



Mapping moisture Content in Soils Using Ground-Penetrating Radar

Naftaly Goldshleger (1), Omer Shamir (2), Uri Basson (3), and Moshe Reshef (4)

(1) Ariel, Civil Engineering, Israel (goldshleger1@gmail.com), (2) O. Shamir, Tel Aviv University, (3) U. Bassonb, Geosense, (4) M. Reshef Tel Aviv University

Moisture content from surface up to the root zone is important for agricultural crops. The conservative monitoring is based on point-measurement methods. Its time consuming and expensive. We suggest to use GPR (active remote-sensing tool) technique that enables real-time and highly accurate evaluations of soils physical qualities in the field. To calculate subsurface moisture content, a soil model is required that includes texture, porosity, saturation, organic matter and effective electrical conductivity. We developed an innovative method that accurately measures spatial subsurface water content to a depth of 1.5 m in agricultural soils and applied it to two different unsaturated soil types from agricultural fields in Israel: loess soil type (Calcic haploxeralf), common in rural areas of southern Israel with about 30% clay, 30% silt and 40% sand, hamra soil type (Typic rhodoxeralf), common in rural areas of central Israel with about 10% clay, 5% silt and 85% sand. Combined field and laboratory measurements and develop model gave efficient determinations of spatial water content in the study fields. The environmentally friendly GPR system enabled non-destructive testing. The developed method for measuring moisture content in the laboratory enabled highly accurate interpretation and physical computing.