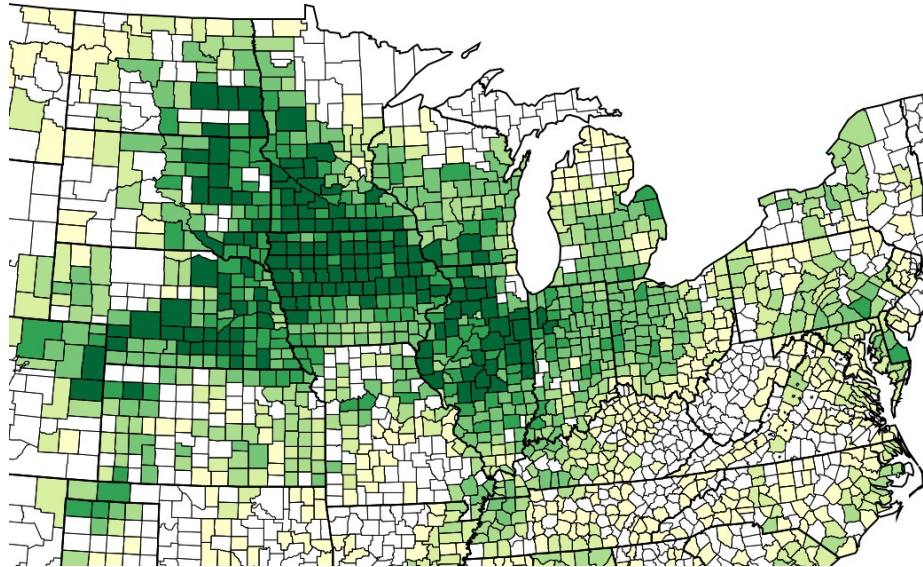
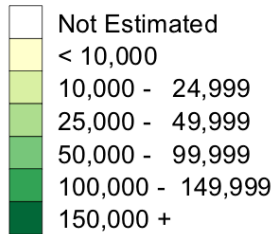


Besides Soil Moisture, What can be “Seen” with Satellite L-band Radiometry in the U.S. Corn Belt?

Corn for All Purposes
Planted Acres by County
for Selected States

Acres



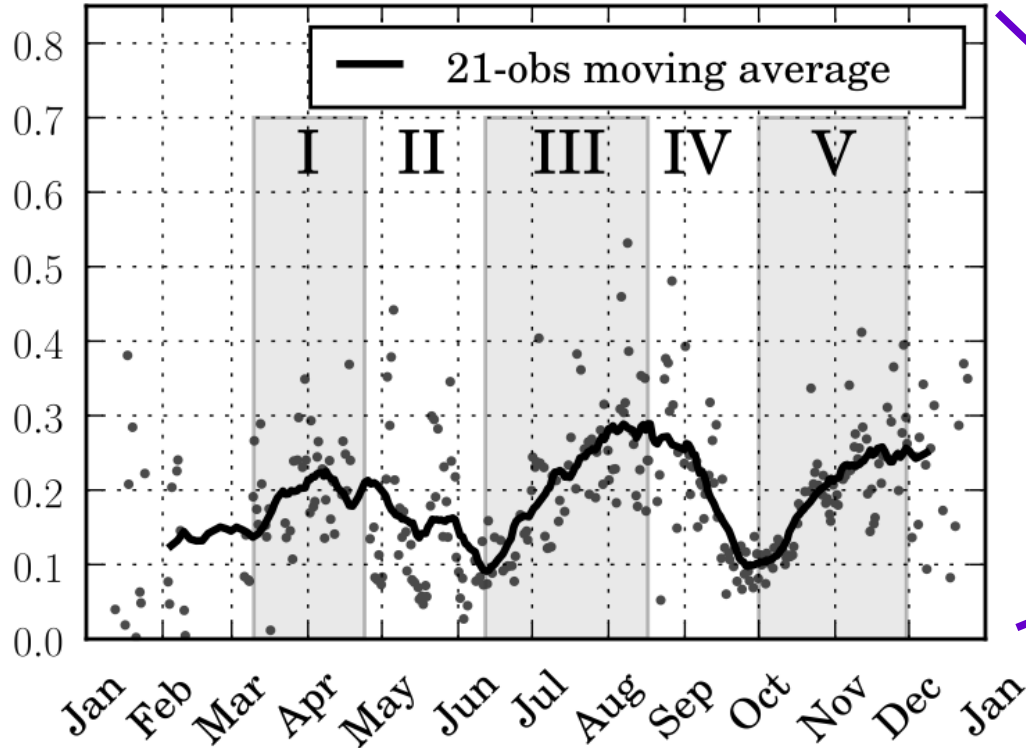
Brian Hornbuckle

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

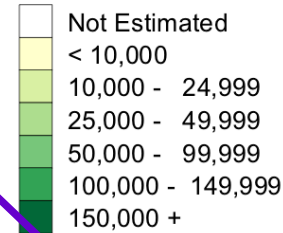
Hornbuckle: What can be "Seen" at L-band in the U.S. Corn Belt?

