

Evaluation of GEOS Precipitation Flagging for SMAP Soil Moisture Retrieval Accuracy

Maheshwari Neelam^{1,2}, Rajat Bindlish¹, Peggy O'Neill¹, George J. Huffman³, Rolf Reichle⁴,
Steven Chan⁵, Andreas Colliander⁵

Submitted

Journal of Hydrometeorology

¹Hydrological Sciences Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771,
USA

²Science Systems & Applications Inc, Lanham, MD 20706, USA

³Mesoscale Atmospheric Processes Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt,
MD 20771, USA

⁴Global Modeling and Assimilation Office, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD
20771, USA

⁵NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91109,
USA

*Corresponding Author: maheshwari.neelam@nasa.gov

28 forecasts of precipitation used by SMAP. Key results include: *i*) IMERG measurements generally
29 show higher spatial variability than the GEOS forecast precipitation, *ii*) the IMERG product has a
30 higher frequency of light precipitation amounts, and *iii*) the effect of incorporating IMERG rainfall
31 measurements in lieu of GEOS precipitation forecasts are minimal on the L2SMP retrieval
32 accuracy (determined vs. *in situ* soil moisture measurements at core validation sites). Our results
33 indicate that L2SMP retrievals continue to meet the mission's accuracy requirement (standard
34 deviation of the ubRMSE less than 0.04 m³/m³).

35 **Key words:** IMERG-precipitationCal, SMAP, GPM, GEOS, soil moisture, precipitation

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47 1. INTRODUCTION

48 Soil moisture is a critical state variable that controls the land surface water and energy
49 fluxes [Seneviratne et al., 2010, Koster et al., 2004]. There are many applications of remotely
50 sensed soil moisture measurements, including alerting farmers to crop stress, indicating saturated
51 areas where rainfall could trigger landslides, early warning signs of impending droughts, and
52 emergence of dust storms. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Soil
53 Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite mission [Entekhabi et al., 2014], which launched on 31
54 January 2015, is the second mission available to monitor global soil moisture along with the
55 European Space Agency's Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity (SMOS) satellite [Kerr et al., 2012].
56 SMAP's microwave radiometer operates at an L-band frequency of 1.41 GHz to measure near-
57 surface soil moisture (~ 5 cm topsoil) with a global revisit of 2–3 days. Soil moisture retrievals
58 from passive microwave measurements have been extensively studied during the past ~30 years
59 [Jackson et al., 1999; Jackson and Schmugge, 1991; Mo et al., 1982; Schmugge and Choudhury,
60 1981], utilizing both model simulations and measurements from field campaigns using truck-
61 based, airborne, and satellite radiometers. Calibration and validation efforts to improve SMAP soil
62 moisture retrieval accuracy (accuracy target = $0.04 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$) continue to occur through dedicated
63 field campaigns, analyses of data from both core sites and spatially distributed *in situ* stations
64 [Chan et al., 2016; Colliander et al., 2017; McNairn et al., 2014], global models and comparisons
65 with soil moisture products from SMOS mission.

66 The SMAP standard Level-2 (L2) passive soil moisture product (L2SMP) contains
67 radiometer-derived soil moisture, brightness temperatures, geolocation, ancillary data, and quality-
68 assessment flags. The SMAP Single Channel Algorithm-V-pol (SCA-V) baseline algorithm (and
69 two other option algorithms: Single Channel Algorithm-H-pol (SCA-H), Dual Channel Algorithm

70 (DCA)) are used to retrieve soil moisture if all of the input, ancillary, and land surface condition
71 data meet the retrievability criteria. The sensitivity of brightness temperature to ancillary data such
72 as vegetation water content (VWC), surface roughness, surface temperature etc., and their impact
73 on soil moisture retrieval accuracy are examined in past works [Du et al., 2000; Ferrazzoli et al.,
74 1992; Flores et al., 2009; Neelam et al., 2020; Neelam and Mohanty, 2015; Ulaby et al., 1983;
75 Wigneron et al., 2017]. However, there have been no studies (at the time of this analysis) using
76 either real-time observations or model simulations to evaluate the impact of heavy precipitation
77 on SMAP measurements. A large precipitation event can cause short-term surface wetting of
78 vegetation and/or ponding of water on the soil surface which affects the radiometer's sensing depth
79 due to changes in the dielectric constant of the scene. Therefore, it is desirable to flag any SMAP
80 observations and retrievals based on ancillary knowledge of recent precipitation at a given location
81 to avoid overestimation of soil moisture. Since SMAP does not have the ability to detect rain by
82 an independent means, it relies on outside ancillary data sources.

83 Currently, SMAP's L2SMP soil moisture algorithm includes flagging which indicates the
84 presence or absence of precipitation at the time of a SMAP overpass based on 3 hr time-average
85 precipitation estimates from the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS) Forward Processing
86 (FP) numerical weather prediction system (https://gmao.gsfc.nasa.gov/GMAO_products). The
87 algorithm considers a heavy precipitation event to have occurred if the forecast precipitation rate
88 $P \geq 1 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$. This threshold is the pre-launch criteria selected for the SMAP mission based on the
89 understanding that $P \geq 1 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$ may result in higher non-uniform soil moisture profile and/or
90 surface ponding, and soil moisture retrieval under such circumstances should be used/interpreted
91 with caution due to potentially inaccurate soil moisture retrieval. In addition to this, it is impossible
92 to determine the exact timing of the precipitation event during SMAP overpass from 3 hr GEOS-

93 FP precipitation forecasts. For example, soil moisture profile might vary for the precipitation event
94 which occurred 2 mins before the SMAP overpass versus an event which occurred 3 hr before the
95 SMAP overpass. Also, apart from precipitation threshold, the surface ponding also depends on
96 prior factors such as soil moisture conditions, soil texture, soil compaction etc. For example, a rain
97 event on dry soils allow water to move quickly through pores and cracks than wet soils. This
98 movement is further influenced by soil texture i.e., water moves faster through sandy soils due to
99 large pore sizes than it does through small pores of clayey soil. Nonetheless, the current SMAP
100 retrieval algorithm does not use any ancillary estimates of prior soil moisture conditions, and
101 therefore is considered as a scope for future improvements in the algorithm.

102 The SMAP mission had a choice early in the prelaunch days whether to base SMAP
103 precipitation flagging based on numerical weather model forecasts or use collocated data from
104 other spaceborne instruments capable of detecting rainfall. From a mission risk standpoint
105 prelaunch, SMAP decided to use GEOS precipitation forecasts internal to SMAP and not rely on
106 an external ancillary data source like Global Precipitation Mission (GPM). This decision is
107 reexamined to understand if using GPM IMERG would have produced different soil moisture
108 retrievals (number and quality of soil moisture retrievals) than we currently get using GEOS. The
109 use of an alternate data impacts the SMAP in two different ways: 1) The GEOS data might miss
110 the precipitation events that might be observed by IMERG. This “misdetection” would result in
111 higher error in soil moisture retrievals; 2) The GEOS data might indicate precipitation when none
112 was occurring. This “false alarm” would result in data loss though it would not directly impact the
113 SMAP soil moisture assessment statistics.

114 Precipitation estimates from numerical weather prediction (NWP) models are only as good
115 as the physical models and assimilated data inputs [Accadia et al., 2003; Charba et al., 2003; Dai,

116 2006]. Uncertainties in the global circulation models (GCMs) “moist physics” algorithms that use
117 3-dimensional modeling of atmospheric dynamics such as temperature, pressure, humidity, and
118 winds to determine precipitation, land surface models (LSMs), and initial soil moisture distribution
119 have a major impact on the evolution of thermodynamic variables in the planetary boundary layer
120 and subsequently on the precipitation forecasts [Koster, 2004; Koster and Suarez, 1995; Case et
121 al., 2011, Chen and Avissar, 1994, Oookouchi et al., 1984]. The precipitation measurements from *in*
122 *situ* networks such as rain gauges (although provide direct measurements), are prone to errors such
123 as under-catch caused due to wind effects [Peterson et al., 1998]. In case of weather radars,
124 backscatter radiation is dependent upon the drop size distribution which varies considerably
125 influencing number of rain events detected. The inadequate spatial coverage and
126 representativeness of rain gauge/radar networks are a major drawback to monitor and quantify
127 precipitation on a global basis [Kidd and Huffman, 2011].

128 On the other hand, satellite-derived precipitation observations serve as an alternative to
129 NWP estimates [Sun et al., 2018] and offer an unparalleled advantage to observe precipitation on a
130 global scale. Therefore, frequent, and regular measurements provided by satellites are essential to
131 satisfy the needs of the user community, even though there may be some concerns about the
132 accuracy of the measurements. The near-real time precipitation observations from the GPM
133 satellite mission provides an opportunity for direct grid-to-grid global comparison with GEOS
134 model precipitation estimates. The successful 17-year operational life of the Tropical Rainfall
135 Measuring Mission (TRMM) produced significant improvements in satellite rainfall monitoring
136 [Huffman et al., 2007a]. As a follow-up to TRMM, the GPM Core Observatory (GPM-CO)
137 satellite was launched in February 2014 [Hou et al., 2014; Skofronick-Jackson et al., 2017]. The
138 GPM-CO is a key part of the GPM mission and is designed to be the calibration reference standard

139 for unifying the data from a constellation of passive microwave (PMW) and infrared (IR) satellite
140 platforms. The precipitation estimates are merged through the Integrated Multi-satellitE Retrievals
141 for GPM (IMERG) system [Huffman et al., 2019] to provide PMW-only, IR-only, and merged
142 precipitationCal rainfall products for different latency periods (IMERG–Early ~4 h; IMERG–Late
143 ~14 h; IMERG–Final ~3.5 months).

