

Let it Rain and Snow: Two+ Years of NASA's Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Mission Data

*Gail Skofronick Jackson¹

1. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Water is fundamental to life on Earth. Knowing where and how much rain and snow fall globally is vital to understanding how weather and climate impact our Earth's water and energy cycles. The Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Core Observatory spacecraft, a partnership with the Japanese, launched February 28, 2014. The GPM instruments are designed to extend the capabilities of the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM, 1997-2015) by providing global and regional three-dimensional measurements of precipitation for scientific investigations and societal benefit. The cornerstone, or anchor, of the GPM mission is the GPM Core Observatory in a unique 65° non-Sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 407 km serving as a physics observatory and a calibration reference to improve precipitation measurements by a constellation of 8 or more dedicated and operational, U.S., Japanese and international passive microwave sensors. The non-sun-synchronous orbit allows for highly sophisticated observations of precipitation in the mid-latitudes where a majority of the population lives. GPM's requirements are to measure rain rates from 0.2 to 110 mm/hr and to detect and estimate falling snow. GPM expands the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM)'s reach in terms of Earth coverage, inter-calibration of constellation member datasets, coordinated formal-partnership merged precipitation data sets, reduced latency for delivering data products, sophisticated satellite instrumentation, simplified data access, expanded global ground validation efforts and integrated user applications. GPM is an international satellite mission to unify and advance precipitation measurements from a constellation of partner satellite sensors to provide next-generation precipitation products everywhere every 3 hours (or less). As a science mission with integrated application goals, GPM will also help to monitor water resources, improve forecasting of extreme weather events that lead to floods, droughts, and landslides.

Since launch, GPM has provided unprecedented views of typhoons, extratropical systems, light rain, snowstorms and extreme precipitation. This NASA presentation will include new imagery and scientific insights resulting from the more than two years of GPM data, an overview of the mission concept and science activities, updates on algorithm status, data products and performance, together with information on international collaborations for radiometer inter-calibration and ground validation.

Keywords: Earth, Precipitation, satellite

Precipitation characteristics observed with GPM DPR, in comparison with TRMM PR

*Yukari Takayabu¹, Atsushi Hamada¹, Chie Yokoyama¹, Marika Ono¹

1. Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, the University of Tokyo

Improvements in precipitation measurements with the Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR) on board the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) core satellite, compared to the TRMM/PR are three folds: Extension of the observational region from 36N-36S to 65N-65S, an addition of high-sensitivity Ka-band radar to make the dual frequency measurements available, an improvement of the sensitivity of Ku-band radar itself. In this study, observed characteristics of precipitation by the GPM DPR measurements with those by the TRMM PR measurements are compared in various ways. Rainfall events are defined with contiguous rainfall areas observed with the GPM DPR for March 2014 to December 2015. Size and intensity characteristics of rainfall events in the tropical region (30N-30S) and the mid-latitude regions (30N-65N and 30S-65S) are compared. Area-weighted size histogram comparisons reveal that rainfall events over the tropical oceans have two peaks at meso-alpha and at meso-beta scales, while large meso-alpha size dominates over the mid-latitude oceans. Over land, largest frequency is found in the meso-beta size bin in the tropics, while smaller size bins exhibit more frequency in the mid-latitudes. Maximum precipitation intensity histograms normalized for each 4 categories by event size exhibit larger frequency for heaviest precipitation tails for larger size categories in all N-midlat, N-tropics, S-tropics and S-midlat regions, but dependency on event size is larger in the tropics and more frequent heavy precipitation is found with the largest category in the tropics.

Impacts of the radar sensitivity increase are examined (Hamada and Takayabu, 2016), by comparing Ku-band measurements of with two sensitivity thresholds of corrected reflectivity factors; 12 dBZ and 18 dBZ, representing DPR and PR sensitivity, respectively. Increase of sensitivity results in ~21% in frequency and ~2% in rainfall amount between 40N and 40S. It is shown that, in addition, there is a scientifically significant impact by detecting light anvil precipitation in the upper troposphere with increasing sensitivity with the GPM/DPR observations.

Keywords: Satellite Precipitation Measurements, GPM DPR, Precipitation Characteristics

Improvements in Detection of Light Precipitation with the Global Precipitation Measurement Dual-Frequency Precipitation Radar (GPM/DPR)

*Atsushi Hamada¹, Yukari N Takayabu¹

1. Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo

We demonstrate the impact of the enhancement in detectability by the dual-frequency precipitation radar (DPR) on board the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) core observatory. By setting two minimum detectable reflectivities--12 and 18 dBZ--artificially to 6 months of GPM DPR measurements, the precipitation occurrence and volume increase by ~21.1% and ~1.9%, respectively, between 40S and 40N.

GPM DPR is found to be able to detect light precipitation, which mainly consists of two distinct types. One type is shallow precipitation, which is most significant for convective precipitation over eastern parts of subtropical oceans, where deep convection is typically suppressed. The other type is probably associated with lower parts of anvil clouds associated with organized precipitation systems.

While these echoes have lower reflectivities than the official value of the minimum detectable reflectivity, they are found to mostly consist of true precipitation signals, suggesting that the official value may be too conservative for some sort of meteorological analyses. These results are expected to further the understanding of both global energy and water budgets and the diabatic heating distribution.

These results are almost based on Hamada and Takayabu (2016, J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.), but we will also report the results for other seasons, and results used the next version product (V04), which is scheduled to be released within several months.

Keywords: precipitation, satellite, Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)

Current status of the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission in Japan

*Riko Oki¹, Takuji Kubota¹, Takeshi Masaki¹, Yuki Kaneko¹, Kinji Furukawa¹, Misako Kachi¹, Yukari Takayabu², Toshio Iguchi³, Kenji Nakamura⁴

1.Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2.University of Tokyo, 3.NICT, 4.Dokkyo University

The Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission is an international collaboration to achieve highly accurate and highly frequent global precipitation observations. The GPM mission consists of the GPM Core Observatory jointly developed by U.S. and Japan and Constellation Satellites that carry microwave radiometers and provided by the GPM partner agencies. The GPM Core Observatory was successfully launched at 3:37 a.m. on February 28, 2014 (JST). The Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR) was developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), and installed on the GPM Core Observatory. The GPM Core Observatory chooses a non-sun-synchronous orbit to carry on diurnal cycle observations of rainfall from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) satellite, while the Constellation Satellites, including JAXA's Global Change Observation Mission (GCOM) - Water (GCOM-W) or "SHIZUKU," are launched by each partner agency sometime around 2014 and contribute to expand observation coverage and increase observation frequency. JAXA develops the DPR Level 1 algorithm, and the NASA-JAXA Joint Algorithm Team develops the DPR Level 2 and DPR-GMI combined Level2 algorithms.

