



# CMMAP 13<sup>th</sup> Team Meeting

Meteorological determinants  
of growing season onset in  
grassland

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## Reto's prognostic phenology:

Simple Biosphere model (SiB3) with Prognostic Phenology to improve our understanding in grasslands (savannas)

- The prognostic phenology model predicts FPAR and LAI and is driven by meteorological predictor data.
- The GSI (Growing Season Index) serves as the foundation for the prognostic phenology model.
- Simulations of the global water and carbon cycle are sensitive to the model representation of vegetation phenology.
- More realistic representation of vegetation phenology in climate models helps predicting the global carbon and water cycle

$$\text{GSI} = f(T) \cdot f(R) \cdot f(M)$$

GSI : phenological state (0 .. 1)

$T$  : temperature, e.g. minimum daily (K)

$R$  : light, e.g. global radiation (W/m<sup>2</sup>)

$W$  : moisture, e.g. vapor pressure deficit (Pa)

**FPAR** (Fraction of Photosynthetically Active Radiation absorbed by vegetation)

**LAI** (Leaf Area Index) LAI is determined directly by taking a statistically significant sample of foliage from a plant canopy, measuring the leaf area per sample plot and dividing it by the plot land surface area. 0- bare ground and 10- dense conifer forest.

# Grasslands

Site: rain green grassland, Skukuza, Kruger Nation Park , South Africa

4 years of flux tower data ( Thanks to prof. Niall Hanna)



**Site:** Skukuza, Kruger National Park  
**Westernmost Longitude:** 31° 29.813' E  
**Easternmost Longitude:** 31° 29.813' E  
**Northernmost Latitude:** 25° 01.184' S  
**Southernmost Latitude:** 25° 01.184' S

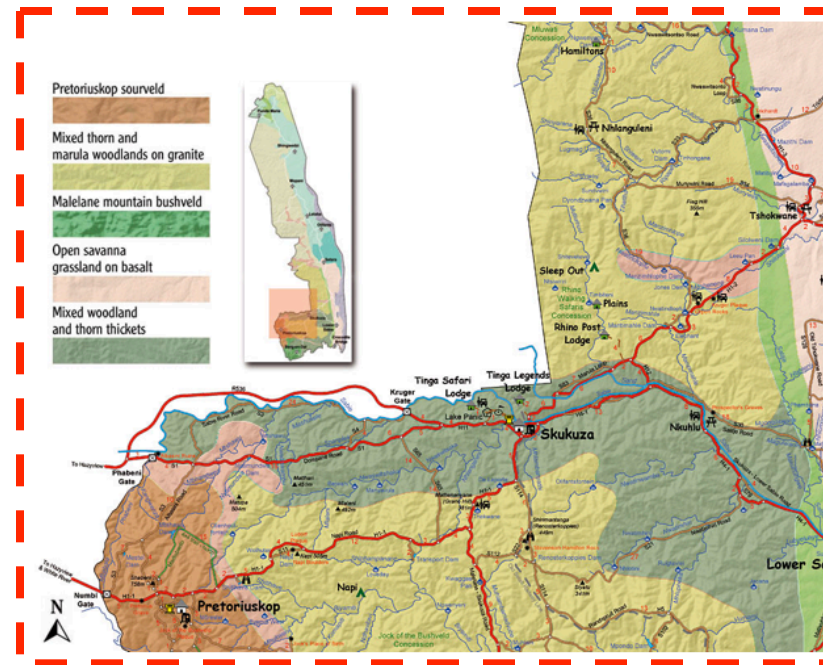


Observations from Skukuza:

Hflx ...sensible heat flux [W m<sup>-2</sup>]

Leflx ...latent heat flux [W m<sup>-2</sup>]

Fcflx ...turbulent CO<sub>2</sub> flux [mg CO<sub>2</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>]



## GSI equation (Reto) :

$$\text{GSI} = f(\overline{T_m}) \cdot f(\overline{R_g}) \cdot f(\overline{vpd})$$

Temperature factor:  $f(\overline{T_m}) = \frac{\overline{T_m} - T_{m_{min}}}{T_{m_{max}} - T_{m_{min}}}$

Radiation factor:  $f(\overline{R_g}) = \frac{\overline{R_g} - R_{g_{min}}}{R_{g_{max}} - R_{g_{min}}}$

Moist factor:  $f(\overline{vpd}) = 1 - \frac{\overline{vpd} - vpd_{min}}{vpd_{max} - vpd_{min}}$

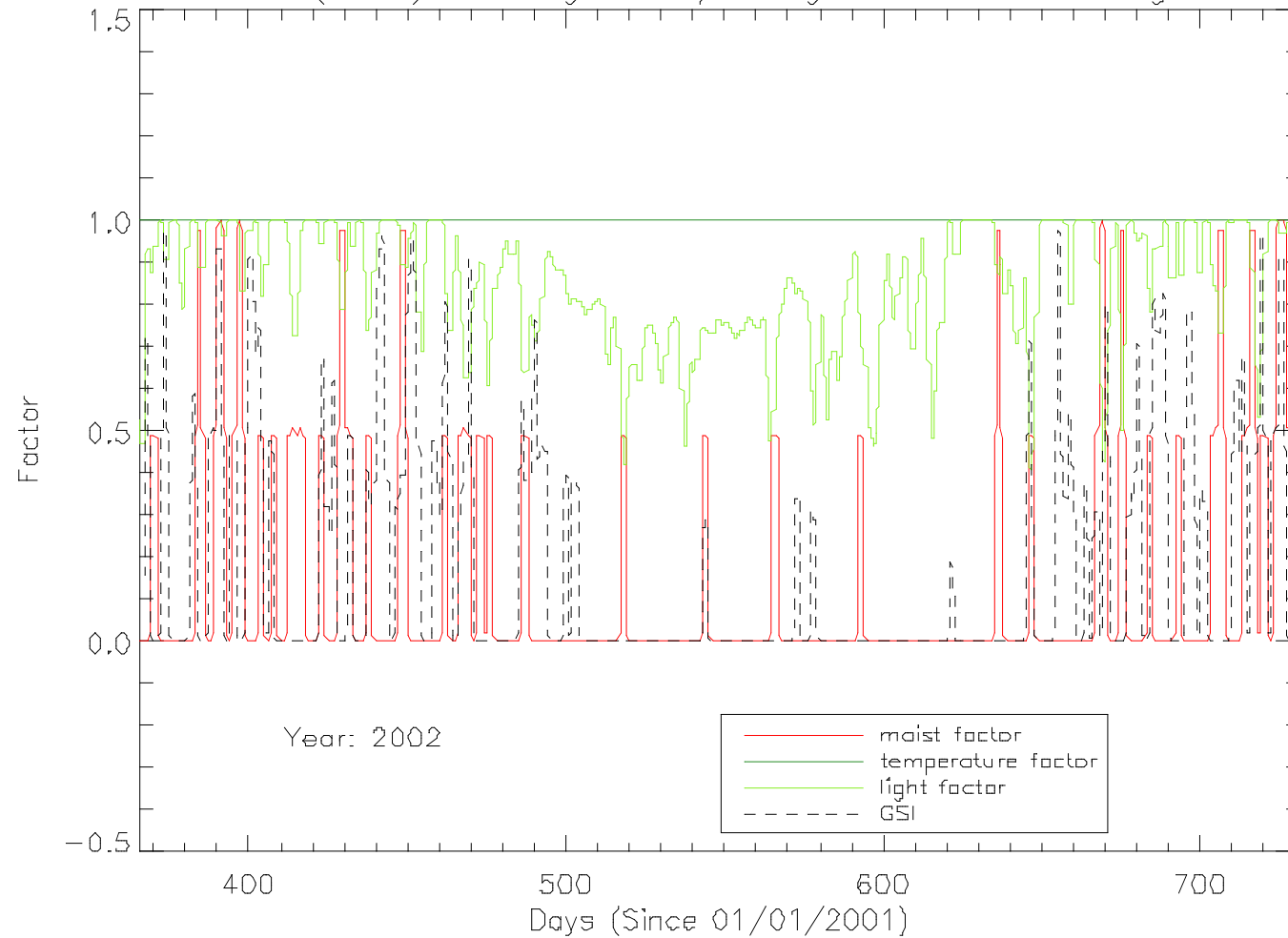
$vpd_{max}$  and  $vpd_{min}$ : max and min empirical climate parameters ranges

$\overline{vpd}$ : multi-day running mean average

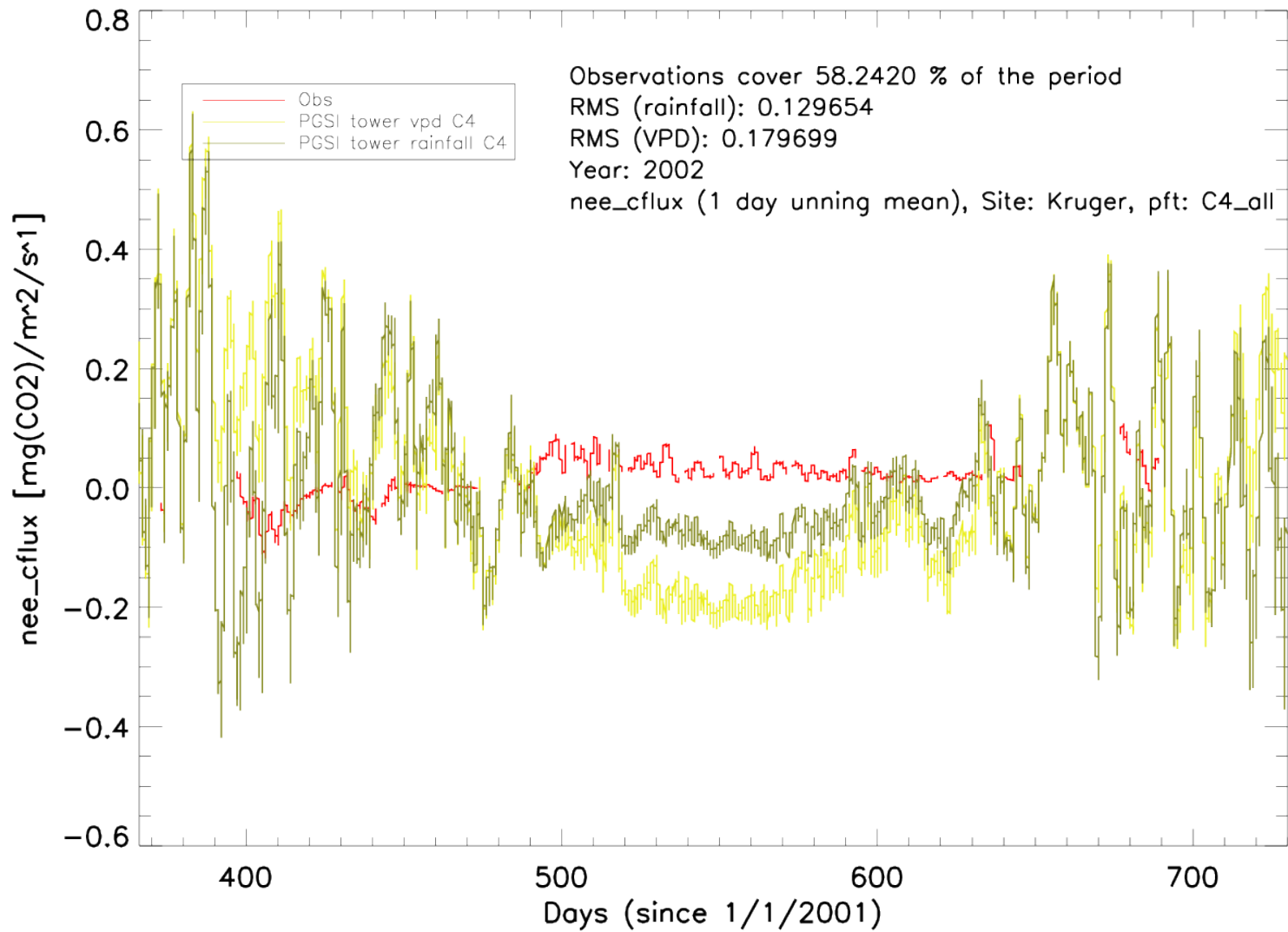
Same equation is used with *rainfall* instead of *vpd*

