



Validation of MODIS snowcover products in Romania. Methodology and conclusions.

C. Flueraru, G. Stancalie, E. Savin, V. Craciunescu

Remote sensing & GIS Laboratory, National Meteorological Administration, Bucharest,
Romania (cristian.flueraru@meteo.inmh.ro / Fax: +40213167762 / Phone: +40723931073)

An accurate monitoring of snow cover extent (SCE) is itself a goal for the scientific research of the Earth Systems. The most efficient mean of monitoring the SCE is by remote observation from satellites. The MODIS snow cover products are one of the many geophysical products derived from MODIS data. The improved spatial resolution, snow/cloud discrimination capability and global coverage of the MODIS made a significant improvement for the snow study. A validation of these products was conducted for the entire territory of Romania in order to derive our own quality assessment for these products. This validation began on 29th October and ended in May 2005 due to an unexpectedly long winter season. The main part of the study consisted in a cross-validation between MODIS data and daily data from the meteorological network stations. Conclusions were detailed for elevation levels, types of landscape and percent of forest cover. Additionally, validations using ASTER high-resolution imagery and SPOT-VGT S10 mid-resolution imagery were performed.