

# README Open-Source Python Software Deep Learning Automated Detection of Severe Storm Signatures Within Geostationary Satellite Imagery

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## 1 Document Overview

This document is intended to help the user install and run the open source software to detect severe storm signatures in geostationary imagery. The first thing the user will want to do is install Anaconda (Section 13.2). Anaconda allows the user to install many of the necessary Python modules in a conda environment so that all of the python modules are always compatible. This document will walk the user through the entire software setup as well as show the user how the model can be run. The software was setup using Mac/linux OS but should work using Windows OS as well. All code within this document is capable of being run entirely on the Google Cloud Platform (Section 9) using Google's Virtual Machines (VMs), but Google is not necessary to run the model.

VERSION 3 of software released on 16 April 2025!!! MTG-1 satellite added as a capability! Lots of additional files related to MTG data, including intermediate files are now available. See section 13.3 for help getting started using MTG data. GOES-19 satellite was also added as a new capability. In addition, there is a model global performance enhancement, particularly with OT detection. New VIS+TROPDIFF OT model added. The previous model performed worse under testing. TROPDIFF is now the default nighttime model and VIS+TROPDIFF is now the default daytime model. This was done for instances with very cold IR brightness temperatures ( $< 190$  K). These cold temperatures saturated the IR products and caused large regions of OT detections rather than the much more precise OT regions. This default works better for global model applications. It may not work best in every single case but we have found it to be more reliable across seasons and regions. The tropopause temperature calculation has also changed. We now use a 20 pixel radius to smooth the tropopause temperature. There was an issue previously with using too small of a radius which resulted in discontinuities in the tropopause. It made tropopause-relative temperature differences appear larger only due to the discontinuity and not due to the cloud height. This fix removed these discontinuities. Due to issues with downloading the tropopause temperatures from ucar, we added the google cloud as a backup location to download GFS data files from.

Software Users prior to 16 April 2025 will need to pull the latest python files from GitHub. This should be very fast. Users MUST also download the new checkpoint and MTG intermediate files from 'https://science-data.larc.nasa.gov/LaRC-SD-Publications/2023-05-05-001-JWC/data/ML\_data.zip'. Once downloaded and unzipped, replace the old model\_checkpoints subdirectory with the latest

one that was just downloaded. This directory includes all of the improved model detection files as well as checkpoint files for the new VIS+TROPDIFF input combination. If you have issues downloading and unzipping the file from the browser, run the `run_download_model_checkpoint_files.py` script. Users have experienced issues downloading the checkpoint files directly from the browser and this script has been successful.

Software Users prior to 20 May 2025 will need to pull the latest python files from GitHub. This should be very fast. The website where tropopause data was previously being downloaded may no longer be operating. New method checks this and then downloads data from Google Cloud. The tropopause is used in the ideal OT detections. Post-processing quality control additions are included.

## ***2 Installing Software and Creating Python Environment***

IMPORTANT NOTE!!! Software could take an hour to install. The package is setup to grab netCDF look up table files that are stored on a NASA server for faster run jobs.

### ***2.1 Mac/Linux/Unix Users***

There are 11 steps for installing the software. First, the user **MUST** have Anaconda installed (Section 13.2). Do not do the following without first installing Anaconda. This software package requires the use of the [glmtools](#) and [lmatools](#) libraries. The steps below will install these GitHub repositories for you. Please follow the steps in order for a successful installation.

1. the user must clone the project repository `git clone https://github.com/nasa/svrstormsig.git` in Terminal.
2. `cd svrstormsig`
3. `git clone https://github.com/deeplycloudy/glmtools.git`
4. `cd glmtools`
5. `cp ../environment.yml .`
6. `cp ../setup.py .`

7. `conda env create -f environment.yml`
8. `conda activate svrstormsig`
9. `pip install -e .`
10. `pip install opencv-python-headless`
11. Refer to Section 9.2 for setting up Google Cloud to download data files from there. This service is free and only requires users have a Gmail account. If you do not wish to download data from Google Cloud, see 5.2.2 for more information regarding where to obtain the necessary data.
12. Refer to Section 13.3 for instructions on how to set up the ability to download MTG data files from EUMETSAT data services. This service is free and easy to use.

Once the steps are complete you should be able to successfully run the software. The package can then be used when run within the `svrstormsig` environment. In order to activate the `svrstormsig` environment, type `conda activate svrstormsig` into the Terminal. This environment lets you use all of the installed libraries for this software. The package can also be used when run as a kernel within the `svrstormsig` environment. This kernel is created by running: `python -m ipykernel install --user --name=svrstormsig`. Note the difference between 1 hyphen in front of `m` and 2 hyphens in front of `user` and `name`. If `ipykernel` is not installed then run: `conda install ipykernel` and try again.

