McIDAS-V Tutorial  
Displaying Suomi NPP Data  
updated December 2013 (software version 1.4)

McIDAS-V is a free, open source, visualization and data analysis software package that is the next generation in SSEC's 40-year history of sophisticated McIDAS software packages. McIDAS-V displays weather satellite (including hyperspectral) and other geophysical data in 2- and 3-dimensions. McIDAS-V can also analyze and manipulate the data with its powerful mathematical functions. McIDAS-V is built on SSEC's VisAD and Unidata's IDV libraries, and contains "Bridge" software that enables McIDAS-X users to run their commands and tasks in the McIDAS-V environment. The functionality of SSEC's HYDRA software package is also being integrated into McIDAS-V for viewing and analyzing hyperspectral satellite data.

More training materials are available on the McIDAS-V webpage and in the Getting Started chapter of the McIDAS-V User’s Guide, which is available from the Help menu within McIDAS-V. Notifications at McIDAS-V startup alert users when there is a new version of McIDAS-V is available on the McIDAS-V webpage - **<http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/mcidas/software/v/>**. Please post error reports the McIDAS-V Support Forums - <http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/mcidas/forums/>.

Please post error reports or feature requests to the McIDAS-V Support Forums - <http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/mcidas/forums/><http://dcdbs.ssec.wisc.edu/mcidasv/forums/>. The forums also provide the opportunity to share information with other users.

This tutorial assumes McIDAS-V is installed, and that you know how to start McIDAS-V. For information about installing and starting McIDAS-V follow the instructions in the document entitled *McIDAS-V Tutorial – Installation and Introduction*.

Terminology

There are two windows displayed when McIDAS-V first starts, the **McIDAS-V Main Display** (hereafter **Main Display**) and the **McIDAS-V Data Explorer** (hereafter **Data Explorer**).

The **Data Explorer** contains three tabs that appear in bold italics throughout this document: ***Data Sources*, *Field Selector***, and ***Layer Controls***. Data is selected in the ***Data Sources*** tab, loaded into the ***Field Selector***, displayed in the **Main Display**, and output is formatted in the ***Layer Controls***.

Menu trees are listed as a series (e.g. ***Edit -> Remove -> All Layers and Data Sources***).  
  
Mouse clicks are listed as combinations (e.g. *Shift+Left Click+Drag*).

**Introduction**

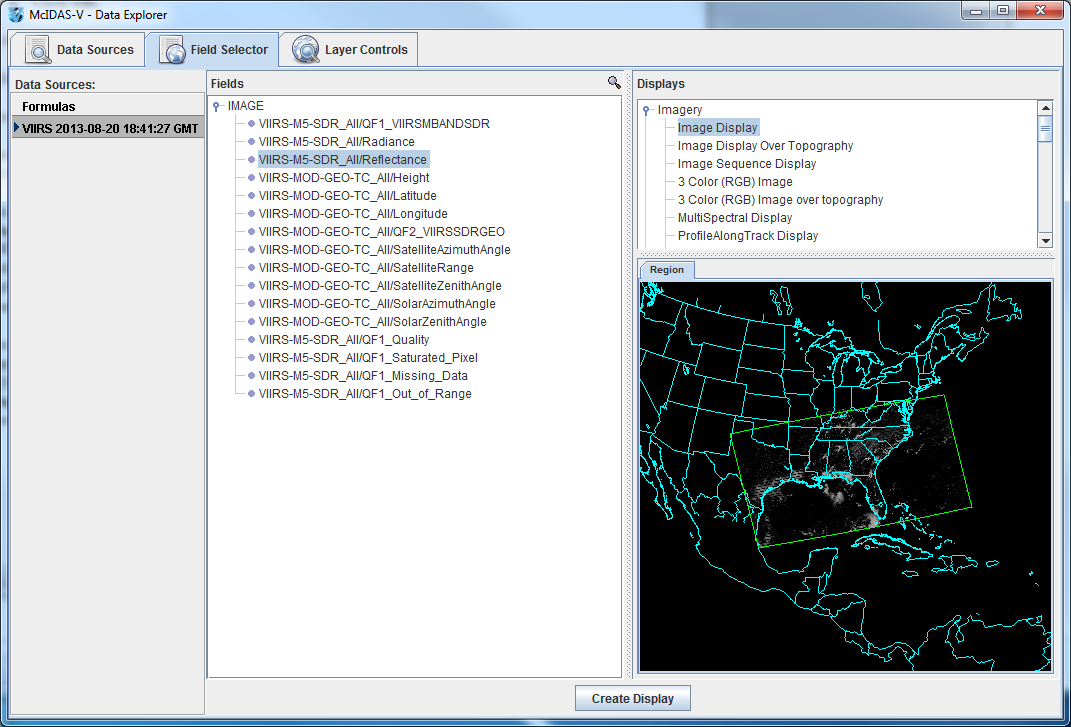
McIDAS-V displays Suomi NPP data through the ***Under Development -> Imagery -> Suomi NPP*** chooser. Among the displayable Suomi NPP products are different bands of SVM and SVI data, various cloud filter products, and the day/night band. In order for this data to be recognized by McIDAS-V, the data and geolocation files must be contained within the same directory. Some sources of data, including NOAA’s CLASS, package the data and geolocation files together, while other sources, including SSEC’s PEATE server, do not package the files together. Note that this chooser is still under development and improvements in functionality as well as the ability to utilize different NPP products will be added in the future.

