

National Centre for Earth Observation





→ 8th ADVANCED TRAINING COURSE ON LAND REMOTE SENSING

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Observing the Hydrological Cycle over Land using SMOS

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A simple water budget

CESBIO









Surface Layer processes (ESA)

Motivation for soil moisture measurments



Jung et al., 2010, nature - (see also Mirales et al. 2016)

Is it a priority to observe the hydrological cycle ?

The Global Risks Perception Survey from the World Economic Forum

CESBIO



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Not all components are observed at the desired resolution and accuracy

Microwave Radiometry for the hydrological Cycle



Microwave missions for global soil moisture mapping





L-Band missions

PESBID



How is data organised (case of SMOS)

LO Correlation, Telemetry

esa

- L1C Brightness temperatures
- L2 Physical variables (soil moisture, optical thickness...)

L3SM (time synthesis soil moisture)

L3TB (time synthesis angle binned TB)

-> CDTI

L4 High-end product obtained from models and other sensors



Microwave RadioMeter (MRM)?



An MRM is:

- A passive remote sensing device (in contrast to an active radar).
- A highly sensitive receiver for thermal radiation.

It measures

- Thermal radiance at a given frequency (called brightness temperature) $T_{\rm B}^{p}$ (p = H, V)
- Thermal radiation is electromagnetic radiation generated by charged particles in matter that move due to kinetic energies associated with physical temperature *T*.



Mike Schwank - SMOS training session, ESA-ESAC, 18 – 22 May 2015, Madrid (Spain)



Signal power levels in L-Band



Example of a black body at 300 k observed between 1400 – 1427 MHz

$\mathsf{P} = \mathsf{k} \cdot \mathsf{T} \cdot \mathsf{B}$

Rayleigh-Jeans approximation of Planck's law

Emissivity = 1 (black-body)

 $k = 1.380658 \cdot 10^{-23} \text{ JK}^{-1}$ (Bolzmann constant)

T = 300K (Physical temperature)

B = 27MHz (bandwidth of protected part of L-band (1400 − 1427 MHz)) $P \approx 1.1 \cdot 10^{-13}$ W

Important features :

- Directed antenna with high gain
- Low-noise, narrow-band receiver
- Highly stable temperature control
- Internal and external reference (calibration) noise-sources at known noise temperatures

Same frequency but different technologies



L-band Passive

2D Interferometric radiometer (std: 2.4 k) Multi-angular acquisitions (0° - 60°+)
3 days global coverage at 6 am and 6 pm Spatial resolution (27 -55 km)
RFI mitigation at ground segment



L-Band Active (3 first months) and Passive

Mesh reflector antenna (std: 1.3 k) One fixed angle (40°) 3 days global coverage at 6 am and 6 pm Passive Spatial resolution (51 X 47km) Spectral filtering for RFI on board



Incidence angles and swath width



SMOS HR

- Objective
 - L Band continuation
 - Science and opertaional applications
 - Improve spatial resolution and filtering
 - 10 km, 3 day revisit, global
- Solution
 - Factor 2 through concept improvement
 - Factor 2 through signal processing
- Situation
 - R&T study underway
 - Phase 0 started
 - Programmatic context
 - Collaboration NASA, CAS, ...









Copernicus Imaging Microwave Radiometer (CIMR)

Mission Objective

- Respond's directly to the Integrated EU Arctic Policy
- Climate Change and Safeguarding the Arctic
- Environment Sustainable Development in and around the Arctic
- International Cooperation on Arctic Issues
- Operational Sea Ice Services and Global SST capability
- Characteristics (To be Confirmed)
- Conically scanning multi-frequency microwave radiometer
- Single satellite, Observation Zenith angle 55±1.5°
- Loose convoy flight with MetOp-SG(B) <360s separation
- ~95% global coverage every day, mean 6 hourly-revisit in Arctic Areas In Phase A/P1, Lounch: 2025

•	Channels (GHz, all H&V	*):		1.4 6	.9 10.	65 18.7	36.5
•	Resolution (km):	≤55	≤15	≤15	≤5	≤5 (g:3km)	
•	NE∆T (K @150K):	≤0.3	≤0.2	≤0.3	≤0.3	≤0.7	
	*Full Rol in discussion						

