

Global Precipitation Data Sets

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(with thanks to Phil Arkin, Scott Curtis,
Kit Szeto, Ron Stewart, etc)

April 30, 2009
Toronto

Roles of global precipitation products in drought studies:

1. Understanding climate processes: Precipitation plays an important role in removing moisture from the atmosphere. This affects the profile of atmospheric moisture and its horizontal distribution.
2. Estimating hydrologic impacts during droughts: Precipitation recharges surface water systems including soil moisture changes, effects on vegetation, ecosystems and societies and changes in ocean salinity.
3. Identifying the location and extent of drought.

4. Asse

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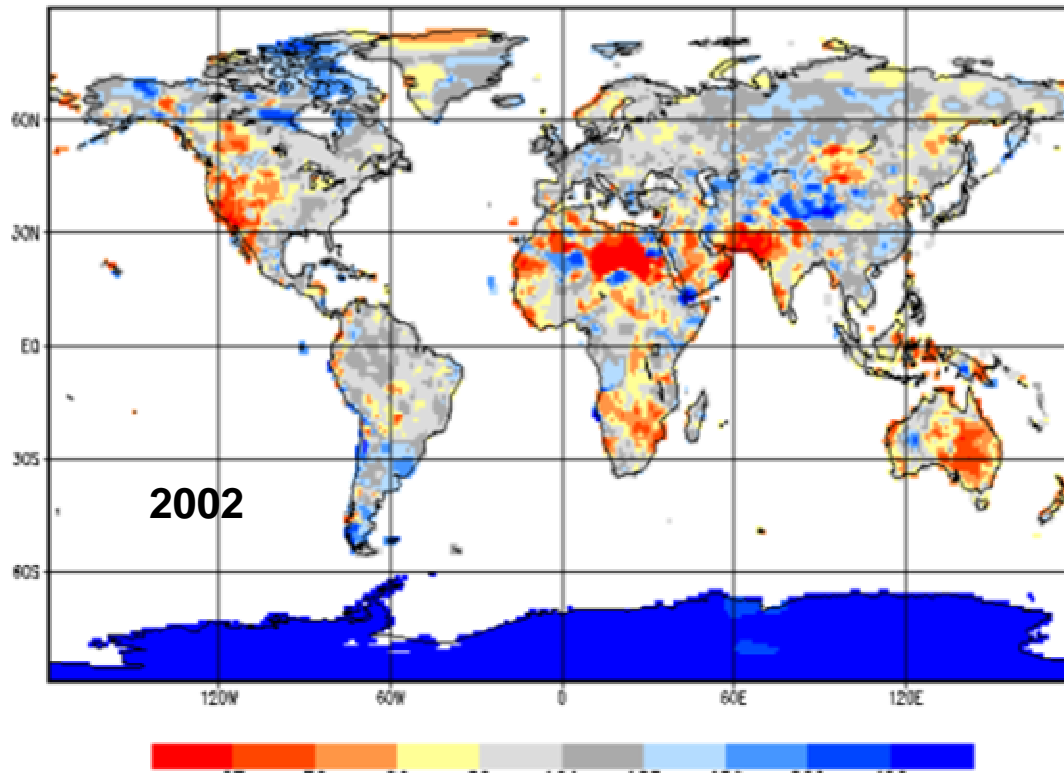
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GPCC Monitoring Product Gauge-Based Analysis 1.0 degree precipitation percentage of normals 61/90 for year (Jan - Dec) 2002



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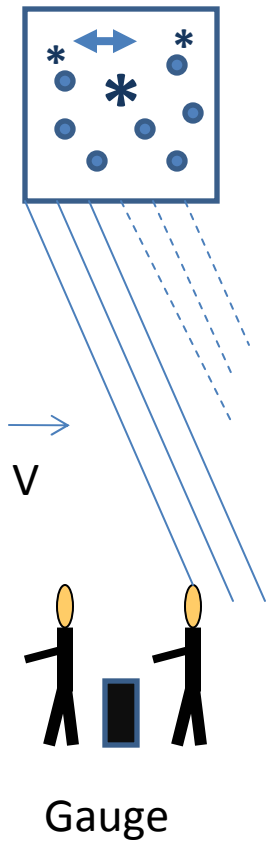
in our ability to close

the ability of climate

n events embedded in

Scale is a major factor in monitoring and predicting precipitation. Larger scales must be understood to provide context and boundary conditions for local/regional drought.

LOCAL



GLOBAL DATA SETS CONSIDERED IN THIS TALK

1. Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC)
2. Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP)
3. CPC Merged Analysis of Precipitation (CMAP)
4. Global Satellite Mapping for Precipitation (GSMaP)
5. NASA Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM)

Multi-Satellite Precipitation Analysis

Evaluation of global products

The future:

Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)



GPCC



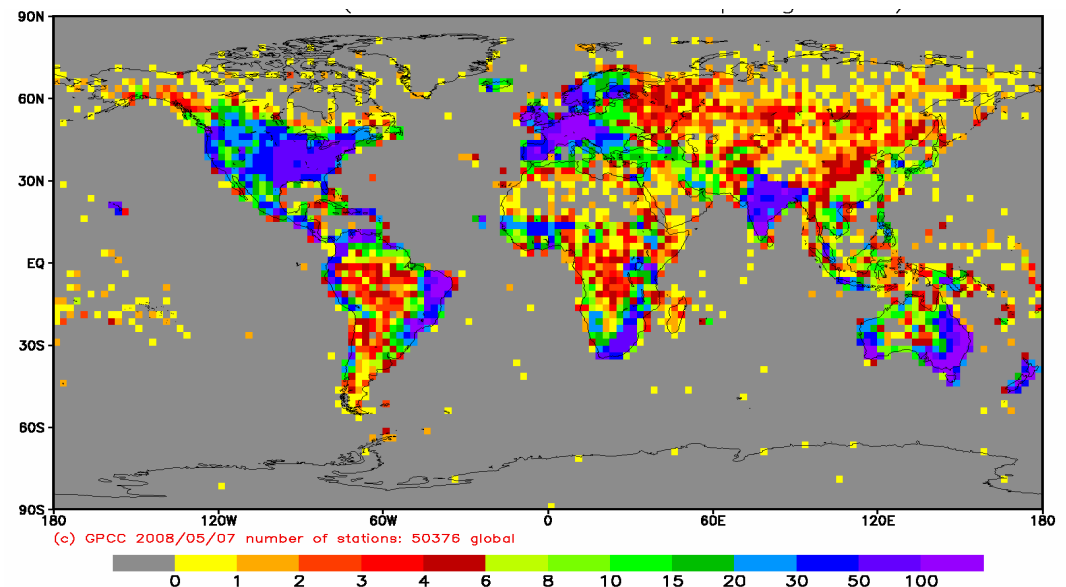
The Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC) is operated by the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) since 1989 following the invitation of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). GPCC is integrated in the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and in the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP).

The task of the GPCC is:

- to analyse monthly global land-surface precipitation
- in its spatio-temporal distribution
- based on *in situ* observed data.

