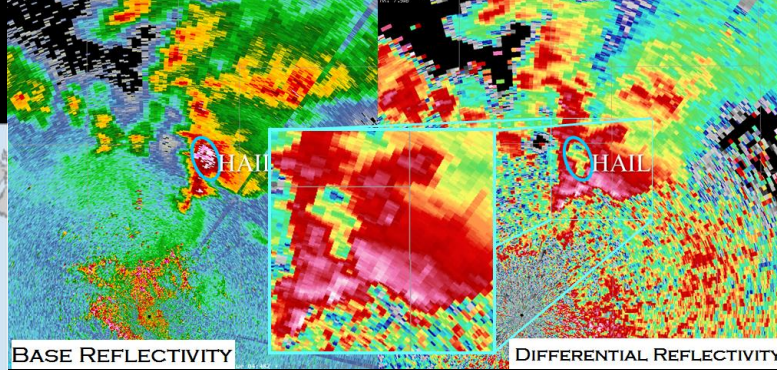
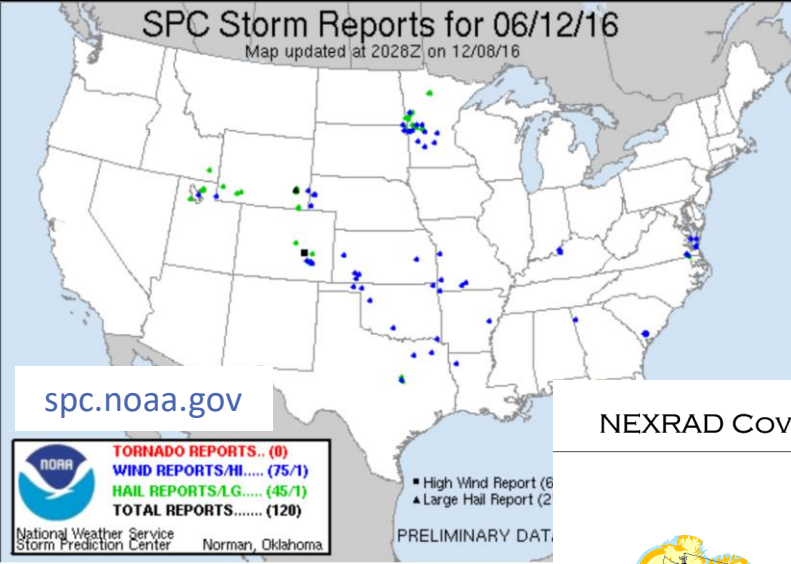
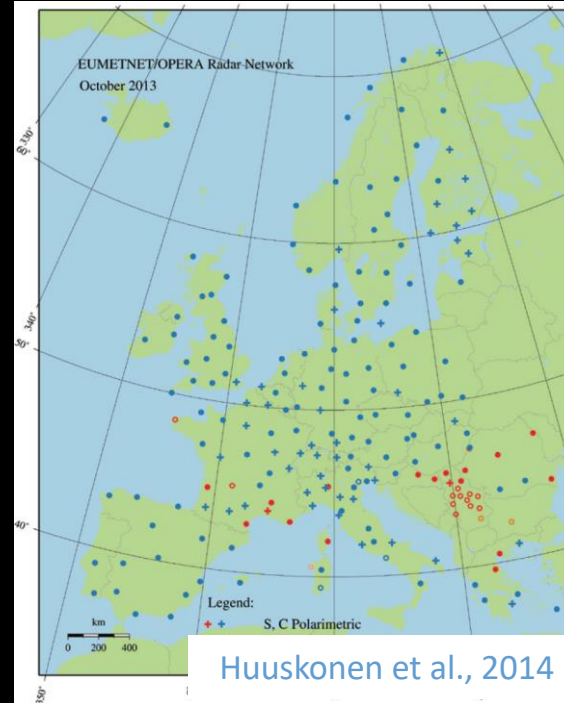
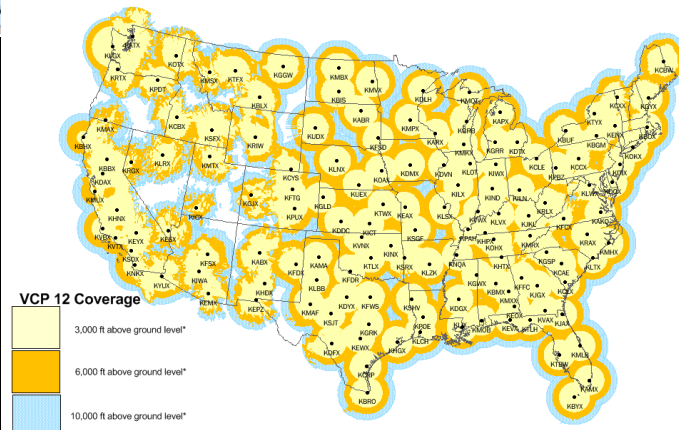


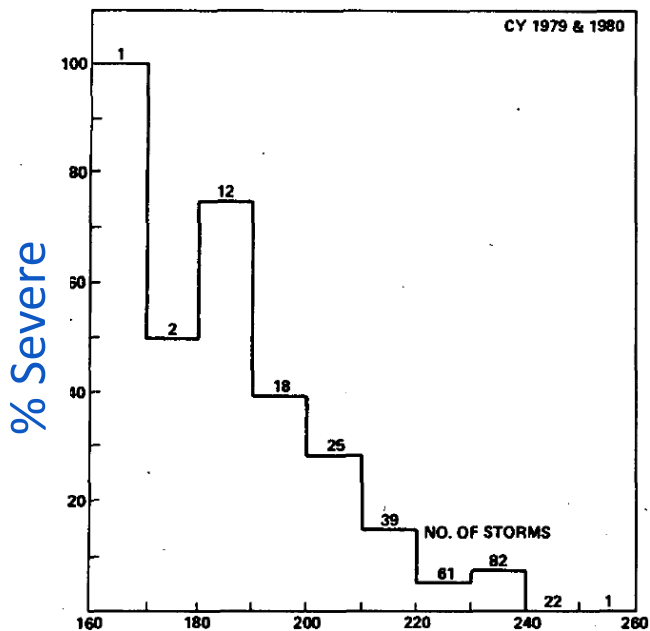
Image courtesy of  
NWS Birmingham  
and the Warning  
Decision Training  
Branch

## NEXRAD COVERAGE BELOW 10,000 FEET AGL



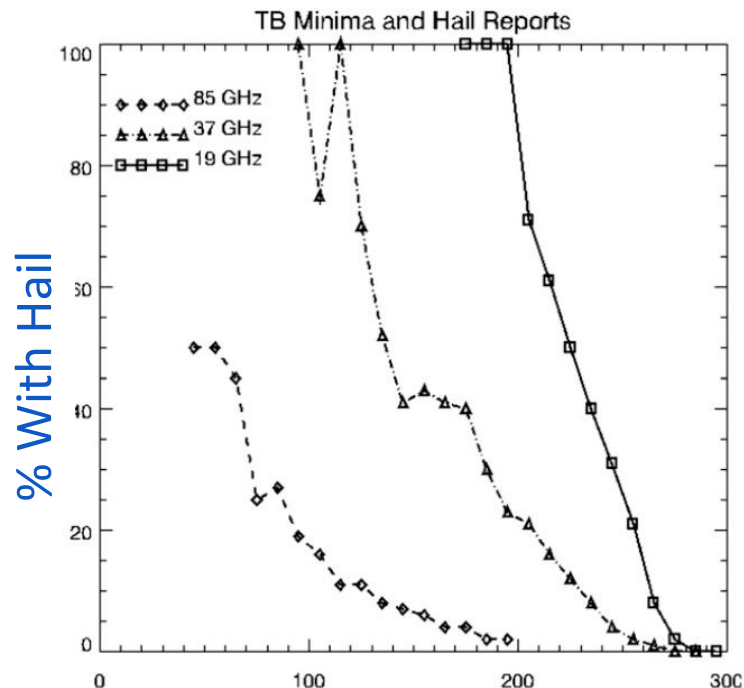
Huuskonen et al., 2014

# Observing Hail



Minimum 37 GHz  $T_b$

Spencer et al., 1987



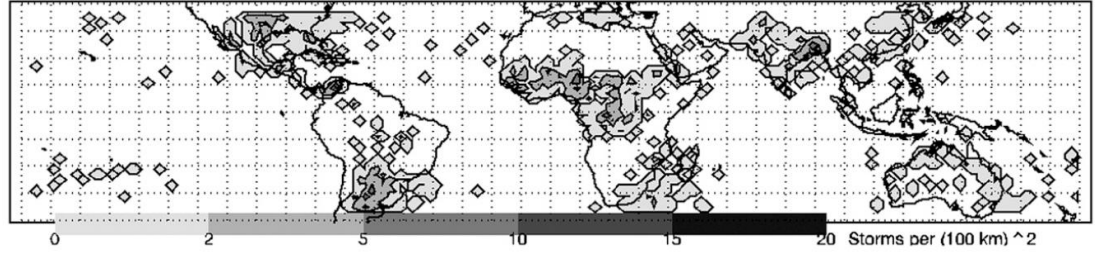
% With Hail

Minimum 37 GHz  $T_b$

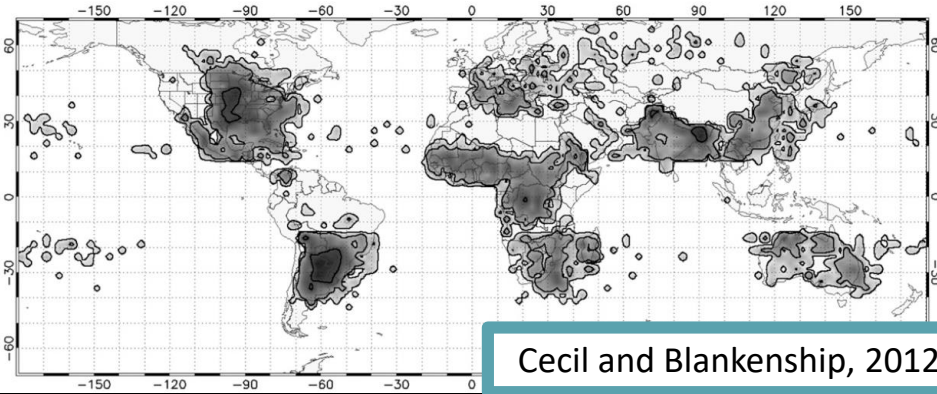
Cecil, 2009



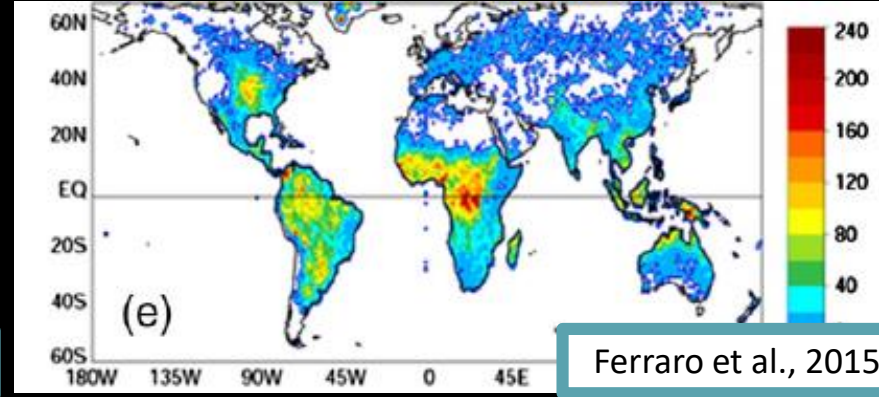
Top 0.01% Min 37 GHz PCT, <180 K, 1998-2007  
2x2 grid, Annual, 1-Hourly sampling assumed



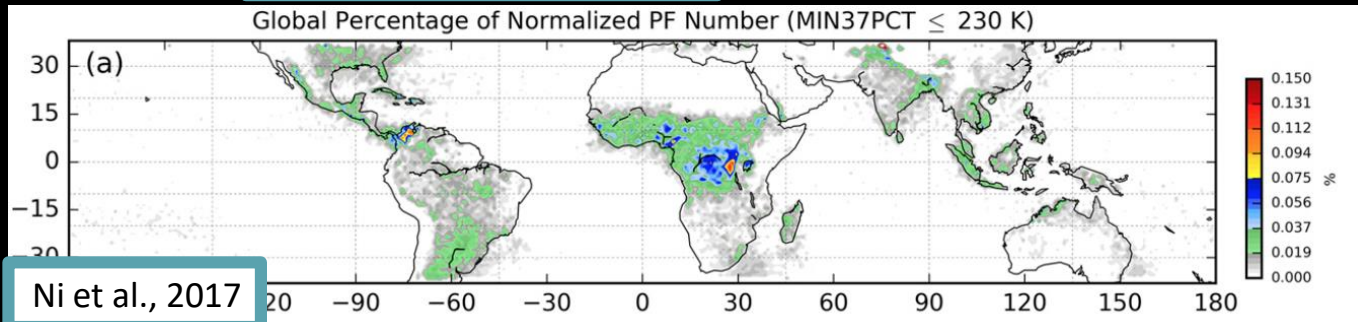
# Satellite-Based Hail Climatologies



Cecil and Blankenship, 2012

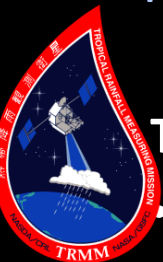
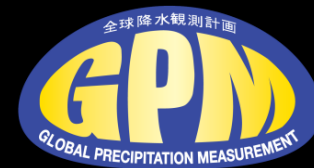


Ferraro et al., 2015



Ni et al., 2017

# NASA's TRMM & GPM Missions



## Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission

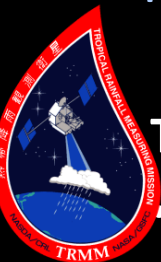
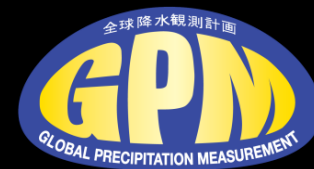
- TRMM Precipitation Radar (PR)
  - Ku-band (13.8 GHz)
- TRMM Microwave Imager (TMI)
  - 9-channels, 10-85 GHz

## Global Precipitation Measurement

- Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR)
  - Ka-/Ku-band (35.5/13.6 GHz)
- GPM Microwave Imager (GMI)
  - 13-channels 10-183 GHz

Hou et al., 2014

# NASA's TRMM & GPM Missions

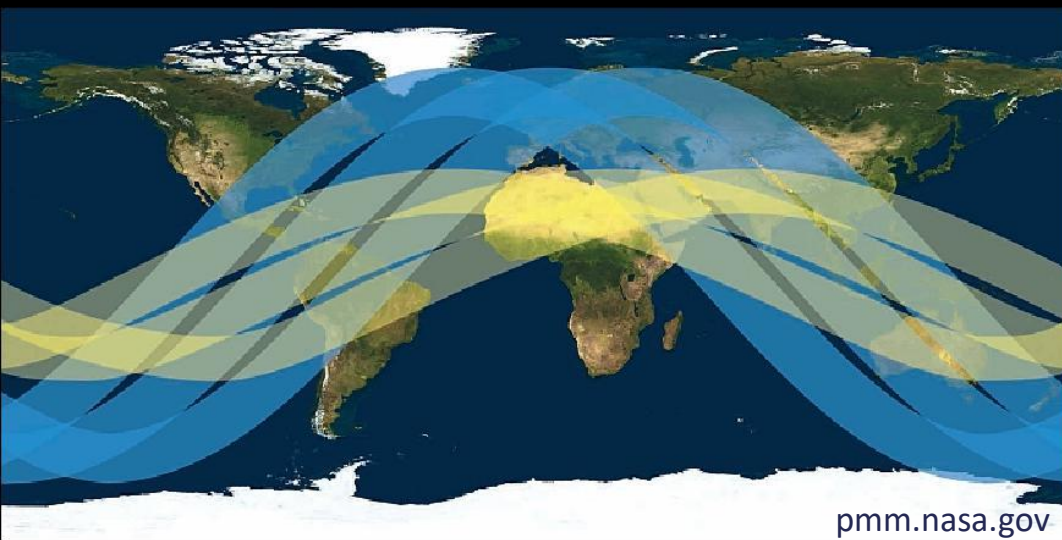


## Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission

- TRMM Precipitation Radar (PR)
  - Ku-band (13.8 GHz)
- TRMM Microwave Imager (TMI)
  - 9-channels, 10-85 GHz

## Global Precipitation Measurement

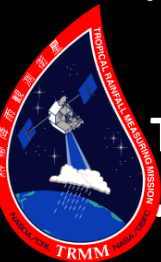
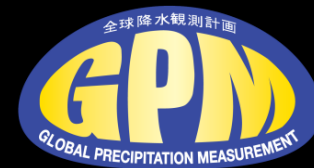
- Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR)
  - Ka-/Ku-band (35.5/13.6 GHz)
- GPM Microwave Imager (GMI)
  - 13-channels 10-183 GHz



Hou et al., 2014

Summary provided by  
Stephanie Wingo, NASA MSFC

# NASA's TRMM & GPM Missions



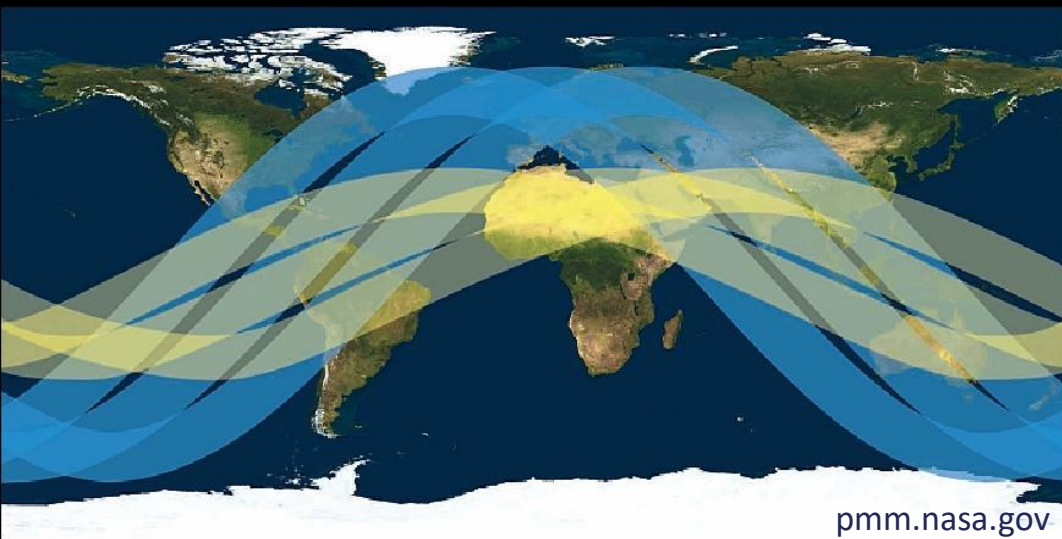
## Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission

- TRMM Precipitation Radar (PR)
  - Ku-band (13.8 GHz)
- TRMM Microwave Imager (TMI)
  - 9-channels, 10-85 GHz

## Global Precipitation Measurement

- Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR)
  - Ka-/Ku-band (35.5/13.6 GHz)
- GPM Microwave Imager (GMI)
  - 13-channels 10-183 GHz
- Constellation Partners:
  - JAXA, NOAA, DOD, EUMETSAT, CNES, ISRO
  - Cross-calibrate passive microwave observations
- <4 hourly global resolution?

