Evaluation of the Impact of CYGNSS Wind Speed Data on Tropical Cyclone Structure Analyses and Forecasts in a Regional OSSE

Brian McNoldy¹, Bachir Annane², Javier Delgado², Lisa Bucci², Robert Atlas³, Sharanya Majumdar¹

¹ - U. Miami/RSMAS
² - U. Miami/CIMAS
³ - NOAA/AOML

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Motivation

- OSSEs allow the impact of future observing platforms on models to be assessed.
- CYGNSS is a future platform well-suited for observing the surface wind field of tropical cyclones (TC).
- Accurate assessment of the size of a TC’s wind field is important for forecasters, models, marine interests.
- A TC’s storm surge potential at landfall is most strongly correlated with integrated kinetic energy (IKE), not peak wind speed.
What is CYGNSS?

- The **Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System** is a constellation of 8 micro-satellites scheduled for launch in late October 2016... a NASA Earth Venture Mission (Ruf et al. 2016)
- Utilizes signals from existing GPS satellites to retrieve *ocean surface wind speed*... surface roughness (mean square slope) affects forward-scattered signal
What is CYGNSS?

• Capable of retrieving usable data over a large range of surface wind speeds in all precipitating conditions throughout the tropics and subtropics with frequent revisit times

• Receives GPS L-band signals at 19-cm wavelength

• Low-Earth orbit covers 35S-35N

• 25-km spatial resolution

• Retrieved wind speed dynamic range 0-70 m/s

• Median / mean revisit time is 2.8 h / 7.2 h

A hurricane over the western Atlantic Ocean is well-sampled in this simulation of orbits during a 6-hour time window. Colors indicate wind speed.
OSSE Framework

- Regional Hurricane OSSE (Observing System Simulation Experiment) framework developed at NOAA/AOML
- A robust, realistic, vetted nature run is the foundation and “truth”
  - High-resolution regional nature run (1-km inner domain) embedded within lower-resolution global nature run.
- Simulated observations from a variety of instruments/platforms are generated and provided to a data assimilation scheme which provides an analysis to a regional forecast model.
Hurricane OSSE Framework Details

- **Nature Runs**
  - *Global*
    - ECMWF: low-resolution (~40 km) “Joint OSSE Nature Run”
  - *Regional (North Atlantic)*
    - WRF-ARW: high-resolution (27 km) regional domain, 9/3/1-km nests (v3.2.1)

- **Data Assimilation Scheme**
  - **GSI**: Gridpoint Statistical Interpolation… standard 3D variational assimilation scheme (v3.3). Analyses performed on 9-km grid.

- **Forecast Model**
  - **HWRF**: the 2014 ‘operational’ Hurricane-WRF model (v3.5). Parent domain has 9-km resolution, single storm-following nest has 3-km resolution.

- For results shown here, DA cycling performed every 6/3/1 hours, forecast model run every 6 hours (each run producing a 5-day forecast)
- Total of 16 model runs, but first 4 runs omitted from verification to allow for model spin-up (**12 total cases**)
Experiments

- **CTL6**: “control” run with conventional satellite/surface/sounding data, no CYGNSS, 6-hourly DA cycling
- **CYG6**: CTL6 + CYGNSS wind speeds, 6-hourly DA cycling
- **CYG3**: CTL3 + CYGNSS wind speeds, 3-hourly DA cycling
- **CYG1**: CTL1 + CYGNSS wind speeds, 1-hourly DA cycling

Results are from single TC in the nature run

*Errors are shown as skill relative to CTL6*
Traditional Metrics: Intensity & Pressure

- The addition of CYGNSS data generally improves analyses and forecasts of maximum wind and minimum pressure, mostly limited to 0-48 h timeframe, particularly with CYG3.
Storm Structure Metrics

- Inner core parameters include azimuthally-averaged radius of maximum wind ($RMW$) and wind speed at the RMW ($VRMW$).
- Critical wind radii defined to be maximum radial extent of 34, 50, and 64-knot winds ($R_{34}$, $R_{50}$, $R_{64}$) from storm center:
  - Conventionally reported in each quadrant (NE, SE, SW, NW), measured in nautical miles ($1 \text{ n mi} \approx 1.15 \text{ mi} \approx 1.85 \text{ km}$).
  - Cartesian model grid interpolated to cylindrical grid with 2-km radial and 5º azimuthal spacing.
  - Non-zero values of each critical radius averaged together to get single $R_{34}$, $R_{50}$, $R_{64}$ (e.g. Knaff et al. 2016).
- Integrated kinetic energy ($IKE$) is calculated on model grid anywhere $r \leq R_{34}$ and $U_{10} \geq 34 \text{ kt}$:
  \[
  \int \frac{1}{2} \rho U_{10}^2 dV \quad \text{(assume } \rho = 1.15 \text{ kg m}^{-3}) \text{ (Powell and Reinhold 2007)}
  \]
Calculating Storm Structure Metrics

- Interpolate to cylindrical grid
- Calculate R34, R50, R64

R34: 160 nmi, R50: 97 nmi, R64: 75 nmi

Model 10-m wind
- Calculate IKE

VMAX: 113 kt
PMIN: 942 hPa
IKE: 107 TJ

Azim-ave wind profile
- Calculate RMW, VRMW

RMW: 37 nmi
VRMW: 99 kt

R34: 160 nmi, R50: 97 nmi, R64: 75 nmi
Storm Structure Metrics: Inner Core

- CYGNSS data have negative impact on radius of maximum wind (RMW) errors in this sample, except for CYG3 which adds skill out to 48 h.
- Positive impact on wind speed at RMW (VRMW) in 0-48 h timeframe with CYG3 and CYG1.
Results: Critical Radii

- Analyses & forecasts of all critical radii improved with CYGNSS data at all DA frequencies
Storm Structure Metrics: IKE

- Significant skill added for IKE from 0-120 h with all CYGNSS experiments, especially CYG3 and CYG1
Conclusions

- CYGNSS data have greatest impact on storm structure metrics such as critical wind radii and integrated kinetic energy.
- CYGNSS data improve hurricane intensity analyses and short-range forecasts, but *inner-core-scale metrics limited by spatial resolution*.
- DA cycling frequency affects quality of analyses and longevity of skillful forecasts (1 hr too short, 6 hr too long, 3 hr just right?).
- We have relatively few samples from one TC in one nature run, so error statistics are not robust, but provide guidance.
Questions?

- bmcnoldy@rsmas.miami.edu

- CYGNSS Mission Website:
  - http://cygnss-michigan.org

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