Dear Reader

This document is a general guideline to calibrated above-water radiometry and most of the aspects discussed are focussing on shipborne measurements. It tries to look at the available state of the art in reducing surface reflected glint which in some literature is termed sunglint and/or sunglint. As this is only a draft be aware that some literature might be missing and this is not intentional but rather a matter of awareness on the part of the author(s). If you have a method that you know of or have been using please feel free to bring it to the authors attention.

In a recent case study we also try to relate above-water measurements with in-water measurements. Unfortunately, we did not carry out extensive in-water measurements to evaluate how different correction models for in-water measurements are applied.

S. P. Garaba and O. Zielinski, "Comparison of remote sensing reflectance from above-water and in-water measurements west of Greenland, Labrador Sea, Denmark Strait, and west of Iceland," Opt. Express **21**, 15938-15950 (2013)

Enjoy.

**Methods in reducing surface reflected glint for above-water remote sensing**

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**Abstract:** Surface reflected glint is a curse for ocean color remote sensing from above-water platforms namely shipborne, airborne and satellite. In calibrated above-water shipborne radiometry, there are several surface reflected glint correction approaches widely implemented. These approaches were developed using radiative transfer simulations and/or field measurements, in different water types, sea state, and cloud conditions. To date no particular surface reflected glint correction approach has been prescribed in ocean optics standard protocols. Without synoptic inherent optical properties to accurately determine apparent optical properties, glint correction is therefore rather qualitative or subjective. There is need to fully take inventory of uncertainties resulting from such differences. We look at different methods that have been implemented in calibrated shipborne radiometry and how surface reflected glint is corrected for using available approaches. Field measurements are utilized to assess how the correction approaches perform under clear and overcast skies, we also elucidate on aspects for further improvements. We determine the percent difference between field observed Forel-Ule Scale Index with the different corrected reflectance derived Forel-Ule Scale Index. The resulting differences between sea-truth and model predictions are below 33 % for most of the measurements.

1. Introduction

Nowadays operational oceanographic observatories are becoming more prominent at the same time hyperspectral radiance sensor technology is becoming increasingly affordable. Techniques that include the application of reflectance measurements above the water surface from stationary and moving platforms alike are expected to gain more wide spread usage. As enormous amounts of data are produced and favorably processed in real-time, effective quality control procedures become more than just supporting tools, but a crucial prerequisite for trustworthy and manageable information.

In calibrated above-water radiometry, remote sensing reflectance *RRS* (θ, Φ, λ) or water leaving radiance *LW* (θ, Φ, λ), can be derived from mobile or fixed platform irradiance and radiance measurements. To derive *LW* we directly measure sky leaving radiance *LSky* (θSky, Φ, λ) and total upwelling sea surface radiance *LT* (θT, Φ, λ). The main challenge with *LT* measurements is that they are prone to meteorological conditions and surface reflectance *LSR* contamination [1-4]. The main components of this surface reflectance are the speculary reflected skylight (sky glint), speculary reflected sea leaving sunlight (sun glint), whitecaps and foam *LWF*. Sky glint is usually less than 5 % of the measure *LSky* [5]. Sun glint *LSG* is a phenomenon occurring when sunlight is reflected from the sea surface straight into the sea looking optical sensor field of view. A wind roughened sea surface will have enhanced sun glint as more reflecting facets are created at the sea surface. It therefore depends on sensor geometry, sun position, cloud cover, and wind speed [4-7]. Investigations of *LWF* suggest it can causes a decrease in reflectance in the NIR spectrum due to light absorption by large air bubbles [8, 9], or physical coolness of residual foam [10]. In another study it is assumed to enhance reflectance occurring as soon as waves break generating thick strong reflecting foam [11]. Therefore, *LSR*can be quantified as

 (1)

Ideally, *LW*, at low altitudes or above-water is the difference between *LT* and *LSR* (θ, Φ, λ) from Eq. (1) giving

(2)



Since determining all the components of Eq. (1) is still a challenge, mainly because of the dancing facets of glint that behave in a haphazard unknown manner as well as moot whitecaps and foam contribution effects [12, 13], we approximate *LW*, by simplifying Eq. (2) according Morel[1]

 (3)

where *ρair-sea* is the sky glint correction coefficient at the air-sea interface. The nadir and zenith plane angles of the optical sensors are θT = θSky with typical angle range (30 – 50) ° whilst the relative azimuth angle of the sensors to the sun Φ range (90 – 135) °. Hence, to compute *RRS* divide *LW* in Eq. (3) by total downwelling irradiance *ED* (λ). Fig. 1 is a schematic of sunlight path and its interactions at the sea surface.

