ALGORITHM THEORETICAL BASIS DOCUMENT (ATBD)
ABOVE CANOPY AND UNDERSTORY/SNOWPACK PHENOLOGY
CAMERA

PREPARED BY | ORGANIZATION | DATE
---|---|---
Michael SanClements | FIU | 03/26/2014
Josh Roberti | FIU | 02/11/2016

APPROVALS (Name) | ORGANIZATION | APPROVAL DATE
---|---|---
Andrea Thorpe | SCI | 03/28/2016
Vlad Aleksiev | PSE | 03/14/2016

RELEASED BY (Name) | ORGANIZATION | RELEASE DATE
---|---|---
Judy Salazar | CM | 03/30/2016

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Change Record

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<td>ECO-03726</td>
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1 DESCRIPTION

Contained in this document are details concerning automated phenology and snowpack measurements made at all NEON sites. Above canopy phenology, understory phenology and snowpack will be measured via the Stardot NetCam SC CAM-SECSIR-B. Specifically, the processes necessary to provide imagery for use in phenological studies and their associated uncertainties are described.

1.1 Purpose

This document details the process for creating NEON Level 1 data product from Level 0 data, and ancillary data as defined in this document (such as calibration data), obtained via instrumental measurements made by the Stardot NetCam SC CAM-SECSIR-B. It includes a detailed discussion of measurement theory and implementation, appropriate theoretical background, data product provenance, quality assurance and control methods used, approximations and/or assumptions made, and a detailed explanation of uncertainty resulting in a cumulative reported uncertainty for this product.

1.2 Scope

The theoretical background and entire algorithmic process used to derive Level 1 data from Level 0 data for the automated digital phenology cameras (i.e. above canopy phenology and understory/snowpack phenology) are described in this document. It is expected that the automated digital camera employed at all NEON tower sites is the Stardot NetCam SC CAM-SECSIR-B (NEON P/N: 0303510000). This document does not provide computational implementation details.
## 2 RELATED DOCUMENTS, ACRONYMS AND VARIABLE NOMENCLATURE

### 2.1 Applicable Documents

| AD[01] | NEON.DOC.000001 | NEON Observatory Design |
| AD[02] | NEON.DOC.005003 | NEON Scientific Data Products Catalog |
| AD[03] | NEON.DOC.002652 | NEON Level 1-3 Data Products Catalog |
| AD[04] | NEON.DOC.005005 | NEON Level 0 Data Products Catalog |
| AD[05] | NEON.DOC.000782 | NEON ATBD QA/QC data consistency |
| AD[06] | NEON.DOC.011081 | ATBD QA/QC plausibility tests |
| AD[07] | NEON.DOC.000783 | ATBD QA/QC Time Series Signal Despiking for TIS Level 1 Data Products |
| AD[08] | NEON.DOC.000802 | NR01 – Net Radiometer Calibration/Validation Procedure |
| AD[09] | NEON.DOC.001423 | C² Digital Camera |
| AD[10] | NEON.DOC.000927 | NEON Calibration and Sensor Uncertainty Values¹ |
| AD[12] | NEON.DOC.000751 | CVAL Transfer of standard procedure |
| AD[13] | NEON.DOC.000746 | Evaluating Uncertainty (CVAL) |
| AD[14] | NEON.DOC.002002 | Engineering Master Location Sensor Matrix |
| AD[15] | NEON.DOC.001113 | Quality Flags and Quality Metrics for TIS Data Products |

¹ Note that CI obtains calibration and sensor values directly from an XML file maintained and updated by CVAL in real time. This report is updated approximately quarterly such that there may be a lag time between the XML and report updates.
2.2 Reference Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RD[01]</th>
<th>NEON.DOC.000008</th>
<th>NEON Acronym List</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RD[02]</td>
<td>NEON.DOC.000243</td>
<td>NEON Glossary of Terms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATBD</td>
<td>Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVAL</td>
<td>NEON Calibration, Validation, and Audit Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAS</td>
<td>Data Acquisition System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Data Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L0</td>
<td>Level 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Verb Convention

"Shall" is used whenever a specification expresses a provision that is binding. The verbs "should" and "may" express non-mandatory provisions. "Will" is used to express a declaration of purpose on the part of the design activity.

