Status of the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Mission Data Products and Applications

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Background and Objective

- GPM Applications program conducts periodic webinars and in-person trainings to facilitate societally relevant decision support activities including water resources management; weather, climate and disasters monitoring; agriculture; and health.

- During 2015-16 four webinars and an in-person training were conducted to describe details of GPM mission, sensors, algorithms, data products, data validation campaigns, and web portals for data access and analysis.

- The objective of the present webinar is to provide updates about the GPM data products, data access tools, GPM E-Book for water resources and disasters applications, and examples of GPM data applications.
Outline

- Brief Overview of GPM and Previous Trainings
- GPM IMERG* Data Updates
- GPM Applications
- Overview of GPM E-Book
- GPM Data Access Updates

*Integrated Multi-satellite Retrievals for GPM
Brief Overview of GPM

- The Mission consists of the GPM Core satellite and a number of constellation satellites

- **GPM Core Satellite:**
  - Launch: February 27th, 2014
  - Altitude: 407 km
  - Orbit: Non-polar covering region between 65° S to 65° N latitudes

- **Sensors:**
  - GPM Microwave Imager (GMI)
  - Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR)
## GPM Sensors

### GMI

**Frequencies:**
10.6, 18.7, 23.8, 36.5, 89, 166 & 183 GHz

**Swath width** 885 km

**Resolution:** 19.4 km x 32.2 km (10 GHz) to 4.4 km x 7.3 km (183 GHz)

### DPR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Swath</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ka 35.5 GHz</td>
<td>120 km</td>
<td>5.2 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ku 13.6 GHZ</td>
<td>245 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GMI/DPR View Tropical Depression 03W in Western Pacific Ocean

4/24/2017
There are 4 major algorithms used to obtain precipitation estimates from GPM observations:

- Radar Algorithm
  - 2A-Ku, 2A-Ka, 2A-DPR
- Radiometer Algorithm
  - 2A-GPROF
- Combined Radar+Radiometer Algorithm
  - 2A-CMB
- Multi-Satellite Algorithm
  - (GPM core active/passive and constellation passive microwave measurements are used)
  - IMERG

Widely Used for Application
GPM: Previous Trainings

https://pmm.nasa.gov/

Click to Access
GPM: Previous Trainings

https://pmm.nasa.gov/training

Recent Training Sessions
(2015 - 2016)

- Overview of Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Mission, Data Products and Data Access Tools
- GPM Data Product Updates and Demonstration of Web-tools for Data Search, Analysis, Visualization, and Download
- Demonstration of Case Studies of Data Import and Analysis in GIS
- Tutorial on Using Python Scripts for Reading GPM Data

Click on the links to access webinar presentations and audio recordings
GPM Data Updates

https://pmm.nasa.gov/data-access/data-updates

• IMERG Version 4 data released in March 2017

• GPROF Version 4 was released in August 2016

• GMI, DPR, and IMERG near-real time data browser available since May 2016 https://storm.pps.eosdis.nasa.gov/storm/cesium/GPMNRTView.html

• New data visualization applications:
  Global viewer
  Precipitation Applications Viewer
  STORM Event Viewer
  NASA Worldview

As of 1 May 2017 GPM V05 processing has started. The new version will be released after it has been checked by the precipitation science team.
GPM Data Updates

https://pmm.nasa.gov/data-access/data-updates

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- GPROF Version 4 was released in August 2016
- GMI, DPR, and IMERG near-real time data browser available since May 2016
- New data visualization applications:
  - Global viewer
  - Precipitation Applications Viewer
  - NASA Worldview
Update on IMERG Products in Version 04

George J. Huffman
Update on IMERG Products in Version 04

George J. Huffman(1)

with David T. Bolvin(1,2), Dan Braithwaite(3), Kuolin Hsu(3), Robert Joyce(4,5), Christopher Kidd(1,6), Eric Nelkin(1,2), Soroosh Sorooshian(3), Jackson Tan(1,7), Pingping Xie(5)

