

Estimating Surface-Atmosphere Exchange at Regional Scales

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by

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	ii
List of Figures	iv
List of Tables.....	vi
List of Symbols	viii
Abstract	xiv
Statement.....	xvi
Acknowledgments.....	xvii
Chapter 1 : General Introduction	1
1.1 Overview	3
1.2 General Concepts and Topics.....	6
1.3 Thesis Hypothesis	25
1.4 Thesis Outline	26
Chapter 2 : The OASIS Experiments	29
2.1 Introduction	31
2.2 Overview of OASIS	35
2.3 Description of the Ground-based Sites.....	40
2.4 Description of the Aircraft Programme.....	46
2.5 Description of Remote Sensing Data	53
2.6 Meteorology of the 1995 OASIS Experiment.....	55
2.7 Concluding Remarks	62
Chapter 3 : Aircraft Instrumentation and Calibration.....	65
3.1 Introduction	67
3.2 Aircraft, Instrumentation and Data.....	69
3.3 Description of Instrumentation.....	73
3.4 Static Calibrations: Methods and Results.....	78
3.5 Dynamic Calibration: Methods and Results.....	89
3.6 Optimisation of the Wind Measurement Calibration	100
3.7 Known Instrumentation Problems.....	107
3.8 Summary and Concluding Remarks.....	127
Chapter 4 : Comparison of Aircraft and Ground-based Data	129
4.1 Introduction	131
4.2 Data and Techniques	134
4.3 Results of Comparisons.....	141
4.4 Discussion of Systematic Errors.....	152
4.5 Summary and Conclusions.....	159
Chapter 5 : Surface-atmosphere Exchange Parameters from Aircraft and Ground- based Observations	163
5.1 Introduction	165
5.2 Simple Ratios	171
5.3 Maximum Stomatal Conductance	173
5.4 Results	186
5.5 Summary and Conclusions.....	199

Chapter 6 : Relating Surface-atmosphere Exchange to Remotely Sensed Quantities.	203
6.1 Introduction	205
6.2 Remotely Sensed Data.....	208
6.3 Description of the Source-area Model.....	213
6.4 Source-area Weighted <i>NDVI</i>	218
6.5 Surface Properties and <i>NDVI</i>	224
6.6 Summary and Conclusions	232
6.7 Appendix: Source-area Model.....	235
Chapter 7 : Estimation of Regional-scale Fluxes of Heat, Water Vapour and Carbon Dioxide.....	243
7.1 Introduction	245
7.2 Models for Estimating Regional Fluxes	250
7.3 Spatial Variability of Meteorological Quantities.....	253
7.4 Results	258
7.5 Summary and Conclusions	273
Chapter 8 : Summary and Concluding Remarks	277
8.1 Preamble	279
8.2 Summary of Major Points.....	280
8.3 Hypothesis Revisited	286
8.4 Concluding Remarks	287
References	289

List of Figures

Chapter 1 : General Introduction	1
Figure 1.1 Length and time scales in the atmosphere and biosphere.	9
Chapter 2 : The OASIS Experiments	29
Figure 2.1 Location of the OASIS experiments.	39
Figure 2.2 <i>NDVI</i> image of The Wattles property.	48
Figure 2.3 Schematic of the Browning site.	49
Figure 2.4 The OASIS experiment domain.	51
Figure 2.5 Annual total rainfall and monthly average rainfall.	56
Figure 2.6 Cumulative rainfall during October 1995.	57
Figure 2.7 Daily average and diurnal cycle of meteorology during 1995 OASIS.....	58
Figure 2.8 Aircraft observations for the OASIS transect in 1994 and 1995.	61
Chapter 3 : Aircraft Instrumentation and Calibration.....	65
Figure 3.1 Dynamic pressure correction versus measured dynamic pressure.	97
Figure 3.2 Angle of attack and sideslip calibrations.	99
Figure 3.3 Spectra of the horizontal wind speed at 6 m.	108
Figure 3.4 p_s and τ for the low-level runs on 19 October 1995.....	109
Figure 3.5 τ , filtered p_s , $f_{est}(p_s)$ and p_s for the runs on 19 October 1995.	111
Figure 3.6 Aircraft and ground based measurements σ_q , F_E , σ_T and F_H	113
Figure 3.7 Photograph of the reverse flow sensor in the wind tunnel.	114
Figure 3.8 Temperature measured by the <i>PT100</i> element and reverse flow sensor.	116
Figure 3.9 10 second segment of the wind tunnel run.....	117
Figure 3.10 Time series, spectra and cospectra of q , $T_{aRF}(\text{cor})$ and $T_{aRF}(\text{mod})$	119
Figure 3.11 Spectra and cospectra of q and CO_2 from the NOAA IRGA and the LICOR 6251.	122
Figure 3.12 Spectra and cospectra of q and filtered q from the NOAA IRGA and CO_2 from the LICOR 6251.....	124
Figure 3.13 Cospectra and phase spectra of wT and wq at 6, 20 and 50 m.....	126
Chapter 4 : Comparison of Aircraft and Ground-based Data	129
Figure 4.1 Spectra of θ and q for the low-level flights.	139
Figure 4.2 Comparison of aircraft and ground-based data at the Wattles site.....	143
Figure 4.3 Comparison of aircraft and ground-based data for the grid flights.....	145
Figure 4.4 Comparison of aircraft and ground-based data for the transect flights.	147
Figure 4.5 Comparison of the aircraft and ground-based measurements of the SEB.....	150