This tutorial utilizes PEATE data with separate data and geolocation files, single-banded data from NOAA CLASS, as well as multi-banded visible data from NOAA CLASS.  
 **Aggregating Multiple Bands of SVM05 Visible Data**

1. In the **Main Display**Remove All Layers and Data Sources via the ***Edit -> Remove -> All Layers and Data Sources*** menu item.
2. Create a new tab with the ***File -> New Display Tab -> Map Display -> One Tab*** menu item.
3. Load the three time-consecutive granules of SVM05 data.  
   1. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, navigate to the ***Under Development******->******Imagery - Suomi NPP*** chooser.
   2. Under **Files**, use *Shift*+*Click* to select the following three files:

*<local path>***/Data/NPP/SVM05/SVM05\_npp\_d20130820\_t1841270\_e1842511\_b\****<local path>***/Data/NPP/SVM05/SVM05\_npp\_d20130820\_t1842524\_e1844165\_b\****<local path>***/Data/NPP/SVM05/SVM05\_npp\_d20130820\_t1844178\_e1845419\_b\***Note that the *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/SVM05** directory includes three GMTCO\* files (one for each SVM05\* file). These GMTCO\* files contain the geolocation data necessary for McIDAS-V to plot the SVM05 data. These GMTCO\* files cannot be selected in the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, only the SVM05 files can be chosen.

* 1. Click **Add Source**. Adding these three files at once aggregates the data together, combining the three individual granules into a single image.

1. Select the field to display, the display type, and display the data at full-resolution.  
   1. In the **Fields** panel of the ***Field Selector***, expand the *IMAGE* dropdown to view the fields included with the data. Select the *VIIRS-M5-SDR\_All/Reflectance* field.
   2. In the **Displays** panel, select ***Imagery -> Image Display***.
   3. The **Region** panel shows a preview image of the display. By default, McIDAS-V displays the data at reduced resolution to conserve memory. To display the data at full-resolution, an area within the data must be subsetted by using *Shift+Left-Click+Drag*. Anything contained with the green bounding box will be displayed at full-resolution. Subset a large area of the data. Note that the entire region must be contained within the granule’s data.
   4. Click **Create Display**.
2. Inspect the display of the SVM05 reflectance data.  
   1. Zoom to the region of interest (the southeastern United States) in the **Main Display** by using *Shift+Left-Click+Drag*. The mouse can control display zoom and translation. Experiment with the zooming in/out using the scroll wheel on the mouse. Translate using *Control+Right-Click+Drag on the mouse*.
   2. Hold down the middle mouse button over the display to probe the data. The probe readout is shown below the **Main Display** window. Compare the output between the convective cloud tops over the Florida panhandle to the cloud-free regions.
   3. Observe the bowtie deletion effect on the eastern and western edges of the granule. This is shown by black stripes of missing data going through the image. In Problem Set #1, a plugin will be installed that introduces two formulas that remove the bowtie effect.

