

Topic #4

- Topic: Vegetation phenology and climatic controls
- Datasets: MODIS leaf area index, AIRS surface air temperature, TRMM precipitation, CERES surface downwelling shortwave radiation
- Geographic foci: northern latitude forests of North America, African sahel, Australia
- Questions:
 - How is the seasonal phenology of northern latitude forests influenced by near surface temperature and precipitation?
 - How are arid system vegetation dynamics influenced by temperature and precipitation?
 - Can radiation, temperature and precipitation forcing be used to determine the extent to which these systems are energy vs water limited?
 - What can these datasets say about inter-annual variability in phenology, and the climatic drivers of that variability?
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