



*National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration Goddard Earth Science Data  
Information and Services Center (GES DISC)*

## **README Document for**

### **NASA Energy and Water cycle Study (NEWS) Climatology of the 1<sup>st</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Dataset**

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## Revision History

<i>Revision Date</i>	<i>Changes</i>	<i>Author</i>
09/16/2015	Initial version based on information from Hiroko Beadoing	Hualan Rui
09/18/2015	Review and revise	Hiroko Beadoing
06/05/2017	Add DOI information	Hualan Rui
07/21/2017	Update URLs to comply with GES DISC new Web site	Hualan Rui
03/01/2021	Update the email address of GES DISC Help Desk	Hualan Rui

## Table of Contents

<b>Revision History</b> .....	2
<b>Introduction</b> .....	4
<i>Basic characteristics of the NEWS WEB Climatology data</i> .....	4
<b>Updates</b> .....	4
<b>Acknowledgment</b> .....	4
<b>Data Organization</b> .....	5
<b>Data Contents</b> .....	5
<i>Annual Climatology Data (NEWS_WEB_ACLIM.1.0)</i> .....	7
<i>Monthly Climatology Data (NEWS_WEB_MCLIM.1.0)</i> .....	8
<b>Reading the Data</b> .....	9
<i>Reading/viewing the data by Panoply</i> .....	10
<b>Data Access</b> .....	10
<i>Data Volume</i> .....	10
<i>Search and download data via Mirador</i> .....	10
<i>HTTP Access</i> .....	10
<b>Points of Contact</b> .....	10
<b>Sponsor and Acknowledgment</b> .....	11
<b>DOI</b> .....	11
<b>References</b> .....	12
<b>Appendices</b> .....	12
<i>A. Acronyms</i> .....	12

## Introduction

This dataset summarizes the original observationally-based mean fluxes of Water and Energy Budget (WEB) components during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, for each continent and ocean basin on monthly and annual scales as well as means over all oceans, all continents, and the globe. A careful accounting of uncertainty in the estimates is included. Also, it includes optimized versions of all component fluxes that simultaneously satisfy energy and water cycle balance constraints. This dataset is a product of the companion papers: Rodell et al. 2015 and L'Ecuyer et al. 2015.

*Basic characteristics of the NEWS WEB Climatology data*

**Table 1. Basic characteristics of the NEWS WEB Climatology data.**

Contents	Water and Energy Budget
Input data	Observationally-based fluxes and states
Spatial Coverage	Global
Spatial resolution	Continents and ocean basins
Temporal resolution	Annual climatology Monthly climatology
Temporal coverage	1 <sup>st</sup> decade of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
Format	xlsx, csv, NetCDF
Missing value	-999.00

## Updates

Please periodically check the [GES DISC web site](#) and [GES DISC Hydrology Documentation](#) for the latest release.

## Acknowledgment

NASA requests that you include the following acknowledgment in papers published using these data:

*"The data used in this study were acquired as part of the mission of NASA's Earth Science Division and archived and distributed by the Goddard Earth Sciences (GES) Data and Information Services Center (DISC)."*

We would appreciate receiving a copy of your publication, which can be forwarded to the following address:

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## Data Organization

The data are organized in two data products, annual climatology and monthly climatology, and named as:

NEWS\_WEB\_ACLIM.1.0  
 NEWS\_WEB\_MCLIM.1.0

Where “ACLIM” denotes annual climatology and “MCLIM” indicates monthly climatology.

The data are presented in four different units, namely; mm/day, W/m<sup>2</sup>, cm/year (or cm/month), and 1000km<sup>3</sup>, and archived in three different formats, NetCDF(.nc4), Excel (.xlsx), comma delineated text (.csv). The file names are listed in the Table 2.

