Components of near-surface energy balance derived from satellite soundings: i. Midday net available energy

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Abstract

20 This paper introduces a relatively simple method for recovering global fields of monthly midday (13:30 hour) near-surface net available energy (the sum of the sensible and latent heat flux or the difference between the net radiation and surface heat accumulation) using satellite visible and infra-red products derived from the AIRS Sounder) and MODIS (Atmospheric Infrared (MOderate Resolution Imaging 25 Spectroradiometer) platforms. The method focuses on first specifying net surface radiation by considering its various shortwave and longwave components. This was then used in a surface energy balance equation in conjunction with satellite day-night surface temperature difference to derive 12 hour discrete time estimates of surface system heat capacity and heat accumulation, leading directly to retrieval for surface net available 30 energy. Both net radiation and net available energy estimates were evaluated against ground truth data taken from 30 terrestrial tower sites affiliated to the FLUXNET network covering 7 different biome classes. This revealed a relatively good agreement between the satellite and tower data, with a pooled root mean square deviation of 98 and 72 W m^{-2} for monthly 13:30 hour net radiation and net available energy respectively. 35 although both quantities were underestimated by approximately 25 and 10 percent respectively relative to the tower observation. Analysis of the individual shortwave and longwave components of the net radiation revealed the downwelling shortwave radiation to be main source of this systematic underestimation.

Key words: Net radiation, net available energy, satellite, AIRS, MODIS, eddy covariance tower.

1 Introduction

An important manifestation of climate change is widespread alteration of the composition of the energy balance at the Earth's surface (Trenberth et al., 2009; Wild et al., 2013). Given the importance of being able to predict the consequences of climate change, both measurement and modelling of the components of surface energy balance attract significant attention from a broad range of related scientific disciplines (Stephens et al., 2012). Two such disciplines are hydrology and meteorology, which share a

common interest in resolving the balance between sensible, H, and latent, λE , heat fluxes over a broad range of spatial and temporal scales (Anderson et al., 2012).

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Net available energy, Φ , is a core variable used to predict the magnitude of H and λE given it is defined as the sum of these two fluxes (Wright et al., 1992, Migletta et al., 2009; Anderson et al., 2012),

$$\Phi = \lambda E + H \tag{1}$$

The utility of this definition arises from being able to also specify Φ as the difference between the net broadband radiation, R_N , and the rate of heat accumulation, G, below the plain across which R_N is specified,

$$\Phi = R_{\rm N} - G \tag{2}$$

Given R_N is routinely measured using net radiometers this affords an opportunity to 55 specify Φ and hence either H or λE . For example, in modelling studies λE is invariably specified as a function of Φ using the ubiquitous equations such as those of Penman (1948) for open water or Monteith (1965) for land surfaces (Mu et al., 2011, Mallick et al., 2014a). Despite being the rate of change of heat stock in terrestrial environments, G is often interpreted as the 'ground heat flux' and attempts to measure this using heat flux 60 plates are commonplace (Mayocchi and Bristow, 1995; Sauer and Horton, 2005; Heitman et al., 2010). These measurements prove somewhat less reliable than R_N due to greater spatial heterogeneity in ground heat uptake (Gao et al., 1998; Tittebrand and Berger, 2009; Verhoef et al., 2012) allied to the fact that significant heat capacity resides in other elements of the land surface (Ochsner et al., 2007). As a result, G proves problematic in 65 surface energy balance studies and is either ignored (Foken et al., 2006; Foken, 2008) or treated somewhat superficially (Choudhury, 1987), despite being significant under a broad range of conditions (Santanello and Friedl, 2003; Ochsner et al., 2007). Large scale estimates of G are useful in the context of regional and global evapotranspiration 70 modeling and for verification of regional and Global Circulation Models (Kergoat et al., 2011).

The arrival of satellite retrievals for many of the components of R_N has opened up opportunities to develop large scale estimates of this variable and hence λE (Batra et al., 2006; Mu et al., 2007, Anderson et al., 2012). For example, retrievals for the components 75 of R_N have been available through the International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP) (Pinker and Laszlo, 1992; Stephens et al., 2012); the Earth Radiation Budget Experiment (ERBE) (Priestley et al., 2011); Clouds and Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) (Mlynczak et al., 2011, Chen et al., 2013) on board of the NASA Earth Observing System (EOS) and Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) satellites (Wielicki et al., 1998). Several studies have reported the estimation of R_N using a combination of MODIS (MOderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) atmospheric and land products over USA, China, and India (Cai et al., 2007; Mallick et al., 2009; Bisht and Bras, 2010, 2011) or NOAA-14 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) data over the Tibetan Plateau (Ma et al., 2002).

85 Unfortunately, in the absence of direct observations of G at spatial scales and coverage of satellite R_N , retrievals for Φ have had to rely on the parameterisation of G using surface temperature, albedo and vegetation index information (Bastiaanssen et al., 1998; Batra et al., 2006) or by assigning some fixed proportion of R_N (Choudhury, 1987; Humes et al., 1994) in satellite-based surface energy balance models (Mecikalski et al., 90 1999; Anderson et al., 2012). But studies by Murray and Verhoef (2007), Hsieh et al. (2009) and recently Verhoef et al. (2012) also demonstrated that G is, by definition, a highly dynamic quantity, and that the ratio G/R_N can range anywhere from 0.05 to 0.50 depending on the time of day, soil moisture and thermal properties, and vegetation density. Therefore, methods that are able to provide defensible estimates of G in 95 conjunction with R_N would clearly be of great benefit to this area for determining Φ directly from satellite data and without relying unduly on any offline calibration. In this paper we present a method for retrieving R_N and Φ based on exploring both satellite radiance data and day-night surface temperature difference. The approach is necessarily simple in order to avoid over reliance on models in the pre-processing and to reflect the 100 fact that the focus of this work is the production of satellite estimates of monthly midday (13:30 hour) Φ for use in a simple Bowen ratio (Bowen, 1926) λE specification

framework as detailed in a companion paper by Mallick et al. (2014b) (we referrer this as M2 hereafter). Taking advantage of the extensive network of terrestrial eddy covariance tower sites (Baldocchi et al., 2001) which record direct measurements of R_N , H and λE , we use these measurements to derive independent non-radiative estimates of Φ in order to critically evaluate our satellite estimates of this quantity.

The method we present here for estimating R_N contrasts with more sophisticated model-based approaches which attempt to accommodate the complexity of atmospheric radiative transfer explicitly (e.g. Fouquart and Bonnel, 1980; Mlawer et al., 1997; Bisht 110 and Bras, 2010, 2011; Hou et al., 2014). There are several reasons for adopting this stance. Firstly, the estimates of R_N need to be sympathetic with the simple dynamic energy balance used to accommodate G when specifying Φ . Secondly, we believe it to be important that the complexity of the methods used here are commensurate with those used in the simple Bowen ratio approach as described in M2. Related to this, we have tried to restrict the approach to largely using only AIRS data which provides the satellite 115 soundings required for the Bowen ratio estimates. This single platform approach is to ensure the estimates do not suffer unduly from blending different data sources. Finally, as with this method, complex radiative transfer approaches are also prone to the effects of uncertainty (Betts et al., 1993; Morcrette, 2002; Seidel et al., 2010) and, therefore, the 120 parsimony implicit in the methods used here may be seen as advantageous.