JAXA also develops the Global Rainfall Map (GPM-GSMaP) algorithm, which is a latest version of the Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMaP), as national product to distribute hourly and 0.1-degree horizontal resolution rainfall map. The GSMaP near-real-time version (GSMaP_NRT) product is available 4-hour after observation through the "JAXA Global Rainfall Watch" web site (<http://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP>) since 2008. To assure near-real-time data availability, the GSMaP_NRT system simplified part of the algorithm and its processing procedure. Therefore, the GSMaP_NRT product gives higher priority to data latency than accuracy, and has been used by various users for various purposes, such as rainfall monitoring, flood alert and warning, drought monitoring, crop yield forecast, and agricultural insurance. There are, however, several requirements from users for GSMaP improvements not only for accuracy but also specification. Among those requests for data specification, the most popular ones are shortening of data latency time and higher horizontal resolution. To reduce data latency, JAXA has developed the GSMaP realtime version (GSMaP_NOW) product for observation area of the geostationary satellite Himawari-8 operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). GSMaP_NOW product uses satellite data that is available within 0.5-hour, including GMI, AMSR2 direct receiving data, AMSU direct receiving data and Himawari-8, to produce GSMaP at 0.5-hr before. Then, we are applying 0.5-hour forward extrapolation for future direction by cloud motion vector to produce GSMaP at current hour (GSMaP_NOW) over Himawari-8 observed area. GSMaP_NOW product was released to public in November 2, 2015 through the "JAXA Realtime Rainfall Watch" web site (http://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP_NOW/).

Moreover, ground validation (GV) activity using a dual Ka-band radar system developed by JAXA has been conducted along the slope of Mt. Zao in Yamagata, Japan from Oct. 2013 to May 2015. During Dec. 2015-Jan. 2016, the single Ka-radar observation was operated on R/V Mirai of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) over the Indian Ocean aiming at Maritime precipitation.

After the early calibration and validation of the products and evaluation that all products achieved the release criteria, all GPM standard products and the GPM-GSMaP product has been released to the public since September 2014. The GPM products can be downloaded via the internet

through the JAXA G-Portal (<https://www.gportal.jaxa.jp>). All GPM standard products will be reprocessing using the updated algorithms (Version 4) on March-April 2016, and the GPM-GSMaP product will be on July 2016.

Keywords: GPM, DPR, GSMaP, ground validation

Quasi-realtime version of the Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMaP_NOW) over the Himawari-8 region

*Takuji Kubota¹, Misako Kachi¹, Riko Oki¹

1. Earth Observation Research Center, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) started to distribute the "quasi-realtime" version of the Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMaP_NOW) over the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) geostationary satellite "Himawari-8" region through the "JAXA Realtime Rainfall Watch" website (http://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP_NOW/) since Nov. 2015.

"Realtime availability" of satellite rainfall data is one of major requirements from users. As one of the Japanese products of the the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission, JAXA has provided the "near-real-time" GSMaP (GSMaP_NRT) product, which is hourly and 0.1-degree grid box global rainfall product combining observation data from microwave and infrared radiometers aboard multiple satellites, four hours after observation through the "JAXA Global Rainfall Watch" website (<http://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP/>). Data latency of "four hours" for GSMaP_NRT product was chosen considering balance of satellite data availability and user requirements. To produce GSMaP_NRT, we allocated three hours to collect satellite data and one hour to process data. Users and purposes of GSMaP_NRT data have been increased in number and variety since its release. It is used in, for example, rainfall monitoring, flood alert and warning, drought monitoring, crop yield forecast, and agricultural insurance.

Building on its experience in the GSMaP production, JAXA has developed the GSMaP realtime version (GSMaP_NOW) product to respond user requirements to shorten data latency of "four hour," and achieved this by providing current rainfall over the geostationary satellite Himawari-8 region. The GSMaP_NOW product uses passive microwave radiometer and geostationary satellite data that is available only within 0.5-hour after observation. At present, we uses data from GPM/GMI, GCOM-W/AMSR2 direct broadcasting near Japan, NOAA and MetOp's AMSU/MHS direct broadcasting, and Himawari-8/AHI to produce GSMaP at 0.5-hour before. In addition, extrapolation of rainfall area with 0.5-hour forward (toward future) by using cloud moving vector calculated from AHI enables us to produce "quasi-realtime" rainfall map over Asian regions. All processing are completed within 0.5-hour, and updated half-hourly.

GSMaP_NOW and other GSMaP products are validated by comparing with with JMA's gauge-calibrated radar analysis (Radar-AMeDAS) over the Japan in daily and 0.25-degree grid basis. Results showed that accuracy of GSMaP_NOW is almost equivalent or slightly worse than GSMaP_NRT for the period from October 2015 to December 2015.

This quasi-realtime capability will provide possibility to operational users to apply the GSMaP_NOW data in their rainfall monitoring more rapidly, flood alert in smaller basins. Extension of GSMaP_NOW from "Himawari" area to the other geostationary satellites' observation areas is also under consideration for future improvements.

Keywords: GPM, GSMaP, Realtime

Future precipitation measuring mission from space

*Nobuhiro Takahashi¹, Kinji Furukawa², Misako Kachi², Yusuke Muraki², Riko Oki²

1.Institute for Space-Earth Environmental Research, Nagoya University, 2.JAXA

Since the launch of Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)/Core satellite in February 2014, the dual frequency precipitation radar (DPR) that is the key instrument of GPM has been working nominally with better performance than expected. The success of the GPM/DPR demonstrates the feasibility of the precipitation radar technology is now well established with high reliability. It also leads the expectation of use of the radar for more general purpose of precipitation like passive microwave radiometers and for more next step of the precipitation study. In this paper, current direction of the future precipitation-measuring mission is reported as well as the possible mission plans. In addition, since the nominal lifetime of the GPM/Core satellite is 5 years, we need to prepare the future precipitation-measuring mission now.

