Satellite Remote Sensing: a Tool for Climate Studies

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CONTENTS OF THE PRESENTATION

- 1. Satellite remote Sensing: definition & components
- 2. Electromagnetic wave propagation through surface and atmosphere.
- 3. Satellite platforms and sensor characteristics
- 4. Climate parameters retrieved from remote sensing.
- 5. Atmospheric profile retrieval
- 6. Data Assimilation
- 7. Conclusions

1. Satellite remote sensing: definition & components



What is Remote Sensing?

Remote sensing is the science (or the art) of acquiring information about the Earth's surface and atmosphere without actually being in contact with it. CCRS/CCT

This is done by:

- \Diamond Measuring reflected or emitted radiation,
- ◊ Processing the measurements to correct for radiometric and geometric distortions
- ◊ Parameter retrieval (surface/ atmosphere) from the measurements

Remote Sensing: Retrieval of parameters of the medium at the end of the path (i.e. at the surface)

Remote Sounding: Retrieval of parameters of the medium along the path

Use of remote sensing in climate-related studies:

- 1. Climate monitoring (e.g. ice in polar regions, coastal erosion, sea and land surface temperature, etc.)
- 2. Model validation
- 3. Model initiation
- 4. Data assimilation (to correct/ adjust model output/ initial condition)

The Seven Components of Remote Sensing



A ◊ Source of illumination (radiation)
B ◊ Interaction with the atmosphere
C ◊ Interaction with the surface target
D ◊ Recording radiation by the sensor
E ◊ Transmission, reception, and processing
F ◊ Interpretation and analysis (retrieval algorithms)
G ◊ Applications

Sources of illumination (radiation)



Self-illumination

Active sensors Radar, Lidar



2. Electromagnetic wave propagation through surface and atmosphere.



Radiation from a Blackbody:

An important component in simulation what the satellite sensor receives; hence facilitates parameter retrieval (here we need the emissivity!)

A blackbody \Diamond idealized material,

- \Diamond perfectly opaque.
- $\Diamond\,$ absorbs all incident radiation and therefore reflects none.
- emits all of the received radiation (to maintain thermal equilibrium; i.e. its physical temperature)
- $\Diamond\,$ Hence, it is regarded as a perfect emitter.

A blackbody radiates uniformly in all directions at frequency f and temperature T (in K) according to the following expression: Max Planck equation:

$$B_{f} = \frac{2hf^{3}}{c^{2}} (\frac{1}{e^{hf/kT} - 1})$$

 B_f is the radiation flux density, *h* is Planck's constant, *k* is Boltzmann's constant, and *c* is the speed of light.



Source: <u>http://earth.esa.int/landtraining07/D1LB1-Moreno.pd</u> ESA Optical theory Basics-1 Radiative Transfer course (Sep. 2007) The *total emitted radiation* (*MI*) from a blackbody:

◊ proportional to the fourth power of its absolute temperature.
 ◊ Stefan-Boltzmann law:

$$M_{\lambda} = \sigma T^4$$

 σ \diamond the Stefan-Boltzmann constant= 5.6697 x 10⁻⁸ W m⁻² K⁻⁴.

Thus, the amount of energy emitted by an object such as the Sun or the Earth is a function of its temperature.

The dominant wavelength (λmax) of the Blackbody radiation:

 \Diamond Wein's displacement law:

$$\lambda_{\max} = \frac{k}{T}$$

where *k* is a constant equaling 2898 μ m K, and *T* is the absolute temperature in K.

Blackbody Radiation from the Sun and the Earth



The Sun approximates a 6,000° K blackbody:

Dominant wavelength of 0.48 μm (green light).

The Earth approximates a 300° K blackbody:

Dominant wavelength of 9.66 μm .

Overlap radiation between the sun and the earth: 3 μm 8 μm

The *dominant temperature* of the sensed object determines the thermal spectrum that has to be used.

