

## COMPARING RADIATIVE TRANSFER EQUATION METHOD (RTEM) AND THE GENERALIZED SINGLE-CHANNEL METHOD (GSCM) FOR RETRIEVING SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE ALONG THE KARACHI COAST, PAKISTAN.

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### خلاصہ

سمندری سطح کے درجہ حرارت کی نگرانی (SST) آبی ماحولیاتی نظام میں مختلف عملوں کے اثرات کو سمجھنے کے لیے بہت ضروری ہے۔ کراچی، پاکستان کا ساحلی پانی خاص طور پر صنعتوں اور پاور پلانٹس سے ہونے والی آلودگی سے متاثر ہے۔ سطحی سمندری درجہ حرارت کو مؤثر طریقے سے نگرانی کرنے اور تبدیلیوں کو پتہ لگانے کے لئے، سینٹلائٹ ریٹرو سٹینسنگ کو مستقل اور قابل اطمینان طریقہ تصور کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ مطالعہ ایس ایس ٹی کا تخمینہ لگانے کے دو طریقوں کی کارکردگی کا موازنہ کرتا ہے، ریڈی ایٹو ٹرانسفر ایکوییشن میتھڈ (RTEM) اور جنرلائزڈ سینگل چینل میتھڈ (GSCM)۔ رجحانات کا تجزیہ کرنے کے لیے باہمی ربط اور لیٹریٹور ریگریشن ماڈلز کا اطلاق کیا گیا، اور لینڈ سیٹ ای ٹی ایم + تھرمل انفراریڈ ڈیٹا کا استعمال کرتے ہوئے ایک طرفہ انووا کی بھی گنتی کی گئی۔ ایس ایس ٹی کے تخمینے 14 مختلف مقامات پر ان سیٹو ڈیٹا اور ایک سیمپل ریگریشن تکنیک کا استعمال کرتے ہوئے حاصل کیے گئے تھے۔ نتائج سے ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ دونوں طریقوں کا ان سیٹو ڈیٹا کے ساتھ انتہائی اہم تعلق ہے، جس میں RTEM کے لیے 0.51 اور GSCM کے لیے بالترتیب 0.80 کے گتاتک (R<sup>2</sup>) کے ساتھ۔ دونوں طریقوں میں قابل قبول معیاری غلطیاں بھی ہیں، جس میں GSCM کا RMS 1.50 ہے اور RTEM کا RMS 2.40 ہے۔ عام طور پر، حقیقی زمینی ڈیٹا کا استعمال کرتے وقت دونوں نقطہ نظر ایک مضبوط شماریاتی رجحان دکھاتے ہیں۔

### Abstract

The monitoring of sea surface temperature (SST) is crucial for understanding the impact of various processes in aquatic ecosystems. The coastal waters of Karachi, Pakistan are particularly affected by pollution from industries and power plants. To effectively monitor and detect changes in SST, satellite remote sensing has been proposed as an efficient and cost-effective method. This study compares the performance of two methods for estimating SST, the Radiative Transfer Equation Method (RTEM) and the Generalized Single-Channel Method (GSCM). Correlation and linear regression models were applied to analyze trends, and a one-way ANOVA was also computed using Landsat ETM+ thermal infrared data. SST estimates were obtained at 14 different locations using in-situ data and a simple regression technique. The results indicate that both methods have a highly significant relationship with in-situ measurements, with the coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) of 0.51 for RTEM and 0.80 for GSCM, respectively. Both methods also have acceptable standard errors, with GSCM having an RMS of 1.50 and RTEM having an RMS of 2.40. In general, both approaches show a strong statistical trend when using real-ground data.

**Keywords:** Sea Surface Temperature, Radiative Transfer Equation, Generalized Single Channel Method, Landsat ETM +, Digital Numbers GLM.

### Introduction

The temperature of the sea surface, or SST, is a critical aspect of the energy exchange between the water and atmosphere and is therefore a vital characteristic of aquatic systems. It plays a significant role in regulating many natural and chemical processes in the aquatic environment. To effectively understand the functioning of oceans, lakes, and reservoirs and manage water quality, land use, and hydrological research, it is necessary to monitor the distribution of SST. Studies have shown the importance of SST in water resource management (Threlkeld, 1990; Kay *et al.*, 2005).