Hou et al., 2014



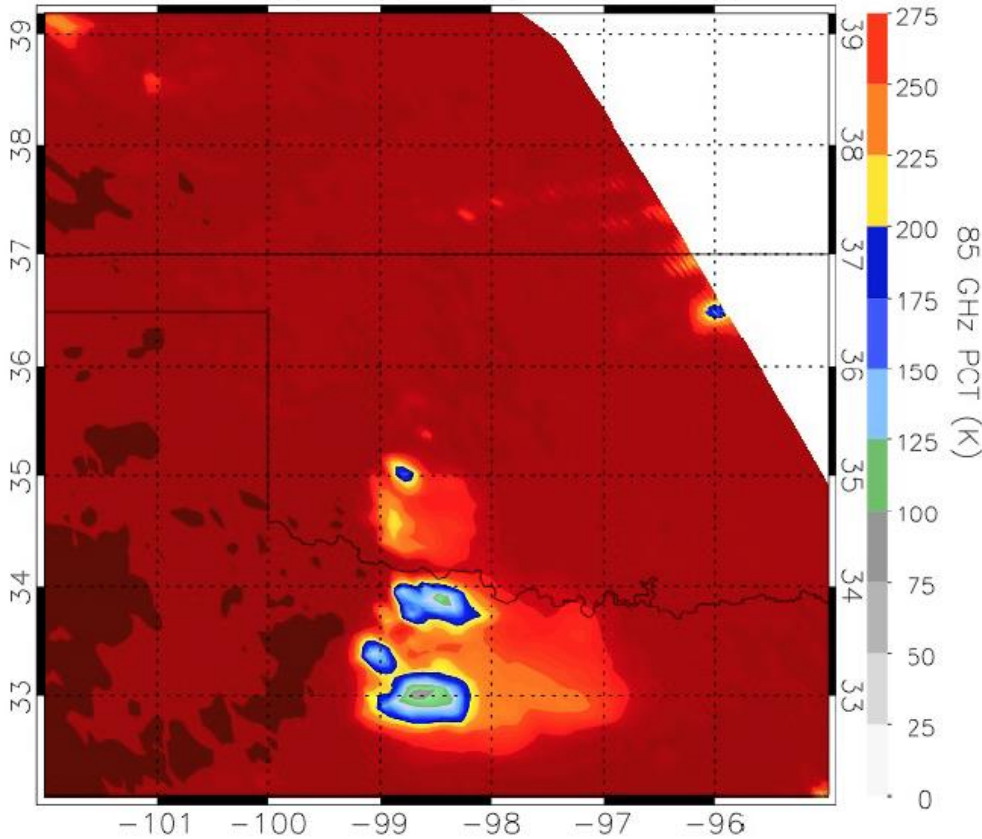
Summary provided by  
Stephanie Wingo, NASA MSFC



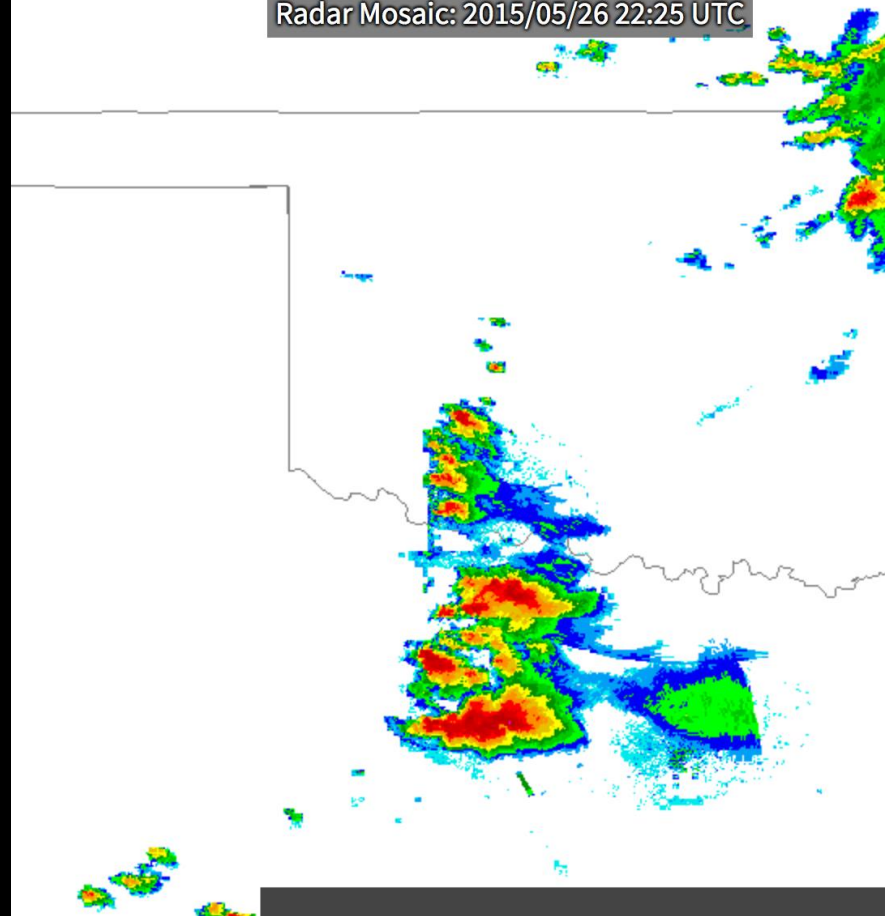
# TRMM PCTFs

GPM 85 GHz Brightness Temperature  
222405 UTC

-101 -100 -99 -98 -97 -96



Radar Mosaic: 2015/05/26 22:25 UTC



Vienna, Austria

 **NOAA** National Centers for  
Environmental Information

NCEI Map Application - Version 2.2.0 [December 2018]  
Radar Data Map

# 37GHz Minimum $T_b$ (PCT) and Hail

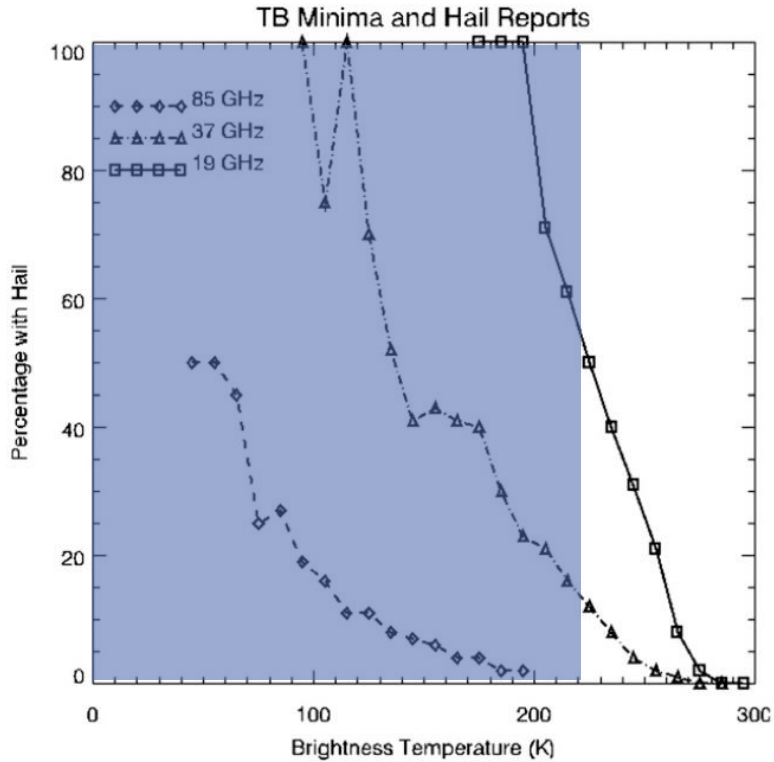


FIG. 2. Percentage of brightness temperature local minima associated with hail reports.

# 37GHz Minimum $T_b$ (PCT) and Hail

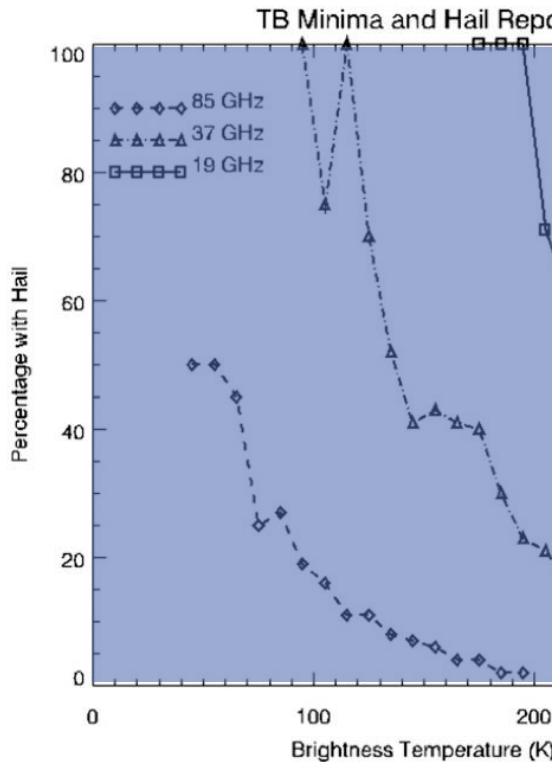
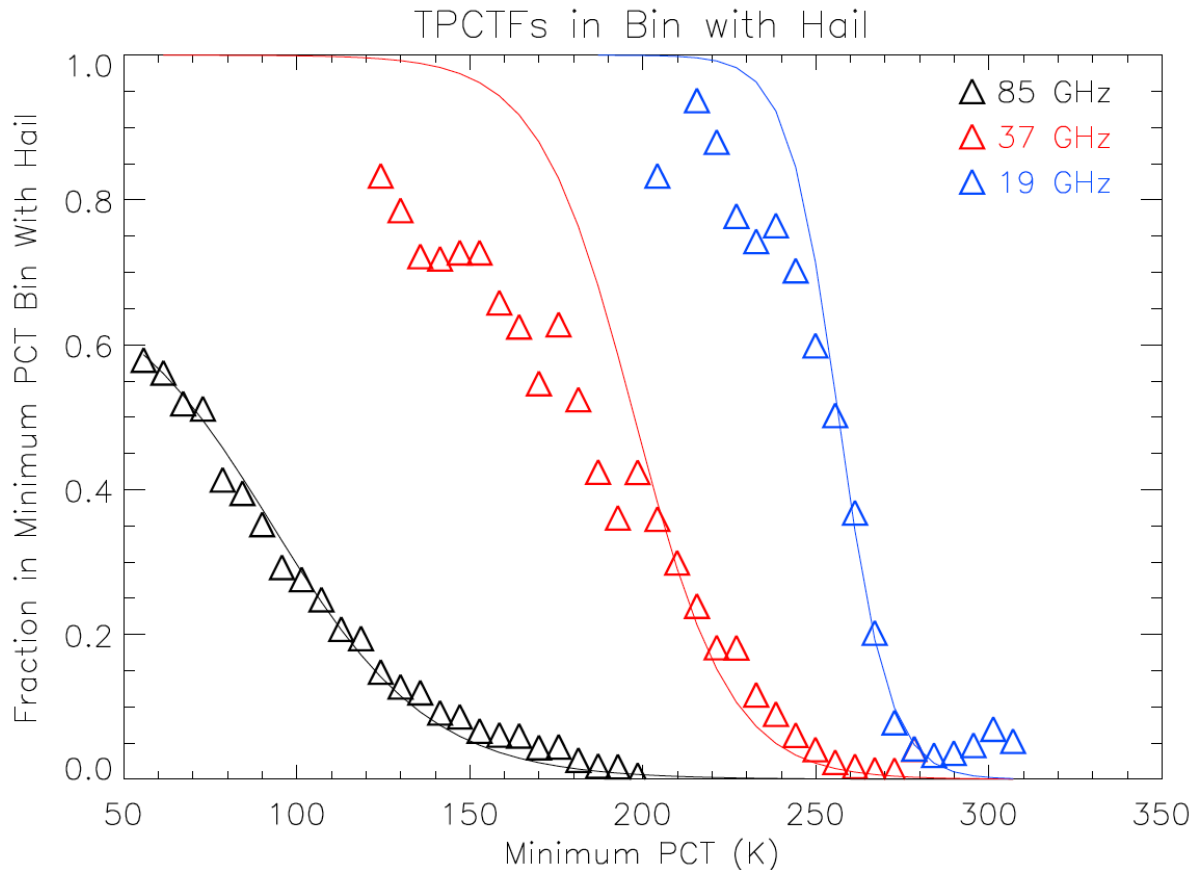
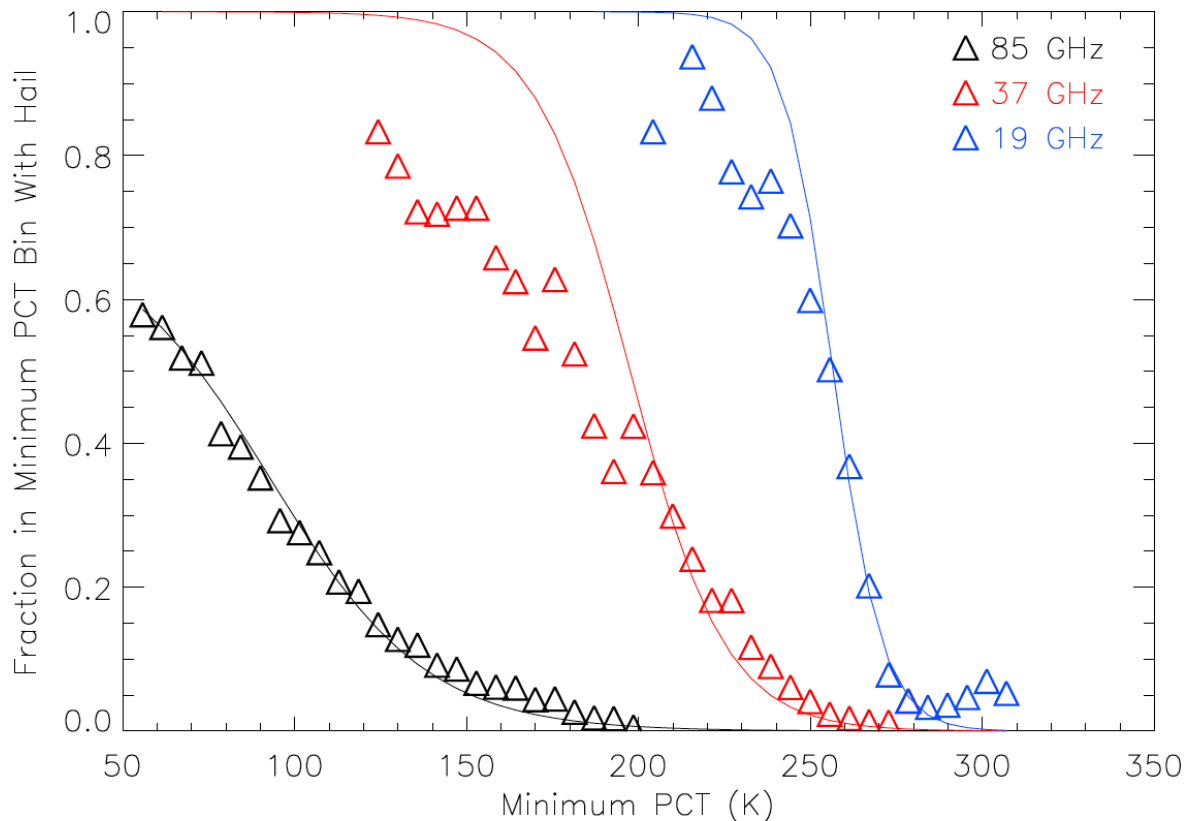


FIG. 2. Percentage of brightness temperature minima associated with hail reports.



