Hurricane Imaging Radiometer (HIRAD)

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Cat 5 70.0 Cat 4 58.1 Cat 3 49.4 Cat 2 42.8 Cat 1 33.1 Strong TS 25.72 Weak TS 17.5

C-band (4, 5, 6, 6.6 GHz) radiometer

Retrieval concept similar to the operational Stepped Frequency Microwave Radiometer (SFMR)

Retrieve Wind Speed and Rain Rate over ocean, but over a wide swath

C-band frequencies have ²⁵ varying sensitivity to rain but ¹⁵ ~equal sensitivity to wind ⁵ speed (emission from foam on wind-roughened ocean surface)

HIRAD Background



Hurricane Karl (2010) example



HIRAD Science Flights



Hurricane Gonzalo (2014)



Flown on NASA WB-57 based out of Houston, forward-deployed to Tampa

Cooperation between NASA HS3 program and ONR TCI program

Instruments were integrated onto Global Hawk AV-1 in July for HS3, but AV-1 was unable to perform missions. WB-57 was available for hurricane flights because of the ONR program, so HIRAD and HIWRAP were moved from Global Hawk to WB-57. Kudos to all who made this switch possible!

Center Crossings at 20:34 and 21:12 UTC



GOES Cloud Image @ 18:15 UTC

Wind Retrievals – Oct 15 Gonzalo



Oct 16 Center at 1711, 1803, 1825 UTC



GOES Cloud Image @ 18:15 UTC

HIRAD Wind Retrieval, 16 Oct 2014 Gonzalo

Along-track striping more pronounced, more difficult to remove than on other days

Our heaters turned on with inappropriate set points during this flight, making 16 Oct data difficult to handle

Some issues with removal of storm motion in this imagery, but correctable



The inner-core looks muddled here, but that I apparently because:

- an inner eyewall was strong on East and Northeast sides, weak elsewhere
- an outer eyewall was strong on West side, weak on South side

Eyewall Replacement Cycle during 16 Oct 2014 for Gonzalo

85-89 GHz Mosaic from NRL MRY TC Web Page

WB57 on station ~1700-1830 UTC, top row of overpasses



AMSR2 89 GHz at 1617 UTC 16 Oct HIRAD at 1711, 1803, 1825 UTC



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

at 26 650986° ion -68 439361° elev -17584 ft eve alt 324 28 mi

Center Crossings at 14:04 and 14:41 UTC



GOES Cloud Image @ 12:15 UTC

Wind Retrievals – Oct 17 Gonzalo





0.6

0.5

Hurricane Karl (2010) Brightness Temp and Wind Speed Retrieval



HIRAD Wind Retrieval, Assimilation for Hurricane Karl

Surface wind field in data assimilation experiments from Jason Sippel at GSFC

Adding HIRAD (bottom middle) improves characterization of asymmetric nature of wind field, and correctly reduces the horizontal extent of the wind field. Control and Control+HIWRAP(radar) experiments had Radii of 50-kt and 34-kt winds too large, compared to Best Track

Best results from assimilating Dropsonde, HIRAD, HIWRAP together

HIWRAP VAD wind assimilated



HIRAD surface wind and HIWRAP VAD wind assimilated



HIRAD surface wind, dropsonde wind, and HIWRAP VAD wind assimilated



Summary

- 3 Science Flights from WB-57 over Hurricane Gonzalo (2014)
- Wide-swath data helps paint a picture of hurricane structure
- Initial retrievals from Oct 15, Oct 17 flights look good, some systematic (scan-angle dependent) biases remaining



- Oct 16 data has more striping, but hurricane structure is there – eyewall replacement in progress
- Hurricane Karl (2010) wind retrievals tested in assimilation with dropsondes and HIWRAP; improved structure of wind radii