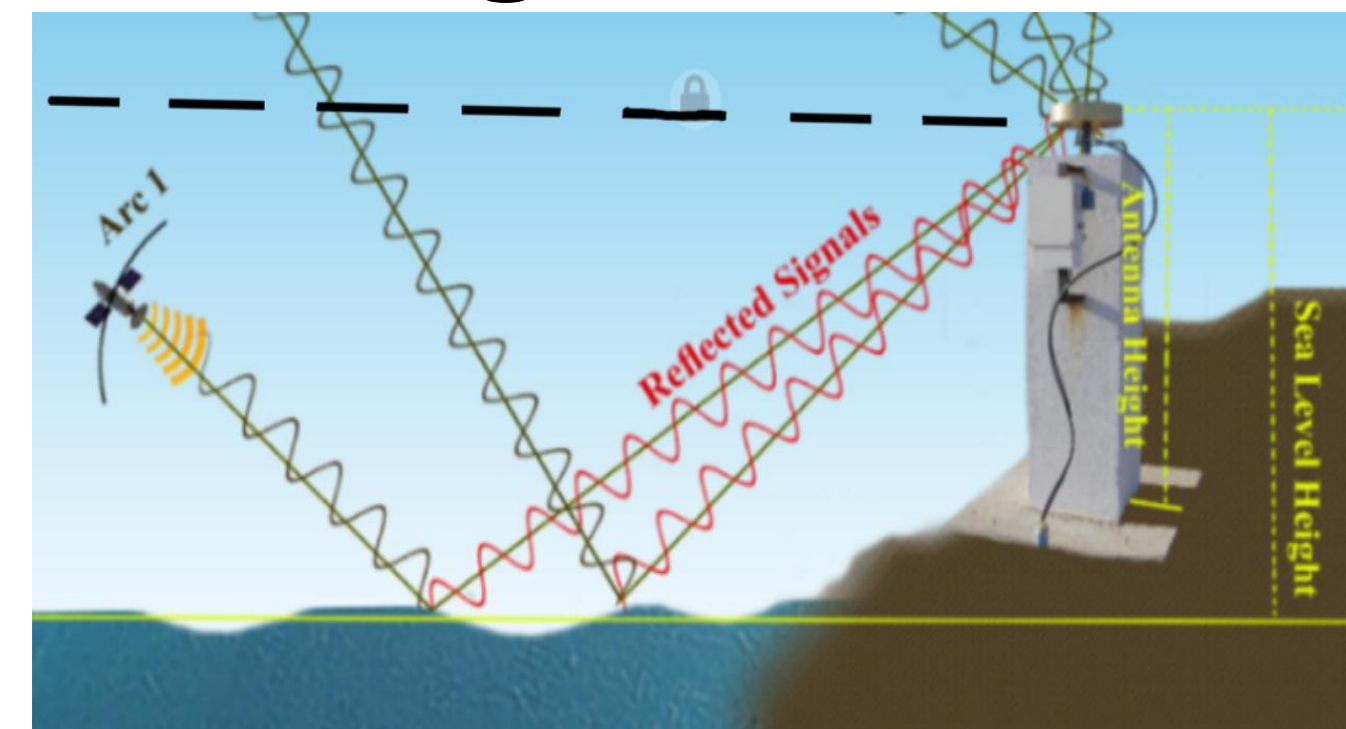




Keith A. I. Huckleby¹, Kristy Tiampo², & Ryan Cassotto²
1. Research Experience for Community College Students | Pikes Peak State College 2. CU Boulder, CIRES



Background



- Global Navigation Satellite System Interferometric Reflectometry (GNSS-IR).
- Measures reflected signal off water and ice.
- Detects changes in water level around coastal Great Lakes due to ice.
- Research Question: What does GNSS-IR data suggest about the impact of ice on water levels in the Great Lakes?

Method



Figure 1: Map of GNSS-IR antenna stations (represented by red dots) and water height stations (represented by light blue squares) around coastal Great Lakes area.

- Download GNSS-IR reflector height data for all 7 antenna stations in the Great Lakes.
- Process data using GNSS open source package¹.
- Compare to water height data as given by NOAA National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON)².

Conclusions

- GNSS-IR can detect water level very well.
- We see change in seasonality that is probably related to lake ice formation.
- We can track the time variability of when the ice arrives.
- May be possible to detect changes in ice coverage over the past 2 decades.

Future Work

- Get data from more stations and satellites.
- Do a robust analysis on amplitude threshold (Figure 4).
- Verify our data against established lake ice data records.
- Look into what is possibly causing lake ice variability.

