

# Checking the new IEC 61853.1-4 with high quality 3<sup>rd</sup> party data to benchmark its practical relevance in energy yield prediction



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# Checking IEC 61853 equations and methods vs. GI's OTF measured data and modelling

for standards tests, designers, modellers and measurements

## *IEC 61853- Photovoltaic module performance testing and energy rating*

- 1 Ed 1.0 2011 : Irradiance and temperature performance matrix
- 2 Ed 1.0 2016 : Spectral responsivity, incidence angle
- 3 Ed 1.0 2018 : Energy rating
- 4 Ed 1.0 2018 : Climatic profiles

## Gantner Instruments' Outdoor Test Facility (OTF)

- High quality Meteorological and Electrical PV measurements
- Works with all module technologies and climates
- Good fitting and modelling with GI/SRCL's Loss factors model (2011) and Mechanistic performance model (2017) (LFM/MPM)

# Comparing IEC 61853 vs. GI's OTF testing

	IEC 61853 energy rating <i>"Indoor and/or steady"</i>	OTF e.g. GI energy yield <i>"Real weather data"</i>
	Characterise modules → <i>Estimate expected energy rating at given climate by module type and technology</i>	Measure Energy yield → <i>Derive module characteristics to optimise and validate performance at test site</i>
# Samples	1-3 Specific modules for testing	Actual modules measured (may only be flash tested before use?)
Characterisation vs. input e.g. $G_i$ , $T_{mod}$ , AOI, SR ...	Independent e.g. $P$ vs $G_i(T_{mod}=25)$ then $P$ vs $T_{mod}(G_i=1)$ etc.	Correlated weather params e.g. High insolation ~ Hot, Low AOI, Blue rich ...
Steady/transient conditions?	Steady state (thermal equilibrium)	Includes transient weather (but can wait for steady)
Direct or Global irradiance?	All or mostly Direct	Direct+Diffuse+Reflected
Module status	New, clean, uniform	Aged, Soiling? Shading? Snow?

# Gantner Instruments' OTF Tempe AZ measurements

For further information email: [otf@gantner-instruments.com](mailto:otf@gantner-instruments.com) or authors.

**Irradiance :** Plane of array  $G_i$  from pyranometers, cSi and KG3 reference cells  
Horizontal  $G_h$ ,  $D_h$ ; Beam normal  $B_n$ , spectral 350-1050nm ...

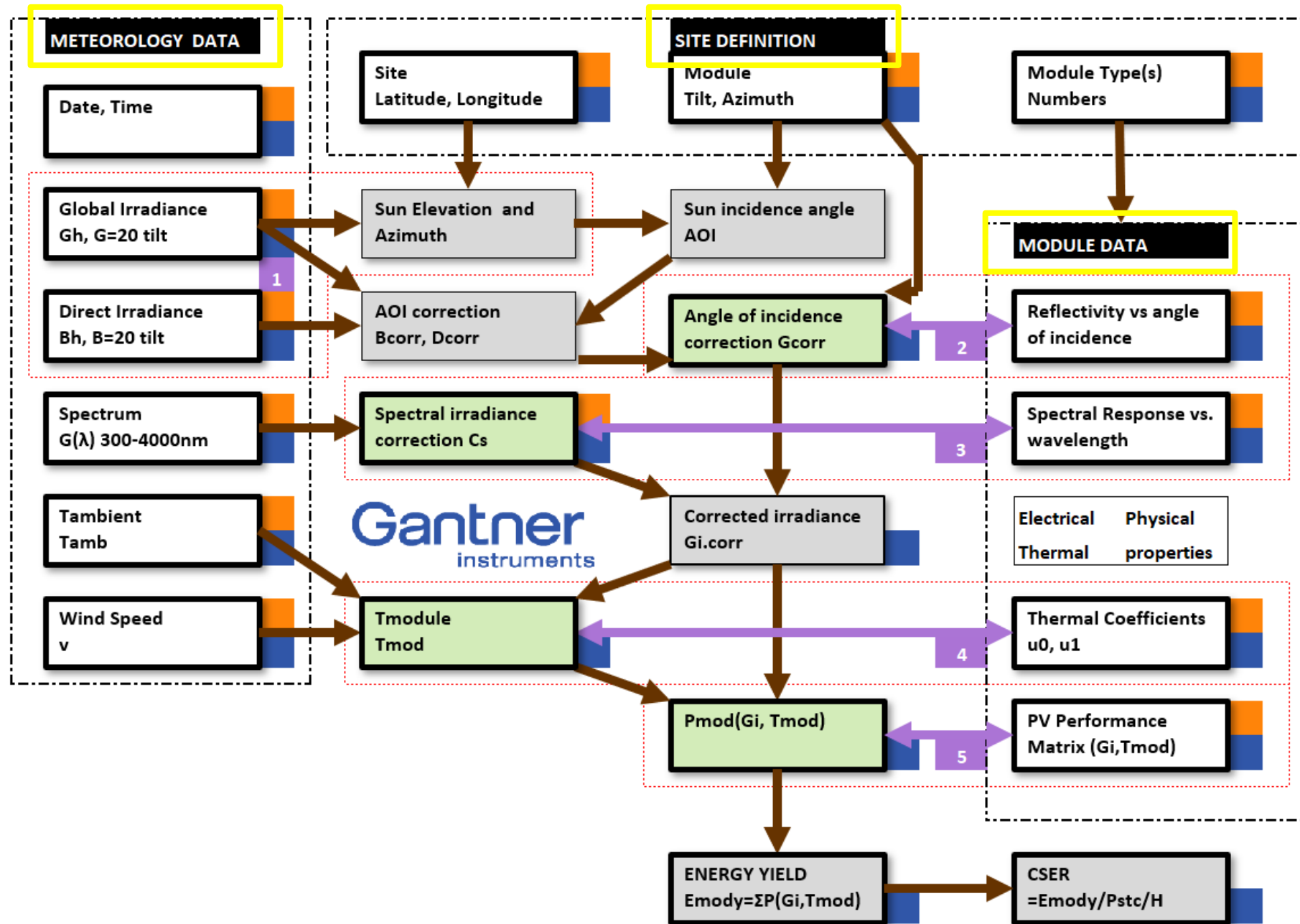
**Met data:** WindSpeed and direction, Relative Humidity,  $T_{ambient}$ ...

**PV :** Fixed and 2D track; IV curve every minute,  $T_{module}$   
Derive parameters using Loss Factors and Mechanistic Performance Models

