Sandy Supplemental Grant Recipient Quarterly Progress Report

CIMSS Participation in NOAA Laboratory Activity for Observing System Simulation Experiments

Award Number: NA14OAR4830094

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service
Center for SaTellite Applications and Research (STAR)

For the Period
1 October 2014 – 31 December 2014

On behalf of
The Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS)
Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC)
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I. Introduction

Cooperative Institute Description

The Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) is a collaborative relationship between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison). This partnership has and continues to provide outstanding benefits to the atmospheric science community and to the nation through improved use of remote sensing measurements for weather forecasting, climate analysis and monitoring environmental conditions. Under the auspices of CIMSS, scientists from NOAA/NESDIS and the UW-Madison Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) have a formal basis for ongoing collaborative research efforts. CIMSS scientists work closely with the NOAA/NESDIS Advanced Satellite Product Branch (ASPB) stationed at the UW-Madison campus. This collaboration includes a scientist from the National Climate Data Center (NCDC), who joined the NOAA NESDIS employees stationed at CIMSS.

CIMSS conducts a broad array of research and education activities, many of which are projects funded through this Cooperative Agreement with NOAA. This Cooperative Agreement identifies four CIMSS themes:

1. Satellite Meteorology Research and Applications, to support weather analysis and forecasting through participation in NESDIS product assurance and risk reduction programs and the associated transitioning of research progress into NOAA operations,
2. Satellite Sensors and Techniques, to conduct instrument trade studies and sensor performance analysis supporting NOAA's future satellite needs as well as assisting in the long term calibration and validation of remote sensing data and derived products,
3. Environmental Models and Data Assimilation, to work with the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA) on improving satellite data assimilation techniques in operational weather forecast models, and
4. Outreach and Education, to engage the workforce of the future in understanding and using environmental satellite observations for the benefit of an informed society.

CI Management and Organizational Structure

CIMSS resides as an integral part of the Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC). CIMSS is led by its Director, Dr. Steven Ackerman, who is also a faculty member within the UW-Madison Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. Executive Director Wayne Feltz provides day-to-day oversight of the CIMSS staff, science programs, and facilities. The education and outreach activities at CIMSS are coordinated by Senior Outreach Specialist Margaret Mooney. The individual science projects are led by

University Principal Investigators (PIs) in conjunction with a strong and diverse support staff who provide additional expertise to the research programs. CIMSS is advised by a Board of Directors and a Science Advisory Council.

The CIMSS administrative home is within the Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC), a research and development center within the UW–Madison's Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research. The independent CIMSS 5-year review panel for administration wrote that they were "…impressed by the people, systems and processes in place." The SSEC mission focuses on geophysical research and technology to enhance understanding of the Earth, other planets in the Solar System, and the cosmos. To conduct its science mission on the UW-Madison campus, SSEC has developed a strong administrative and programmatic infrastructure. This infrastructure serves all SSEC/CIMSS staff.

The CIMSS mission includes three goals:

- Foster collaborative research among NOAA, NASA, and the University in those aspects of atmospheric and earth system science that exploit the use of satellite technology;
- Serve as a center at which scientists and engineers working on problems of mutual interest can focus on satellite-related research in atmospheric and earth system science;
- Stimulate the training of scientists and engineers in the disciplines involved in atmospheric and earth sciences.

Executive Summary of CI Banner Research Activities

CIMSS is a collaboration between NOAA and UW–Madison that has increased the effectiveness of research and the quality of education in the environmental sciences. In a *Space Policy* article in 1986, William Bishop, former acting Director of NESDIS, noted, "Remote sensing from space can only thrive as a series of partnerships." He used CIMSS as a positive working example of the government-academia partnership, noting "The Institute pioneered the computation of wind speeds at cloud heights by tracking cloud features from image to image. These are now a stable product provided from the satellites to the global models at the National Meteorological Center." CIMSS continues to be a leader in the measurement of winds from satellite observations and leads the way in many other research endeavors as outlined above. There is great value to NOAA and UW-Madison in this long-term collaboration known as CIMSS.

II. Funded Project

Award Number: NA14OAR4830094

Project Title: CIMSS Participation in NOAA Laboratory Activity for Observing System Simulation Experiments

PI: Dr. Jun Li
PM: Dr. Zhenglong Li

NOAA Sponsor: Robert Atlas, NOAA/OAR/AOML

NOAA Collaborator: Timothy J. Schmit, NOAA/NESDIS/STAR

NOAA Sponsoring Organization: NOAA OAR

Reporting Period: 1 October 2014 – 31 December 2014

Description of Task I Activities

Primarily activity involves quarter reporting.

