



# README Document for TROPESS Forward Stream, Standard Products

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# 1.0 Introduction

This document provides basic information for using the TROPES datasets listed in Table 1.

The TROPES forward processing stream generates products that include atmospheric composition measurements of ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and deuterated water vapor (HDO) derived from radiances measured by the NASA CrIS, Aqua AIRS, and Aura OMI sounders. These products provide global coverage. The data are subsampled using a grid sampling approach where the region is divided into 0.7 degree latitude (lat) x 0.7 degree longitude (lon) grid boxes for AIRS-OMI products, and 0.8 degree lat x 0.8 degree lon grid boxes for the CrIS products. The single, center most target within each box is selected to be included in the dataset. The dataset provides both day and night time coverage.

The CrIS products described in this document are generated from 2 input sources. TROPES CrIS products from February 1, 2021 through May 21, 2021 were generated from L1B input files from the Suomi-NPP CrIS instrument. Due to the loss of the Longwave Band on the side A electronics on Suomi-NPP CrIS instrument first encountered on May 21, 2021, subsequent CrIS processing has switched to using the L1B input files from the JPSS1/NOAA20 CrIS instrument in order to mitigate impact on TROPES retrieval product accuracy.

*Table 1. Datasets / collections described in this document.*

Long Name	Short Name	DOI
TROPES AIRS-OMI L2 Ozone for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2O3AIRSOMIFS	10.5067/V9HA0ZB6Y3UZ
TROPES OMI L2 Ozone for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2O3OMIFS	10.5067/HL2UFH62ELJO
TROPES AIRS L2 Ozone for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2O3AIRSFS	10.5067/1OOD0AX232CJ
TROPES AIRS L2 Carbon Monoxide for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2COAIRSFS	10.5067/I1NONOEPXLHS
TROPES AIRS L2 Atmospheric Temperature for	TRPSDL2TATMAIRSFS	10.5067/XGCPC0JSDJCN

Forward Stream, Standard Product		
TROPESS AIRS L2 Deuterated Water Vapor for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2HDOAIRSFS	10.5067/K3OGAJGRUAB8
TROPESS AIRS L2 Water Vapor for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2H2OAIRSFS	10.5067/GAAB1GIBBQKU
TROPESS AIRS L2 Methane for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2CH4AIRSFS	10.5067/LP1B3RFV5WK7
TROPESS AIRS L2 Ammonia for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2NH3AIRSFS	10.5067/EYXLPVGTSWFF
TROPESS CrIS L2 Ozone for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2O3CRSFS	10.5067/8LMUGJ8X1ZXB
TROPESS CrIS L2 Carbon Monoxide for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2COCRSFS	10.5067/EA7G2TTV84RV
TROPESS CrIS L2 Atmospheric Temperature for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2TATMCRSFS	10.5067/XL382B4YZJP5
TROPESS CrIS L2 Deuterated Water Vapor for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2HDOCRSFS	10.5067/XTPEDYJ62GGN
TROPESS CrIS L2 Water Vapor for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2H2OCRSFS	10.5067/YUE7KKLKA1RS
TROPESS CrIS L2 Methane for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2CH4CRSFS	10.5067/MRTPR45H95EC
TROPESS CrIS L2 Ammonia for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2NH3CRSFS	10.5067/B4TF7ND8A3O7

TROPESS CrIS L2 Peroxyacetyl for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2PANCRSFS	10.5067/MQITF51HVPNW
TROPESS CrIS-JPSS1 L2 Ozone for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2O3CRS1FS	10.5067/WUKWENW76N5P
TROPESS CrIS-JPSS1 L2 Carbon Monoxide for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2COCRS1FS	10.5067/BYIIUV3PR9L6
TROPESS CrIS-JPSS1 L2 Atmospheric Temperature for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2TATMCRS1FS	10.5067/DBWOVPBIHL90
TROPESS CrIS-JPSS1 L2 Deuterated Water Vapor for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2HDOCRS1FS	10.5067/WS2EO2ZDOM75
TROPESS CrIS-JPSS1 L2 Water Vapor for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2H2OCSR1FS	10.5067/MRHSM2PY0DZZ
TROPESS CrIS-JPSS1 L2 Methane for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2CH4CRS1FS	10.5067/QOFZLQYMGA72
TROPESS CrIS-JPSS1 L2 Ammonia for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2NH3CRS1FS	10.5067/7I3KMUCCJNEN
TROPESS CrIS-JPSS1 L2 Peroxyacetyl for Forward Stream, Standard Product	TRPSDL2PANCRS1FS	10.5067/W0W6L8M6J85X

## 1.1 Description of the Datasets

These data are processed by the NASA Tropospheric Ozone and Precursors from Earth System Sounding (TROPESS) project, which uses an optimal estimation algorithm whose heritage comes from the NASA Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer (TES) satellite project (Beer et al, 2006, Bowman et al, 2006).