2 Methodology

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2.1 Satellite datasets

In the present study two different data sources were used for the estimation of R_N and Φ , AIRS (Atmospheric InfraRed Sounder) and MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer). The AIRS sounder is carried by the NASA Aqua satellite, which was launched into a sun-synchronous low Earth orbit on May 4, 2002 as part of the NASA Earth Observing System. It gives near global coverage twice daily at 1:30 am-pm from an altitude of 705 km. Level 3 standard monthly day-night data products of air temperature and relative humidity profiles, cloud cover fraction, surface emissivity, near-surface air temperature and surface-skin temperature and columnar total precipitable water at 1° x 1°

130 spatial resolution were obtained for 2003 from the online data archive of AIRS, distributed through NASA Mirador data holdings (http://mirador.gsfc.nasa.gov/). The monthly products are simply the arithmetic mean, weighted by counts, of the daily data of each grid box. The multi-day merged products have been used here because the IR retrievals are not cloud proof and the multi-day product gave decent spatial cover in light of the missing cloudy sky data. The data products were obtained in hierarchical data format (HDF4) along with their latitude-longitude projection. It is also important to mention that the daily 1 degree data contains orbital gaps and cloud contamination. In the 8-day data the co-incident land surface temperature in both day and night pass was missing and the atmospheric soundings were also missing in many places. It is the 140 monthly dataset where the soundings as well as both the day-night land surface temperatures were available and the data has complete global coverage.

We have used the MODIS Aqua atmospheric product datasets (MYD08_D3) (http://modis-atmos.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.html) at 1° x 1° spatial resolution for extracting the solar zenith angle field. AIRS data does not contain any surface albedo field. For 145 generating the surface albedo fields we used narrowband surface reflectances from combined MODIS Terra-Aqua 16 day data (MCD43C4) products acquired from the MODIS data archive (http://ladsweb.nascom.nasa.gov/data/search.html). The native spatial resolution of the MCD43C4 datasets is 0.05 degree. Therefore, all the narrowband surface reflectances were first resized into 1° by 1° to make them compatible with the 150 AIRS spatial resolution and then the broadband surface albedo was generated from the narrowband reflectances following Liang et al. (1999) (presented in next section). It is important to mention that MODIS global albedo product (MCD43C3) contains bihemispherical reflectance (white-sky albedo) and directional hemispherical reflectance (black-sky albedo). Blue sky albedo can be determined by weighting the white and black-155 sky albedo with diffuse skylight fraction which is a function of the aerosol optical depth and solar zenith angle. Look/up table based aerosol information and parameters are needed to convert the reflectances into the blue-sky albedo. But there are established formulations (Liang et al., 1999, Liang, 2002) to directly convert the narrowband reflectances into the broadband visible albedo that does not depend on any atmospheric

160 variables and look-up tables and therefore narrowband surface reflectances are used in the present study.

One of the core objectives of the work is to explore the potential of atmospheric sounding data. AIRS is the only dedicated sounder available which can be explored to address the objectives in the paper. Although MODIS has soundings, but it was not designed for this and only has low quality air temperature soundings. Coarse spatial resolution of AIRS would introduces many difficulties when it comes to the evaluation, but the most important aspect of the two companion papers (we refer the current one as M1) is to introduce the possibility of using atmospheric sounding data as a means of observing surface energy fluxes (a companion paper on latent and sensible heat flux, M2). We have restricted Φ derivation to (largely) AIRS data (we used MODIS albedo because AIRS does not contain any albedo field) in order to exploit a single platform for the entire framework. We would also emphasize that the Φ retrievals are on one time slot per day for 13:30 local time, which is a standard for the studies that use polar orbiting satellites.

175 **2.2 Net radiation**

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The approach for estimating R_N uses the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) radiation products, although we have also made use of the MODIS surface reflectance and solar zenith angle products where necessary. R_N is generated by considering the following balance between net shortwave (R_{NS}) and longwave (R_{NL}) radiation at or near the Earth's surface,

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{N}} = \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{NS}} + \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{NL}} = (1 - \alpha)\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{S}\downarrow} + \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{L}\downarrow} - \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{L}\uparrow}$$
(3)

where α is the surface albedo and $R_{L\downarrow}$ and $R_{L\uparrow}$ are the downwelling and upwelling thermal radiative fluxes and $R_{S\downarrow}$ is the downwelling shortwave radiative flux (all fluxes specified in W m⁻²). Our chosen reference level for R_N is the near surface given this corresponds to the flux-based tower estimates we used in the evaluation. Therefore, surface $R_{S\downarrow}$ was estimated from its top-of-atmosphere clear sky counterpart $R_{S0\downarrow}$ and AIRS cloud cover fraction (f) following Hildebrandt et al. (2007),

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{S}\downarrow} = (1 - f) \tau_{\mathrm{A}} \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{S}0\downarrow} \tag{4}$$

where τ_A is the clear sky transmissivity of the atmosphere which we assume is 0.75 (Cano et al., 1986; Thornton and Running, 1999; Hildebrandt et al., 2007, Gubler et al., 2012). Although clearly a simplification, a constant clear sky transmissivity is widely used (e.g. Massaquoi, 1988; Bindi et al., 1992; Choudhury, 2001; Hildebrandt et al., 2007; Mallick et al., 2009) in recognition of the absence of robust alternatives. In addition, exploiting the AIRS cloud cover fraction data in equation (4) should help accommodate the effects of variations in both the aerosol optical depth (Kaufman and Koran, 2006; Quass et al., 2010) and atmospheric water vapor (Adhikari et al., 2006).

The terrestrial surface albedo was generated using the MODIS Aqua-Terra surface reflectances r_i following Liang et al. (1999),

$$\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^{N} p_i r_i + 0.0036$$
⁽⁵⁾

where r_i are the mid-point reflectances within the 0.62 – 0.67; 0.841 – 0.876; 0.459 – 200 0.479; 1.230 – 1.250; 1.628 – 1.653; 1.628 – 1.653; and 2.105 – 2.155 µm wavelength bands and p_i are the weightings for each wavelength bands taken as $p_i = [0.3973; 0.2382;$ 0.3489; -0.2655; 0.1604; -0.0138; 0.0682] (Liang et al., 1999; 2002). The albedo of the ocean varies according to the cosine of solar zenith angle (Jin et al., 2004). Given the oceanic surface reflectances are not available in either MODIS or AIRS, a constant albedo of 0.04 was assumed for oceans given the satellite radiances are nadir.