**Continuous measurements in Arizona since 2010; Other sites available around the world**



# GI OTF



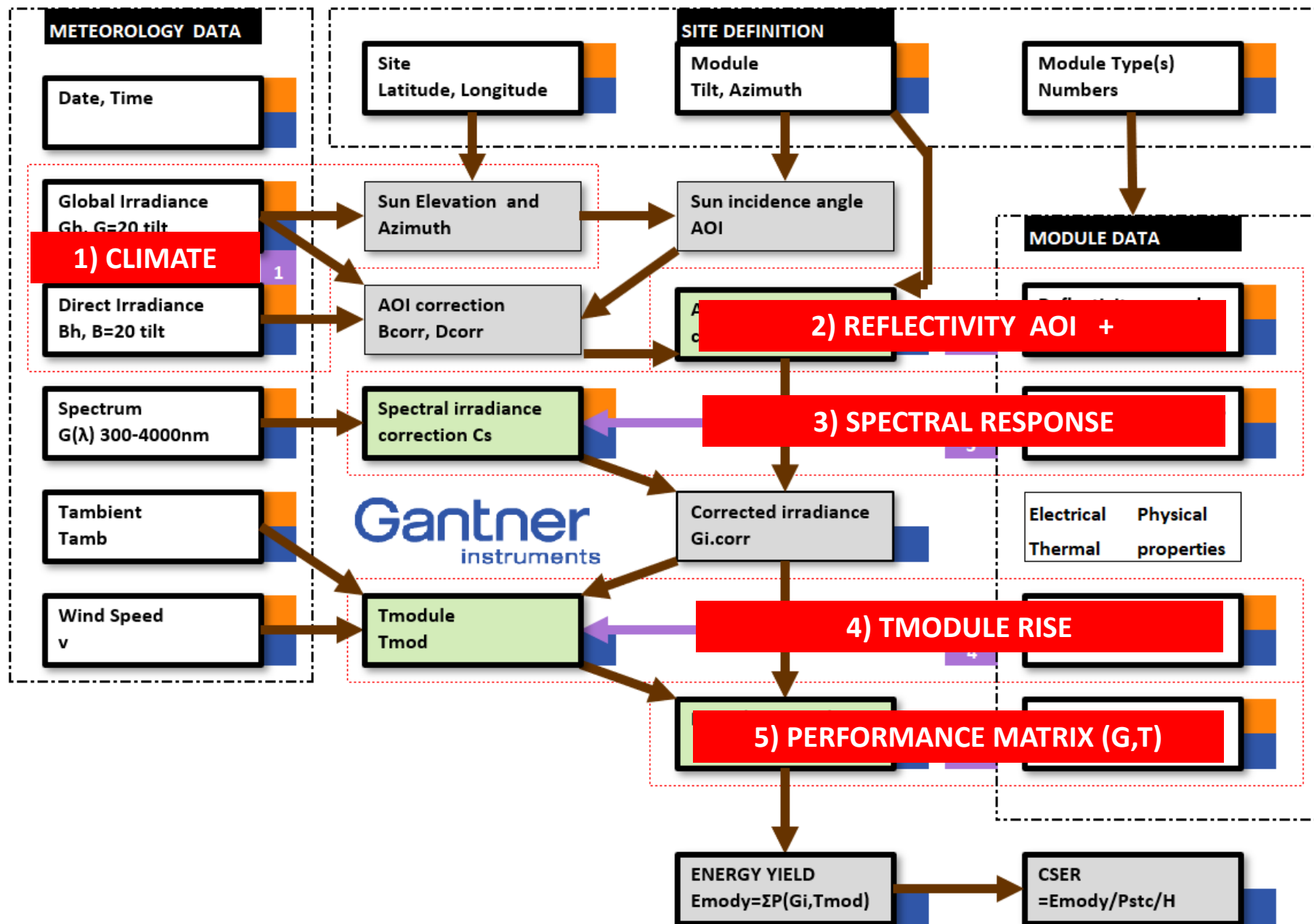


# Flow chart for DC Energy Yield and Energy Rating

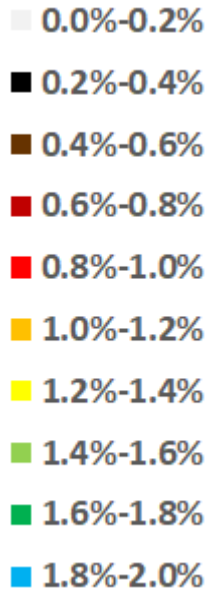
IEC  
61853

GI OTF

calcs  
that  
can be  
checked

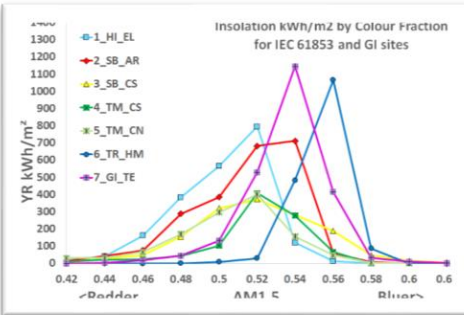
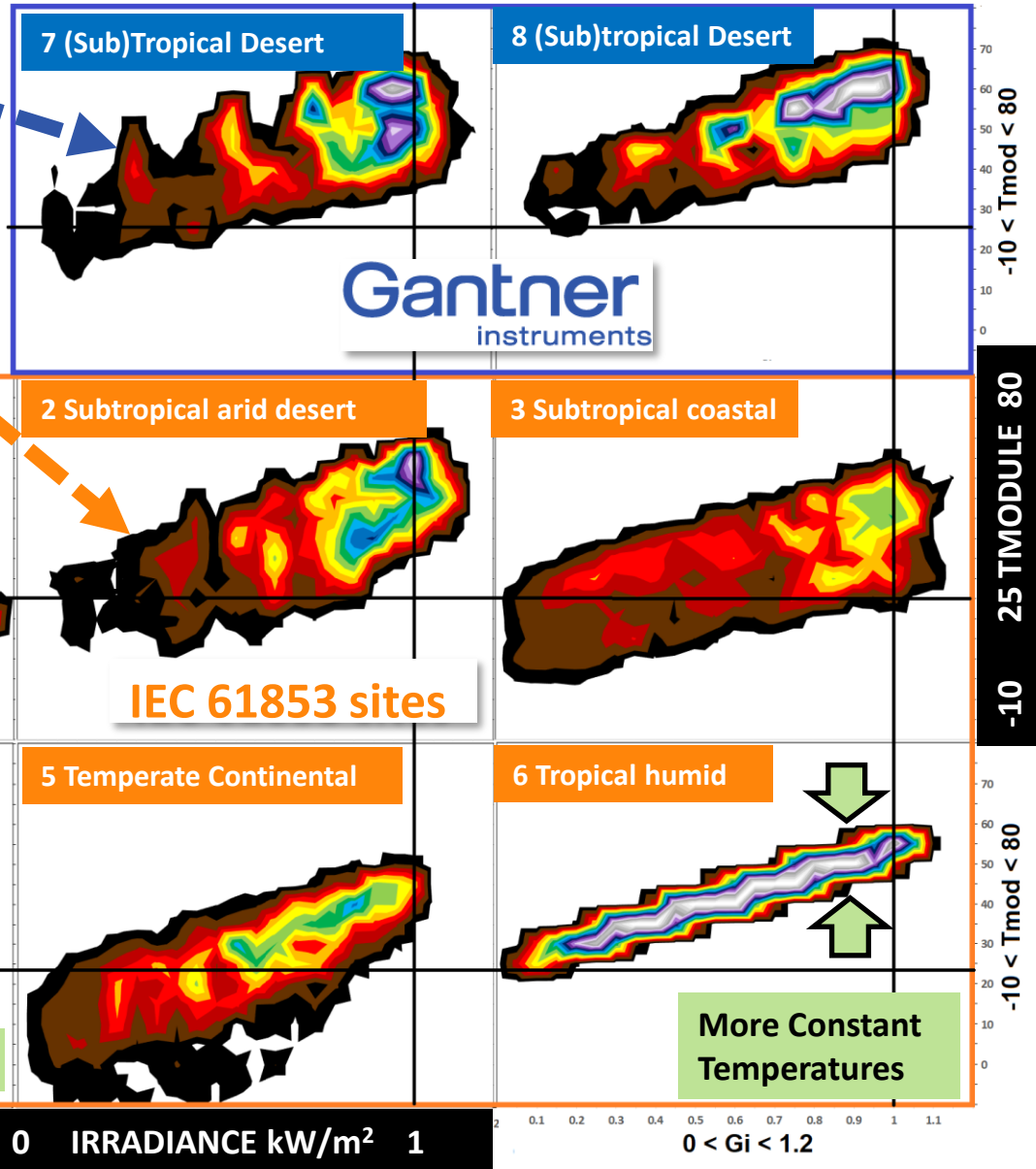


# CLIMATE: %Insolation (colour) vs. Irradiance, Tamb → Tmodule (calc)



For an equivalent site  
 GI OTF ~ 61853 data

How do some  
 climates differ  
 from the norm?