Consequently, the data sets include the retrieved atmospheric states (vertical profiles), and diagnostic information including observation operators, (averaging kernels), to facilitate data assimilation and intercomparison, and error covariances that characterize the accuracy and precision. The organization of the data structures and variables described in this document are similar to the TES data. More information about these data can be found at <https://tes.jpl.nasa.gov/> and [User Guides](#).

## 1.2 Tropospheric Ozone and Precursors from Earth System Sounding (TROPESS) Description

Tropospheric sounding from satellite observations provides critical information about atmospheric composition and its impact on human health and climate. The Tropospheric Ozone and Precursors from Earth System Sounding (TROPESS) project generates Earth System Data Records (ESDRs) of ozone and other atmospheric constituents by processing data from multiple satellites through a common retrieval algorithm and ground data system. These products are rigorously validated using uncertainty analysis in conjunction with independent measurements. These steps quantify the accuracies needed to make long-term trends through multi-satellite records and chemical data assimilation.

The TROPESS activity leverages innovations pioneered by the Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer (TES) team in combining data from multiple satellites to form a common retrieval framework, which is known as the MULTi-SpECTra, MULTi-SpECies, Multi-SENSors (MUSES) science data processing system (MUSES-SDPS). This framework has been applied to a combined suite of hyper-spectral thermal infrared, near-infrared, and ultraviolet instruments to generate ESDRs of Earth's tropospheric composition, including ozone, carbon monoxide, and water vapor deuterium. The ESDRs resulting from combinations of instruments/wavelength regions have increased sensitivity to the lower troposphere relative to composition measurements derived from any single instrument.

### 1.3 Data Disclaimer

While atmospheric profiles of these species are provided from the surface to the top-of-atmosphere, the user should primarily focus their analyses on the vertical range where the sensitivity of the measurements is greatest. That sensitivity can vary, and should be diagnosed from the averaging kernel (Bowman *et al.*, 2002). For most species, peak sensitivity is in the free troposphere. However, for some species, such as NH<sub>3</sub>, the sensitivity is in the lower troposphere.

The TROPESS / MUSES retrievals of atmospheric composition in this collection have not yet been formally validated by aircraft or ground measurements. However, the following evaluations have been done:

- O<sub>3</sub>: Informal comparison of CrIS O<sub>3</sub> retrievals have been made with AIRS and TES data, which in turn have been validated (Nassar *et al.*, 2008; Boxe *et al.*, 2010; Verstraten *et*

*al.*, 2013; Fu *et al.*, 2018) and show that CrIS retrievals are consistent with the AIRS and TES retrievals.

- CO: CrIS CO retrievals have been compared to MOPITT CO, which agree on average between 3-10% (Fu *et al.*, 2016).
- PAN: CrIS PAN retrievals have been informally compared with TES PAN (Payne *et al.*, 2014) and have shown to be broadly consistent. CrIS PAN data have also been provisionally validated using in situ aircraft profiles from the Atmospheric Tomography Mission (ATom).
- NH<sub>3</sub>: The CrIS NH<sub>3</sub> retrievals have been compared to CrIS retrievals processed with the algorithms described in Shepard *et al.*, (2011) and Shepard and Cady-Pereira (2015). Both algorithms are derived from the TES algorithm. The retrievals compare within expected uncertainties.

### 1.3.1 Data Citation and Acknowledgment

The datasets may be acknowledged in publications using the Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) listed in Table 1.

If you plan on using any of these data please cite the following for a general description of the TROPES retrieval algorithm: (Bowman *et al.*, 2006; Worden *et al.*, 2012; Fu *et al.*, 2018).

In addition, there are several specific algorithm papers related to the retrieval and validation of each species, please cite depending on which data product is used:

- For validation methods and indirect comparisons with TES ozone retrievals, please reference the following: H. Worden *et al.* (2007), Boxe *et al.* (2010), Verstraeten *et al.*, (2013).
- For validation of CO retrievals please reference the following: Luo *et al.* (2007a; 2007b), Fu *et al.*, (2016), Buchholz *et al.*, (2021).
- For validation of NH<sub>3</sub> retrievals please cite the following: Shepard and Cady-Pereira (2015).
- For discussion of the PAN retrieval please cite: Payne *et al.*, (2014).

