Scandinavian Snow Products



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"Scandinavian snow product and service development concept"





Scandinavian snow products



Variable	Developed by	Provider	Resolution	Sensor type	Status
FSC	NR & Norut	KSAT	0.0025° × 0.0025°	Multi-sensor/temporal [Sentinel-1+3]	Operational (MODIS or VIIRS & RS-2)
SCAW	Norut	KSAT	0.0005° × 0.0005°	SAR [Sentinel-1]	Operational (Radarsat-2)
SSW	NR	NR	0.01° × 0.01°	Optical [Sentinel-3]	Pre-operational (MODIS or VIIRS)
SST	NR	NR	0.01° × 0.01°	Optical [Sentinel-3]	Pre-operational (MODIS or VIIRS)



Pre-operational snow surface temperature

- Thematic information:
 - Skin surface temperature for fully snowcovered surfaces
- Pre-operational service provision:
 - Tested by processing MODIS data for three spring seasons (2012 2014)
- Overall results:
 - Stable processing following bug fixing after first large-scale tests
 - Thematic contents generally confirmed when comparing with synoptic data
 - More detailed validation ongoing

Parameter	Description
Thematic variable	Surface Temperature of Snow
Spatial coverage	Local (demonstrated for South Norway)
Delivery time period	Snowmelt season (March-June)
Temporal frequency	Daily
Spatial resolution	$0.01^{\circ} \times 0.01^{\circ}$
Sensor	MODIS
Service start	1 March
Service status	Pre-operational (at least 2015)
Service provider	NR (KSAT)



STS for South Norway on 11 March 2013



Principle



- Based on Key's algorithm (split window + view angle correction)
- The retrieval algorithm requires that the emissivity of the surface is known. Therefore, we restrict the use to snow-covered surfaces
- Atmospheric correction: Done by measuring the atmospheric effect at two wavelengths and then correcting according to atmospheric path length
- At 0°C we found an accuracy of about 0.5°C in our test site
- Can be applied on NOAA AVHRR, Terra/Aqua MODIS, ENVISAT AATSR and Sentinel-3 SLSTR









CryoLand

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Layers

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daily_FSC_PanEuropean_Optical

daily_SCAW_Scandinavia_Radar

daily_FSC_Alps_Optical

daily_LIE_Baltic_Optical

RIE_SE_FI_Torne_River_2013_Radar

View_10day_FSC_PanEuropean_Cloudfree

View_10day_LIE_Baltic_Cloudfree

multitemp_FSC_Scandinavia_Optical_Radar

daily_STS_SouthNorway_Optical

Surface Temperature of Snow (STS) in degree C 0 to -4.9 deg. C -5 to -9.9 deg. C -10 to -14.9 deg. C -15 to -19.3 deg. C -20 to -29.9 deg. C -30 to -39.9 deg. C -40 to -50.0 deg. C Fractional Snow Cover, no STS

daily_SSW_SouthNorway_Optical

daily_FSC_PanEuropean_Optical_Uncertainty

avg_10day_SSPI_PanEuropean_Microwave

avg_30day_SSPI_PanEuropean_Microwave

2014-03-15

2014-03-18

2014-03-21

2014-03-2014-03-31 2014-04-03

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6.37048, 58.103



Pre-operational snow surface wetness



- Thematic information:
 - Snow wetness categories for fully snowcovered surfaces
- Testing/verification done:
 - Tested by processing MODIS data for three spring seasons (2012 2014)
- Overall results:
 - Stable processing following bug fixing after first large-scale tests
 - Thematic contents generally confirmed when comparing with synoptic data
 - More detailed validation ongoing

Parameter	Description
Thematic variable	Snow Surface Wetness
Spatial coverage	Local (demonstrated for South Norway)
Delivery time period	Snowmelt season (March-June)
Temporal frequency	Daily
Spatial resolution	0.01° × 0.01°
Sensor	MODIS
Service start	1 March
Service status	Pre-operational (at least 2015)
Service provider	NR (KSAT)



First evidence of snowmelt start in South Norway as seen in the SSW product on 13 April 2013



