



# PHYS 616 Multifractals and Turbulence

Lecture 2:  
Introduction:  
Our multifractal world part 2

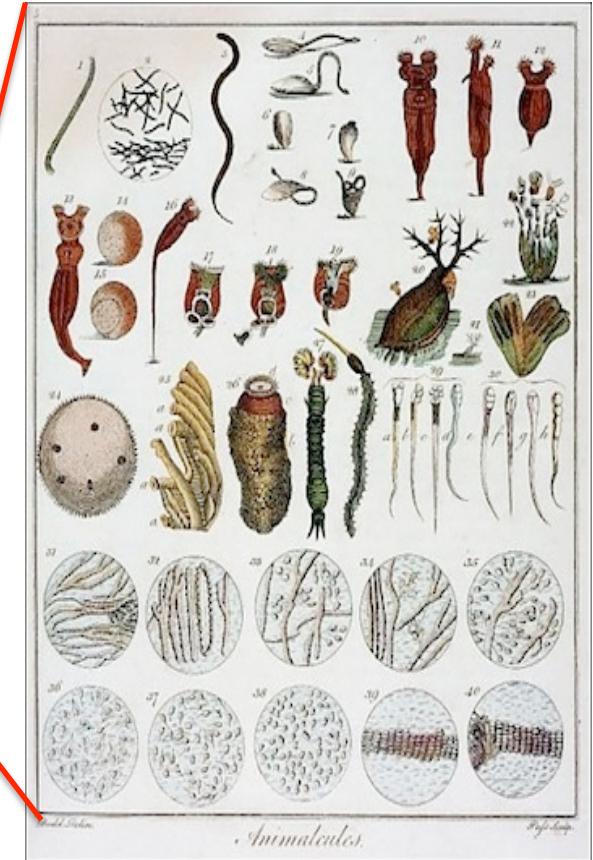
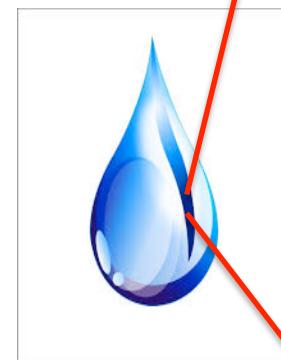
# The Atmosphere

4) time domain

A voyage through scales.....

# Antonie van Leeuwenhoek (1632–1723)

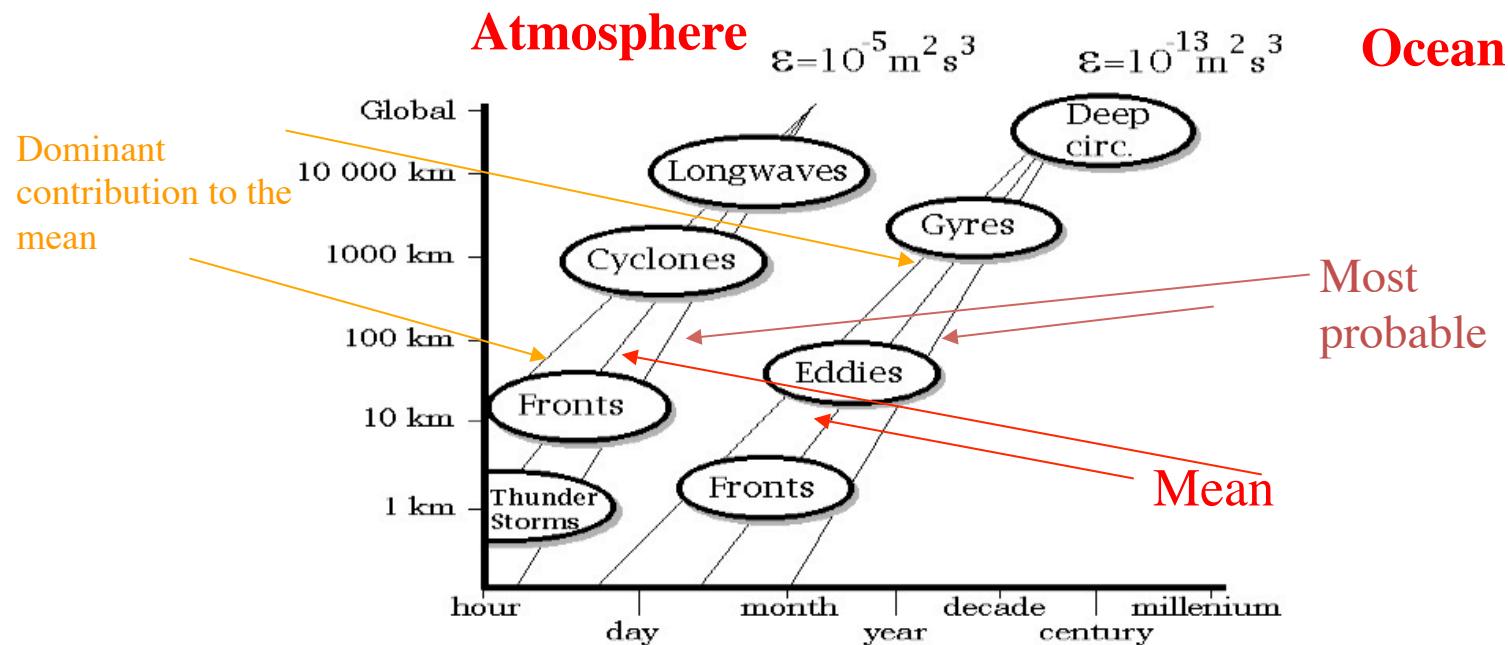
“A new world” in a drop of water



.....the discovery of micro-organisms

“Animalcules,” described in depth  
by Leeuwenhoek, c1695–1698. By  
Anton van Leeuwenhoek

# Space-time ("Stommel") diagrams for the ocean and atmosphere

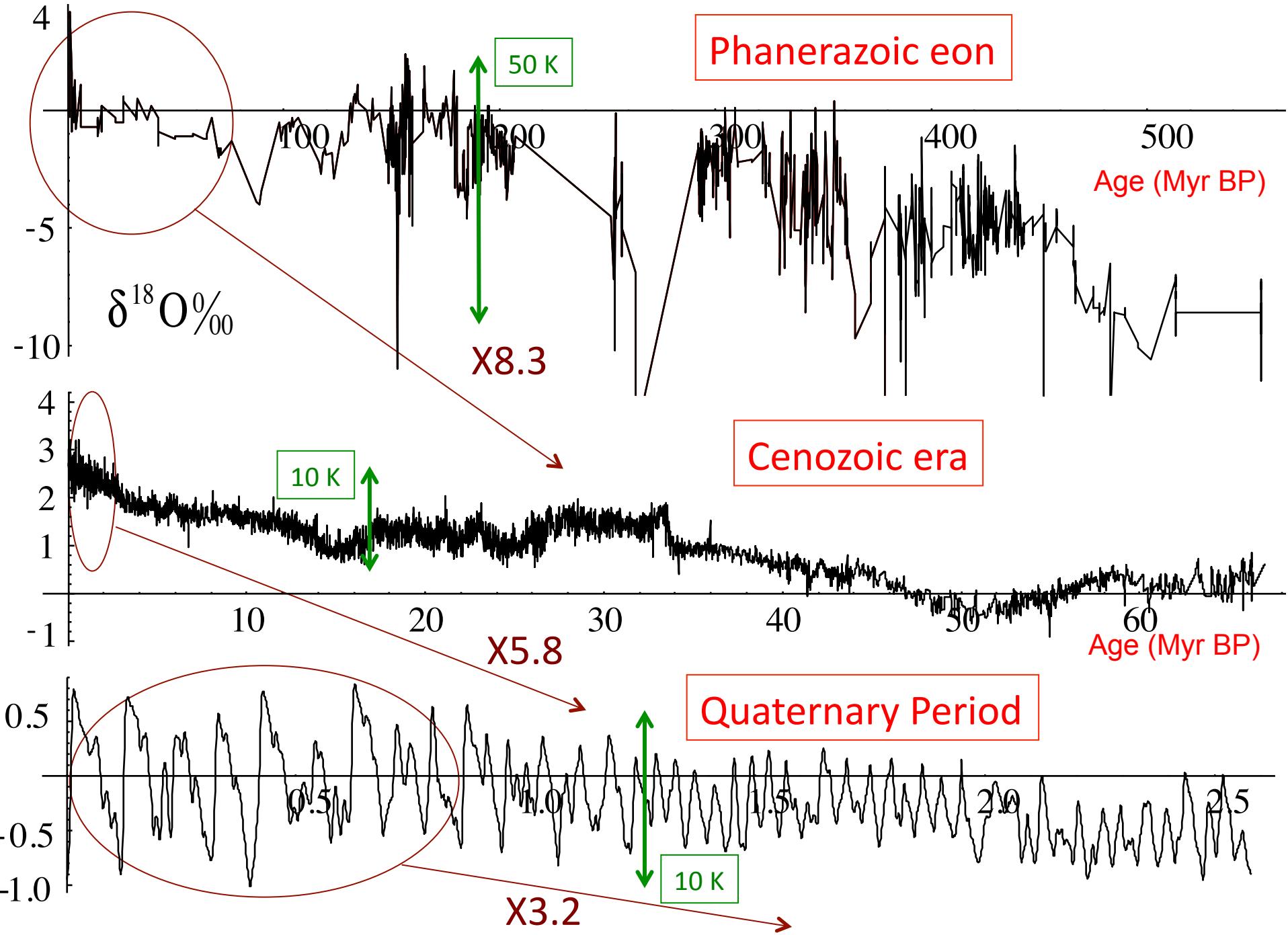


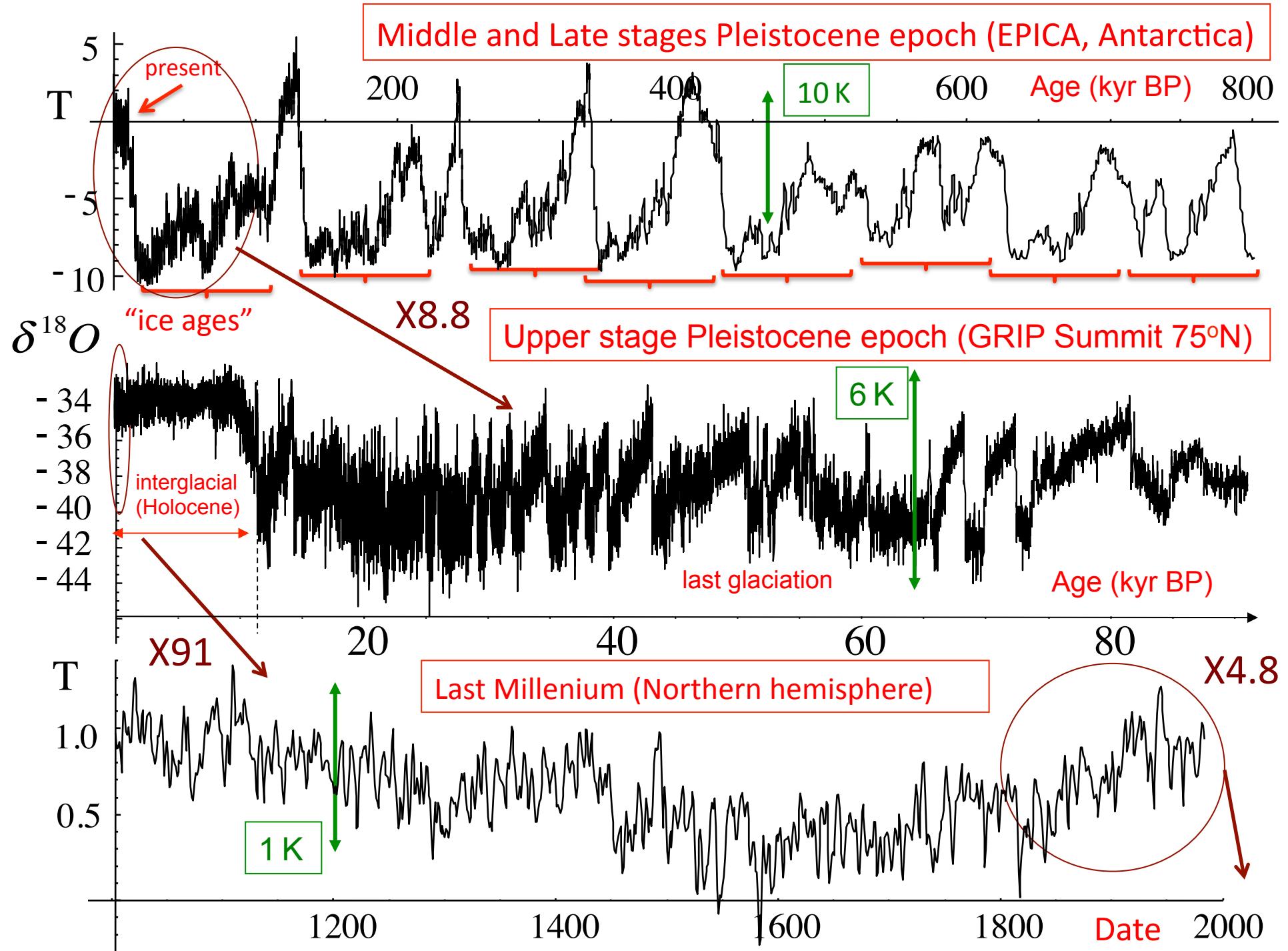
Usual scale bound interpretation: every factor of 10 (even 2!) there are new physical process requiring new models.

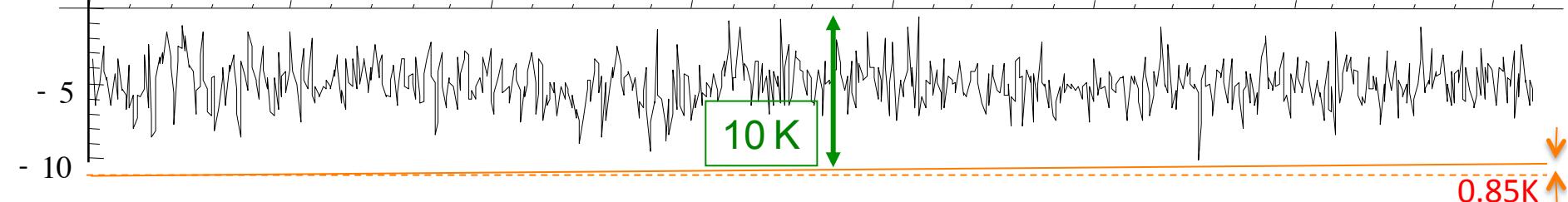
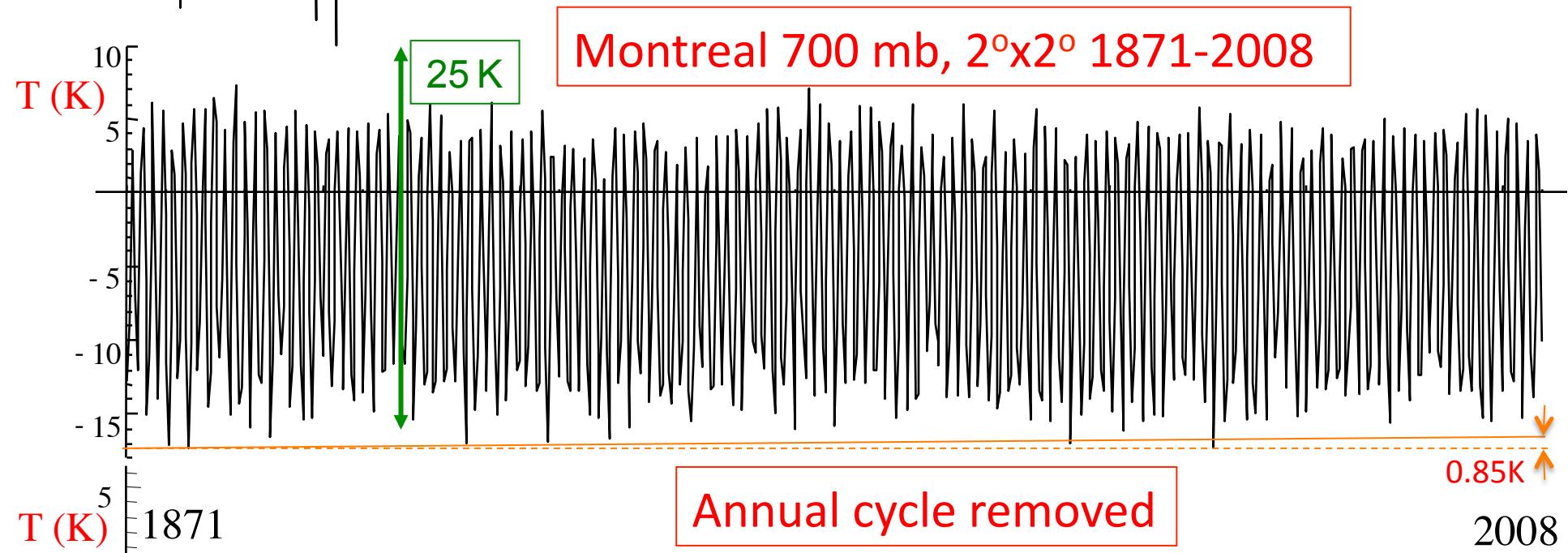
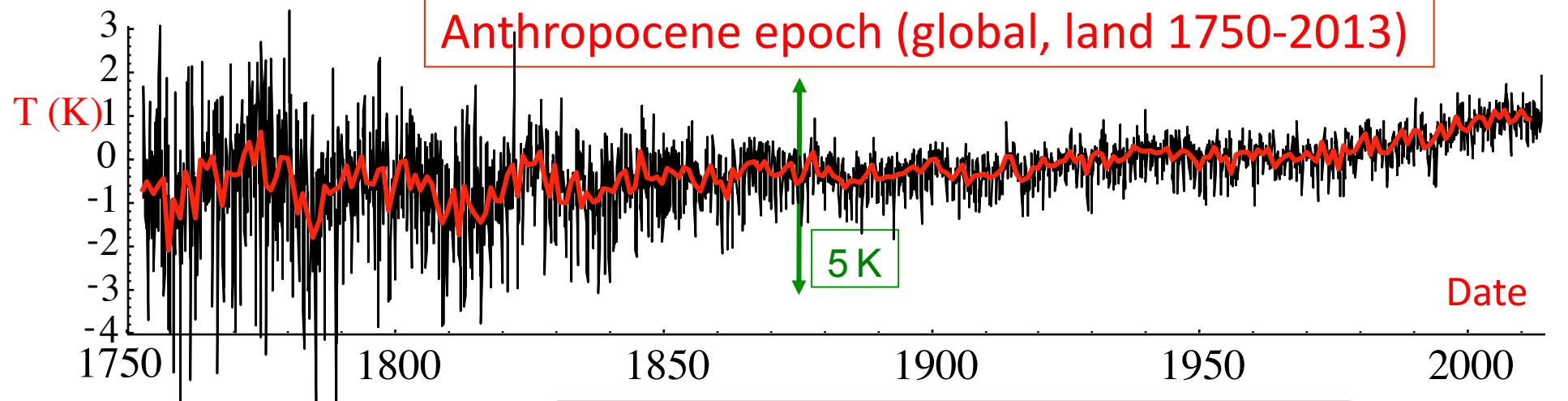
Scaling interpretation: The phenomena line up exactly as predicted by scaling, turbulence theory:

$$\tau = l^{2/3} \epsilon^{-1/3}$$

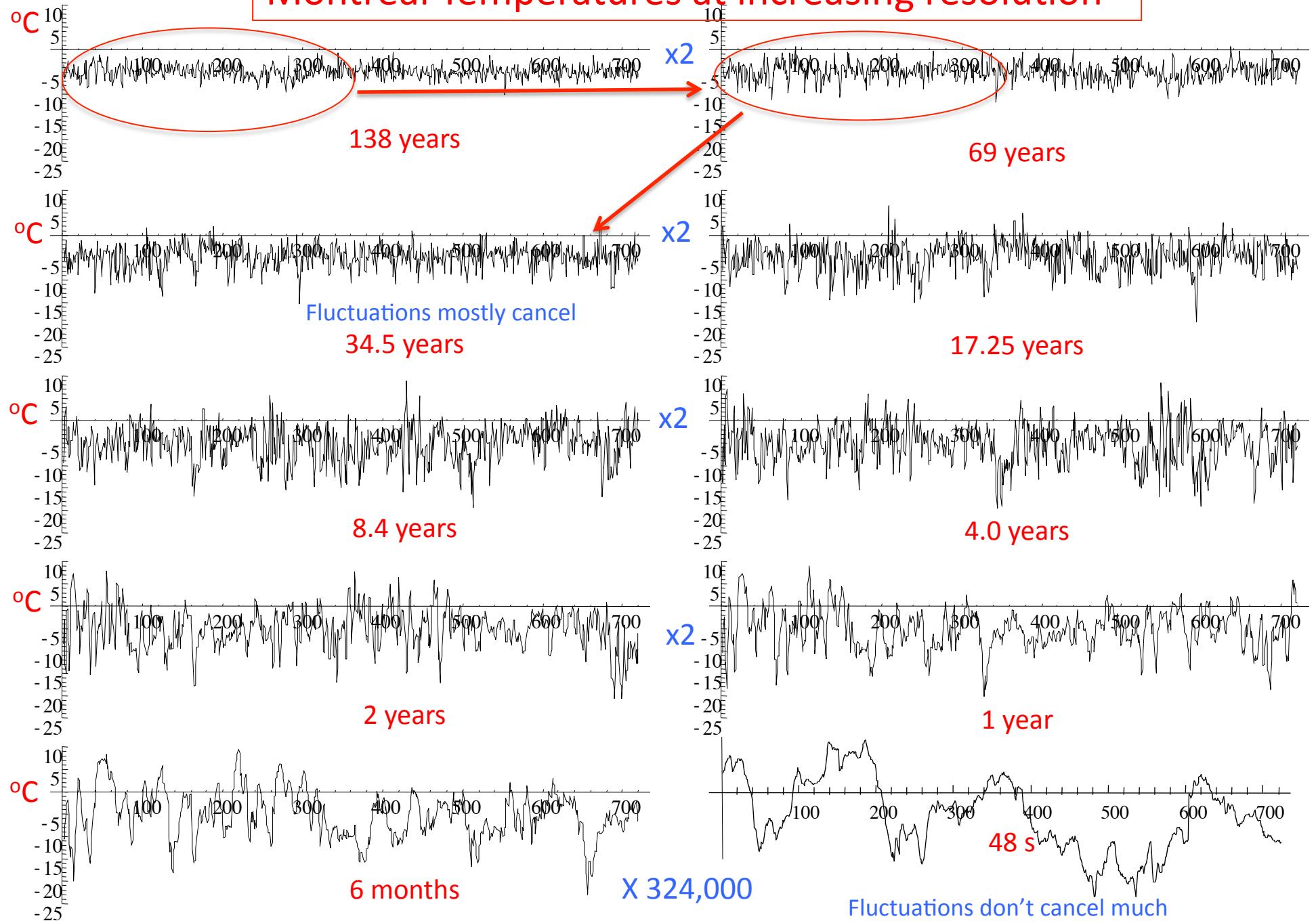
Lovejoy et al 2001



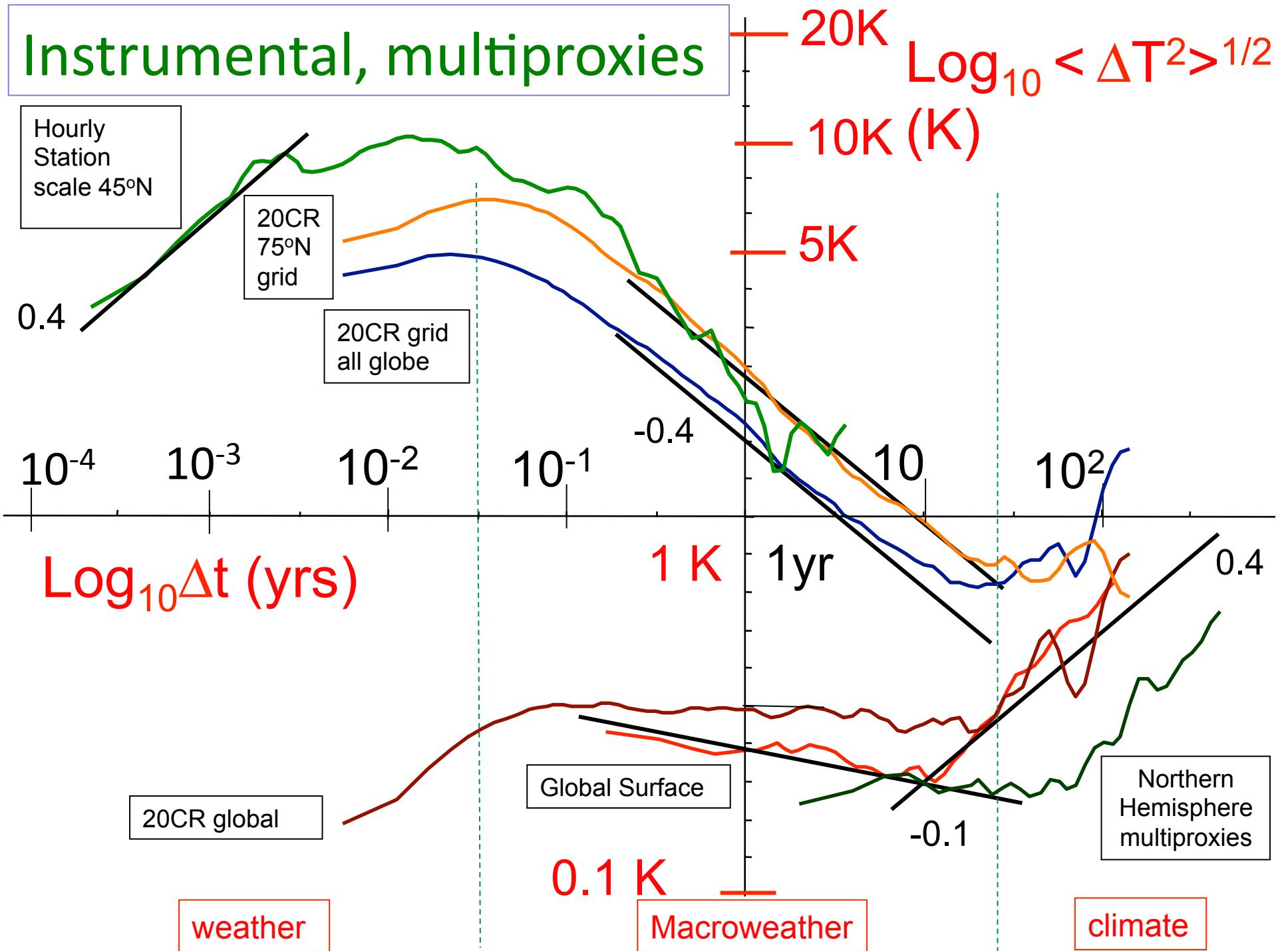


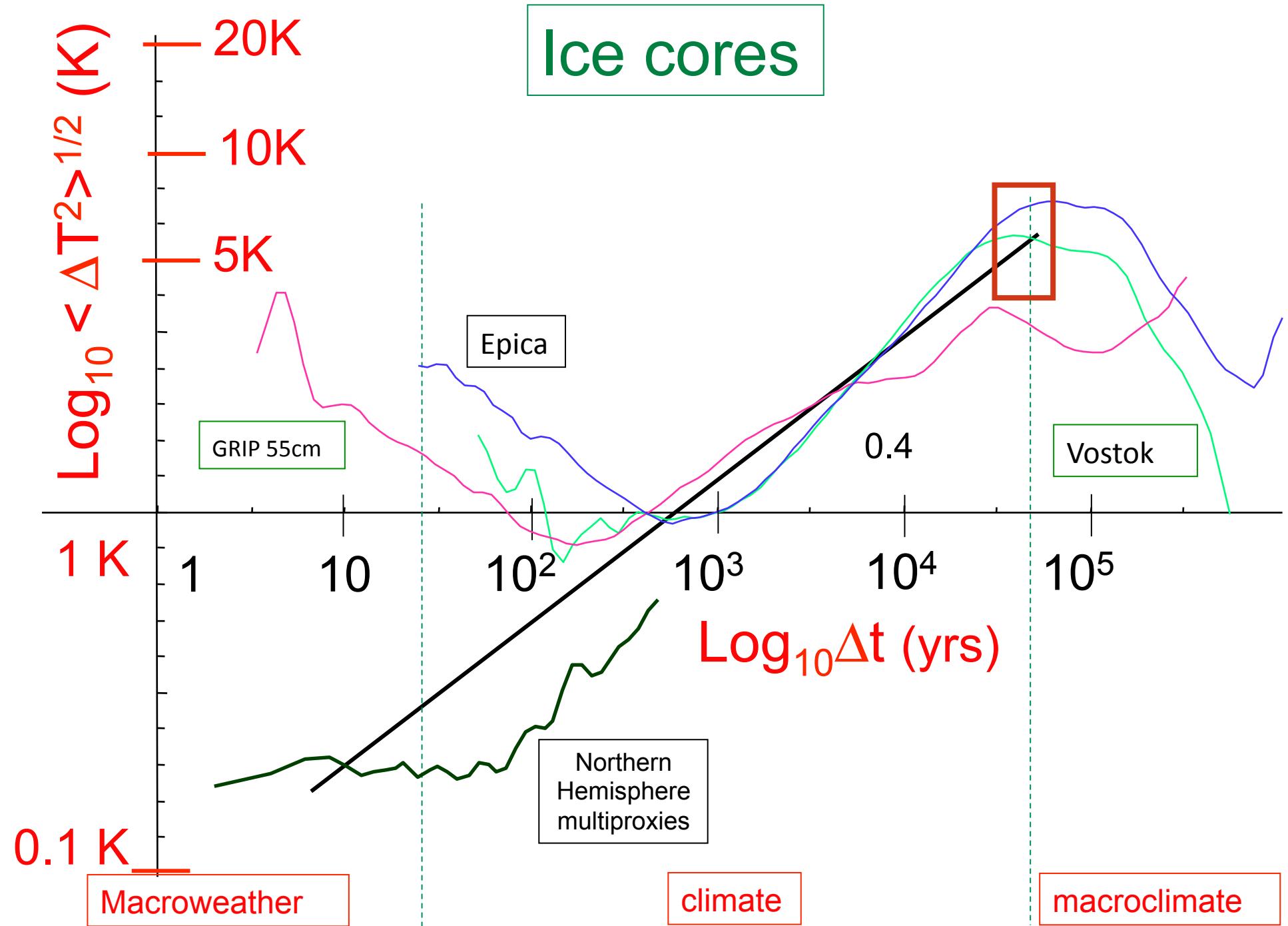


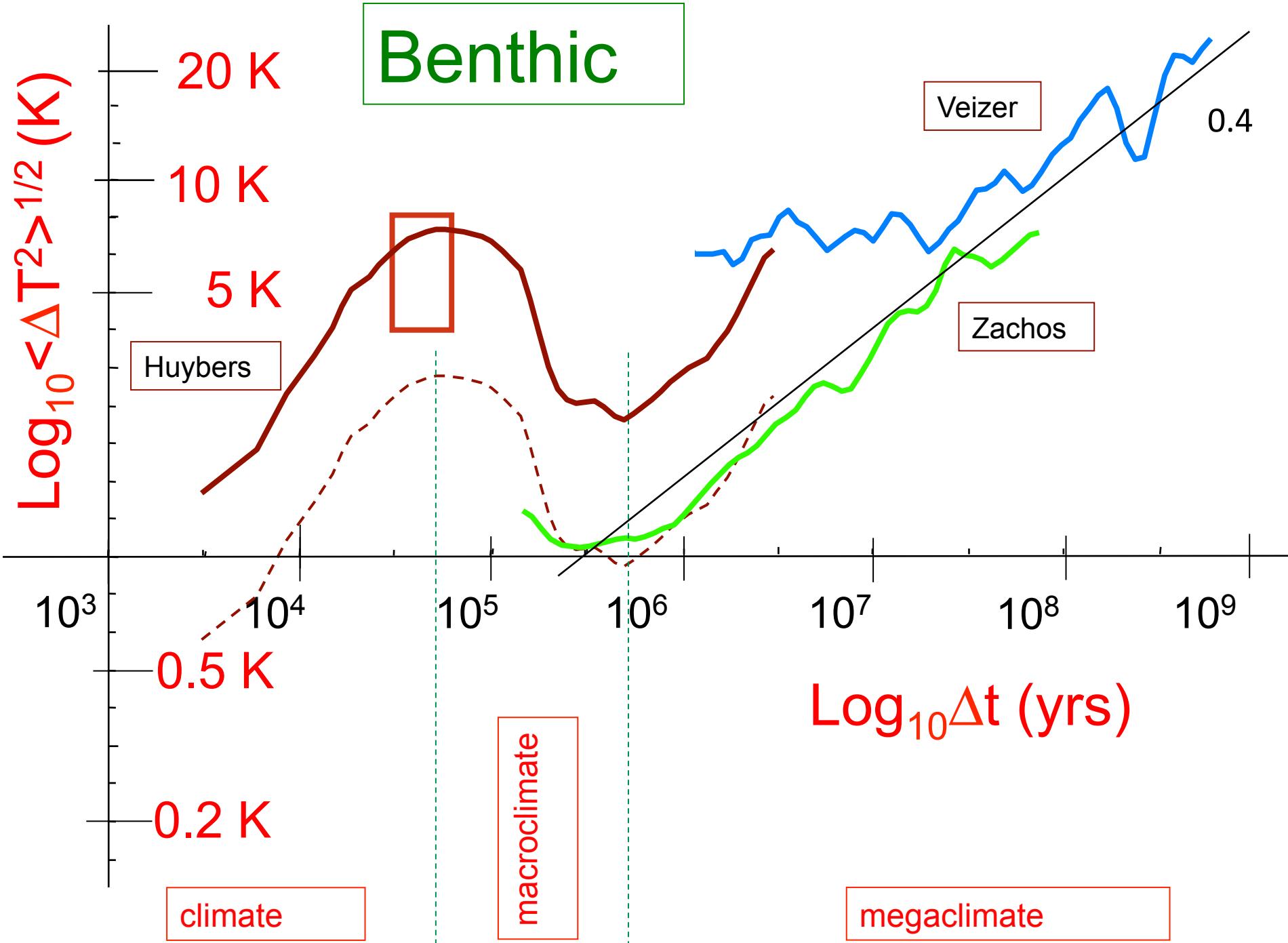
## Montreal Temperatures at increasing resolution

