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Corresponding Author : Dr. Si-Chee Tsay (si-chee.tsay-1@nasa.gov)

Organization: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

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Title: Characterization of Asian Dust Properties near Source Region during Asia

Abstract:

Asian dust typically originates in desert areas far from polluted urban regions. During transport, dust layers can interact with anthropogenic and soot aerosols from heavily polluted urban areas. Added to the combined effects of clouds and natural marine aerosols, dust particles reaching the marine environment can have drastically different properties than those at the source. Thus, understanding the unique temporal and spatial variability of Asian aerosols is of special importance in regional-to-global climate change, such as radiative forcing, the hydrological cycle, and primary biological productivity in the mid-Pacific Ocean. During ACE-Asia campaign, we acquired ground-based (temporal) and satellite (spatial) measurements to infer aerosol physical/optical/radiative properties, column precipitable water amount, and surface reflectivity over this region. The inclusion of flux measurements permits the determination of aerosol radiative flux in addition to measurements of loading and optical depth. At the time of the Terra/MODIS, SeaWiFS, TOMS and other satellite overpasses, these ground-based observations can provide valuable data to compare with satellite retrievals over land. In this paper, we will demonstrate new capability of the Deep Blue algorithm to track the evolution of the Asian dust storm from sources to sinks. Although there are large areas often covered by clouds during the dust season in East Asia, this algorithm is able to distinguish heavy dust from clouds over the entire regions. Examination of the retrieved daily dust plumes over East Asia clearly identifies the sources contributing to the dust loading in the atmosphere. We have compared the satellite retrieved aerosol optical thickness to the ground-based measurements and obtained reasonable agreement between these two. Our results also indicate that there is a large difference in the retrieved value of spectral single scattering albedo of windblown dust between different sources in East Asia.

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