



WELCOME TO NASA APPLIED REMOTE SENSING TRAINING (ARSET)

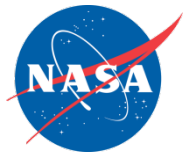
WEBINAR SESSION 2

FUNDAMENTALS OF REMOTE SENSING

**SATELLITES, SENSORS, DATA, TOOLS FOR LAND
MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRE APPLICATIONS**

Applied Remote SEnsing Training (ARSET)

NASA Applied Sciences Capacity Building Program

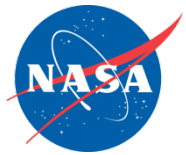


- ❑ **GOAL:** Increase utilization of NASA observational and model data for decision-support through training activities for environmental professionals.
- ❑ **Online Trainings:** Live and recorded, 4-6 weeks in length. Include demos on data access
- ❑ **In person Trainings:** In a computer lab, 2- 4 days. Large focus on data access
- ❑ **Train the Trainers:** Courses and training manuals for those interested in conducting their own remote sensing training.
- ❑ **Application Areas:** water resources, disasters, health/air quality, and land management
- ❑ <http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov>



Accomplishments (2008 – 2015)

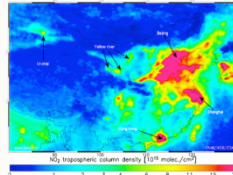
- 53 trainings completed
- 4000+ participants worldwide
- 1400+ organizations
- 130+ countries



ARSET: Training Focus Areas

Health (Air Quality)

- Analysis of dust, fires and urban air pollution.
- Long range transport of pollutants
- Satellite and regional air quality model inter-comparisons.
- Support for air quality forecasting and exceptional event analysis



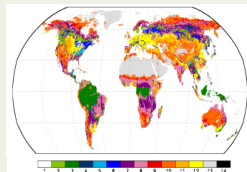
Water Resources and Flood Monitoring

- Flood/Drought monitoring
- Severe weather and precipitation
- Watershed management
- Climate impacts on water resources
- Snow/ice monitoring
- Evapotranspiration (ET), ground water, soil moisture, and runoff.



Land Management

- GIS Applications
- Conservation
- Vegetation indices
- Wildfire Applications



Train the Trainers

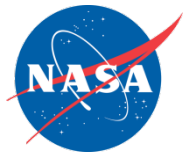
- Courses and guidance on how to design and develop, *YOUR OWN* online and/or computer based remote sensing training
- How to develop effective presentations and exercises.



Outline

- ❑ Satellites and Sensors for Land Management and Wildfires
 - ❑ MODIS
 - ❑ VIIRS
 - ❑ Landsat
- ❑ Land Cover Mapping
- ❑ Land Cover Products
- ❑ Fire Detection Products
- ❑ Detecting Land Cover Change
- ❑ NDVI and EVI

Land Resources Satellites and Sensors



❑ MODIS

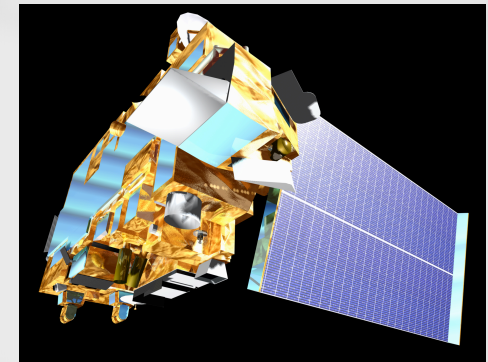
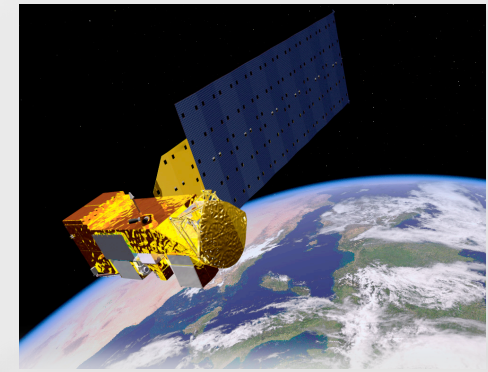
- ❑ Brief Overview
- ❑ Characteristics of MODIS data
- ❑ Where to Obtain MODIS products

❑ VIIRS

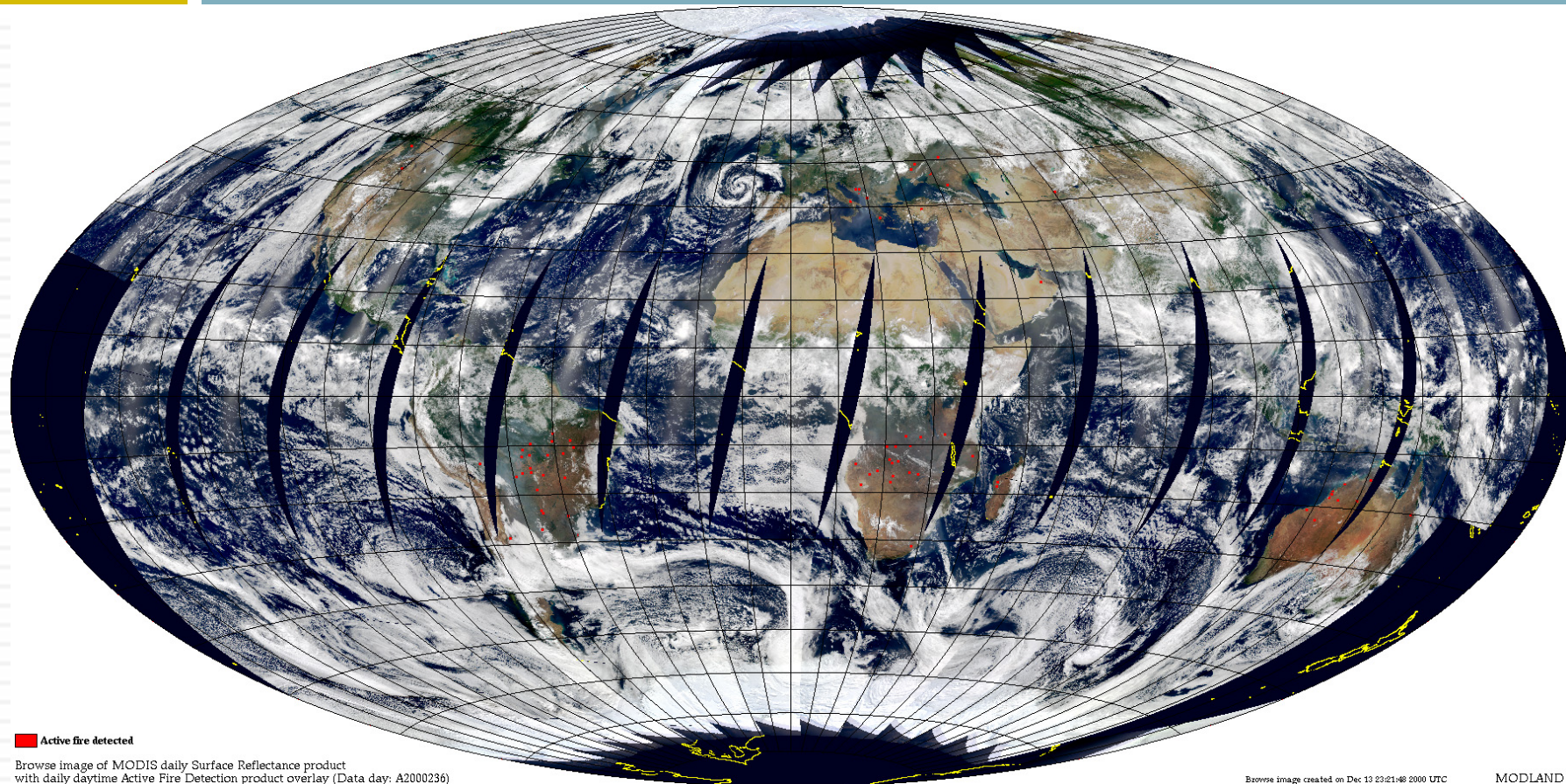
- ❑ Brief Overview
- ❑ Characteristics
- ❑ Where to obtain

❑ Landsat

- ❑ Brief Overview (History and Current Missions)
- ❑ Characteristics of Landsat Data
- ❑ Where to Obtain Landsat Images



MODIS



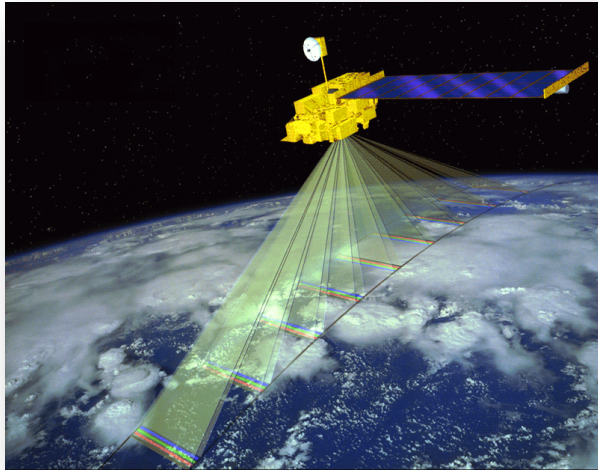
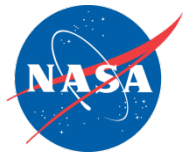
■ Active fire detected

Browse image of MODIS daily Surface Reflectance product
with daily daytime Active Fire Detection product overlay (Data day: A2000236)

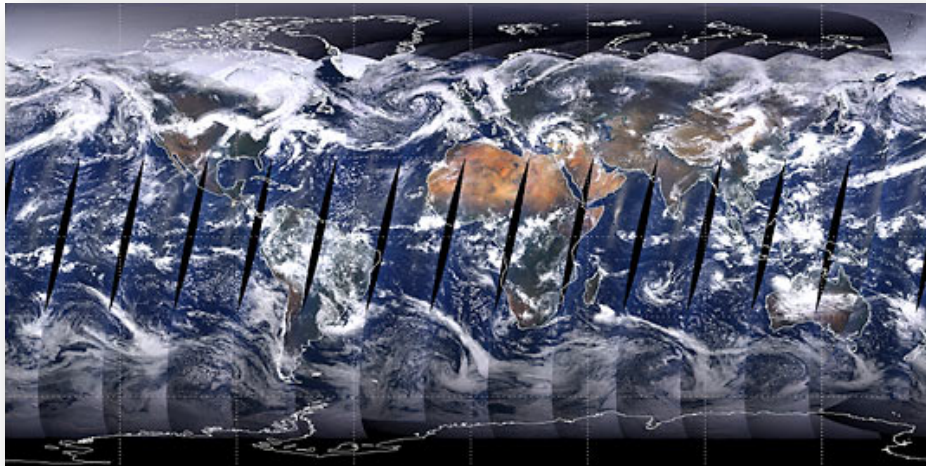
Browse image created on Dec 13 23:21:48 2000 UTC

MODLAND

MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer)



- Spatial Resolution
 - 250m, 500m, 1km
- Temporal Resolution
 - Daily, 8-day, 16-day, monthly, quarterly, yearly
 - 2000-present
- Data Format
 - Hierarchical data format – Earth Observing System Format (HDF-EOS)



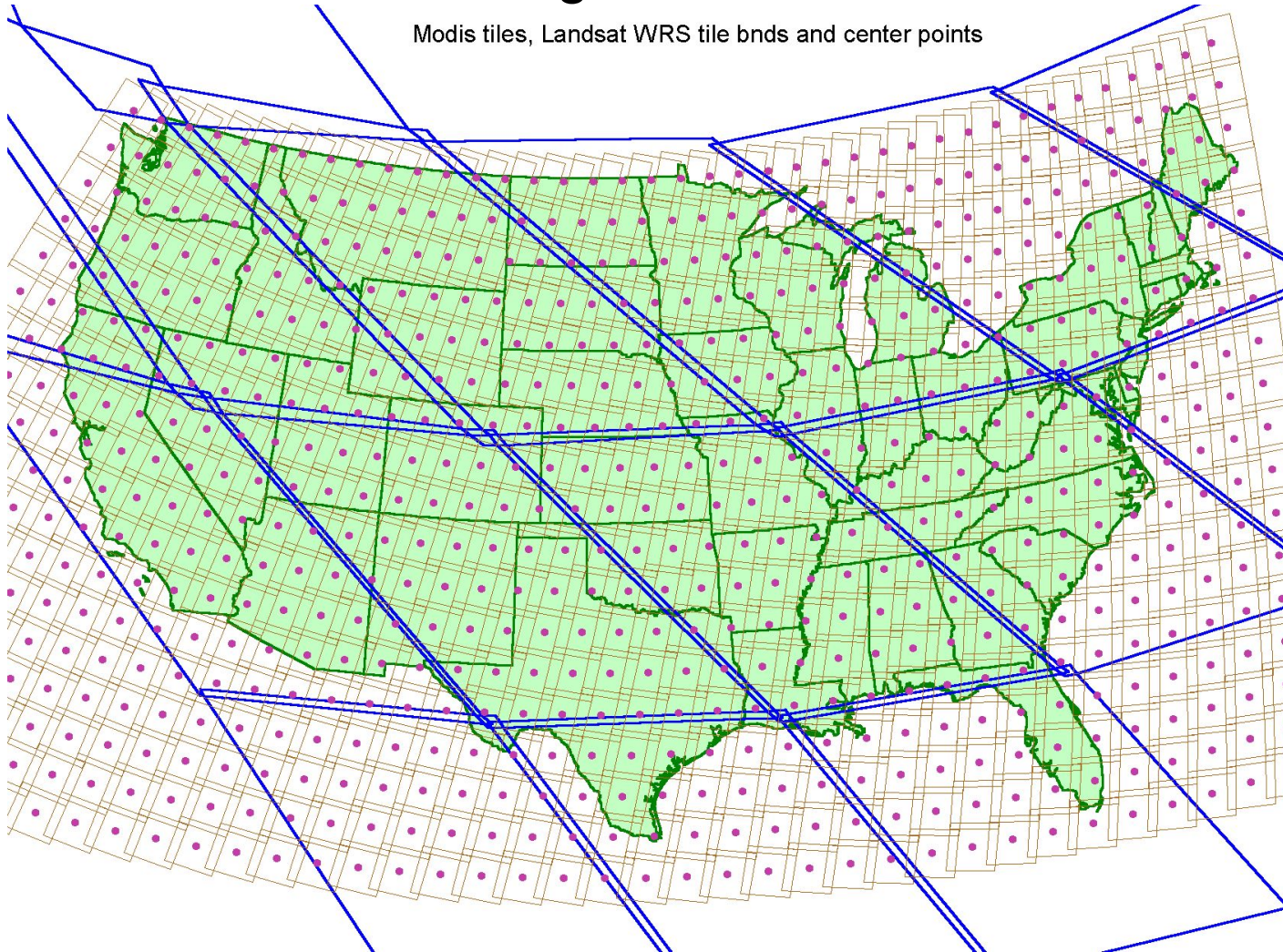
- Spectral Coverage
 - 36 bands (major bands include Red, Blue, IR, NIR, MIR)
 - Bands 1-2: 250m
 - Bands 3-7: 500m
 - Bands 8-36: 1000m
- Orbital gaps

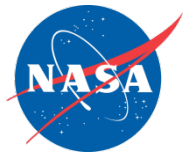


MODIS Tiles vs. Landsat Images

Large swaths!