Chapter 5 : Surface-atmosphere Exchange Parameters from Aircraft and Ground-based Observations.....	163
Figure 5.1 Observed and modelled G_s for the Browning crop and pasture sites.....	184
Figure 5.2 Diurnal variation of S_{\downarrow} , D and G_s at the Browning sites.	185
Figure 5.3 Diurnal variation of F_A , F_E , F_C , α_E , g_{sx} , β and W_{UE} at Browning.....	190
Figure 5.4 Diurnal variation of α_E , g_{sx} , β and W_{UE} at the crop and pasture sites.	191
Figure 5.5 Daily values of α_E , g_{sx} , β and W_{UE} at Wagga, Browning and Urana.	194
Figure 5.6 Contour maps of α_E , g_{sx} , β and W_{UE} over the grid area.	196
Figure 5.7 Variation of α_E , g_{sx} , β and W_{UE} along the OASIS transect.....	197
Chapter 6 : Relating Surface-atmosphere Exchange to Remotely Sensed Quantities	203
Figure 6.1 <i>NDVI</i> image for the OASIS domain on 8 October 1995.....	210
Figure 6.2 Histogram of <i>NDVI</i> values for the OASIS domain.	211
Figure 6.3 Cross-wind integrated source-area weight function for 4.5 m and 20 m.	214
Figure 6.4 Isopleths of 80%, 50% and 20% contribution to the flux measured at 4.5 m and 20 m.	215
Figure 6.5 Schematic of method for calculating the source-area weighted <i>NDVI</i> using the crosswind integrated source-area weight function.	216
Figure 6.6 <i>NDVI</i> images of Wagga, Browning and Urana showing source-areas.....	219
Figure 6.7 <i>NDVI</i> image showing source-area of aircraft data and contours of source-area weighted <i>NDVI</i> for the grid area during October 1995.....	221
Figure 6.8 <i>NDVI</i> image showing source-area of aircraft data and plot of source-area weighted <i>NDVI</i> for the transect ground-based and aircraft data.....	223
Figure 6.9 α_E , g_{sx} , β and W_{UE} as functions of the source-area weighted <i>NDVI</i> for the ground-based sites.	225
Figure 6.10 α_E , g_{sx} , β and W_{UE} as functions of the source-area weighted <i>NDVI</i> for the aircraft and ground-based sites.....	227
Figure 6.11 Contours of α_E , g_{sx} , β and W_{UE} for the OASIS domain.	231
Figure 6.12 3-D plot of source-area weight function for 4.5 m and 20 m.	241
Chapter 7 : Estimation of Regional-scale Fluxes of Heat, Water Vapour and Carbon Dioxide.....	243
Figure 7.1 Correlation of meteorological quantities with distance.....	254
Figure 7.2 Spatial variation of fluxes during October 1995.	256
Figure 7.3 Spatial variation of bulk meteorological quantities during October 1995.....	257
Figure 7.4 Diurnal trend in and daily averages of the observed and modelled fluxes for the OASIS grid.	260
Figure 7.5 Diurnal trend in and daily averages of the observed and modelled fluxes for the OASIS transect.	263
Figure 7.6 Daily averages of the observed and modelled fluxes at Wagga, Browning and Urana.....	265
Figure 7.7 Daily averages of the observed fluxes and the fluxes predicted by the coupled g_{sx} -PM model, the ICBL technique and DARLAM/SCAM.	270

