

# Data Assimilation and Modeling

Paul R. Houser (CREW & GMU)



**CREW**  
Center for Research on  
Environment and Water



*Water Cycle Research Making a Difference*

Acknowledging:

Jeff Walker, Brian Cosgrove, Jared Entin,  
Jiarui Dong, Alok Sahoo



<http://crew.iges.org>

Paul R. Houser, 14 March 2007, Page 1

# Background: Land Surface Modeling

**Land Surface Prediction:** Accurate land model prediction is essential to enable data assimilation methods to propagate or extend scarce observations in time and space. Based on *water and energy balance*.

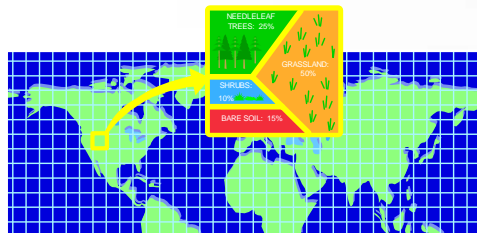
Input - Output = Storage Change

$$P + G_{in} - (Q + ET + G_{out}) = \Delta S$$

$$R_n - G = L_e + H$$

**Mosaic** (Koster, 1996):

- Based on simple SiB physics.
- Subgrid scale "mosaic"



**CLM** (Community Land Model, ~2003):

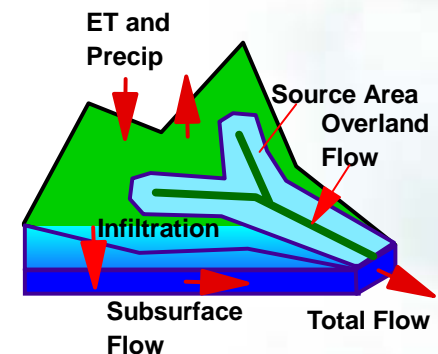
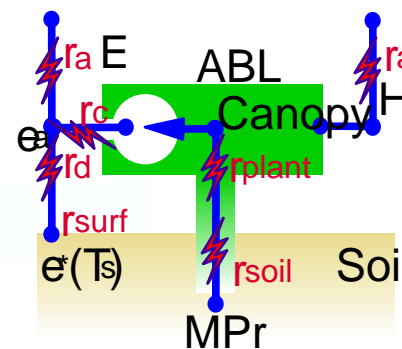
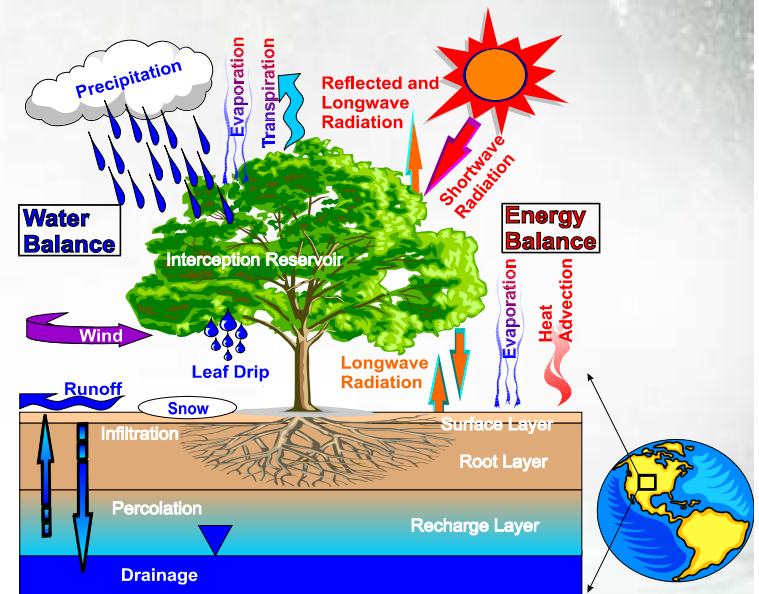
- Community developed "open-source" model.
- 10 soil layers, 5 layer snow scheme.

**Catchment Model** (Koster et al., 2003):

- Models in catchment space rather than on grids.
- Uses Topmodel concepts to model groundwater

**NOAA-NCEP-Noah Model** (NCEP, ~2004):

- Operational Land Surface model.



Also: vic, bucket, SiB, etc.

# Land Surface Observation

## Forcing

- Precipitation
- Wind
- Humidity
- Radiation
- Air Temperature

## Off-line LDAS

## Parameters

- Soil Properties
- Vegetation Properties
- Elevation & Topography
- Subgrid Variation
- Catchment Deline
- River Connectivity

## Calibration

## Fluxes

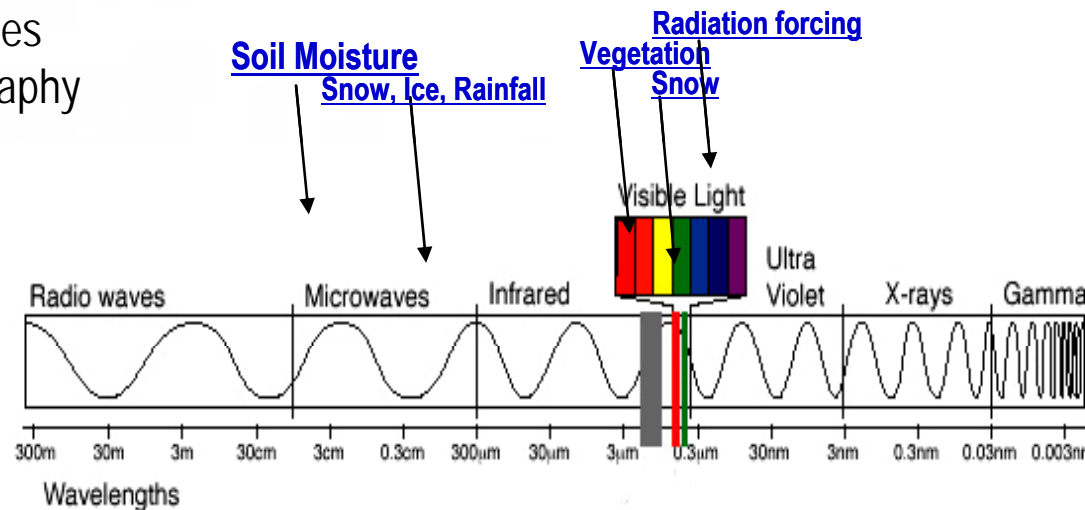
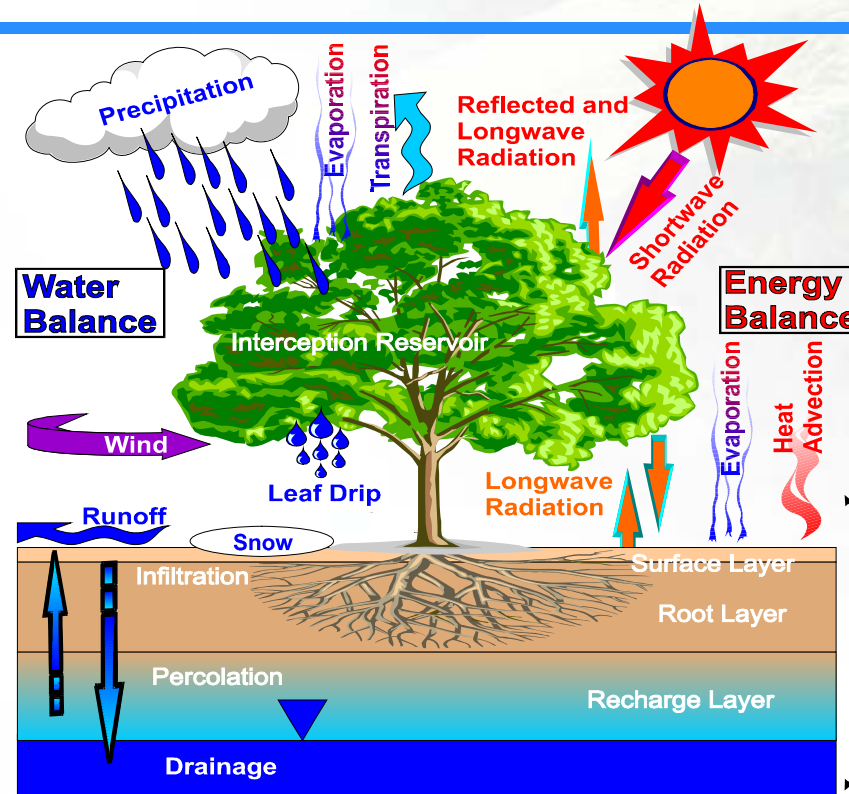
- Evapotranspiration
- Sensible Heat Flux
- Radiation
- Runoff
- Drainage

## Validation

## Assimilation

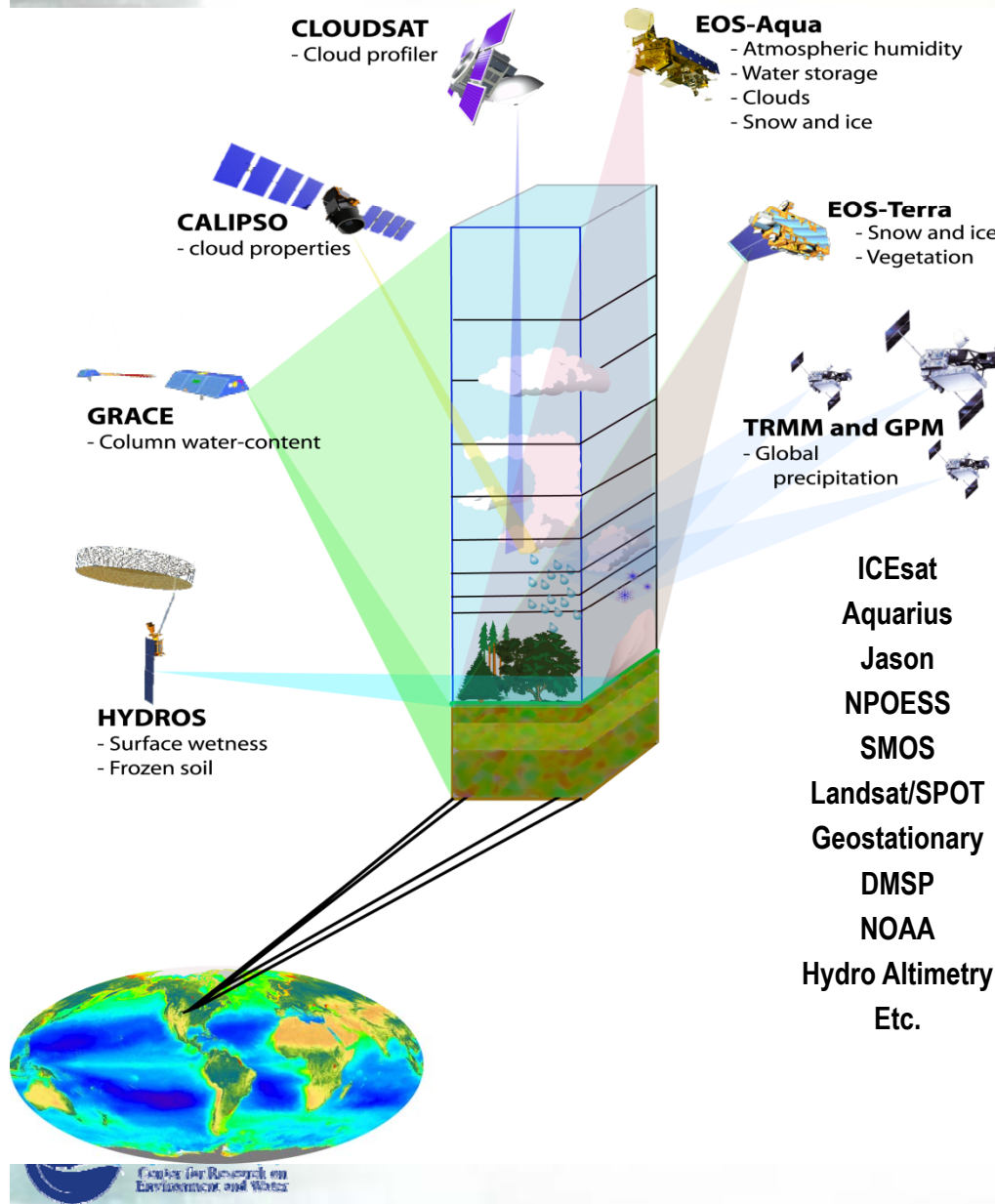
## States

- Soil Moisture
- Temperature
- Snow
- Carbon
- Nitrogen
- Biomass



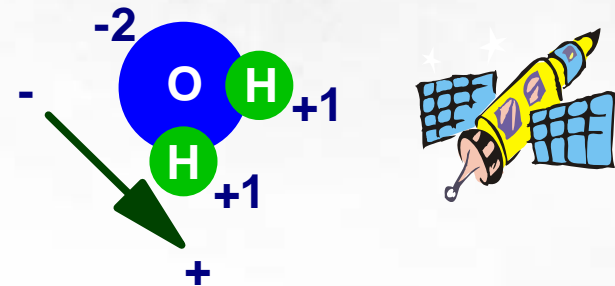


# Global Water-Cycle: Observation Strategy



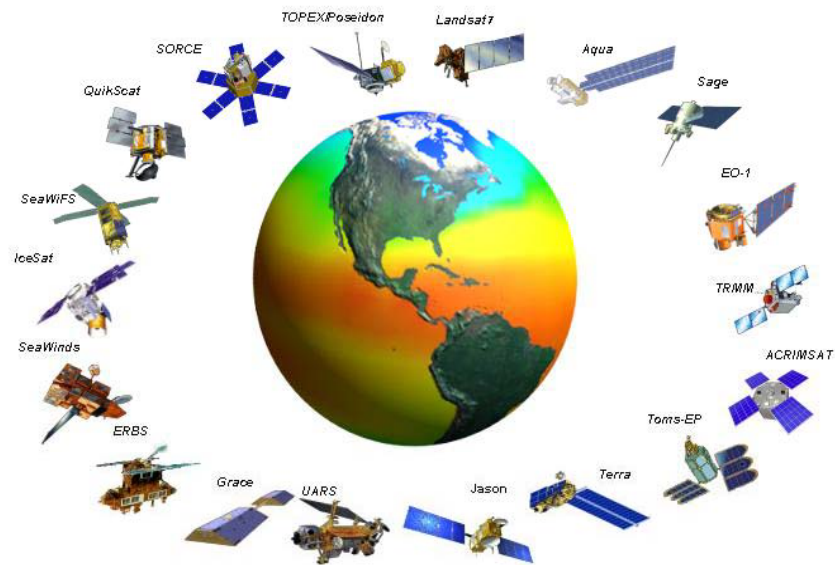
## Future: Water Cycle Mission

Observation of water molecules through the atmosphere and land surface using an *active/passive hyperspectral* microwave instrument.



Quantity	Spatial Resolution	Temporal Resolution	Frequency
Groundwater	50 km	2 weeks	100 MHz?
Soil Moisture	10 km	3 days	1.4 GHz
Salinity	50 km	2 weeks	1.4 GH
Freeze/thaw	1 km	1 day	1.2 GHz
Rain	5 km	3 hour	10-90 GHz
Falling Snow	5 km	3 hour	150 GHz
Snow	1-5 km	1 day	10-90 GHz
TPW	10 km		
	(sea)	3 hour	6-37 GHz
	(land)	3 hour	183 GHz
Temperature	10 km		
	(sea)	3 hour	6-37 GHz
	(land)	3 hour	6-37 GHz
ET (4DDA)	5 km	3 hour	1.4-90 GHz

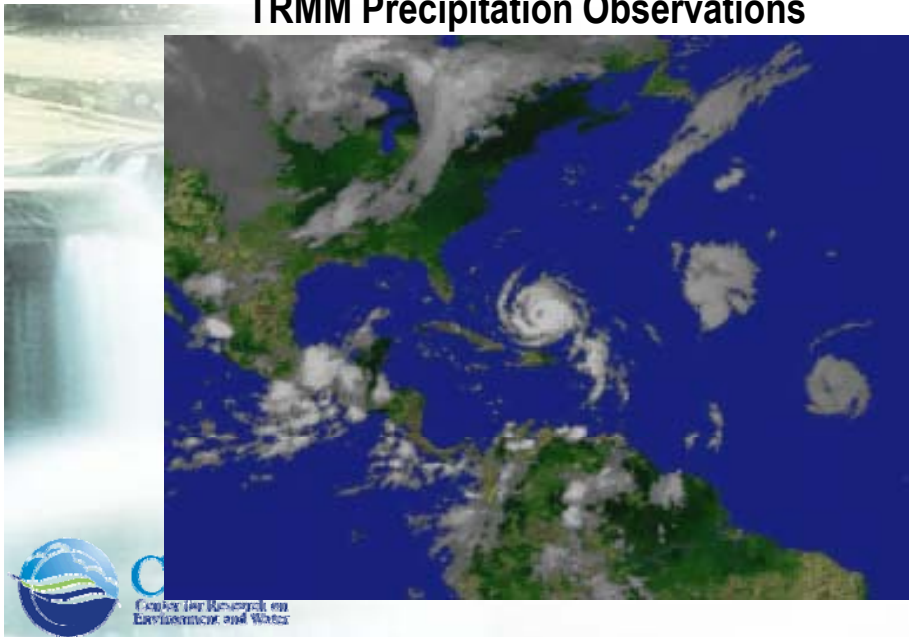
# Current Observation Capabilities



	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13+
Precipitation	TRMM + constellation						GPM					
Evaporation	EOS Terra						EOS Aqua					
	QuickSCAT						ADEOS II					
							NPP/NPOESS					
P-E	GRACE											
Clouds							Calipso					
							Cloudsat					
							EOS Aqua					
							EOS Terra					
							NPP/NPOESS					
Water Vapor	EOS Aqua											
							EOS Aura					
							NPP/NPOESS					
Land State	EOS Aqua											
	GRACE											
	Icesat											
							Soil Moisture Mission					

