Introduction to the CEOS Virtual Constellation for Sea Surface Temperature (SST-VC) and Group for High Resolution Sea Surface Temperature (GHRSSST)

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To provide operational users and the science community with the SST measured by the satellite constellation.
GHRSSST and CEOS SST-VC

GHRSSST

- The Group for High Resolution Sea Surface Temperature
- Composed of an international Science Team of researchers and operational practitioners.
- Coordinates research and operational developments in satellite-derived SST.
- Data processing through Regional and Global Data Assembly Centers.

SST-VC

- The Sea Surface Temperature Virtual Constellation (SST-VC) serves as the formal link between GHRSSST and the broader CEOS community.
- The SST-VC provides a means for CEOS to present its needs and requirements to GHRSSST and for GHRSSST to present its needs directly to CEOS.

http://www.ghrsst.org
Optimizing the SST constellation

**GHRSSST exploits complementary data sources**
- Polar Orbiting infrared has *high accuracy & spatial resolution*
- Geostationary infrared has *high temporal resolution*
- Microwave Polar orbiting has *all-weather capability*
- In situ data provide *reality in all weather conditions*

**SST constellation gap analysis**
- Current gaps that need attention include:
  - Redundant capability in microwave SST measurements (NSOAS)
  - Geostationary SST over Indian Ocean (ISRO; CMA)
  - Replacement ‘reference’ dual-view satellite radiometer (SLSTR)

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# Data Processing Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 0</td>
<td>Reconstructed, unprocessed instrument and payload data at full resolution.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1B</td>
<td>Level 0 data that have been processed to geolocated radiances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2P</td>
<td>Derived SST at the same resolution and location as Level 1B source data.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Variables mapped on uniform space-time grid scales, with some degree of spatial averaging (L3U and L3S) and temporal averaging (L3C).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Output from analyses of lower-level data (e.g., variables derived from multiple measurements).</td>
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Provided by each sensor provider

GDS format based CF compliant NetCDF
L2P: Common format with uncertainties

Ancillary information in L2P products: dynamic flags
Example L3S: Multiple sensors SST

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GHR SST
Group for High Resolution Sea Surface Temperature

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Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
Sea Surface Temperature Virtual Constellation
Example L4: GHRSSST Multi-Product Ensemble (GMPE)
Regional/Global Task Sharing

- GHRSSST products generated by RDACs
  - Some RDACs are self-serve
- GHRSSST offers to serve data on-behalf of RDACs
  - Optional step but recommended
  - Additional metadata for discovery services

- Real time
  - Global Data Assembly Centre (GDAC)
    - Primary system hosted by NASA JPL
      - See http://podaac.jpl.nasa.gov/
    - Secondary system hosted by Ifremer
      - See http://cersat.ifremer.fr/data/collections/ghrsst
        (requires simple registration)
  - Not all datasets are mirrored

- Delayed mode
  - Long-term Stewardship and Reanalysis Facility (LTSRF)
    - Hosted by NOAA NODC
      - See http://data.nodc.noaa.gov/ghrsst/
- Data can be accessed using many methods
  - ftp, http, DAP, WMS, WCS, LAS, Geoportal, Granules, CWI

- Any issues
  - Please contact the GHRSSST Project Office
    (gpc@ghrsst.org)
Product Validation

- GHRSSST exploits online monitoring systems to access quality controlled \textit{in situ} data for validation and use in L4 analyses

There are some tools such as iQuam, Felyx and SQUAM that can form the basis of standardised validation
PMW Constellation for SST

~7 GHz channel(s) available enabling global retrievals:
- GCOM-W1 (AMSR-2)
- GCOM-W2 (AMSR-2) → GCOM-W3 (AMSR-2)
- HY-2A (MWI)
- HY-2B, C, D (MWI)
- WindSat
- AMSR-E

No ~7 GHz channel(s) so retrievals only available at low to mid latitudes:
- GPM-Core GMI
- TRMM
- FY-3A, B, C (MWRI)
- FY-3D, E, F (MWRI)

Potential new mission concepts e.g.
- ESA Microwave

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Sea Surface Temperature Virtual Constellation
Concerns about Future PMW SST Continuities

• Use of Passive Microwave Radiometers (PMW) for SST retrievals is an essential component of global constellation of SST sensors.
• Provides temperature of ocean under clouds, not possible from infrared sensors, albeit with coarser spatial resolution.
• Particularly important in high-latitude regions and in areas of extensive and persistent cloud cover or in case of a large volcanic event.
• Uncertain future for PMW SSTs, especially at high latitudes where the PMW SSTs provide valuable through-cloud data in the region where the climate is changing most rapidly.
• The current outlook means there is a high risk of a gap, particularly for SSTs using the ~7GHz channel.
• Retrieval of PMW sea surface wind speed mainly uses 36-GHz channels, but that of all-weather sea surface wind speed uses both ~7- and ~11-GHz channels.
Summary

• GHRSST mission: To provide satellite-derived global SSTs with good estimates of uncertainty to operational users and the science community.

• The provision of SST data by GHRSST has grown to a mature sustainable essential service.

• CEOS SST-VC provides a means for CEOS to present its needs and requirements to GHRSST and for GHRSST to present its needs directly to CEOS.

• Concerns regarding PMW observation continuities were presented by SST-VC at the CEOS SIT meeting in April, and will be presented at the CGMS in June 2016.

• GHRSST and SST-VC seek possible collaborations and synergies with IOVWST and OSVW-VC activities. We need coordinated efforts on data continuity of PMW.
GHRSSST Future Meeting Dates

- **GHRSSST-XVII**
  - Near Washington DC, USA, 6\textsuperscript{th} – 10\textsuperscript{th} June 2016

- **GHRSSST-XVIII**
  - Qingdao, China, 5\textsuperscript{th} – 9\textsuperscript{th} June 2017

- **GHRSSST-XIX**
  - Darmstadt, Germany, 4\textsuperscript{th} – 8\textsuperscript{th} June 2018