





3rd YEAR RESULTS REPORTING 11-15 SEPTEMBER 2023

PROJECT ID. 59316

PROTOTYPE REAL-TIME REMOTE SENSING LAND DATA ASSIMILATION ALONG THE SILK ROAD ENDORHEIC RIVER BASINS AND EUROCORDEX-DOMAIN



Dragon 5 3rd Year Results Project



THURSDAY, 14/SEPTEMBER/2023

ID. 59316

PROJECT TITLE: PROTOTYPE REAL-TIME REMOTE SENSING LAND DATA ASSIMILATION ALONG THE SILK ROAD ENDORHEIC RIVER BASINS AND EUROCORDEX-DOMAIN

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PRESENTED BY: DONGHAI ZHENG







- Overview of the project
- In-situ data measurements and field data collection campaigns
- Current progress of the project
- Plan of the project for the following year





1. Overview of the project





Objectives



Main objective: Develop prototypes of real-time RS land data assimilation systems for monitoring the water cycle in the silk road endorheic river basins and EUROCORDEX-domain

Sub-objectives:

- Retrieval of key water cycle variables from multisource RS data (WP1)
- Development of real time RS LDAS (WP2)
- Calibration/validation and parameter estimations of terrestrial system models based on the RS retrievals and LDAS (WP3)
- Closing water cycle at the watershed/regional scale based on the LDAS (WP4)





Team composition



Chinese Investigators

- Xin Li (ITP)
- Donghai Zheng (ITP)
- Min Feng (ITP)
- Yingying Chen (ITP)
- Youhua Ran (NIEER)
- Chufeng Ma (NIEER)

European Investigators

- Harry Vereecken (IBG-3)
- Harrie-Jan Hendricks Franssen (IBG-3)
- Carsten Montzka (IBG-3)

The Chinese team focus on developing LDAS for silk road endorheic river basins (LDAS_silk), and the European team focus on the EUROCORDEX-domain (LDAS_EU)



Team composition



Young Scientists

Chinese Team

- Ling Zhang (NIEER)
- Feng Liu (NIEER)
- Xu Zhou (ITP)
- Kun Zhang (ITP)
- Yushan Zhou (ITP)
- Bin Cao (ITP)

European Team

- Zhenlei Yang (IBG-3)
- Ching-Pui Hung (IBG-3)
- Bibi Naz (IBG-3)
- Haojin Zhao (IBG-3)
- Fang Li (IBG-3)

Different young scientists, graduate and undergraduate students, were involved in the project





2. In-situ data measurements and field data collection campaigns







- Observation system in the Qilian Mountains
- Precipitation observation over the Tibetan Plateau
- P-band SAR flight campaign over the Bayi glacier
- International observation alliance of the Third Pole
- Observation system in Germany





A unified observation network is established according to the same observation standard through reconstruction and new construction. By integrating with medium and high resolution remote sensing monitoring, a satelliteairborne-ground monitoring system has been established in the Qilian Mountains region.



Ground observation network in Qilian Mountains (24 stations)





A dense soil moisture and temperature monitoring network was constructed within the Qinghai Lake Basin on the Tibetan Plateau, which covers the footprint of SMAP, SMOS and AMSR-2 ($36 \text{ km} \times 40 \text{ km}$), with total of 82 sites: 60 sites in the large network have started working since September 2019, 22 sites in the two enhanced networks ($1 \text{ km} \times 1 \text{ km}$) have started working since September 2020.



The installation of the Campbell CS655 sensors at three different depths (5 cm, 10 cm and 30 cm)







- Observation system in the Qilian Mountains
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2.2 Precipitation observation over the Tibetan Plateau



Cross-sectional rainfall observation network on the central-western TP



- The east-west section on the Qiangtang Plateau
 - ✓ 24 rain gauges from Naqu to Ali
 - ✓ East-west precipitation characteristics
 - \checkmark making up for the lack of observation
- The south-north section
- ✓ 32 rain gauges from Yadong to Shuanghu
- ✓ crossing the Himalaya and the Gangetic, two large terrains with big elevation gradient changes.



