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Proceedings of
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10 – 13 November 2003
ESA-ESRIN, Frascati, Italy

European Space Agency
Agence spatiale européenne

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Foreword

The MERIS Users Workshop took place at ESRIN from 10th to 13th November 2003. It was the first user-oriented event of this type organised by ESA (after a number of dedicated MERIS calibration and validation workshops) which brought together ESA Principal Investigators and co-investigators, scientists and students using MERIS data – across the fields of ocean colour, land applications and atmospheric science.

The workshop provided the 180 participants (16 countries were represented) with an opportunity to learn more about the most recent processing algorithms and the quality of the derived products and to gain understanding of the Envisat user services and MERIS data distribution activities and constraints.

In addition, the workshop provided a unique forum for investigators to present their latest results from on-going AO research projects, discuss various aspects of MERIS data analysis and interpretation, and assess the usefulness of available data analysis tools.

The workshop was organised in the form of thematic plenary sessions allowing 20 minutes for presentations and 5 minutes for discussion. A chaired poster session was also organised in which participants could briefly summarize in a 3 minutes presentation the main contents of their poster. 76 presentations (47 orals and 29 posters) were given during the workshop ranging from pure research including calibration and validation, to demonstration of applications and development of services. The workshop included a working session for open source developers on the BEAM (Meris & AATSR) user toolbox.

Each workshop session was followed by a round table in which attendees were able to express their views on MERIS products, user services and data distribution and take part in discussions on specific issues raised during the presentations.

On the last day of the workshop, three parallel thematic working sessions on ocean, land, and atmosphere were organized, to discuss relevant issues of the MERIS data exploitation pertaining to the session topics and to draft recommendations for the development of new algorithms and products in future. These sessions were chaired by members from the Scientific Committee and facilitated by a secretary responsible for ensuring all issues raised were recorded.

The main issues addressed during the discussions were: 1) strong need for the continuity of the MERIS mission, 2) high demand for provision of a range of level 3 products, 3) continuation of the Cal/Val activities throughout the Envisat mission for continuous improvement of the standard ESA MERIS products. As a measure of the success, the User Workshop at ESRIN showed a rapid increase of the use of MERIS data by the scientific community.

The enclosed proceedings contain the results presented at the workshop in the form of full-length papers and the recommendations brought up during the round table and the thematic splinter sessions. The submitted papers confirm the outstanding capabilities of the MERIS measurements for scientific research and applications development in the field of ocean colour, land applications and atmospheric science and summarise how they compare with other optical sensor data. A web site was prepared for the workshop and submitted papers are available on-line at URL:
<http://envisat.esa.int/workshops/meris03/>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all attendees for their effort in attending, presenting and contributing to the workshop. I should also thank the organising committee, the scientific committee, the session chairmen and secretaries, the ESRIN local administration, the SERCO support team and ESA staff who contributed to the success of this event. I look forward to seeing all of you at the ENVISAT Symposium in Salzburg (A) from 6th to 10th September 2004.

Dr. Peter Regner
(ESA/ESRIN Workshop Local Organiser)

Contents

Session 1: Status of Envisat, Data Distribution, Calibration, Processing and Validation

Chairs: P. Lecomte & P. Goryl

Scope of Water Products – The Quality and Science Flags

C. Brockmann

Session 2: Atmospheric Products Validation

Chairs: R. Santer & J. Fischer

Cross-Validation of MERIS and ASAR-InSAR Water Vapor Observations

J. Muñoz Sabater, R.F. Hanssen & D. Moiseev

Validation of MERIS Near IR Water Vapour Retrievals Using MWR and GPS Measurements

Z. Li, J.-P. Muller, P. Cross, P. Albert, T. Hewison, R. Watson, J. Fisher & R. Bennartz

Inter-Comparison of MERIS, MODIS and MISR Cloud Top Heights

C. Naud, B. Baum, R. Bennartz, J. Fischer, R. Frey, P. Menzel, J.-P. Muller, R. Preusker & H. Zhang

MERIS Cloud Masks: Exploration and Visualisation of MERIS Spectra

D. Cornford & A. Lyaskovskiy

Session 3: MERIS Water Products Validation

Chairs: A. Morel & J.-P. Huot

An Evaluation of the Accuracy of MERIS Radiometric and Geophysical Products for a Northern Adriatic Sea Coastal Site

G. Zibordi, F. Mélin, J.-F. Berthon, D. van der Linde & B. Bulgarelli

Validation of MERIS Ocean Color Algorithms in the Mediterranean Sea

S. Marullo, F. D'Ortenzio, M. Ribera D'Alcalà, M. Ragni, R. Santoleri, V. Vellucci & C. Luttazzi

Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) Mapping from MERIS Imagery

Calibration of a Regional Algorithm for the Belgian Coastal Waters

B. Nechad, V. De Cauwer, Y. Park & K. Ruddick

MERIS Validation Activities at Lake Constance in 2003

P. Gege & S. Plattner

Session 4: MERIS Land Products Validation

Chairs: J. Moreno & M. Rast

MERIS Land Products Validation

D. Ramon, R. Santer, E. Dilligeard, D. Jolivet & J. Vidot

MERIS Global Vegetation Index: Evaluation and Performance

N. Gobron, F. Mélin, B. Pinty, M. Taberner & M.M. Verstraete

Session 5: Coastal and Inland Waters

Chairs: R. Doerffer & K. Ruddick

Algae Bloom Detection in the Baltic Sea with MERIS Data

H. Krawczyk, K. Ebert & A. Neumann

CHL Maps of the Dutch Coastal Zone: A Case Study within the REVAMP Project

S.W.M. Peters, H. van der Woerd & B. Pasterkamp

Validation of Chlorophyll Fluorescence Derived from MERIS on the West Coast of Canada

J. Gower & S. King

Operational Coastal Water Quality Monitoring: Are Space Borne Products an Alternative to In-Situ Measurements - Where are we Now?