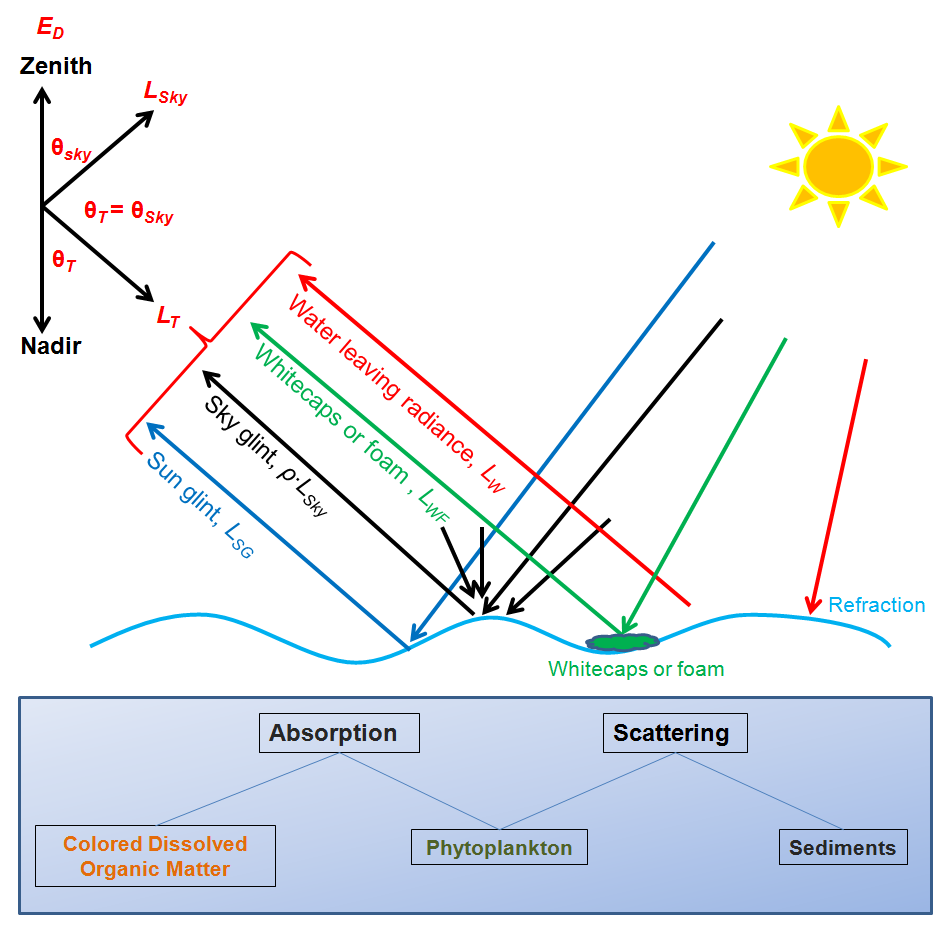


Fig. 1. Simplified radiation paths detected by hyperspectral radiometers above-water. The light is refracted at the sea surface and in-water it is scattered or absorbed by living and non-living particulate matter. Total downwelling irradiance ***ED*** and sky leaving radiance ***LSky*** are collected by skyward facing radiometers. The down facing radiometer will collect total upwelling/water leaving radiance ***LT*** which will consist of water leaving radiance *LW*, speculary reflected sunlight or sun glint *LSG*, whitecap/foam reflected sea surface light *LWF* and backscattered sky-leaving radiance or sky glint *ρair-sea* *∙Lsky*.

In this study we assess different approaches for calibrated above–water measurements aimed at mitigating specular surface reflection or surface reflected glint. We also appraise steps taken in collecting radiometric quantities and estimating *LW* and *RRS*. Field observations are then used to test different surface reflected glint correction approaches.

2. Challenges in above water radiometry

There are several factors influencing the accuracy and precision of optical sensing above the sea surface, which will be discussed below. Additionally, high accuracy and precision commands excellent sensor sensitivity and calibration, platform stability and a thorough understanding of all in water properties and surface process influencing light [2, 14, 15]. We present some of the major sources of error affecting the estimation of remote sensing/radiance reflectance *RRS*.

2.1 Sensor geometry

To–date acceptable geometry for above-water radiometry is still subjective. Table 1 shows how the viewing angles vary from different studies. In case of automated and unmanned shipborne observations the relative angle of the sensor to the sun is variable.

Table 1 Typical sensor geometry applied in above-water remote sensing.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Optical sensor zenith angle, θT and θSky [°] | Relative azimuth angle of sensor to the sun, Φ [°] | Report |
| 135, 45 | >90 or 135 | Fougnie et al. [13], Deschamps et al. [16] |
| 135, 45 | 90 | Toole et al. [17] |
| 140, 40 | 135 | Mobley [18], Hooker et al. [19], Ruddick et al. [14] |
| 150 - 130, 30 - 50 | 90 - 180 | Mueller et al. [2] |
| 150, 30 | 90 | Gould et al. [20], Lee et al. [12] |
| 135, 45 | 0 - 360 | Garaba et al. [3] |
| 140, 40 | 30 -180 | Harmel et al. [15] |

The main goal of having the optical sensors (90 ≤ Φ ≤135) ° and (30 ≤ at/Sky ≤ 50) ° is to limit the problems of sun glint, ship shadow, glory effect and ship reflection [2, 13, 18]. Garaba *et al.*[3, 21] propose using a camera system to obtain sea and sky facing images. Using the sea surface images as sea-truth it is shown, with caveats, that at a high enough distance above seawater (12 m in their case) valid measurements can be obtained at (0 < Φ ≤ 360) ° with little ship shadow effect. Harmel *et al.*[15] do also obtain measurements for at (30 < Φ ≤ 180) ° although they recommend Φ = 90 °. Ship antennas, size, and useable area for sensor setup can be limited, which could make it a challenge to maintain the suggested geometry even-though it is widely applied. Additionally roll and pitch motions of the ship do also affect above-water sensor geometry.