Green and blue colours indicate grids with data coverage sufficient to meet the GPCC criterion:
Sampling error < 10 %

Non Real Time Obs





GPCC Products and User Applications



Home
About

Select Drought Assessment Period

- 1 Month
- 3 Months
- 6 Months
- 9 Months
- 12 Months
- 18 Months
- 24 Months
- 36 Months
- PDSI

Select Layers to Display

- Countries
- Cities
- Rivers & Lakes

Zoom In Out

Data

Export to GE

Useful Links

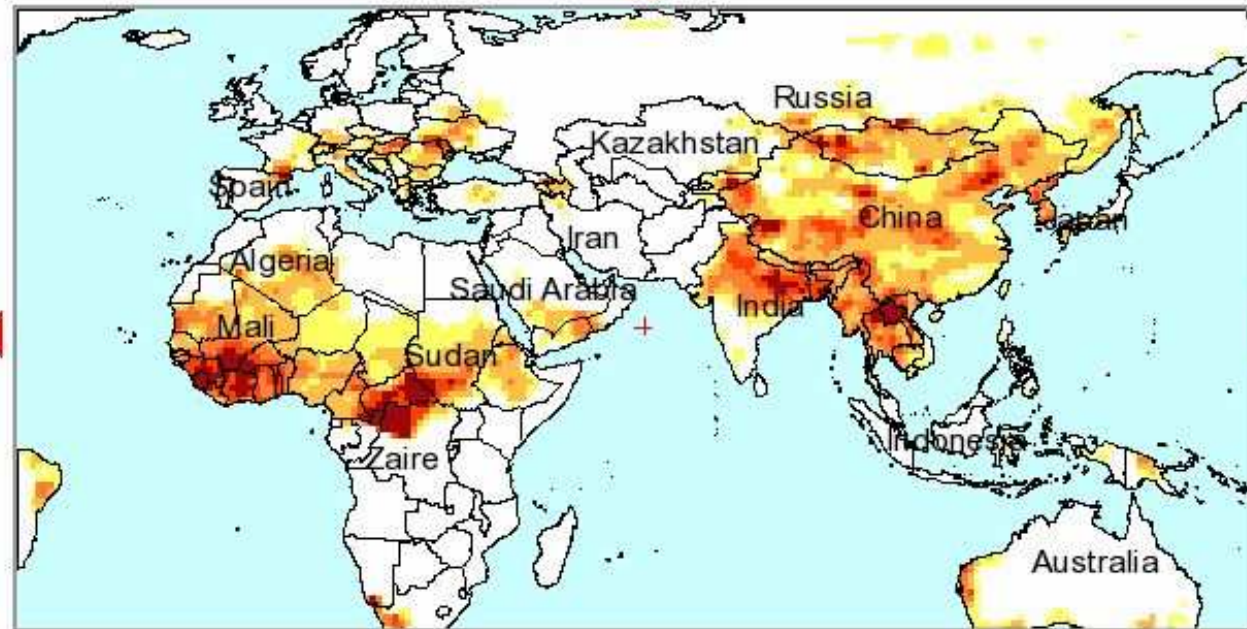
Acknowledgements

Contacts

Global Drought Monitor

April 2007

Data updated on the 15th of each month



0 5200 10400 15600 20800 km

Drought Severity



Minor Drought



Moderate Drought



Severe Drought



Extreme Drought



Exceptional Drought

Population in the current view under exceptional drought: 264,139,000

Operational GPCC First Guess Product based application for the „Global Drought Monitor“ of the UCL Hazard Research Center (Web: <http://drought.mssl.ucl.ac.uk>)

GPCC Products

Strengths:

- Integrate most major global precipitation databases and of data contributions from most countries of the world
>70,000 stations
- Products are quality controlled and error assessment of observation data from different sources and related metadata
- Applies specific analysis products

Limitations:

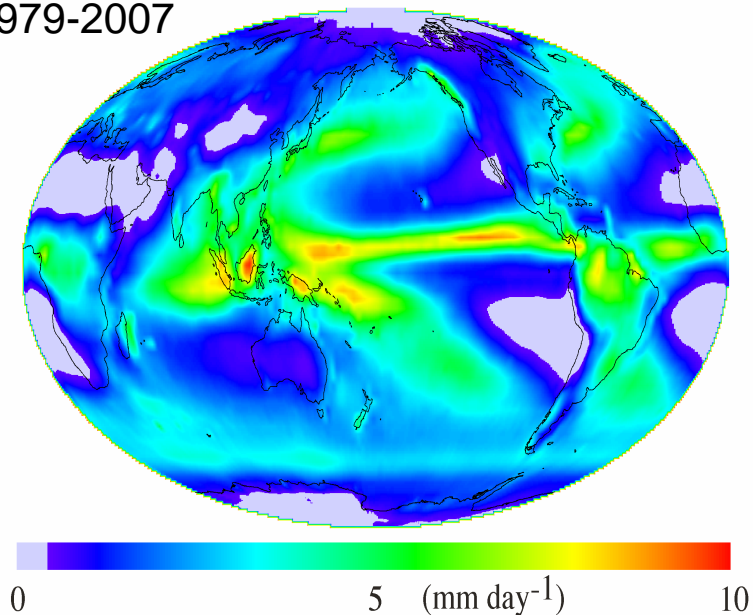
- Covers only land areas
- Coverage is non-uniform
- Allows access to data products but not the raw data

GPCP Global Precipitation Products

NASA, NOAA, DWD, UMD, CUHK, others

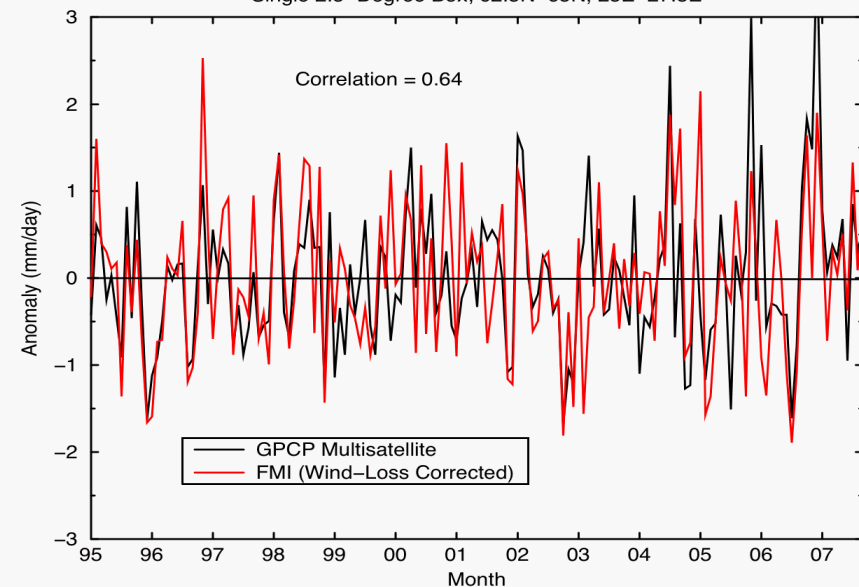
- Monthly, 2.5° Merged Analysis (1979-present)
Adler et al. (2003), J. Hydromet.
- Pentad, 2.5° Merged Analysis (1979-present)
Xie et al. (2003) J. Climate
- Daily, 1° Merged Analysis (1997-present)
Huffman et al. (2001) J. Hydromet.