♦ If we are interested in <u>soil</u>, <u>water</u>, <u>rock</u>, etc. with ambient temperatures on the earth's surface of 300 K: (dominant wavelength is 9.67 μ m),

Then: a sensor with thermal infrared detector operating

in the **8** - **14** μ m region might be most appropriate.

 \Diamond If we are looking for <u>800 K forest fires</u>: Then: a dominant wavelength is approximately **3.62** μm Then: a thermal infrared detector operating in the **3-5** μm region might be most appropriate







Electromagnetic wave processes:

Atmosphere

Scattering (molecular, particle) Transmission Absorption Emission Surface reflection/scattering scattering transmission absorption emission

Surface / sub-surface

Electromagnetic Interaction with the Atmosphere

c.

- 1. Scattering
- Rayleigh: small particles against short wavelength (gas molecules: O₂, N₂, etc.)
- Mei: medium-size particles against short and long wave (dust, pollen, smoke, ..)
- \langle non-selective: large particles against
 all wavelengths
 (mainly water vapour)



Source: apollo.lsc.usc.edu/classes/met130



Nonselective Scattering

- produced when there are particles in the atmosphere several times the diameter of the radiation being transmitted
- Mainly due to water droplets found in clouds
- Not as dependent on wavelength; hence clouds appear white or gray
- Scattering can severely reduce the information contents of remotely sensed data.



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2. Absorption

ozone: UV (outside typical spectrum of remote sensing)
 carbon dioxide: far IR (15μm)
 water vapour: 1 μm to 10 mm (long wave IR and short MW)

◊The cumulative effect of the absorption by the various constituents can cause the atmosphere to close down in certain regions of the spectrum. No energy is available to be sensed.

 \Diamond Absorption and scattering are frequently combined into an extinction coefficient

3. Transmission

- ◊ The atmosphere transmits visible and some parts of the spectrum effectively.
- ◊ Parts of the spectrum that transmit energy effectively are called "atmospheric windows" (e.g. the visible region: 0.4 - 0.7 µm)





• Microwave region (MW): >1 mm



Satellite sensors are designed to measure radiation in wavelengths that can be reflected or emitted back up through the atmosphere to space



Surface and sub-surface processes





A major difference between microwave and optical remote sensing Microwave penetrates the surface (hence holds sub-surface information)



Aerial photograph of Amundsen-Scott research Station, Antarctic



Same area as seen by Radarsat The image reveals an abandoned cluster of buildings that are now buries under ice and snow

The Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF) Objects look differently when illuminated or viewed from different angles

 \Diamond Reflectance of a target as a function of illumination & viewing geometry. \Diamond Depends on wavelength & structural and optical properties of the surface. Incident radiation beam

reflectance

But what if the surface is not flat? That is one reason that makes retrieval over land difficult

sun behind observer sun opposite to observer



Source: http://www-modis.bu.edu/brdf/brdfexpl.html

The BRDF function:

$$O(\theta_i, \phi_i, \theta_r, \phi_r, \lambda) = \frac{dL_r(\theta_i, \phi_i, \theta_r, \phi_r, \lambda)}{dE_i(\theta_i, \phi_i, \lambda)}$$

 L_r \Diamond reflected radiation in direction (θ_r, ϕ_r)

 E_i \Diamond incident radiation in direction (θ_i, ϕ_i)



The BRDF is needed in remote sensing for:

 \Diamond Correction of view and illumination angle effects (for image mosaic);

 \Diamond Deriving albedo,

 \Diamond Land cover classification,

♦ Cloud & aerosol detection,

- ♦ Atmospheric correction
- Radiometric boundary condition for any radiative transfer problem hence of relevance for climate modeling and energy budget investigations.