NOAA Strategic Goal(s)

NOAA Mission Goals

1. Climate Adaptation and Mitigation: An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts
2. Weather-Ready Nation: Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events

NOAA Strategic Plan-Mission Goals

1. Serve society's needs for weather and water
2. Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond
3. Provide critical support for the NOAA mission

Research Progress

1. Radiosonde observations (RAOB) were simulated from the ECMWF T1279 NR to generate profiles of temperature, moisture, and wind speed.

2. A satellite orbit simulator was developed to simulate LEO satellites. For given time periods (starting and ending times), the simulator calculates the orbit information, such as latitude/longitude/zenith angle of each field of view. Such information is needed for simulating LEO radiance observations. The simulator shows excellent agreement with real observations (Figure 1).

3. Quick regression retrievals were performed on the simulated GEO AIRS radiances to generate temperature and moisture profiles. The GEO AIRS radiances were simulated from the ECMWF T1279 NR. The regression retrievals were validated using the NR to generate the retrieval error (Figure 2).

4. LEO AIRS retrievals were also generated. The simulated GEO AIRS radiances were temporally and spatially interpolated to LEO AIRS orbit, which is generated by the orbit simulator.

5. All retrievals and RAOB were encoded to prefbufr format, which is ready for GSI to assimilate.

6. Experiments were carried out to evaluate the value-added impacts of high temporal sounding information from GEO AIRS on Hurricane Sandy forecast, as well as the impacts of cycling, background covariance matrix (Figure 3). The findings are:

    a. GEO AIRS soundings have positive impact on hurricane track forecast, especially after 30 hours;

    b. cycling shows significant more positive impacts over none-cycling, also more profound on longer forecast;

    c. background covariance matrix of moisture may have substantial impacts on the forecast. Doubling the background error of moisture improves the hurricane track forecast, indicating assimilating moisture sounding needs to be conservative.

7. Future work focuses on better utilization of GEO AIRS sounding data, such as hourly assimilation.

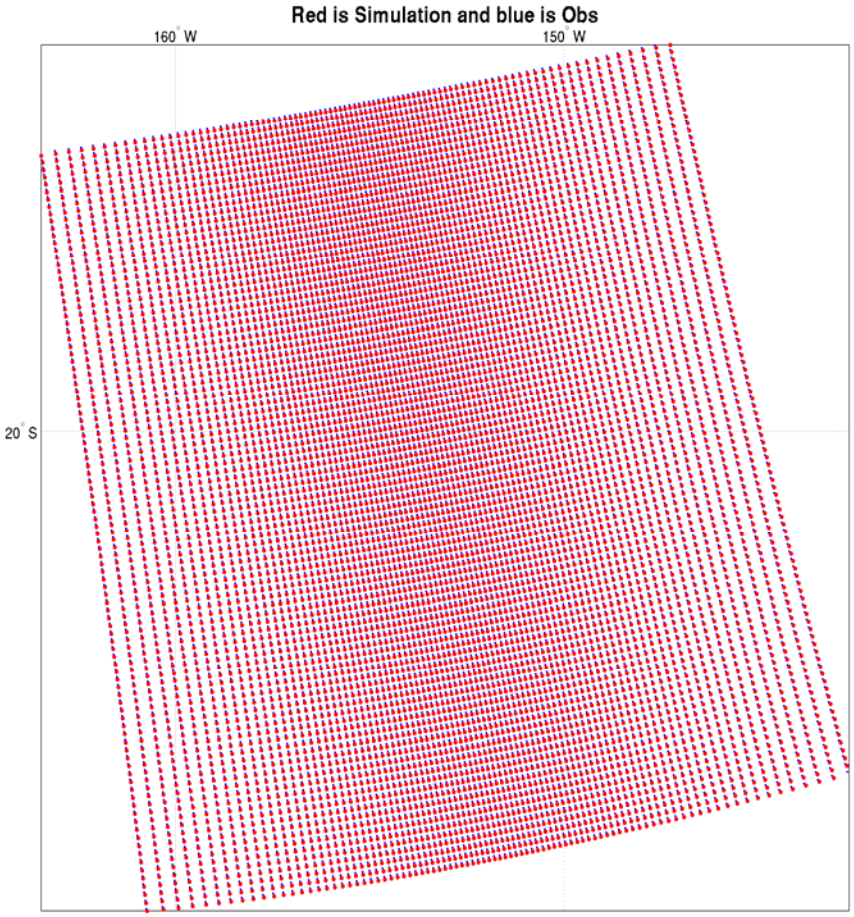

Figure 1. The simulated (red) and observed AIRS orbit. The starting and ending times of observations are used as input for the simulation.