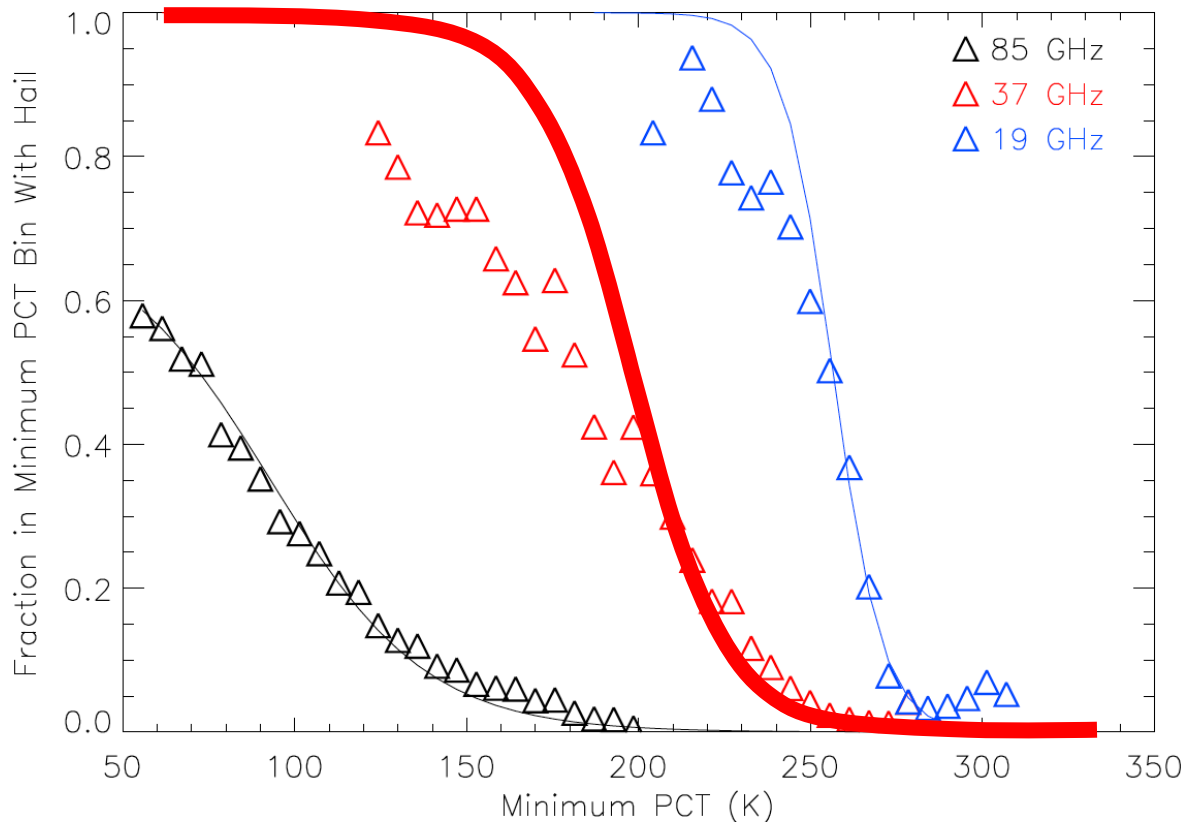
# 37GHz Minimum $T_b$ and Hail

TPCTFs in Bin with Hail



# 37GHz Minimum $T_b$ and Hail

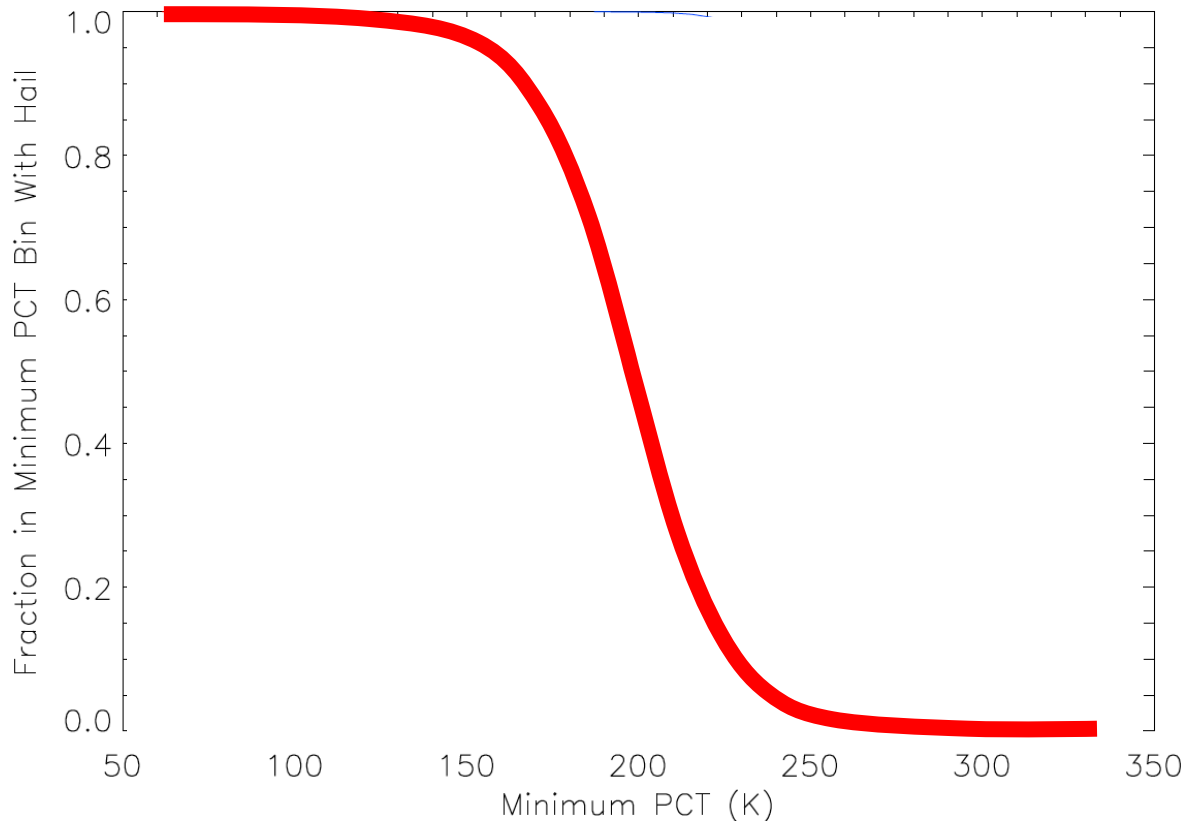
TPCTFs in Bin with Hail





# 37GHz Minimum $T_b$ and Hail

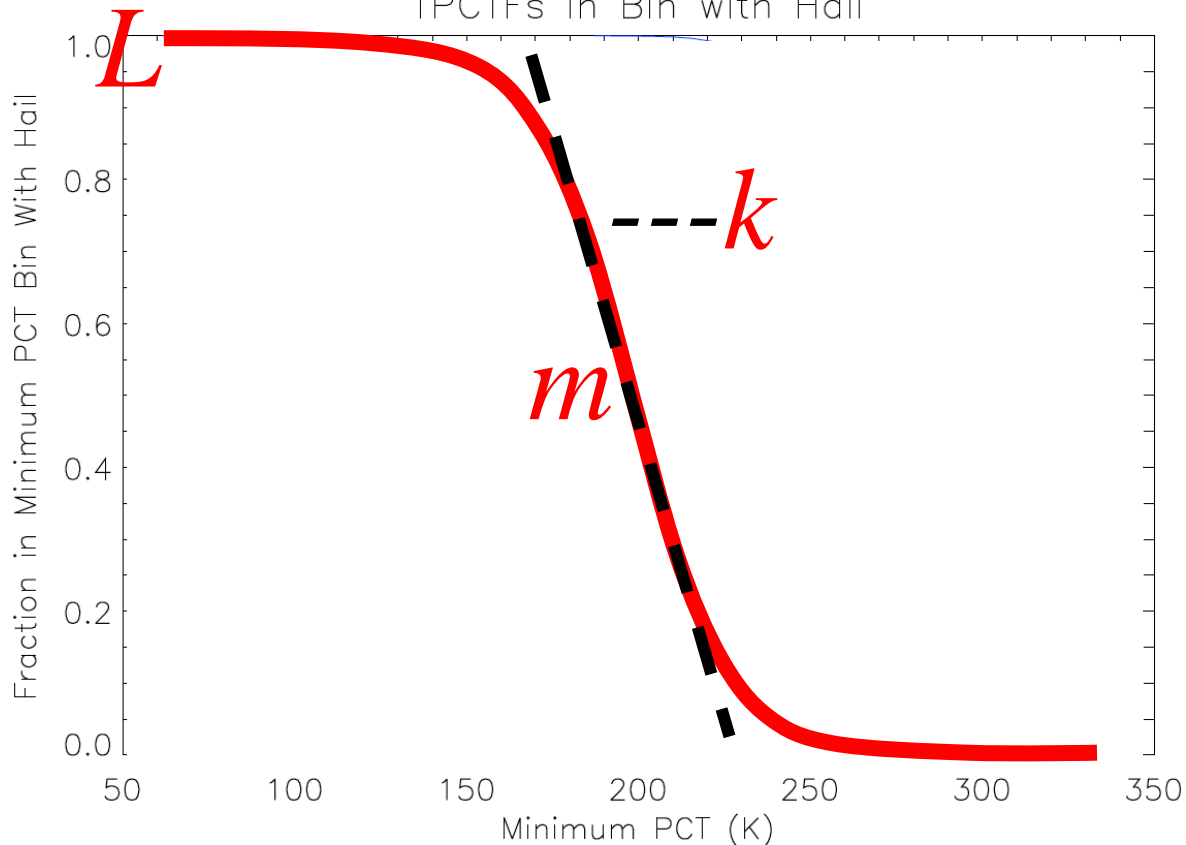
TPCTFs in Bin with Hail



$$f(x) = \frac{L}{1 + e^{-k(x-m)}}$$

# 37GHz Minimum $T_b$ and Hail

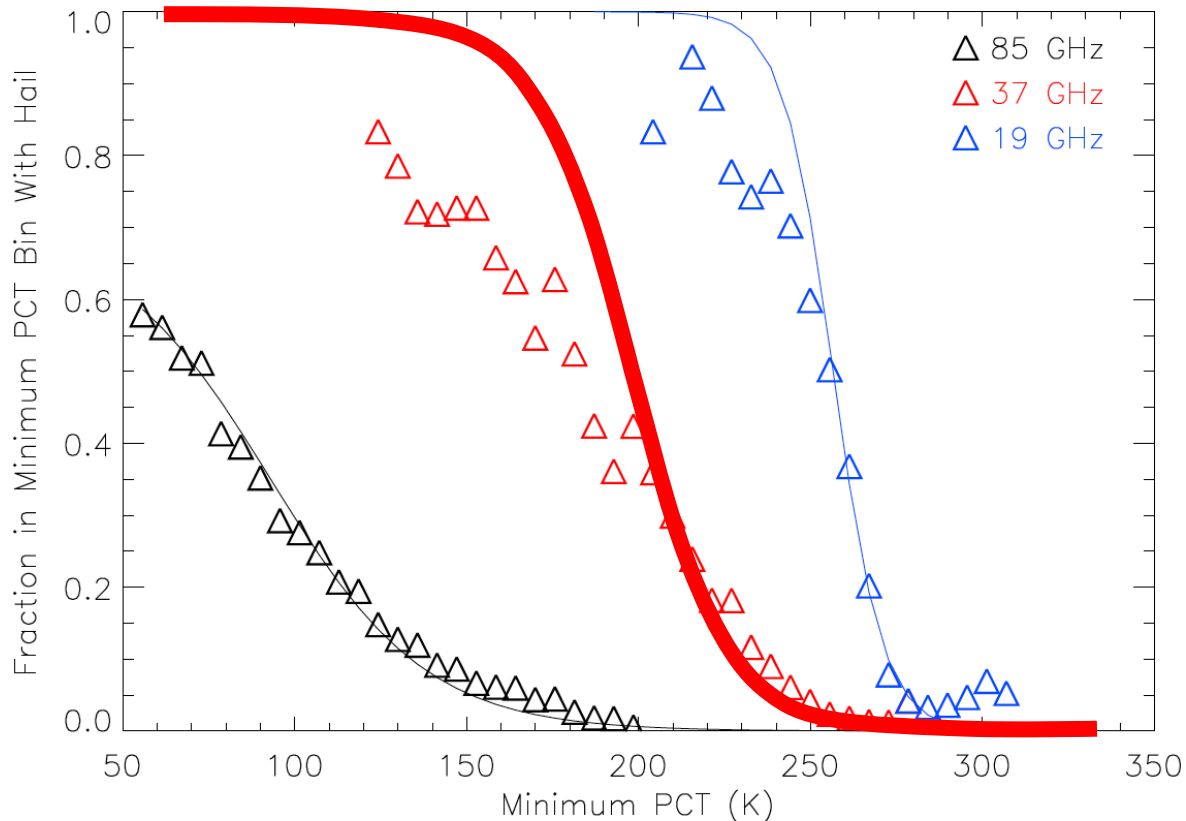
TPCTFs in Bin with Hail



$$f(x) = \frac{L}{1 + e^{-k(x-m)}}$$

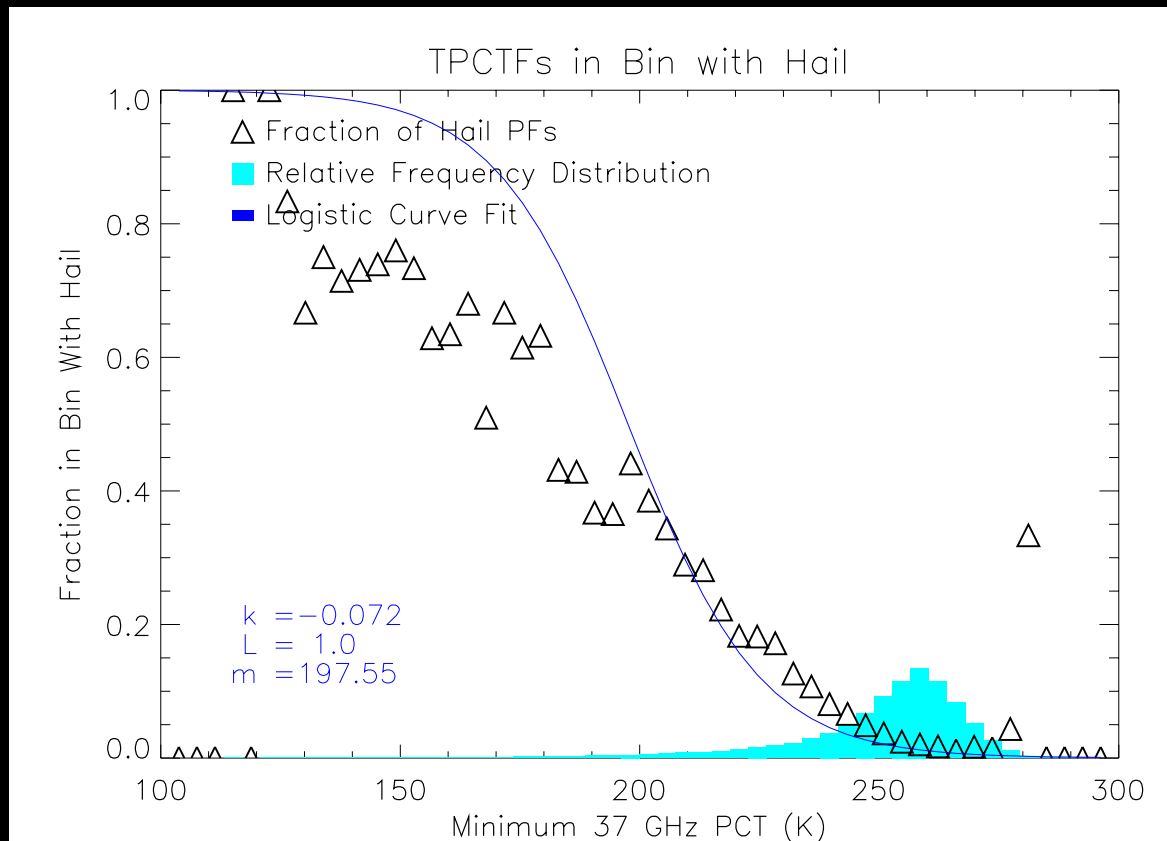
# 37GHz Minimum $T_b$ and Hail

TPCTFs in Bin with Hail

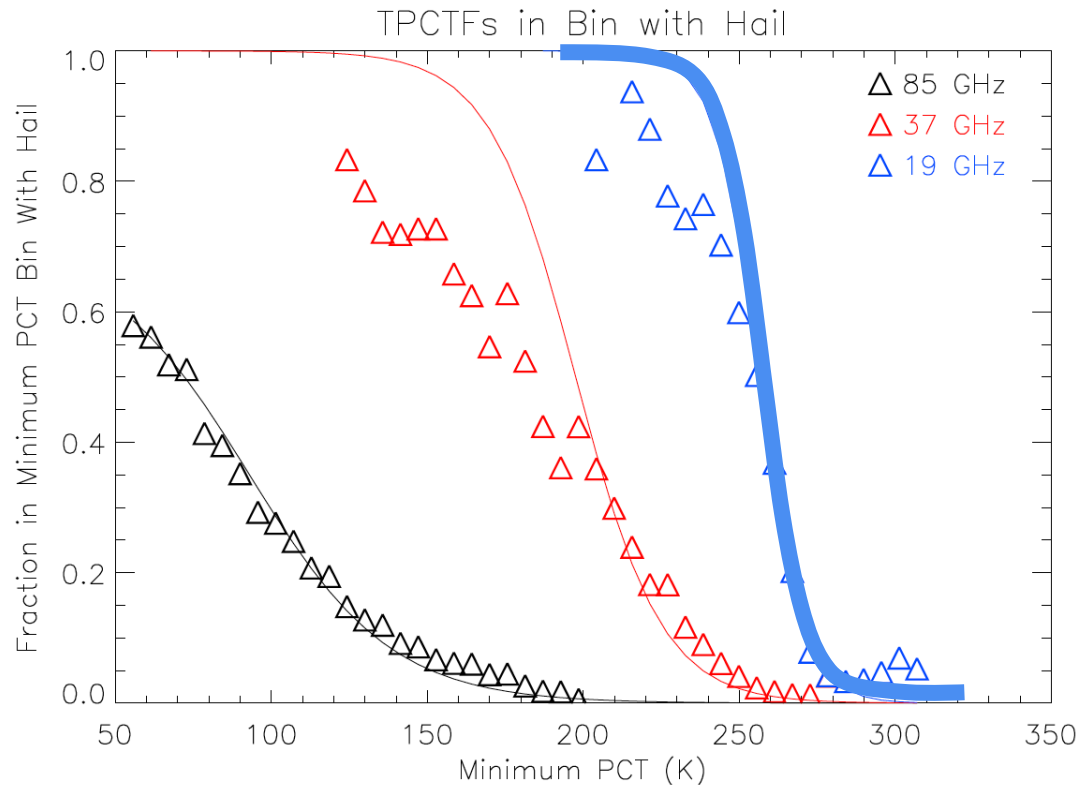


$$f(x) = \frac{L}{1 + e^{-k(x-m)}}$$

