

Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System



Production of a Multi-decadal Earth Radiation Budget Climate Data Record: Balancing Accuracy, Precision, and Data Availability to Meet the Needs of the Community

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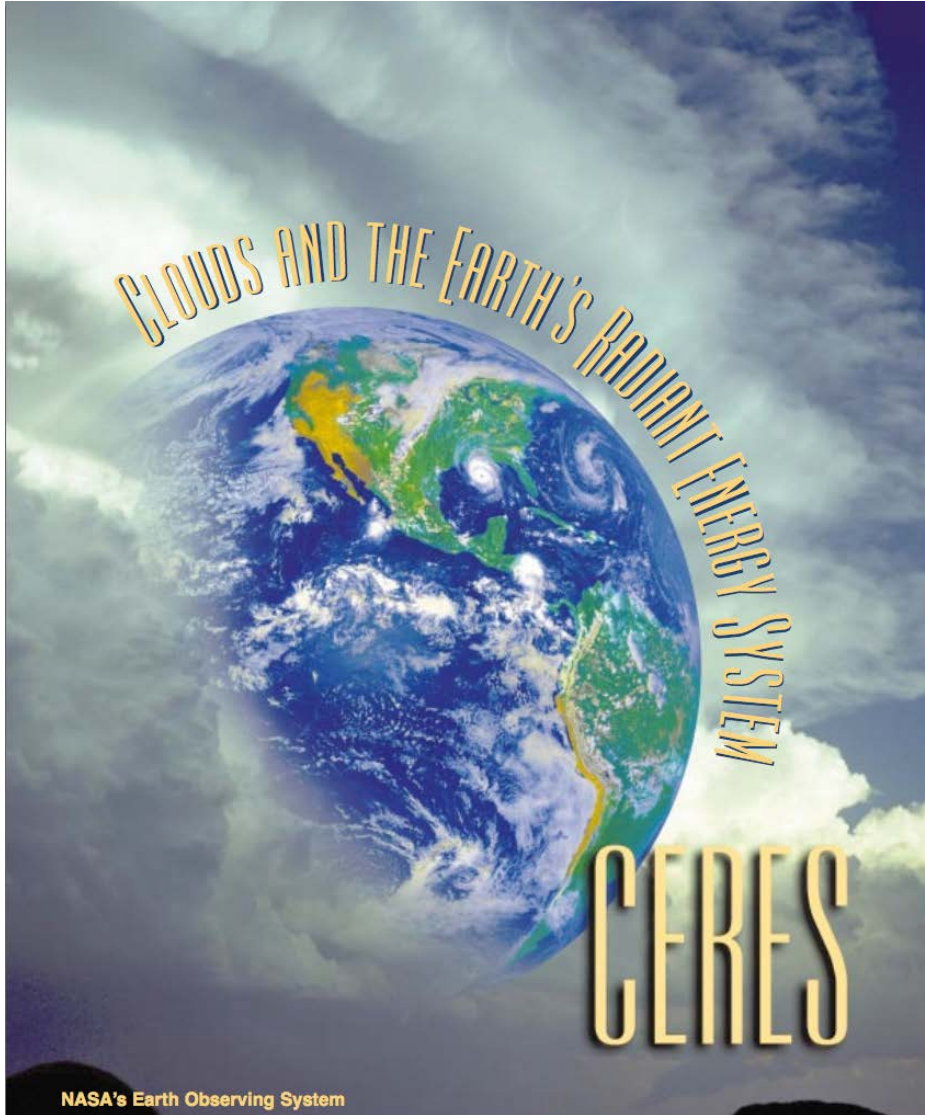
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Discussion Topics



Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System



- **ERB Overview**
 - Introduction
 - Science
 - Production Streams
 - Products
 - Dependencies
- **Summary**

Cheap
Electronics
Really
Expensive
Software



Introduction



NASA's Earth Radiation Budget Science Team, ERB-ST, (CERES Science Team) has the responsibility for governance of the nation's multi-decadal Earth Radiation Budget Climate Data Record (ERB CDR).

- Processing System is highly complex, producing Level 1 through 4 products.
- The system ingests data from 16 unique instruments on 9 different spacecraft (5 GEO and 4 LEO) as well as other ancillary information, producing 25 + different products with consistent TOA, Surface, and atmospheric radiative fluxes, cloud and aerosol properties on multiple spatial and temporal scales.
- Spatial scales vary from instantaneous/pixel (25 km), 1-deg grid, zonal, regional and global means
- Temporal scales vary across instantaneous, hourly, 3 hourly to monthly scales.
- Accuracy and precision values vary across the various spatial and temporal scales, with the long-term goal of measuring decadal trends of better than 0.3 W/m² per decade.



Reprocessing Considerations



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- Many considerations drive the decision to reprocess including but not limited to:
 - Removal of instrument artifacts (cal/val)
 - Validation and instantiation of new Scientific algorithms ([*Science Evolves*](#))
 - Outside teams reprocessing the products we ingest
 - Launch of new instrumentation to sustain observations at EOL
 - Updates to processing hardware and programming languages
 - Resource availability
 - User community desires new data product formats
- Current re-processing capability of 30X once all inputs are available and staged

These all need to be managed in order to provide the global community products of sufficient accuracy and precision on a time-scale which allows continued advancement and discovery of key scientific questions such that policy makers may make informed decisions.



