

Photos: Sonja Wiegmann, Phytooptics, AWI

# The Southern Ocean phytoplankton diversity from space and numerical modelling

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 IUP, University of Bremen: J. Oelker, A. Richter, V. Rozanov, and J. P. Burrows  
 MIT, Cambridge, USA: S. Dutkiewicz

thanks to S. Trimborn (AWI)

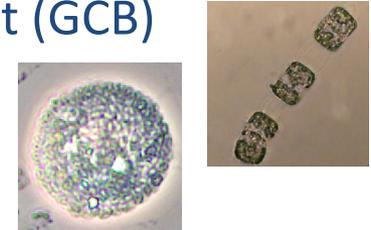
## SPP-Antarctic “PHYSYN”

Antarctic phytoplankton in response to environmental change studied by a synergistic approach using multi- and hyperspectral satellite data (PhySyn)

*28 March 2018, International Polar Conference, Rostock*

# Southern Ocean phytoplankton diversity: observational based evidence

- The coccolithophores vs. diatoms in the Great Calcite Belt (GCB)  
(Signorini et al., 2006; Smith et al. 2017)  
calcifier/silicifier
- Southern Ocean diatom size diversity  
(Quéguiner 2013; Deppeler&Davidson, 2017; Tréguer et al. 2018)  
silicifiers to different extend
- Co-existence of haptophytes coccolithophores and *Phaeocystis sp.*  
(Signorini et al., 2006; Alvain et al., 2008; Hopkins et al., 2015;  
Deppeler&Davidson, 2017)  
*Phaeocystis sp.*: carbon and sulfur (dimethyl sulfide producer) cycling



Need for well validated long-term data with good spatial and temporal coverage to study and understand the distribution of major phytoplankton groups (phytoplankton functional types = PFT) and their changes over time

# Outline

## PhySyn satellite phytoplankton diversity retrievals

- hyper-spectral based
- multi-spectral based
- synergistic PFT estimates (SynSenPFT)
- the Great Calcite Belt diatom and coccolithophores Chla retrievals

## PhySyn numerical simulations

- Darwin-MITgcm coupled physical/biogeochemical model
- accommodation for the Southern Ocean (SO)
- simulated SO phytoplankton diversity

## Summary/outlook

# Satellite retrievals – OC-PFT (Hirata et al., 2011)

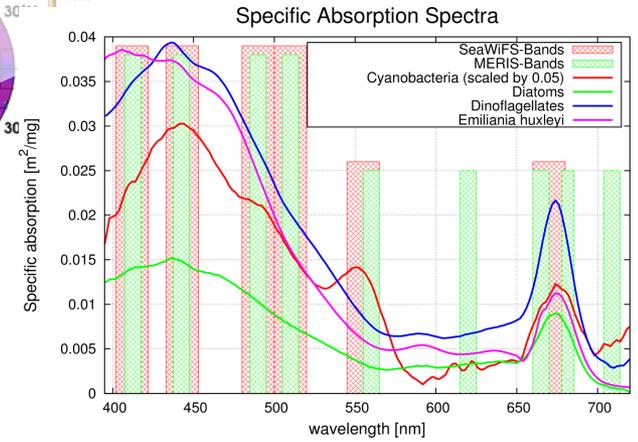
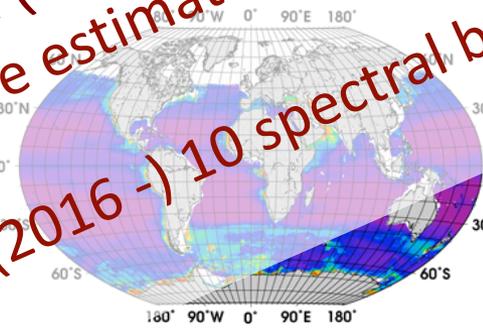
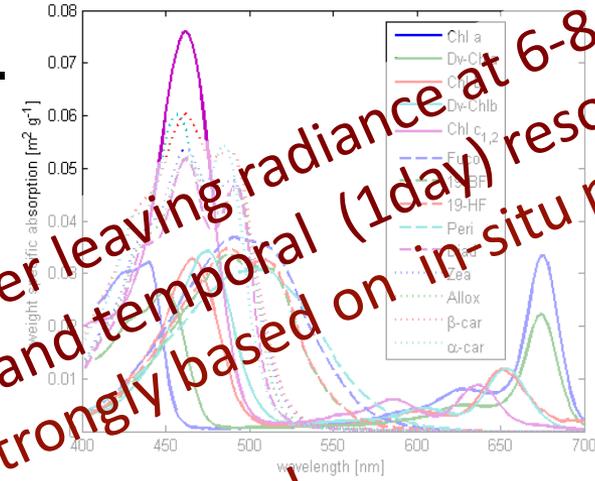
In situ data of diagnostic pigments

Diagnostic Pigment Analysis

$f$ -PFTs



Fit function applied to satellite TChla data



Multispectral sensors, measuring water leaving radiance at 6-8 bands with high spatial (0.3 – 4 km) and temporal (1day) resolution  
Limitation: Quantitative estimates strongly based on in-situ pigment data base  
Future: Sentinel-3 (2016 -) 10 spectral bands!

Improved OC-PFT for diatoms: *Soppa et al. (2014)*

Used for Phenology study of diatoms in Southern Ocean: *Soppa et al. (2016)*

# Satellite retrievals - PhytoDOAS method



Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy applied to Phytoplankton and to oceanic inelastic processes:

based on Beer-Lambert-Law  $I(\lambda) = I_0(\lambda) \cdot e^{-\tau(\lambda)} \Rightarrow \tau(\lambda) = \ln \left( \frac{I_0(\lambda)}{I(\lambda)} \right)$

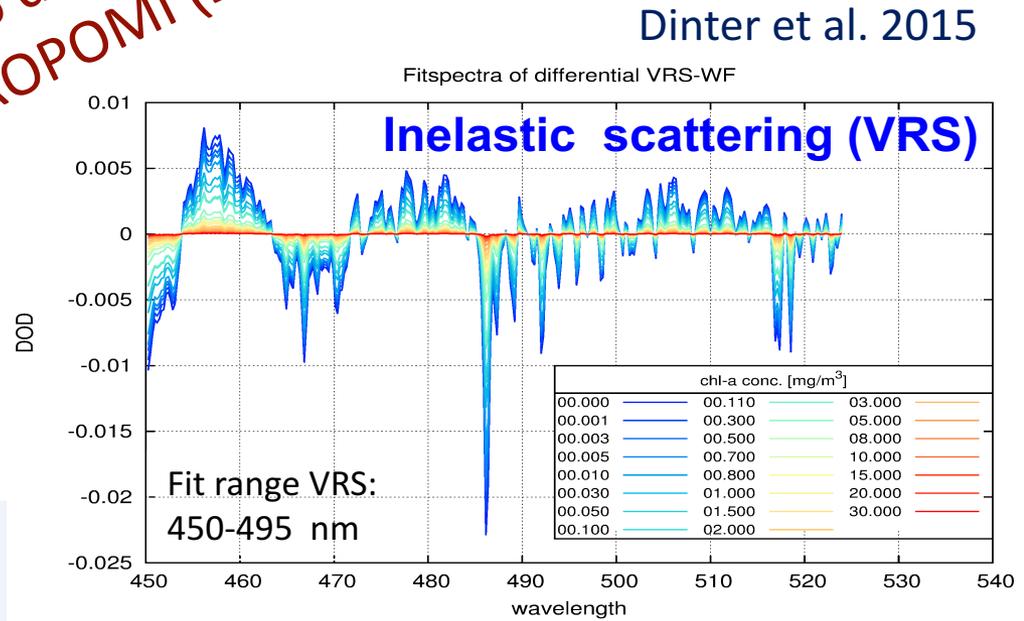
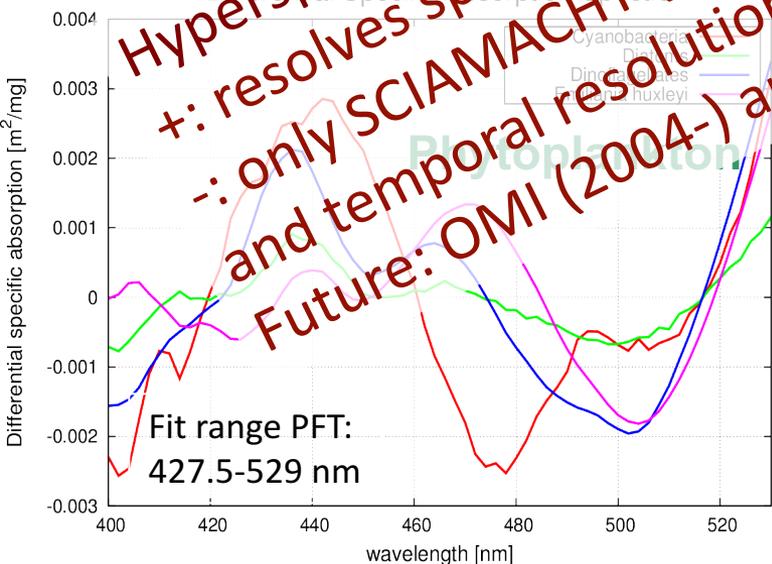
aims to fulfil following minimization