What Does a Satellite Sensor Actually Measure? 3. Downward reflectance of the atmosphere





3. Satellite Platforms and Sensor Characteristics











May 15, 2001 North Water Polynya

OLS (res. 500m)

AVHRR (res. 1.1 – 6.5 km)



Spatial resolution varies across the swath



Channel	Spectral Range (μ m)
1	0.58-0.68
2	0.73-1.00
3A	1.58-1.64
3B	3.55-3.93
4	10.3-11.3
5	11.5-12.5

Some multi-channel sensors have different spatial resolution for different channels



Original image (non-rectified)

Rectified image

As a result, the spatial resolution varies from 1.1 km directly beneath the satellite, to 5.5 km at the edge of the swath. This causes geometric distortions to occur.
Temporal resolution

determined by the repeat cycle, swath, and location on earth's surface



Map of the ground path of one revolution of a typical near-polar orbit larger spatial coverage in polar regions Consequently better temporal resolution

Temporal resolution



Satellite remote sensing:

♦ Good in monitoring slow varying phenomenon (crop growth, sand dune motion, coastal erosion, etc.)

◊ Not good in monitoring highly dynamic phenomenon such as aerosol transportation (unless with very coarse resolution),

Spectral resolution



A radiometer measures the radiation integrated over a band, not from a line spectrum

4. Climate parameters retrieved from remote sensing.



1. Land surface parameters:

•	Terrain height	4
•	Vegetation cover (NDVI-LAI) / height	5
•	Soil texture/ moisture	3
•	Land use (urban, desert, vegetation, etc.)	5
•	Surface temperature	5
•	Soil temperature and moisture profile	2
•	Surface albedo (under cloud-free sky)	4
•	Surface/ ground runoff	3
•	Surface IR emission	3

2. Ocean surface parameters:

- Sea Surface Temperature (SST)
- Land sea mask
- Ocean surface wind
- Floating sea ice motion

3. Gas/ Aerosol emission:

- Ozone (stratospheric/ tropospheric)
- Methane
- CFC^s
- Carbons
- aerosol (size, optical depth)
- water vapour (column, profile)
- nitrogen dioxide

4. Atmospheric Parameter:

•	Cloud height / cloud top temperature	4
•	Evapotranspiration	3
•	Temperature profile	5
•	Relative humidity	5
•	Wind speed	4
•	Geopotential height	4
•	Precipitation rate	4

Terrain height



ASTER 3D view of the Argyle diamond mine, western Australia. It is the world's largest single producer of diamonds. Image was created by draping an ASTER 4-3-2 RGB image over an ASTER-derived DEM. Vertical exaggeration is 2x. The scene was acquired August 20, 2000.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index in Eastern Africa: Last satellite image (Difference between 2003 and Average)



NDVI is a measure of how green the canopy is.

It is the difference between the emitted infrared and the reflected green visible light.

It is measured by any visible/ infrared sensor: AVHRR/ MODIS/ MERIS, ...etc.



SeaWiFS image

The patterns visible to the south of the Greek islands are possible caused by variations in the specular reflection of sunlight from the water's surface.

Land masses perturb the wind field which in turn results in bands of differing roughness and wave orientation at the sea surface which in turn affects how much sun glint the sensor sees.

land use (urban, desert, vegetation, etc.)

Land Cover Classification from MODIS data



Water Evergreen Needleleaf Forests Evergreen Broadleaf Forests Deciduous Needleleaf Forests Deciduous Broadleaf Forests Mixed Forests Woodlands Wooded Grasslands/Shrubs Closed Bushlands or Shrublands Open Shrublands Grasses Croplands Bare Mosses and Lichens

Land and sea surface temperature The Split Window technique

Two neighbouring bands are selected:

(e.g. 10.5 mm from AVHRR), (e.g. 12.4 mm from AVHRR).

 $T_s = a_o + a_1 T_i + a_2 T_j$

where

 a_i are coefficients that depend on emissivity and atmospheric transmittence T_i and T_j are brightness temperatures at bands i and j —

There is a proof that this form combines LST and atmospheric correction into one process (see Liang, p. 369).

