GOES Aviation Weather and Hazard Assessment

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Overview

- Current research and product development includes applications of GOES imager and sounder data to detect and nowcast aviation weather hazards including:
- Fog
- Icing
- Volcanic ash clouds
- Downbursts and Microbursts



Fog Detection



Fog detection and low cloud base height algorithm GOES Aviation Products

Output image product





GOES-R Fog Detection: A New Approach

•Traditional fog detection methodologies produce numerous false alarms and cannot accurately depict small-scale valley fog events

•A new cloud object-based probabilistic approach addresses these short-comings



This new methodology can be applied to current GOES as well



Aircraft Icing

In-flight icing is the accretion of supercooled liquid water (SLW) on the airframe. This SLW can be in the form of cloud droplets or freezing rain/drizzle.





Icing Detection



Icing detection algorithm



Output image product



Volcanic Ash

• In addition to damaging the leading edge surfaces of aircraft, ash ingested into jet engines results in loss of performance, and possibly complete shutdown.

From: FAA Aviation Safety Journal Vol. 2 (3)





Mt. Redoubt, AK 1750 UTC 26 March 2009 Taken from Diamond Ridge near Homer, AK



Volcanic Ash Detection



Volcanic Ash Characteristics in Moist Tropical Airmass NOAA/NESDIS/ORA

Volcanic ash detection algorithm

Output image product



Automated Ash Cloud Warning and Retrieval System

•First ever satellite-based automated volcanic cloud warning and retrieval system

•This AVHRR-based system is being transitioned to NESDIS operations



Volcanic Ash Detection



DTG: 20090326/2040 VAAC: ANCHORAGE VOLCANO: REDOUBT 1103-03 AREA: SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA SUMMIT ELEV: 10198ft (3109m) ADVISORY NUM: 2009-18 INFO SOURCE: POES/GOES/AVO/PILOT REPORT/RADAR ERUPTION DEAILS: EXPLOSIVE ERUPTION AT 26/1724 UTC REMARKS: LIGHT ASHFALL REPORTED AT HOMER BY TRUSTED OBSERVER. NEXT ADVISORY: 20090327/02402

Downburst and Microburst Prediction



- Strong downdraft produced by a convective storm (or thunderstorm) that causes damaging winds on or near the ground.
- Due to the resulting intense wind shear, downbursts are a hazard to aircraft in flight, especially during takeoff and landing.



GOES Sounder Products





GOES Imager Product





Future NESDIS-CREST Collaboration

- Directed/guided student research:
 - Algorithm validation:
 - Learn and apply basic meteorological and remote sensing concepts, and research methods.
 - Understand and appreciate connection between research and operational utility of algorithms.
 - Technology transfer:
 - Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) lessons, web-based tutorials, publication of research
- Successful student mentorships can result in the accomplishment of both NESDIS and student research objectives:
 - Opportunities for professional growth for both NESDIS and the student.

