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Corresponding Author : Dr. Nobuhiro Takahashi (ntaka@nict.go.jp)

Organization: National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan

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Title: Estimation of path integrated attenuation and its non-uniformity from range profile data of TRMM/PR

Abstract:

The non-uniform beam filling (NUBF) effect is one of the remaining issues for improving rain retrieval algorithm for the Precipitation Radar (PR) onboard the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) satellite. The path integrated attenuation (PIA) in a footprint of PR is normally estimated by assuming the similarity of standard deviation between that in the footprint and that among adjacent footprints. Takahashi et al. showed the use of the range profile data of surface echo for estimate the horizontal (scan directional) variation of path integrated attenuation (PIA) within a footprint of TRMM/PR (here this method is called as profile method). This technique, however, estimates the PIA at an oblong where the radar pulse is intersected by the Earth's surface. The purposes of this paper are 1) to establish the relationship between the true standard deviation of PIA and the estimated standard deviation of PIA from the profile method, 2) to evaluate the PIA estimation using the profile method by comparing with a ground based radar and evaluate the standard deviation of PIA using the profile method by comparing with a ground based radar and with the conventional method using adjacent 8-footprints. First of all, the relationship between the true standard deviation of PIA and the standard deviation of the profile method is examined using NICT's Okinawa C-band polarimetric radar. The procedure is as follows: three dimensional data (1 km resolution) of radar reflectivity factor (Z) is created. Horizontal distribution of PIA of 14 GHz, which is the frequency of the TRMM/PR, is calculated with this dataset. Since the footprint size of TRMM/PR is about 5 km, the standard deviation of PIA in a 5 x 5 grid is calculated. As for the profile method, PIAs are averaged each row in the 5 grids box and the standard deviation of PIA is calculated using averaged PIA data. The result of this simulation indicates that the estimated standard deviation is about 70% of the truth in average but large scattering of estimation because of lack of the information of standard deviation in averaging box. The standard deviation in along track direction can be alternated by the standard deviation of PIA using along track footprint-average PIA and the standard deviation of PIA of the profile method are compared with ground based radar and 9-footprint data of TRMM/Kwajalein radar data coinciding with TRMM's over-flight is used for the analysis. The average PIA of the profile method and the Kwajalein radar shows good correlation. On the other hand, PIA from TRMM's standard