## Why moist factor ?

GSI contributors (1 day running mean) using rainfall; Site: Kruger; PFT: C4\_all



## Why rainfall instead of vpd ?



## GSI equation (new) :

$$\text{GSI} = f(\overline{T_m}) \cdot f(\overline{R_g}) \cdot f(\overline{vpd})$$

- If **rainfall** less than **rain<sub>min</sub>** drying will occur:

$$f(\overline{\text{rain}}) = f(\overline{\text{rain}}) - D_c$$

$D_c$  is drying coefficient

$$D_c = f(T, W, RH)$$

Currently for my 30min time step case  $D_c$  is set that no rain scenario will dry the soil from saturated to dry within approximately 4 days

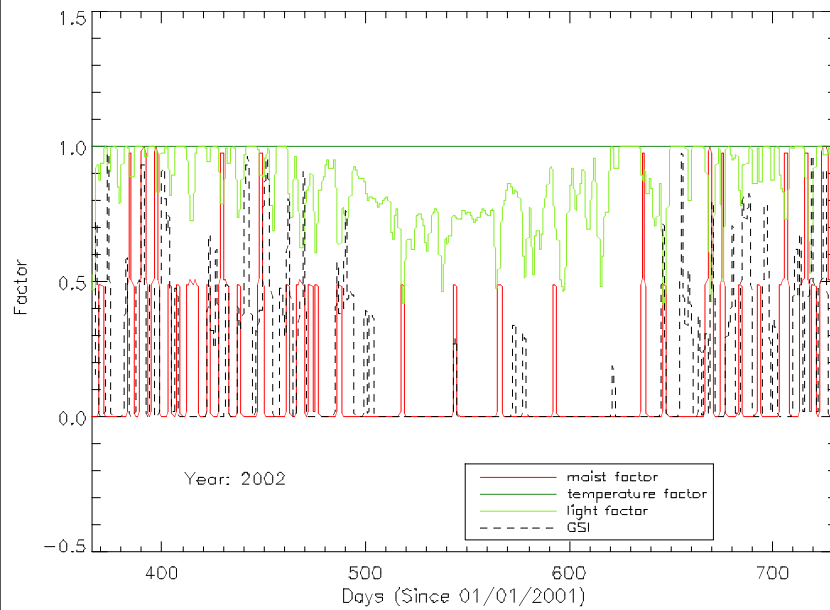
- If **rainfall** greater than **rain<sub>min</sub>** moist factor increase:

$$f(\overline{\text{rain}}) = f(\overline{\text{rain}}) + [\overline{\text{rain}} - \text{rain}_{\text{min}}] / [\text{rain}_{\text{max}} - \text{rain}_{\text{min}}]$$

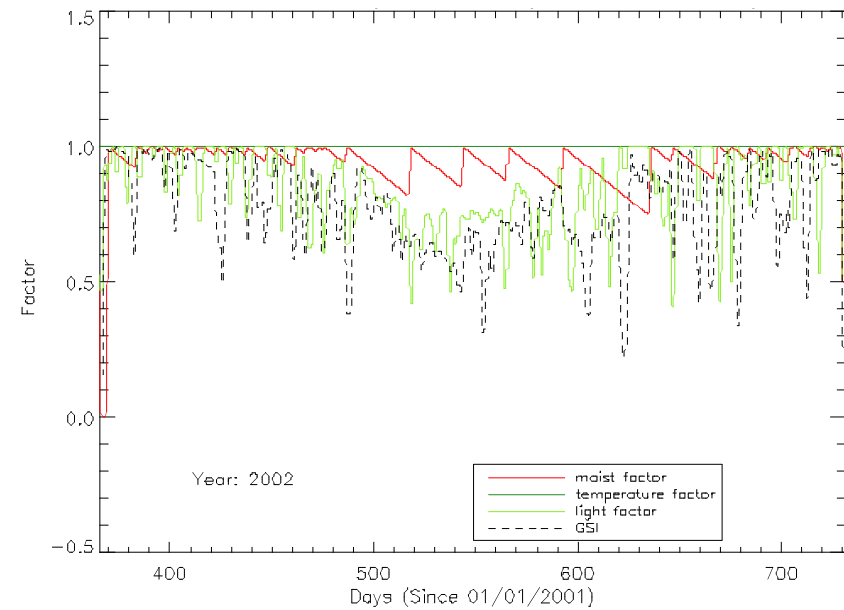
## Results

GSI contributors  
(1 day running mean)  
using rainfall  
Kruger site; PFT: C4 all

