Front Matter: Volume 7083
Contents

ix Conference Committee

xi Introduction

xiii Measurement science for climate remote sensing (Plenary Paper) [7081-53]
G. T. Fraser, S. W. Brown, R. U. Datla, B. C. Johnson, K. R. Lykke, J. P. Rice, National Institute of Standards and Technology (United States)

SESSION 1 REMOTE SENSING THEORY, TECHNIQUES, AND APPLICATIONS I

7083 02 Microwave vegetation indices derived from satellite microwave radiometers (Invited Paper) [7083-01]
T. J. Jackson, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (United States); J. C. Shi, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara (United States); J. Tao, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)

SESSION 2 REMOTE SENSING THEORY, TECHNIQUES, AND APPLICATIONS II

7083 05 Object-based algorithms and methods for quantifying urban growth pattern using sequential satellite images [7083-06]
B. Yu, East China Normal Univ. (China) and Texas A&M Univ. (United States); H. Liu, Y. Gao, Texas A&M Univ. (United States); J. Wu, East China Normal Univ. (China)

7083 06 Summer to autumn changes in vegetation spectral indices of deciduous trees [7083-07]
J. Cipar, T. Cooley, R. Lockwood, Air Force Research Lab. (United States)

7083 07 Obtaining three-dimensional forest canopy structure using TLS [7083-08]
Z. Ling, Beijing Normal Univ. (China) and Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); Z. Jie, Beijing Normal Univ. (China)

SESSION 3 REMOTE SENSING THEORY, TECHNIQUES, AND APPLICATIONS III

7083 09 Use of MODIS satellite images to investigate the chlorophyll-a concentrations in Lake Okeechobee, Florida [7083-66]
A. Makkeasorn, C.-H. Cheng, N.-B. Chang, Univ. of Central Florida (United States)

7083 0C Mapping underwater topography for coastal estuary ecosystem monitoring from QuickBird high-resolution multispectral imagery [7083-13]
M. Ji, Guangxi Academy of Sciences (China) and East China Normal Univ. (China); Z. Deng, Y. Wu, East China Normal Univ. (China); Y. Peng, F. Lei, Guangxi Academy of Sciences (China)

7083 0D Land cover dynamic monitoring model of Three Gorges area [7083-14]
L. Zhu, Chongqing Technology and Business Univ. (China); Y. Tian, W. Zhou, Southwest Univ. (China)
Assessing the impact of future climate change on wheat production in Huang-Huai-Hai Plain in China based on GIS and crop model [7083-04]

Z. Tian, J. Shi, Shanghai Climate Ctr. (China); Z. Gao, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China) and East China Normal Univ. (China); F. N. Tubiello, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria)

Application of eco-economy regionalization in western China [7083-18]

X. Zhang, Beijing Union Univ. (China) and Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); S. Dong, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); Y. Weihong, Beijing Union Univ. (China)

Research response of land surface water and heat flux to land use land cover changes in Laizhou Bay [7083-19]

X. Zhou, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China) and Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); X. Cao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); M. Chen, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China) and Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); Z. Gao, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China)

Land surface temperature in response to land use/cover change based on remote sensing data in Sangong River [7083-20]

X. Cao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); A. Bao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Beijing Normal Univ. (China); X. Chen, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China); Y. Xia, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)

Improvements of regional evapotranspiration model by considering topography correction [7083-21]

C. Liu, East China Normal Univ. (China); W. Gao, East China Normal Univ. (China) and Colorado State Univ. (United States); Z. Gao, East China Normal Univ. (China), Colorado State Univ. (United States), and Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); S. Xu, East China Normal Univ. (China)

The comparing study of net primary production in China [7083-22]

Z. Gao, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China), East China Normal Univ. (China) and Colorado State Univ. (United States); X. Cao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); M. Chen, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China), East China Normal Univ. (China), and Colorado State Univ. (United States); W. Gao, East China Normal Univ. (China) and Colorado State Univ. (United States)

Estimation of land photosynthetically active radiation in clear sky using MODIS atmosphere and land products [7083-24]