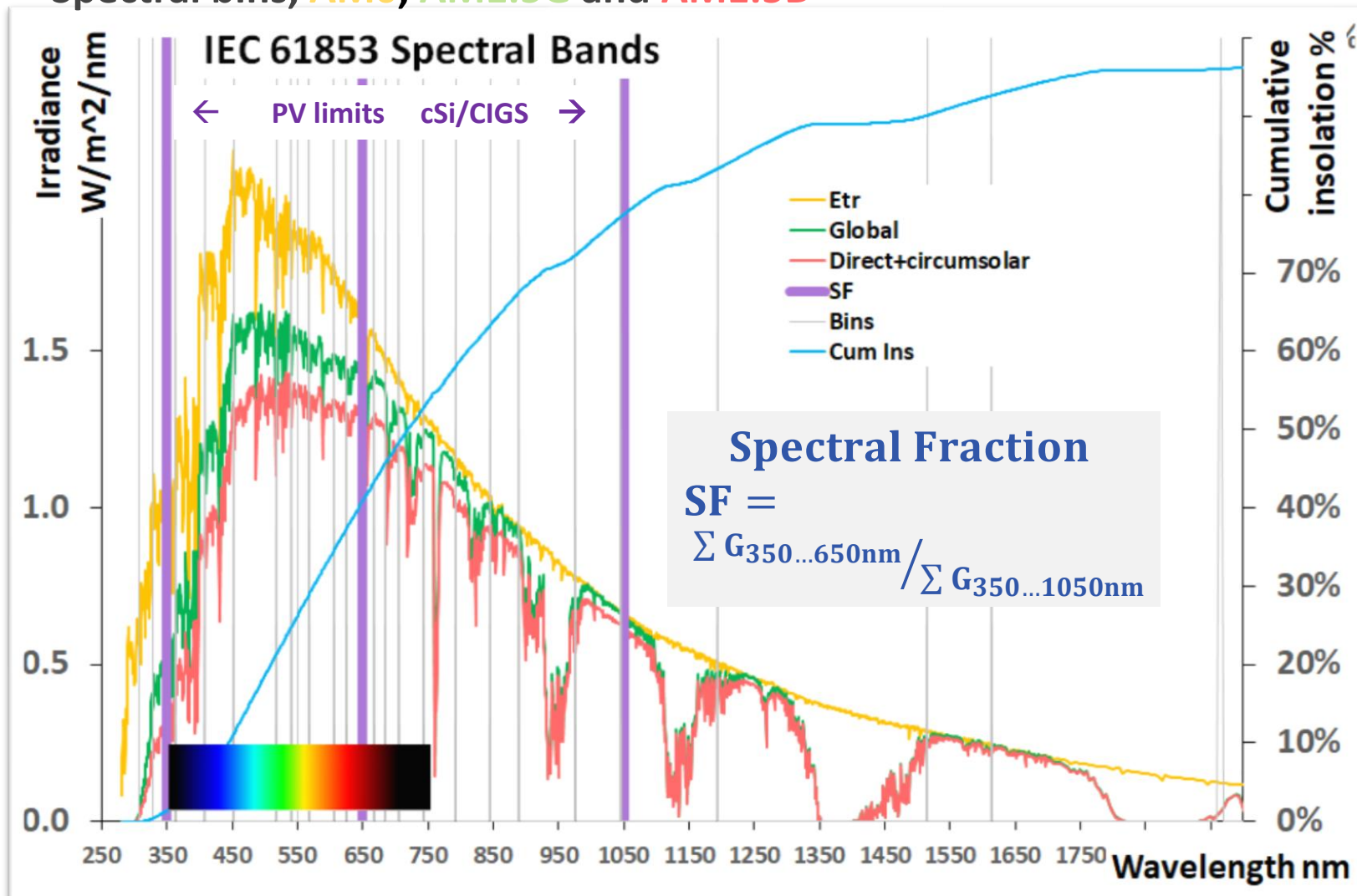


Fractional Insolation at spectral  
 distributions also compared,  
 not enough time to discuss

# SPECTRAL : ASTM G-173-03

61853 Satellite spectra 306-4660nm of varying bin widths. GI 350-1050nm but can extend on new OTFs

Spectral bins, AM0, AM1.5G and AM1.5D





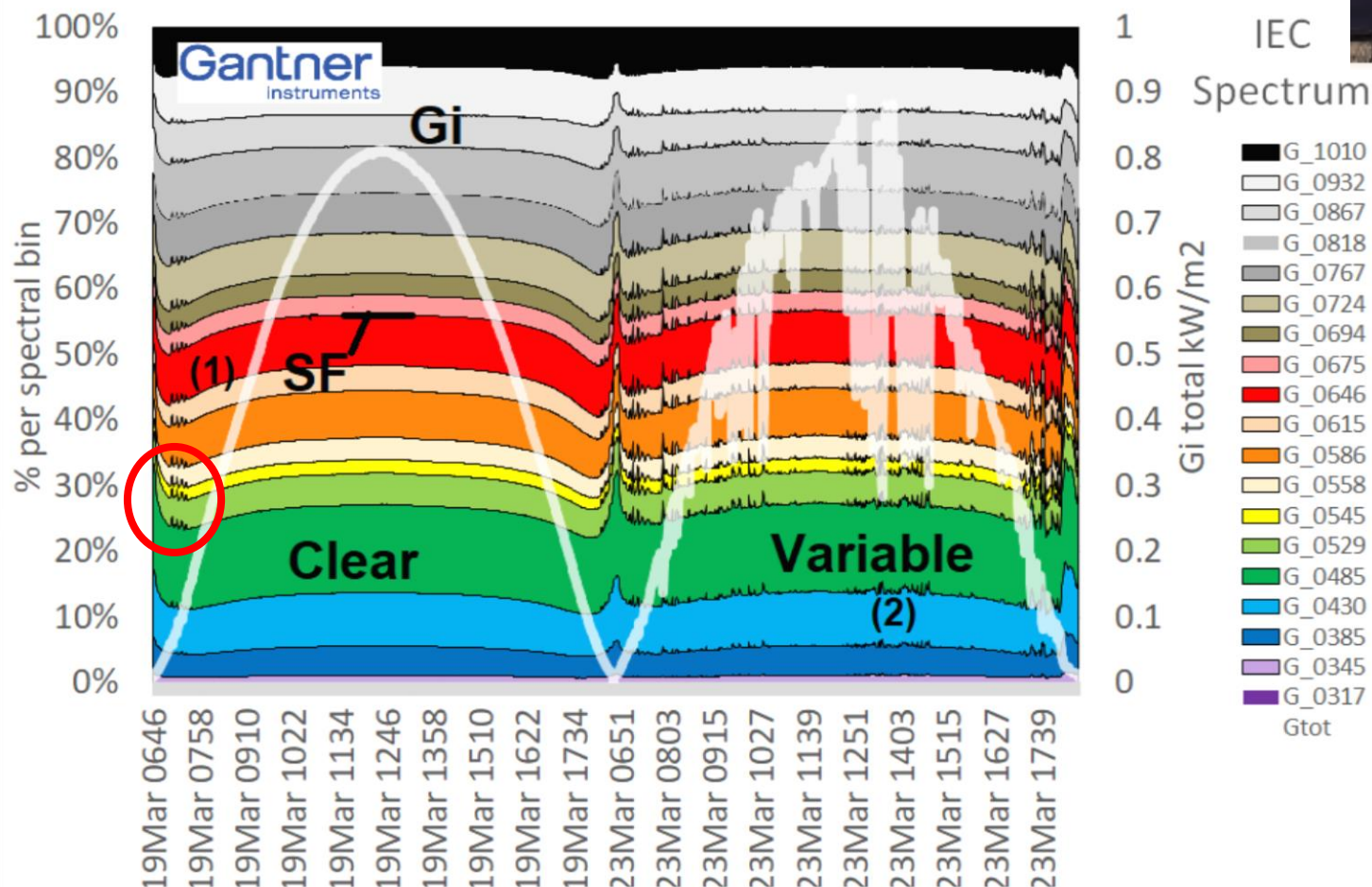
# SPECTRAL :

