



## AMSR-E Soil Moisture Assessment in Oklahoma: Comparison of Multiple Root Zone Datasets



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<http://climatology.tamu.edu/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/GeogCSL>

# Motivation

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Daily News

Home Animals Ancient Energy Environment Travel/Cultures Space/Tech Water Weird News Photos News Video News Blogs

IN FOCUS

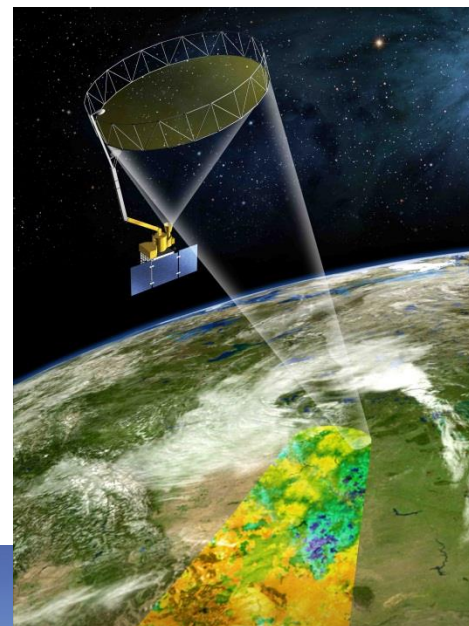
### Parched: A New Dust Bowl Forms in the Heartland

*"Exceptional drought" makes for tough times in Oklahoma.*



A farmer walks in a dust storm on drought-stricken lands near Felt, Oklahoma, on August 1, 2013.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ED KASHI, VII



# Previous Work

Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci., 17, 1–16, 2013  
www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci.net/17/1/2013/  
doi:10.5194/hess-17-1-2013  
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Hydrology and  
Earth System  
Sciences



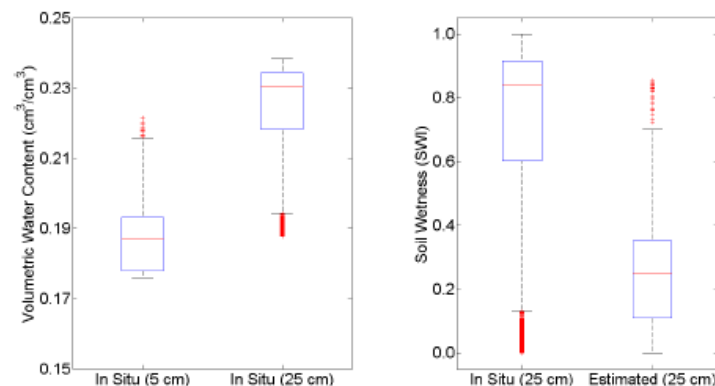
## Estimating root zone soil moisture using near-surface observations from SMOS

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**Fig. 14.** Box plots of (left) volumetric water content at the 5 and 25 cm layers and (right) SWI from 25 cm in situ observations and 25 cm in situ estimates. The box plots show data from all Oklahoma stations.

- Root zone estimates based on surface retrievals from SMOS were generally comparable to Mesonet data
- SMOS-based root zone estimates did not compare well with observations at sites with highly heterogeneous soils between 5 and 25 cm



# Questions

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1. Can root zone products based on satellite surface retrievals accurately depict soil moisture conditions in heterogeneous soil conditions?
2. Are products based on data assimilation more accurate in such conditions than data derived using simpler methods?
3. Where can we expect SMAP-based root zone products to perform well or poorly?