Water-Cycle Mission

## TRMM Precipitation Observations



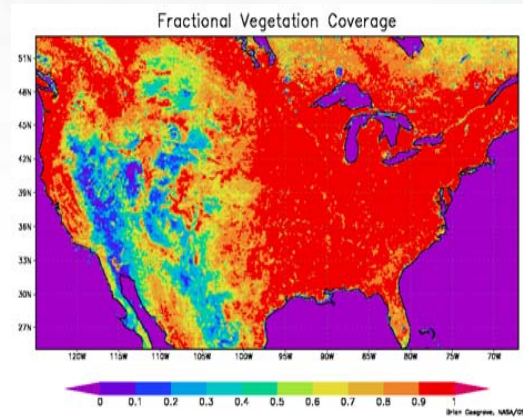
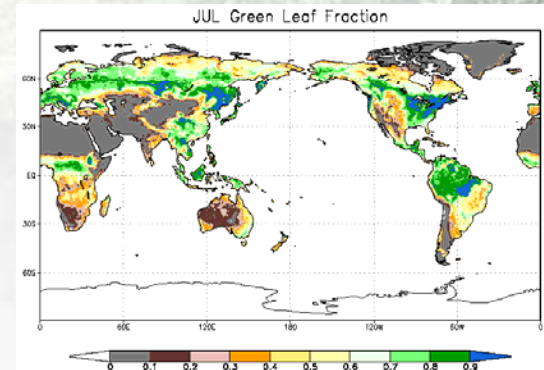
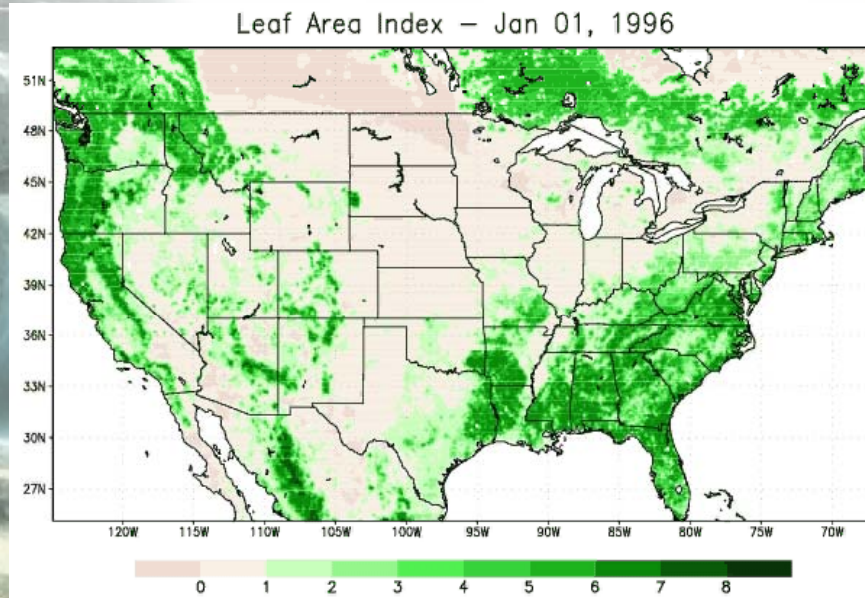
## MODIS Snow Observations





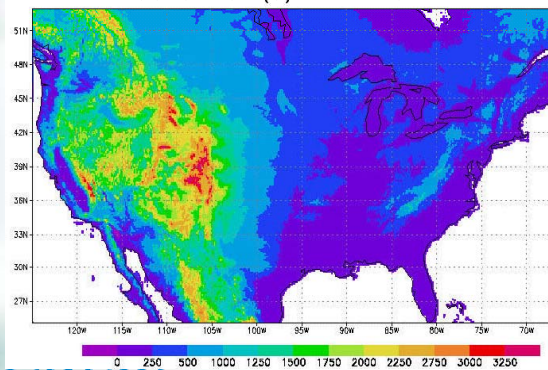
# Land Parameter Observations

## AVHRR/MODIS 1 km LAI -- July



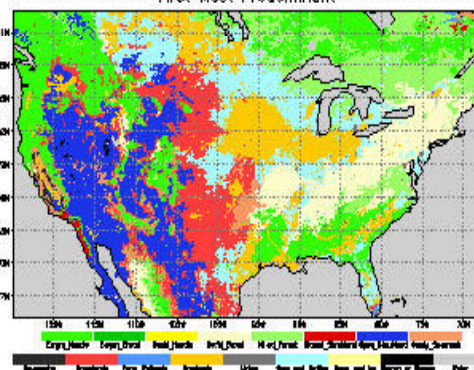
### Topography (GSFC)

Mean Elevation (m) Over LDAS Domain

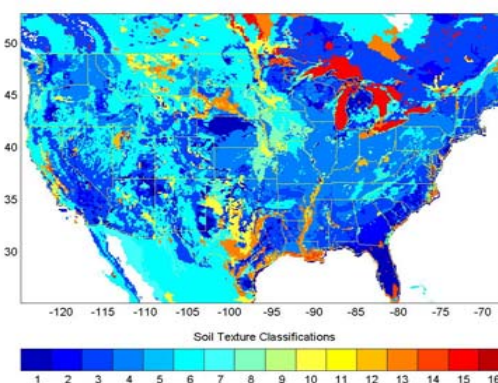


### Vegetation (GSFC)

First Most Predominant

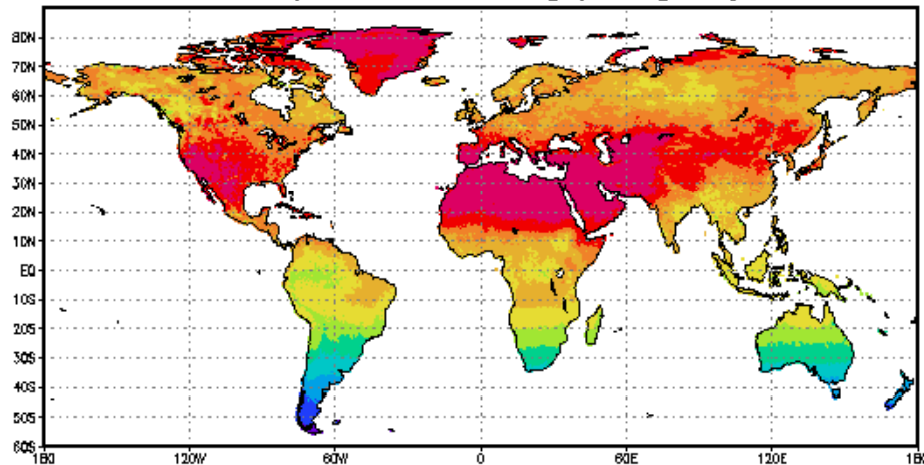


### Soils (NWS-OH)



# Land Forcing Observations

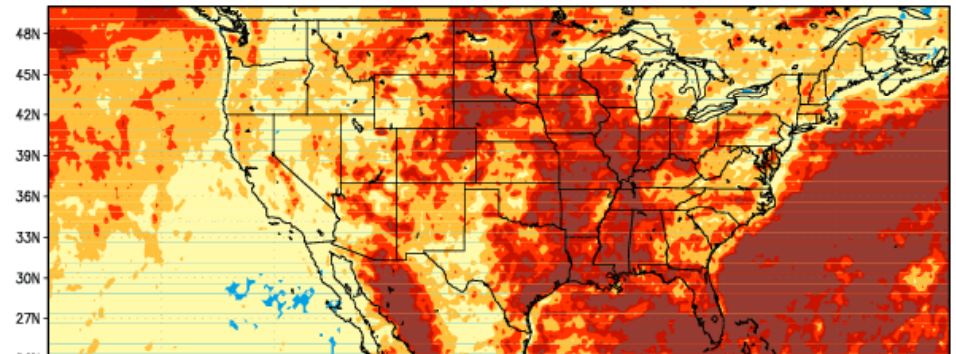
AGRMET daily-mean SW Flux [ $\text{W/m}^2$ ], July 2001



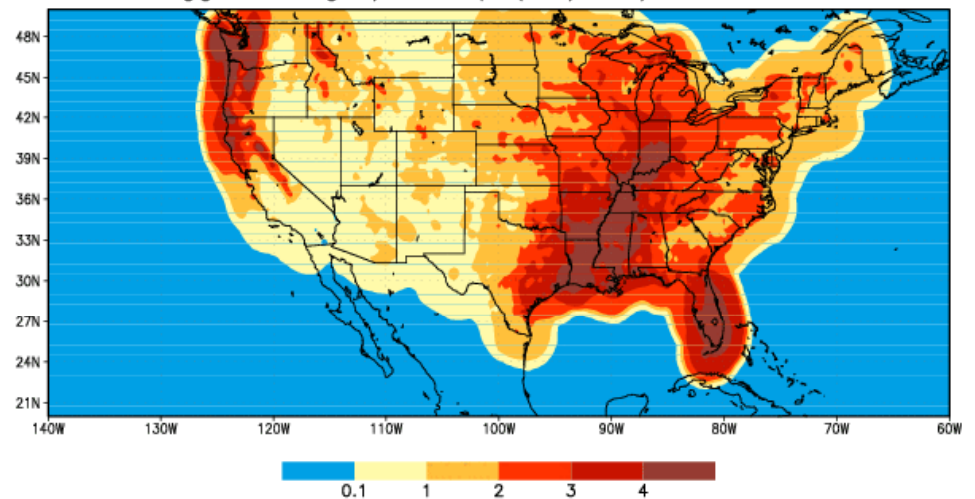
TRMM Precipitation



NRL Microwave / Precip (MM/DAY) / Jul - Dec 2001



CPC Higgins Gauge / Precip (MM/DAY) Jul - Dec 2001

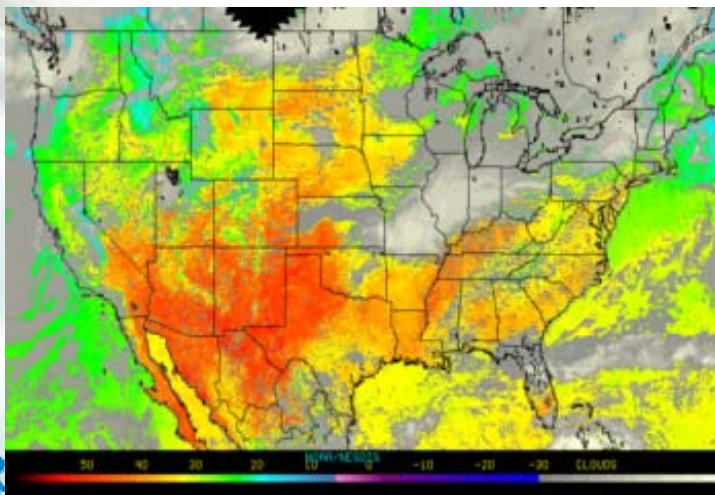
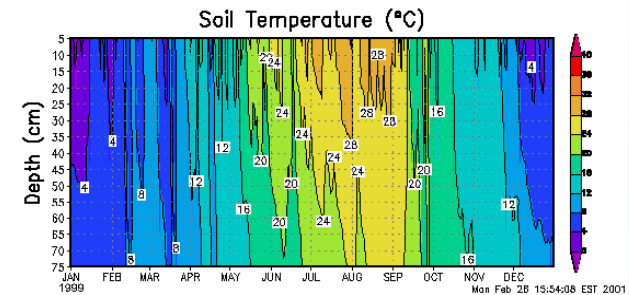
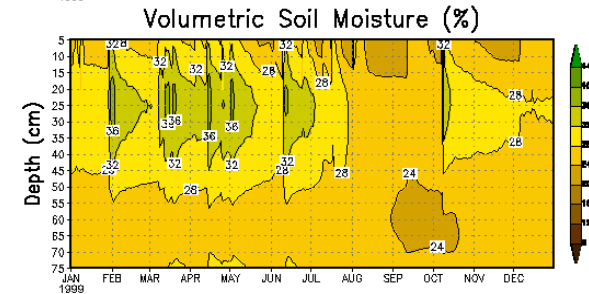
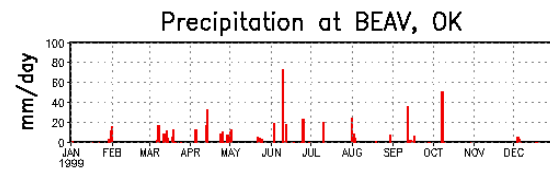
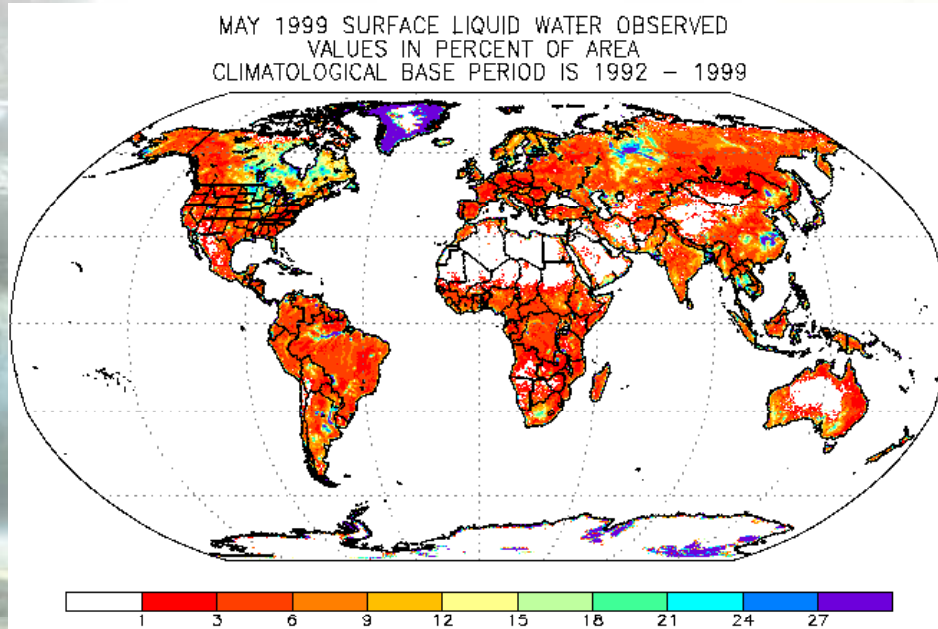


Center for Research on  
Earth System and Water

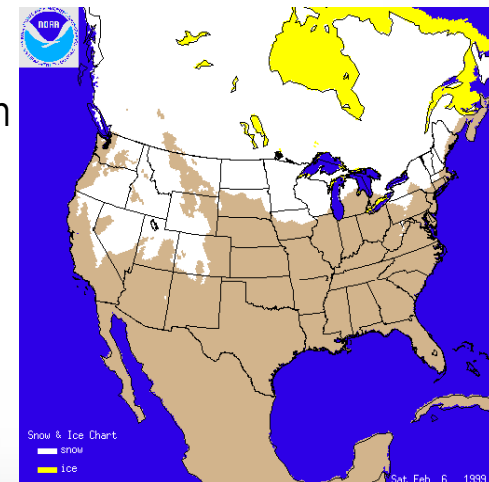


# Land State Observations

## Soil Moisture



## Snow Cover/Depth



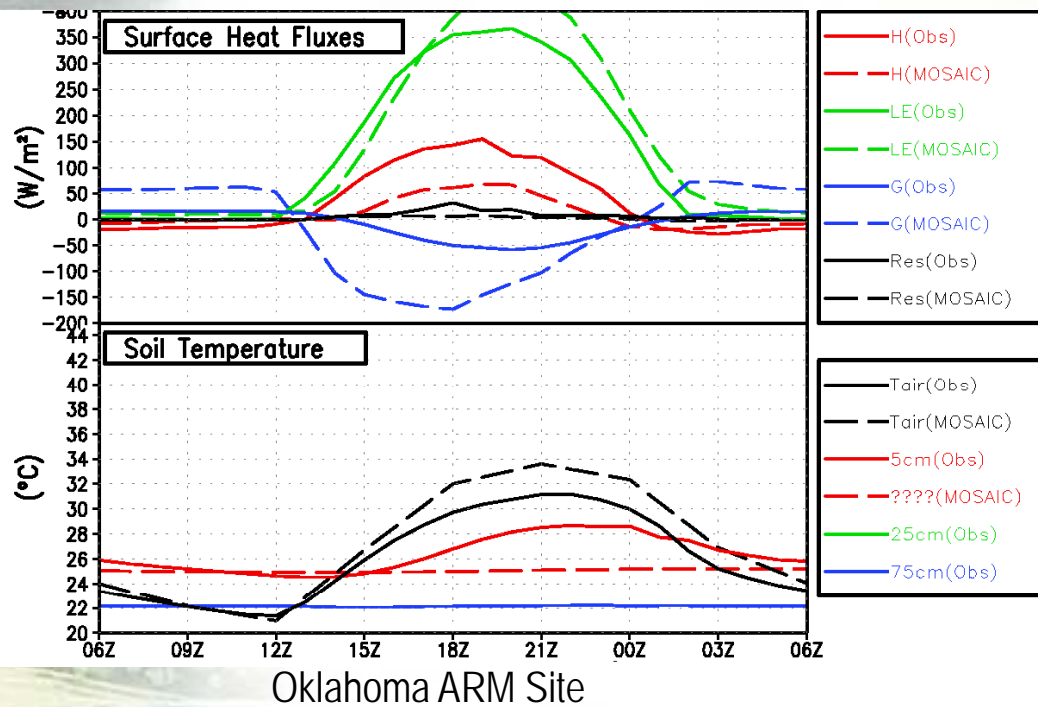
CRES  
Center for Research in  
Environmental Science

Skin temperature derived from NOAA/NESDIS GOES.