The conventional methods of examining sea surface temperature (SST) through field surveys are costly, time-consuming, and often not very precise. Advancements in remote sensing techniques have provided cost-effective alternatives for monitoring and detecting geophysical parameters (Schneider and Mauser, 1996; Thiemann and Schiller, 2003). Remote sensing offers efficient and comprehensive coverage and provides additional and crucial detail from the non-visible regions of the electromagnetic spectrum (Sprint *et al.*, 2002;

de Moraes Novo *et al.*, 2006; Alcantara *et al.*, 2009). Water quality parameters in ocean environments are usually detected based on the characteristics of the water and the sensor used, with a good spatial and temporal resolution. Satellites with radiometric, spectral, and temporal resolution are now more frequently used (Giardino *et al.*, 2001; Lamaro *et al.*, 2013; Dekker and Peters 1993; Schneider and Mauser 1996). The energy interactions between the atmosphere and water mass generally occur within the very thin surface, i.e., top layer that is sensed by satellite remote sensing. Factors such as wind speed, *evaporative* cooling, and energy changes due to diurnal variation make the phenomena complex. However, some studies (Yokoyama, Tanba, and Souma 1995; Schneider and Mauser 1996) have shown that skin temperature can be used as a proxy for water temperature.

The surface temperature of the water can be quantified by measuring the emitted radiation of thermal infrared (TIR) with a wavelength of 8-14 micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) (Donlon *et al.*, 2002; Kay *et al.*, 2005). However, these measurements need to be atmospherically corrected in a quantitative manner (Li *et al.*, 2013) to account for the effects of the atmosphere on the temperature readings. The recovered temperatures are assumed to be the same for all thermal band sensors, but differences in temperature among bands can occur due to issues with atmospheric correction (generally, the correction is found to be good at bands of wavelength around 10-11  $\mu\text{m}$  and poor for around 12  $\mu\text{m}$  bands).

In recent years, there has been a significant improvement in the calibration methodologies for interpreting thermal infrared images, thanks to rapid advancements in technology. Studies have been conducted using these data to map sea surface temperature (SST), particularly in areas that exhibit obvious variations such as near nuclear plants and hot springs (Gibbons *et al.*, 1989).

The surface temperature can be estimated from surface emissivity and at-sensor data using a variety of approaches, particularly for land. For Landsat bands, there are two ways to rectify a single thermal band, the thermal infrared band. One approach is to use the Radiative Transfer Equation (RTE) methods (Hook *et al.*, 2004). These techniques employ radiative transfer modeling software to calculate the atmosphere's transmissivity, down welling, and upwelling radiance. Another option is to use single-channel algorithms that also rely on RTE approximations. These methods, despite their reduced precision, minimize the need for in-situ radio-sounding data, making them suitable for archive studies. Jiménez-Muoz and Sobrino developed the Generalized Single-Channel technique in 2003, which uses water vapor content as secondary data. With known sensor emissivity, this method only requires the effective wavelength of the sensor, at-sensor data (at-sensor radiance or brightness temperature), and the total water vapor content of the atmosphere (Sobrino, Jiménez-Muoz, and Paolini, 2004)

Coastal waters of Pakistan along Karachi are very severely affected due to various sources of pollution, such as industry and power plants. It also creates thermal pollution which lowers and increases dissolved oxygen and respiration rates respectively, resulting in aquatic life being in danger. This study is an effort to assess the temperature of coastal water in some critical locations such as the Malir and Lyari River outfalls, Karachi harbor, and Gizri Creek. In this study, an attempt has been made to explore the applicability of two existing surface temperature algorithms (Single Channel and Radiative Transfer) to retrieve SST in Karachi coastal water using Landsat ETM+ thermal infrared data.

## Material and Methods

**Study area:** Karachi coast between the outfalls of Lyari and Malir Rivers including Karachi harbor and Gizzri Creek has been selected for the study (Figure1). Karachi port is among the largest and the busiest deep-water ports in South Asia. The pollution induced by port activities can be expected to impact the quality of water. The harbor is located between the Karachi towns of Kimari and Saddar, and due to its proximity to many industrial areas, the waste generated from these areas also impacts its water quality. The main contributors of industrial waste are the Malir and Lyari rivers, which have been converted into waste drains in recent years.

**Methodology:** In this study, Landsat TM, ETM+, and TIRS sensors were used for the years 2002, 2013-14, and 2018, respectively, for this, one thermal infrared image was taken for each year from the USGS (United States of Geological Survey <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>). The selection of images was within the criteria of  $\pm 3$  days of the in-situ data. The data consists of 14 different locations along the coastal region of Karachi as shown in Figure (1). Extraction of pure water pixels and elimination of pixels that are not characteristic of open water is important to avoid any discrepancy in the SST values along the study area. To select pure water pixels and eliminate land pixels, the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) is used to extract water pixels using appropriate thresholding.