L-band vegetation optical depth (L-VOD)

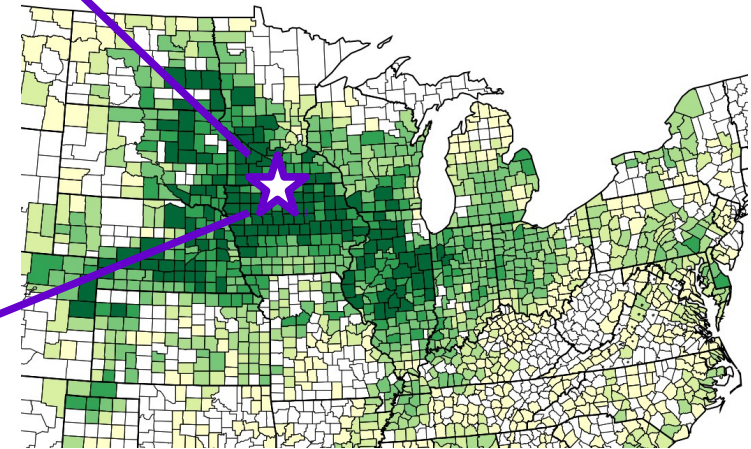
2010 Kossuth County Timeseries



Acres

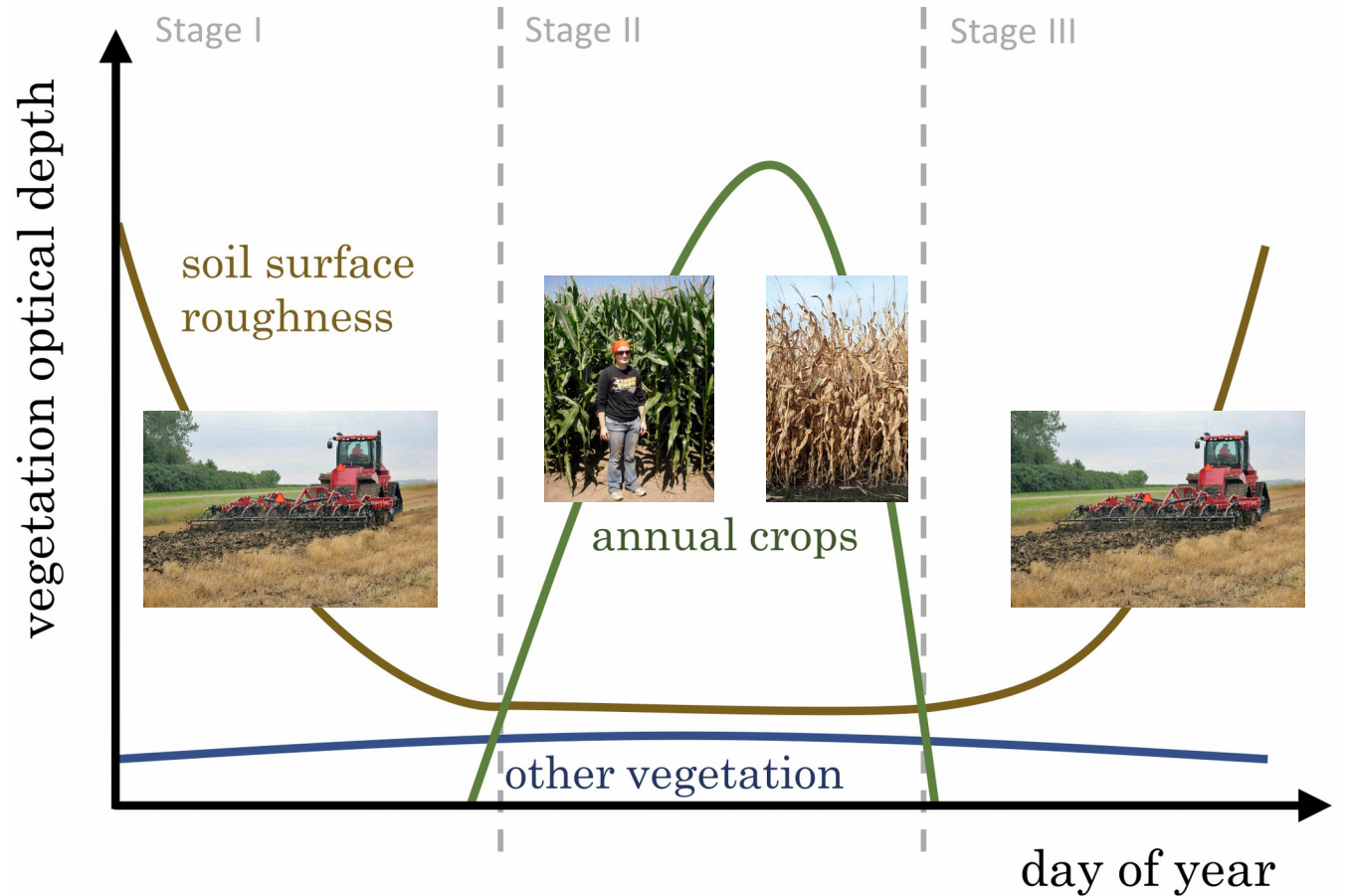


Corn for All Purposes 2019
Planted Acres by County
for Selected States



Hornbuckle: What can be "Seen" at L-band in the U.S. Corn Belt?