X. Xie, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China) and Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); W. Gao, Colorado State Univ. (United States); Z. Gao, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China) and Colorado State Univ. (United States)
A method for estimating the incident PAR on inclined surfaces [7083-25]
X. Xie, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China) and Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); W. Gao, Colorado State Univ. (United States); Z. Gao, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China) and Colorado State Univ. (United States)

Landscape pattern change research of land use about the Baiyang River in Fukang based on fractal theory [7083-26]
X. Cao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School of The Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); A. Bao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Beijing Normal Univ. (China); X. Chen, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China); Y. Xia, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School of The Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)

Study on models for monitoring of above ground biomass about Bayinbuluke grassland assisted by remote sensing [7083-27]
A. Bao, Beijing Normal Univ. (China) and Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China); X. Cao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China); X. Chen, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China); Y. Xia, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China) and Graduate School, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)

Features of the large-scale circulation of the extremely heavy rain with severe floods over South China in June 2005 and its possible cause [7083-28]
L. Wang, Z. Guan, C. Shi, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China); J. Tao, Yangzhou Meteorological Bureau (China); L. Jin, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China)

The comparative experiments on ensemble prediction based on two groups of initial conditions [7083-33]
Y. Guan, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China) and Institute of Atmospheric Physics (China); W. Lu, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China); G. Zhou, Institute of Atmospheric Physics (China)

Responses of plant biochemical substances to reflectance spectra at leaf and canopy scales [7083-38]
R. Shi, East China Normal Univ. (China) and Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); H. Zhang, J. Sun, East China Normal Univ. (China); W. Gao, East China Normal Univ. (China) and Colorado State Univ. (USA); D. Zhuang, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China); Z. Niu, Institute of Remote Sensing Applications (China)

Mapping mangroves from high-resolution multispectral imagery: using Beilun Estuary, Guangxi, China as a case study [7083-39]
M. Ji, Guangxi Academy of Sciences (China) and East China Normal Univ. (China); Y. Wu, Z. Deng, East China Normal Univ. (China); H. Fan, Guangxi Mangrove Research Ctr. (China); Z. Zhang, East China Normal Univ. (China)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>Summer rain band pattern in mid-lower reaches of Yangtze River and its inter-decadal variability</td>
<td>A. Pan, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science &amp; Technology (China) and Jiangsu Provincial Meteorological Bureau (China); Z. Sun, N. Du, Q. Gao, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science &amp; Technology (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>Model of root system for winter wheat and water uptake</td>
<td>W. Fang, R. Liu, Z. Zhu, Henan Institute of Meteorological Sciences (China); T. Deng, Henan Meteorological Administration (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>Comparison of in situ station data and reanalysis data in winter and summer temperature in China</td>
<td>Q. Gao, Z. Guan, N. Du, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science &amp; Technology (China); T. Hu, Chinese Meteorological Administration (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>Numerical simulation by the Common Land Model (CLM) of the soil moisture over China during the summer of 2006</td>
<td>L. Zou, Shanghai Meteorological Ctr. (China); W. Gao, Colorado State Univ. (United States); T. Wu, Q. Lu, Y. Zhang, Chinese Meteorological Administration (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>Analysis of ecological vulnerability based on landscape pattern and ecological sensitivity: a case of Duerbete County</td>
<td>M. Jiang, Peking Univ. (China); W. Gao, Colorado State Univ. (United States); X. Chen, X. Zhang, Peking Univ. (China); W. Wei, Peking Univ. (China) and Light Industry Environment Protection Institute (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>Analysis on causes(evolution of floods over the Songhua main stream basin and the properties of the 1998 deluge over the Song-Nen Plain</td>
<td>N. Xu, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science &amp; Technology (China) and Heilongjiang Meteorological Administration (China); P. Guo, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science &amp; Technology (China); G. Zhang, M. Yuan, H. Pan, Heilongjiang Provincial Meteorological Observatory (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>Spatio-temporal distributions of meso convective systems in NE China and its vicinity</td>
<td>M. Yuan, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science &amp; Technology (China) and Provincial Meteorological Observatory of Heilongjiang (China); Z. Li, X. Zhang, National Meteorological Ctr. (China); X. Li, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science &amp; Technology (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>Estimation of soil moisture of winter wheat fields in Henan Province of China</td>
<td>G. Zhao, Henan Institute of Meteorological Science (China) and Henan Bureau of Meteorology (China); T. Deng, S. Wang, Henan Bureau of Meteorology (China); L. Cheng, J. Wang, Henan Institute of Meteorological Science (China); X. Wang, Colorado State Univ. (United States)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7083</td>
<td>The impacts of radiation effects of atmospheric aerosol on rice production in the Yangtze Delta Region</td>
<td>W. Zhai, Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences (China); Y. Zhao, Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences (China) and China Meteorological Administration (China); C. Wang, Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences (China); X. Xia, Institute of Atmospheric Physics (China); X. Xu, China Meteorological Administration (China)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The application of Modified Perpendicular Drought Index (MPDI) method in drought remote sensing monitoring [7083-58]
H. Zhang, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China), Meteorological Bureau of XinXiang (China), and Henan Institute of Meteorology (China); H. Chen, Henan Institute of Meteorology (China); S. Shen, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China); C. Zou, Henan Institute of Meteorology (China)