- Products (Performance TBC, P=Primary, S=Secondary)
- P1: Sea Ice Concentration (≤5 km, 5%)
- P2: Sea Surface Temperature (10 km, ~0.2 K)
- S: Sea Ice Drift (≤25 km, 3 cm/s)
- S: Thin Sea Ice Thickness (~40 km, 10%)
- S: Snow on Sea Ice
- S: Snow Water Equivalent
- S: Sea Surface Salinity (~40 km)
- S: Ice Type (≤5 km)
- S: Extreme Wind
- Additional tertiary products (eg. global soil moisture, atmospheric water load, IST, precipitation rate...)





AMSR-2 v6 Sea Surface Temperature: 3-days ending 2018/04/08 - Globa





SMOS brightness temperatures •First step, computing pseudo-L3TBs from NRT The DGGID: 6047256 0=-37.686 1=-60.037 XS=-65km PRFIA=0.00 - ST1=12 - FLR=[0 0 1] - NIT=6 NRT=1 NCL=1 NWD=0



esa ⊙ L1C

- No angle binning
- XY polarization reference frame



⊙ angle bins of 5° HV polarization ⊙ EASE grid





CESBIO

Median TB at 42.5 ° during summer





Median TB at 42.5 ° during summer



CESBID

Median TB at 42.5 ° during summer



266

290

193



Median TB at 42.5 ° during summer



CESBID

Median TB at 42.5 ° during summer





Median TB at 42.5 ° during summer



1			6				
120	144	169	193	217	241	266	290



Higher level comparison

- Global maps of brightness temperatures are averaged over 3 months periods and compared
- Need for careful selection of acquisition to remove potential contamination
- Compared at top of atmosphere
- Overall consistent with previous results







(Al Bitar et al. ESSD 2017)

Microwave Radiometry for the hydrological Cycle





L2SM retrieval algorithm Ref: (Kerr Y. et al., ieee-tgrs 2012) and ATBD L2 SM



TB modeling at Top of atmosphere

$T_{B,tot}(P,\theta)$	=	$e_{s}T_{s}\gamma$	+	$(1-\omega)(1-\gamma)T_{v}$	+	$(1-\omega)(1-\gamma)T_{v}(1-e_{s})\gamma$	+	T _{B,sky} γ² (1 - <mark>e</mark> _s)
Total		Soil (1)		Vegetation (2)		Soil + Vegetation (3)		Sky (4)

 e_s soil emissivity; linked to soil moisture through dielectric constant T_s physical temperature of soil T_v physical temperature of vegetation ω single scattering albedo of vegetation (omega) γ canopy transmissivity; vegetation optical depth τ (tau) T_{Bsky} sky brightness temperature



- P polarisation (H or V)
- θ incidence angle

Jennifer Gant SMOS Training Course 2017 for a recent review see (Wigneron et al. 2017, RSE)

Reflectivity/ dielectric constant /Soil moisture



 $e(\lambda) = 1 - r(\lambda)$

• <u>'Fresnel equations</u>': Dielectric constant ($\varepsilon = \varepsilon' + i \cdot \varepsilon''$) determines smooth surface reflectivity R, depending on incidence angle θ :

$$R_{\rm H} = \left[\frac{\cos\theta - \sqrt{\left(\varepsilon - \sin^2\theta\right)}}{\cos\theta + \sqrt{\left(\varepsilon - \sin^2\theta\right)}}\right]^2$$
$$R_{\rm V} = \left[\frac{\varepsilon\cos\theta - \sqrt{\left(\varepsilon - \sin^2\theta\right)}}{\varepsilon\cos\theta + \sqrt{\left(\varepsilon - \sin^2\theta\right)}}\right]^2$$



(Jennifer Grant, Wigneron et al. RSE L-MEB)

What frequency for soil moisture ?





Soil moisture products



SMOS Soil moisture retrievals Retrieval methodology



- Physically based retrieval (Wigneron et al. RSE, Kerr et al. 2012 IEEE TGRS, Lievens et al. 2014)
- Multi orbit retrieval (L3) (AI Bitar et al., ESSD 2017)
- Single channel algorithm (Jackson et al., Maciej et al. 2014, Delannoy et al. 2012)
- Neural Network retrievals (Rodriguez et al., 2017)...