**Table 2. File names for NEWS WEB Climatology data**

Format	Annual Climatology File Name	Monthly Climatology File Name	Unit
Excel	NEWS_WEB_ACLIM.1.0.xlsx	NEWS_WEB_MCLIM.1.0.xlsx	*
csv	NEWS_WEB_ACLIM.1.0_Wm-2.csv	NEWS_WEB_MCLIM.1.0_Wm-2.csv	W/m <sup>2</sup>
csv	NEWS_WEB_ACLIM.1.0_1000km3.csv	NEWS_WEB_MCLIM.1.0_1000km3.csv	1000km <sup>3</sup>
csv	NEWS_WEB_ACLIM.1.0_cmyr-1.csv	NEWS_WEB_MCLIM.1.0_cmmon-1.csv	cm/year or cm/mon
csv	NEWS_WEB_ACLIM.1.0_mmday-1.csv	NEWS_WEB_MCLIM.1.0_mmday-1.csv	mm/day
NetCDF	NEWS_WEB_ACLIM.1.0.nc4	NEWS_WEB_MCLIM.1.0.nc4	**
NetCDF	NEWS_WEB_REGIONMAP.nc4	NEWS_WEB_REGIONMAP.nc4	***

\* Excel file includes the flux data in all four units, along with the area.

\*\* NetCDF file includes the flux data in all four units, along with names and areas of continents, ocean basins, World Land, World Ocean, and World. Variables are named following the convention:

Vaname\_STATUS\_UNITSNAME

where STATUS is “obs” for observed or “opt” for optimized; UNITSNAME are “volume”, “height”, “rate”, or “flux” for 1000km<sup>3</sup>, cm/year (or cm/month), mm/day, and W/m<sup>2</sup>, respectively.

\*\*\* The data for the map of continents/ocean basins delineation used in the study (Figure 1) is provided in NetCDF format.

## Data Contents

The data set contains the original observationally-based mean fluxes of water and energy budget components during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, for each continent and ocean basin on monthly and annual scales as well as means over all oceans, all continents, and the globe. A careful accounting of uncertainty in the estimates is included. Also, it includes optimized versions of all component fluxes that simultaneously satisfy energy and water cycle balance constraints.

The observationally-based mean fluxes and stores are predominantly satellite based measurements. The model outputs included in the analysis have been constrained by in-situ or remote sensing observations. The sources of data are listed in Table 2 of Rodell et al for water budget and Table 1 of L'Eculyer et al for energy budget components, respectively.

The climatology base period is roughly 1998-2010 where individual dataset covers various periods starting as early as 1998 and as late as 2002, not all extending to 2010.

The continents and Ocean basins boundaries map (Figure 1) is used in this study to compute regional means. The Ocean basin data was provided by Kyle Hilburn and Chelle Gentemann at Remote Sensing Systems. The land portion and some inland water bodies of the data are delineated into continents. The boundaries are defined to be comprehensive global coverage and relevant to past studies. The Table 3 lists the continents and ocean basins, along with the corresponding area in square kilometer. World Land consists of the sum of all continents. Similarly, World Ocean is the sum of all basins. World is the total area.

Figure 1. Continents and Ocean Basins for NEW WEB climatology data

**Continents and Ocean Basins for  
NASA Energy and Water cycle Study (NEWS) Climatology of the 1<sup>st</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Dataset**



Table 3. Continents and Ocean Basins for NEWS WEB Climatology Data

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Area (KM<sup>2</sup>)</b>
1	North America	24030089
2	South America	17737690
3	Eurasia	53234055
4	Africa	29903956
5	Mainland Australia	7560766
6	Australasian and Indonesian Islands	1484627

7	Antarctica	12705364
8	World Land	146656546
9	Arctic	10153134
10	North Pacific	81774276
11	South Pacific	99933892
12	North Atlantic	43384135
13	South Atlantic	46513141
14	Indian	75370126
15	Caribbean Sea	4345760
16	Mediterranean Sea	2604532
17	Black Sea	472006
18	World Ocean	364551002
19	World	511207548

*Annual Climatology Data (NEWS\_WEB\_ACLIM.1.0)*

The data product contains 18 variables (Table 4), consisting of 14 flux components, 2 budget terms, and 2 residuals. Each flux variable contains values for mean and uncertainty. All variables contain observed and optimized estimates per region.