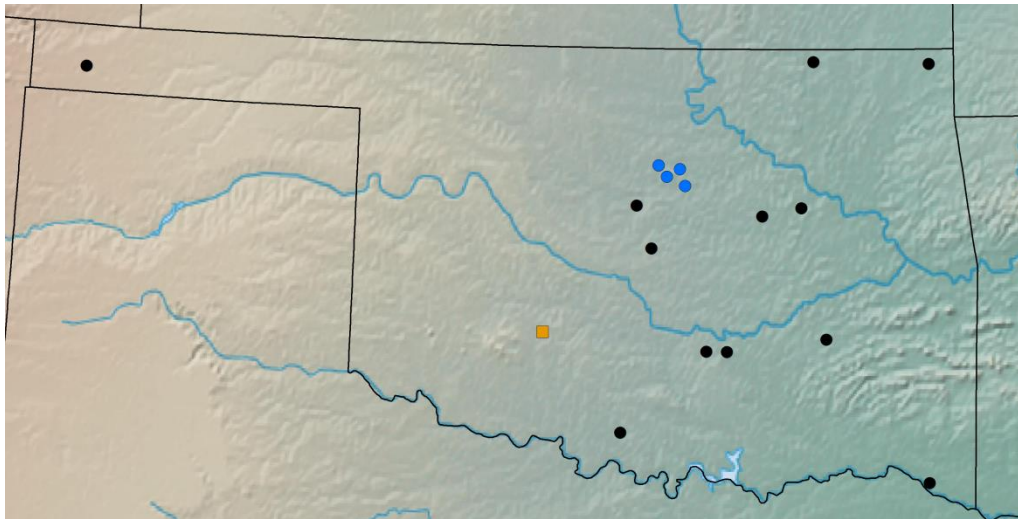
# Datasets

## Satellite Soil Moisture

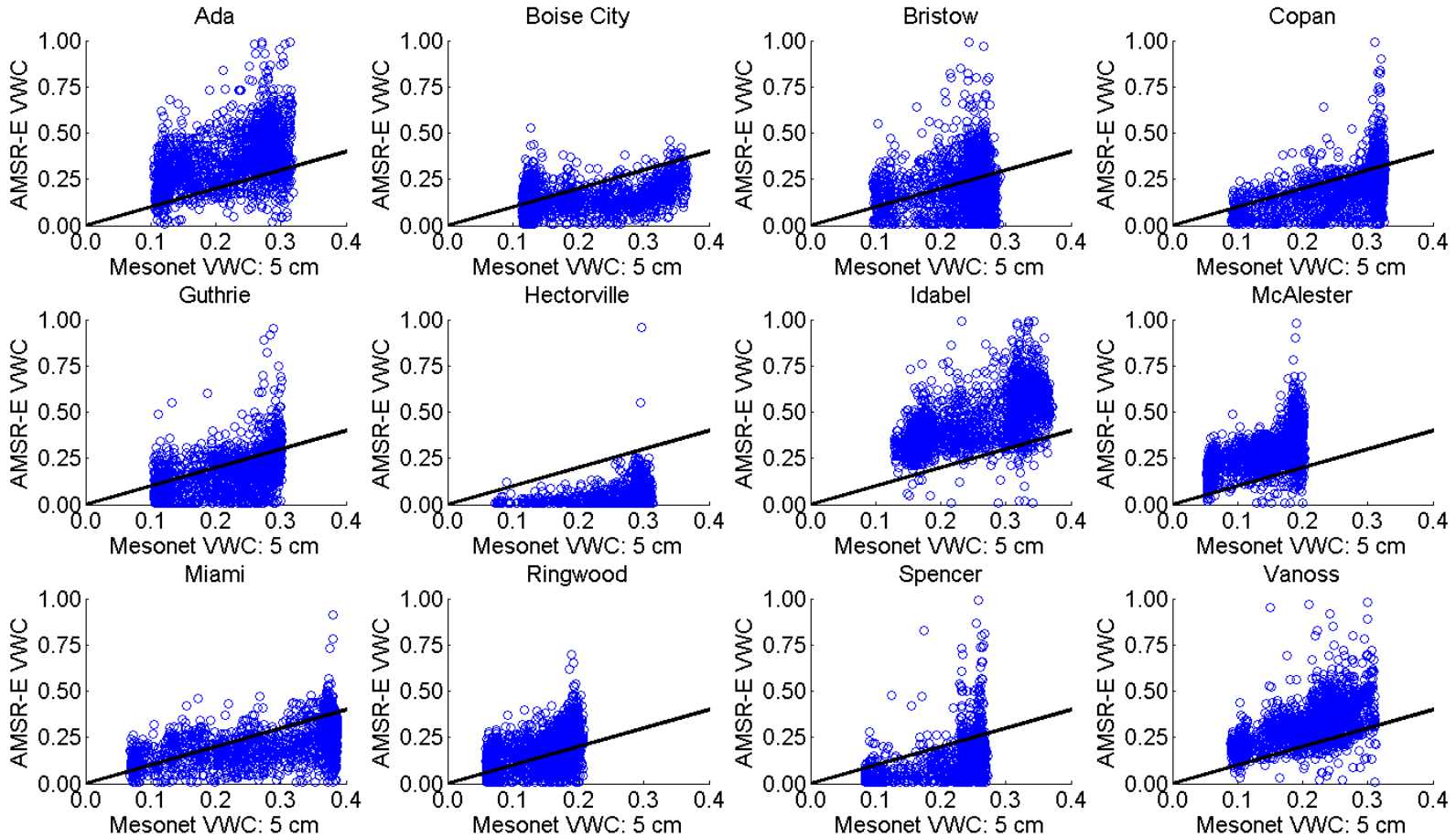
- AMSR-E Daily L3 Descending - 0.25° resolution  
(GES\_DISC\_LPRM\_AMSRE\_D\_SOILM3\_V002)
- Root Zone: 2-Layer Palmer Water Balance Model  
(GES\_DISC\_LPRM\_AMSRE\_D\_RZSM3\_V001, Bolten *et al.* 2010)

## *In Situ* Soil Moisture

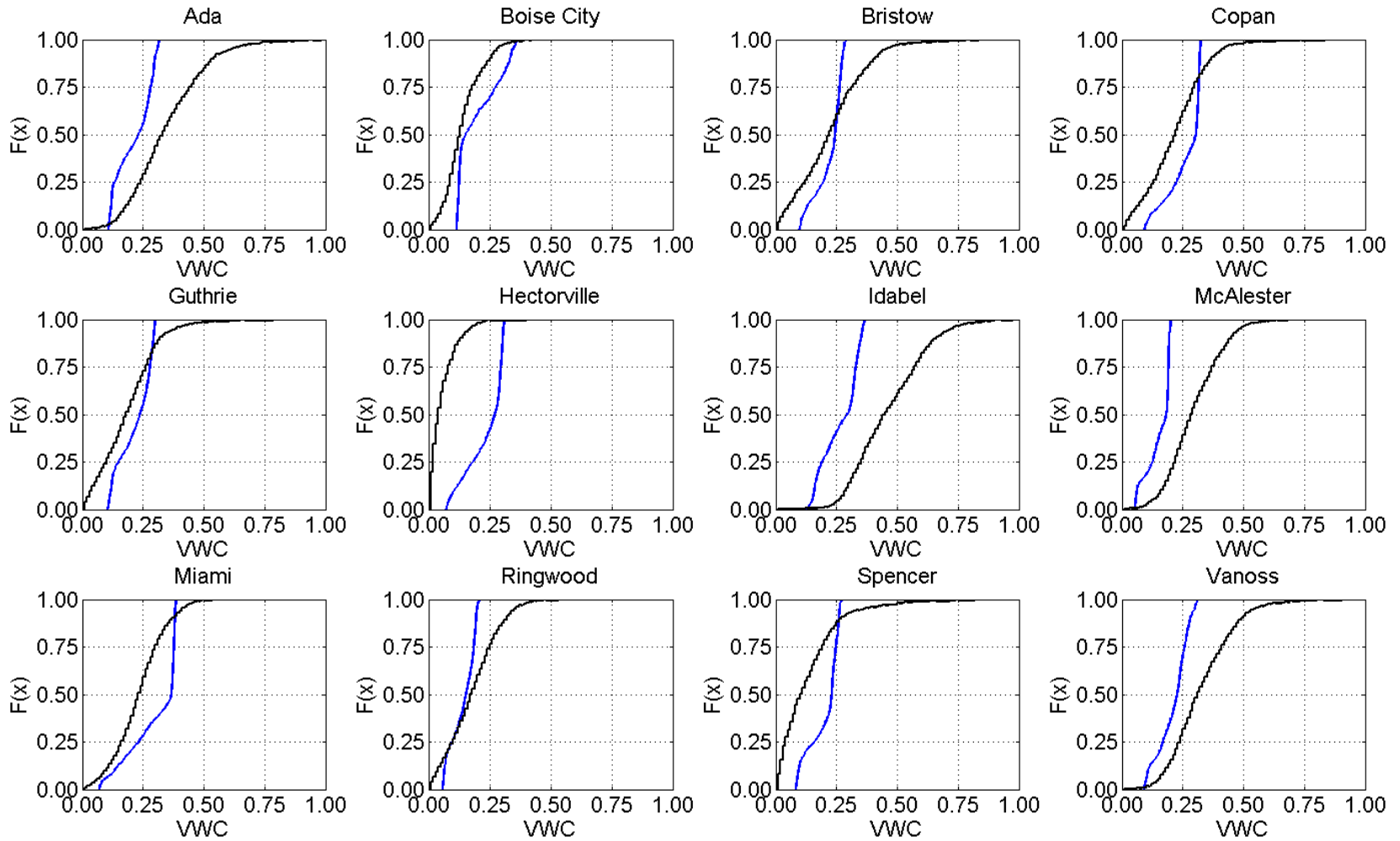
- Oklahoma Mesonet daily observations (12 stations, 5 & 25 cm)