Many of the longwave components of the radiative balance are very closely related to the raw IR radiances being measured by AIRS. Given these are not in the public domain we have attempted to recover them as follows, although in future we would anticipate using the raw IR radiances more directly if possible. R_{NL} was calculated as,

$$R_{\rm NL} = R_{\rm L\downarrow} - R_{\rm L\uparrow} = \varepsilon_{\rm C} \varepsilon_{\rm S} \sigma T_{\rm C}^4 - \varepsilon_{\rm S} \sigma T_{\rm S}^4 \tag{6}$$

210 where σ is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant (5.67 x 10⁻⁸ W m⁻² K⁻⁴), T_c is the columnar air temperature, and ϵ_{C} and ϵ_{S} are the column and surface emissivities. Among the different

schemes for calculating ε_{C} we have used the formulation proposed by Prata (1996) given this appears to be the most reliable (Niemela et al., 2001; Bisht and Bras, 2010, 2011). This scheme uses AIRS total precipitable water (ξ) (cm) information to estimate ε_{C} as,

$$\varepsilon_{\rm C} = 1 - (1 + \xi) e^{-(1.2 + 3\xi)^{0.5}} \tag{7}$$

215 The columnar air temperature T_C in equation (6) is taken as the average of the 2 m and 1000 hPa pressure level AIRS temperatures in an attempt to reflect a weighting toward the lower troposphere when specifying $R_{L\downarrow}$. T_S and ε_S are taken directly from the AIRS skin temperature and surface emissivity products.

2.3 Surface heat capacity, ground heat flux and net available energy

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The definition of G stems from consideration of the non-steady state surface energy balance,

$$c\frac{dT_{s}(t)}{dt} = R_{N}(t) - \lambda E(t) - H(t) = G(t)$$
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where c is the aggregate surface system heat capacity (MJ m⁻² K⁻¹). The AIRS sounder platform samples twice daily at 01:30 and 13:30 hours. Despite being somewhat coarse, taking a discrete time, backward difference approximation of equation (8) with a sample interval of $\Delta t = 12$ hours equivalent to that of the AIRS pass gives,

$$\Delta T_{\rm S}(t) = b_1 R_{\rm N}(t) + b_2 \tag{9}$$

where ΔT_s is the day – night surface temperature change, $b_1 = \Delta t/c$ and $b_2 = -\Phi(t)\Delta t/c$. If we assume that the system is approximately in equilibrium over a 24 hour cycle, and that at 01:30 hours $\Phi \approx 0$ (for all 30 sites analysed in this study $\Phi(01:30) < 0.05\Phi(13:30)$; see also Tamai et al., 1998; Mamadou et al., 2014), then this gives the following simultaneous equations:

$$\Delta T_{\rm S}(13:30) = b_1 R_{\rm N}(13:30) + b_2 \tag{10a}$$

$$-\Delta T_{\rm S}(13:30) = b_1 R_{\rm N}(1:30) \tag{10b}$$

which can be solved analytically to derive b_1 and b_2 and hence Φ and c for each grid cell in the AIRS global array.

Equation (10) is a coarse approximation of equation (8) and hence potentially suffers from a number of deficiencies. Firstly, diurnal symmetry in ΔT_s is only appropriate when 235 one considers weekly or monthly average behaviour, and that there are no additional heat losses or gains to/from stores beyond the domain defined by the single heat capacity c. In this study we examined the monthly average behaviour because AIRS only gives partial global coverage on the daily timescale due to both cloud effects and the non-overlapping swath width of the sensor. Interactions with additional long term heat stores is an issue in systems such as the oceans where there can be a persistent heat loss/gains to/from deeper 240 water over timescales of weeks to months, although relative to the diurnal fluctuation of stored surface heat this tends to be small (Stramma et al., 1986). Secondly, Φ can be either positive or negative at 01:30, although it tends to be only a fraction (never exceed 5% of afternoon Φ) of its 13:30 value due to the supply of relatively small energy at night compared to the day. This may be less true for areas of land in the height of winter with 245 cloud full days and over the sea where significant daytime heat accumulation could in part be re-released as night time latent and sensible heat. Thirdly, equations 9 and 10 attribute the magnitude of the daytime G to the nighttime net long wave radiative balance, which is obviously rather uncertain. Fourthly, the air emissivity computation using 250 Prata's equation was developed for the daytime and using it for the nighttime emissivity may introduce errors. Finally, all the terms in equation (8) are highly dynamic and yet are treated as constant or varying linearly over the 12 hour sample interval. It is difficult to predict what the consequences of this are, given it depends on the pattern of radiative forcing through the day which can vary significantly in both time and space. Some 255 illustrative examples of the theoretical assumptions of equation 10 (a and b) are depicted in Figures 2, 3 and 4. Figure 2 shows the examples of the diurnal symmetry of T_S for clear days in three different seasons where the saw-tooth pattern between noon (13:30 hour) and night (1:30 hour) T_S is evident. This clearly shows how well these two T_S samples capture the dynamic range of the day and hence the discretisation is 260 representative of the daily energy balance. Figure 3 (a to d) illustrates the diurnal

evolution of Φ during three different times of the year (spring, summer, and winter) for four broad biome categories (grassland, cropland, forest and savanna), which clearly indicates $\Phi \cong 0$ at 1:30 hours local time and within less than 5% of afternoon Φ . Lastly, Figure 4 highlighted the two dimensional relationship between the noontime G (13:30 265 hours) and nighttime R_{NL} (1:30 hours) for the above mentioned four biomes and the correlation between the two varied between 0.32 to 0.60, having high correlation over grassland and savanna and moderate correlation over forest and cropland. Despite large differences in the footprint size between G and R_{NL} measurements, the inverse relationship between the two variables in Figure 4 clearly indicates the dependence of 270 noontime G on the nighttime longwave radiation balance. Therefore, although the theoretical approximations in equation 8 and 10 (a, b) seems to be somewhat coarse and might have few limitations (as described earlier), but Figures 2, 3, and 4 indicates strong connectivity between ΔT_S , 1:30 hours R_N (or R_{NL}) and 13:30 hours Φ . However, given the structure of the atmosphere and the very small energy fluxes involved, high latitude Φ 275 estimates from this method are likely to be problematic anyhow.

2.4 Sensitivity analysis

A general sensitivity analysis was carried out in order to assess the effects of the propagation of uncertainty onto the estimates of G, R_N and Φ . For this analysis the input terms were assigned uniform prior distributions of ± 10 % for all parameters other than temperatures for which ± 1 K uniform prior distributions were assumed. These assumed ranges resemble the stated uncertainties as given in the AIRS support literature (Aumann et al., 2003; Hearty et al., 2014). The sensitivity of each output to each input was calculated assuming an average, locally linear sensitivity. These were expressed as the change in output per unit change in input, normalised by the median value of each. Only absolute sensitivities > 0.1 were considered significant. The standard deviation of the estimated distributions of G, R_N and Φ were used as the summary statistic for the measurement uncertainty of the proposed methodology.