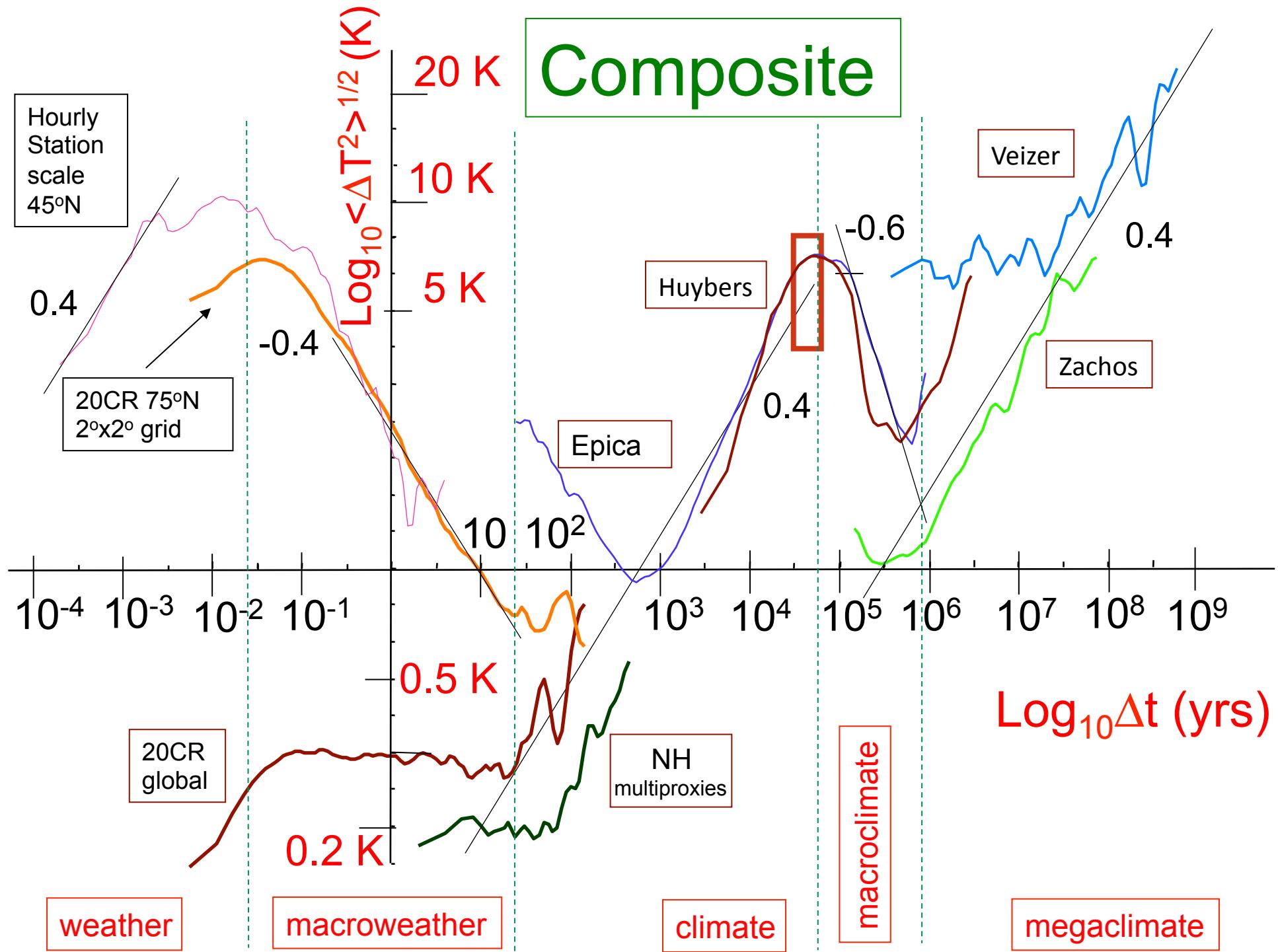


## Instrumental, multiproxies









$$\langle \Delta T(\Delta t) \rangle \propto \Delta t^H$$

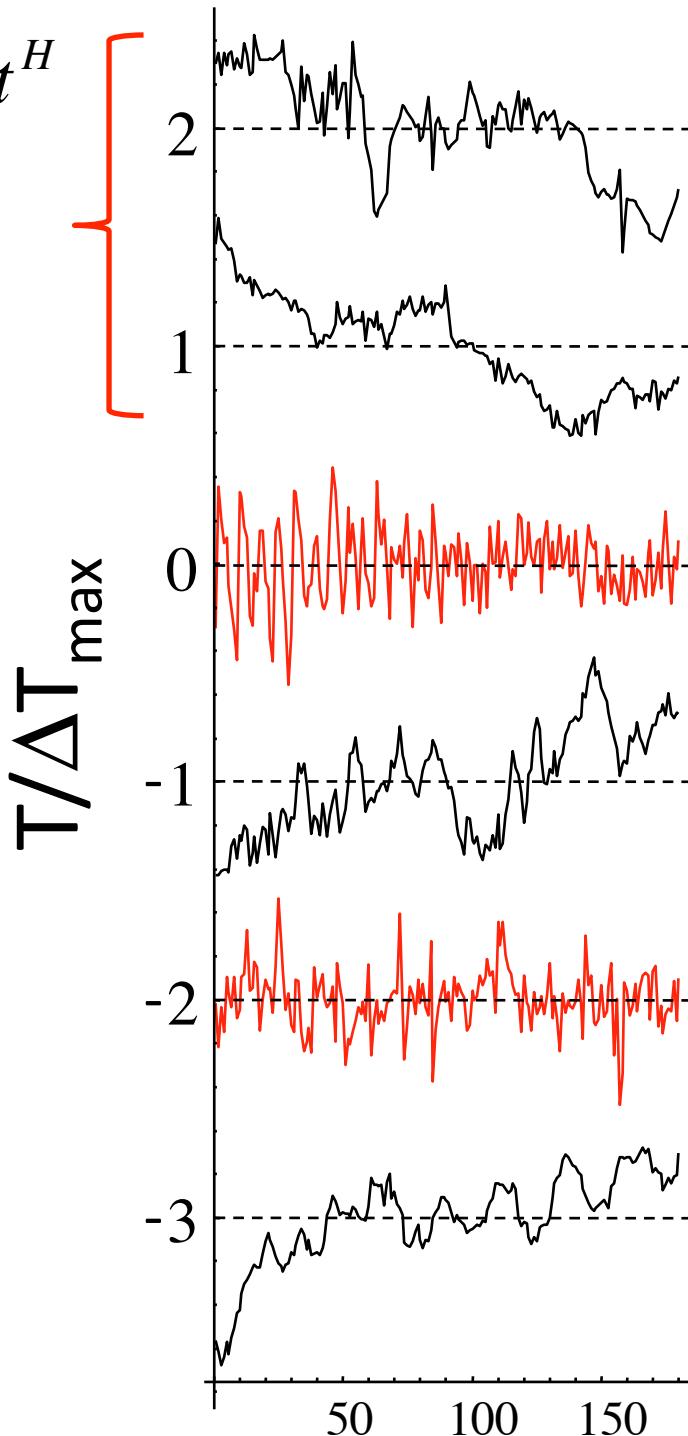
$$H \approx 0.4$$

$$H \approx -0.6$$

$$H \approx 0.4$$

$$H \approx -0.4$$

$$H \approx 0.4$$



Megaclimate

Veizer: 290 Myrs - 511Myrs BP (1.23Myr)

Megaclimate

Zachos: 0-67 Myrs (370 kyr)

Macroclimate

Huybers: 0-2.56 Myrs (14 kyrs)

Climate

Epica: 25-97 BP kyrs (400 yrs)

Macroweather

Berkeley: 1880-1895 AD (1 month)

Weather

Lander Wy.: July 4-July 11, 2005 (1 hour)

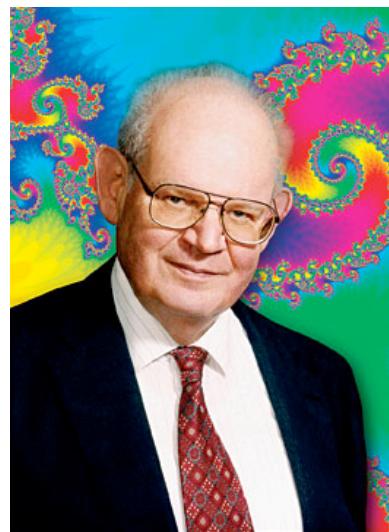
t

How to understand such  
variability?

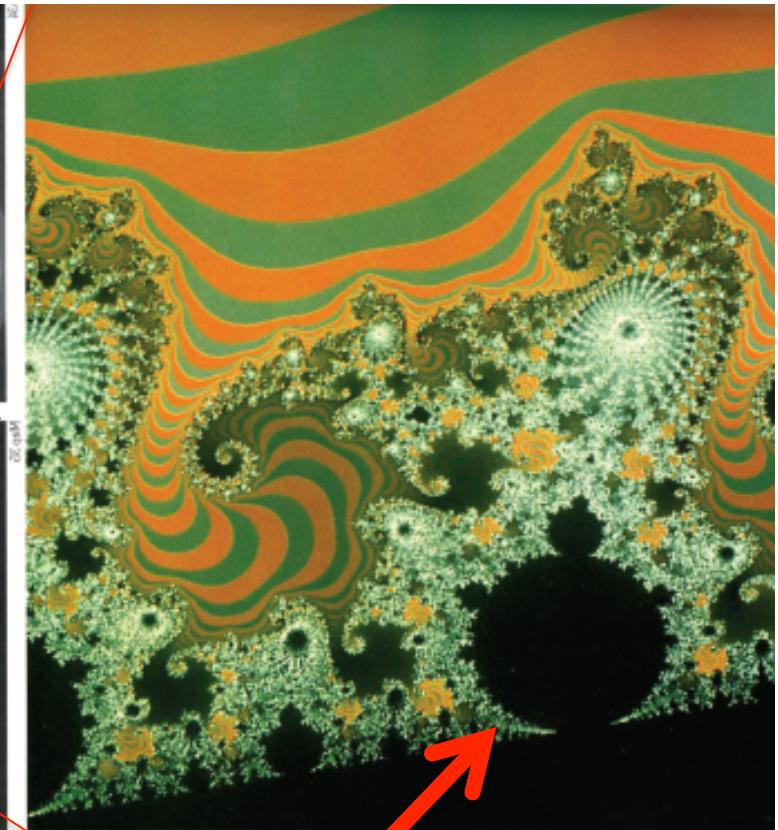
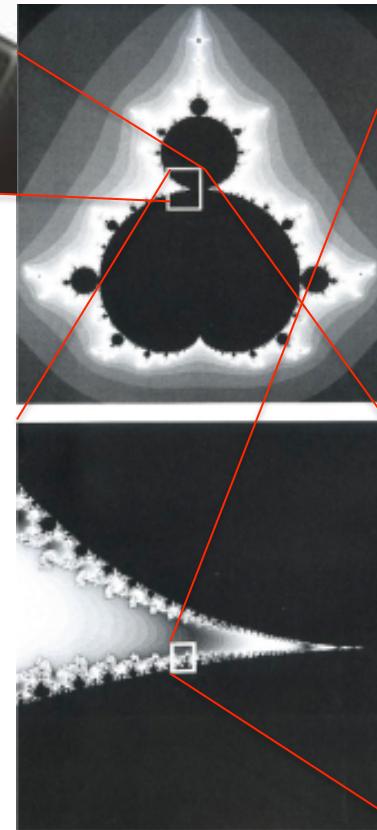


# What if....

Peitgen et al



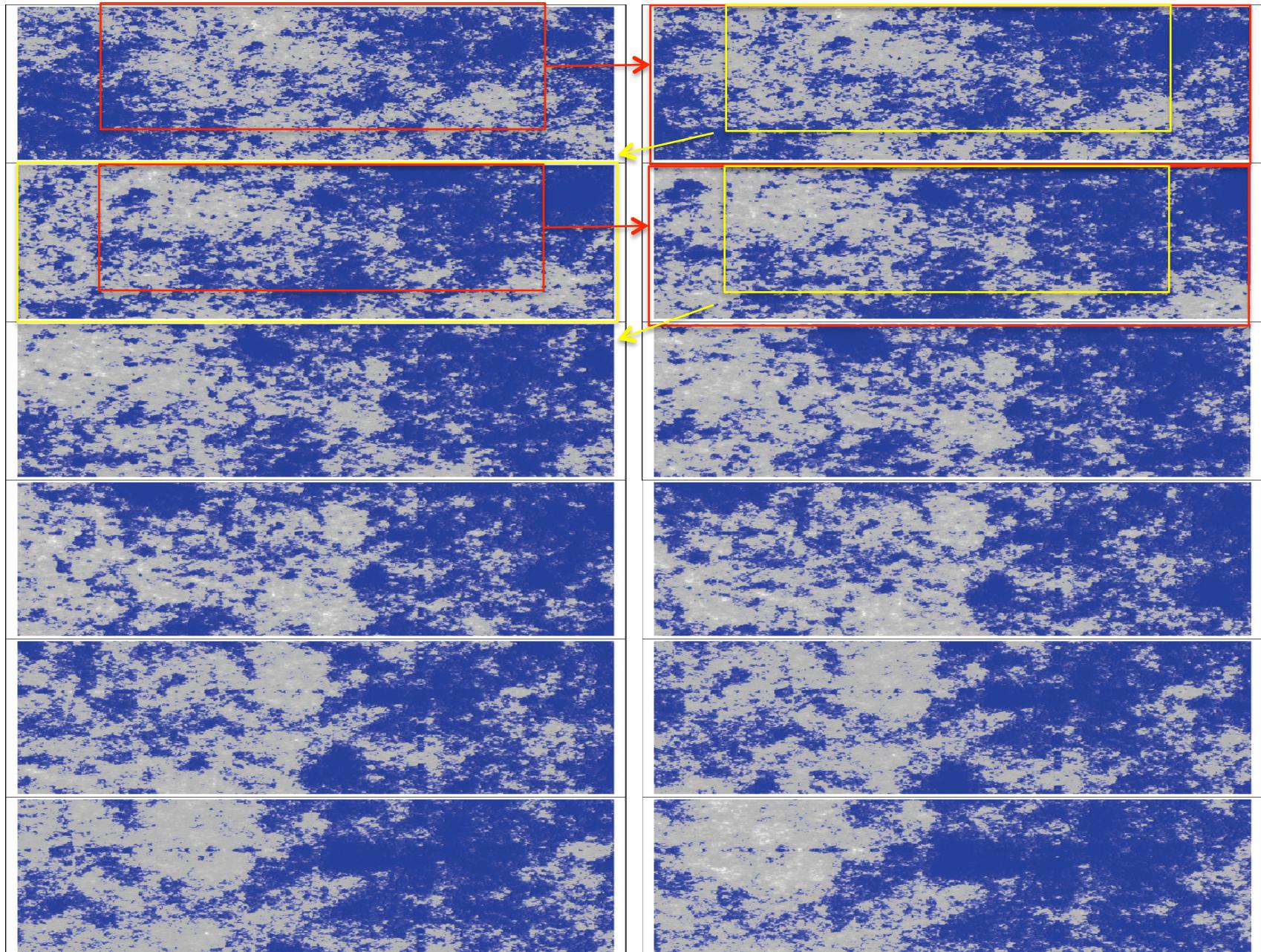
Mandelbrot 1924-2010



We found the same!!!  
**“Scaling”**

(the Mandelbrot set)

## Scale invariant Clouds..... Zooming in by factors of 1.7



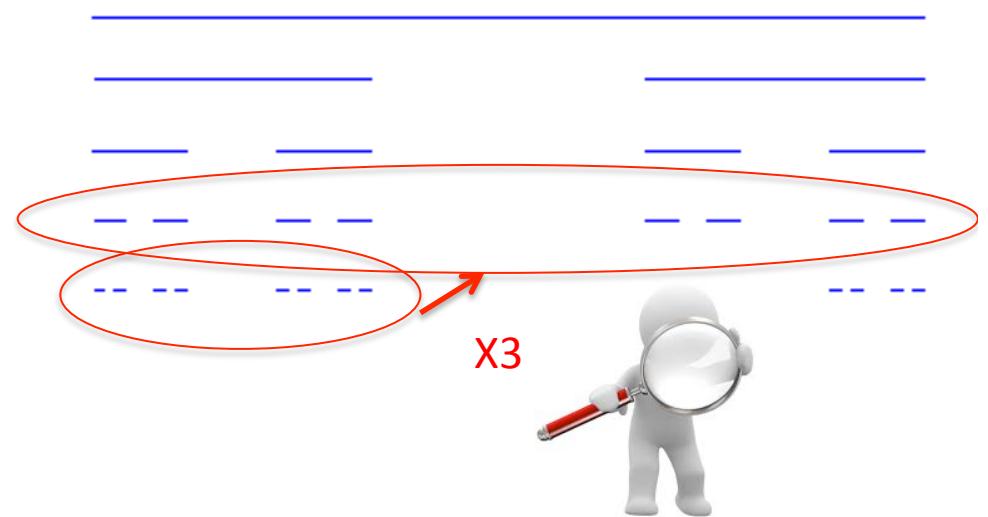
# Scale invariant geometric sets: Fractals

The simplest fractal, the Cantor set (1871)

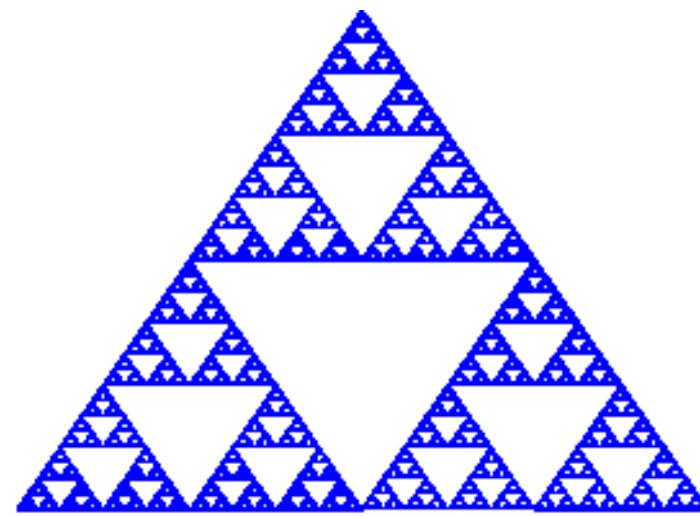
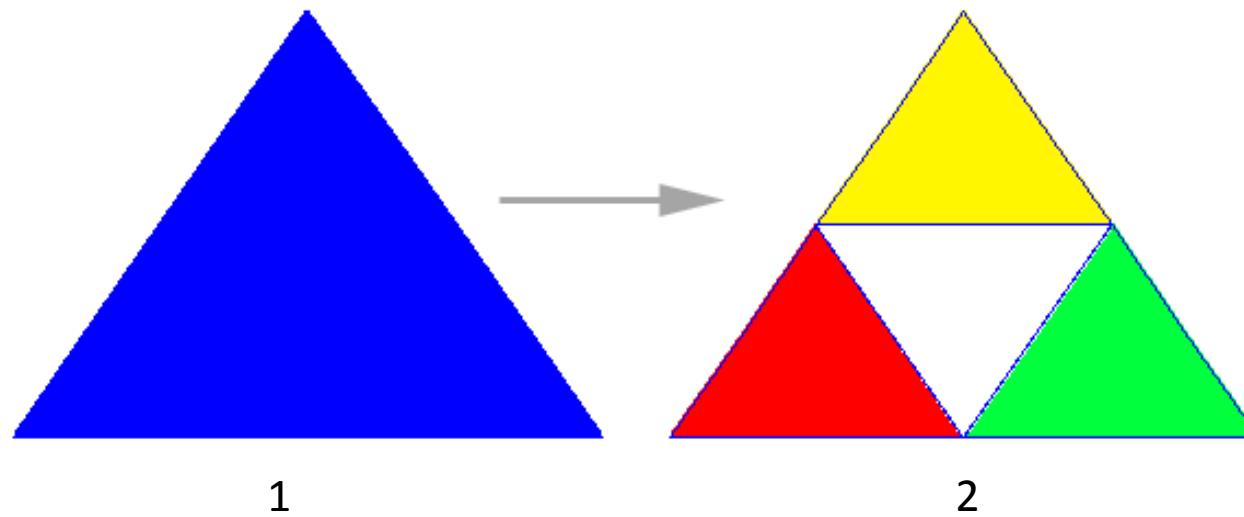
- Start with:



iterate:



# Sierpinski Triangle



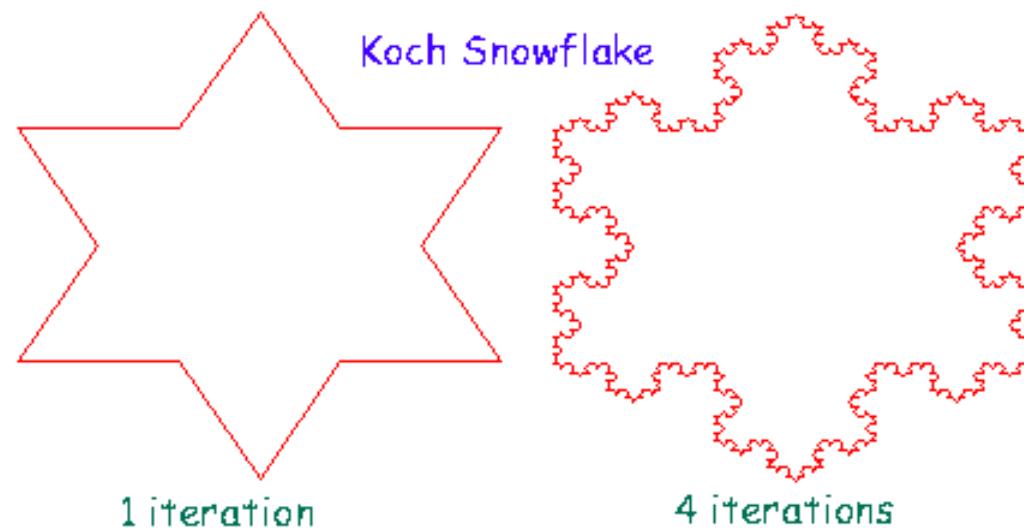
10 iterations

# The Koch snowflake

- Start with:

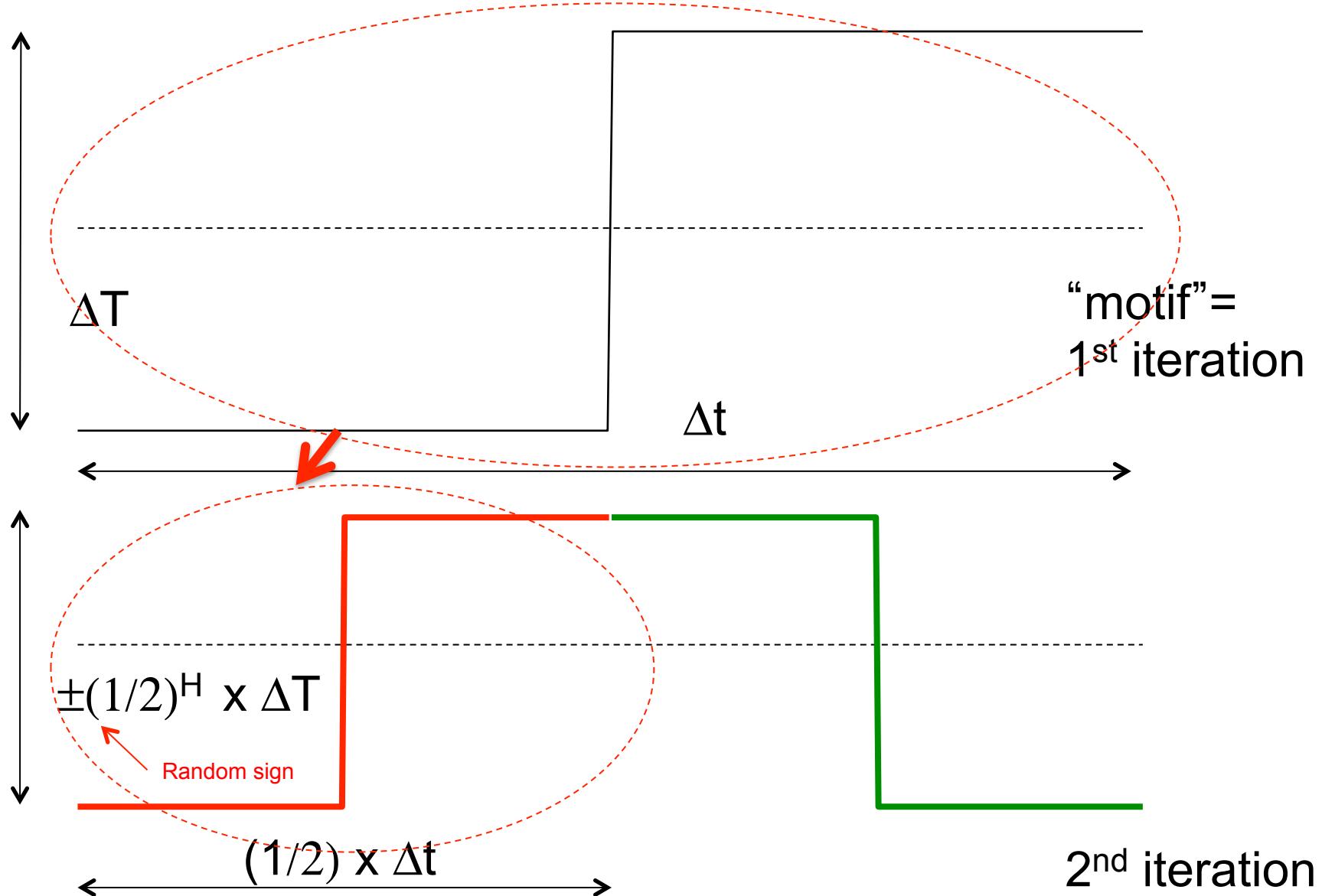


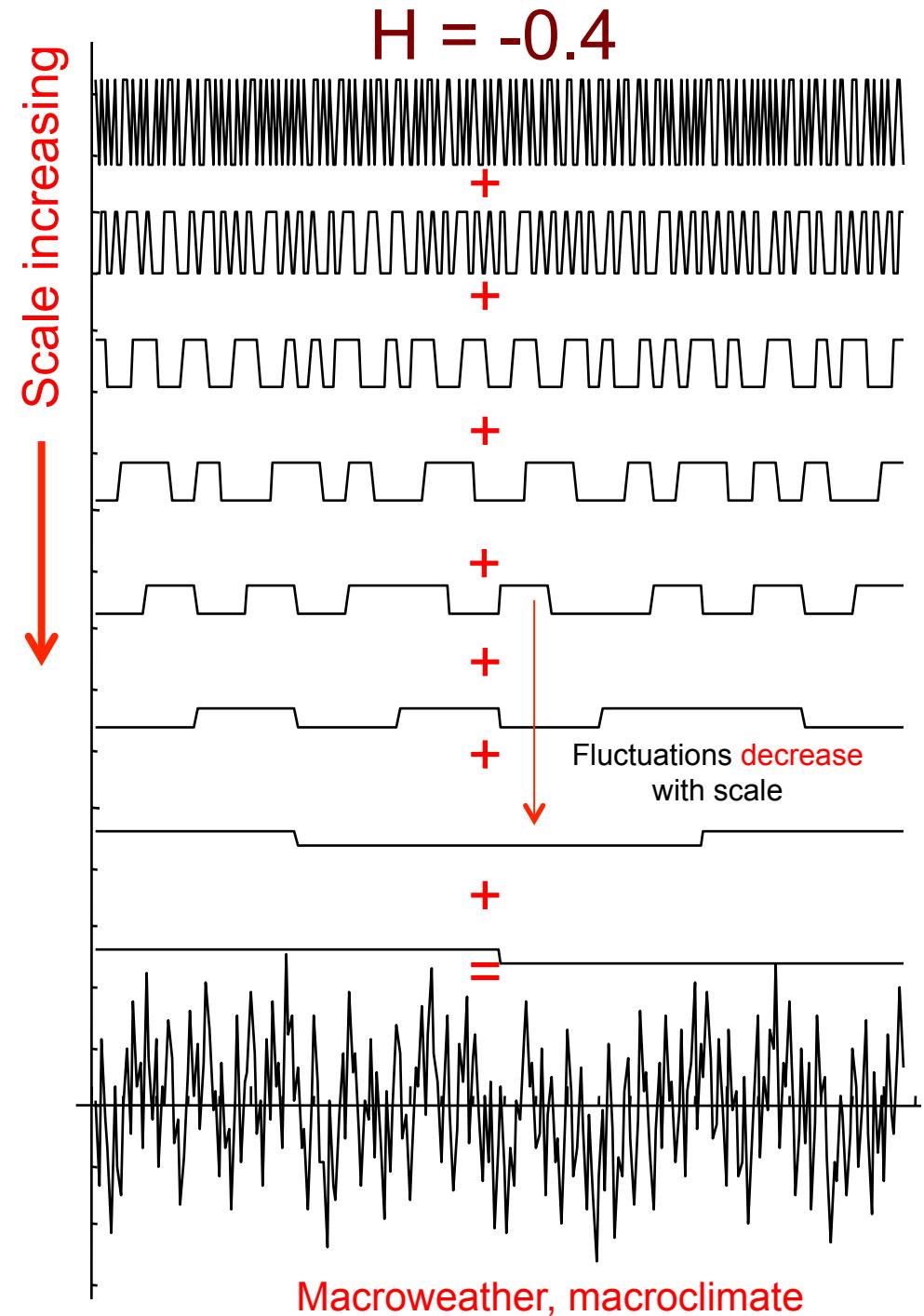
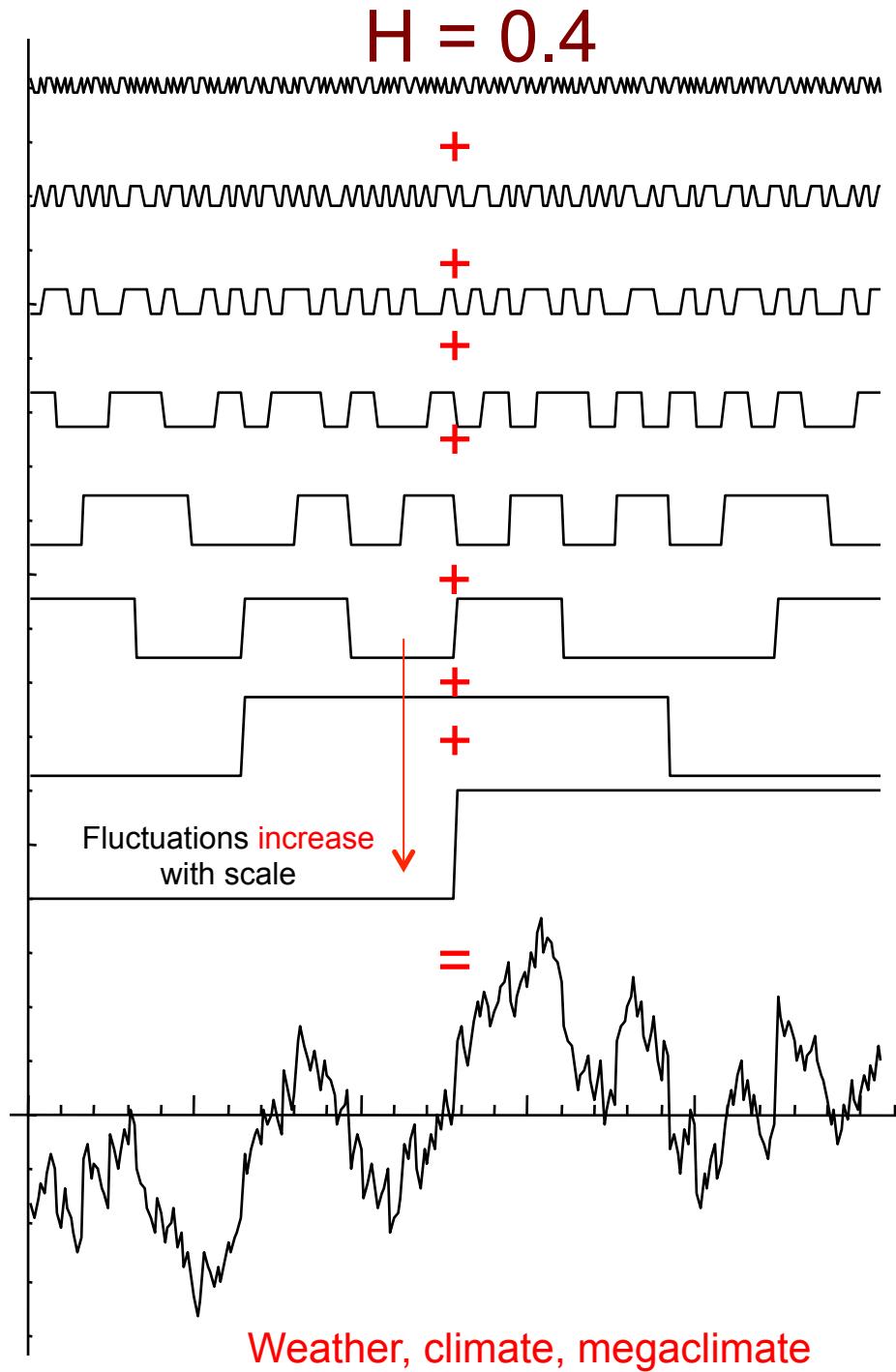
iterate:

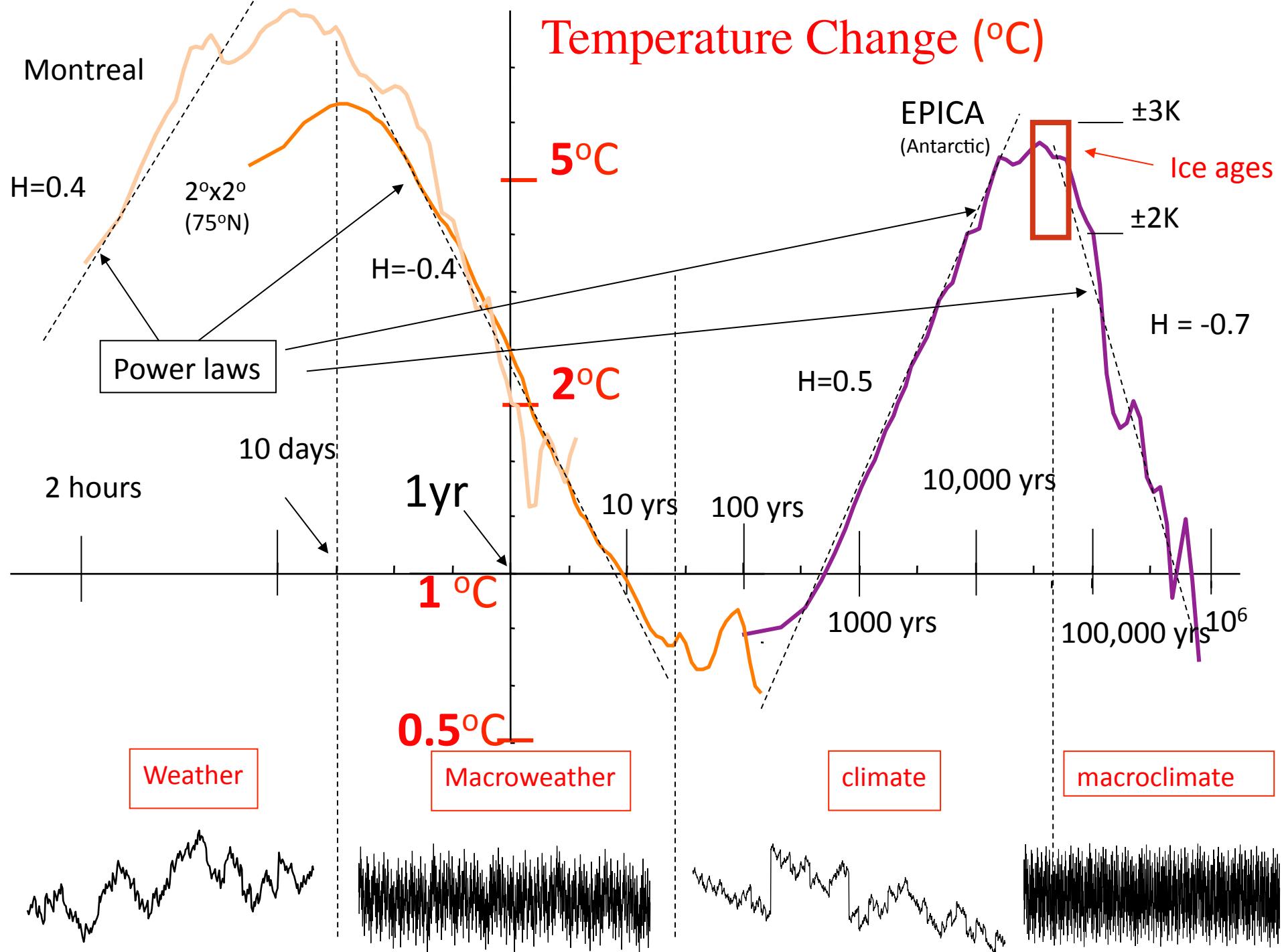


A simple fractal model to help  
understand the different regimes

# Understanding the fluctuation exponent: The fractal H model







# Conclusion:

“Macroweather is what you expect  
The climate is what you get!”

Weather, macroweather and the climate are distinguished by  
the way they change under a zoom!



The unity of clouds  
and rocks:

Scaling

Multifractal simulation

# What is the tangent of the coast of Brittany?

Perrin 1913:

"Consider the difficulty in finding the tangent to a point of the coast of Brittany... depending on the resolution of the map the tangent would change. The point is that a map is simply a conventional drawing in which each line has a tangent. On the contrary, an essential feature of the coast is that ... without making them out, at each scale we *guess* the details which prohibit us from drawing a tangent..."

# How Long is the Vistula... the coast of Britain?

**Steinhaus 1954:** "... The left bank of the Vistula when measured with increased precision would furnish lengths ten, hundred, and even a thousand times as great as the length read off a school map. A statement nearly adequate to reality would be to call most arcs encountered in nature as not rectifiable. This statement is contrary to the belief that not rectifiable arcs are an invention of mathematicians and that natural arcs are rectifiable: it is the opposite which is true..."

**Richardson 1961:** Empirical scaling of coast of Britain and of several frontiers using "Richardson dividers" method.

**Mandelbrot 1967:** paper "How long is the coast of Britain?" interprets Richardson's scaling exponent in terms of a fractal dimension.

# By the 1980's: The fractality of coastlines became "obvious"!

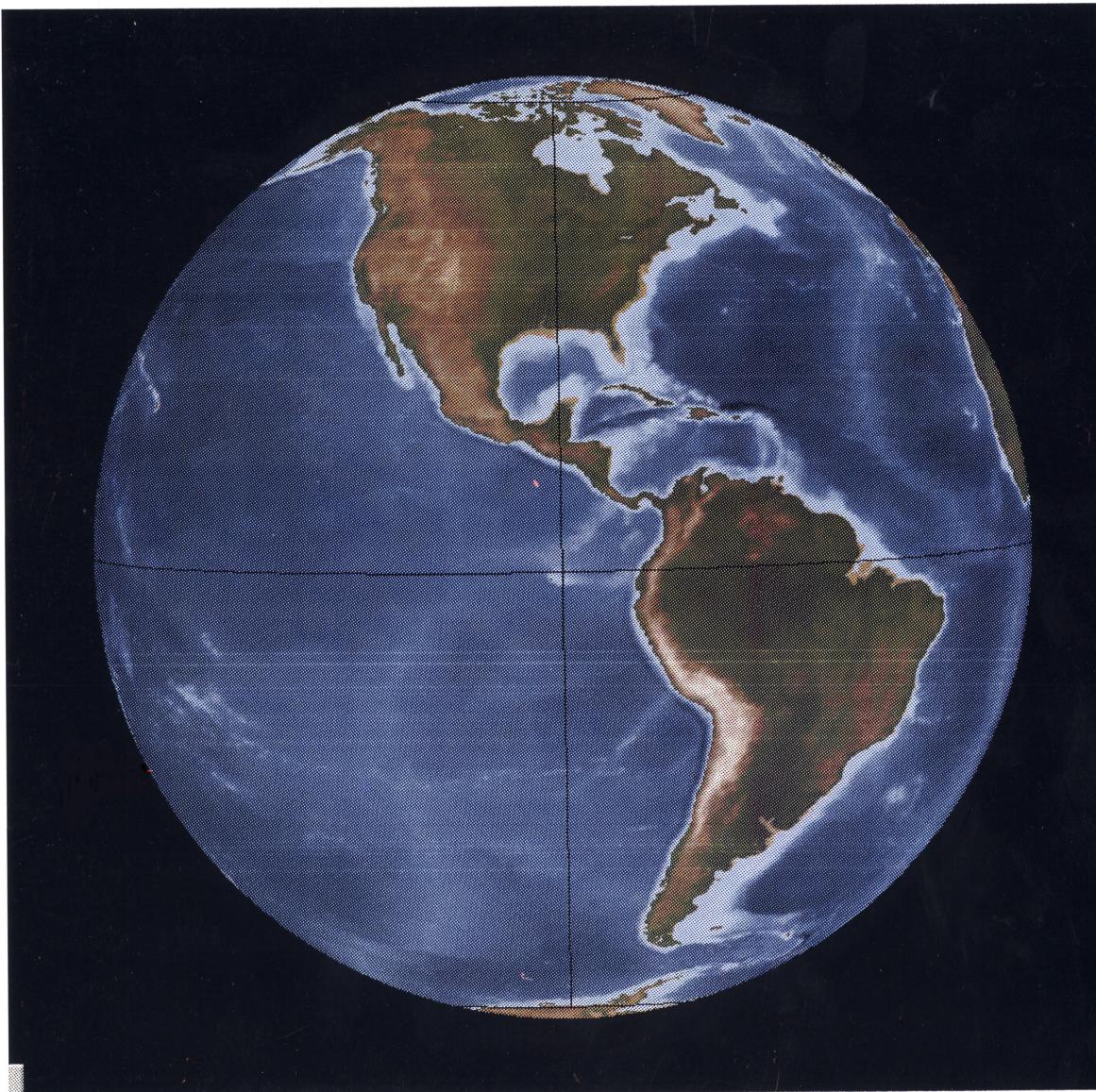
But... the coastline is a **level set** of the topography.  
So what are the statistics of the topography field  $h(x,y)$ ?

Some early scaling results the isotropic spectrum  $E(k)$  of  $h(x,y)$ :

Vening-Meinesz 1951:  $E(k)=k^{-\beta}; \beta=2$

Balmino et al 1973, Bell 1975 :  $E(k)=k^{-\beta} \omega \tau \eta \beta \nu \epsilon \alpha \rho 2$

# Topography

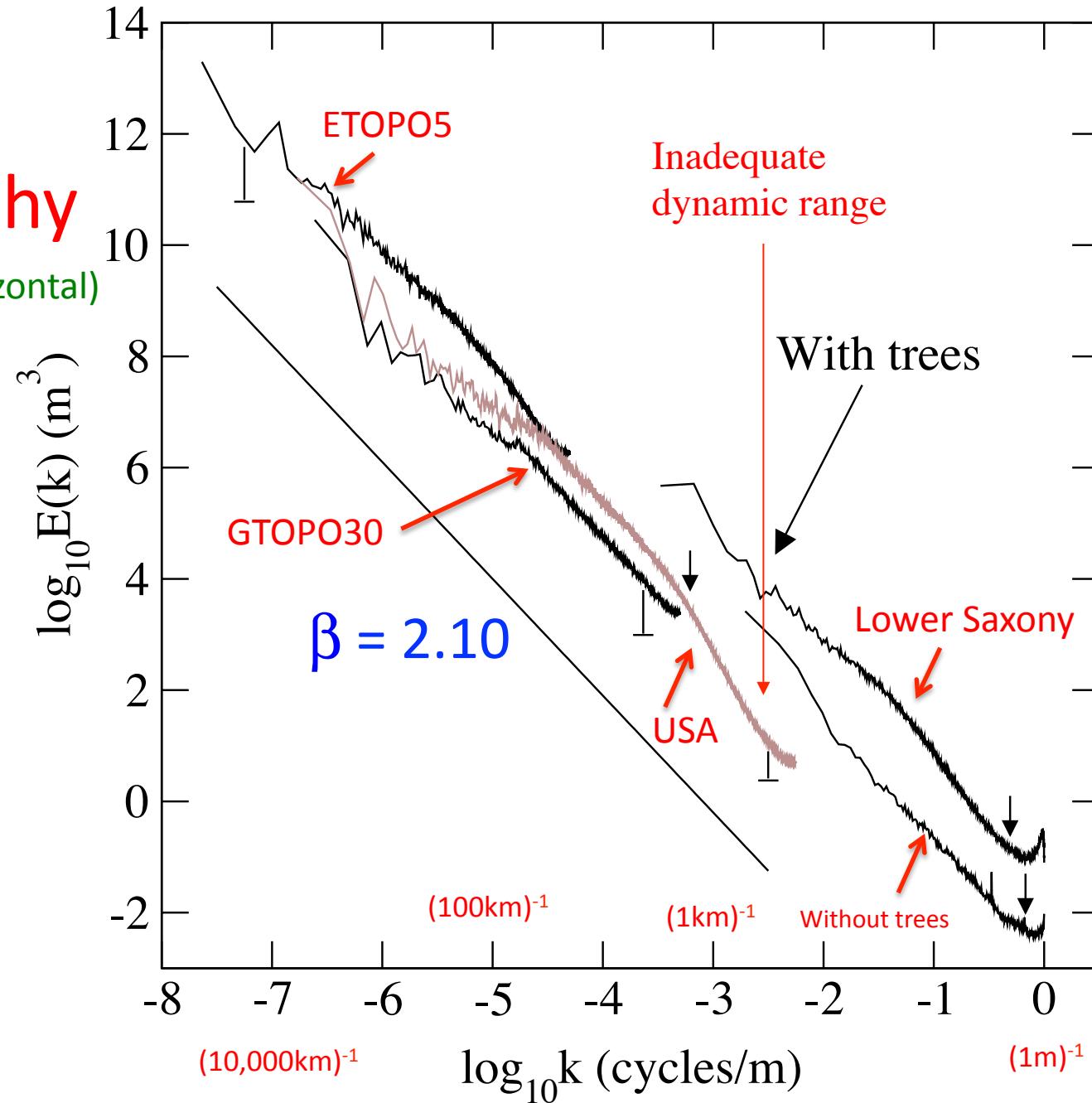


**ETOPO5**

altitude data  
(5 ° arc, roughly 10km  
Resolution)

# Topography

(scaling in the horizontal)



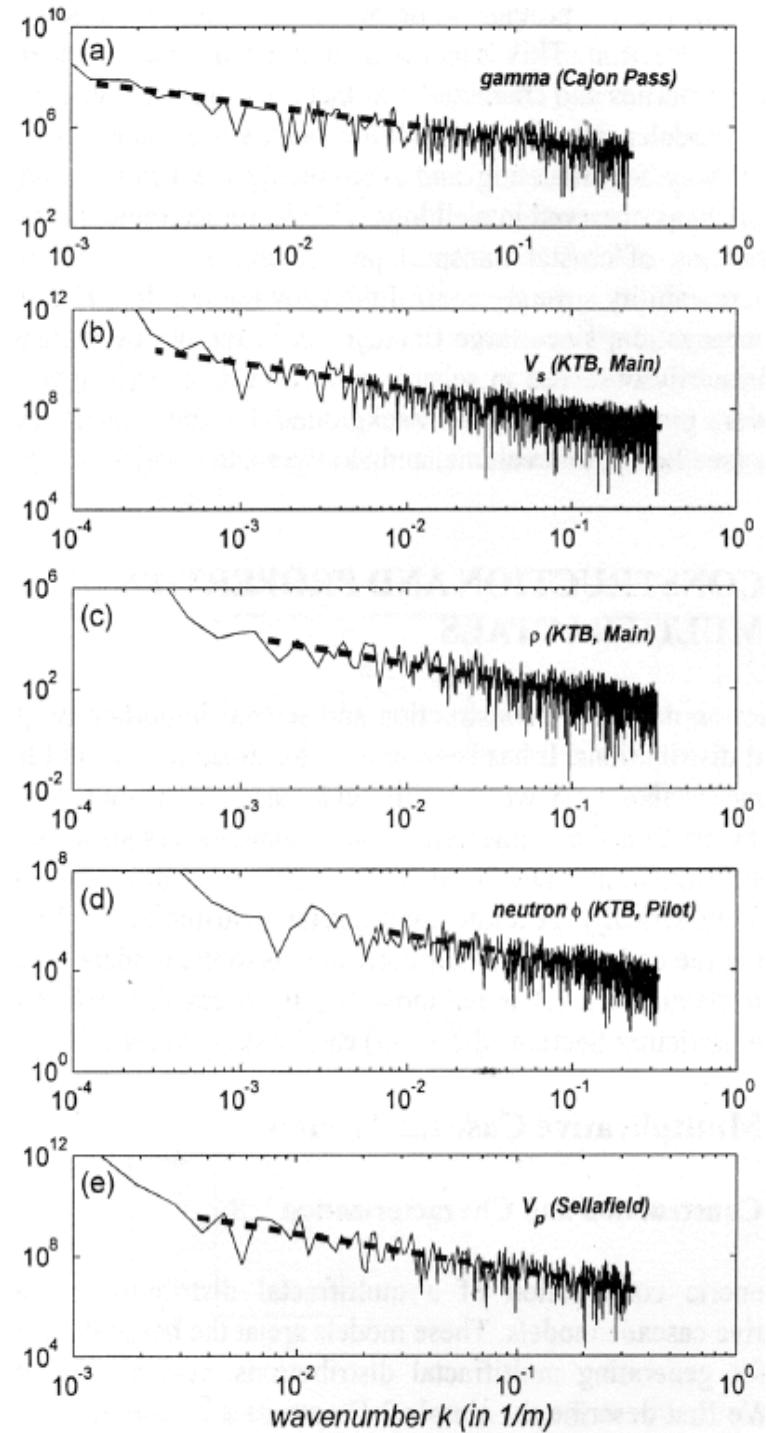
Gagnon, Lovejoy  
and Schertzer, 2006

Energy spectra over a scale range of  $10^8$  Global (ETOPO5, 10km), continental US (GTOPO30: 1km and 90m), Lower Saxony, 20cm).

# The scaling of the KTB borehole (scaling in the vertical)

(1987-1995) 9.1km deep  
Russian Kola: 12.2 km

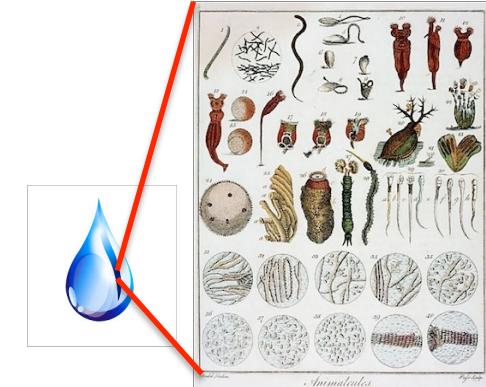
Marsan and Bean (2003)



Scale bound  
versus  
fractal thinking

# Scale bound thinking

Antonie van  
Leeuwenhoek  
(1632–1723)

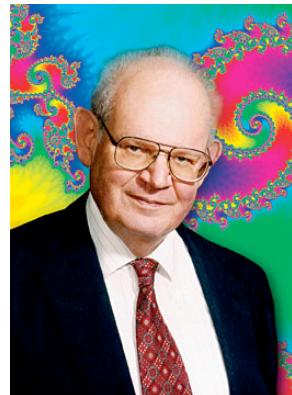


A new world in a drop of water

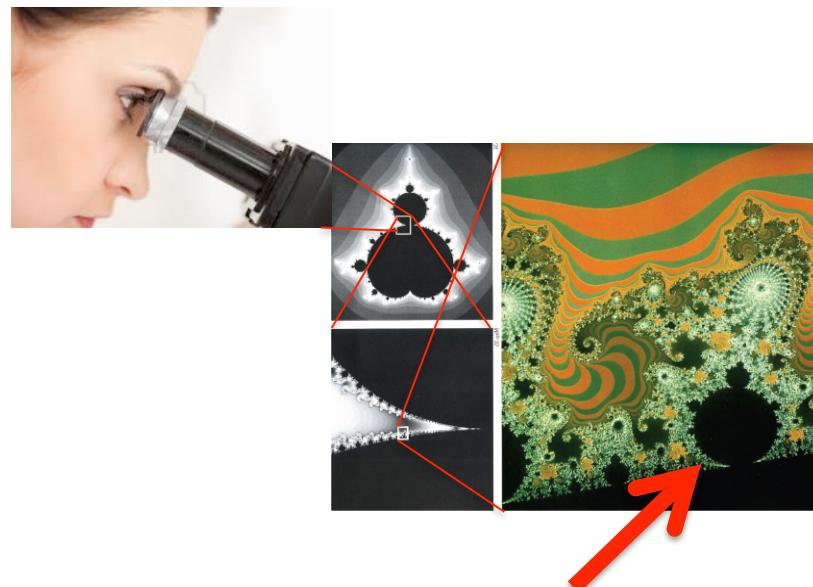
.....the discovery of micro-organisms

"Animalcules," described in depth by Leeuwenhoek, c1695–1698. By Anton van Leeuwenhoek

## Pure (self-similar) Fractal thinking



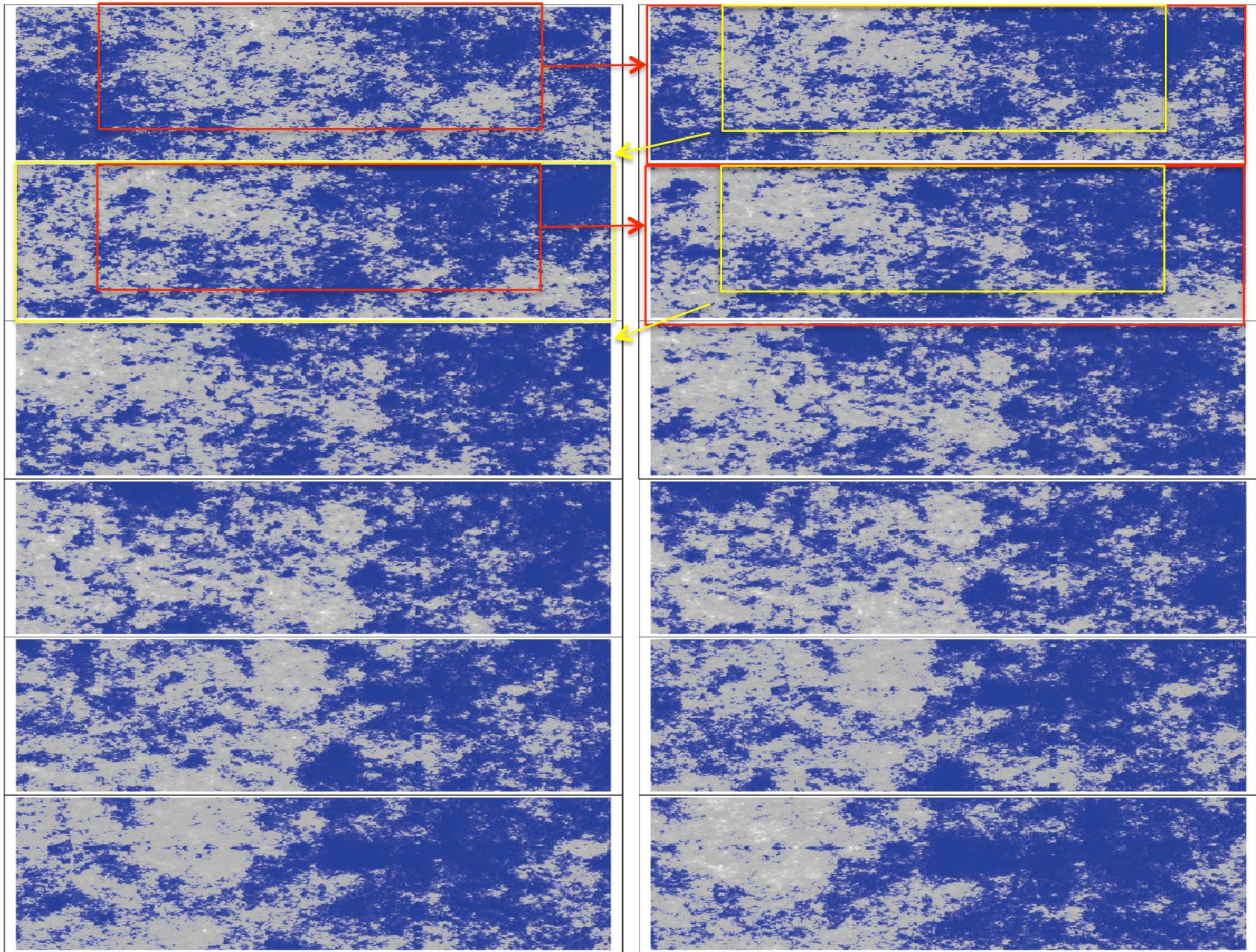
Mandelbrot 1924–2010



The same!!!

(the Mandelbrot set)

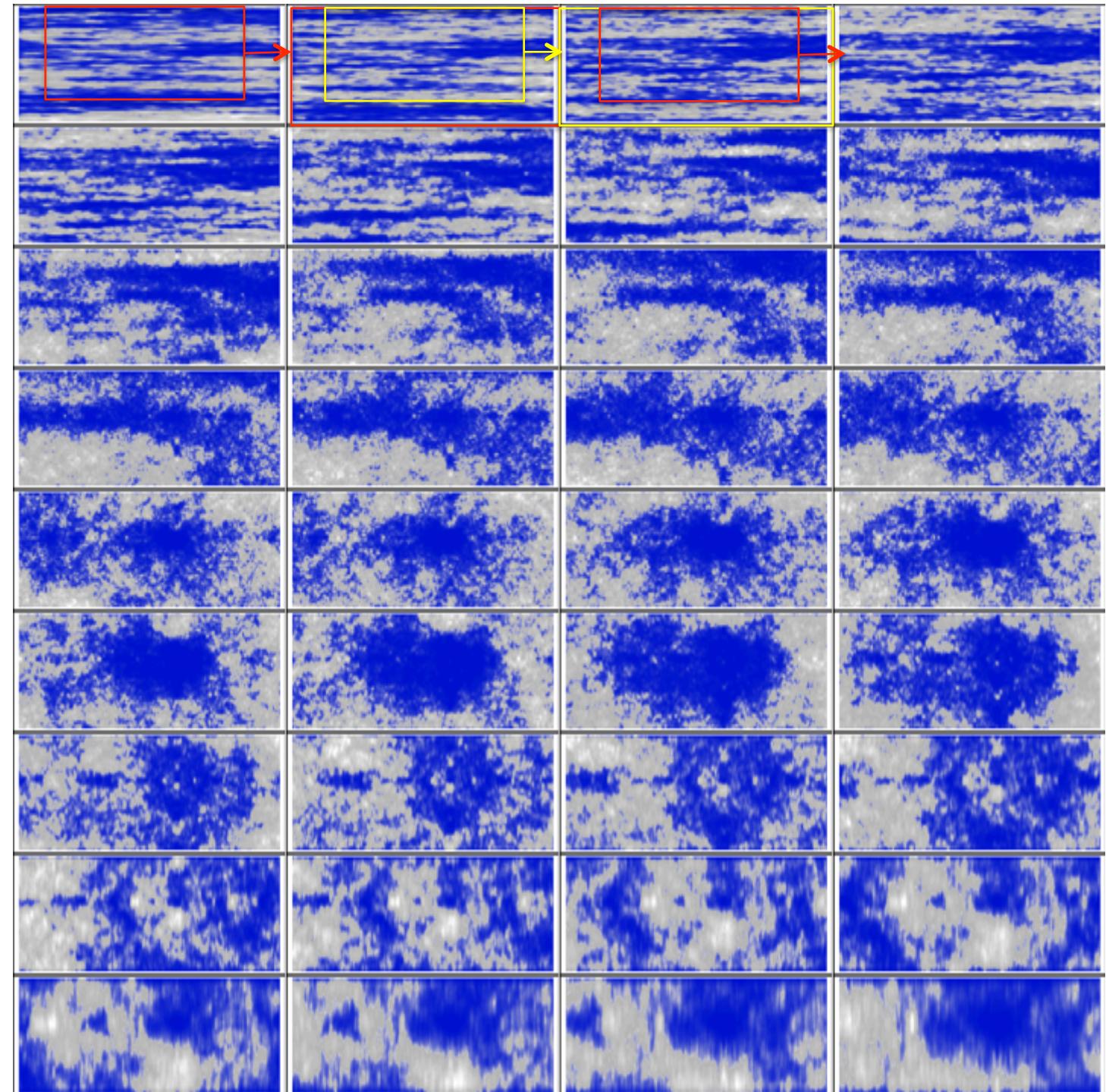
Self-similar Fractal thinking is OK here (Zooming in by factors of 1.7)



What  
about  
fractal  
thinking  
here?

