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Reply on RC1

Lu Yao et al.

Author comment on "Retrieval of solar-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SIF) from satellite measurements: comparison of SIF between TanSat and OCO-2" by Lu Yao et al., Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-2021-66-AC1>, 2021

The manuscript by Yao et al. presents the retrieval of SIF from TanSat satellite measurements and compares the retrieved TanSat SIF to OCO-2 SIF and GPP data. This study covers a great mission and dataset and the topic is important for the scientific community. The manuscript is written in a concise way, however, there are some open questions which are not/partly addressed. I recommend it to be accepted after the following issues are addressed.

General comments:

- The algorithm presented in this study has already been partly shown, tested and optimized in a previous study. In the present manuscript, the authors describe the used algorithm, but do not explain what is new/different compared to other existing SIF retrieval algorithms. They directly compare the SIF results to other SIF measurements. As this is a technical journal, I think it would be important to have more insight on the used SIF retrieval algorithm, particularly how it compares to existing algorithms, where the differences are, why a new algorithm is used etc. To what extent have the points mentioned for example in Parazoo et al., 2019 (<https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JG005289>) been considered when comparing different SIF satellite products? Why did the authors choose OCO-2 SIF and not for example TROPOMI SIF as a comparison?

Reply: The IAPCAS/SIF algorithm introduced in the paper is based on the simplified physical model. The main optimization is the usage of a scale factor to correct the influence of O₂ column absorption induced by the the uncertainty of surface pressure in the inversion state vector to reduce the interference of the O₂ absorption line on the SIF signal. It was clarified in the revised version. This algorithm is developed for the TanSat data produce and application. The currently commonly used SIF inversion algorithms include the data-driven algorithm and the DOAS algorithm, but these two algorithms are not accessible, and the SVD-driven algorithm is greatly affected by training samples. Therefore, the main purpose of the paper is to establish a reliable algorithm to obtain SIF data from TanSat satellites to provide SIF products. Based on the TanSat SIF data products obtained by the data-driven algorithms, it is found that there is a seasonal deviation between the TanSat SIF products obtained by the SVD data-driven algorithm and the TanSat SIF products based on the physical model, so the OCO-2 product is used

for further verification of the algorithm. The reason for adopting OCO-2 is that OCO-2 and TanSat have similar observation modes, including scanning method, transit time, spatial resolution, spectral resolution, spectral range. The similarities mean that the SIF product from the two missions can be directly compared. However, TROPOMI and TanSat have a large difference in spatial resolution and spectral resolution, and the SIF retrieval method and the spectral fitting range are also different. To perform direct algorithm verification and product consistency analysis, the usage of OCO-2 data as a reference is the most direct and effective way.

- The order of the introduction and the transitions from one paragraph to the next are sometimes hard to follow. The TanSat satellite is mentioned in a different paragraph than the other SIF satellites but without highlighting the differences. It is also not mentioned that first TanSat SIF maps already exist (Du et al., 2018) and why a new algorithm has to be used. The scientific/ research questions are missing in the introduction.

Reply: The order of the introduction is modified in the revision. The SIF product by SVD method was explained and the reason for the development of the IAPCAS/SIF algorithm and the research question was also clarified in the revision.

- Besides global maps, the authors present results from a sample region using maps and a correlation plot. However, besides this visual comparison, I think a SIF timeseries of the chosen dataset in this sample region in comparison to OCO-2 SIF is very helpful and should be discussed.

Reply: the SIF time series is a significant way to evaluate the stability of the long-term data consistency, but due to the difference in satellite observation time and location, as well as the difference in the land cover types, it is hard to form matching observation pairs for effective time series comparison.

Minor/technical comments:

L1: I would add something like satellite/spaceborne/ from space etc. to the title

Reply: the title was modified to 'Retrieval of Solar-induced Chlorophyll Fluorescence from Satellite Measurements: Comparison of SIF between TanSat and OCO-2'.

L18: What is a sensitive instrument? Please clarify shortly.

Reply: it was clarified in the revision by 'sensitive instruments with high SNR and spectral resolution'.

L21: Globally or for which location and resolution?

Reply: It was clarified in the revision. The data over the global were processed at the sounding scale.

L24: gridded

Reply: It was modified.

L25: Specify what the official OCO-2 SIF product is and what the difference is to L22/ the product retrieved in this study

Reply: The official OCO-2 SIF product used in the paper is the OCO2_Level 2_Lite_SIF.8r,

and it contains SIF for each sounding daily. The data is provided by the OCO-2 Science team and used to test the retrieval algorithm by comparing it with the retrieved OCO-2 SIF results. The seasonal difference between the two OCO-2 SIF product is less than $0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2} \mu\text{m}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$ in a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid.