Original Equation

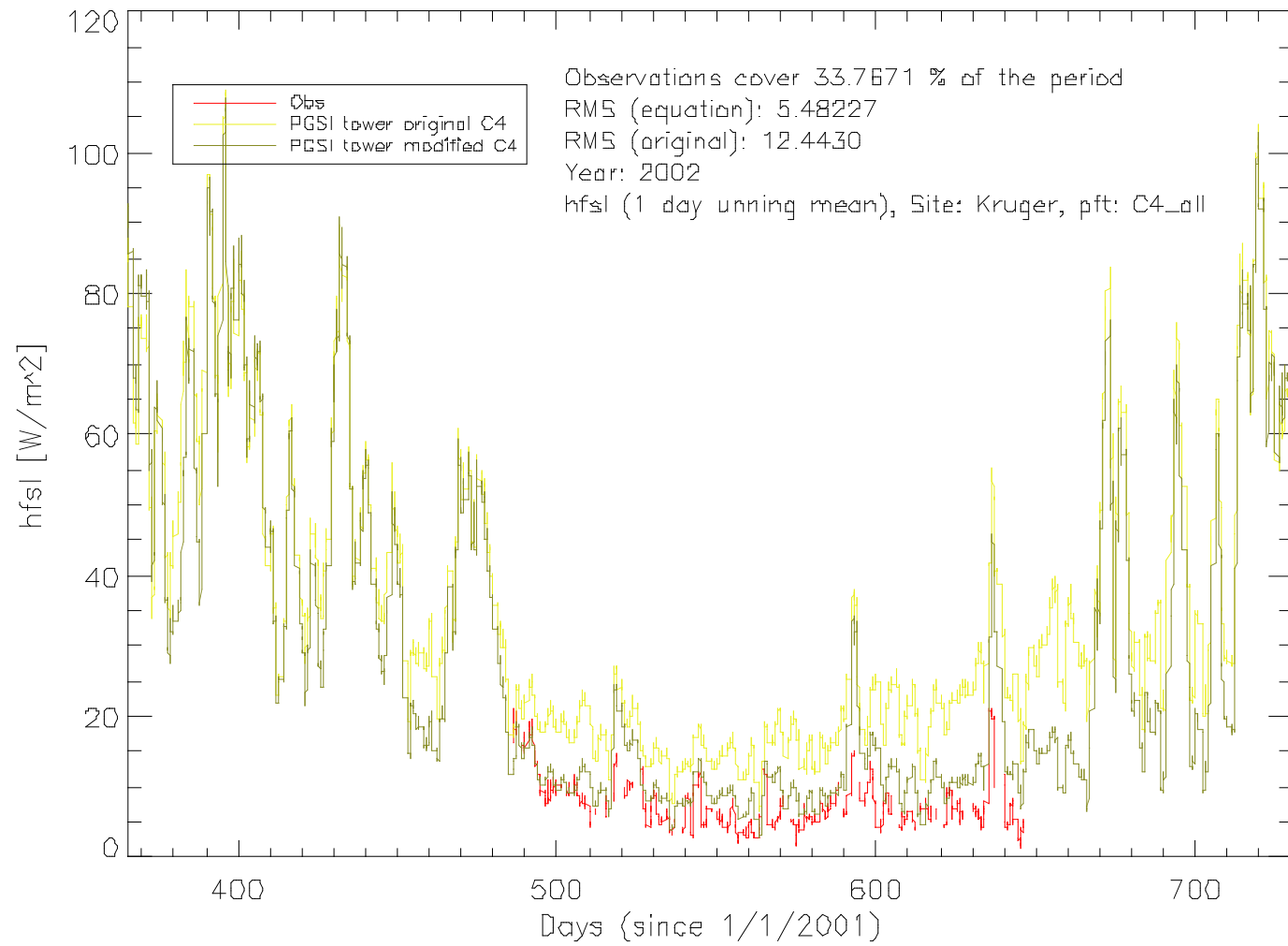


New Equation

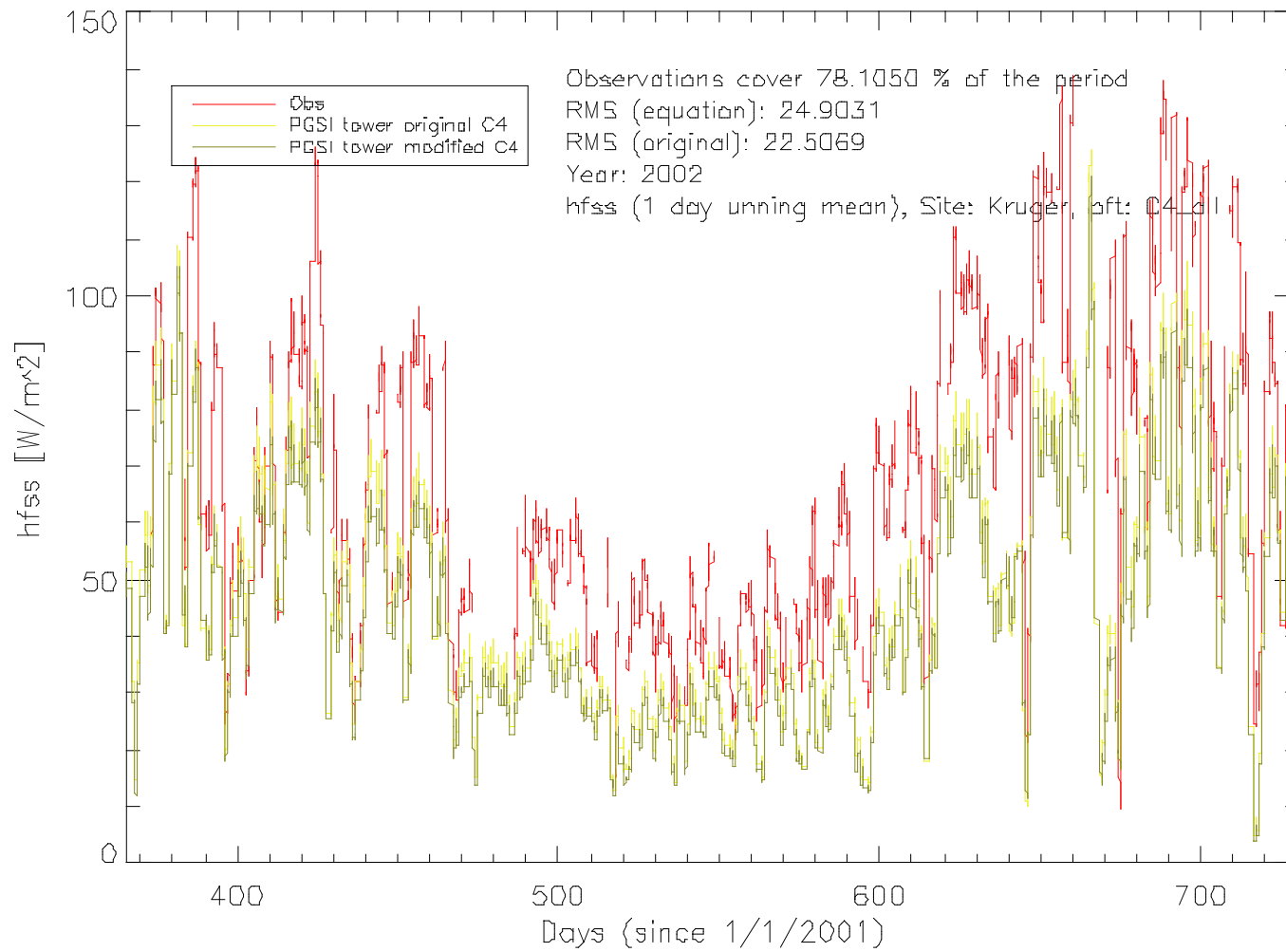




## Latent heat flux

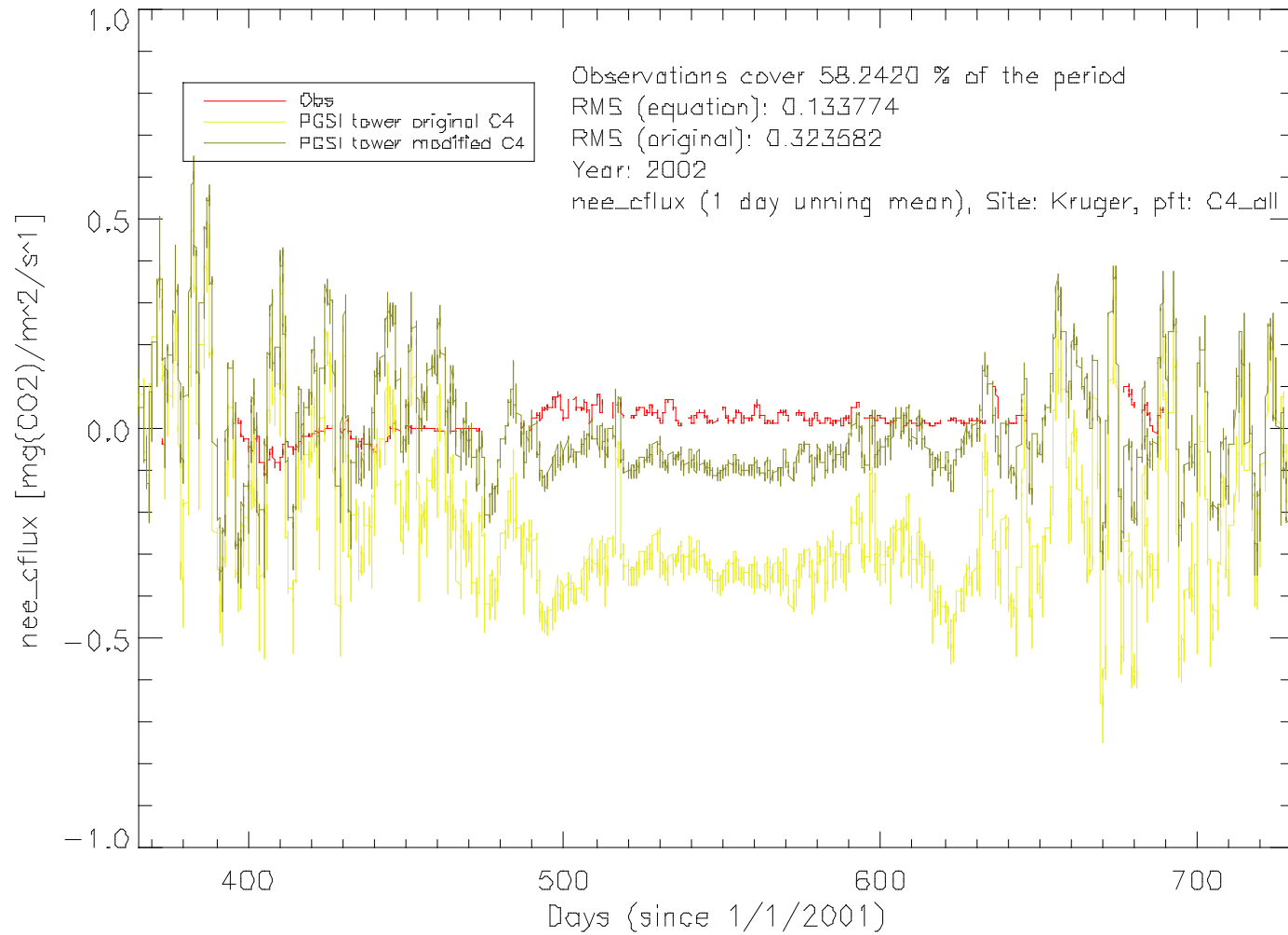


## Sensible heat flux

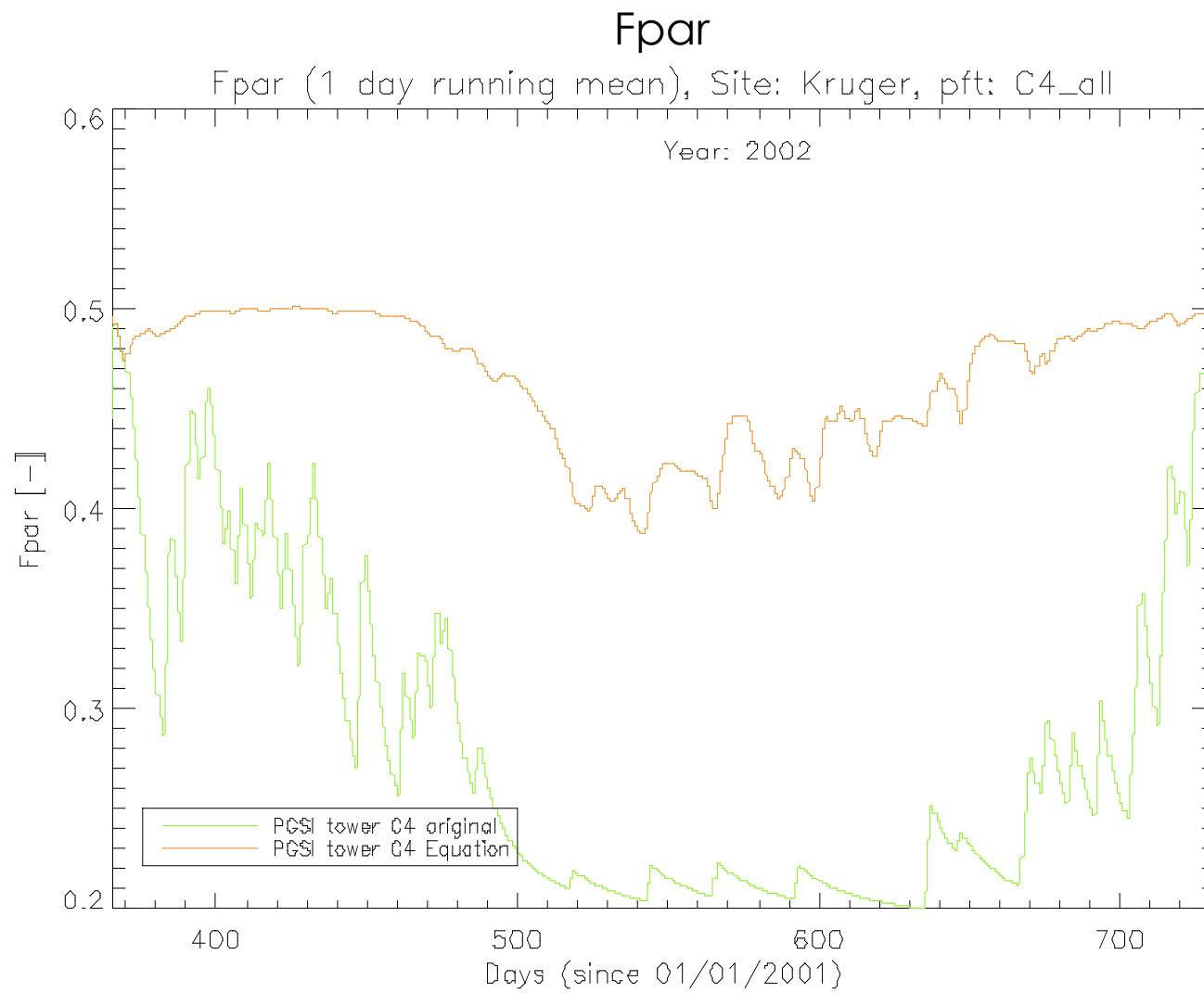


## Results

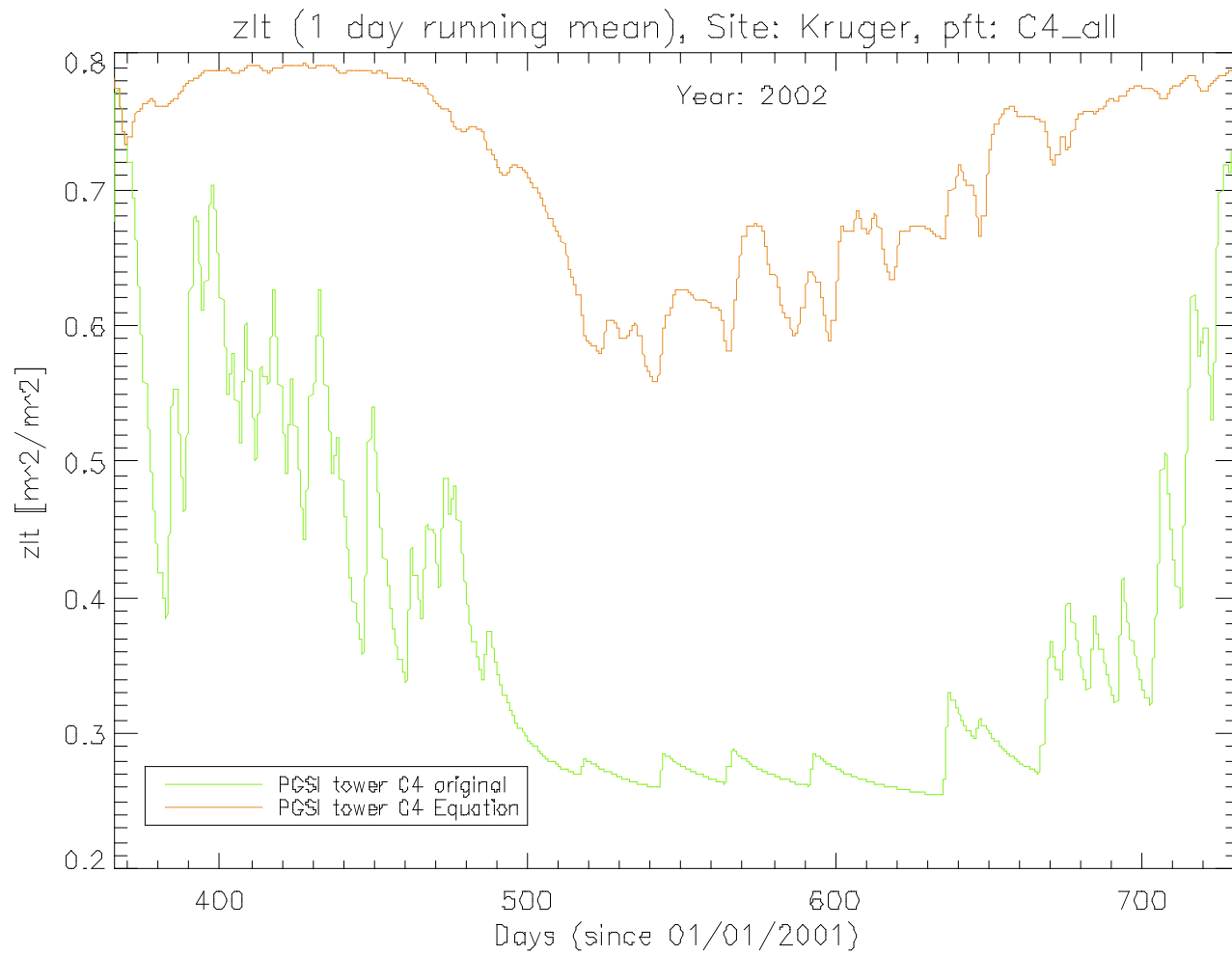
