# MISR Aerosol Retrieval Update

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Nine view angles at Earth surface: 70.5° forward to 70.5° aft

Four spectral bands at each angle: 446, 558, 672, 866 nm

Seven minutes to observe each scene at all 9 angles

400-km swath

Global coverage about once per week

275 m - 1.1 km spatial sampling

Air mass factors from 1 (nadir) to 3

Scattering angles from ~60° to ~160° in mid-latitudes

# MISR MULTI-ANGLE CAPABILITY – More Information about aerosols

### **EXPECATIONS** based on simulations over cloud-free, calm ocean:

#### • Aerosol Extinction Optical Depth $(\tau_a)$

-- to better than 0.05 or 20%, whichever is larger, under typical conditions, for common aerosol types except soot, even if the particle microphysical properties are poorly know

• Particle Size (r<sub>a</sub>)

- -- "Small," "Medium," and "Large" size discrimination over Accumulation Mode -these are the key distinctions needed to assess aerosol impact on vis spectrum
- Indices of Refraction (nr, ni)

-- Two to four compositional groups (absorbing & non-absorbing, or "dark" and "light")

- Spherical vs. Nonspherical for Sahara dust, Asian dust, and possibly thin cirrus
- Poorer Sensitivity for ni >~ 0.008 (Black Carbon)

→ Under good conditions, we expect MISR to distinguish about 12 aerosol types based on size, shape, and composition

# MISR MULTI-ANGLE AEROSOL RETRIEVAL STRENGTHS -

- Sensitivity to Aerosols over Land
- Sensitivity to Aerosol over Very Bright Surfaces (e.g., Desert)
- Sensitivity to Particle Sphericity at least over dark water
- Sensitivity to **Bi-** and even **Tri-modal Distributions** in some cases
- Crude Sensitivity to Single-Scattering Albedo [~ 1.0 vs. 0.88 vs. 0.80 over dark water]
- Sensitivity to **Optically Thin** hazes over land and water
- Sensitivity to Plume Height

Simulated Global, Monthly Aerosol Maps Based on Expected MISR Sensitivity



#### From: Kahn et al., 2001

### **Global Aerosol Optical Depth Products**

#### MISR optical depths (558 nm)



#### **March 2002**



#### September 2002

#### Scatter Plots Showing 579 MISR-AERONET Coincident AOT Events 32 sites, during 2001-2002; Stratified by Expected Aerosol Type



### Sensitivity to aerosols over bright surfaces



**Over Bright Desert Sites, mid-vis. AOT to ±0.07** [Martonchik et al., GRL 2004, submitted]

#### Particle Sphericity -- Optically Thick Saharan Dust Plume over Dark Water Near Cape Verde, March 02, 2003



MISR 70°-forward view

Station

**\*** 



Primary Research Retrieval Patch

MISR DF 70° Forward View July 09, 2002



(17.72N, 87.50W

### MAS: MODIS Airborne Simulator - ER-2, July 09, 2002



**ER-2:** 16:29 to 16:31 UTD; 20.70 to 20.48 N lat.; 86.45 to 86.51 W lon.; 20.39 to 24.45 km elev. **WB-57:** 16:33:52 to 16:36:00 UTC [59632 to 59760]; 20.71to 20.48 N lat.; 86.45 to 86.51 W lon; 15.47 to 15.45 km elev.

### **CPL: Cloud Physics LIDAR - ER-2**



### **Multi-Modal Distributions and Particle Sphericity**



MISR Research retrieval Identified Three aerosol components:

- Thin Cirrus
  - confirmed by MAS instrument
- Background Maritime

   medium, spherical, non-absorbing
- Sahara Dust
  - predicted by NAPS model
  - measured by PALMS

Optical depth (558 nm) = 0.20 35% cirrus 50% small spherical non-absorbing 15% dust

### Pollution Particle Amount, Size, and Single Scattering Properties Galveston Bay near Houston, TX, September 12, 2002



MISR Research retrieval: mixtures of small & medium, spherical, low-absorbing particles

