Solar and Wind Energy
Resource Assessment (SWERA)

High Resolution Solar Radiation Assessment for Sri Lanka

Final country report prepared by DLR

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Notice

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1 Method description

Satellite Data

The high resolution solar radiation assessment is based on data of the geostationary satellite Meteosat. Due to the location of the participating SWERA countries, data of Meteosat 7 (M-7) for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 (for Sri Lanka, Kenya and Ethiopia) and data of Meteosat 5 (M-5) for the years 2000, 2002 and 2003 (for Bangladesh, West-China, Nepal and Sri Lanka) are used. M-5 has its position at 0° latitude and 63° East longitude, M-7 is located at an orbit at 0° latitude and 0° longitude. Figure 1 gives the field of view of both satellites which scans the specific area every 30 minutes with a spatial resolution of 5x5 km².

![Figure 1: The solar irradiance data is derived from Meteosat a 0° (red circle) and at 63° East (orange circle). The brightened area marks the quantitatively analyzable region. (Meyer et al., 2004).](image)

Data of the visible (VIS) channel, which gives the reflection of the system earth/atmosphere (including clouds) and data of the infrared (IR) channel, which represents the temperature of the surface and atmosphere, are used for gathering information about the clouds. Both are used in a different way to assess the global horizontal (GHI) and the direct normal radiation (DNI) at ground. Additionally, data of the most important atmospheric components that attenuate the radiation, namely ozone, water vapor and aerosols, are used to take into account the clear-sky conditions of the atmosphere. In the following, the method for deriving DNI based on the DLR method and the method for deriving GHI, based on a combined method of DLR and SUNY, is described.

Method for Direct Normal Radiation (DNI)

The calculation of DNI bases on the clear-sky model of Bird and Hulstrom (1981) as described in Iqbal (1983) which was modified by Schillings et al. (2004) for taking into account cloudy conditions with

\[ DNI = 0.9751 \cdot I_0 \cdot \tau_R \cdot \tau_{Gas} \cdot \tau_{Ozon} \cdot \tau_{WV} \cdot \tau_{Ae} \cdot \tau_{vis} \cdot \tau_{ir} \]  

(1)

Each atmospheric transmittance coefficient \( \tau \) is calculated separately using atmospheric input data. All equations for calculating the clear-sky transmittances are described in Iqbal (1983).
Transmittance for Rayleigh scattering

$$\tau_R = \exp[-0.0903m_a 0.84(1.0 + am_p - am_p^{1.01})]$$

(2)

Transmittance for equally distributed gas (mainly O$_2$ and CO$_2$)

$$\tau_{\text{Gas}} = \exp(-0.0127am_{0.26})$$

(3)

Transmittance for ozone

$$\tau_{\text{Ozon}} = 1 - \alpha_{\text{Ozon}}$$

(4)

$$\alpha_{\text{Ozon}} = 0.1611 \chi (1.0 + 139.48 \chi)^{-0.3035} - 0.002715 \chi (1.0 + 0.044 \chi + 0.0003 \chi^2)^{-1}$$

(5)

$$\chi = u \cdot am$$, with the vertical ozone layer thickness $u$ in cm[NTP] and the airmass $am$.

Transmittance for water vapor

$$\tau_{\text{WV}} = 1 - \alpha_{\text{WV}}$$

(6)

$$\alpha_{\text{WV}} = 2.4959 \gamma [1.0 + 79.034 \gamma^{0.6828} + 6.385 \gamma]^{1}$$

(7)

$$\gamma = w \cdot am$$, with the pressure-corrected relative optical path length of precipitable water $w$ in cm[NTP].

Transmittance for aerosols

$$\tau_{\text{Ae}} = \exp[-k_a 0.873(1.0 + k_a - k_a 0.7088)am_p 0.9108]$$

(8)

$$k_a = 0.2758k_{\text{a}0.38} + 0.35k_{\text{a}0.5}$$

(9)

with the aerosol optical thickness $k_{\lambda}$ at the wavelength 0.38 $\mu$m und 0.5 $\mu$m.

Transmittance for clouds

using the visible Cloud-Index $C_{\text{I_vis}}$

$$\tau_{\text{vis}} = e^{-C_{\text{I_vis}} - 0.1}$$

(10)

and using the infrared Cloud-Index $C_{\text{I_ir}}$

$$\tau_{\text{ir}} = e^{-C_{\text{I_ir}} - 0.07}$$

(11)

For the clear-sky atmospheric transmittance, the airmass is needed which is calculated by

$$am = \frac{1}{[\cos \Theta_Z + 0.15(93.885 - \Theta_Z)]^{-1.253}}$$

(12)

The pressure correction is made by

$$am_p = am \cdot \frac{p}{1013.25}$$

(13)

with

$$\frac{p}{p_0} = \exp(-0.0001184z)$$

(14)
The clear-sky radiation is calculated each 20 minutes (10,30,50 minutes of each hour) for the maps and each 5 minutes (5,10,15,...,55,60 minutes each hour) for the time series. The influence of the clouds is taken into account hourly, therefore all maps (monthly and annual average daily sums) and time series are based on an hourly calculation of the radiation. The DLR-model output for DNI is sampled at a 10km spatial resolution.