### Neer flux



## Results



## Leaf area index (LAI)

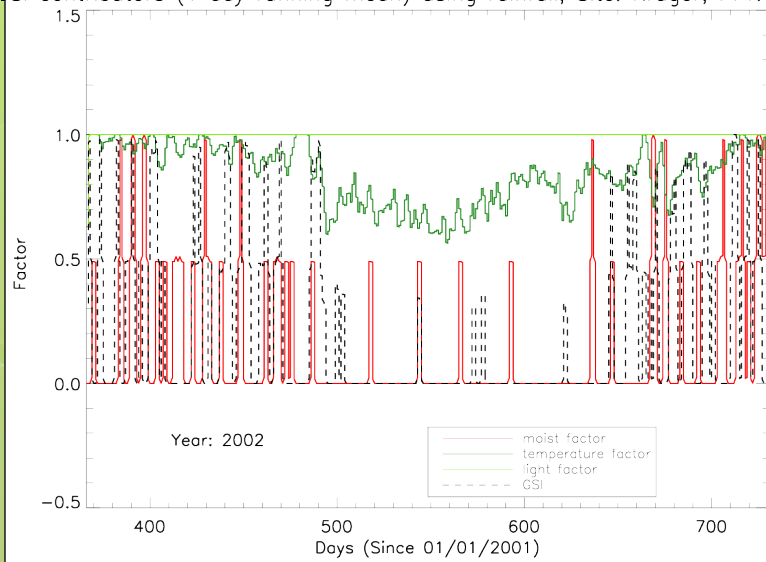


## Results

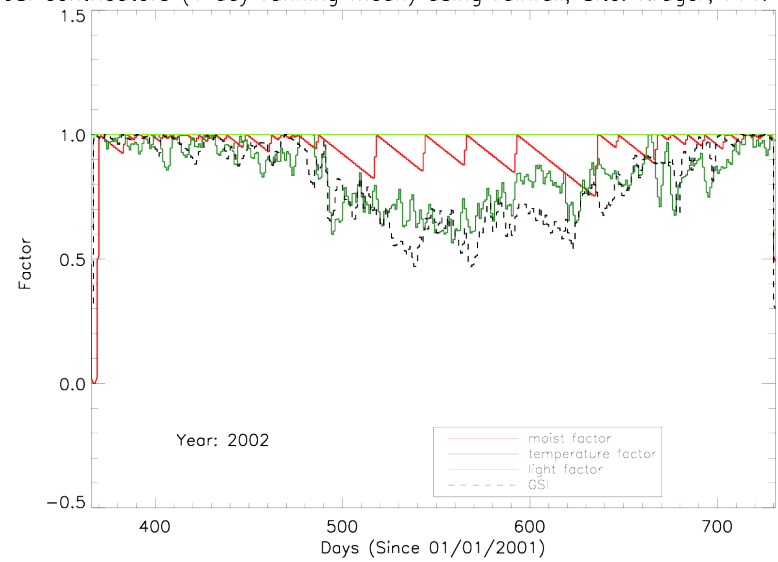


# Results

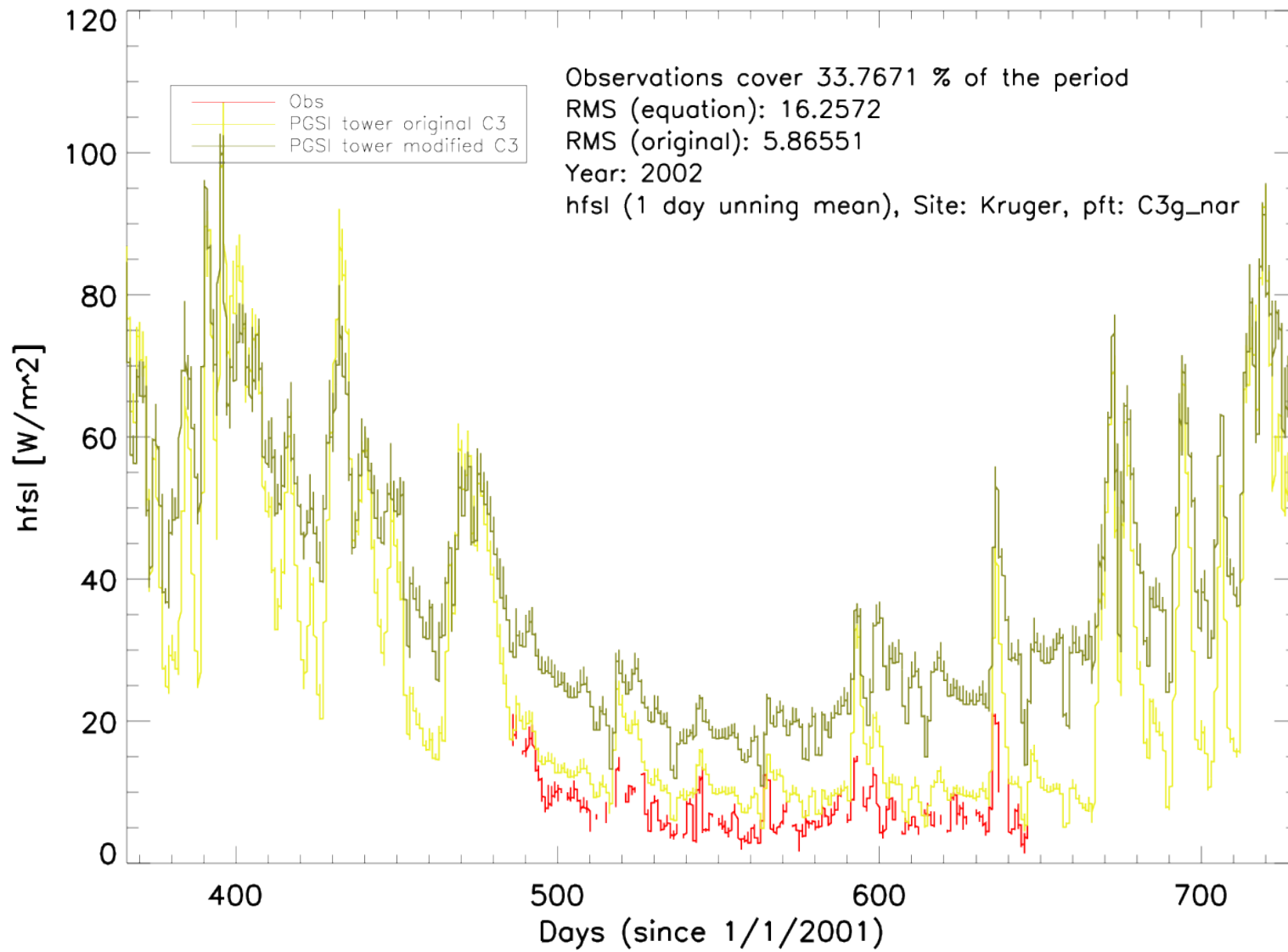
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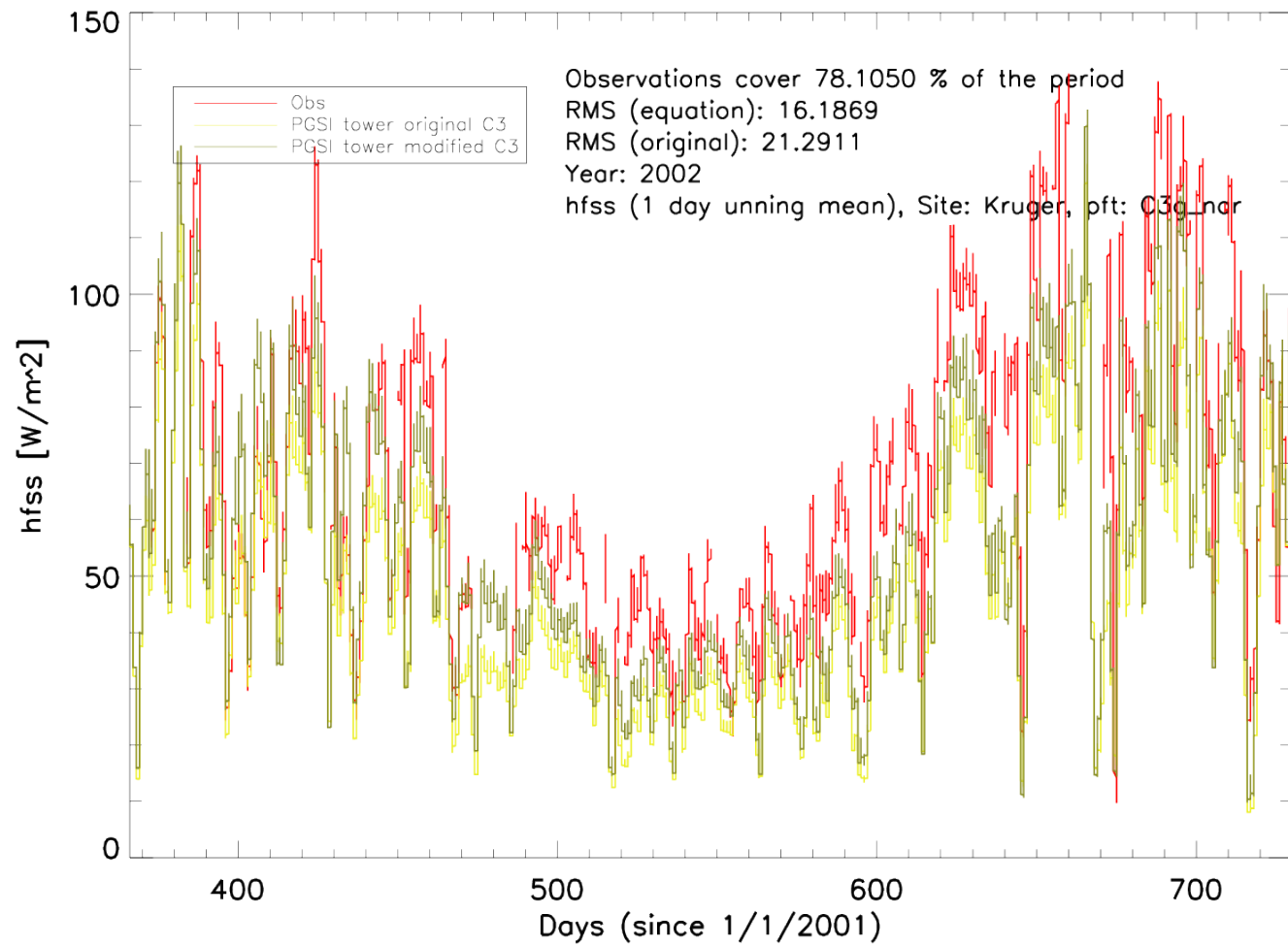


