MASTER: Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) Campaign, California, 2017

Get Data

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Dataset Version: 1

Summary

This dataset includes Level 1B (L1B) and Level 2 (L2) data products from the MODIS/ASTER Airborne Simulator (MASTER) instrument collected and developed by the Student Airborne Research Program (SARP). The spectral data were collected from flights flown on 2017-06-26 to 2017-06-28 near Santa Barbara, California, U.S., in a NASA ER-2 aircraft. SARP was an eight-week summer program for junior and senior undergraduate students to acquire hands-on research experience in all aspects of a scientific campaign using airborne science laboratories. The SARP 2017 deployment included two flights with 35 flight tracks. Data products include L1B georeferenced multispectral imagery of calibrated radiance in 50 bands covering wavelengths of 0.460 to 12.879 micrometers at approximately 50-meter spatial resolution. Derived L2 data products are emissivity in 5 bands in thermal infrared range (8.58 to 12.13 micrometers) and land surface temperature. The L1B file format is HDF-4, and L2 products are provided in ENVI and KMZ formats. In addition, the dataset includes flight paths, spectral band information, instrument configuration, ancillary notes, and summary information for each flight, and browse images derived from each L1B data file.

The MASTER instrument is a modified Daedalus Wildfire scanning spectrometer that flies on a variety of multi-altitude research aircraft and provides spectral information similar to that provided by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) and the Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER), which are aboard two NASA Earth Observing System satellites: Terra and Aqua.

This dataset includes a total of 292 data files: 35 files in Hierarchical Data Format (HDF-4; *.hdf) format, 120 ENVI raster files (*.dat and *.hdr) that are compressed (*.zip), 60 files in Keyhole Markup Language Zipped (KMZ; *.kmz) format, 30 Portable Network Graphics (PNG; *.png) files that are compressed (*.zip), 8 text (*.txt) files, 2 archives of text files that are zipped (*.zip), 2 flight maps as GIF (*.gif) images, and 35 browse images in JPEG (*.jpg) format.

