

Assessing Satellite Inter-Mission Consistency in the Retrieval of Particulate Organic Carbon Concentration in Ocean Surface Waters from Ocean Color Observations

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New optical remote-sensing algorithms were developed to estimate surface POC concentrations in the global ocean (Stramski et al., 2022; DOI: 10.1016/j.rse.2921.112776)

Hybrid POC algorithm for SeaWiFS sensor

Band ratio difference index (*BRDI*) algorithm

$$BRDI = \left(\frac{R_{rs}(443) - R_{rs}(555)}{R_{rs}(490)} \right)$$

$$POC_{BRDI} = 10^{(1.5407 + 0.0936 BRDI - 0.0787 BRDI^2 - 1.8571 BRDI^3 + 1.5738 BRDI^4 - 0.3839 BRDI^5)}$$

$$w_{BRDI} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } POC_{BRDI} > 25 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \\ 1 & \text{if } POC_{BRDI} < 15 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \\ 0 \leq \log_{10}[0.9 POC_{BRDI} - 12.5] \leq 1 & \text{if } 15 \leq POC_{BRDI} \leq 25 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \end{cases}$$

Maximum band ratio (*MBR*) algorithm

$$MBR = \text{maximum} \left(\frac{R_{rs}(443)}{R_{rs}(555)}, \frac{R_{rs}(490)}{R_{rs}(555)}, \frac{R_{rs}(510)}{R_{rs}(555)} \right)$$

$$POC_{MBR} = 10^{(2.5037 - 2.1297 \log(MBR) + 1.8727 [\log(MBR)]^2 - 0.9554 [\log(MBR)]^3)}$$

$$w_{MBR} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } POC_{MBR} > 25 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \\ 0 & \text{if } POC_{MBR} < 15 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \\ 0 \leq 1 - \log_{10}[0.9 POC_{MBR} - 12.5] \leq 1 & \text{if } 15 \leq POC_{MBR} \leq 25 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \end{cases}$$

Final hybrid algorithm weighting between POC_{MBR} and POC_{BRDI}

$$BRDI < 1 \quad POC = POC_{MBR}$$

$$BRDI \geq 1 \quad POC = POC_{MBR} w_{MBR} + POC_{BRDI} w_{BRDI}$$

$$\text{where } w_{MBR} = 0.5[w_{MBR} + (1 - w_{BRDI})] \text{ and } w_{BRDI} = 1 - w_{MBR}$$

Hybrid POC algorithm for MODIS sensor

Band ratio difference index (*BRDI*) algorithm

$$BRDI = \left(\frac{R_{rs}(443) - R_{rs}(547)}{R_{rs}(488)} \right)$$

$$POC_{BRDI} = 10^{(1.6876 + 0.0936 BRDI + 1.6170 BRDI^2 - 3.9144 BRDI^3 + 2.8003 BRDI^4 - 0.6633 BRDI^5)}$$

$$w_{BRDI} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } POC_{BRDI} > 25 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \\ 1 & \text{if } POC_{BRDI} < 15 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \\ 0 \leq \log_{10}[0.9 POC_{BRDI} - 12.5] \leq 1 & \text{if } 15 \leq POC_{BRDI} \leq 25 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \end{cases}$$

Maximum band ratio (*MBR*) algorithm

$$MBR = \text{maximum} \left(\frac{R_{rs}(443)}{R_{rs}(547)}, \frac{R_{rs}(488)}{R_{rs}(547)}, \frac{R_{rs}(510v)}{R_{rs}(547)} \right)$$

where $R_{rs}(510v) = 0.5 R_{rs}(510A) + 0.5 R_{rs}(510B)$; $R_{rs}(510A) = -0.00008 + 1.085 R_{rs}(488)$; $R_{rs}(510B) = -0.00041 + 1.104 R_{rs}(531)$.