$$S_j = Arg \min \left\| \tau(\lambda) - \sum_{k=1}^K S_k \sigma_k(\lambda) - \sum_{i=1}^J S_j a_j(\lambda) \right\|$$

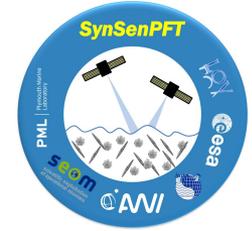
Atmosphere, Phytoplankton, Inelastic scattering (VRS), Polynom

- Satellite earthshine and solar spectra
- Measured absorption spectra of all relevant absorbers
- Low frequency changes (Mie-Rayleigh scattering) approximated by low order polynomial

**Hyperspectral sensors, measuring back scattered radiance at TOA;**  
**+: resolves spectral fingerprints of various phytoplankton groups**  
**-: only SCIAMACHY (atmospheric sensor) with low spatial (30-60km)**  
**and temporal resolution (2-6 days) and end of mission in 2012**  
**Future: OMI (2004-) and TROPOMI (2018-) with 7-20 km & 1-2 days**



Dinter et al. 2015



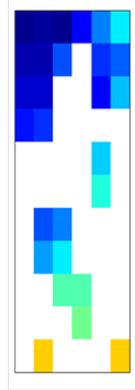
# Combination of the two products: SynSenPFT algorithm

<https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.870486>

(Losa et al. 2017)

funded in parts by PHYSYN

Diatom OC-PFT  
[mg/m<sup>3</sup>]



high spatial and temporal resolution  
(daily 4km x 4km)

$\bar{X}_{OCPFT}$



Diatom SynsenPFT  
[mg/m<sup>3</sup>]

$$x^a = x^b + K(y - Hx^b)$$

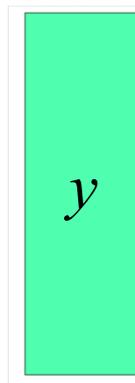


$K$



4km x 4km  
global  
daily  
2002-2012

Diatom PhytoDOAS  
[mg/m<sup>3</sup>]



less empirical  
because driven by  
spectral retrieval

$$K_n = P_n^b H^T (HP_n^b H^T + R)^{-1}$$

$$x^b = \{OCPFT_1, \dots, OCPFT_N\}$$

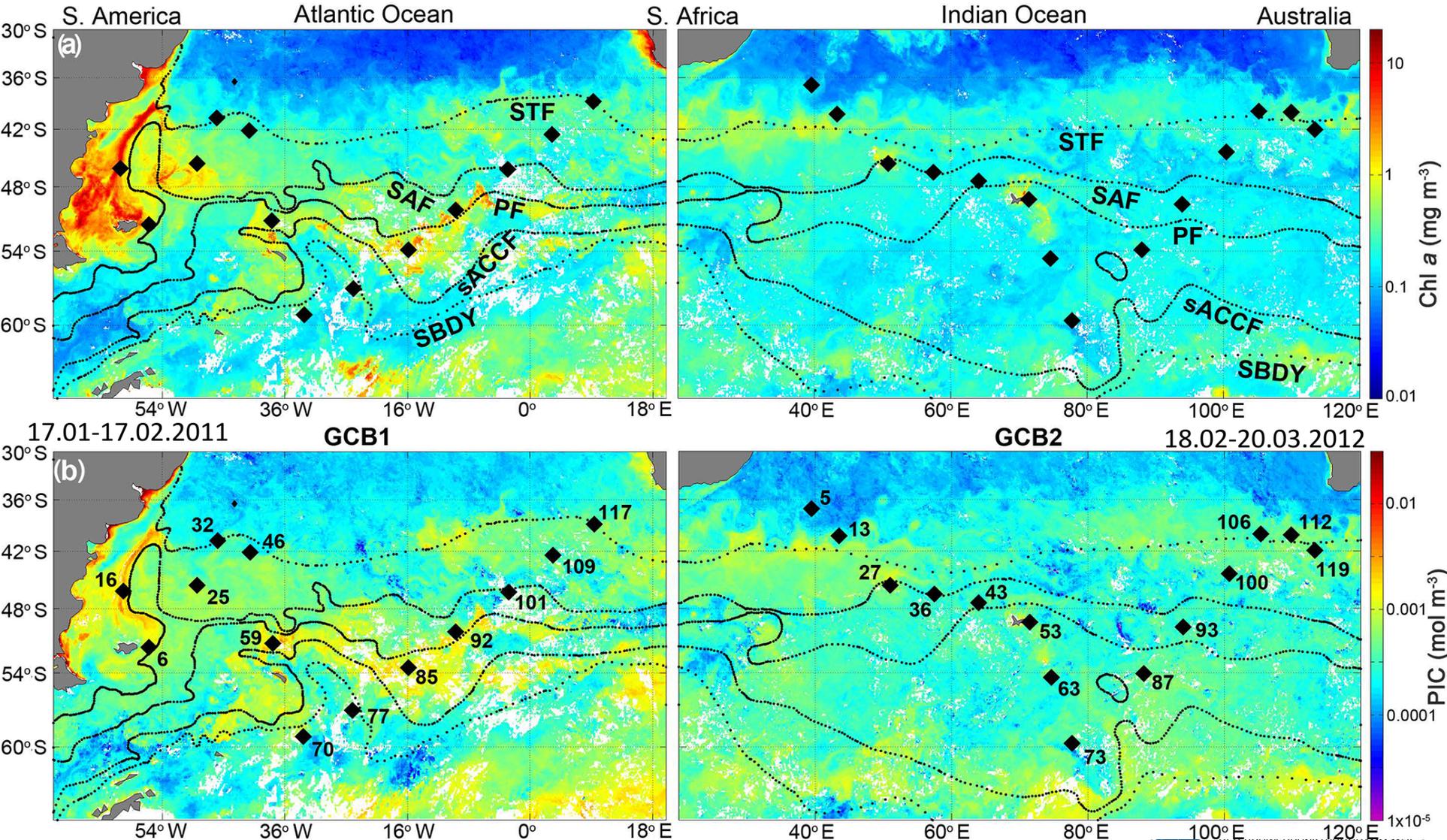
$$x^a = \{SynSenPFT_1, \dots, SynSenPFT_N\}$$