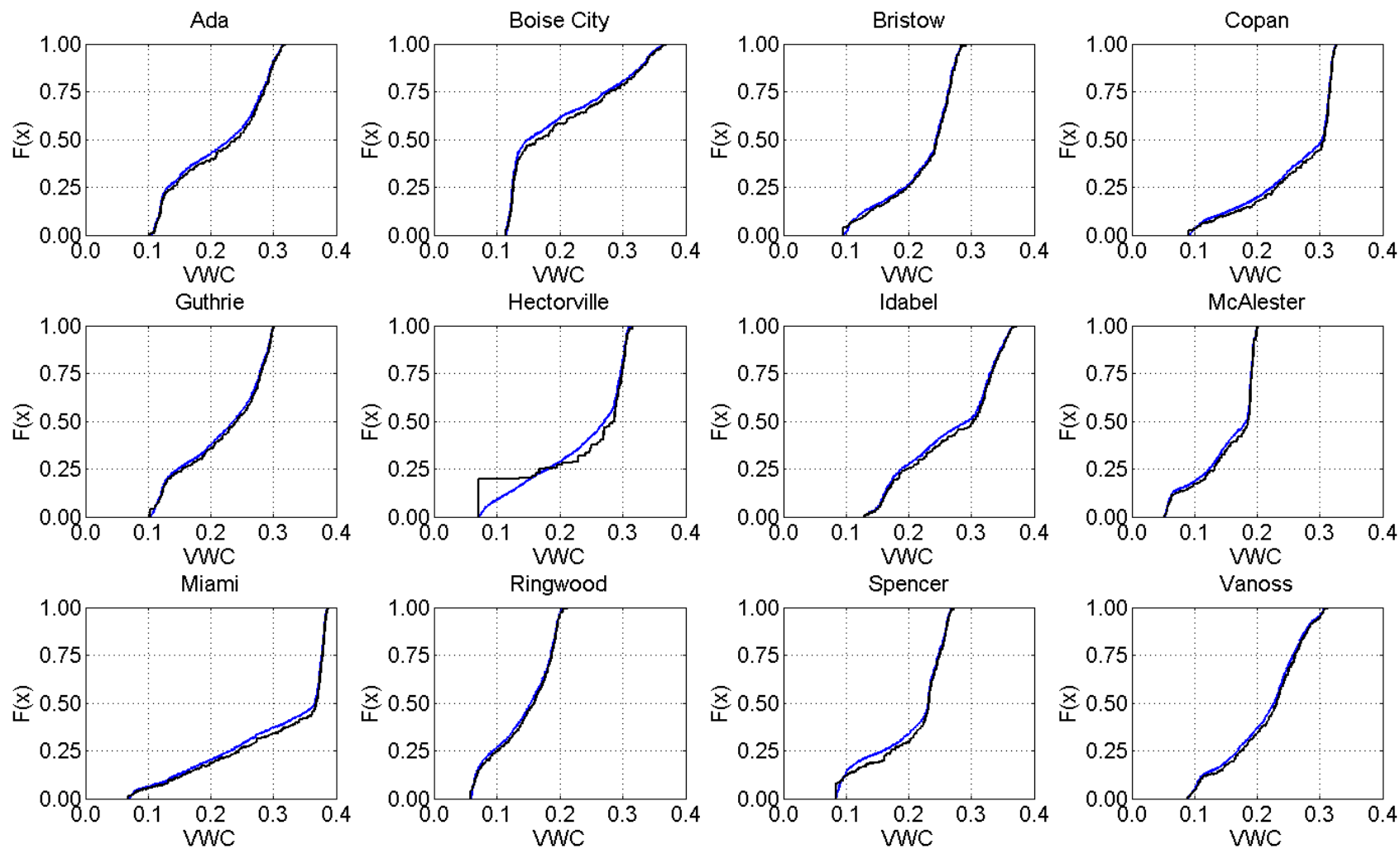
# Surface – Near Surface Comparison



# Surface – Near Surface Comparison

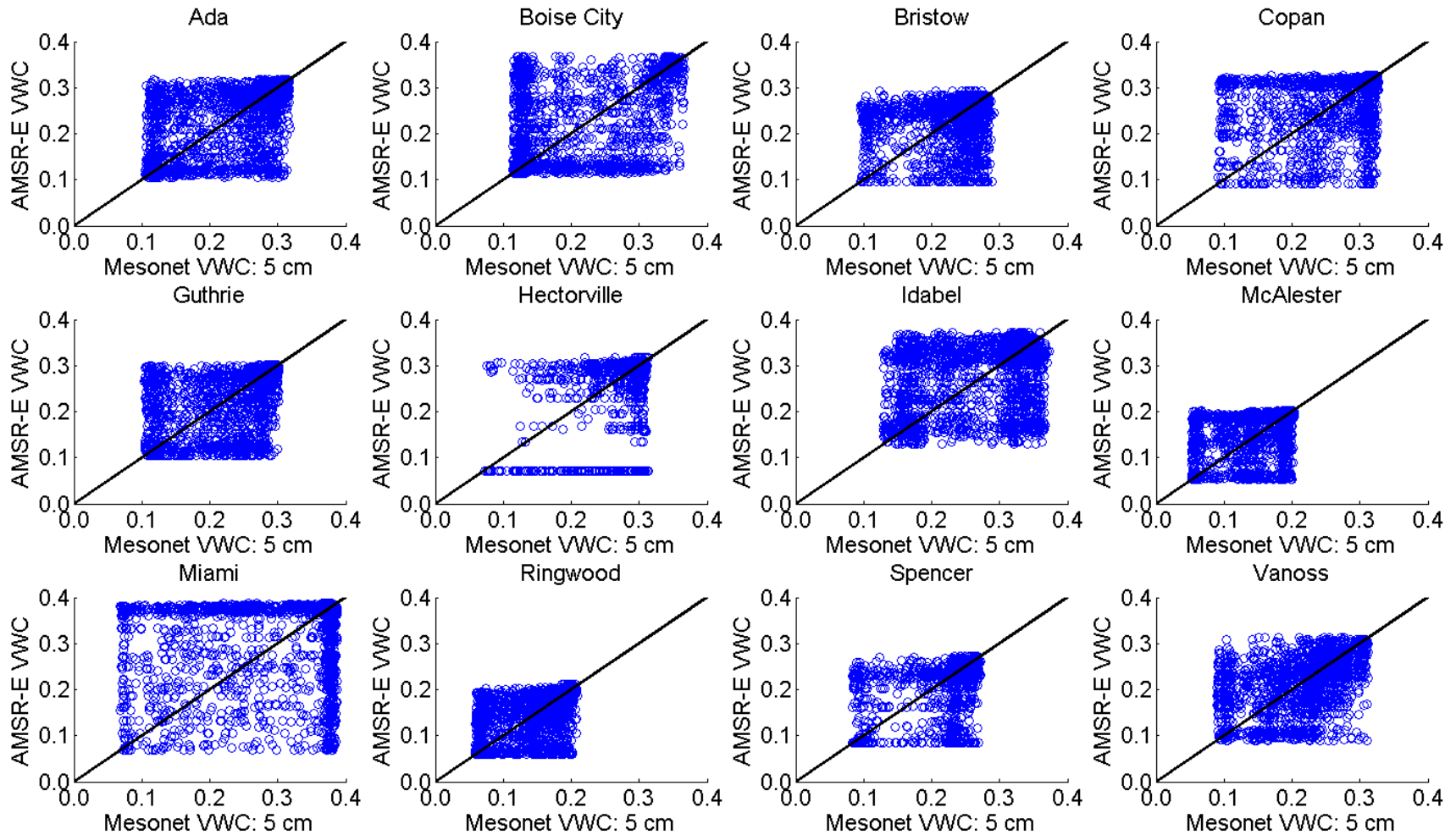


# Surface – Near Surface Comparison

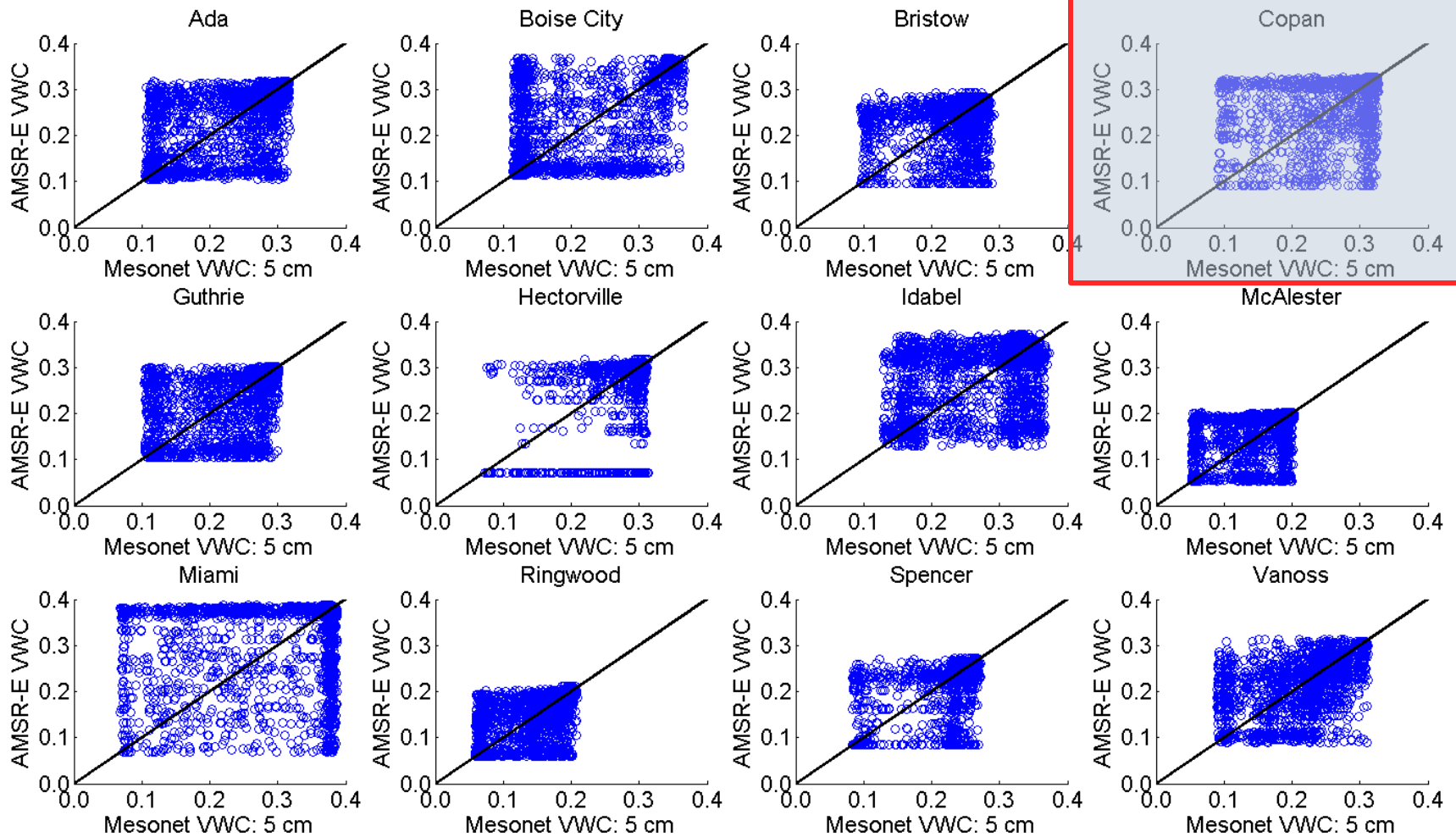




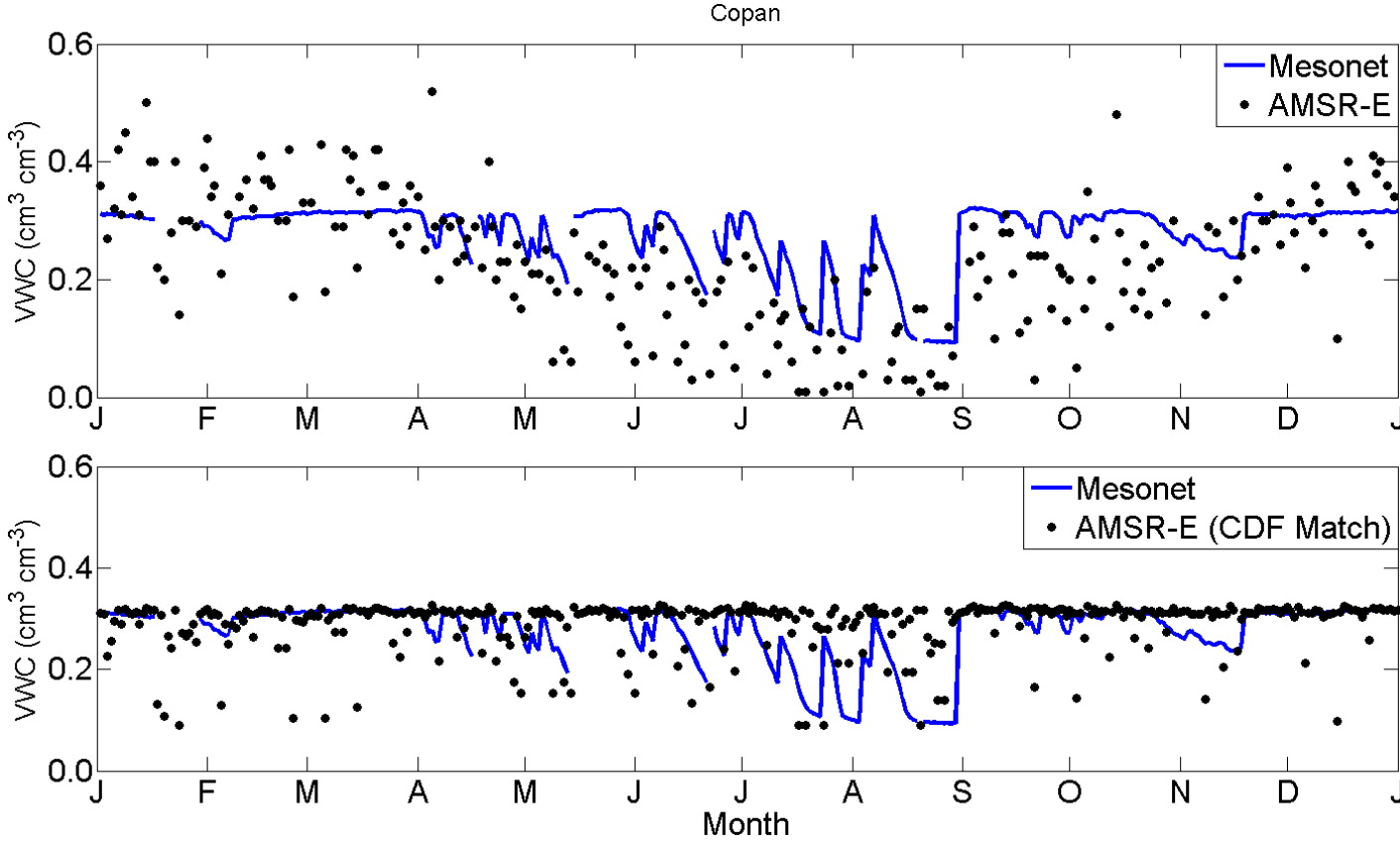
# Surface – Near Surface Comparison



# Surface – Near Surface Comparison



# Surface – Near Surface Comparison



# Surface – Near Surface Comparison

