

Procedure for obtaining &
comparing Cloud Coverage and
Precipitation Data Using
MY NASA DATA's
Live Access Server

Step 1

- On the main web page, under Create Your Own Microsets, click links to Live Access Server
- Click on *Atmosphere*

ASDC Live Access Server - Internet Explorer Provided by Cox High Speed Internet

Address: <http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset?cabitem=0>

MY NASA DATA
Mentoring and inquiry using NASA Data on Atmospheric and earth science for Teachers and Amateurs

ASDC Live Access Server

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single data set | compare two

Select Datasets

Show Variables

Set Constraints

Previous Output

Define variable

About Live Access Server

LAS UI Version 6.5

Datasets

Click on a dataset to continue or an **i** for information about a dataset. [Help](#)

Select dataset:

- i** [Atmosphere](#)
- i** [Snow and Ice](#)
- i** [Surface](#)

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Step 2

Click on *Clouds*

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Address: <http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset?catid=1>

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[single data set](#) | [compare two](#)

[Datasets > Atmosphere](#)

Click on a dataset to continue or an **i** for information about a dataset. [Help](#)

Select dataset:

- [Aerosols](#)
- [Air Quality](#)
- [Atmospheric Pressure](#)
- [Atmospheric Radiation](#)
- [Atmospheric Temperature](#)
- [Atmospheric Water Vapor](#)
- [Clouds](#)**
- [Precipitation](#)

Select Datasets

Show Variables

Set Constraints

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Define variable

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Address: <http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset?catid=85>

Step 3

Click on *Cloud Coverage*

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File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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Address <http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset?catitem=85>

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[single data set](#) [compare two](#)

Select Datasets

Show variables [→](#)

Set Constraints

Previous Output

Define variable

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[i](#) [Datasets > Atmosphere > Clouds](#)

Click on a dataset to continue or an [i](#) for information about a dataset. [Help](#)

Select dataset:

- [i](#) [Cloud Coverage](#)
- [i](#) [Cloud Opacity](#)
- [i](#) [Cloud Temperature](#)

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<http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset?catitem=86>

Step 4

■ Select the box for *Monthly Cloud Coverage for Cirrus (ISCCP)*

■ Click on NEXT (this is located to the right of the page in red)

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Address <http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset?catidem=86>

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[Datasets](#) > [Atmosphere](#) > [Clouds](#) > [Cloud Coverage](#)

Select a variable and then click **Next >** to proceed to the Constraints page. Click the GLOSSARY menu bar for acronym explanations. [Help](#)

Dataset variable(s): [Reset](#) | [Select all](#) | [Unselect all](#)

- Daily Cloud Fraction (SRB) [Next >](#)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Altostratus(ice) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Altostratus(liquid) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Altostratus(ice) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Altostratus(liquid) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Cirrostratus (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Cirrus (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Cumulus(ice) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Cumulus(liquid) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Deep Convective (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Nimbostratus(ice) (ISCCP) [Next >](#)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Nimbostratus(liquid) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Stratocumulus(ice) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Stratocumulus(liquid) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Stratus(ice) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Coverage for Stratus(liquid) (ISCCP)
- Monthly Cloud Fraction (SRB)
- Monthly High Cloud Coverage (ISCCP)
- Monthly Low Cloud Coverage (ISCCP)
- Monthly Middle Cloud Coverage (ISCCP) [Next >](#)

Constrain selected variables

Step 5

- In the *Select View* drop-down menu, highlight Time Series
- In the *Select Output* drop-down menu, highlight Line Plot
- In the *Select Region* drop-down menu, highlight Full Region (default)
- The coordinates' box is shaped like a compass.
 - In the *North* position's box, type 36 N. This sets the northern boundary for the plot.
 - In the *South* position's box, type 36 S. This sets the southern boundary for the plot.
 - In the *East* position's box, type 86 W and press Enter on your keyboard. This will automatically set the corresponding West position's box with the same value.
 - If there is a Go button, click the button.
- *Select Time*: only change the time entry on the second row so that the time period ranges from Aug 15 1998 to May 15 1999.
- Click on NEXT (this is located to the right of the page in red).

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Address http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/constrain?var=96

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single data set | compare two | **clouds**

1 Datasets > Atmosphere > Clouds > Cloud Coverage
Variable(s): Monthly Cloud Coverage for Deep Convective (ISCCP)

Select your desired view (geometry of output) and output (type of product). Then set the 4-D region (lon-lat-depth-time) and any additional constraints. [Help](#)

Select view: Time series (t)

Select output: Line plot

Select region: Full Region [Use the two of these](#) [Help](#)

36.0 N
86.0 W 86.0 W
36.0 S

Select time range: 15 Aug 1998 15-Aug-1998 to 15 May 1999 15-May-1999

[Next >](#)

Step 6

- On the left side menu, there are two tabs. Select the tab “compare two”
- This will allow the LAS to compare two datasets at the same time

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Address <http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/constrain?var=96>

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single data set compare two

Select Datasets

Show Variables

Set Constraints

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Define variable

About Live Access Server

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Datasets Atmosphere > Clouds > Cloud Coverage

Variable(s) Monthly Cloud Coverage for Deep Convective (ISCCP)

Select your desired view (geometry of output) and output (type of product). Then set the 4-D region (lon-lat-depth-time) and any additional constraints. [Help](#)

Select view: Time series (t) Next >

Select output: Line plot

Select region: Full Region

[Use the two-click map](#) [Help](#)

15.0 N
96.0 E 96.0 E
15.0 N

Select time range: 15 Aug 1998 15-Aug-1998 to 15 May 1999 15-May-1999

Select options:

Image format Default

Plot size default

View interpolation Off

Show reference map Default

[Evaluate expression](#)

Graphic option Default

Line color (var no.1) Default

Line thickness Default

javascript:stuffForm("constrain_compare")

Step 7

- After clicking on the “compare two” tab this is the screen you should see
- By default the second dataset is the same as the first, so we must change the 2nd dataset to the one we want

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Address: http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/constrain_compare

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single data set | compare two

Dataset 1
Variable 1
Dataset 2
Variable 2

Constraints

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1: Datasets > Atmosphere > Clouds > Cloud Coverage
1: Variable(s): Monthly Cloud Coverage for Deep Convective (ISCCP)
2: Datasets > Atmosphere > Clouds > Cloud Coverage
2: Variable(s): Monthly Cloud Coverage for Deep Convective (ISCCP)

Select your desired view (geometry of output) and output (type of product). Then set the 4-D region (lon-lat-depth-time) and any additional constraints. [Help](#)

Select view: Time series (t) Next >

Select output: Difference plot

Select region: Full Region [Go] [Use the two-click map](#) [Help](#)

var 1 var 2

0.0 N 0.0 E 0.0 E

0.0 N

Zoom In Zoom Out

Select time range: 15 Aug 1998 15-Aug-1998 to 15 May 1999 15-May-1999

Step 8

■ Next to the Number 2, click on *Dataset*. This takes you back out the screen where you initially chose your dataset

■ Click on *Atmosphere*

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Address: http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset_compare2?catitem=0

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single data set compare two

1: [Datasets](#) > [Atmosphere](#) > [Clouds](#) > [Cloud Coverage](#)
2: [Datasets](#)

Click on a dataset to continue or an [i](#) for information about a dataset. [Help](#)

Select dataset:

- [Atmosphere](#)
- [Snow and Ice](#)
- [Surface](#)

Dataset 1
Variable 1
Dataset 2
Variable 2
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http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset_compare2?catitem=1

Step 9

Click on
Precipitation

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Address http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset_compare2?catitem=1

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single data set compare two

Dataset 1
Variable 1
Dataset 2
Variable 2
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1: Datasets > Atmosphere > Clouds > Cloud Coverage
2: Datasets > Atmosphere

Click on a dataset to continue or an **i** for information about a dataset. [Help](#)

Select dataset:

- i** [Aerosols](#)
- i** [Air Quality](#)
- i** [Atmospheric Pressure](#)
- i** [Atmospheric Radiation](#)
- i** [Atmospheric Temperature](#)
- i** [Atmospheric Water Vapor](#)
- i** [Clouds](#)
- i** [Precipitation](#)

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http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset_compare2?catitem=130

Step 10

- Choose *Monthly Precipitation (CMAP)*
- Click on **NEXT** (this is located to the right of the page in red)

The screenshot shows the ASDC Live Access Server web interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/dataset_compare?catitem=130. The page features a header with the text "MY NASA DATA" and a sub-header "Mentoring and inquiry using NASA Data on Atmospheric and earth science for Teachers and Amateurs". Below the header, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with options: "+ MY NASA DATA HOME", "+ DATA ACCESS", "+ LESSON PLANS", "+ COMPUTER TOOLS", "+ SCIENCE FOCUS", and "+ GLOSSARY". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a list of options: "single data set", "compare two", "Dataset 1", "Variable 1", "Dataset 2", "Variable 2", "Constraints", "Previous Output", and "About". The right column displays a breadcrumb trail: "1: Datasets > Atmosphere > Clouds > Cloud Coverage" and "2: Datasets > Atmosphere > Precipitation". Below the breadcrumb trail, there is a text box with the instruction: "Select a variable and then click **Next >** to proceed to the Constraints page. Click the GLOSSARY menu bar for acronym explanations." Below this, the "Dataset variable(s):" section shows "Monthly Precipitation (CMAP)" selected with a radio button. To the right of this section, there are links for "Reset", "Select all", "Unselect all", and a red "Next >" button. The footer of the page includes the "FIRST GOV" logo, a NASA logo, and several links: "+ Freedom of Information Act", "+ The President's Management Agenda", "+ FY2003 Agency Performance Report", "+ Privacy Policy and Important Notices", and "NASA Official: Lin H. Chambers Last Updated: September 27, 2004 + Contact Us".

Step 11

- Highlighted in yellow are the coordinates for Variable 2. The *view*, *region* and *time range* remain the same selections as they were for Variable 1.
- In the *Select Output* drop-down menu, highlight *Overlap plot*
- Enter the same coordinates as before, since we want to compare different data at the same location
- Click on **NEXT** (this is located to the right of the page in red)

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Address: http://reason-dev.larc.nasa.gov/las/servlets/constrain_compare

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1: [Datasets > Atmosphere > Clouds > Cloud Coverage](#)
1: Variable(s): [Monthly Cloud Coverage for Deep Convective \(ISCCP\)](#)
2: [Datasets > Atmosphere > Precipitation](#)
2: Variable(s): [Monthly Precipitation \(CMAP\)](#)

Select your desired view (geometry of output) and output (type of product).
Then set the 4-D region (lon-lat-depth-time) and any additional constraints. [Help](#)

Select view:
Select output:
Select region: [Use the two-click map](#) [Help](#)

var 1 var 2

Select time range: to

Applet map started

Step 12

The graph will appear in a pop-up window. Note: some browsers have a pop-up blocker. Be sure pop-ups are enabled for this site or press and hold the Ctrl key and click Next.