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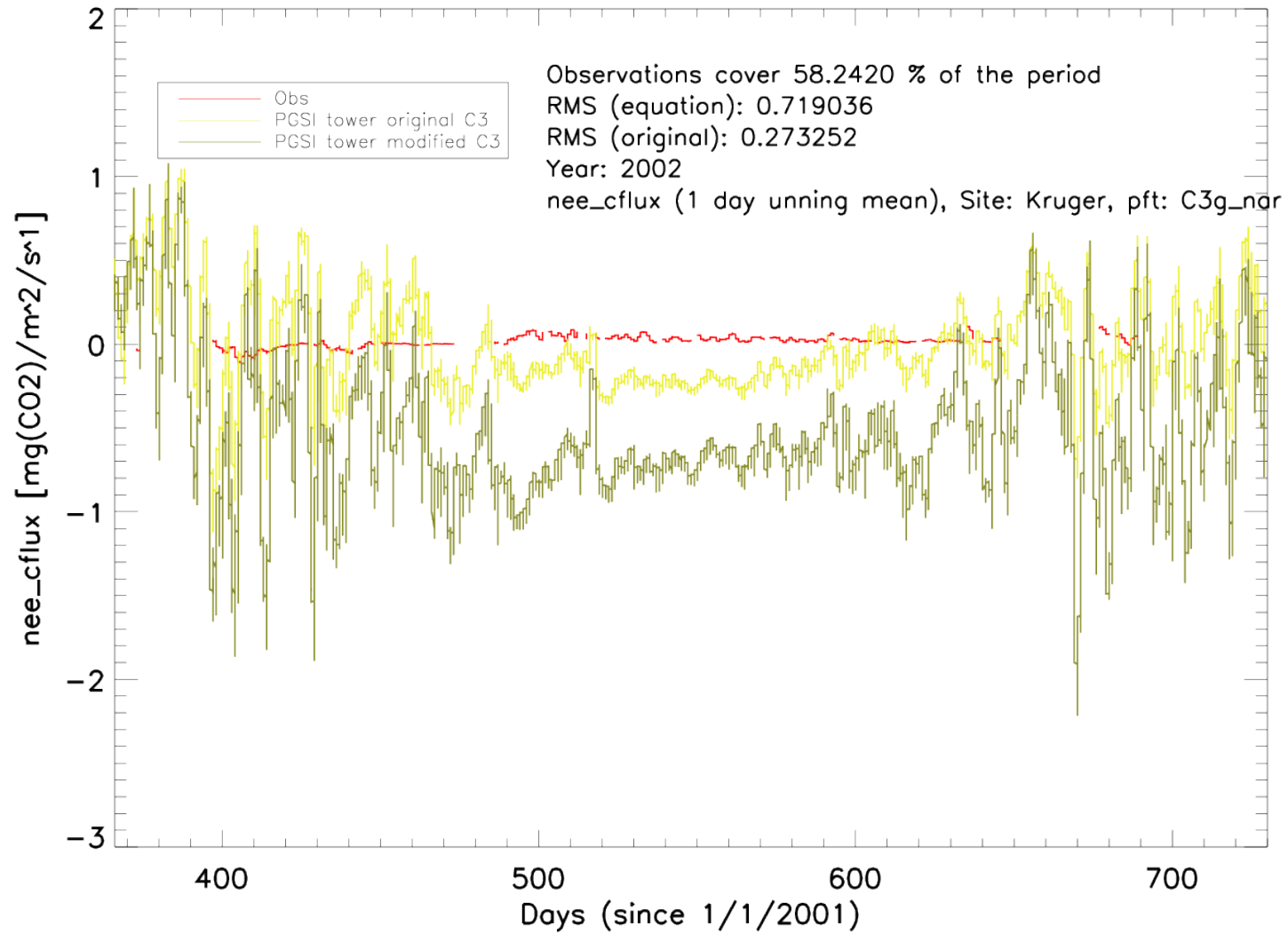




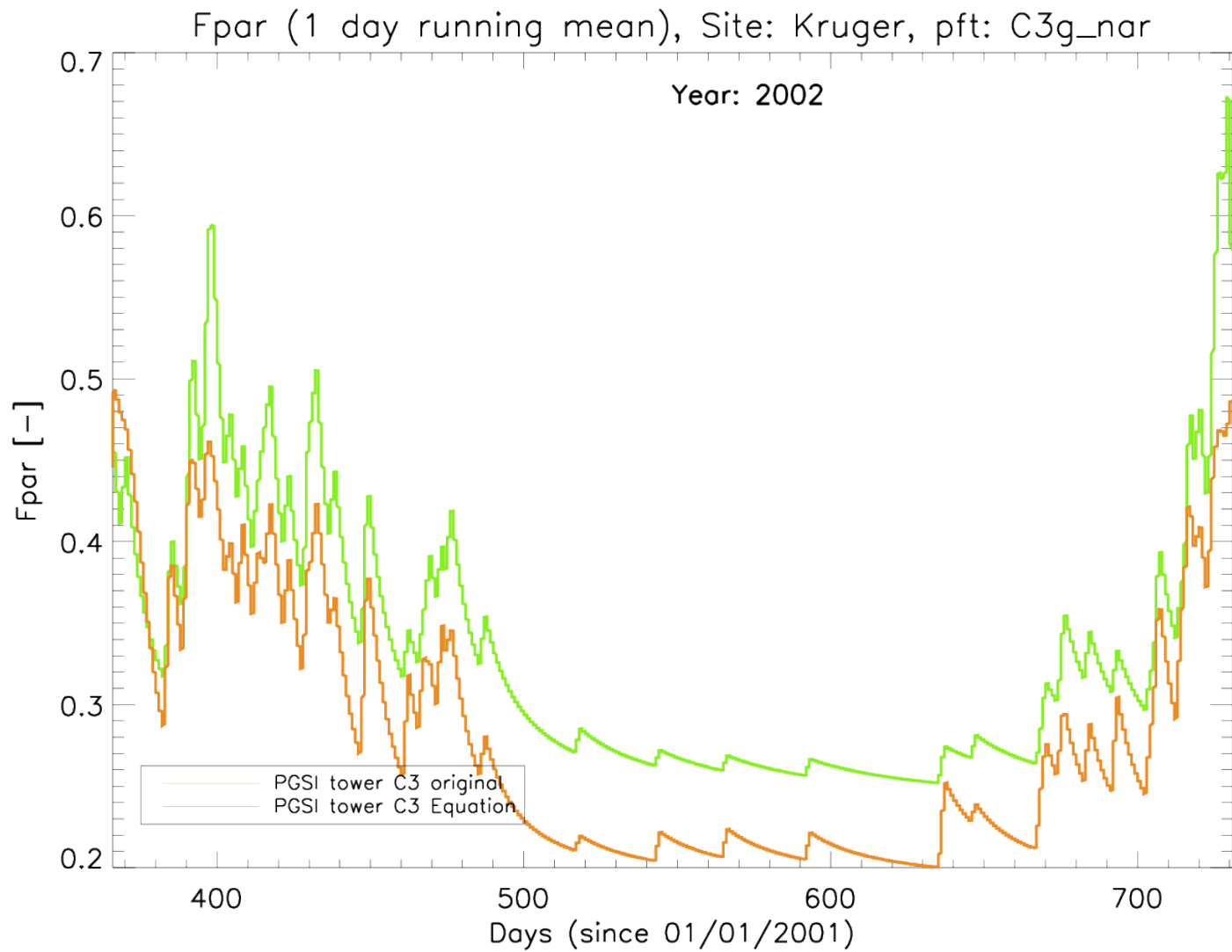
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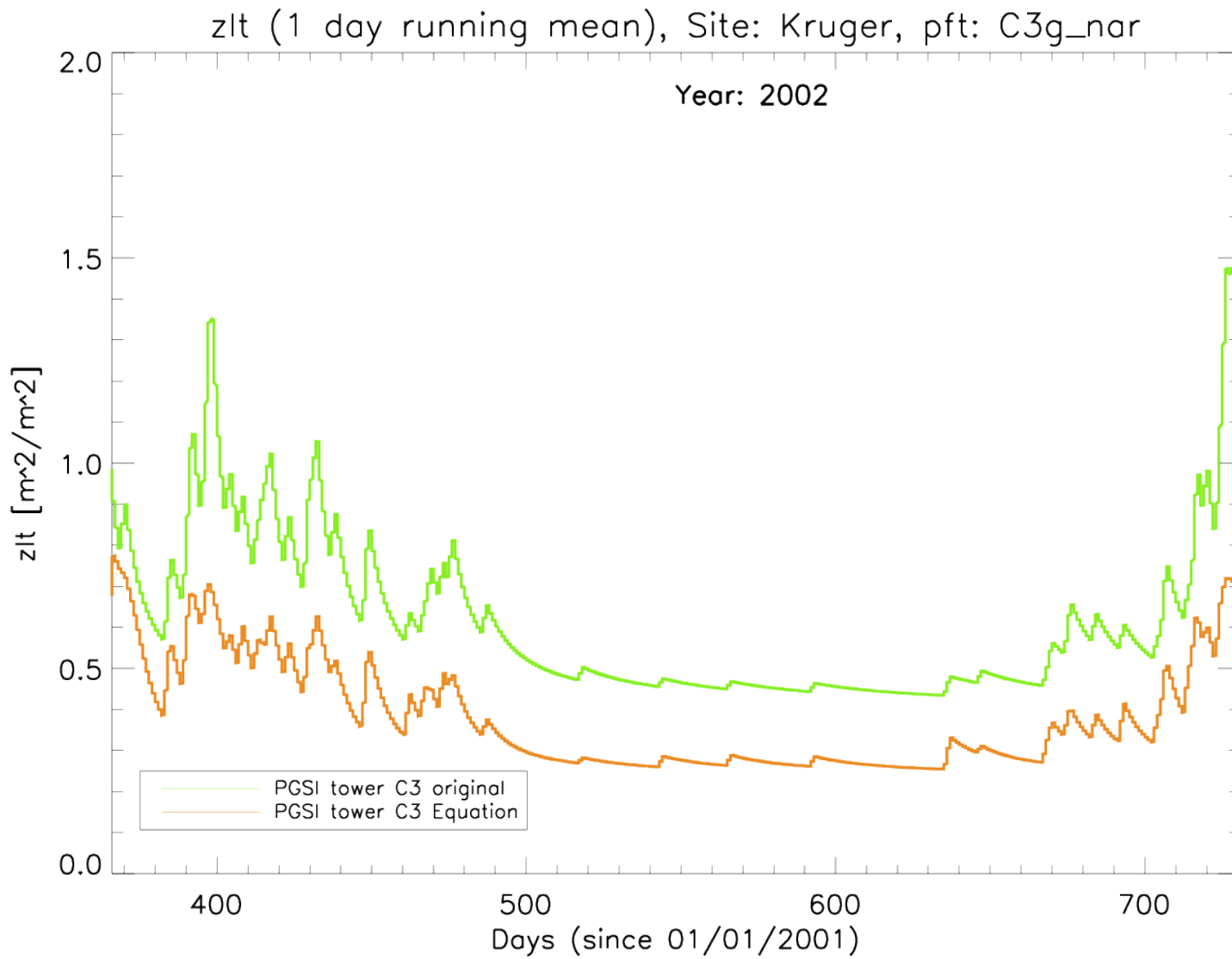
## Results