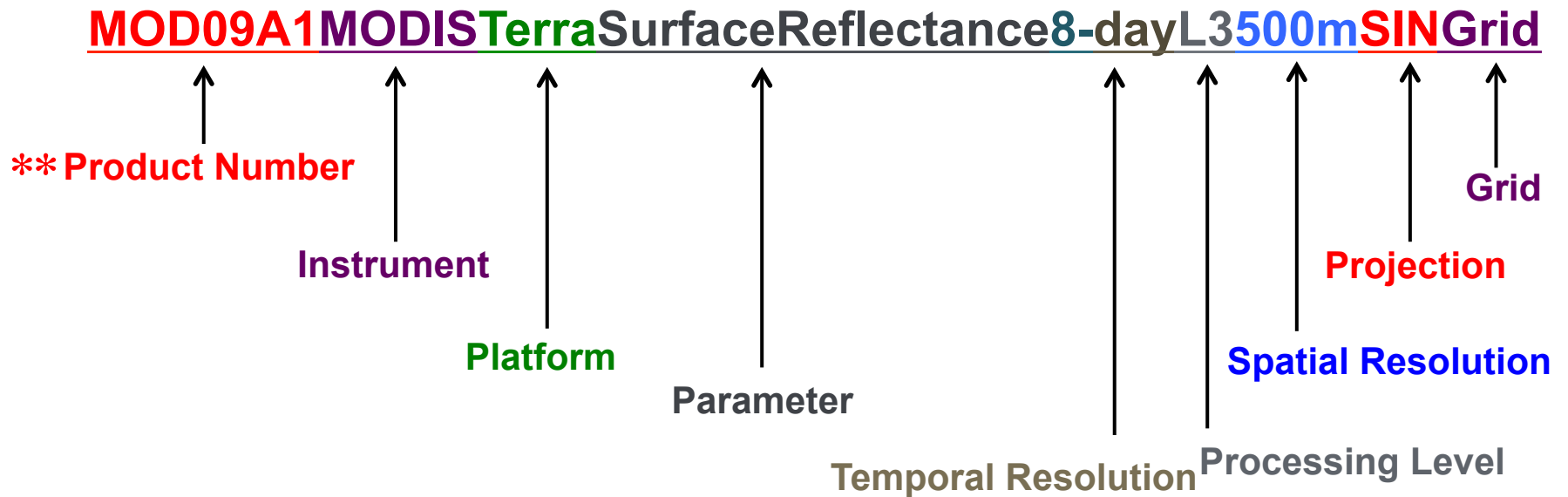
Modis tiles, Landsat WRS tile bnds and center points



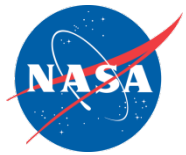


MODIS Naming Convention

MODIS filenames follow a naming convention which gives useful information regarding the specific product. For Example:



****NOTE: MOD – Terra; MYD – Aqua; MCD - Combined**



MODIS Land Products

MODIS Name	Product Name Short name	Spatial Resolution (m)	Temporal
MOD 09	Surface Reflectance	500	8-day
MOD 11	Land Surface Temperature	1000	Daily, 8-day
MOD 12	Land Cover/Change	500	8-day, Yearly
MOD 13	Vegetation Indices	250-1000	16 day, monthly
MOD 14	Thermal Anomalies/Fire	1000	Daily, 8-day
MOD 15	Leaf Area Index/Fraction of Absorbed Photosynthetically Active Radiation (FPAR)	1000	4-day, 8-day
MOD 16	Evapotranspiration		
MOD 17	Primary Production	1000	8-day, yearly
MOD 43	Bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF)/Albedo	500-1000	16-day
MOD 44	Vegetation Continuous Fields	250	yearly
MOD 45	Burned Area	500	monthly

□ All MODIS Land Products are available at processing Level 3

Where to Obtain Information on MODIS (and other) NASA Products



- ❑ Land Processes Distributed Active Archive (LP DAAC)
 - ❑ https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/products/modis_products_table
- ❑ Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS):
 - ❑ <http://Earthdata.nasa.gov>

The screenshot displays the Earthdata.nasa.gov website interface. At the top, there are six circular icons representing different Earth science domains: Atmosphere, Calibrated Radiance and Solar Radiance, Cryosphere, Human Dimensions, Land, and Ocean. Below these icons is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Earthdata News Feeds', 'EOSDIS News', and 'Sensing Our Planet'. The 'EOSDIS News' tab is active, showing a list of news items. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'EOSDIS News Feeds' and 'Events Calendar'. The main content area features several news articles with images and titles, such as 'Making the Most of Earth Science Data: The 2nd Gregory G. Leptoukh Online Giovanni Workshop', 'NASA FIRMS Helps Fight Wildland Fires in Near Real-Time', 'Status of Rapid Response servers', 'Webinar - Know Your Landsat: Understanding and Accessing Landsat Data', 'New Products in the Global Imagery Browse Services', and 'Toolsets for Airborne Data (TAD)'.



Where to Obtain MODIS Products

- ❑ ECHO Reverb
 - ❑ <http://reverb.echo.nasa.gov>
- ❑ Data Subsetting and Visualization: Oakridge National Lab DAAC (ORNL DAAC)
 - ❑ <http://daac.ornl.gov>
- ❑ GLCF
 - ❑ <http://www.landcover.org/data/lc>
- ❑ GLOVIS
 - ❑ <http://glovis.usgs.gov>
- ❑ Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS)
 - ❑ <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/data/near-real-time-data/firms>



Where to Obtain MODIS Products

- ❑ Worldview (Fires, Land Surface Temperature and Snow Cover)
 - ❑ <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/labs/worldview/>
- ❑ Visualization: SERVIR
 - ❑ <https://www.servirglobal.net/Global/MapsData/InteractiveMapper.aspx>
- ❑ MRTWeb
 - ❑ <http://mrtweb.cr.usgs.gov>

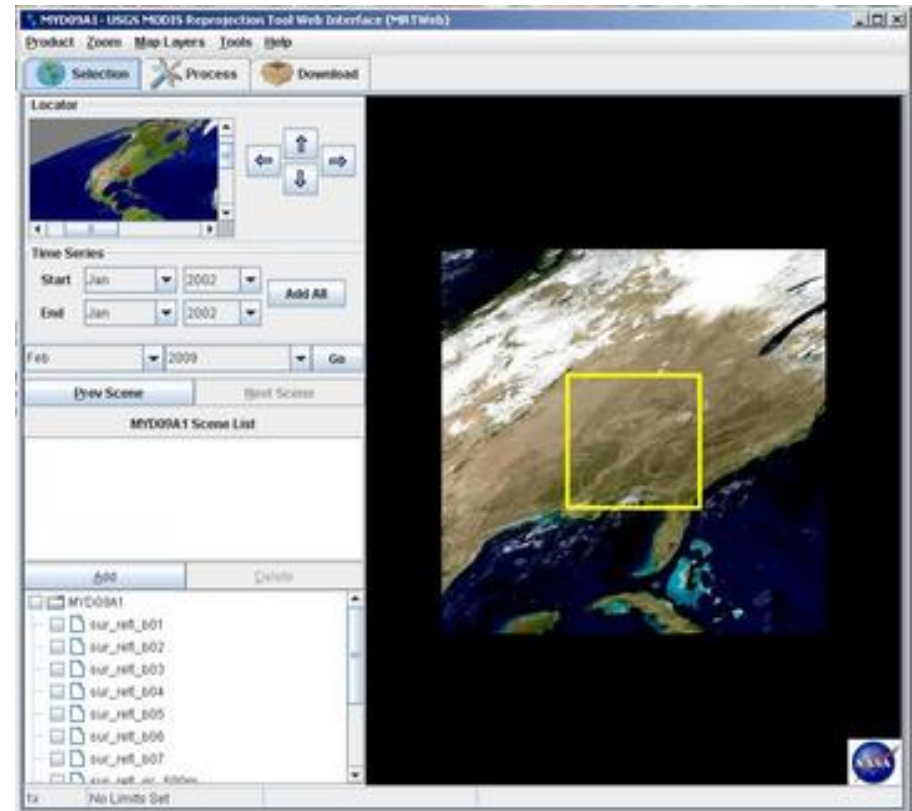


MODIS Reprojection Tool (MRTWeb)

MRTWeb enables you to:

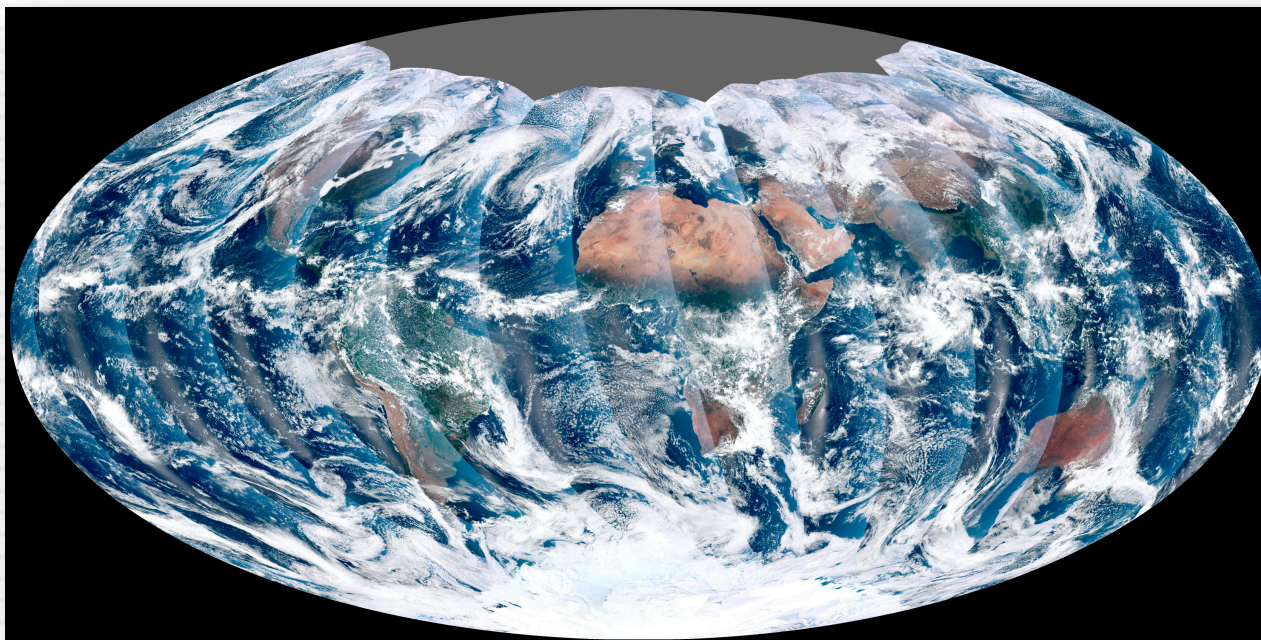
- visualize
- select
- mosaic
- subset
- reproject
- reformat

MODIS Land products

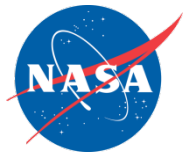


<https://mrtweb.cr.usgs.gov/>

VIIRS



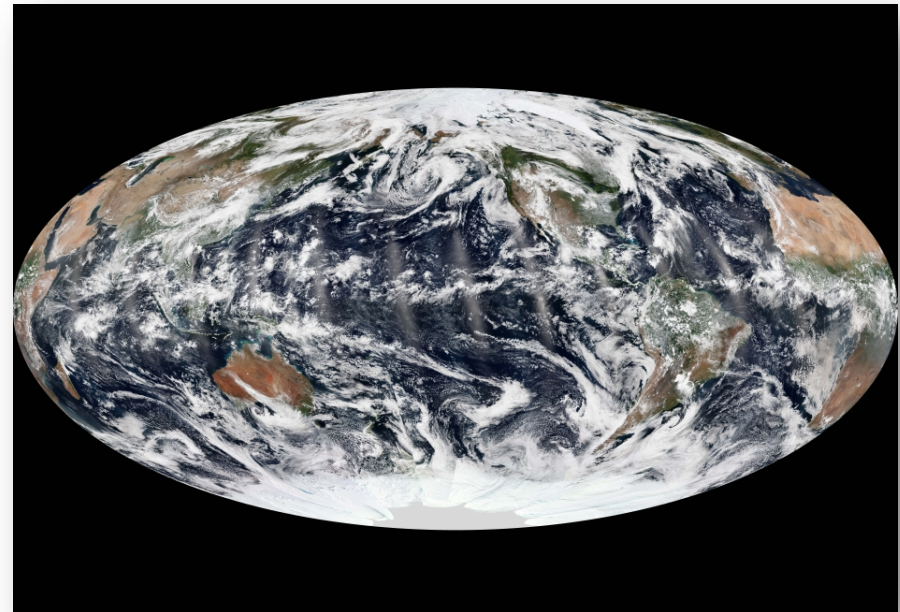
First global image from VIIRS
Source: earthobservatory.nasa.gov



VIIRS

Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite

- ❑ Spatial Resolution
 - ❑ 375 m, 750 m
- ❑ Temporal Resolution
 - ❑ Daily, 8-day, 16-day, monthly, quarterly, yearly (2012-present)
- ❑ Spectral Coverage
 - ❑ 22 bands
 - Major bands include R,B, IR, NIR, MIR
 - “I” bands: 375 m
 - “M” bands: 750 m
 - Day-night band: 800 m
- ❑ No orbital gaps



VIIRS was launched on 28 October, 2011

VIIRS/MODIS Corresponding Spectral Bands

VIIRS Band	Spectral Range (μm)	Nadir HSR (m)	MODIS Band(s)	Spectral Range (μm)	Nadir HSR (m)
DNB	0.500 – 0.900				
M1	0.402 – 0.422	750	8	0.405 – 0.420	1000
M2	0.436 – 0.454	750	9	0.438 – 0.448	1000
M3	0.478 – 0.498	750	3 10	0.459 – 0.479 0.483 – 0.493	500 10000
M4	0.545 – 0.565	750	4 12	0.545 – 0.565 0.546 – 0.556	500 1000
I1	0.600 – 0.680	375	1	0.620 – 0.670	250
M5	0.662 – 0.682	750	13 14	0.662 – 0.672 0.673 – 0.683	1000 1000
M6	0.739 – 0.754	750	15	0.743 – 0.753	1000
I2	0.846 – 0.885	375	2	0.841 – 0.876	250
M7	0.846 – 0.885	750	16 2	0.862 – 0.877 0.841 – 0.876	1000 250
M8	1.230 – 1.250	750	5	SAME	500
M9	1.371 – 1.386	750	26	1.360 – 1.390	1000
I3	1.580 – 1.640	375	6	1.628 – 1.652	500
M10	1.580 – 1.640	750	6	1.628 – 1.652	500
M11	2.225 – 2.275	750	7	2.105 – 2.155	500
I4	3.550 – 3.930	375	20	3.660 – 3.840	1000
M12	3.660 – 3.840	750	20	SAME	1000
M13	3.973 – 4.128	750	21 22	3.929 – 3.989 3.929 – 3.989	1000 1000
M14	8.400 – 8.700	750	29	SAME	1000
M15	10.263 – 11.263	750	31	10.780 – 11.280	1000
I5	10.500 – 12.400	375	31 32	10.780 – 11.280 11.770 – 12.270	1000 1000
M16	11.538 – 12.488	750	32	11.770 – 12.270	1000