conceptual model
of VOD in the
U.S. Corn Belt



Hornbuckle: What can be “Seen” at L-band in the U.S. Corn Belt?

1. Seasonal changes in cropland above-ground biomass (AGB).

The relationship between crop tissue water (VWC) and AGB.

Confirmation that L-band vegetation optical depth (L-VOD) is directly proportional to VWC at the satellite scale.

Seasonal change in L-VOD caused by VWC seasonal change.

2. The timing of a specific crop reproductive development stage, as well as harvest, and a point in the growing season related to planting.

Identification of growing season L-VOD maximum and minima.

3. Changes in soil surface roughness caused by management (tillage) and rain.

Soil surface roughness parameter h is unpolarized.

4. Crop water stress.

Diurnal change in L-band polarization index (L-PI) and thus L-VOD hypothesized to indicate occurrence of transpiration.

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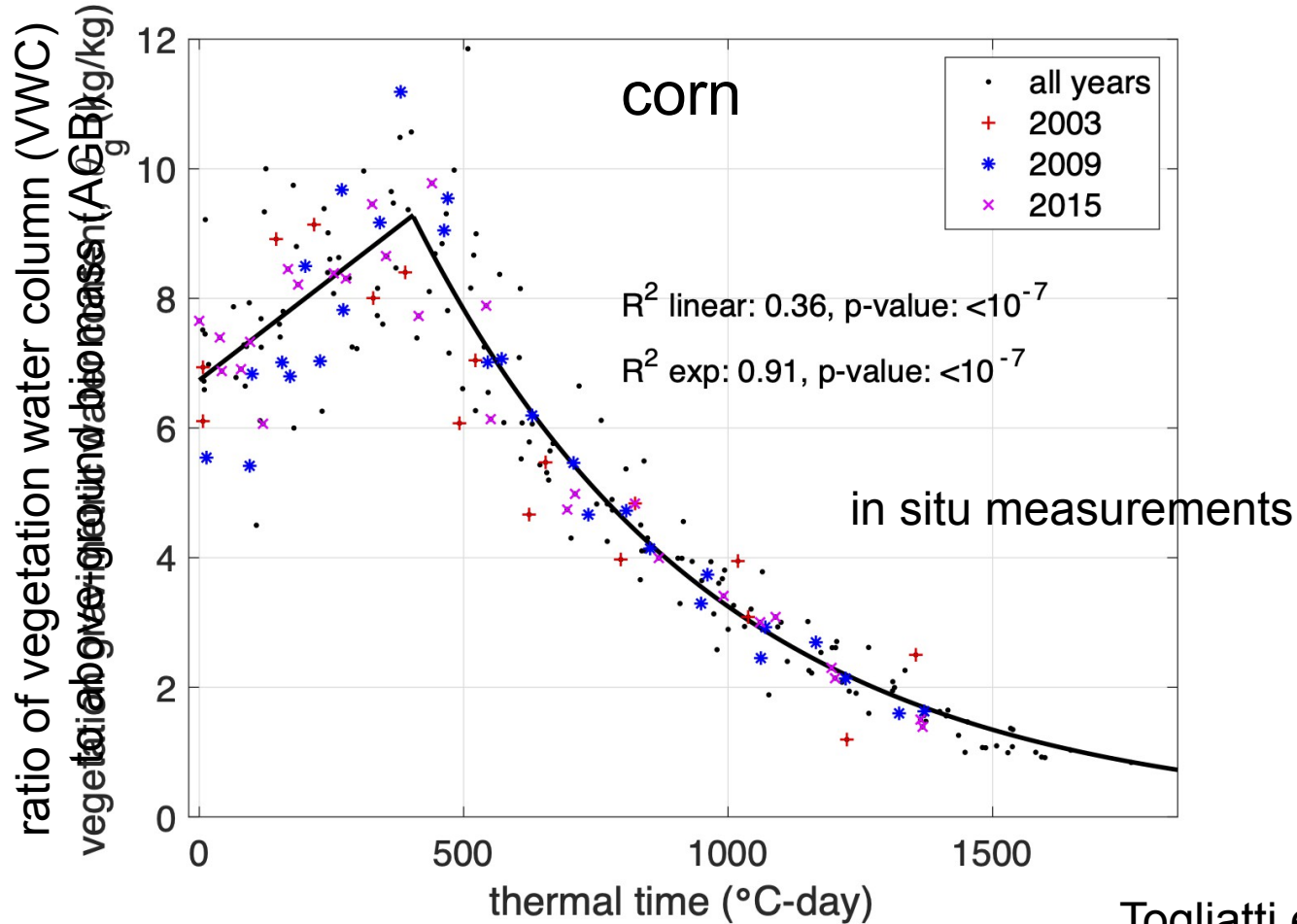
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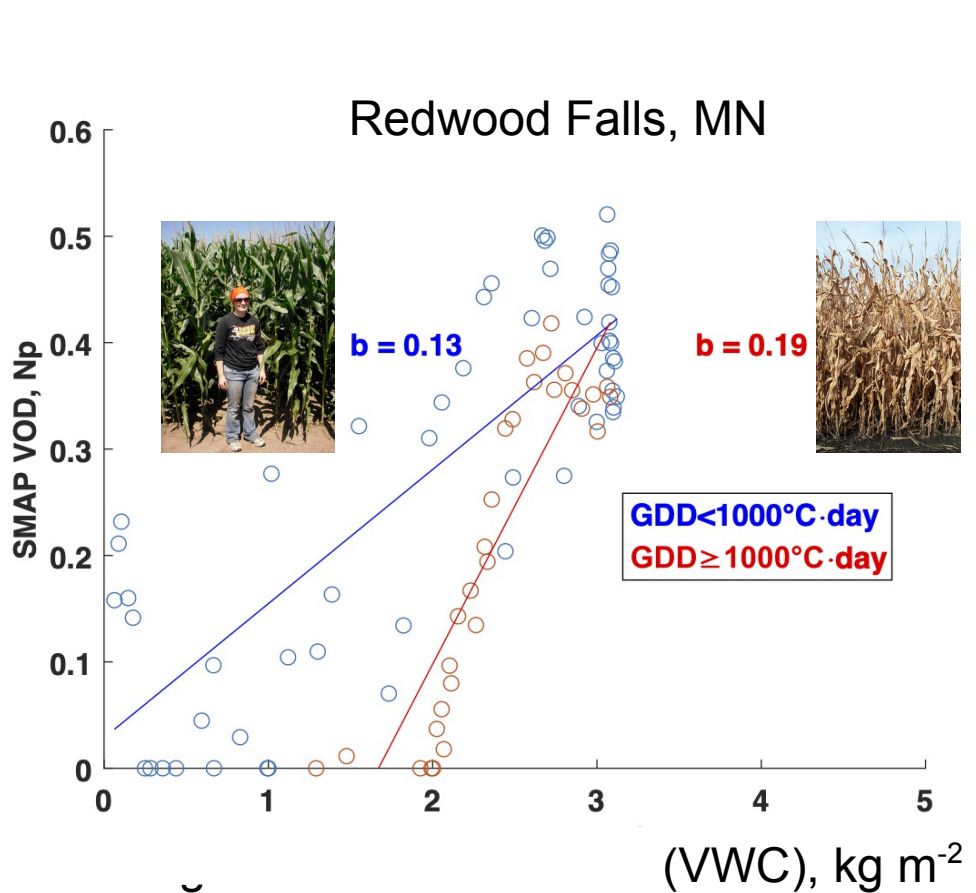
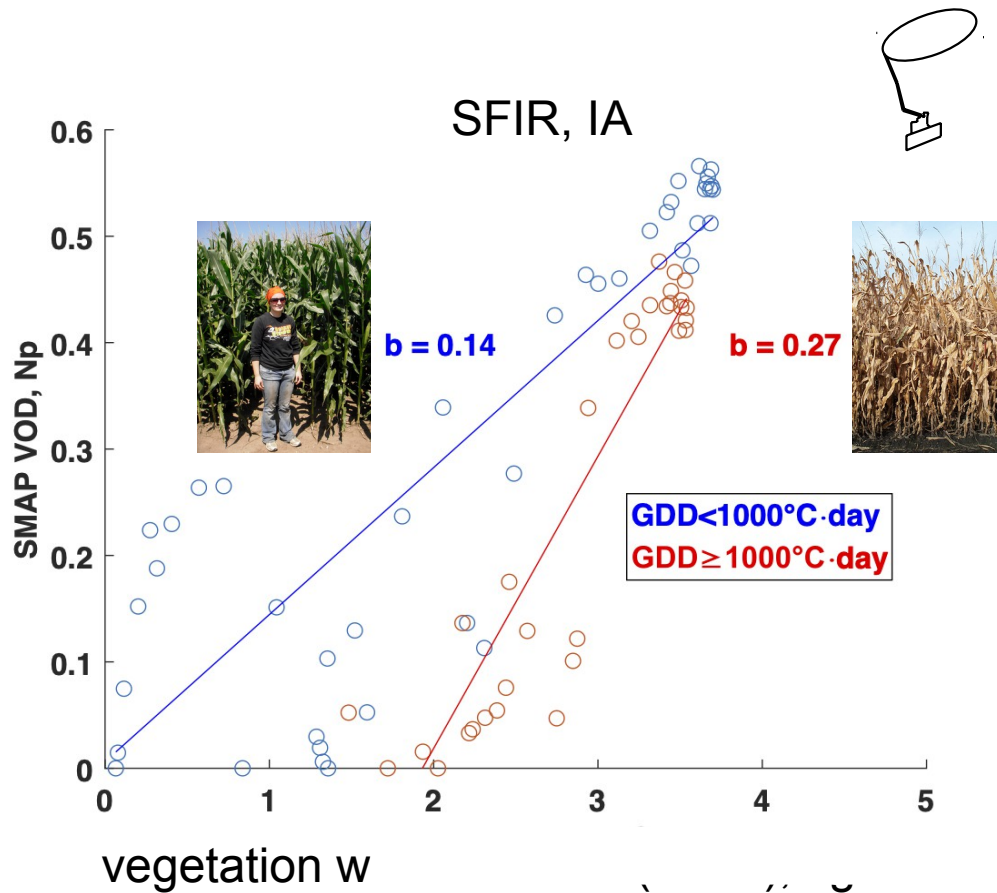
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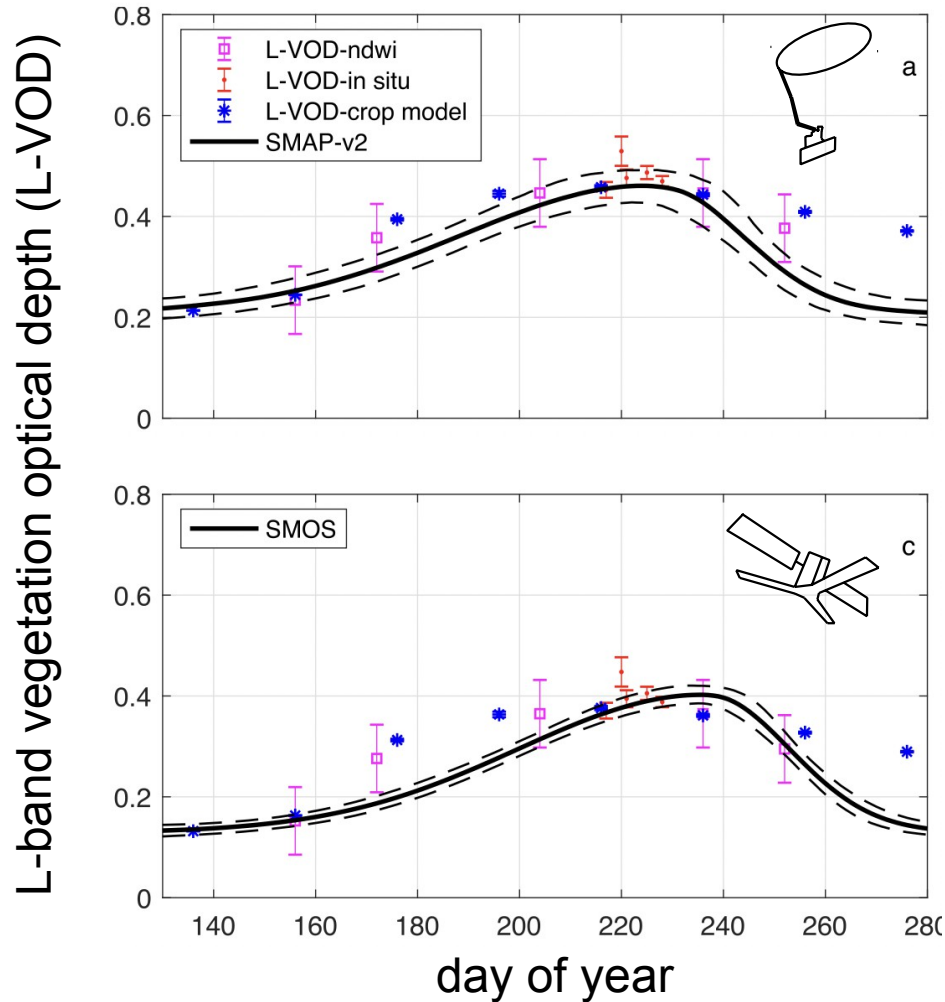
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Quantitative assessment using:

NDWI;

in situ measurements;

VWC from a crop model.

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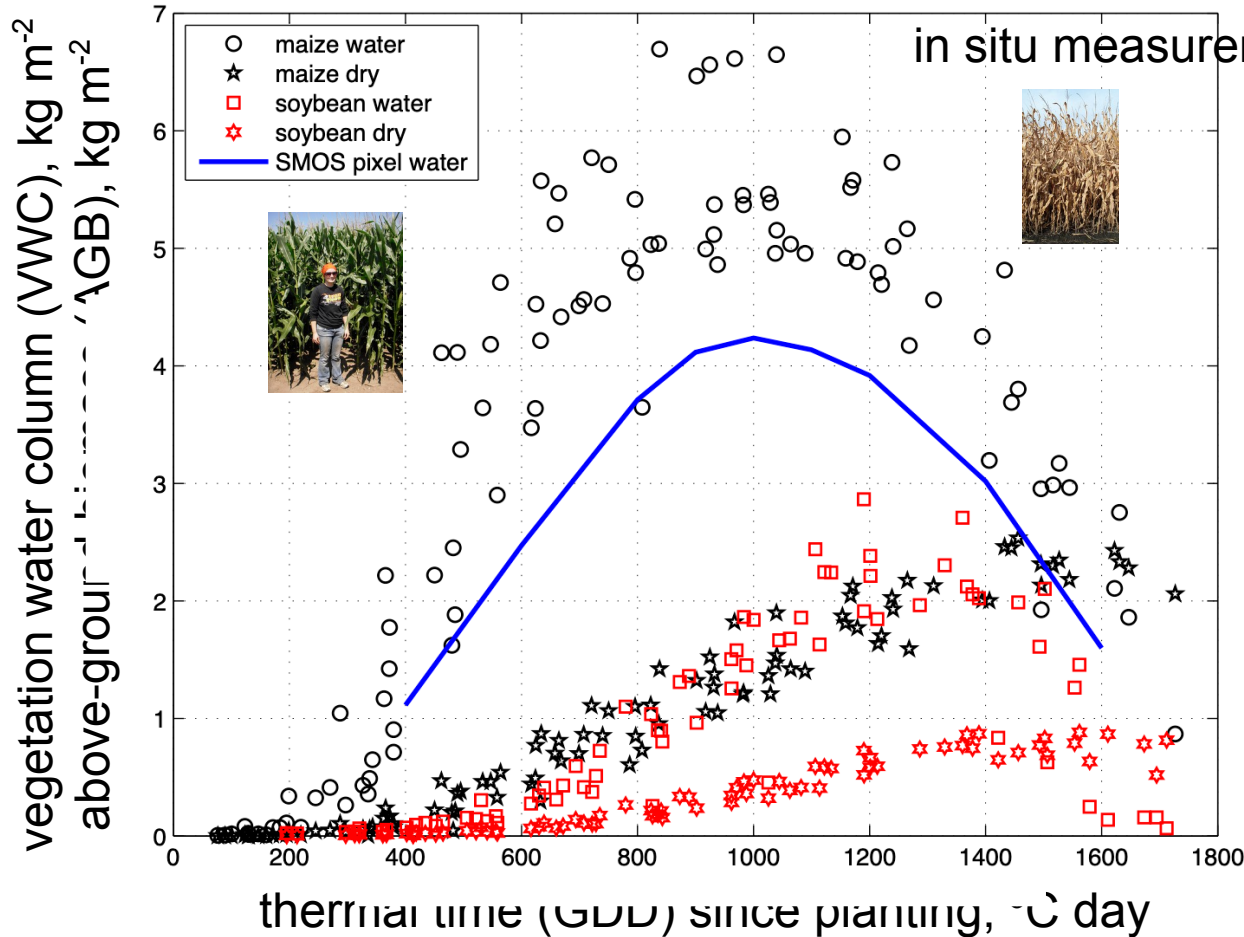
