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Optical properties of leaves and its implication in understanding plants functional properties and primary production

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Spatial Scales of Inquiry:Span 13-14 orders of Magnitude

Multi-scale monitoring

Phant ideaves and its function Plant leaves and its function

•Producing food and oxygen through photosynthesis

- •Balancing water loss
- •Regulating gas exchange
- •Transporting products of photosynthesis

Diagram of the internal structure of a leaf

Photon-leaf interaction of teaves Cross section of leaves

Cuticle:

Upper epidermis:

Preventing water loss, providing an extra layer between the outside and inside of the leaf.

Mesophyll.

-**palisade layer** Chloroplast; **photosynthesis, food & O2**

-**spongy layer** vascular bundles: xylem and phloem

Lower Epidermis

Stomata

Peaves. Cancie & Ephoerinn Leaves: Cuticle & Epidermis

Waxy layer: (hydrophobic)

- -prevent water loss,
- -first defense against pests and pathogen
- -reflect UV light
- -self cleaning (Lotus)-
	- Deposition of pathogens
	- Sunlight blocking particles

Phenolics:

- -UV screening,
- -Antioxidant,
- -changes with environment, stresses

Heredia-Guerrero et al.(2014)

Localization of different subgroups of phenolics at tissues and cellular level

Fig. 2. Schematic representation of typical anatomical features, often occurring in hypostomatic leaves, showing the localization of the different subgroups of phenolics at tissue and cellular level. The main roles of phenolics of each feature are shown in magenta. Two-headed arrow shows the hypothetical gradient of oxidative stress and hypothetical concentration of phenolic compounds across mesophyll tissues. For details, see text.

Karabourniotis et al. (2014) Plant Science 227:21-27

Table 1. Spectral regions of absorption maxima of major classes of phenolics (aglycones in methanol). Compiled from Jurd (1957), Harborne (1989), Mabry, Markham & Thomas 1970) and from our own measurements. In most cases, glycosylation of these compounds shifts the Band I maximum towards shorter wavelength

^aThe spectral data for hydroxycinnamic acids are given for the E- (trans-) isoform of the acids, which is preponderant in vivo.

^bChlorogenic, caffeic and ferulic acid have a pronounced shoulder (inflection) at 299 nm.

For isoflavones and flavanones band I is a minor band; it is of a much smaller amplitude than band II, or the band I of flavones or flavonols. ^dThe UV region is divided into 20-nm-wide spectral bands with the central wavelength indicated (Vis, visible).

Spectral regions of absorption maxima of compounds in leaves epidermis

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How to measure compounds in the Leaf epidermis?

-Extraction of leaf cuticle and measurements of absorbance and transmittanceKrauss et al. (1997) Plant, Cell, and Environment 1997

Problems in measuring epidermis contents by leaf extraction:

 leaf structures on UV absorption, and the local distribution of phenylpropanoidsin leaves are lost by the extraction procedures.

ChlF excitation ratio (FER) = ChlF yields [UV / blue-green excitations]

Log(FER)= absorbance of leaf epidermal

to moogure compounds in the How to measure compounds in the cuticle?

ChlF excitation ratio (FER) = ChlF yields [UV / blue-green excitations]

n magaura shearbanga of loof FER can measure absorbance of leaf epidermis

res. Mesophyn & Lower Eph Leaves: Mesophyll & Lower Epidermis

Lower Epidermis Stomata

A typical cell of green fresh leaf contains:-**Water (vacuole) 90-95%-dry matter : 5-10 %**• Cellulose 15-10 % •Hemicellulose 10-30%•Proteins 10-20%]•Lignin 5-15% •Starch 0.2-2.7%•Sugar•Chloroplasts (Chlorophyll a, b)•Other pigments (Carotenoids, anthocynin, brown pigments,Flavons, etc.)

anc diagram representing inter Schematic diagram representing interaction of plant's leaf with light

Reflectance and fluorescence signals

Reflectance is being measured at various level and many vegetation indexes has been derived.

Steady state Fluorescence at Fraunhofer lines will be measured in proposed FLEX mission

Chlorophyll fluorescence competes with photosynthesis for excitation energy

ChlF can be used as a non –invasive reporter to study photosynthetic yield

phere for accurately incasured Integrating sphere for accurately measurements of reflectance

Fig. 2: Reflectance and transmittance spectra of (a) fresh and (b) dry poplar leaves

Propagation of photons in leaf

Tessa Traeger, 1997, Sight

Spectral properties: effect of leaf pigments

Spectral properties: effect of leaf pigments

Spectral properties: effect of leaf internal structure

VEGETATION INDEX: Two wavelength dependent Indexes

Photochemical reflectance index (PRI)Normalized Differential Vegetation Index (NDVI)

 R_{531} is sensitive to change in Xanth's Cycle Epoxidation state R_{570} is a reference, unaffected by Xanth's Cycle Epoxidation state.

