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Quantifying Long-term Vegetation Dynamics and Trends From Multi-Source Passive Microwave Observations

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Climate and Environmental Remote Sensing

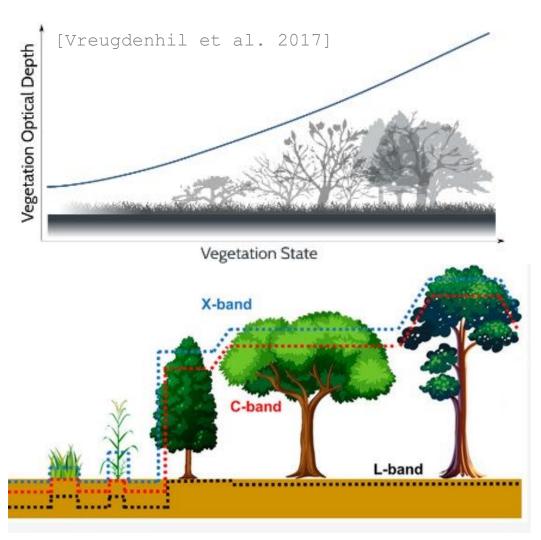




Microwave remote sensing for vegetation dynamics



- Vegetation Optical Depth (VOD) quantifies the attenuation of (microwave) radiation by vegetation.
 - Related to vegetation water content and biomass
 - > Depending on wavelength
- Retrieval algorithms seek to separate vegetation signal from soil signal, e.g.,
 - > **TU Wien method** for radar observations
 - Land Parameter Retrieval Model (VU/NASA/VanderSat/Planet) for radiometer data



[Frappart et al. 2020]

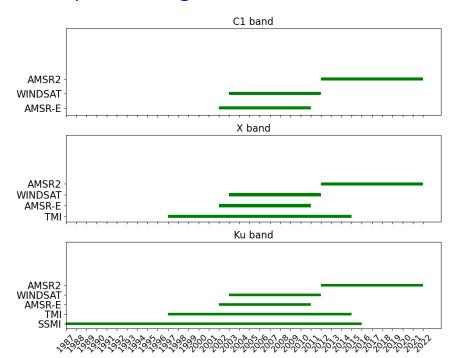


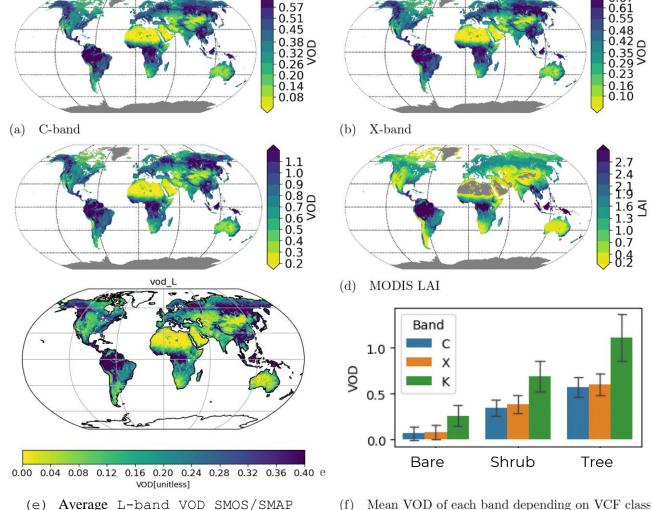
VODCA - The VOD Climate Archive



Long-term, harmonized VOD, derived from multiple single-sensor LPRM level 2 datasets from radiometers

- Separate VODCA products for C-, X-, Ku-band $_{
 m (a)}$ $_{
 m C-band}$
- 0.25° spatial sampling
- Daily, 1987 2021
- https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2575599