References

1. Larson, K. (2024). Kristen M. Larson and GNSS Community. [gnssirf1](https://gnssirf1.readthedocs.io/_/downloads/en/latest/pdf/).
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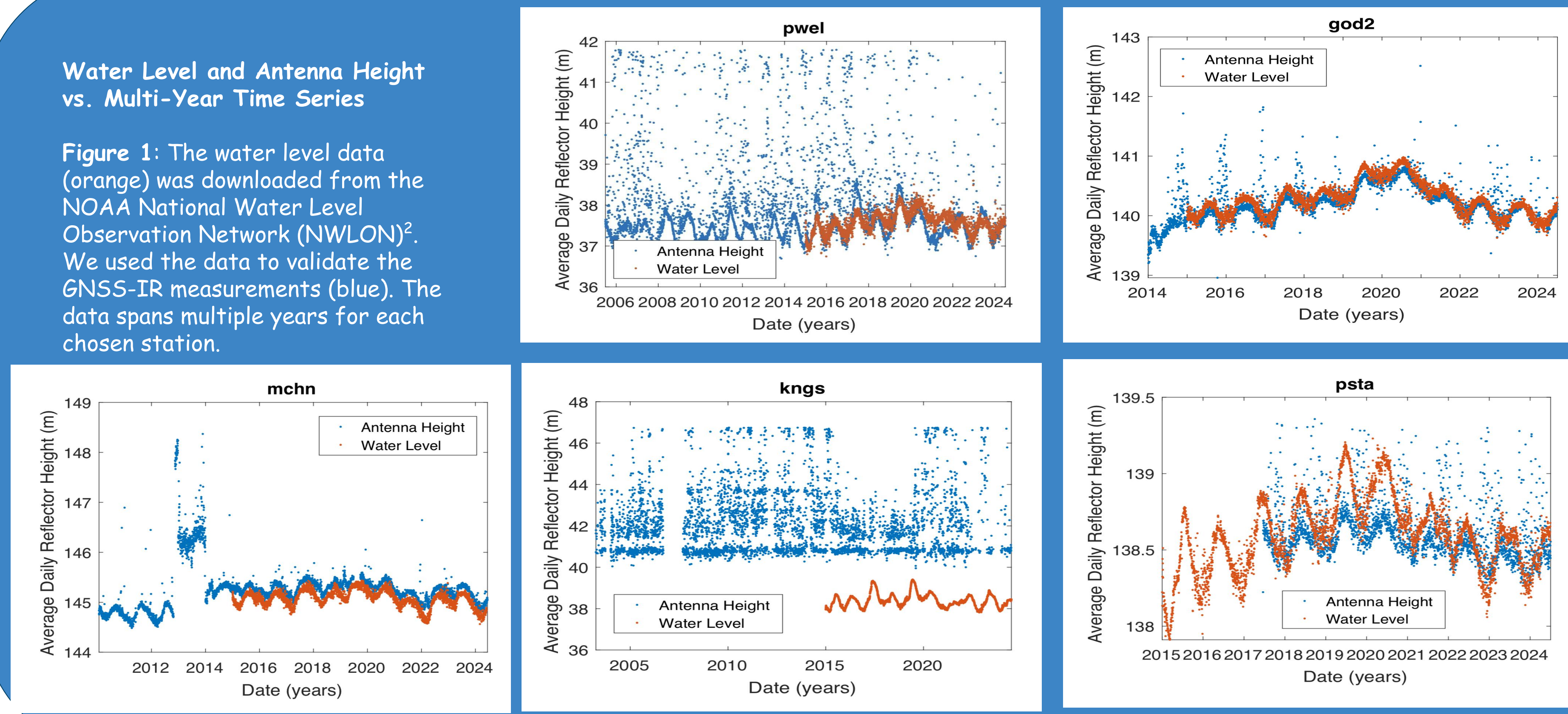
Acknowledgements

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- The RECCS Program is funded by the National Science Foundation (EAR 1757930).

Data

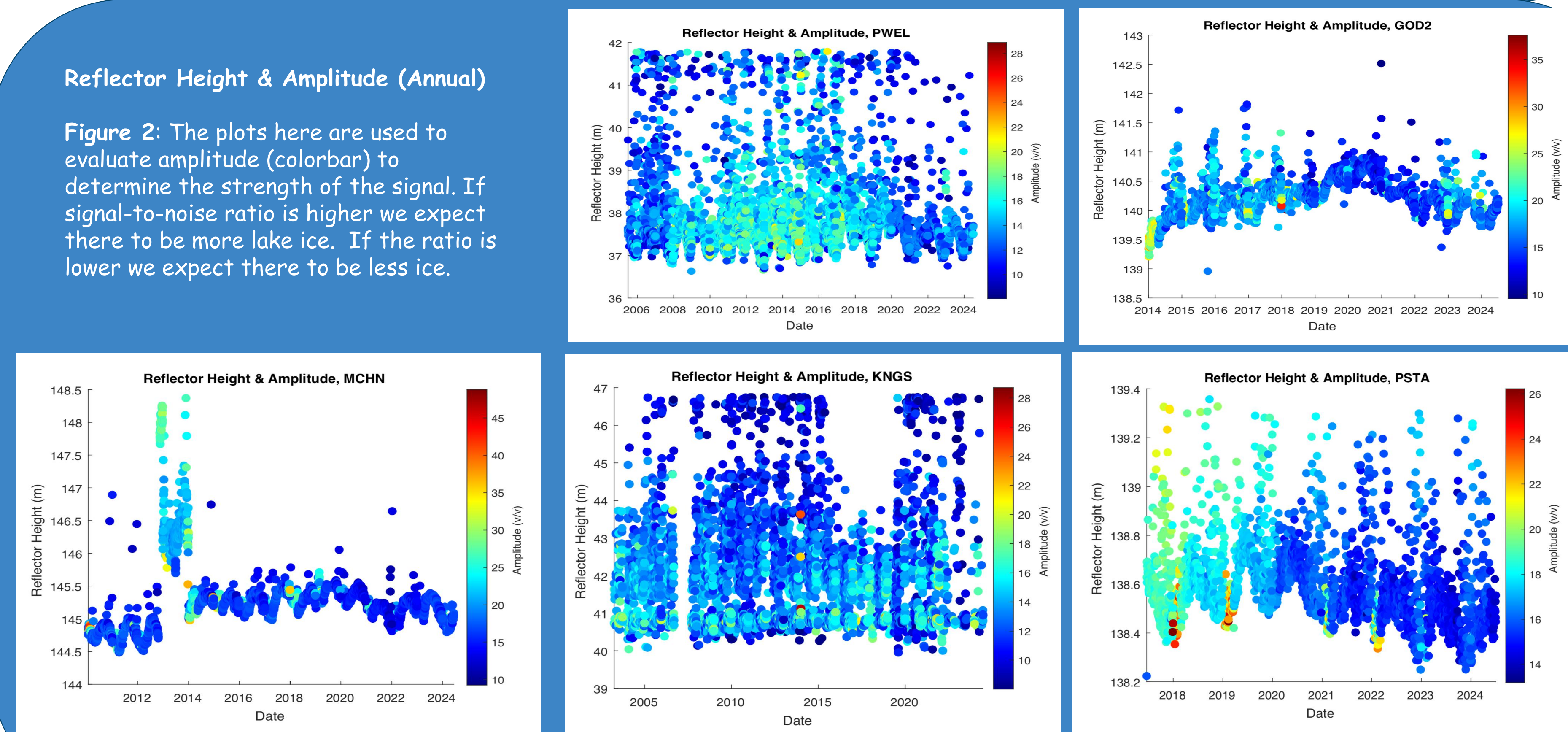
Water Level and Antenna Height vs. Multi-Year Time Series