(1) NASA/GSFC Earth Sciences Division – Atmospheres
(2) Science Systems and Applications, Inc.
(3) Univ. of California Irvine
(4) Innovim
(5) NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center
(6) Univ. of Maryland / ESSIC
(7) Univ. Space Res. Assoc.
1. INTRODUCTION

Input **precip** (GPROF2017) estimates from a diverse, changing, uncoordinated set of satellites

Goal: seek the longest, most detailed record of “global” precip

**IMERG is a unified U.S. algorithm** that takes advantage of

- Kalman Filter CMORPH (lagrangian time interpolation) – NOAA
- **PERSIANN with Cloud Classification System** (IR) – U.C. Irvine
- **TMPA** (inter-satellite calibration, gauge combination) – NASA
- **PPS** (input data assembly, processing environment) – NASA
2. IMERG DESIGN – Data Sets

Multiple runs accommodate different user requirements for latency and accuracy
- “Early” – 5(4) hr (flash flooding)
- “Late” – 15(12) hr (crop forecasting)
- “Final” – 2.5 months (research)

Time intervals are half-hourly and monthly (Final only)

0.1° global CED grid
- merged microwave precip 90° N-S
- morphed precip 60° N-S for now
- probability of liquid precip 90° N-S

User-oriented services by archive sites
- interactive analysis (Giovanni)
- alternate formats (TIFF files, …)
- area averages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Half-hourly data file (Early, Late, Final)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 [multi-sat.] precipitationCal</td>
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<td>2 [multi-sat.] precipitationUncal</td>
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<td>3 [multi-sat. precip] randomError</td>
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<td>4 [PMW] HQprecipitation</td>
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<td>6 [PMW] HQobservationTime</td>
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<td>7 IRprecipitation</td>
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<td>8 IRkalmanFilterWeight</td>
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<td>9 [phase] probabilityLiquidPrecipitation</td>
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<td>10 precipitationQualityIndex</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly data file (Final)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 [sat.-gauge precip] randomError</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 GaugeRelativeWeighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 probabilityLiquidPrecipitation [phase]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. VERSION 04 IMERG – Upgrades

Use new Version 04 precip from sensors using GPROF2014v2 algorithm

Reduce Final Run latency from 3.5 to 2.5 months
  • change how ancillary data are handled

Shift from static to dynamic calibration of PERSIANN-CCS by microwave precip

Extend gridders to 90° N-S

Reduce blockiness
  • turn off volume adjustment in gauge analysis
  • screen off-shore gauge influence
  • spatially average 2BCMB-GMI calibrations

Correct bug that placed morphed values one gridbox south of actual location
  • found thanks to a user’s question

Adjust 2BCMB to the zonal-mean GPCP (land and ocean, except low-latitude ocean)

Calibrate all microwave sensors to 2BCMB
3. VERSION 04 IMERG – High-Latitude Seasons for Merged Microwave (HQ)

Warm-season estimates appear useful at high latitudes

Input precip estimates are still deficient in snow/ice-covered surface regions
- still screening out microwave estimates in snow/ice areas and use microwave-calibrated PERSIANN-CCS estimates
3. VERSION 04 IMERG – GPM Products Are Low in the Extratropical Oceans

Ocean-only zonals for 2015

V04 GPM products are similar, by design
- V03 IMERG somewhat similar
  - Day 1 (pre-launch calibration)

GPCP is higher in the extratropics
- new Version 2.3 of community standard
- Behrangi Multi-satellite CloudSat, TRMM, Aqua (MCTA) product confirms GPM bias
  - includes CloudSat rain, snow, mixed
  - higher than GPCP in mid-latitudes
  - roughly agrees at high latitudes

Adjust IMERG V04 to GPCP at higher latitudes with seasonal “climatology”
- known low biases in GPM products being addressed in V05
- provides reasonable IMERG bias in V04
3. VERSION 04 IMERG – GPM Product Biases Vary by Latitude

Land-only zonals for 2015

V04 GPM products tend to show more spread

GPCP is higher in the extratropics
  • V03 IMERG similar (both use GPCC gauge analysis)
  • MCTA n/a over land

