GLYDER: Global Cyclone Detection and Tracking Using Multiple Remote Satellite Data

Ashit Talukder (JPL) – Ashit.Talukder@jpl.nasa.gov
Timothy Liu, Andrew Bingham, Shen-Shyang Ho, Wendy Tang, Eric Rigor, Anand Panangadan

NASA ESTC-2008
Sponsor: NASA AISR Program
GLYDER Primary Science Motivation

- Earth’s climate system exhibits intrinsic variability
- Tropical & extra-tropical cyclones important components of Earth climate system
  - Key manifestations of oceanic air-sea interaction
  - Contribute to regional heat exchanges, which affects ocean & atmosphere dynamics
  - Complex pattern in the variability in number & intensity of global cyclone events.
    - Some regions (sub tropical northeast Pacific) experiencing increase in cyclonic frequency over last several decades
    - Moderate-strong tropical cyclones have decreased in number & intensity since the 1980s (attributed to more frequent occurrences of El Niño)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has clearly identified the need to quantify the variability in global cyclones and in particular characterize changes in cyclone tracks
- GLYDER will provide better understanding for reasons behind and effects of global climatic variations via autonomous cyclone detection and tracking
GLYDER Primary Science Objectives

- Products to better characterize global cyclone variability
- Tools that empower JPL/NASA climate scientists to study & quantify the spatiotemporal variability of cyclones & their tracks
  - High resolution detection and tracking of cyclones
  - Enable studies and modeling of cyclogenesis
  - Long-term evolution of cyclones on a truly global basis
- Integrate observations from multiple remote sensors robustly, automatically for numerous earth science needs
  - Extend to other maritime and terrestrial event detection/tracking
- NASA’s data providers to tag metadata with information pertaining to cyclones and enable content-based searching
  - Automatically feed information to current NASA projects including GHRSST (GODAE High Resolution Sea Surface Temperature), Earth Science Datacasting and PO-DAAC
GLYDER Customers and End Users

• Ocean/Climate Researchers – need GLYDER to mine the vast data sets and extract cyclone information

• Ocean & weather data providers will use the technology to automatically generate data products and enable content-based searching

• Ocean/Climate Researchers and Ocean/weather data providers will use GLYDER for visualization of global cyclone tracks

• Application/operational scientists could potentially use the technology for real-time detection and tracking
  – Longer term end-user after proven off-line operation
**Current State of Art**

- Estimates of cyclone variability currently derived from analyses of surface level pressure (SLP) fields
  
  - Model output fields from NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis Project based on in-situ inputs
  
  - Analyses assimilate observational and in-situ data into a physical model to produce atmospheric fields
  
  - Data span more than 50 years
  
  - Measured every 6 hours on a $2.5^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ (~275 km) global grid
  
  - Accuracy of analyses is severely limited over the oceans,
  
  - Lack of assimilated pressure and radiosonde observations
  
  - Mean cyclone size varies from 120 – 440 km [Liu99]
    
    - Resolve up to a maximum of only 50% of the global cyclones.
  
  - Satellite remote sensing provides global coverage and greater spatial resolution, potentially allowing detection of most/all global cyclones

Map of daily pressure observations used by ECMWF Reanalysis forecast (6-29-02). Under sampling in the worlds oceans especially in the Southern Hemisphere is evident, as shown in circles. Boxes indicate regions of interest for GLYDER
Remote Sensors for Cyclone Detection

