

Analysis of Cirrus Cloud Particle Size Distributions Measured During Sparticus



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Data provided by Paul Lawson of
SPEC, Inc.

Motivation

- Remote sensing of cirrus particle size distributions (PSD's)
- Maximize the posterior distribution of possible PSD params given remote observations, as given by Bayes' Rule:

$$p(\bar{x} | \bar{y}) \propto L(\bar{y} | \bar{x})p(\bar{x})$$

- Measurement and param vectors

$$\bar{x} = \begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ \dots \\ p_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \bar{y} = \begin{bmatrix} Z \\ \dots \\ Tb \end{bmatrix}$$

Focus on the Prior Distribution:

$$p(\bar{x})$$

- Often assumed to be Gaussian (e.g. Rogers, 2000)

$$p(\bar{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2} |S_a|^{1/2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} (\bar{x} - \bar{x}_a)^T S_a^{-1} (\bar{x} - \bar{x}_a)\right]$$

- Covariance generally assumed to be diagonal

$$S_a = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_3^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

First Two Questions:

- Can the prior distribution for cirrus PSD parameters be assumed Gaussian?
- Can the covariance matrix for cirrus PSD parameters be assumed diagonal?
- Investigate using PSD's measured by the 2-DS probe during Sparticus

PSD Fits



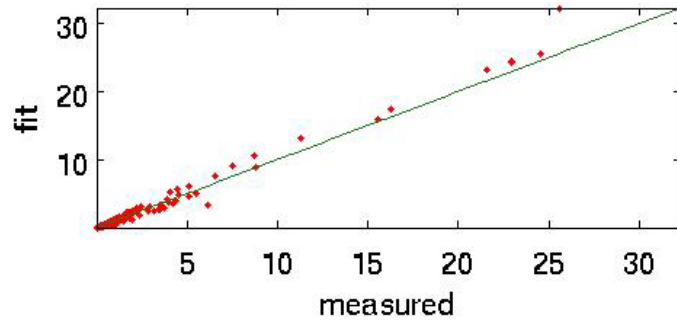
- Data from 58 of Sparticus' flight legs
- 2-DS distributions fit with

$$n(D) = N_0 (D/D_0)^\alpha \exp(-D/D_0); \quad \bar{x} = [N_0 \quad D_0 \quad \alpha]$$