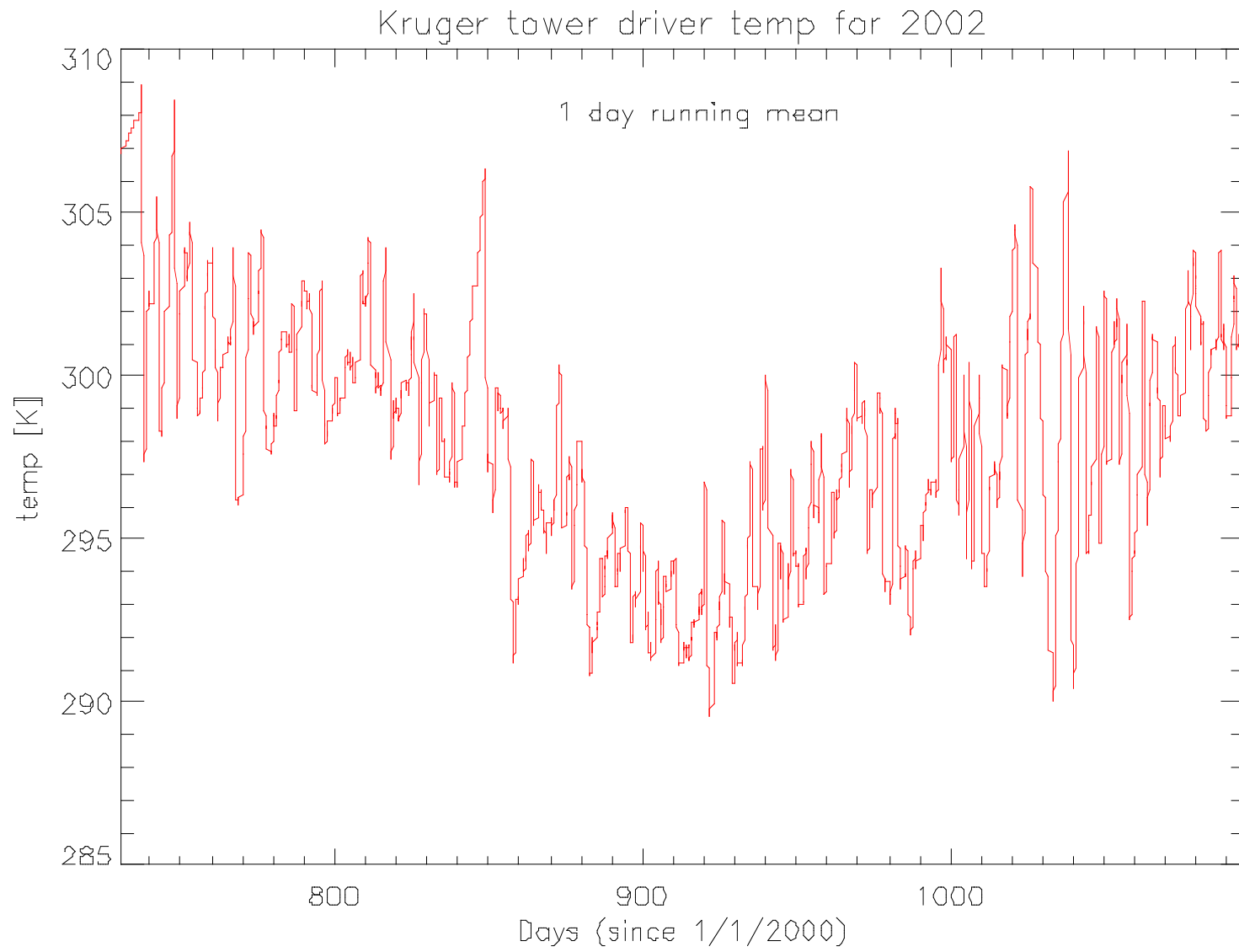
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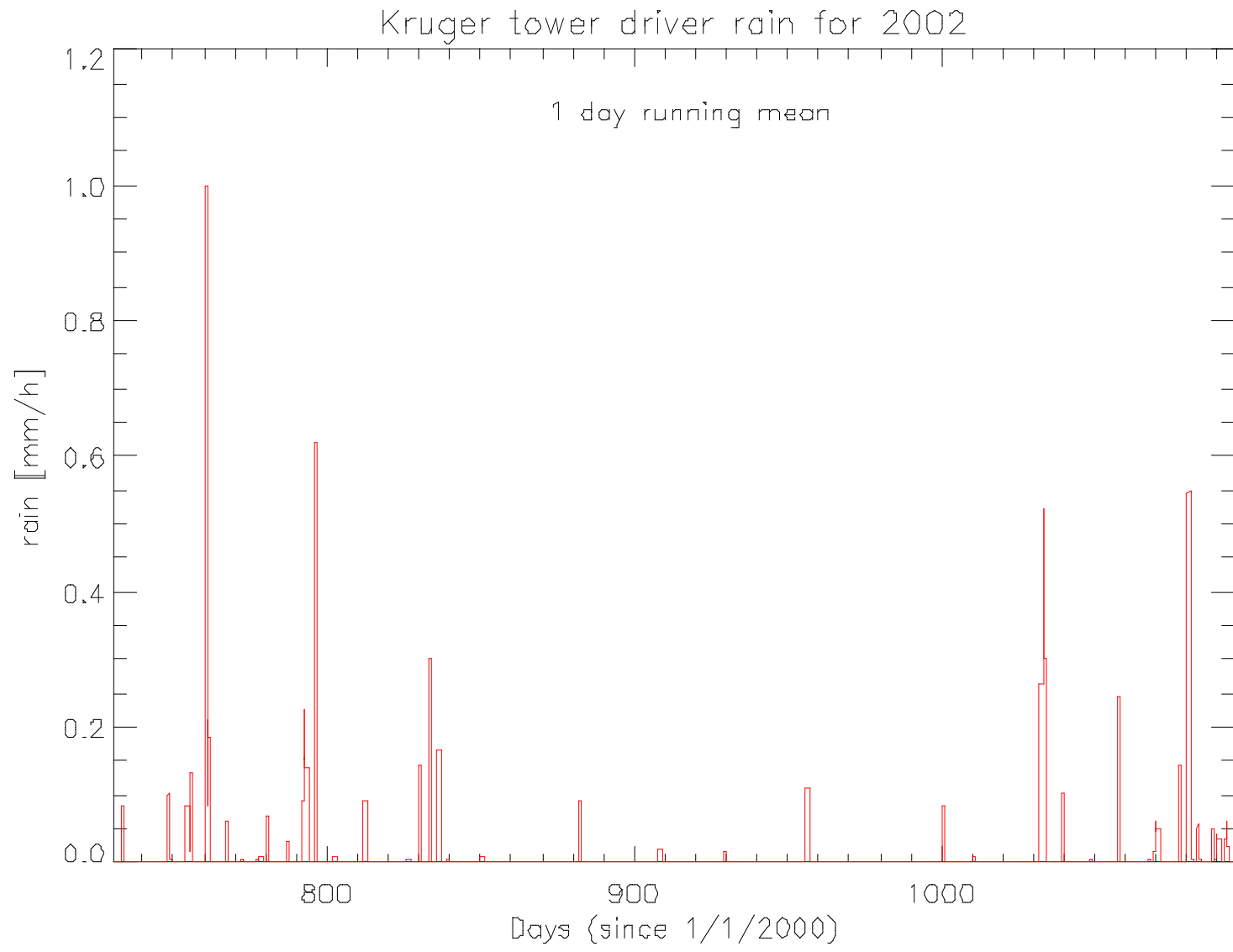
## Results