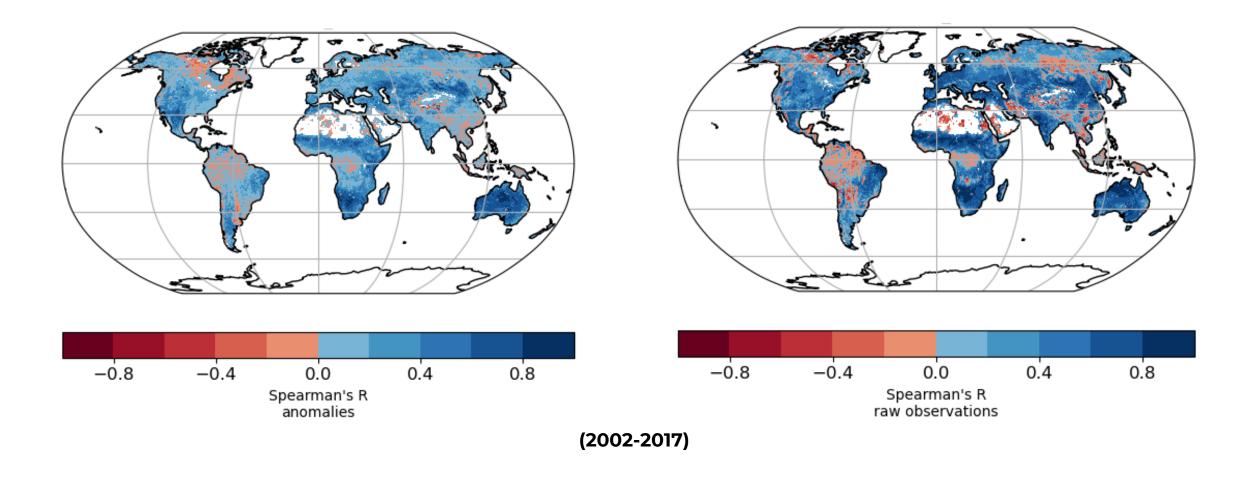
(f) Mean VOD of each band depending on VCF class

[Moesinger et al. 2020; 10.5194/essd-12-177-202]



Ku-VODCA correlation with LAI



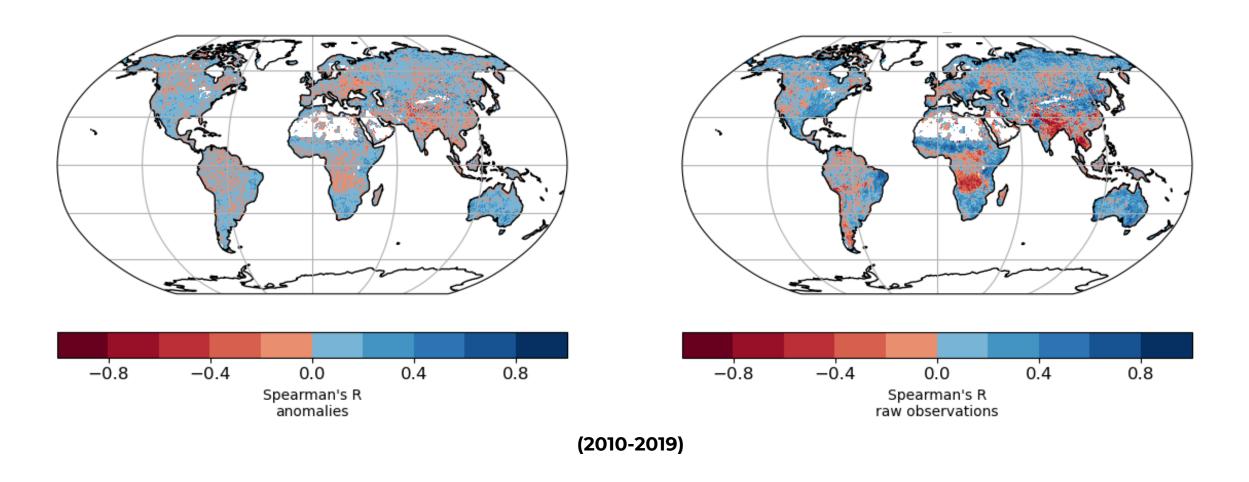


[Moesinger et al. 2020; 10.5194/essd-12-177-202]



