McIDAS-V Tutorial

Displaying Polar Satellite Imagery

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 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 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***.

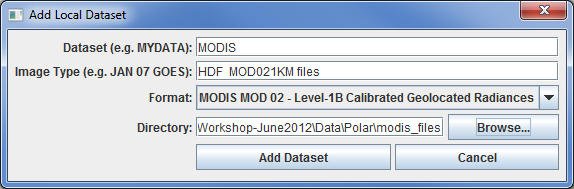
Menu trees are listed as a series (e.g. ***Edit -> Remove -> All Layers and Data Sources***).

Mouse clicks are listed as combinations (e.g. *Shift+Left Click+Drag*).

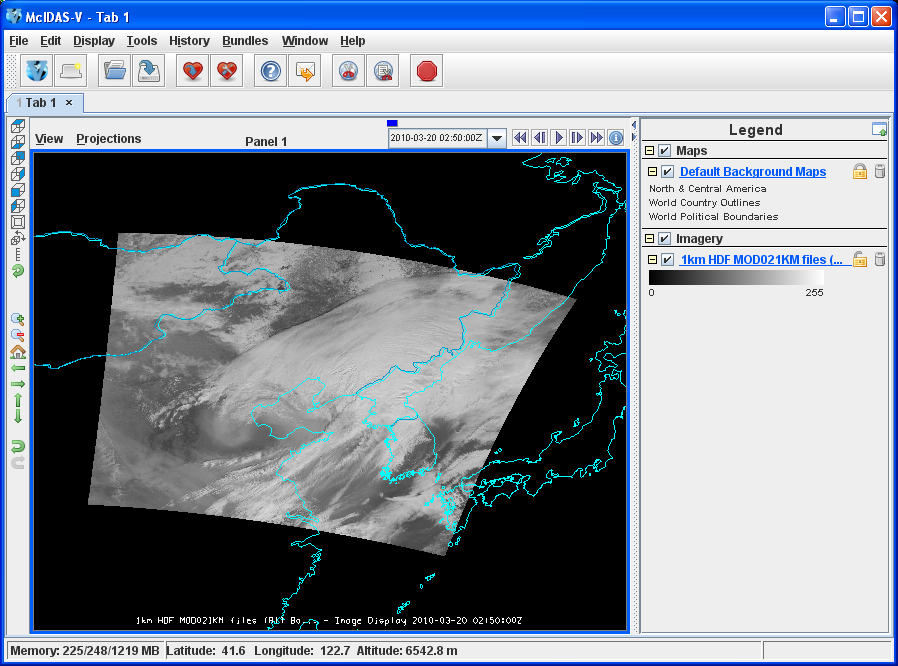
#### Loading Polar Satellite Images and Loops

1. Create a local dataset to access the imagery files on your local machine.
   1. In the **Main Display** window of McIDAS-V, select ***Tools -> Manage ADDE Datasets***.
   2. In the **ADDE Data Manager**, select ***File -> New Local Dataset*.** Enter in the following parameters to define a dataset for the MODIS Level 1b HDF files provided with this tutorial:

* **Dataset** – MODIS
* **Image Type** – HDF MOD021km files
* **Format** – MODIS MOD 02 – Level-1B Calibrated Geolocated Radiances
* **Directory** – select the *<local path>***/Data/Polar/modis\_files** directory



* 1. Click **Add Dataset**.
  2. Close the **ADDE Data Manager** by clicking **Ok** or ***File -> Close***.

1. To load the data in this local dataset, follow these steps.
   1. Click on the data-explorer-icon button in the **Main Toolbar** to go to the **Data Explorer**.
   2. Select the ***Satellite -> Imagery*** chooser from the ***Data Sources*** tab.
   3. Select **<LOCAL-DATA>** for the **Server**, select MODIS for the **Dataset**, and click **Connect**.
   4. Choose the *1km HDF MOD021KM files* **Image Type** and select an **Absolute** time of 02:50 UTC.
   5. Click **Add Source** to show the ***Field Selector***.
   6. Click on the dropdown arrow next to ***0.6465 um Land/Cloud Boundaries***

Select ***Brightness***.

