Tropical Cyclone Analysis Using Polar Orbiter Satellite Imagery



Derrick Herndon University of Wisconsin - CIMSS Direct Broadcast Workshop Miami, February 9-13, 2015



First ...

How are Tropical Cyclones Analyzed?



"The Dvorak tropical cyclone (TC) intensity estimation technique has been the primary method of monitoring tropical systems for more than three decades. The technique has likely saved tens of thousands of lives in regions where over one billion people are directly affected by TCs (commonly called hurricanes, typhoons, or cyclones). The Dvorak technique's practical appeal and demonstrated skill in the face of tremendous dynamic complexity" - Velden et al 2006





Dvorak Technique



- Intensity is inferred from patterns and features
- 24 hour change requirement addresses diurnal changes unrelated to intensity
- TC position relative to convective features important for accurate intensity estimates
- Most accurate for estimating TC central pressure
- DT is most objective for eye scenes
- Method has stood the test of time however some changes can be made to improve estimates.











Dvorak Technique





Source: Dvorak, V.F. 1995 Tropical clouds and cloud systems observed in satellite imagery: Tropical cyclones. Workbook Vol. 2. Modified by Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre, Bureau of Meteorology, tcwcwa@born.gov.au. Artwork held: Publication Section, Bureau of Meteorology. Date: 6 October 2009.



Dvorak Technique - Estimate Variance

89/11/88 12382 15WasinLaku

TC-08 Double Blind Dvorak Experiment for 15W Sinklaku 2008



 $[\]square$ B1 \triangle B5 \times B3 \times B4 \bigcirc B2



Dvorak Technique - Estimate Variance

89/11/88 12982 15H SINLAKU

TC-08 Double Blind Dvorak Experiment for 15W Sinklaku 2008









Better Resolution



Geostationary 4 km

VIIRS 0.75 km



Day Night Band

Where is the center? Center location is KEY for estimating the intensity



GOES IR Image

Day Night Band

Where is the center?

Center location is KEY for estimating the intensity



GOES IR Image

Day Night Band



Microwave

Visible (Solar Reflective Bands)

Infrared (Emissive Bands)







Microwave Imager Frequencies



23 – 37 Ghz– Used to estimate CLW, land surface properties, snow cover/depth, and precipitation.
TPW calculation takes advantage of small H2O absorption region

MW Sensors and Platforms

Dlatform	Frequency	Resolution	Swath	Pol
riationin	(Ghz)	(km)	Width (km)	
SSMI	37	25	1400	V/H
	85	12.5		
SSMIS	37	25	1700	V/H
	91	12.5		
TRMM*	37	12	878	V/H
	85	5		
AMSR-E	36	12	1600	V/H
	89	5		
WindSat	37	11	1025	V/H
AMSU	89	16	2345	V

*TRMM orbit was boosted to higher altitude in 2001

MW Imager Frequencies: 37 Ghz



Naval Research Lab Monterey www.nrlmry.navy.mil/tc_pages/tc_home.html

37 Ghz is strongly affected by liquid water content of the column. Warmer Tb's equate to larger concentrations of CLW revealing rainband structures.

Images reveal TC structure below the freezing level

Magnitude of land surface emissions overwhelms moisture signal over land areas

MW Imager Frequencies: 37 Ghz



SSMI 37 Ghz

Coriolis WindSat 37 Ghz

MW Imager Frequencies: 37 Ghz



MW Imager Frequencies: 85-92 Ghz



- 85–92 Ghz– These frequencies are primarily impacted by scattering due to frozen hydrometeors.
- Used for evaluation of deep convective regions

MW Imager Frequencies: 85-92 Ghz



Naval Research Lab Monterey www.nrlmry.navy.mil/tc_pages/tc_home.html

85-92 Ghz is strongly attenuated by frozen hydrometeors. The result is that convection will appear cold

Images reveal TC structure above the freezing level

Smaller difference in emission of mw energy between ocean and land permit depiction of cloud features over land.





89 GHz "Cold" Precipitation Against Warmer Ocean Background





val Research Laboratory http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/sat_products.ht <-- IR Temperature (Celsius) -->

-90	-80	- 70	-60	-50	-40	-30	-20	-10	0	1.0	20	30	40
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val Research Laboratory http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/sat_products.ht <-- IR Temperature (Celsius) -->

-80	-70	-60	-50	-40	-30	-20	-10	0	10	20	
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val Research Laboratory http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/sat_products.ht



val Research Laboratory http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/sat_products.ht <-- 85H GHz Brightness Temperature (Kelvin)

	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270
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Tropical Cyclone Center Positioning Quandary



val Research Laboratory http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/sat_products.ht <-- 37H GHz Brightness Temperature (Kelvin)

160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260



- Single thick eyewall typical of developing/intensifying TC
- Wind profile displays rapid wind peak with rapid decrease in wind speed outside of eyewall then more gradual decrease