Validation

- Comparison with global data
- Validation with in-situ networks

- Downscaling and validating <u>Enhancing retrievals</u>

- Impact of Roughness
- Enhancing vegetation parametrisation
- Enhancing snow and ice representation
- Enhancing retrievals over organic soil

(Alyaari et al. 2014a, Alyaari et al. 2014b,...)

(Wigneron et al. 2012, Bircher et al. 2012, Leroux et al. 2014, Al Bitar et al. 2012, Albergel et al. 2012 ...) (Merlin et al. 2010,2012, Piles et al.)

(Mialon et al. 2012, Parrens et al. in review)

(Rahmoune et al., 2014, Wigneron et al. 2012)

(Mike Schwank, Gamma RS)

(SMOS HiLat – Bircher et al.)

An "aparté" on Soil moisture from SAR

About Radar backscattered signal



Modeling the vegetated soil backscatter

 $n=\mathbf{N}$

$$\sigma_{total}^{0} = \sigma_{veg}^{0} + \gamma^{2} \sigma_{sol}^{0} + \sigma_{veg-sol}^{0}$$

milieu 2
Modeling of the soil backscatter

$$\sigma_{pp}^{\circ} = \frac{k^{2}}{2} \exp[-2k_{z}^{2}s^{2}] \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} |I_{pp}^{n}| \frac{w^{n}(-2k_{x}, 0)}{n!}$$

From M. Zribi 2015, CESBIO

Inversion algorithms to estimate surface soil moisture



References	Frequency & pol	Parameters retieval	Ancillary data	Surface type	Algorithm base
Dubois et al, 95, Oh et al., 92, Zribi et al., 03, Zribi et al., 08, Baghdadi et al., 11, 2012, Balenzo et al., 09	L, C band/ HH, VV, HV	Mv, R/ Mv/ R	-	Bare soil/ sparse veg	Regression model
Wagner et al, 99, Wagner et al., 08, Kim&VanZyl, 09, Van Doninck et al., 12, Zribi et al., 14, Kumar et al., 15, Gorrab et al., 15	C band/ HH, VV	Μv	Optical data	Bare soil/ veg surfaces	Change detection
Paloscia et al., 08, Baghdadi et al., 10, El-Hajj et al. 15	C band/ HH, VV, HV	Mv/ Mv, VWC	Optical data	Bare soil/ veg surfaces	Neural Networks
Kim et al., 12, Kim et al., 14 L band/ HH, VV		Mv, R/ Mv, R, VWC	-	Bare soil/ sparse veg	Numerical scattering model
Shi et al., 97, Joseph et al., 08, Pierdicca et al., 2010,	L, C band/ HH, VV, HV	Mv/ Mv, R	-	Bare soils From M. Z	Physical modeling riby 2015, CESBIC

Microwave Radiometry for the hydrological Cycle




Types of drought



³⁸ Source: National Drought Mitigation Centre, and G. Rossi, B. Bonaccorso, A. Cancelliere, (2003)

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Stages of agricultural drought

Processes

Vegetation

Water stress

Decreased

photosynthetic

activity

Precipitation deficit

Irrigation

deficit-

Soil moisture

shortage

	Sens	ng freq	u e n c y	
Microwave (K-Band)	Microwave (L-Band / C-Band)	Thermal IR	Fluorescence	NDVI / NDWI / SLA / LAI
Only for	Sens			
GPM (MT, GPM	SMOS, SMAP, Sentinel-1	LandSat-8, Sentinel-3	Flex ?	Sentinel-2
	DIUIIIdSS !			