**Displaying Day/Night Band Data**

1. Remove All Layers and Data Sources from the previous displays via the ***Edit -> Remove ->All Layers and Data Sources*** menu item in the **Main Display**.
2. Create a new tab via the ***File -> New Display Tab -> Map Display -> One Panel*** menu item.
3. Load the Suomi NPP Day/Night band granule.  
   1. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, navigate to the ***Under Development******->******Imagery - Suomi NPP*** chooser.
   2. Under **Files**, select:

*<local path>***/ Data/NPP/DayNightBand/GNDBO-SVDNB\_npp\_d20121013\***  
  
Note that this file packages the geolocation (GNDBO) and the data (SVDNB) together into the same file. Therefore, only this one file is included in *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/DayNightBand/**.

* 1. Click the **Add Source** button.

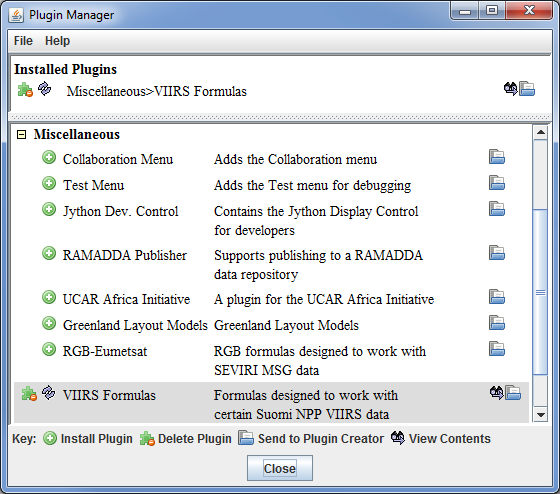
1. Select the field to display, the display type, and display the data at full-resolution.  
   1. In the **Fields** panel of the ***Field Selector***, expand the *IMAGE* dropdown to view the fields included with the data. Select the *VIIRS-DNB-SDR\_ALL/Radiance* field.
   2. In the **Displays** panel, select ***Imagery -> Image Display***.
   3. In the **Region** panel, subset a region in the bottom half of the data granule by using *Shift+Left Click+Drag*. Anything contained with the green bounding box will be displayed at full-resolution. Note that the entire region must be contained within the granule’s data.
   4. Click **Create Display**.
2. Adjust the display to make the aurora borealis visible.  
   1. Zoom to the region of interest in the **Main Display** by using *Shift+Left-Click+Drag* to choose an area containing the data (Alaska extending into Canada). As before, the mouse can control display zoom and translation. Experiment with the zooming in/out using the scroll wheel on the mouse. Translate using *Control+Right-Click+Drag on the mouse*.
   2. Adjust the colorbar range to make the data visible by *Right-Clicking* on the colorbar in the **Legend** of the **Main Display** and selecting *Change Range*. In the **Change Range** window, set **From** to *1E-9* and set **To** to *3E-8*. Click **OK**.

**Problem Sets**

The previous examples provided general knowledge for loading and displaying Suomi NPP data with the McIDAS-V software package..  The problem sets below introduce new topics related to the data, as well as expand your knowledge of McIDAS-V.  It is recommended that you attempt to complete each problem set before looking at the solutions, which are provided below the problem set.