- Individually remote sensing datasets have limited detection ability
  - Poor temporal or spatial resolution
  - Loss of data due to environmental effects.
- GOES – visible cloud formation
- AVHRR – cloud-free surface temperature or top of the atmosphere temperature
- QuikSCAT – surface wind speed & direction
- AMSR-E surface temperature
- MODIS-36 spectral bands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensor</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Spatial Resolution</th>
<th>Temporal freq.</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOES</td>
<td>Reflectance (visible), Brightness temp. (IR)</td>
<td>6 km</td>
<td>? hr</td>
<td>1979 - present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVHRR</td>
<td>Reflectance (visible), Brightness Temp. (IR)</td>
<td>4 km</td>
<td>6 hr (2 satellites)</td>
<td>1985 - present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QuikScat</td>
<td>Wind speed and direction</td>
<td>25 km</td>
<td>12 hrs</td>
<td>1999 - present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSMI</td>
<td>Brightness Temp, wind speed</td>
<td>25 km</td>
<td>12 hrs</td>
<td>1987 - present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMSR-E</td>
<td>Brightness Temp, wind speed</td>
<td>25 km</td>
<td>12 hrs</td>
<td>1987 - present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLYDER (GOAL)</td>
<td>FUSED (multimodal)</td>
<td>6 - 12.5 Km</td>
<td>3 – 6 Hrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Satellite sensor system, the parameters they measure and resolution, and GLYDER goals for multisensor co-registration and fusion
GLYDER Primary Challenges

- Data extraction for training and validation is non-trivial
  - Multiple datasets generated by different data providers
  - Different data formats and file naming conventions
  - Large data volumes
  - Initial efforts to extract relevant data from multiple sensors for training and performance verification manually intensive and laborious

- Fusion of multiple sensors non-trivial
  - Knowledge and Transfer Learning between sensors
  - Knowledge sharing between disparate sensors at different spatial and temporal resolutions

- Cyclone detection with high detection rate, low false alarm rate at reasonable spatial and temporal resolutions

- Cyclone tracking from multiple sensors
QUIKSCAT Vs. MODIS for Cyclone Classification

- MODIS (Pixel Level Product - Level 2) cloud products of interest
  - Cloud Optical Properties: E.g. Thickness. (Image 1)
  - Cloud Top Properties: E.g Temperature. (Image 2)
  - Cirrus Reflectance (Image 3)

- MODIS atmospheric water vapor (Image 4)
  - Amount derived from measurements of near-IR solar radiation reflected by the land or the cloud surface, and over extended oceanic areas with Sun glint.

- QuikScat - Level 2B (Image 5)
  - Wind Speed
  - Wind Direction

Hurricane Dean 2007
QUIKSCAT and MODIS features Ranking
**Single Sensor Cyclone Detection: QUIKSCAT**

- QUIKSCAT: SeaWinds instrument on the QuikScat Satellite
  - microwave radar measuring near-surface wind speed and direction under all weather and cloud conditions over Earth oceans

- Swath Grid: 12.5km and 25km resolution

- Extract descriptive features from QuikSCAT regions
Feature (Histogram)

1. Wind Speed Histogram (WS)
2. Wind Direction Histogram (WD)
3. Direction to Speed Ratio (DSR) Histogram with DSR at location (i,j) as

\[
DSR(i, j) = \frac{WD(i, j)}{WS(i, j)}
\]
**Feature (DOWD)**

Let $u(i,j)$ and $v(i,j)$ be the u-v components of the wind direction $WD(i,j)$ at location $(i,j)$ with $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$. One constructs a $(m \times n)$-by-2 matrices $M$ of the form

$$M = \begin{pmatrix}
  u(1,1) & v(1,1) \\
  u(1,n) & v(1,n) \\
  u(2,1) & v(2,1) \\
  \vdots & \vdots \\
  u(m-1,n) & v(m-1,n) \\
  u(m,1) & v(m,1) \\
  u(m,n) & v(m,n)
\end{pmatrix}$$

Let $\lambda_1$ and $\lambda_2$ be the eigenvalues of matrix $M$ such that $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2$.

The eigenvalue ratio (Relative Strength of the Dominant Wind Direction (DOWD)) of a bounding box $B$ of dimension $m$ by $n$ is

$$ER_B = \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}$$

Eig-Ratio: 4.5204
Eig-Ratio: 3.5606
Eig-Ratio: 1.0402
Eig-Ratio: 1.7160
Feature (RWV)

The relative wind vorticity (RWV) at location \((i,j)\) is

\[
RWV_{(i,j)} = \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{1}{2d} (v_{(i+1,j)} - v_{(i-1,j)} - u_{(i+1,j)} + u_{(i,j-1)})
\]

where \(u\) and \(v\) are the two wind vector components in the west-east and south-north directions, and \(d\) is the spatial distance between two adjacent QuikSCAT measurements in a uniformly gridded data.
Support Vector Machine Classifier: Overview