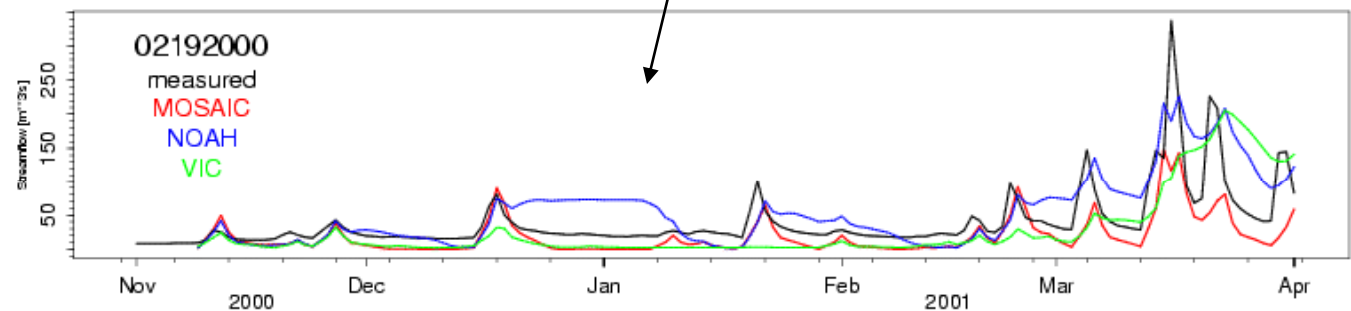
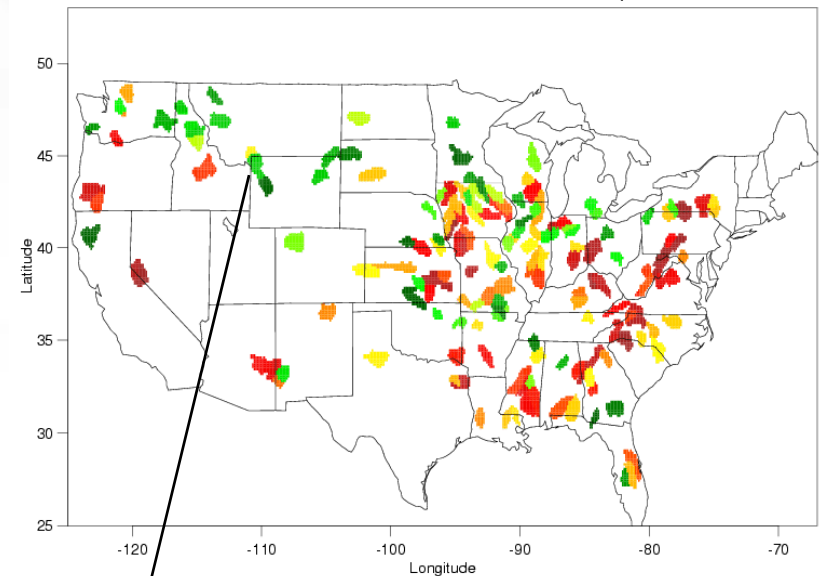
# Land Flux Observations

## Surface Fluxes



## Streamflow

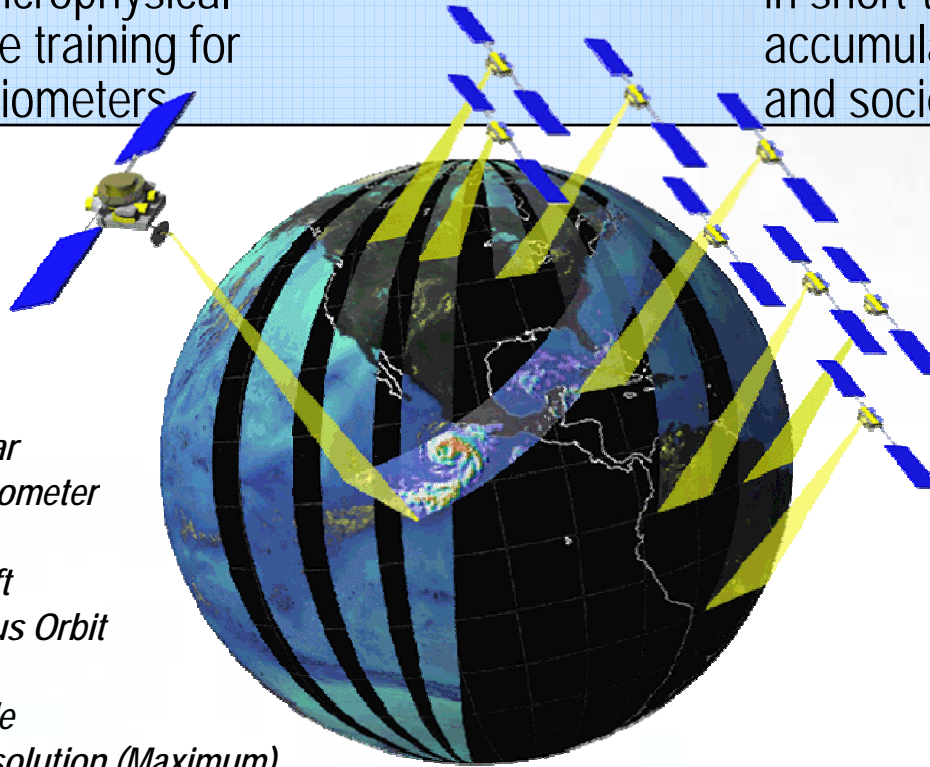
LDAS streamflow validation basins, Sept. 2000



# *GPM Reference Concept*

**OBJECTIVE:** Understand the horizontal and vertical structure of rainfall and its microphysical element. Provide training for constellation radiometers

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide enough sampling to reduce uncertainty in short-term rainfall accumulations. extend scientific and societal applications.



## Core Satellite

- Dual Frequency Radar
- Multi-frequency Radiometer
- H2-A Launch
- TRMM-like Spacecraft
- Non-Sun Synchronous Orbit
- ~65° Inclination
- ~400 - 500 km Altitude
- ~4 km Horizontal Resolution (Maximum)
- 250 m Vertical Resolution

## Constellation Satellites

- Multiple Satellites with Microwave Radiometers
- Aggregate Revisit Time, 3 Hour goal
- Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits
- ~600 km Altitude

## Precipitation Validation Sites

- Global Ground Based Rain Measurement



## Global Precipitation Processing Center

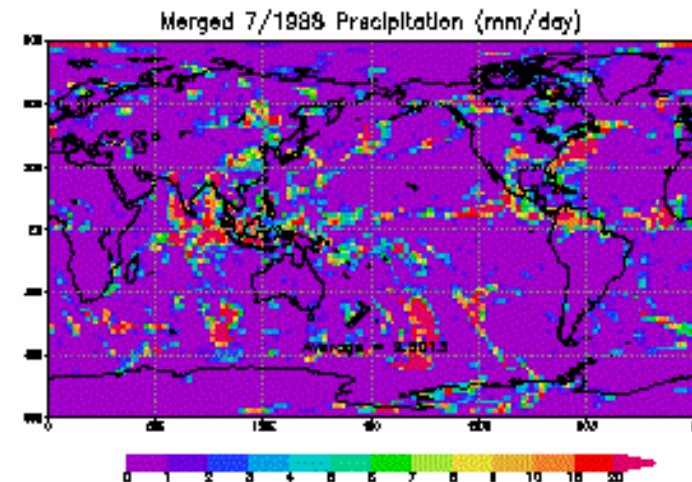
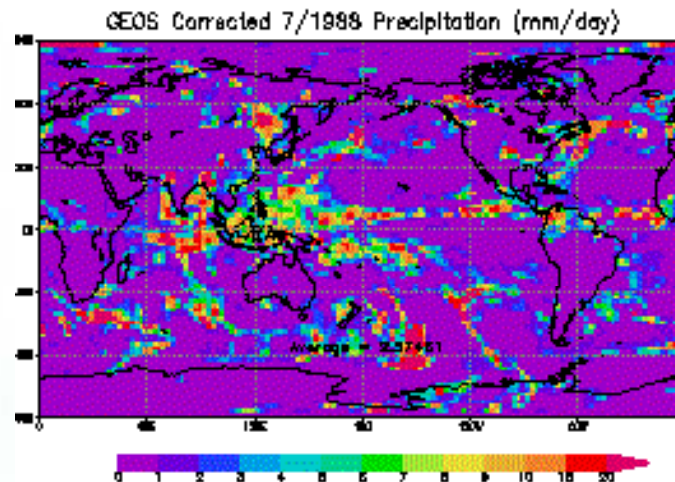
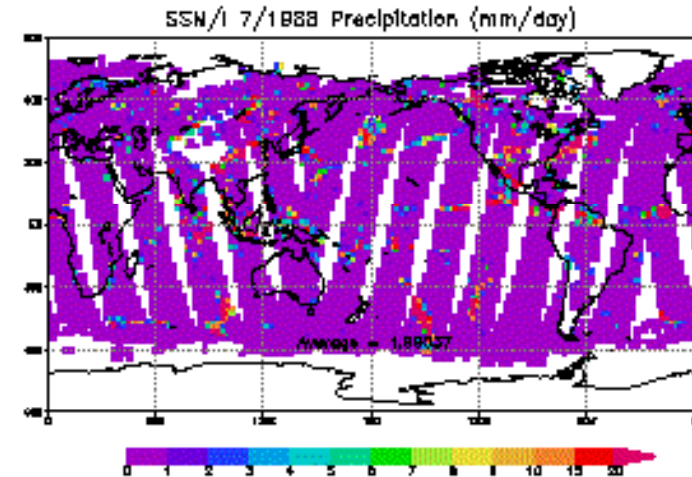
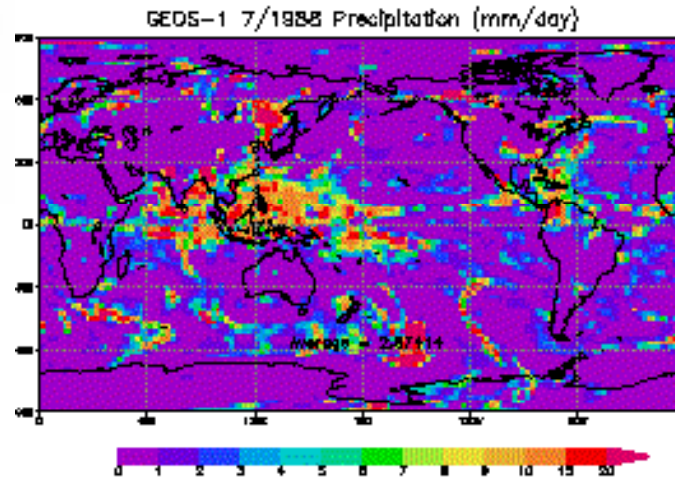
- Capable of Producing Global Precip Data Products as Defined by GPM Partners



Day 1.25

**Example 3hr  
Merged  
Precipitation  
Field:**

GEOS1 model  
and SSMI  
observed  
precipitation  
corrected to  
GPCP and  
merged using  
PSAS.

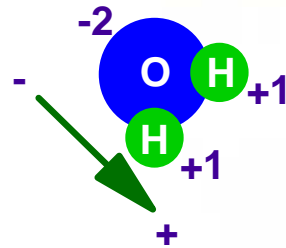


Paul R. Houser, NASA/GSFC

# Soil Moisture Remote Sensing

**Dielectric constant:** Dry soil~3.5, Water ~80

- Water molecule aligns itself to the microwave field
- Penetration depth: ~10 cm
- Measurement depth: ~5 cm

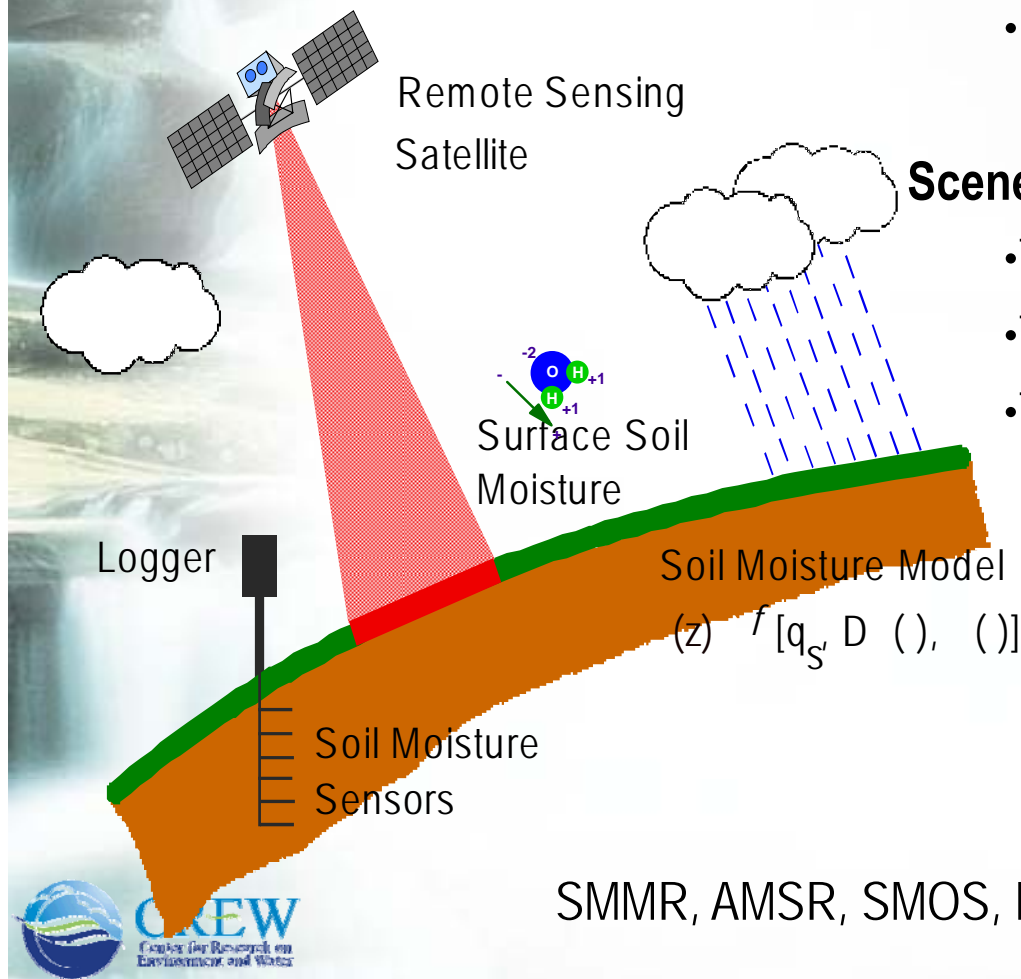


**Scene brightness:** A combination of:

- $Tb_c$ : Canopy brightness (10's K)
- $Tb_{sky}$ : Sky brightness (~2-3 K)
- $Tb_g$ : Soil brightness (~100 K)

Qualitative Comparison of Active to Passive Microwave Systems.

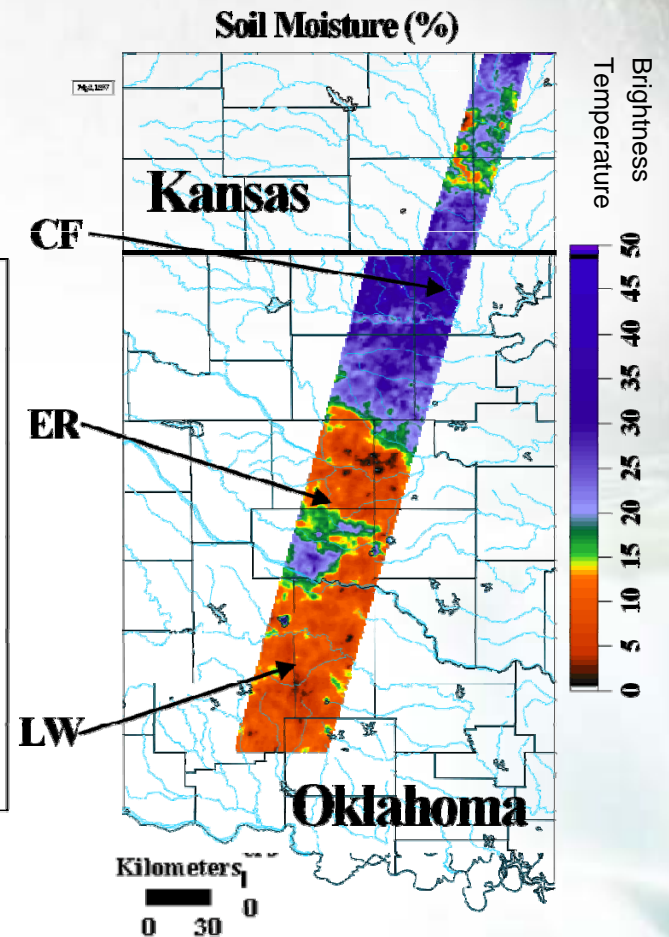
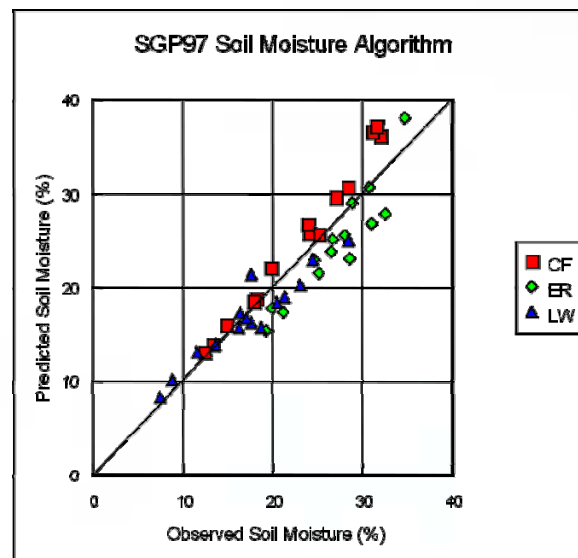
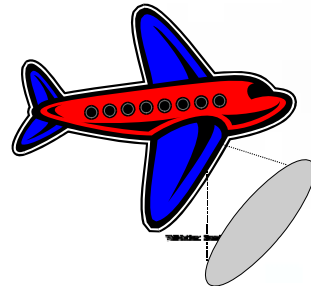
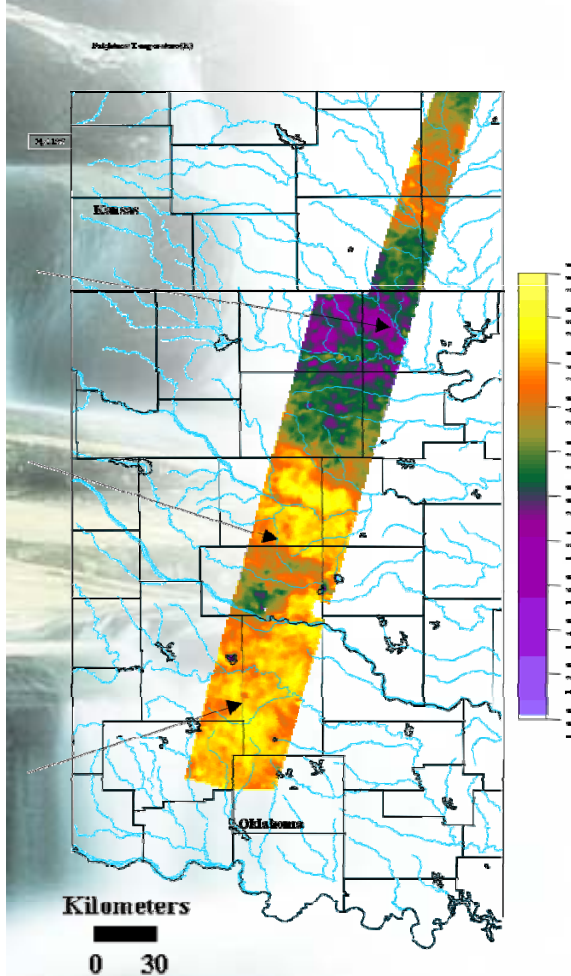
Measurement Characteristic	Passive Microwave	Active Microwave
Sensitivity ( $StoN$ )	Very Good	Fair to Good
Data Rates	Low	Very High
Spatial Resolution	10-100 km	10's m
Swath Width	Wide	Moderate
Vegetation Effect	Moderate	Serious
Roughness Effect	Slight	Serious
Topography Effect	Slight	Serious
Revisit Time	Good	Moderate
Algorithm	Good	Moderate