2.2 Precipitation observation over the Tibetan Plateau



Multi-scale precipitation observation platform in the Namco basin



- Consisting of an X-band dual-polarisation radar, a micro-rain radar, a dual-fence system, two raindrop spectrometers and 24 rain gauges around the lake
- ✓ Ability to accurately observe basin-scale precipitation and wind fields





- Observation system in the Qilian Mountains
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- Objective: Tackle the challenge in monitoring the glacier thickness using RS, and support the validation of China P-band SAR satellite mission
- Content: The Bayi Glacier located in the upper reaches of Heihe River, was selected to carry out joint Pband SAR-based airborne and ground experiment, to validate the performance of domestic P-band SAR system and the accuracy of SAR tomograph (TomoSAR) algorithm to retrieve glacier thickness







I Flight Platform





□ Instruments

- □ P-band SAR: linear FM pulse signal, 0.58GHz, HH polarization
- □ L-band SAR: FM continuous wave signal, 1.5GHz, Full polarization
- LiDAR: ALS70, 1064nm
- **D** Optical Camera: high resolution digital Camera ADS80





Two observation modes are implemented to test the accuracy of TomoSAR algorithm:

- P+L-band SAR tomograph mode
- Synchronous observation with multiple instruments: LiDAR, P+L-band SAR







- □ Flight altitude: 6335-6500 m; Relative altitude: 1500-1665 m; Incidence angle: 35°
- □ Synchronous observation with multiple instruments: 4 flight routes
- SAR tomograph observation: 12 flight altitudes; Vertical baseline length: 15 m; Total baseline length: 165 m; Repeat flight 3-4 times
- □ P-band SAR tomography resolution is 2.5-3.7m, and the maximum unambiguous height is 27.5-40.2m









Ground calibration of airborne instrument













Layout of optical image control points

SAR corner reflector deployment

RTK positioning measurement





GPR observation of glacier thickness









测线序号	经度	结度	冰厚(m)
///j>xj>xj) j	08 800610	20.014446	55.06
	98.890019	39.014440	55.00
1	98.890516	39.01449	54.28
	98.890408	39.014529	53.9
	98.888439	39.017891	99.83
2	98.888442	39.01799	101.58
	98.888409	39.018086	97.89
	98.893981	39.016425	101.59
3	98.894035	39.016603	102.77
	98.894118	39.016784	103.55
	98.896201	39.01649	99.81
4	98.896217	39.016318	101.19
	98.896201	39.016125	101.39
5.1	98.890144	39.021198	71.29
5-1	98.88991	39.021188	72.08
5.2	98.889919	39.021189	74.42
5-2	98.890063	39.021347	75.8
	98.89531	39.017119	95.13
6	98.895071	39.017145	95.53
	98.894854	39.017204	94.94
	98.890718	39.015743	79.37
7	98.890615	39.015802	80.15
	98.890534	39.015871	79.96





- > Observation system in the Qilian Mountains
- Precipitation observation over the Tibetan Plateau
- P-band SAR flight campaign over the Bayi glacier
- International observation alliance of the Third Pole
- Observation system in Germany

2.4 International observation alliance of the Third Pole





■ 59 domestic comprehensive stations on TP

- > 21 national stations, 38 institutional stations
- 12 international field stations
 - 3 CAS oversea centers, 3 ITPCAS oversea stations, 6 stations of Pyramid International Laboratory





QOMS(Qomolangma)





SETORS(Southeast TP)





NASDE(Ngari)

SHORS(Shuanghu)





MAWORS(Muztagh)

Medog Observation & Research Center for Earth Landscape and Earth System

8 stations operated by

ITPCAS, including 3 national

stations





Scientific observation experiments

Thematic observations





2.4 International observation alliance of the Third Pole



Objective: Build a space-airborne-ground integrated IoT observation system, consisting of a field observation system and a remote sensing observation system







- > Observation system in the Qilian Mountains
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2.5 Observation system in Germany





TERENO Eifel/Lower Rhine Valley
 Observatory has 3 highly equipped sites

Meteorology (12 meteorological stations) Land surface fluxes (sensible, latent and ground heat flux, carbon flux, four radiation components: 4 EC-stations)

Other water and energy related variables (runoff, water quality, groundwater levels, soil moisture content, soil temperature)

13 Cosmic-Ray Neutron Sensing stations

Source: Zacharias, S. et al, 2011; Bogena, H.R. et al, 2018.