Root zone soil moisture

Root zone soil moisture is a very usefull information to access agricultural drought in an early warning system

SMOS measures surface soil moisture, root zone soil moisture need to be modeled

At CESBIO **SMOS surface soil moisture** and MODIS LAI are assimilated into a double bucket model to compute **root zone soil moisture**. (Al Bitar et al. 2013, Kerr et al. 2016)





SMOS Global root zone soil moisture maps



Al Bitar et al., 2013, Kerr et al. 2016

available on www.catds.fr





(Al Bitar et al. 2017 ESSD)

from surface to ~20 cm

sequential formulation of the exponential filter

Based on Albergel et al. (2006)

But doesn't take into account the capillary effect (interaction between the different layers) and vegetation transpiration Al Bitar et al., 2013

Second layer model: 20cm - 1.5 m

Theta based Richards Equation

$$\frac{\partial \theta(h, \mathbf{x})}{\partial t} - T = \nabla \cdot [\mathbf{K} \nabla h] - \nabla \cdot [\mathbf{K} \mathbf{g}_B]$$

- h : capilary pressure in (m)
- Θ : water content (m3/m-3
- K : hydraulique conductivity (m/s)
- g : unit gravity vertor
- T : vegetation transpiration $(m^3/m^3/s)$ A linearized (force restore) formulation is used

Vegetation transpiration model (T)

EI

T: Transpiration of the vegetation (m³/j)

computed using FAO-56 method forced by NDVI and air temperature

Kcb=a exp (b. NDVI) adapted from Er-Raki et al. (2010)



Why are we using the remote sensing driven $F\Delta O$ approach ?



(Battude et al. RSE 2016, AWM 2017)

Validation over AMMA sites (Benin and Niger)



Pellarin, T., de Rosnay, P., Albergel, C., Abdalla, S., & Al Bitar, A. H-SAF Visiting Scientist Program HSAF_CDOP2_VS12_02, 2013.

Comparision to root zone products



Figure 1: Annual mean root-zone soil moisture maps for MERRA, H14, GL-SWI and SMOS.

Pellarin, T., de Rosnay, P., Albergel, C., Abdalla, S., & Al Bitar, A. H-SAF Visiting Scientist Program HSAF_CDOP2_VS12_02, 2013.

RZ soil moisture vs NOAA NCEP Bucket model



Drought in the horn of Affrica



We found the missing link between SMOS sandwich & SMOS sat !





Root zone soil moisture in 2016 Feb. / May / Aug. / Nov/ 2016



Droughts from Root zone soil moisture anomalies 2016

Feb. / May / Aug. / Nov/ 2016



What is looming a world food crises because of prolonged drought conditions, that can be driven from socio-climatique situations.

Degught before Canada Fires in 2016

Proof of the adequacy of the SMOS root zone soil moisture as a index into an early drought and fire risk warning system.

-ATDS



Communication over ESA web portal







Apport de l'humidité du sol SMOS dans la prévision du débit.







Land Data Assimilation System - LDAS



Surface soil moisture - Murray Darling Basin



(Lievens et al. 2015 RSE) (Lievens et al. 2016 RSE) (Lievens, Al Bitar et al. 2015 JHM) (Verhoest et al. 2014)

Discharge – Murray Darling Basin



Débit sous bassin – Upper Mississippi Bassin



Débit sous bassin – Upper Mississippi Bassin



Size of the dot represents the relative area of the basin. TB is for May-Nov, 2011, others are for Jan, 2010 – Dec, 2011 S. K. Tomer et al. 2014



SMOS

L4 – Flood risk Forecast

Al Bitar A., Chone A., Tomer S. K., Joyeux J., Villard P., Bodnar R., Kerr Y.







Flood Risk Forecast



Flood Risk Forecast



- Flood can be classified into several types : Hurricanes, storm surge, heavy rainfall...
- Soil moisture is expected to play a role for heavy rainfall driven floods, but there are still many ways of implementing this information in hydrological modeling.
- Here we consider that soil moisture conditions prior to the flooding will influence the projected flood risk in a 1-5 days for the following reasons :
 - saturated soils increase risks of flooding
 - Soil moisture is a proxy for rainfall
 - Land surface / atmospheric coupling (Koster et al. 2010)

SMOS Flood Risk Forecast

Methodology

Leveraging inundation risk based on SMOS soil moisture prior knowledge



SM vs SM_perc	None /0	Low /1	Moderate /2	High /3
0.8	None /0	None /0	Low / 1	Moderate /2
0.8 - 0.9	None /0	Low / 1	Moderate /2	High / 3
0.9 +	None /0	Moderate /2	High / 3	Ext High / 4