29-year Climatology
(1979-2007)



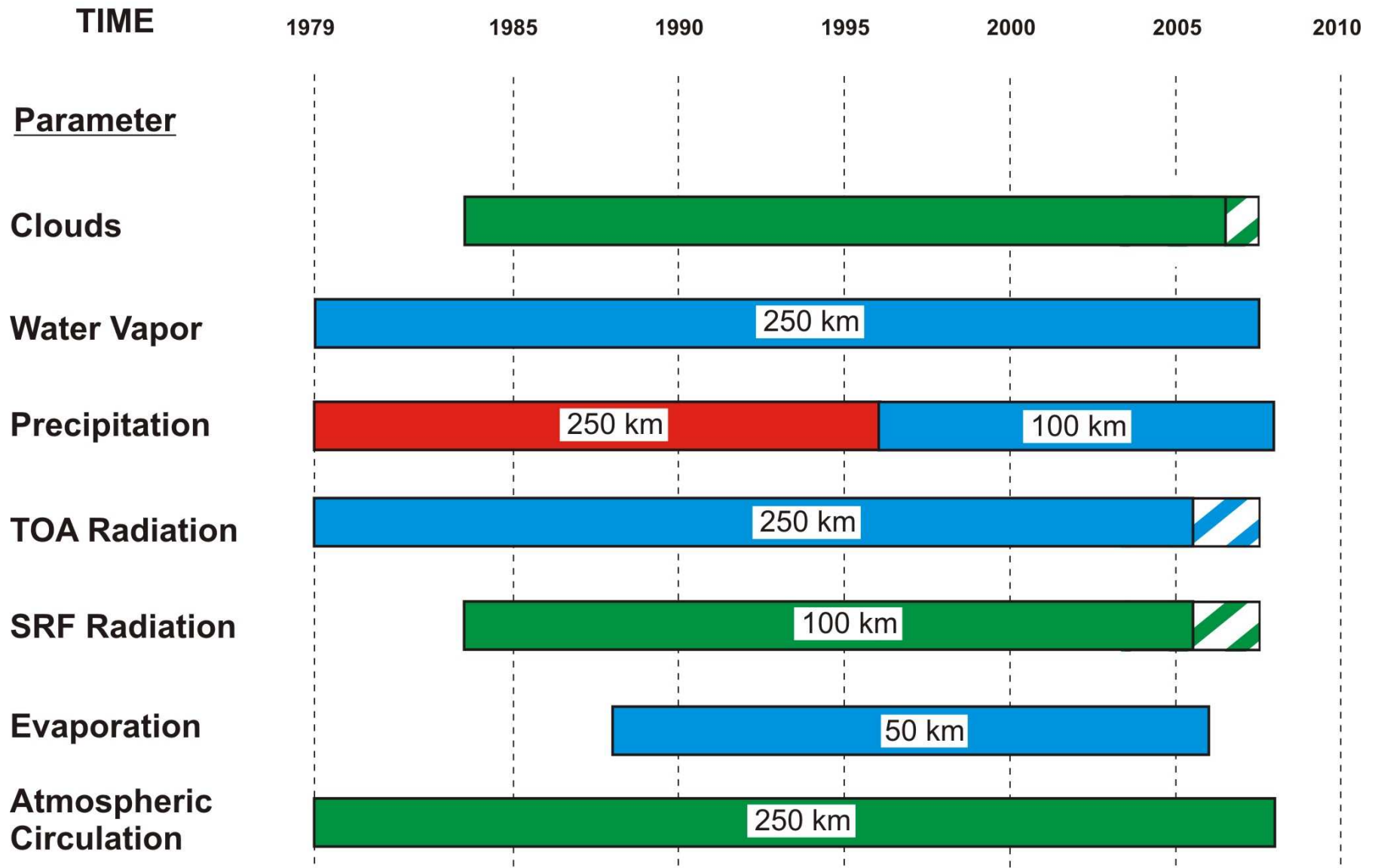
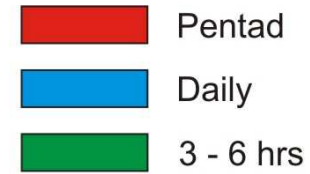
Time Series of Monthly Anomalies

Single 2.5-Degree Box; 62.5N–65N, 25E–27.5E



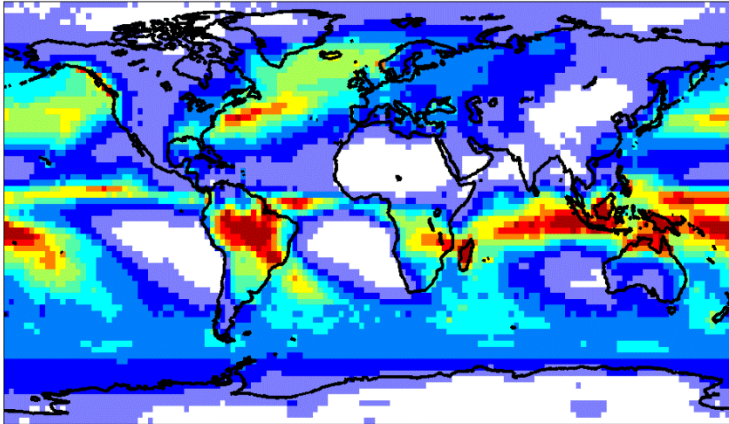
Available Global Datasets

(From 2008 report)

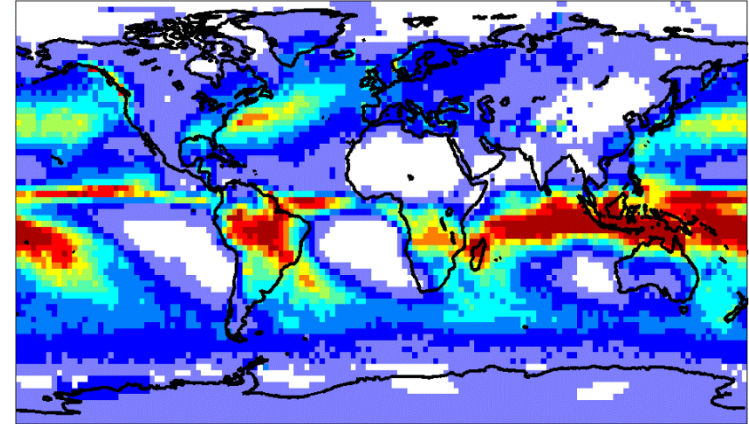


Global Precipitation Climatologies

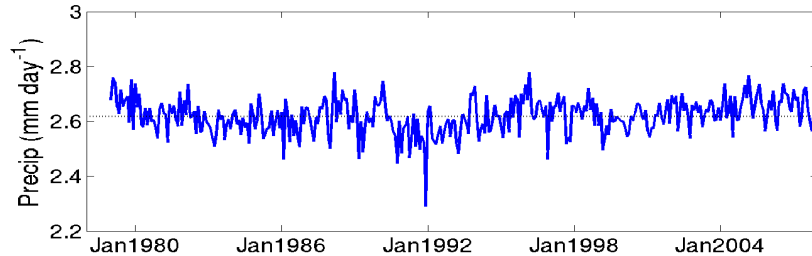
GPCP V2 Jan Mean



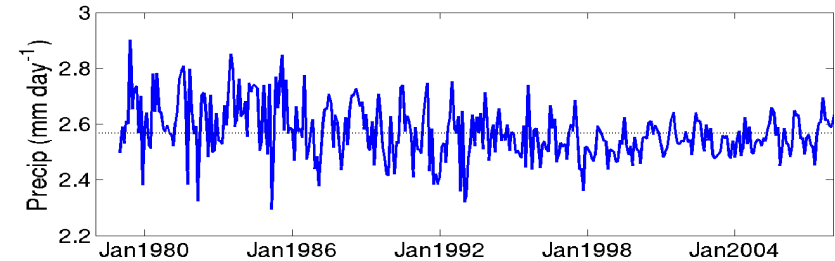
CMAP Jan Mean



GPCP V2 Global Mean



CMAP Global Mean



- GPCP (left)/CMAP (right) mean annual cycle and global mean time series
- Monthly/5-day; 2.5° lat/long global
- Both based on microwave/IR combined with gauges

Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP)

Strengths:

1. It provides global coverage including oceans as well as land.
2. The length of record (30 years) provides a basis for comparative analysis.

Limitations:

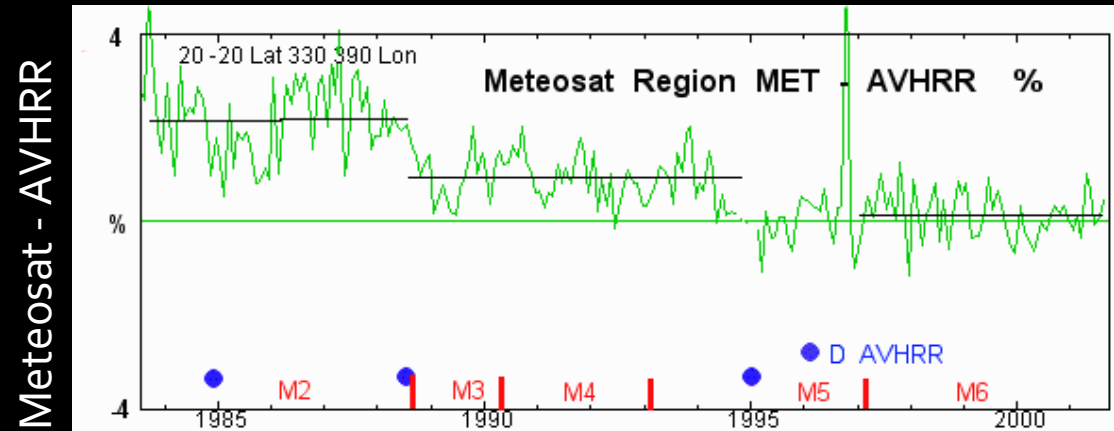
1. The spatial resolution of the products have been too coarse to deal many types of extremes and applications although it seems to be adequate for drought.
2. The characterization of errors is incomplete,
3. Many of the techniques are dated because they are based on 1979 technologies.
4. It is a challenge to achieve temporal homogeneity in view of changing mix of satellites.

The strengths and weaknesses of the CMAP products are very similar to those of GPCP products. However, differences do arise because CMAP products are Calibrated using data from different regions. In addition, CMAP uses an IR-based product derived from anomalies in OLR, and one version uses precipitation from the NCEP reanalysis as an additional input

DEVELOPING LONG-TERM HOMOGENEOUS DATA SETS

FACTORS WORKING AGAINST
HOMOGENEITY INCLUDE:

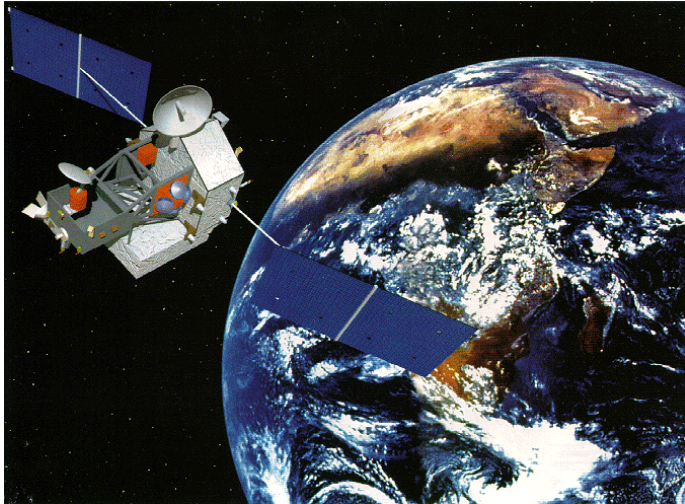
- CHANGES IN SATELLITE
PLATFORM
- DETERIORATION OF SATELLITE
FUNCTION OVER TIME (ORBIT
DRIFT, SENSOR DEGRADATION,
ETC)



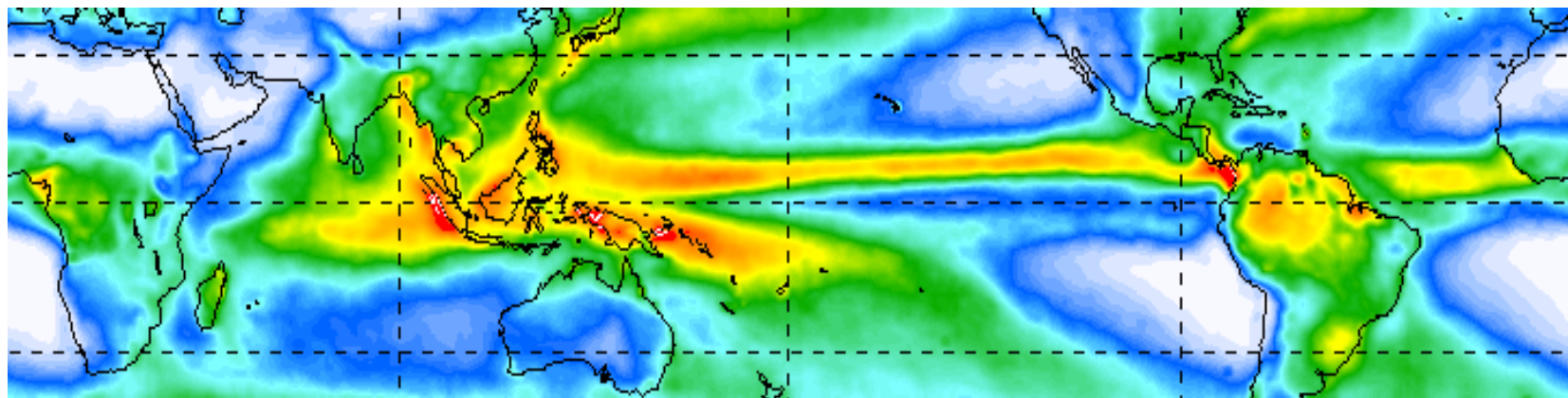
Cloud anomalies (METEOSAT – GEO) over the equatorial region show a “stair-step” when GEO sensors changed. (Campbell and von der Haar)

GEWEX IS DEVELOPING PLANS FOR PRODUCT REANALYSIS THAT WILL LEAD TO BETTER TECHNIQUES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOMOGENEOUS DATA SETS FROM SATELLITE DATA.

The Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) has now been providing high resolution data for 10 years



TRMM was launched in November 1997 by NASA and JAXA with a space-borne radar and a “high-resolution” microwave imager on-board to improve tropical precipitation measurements from space. This mission was intended to last for 3 years. However, as a result of robust sensors and public opinion about the value of these data this system has continued to provide valuable information for the past decade.



TRMM Merged Precip Annual Climo (mm/d)



(Bob Adler) --see trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov

PERSIANN Data for CEOP Reference Sites

PERSIANN for CEOP Reference Sites - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Media Print Mail Stop

Address http://hydis0.eng.uci.edu/CEOP/persiann_ceop.html Go Links

PERSIANN for CEOP Reference Sites

0.25°x 0.25° lat/long scale
6-hour accumulated precipitation

60 90 120 150 0 30 60

PERSIANN for: Equatorial Island -- site #14

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Jan graph data	Jan graph data	Jan graph data	Jan graph data	Jan graph data	
Feb graph data	Feb graph data	Feb graph data	Feb graph data	Feb graph data	
Mar graph data	Mar graph data	Mar graph data	Mar graph data	Mar graph data	03020106 3.23 2.84 3.17 4.45 2.78 3.60 7.53 7.51
Apr graph data	Apr graph data	Apr graph data	Apr graph data	Apr graph data	03020112 0.38 0.26 0.45 1.18 2.62 2.07 1.02 0.00
May graph data	May graph data	May graph data	May graph data	May graph data	03020118 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.46 0.00 1.90
Jun graph data	Jun graph data	Jun graph data	Jun graph data	Jun graph data	03020200 0.00 0.46 1.37 0.56 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.22
Jul graph data	Jul graph data	Jul graph data	Jul graph data	Jul graph data	03020206 23.77 11.39 10.08 12.45 11.23 8.77 4.98 5.26
Aug graph data	Aug graph data	Aug graph data	Aug graph data	Aug graph data	03020212 16.85 5.71 0.28 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.20 0.78
Sep graph data	Sep graph data	Sep graph data	Sep graph data	Sep graph data	03020218 0.96 0.00 0.42 0.00 0.21 0.00 0.00 0.00
Oct graph data	Oct graph data	Oct graph data	Oct graph data	Oct graph data	03020300 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
Nov graph data	Nov graph data	Nov graph data	Nov graph data	Nov graph data	03020306 4.32 2.79 0.83 2.69 1.15 0.28 1.50 2.73
Dec graph data	Dec graph data	Dec graph data	Dec graph data	Dec graph data	

Annual Average Precipitation

CHRS

TRMM Multi-Satellite Precipitation Analysis

Strengths:

1. High resolution allows for the identification of precipitation events that may be missed by the gauge network.
2. The active sensing provides 3-D imagery of the precipitation patterns.

Limitations:

1. The record is only 10 years so it is relatively short for comparative studies.
2. The coverage only extends between 30N and 30S
3. The algorithm to go from the instantaneous measurements to rainfall amount has some significant limitations.
4. Products based on composites and therefore "noisy"

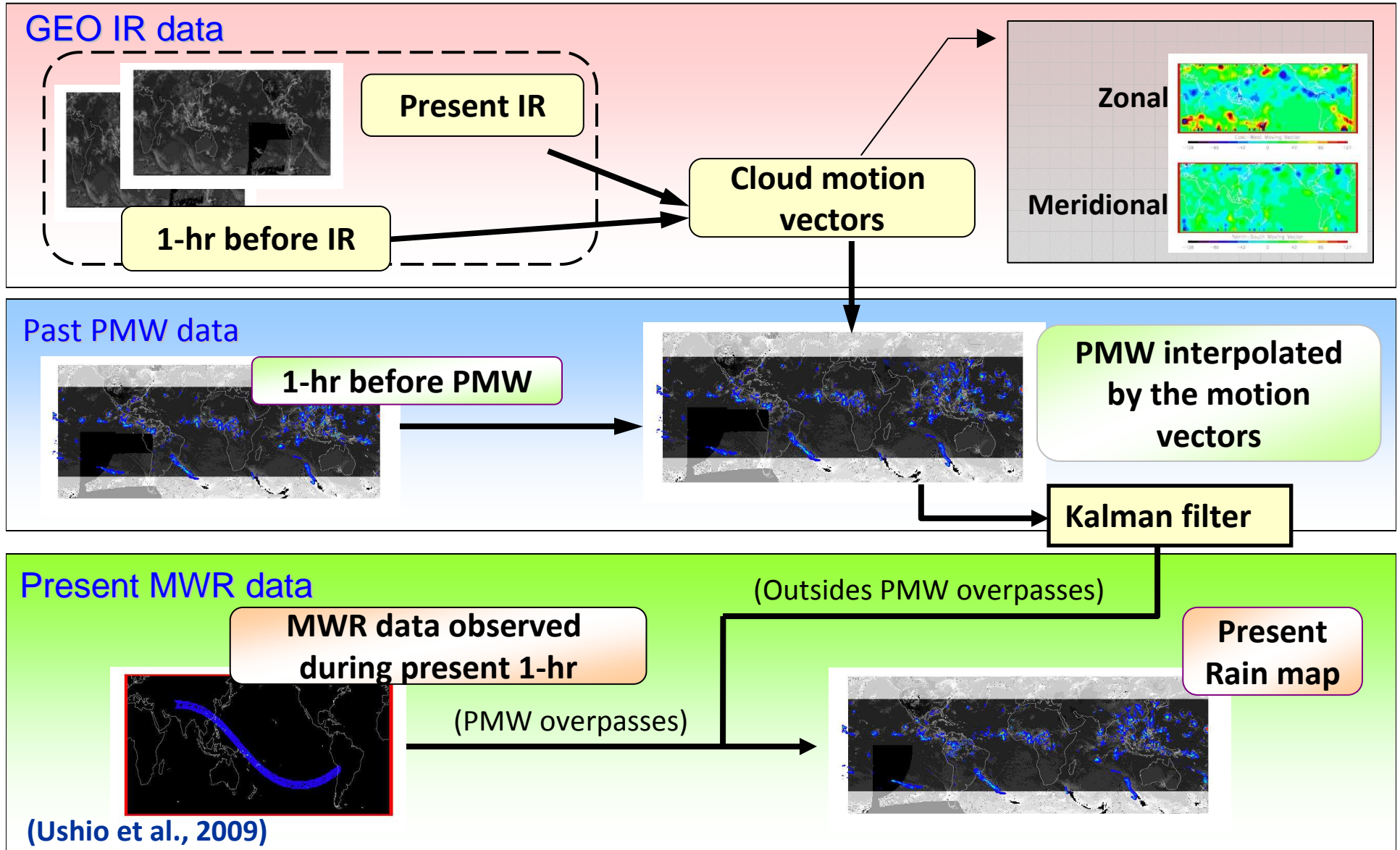
GSMaP (Global Satellite Mapping for Precipitation) an hourly global rainfall product

The screenshot displays the 'Global Rainfall Map' website interface. At the top, the title 'Global Rainfall Map' is prominently displayed in blue, with the subtitle 'in Near Real Time' below it. A 'Members' button is visible in the top right corner. The website is powered by JAXA/EORC. A language selector shows '>> Japanese' and the last update date is '2009/Feb/02 05:55:12 UTC'. The main interface includes a date and time selection area with dropdown menus for 'Date: 2009 / Feb / 2' and '01:00-01:59 UTC', followed by a 'Submit' button. Navigation buttons include 'Latest 10 hours', '24h Movie', 'Pre <<', 'Latest', and '>> Next'. There are also icons for 'MWR Coverage' and 'Google Earth'. The central part of the page features a global satellite map showing rainfall intensity over the entire globe, with a color scale at the bottom ranging from 0.1 to 30.0 mm/hr. The map shows significant rainfall over the Indian subcontinent and parts of Africa and Asia. The text '2009-02-02 01:00 - 01:59 (UTC)' is overlaid on the map. At the bottom, a text box explains that the maps are generated in near real time using a combined MW-IR algorithm with data from TRMM TMI, Aqua AMSR-E, DMSP SSM/I, and GEO IR data.