**Method for Global Horizontal Radiation (GHI)**

The calculation of GHI bases on the method of Perez et al (2002) and Ineichen and Perez (2002). GHI is calculated with (Perez et al., 2002)

\[
GHI = ktm \cdot Ghc \cdot (0.0001 \cdot ktm \cdot Ghc + 0.9)
\]  

(15)

with \(ktm\)

\[
ktm = 2.36 \cdot CI^5 - 6.2 \cdot CI^4 + 6.22 \cdot CI^3 - 2.63 \cdot CI^2 - 0.58 \cdot CI + 1
\]  

(16)

GHI is calculated using the cloud information based on infrared (IR) and visible (VIS) Meteosat data which lead to a single Cloud-Index \(CI\) with

\[
CI = \max(CI_{\text{vis}}, CI_{\text{ir}})
\]  

(17)

For the determination of the clear-sky global irradiance \(Ghc\) the new formulation as described in Perez et al (2002) is used with

\[
Ghc = cg1 \cdot I_0 \cdot \cos \Theta Z \cdot \exp(-cg2 \cdot am \cdot (fh1 + fh2 \cdot (TL - 1))) \exp(0.01 \cdot am^{1.8})
\]  

(18)

with

- \(cg1 = (0.0000509 * \text{alt} + 0.868)\)
- \(cg2 = (0.0000392 * \text{alt} + 0.0387)\)
- \(I_0 = \text{Solar constant (eccentricity corrected)}\)
- \(\Theta Z = \text{solar zenith angle}\)
- \(fh1 = \exp(-\text{alt} / 8000)\)
- \(fh2 = \exp(-\text{alt} / 1250)\)
- \(am = \text{elevation corrected air mass}\)
- \(alt = \text{altitude in meters}\)
- \(TL = \text{Linke turbidity}\)

Due to missing values of the Linke turbidity \(TL\) for the parameterization of the clear-sky atmosphere, data of the atmospheric components ozone, water vapor and aerosols are used. These atmospheric data are also used for the DNI. To derive \(TL\) from atmospheric data we use the following formulation as described by Ineichen and Perez (2002) with

\[
TL = ((11.1 \cdot \ln(b \cdot \frac{I_0}{B_{ncl}})) / am) + 1
\]  

(19)

with \(b = 0.664 + (0.163 / fh1)\)

(20)

and the clear-sky direct normal irradiance \(B_{ncl}\)

\[
B_{ncl} = I_0 \cdot \tau_{\text{ra}} \cdot \tau_{\text{ae}} \cdot \tau_{\text{oz}} \cdot \tau_{\text{ga}} \cdot \tau_{\text{wv}}
\]  

(21)
The calculation of transmittance coefficients $\tau_i$ and the used atmospheric input data are described in the method for the DNI.

The clear-sky radiation is calculated each 20 minutes (10,30,50 minutes of each hour) for the maps and each 5 minutes (5,10,15,….55,60 minutes each hour) for the time series. The influence of the clouds is taken into account hourly, therefore all maps (monthly and annual average daily sums) and time series are based on an hourly calculation of the radiation. The DLR/SUNY-model output for GHI is sampled at a 10km spatial resolution.

**Input Data**

**Elevation**

![Figure 2: Elevation from GLOBE.](image)

**Ozone**
The monthly ozone data are taken from TOMS published by the NASA/GSFC TOMS Ozone Processing Team [http://toms.gsfc.nasa.gov/], (McPeters et al., 1998).

![Figure 3: Ozon monthly average for February 2003 in [DU] from TOMS](image)

**Water vapor**
The daily water vapor data are taken from the NOAA-CIRES Climate Diagnostics Center in Boulder Colorado, USA (NCEP/NCAR) [http://www.cdc.noaa.gov/] (Kalnay et al., 1996).
Aerosol
The monthly climatological aerosol optical thickness data are taken from NASA-GACP, [http://gacp.giss.nasa.gov/index.html], (Mishchenko et al, 2002).