List of Tables

Chapter 2 : The OASIS Experiments	29
Table 2.1 Location, leaf area index and canopy height for the ground-based sites.....	38
Table 2.2 Number and height of aircraft grid flights.....	50
Table 2.3 Pass details for the Landsat 5 TM image.....	53
Table 2.4 Wavelengths of the 7 bands in the Landsat 5 TM image.	53
Table 2.5 Rainfall for Wagga Wagga, Lockhart and Urana.	56
Chapter 3 : Aircraft Instrumentation and Calibration.....	65
Table 3.1 Details of the Grob G109B aircraft <i>VH-HNK</i>	69
Table 3.2 Meteorological instruments on <i>HNK</i> during OASIS.....	70
Table 3.3 Aerological instruments on <i>HNK</i> during OASIS.	70
Table 3.4 Effect of uncertainties in the data logger calibration offset.	79
Table 3.5 Estimates of the recovery factor at different airspeeds.	95
Table 3.6 Estimates of static pressure correction at different airspeeds.....	96
Table 3.7 Estimates of the dynamic pressure correction at different airspeeds.....	97
Table 3.8 Calibration coefficients derived from 9 October 1996 flight.	99
Table 3.9 Phase differences between AHS-85 and GPS pitch, roll and yaw.	101
Table 3.10 Phase differences between AHS-85 and GPS velocity components.	101
Table 3.11 Phase differences between analogue data and AHS-85 attitude rates.	103
Table 3.12 Optimised values for the dynamic pressure correction derived from data for low-level runs during the 1995 OASIS experiment.....	106
Chapter 4 : Comparison of Aircraft and Ground-based Data	129
Table 4.1 Integral length scales and correlation coefficients for vertical velocity, horizontal wind speed, temperature and specific humidity.	140
Table 4.2 Statistics for comparison of aircraft and ground-based observations at the Wattles site.	144
Table 4.3 Statistics for the comparison of aircraft and ground-based observations for the grid flights.	145
Table 4.4 Statistics for the comparison of aircraft and ground-based observations for the transect flights.	147
Table 4.5 Statistics for the surface energy budget closure for the aircraft and ground- based data.	150
Table 4.6 Source-area dimensions for ground-based and aircraft observations.	156
Table 4.7 Statistics for comparison of aircraft and ground-based observations of F_H and F_E after correction for the effect of surface heterogeneity.....	158
Chapter 5 : Surface-atmosphere Exchange Parameters from Aircraft and Ground- based Observations	163
Table 5.1 Values of α_E , β , g_{sx} and W_{UE} for the ground-based sites.	188

Chapter 6 : Relating Surface-atmosphere Exchange to Remotely Sensed Quantities. 203

Table 6.1 Calibration data for Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper.....	209
Table 6.2 Source-area weighted <i>NDVI</i> values for the ground-based sites.....	220
Table 6.3 Statistics for the linear best fit between the surface properties and <i>NDVI</i> at the ground-based sites.	224
Table 6.4 Statistics for the linear best fit between the surface properties and <i>NDVI</i> for the ground-based and aircraft data.	228

Chapter 7 : Estimation of Regional-scale Fluxes of Heat, Water Vapour and Carbon Dioxide..... 243

Table 7.1 Statistics for comparison of observed and modelled daily averages of F_E , F_H and F_C for the grid area.....	259
Table 7.2 Statistics for comparison of observed and modelled daily averages of F_E , F_H and F_C for the transect sites.	262
Table 7.3 Surface properties and <i>NDVI</i> derived from the aircraft and ground-based data at Wagga, Browning and Urana.	266
Table 7.4 Statistics for comparison of daily averages of the observed fluxes and the fluxes predicted by the coupled g_{sx} -PM model, the ICBL technique and DARLAM/SCAM.	269

