Development of an operational tool for early detection of fire with new Indian Ocean Data Coverage Meteosat-8

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The longer the reaction time on a fire, the more likely it is to become uncontrollable and the greater the impact on people and the environment. The UMR Espace-Dev in Reunion Island at the SEAS-OI station (http://www.seas-oil.org) and the Reuniwatt company have therefore initiated the implementation of an early fire detection system due to their frequency in the South West of the Indian Ocean. This system is based on the use of satellite Earth Observation data to monitor large regions.

Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) data were selected for the fifteen minute time interval between each acquisition and their large spatial extent. A Bash shell and Python 2.7 processing chain has been created for real-time fire detection, from the acquisition of MSG data to the online publication of alerts.

From the MSG data, the 3.9 µm and 10.8 µm wavelength bands required for fire detection are selected. These raw data are then reconstituted in raster to extract the radiance values in a first time and finally the surface temperatures. Initially, the tests were made using the Low Rate Image Transmission (5 channels available, three hours interval between acquisitions) data on sub-Saharan Africa, in preparation of the operational service of the recently reorbited MSG-3 satellite for Indian Ocean Data Coverage.

Two filters are then applied to detect thermal anomalies.

The absolute filter is applied with the following expression: T3.9>300K AND T10.8>290 K AND ΔT>15° with ΔT=T3.9−T10.8 which represent the limit value from which we know there is a thermal anomaly.

Then, the contextual model that allows to correct the errors due to the clouds. This model uses a mobile window to evaluate whether a potential fire pixel is effectively a thermal anomaly with regard to its close environment.

Concerning the quality of the detection algorithm, statistical tests yield 85% of good detections, the remaining 15% being either false alerts or alerts that can not be confirmed or confirmed. This confirms the effectiveness of the detection algorithm.

With the new Indian Ocean Data Coverage service, the results are now relevant for Madagascar and countries from East Africa (Mozambique, Tanzania). But the resolution of the images proved to be inadequate for the small island territories of the area (Seychelles, Mascarene Islands). To improve the tool on these small territories, the processing and integration of other types of data, with better spatial resolution, is envisaged (VIIRS, MODIS).

The improvement of the current tool thanks to these new data will be facilitated by the recent direct reception of MODIS images by the SEAS-OI station. In the medium term, this evolution will make it possible to offer early detection products with greater reactivity and greater precision.

Finally, the integration of high-resolution data was tested. The first tests showed that this could lead the system to achieve 91% of good detection.

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