# Probability of Hail with Minimum 37 GHz PCT

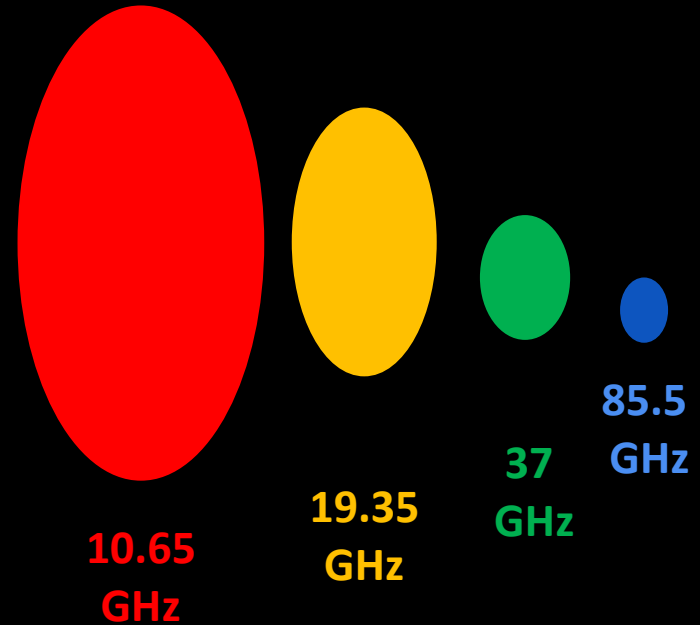
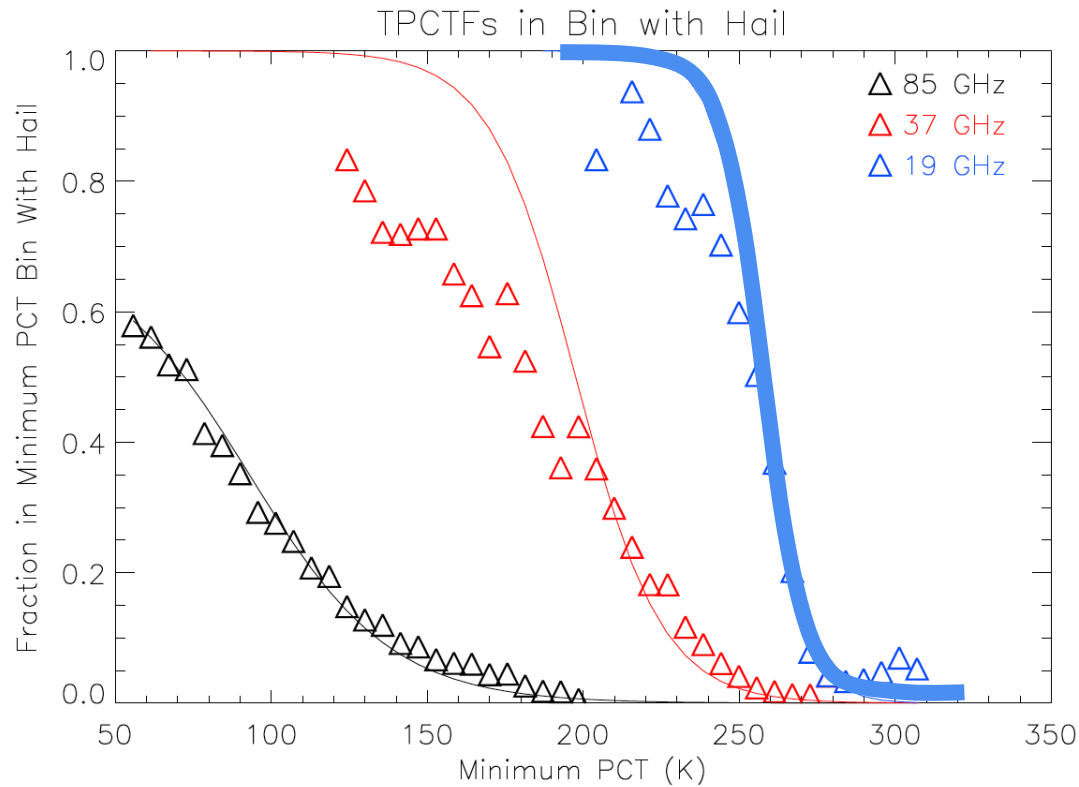


# 19GHz Minimum $T_b$ and Hail

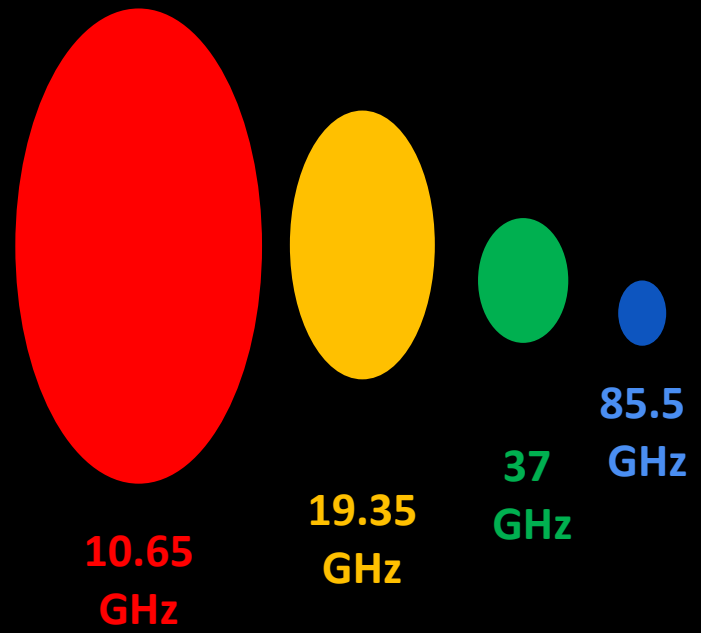
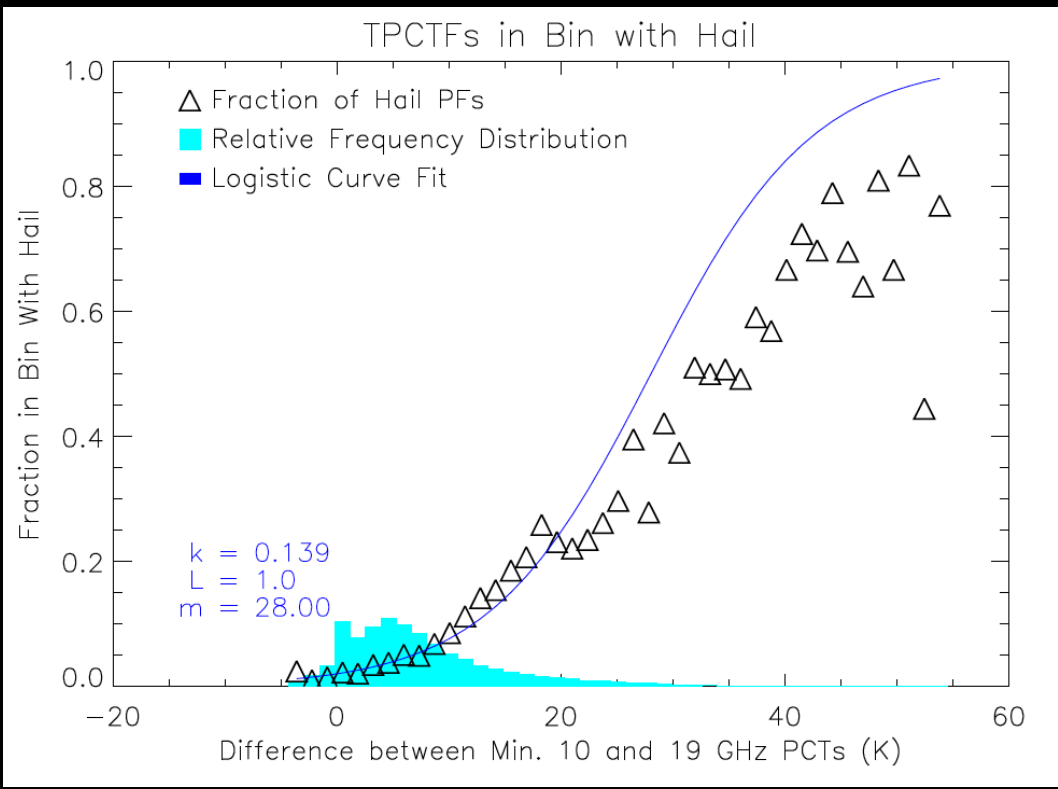




# 19GHz Minimum $T_b$ and Hail



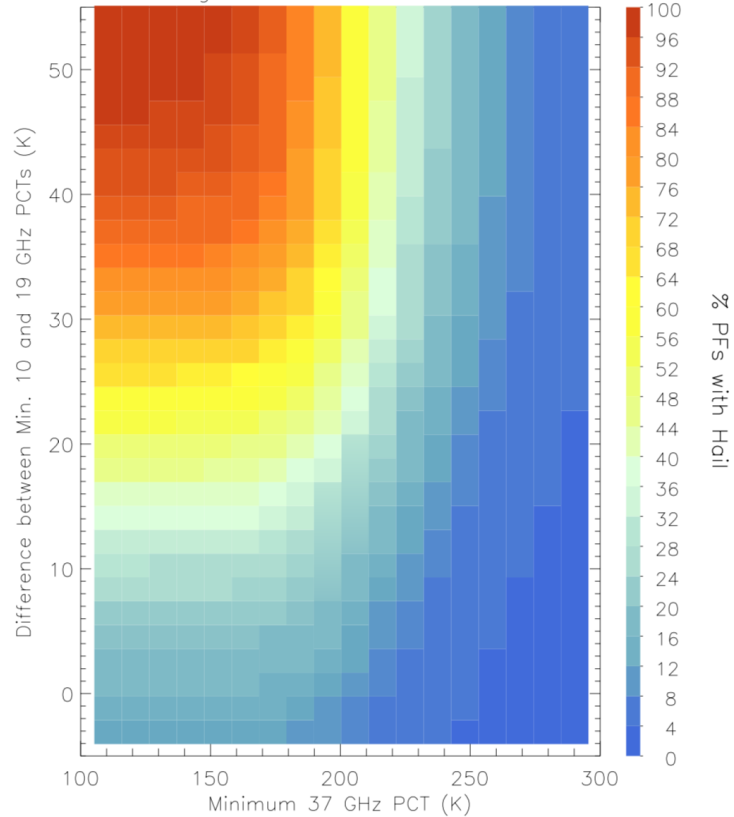
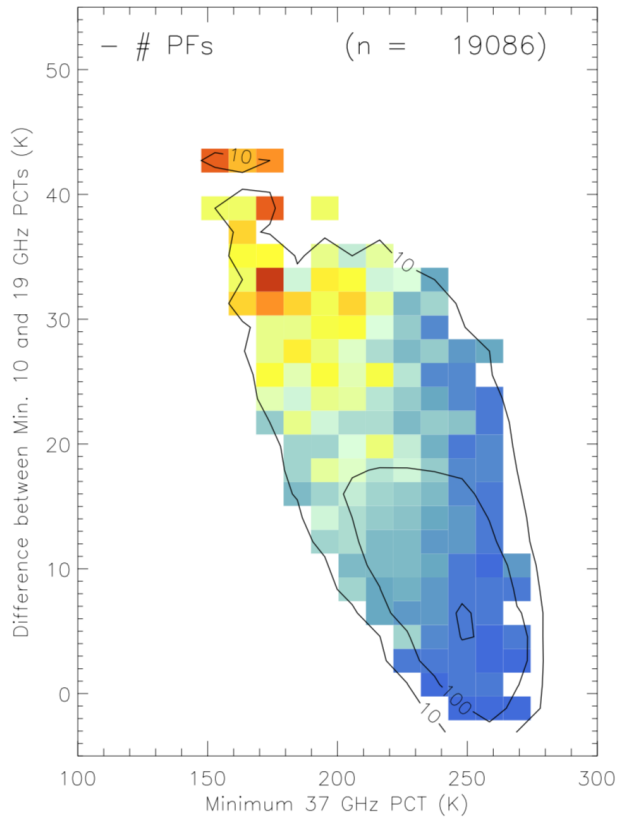
# Probability of Hail with 10 - 19 GHz Difference



# Two Dimensions of Hail Probability

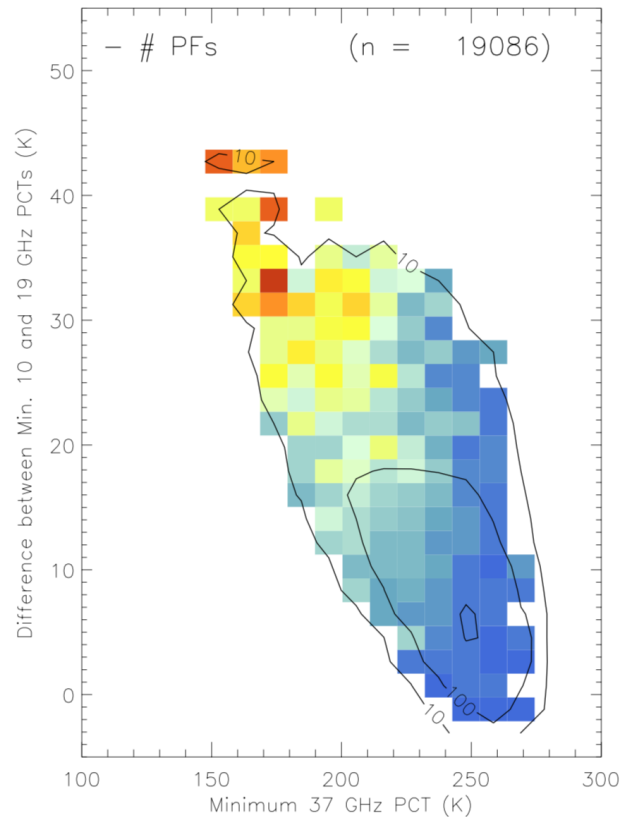
Percent of USA TPCTPFs with Hail

Full Regression on All Available Bins

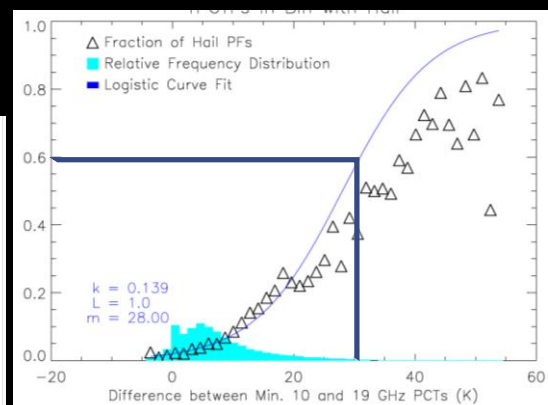
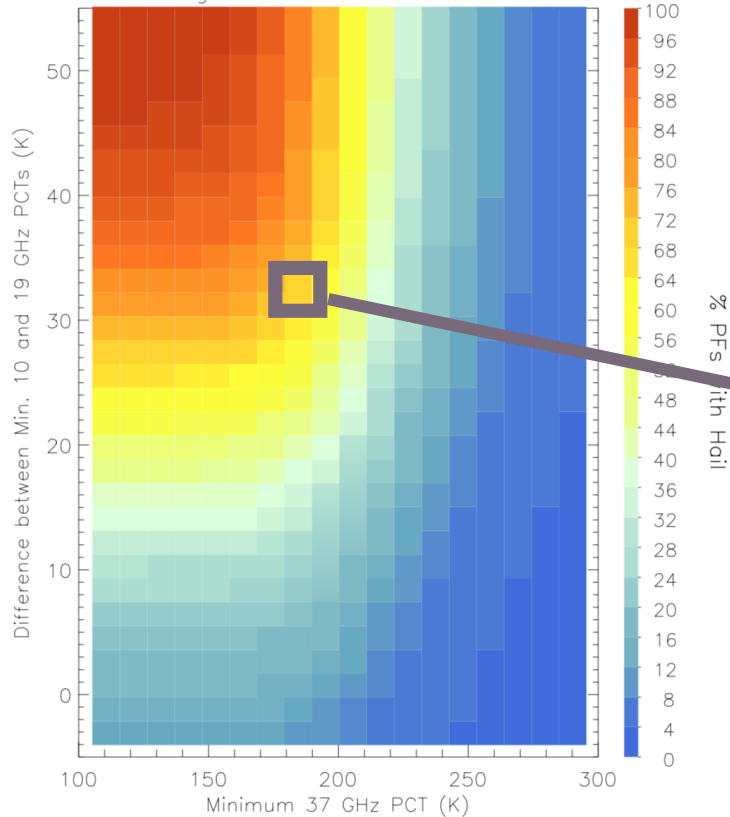