SMMR, AMSR, SMOS, HYDROS (cancelled)



# Soil Moisture: Field and Aircraft Validation



# ***SMOS***: ESA Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity Mission

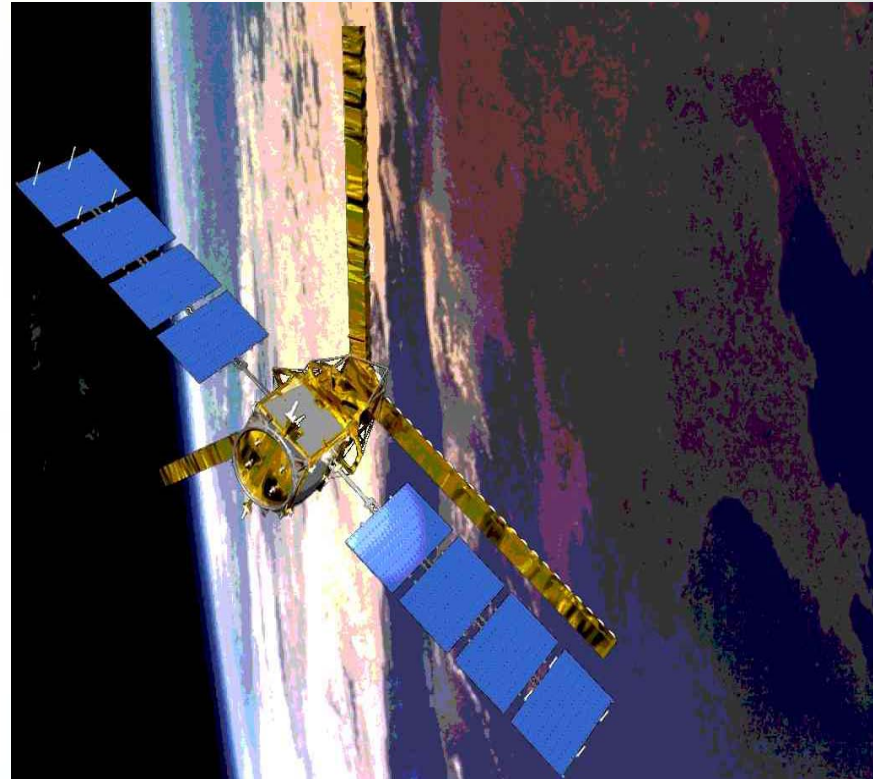
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## **Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity (SMOS) mission**

**2-dimensional  
interferometric radiometer  
(50-km resolution).**

**Multiple-incidence-angle**

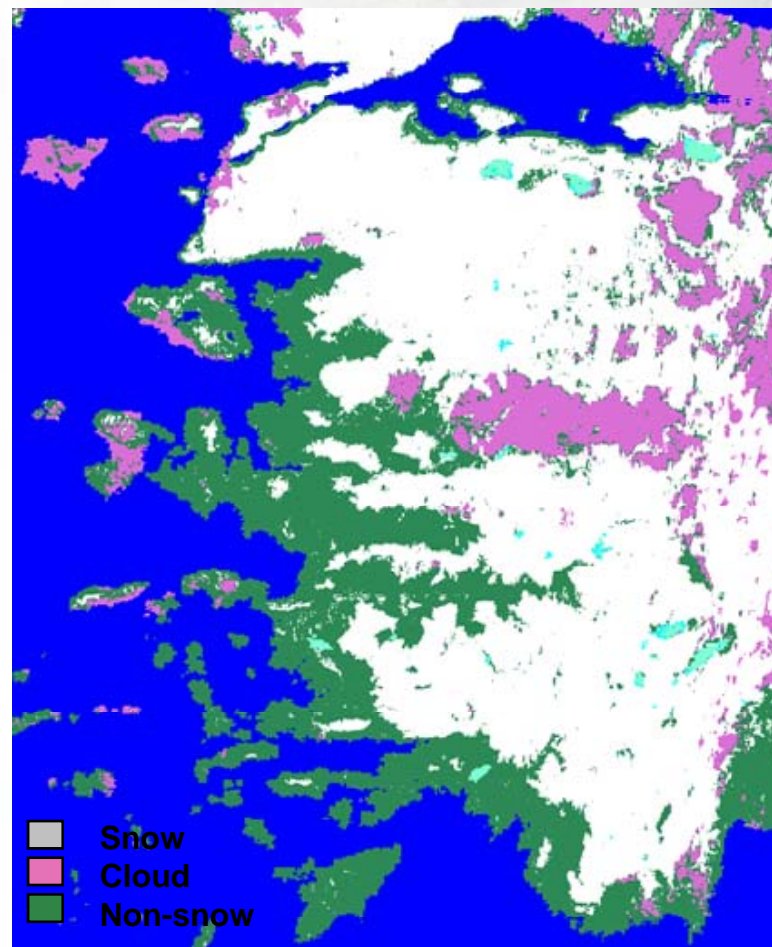
**Target launch 2008**





## MODIS Snow Cover

MODIS true color image and corresponding MOD10\_L2 snow map of Western Turkey on January 27, 2004



# GRACE Mission

## Science Goals

High resolution, mean & time variable gravity field mapping for Earth System Science applications.

## Mission Systems

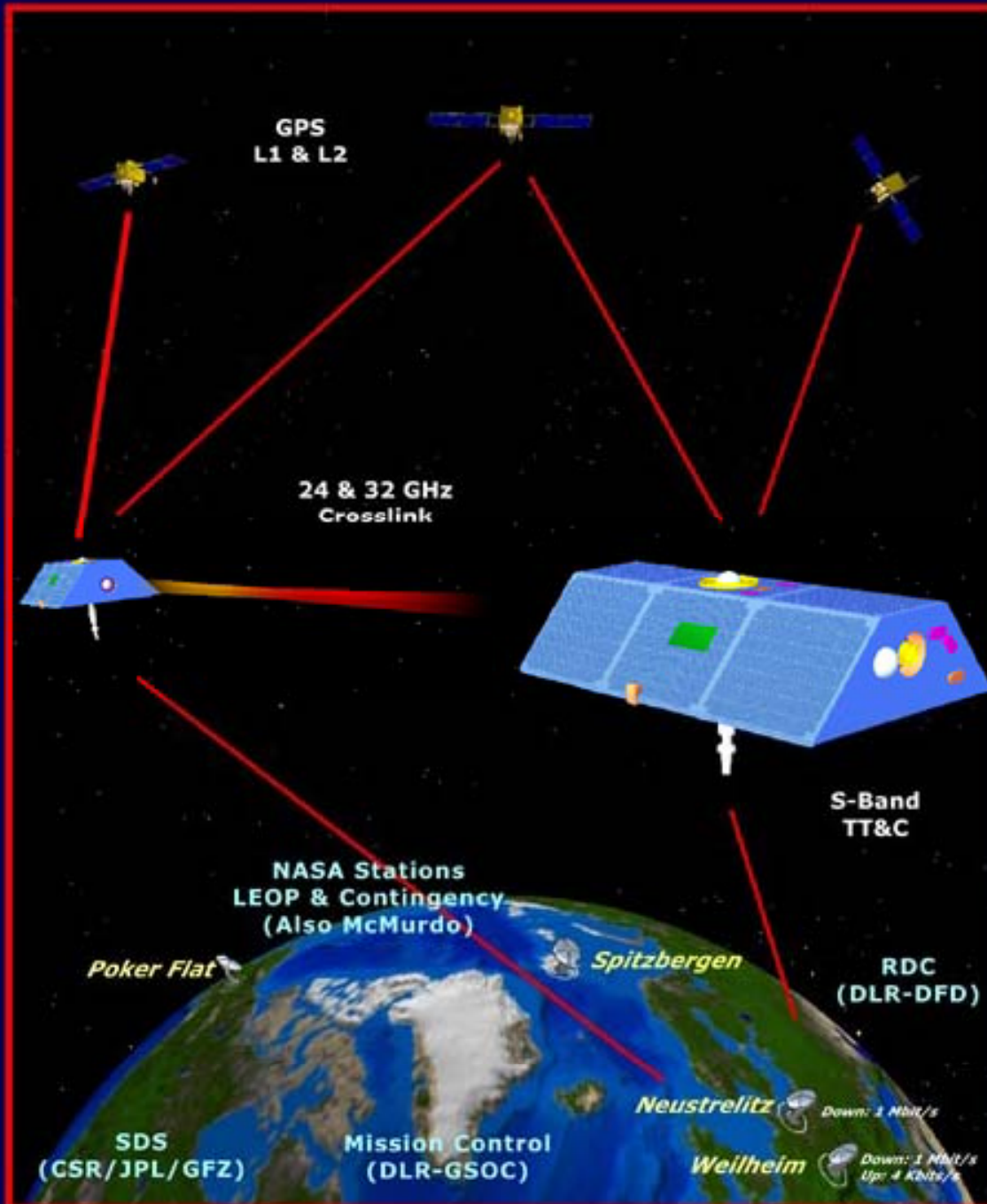
### Instruments

- KBR (JPL/SSL)
- ACC (ONERA)
- SCA (DTU)
- GPS (JPL)

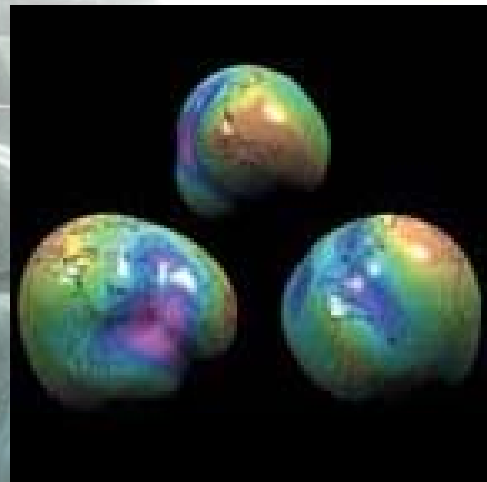
**Satellite** (JPL/DSS)

**Launcher** (DLR/Eurockot)

**Operations** (DLR/GSOC)

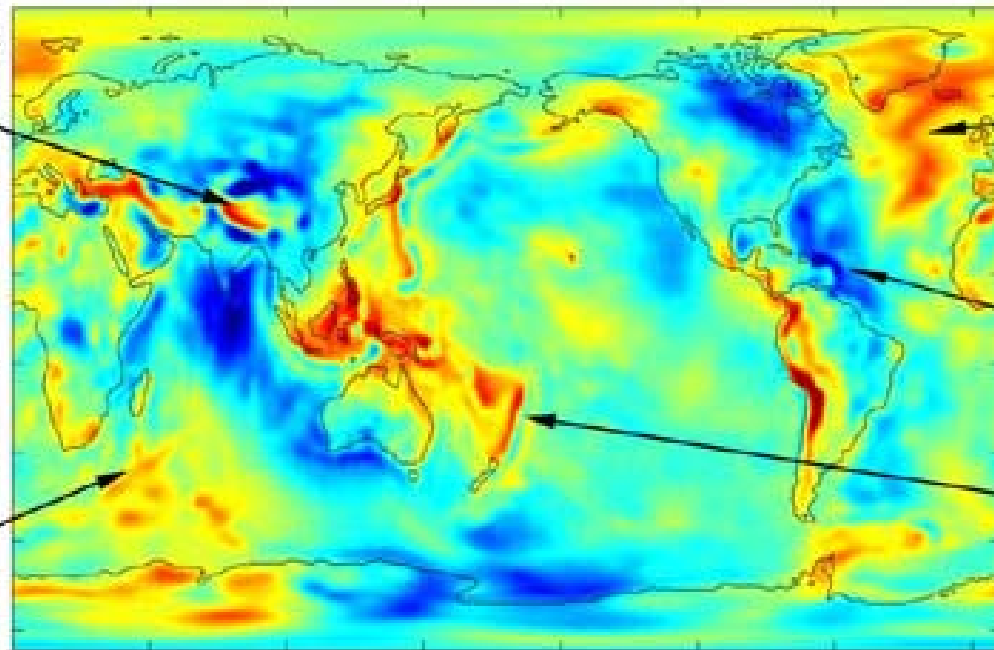






Himalyan/  
Tibetan Plateau  
Region

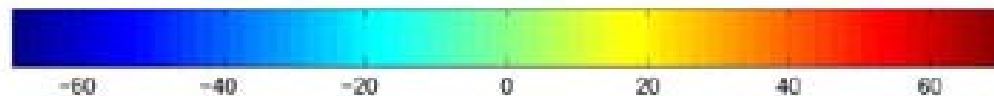
Southwest



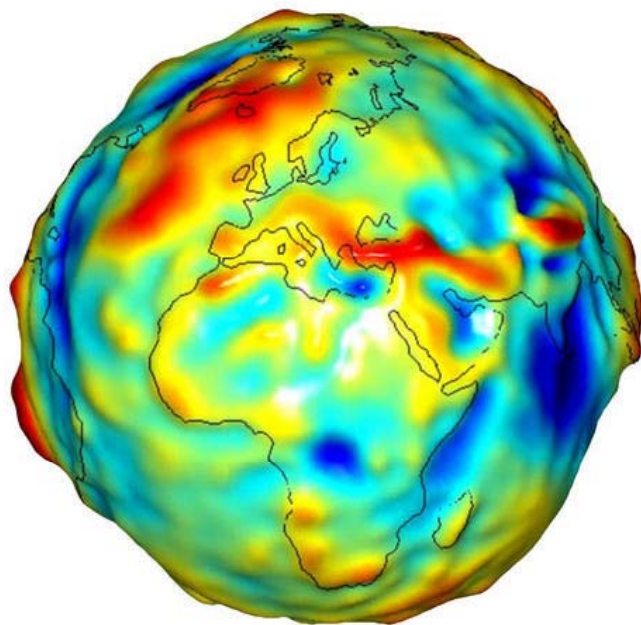
North Atlantic  
Mid-Atlantic  
Ridge

Puerto Rico  
Trench/  
Lesser Antilles  
Region

Tonga/  
Kermadec  
Region



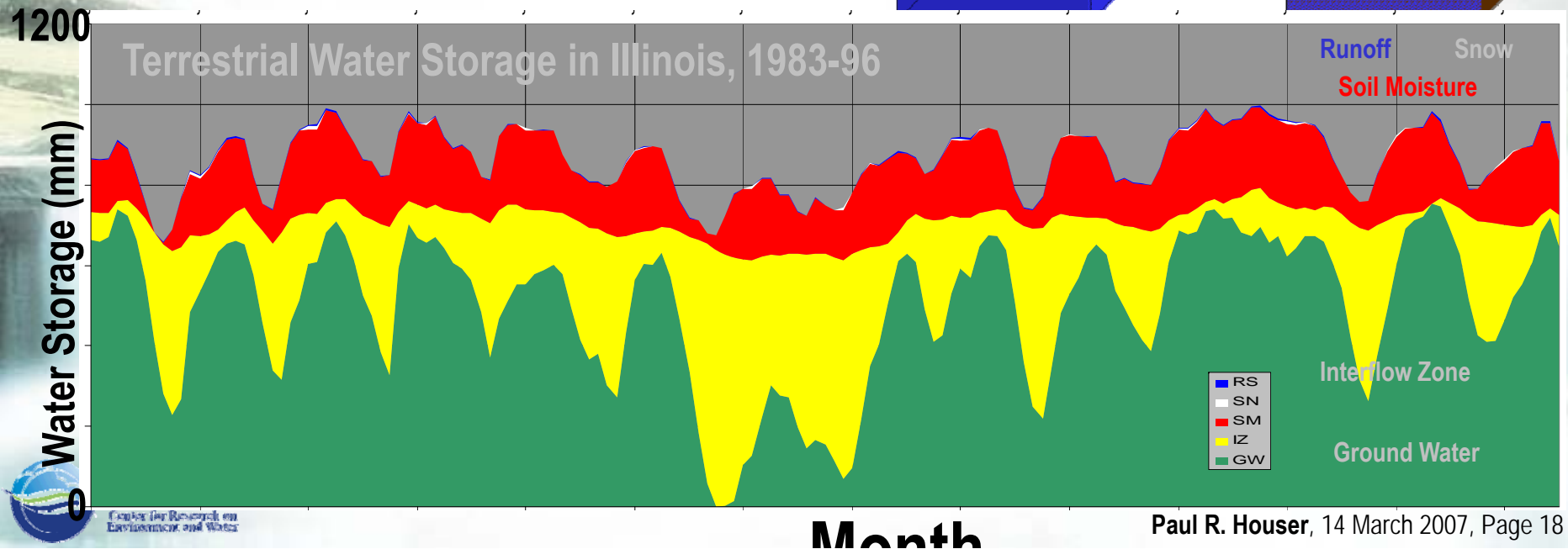
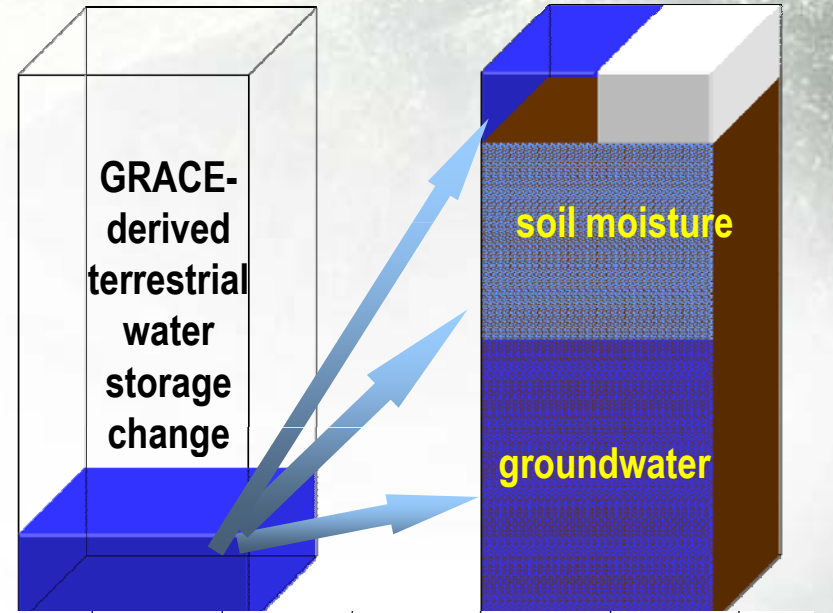
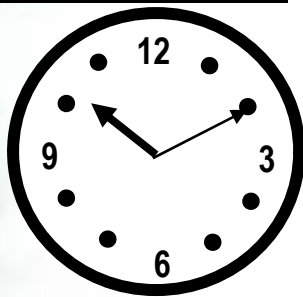
Gravity Anomaly (mGal)



