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Abstract. The Chinese HY-2, a satellite designed for ocean dynamic environment monitoring, was launched on August 16, 2011. The onboard scanning microwave radiometer (RM) is primarily designed for sea surface temperature and wind speed mapping. However, our objective of this investigation is to exploit the large amount of land observations of RM and to extend the mission scope to the retrieval of surface soil moisture, which is also an essential boundary condition for coupling with atmospheric dynamics. The single-channel algorithm (SCA) was implemented using only the RM observed brightness temperature to estimate the surface soil moisture. Ancillary data of a normalized difference vegetation index were processed and used as inputs for the SCA to calculate the vegetation water content, which is a required parameter for estimating the vegetation optical depth. The retrieved soil moisture results agree with the global climate pattern of wet and dry regions. Initial assessments were performed using soil moisture measurements by in situ underground sensors over two selected networks: REMEDHUS in Spain and CTP-SMTMN network over the Tibetan Plateau. Results showed a good performance of soil moisture estimation for these land surface conditions for the year 2012, with the lowest root mean square error of 0.047 m^3/m^3 . This product will contribute to continuous soil moisture information on a global scale for global change studies. © The Authors. Published by SPIE under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. Distribution or reproduction of this work in whole or in part requires full attribution of the original publication, including its DOI. [DOI: 10.1117/1.JRS.8.083560]

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1 Introduction

The microwave remote-sensed soil moisture generally refers to the water content contained in the upper 5 cm of soil, which serves as an important boundary condition in soil–atmosphere water transport modeling.^{1–3} Large-scale detection of soil moisture is indicative of potential drought and could help in forecasting crop yields and helping farmers manage their irrigation systems more efficiently.⁴ It may also serve as a warning for flooding⁵ if the soil has become too saturated to hold any further water. After decades of research, microwave remote sensing has been proven to be the most effective tool to monitor the surface soil moisture at a global scale.⁶ This is based on the large difference in the dielectric constant between dry soil and water. In the past few decades, various microwave sensors have been launched with a capability for monitoring

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soil moisture including radiometers (RMs), scatterometers, and synthetic aperture radar. Among these, L-band RM is generally considered the optimal way for soil moisture retrieval^{7,8} due to its high sensitivity to soil moisture and large-penetration depth. However, space-borne L-band RM with a satisfactory spatial resolution would require a long antenna which, in turn, would require a large satellite. Presently, there is only one onboard L-band RM for soil moisture ocean salinity (SMOS)⁹ that is designed for soil moisture retrieval. On the other side, there exist several higher-frequency RMs including scanning multichannel microwave RM (SMMR),¹⁰ the special sensor microwave imager (SSM/I),¹¹ the advanced microwave scanning RM for EOS (AMSR-E),¹² AMSR2,¹³ and the microwave radiation imager (MWRI) onboard the Chinese FY-3 satellite.¹⁴ These satellites have acquired long-term observations for soil moisture retrieval with an acceptable accuracy. The extensive heritage of this type of observation is requiring new source of similar data to be continued further. Through intercalibration, additional new satellite observations would increase the temporal resolution and also contribute to the long historical record for global change studies.

The Chinese HY-2¹⁵ is a new satellite for soil moisture monitoring, although it is the first satellite for dynamic ocean environment monitoring for China. HY-2 is designed for all-weather, all-aerospace ocean information obtained with multiple sensors onboard including the micro-wave scatterometer, radar altimeter, scanning microwave radiometer (RM), calibration micro-wave radiometer, etc. As one of the instruments onboard the HY-2 satellite, the RM operates at 6.6, 10.7, 18.7, 23.8, and 37 GHz. Therefore, it is mainly used for observations of sea surface temperature, wind speed, water vapor content, and rainfall rate. Because there are several space-borne microwave RMs with similar frequency configurations that have been launched for Earth observations, the RM sensor can also be used to measure the land surface soil moisture. This will increase the value and impact of the HY-2 satellite mission by introducing broader applications for the scientific community. The produced soil moisture product would provide a unique source of consistent information about land soil at a global scale. In addition, the acquirement of both passive and active observations would contribute to the new combined active–passive soil moisture algorithm development.