# Two Dimensions of Hail Probability

Percent of USA TPCTPFs with Hail



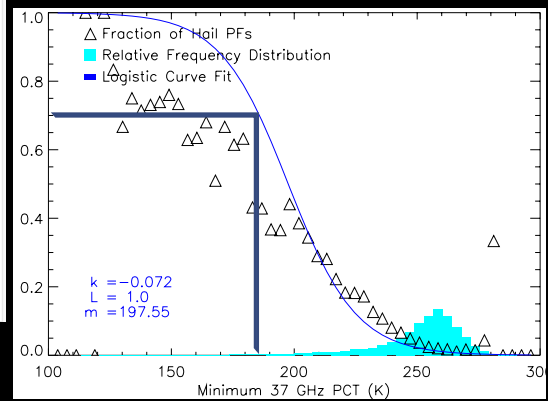
Full Regression on All Available Bins



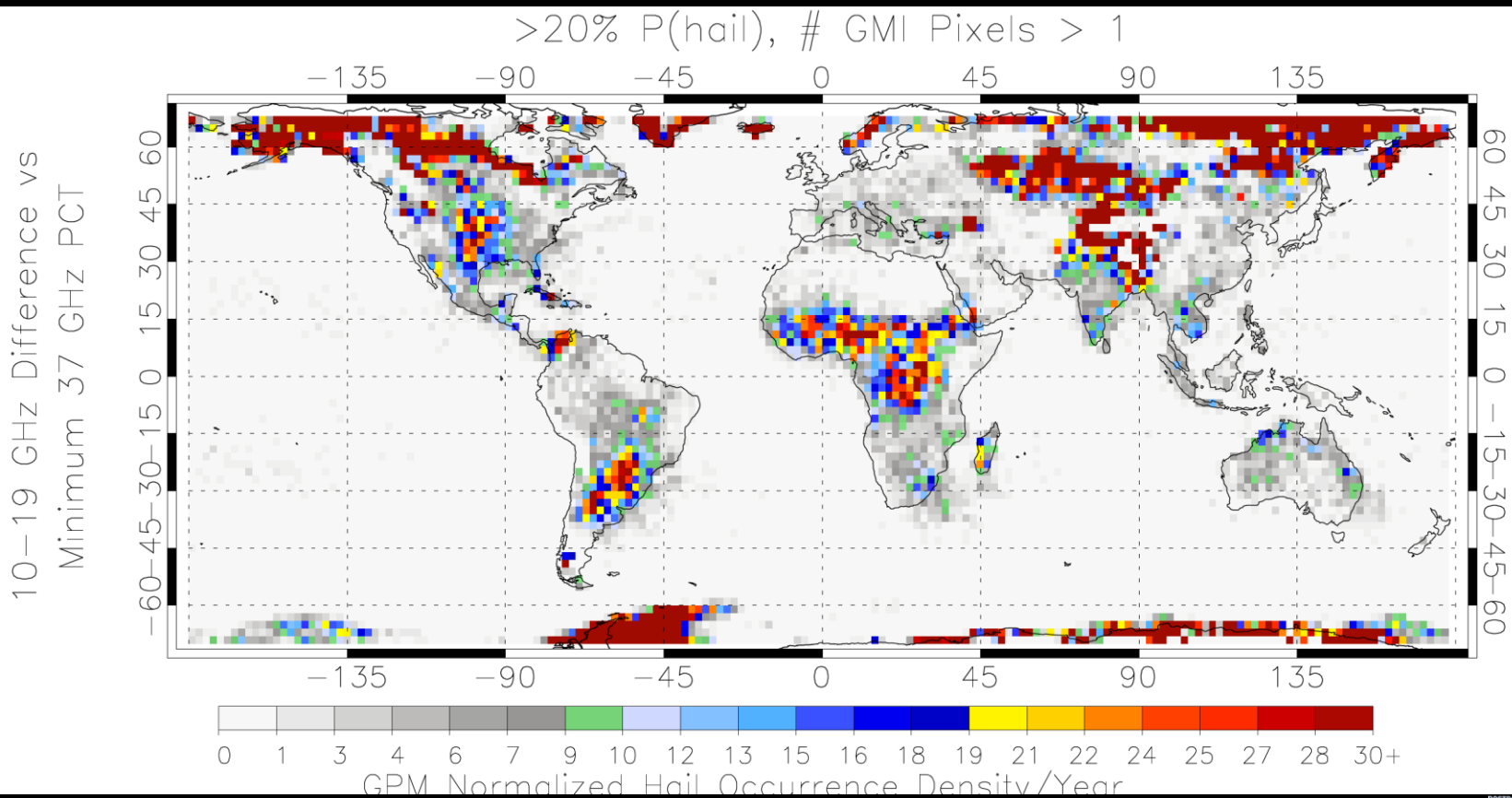
$P_{\text{hail}}(10-19) = 0.6$

$P_{\text{hail}}(\text{Min } 37) = 0.7$

$\sqrt{(0.6 \cdot 0.7)} = P_{\text{hail}} = 0.648$



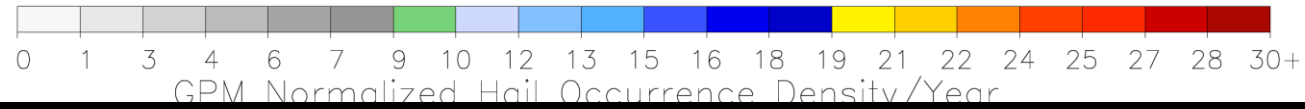
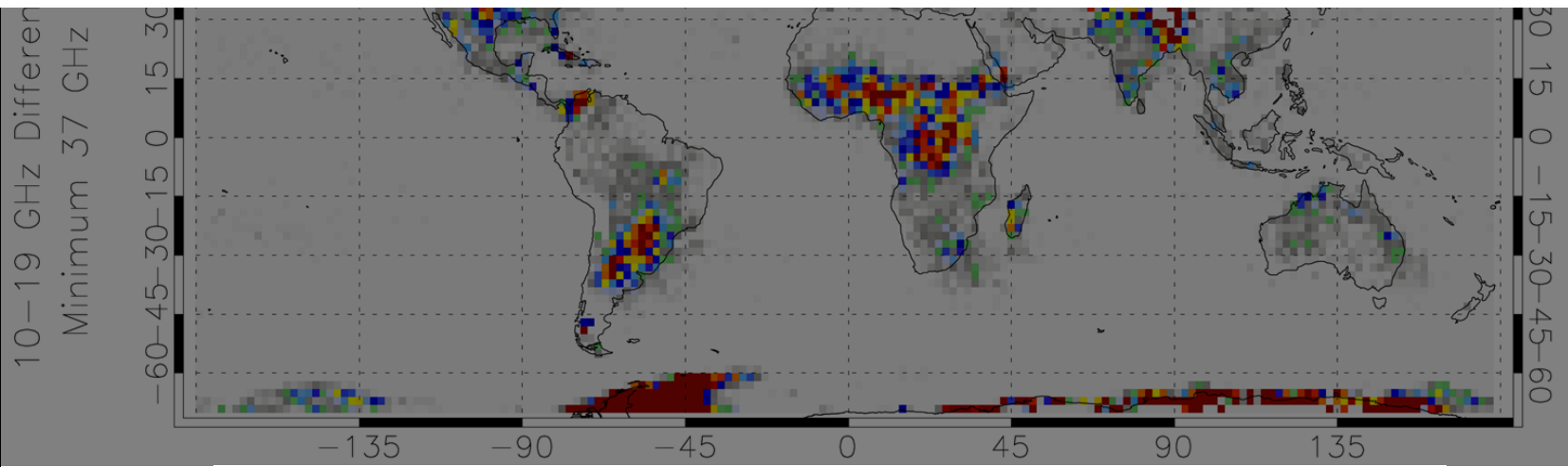
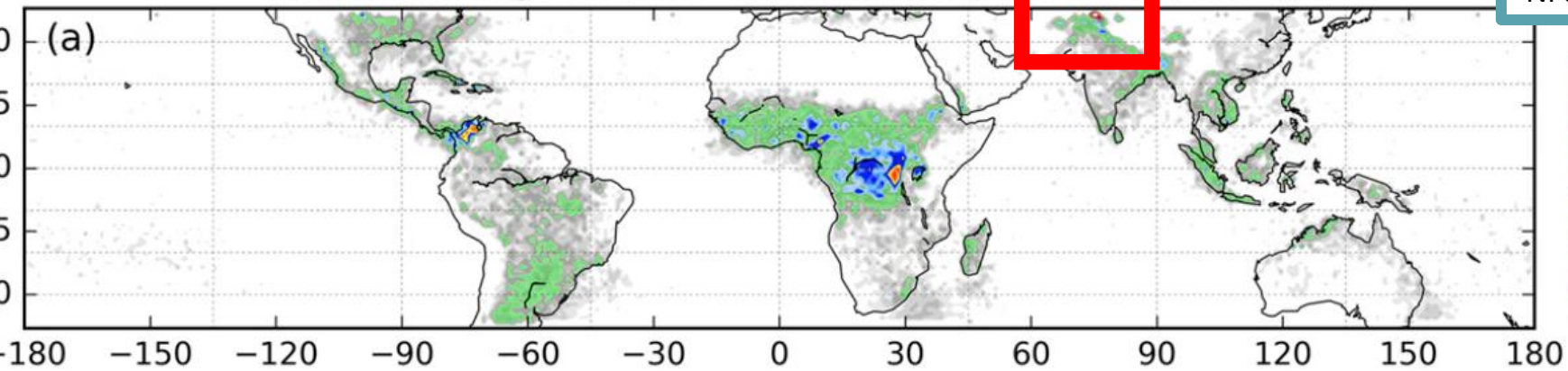
# GPM Hail Climatology, Minimum 37 GHz PCT



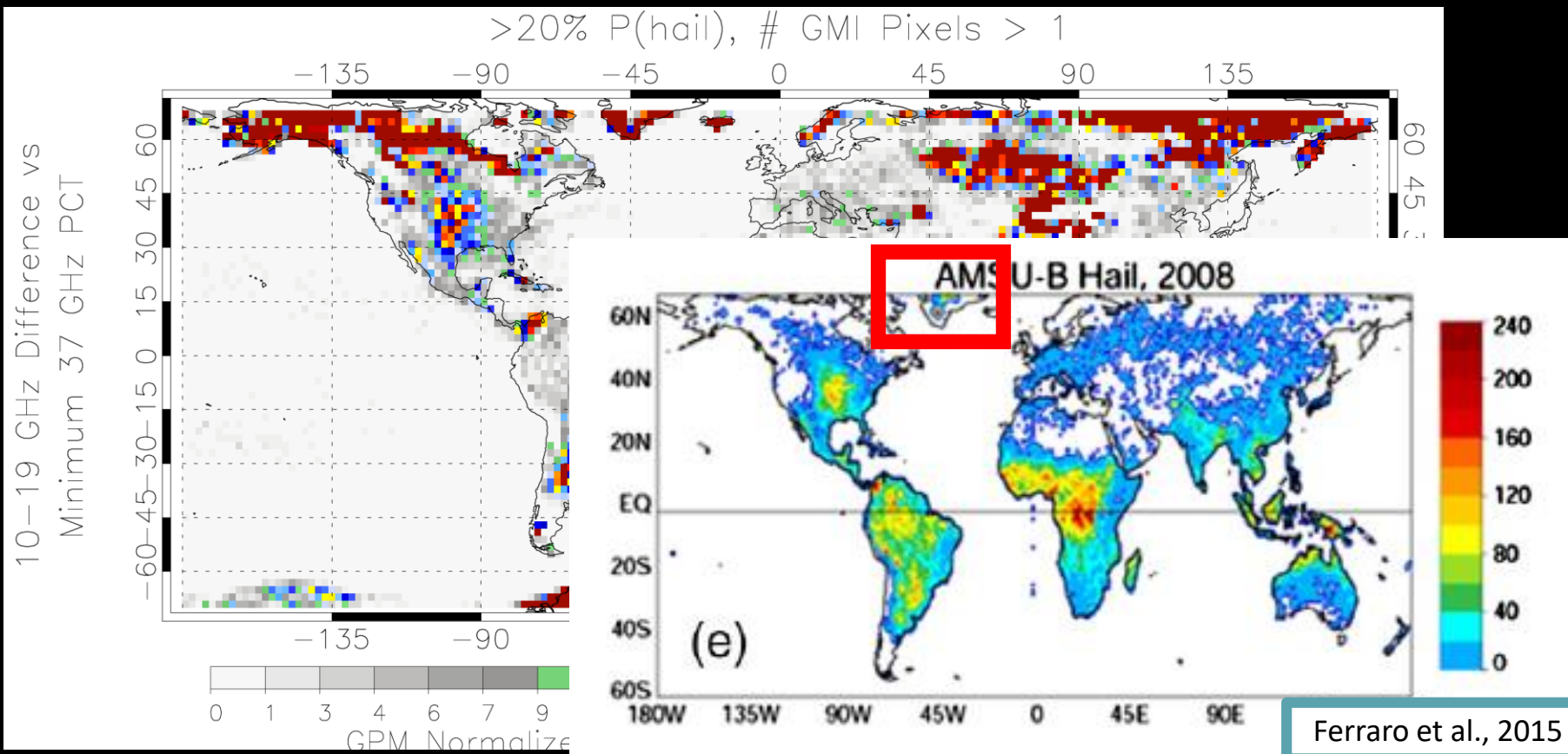


# Global Percentage of Normalized PF Number ( $\text{MIN}_{37\text{PCT}} \leq 230 \text{ K}$ )

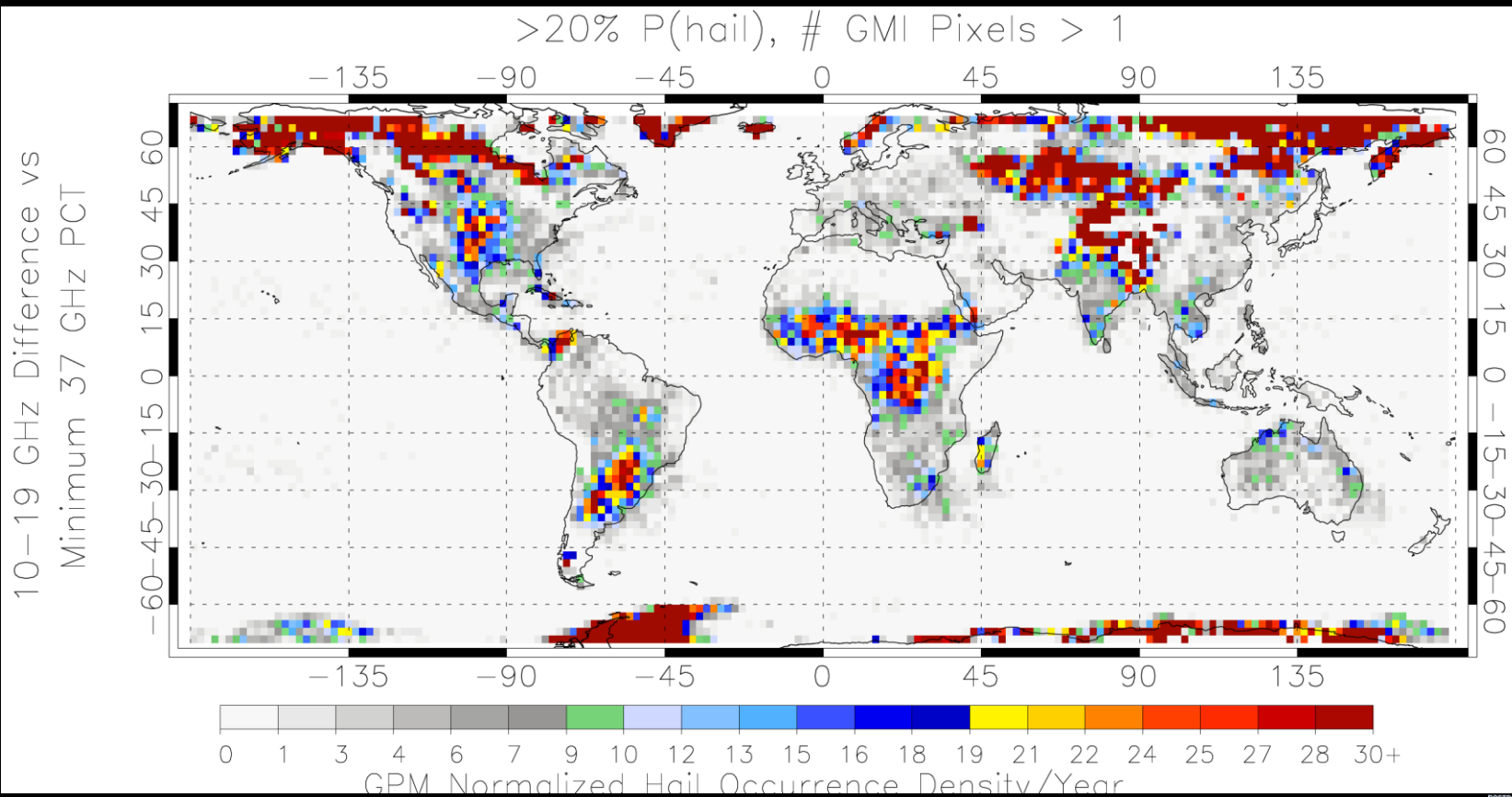
Ni et al., 2017



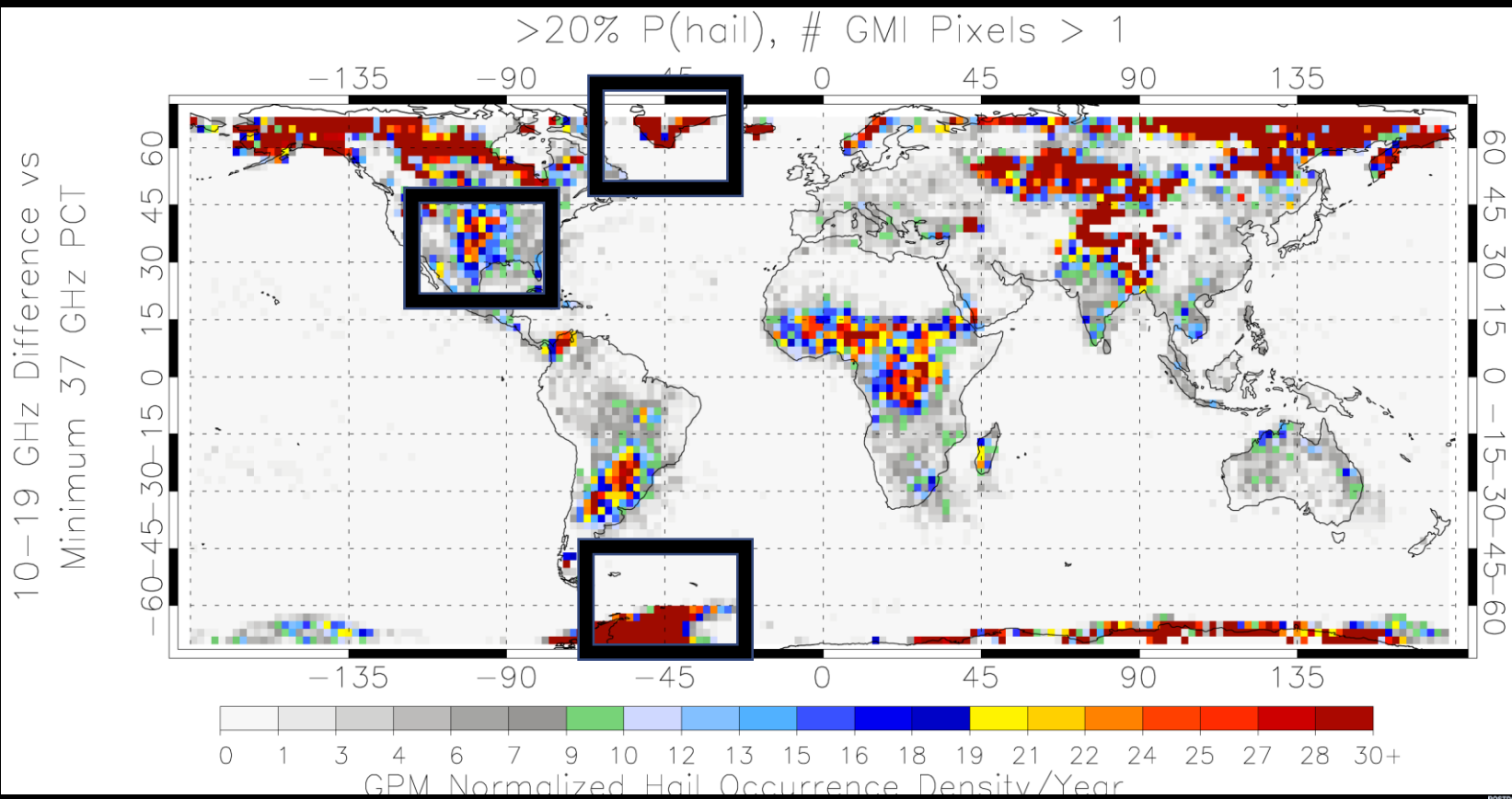
# GPM Hail Climatology, Minimum 37 GHz PCT



