Improving our Understanding of Climate Change
Observing our Water Planet using AMSR and AMSR-E

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Figures show the seasonal variations of sea ice distribution in the Arctic (left) and Antarctic (right) region. The states in February and in October are indicated. Passive microwave observation is effective in spite of polar night and cloudy weather condition. The variation of sea ice distribution affects the balance of heat and radiation between atmosphere and ocean, and is affected by the global warming. Although sea ice in the Arctic region certainly tends to reduce in the last decade, there is no remarkable variation in the Antarctic region as a whole so far.
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