

**UP-SCALING OF SEBAL DERIVED
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION MAPS FROM LANDSAT (30m)
TO MODIS (250m) SCALE**

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ABSTRACT

Remotely sensed imagery of the Earth's surface via satellite sensors provides information to estimate the spatial distribution of evapotranspiration (ET). The spatial resolution of ET predictions depends on the sensor type and varies from the 30 – 60 m Landsat scale to the 250 – 1000 m MODIS scale. Therefore, for an accurate characterization of the regional distribution of ET, scaling transfer between images of different resolutions is important. Scaling transfer includes both up-scaling (aggregation) and down-scaling (disaggregation). In this paper, we address the up-scaling problem.

The Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land (SEBAL) was used to derive ET maps from Landsat 7 Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) images. Landsat 7 bands have spatial resolutions of

23 30 to 60 m, while MODIS bands have resolutions of 250, 500 and 1000 m. Evaluations
24 were conducted for both “output” and “input” up-scaling procedures, with aggregation
25 accomplished by both simple averaging and nearest neighboring resampling techniques.
26 Output up-scaling consisted of first applying SEBAL and then aggregating the output
27 variable (daily ET). Input up-scaling consisted of aggregating 30 m Landsat pixels of the
28 input variable (radiance) to obtain pixels at 60, 120, 250, 500 and 1000 m before SEBAL
29 was applied. The objectives of this study were first to test the consistency of SEBAL
30 algorithm for Landsat and MODIS satellite images and second to investigate the effect of
31 the four different up-scaling processes on the spatial distribution of ET.

32

33 We conclude that good agreement exists between SEBAL estimated ET maps directly
34 derived from Landsat 7 and MODIS images. Among the four up-scaling methods
35 compared, the output simple averaging method produced aggregated data and aggregated
36 differences with the most statistically and spatially predictable behavior. The input
37 nearest neighbor method was the least predictable but was still acceptable. Overall, the
38 daily ET maps over the Middle Rio Grande Basin aggregated from Landsat images were
39 in good agreement with ET maps directly derived from MODIS images.

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42

1. INTRODUCTION

43

44 Remote sensing data from satellite-based sensors have the potential to provide detailed
45 information on land surface properties and parameters at local to regional scales. Perhaps

46 one of the most important land surface parameters that can be derived from remote
47 sensing is actual ET. The spatio-temporal distribution of ET is needed for sustainable
48 management of water resources as well as for a better understanding of water exchange
49 processes between the land surface and the atmosphere. However, ground measurements
50 of ET over a range of space and time scales are very difficult to obtain due to the time
51 and cost involved. Remotely sensed imagery with numerous spatial and temporal
52 resolutions is therefore an ideal solution for determination of the spatio-temporal
53 distribution of ET.

54

55 Today, large amounts of remotely sensed data with variable spatial, temporal, and
56 spectral resolutions are available. A number of studies have attempted to estimate ET
57 from different satellite sensors, including the Land remote sensing satellite Enhanced
58 Thematic Mapper Plus (Landsat ETM+) (Bastiaanssen et al., 2005; Hendrickx and Hong,
59 2005; Allen et al., 2007; Hong, 2008), the Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and
60 Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) (French et al., 2002), the Advanced Very High
61 Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) (Seguin et al., 1991), the Moderate Resolution
62 Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) (Nishida et al., 2003; Hong et al., 2005) and the
63 Geostationary Orbiting Environmental Satellite (GOES) (Mecikalski et al., 1999).

64

65 We employ the Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land (SEBAL) that is one of
66 several remote sensing algorithms used to extract information from raw satellite data. It
67 estimates various land surface parameters, including surface albedo, normalized
68 difference vegetation index (*NDVI*), surface temperature, and energy balance parameters

69 from the remotely sensed radiance values obtained from satellite sensors. Since satellite
70 sensors have different spatial, spectral and radiometric resolutions, the consistency of ET
71 estimates from different satellites by SEBAL needs to be certified.

72

73 The validation of products of remote sensing algorithms is dependent upon the spatial
74 resolution (Liang, 2004). Fine resolution products (< 100 m) such as Landsat can be
75 validated with ground measurements. However, validating coarse resolution products,
76 such as MODIS (1000 m in thermal band), using ground measurements is very difficult
77 because of the scale disparity between ground “point” measurements and the coarse
78 spatial resolution imagery. Therefore, for validation of MODIS products, the products of
79 high resolution remotely sensed imagery such as Landsat 7 (30 to 60 m resolution) need
80 to be first validated with ground point measurements. MODIS products can then be
81 compared against up-scaled (aggregated) Landsat product. A comparison of SEBAL ET
82 estimates against independent ground based measurements typically yields accuracies of
83 about $\pm 15\%$ and $\pm 5\%$ for, daily and seasonal evaporation estimates, respectively
84 (Bastiaanssen et al., 2005). In the southwestern USA, daily SEBAL ET estimates agreed
85 with ground observation with an accuracy of $\pm 10\%$ (Hendrickx and Hong, 2005; Hong,
86 2008). Similar results have been reported by Morse et al. (2000) and Allen et al. (2007).

87

88 Many studies regarding the effect of up-scaling data sets have been reported (Mark and
89 Aronson, 1984; Nellis and Briggs, 1989; Turner et al., 1989; Lam and Quattrochi, 1992;
90 Stoms, 1992; Brown et al., 1993; Vieux, 1993; De Cola, 1994; Wolock and Price, 1994;
91 Zhang and Montgomery, 1994; Bian et al., 1999). During an aggregation process, the

92 raster spatial data are reduced to a smaller number of data pixels covering the same
93 spatial extent. It is generally recognized that data aggregation modifies the statistical and
94 spatial characteristics of the data (Bian et al., 1999). Since the total number of pixels is
95 reduced, the variance and frequency distribution of the sampled data may deviate from
96 the original data set and tends to reduce spatial autocorrelation at coarser resolutions
97 (Bian, 1997). Some studies have pointed out that data accuracy is enhanced significantly
98 by reduction of spatial resolution (Townshend et al., 1992; Dai and Khorram, 1998; Van
99 Rompaey et al., 1999; Carmel, 2004). Several studies have also argued that aggregation
100 to a coarser resolution reveals certain spatial patterns which are not shown until the data
101 are presented at a coarser scale (Zhang and Montgomery, 1994; Seyfried and Wilcox,
102 1995). On the other hand, the decrease in spatial resolution possibly results in a loss of
103 information that may be valuable for particular applications (Carmel et al., 2001).

104

105 The methodology for aggregating simple rectangular grid data is well developed (Bian,
106 1997; Bian et al., 1999; Mengelkamp et al., 2006). In this study, the simple averaging and
107 nearest neighbor resampling methods were selected for the data aggregation scheme,
108 since these methods have been the most popular and convenient to use (Atkinson, 1985;
109 Liang, 2004). The simple averaging method calculates the average value over an area of
110 interest to produce a new coarser resolution data set. Nearest neighbor sampling produces
111 a subset of the original data; the extremes and subtleties of the data values are therefore
112 preserved.

113

114 For the up-scaling scheme, numerous studies have used the assumption that surface
115 fluxes can be expressed as direct area averages of the surface fluxes (Shuttleworth, 1991;
116 Lhomme, 1992; Li and Avissar, 1994). Liang (2000) simply averaged the remotely
117 sensed reflectance values from 30 m to 1 km and explored the aggregation effect. He
118 concluded that the spectral reflectance was basically linear from 30 m resolution to 1000
119 m resolution. More recently, Mengelkamp et al (2006) mentioned that area averaged
120 small scale ET calculated from local measurements was in good agreement with the area
121 represented regional values. Nevertheless, few papers have examined the effect of
122 different up-scaling schemes on the relative accuracy of the aggregated data despite its
123 practical importance. A spatial resolution gap exists between the data requirements of
124 regional-scale models and the output data from remote sensing energy balance algorithms
125 such as SEBAL. For example, general global circulation models or regional weather
126 prediction models need input data with a spatial resolution of hundreds of kilometers
127 which is much larger than the spatial resolution of most satellite sensors (Liang, 2004).
128 Therefore, an up-scaling (data aggregation) procedure is needed to fill the scale gap
129 between satellite measurements and input requirements for large scale models. Increasing
130 spatial resolution by data aggregation has shown the potential to generate observed or
131 modeled surface flux estimates over a range of different spatial resolutions (Gupta et al.,
132 1986; Lhomme, 1992; Ebleringer and Field, 1993).

133

134 In this study, high quality scenes of two different dates of Landsat 7 Enhanced Thematic
135 Mapper Plus (ETM+) and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)
136 imagery were selected and SEBAL was applied to estimate daily ET. Landsat scale pixels

137 (30 m) were aggregated to larger scale (60, 120, 250, 500 and 1000 m). The objectives of
138 this study were first to test the consistency of the SEBAL algorithm for Landsat 7 and
139 MODIS images, and second to investigate the effects of four different up-scaling
140 processes on the spatial distribution of ET, especially how the relative accuracy of ET
141 changes with different up-scaling processes.

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143

144

2. METHOD AND MATERIALS

145

2.1. STUDY AREA AND SATELLITE IMAGERY

146 **2.1. STUDY AREA AND SATELLITE IMAGERY**
147 Landsat 7 and Terra MODIS images (**Figure 1**) on two different dates during the growing
148 season (September 14, 2000 and June 16, 2002) were used to examine the effect of
149 aggregation processes. **On these two dates, high quality Landsat 7 and MODIS images**
150 **were available. The June 16 images are representative for conditions of full vegetative**
151 **cover at the height of the growing season, while the September 14 images represent**
152 **somewhat drier conditions towards the end of the growing season.** Four satellite images
153 used in this study were georeferenced to match the spatial coordinates as closely as
154 possible. This was done by identifying the several accurate Ground Control Points (e.g.
155 road intersections and agricultural field boundaries) on the images and aligning them to
156 fit on between images. The image used in this study is the subset of the Middle Rio
157 Grande Basin that covers an area of 18 by 90 km. The Middle Rio Grande setting is
158 mainly composed of agricultural fields, riparian forests and surrounding desert areas
159 (**Figure 1**).

160

161 **2.2. SURFACE ENERGY BALANCE ALGORITHM FOR LAND (SEBAL)**

162 SEBAL is a physically based analytical image processing method that evaluates the
163 components of the energy balance and determines the ET rate as the residual. SEBAL is
164 based on the computation of energy balance parameters from multi spectral satellite data
165 (Bastiaanssen et al., 1998; Morse et al., 2000; Allen et al., 2007). To implement SEBAL,
166 images are needed with information on reflectance in the visible, near-infrared and mid-
167 infrared bands, as well as emission in the thermal infrared band. To account for the
168 influence of topographical variations on the energy balance components, a digital
169 elevation model (DEM) with the same spatial resolution as the satellite imagery is also
170 required. The slope and aspect were calculated from DEM using models provided in
171 ERDAS IMAGINE software (ERDAS, 2002).

172

173 The energy balance equation is

174

$$175 \qquad R_n - G - H = \lambda ET \qquad (1)$$

176

177 where R_n is the net incoming radiation flux density (Wm^{-2}), G is the ground heat flux
178 density (Wm^{-2}), H is the sensible heat flux density (Wm^{-2}), λET is the latent heat flux
179 density (Wm^{-2}), and parameter λ is the latent heat of vaporization of water (Jkg^{-1}).