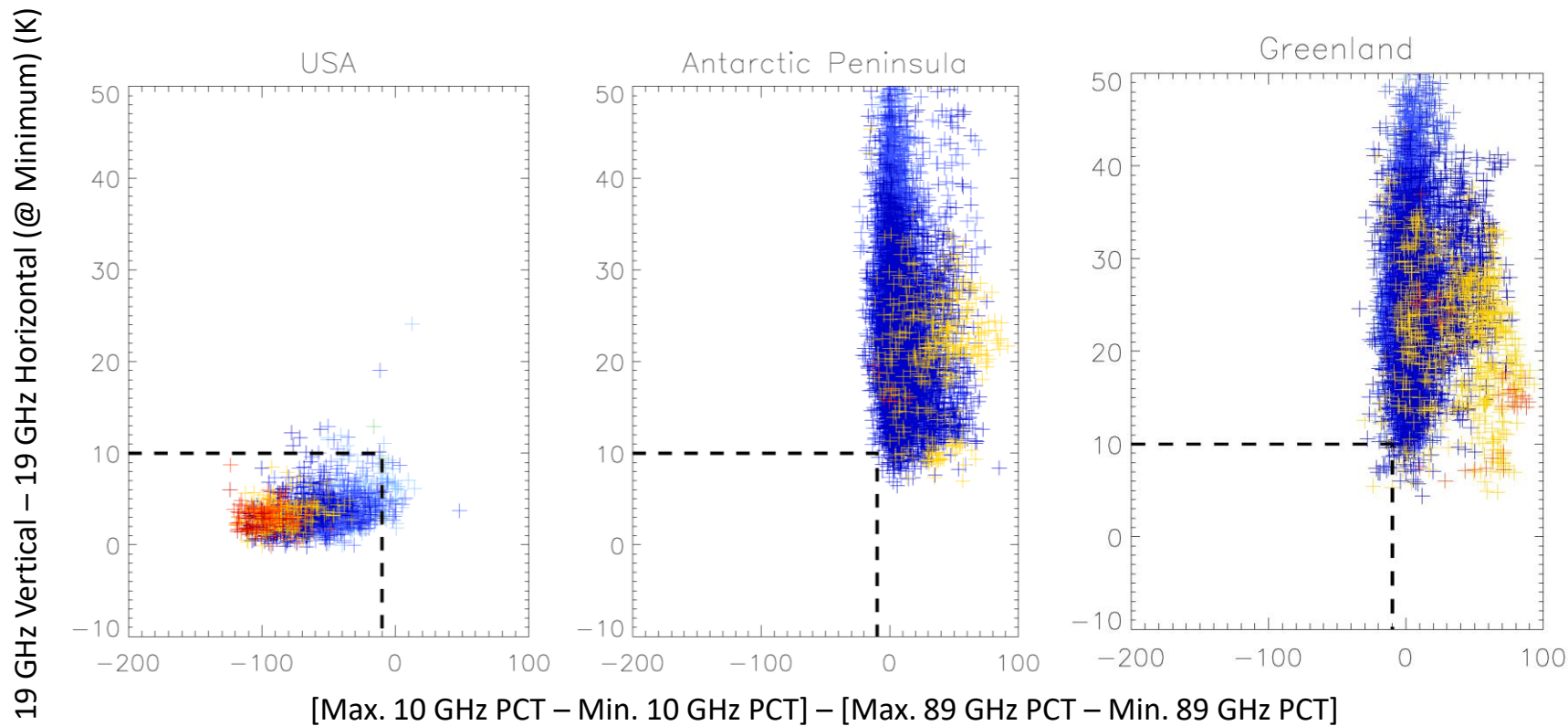
# GPM Hail Climatology, Minimum 37 GHz PCT



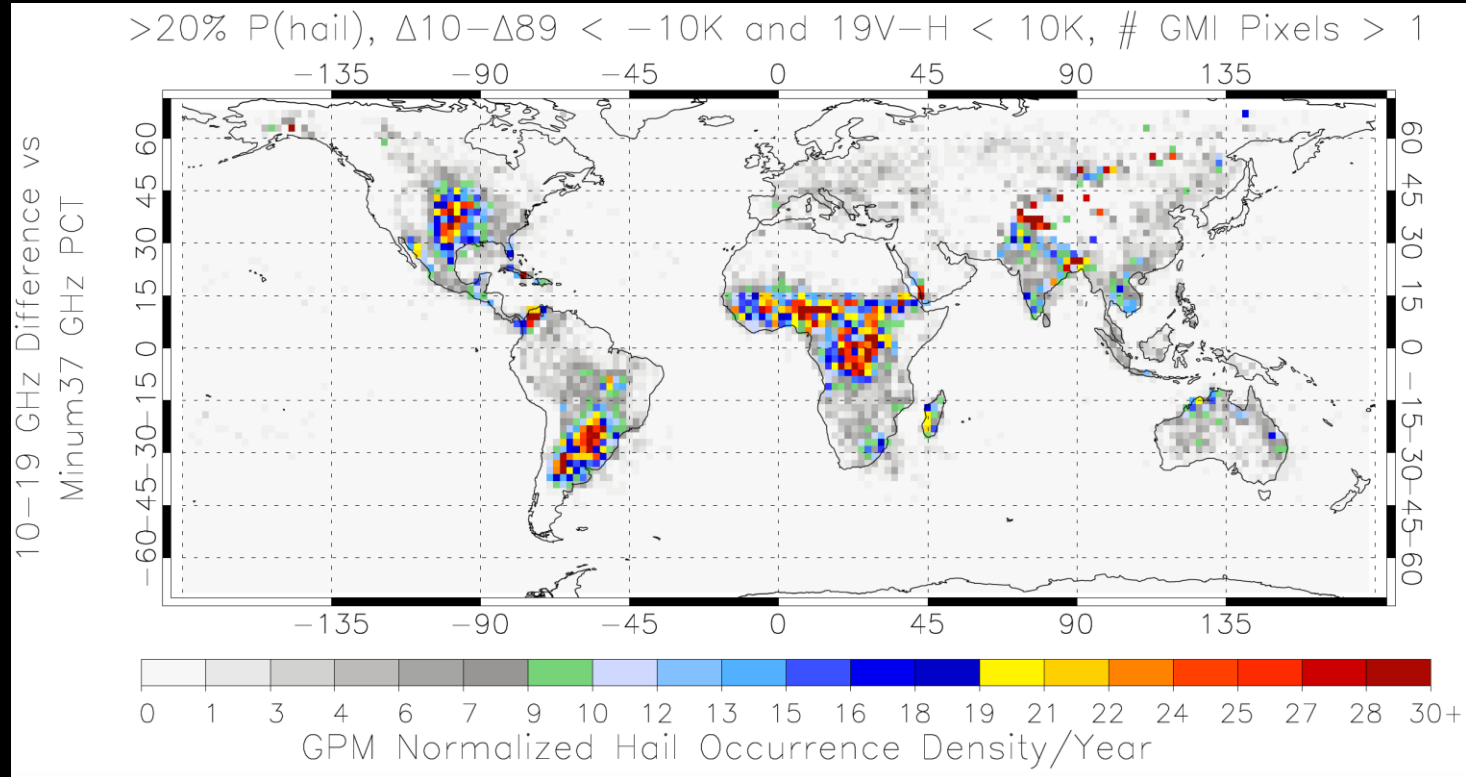
# GPM Hail Climatology, Minimum 37 GHz PCT



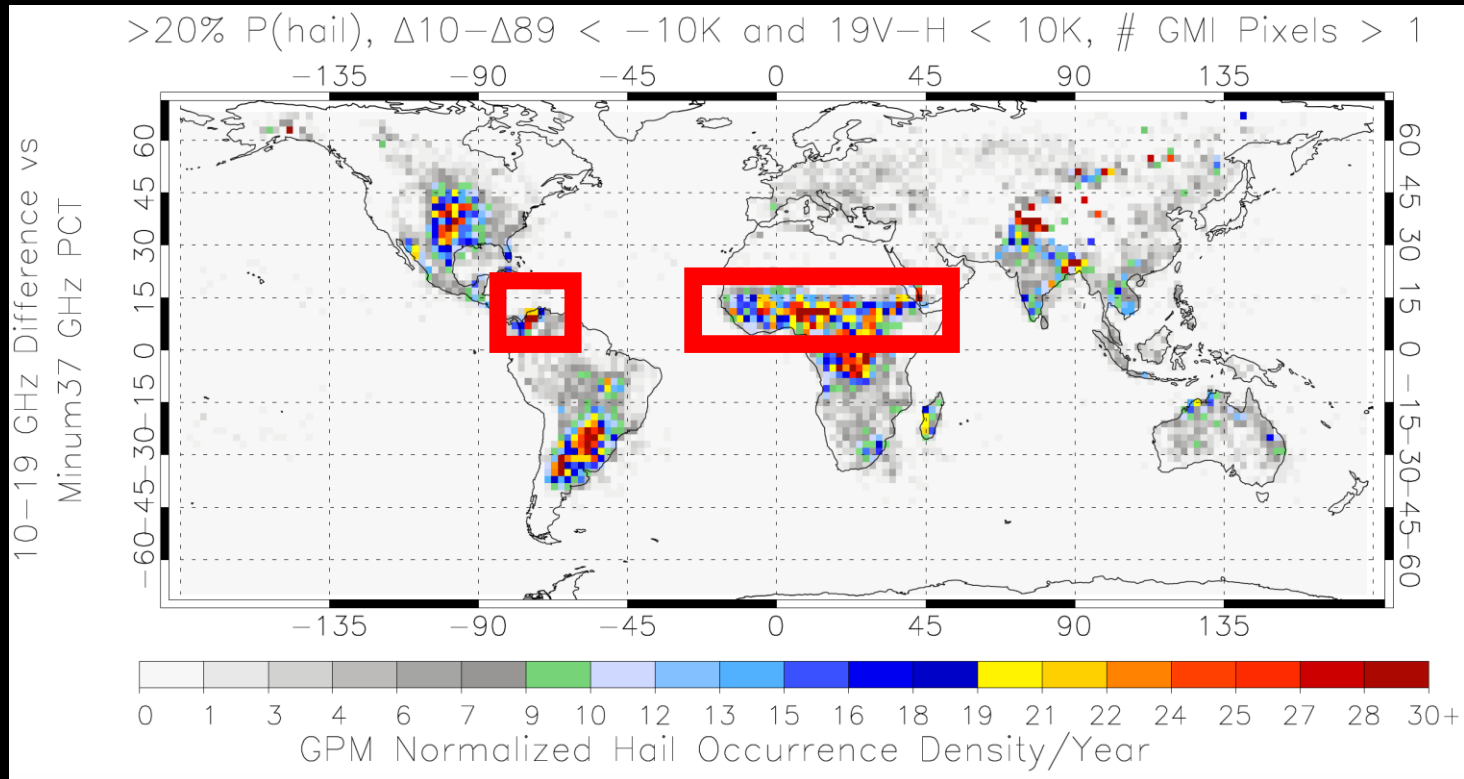
# Snow/Ice Filter



# GPM Hail Climatology, Minimum 37 GHz PCT + Snow/Ice Filter

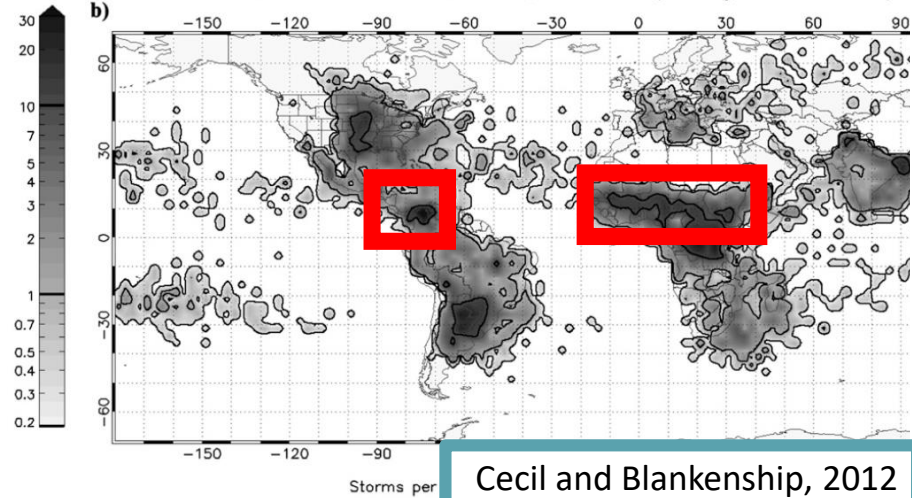


# GPM Hail Climatology, Minimum 37 GHz PCT + Snow/Ice Filter



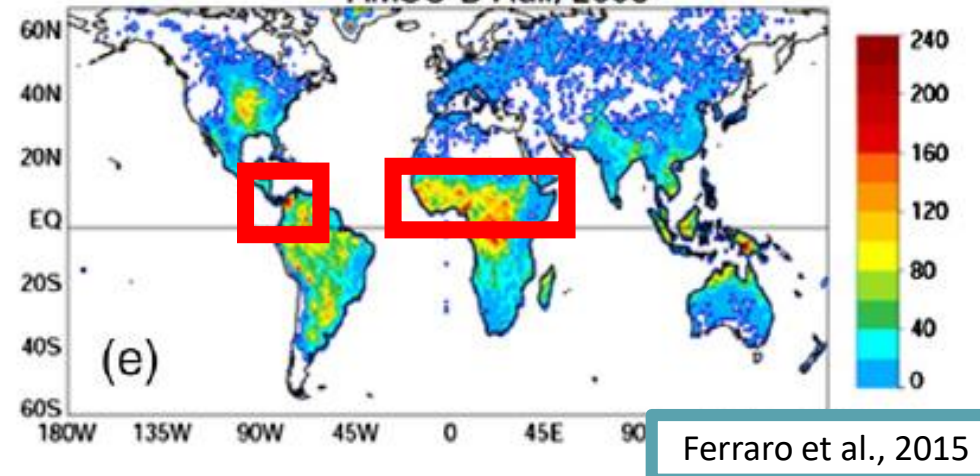


AMSRE Estimated Severe Hail, All Months (No Regional Correction)

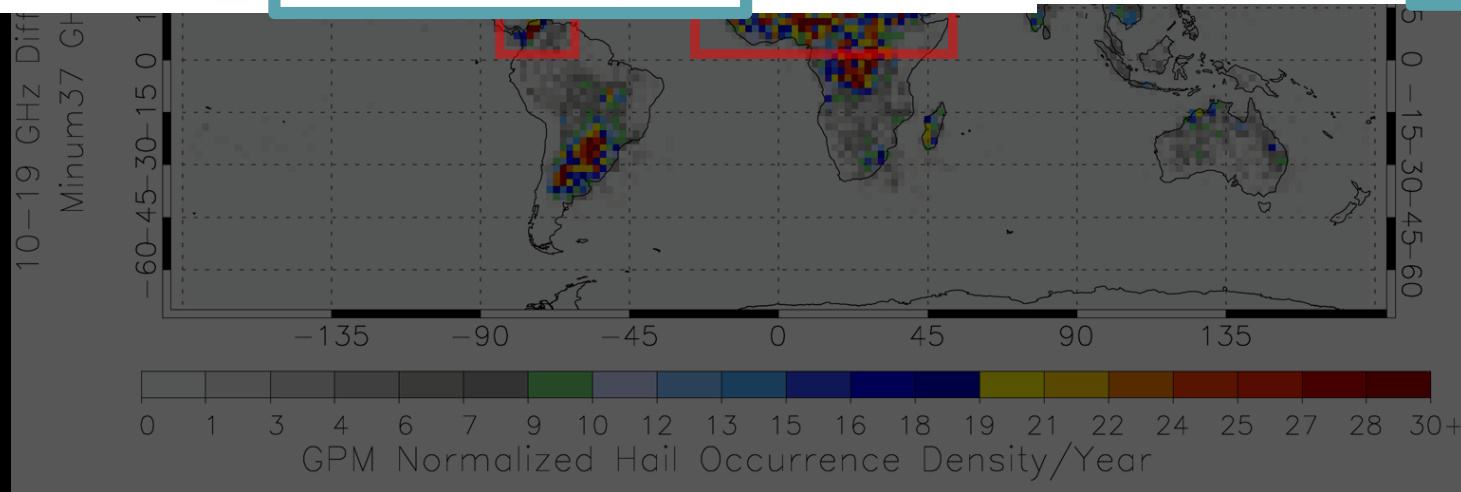


Cecil and Blankenship, 2012

AMSU-B Hail, 2008

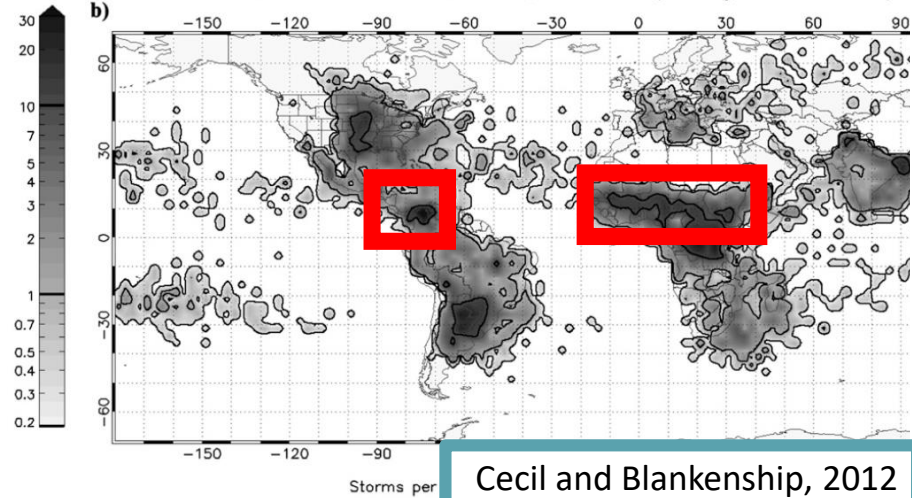


Ferraro et al., 2015

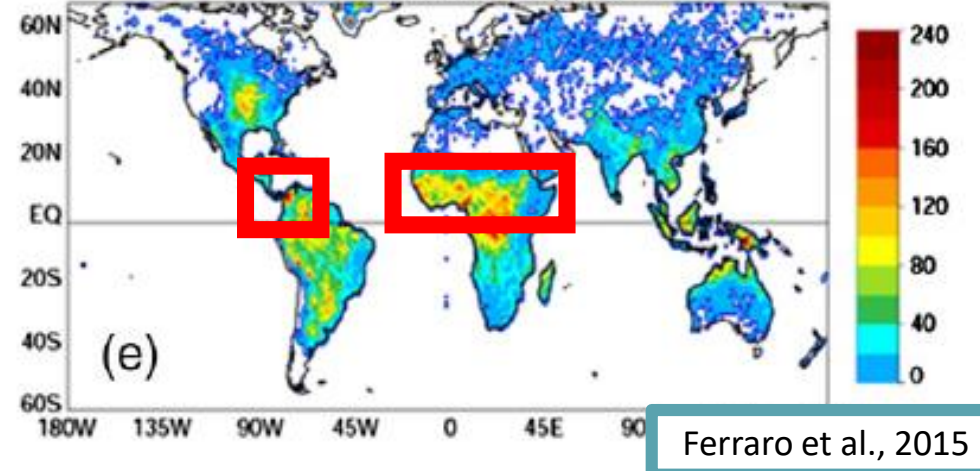




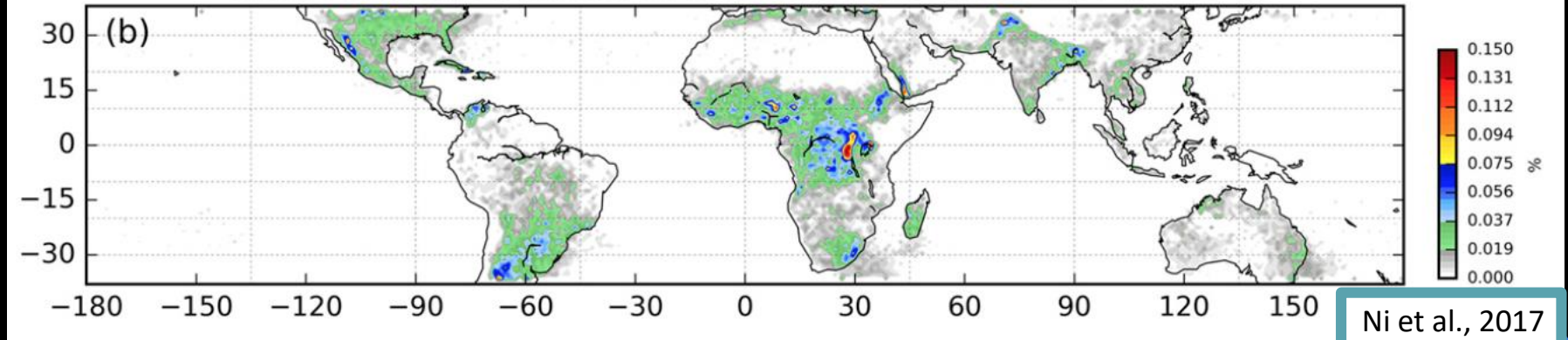
AMSRE Estimated Severe Hail, All Months (No Regional Correction)