Mesonet (5 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content

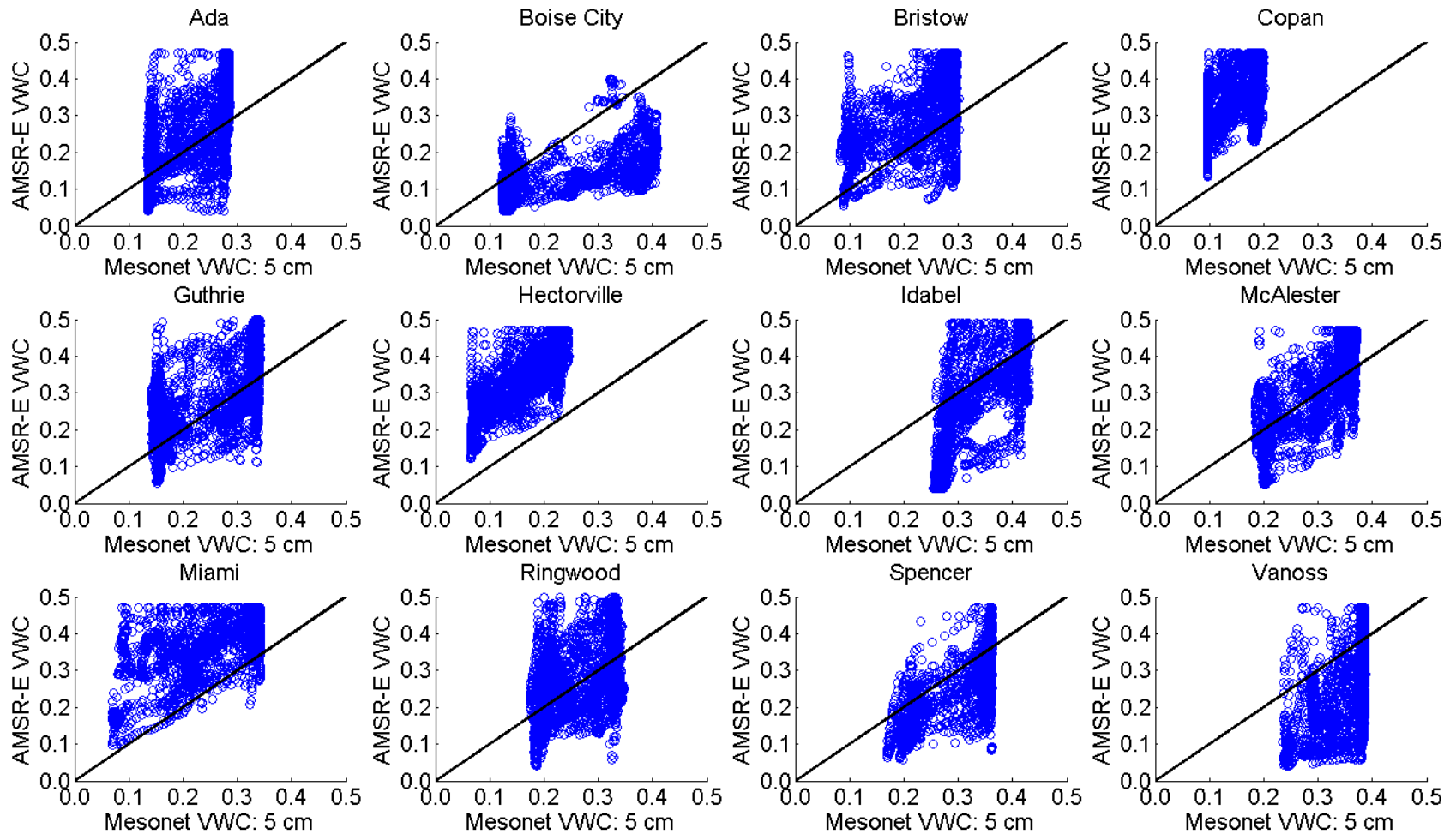
Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.15	-0.13	0.19	0.25	-3.51
Boise City	0.08	0.06	0.10	0.18	0.06
Bristow	0.11	0.00	0.14	0.05	-2.78
Copan	0.09	0.05	0.12	0.30	-0.72
Guthrie	0.08	0.04	0.11	0.23	-0.63
Hectorville	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.08	-1.85
Idabel	0.20	-0.20	0.23	0.34	-5.70
McAlester	0.15	-0.14	0.17	0.28	-8.15
Miami	0.10	0.07	0.12	0.26	-0.06
Ringwood	0.08	-0.04	0.10	0.26	-1.47
Spencer	0.12	0.08	0.14	0.12	-1.32
Vanoss	0.12	-0.11	0.15	0.32	-3.21
Super Site	0.08	0.05	0.11	0.30	-1.33
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>-0.01</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>-2.45</b>

Mesonet (5 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content (CDF Match)