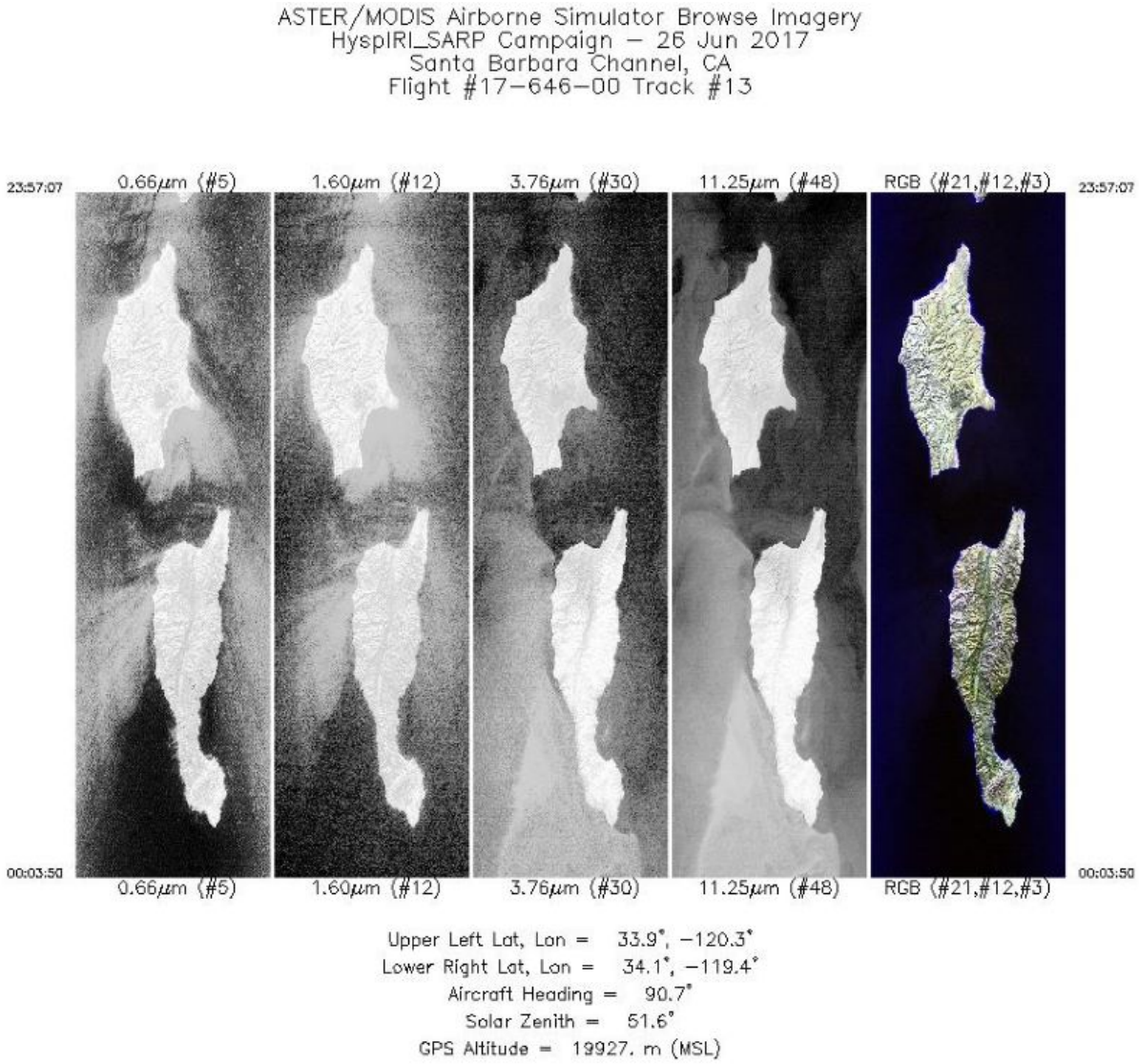

Figure 1. Single band images and an RGB composite image from flight track 13 acquired on 26 June 2017 over the Channel Islands near Santa Barbara, California, U.S. Source: MASTERL1B_1764600_13_20170626_2357_0003_V02.jpg.

Citation

Hook, S.J., J.S. Myers, K.J. Thome, M. Fitzgerald, A.B. Kahle, Airborne Sensor Facility NASA Ames Research Center, R. Kudela, D.A. Roberts, and R.O. Green. 2022. MASTER: Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) Campaign, California, 2017. ORNL DAAC, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA. https://doi.org/10.3334/ORNLDAAC/1949

Table of Contents

1. Dataset Overview

This dataset includes Level 1B (L1B) and Level 2 (L2) data products from the MODIS/ASTER Airborne Simulator (MASTER) instrument collected and developed by the Student Airborne Research Program (SARP). The spectral data were collected from flights flown on 2017-06-26 to 2017-06-28 near Santa Barbara, California, U.S., in a NASA ER-2 aircraft. SARP was an eight-week summer program for junior and senior undergraduate students to acquire hands-on research experience in all aspects of a scientific campaign using airborne science laboratories. The SARP 2017 deployment included two flights with 35 flight tracks. Data products include L1B georeferenced multispectral imagery of calibrated radiance in 50 bands covering wavelengths of 0.460 to 12.879 micrometers at approximately 50-meter spatial resolution. Derived L2 data products are emissivity in 5 bands in thermal infrared range (8.58 to 12.13 micrometers) and land surface temperature. The L1B file format is HDF-4, and L2 products are provided in ENVI and KMZ formats. In addition, the dataset includes flight paths, spectral band information, instrument configuration, ancillary notes, and summary information for each flight, and browse images derived from each L1B data file.

The MASTER instrument is a modified Daedalus Wildfire scanning spectrometer that flies on a variety of multi-altitude research aircraft and provides spectral information similar to that provided by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) and the Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER), which are aboard two NASA Earth Observing System satellites: Terra and Aqua.

