



ORNL DAAC MODIS Land Product Subsets ¹

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Introduction

MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) sensor data are highly useful for field research. However, the volume of MODIS data and the complexity in data format makes MODIS data less usable in some cases.

To solve this usability issue, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) prepares and distributes subsets of selected Land Products in a scale and format useful for field researchers. MODIS subsets are provided for more than 1,000 sites across the globe. The subsets are offered in tabular ASCII format and in GIS compatible GeoTIFF format. Time series plots and grid visualizations to help characterize field sites are also provided.

In addition to offering subsets for fixed sites, the ORNL DAAC also offers the capability to create user-defined subsets for any location worldwide. The MODIS Global Subsetting Tool provides subsets from a single pixel up to 201 x 201 km for user-defined time range. Statistics, time series plots and GIS compatible files for the customized subsets are also distributed through this tool. Users place an order for a MODIS subset online and an email is generated when the subset is created.

<http://daac.ornl.gov/MODIS/modis.html>
Contact E-mail: ornlidaac@ornl.gov

Background

The ORNL DAAC archives and distributes terrestrial biogeochemical dynamics data collected as part of the NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) Program. ORNL DAAC's ~ 800 data sets are primarily from ground-based field investigations and augmented by data collected through remote-sensing techniques. The types of data held by the ORNL DAAC are Field Campaign, Land Validation, Regional and Global Data, and Model Products.

<http://daac.ornl.gov/>

MODIS is a key sensor aboard the Terra and Aqua satellites. Terra MODIS and Aqua MODIS are viewing the entire Earth's surface every 1 to 2 days, acquiring data in 36 spectral bands, or groups of wavelengths. These data will improve our understanding of global dynamics and processes occurring on the land, in the oceans, and in the lower atmosphere.

<http://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



MODIS Subset: Details

- Products Subsetted: Terra and Aqua MODIS
- Sinusoidal Projection
- 2000 to present
- 8-day, 16-day, and annual composite periods
- 250-m, 500-m, or 1000-m resolution (Depends on Product)
- Documentation provided to describe the subsetted products; links are provided to full documentation at MODIS Web sites

MODIS Products Subsetted
Surface Reflectance
Surface Temperature
Land Cover (available in 2008)
Phenology (available in 2008)
NDVI / EVI
LAI / fPAR
Gap-Filled and Smoothed LAI/fPAR
Net Photosynthesis
Annual NPP
Albedo (Model and Calculated)
Reflectance – BRDF Adjusted

Data Processing

- MODIS fixed site subsets reformatted from HDF-EOS into ASCII/GeoTIFF format using LP DAAC's MODIS Reprojection Tool, Geospatial Data Abstraction Library (GDAL) tools and custom Perl code
- Subsetting for the MODIS Global Subsetting tool are generated directly from HDF-EOS tiles using customized code obtained from The HDF Group (THG)
- Visualization of data is done using Perl code and Perl graphics library

ORNL DAAC MODIS Subsets provide data in a format and size that is easy for field researchers to handle. The availability of these subsets also drastically reduces the amount of time needed to process data. For example, to obtain four years of NDVI data for a 7 x 7 km area from MODIS tiles, users would have to download approximately 10 GB of data. Extracting 7 x 7 km area from nearly 200 tiles would require a lot of time and resources. The ORNL DAAC however delivers the subset in few minutes and the size of the data delivered is less than 100 MB for a similar subset. The data are offered in tabular files and in GIS compatible format to allow users to import the data into data and GIS processing packages.

MODIS Land Product Subsets for Selected Field Sites

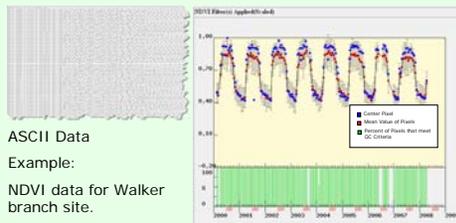
MODIS ASCII and GeoTIFF Subsets available for over 1,000 field sites worldwide. Site inclusion is based upon willingness to share *in situ* site data (*quid pro quo*). Subsetted data (original size: 25 x 25 km) are received from the MODIS processing stream and converted at the ORNL DAAC into ASCII (7 x 7 km). Subsets are also converted to GeoTIFF (25 x 25 km), using Geospatial Data Abstraction Library (GDAL) Tools



Users can access a Web interface to select sites and specific MODIS Land Products from Web Map Server, Google Earth, or a picklist. Visit <http://daac.ornl.gov/MODIS/modis.html> for site list and maps and visualization links.