$[R_{rs}(510v)]$ is used only when $R_{rs}(510v)/R_{rs}(547) < 1.2$, $R_{rs}(510v) > R_{rs}(443)$, and $R_{rs}(510v) > R_{rs}(488)$

$$POC_{MBR} = 10^{(2.5155 - 2.5893 \log(MBR) + 2.8241 [\log(MBR)]^2 - 1.5640 [\log(MBR)]^3)}$$

$$w_{MBR} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } POC_{MBR} > 25 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \\ 0 & \text{if } POC_{MBR} < 15 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \\ 0 \leq 1 - \log_{10}[0.9 POC_{MBR} - 12.5] \leq 1 & \text{if } 15 \leq POC_{MBR} \leq 25 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \end{cases}$$

Final hybrid algorithm weighting between POC_{MBR} and POC_{BRDI}

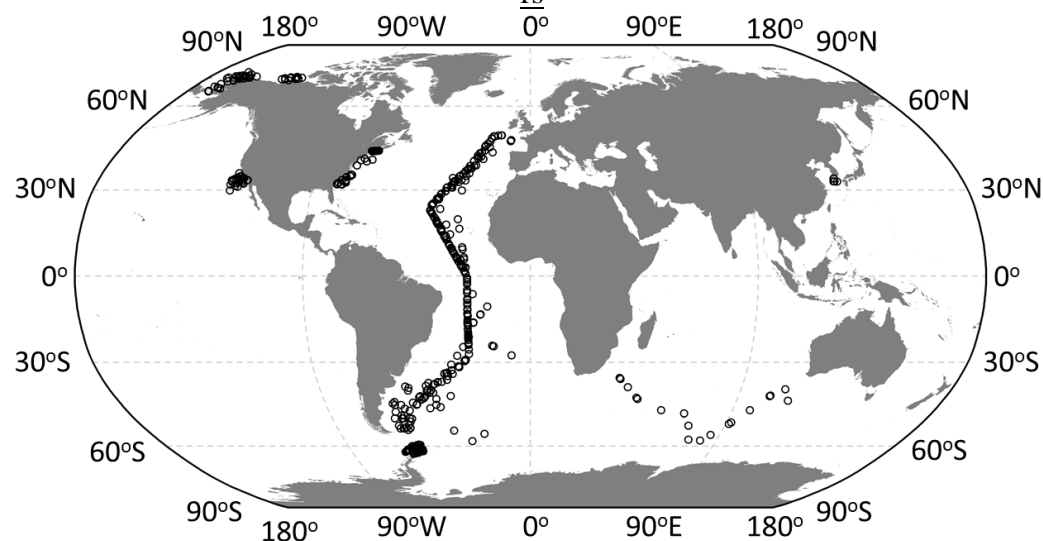
$$BRDI < 1 \quad POC = POC_{MBR}$$

$$BRDI \geq 1 \quad POC = POC_{MBR} w_{MBR} + POC_{BRDI} w_{BRDI}$$

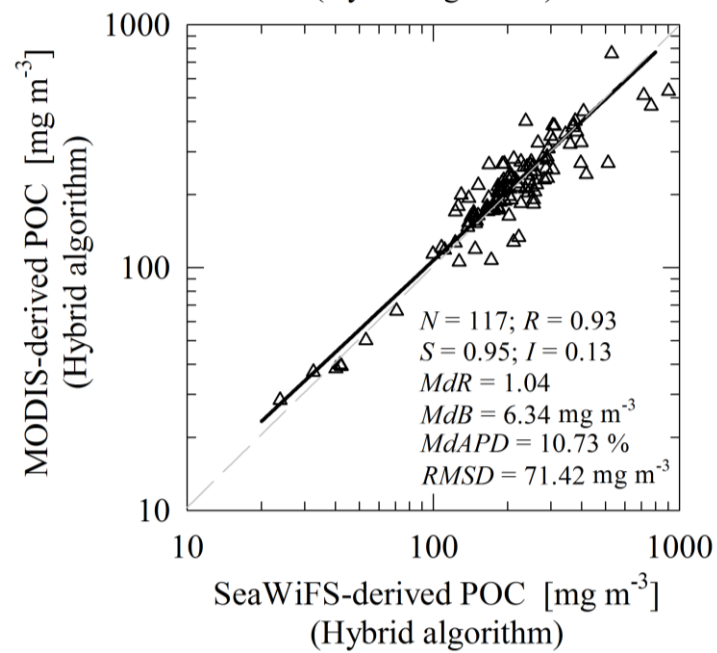
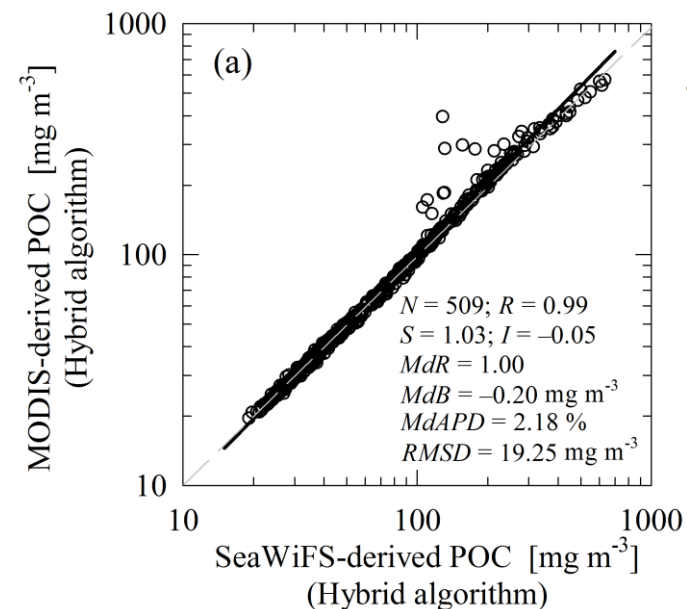
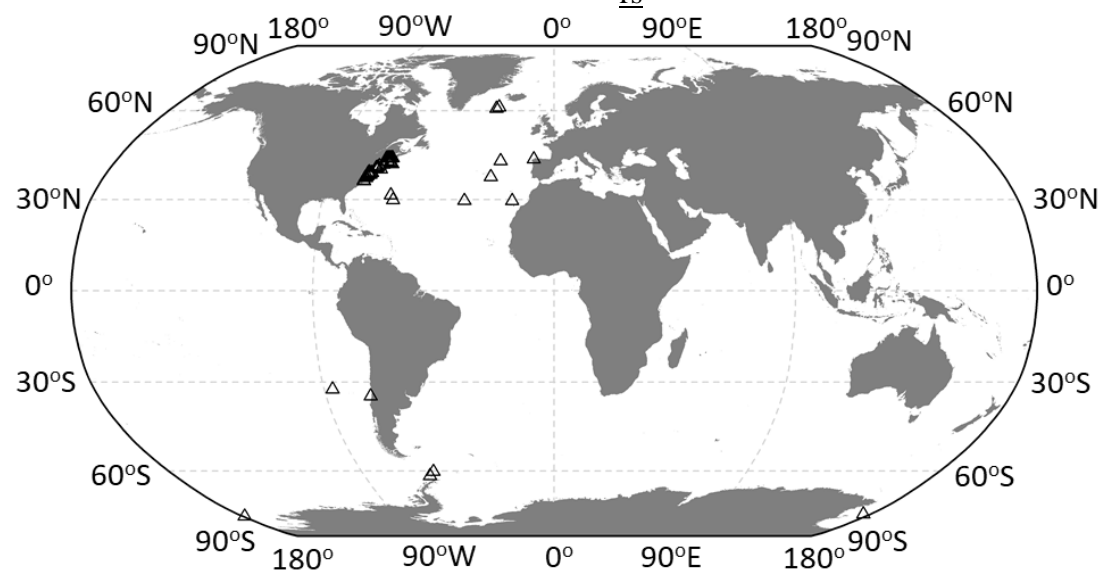
$$\text{where } w_{MBR} = 0.5[w_{MBR} + (1 - w_{BRDI})] \text{ and } w_{BRDI} = 1 - w_{MBR}$$

SeaWiFS and MODIS-specific hybrid POC algorithms show no significant bias relative to one another when the two algorithms use remote-sensing reflectance inputs from in situ and satellite measurements at the common field stations