Input Space  Feature Space
Cyclone Segmentation and Classification: QUIKSCAT

1. Input QUIKSCAT Image
2. Select Region(s) of Interest (ROI) using a threshold (T=12 m/s) on the wind speed
3. Is ROI > Y x Y degrees.? (e.g. Y = 192 Km, 2°)
   - Yes: Construct bounding box(es) around ROI(s)
   - No: Discard ROI
4. Compute 1) DOWD and 2) RWV and construct 3) wind speed, 4) direction and 5) ratio histograms for each box
5. Classification based on majority vote
6. 5 independent Classifiers
Result 1

- Training Examples: 191 QuikSCAT images of tropical cyclones in North Atlantic in 2003 and 1833 randomly selected unlabeled examples from four days in 2003 when no tropical cyclone is reported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cyclone Detection Algorithm</th>
<th>SVM Ensemble [HT08]</th>
<th>RWV</th>
<th>DOWD</th>
<th>CIS [HT08]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TPR</td>
<td>0.9167 (77)</td>
<td>0.8810 (74)</td>
<td>0.8690 (73)</td>
<td>0.8452 (71)</td>
<td>0.7262 (61)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Training Examples: 191 QuikSCAT images of tropical cyclones in North Atlantic in 2003 and 1833 randomly selected unlabeled examples from four days in 2003 when no tropical cyclone is reported.

• Testing Examples: 2141 swaths between 5-60N 0-100W (North Atlantic Ocean) in 2005.

• Overall Results:
  • All 26 tropical cyclones reported by NHC are detected.
  • 1 post-season NHC identified subtropical storm detected.
  • 2 out of 3 tropical depressions (that did not develop further) reported by NHC are detected.

• Interesting Results:
  • Hurricane Maria is detected 3 days earlier than reported by NHC.
  • Hurricane Vince is detected 3 days earlier than reported by NHC when it is an extra-tropical storm [Atlantic Tropical Weather Outlooks (NOAA) did not discuss the non-tropical precursor disturbance to Vince until it had begun to acquire subtropical characteristics].
  • One event with tropical cyclone property is detected.
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria 2005

September 6 2005
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August 29

September 7

Detection before NHC
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August 29, 30, 31

September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Map of the hurricane's path.
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
**Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria**

![Map of Hurricane Maria](image)

- August 29, 30, 31
- September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- Highlighted day: September 20
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

Validation from NHC best track

Convective System
Definition

**mesoscale convective system**—(Abbreviated MCS.) A cloud system that occurs in connection with an ensemble of thunderstorms and produces a contiguous precipitation area on the order of 100 km or more in horizontal scale in at least one direction. An MCS exhibits deep, moist convective overturning contiguous with or embedded within a mesoscale vertical circulation that is at least partially driven by the convective overturning.
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August 30 31 31 September 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

29 29 30 30 31 31 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8 9 9 10 10

September 9 9

[Map showing Hurricane Maria's path from August 29 to September 9]
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August
29 30 31

September
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

20

NASA
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August
29 30 31

September
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

21

MAP:

NASA

JPL

29
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August
29 30 31

September
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

-100 -90 -80 -70 -60 -50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0

50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10

NASA

JPL
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August
29 30 31

September
1 2 3 4 5

Extratropical system
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August
29  30  31

September
1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

8

19

Map showing Hurricane Maria's trajectory from August 29 to September 19.
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

August
29 30 31

September
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Map showing Hurricane Maria's path from August 30 to September 10.
Interesting Result 1: Hurricane Maria

Maria became extratropical (NHC)
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 9 2005
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

System detected before NHC suspected to be related to Hurricane Vince
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

7
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

19
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11

19

[Image of hurricane map]
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Validation from NHC best track
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11

[Map Image]
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11

18

Vince
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11

(extra-tropical system)
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October 4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11

17
Interesting Result 2: Hurricane Vince

October

4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11
Multi-Satellite Cyclone Detection and Tracking using QuikSCAT wind and TRMM precipitation data
**QuikSCAT: Issues and Challenges**

- Non-continuous Region Monitoring
  - Orbiting satellite can only measure a particular region at some time instance per day
  - Misses may occur for some region of interest.