Figure 1: The water level data (orange) was downloaded from the NOAA National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON)². We used the data to validate the GNSS-IR measurements (blue). The data spans multiple years for each chosen station.



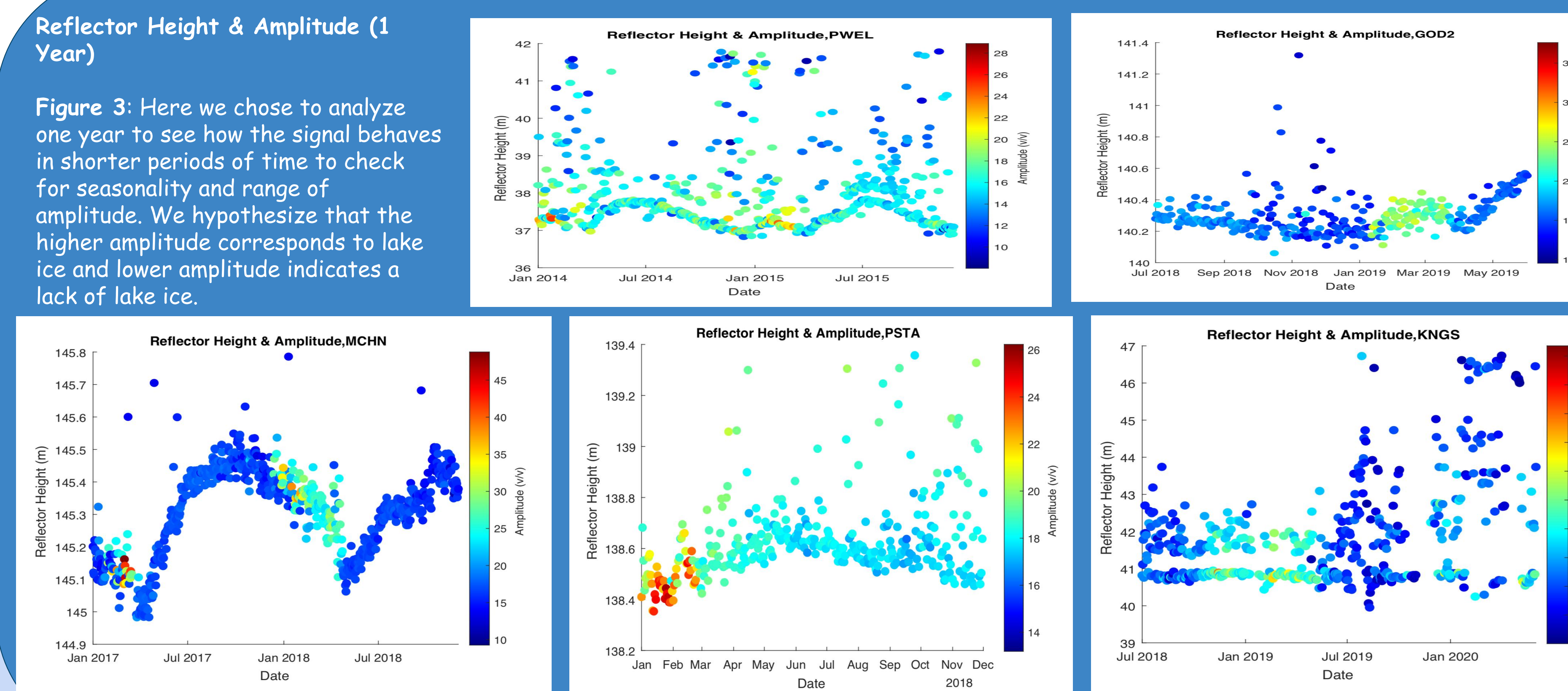
Reflector Height & Amplitude (Annual)

Figure 2: The plots here are used to evaluate amplitude (colorbar) to determine the strength of the signal. If signal-to-noise ratio is higher we expect there to be more lake ice. If the ratio is lower we expect there to be less ice.



