



An Overview of the GEWEX Radiative Flux Assessment

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The Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX) Radiative Flux Assessment (RFA) is an international effort to produce a community-wide evaluation of the currently available long-term radiative flux data sets derived from satellite based analysis in the context of global change detection and analysis. Its primary activity consists of assessing the uncertainties associated with these data sets by comparing TOA and surface radiative flux data products to each other and investigating the sources of differences. Surface measurements are also assessed and compared to the satellite based data sets. Data sets from global long-term reanalysis and global climate models are also compared against the satellite records. The assessment includes both upwelling and downwelling SW and LW fluxes, for all-sky and clear-sky conditions over all portions of the globe and at a variety of spatial and temporal scales. Its goal is to characterize variations in the fluxes over time and to establish error estimates for each product over the various temporal and spatial scales, thus facilitating use of these products in future climate studies.

This presentation will discuss the current status of the Flux Assessment, including a summary of results to date, weaknesses in the current satellite and surface observation systems, and recommendations for future improvements to these systems.