To calculate SST, a low gain thermal band is used for this purpose, since it is not saturated, and the range is greater than a high gain thermal band. The overall methodological framework is as Figure (2). The conversion of digital numbers (DN) of the thermal band to a physical variable such as radiance and reflectance is essential to make it meaningful for interpretation and to compare it with other data. To do so two main steps are required, i.e., the radiometric and atmospheric corrections. By applying equation 1, the radiometric correction was done

which converts the values of DN to at-sensor uncorrected spectral radiance ( $L_\lambda$ ) in  $W.m^{-2}sr. \mu m$ . Where  $Q_{cal}$  is pixel a value in DN;  $Q_{calmax}$ ,  $Q_{calmin}$ ,  $L_{max}$ ,  $L_{min}$ , are the constants given in Land sat data user's handbook. The output derived from Equation 1 was converted to at-sensor brightness temperature ( $T_b$ ) in Kelvin using Equation 2 which is relied on Planck's law (Wukelic *et al.*, 1989).

$$L_\lambda = \frac{(L_{max} - L_{min})}{Q_{calmax} - Q_{calmin}} \times (Q_{cal} - Q_{calmin}) + L_{min} \quad (1)$$

$$T_b = \frac{K_2}{\ln\left(\frac{K_1}{L_\lambda} + 1\right)} \quad (2)$$

where  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are the constants of the thermal band retrieved from the file of metadata provided in the data set.

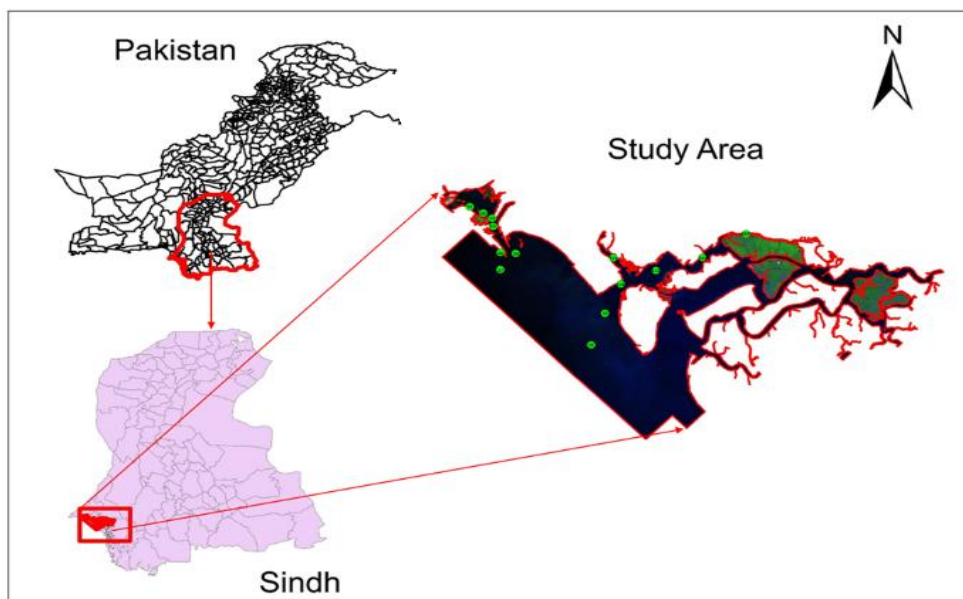


Fig. 1. Study Area of Lyari and Malir Rivers including Karachi harbor and Gizri Creek

## Methods for SST Estimation

### Radiative transfer equation method (RTEM)

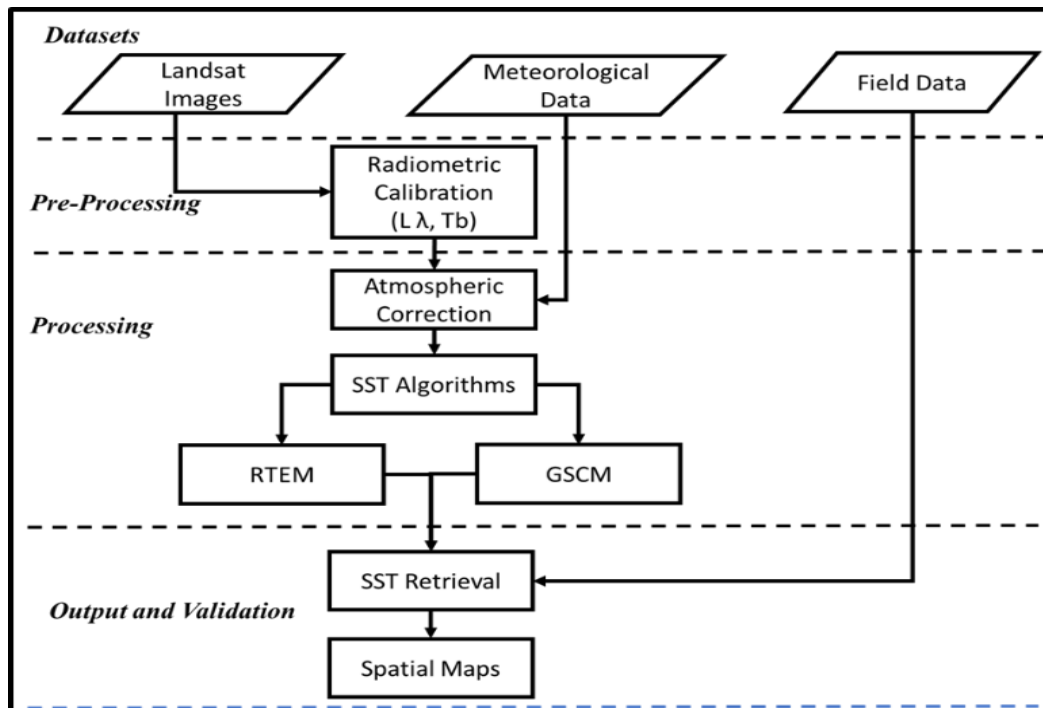
The atmospheric conditions can affect the received signals up to 90% for water bodies, which can change the SST values up to  $\pm 20^{\circ}C$  (Kay *et al.* 2005) when constant emissivity is used for water. As the thermal band is not atmospherically corrected, a correction was made to retrieve the corrected water surface radiance ( $L_\lambda(T_s)$ ) using equation (3), as done by Srivastava *et al.* It requires uncorrected spectral radiance ( $L_\lambda$ ) calculated from Equation (1), upward radiance ( $L_{\lambda up}$ ), downward radiance ( $L_{\lambda down}$ ), atmospheric transmissivity ( $\tau$ ), and water surface emissivity ( $\epsilon$ ). The invariable value of 0.98 for water emissivity, as suggested by (Snyder *et al.* 1998), was used in this study. The atmospheric correction parameter calculator was used to obtain such atmospheric parameters ( $L_{\lambda up}$ ,  $L_{\lambda down}$ , and  $\tau$ ), developed by (Barsi, Barker, and Schott, 2003) which uses the MODTRAN simulator.