3. Current progress of the project







- Retrieval of key ecohydrological variables from multi-source RS data
- Retrieval of key cryosphere variables from multi-source RS data
- Development of real time RS LDAS
- Closing water cycle at the watershed/regional scale based on the LDAS







RS soil moisture from space-missions and their timelines.

Source: European Space Agency and Technische Universität Wien.



Different penetration depths of SAR.

Source: Rosa, L & Masini, N., 2013.





List of RS soil moisture used in this research.

Name of Satellite	Name of Product	Temporal Resolution	Band	Spatial Resolution	Projections	Period
Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity - SMOS	SMOS CATDS L3 Daily Soil Moisture	Daily	L-band	25 km	Equal-Area Scalable Earth (EASE) Grid	2010.01-ongoing
Soil Moisture Active Passive Mission - SMAP	SMAP Enhanced L3 Radiometer Global and Polar Grid Daily Soil Moisture	Daily	L-band	9 km	Equal-Area Scalable Earth (EASE) Grid	2015.04-ongoing
Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer 2 - AMSR2	AMSR2/GCOM-W1 surface soil moisture (LPRM) L3 Daily Soil Moisture	Daily	X-band	25 km	Equal-Area Scalable Earth (EASE) Grid	2012.07-ongoing
Advanced SCATterometer - ASCAT	Metop ASCAT SSM DR2021 time series sampling (H119)	Daily	C-band	12.5 km	Discrete Global Grid (DGG)	2007.01-2020.12





- **Objective**: Tackle the issue of missing and inconsistent quality from soil moisture RS data of single sensor, and generate the seamless and accurate coarse-scale merged soil moisture RS product
- Content: On the Tibetan Plateau, the AMSR-2, SMOS, ASCAT-A and ASCAT-B soil moisture products in both ascending and descending were spatiotemporally fused to obtain 25 km merged soil moisture data based on the Bayesian Maximum Entropy (BME) method











merged

MSS

patterns

of ESA

CCI and

3.1.1 soil moisture



- Temporal variations of daily completeness of AMSR-2, SMOS, ASCAT-A\B, ESA CCI, merged SSM and pixels covered by snow and ice
- Spatial patterns of each pixel's completeness of (a-b) AMSR-2, (c-d) SMOS, (e-f) ASCAT-A, (g-h) ASCAT-B and (i) ESA CCI and (j) merged SSM





Completeness (%)





- Results for North-Rhine-Westphalia domain
- Time series of in situ observations
 against RS soil moisture for 13 CRNS
 stations.

 Time series of in situ observations against merged soil moisture for 13 CRNS stations.











(a) SMAP; (b) AMSR2; (c) ASCAT; (d) Arithmetic average method; (e) TC based method and (f) LSTM method.

- The combined LSTM and TC soil moisture products demonstrate effective integration of the different remote sensing products.
- The LSTM method shows lower bias and better handling of spatial and temporal variations than the other merging methods.
- Data assimilation experiments with merged soil moisture products are currently ongoing.



3.1.2 evapotranspiration



An evapotranspiration (ET) model, named the Simple Terrestrial Hydrosphere Model, was developed for monitoring the global and regional ET pattern based on satellite observations.





3.1.2 evapotranspiration



ET Validation at different scale

The newly developed ET model could capture the ET pattern and dynamics at different scales. As a result, the SiTH-derived ET estimates ranked well in similar products.







3.1.3 irrigation area mapping







Amu River basin



Syr River basin

- Annual irrigated cropland maps (1990-2020) in 10 basins in Central Asia were produced at a 30 m resolution.
- Validation indicated that the accuracy of these products is more reasonable than existing irrigation maps.