Project: MODIS/ASTER Airborne Simulator

The MODIS/ASTER Airborne Simulator (MASTER) is a scanning spectrometer which flies on a variety of multi-altitude research aircraft and provides data similar to the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) and the Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER). MASTER first flew in 1998 and has ongoing deployments as a Facility Instrument in the NASA Airborne Science Program (ASP). MASTER is a joint project involving the Airborne Sensor Facility (ASF) at the Ames Research Center, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), and the Earth Resources Observation and Science Center (EROS).

Related Publication

Hook, S.J. Myers, J.J., Thome, K.J., Fitzgerald, M. and A.B. Kahle. 2001. The MODIS/ASTER airborne simulator (MASTER) - a new instrument for earth science studies. Remote Sensing of Environment 76:93–102. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0034-4257(00)00195-4

Related Datasets

Additional MASTER datasets are available on the ORNL DAAC MASTER project page.

Acknowledgments

The MASTER instrument is maintained and operated by the Airborne Sensor Facility (ASF) at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, under the oversight of the EOS Project Science Office at NASA Goddard. Data processing was conducted at NASA Ames Research Center and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California.

2. Data Characteristics

Spatial Coverage: southern California and western Nevada, U.S.

Spatial Resolution: 23 to 50 m

Temporal Coverage: 2017-06-26 to 2017-06-28

Temporal Resolution: One-time estimate

Study Area: All latitudes and longitudes given in decimal degrees.

Site	Westernmost Longitude	Easternmost Longitude	Northernmost Latitude	Southernmost Latitude
southern California; western Nevada	-123.750	-113.905	40.980	31.952

Data File Information

This dataset includes a total of 292 data files: 35 files in Hierarchical Data Format (HDF-4; *.hdf) format, 120 ENVI raster files (*.dat and *.hdr) that are compressed (*.zip), 60 files in Keyhole Markup Language Zipped (KMZ; *.kmz) format, 30 Portable Network Graphics (PNG; *.png) files that are compressed (*.zip), 8 text (*.txt) files, 2 archives of text files that are zipped (*.zip), 2 flight maps as GIF (*.gif) images, and 35 browse images in JPEG (*.jpg) format (Table 1).

There are different numbers of each type of file, which corresponds to the number of "flights" and "flight tracks". A “flight” is a deployment flown on a single day, and a “flight track” refers to a segment of a given flight. The number of flight tracks varies among flights (Table 2).

- There are 2 flights with 35 flight tracks (Table 2).
- For each of 35 flight tracks, there is one L1B data file in HDF format and one auxiliary browse image (*.jpg).
- L2 data are included for 30 of the 35 tracks. For each track, there is one L1B data file in KMZ format, one L2 data file in KMZ format, and five L2 data files in ZIP format.
    - Four of the ZIP files contain L2 ENVI data for emissivity, land surface temperature, geographic coordinates, and quality assurance status. Each ZIP includes a binary data file (*.dat) and its header file (*.hdr).
    - One ZIP file contains three L2 PNG files: RBG composite, single-band emissivity, and land surface temperature.
- For each flight, there is a collection of auxiliary files providing information about the flight and instrument configuration.

The primary data files are named MASTERL**AA_BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYMMDD_EEFF_GGHH**_V0**J**-**X**.**ext** (e.g., MASTERL1B_1764600_01_20170626_2024_2036_V02.hdf).

The flight track-level browse images are named MASTERL**AA_BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYMMDD_EEFF_GGHH**_V0**J**.jpg (e.g., MASTERL1B_1764600_01_20170626_2024_2036_V02.jpg).

The deployment-level auxiliary files are named MASTER_**BBBBBBBB_YYYYMMDD_X**.**ext** (e.g., MASTER_1764700_20170628_config.txt).