2.5 Evaluation of R_N and Φ

To evaluate the satellite values of R_N and Φ we have made use of the extensive 290 FLUXNET terrestrial tower network (Baldocchi et al., 2001). Clearly, there is a scale conflict here with the satellite retrievals being 1° whilst the individual tower observations are for scales of the order of 1 km or less. The tower R_N are from the broadband net radiometer sensors located on each tower. In the absence of reliable measures of G at the tower scale and in order to derive genuinely independent measures of Φ against which to 295 evaluate the satellite data, we have taken the tower net available energy as the sum of the measured sensible and latent heat flux i.e. equation (1). Thereby we have assumed that the eddy covariance flux measurements are able to close the energy balance (i.e. R_N - G = λE + H), the implications of which will be discussed below. We have chosen 30 sites covering a broad range of geographical locations selected from 7 land cover types 300 including; evergreen broadleaf forest (EBF), mixed forest (MF), evergreen needle forest (ENF), deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF), savanna (SAV), grassland (GRA) and cropland (CRO). A comprehensive list of the site characteristics are provided in Table 1. Each tower evaluation dataset is comprised of the 13:30 hour local time samples of R_N, H and λE which correspond with the satellite overpass. Again, the evaluation is based on 305 pooling these data into weighted monthly average values. For the evaluation we have elected to compare all 12 months of data for 2003 given this had the best overlap between the FLUXNET and AIRS databases. However before directly validating the satellite retrieved Φ , the proposed Φ retrieval method is first evaluated using high temporal frequency ground based observations of R_N and T_S over some eddy covariance sites 310 representing four broad biome categories (grassland, cropland, forest and savanna). Both R_N and T_S at 13:30 and 1:30 hours local times were extracted from half-hourly measurements and Φ at 13:30 hours was determined using equation 10 (a and b). The retrieved midday Φ was validated against tower observed latent and sensible heat fluxes.

3 Results

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Table 2 shows the results from the sensitivity analysis. For G we see the importance of the long wave specification and in particular $\varepsilon_{\rm C}$. The standard deviation of the estimate of G from the ensemble is 18 W m⁻² giving approximate 95 percent confidence detection

limits of ± 36 W m⁻² on the estimates. R_N is sensitive to all components of the radiation balance calculation as expected (Table 2). The standard deviation of the estimate of R_N from the ensemble is 40 W m⁻² giving approximate 95 percent detection limits of ± 80 W m⁻² on the estimates (Table 2). Not surprisingly the sensitivity results for Φ mirror those of R_N albeit with a marginally higher ensemble standard deviation of 44 W m⁻² (Table 2).

The locations of the 30 terrestrial evaluation sites are marked in Figure 1. Figure 5 shows annual average, global satellite scenes for 13:30 hour R_N , c, G and Φ for the year 2003. Missing data in the images are mainly due to missing data in the AIRS soundings at high latitudes or over the mountain belts where it is difficult to profile air temperature and relative humidity reliably. In addition, persistent cloudy conditions also prevent reliable retrieval and hence are rejected although these will be less evident in the monthly or annual average data.

Figure 5a shows the global distribution of R_N which generally decreases with latitude as expected. R_N also decreases over land due to the generally higher albedo resulting in reduced absorption of the net shortwave radiation (Giambelluca et al., 1997, Gao and Wu, 2014) or relatively higher surface temperature increasing the net longwave component, especially over the drier regions (Liang et al., 1998, Trenberth, 2011). As a result the magnitude of R_N was around 200 – 300 W m⁻² over the dry desert regions whereas the oceanic values of R_N were 450 – 700 W m⁻².

Figure 5b shows the global distribution of c (surface heat capacity). The oceanic values of 4 to 8 MJ m⁻² K⁻¹ are equivalent to 1 to 2 m of sea water, which appears reasonable on the daily time step to which they relate (Stramma et al. 1986; Schwartz, 2007). These oceanic values are somewhat noisy due to the small day-night temperature differences observed for the oceans giving a relatively poor signal to noise ratio. However, behind this noise the pattern of oceanic c appears relatively uniform as one might expect. Over land c varies between 0.05 - 0.5 MJ m⁻² K⁻¹ with wetter tropical and high latitude areas showing significantly higher values than the drier, less vegetated areas as expected. The soil equivalent depth of this heat capacity is approximately 0.01 m,

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345 which again appears reasonable for a daily time step (Li and Islam, 1999), although in heavily vegetated areas c is obviously comprised of a more complex aggregation.

Figure 5c shows the global distribution of G. These are the 13:30 hour values, hence being net positive as an annual average. Between 20° North-South G is approximately 10 to 20 percent of R_N, and this rises to more than 40 percent above 50° North-South (Hsieh et al., 2009). Given this opposes the pattern of R_N one would conclude either some deficiencies in the way G is specified here or that R_N partitions into latent heat far more effectively than surface heating in these warm wet environments (Liu et al., 2005). Again, terrestrial values are lower than their oceanic equivalents mainly due to the lower heat capacity as well as reduced R_N as discussed above. This also highlights the role of the vegetation layer in preventing ground heating (Baker and Baker, 2002; Bounoua et al., 2010). The Sahara appears particularly prominent in this scene with high rates of midday heat accumulation which appears to be associated with a combination of moderate net radiation and relatively high heat capacity. The heterogeneity in this region appears to be related to the pattern of bare darker rock.

Figure 5d shows the global distribution of Φ which follows a similar pattern to R_N as expected, although the pattern of G shown in Figure 5c dictates that the North-South gradients in Φ are somewhat stronger than those of R_N. Before discussing these results we consider their evaluation. In the first step, we validated the new method of Φ retrieval at representative FLUXNET sites using ground observations of the surface radiation components (T_S, R_N and G) as input before directly evaluating the satellite based retrievals. Tower scale evaluation of daily midday (13:30 hours) Φ is illustrated in Figure 6 (a, b, c, and d) for four broad biome categories, which shows a modest correlation [r = 0.91(±0.03)¹ to 0.98 (±0.04)] between 0.89 (±0.07) to 1.12 (±0.05) for the gain and - 44.29 (±20.15) to 59.40 (±29.03) for the offset, respectively (Figure 6). The root mean square deviation (RMSD) varied between 41 (savanna) to 88 W m⁻² (forest).

square deviation (RVISD) vare

¹ All uncertainties are expressed as \pm one standard deviation unless otherwise stated.

Figure 7a shows the pooled evaluation of satellite R_N which produced an overall correlation of r = 0.88 (±0.03). Assuming both tower and satellite observations are linearly related through some 'true' value, then the pooled values are co-related by $R_N(\text{satellite}) = 0.75(\pm 0.02)R_N(\text{tower})+23.37(\pm 8.20)$ i.e. a small but significant underestimation in $R_N(\text{satellite})$ relative to $R_N(\text{tower})$. The root mean square deviation (RMSD) between the two was 98 W m⁻². The biome specific statistics for R_N are given in Table 3 which reveals correlations ranging between 0.65 (EBF) to 0.96 (ENF), RMSD ranging between 74 (GRA) to 127 W m⁻² (EBF) and regression statistics ranging between $0.58 (\pm 0.08)$ to $0.87 (\pm 0.04)$ for the gain and $-32.40 (\pm 23.73)$ to $107.45 (\pm 39.93)$ for the offset.

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Figure 7b shows the evaluation for Φ which produced pooled statistics of r = 0.87 (±0.03), RMSD of 72 W m⁻² and the regression between the satellite predicted and tower observed Φ produced a regression line of Φ (satellite) = $0.90(\pm 0.03)\Phi(\text{tower})$ -2.43 (±8.19). The biome specific statistics for Φ are also given in Table 3 showing correlations ranging from 0.70 (EBF) to 0.95 (ENF), RMSD ranging between 62 (GRA & SAV) to 88 (EBF) W m⁻² and regression coefficients ranging between 0.66 (±0.08) to 1.01 (±0.05) and -65.25 (±27.07) to 108.71 (±32.10) for the gain and offset, respectively.