3.1.4 irrigation water use



Estimation of global irrigation water use based on microwave remotely sensed of soil moisture



Satellite-based datasets and process procedure



Zhang et al., WRR, (2022)



3.1.4 irrigation water use



Output dataset

Global pattern of mean annual IWU estimates



Country level comparison between IWU and Irrigated Area



Validation and comparisons

Comparisons of the satellite-derived IWU with the reported irrigation water use data from US, China, and FAO statistics



The ensemble scheme can reduce the uncertainties of IWU estimation





3.1.5 surface water bodies



A method for identifying small water bodies by fusing multisource satellite data





3.1.5 surface water bodies



Mapping water bodies as small as 0.5 ha and their changes over nearly 3 decades in central Asia



□ The Aral Sea had been continuously shrinking between 1992 and 2020, but other lakes in arid central Asia has been expanding in numbers and areas over the same period, particularly the small and high-elevation water bodies, which has increased 15,507 new water bodies and gained 3,701.3 km².

(Su, Li, Feng, et al. 2021 STE; Li, Li, Feng, et al, 2021 IJDE; Su, ... Feng*, et al., NC, In review) 42



3.1.6 tree cover



A machine learning method for deriving tree cover from time-series satellite data



Boosting gradient algorithm



3.1.6 tree cover



Annual 30-m resolution tree cover (1990-2020) for the Himalayas



Tree cover (2020)

Wang, Feng*, et al. 2022, RS

TCC change / yr





- Retrieval of key ecohydrological variables from multi-source RS data
- Retrieval of key cryosphere variables from multi-source RS data
- Development of real time RS LDAS
- Closing water cycle at the watershed/regional scale based on the LDAS



3.2.1 permafrost



Input



In situ 1,002 sites for MAGT 452 sites for ALT

Climate data Precipitation, Solar radiation



Remote sensed FDD, TDD, SCD, LAI, SOC...

Machine learning





average 1,000 runs



Output

Ran, Li, et al., 2021 SCES; Ran, Li, et al., 2022 ESSD



3.2.1 permafrost



New permafrost zonation maps was produced on Tibetan Plateau and Northern Hemisphere. On Tibetan Plateau, the permafrost thermal stability type was divided according to the high altitude permafrost zonation system. A biophysical permafrost types were used to describe the complex interactions of climatic and ecological processes in the Northern Hemisphere.



Ran, Jorgenson, Li, et al., 2021 ERL; Ran, Li, et al., 2021 SCES; Ran, Li, et al., 2022 ESSD



3.2.2 rock glacier



A deep-learning (DeepLab v3+) and MT-InSAR method for identifying rock glaciers



Millions of satellite images

Xu, Feng, et al., 2019

Zhang, Feng*, et al. 2021

Rock glacier kinematics 48



3.2.2 rock glacier



The first rock glacier inventory for Tibetan Plateau with >13,000 rock glaciers identified





3.2.3 glacier mass balance



Case studies of glacier mass balance estimation using multi-source remote sensing data in the TP

Yanong Glacier(1974-2015) Puruogangri Ice Cap(1975-2021) Eastern Tanggula mountain(2000-2020) 1974/11-2000/02 02-2012/03 1974/11-2015/11 2011/03-2012/03 2012/03-2013/08 (d) 2000-20 2012-202 2000-200 2013/08-2014/08 2014/08-2015/11 4500 Altitude (m a.s.l.) Ren et al. (2022, RS) $\frac{1}{2}$ hou et al. (2022, RS) Zhou et al. (2022, RSE) 1975–2000: –0.23±0.02 m w.e./a 2000–2012: -0.16±0.04 m w.e./a 1974–2000: –0.48±0.20 m w.e./a 2000–2021: -0.29±0.02 m w.e./a 2000–2015: –0.95±0.07 m w.e./a 2012–2020: -0.45±0.07 m w.e./a

All of the above regions show varying degrees of accelerated glacier mass loss.