Two types of the directions are considered as the follow-on mission of the GPM/core: 1) development of the smaller and cheap radar satellite by using the GPM/DPR technology and the current advanced radar technologies such as power device (e.g. GaN) and the pulse compression technique to gain the sensitivity significantly, and 2) development of the DPR type radar with better sensitivity and the wider swath observation. The former has advantages on the cost that leads the multiple radar satellite observation and also leads the great improvement of the hourly global precipitation map (such as GSMaP) because of the utilization of the radar data directly into the precipitation map. The low cost satellite can be purchased by other countries. Considering that the satellite altitude is 800 km with inclination angle of less than 30 degrees and the radar aperture is quarter of the KuPR (Ku-band radar with 2.2 x 2.2 m aperture) on GPM/Core, the sensitivity is about 20 dBZ for each resolution of about 20 km and the swath width is about 800 km that corresponds to the 3 to 6 hourly observation between 30 degree south and the 30 degree north. The latter is more scientific purpose such as cloud-precipitation processes relating to the assessment of the impact to the precipitation by the climate change such as global warming. The response of the precipitation systems to the climate change is one of the most unknown and the most concerned parameter of the global warming issue. Both the numerical simulation studies and observational study are essential to reveal this issue and the satellite observation is the only the tool to cover the global precipitation with equal quality. Since current issues of the precipitation radar are the sensitivity and the swath width (also sampling frequency), improvement of the DPR is essential. The sensitivity can be improved by introduce the current power device and pulse compression system and the swath width can be extended even current DPR design based on the special experiment during the end of mission of the TRMM satellite. The goal of the sensitivities of both KuPR and KaPR are -10 dBZ with twice wider swath width of GPM/KuPR (490 km). Sensitivity budget with current technology indicates that the achievable sensitivity is about 0 dBZ; even this number is great improvement from GPM/DPR.

The future goal of the radar technology is observation from the geostationary orbit; the merits are the continuous observation with Doppler velocity measurement and the demerits are the sensitivity (> 20 dBZ) and horizontal resolution (20 km) assuming the 30 m diameter antenna. Continuous observation makes it possible to monitor the precipitation system such as typhoons and to directly utilize the numerical weather prediction. Current technology indicates that the radar observation from the geostationary orbit is possible with current radar technology if you can develop the 30 m diameter antenna.

Keywords: Precipitation Measurement, Satellite

Development status of the GCOM-W1 AMSR2 research products

*Takashi Maeda¹, Mieko Seki², Tomoyuki Nomaki², Misako Kachi¹

1.Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2.Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has operated the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer 2 (AMSR2) onboard the GCOM-W satellite launched in May 2012. In this mission, 8 geophysical values (water

vapor, cloud liquid water, precipitation, sea surface temperature, sea surface wind speed, sea ice concentration, snow depth, and soil moisture) were defined as the standard products, and these are released to the public since May 2013.

On the other hand, several research products (e.g., land surface temperature, vegetation water content, sea

ice motion vector, thin sea ice detection, and high-resolution sea ice concentration) as a candidate of a future

standard product were officially defined in March 2015. Based on it, we started to implement algorithms to create the research products from the AMSR2 data, and obtained the initial validation results. In this paper, we present the current status of GCOM-W AMSR2 research products.

Keywords: Watercycle monitoring, Microwave radiometer, Earth observation

Impact of all-sky microwave radiance assimilation on typhoon forecasts in JMA global NWP system

*Masahiro Kazumori¹

1. Japan Meteorological Agency

Space-based microwave radiance observations provide essential information for today's numerical weather prediction (NWP). The data contain information on atmospheric water vapor, cloud and precipitation under clear and cloudy conditions. In order to use the information, an all-sky microwave radiance assimilation method for the JMA global data assimilation system has been developed. In the all-sky assimilation, several microwave imagers' radiance data (e.g. AMSR2/GCOM-W, GMI/GPM and SSMIS/DMSP) were evaluated and their first guess (FG) departures (observed radiance minus simulated radiance) were examined. The all-sky FG departure statistics revealed biases originated from cloud physics scheme of the JMA global model. Results of assimilation experiments indicate that there are excessive light rain areas forecasted in the tropics and cloud liquid water amounts are underestimated in stratocumulus areas. These biases in the FG departure are issues in the all-sky radiance assimilation at JMA. Furthermore, the assimilation showed an undesirable impact as a decrease of analyzed mean water vapor amount. However, in spite of these issues, preliminary experiment of the all-sky microwave radiance assimilation showed positive impacts on tropical cyclone track prediction, intensity prediction and made better FG fit to wind and humidity observations. In the tropical cyclone cases, analyzed water vapor fields and forecasted precipitation features became much realistic than those of in clear sky assimilation. Comparisons of the all-sky radiance assimilation and the clear-sky assimilation for several typhoon cases are presented in the conference.

Keywords: Numerical Weather Prediction, microwave radiance, data assimilation

Satellite data assimilation using NICAM-LETKF

*Koji Terasaki¹, Shunji Kotsuki¹, Takemasa Miyoshi¹

1.RIKEN Advanced Institute for Computational Science

Data assimilation plays an important role in increasing the accuracy of the numerical weather prediction (NWP). We applied the Local Ensemble Transformed Kalman Filter (LETKF) to the atmospheric general circulation model NICAM (Non-hydrostatic ICosahedral Atmospheric Model). In this study, the conventional observations, satellite microwave radiances from AMSU-A (Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit-A), and satellite-based global precipitation data GSMaP (Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation) are assimilated. It is difficult to assimilate precipitation observations because of the non-Gaussian error distribution and highly nonlinear precipitation process. Methods are developed to get benefits from these three types of observations. The results indicate that adding more observations makes the analysis more accurate.