180

181 The net radiation (R_n) was computed for each pixel from the radiation balance using
182 surface albedo obtained from short-wave radiation and using emissivity estimated from

183 the long-wave radiation (Allen et al., 1998; Bastiaanssen et al., 1998; Morse et al., 2000).
184 Soil heat flux (G) was estimated from net radiation together with other parameters such
185 as normalized difference vegetation index ($NDVI$), surface temperature and surface
186 albedo (Clothier et al., 1986; Choudhury et al., 1987; Daughtry et al., 1990; Bastiaanssen,
187 2000). Sensible heat flux (H) was calculated from wind speed, estimated surface
188 roughness for momentum transport, and air temperature differences between two heights
189 (0.1 and 2 m) using an iterative process based on the Monin-Obukhov similarity theory
190 (Brutsaert, 1982; Morse et al., 2000; Tasumi, 2003).

191

192 The spatial resolutions of the Landsat 7 bands are 30 and 60 m, compared with 250, 500
193 and 1000m for the MODIS bands (Table 1). Besides the difference in the spatial
194 resolution between Landsat 7 and MODIS, a difference in radiance measurements
195 between the two sensors is expected as a result of slightly different band widths for each
196 sensor. Table 1 also shows the spectral bands of Landsat 7 and MODIS in the visible,
197 near infrared and thermal infrared wavelength regions used for SEBAL application.
198 MODIS bands 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 are compatible with Landsat 7 bands 3, 4, 1, 2, 5 and 7,
199 respectively. The band widths of MODIS in the visible and near infrared, with the
200 exception of Band 3, are narrower than those of Landsat. This results in different
201 responses from the surface, which in turn may alter the computed surface albedo and
202 vegetation index.

203

204 **2.2.1. Brightness temperature**

205 The major difference in the ET derivation from Landsat and MODIS images was in the
 206 surface temperature calculations. SEBAL used one thermal band for surface temperature
 207 estimation for Landsat 7 data while two thermal bands were used with MODIS data.

208

209 The temperature detected by a thermal sensor is called the brightness temperature.
 210 Radiance data from Landsat 7 and MODIS thermal infrared bands were first converted to
 211 brightness temperatures with an inversion of Planck's equation:

$$212 \quad T_b = \frac{\frac{hc}{k\lambda}}{\ln\left(\frac{2hc^2\lambda^{-5}}{L_\lambda} + 1\right)} = \frac{K_2}{\ln\left(\frac{K_1}{L_\lambda} + 1\right)} \quad (2)$$

213 T_b is the brightness temperature in Kelvin [K], c is the speed of light (2.998×10^8) [ms^{-1}],
 214 h is the Planck's Constant (6.626×10^{-34}) [Js], k is the Boltzmann constant (1.3807×10^{-23})
 215 [JK^{-1}], L_λ is the spectral radiance [$Wm^{-2}\mu m^{-1}sr^{-1}$], λ is the band effective center
 216 wavelength [μm] and K_1 and K_2 are calibration coefficients [$Wm^{-2}sr^{-1}\mu m^{-1}$] (Table 2).

217

218 2.2.2. Surface temperature

219 For Landsat images the surface temperature (T_s) is estimated using T_b and ε_0 with the
 220 following empirical relationship (Morse et al., 2000).

221

$$222 \quad T_s = \frac{T_b}{\varepsilon_0^{0.25}} \quad (3)$$

223

224 where $\varepsilon_0 = 1.009 + 0.47 \ln(NDVI)$.

225

226 For MODIS images the split window technique is used. Split window algorithms take
227 advantage of the differential absorption in two close infrared bands to account for the
228 effects of absorption by atmospheric gases. Several split window algorithms are currently
229 available to derive surface temperature from brightness temperature when multiple
230 thermal bands are available. In this study, the algorithm developed by Price (1984) was
231 applied since Vazquez et al. (1997) determined that it performed better than other
232 algorithms. T_s is given by

233

$$234 \quad T_s = T_{31} + 1.8(T_{31} - T_{32}) + 48(1 - \varepsilon) - 75\Delta\varepsilon \quad (4)$$

235

236 where T_{31} is the brightness temperature obtained from band31 [K], T_{32} is the brightness
237 temperature obtained from band 32 [K], $\varepsilon = (\varepsilon_{31} + \varepsilon_{32})/2$, $\Delta\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{31} - \varepsilon_{32}$, ε_{31} is the surface
238 emissivity in band 31 and ε_{32} is the surface emissivity in band 32.

239 Cihlar et al. (1997) developed an algorithm to calculate the surface emissivity from
240 *NDVI*.

$$241 \quad \Delta\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{31} - \varepsilon_{32} = 0.01019 + 0.01344 \ln(NDVI) \quad (5)$$

242 where $\varepsilon_{31} = 0.9897 + 0.029 \ln(NDVI)$.

243 **2.2.3. Daily evapotranspiration**

244 In SEBAL, daily ET was interpolated by assuming the instantaneous evaporative fraction
245 (*EF*) when the satellite was passing over is approximately equal to the daily mean value

246 (Shuttleworth et al., 1989; Brutsaert and Sugita, 1992; Crago, 1996; Farah et al., 2004;
247 Gentine et al., 2007). The soil heat flux is assumed to be zero on a daily basis (Kustas et
248 al., 1993). Based on the known value of the instantaneous EF, the daily-averaged net
249 radiation flux, and the soil heat flux over a daily period, daily ET (ET_{24}) can be computed
250 by (Bastiaanssen et al., 1998):

251

$$252 \quad ET_{24} = \frac{86400EF(R_{n24} - G_{24})}{\lambda} \quad (6)$$

253

254 where $EF = \lambda E / (\lambda E + H)$, 86400 is a constant for time scale conversion, ET_{24} is daily
255 ET [$mm d^{-1}$], R_{n24} is daily-averaged net radiation [$W m^{-2}$] and G_{24} is daily-averaged soil
256 heat flux [$W m^{-2}$].

257

258 **2.3. UP-SCALING (AGGREGATION) PROCESS**

259 In the up-scaling process, two different procedures were evaluated. The first consisted of
260 applying SEBAL first and then aggregating the output variable (daily ET). The second
261 consisted of aggregating Landsat pixels of input variable (radiance) to obtain pixels at the
262 MODIS scale before SEBAL was applied (Figure 2). If the model is insensitive to an
263 input parameter, aggregating the value with increasing scale will have little influence on
264 model predictions. However, when the model does not operate linearly, the change in
265 data aggregation could increase or decrease model predictions (Quattrochi and Goodchild,
266 1997; French, 2001; Liang, 2004).

267

268 Aggregation imagery was obtained by simple averaging and by nearest neighbor
269 selection, and done with ERDAS IMAGINE (Leica Geosystems LLC). The simple
270 averaging resampling method calculated the arithmetic mean over an n by n window.
271 Since a pixel value of satellite imagery is considered to be the integrated value over the
272 corresponding area on the ground, simple averaging is considered appropriate for
273 aggregating remotely sensed images. The simple averaging method smoothes the original
274 data values and therefore produces a “tighter” histogram than the original data set.
275 Furthermore, aggregating a data set by simple averaging generally decreases the variance
276 and also increases the spatial autocorrelation (Anselin and Getis, 1993).

277 The nearest neighbor approach uses the value of the input pixel closest to the center of
278 the output pixel. To determine the nearest neighbor, the algorithm uses the inverse of the
279 transformation matrix to calculate the image file coordinates of the desired geographic
280 coordinate. The pixel value occupying the closest image file coordinate to the estimated
281 coordinate will be used for the output pixel value in the georeferenced image. Unlike
282 simple averaging, nearest neighbor is appropriate for thematic files having data file
283 values based on a qualitative system. One advantage of the nearest neighbor method is
284 that, unlike the simple averaging resampling method, its output values are original input
285 values. The other advantage is that it is easy to compute and therefore fastest to use.
286 However, the disadvantage is that nearest neighbor generates a choppy, "stair-stepped"
287 effect. The image tends to have a rough appearance relative to the original data (Cover
288 and Hart, 1967; Atkinson, 1985; Dodgson, 1997; Bian et al., 1999).

289 The aggregation was operated at six levels: 30, 60, 120, 250, 500 and 1000 m pixel sizes.
290 At each level, Landsat scale 30 by 30 m pixels were broken into 10 by 10 m pixels with
291 the same pixel values; the data were then aggregated directly from the 10 m resolution
292 instead of from a previous aggregation. This procedure made it easier to aggregate from
293 the Landsat 30 m pixel size to MODIS 250, 500 and 1000 m pixel sizes.

294

295 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

296

297 **3.1. SEBAL CONSISTENCY BETWEEN LANDSAT AND MODIS**

298 The SEBAL algorithm was applied to both Landsat 7 and MODIS images acquired on
299 September 14, 2000 and June 16, 2002 and estimated their daily ET rates. In order to
300 check the consistency of SEBAL performance for the different satellite sensors, SEBAL
301 estimated ET from Landsat and MODIS images were compared each other. Spatial
302 distribution of ET maps for visual verification and histograms and basic statistics for
303 quantitative examination were selected. Two approaches were used to inspect the ET
304 estimation difference between two different satellite sensors: one is a difference image
305 (pixel-by-pixel difference between Landsat and MODIS estimates), while the other was a
306 relative difference image (absolute value of the pixel difference was divided by the
307 MODIS derived pixel value). Basic statistics of the difference and relative difference
308 images were also computed to quantify the discrepancy between Landsat and MODIS
309 estimates.

310

311 **3.1.1 Comparison between Landsat (30m) and MODIS (250m) estimated ET**

312 **Figure 3** shows that the June image taken during the summer has significantly higher ET
313 rates than the September image taken in the early fall. All of the ET images clearly show
314 high ET rates in the irrigated fields and riparian areas along the Rio Grande Valley, while
315 low ET rates are shown in the surrounding desert areas and bare soils. The city of
316 Albuquerque has a somewhat higher ET rate than surrounding desert areas due to urban
317 and residential vegetations.

318

319 The disparate spatial resolutions of Landsat- and MODIS-based ET images result in some
320 differences in ET distribution, as may be expected. Many small areas (length scale on the
321 order of 10 to 100 m) with high ET rates along the river are captured well in the Landsat-
322 based ET map with a spatial resolution of 30 m. These peak ET rates are averaged out,
323 however, on the MODIS derived ET map with a spatial resolution of 250 m. **Figure 3**
324 shows that MODIS derived ET distributions have a tighter and taller histogram and fewer
325 pixels have close to zero (0.0 to 0.5) ET than the histogram from Landsat imagery. In the
326 table of basic statistics in **Figure 3**, the ET map derived from the Landsat 7 image shows
327 a higher maximum and standard deviation than the one derived from the MODIS images.
328 However, the mean values of Landsat- and MODIS-based ET images are very similar.
329 The minimum value of ET in each image equals to zero.

330

331 Difference images between the Landsat-based ET at 30m resolution and MODIS-based
332 ET at 250m resolution show how these products are dissimilar to each other (**Figure 4**).
333 Each difference image was produced by subtracting MODIS-based ET from Landsat-
334 based ET [$ET_{Landsat} - ET_{MODIS}$], with brown-colored pixels in the difference map in **Figure**

335 4 representing points where the MODIS-based ET is significantly higher than Landsat-
336 based ET. Blue-colored pixels represent points where the ET from Landsat is
337 significantly higher than the ET from MODIS imagery. Areas with apparently high ET
338 differences ($> +2.0$ or < -2.0 mm/d) shown as brown or blue, are observed along the
339 boundary between Rio Grande River riparian areas and surrounding deserts. These high
340 differences are mostly due to (1) disagreement in image georeferencing between the
341 Landsat and MODIS imagery and (2) differences resulting from subtracting the ET value
342 of a large (250m) MODIS based pixel from that of a small (30m) Landsat based pixel.