144 Therefore, in continuation of ongoing efforts to improve the SMAP retrievals, this paper
145 describes the impact of precipitation flagging error on SMAP passive soil moisture retrievals. The
146 main objective of this study is to investigate the impact of GEOS-based precipitation forecasts on
147 the performance of SMAP L2SMP soil moisture retrievals using satellite precipitation
148 observations from GPM. As mentioned earlier, the current SMAP L2SMP algorithm uses GEOS
149 precipitation estimates in the retrieval process to flag the areas with coincident precipitation
150 observations. Since GEOS precipitation estimates have their own errors that can impact the
151 performance of the SMAP L2SMP soil moisture retrievals, we wanted to evaluate the assessment
152 when IMERG is used as an alternate precipitation source. The paper is organized as follows:
153 following this introduction, Section 2 further introduces the L2SMP algorithm, the IMERG-
154 precipitationCal and GEOS-FP precipitation products, and the SMAP Core Validation Site (CVS)
155 data. Section 3 describes the methodologies adopted for this analysis. Results are detailed in
156 Section 4 in terms of performance metrics, statistical evaluation, and analysis of example events.
157 Section 5 contains concluding remarks and plans for future studies.

158

159 **2. METHODS AND MATERIALS**

160 **2.1. SMAP Level 2 Soil Moisture Algorithm**

161 The Level 2 SMAP passive soil moisture product (L2SMP, Version 6.5), derived using
 162 SMAP L-band radiometer time-ordered observations (L1B_TB product), are provided on the 36-
 163 km global cylindrical Equal-Area Scalable Earth Grid 2.0 (a.k.a. EASE-Grid 2.0), and can be freely
 164 downloaded from the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC)
 165 (<https://nsidc.org/data/SPL2SMP>). The retrieval of soil moisture from SMAP brightness
 166 temperature (T_B) observations under vegetation is based on an approximation of the non-linear
 167 radiative transfer equation, known as tau-omega model [Mo et al., 1982]:

$$168 \quad T_{B(p,f,\theta)} = e_{p,f,\theta} \cdot T_{eff} \cdot Y_{p,f,\theta} + T_c \cdot (1 - \omega_{p,f,\theta}) \cdot (1 - Y_{p,f,\theta}) +$$

$$169 \quad T_c \cdot Y_{p,f,\theta} \cdot (1 - \omega_{p,f,\theta}) \cdot (1 - Y_{p,f,\theta}) \cdot r_{p,f,\theta} \quad (1)$$

$$170 \quad Y_{p,f,\theta} = \exp\left(-\frac{\tau_{p,f}}{\cos \theta}\right) \quad (2)$$

171 where $T_{B(p,f,\theta)}$ is the brightness temperature [K]; T_{eff} is the effective surface temperature [K]; T_c
 172 is the effective vegetation temperature [K]; $e_{p,\theta,f}$ is the emissivity of the (rough) soil surface;
 173 $r_{p,f,\theta}$ is the rough surface reflectivity; $\tau_{p,f}$ is the nadir optical depth; $\omega_{p,f,\theta}$ is the single scattering
 174 albedo. And p , θ and f denote polarization, look angle and frequency, respectively. This study
 175 considers V-polarization only, with constant look angle of 40° at 1.4 GHz frequency. The radiative
 176 transfer (equation 1) is essentially approximated as a summation of three components: 1) the direct
 177 emission by soil and one-way attenuation by canopy (the first term), 2) direct upward emission by
 178 canopies (the second term), and 3) emission by plants and reflected by soil and thereafter
 179 attenuated by vegetation (the third term).

180 The ancillary data used in the soil moisture retrieval process comes from various sources.
 181 For example, soil temperatures are provided by the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS)

182 model. The optical thickness is estimated as a product of vegetation water content (VWC) and a
183 coefficient (b) that characterizes the structure of the canopy. The vegetation water content is
184 estimated using a Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) climatology derived from
185 Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) data [Jackson et al., 2004]. A more
186 detailed discussion about soil moisture retrieval using the tau-omega model can be found in
187 O'Neill et al., 2019. In SMAP L2SMP algorithm, a binary flag is used to provide information on
188 the retrieval quality and land surface conditions. The surface flag is a 16-bit integer field whose
189 binary representation consists of bits that indicate the presence or absence of certain surface
190 conditions at a grid cell that affects soil moisture retrieval. A summary of surface conditions, flags
191 and their thresholds used in operational production can be found in the SMAP L2SMP ATBD
192 [O'Neill et al., 2019]. Among other surface condition indicators (dense vegetation, mountainous
193 terrain, urban region, etc.), a flag for the presence or absence of heavy precipitation at the time of
194 the SMAP overpass is provided. The SMAP precipitation flag is the 5th bit in the 16-bit surface
195 quality flag to indicate the surface condition upon the occurrence of precipitation. The flag is
196 developed based on 3 hr precipitation rates from the GEOS FP system (Version 5.13.0 through
197 5.17) (Section 3, describes precipitation flagging). The evaluation of precipitation flags estimated
198 over 6 hr, 12 hr and 24 hr accumulation periods are also conducted for the five-year period
199 investigated here.

200 **2.2. IMERG precipitationCal**

201 The IMERG Version 06 (V06) level 3 products at $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$ (~ 11 km) spatial resolution
202 and 30-minute temporal resolution are used in this study. A detailed description of the algorithm
203 and data can be found in Huffman et al. (2019). IMERG is a multi-satellite gridded precipitation
204 product that unifies precipitation estimates from a network of sensors in the GPM constellation. It

205 uses the GPM Core Observatory satellite and as many satellites of opportunity as possible in a
206 very flexible network. The Core Observatory carries the first spaceborne Ku-/Ka-band dual-
207 frequency precipitation radar (DPR) and the multichannel GPM microwave imager (GMI). The
208 GMI instrument (frequency from 10 GHz to 183 GHz) is a 13-channel passive microwave imager.
209 The Combined Radar-Radiometer Algorithm (CORRA) [Olson and Masunaga, 2011] uses data
210 from GMI and DPR [CORRA, Huffman et al., 2007], and calibrates against the Global
211 Precipitation Climatology Project monthly Satellite-Gauge product [Adler et al., 2012]. The
212 Lagrangian time interpolation scheme is applied to the merged constellation estimates using the
213 cloud motion vectors to produce gridded estimates of rainfall. This process is called morphing and
214 was first developed for the Climate Prediction Center Morphing (CMORPH) precipitation
215 estimation algorithm [Joyce et al., 2004; Joyce and Xie, 2011]. When PMW observations are
216 sparse, calibrated IR precipitation estimates are computed using an artificial neural network
217 system, the Precipitation Estimation from Remotely Sensed Information using Artificial Neural
218 Networks-Cloud Classification System (PERSIANN-CCS) algorithm [Hong et al., 2004;
219 Sorooshian et al., 2000]. The PMW observations which are heavily affected by the presence of
220 ice, in such cases IMERG is estimated, *i*) PMW observations are masked out over snowy/icy
221 surfaces, so these regions only have PMW-adjusted IR-based estimates, *ii*) the PMW adjustment
222 to the IR depends on adjustments interpolated from surrounding areas to the areas where PMW
223 observations have been screened out due to snowy/icy surfaces [Huffman, 2019]. IMERG
224 algorithm utilizes a combination of PERSIANN, CMORPH, and CORRA algorithms. It is worth
225 mentioning that PERSIANN estimates the precipitation based on infrared brightness temperature
226 image (as input) and artificial neural network (as a model), while CMORPH is mainly based on
227 microwave data and only uses infrared data when microwave data are not available. The IR

228 precipitation estimates are at higher temporal resolutions, but the accuracy of IR-based estimates
229 is poor due to the indirect relationship between precipitation and IR observations (such as cloud
230 temperature). The PMW precipitation estimates are observed at lower temporal resolutions but are
231 more accurate due to direct association of radiative signatures with precipitation characteristics.
232 The IMERG system runs twice in near-real time (NRT) to accommodate different user
233 requirements for latency and accuracy. The IMERG-Early data are available with 4 hr latency
234 (from the time of observation), where only forward morphing is used, targeting applications such
235 as potential flood or landslide warnings. The IMERG-Late data are available with approximately
236 14-h latency, where the forward and backward morphing are used, targeting applications such as
237 agricultural forecasting. The IMERG-Final data set is available approximately 3.5 months after
238 the observations and is used for research applications. The IMERG-Final precipitationCal product
239 is calibrated through the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC) monthly precipitation
240 gauge data infused via the TMPA approach [Huffman et al., 2007b]. Thus, the IMERG-Final
241 estimates are more accurate and reliable than the Early and Late products [Huffman et al., 2019].
242 However, to meet the latency requirement for SMAP (less than 24 hrs of acquisition), the IMERG-
243 Early product is used here. For the sake of brevity, the IMERG precipitationCal product is hereafter
244 referred to as IMERG.

245 **2.3. GEOS**

246 The GEOS precipitation data provided to the SMAP project are at 3 hr temporal and 0.25-
247 degree (latitude) by 0.3125-degree (longitude) spatial resolution. The GEOS Forward Processing
248 (FP) system is a global atmospheric data assimilation system [Rienecker, et al., 2008]. It uses an
249 Atmospheric General Circulation Model (AGCM) with primary focus on 3-dimensional modeling
250 of atmospheric dynamics such as temperature, pressure, humidity, and winds. As a part of

251 modeling, the GEOS-FP system assimilates conventional observations and satellite radiances
252 related to temperature, humidity and winds, among other variables [Lucchesi, 2018]. The SMAP
253 L2SMP system regrid the GEOS data to the 36-km EASE2 grid [Brodzik et al., 2012](SMAP
254 Ancillary Data Report: Precipitation. <https://smap.jpl.nasa.gov/documents/>). Both the GEOS and
255 IMERG precipitation products have global coverage. Since they use different sets of algorithms,
256 parameterizations, and assumptions, a systematic bias between the two products exists. Generally,
257 the “raw” model precipitation from atmospheric analysis systems have significant biases, i.e., the
258 statistical properties of model output may differ from those of the observations [e.g., Vrac and
259 Friederichs, 2014; Case et al., 2011; Adler et al., 2012; Pyle and Brill, 2018]. That is, the model
260 precipitation may be either too high or low, or incorrectly simulate the monsoon (i.e., rainfall
261 starts too early or too late), or overestimate the number of rainfall days and/or underestimate
262 precipitation extremes.