558 nm AOT	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
0.60	60% spherical $r_{eff}$ = 0.12 $\mu$ m	35% spherical $r_{eff}$ = 0.26 $\mu$ m	5% cirrus
	85% spherical $r_{eff}$ = 0.12 $\mu$ m	15% spherical $r_{eff}$ = 0.57 $\mu$ m	
0.25	85% spherical $r_{eff}$ = 0.12 $\mu$ m	15% spherical $r_{eff}$ = 0.57 $\mu$ m	
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## **Perspective views from 5 angles**



B&B Complex Fire, Oregon 4 September 2003

### **Aerosol Plume Observations**



3000

6000

9000 12000 15000 <sub>0.0</sub>

0.4

1.2

1.6

B&B Complex Fire, Oregon 4 September 2003

### Plume-height mapping using stereo (detail)



#### Nadir image

B&B Complex Fire, Oregon 4 September 2003



#### 135 MISR-AERONET Coincident AOT Difference Plots Biomass Burning Sites; 2001-2002; Stratified by Season



#### 247 MISR-AERONET Coincident AOT Difference Plots Continental Sites; 2001-2002; Stratified by Season



#### 132 MISR-AERONET Coincident AOT Difference Plots Dusty Sites; 2001-2002; Stratified by Season



#### 65 MISR-AERONET Coincident AOT Difference Plots Maritime Sites; 2001-2002; Stratified by Season



### **Island events**

#### Selection criteria:

- Isolated from major land (Case 1 waters)
- Mostly cloud-free
- High-quality AERONET retrieval
- AOT < 0.3
- AOT variability low
- Near-surface wind-speed low
- Aerosol air mass likely to be Clean Maritime

#### Data collected for each event:

- Wind speed (local Met. Station, scatterometer)
- Wind speed variability (local Met. Station, scatterometer)
- Surface pressure (local Met. Station)
- Column ozone amount (TOMS)
- Airmass history (NOAA HYSPLIT)
- AOT (AERONET)
- AOT variation (AERONET time series)
- Aerosol refractive indices (AERONET)
- Aerosol size distribution (AERONET)

Use Mie code to calculate SSA,  $Q_{ext}$ ,  $P(\theta)$ 





#### MISR Low-Light-Level Nadir Reflectance Inter-Comparison Clean Island Sites; MODIS-Land, MODIS-Ocean, AERONET+Model



From: Kahn, et al., 2004 (in preparation)

### Impact of Band-to-Band Calibration on MISR AOT Retrieval



This change alone amounts to  $\Delta \tau_a$  of ~ -0.025 in the Green, about half the original discrepancy

#### **MISR & AERONET AOT Time Series at Four Sites**



#### 127 MISR- AERONET & 113 MODIS-AERONET Coincident AOT Comparisons Over Land; March, June, and September 2002



#### MISR-AERONET & MODIS-AERONET Coincident AOT Comparisons Over Dark Water; March, June, and September 2002



# EXPECTED NEAR-TERM UPGRADES TO THE MISR AEROSOL RETRIEVAL STANDARD ALGORITHM –

- Improved Low-light-level Calibration
- More realistic Mineral Dust optical models
- Additional, Darker Spherical Pollution and Biomass Burning analogs
- A Richer Selection of **Bi-modal Mixtures**

Should reduce remaining MISR-AERONET discrepancies by about half.

MISR data available from the NASA Langley Atmospheric Sciences Data Center http://eosweb.larc.nasa.gov/

#### **32 AERONET Site Locations** Colored According to Expected Aerosol Type





#### **MISR-MODIS** Coincident AOT Comparisons over 62 AERONET sties, June 2002



#### **MISR-MODIS** Coincident AOT Comparisons over 62 AERONET sties, September 2002



#### MISR- AERONET Coincident AOT Comparisons Over Land; March, June, and September 2002



#### MODIS-AERONET Coincident AOT Comparisons Over Land; March, June, and September 2002