### 1.3.2 Contact Information

Please contact John Worden ([john.r.worden@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:john.r.worden@jpl.nasa.gov)) for any additional information needed about these data.

### 1.3.3 Version 1

This is the first version of this product.

## ○ 1.4 Quality Flags



There are a number of internal metrics of retrieval performance, e.g., statistics of spectral residuals, that are evaluated and used to calculate quality flags. For the standard products, these quality flags have already been applied such that only data that satisfies these flags are provided. Since quality flags vary by species, not all species are available at the same geolocation. Users will need to use the geolocation fields (see § 3.3) to match the targets for comparing species. Code for matching targets can be found in links in § 5.1.1 *Code examples: Python, Matlab, IDL*. Quality flags are subject to change in light of new sources of validation. The approaches used are described in detail in algorithm documentation.

## 2.0 Data Organization

These data represent a compilation of observations of different species (O<sub>3</sub>, CO, NH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, PAN, HDO, H<sub>2</sub>O, and TATM) derived from the CrIS-SNPP, and AIRS-Aqua, OMI-Aura L1B retrievals.

There is 1 file per species, and the data are divided into a series of daily segments with one segment per file.

Each file contains all observations of a given species made during a period of exactly 1 day, identified by the date in the filename.

### 2.1 File Format and Structure

The files in these collections are in NetCDF-4 format. NetCDF is a set of software libraries and self-describing, machine-independent data formats that support the creation, access, and sharing of array-oriented scientific data that was developed by UCAR/Unidata:

<https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/>.

### 2.2 File Naming Convention

The filenames for these data products are described in Table 2, where YYYYMMDDDD should be replaced by the observation date.

Below is an example of the general TROPES file naming convention used to identify each granule:

**[ProjectID]\_[Instrument-Platform]\_[ProductLevel]\_[ProductType]\_[ProductName]\_[DateStamp]\_[AlgorithmName]\_[AlgorithmVersion]\_[ProcessingStrategy]\_[FormatVersion].nc**

where:

- **[ProjectID]**: corresponds to the project identifier for the collection (i.e., TROPES).
- **[Instrument-Platform]**: corresponds to the instrument/sensor and corresponding platform used as L1B input dataset(s) used in the generation of the L2 data products. For Collections where more than one *[INSTRUMENT-PLATFORM]* combination is used as throughout the record, the original heritage of the L1B input datasets will be traceable in the filename. For

sensor-platform sets we use a '-' (dash) for the platform specification. For multi-sensor and platform combinations, we use an '\_' (underscore) to delineate the different instruments.

Examples:

- *Single sensor: [INSTRUMENT-PLATFORM]*
    - [AIRS-Aqua]
    - [OMI-Aura]
    - [CrIS-SNPP]
    - [CrIS-JPSS1]
    - [CrIS-JPSS2]
    - [TROPOMI-S5P]
  - *Multi-sensor: [INSTRUMENT-PLATFORM\_INSTRUMENT-PLATFORM]*
    - [AIRS-Aqua\_OMI-Aura]
    - [CrIS-SNPP\_TROPOMI-S5P]
    - [CrIS-JPSS1\_TROPOMI-S5P]
    - [CrIS-JPSS2\_TROPOMI-S5P]
- **[ProductLevel]**: The data processing level of the file. All TROPES collections are Level 2 (L2) products, following the [NASA Data Processing Levels](#).
  - **[ProductName]**: Short name to describe the data product name. Allowable values: Full, Standard and Summary. Standard products contain a subset of the parameters in the Full archival product.
  - **[ProductType]**: A short name to describe the primary atmospheric species or parameter included in the data file. Gas phase species names follow the chemical compound name and contain the symbols of the atoms of the elements present in the compound, as well as how many there are for each element in the form of subscripts. Acceptable values are:
    - O3 = Ozone
    - CO = Carbon monoxide
    - NH3 = Ammonia
    - PAN = Peroxyacetyl nitrate
    - CH4 = Methane
    - HDO = Deuterated water vapor
    - H2O = Water vapor
    - TATM = Atmospheric temperature
  - **[DateStamp]**: Date stamp is the observation period of the data contained in the product. Products are aggregated daily and will use the [DateStamp] notation *YYYYMMDD*, where:
    - *YYYY*: is the full calendar year.
    - *MM*: is the 2-digit month of the year. Single-digit months employ a leading zero.
    - *DD*: is the 2-digit day of the month. Single-digit days employ a leading zero.
  - **[AlgorithmName]**: The algorithm used to produce the data products (MUSES). Information indicating where the data were processed is covered in the global attributes.
  - **[AlgorithmVersion]**: 2-digit (zero-padded) version number following capital "R". The initial version will be R0.0, with the first release being R1.0. This will reset only with Major version updates. Example: "Rxx"
  - **[ProcessingStrategy]**: a two-letter code for the processing strategy used in generating the L2 science data products. Allowable values are:
    - FS: Forward Stream. Low-latency data products generated from the MUSES-SDPS forward processing streams.

