Analysis of Upper-Air, Ground and Remote Sensing Data for the Atlas Field Campaign in San Juan, Puerto Rico

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# **Urban Heat-Island Effect**



Can be defined as the dome of elevated air temperatures that presides over cities in contrast to their cooler rural surroundings.

# UHI: The Case of SJU-PR



#### **Station Locations**



#### Airborne Images



Urbanized Area of San Juan 308 km<sup>2</sup>

Sensor -Time -Altitude -Performed by - Airborne-Ocean-Color-Imager December 11, 1993 19.8 km altitude NASA-Ames Research Center



#### dT(U-R) = Urban - Rural (°C) air temperature at 2-meters above the ground *Daily Average of the Year*



			Temperature Difference for each year		
		LINEAR EQUATION	1960	2000	2050
ITL_DO	dT MIN	= 0.0889x - 173.7	0.44	3.90	8.35
	dT MEAN	= 0.058x - 113.76	-0.09	2.22	5.11
	dT MAX	= 0.0075x - 13.2	1.40	1.60	1.98
RP_MT	dT MIN	= 0.0499x - 98.001	-0.20	1.80	4.29
	dT MEAN	= 0.0238x - 46.913	-0.27	0.69	1.88
	dT MAX	= 0.005x - 9.9085	-0.11	0.09	0.34
dT MIN AVERAGE			0.12	2.85	6.32
dT MEAN AVERAGE			-0.18	1.45	3.49
dT MAX AVERAGE			0.65	0.85	1.16

#### Inland







# **Climatological analysis**

Monthly dT(U-R) for the year 1998 for coastal areas (a) and inland areas (b)



Monthly dT(U-R) for the year 1960 for coastal areas (a) and inland areas (b)





#### Coop Surface Weather Station Summary

- The average MEAN temperature of the urban canopy air at 2 meter above ground for the coastal and inland area is over 1.84°C higher than the surroundings north rural areas.
- The empirical analysis revealed the existence of a permanent urban heat island effect present in the MASJ during the complete year, which is more noticeable on the winter season.
- According to the linear regression for the last forty years the UHI is increasing at a rate of 0.21°C/decade.





## **General Configuration of the Model**



- Vertical Domain 20km
- Radiative Lateral Boundary Conditions and a lid as a top boundary conditions.
- Water Vapor is the only water phase represented in the model.
- 72h integration initialized on 1200UTC 24 January 1998.
- The prognostic soil model (LEAF2) is activated with 10 levels for a total depth of 1 meter.

#### UHI-X Results

#### 18:00 GMT, January 26, 1998



**Primitive Scenario** 

**Present Scenario** 

## **RS-ATLAS** Campaign



The Airborne Thermal and Land Applications Sensor (ATLAS) from NASA/Stennis operates in the visual and IR bands. It flies on a Lear 23 jet for flexibility and produces high resolution images of value to observe UHI.

#### **Empirical UHI Analysis: The ATLAS Mission in San Juan, Puerto Rico**

#### **Mission Objectives**

- To investigate the relationship between urban growth, land cover change, and the development of the urban heat island phenomenon over a tropical coastal city; San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Study the overall effects of urban development on surface energy budget characteristics across the urban landscape through time at nested spatial scales from local to regional.

### **ATLAS Spectrum**



#### ATLAS visual and IR spectrum. The mission also operated a 9 inch Zeiss camera for high resolution photographic work.

## **Flight Plan**



### **Mission Details**

Dates: February 6-18, 2004

Instrument: ATLAS / Zeiss camera on a Lear 23 jet

- Flight path: San Juan Metro in 5m and 10m resolution, El Yunque Rain Forest, Arecibo Observatory, and Mayaguez in 10m resolution
- Personnel: UPR (students, faculty and staff), NASA, CUNY, NAIC, others.

Ground Equipment: Several

Processing: Processed data will be available after September 2004

## **Ground Support**

- Radiometers
  Weather stations
  Sounding balloons
  Two-color Lidar
  IR Camera
  GPR
  Satellite passes
- Coastal observations





•Used along the flight area to record local conditions.

•These measurements employed local students and faculty and also served as a teaching/training tool.



# Summary of SJAM

Day	Lines	Flight	Time (UTZ)	Resolution
Feb 11	18-22	Mayaguez	13:27-14:03	10 meters
Feb 11	23-24	Hato Rey Day	14:22-14:36	5 meters
Feb 13	1-7	El Yunque	17:54-18:49	10 meters
Feb 13	23-25	Hato Rey & Arecibo Night	23:59-00:29	5 meters
Feb 16	8-17	San Juan	14:03-15:29	10 meters

# ATLAS images: Flight 5 lines 8-17



#### Sample of ATLAS images for San Juan



Visible (left) and false color (right) images of the ATLAS sensor taken at 10 meters February 16, 2004.

#### Sample of ATLAS images for San Juan



Visible (left) and infrared-12 (right) images of the ATLAS sensor taken at 10 meters February 16, 2004.

#### Upper air data from San Juan for February 11, 2004 at 12UTZ(a) and 18UTZ(b)





## NCEP surface pressure in mb (a) and surface lifted index in K (b) for February 11, 2004 at 12 UTZ





12Z 14 Feb 2004

University of Wyoming



12Z 16 Feb 2004

University of Wyoming

Feb 14 04 00 UTZ SJU/DOR



Feb 14 04 06 UTZ SJU/DOR



#### Ground Sensors location and the SJU UHI



The weather station and temperature sensor data show preliminary indications of an Urban Heat Island in the metropolitan area of San Juan, P.R. and its surroundings. The Urban Heat Island effect is defined as the dome of elevated air temperatures that presides over cities in contrast to their cooler rural surroundings.



# Temperature and precipitation observations



## **Precipitation observations**



## **Predicted precipitation information**



GrADS: COLA/IGES

# Summary of Synoptic data

- o February 10-17, 2004 presented an unusually dry and calm atmosphere around PR as indicated by the Condensation Levels, Lifted Index, and the CAPE.
- o Comparison of RW data at different times and space indicates very minor disturbances due to location with changes in moisture content along the day.
- o Urban landscape may be motivating local drier conditions.
- o Conditions were optimum for data collection and eventual modeling.

# Summary of Ground observations

oThe ground equipment data show some tendency of a pronounced Urban Heat Island in the San Juan Metropolitan Area

oA dome of elevated temperatures appears over the densely constructed area of San Juan as opposed to the surrounding suburban, residential, and rural areas

oThe Heat Island is more intense than the cool island when comparing the rural area of El Yunque with the downtown commercial area of Santurce

oThe occurrence of precipitation, even in small amounts, significantly affect the pattern of the Urban Heat Island in San Juan, PR.

## Ongoing and future research work

- o Complete processing of ATLAS data.
- o Develop and test a new urban module to be incorporated into the regional/mesoscale RAMS model. The module will consist of a much improved urban canopy representation of San Juan that will calculate both thermal and mechanical forcings (e.g. thermal emissivity of urban properties –like rooftopsand wind funneling between buildings, respectively) within the urban boundary layer more realistically.
- o Develop a remote sensing tool to observe surface temperatures and heat fluxes in tropical locations.
- o Quantify and predict the effects, if any, of San Juan's urban growth on climate conditions island wide.

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