MODIS-VIIRS Transition Issues

Spectral characteristics:

- ❑ MODIS and VIIRS bands used for land products have similar but not identical spectral characteristics
- ❑ Tungsten oxide contamination in VIIRS bands I2 and M7

Spatial characteristics:

- ❑ VIIRS has improved spatial resolution at swath edge
- ❑ VIIRS 375m vs. MODIS 250m resolution for VIS/NIR bands

Algorithms:

- ❑ Different sets of standard products (no TOC NDVI EDR)
- ❑ Algorithm changes from MODIS to VIIRS for some standard products
- ❑ Different cloud and aerosol filtering
- ❑ Different compositing periods
- ❑ MODAPS vs. IDPS
- ❑ Differences in gridding
- ❑ Reprocessing not available from IDPS

Data distribution:

- ❑ MODIS data pools vs. NOAA CLASS
- ❑ MODIS products in HDF4, VIIRS products in HDF5

VIIRS Land Products

- ❑ Called “Environmental Data Records” by NOAA
- ❑ Include:
 - ❑ Active fires
 - ❑ Albedo (surface)
 - ❑ Land Surface Temperature
 - ❑ Surface type (not yet produced)
 - ❑ Vegetation index (Top-of-Canopy Enhanced Vegetation Index and Top-of-Atmosphere Normalized Difference Vegetation Index)



Acquiring VIIRS Land Products

<http://www.class.ncdc.noaa.gov/>

NOAA COMPREHENSIVE LARGE ARRAY-DATA STEWARDSHIP SYSTEM (CLASS)
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

» CLASS Home » Login » Register » Help » About CLASS » **RSS**

CLASS Help All NOAA » **SEARCH**

Please select a product to search » **GO**

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User Account

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Advanced Options

- » Download Keys
- » Release Info
- » Version 6.3.3

Image source: Suomi NPP VIIRS

CLASS

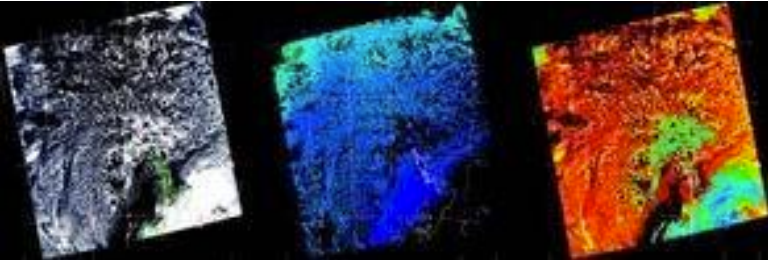
NEWS

Attention Suomi NPP Users:
The most recent global NPP operational products are now available in daily tar files for quick and easy downloads at: <ftp://ftp-npp.class.ngdc.noaa.gov/>. Please see the [NPP help page](#) for instructions. Up to the most recent 85 days of data will be available for direct online access.

SEARCH FOR DATA

- + Environmental Data from Polar-orbiting Satellites
- + Environmental Data from Geostationary Satellites
- + Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP)
- + Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (NPP)
- + Sea Surface Temperature data (SST)
- + RADARSAT
- + Altimetry / Sea Surface Height Data (JASON-2)

Acquiring VIIRS Land Products



LAADS Web

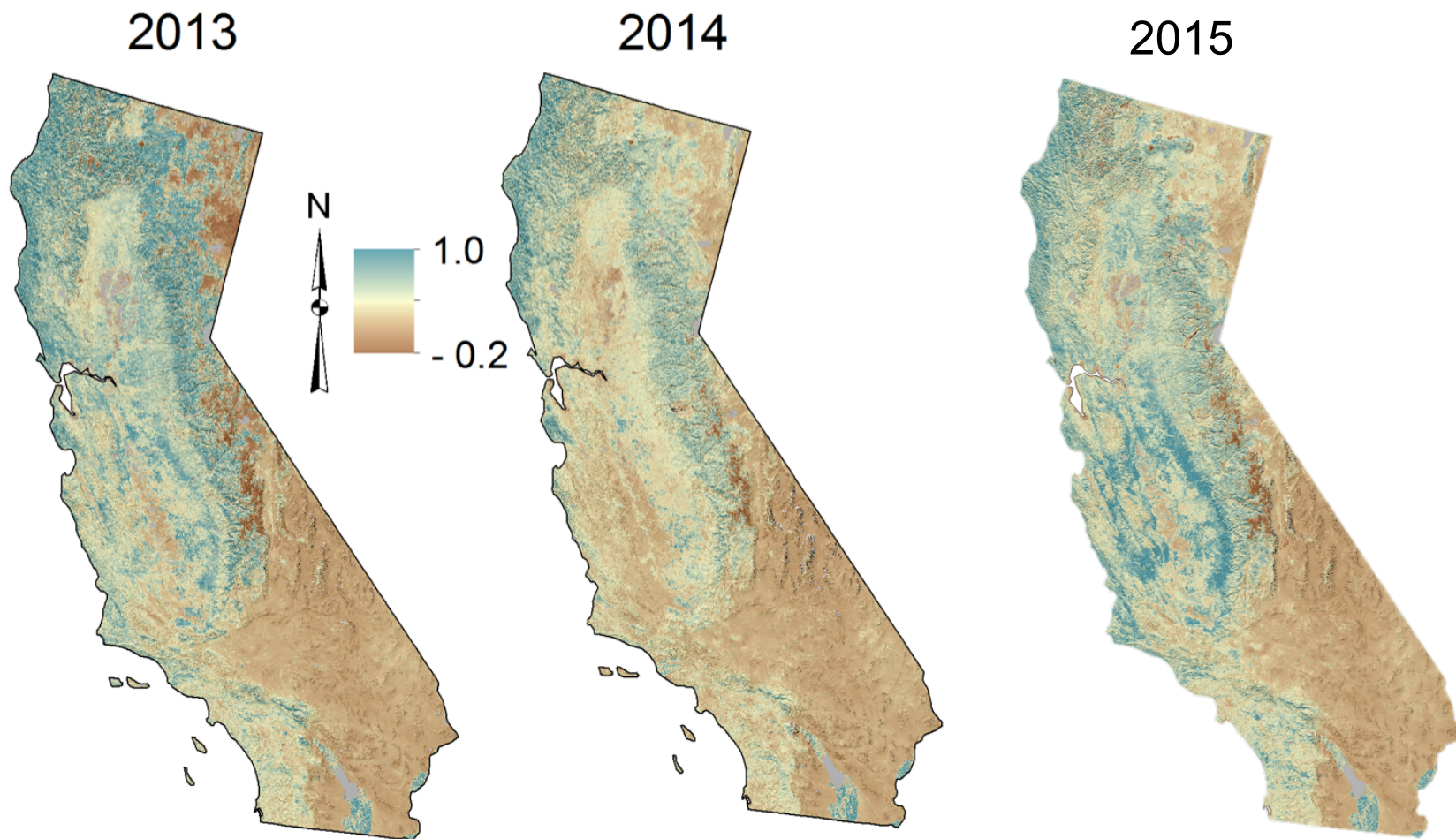
Level 1 and Atmosphere Archive and Distribution System

- ❑ Includes VIIRS products generated by NASA
- ❑ Select “Level 3 tiled products” from Collection 1.1 for the most current products as of September 2015
- ❑ Format is HDF4 (compatible with MODIS products)

www.ladsweb.nascom.nasa.gov/data/search.html

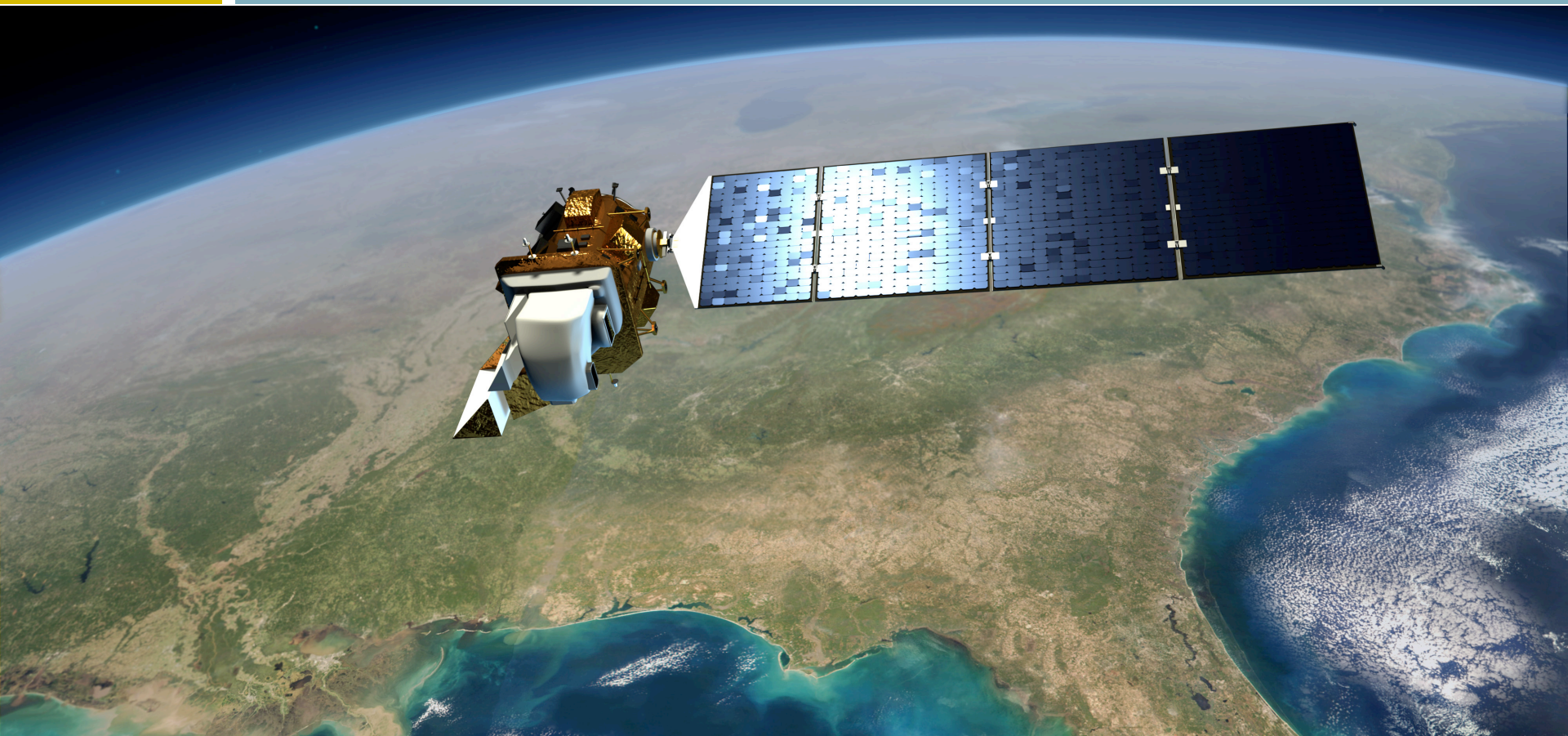


Gridded VIIRS Products from the Land PEATE



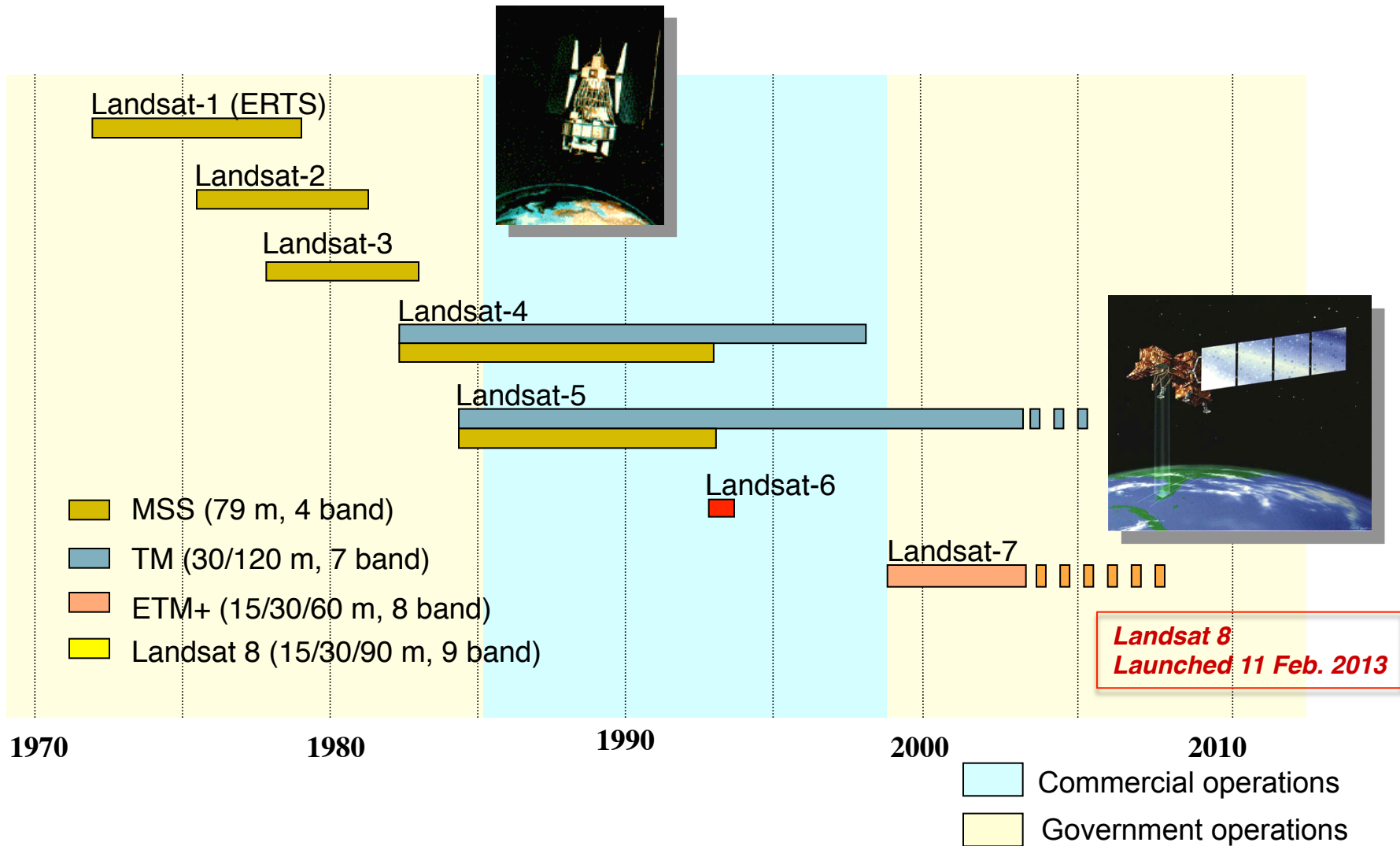
VIIRS top-of-canopy “adjusted” Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI), 16-day composite, first 2 weeks in January