$P_n^b$  - OC-PFT error covariance matrix

$R$  - PhytoDOAS error covariance matrix

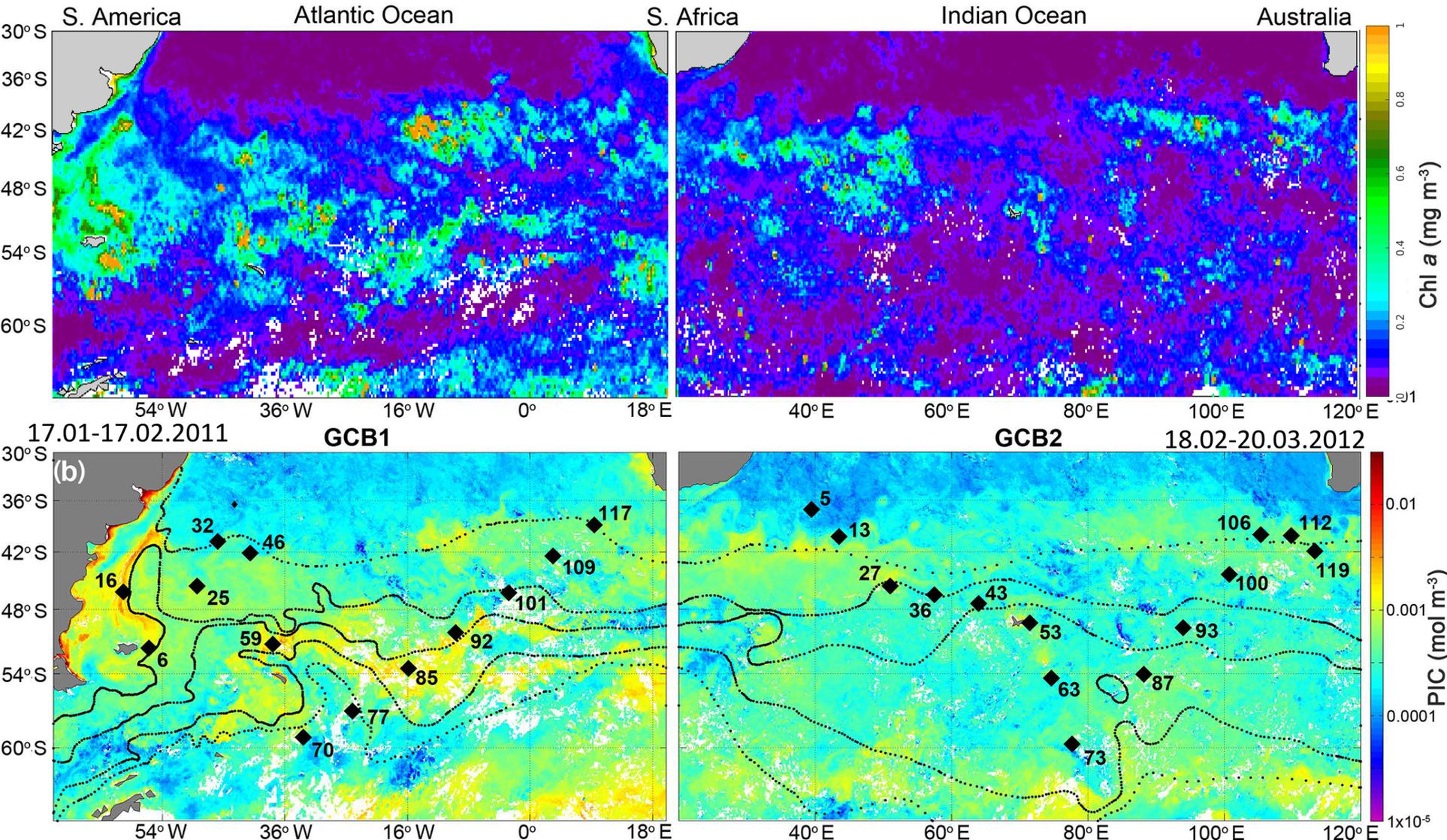
$H$  - an observational operator that projects  $x^b$  to the  $y$  space

# The Great Calcite Belt



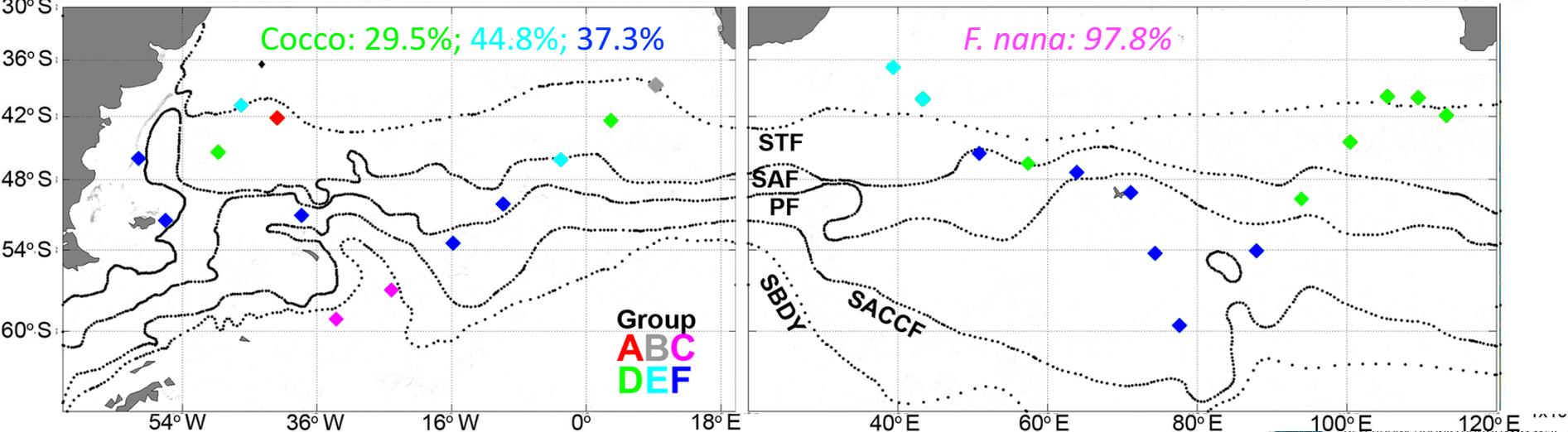
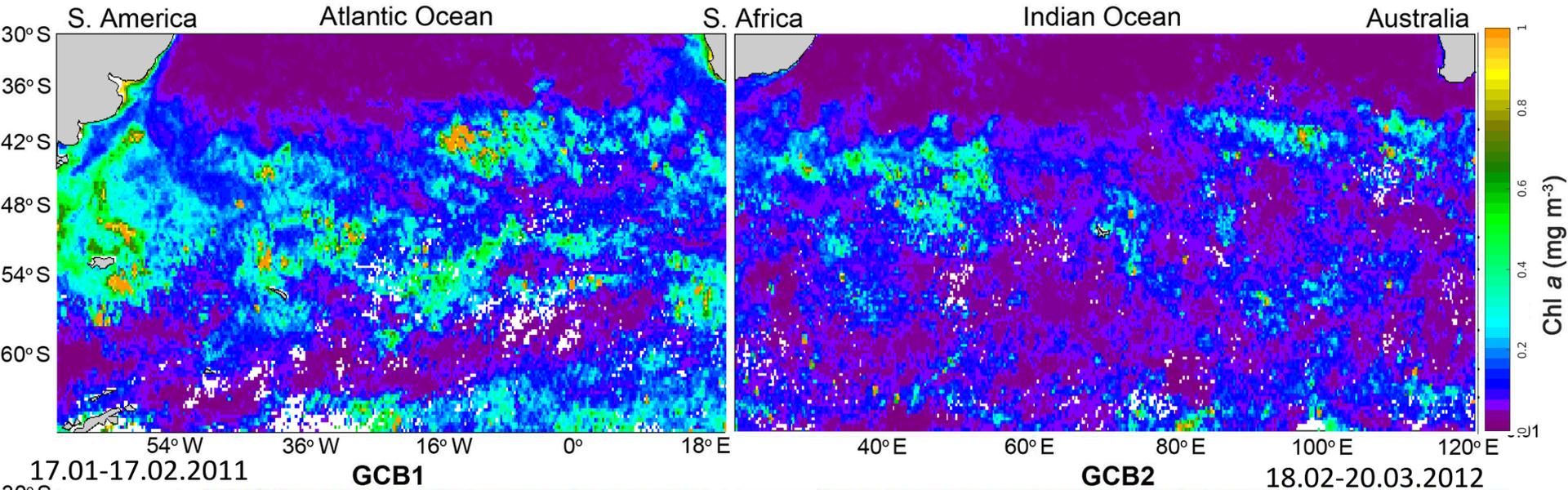
Smith et al. (2017) The influence of the environmental variability on the biogeography of coccolithophores and diatoms in the Great Calcite Belt, *Biogeosciences*, 14, 4905–4925.