343

344 It is not trivial to generate georeferenced imagery with error of less than one pixel
345 (Eugenio and Marqués, 2003). The georeferencing of two maps with spatial resolutions
346 differing an order of magnitude is especially difficult (Liang et al., 2002). One or two
347 pixels of georeferencing disagreement can cause abrupt ET changes at the boundaries
348 between riparian (high ET) and desert (low ET) areas. The effect of different pixel sizes
349 is clearly demonstrated with the brown and blue pixels located along the sudden
350 transition from riparian area to desert. The brown-colored pixels (ET difference < -2
351 mm/d) are located in the desert and result from subtracting a large MODIS pixel located
352 partially in the riparian area with relatively high ET from a small Landsat pixel located in
353 the desert with zero ET. The blue-colored pixels (ET difference > 2 mm/d) are located in
354 the riparian area and result from subtracting a large MODIS pixel located partially in the
355 desert from a riparian area located small Landsat pixel.

356

357 Basic statistics (mean and standard deviation) allow a quantitative means of comparison
358 and evaluation. Positive and negative differences due to georeferencing disagreement
359 between two images tend to cancel each other in these calculations since they occur in
360 opposite directions at both sides of the transgression from riparian to desert area.
361 Therefore the mean and standard deviation of each difference image were calculated
362 based on the “absolute” difference between Landsat- and MODIS-based ET images. For
363 both study dates, the mean and standard deviation of difference between the Landsat and
364 MODIS-based ET are within 1.0 mm/day. Basic statistics in [Figure 4](#) show that the
365 September images have a slightly lower mean difference and standard deviation than the
366 June images. However, this does not imply that the September Landsat- and MODIS-
367 based ET images agree better than June images. The difference in basic statistics is
368 caused by the smaller values of the mean and standard deviation of ET rates in the
369 September images.

370

371 Relative difference images were produced as well by dividing the absolute difference
372 image by the MODIS derived ET image $[(ET_{Landsat} - ET_{MODIS}) / ET_{MODIS}]$ ([Figure 5](#)). The
373 relative difference value ranges from zero to infinity. The infinity values occur when the
374 MODIS-based ET is much smaller than the Landsat-based ET. The infinity values were
375 constrained to 1.0 and pixels having zero values either in the MODIS-based ET or in the
376 Landsat-based ET image are also assigned to 1.0 as relative difference. Most of the pixels
377 having 1.0 (red-colored) relative difference are located in the desert area. One interesting
378 point is that the quite a few pixels having 1.0 as relative difference are found along the
379 transition zone between riparian and desert areas. Those pixels result from 30 m Landsat

380 pixels having high ET inside 250 m coarse resolution of MODIS pixels having low ET
381 (Figure 5).

382

383 Figure 6 presents three dimensional graphs of the relationship between relative difference
384 and daily ET rate on both June and September images. Both graphs in Figure 6 show that
385 large relative difference predominantly occur in areas having low ET while areas having
386 ET such as greater than 3 mm/d exhibit relative differences of about less than 0.4.
387 However, there are some points having 1.0 relative difference with daily ET greater than
388 2.0 mm/d. These points are resulted from pixels having significant difference between
389 Landsat and MODIS derived ET and mainly due to georeferencing disagreement between
390 Landsat and MODIS satellite images. These questionable points are mostly located in the
391 boundary area between riparian and surrounding desert.

392

393 **3.2. ANALYSIS OF UP-SCALING EFFECTS**

394 The spatial distribution and its statistical features were evaluated and compared among
395 the four different up-scaling methods across the five aggregation levels. Output up-
396 scaling aggregated the SEBAL estimated daily ET rates either with simple averaging or
397 the nearest neighbor resampling method. The resultant aggregated ET map may represent
398 the best estimate of ET at the coarser resolution, since the aggregated ET was derived
399 directly by aggregation of the fine resolution ET data. For input up-scaling, since the
400 radiometric observations (radiance) or SEBAL model inputs were aggregated, one
401 expects to retrieve the best estimate of a radiometric observation at the coarser

402 resolutions. These aggregated data were used as input to the SEBAL model and
403 calculated daily ET.

404

405 The different up-scaling methodologies were evaluated by: (1) spatial distribution of
406 aggregated imagery by four different schemes at each aggregation level to evaluate the
407 changes in spatial pattern after aggregation, and (2) histograms and basic statistics of the
408 aggregated data for different up-scaling schemes at all levels. The spatial details lost
409 during aggregation were considered to be the difference between original image and up-
410 scaled image. In this study difference images were created by subtracting the up-scaled
411 pixels from the original pixels of the Landsat- or MODIS-based ET estimates. While
412 relative difference images were produced by dividing the absolute difference by the
413 original Landsat- and MODIS-based ET images. The statistical and spatial characteristics
414 of differences were evaluated by analyzing the spatial distribution of differences as well
415 as the mean and standard deviation of absolute differences.

416

417 **3.2.1. Effect of aggregation**

418 Spatial and statistical characteristics of up-scaled products from June and September
419 Landsat-based ET maps at 30m resolution to five aggregation levels are presented in
420 **Figures 7 –10**. **Figure 7** presents ET maps from output up-scaling using simple averaging
421 resampling on June 16, 2002, at spatial resolutions of 60, 120, 250, 500 and 1000m. This
422 method produces the most statistically and spatially predictable behavior. The least
423 predictable – but still acceptable – behavior is produced by input up-scaling using nearest
424 neighbor resampling. An example for June 16, 2002 is presented in **Figure 8**. **Figures 9**

425 and 10 present the histograms and statistics for the different up-scaling methods on,
426 respectively, June 16, 2002 and September 14, 2000. Although spatial detail was lost
427 with the increase in pixel size, the overall spatial distribution of ET of each aggregated
428 map (for example Figures 7 and 8) was in agreement with the original ET maps in Figure
429 3.

430

431 All histograms of ET distribution (Figures 9 and 10) show the dominance of close to zero
432 ET values and this frequency decreases a few percent (3.4 to 1.3%) with pixel size only
433 when output up-scaling with simple averaging was applied. This feature might be
434 explained by the observation that desert areas along the riparian corridors are classified to
435 have zero ET in fine resolution of 30m. However, these desert areas are easily mixed
436 with riparian areas when applying simple averaging, while nearest neighbor resampling
437 schemes hardly affect the frequencies in the histogram since nearest neighbor produces a
438 subset of the original data. The 60 and 120m pixel sized histograms in Figures 9 – 10
439 exhibit an almost constant frequency occurrence of 2.0% for June imagery and 3.0% for
440 September imagery over ET rates ranging from 2.5 to 7.5 mm/d and from 1.0 to 5.0
441 mm/d, respectively. This constant frequency changes into a concave down shape as pixel
442 size is increased further with simple averaging resampling in both output and input up-
443 scaling. That is, the frequency of pixels having 5 – 6 mm/d ET increases but the
444 frequency of pixels having 3 – 4 mm/d decreases with simple averaging is applied. Pixels
445 having 5 – 6 mm/d of ET in this study area are mainly surface water, agricultural fields
446 and riparian vegetation pixels located along the Rio Grande riparian corridor. There are
447 pixels having 3 – 4 mm/d of ET located inside of the riparian corridor as well as in the

448 transition zone between riparian and surrounding desert. These pixels are mostly located
449 along the transition zone between riparian areas and surrounding deserts areas and
450 adjacent to the Rio Grande River. These pixels have low ET, but when averaged with
451 adjacent higher ET pixels the contrast disappears. However, histograms from nearest
452 neighbor resampling stayed rather consistent in shape at each resolution.

453

454 The basic statistics and histograms also show the statistical changes through aggregation.
455 With either output up-scaling or input up-scaling, the mean values of the simple
456 averaging and nearest neighbor images remain essentially constant across all aggregation
457 levels in both days. However, ET maps derived using nearest neighbor show a more
458 “blocky” pattern than those derived using from simple averaging (for example [Figures 7](#)
459 [and 8](#)). This difference in spatial distribution is due to the fact that simple averaging
460 decreases the standard deviation with increasing pixel size, while the standard deviation
461 from nearest neighbor aggregation stays fairly constant across all aggregation levels.

462

463 The differences in aggregation procedures between simple averaging and nearest
464 neighbor cause the fundamental difference in statistics of the aggregated data. The simple
465 averaging method aggregates based on data values, and the resulting values are confined
466 to the mid range. However, the nearest neighbor resampling is based on location, its pixel
467 value varying with the location of central pixels in new coordinates as the pixel size
468 changes. Therefore, the aggregated results are a systematically sampled subset of the
469 original data, and their values are expected to be less confined. This explains the
470 somewhat larger data ranges for the nearest neighbor resampling method, but the mean of

471 the data does not change significantly. Many regional-scale hydrological process models
472 require input parameters over a large area. Direct area averaging technique has often
473 been used to generate the regional-scale model input parameters (Shuttleworth, 1991;
474 Chehbouni and Njoku, 1995; Croley et al., 2005; Maayar and Chen, 2006). For example,
475 direct averaged values of air temperature, precipitation, humidity, surface roughness
476 length and so on were used as input parameters in hydrologic models (Brown et al., 1993;
477 Maayar and Chen, 2006). However, the standard deviation of the data set decreases as the
478 aggregation level increases, therefore users need to check the sensitivity of the range of
479 the variable of the model prior to applying direct averaging for data aggregation.

480

481 In fact, the SEBAL algorithm is nonlinear; that is the mean aggregated ET (output up-
482 scaled) at any given resolution does not equal the modeled ET value of an aggregated
483 input value (input up-scaled). However, as demonstrated by visual examination of the
484 spatial distribution of ET in [Figures 7 – 10](#), the contrast as well as the basic patterns (high
485 and low values and their relative locations) of ET between output up-scaling and input
486 up-scaling show a slight disagreement. A slightly higher mean and standard deviation
487 was found in the results from input up-scaling with simple averaging than from output
488 up-scaling with simple averaging; however there is almost no difference between input
489 and output up-scaling when applying the nearest neighbor method. Overall, statistical and
490 spatial characteristics produced by input up-scaling show relatively good agreement with
491 those of the output up-scaling method.

492

493 **3.2.2. Difference of aggregated data versus original Landsat (30m) and MODIS**
494 **(250m) estimated ET**

495 First, aggregation difference was examined by comparing aggregated maps with the
496 original ET map at 30m resolution derived from Landsat imagery. **Tables 3 and 4** present
497 the basic statistics of difference and relative difference against original Landsat derived
498 ET on June 16, 2002 and September 14, 2000 produced by four different up-scaling. The
499 mean values of absolute difference and relative difference range from 0.14 to 0.63 mm/d
500 and from 0.55 to 0.82, respectively.

501 The mean and standard deviation values of absolute difference from September image are
502 smaller than those from June image. The smaller mean difference and standard deviation
503 is explained by the smaller values of the ET rates in the September image. Mean values
504 of absolute difference from output up-scaled maps are similar with those from input up-
505 scaled maps; however consistently higher standard deviations are found in input up-
506 scaled maps (**Tables 3 – 4**). This result confirms that aggregated model output data
507 provide the best estimate of model output at the coarser resolution.

508

509 The mean and standard deviation of the absolute differences also increase with pixel size.
510 This is mainly due to the mixed pixel effect. Since aggregation tends to average out the
511 small surface features, the difference between aggregated imagery and the original fine
512 resolution imagery increases with aggregation levels. One interesting note is that the
513 mean of the relative difference increase with pixel size, however standard deviation
514 actually slightly decreases with pixel size. In this study relative difference is bounded to
515 be not greater than 1.0. Therefore, as mean values increase to approach 1.0, the standard

516 deviation of absolute difference actually decreases with increasing relative difference.
517 Based on the mean and standard deviation of the absolute difference and relative
518 difference, although the difference increases with aggregation levels, the ET of the
519 original images seems to be better preserved from the output up-scaling than input up-
520 scaling.