Equation 4 shows how to convert corrected water surface radiance ( $L_\lambda(T_s)$ ) to Land surface temperature (LST) utilizing the relationship with the plan equation with two thermal constants  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ . (Sinha *et al.* 2014; Srivastava, Majumdar, and Bhattacharya 2009).

$$L_{\lambda(T_s)} = \frac{L_{\lambda} - L_{\lambda,atp}}{\{\tau \times \varepsilon\}} - \frac{1 - \varepsilon}{\varepsilon} \times L_{\lambda,down} \tag{3}$$

$$T_s = \frac{K_2}{\ln\left(\frac{K_1}{L_{\lambda(T_s)}} + 1\right)} \tag{4}$$

where,  $T_s$  = surface temperature;  $L_{\lambda}(T_s)$ = corrected surface radiance, and  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are the thermal constants.



**Fig.2. Flow Chart for the retrieval of Sea Surface Temperature from RTEM and GSCM**

**Generalized Single Channel Method (GSCM)**

This algorithm (Jiménez-Muñoz and Sobrino 2003) was developed to retrieve surface temperature using a single thermal infrared band. Following are the equations (5)-(7) which can be used to retrieve surface temperature.

$$T_s = \gamma [ \varepsilon^{-1} (\psi_1 L_{\lambda} + \psi_2) + \psi_3 + \delta ] \tag{5}$$

$$\gamma = \left\{ \frac{C_2 L_{\lambda}}{T_b^2} \left[ \frac{\lambda^4}{C_1} L_{\lambda} + \lambda^{-1} \right] \right\}^{-1} \tag{6}$$

$$\delta = -\gamma L_{\lambda} + T_b \tag{7}$$

$$\psi_1 = 0.14714\omega^2 - 0.15583\omega + 1.1234 \tag{8}$$

$$\psi_2 = -1.1836\omega^2 - 0.3760\omega - 0.52894 \tag{9}$$

$$\psi_3 = -0.04554\omega^2 + 1.8719\omega - 0.39071 \tag{10}$$

$$\omega = 0.0981 \times \left\{ 10 \times 0.6108 \times \exp \left[ \frac{17.27 \times (T_0 - 273.15)}{237.3 \times (T_0 - 273.15)} \right] \times RH \right\} + 0.1679 \tag{11}$$

Where the surface temperature  $T_s$  is in Kelvin,  $\lambda$  stands for effective wavelength which is 11.45  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $\varepsilon$  is the water surface emissivity (0.98),  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  are the Planck's function-dependent parameters,  $C_1 = 1.19104 \times 10^8$