* 1. Click **Create Display**. The 02:50 UTC 0.6465 μm image is displayed in the **Main Display** window.

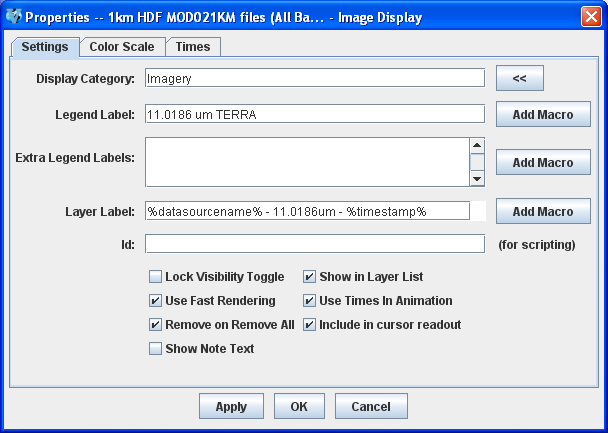
1. Use the zoom and pan controls in the left toolbar to inspect the image.
   1. Reset the display projection by clicking on the house icon below the zoom buttons on the left toolbar.
   2. Reproject the image with a pre-defined domain. Select ***Projections -> Predefined -> Asia***. Use the scroll wheel to zoom the image or *Shift+Left Click+Drag* a box around the image.
   3. Turn off the **Auto-set Projection** option under the **Projections** menu. When this option is checked, the projection automatically changes to the native projection of the new layer. When this option is unchecked, all new layers are reprojected into the current projection.
2. Edit the maps in the display by using the options in the ***Layer Controls***.
   1. Click on *Default Background Maps* in the **Legend** to access the map ***Layer Controls***. The map controls has two tabs:
      1. **The *Maps*** tab lists the available maps provides customization controls for map removal, visibility, line width, style and color.
      2. **The *Lat/Lon*** tab provides latitude/longitude line and label controls.

At the bottom of both tabs, a **Position** slider that provides the vertical position control of the map in the **Main Display**.

* 1. Optional: add latitude/longitude lines and labels using the ***Lat/Lon*** tab.
  2. To save a default map configuration, from the map ***Layer Controls*** select ***File -> Default Maps -> Save as the Default Map Set***. This default becomes active the next time new tab, or window is opened, or McIDAS-V is restarted.

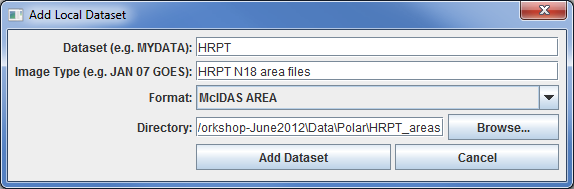
1. Return to the ***Field Selector*** to load an infrared image.
   1. Select ***11.0186 um Surface/Cloud Temperature -> Temperature***.
   2. Click **Create Display**.
2. The 11.0186 µm temperature image is overlaid on the visible image. To change the layer visibility (and view the visible image), uncheck the *1km HDF MOD021KM (All Bands...)* checkbox in the **Legend**. Check the box again to make the 11 µm layer visible again. Click and drag the middle mouse button and observe the **Cursor/Data Readout** option. This displays a readout at the bottom of the **Main Display** consisting of a latitude, longitude, and data value at the cursor location Since there are two layers in the **Main Display**, two lines are displayed in the readout with the corresponding values and units.
3. Change the font and color of the labels on the **Main Display**.  
   1. In the **Main Display** window, choose ***Edit -> Preferences***. Click on ***Display Window***.
   2. In the right column under ***Layer List Properties,*** change **Font** to Arial/Plain/14. Change the **Color** to yellow. Click **OK**.
   3. Return to the **Main Display** to see the changes. Notice the labels are the same in the **Legend** and on the main display window label. This can be customized.
   4. *Right Click* on the top **Legend** label *HDF MOD021KM (All Bands...)*.
   5. Choose ***Edit -> Properties…***. Enter the following for the **Legend Label** and **Layer Label**:

* **Legend Label** – *11.0186 um TERRA*
* **Layer Label** – *%datasourcename% - 11.0186 um - %timestamp%*

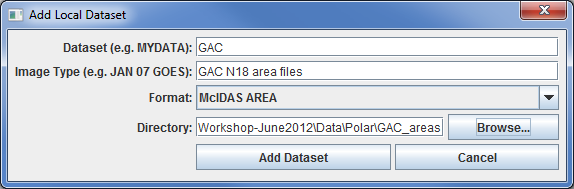


1. Return to the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer** to load another time.
   1. Go to the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, and using the ***Satellite -> Imagery*** chooser with **<LOCAL-DATA>/**MODIS, select the *HDF MOD021KM files* **Image Type**,and an **Absolute** time of 02:55 UTC.
   2. Click **Add Source** to show the ***Field Selector***.
   3. A new data source is created in the ***Field Selector***. Edit the label to distinguish it from the first data source. *Right Click* on the highlighted *1km HDF MOD021KM (All Bands...)* and choose **Properties**. In the **Name** field enter, 1km HDF 2:55 UTC MOD021KM. Click **OK**.
   4. Select ***0.6465 um Land/Cloud Boundaries -> Brightness***.
   5. Click **Create Display**. The 02:55 UTC 0.6465 μm image is displayed in the **Main Display** window with the other displays also visible (because the **Auto-set Projection** setting is unchecked).
   6. In the **Legend**, click on the trash can next to *11.0816 µm TERRA* to remove the infrared display (the middle one listed with the color table range of 0 to 295.7).
2. Create a local dataset to access the HRPT (High Resolution Picture Transmission) and GAC (Global Area Coverage) NOAA-18 Area polar orbiter imagery files on your local machine.
   1. In the **Main Menu Bar** of the **Main Display** window, select ***Tools -> Manage ADDE Datasets***. This opens the **ADDE Data Manager**.
   2. Select ***File -> New Local Dataset***. Enter the following parameters to define the dataset:

* **Dataset –** HRPT
* **Image Type –** HRPT N18 area files
* **Format –** McIDAS AREA
* **Directory –** select the *<local path>/***Data/Polar/HRPT\_areas** directory.



* 1. Click **Add Dataset**.
  2. In the **ADDE Data Manager**, select ***File -> New Local Dataset***. Enter the following parameters to define the dataset:
* **Dataset –** GAC
* **Image Type –** GAC N18 area files
* **Format –** McIDAS AREA
* **Directory –** select the *<local path>/***Data/Polar/GAC\_areas** directory.



* 1. Click **Add Dataset**.
  2. Close the **ADDE Data Manager** by clicking **Ok** or select ***File -> Close***.

1. Remove all layers and data sources and display HRPT 10.8 um Temperature data.
2. In the **Main Display** window, select ***Edit -> Remove -> All Layers and Data Sources***.
3. Click on the data-explorer-icon button in the **Main Toolbar** to go to the **Data Explorer**
4. Select the ***Data Sources*** tab use the ***Satellite -> Imagery*** chooser, select

**Server: <LOCAL-DATA>**

**Dataset**: HRPT

Click **Connect**.