# GRACE – Total Water Chcnages

## Temporal and Vertical Disaggregation

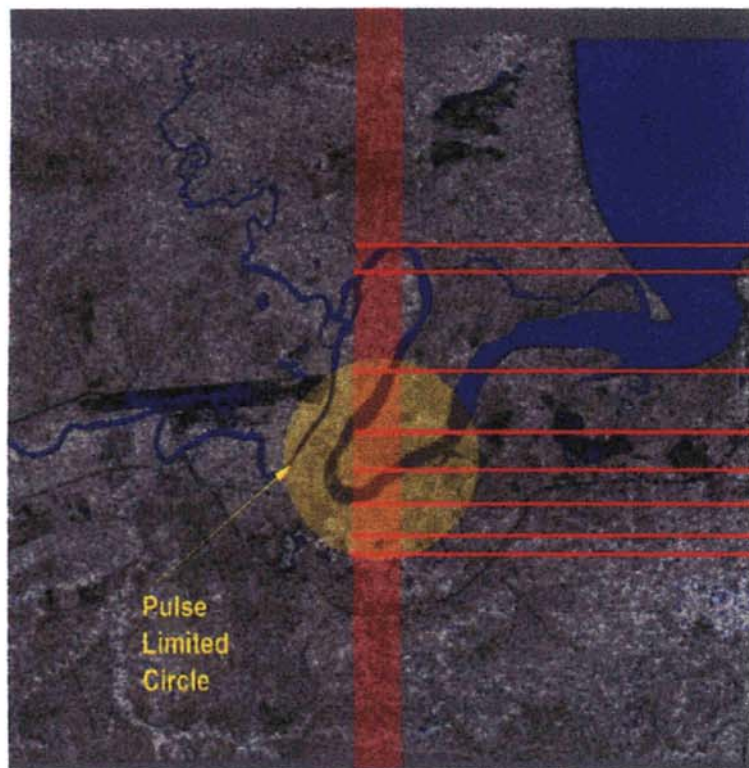
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



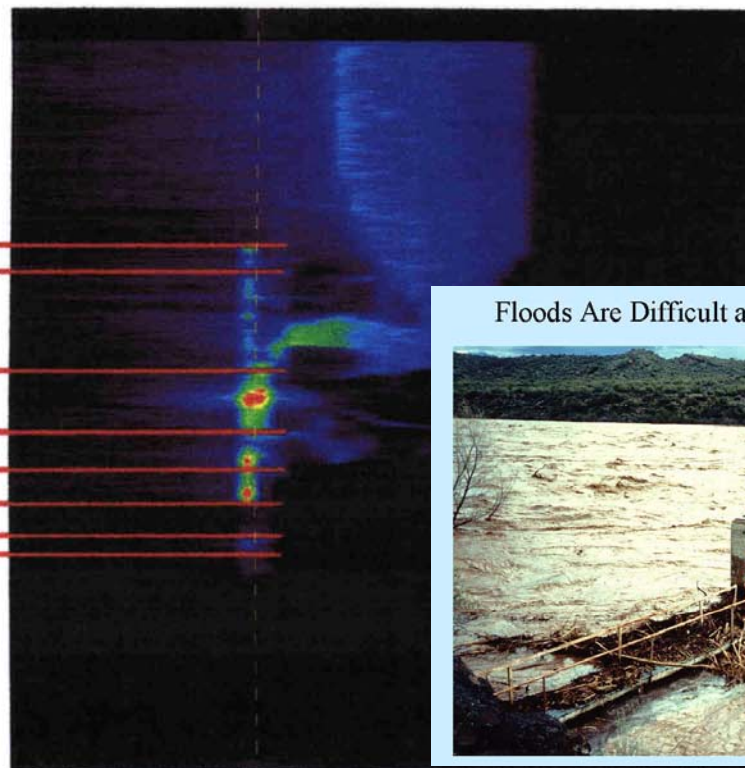


# Hydrologic Altimetry *"Streamflow and inundation from space"*

## Scene Brightness



## Return Power



Floods Are Difficult and Dangerous to Measure



10km

0m

Range

25m

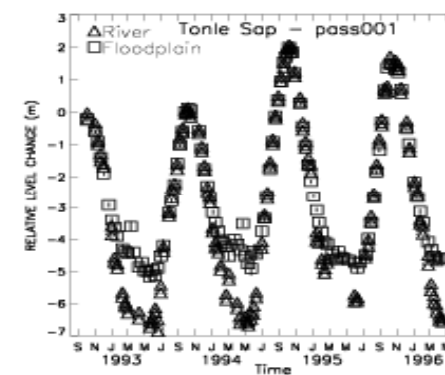
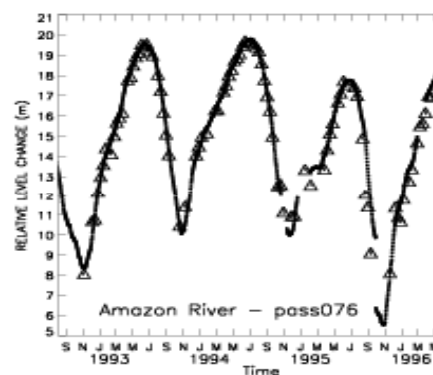
Floodplain, delta, braded, and ice flow streams are impossible to gage – perhaps remote sensing can help?

**Surface Water Mission:** measure surface water height, velocity, and extent

Potentially laser and/or radar altimetry



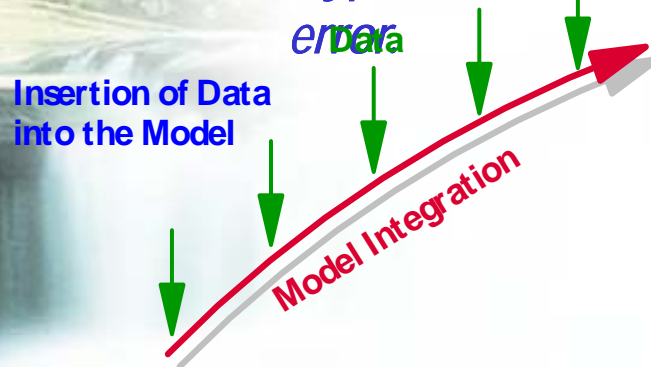
CREWES  
Center for River and Estuarine Science



# Problem of Observation Integration

*Due to its importance, hydrologic data availability will increase.*

*Complete quantification of hydrologic variability requires innovative organization, comprehension, and integration of diverse hydrologic information due to disparity in observation type, scale, and*



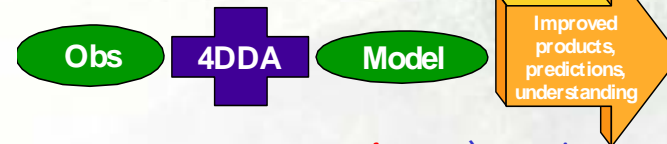
Hydrologic Quantity	Remote-Sensing Technique	Time Scale	Space Scale	Accuracy Considerations
Precipitation	Infrared	1hr	4km	Tropical convective clouds only
	Passive microwave	3hr	10km	Land calibration problems
	Active Microwave	10day	10m	Land calibration problems
Surface Soil Moisture	C or L-band radar	10day	10m	Significant noise from vegetation and roughness
	C- or L- band radiometer	1-3day	10km	limited to sparse vegetation, low topographic relief
Surface Skin Temperature	infrared	1hr	10m	soil/vegetation average, cloud contamination
Snow Cover	visible/infrared	1hr	10m	Cloud contamination, vegetation masking, bright soil problems
Snow Water Equivalent	passive microwave	1-3day	10km	Limited depth penetration
	active microwave	10day	10m	
Water level/velocity	laser	10day		Cloud penetration problems
	radar	10day		
Total water storage changes	gravity changes	30day	1000km	Bulk water storage change
Evaporation	IR and Models	1hour	4km	Significant assumptions



# Hydrologic *Data Assimilation*

**Data Assimilation** merges observations & model predictions to provide a superior state estimate.

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = \text{dynamics} + \text{physics} + \Delta x$$



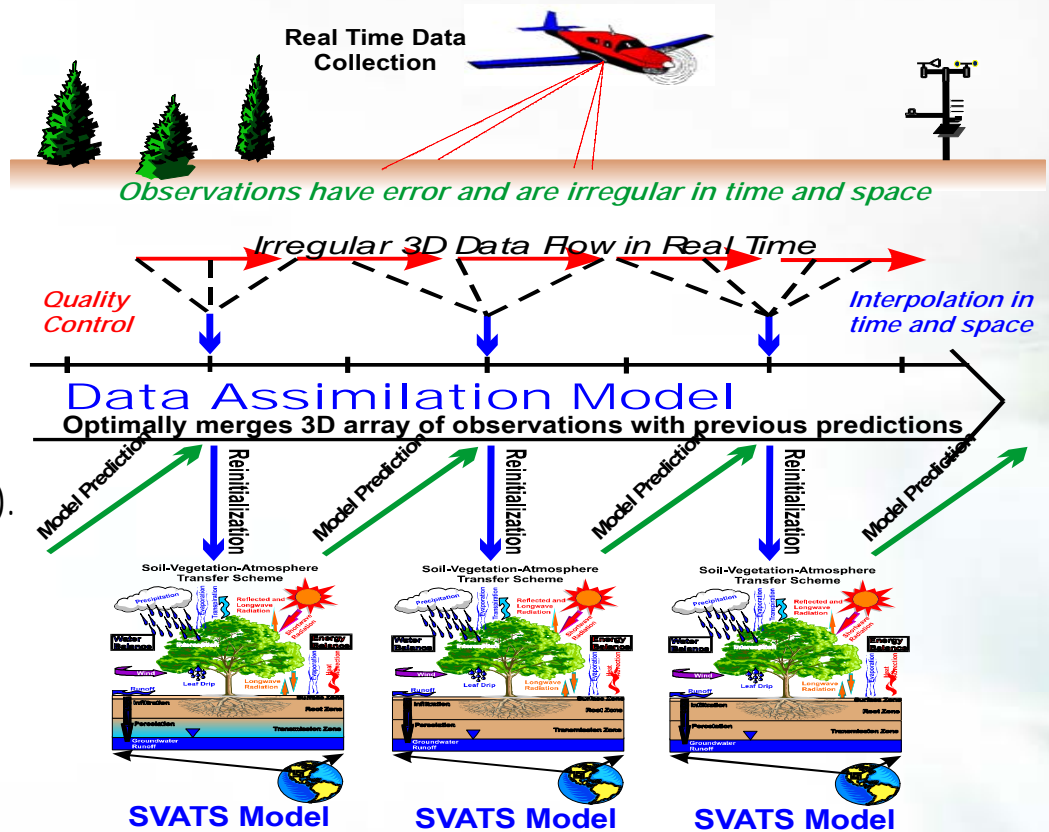
**Hydrologic State** or storage observations (*temperature, snow, moisture*) are integrated with models.

**Data Assimilation Methods:** Numerical tools to combine disparate information.

1. Direct Insertion, Updating, or Dynamic Initialization:
2. Newtonian Nudging:
3. Optimal or Statistical Interpolation:
4. Kalman Filtering: EKF & EnKF
5. Variational Approaches - Adjoint:

## Model errors result from:

- Initialization error.
- Errors in atmospheric forcing data.
- Errors in LSM physics (model not perfect).
- Errors in representation (sub-grid processes).
- Errors in parameters (soil and vegetation).



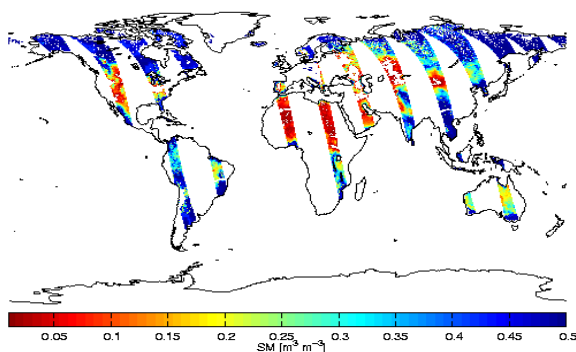
# Land Surface Data Assimilation Summary

**Data Assimilation** merges observations & model predictions to provide a superior state estimate.

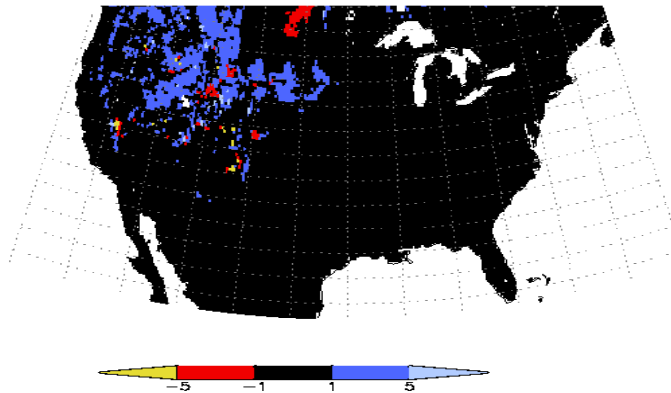
Remotely-sensed hydrologic **state** or storage observations (**temperature, snow, soil moisture**) are integrated into a hydrologic model to improve prediction, produce research-quality data sets, and to enhance understanding.

## Soil Moisture Assimilation

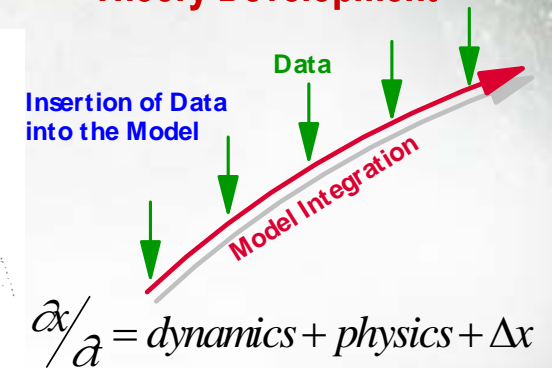
Day-Time Soil Moisture (12:00h, July 2, 1984)



## Snow Cover Assimilation

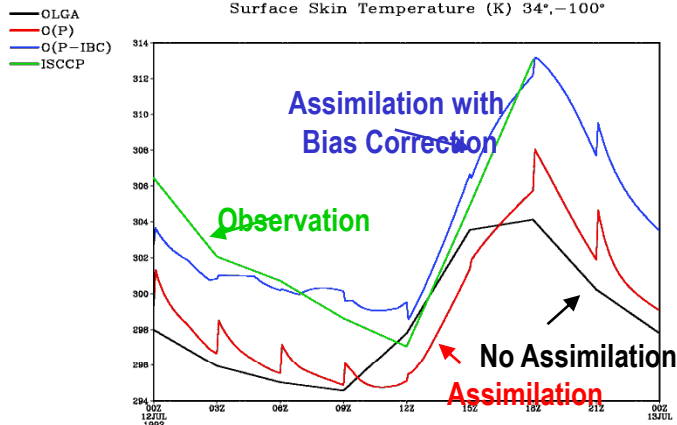


## Theory Development

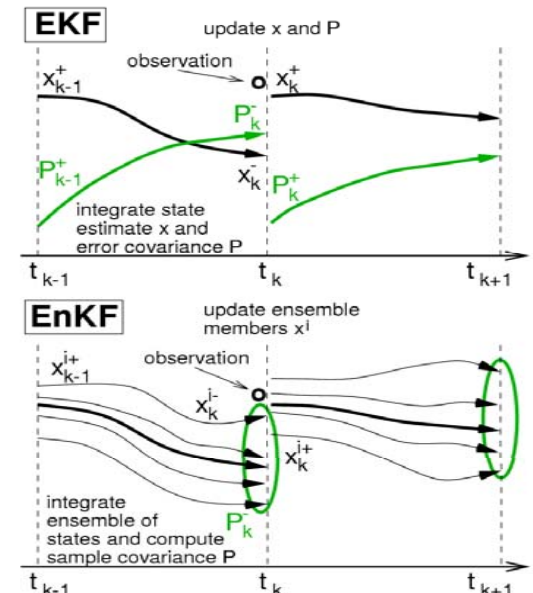
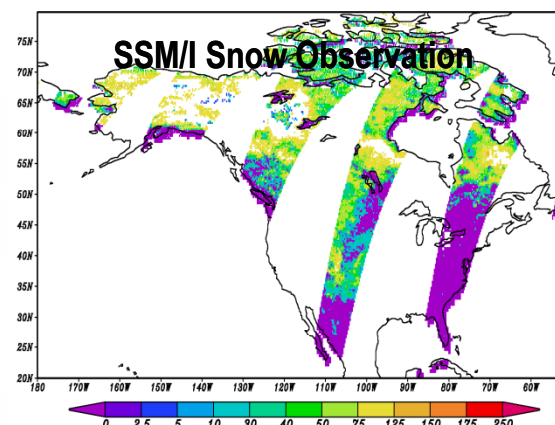