263 **2.4. SMAP Core Validation Sites**

264 The L2SMP soil moisture at 36 km is primarily validated using ground-based *in situ*
265 observations obtained from core validation site (CVS) [Chan et al., 2018], which provide *in situ*
266 soil moisture measurements for locally dense sensor networks. That is, each CVS includes multiple
267 *in situ* soil moisture stations which are matched up in space and time with the corresponding SMAP
268 L2SMP resolution grid [Colliander et al., 2017]. These measurements are spatially aggregated
269 using site-specific and well-established upscaling and calibration functions such that the
270 aggregated soil moisture estimates are representative of the spatial average soil moisture
271 conditions across the EASE-Grid 2.0 grid cell in which the CVS is located [Colliander et al., 2017].
272 This *in situ* average soil moisture can then be compared to SMAP L2SMP soil moisture retrievals
273 during the validation process [Chan et al., 2018]. Each of these sites is selected such that they

274 cover different geographical locations, climate regimes, and land cover types. The *in situ* data used
275 for the analysis are checked for quality control (QC), where any sudden spikes, drops, missing data
276 etc., are removed before determining the upscaled soil moisture value for each grid cell [O'Neill
277 et al., 2019]. Of 15 CVS's located globally, 13 sites are used in this analysis with measurements
278 taken between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2020. The remaining two sites (Twente and HOBE)
279 are dropped due to failure to satisfy retrieval quality flags (proximity to water body and urban
280 region). In spite of the dense sensor networks at CVS, we acknowledge that the spatial discrepancy
281 between satellite retrieved and *in situ* soil moisture may introduce uncertainties in soil moisture
282 validation.

283 **3. Methodology**

284 The IMERG half-hourly precipitation estimates originally at $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$ resolution are
285 converted to $36 \text{ km} \times 36 \text{ km}$ EASE-2 grid spatial resolution. A binary (0 and 1) mask is applied
286 while interpolating IMERG to avoid any extrapolation due to no observations. The quality of
287 IMERG and GEOS precipitation data is first assessed using rain gauge data from USDA
288 Agricultural Research Service (ARS) sites [Bosch et al., 2007; Coopersmith et al., 2015; Hanson,
289 2001; Moran et al., 2008; Steiner et al., 2014]. After assessing the quality of IMERG and GEOS
290 data, the GEOS-based precipitation flag was evaluated against the IMERG-based precipitation flag
291 both globally and during SMAP ascending and descending overpasses using skill scores and
292 performance statistics. This analysis is restricted to $60^\circ \text{ N} - 60^\circ \text{ S}$, the region within which IMERG
293 provides a consistent coverage. The grid cells representing ocean, large inland water bodies,
294 coastlines, and glaciated surfaces (e.g., Greenland) are excluded from the analysis. An EASE-Grid
295 2.0 Land-Ocean-Coastline-Ice mask derived from MODIS MOD12Q1 V004 1 km land cover
296 product is used for masking [Friedl et al. 2002]. MOD12Q1 utilizes the 17 International Geosphere

297 Biosphere Programme [IGBP, Belward, 1996] land cover classes. For each grid cell, the percent
298 land is calculated by summing the percent of IGBP non-water classes (1-16). The grid cells \geq
299 50% ice are classified as ice, while cells with \geq 50% land and $<$ 50% ice are classified as land,
300 and any remaining cells are classified as ocean (including lakes and inland water).

301 The skill scores which are frequently used in the precipitation community to verify the
302 accuracy of precipitation estimates over reference data are used for evaluation [Accadia et al.,
303 2003; Charba et al., 2003; Gerrity, 1992; Pyle and Brill, 2018]. The skill scores are obtained from
304 the four elements of a standard contingency table: the number of hits H (GEOS = Yes Rain;
305 IMERG = Yes Rain), misses M (GEOS = No Rain; IMERG = Yes Rain), false alarms F (GEOS
306 = Yes Rain; IMERG = No Rain), and correct rejections C (GEOS = No Rain; IMERG = No Rain).
307 A rain event is considered to be occurring at a given time step if the precipitation rate P is greater
308 than 1 mm h^{-1} and is considered to not be occurring if P is less than or equal to 1 mm h^{-1} . The ability
309 of the GEOS precipitation estimates to identify the rain events are calculated using four scores:
310 the probability of detection, the false alarm ratio, the threat score, and the Gilbert skill score. The
311 elements of the contingency table and skill scores are computed for every 3 hr window, which are
312 accumulated to represent seasonal [December to February, March to May, June to August, and
313 September to November] and annual skill. A brief description of the skill scores is given below.

314 The probability of detection (POD) or hit rate (HR) denotes the fraction of the observed
315 precipitation events correctly estimated (ranges from 0 to 1).

$$316 \quad \text{POD/HR} = \frac{H}{H+M} \quad (3)$$

317 The false alarm ratio (FAR) represents the fraction of precipitation events that did not occur
318 but were incorrectly estimated as rain (ranges from 0 to 1).

319
$$\text{FAR} = \frac{F}{H+F} \quad (4)$$

320 The threat score (TS), also known as the critical success index (CSI), measures the fraction
 321 of observed and/or estimated events that are correctly predicted ignoring the correct rejections
 322 (ranges from 0 to 1).

323
$$\text{TS} = \text{CSI} = \frac{H}{H+M+F} \quad (5)$$

324 The Gilbert skill score (GSS) measures the fraction of observed and/or estimated events
 325 that are correctly predicted, adjusted for the frequency of hits associated with random chance
 326 (ranges from -1/3 to 1).

327
$$\text{GSS} = \frac{H-H_R}{H+M+F-H_R}, \text{ where } H_R = \frac{(H+M)(H+F)}{H+M+F+C} \quad (6)$$

328 where H = number of hits; M = number of misses/misdetections; F = number of false alarms; C =
 329 number of correct rejections; H_R = number of hits with random chance.

330 Performance metrics such as unbiased root mean square error (ubRMSE), root mean square
 331 error (RMSE), bias (B), and correlation coefficient (R) are calculated for SMAP soil moisture
 332 retrievals using *in situ* soil moisture from core validation sites [Chan et al., 2018]. The performance
 333 statistics are computed for the SMAP retrievals with the originally (GEOS-based) precipitation
 334 flag and again when misses/ misdetections (GEOS = No Rain; IMERG = Yes Rain) are removed.
 335 This performance assessment is conducted for the five-year period April, 2015 - March, 2020, and
 336 separately, for ascending (6 PM) and descending (6 AM) SMAP overpasses. The performance
 337 assessment is tested for three algorithms, the Single Channel Algorithm-H-pol (SCA-H), the
 338 Single Channel Algorithm-V-pol (SCA-V) and Dual Channel Algorithm (DCA), though only the
 339 metrics for the SMAP baseline SCA-V are reported here [O'Neill, et al., 2019]. The basic

340 assumptions of the retrieval algorithm such as uniformity of the temperature profiles [Jackson et
341 al., 2010; Owe et al., 2001] are expected more likely to be satisfied by the descending overpass
342 than the ascending overpass. Moreover, precipitation also has a diurnal cycle and 6 PM local time
343 observations are likely to be more impacted due to convective storms especially in warm and
344 humid climates. For this reason, SMAP soil moisture retrievals are separated for ascending and
345 descending overpasses.

346 **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

347 The performance evaluation of GEOS and IMERG will be discussed in two sections: *i*) a
348 global spatial and temporal (seasonal) skill score assessment, and *ii*) soil moisture accuracy
349 assessment for SMAP ascending and descending overpasses.

350 **4.1. Global Evaluation of IMERG and GEOS Precipitation**

351 The general distribution of precipitation is similar for IMERG and GEOS (Fig. 1). There
352 are significant differences in details observed both spatially and temporally, with intensity of
353 precipitation greatest by far in GEOS precipitation forecasts than in IMERG measurements. The
354 precipitation areas on the path of Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) varies predictably
355 throughout the year, as ITCZ migrates latitudinally on a seasonal basis, Fig. 1. For example, the
356 west coast of India, and the coast of the Asian Pacific show significant precipitation zones in JJA
357 (NH, summer). A strong precipitation band in the North Pacific and North Atlantic is noticed
358 always, which extends eastward in the SON and DJF. Although ITCZ remains near the equator, it
359 moves farther north or south over land than over the oceans because it is drawn toward areas of
360 the warmest surface temperatures. It moves toward the Southern Hemisphere (SH) from September
361 through February and reverses direction in preparation for Northern Hemisphere (NH) Summer.