 $T_s = a + bT_{11} + c(T_{11} - T_{12}) + d[(T_{11} - T_{12})(sec\theta - 1)]$

Difference in brightness channels account for atmospheric effect

Accounts for viewing geometry (path length variations)

a, b, c, d are coefficients determined by radiative transfer modelling and surface observations

 T_{11} and T_{12} – TOA brightness temperatures at 11 μ m and 12 μ m (AVHRR channels 4 and 5)



AVHRR daily-averaged SST at 54 km resolution. Also available at 18 km and 9 km resolution

Land surface temperature



MODIS Land Surface Temperature Monthly averaged, at 0.05 deg. Lat. Long. resolution

Albedo 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4

Surface albedo from MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer)

Global surface albedo over land from MODIS. This image was produced using data composite over a 16-day period, from April 7-22, 2002.

Reflected solar radiation



surface IR emission (long wave radiation)



Nadir versus limb radiation



Figure 1: Viewing geometries.



Tangent point tangent height =limb path Vertical resolution ~ 1.5 km Horizontal ~ 200km

MIPAS Observation Principle



Source: http://earth.esa.int/dragon/D2_L5_Carli.pdf



The higher the tangent height the less gases, therefore the more flat the spectrum

Source: http://earth.esa.int/dragon/D2_L5_Carli.pdf

5. Atmospheric profile retrieval (Temperature, H2O, O3, wind, etc.)



Think of atmosphere as layers:

Atmospheric "path" transmittance (\Im) from the bottom of a given layer to the TOA; for the mid infrared spectral region.



TOA Transmittance

	Tansmittance	C	2
51 km			\mathbf{y}_1
40.6 km			
33.5 km		Y ANNA ANNA ANNA ANNA ANNA ANNA ANNA AN	Тс
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7.2 km		MANA	
5.9 km		C	č
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11.5 μ 12 μ	12.5 μ 13 μ 13.5 μ	14μ 14.5μ 15μ	

Total transmittance \Im from a layer at z altitude to the TOA.

Layer Atmospheric Emission



layer atmospheric emission

51 km 40.6 km ասնեննո 33.5 km No. 1. I. M. HARRING MARKAN AND THE U. CONTRACTOR AND A DATES 28.4 km 24.4 km 21.4 km THE REPORT OF 18.4 km TATAL TAT 16 km 13.8 km 11.9 km ANAAAAAAAAA 10.2 km 8.6 km 7.2 km 5.9 km 4.6 km 3.5 km HULLMALLING PUNKAMAN 2.5 km JALUKA HILLANDU. PUNAMATAN 1.6 km Malak Millimur, Parking Market 0.8 km . Al 0.2 km MANAMAN MANAMAN 0 km

 11.5μ

12 µ

12.5 µ

13 µ

13.5 µ

14 µ

14.5 µ

15 µ

emission from each layer (i), not attenuated by the atmosphere above it

 $R_i \uparrow = (1 - \tau_i) B_i$

less emission

emission at TOA, received from each layer after attenuation through next (upper) layers.

$$R_i = (1 - \tau_i) B_i \mathfrak{S}_{(i-1)}$$

TOA LA	YER ATTE	NUATEI	D ATMOS	PHERIC E	MISSIO	N 111 1111 - a 1111	U≣ 10.1110	
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24.4 km ^{(1- τ} (ν, p ₅)) B(ν ,T	5)3(v,p4)							
21.4 km (1- τ (v, p ₆)) B(v ,T	- ₆) ℑ (ν, p ₅)							
18.4 km ^{(1- τ} (ν, p ₇)) B(ν ,T	7) 3 (v , p ₆)					LANGER AND	KIA. MARKINA	
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3.5 km (1-τ(ν, p ₁₆)) B(ν,	T ₁₆) 3 (ν, p ₁₅)				WWW. MURALAN			
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0.2 km (1-τ(ν, p ₂₀)) B(ν,	T ₂₀) ℑ (ν, p ₁₉)	A_111A_11994a		THE ANDRESS	ANNAL ANAL			
0 km (1-τ(v, p ₂₁)) B(v,	T ₂₁) 3 (ν, p ₂₀)							
11.5 μ	12 μ	12.5 μ	13 μ	13 .5 μ	14 μ	14.5 μ	15 μ	