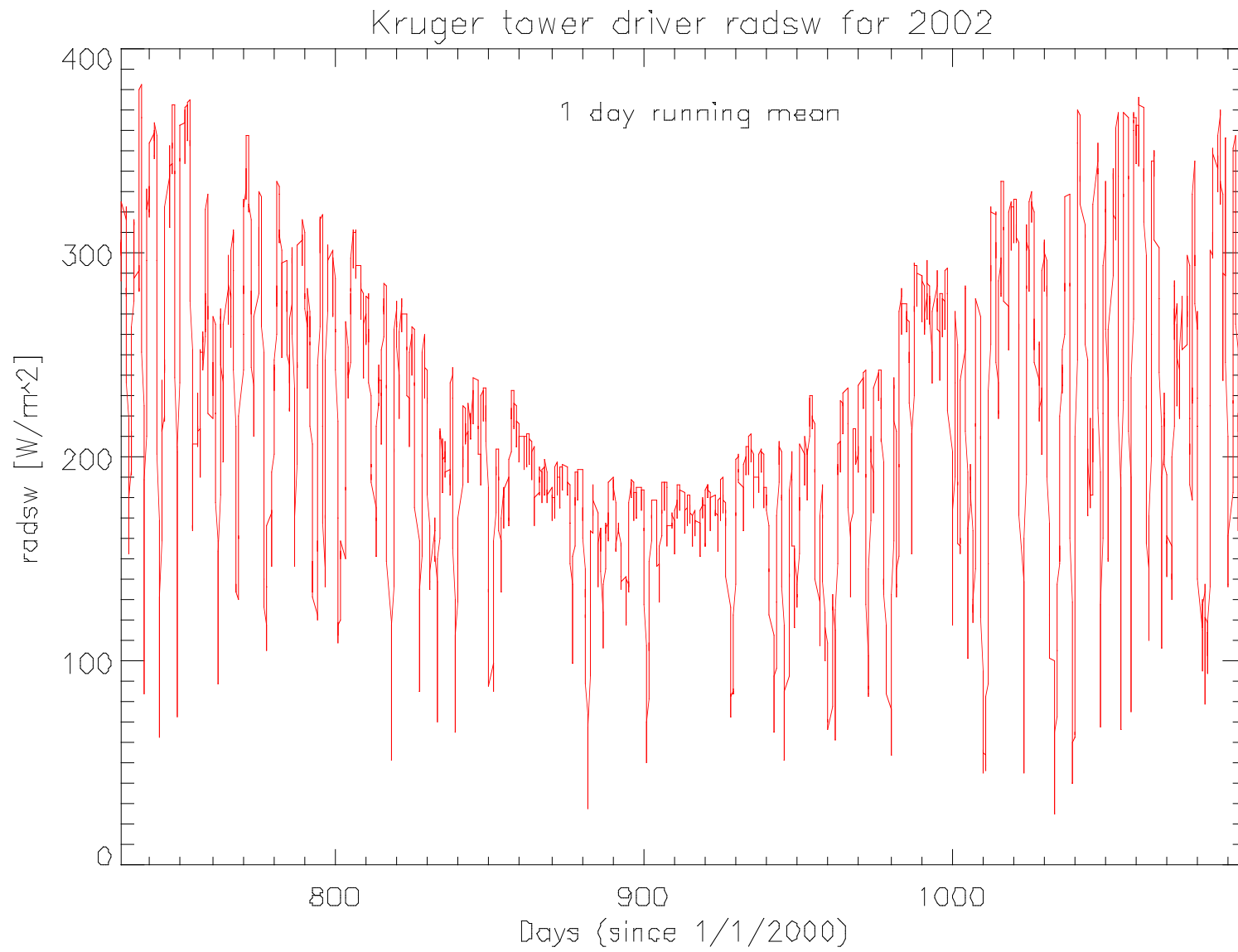
## Drivers



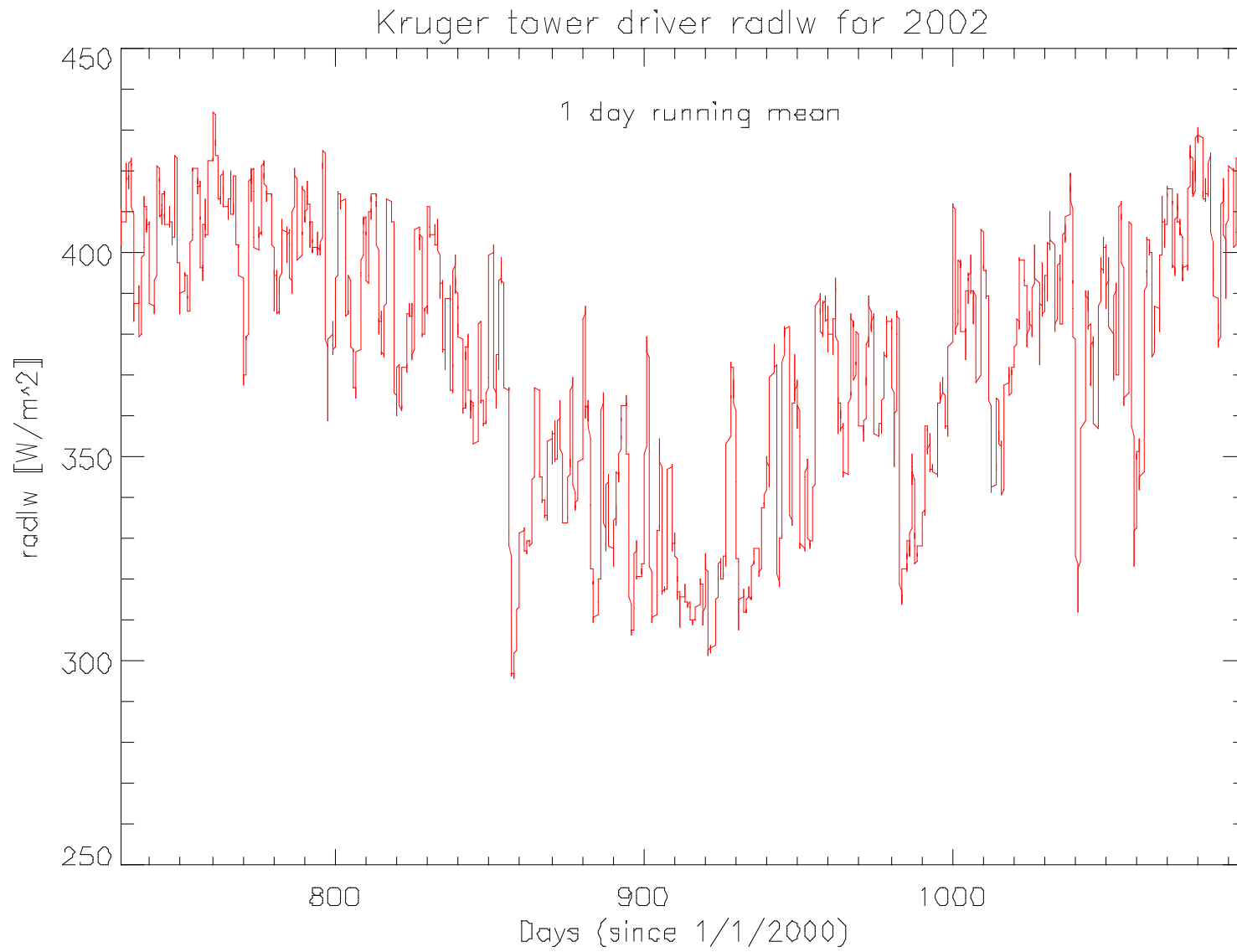
## Drivers



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## GSI equation:

$$\text{GSI} = f(\overline{T_m}) \cdot f(\overline{R_g}) \cdot f(\overline{vpd})$$

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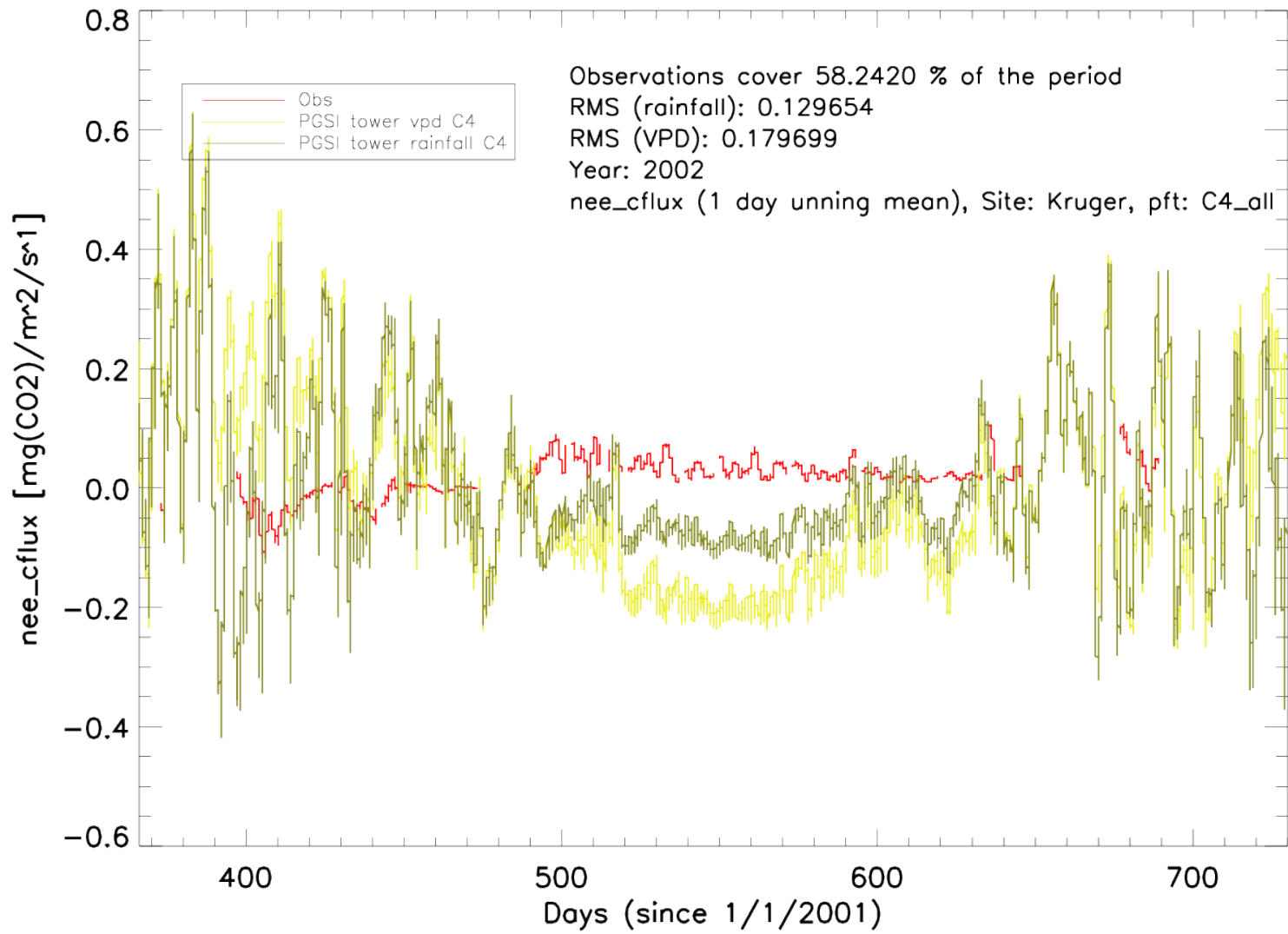
$$\text{Moist factor: } f(\overline{vpd}) = 1 - \frac{\overline{vpd} - vpd_{min}}{vpd_{max} - vpd_{min}}$$

**$vpd_{max}$**  and  **$vpd_{min}$** : max and min empirical climate parameters ranges

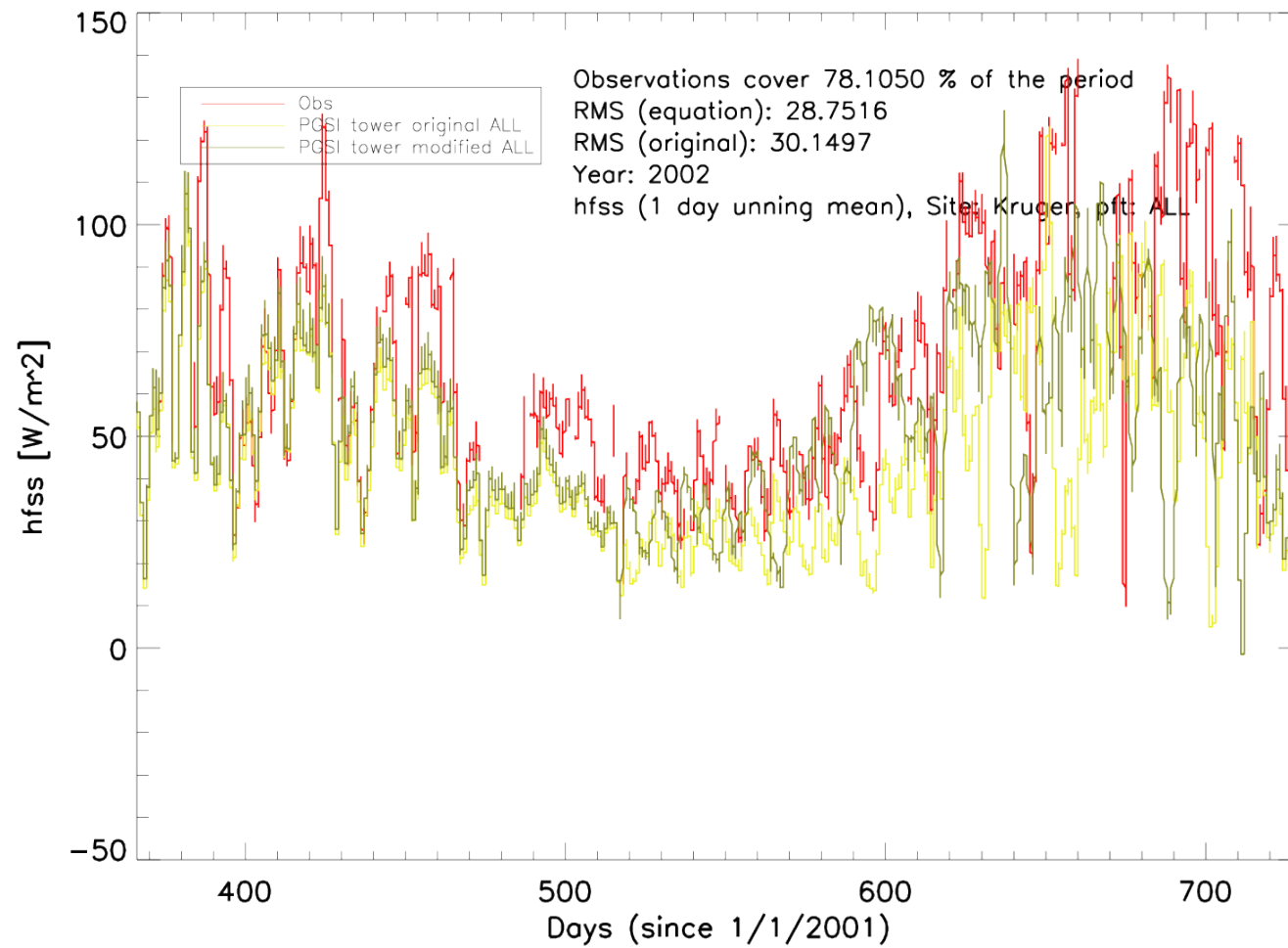
**$\overline{vpd}$** : multi-day running mean average

$$\overline{vpd}^{t+1} = \xi(vpd)\overline{vpd}^t + (1 - \xi(vpd))vpd^{t+1} ; \quad \xi(vpd) = e^{-1/t_{ave}(vpd)}$$