521

522 Both of the 3D frequency plots in [Figure 11](#) between up-scaled ET and its relative
523 difference against Landsat-based ET show patterns similar to those in [Figure 6](#). That is,
524 relative difference decreases with ET. However, points having 1.0 relative difference
525 with daily ET greater than 1.0 mm/d are greatly diminished in [Figure 11](#). In particular,
526 the top portion of [Figure 11](#), which shows the relative difference between the output up-
527 scaled ET and the ET obtained from simple averaging, shows very few of these
528 questionable points. In the bottom portion of [Figure 11](#), which shows the relative
529 difference between the input up-scaled ET and the nearest neighbor up-scaled ET, there
530 are some points with a relative difference of 1.0, but there are far fewer such points than
531 in [Figure 6](#). This indicates that there are fewer georeferencing disagreements between
532 Landsat-derived ET and output up-scaled ET than the one between Landsat and MODIS
533 images.

534

535 Next, we compare aggregation differences by comparing up-scaled maps at 250m
536 resolution with the original ET map from MODIS. This requires that we first examine
537 which aggregation scheme produces the best match with the original MODIS-based ET
538 and then check the quality of the different aggregation schemes. Landsat-based ET maps

539 at 30 m resolution were aggregated into 250 m resolution maps by applying the four
540 different aggregation schemes already presented in [Figure 2](#). [Table 5](#) show the basic
541 statistics of the absolute difference and relative difference of images from the four
542 different up-scaling schemes at 250m resolution compared with MODIS-based ET of
543 June and September.

544

545 The mean and standard deviation of absolute difference and relative difference from
546 output up-scaling with the simple averaging map are smaller than the one from input up-
547 scaling ([Table 5](#)). Also the simple averaging method generates smaller absolute
548 difference and relative difference than the nearest neighboring method. This implies that
549 output up-scaling with simple averaging map has best agreement with MODIS derived
550 ET. No difference between output and input up-scaling is found from the nearest
551 neighbor aggregation method. As shown in the previous section, the maximum and
552 standard deviation of the ET maps produced by simple averaging are decreased as data
553 were aggregated to 250m resolution. However, the nearest neighbor aggregation method
554 generated images having a similar maximum and standard deviation to the original image
555 ([Figures 9 – 10](#)). This explains why the mean and standard deviation of absolute
556 difference between aggregated Landsat ET image using simple averaging and MODIS-
557 based ET are smaller than from nearest neighbor ([Table 5](#)).

558

559 Although the difference increases with aggregation levels, the ET of
560 the original images seems to be better preserved with output up-scaling than

561 with input up-scaling. Out of the four different up-scaling procedures, output up-scaling
562 with simple averaging performs best. However, all four aggregation schemes are still
563 acceptable since the mean and standard deviation values of absolute difference are all less
564 than those from the original Landsat ET imagery in [Figure 4](#).

565

566 **3.3. COMPARISON OF SEBAL UNCERTAINTY WITH UP-SCALING EFFECTS**

567

568 As mentioned in [Section 1](#), it has been reported that SEBAL daily ET estimates agree
569 with ground observation with an accuracy of $\pm 10\%$. The great strength of the SEBAL is
570 due to its internal calibration procedure that eliminates most of the bias in latent heat flux
571 at the expense of increased bias in sensible heat flux (Allen et al., 2007; Hong, 2008).

572

573 In order to examine the difference among up-scaling schemes, the relative difference
574 between up-scaled ET images at 120 and 1000m resolutions are calculated and histogram
575 and descriptive statistics are shown in [Figure 12](#). Relative difference is calculated
576 between Upscaling2, 3 or 4 against Upscaling1 ([Figure 2](#)) as $[(ET_{\text{upscaling2, 3 or 4}} -$
577 $ET_{\text{upscaling1}}) / ET_{\text{upscaling1}}]$. Up-scaling1 (output simple averaging) is taken as reference
578 since output simple averaging generates the best matched up-scaled map with respect to
579 the MODIS-derived ET map ([Table 5](#)). As shown in [Figure 1](#), the study area includes
580 surrounding desert where soil moisture is little thus ET is very small. Since area having
581 very low ET can easily introduce very high relative difference and moreover it is difficult
582 to precisely estimate ET in desert area anyhow, the area having less than 1mm/day is

583 excluded in this analysis. The portion of area having less than 1mm/day covers about
584 50% of whole study area.

585

586 As shown in Figure 12, first, mean relative difference increases with pixel spatial
587 resolution, and second, relative difference between simple averaging and nearest
588 neighboring resampling (Upscaling1-Upscaling2 and Upscaling1-Upscaling4) has a lot
589 higher mean and standard deviation than the one between two simple averaging schemes
590 (Upscaling1-Upscaling3). This simply indicates that as pixel size increases, the difference
591 between simple averaging and nearest neighboring resampling increases. However, mean
592 relative difference between Upscaling1 and Upscaling3 (input simple averaging) in both
593 120m and 1000m resolution are all less than 10% which is smaller than the magnitude of
594 SEBAL uncertainty. A little difference between output and input up-scaling implies that
595 SEBAL is close to linearity model and that is due to its internal calibration procedure
596 ($dT-T_s$ relationship). Another interesting point is that for the 1000m resolution histograms
597 of Upscaling1-Upscaling2 and Upscaling1-Upscaling3, considerable data points have
598 relative difference greater than 10% and especially lots of pixels (15% frequency) have
599 relative difference greater than 90%. Those areas having >90% relative difference are
600 mainly located along the boundary between riparian and desert areas. These pixels in the
601 boundary area are mixed with riparian (high ET) and desert (low ET), thus the difference
602 between up-scaled ET map by simple averaging and nearest neighbor resampling is
603 significant and causes very high relative difference.

604

605 Based on the result of relative difference analysis, the difference between simple
606 averaging and nearest neighbor is a lot bigger than the uncertainty of the SEBAL
607 procedure. Therefore, users have to aware of the difference and are careful to select
608 appropriate up-scaling scheme for their research.

609

610

611

4. CONCLUSIONS

612

613 Daily evapotranspiration rates were predicted using the SEBAL algorithm from Landsat
614 7 and MODIS imagery. The objectives of this study were to test the consistency of the
615 SEBAL algorithm for the different satellite sensors and to investigate the effect of
616 various proposed aggregation procedures.

617

618 Although ET maps derived from the Landsat 7 images showed higher maximum and
619 standard deviation values than those derived from the MODIS images, the mean values of
620 Landsat- and MODIS-based ET images were very similar. Discrepancy in direct pixel-
621 by-pixel comparison between Landsat- and MODIS-based ET was due to mainly
622 georeferencing disagreement as well as the inherent differences in spatial, spectral and
623 radiometric resolutions between imagery from the different satellite sensors.

624

625 The output up-scaling scheme produced slightly better ET maps than the input up-scaling
626 scheme. Both simple averaging and nearest neighbor resampling methods can preserve
627 the mean values of the original images across aggregation levels. However, the simple

628 averaging resampling method resulted in decreasing standard deviation values as the
629 resolution coarsened, while the standard deviation did not change across aggregation
630 levels with the nearest neighbor resampling method. For difference analysis, large
631 relative differences predominantly occur in areas having low ET (desert and bare soil)
632 while areas having high ET (agricultural field and riparian vegetation) exhibit small
633 relative differences. Out of the four different up-scaling procedures proposed in this study,
634 output up-scaling with simple averaging performs best. However, other aggregation
635 schemes are still acceptable.

636

637 Results of the relative difference analysis among up-scaling schemes show that a little
638 difference between output and input up-scaling is found. However, there significant
639 difference exists between simple averaging and nearest neighbor and its difference is a lot
640 bigger than the uncertainty of the SEBAL procedure.

641

642

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644

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647

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820

821

Table 1. Band spatial resolutions (m) and wavelengths (μm) of Landsat 7 and MODIS sensors.

Sensors	Band number									
	1	2	3	4	5 [#]	6	7	31	32	
Pixel size [m]	30	30	30	30	30	60	30	NA*	NA*	
Landsat 7										
Band width [μm]	0.45 – 0.51	0.52 – 0.60	0.63 – 0.69	0.75 – 0.9	1.55 – 1.75	10.4 – 12.5	2.09 – 2.35	NA*	NA	
Pixel size [m]	250	250	500	500	500	500	500	1000	1000	
MODIS										
Band width [μm]	0.62 – 0.67	0.84 – 0.87	0.46 – 0.48	0.54 – 0.56	1.23 – 1.25	1.63 – 1.65	2.11 – 2.15	10.8 – 11.3	11.8 – 12.3	

[#]MODIS band5 is not used in this study because of streaking noise,

*Not available

Table 2. Constants K_1 and K_2 [$\text{Wm}^{-2}\text{ster}^{-1}\mu\text{m}^{-1}$] for Landsat 7 ETM+ (NASA, 2002) and MODIS (<http://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/>).

	K_1	K_2
Landsat 7	666.09	1282.71
MODIS (band 31)	730.01	1305.84
MODIS (band 32)	474.99	1198.29

Table 3. Basic statistics of difference [mm/d] between up-scaled ET and original Landsat-based ET (30m). (note: statistics are calculated from absolute value of the difference)

Up-scaling approach	Up-scaling operation	June 16, 2002		September 14, 2000	
		Mean difference	Standard deviation	Mean difference	Standard deviation
Output	AVG_60 ¹	0.20	0.34	0.14	0.24
	NN_60 ²	0.18	0.30	0.14	0.28
	AVG_120	0.30	0.48	0.17	0.27
	NN_120	0.32	0.35	0.23	0.33
	AVG_250	0.51	0.79	0.25	0.35
	NN_250	0.32	0.38	0.23	0.35
	AVG_500	0.54	0.81	0.27	0.36
	NN_500	0.38	0.41	0.27	0.36
	AVG_1000	0.63	0.90	0.30	0.38
	NN_1000	0.43	0.43	0.33	0.42
Input	AVG_60	0.28	0.50	0.14	0.25
	NN_60	0.18	0.31	0.15	0.28
	AVG_120	0.29	0.51	0.16	0.28
	NN_120	0.28	0.36	0.23	0.34
	AVG_250	0.53	0.85	0.24	0.36
	NN_250	0.32	0.38	0.23	0.35
	AVG_500	0.54	0.87	0.25	0.37
	NN_500	0.38	0.41	0.28	0.39
	AVG_1000	0.62	0.95	0.28	0.39
	NN_1000	0.43	0.43	0.32	0.42

¹Aggregated to 60m by simple averaging, ² Aggregated to 60m by nearest neighbor

Table 4. Basic statistics of relative difference [-] between up-scaled ET and original Landsat-based ET (30m). (note: statistics are calculated from absolute value of the relative difference)

Up-scaling approach	Up-scaling operation	June 16, 2002		September 14, 2000	
		Mean relative difference	Standard deviation	Mean relative difference	Standard deviation
Output	AVG_60 ¹	0.55	0.44	0.68	0.42
	NN_60 ²	0.56	0.45	0.69	0.43
	AVG_120	0.58	0.42	0.70	0.40
	NN_120	0.60	0.42	0.73	0.40
	AVG_250	0.64	0.40	0.74	0.37
	NN_250	0.65	0.41	0.75	0.38
	AVG_500	0.64	0.39	0.74	0.37
	NN_500	0.69	0.38	0.78	0.35
	AVG_1000	0.65	0.39	0.76	0.36
	NN_1000	0.72	0.37	0.82	0.32
Input	AVG_60	0.60	0.44	0.70	0.41
	NN_60	0.56	0.45	0.70	0.42
	AVG_120	0.61	0.42	0.71	0.40
	NN_120	0.62	0.42	0.73	0.39
	AVG_250	0.66	0.40	0.76	0.37
	NN_250	0.65	0.41	0.75	0.38
	AVG_500	0.67	0.40	0.76	0.37
	NN_500	0.69	0.39	0.78	0.35
	AVG_1000	0.68	0.39	0.77	0.36
	NN_1000	0.73	0.36	0.82	0.32