1. Using the *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/SandyRGB/GMODO\*** file, create an RGB image using the Reflectance field of all three bands.
   1. Use the plugin manager (*Tools->Plugins->Manage)* to install the VIIRS formula plugin.
   2. Create the display by using the **VIIRS\_M\_RGB(M5,M4,M3)** formula available after the *VIIRS Formulas* plugin is installed.
   3. Display the data at full-resolution and including clouds as well as cloud-free land and water areas in the subsetted region. Adjust the **Common Gamma** field in the ***Layer Controls*** to make the individual colors stand out more in the display.
2. Aggregate the SVM12\* files contained in *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/Fire/SVM12\*** together to create a display of Brightness Temperature to investigate fire activity over Idaho.
   1. Use the **swathToGrid** formula to remove the bowtie. Display the data over Idaho at full-resolution.
   2. Change the colorbar to *Inverse Gray Scale*, and use the **Color Table Editor** to make the hot spots stand out better.
   3. Add a breakpoint at 300, color it yellow, and color the high-end breakpoint red. Interpolate the colors between these two breakpoints. Save the colorbar so it can be used in the future.
3. Overlay the results of Problem Set #2 with the *VIIRS-CM-IP\_All/QF2\_Fire\_Detected* field contained in the <*local path*>/ **Data/NPP/Fire/GMODO\*** cloud mask file to verify that the cloud mask field’s display matches the SVM12 brightness temperature display.

**Problem Set #1 – Solution**

Using the *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/SandyRGB/GMODO\*** file, create an RGB image using the Reflectance field of all three bands. Create the display by using the **VIIRS\_M\_RGB(M5,M4,M3)** formula that will be available once you install the *VIIRS Formulas* plugin. Display the data at full-resolution and make sure to include clouds as well as cloud-free land and water areas in your subsetted region. Adjust the **Common Gamma** field in the ***Layer Controls*** to make the individual colors stand out more in the display.

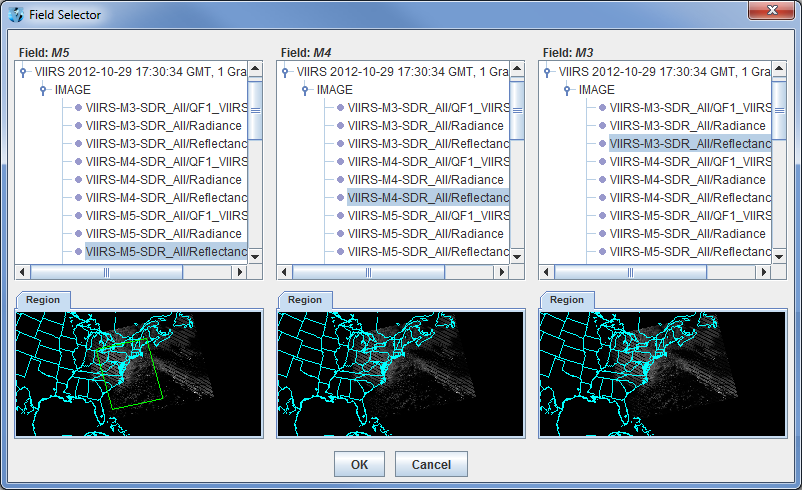
1. In the **Main Display** window, navigate to the ***Tools   
   -> Plugins -> Manage*** menu item to open the **Plugin Manager**.  
   1. The top of the **Plugin Manager** lists plugins currently installed, and the bottom panel lists various plugins packaged with McIDAS-V. Expand the *Miscellaneous* tree and click the green **Install Plugin** button next to *VIIRS Formulas*.
   2. A message appears informing you that McIDAS-V must be restarted to complete the installation of the plugin. Click **OK**. Then, restart McIDAS-V.
   3. Once McIDAS-V has restarted, navigate to the ***Field Selector*** tab of the **Data Explorer** where two new formulas are listed: **VIIRS\_M\_RGB(M5,M4,M3)** and **swathToGrid**. These formulas were added from the *VIIRS Formulas* plugin.
2. Load in a multi-banded VIIRS SVM granule. This data file contains three bands of SVM visible data (SVM03, SVM04 and SVM05).  
   1. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, navigate to the ***Under Development******>******Imagery – Suomi NPP*** chooser.
   2. Under **Files**, select the following file:

*<local path>***/ Data/NPP/SandyRGB/GMODO-SVM03-SVM04-SVM-5\_npp\***

Note that this file packages the geolocation (GMODO) and the data (SVM\*) together into the same file. Therefore, only this one file is included in *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/SandyRGB/**.