- Retrieval of key ecohydrological variables from multi-source RS data
- Retrieval of key cryosphere variables from multi-source RS data
- Development of real time RS LDAS
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Overall Design







Data Assimilation Software:

A Common Software for Nonlinear and Non-Gaussian Land Data Assimilation (ComDA)





Forcing data: China Meteorological Forcing Data (CMFD)

Study region

Surface air pressure

600 700 800 900 1000 1100 hPa

Specific humidity

12 15 18 21 24 27 g/kg

Core Algorithm

Data Assimilation Strategy

• Parameter estimation:

MCMC

- Data assimilation algorithm:
 - Ensemble Kalman filter
- Model operator:

CoLM202X

• Parallel computing:

OpenMP, MPI, CUDA

Users Interface for real time LDAS (in Chinese)

Ensembles forecasting

Water / Carbon / Energy balance

Data visualization with WebGIS

- Development of a coupled land data assimilation system for the Terrestrial Systems Modelling Platform (TSMP)
- Land surface processes
 - Community Land Model (CLM)
- Surface runoff and subsurface hydrology
 - ParFlow
- Atmosphere
 - ERA5 (→ICON)

Illustration of the coupled data assimilation framework

700

500

600

- Initial test for North-Rhine-Westphalia region,
 Germany: 300 km × 300 km
- Model: CLM3.5-PDAF or CLM3.5-ParFlow-PDAF
- DA: EnKF, period 2018.01.10 2018.12.31
- Atmospheric forcings: COSMO-REA6
- Soil texture: SoilGrids
 - (a) Separate Retrieval Assimilation

400

(b) Joint Retrieval Assimilation

200

300

- Development of a coupled land data assimilation system for the Terrestrial Systems Modelling Platform (TSMP)
- Land surface processes
 - Community Land Model (CLM)
- Surface runoff and subsurface hydrology
 - ParFlow
- Atmosphere
 - ERA5 (→ICON)
- Area of interest: EUROCORDEX
- Assimilate surface soil moisture RS retrievals into the model (SMAP)

EUROCORDEX (\pm 11-km resolution)

- LDAS should account for
 - 1. Model biases due to uncertain parameters (e.g. subsurface)
 - 2. Sensitivity to initial conditions
- Model **parameters** (e.g. hydraulic properties of the subsurface) can influence the model **state** (e.g. soil moisture) non-linearly
- Investigations into Ensemble Kalman Smoothers and iterative Ensemble Smoothers
- Initial results:
 - RMSE reduction 6% on average by parameter estimation only
 - Further investigations into high biases central Europe

- Retrieval of key ecohydrological variables from multi-source RS data
- Retrieval of key cryosphere variables from multi-source RS data
- Development of real time RS LDAS
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3.5.1 Hydrological cycle variation in the HRB

Upstream area

- In total, the upstream area received 8.66 \times $10^9 m^3$ yr 1 of precipitation;
- Streamflow was $3.04 \times 10^9 \text{m}^3 \text{ yr}^1$, or 207.1 mmyr⁻¹ as runoff depth, and rainfall, snowmelt, and glacier melt contributed approximately 71%, 25%, and 4%, respectively.
- The total ET was approximately $5.54 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3\text{yr}^1$, equivalent to an average of 376.5 mm yr⁻¹.

			Prec	ipitation (mi	m yr ⁻¹)		-		Storage change
	Area (km ²)	Elevation zone (m)	Total	Rainfall	Snowfall	$ET (mm yr^{-1})$	Runoff depth (mm yr ⁻¹)	Runoff coefficient	of all storages (mm yr ⁻¹)
Glacier	60.0	>4,600	814.2	423.6	390.6	88.9	976.9	1.20	-251.6
Alpine tundra	3,424.6	4,000-4,600	702.0	416.7	285.3	401.5	297.7	0.42	2.8
Alpine meadow	7,083.9	3,100-4,100	622.3	445.0	177.3	406.2	204.4	0.33	11.7
Alpine shrub	21.0	2,900-3,900	566.5	424.2	142.3	381.4	179.0	0.32	6.1
Needleleaf forest	786.8	2,500-3,200	504.1	390.7	113.4	386.3	117.8	0.23	0.0
Alpine steppe	1,612.5	1,800-3,100	412.8	331.3	81.5	321.2	88.2	0.21	3.3
Farmland	57.0	~2,700	451.8	369.9	81.9	301.8	122.6	0.27	27.4
Desert	1,637.5	1,680-4,000	425.4	306.5	118.9	257.6	164.6	0.39	3.2
City and town	3.0	2,280-2,940	426.5	393.1	33.4	417.0	7.4	0.02	2.1
Total (or average)	14,694.1	3,550	589.5	407.1	182.4	376.5	207.1	0.35	6.1