# PhySyn: SynSenPFT coccolithophores retrievals The Great Calcite Belt



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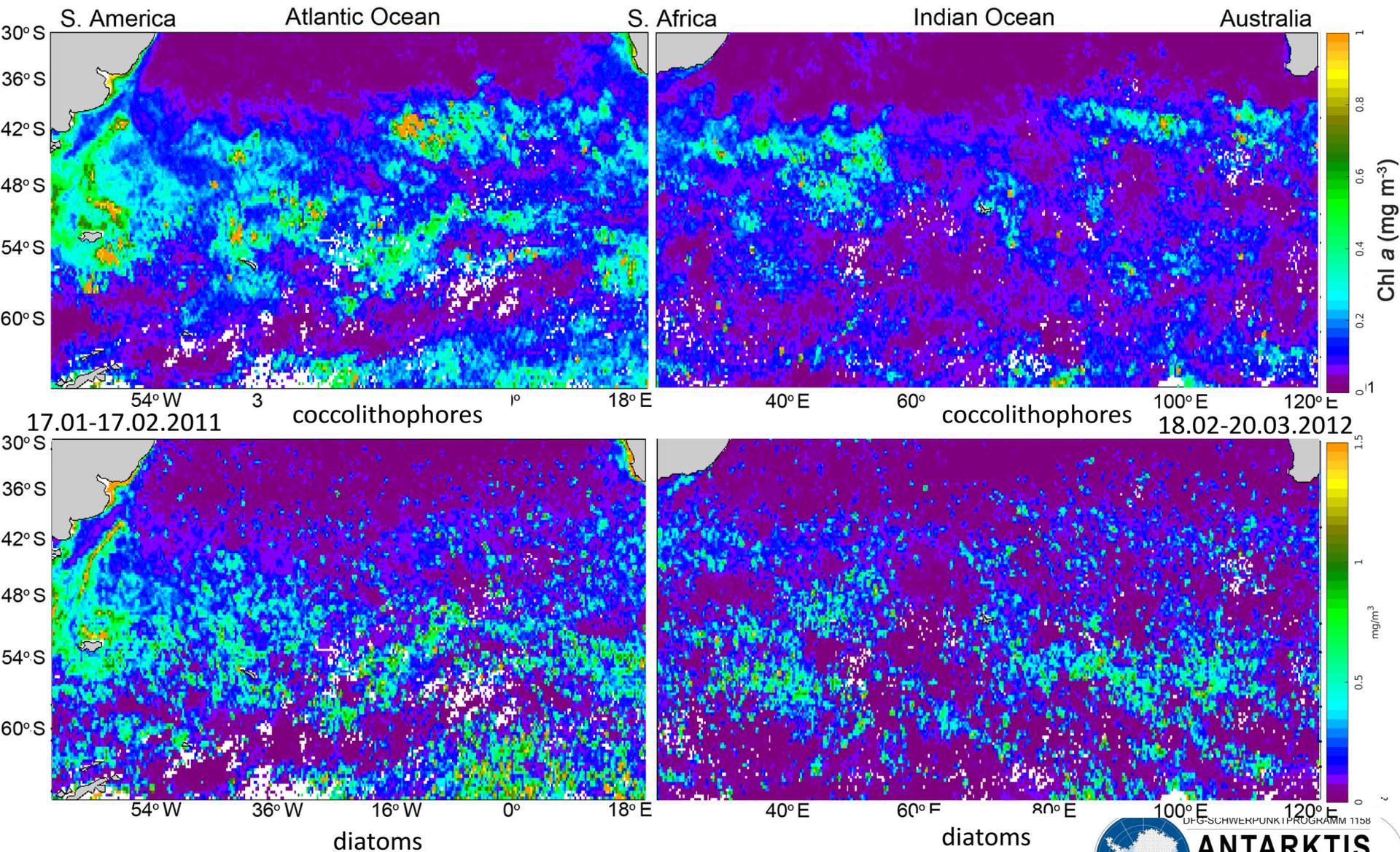
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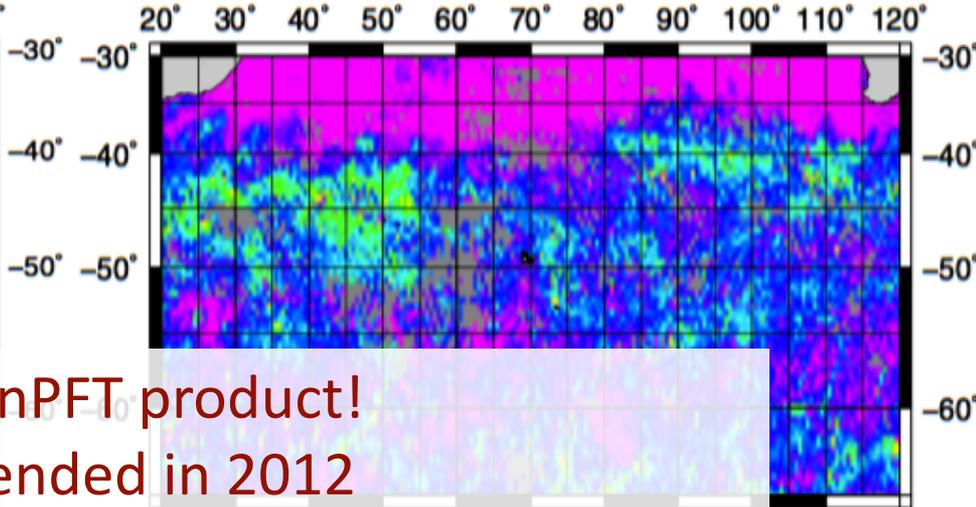
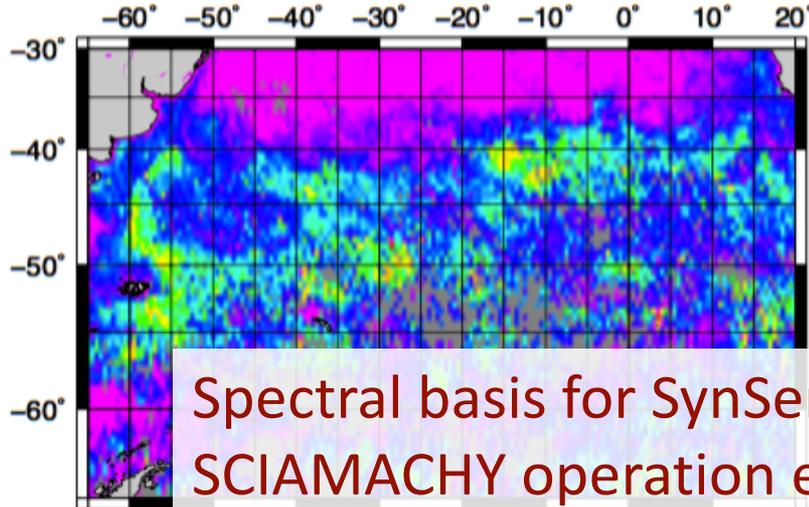
# PhySyn: the SynSenPFT retrievals