## Skin Temperature Assimilation

Surface Skin Temperature (K) 34°,-100°



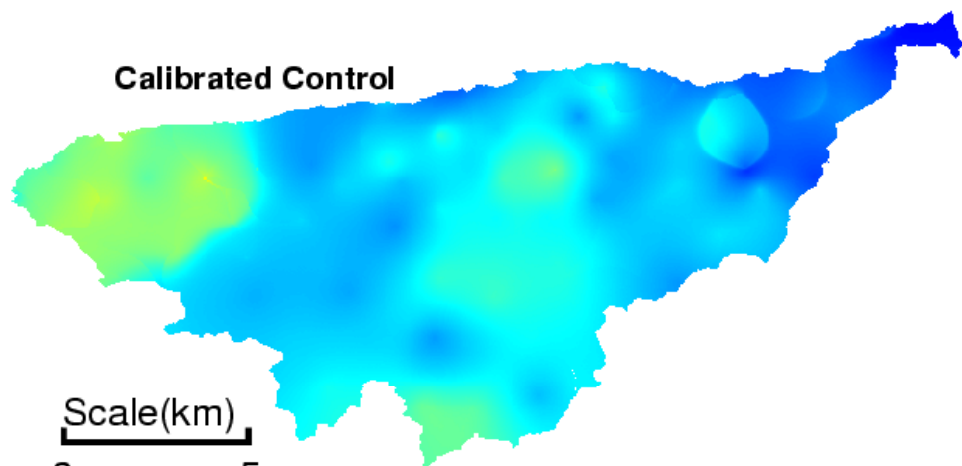
## Snow Water Assimilation



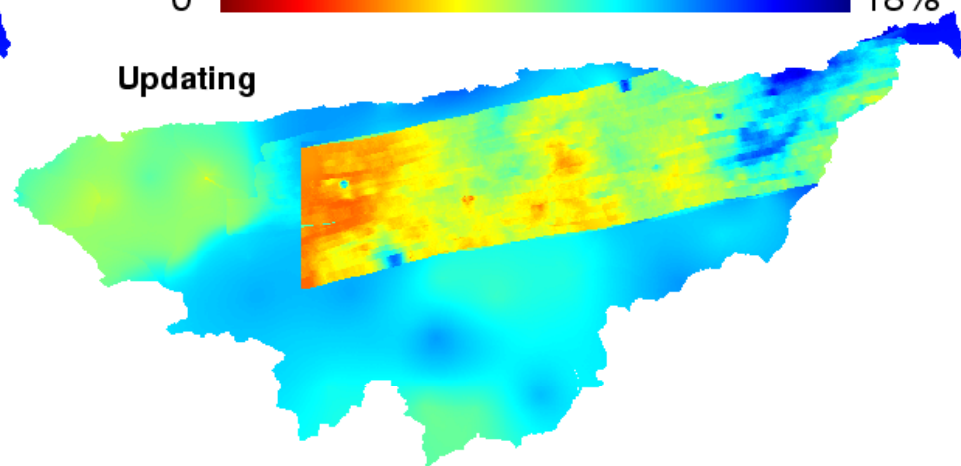


0 18%

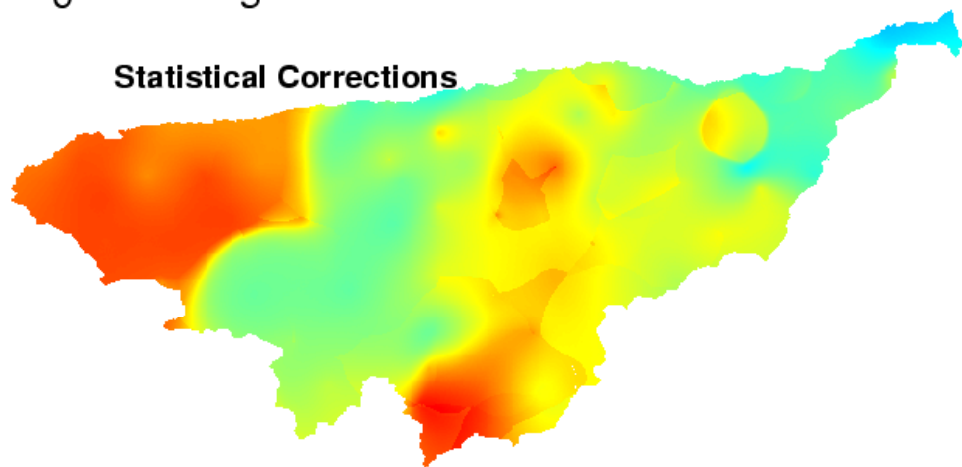
Calibrated Control



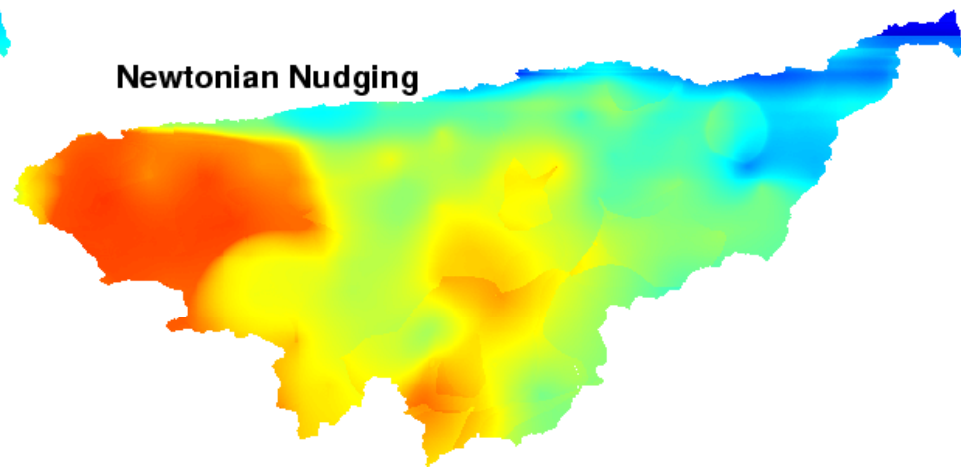
Updating



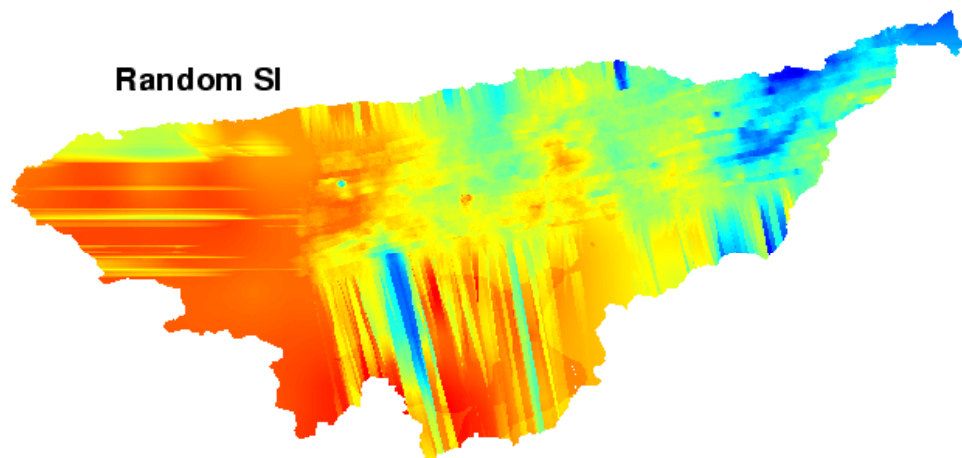
Statistical Corrections



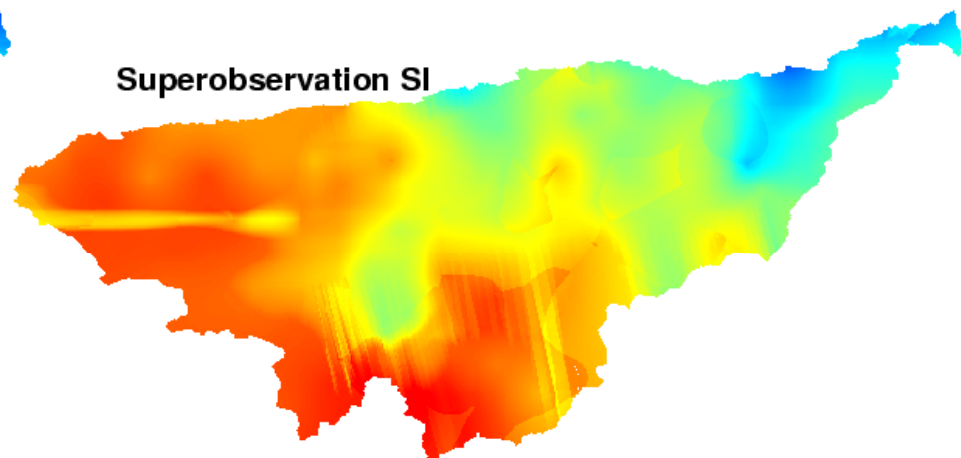
Newtonian Nudging



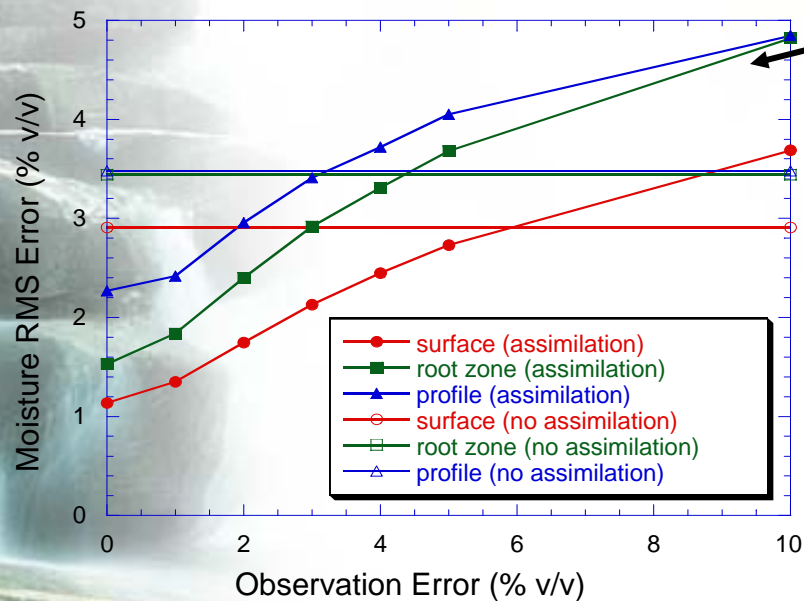
Random SI



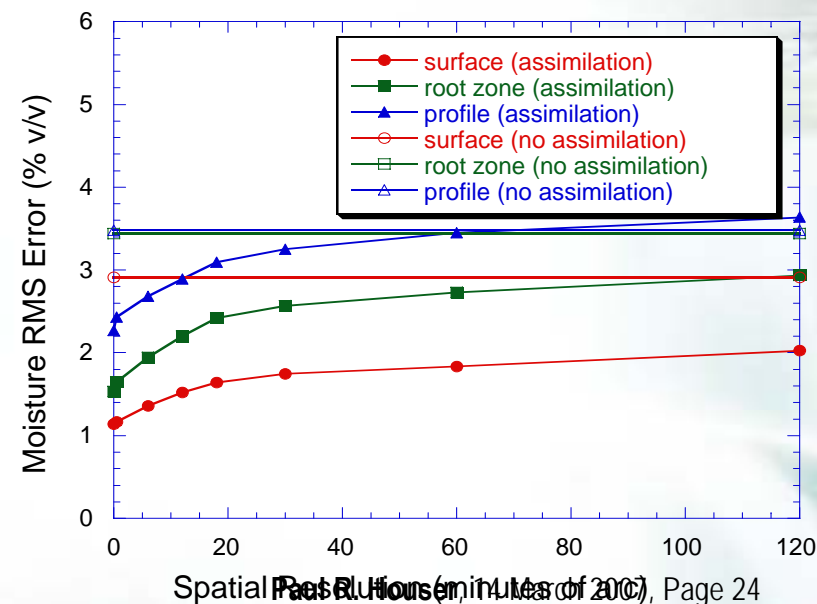
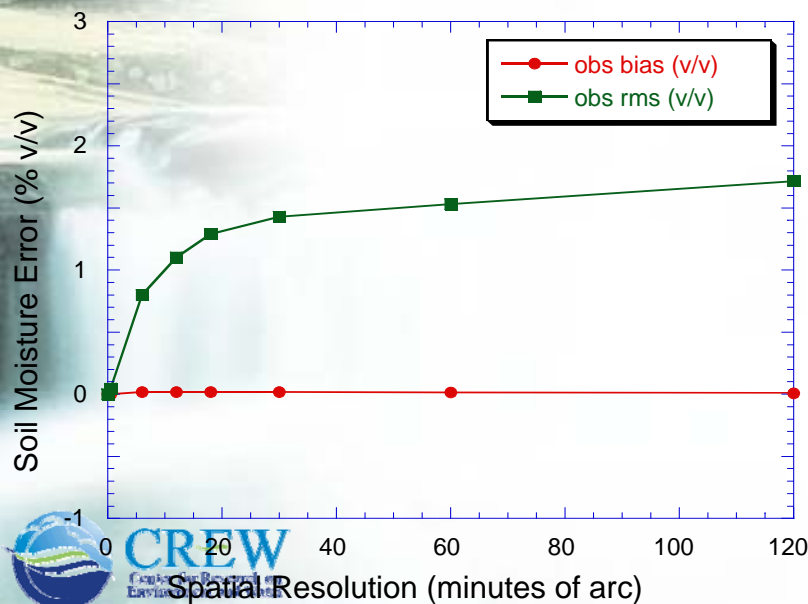
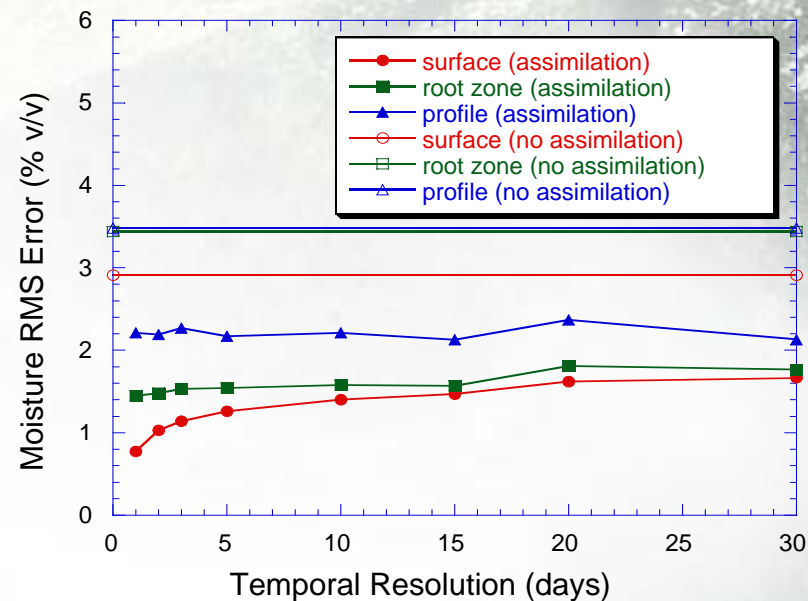
Superobservation SI



# Soil Moisture Observation Error and Resolution Sensitivity:



NOTE:  
Assimilation of near-surface soil moisture can degrade profile soil moisture if errors are not known perfectly



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Spatial Resolution (minutes of arc)

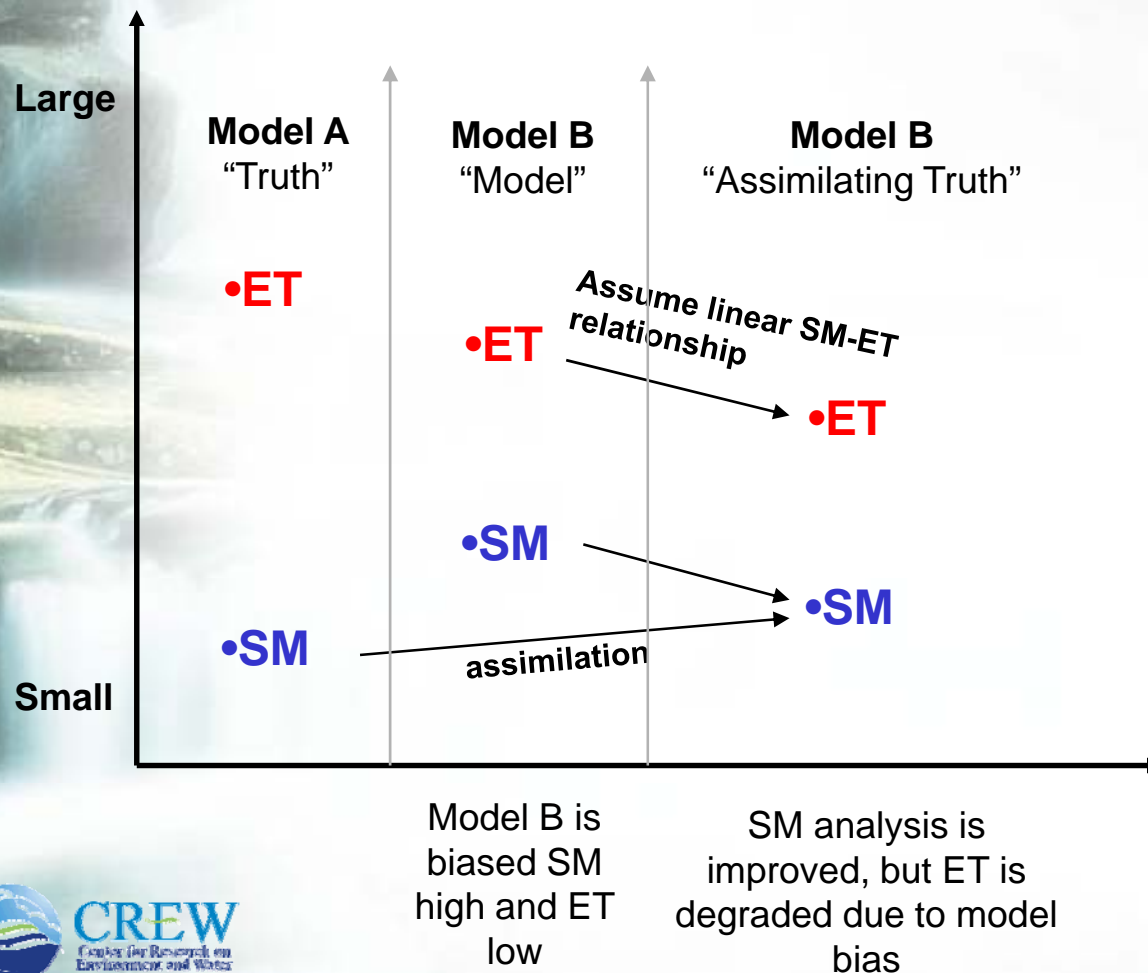
Spatial Resolution (minutes of arc)

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# Fraternal Twin Studies

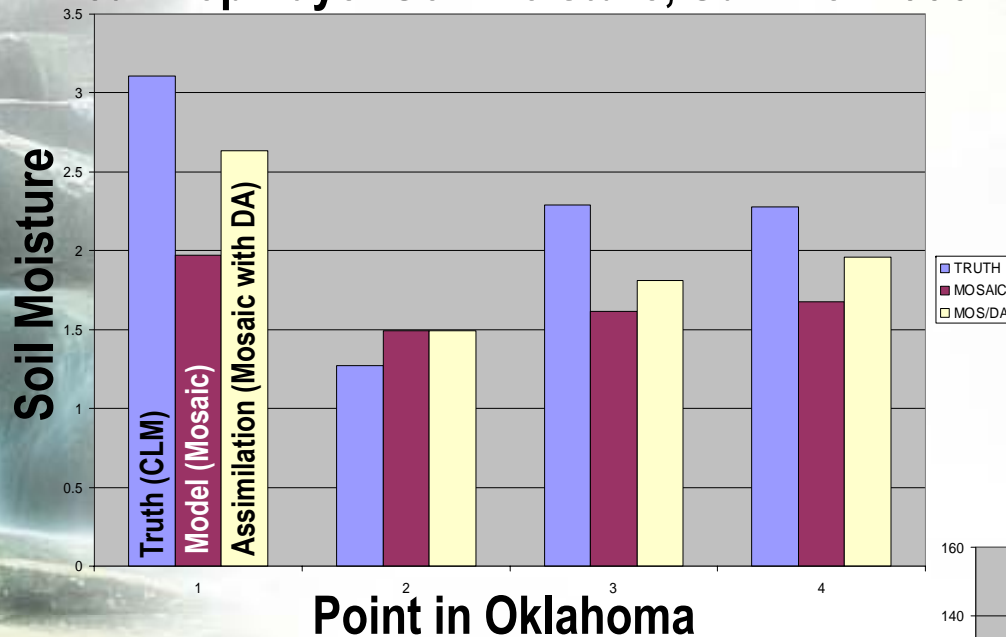
- “Truth” from one model is assimilated into a second model with a biased parameterization
- The “truth” twin can be treated as a perfect observation to help illustrate conceptual problems beyond the assimilation procedure.