Midstream area

- The midstream area received approximately 2.483 \times 10⁹ m³yr⁻¹ (189.3 mm yr⁻¹) of precipitation.
- ET was the most dominant component and amounted to approximately $4.275 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3 \text{yr}^{-1}$ (mm yr⁻¹).
- Since the change in river channel water storage (Δ ch) was small compared to other changes.
- Irrigation is an absolute requirement for agriculture in the midstream area of the HRB.

	Area	Precipitation	6	ET	Transpiration		
	(km ²)	Total amount ($10^9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$)	Flux (mm yr ^{-1})	Total amount $(10^9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1})$	Flux (mm yr $^{-1}$)	proportion	
Cropland	3,823.69	0.781	204.3	2.176	569.0	0.73	
Grassland	2,783.36	0.748	268.6	0.803	288.3	0.51	
Wetland	48.89	0.005	102.6	0.029	584.3	0.58	
Forest	161.59	0.026	158.8	0.064	398.9	0.54	
Urban and other built-up	227.68	0.039	171.7	0.080	349.9	0.41	
Desert	5,939.12	0.857	144.4	1.016	171.2	0.34	
Reservoir	23.70	0.003	127.7	0.017	725.3		
River	112.47	0.024	216.4	0.090	803.9		
Total (or average)	13,120.50	2.483	189.3	4.275	325.8		

3.5.1 Hydrological cycle variation in the HRB

Downstream area

- Natural vegetation areas (forest, shrub, steppe, and wetland), cropland, and the terminal lake (Sogo Nuur) used approximately 39%, 13%, and 4% of the streamflow, respectively.
- The streamflow lost by ET in the desert was approximately 34%.
- The change in soil water and groundwater storage had a negative value before the implementation of the EWDP but gradually achieved a positive value after the implementation of the EWDP

		Precipitat	ion	ET		
	Area (km ²)	Total amount (10 ⁹ m ³ yr ⁻¹)	Flux (mm yr ⁻¹)	Total amount (10 ⁹ m ³ yr ⁻¹)	Flux (mm yr ⁻¹)	Ratio of ET to streamflow
Forest	184.95	0.008	43.5	0.069	371.3	0.063
Tamarix	149.53	0.007	43.8	0.060	401.6	0.054
Other desert shrubs	150.86	0.007	46.8	0.025	165.6	0.023
Temperate steppe	1,058.75	0.054	50.8	0.160	150.7	0.145
Wetland	308.15	0.016	52.4	0.115	373.8	0.104
Cropland	280.56	0.015	52.7	0.141	502.9	0.128
Urban and other built up	64.76	0.003	50.5	0.012	180.9	0.011
Lake	46.69	0.002	42,3	0.047	998.9	0.043
Reservoir	26.31	0.001	54.0	0.024	912.7	0.022
River	112.42	0.006	50.9	0.070	623.1	0.064
Desert	85,348.79	4.413	51.7	4.969	58.2	
Total	87,731.77	4.532	51.7	5.691	64.9	

3.5.1 Hydrological cycle variation in the HRB

water balance closure

- Climate warming is a favorable factor in alleviating water scarcity
- Human activities have both positive and negative effects
- Water conflicts should be handled from a broad socioeconomic perspective

4. Plan of the project for the following year

Schedule

	20	20		2021		2022				2023				2024				
WP0: Proposal																		
preparation and																		
project coordination																		
WP1: Retrievals of																		
key ecohydrological																		
variables																		
WP2: Development																		
of LDAS silk and																		
LDAS EU																		
WP3: Cal/val of																		
LDAS silk and																		
LDASEU																		
WP4: Quantification																		
of water cycle in silk																		
road endorheic river																		
basins and EURO-																		
CORDEX																		

Thank you!

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