Spectral properties of plants

Spectral curves = spectral characteristics



Spectral properties of plants



Remote sensing of vegetation Spectral properties of plants - reflectance

Spectral Reflectance Curve for Green Grass



Mesophyll Cell

Visible Light Interaction with Pigments

Chlorophyll *a* peak absorption is at 430 and 660 nm.

Chlorophyll *b* peak absorption is at 450 and 650 nm.



The two optimum spectral regions for sensing the chlorophyll absorption characteristics of a leaf : 450 – 520 nm and 630 – 690 nm



Remote sensing of vegetation Spectral properties of plants - absorption



Specific absorption coefficient of chlorophyll a+b (cm² µg⁻¹) on the left axis, of water (cm⁻¹) and dry matter (cm² g⁻¹) on the right axis (after Jacquemoud et al., 2000). [2508]

Visible Light Interaction with Pigments

Reflectance spectra of the white and green portions of a variegated geranium leaf



Visible Light Interaction with Pigments



Spectral Reflectance Characteristics of Sweetgum Leaves (*Liquidambar styraciflua* L.) Leaf spectral reflectance is most likely to indicate plant stress first in the sensitive 535 - 640 and 685-700 nm visible light wavelength ranges.





Natural color image (RGB = RGB) of a N.Y. Power Authority lake at 0.3 x 0.3 m.

Remote sensing of vegetation Visible Light Interaction with Pigments



Spectral Reflectance Characteristics of Sweetgum Leaves (*Liquidambar styraciflua* L.)



Spectral Reflectance Characteristics of Selected Areas of Blackjack Oak Leaves

Near-Infrared Energy Interaction Within the Spongy Mesophyll Cells



Hemispherical reflectance, transmittance, and absorption Characteristics of Big Bluestem Grass

Leaf additive reflectance

- the energy penetrates (is transmitted) through the leaf and can be reflected once again by leaves below it.



Additive Reflectance from A Canopy with Two Leaf Layers

Near-Infrared Energy Interaction Within the Spongy Mesophyll Cells



Near-Infrared Energy Interaction Within the Spongy Mesophyll Cells

Leaves: 2 h after breaking

24 h after breaking



Shrinkage and collapse of the mesophyll cells.

European Beech (Fagus silvatica L.)

Black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia L.)

European holly (llex L.)



Thick protective layer of wax on the epidermis

Sobhan 2007

Nonphotosynthetic vegetation (NPV)



Diurnal changes & stress



Gamon et al.. 1993

Changing nature of reflectance spectra of birch-tree (*Betula pendula*) leaves, from immediately after collection (0.5 h) through 48 hours after collection.





Middle-Infrared Energy Interaction with Water in the Spongy Mesophyll



Middle-Infrared Energy Interaction with Water in the Spongy Mesophyll



Strong atmospheric water absorption bands: -primary and secondary : 1450, 1940, and 2500 nm,

- *secondary* : 980 and 1240 nm.

Vegetation index:

STVI=(R₁₆₅₀*R₆₅₀)/R₈₅₀

Middle-Infrared Energy Interaction with Water in the Spongy Mesophyll



Reflectance spectra of fresh and dried oak leaves and glass beads plus water

Absorption by other leaf components



Absorption by other leaf components

Reflectance spectra of four biochemical components found in leaves, obtained on "pure" substances



Major variables affecting the spectral properties of plants



Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF)

The *bidirectional reflectance distribution function* BRDF – is a four-dimensional function that defines how light is reflected at an opaque surface.

BRDF takes an *incoming* light direction and *outgoing* direction, both defined with respect to the surface normal, and returns the ratio of reflected radiance exiting along to the irradiance incident on the surface from a given direction. Note that each of these directions is itself parameterized by *azimuth angle* and *zenith angle*. The BRDF has units sr-1, with steradians (sr) being a unit of solid angle.



Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF)



The bidirectional reflectance effect on a field of ryegrass (Lolium perenne L.) observed under different viewing angles in the solar principal plane



Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF)





A hot spot on a vertical aerial photograph of the Savannah River swamp in South Carolina (The Cypress-Tupelo forested wetland)

Remote sensing of vegetation Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF)



BRDF effects should be concerned in order to:

-identify and select the bands that are impacted the least by BRDF effects,

-recognize that there are certain Sun and/or sensor angle-of-view relation- ships that should be avoided when collecting remotely sensed data,

- provide methods to radiometrically adjust the remote sensor data to minimize BRDF effects.

Vegetation spectra – ground measurements



Vegetation Spectral library contains information on:

- 1) the spectral reflectance and emittance characteristics of every type of vegetation in the region from 350 - 1400 nm,
- 2) how these data appear on different dates throughout the pertinent growing seasons,
- 3) what these spectra should look like in the event of stress or insect infestation.

Temporal Characteristics of Vegetation

Discrimination between two crops using remote sensor data is possible if the crops were:

- planted at slightly different times in the growing season (e.g., 10 days apart),
- one crop received significantly different irrigation and/or fertilization than the other, causing it to produce more or less biomass;
- one crop matured more rapidly than the other (e.g., through fertilization or careful weeding);
- the row spacing or field orientation was dramatically different for the two crops;
- one crop has a different canopy structure.



Species differences



Temporal Characteristics of Vegetation Spectra of winter rape and wheat crops



Temporal Characteristics of Vegetation

Winter rape – different sowing dates



Winter wheat – different N fertilization schemes