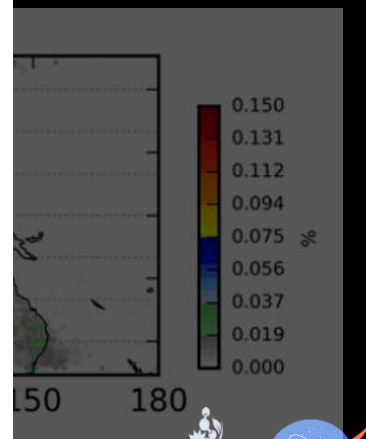
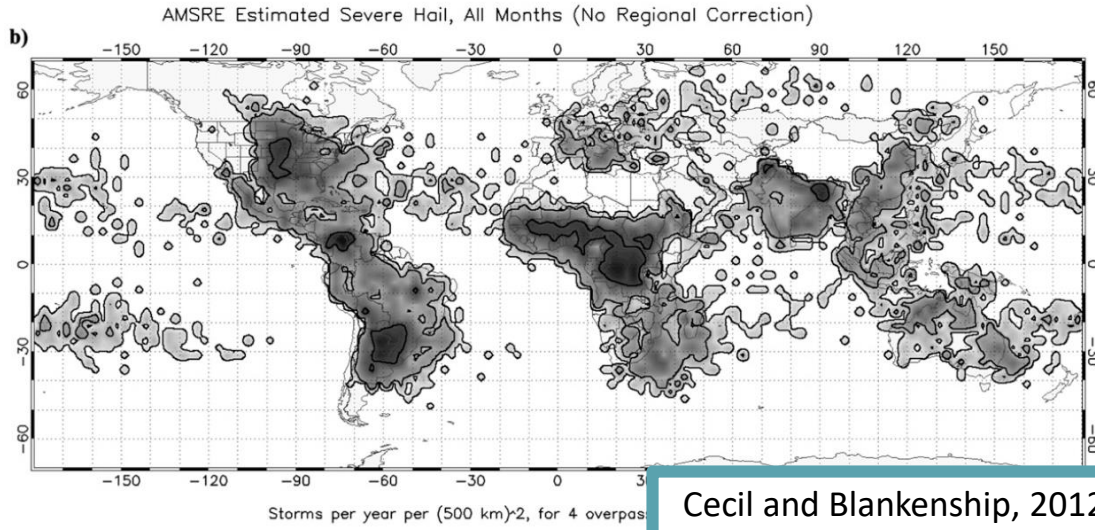
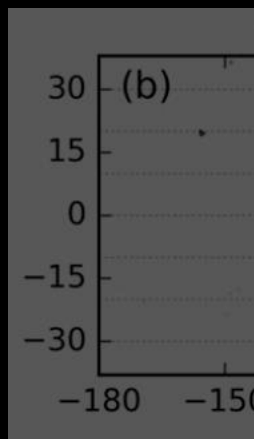
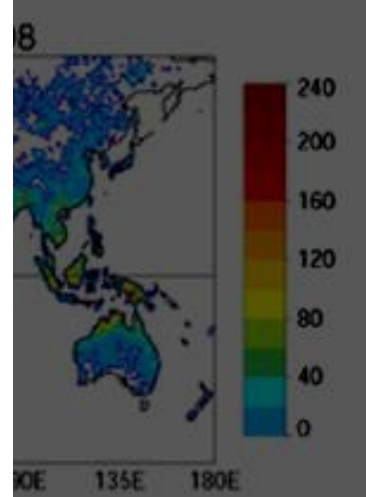
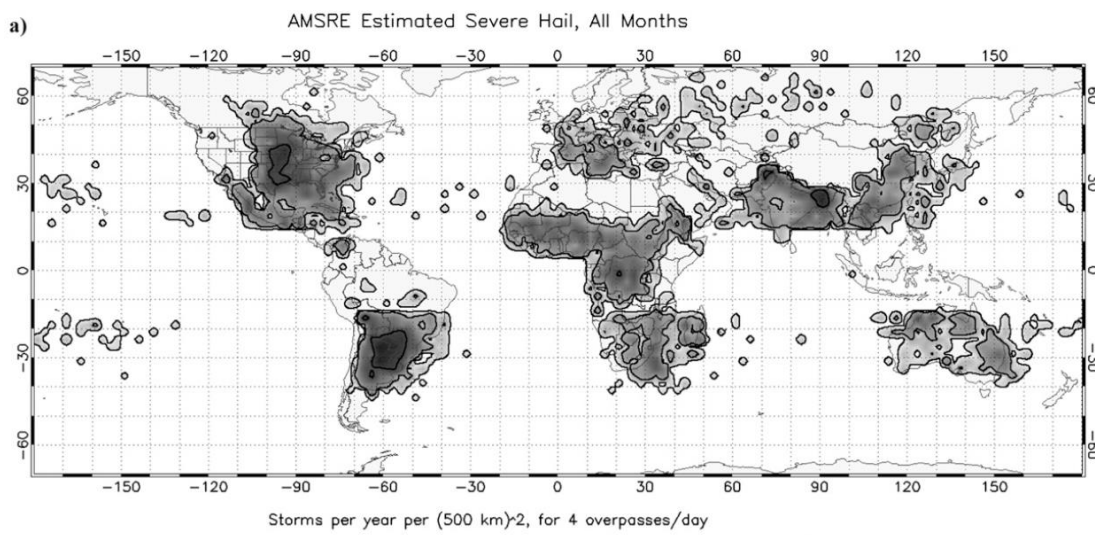
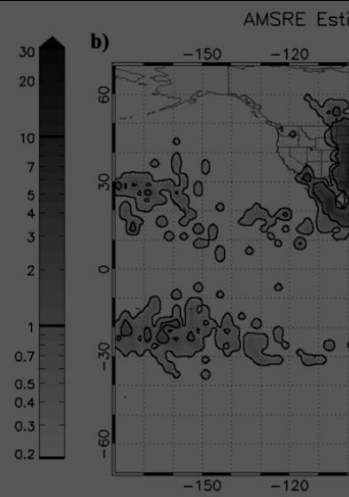


AMSU-B Hail, 2008



Global Percentage of Normalized PF Number (44 dBZ Echo Top  $T \leq -22$  °C)





9 April 2019

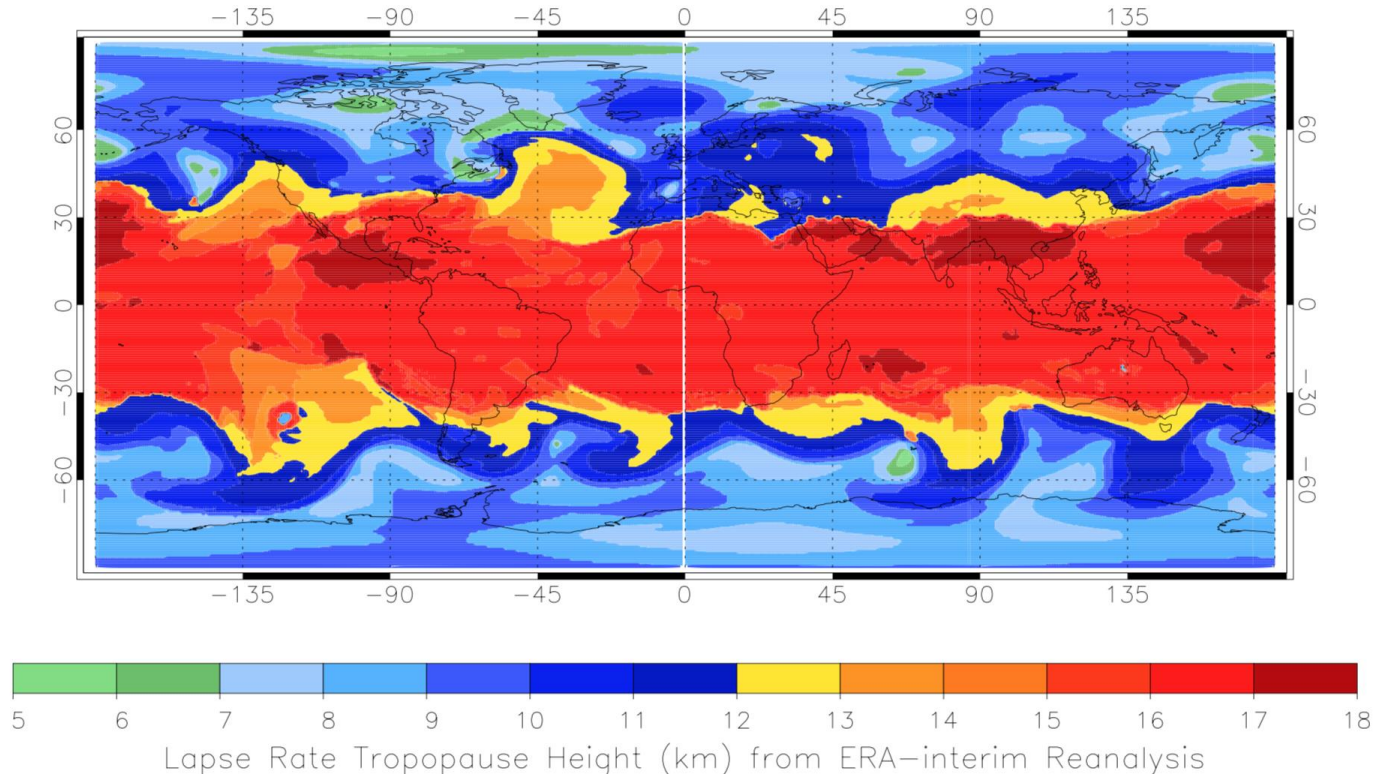
Cecil and Blankenship, 2012





# Normalizing by Tropopause Height

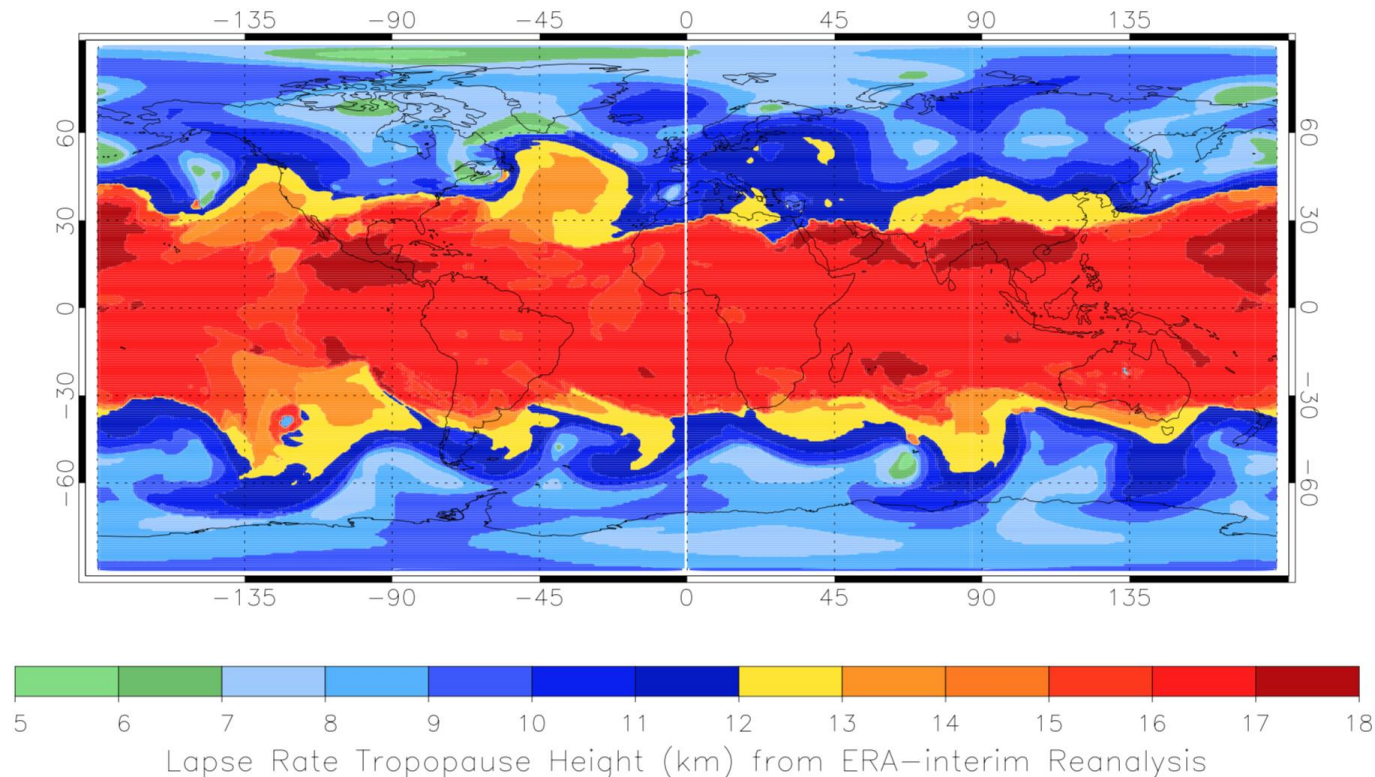
Lapse Rate Tropopause Heights on 20180409 at 12 UTC



LRT calculation  
performed by Nana  
Liu at Texas A&M  
Corpus Christi,  
see Liu and Liu, 2018

# Normalizing by Tropopause Height

Lapse Rate Tropopause Heights on 20180409 at 12 UTC



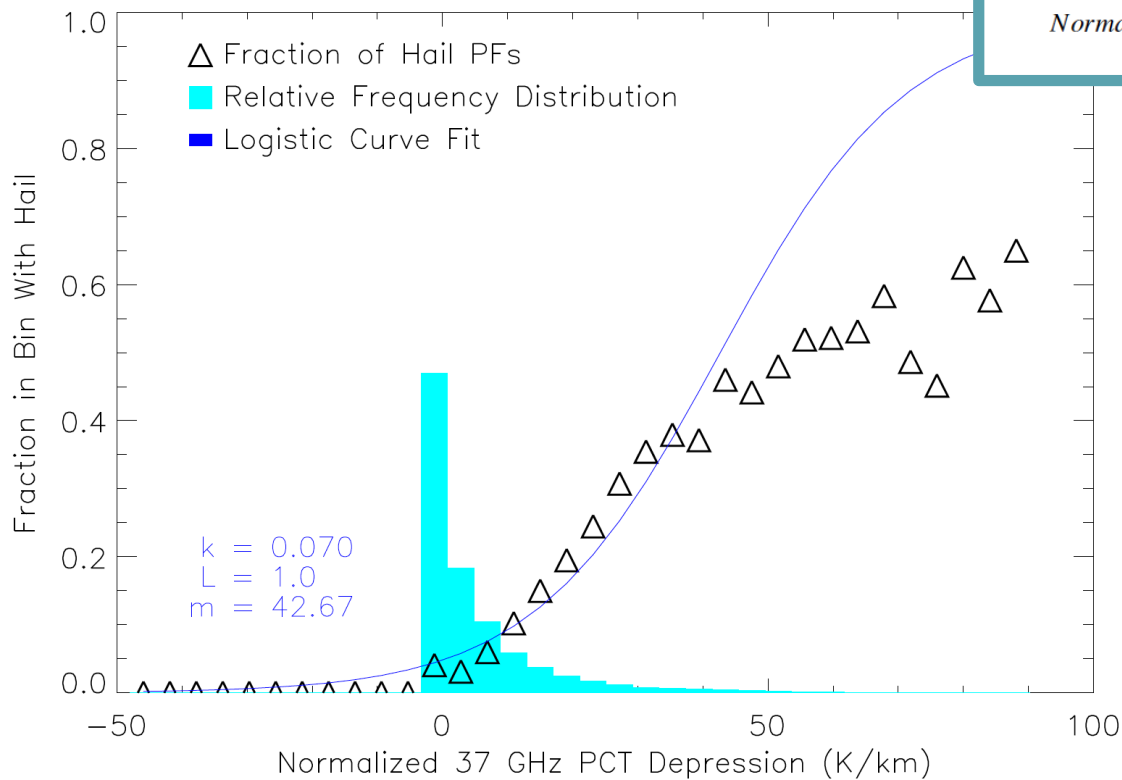
LRT calculation  
performed by Nana  
Liu at Texas A&M  
Corpus Christi,  
see Liu and Liu, 2018

9 April 2019

$$\text{Normalized 37 GHz PCT Depression} = \frac{\text{MAX37PCT} - \text{MIN37PCT}}{(1 + \text{LRT} - \overline{\text{LRT}}_{\text{USA}})}$$