* 1. Click the **Add Source** button.

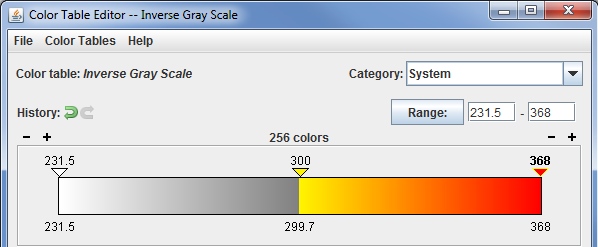
1. Use the **VIIRS\_M\_RGB(M5,M4,M3)** formula to create a true-colored RGB display of this data and remove the bowtie deletion.  
   1. In the ***Field Selector*** tab, under **Data Sources** select **Formulas**.
   2. Under **Fields**, select the **VIIRS\_M\_RGB(M5,M4,M3)** formula. Click **Create Display**.
   3. In the new **Field Selector** window, select:

* For **Field: M5**, select ***VIIRS -> IMAGE -> VIIRS-M5-SDR\_All/Reflectance***
* For **Field: M4**, select ***VIIRS -> IMAGE -> VIIRS-M4-SDR\_All/Reflectance***
* For **Field: M3**, select ***VIIRS -> IMAGE -> VIIRS-M3-SDR\_All/Reflectance***  
  1. In the **Region** tab of **Field: M5**, use *Shift+Left-Click+Drag* to select a region to display at full-resolution. Select a region that contains clouds, as well as cloud-free areas. It is not necessary to subset a region in for **M4** and **M3**, as the region selected for **M5** will be used for all fields.
  2. Click **OK** to display the results of the **VIIRS\_M\_RGB(M5,M4,M3)** formula.

1. Adjust the display to make the Red, Green, and Blue components of the display stand out.  
   1. Navigate to the ***Layer Controls*** tab of the **Data Explorer**. By default, all **Gamma** values for all colors are set to 1.0. Change this value to 0.4 by entering in 0.4 in the **Common Gamma** field and clicking the **Apply to All Gamma Fields** button.
   2. Return to the **Main Display** window to observe the RGB display of Hurricane Sandy and also notice that the bowtie effect has been removed by the formula.

**Problem Set #2 – Solution**

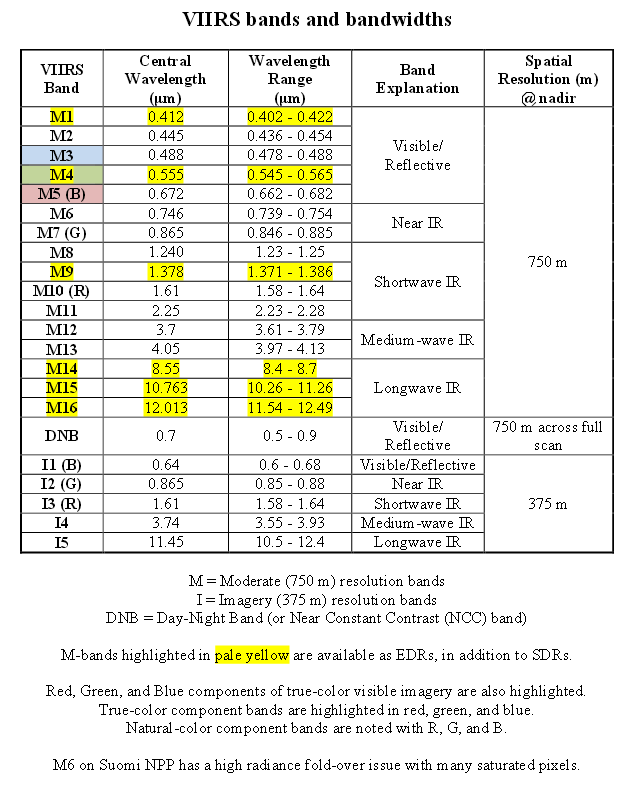
Aggregate the SVM12\* files contained in *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/Fire/SVM12\*** together to create a display of Brightness Temperature to investigate fire activity over Idaho. Use the **swathToGrid** formula to remove the bowtie. Display the data over Idaho at full-resolution. Once the display is created, change the colorbar to *Inverse Gray Scale*, and use the **Color Table Editor** to make the hot spots stand out better. Add a breakpoint at 300, color it yellow, and color the high-end breakpoint red. Interpolate the colors between these two breakpoints. Save the colorbar so it can be used in the future. Load in the three VIIRS SVM12 granules.