¹Aggregated to 60m by simple averaging, ² Aggregated to 60m by nearest neighbor

Table 5. Basic statistics of difference [mm/d] and relative difference [-] of up-scaled ET against original MODIS-based ET (250m). (note: statistics are calculated from absolute value of the difference)

Up-scaling approach	Up-scaling operation	June 16, 2002		September 14, 2000	
		Mean difference	Standard deviation	Mean difference	Standard deviation
Output	AVG_250 ¹	0.41	0.39	0.31	0.37
	NN_250 ²	0.46	0.41	0.36	0.41
Input	AVG_250	0.43	0.40	0.32	0.38
	NN_250	0.46	0.41	0.36	0.41
		Mean relative difference	Standard deviation	Mean relative difference	Standard deviation
Output	AVG_250	0.60	0.38	0.71	0.36
	NN_250	0.67	0.37	0.78	0.34
Input	AVG_250	0.65	0.38	0.75	0.36
	NN_250	0.67	0.37	0.78	0.34

¹Aggregated to 250m by simple averaging, ² Aggregated to 250m by nearest neighbor

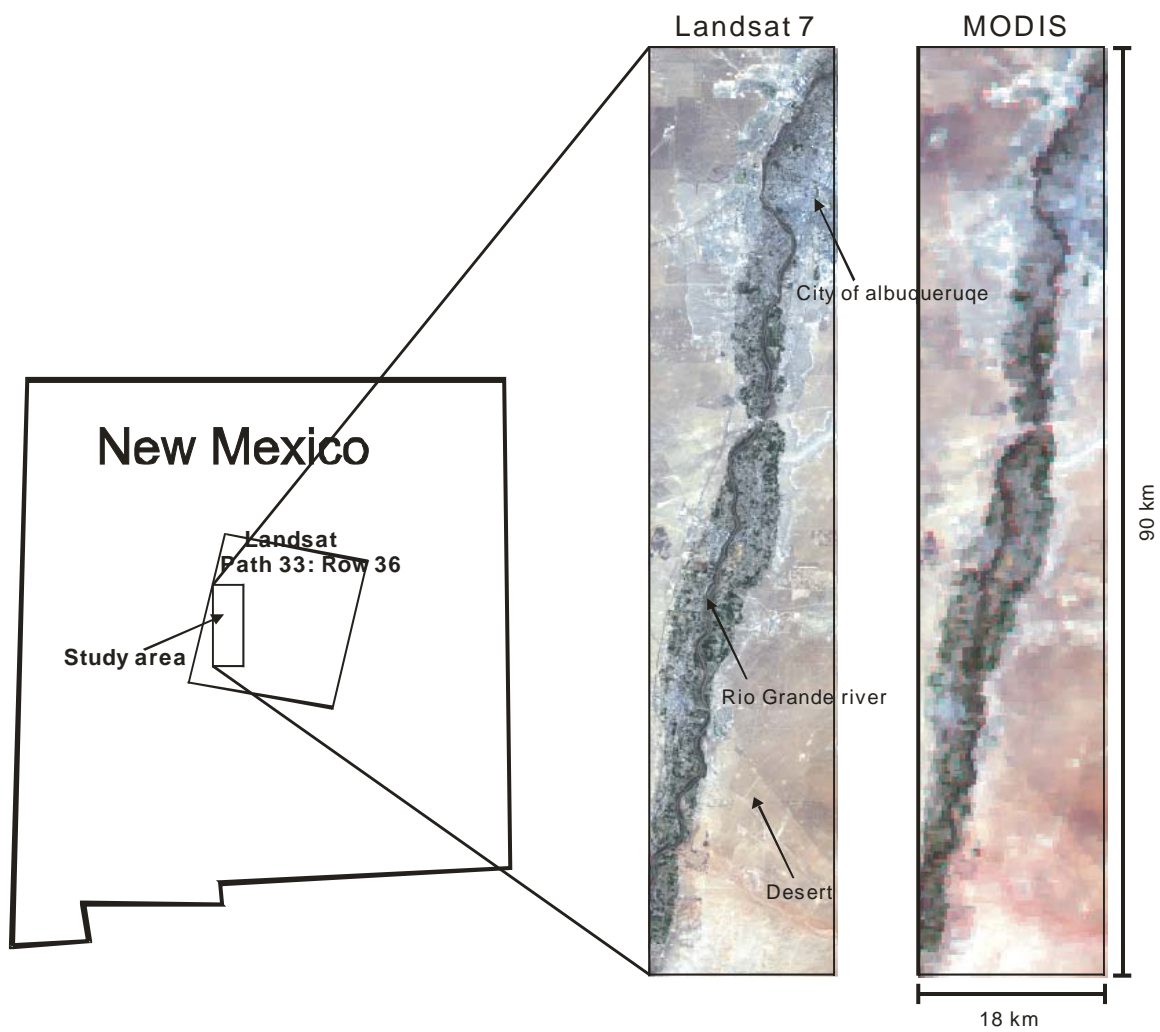


Figure 2. Location of the study area (18km by 90km). True color Landsat 7 (30 m by 30 m resolution) and MODIS (250 m by 250 m resolution) images on June 16, 2002.

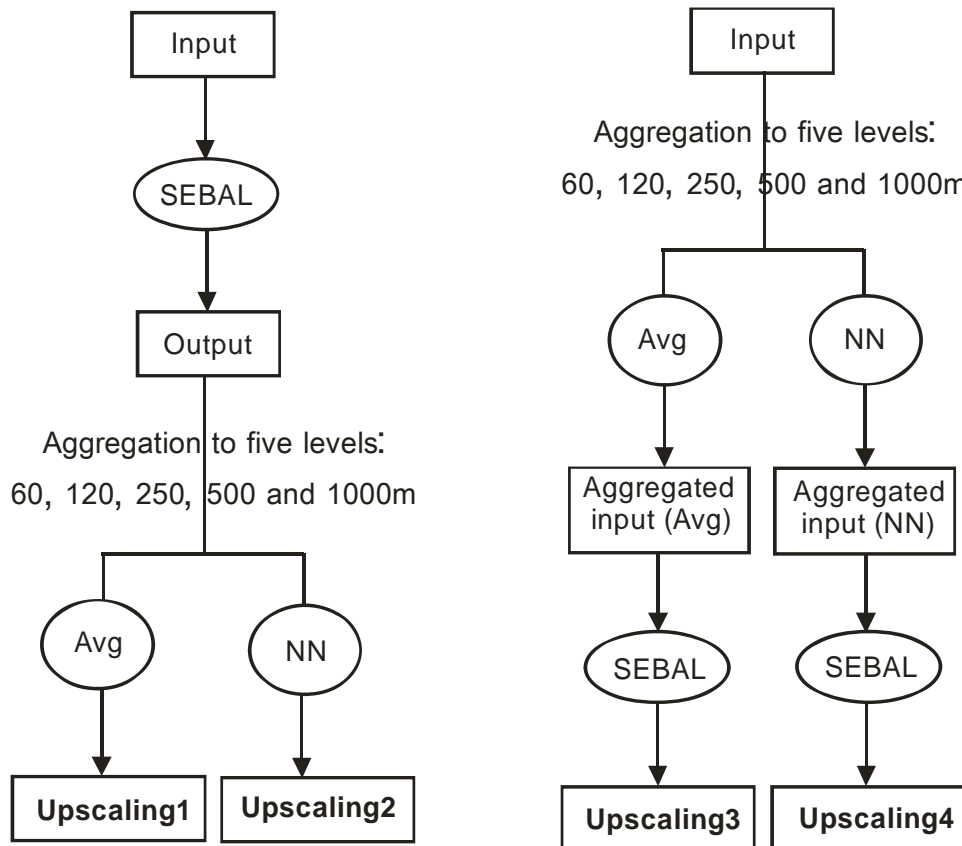


Figure 2. Schematic of up-scaling schemes applied in this study. (Upscaling1: output up-scaling with simple averaging, Upscaling2: output up-scaling with nearest neighbor, Upscaling3: input up-scaling with simple-averaging and Upscaling4: input-up-scaling with nearest neighbor).

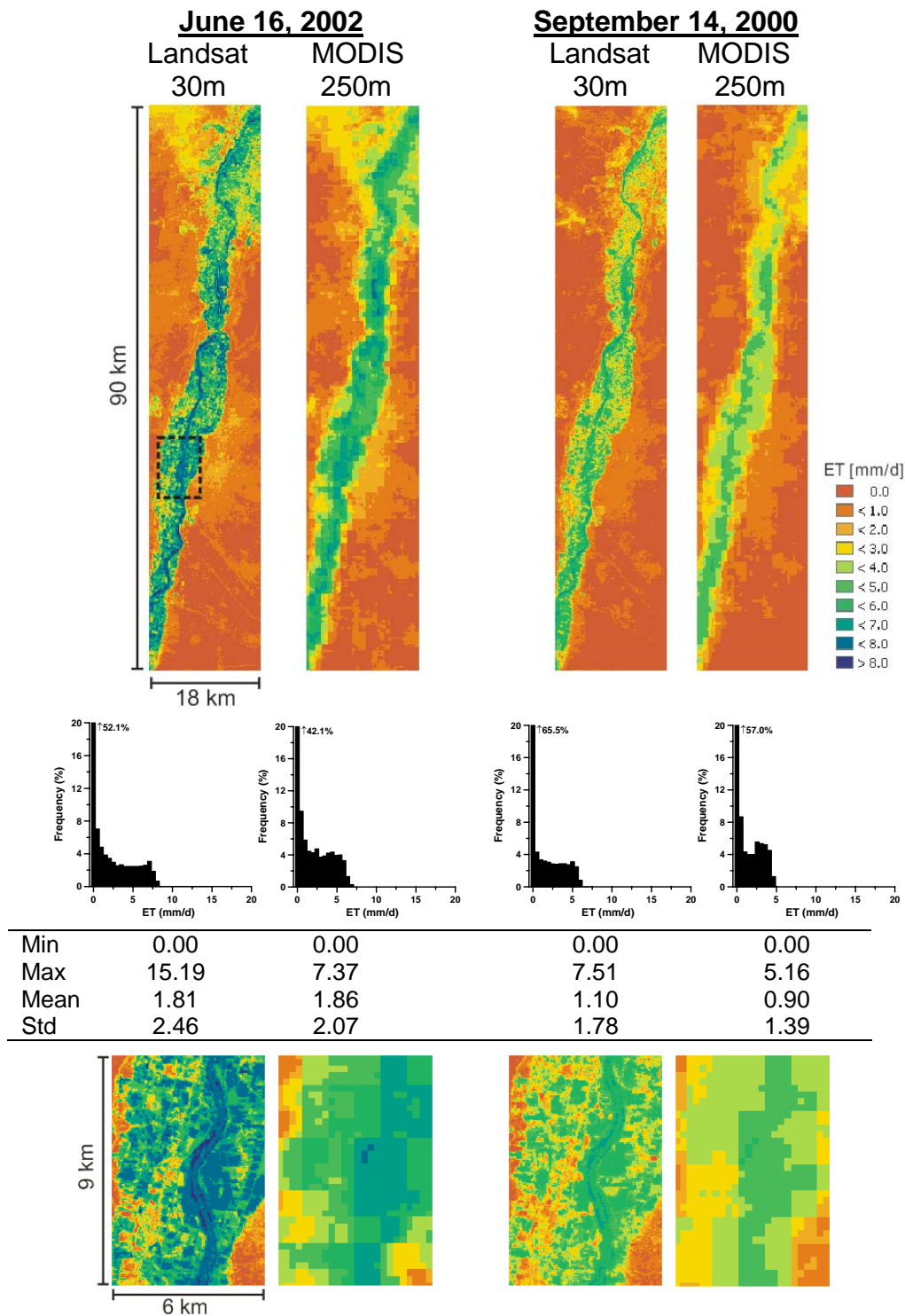
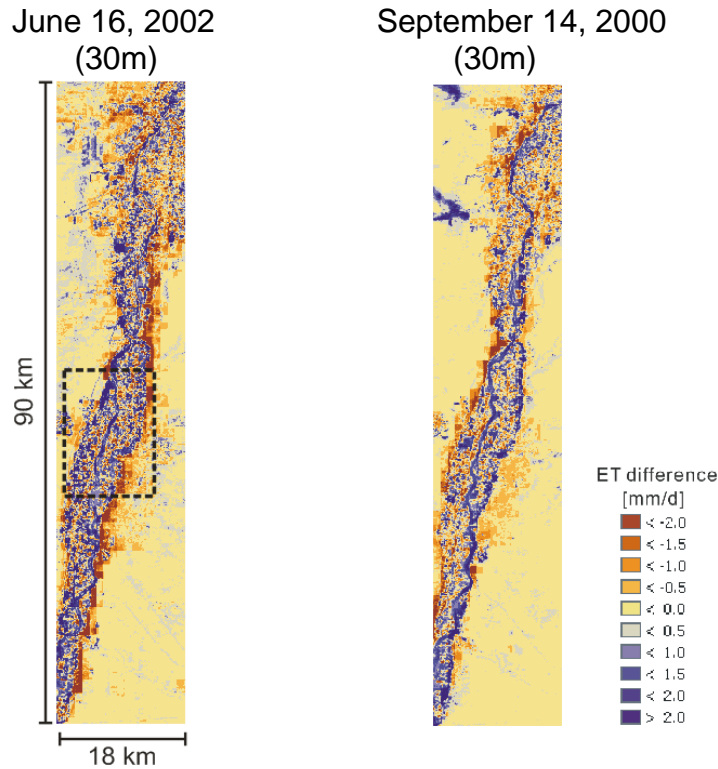


