Sentinel-3 SLSTR Active Fire Detection & FRP

University of London



National Centre for Earth Observation

Martin J. Wooster^{1,2}, Weidong Xu¹ Phillipe Goryl³

Department of Geography, King's College London. ² National Centre for Earth Observation, ³ ESA ESRIN

Australian Fires (photographed at night from the ISS)

Sentinel-3 & SLSTR







SLSTR Thermal Bands





2 km

SLSTR Active Fire & FRP Alg.





• Six stages – detecting and confirming fire pixels (based on contrast with surroundings) and characterising their FRP.

• Multi-channel thresholding approach to detection – using combination of MWIR, LWIR and VIS-SWIR spectral channels.

- MWIR and LWIR signals of high BT pixels measured in F1 and F2 channels, avoiding saturation over higher FRP fires.
- MWIR and LWIR signals of low BT pixels measured in S7 and S8 channels, to get low NeDT and better sensetivity to low FRP fires.
- Dynamic thesholding, utilising high pass filter & moving window approaches.
- Relies on availability of adequate cloud mask (not smoke mask!) and water mask.



MODIS Collection Alg. 5 vs. SLSTR Alg.





MODIS Collection Alg. 5 vs. SLSTR Alg.







SLSTR : 10 Fire Pixels MODIS Alg. : 3 Fire Pixels



SLSTR : 31 Fire Pixels MODIS Alg. : 1 Fire Pixels

SLSTR Alg. : 432 Fire Pixels MODIS Alg. : 100 Fire Pixels



Evaluation against ASTER (30 m)



Evaluation against ASTER (30 m)



South Africa: Larger savannah fires – SLSTR active fire detection algorithm appears similarly performing to MODIS algorithm.



MODIS image + Fire Detections

ASTER image + Fire Detections

Evaluation against ASTER (30 m)





South America: More smaller "deforestation" fires – SLSTR algorithm appears a bit better performing than MODIS algorithm.



MODIS vs. SLSTR Alg. Performance





• SLSTR algorithm applied to MODIS detects ~36% more true fire pixels than does the MOD14 algorithm.

• Small (2%) increase in false alarm.

• Results only valid in the central part of the MODIS swath – and when applied to MODIS data.

Sentinel-3 SLSTR active fire detection and FRP product: Pre-launch algorithm development and performance evaluation using MODIS and ASTER datasets

M.J. Wooster ^{a,*}, W. Xu ^a, T. Nightingale ^b

(RSE, 2012)