



# Between a Map and a Data Rod

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**NASA ACCESS Program**  
NNH11ZDA001N-ACCESS  
NNH13ZDA001N-ACCESS

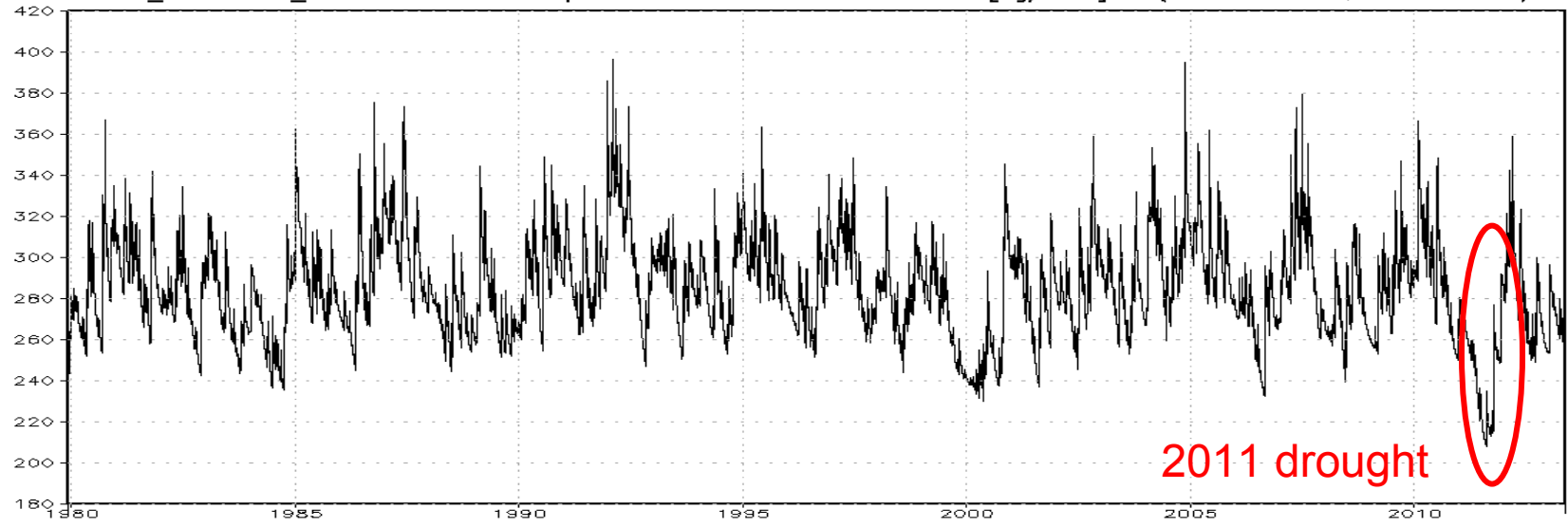


# Outline

- Motivation and background
- “Digital Divide” problem
- Solution: Pre-generated vs. on-the-fly
- Tiling, between a map and a data rod
- Summary and ongoing work



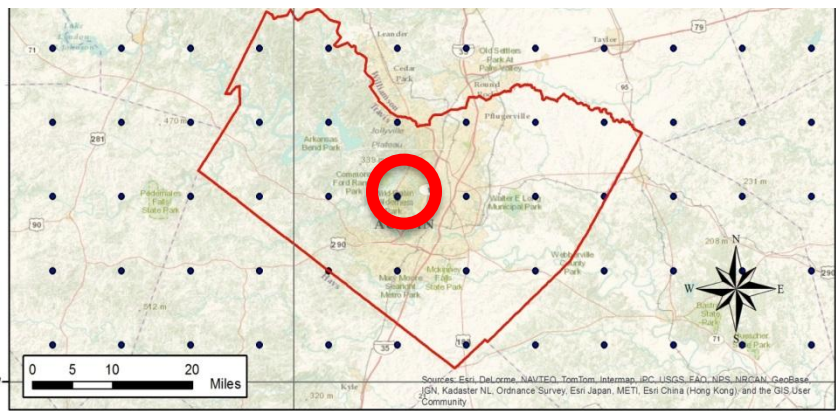
NLDAS\_NOAH0125\_H.002 0-100 cm top 1 meter soil moisture content [kg/m<sup>2</sup>] @ (lon=-99.9375, lat=31.0625)