*We must not only worry about obtaining an optimal model constraint, but also understand the implications of that constraint.*

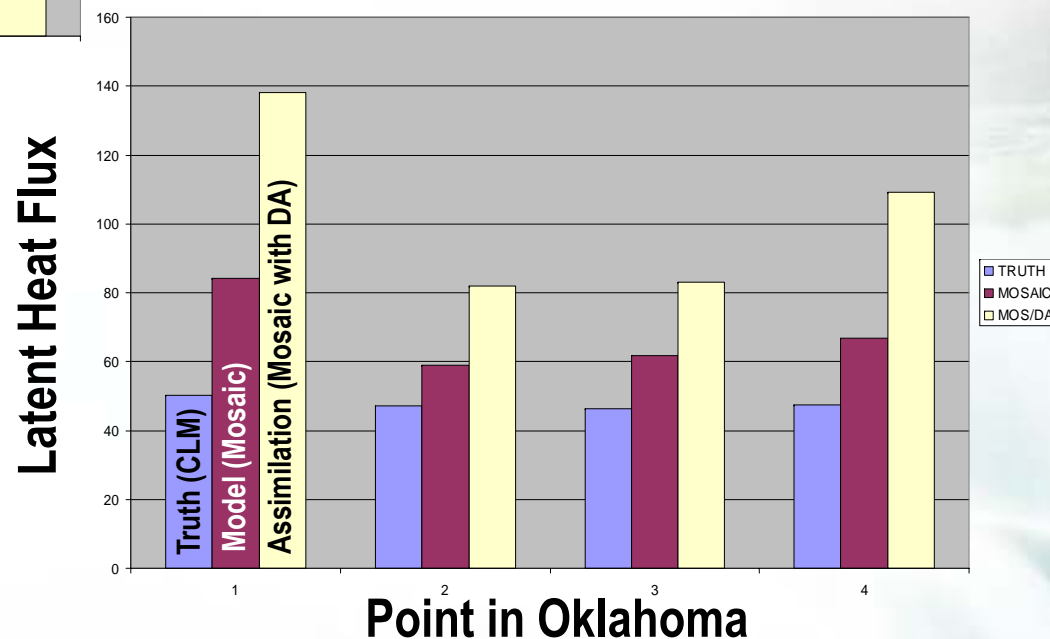
# Fraternal Twin Demonstration

## Mean Top-Layer Soil Moisture, Summer 1998



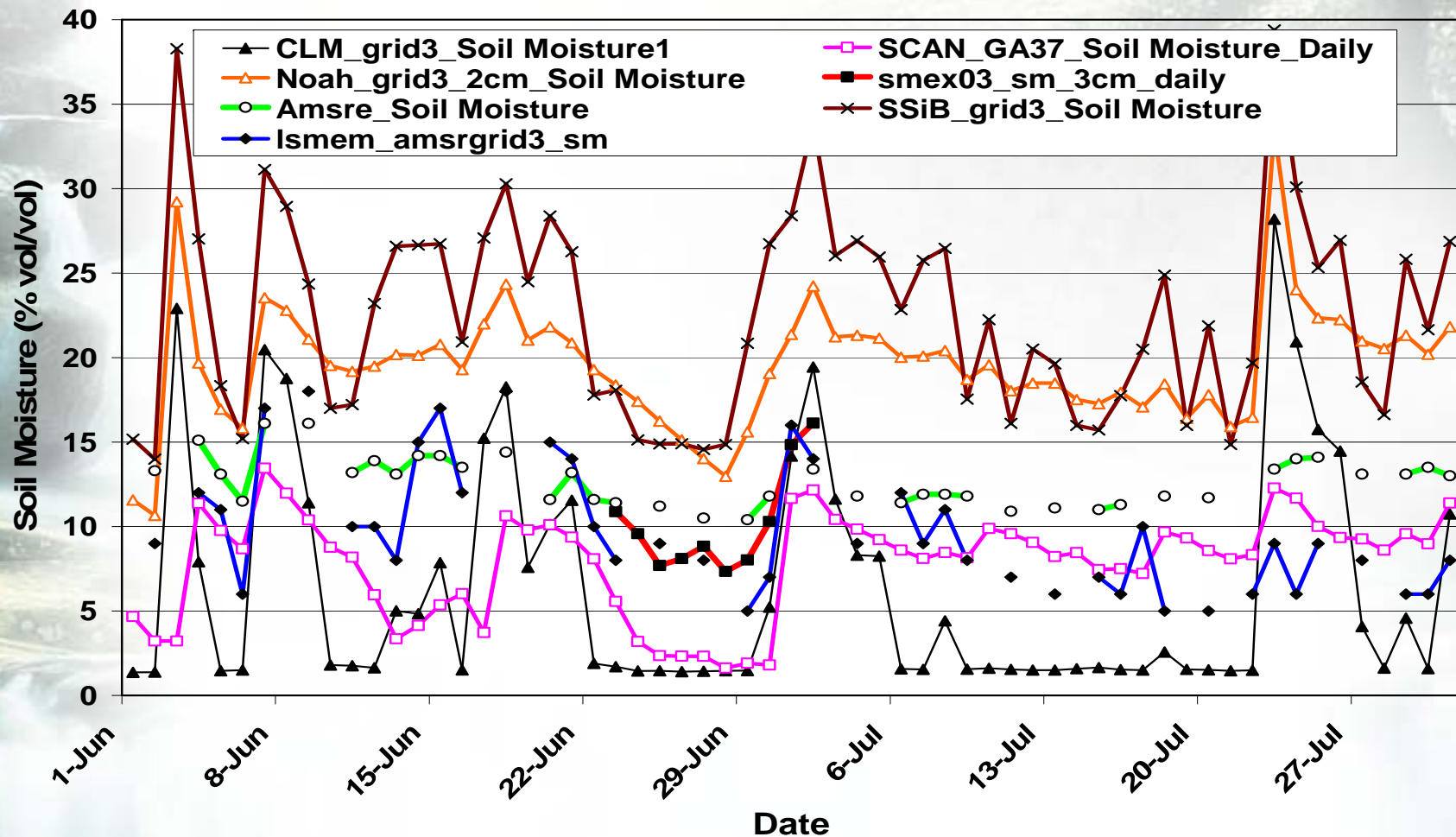
CLM=Truth  
Mosaic=Faulty

## Latent Heat Flux, Summer 1998





# Evaluation of SMMR Soil Moisture



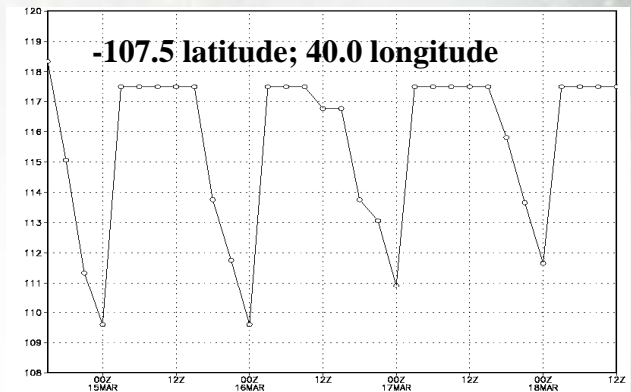
Averaged soil moisture plot over AMSR-E 1/4 degree grid at SMEX03.  
 Noah (2 cm layer SM), CLM (2 cm layer, layer 1), SSiB (2 cm top layer),  
 SCAN (just one station, 5 cm), AMSR-E (2 cm layer), SMEX03 (3 cm layer),  
 LSMEM (2 cm layer).

# Snow Assimilation: Background & Motivation

- In the northern hemisphere the snow cover ranges from 7% to 40% during the annual cycle.
- The high albedo, low thermal conductivity and large spatial/temporal variability impact energy/water budgets.
- Sno/bare soil interfaces cause wind circulations.
- Direct replacement does not account for model bias.

## Unique Snow Data Assimilation Considerations:

- "Disappearing" layers and states
- Arbitrary redistribution of mass between layers
- Lack of information in SWE about snow density or depth
- Lack of information in snow cover about snow mass & depth
- Biased forcing causing divergence between analysis steps
- **OBSERVATIONS:** Snow Cover, Snow Water Equiv., Tskin, Snow Fraction



Update  
Time

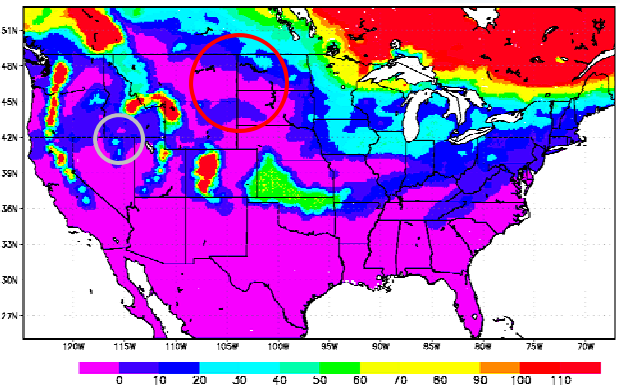
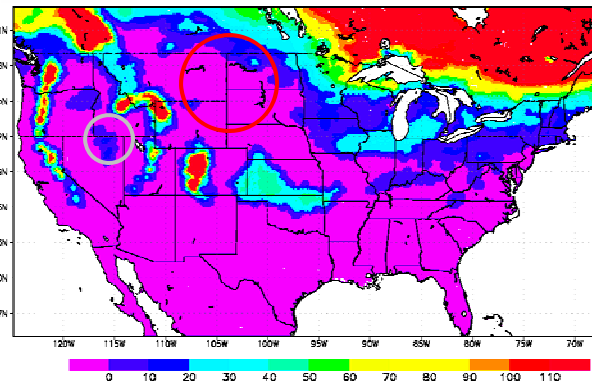
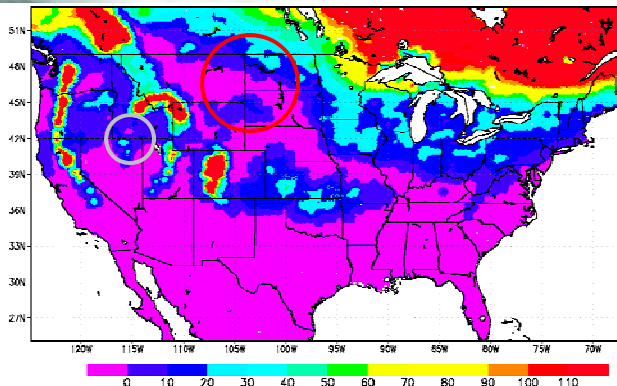
Melt

Update  
Time

3Z 3/15/99

0Z 3/16/99

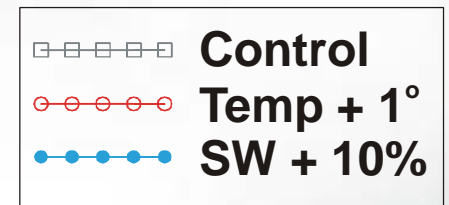
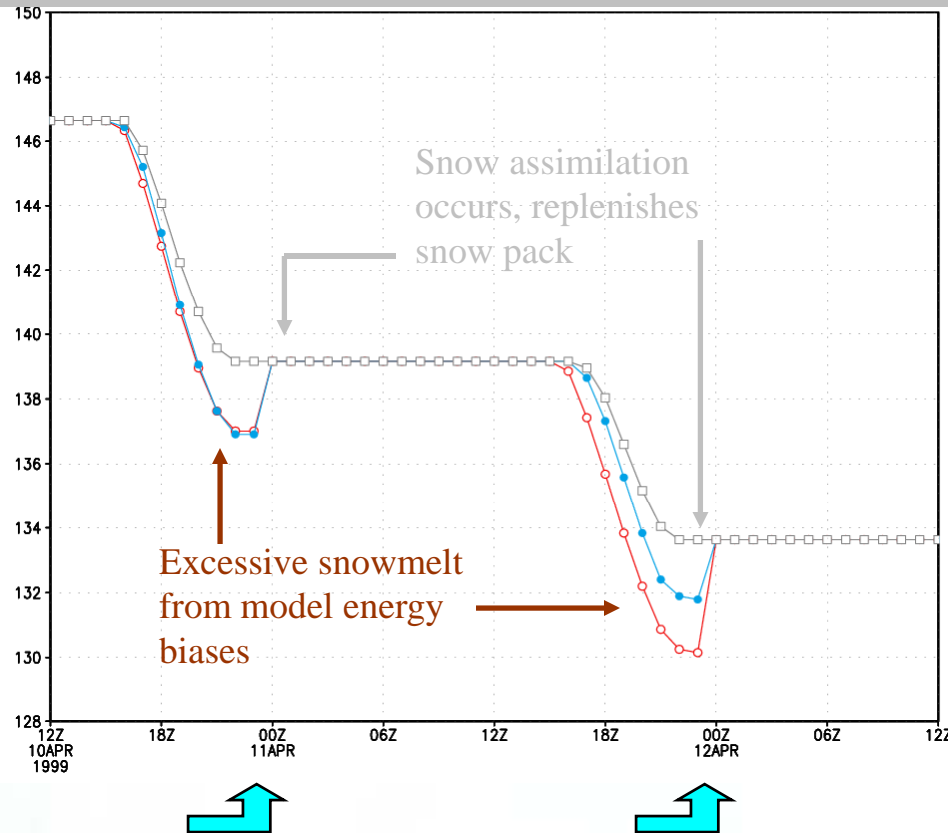
3Z 3/16/99





# Mosaic LSM Experiments

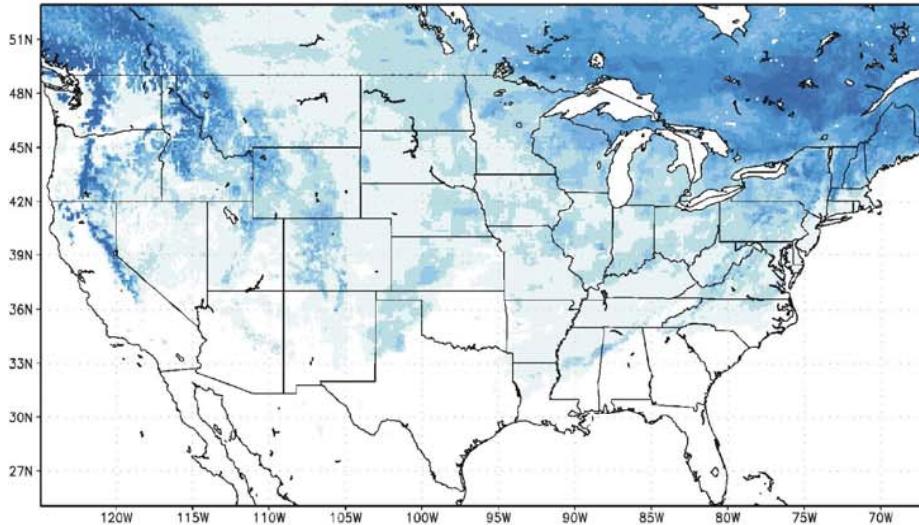
Liq Eqv Snow Depth (mm), 51N 90W, 4/10/99 to 4/12/99



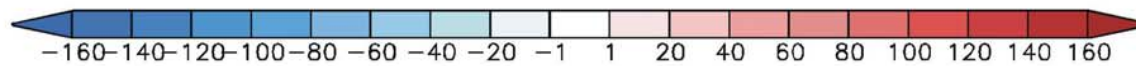
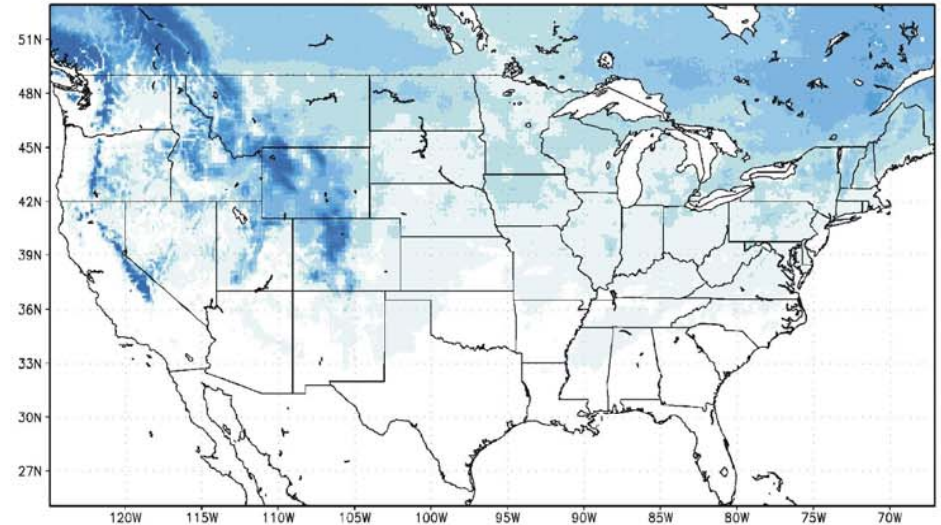
- Excessive melting and replenishment of snow in experimental runs similar to that in the EDAS data

