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Adv. Geosci., 7, 387-394, 2006 www.adv-geosci.net/7/387/2006/ © Author(s) 2006. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License.

On the potential of sub-mm passive MW observations from geostationary satellites to retrieve heavy precipitation over the Mediterranean Area

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Abstract. The general interest in the potential use of the mm and sub-mm frequencies up to 425 GHz resolution from geostationary orbit is increasing due to the fact that the frequent time sampling and the comparable spatial resolution relative to the "classical" (≤89 GHz) microwave frequencies would allow the monitoring of precipitating intense events for the assimilation of rain in now-casting weather prediction models.

In this paper, we use the simulation of a heavy precipitating event in front of the coast of Crete island (Greece) performed by the University of Wisconsin - Non-hydrostatic Modeling System (UW-NMS) cloud resolving model in conjunction with a 3D-adjusted plane parallel radiative transfer model to simulate the upwelling brightness temperatures (TB's) at mm and sub-mm frequencies. To study the potential use of high frequencies, we first analyze the relationships of the simulated TB's with the microphysical properties of the UW-NMS simulated precipitating clouds, and then explore the capability of a Bayesian algorithm for the retrieval of surface rain rate, rain and ice water paths at such frequencies.

■ Full Article in PDF (PDF, 1967 KB)

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