Reflector Height & Amplitude (1 Year)

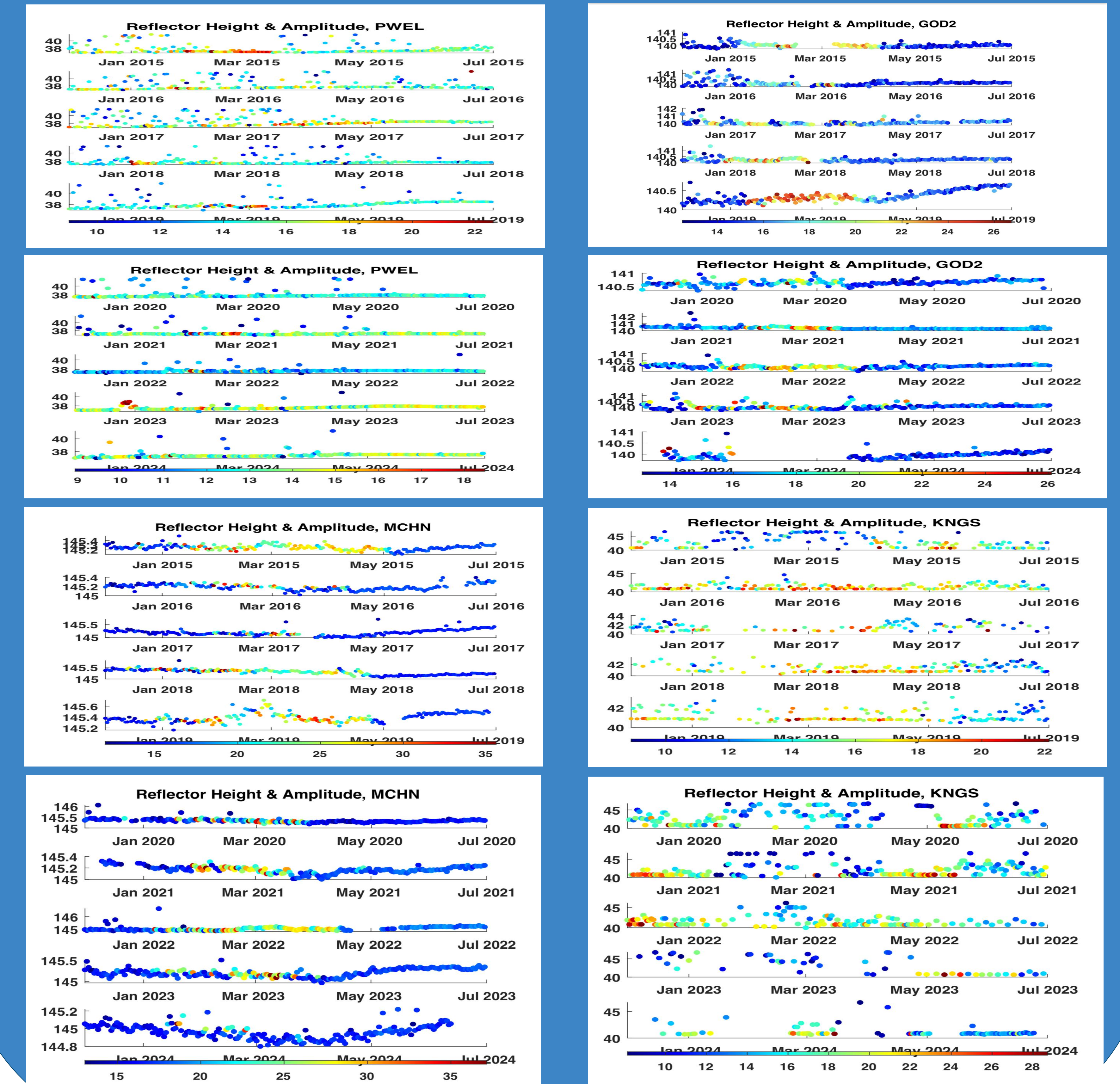
Figure 3: Here we chose to analyze one year to see how the signal behaves in shorter periods of time to check for seasonality and range of amplitude. We hypothesize that the higher amplitude corresponds to lake ice and lower amplitude indicates a lack of lake ice.



Results

Reflector Height & Amplitude (2015 - 2024)