Principle



- Infer wet snow from a combination of measurements STS and SGS in a time series of observations
- Temperature gives a good indication of where wet snow may be present
- Rapid increase in the effective grain size simultaneously is a strong indication of a wet snow surface
- A temporal algorithm combining SGS and STS is applied to infer categorical SSW
- Can be applied on NOAA AVHRR, Terra/Aqua MODIS, ENVISAT AATSR and Sentinel-3 SLSTR





Statkraft Nore 1 catchment 8 April 2013



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 CryoLand
 Image: Ima

Snow covered area (dry and wet snow)
 Dry, cold Snow
 Dry-to-moist Snow, stable conditions
 Dry-to-moist Snow, increasing Grain Size
 Moist Snow, stable conditions
 Moist Snow, increasing Grain Size
 Wet Snow
 Fractional Snow Cover, no SSW estimate

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2014-03-15

2014-03-18

2014-03-21

2014-03-24

2014-03-27







Operational fractional snow cover



- Fractional Snow Cover (FSC)
- Multi-sensor / multi-temporal Radarsat-2 & MODIS
- Manual inspection indicate overall good results
- Testing/verification for 2012/13
- Runs operationally at KSAT

Parameter	Description
Thematic variable	Fractional Snow Cover (FSC)
Spatial coverage	Scandinavia
Delivery time period	15 March – 1 August
Temporal frequency	Daily
Spatial resolution	0.0025° × 0.0025°
Sensor	Terra MODIS, Radarsat-2
Service start	15 March
Service status	Operational (at least 2015)
Service provider	KSAT



Regional fractional snow cover map from MODIS and Radarsat-2 of 16 May 2013



Multi-sensor multi-temporal principle



- Let each pixel in each optical and SAR image have a confidence value (based on sensor models)
- Let the confidence of a product decrease with time (e.g. linearly)
- Compute the most likely FSC for each pixel based on the above



$$\begin{split} \mathsf{MFSC}_t(x,y) &= \mathsf{UFSC}_i(x,y) \text{ for } i \text{ which gives} \\ & \mathsf{max}(\mathsf{conf}_{\mathsf{MFSC}}(\mathsf{UFSC}_i(x,y)) \quad i = t,...,t\text{-n} \end{split}$$



Optical fractional snow cover principle



- Two-class linear spectral mixing model applying the visible part of the spectrum
- Regional training targets
- Implicit regional atmospheric and snow metamorphosis correction
- Cloud detection using a regionally optimised k-NN classifier
- Topographic correction
- Non-forested areas (for FSC)
- Tested on AVHRR, MODIS, MERIS and AATSR
- Accuracy: 5-20% FSC error
- Can be applied on NOAA AVHRR, Terra/Aqua MODIS, ENVISAT MERIS/AATSR and Sentinel-3 OLCI/SLSTR



Improvement using SAR



SCAW

MODIS + SCAW SCF, 65% clouds.

- Cloud cover can be significantly reduced when taking SAR into account
- Works best in the spring/ summer when there is a lot of wet snow in the mountains
- Can also have an impact early in the season and for the first snow fall in the autumn
- Limited capabilities during the polar darkness period since MODIS data is lacking

Modis SCF, 85% clouds.



May 30th 2012

Change indicator





Operational snow covered area wet



- Radarsat-2 algorithm implemented at KSAT
- Testing in 2012, validation versus high-resolution optical data from 2013
- Ran automatically since January 2013
- Processing ready for Sentinel-1 launch, first snow map late 2014/early 2015

Parameter	Description
Thematic variable	Snow covered area wet (SCAW)
Spatial coverage	Scandinavia
Delivery time period	All year
Temporal frequency	Daily
Spatial resolution	0.0005° × 0.0005°
Sensor	Radarsat-2
Service start	January 2013
Service status	Operational
Service provider	KSAT



SCAW from Radarsat-2 over Scandinavia at 4 June 2013



Early snowfall Sept 2014





27.09.2014

Radar shadow / layover / foreshortening
Dry Snow or Bare Ground, no Wet Snow mapping
Wet Snow



First Sentinel1A images -SCAW products not available yet



S1 IW 2014.09.20 16:16

MODIS 2014.09.23 12:00 (interpolated temporaly)







S1 IW 2014.09.20 16:16 (R,G,B)=(VV,VH,VV)

LS-8 2014.09.23 12:00





Sentinel-1A vs Landsat-8