L25: seasonally-gridded

Reply: It was modified.

L27: Where does this GPP data come from (Ground-based/globally, spatio-temporal resolution etc.). What is the result of the comparison?

Reply: The FLUXCOM gross primary productivity (GPP) used here is the monthly global gridded flux products in a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid, which are calculated from ground-based FLUXNET measurements and mean seasonal cycles according to MODIS data and daily meteorological information with a machine learning method. The relationship between annual averaged SIF products and FLUXCOM gross primary productivity (GPP) for six vegetation types shows that the SIF data from the two satellites have the same potential in quantitatively characterizing ecosystem productivity.

L36: remove ;

Reply: It was removed.

L46: ... and Frankenberg et al. 2011

Reply: It was added.

L94: what about OCO-2 data?

Reply: it was modified in the revision. The SVD method was applied to several satellite missions, including GOSAT, OCO-2, TanSat, and S5p/Tropomi.

L98: What is the major outcome of this previous study?

Reply: The previous study introduced the TanSat SIF product by using the physical model method and compared it with the SVD method based TanSat SIF data. The comparison shows that the two SIF products are relatively consistent on the seasonal scale, but there are obvious regional deviations. Due to the different biases in four seasons, the regional biases could be caused by different training samples in the SVD method.

L100: What are the research questions for this study?

Reply: To verify the reliability of the IAPCAS/SIF algorithm and further test the potential of different satellites in a comprehensive analysis of SIF, this study detailed the IAPCAS/SIF algorithm and made a SIF comparison between TanSat and OCO-2 at both sounding and global scales.

L101: a bit out of context, what other products are available and why this selection? Maybe move this selection to the retrieval method; Space between number and unit.

Reply: We use the SIF signal at 757 nm because SIF emission intensity in the 757nm micro-window is stronger due to being closer to the SIF emission peak, and the interference from other absorption lines is weaker than that in the 771 nm micro-window. The 757 nm SIF is more stable. The selection is moved to the method part.

L106: Why is the wavelength window name (757 nm, 771 nm) not part of the shown wavelength range (758.3-759.2 nm, 769.6 – 770.4 nm)?

Reply: Following the traditional rules, we keep the notation of the two micro-windows as the 757 nm window and the 771 nm window respectively for consistency.

L116: reference missing

Reply: it was added in the revision.

L146: Not all readers are XCO₂ retrieval experts, please explain the complexity and why this approach was selected.

Reply: it was modified in the revision.

L171: Specify the footprints in both panels.

Reply: It was modified in the revision.

L188: first

Reply: It was modified.

L191: add reference for this retrieval approach; for which spatial and temporal resolution and location?

Reply: The reference was added and the lite product was introduced briefly in the revision. The lite file provides SIF measurement of each sounding daily over the globe, and hence the data spatial-temporal resolution is the same as the sounding pixel.

L196: applied to

Reply: It was modified.

L197: remove ,remained`

Reply: It was removed.

L207: check wording

Reply: It was modified.

L221: From which satellite are the SIF measurements in (a)? ,evergreen` instead of ,evergreenn`

Reply: Figure 3(a) shows the SIF from both OCO-2 and TanSat for a whole view of the satellite measurements. The legend in figure 3 was modified.

L224: check wording

Reply: it was modified in the revision.

L238: The TanSat SIF data shown here is from 2017-2018; ground-based SIF measurements from different stations globally are already available for this time.

Reply: This paper focuses on the comparison between space-based SIF products. The

researches on ground SIF and satellite SIF measurements will be held in future researches.

L248: Which instrument performances are meant here? Please explain.

Reply: The instrument performance difference contains SNR and instrument response functions, which is represented by the different structural characteristics of the bias curves.

L298-306: Are there and what are the differences between the TanSat-GPP and OCO-2-GPP correlation? This is shown in the Figure, but not mentioned in this discussion part.

Reply: it was explained in the revision. For shrubland and grassland, the slope of OCO-2 SIF with GPP is higher than that of TanSat and has a worse correlation. For forests, OCO-2 SIF present a better correlation with GPP, especially in the needle leaf forest.

L315: What are the major improvements/ changes from TanSat to TanSat-2?

Reply: TanSat-2 intends to build a constellation of six satellites for atmospheric concentration observation with a high spatial-temporal resolution to support the carbon neutrality goal and researches on global change. The target gases of TanSat-2 will cover more kinds of gases, including CO₂, CH₄, CO, and NO_x. TanSat-2 will also provide SIF measurement. The improvement of TanSat-2 was partly supplemented in the revision.