The Role of Remote Sensing to Support Active Fire Mapping, Post Fire Rehabilitation, and Forest Monitoring within the USDA Forest Service

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USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC)





2nd Workshop on Geostationary Fire Monitoring and Applications

> Darmstadt, Germany, December 4-6, 2006

Topics

Active Fire Mapping

- National Scale Active Fire Mapping MODIS Rapid Response
- Tactical Scale Fire Mapping Airborne TIR

Post Fire Rehabilitation & Monitoring

- Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER)
- Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS)

Forest Monitoring

Forest Health Change Detection

Forest Service MODIS Active Fire Mapping Program

- Developed in 2001- using MODIS Rapid Response Detection
- Comprehensive coverage of CONUS, Alaska, Hawaii & Canada
- Operational near real-time (NRT) acquisition/processing of MODIS data to meet needs of fire managers



http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us

MODIS Active Fire Mapping Program Objectives

- Generate "value added" geospatial fire products National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)
 - Current, synoptic view of the wildfire situation in a geospatial context
 - Accurate and current information on fire locations, fire intensity, burned area extent and smoke conditions
- Aid wildfire strategic planning and response
 - Prioritize allocation of suppression assets
 - Focus tactical airborne reconnaissance & TIR mapping assets
- Detect and monitor fire activity in remote areas
- Support several other fire-related applications



MODIS Direct Broadcast/Direct Readout

NRT MODIS Data Acquisition...



Direct Broadcast (DB)

Real-time transmission of satellite data to the ground. As the Earth is being observed by the satellite, the data is formatted and transmitted to any user below in real-time.

Direct Readout (DR)

Acquisition of freely transmitted live satellite data by users with compatible ground receiving equipment and direct line of sight to the satellite.

MODIS Ground Station Network

Primary data source for MODIS Active Fire Mapping Program...

- NRT MODIS data via Direct Broadcast/Direct Readout
- North America coverage provided by RSAC, University of Wisconsin-SSEC and University of Alaska-Fairbanks-GINA
- L2 surface reflectance and fire detection data processed on site





MODIS Rapid Response (RR) System

MODIS Rapid Response System							
Home	Gallery	Real-Time	FAQ	Status	1.04		
	A SEA	1 · · ·		1.4.2	0		
Mis	MODIS Image of the Day						
The MODIS Rapid Response system has been developed to provide rapid access to MODIS data globally, with initial emphasis on 250m color composite imagery and active fire data. The experience gained during the Montana fires of 2000, when the MODIS team was asked to provide active fire information to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), has led to the improvement and automation of several of the steps involved in MODIS rapid data provision. Imagery and data are now being provided to a number of users such as the USFS Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC), the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), the U.N. Global Fire Monitoring Center, and NASA's Earth Observatory. Incremental improvements are planned both for the user interface and the selection of products available from this site. This research and development system is a contribution to the rapid prototyping of NASA's Applications making. The system builds on the experience gained with the MODIS and 250m moduling and distribution system.			: Northeastern China				
also being developed as a contribution to th Observation of Forest Cover/Global (GOFC-GOLD). The MODIS Rapid Response imagery aug which can be obtained from the LP D/ Products will lag behind current satellite ac to create images in the Rapid Response 3 (Level 1B data) or the LP DAAC (Thermal A	Quick links						
The MODIS Rapid Response Project is s Applications Program, the MODIS Team L Systems Branch. Start-up support provid Sensing Applications Center. Additional Agricultural Service.	 Related sites Frequently Ask Production stat Products Web Fire Mapp USFS Active Fi 	ed Questions us eer re Maps					
MODIS Rapid Response Project can be fou	nd at the NASA	Earth Observato	ny.				
Web Fire Mapper	A	tive Fire Maps		Near-re	eal-time Subsets		

The Web Fire Mapper at the University of The USFS's Remote Sensing Applications A large number of near-real-time georectified Maryland provides access to current and Center generates regional maps for the US images across the world are available in our archived fire locations detected by the fire managers using the active fire locations MODIS Rapid Response Subsets page in MODIS Rapid Response System through provided by the MODIS Rapid Response GIS-compatible format, including most an interactive ArcIMS interface with an System, and also makes them available AERONET sunphotometer sites extensive database of region-specific through an interactive ArcIMS interface over layers and ancillary information.

the conterminous United States, Alaska, and Canada

+ Read more and download imager

Additional data source...

