Anticipated Contributions of HyspIRI to the Remote Sensing of Volcanic Plumes

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TQ1: How can we help predict and mitigate earthquake and volcanic hazards through the detection of transient thermal phenomena?

Do volcanoes signal impending eruptions through changes in surface temperature and gas emission rates and are such changes unique to specific types of eruptions? [DS 227]



Map SO₂ Content of Plumes

What are the characteristic dispersal patterns and residence times for volcanic ash clouds and how long fo such clouds remain a threat to aviation? [DS 224]



Detect Plumes and Track Positions over Time







Surface Temperature vs. SO₂ Concentration

Can We Estimate Surface Temperature When Looking Through a Plume?

Ground Temperature has Stronger Influence on IRAD Than SO₂ Concentration

Simultaneous Retrieval of Temperature and SO₂ is Difficult; Cascading (Serial) Retrieval is a Better Option:

a) Evaluate Effect of Last SO₂ Estimate on Current Temperature Estimate

b) Exit When ΔT < Threshold







Passive Degassing of SO₂

- Plume Transparent to TIR Radiance
- No Anomalies in Apparent Surface Temperature



Explosive Eruption: Heterogeneous Plumes

- Plume Records Explosive Episodes
- High Opacity to TIR Radiance
- Anomalies in Apparent Surface Temperature



Plume Detection Based on Multispectral TIR Remote Sensing





Plume Tracker Project

- Automated Detection of Eruption Plumes Based on Machine Learning Techniques
- Define Search Radius Centered on Volcano
- Exploit Unique Spectral Characteristics of Eruption Plumes
- Exploit Persistence of Plumes over the Course of an Eruption







Eruption of Klyuchevskoy Volcano: 12 March 2005

Observed by AIRS, MODIS (Terra + Aqua), MISR, and ASTER

•AIRS: 17 km at nadir
•MODIS: TIR 1 km at nadir
•ASTER: TIR 90 m at nadir

Dilution: SO₂ mass/area scales with the spatial resolution of the instrument ASTER vs. MODIS: mass/area decreases by ~ 2 orders of magnitude



Comparison of Retrievals from MODIS-Aqua (Top Row) and AIRS (Bottom Row) Data Spatial Resolution at Nadir: 1 km for MODIS vs. 17 km for AIRS Excellent Agreement for Surface Temperature Good Agreement for SO₂ Retrievals: Dependant on Uniformity of Plume AIRS Misfit is 10X Higher Than MODIS Misfit: High Sensitivity to Water Vapor



HyspIRI 7.3 µm Channel

Very Strong H₂O Vapor and SO₂ Absorption

Can We Separate Effects of H₂O and SO₂?

Not Suitable for Mapping Plumes Below 5 km? [Prata et al., 2003]







MODIS-Based SO₂ Retrievals: 28 October 2002

Comparison of Retrievals with 5-Band (Top Row) and 4-Band (Bottom Row) Surface Temperatures

Improved Sensitivity to Low Concentrations of SO₂

Increased Influence of Water Vapor on SO₂ Estimates – Requires Better Descriptions of Atm. Water Vapor (NCEP Reanalysis or AIRS L2?)



Plume Altitude 6 km, NCEP Atm Profile, Mid-Latitude Winter Climatology, Ocean Background @ 300 K

"Perfect Knowledge" of Concentration and Distribution of Water Vapor

HyspIRI/MODIS More Sensitive than ASTER at Lowest Concentrations of SO₂

Worst HyspIRI/MODIS Temperature Retrievals (+ 0.8 K) at Zero Conc. SO₂!!



Simulated Retrievals of Water Vapor

Water Factor: Multiplicative Scaling Factor Applied to Entire Profile

HyspIRI/MODIS Results Were Identical for H₂O; Small Variations (~ 0.05 K) Between Temperature Estimates

H₂O and Temperature were Over-Estimated; Estimated Temp Within 0.1 K of True Temperature



Simulated Retrievals of Water Vapor + SO₂

True Water Factor = 0.65

HyspIRI Results Worse Than MODIS Results:

- Under-Estimated the SO2 Conc. Below 5.5 mg/m³
- Over-Estimated the Corresponding H₂O and Temperature
- Water Estimate Improved with Higher Conc. of SO₂

Good Agreement Between HyspIRI and MODIS SO2 Results (< 0.5 mg/m^3), Despite Wide Disagreements between H₂O and Temperature Results

Summary Remarks

Inferior Hyspiri Results in Combined Retrieval are Counter-Intuitive

- HyspIRI Should Have More Leverage due to Higher Spectral Resolution
- More Analysis Necessary to Verify that Current Results are Repeatable

Success of H₂O Retrievals Bodes Well for Land Surface Products

In Practice, the Retrievals w/ 7.3 μm Channel have Been Problematic

- Technique Applied to MODIS and AIRS Data
- Too Much Variability in (Actual) Conditions within a Pixel? Need Increased Spatial Res?
- Restrict Application to Plumes at Altitudes >> 5 km?

Need Channels that will not Saturate in the Presence of H₂O and SO₂

- Additional Channel Between 7.5 and 8 μm(?)
- Shift the Positions of Bands 2 and 3 to Narrow the Intervening Gap

Thermal IR Response vs. H₂O Vapor Transmission