Earth Radiation Budget Science Needs



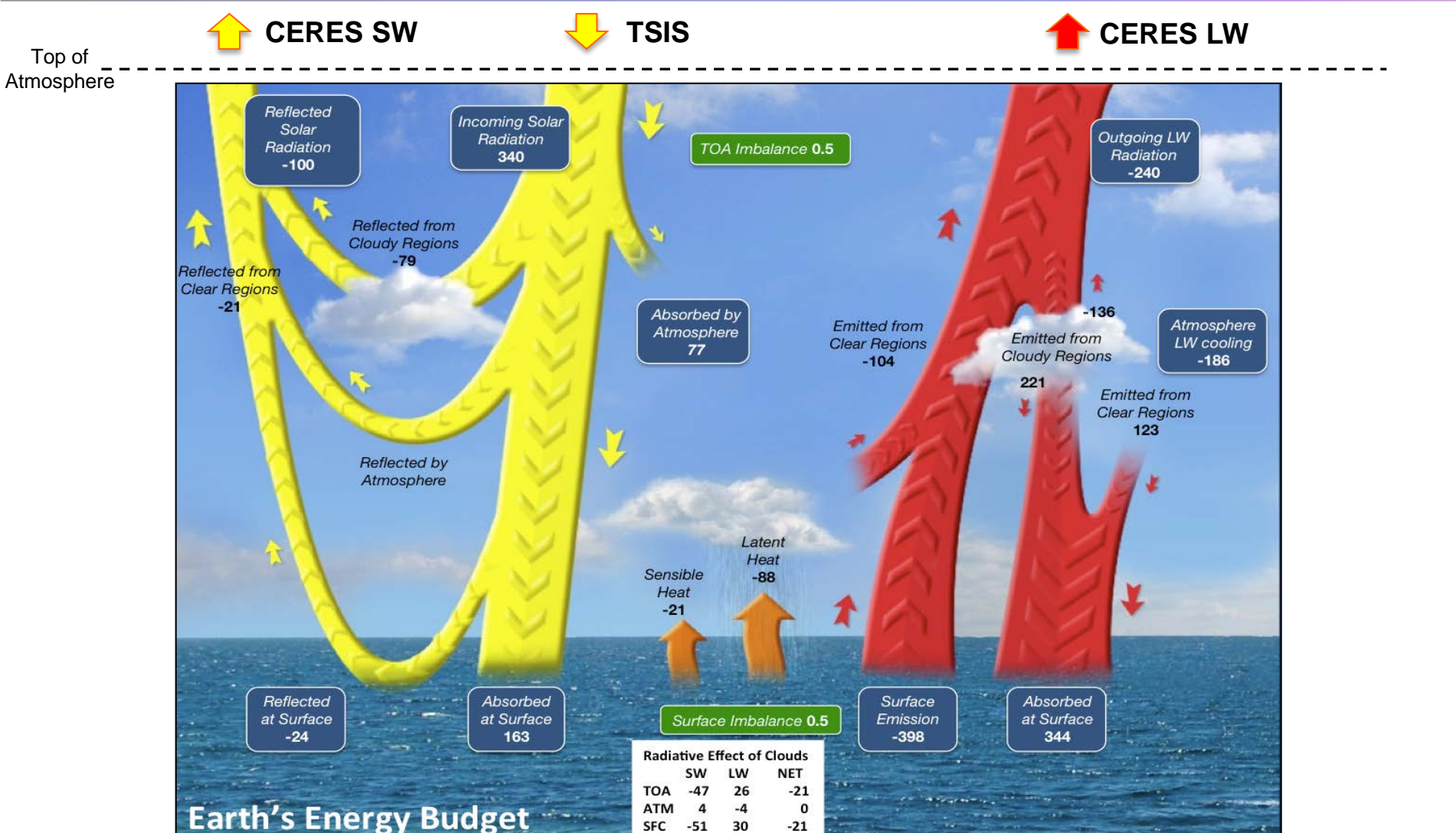
- **Accurate** observation-based data products for climate model evaluation and improvement.
- **Precise** observations to enable improved understanding of the variability in Earth's radiation budget over multiple decades.
- **Continuous** long-term global Earth radiation budget observations at the top-of-atmosphere, within-atmosphere and surface together with coincident cloud, aerosol and meteorological data.



Earth's Energy Budget



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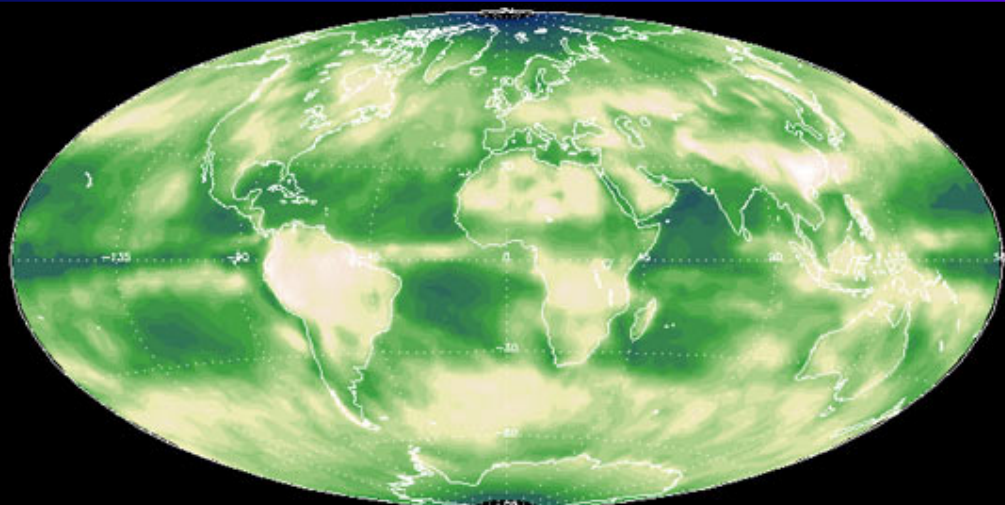
The radiative imbalance between the surface and atmosphere determines how much energy is available to drive the hydrological cycle and the exchange of sensible heat between the surface and atmosphere.



