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Arnaud Mialon, Al Bitar Ahmad, Lucie Berthon, Simone Bircher, François Cabot, Maria-José Escorihuela, Delphine Leroux, Olivier Merlin, Nathalie Novello, Thierry Pellarin, et al.

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## VALIDATION OF SMOS LEVEL3 SOIL MOISTURE

Mialon A.<sup>1</sup>, AlBitar A.<sup>1</sup>, Berthon L.<sup>1</sup>, Bricher S.<sup>2</sup>, Cabot F.<sup>1</sup>, Escorihuela M.-J.<sup>3</sup>, Leroux D.<sup>1</sup>, Merlin O.<sup>1</sup>, Novello N.<sup>4</sup>, Pellarin Th.<sup>5</sup>, Wigneron J.-P.<sup>4</sup>, Kerr Y.H.<sup>1</sup>

contact : [arnaud.mialon@cesbio.cnes.fr](mailto:arnaud.mialon@cesbio.cnes.fr)

<sup>1</sup> CESBIO, 18 Av. Edouard Belin, 31401 Toulouse, France

<sup>2</sup> KU Kobenhavn Universitet

<sup>3</sup> isardSAT, Barcelona

<sup>4</sup> INRA Ephyse, bordeaux, France

<sup>5</sup>LTHE, Grenoble, France

### ABSTRACT

The SMOS mission [1] was launched in November 2009 and allows to measure the surface soil moisture over continental land, covering the entire surface in 3 days. The ESA's DPGS (European Space Agency's Data Processing Ground Segment) has been delivering the so-called level 2 products, consisting of 1/2 orbits data. The CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) has developed the CATDS (Centre Aval de Traitement des Données SMOS) ground segment that now provides global maps of soil moisture and ocean salinity, known as the level 3 products. The data are mapped on the EASE grid (Equal Area Scalable Earth grid) with a spatial resolution of  $\sim 25 \times 25 km^2$  [2]. The database is available at different temporal resolutions as daily and 3-days products, decade composites (as minimum, maximum and median values) and monthly averages.

The soil moisture retrieval algorithm [2, 3] is based on the L-MEB (L-band Microwave Emission of the Biosphere) radiative model. It is close to the level 2 algorithm [4, 5] with improvements to account for previous overpasses [6, 7]. Considering 2 revisits (one before and one after the considered day over a time window of 7 days [3]) increases the number of brightness temperatures used as inputs of the retrieval process. The vegetation optical depth is also considered correlated in time (over a 7-day time window, [6]) enhancing the retrieval. It will be shown here that the number of nodes for which a soil moisture is retrieved, increases in comparison to the level 2 results.

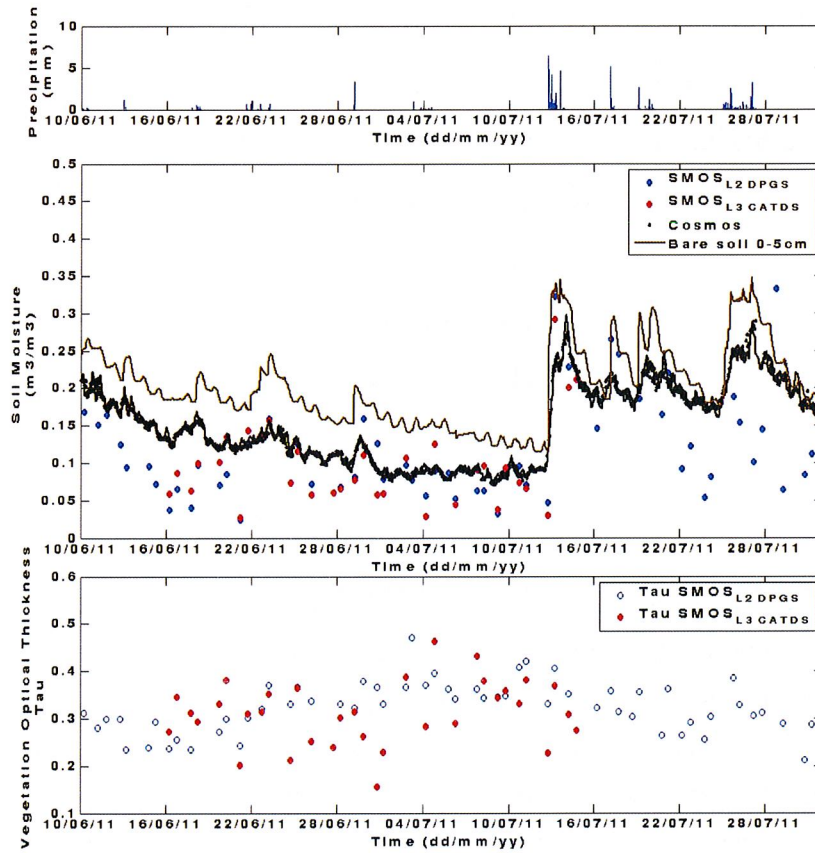
The aim of this communication is then to present this database and how it has been validated. We also compare the L3 soil moisture to in-situ measurements available at different in-situ sites (Australia, US, south west of France, Spain, Denmark, West Africa, French Alps), spanning different surface conditions. Figure 1 is a short temporal variation of the soil moisture acquired at the in-situ site of SMOSREX (South West of France). The SMOS soil moisture (both L2 from DPGS and L3 from CATDS) are presented and compared to in-situ measurements. The vegetation optical depth is also depicted (bottom figure) and one

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Paper 3104

can notice the slight differences between the two.



**Fig. 1.** Example of SMOS products compared to in situ measurements acquired at the test site of SMOSREX (South West of France). The figure in the middle shows the soil moisture data : level 3 products from the CATDS (red dots middle panel), the level 2 product from the DPGS (blue dots) and the in-situ measurements (brown and black lines middle panel). The bottom figure are the vegetation optical depth, L3 CATDS (red dots) and the L2 DPGS (blue dots).

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