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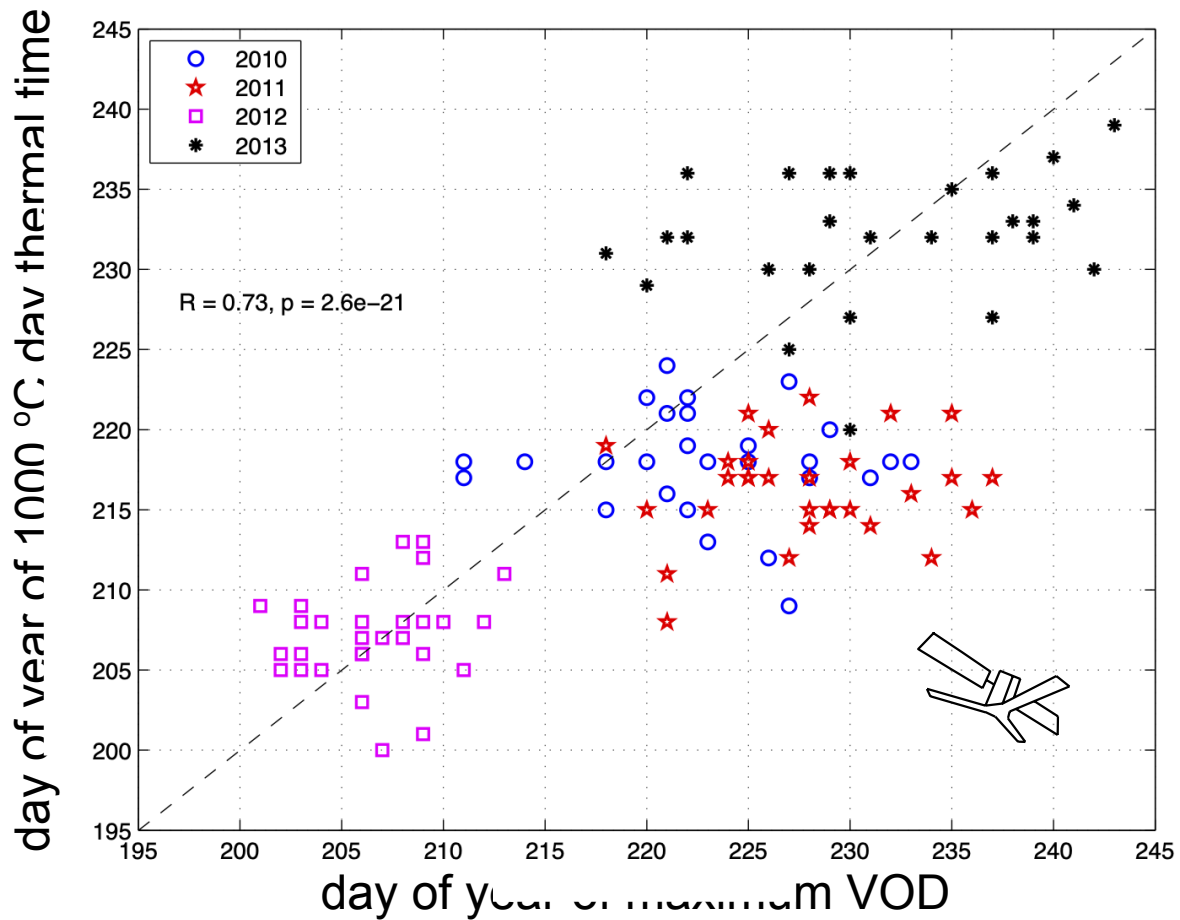
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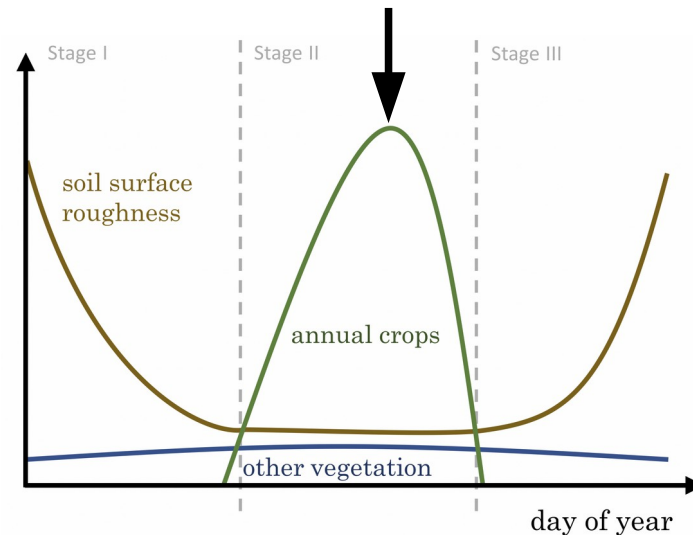