Clouds
The hourly cloud information are based on half-hourly Meteosat-5 IR and VIS data (© EUMETSAT, 2004). The determination of the cloud indices is described in detail in Mannstein et al. (1999) and Schillings et al. (2004). The basic approach for deriving VIS cloud information is described with

$$CI_{vis} = \frac{\rho - \rho_{\text{min}}}{\rho_{\text{max}} - \rho_{\text{min}}}$$

where $\rho$ is the actual reflectivity measured by the satellite, $\rho_{\text{min}}$ corresponds to the surface albedo and $\rho_{\text{max}}$ is the maximum reflectivity measured for overcast cloudy conditions. The similar approach is used for IR-data, with the actual, minimum and maximum brightness temperatures $T$ measured by the satellite:

$$CI_{ir} = \frac{T_{\text{min}} - T}{T_{\text{min}} - T_{\text{max}}}$$
Figure 6: Field of view of Meteosat (M-7, IR-channel) © 2004, EUMETSAT.
2 Model output

The solar radiation is calculated for the complete country for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002. The data are made available in a digital GIS-format (ESRI Vector-Shapefile). Within this report, maps of the annual average daily total sum of GHI and DNI are presented. The complete database (ESRI-Shapefile and MS-Access database) can be downloaded from the SWERA-homepage (http://swera.unep.net). Within the ESRI Vector-Shapefile, 3 annual and 36 monthly average daily total sums of GHI and DNI are given for each 10km x 10km georeferenced pixel as shown in the following figures. Additional, hourly time series for the same time period for several interesting sites are delivered in a separate ASCII-File. The output time of the hourly data is UTC.

Time series

For following sites hourly time series of GHI and DNI for three years are calculated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stations/Sites</th>
<th>Lat(degree)</th>
<th>Long(degree)</th>
<th>Elevation (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>6.91</td>
<td>79.85</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaffna</td>
<td>9.68</td>
<td>79.98</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmunai</td>
<td>7.40</td>
<td>81.80</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The hourly time series can be downloaded from the SWERA web-site. All ASCII-files are compressed to one single ZIP-file. The name convention of the ASCII-file name is: Country_Sitename_Lat_Lon_Z_Year.dat
for example: Sri_Lanka_Colombo_N6.91_E79.85_Z10_2000.dat

Important notice: The following maps show classified values of kWh/m²/day with a common color ramp for all SWERA countries to give a first impression of the solar regime for each country and for easier comparison with other countries. The provided digital GIS data (available at http://swera.unep.net) give the real (and not classified!) values in Wh/m²/day for each georeferenced pixel with a signal resolution of 1 Wh/m²/day.
Global Horizontal Radiation

Figure 7: Annual average daily total sum of GHI kWh/m²/day for Sri Lanka 2000
Figure 8: Annual average daily total sum of GHI in kWh/m²/day for Sri Lanka 2002
Figure 9: Annual average daily total sum of GHI in kWh/m²/day for Sri Lanka 2003
Direct Normal Radiation

Figure 10: Annual average daily total sum of DNI in kWh/m²/day for Sri Lanka 2000
Figure 11: Annual average daily total sum of $DNI$ in kWh/m²/day for Sri Lanka 2002
Figure 12: Annual average daily total sum of DNI in kWh/m²/day for Sri Lanka 2003
3 Comparison with ground measurement in Sri Lanka

Ground data: Ground measurements of the global horizontal irradiance are available for one site in Sri Lanka (Colombo, Latitude: 6° 54' 30", Longitude: 79° 51' 30", Elevation: 10m) as shown in figure 13. The data are provided by the Renewable Energy Department of the NERD Centre of Sri Lanka. The GHI is measured by a high precision Pyranometer OSK 15306. The measured values are integrated to hourly values for this comparison. Hourly values are available for the period 1998 to 2003. For the comparison values of the year 2000, 2002 and 2003 are taken. All ground data are provided from NERDC within the SWERA-project.

Figure 13: Measurement site in Sri Lanka.
Satellite data: The complete years 2000, 2002 and 2003 are calculated and there are no data missing.

Comparison results: Several comparisons are performed for the site Colombo. The averaged hourly values of the years 2000, 2002 and 2003 are compared. The relative Mean Bias Deviation (rMBD) for the hourly comparison is 1.03%, the relative Root Mean Square Deviation (rRMSD) 37.11%. 4662 averaged hourly values are compared. The result is also shown in figure 14.

Figure 14: Comparison of ground-measured and satellite-derived hourly values. The hourly values are averaged for the three years 2000, 2002 and 2003.

The next figure shows the monthly average daily sum of GHI (ground and satellite), for each year and for the 3-years average (2000, 2002, 2003) for the site Colombo. The rMBD for the monthly values (not averages!) is 2.45% and the rRMSD 9.35%.
Figure 15: Monthly average daily sum of GHI (ground and satellite), for each year and for the 3-years average (2000, 2002, 2003) for the site Colombo in kWh/m²/day. The red line represents the satellite-derived data, the black one the ground-measured data. For the averaged values (bottom, right) the 5-years average of the ground data for the period 1999-2003 is also shown (dashed grey line).
To give an impression of the global radiation region during one year, the hourly monthly mean GHI in W/m² is shown in the following figures.

Acknowledgement:
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4 References