Various algorithms for the retrieval of soil moisture from RM brightness temperature have been developed including single-channel algorithm (SCA),¹⁶ land parameter retrieval model (LPRM),¹⁷ physically based statistical methodology (PBSM),¹⁸ and official algorithms developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) according to AMSR-E configurations. All these algorithms are based on the same radiative transfer model (omega-tau), which assumes that the vegetation multiple scatterings and reflections at the air-vegetation interface are negligible. The major difference between these algorithms is the treatment of vegetation effects. In SCA, the vegetation optical depth is related to the vegetation water content with the coefficient dependent on vegetation type. Vegetation water content is independently derived from ancillary data from high-resolution optical and infrared measurements. The implementation of SCA requires additional satellite observations to be routinely available. The LPRM utilizes the RM-observed microwave polarization difference index to obtain the vegetation optical depth and synchronously retrieves three parameters. But it is found that LPRM soil moisture is systematically overestimated,¹⁹ although it has excellent correlations with *in situ* measurements. The PBSM algorithm is based on an analytical solution for vegetation water content using microwave vegetation indices,²⁰ which are not considered to be sensitive to soil information. However, this algorithm is more suitable for short-vegetation conditions and is currently only calibrated over the Tibet Plateau. An investigation²¹ using four soil moisture networks indicates that the SCA has the highest overall accuracy and a small bias. The SCA is also the basic option for the Chinese FY-3 soil moisture products.

This paper is focused on an RM-only soil moisture product from the HY-2 satellite. In this study, we implemented the SCA to retrieve the surface soil moisture. The normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) product from the moderate-resolution imaging spectroradiometer (MODIS) was reprocessed and used to calculate the vegetation water content, which is an important parameter with which to measure the vegetation attenuation effect. To validate the retrieved soil moisture, the *in situ* measurements and satellite-derived soil moisture were compared over two selected dense networks: REMEDHUS in Spain²² and the CTP-SMTMN network²³ over

the Tibetan Plateau. Validation results are presented and analyzed in the last section with a discussion of future activities.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Scanning Microwave RM Dataset

The soil moisture retrieval is based only on brightness temperatures obtained by HY-2 RM, which operates at five frequencies of 6.6, 10.7, 18.7, 23.8, and 37 GHz. It works at both horizontal and vertical polarizations, except for the frequency of 23.8 GHz which is only used for vertical polarization. The satellite travels in a twilight, sun-synchronous orbit with a local time of the descending node of 6:00 a.m. In this case, the air, vegetation, and surface soil can be assumed to be in thermal equilibrium, which supports the hypothesis of a soil moisture algorithm that uses a single-effective temperature for the RM observation field of view. The RM antenna adopted a conical scan approach with a constant incidence angle of 40 deg. This design is the same as the future soil moisture active-passive (SMAP) mission²⁴ and is less sensitive to vegetation cover compared with the 55 deg of AMSR-E. The scan swath is 1600 km which enables the HY-2 observations to provide global coverage in 2 to 3 days. The RM is calibrated in orbit by using a two-point method based on a cold space reflector and the onboard hot calibration source. Table 1 is a summary of the specific configuration parameters of the HY-2 RM instrument.

In this study, the level 1B swath-based brightness temperature products produced by the National Satellite Ocean Application Service (NSOAS) of State Oceanic Administration are selected for the year 2012. NSOAS is responsible for providing the HY-2 satellite data. Users need to fill in the "satellite data distribution application form" to order to retrieve specific data. More information can be found in Ref. 25. The data products are distributed and formatted in Hierarchical Data Format 5. For the brightness temperature data field, a total of 150 data points along each scan cycle are included with 859 times of scanning for each half-orbit. Particularly, there are two feed horns pointing to different latitudes and longitudes, as one feed is used for 6.6 and 10.7 GHz, and the other one for 18.7, 23.8, and 37 GHz. To avoid spatial inconsistency in observations, all data were resampled to a 0.25-deg global grid with separate ascending and descending orbits. Thus, there is no need to consider whether or not the footprints match at the grid scale.

