Enabling NLDAS-2 Anomaly Analysis Using Giovanni

AGU 2017 Fall Meeting H21F-1558


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Summary

- Analyzing anomalies is important for monitoring droughts, determining weather trends, and studying land surface processes relevant for meteorology, hydrology, and climate.
- Using the North American Land Data Assimilation System Version 2 (NLDAS-2) monthly data and monthly climatology data, we computed the anomalies (differences between monthly climatology and monthly data) for several of the variables available in the NLDAS Primary Forcing and Noah land-surface model (LSM) data sets.
- Table below: NLDAS-2 Anomaly Variables in NASA Giovanni.
- Use case to the right: Application of NLDAS-2 anomaly to the 1988 North American Drought.

NLDAS

- Integrates observation and model data to produce LSM data sets, executed at 1/8th degree grid spacing over central North America.
- NLDAS forcing drives four land-surface models: NASA’s Mosaic, NOAA’s Noah, the NWS Office of Hydrological Development’s (OHD) SAC, and Princeton’s implementation of VIC.
- NLDAS-2, the second phase of the NLDAS project, provides hourly and monthly forcing data and model output for central North America from January 1, 1979 through present.
- Several monthly climatology products are also available, calculated as 30-year (1980-2009) monthly averages, for the forcing data and various model outputs.

NLDAS-2 Anomaly Variables in Giovanni

- The NASA Geospatial Interactive Online Visualization and Analysis Interface (Giovanni) is a Web-based application developed by the NASA Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center (GES DISC) that provides a simple and intuitive way to visualize, analyze, and access vast amounts of Earth science data without having to download the data.
- Figure below: Example of the Giovanni user interface.
- At top right: Giovanni options

NLDAS Primary Forcing Data L4 Monthly Anomaly 0.125 x 0.125 degree V002 (NLDAS_FORA0125_MA.002)

- Convecitive Precipitation Monthly Total kg/m²
- Potential Evaporation kg/m²
- Precipitation Monthly Total kg/m²
- Surface Incident Longwave Radiation Flux W/m²
- Surface Incident Shortwave Radiation Flux W/m²
- Surface pressure Pa

NLDAS Noah Land Surface Model L4 Monthly Anomaly 0.125 x 0.125 degree V002 (NLDAS_NOAH0125_MA.002)

- Ground heat flux W/m²
- Latent heat flux W/m²
- Rainfall (unfrozen precipitation) kg/m²
- Sensible heat flux W/m²
- Snow cover fraction
- Snowfall (frozen precipitation) kg/m²
- Soil moisture content (layer 1, 0-10 cm) kg/m²
- Soil moisture content (layer 2, 10-40 cm) kg/m²
- Soil moisture content (layer 3, 40-100 cm) kg/m²
- Soil moisture content (layer 4, 100-200 cm) kg/m²
- Soil moisture content (top 1 meter, 0-100 cm) kg/m²
- Soil moisture content (total column, 0-200 cm) kg/m²
- Soil temperature (layer 1, 0-10 cm) K
- Subsurface runoff (basflow) kg/m²
- Temperature (average surface skin) K
- Total evapotranspiration kg/m²

Visualization and Download Options

- Visualization options in Giovanni include Time-Averaged Map, Area-Averaged Time Series, Animation Map, Time-Averaged Overlay Map, Correlation Map, Area-Averaged Scatter Plot, Seasonal Time Series, and Histogram.
- Users can modify minimum and maximum values, color palettes, and map projections.
- Resulting images can be saved as GeoTIFF, KMZ, or PNG files.
- For maps, data can be saved as a NetCDF file (NASA Earthdata login credentials needed).
- For time series plots, resulting data can be saved as a CSV file.

Use Case: The 1988 North American Drought

- The 1988 drought was one of the most notable droughts in the midwestern United States of the last century, and the worst since the “Dust Bowl” of the 1930s.
- Drought developed quickly as rainfall totals hit record lows in April through June 1988.
- NLDAS-2 anomaly analysis capabilities in Giovanni enable the study of atmospheric and land conditions of major drought events through time-averaged maps and area-averaged time series.

References