Figure 3. Landsat (30 m) and MODIS (250 m) derived ET by SEBAL of June and September. Bin size of the histogram is 0.5 mm/d and frequency occurrence exceeding 20% marked next to the arrow. The histograms and basic statistics are based on the entire maps (18 km x 90 km). Enlarged areas (9 by 6 km) shown at the bottom correspond to the dotted square of the upper images

Difference map: $[ET_{\text{Landsat}} - ET_{\text{MODIS}}]$



Mean absolute difference	0.73	0.51
STD	0.92	0.72

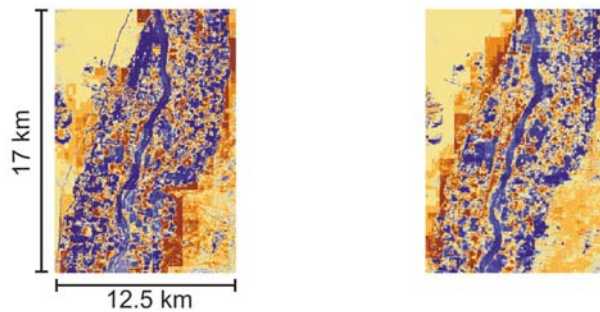


Figure 4. ET difference map (30 m) between the Landsat estimated ET (30m) and the MODIS estimate ET (250m). (note: mean and standard deviation (STD) are calculated with the absolute difference). Enlarged areas (12.5 by 17 km) shown at the bottom correspond to the dotted square of the upper images.

Relative difference between Landsat estimated ET (30m) and MODIS estimate ET (250m): $[(ET_{Landsat} - ET_{MODIS}) / ET_{MODIS}]$

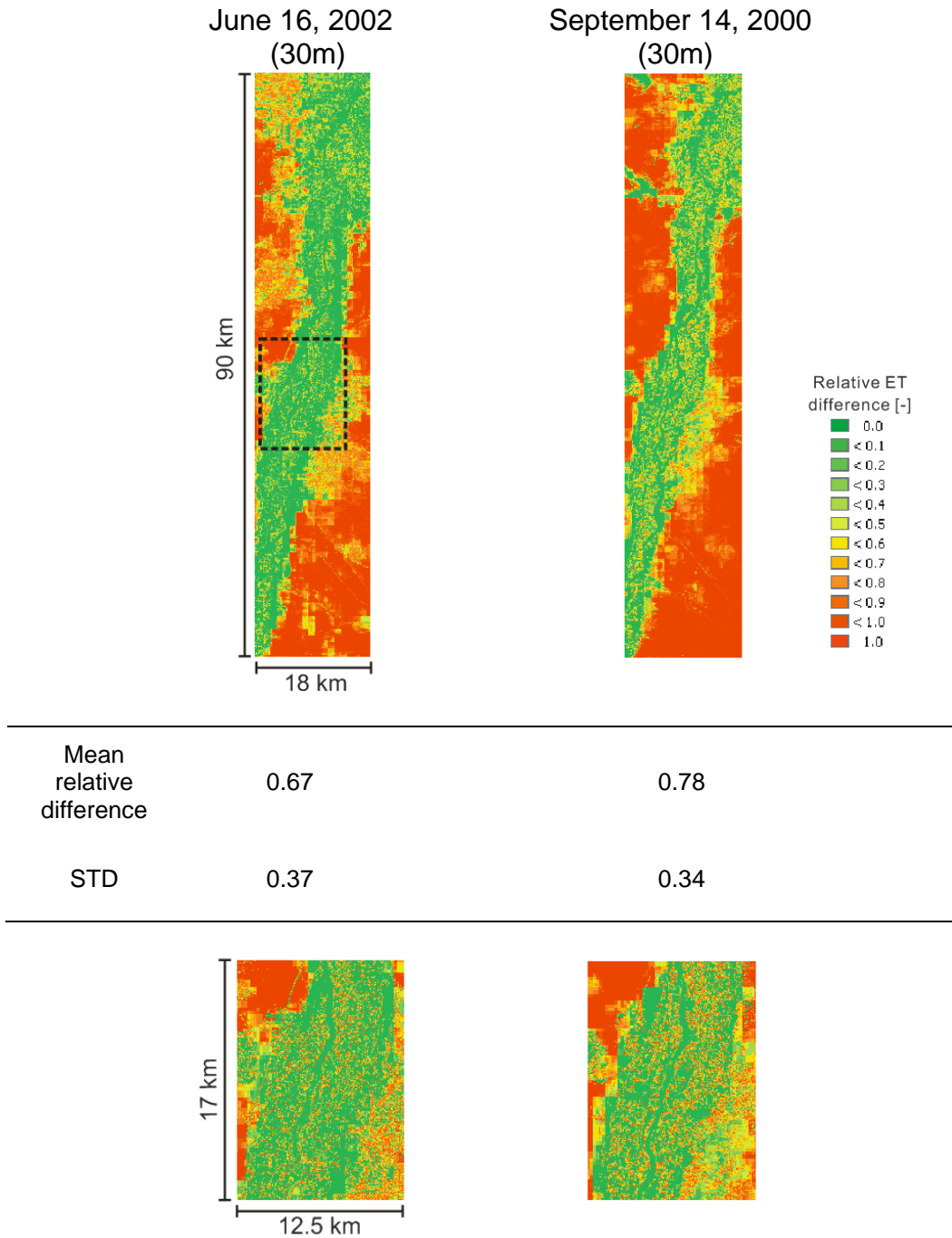


Figure 5. Relative difference (30 m) between the Landsat estimated ET (30m) and the MODIS estimate ET (250m) on June 16, 2002. Enlarged areas (12.5 by 17 km) shown at the bottom correspond to the dotted square of the upper images.

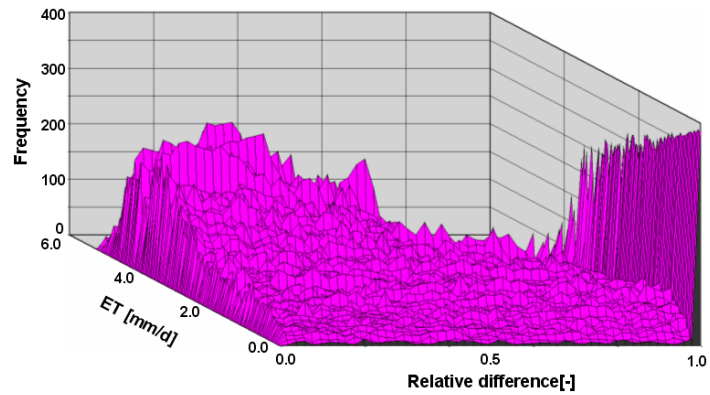
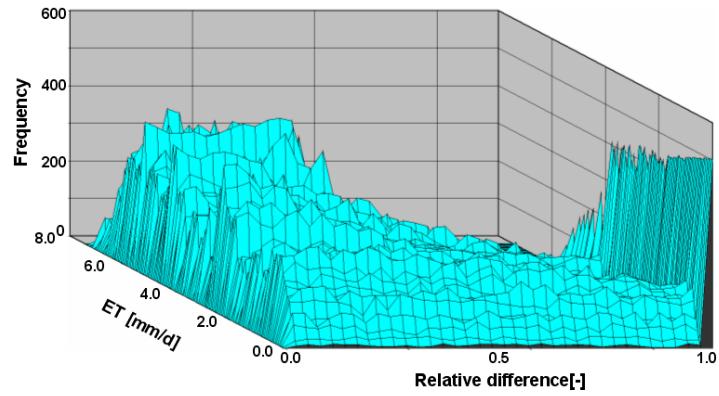


Figure 6. 3D frequency plot of the relative difference between Landsat driven ET (30m) and MODIS derived ET (250m) against MODIS derived ET (250m) (top: June 16, 2002 and bottom: September 14, 2000).