2.2 Ancillary Datasets

During implementation of the SCA procedure, several ancillary datasets are needed such as the NDVI, soil texture map, and land cover types.

Frequency (GHz)	6.6	10.7	18.7	23.8	37		
Bandwidth (MHz)	350	250	250	400	1000		
Polarization	V, H	V, H	V, H	V	V, H		
Resolution (km)	100	62	36	30	18		
Sensitivity (K)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8		
Dynamic range (K)	3 to 350						
Calibration precision (K)	1 (180 to 320)						
Incidence angle (deg)	40						
Swath width (km)	1600						

 Table 1
 Configuration parameters of the HY-2 RM instrument.

Note: V = vertical, and H = horizontal.

Vegetation information is required for global soil moisture retrieval from passive microwave observations, since vegetation cover attenuates soil emission and adds its own contribution to satellite observations. The vegetation effects need to be corrected to obtain the pure soil information. NDVI exploits the fact that healthy vegetation absorbs most of the visible radiation and reflects a large portion of the near-infrared radiation. Unhealthy or sparse vegetation reflects more visible radiation and less near-infrared radiation. In consequence, various studies have found that the NDVI can be used to measure the vegetation water content,^{26,27} which is also applied in the SCA to estimate the vegetation attenuations.

In this study, the NDVI values are obtained from a vegetation index climatology database²⁸ to enable the soil moisture algorithm to run routinely. The development of the vegetation index climatology was based on the acquisition and processing of all available MOD13A2 data (over 10 years since February 2000) from the MODIS instrument on Terra. The native data were reprojected to 0.01 deg under the geographical latitude/longitude projection. For each pixel, the NDVI values for each 16-day period were extracted for each year and then binned. Figure 1 shows the processed results for two pixels that are selected according to the two sites of REMEDHUS and CTP-SMTMN, which are used for validating HY-2 soil moisture products in Sec. 3.2. Black circles represent the original observations provided in the MODIS files. Quality control was conducted by using flags including data quality, precipitation, snow/ice, clouds, shadow, and water. Black cross-points show very low values of NDVI, corresponding to snow coverage. After quality control and screening, the data with high confidence were averaged within a 10-day period, shown as red circles. A piecewise linear interpolation would be conducted to fill in the missing/bad data points (gaps) in the time series. For the selected cropland and grassland conditions, it is found that the seasonal pattern of NDVI is clear and well represented by the climatology line. Using NDVI climatology for soil moisture retrieval not only saves time for real-time data processing, but also greatly reduces the NDVI-introduced soil moisture retrieval uncertainties caused by environmental factors. The global NDVI climatological data (0.01 deg) were resampled and averaged at a resolution of 0.25 deg comparable to the HY-2 footprint.

The soil texture data are obtained from Food and Agriculture Organization in a scale of 5 min by 5 min. Soil texture parameters such as clay/sand content and bulk density are required for relating the dielectric constant to soil moisture content. The land cover types are a 500-m yearly product from MODIS (MCD12Q1) based on the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) classification, which is used to determine the land cover-dependent parameters in the algorithm. These data values were also resampled for the HY-2 footprint.

2.3 Soil Moisture Algorithm

The principle of passive microwave remote sensing of soil moisture is based on the significant difference in dielectric properties between liquid water and dry soil. RMs onboard the satellite observe the top-of-atmosphere brightness temperature in horizontal (H) and vertical (V)

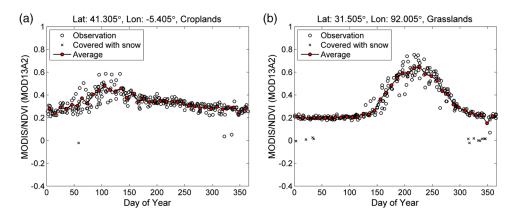


Fig. 1 MODIS/NDVI climatology (red circles) for two sites after quality flag application, averaging, and interpolation. The original observations of MODIS are drawn in black circles, with data affected by snow coverage in black crosses.