362 This movement is expected due to the differential warming of the hemisphere following the sun.
363 An elaborate discussion on the spatial and temporal variability in the precipitation patterns are
364 discussed in past studies [Adler et al., 2017, 2012; Hou et al., 2014; Huffman et al., 2015, 2007c;
365 Maggioni et al., 2016; Reichle et al., 2017]. Regions with significant precipitation differences (Fig.
366 1) i.e., Amazonia, central Africa, and Southeast Asia show poor correlation between IMERG and
367 GEOS (Fig. 2), while regions over eastern USA, Europe, and parts of China and Australia show a
368 strong correlation ($R > 0.8$). The correlation between IMERG and GEOS also show a seasonal
369 migration with poor values in DJF (JJA) over NH (SH). The precipitation forecasts from GEOS
370 show higher rainfall estimates especially over tropical regions than the satellite based IMERG
371 precipitation. This overestimation by GEOS compared to IMERG especially over the tropics can
372 be attributed to the large land surface heterogeneity uncertainties in the GCM, LSM and initial soil
373 moisture distribution which impact the planetary boundary layer and hence the precipitation
374 forecasts [Koster, 2004; Koster and Suarez, 1995; Case et al., 2011, Chen and Avissar, 1994;
375 Ookouchi et al., 1984]. Studies by Maggioni et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2017, have also shown that
376 regions with complex terrain and high-elevation regions show poorer rain detection. The
377 percentage of detecting very low rain intensities is higher in IMERG and could potentially be
378 related to the more frequent data collected by the constellation of GPM satellite observations used
379 in estimating the IMERG product. Many uncertainties in IMERG data can mainly be attributed to
380 IR morphing to improve the global coverage, which is based on cloud temperature i.e., cold cloud
381 tops suggest more rain. A relationship between cloud top brightness and temperature is used to
382 indicate precipitation rate. This indirect relationship may introduce uncertainties associated with
383 the height, thickness, and type of cloud, and this relationship is uncertain especially over land
384 regions [Sun et al., 2018].

385 The impact of ITCZ migration is also noticed on skill scores estimated globally Fig. 3(a).
386 For example, in Fig. 3(b) a higher HR is noticed over Eastern USA and Indian Sub-Continent in
387 NH for JJA, while over Central Amazonia and Australia in SH for DJF. As seen in Fig. 4 and
388 Table 1.II, in NH the HR increased for 3 hr and 6 hr precipitation accumulation periods after which
389 it decreased, and this remains true for all four seasons, while for SH, the HR consistently improved
390 with increase in precipitation accumulation period. The FAR followed a U-curve both in SH and
391 NH, where a higher FAR is noticed at 3 hr and 24 hr accumulation periods, except for winter in
392 NH where it decreased consistently with the precipitation accumulation periods. A trend that is
393 like HR is also observed for TS and GSS. The latitudinal distribution of HR and FAR follow an
394 M-curve (Fig. 5) i.e., lowest (highest) HR (FAR) noticed in the $\pm 20^\circ$ latitudinal band, a region
395 with high precipitation frequency and intensity. A clear seasonal difference in the latitudinal
396 distribution of HR/FAR is observed over NH than in SH, where the variability within HR/FAR is
397 more random.

398 The differences between the IMERG precipitation product and GEOS precipitation
399 forecasts are expected given the variability in physical processes, and assumptions used in the
400 respective algorithm development. IMERG generally observes lower precipitation intensities and
401 higher spatial variability than GEOS. Also, the ability to detect light rainfall events is superior in
402 IMERG than GEOS [Sunilkumar et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2017]. A comparison between IMERG
403 and GEOS is conducted with ARS rain gauges at three SMAP CVS (the only SMAP CVS where
404 rain gauge data are available for this analysis), Table 1.I, where a higher HR is observed for
405 IMERG-ARS compared to GEOS-ARS.

406 **4.2. Accuracy Evaluation for SMAP Ascending and Descending Overpasses**

407 In general, rainfall maxima are reported in the mid- to late afternoon for land regions [Yang
408 and Smith, 2006]. This is because during afternoon/evening time when the land surface is still
409 warm there is a rapid upward convection of hot air which collides with the cool upper air in the
410 atmosphere, resulting in a rain event. A higher HR and lower FAR during afternoon/evening can
411 also be noticed from SMAP ascending overpass than from SMAP descending overpass (morning),
412 Fig. 6. Similarly, the number of correct rejections, i.e., no rain events, are also found to be lower
413 during ascending overpasses, and higher during descending overpasses.

414 The key results from this analysis, i.e., evaluation of misdetections (section 3) on soil
415 moisture retrieval accuracy are summarized in Table 2 (I and II). Among the three algorithms
416 (SCA-H, SCA-V, DCA), SCA-V shows superior performance and was able to deliver the best
417 overall retrieval results, achieving an average ubRMSE of $0.0362 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 AM descending) and
418 $0.0350 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 PM ascending). With misdetections removed, the ubRMSE slightly improved to
419 $0.0359 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 AM descending) and $0.0347 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 PM ascending). Correlations of 0.811 for
420 6 AM descending overpass show a marginally increase to 0.812, while for 6 PM ascending
421 overpass the correlation remain same at 0.815 even after misdetections are removed. These results
422 remain true for different precipitation accumulation durations. For SMAP ascending (descending)
423 overpasses, the number of misdetections decreased (increased) with increase in precipitation
424 accumulation periods i.e., 3 hr, 6 hr, 12 hr and 24 hr as shown in Fig. 7(a)-b. This may be because
425 the probability of convective storms which are more likely to occur during SMAP ascending
426 overpasses (6 PM) gets diminished with an increase in the accumulation period. In the case of
427 SMAP descending overpass (6 AM) which typically observe less rain events, the accumulation
428 period increases the probability of rain events. For both SMAP ascending and descending
429 overpasses, the number of misdetections generally decreased with an increase in precipitation

430 threshold i.e., 0.5 mm, 1 mm, 2 mm, and 3 mm (Fig. 7(b)). The number of misdetections is similar
431 for ≤ 1 mm/hr threshold i.e., 0.5 mm/hr and 1 mm/hr and for ≥ 1 mm/hr i.e., 2 mm/hr and 3 mm/hr
432 thresholds, except for few agricultural (temperate) and grasslands (semi-arid) sites such as
433 Remedhus, Reynolds Creek, Little River and Walnut Gulch where sudden highly convective
434 storms are developed during SMAP ascending overpasses. Generally, a consistent decrease in
435 ubRMSE is noticed across all sites Table 2 (I and II). Due to the time, it takes for a wetting front
436 to travel from the soil surface to soil sensors at depth, there may be times that SMAP receives a
437 surface wetness signal before the signal reaches *in situ* soil sensors. Our results also concur with a
438 recent study conducted at field scale by Colliander et al., 2020, using precipitation gauge data to
439 evaluate the impact of precipitation events on SMAP soil moisture. Their results showed, the
440 ubRMSE of soil moisture improved by $0.008 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$, while the correlation increase by 0.01 by
441 increasing the length of the precipitation time window from 3 hr to 36 hr. It is also worth
442 mentioning that the analysis was conducted using the IMERG-PMW (microwave-only, section
443 2.2) product, and a similar effect on retrieval accuracy was observed, although the IMERG-PMW
444 product had spatial gaps in its coverage which changed the number of observations used in the
445 analysis. In the case of bias, an average of $0.0092 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 AM descending) and $0.0118 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6
446 PM ascending) changed to $0.0093 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 AM descending) and $0.0121 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 PM ascending)
447 after accounting for misdetections. An increase in soil moisture bias is expected if SMAP wrongly
448 retrieves soil moisture during a rain event due to the lack of a precipitation forecast from GEOS.
449 If a rain event occurs during a SMAP overpass, SMAP will sense all types of surface wetness such
450 as ponded rainwater on the soil or vegetation surfaces before the wetting front percolates and the
451 wetness signal from the rain event is detected by the *in situ* soil moisture sensors at depth. This
452 potential mismatch at times between the “soil moisture” SMAP retrieves from the wet surface and

453 the typically drier soil moisture measured by *in situ* sensors at ~5 cm depth at the time of the rain
454 event (close to the overpass) can cause biased retrieval. Apart from bias caused due to precipitation
455 events which generally are higher during SMAP ascending overpasses, the differences in the bias
456 for 6 PM ascending and 6 AM descending SMAP overpasses [Chan et al., 2018] can also be
457 attributed to higher uniformity in the vertical temperature profile both in the soil and between the
458 soil and the air and vegetation layer immediately above the soil at 6 AM [O'Neill et al., 2019].
459 Further refinements in the correction procedure for the effective soil temperature described in
460 [Chan et al., 2016; Choudhury et al., 1982] are expected to improve the observed biases and reduce
461 the small performance gap between the ascending and descending soil moisture estimates.

462 In spite of the relatively higher performance of IMERG in detecting rain events, there are
463 several reasons to reasonably argue why the skill of the IMERG does not contribute towards
464 improving the retrieval accuracy of SMAP soil moisture or lessening the number of non-retrievals
465 compared to using GEOS precipitation forecasts: *i*) the number of precipitation events (hits +
466 misses) do not significantly change with respect to the total number of observations used in
467 estimating SMAP soil moisture retrieval accuracy when using IMERG compared to GEOS.
468 Because, SMAP has a revisit time of ~2-3 days this reduces the number of rain and no-rain
469 observations. If a rain event occurs outside the overpass window, i.e., either before or after the 3
470 hr time window used to calculate precipitation flagging, then a no-rain event (correction rejection)
471 is considered; *ii*) the spatial discrepancy between the *in situ* observations, SMAP soil moisture,
472 and spatial aggregation of IMERG. And each of these datasets have their uncertainties/limitations
473 with respect to sparsity in coverage, parameterizations used in land surface models, IR morphing
474 in IMERG, models used in the retrieval algorithm, etc. The combination of these possible factors

475 does not demonstrate a strong case for the use of IMERG precipitation measurements over GEOS
476 precipitation forecasts in setting the precipitation flags used in SMAP soil moisture retrievals.