01Z02Dec1979

Generated 2013-05-22 19:36:35 GMT @ NASA GES DISC

23Z17May2013



Time Series of top 1 meter soil moisture from NLDAS-2 Noah model, near the center of Texas (100W, 31N)

Courtesy of David R. Maidment  
Center for Research in Water Resources  
University of Texas at Austin



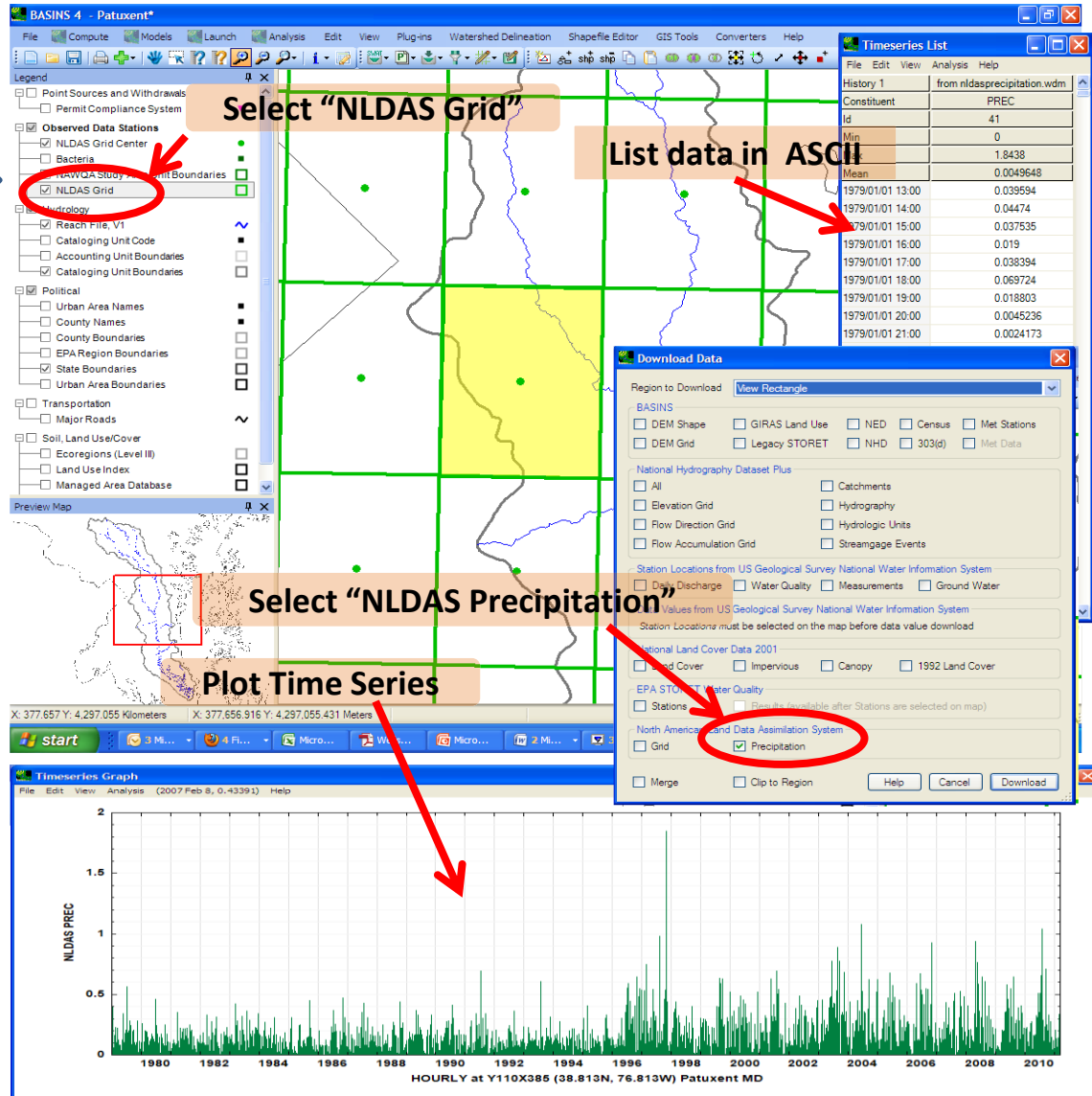
# EPA BASINS<sup>1</sup> Prototype

Latitude x

DATA

Curtain

Time



<sup>1</sup>Better Assessment Science Integrating Point and Nonpoint Sources



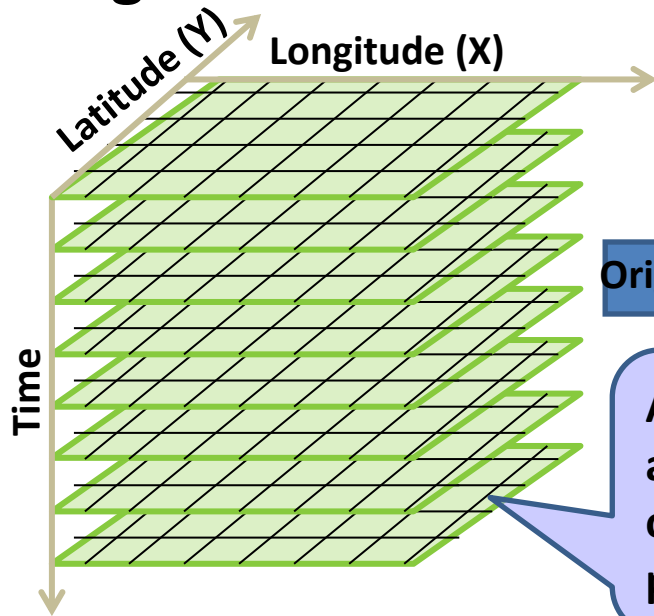
# Digital Divide Problem ... Orthogonal

Noah LSM	Original GRIB Files							Data Rods Binary Files					