2.2 Environmental changes

Wave action is a problem for above water optical sensing as it influences glint and dynamic changes of IOPs and AOPs [22, 23]. The sea surface is roughened with increase in wind speed, enhanced wave focusing and hence more sun glint is expected given that we have a non-overcast sky. Wave action also influences sea spray which could affect optical sensors as well as foam and whitecaps which again influence the signal reaching a sensor [3]. It also follows that cloud cover plays a role by influencing further sky glint contribution to measurable radiation. In case of scattered clouds it is a challenge to perform accurate reflectance sensing [2, 17, 18]. Ideal environmental conditions would be little to no wave action, clear or fully overcast sky, and low solar zenith angles. Thus, non-ideal conditions are prone to higher errors as wave action and glint effect correction would have to be very accurate. Moore[5] emphasizes that that at low solar zenith angles (< 50 °, < 80 °) there is little sun glint (< 13 %, < 35 %) based on theoretical Smithsonian meteorological tables.

2.3 Sensitivity and calibration of instruments

Environmental parameters especially wind speed, absorption, backscattering, radiance and irradiance can be accurately determined using commercially available instruments[24]. Such parameters are valuable in simulations of ocean dynamics and modeling. To better approximate *RRS* these parameters have to be observed with high accuracy and precision. With time and usage instruments demand routine calibration and sometimes their sensitivity or detection capabilities become depleted due to lifespan of sensors, superstructure perturbations, or improper use [14, 25, 26].

3. Surface glint correction approaches

The approaches that will be considered in this study are; Mobley [18], Gould et al. [20], Ruddick et al. [14], Lee et al. [12] and Garaba et al. [3]. Henceforth referenced as M99, G01, R06, L10 and Ga12 respectively.

3.1 M99 approach

Hydrolight (Sequoia Scientific Inc., USA) a radiative transfer numerical model is utilized to solve radiative transfer equations for a given set of possible conditions at sea. M99 uses Hydrolight to investigate how sensor setup, meteorological and wind speeds can influence the estimation of *RRS*. He also shows how these conditions also influence sky glint correction. It is also important to note that a similar investigation did also look at how sensor geometry and cloud cover influenced reflectance computations[1]. These simulations did not look at how *ρair-sea*is dependent on wavelength. Table 2 gives a summary of the scenarios examined using Hydrolight and the results.

After a number of simulations from Hydrolight, M99 suggests a sensor setup where the sensor views the water surface at 40 ° from the nadir and 40° from the zenith for the sky viewing sensor, whilst facing 135 ° away from the sun. In this sensor setup it is assumed that there will be minimal sun glint. To remove surface reflected glint it is recommended *ρair-sea* = 0.028 for clear skies and wind speed less than 5 m/s for higher wind speeds a higher *ρair-sea* is necessary. For cloudy skies at all wind speeds he recommends *ρair-sea* = 0.028 using Eq. (4),

 (4)

In his investigations he clearly reveals that cloud cover haunts all forms of above-water radiometry. With caveats, he suggests residual sun glint correction using the value of *RRS* (λ = 750) nm. The surface reflected glint correction with this residual component is likely to have uncertainties in strong scattering waters.

Table 2 Hydrolight simulated effects of parameters affecting above water remote sensing.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parameter | Effect | Recommendation |
| Cloud cover | Presence of clouds in sky viewing sensor region increase sky glint especially cumulus clouds at infrared wavelengths. | Overcast sky *ρair-sea* = 0.028 is sufficient and for clear sky enhance *ρair-sea*correction. |
| Sensor viewing angle | At variable azimuthal angles of sensor to sun there is likely to be ship shadow, glory effect, and sun glint. | Water surface radiance optical sensor at 40° from the nadir and 40° from the zenith for the sky viewing sensor, whilst facing 135° away from the sun. |
| Solar zenith angle | At lower solar zenith angles and high wind speed more glint reaches the sensor. | Using the sensor viewing angles above and for increasing wind speeds, enhance *ρair-sea*correction ~(0.02 – 0.12) at lower solar zenith angles (< 40°) and at higher solar zenith angles (> 40°)  *ρair-sea*correction ~ (0.02 -0.04). |
| Wind speed | High wind speeds roughen the sea surface, more dancing faces of glitter, and multiple scattering reflecting more light into the optical sensor both from unwanted parts of the sky and sea surface. | At high wind speeds for clear sky increase *ρair-sea*but this also depends on the solar zenith angle and overcast sky *ρair-sea* = 0.028 is sufficient. |