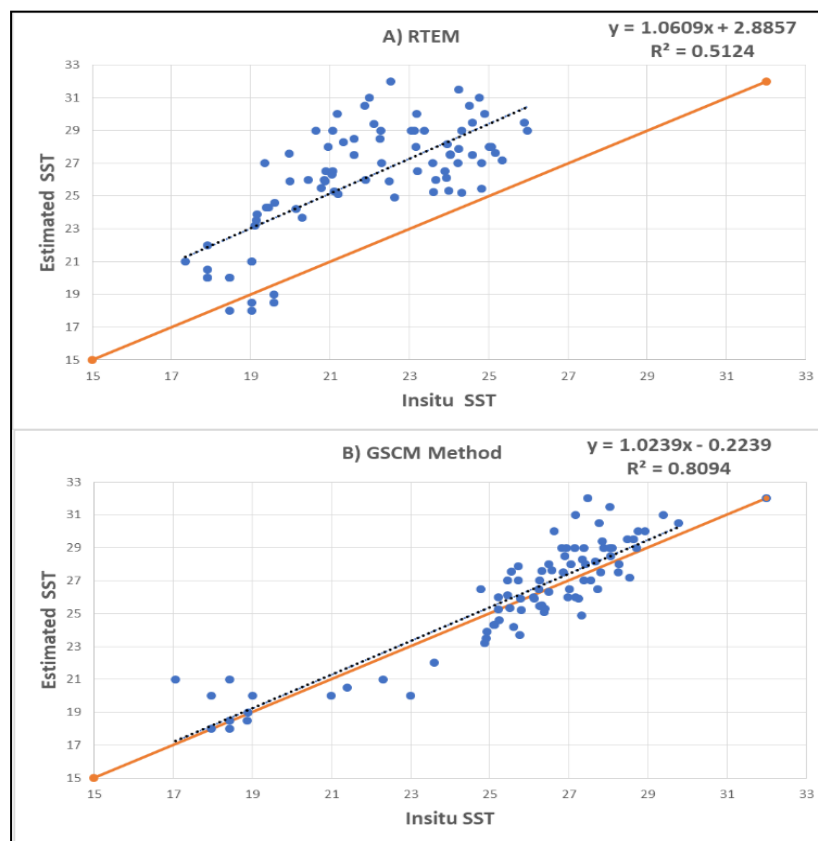
$W\mu\text{m}^4.\text{m}^{-2}.\text{sr}^{-1}$ ,  $C_2= 14387.7 \mu\text{m}.$  K,  $L\lambda$ , and  $T_b$  are calculated in Equations (1) and (2), respectively. The  $\Psi_1$ ,  $\Psi_2$ , and  $\Psi_3$  are the atmospheric functions calculated using the following equations (8)-(10), respectively. These atmospheric functions require the content of water vapor ( $\omega$ ) in the atmosphere during the overpass time of the satellite. The estimation of atmospheric water vapor equation (11) (Yang, Sinica, and 1996, n.d.; Liu *et al.* 2011) can be used which only requires air temperature near the surface ( $T_0$ ) in Kelvin and relative humidity (RH).

### Trend Analysis with GLM and One-way ANOVA

The Generalized Linear Model (GLM) and one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) trend analysis were employed to evaluate the trend of the estimated points obtained from the Generalized Single-Channel Method (GSCM) and the Radiative Transfer Equation Method (RTEM) with in-situ data. GLM is a statistical technique that is used to measure the correlation among data sets and assess the effectiveness of treatment over time. It is commonly used with categorical or continuous data as independent variables and can be used to examine the primary effects within and between subjects, interaction effects between variables, the effects of covariates, and the effects of interactions between covariates and factors between subjects. One-way ANOVA is a statistical method used to determine whether there are any significant differences between the means of two or more independent groups. It is often used when there are at least three groups, rather than just two. The method is used to determine whether there are any statistically significant differences between the means of the groups being compared.