# The Great Calcite Belt



# SCIAMACHY vs. OMI PhytoDOAS coccolithophores retrievals

SCIAMACHY

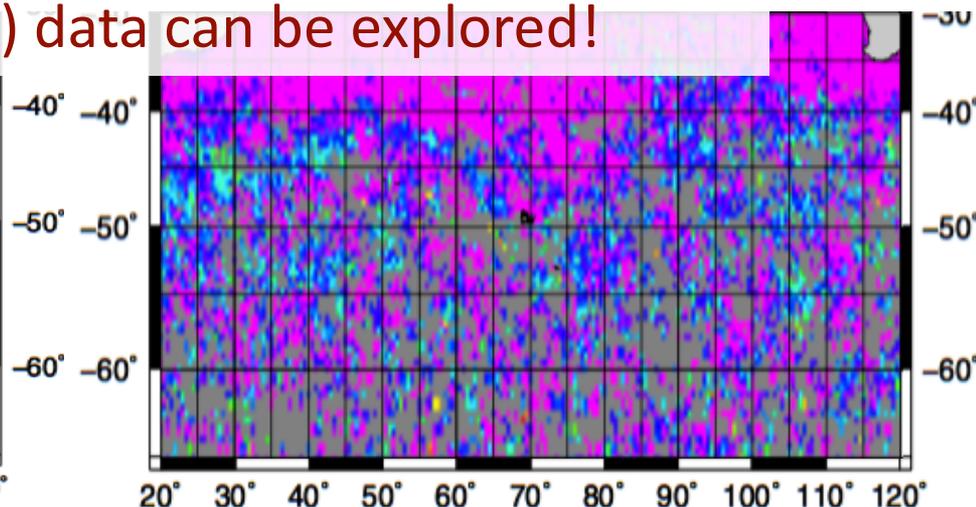
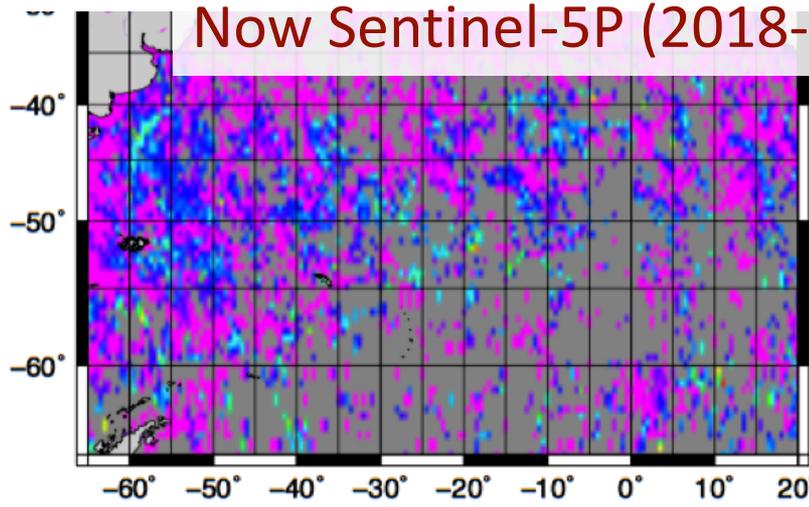


Spectral basis for SynSenPFT product!  
SCIAMACHY operation ended in 2012

OMI can fill the gap until 2018

Now Sentinel-5P (2018-) data can be explored!

OMI

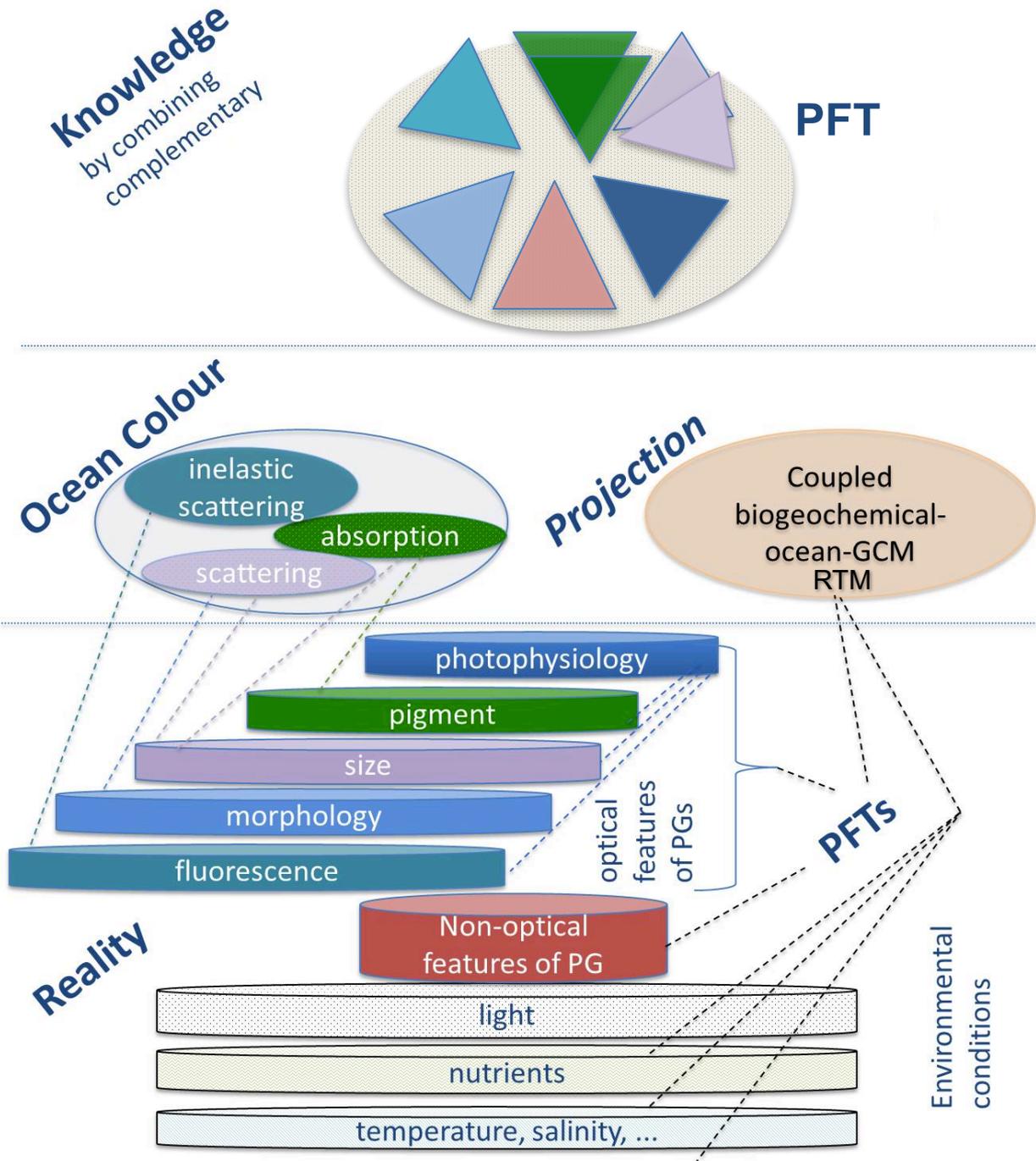


# Mismatch between model PFTs / satellite data

**Phytoplankton Diversity** – a variety of Phytoplankton Functional Types (PFTs) or other Phytoplankton Grouping (PG)

Bracher et al. (2017)  
Obtaining Phytoplankton Diversity from Ocean Color: A Scientific Roadmap for Future Development

Representation error in Janjić et al. (2017)



# PhySyn: Adapting the biogeochemical model Darwin to the Southern Ocean

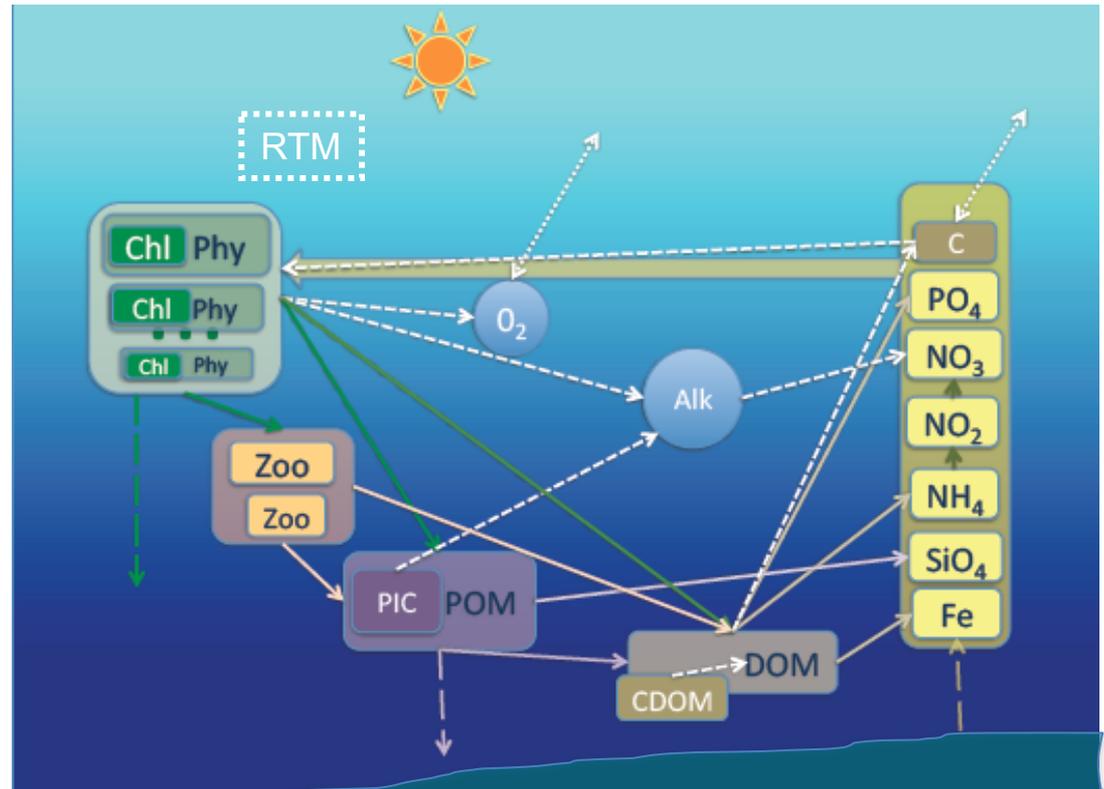
Biodiversity impacts the cycling through different pools