Figure 8 shows a sample of monthly time series for Φ for both the satellite and the 390 towers. The sites were selected to represent the biome classes considered here and also ones for which complete annual data sets for 2003 were available. These results show the satellite estimates generally track the trends in the tower data and hence the pooled statistics are not masking the within site variability. Again, the site-wise comparative statistics for these data are given in Table 3.

4 Discussion

For R_N the statistics relating the satellite and tower data are different with the results of: Bisht et al. (2005) who obtained 74 W m⁻² RMSD when evaluating MODIS Terra geophysical land products over the Southern Great Plains of the US (our RMSD in grassland is only comparable here while other biomes show larger error); Jacobs et al. (2004) who obtained a 14 – 46 W m⁻² RMSD (12.2 percent relative RMSD) when

400 determining hourly R_N using GOES (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite) data over wetlands in the Southern Florida; Cai et al. (2007) who obtained 13.7 percent error when evaluating MODIS Terra-Aqua data over China; Bisht and Bras (2010) who obtained $39 - 51 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ RMSD over the central US using MODIS terra atmospheric data at 5-10 km spatial resolution; Hwang et al. (2013) and Hou et al. (2014) who reported RMSD in instantaneous and daily R_N to be 58 – 142 W m⁻² and 37 – 40 W m⁻² over South 405 east Asia and China, respectively, using MODIS terra data products. Stackhouse et al. (2000) evaluated the International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP) data to have errors in the range 10 to 15 W m^{-2} in monthly average shortwave and longwave radiative fluxes. Apart from these studies, other studies reported 33 - 60 W m⁻² RMSD in daily R_N using 5 km MODIS Terra optical and thermal data (a comprehensive list of 410 relevant studies is given in Table 4). It is important to emphasize that, in the present study the RMSD is being impacted in two ways; due to spatial scale mismatch and due to the time integration. When these errors are compounded in the derivation of R_N and compared with tower data, an RMSD of the order of 98 W m⁻² appears reasonable considering the coarse spatial resolution of the AIRS data $(1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ})$. 415

There have been very few attempts to retrieve satellite estimates of Φ and compare these with ground truth data, although the statistics from our attempt appear to be parallel to the results of Stisen et al. (2008) who studied a single grassland site in the Senegal River basin using moderate (high) spatio-temporal resolution (5 km spatial resolution, 15 420 minutes temporal resolution) MSG (Meteosat Second Generation) geostationary satellite data and obtained a correlation of r = 0.71 and an RMSD of 43 W m⁻² in comparison to estimating evapotranspiration While Indian measurements. over the surface agroecosystems, Bhattacharya et al. (2010) obtained an RMSD of 56 W m⁻² for noontime Φ using 8 km resolution Indian geostationary satellite data. In another study with MODIS Aqua data over semi-arid agroecosystems in India, Bhattacharya et al. (2011) reported an 425 RMSD of 34 W m⁻² in daily average Φ , which was associated with a significant tendency to underestimate Φ . Common to all these studies, the ground heat flux was either modelled as an empirical approximation employing remotely sensed surface variables (albedo, vegetation index and T_s) or as a fixed fraction of R_N. Murray and Verhoef

430 (2007) argued that these empirical approaches do not generalise well. In particular, prescribing G as a fixed fraction of R_N overlooks the role played by the thermal inertia of the land surface (Santanello and Friedl, 2003) leading to an underestimation in G in the morning and overestimation during the afternoon (Gentine et al., 2007). The retrieval of G proposed here using day-night surface temperature information attempts to account for this thermal inertia effect and the results appear to support this approach especially when considering the scale mismatch between the tower and satellite observations.

As seen in Figure 7a there is a systematic underestimation of R_N relative to the tower values which exceeds the typical accuracy of net radiometer measurements of 20 W m^{-2} quoted by Foken (2008). We examined this underestimation in more detail wherever 440 possible, by evaluating three of the individual radiation components of R_N ($R_{S\downarrow}$, $R_{L\downarrow}$ and $R_{L\uparrow}).$ All tower sites provided measurements of $R_{S\downarrow}$ (but not $R_{S\uparrow}).$ Figure 9a shows $R_{S\downarrow}$ is systematically underestimated the satellite scale with $R_{S|}$ (satellite) at = $0.70(\pm 0.02)R_{S1}$ (tower)+68(± 12.24) which accounts for the mismatch of R_N(satellite) \approx $0.75 R_N$ (tower). Before attempting to account for the various reasons for this 445 underestimation it is important to realise that, unlike the IR components, the shortwave components are all-sky retrievals i.e. like the tower data they do not omit cloudy sky conditions. As a result, any bias in the shortwave is not as a result of biased sampling when comprising the monthly average. Besides, the omission of non-clear sky data would tend to lead to $R_{S|}$ (satellite) > $R_{S|}$ (tower).

450 Clearly, the retrieval of atmospheric shortwave transmissivity (τ_A) using cloud cover fraction is the principal reason for $R_{S\downarrow}$ (satellite) < $R_{S\downarrow}$ (tower) (Figure 9a). The sensitivity analysis presented in Table 2 is also indicating the significant sensitivity of R_N and Φ to the cloud cover fraction and atmospheric transmissivity. This shows the method presented in the manuscript to estimate $R_{S\downarrow}$ needs further improvements. If we assume τ_A to be the principal reason for $R_{S\downarrow}$ (satellite) < $R_{S\downarrow}$ (tower) then a global value of 0.75 would be, on average, too low (Gueymard, 2003). A recent study of Longman et al. (2012) for the Mauna Loa Observatory (MLO) demonstrated the clear sky τ_A could go upto 0.90. Given the relatively well defined relationship between $R_{S\downarrow}$ (satellite) and $R_{S\downarrow}$ (tower) seen in Figure 3c one would imagine that a more sophisticated dynamic representation of τ_A