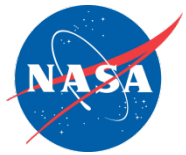
Landsat





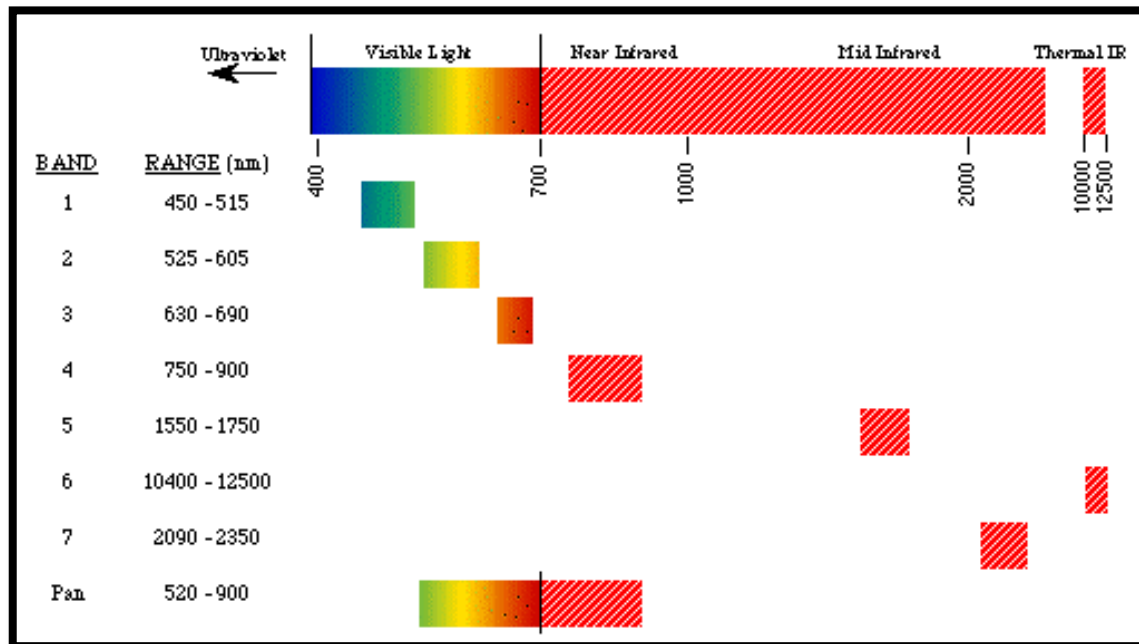
Landsat: 30 Years of Observations





Characteristics of Landsat: Spectral

- ❑ Landsat instruments measure primarily light that is reflected from Earth's surface (with one exception)
- ❑ Landsat instruments are designed to detect visible and infrared (near and mid) wavelengths.



Landsat bands
of ETM+
(Landsat 7)

Source: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



Characteristics of Landsat 4, 5 and 7

Bands	Wavelength (micrometers)	Resolution (m) Landsat 4-5 (TM)	Resolution (m) Landsat 7 (ETM+)
Band 1-Blue	0.45-0.52	30	30
Band 2 Green	0.52-0.60	30	30
Band 3- Red	0.63-0.69	30	30
Band 4-Near Infrared	0.76-0.90	30	30
Band 5- Shortwave Infrared 1	1.55-1.75	30	30
Band 6- Thermal Infrared	10.40-12.50	120	60
Band 7- Shortwave Infrared 2	2.08-2.35	30	30
Band 8-Pan	0.52-0.90	--	15



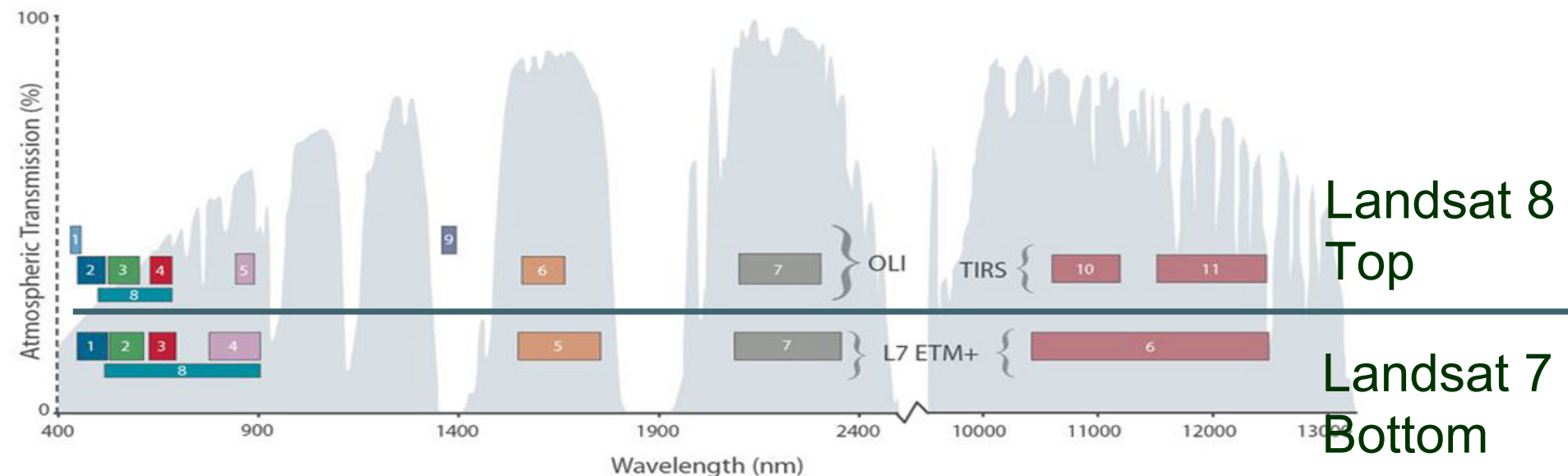
Characteristics of Landsat 8

Bands	Wavelength (micrometers)	Spatial Resolution (meters)
Band 1-Coastal aerosol	0.43-0.45	30
Band 2- Blue	0.45-0.51	30
Band 3- Green	0.53-0.59	30
Band 4- Red	0.64-0.67	30
Band 5- Near Infrared	0.85-0.88	30
Band 6- SWIR 1	1.57-1.65	30
Band 7- SWIR 2	2.11-2.29	30
Band 8-Panchromatic	0.50-0.68	15
Band 9-Cirrus	1.36-1.38	30
Band 10- Thermal Infrared 1	10.60-11.19	100*
Band 11- Thermal Infrared 2	11.50-12.51	100*

* Resampled to 30 meters



Landsat 7 vs. Landsat 8



Bandpass wavelengths for Landsat 8 OLI and TIRS sensor, compared to Landsat 7 ETM+ sensor
Note: atmospheric transmission values for this graphic were calculated using MODTRAN for a summertime mid-latitude hazy atmosphere (circa 5 km visibility).

Landsat bands are shown on Atmospheric Windows



Where to Obtain Landsat Images

The LandsatLook Viewer

<http://landsatlook.usgs.gov>

GloVis

<http://glovis.usgs.gov>

Global Land Cover Facility

<http://glcf.umd.edu/data/landsat>

Earth Explorer

<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>

Where to Obtain Landsat Images and Products



WELD

WELD: WEB - ENABLED LANDSAT DATA

USGS Home
Contact USGS
Search USGS

Available Years:

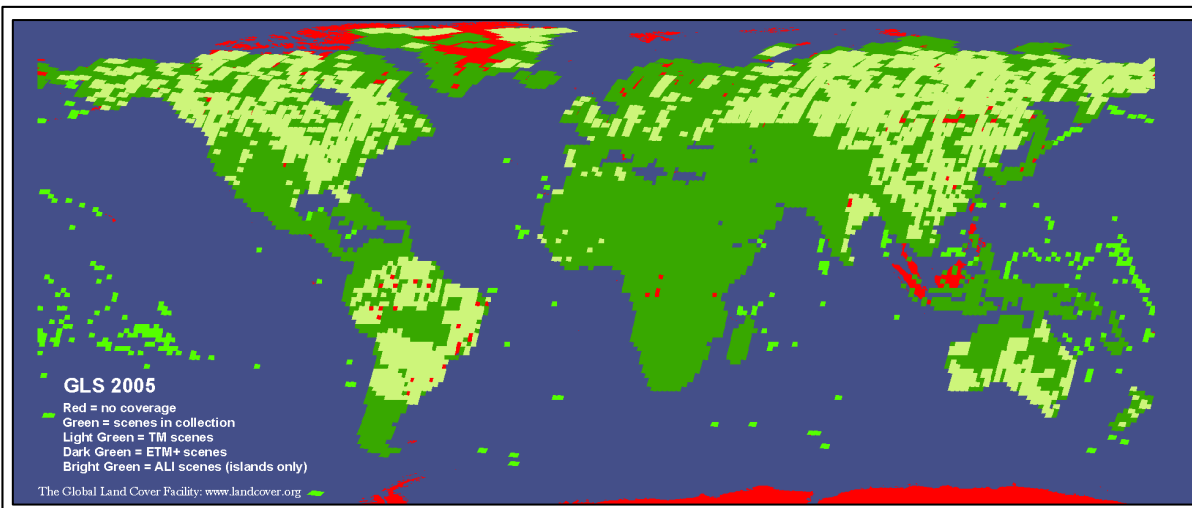
CONUS

Alaska

<http://weld.cr.usgs.gov>
<http://globalweld.cr.usgs.gov>

Landsat Global Archive Consolidation (USGS)

http://landsat.usgs.gov/Landsat_Global_Archive_Consolidation.php



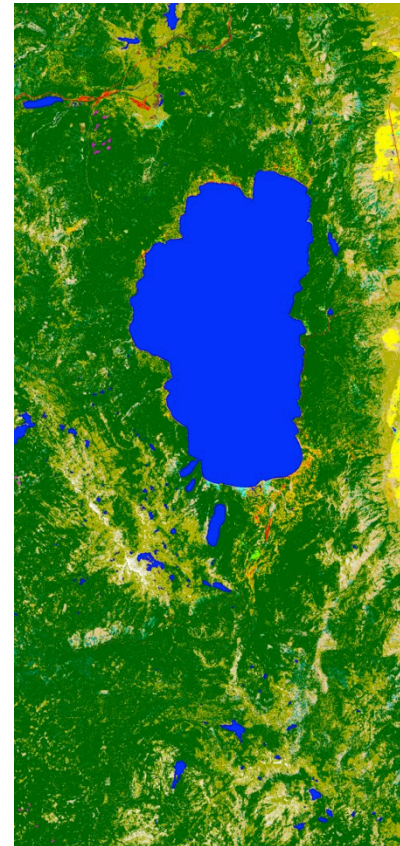
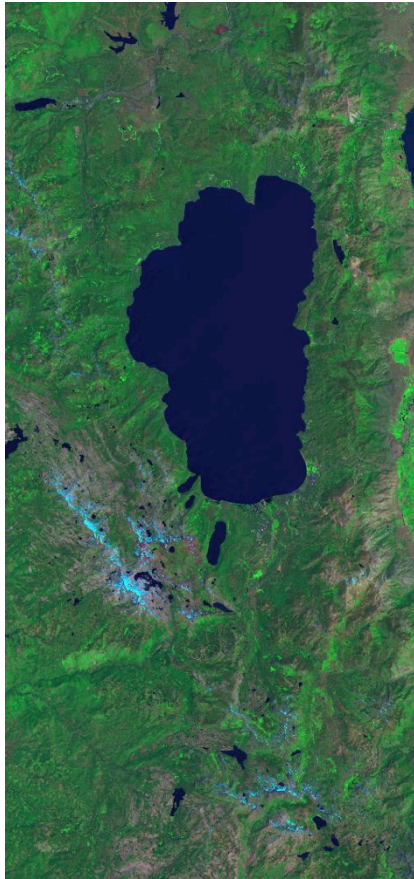
- Global Land Survey
- Not a data portal, but a global collection of cloud free Landsat images from 1975-2008.
- Time series include (GLS 1975, GLS 1990, GLS 2000, GLS 2005, GLS 2010)
- **Acquire GLS datasets through Earth Explorer, GloVis, and GLCF**



Land Cover Mapping



Turning Data Into Information: Land Cover Maps

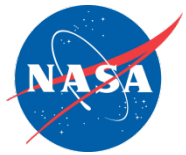


NATIONAL LAND COVER DATASET

- Open Water
- Ice and Snow
- Low Intensity Residential
- High Intensity Residential
- Commercial/Industrial/Transportation
- Bare Rock/Sand/Clay
- Quarries
- Transitional
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Shrubland
- Orchard/Vineyard
- Grassland/Herbaceous
- Pasture / Hay
- Row Crops
- Small Grains
- Fallow
- Urban Recreational Grasses
- Woody Wetlands
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands

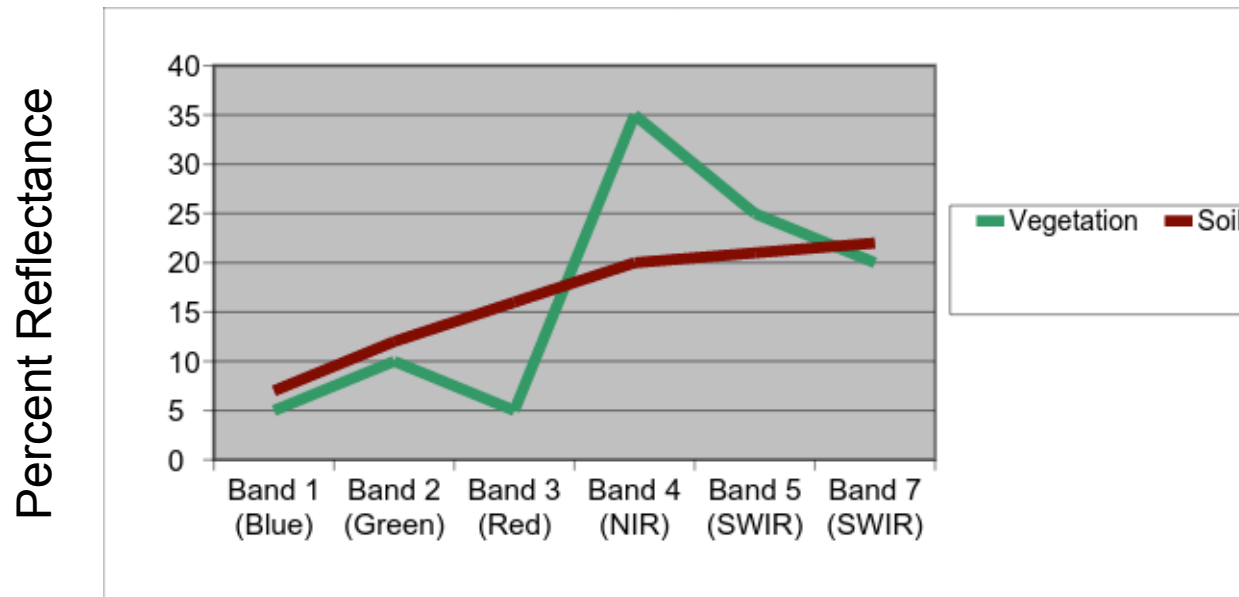
Landsat Image of Lake Tahoe

Landcover map of Lake Tahoe



Land Cover Mapping Basics

Remember that objects on the ground reflect electromagnetic radiation differently