Primary CERES Climate Data Records



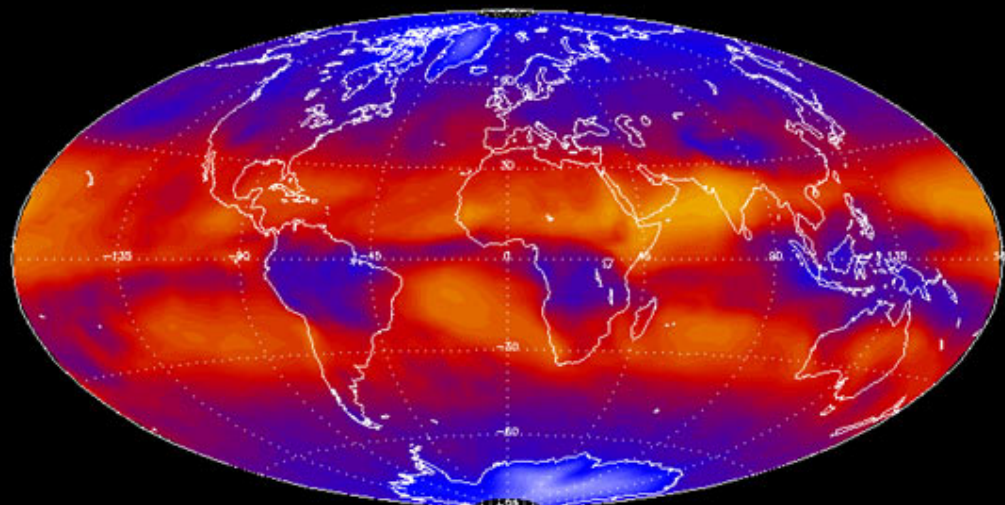
**Reflected
Solar Energy**



Shortwave Flux (W/m^2)

0 105 210

**Emitted
Thermal Energy**



Longwave Flux (W/m^2)

100 210 320

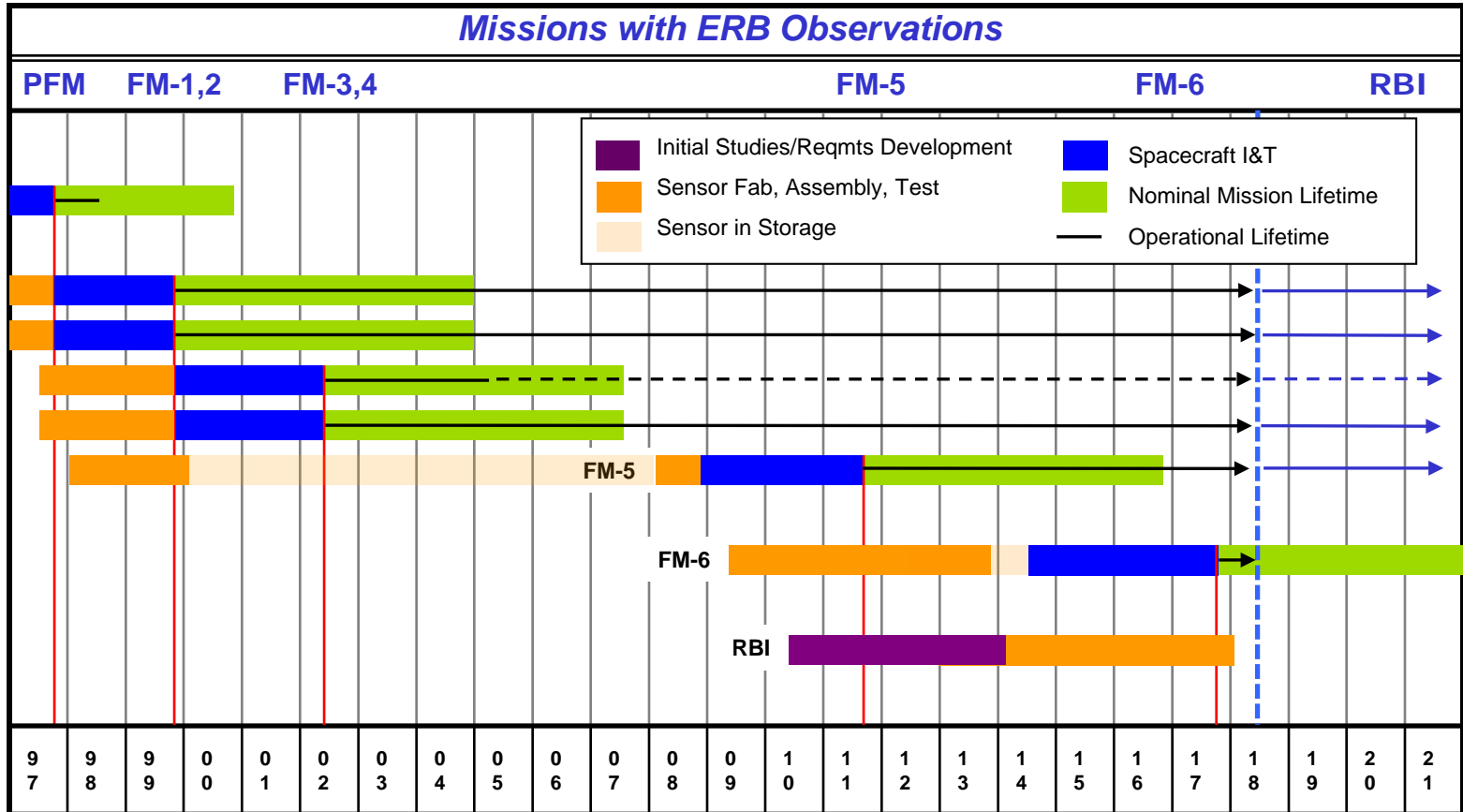


Enabling Climate Data Record Continuity



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CERES Flight Schedule



We now have over 51 years of flight experience with the CERES instruments and simulators