Adjust IMERG to GPCP for V04 at all latitudes with a seasonal “climatology”
  • known biases in GPM products being addressed in V05
  • first cut at the adjustment to gauges that the final calibration in IMERG enforces
3. VERSION 04 IMERG – 2BCMB Largely Behaves as Expected for Spring 2015

Low-latitude ocean not adjusted; highest latitudes still show deficits
• regional biases are modest
4. VALIDATION – Half-Hourly IMERG Sources and MRMS over South Carolina, 2-4 October 2015

“Violin diagram” for individual sources of the half-hourly IMERG estimates

- width shows relative contribution for each difference bin
- V03(V04) on left(right)

All rainfall rates, over land

V04 is an improvement for all sensors

No-PMW (interpolated and with IR) data are competitive with the skill for most of the sensors
4. VALIDATION – Half-Hourly IMERG Sources and MRMS over South Carolina, 2-4 October 2015

This diagram focuses solely on heavy rain
• both ≥ 10 mm/h
• small sample size for AMSR2, GMI, ATMS
• V04 better than V03
• GMI and SSMIS are near zero bias
• new ATMS has issues (but low number of samples)
4. VALIDATION – Accumulations over South Carolina, 1-5 October 2015

V04 has a much smaller overestimate than V03 compared to MRMS

- the gauge-only analysis shows more than MRMS
- both IMERG versions lack the split near the coast
- IMERG higher over the ocean, but need to consider radar range artifacts for MRMS
5. FUTURE – Version Transitions

Version 04, first-generation GPM-based IMERG archive, March 2014–present

- all data are available March 2014–December 2016
- Early and Late Run data are also available from 5 February 2017
- remainder will be filled in “soon”
- remaining months depend on data arrival

Mid-2017: Version 05 IMERG, March 2014–present

- DPR calibration change
- “minor”, but important upgrades to other algorithms
- IMERG quality flag
- no morphing outside 60° N-S


Spring 2018: Legacy TMPA products retired

~2 years later: Version 06
6. FINAL COMMENTS

Version 04 IMERG addresses a number of issues uncovered in Version 03
• swaths gridded over entire globe

Versions will move quickly over the next 12 months
• GPM era being upgraded to Version 04, then 5 months later in Version 05
• TRMM-GPM eras reprocessed in Version 05 in late 2017
• TMPA to be run until Spring 2018

The future holds some “interesting” challenges, technical and institutional

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pmm.nasa.gov
2. IMERG DESIGN – Processing

IMERG is a unified U.S. algorithm that takes advantage of
• Kalman Filter CMORPH (lagrangian time interpolation) – NOAA
• PERSIANN with Cloud Classification System (IR) – U.C. Irvine
• TMPA (inter-satellite calibration, gauge combination) – NASA
• all three have received PMM support
• PPS (input data assembly, processing environment) – NASA

Institutions are shown for module origins, but
• package is an integrated system
• goal is single code system appropriate for near-real and post-real time
• “the devil is in the details”
PMW sensor contributing the data, selected as imager first, then sounder, then closest to center time.

Probability that precipitation phase is liquid; diagnostic computed from ancillary data.
Retrievals reflect sensor types

- **cross-track scanners** smoother than conical scanners
- some systematic coastal issues

~69°
3. VERSION 04 IMERG – Individual Sensors, July 2014

Above 60° there is no morphing, only the half-hourly “HQ” merged microwave coverage is about half the times around the day, on the average
• the flashing in and out is hard to watch, but
• accumulations (say, daily) should be useful

IMERG Final HQ Precipitation

1488 half hours in the month

0000Z 2014 03 12
Precip phase is available for the whole globe
- probability that the precip phase is liquid or mixed
  - mixed is rare and likely to melt, which then acts like liquid
- diagnostic based on NWP analysis of surface temperature, humidity, pressure
At the 0.1° IMERG resolution the 1° GPCC resolution causes unphysical blockiness along coasts where satellites and gauges disagree (Final Run).