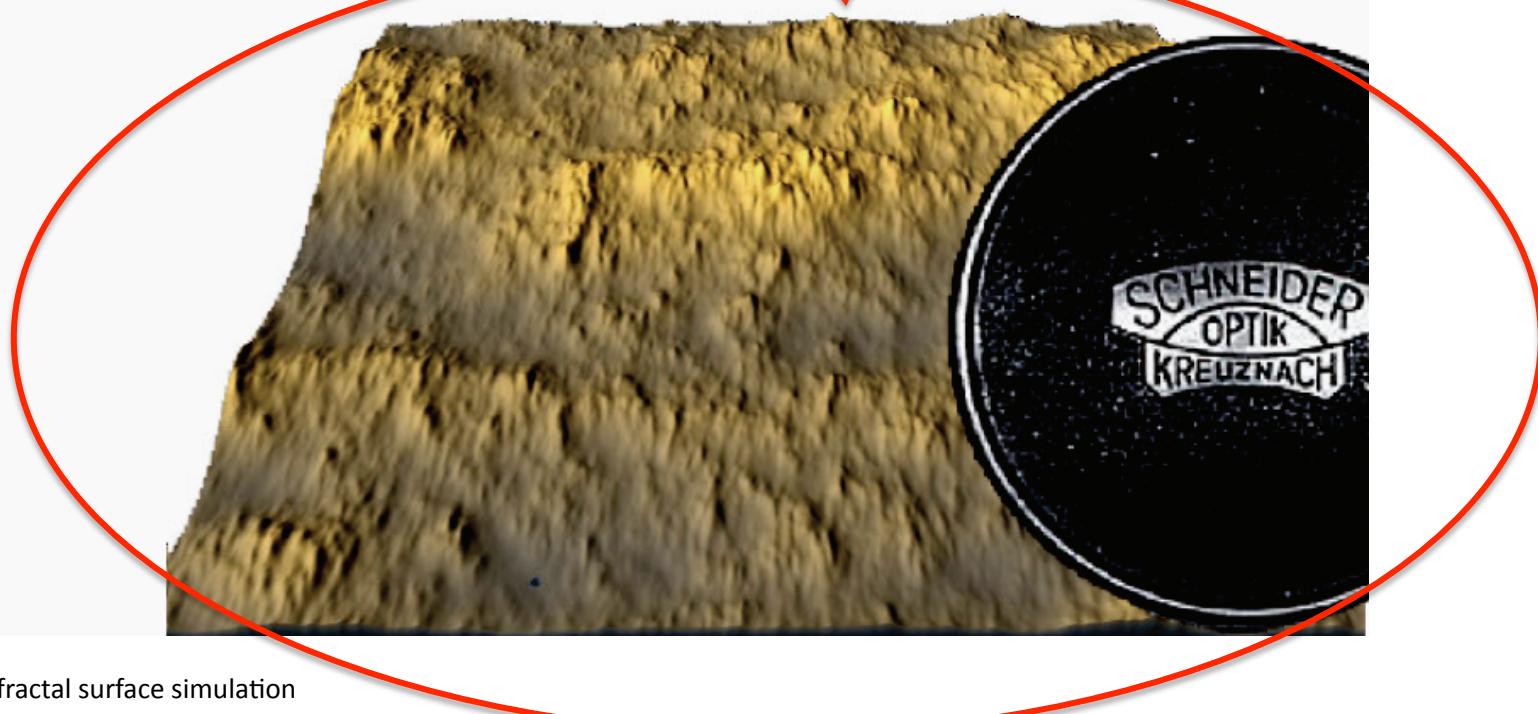
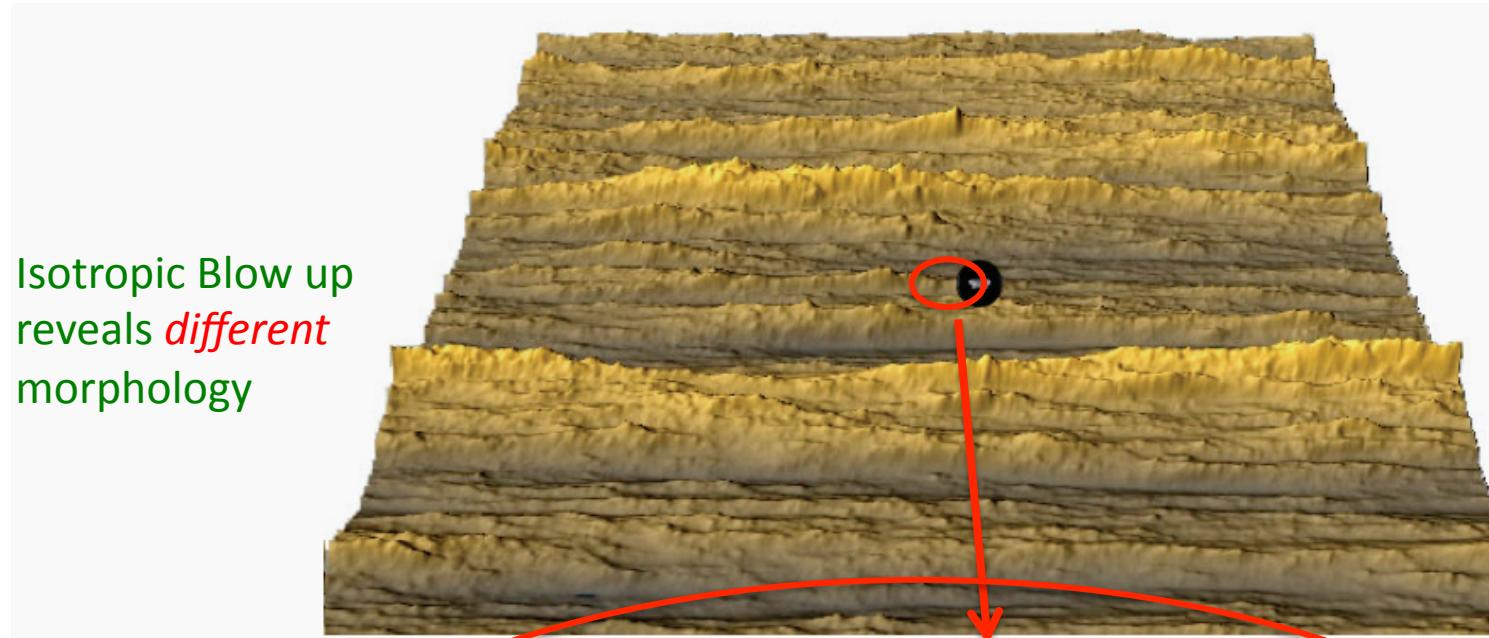
(Zoom  
factor 1000)

Vertical cross-  
section



# Phenomenological Fallacy

- 1) Morphology not dynamics is taken as fundamental
- 2) Scaling is reduced to the isotropic (self-similar) special case



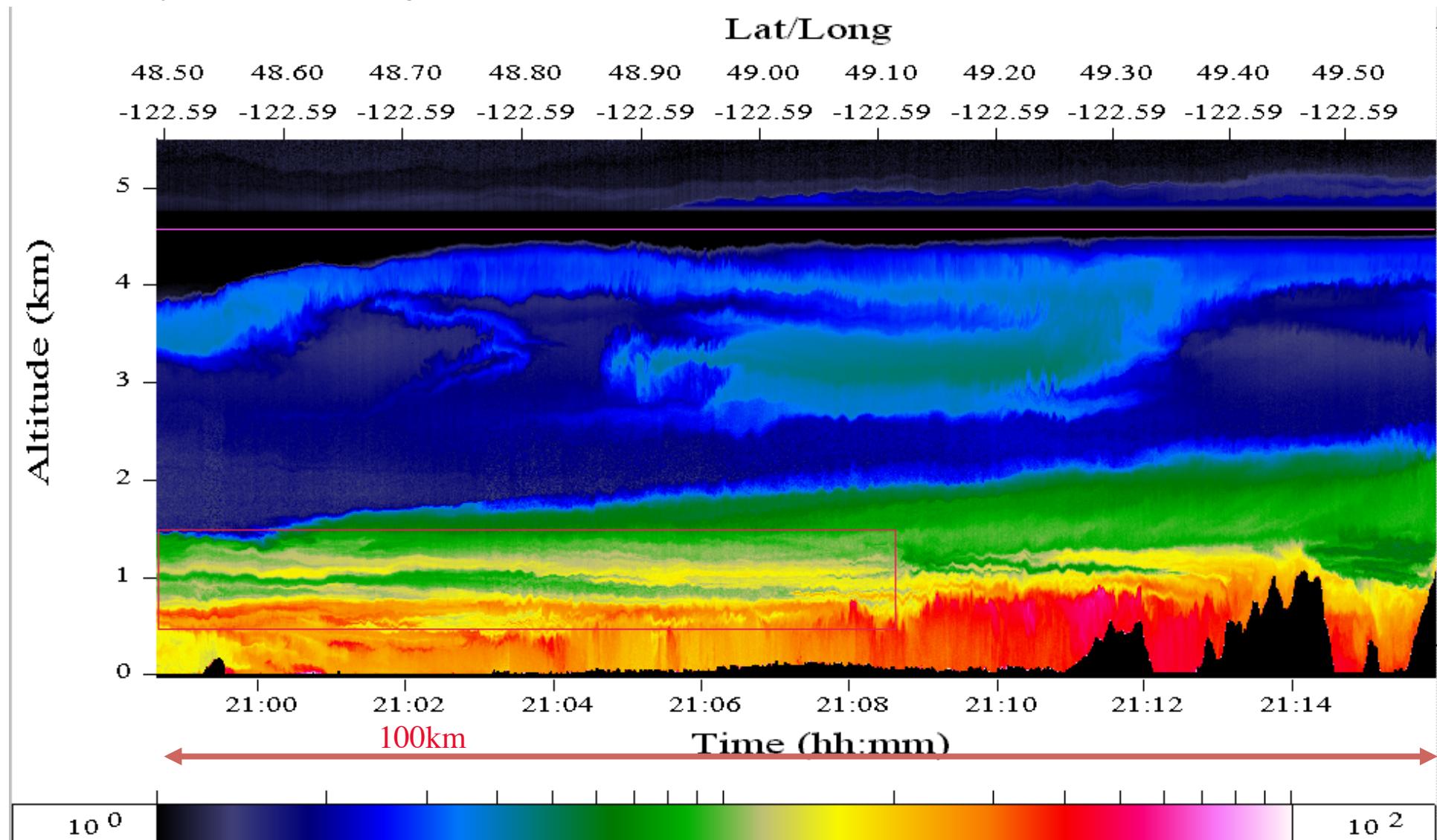
Anisotropic multifractal surface simulation

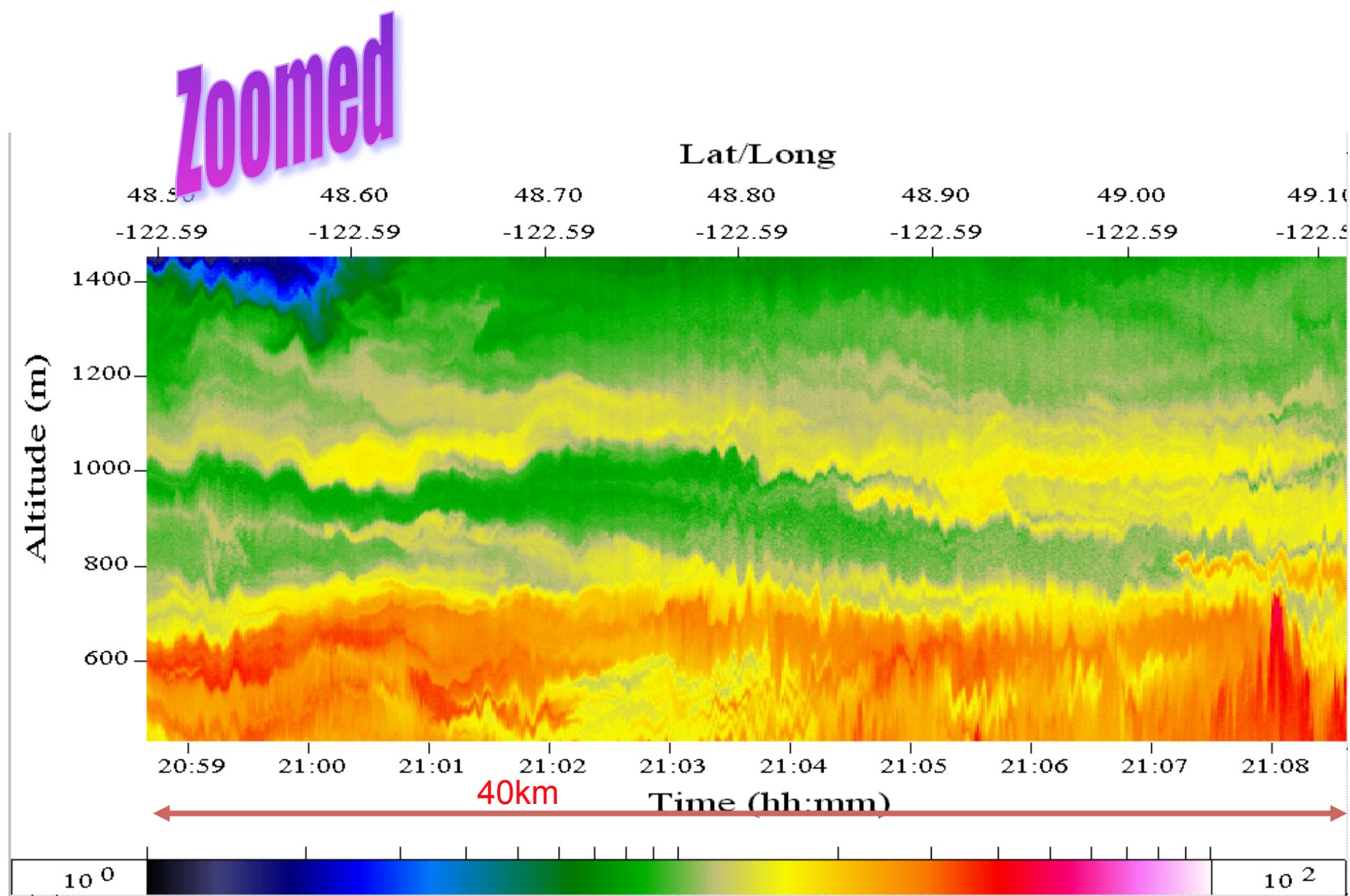
# Anisotropic Scaling

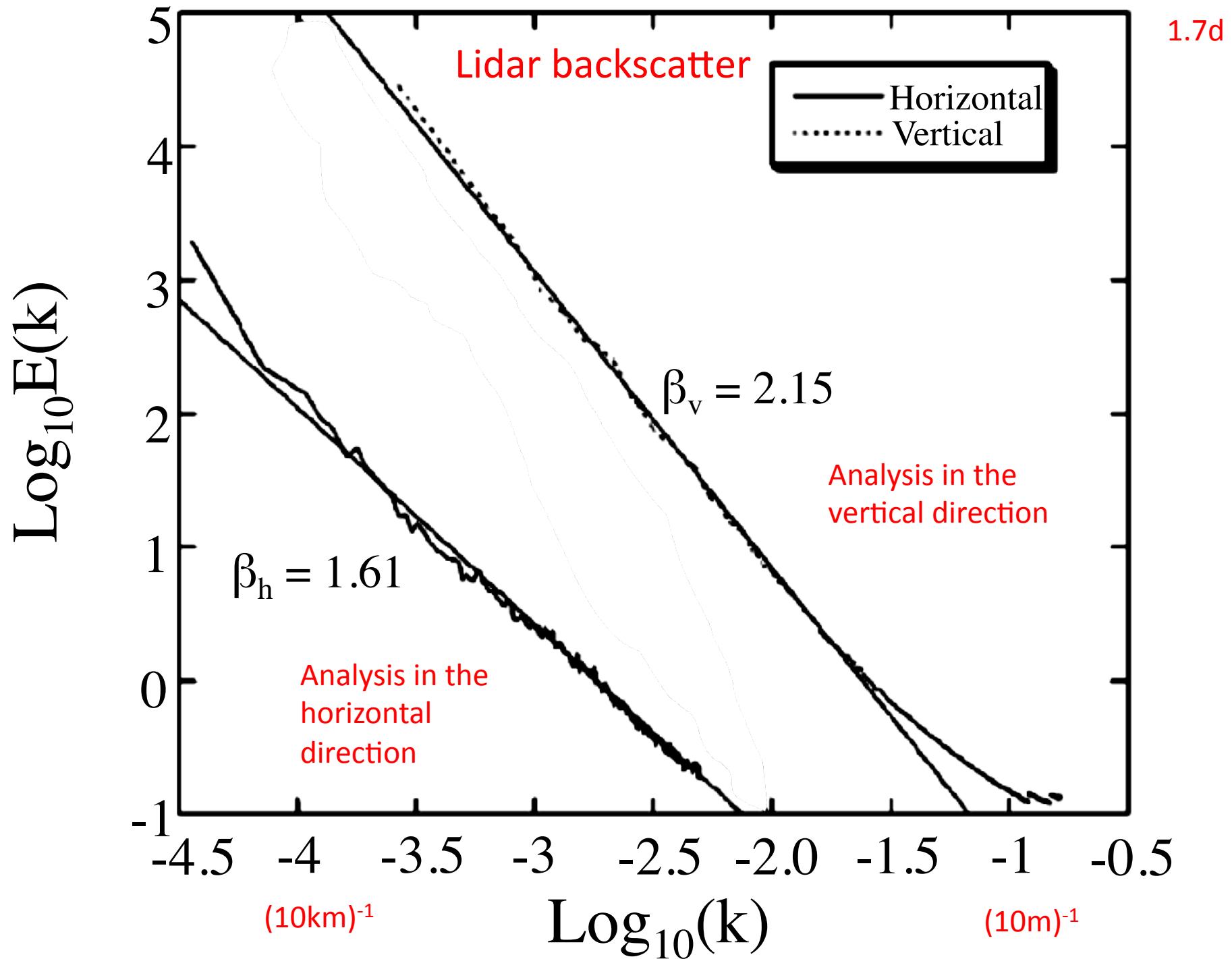
Horizontal versus vertical  
(stratification)

# AERIAL Lidar Data

(courtesy of K. Strawbridge)







# The physical scale function and differential scaling

$$|\underline{\Delta r}| \rightarrow \|\underline{\Delta r}\|$$

Usual distance (=vector norm)      Scale function (scale notion)

Scale symmetry     $\|\lambda^{-G} \underline{r}\| = \lambda^{-1} \|\underline{r}\|$

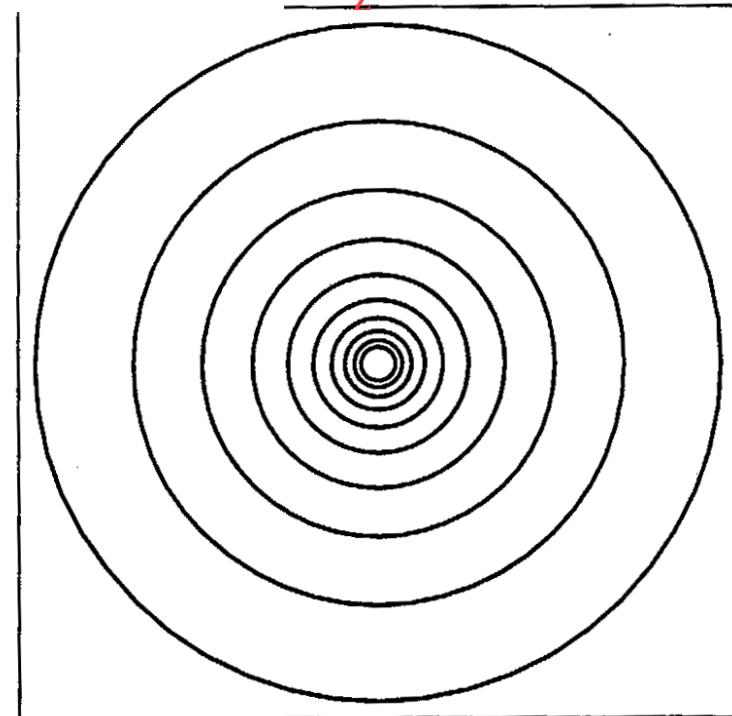
“canonical” scale function:

$$\|(\Delta x, \Delta z)\| = l_s \left( \left( \frac{\Delta x}{l_s} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\Delta z}{l_s} \right)^{2/H_z} \right)^{1/2}$$

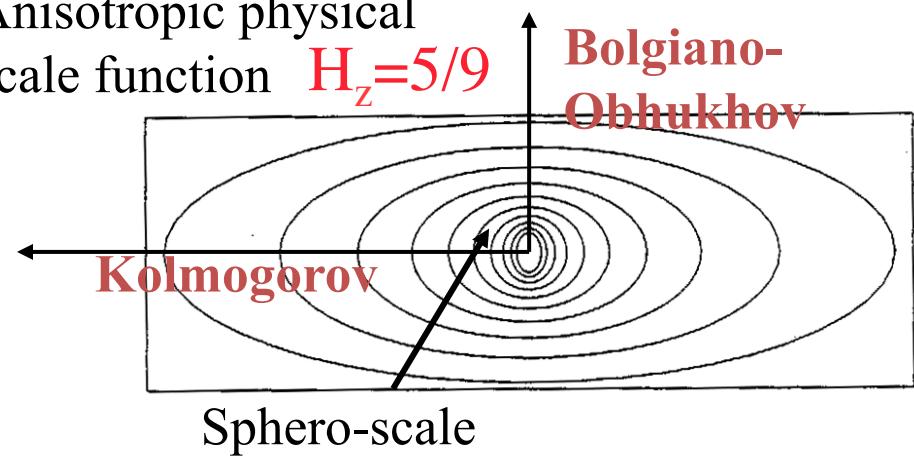
$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & H_z \end{pmatrix}$$

## Vertical sections

Isotropic function  $H_z=1$



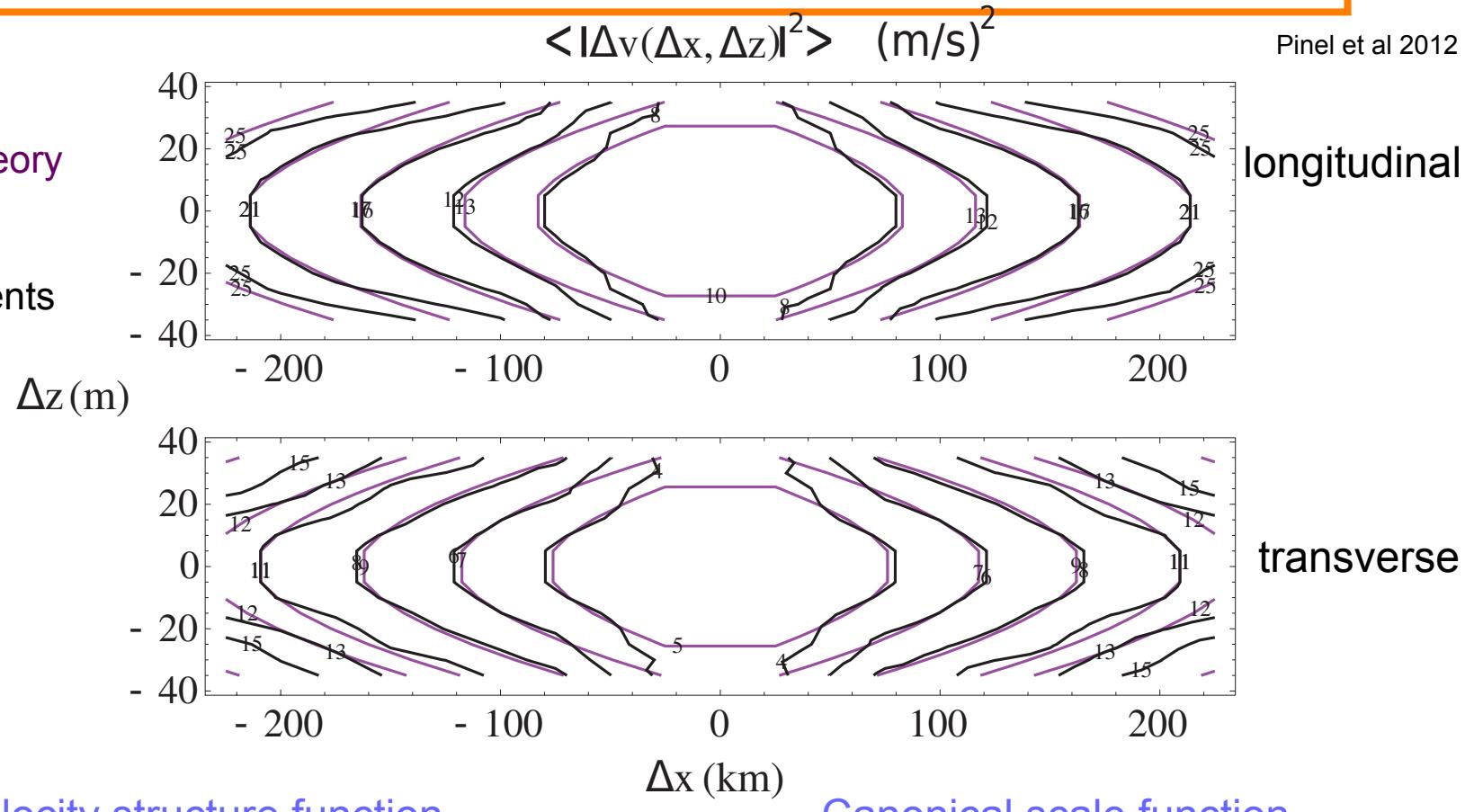
Anisotropic physical scale function  $H_z=5/9$



# 14500 aircraft flights: 5-5.5km altitude, 2009, US (TAMDAR data)

Pinel et al 2012

Purple = theory  
Black= measurements



Velocity structure function

$$\langle \Delta v^2(\Delta x, \Delta z) \rangle = C \|(\Delta x, \Delta z)\|^{\xi(2)}$$

$$\xi(2) \approx 0.80$$

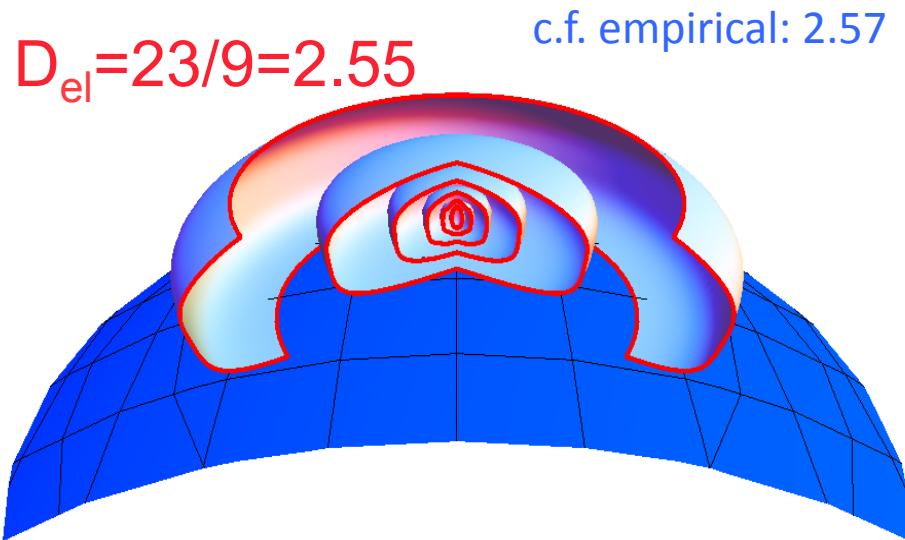
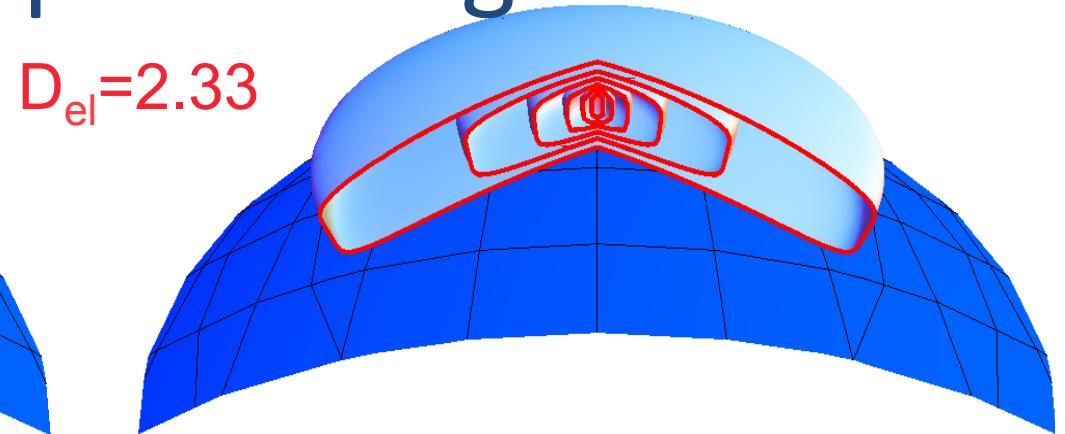
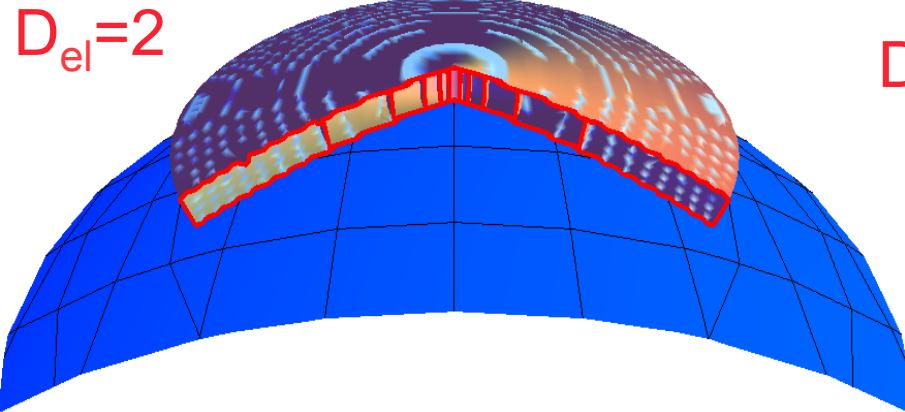
Canonical scale function

$$\|(\Delta x, \Delta z)\| = \left( \left( \frac{\Delta x}{l_s} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\Delta z}{l_s} \right)^{2/H_z} \right)^{1/2}$$

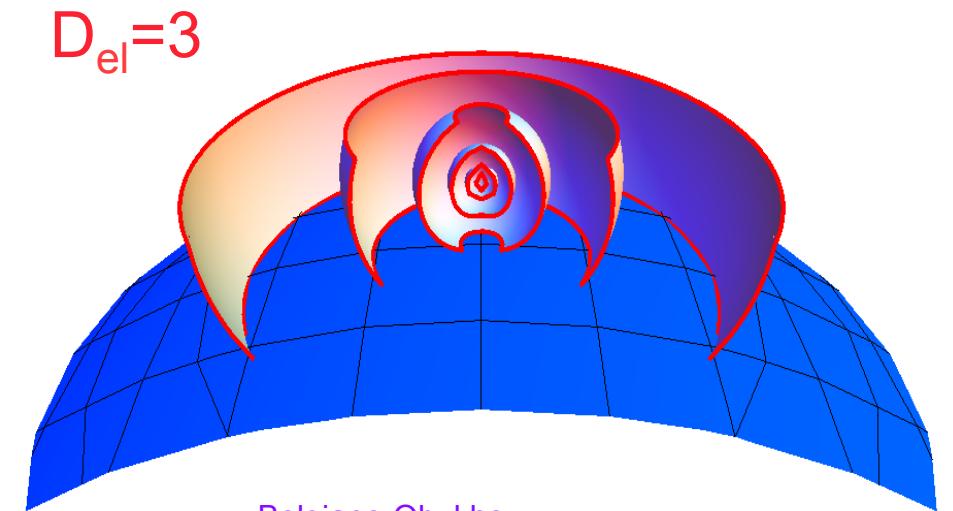
$$H_z \approx 0.57 \pm 0.01$$

(Theory:  
5/9=0.555...)