	Dimension lat x lon	Total # of Grids	# of /Files /day	Total # of years	Total # of Files	File Size (MB)	Total Vol (TB)	Land Fraction	# of Files /param	# of param	Total # of Files	File Size (MB)	Total Vol (TB)
NLDAS	224 x 464	103936	24	37	324120	6.8	2.2	0.7321	76088	21	1597848	1.295	2.07
GLDAS	600 x 1440	864000	8	16	46720	15.2	0.71	0.2813	243003	13	3159039	0.183	0.58
<b>Total</b>					370840		2.91				4756887		2.65



# Data Rods: A Simple Solution for Bridging the Digital Divide

## Original Data Archive

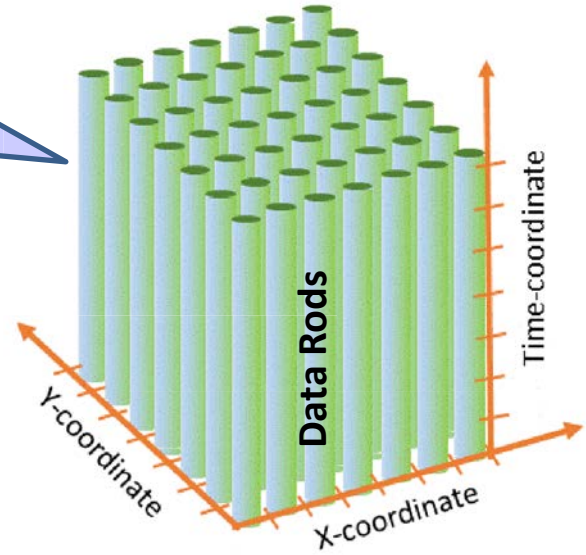


One variable  
one grid point  
all time steps  
per file

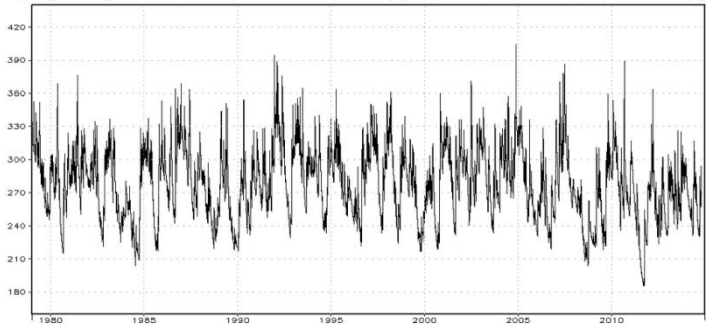
Original data reorganized as ...