Radiometric Performance Requirements



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**CERES is defined as a class 'B' Instrument
5-year design Lifetime**

Spectral Regions	Reflected Solar		Emitted Thermal		Atmospheric Window
	Wavelengths	0.3 - 5.0 μm	5.0 - 200 μm	8 - 12 μm	
Scene levels	<100 $\text{w/m}^2\text{-sr}$	>100 $\text{w/m}^2\text{-sr}$	<100 $\text{w/m}^2\text{-sr}$	>100 $\text{w/m}^2\text{-sr}$	All Levels
Accuracy Requirements	0.8 $\text{w/m}^2\text{-sr}$	1.0 %	0.8 $\text{w/m}^2\text{-sr}$	0.5 %	0.3 $\text{w/m}^2\text{-sr}$
SOW Stability Requirements		< 0.14%/yr		< 0.1%/yr	
Climate Stability Goals		< 0.6 $\text{w/m}^2\text{/dec}$ < 0.03 %/yr		< 0.2 $\text{w/m}^2\text{/dec}$ < 0.02%/yr	

- Requirements for CERES are more stringent than ERBE's by a factor of 2
- Requirements per Ohring et. al. are more stringent than CERES by a factor of 3-5

Calibrate, Calibrate, Calibrate....

Evolve Observational Strategies via FSW Modifications

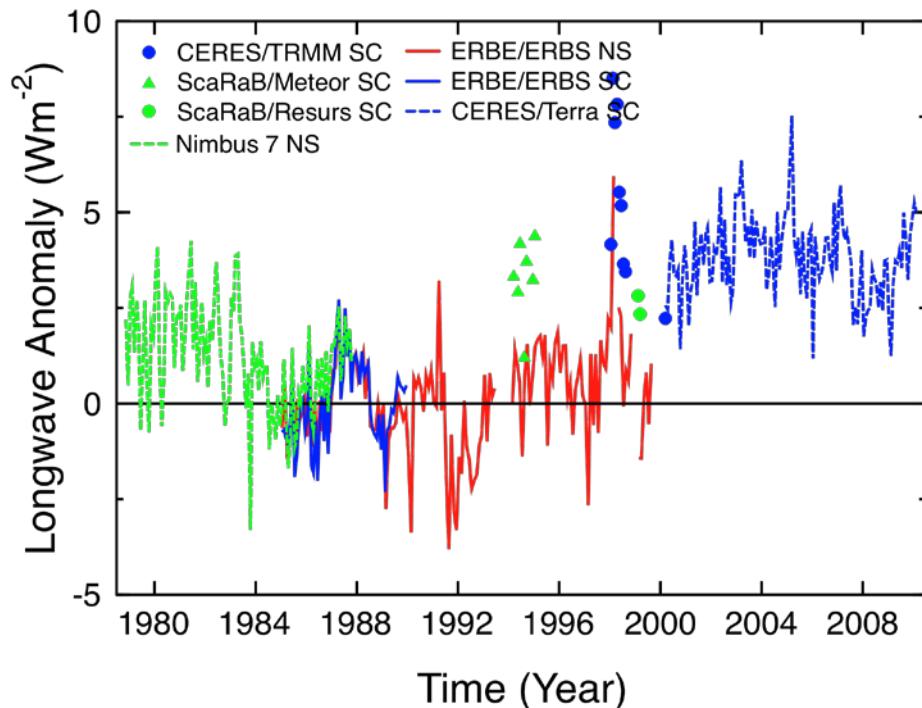


Tropical Mean Outgoing Longwave Radiation (20°S-20°N)

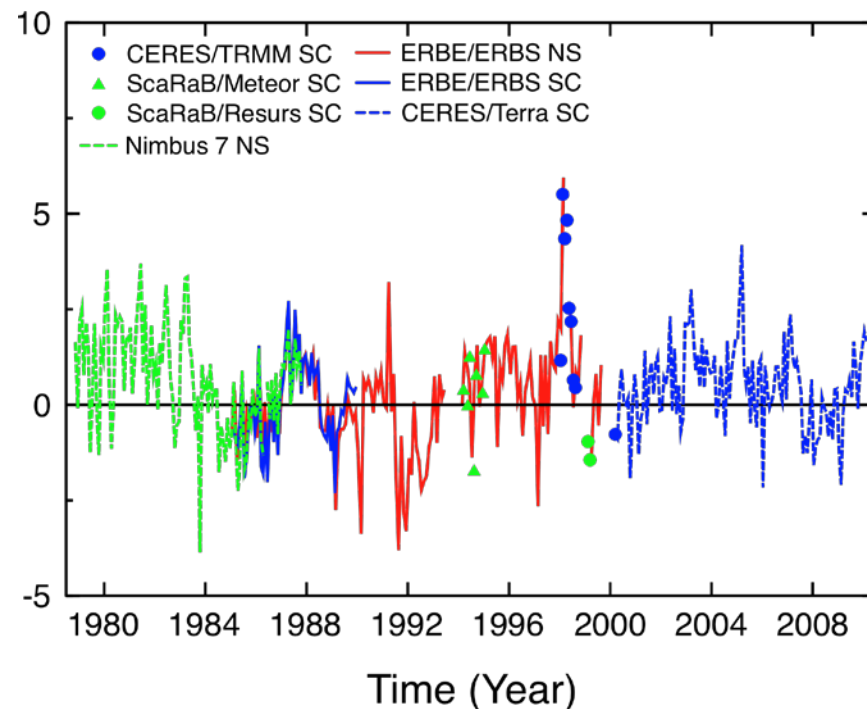


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Without Overlap Adjustment



With Overlap Adjustment



- Instrument-to-instrument absolute calibration differences are 1 to 4 Wm^{-2}
 - ⇒ Absolute accuracy alone is insufficient to detect climate change at required accuracy
- Overlapping observations allows use of instrument stability instead of absolute accuracy to constrain decadal climate change.