- Developed in 2001 by NASA- \bigcirc **GSFC/ University of Maryland**
- Daily global MODIS coverage
- Access to MODIS data stream via **NOAA MODIS Near Real Time Processing System**
- Rapid generation of key MODIS products for operational objectives
 - L2 MODIS surface reflectance
 - L2 MODIS fire detections
- Available ~ 3 hours post acquisition

http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov

Overview: MODIS Data Acquisition and Processing



Overview: MODIS Fire Mapping and Distribution



MODIS Active Fire Mapping Program Products



http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us

Regional MODIS Active Fire Maps



- Regional and overview maps for U.S. & Canada
- Updated several times daily
- Display current and cumulative fire activity
- Provided in JPG and PDF format
- ~30,000 maps produced annually
- Map archive available

Northwest Geographic Area



MODIS Active Fire Map Examples







Fire Detections \neq Burned Area

• Fire detections may over and underestimate burned area



Sources of Underestimation

Clouds obscuring fires Fast moving fires Polar orbit of sensor (not geostationary) Sources of Overestimation Spatial resolution Entire pixel may not be on fire False detections

Interactive MODIS Active Fire Maps Examples



Available Layers

MODIS, AVHRR & GOES Fire Detections National Fire Danger Rating System NWS Wx Observations NWS Fire Watch/Warnings Daily Terra/Aqua MODIS Imagery LANDSAT imagery Fire Regime/Condition Class Baseline Cartographic data





MODIS Fire Image Subsets



Washington - September 29, 2006

- Daily georeferenced image subsets
- Compiled from RSAC swath data
- MODIS "land bands"
- 3 band true and false color JPGs, GeoTiffs
- 7 band generic binary (BSQ)

MODIS Fire Image Subset Examples



DAY FIRE As Viewed By Aqua MODIS September 17, 2006; 20:55 UTC Produced by the USFS Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC)

RSAC



MODIS Fire Detection GIS Data



- Terra & Aqua MODIS fire detection GIS data for North America
- Compiled from GSFC, RSAC, SSEC & UAF MODIS Rapid Response
- Available for 2001 2006
- Updated hourly
- ESRI coverage & shapefile format
- FGDC Metadata
- Web Map Service (WMS)



MODIS Fire Detection GIS Data



Alaska Cumulative Fire Detections 2004

Fire Detection Attributes

Acquisition date Acquisition time Pixel size (IFOV) Observed brightness temperature Ground station source



CONUS Cumulative Fire Detections 2004



Canada Cumulative Fire Detections 2004

MODIS Fire Detection GIS Data







Annual Western U.S. MODIS Fire Detections (2001-2006)

User Community Depends On MODIS Active Fire Data

Usage of MODIS active fire data and products provided by Forest Service via USDA MODIS Active Fire Mapping Program website

	2001*	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006#
Hits	1.5 Million	3.3 Million	24.9 Million	18.7 Million	25.8 Million	32.6 Million
Users	42,000	502,000	1.5 Million	817,200	960,000	1.3 Million
Data Volume Transferred	12 GB	215 GB	750 GB+	1 TB+	4 TB	1.9 TB

* - complete statistics not available for entire year
 # - through October 9, 2006

Critical source of timely wildfire data...

Data provided by MODIS Active Fire Mapping Program is also relayed to other fire support websites and data portals

Tactical Scale Active-Fire Mapping



High resolution fire map products needed for daily 6:00 AM Incident Command briefing

Delineate fire perimeter and active fire fronts

Determine line of containment

Identify problem areas – hot spots inside & outside containment line

Identify hot spots during the mop-up phase

Airborne TIR Mission Planning



Focus airborne TIR assets

DA FOREST SERVICE	
	NIROPS - National Infrared Operations
	IR Scanner Orders
NIROPS Home	Las Califier Mill Heart Har Parlla
Reports	Submit Request Check Request Status View /Edit Requests Administrative Tools
Links	Create a New Request: New Request Edit a Previous Request: Previous Request
Online Training IRIN Area	Printer Friendly Version
IR Scanner Orders	Incident # MT-CNE-000 Propert # IPICOVP DIM # 4 171 914
IROPS	Incident Information
ise, ID 83705 ice: (208) 387-5647	Ordering Unit Galitan NF Phone #406-587-6701
x: (208) 387-5560	Local Dispatch Bozeman Dispatch Phone #406-587-6719
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Met Consumers	Cell a
Malla	National IR Coordinator[Guy Lewis, Lenry Miller Phone #209-387-5181 Fext #209-387-5181
24	Cell #208-859-4475
	IR Interpreter Lae Worth Phone # 406-690-6772
Ann 100	Office or 1CP Cell # 406-544-4054
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	Mission Information Objective / Description
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	VOR 2DRU Azimuth (*)275 Distance (nautical miles)41
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	Reset Parts
	Comments Admin Comments Forecast is for low cloud over fire. Will
	not schedule flight tonight.