**Table 4. Variables in NEWS WEB Annual Climatology Data**

No.	Short Name (key)	Description
1	P	precipitation (atmospheric latent heat)
2	ET/E	evapotranspiration or ocean evaporation (surface latent heat)
3	Q	total runoff
4	Q_RUN	surface runoff portion of Q
5	Q_SDG	submarine discharge portion of Q
6	C	net atmospheric convergence
7	DLR	downwelling longwave radiation at surface
8	DSR	downwelling shortwave radiation at surface
9	ULW	upwelling longwave radiation emitted by the surface
10	USW	upwelling shortwave radiation reflected by the surface
11	SH	sensible heat flux
12	OSR	outgoing shortwave radiation at top of atmosphere
13	OLR	outgoing longwave radiation at top of atmosphere
14	F	incoming solar radiation at top of atmosphere
15	SWB	surface water budget residual
16	AWB	atmospheric water budget residual
17	NET	surface energy budget
18	NETA	atmospheric energy budget
	error	uncertainty of associated flux

Note:

1. “Residual” indicates imbalance in surface and atmospheric water budget where dS and dW are zero at annual scale. They are computed as follows:  
 $SWB = P - ET - Q - dS$  (Land)       $SWB = P - E + Q - dS$  (Ocean)  
 $AWB = P - ET - C + dW$  (Land and Ocean)
2. Energy budget equations for Land and Ocean:  
 $NET = DLR + DSR - ULW - USW - E - SH$   
 $NETA = F - OSR - OLR + P + SH - DLR - DSR + ULW + USW$
3. OSR, OLR, and F are used to constrain NETA at global scale only (World).
4. NET is computed at continents, World Land, World Ocean, and World (no individual basins).
5. Surface runoff and submarine discharge estimates are available only for “observed” because they are not distinguished in the optimization.

*Monthly Climatology Data (NEWS\_WEB\_MCLIM.1.0)*

The data product contains 16 variables (Table 5), consisting of 14 flux and storage/budget variables and 2 residuals. Each of these flux and storage/budget variables has mean and uncertainty. All variables contain observed and optimized monthly estimates per region,

**Table 5. Variables in NEWS WEB Monthly Climatology Data**

	Short Name (key)	Description
1	P	precipitation (atmospheric latent heat)
2	ET/E	evapotranspiration or ocean evaporation (surface latent heat)
3	Q	total runoff
4	Q_RUN	surface runoff portion of Q
5	Q_SDG	submarine discharge portion of Q
6	C	net atmospheric convergence
7	dS	change in surface water storage
8	dW	change in precipitable water in the atmospheric column
9	DLR	downwelling longwave radiation at surface
10	DSR	downwelling shortwave radiation at surface
11	ULW	upwelling longwave radiation emitted by the surface
12	USW	upwelling shortwave radiation reflected by the surface
13	SH	sensible heat flux
14	SWB	surface water budget residual
15	AWB	atmospheric water budget residual
16	NET	surface energy budget
	error	uncertainty of associated flux

Note:

1. “Residual” indicates imbalance in surface and atmospheric water budget and they are computed as follows:  
 $SWB = P - ET - Q - dS$  (Land)       $SWB = P - E + Q - dS$  (Ocean)  
 $AWB = P - ET - C + dW$  (Land and Ocean)

2. Energy budget equation:

$$\text{NET} = \text{DLR} + \text{DSR} - \text{ULW} - \text{USW} - \text{ET} - \text{SH} \text{ (Land)}$$

$$\text{NET} = \text{DLR} + \text{DSR} - \text{ULW} - \text{USW} - \text{E} - \text{SH} \text{ (Ocean)}$$

*Region Map Data (NEWS\_WEB\_REGIONMAP)*

The map data contains indexes ranging from 1 to 19 (Table 6). The indexes are mapped into the NEWS Region (right column) to arrive at the regions used in this study (Figure 1).

**Table 6 NEWS WEB REGIONMAP Data**

Value	Key	NEWS Region
1	Arctic	Arctic
2	Caribbean Sea	Caribbean Sea
3	Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean Sea
4	Black Sea	Black Sea
5	Caspian Sea	Eurasia
6	Great Lakes	North America
7	North Pacific	North Pacific
8	North Atlantic	North Atlantic
9	Indian	Indian
10	South Pacific	South Pacific
11	South Atlantic	South Atlantic
12	Antarctica	Antarctica
13	South America	South America
14	North America	North America
15	Africa	Africa
16	Eurasia	Eurasia
17	Mainland Australia	Mainland Australia
18	Australasian and Indonesian Islands	Australasian and Indonesian Islands
19	Greenland	North America

## Reading the Data

The NEWS WEB Climatology Data are archived in xlsx, csv, and NetCDF formats.

The xlsx and csv files can be opened by Excel.

NetCDF is a self-describing and machine-independent NetCDF format. A Unidata page, <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/software.html>, provides a list of software for manipulating or displaying NetCDF Data.