Measurement to CDR



- ◆ **Does CERES measure Climate Data Records directly?**
 - No, CERES measures instantaneous TOA broadband radiances
 - SW channel - Reflected Solar
 - TOT channel - Reflected Solar + Emitted Thermal
 - LW channel - Emitted Thermal
- ◆ **How do we get CDR's from instantaneous Radiance measurements?**

***Thermal Energy → Electrical Signal → Radiance → TOA flux → Surface and Atmospheric Flux
→ Gridding → Spatially Averaged → Temporal Interpolation → Temporal Averaging***

- ◆ **In addition to CERES instrument data, this process requires:**
 - Cloud Imager Data
 - Aerosol Optical Depth
 - Atmospheric State Data
 - Surface Temperatures
 - Geostationary imager data for diurnal interpolation

High level of data fusion; up to 16 instruments on 9 spacecraft all integrated to obtain climate accuracy in TOA to surface fluxes ~8-dimensional radiative assimilation



Why is CERES Climate Quality Trend Detection so Difficult?



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A question of time scales, experience and balancing accuracy with providing data products to the community.

- *Calibrated Radiances have been released on ~6 month centers*
- *6 months is just a blink of an eye when analyzing decadal trends...*

Same time scale as phenomena which influence instrument response

- *Beta Angle*
- *Solar Zenith Angle*
- *Earth Sun Distance*
- *Solar Cycle*
- *Orbital shifts*
- *Instrument Operational modes (e.g. RAPS vs. Xtrack)*

Design weaknesses and anticipated failures in onboard calibration hardware

- *full spectral range of observations not covered by cal subsystems*

Complicates separation of instrument 'artifacts' from natural variability.



CERES Processing Level Descriptions



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Level 0: Raw digitized instrument data for all engineering and science data streams in Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) packet format.

Level 1B: Instantaneous filtered broadband **radiances** at the CERES **footprint** resolution, geolocation and viewing geometry, solar geometry, satellite position and velocity, and all raw engineering and instrument status data.

Level 2: Instantaneous geophysical variables at the CERES **footprint** resolution. Includes some Level 1B parameters and retrieved or computed geophysical variables. (e.g., filtered and unfiltered radiances, viewing geometry, radiative fluxes, imager cloud and aerosol properties).

Level 3: Radiative fluxes and cloud properties **spatially averaged** onto a **uniform grid**. Includes either **instantaneous** averages sorted by local/GMT hour (e.g., SSF1deg–Hour) or **temporally interpolated** averages at 3–hourly, daily, monthly or monthly hourly intervals (e.g., SSF1deg–Month).

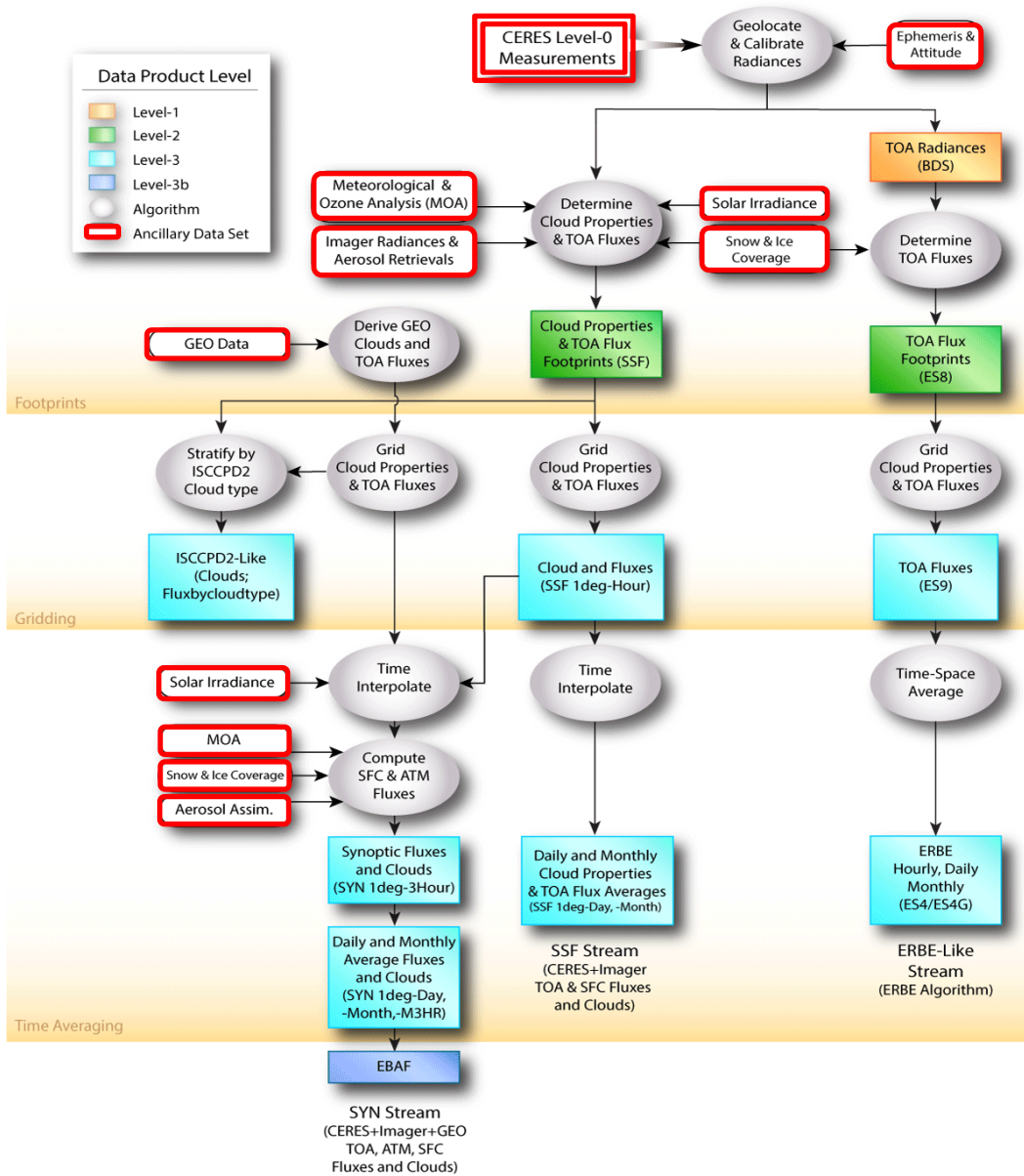
Level 4: Level 3 data products **adjusted within their range of uncertainty to satisfy known constraints** (e.g., consistency between average global net TOA flux imbalance and ocean heating rate from in-situ ocean measurements like Argo).