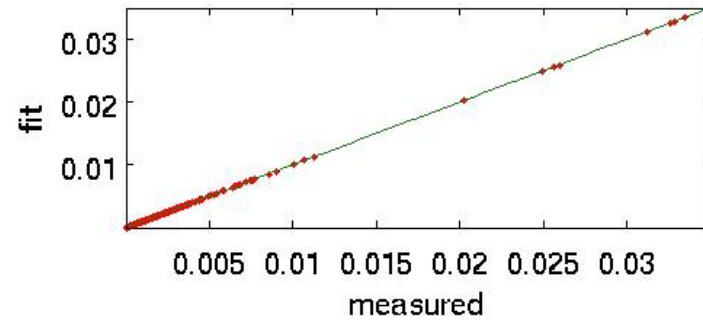
- Over 10,000 fits

Fidelity of Computed Moments to Measured Moments

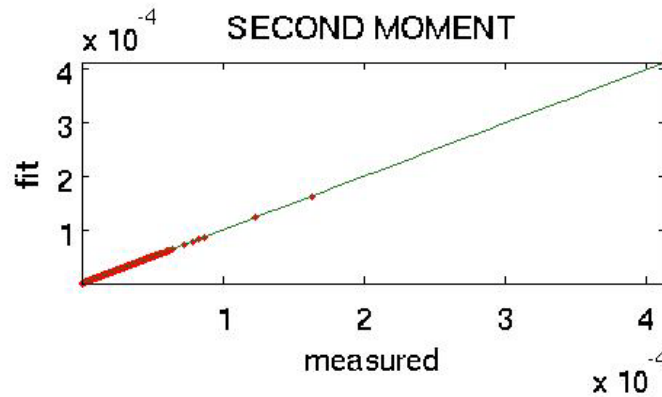
ZEROth MOMENT



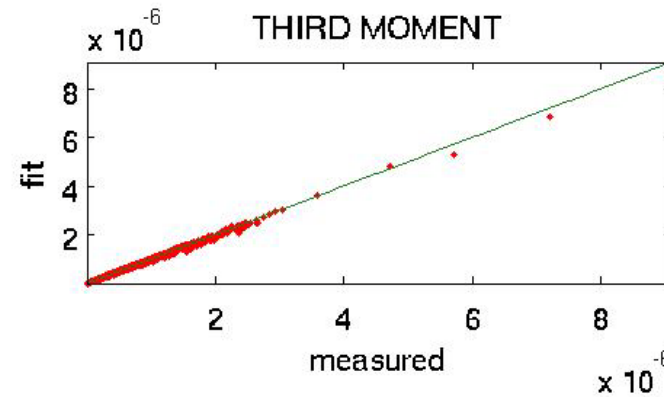
FIRST MOMENT



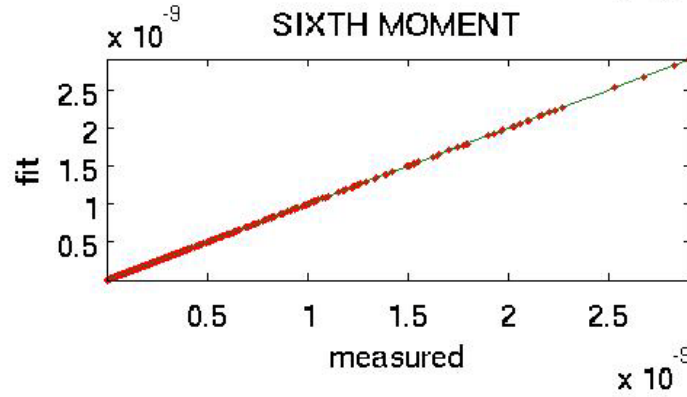
SECOND MOMENT



THIRD MOMENT

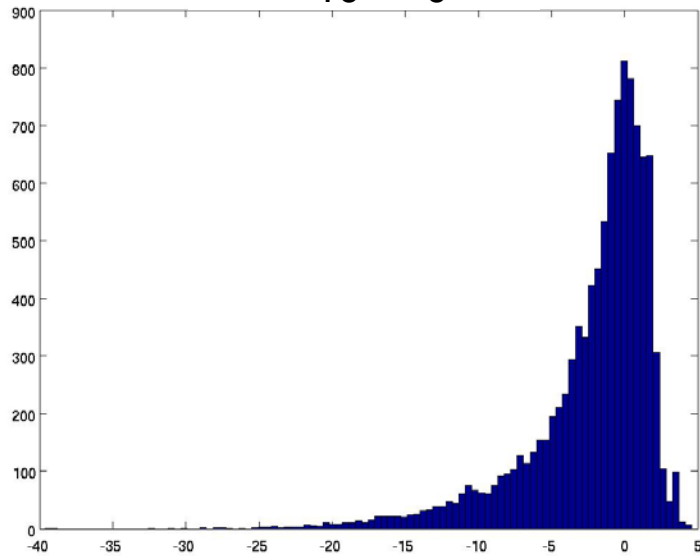


SIXTH MOMENT

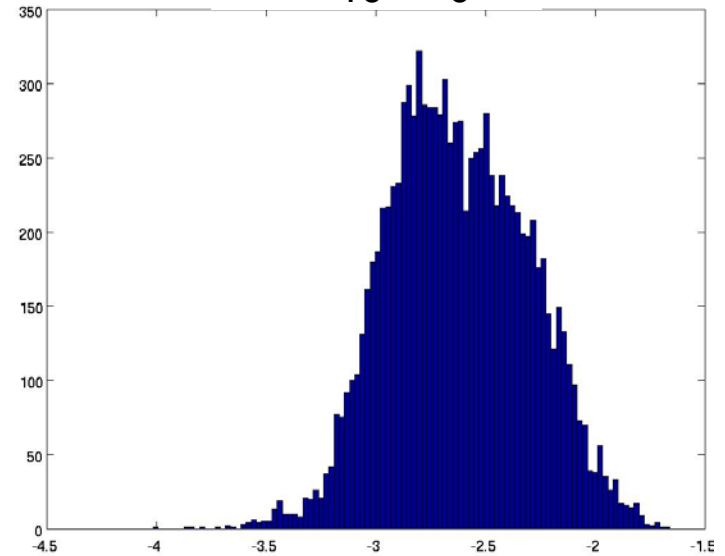


Distributions of Fitted Parameters

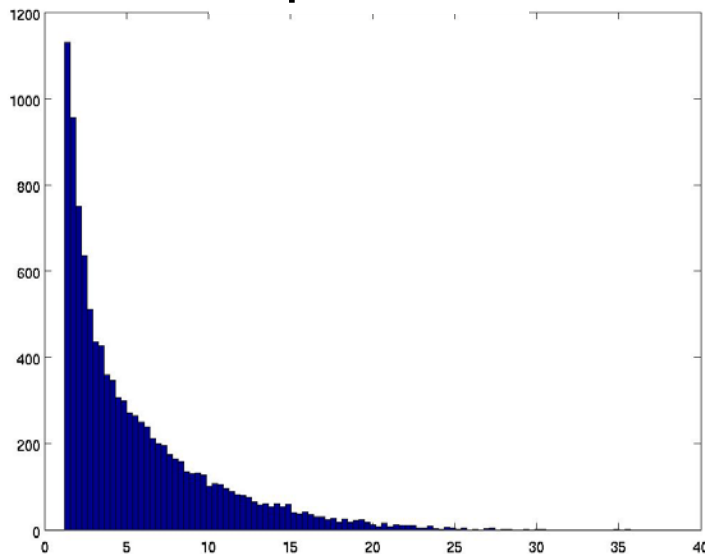
$\text{Log}_{10}[N_0]$



$\text{Log}_{10}[D_0]$



Alpha



- Logarithms used to make orders of magnitude comparable
