




Precipitable-Water Model Analysis Tool: An open source package for studying precipitable water

Spencer Riley^{*1} and Vicki Kelsey^{†2}

¹ Physics Department, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology ² Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences Program, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

DOI: [DOIunavailable](#)

Software

- [Review](#) 
- [Repository](#) 
- [Archive](#) 

Editor: [Pending Editor](#) 

Reviewers:

- [@Pending Reviewers](#)

Submitted: N/A

Published: N/A

License

Authors of papers retain copyright and release the work under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License ([CC BY 4.0](#)).

Summary

In this paper we will adapt a common definition of precipitable water vapor (PWV) as defined by (get citation) which states that PWV is the integrated amount of water vapor for a vertical column of air with height from the surface to the top of the atmosphere. The Precipitable-Water Model Analysis Tool (PMAT) is a utility designed to analyze the relationship between zenith clear sky temperature and precipitable water vapor and develop correlation profiles for this relationship. This relationship has been well documented and defined in both South-Central New Mexico (Kelsey et al., 2021) and Eastern Texas (Mims et al., 2011).

Statement of Need

PMAT has been developed to address the need for an easy-to-use workflow to generate correlation profiles of a specific region. With a defined relationship between the atmospheric brightness temperature and the PWV, precipitation forecasts can be improved.

Software Architecture and Design

The PMAT suite contains a series of each modules, each handles There are currently four primary modules: Deployment, Data Import, and Data Analysis module. Together the four modules can pre-process data collected in the field and aggregate with selected atmospheric science databases, process the data, conduct primary analysis functions, and then visualize the results (Riley & Kelsey, 2021).

Prerequisites for the full deployment of PMAT are minimal but do exist. There are two major requirements that need to be fulfilled:

- (1) A data file consisting of manual (or automated) measurements that include ground and sky temperatures in addition to time and date stamps and the visual condition of the sky (either clear sky or overcast)
- (2) A configuration file that details the sensor information, site IDs that are needed to retrieve the atmospheric data from the NOAA database, and analysis parameters.

Deployment Module

The Deployment module utilizes a docker environment to run the remaining workflow. There are currently two methods to interface with PMAT through the Deployment Module, the first is through GitHub and the second involves a local installation of Docker.

*corresponding author

†co-first author

Data Import Module

The Data Import module consists of a Python script to pull and organize data that are required to complete the analysis. The Python script will first read-in the aforementioned data file and then acquisition atmospheric data from the University of Wyoming Upper Air database, which contains the measurements conducted by radiosondes at National Weather Service sites, and the NOAA database. From these sources we collect PWV measurements from the radiosondes and surface relative humidity from NOAA.

Data Analysis Module

The function of the analysis component of PMAT is to present the relationship between PWV and zenith sky temperature in terms of statistics and regression. The PWV and temperature subsets of the data undergo a linearization in the form of the exponential relationship

$$PWV = ae^{bT_b} . \quad (1)$$

With sufficient data, the correlation profile generated by PMAT can approximate the amount of PWV.

Future Developments

As we continue to develop and maintain the PMAT software, we intend to add additional modules and optional analytical functions.

Acknowledgements

References

- Kelsey, V., Riley, S., & Minschwaner, K. (2021). Atmospheric precipitable water and its correlation with clear sky infrared temperature observations. *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques Discussions*, 2021, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-2021-130>
- Mims, F. M., Chambers, L. H., & Brooks, D. R. (2011). Measuring total column water vapor by pointing an infrared thermometer at the sky. *Bams*, 92(10), 1311–1320. <https://doi.org/10.1175/2011bams3215.1>
- Riley, S., & Kelsey, V. (2021). Precipitable-water model analysis tool. In *GitHub repository*. GitHub. <https://github.com/physicsgoddess1972/Precipitable-Water-Model>