Elements of file names are described as:

AA = ”1B” or “2”, indicating L1B or L2 data,
BBBBBBBB = “1764600” or "1764700", indicating the flight number,
CC = flight track,
YYYYMMDD = date of sampling,
EEFF = starting time at EE hour and FF minute,
GGHH = ending time at GG hour and HH minute,
J = version number for file,
X = the file content (see Table 1), and
ext = "hdf", "kmz", "gif", "jpg", "txt", or "zip", indicating the file extension.

Table 1. File names and descriptions.

File Name	Level	File Type	Total Files	Description
Primary Data Files				

File Name	Level	File Type	Total Files	Description
MASTERL1B_*BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYmmDD_EEFF_GGHH*_V0J.hdf	L1B	HDF-4	35	Multispectral radiance in 50 bands, pixel coordinates, sensor configuration, aircraft platform data, analysis parameters. The "CalibratedData" variable provides estimates of radiance in units of W m^{-2} sr^{-1} per micron.
MASTERL1B_*BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYmmDD_EEFF_GGHH*V0J-RGB.kmz	L1B	KMZ	30	RGB composite browse image (in KMZ format) derived from corresponding bands of RGB wavelengths of L1B data.
MASTERL2_*BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYmmDD_EEFF_GGHH*_V0J-emissivity_tes.zip	L2	ENVI	30	Map of atmospheric corrected emissivity; Temperature and Emissivity Separation (TES) corrected data in 5 bands (wavelengths: 8.58, 9.02, 10.62, 11.32, and 12.13 µm).
MASTERL2_*BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYmmDD_EEFF_GGHH*_V0J-images.zip	L2	PNG	30	Three non-georeferenced images depicting (a) RGB composite using selected bands, (b) emissivity from a single band, and (c) land surface temperature.
MASTERL2_*BBBBBBBB_CC_ YYYYmmDD_EEFF_GGHH*_V0J-location.zip	L2	ENVI	30	Latitude and longitude coordinates for pixels in ENVI files.
MASTERL2_*BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYmmDD_EEFF_GGHH*_V0J-LST.kmz	L2	KMZ	30	Map of land surface temperature in degrees Kelvin.
MASTERL2_*BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYmmDD_EEFF_GGHH*_V0J-QAmap.zip	L2	ENVI	30	QA status for each pixel from TES algorithm, where 1 = divergence and 0 = convergence.
MASTERL2_*BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYmmDD_EEFF_GGHH*_V0J-surface_temp.zip	L2	ENVI	30	Map of land surface temperature (TES LST) in degrees Kelvin.
Auxiliary Files				
MASTERLAA_*BBBBBBBB_CC_YYYYMMDD_EEFF_GGHH*_V0J.jpg	L1B	JPEG	35	Browse figures; one per flight track, multiple tracks per flight.
MASTER_*BBBBBBBB_YYYYMMDD*_ancillary.txt	-	Text	2	Ancillary information about flight including notes on aircraft platform, mission objective, and data evaluation.
MASTER_*BBBBBBBB_YYYYMMDD*_config.txt	-	Text	2	Instrument configuration information for flight.
MASTER_*BBBBBBBB_YYYYMMDD*_flightpath.gif	-	GIF	2	Map showing flight paths.
MASTER_*BBBBBBBB_YYYYMMDD*_spectral_band_info.txt	-	Text	2	Spectral band information.
MASTER_*BBBBBBBB_YYYYMMDD*_spectral_response_table.zip	-	Text	2	Spectral response tables by band (ZIP archive of 50 text files).
MASTER_*BBBBBBBB_YYYYMMDD*_summary.txt	-	Text	2	Time and coordinates for start and end of flight tracks along with the number of scan lines, solar and instrument angles, and aircraft altitude. FTLT = flight track number.

Data File Details

The HDF and ENVI files contain swath trajectory data using longitude and latitude coordinates. The spatial resolution ranges from 23 m to 50 m and is a function of aircraft altitude.

Table 2. Number of flight tracks for each MASTER flight during this 2017 deployment over southern California.