Data visualization and download options for Walker Branch Watershed- Tennessee

ASCII (Tabular) available for all sites, all available time periods



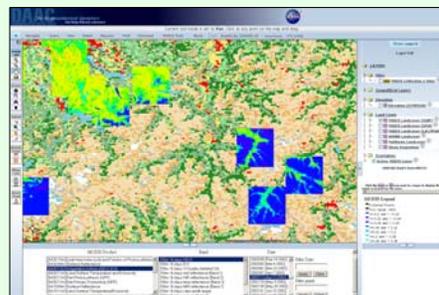
ASCII Data Example:

NDVI data for Walker branch site.



GeoTIFF Images available for individual 8- day or 16-day periods

- GeoTIFFs can be viewed in WebGIS Tool (in Sinusoidal Projection) along with other map layers
- Example at right is NDVI (MOD13Q1) for sites in Europe
- Underlying map layer is MODIS Landcover (IGBP Classification); other layers can be selected
- Site / Product / Date combinations can be selected using a picklist and downloaded for a date or all dates
- WebGIS Tool can be used to filter values or determine values of individual pixels (lower panel)
- The GeoTIFF images are automatically color scaled for better data interpretation



MODIS Subsets as GeoTIFF Images

<http://daac.ornl.gov/modisfixedsite>

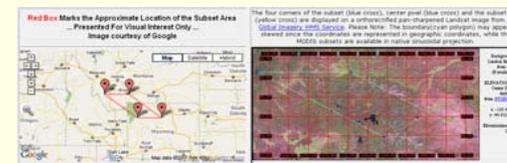
MODIS Land Product Subsets for any location

ORNL DAAC also offers subsets of MODIS Land Products in comma delimited ASCII format and GIS compatible grid format for user-selected areas (from one pixel up to 201 x 201 km) worldwide and for any time period during the MODIS record. Unlike the fixed site subsets, they provide the capability of creating subsets for larger areas and for any location on earth.

- Processing of subsetted product (selection of tiles, mosaicking, generating time series data file and graphs) takes 10 to 60 minutes for most products (depends on area, time period, and product)
- The tool will send an email message containing a URL where the output can be accessed



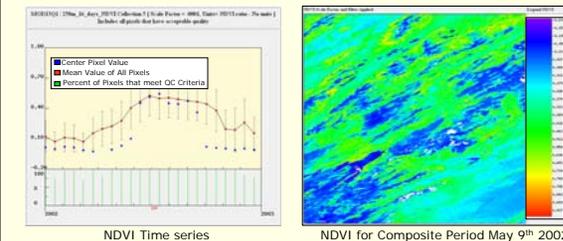
User selects site from map, picklist or enters coordinates



Tool provides Google map and Landsat image of sinusoidal area selected

Order summary and example email message.

MODIS NDVI subset data presented as time series, with average and standard deviation shown for pixels in area selected. Statistics are provided for all pixels in selected area that have the same land cover class as center pixel. The tool also provides visualization of individual composite periods.



Land cover and Data Download

The tool provides land cover grid (IGBP classification for Collection 4 shown) of the area, along with an estimate of heterogeneity (Shannon Diversity Index). Users can access ASCII file of the pixel values along with quality information, statistics on pixels in the area selected, and a GIS compatible grid file. Detailed documentation is provided for each file.

MODIS Global Subsetting Web Service (SOAP)

ORNL DAAC is developing a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) based Web Service for programmatically accessing MODIS subsets. The Web Service will provide:

- MODIS Subsets for required time range
- Data transformation service for re-projection and format conversion
- User-selected/Pre-Defined QC filters applied to subsets



<http://daac.ornl.gov/modisglobal>

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