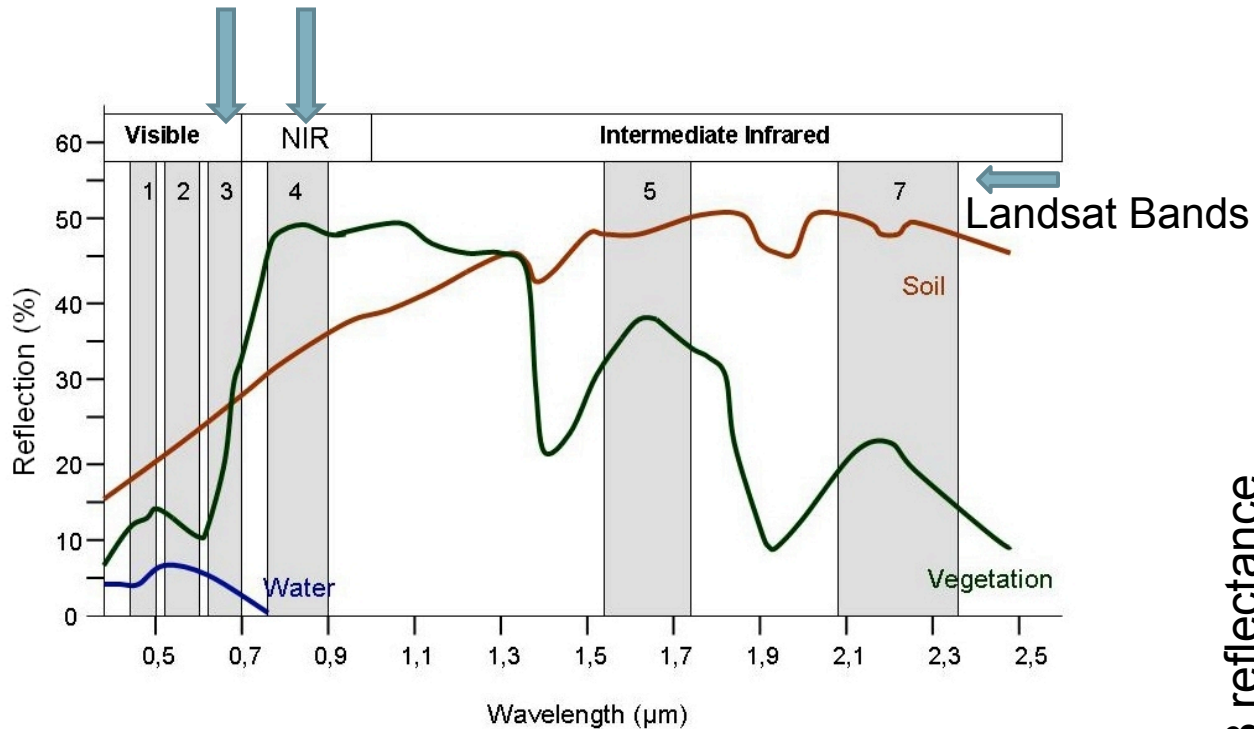


Landsat Bands (wavelength)

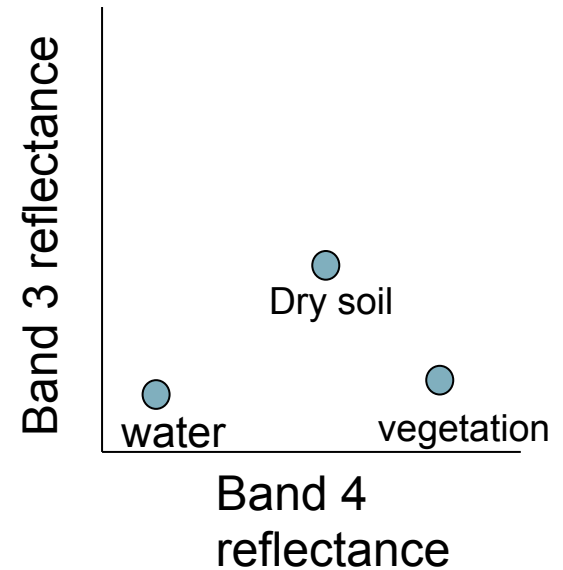
That is called the object's “**spectral signature**”



Land Cover Mapping Basics



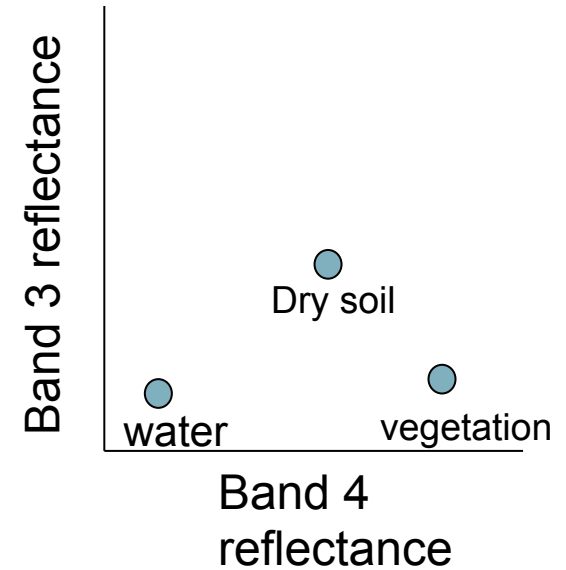
Now we will look at the spectral signatures a little differently by plotting Band 3 (Red) vs. Band 4 (NIR) reflectance values








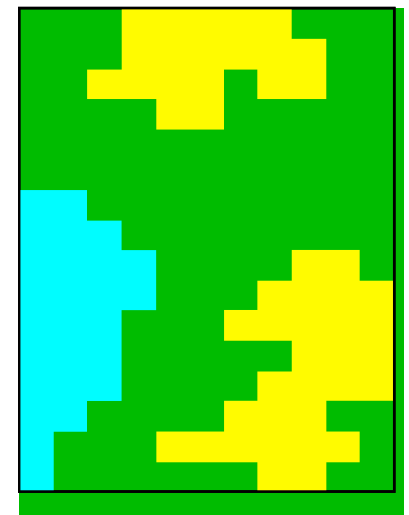
Land Cover Mapping Basics

- Using **Image Processing software**, image classification involves using n number of bands, not just 2.
- You specify the number of land cover classes that are in your study area.
- There are many methods, but two common ones are **Supervised** and **Unsupervised** classification



Legend:

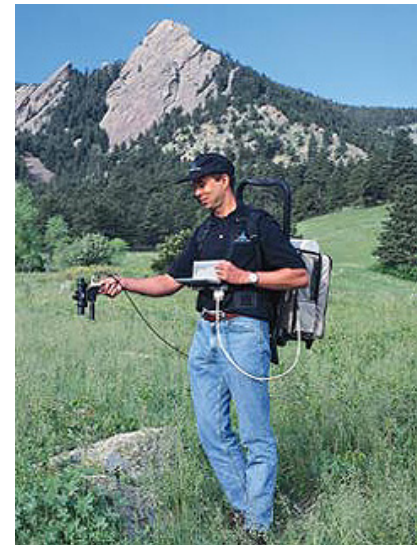
-  Water
-  Vegetation
-  Dry soil





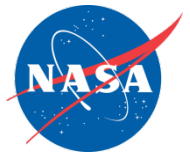
Land Cover Mapping Basics

- ❑ Common question: Can you distinguish between different vegetation types?
- ❑ Answer: It depends.
 - ❑ Green vegetation is very spectrally similar
 - ❑ Possible solutions:
 - Hyperspectral imagers
 - Ancillary information: elevation, slope, aspect
 - Field work (spectroradiometer)





Land Cover Products



Landsat Derived Land Cover Products

❑ **United States**

- ❑ National Land Cover Database (NLCD)
- ❑ GAP Analysis
- ❑ LANDFIRE

❑ **Global**

- ❑ Global Land Cover Network (FAO)
- ❑ Forest Change Products (Amazon Basin, Central Africa, Paraguay) and Landsat Tree Cover (GLCF)

National Land Cover Database (NLCD)



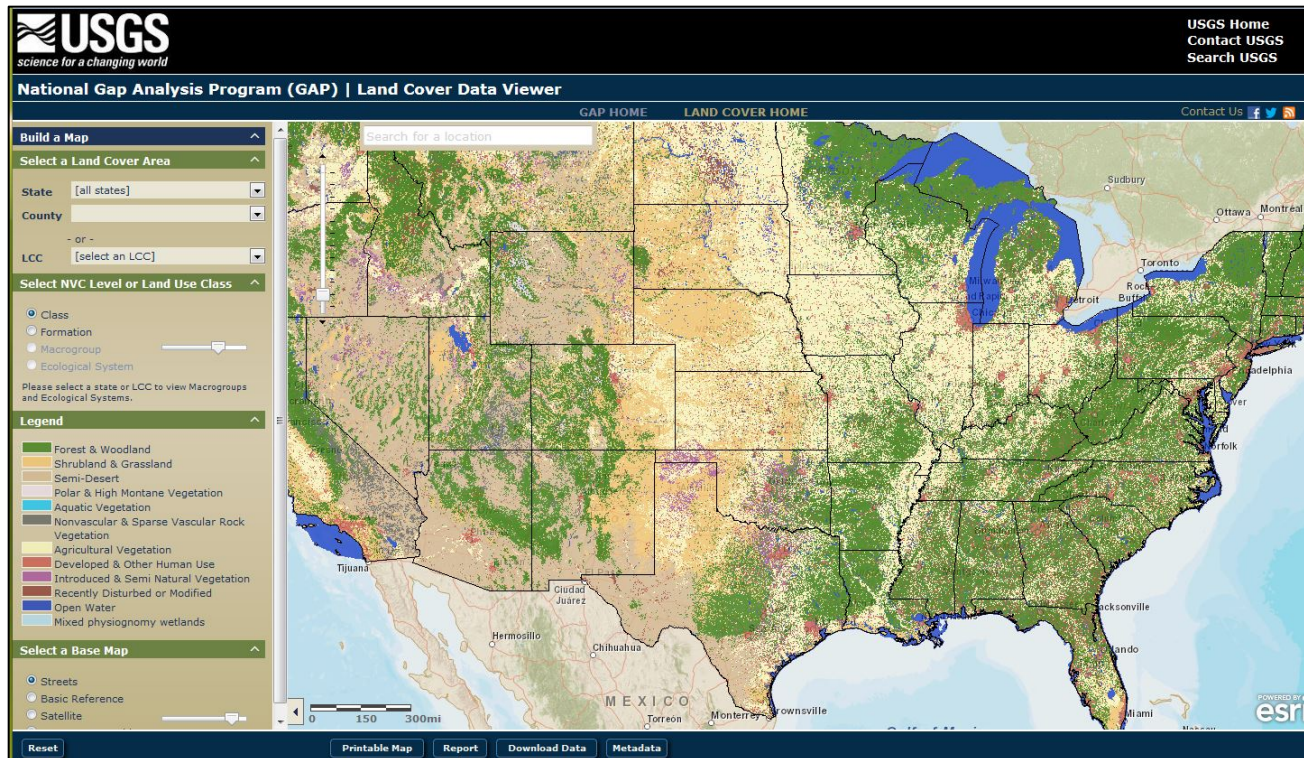
http://www.mrlc.gov/nlcd11_data.php

- ❑ Supported by the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristic Consortium (MLRC)
- ❑ Provides National Land Cover Mapping products at 30m resolution for 1992, 2001, 2006 and 2011.
- ❑ 16 class Land Cover classification scheme of the entire U.S. (modified from The Anderson Level 2 Classification System)
- ❑ Other NLCD Mapping products include: Land Cover Change, Percent Tree Canopy, and Percent Developed Imperviousness (1992, 2001, 2006)



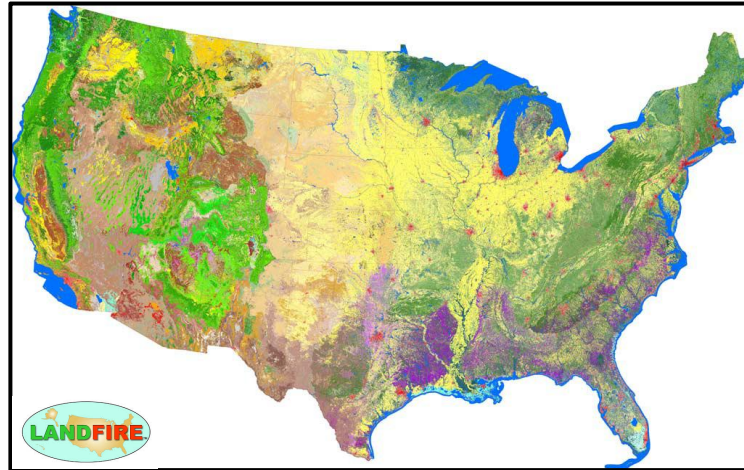
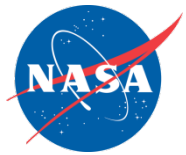
National Gap Analysis Program

<http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov>



- ❑ Land cover maps
- ❑ Species distribution maps
- ❑ Land stewardship/protected areas

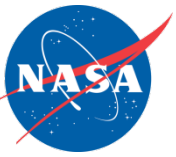
LANDFIRE (Interagency partnership between USFS and USGS)



<http://www.landfire.gov>

Products: Delivered at 30 m spatial resolution

- **Vegetation data layers** using Landsat imagery from 1999 - present
 - Current and historic vegetation composition and structure of the entire U.S.
- **Fuel and Fire Regime data layers**
 - Fire behavior and fuel loading models for entire U.S. 1999 -present
- **Disturbance data**
 - Fuel, vegetation, natural, and prescribed disturbance by type and year 1999-present



FAO Global Land Cover-SHARE (GLC-SHARE)

http://www.glcn.org/databases/lc_glcshare_en.jsp

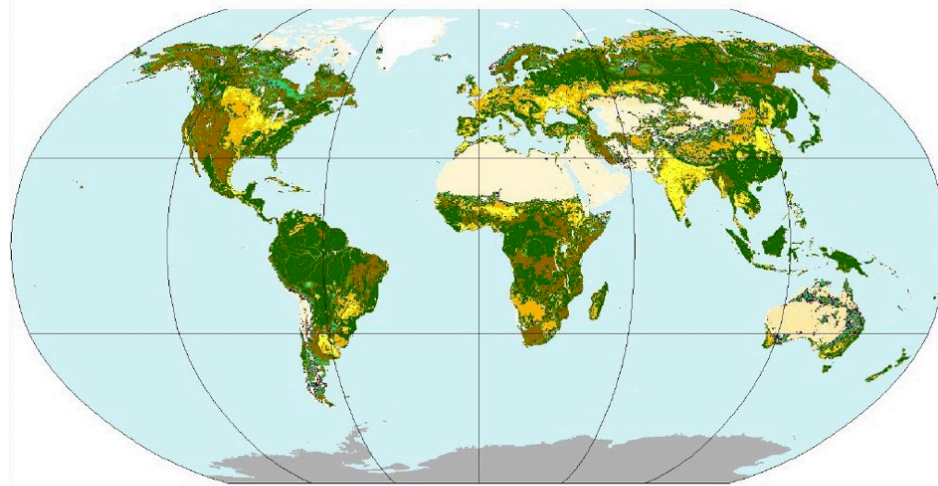
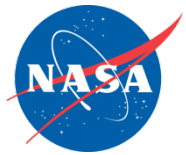


Figure 3 – Distribution of dominant GLC-SHARE Land Cover Database.

