Ocean Color Algorithms for the Southern Ocean – Constraining the Carbon cycle

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Antarctic Fronts: South ACC Polar Front SubAntarctic **SubTropical** Gyres (3) e.g. Orsi et al. (1995)

Complexity of Southern Ocean waters



SO Carbon Cycle from space

- Remote sensing:
 - accurate reflectance spectrum at high solar angles
- Variables of interest:
 - Better interpretation of b_{bp} signal
 - Phytoplankton biomass (chlorophyll a, carbon)
 - Phytoplankton Primary Production (NPP), growth
 - Net Community Production (NPP Respiration)
 - Carbon Flux out of the Euphotic Zone/Mixed Layer

Phytoplankton Biomass

 First large-scale limitation is winter time (April to September) to for which no ocean color data can be retrieved due to solar zenith angle being too large



Winter measurements:

 Lidar (e.g. MESACAL)
 Atmospheric correction (e.g. POLYMER)
 Year-round field measurements:
 Profiling floats (BGC Argo)
 Optical sensors existing mooring (OI)

Discrepancies

Q1: Can we explain discrepancies between different investigations of Southern Ocean bio-optical algorithms based on time, sector, proximity to sea ice and continental shelves, temperature, latitude, and methodology?
Discrepancies among SO algorithms (NASA's global and regional algorithms)

Southern Ocean Chl-a algorithm: Chl-SPGANT

Version 3, 2006, Mitchell & Kahru (2009) using *in situ Lwn* and *Chla* (both fluorometric and HPLC) from cruises NBP9711, REV9801, REV9802, AMLR2000, AMLR2001, AMLR2004, LMG0402, AMLR2006; N = 211 Version 4, Kahru & Mitchell (2010), included all stations in SeaBASS south of 55S: total of 1247 stations

Conclusion: NASA OC4v4 chlor_a underestimates 2-3 x at 0.2 < Chla < 3 mg m⁻³



SOCCOM Results (biogeochemical floats)



Atmospheric Correction

- Q2: Can atmospheric corrections be improved to expand the time-space domain of ocean color data at higher solar zenith angles?
 Possibility of better correction with spherical
 - geometry (or polynomial)
- White caps included as aerosols (winds >10 m/s) is not optimal for spectral correction
- Better cloud flag identification

SO Algorithm Development

- Q3: Do we have the data sets needed to calibrate/validate reflectance spectrum/fluorescence signals?
- Summer data, subjective sampling, low data density compared to other oceanic domains
- Opticals sensors in GO_Ships
- Optical variables with vertical resolution
- Imaging flow cytometry (automated phytoplankton composition and size)
- SIMBIOS-type optical van to take advantage of ships of opportunity
- Above-water radiometry
- Phytoplankton carbon (Cphyto)
- Calcite estimation
- Creation of a Southern Ocean database (SeaBASS-like)

@AGUPUBLICATIONS

Global Biogeochemical Cycles

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Factors regulating the Great Calcite Belt in the Southern Ocean and its biogeochemical significance

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Scientific roadmap for long time series PFT data from OC

Bracher & 20 more PFT-experts worldwide (2017) Frontier in Marine Science 4: 55

Gap	Status	Medium-term action	Long-term action
Satellite	Multispectral sensors with	Develop AC for hyper-	Exploit adding bands to
Sensors	limited PFT information	spectral sensors	multispectral (OLCI,)
	Limited exploitation of		
	hyperspectral:	Adapt hyperspectral PFT	Merge all sensors' PFT da-
	- SCIAMACHY PFT data	algorithms to current	ta for long term coverage
	but <u>low coverage/resolution</u>	hyperspectral satellite data	
	 <u>AC failed</u> to derive hyper- 		Launch hyperspectral OC
	spectral Lw, RRS data (HICO)	Develop <u>synergistic</u> hyper&	sensors (PACE,)
		multispectral PFT products	
Uncer-	Deficient theoretical	Optimize inversion (RTM)	Framework for clear
tainties	background for inversions?		traceability of errors
	RTM lack PFT-info (esp. bb)	<u>Round-Robins</u> : PFT data	
		format, method & QC	Curate existing data sets
	<u>No appropriate in-situ</u>	Exploit all in-situ PFT, auton.	
	HPLC-not really PFT, other PFT	techniques, hyper AOP&IOP	Ensure complete PFT,
	data require integration	Use complementary data	hyperspectral IOP & AOP
	Spectral IOPs (esp. bb) limited	to constrain algorithms	acquisition
	ioco hyperspectral breakout G	<u></u>	astriu.bracher@awi.ue

4-D ocean

- Q4: How can we merge bio-optical-ARGO and satellite data for a better 4-D representation of plankton biomass and productivity for the SO?
- Full support for the BGC floats
- SO Modeling is essential for low-sampled region

Implications for models

The seasonal mismatch may result from the models assumption that all seasonal variability is simply due to acclimation by McKiver et al. (2015)





Models need to accommodate for variable $chl-a:C_{phyto}$ ratio that reflect phytoplankton adaptation to low light conditions in spring (low optimal chl-a: C_{phyto} ratio) and higher optimal chl-a: C_{phyto} ratios with species-specific increasing growth rates in summer.

Emerging Technologies

- Q5: What are emerging technologies that can improve the quality and number of observations *in situ* and airborne in the Southern Ocean needed to improve algorithms and models?
- LIDAR (space and on board ships)
- Automated optical sensors and species identification
- Hyper-spectral backscattering sensor

The Missing Iron Stress Signal



Chlorophyll (mg m⁻³)

Westberry et al. 2013. Deep-Sea Research I, 73, 1-16

Field Campaigns

- Q6: What are the plans in the international community for recent and future field campaigns to advance our understanding of Southern Ocean carbon cycle using satellite ocean color and other observations?
- ACE (2016-2017 Antarctic Circumpolar Experiment, International)
- Future ICESSOC (International Coordinated Experiment of the Southern Ocean Carbon Cycle, USA)
- Future SOOS (Southern Ocean Observing System, International)
- SOCLIM (2016 Kerguelen, France)
- CSIR cruises on board Agulhas (South Africa)
- SOCCOM (80 floats with bio-optics, NSF/NASA)

ANTARCTIC CIRCUMNAVIGATION EXPEDITION



INDICATIVE TRAVEL PLAN



Project #1 "A bio-optical approach to understanding long term changes in phytoplankton abundance and composition in the Southern Ocean and their impact on the biological productivity"

> A 3-month expedition, 3 main groups involved:

(Curtin Uni., Perth, Australia) PI: **D. Antoine** (CSIR, Cape Town, South Africa) PI: **S. Thomalla** (NASA, GSFC, USA) PI: **S. Hooker** Q7: How can we improve the understanding of relationship between surface satellite observations and organic carbon export?

Mixed Layer from SOSE



Modeling Improvements (Laws 2004) Expected results from EXPORTS (SO version)

Summary

- C cycle in the Southern Ocean: why can't we constrain it?
- Phytoplankton physiology: why can't we detect iron limitation in SO?
- Usefulness of 2015 IOCCG report on high latitudes
- Creation of a SO ocean color community