- RS: Reanalysis Stream. Products are generated from the MUSES-SDPS reanalysis processing streams.
- SC: Special Collections. Provided on an as-needed and as-available basis to support NASA field missions and individual-investigator requests over specific regions.
- **FormatVersion:** 2-digit number, prefixed by a capital F. A change in the format version signals a change in the netcdf file layout, which would likely require a change in the users' data readers. Example: "Fxp".

**Table 2.** TROPES file naming conventions

Short Name	Filename Pattern
TRPSDL2O3AIRSOMIFS	TROPES_AIRS-Aqua_OMI-Aura_L2_Standard_O3_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2O3OMIFS	TROPES_OMI-Aura_L2_Standard_O3_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2O3AIRSFS	TROPES_AIRS-Aqua_L2_Standard_O3_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2COAIRSFS	TROPES_AIRS-Aqua_L2_Standard_CO_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2TATMAIRSFS	TROPES_AIRS-Aqua_L2_Standard_TATM_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2HDOAIRSFS	TROPES_AIRS-Aqua_L2_Standard_HDO_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2H2OAIRSFS	TROPES_AIRS-Aqua_L2_Standard_H2O_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2CH4AIRSFS	TROPES_AIRS-Aqua_L2_Standard_CH4_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2NH3AIRSFS	TROPES_AIRS-Aqua_L2_Standard_NH3_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2O3CRSFS	TROPES_CrIS-SNPP_L2_Standard_O3_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2COCRSFS	TROPES_CrIS-SNPP_L2_Standard_CO_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2TATMCRSFS	TROPES_CrIS-SNPP_L2_Standard_TATM_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2HDOCRSFS	TROPES_CrIS-SNPP_L2_Standard_HDO_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2H2OCSRFS	TROPES_CrIS-SNPP_L2_Standard_H2O_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2NH3CRSFS	TROPES_CrIS-SNPP_L2_Standard_NH3_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc
TRPSDL2PANCRSFS	TROPES_CrIS-SNPP_L2_Standard_PAN_20200912_MUSES_R1p11_FS_F0p1.nc

## 2.3 Key Science Data Fields

The TROPES L2 Standard Products have been designed with users in mind. The Key Science Data Fields expected to be of interest for most users are:

**Table 3.** Key science data fields.

Data Field Name	Long_Name/Description	Type	Dimensions	Undefined Value	Units
x	Retrieved state, as volume mixing ratio (VMR) relative to dry air.	float	target, level	-999.0	1
xa	A priori state, as volume mixing ratio relative to dry air	float	target, level	-999.0	1
averaging_kernel	Sensitivity of the retrieved state to the true state. For CO, O3, and NH3 retrieved states are in ln(VMR). For PAN, retrieved states are linear.	float	target, level, level	-999.0	1
observation_error	Measurement + systematic + cross-state error. Use for comparisons with other measurements and for assimilations	float	target, level, level	-999.0	1

## 3.0 Data Contents

### 3.1 Data Set Attributes (File Metadata)

A summary of global attributes present in all files is shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4.** Global data attributes.

Global Attribute	Description	Type
ShortName	ESDT short product name	string
LongName	Full product name	string

VersionID	Version ID for this product	int
IdentifierProductDOIAuthority	Organization providing DOI information	string
IdentifierProductDOI	DOI value	string
Format	Data file format	string
ProcessingLevel	Level of data product	string
SouthBoundingCoordinate	South bounding latitude	double
NorthBoundingCoordinate	North bounding latitude	double
WestBoundingCoordinate	West bounding longitude	double
EastBoundingCoordinate	East bounding longitude	double
Conventions	Name of convention(s) for metadata	string
MeasuredParameter	Species measured for this product	string
Platform	Platform for measuring instrument	string
Instrument	The measuring instrument	string

### 3.2 Variable Data Attributes

Each variable has its own associated attributes. Variable attributes are a CF standard and are used to describe the variable in more detail to properly interpret its value (see Table 5).