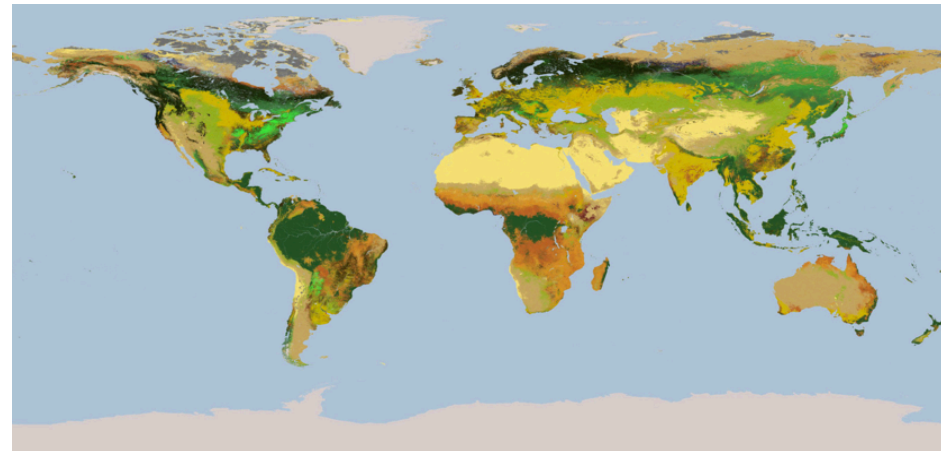


- GLC-SHARE combines “best available” high resolution national, regional and/or subnational land cover databases
- Produced with a resolution of 30 arc-second (~ 1 sq. km.)
- 11 land cover classes
- Beta-release 1.0

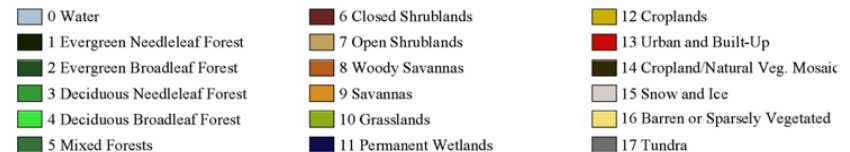


MODIS Land Products: Land Cover (MCD12Q1)

- Yearly 500 meter product
- Primary Land Cover Type Scheme: International Geosphere Biosphere Program (IGBP) global vegetation classification scheme
 - 11 vegetation classes
 - 3 developed classes
 - 3 non-vegetated classes



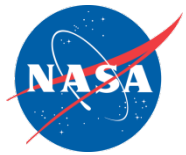
<http://reverb.echo.nasa.gov/>



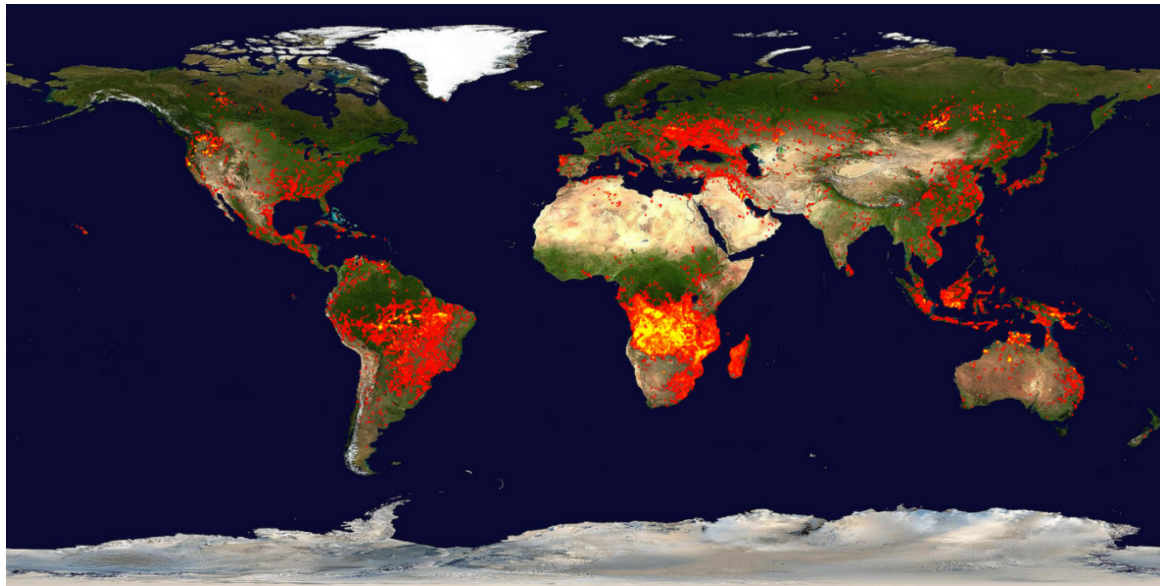


Fire Detection Products

MODIS Fire Products: Near Real-Time Thermal Anomalies/Fire Locations



- ❑ Provides snapshots of active burning fires and burned areas
- ❑ The Active Fire product delivers actively burning locations on a daily basis at 1km resolution (additional 8 day and monthly products)
- ❑ Represents the center of a 1km pixel that is flagged by the algorithm as containing one or more fires within the pixel
- ❑ The Thermal Anomalies product detects other thermal anomalies such as volcanic signatures



**Global Fire Map
(August 9 – August
18, 2015)**

Color ranges from red where the fire count is low to yellow where the number of fires is large.

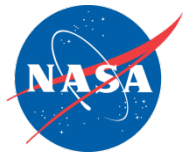
NASA: Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS)



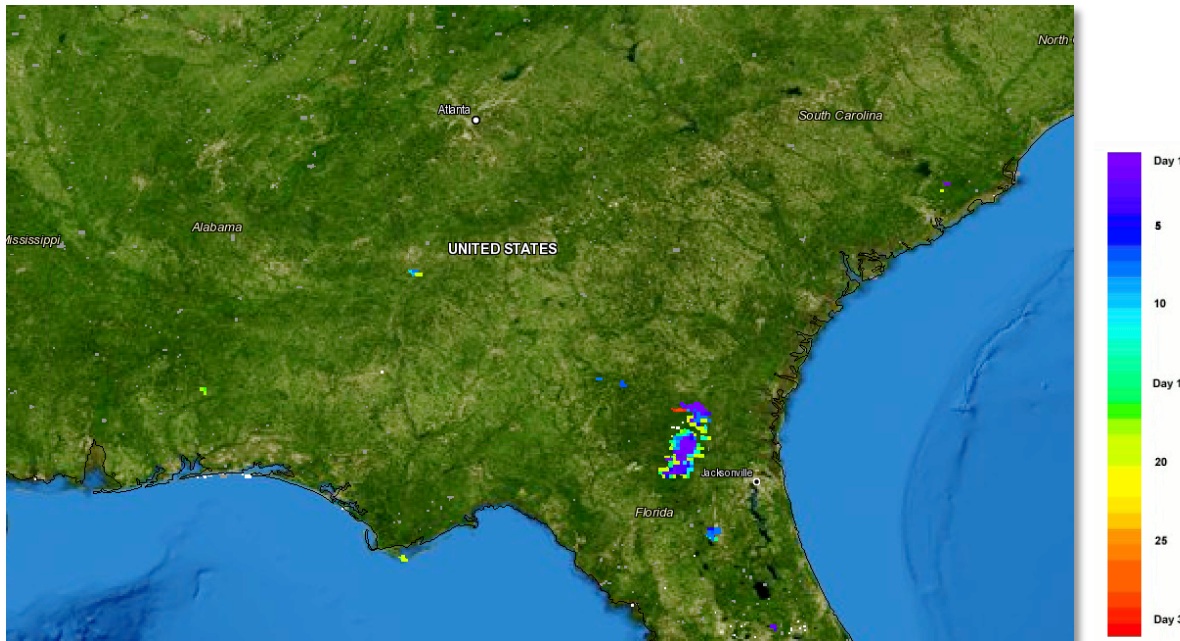
- ❑ Delivers global MODIS hotspots/fire locations and MODIS burned area images
- ❑ Provides historical data (older than 7 days) using the Archive Download Tool
- ❑ Available in various formats:
 - ❑ Email alerts
 - ❑ Download in GIS-friendly format
 - ❑ Visualize in **Web Fire Mapper** or **Worldview**

<https://earthdata.nasa.gov/earth-observation-data/near-real-time/firms>

MODIS Land Products: Burned Area (MCD45A1)



- ❑ The combined Terra & Aqua MODIS Burned Area Product is a monthly gridded 500m product
- ❑ MODIS detects the approximate date of burning at 500m resolution
- ❑ Maps include the spatial extent of recent fires
- ❑ For more information: <http://modis-fire.umd.edu>



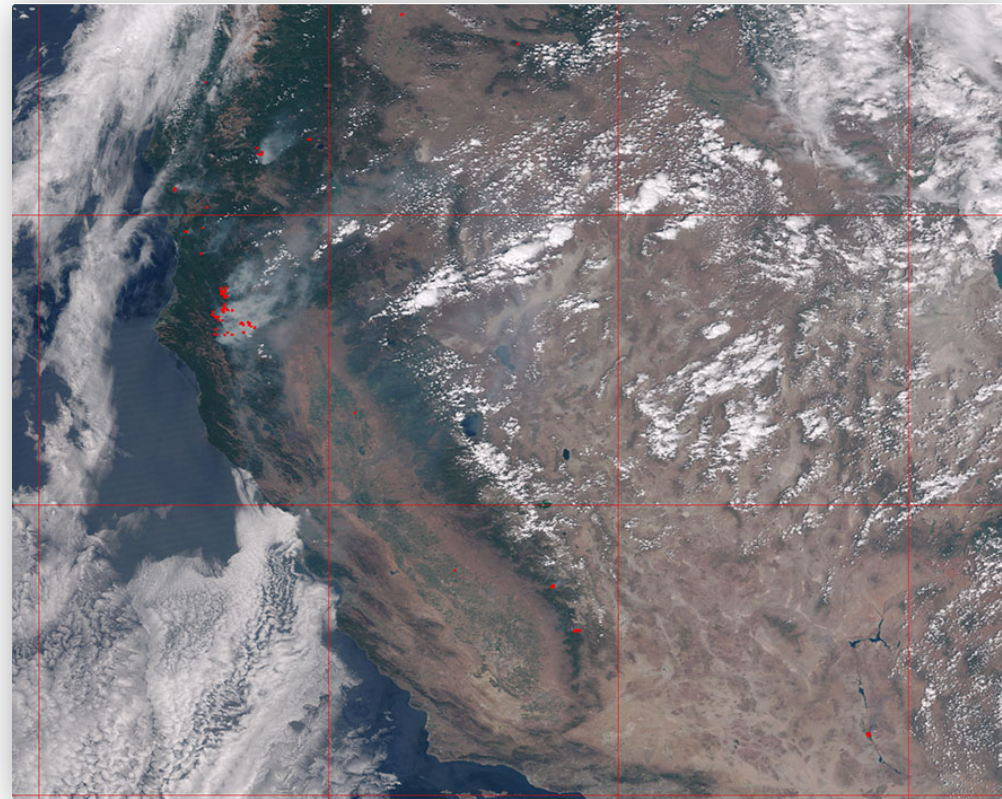
This image shows the extent of the Bugaboo Scrub fire that occurred from April to June 2007 in Georgia and Florida

The colors represent the approximate day of the burning between April and May 2007

VIIRS Active Fire Product

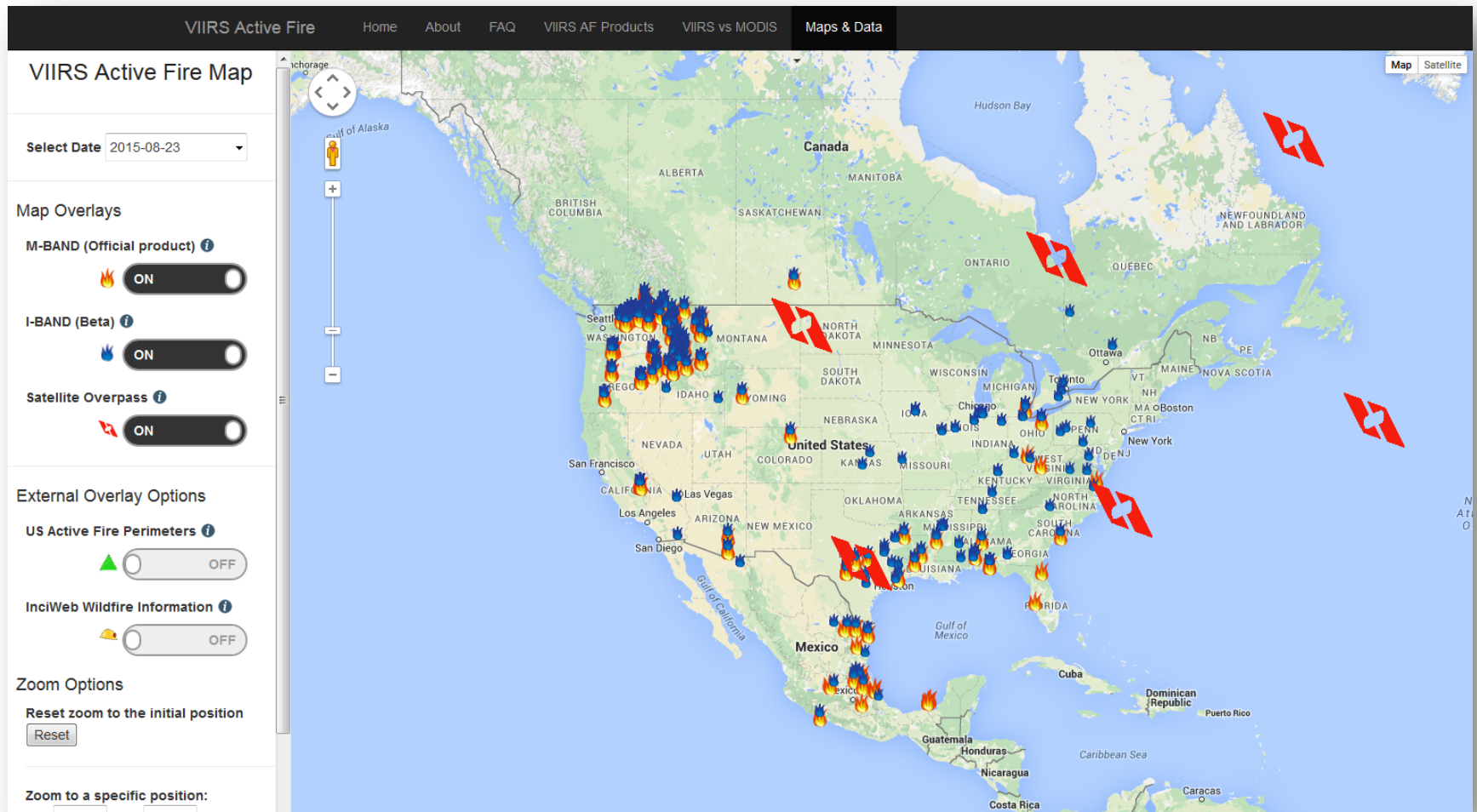
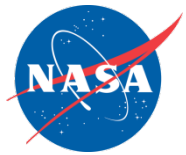


- ❑ The Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) sensor was launched on October 28, 2011.
- ❑ The VIIRS active fire product was released to the public on October 22, 2012
- ❑ Spatial resolution: 750m (M-band)
- ❑ Data are still preliminary (i.e. Beta) and continue to undergo evaluation and calibration
- ❑ Current research: develop active fire product at 350 meter (I-band)