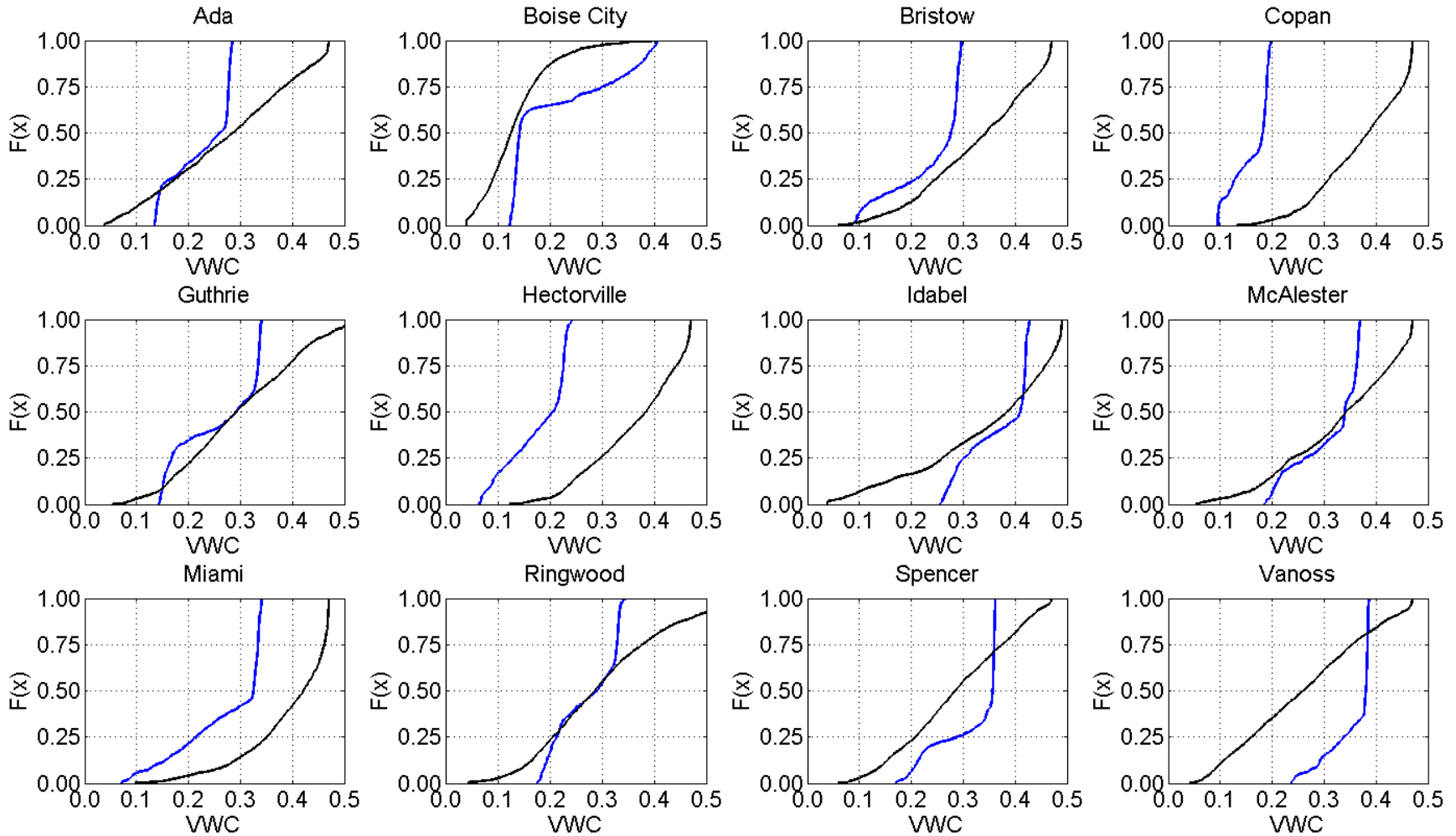
Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.05	0.00	0.07	0.33	0.44
Boise City	0.05	0.00	0.08	0.34	0.47
Bristow	0.05	0.00	0.07	0.05	0.17
Copan	0.04	0.00	0.06	0.34	0.50
Guthrie	0.04	0.00	0.06	0.28	0.48
Hectorville	0.05	0.02	0.08	0.13	0.57
Idabel	0.05	0.00	0.07	0.36	0.46
McAlester	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.30	0.36
Miami	0.06	0.00	0.09	0.34	0.42
Ringwood	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.32	0.49
Spencer	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.16	0.59
Vanoss	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.45	0.57
Super Site	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.48	0.78
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.46</b>



# Root Zone Comparison



# Root Zone Comparison



# Root Zone Comparison

## AMSR-E EnKF

Mesonet (25 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content					
Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.09	-0.06	0.11	0.45	-2.62
Boise City	0.09	0.07	0.11	0.30	-0.25
Bristow	0.11	-0.09	0.12	0.35	-2.35
Copan	0.21	-0.21	0.22	0.44	-36.91
Guthrie	0.07	-0.04	0.09	0.44	-0.40
Hectorville	0.19	-0.19	0.19	0.67	-10.82
Idabel	0.07	0.02	0.09	0.60	-1.31
McAlester	0.06	-0.02	0.08	0.58	-0.54
Miami	0.12	-0.12	0.14	0.48	-1.88
Ringwood	0.08	-0.03	0.10	0.28	-2.29
Spencer	0.07	0.03	0.08	0.48	-0.80
Vanoss	0.11	0.09	0.14	0.27	-9.66
Super Site	0.07	-0.02	0.08	0.50	-0.51
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>-5.82</b>

## AMSR-E EnKF– CDF Match

Mesonet (25 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content (CDF Match)					
Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.48	0.40
Boise City	0.05	0.00	0.08	0.43	0.32
Bristow	0.04	0.00	0.06	0.37	0.21
Copan	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.51	0.43
Guthrie	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.58	0.52
Hectorville	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.74	0.72
Idabel	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.64	0.60
McAlester	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.62	0.58
Miami	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.59	0.53
Ringwood	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.30	0.10
Spencer	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.67	0.64
Vanoss	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.52	0.45
Super Site	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.48	0.78
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.46</b>

Mesonet (5 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content					
	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>-0.01</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>-2.45</b>

Mesonet (5 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content (CDF Match)					
	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.46</b>



# Data Assimilation vs. Exponential Filter

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AMSR-E EnKF

AMSR-E Filter





# Data Assimilation vs. Exponential Filter

## AMSR-E EnKF

## AMSR-E Filter

Mesonet (25 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content

Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.09	-0.06	0.11	0.45	-2.62
Boise City	0.09	0.07	0.11	0.30	-0.25
Bristow	0.11	-0.09	0.12	0.35	-2.35
Copan	0.21	-0.21	0.22	0.44	-36.91
Guthrie	0.07	-0.04	0.09	0.44	-0.40
Hectorville	0.19	-0.19	0.19	0.67	-10.82
Idabel	0.07	0.02	0.09	0.60	-1.31
McAlester	0.06	-0.02	0.08	0.58	-0.54
Miami	0.12	-0.12	0.14	0.48	-1.88
Ringwood	0.08	-0.03	0.10	0.28	-2.29
Spencer	0.07	0.03	0.08	0.48	-0.80
Vanoss	0.11	0.09	0.14	0.27	-9.66
Super Site	0.07	-0.02	0.08	0.50	-0.51
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>-5.82</b>

Mesonet (25 cm) – Filter AMSRE Volumetric Water Content

Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.13	-0.12	0.16	0.26	-6.39
Boise City	0.08	0.08	0.12	0.25	-0.38
Bristow	0.06	0.01	0.07	0.21	-0.20
Copan	0.08	-0.06	0.10	0.34	-6.34
Guthrie	0.09	0.08	0.11	0.24	-1.18
Hectorville	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.32	-5.79
Idabel	0.11	-0.10	0.13	0.41	-3.61
McAlester	0.06	0.01	0.08	0.30	-0.56
Miami	0.07	0.03	0.08	0.32	-0.02
Ringwood	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.36	-3.05
Spencer	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.14	-13.46
Vanoss	0.08	0.03	0.09	0.30	-3.61
Super Site	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.48	0.44
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>-3.71</b>