The transition off-shore is now a jump, but perhaps should be a taper.
2BCMB-GMI calibration is a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid based on a $3^\circ \times 3^\circ$ template

- when gradients in GMI and 2BCMB are not similar, jumps between boxes are intrusive (top)
- a distance-weighted average of the four adjacent calibration values improves performance (bottom)
- all Runs

January 2015
3 VALIDATION – Half-Hourly IMERG Sources and Pocamoke Fine-Scale Grid, April 2014 – March 2015

“Violin diagram” for individual sources of the half-hourly IMERG estimates

• width shows relative contribution for each difference bin

GMI is best; AMSR and SSMIS less so

The extra scatter for no-PMW (interpolated) is partly driven by the large number of cases

No-PMW (interpolated) data are competitive with the skill for most of the sensors

This is pre-launch calibration! The shift to Version 04 should give more consistency

[Courtesy J. Tan (UMBC; GSFC)]
Actual accumulations of rain were up to 24”
• IMERG overestimated some totals by a factor of 2

This diagram focuses solely on heavy rain

All sensors are positively biased
• MHS is particularly biased due to an IMERG error
• “no PMW” (morphed and IR) is better
• again, low number of samples

This is pre-launch calibration! The shift to Version 04 should give more consistency

[Courtesy J. Tan (UMBC; GSFC)]
General area of heavy rain is captured by IMERG, but extends further east and west
• are there sufficient gauge data to the west?
Input precip estimates are fairly similar across sensors, and look useful
3. VERSION 04 IMERG – Regional Biases in Adjusted 2BCMB are Modest for Spring 2015

Sampling noise in 2BCMB makes direct comparison challenging.
4. FUTURE – The Big Challenges in Multi-Satellite

Extend the analysis to the poles

Create a merged observation-model product

Orographic enhancement

Precipitation system growth and decay between satellite overpasses

Account for differences in what different sensors “see”

Estimate the fine-scale errors
  • perhaps express “expert” estimate as quantiles
  • then the grand challenge is aggregating the errors in space/time
  • also need a “simple” quality index

Create an NWP-based assimilation system

Maintain the constellation
It takes a llooonng time to develop missions

Core Observatory fuel should last 10-15+ years
- but something could break

What will be the key research topic in 10-15 years? [Decadal Survey]
- Clouds and Precipitation Processes

Users assume that the agencies will maintain the microwave constellation and keep providing data for societal benefits
- many fewer launches planned
- need to recognize and support multi-disciplinary uses
- new generation of smaller sensors?
- alternatives of small sats or geo sats have to satisfy requirements

[Courtesy C. Kidd (ESSIC; GSFC)]
GPM Applications

Dalia Kirschbaum
Societal Benefit Areas

Extreme Events and Disasters
- Landslides
- Tropical cyclones
- Floods
- Re-insurance

Water Resources and Agriculture
- Famine Early Warning System
- Water Resource management
- Drought
- Agriculture

Weather, Climate & Land Surface Modeling
- Numerical Weather Prediction
- Land System Modeling
- Global Climate Modeling

Public Health and Ecology
- Disease tracking
- Food Security
- Animal migration
The Naval Research Lab (NRL) routinely uses GPM Microwave Imager (GMI) data along with other sensors in their Automated Tropical Cyclone Forecasting System for improved storm track prediction. The NRL’s forecasts are used by weather prediction and disaster response organizations around the world.

Hurricane Matthew affecting Nassau in the Bahamas as a Category 4 storm on 10/6/2016

http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil
NASA’s Land Information System routinely assimilates GPM data as a forcing input for their regional and global instances. The example shows heavy rainfall for a major South Carolina rainfall event in October, 2015. Forecasters are provided this data in near real-time by SPoRT at MSFC and the data are actively being assessed with feedback provided by partners in NWS forecast offices.
The Global Flood Monitoring System (GFMS) uses GPM to detect potential flooding conditions and estimate intensity. This system also uses GEOS-5 forecast to estimate streamflow within affected areas. Top left shows the 7-day IMERG rainfall totals over California ending on 21 Feb. 2017. Top middle plot shows forecasted 3-day rainfall from the GEOS-5 model near the Oroville Dam area. Bottom left plot shows the forecasted flood detection/intensity for 22 Feb. 2017, forecasts over northern California are estimated to be over 200 mm for the 22 Feb. 2017 (bottom).
An atmospheric river ("Pineapple Express") delivered over 5 inches of rainfall in parts of California in early January, 2017 (bottom) as viewed by GPM’s IMERG data. The 30-day rainfall anomalies ending Jan. 10th show TRMM Multi-satellite Precipitation Analysis from 2017 (top right) and 2016 (bottom, right).