 $R_{22} = (1 - \tau_{22}) B_{22} \mathfrak{S}_{21}$

Example of the summation of attenuated emission from 4 layers:



Example of decomposition of one term

$$(1 - \tau_3)\tau_2\tau_1B_3 = (\tau_2\tau_1 - \tau_3\tau_2\tau_1)B_3 = (\mathfrak{I}_2 - \mathfrak{I}_3)B_3$$

Hence, the radiance at the TOA integrated over the atmospheric column is:

$$R \uparrow = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\mathfrak{S}_{i-1}(\upsilon, p) - \mathfrak{S}_{i}(\upsilon, p) \right) B_{i}(\upsilon, p) = \int B_{i} d\mathfrak{S}_{i} = \int B_{i} \frac{d\mathfrak{S}_{i}}{dp} dp$$



How to retrieve temperature profile from satellite observations:

1. Need a number of channels equal the number of the steps in the atmospheric (temperature) profile.

2. Use the discrete form of the TOA radiance equation:

$$R \uparrow = \sum_{1}^{n} B_{i} \left(\frac{\Delta \mathfrak{T}}{\Delta p}\right)_{i} \left(\Delta p\right)_{i}$$

The unknown T (temperature) at the discrete points 1 to n is implied in the terms

$$B_i$$
 and $(rac{\Delta \Im}{\Delta p})_i$

Solve these non linear equation to obtain *T* at each height step.

This is, however, <u>not the method used in actual</u> <u>operational temperature sounding retrieval</u>. A data assimilation method is used.

$$R \uparrow = \int B_i \left(\frac{d\Im}{dp}\right)_i dp$$

 $\partial\mathfrak{I}$

6. Data Assimilation



What is Data Assimilation?





The corrected estimates (analysis) are a set of initial state for further time evolution of the model

What is the best correction of the model's data that accounts for the existence of the observations?

And a set of observations (not necessarily collocated or coincident



Given the model's state variables at time t₁

Observations (surface /or remote sensing)

Why Data assimilation?

- We need to predict the state variables in future, using the physical model ...
- ◊ Models have to be constrained periodically by reality …
- A Therefore, it is necessary to fit the model state as closely as possible to observations from the real world.



Two Criteria of Data Assimilation

- Minimization of Variance This is the criterion for the Optimal Interpolation Technique
- Maximization of the conditional probability of the corrected output (analysis), given a set of observations.

This is the criterion for the variational analysis techniques
Here is a simple question:

If the model output at one grid point = 10, and the observation at the same point = 8

What would be the "corrected" value of the model output?

The answer to this question reflects the level of understanding the concept of data assimilation.

Data Assimilation is NOT regression analysis!

It is about the Truth!

Model data and observations are co-located

The analysis equation is: (corrected model results)

$$x^{a} = x^{b} + W(x^{obs} - x^{b}).$$
(3)

Subtract the truth from both sides:

$$\mathbf{x}^{a} - \mathbf{x}^{t} = \mathbf{x}^{b} - \mathbf{x}^{t} + \mathbf{W}(\mathbf{x}^{\mathsf{obs}} - \mathbf{x}^{t} - \mathbf{x}^{b} + \mathbf{x}^{t})$$

Analysis error $\epsilon^a = x^a - x^t$ Analysis= corrected model resultsBackground error $\epsilon^b = x^b - x^t$ Background = model resultsObservation error $\epsilon^{obs} = x^{obs} - x^t$ Background = model results

The analysis equation in terms of errors is:

$$\epsilon^{a} = \epsilon^{b} + W(\epsilon^{obs} - \epsilon^{b}) \tag{4}$$

Model data and observations are co-located (cont.)

Take an ensemble average:

$$<\epsilon^a>=<\epsilon^b>+W(<\epsilon^{obs}>-<\epsilon^b>).$$
 (4)

If $<\epsilon^b>=<\epsilon^{obs}>=0$, then $<\epsilon^a>=0$.

