

Weekly Report – April 26, 2024
 Cooperative Institute for Satellite Earth System Studies (CISESS)
 NOAA/NESDIS/STAR

Submitted by: Debra Baker & Maureen Cribb
 Email: drb@umd.edu
 Phone: 301-405-5397

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TRAVEL AND MEETING REPORTS

Yang Presented at the 17th Specialist Meeting on Microwave Radiometry and Remote Sensing of the Environment

CISESS scientist Hu (Tiger) Yang gave a talk during the “Sensor Calibration” session entitled “Antenna Beam Pointing Error Characterization by Using Two-dimension Lunar Scan” at the 17th Specialist Meeting on Microwave Radiometry and Remote Sensing of the Environment that took place from April 8–11, 2024 in Alexandria, Virginia. In his study, two-dimensional Moon scan data from Advanced Technology Microwave Sounders on the NOAA-20 and NOAA-21 satellites were used to demonstrate a Moon beam-pointing error assessment algorithm.

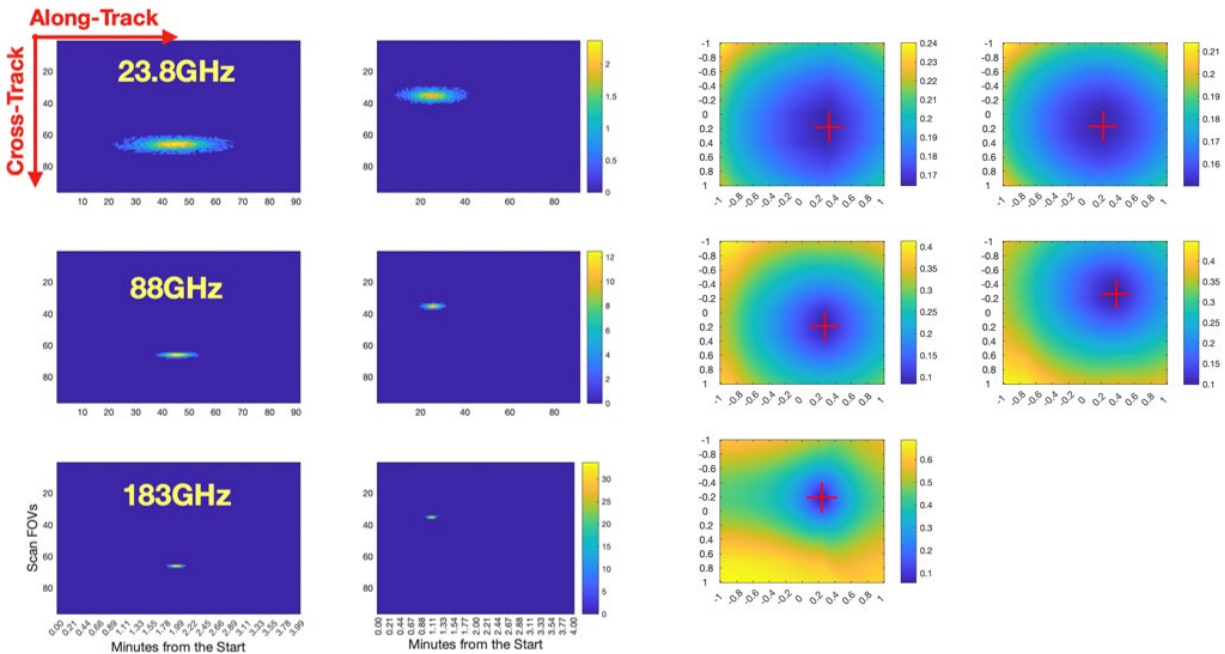


Figure: Lunar point spread functions from NOAA-20 and NOAA-21 in terms of the calibrated antenna temperature (left) and the derived antenna beam-pointing Euler angles roll and pitch for NOAA-21 (right).

(Hu Yang, CISESS, huyang@umd.edu; Funding: JSTAR)

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Zhang Presented at the 7th International Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference

CISS scientist Daile Zhang attended and presented at the 7th International Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference in Boise, Idaho during the week of April 15–19, 2024. Her presentation title was “Blended Wildfire-centric Lightning Dataset and Its Applications.” The conference also included a tour of the National Interagency Fire Center.



Figure: Touring the National Interagency Fire Center.

(Daile Zhang, CISS, dlzhang@umd.edu; Funding: GOES-R AWG, GOES-R PGRR, NOAA ROSES, CISS Seed Grant)

NOAA Coral Reef Watch Attends the Reef Resilience Symposium

Alongside major partners at the Australian Institute of Marine Science and James Cook University, [NOAA Coral Reef Watch \(CRW\)](#) staff, Dr. Blake Spady, remotely attended the [Reef Resilience Symposium](#) (Cairns, Australia, April 16-18, 2024). Coral reef managers, researchers, practitioners, engineers, traditional owners, and industry leaders met to discuss recent events impacting reefs

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around the world (including the [ongoing global coral bleaching event](#)), new knowledge and innovations, and ways to enhance collaboration and information sharing among all interest groups. Stakeholders' dependency on NOAA CRW's [daily global 5km satellite coral bleaching heat stress products and data](#), to support and help guide resilience-based management of coral reefs, was a recurring theme throughout the symposium. Multiple presenters also discussed how NOAA CRW data are incorporated into their own products (e.g., [ReefCloud](#)), further exemplifying the critical nature of NOAA CRW's work. Dr. Spady discussed appropriate applications of NOAA CRW's 5km satellite data, and addressed multiple attendees' questions about additional satellite-based data and enhancements that would benefit their work.

The Reef Resilience symposium closely followed Dr. Spady's and Dr. William Skirving's attendance at a meeting of the [Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel](#) on April 11, during which they presented on the 2024 mass bleaching event on the Great Barrier Reef and discussed the revised coral bleaching heat stress category system for NOAA CRW's [daily global 5km satellite coral Bleaching Alert Area product](#). The revised bleaching alert levels account for extreme accumulations of coral bleaching heat stress, on numerous reefs worldwide, in 2023-2024, and have been broadly adopted by NOAA CRW's diverse global user community.

(Jacqueline De La Cour, CISESS, jacqueline.shapo@noaa.gov, Funding: NOS)

This item was submitted in the SOCD Weekly Report.

MEDIA INTERACTIONS AND REQUESTS

Continued Press Coverage of NOAA's Announcement of the Fourth Global Coral Bleaching Event

Press coverage of [NOAA's announcement of the fourth global coral bleaching event](#) continued this week. The NOAA Coral Reef Watch (CRW) Coordinator, Dr. Derek Manzello, interviewed for additional news broadcasts and radio segments with [MSNBC's Morning Joe show](#), Vox, [Scripps News](#), [Corus Radio Network](#) (Canada), and [RTVI](#) (Russia). NOAA CRW team member, Jacqueline De La Cour, responded to questions from Agence France-Presse concerning claims on social media that the mass coral bleaching being documented as part of the global coral bleaching event is due to natural cycles and that corals will naturally recover. Ms. De La Cour also contributed to a script for an upcoming NOAA Earth From Orbit video about the global bleaching event. Colleagues from within the broader NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program matrix (of which NOAA CRW is a part) also continued interviewing with different media outlets this week, for news pieces associated with the fourth global coral bleaching event and the work their programs are doing to support resilience-based management, restoration, and research on coral reefs in a rapidly warming world.

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(Maureen Cribb, CISESS, mcribb@umd.edu, Funding: Task I)