GI OTF 350-1050 every 3.3nm → 61853 bins

- Clear day and Variable days
- Most PV only sensitive ~350 to <=1050nm



Spots morning shading from transmission lines



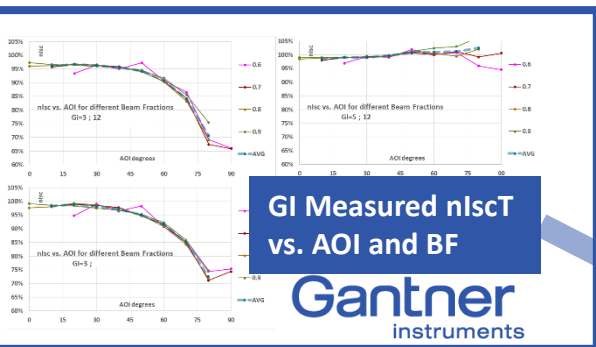
GI OTF measurements are accurate and can be used 350-1050nm

## REFLECTIVITY AOI and SPECTRAL :

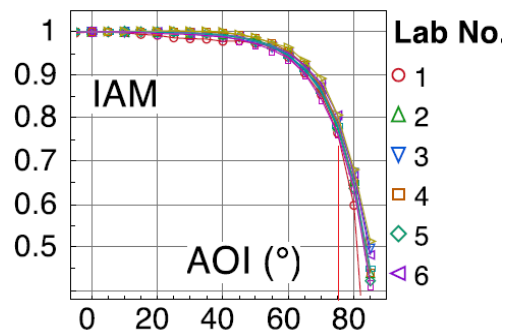
- **IEC 61853** irradiance correction methods rely on knowing the spectral response and the reflectivity/AOI of a test device before using this for energy rating calculations.
- Many test modules won't have had spectral response or reflectivity/AOI measurements
- Find AOI and spectral correction factors from standard **GI OTF** data 350-1050nm vs. pyranometer ~280-2800nm  
 $nI_{SC\_T}$  vs. AOI and Spectral fraction
- (Not yet analysed 1D or 2D tracker data – for a future paper)

# REFLECTIVITY vs. AOI (high beam fraction)

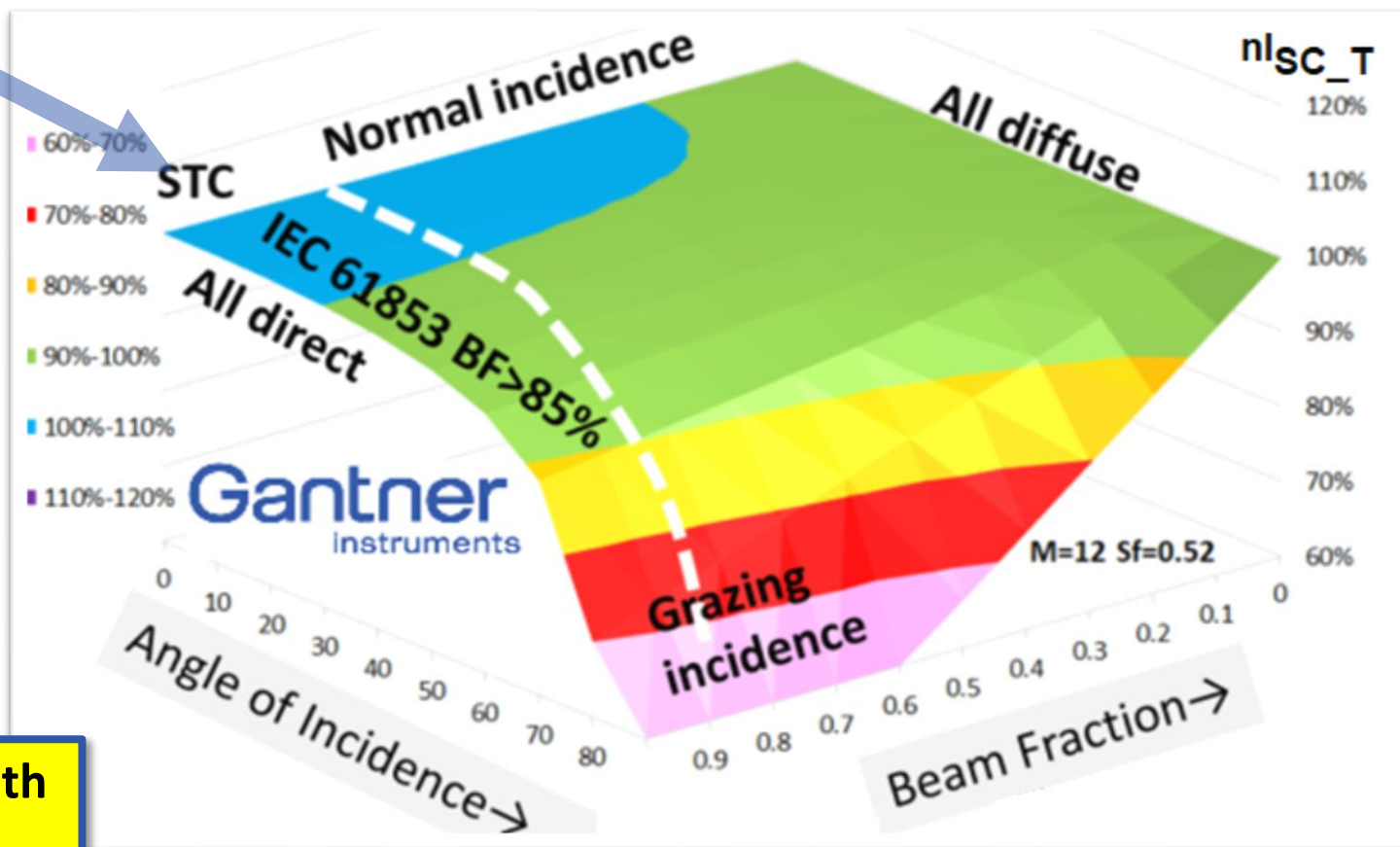
$$nI_{SC\_T} = \frac{\text{meas.}I_{SC}}{\text{ref.}I_{SC} \cdot G_I} \times (1 - \alpha_{ISC} \times (T_{MOD} - 25)) \quad (1)$$



Compare with  
Riedel et al 12<sup>th</sup> PVPMC 2019  
"Incident Angle Modifier  
(IAM) Round Robin Updates"