List of Symbols

Symbol	Units	Eq.	Description
a	g m^{-3}	-	absolute humidity
$a_0(\lambda)$	-	6.1	Landsat 5 TM calibration offset at λ
$a_1(\lambda)$	-	6.1	Landsat 5 TM calibration slope at λ
A	-	3.19	PT100 time constant weight
B	-	3.19	reverse flow housing time constant weight
c_A	-	-	extinction coefficient in soil evaporation model
c_p	$\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	1.1	specific heat at constant pressure
c_v	$\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	-	specific heat at constant volume
c_Q	-	5.8	short wave radiation extinction coefficient
C	$\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$	-	CO_2 concentration
d	m	5.6	displacement height
d	-	6.2	ratio of actual to mean Sun-Earth distance
D	kg kg^{-1}	5.8	specific humidity deficit
D_0	kg kg^{-1}	5.8	empirical constant in model for g_{sx}
E	$\text{kg m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	1.4	evaporation
$E_s(\lambda)$	$\text{W m}^{-2} \mu\text{m}^{-1}$	6.2	solar radiance at wavelength λ
f	Hz	-	frequency
f	-	6.6	3-D source-area weight function
$fPAR$	-	-	fraction of photosynthetically active radiation absorbed by vegetation
\bar{f}^y	-	6.9	cross wind integrated source-area function
F_A	W m^{-2}	1.2	available energy
F_C	$\text{mg m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	5.3	CO_2 flux
F_E	W m^{-2}	1.2	latent heat flux
$F_{E,leaf}$	W m^{-2}	1.3	latent heat flux at the leaf surface
F_H	W m^{-2}	1.1	sensible heat flux

Symbol	Units	Eq.	Description
$F_{H,leaf}$	$W m^{-2}$	1.3	sensible heat flux at the leaf surface
F_G	$W m^{-2}$	1.2	ground heat flux
F_N	$W m^{-2}$	1.2	net radiation
$F_{N,leaf}$	$W m^{-2}$	1.3	net radiation at the leaf surface
F_{PAR}	$W m^{-2}$	-	flux of photosynthetically active radiation
F_s	-	4.1	flux of scalar s
g	$m s^{-2}$	1.1	acceleration due to gravity
g_s	$m s^{-1}$	-	stomatal conductance
g_{sx}	$m s^{-1}$	5.8	maximum stomatal conductance
GPP	$tC ha^{-1} yr^{-1}$	1.5	gross primary productivity
G_a	$m s^{-1}$	5.5	aerodynamic conductance
G_c	$m s^{-1}$	5.7	canopy conductance
G_i	$m s^{-1}$	5.5	isothermal conductance
G_s	$m s^{-1}$	5.5	surface conductance
G_{sx}	$m s^{-1}$	-	maximum surface conductance
h_c	m	-	canopy height
IAS	$m s^{-1}$	-	indicated airspeed
k	-	1.1	von Karman constant
K_p	-	3.3	static pressure correction factor
K_q	-	3.2	dynamic pressure correction factor
K_T	-	3.5	temperature correction factor ($1-r$)
K_α	-	3.8	angle of attack sensitivity
K_β	-	3.9	angle of sideslip sensitivity
L	m	1.1	Monin-Obukhov length
$L(\lambda)$	$Wm^{-2}sr^{-1}\mu m^{-1}$	6.1	spectral radiance at wavelength λ
L_{ai}	-	5.8	leaf area index

Symbol	Units	Eq.	Description
L_d	tC ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹	1.7	CO ₂ loss due to biome disturbance
L_s	m	4.1	integral length scale for scalar s
L_{ws}	m	4.1	integral length scale for ws covariance
L_{\downarrow}	W m ⁻²	1.2	incoming long wave radiation
L_{\uparrow}	W m ⁻²	1.2	outgoing long wave radiation
n	-	-	non-dimensionalised frequency
NBP	tC ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹	1.7	net biome productivity
$NDVI$	-	-	normalised difference vegetation index
NEP	tC ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹	1.6	net ecosystem productivity
p	kg m ⁻² s ⁻¹	1.4	precipitation
p_a	hPa	-	pressure altitude
p_s	hPa	3.3	static pressure
$p_{s,m}$	hPa	3.3	measured static pressure
p_t	hPa	3.13	total pressure
P_{AV}	s	4.1	averaging period
P_{γ}	-	3.4	ratio of static to total pressure
q	kg kg ⁻¹	-	specific humidity
q_c	hPa	3.2	dynamic pressure
$q_{c,m}$	hPa	3.2	measured dynamic pressure
q^*	kg kg ⁻¹	-	saturation specific humidity deficit
$Q_{cal}(\lambda)$	-	6.1	byte value of pixel radiance at wavelength λ
r	-	-	temperature sensor recovery factor
r_a	s m ⁻¹	5.13	aerodynamic resistance, single observation
r_c	-	-	correlation coefficient between w and C
r_d	s m ⁻¹	5.13	deficit resistance, single observation
r_s	s m ⁻¹	-	surface resistance, single observation