Evaluation of soil erosion risk in Karst regions of Chongqing, China [7083-59]
W. Zhou, S. Xie, Southwest Univ. (China); L. Zhu, Chongqing Technology and Business Univ. (China); Y. Tian, J. Yi, Southwest Univ. (China)

Remote sensing-based research of urban thermodynamic landscape heterogeneity and spatial scale effect [7083-60]
J. Yi, Y. Tian, Southwest Univ. (China); L. Zhu, Chongqing Technology and Business Univ. (China); Y. Gao, Chongqing Institute of Meteorological Science (China); B. Wang, Southwest Univ. (China)

Analyzing the 2007 drought of Poyang Lake Watershed with MODIS-derived Normalized Difference Water Deviation Index [7083-61]
W. Zhang, Sichuan Univ. (China); X. Cao, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China); J. Peng, Peking Univ. (China)

Simulations of IPCC SRES effect upon winter wheat growing in the Chinese Huang-Huai valley [7083-63]
S. Li, L. Cheng, R. Liu, Henan Institute of Meteorological Sciences (China); X. Wang, Colorado State Univ. (United States)

Estimating winter wheat biomass based on LANDSAT TM and MODIS data [7083-68]
Y. Bao, Nanjing Univ. of Information Science & Technology (China), Colorado State Univ. (United States), and East China Normal Univ. (China); W. Gao, Colorado State Univ. (United States) and East China Normal Univ. (China); Z. Gao, Colorado State Univ. (United States), East China Normal Univ. (China), and Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China)

Author Index
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Introduction

These proceedings comprise papers presented during the conference titled Remote Sensing and Modeling of Ecosystems for Sustainability V, which was held in San Diego, California, USA, 13 August 2008, as part of SPIE’s annual Optics + Photonics Symposium. This conference was designed to focus on the ecosystems remote sensing and modeling theory, techniques, and applications. There were over 40 presentations delivered in the sessions of oral presentations and poster presentations. This conference provided a great opportunity for scientists from different countries to exchange scientific ideas and discuss their latest research. Papers were reviewed and edited by conference chairs and conference program committee members with help from Ms. Laurie Richard, Mr. William Smith, USDA UV-B supporting staff Rita Deike, and SPIE editorial staff. Special thanks goes to the USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Program and Center of Remote Sensing and Modeling for Agricultural Sustainability, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) at Colorado State University, Water Resources Dept. of China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research, the Key Laboratory of Geo-Information Science of the Ministry of Education at East China Normal University, and International Center for Desert Affairs-Research for Sustainable Development in Arid and Semi-arid Lands, who served as cooperating organizations. The conference owes its success to the diligent efforts of the SPIE technical staff, and Dr. Daniel Schmoldt, project manager of USDA/CSREES, for their continued guidance and support.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the outstanding program committee, the session chairs, and especially the authors for their contributions to this successful conference.

Wei Gao