![Map of QuikSCAT coverage](http://manati.orbit.nesdis.noaa.gov/quikscat)

*White region between any two side-by-side swaths is a region QuikSCAT fails to measure.*
QuikSCAT: Issues and Challenges

- Event Occlusion
  - Orbiting satellite can only measure a particular region at some time instance per day
  - Misses may occur for some region of interest.

Hurricane Dean 2007 in Image (B), (C) and (D) are occluded.
TRMM Measurement Assimilation with QUIKSCAT

- Level 3B42 TRMM data product
  - Global Precipitation estimates from combination of instruments: PR, TMI, SSMI, AMSR, AMSU.
  - 0.25 deg x 0.25 deg per pixel
  - Every 3 hours
  - Measurement range [0, 100] mm/hr.

- Why Useful for Cyclone Detection?
  - Rainfall always associated with cyclone.
  - Improved (finer) temporal resolution in cyclone tracking

From http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov/ (3 hourly global rainfall)
Knowledge Sharing Novelties

- Addresses challenges of mining heterogeneous data from multiple orbiting satellites
- Knowledge sharing between heterogeneous sensor measurements
  - for sensor measurement lacking a definitive indicator for cyclones
  - with different spatial and temporal resolutions.
Results from knowledge sharing of TRMM+QuikSCAT

Demo for

Hurricane Gonu

in

Arabian Sea in 2007
Category 1 Hurricane

Black Bounding Box: Area classified as a non-cyclone area
June 3

13
Category 5 Hurricane
Generally agreed requirements for cyclones to born and develop in tropics is:

- Over warm water (SST > 26° C through an ocean depth of 60m or more) with sufficient ocean heat content to sustain hurricane’s circulation through latent heat release;
- Far enough from the Equator (~ > 4° latitude) with a significant Coriolis effect so that the influence of the Earth’s rotation be strong enough to initiate a cyclonic circulation;
- Weak verticle wind shear (over the depth of troposphere is less than 10-15 m/s);
- Preexisting cyclonic relative vorticity in the lower troposphere (e.g. easterly waves, the monsoon trough)

Although tropical disturbances or mesoscale convective systems (MCS) occur frequently over tropical oceans, only a small percentage evolve into full-blown hurricanes. The mechanisms that either inhibit or favor development are still poorly understood.
Significant Results and Events

• Perl and Shell script automation of satellite data acquisition from remote servers
  • Earlier data extraction involved manually intensive process

• Validation of single sensor cyclone detection algorithm on full year (2005)

• Overall Results:
  • All 26 tropical cyclones reported by NHC are detected.
  • 1 post-season NHC identified subtropical storm detected.
  • 2 out of 3 tropical depressions (that did not develop further) reported by NHC are detected.
  • 2 tropical cyclones detected 3 days before NHC reports
Ongoing and Future Work

• Testing our implementation over longer time scale in a region that have multiple cyclone occurrences

• Assimilate information from other measurements (e.g. AVHRR, GOES)

• Statistical tracker for “reverse storm tracking” (cyclogenesis)
  – Yields multiple possible evolution paths of pre-storms and MCS when tracks are “weaker”

• Include TRMM 2B25 swath data to construct a vertical profile of reflectivity for cyclone detection

• Include TRMM 3B40RT gridded data with an hourly temporal resolution to improve quality and accuracy of cyclone tracking

• Explore “transfer learning” for cyclone detection

• Active learning for improved classifier design

• Integration with near real-time data streams

• Possible dissemination to wider science community
  – Beta-Test toolkit for cyclogenesis and early evolution of cyclones
Additional References

For additional reading, please refer to:

• Publications –
  – IEEE Aerospace Conference 2008 conference
  – Knowledge and Data Mining Conference 2008 – Industrial Track
  – AAAI Transfer Learning Workshop

• Contact:
  – Ashit Talukder, PhD
    Jet Propulsion Laboratory, MS 300-123
    Pasadena, CA 91109
    Ph: 818 354 1000
    Email: Ashit.Talukder@jpl.nasa.gov