Date	Flight Number	Locations (U.S.)	Flight tracks	
		Data Level	**L1B**	**L2**
2017-06-26	1764600	Santa Barbara Land and Channel	15	10
2017-06-28	1764700	Ivanpah / Tahoe / Soda Straw / SoCal	20	20
		Total	35	30

3. Application and Derivation

The primary objective of MASTER is to: (a) collect ASTER-like and MODIS-like land datasets to support the validation of the ASTER and MODIS

geophysical retrieval algorithms; (b) collect these datasets at a higher resolution than the spaceborne datasets to permit scaling studies and comparisons with in-situ measurements; and (c) under fly the EOS-AM1 ASTER and MODIS sensors to provide an additional radiometric calibration to assist with in-flight instrument performance characterization. Calibration is particularly important for ASTER where on-board calibration is dependent on a single black body in the TIR and only partial aperture illumination in the VNIR.

A secondary objective of MASTER is to: (a) provide both a backup instrument and backup modules for the current MODIS Airborne simulator, which is committed to a program of atmospheric and oceanic measurements; and (b) provide a wider spectral and dynamic range alternative to the use of the Thematic Mapper (TM) airborne simulator and Thermal Infrared Multispectral Scanner (TIMS) airborne scanners (JPL, 2021b).

MASTER imagery has been used for mapping wildfires and their impacts (Veraverbeke et al., 2011), land cover (Li and Moon, 2004), coral reefs (Capolsini et al., 2003), and urban heat islands (Zhao and Wentz, 2016).

4. Quality Assessment

The MASTER instrument channels are calibrated spectrally and radiometrically in the laboratory preflight and postflight. The mid-infrared and thermal infrared channels (26–50) are also radiometrically calibrated in-flight by viewing an internal hot and cold blackbody with each scanline (Hook et al., 2001). Three calibration and validation experiments were conducted in 1998–2001 (Hook et al., 2001; JPL, 2021a). Spectral response information for this deployment is included in the files named MASTER_*BBBBBBBB*_*YYYYMMDD*_spectral_response_table.zip.

5. Data Acquisition, Materials, and Methods

The MASTER instrument was developed by the NASA Ames Research Center in conjunction with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The instrument consists of three key components: the scanning spectrometer, the digitizer, and the storage system. The scanning unit was built by Sensys Technology (formerly Daedalus Enterprises) and the digitizer was a collaborative effort between Berkeley Camera Engineering and the Ames Airborne Sensor Facility (ASF, 2021). The data storage system and overall system integration were also provided by the ASF.

The MASTER instrument is similar to the MODIS Airborne Simulator (MAS) developed by the MODIS project (King et al., 1996). However, it has two key differences. First, MASTER supports a variety of scan speeds allowing it to acquire contiguous imagery from a variety of altitudes with different pixel sizes. Second, the channel positions are configured to closely match those of ASTER and MODIS. A detailed description of the instrument and optical system are provided by Hook et al. (2001) and King et al. (1996), respectively.

NASA’s Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) is an eight-week summer internship program for rising senior undergraduate students to acquire hands-on research experience in all aspects of a scientific campaign using one or more NASA Airborne Science Program flying science laboratories (aircraft used for SARP have included the DC-8, P-3B, C-23, UC-12B, and ER-2).

For this deployment, the MASTER instrument was flown on NASA's ER-2 aircraft at altitudes of 9027–20,179 m above sea level. The study area included portions of southern California and western Nevada (Fig. 2–3).

The L2 data are derived from the L1B files, and the primary L2 products are emissivity in five bands (wavelengths: 8.58, 9.02, 10.62, 11.32, and 12.13 µm) and land surface temperature (LST). Emissivity and LST were corrected using a Temperature and Emissivity Separation (TES) algorithm (Coll et al., 2001).