# Anisotropic Scaling



c.f. empirical: 2.57



The  $23/9D$  model:

$$\Delta v(\Delta x) = \varepsilon^{1/3} \Delta x^{1/3};$$

Kolmogorov

Volume  $\approx L \times L \times L^{Hz} \approx L^{Del}$

$$\Delta v(\Delta z) = \phi^{1/5} \Delta z^{3/5}$$

Bolgiano-Obukhov

$$H_z = (1/3)/(3/5) = 5/9$$

$$D_{el} = 2 + H_z = 23/9$$

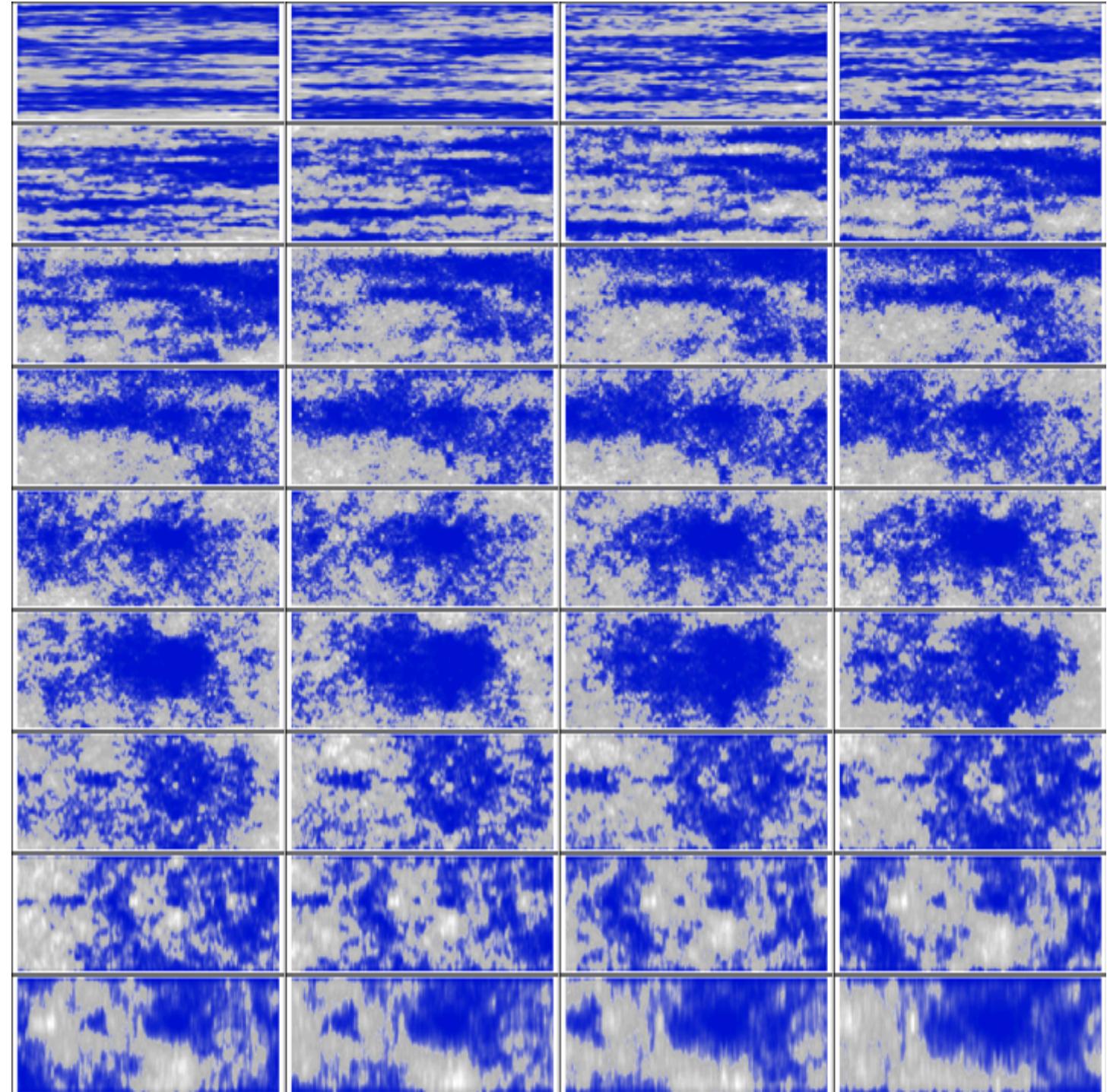


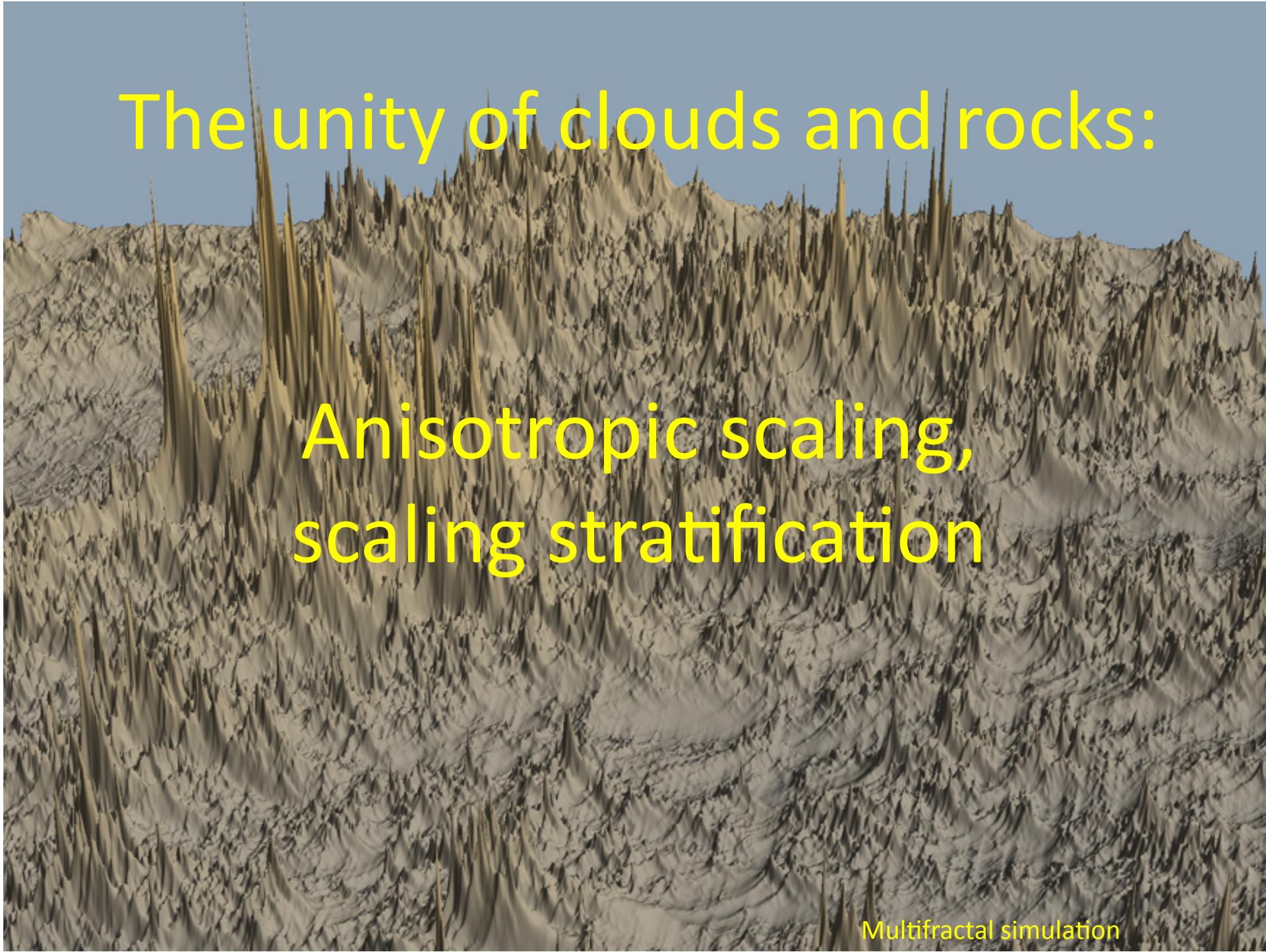
# Fly by of anisotropic (multifractal, cascade) cloud



Zoom  
factor  
1000

Vertical cross-  
section





The unity of clouds and rocks:

Anisotropic scaling,  
scaling stratification

Multifractal simulation

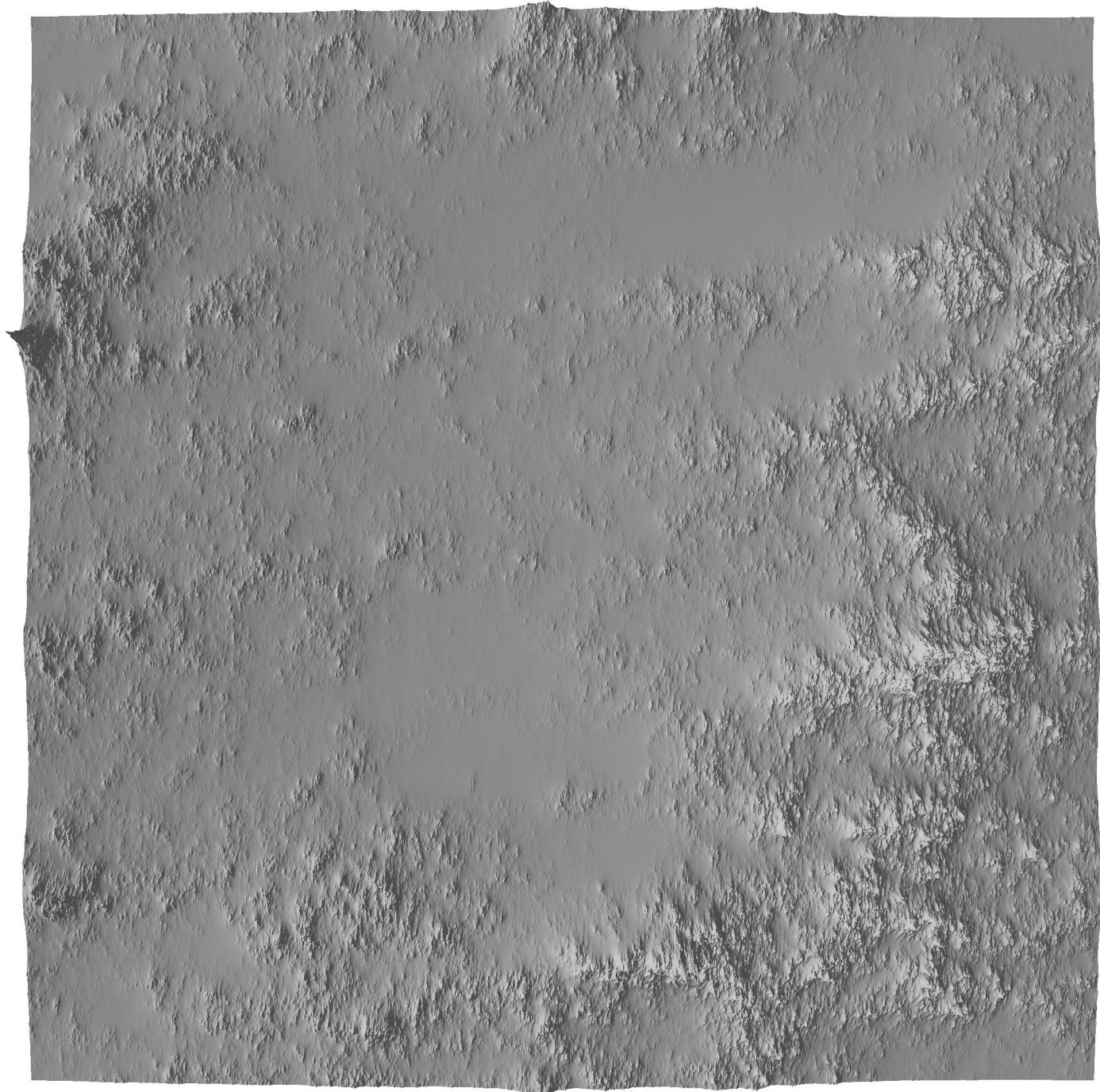
# Flyby 1

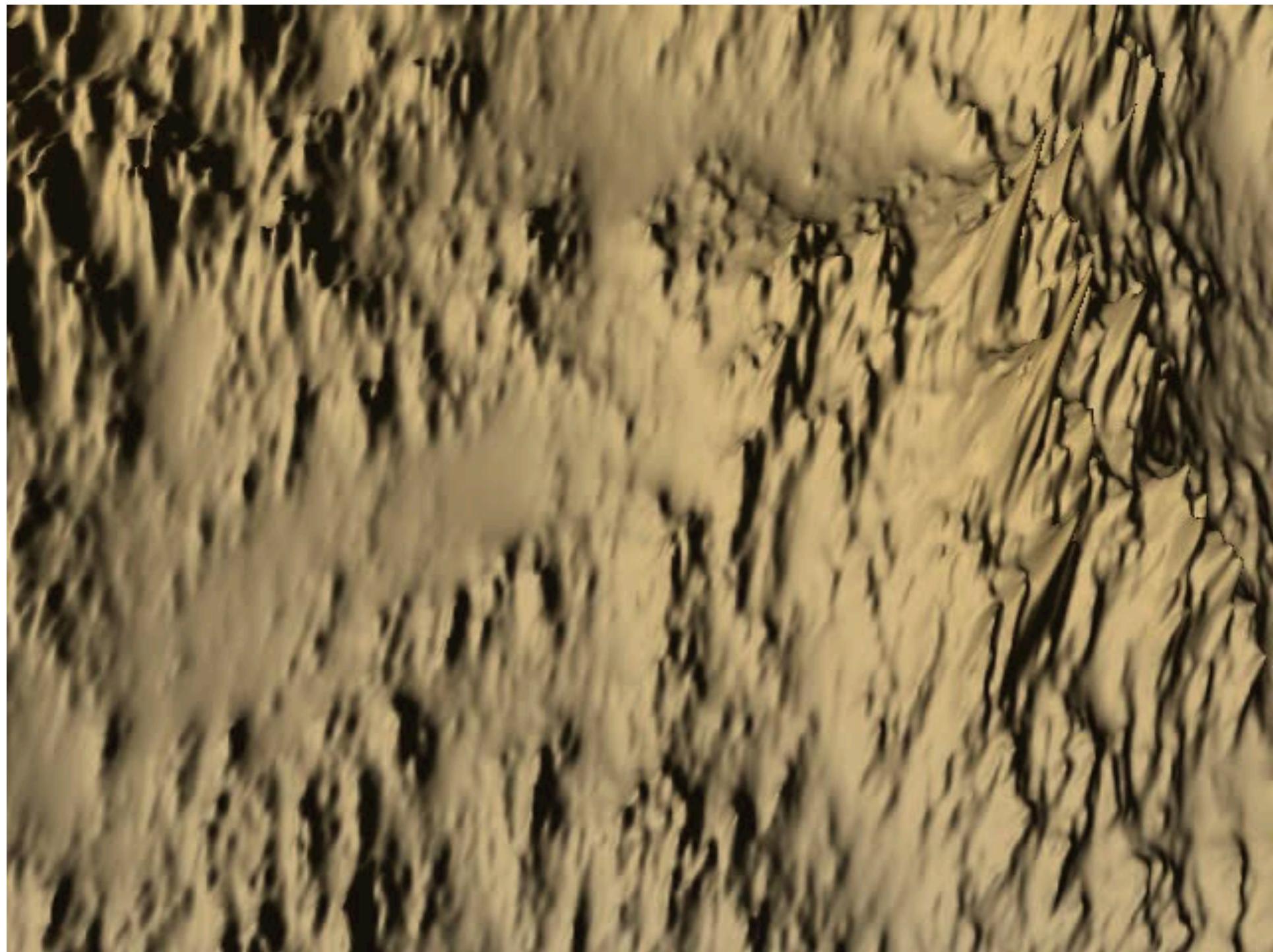
This  
4096X4096  
simulation is  
flown over

$\alpha=1.8, C_1=0.12, H=0.7$

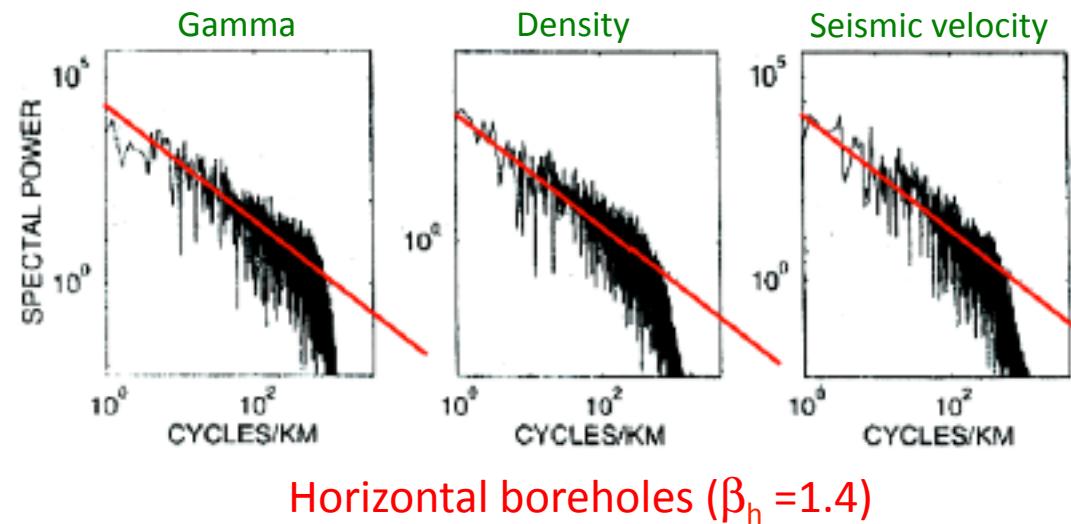
$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 0.65 & -0.1 \\ 0.1 & 1.35 \end{pmatrix}$$

$I_s=64$  pixels

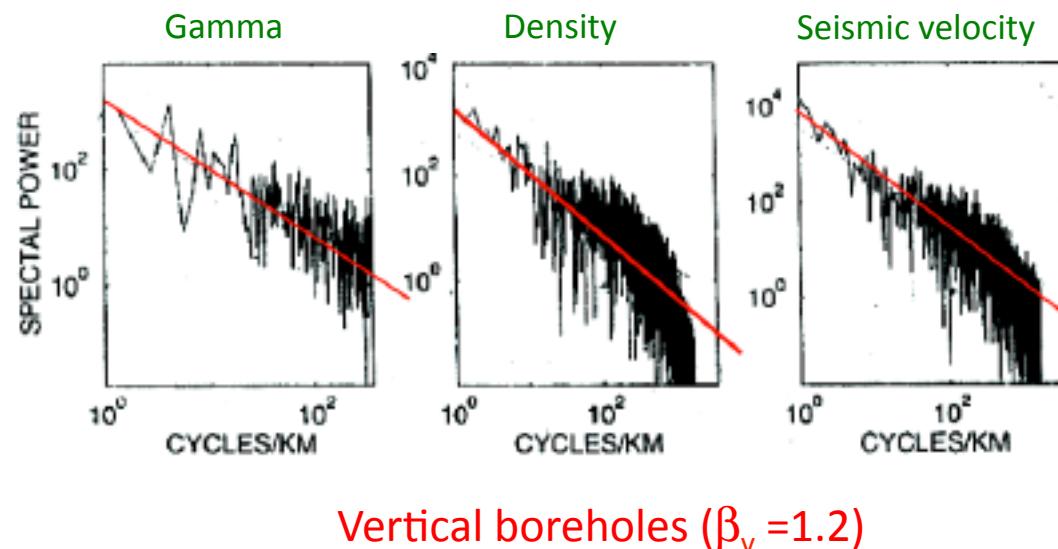




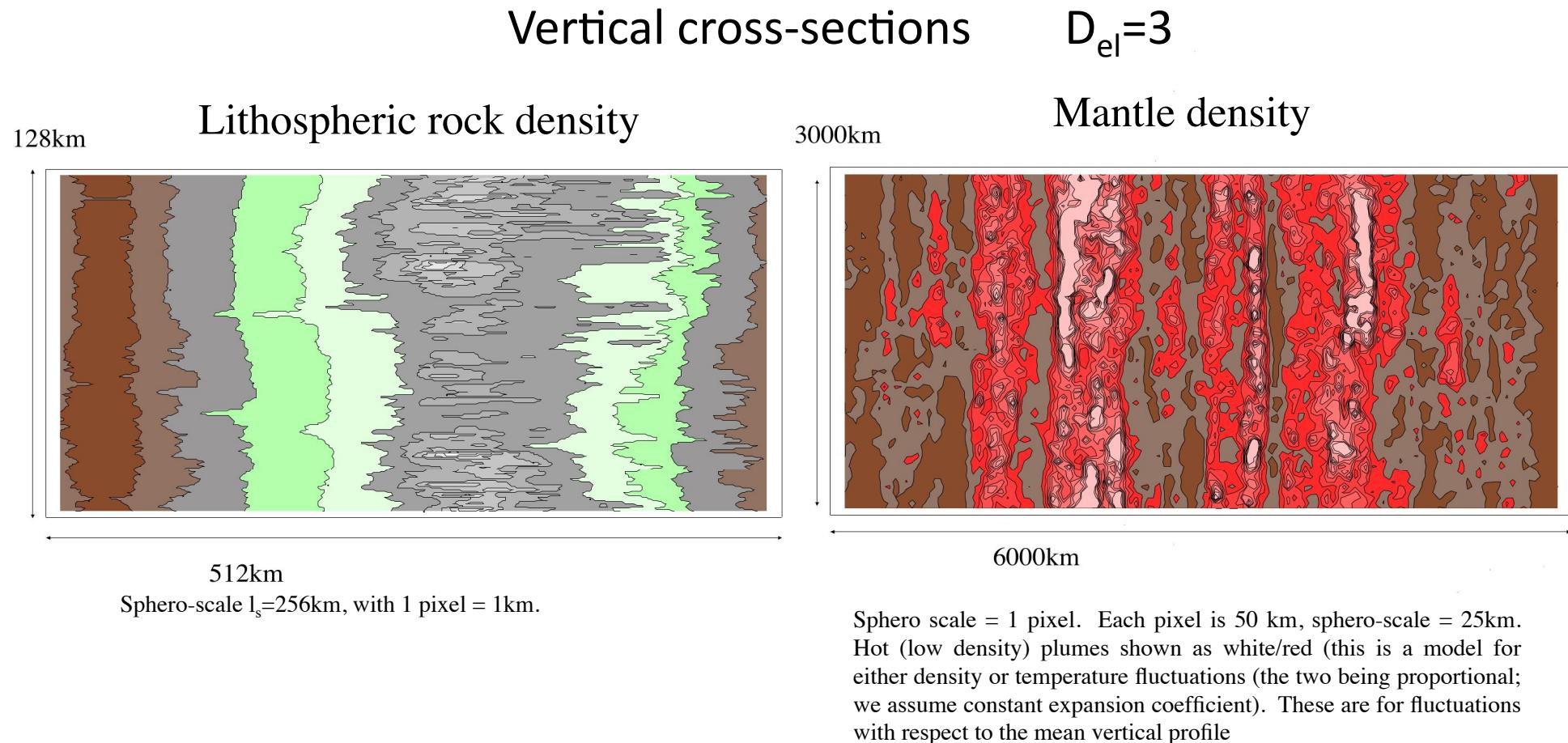
# Horizontal versus vertical borehole rock densities



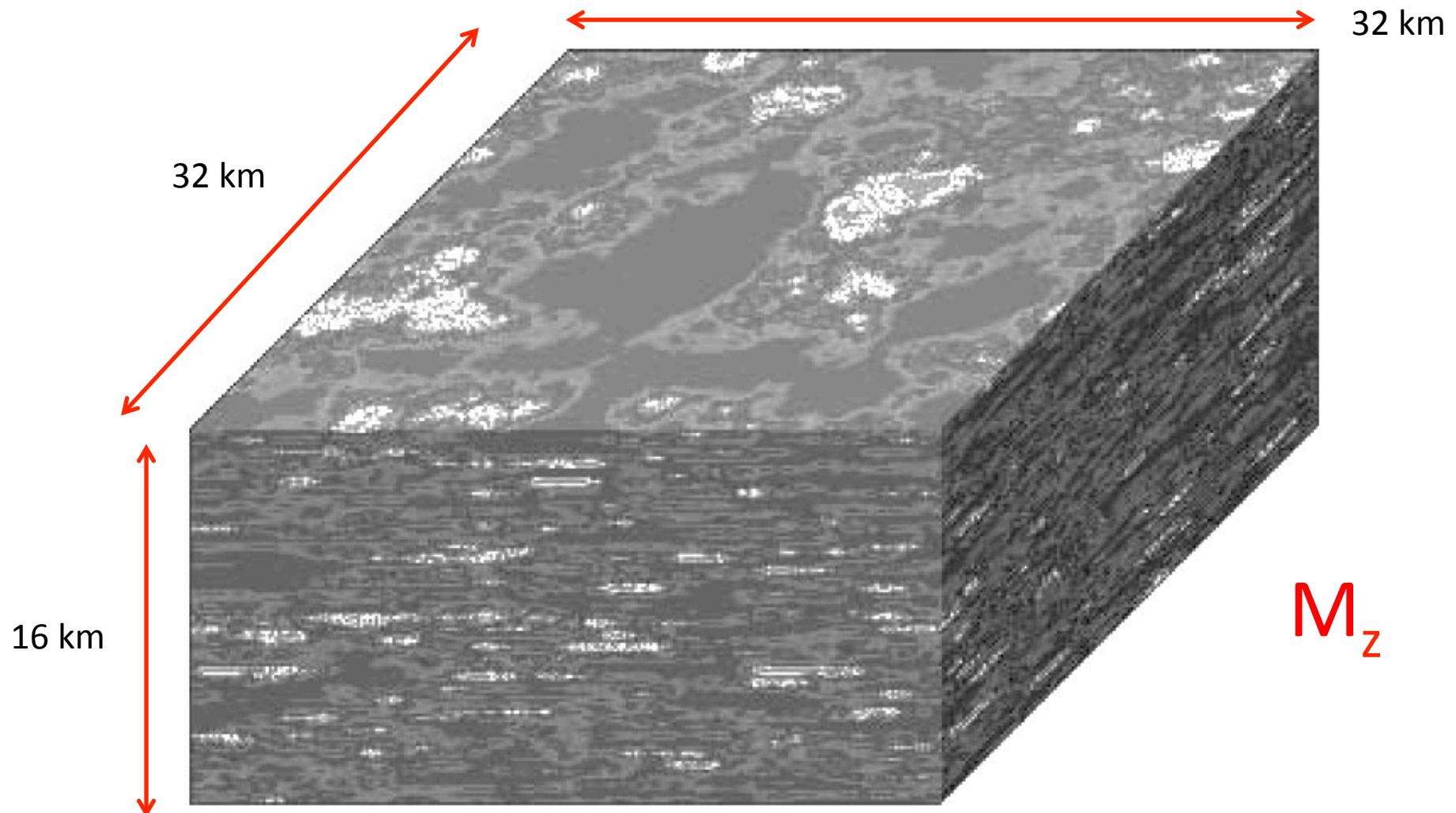
$$H_z = (\beta_h - 1) / (\beta_v - 1) = 2$$



# Stratified Multifractal Crust, Mantle rock density simulation

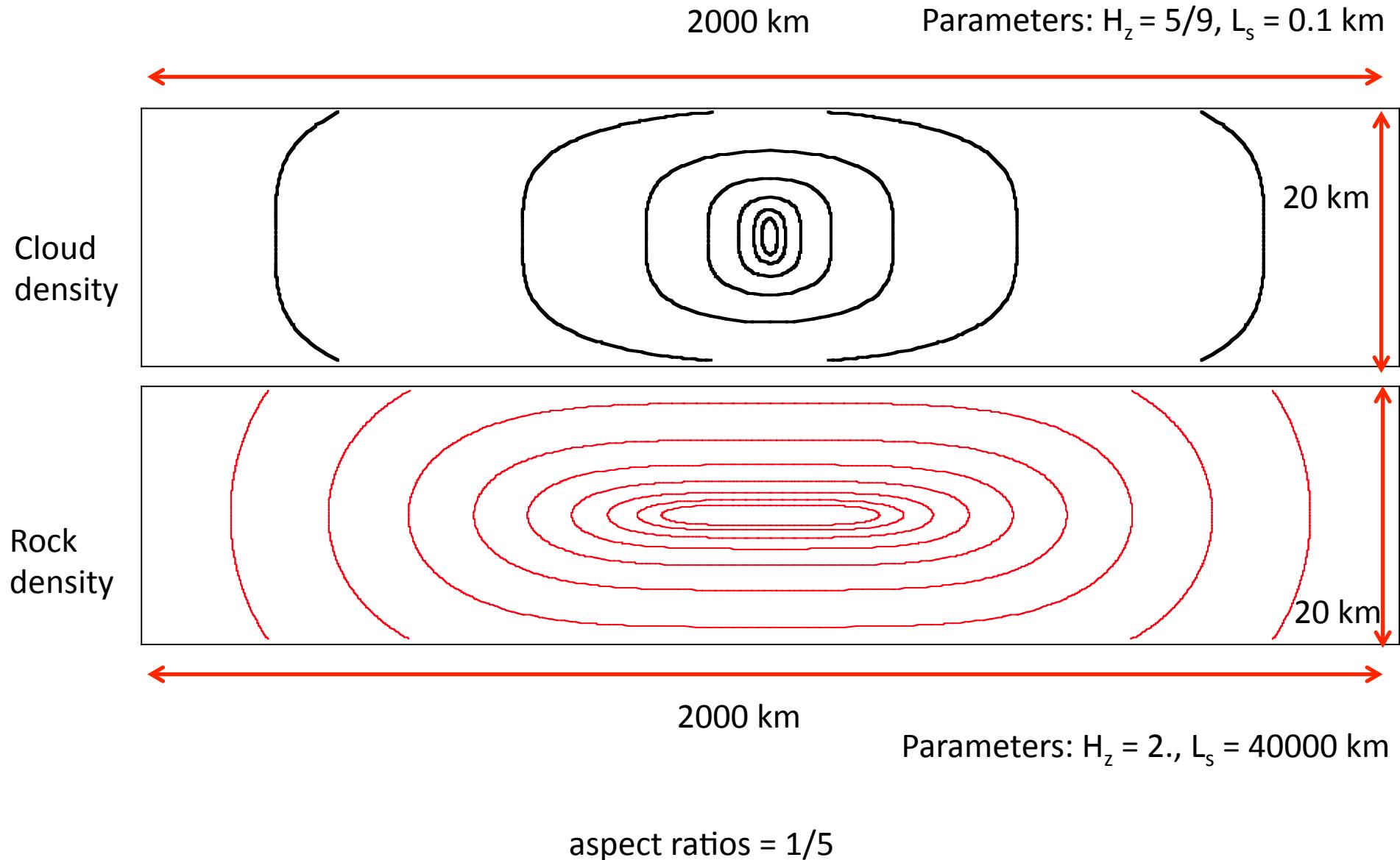


# Simulated magnetization field for horizontally isotropic crustal magnetization

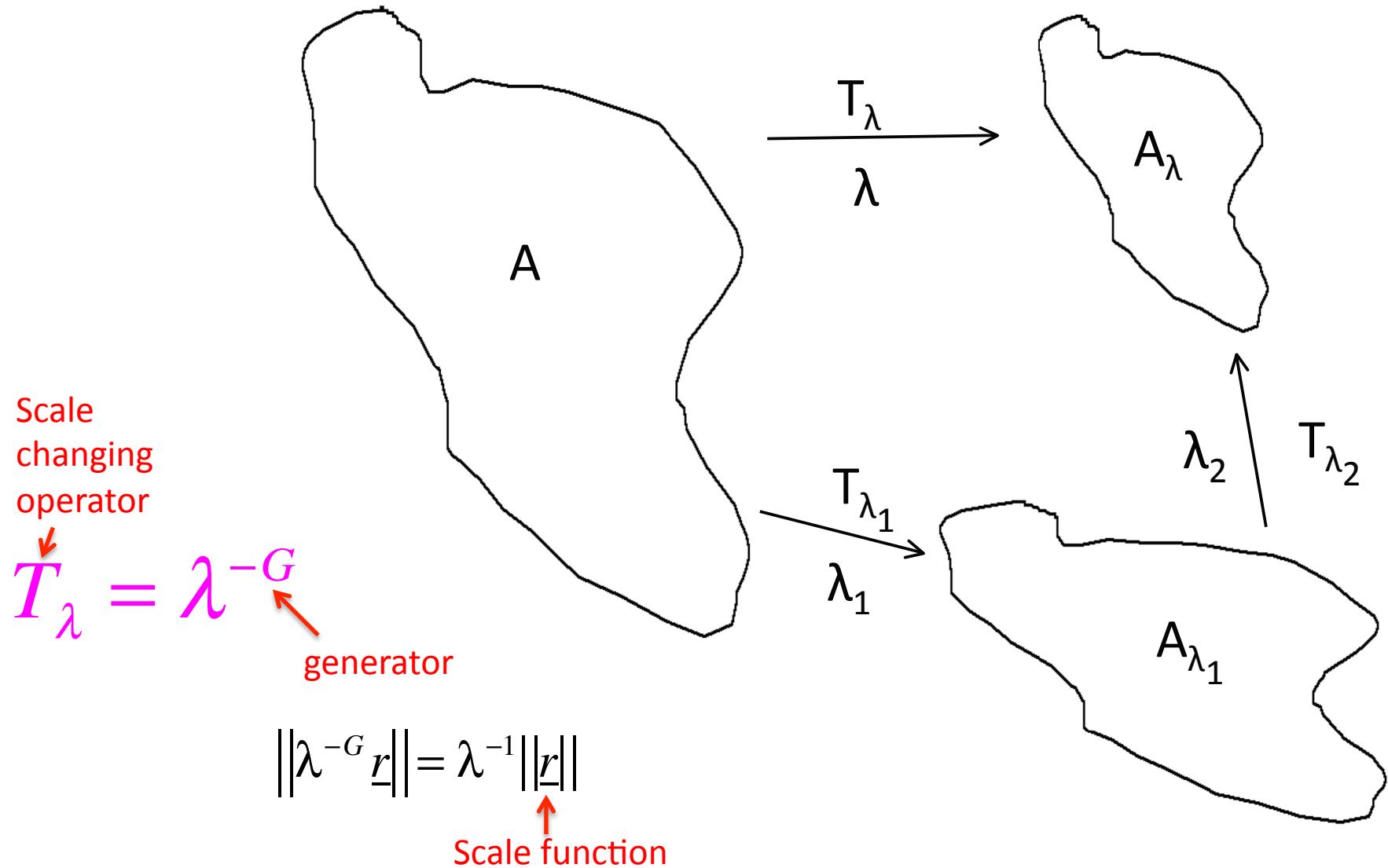


Parameters: are  $H_z = 1.7$ ,  $s = 4$ ,  $H = 0.2$ ,  $\alpha = 1.98$ ,  $C_1 = 0.08$ ,  $l_s = 2500$  km,

# The unity of geosciences: clouds and rocks

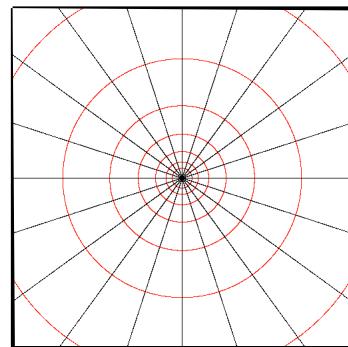


# Generalized (anisotropic) scale invariance



# Scale functions in linear GSI (position independent)

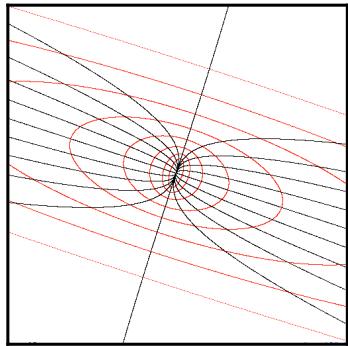
Isotropic  
(self similar)



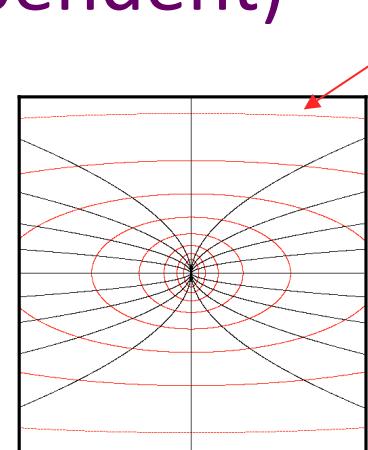
$$T_\lambda = \lambda^{-G}$$

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Stratification dominant (real eigenvalues)

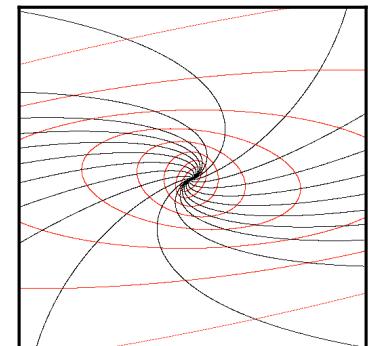


$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1.35 & 0.25 \\ 0.25 & 0.65 \end{pmatrix}$$



Scale isolines in red

Self-affine



Rotation dominant  
(complex eigenvalues)

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1.35 & -0.45 \\ 0.85 & 0.65 \end{pmatrix}$$

A generalized blow-down with increasing of the acronym “NVAG”. If  $G = I$ , we would have obtained a standard reduction, with all the copies uniformly reduced converging to the centre of the reduction. Here the parameters determining  $G$  are:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1.3 & 1.3 \\ 0.3 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}$$

and each successive reduction is by 28%.