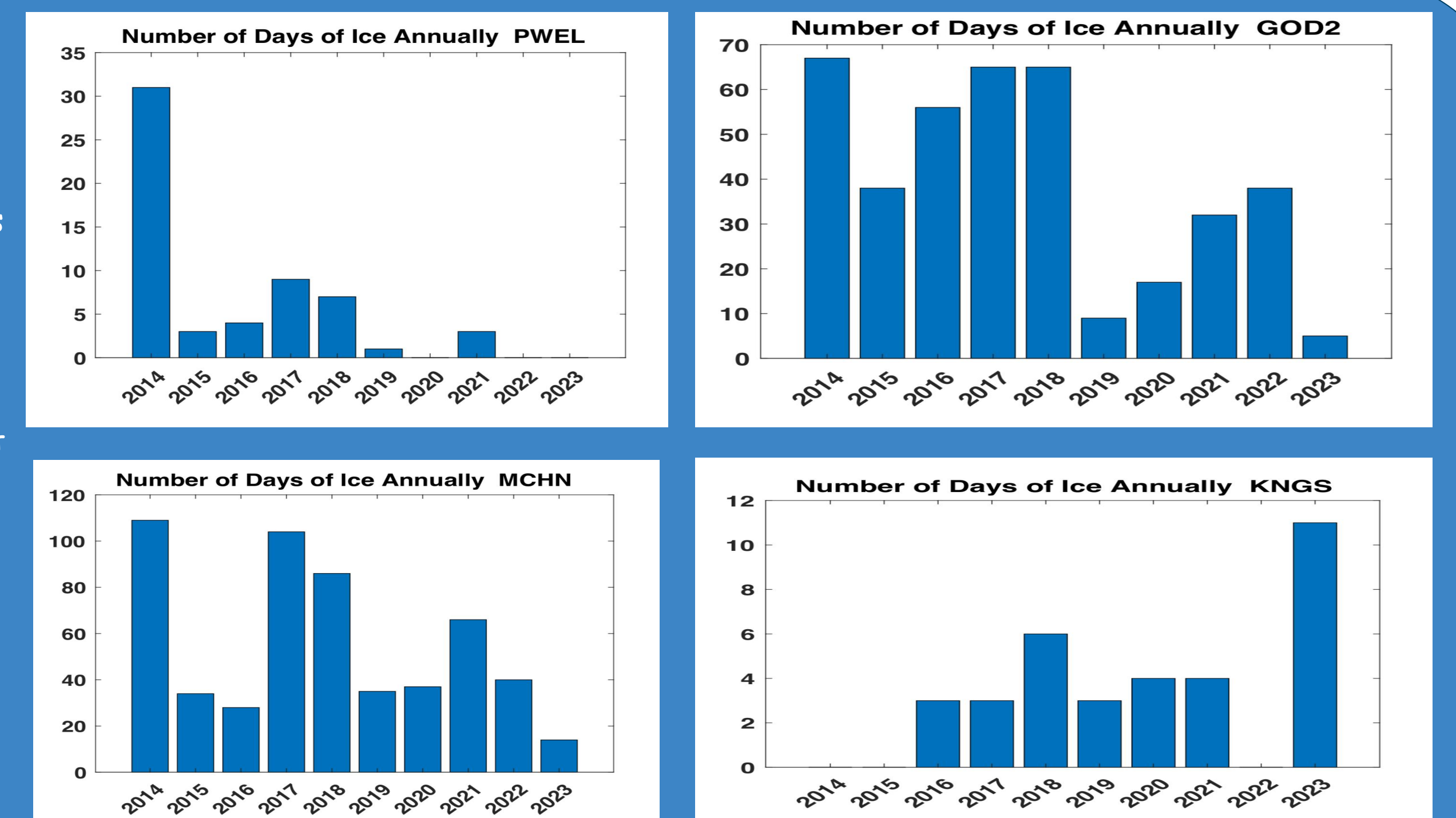
Figure 4: The plots here allow us to see how the signal behaves over a roughly 6-month period from 2015 - 2024.



Number of Days of Ice vs. Year

Figure 5: We summarized our data from Figure 4 in bar graph format, where we analyzed the number of days of ice annually. Here we selected an with an amplitude threshold of 20 for the occurrence of lake ice.

This allowed us to see how much the GNSS-IR signal can measure or detect ice over the past decade.

