

Submitting data for the ICWG-2 Cloud Assessment

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Introduction

The CGMS International Cloud Working Group (ICWG) will continue to support assessments of cloud property retrievals from both polar-orbiting and geostationary passive imagers. The ICWG supports two types of assessments. Firstly, the assessment of level-2 passive imager cloud parameter retrievals. Secondly, the assessment of level-3 thematic climate data records of cloud parameter retrievals.

For the 2nd Workshop of the ICWG, the Sub-Working Group “Assessments” plans to make an assessment of level-2 cloud parameters, hereinafter referred to as the ICWG-2 Cloud Assessment. The Sub-Working Group *Assessments* invites providers of level-2 cloud parameter retrievals to submit their data for this assessment. Below we will shortly summarize what data the Sub-Working Group asks for.

The ICWG-2 Cloud Assessment will focus on assessing deterministic differences between of level-2 cloud parameters (and their error estimates), and the statistic validation against superior references. This assessment will be limited to two geostationary satellites, i.e., Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) and Himawari. The cloud parameters that will be part of the assessment are: cloud mask, cloud top temperature, cloud top pressure, cloud top height, cloud phase, cloud optical thickness, effective particle size, cloud liquid water path, and cloud ice water path. As reference datasets, the main sources of information will be the cloud properties obtained from CLOUDSAT and/or CALIPSO observations and Cloud Liquid Water Path observations from passive microwave instruments (e.g. AMSR). All datasets that participate in the ICWG-2 Cloud Assessment will be included in the Common Database of cloud property retrievals after the workshop.

Cloud Assessment Data

ICWG asks provides of cloud property retrievals, who plan to participate in the ICWG-2 Cloud Assessment, to submit the following type of data:

- To submit data in any standard file formats including a description of the file format.
- To submit instantaneous cloud property data for one, or more, of the following parameters: cloud mask, cloud top temperature, cloud top pressure, cloud top height, cloud phase, cloud optical thickness, effective particle size, cloud liquid water path and cloud ice water path.
- To (re)submit instantaneous (level-2) cloud property retrievals from all MSG overpasses collected during
- **13 June 2008.**
- To submit instantaneous (level-2) cloud property retrievals from all Himawari-8 and/or MSG overpasses collected during:
- **18 August 2015 15 UTC to 19 August 2015 15 UTC**
- **20 July 2016 15 UTC to 21 July 2016 15 UTC.**

Submitting data for the assessment

To submit data for the ICWG-2 cloud assessment you need to take the following steps:

1. Register the computer from which you intent to transfer the data for uploading rights: Write a request email to andi.walther@ssec.wisc.edu. We will need the approximate time period and the IP address.
2. Create a directory <dataset name> on the FTP site that has been set-up for the ICWG-2 assessment: [ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/icwg2_incoming](ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/icwg2_incoming)
3. Upload your data to [ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/icwg2_incoming/](ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/icwg2_incoming/)<dataset name>

Important Dates

1 February 2018 [Providers of cloud property retrievals]:

Providing example data files for METEOSAT and HIMAWARI cloud assessment

15 April 2018 [Providers of cloud property retrievals]:

Final date for to submit cloud assessment data

1 October 2018 [Sub-Working Group Assessments]

To send draft assessment report for review to the Cloud property data providers

29 October – 2 November 2018

ICWG-2 in Madison, USA

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