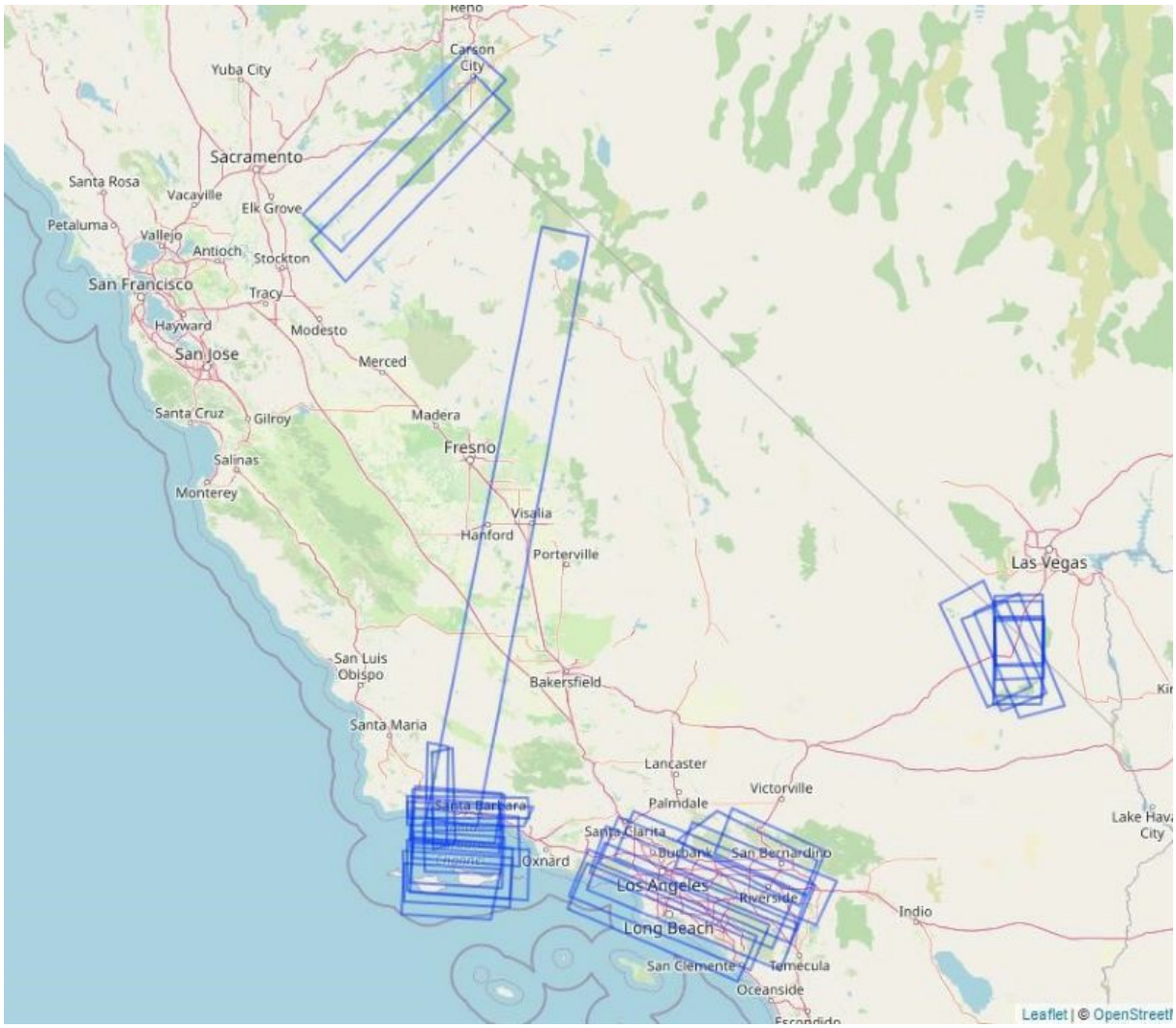

Figure 2. Flight tracks in this dataset represented as rectangular polygons. Map shows southern California and western Nevada, U.S. Basemap: © OpenStreetMap contributors.