## Generalized (anisotropic) scale invariance

Overall

Isotropy  $\longrightarrow$  anisotropy

$$|\underline{x}| \rightarrow \|\underline{x}\|; \quad D \rightarrow D_{el}$$

# Changing G

<http://www.physics.mcgill.ca/~gang/multifrac/index.htm>



# multifractal explorer

all for circular spherro-scale

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1-i & -j \\ j & 1+i \end{pmatrix}$$

| introduction | multifractals | clouds | topography | misc | movies | glossary | publications |  
| isotropic | self-affine| GSI |

simulations | scale functions

GANG

home

people

projects

k=0 i=-0.3

i=-0.15

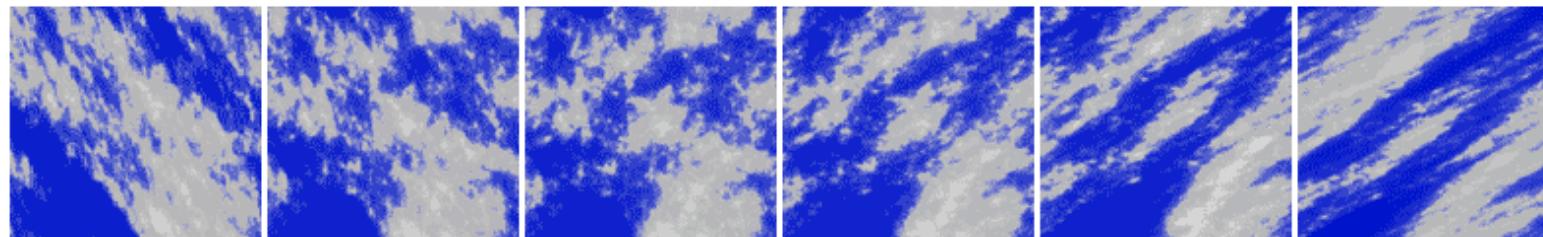
i=0

i=0.15

i=0.3

i=0.45

j=-0.5

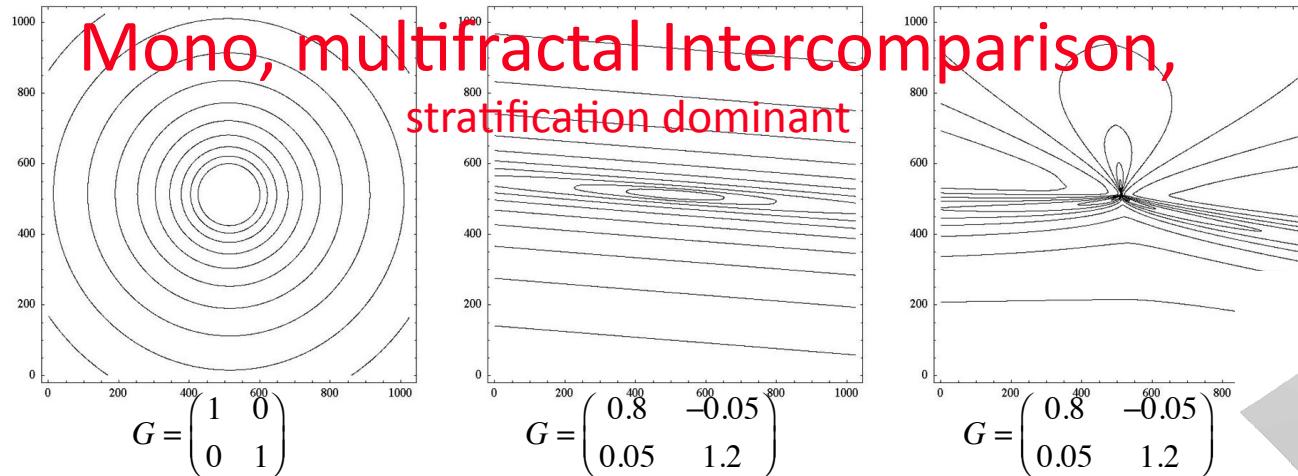


j=-0.25

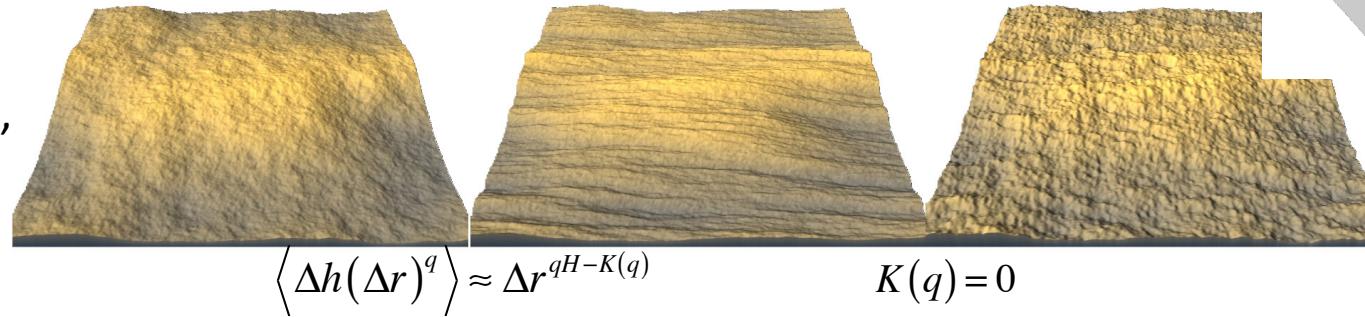
j=0

i=0.25

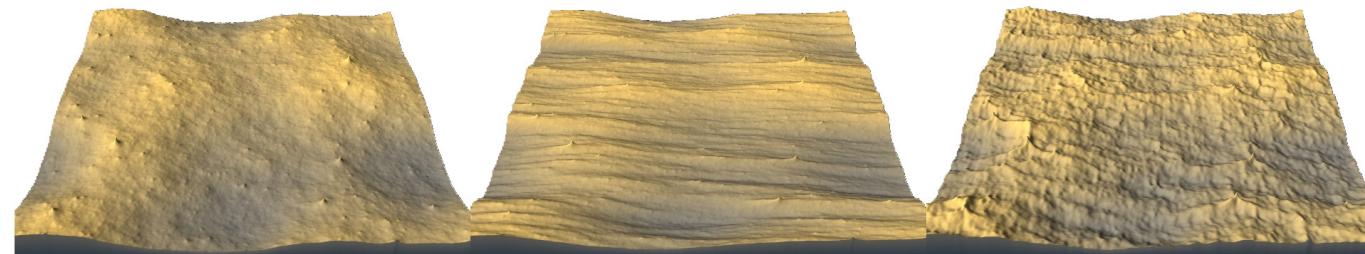
Contours of the  $\zeta$  functions



Fractional  
Brownian motion,  
 $H=0.7$

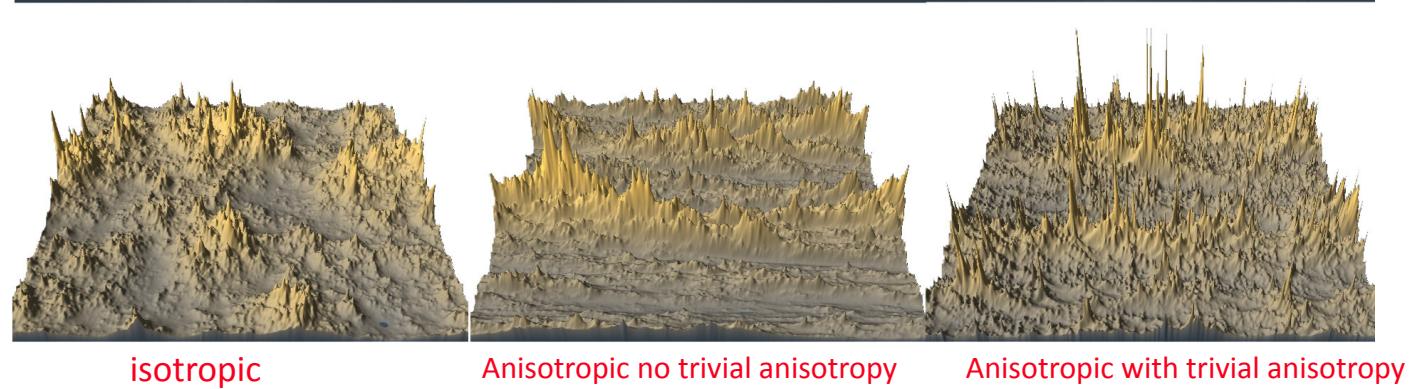


Fractional Levy  
motion,  
 $H=0.7, \alpha = 1.8$

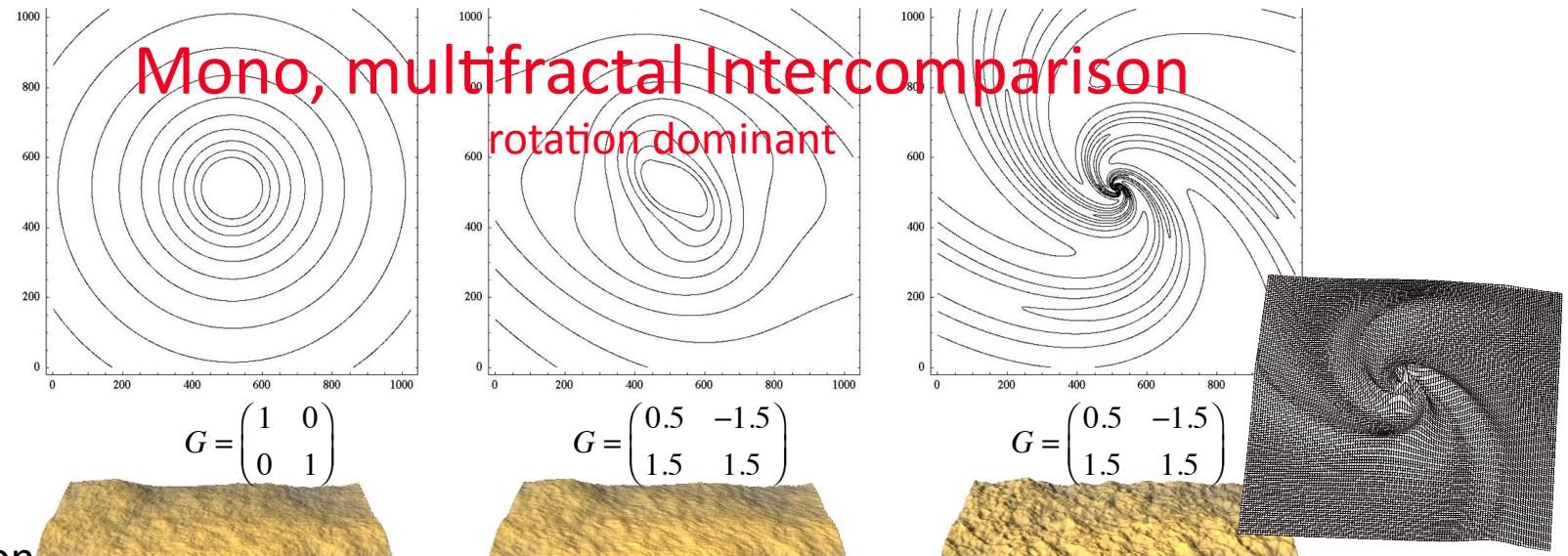


Multifractal FIF  
 $H=0.7, \alpha = 1.8,$   
 $C_1=0.12$

$$K(q) = \frac{C_1}{\alpha-1} (q^\alpha - q)$$



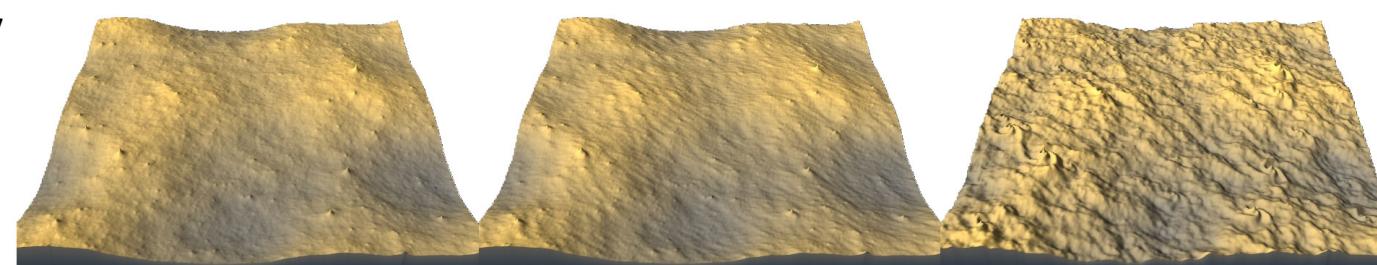
Contours of the scale functions



Fractional  
Brownian motion,  
 $H=0.7$



Fractional Levy  
motion,  $H=0.7$ ,  
 $\alpha=1.8$

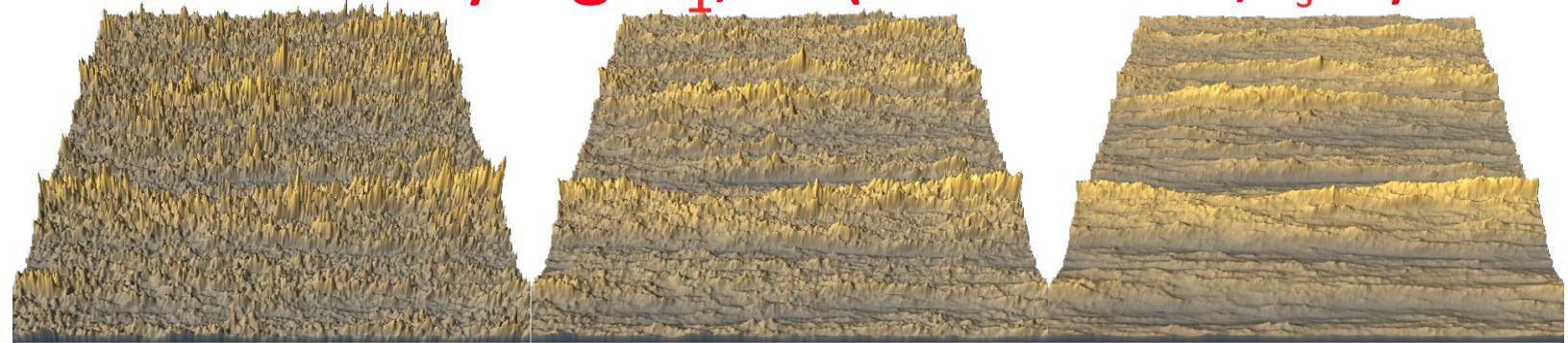


Multifractal, FIF  
 $H=0.7$ ,  $\alpha = 1.8$ ,  
 $C_1=0.12$



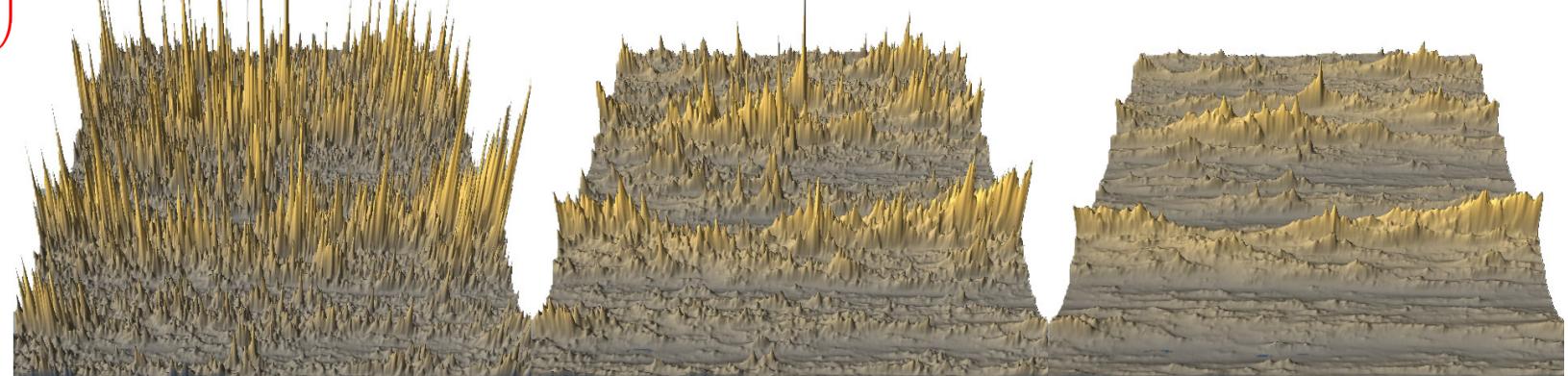
# Effect of varying $C_1$ , $H$ (self-affine, $l_s=1$ )

$C_1=0.05$   
All:  
 $\alpha=1.8$

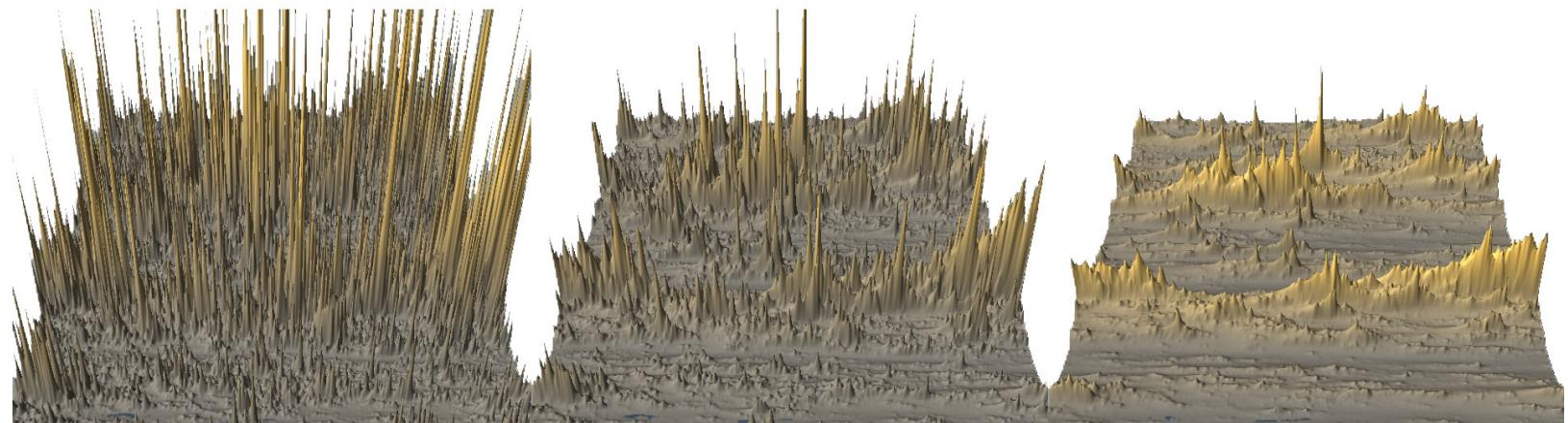


$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$C_1=0.15$



$C_1=0.25$

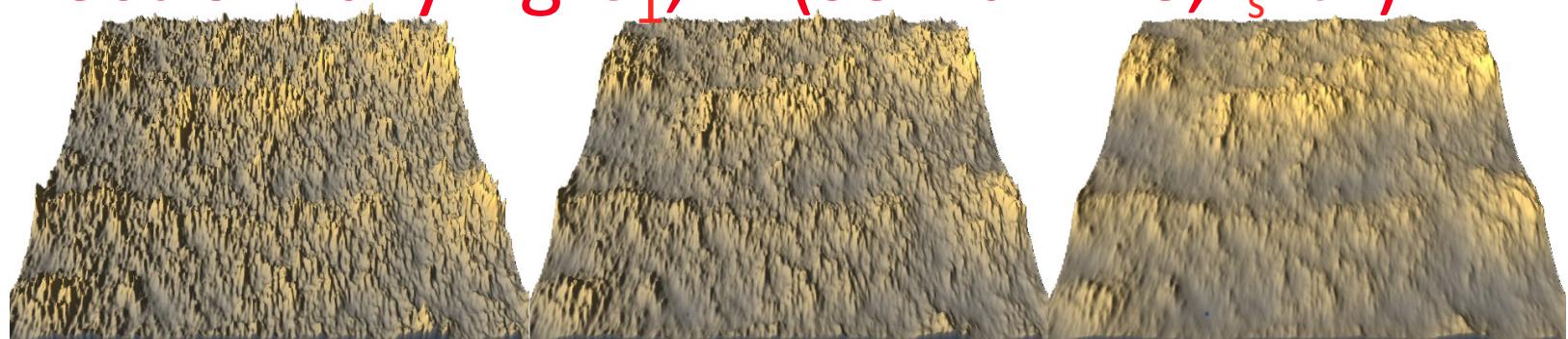


# Effect of varying $C_1$ , $H$ (self-affine, $I_s=64$ )

$C_1=0.05$

All:

$\alpha=1.8$



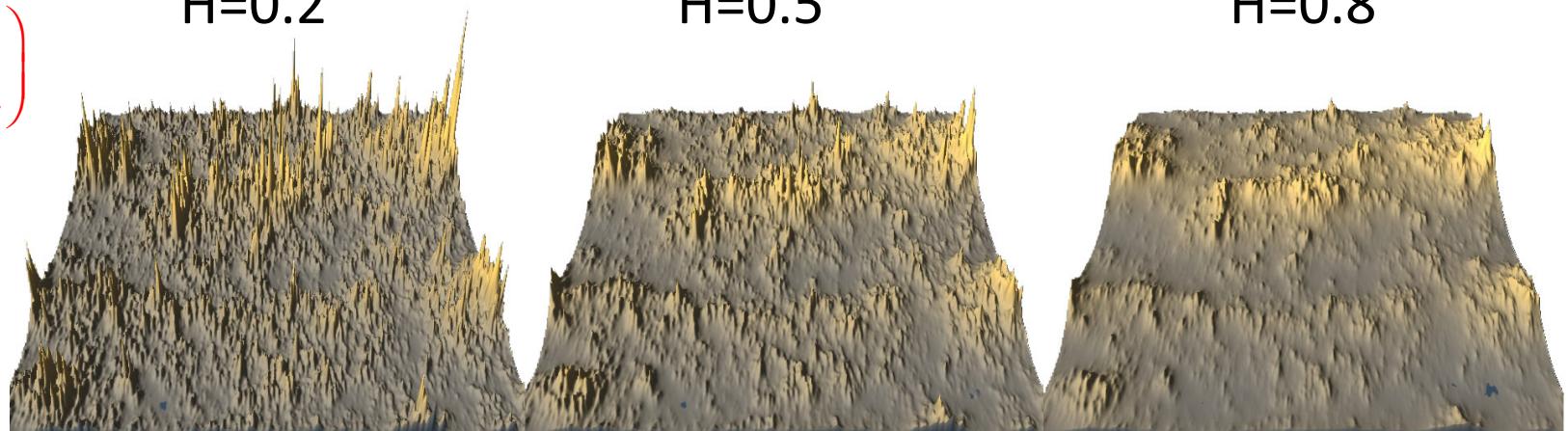
$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$C_1=0.15$

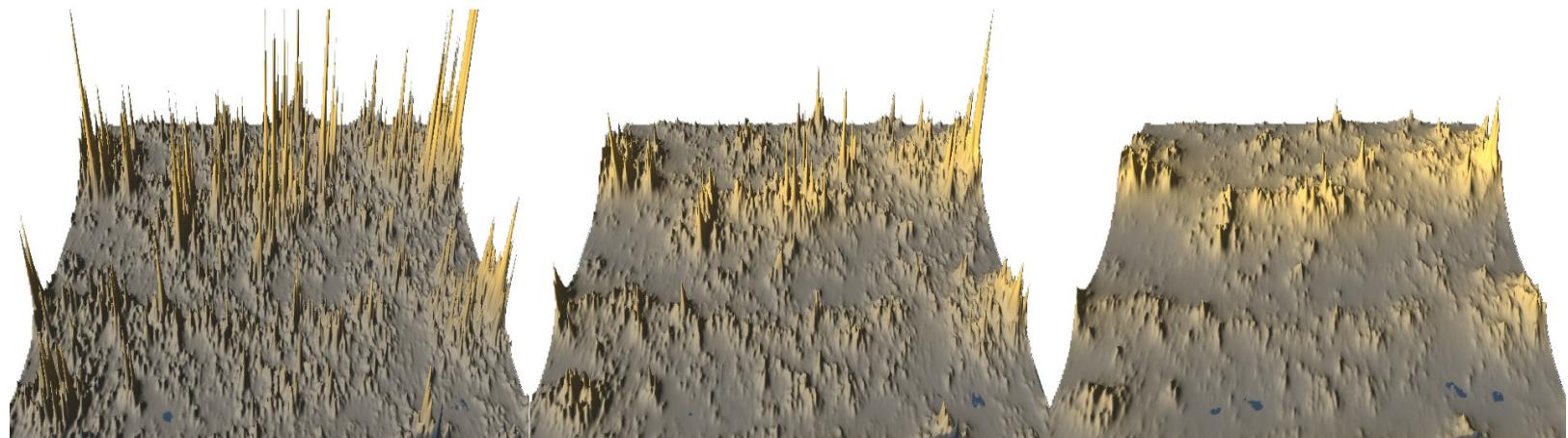
$H=0.2$

$H=0.5$

$H=0.8$



$C_1=0.25$



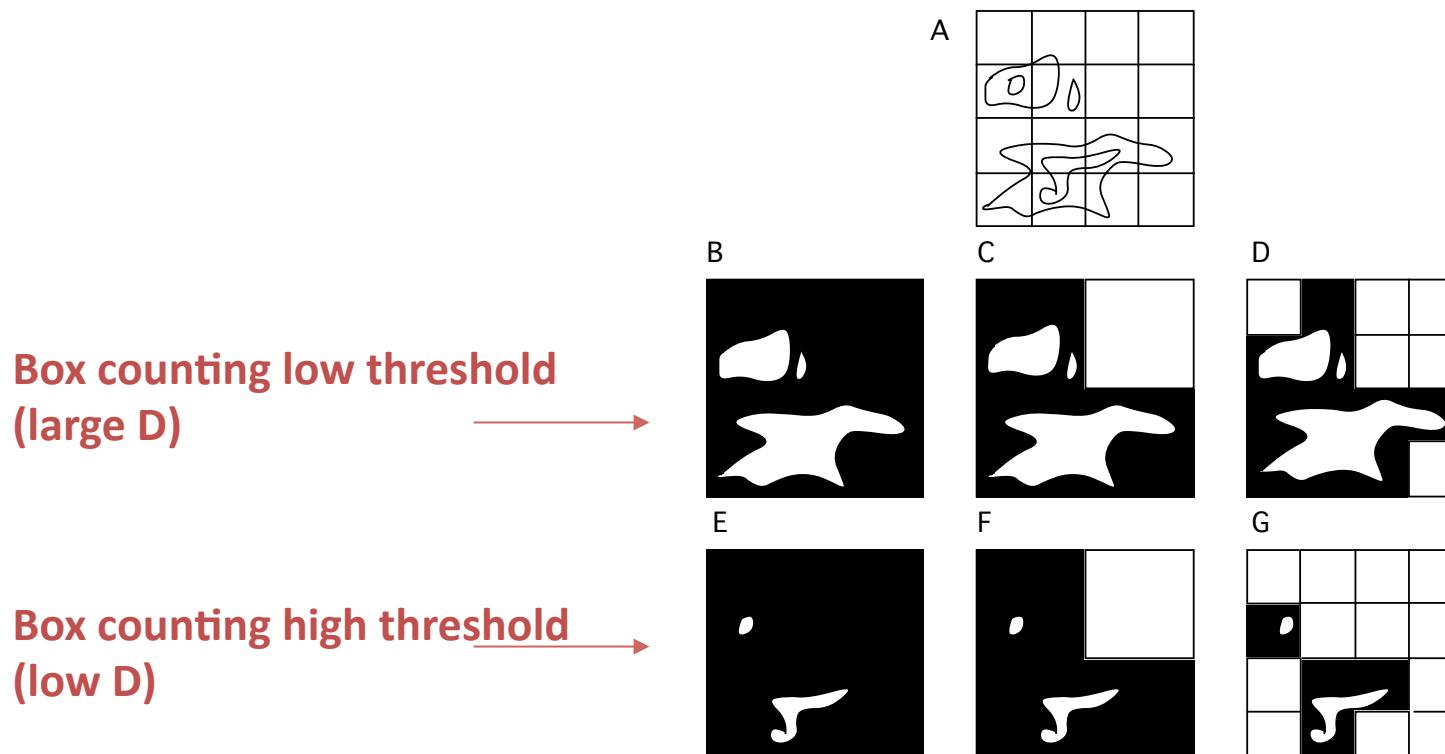
# **Monofractal sets**



**(singular) multifractal  
fields....**

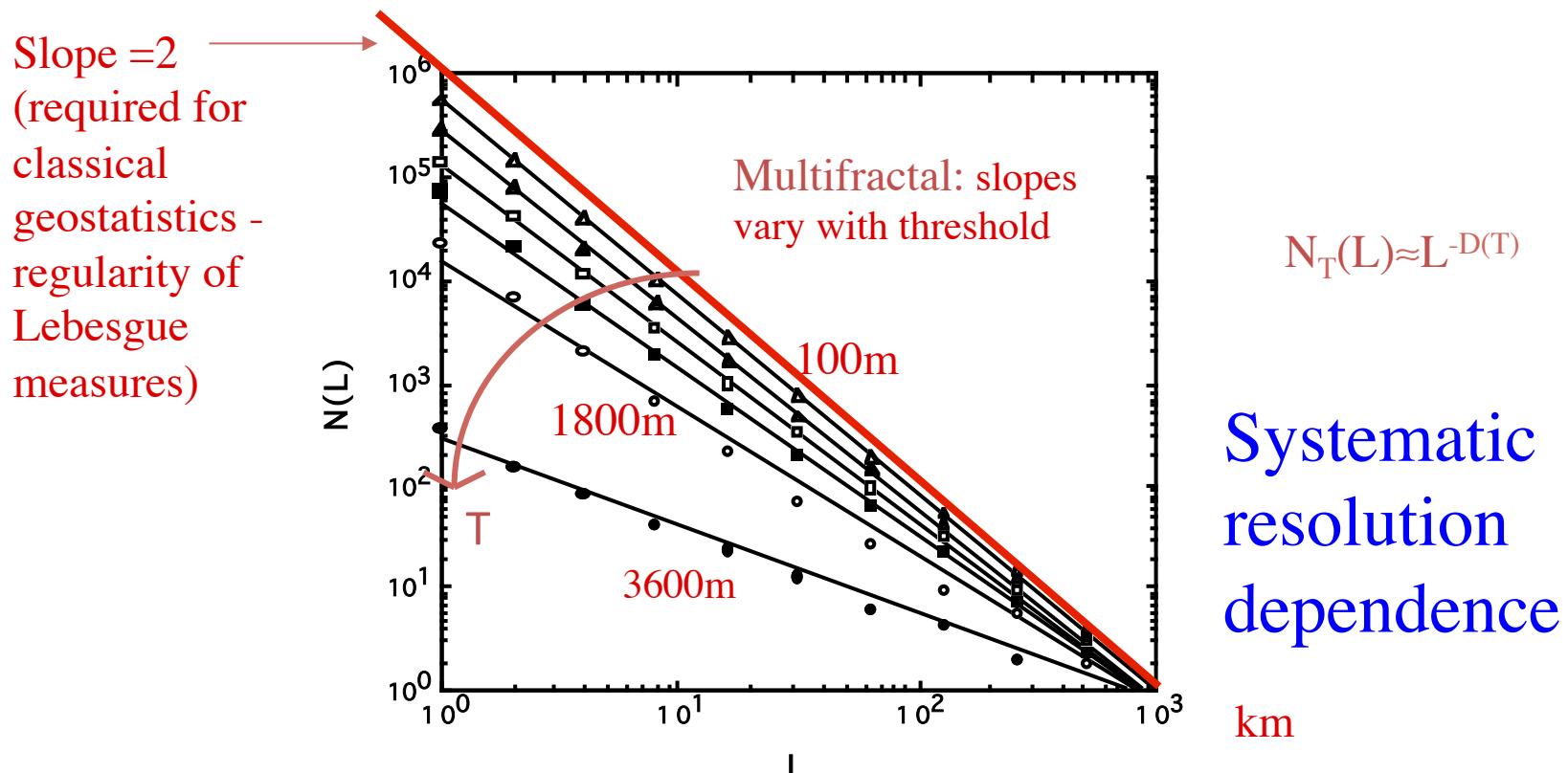
# Multifractality and Functional Box Counting

$$N_T(L) \approx L^{-D(T)}$$



- Monofractal:**  $D(T) < 2$ , constant
- Multifractal:**  $D(T) < 2$ , decreasing

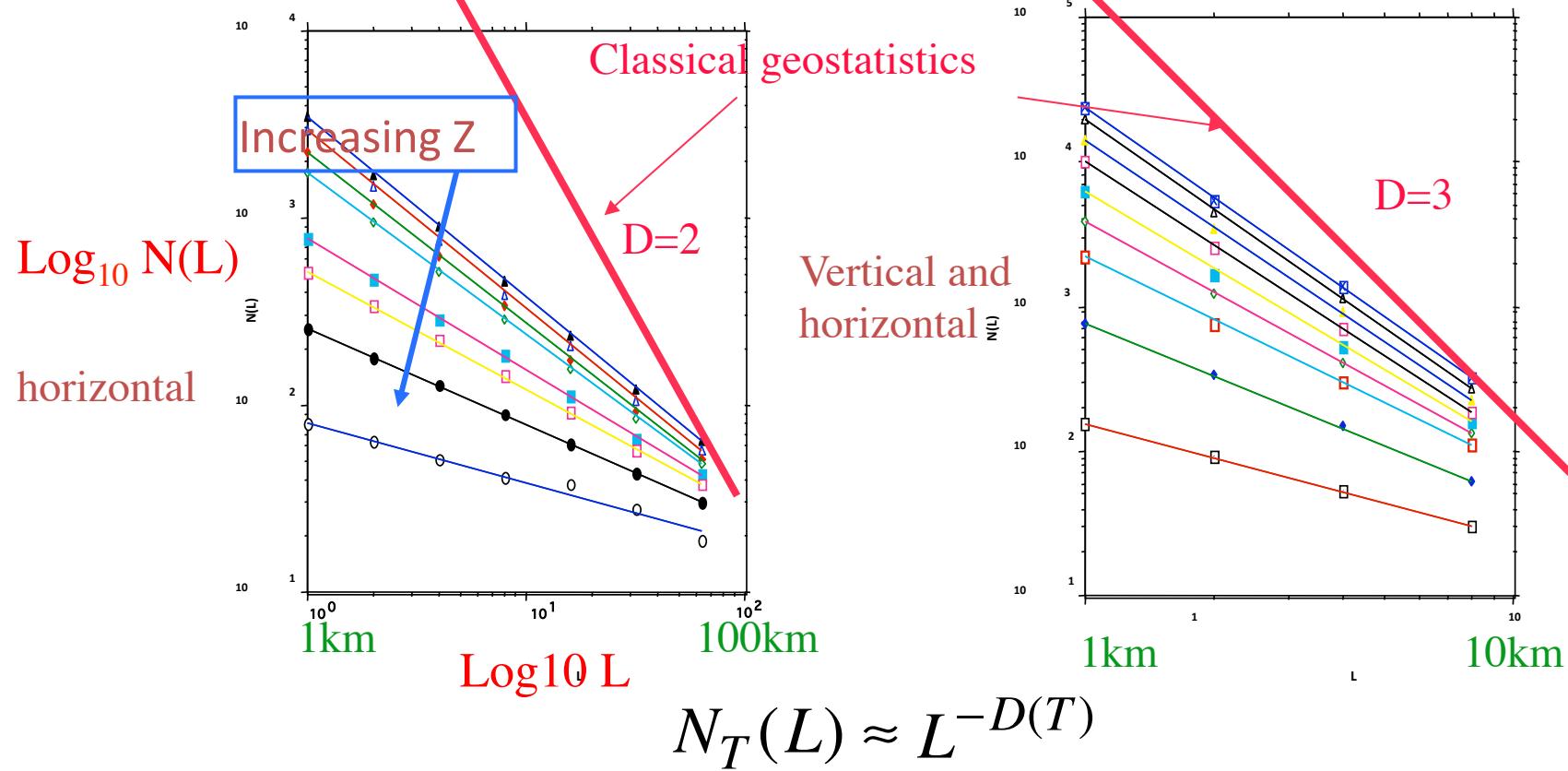
# Functional box counting on French topography: 1 -1000km



$N(L)$  = number of covering boxes for exceedance sets at various altitudes.  
The dimensions  $d$  increase from 0.84 (3600m) to 1.92 (at 100m).