Image credit: Hal Pierce, SSAI/GSFC
A global landslide nowcast model provides situational awareness of landslide hazards for a wide range of users. The model uses IMERG near real-time data with a global susceptibility map to identify locations with landslide potential.

1-day IMERG rainfall accumulation (left) for the U.S. West Coast and corresponding landslide nowcasts (right) are shown for Feb. 21\textsuperscript{st}, 2017 results are updated every 30 minutes.

Kirschbaum/Stanley  https://pmm.nasa.gov/precip-apps
The Fire Weather Index System is the most widely used fire danger rating system in the world. The Global Fire WEather Database (GFWED) developed at NASA GISS integrates different weather factors influencing the likelihood of a vegetation fire starting and spreading. GPM IMERG and other data are incorporated in different versions of the GFWED and are used by fire management agencies around the world.

The Fire Weather Index tracks the potential for extreme fire behavior, seen here with Aqua & Terra MODIS active fires, using GPM IMERG for Aug 2015 record-breaking Pacific Northwest wildfires (Field, Engel Marlier, Lettenmaier).

The Fine Fuel Moisture Code tracks the potential for fire starts, such as these predominantly agricultural and forest plantation prescribed fires in the southeast US. (R. Field/NASA GISS)
IMERG Estimates are compared with routine rainfall sources for Remote Agricultural Drought Monitoring within the Famine Early Warning System Data Assimilation System.

Start-of-season (SOS) for the 2015-16 Southern Africa growing season, computed with three different satellite derived rainfall estimates:

**Contribution from McNally et al.**

“While the IMERG product’s spatial resolution, temporal latency and, for this example, agreement with the CHIRPS shows great promise, its utility for FEWS NET will be better assessed when a longer time series is available.”

*Kirschbaum et al. 2016, BAMS*
Over 10,000 farmers in the Indus basin receive information on water resources in their area on their cell phone.

Banana farmer checking his IMERG-based irrigation advisory.

"Dear farmer friend, we would like to inform you that your wheat crop does not need irrigation due to sufficient rainfall during the past week."

Hossain/U Washington
Global 2030 projections estimate increased demands for food (50%), water (30%) and energy (40%). Accurate, global estimates of precipitation will help better quantify the vulnerability of urban areas to these systemic changes and better characterize hydroclimate variability of extreme events.
GPM IMERG data was used along with air temperature anomalies and population to compute maps of estimated cholera risk in Haiti following the passage of Hurricane Matthew 1-2 October, 2016. Plots show a) IMERG precipitation anomalies prior to and b) following Hurricane Matthew; c) track forecast for Matthew over Haiti, d) shows a Cholera risk map based on pre-hurricane hydroclimatic conditions, e) updated Cholera risk map 2 weeks after Hurricane Matthew, and f) reported cases of Cholera as of 10 Oct 2016.
For more information on the TRMM and GPM Missions:

http://gpm.nasa.gov

www.nasa.gov/gpm

Twitter: NASA_Rain   Facebook: NASA.Rain
GPM E-Book

http://www.appolutelydigital.com/Nasa/index.html

Dorian Janney
GPM Data Access and Visualization Updates
Jacob Reed & Amita Mehta
Global Precipitation Viewer

https://pmm.nasa.gov/data-access/global-viewer

Real Time IMERG Precipitation Data: 30m, 24hour, 7day
NASA Worldview

https://pmm.nasa.gov/data-access/worldview

Near-Real Time and Archived GMI Rain Rates
Precipitation and Applications Viewer

https://pmm.nasa.gov/precip-apps
Precipitation Storm Event Viewer

https://storm.pps.eosdis.nasa.gov/storm/cesium/EventViewer.html
Thank You!

Amita Mehta (amita.v.mehta@nasa.gov)