

Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss., referee comment RC1
<https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-2021-165-RC1>, 2021
© Author(s) 2021. This work is distributed under
the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.



Comment on amt-2021-165

Yanqiu Zhu (Referee)

Referee comment on "Ground mobile observation system for measuring multisurface microwave emissivity" by Wenying He et al., Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss.,
<https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-2021-165-RC1>, 2021

This study carefully designed a ground observation system to investigate the variations of microwave emissivities over water and several typical land surfaces including cement, sand, bare soil, grass. This system's design made it feasible to avoid/minimize the uncertainties in the emissivity derivation caused by LST and atmospheric effect calculation and to assess the variations of emissivities over different surface types side-by-side in a controlled experiment environment. The topic of this manuscript is important to many applications of surface-sensitive radiances.

Specific comments:

1. The advantage of the ground mobile observation system is that it can provide temporal evolution of emissivity over different surface types at low costs in helping us to understand the characteristics of microwave emissivity, but in practice the usefulness of all these observations over different surface types may depend on the actual complexity of land surface in the area of observation site.
2. Cloud and precipitation screening. The authors didn't provide any information on how they performed cloud and precipitation screening. Was this performed automatically on RPG-XCH-DP, or the authors used the video camera records or Tb information?
3. The major components of the system include a dual-frequency polarized ground microwave radiometer, a mobile observation platform, and auxiliary sensors to measure the surface temperature and soil temperature and moisture. The authors utilized the observations from the ground microwave radiometer and surface temperature to derive emissivity. I notice that authors haven't used soil temperature and moisture observations. As the emissivity is determined mainly by soil dielectric constant, do the authors have any plan to use these soil observations, such as to study the relationship between emissivity and soil moisture?
4. Brightness temperature Tb was referred to in many places in the manuscript. I assume authors meant the brightness temperature Tb in the ground observation mode.
5. Chinese characters appeared in Fig. 4. Please translate those into English.