477
478 **5. CONCLUSION**

479 The Global Precipitation Mission (GPM) (observation) precipitation data provide a unique
480 opportunity for direct grid-to-grid global comparison with GEOS (model) precipitation estimates
481 to evaluate SMAP precipitation flagging. The assessment has been conducted using the half-hourly
482 merged (microwave and infrared) rainfall estimates from IMERG-E for the period of April 2015
483 – March 2020. Based on comparison with *in situ* soil moisture observations from CVS, the SMAP
484 36-km radiometer-based soil moisture (L2SMP) data product continues to perform within the
485 targeted SMAP mission requirements accuracy ($0.04 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$) with the current specifications for
486 precipitation quality flags based on GEOS precipitation estimates. The ubRMSE of the SMAP soil
487 moisture product improved slightly from $0.0362 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 AM descending) and $0.0350 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6
488 PM ascending) to $0.0359 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 AM descending) and $0.0347 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ (6 PM ascending), because
489 of removing precipitation events as detected from IMERG but not forecast by GEOS. This
490 improvement in performance metrics was not significantly large enough to warrant a switch at the
491 present time from the use of GEOS forecasts to IMERG measurements in setting SMAP
492 precipitation flags. For future work, a synthetic experiment can be performed to understand
493 precipitation flagging and its impact on soil moisture accuracy beyond CVS sites. Nevertheless,
494 the studies using synthetic precipitation dataset should be interpreted cautiously for the
495 uncertainties (model/algorithms and input variables) associated in the process.

496

497

498 **Acknowledgments**

499 The research described in this publication was carried out at the National Aeronautics and Space
500 Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center. The work was conducted under funding provided
501 by the SMAP Project and the SMAP Science Team. We appreciate the constructive feedback
502 provided by 3 anonymous reviewers and the editors.

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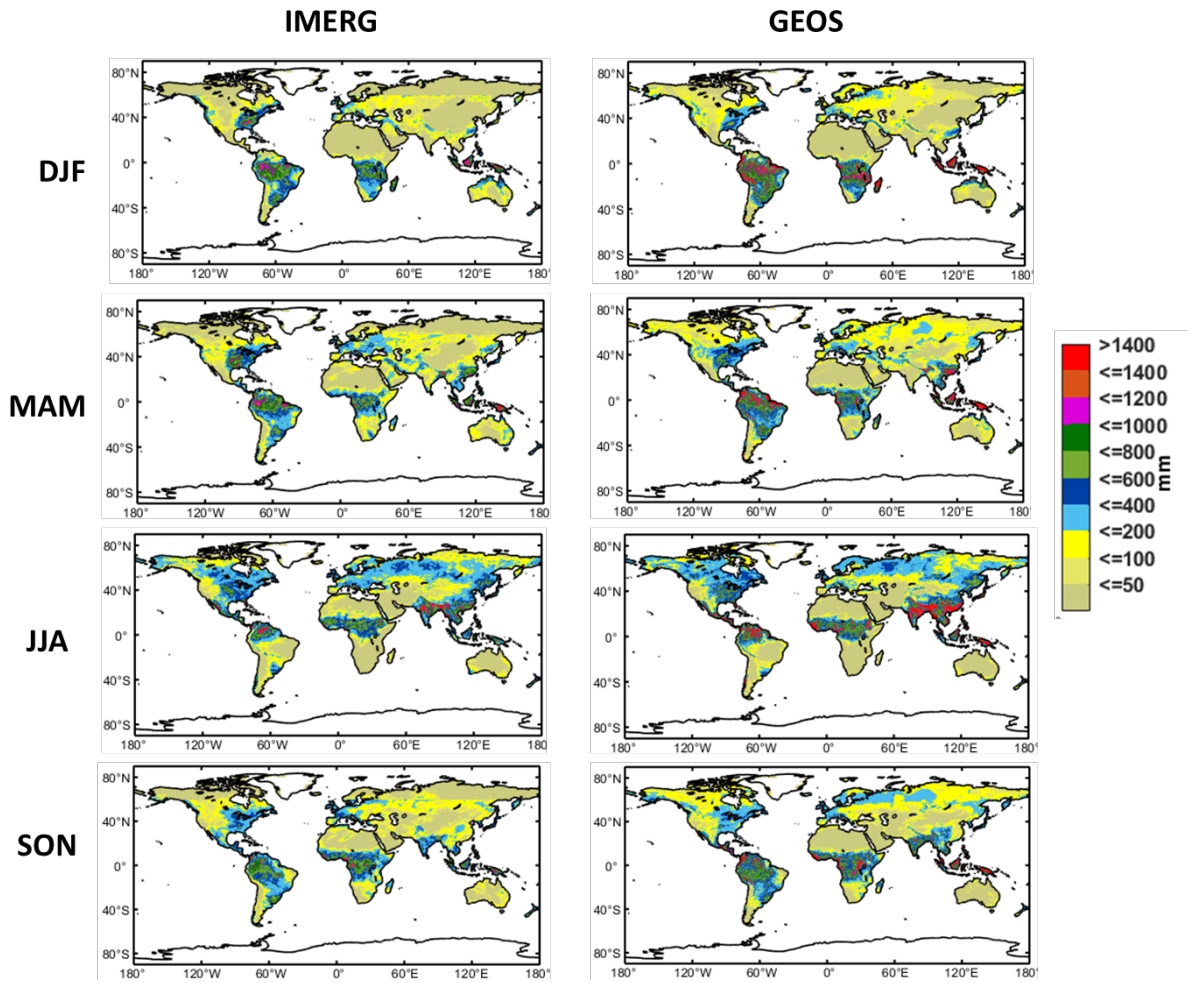
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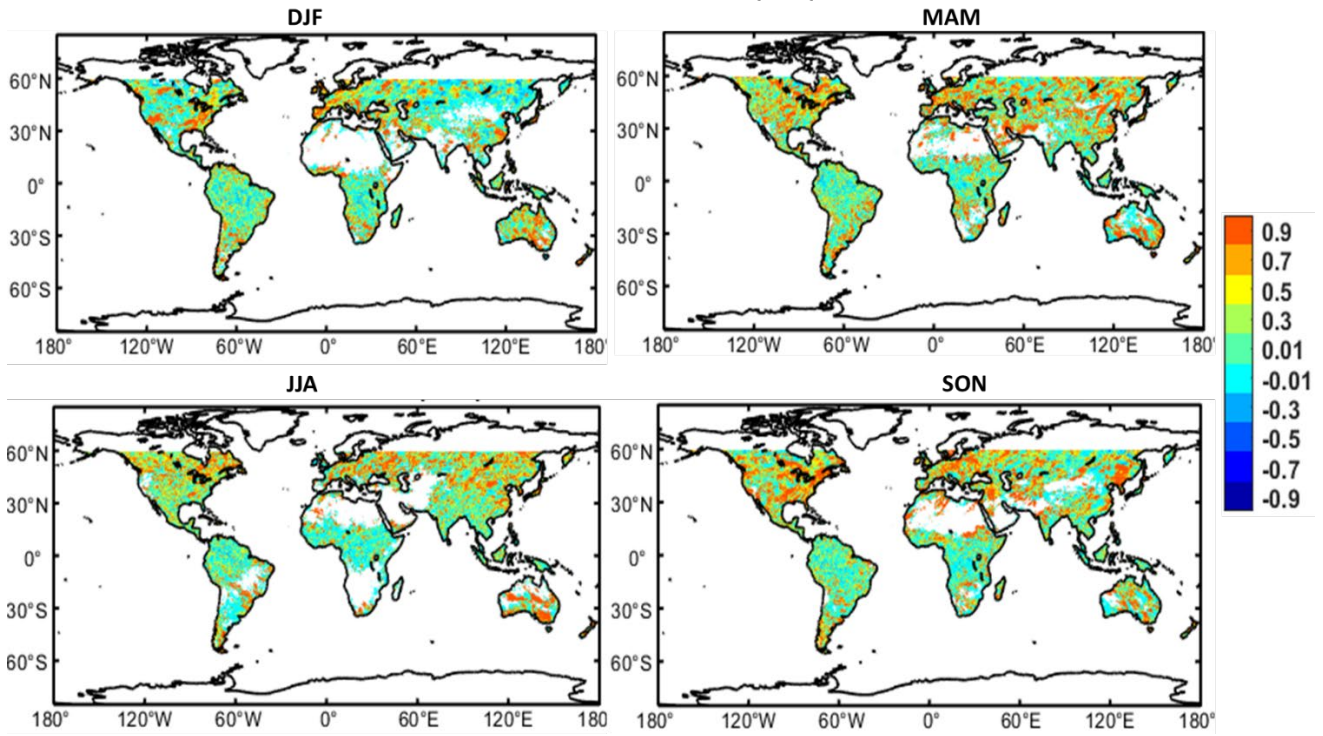
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724 Figure 1: The seasonal [DJF, MAM, JJA, and SON] precipitation accumulation for IMERG (left)

725 and GEOS (right), 2019.

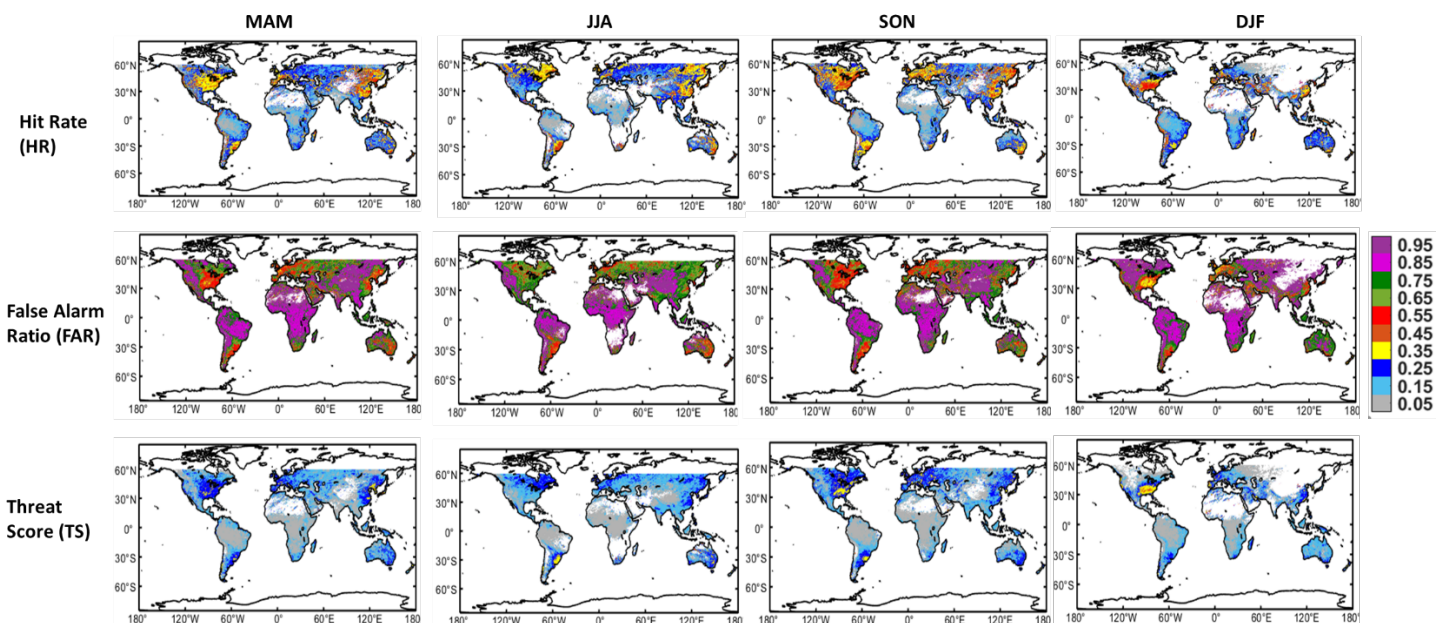
Correlation between IMERG and GEOS precipitation