C. Brockmann, S. Dury, G. Hesselmanns, H. Hakvoort, R. Duin, M. Slater, R. Jordans & K. Stelzer

Mapping of Photosynthetic Pigments in Spanish Reservoirs

R. Peña-Martinez, J.-A. Dominguez-Gómez, C. de Hoyos & A. Ruiz-Verdú

Water Quality Monitoring of Lake Garda Using Multi-Temporal MERIS Data

N. Strömbeck, G. Candiani, C. Giardino & E. Zilioli

Aerosol Retrieval and Atmospheric Correction for MERIS Data over Lakes

D. Floricioiu & H. Rott

Session 6: Land Cover Monitoring

Chairs: F. Baret & M. Verstraete

Monitoring Landcover Changes of the Niger Inland Delta (Mali) by Means of Envisat MERIS Data

R. Seiler & E. Csaplovics

Deriving Landcover Information over Siberia Using MERIS and MODIS Data

L. Skinner & A. Luckman

Use of MERIS Data for Land Cover Mapping in the Netherlands

J.G.P.W. Clevers, H.M. Bartholomeus, C.A. Múcher & A.J.W. de Wit

Monitoring Snow Cover in Alpine Regions through the Integration of MERIS and AATSR Envisat Satellite Observations

M.L. Tampellini, P.A. Brivio, P. Carrara, D. Fantoni, S. Gnocchi, G. Ober, M. Pepe, A. Rampini, R. Ratti, F. Rota Nodari & T. Strozzi

Session 7: Vegetation Monitoring

Chairs: J. Privette & J. Curran

MTCI: The MERIS Terrestrial Chlorophyll Index

J. Dash & P.J. Curran

Session 8: New Methods

Chairs: P. Curran & J. Gower

A Method for Atmospheric Correction Based on Spectral and Spatial Variability

D. Béal, F. Baret & X.F. Gu

Atmospheric Correction of MERIS Imagery above Case-2 Waters

T. Schroeder & J. Fischer

A Technique for Aerosol Retrieval over Land from MERIS Data

L. Guanter, J.M. Martí, L. Alonso & J.F. Moreno

Use of the 709 NM Band of MERIS to Detect Intense Plankton Blooms and Other Conditions in Coastal Waters

J. Gower, S. King, W. Yan, G. Borstad & L. Brown

Poster and Demo Session

Chairs: M. Rast & G. Zibordi

Integrated Watershed Modeling

P. Bagulho Galvão, R. Neves, A. Silva, P. Chambel Leitão & F. Braunchweig

Deriving Albedo from Coupled MERIS and MODIS Surface Products

F. Gao, C. Schaaf, Y. Jin, W. Lucht, & A. Strahler

Aerosol Retrieval from MERIS and Ground-Based Radiometers in the German Bight, Turbid Coastal Waters

I. Behnert, R. Doerffer, G. Becu, P.-Y. Deschamps & N. Fomferra

HiProGen – A System to Generate High Level Products

T. Lankester, C. Loial, S. Hubbard, K. Andersson & G. Pittella

MERIS Imagery over Belgian Coastal Waters: Mapping of Suspended Particulate Matter and Chlorophyll-A

K. Ruddick, Y. Park & B. Nechad

Development of an Integrated System for Coastal Waters

P. Pina, F. Martins, P. Chambel Leitão, F. Braunchweig & R. Neves

Determination of Fine Particulate Matter from MERIS and SeaWiFS Aerosol Data

D. Ramon, R. Santer & J. Vidot

Implementation of New Technologies to Monitor Phytoplankton Blooms in the South of Chile

C. Rodríguez-Benito, C. Haag & A. Alvial

MERIS IPWV Validation: A Multisensor Experimental Campaign in the Central Italy

P. Ciotti, E. Di Giampaolo, P. Basili, S. Bonafoni, V. Mattioli, R. Biondi, E. Fionda, F. Consalvi, A. Memmo, D. Cimini, R. Pacione & F. Vespe

Application Development for the Utilisation of ENVISAT Data

G. Csornai, Zs. Suba, Cs. Wirnhardt, G. Nádor, L. Tikász, I. László, Á. Csekő & L. Martinovich

Synergy of MERIS/ASAR for Observing Marine Film Slicks and Small Scale Processes

J. da Silva, S. Correia, S.A. Ermakov, I.A. Sergievskaya & L.S. Robinson

MERIS O2 Calibration using SCIAMACHY Measurements

S. Casadio & P. Colagrande

Demonstration of the BEAM Software – A Tutorial for making Best Use of VISAT

C. Brockmann

MERIS Workshop – User Observations and Recommendations

P. Regner

List of Participants

Abstract Book