# Data Assimilation vs. Exponential Filter

## AMSR-E EnKF

## AMSR-E Filter

Mesonet (25 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content

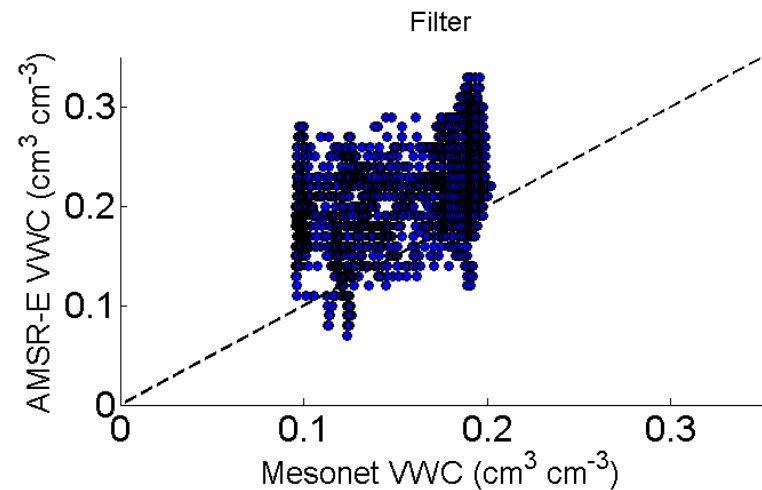
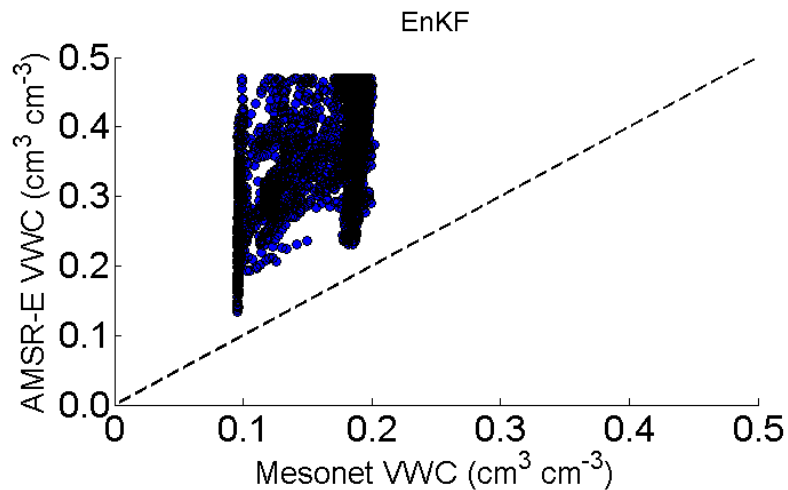
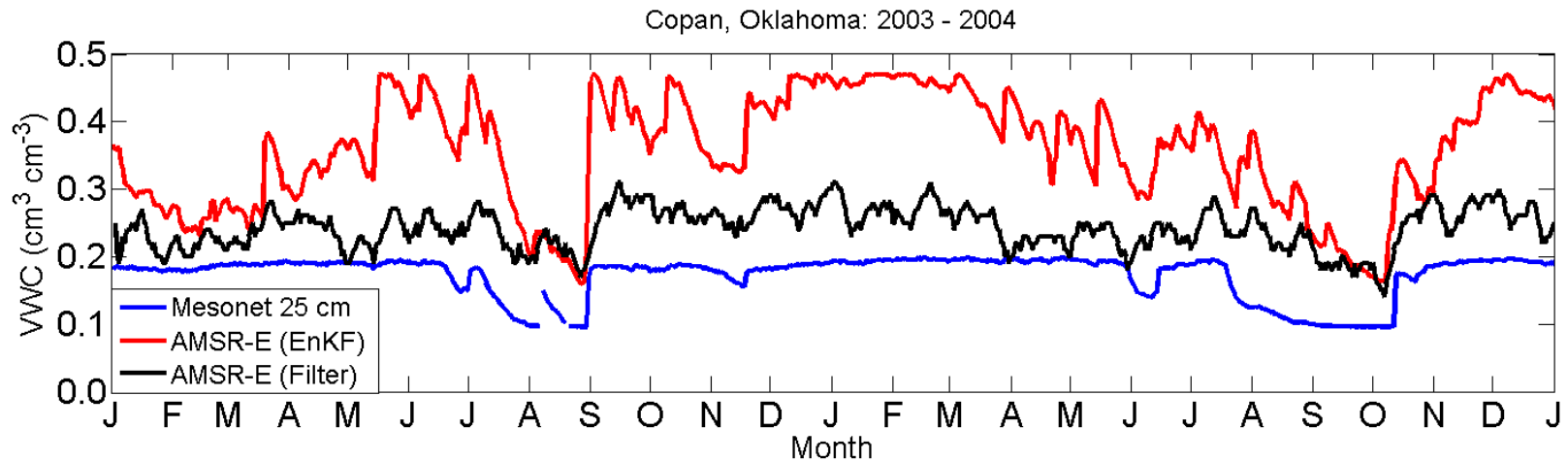
Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.09	-0.06	0.11	0.45	-2.62
Boise City	0.09	0.07	0.11	0.30	-0.25
Bristow	0.11	-0.09	0.12	0.35	-2.35
<b>Copan</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>-0.21</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>-36.91</b>
Guthrie	0.07	-0.04	0.09	0.44	-0.40
Hectorville	0.19	-0.19	0.19	0.67	-10.82
Idabel	0.07	0.02	0.09	0.60	-1.31
<b>McAlester</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>-0.02</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>-0.54</b>
Miami	0.12	-0.12	0.14	0.48	-1.88
Ringwood	0.08	-0.03	0.10	0.28	-2.29
Spencer	0.07	0.03	0.08	0.48	-0.80
Vanoos	0.11	0.09	0.14	0.27	-9.66
Super Site	0.07	-0.02	0.08	0.50	-0.51
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>-5.82</b>

Mesonet (25 cm) – Filter AMSRE Volumetric Water Content

Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
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Bristow	0.06	0.01	0.07	0.21	-0.20
<b>Copan</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>-0.06</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>-6.34</b>
Guthrie	0.09	0.08	0.11	0.24	-1.18
Hectorville	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.32	-5.79
Idabel	0.11	-0.10	0.13	0.41	-3.61
<b>McAlester</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>-0.56</b>
Miami	0.07	0.03	0.08	0.32	-0.02
Ringwood	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.36	-3.05
Spencer	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.14	-13.46
Vanoos	0.08	0.03	0.09	0.30	-3.61
Super Site	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.48	0.44
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>-3.71</b>