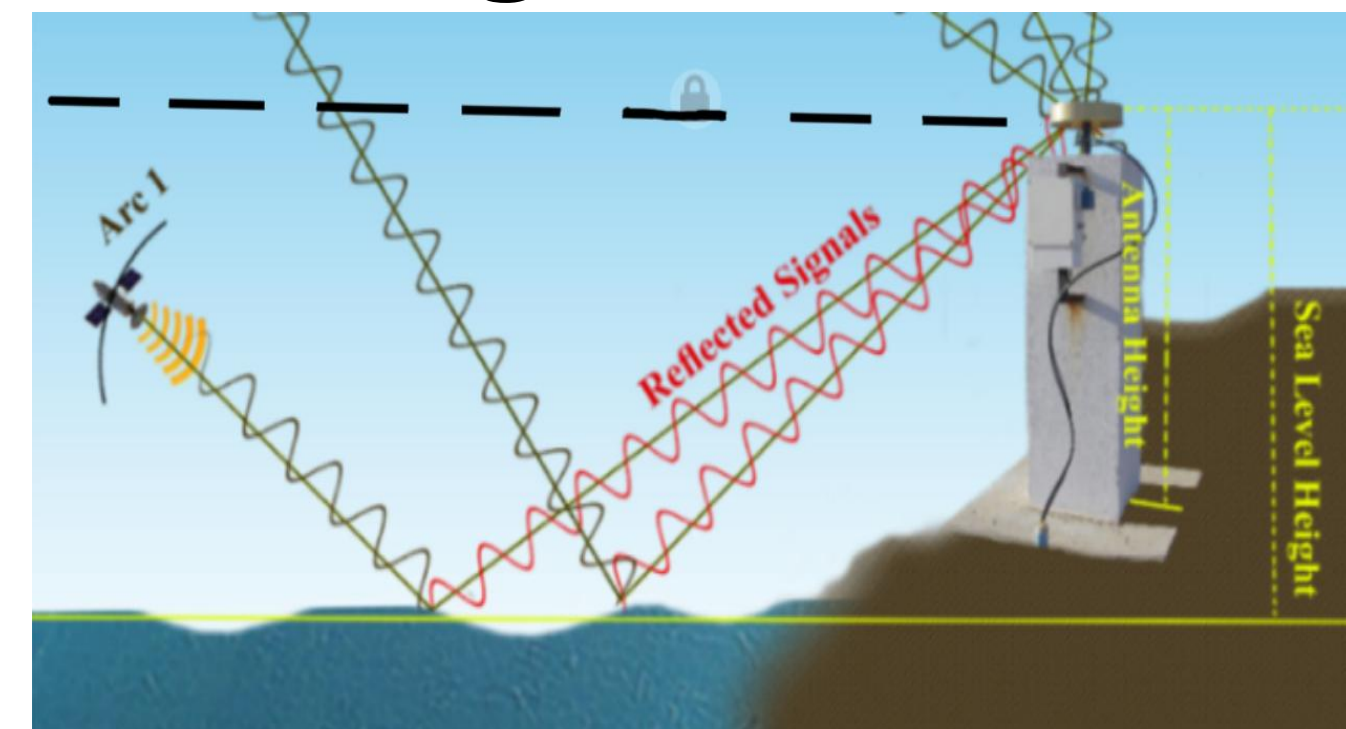




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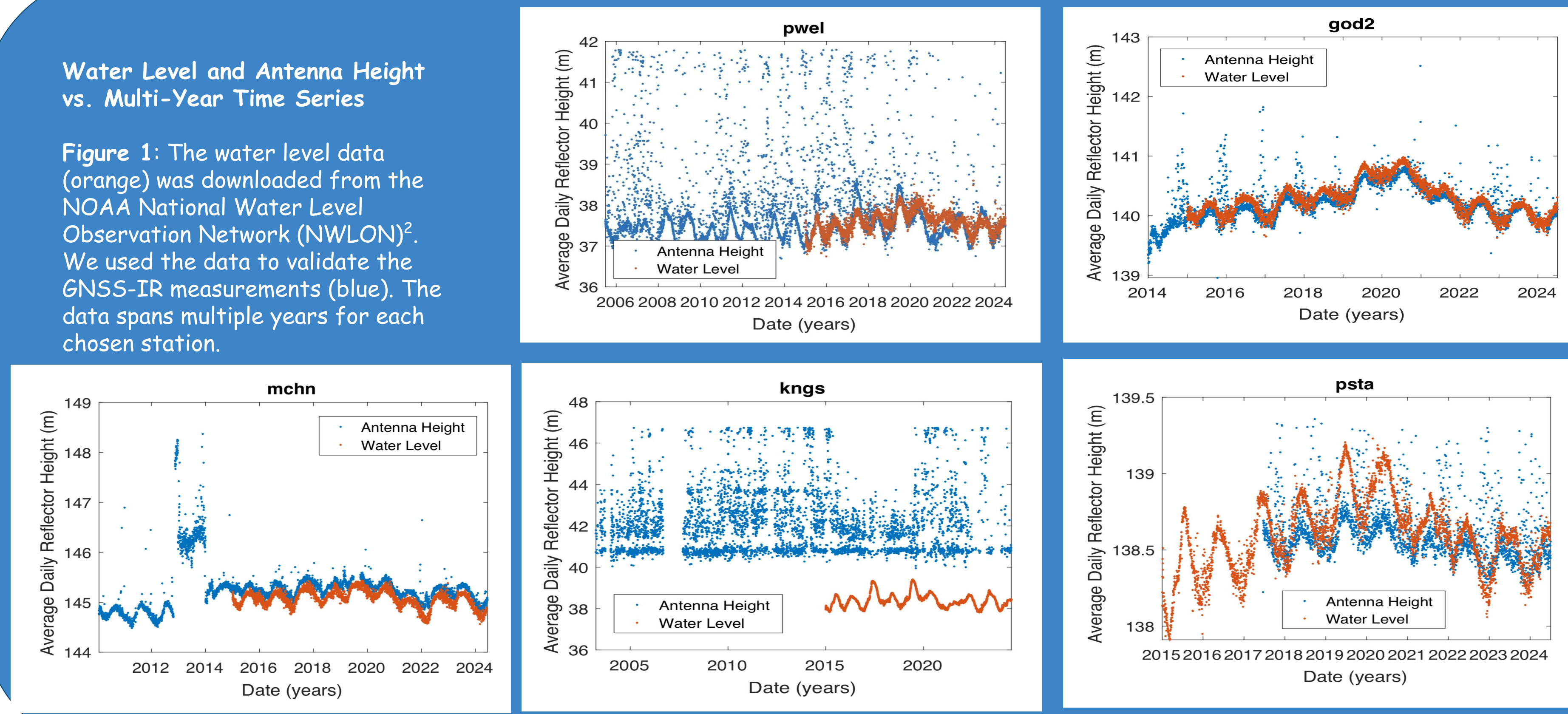