- PSD parameters can not be described with multivariate Gaussian

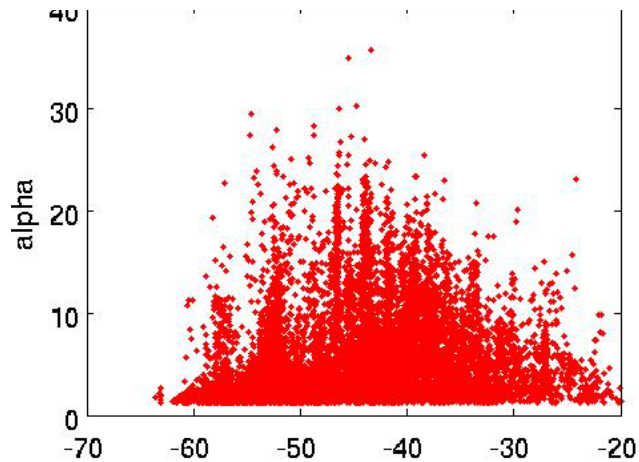
Covariance Matrix of Distribution Parameters

$$\text{cov} \begin{pmatrix} \log[N_0] \\ \log[D_0] \\ \alpha \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 19.3851 & 0.4233 & -19.5493 \\ 0.4233 & 0.1016 & -0.6156 \\ -19.5493 & -0.6156 & 20.5703 \end{bmatrix}$$

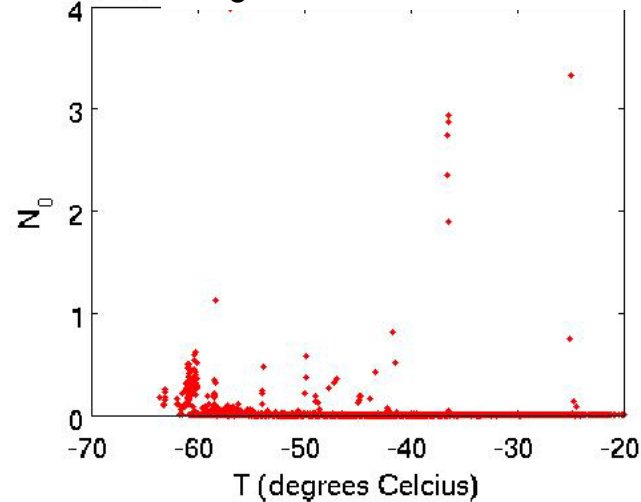
- The covariance matrix is not diagonal
- This impacts both the estimation of remotely sensed PSD parameters as well as their uncertainty estimate

On the whole, no discernible relationship between fit prams and any single physical pram