3.2 G01approach

The spectral properties of seawater in the near-infrared (NIR) wavelength range can be used in glint correction. Beyond 700 nm there is a rapid decline in *RRS* which is a result of enhanced absorption by pure water. In addition, absorption by phytoplankton and colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM) are negligible at NIR wavelengths, and the spectral absorption curves for these components are essentially flat over the narrow spectral range from (715 – 735) nm. Thus, water reflectance in this spectral region is tightly coupled to the backscattering coefficient. According to G01, surface glint reflectance *RSR* consists of a spectrally-variable sky radiance component (*air–sea · Rsky*), and a spectrally-constant sun glint and sky glint component (*B*),

 (5)

Thus, to estimate and correct for the surface reflectance contribution (*RSR*), estimates of ** and *B* are essential. G01 is two-path correction approach. If no in situ absorption and scattering measurements are available, Path 1 execute with *air–sea* set to Fresnel reflectance = 0.021. To derive *B* first *RSR* is estimated at 735 nm,

 (6)

where *LT / ED* is the measured, total, above-water reflectance (including both water and surface-reflected terms), and *aw* is the absorption of pure water at the given wavelength i.e. *aw* (λ = 715) = 1.007 m-1 and *aw* (λ = 735) = 2.250 m-1 [27, 28]. The assumptions here are that the surface reflectance and backscattering coefficient are nearly flat between (715 – 735) nm. See Gould *et al.*[20] for the derivation of Eq. (6). Finally, the offset component *B* is derived from Eq. (5) as

 (7)

The offset *B* is expected to include any errors resulting from the above assumptions. Thus *RRS* is corrected for surface reflected glint with Eq. (8),

 (8)

The alternative correction approach G01 Path 2 requires in situ measurements of inherent optical properties. Using the available measured inherent optical properties, *RSR* is calculated at two wavelengths 412 nm and 735 nm, then, with measured *RSky* new ** and *B* terms are calculated (i.e., *ρair-sea* is no longer assumed to be = 0.021). Thus, the Path 2 approach provides a better correction, because the estimates of the *ρair-sea* and *B* coefficients are constrained using *RSR* estimates at two wavelengths. However, it depends on accurate in situ optical measurements (which are collected fairly routinely now with ac-9 instruments, for example). See Gould *et al.*[20] for the complete Path 2 description. G01 approach was tested and assumed to work best in turbid coastal waters where there is a significant *RSR* signal measured in the (715 – 735) nm wavelength range.

3.3 R06 approach

Using simulations [18, 29] and field measurements R06 surface reflected glint correction has a dynamic *ρair-sea* which is a function of wind speed and cloud cover. Measurements during overcast skies are corrected for surface reflected glint with *ρair-sea* = 0.0256, but for clear to partly cloudy conditions *ρair-sea* has a wind speed dependence that can change by up to a factor of 2. R06 is highly appropriate for turbid (total suspended matter ~ 0.3 g/m³) to very turbid waters (total suspended matter ~ 200 g/m³). In fact, with increase in turbidity it is estimated sky glint removal errors are less significant in relative terms with regards to marine reflectance. Cloud cover presence is modeled using *LSky* and *ED* at (λ=735 nm). However, intermediate conditions are still to be investigated therefore it is recommended to eliminate them when using this approach. Eq. (9) and Eq. (10) are used to determine which *ρair-sea* is appropriate for sky glint correction,

 (9)

or

 (10)

where *W* is the wind speed. The appropriate *ρair-sea* from Eq. (9) or Eq. (10) is used in Eq. (4) to compute *RRS* corrected for surface reflected glint. The simulations in this R06 approach are based on M99 with the addition of a cloud presence prediction model. Additionally, it is recommended to set Φ = 135 ° for minimal sun glint. A residual sun glint or white offset correction ɛ = [α \* *RRS* (λ = 780) - *RRS* (λ = 720)] / α -1 can be implemented as in a previous study with α = 2.35[30].

3.4 L10 approach

The spectral optimization aims to remove surface reflected radiance and in-water contributions to the reflected signal. It also shows how *ρair-sea* changes for each measurement and wavelength. The first step involves calculation ofraw reflectance here termed first guess reflectance *Rguess* which is computed according to Eq. (11),

 (11)

where *RFres* is the radiance reflectance calculated using *ρair-sea* = 0.022 and *Rmean\_NIR* is the mean *RFres* between (750 – 800) nm which can be assumed to be the spectrally constant offset. The next step involves using a hyperspectral bio-optical model – HOPE [31, 32] to solve the inverse problem of modeling absorption and scattering from *RFres* and *Rguess*. It calculates the (i) total absorption coefficients i.e. absorption coefficient of phytoplankton pigments, of pure water, and of Gelbstoff or CDOM and detritus, (ii) backscattering coefficients i.e. backscattering coefficient of suspended particles and seawater, (iii) spectral power for particle backscattering coefficient, and (iv) ratio of backscattering coefficient to the sum of absorption and backscattering coefficients. These parameters derived from HOPE are used to determine radiance reflectance just below the seawater surface *Rbelow* and using Eq. (12) to derive a modeled above-water reflectance *Rabove* [33, 34]

 (12)

Therefore to compute the bias delta (∆) also known as the surface reflection correction value an objective function Eq. (13) that uses *Rabove* and *Rguess* is implemented

(13)



where *Rguesss* is from Eq. (11), *Rabove* is modeled radiance reflectance from Eq. (12), is the mean radiance reflectance (400 – 675) nm. The upper limit can be increased if measurements beyond 800 nm are available. Initially ∆ = *Rmean\_NIR* and by adjusting it until *Err* is minimal would be the optimization procedure. The optimized reflectance *Ropt* is then computed, with the ∆ resulting in a very small *Err*, as in Eq. (14),

 (14)

Therefore the task here is to minimize the difference between *Rabove* and *Ropt*. The result of Eq. (14) *Ropt* is the reflectance corrected for surface reflected glint.