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728 Figure 2: The seasonal variability in correlation between IMERG and GEOS precipitation products
729 estimated from April 2015 – March 2020.

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738 Figure 3(a): Global variations in skill scores estimation from April, 2015-March, 2020: I) Hit Rate

739 (HR), II) False Alarm Ratio (FAR), III) Threat Score (TS) over DJF, MAM, JJA and SON.

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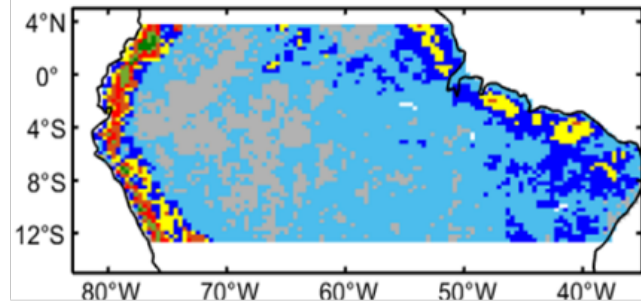
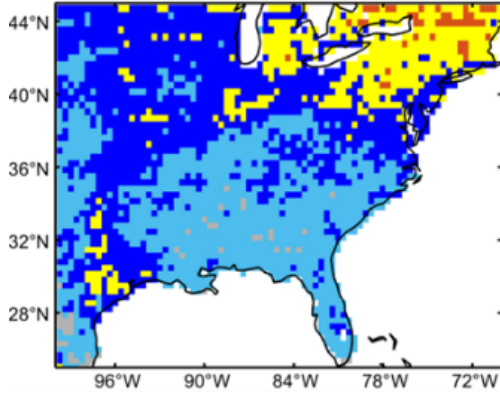
Hit Rate (IMERG=Rain and GEOS= Rain)

JJA

DJF

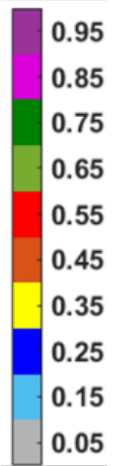
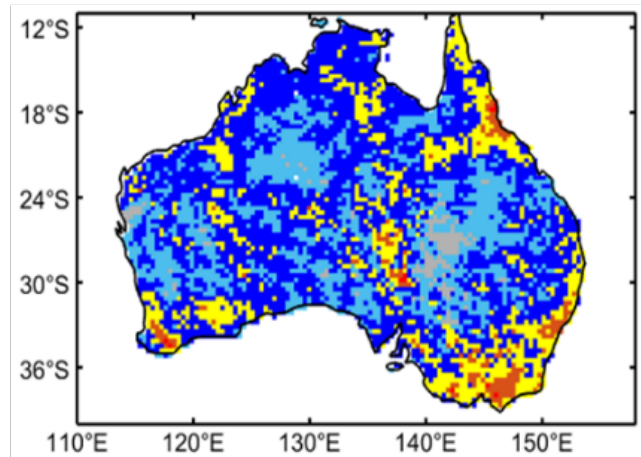
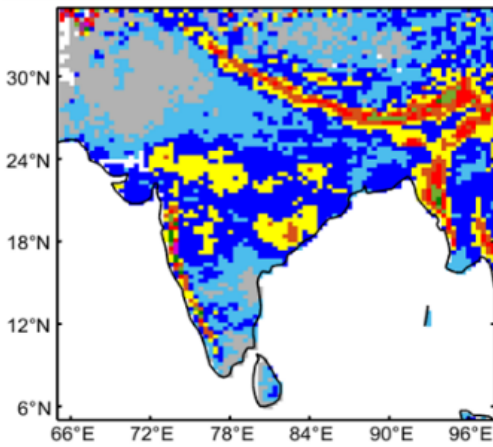
Eastern USA

Central Amazonia



Indian Sub-Continent

Australia



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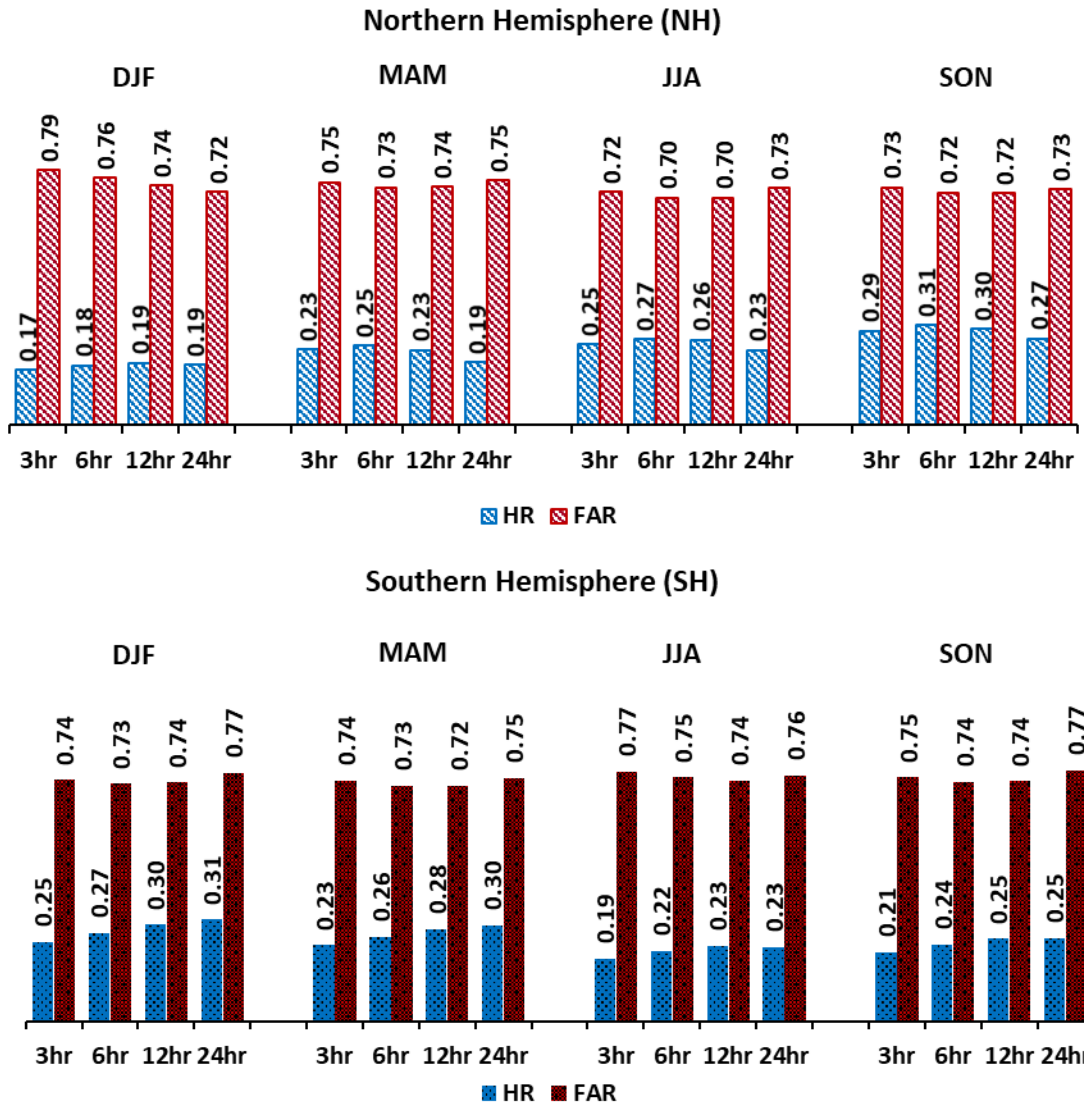
744 Figure 3(b): Spatial variability in hit rate (HR) in JJA over two regions in Northern Hemisphere

745 (NH) i.e., Eastern USA, Indian sub-continent, and in DJF over Central Amazonia and Australia in