CERES Processing Streams



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Products and Parameters : Level 2 and 3



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Product	TOA Fluxes	Surface Fluxes	In-Atmospheric Fluxes	Cloud Properties	Aerosols	Atmosphere
Level 3B: Consistency between TOA global net flux and ocean heat storage.						
EBAF-TOA	CERES/GEO net balanced					
EBAF-Surface		Computed				
Level 3: Spatial and temporally (daily, monthly, etc) averaged fluxes and cloud properties.						
SYN1deg	CERES/GEO & Computed	Computed	Computed	MODIS & GEO	MODIS & MATCH	GMAO GEOS
SSF1deg	CERES	Parameterized		MODIS	MODIS	GMAO GEOS
AVG	CERES/GEO & Computed	Computed	Computed	MODIS & GEO	MODIS & MATCH	GMAO GEOS
ZAVG	CERES/GEO & Computed	Computed	Computed	MODIS & GEO	MODIS & MATCH	GMAO GEOS
SYN	CERES/GEO & Computed	Computed	Computed	MODIS & GEO	MODIS & MATCH	GMAO GEOS
SRBAVG	CERES	Parameterized		MODIS & GEO		GMAO GEOS
SFC	CERES	Parameterized		MODIS	MODIS	GMAO GEOS
FSW	CERES & Computed	Computed	Computed	MODIS	MODIS	GMAO GEOS
ISCCP-D2like				MODIS & GEO		
FLASH_TISA	CERES	Parameterized		MODIS		GMAO GEOS
ES4/ES9	CERES-ERBELike					
Level 2: CERES instantaneous footprint level fluxes and cloud properties.						
CRS	CERES & Computed	Computed & Parameterized	Computed	MODIS	MODIS	GMAO GEOS
FLASH_SSF	CERES	Parameterized		MODIS	MODIS	GMAO GEOS
SSF	CERES	Parameterized		MODIS	MODIS	GMAO GEOS
ES8	CERES-ERBELike					
Level 2: CERES instantaneous footprint level fluxes and cloud properties.						
BDS	CERES filtered radiances					

Monthly Data Product Volume ~400GB

GMAO GEOS 5.4.1 Merra: temperature, humidity, pressure, and ozone used as input to cloud retrieval and radiative transfer calculation.

NOAA CLASS: SSM/I passive microwave sensor data. Need for aerosol calc.

SORCE: total solar irradiance, which provides solar incoming. One value per day from U of Colorado/LASP.

NSIDC NISE: used for snow and ice scene identification. ~64 Mb/month

NOAA CLASS: Snow/ice map from SSM/I supplement to NISE in SSF stream determines *where* there is snow or ice. ~2.3 Gb/month