All variables  
all grid points  
one time step  
per file

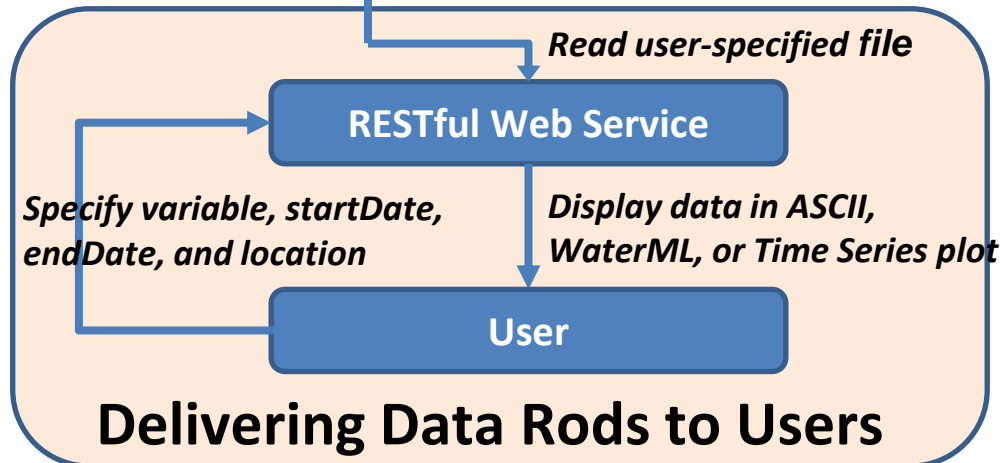
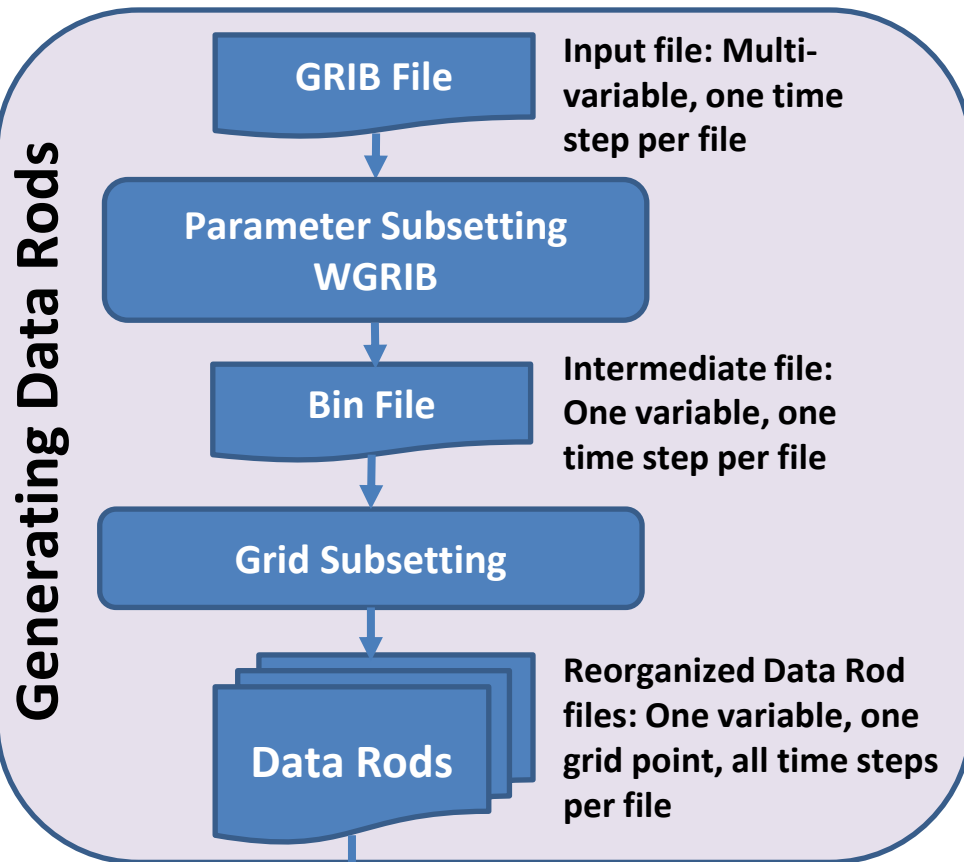
## Reorganized Data Archive