polarizations. For nominal-vegetated areas, microwave radiation from the land surface is given by the omega-tau model,²⁹ which is a zero-order radiative transfer solution and is commonly used for soil moisture retrieval.

$$T_{Bp} = E_{Sp} \cdot T_S \cdot \gamma_p + (1 - \omega_p)(1 - \gamma_p) \cdot T_V + (1 - \omega_p)(1 - \gamma_p) \cdot T_V \cdot (1 - E_{Sp}) \cdot \gamma_p.$$
(1)

In this equation, the first term accounts for the microwave radiation from the soil that is attenuated by the overlying vegetation. The second term defines the upward radiation coming directly from vegetation, and the third term defines the downward radiation from vegetation that is reflected by the soil and again attenuated by the vegetation. T_S and T_V are the thermometric temperatures for the soil and vegetation layer, respectively. E_{Sp} is the emissivity of rough soil, which is related to the soil dielectric constant (soil moisture) and surface roughness. ω_p defines the single-scattering albedo, and γ_p refers to the single-way transmissivity of the vegetation layer, which is expressed as a function of the optical depth τ_p and incidence angle θ

$$\gamma_p = \exp(-\tau_p/\cos\,\theta). \tag{2}$$

Based on the radiative transfer theory, several issues including soil/vegetation temperature, vegetation attenuation and scattering, and roughness effects need to be addressed when translating the observed brightness temperature to soil moisture. The HY-2 soil moisture retrieval algorithm used in this study is the SCA summarized by Jackson.¹⁶ This approach needs only a single-channel observation of brightness temperature and ancillary information on the land surface temperature, vegetation water content, and several corresponding vegetation parameters based on the land cover type. Radiofrequency interference at C-band is found to be severe over the United States and Japan³⁰ and, therefore it is not recommended for global application. In this study, observation at the X-band H-pol by HY-2 is applied to globally retrieve soil moisture because H-pol microwave observations are more sensitive to soil moisture changes than the V-pol observations.^{1,16,31} The methodology (Fig. 2) is described in detail as follows.

First, the effective land surface temperature is estimated using the brightness temperature of the K_a -band at V-pol, based on a linear relationship established by Holmes et al.³² Although the

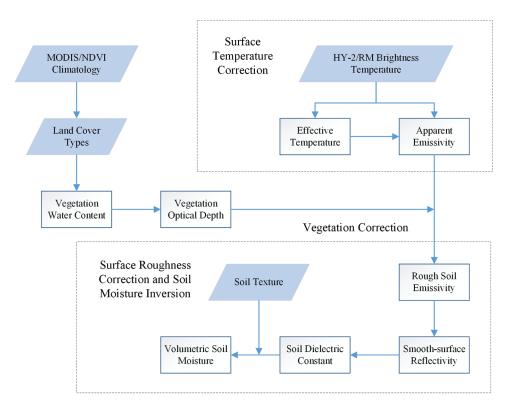


Fig. 2 Flowchart of the soil moisture inversion algorithm used for HY-2/RM.

microwave sensing depth may vary with land surface conditions (bare soil and sparse or dense vegetation), it is found that the relationship can provide a good temperature input for soil moisture retrieval.³³ One assumption that is made is that the temperature of the vegetation is the same as that of the soil. This is acceptable when the temperature profile of the land surface is in an equilibrium state. This occurs in the early morning, which corresponds to the descending swath (6:00 am) of the HY-2 satellite. Then, the overall surface emissivity can be calculated for the X-band at H-pol with the effective temperature estimated.

Second, the overall emissivity is corrected for vegetation effects using the zero-order radiative transfer model to obtain the emissivity of the soil. This requires estimates of the vegetation water content in order to determine the optical depth of the vegetation layer with a vegetation parameter b_n , which may vary according to vegetation geometry, species, and associations.³⁴

$$\tau_p = b_p \cdot W. \tag{3}$$

The vegetation water content W is computed from the processed NDVI climatology database, based on a nonlinear relationship with its coefficients which is dependent on land cover types.^{35,36} In addition to this, the correction for vegetation effects requires the single-scattering albedo to describe the scattering effects caused by the vegetation. These vegetation parameters are all assigned to land cover types as prepared in ancillary datasets. It should be noted that the vegetation parameters may vary accordingly during the growth of vegetation due to the complexity of the vegetation structure and its change over time. For global applications, these parameters are set to be constants for each specific land cover type.

