Report Benefits and Challenges of Geostationary Ocean Colour Remote Sensing - Science and Applications

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Time & Space Scales of OC Relevant Missions



from Mouw et al. 2015, Remote Sens. Environ

Advantages of Geo

- Temporal (sub-hourly)
 - Rate processes
 - Passive tracer (track hazards, quantify flow fields)
- Spatial coverage (clouds move during the day)
 - LEO: 1 cloud-free ~120 days per year (North Sea)
 - Geo: ≥1 cloud-free for ~240 days per year
 - Geo: 4 of 6 diurnal images for ~120 days per year
- Integrate longer to build-up SNR at low SZA and higher view angles

The advantages of GEO observations (North Sea) a) scattered clouds, b) tidal variability)

#days with 12:30 image OK





#days in 2008

100 200 300

[Ruddick et al, 2014]

Challenges of Geo Ocean Colour - 1

- Atmospheric correction
 - Spherical shell model vs plane parallel model
 - Correction for trace gases (NO₂ and ozone diurnal variability)
 - Correction for absorbing aerosols
 - Need for SSA and aerosol layer height
 - Heritage vs spectral matching approaches
- BRDF correction
 - sun-sensor geometry varies throughout day & seasons
- High sun and viewing zenith angles
 - Strong sky/sun reflection at high VZA or SZA (air-sea interface)
 - Marine BRDF
 - Lower signal at high SZA and view angles

Directions (from Zia Ahmad)

- Perform sensitivity studies to examine the accuracy of retrievals at large sensor and solar zenith angles.
- Optimize OBPG aerosol models for coastal regions.
- Develop methods to detect different types of absorbing aerosols.
 - mineral dust
 - Black Carbon
 - Industrial pollution (Brown Carbon)
 - Continental aerosols
- Explore the possibility of using transport models like GOCART to identify and correct for different types of aerosols.
- Follow PACE Science Team for atmospheric correction algorithm

Challenges of Geo

- Wave shadowing
- Must determine Rrs and algorithm uncertainties necessary to quantify diurnal changes
- Achieving opposing instrument requirements
 - temporal, spatial coverage, spatial and spectral resolution, SNR
- Instrument issues
 - GOCI: straylight, ghosting, solar calibration
 - Pixel-level spectral response functions
 - lunar calibration
 - pointing stability
- Cost
 - Hosted payloads on commercial satellites
 - Modest cost instrument concepts possible
 - Filter radiometers (GOCI), wide FOV spectrometers, and multi-slit spectrometers.

Promoting Geo Ocean Colour Missions

- Emphasize measurements that relate issues to coastal managers (socio-economic)
 - Fisheries, water quality (beach closures, human health), invasive species (ballast water), etc.
- Track hazards such as HABS and oil spills
- Map and follow the evolution of phytoplankton blooms
- Ecosystem health
- Improving models for forecasting
- Convolve geo missions as part of a global observation system (with LEO sensors).

Geostationary Orbit Opportunities



New IOCCG Working Group on Geo?

- Share information and ideas to promote a "quasi-global" geo ocean colour constellation
- Compilations of field measurements and simulated geo-relevant datasets
- Coordination on field campaigns to resolve challenges (e.g., GOCI validation cruise, KORUS-OC)
- Foster international collaboration on geo applications with GOCI-I (and II) and other geo sensors (meteorological sats.)

Towards Quasi-Global Geo Constellation

- Plans for Geo ocean color missions: Korea (follow-on), Europe, India, U.S., etc.
- Synergies with LEO: temporal resolution globally, enhance global spatial coverage, improve global productivity measurements, on-orbit cross-calibration, joint cal/val activities, etc.