Keywords: data assimilation, AMSU-A, GSMaP

On the Algorithm to Discriminate Cloud and Precipitation Particle Type from CloudSat and CALIPSO

*Maki Kikuchi¹, Hajime Okamoto², Kaori Sato², Yuichiro Hagihara¹

1.Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency/Earth Observation Research Center, 2.Kyushu University/Research Institute for Applied Mechanics

Cloud and precipitation take key role in the climate system. Information on the cloud phase, shape, rain and snow (hereafter, hydrometeor particle type) are important factors that determine the radiative properties of cloud and precipitation. The knowledge of the hydrometeor type is also necessary to retrieve their microphysical properties, such as liquid/ice/rain/snow water content and effective radius. In this study, we first derived the hydrometeor particle type for a cloud profiling radar (CPR) onboard CloudSat and Mie-scattering lidar, Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP), onboard Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO), independently. The CloudSat and CALIPSO are in operation since June 2006 and they have accumulated vertical profiles of cloud and precipitation over the globe for ten years. The final synergy hydrometeor particle type was derived by comparing the discrimination results from CloudSat and CALIPSO and registering a type that was most reasonable. The CALIOP algorithm was based on the previous scheme originally developed by Yoshida et al. [2010] and modified by Hirakata et al. [2014]. The CPR algorithm consisted of three main steps: (1) initial type classification by radar reflectivity and European Center for Medium-range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF) temperature; (2) precipitation correction by attenuation corrected surface radar reflectivity; and (3) spatial continuity test. The initial type classification was conducted by selecting a type from a look-up-table of CPR radar reflectivity and ECMWF temperature. The look-up-table was constructed using the cloud particle type discrimination from CALIOP and the precipitation detection by Precipitation Radar (PR) onboard Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM). For each CloudSat bin, an initial type was selected from the look-up-table that corresponded to the observed radar reflectivity and ECMWF temperature. The second step was the precipitation correction. Each profile was determined whether it was a precipitating profile or not by a simple threshold method of attenuation corrected surface radar reflectivity (Haynes et al. [2009]). If the profile was detected as precipitation but the initial classification had been registered as a cloud profile, the initial classification of the lowest hydrometeor classification was corrected to precipitation (and visa-versa). The last step of the CPR algorithm was the spatial continuity test to eliminate spike misclassification. The final CPR-CALIOP synergy scheme classified the hydrometeor particles into 7 types: warm water, supercooled water, randomly oriented ice crystals (3D-ice), horizontally oriented plates (2D-plate), mixture of 3D-ice and 2D-plate, rain and snow. Taking the advantage of CPR's capability to penetrate cloud and light precipitation and CALIOP's capability to detect thin clouds, the synergy algorithm derived the global vertically resolved distribution of hydrometeor particle types from thin cirrus clouds to light precipitation.

The hydrometeor particle type algorithm is considered to be applied in upcoming Earth Clouds, Aerosols and Radiation Explorer (EarthCARE) Level 2 Standard Products that will be processed and released from JAXA to observe global and vertical distribution of the hydrometeor particle types.

Keywords: cloud radar, lidar, satellite, cloud observation, precipitation observation

Synergistic use of multisensor satellite observations for quantification of cloud processes and climate model diagnostics

*Suzuki Kentaroh¹

1. Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo

It is now recognized that key questions in climate sciences cannot be addressed with a single satellite observation alone. This recognition is an underlying motivation for emerging/existing multisensor satellite observations. One particular area of research to be advanced with such multisensor satellite observations is a characterization of physical processes in climate system, which still is a fundamental uncertainty in climate modeling. Cloud processes, among others, are one of the most uncertain components in state-of-the-art climate models and therefore are a particular target of studies that should be conducted with a synergistic use of multisensor satellite observations. In this presentation, I highlight our recent progress in combining multiple NASA satellites to obtain novel insight into cloud processes, which also has enabled a new "process-oriented" type of climate model diagnostics. In particular, we have developed methodologies for combining simultaneous measurements of cloud and precipitation provided by CloudSat and Aqua/MODIS. The methodologies exploit the unique measurement capability of the two sensors to construct the particular statistics that "fingerprint" the particle growth processes in warm clouds. Our recent investigation for land-ocean differences found in the statistics is also discussed in this presentation to identify a key role of updraft velocity in the warm rain formation. This points to a necessity for measuring updraft velocity from space in our future satellite mission. The observation-based statistics also serve as a reference for evaluating climate models in their representations of fundamental cloud processes. The methodologies developed have indeed been applied to a hierarchy of models, including global climate models and global/regional cloud-resolving models, to identify their key biases in representations of fundamental microphysical processes. Such a new process-based model constraint has also been contrasted against a traditional "performance-oriented" model evaluation based on historical trends of global mean temperature to expose their apparent dichotomy. This implies the presence of compensating errors at a fundamental process level in current climate models and underscores the necessity of further efforts for "process-oriented" model diagnostics with a synergistic use of upcoming multiple satellite observations.

Vertical profile of cloud and radiation budget observed by satellite

*Tadahiro Hayasaka¹, Ayano Mitsui¹, Naoya Takahashi¹

1. Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University

Vertical profile of cloud is obtained from space-borne active sensors such as CPR/CloudSat and CALIOP/CALIPSO. We used three CloudSat products, 2B-GEOPROF-LIDAR, 2B-TAU, and 2B-FLXHR-LIDAR to reveal spatial and seasonal properties of clouds. Cloud vertical profiles are classified into 10 types referred to ISCCP. Obtained cloud profiles are discussed with meteorological and sea surface conditions such as wind, water vapor surface air temperature and sea surface temperature. The results show that a combination of low-cloud and high-cloud is frequently observed in tropical and mid-latitude regions and these clouds are formed according to different mechanisms. It is also shown that overlapping of cloud affect longwave radiation budget at the top of the atmosphere. Overlying cloud decreases the cooling rate at the uppermost layer of low-cloud, and it affect the formation and dissipation of low-cloud. In the analysis of three data products, some inconsistency was found, which was attributed to unsuccessful retrieval of cloud water content and effective radius of cloud particle. Therefore, it is noted that quantitative evaluation of the product is critical to application of these cloud data to radiation and climate change studies.

Keywords: cloud, radiation, satellite

Global Distribution of Vertical Wavenumber Spectra in The Lower Stratosphere Observed Using High-Vertical-Resolution Temperature Profiles from COSMIC GPS Radio Occultation

*Noersomadi Noersomadi¹, Toshitaka Tsuda²

1. Graduate Student of Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, 2. Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University

We retrieved temperature (T) profiles with a high vertical resolution using the full spectrum inversion (FSI) method from the Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere and Climate (COSMIC) GPS radio occultation (GPS-RO) data from January 2007 to December 2009. We studied the characteristics of temperature perturbations in the stratosphere at 20–27 km altitude. This height range does not include a sharp jump in the background Brunt-Vaisala frequency squared (N^2) near the tropopause, and it was reasonably stable regardless of season and latitude. We analyzed the vertical wavenumber spectra of gravity waves (GWs) with vertical wavelengths ranging from 0.5 to 3.5 km, and we integrated the (total) potential energy E_p^T . Another integration of the spectra from 0.5 to 1.75 km was defined as E_p^S for short vertical wavelength GWs, which was not studied with the conventional geometrical optics (GO) retrievals. We also estimated the logarithmic spectral slope (p) for the saturated portion of spectra with a linear regression fitting from 0.5 to 1.75 km.