3.5 Ga12 approach

This approach integrates the M99, G01, R06 and L10 approaches with a new automated sunglint image detection algorithm. The sensor setup takes advantage of a dual dome camera system (Mobotix, Germany) which makes it possible to obtain sky and sea surface images synchronized with the hyperspectral radiometer observations. Both the camera and radiometer systems are positioned is such a way that their field of view and target area matches for comparison purposes.

Quality control as proposed in this method involves several steps; meteorological flagging[35] on downwelling irradiance *ED* measurements i. *ED* (λ = 480 nm) > 20 mW ∙ m-2 ∙ nm-1 setting a threshold for which significant *ED* can be measured, ii. *ED* (λ = 470 nm) / *ED* (λ = 680 nm) < 1 masking spectra affected by dawn/dusk radiation, iii. *ED* (λ = 940 nm) / *ED* (λ = 370 nm) < 0.25 masking spectra affected by rainfall and high humidity. *ED* spectra that passed this meteorological flagging and corresponding *LT*, *LSky* measurements are used to derive *LW* and *RRS* with surface reflected glint corrected according to M99, G01, R06, and L10. The corrected spectra are ranked considering the number of negative valued spectra for each measurement. The image detection algorithm is also used to distinguish between sea surface images having too much or detectable white pixels or sun glint and those having least visible/detectable white pixel or sunglint. Having the two image sets their corresponding spectra (*LW* and *RRS*) are then evaluated to determine distinctive characteristics e.g. spectral shape. These characteristics therefore make the threshold parameters of eliminating excess surface reflected glint.

3.6 Evaluation of the approaches

We look at surface reflected glint correction approaches M99, G01, R06, L10 and an integrated approach which combines all these approaches with an sunglint image detection algorithm[3]. These approaches implement constrained radiative transfer equations e.g. wind speed and cloud cover[14] or inverse hyperspectral bio-optical model – HOPE[31, 32]. In each method there are benefits and drawbacks (Table 3) which are influenced by meteorological, geographic, temporal conditions and seawater constituents.

Although, it is not the scope of this review, there are other methods that can be used in determining remote sensing near the sea surface, minimizing surface reflected glint,

(i) measuring just below the sea surface using the novel hyperspectral skylight-blocked approach – HyperSBA[36]

- this approach of measuring water leaving radiance just below the sea surface and also above-water to determine sea surface glint in optically complex coastal and inland waters was evaluated in a new glint removal method[37]. In this approach, *LT / ED* or upwelling radiance/irradiance spectra for the intervals (350 - 380) nm and (890 - 900) nm is used as reference reflectance. A power curve fit is applied to the reference reflectance, so far tested only with the MS Excel (Microsoft, USA). The resultant spectral signal is assumed to be glint =X\*lambda^Y where X and Y are fit coefficients and lambda is the wavelength, is then subtracted from observed *LT / ED* to determine corrected reflectance. Although, this is a simple and robust approach[37], it overcorrects for glint effects(as can be seen in Kutser *et al.*[37] corrected spectra Figure 3, Figure 4, and Figure 6). Their assumption is that glint follows a power function still needs to be fully investigated.

(ii) in-water light profiling and then extrapolate the measured to the sea surface[19], and

(iii) using polarization methods, or taking into account the contribution of polarization, along with radiative transfer tested correction algorithms[13, 15]. Despite, the variable methods available, there are inevitable uncertainties, as we cannot directly estimate water leaving radiance or remote sensing reflectance. Hence the need to accurately measure the parameters we can measure directly to reduce sources of error [17, 19, 36].

Table 3 An evaluation of the surface reflected glint correction approaches.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Approach | Benefits | Drawbacks |
| M99 | -sky glint correction also accounts for wind speed for clear skies  -useful in different water bodies and cloud conditions based on Hydrolight simulations | -based on numerous Hydrolight simulations with limited field data  -uses a constant *ρair-sea* for wind speeds < 5m/s  -suggests use of Black Pixel Assumption[38] for residual sun glint correction or white offset |
| G01 | -allows use of IOPs in glint correction (Path 2)  -useful in coastal waters  -was tested under a wide range of cloud cover and water types | -Path 2 correction requires IOP measurements to perform well  -Path 1 uses a constant *ρair-sea* |
| R06 | -useful in turbid to very turbid waters  -*ρair-sea* coefficient is a function of wind speed and cloud cover | -uses a constant *ρair-sea*  -assumes the similarity spectrum  -white offset correction depends on water body and a challenge in highly turbid waters[30] |
| L10 | -corrects for both sun and sky glint  -useful in clear to turbid waters | -uses a constant *ρair-sea*  -optimizes the spectra using inverse hyperspectral bio-optical modeling |
| Ga12 | -it use sea surface images to detect excess glitter in radiometer field of view  -implements all M99, G01, R06 and L10 to objectively decide on which approach to eliminate surface reflected glint | -uses thresholds to eliminate glint contamination and therefore is region specific  -needs a camera system to obtain sea surface images for the sun glint detection algorithm |