# Snow Data Assimilation: Impact of bias

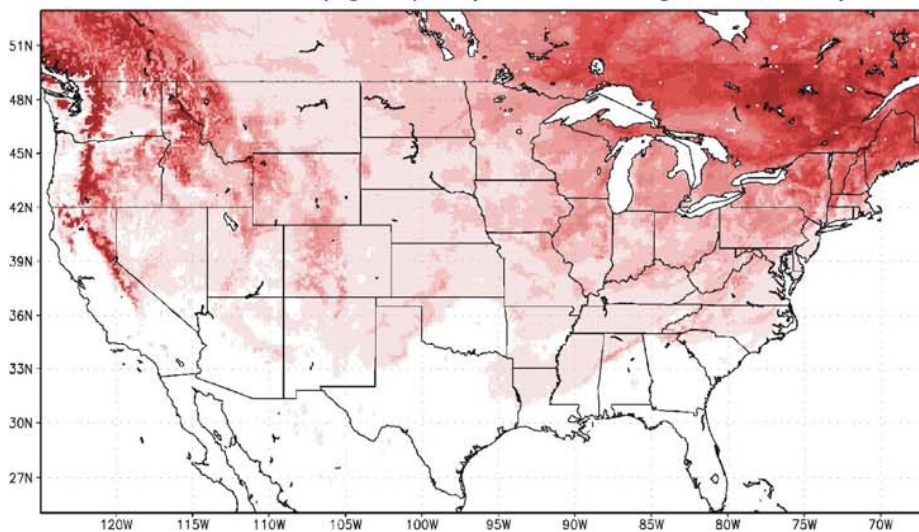
Assimilation Flux (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) Sep 1998 to Aug 1999, Temp+1°



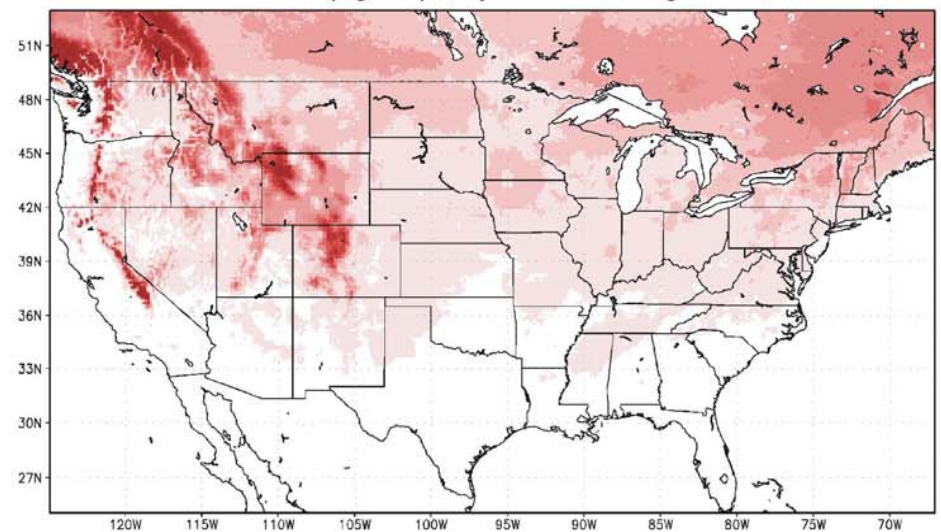
Assimilation Flux (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) Sep 1998 to Aug 1999, SW+10%



Assimilation Flux (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) Sep 1998 to Aug 1999, Temp-1°

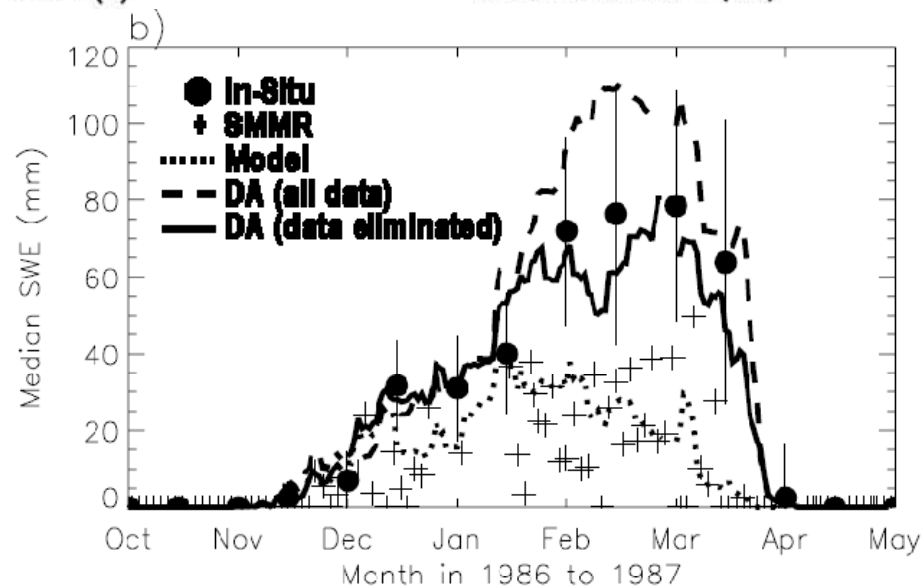
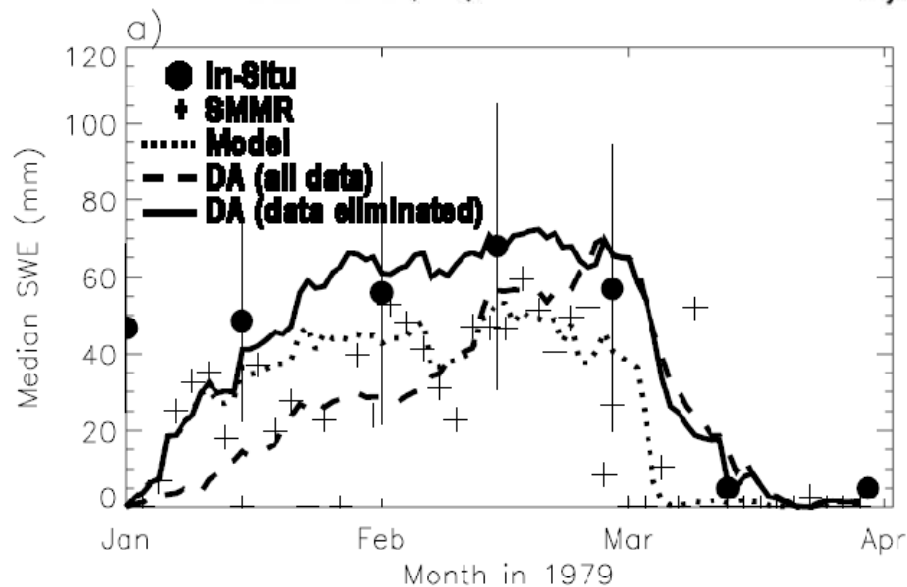
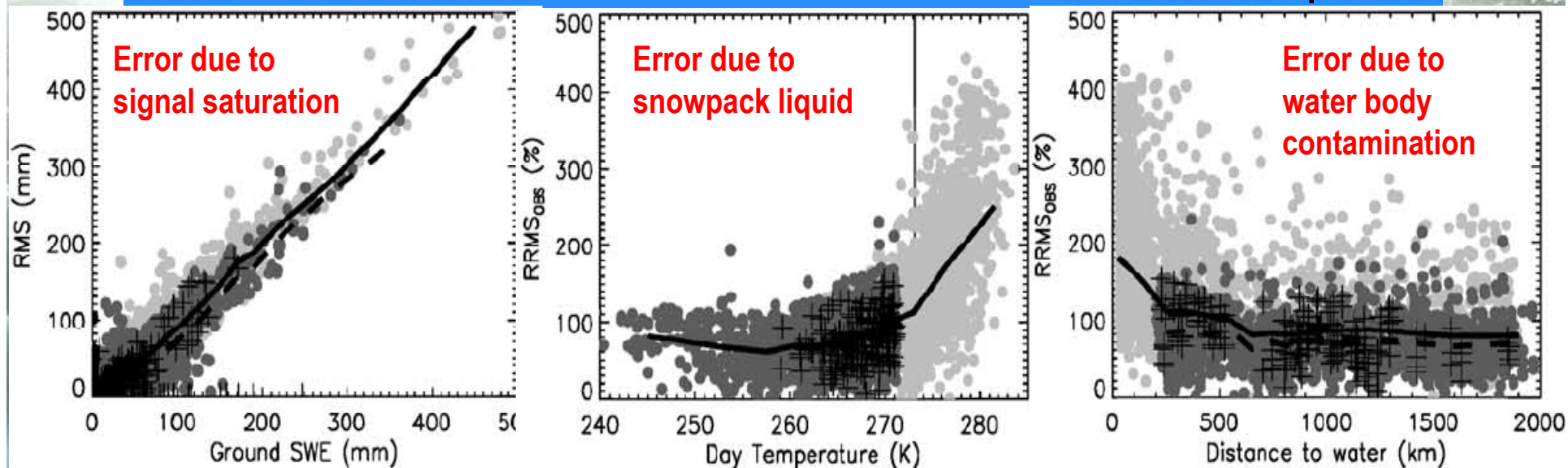


Assimilation Flux (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) Sep 1998 to Aug 1999, SW-10%





# SMMR Snow Retrieval Error & Assimilation Impact

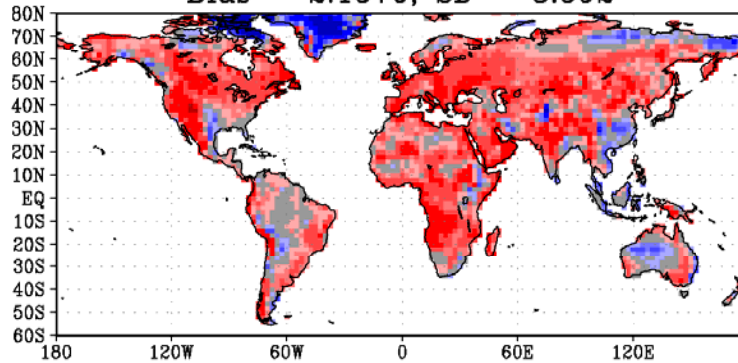


# Data Assimilation: $T_s$ Assimilation Results

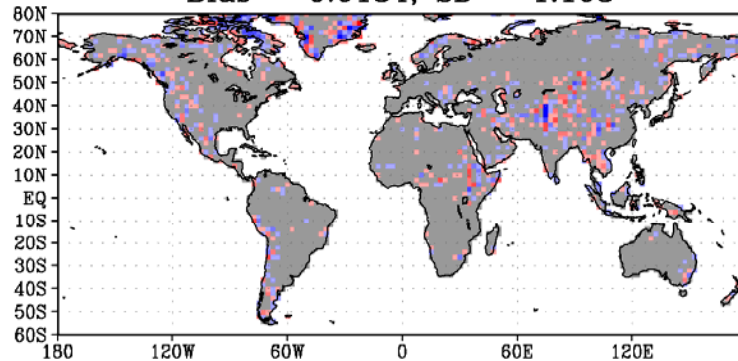
DAO-PSAS Assimilation of ISCCP (IR based) Surface Skin Temperature into a global 2 degree uncoupled land model.

JJA 1992 Skin Temperature (K)

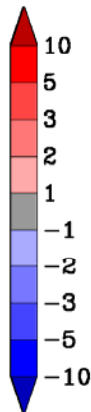
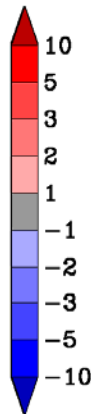
Model - Obs  
Bias = 2.1570; SD = 3.592



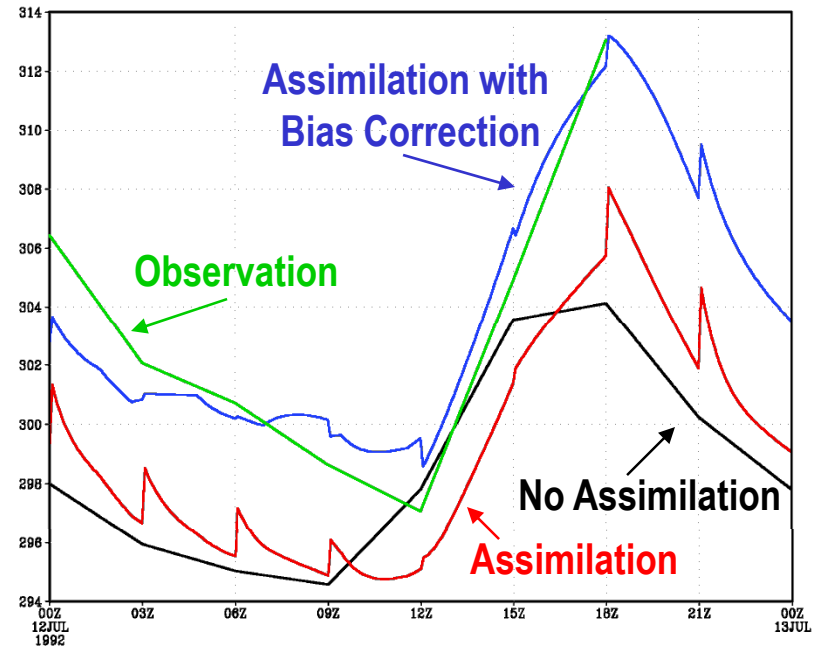
Assim.V - Obs  
Bias = 0.0134; SD = 1.103



— OLGA  
— O(P)  
— O(P-IBC)  
— ISCCP



Surface Skin Temperature (K) 34°,-100°

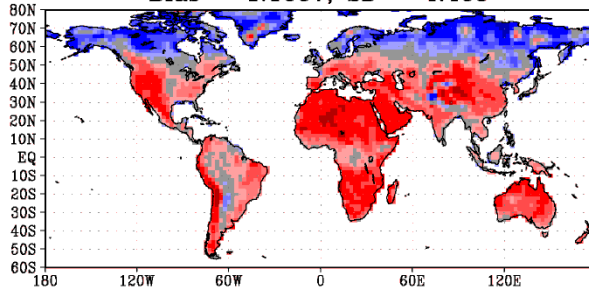


Surface temperature has very little memory or inertia, so without a continuous correction, it tends drift toward the control case very quickly.

# Data Assimilation: $T_s$ Assimilation Results

SON 1992 Skin Temperature (K)

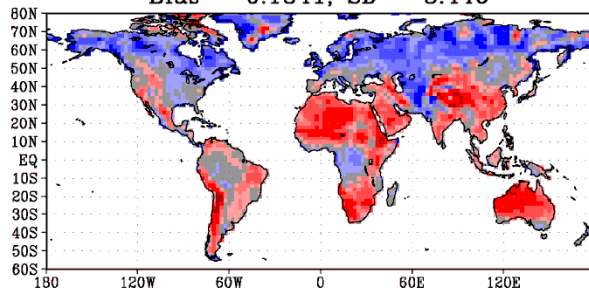
Model - NCEP  
Bias = 1.1067; SD = 4.465



## Comparison with NCEP Reanalysis

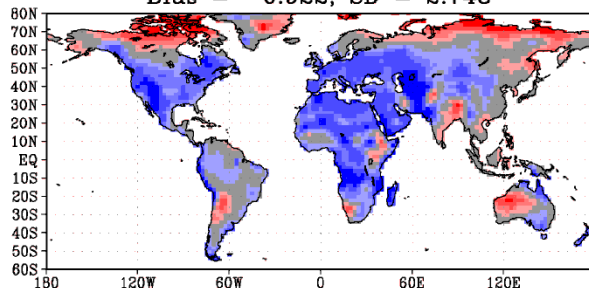
• Skin temperature improves significantly

Assim.V - NCEP  
Bias = 0.1841; SD = 3.446



• Sensible heat flux degrades due to modified near-atmosphere temperature gradient

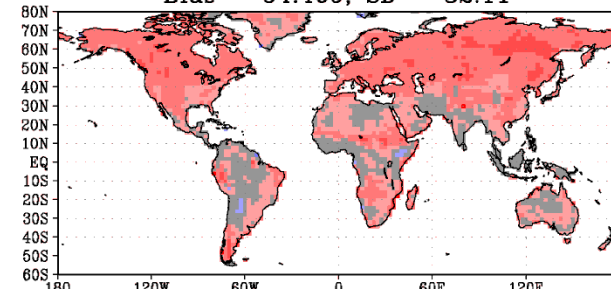
Assim.V - Model  
Bias = -0.922; SD = 2.748



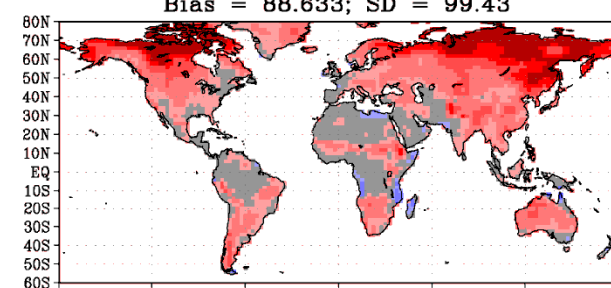
**NOTE:** NCEP not equal to TRUTH

SON 1992 Sensible Heat Flux ( $Wm^{-2}$ )

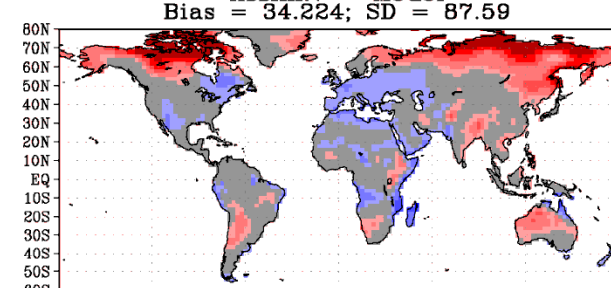
Model - NCEP  
Bias = 54.409; SD = 32.11



Assim.V - NCEP  
Bias = 88.633; SD = 99.43



Assim.V - Model  
Bias = 34.224; SD = 87.59





# Land Surface Data Assimilation: Progress and Realities

## Current Status:

- Soil moisture, skin temperature, and snow assimilation have been demonstrated.
- Evapotranspiration, runoff, groundwater (gravity), and carbon assimilation are underway

## Data Assimilation Tradeoffs:

- Tradeoff between using **complex data assimilation techniques**, the **ability to use all the available data** and **operational needs and realities** due to the large computational burdens.
- Tradeoff in **dimensionality** of data assimilation methods – need may depend on scale.
- Tradeoff between **fine resolution** and **large area implementation**.

## Land Surface Data Assimilation Realities

- Large-scale land data assimilation is severely limited by a **lack of observations**.
- Observation and model *errors are not known* – educated guesses must be used.
- We need to pay attention to the *consequences of assimilation*, not just the optimum assimilation technique. i.e. does the model do silly things as a result of assimilation, as in snow assimilation example.
- Land model physics can be biased, leading to incorrect fluxes, given correct states.
- Most land observations are **only available at the surface**, meaning that **biased** differences in surface observations and predictions **can be improperly propagated to depth**.
- **Assimilation does not always make everything in the model better**. In the case of skin temperature assimilation into an uncoupled model, biased air temperatures caused unreasonable near surface gradients to occur using assimilation that lead to questionable surface fluxes.

# The Global Water and Energy Cycle

The Global Water and Energy Cycle



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Center for Research on  
Environment and Water

<http://crew.iges.org>  
<http://www.nasa-news.org>