Operational implementation by CapGemini and CESBIO





Hydrology in the context of Earth System



Not all components are observed at the desired resolution and accuracy

SWAF - Water fraction using SMOS data

Median TB H @ 42.5

FB mixte

TB land

SWaF

TB Water

land



Al Bitar et al., in review



Permanent water

Forest
Monitoring of water surfaces from space



Pecklet al. 2017, Aires et al. 2017, Ferrant et al. 2017, Parrens et al. 2017

Impact of polarisation and incidence angle

Mean SWAF for 2010 - 2016



Parrens et al. Waters 2017

Validation of the SMOS Water fraction

Against static maps



Al Bitar et al. - AGU Fall meeting - H51P-02 - 12-15 Dec. 2016 – San Francisco, CA, USA

Droughts of 2010

Clim. Water. Index

Anomaly of water fraction Jul. – Sept. 2010



Drought depicted for the South amazone but also for the innundation plains, which can not be detected using the Clim. Water Index which is based on optical data.



 water deficit
 anomaly of SMOS water fraction

 (Lewis et al., Science 2011)
 abnormaly dry
 abnormaly wet

Droughts of 2010 vs 2015

Clim. Water. Index

Anomaly of water fraction

Anomaly of water fraction Oct. – Dec. 2015





Nitrogen and Carbon fluxes of inland water surfaces Denitrification rate was estimated as following (Peyrard et al. 2011): $R_{NO_3} = -0.8 \left(\rho \cdot \frac{1-\varphi}{\varphi} \cdot k_{POC} [POC] \cdot \frac{10^6}{M_C} + \right)$





L4 Water Surfaces at High resolution (New)





The need for high resolution SM

- Yield and soil moisture availability are highly correlated.
- Irrigation accounts for about 70% of water ressources uses.

Gravitary irrigation in South India





(Battude, Al Bitar et al. RSE 2016, AWM 2017) → But Irrigation and yield applications will need high resolution (sub kilometric products while conserving revisit).



Rationale for evaporation-based SM downscaling Generic scheme





C4DIS - L4 high resolution soil moisture



Dispatch is a disaggregation algorithm using microwave + optical (visible & thermal) remote sensing (Merlin et al. 2012) (Molero et al. RSF, 2016)



MAPSM: Active-Passive fusion



- Tomer, S. K., Al Bitar, A., Sekhar, M., Zribi, M., Bandyopadhyay, S., & Kerr, Y. (2016). MAPSM: A spatio-temporal algorithm for merging soil moisture from active and passive microwave remote sensing. Remote Sensing, 8(12), 990.
- Tomer, S. K., Al Bitar, A., Sekhar, M., Zribi, M., Bandyopadhyay, S., Sreelash, K., ... & Kerr, Y. (2015). Retrieval and multi-scale validation of soil moisture from multi-temporal SAR data in a semi-arid tropical region. Remote Sensing, 7(6), 8128-8153.



Validation MAPSM: SMOS+Radarsat2













Remote Sensed high resolution relative soil moisture for Karnataka

Spatial resolution: 500 m; Temporal resolution: 1 day



Remote Sensed high resolution relative soil moisture for Karnataka

Spatial resolution: 500 m; Temporal resolution: 1 day



Remote Sensed high resolution relative soil moisture for Karnataka

Spatial resolution: 500 m; Temporal resolution: 1 day



Determining optimal Cloud seeding pogramatic



Cloud seeding aircraft -Blomberg ®

Interstate water management – The case of Cauvery Basin south india



www.aapahinnovations.com



Cauvery river basin



Cauvery river basin





CESBIO

www.aapahinnovations.com





Lessons learnt from SMOS

- 1 L-Band is a low energy signal..but very rich in information.
- 2- Soil Moisture monitoring is key to many processes but we didn't grasp yet it's full potential.
- 3 Validation of soil moisture at low resolution remains a challenge

General Lessons learnt, beyond SMOS

- One should leave space for imagination and innovation...don't limit your applications to mission objectives.
- Synergie is the key to advancing knowledge and reducing equifinality.
- Information is in the data awainting...even when at low resolution...



an operational L-Band mission?

...maybe our **practical session** on a shorter timescale