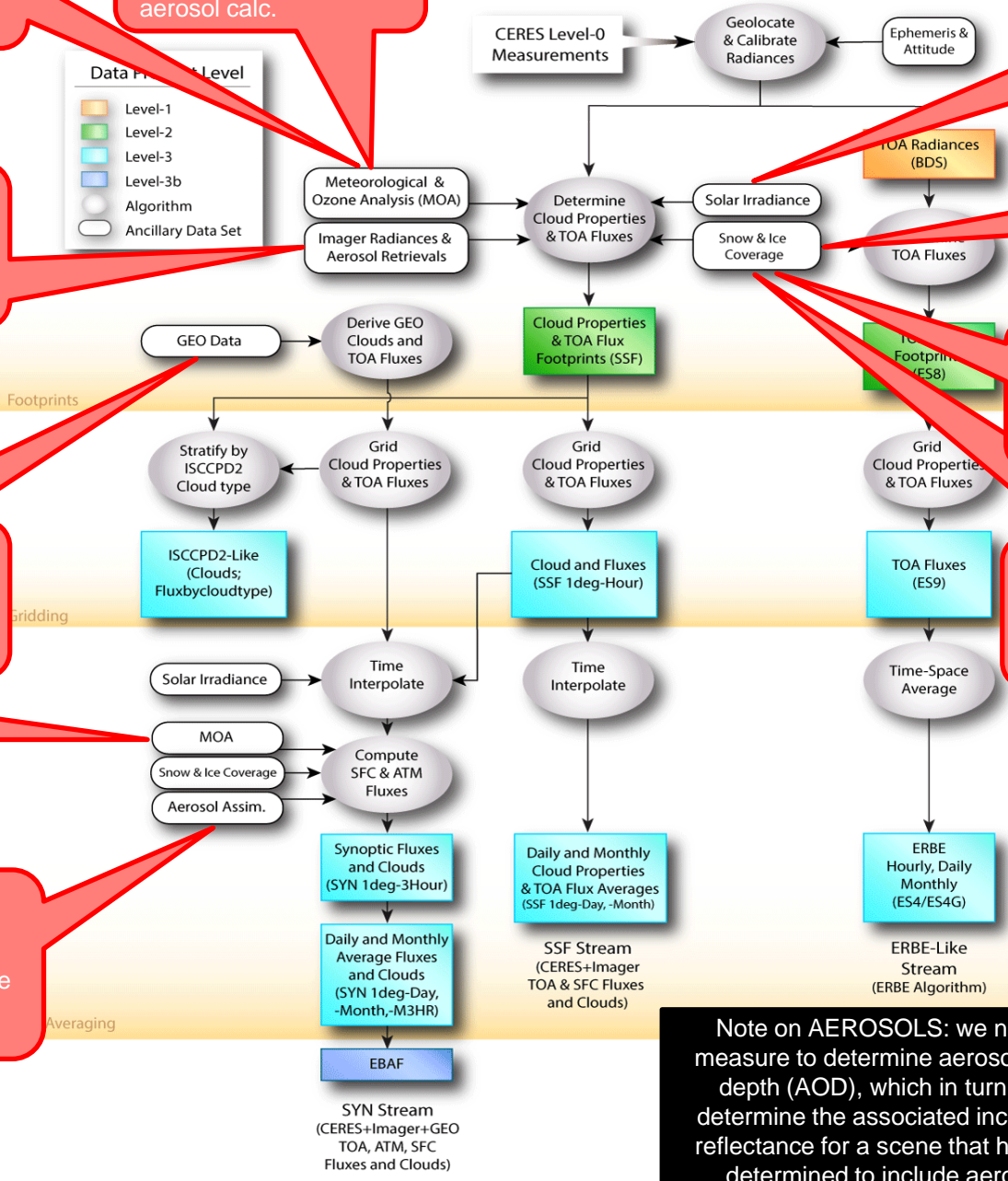
AFWA: SNODEP Snow/ice map supplement to NISE in SSF stream determines *where* there is snow or ice. ~0.2 Gb/month

MODAPS and Land SIPS: MODIS or VIIRS aerosols, radiances, and geolocation from MODAPS and LandSIPS. ~6.5 Tb/month

McIDAS: geo radiances. These raw images come from McIDAS. Then run with cloud retrieval ~85 Gb/month

MOA: included temperature profile can determine cloud height

MATCH (LaRC, run-offline): modeled aerosols using MODIS inputs. Coverage and properties are used in radiative transfer calc. ~5.4 Mb/month



Note on AEROSOLS: we need to measure to determine aerosol optical depth (AOD), which in turn helps determine the associated increase in reflectance for a scene that has been determined to include aerosols.



Data Ingest Sources



CERES Input Data Sources

[Edition3](#) | **Edition4**

[2000-2005](#) | [2006-2011](#) | **2012-2017** | [2018-2023](#)