Northern California fires 2015

VIIRS Active Fire Map (CONUS)



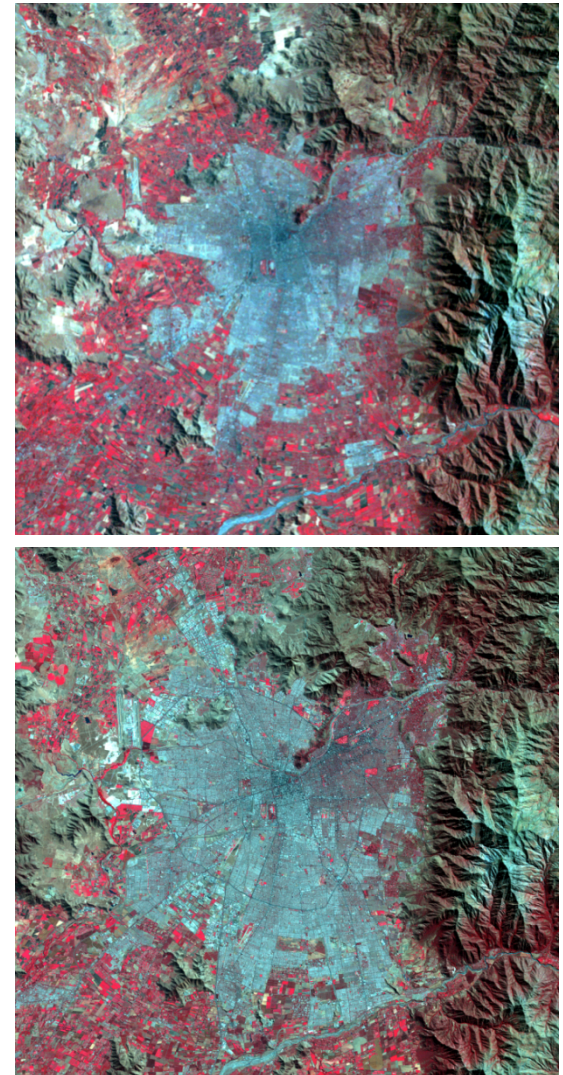
http://viirsfire.geog.umd.edu/map/map_v2.php



Detecting Land Cover Change

What is Change Detection?

- The comparison of information about an area on the earth over two or more points in time.
 - Where and when has change taken place?
 - How much change, and what type of change has occurred?
 - What are the cycles and trends in the change?



Santiago, Chile urban growth from 1975 to 2013 from Landsat
Source: earthshots.usgs.gov

Change Detection Applications

- ❑ Deforestation (humans) assessment
- ❑ Forest disturbance (wildfire, insects or pathogens) assessment
- ❑ Vegetation phenology
- ❑ Urban growth
- ❑ Etc.....



Bark beetle infestation in Colorado between 2005 and 2011

Source: earthobservatory.nasa.gov



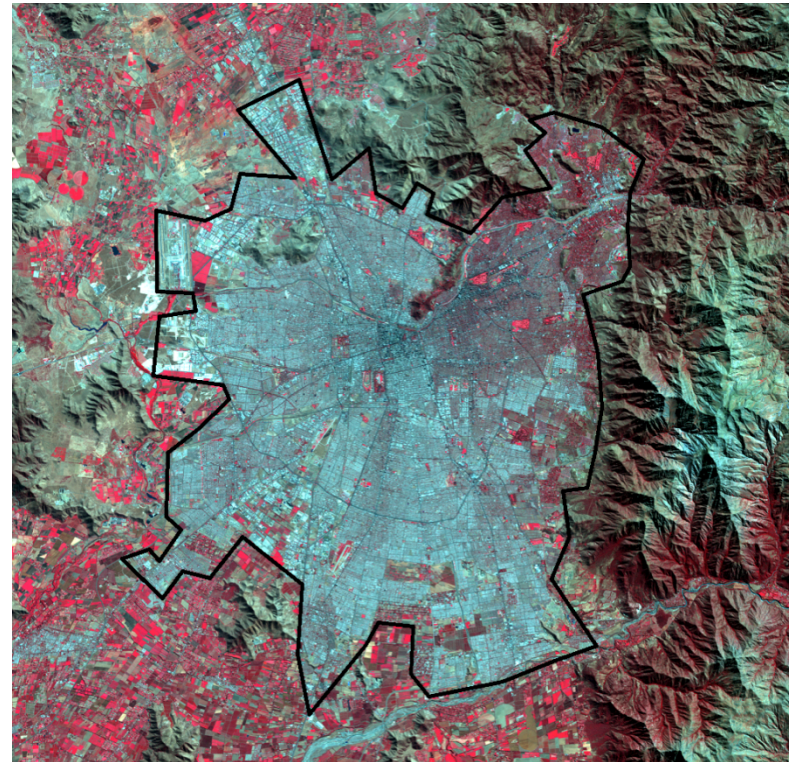
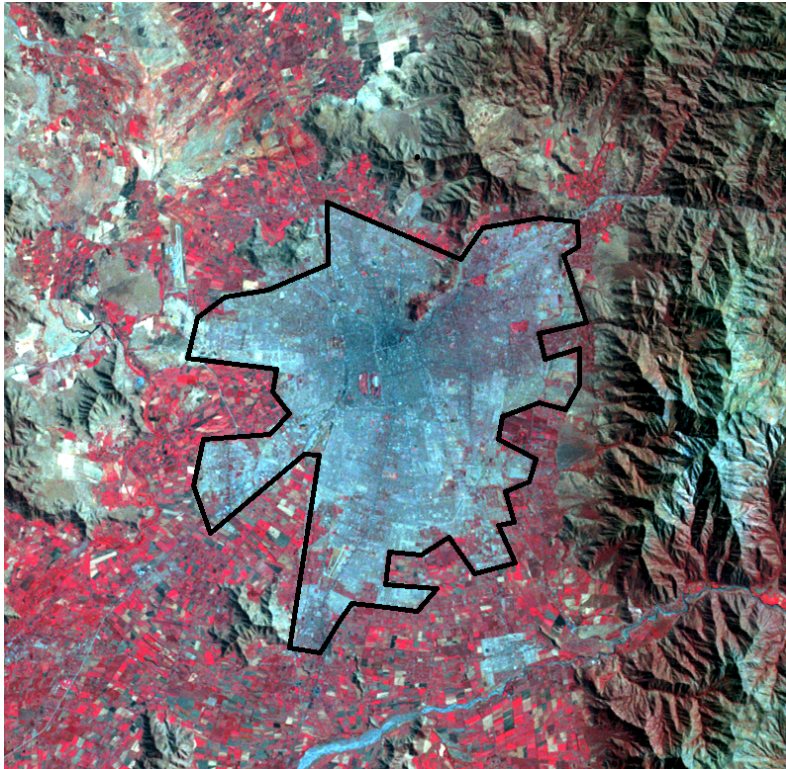
Change Detection Methods

- ❑ Visual Analysis
- ❑ Classification Approaches
- ❑ Image Differencing
- ❑ New Developments: Temporal Trajectories



Change Detection: Visual Analysis

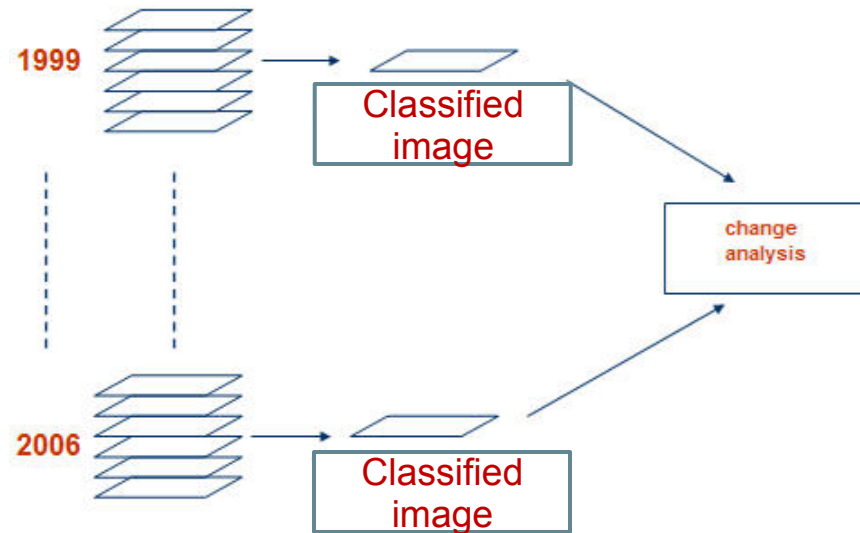
- Heads-up digitizing
- Need GIS or Image Processing software



*Santiago, Chile urban growth from 1975 to 2013 from Landsat
Source: earthshots.usgs.gov*

Change Detection: Traditional Processing Methods

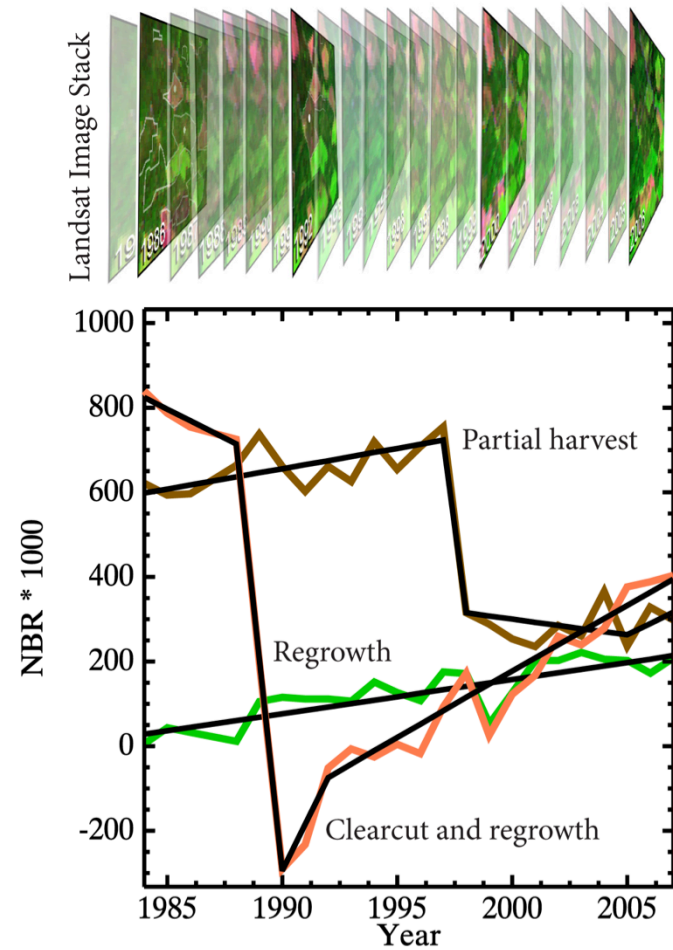
- ❑ Two dates of imagery (i.e. 5 to 10 years apart)
 - ❑ Image subtraction
 - ❑ Image classification
- ❑ Need:
 - ❑ GIS or image processing software
 - ❑ Ability to interpret change
 - ❑ Precise registration of images



Change Detection Methods: Recent Developments



- New methods (such as Landtrendr and Vegetation Change Tracker) take advantage of the entire Landsat archive (1985-current) by using an annual time series to look at changes/trends
- What comes from Landtrendr:
 - Magnitude of change: 1-100% tree cover loss
 - Duration: 1-25 years
 - Year of onset of disturbance

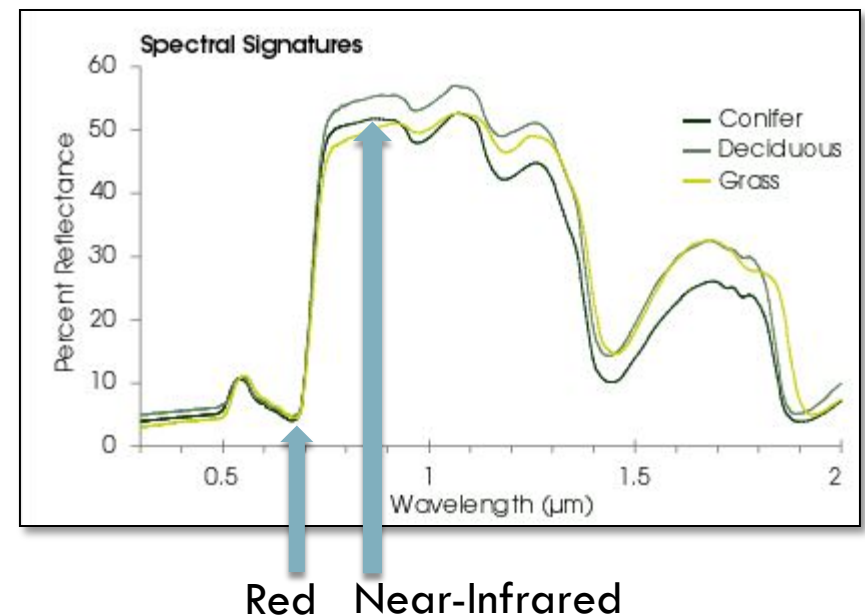
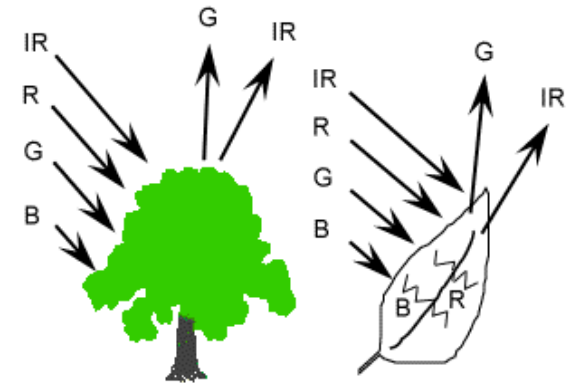


A horizontal decorative bar at the top of the slide, consisting of a yellow rectangular section on the left and a teal rectangular section on the right.

NDVI and Phenology

What is NDVI?

- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
 - Based on the relationship between red and near-infrared wavelengths.
 - Chlorophyll strongly absorbs visible (red)
 - Plant structure strongly reflects near-infrared



What is NDVI?

- NDVI formula:
$$\frac{\text{Near-Infrared} - \text{Red}}{\text{Near-Infrared} + \text{Red}}$$
- Values range from -1.0 to 1.0
 - Negative values to 0 mean no green leaves
 - Values close to 1 indicates the highest possible density of green leaves.