4. Case Studies

4.1. Overcast Sky Conditions

To evaluate these surface glint correction approaches M99, G01, R06 and L10 we use field measurements collected from West Greenland, Labrador Sea, Denmark Strait and West of Iceland[39]. A total of 27 measurements were compared to in-water observations and 15 of these were collected during fully overcast skies. Using the 15 measurements we assume diffuse solar distribution and also that the relative solar to sensor azimuthal dependence of observations is insignificant. Wind speed at all the stations was < 15 m/s, solar zenith angle ranged ~ (48 – 81) °. Simulations[18] have shown that under overcast skies and large solar zenith angles the sky reflected glint correction factor is constant.

In this investigation, the M99 and R06surface reflected glint correction produces negative spectra longer wavelengths λ > 560 nm. The R06 implements *ρair-sea* = 0.0256 for overcast skies whilst M99 uses *ρair-sea* = 0.028 for surface reflect glint correction. As illustrated in Figure 2, R06 performs relatively better (less negative spectra) than the M99 and further correction for the white offset or assumed sun glint residual would produce more negative spectra. The G01 corrected spectra did show the best correction with fewer spectra less than zero sr-1 compared to all approaches. It was also compared with in-water measurements showing the least unbiased percent differences with respects to M99, R06, and L10. G01 and L10 both implement *ρair-sea* ~ 0.021 or Fresnel Reflectance and further correct for residual sun glint or a white offset.

We check the differences between sea-truth or field observed Forel-Ule Scale values with those derived from the reflectance see Appendix.