746 Southern Hemisphere (SH) regions.

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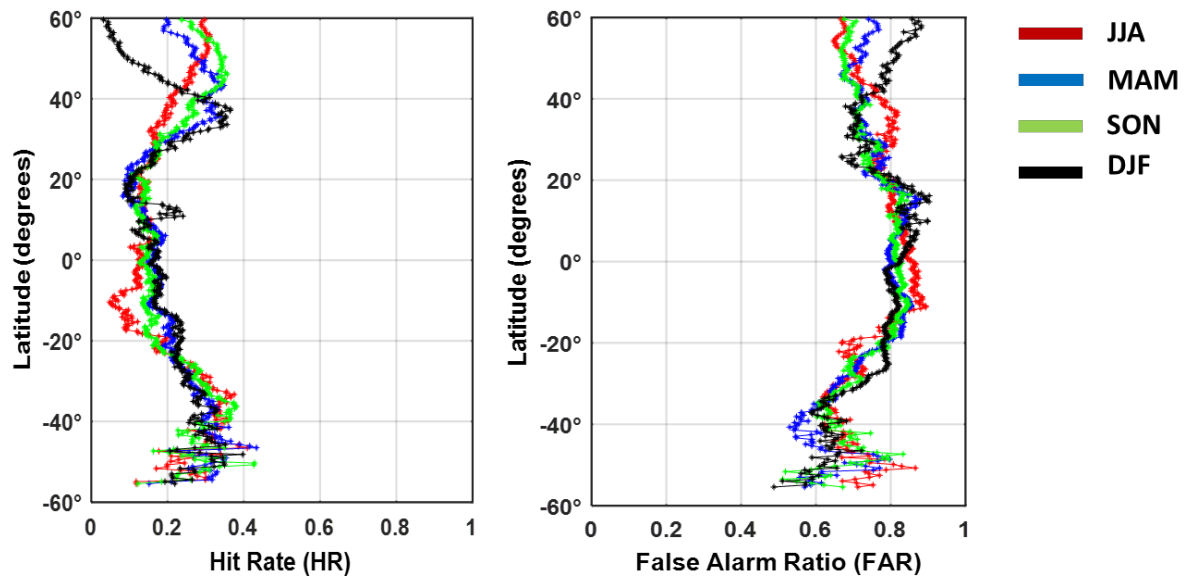
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750 Figure 4: The Hit Rate (HR) and False Alarm Ratio (FAR) obtained over four different
 751 precipitation accumulation periods (3 hr, 6 hr, 12 hr, 24 hr) for Northern Hemisphere (Top) and
 752 Southern Hemisphere (Bottom).

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755 Figure 5: The latitudinal distribution in the Hit Rate (Left) and False Alarm Ratio (Right) plotted

756 for four seasons; DJF, MAM, JJA, and SON.

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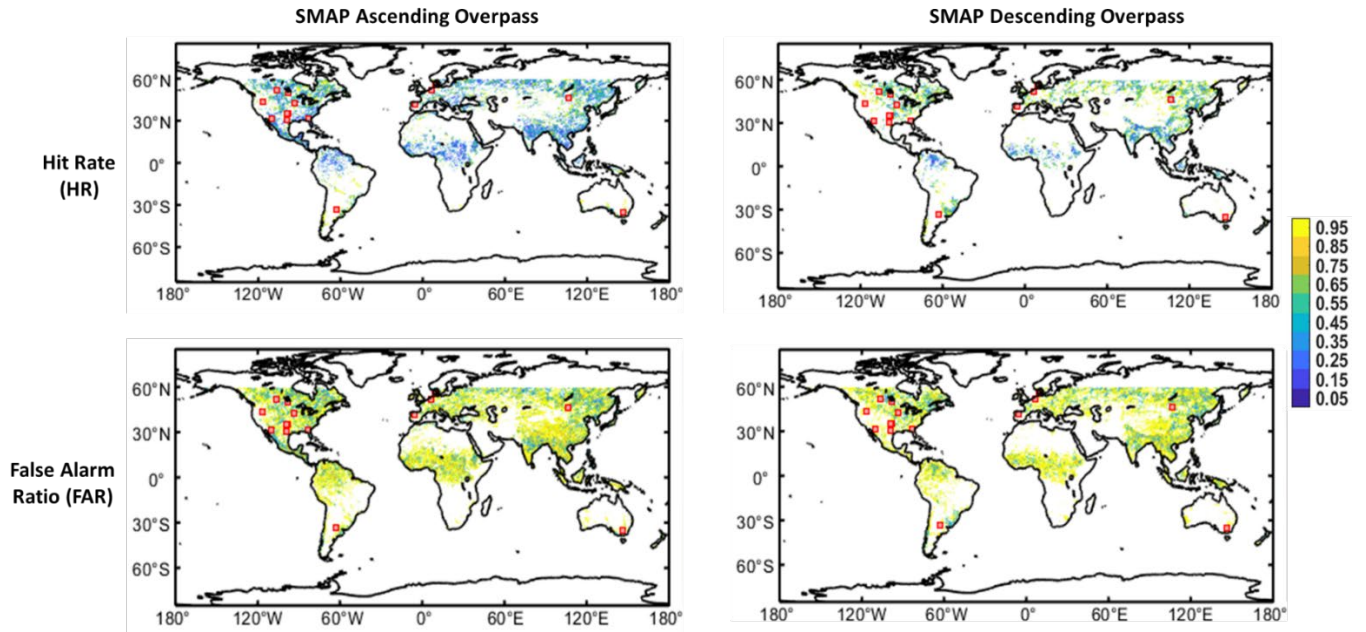


Figure 6: Global variations in the hit rate (HR) and false alarm ratio (FAR) observed for SMAP descending (6 AM) and ascending (6 PM) overpasses for June to August, 2018. The red squares represent the core validation sites (CVS).

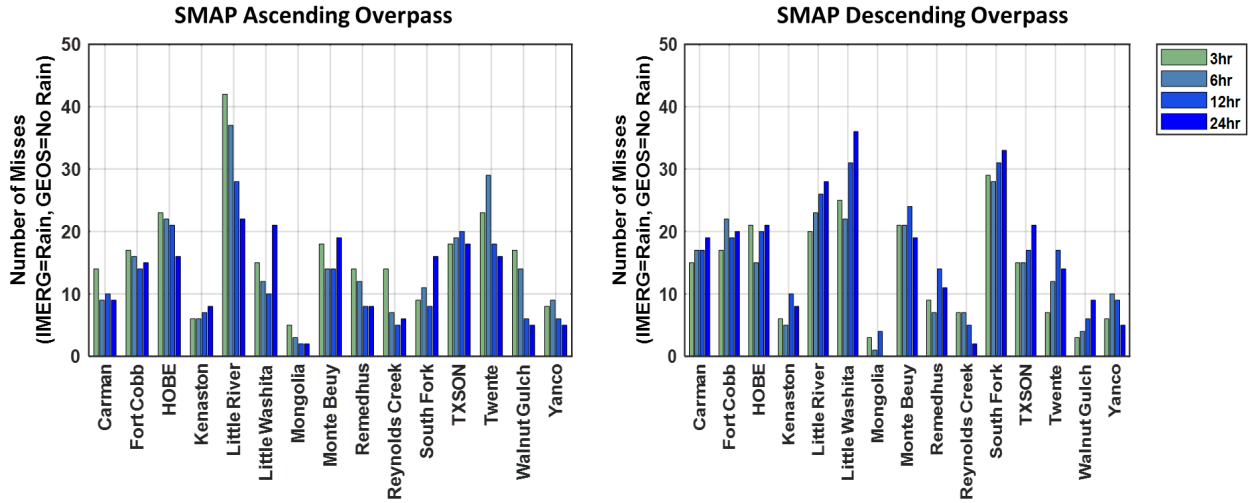


Figure 7(a): The variability in number of misdetections/misses for different precipitation accumulation periods for SMAP ascending (6 PM) (Left) and SMAP descending (6 AM) (Right) overpasses from April 2015- March 2020.

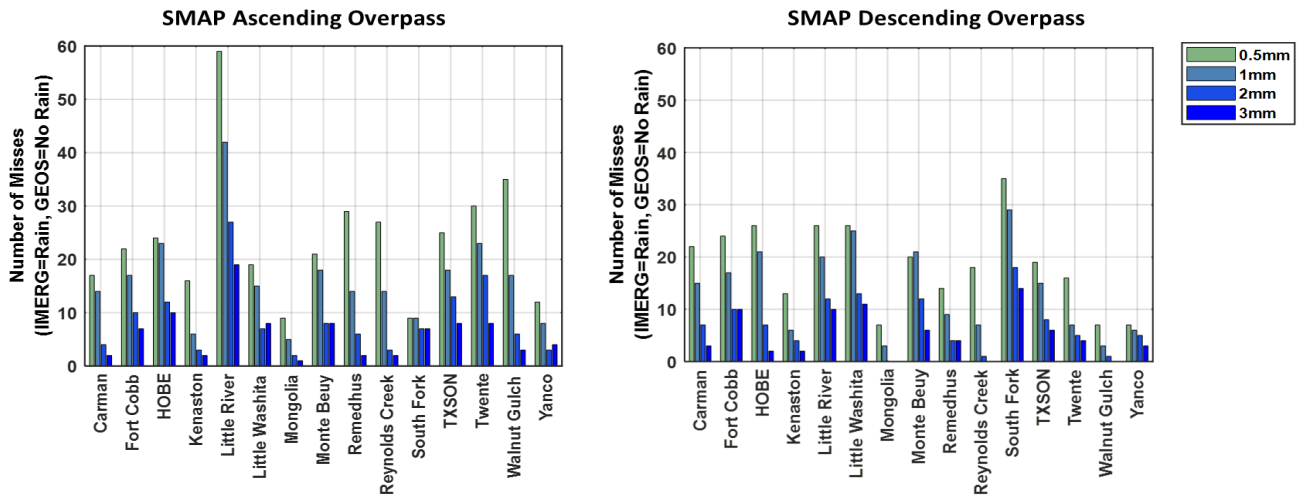


Figure 7(b): The variability in number of misdetections/misses for different precipitation thresholds for SMAP ascending (6 PM) (Left) and SMAP descending (6 AM) (Right) overpasses from April 2015- March 2020.