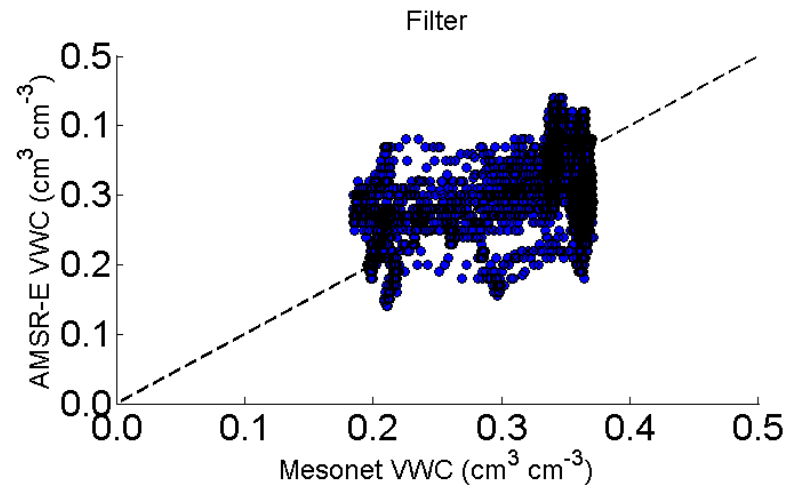
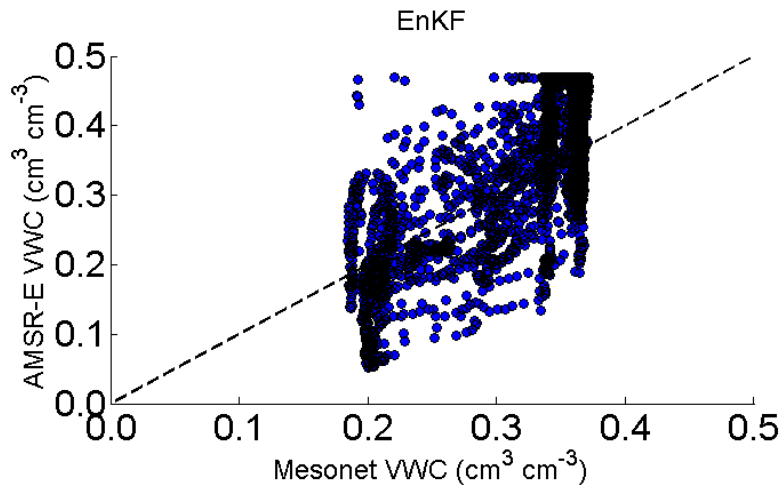
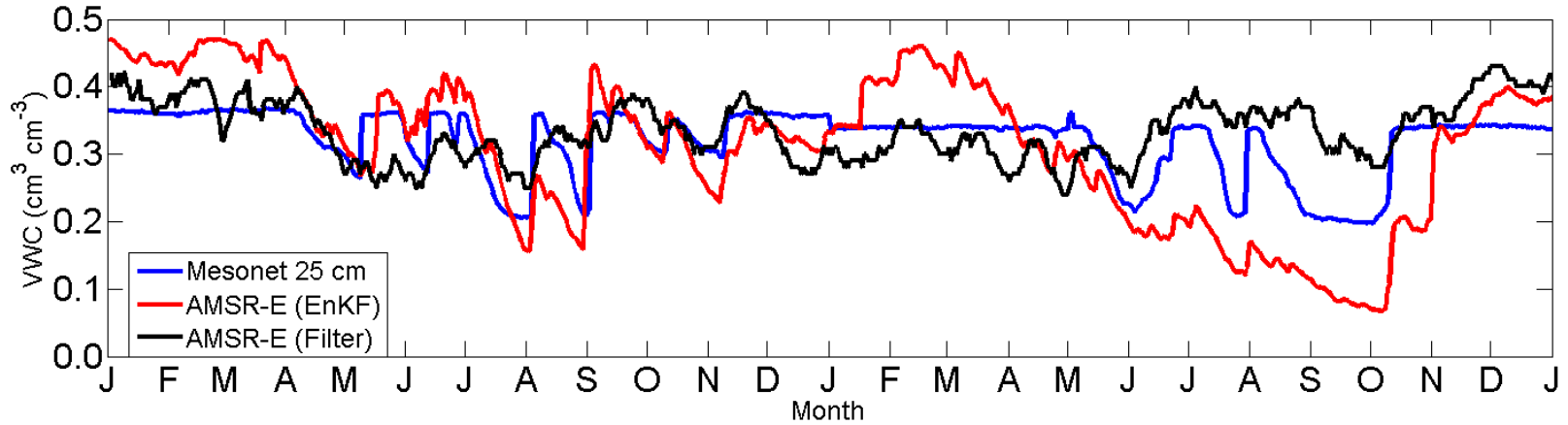


# Data Assimilation vs. Exponential Filter



# Data Assimilation vs. Exponential Filter

McAlester, Oklahoma: 2003 - 2004



# Data Assimilation vs. Exponential Filter

## AMSR-E EnKF– CDF Match

Mesonet (25 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content  
(CDF Match)

Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.48	0.40
Boise City	0.05	0.00	0.08	0.43	0.32
Bristow	0.04	0.00	0.06	0.37	0.21
Copan	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.51	0.43
Guthrie	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.58	0.52
Hectorville	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.74	0.72
Idabel	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.64	0.60
McAlester	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.62	0.58
Miami	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.59	0.53
Ringwood	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.30	0.10
Spencer	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.67	0.64
Vanoos	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.52	0.45
Super Site	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.38	0.25
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.46</b>

## AMSR-E Filter – CDF Match

Mesonet (25 cm) – Filter AMSRE Volumetric Water Content  
(CDF Match)

Station	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
Ada	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.48	0.44
Boise City	0.05	0.02	0.09	0.34	0.25
Bristow	0.04	-0.03	0.06	0.29	0.14
Copan	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.55	0.52
Guthrie	0.04	0.00	0.07	0.36	0.22
Hectorville	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.39	0.27
Idabel	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.45	0.39
McAlester	0.03	-0.01	0.05	0.47	0.43
Miami	0.04	-0.02	0.06	0.43	0.37
Ringwood	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.45	0.41
Spencer	0.03	-0.01	0.06	0.26	0.16
Vanoos	0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.59	0.56
Super Site	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.33	0.52
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>-0.01</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.35</b>

Mesonet (25 cm) - AMSRE Volumetric Water Content

	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>-5.82</b>

Mesonet (25 cm) – Filter AMSRE Volumetric Water Content

	MAE	MBE	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup>	NS
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>-3.71</b>



# Conclusions

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- AMSR-E surface soil moisture product performed better than SMOS (Ford *et al.* 2014), however RMSE > 0.04 at all sites
- Root zone product performed similarly, benefited greatly from CDF – matching
- Data assimilation and exponential filter smoothing methods attained similar accuracy despite sites having high soil texture heterogeneity



# Acknowledgements

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- This project is funded by the NSF Climate & Large-scale Dynamics (CAREER ATM-1056796)
- Contributors: Steven Quiring, Elizabeth Harris
- Thanks to Oklahoma Mesonet for data contribution