1. Remove All Layers and Data Sources from the previous displays.
2. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, navigate to the ***Under Development******->******Imagery -> Suomi NPP*** chooser.  
   1. Under **Files**, use *Shift+Click* to select the following three files:  
        
      *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/Fire/SVM12\_npp\_d20130811\_t1011478\_e1013120\_b\****<local path>***/ Data/NPP/Fire/SVM12\_npp\_d20130811\_t1013132\_e1014374\_b\****<local path>***/ Data/NPP/Fire/SVM12\_npp\_d20130811\_t1014386\_e1016028\_b\***Note that the *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/Fire** directory includes three GMTCO\* files (one for each SVM12\* file). These GMTCO\* files contain the geolocation data necessary for McIDAS-V to plot the SVM12 data. These GMTCO\* files cannot be selected in the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, only the SVM12 files can be chosen.
   2. Click the **Add Source** button. Adding these three files at once will aggregate the data together, combining the three individual granules into a single image.
3. Use the **swathToGrid** formula to create a full-resolution display of the data without the bowtie deletion.  
   1. In the ***Field Selector*** tab, under **Data Sources** select **Formulas**.
   2. Under **Fields**, select the **swathToGrid** formula.
   3. Under **Displays**, select ***Imagery > Image Display***. Click **Create Display**.
   4. In the new **Select input** window, enter 750 for **res** and 1.0 for **mode**. Click **OK**.
   5. In the **Field Selector**, select ***VIIRS\* -> IMAGE -> VIIRS-M12-SDR\_All/BrightnessTemperature***.
   6. In the **Region** tab, use *Shift+Left Click+Drag* to select a region over Idaho to display at full-resolution.
   7. Click **OK** to display the result of the **swathToGrid** formula.
4. Adjust the display to make the fires over Idaho easier to see.  
   1. Change the colorbar to Inverse Gray Scale. To do this, *Right-Click* on the colorbar in the **Legend** and select ***System -> Inverse Gray Scale***. This is done to make the lower data values (colder temperatures, such as clouds) display as white, while warmer temperatures are black.
   2. Add a color enhancement to the upper end of the colorbar to make the highest temperatures stand out. To do this, *Right-Click* on the colorbar in the **Legend** and select ***Edit Color Table***.
   3. In the **Color Table Editor** window, *Right-Click* on the colorbar and select ***Add Breakpoint -> At Data Point***. In the **Breakpoint Value** window, enter in a value of 300 and click **OK**.
   4. Change the color of the 300 breakpoint to yellow. To do this, using the ***HSB*** tab, move the slider to yellow. In the color panel within the ***HSB*** tab, *Left-Click+Drag* to select a bright yellow color. This will change the 300 breakpoint to yellow.
   5. Change the color for the upper end of the colorbar to red. To do this, select the breakpoint on the right side of the colorbar to make this breakpoint active. This breakpoint is denoted by an upside-down triangle. Once this breakpoint is active, a yellow outline will be drawn around the breakpoint’s triangle. Use the method in step **d** above to select a red color.
   6. Interpolate between the breakpoints by *Right-Clicking* on the upper breakpoint and selecting ***Edit Colors -> Interpolate -> Left***.
   7. Save the colorbar to be used in the future by selecting ***File -> Save As***. Enter in a name of *Fire* and click **OK**. This colorbar will now be available to use in the future by *Right-Clicking* on a colorbar in the **Legend** of the **Main Display** and selecting ***System -> Fire***. Note that this *System* comes from the **Category** dropdown menu in the **Color Table Editor**. This value can be changed by the user.
   8. Return to the display in the **Main Display** window to view the fires over Idaho. Notice that the hotspots are now colored yellow, orange and red. Probe the data to investigate the difference in brightness temperature between the fires and cloud-free land.

