



Long-term time series of the Earth's land surface observations from the U.S. space programs

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This overview describes those U.S. satellite time-series that represent at least a 20-year long record of land surface observations. The focus is on the optical remote sensing measurements to study and monitor land surface characteristics at a spatial resolution of tens of meters to a few kilometers. The objective is to draw the attention of the science community to the longest time series of space observations of the Earth's characteristics available in the U.S. data archives. A particular emphasis is the moderate resolution data record from Landsat. The utility of Landsat data for time series analysis has increased tremendously during the past year once the data became freely available. Examples of applications with the long-term time series data will be given.