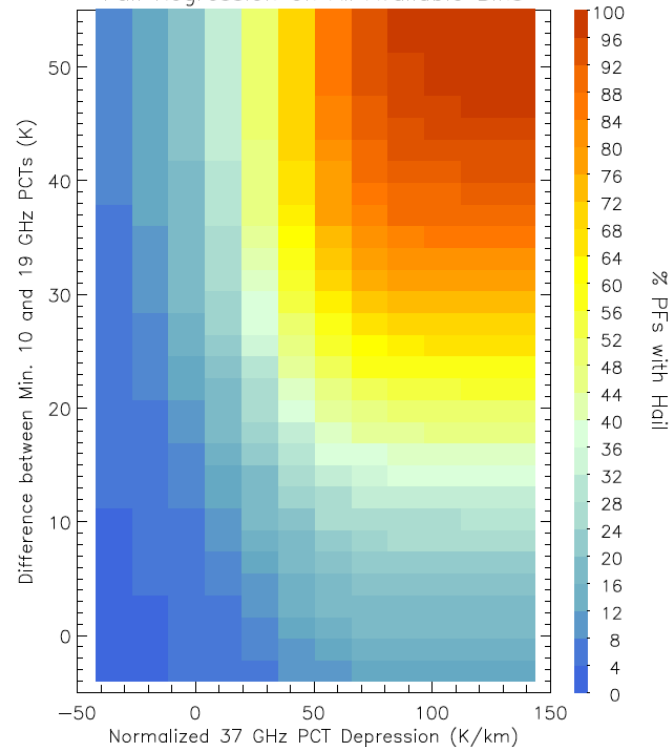
# Normalizing by Tropopause Height

TPCTFs in Bin with Hail

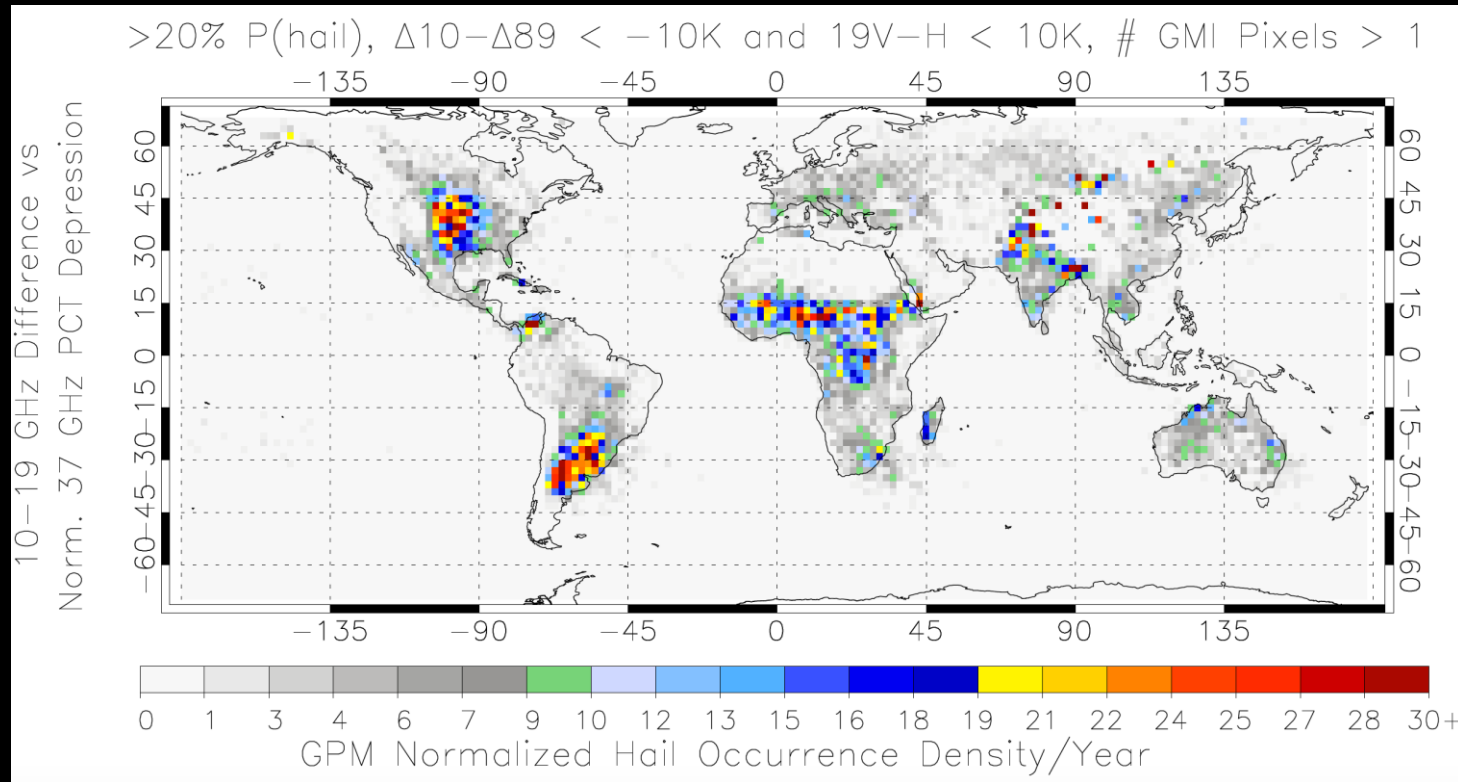


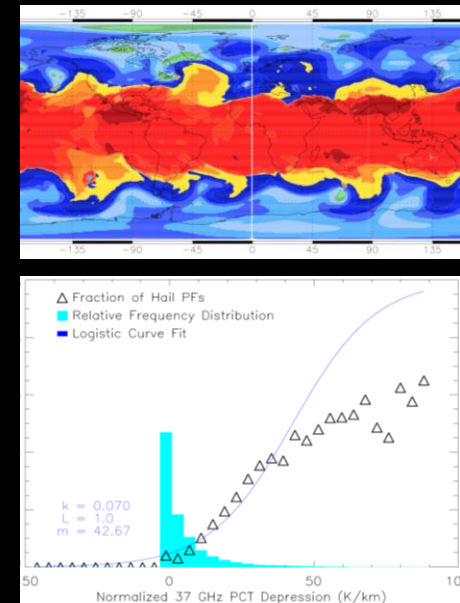
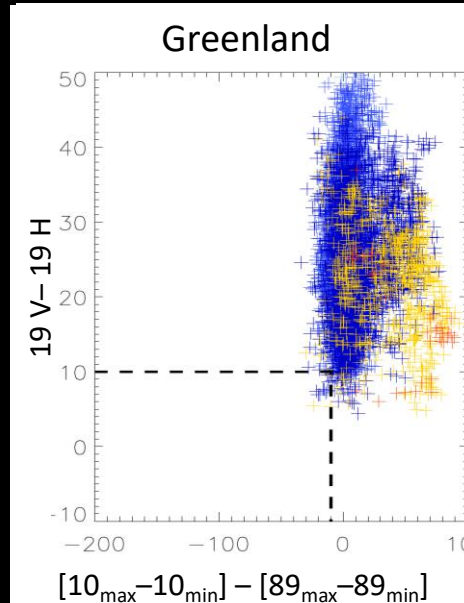
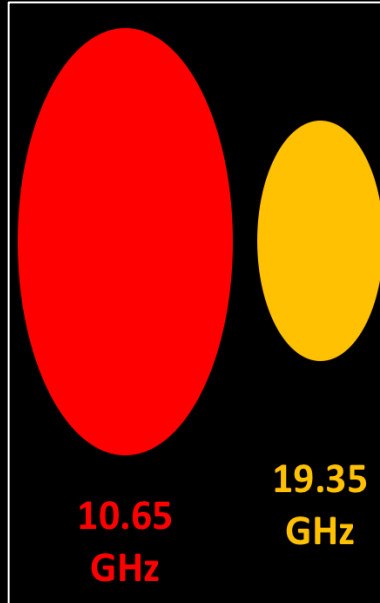
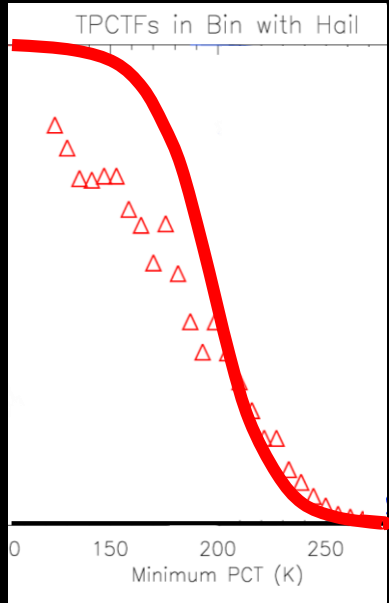
$$\text{Normalized 37 GHz PCT Depression} = \frac{\text{MAX37PCT} - \text{MIN37PCT}}{(1 + \text{LRT} - \overline{\text{LRT}}_{\text{USA}})}$$

Full Regression on All Available Bins



# GPM Hail Climatology, Normalized 37 GHz PCT Depression + Snow/Ice Filter





We fit logistic curves to the probability of hail for given TRMM/GPM microwave quantities, instead of assuming a threshold brightness temperature

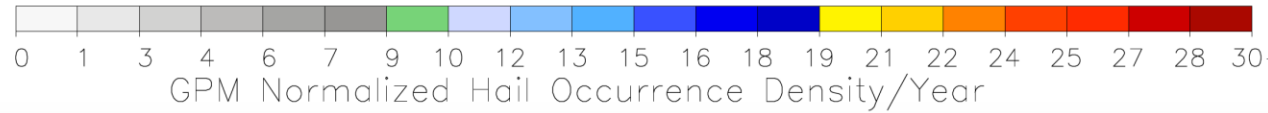
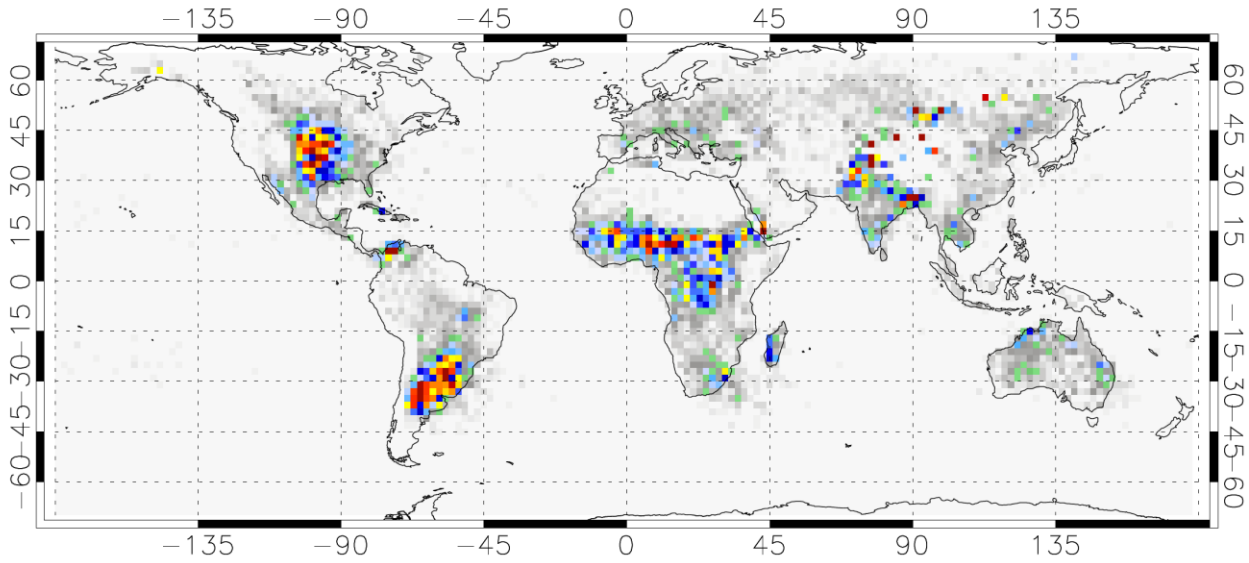
We create a new microwave variable, leveraging the minimum 19 GHz PCT (relative to a background state captured by the 10 GHz PCT)

We propose a new microwave-based filter to remove features we suspect are over snowy and icy regimes, by leveraging the 19 GHz V-H difference and the difference between the 10-89 GHz PCT depressions.

We estimate hail probability using not only 10-19 GHz PCT difference, but also we normalize the 37 GHz PCT Depression by the height of the troposphere.

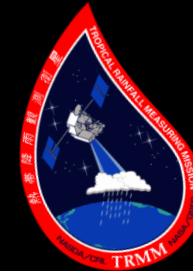
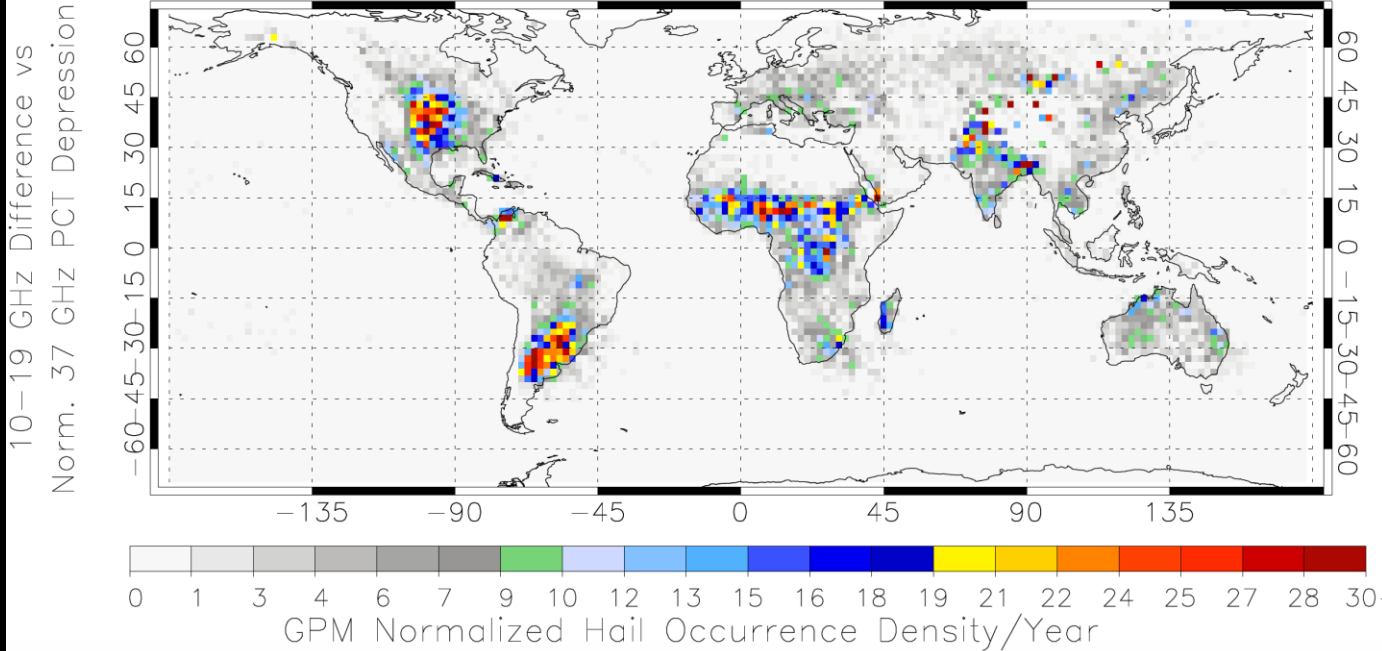
$>20\%$  P(hail),  $\Delta 10-\Delta 89 < -10\text{K}$  and  $19\text{V}-\text{H} < 10\text{K}$ , # GMI Pixels  $> 1$

10-19 GHz Difference vs  
Norm. 37 GHz PCT Depression





$>20\%$  P(hail),  $\Delta 10-19 \text{ GHz} < -10\text{K}$  and  $19\text{V}-\text{H} < 10\text{K}$ , # GMI Pixels  $> 1$



Contact us at:  
[Sarah.D.Bang@nasa.gov](mailto:Sarah.D.Bang@nasa.gov)  
[Daniel.J.Cecil@nasa.gov](mailto:Daniel.J.Cecil@nasa.gov)

# Thank You!

# References

- Allen, J., and M. Tippett, 2015: The characteristics of United States hail reports: 1955–2014. *Electronic Journal of Severe Storms Meteorology*, 10, 1–31.
- Aon Benfield, 2018: Global catastrophe recap: First half of 2018. Aon Benfield Analytics and Impact Forecasting, 1-12 pp.
- Cecil, D. J., 2009: Passive microwave brightness temperatures as proxies for hailstorms *J Appl Meteorol Climatol.*, 48 (6), 1281–1286.
- Cecil, D. J., 2011: Relating passive 37-GHz scattering to radar profiles in strong convection *J Appl Meteorol Climatol.*, 50 (1), 233–240.
- Cecil, D. 556 J., and C. B. Blankenship, 2012: Toward a global climatology of severe hailstorms as estimated by satellite passive microwave imagers. *Journal of Climate*, 25 (2), 687–703.
- Ferraro, R., J. Beauchamp, D. Cecil, and G. Heymsfield, 2015: A prototype hail detection algorithm and hail climatology developed with the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU). *Atmospheric Research*, 163, 24–35.
- Hou, A. Y., and Coauthors, 2014: The global precipitation measurement mission. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, 95 (5), 701–722.
- Huuskonen, A., E. Saltikoff, and I. Holleman, 2014: The Operational Weather Radar Network in Europe. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, 95, 897–907
- Kummerow, C., W. Barnes, T. Kozu, J. Shiue, and J. Simpson, 1998: The tropical rainfall measuring mission (TRMM) sensor package. *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*, 15 (3), 809–817.
- Liu, N., and C. Liu, 2018: Synoptic environments and characteristics of convection reaching the tropopause over northeast China. *Monthly Weather Review*, 146 (3), 745–759.
- Mroz, K., A. Battaglia, T. J. Lang, D. J. Cecil, S. Tanelli, and F. Tridon, 2017: Hail-detection algorithm for the GPM core observatory satellite sensors. *J Appl Meteorol Climatol.*, 56 (7), 1939–1957.
- Ni, X., C. Liu, D. J. Cecil, and Q. Zhang, 2017: On the detection of hail using satellite passive microwave radiometers and precipitation radar. *J Appl Meteorol Climatol.*, 56 (10), 2693–2709.
- Spencer, R.W., M. R. Howland, and D. A. Santek, 1987: Severe storm identification with satellite microwave radiometry: An initial investigation with Nimbus-7 SMMR data. *J Appl Meteorol Climatol.*, 26 (6), 749–754.