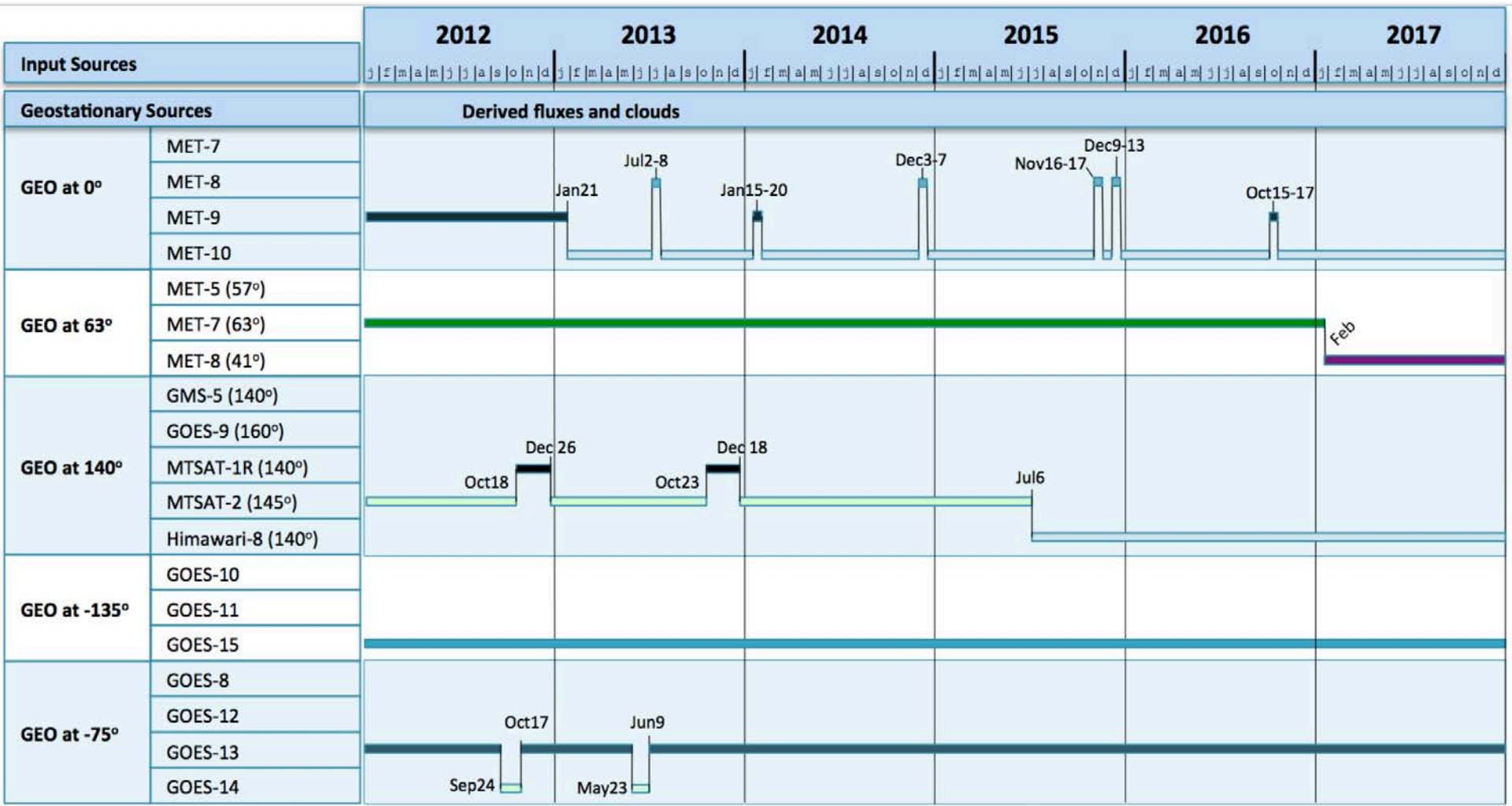
Input Sources		2012												2013												2014												2015												2016												2017																																																																																			
		j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d	j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d	j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d	j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d	j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d	j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d																																																																								
Terra	FM1	[Green bar]																																																																																																																																															
	FM2	[Light blue bar]																																																																																																																																															
Aqua	FM3	[Blue bar]																																																																																																																																															
	FM4	[Light blue bar]																																																																																																																																															
S-NPP (Ed1)	FM5	[Light green bar]																																																																																																																																															
Atmosphere	GOES-5.4.1	[Olive bar]																																																																																																																																															
MODIS	Collection5	[Dark blue bar]																																																																																																																																															
	Collection6	[Dark blue bar]																																																																																																																																															
VIIRS	03110	[Light blue bar]																																																																																																																																															
	001	[Dark blue bar]																																																																																																																																															
NSIDC - snow and ice cover		[Red bar]																																																																																																																																															
MATCH aerosol constituents	Collection5	[Light green bar]																																																																																																																																															
	Collection6	[Light green bar]																																																																																																																																															



Data Ingest Sources – Cont'd



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INTERFACES & DEPENDENCIES



CERES Instrument Monthly Data Volume



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CERES Instrument Data from EDOS

Product	Granule Size (MB)	Number of Granules Per Day	Average Volume per Month (MB)
Terra Level 0	88.00	2 (FM1 and FM2)	5,354
Terra Ephemeris	0.46	12	168
Terra Attitude	0.88	12	321
Aqua Level 0	88.00	2 (FM3 and FM4)	5,354
Aqua Ephemeris	5.30	1	161
Aqua Attitude	0.46	12	168
NPP Level 0	88.00	1	2,677
NPP Ephemeris and Attitude	0.50	12	178
JPSS-1 Level 0	88.00	1	2,677
JPSS-1 Ephemeris and Attitude	0.50	12	178
		Total :	17,236



Imager Monthly Ingest Data Volume



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MODIS & VIIRS Data

Source	Product	Granule Size (MB)	Number of Granules Per Day	Average Volume per Month (MB)
MODAPS	MOD02_SS	12 - 65	288	340,300
MODAPS	MOD03	28	288	245,150
MODAPS	MOD04	1.5	130	6,000
MODAPS	MYD02_SS	12 - 65	288	340,300
MODAPS	MYD03	28	288	245,150
MODAPS	MYD04	1.5	130	6,000
Land SIPS	VIMD_SS	160 - 360	288	2,141,000
Land SIPS	VAOT_L2	0.8	288	7,000
Land SIPS	VNP0203IMD_S S	300 - 415	240	2,736,000
Atmosphere SIPS	VAERDT*	38	130	150,000
Atmosphere SIPS	VAERDB*	15	130	59,280
			Total:	6,276,180



Ancillary Monthly Ingest Data Volume



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Other Ancillary Data

Source	Product	Granule Size (MB)	Number of Granules Per Day	Average Volume per Month (MB)
NSIDC	NISE	2.1	1	64
CLASS	1/8 th mesh Snow/Ice (DMSP EDR)	9.6	8 (NH and SH)	2,335
AFWA	1/16 th mesh Snow/Ice (SNODEP)	2.3	2 (NH and SH)	140
GMAO	GEOS 5.4.1 Met-Reanalysis		8 files / day	~83,000
U. of Wisc SSEC	Geostationary Weather Satellite (area files) (from McIDAS)	5 – 37	120 (5 GEO)	~84,000
SSAI	MATCH Model Aerosols		2 files / day	5.3
			Total :	169,544



Summary



- Many considerations drive the decision to reprocess including but not limited to:
 - Removal of instrument artifacts (cal/val)
 - Validation and instantiation of new Scientific algorithms ([Science Evolves](#))
 - Outside teams reprocessing the products we ingest
 - Launch of new instrumentation to sustain observations at EOL
 - Updates to processing hardware and programming languages
 - Resource availability
 - User community desires new data product formats

These all need to be managed effectively....

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