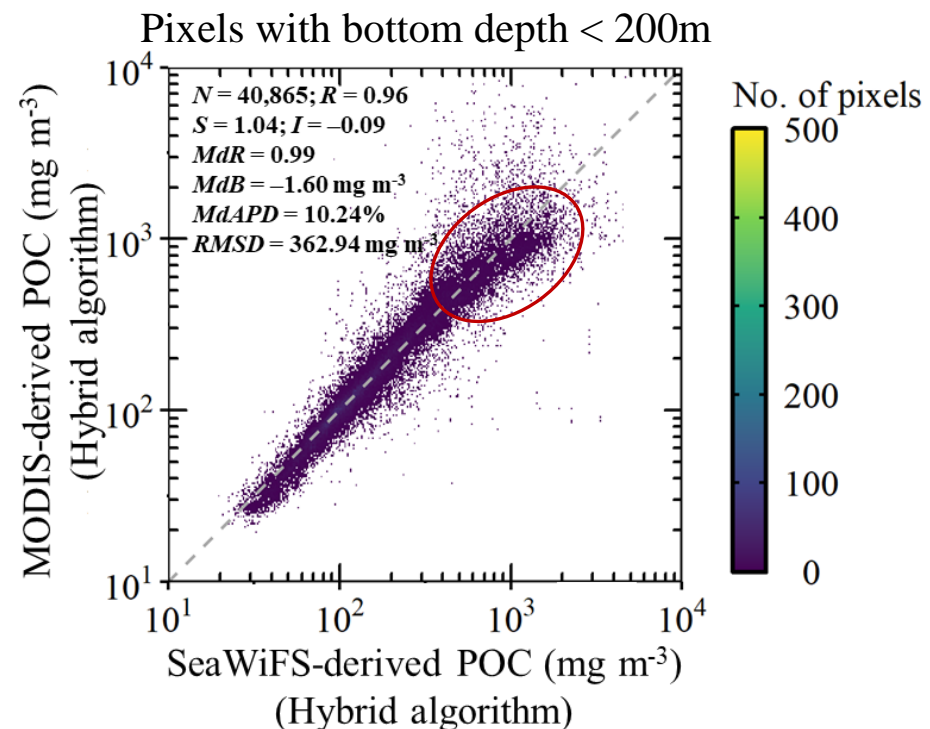
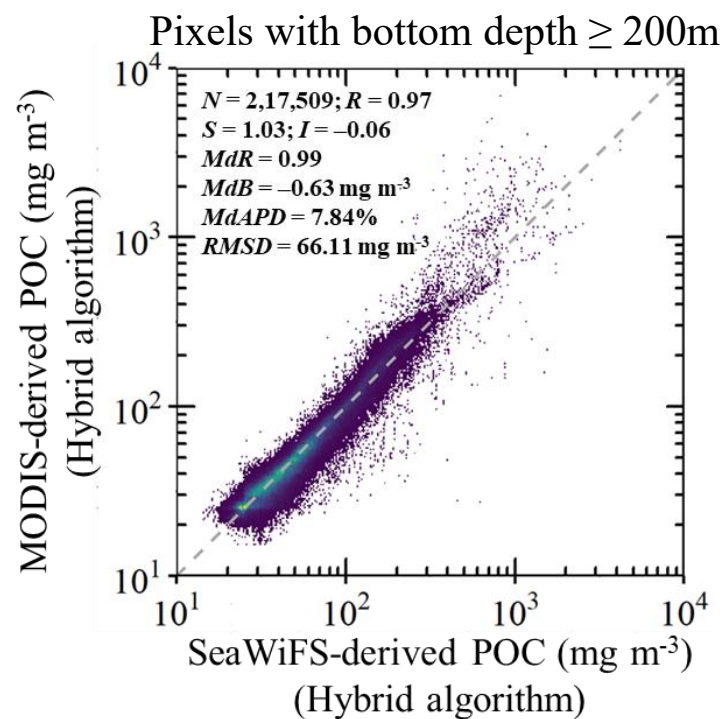
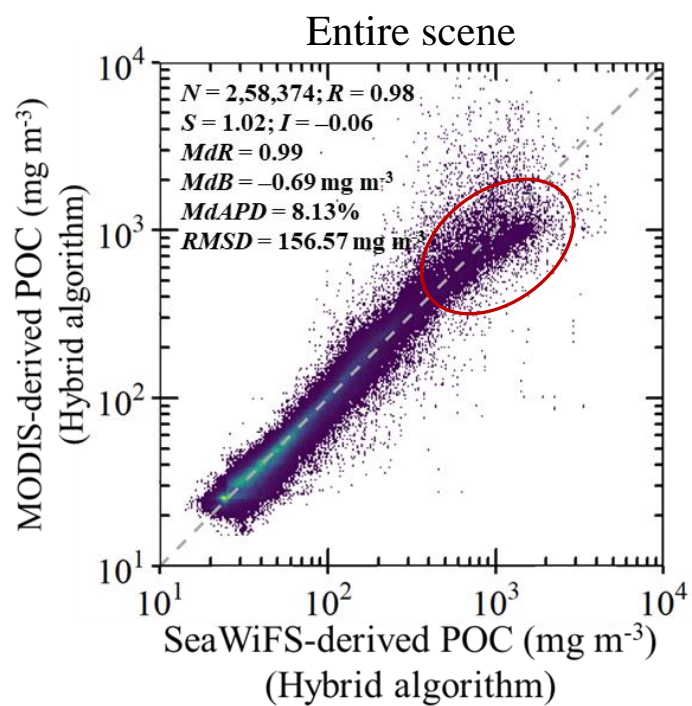
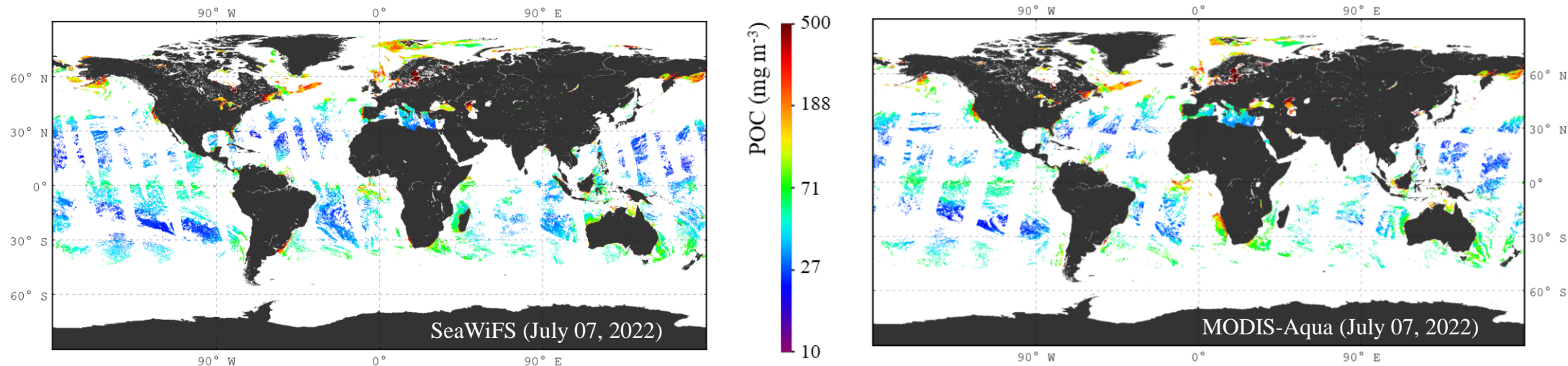
In situ POC & $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ measurements