Symbol	Units	Eq.	Description
r_{ws}	-	4.1	correlation coefficient between w and s
R_a	tC ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹	1.5	autotrophic respiration
R_a	s m ⁻¹	5.14	aerodynamic resistance, average
R_d	s m ⁻¹	5.14	deficit resistance, average
R_h	tC ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹	1.6	heterotrophic respiration
R_s	s m ⁻¹	-	surface resistance, average
S_{\downarrow}	W m ⁻²	1.2	incoming short wave radiation
S_{\uparrow}	W m ⁻²	1.2	outgoing short wave radiation
S_{50}	W m ⁻²	5.8	empirical constant in model for g_{sx}
SD_{ITCE76}	-	-	random error in difference between variance and covariance measurements during ITCE76
SD_{ran}	-	4.2	expected random error in difference between aircraft and ground-based measurements
T_a	°C	-	air temperature
T_F	°C	3.19	final temperature after step change
T_I	°C	3.19	initial temperature before step change
T_{leaf}	°C	-	leaf temperature
T_m	°C	3.19	measured temperature at time t
T_s	°C	3.6	static temperature
T_{sfc}	°C	-	surface radiometric temperature
T_t	°C	3.5	total temperature
$T_{t,m}$	°C	3.5	measured total temperature
u_{hdg}	m s ⁻¹	3.12	along-heading component of wind speed
$u_{GS,hdg}$	m s ⁻¹	3.12	along-heading component of ground-speed
u_*	m s ⁻¹	1.1	friction velocity
\mathbf{U}	m s ⁻¹	3.1	ambient wind vector
\mathbf{U}_{GS}	m s ⁻¹	3.1	ground speed vector

Symbol	Units	Eq.	Description
\mathbf{U}_{TAS}	m s^{-1}	3.1	true airspeed vector
U	m s^{-1}	-	ambient wind magnitude
U_{GS}	m s^{-1}	3.10	ground speed magnitude
v_{hdg}	m s^{-1}	3.12	cross-heading component of wind speed
$v_{GS,hdg}$	m s^{-1}	3.12	cross-heading component of ground speed
W_{UE}	$\text{mgCO}_2\text{g}^{-1}\text{H}_2\text{O}$	5.3	water-use efficiency
WD	deg.	-	wind direction
w	m s^{-1}	-	vertical component of the wind speed
z	m	-	height
z_i	m	-	mixed layer depth
z_0	m	-	roughness length for momentum
z_{0h}	m	-	roughness length for heat
α	-	-	surface albedo
α	deg.	3.8	angle of attack
α_0	deg.	3.8	angle of attack offset
α_E	-	5.1	evaporative fraction
β	-	5.2	Bowen ratio
β	deg.	3.9	angle of sideslip
β_0	deg.	3.9	angle of sideslip offset
Δp_α	hPa	3.8	pressure difference across α ports
Δp_β	hPa	3.9	pressure difference across β ports
Δr	-	1.4	net runoff in the hydrological balance
ΔS	-	1.4	net storage in the hydrological balance
ε	-	5.7	change in latent heat content of saturated air with change in sensible heat content
ε_{s^2}	-	4.1	random error in variance of scalar s

