Investigating the Seasonal and Diurnal Cycles of Ocean Vector Winds, Precipitation, and Lightning near the Philippines

Timothy Lang
*NASA Marshall Space Flight Center*

Weixin Xu
Steve Rutledge
*Colorado State University*
Background

Boreal Summer Intraseasonal Oscillation (BSISO) creates northeastward-moving disturbances, which interact with the strong diurnal cycle of the Maritime Continent, complicating sub-seasonal forecasts.

Key Questions
• Can we characterize the diurnal cycle of vector winds near the west coast of Luzon using satellite-based datasets?
• How does the BSISO affect the intraseasonal variability and diurnal cycle of winds, precipitation, and lightning near the Philippines?

http://onrpiston.colostate.edu
Datasets and Methodology

RapidScat 12.5-km Climate V1.0
- Each relevant swath binned to 0.25-degree, 2-hourly grid
- Diurnal harmonic fit to dataset

Cross-Calibrated Multi-Platform (CCMP) Winds V2.0
- Includes ASCAT-A, WindSat, GMI, AMSR-2, SSMI/S, Buoys assimilated into model
- 0.25-degree, 6-hourly grid

Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM)
- 3B42 Rainfall Product
- Lightning Imaging Sensor (LIS) Flashes

Primary Domain of Interest – 5°S to 20°N, 110-130°E
Seasonal Results

**May- Oct**: “Monsoon”

**Nov- Apr**: Trade wind regime

Relatively good agreement between RapidScat and CCMP

West of Luzon is region of relatively weak mean winds

Several gap flows observed in both datasets

(RapidScat filtered to remove grid boxes with < 400 samples 2014-2016)
RapidScat – CCMP, Seasonal Means, Whole Domain

(a) Eastward Component of Wind

Bias = -0.01 m/s  May-Oct 2015

Bias = +0.07 m/s  Nov-April 2015

(b) Northward Component of Wind

Bias = -0.09 m/s

Bias = -0.12 m/s
Diurnal Cycle – 2014-2016

(a) RapidScat 00 UTC
(b) RapidScat 06 UTC
(c) RapidScat 12 UTC
(d) RapidScat 18 UTC
(e) CCMP 00 UTC
(f) CCMP 06 UTC
(g) CCMP 12 UTC
(h) CCMP 18 UTC
RapidScat 2-hourly Diurnal Harmonic


Peak winds closer to 10 (onshore) and 22 UTC (offshore) than 00/12

Diurnal influence extends ~200 km west
Sampling Considerations

• Binning and averaging non-optimal; more sophisticated methods being explored
• However, near Philippines there does not appear to be a major diurnal bias in sampling
CCMP Diurnal Cycle

Monthly 1997-2016

00 UTC

Amplitude peaks in April
TRMM and ECMWF

3B42 Rainfall and 850mb Wind vs. BSISO Phase, JAS 1998-2013
Inactive BSISO

Phases 1-3
Magnitude > 1

CCMP
JAS 1997-2013
Active BSISO

Phases 5-7
Magnitude > 1

CCMP
JAS 1997-2013
**Inactive BSISO**

Phases 1-3  
Magnitude > 1  

TRMM 3B42  
JAS 1997-2013
Active BSISO

Phases 5-7
Magnitude > 1

TRMM 3B42
JAS 1997-2013
Conclusions

CCMP and RapidScat agree on many basic characteristics of the seasonal and diurnal cycle of ocean vector winds near the Philippines.

Offshore flow near Luzon peaks at 22 UTC (06 L), and onshore flow peaks at 10 UTC (18 L) – Corresponds well to behavior of precipitation and lightning.

CCMP shows diurnal cycle amplitude near Luzon peaks in April, as trade wind regime is transitioning to monsoonal flow.

Active BSISO phases associated with weaker diurnal cycle of ocean vector winds – Consistent with more cloud cover/precipitation suppressing sea breeze.

“In situ” study of winds/precipitation will occur during PISTON 2018.
BACKUP SLIDES
RapidScat – CCMP, Seasonal Means, Whole Domain (rain flagged removed)

(a) Eastward Component of Wind

Bias = -0.11  May-Oct 2015

Bias = +0.14  Nov-April 2015

(b) Northward Component of Wind

Bias = -0.07

Bias = -0.09
May-Oct 2015

U component
Nov-Apr 2015

U component