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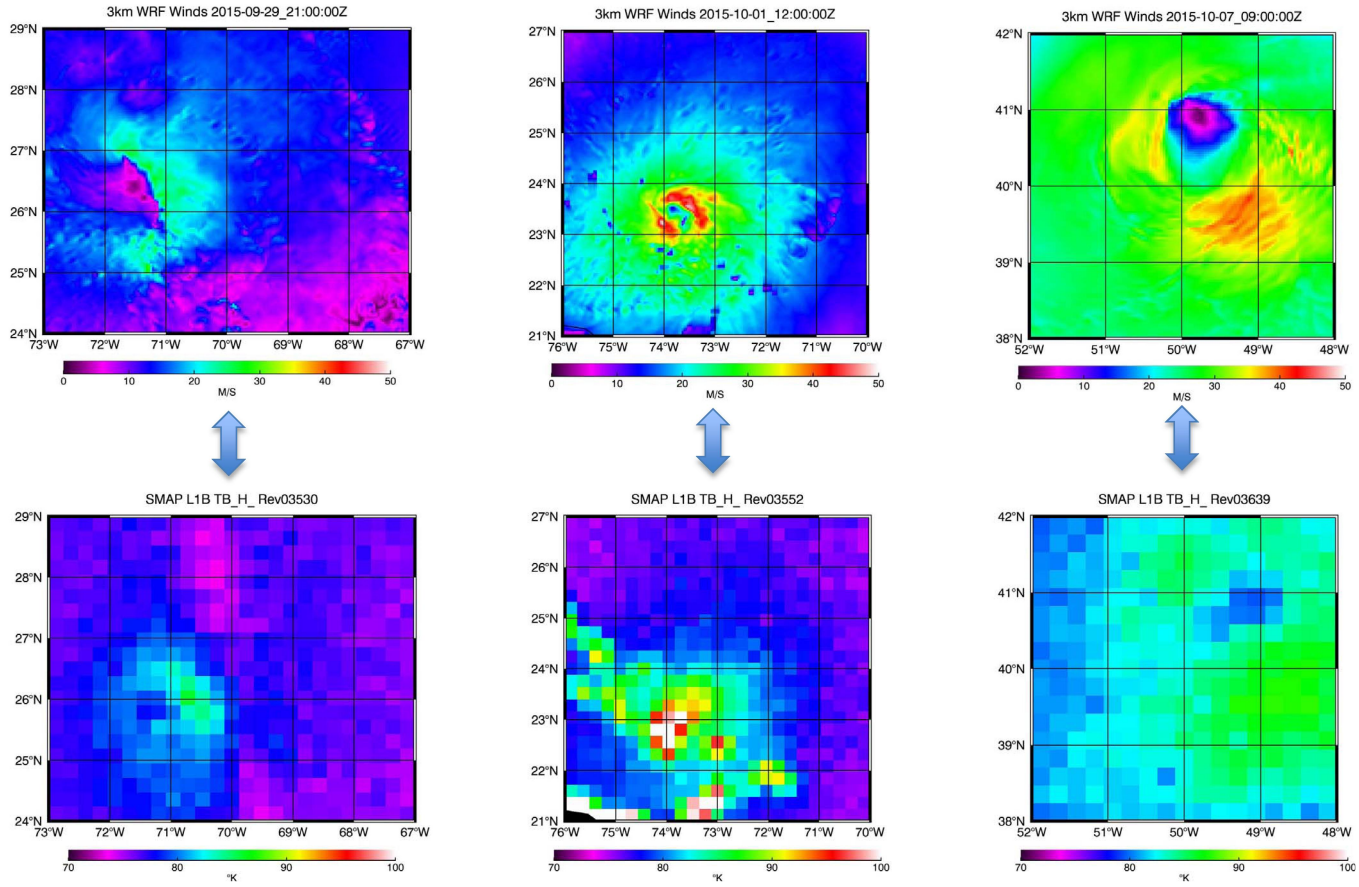

The SMAP data have a good correlation with the ocean surface wind speeds of Hurricane Joaquin in 2015 with generally higher brightness temperatures for higher wind speeds. (Top) APSU surface winds of Joaquin on Sept. 29 at 21 UT, Oct. 1 at 12 UT, and Oct. 7 at 9 UT. (Bottom) Corresponding SMAP brightness temperature data for horizontal polarization from three passes.

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About the Cover: The cover illustrates the SMAP radiometer brightness temperature (T_B) data for Hurricane Joaquin in 2015. The bottom panels illustrate the SMAP T_B data for horizontal polarization from revs 3530A, 3552D, and 3639D. The upper panels illustrate the corresponding 3-km resolution APSU surface winds of Joaquin on Sept. 29, Oct. 1, and Oct. 7. The SMAP T_B data from rev 3530A have indicated generally higher T_Bs for higher wind speeds. The APSU winds for the SMAP pass on Oct. 1, 2015 have exceeded 40 m/s, and the SMAP T_Bs tend to have an increasing trend from far away to near the eye. On 7 October 2015, Joaquin became an extra-tropical storm. Its eye became quite large, reaching about 100 km in diameter. The SMAP T_B data reveal similar spatial patterns, and the hurricane eye can now be resolved by the SMAP radiometer. For more information please see "SMAP L-Band Passive Microwave Observations of Ocean Surface Wind During Severe Storms," by Yueh *et al.*, which begins on page 7339.