*Table 5. Per variable data attributes.*

Variable Attribute	Description	Type
_FillValue	single value indicating the data point contains fill instead of valid data	float
long_name	longer name describing the quantity being represented; typically used for plot titles	string
standard_name	standard name from CF standard name table, if one exists for the quantity being represented	string

comment	description or comment for the quantity being represented	string
units	units for variables that represent physical quantities	string
coordinates	space-separated list of the names of other variables that are coordinates for this variable	string
missing_value	same as _FillValue	float
source	identifies variable from the input product from which this quantity is derived from; used internally by TROPES team to trace back to source.	string

### 3.3 Geolocation Fields

Geolocation fields appear for every data observation and are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6.** *Geolocation fields.*

Global Attribute	Description	Type
CrIS Geolocation Fields		
cris_atrack	CrIS Suomi-NPP along-track index (1-45)	int
cris_xtrack	CrIS Suomi-NPP cross-track index (1-30)	int
cris_fov	CrIS Suomi-NPP field-of-view index (1-9)	int
cris_view_ang	CrIS Suomi-NPP view angle	float
cris_granule	CrIS Suomi-NPP granule number (1-240)	int
AIRS Geolocation Fields		
airs_atrack	AIRS along-track index (1-135)	int
airs_xtrack	AIRS cross-track index (1-90)	int
airs_view_ang	AIRS scan angle	float
airs_granule	AIRS granule number (1-240)	

OMI Geolocation Fields		
omi_atrack_index	OMI along-track index (1-1643)	int
omi_xtrack_uv1	OMI cross-track UV1 index (1-30)	int
omi_xtrack_uv2	OMI cross-track UV2 index (1-60)	int
omi_view_ang	OMI UV2 solar zenith angle	float

Since quality flags vary by species, some species may not be available at the same geolocation. Consequently, users are recommended to employ these geolocation fields to match the targets for comparing species (for more information, see §5.1.1 *Code examples: Python, Matlab, IDL*).

### 3.4 Dimensions

The variable dimensions associated with the data products are shown in Table 7.

**Table 7.** *Data dimensions.*

Global Attribute	Description	Dimension Size
target	target/observation identifier	Varies*
level	atmospheric pressure in hPa	CO: 14 NH <sub>3</sub> : 15 PAN: 16 O <sub>3</sub> : 26 CH <sub>4</sub> : 26 HDO: 17 H <sub>2</sub> O: 17 TATM: 31
datetime_utc_dim	UTC expressed as an array of integers year, month, day, hour, minute, second	6

\*Note: Dimensions of “target” vary by file and date. Number of targets range from (7000-10000).

## 4.0 Products/Parameters

The science data variables are described in the table below.

## 4.1 Data Fields

The science data fields are shown in Table 8.

**Table 8.** *Data fields.*

Data Field Name	Long_Name/Description	Type	Dimensions	Undefined Value	Units
x	Retrieved state, as volume mixing ratio (VMR) relative to dry air.	float	target, level	-999.0	1
averaging_kernel	Sensitivity of the retrieved state to the true state. For CO, O3, and NH3 retrieved states are in ln(VMR). For PAN, retrieved states are linear.	float	target, level, level	-999.0	1
observation_error	Measurement + systematic + cross-state error. Use for comparisons with other measurements and for assimilations	float	target, level, level	-999.0	1
signal_dof	Degrees of Freedom for Signal; trace of averaging kernel	float	target	-999.0	1
x_test	The estimated state for target 0 based on x[0], xa[0], and avg_kernel[0], as volume mixing ratio (VMR) relative to dry air.	float	level	-999.0	1
xa	A priori state, as volume mixing ratio relative to dry air	float	target, level	-999.0	1

## 4.2 Fill Values



Fill values are indicated in Table 9.

**Table 9.** *Fill values.*

Variable Type	Fill Value
float	-999.0

# 5.0 Options for Reading the Data

## 5.1 Tools/Programming Languages

Support for reading NetCDF is offered in many programming languages, including Python, Matlab, IDL, C/C++ and Fortran. NetCDF4 files are legal HDF5 files with additional bookkeeping information managed by the NetCDF4 library.