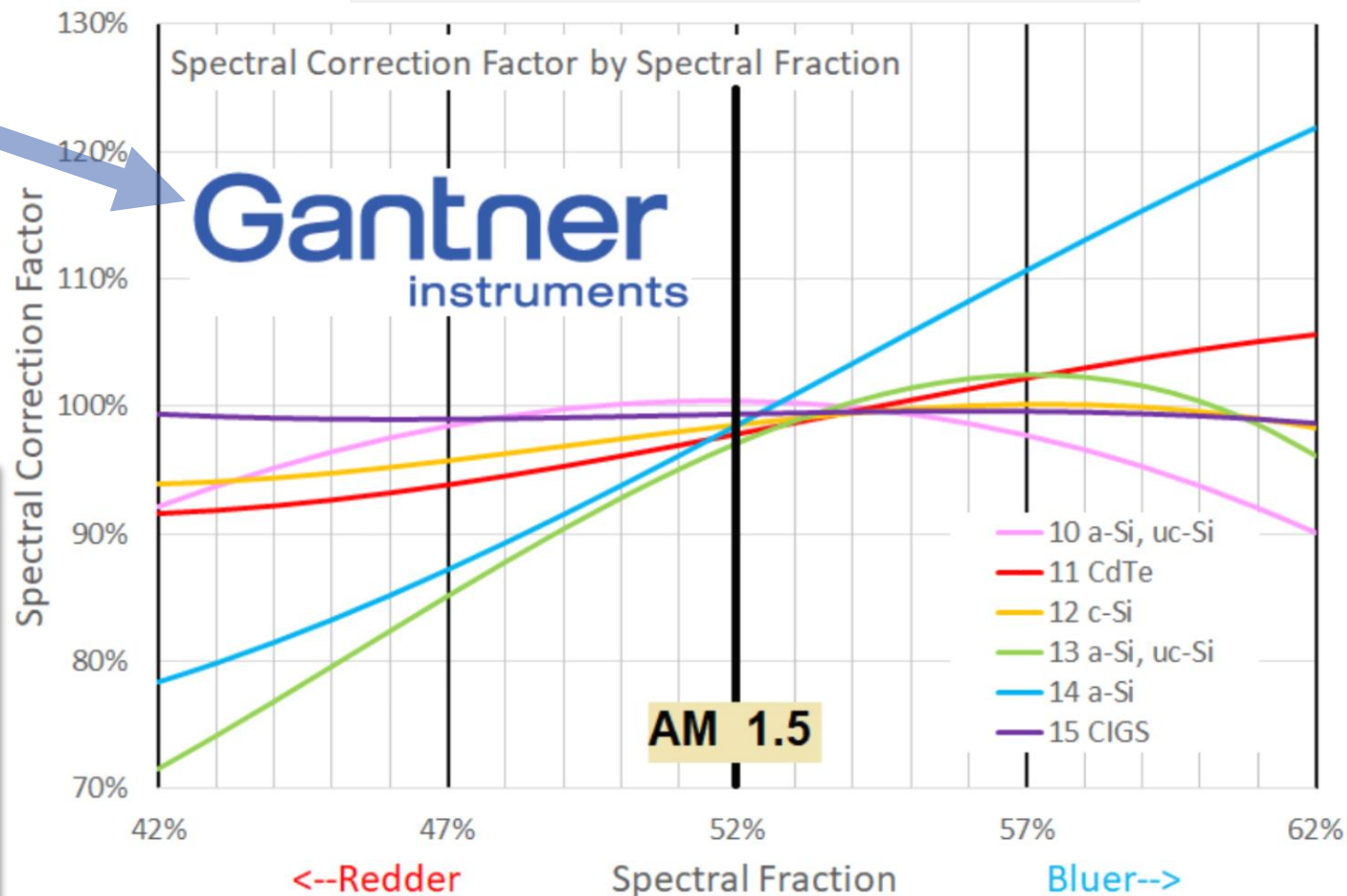
GI OTF agrees well with  
round robin



# Spectral correction factor SCF vs. Spectral fraction SF

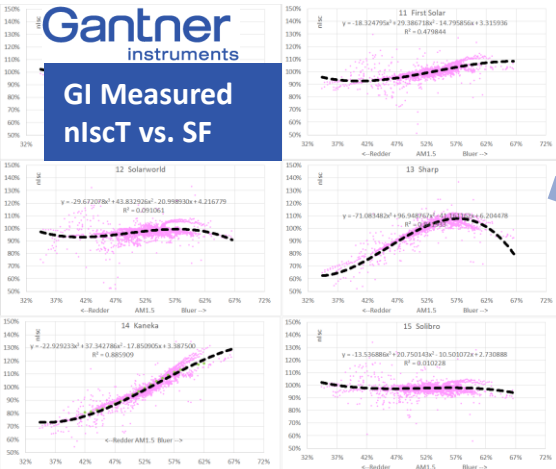
**Spectral Fraction**

$$SF = \frac{\sum G_{350...650nm}}{\sum G_{350...1050nm}}$$



**Gantner instruments**

**GI Measured  
nlscT vs. SF**



**simple fits SCF vs. SF**

**1 Junction = Linear fit**

**a-Si, CdTe, c-Si**

**2 Junction = Concave down**

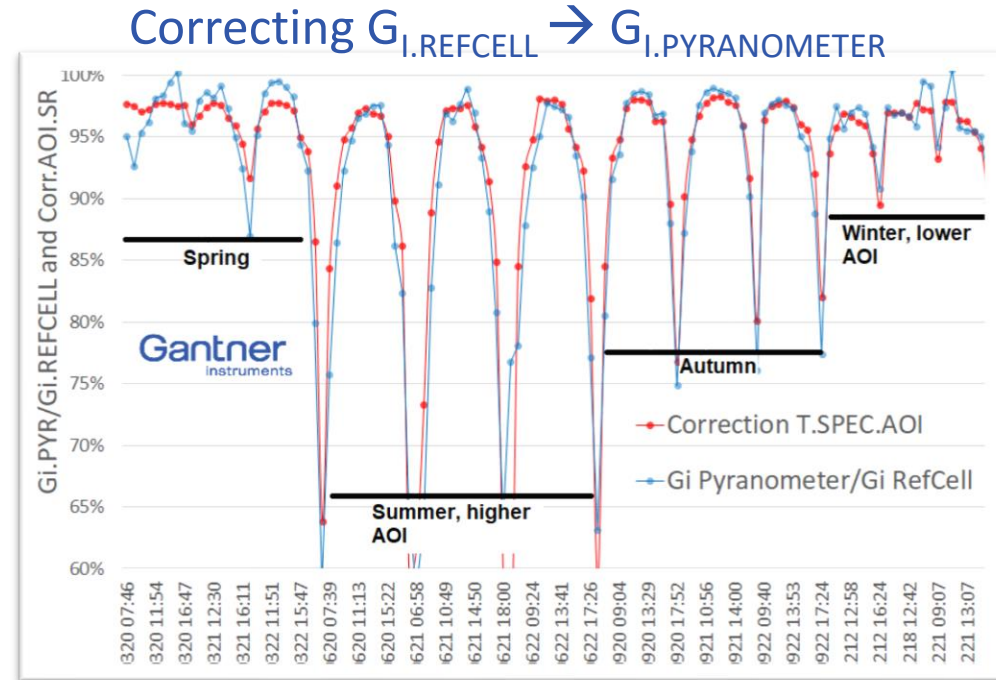
**a-Si:uc-Si a-Si:uc-Si**



# Spectral correction factor vs. SF and AOI/Beam fraction

for a 1 junction device (2+ Junction equation to come later)

- **SF** = Spectral fraction
- **BF** = Beam fraction
- **AOI** = Angle of incidence
- **cXXX** = Fitted Mechanistic coefficients



$Corr_{T.SPEC.AOI}$  and  $Gi.pyr/Gi.refcell$  vs. time

$$nI_{SC_{T,SPEC,AOI}} = nI_{SC_T} * (1 + cSF_M * (SF - cSF)) * ((1 - BF * cAOI * (1/\cos(AOI) - 1)) + cBF * BF)$$

$nI_{sc}$

Spectral

AOI (ASHRAE)  
or other ...



# MODULE TEMPERATURE RISE vs. Irradiance and Windspeed

## IEC 61853 formula

$$\bullet \quad T_{\text{RISE}} = T_{\text{MOD}} - T_{\text{AMB}} = \frac{G_{\text{CORR.AOI}}}{U_0 + U_1 \cdot W_S} \quad (2)$$

Coefficient	Example value from Gi meas	Unit
$U_0$	0.0322	C/(kW/m <sup>2</sup> )
$U_1$	0.0018	C/(kW/ms <sup>-1</sup> )