peak VWC occurs
at a specific
stage of development
(R2 = milk)
(1000 $^{\circ}\text{C day}$ for NE/IA)

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When do we reach peak VWC (phenology stage)?



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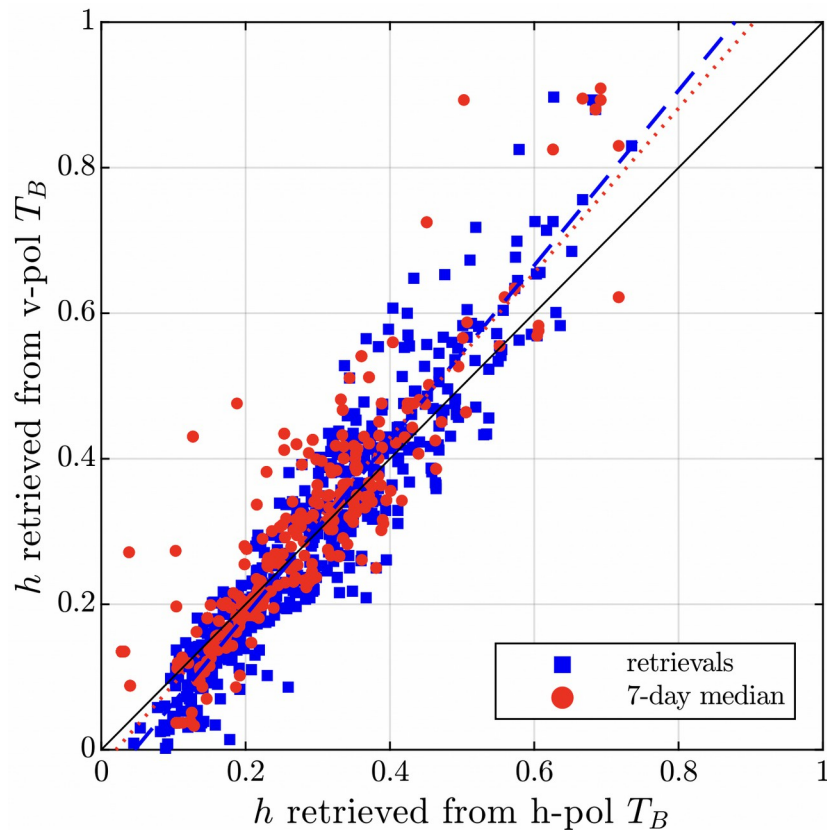
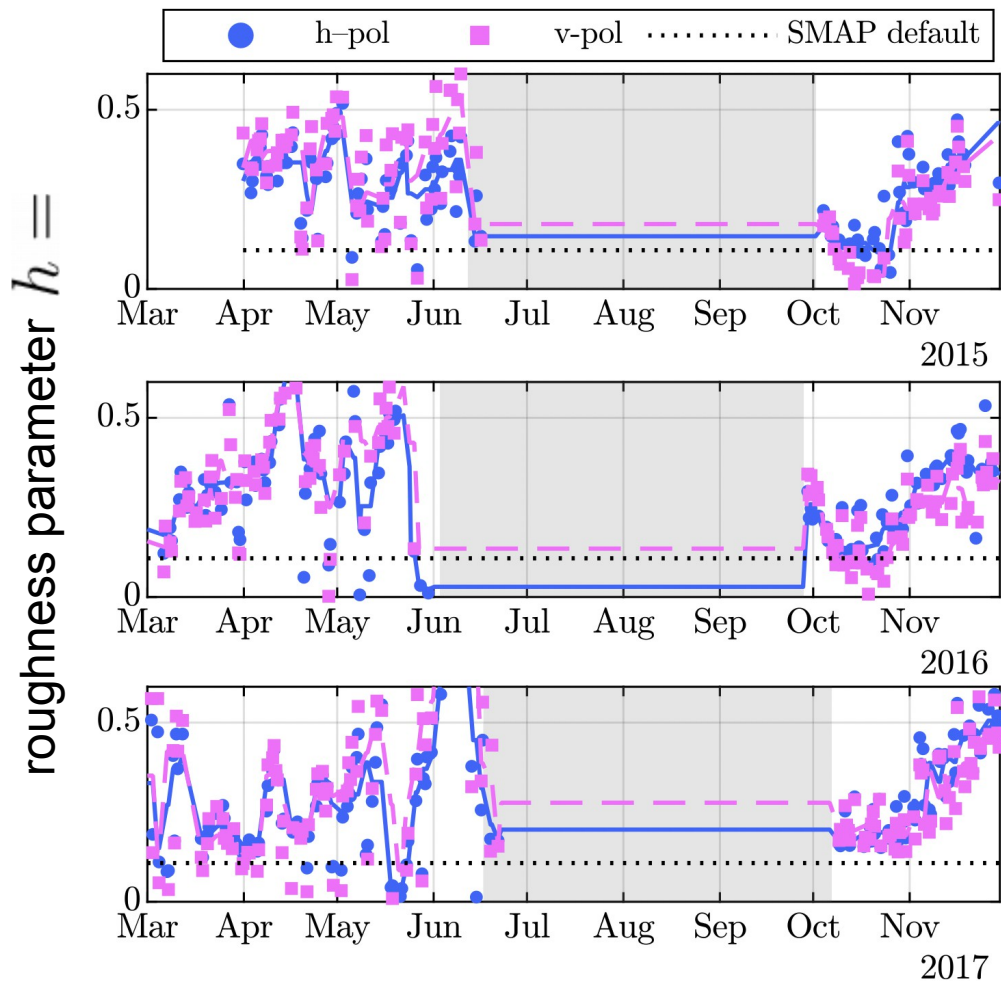
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33 km SMAP / 40 km SMOS pixels

10 km pixels

4000 Corn Belt fields

400 Corn Belt fields

county-sized

township-sized

much larger than growing season
precipitation variability

approaching 1-to-2 km size
of smallest storms
during the growing-season

10-times better than
USDA crop management
and phenology information

100-times better than
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Could enable realistic crop modeling of Corn Belt and other croplands?