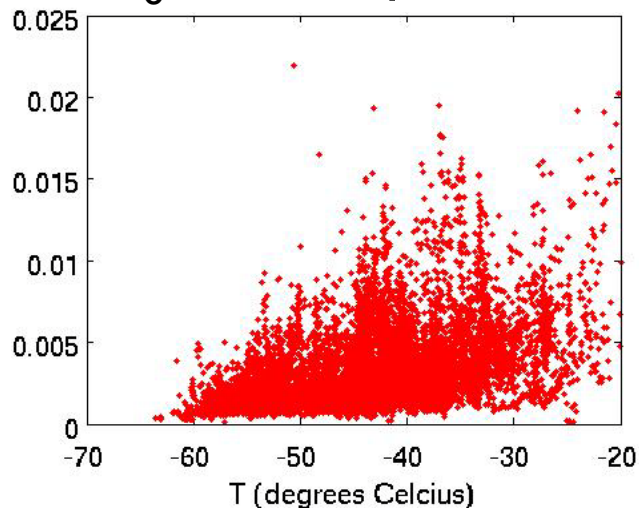
Alpha vs Temperature



N_0 vs Temperature

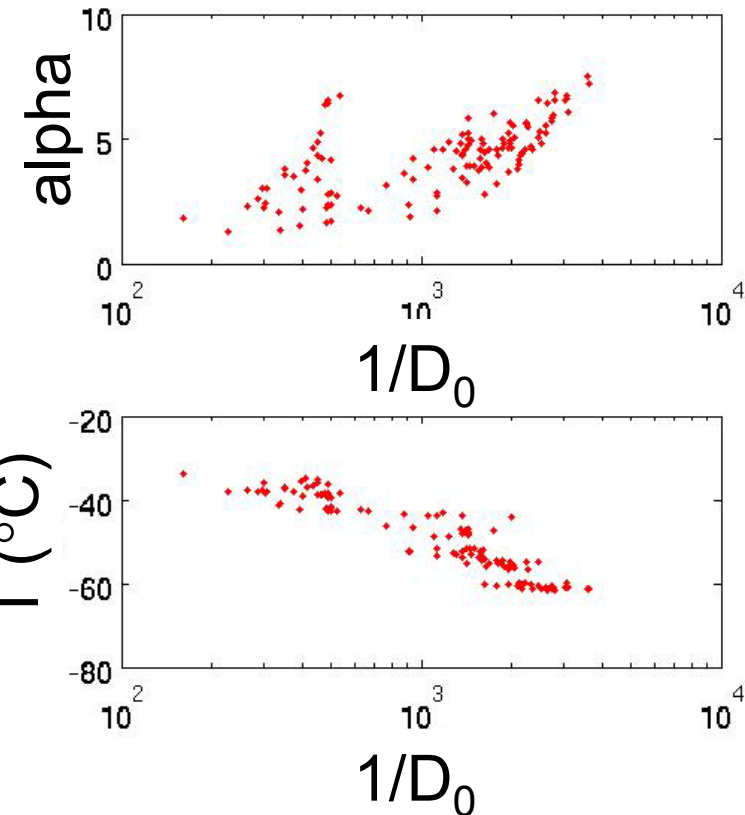
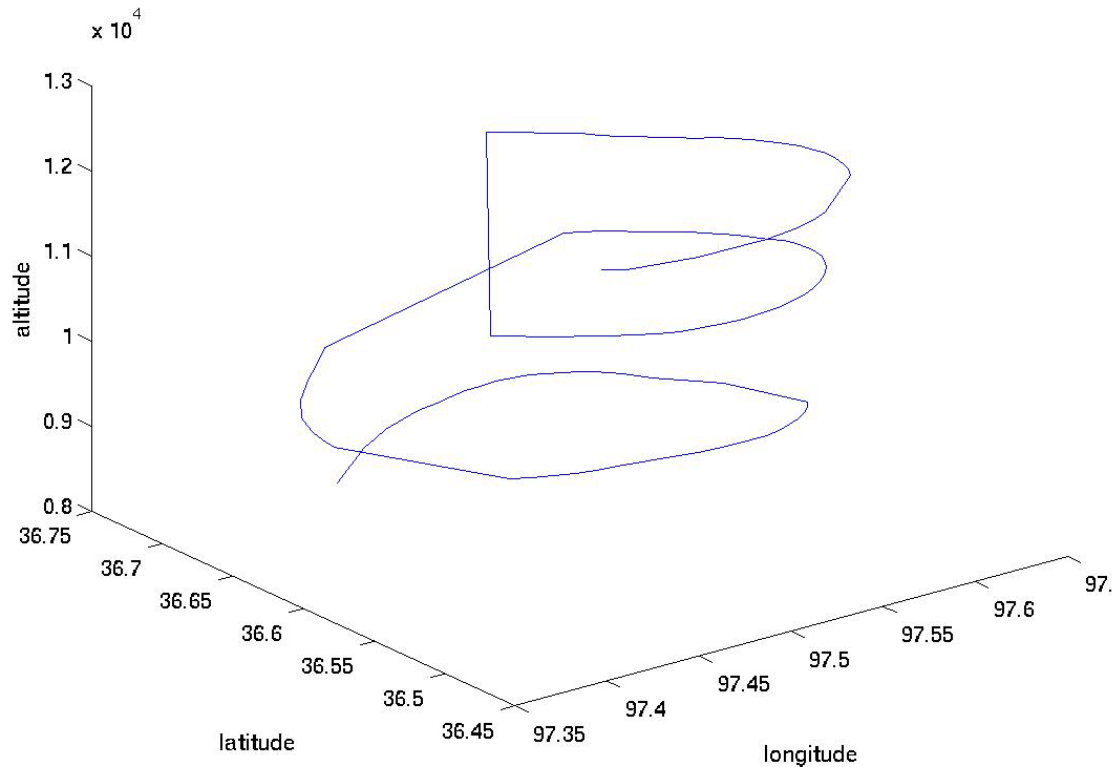