1. Choose

**Image Type:** *HRPT N18 area files*

**Click the Absolute** tab. Select the time of 04:45:04 UTC.

**Navigation:** Select **Lat/Lon** **using the drop down list.**

1. Click **Add Source** to show the ***Field Selector***.
2. Select ***10.8 um Surface/Cloud-top Temp -> Temperature***.
3. Under **Displays** click on the ***Advanced*** tab. Click on the green arrow icon next to **Image Size** to load the full image. Change the **Magnification** to 1 X 1 with the sliders, and click **Create Display**. (The **Magnification** of 1 X 1 downloads the full resolution of the data. Negative magnification values reduce the amount of data downloaded. For example, -5 X -5 samples the data, and every fifth line and fifth element is sent from the server.)
4. There are bad data points in this image that cause extreme minimum and maximum range values for the data. Observe the large range of the color table (0 and 6553.1). Change the color table range by *right clicking* on the color table in the **Legend**, select **Change Range...**, and enter the values of **From:** 330 and **To:** 180.
5. Load an FY2E satellite image over the HRPT image. This dataset was previously created in the *Displaying Satellite Imagery* tutorial.
   1. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer,** using the ***Satellite -> Imagery*** chooser, select **<LOCAL-DATA>** for the **Server**, select ZQ\_IR for the **Dataset**, and click **Connect**.
   2. Choose the *FY2E IR satellite data* **Image Type** and select an **Absolute** time of 05:01 UTC.
   3. Click **Add Source** to show the ***Field Selector***.
   4. Select ***10.8 um Surface/Cloud-top Temp -> Temperature***.
   5. Under **Displays** click on the ***Advanced*** tab. Click on the green arrow icon next to **Image Size** to load the full image. Change the **Magnification** to 1 X 1 with the sliders, and click **Create Display**.
   6. **Auto-set Projection** is off from a previous exercise. Change to the FY2E image’s native projection, in the **Main Display**, select ***Projections -> From Displays -> Image (GMSX) Projection from: Image Display***.
6. Zoom the **Main Display** over the HRPT image and place the HRPT image over the FY2E image.
   1. Turn off the FY2E full disk image by unchecking the *FY2E IR Satellite Data* box in the **Legend**.
   2. Use *Shift+Left Click+Drag* to create a box over the HRPT image to zoom.
   3. Turn on the FY2E full disk image by rechecking the *FY2E IR Satellite Data* box in the **Legend**.
   4. In the **Legend**, *Right Click* on the *HRPT N18 area files* and select ***View -> Bring to Front***.
7. Make the data ranges the same for both images and compare them.
   1. In the ***Legend***, *Right Click* on the *FY2E IR satellite data’s* color table and select ***Change Range...***. In the window enter **From:** 330 and **To:** 180. Click **OK**.
   2. Use the middle mouse button to click and probe the data for a temperature comparison.

**Creating RGB images using formulas**

1. Create a local dataset to access a MODIS hdf file on your local machine and add the data.
   1. In the **Main Display**, select the ***Tools -> Manage ADDE Datasets*** menu item.
   2. In the **ADDE Data Manager**, select ***File -> New Local Dataset*.** To define a dataset for the MODIS hdf files provided with this tutorial enter the following parameters: **Dataset:** MODIS, **Image Type:** MODIS half km file, **Format:** MODIS MOD 02 – Level 1B Calibrated Geo-located Radiances. Under **Directory:**, select the *<local path>***/Data/Satellite/modis\_files** directory. Click **Add Dataset**.
   3. Close the **ADDE Data Manager** by clicking **Ok** or select ***File -> Close***.
   4. Remove All Layers and Data Sources.
   5. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer,** using the ***Satellite -> Imagery*** chooser, select **<LOCAL-DATA>** for the **Server**, select MODIS for the **Dataset**, and click **Connect**.
   6. Choose the *MODIS half km file* **Image Type** and select the **Absolute** time of 02:50 UTC.
   7. Click **Add Source** to show the ***Field Selector***.
2. Define the Red, Green, and Blue channels for the image display.  
   1. Click on **Formulas** under the **Data Sources** listed in the ***Field Selector***.
   2. Select ***Imagery -> Three Color (RGB) Image***, and click **Create Display**.
   3. In the **Field Selector**, select ***MODIS half km file -> 0.6465 um -> Brightness*** as red, ***MODIS... -> 0.5537 um -> Brightness*** as green, and ***MODIS... -> 0.4656 um -> Brightness*** as blue and click **OK**.