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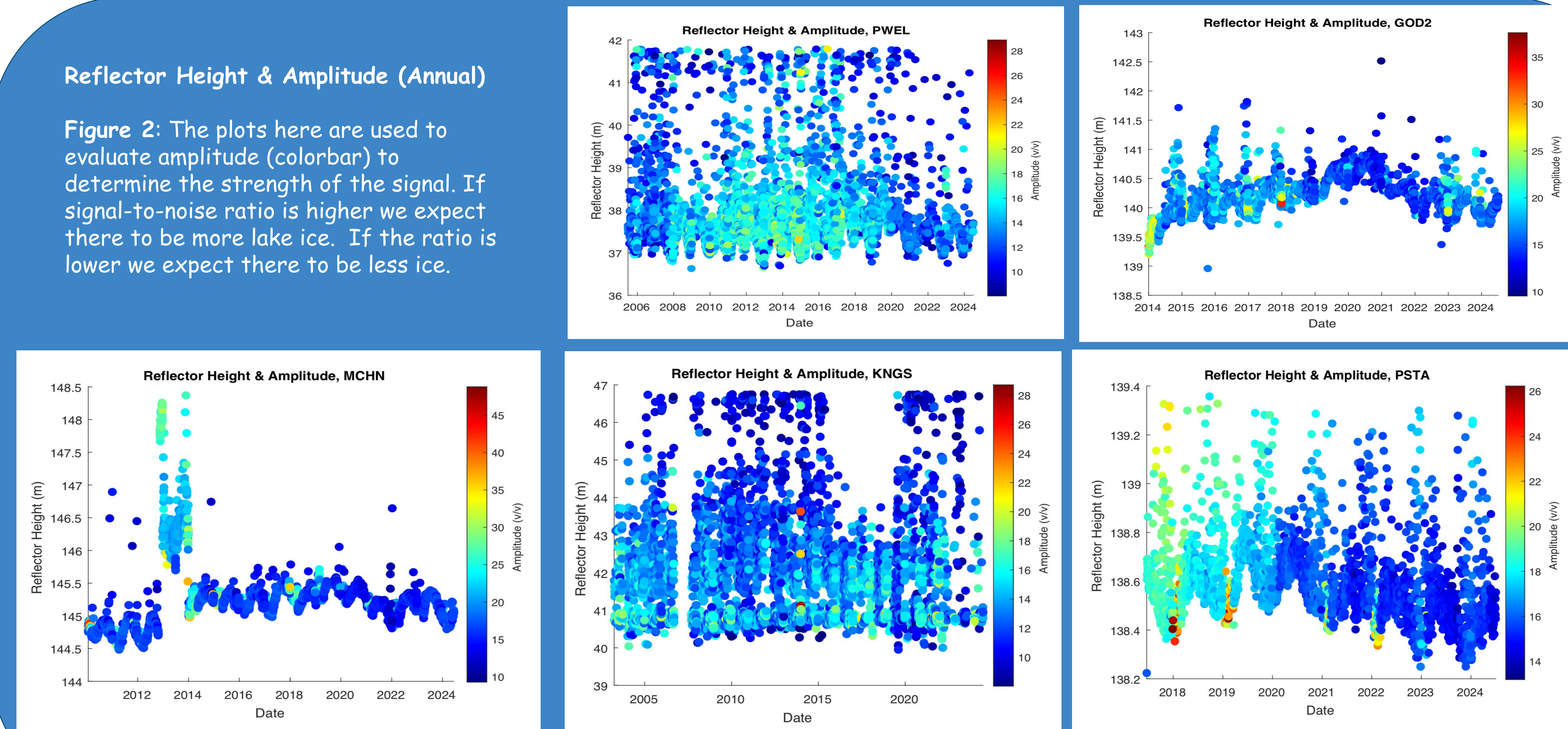
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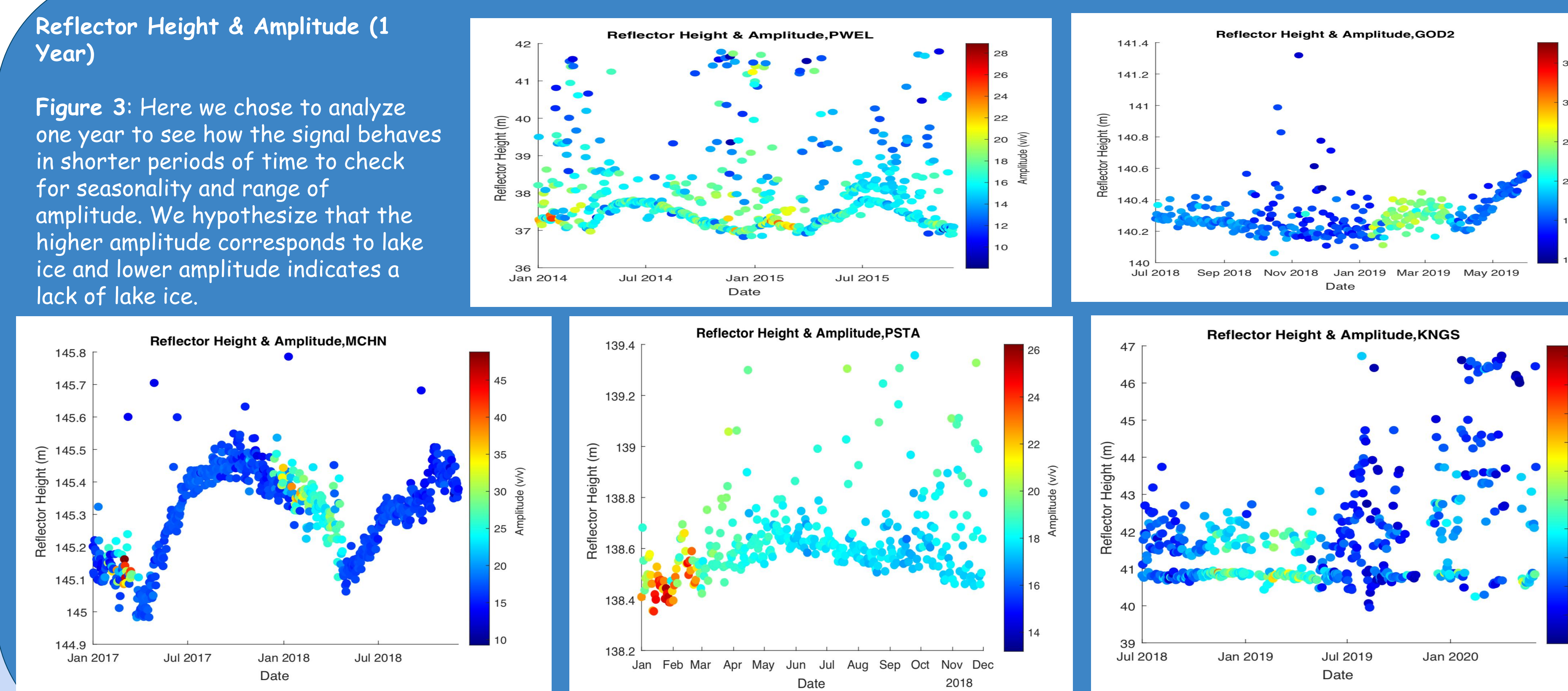