Table 1: The mean estimates of skill scores (Hit Rate = HR; False Alarm Ratio = FAR; Threat Score = TS; Gilbert Skill Score = GSS) are presented for 5 years (April, 2015 – March, 2020) of analysis, I) for GEOS-ARS, IMERG-ARS and GEOS-IMERG using three Agricultural Research Sites (ARS) which are also Core Validation Sites (CVS) for SMAP, II) seasonally for GEOS-IMERG for Northern Hemisphere (0°- 60°N), Southern Hemisphere (0°- 60°S), land-only pixels.

Table 1.I

Precipitation Accumulation	Data Sets	Little Washita				Fort Cobb				Little River			
		HR	FAR	TS	GS	HR	FAR	TS	GS	HR	FAR	TS	GS
3 hr	GEOS-ARS	0.26	0.72	0.14	0.16	0.22	0.76	0.12	0.13	0.11	0.85	0.05	0.07
	IMERG-ARS	0.32	0.75	0.14	0.16	0.30	0.77	0.14	0.15	0.17	0.87	0.06	0.08
	GEOS-IMERG	0.28	0.61	0.18	0.19	0.28	0.61	0.18	0.19	0.24	0.57	0.17	0.18
6 hr	GEOS-ARS	0.31	0.67	0.18	0.19	0.30	0.68	0.17	0.18	0.14	0.80	0.07	0.09
	IMERG-ARS	0.43	0.67	0.21	0.23	0.43	0.69	0.20	0.22	0.20	0.84	0.07	0.10
	GEOS-IMERG	0.33	0.55	0.22	0.24	0.33	0.50	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.53	0.18	0.20
12 hr	GEOS-ARS	0.36	0.62	0.21	0.23	0.37	0.58	0.23	0.25	0.20	0.71	0.12	0.14
	IMERG-ARS	0.57	0.56	0.31	0.33	0.55	0.56	0.30	0.32	0.37	0.71	0.17	0.19
	GEOS-IMERG	0.34	0.53	0.22	0.24	0.36	0.49	0.25	0.27	0.26	0.53	0.19	0.20

24 hr	GEOS-ARS	0.45	0.60	0.25	0.27	0.49	0.55	0.29	0.31	0.31	0.69	0.17	0.18
	IMERG-ARS	0.62	0.53	0.34	0.36	0.61	0.56	0.32	0.34	0.67	0.67	0.27	0.28
	GEOS-IMERG	0.38	0.54	0.24	0.26	0.41	0.46	0.28	0.30	0.26	0.45	0.20	0.22

Season	Precipitation Accumulation	Northern Hemisphere				Southern Hemisphere			
		HR	FAR	TS	GS	HR	FAR	TS	GS
DJF	3 hr	0.170	0.785	0.095	0.087	0.245	0.744	0.139	0.107
	6 hr	0.185	0.763	0.103	0.095	0.273	0.731	0.151	0.118
	12 hr	0.192	0.738	0.105	0.098	0.298	0.736	0.155	0.120
	24 hr	0.187	0.720	0.099	0.092	0.313	0.766	0.144	0.110
MAM	3 hr	0.232	0.749	0.127	0.117	0.234	0.741	0.135	0.112
	6 hr	0.246	0.733	0.133	0.122	0.260	0.726	0.148	0.123
	12 hr	0.231	0.736	0.125	0.114	0.283	0.725	0.154	0.127
	24 hr	0.194	0.754	0.100	0.090	0.296	0.748	0.144	0.118
JJA	3 hr	0.248	0.718	0.146	0.130	0.192	0.770	0.110	0.100
	6 hr	0.266	0.701	0.156	0.140	0.217	0.751	0.122	0.111
	12 hr	0.264	0.701	0.151	0.135	0.234	0.741	0.126	0.115
	24 hr	0.232	0.732	0.123	0.110	0.228	0.756	0.112	0.102

SON	3 hr	0.291	0.733	0.152	0.143	0.213	0.752	0.124	0.106
	6 hr	0.308	0.717	0.160	0.150	0.236	0.737	0.136	0.116
	12 hr	0.297	0.716	0.151	0.141	0.254	0.739	0.139	0.119
	24 hr	0.267	0.726	0.130	0.121	0.255	0.773	0.124	0.104

Table 2: Comparison between SMAP L2SMP soil moisture performance metrics (April, 2015 – March, 2020) estimated with (top row) and without (bottom row) accounting for misdetections based on 3 hr precipitation window for different IGBP land covers using CVS *in situ* stations soil moisture observations conducted for SMAP, *I*) ascending and *II*) descending orbits between April 2015 and March 2020 for Single Channel Algorithm (SCA-V).

Site Name	Location	Latitude, Longitude	Climate Regime	IGBP Land Cover	SCV- Ascending				
					ubRMSE	Bias	RMSE	R	N
					(m ³ /m ³)	(m ³ /m ³)	(m ³ /m ³)		
Remedhus	Spain	41.3° N, 5.4° W	Temperate	Croplands	0.039	0.007	0.039	0.831	693
					0.038	0.008	0.039	0.833	
Reynolds Creek	USA (Idaho)	31.72° N, 110.68° W	Arid	Grasslands	0.043	0.027	0.051	0.636	237
					0.043	0.028	0.051	0.639	
Yanco	Australia	34.8° S, 146.11° E	Semi-Arid	Croplands/Grasslands	0.041	-0.016	0.044	0.905	563
					0.039	-0.015	0.041	0.914	
Carman	Canada	49.62° N, 97.98° W	Cold	Croplands	0.061	0.065	0.090	0.574	308
					0.061	0.066	0.090	0.576	
Walnut Gulch	USA (Arizona)	31.72° N, 110.68° W	Arid	Shrub open	0.025	-0.012	0.027	0.765	471
					0.024	-0.011	0.027	0.768	
Little Washita	USA (Oklahoma)	34.97° N, 97.97° W	Temperate	Grasslands	0.022	0.011	0.024	0.913	442
					0.022	0.011	0.024	0.915	
Fort Cobb	USA (Oklahoma)	35.36° N, 98.55° W	Temperate	Grasslands	0.030	0.047	0.056	0.897	597
					0.030	0.047	0.056	0.897	
Little River	USA (Georgia)	31.64° N, 83.65° W	Temperate	Cropland/natural mosaic	0.037	-0.068	0.078	0.779	642
					0.037	-0.068	0.077	0.773	

South Fork	USA (Iowa)	42.44° N, 93.44°	Cold	Croplands	0.041	0.060	0.073	0.818	139
					0.042	0.060	0.073	0.805	
Monte Beuy	Argentina	32.96° S, 62.52° W	Arid	Croplands	0.040	0.000	0.040	0.882	325
					0.039	0.001	0.039	0.886	
Kenaston	Canada	50.45° N, 106.38° W	Cold	Croplands	0.026	0.000	0.026	0.882	285
					0.026	0.000	0.026	0.882	
TXSON	USA (Texas)	30.5° N, 98.5° W	Temperate	Grasslands	0.019	0.015	0.024	0.936	731
					0.019	0.015	0.024	0.937	
Mongolia	Mongolia	46.063° N,106.774° E	Cold	Grasslands	0.031	0.017	0.035	0.777	439
					0.031	0.017	0.035	0.773	

Site Name	Location	Latitude, Longitude	Climate Regime ^{II}	IGBP ^{III} Land Cover	SCV- Descending				
					ubRMSE	Bias	RMSE	R	N
					(m ³ /m ³)	(m ³ /m ³)	(m ³ /m ³)		
Remedhus	Spain	41.3° N, 5.4° W	Temperate	Croplands	0.039	-0.006	0.040	0.830	544
					0.039	-0.006	0.040	0.830	
Reynolds Creek	USA (Idaho)	31.72° N, 110.68° W	Arid	Grasslands	0.040	0.021	0.045	0.667	170
					0.040	0.021	0.045	0.672	
Yanco	Australia	34.8° S, 146.11° E	Semi-Arid	Croplands/Grasslands	0.038	-0.018	0.042	0.902	530
					0.038	-0.018	0.042	0.903	
Carman	Canada	49.62° N, 97.98° W	Cold	Croplands	0.061	0.061	0.087	0.682	328
					0.061	0.061	0.087	0.677	
Walnut Gulch	USA (Arizona)	31.72° N, 110.68° W	Arid	Shrub open	0.027	-0.026	0.037	0.772	254
					0.027	-0.026	0.037	0.773	
Little Washita	USA (Oklahoma)	34.97° N, 97.97° W	Temperate	Grasslands	0.021	0.015	0.026	0.917	550
					0.021	0.015	0.026	0.916	
Fort Cobb	USA (Oklahoma)	35.36° N, 98.55° W	Temperate	Grasslands	0.029	0.046	0.054	0.896	652
					0.028	0.047	0.055	0.899	
Little River	USA (Georgia)	31.64° N, 83.65° W	Temperate	Cropland/natural mosaic	0.035	-0.066	0.075	0.800	715
					0.036	-0.066	0.075	0.797	
South Fork	USA (Iowa)	42.44° N, 93.44°	Cold	Croplands	0.045	0.053	0.070	0.742	349
					0.045	0.053	0.069	0.741	
Monte Beuy	Argentina	32.96° S, 62.52° W	Arid	Croplands	0.046	0.013	0.048	0.845	299
					0.045	0.013	0.047	0.846	
Kenaston	Canada	50.45° N, 106.38° W	Cold	Croplands	0.029	0.000	0.029	0.793	259
					0.029	0.000	0.029	0.793	
TXSON	USA (Texas)		Temperate	Grasslands	0.021	0.016	0.026	0.933	688

		30.5° N, 98.5° W			0.021	0.016	0.026	0.934	
Mongolia	Mongolia	46.063° N,106.774° E	Cold	Grasslands	0.039	0.009	0.040	0.766	110
					0.037	0.010	0.039	0.775	

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