**Problem Sets**

The previous examples provided general knowledge for loading and displaying polar satellite 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 is provided below the problem set.

1. Load a loop of GAC (Global Area Coverage) NOAA-18 images on a Globe Display. Load visible and low-level water vapor images. Animate the loop on a rotating globe with a solid blue background image. Use the GAC N18 dataset created earlier in this tutorial.
2. Load a HRPT NOAA-18 image. Display the polar orbit track for the image using a two-line element text file with the Polar Orbit Track chooser. Add the swath width and antenna circles for the Wallops ground station.

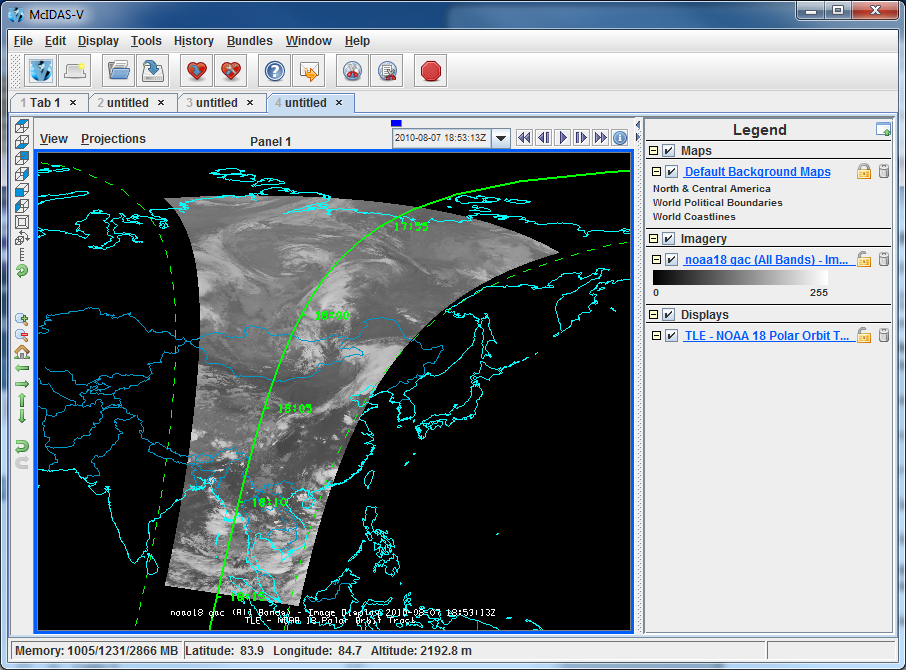
**Problem Set #1 – Solution**

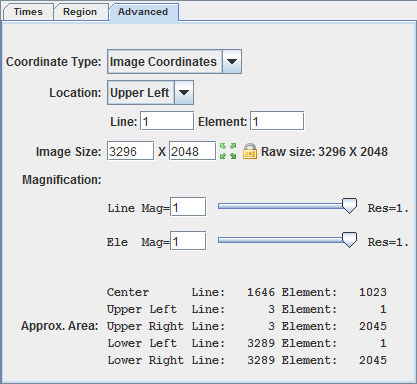
Load a loop of GAC (Global Area Coverage) NOAA-18 images on a Globe Display. Load visible and low-level water vapor images. Animate the loop on a rotating globe with a solid blue background image. Use the GAC N18 dataset created earlier in this tutorial.