Symbol	Units	Eq.	Description
ε_{ws}	-	4.1	random error in flux of scalar s
λ	J kg ⁻¹	-	latent heat of vaporisation
ϕ	deg.	-	aircraft roll angle
ϕ'	deg. s ⁻¹	-	aircraft roll rate
γ	-	3.4	Poisson's constant
Θ	rad.	6.2	solar zenith angle
ρ	kg m ⁻³	1.1	air density
$\rho(\lambda)$	-	6.2	spectral reflectance at wavelength λ
σ_C	μmol mol ⁻¹	-	standard deviation of CO ₂ concentration
σ_q	kg kg ⁻¹	-	standard deviation of specific humidity
σ_s^2	-	4.1	variance of scalar s
σ_T	°C	-	standard deviation of temperature
σ_u	m s ⁻¹	-	standard deviation of wind speed
σ_w	m s ⁻¹	-	standard deviation of vertical wind speed
σ_{WD}	deg.	-	standard deviation of wind direction
σ_θ	K	-	standard deviation of potential temperature
θ	K	1.1	potential temperature
θ	deg.	-	aircraft pitch angle
θ'	deg. s ⁻¹	-	aircraft pitch rate
τ	m s ⁻¹	-	aircraft true airspeed
τ	-	5.7	fraction of available energy at soil surface
τ_1	s	3.19	PT100 sensing element time constant
τ_2	s	3.19	reverse flow housing time constant
ψ	deg.	-	aircraft yaw (heading) angle
ψ'	deg. s ⁻¹	-	aircraft yaw rate

Abstract

This thesis examines a method for estimating the daytime fluxes of heat, water vapour and carbon dioxide at regional scales by using simple models to combine spatially resolved surface properties with bulk meteorological quantities measured at a central location. The central themes of this thesis are that the spatial and temporal variability of regional scale fluxes are contained in the surface properties and meteorology respectively and that the surface properties can be interpolated across a heterogeneous landscape using remotely sensed data. The regional scale fluxes estimated using this technique are compared to the values from three other methods and this allows some conclusions to be made regarding the relative strengths and weaknesses of each method. The surface property approach yields robust estimates of the fluxes that will be useful in researching exchange processes at regional scales, providing input parameters for, and validation of, the biosphere components of General Circulation Models and testing inventory estimates of CO₂ budgets.

The surface properties are derived using data from 33 aircraft flights and eight ground-based sites along a 96 km transect established during the 1995 Observations At Several Interacting Scales experiment held near Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia. Surface properties examined are the evaporative fraction (ratio of evapotranspiration to available energy), the Bowen ratio (ratio of sensible heat flux to evapotranspiration), the maximum stomatal conductance (maximum stomatal opening under optimal conditions) and the water-use efficiency (ratio of CO₂ flux to evapotranspiration). Maximum stomatal conductance is calculated using a simple model of the stomatal response to light and water vapour deficit assuming soil evaporation occurs at the equilibrium rate. The diurnal trend and day-to-day variability in the surface properties is found to be significantly less than the spatial variability. All of the surface properties examined show some sensitivity to the synoptic conditions.

The relationships between the surface properties and the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (*NDVI*) are examined using a 130 km by 50 km sub-scene from a Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) image obtained five days before the start of the

experiment period. The ground-based and aircraft observations are used to calculate the source-area influencing each measurement and this is combined with the Landsat 5 TM data to produce an average, source-area weighted *NDVI* for each ground-based site and each aircraft location. The source-area model is important because it provides the link between the observations and the remotely sensed data by identifying the surface patch that influences the measurements. Linear relationships are found between the source-area weighted *NDVI* and the surface properties. The observed relationships are used to interpolate the surface properties over the region covered by the satellite image and spatial variations in water loss and CO₂ uptake by the surface vegetation are identified that are not resolved by the ground-based network.

Analysis of the ground-based data showed that the spatial variability of the bulk meteorological quantities used in the surface property approach was much less than the diurnal trend in these data. With the small temporal variation in the surface properties noted before, this confirms the utility of assigning the spatial and temporal variability of the fluxes to the surface properties and the meteorology respectively.

The combination of surface properties derived from the aircraft data and meteorology measured at a single location at the centre of the transect shows good skill in predicting the observed fluxes. Furthermore, the discrepancies between the predictions and the observations are explained by the different source-areas of the aircraft and ground-based data and much of the bias is removed when the surface properties are scaled from the *NDVI* of the aircraft source-area to the *NDVI* of the ground-based sites. Regional scale fluxes of heat and water vapour calculated using the surface property approach agree with averages of the ground-based data and this indicates that the ground-based network was representative of the OASIS region. Estimates of regional scale CO₂ fluxes are not available from the ground-based network due to the lack of measurements at the driest ground-based site but the surface property approach yields plausible values. The results demonstrate the utility of extrapolating surface properties across heterogeneous landscapes using remotely sensed data.

Statement

I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgment any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university; and that to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

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