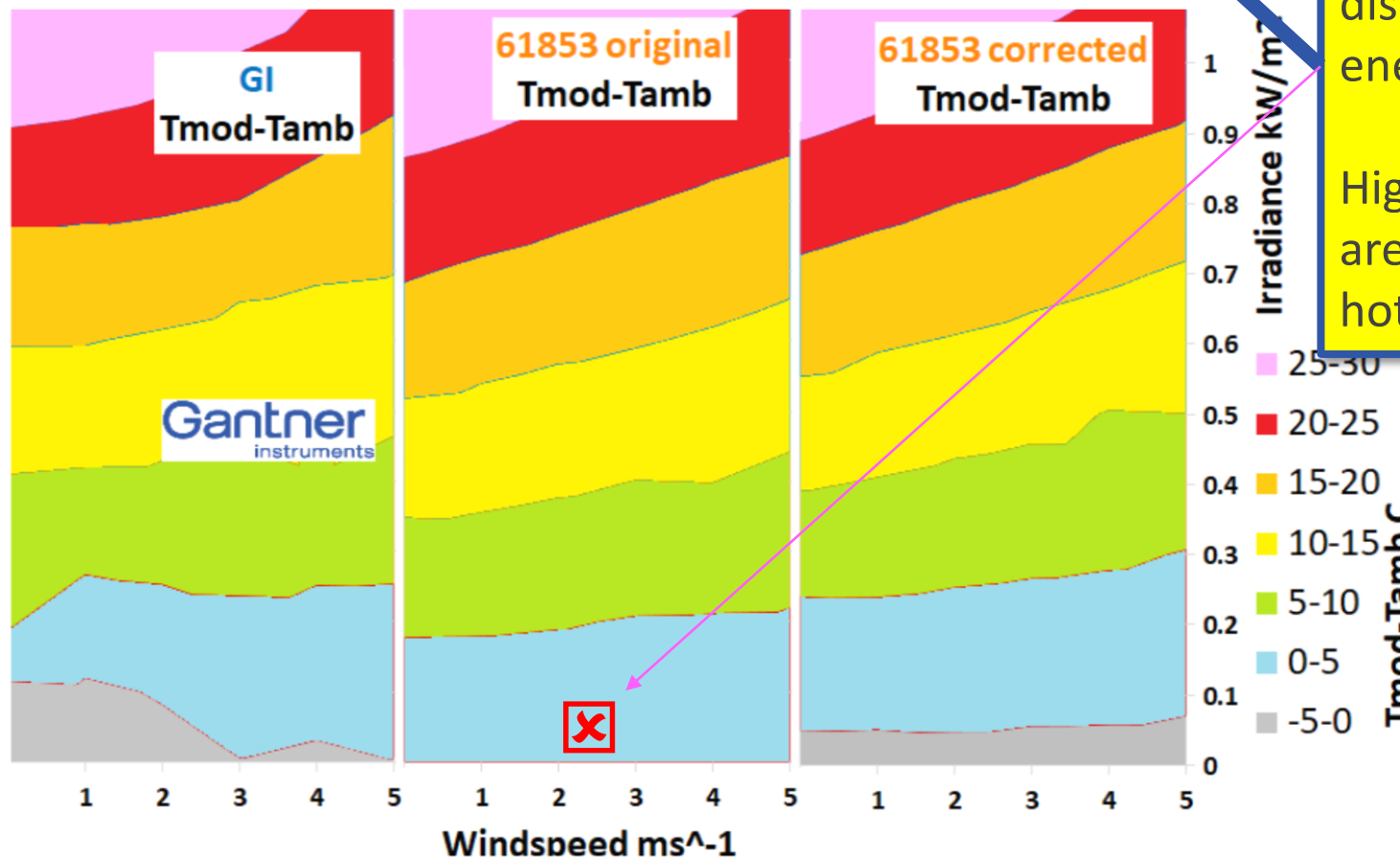
# MODULE TEMPERATURE RISE vs. Irradiance and Windspeed

Best fit to **GI** measurements in AZ (1 measurement/h for 4000 pts, 1 year)

$$T_{\text{RISE}} = T_{\text{MOD}} - T_{\text{AMB}} = \frac{G_{\text{CORR.AOI}}}{U_0 + U_1 \cdot W_S} + U_2$$

New temperature coefficient  $U_2 \sim -2.0\text{C}$  fixes low irradiance  $T_{\text{RISE}}$  discrepancy but won't alter energy yield much.

Higher efficiency modules are cooler, and glass-glass hotter



# Matrix Performance Measurements “Raw data”

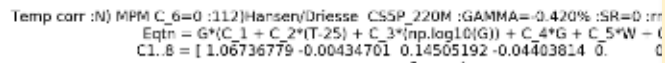
**PR<sub>DC</sub> ↑ vs. Irradiance kW/m<sup>2</sup> → and Tmodule C (colours), not 23 points**

## 61853-1 : c-Si indoor

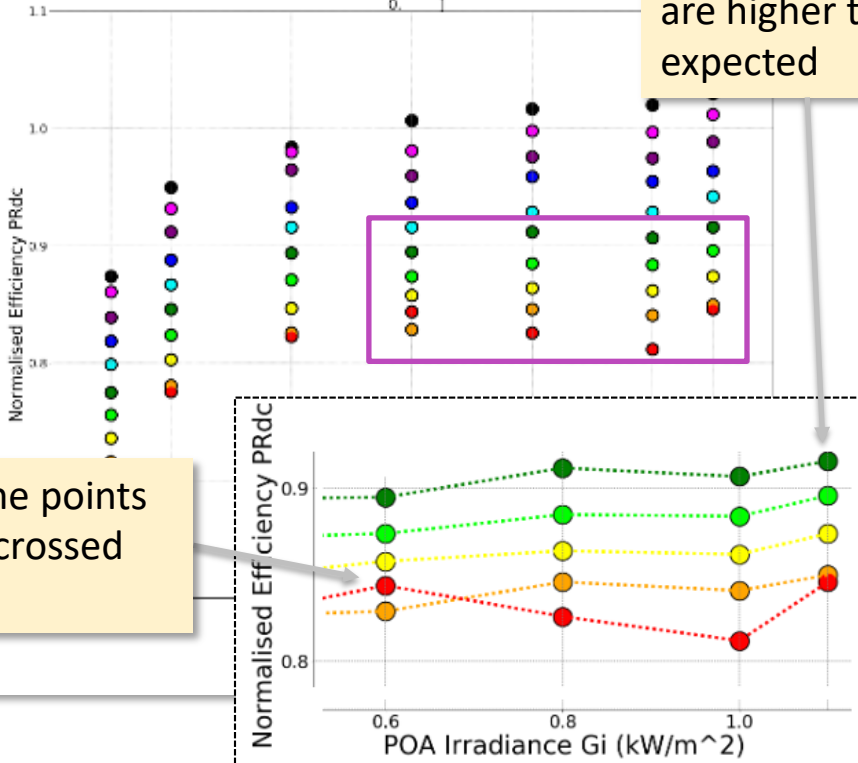
## Old, poor quality, temp sensor problems (zoomed in)

## GI OTF :

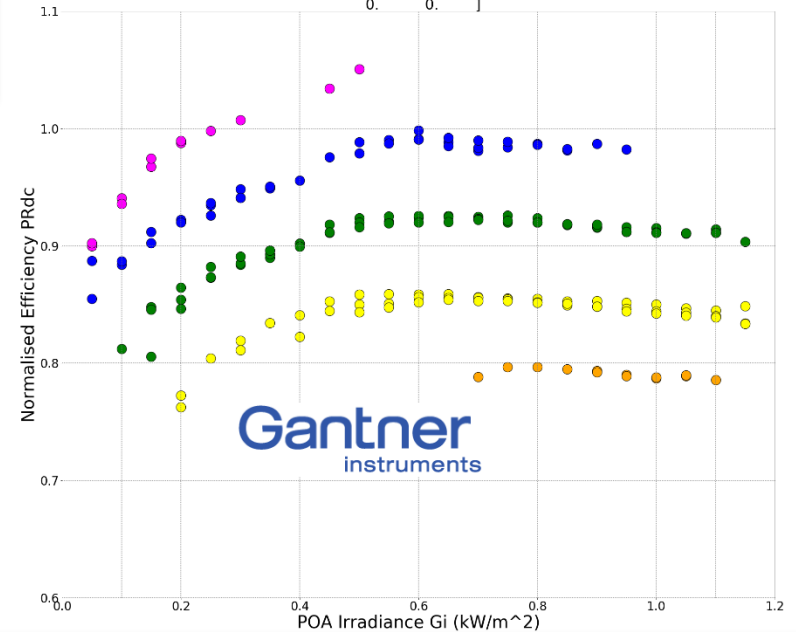
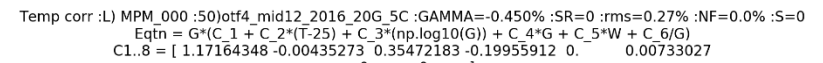
4000 points 1 year, 1/h, Avg  $PR_{DC}$   
per Irradiance bin, corrected to T