Latitude and time variations in the spectral parameters were investigated in two longitudinal regions: (a) 90–150° E, where the topography was more complicated, and (b) 170–230° E, which is dominated by oceans. We compared E_p^T , E_p^S , and p , with the mean zonal winds (U) and outgoing longwave radiation (OLR). We also show a ratio of E_p^S to E_p^T and discuss the generation source of E_p^S . E_p^T and p clearly showed an annual cycle, with their maximum values in winter at 30–50° N in region (a), and 50–70° N in region (b), which was related to the topography. At 30–50° N in region (b), E_p^T and p exhibited some irregular variations in addition to an annual cycle. In the Southern Hemisphere, we also found an annual oscillation in E_p^T and p , but it showed a time lag of about 2 months relative to U . Characteristics of E_p^T and p in the tropical region seem to be related to convective activity. The ratio of E_p^T to the theoretical model value, assuming saturated GWs, became larger in the equatorial region and over mountainous regions.

Overview and status of the JAXA Himawari Monitor

*Misako Kachi¹, Maki Kikuchi¹, Yukio Kurihara¹, Takashi Nagao¹, Hiroshi Murakami¹

1. Earth Observation Research Center, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

In October 2014, new geostationary meteorological satellite "Himawari-8" operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) was launched from the JAXA Tanegashima Space Center. Himawari-8 has started its operation at 02 UTC on 7 July 2015, replacing the geostationary meteorological satellite "MTSAT-2". Since there are many commonalities and synergies between the Himawari-8 and JAXA's upcoming Earth observation satellites, such as the Global Change Observation Mission -Climate (GCOM-C) to be launched in Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) of 2016, Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite-2 (GOSAT-2), and EarthCARE mission to be launched in JFY2017, JAXA cooperates with JMA in algorithm development, calibration and validation activities on the Himawari-8 satellite. JAXA also exchanged agreements with JMA to promote the Himawari-8 data in research and education community. To this purpose, we received the Himawari data from JMA in near-real-time basis, and distribute its images and data through the JAXA Himawari Monitor (<http://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/ptree/>). We developed algorithms, which will be consistent with those for the GCOM-C, GOSAT-2 and EarthCARE missions, to retrieve geophysical parameters from the Himawari-8 data with collaboration of external institutions. As of February 2016, aerosol properties and sea surface temperature (SST) products are provided through the JAXA Himawari Monitor along with the Himawari Standard Data provided by JMA. The Himawari geophysical parameters are produced in NetCDF4 format and provided to registered users by FTP in near-real-time basis. Currently, we are developing new geophysical parameters to be distributed through the system. Ocean color (suspended substances and chlorophyll-a), Photosynthetic Active Radiation (PAR), and cloud properties (cloud top temperature, optical thickness, and effective particle radius) data are planned to release to public in 2016.

Keywords: Himawari-8, Sea surface temperature, aerosol property, ocean color, cloud property

Investigating impact of subpixel horizontal inhomogeneity on retrieval of cloud microphysical parameters from multi-spectral imagers

*Takashi M. Nagao¹, Takashi Y. Nakajima², Husi Letu³, Hiroshi Murakami¹

1.Earth Observation Research Center, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2.Tokai University Research and Information Center, 3.Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences

The importance of cloud in terrestrial atmospheric dynamics and radiative transfer as key elements of the water and energy cycles have motivated development of various remote sensing technics for monitoring cloud microphysical parameters by using satellite-borne multispectral imagers (e.g. MODIS/Aqua). We have been developed a cloud retrieval algorithm for the Second Generation Global Imager (SGLI) onboard a new earth observation satellite, the Global Change Observation Mission-Climate (GCOM-C), that Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is scheduling to launch in Japan fiscal year 2016. The SGLI instrument is a radiometer providing near-ultraviolet-to-thermal-infrared multi-spectral measurements at 250 m, 500 m or 1 km resolutions. The algorithm can retrieve cloud optical thickness (COT), cloud particle effective radius (CER), and cloud top temperature (CTT) simultaneously from visible and infrared measurements at three spectral bands of the SGLI. And then, we are also working on applying our algorithm to the measurements from the Advanced Himawari Imager (AHI) onboard the Japan Meteorological Agency's geostationary meteorological satellite, Himawari-8. The AHI is also a radiometer providing visible-to-thermal-infrared multi-spectral measurements of every 2.5 minutes for Japan area and 10 minutes for full disk at 500 m, 1 km or 2 km resolutions. Therefore, retrievals of cloud parameters derived from both SGLI's global high-resolution observations and AHI's high-frequency observation will be obtained. However, there may be discrepancies between retrievals from the SGLI and AHI. As pointed out by previous studies, cloud retrievals are impacted significantly by vertical and horizontal distribution of cloud properties. And the impact on retrievals depends on the spectral characteristics, the spatial resolution and the observation angles of the instruments. This study focuses on bias in cloud retrievals caused by both horizontal inhomogeneous cloud properties and clear-region-contamination at subpixel scale. First, we introduce our cloud retrieval algorithm for the SGLI and show the comparison of cloud retrievals obtained by applying our algorithm to the MODIS's (instead of SGLI's) 1 km resolution observations and the AHI's 2 km resolution observations. Second, we simulate biases in COT, CER and CTT retrievals for various spatial resolution observations including SGLI's and AHI's observations by using high-spatial resolution (30 m) measurements of the Landsat-8. The simulation result explains the relationship between cloud horizontal inhomogeneity and clear-region-contamination and retrieval bias, and also suggests that the bias can be estimated by using co-variance matrix of multi-spectral radiances within the target pixel. Finally, the possibility of estimating the bias from SGLI's and AHI's observation themselves is discussed.