Third, the rough soil emissivity obtained above is corrected for the amount of scattering due to the roughness of the soil surface. The surface roughness model developed by Wang and Choudhury³⁷ is used for this correction. Constant values of 0.1 for the roughness parameter are approximated and applied for global application, although this may change slightly due to extended drought or rainfall. It is normally an appropriate choice due to the coarse resolution of passive microwave footprints.^{21,33,35} Then the obtained smooth surface reflectivity can be translated into the complex dielectric constant by using the Fresnel equations. The real part of the dielectric constant is inverted to the volumetric soil moisture using the soil dielectric constant model³⁸ with known soil texture properties.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 General Performance

To demonstrate the performance of soil moisture derived from the methodology, the brightness temperature obtained by HY-2/RM was used as the input for the SCA to retrieve the soil moisture for the year 2012. In Fig. 3, results are offered as a daily swath composite for both descending and ascending overpasses on July 10. Figure 4 illustrates four examples of the composite soil moisture maps for January, April, July, and October.

The general performance of the HY-2 soil moisture is consistent with global spatial patterns of dry/wet climate. Arid regions such as northern Africa, the Middle East, and central Australia are show low-soil moisture values. High-soil moisture estimates over central Africa and India in July are consistent with precipitation climatology and monsoonal effects. The soil moisture particularly shows a wet to dry trend ranging from humid conditions in the south-east to the arid north-west in China. The blank area over the boreal forest, the Amazon, and other tropical rainforests represents that no retrievals were available, since the vegetation is too dense for microwaves at the HY-2 frequency (X-band) to penetrate to sense the ground soil. In winter, high latitudes are flagged due to frozen soil and snow coverage, where soil moisture retrievals are not attempted.

3.2 Validation with In Situ Measurements

To evaluate the HY-2 retrieved soil moisture, long-term and reliable ground measurements are needed. Due to the coarse resolution of passive microwave footprints, a reliable ground-based

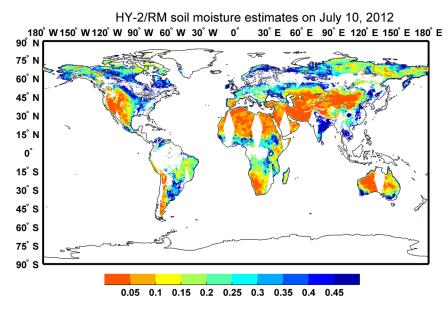


Fig. 3 HY-2/RM soil moisture estimates on July 10, 2012.

network should cover a spatial extent of 25 to 100 km, with replicated measurements within the footprint.²¹ Soil moisture sensors should be embedded in the top 5 cm of soil according to the microwave penetration depth. There are only a few networks over the world that could be used for this kind of large-scale soil moisture validation. In this study, two networks (REMEDHUS in Spain and the CTP-SMTMN network over the Tibetan Plateau) with different vegetation/climate conditions are initially selected to validate the soil moisture estimates from the HY-2 satellite.

REMEDHUS²² is a soil moisture monitoring network composed of 21 stations which are located within an area of 1300 km² (41.1° to 41.5°N; 5.1° to 5.7°W) in a central sector of the Duero basin. The climate is semiarid continental Mediterranean climate with a mean temperature of 12°C and an annual precipitation of 385 mm. This area is dominated by croplands of cereal, irrigated crops, vineyards, and others. The growing cycle of cereal, as represented by the NDVI climatology [Fig. 1(a)], consists of the seeding period in autumn, development in spring,