- RMW moves inward toward center as eyewall contracts
- Wind profile displays 2 maxima with secondary eyewall at
- 20 nm. Intensification halted?
- Wind field has expanded and winds are stronger throughout



- Inner eye has dissipated and is replaced by larger outer eyewall indicated by single peak in wind profile
- Intensification resumes?
- Expansion of outer wind field continues

Hurricane Ivan Aircraft Wind Profiles







MIMIC-TC animation



http://tropic.ssec.wisc.edu/real-time/mimic-tc/tc.shtml

TC Center Estimation Using MW



TC Center Estimation Using MW



89 GHz image indicates center is well NW of convection in this sheared storm. Significant intensification is unlikely

MW Sounder Frequencies: ~55 Ghz



50-58 Ghz- Microwave temperature sounders make use of the O2 absorption band in this freq band.
Used to produce estimates of temperatures at different layers of the atmosphere





Hawkins and Rabsam 1968 Hurricane Hilda 1964







FIG. 6. Cross section through Erin's core showing temperature perturbation. Analysis was mac compositing dropsondes along/nearby the dashed line shown in Fig. 1. The vertical slide is oriented southwest to northeast. Maximum perturbation temperature of +11°C and distance scale are sh Initial release times of dropsondes are 1629, 1648, 1704, 1750, 1928, and 1936 UTC for B, 1, 2, 4, 8 I, respectively.

HALONG 11w, d23, Azimuthally averaged, 2014080506, 66 h FCST Temperature deviation (shaded), Min=-4.07007, Max=14.2156 °C Temperature (contour), Min=-78.4161, Max=33.388 °C

Halverson 2006 Hurricane Erin 2001

HWRF Typhoon Halong 2014

TC Intensity Analysis: Sounders





TC Intensity Analysis: Sounders

AMSU/ATMS - CROSSTRACK



SSMIS - CONICAL



- Flown aboard NOAA 15–19, METOP A/B, Aqua, FY Series, S–NPP (ATMS)
- 2 Instruments: AMSU-A (temperature) AMSU-B/MHS (moisture. ATMS 1 instrument)
- Primary channels of interest are AMSU-A
 5-8 and channel 16 on AMSU-B
- Data must be limb-corrected
- 48 km at nadir increasing to > 80 km at limb Special Sensor Microwave Imager/Sounder
- Flown aboard F16-19
- Primary channels of interest are channels 3–5 (sounder) and channel 17–18 (imager)
- 37.5 km resolution

Cross-track Scanning Effects

S-NPP ATMS

Scan angle cold bias caused by increased optical path for larger scan angles

ATMS CH6



Cross-track Scanning Effects

Cross-track scanning resolution degradation and impact on TC analysis

AMSU/ATMS 89 Ghz Imagery





TC Structure

- Evaluation of TC structure is critical for intensity forecasts
- MW imagery often reveals eyewall formation well before visible/IR imagery
- Secondary eyewall development and Eyewall Replacement Cycles (ERC's) modulate intensity for strongest storms
- MW images can help locate center in sheared and developing storms
- Radius of gale/storm force winds can be estimated from QuickScat, WindSat and AMSU imagery

AMSU Channel 7 Tb's Rita September 18-21



Super Typhoon Lekima 2014



Super Typhoon Lekima 2014















Pressure Anomaly of \sim 59 hPa Environmental Pressure = 1007

MSLP = 947 hPa



ATMS Channel 8 Tb Anomaly Compared to Pressure Anomaly





Pressure Anomaly of \sim 54 hPa Environmental Pressure = 1007





ATMS Channel 9 Tb Anomaly Compared to Pressure Anomaly





∖CIMSS ATMS 🖕 CIMSS AMSU 🔲 CIMSS SSMIS ⊘ ADT 👝 ——▲ SATCON 🛆 Recon ————— Best Track

Typhoon Soulik 2013

NOAA/NESDIS SST Anomaly (degrees C), 7/15/2013



-5.0 -4.5 -4.0 -3.5 -3.0 -2.5 -2.0 -1.5 -1.0 -0.5 0.00 0.50 1.00 1.50 2.00 2.5



85-92 Ghz in Objective Intensity Estimates

Same MSLP for these 2 storms but different MSW



Compact wind field. More efficient momentum transfer in eyewall



Expanding wind field. Less efficient momentum transfer with weaker convection

ACRHER Score = 85

ACRHER Score = 10







Same MSLP for these 2 storms but different MSW

201226W BOPHA SNPP-ATMS Channel 9 (55.5GHz) Tb (C) 1203 0437



Max Tb: -52.7410 C

Contour Interval = 1C

Compact wind field. More efficient momentum transfer in eyewall

201317W USAGI SNPP-ATMS Channel 9 (55.5GHz) Tb (C) 0920 1757



Expanding wind field. Less efficient momentum transfer with weaker convection