Keywords: GCOM-C, Himawari-8, Cloud property

Retrieval of the ice cloud properties from MODIS and HIMAWARI-8 satellite measurements by Voronoi ice particle scattering model

*Husi Letu^{1,2}, Takashi M. Nagao³, Hiroshi Ishimoto⁴, Takashi Y. Nakajima², Riedi Jerome⁵, Huazhe Shang¹, Liangfu Chen¹

1.Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China, 2.Research and Information Center (TRIC), Tokai University, Japan, 3.Earth Observation Research Center (EORC), JAXA, Japan, 4.Meteorological Research Institute, Japan, 5.5 Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique, Université de Lille, France

Ice clouds play an important role in the radiation balance of the Earth's atmospheric system through interaction with solar radiation and infrared emission. However, there are still large uncertainties in characterizing their microphysical and optical properties, due to their complex habit. In this study, single scattering property of the aggregated ice cloud particle called Voronoi habit model is developed for applying in the ice cloud radiative transfer simulations and retrieval of their optical and microphysical properties. A combination of the finite-difference time-domain (FDTD) method, Geometric Optics Integral Equation (GOIE) technique, and geometric optics method (GOM) are applied to compute the single scattering properties of the Voronoi model. The POLDER multi-angles measurements are employed to evaluate the efficiency of the Voronoi model on retrieval of the ice cloud properties. The CAPCOM cloud property retrieval algorithm is improved to retrieve the ice cloud properties for MODIS and HIMAWARI-8 satellite measurements based on the Voronoi model. Optical thickness and effective particle radius of the ice clouds are retrieved from Aqua/MODIS data using the CAPCOM and Voronoi models. The inversion results by Voronoi model and the CAPCOM algorithm are compared to MODIS collections-6 ice cloud products for investigating the retrieval results by the Voronoi models. Ice cloud properties are also retrieved from the HIMAWARI-8 satellite data. In this presentation, we will also introduce the some results of the ice cloud retrievals by Voronoi model and characteristics of the ice cloud properties in Asia-Pacific region.

Keywords: Ice cloud, Particle scattering property, Microphysical property

Variations of Ocean Vortex Train of Green Island from Satellite Imagery

*PoChun Hsu¹, ChenChih Lin¹, ChungRu Ho¹

1.Department of Marine Environmental Informatics, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung, Taiwan

Kuroshio, a western boundary current, flows quickly and steadily along the east coast of Taiwan. The ocean vortex train induced by the Kuroshio on the leeward side of Green Island, which is a small islet at the path of Kuroshio off southeast Taiwan, is investigated in this study. The horizontal scale and characteristics of the ocean vortex train are analyzed with five kinds of satellite imagery, including optical imagery from SPOT (Satellite Pour l'Observation de la Terre) and Formosat-2 satellites, as well as synthetic aperture radar imagery from ERS-2 (European remote sensing satellite), ALOS (Advanced Land Observing Satellite), and Sentinel-1. Satellite altimetry data and moored acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) are used to calculate the velocity of Kuroshio. The ADCP data show that the velocity is enhanced on the left of the vortex train when it is formed on the leeward side of Green Island. The data derived from MODIS (Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer) also show that the sea surface temperature of recirculation water is more than 2°C colder and the chlorophyll-a concentration is two times higher than the surrounding waters. Wind forcing may affect the vortex train obviously. The averaged aspect ratio and dimensionless width of vortex train derived from available satellite images are 2.09 and 2.02, respectively for the cases of southerly, and are 1.91 and 2.76, respectively for the cases of northerly.

Keywords: Kuroshio, Green Island, vortex train, satellite imagery

Development of new satellite ocean colour products: moving forward to an estimation of phytoplankton photo-physiology

*Takafumi Hirata¹, Koji Suzuki¹

1.Faculty of Environmental Earth Science, Hokkaido University

Since the launch of the Coastal Zone Color Scanner (CZCS) in the 1970s, ocean color remote sensors have been providing synoptic views of marine biological (and biogeochemical) activities via surface chlorophyll-a observation. The ocean colour algorithms, in addition to ocean colour sensors, also evolved since the CZCS, and the remote sensing data of various biogeochemical variables have become available (e.g. particulate organic carbon, calcite concentration, chromophoric dissolved organic matter etc.). While availability of the biogeochemical products from the ocean color remote sensing is continuously growing, it is only the fluorescence line height due to phytoplankton that became available as a biological product after chlorophyll-a. Here we challenge to develop a new satellite algorithm to retrieve more biological variables using the ocean colour remote sensing. We found in theory that some physiological quantities of various phytoplankton groups such as the chlorophyll-a specific-absorption coefficient and the quantum yield of photosynthesis can be retrieved by integrating a bio-optical theory and an image processing technique. When these biological products were actually derived using the satellite ocean colour data, our analyses revealed that primary productivity of some phytoplankton groups could be largely influenced by their physiology rather than their biomass. This implies the importance of physiological observation of phytoplankton for a better understanding of ocean biogeochemical processes and ecology.

Keywords: ocean color remote sensing, phytoplankton, photo-physiology

Improvement of GCOM-C chlorophyll-*a* concentration product by in-situ optical measurements

*Hiroshi Murakami¹, Yoko Kiyomoto², Hiroaki Sasaki²

1.Earth Observation Research Center, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2.Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency

Global Change Observation Mission for Climate (GCOM-C) which carries Second-generation Global Imager (SGLI) is planned to be launched in Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) 2016 (from April 2016 to March 2017). SGLI has middle spatial resolution (250 m to 1000 m), wide swath (1150 km to 1400 km), 19 bands from near-UV (380 nm) to thermal infrared (12 μ m) wavelengths, and two-channel (red and near infrared) slant view polarization observations. SGLI will provide several ocean color products including normalized water-leaving radiance (*NWLR*) (or remote sensing reflectance (R_{rs})), photosynthetically available radiation (*PAR*), chlorophyll-*a* concentration (*Chla*), colored dissolved organic matter (*CDOM*), total suspended matter concentration (*TSM*), which will contribute to coastal environment monitoring and climate researches by the SGLI 250m resolution and wide swath. *Chla* is a key parameter to know phytoplankton distribution and the ocean primary production. Traditionally, it was estimated by an empirical regression between *Chla* and blue/green ratio of R_{rs} (e.g., OC4 algorithm (O'Reilly et al., 2000)). The regression is basing on a global in-situ dataset (e.g., NASA bio-Optical Marine Algorithm Data set, NOMAD (Werdell and Bailey, 2005)). However, the relationship can be deviated due to anomalous condition of inherent optical properties (IOPs), phytoplankton absorption, a_{ph} , CDOM + detritus absorption, a_{dg} , and particle back-scattering, b_{bp} , especially in the coastal areas.