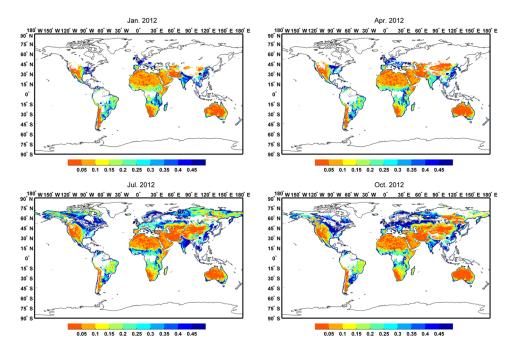


Fig. 4 Global maps of HY-2/RM soil moisture for (a) January, (b) April, (c) July, and (d) October 2012.

and harvesting in early summer. Soil moisture is measured hourly with Hydra probes (Stevens Water Monitoring Systems Inc., Portland, Oregon) integrating a soil layer on the top of 0 to 5 cm.

CTP-SMTMN²³ is a multiscale soil moisture and temperature monitoring network on the central Tibet Plateau of Naqu, which is located in a cold and semiarid area with an average elevation above 4500 m. This network covers an area of 10,000 km² (31° to 32°N; 91.5° to 92.5°E), and is fairly smooth with rolling hills. This area is influenced by the South Asian summer monsoon, with an annual precipitation of 407 mm, most of which is concentrated in the monsoon season (June to September). The annual averaged temperature is -1.9° C, as the soil surface starts its diurnal freeze-thaw cycle in October and becomes fully frozen during December to February. The land use is mainly alpine grasslands with the growing season in summer [Fig. 1(b)]. Soil moisture is measured with EC-TM and 5TM probes (Decagon Devices Inc., Pullman, Washington) by inserting them into 0 to 5 cm into the soil.

Soil moisture observations of all available stations within each network (21 for REMEDHUS and 38 for CTP-SMTMN) were averaged for the evaluation. Accordingly, satellite-estimated soil moisture within each network was also averaged for the comparison. This can ensure that both the *in situ* and satellite observations are a mean estimate of regional soil moisture conditions. Here, we are assuming that the averaged measurements from *in situ* sensors could represent the domain average soil moisture. Figure 5 plots the *in situ* observed and satellite-estimated soil moisture as a function of time. *In situ* soil moisture is plotted as a black solid line with a shaded error bar (1 standard deviation), and satellite estimations are plotted as red squares. Precipitation estimates from TRMM 3B42 daily products are also included in the figure as an independent reference. At the REMEDHUS site, the HY-2 soil moisture was able to capture several precipitation events in the spring as followed by a long period of drying. The HY-2 soil moisture

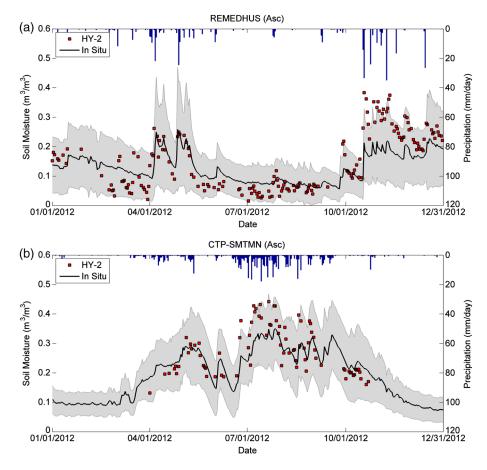


Fig. 5 Time series plots of *in situ* soil moisture observations (black solid line with a shaded error bar) and HY-2 soil moisture estimates (red squares, ascending only). Precipitation estimates from TRMM 3B42 products are shown as blue bars.

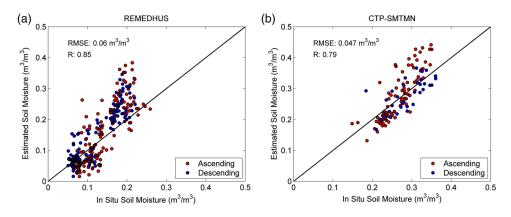


Fig. 6 Scatter plots between *in situ* soil moisture observations and HY-2 estimated soil moisture (ascending in red circles and descending in blue circles).