Output up-scaling with simple averaging on June 16, 2002

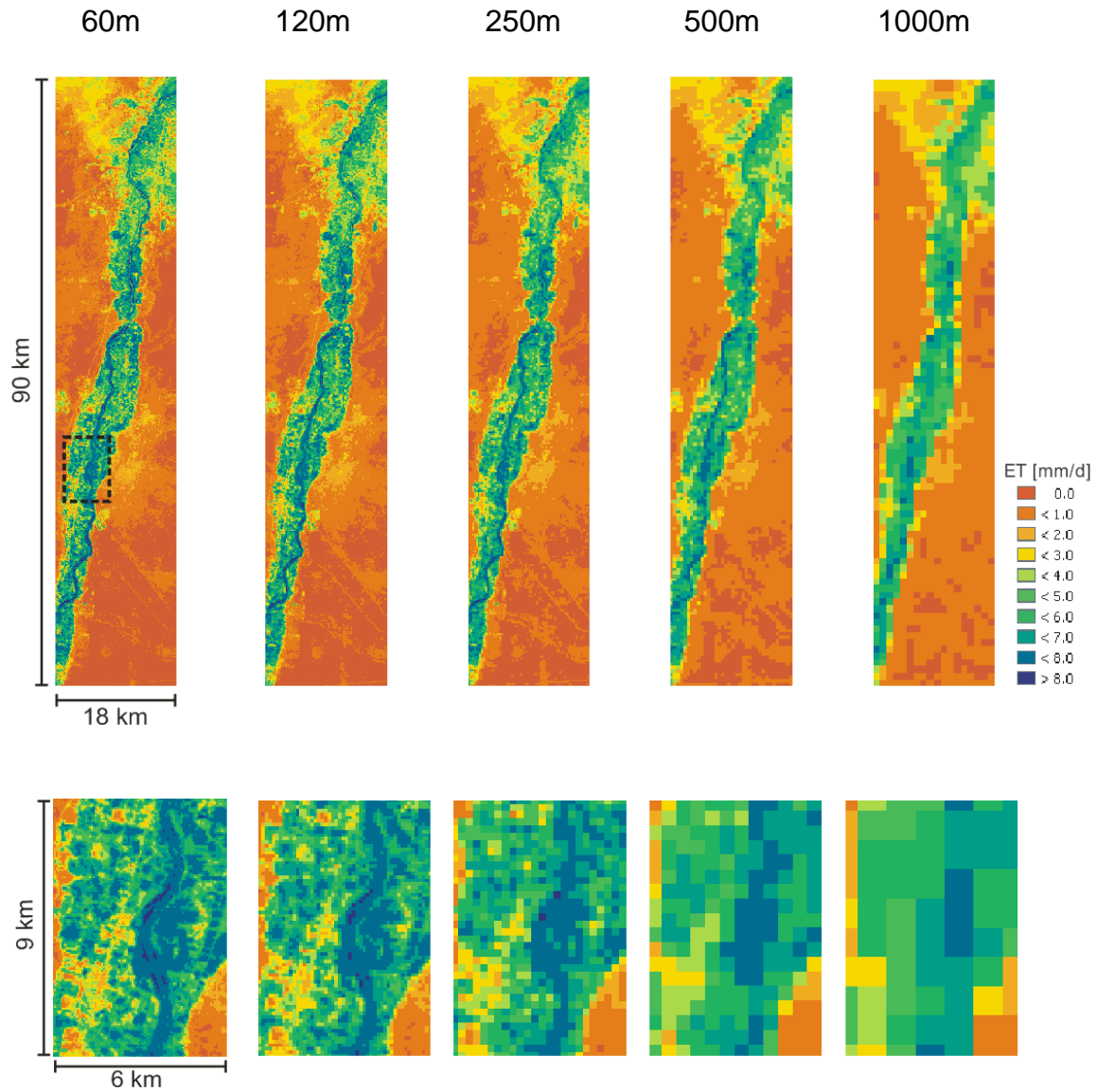


Figure 7. ET maps from output up-scaling using simple averaging resampling on June 16, 2002. Spatial resolutions are 60, 120, 250, 500 and 1000 m from the left. This method produces the most statistically and spatially predictable behavior.

Input up-scaling using nearest neighbor on June 16, 2002

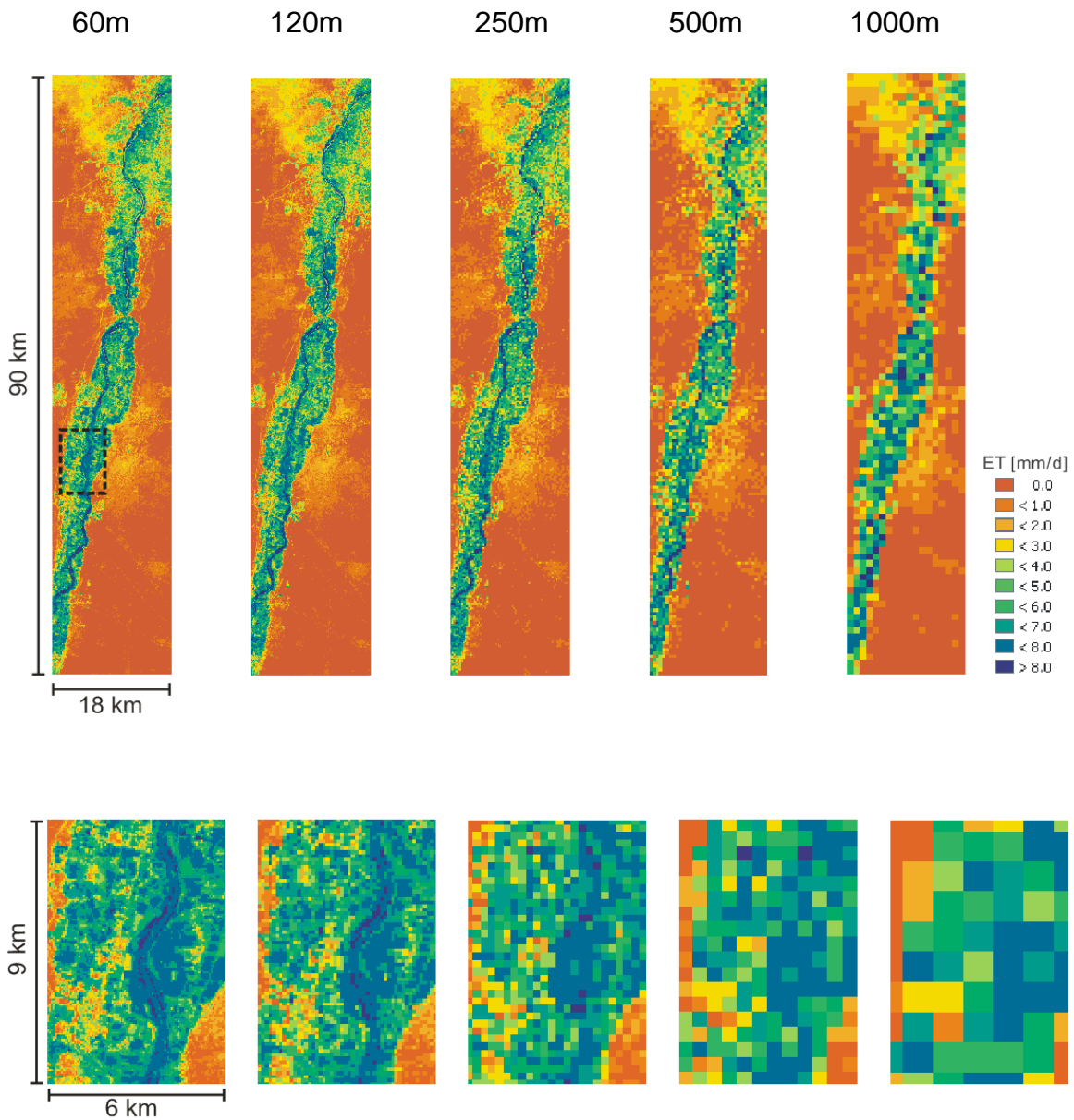
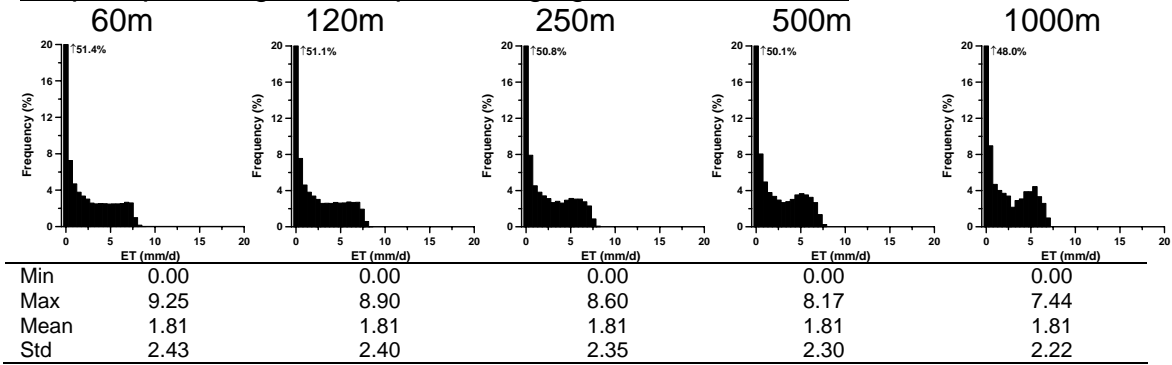
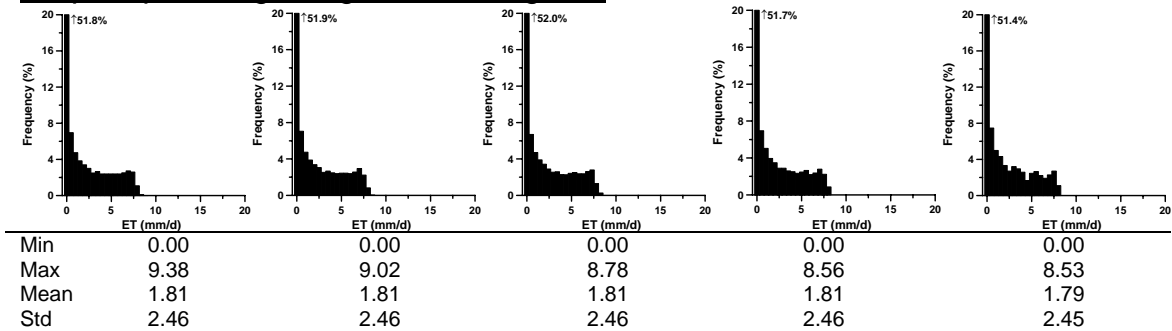


Figure 8. ET maps from input up-scaling using nearest neighbor resampling on June 16, 2002. Spatial resolutions are 60, 120, 250, 500 and 1000 m from the left. This method produces the best predictable behavior but is still acceptable.

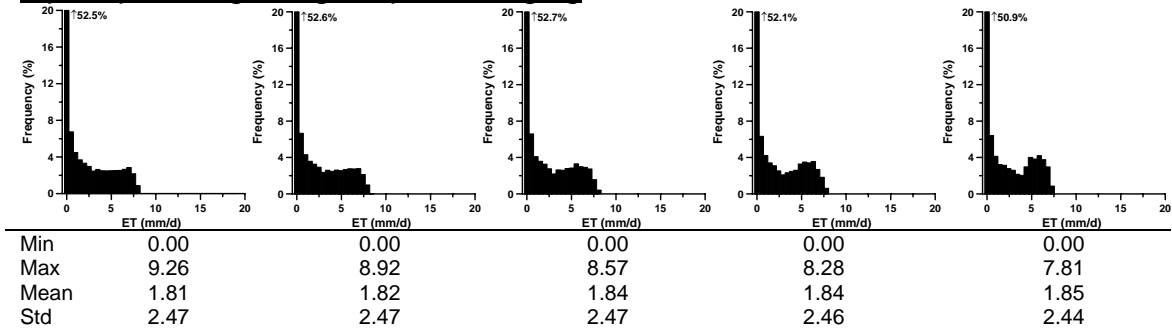
Output up-scaling with simple averaging on June 16, 2002