The following link provides a list of software and tools for manipulating and displaying NetCDF (\*.nc) data files: <https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/software.html>.

### 5.1.1 Code examples: Python, Matlab, IDL

Code examples for product usage from different programming languages are available at: <https://github.com/NASA-TROPESS>. In addition, code for matching targets is included at the link above.

## 5.2 Command Line Utilities

### 5.2.1 ncdump

Outputs contents of a netCDF file as ascii. From Unidata, part of the NetCDF libraries. ncdump documentation:

[https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/docs/netcdf\\_utilities\\_guide.html#ncdump\\_guide](https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/docs/netcdf_utilities_guide.html#ncdump_guide)

The ncdump tool can be used as a simple browser for HDF data files, to display the dimension names and sizes; variable names, types, and shapes; attribute names and values; and optionally, the values of data for all variables or selected variables in a netCDF file. The most common use of ncdump is with the `-h` option, in which only the header information is displayed.

### 5.2.2 NCO

NCO is a package of command-line utilities for manipulating netCDF files. Each NCO command does one very specific kind of manipulation, but you can combine them to powerful effect.

NCO Documentation: <http://nco.sourceforge.net/nco.html>

- [ncap](#) and [ncap2](#): netCDF Arithmetic Processors ([examples](#)) -- algebraic manipulation of data

- [ncatted](#): netCDF Attribute Editor ([examples](#)) -- modify metadata
- [ncbo](#): netCDF Binary Operator (includes ncadd, ncsubtract, ncmultiply, ncdivide) -- ([examples](#)) -- math involving two files
- [ncea](#): netCDF Ensemble Averager ([examples](#)) -- average across multiple input files
- [ncecat](#): netCDF Ensemble Concatenator ([examples](#)) -- combine files into a single record
- [ncflint](#): netCDF File Interpolator ([examples](#)) -- combine inputs via weighted interpolation
- [ncks](#): netCDF Kitchen Sink ([examples](#)) -- copies data to ascii or output file
- [ncpdq](#): netCDF Permute Dimensions Quickly, Pack Data Quietly ([examples](#)) -- rearrange dimensions or pack data
- [ncra](#): netCDF Record Averager ([examples](#)) -- average across time (record dimension)
- [ncrcat](#): netCDF Record Concatenator ([examples](#)) -- combine sequential files
- [ncrename](#): netCDF Renamer ([examples](#)) -- rename dimensions, variables, or attributes
- [ncwa](#): netCDF Weighted Averager ([examples](#)) -- weighted average over one file

## 5.3 GUI Tools

### 5.3.1 Panoply

Panoply is a good generic and free visualization tool for any netCDF file. A strength of the tool is that data can be previewed “remotely” over the network – i.e., a user can preview file content of HDF files stored on a remote site, without downloading them.

Panoply is available from Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) here:

<https://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/panoply/>

### 5.3.2 HDFView

HDFView is a visual tool for browsing and editing HDF (HDF5 and HDF4) and NetCDF files. It can be downloaded from here: <https://www.hdfgroup.org/downloads/hdfview/>.

## 6.0 GES DISC Data Services Help Desk

If you need assistance or wish to report a problem:

**Email:** [gsfc-dl-help-disc@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:gsfc-dl-help-disc@mail.nasa.gov)

**Voice:** 301-614-5224

**Fax:** 301-614-5268

**Address:**

Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Code 610.2 Greenbelt, MD 20771 USA

## 6.1 How to Articles

The GESDISC web site contains many informative articles under the “[How To Section](#)”, “[FAQ](#)” (frequently asked questions), “[News](#)”, “[Glossary](#)”, and “[Help](#)”. A sample of these articles includes:

[Earthdata Login for Data Access](#)

[How to Obtain Data in NetCDF Format via SSW](#)

[How to Download Data Files from HTTPS Service with wget](#)

[How to Obtain Data in NetCDF Format via OpeNDAP](#)

[Quick View Data with Panoply](#)

[How to Read Data in NetCDF Format with R](#)

[How to Read Data in HDF-5 or netCDF Format with GrADS](#)

[How to read and plot NetCDF MERRA-2 data in Python](#)

[How to Subset Level-2 Data](#)

[How to use the Level 3 and 4 Subsetter and Regridder](#)

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