3 DATA PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Variables Reported

The above canopy and understory/snowpack camera related L1 DPs are provided in the file: phe_datapub_NEONDOC001789.txt.

3.2 Input Dependencies

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Table 3-1 details the above canopy and understory/snowpack phenology-related L0 DPs used to produce L1.

Table 3-1: List of digital camera related L0 DPs that are transformed into L1 DPs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sample Frequency</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Data Product Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image captured in the infrared spectrum</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NEON.DOM.SITE.DP0.00033.001.01796.HOR.VER.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrared metadata stream</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NEON.DOM.SITE.DP0.00033.001.02051.HOR.VER.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image captured in the RGB color space</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NEON.DOM.SITE.DP0.00033.001.01797.HOR.VER.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RGB metadata stream</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NEON.DOM.SITE.DP0.00033.001.02052.HOR.VER.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 Product Instances

A Stardot NetCam SC CAM-SEC5IR-B will be deployed on all core and re-locatable towers at the tower top (Above Canopy Phenology) and a second camera at the tower bottom (Understory/Snowpack Phenology).

3.4 Temporal Resolution and Extent

Every 15 minutes both the Above Canopy Phenology Camera and the Understory/Snowpack Phenology Camera capture back to back RGB and IR images separated by 30 seconds.

3.5 Spatial Resolution and Extent

A Stardot NetCam SC CAM-SEC5IR-B will be deployed on all core and re-locatable towers at the tower top (Above Canopy Phenology) and a second camera at the tower bottom (Understory/Snowpack Phenology). The Above Canopy Phenology Camera will capture images of the dominant vegetation type on site. The Understory/Snowpack Phenology Camera will capture images of the snowdepth stakes and any ancillary plant phenology information.

4 SCIENTIFIC CONTEXT

Phenology is the study of reoccurring life cycle events that are driven by environmental factors (Morrisette et al., 2009). In the context of this document, the targeted events are related to seasonal.
changes in overstory and understory vegetation (e.g. onset of growth and leaf senescence). The timing of these events is driven by both short- and long-term variability in climate and is therefore valuable in understanding the effects of climate change (Richardson et al., 2006 and references therein).

Automated repeat digital images of plant canopies provide data for the extraction of indices (e.g. green chromatic coordinate ($g_{cc}$) and excess green (ExG)) that can be used to quantify changes in phenological events over time (Sonnentag et al., 2011).

4.1 Theory of Measurement

The Stardot NetCam SC CAM-SEC5IR-B is an automated digital camera capable of capturing RGB and IR images. The Above Canopy and Understory/Snowpack Phenology Camera both capture continuous digital images of the selected areas of interest (i.e. the canopy and snowdepth stakes, respectively).

4.2 Theory of Algorithm

5 ALGORITHM IMPLEMENTATION

Data flow for signal processing of L1 DPs will be treated in the following order.

1. L0 DPs (image and metadata will be sent to the PhenoCam Network)
2. L0 DP images will undergo QA/QC tests per PhenoCam protocols (see Richardson et al. (in prep.))
3. L0 images that pass PhenoCam QA/QC are then considered L1 DP images

6 UNCERTAINTY

Uncertainty of measurement is inevitable; therefore, measurements should be accompanied by a statement of their uncertainty for completeness (JCGM 2008; Taylor 1997). To do so, it is imperative to identify all sources of measurement uncertainty related to the quantity being measured. Quantifying the uncertainty of TIS measurements will provide a measure of the reliability and applicability of individual measurements and TIS data products. Because the L0 and L1 DPs are images, no uncertainty estimates provided. Uncertainty estimates for higher level data products that are functions of L1 images, e.g., greenness index, snowpack, etc., will be explained and derived in future ATBDs.

7 FUTURE PLANS AND MODIFICATIONS

Sensor (camera) degradation and drift may be addressed in the uncertainty section.
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY


9 CHANEGLOG