WELCOME ADDRESS SECOND WORKING MEETING ON MERIS AND AATSR CALIBRATION AND GEOFYSICAL VALIDATION (MAVT-2006)

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ABSTRACT
The welcome address as given by Pascal Lecomte during the opening session of the MAVT-2006 is summarized below.

1. INTRODUCTION
Dear Colleagues,
We are very pleased to welcome you at the second working meeting on MERIS and AATSR Calibration and Geophysical Validation (MAVT-2006) taking place in Frascati, Italy on 20-24 March 2006, and is hosted by the European Space Agency (ESA).
Envisat is ESA’s advanced Earth observing satellite launched in March 2002 and is designed to provide measurements of the atmosphere, ocean, land and ice over a five-year period.
Following the recommendations given at the Envisat Validation Workshop and the first working meeting on AATSR and MERIS Calibration and Geophysical Validation (MAVT-2003) and the MERIS / (A)ATSR User Workshops and responding to the need for the subgroups of the MAVT to have a meeting to discuss the results of the correlative data acquisitions and analysis, to derive the current status of the instrument calibration, of the algorithm developments and of the validation of the geophysical products from AATSR and MERIS and to refine the error bars the second working meeting on AATSR and MERIS Calibration and Geophysical Validation (MAVT-2006) will be held in the next days.
This meeting is primarily intended for the participants of the Envisat MAVT Calibration and Validation Programme.
The programme of this five-day event includes a number of technical sessions and covers the whole spectrum of different methods for calibration and validation. The number and the quality of these contributions, ranking from calibration related measurements to validation using ship-based measurements, confirm the vitality of the field of MERIS and AATSR Validation.

2. MAVT-2006 WORKING MEETING OBJECTIVES
The working meeting will review the results of the instrument calibration and validation of the geophysical data of MERIS and AATSR.

During the meeting the following items will have to be addressed:
- Review the current status of the instrument calibration,
- Review the Level 2 product algorithms using the results of the validation campaigns,
- Review the geophysical consistency of the Level 2 processor products,
- Provide an error estimation of the Level 1 and 2 products.

3. AATSR SST AND LST DATA
The AATSR Operational Processor produces LST NRT data since 10 March 2004. Consolidated data is available prior to this date. No retrievals over lakes are performed.
All AATSR data acquired from 30 November 2005 onwards are corrected for visible channel drift. All AATSR data processed after 05 December 2005 contain SST data based on new retrieval coefficients.
The systematic processing of all historical data with the new coefficients will be another objective of the second AATSR reprocessing, planned for 2006.

4. MERIS DATA
During this working meeting the quality of the products processed by MEGS 7.4 processor or IPF 5 processor will be assessed. MEGS 7.4 and 7.4.1 have been used for the 2nd MERIS reprocessing.
They are strictly identical in terms of products, the only differences being the values of some reference fields in the Products Headers.
MEGS 7.4.1 and IPF 5 (to be operational soon) are equivalent.

5. MERIS 2ND REPROCESSING: CHANGES DESCRIPTION
- Chl1 polynomial from LOV
- Chl1 validity range set to [0.01,30.], no PCD raise when out of range
- Troposphere-free MAR99 replaces BLUE-α=1.5 (from previous Bomem runs)
- Gothic R LUT from LOV
- Chl2 conversion factors from GKSS (revised with latest NN delivery)
- YS coding offset and scaling factor (linear to log scale, same range)
- Chl coding range \([-2,2]\) in log10 scale instead of \([-3,3]\) previously
- Whitecaps threshold set to 10 m.s\(^{-1}\)
- New Case 2 NN from GKSS (with and without linear reflectances as input)
- White scatterer threshold set to 4.8
- MTCI threshold on B13-B8 difference set to 0.05, on B10-B8 to 1e-6 (numerical purpose only), ceiling for B8 set to 0.3, floor for B9 to 0.1
- Preliminary version of LARS LUTs from Hygeos

6. PROGRAMME SUMMARY

- (Vicarious) Calibration and Sensor Inter-comparison
- Validation of sea surface temperature
- Validation of land surface reflectance / temperature
- Water products validation
- Clouds and water vapour products
- Vegetation product and atmospheric corrections over land
- Data quality assessment

7. CONCLUSION

Have a nice and productive working meeting.

Figure 1. The ESA-ESRIN Establishment

‘In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But, in practice, there is.’
Jan L.A. van de Snepscheut