NLDAS\_NOAH0125\_H.002 0-100 cm top 1 meter soil moisture content [kg/m<sup>2</sup>] @ (lon=-97.9375, lat=31.0625) elev=297.057 [m]



More than 324,000 time steps  
(37 years) plotted in ~ 1 second







# Global Level 3 (Gridded) Single Variable NASA Earth Science Data To Time Series (“Data Rods”) Using NCO, NetCDF, and Giovanni

**F. Files for previous years:** Stored across several file systems (for parallel I/O) as separate, month-long, global lat-lon data cubes, with 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension along time

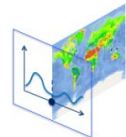
e.g., last 4 years of data at  
lat=42.5, lon=-124.9



**A. Client (e.g., HydroDesktop) sends data request with spatial-temporal constraints**



**H. NCO concatenates all the responses. Custom software delivers resulting single time series as ASCII, WaterML1, WaterML2, or plot**



**G. NCO subsets time series of single grid point along time dimension from each cube**

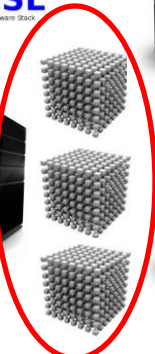
**E. Requests time series for years x-1, x-2, x-3, ...**

**B. Requests time series for current year x**

**D. NCO subsets time series of single grid point along time dimension from all files in current year**



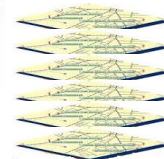
**Data cubes**



**J. Files for previous years in Giovanni Cache, concatenated into data cubes, and stored in other file systems**



**C. Files for current year: Stored in Giovanni Cache as single variable, single time-step, global lat-lon layers, updated as new data become available**