D_0 vs Temperature



There are discernible relationships in spiral flights

Learjet Spiral, 4/28B

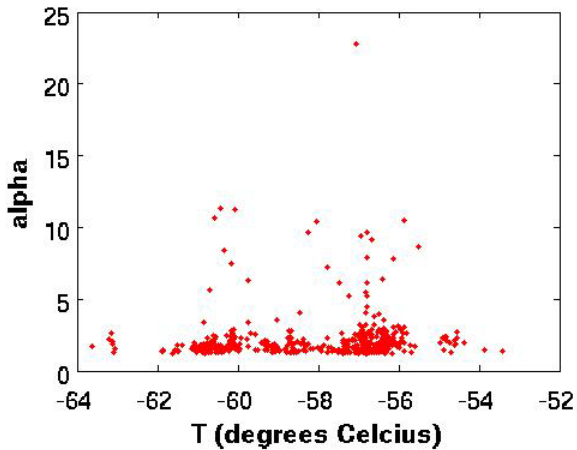


Next Question:

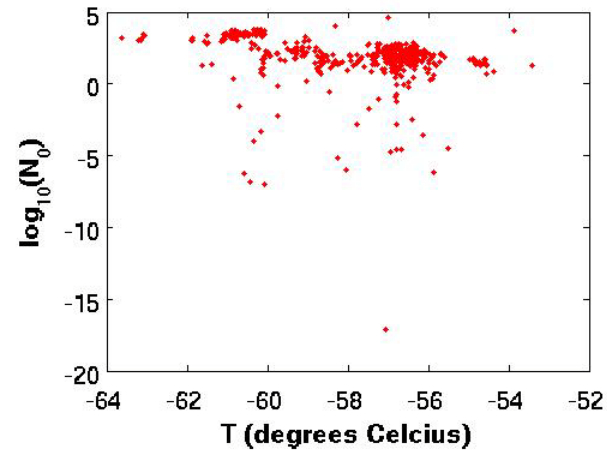
- Can the whole data set be partitioned so as to reveal various regions of cloud with similar PSD parameter relationships?
- Hierarchical clustering, stopped at 8 clusters
- Clustered by temperature, pressure, and relative humidity over ice

Not with clustering scheme chosen:
only fourth cluster exhibits weak
relationship with temperature

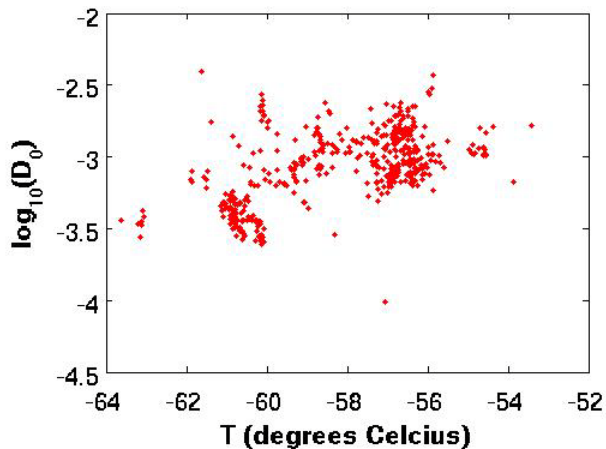
Shape Parameter vs Temperature, fourth Cluster