This study showed improvement of the *Chla* estimation by considering the IOP deviation through a simple IOP models (Gordon et al., 1988 and Lee et al., 2002). We tested the scheme for in-situ R_{rs} and *Chla* data observed by Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute (SNFRI) in the East China Sea, which is independent of the NOMAD dataset. Firstly, we calculated $Chla^{1st}$ by the traditional OC4 algorithm and a_{ph} by the linear matrix inversion scheme (Hoge and Lyon, 1996, 1999) from the observed R_{rs} . Then, R_{rs} is modified by the IOP model with the estimated a_{ph} , which is assumed to be strongly related to *Chla*, and average state of a_{dg} and b_{bp} at condition of the *Chla* value. The average state of a_{dg} and b_{bp} was modeled by regression with *Chla* basing on the NOMAD dataset in advance. Finally we recalculated $Chla^{re}$ by the OC4 algorithm applied to the modified R_{rs} . Mean absolute difference (MAD) compared to the in-situ observed *Chla* was improved from 50% ($Chla^{1st}$) to 40% ($Chla^{re}$).

This scheme assumed spectral shape of a_{ph} , a_{dg} and b_{bp} , however they can change in various coastal environment. Collection of the in-situ bio-optical measurements in the various coastal areas is required to develop more robust GCOM-C algorithms and methodology to estimate coastal *Chla*.

Keywords: GCOM, GCOM-C, SGLI, ocean color, chlorophyll-*a* concentration

Application of Bio-Optical Model and Satellite Image in Identification and Mapping of Submerged Macrophytes in South-Basin of Lake Biwa, Japan

*Shweta Yadav¹, Yosuke Yamashiki¹, Minoru Yoneda¹, Tamura Masayuki¹, Suzaki Junichi¹, Kanako Ishikawa²

1.Kyoto University, 2.Lake Biwa Environmental Research Institute (LBERI)

Abstract

Aquatic macrophytes are important for primary production and environmental protection of marine and fresh water ecosystems. However excessive growth of macrophytes may cause an adverse shift in shallow lakes from clear-water plant-dominated states to turbid algae-dominated state. In order to effectively manage the inland waters and their ecosystem, it is crucial to monitor the community structure and distribution of aquatic macrophytes.

Present study focus on identifying and mapping the submerged macrophyte species dominated in eutrophic south basin of Lake Biwa, using satellite image (Landsat) and bio-optical model. Spectral signature of various submerged macrophytes were generated. Laboratory experiments were conducted to identify the reflectance spectra of the macrophytes at different wavelength, using FieldSpec Spectroradiometer. Result indicates that visible (450-670 nm) and near-infrared (850-880 nm) bands are the significant for spectral discrimination of submerged macrophytes. Image processing software Erdas-Imagine-2013 was used to map the macrophytes species.

Keywords: Remote Sensing, Bio-Optical Model, Submerged Macrophytes, Mapping

Satellite Retrieval of Overstory and Understory Leaf Area Index in High Northern Forests

*Wei Yang¹, Hideki Kobayashi², Kenlo Nishida Nasahara³

1.Center for Environmental Remote Sensing, Chiba University, 2.Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, 3.University of Tsukuba

Leaf area index (LAI), defined as one-half the total green leaf area per unit of horizontal ground surface area, is a crucial input parameter for global carbon cycle modeling. Since carbon fixed through net primary productivity has different residence times for different components, the LAI for overstory and understory vegetation in forest ecosystems need to be treated differently in carbon cycle modeling. Currently, satellite remote sensing is the only feasible technique to measure the LAI at a continental and/or global scale over a long periods of multiple years. However, there are no existing satellite products that provide simultaneous estimation of overstory and understory leaf area index (LAIo and LAIu) at present. Consequently, we proposed an integrating look-up table (LUT) method to remotely estimate the LAIo and LAIu for boreal forests, where are encountering rapider temperature change than other areas. In the newly proposed method, the understory normalized vegetation difference index (NDVIu) is first retrieved from multiple satellite observations by using a semi-empirical method. Then the LAIu is estimated from the retrieved NDVIu through searching a LUT generated by radiative transfer simulation for understory vegetation. In order to estimate the LAIo, a new land-cover map of forest types, which classifies the boreal forests as low, medium and high types, is generated by using a wall-to-wall canopy height product to replace the conventional global land-cover maps. The LUTs containing angles, LAIu, LAIo, and corresponding reflectance at red and near-infrared bands are generated for each forest type by running a radiative transfer model. Specifically, the forest landscape parameters are determined by an empirical forest structure model. Moreover, the retrieved NDVIu is used as an ancillary information to constrain the relationship between LAIo and canopy reflectance. The validation results showed acceptable accuracy based on our field measurement at interior Alaska, America.

Keywords: Satellite Remote Sensing, Leaf Area Index, Northern Forests

Hyperspectral Imaging from International Space Station : Hyperspectral Imager Suite (HISUI)

*Tsuneo Matsunaga¹, Satoru Yamamoto¹, Toru Sakai¹, Akira Iwasaki², Satoshi Tsuchida³, Koki Iwao³, Jun Tani⁴, Osamu Kashimura⁴, Hirokazu Yamamoto³, Koichiro Mouri⁴, Tetsushi Tachikawa⁴

1.National Institute for Environmental Studies, 2.The University of Tokyo, 3.National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, 4.Japan Space Systems

Hyperspectral Imager Suite (HISUI) is a spaceborne imaging spectrometer being developed by Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) of Japan for the deployment on International Space Station (ISS) Japan Experiment Module (JEM) in FY2018. It will be METI's fourth spaceborne optical imaging system after JERS-1 OPS (1992 -1998), ASTER (1999 -), and ASNARO-1 (2014 -). HISUI has one reflective telescope, two grating spectrometers, two area detectors, and a mechanical cooler, and covers 0.4 - 2.5 μm spectral region with 185 spectral bands, 20 m (cross track) x 30 m (along track) spatial resolution, and 20 km swath, from the altitude of 400 km. The basic specifications of HISUI are summarized in Table 1.

HISUI project is currently being promoted by three organizations each of which has a contract with METI : Japan Space Systems, NEC Corporation, and National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST). In addition, several scientists from universities and national research institutes are participating in the HISUI project.

The planned operation of HISUI onboard ISS will be three years from 2019. In this time period, ISS will have several advanced earth observing instruments such as a vegetation lidar (Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation, GEDI), a thermal camera for terrestrial vegetation (ECOSystem Spaceborne Thermal Radiometer Experiment on Space Station, ECOSTRESS) and a carbon dioxide sensor (Orbital Carbon Observatory 3, OCO-3). Synergy among these instruments will provide us new information on terrestrial ecosystem which cannot be obtained from individual observations by these instruments. Especially, simultaneous observation by GEDI and HISUI will enable combined analysis of biomass amount data from a lidar and physiological parameters of vegetation from an imaging spectrometer.