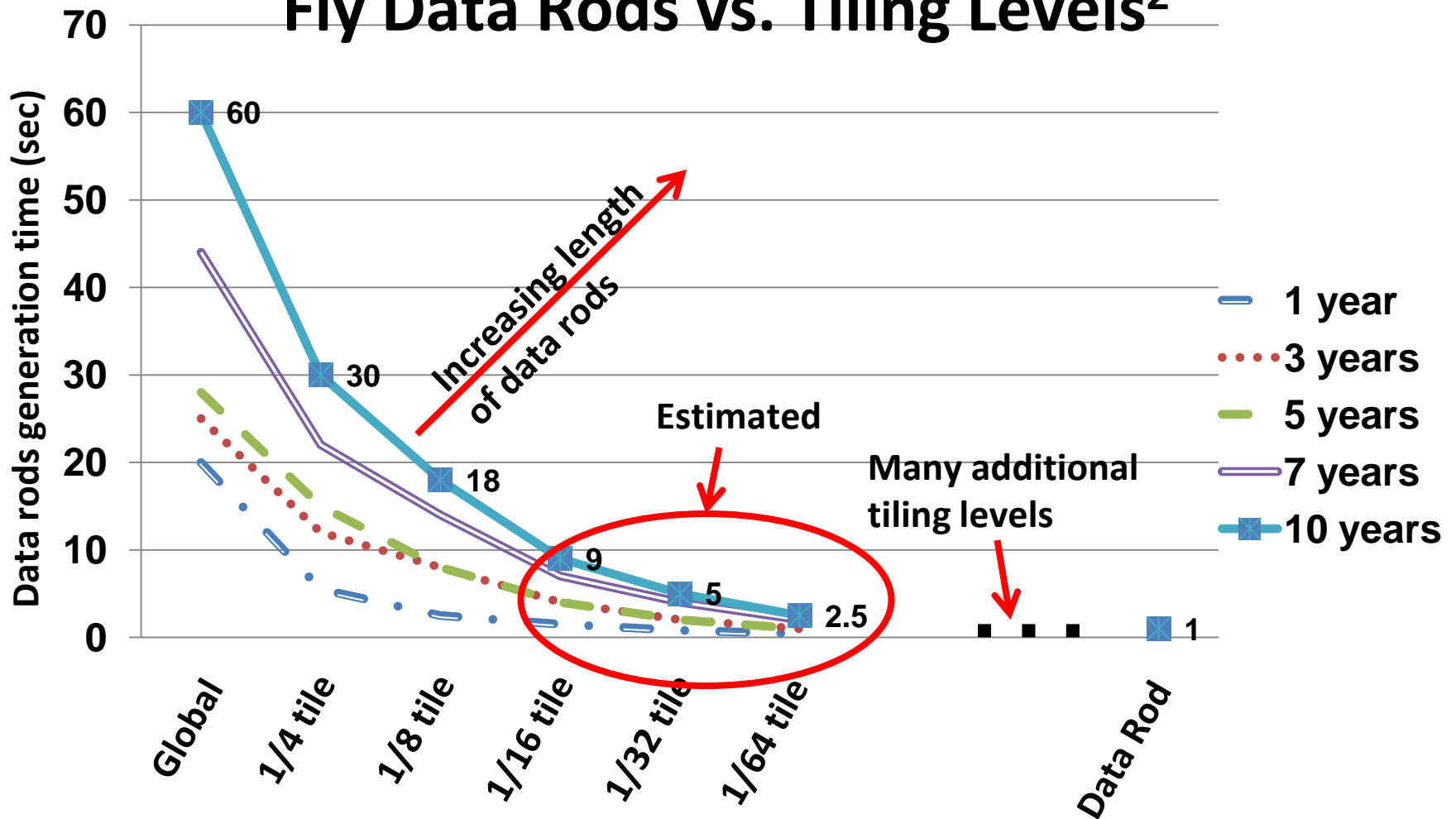
## GIOVANNI

**I. Archived data, subset by variable, converted to “fast file” format, and stored in Giovanni Cache**





# Generation Time for TRMM<sup>1</sup> On-the-Fly Data Rods vs. Tiling Levels<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission

<sup>2</sup>Tiling: Dividing the data set grid into subgrids (e.g., 1/4 tiling for TRMM divides its global grid into 4 equal subgrids).



Teng, W., H. Rui, R. Strub, and B. Vollmer. Optimal reorganization of NASA earth science data for enhanced accessibility and usability for the hydrological community, J. Amer. Water Resources Assoc. Forthcoming, 2016.



# Data Rods Metrics

2013-01-01 to 2015-11-30

Product	Protocol	# Users	# Files	Volume (GB)
NLDAS_FORA0125_RODS	FTP	8	17,733,371	20,585
NLDAS_NOAH0125_RODS	FTP	5	16,741,164	19,580
GLDAS_NOAH025_RODS	FTP	13	39,654,230	5,946
NLDAS_FORA0125_RODS	NLDAS_FORA	445	241,470	92
NLDAS_NOAH0125_RODS	NLDAS_NOAH	286	187,923	95
GLDAS_NOAH025_RODS	GLDAS_NOAH	487	62,680	36
NLDAS_FORA0125_RODS	WEB_LDAS	300	118,561	1,784
NLDAS_NOAH0125_RODS	WEB_LDAS	336	452,667	6,401
GLDAS_NOAH025_RODS	WEB_LDAS	392	79,844	94
<b>Total</b>			75,271,910	54,613
<b>Users:</b> Number of distinct users				
<b>FTP:</b> Get data rods via FTP				
<b>WEB_LDAS:</b> Access data rods in ASCII or as Time Series plot via GES DISC Web services				
<b>Other protocols:</b> Access data rods via CUAHSI HIS (HydroDesktop)				



# Summary and Ongoing Work

- Developed operational way to reorganize data that is optimal for user communities that are point-time series oriented.
- Solved the motivating problem presented by CUAHSI HIS: create time series of hourly data, for single grid cells for entire period of coverage.
- Key to all solutions is to reorganize data that is optimal for desired method of data access.
- Ongoing investigation into tiling of data set grids has yielded results that are very encouraging for significantly reducing the generation time for data rods.



# Extras



# Data Rods

<http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/hydrology/data-rods-time-series-data>