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SOILSPECT Decoupling surface moisture and roughness in soil radiometric response



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Soil water content / surface roughness

Knowledge of soil surface water content and roughness is essential to many research fields such as climate, micrometeorology, agriculture, forestry, ecology, continental hydrology, civil engineering, defense or homeland security, and planetary studies.

- Climate: desertification, water and wind erosion
- Micrometeorology: temperature, evaporation, wind speed, distribution of incident radiation
- Agriculture: soil sensitivity to wind erosion, gas exchange, aeration of the soil
- Continental hydrology: runoff process of infiltration and water storage
- Defense or homeland security: trafficability
- Planetary science: space weathering, surface processes, rover mobility

Measurement of soil surface water content and roughness is difficult, local, and expensive

 \rightarrow Remote sensing in the solar domain, thermal infrared, and microwaves

The dark side of soils...



 \rightarrow Development/validation of radiative transfer models

Light scattering properties of bare soils

Irradiance [W m⁻²]

Radiance [W m⁻² sr⁻¹]

Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function [sr⁻¹]

$$BRDF\left(\theta_{s},\varphi_{s},\theta_{v},\varphi_{v},\lambda\right) = \frac{L_{R}\left(\theta_{s},\varphi_{s},\theta_{v},\varphi_{v},\lambda\right)}{E_{I}\left(\theta_{s},\varphi_{s},\lambda\right)}$$

 \rightarrow Reflectance Factor



Spectral optical properties



Bablet et al. (2018), Remote Sensing of Environment, 217:1-17.

Directional optical properties



Labarre et al. (2019), Remote Sensing of Environment, 225:1-15.

Soil BRDF models: different approaches



Layer models



Geometrical models



Radiative transfer equation



Ray tracing models

Model	Water content	Surface roughness	
Layer	Ångström (1925), Lekner & Dorf (1988), Bach & Mauser (1994), Tian and Philpot (2015), Bablet et al. (2018, 2019)		
Geometrical		Cierniewski (1987), Cierniewski & Verbrugghe (1997), Cierniewski & Karnieli (2002)	
Radiative transfer	Sadeghi et al. (2015)	Hapke (1981, 1984), Despan et al. (1999), Chappell et al. (2006), Wu et al. (2009), Johnson et al. (2013), Labarre et al. (2017, 2019)	
	Jacquemoud et al. (1992), Yang et al. (2011), Pommerol et al. (2013)		
Ray tracing	Kimmel & Baranoski (2007)	Labarre et al. (2017)	

 \rightarrow No unique model validated across a wide range of laboratory/field measurements

A laboratory experiment: the SHINE spectro-gonio-radiometer





SHINE (spectrophotometer with variable incidence and emergence)

→ Measurement of soil BRDF at submillimeter and millimeter scales

https://cold-spectro.sshade.eu/

Surface roughness: multi-resolution DTMs (Asal-Ghoubbet rift, Djibouti)



Metric DTM (15 km × 15 km / $\Delta x = 2$ m)

A numerical simulation: the DART model





DART (discrete anisotropic radiative transfer)

 \rightarrow Simulation of soil BRDF at centimeter to meter scales

https://dart.omp.eu/

Simulation of soil BRDF: scale / moisture content / surface roughness



Inversion of the Hapke photometric model

i = incidence angle (illumination direction)e = emission angle (viewing direction)g = phase angle



 $R(i, e, g) = \frac{K(P)}{\mu_0} \frac{w}{4\pi} \frac{\mu_{0e}(\bar{\theta})}{\mu_{0e}(\bar{\theta}) + \mu_e(\bar{\theta})} [p(g, b, c)B_S(g, P, B_0) + M(\mu_{0e}, \mu_e)] \times S(i, e, g, \bar{\theta})$

Symbol	Parameter	Physical meaning	Range
W	Single scattering albedo	Scattering at the grain scale	[0;1]
B ₀	Opposition surge amplitude	Particles opacity	[O;1]
b	Phase function asymmetry parameter	$b=0 \rightarrow isotropic scattering$ $b=1 \rightarrow directional scatering$	[O;1]
С	Phase function backscattering coefficient	$c > 0 \rightarrow backward scattering c < 0 \rightarrow forward scattering$	[-∞ ; +∞]
Р	Porosity	Void fraction	[0;1]
θ	Roughness parameter	Mean slope angle	[0° ; 90°]

Expected results

- A BRDF database of soils at different moisture levels
- BRDF simulations of terrestrial and planetary surfaces at different levels of humidity and roughness
- The validation of a radiative transfer model in direct and inverse mode
- Terrestrial and planetary applications

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