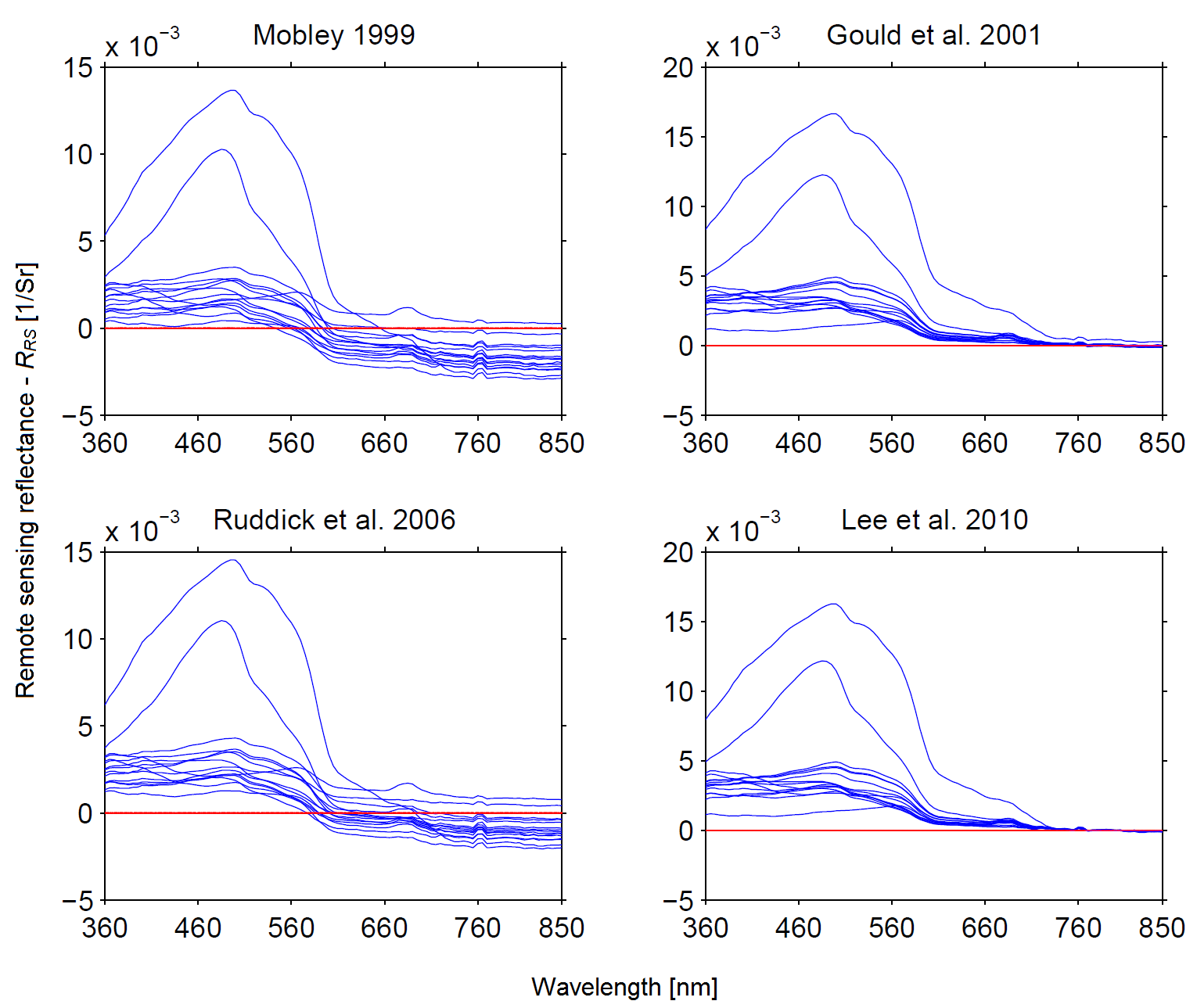


Fig. 2. Reflectance from 15 stations in Case 1 waters with fully overcast skies[39]. The spectra are corrected for glint using different models as shown and the red line indicates the zero sr-1 line.

4.2. Clear Sky Conditions

Measurements during ideal cloud conditions or clear skies demand effective sun glint correction and have to be obtained at recommended sensor geometry to avoid excessive glint. Here we present 11 measurements, Figure 3, collected in Case 2 waters of the Northwest European Shelf Seas under clear skies[3, 40]. No in-water measurements were collected during clear sky conditions for this field campaign and therefore surface reflected glint correction is more qualitative and semi-quantitative as no reference measurement is available. Wind speed at all the stations was < 13 m/s and solar zenith angle ranged ~ (44 – 69) ° and the relative azimuthal angle of the sensor to the sun was between (250 – 288) °. It is possible environmental perturbations e.g. wind speed and sea surface state, and sensor geometry introduce uncertainties in glint correction. However, for this review we assume these errors to be insignificant with regards to our aim of showing how the correction models perform with some caveats.

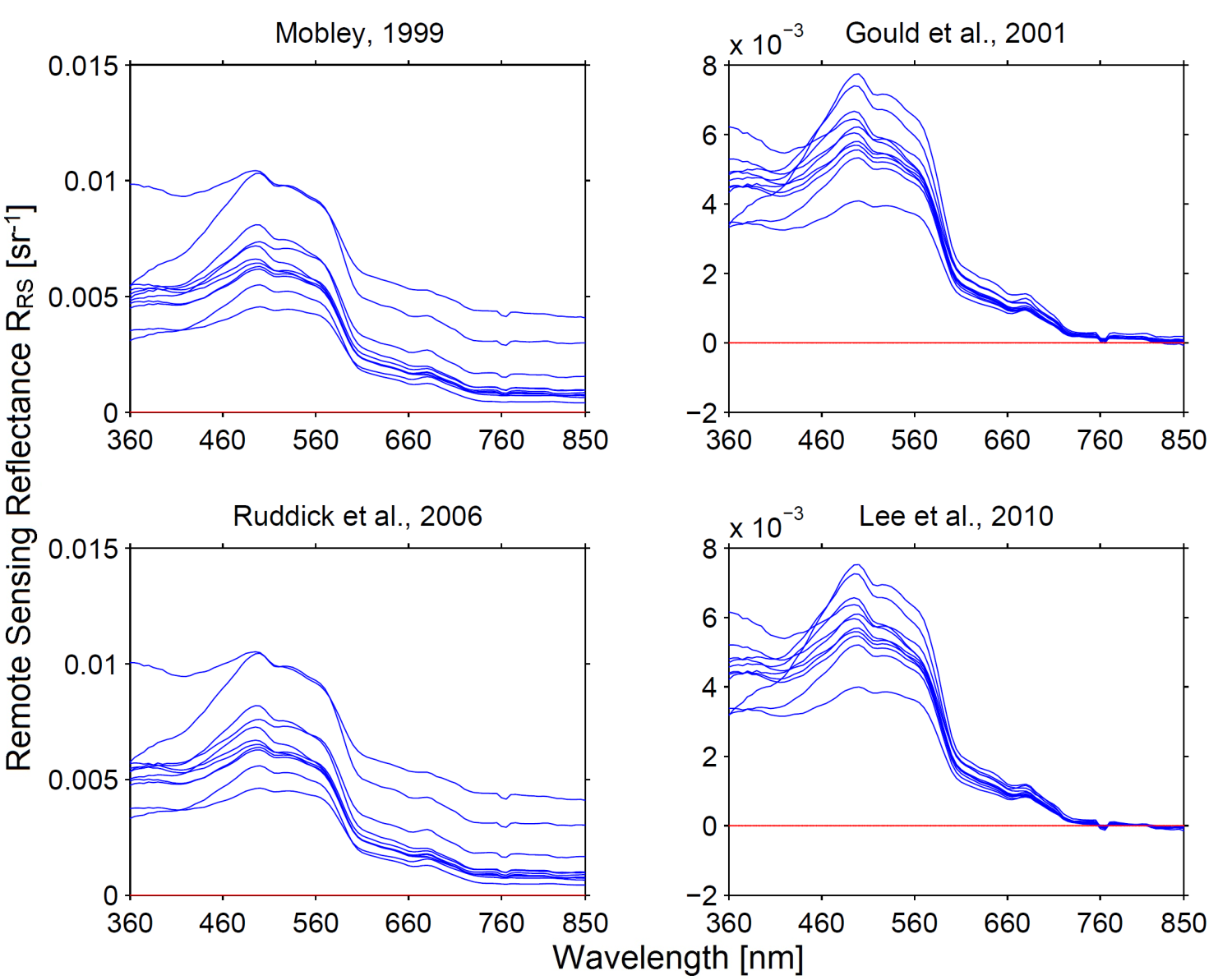


Fig. 3. Reflectance from 11 stations in Case 2 waters with with clear skies[3]. The spectra are corrected for surface reflected glint using different models as shown and the red line indicates the zero sr-1 line.