Square (4) and take an ensemble average:

$$<(\epsilon^a)^2>=<(\epsilon^b)^2>+\mathsf{W}^2<(\epsilon^{\mathsf{obs}}-\epsilon^b)^2>+2\mathsf{W}<\epsilon^b(\epsilon^{\mathsf{obs}}-\epsilon^b)>.$$

Minimize $< (\epsilon^a)^2 >$ with respect to W assuming $< \epsilon^b \epsilon^{obs} > = 0$:

$$d < (\epsilon^a)^2 > /dW = 2W < (\epsilon^{obs})^2 + (\epsilon^b)^2 > -2 < (\epsilon^b)^2 > = 0$$

Let

$$(\sigma^{\text{obs}})^2 = <(\epsilon^{\text{obs}})^2 >, \quad (\sigma^b)^2 = <(\epsilon^b)^2, \quad (\sigma^a)^2 = <(\epsilon^a)^2 >$$

so that

$$W = \frac{(\sigma^b)^2}{(\sigma^b)^2 + (\sigma^{obs})^2}.$$
(5)

Variational Methods: 1DVAR, 2DVAR, 3DVAR

Given a set of observations (Z) and a model state (X), what does knowledge of the observations tell about the model state? The information is contained in the conditional p.d.f. (probability density function)

$$P_{X|Z}(X \mid Z) = \frac{p_{zx}(Z, X)}{p_{Z}(Z)} = \frac{p_{Z|X}(Z \mid X)p_{X}(X)}{p_{Z}(Z)}$$

In the variational analysis, we are looking for the value of *X* that maximizes the above conditional p.d.f.

But usually, we need an assumption about p.d.f. \Diamond assume that is Gaussian

Assume that the errors from the model and observations are both Gaussian

$$p(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-\frac{\varepsilon^2}{2\sigma^2})$$

Then the joint p.d.f. of the observation and the model output errors (using the fact that they are independent because they are Gaussian and uncorrelated:

$$p(\varepsilon^{r},\varepsilon^{b}) = p(\varepsilon^{r})p(\varepsilon^{b}) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^{b}\sigma^{r}}\exp\left[-\frac{(\varepsilon^{r})^{2}}{2(\sigma^{o})^{2}} - \frac{(\varepsilon^{b})^{2}}{2(\sigma^{b})^{2}}\right]$$

We are looking for x that minimizes

$$J(x) = \left[\frac{(x^{r} - x)^{2}}{2(\sigma^{r})^{2}} \frac{(x^{b} - x)^{2}}{(2\sigma^{b})^{2}}\right]$$

This is called a cost function

$$p_{zx}(Z,X) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2}} \frac{1}{|P|^{1/2}} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{m/2}} \exp\{-\frac{1}{2}(Z-HX)^T R^{-1}(Z-HX) - \frac{1}{2}(X-\mu)^T P^{-1}(X-\mu)\}$$

H is the observation operator (model space \rightarrow observation space)

The maximum a posteriori estimate is obtained by minimizing:

$$J(X) = \frac{1}{2} (Z - HX)^T R^{-1} (Z - HX) - \frac{1}{2} (X - \mu)^T P^{-1} (X - \mu)$$



Thank You !

Nudging is planned to be used rather than a statistical method because of the difficulty obtaining meaningful error statistics for the concentration product. [Status: Completion - Winter 2001]

finding the model state (at the initial time t_0) that minimizes the cost-function 9:

$$\vartheta \left(\mathbf{x}_{0} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{n} \left(H_{i} \left(\mathbf{x}_{i} \right) - \mathbf{y}_{i}^{\circ} \right)^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{R}_{i}^{-1} \left(H_{i} \left(\mathbf{x}_{i} \right) - \mathbf{y}_{i}^{\circ} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathbf{x}_{0} - \mathbf{x}_{0}^{\mathbf{b}} \right)^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{B}^{-1} \left(\mathbf{x}_{0} - \mathbf{x}_{0}^{\mathbf{b}} \right)$$