Microwave Images from TMI and SSM/I

16:33z, December 1997, centered on 156.6W, 20.75N, Hawaii

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NATIONAL SPACE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF JAPAN

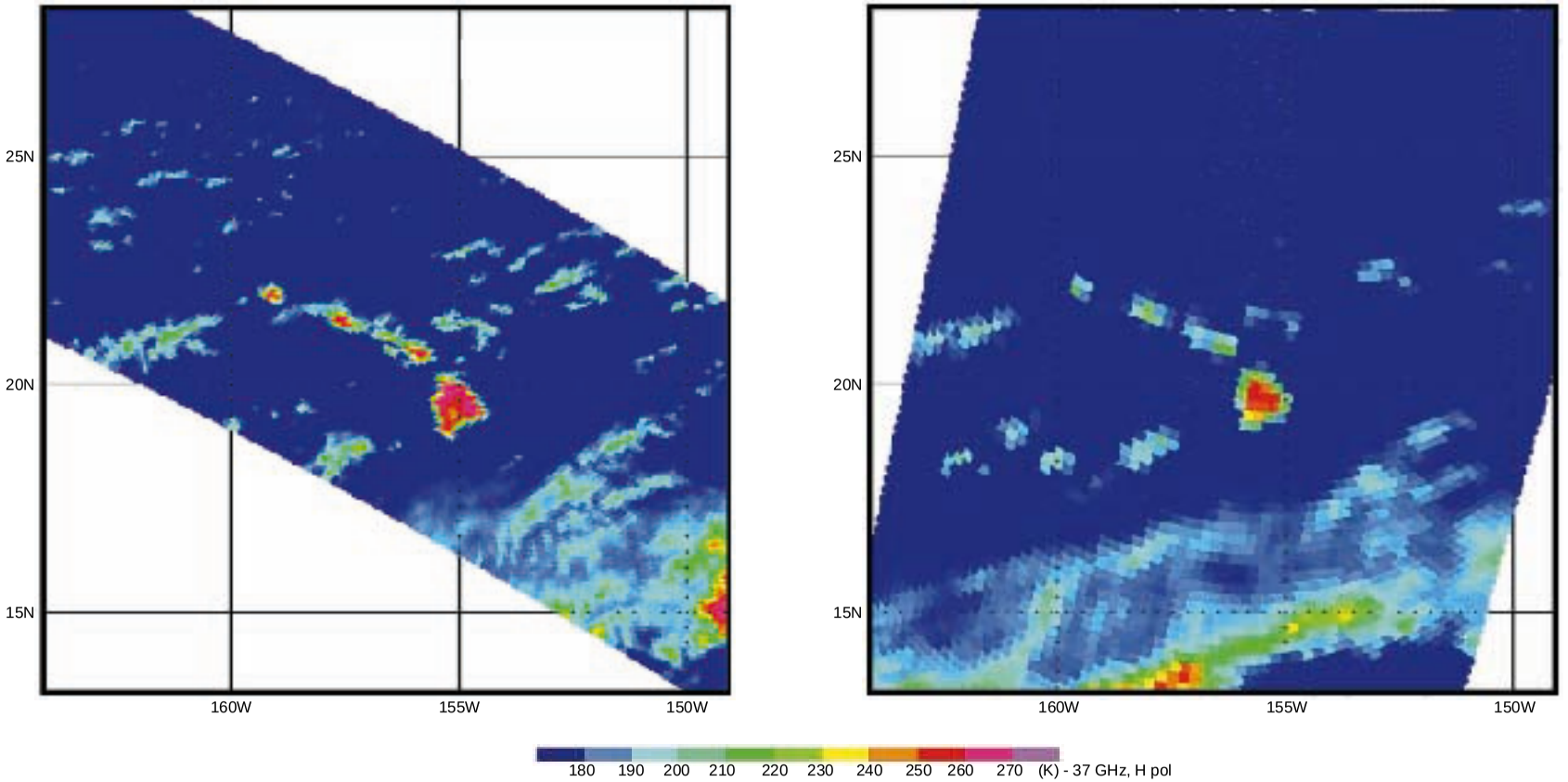

Fig.1 TRMM Microwave Imager (TMI)

Fig.2 Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I)

Simultaneous images of TRMM Microwave Imager (TMI) and Special Sensor Microwave/imager (SSM/I).The greater spatial resolution of TMI will allow higher quality rainfall estimates to be made.

Microwave Images from TMI and SSM/I

These are simultaneous images (37GHz, horizontally polarized) of the Hawaiian islands (centered on 156.6W, 20.75N) from TRMM Microwave Imager (TMI) and Special Sensor Microwave/Imager (SSM/I) around 16:33 on Dec. 2, 1997. Figure 1 shows the image from TMI, and Fig. 2 shows that from SSM/I. It is clear from a comparison of the two images that TMI has three times greater spatial resolution than SSM/I (TMI, about 15km; SSM/I, about 45km). This will allow more accurate rainfall estimates to be made. In addition, TMI has 10GHz channels which SSM/I does not have, so TMI can get information from heavy rain that it is difficult to observe using the 19GHz channel.