May 1st, 2017

Release Notes for the DPR V5 Level 2 products

All users of DPR L2 data should keep in mind the following changes in V5 products.

This document describes only the major changes in the level 2 products. There are some changes in level 1 that affect the level 2 products. Please refer to "Release Notes for the DPR Level 1 products" for the details of the changes in level 1 products.

Among several changes in level 1 products, the important changes that affect level 2 products substantially are the following points.
The DPR's system parameters were re-examined. Based on the new calibration results, the offset parameters for the transmitting powers, receiver's gains, the beam widths, and the pulse width of both KuPR and KaPR are redefined. As a result, Zm of KuPR has increased by about +1.3 dB, and Zm of KaPR by about +1.2 dB. The radar surface cross section (sigma0) of KuPR has increased by about +1.2 dB and that of KaPR by about +1.1 dB, although the changes in sigma0 depend slightly on the incidence angle due to the changes in the beam widths. Because of the introduction of the adjustment factors in L2 (see below) whose magnitudes vary with time, the numbers mentioned above are not fixed numbers but change with time, especially near the beginning of the GPM mission. In fact, for example, statistics show that an average (over angle) increase in sigma0 at Ku-band is about +1.0 dB, that at Ka(MS) is about +0.6 dB and that at Ka(HS) is about +0.9 dB on the first 5 days in June 2014.

- The FCIF-LUT for the KuPR near the saturation was improved so that the effect of saturation near the saturation level was mitigated.

Changes in level 2 algorithm

- In addition to the changes in the DPR L1 calibration, adjustment factors are introduced to remove small trends in the overall system gains in KuPR and KaPR. The adjustment factors change the measured received powers only by a small fraction of dB.
- Since the FCIF-LUT for the KuPR near the saturation level was modified to mitigate the effect of saturation, the statistics of sigma0 near the saturation

level in the KuPR has changed. This change affects the SRT performance as well. The side-lobe echo cancellation parameters are adjusted to cope with this change as well

- Measured radar reflectivity factor Zm and surface radar cross section sigma0 are calculated based on the new values of the pulse widths of both KuPR and KaPR. Accordingly, the angle bin dependence of sigma0 has changed slightly.
- A DSD database that depends on the month, region, surface type and rain type was created from the statistics of DSD parameters estimated with the dual-frequency algorithm. The R-Dm relationship in the DSD database is used as the default R-Dm relationship in the single frequency (Ku-only and Ka-only) data processing before it is modified by other constraints such as the path-integrated attenuation. The introduction of the DSD database has modified the precipitation estimates substantially when they are light (less than about 3mm/h) in many cases. Rain estimates from the Ku-only and dual-frequency algorithms now agree very well.
- New flags are introduced. They are `snowIceCover` in the preparation module, `flagHeavyIcePrecip` and `flagAnvil` in the classification module, and `flagSurfaceSnowfall` and `surfaceSnowfallIndex` in the experimental module. The meanings of these flags should be referred to the user's manual.
- Winter convective storms that give large DFRm (measured Dual-Frequency Ratio) at the storm top are flagged and the corresponding pixels are classified as convective in V5. This category only appears in the inner swath since DFRm is available only there.