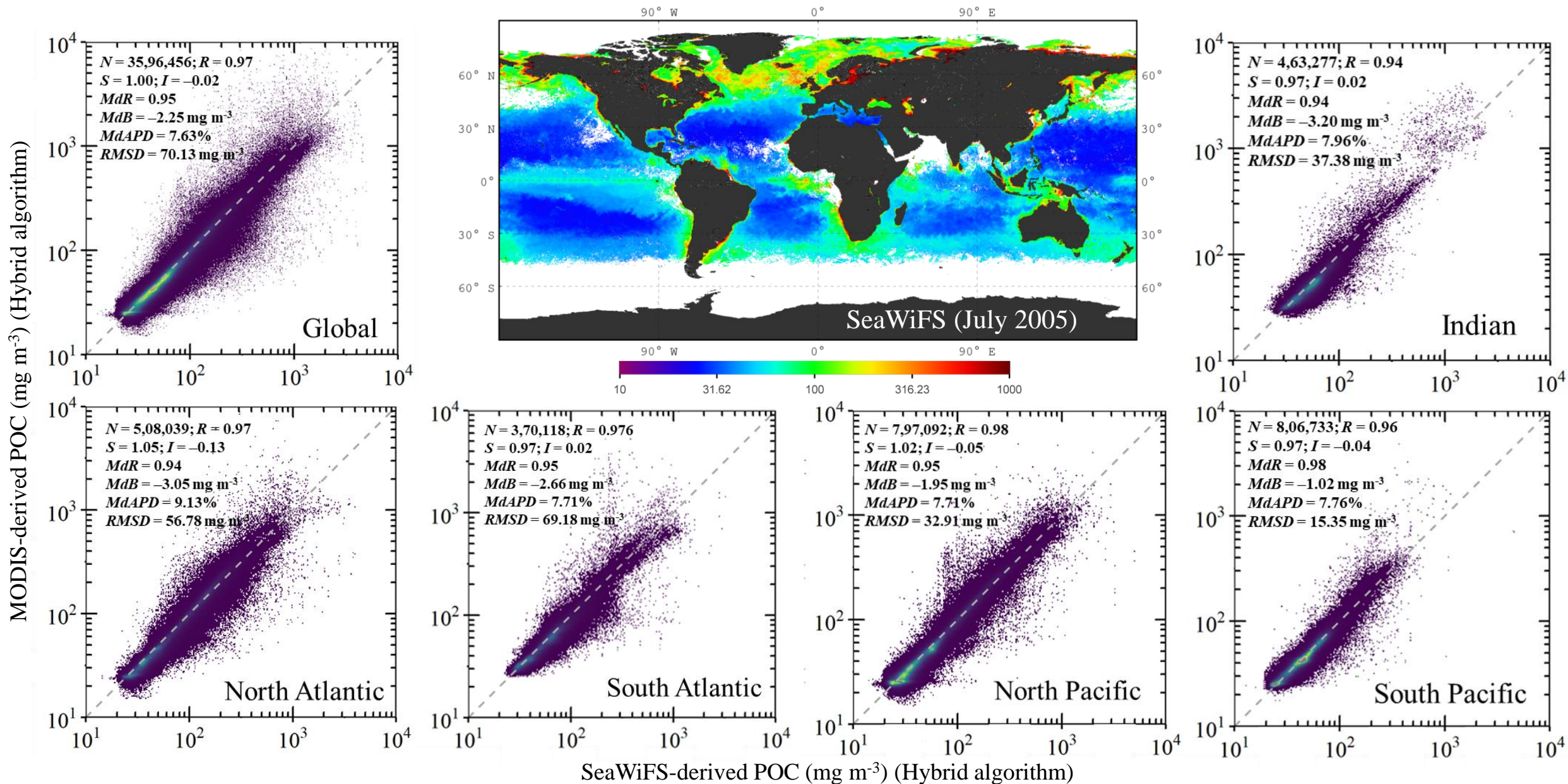
In situ POC and satellite $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ measurements