<http://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP/>

Flowchart of GSMP algorithm



IPWG/IGWCO Program for the Evaluation of High Resolution Precipitation Products (PEHRPP)

- A comprehensive hypothesis-based collaborative effort to understand the capabilities and characteristics of these new HRPP (High Resolution Precipitation Products)

Intercomparisons:

- Suite 1: Continental/Regional Comparisons
- Suite 2: High time resolution comparisons over selected limited regions
- Suite 3: Very high quality field program data sets
- Suite 4: "Big picture" comparisons

Preliminary Results:

Adding geostationary IR improves HRPP

"Morphing" appears to work well more consistently than other methods of utilizing IR

Adding monthly gauge information improves daily statistics

Model forecasts of precipitation correspond better to gauge-based analyses in cold and/or high latitude regimes

Observations

Many issues related to satellite-derived precipitation estimates:

- Solid precipitation – snow, etc.
- Magnitude of tropical rainfall
- Light precipitation – drizzle, fog, cloud liquid water

Broader issues related to global precipitation data sets:

- Temporal stability – critical to understanding global climate change
- Sustainability of integrated global precipitation data sets
- Sustainability of critical observations – both satellite and in situ

The Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)

Mission

Specifically designed to unify and advance precipitation measurements from a constellation of dedicated and operational satellites for research & applications

- *advanced active & passive microwave measurements to establish a reference standard*
- *a consistent framework for inter-satellite calibration*
- *international collaboration in algorithm development and ground validation*

GPM Low-Inclination Observatory (NASA) for enhanced mid and low-latitude sampling

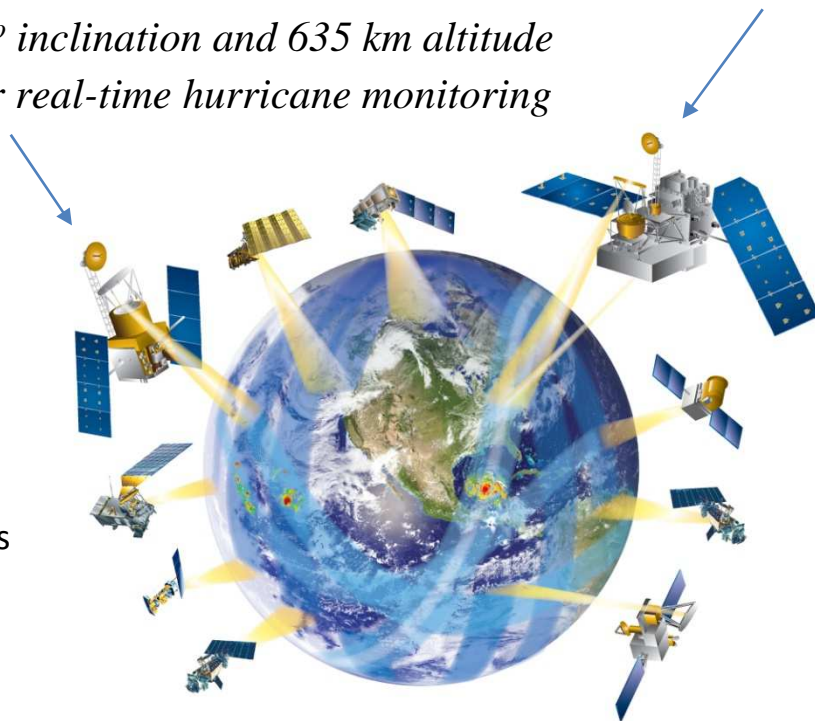
- *2nd GMI at 40° inclination and 635 km altitude*
- *Improved near real-time hurricane monitoring*

Partner Constellation Satellites:

GCOM-W
DMSP-F18, F19
Megha-Tropiques
NOAA-N'
NPP
MetOp-B
NPOESS-C1

GPM Core Observatory (NASA-JAXA) serving as a physics observatory and a calibration reference

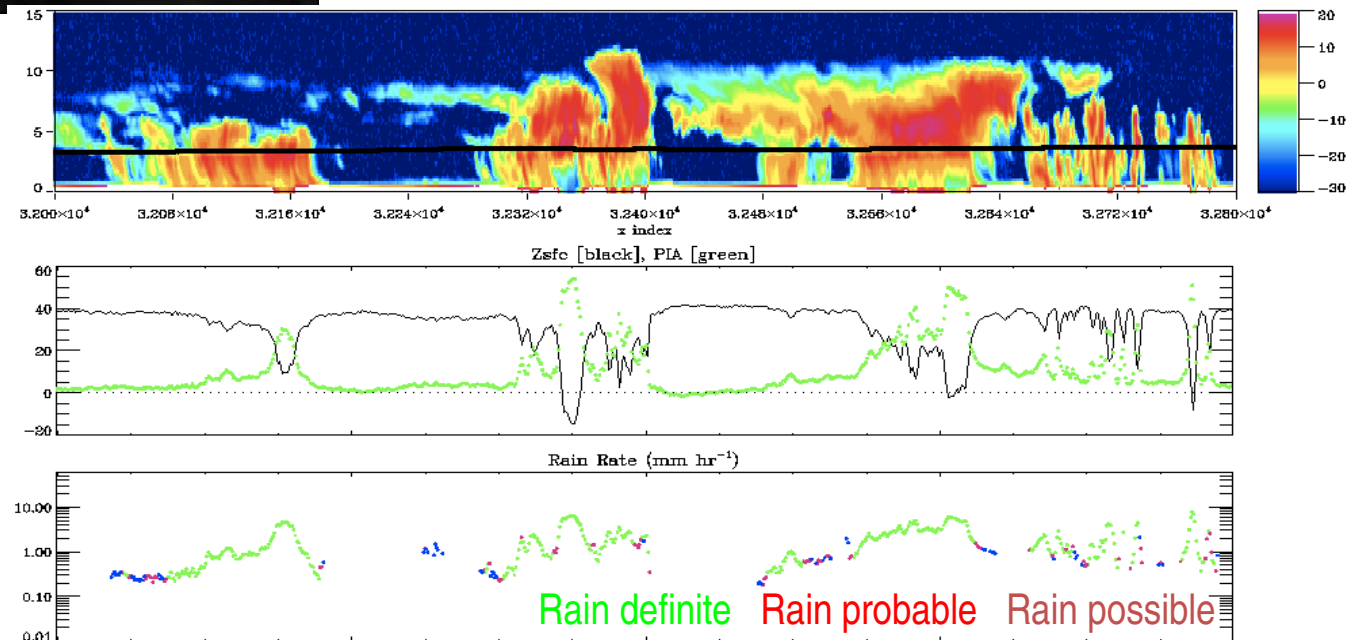
- *Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR) at Ku-Ka bands and a 10-183 GHz GPM Microwave Imager (GMI) at 65° inclination and 407 km altitude*
- *“Next-generation” precipitation measurements*
 - ✓ *Increased sensitivity for light rain and snow detection*
 - ✓ *Better overall measurement accuracy*
 - ✓ *Uniform calibration of brightness temperatures of Constellation sensors*
 - ✓ *Detailed microphysical information and a common cloud database for rain & snow retrievals from Core and Constellation sensors*