❌ Some values are higher than expected

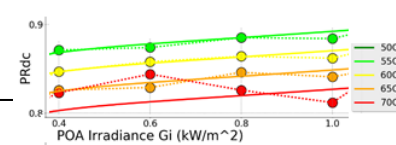
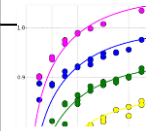
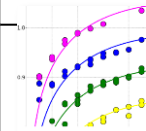
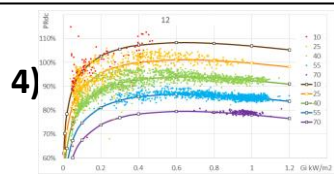
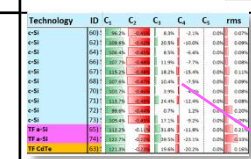
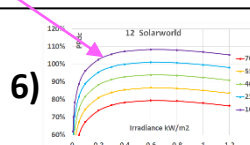
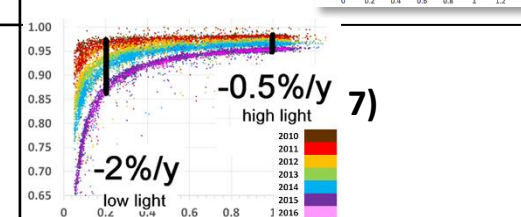


❌ Some points have “crossed over”



Real weather = “Non rectangular” (G,T) distribution.  
Dull+Cold  $\nwarrow$  to Bright+hot  $\searrow$

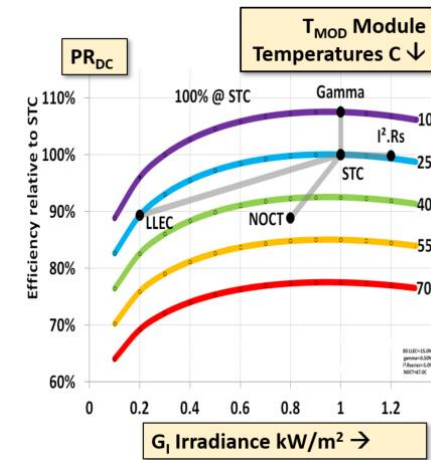
# Matrix Performance Measurements fitting

Effect	Linear Interpolation 61853	Mechanistic model GI MPM	Examples
1) Points with wrong values?	☒ Nearby interpolated and extrapolated values badly affected	☑ “Sanity check” easily finds them Erase, correct or remeasure!	1,2 
2) Noisy Data?	☒ No noise reduction	☑ Robust fit, noise averages out	
3) Missing Points?	☒ Affects extrapolations	☑ Can still can get good fits	3) 
4) Reduced or outdoor data (points<>23)	☒ Can't easily interpolate too few or too many points	☑ Can fit any number of points, weighted if needed	4) 
5) Useful Coefficients to analyse ?	☒ No coefficients from analysis	☑ Yes, useful normalised orthogonal coefficients for a database	5) 
6) Data storage	☒ Every point needs to be stored	☑ Only 5-6 coefficients stored +rmse	6) 
7) Module variability or degradation Binning	☒ Hard to compare datasets without coefficients	☑ Normalised coefficients can determine rates and causes ☑ Pmax binning → C1?	7) 

# MPM “Mechanistic Performance Model”

meaningful, orthogonal, robust, normalised

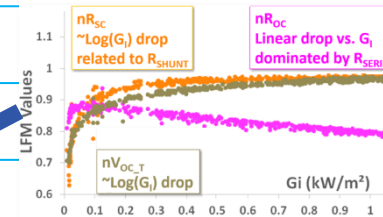
(see 7<sup>th</sup> PVPMC, 44<sup>th</sup> PVSC, 33<sup>rd</sup> EUPVSEC, PVSEC-27 for more details [www.steveransome.com](http://www.steveransome.com))



Where  $G_I$  in  $\text{kW/m}^2$ ,  $dT_{MOD} = T_{MOD} - 25C$

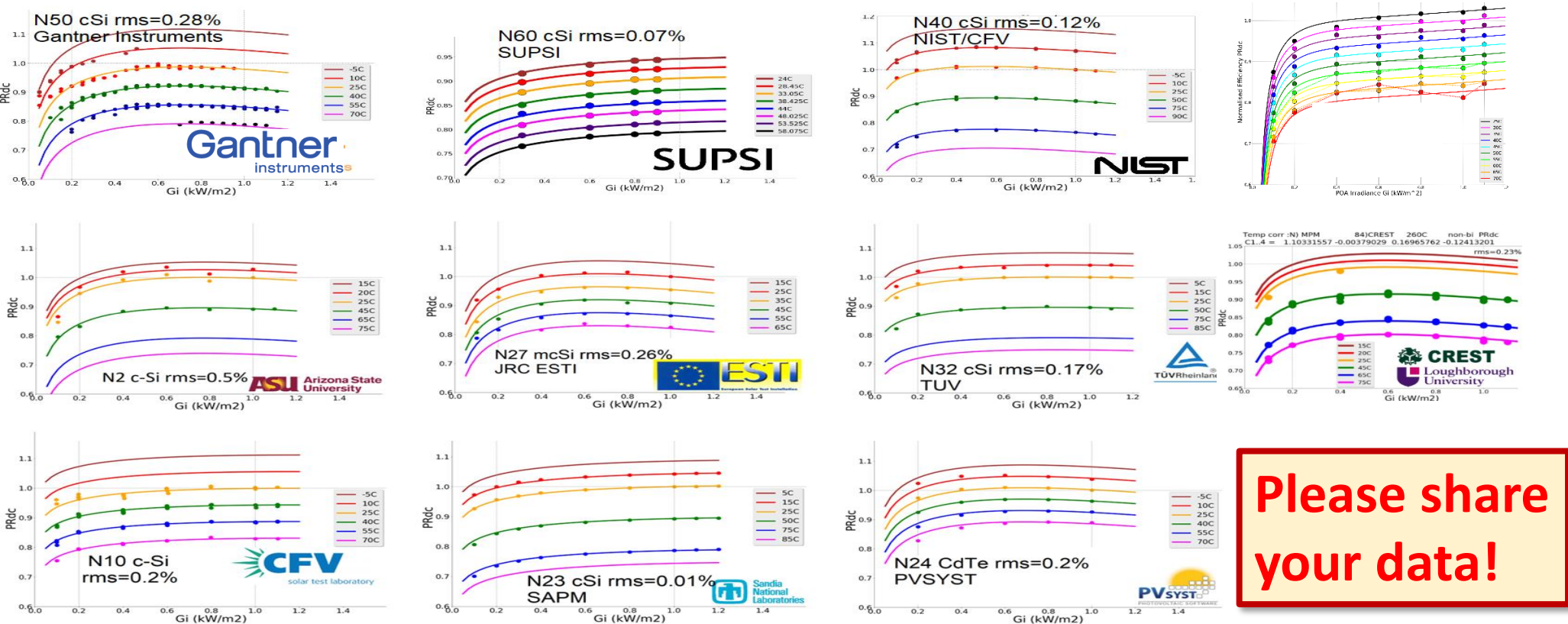
$$PR_{DC} = C_1 + C_2 \times dT_{MOD} + C_3 \times \text{Log}_{10}(G_I) + C_4 \times G_I + C_5 \times WS + *C_6/G_I$$

	Dependency	Comment	Normalised Unit
$C_1$	Tolerance	Actual/Nominal value ~100%	%
$C_2$	$T_{module} - 25C$	Temperature coefficient ~ -0.25 to -0.50%/K	%/K
$C_3$	$\text{Log}_{10}(G_I)$	Low light fall due to $V_{OC}$ (and $R_{SHUNT}$ ?)	%
$C_4$	$G_I$	High light fall – $R_{OC}$ due to $R_{SERIES}$	%
$C_5$	Wind speed	Small correction	%/( $\text{ms}^{-1}$ )
$C_6$	$1/G_I$	*Only some modules (depends on how their $R_{SHUNT}$ behaves)	%/( $\text{kW/m}^2$ )





# MPM validation on different PV technologies from SUPSI, NIST, ASU, ESTI, TÜV Rheinland, CFV, SANDIA, CREST, SAPM, PVSYST, Gantner instruments and many more ...