estimates are higher during winter and lower during summer, which is consistent with the *in situ* measurements and the characteristics of the Mediterranean climate. Soil moisture appears to be overestimated during the winter, but mostly falls within the error range of *in situ* measurements. The overestimation can be partially explained by the frequent precipitation during this period. When rain occurs, it first wets the top layer of the soil and results in a thin saturated soil layer before infiltration. This would lead to a shallower microwave contribution depth of less than 5 cm, where the *in situ* sensors are installed. The representation of a different depth than the in situ measurements results in an apparent overestimation. For the CTP-SMTMN site, only unfrozen soils³⁹ with a physical temperature above 5°C are used for comparison. As shown in the Fig. 5(b), the surface soil begins to thaw in April and the soil moisture increases until the middle of May. This freeze-thaw process is well represented by the satellite-derived soil moisture, as the microwave remote sensing is a direct measurement of the liquid water content⁴⁰ as well as the ground-based sensor. During the following summer, it is found that the retrieved values follow the soil moisture dynamic range and the dry-down cycles. In October, the surface soil begins to freeze and in situ measured and satellite-derived soil moistures decrease, finally becoming a constant. Overall, the HY-2 derived soil moisture in this study shows a dynamic range consistent with *in situ* observations for these two areas.

Figure 6 is a scatter plot that compares the HY-2 estimated soil moisture with the *in situ* observations. Table 2 is a summary of the algorithm performance statistics. The HY-2 retrieved soil moisture is found to be consistent with *in situ* observations for both networks. Results show a good performance by the algorithm for the land surface conditions of croplands (Bias = $0.022 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$, RMSE = $0.06 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$, and R = 0.848) and grasslands (Bias = $0.006 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$, RMSE = $0.047 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$, and R = 0.786). The HY-2 soil moisture retrieval accuracy can meet the mission target of $0.06 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ of AMSR-E, which has a similar configuration

Networks	Orbit direction	Number of days	Bias (m ³ /m ³)	RMSE (m ³ /m ³)	R
REMEDHUS	Asc	180	0.016	0.063	0.837
	Dsc	104	0.033	0.055	0.895
CTP-SMTMN	Asc + Dsc	284	0.022	0.060	0.848
	Asc	83	0.012	0.049	0.848
	Dsc	33	-0.008	0.038	0.712
	Asc + Dsc	116	0.006	0.047	0.786

 Table 2
 Performance statistics of the HY-2 soil moisture.

Note: Asc = ascending, Dsc = descending, RMSE = root mean square error, and R = correlation coefficient.

as the HY-2. Further validation work is ongoing to include additional sites for other land surface conditions and, in turn, to calibrate the parameters used in the algorithm.

4 Conclusions

In this study, a methodology to use HY-2/RM brightness temperature observations to retrieve the soil moisture using the SCA has been developed. The global maps of retrieved soil moisture show good consistency with climatic wet/dry patterns. Satellite-derived soil moisture was evaluated at two selected dense networks; the REMEDHUS in Spain and the CTP-SMTMN network over the Tibetan Plateau. It is concluded that the HY-2 soil moisture is able to capture the dynamic range, precipitation events, and dry-down cycles. The accuracy is satisfactory with the overall RMSE less than $0.06 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ over these land surface conditions. More extensive and detailed field campaigns for product validation are still required.

As the soil moisture may vary over the course of the day, the HY-2 product developed in this study would increase the soil moisture temporal resolution together with other sensors such as Chinese FY-3/MWRI, AMSR-E, AMSR2, and WindSat.³³ Further cross-calibration between the brightness temperatures of these different sensors might be needed for producing a blended soil moisture product with a high-temporal frequency. In addition, the Aquarius/SAC-D satellite⁴¹ delivers soil moisture products with the same overpass time as the HY-2. The HY-2 soil moisture would provide a valuable dataset/target for intercomparison and the research of corresponding scaling issues. NASA is scheduled to launch an SMAP satellite^{24,42} with both RM and radar onboard. The features of HY-2 with both scanning microwave RM and scatterometer would provide a valuable chance for predevelopment of the combined active-passive soil moisture retrieval algorithm, which will be explored in our continuing research.

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