**Problem Set #3 – Solution**

Overlay the results of Problem Set #2 with the *VIIRS-CM-IP\_All/QF2\_Fire\_Detected* field contained in the <*local path*>/ **Data/NPP/Fire/GMODO\*** cloud mask file to verify that the cloud mask field’s display matches the SVM12 brightness temperature display.

1. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, navigate to the ***Under Development*** *-****>******Imagery -> Suomi NPP*** chooser.  
   1. Under **Files**, use *Shift+Click* to select the following file:  
        
      *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/Fire/GMODO-IICMO\_npp\_d20130811\_t1008587\_ e\***Note that the *<local path>***/ Data/NPP/Fire** directory includes one **GMODO-IICMO** file. Note that this file packages the geolocation (GMODO) and the data (IICMO\*) together into the same file.
   2. Click the **Add Source** button.
2. Use the **swathToGrid** formula to create a full-resolution display of the data without the bowtie deletion.  
   1. In the ***Field Selector*** tab, select **Formulas** under **Data Sources**.
   2. Under **Fields**, select the **swathToGrid** formula.
   3. Under **Displays**, select ***Imagery -> Image Display***.
   4. Click **Create Display**.
   5. In the new **Select input** window, enter 750 for **res** and 1.0 for **mode**. Click **OK**.
   6. In the **Field Selector** window, select ***VIIRS\* -> IMAGE -> VIIRS-CM-IP\_All/QF2\_Fire\_Detected***.
   7. In the **Region** tab, use *Shift+Left Click+Drag* to select a region over Idaho to display at full-resolution.
3. Click **OK** to display the result of the **swathToGrid** formula.
4. In the **Main Display**, toggle the visibility of the cloud mask field on and off by clicking the visible checkbox in the **Legend**. There should be white pixels from the cloud mask field that overlap with the higher SVM12 brightness temperatures.  
     
     
     
     
     
   The following table lists out band, wavelength and resolution information for VIIRS SVM, DNB (Day/Night Band) and SVI data. Source: http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/projects/npp/

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Zooming, Panning, and Rotating Controls**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Zooming** | **Panning** | **Rotating** |
|  | **Mouse** |  |
| **Shift-Left Drag:** Select a region by pressing the ***Shift*** key and dragging the left mouse button. **Shift-Right Drag:** Hold ***Shift*** key and drag the right mouse button. Moving up zooms in, moving down zooms out. | **Control-Right Mouse Drag:** Hold ***Control*** key and drag right mouse to pan. | **Right Mouse Drag:** Drag right mouse to rotate. |
|  | **Scroll Wheel** |  |
| **Scroll Wheel-Up:** Zoom Out. **Scroll Wheel-Down:** Zoom In. |  | **Control-Scroll Wheel-Up/Down:** Rotate clockwise/counter clockwise. **Shift-Scroll Wheel-Up/Down:** Rotate forward/backward clockwise. |
|  | **Arrow Keys** |  |
| **Shift-Up:** Zoom In. **Shift-Down:** Zoom Out. | **Control-Up arrow:** Pan Down. **Control-Down arrow:** Pan Up. **Control-Right arrow:** Pan Left. **Control-Left arrow**: Pan Right. | **Left/Right arrow:** Rotate around vertical axis. **Up/Down arrow:** Rotate around horizontal axis. **Shift-Left/Right arrow:** Rotate Clockwise/Counterclockwise. |