



Microwave Indices from Active and Passive Sensors for Remote Sensing Applications

Guest Editors:

Dr. Emanuele Santi

IFAC-CNR, Via Madonna del
Piano 10, 50019 Firenze, Italy

Dr. Simonetta Paloscia

Consiglio Nazionale delle
Ricerche, Institute of Applied
Physics, Florence, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Past research well assessed the capabilities of satellite sensors operating at microwaves, both active (SAR, Scatterometers) and passive (Radiometers), for the remote sensing of Earth surface. Besides brightness temperature and backscattering coefficient, microwave indices, defined as a combination of data collected at different frequencies and polarizations, revealed a good sensitivity to hydrological cycle parameters such as the surface soil moisture, the vegetation water content, the snow depth and its water equivalent. The differences between microwave backscattering and emission at more frequencies and polarizations have been well related to these parameters, so that operational retrieval algorithms have been developed basing on microwave indices.

This special issue aims at providing an overview of microwave signal capabilities in estimating the main land parameters of the hydrological cycle, e.g. soil moisture, vegetation water content and snow water equivalent, on both local and global scales, with a particular focus on the microwave indices applications.

Dr. Emanuele Santi

Dr. Simonetta Paloscia

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Remote Sensing Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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