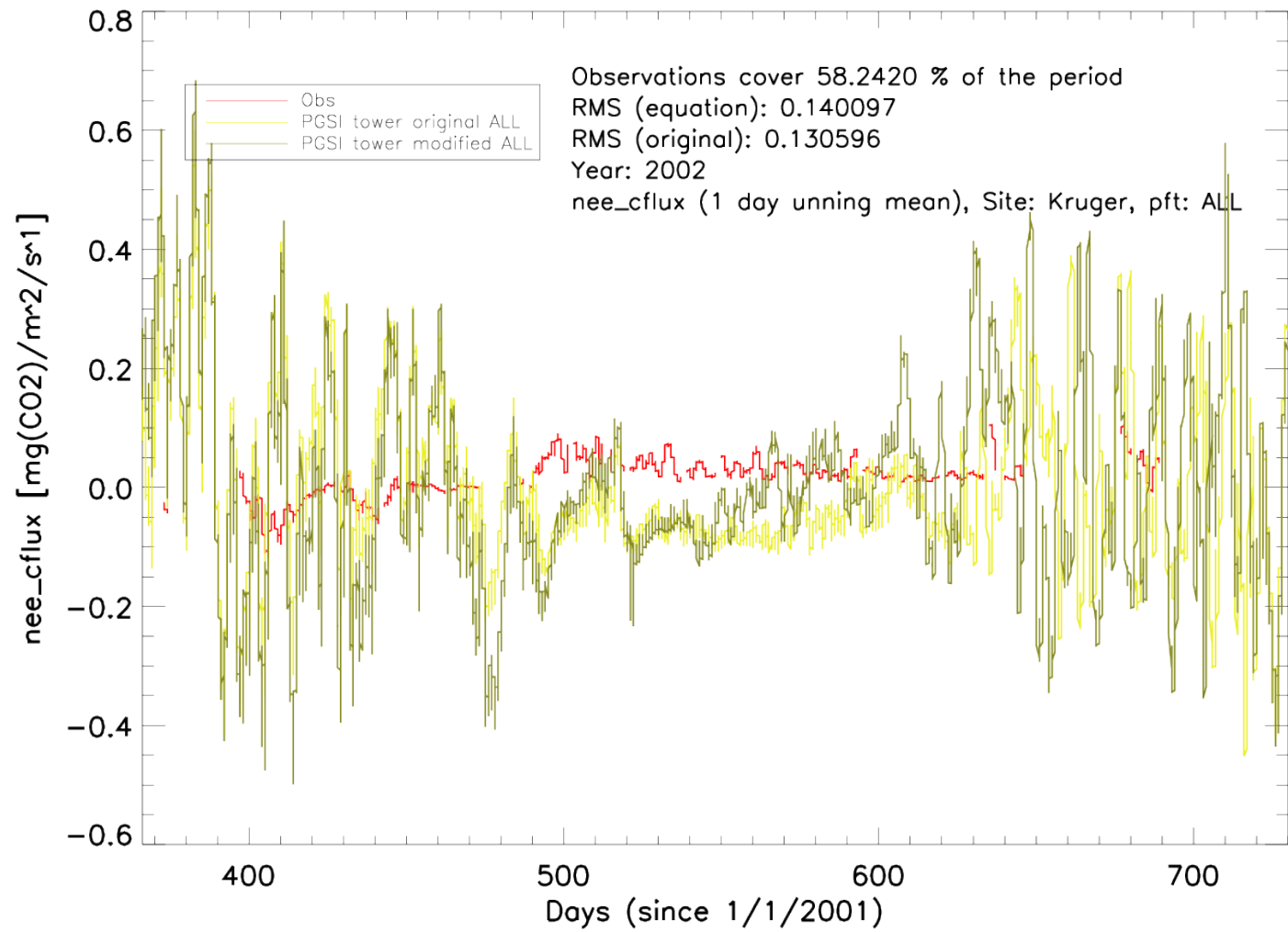
## Results



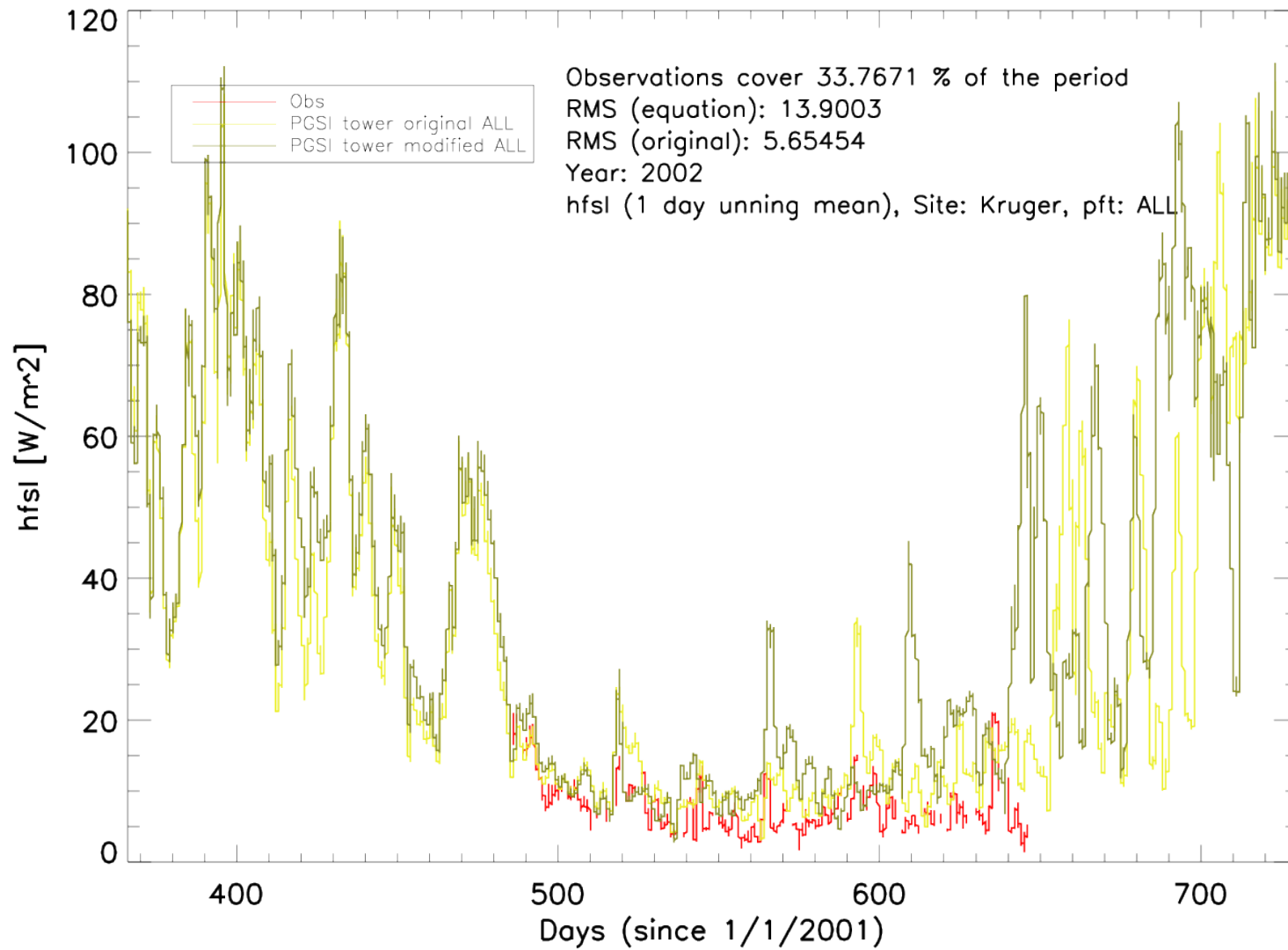
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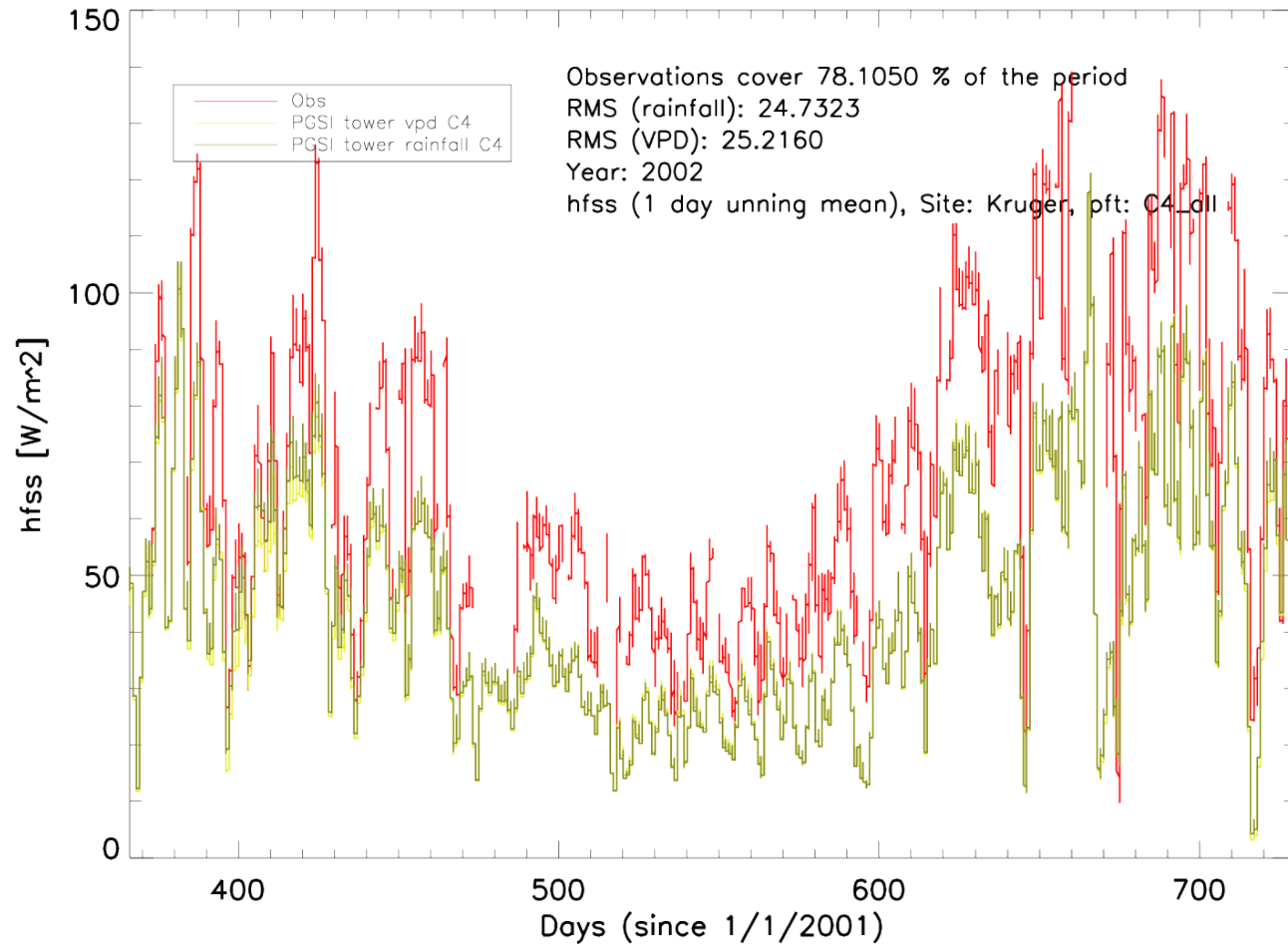
## Results



## Results



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## Results