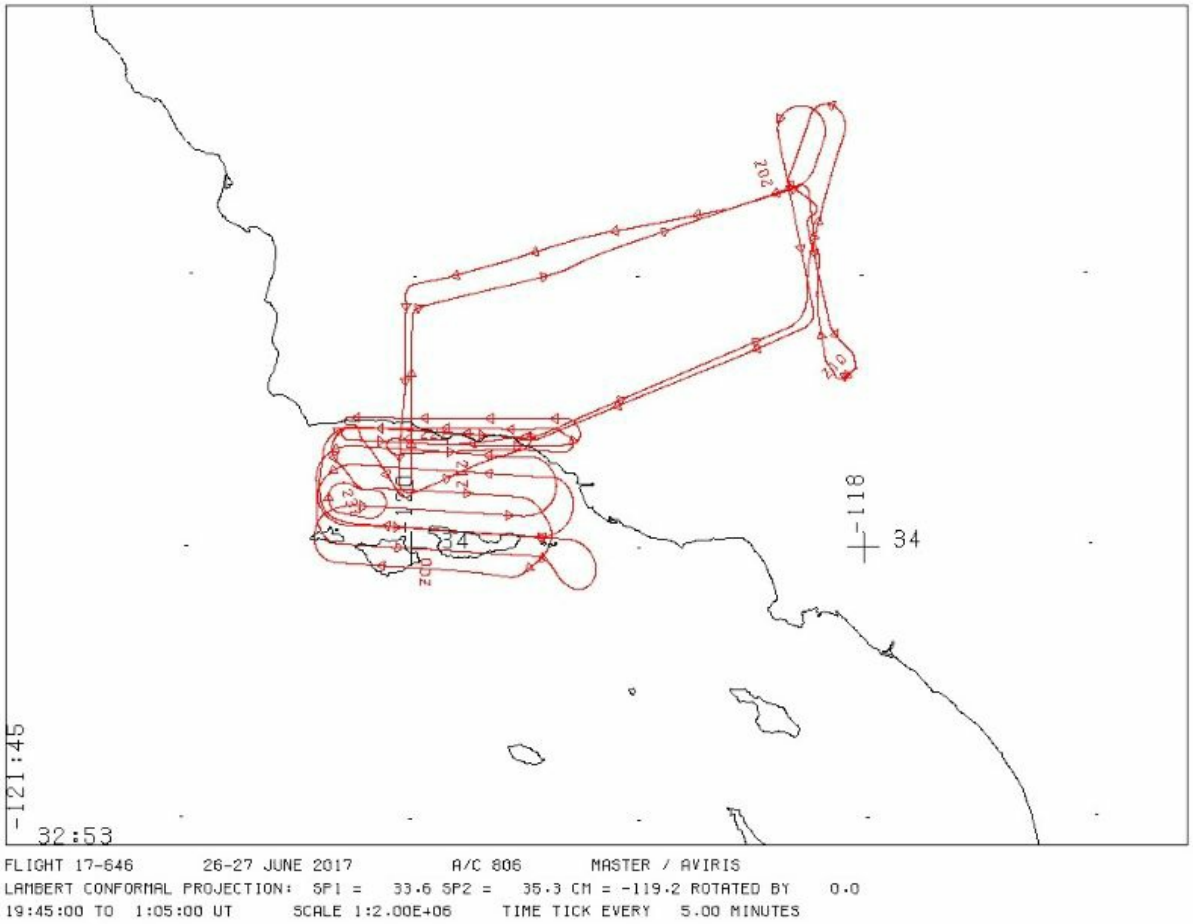

Figure 3. Flight path for Flight 1764600, flown on 26 June 2017. Flight 1764600 and 15 flight tracks occurred over Channel Islands and lands near Santa Barbara, California, U.S. Source: MASTER_1764600_20170626_flightpath.gif

6. Data Access

These data are available through the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC).

MASTER: Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) Campaign, California, 2017

Contact for Data Center Access Information:

- E-mail: uso@daac.ornl.gov
- Telephone: +1 (865) 241-3952

7. References

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