would offer substantial improvements in $R_{S\downarrow}$ (satellite). Retrieval of τ_A including other 460 atmospheric (e.g., cloud optical depth, aerosol optical depth, total precipitable water etc.) and surface (for example, single scattering albedo) variables in addition to the cloud cover fraction would offer a potential possibility of refining the $R_{S\downarrow}$ estimates (Chen et al., 2014; Longman et al., 2012; Kim and Hogue, 2008). The exo-atmospheric shortwave 465 radiation frequently interacts with the clouds, aerosols and water vapor during the transmission towards the Earth's surface. This interaction is wavelength-dependent over the entire shortwave spectrum (Chen et al., 2014; Kim and Hogue, 2008; Gueymard, 2003) and therefore spectrally resolved τ_A scheme will be valuable to accurately determine R_{SL} . Recalibration of τ_A using the tower data is also a possibility although we 470 have avoided this given the AIRS cloud cover fraction and scale mismatch between the satellite and tower could also be implicated in the observed bias. For example, the diffuse fraction of R_{S_1} (tower) can become enriched by surface reflected solar radiation, particularly in undulating terrain (Dubayah and Loechel, 1997; Sultan et al., 2014). Nonlinear scaling effects of surface albedo (Oliphant et al., 2003; Salomon et al, 2006) 475 can also be implicated in this because surface albedo interacts nonlinearly with surface characteristics such as surface wetness and land surface temperature (Ryu et al., 2008) or the leaf area index (Hammerle et al., 2008). Although, the RMSD of instantaneous R_{SI} obtained in the present study (110 W m^{-2}) is different to the other studies where R_{SL} retrieval was based on either using parametric (radiative transfer) models or through 480 look-up tables derived from high spatial resolution MODIS data, it is worth comparing it with the statistics of some of those studies. Table 4 summarizes the characteristics and associated errors of some of the recent R_{S1} estimation studies, which shows RMSD of 36-89 W m⁻² at flux tower footprint, 54 – 137 W m⁻² at 5 km spatial resolution and 77 – 158 W m⁻² at 1° spatial resolution for the instantaneous $R_{S\downarrow}$ estimates and 20 – 39 W m⁻² for the daily $R_{S\downarrow}$ (and net shortwave, R_{NS}) estimates. Considering the simplicity of the current 485 approach and the large spatial scale of the AIRS data, RMSD to the order of 110 W m^{-2} appears reasonable.

To probe the specification of R_N further we investigated the individual longwave radiation components in relations to measures of theses fluxes available for a limited

490 subset (14) of tower sites where the longwave radiative flux components were directly measured by pyrgeometers. From Figure 9b and 9c it appears that there is quite good agreement between the satellite and tower data for both $R_{L\downarrow}$ and $R_{L\uparrow}$ and that any mismatch is insufficient to explain the discrepancy in R_N. This is somewhat surprising for two reasons. Firstly, unlike the shortwave component, R_L (tower) is all sky whilst 495 R_{I} (satellite) is only from clear sky conditions where IR retrieval is possible. As a result, one would anticipate very significant differences in the monthly average values of the longwave components. However, it is difficult to predict the effect of this biased sampling on $R_{NL}(\text{satellite})$ given that cloud interacts with both $R_{L\downarrow}$ and $R_{L\uparrow}$ in complex ways. Secondly, one would anticipate significant scaling effects from the T⁴ nonlinearity 500 in equation (6) which can result in a disproportionate contribution of warmer elements within the system to both $R_{L\downarrow}$ and $R_{L\uparrow}$ (Kustas and Norman, 2000; Lakshmi and Zehrfuhs, 2002, Corbari et al., 2010). The fact that these affects are not seen to any significant degree could point to compensating errors in the analysis but does not distract from the central message of the importance of the bias in the shortwave when accounting for 505 $R_N(\text{satellite}) < R_N(\text{tower}).$

Figure 7b and Table 3 show that $\Phi(\text{satellite}) \approx 0.90 \Phi(\text{tower})$ suggesting a slight compensation for the underspecification of R_{SI} through the underspecification of G from the satellite data. However, this evaluation assumes the energy balance to be closed in the tower data (i.e. $R_N - G = \lambda E + H$), which typically is not the case, $\lambda E + H$ often falling short of R_N - G by 20 percent (Wilson et al., 2002). Because the causes of this energy 510 imbalance remain controversial (see Foken, 2008 for review), it is difficult to estimate how much the tower values of λE + H are actually biased low and hence the extent to which this bias affects our evaluation. Stoy et al. (2013) recently found a systematic relationship of the surface energy balance closure with landscape heterogeneity over 173 515 FLUXNET tower sites and reported an energy imbalance of 9 - 30 percent over diverse biomes. In another study, Amiro et al. (2009) found relatively better fulfilment of energy balance closure by averaging data over longer periods. The monthly averages of (AIRS overpass time) 13:30 hours surface energy balance closure of the 30 sites used here (Table 5) shows an average energy imbalance of ~20 percent (ranging from 8 to 34

520 percent). The errors in the tower data are also believed to be associated with different footprint characteristics for the different instruments used (Lin et al., 2008). For example, R_N observations typically have a footprint size of ~10 m² whilst air properties (e.g. air temperature, humidity) have footprint sizes of > 1 km². By way of illustration, if, in the worst case, the entire energy imbalance was to be attributed exclusively to $\lambda E + H$ (i.e. 525 $R_N - G$ are quantified correctly), then the true midday $\lambda E + H$ could be some 20 percent greater (Wilson et al., 2002). As a result, the present bias seen in Table 3 would change to Φ (satellite) $\approx 0.72\Phi$ (tower) again implicating $R_{S\downarrow}$ as the main source of bias in the satellite retrievals for both R_N and Φ .

We have only evaluated the satellite retrievals using data from terrestrial sites, and 530 clearly it would be worthwhile repeating this for the ocean retrievals if possible. We have held back on this evaluation here because of the lack of an extensive network of instantaneous latent and sensible heat flux or radiative flux data over the oceans, although we note that the SEAFLUX project within the Global Energy and Water Experiment (GEWEX) initiative should give rise to such a database in the near future. From the 535 terrestrial evaluation we would argue that the methodology employed here shows promise for specifying both noontime R_N and Φ , although the results suggests the need for improvements particularly in the specification of R_{S1} . More detailed studies evaluating the representativeness of each tower site footprint in relation to the 1° scale within which it is situated could prove useful in this regard as would methods for cloud-540 proofing the satellite retrievals under persistent cloudy sky conditions. Similarly, evaluation under extreme conditions (e.g. high altitudes and latitudes) is also required.

5 Conclusions

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We have demonstrated a novel retrieval for midday (13:30 hour) surface net available energy (Φ) by blending the monthly atmospheric and land surface variables of AIRS and MODIS sensors. We have attempted to structure the method such that the Φ retrieval does not depend on any offline calibration. We performed a two-step evaluation of the retrieved values for Φ at some representative surface radiation measurement sites and also over 30 FLUXNET sites from all over the globe. Current Φ estimates performed well when compared against high spatio-temporal in situ measurements and coarse spatial resolution satellite retrievals. Consistent underestimation of R_N was noted due to the underestimation of shortwave radiation and in tropical latitudes the R_N (and Φ) agreement was relatively weaker. Combination of high frequency cloud dynamics and relatively low seasonal variability of $R_{S\downarrow}$ makes it difficult to accurately model both Φ and R_N . One of the key challenges in modeling R_N (and Φ) in the tropics are to account for fast changing cloud cover fraction and cloud optical properties throughout the day.

With the availability of high spatial resolution (1 - 5 km) MODIS day-night optical and thermal data, our present approach could be extended to derive high spatial resolution Φ estimates at the global scale. This could be achieved by estimating MODIS-based daynight R_N and combining day-night R_N with day-night T_S observations. At the same time, 560 the current methodology could also be used on high temporal frequency observations of geostationary satellite (e.g., GOES and METEOSAT). Having estimated surface heat uptake and heat capacity (through equation 10), hourly G and Φ could be determined from hourly R_N and T_S observations of geostationary satellite by assuming conservation of heat capacity over a particular day. Operational generation of satellite based Φ product 565 would be a valuable resource for a variety of investigations such as estimating latent and sensible heat, evaluation of Earth system model outputs, and quantifying the landatmosphere coupling strength. Given we have resorted to the minimal amount of calibration in deriving Φ it would appear sensible if a similar philosophy were adopted in developing satellite-based schemes for latent and sensible heat fluxes as proposed in M2.