1. Remove All Layers and Data Sources, create a globe display, and load the data.  
   1. Remove All Layers and Data Sources.
   2. In the **Main Display** select ***File -> New Display Tab -> Globe Display -> One Panel***.
   3. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer,** using the ***Satellite -> Imagery*** chooser, select **<LOCAL-DATA>** for the **Server**, select GAC for the **Dataset**, and click **Connect**.
   4. Choose the *GAC N18 area files* **Image Type** and select the **Relative** times of ***8 most recent***.
   5. Select *Lat/Lon* for the **Navigation**.
   6. Click **Add Source** to show the ***Field Selector***.
2. Select the 0.63 μm and 12.0 μm bands and display them.
   1. Select ***0.63 um VIS Cloud and Surface Features -> Brightness***.
   2. Under **Displays** click on the ***Advanced*** tab. For **Coordinate Type:** choose **Image Coordinates**. Change the **Magnification** to 1 X 1 with the sliders. Click on the green arrow icon arrows next to **Image Size** to load the full-size image. For **Location:** choose **Upper Left**, and click **Create Display**.
   3. Repeat this process with the ***12.0 um IR SFC/Cloud Temp, Low-level WV -> Brightness***.
3. Animate the globe and add the background image. Then analyze and animate the globe display.
   1. From the **Main Display**, select ***Display -> Add Background Image***. In the ***Layer Controls*** for **Layer** choose **Solid Blue**.
   2. Start the loop by using the Time Animation buttons at the top of the **Main Display**.
   3. Turn on the **Auto-Rotate view** option (***View -> Viewpoint*** from the **Main Display** window, or the Auto-Rotate button autorotate in the Viewpoint Toolbar to the left of the image).
   4. Change the orientation of the globe in the **Main Display** with the mouse controls. Restart the **Auto rotate view**.

**Problem Set #2 – Solution**

Load a HRPT NOAA-18 image. Display the polar orbit tracks for the image using a two-line element text file with the Polar Orbit Track chooser. Add the swath width and antenna circles for the Wallops ground station.

1. Remove All Layers and Data Sources, and display the 19:46:04 UTC NOAA-18 image in a new tab.
2. Remove All Layers and Data Sources.
3. Click the  button in the **Main Display** to create a new tab.
4. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer,** using the ***Satellite -> Imagery*** chooser, select **<LOCAL-DATA>** for the **Server**, select HRPT for the **Dataset**, and click **Connect**.
5. Choose the *HRPT N18 area files* **Image Type**
6. Select an **Absolute** time of 19:46:04 UTC.
7. Select *Lat/Lon* for the **Navigation**.
8. Click **Add Source** to show the ***Field Selector***.
9. Display the 19:46:00 UTC NOAA-18 image
10. Select ***0.63 um VIS Cloud and Surface Features -> Brightness***.
11. Under **Displays** select the ***Advanced***tab.



* + For **Coordinate Type:** choose **Image Coordinates**.
  + Change the **Magnification** to 1 X 1 with the sliders.
  + Click on the green arrow icon arrows to load the full-size image.
  + For **Location:** choose **Upper Left**.

1. Click **Create Display**.
2. Reproject the display to the continental United States domain. In the **Main Display**, select ***Projections ‑> Predefined -> US ‑> CONUS***. Zoom into the image to fill the display.
3. Display the polar orbit tracks from a two-line element file.
4. In the ***Data Sources*** tab of the **Data Explorer**, select the ***Under Development -> Imagery – Polar Orbit Track*** chooser.
5. Under **Look In**, navigate to the *<local path>/***Data/Polar/** directory and select the noaa18.txt file.
6. Click **Add Source** to show the ***Field Selector***.
7. Under **Displays**, select ***Polar Orbit Track***.
8. Select the time range of data for display in the ***Time Range*** tab of the ***Field Selector***.  
   * Enter Apr 26, 2012 in both **Date:** fields.
   * Enter 19:40 for **Begin Time**, and enter 20:00 for **End Time**. Click **Create Display**.
9. Navigate to the ***Layer Controls*** of the TLE data to modify the display.  
   * Enter 3000 in **Swath Width**.
   * Enter 5 in **Font Size**
   * In **Ground Station:** click the arrow to show the list of stations. Choose **Wallops14** (near the bottom of the list).

**Zooming, Panning, and Rotating Controls**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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. |