L-VODCA correlation with LAI





[Moesinger et al. 2020; 10.5194/essd-12-177-202]



VODCA - State of the Climate

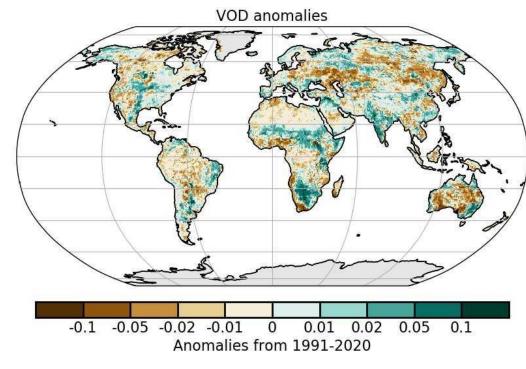


C3S European State of the Climate 2021

Impact of late spring frost on vegetation

Monthly ranking of VOD for April, May and June 2021, relative to 1991-2020, expressed in percentiles

NOAA/BAMS State of the Climate 2021

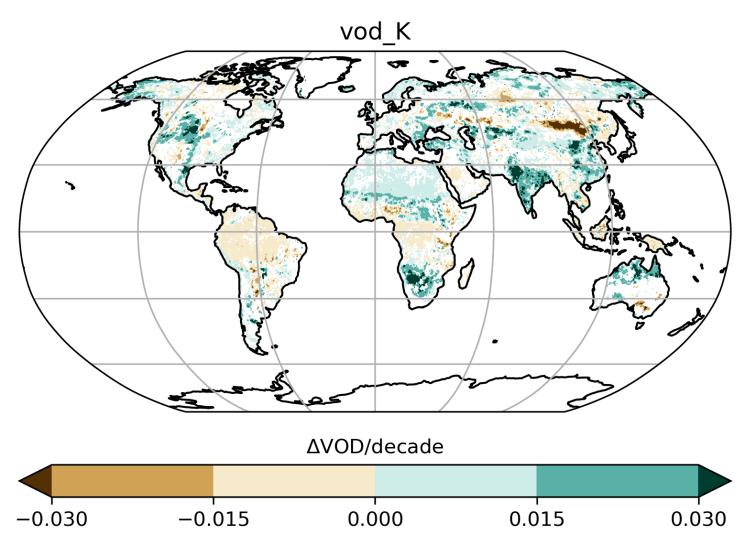


[Dorigo et al., 2021; 10.1175/2022BAMSStateoftheClimate.1]



Ku-VODCA Trends (1987-2021)





[Moesinger et al., 2020; 10.5194/essd-12-177-202]



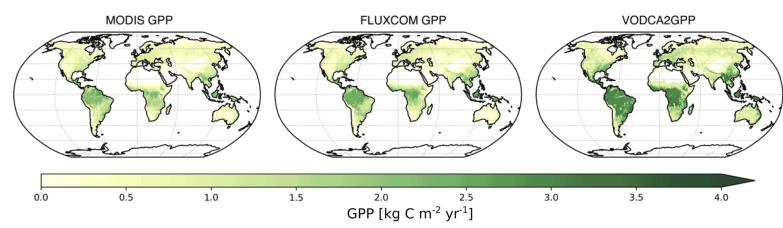
VODCA2GPP



Long-term (1988-2020) GPP estimated from VODCA:

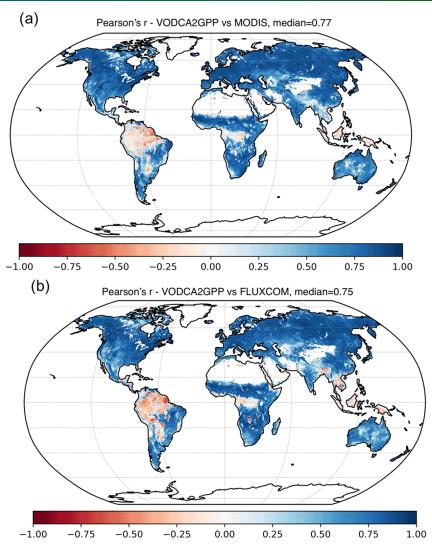
Generalised Additive Model

- Maintenance respiration
- Growth respiration
- Differences in vegetation type
- Temperature dependency
- C-, X- and Ku-band from VODCA
- In situ observations from FLUXNET2015
- Air temperature from ERA5-Land



Mean yearly GPP from MOD17, FLUXCOM and VODCA2GPP for 2002-2016

[Wild et al. 2022; 10.5194/essd-14-1063-2022]

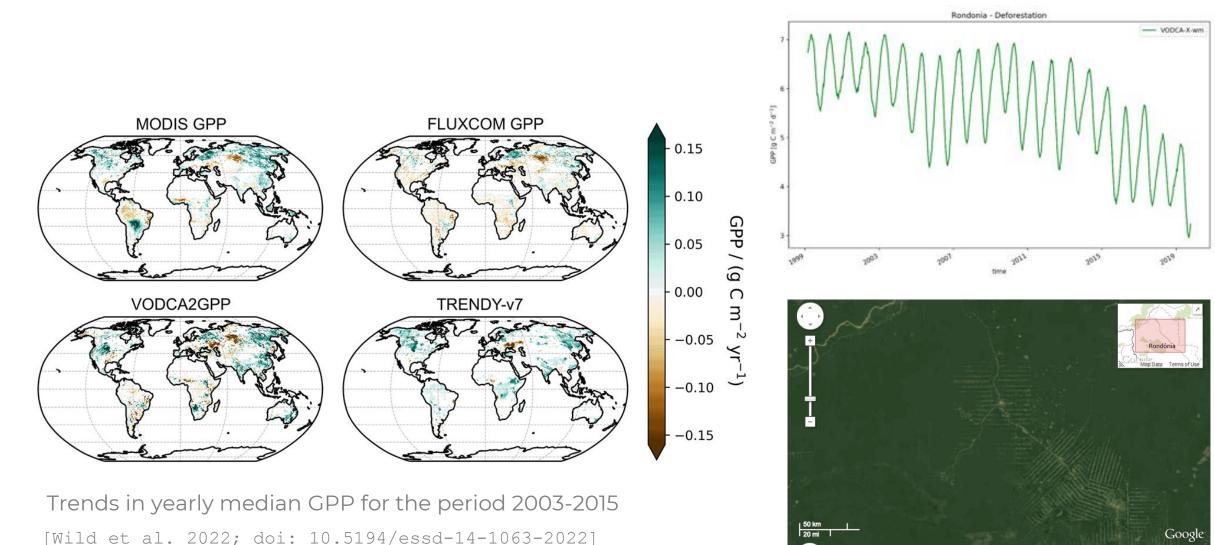


Correlation (2002-2016) between VODCA2GPP and (a) MOD17 and (b) FLUXCOM



Trends in VODCA2GPP





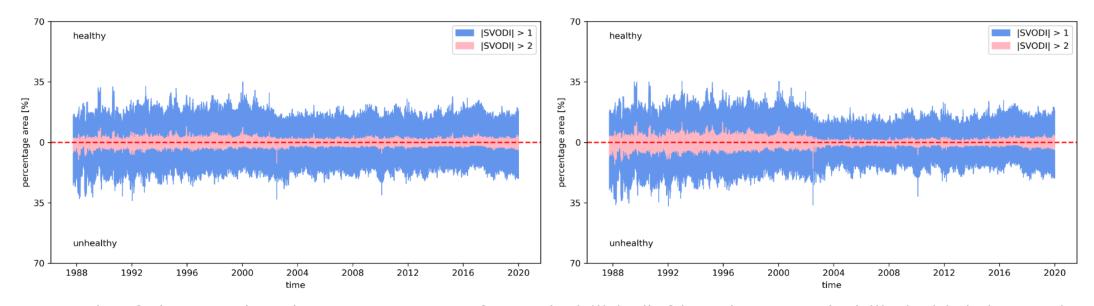


Standardised VOD Index



SVODI is a long-term (1987 - present), daily, global vegetation condition monitoring dataset combining on C-, X- and Ku-band VOD from multiple sensors