570 In addition to opportunities in specifying large scale surface heat and water vapor fluxes, the heat capacity estimates made here clearly carry information on variations in terrestrial properties such as surface moisture storage and we envisage that studies to develop this concept further could prove fruitful, particularly because of the emergence of satellite microwave data against which the results could be compared.

Acknowledgments

575 We would like to acknowledge Goddard Earth Sciences- Data & Information Services Centre (GESS - DISC), Level 1 and Atmosphere Archive and Distribution System (LAADS) web interface, NASA, and for putting the AIRS and MODIS data into the public domain. We kindly acknowledge all the site PI's who have provided terrestrial flux data through the FLUXNET data archive. The AmeriFlux regional network component of 580 this archive is supported with funding from the US Department of Energy under its Terrestrial Carbon project. KM would like to thank Loise Wandera for helping in map preparation. The authors declare no conflict of interests. This work was originally developed under NERC grant number NEE0191531.

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Biome type	Site name, Country	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Reference
Evergreen broadleaf forest (EBF)	Palagkaraya, Indonasia	-2.35	114.04	Hirano et al. (2007)
	Puechabon, France	43.74	3.6	Reichstein et al. (2003)
	Caxiuana Forest-Almeirim, Brazil	-1.72	-51.46	Carswell et al. (2002)
	Manaus - ZF2 K34, Brazil	-2.61	-60.21	de Araújo et al. (2004)
	Santarem-Km67, Brazil	-2.86	-54.96	Hutyra et al. (2007)
	Santarem-Km83, Brazil	-3.02	-54.58	Goulden et al. (2004)
Mixed forest (MF)	Vielsalm, Belgium	50.31	5.99	Aubinet et al. (2001)
	Tomakomai National forest, Japan	42.73	141.52	Hirano et al. (2003)
	Changbaishan, China	42.4	128.09	Zhang et al. (2006)
Grassland (GRA)	Oensingen1 grass, Switzerland	47.29	7.73	Ammann et al. (2007)
	Neustift/Stubai Valley, Austria	47.12	11.32	Hammerle et al. (2008)
	Goodwin Creek, USA	34.25	-89.87	Unpublished
	Bugacpuszta, Hungary	46.69	19.61	Gilmanov et al. (2007)
	Dripsey, Ireland	51.99	-8.75	Jaksic et al. (2006)
Cropland (CRO)	ARM Southern Great Plains, USA	36.61	-97.49	Fischer et al. (2007)
	Bondville, USA	40.01	88.29	Meyers et al. (2004)
	Tsukuba, Japan	36.05	140.03	Saito et al. (2005)
Evergreen needleleaf forest (ENF)	Le Bray, France	44.72	-0.77	Granier et al. (2000a)
	Duke Forest - loblolly pine, USA	35.98	-79.09	Katul et al. (2003)
	Blodgett forest, USA	38.89	-120.63	Goldstein et al. (2000)
	Howland forest, USA	45.2	-68.74	Hollinger et al. (1999)
Deciduous broadleaf forest (DBF)	Harvard Forest EMS Tower (HFR1), USA	42.54	-72.17	Urbanski et al. (2007)
	Univ. of Michigan Biological Station, USA	45.56	-84.71	Gough et al. (2009)
	Willow Creek, USA	45.81	-90.08	Cook et al. (2004)
	Hesse Forest - Sarrebourg, France	48.67	7.06	Granier et al. (2000b)
	Hainich, Germany	51.08	10.45	Anthoni et al. (2004)
	Morgan Monroe State forest, USA	39.32	-86.41	Baldocchi et al. (2001)
	Takayama, Japan	36.15	137.42	Saigusa et al. (2002)
Savanna (SAV)	Tonzi Ranch, USA	38.43	-120.97	Baldocchi et al. (2004)
	Skukuza, South Africa	-25.02	31.49	Scholes et al. (2001)

Table 1. Eddy covariance sites used for the evaluation of the satellite derived R_N and Φ

Table 2. Sensitivity analysis results. The forcing data are taken for mid-summer on the Southern Great Plains, US. Sensitivities are locally linear, averaged across the ensemble response and expressed as dimensionless relative changes. Only absolute sensitivities > 0.1 are shown. N = 10^5 realisations.

		G (W m ⁻²)	$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{N}} \left(\mathbf{W} \ \mathbf{m}^{-2}\right)$	Φ (W m ⁻²)	
X	sample range	dG/dx	dR _N /dx	dΦ/dx	
$\tau_{\rm A}$	± 10 %	-	1.30	1.58	
f	± 10 %	-	-0.77	-0.94	
α	±10 %	-	-0.25	-0.31	
ε _s	± 10 %	1.00	-0.31	-0.37	
ε _C	±10 %	-4.60	0.98	1.19	
Ts	±1 K	0.75	-0.17	-0.21	
T ₁₀₀₀	±1 K	-0.33	-	-	
		([©]) [□] ⁰ ⁰ ¹⁰⁰ ¹⁵⁰ ¹⁵⁰ ¹⁵⁰ ¹⁵⁰ ¹⁵⁰	$(\hat{g}_{d}^{2})_{d}^{200}$ $(\hat{g}_{d}^{2})_{d}^{400}$ $(\hat{g}_{d}^{400})_{500}$ $(\hat{g}_{d}^{400})_{500}$ $(\hat{g}_{d}^{400})_{600}$	$(\hat{e})_{a}^{(\hat{e})}$	
standard deviation		18 W m ⁻²	40 W m ⁻²	44 W m ⁻²	

Table 3. Comparative statistics for the satellite and tower derived monthly midday (13:30 hour) R_N and Φ for a range of biomes. Values in parenthesis are ±one standard deviation.

			$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{N}}$					Φ		
Biome	RMS D (Wm ⁻²)	Gain	Offset	r	N	RMSD (Wm ⁻²)	Gain	Offset	r	Ν
EBF	126.67	0.58	107.45	0.65	69	87.67	0.66	108.71	0.70	65
		(±0.08)	(±39.93)	(±0.09)			(±0.08)	(±32.10)	(±0.09)	
MF	104.21	0.82	-32.40	0.89	36	87.29	0.97	-65.25	0.86	32
		(±0.07)	(±23.73)	(±0.08)			(±0.10)	(±27.07)	(±0.09)	
GRA	74.29	0.73	51.37	0.88	59	61.51	0.83	15.71	0.86	53
		(±0.05)	(±15.88)	(±0.06)			(±0.07)	(±16.21)	(±0.07)	
CRO	89.13	0.73	35.62	0.84	36	53.31	0.99	-0.23	0.87	36
		(±0.08)	(±28.57)	(±0.09)			(±0.10)	(±23.98)	(±0.09)	
ENF	85.45	0.87	-26.83	0.96	48	66.7	1.01	-56.56	0.95	46
		(±0.04)	(±14.78)	(± 0.04)			(±0.05)	(±15.27)	(±0.05)	
DBF	92.77	0.71	21.74	0.85	84	71.57	0.88	-16.70	0.85	80
		(±0.05)	(±15.15)	(±0.06)			(±0.06)	(±14.23)	(±0.06)	
SAV	103.98	0.69	56.28	0.87	23	61.98	0.97	-14.42	0.88	23
		(± 0.08)	(±36.08)	(±0.11)			(±0.11)	(±37.68)	(±0.25)	
Pooled	98.21	0.75	23.37	0.88	355	72.26	0.90	-2.43	0.87	335
	(28%)	(±0.02)	(±8.20)	(±0.03)		(22%)	(±0.03)	(±8.19)	(±0.03)	

N = number of data points falling under individual biomes. $\Phi = (H + \lambda E)$ (for the tower sites).

