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## RETRIEVING SURFACE SOIL MOISTURE FROM MODIS AND AMSR-E DATA: A CASE STUDY IN TAIWAN

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**Abstract.** Soil moisture is a key factor that controls the exchange of water between the soil and the atmosphere through transpiration. Information on surface soil moisture variations in both time and spatial applications, especially agricultural and environmental monitoring. This study aimed to retrieve surface soil moisture from daily MODIS and AMSR-E (Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer – Earth Observing Satellite) data. The study was conducted in Taiwan for 2009. Data were processed using the Temperature Vegetation Index (TVI) method. The TVI index is developed based on an empirical analysis of the relationship between the normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) data. The comparison between the TVI results and the soil moisture data collected from meteorological stations throughout the study area indicated that there was a strong correlation between the two datasets. The TVDI results (values range from 0 to 1) were converted to soil moisture data (i.e.,  $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ) by linear regression analysis between these two datasets. The soil moisture maps that had a better spatial resolution ( $1 \text{ km} \times 1 \text{ km}$ ) were generated from the TVDI – AMSR-E regression analysis patterns with those from the AMSR-E soil moisture data. A quantitative analysis based on the TVDI-AMSR-E analysis and the AMSR-E soil moisture data also reaffirmed significant differences between the two datasets. This study has demonstrated a method of surface soil moisture retrieval from satellite data.

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