Applications using Satellite Sounder Products at the NASA SPoRT Center

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AIRS Science Team Meeting
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SPoRT Mission and Paradigm

- **Apply satellite measurement systems and unique Earth science research to improve the accuracy of short-term weather prediction at the regional and local scale**

- Bridge the “Valley of Death”

- Can’t just “throw data over the fence”
  - Maintain interactive partnerships with help of specific advocates or “satellite champions”
  - Integrate into user decision support tools
  - Create forecaster training on product utility
  - Perform targeted product assessments with close collaborating partners

- Concept has been used to successfully transition a variety of satellite datasets to operational users for nearly 10 years
Transitioning Data to Operations

• SPoRT is a go-to place for transition of products to operations
  – Collaborate with more than 30 NWS Forecasts Offices and National Centers across all six NWS regions
  – Examples include GOES Lightning Initiation, CIRA Layered Precipitable Water, NESDIS Snowfall rate

• NASA ROSES 2016 A.29 NASA Data for Operation and Assessment
  – SPoRT will work with selected proposal teams to:
    • Integrate product into AWIPS-II or another decision support system
    • Develop appropriate training modules
    • Assess the impact of the transitioned product on weather forecast operations
  – Proposals due May 20, 2016
**SPoRT Ozone Products**

- In 2011/2012 SPoRT worked with the GOES-R Proving Ground to explore use of NASA ozone retrievals as a stratospheric air tracer
  - Aid interpretation of the Air Mass RGB
  - Assist National Centers forecasters with forecasting rapid cyclogenesis
- AIRS Version 5 Level 2 ozone retrievals were put in N-AWIPS format for National Centers
- AIRS Ozone product was used experimentally in operations

SPoRT Ozone Products

- Identification of stratospheric intrusions associated with mid-latitude and extratropical cyclone strengthening and damaging non-convective winds
- Enhances interpretation of RGB products
- Full transition of product to National Centers (WPC and OPC) in N-AWIPS
- Numerous posts on SPoRT and NOAA Proving Ground blogs related to product
- Anomaly product developed to confirm high ozone values are stratospheric and not just within the climatological range
Ozone Anomaly Product

• Identification of stratospheric air based on high ozone values could lead to misinterpretation if the values actually range within climatology since the mean varies seasonally and spatially.

The AIRS Ozone Anomaly product clarifies the presence of stratospheric air based on:

– Stratospheric air has ozone values at least 25% larger than the climatological mean (Van Haver et al. 1996)

– Global and zonal monthly mean climatology of stratospheric ozone derived from the NASA Microwave Limb Sounder (Ziemke et al. 2011)

Example 12 May 2013

- SPoRT AIRS Ozone Anomaly product created as a percent of normal (0-200%)
  \[ PON = \frac{TCO}{climo} \times 100 \]
- Shades of blue represent stratospheric air (ozone values ≥ 125%)
- Suspected stratospheric air (red/orange)
- High ozone values (red/orange)
- Blue shading confirms stratospheric air
- 13 km RUC Potential Vorticity contours ≥ 1.5 PVU
Demonstration at National Centers

- AIRS ozone products evaluated at OPC, WPC, SAB winter 2013-2014
- Image and gridded products were available for overlay
- Forecaster Feedback
  - “Reinforce the evidence from RGB of the descent of stratospheric air with tropopause folding.”
  - “This has allowed me to have confidence in assessing the RGB Airmass product and also in conjunction with gridded GFS output that a perceived PV anomaly is real or not.”

High ozone values > 400 DU suggest potential vorticity anomaly and descending stratospheric air creating high winds near the comma head.

SEVIRI RGB Air Mass image, AIRS Total Column Ozone (green contours), and ASCAT winds valid at 1400 UTC on 12/18/13. The black circle highlights the descending stratospheric intrusion near the comma-head/bent back front. Image courtesy of Michael Folmer, Satellite Liaison at NOAA/NWS WPC/OPC/TAFB and NOAA/NESDIS SAB.
New Product Development

- Adjusted product according to forecaster feedback from the winter 2014 product demonstration at OPC
- Total column ozone and ozone anomaly available from AIRS, CrIS/ATMS, and IASI
- Additional overpasses for forecasters to evaluate
- Products now available in NAWIPS and AWIPS-II

“There may have been 1 occasion where 1 pass did line up over the US with the spot I was interested in. In that case, it was helpful in reaffirming my suspicions on whether stratospheric air was present. Otherwise, the passes were few and far between and not particularly timely. If there was greater coverage of passes and not as much of a lag, it would certainly be useful.”
Hurricane Extratropical Transition

• National Centers’ forecasters have GOES-R/JPSS Proving Ground proxy products, such as the Air Mass RGB, to assist in monitoring extratropical transition of hurricanes

• Air Mass RGB product provides an enhanced view of various air masses in one complete image to help differentiate between possible stratospheric/tropospheric interactions

• NUCAPS sounding can compliment the Air Mass RGB by providing insight about the vertical structure of the atmosphere

• Since NUCAPS sounding are already in AWIPS-II this projects investigates the utility of NUCAPS soundings for another unique forecasting challenge

• Preliminary work with Sandy 2012
Hurricane Extratropical Transition

- Arthur 2014 investigated
- Profiles in red/orange regions confirm mid- and upper-level dry air and lower tropopause
- Profile near the storm in blue/green regions confirm a moist column, a gradual change in the ozone profile, and a higher tropopause

1613 UTC MODIS 3 July 2014 Air Mass RGB
1800-1815 UTC 3 July 2014 NUCAPS O3 Anomaly

1800-1815 UTC 3 July 2014 NUCAPS T, Td, and O3 Profiles
Hurricane Extratropical Transition

- Planned product demonstration with National Centers (NHC, OPC, WPC) during latter half of 2016 hurricane season
- Utility of NUCAPS
  - Point-based soundings in AWIPS-II
  - Stratospheric depth product
- Hope to gain forecaster feedback on product utility during complex extratropical transition events

Example stratospheric depth product to identify chemical and dynamic tropopause based on Thouret et al. 2006 product provide vertical information compared to the Air Mass RGB

NUCAPS Sounding point locations 7 October 2015 1500 UTC taken near point 2 in a region of upper-level dry air (orange coloring) and mid-level clouds (light orange coloring)
Summary

• SPoRT is a proven community leader for transitioning satellite products to operational end users and is working to bring data from hyperspectral infrared sounders to forecasters
• SPoRT has worked closely the GOES-R and JPSS Proving Ground to develop and transition ozone products to National Centers for forecasting rapid cyclogenesis and hurricane force wind events products
• Products are derived from AIRS, IASI, and CrIS/ATMS retrievals and are available in NAWIPS and AWIPS-II
• SPoRT is continuing to investigate the utility of NUCAPS profiles for other applications for aviation forecasting and hurricane tropical to extratropical transition
References