Please share your data!

# MATRIX Performance Measurements fitted with MPM

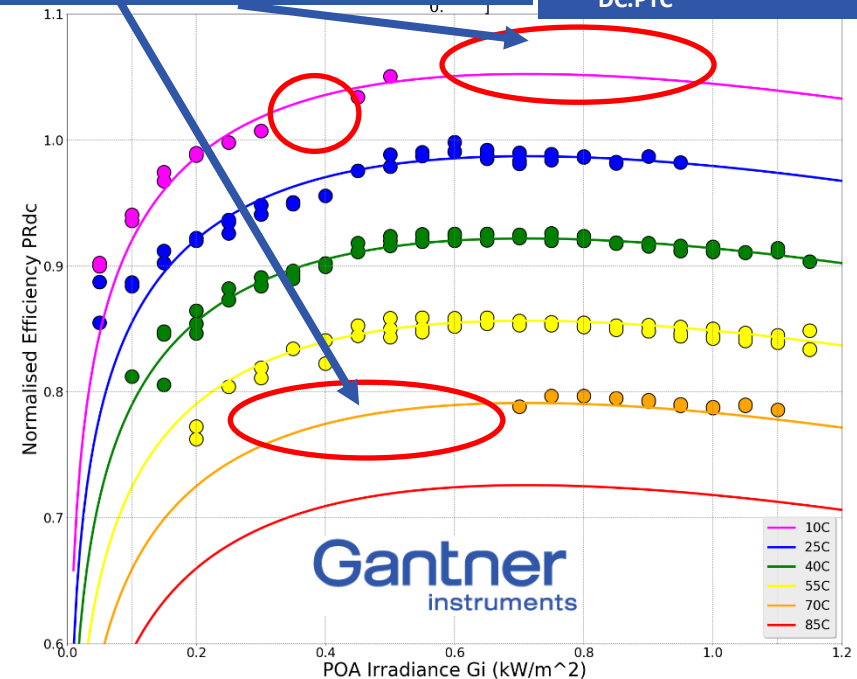
61853-1 : c-Si (Indoor)

Known bad measurements  
thermal sensors etc.

GI OTF Avg  $PR_{DC}$  corrected  $T_{mod}$

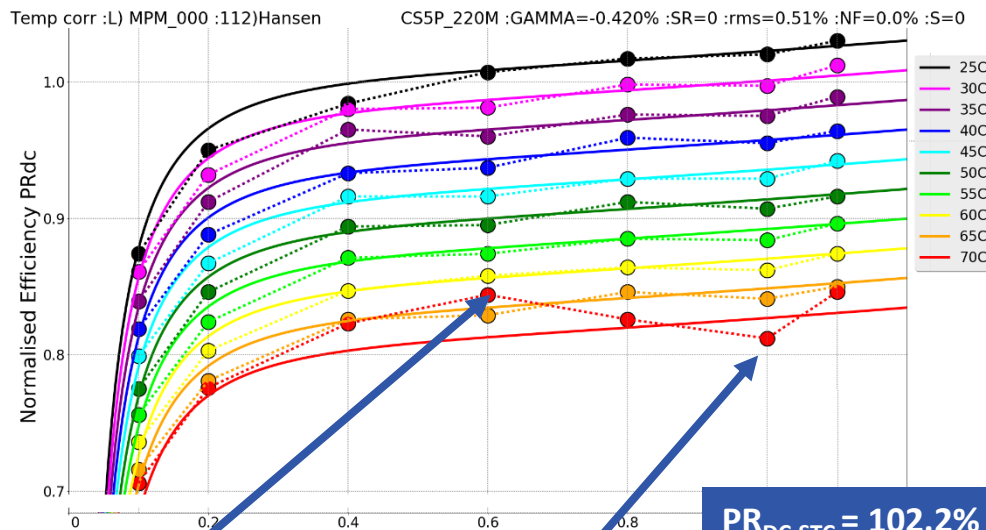
MPM RMSE very good 0.28%  
even with “missing data”  
outdoors

$PR_{DC,STC} = 97.9\%$   
 $\Gamma = -0.43\%/K$   
 $PR_{DC,LIC} = 92.1\%$   
 $PR_{DC,PTC} = 89.1\%$



$PR_{DC,STC} = 102.2\%$   
 $\Gamma = -0.43\%/K$   
 $PR_{DC,LIC} = 96.6\%$   
 $PR_{DC,PTC} = 92.0\%$

MPM RMSE good 0.55%  
even with bad data points  
indoors



# Current status on energy yield/energy rating predictions

- Simulation programs have been predicting energy yields vs. technology, climate, temperature coefficients, spectral effects etc. well enough for manufacturers, investors etc. for many years
- Binning of module  $P_{MAX}$  ( $\pm 2.5\%$ ?), manufacturing variability and irradiance sensor tolerance may limit the accuracy of any energy rating validation
- A “Cookie cutter approach” is often used to guarantee performance by making similar new sites to old ones that are known to work
- How useful is this IEC 61853 method?
- Will it duplicate existing predictions/measurements or differ?

## Spectral response

- ## T<sub>MOD</sub> (vs. T<sub>AMB</sub>, Gi and WS)

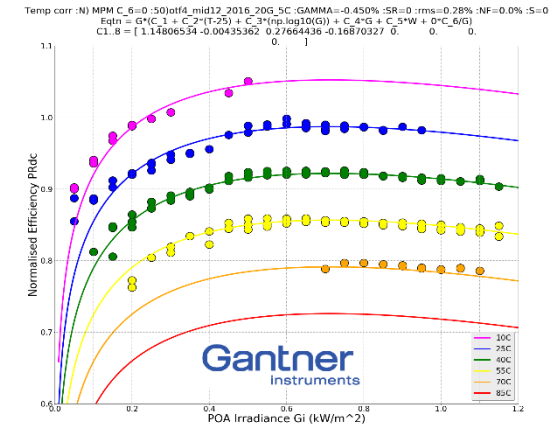
- ## Matrix performance fitting (vs. $G_i$ , $T_{MOD}$ )

## 61853 - bilinear fit

- ❌ Poor choice, particularly for noisy or missing data

# GI OTF - MPM

- ✓ meaningful, orthogonal, robust, normalised
- ✓ validated on data from many test institutes
- ✓ technology and site independent



$$\mathbf{PR}_{\text{DC}} = \mathbf{C}_1 + \mathbf{C}_2 \times \mathbf{dT}_{\text{MOD}} + \mathbf{C}_3 \times \text{Log}_{10}(\mathbf{G}_{\text{I}}) + \mathbf{C}_4 \times \mathbf{G}_{\text{I}} + \mathbf{C}_5 \times \text{WS} + \mathbf{C}_6 / \mathbf{G}_{\text{I}}$$

- **Check 61853 energy rating vs. existing working methods (e.g. simulation programs)**

# Thank you for your attention !

More data analysis will be presented in PVSEC Marseille

# Spare



# Other advantages available from using the MPM

$$PR_{DC} = C_1 + C_2 \times dT_{MOD} + C_3 \times \text{Log}_{10}(G_I) + C_4 \times G_I + C_5 \times WS + C_6/G_I$$

- **Tolerance** – Gives expected performance at STC, LIC etc.
- **Degradation studies** – quantify changes with coefficients over time
- **Temperature coefficients** –  $C_2 = \text{gamma}$
- **Loss characterisation** and identification e.g.  $V_{OC}$  loss is due to  $C_3$ ,  $R_{SERIES}$  loss is low  $C_4$
- **Fault finding** – coefficients that glitch or aren't expected values
- **Database comparison** – normalised values should be similar by technologies but differ c-Si vs. thin film (e.g. TempCoeff= $C_2$ , low light= $C_3$ , high light= $C_4$ )
- **It's a proven, optimised and validated model**