Quite high variability in day, hours, minutes and even second. Seasonal variability is also seen

 $\mathbf{NDVI} = (\mathbf{R}_{\text{far-red}} - \mathbf{R}_{\text{red}})/(\mathbf{R}_{\text{far-red}} + \mathbf{R}_{\text{red}})$

PRI - a way of dissipating excess light to protect the photosynthetic apparatus (Gamon et al. 1990).

Change in De-epoxidation state of Xanthophylls cycle

could be detected by measuring PRI

 \triangleright conversion of violaxanthin to zeaxanthin through xanthophyll cycle.

VEGETATION INDEX: Three wavelength dependent Indexes

$$
R^{-1} \propto R_{\infty} = a/b_b
$$

Gitelson et al (2006)

 a = Sum of the Absorption coefficients for the pigments of interest a_p and other pigments a_o

 b_b = Backscattering coefficient

$$
[R(\lambda_1)^{-1} - R(\lambda_2)^{-1}] \times R(\lambda_3) \propto a_p
$$

 $R(\lambda)_1$ = Reflectance maximally sensitive to the absorption of particular pigments a_p

 $R(\lambda)_2$ = Reflectance where the absorption is much lower than $R(\lambda)_1$

 $R(\lambda)_3$ = Reflectance where backscattering controls the reflectance

Three wavelength dependent indices proved to be very useful for tracking of particular pigments.

System Complexity: Interconnection of Key Ecosystem Processes

Leaf area index (LAI) = Leaf area per unit ground surface area

 $=$ leaf area / ground area, m2 / m2)

~ projected leaf area m2

Fraction of absorbed photosynthetic active radiation (fPAR)

= radiation absorbed by vegetation for photosynthesis/ total incoming PAR between 400–720 nm

- Primary productivity of photosynthesis
- evapotranspiration
- reference tool for <u>crop</u> growth

How to measure LAI?

Direct Methods

-Area harvest (grasslands, agriculture)

-application of allometric equations to stand diameter data,

-leaf litterfall

collect leaves during **leaf fall in traps** and compare to area measurements. Leaf are is measured using a scanner and image processing software collect leaves from the canopy and conduct measurements. Is **destructive**, especially with evergreens due to the difficulties and destructiveness of direct methods for determining LAI, they are mostly used as a reference for indirect methods that are easier and faster to apply.disadvantages include:

Destructive; time consuming; expensive, especially if the study are is large

Indirect Methods

 indirect contact LAI measurements (very subjective and labor intensive)

plumb lines inclined point quadrates

indirect non-contact measurements (typically preferred) **hemispherical photography: estimate LAI from analyzing upward looking fisheye photographs taken beneath the plant canopy**

Beer's Law predicts light transmission through a turbid medium, in terms of the relative light transmission (I/Io), as an exponential function of leaf area index (L) and a proportionality constant (k); k reflects the geometric influence associated with the anglebetween leaves and the sun:

l/l_o=exp(-kL)

Remote sensing of vegetation products scaling of biophysical processes : A challenge

Leaf area index (LAI) = Leaf area per unit ground surface area

 $=$ leaf area / ground area, m2 / m2)

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LAI ranges from zero (bare ground) to over 10 (dense conifer forests

Remote sensing of vegetation products scaling of biophysical processes : A challenge

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How to measure LAI?

pines trees $\mathsf{LAI} = 2 - 4$

temperate deciduous forest $LAI = 3 - 5$

tropical rain forest $LAI = 6-10$

• NDVI has been applied in innumerable studies for estimation of vegetation biomass, greenness, primary production, dominant species, leaf are index (LAI), fraction of absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (fAPAR)

fAPAR= $a^*NDVI_{\text{toc}} + b$

 $APAR = fAPAR * PAR$

 $GPP = \varepsilon \sum n(a^*NDVI + b)PAR$ **GPP can be calculated from remotely sensed NDVI**

NPP= GPP- ^R(autotropic)

Net ecosystem exchange of CO_2 (g C m⁻² time⁻¹) **NEE= GPP-** \bf{R} _{total}

Rtotal is the sum of all autotrophic and hetrotrophic respiration over some time period (Hunt et al. 2002) Direct and indirect methods for estimation of LAI, fAPAR, and modeling NPP of different types of terrestrial ecosystem Gower et al. (1999)

The TERRA, EOS-AM platform was launched on December 19, 1999 and started to provide global primary production (namely, MOD17) on the 8-day interval with nominal 1-km resolution beginning on Feb 24, 2000 (Zhao et al. 2005).

Turner et al. (2006) tested the performance of NPP and GPP on nine sites varying widely in biome types and land use, and concluded an over estimation at low productivity sites and underestimation at higher productivity site of these parameters while comparing satellite and eddy co-variance technique.