SeaWiFS and MODIS-specific hybrid algorithms show consistent POC retrievals in open ocean and shelf environments
 when the two algorithms use Level-3 daily satellite remote-sensing reflectance products (9 km resolution)



SeaWiFS and MODIS-specific hybrid POC algorithms show consistent POC retrievals at global and ocean basins scales when the two algorithms use Level-3 monthly satellite remote sensing reflectance products (9 km resolution)



Summary and Future Direction

- Sensor-specific global POC algorithms were developed using high-quality field observations from diverse oceanic environments ranging from tropical to polar regions. The new algorithms have a broader dynamic range (from about 10 to 1000 mg m⁻³) and better performance in high POC waters than the current standard global POC algorithm used by NASA.
- Despite the use of a virtual 510-nm band in MODIS-specific hybrid algorithm as opposed to the actual 510-nm band in the SeaWiFS-specific hybrid algorithm, both algorithms provide highly consistent estimates of POC for the quality-controlled independent in situ validation data.
- Preliminary inter-sensor comparison of hybrid algorithms based on Level-2 (1 km resolution), global daily Level-3 (9 km resolution), and monthly composite satellite reflectance products demonstrate a high degree of performance consistency across open-ocean pelagic waters of the global ocean as well as within individual ocean basins including shelf environments.
- MODIS-Aqua-derived POC values are typically very similar to those derived from SeaWiFS although notable differences can be observed in waters exhibiting high POC concentration generally outside the intended range of algorithm applicability (i.e., beyond 1000 mg m⁻³).
- Ongoing work is focused on means to merge data from different satellite missions into a consistent time series for analysis of long-term global and regional trends of POC within the oceanic surface layer.