Table 1. HISUI Specifications.

Spatial resolution	20 m (CT) x 30 m(AT)
Swath	20 km
Spectral coverage	0.4 - 2.5 μm
Spectral resolution	10 nm (VNIR) 12.5 nm (SWIR)
Number of band	185
Signal to noise ratio	>450 @ 620 nm >300 @ 2100 nm
MTF	> 0.2
Dynamic range	12 bits
Data compression	Lossless (70%)
Pointing capability	$\approx \pm 5^\circ$ (± 35 km)
Data rate (70 % compression)	0.4 Gbps
Maximum data amount per day	690 Gbyte

The altitude of ISS is assumed to be 400 km.

The current status of GOSAT and GOSAT-2

*Tsuneo Matsunaga¹, Tatsuya Yokota¹, Masakatsu Nakajima², Gen Inoue, Ryoichi Imasu³

1.National Institute for Environmental Studies, 2.Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 3.The University of Tokyo

Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT) and its successor, GOSAT-2, are Japanese earth observing satellites for greenhouse gases measurements from space. Both satellite projects are joint efforts among Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES).

GOSAT was launched in January 2009, already finished its design lifetime (five years), and is currently in its extended operation period. Its data have been used to calculate whole-atmosphere monthly mean carbon dioxide concentration and to identify locations with large anthropogenic emissions of CO₂ and methane.

GOSAT-2 will be launched in FY2017. Both satellites have Fourier transform spectrometers for the measurements of columnar abundances of greenhouse and other gases and UV-VIS-NIR-SWIR imagers for cloud and aerosol detection. GOSAT-2 instruments (FTS-2 and CAI-2) will be modified or improved based on the experiences of GOSAT instruments (FTS and CAI). FTS-2 will have the extended spectral coverage for carbon monoxide measurement and the intelligent pointing capability to avoid cloud contamination. CAI-2 will have multiple UV bands for more precise land aerosol monitoring and forward/backward viewing capability to avoid sun glint over oceans. Most of critical design reviews of GOSAT-2 spacecraft, earth observing instruments, and ground systems have been completed.

Synergistic observations using a wide spectral-coverage FTS and an agile pointing mechanism onboard GOSAT

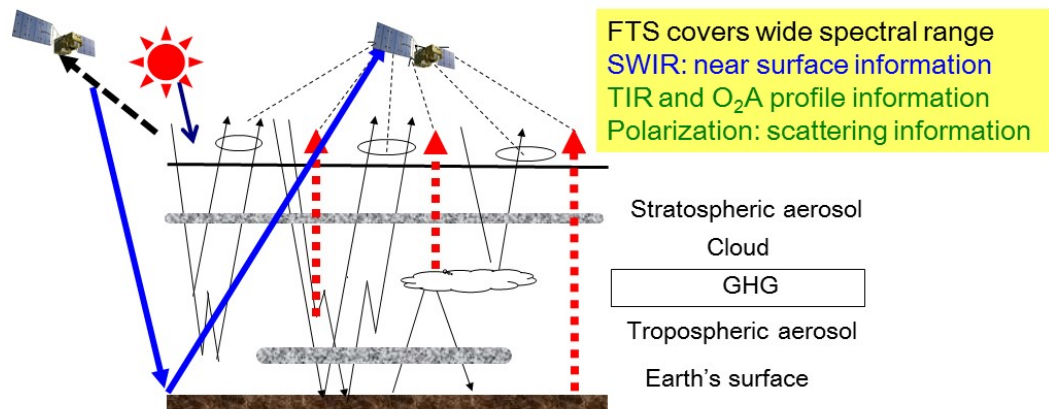
*Akihiko Kuze¹, Hiroshi Suto¹, Kei Shiomi¹, Fumie Kataoka², Jun Yoshida³

1.Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2.Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan, 3.NEC cooperation

Since February 2009, Thermal And Near infrared Sensor for carbon Observation Fourier-Transform Spectrometer (TANSO-FTS) onboard the Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite (GOSAT) has been providing long-term high-resolution radiance spectra of and uniform quality. Among the satellite-borne spectrometers for greenhouse gases (GHG) observations, only GOSAT uses FTS technology to acquire high-resolution spectra. With the FTS multiplex advantage, the single spectrometer with a common field of view can simultaneously cover both two linear polarization of the solar scattered light and thermal emission from the earth's surface and atmosphere. After seven years of operation, most of the level 2 products have still been retrieved only from the scalar solar scattered light spectra. However, there is a strong need to acquire information for at least two vertical-layers (upper and lower atmosphere) to understand GHG dynamics. Theoretically, vertical profiles can be retrieved from thermal infrared spectra using the Levenberg-Marquardt method. The algorithm assumes that the measurements and a priori errors are random; however, actually measured radiance spectra and the forward model show calibration errors and systematic biases, respectively. In addition, in the existing retrievals, many parameter need to be retrieved simultaneously. These errors make retrievals unstable. Therefore, the parameters to be assumed and retrieved need to be reconsidered.

The modification of the light path by the scattering induced by thin clouds and aerosol scatterings, which are highly polarized, is still the largest source of errors and information on their vertical location can minimize the errors in GHG retrievals. The measured light is a combination of surface reflection and scattering by clouds and aerosols, which have different phase functions. Polarization measurement of O₂ A band spectra has potential height information The TANSO-FTS instrument has a ZnSe non-coated beam with an incident angle of 45deg and a large polarization sensitivity. The analysis using vector radiative transfer calculation and an instrument Muller matrix becomes complicated. The polarization of the spectra shows strong dependency on the geometry of the sun, the target object and the satellite. A unique function of TANSO-FTS is agile targeting; the two axes mechanism helps target and view a point source from different geometries by uploading the pointing angle and location tables on a daily basis. In this study, a simpler but robust algorithm is proposed by minimizing the number of parameters to be retrieved, and optimizing sampling pattern and viewing geometry to minimize the highly geometry-dependent polarization related errors.

Keywords: GOSAT , TANSO-FTS, FTS, thermal infrared, polarization, vertical profile



High spectral resolution data of (1) Solar lines (Fraunhofer lines, Fluorescence)
 (2) Earth albedo (reflectance and scattering)
 (3) Thermal radiation
 (4) Two linear polarizations