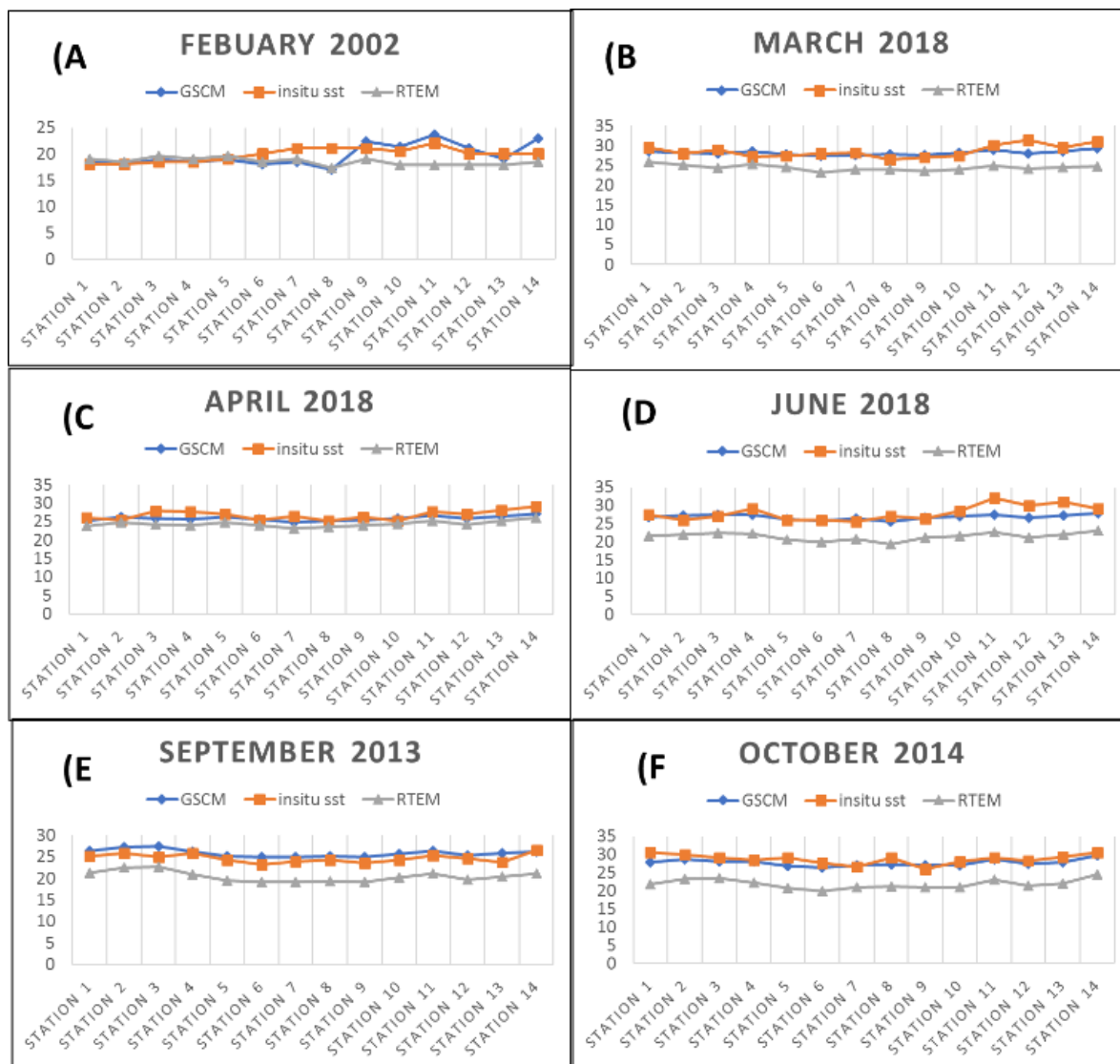
### Results and Discussion

Estimated values of SST were obtained by the two compared methods RTEM and GSCM which were correlated by applying a simple linear regression model. The R-squares for RTEM and GSCM were 0.51 and 0.81 and RMSE were 2.40 and 1.53, respectively. The GSCM method shows a very good adjustment with in-situ measurements, although RTEM did not show a good adjustment within situ measurements in which they had a low coefficient of relation while their standard errors were also high, as shown in Table (1). Scatter plots were also drawn for each method against in-situ measurements as shown in Figure (3).



**Fig.3. Scatter Plot between measured SST(Celsius) and Observed SST A) Radiative Transfer Equation Method (RTEM) B) Generalized Single Channel Method (GSCM).**

Figure (4) shows data in time series, this type of plot allows us to highlight the accuracy of both methods. The SST values estimated by RTEM were lower than those for the GSCM, but they also showed a trend with in-situ measurements. Both methods almost underestimated in-situ values, except in the case of September 2013 GSCM method overestimated in-situ values. This situation occurs due to seasonal variation or because these stations were placed near the outfalls of the Karachi megacity.



**Fig.4. Comparison of measured and observed SST (Celsius) on Y-axis with RTEM and GSCM method over sampling stations.**

**Trend Analysis**

**GLM Measures**

Estimated points from GSCM and RTEM with in-situ measurement showed statistically significant  $p < 0.05$ , Sum of Square 6.353 and 746.232 respectively. Other parameters also showed a linear trend between them as shown in Table (2). Figure (7) and Figure (8) also show the linear trend between in-situ and estimated data.

**One-way ANOVA**

Estimated points from GSCM and RTEM with in-situ measurement having  $p < 0.05$ , Sum of Square 606.6 and 226.45, and other parameters values showed the linear trend between them as shown in Table (3). Figure (9) showed the GSCM trend line increasing linearly which showed a good trend between the estimated value of GSCM and in-situ measurements. But in the case of Figure (10), the RTEM linear trend line was not good as compared to the GSCM trend line.

### Spatial distribution of SST

We produced the SST maps based on the GSCM Figure (5, 6) considering the obtained results, and that GSCM uses simple data for atmospheric correction and makes its application possible for the different thermal sensors.