MODIS fire detections used for mission planning





Airborne TIR tactical fire mapping imagery

Other Applications of MODIS Data

Monitoring smoke transport



 Regional air quality managers monitor smoke from prescribed and wildfire activity

MODIS Active Fire Mapping Summary

- MODIS Active Fire Mapping Program supports strategic fire management in North America
 - Direct broadcast/direct readout technologies are critical
 - "Value added" geospatial products
 - Operational; 24/7 year round
- Supports several additional fire mission objectives
- Looking forward
 - Continued program development and enhancement
 - Integration of future satellite sensors (VIIRS, etc.)
- Collaborative effort:





USDA Forest Service National Remote Sensing Interagency Applications Center Fire Center



NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



University of Maryland – Dept of Geography



NOAA



UNIVERSITY & ALASKA University of Alaska-

Fairbanks



University of Wisconsin Space Science & Engineering Center

Post-Fire Rehabilitation & Monitoring

Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER)

 Satellite and airborne remote sensing systems used to support Burn Severity Mapping

Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS)
 For wildland fires – 1984 to present

Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Support

- Objective is to prepare Burn Area Emergency Response plan within 10 days of fire containment
- Remotely sensed imagery use best available
 - MODIS
 - AWiFS
 - Landsat 5,7
 - ASTER
 - SPOT 2,4,5
 - Ikonos, Quickbird, Digital Globe
 - Airborne MS scanners
 - Airborne CIR Digital cameras
- Critical factors:
 - Acquisition timing
 - Delivery from provider
 - Spectral properties SWIR band



Post-Fire Rehabilitation

BAER Team prepares Response Plan

Identifies priority areas to be treated



Installing soil erosion barriers



Aerial mulching and grass seeding

Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Support

- Imagery and Burn Area Reflectance Classification (BARC) used to:
 - Derive preliminary estimates of burn severity rapidly
 - Identify areas of greatest concern
 - Predict runoff response in hydrologic models
 - Create 3-D models of the burned area
 - Prepare graphics for BAER team and public meetings
 - Since 2001 mapped 7.9 million acres on 281 BAER fires

Tripod Complex – Burn Area Reflectance Classification

Burn Area Reflectance Classification dNBR

2003 Fawn Peak Fire



Tripod Complex – Burn Area Reflectance Classification



Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS)

- Primary objective: Provide for a national analysis of trends in burn severity for the National Fire Plan
- Secondary objective: Provide consistent and comprehensive information about wildfire effects to land managers and the scientific community

MTBS Products

- Burn severity data on all fires >1000 ac (385 ha) west of the 97th meridian and >500 ac (192 ha) east
 - Thematic and continuous Landsat TM, ETM 30m raster layers
- Fire perimeters
 - Shape files
- Tabular data summarizing burn severity acres by class
 - Additional stratification by vegetation type, treatment zones, condition classes, etc.

Metadata

 Analysis performed by US Forest Service RSAC, and the US Geological Survey, EROS Data Center



MTBS Method Outline

- Compile a single MTBS fire occurrence database from existing sources
- Based on fire occurrence database, select pre and post-fire LANDSAT TM, ETM scenes
- Data processed at EROS-terrain correction through NBR calculations
- EROS and RSAC analysts perform differencing and threshold dNBR images into burn severity classes
- Data summary and trends analysis



MTBS Methods - Burn Severity Map Development

- Differenced NBR images are interpreted to derive 4 severity classes (unburned, low, moderate, high)
- Analysts use existing Composite Burn Index (CBI) thresholds (Key, 2001) as guidance for choosing severity thresholds



Forest Monitoring

Storm Damage Assessment

Forest Health Monitoring – Change Detection

MODIS 250 m Rapid Assessment Test - Katrina



•Damage map produced using timeseries data through 2.5 months after hurricane. •Damage likelihood produced using data available 3 days after hurricane.

MODIS 250 m Rapid Assessment Test - Katrina

Closeup of heavily damaged coastal region.

Damage map produced using NDVI time-series data from before Katrina until 2.5 months after.



MODIS Derived Forest Mortality Mask



Tasseled Cap Transformation – 500 m

MODIS Derived Forest Disturbance Index



Additional Information

USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center http://fs.fed.us/eng/rsac http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us