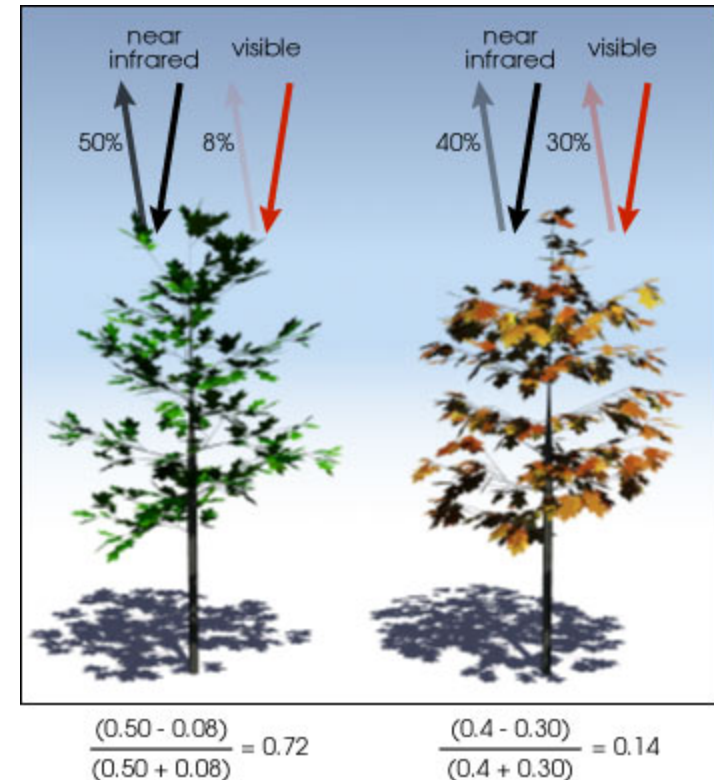


Image Credit: Robert Simmon

NDVI Example

This is Landsat NDVI image of the Panama Canal watershed

The darker green the area, the higher the NDVI value, the more green vegetation is present

This image was acquired in March 2000 during Panama's annual dry season.

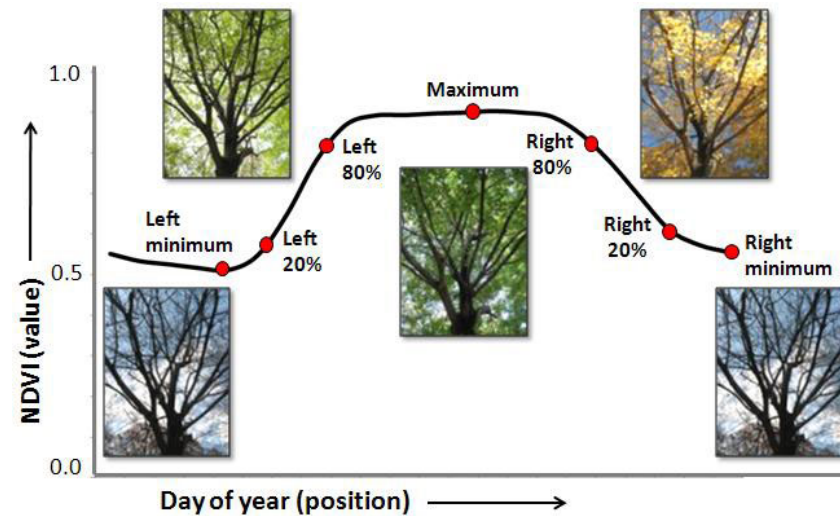


Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)
-0.1 0.1 0.3 0.5 0.7 0.9

Source: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>

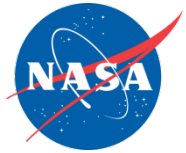
NDVI: Phenology

- Remote sensing is used to track the seasonal changes in vegetation
- Monthly NDVI images from MODIS or Landsat can be used to monitor phenology



Credit: spacegrant.montana.edu

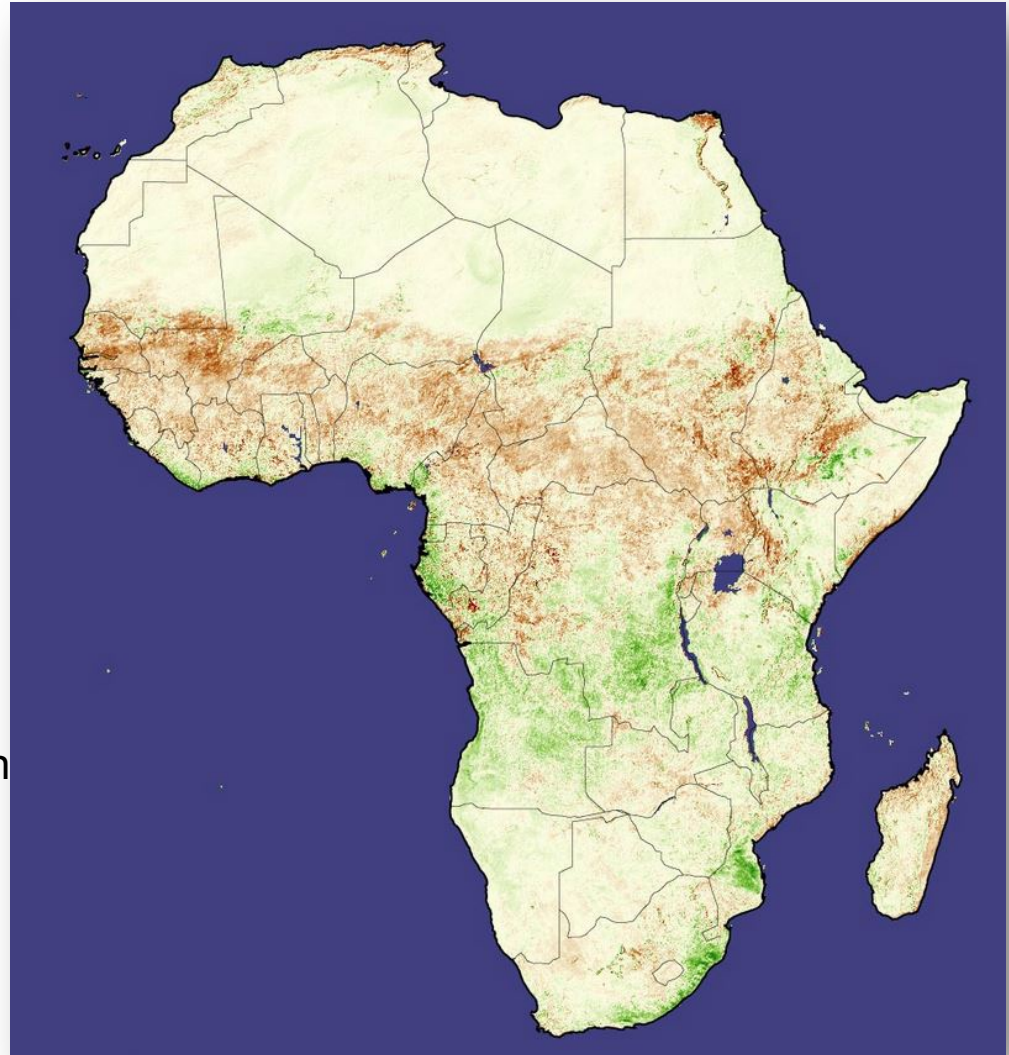
North America NDVI images in winter and summer



NDVI: Drought monitoring

Areas affected by drought can be detected by calculating the difference in NDVI between a single year and a multi-year average

This is a September 2002 NDVI anomaly image for Africa. Brown areas represent areas where vegetation density is less than previously observed and the green represents where vegetation is more dense.

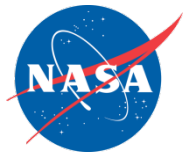


Credit: NASA MODIS

What is EVI?

- ❑ Enhanced Vegetation Index (MOD13Q1) – only from MODIS
 - ❑ Maintains sensitivity over dense vegetation conditions
 - ❑ Uses the blue band to remove residual atmosphere contamination caused by smoke and sub-pixel thin clouds





MODIS NDVI and EVI

Composite	Spatial Resolution	Terra	Aqua
16-day	250 m	MOD13Q1	MYD13Q1
16-day	500 m	MOD13A1	MYD13A1
16-day	1km	MOD13A2	MYD13A2
16-day	.05 deg (~5.5 km)	MOD13C1	MYD13C1
Monthly	1km	MOD13A3	MYD13A3
Monthly	.05 deg (~5.5 km)	MOD13C2	MYD13C2

<http://reverb.echo.nasa.gov>

<https://mrtweb.cr.usgs.gov>



Example: EVI and Locusts in Africa

http://iridl.Ideo.columbia.edu/maproom/Food_Security/Locusts/Regional/MODIS/

IRI Food Security Locusts MODIS Analysis Tool Region West Africa Variable EVI Spatially Average Over 11x11 km box Language english

Description Dataset Documentation Dataset Contact Us Instructions

MODIS Analysis Tool

The images on this page are derived from The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) sensor at 250m spatial resolution provided every 16 days. This interface facilitates access to estimates of vegetation from MODIS images provided by the United States Geological Survey. Images are available for West Africa, East Africa, and Southwest Asia.

The interface allows users to select desired vegetation variables for a desired region using spatial averages. Refer to the instructions tab for help with customizing graphs.

NDVI: The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is the ratio of two wavelengths, red and near-Infrared (NIR). The index compares healthy and sparse areas of vegetation by examining their difference in wavelength absorption and reflection. Healthy vegetation growth, such as forests, will absorb more and reflect less visible light (red wavelengths) compared to sparse vegetation. For example, an area of forest would yield a NDVI ratio closer to 1 compared to 0 for a desert. The predictive value of NDVI is attributed to its ability to integrate general biological growth over long periods of time.

NDVI: The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is the ratio between the difference of red and near-Infrared (NIR) divided by the sum of red and near infrared reflectances. The index provides some information on healthy vegetation by examining their difference in wavelength absorption and reflectance. Healthy vegetation growth, such as forests, will yield high NDVI values closer to one, while low vegetation will yield values close to 0.2.

EVI: The Enhanced Vegetation Index is provided as a complimentary index to NDVI. EVI is an 'optimized' index designed to enhance the vegetation signal with improved sensitivity in high biomass regions and improved vegetation monitoring through a de-coupling of the canopy background signal and a reduction in atmosphere influences.

The NDVI and EVI are useful to estimate the presence of vegetation, but are subject to intrinsic commission errors which lead to potential misrepresentation of land surfaces. To improve the retrieval of vegetation properties, reflectance values in the Blue, Red, near-infrared(NIR) and middle infrared(MIR) channels can be used.

Reflectance: Using simultaneous exploitation of MIR, NIR, and Red wavelengths in a Red-Green-Blue color space, reflectance images allow for a more robust and reliable qualitative discrimination between land surfaces with sparse vegetation and those without vegetation. The user can follow the *spatio-temporal* dynamic of green vegetation and identify water bodies using the combination of MIR, NIR and Red channels.

EVI: The Enhanced Vegetation Index is provided as a complimentary index to NDVI. EVI is similar to NDVI but corrects distortions in the reflected light caused by haze and alterations by the land surface beneath vegetation.

The NDVI and EVI are useful, but are subject to intrinsic commission errors which lead to potential misrepresentation of land surfaces. When used in conjunction with NDVI and EVI, reflectance is used to successfully mitigate these potential errors.

Reflectance: Using simultaneous exploitation of MIR, NIR, and Red wavelengths, reflectance maps allow for a more robust and reliable qualitative discrimination between land surfaces with vegetation and those without vegetation. The value in the reflectance product is reinforced by its high accuracy in detecting water bodies and sparse vegetation. Through the use of a *multi-temporal* and *multi-spectral* image analysis method using a combination of MIR, NIR and Red reflectance

The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) has developed a tool to visualize EVI and NDVI data for Africa



Contacts

□ ARSET Land Management and Wildfires Contacts

- Cynthia Schmidt: Cynthia.L.Schmidt@nasa.gov
- Amber Kuss: AmberJean.M.Kuss@nasa.gov

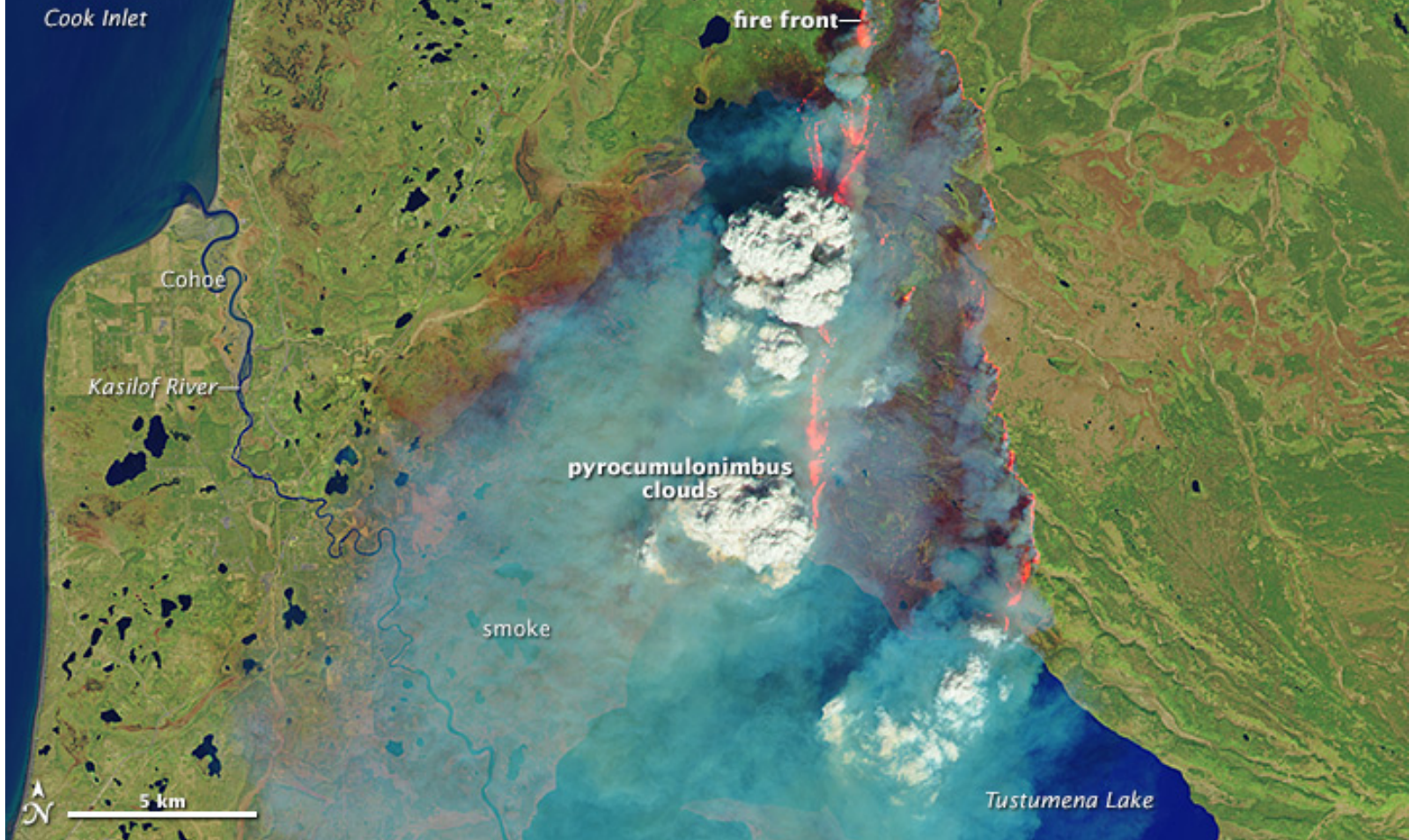
□ General ARSET Queries

- Ana Prados: aprados@umbc.edu

ARSET website: <http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov>

False color
Landsat 8
image of the
Funny River
Fire in southern
Alaska.

May 20, 2014



Thank You!!

Cindy Schmidt
Cynthia.L.Schmidt@nasa.gov