

2001 Fall AGU Abstract

Scatterometer Image Data for Global Ice and Land Climate Studies

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Spaceborne scatterometers have been providing continuous synoptic microwave coverage of the Earth for nearly a decade. Though these scatterometers were originally designed to measure oceanic surface winds, their data have also been found to be extremely useful in a broad range of ice and land applications, including the use of extensive scatterometer time series to determine seasonal and interannual variability and possible relationships to climate change. Under a NASA Earth Science Enterprise grant, the Scatterometer Climate Record Pathfinder (SCP) project has produced non-ocean scatterometer imagery

and data products that are now publicly available for the first time. The SCP project is providing imagery from the three NASA scatterometers, including Quikscat, NSCAT, and Seasat, in both a unique enhanced resolution format and an intrinsic resolution format. In addition, new value-added data products from the ERS scatterometers are also available. We will highlight the value of these products for polar and land studies, discuss the SCP site structure, data format, processing, and quality.