### Validation

From 84 in situ measurements the validation was checked using simple regression analysis between estimated SST values from RTEM and GSCM methods and in situ SST values. In addition, the quality of results

**Table 1. Regression analysis of the comparison between estimated and measured SST for both methods.**

Model	R	R square	Adjusted R square	N	Std. The error of the estimate	Change statistics		
						R square change	F change	Sig. F change
GSCM	.900	.809	.807	84	1.50211	0.809	348.196	.000
RTEM	.716	.512	.506	84	84	0.512	86.170	.000

**Table 2. Trend line analysis of GLM method**

M		Sum of square	F	Sig.
GSCM	Linear	6.353	5.687	<0.05
RTEM	Linear	746.232	260.826	<0.05

**Table 3. Trend line analysis of One-way ANOVA method**

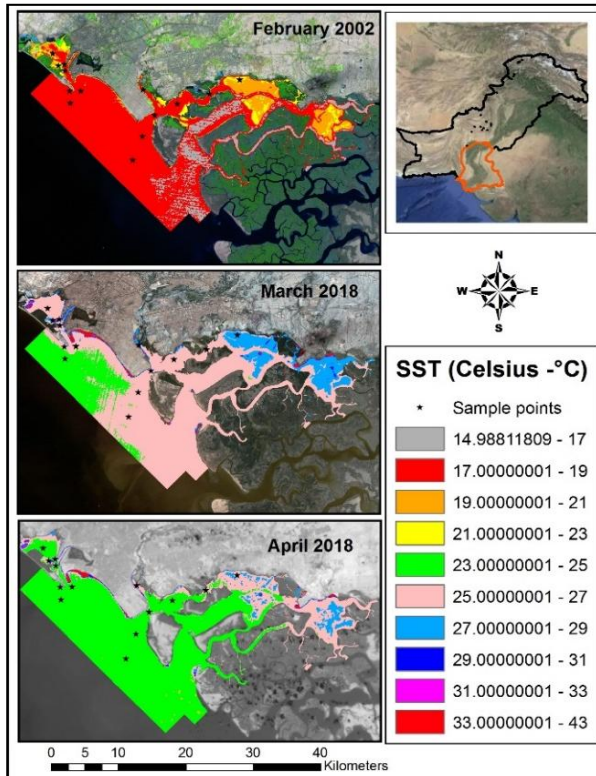
One Way-ANOVA		Sum of squares	F	Sig.
GSCM	Linear	606.584	411.44	<0.05
RTEM	Linear	226.448	95.658	<0.05

was also checked between estimated and in situ values using categorical statistics e.g., RMSE, Standard deviation, Coefficient of relation, Sig. F Change, Adjusted R Square, R Square Change, F Change.

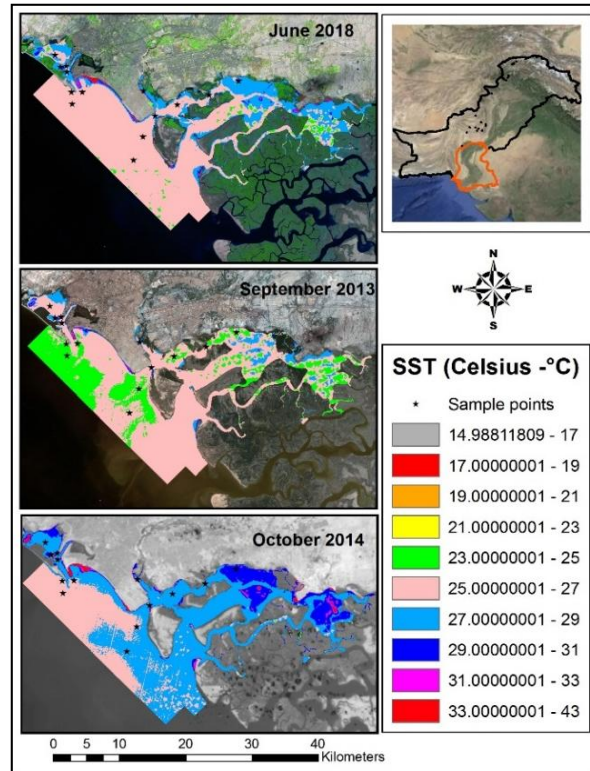
Specific number and field examples such as global climate change, hydrological, geo-/biophysical, and urban land use/land cover, rely heavily on LST. LANDSAT 8, the most recent satellite in the LANDSAT family to be launched, has opened new opportunities for using remote sensing to better understand Earth's occurrences. A new procedure-based technique for automatically mapping LST from LANDSAT 8 data is presented in this paper. Environmental data is a critical component of human health research, and remote sensing is a widely used method for obtaining it. Temperature can be calculated from remote sensing data by computing LST, which is the temperature felt at ground level. This is a topic of such scholarly interest that various research on computing LST from diverse sources and using various techniques has been published. Several academics, for example, have examined several algorithms to find the most accurate one, either by adjusting the computation's inputs or the approach used.