EBF = Evergreen broadleaf forest, MF = Mixed forest, GRA = Grassland, CRO = Cropland, ENF = Evergreen needleleaf forest, DBF = Deciduous broadleaf forest, SAV = Savanna

Radiative	Reference	Sensor used	Spatial	Temporal	RMSD
flux			resolution	resolution	(W m ²)
variables					
R _N	Verstraeten et al. (2005)	NOAA AVHRR	1 km	Instantaneous	5 - 45
	Bisht et al. (2005)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Instantaneous	74
	Cai et al. (2005)	MODIS Terra and Aqua synergie	5 km	Instantaneous	19
	Bisht and Bras (2010)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Instantaneous	23 - 39
	Hwang et al. (2013)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Instantaneous	58 - 142
	Hou et al. (2014)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Daily	37 - 40
	Bisht et al. (2005)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Daily	60
	Peng et al. (2013)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Daily	33
	Jin et al. (2013)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Monthly average	44
	Mallick et al. (2014) (current study)	AIRS and MODIS Terra	1 degree	Instantaneous monthly average	74 - 126
$R_{S\downarrow}$	Chen et al. (2014)	MODIS Terra	1 degree	Daily	39
	Sun et al. (2013)	In situ observations	Tower footprint	Instantaneous	36 - 89
	Huang et al. (2012)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Instantaneous	54 – 83 (in R _{NS})
	Huang et al. (2011)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Instantaneous	60 - 137
	Wang and Pinker (2009)	MODIS Terra and Aqua	1 degree	Instantaneous	77 – 158
	Kim and Hogue (2008)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Instantaneous	76
	Tang et al. (2006)	MODIS Terra	5 km	Daily	20 - 35 (in R _{NS})
	Mallick et al. (2014) (current study)	AIRS	1 degree	Instantaneous monthly average	110

Table 4. Summary of errors and characteristics of some of the dedicated satellite based R_N and $R_{S\downarrow}$ retrieval studies

Table 5. The mean and standard deviation of monthly midday (13:30 hour) surface energy balance closure (C_{EB}) of different biome types for the 21 (out of 30) FLUXNET sites (N) under study. Nine out of 30 sites had missing ground heat flux. C_{EB} is computed according to Stoy et al. (2013).

Biome types	Ν	C _{EB}
EBF	2	0.92 ± 0.15
MF	3	0.76 ± 0.12
GRA	4	0.84 ± 0.08
CRO	3	0.77 ± 0.10
ENF	3	0.80 ± 0.02
DBF	4	0.66 ± 0.05
SAV	2	0.79 ± 0.08





Figure 1. The distribution of the 30 eddy covariance tower sites used for evaluating $R_{\rm N}$ and $\Phi.$



Figure 2. Illustrative examples of in situ monthly diurnal surface temperature (T_S) and the saw-tooth pattern of monthly satellite midday(13:30 hour) – night (1:30 hour) T_S (as hypothesized in equation 10) for three different seasons of a year. This shows a linear rise and fall of day-night T_S (dotted black line) or vice versa and indicates ΔT_S symmetry. This also shows how well the two T_S samples capture the dynamic range of the day and hence the discretisation is representative of the daily energy balance.







Figure 3. Examples of the diurnal evolution of net available energy (Φ) (= $\lambda E + H$) during three different times of year over four representative biome types. This shows $\Phi \cong 0$ around 1:30 hours.



Figure 4. Observational relationship nighttime (1:30 hour) net longwave radiation (R_{NL}) and midday (13:30 hour) G measurements. Despite the scale mismatch between the two measurements, moderate (r = 0.32 - 0.44) (forest, cropland) to high (r = 0.60) (grassland and savanna) relationship is notable.



Figure 5. Global fields for annual average 13:30 hour: **a.** net radiation R_N (W m⁻²); **b.** Surface heat capacity, c (MJ m⁻² K⁻¹); **c.** surface heat accumulation rate, G (W m⁻²); **d.** net available energy, Φ (W m⁻²), for 2003.



Figure 6. Validation of net available energy $(\Phi)(=\lambda E + H)$ using high temporal frequency (daily) observations of midday (13:30 hour) and night (1:30 hour) R_N and T_S (solving equations 10a and 10b) at the eddy covariance tower sites over four representative biomes.



Figure 7. Comparison of satellite and tower monthly average 13:30 hour **a.** R_N . and **b.** Φ [Φ = (H + λ E) (for the tower sites)]. For details of the site characteristics see Table 1. For the comparative statistics see Table 3. The solid line is the pooled linear regression given in Table 3.

(+ EBF; x MF; \circ GRA; * CRO; ∇ ENF; \diamond DBF; \Box SAV)



Figure 8. Satellite (grey) and tower (black) time series of monthly average 13:30 hour net available energy $\Phi \left[\Phi = (H + \lambda E) \right]$ (for the tower sites) for a selection of sites for 2003. The numbers in the x-axis are the month numbers indicating January (as month number 1) to December (as month number 12).



Figure 9. Comparison of satellite and tower monthly average 13:30 hour **a**. $R_{S\downarrow}$, **b**. $R_{L\downarrow}$ and **c**. $R_{L\uparrow}$ for a selection of sites for which tower data for $R_{S\downarrow}$ (360 data points), $R_{L\downarrow}$ (159 data points) and $R_{L\uparrow}$ (159 data points) were available. The linear fit (solid line) between the two sources of $R_{S\downarrow}$ is, $R_{S\downarrow}(AIRS) = 0.70(\pm 0.02)R_{S\downarrow}(tower) + 67.68 (\pm 12.24)$; $r = 0.84 (\pm 0.03)$. The linear fit (solid line) between the two sources of $R_{L\downarrow}$ is, $R_{L\downarrow}(AIRS) = 1.03(\pm 0.03)R_{L\downarrow}(tower) - 36.91 (\pm 10.05)$; $r = 0.95 (\pm 0.03)$. The linear fit (solid line) between the two sources of $R_{L\uparrow}$ is, $R_{L\uparrow}(AIRS) = 0.91(\pm 0.02)R_{L\uparrow}(tower) + 20.43 (\pm 8.77)$; $r = 0.96 (\pm 0.02)$. The dashed lines are 1:1 in all cases.

 $(+ \text{ EBF}; \text{ x MF}; \circ \text{ GRA}; * \text{ CRO}; \nabla \text{ ENF}; \diamond \text{ DBF}; \Box \text{ SAV})$