In this investigation, all correction models M99, G01, R06, and L10 have positive spectra for λ < 760 nm. G01 and L10 do have negative spectra beyond 760 nm, they also perform spectra correction in the green, and blue region as their reflectance is lower than M99 and R06. Clear skies require sun glint correction and therefore it can be assumed that M99 and R06 do corrected for surface reflected glint but is this appropriate? G01 and L10 assume Fresnel reflectance and also residual glint and their respective reflectance in the deep NIR are close or equal to zero. The question here is this possible in shelf seas or coastal waters with highly scattering optically active material? These are some of the question yet to be fully investigated with respect to surface glint correction. R06 *ρair-sea* factor becomes wind depend during clear skies but will this be enough to correct for surface reflected glint?

5. Conclusions and outlook

The remaining question after looking at surface reflected glint correction approaches widely implemented in calibrated above-water radiometry is which approach is best? In actual fact absolute removal of surface reflected glint is difficult [18, 19, 36], as evaluated in Table 3. Furthermore, no glint correction approach has been unequivocally brought forward and thus to date surface reflected glint correction depends on researcher[19]. In addition, taking into account the different geometry setups that have been widely used (Table 1), sea and meteorological states beyond human control. The best ocean color studies can do is estimate water leaving radiance or reflectance with some degree of uncertainties[36]. The literature we look at in this report does not cover all available approaches but rather we provide a general list of widely used approaches and we are bound to have skipped some important literature. Our aim is to provide the reader with a set of tools on how to perform shipborne radiometry and correct for glint effects.

A key task in remote sensing is to take stock of sources of uncertainties. However, the question of articulating uncertainties is complicated due to a number of factors, but not exclusively, i. Sensor stability and calibration methods as more variable commercial radiometers are available[24]. A calibration and sensor stability uncertainty from each vendor and the instrument overtime is therefore likely to exist, ii. Environmental perturbations – changes in weather, sea surface state and local optically active seawater properties introduce some uncertainties [19, 41], overcast skies present another problem as diffuse solar distribution means light is from all directions not focused as when we have clear skies, iii. Data processing – as shown above there are several glint correction methods and bandwidth binning can introduce some errors [19, 26].

Mueller *et al.*[2] recommend recording ancillary measurements: wind speed, cloud cover, ship heading, ship GPS data, and sea surface and sky images, inherent optical properties were possible. Using the collected sea surface images a sun glint detection algorithm can be implemented to eliminate images highly contaminated with glint[3]. For automated measurement, determine the relative azimuthal angle of the sensor to the sun using e.g. Solar Position Algorithm[42]. Using the ship’s position the SPA is useful in computing the sun’s azimuthal and zenith angles at a given space-time spot. Extract spectra collected in the optimal relative azimuthal angle of sensor to sun (90 ≤ Φ ≤ 135) °. It is also vital to avoid zenith angles near the horizon as they are problematic due to the Cox-Munk representation often implemented into radiative transfer models e.g. in Hydrolight. There is also wave-shadowing effect which is hardly accounted for in these models and could also attribute to increasing uncertainties as we measure at larger zenith angles. The dynamic change in waves at stations makes it important to measure spectra at short intervals e.g. 10 s depending on sensor [2, 19, 25].

Assuming that no in-water measurements, to allow inter comparisons, are available and above-water measurements are collected as recommended in ocean color protocols. The best way to evaluate and correct for surface reflected glint would be to apply all the methods and assess the corrected spectra performance in determining ocean color products using in-situ data to verify their sensitivity. In most studies a qualitative and semi-quantitative techniques is used to evaluate the correction approaches. Qualitative as shown in e.g. Figure 2 of this review, a quick visual inspection would eliminate M99 and R06 corrected spectra. Semi-quantitative by determining the number of negative spectra or flagging measurements based on solar zenith angle, wind speed or comparing the derived ocean color products from bio-optical modeling for instance Chlorophyll-a. Such a process can be tedious but it improves the data quality. Alternatively, observations at sea can be collected at a fixed zenith and azimuthal angles with the radiometer setup also constant although this procedure does however limit the number of measurements. Classifying the models also according to best-fit water bodies will be prone to ambiguity e.g. how to distinguish clear or turbid waters. There is still need to investigate how best to implement glint correction. In this report we advocate for a uniform set of approaches in above-water radiometry for future inter-comparison of in-water and above-water techniques.

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