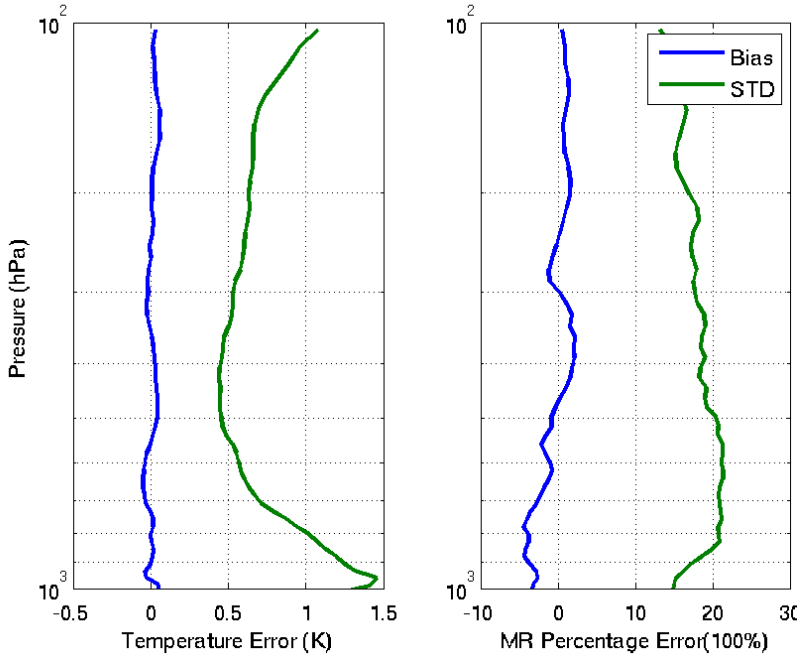

Figure 2. The retrieval validation of temperature (left) and moisture (right) using NR.

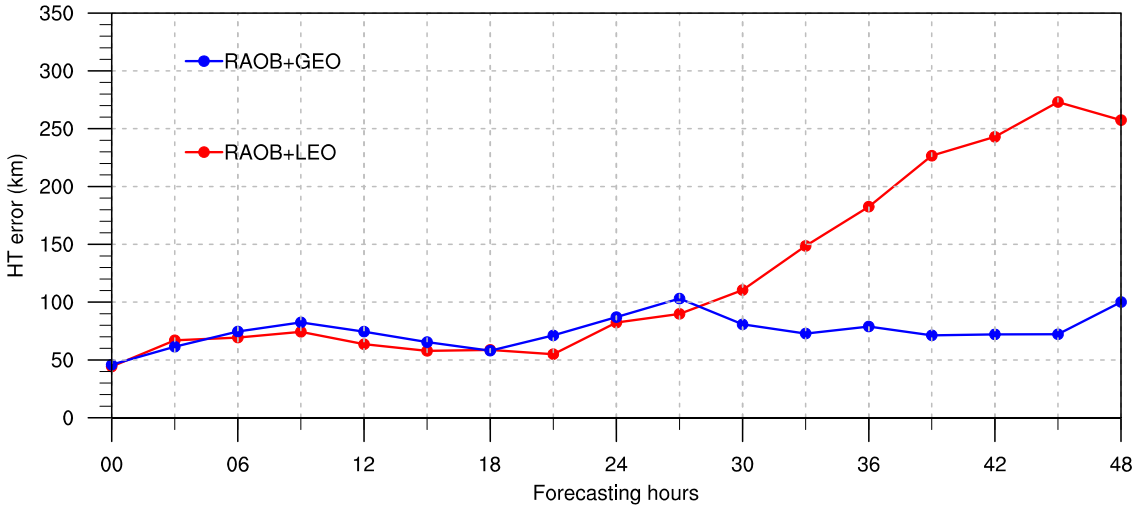

Figure 3. The impact of GEO/LEO AIRS sounding retrieval on Hurricane Sandy track forecast.

Resolved Issues and/or Risks

None

New Issues and/or Risks

None