Lovejoy and Schertzer 1990

# Functional Box counting on 3D radar rain scans

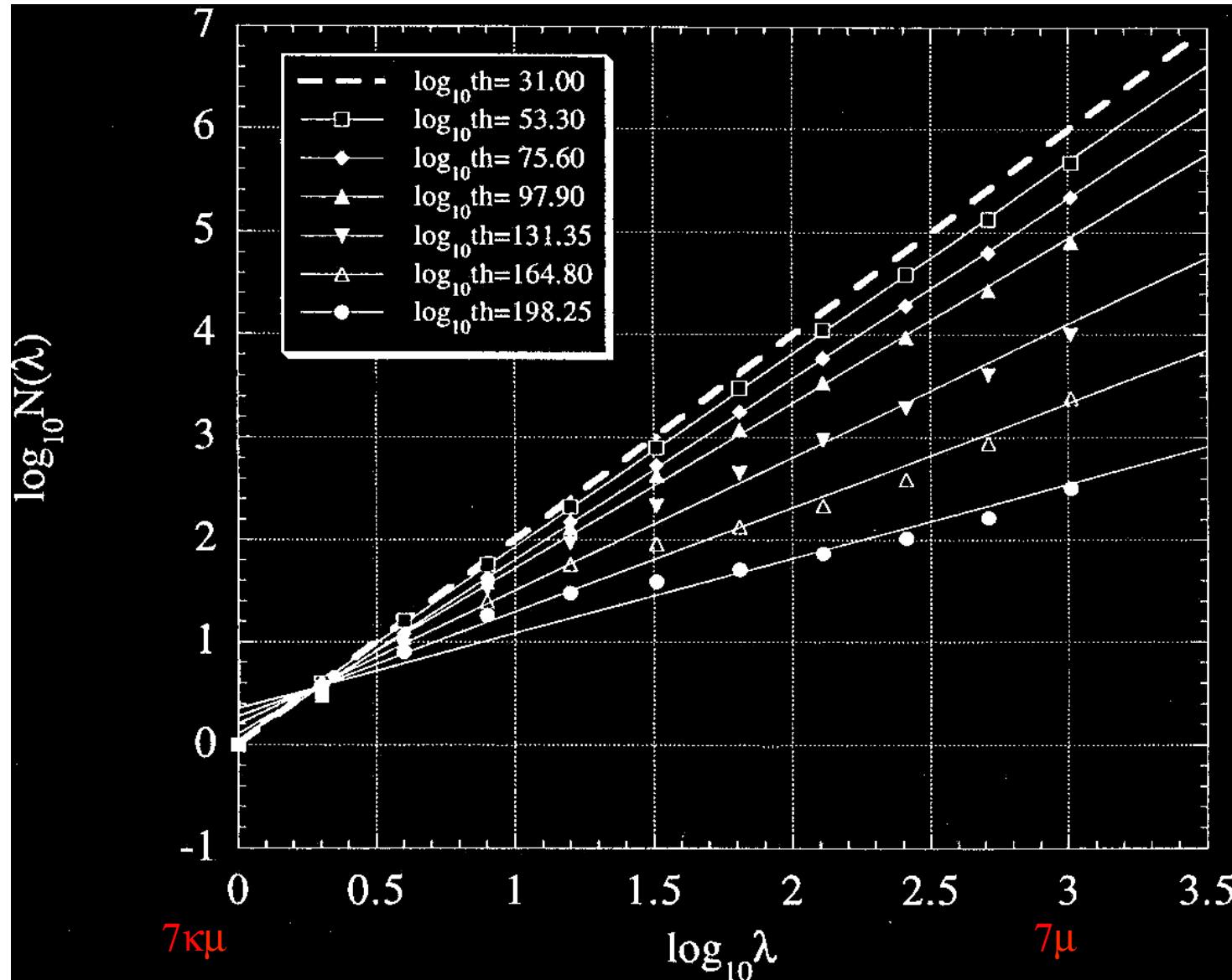


reflectivity thresholds increasing (top to bottom) by factors of 2.5  
(dat from Montreal).

Science: Lovejoy, Schertzer and Tsonis 1987

# Functional box counting of ocean colour data

$$N(\lambda) \approx \lambda^{D_T}; \quad \lambda = L_0 / L$$



Lovejoy et  
al 2001

# Cascades and Multifractals

# Aircraft temperature transect (12km altitude)

Temperature

(°C )

$$\Delta T = \varphi \Delta x^H$$

$\leftarrow 16.7 \sigma$

$\varphi$

Turbulent flux  
Normalized absolute  
gradient of the above  
(Far from Gaussian)

$$\varphi = \frac{|\Delta T(\Delta x = 1)|}{\langle |\Delta T(\Delta x = 1)| \rangle}$$

$\uparrow 1 \sigma$

500

1000

1500

2000

x (km )

- 49

- 50

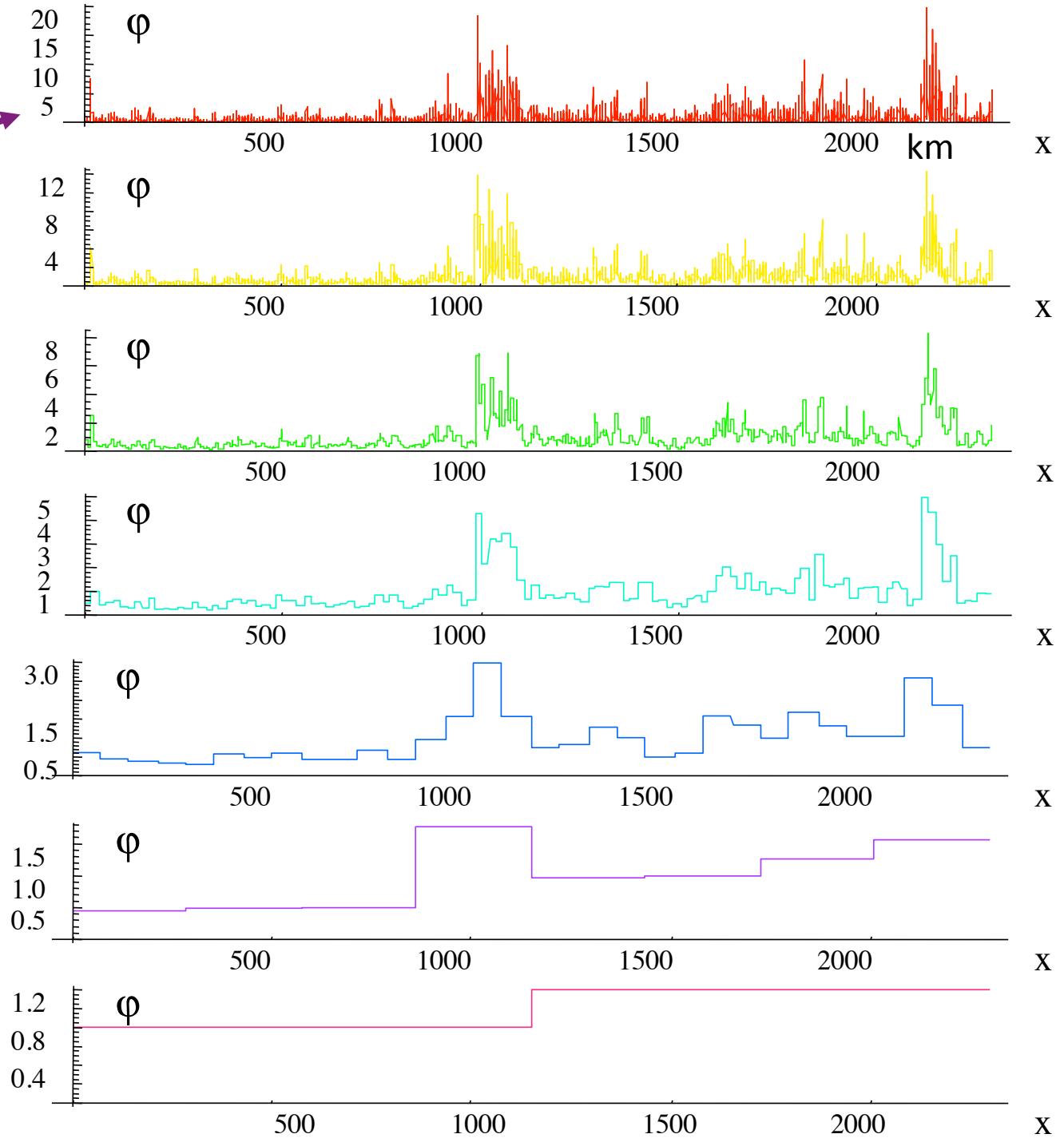
- 51

- 52

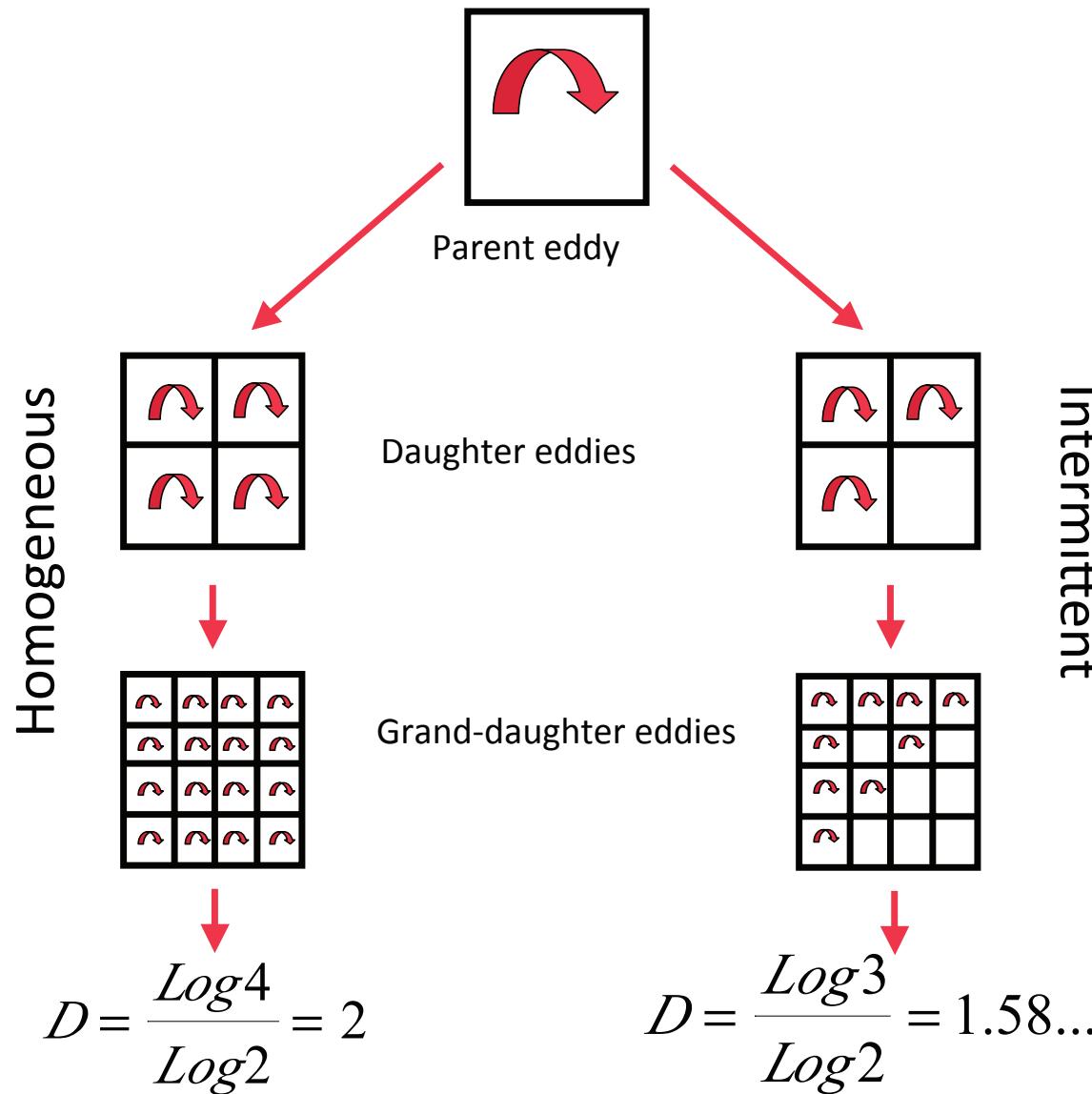
- 53

Temperature  
turbulent flux  $\phi$   
at 280m resolution

High to low  
Resolution:  
degrading by  
factors of 4

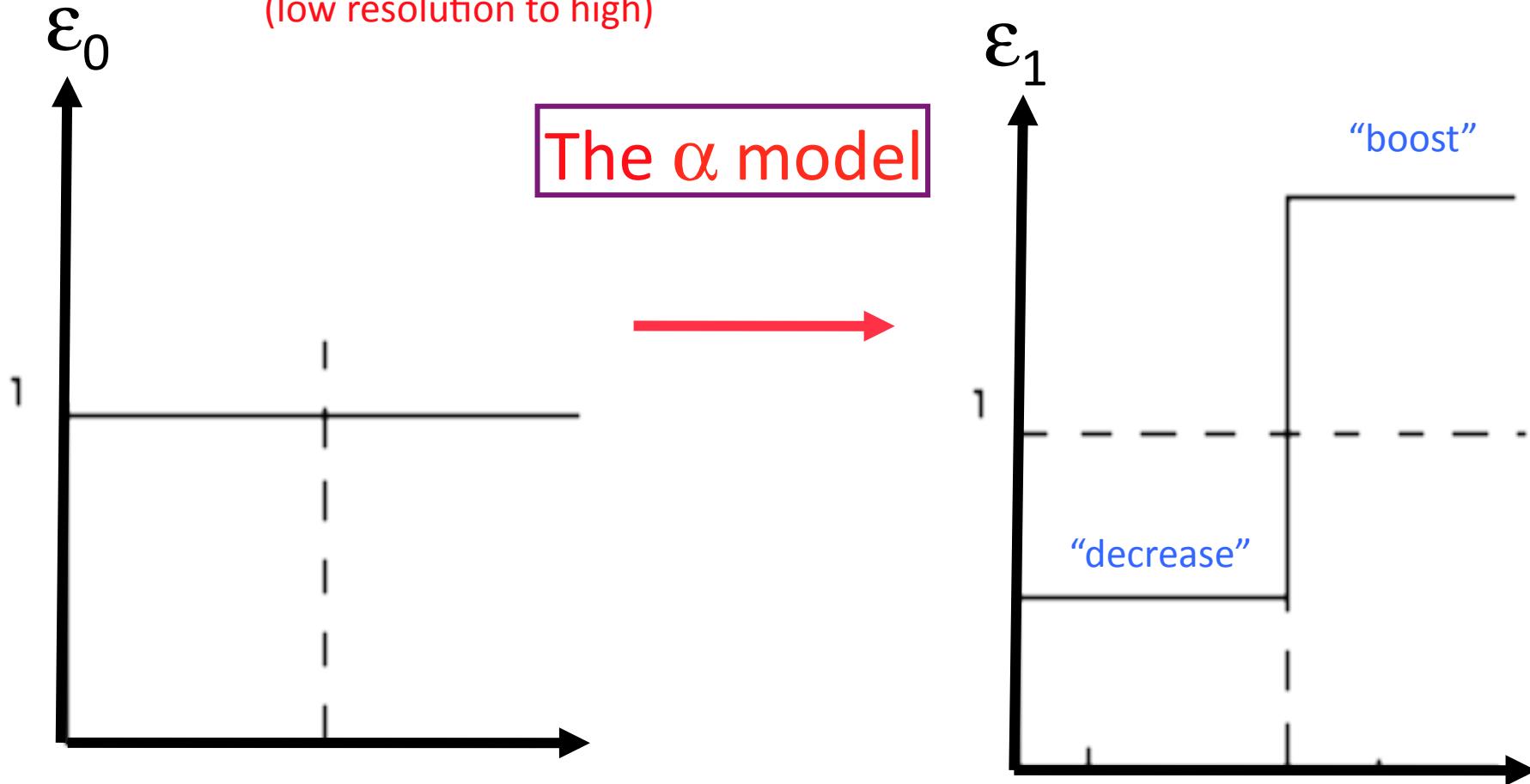


# Cascades



# Cascades and Multifractals

Simulations: multiplicative introduction of small scale details  
(low resolution to high)



# Multiplicative Cascades

Generic statistical behaviour:

$$\left\langle \varepsilon_{\lambda}^q \right\rangle \approx \lambda^{K(q)}$$

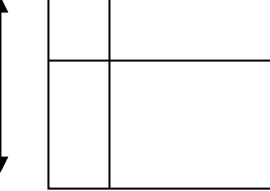
Turbulent flux

scaling

Scale invariant

Statistical averaging

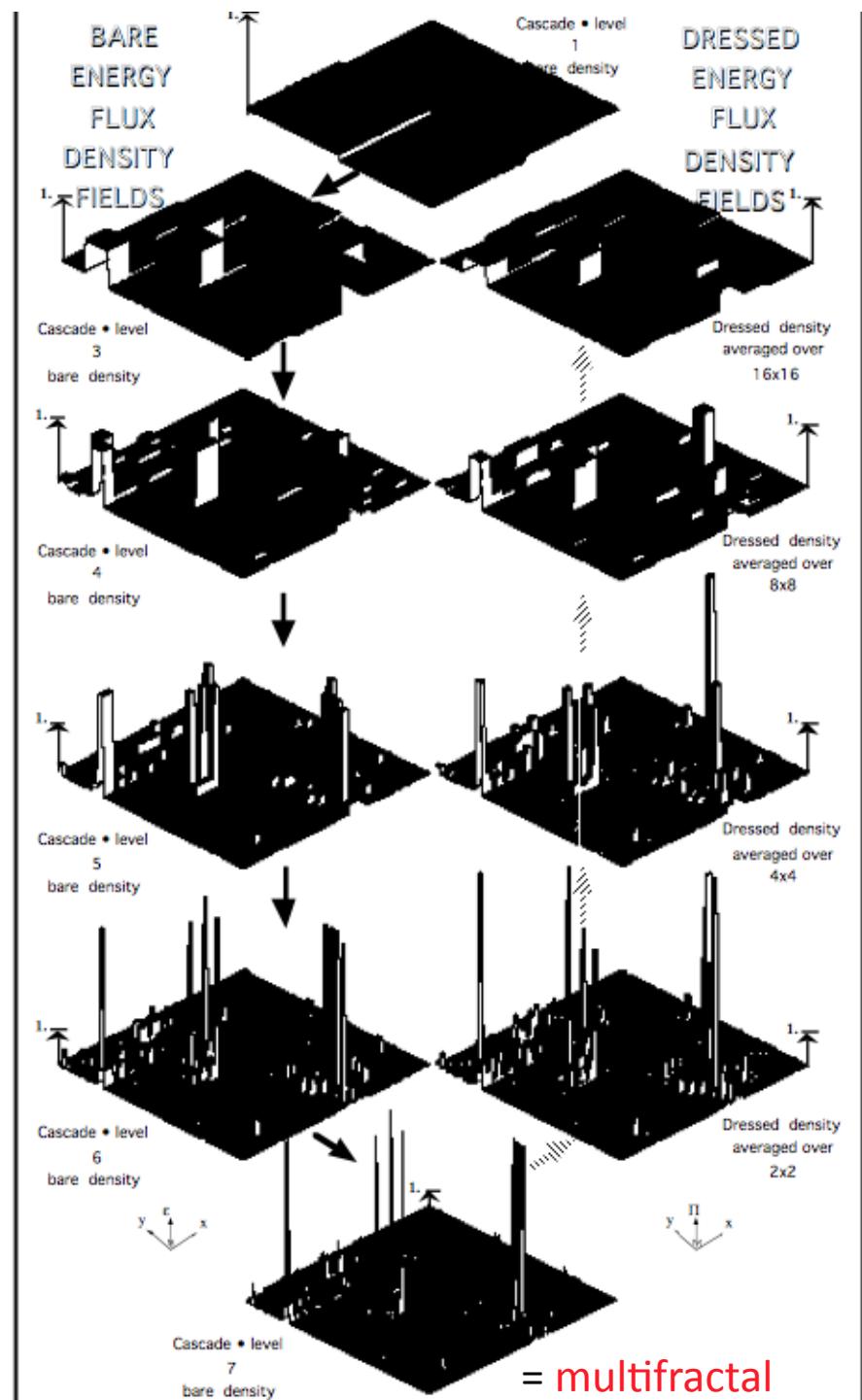
Resolution: ratio  $\lambda = L/l$

$L$   $\leftrightarrow$  

$l$

Probabilities:

$$\Pr(\varepsilon_{\lambda} > \lambda^r) \approx \lambda^{-c(r)}$$



# Early evidence of cascades: Precipitation 1987

(70 Radar Scans, Montreal, horizontal 3 weeks of rain data)

Cascade prediction:

$$\langle Z_\lambda^q \rangle / \langle Z_1 \rangle^q = \lambda^{K(q)}$$

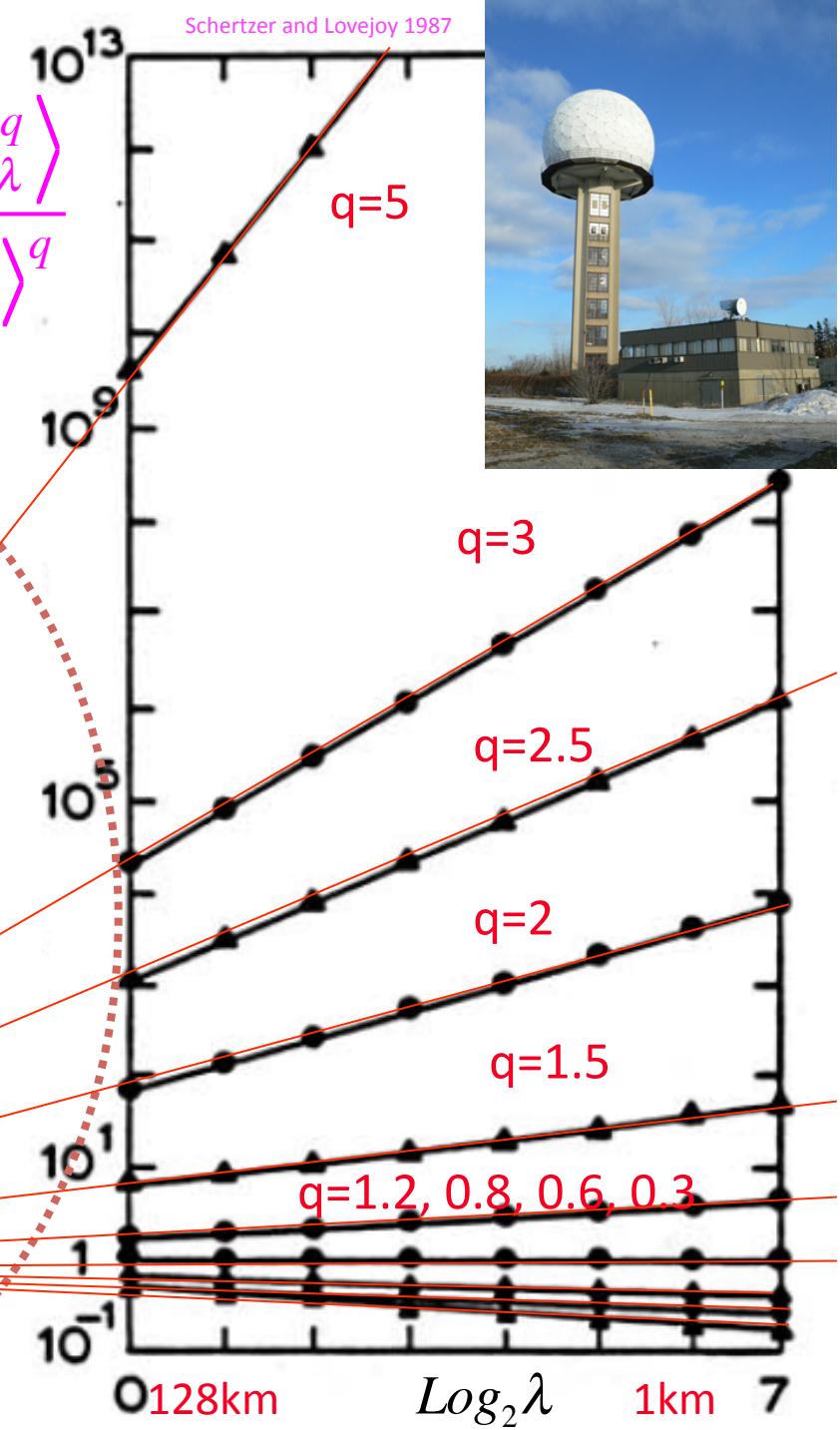
$$\lambda = L_{eff} / L_{res}$$

32,000km

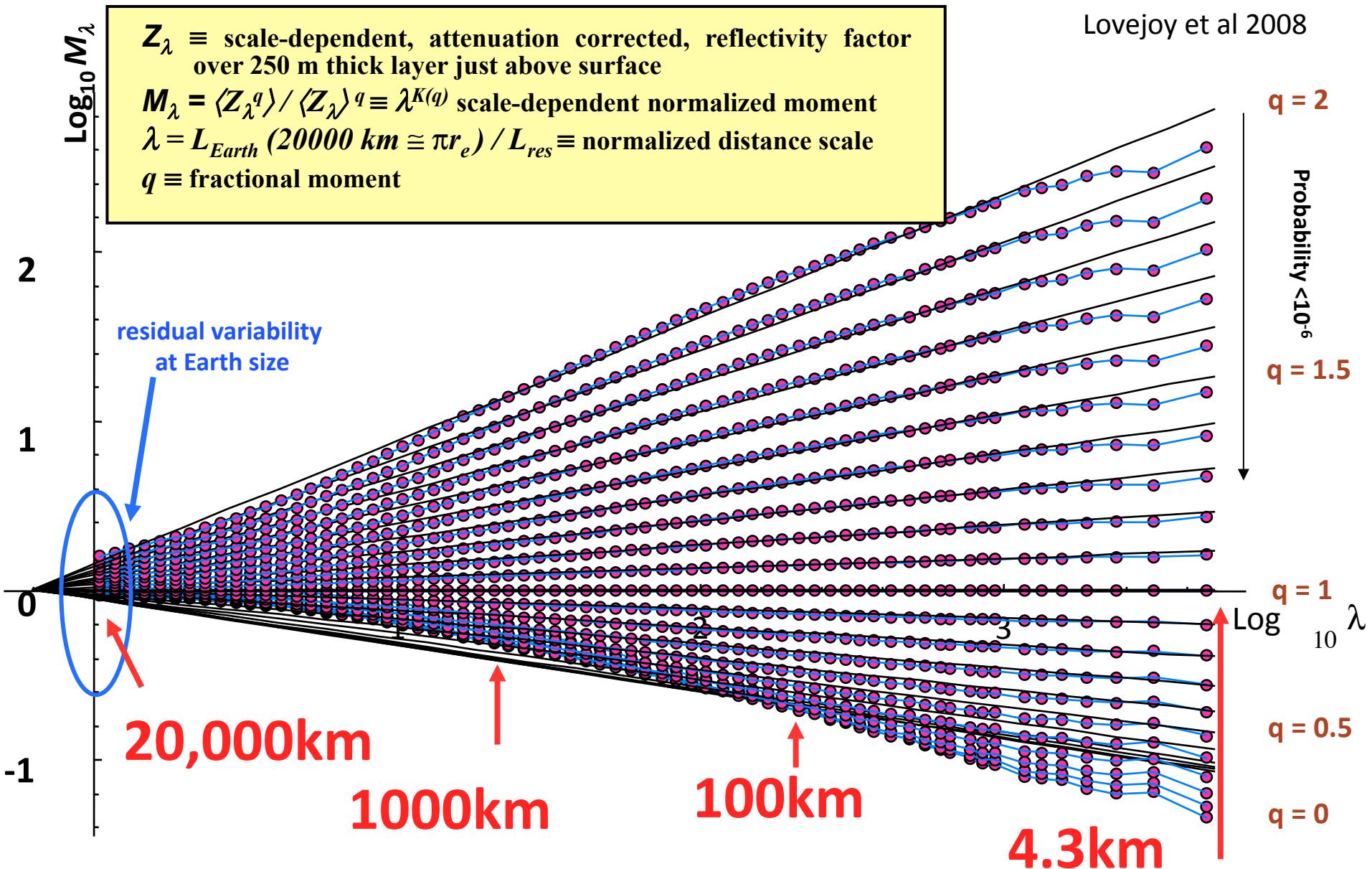
Large scales

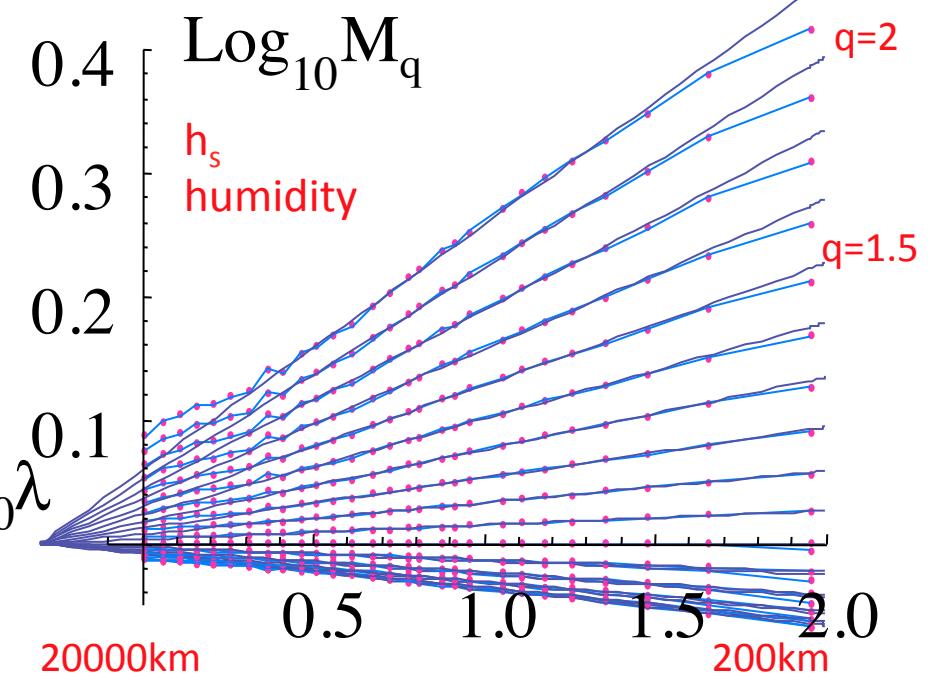
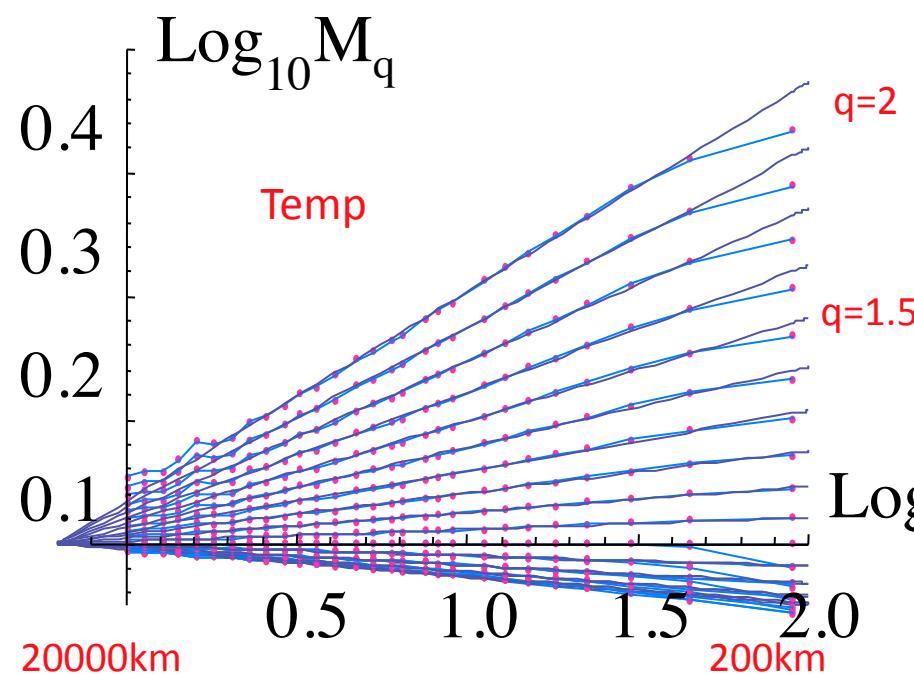
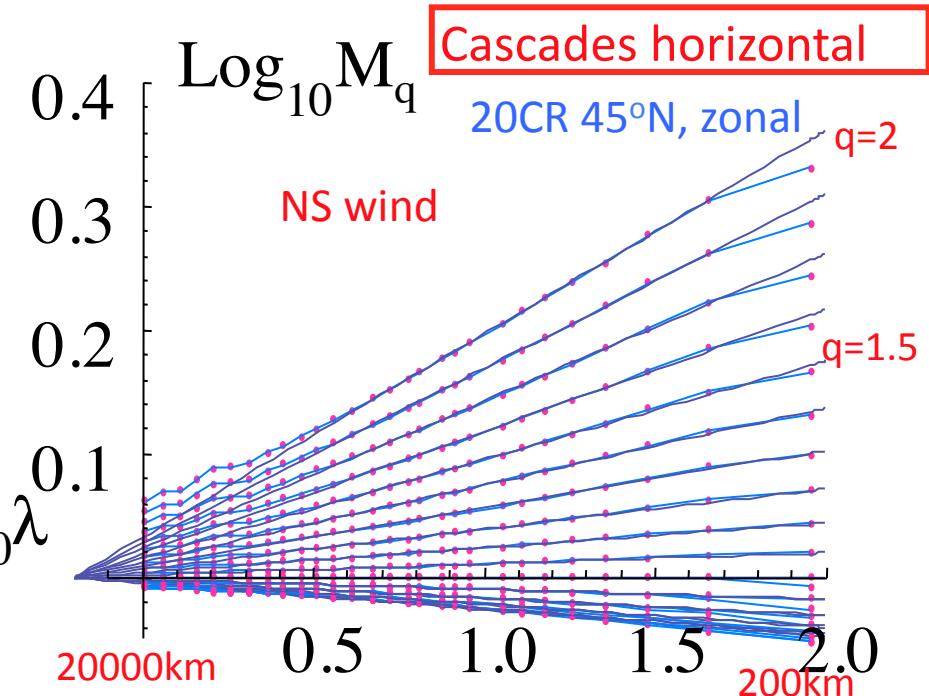
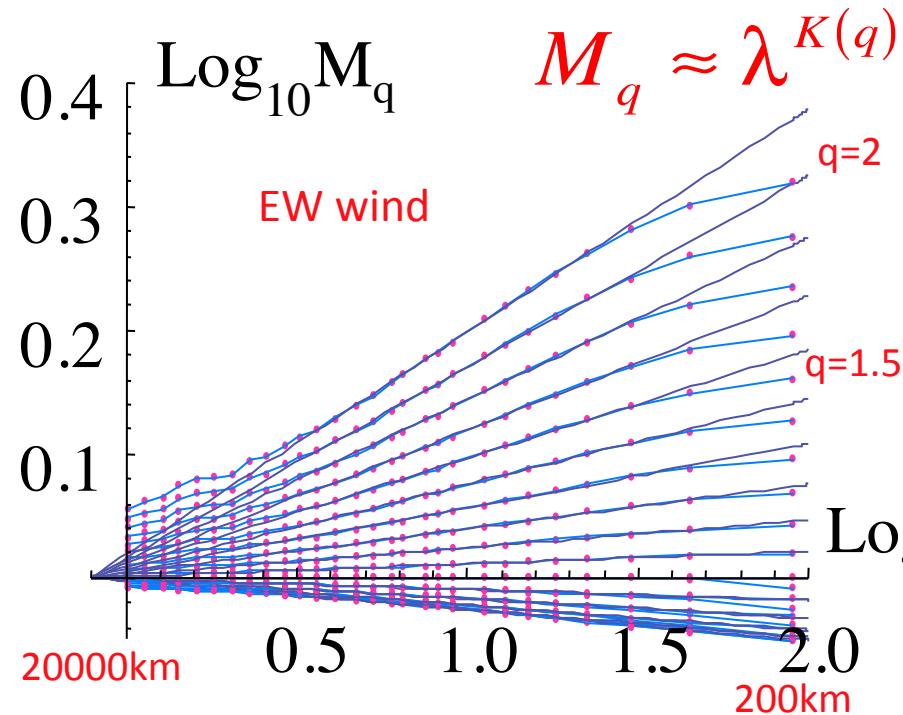
?

$$M = \frac{\langle Z_\lambda^q \rangle}{\langle Z \rangle^q}$$



# Scale-dependent TRMM PR Attenuation Corrected Reflectivity Factor [ $Z_\lambda$ ] (1176 consecutive orbits -- ~70 days)



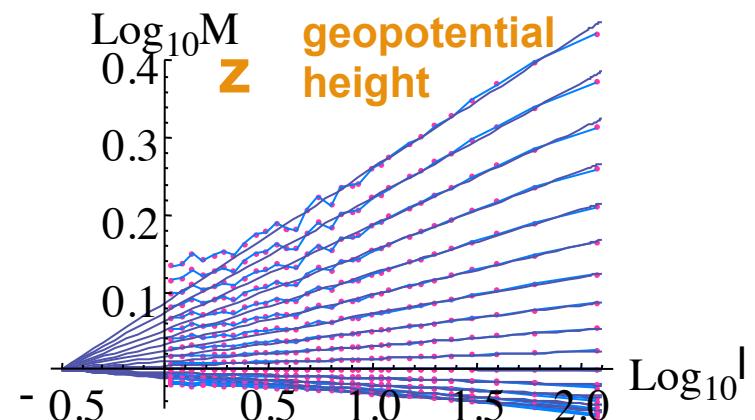
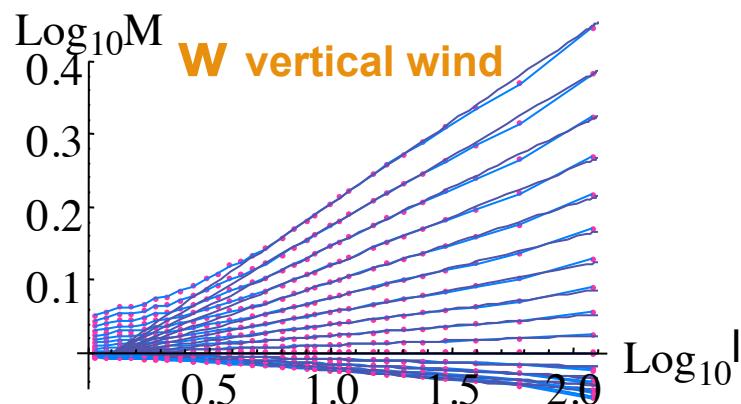
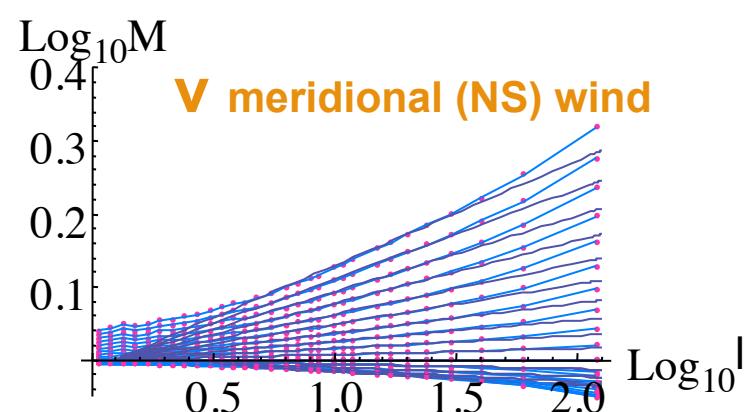
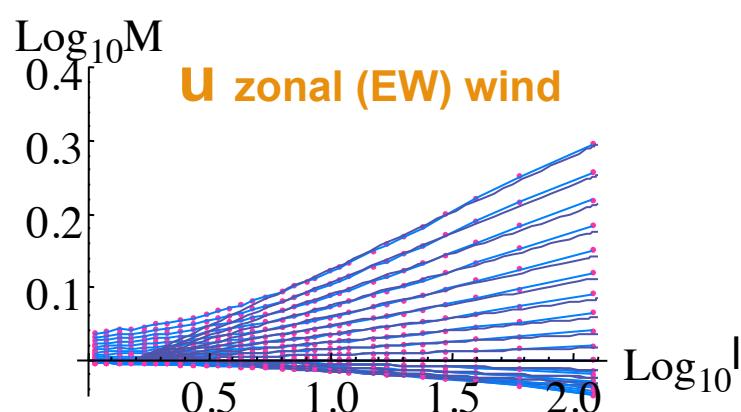
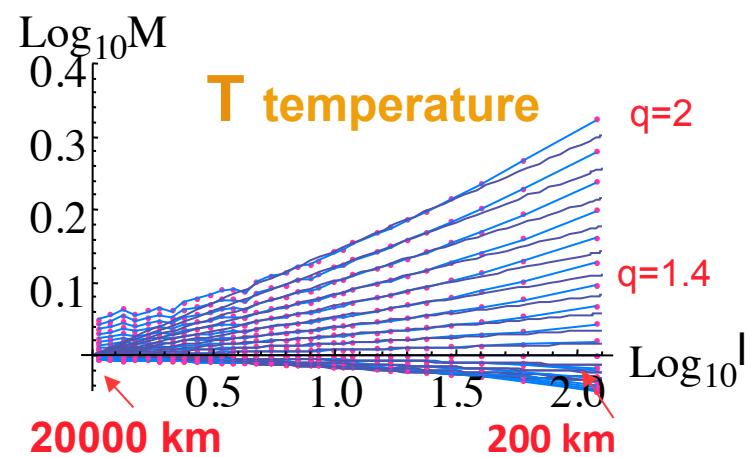
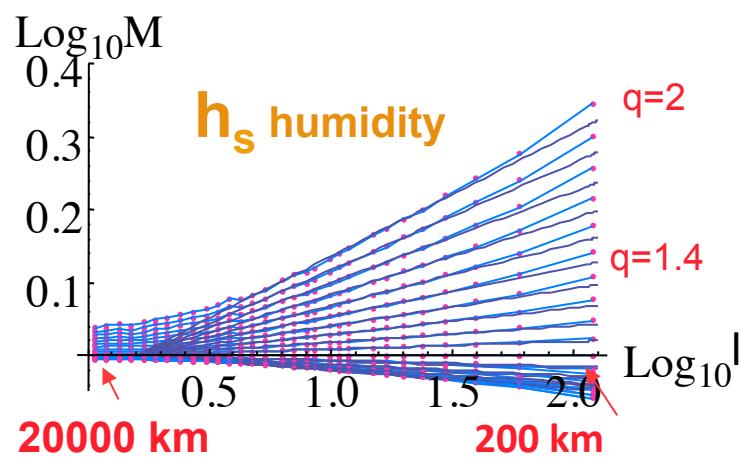


$$M = \langle \phi_\lambda^q \rangle / \langle \phi \rangle^q$$

**ECMWF  
reanalysis**

**East-West**

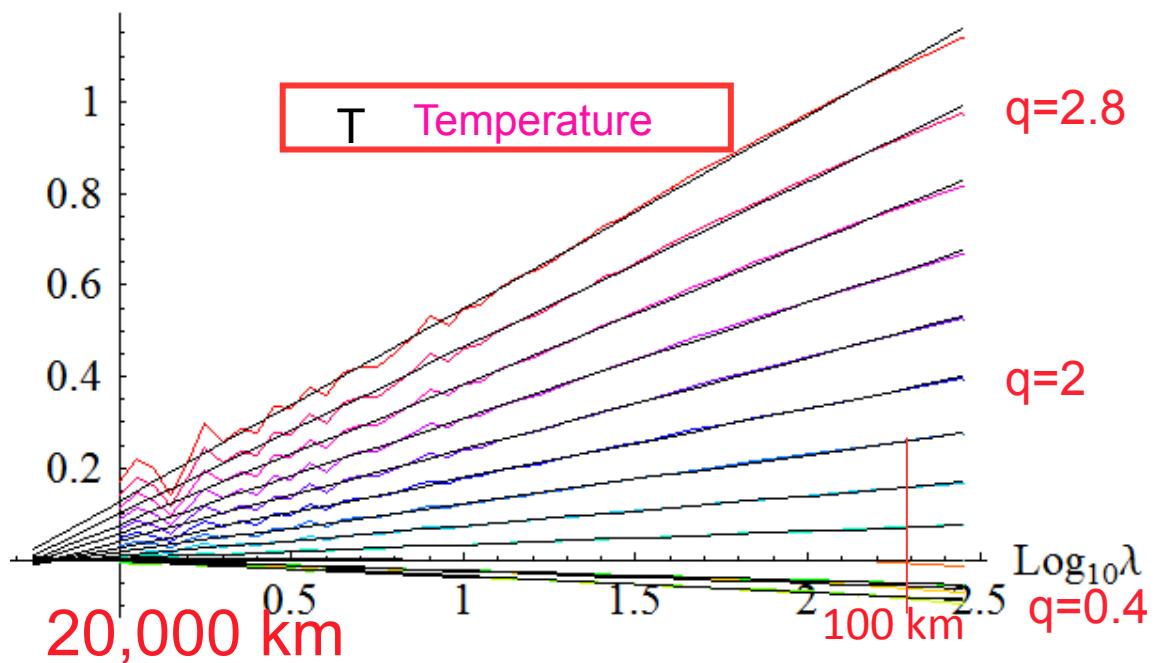
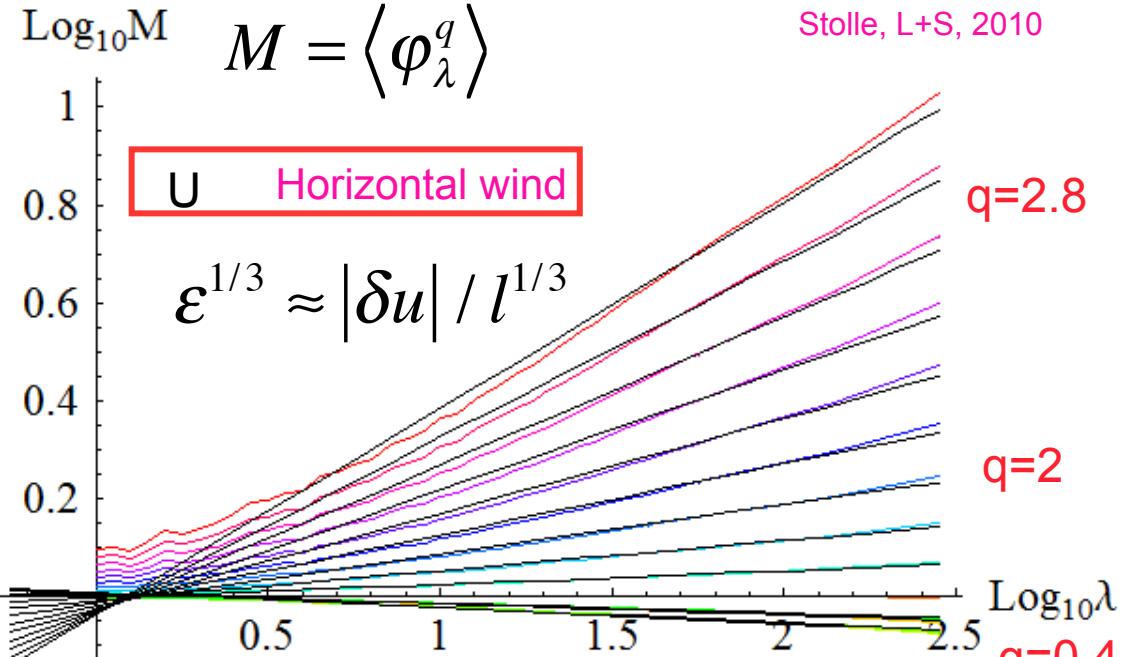
(2006, 0Z, 700 mb)



# Global GEMS Model 00h

Analysis of four months  
U,T at 1000 mb

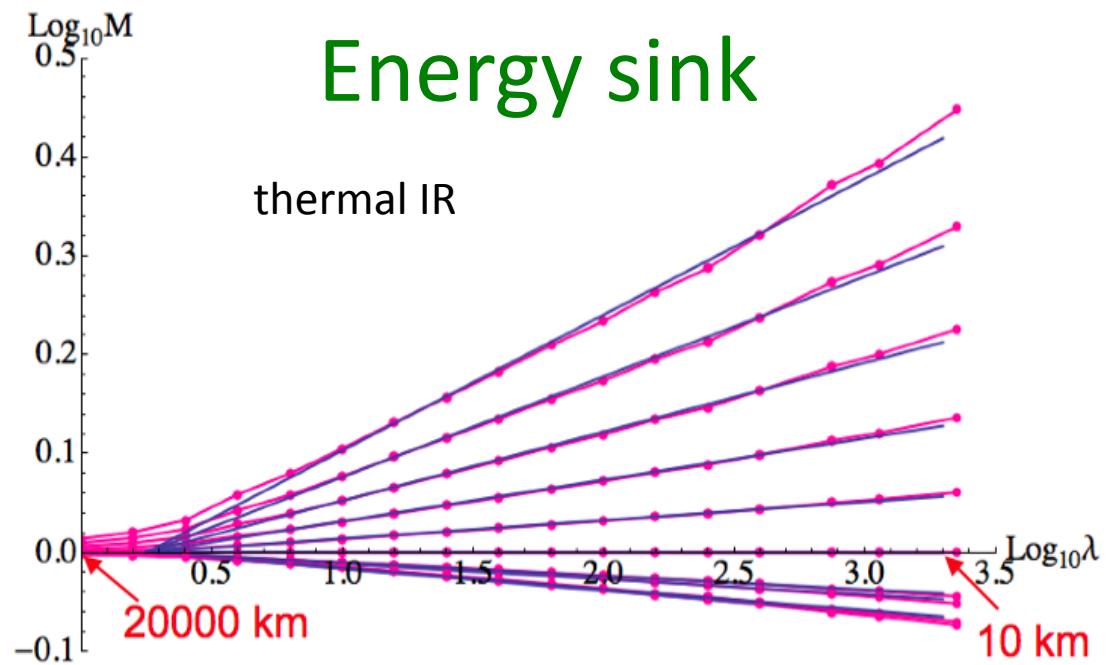
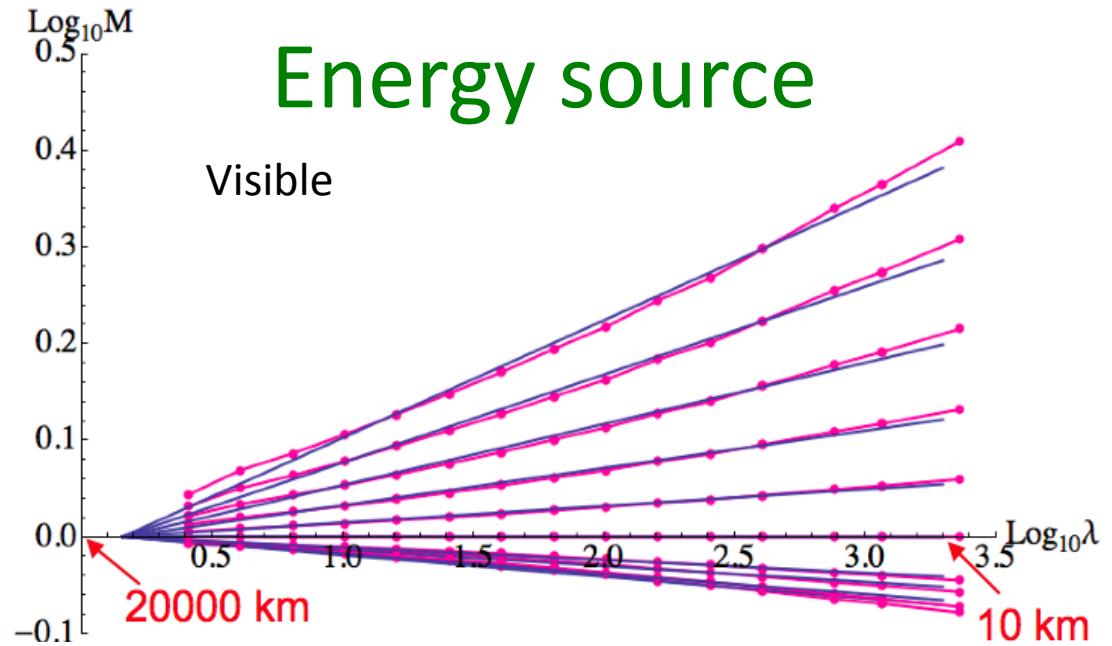
(48 h forecasts are  
almost the same)

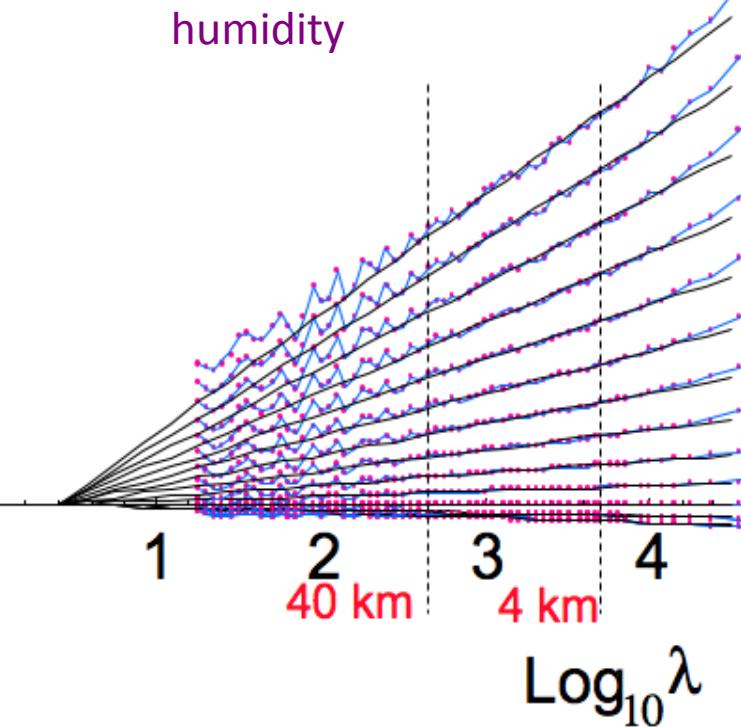
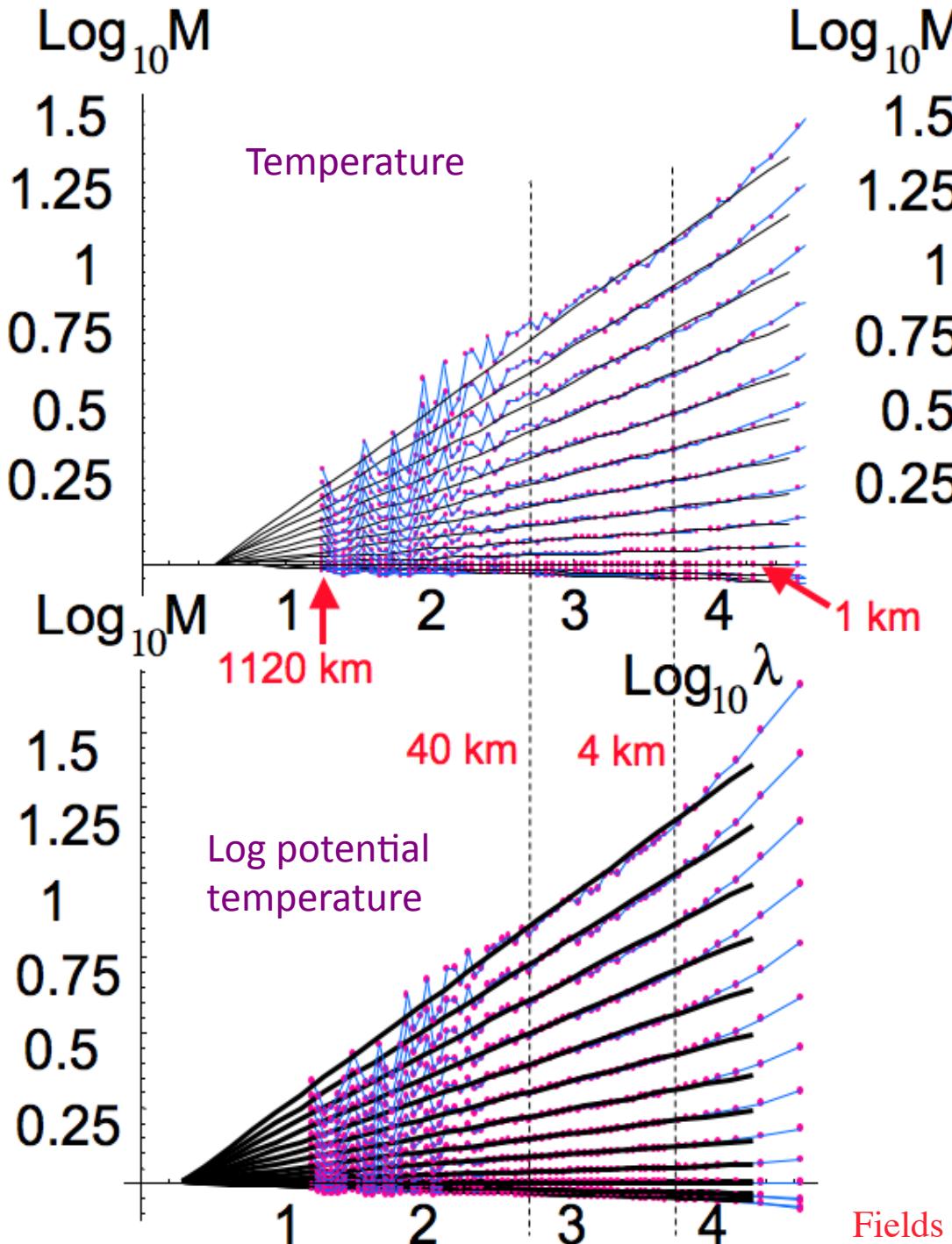


# Energy budget

TRMM satellite data,  $\approx 1000$  orbits

Lovejoy et al 2009



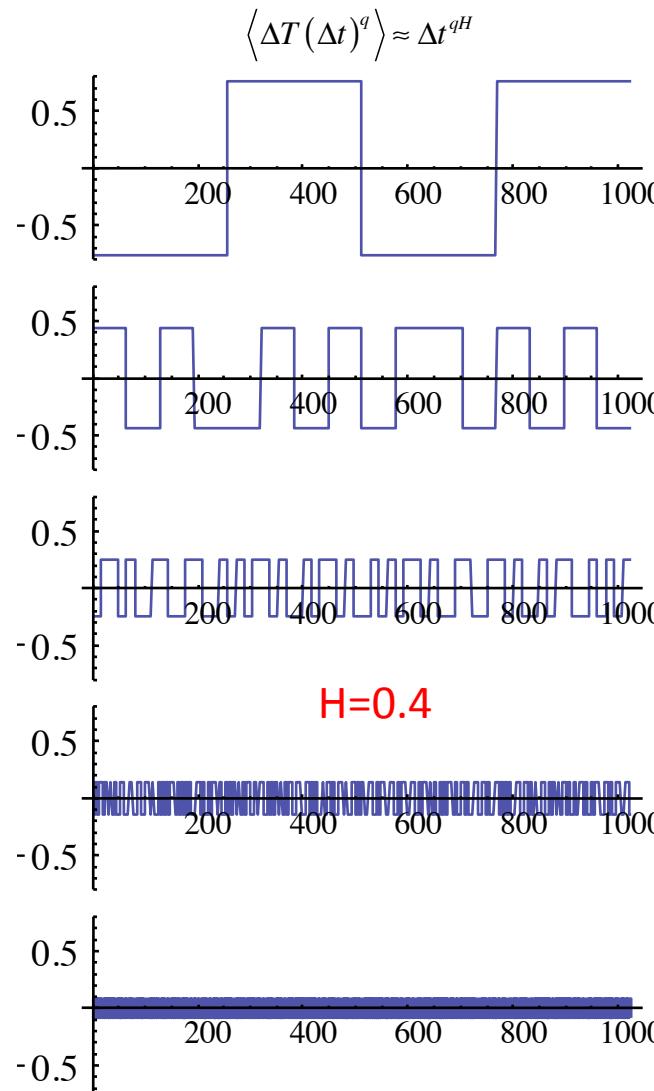


**Horizontal  
cascades from 24  
aircraft legs  
(11-13km)**

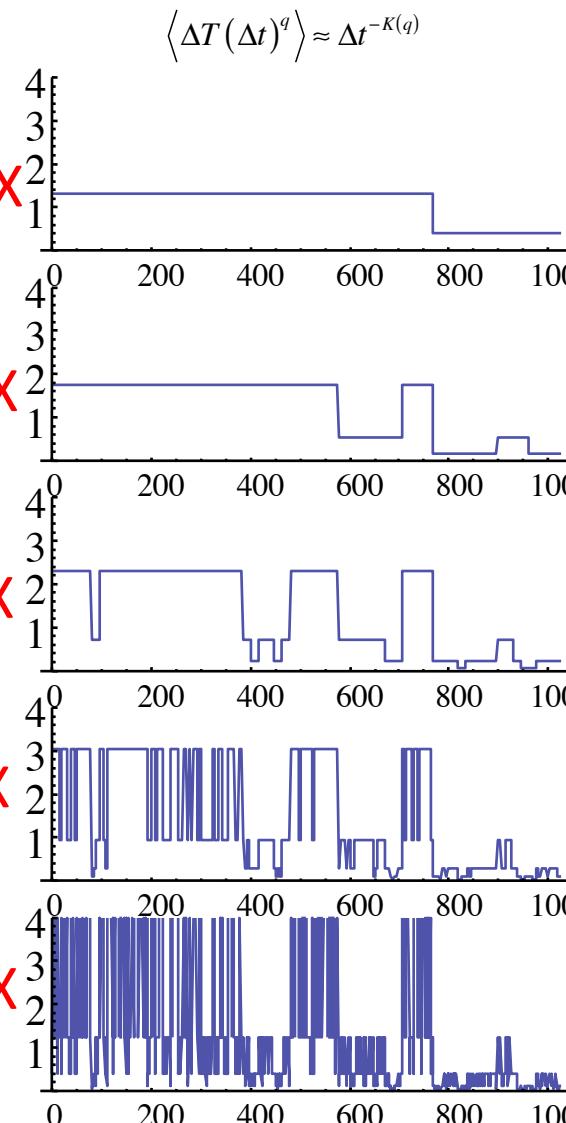
Fields that are relatively unaffected by the trajectories

# Observables: additive and multiplicative processes

**H model** (additive)



**$\alpha$  Model** (multiplicative)



**H- $\alpha$  model**