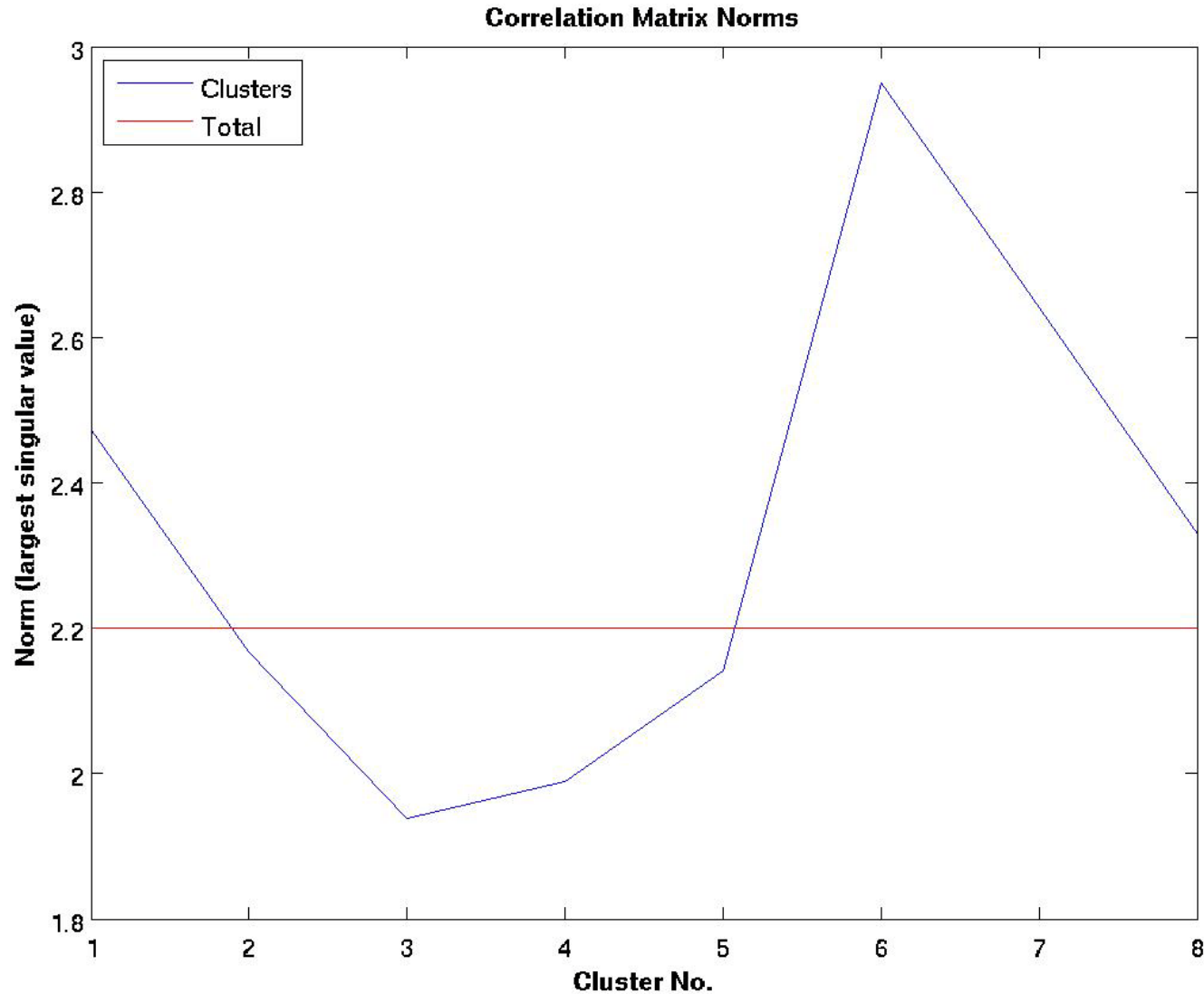
$\log_{10}(N_0)$ vs Temperature, fourth Cluster



$\log_{10}(D_0)$ vs Temperature, fourth Cluster



However, half of the clusters resulted in PSD pram covariance matrices with tighter correlations



Summary

- Within cirrus cloud PSD retrieval schemes, PSD prior distributions are often incorrectly assumed to be Gaussian
- PSD prior covariance matrices are often incorrectly assumed to be diagonal
- Retrieval schemes using the Bayesian approach must be re-formulated to account for these facts
- Although the first attempt bore sickly fruit, it is believed that proper cluster analysis can reveal PSD parameter patterns in certain physical regimes that will yield prior covariance matrices with tighter correlations