We consider 6 PFTs:

- Diatoms
- other large eukaryotes;
- coccolithophores;
- *Prochlorococcus*;
- other pico phytoplankton;
- N-fixer (incl. *Trichodesmium*);

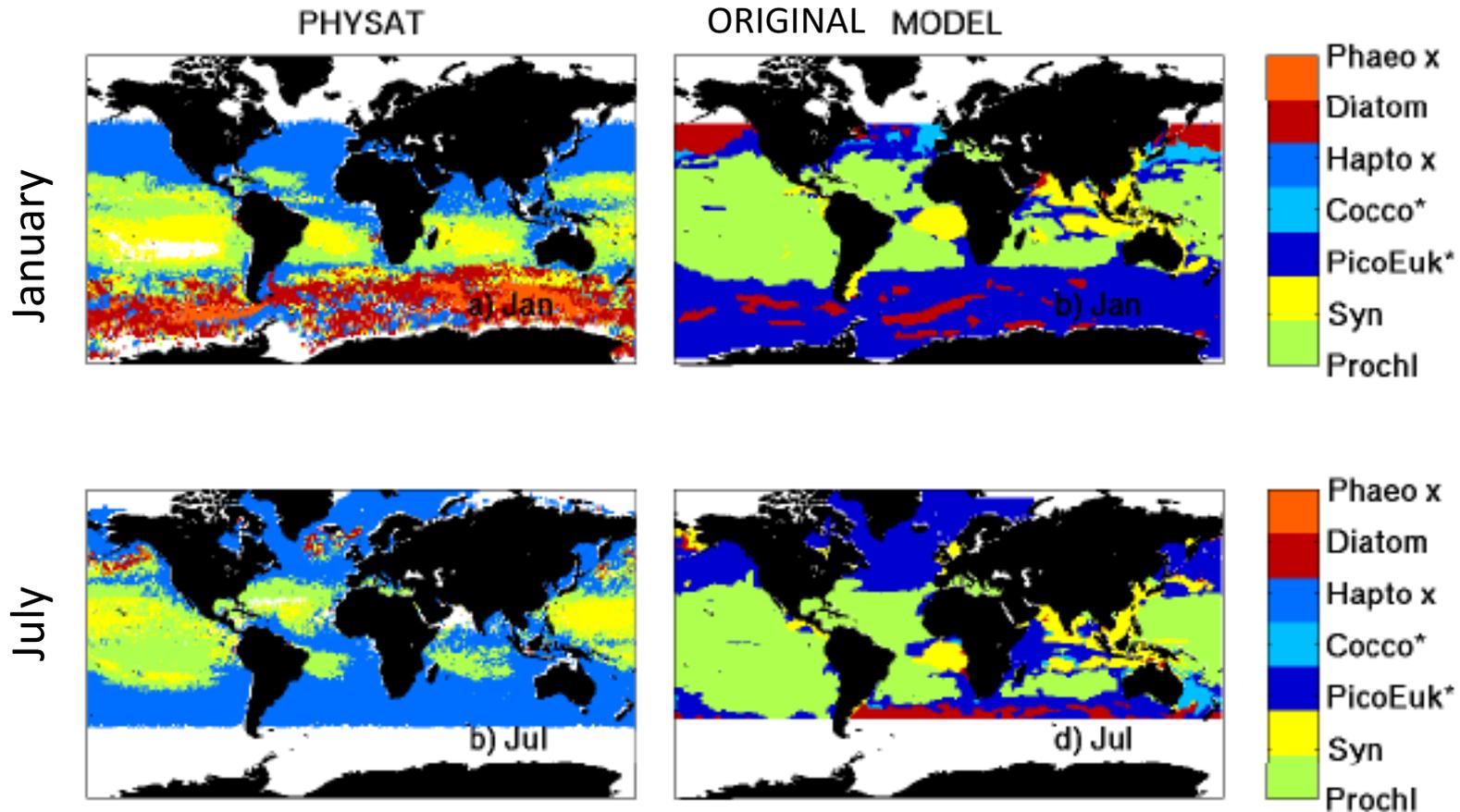
among other 42(41) biogeochemical tracers

Coupled to MITgcm on a cubed-sphere grid (Menemenlis et al., 2008; ~18 km hor. resolution)



The schematic diagram of the Darwin biogeochemical model (produced in accordance with the model description by Dutkiewicz et al., 2015)

# Satellite PHYSAT (Alvain et al. 2008) vs. former Darwin-MITgcm: mean PFT dominance



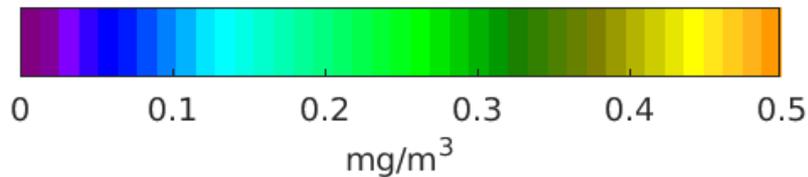
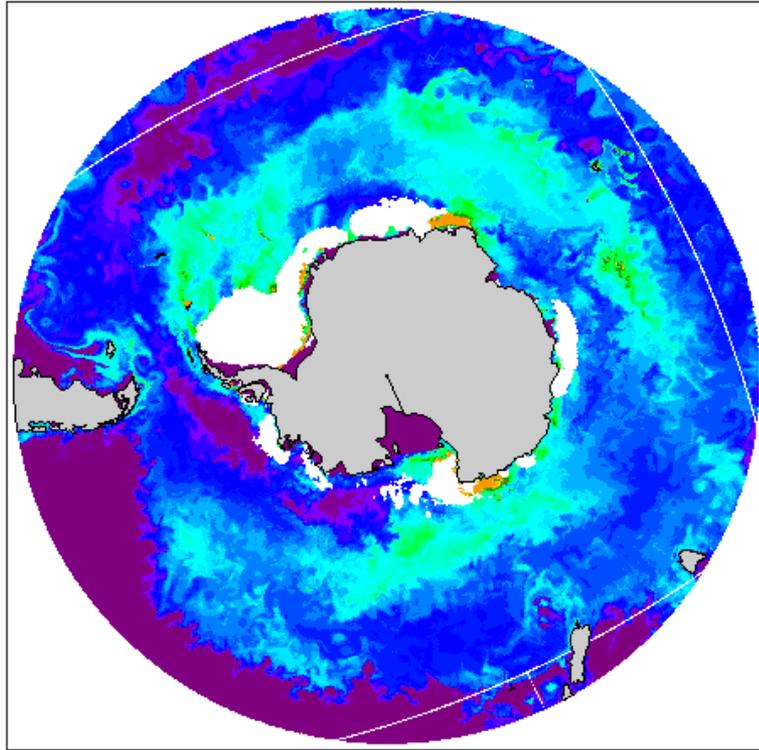
*Dutkiewicz et al., 2015*

