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Development of a Physically-based Soil Moisture Retrieval Algorithm Using Spaceborne Passive Microwave Radiometers and its Application to E

[Hui LU](#)¹⁾, [Toshio KOIKE](#)¹⁾, [Hideyuki FUJII](#)²⁾, [Tetsu OHTA](#)¹⁾ and
[TAMAGAWA](#)¹⁾

1) River and Environmental Engineering Laboratory, Civil Engineering Department,
University of Tokyo

2) Earth Observation Research Center, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

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Abstract

Many microwave radiometer algorithms for the retrieval of soil moisture
overestimate moisture in very dry cases, partly due to volume scattering
effects. This paper reports the development of a physically-based soil moisture retrieval

microwave remote sensing. The algorithm is based on physically-based radiative transfer processes in soil by a 4-stream method and the Henyey-Greenstein phase function. The multiple scattering effects are simulated by the Advance Integral Equation method. The roughness effects are simulated by the Advance Integral Equation method. The implementation of this algorithm consists of three steps : 1) forward optimization ; 2) lookup table generation ; and 3) lookup table retrieval.

The algorithm was tested by retrieving soil moisture and temperature data at a Coordinate Enhanced Observing Station in the Mongolian Gobi. The retrieved soil moisture data was compared with ground observations. The comparison shows that the performance of the algorithm is satisfactory, with acceptable values of Standard Error of the Estimate and correlation coefficient. Moreover, the algorithm estimates soil physical properties accurately.

Keywords: [Passive Microwave Remote Sensing](#), [AMSR-E](#), [Soil Moisture Radiative Transfer Model](#), [Lookup Table](#)

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