Data from the new CloudSat Mission opens a new era of active remote sensing



Recently Cloudsat was launched. It measures the vertical structure of clouds and quantifies their ice and water contents as a step toward improved weather prediction and understanding of climatic processes. Cloudsat measures intensities of 0 – 1 mm/h which all other satellites cannot measure.

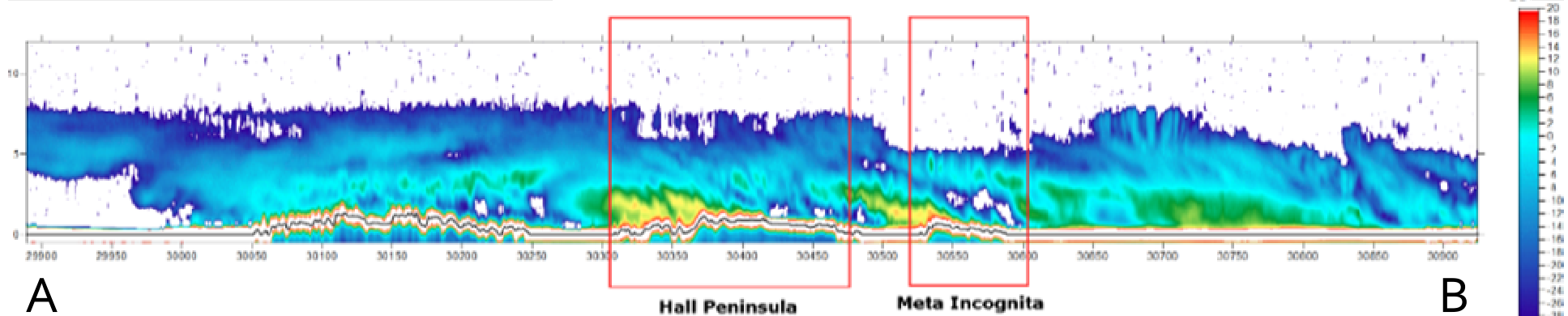
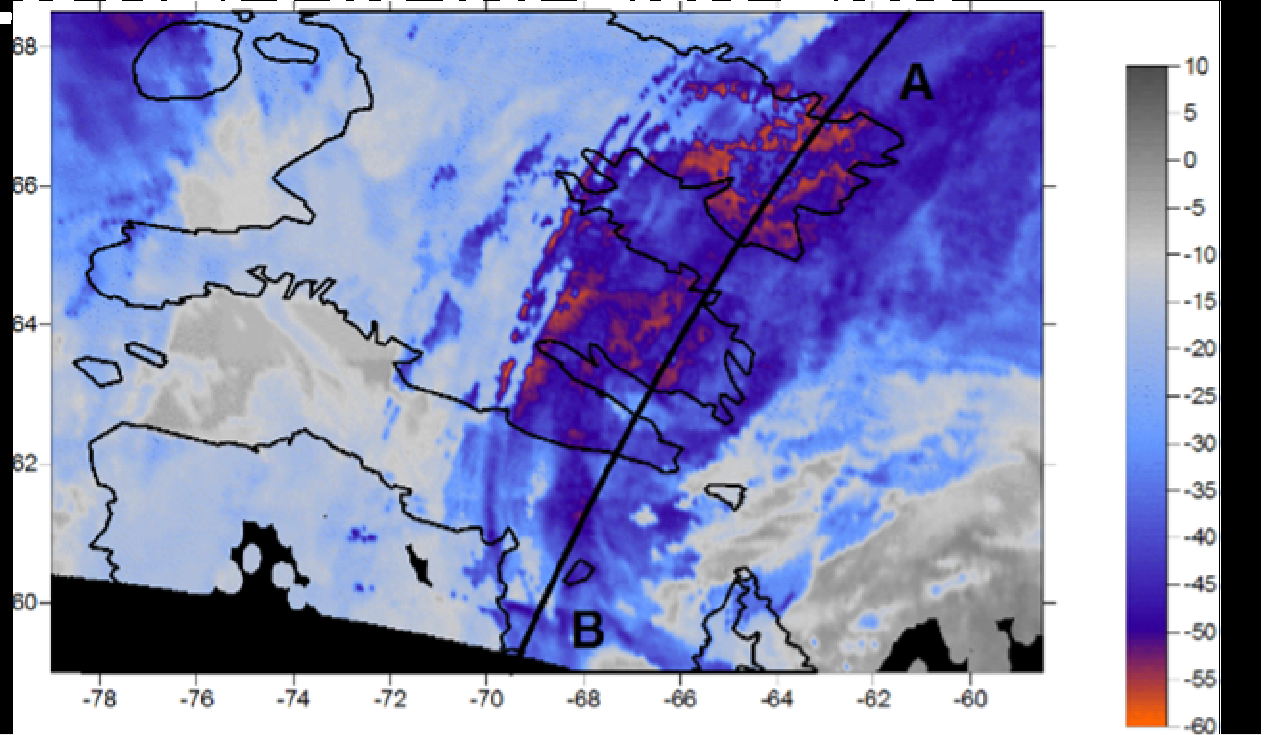


CLOUDSAT OVER BAFFIN ISLAND AND TOPOGRAPHY

(from Ron Stewart)