It is imperative to keep in mind that in 2009 the single-channel framework was reexamined in this examination (Jiménez-Muñoz *et al.*, 2009), and they upgraded the coefficient's included within the relationship between climatic work ( $w_1$ ,  $w_2$ , and  $w_3$ ) and air-water vapor ( $w$ ) for Landsat 5 TM, Landsat 4 and Landsat 7 ETM+ comes about. Five isolated barometrical sounding databases were considered to deliver mimicked information and confirm the calculation. Although we have not connected this examination in this work, we compared the RMS values gotten and drift investigation between in situ and evaluated information. The connection with the in-situ information of our values is based on  $RMS = 1.50211$ , which is suitable relative to the values gotten by Jiménez-Muñoz *et al.* (2009) conjointly the slant for both models was direct, decently great, and worthy. On the other hand, in 2010 the same creators connected the same calculation with amazing comes with ASTER data (Jiménez-Muñoz and Sobrino, 2010).

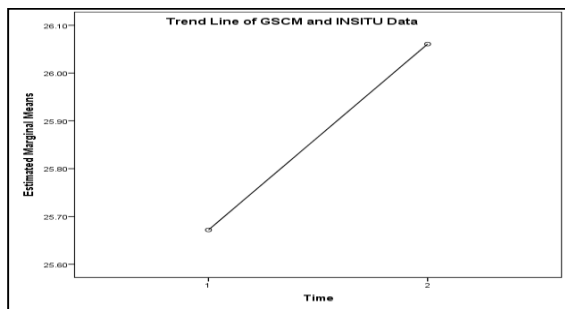




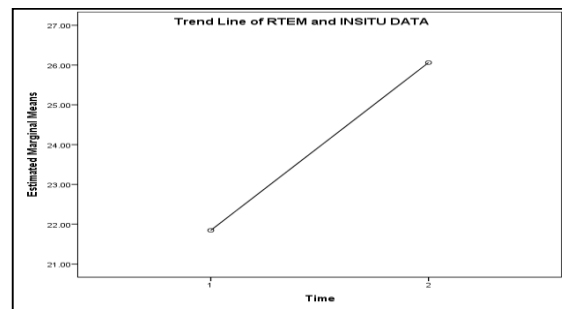
**Fig. 5. SST Maps for February 2002, March 2018, and April 2018**



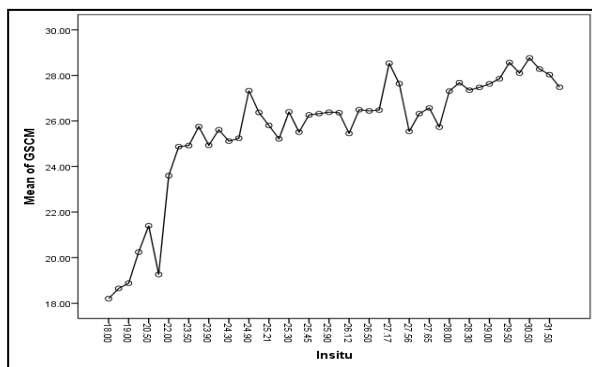
**Fig. 6. SST Maps for June 2018, September 2013, and October 2014**



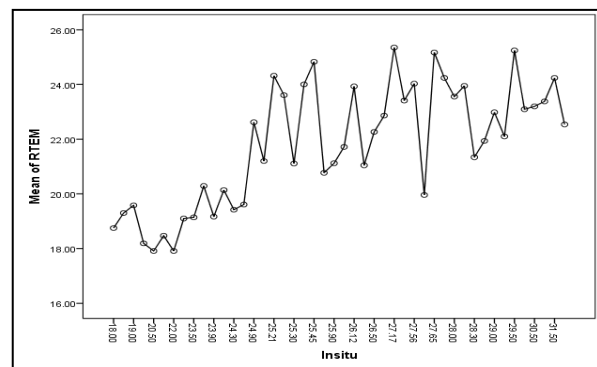
**Fig. 7. GLM method linear trend line graph of GSCM and in-situ data**



**Fig. 8. GLM method linear trend line graph of RTEM and Insitu data**



**Fig. 9. One Way ANOVA Linear Trend Line Graph of GSCM and Insitu data**



**Fig. 10. One Way ANOVA Linear Trend Line Graph of RTEM and In-situ data**



## Conclusion

This study evaluated the use of two methods, the Generalized Single-Channel Method (GSCM) and the Radiative Transfer Equation Method (RTEM), for determining the sea surface temperature (SST) in the Karachi Harbor and Gizzri Creek. The GSCM method was found to be more effective in measuring minor temperature differences using in-situ data. Therefore, we conclude that the GSCM method is the best tool for monitoring SST in this region when using satellite imagery. Additionally, one of the advantages of this method is that it only requires the value of ambient water vapor, which is easy to collect and can be applied to other thermal sensors using the same coefficients and equations.

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