

GCOM-W/AMSR2 Level 3 Sea Ice Motion Vector

Product Description

(Research Product, Product ID: SIM(R))

July 2026

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Version history

	Product version	Changes
July 14, 2026	Version 1.101.101	Extended applicability to the Southern Hemisphere.
November 13, 2023	Version 1.101.101	A minor update for Ver. 1.101.101 was conducted because the incorrect data of eastward and northward components (Geophysical Data EN) was stored in Ver. 1.100.100 products due to problems in converting to an HDF format. *The accuracy shown in the document (https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/AMSR/datacatalog/cryosphere/pdf/AMSR2_SIM_ReleaseNotes_en.pdf) was not changed.
March 14, 2022	Version 1.100.100	Initial release

1 Introduction

This document describes a stored data set of the AMSR2 sea ice motion vector (SIM) product developed by Dr. N. Kimura (Kochi University, developer ID: R). Using the developer IDs, the products are hereinafter referred to as SIM(R). A specification of the product is given in Table 1.

Table 1 Product specification of AMSR2 SIM

Areas	Projection	Spatial resolution	Temporal resolution	Goal accuracy
Ocean at high latitudes	Polar stereographic (PS) *	50 km	1 day	± 6 cm/s

* Latitude and longitude information of SIM products is different from that of other AMSR2 products mapped onto the PS projection.

2 Product description

SIM(R) products are distributed by an HDF5 format. The structure of the HDF5 format is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 AMSR2 SIM product file structure

Structure		HDF Data	Content
Header	Product Metadata	Attribute	Describe unique information of the product data. *
Data		Data set	Contents of the stored data set of are shown in Table 3.

*For information on header and product metadata, as well as file name, dummy data, and projection, please refer to the GCOM-W1 AMSR2 Higher Level Product Format Specification

(https://gportal.jaxa.jp/gpr/assets/mng_upload/GCOM-W/AMSR2_Higher_Level_Product_Format_EN.pdf).

SIM(R) products contain a data set listed in Table 3. SIM(R) products are distributed with the same content and data array as other level 3 products but have the following two changes. First, the SIM(R) products have two additional data: “Geophysical Data EN” and “Polar stereo Coordinate”. Second, as shown in Figure 1a, a data value computed in a 50-km PS coordinate is stored in surrounding four grids in a 25-km PS coordinate used to distribute other AMSR2 products. By ignoring data values at grids in which dummy data of “Pixel data Quality” (PDQ) is stored (Fig. 1b), vectors can be mapped in the original 50-km resolution. It is noted that PDQ stores not a quality flag but a “blend number” of retrieved SIM. Since a vector at a given grid is a spatially weighted average using retrieved data at surrounding 3×3 grids, the “blend number” in eight digits is defined to represent numbers of vectors derived from individual brightness temperature imageries used in this weighted averaging (Table 5). Its minimum and maximum values are 0 and 9, respectively.

To get latitude and longitude information of SIM(R), please download the sample program or register through the user registration site. The information listed in Table 6 is stored in the file (SIM_R_latlon.dat).

Table 3 Data set list of SIM(R)

Data	Data type	Dimension	Description	Scale factor	Unit	Remark
		Northern Hemisphere xc = 448, yc = 304, nc = 2. Southern				

		Hemisphere xc = 332, yc = 316, nc = 2.				
Geophysical Data	signed int	(yc, xc, nc)	U component (nc = 1) V component (nc = 2)	0.1	cm/s	-
Geophysical Data EN	signed int	(yc, xc, nc)	Eastward component (nc = 1) Northward component (nc = 2)	0.1	cm/s	-
Time Information	signed int	(yc, xc)	Time information	1	min	Time from YYYYMMDD (on file name) 00:00
Pixel Data Quality	signed int	(yc, xc)	Blend number of retrieved SIM	1	-	-
Polarstereo Coordinate	signed int	(yc, xc, nc)	X coordinate of PS projection (nc = 1) Y coordinate of PS projection (nc = 2)	1	-	-

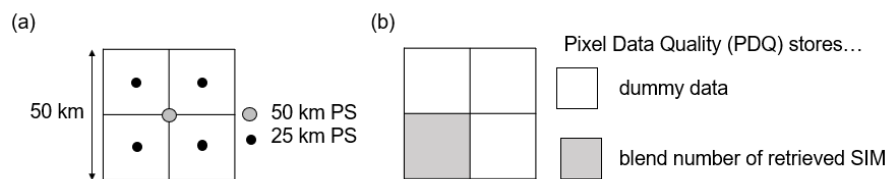


Figure 1 (a) Grid array and (b) stored data in PDQ of SIM(R).

Table 4 Description of blend number of retrieved SIM.

Digit	Frequency [GHz]	Polarization	Orbit
1	36	Horizontal	Descending
2	36	Vertical	Descending
3	36	Horizontal	Ascending
4	36	Vertical	Ascending
5	18	Horizontal	Descending
6	18	Vertical	Descending
7	18	Horizontal	Ascending
8	18	Vertical	Ascending

Table 6 Data set content of latitude and longitude information.

Data	Data type	Dimension xc = 448, yc = 304.	Description	Scale factor	Unit	Range
Lat	float	(yc, xc)	Latitude	1	degrees north	Northern Hemisphere:

						33~ 90 Southern Hemisphere: -90~-33
Lon	float	(yc, xc)	Longitude	1	degrees east	-180 ~ 180

Appendix Sample program

Sample programs of Python to output data set to screen are given as listed in Table A1.

Table A1 Python sample programs

File name	Description of sample program	Remark
sample_simr.py	Print the values of data set of SIM(R) to output screen.	