Output up-scaling using nearest neighbor



Input up-scaling using simple averaging



Input up-scaling using nearest neighbor

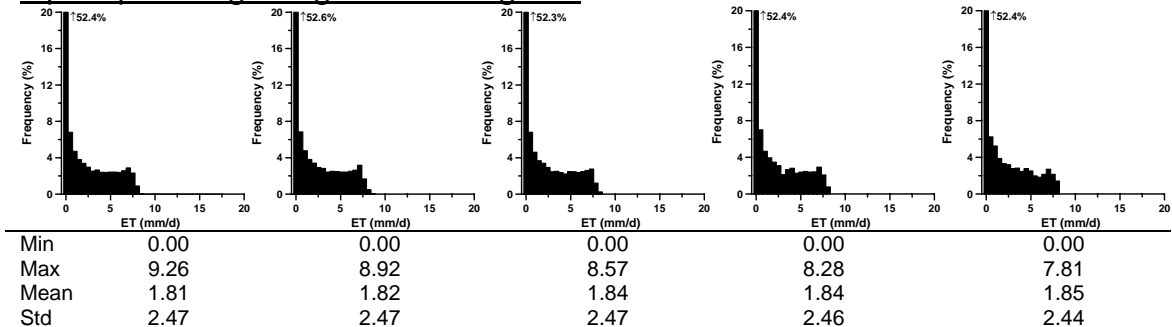
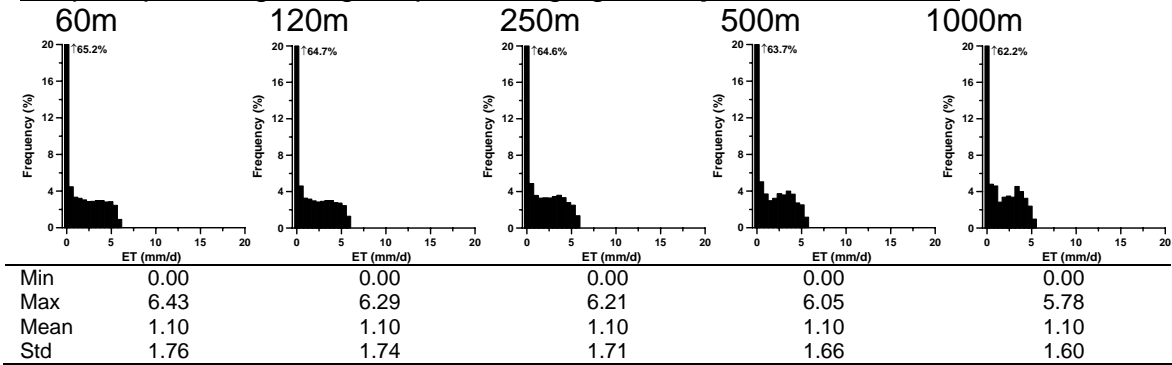
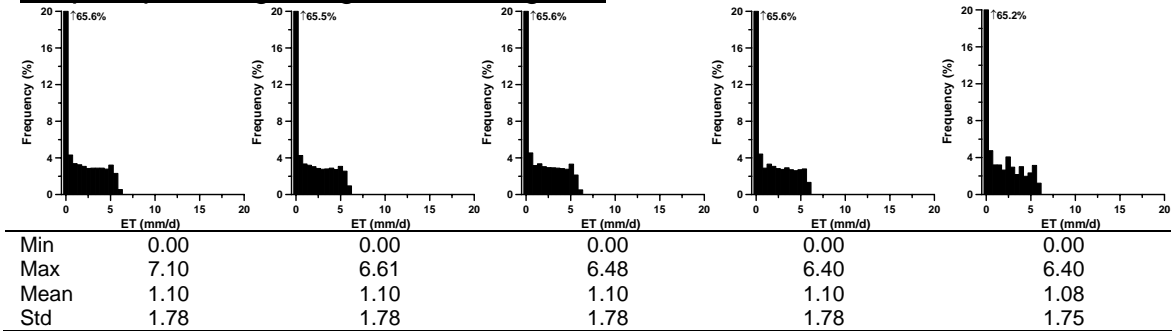


Figure 9. Frequency distribution and basic statistics of up-scaled maps on June 16, 2002. Bin size of the histogram is 0.5 mm/d and frequency occurrence exceeding 20% marked next to the arrow.

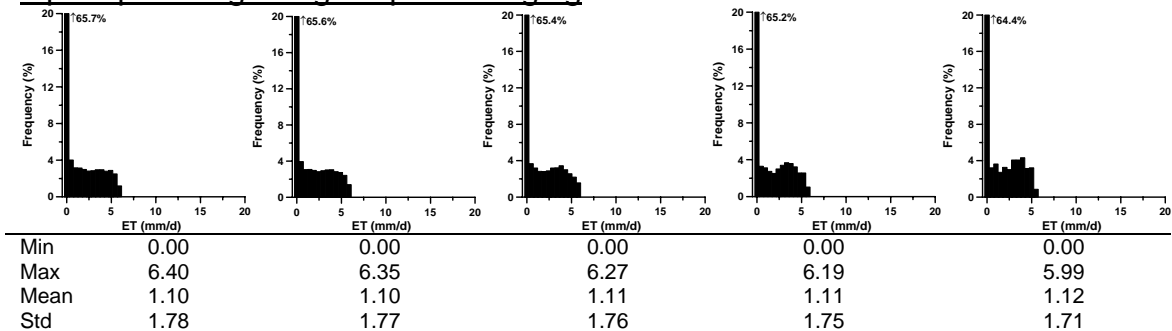
Output up-scaling using simple averaging on **September 14, 2000**



Output up-scaling using nearest neighbor



Input up-scaling using simple averaging



Input up-scaling using nearest neighbor

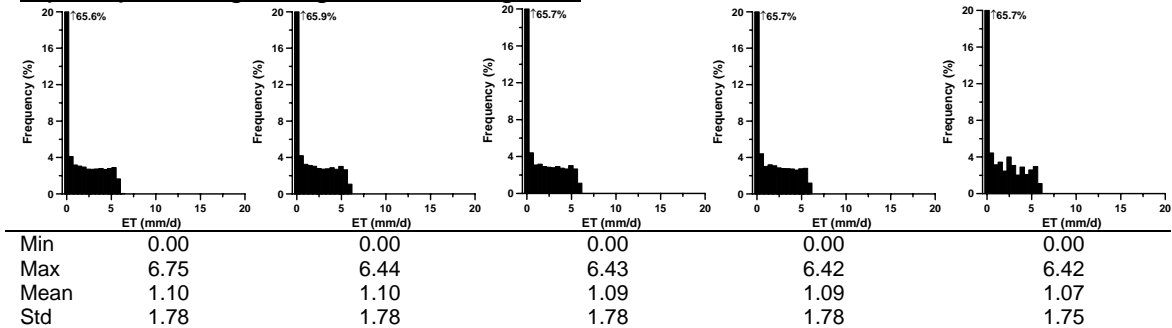


Figure 10. Frequency distribution and basic statistics of up-scaled maps on September 14, 2000. Bin size of the histogram is 0.5 mm/d and frequency occurrence exceeding 20% marked next to the arrow.

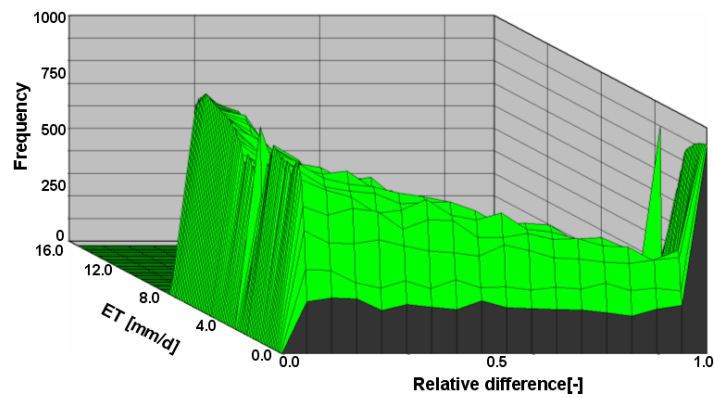
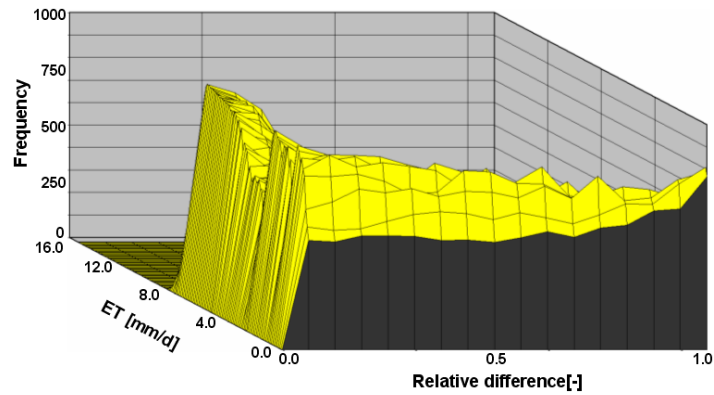
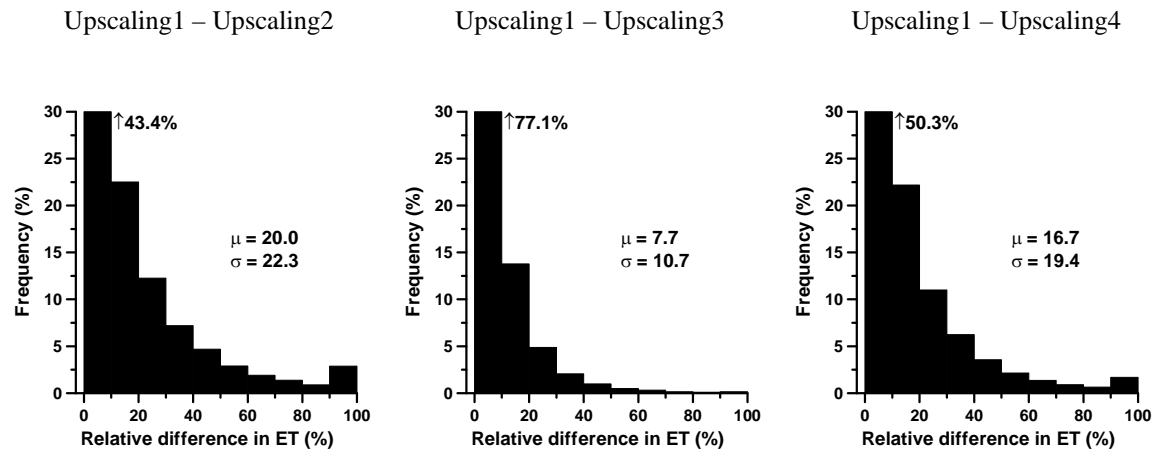


Figure 11. 3D frequency plot of the relative difference between up-scaled daily ET (250 m) and Landsat derived ET (30m) on June 16, 2002 against Landsat derived ET (30m) (top: up-scaling output with simple averaging and bottom: up-scaling input with nearest neighbor).

120 x 120 m² pixel resolution



1000 x 1000 m² pixel resolution

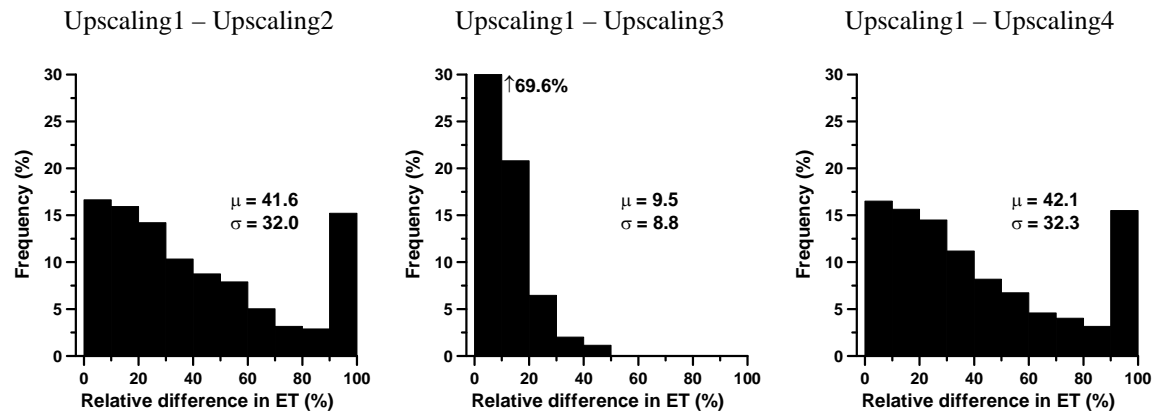


Figure 12. Frequency of the relative difference among up-scaling schemes.