November 12,
2007

horizontal resolution
= 1 km



A

Hall Peninsula

Meta Incognita

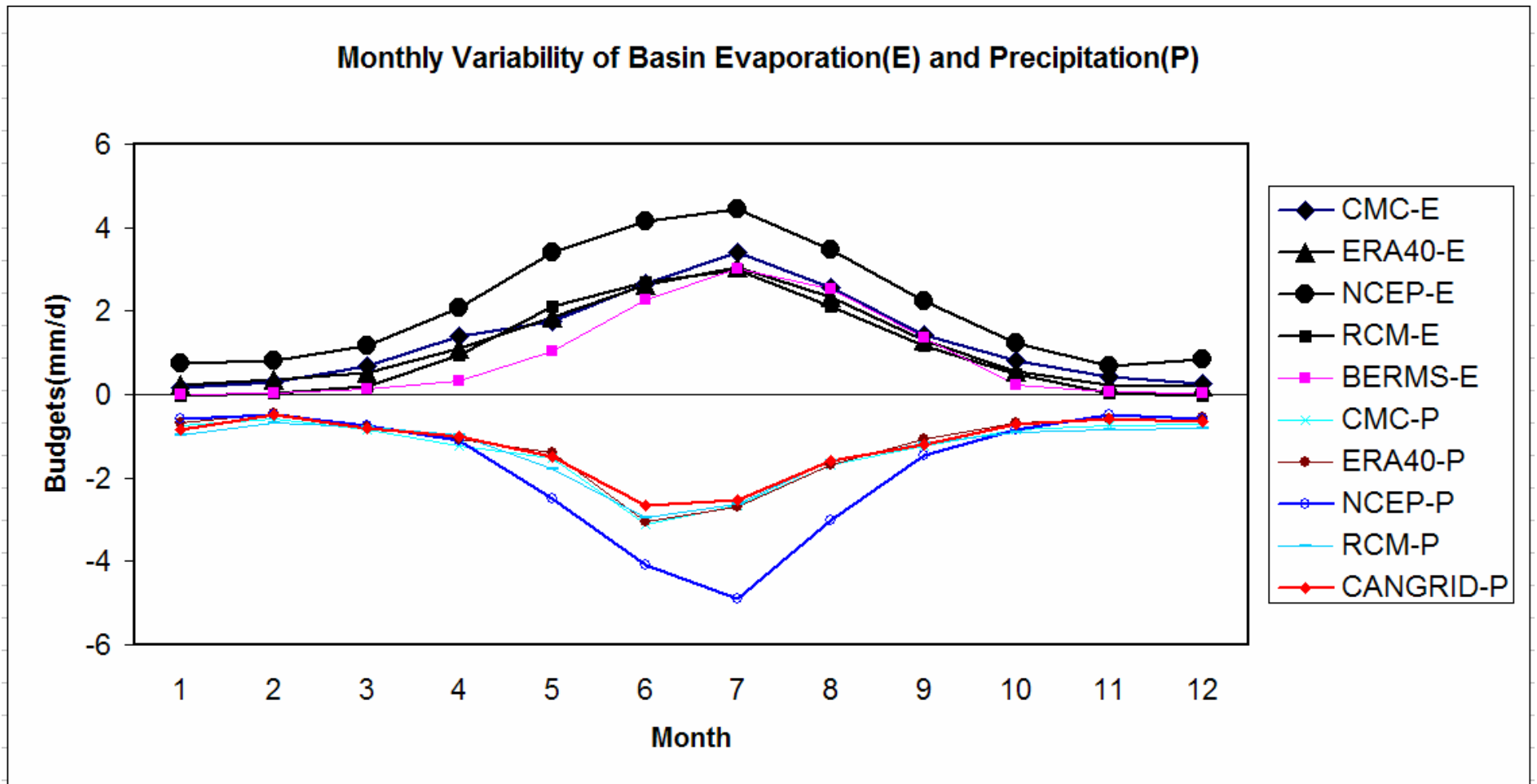
B



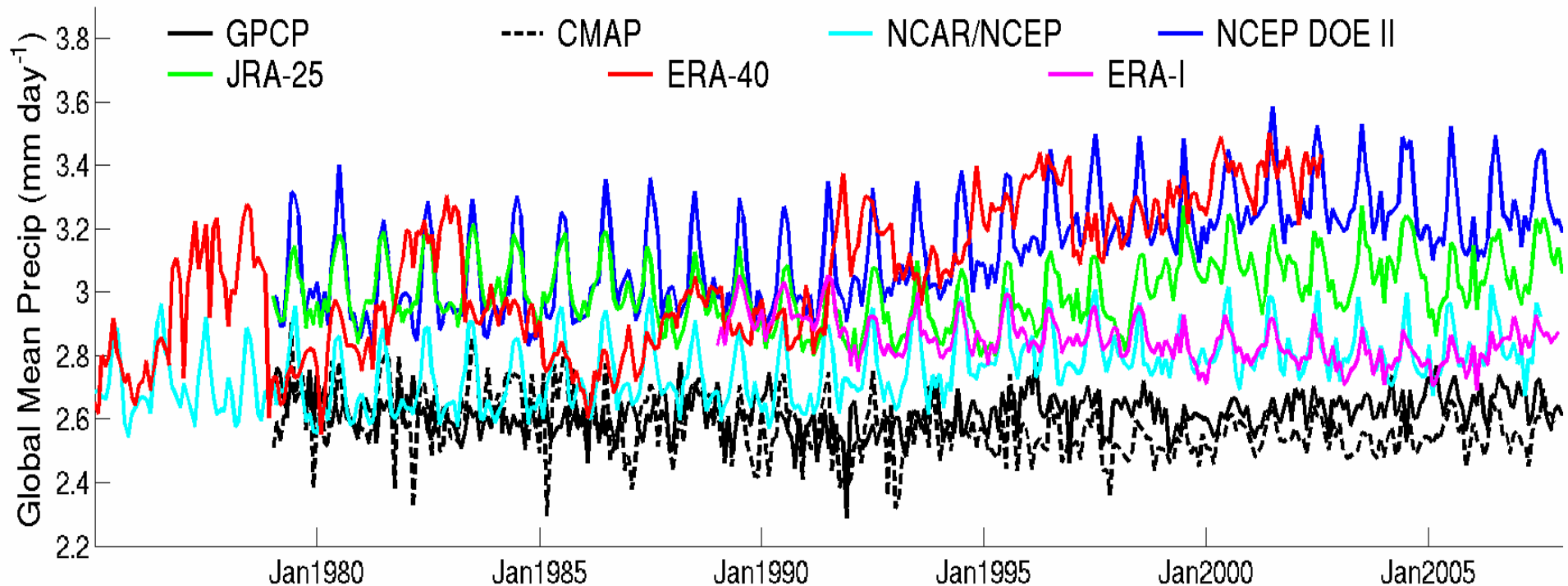
Model-derived estimates

- Precipitation is not a random occurrence - other atmospheric observations contain relevant information
 - Atmospheric winds, temperature, moisture largely determine where precipitation falls and how much occurs
- Physically based dynamical models of the atmosphere predict/specify precipitation in various ways
 - Numerical Weather Prediction models forecast precipitation
 - Assimilation of radiances can yield cloud, hydrometeor distributions
 - These can be used as “estimates” of precipitation
- Best where models best
- Accuracy strongly dependent on validity of modeled physical processes
- Examples: atmospheric reanalyses

Models give a range of results for simulated precipitation values (after Szeto)



Global Mean Precipitation from Reanalyses and Reconstructions (differences largest over oceans)



- Datasets based on observations (GPCP, CMAP) give about 2.6 mm/day (AR4 range is about 2.5-3.2 mm/day)
- Data assimilation products average about 3 mm/day; also have larger mean annual cycle and greater interannual variability than observation-based products
- ESRL-Compo/Whittaker SLP-based reanalysis is about 3.3 mm/day
- (figure courtesy Junye Chen, NASA/GMAO-MERRA)

Issues:

1. How can satellite data and integrated data products be most effectively used in the characterization of extremes?
2. How can Canada most effectively contribute to global precipitation products?
3. What types of precipitation data are most useful for the assimilation of precipitation in Canadian forecast models?
4. What type of research can Canada undertake to improve the ability to detect solid or light precipitation?