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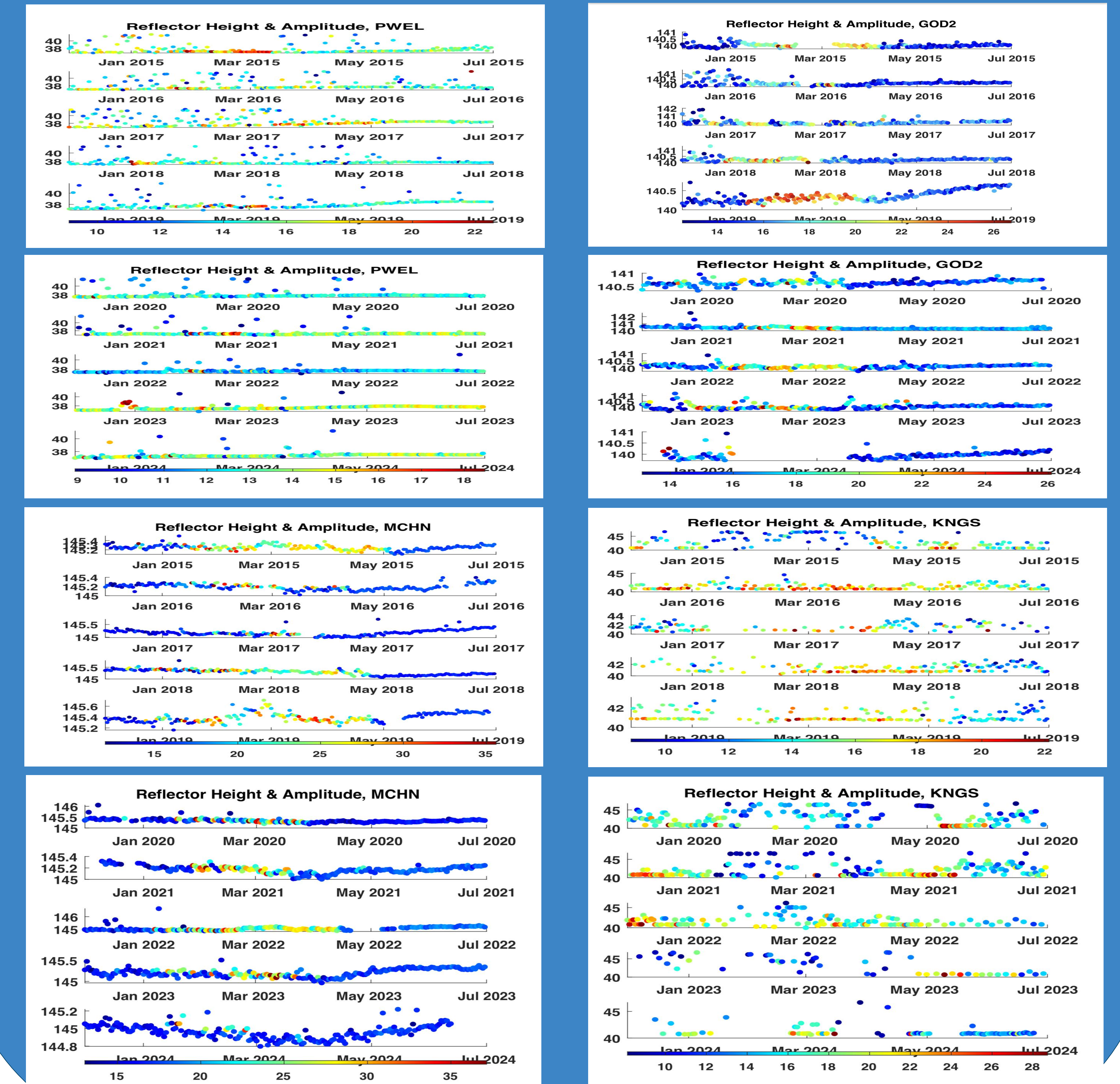
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