### *Reading/viewing the data by Panoply*

Panoply, <http://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/panoply/>, is a cross-platform application that plots geo-referenced and other arrays from NetCDF, HDF, GRIB, and other data sets.

The [HowTo](#) of NASA GES DISC provides a recipe for [Quick View Data with Panoply](#).

## **Data Access**

The NASA GES DISC maintains archives of the NEWS WEB Climatology Data and many other Hydrology data sets. The archived data can be accessed via HTTP network transfer. The data can be accessed via the GES DISC Unified User Interface (UI) at <https://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/datasets?keywords=NEWS>.

### *Data Volume*

Since the data are climatology data, total data volume is less than 10 MB, including 0.3 MB for annual mean data and 1.2 MB for monthly mean data, and 4.1 MB for the Region Map data.

### *Search and download data via Mirador*

The NEWS WEB Climatology Data can be searched through a keyword (e.g., NEWS) and downloaded via Mirador, <http://mirador.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

### *HTTP Access*

The NEWS WEB Climatology Data can be downloaded directly via the GES DISC HTTP server: <https://hydro1.gesdisc.eosdis.nasa.gov/data/NEWS/>.

## **Points of Contact**

For information about or assistance in using any GES DISC data, please contact the GES DISC Help Desk at:

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## DOI

A Digital Object Identifier or DOI is a unique alphanumeric string used to identify a digital object and provide a permanent link online. DOIs are often used in online publications in citations. The table 3 list DOI for the NEWS WEB Climatology Data Version 1.0 data product.

**Table 6. DOI for NEWS WEB Climatology Data Products**

Short Name	Product Description	DOI
NEWS_WEB_ACLIM.10	NASA Energy and Water cycle Study (NEWS) Annual Climatology of the 1st decade of the 21st Century	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5067/7VZB10AK8S3D">10.5067/7VZB10AK8S3D</a>
NEWS_WEB_MCLIM.10	NASA Energy and Water cycle Study (NEWS) Monthly Climatology of the 1st decade of the 21st Century	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5067/H3TJ8AZDTOXS">10.5067/H3TJ8AZDTOXS</a>

The DOI in the Table 6 will be linked to the corresponding data product page and Data Citation for the data product is on top of the page. If you use the data in your research or applications please include a reference in your publication(s) similar to the following example:

Matthew Rodell, Tristan L'Ecuyer, and Hiroko Kato Beaudoin, NASA/GSFC/HSL (10.01.2015), NASA Energy and Water cycle Study (NEWS) Monthly Climatology of the 1st decade of the 21st Century *Version 1.0*, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA: Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center (GES DISC), Accessed **Enter User Data Access Date** at doi: 10.5067/H3TJ8AZDTOXS.

## References

Rodell, M., H. Beaudoin, T. L'Ecuyer, W. Olson, J. Famiglietti, P. Houser, R. Adler, M. Bosilovich, C. Clayson, D. Chambers, E. Clark, E. Fetzer, X. Gao, G. Gu, K. Hilburn, G. Huffman, D. Lettenmaier, W. Liu, F. Robertson, C. Schlosser, J. Sheffield, and E. Wood, 2015: The Observed State of the Water Cycle in the Early 21st Century. *J. Climate*. doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-14-00555.1, in press.

L'Ecuyer, T., H. Beaudoin, M. Rodell, W. Olson, B. Lin, S. Kato, C. Clayson, E. Wood, J. Sheffield, R. Adler, G. Huffman, M. Bosilovich, G. Gu, F. Roberston, P. Houser, D. Chambers, J. Famiglietti, E. Fetzer, W. Liu, X. Gao, C. Schlosser, E. Clark, D. Lettenmaier, and K. Hilburn, 2015: The Observed State of the Energy Budget in the Early 21st Century. *J. Climate*. doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-14-00556.1, in press.

## Appendices

### A. Acronyms

The following acronyms and abbreviations are used in this document.

DOI	Digital Object Identifier
GES DISC	Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center
HDF	Hierarchical Data Format
HDISC	Hydrology Data and Information Services Center
HSL	Hydrological Sciences Laboratory
Mirador	Fast interface for searching Earth science data at NASA GES DISC
NEWS	NASA Energy and Water cycle Study
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NetCDF	Network Common Data Form
WEB	Water and Energy Budget