# PhySyn: Darwin model adaptation for the Southern Ocean with respect to these observed phenomena

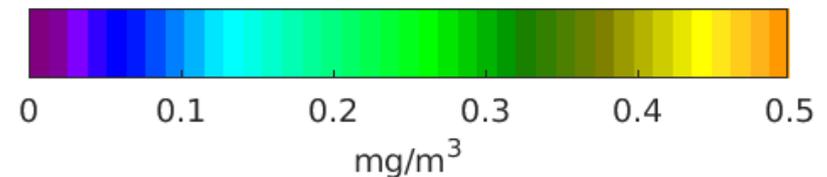
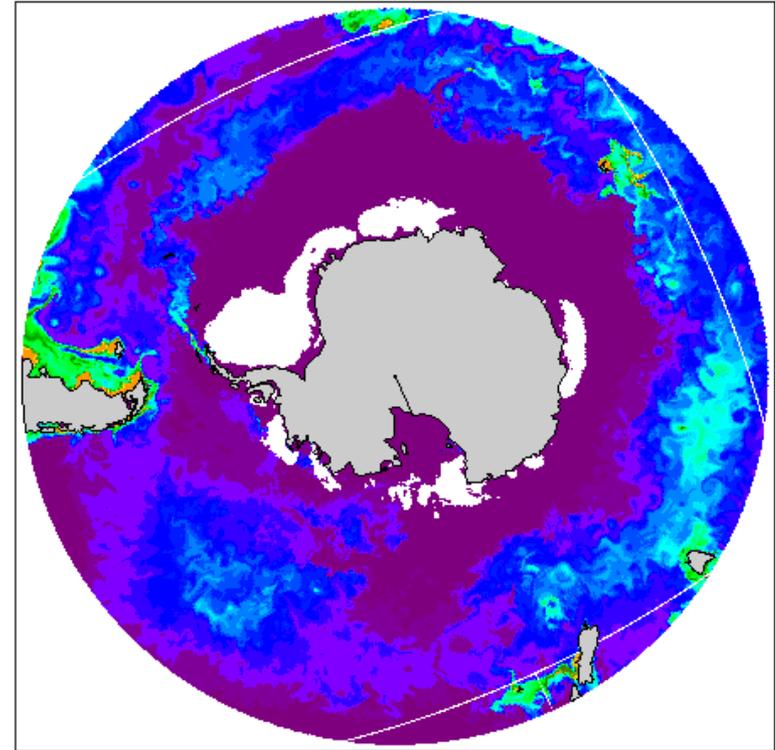
- The coccolithophores vs. diatoms in the Great Calcite Belt
  - assumed coccolithophores physiology corrected (Losa et al. 2004) to account for
    - high affinity for nutrients
    - immune to photoinhibition (Tyrrell and Taylor, 1996)
    - ability to escape grazing control (Huskin et al. 2000, Nejstgaard et al. 1997)
  
- Southern Ocean diatom diversity
  - two distinct size classes introduced for diatoms (as two different model variables)
    - smaller and “slightly silicified and fast growing” at lower latitudes
    - larger and “strongly silicified slowly growing cells” at high latitudes
  
- Co-existence of coccolithophores and *Phaeocystis sp.*
  - several sensitivity experiments when treating differently the size/physiology (some of the experiments show a signature of *Phaeocystis sp.*)
    - competition within the haptophytes remains a delicate issue

# PhySyn Darwin-MITgcm modeling results: The Great Calcite Belt

Diatoms Chla Jan04



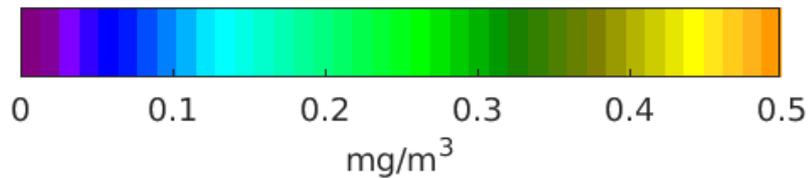
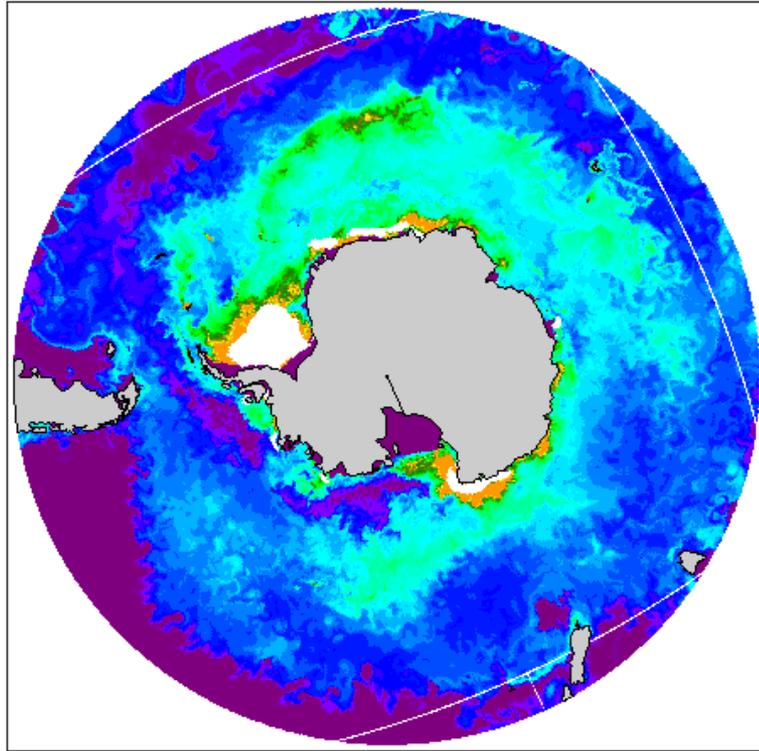
Haptophytes Chla Jan04



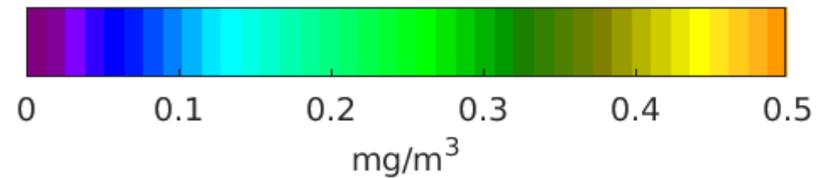
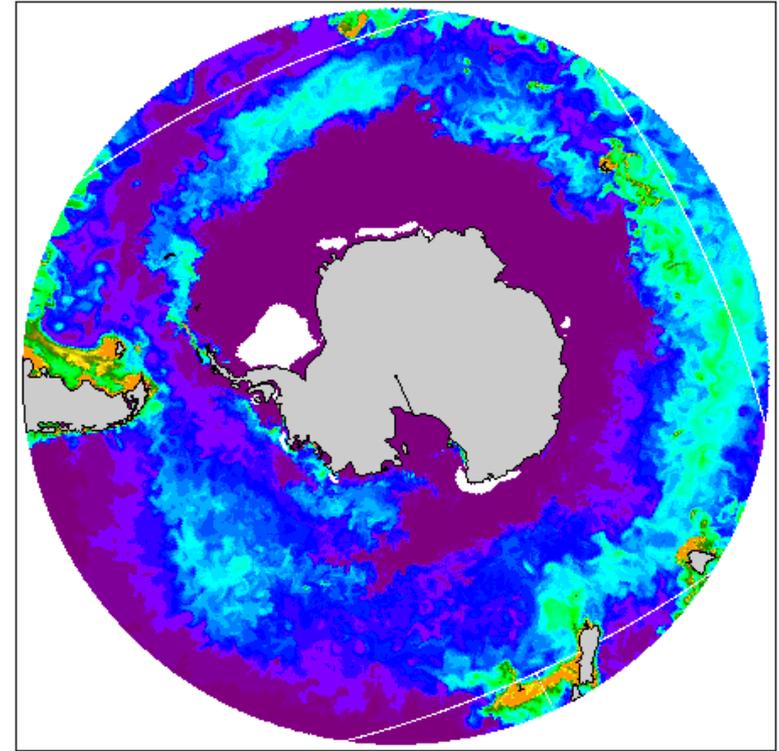
The coupled model simulations were performed with resources provided by the North-German Supercomputing Alliance (HLRN)

# PhySyn Darwin-MITgcm modeling: The GCB due to diatom diversity

Diatoms Chla Feb04



Haptophytes Chla Feb04

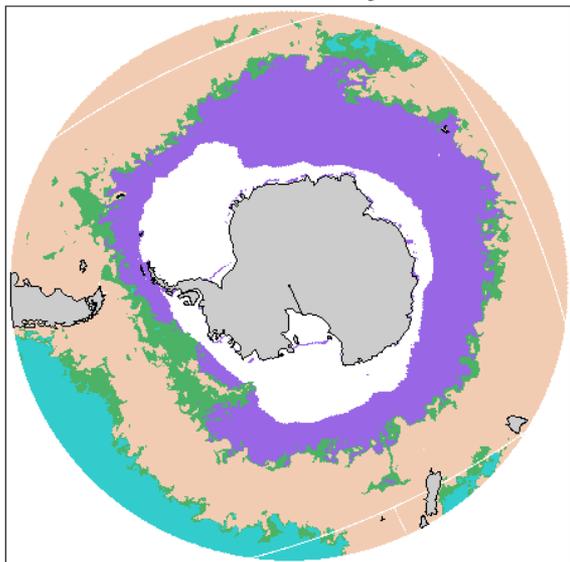


Improved spatial distribution and phenology!