- Improves spatio-temporal sampling
- Uses a probabilistic merging method to deal with the heteroscedasticity of data.

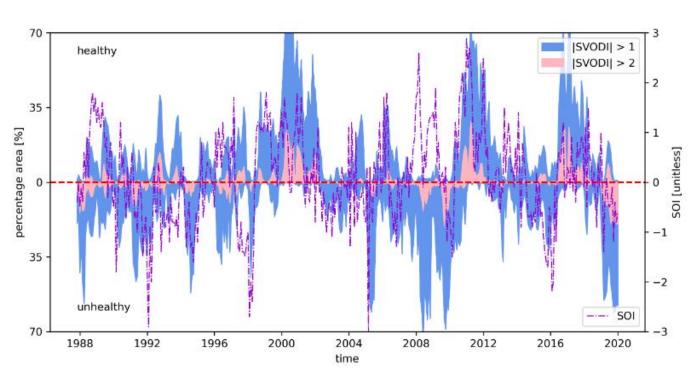


Example of abnormal and extreme counts for probabilitic (left) and non-probabilistic (right) merging

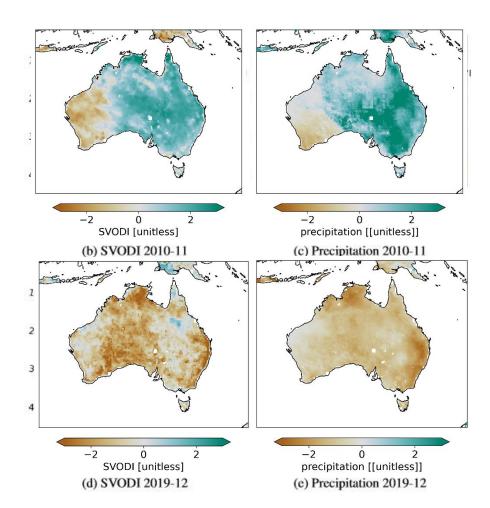


Standardised VOD Index





Fraction of percentage area of |SVODI| > 1 > 2 for central Australia in conjunction with Southern Oscillation Index

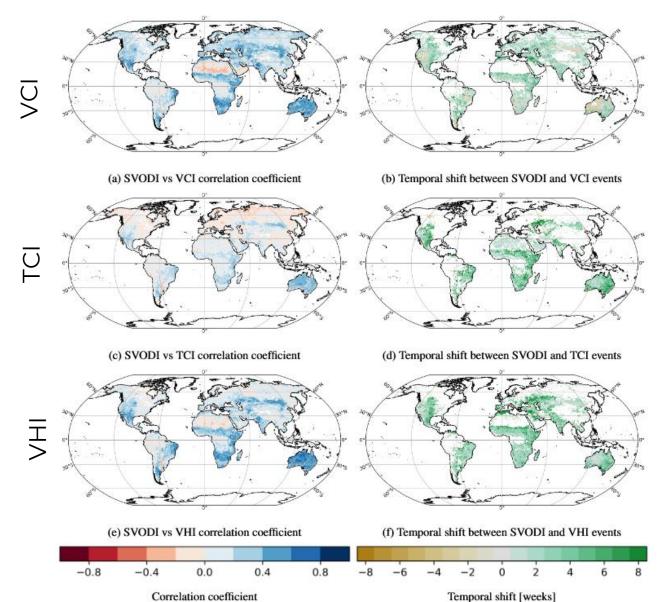


SVODI and standardized precipitation anomalies for 2010-11 and 2019-12



SVODI





Correlation and temporal shift (in weeks) between SVODI and **vegetation** indices:

- Vegetation Condition Index (optical)
- Temperature Condition Index (thermal)
- Vegetation Health Index (optical + thermal)

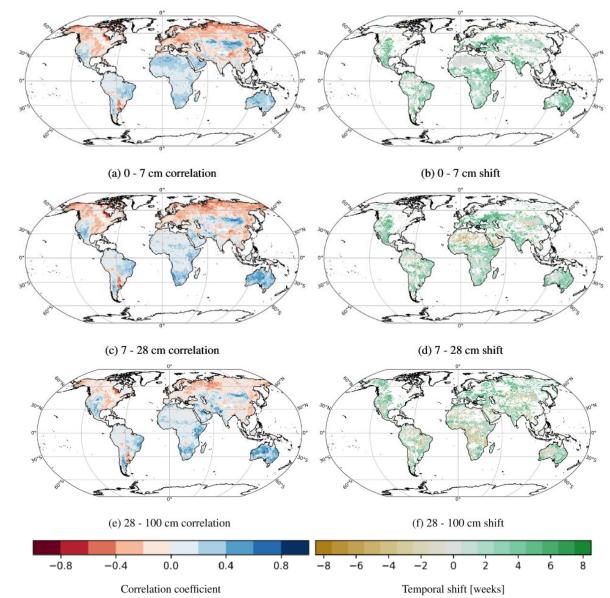


SVODI



Correlation and temporal shift (in weeks) between SVODI and **ERA5 Soil Moisture**:

- 0-7 cm
- 7-28 cm
- 28-100 cm





Summary

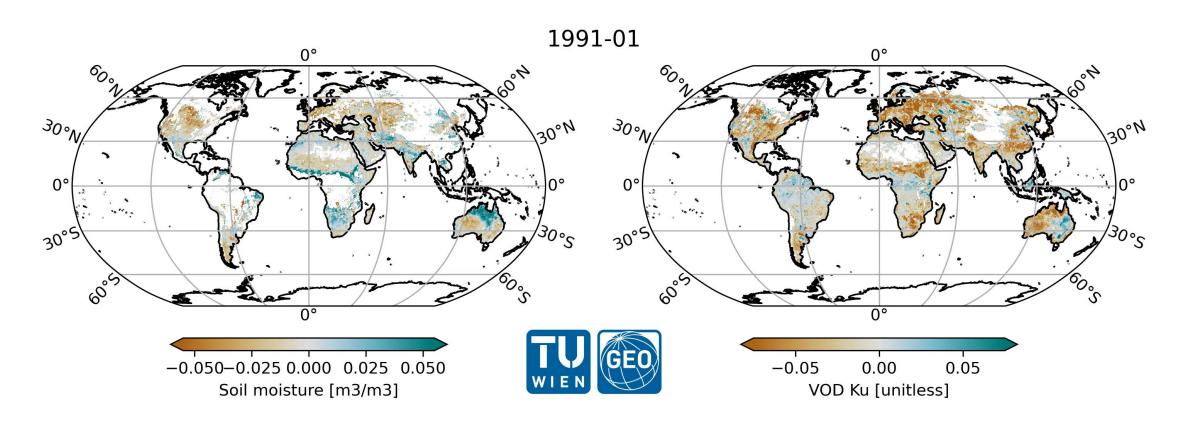


- VOD profits from long heritage of high frequency (C-, X-, Ku) microwave missions, making it a
 powerful source for climate and carbon cycle research
- VODCA allows monitoring temporal and spatial dynamics in above-ground biomass
 - More sensitive to foliage biomass than L- and P-band
 - > Drylands, agriculture, pastures
- VODCA2GPP valuable independent GPP source
 - > data-sparse regions
 - > Long-term trends
- SVODI allows to assess the impact of extreme events and water cycle variability on global vegetation dynamics



Thank you!









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