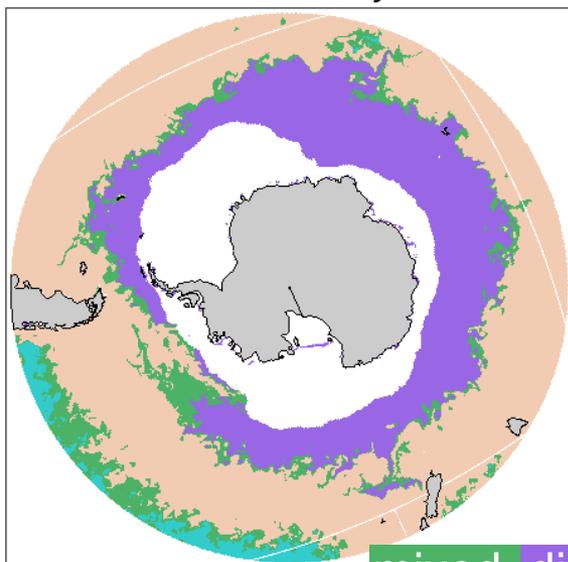
# PhySyn Darwin-MITgcm modeling: improved PFT dominance

(pico – represents *Prochlorococcus*)

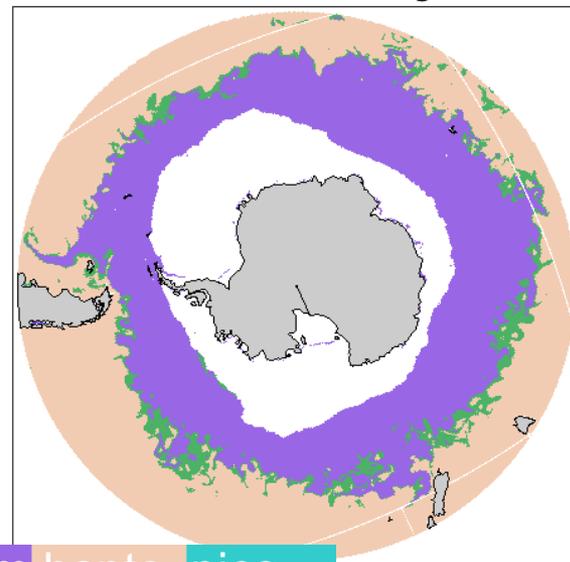
PFT dominance Jun03



PFT dominance Jul03

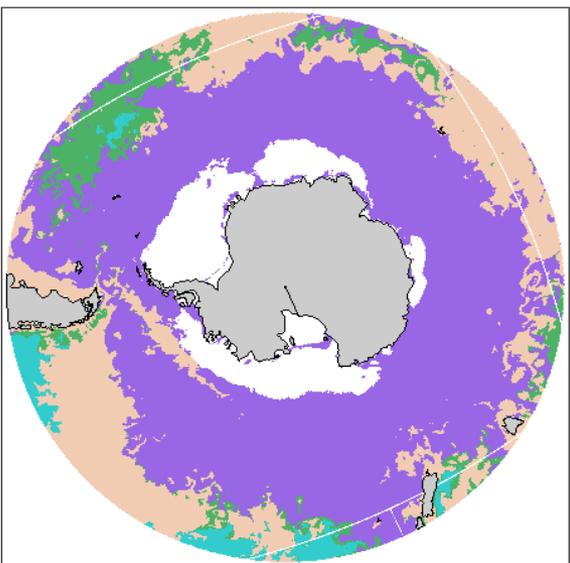


PFT dominance Aug03

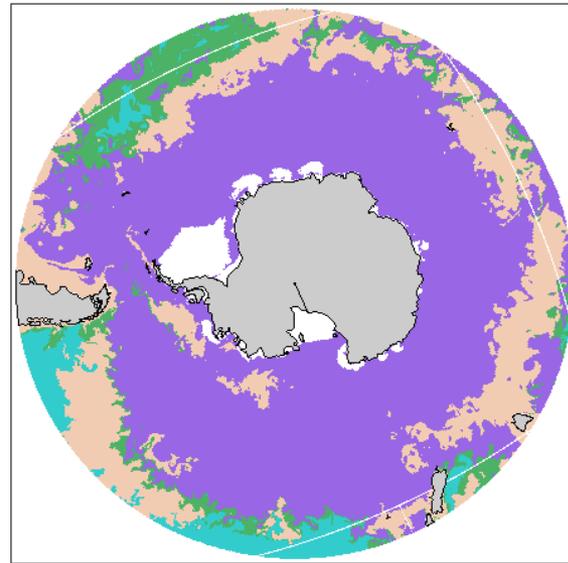


mixed diatom hapto pico

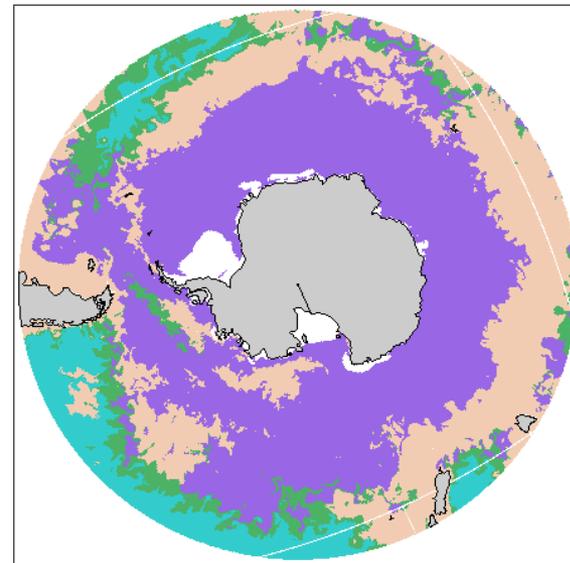
PFT dominance Dec03



PFT dominance Jan04



PFT dominance Feb04



# Summary

- The coccolithophores vs. diatoms in the Great Calcite Belt
  - distinguishable by the PHYSYN satellite retrievals (PhytoDOAS, SynSenPFT)
  - reproduced/simulated by the PHYSYN Darwin-MITgcm model
  
- long time series data to analyse/investigate the phenomena, its physical and biogeochemical drivers
 

Despite the OMI sensor degradation, the information assimilated with SynSenPFT would allow to bridge the current and future satellite missions
  
- Introduction of the Southern Ocean diatom diversity and corrected coccolithophores physiology in the model improved the simulated distribution of the PFTs
  - biochemical/physiological hypothesis on the GCB phenomena
  
- Further model developments are needed to plausibly simulate *Phaeocystis sp.* dynamics and phenology

# Outlook – further to improve/develop/collect

## Coupled physical/biogeochemical modeling

- changes in size/life stage of *Phaeocystis ant.* (Popova et al. 2007, Moisan&Mitchell 2018, Bender et al. 2018) – long term
- simulation for a longer time period

## Satellite phytoplankton diversity retrievals

- hyper-spectral based – OMI, TROPOMI
- Synergistic PFT estimates (SynSenPFT algorithm extended)
- with multi-spectral based – OLCI – long term

Model and data synergy – data assimilation – long term

Need *in situ* observations

**Thank you!**

The SynSenPFT Chla estimates and model simulations were obtained with resources provided by the North-German Supercomputing Alliance (HLRN)