## 2.2 Windows Users

Note, one method Windows users could do is install a Linux Virtual environment and run software there. If that is not what you want to do, the software should work on Windows devices.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Windows users must have 64-bit installed!!! Tensorflow, a main component of machine learning, will not work otherwise.**

I apologize in advance if this section is not written as well as others. I am not a Windows user and so I am not familiar with all of the nuances available to Windows operators. These are the 13 steps I found to work for installing the software on Windows. You may have a method that works more efficiently. If so, please email me so that I can better assist Windows users. First, the user

MUST have Anaconda installed (Section 13.2). Do not do the following without first installing Anaconda. This software package requires the use of the [glmtools](#) and [lmtools](#) libraries. The steps below will install these GitHub repositories for you. Please follow the steps in order for a successful installation.

1. the user must clone the project repository *git clone https://github.com/nasa/svrstormsig.git* in the Anaconda Powershell Prompt.
2. `cd svrstormsig`
3. `git clone https://github.com/deeplycloudy/glmtools.git`
4. `cd glmtools`
5. `copy ..\windows_environment.yml .\environment.yml`
6. `copy ..\setup.py .`
7. `conda env create -f environment.yml`
8. `conda activate svrstormsig`
9. `pip install -e .`
10. `pip install tensorflow==2.7`
11. `conda install -c conda-forge pygrib`
12. `pip install opencv-python-headless`
13. Refer to Section 9.2 for setting up Google Cloud to download data files from there. Follow steps 1-15 outlined. For step 16, I am unsure about `.bash_profiles` or `.zshrc` on Windows at this time, so instead in the Anaconda Powershell Prompt I found typing this works:

```
$env:GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS='key_path'
```

where `key_path` is the local path and filename to the json key file. This service is free and only requires users have a gmail account. If you do not wish to download data from Google Cloud, see 5.2.2 for more information about where to obtain the necessary data.



14. Refer to Section 13.3 for instructions on how to set up the ability to download MTG data files from EUMETSAT data services. This service is free and easy to use.

### 2.3 *Software Path Setup*

This section displays what the directory and subdirectory structure of the software should look like after install. If the directory path structure is not setup like this, then you may run into errors when attempting to run the software.

Directory Structure:

- svrstormsig
  - data
    - model\_checkpoints
    - region
    - sat\_projection\_files
- glmtools
  - glmtools
  - glmtools\_docs
  - glmtools.egg-info
- python
  - EDA
  - glm\_gridder
  - gridrad
  - model
  - new\_model
  - visualize\_results

## 3 *Running the Model Software*

This section will discuss how to run the software, optimal models, script breakdown, and the directory path setup.

### 3.1 *How to Run the Software*

First, activate your conda environment in the Terminal by typing `conda activate svrstormsig`. This will put you into the environment that has all of the required python modules. All of the software is built and run using Python code. The main script to run the code is `run_all_plume_updraft_model_predict.py` and is located in the `new_model` subdirectory. The easiest 2 methods to run the software are listed below. The first method allows the user to answer prompts in the Terminal to determine what model they want to run, the model inputs, and the dates they want to run the model over. The second method takes those prompts and puts them into a more detailed and easy to use configuration file. The configuration file can then be loaded into the software to specify the user's model run needs. See Section 3.3 for more details on the configuration file setup. The default configuration is provided at the time of software install. Note the 2 hyphens used in front of `config`.

1. `python3 path-to-run-script/run_all_plume_updraft_model_predict.py`
2. `python3 path-to-run-script/run_all_plume_updraft_model_predict.py --config path-to-configuration-file/modrun_config.cfg`

### 3.2 *Model Input Data Acronyms*

IR refers to the clean infrared window ( $10.3\mu\text{m}$ ) brightness temperatures.

VIS refers to the visible reflectance window ( $0.64\mu\text{m}$ ).

GLM refers to the Geostationary Lightning Mapper flash extent density data.

WVIRDIFF ( $6.2\mu\text{m} - 10.3\mu\text{m}$ ) refers to the difference between the water vapor window ( $6.2\mu\text{m}$ ) and the clean IR window brightness temperatures.

TROPDIFF ( $10.3\mu\text{m} - \text{GFS TropT}$ ) refers to the difference between the clean IR window brightness temperature and the GFS tropopause temperature.

SNOWICE ( $1.6\mu\text{m}$ ) refers to the snow/ice channel.

CIRRUS ( $1.37\mu\text{m}$ ) refers to the cirrus channel.

DIRTYIRDIFF ( $12.3\mu\text{m} - 10.3\mu\text{m}$ ) refers to the difference between the dirty IR window ( $12.3\mu\text{m}$ ) brightness temperatures and the clean IR window brightness temperatures.

### 3.3 Configuration File

A default configuration file, `modrun_config.cfg`, is installed when you clone the project git repository. This file can be changed by the user to suit their needs. Some may find using a configuration file easier than answering prompts in the Terminal window. The contents of the default configuration file are shown below. **Users should ONLY change items to the right of the = sign to suit their model run needs.** If anyone would like additions, clarifications, or changes, please email [john.w.cooney@nasa.gov](mailto:john.w.cooney@nasa.gov) and we will address those changes as soon as possible for the next software release.

```
#####
## Model Run Configuration Settings
##
# Number 2 corresponds to real-time run ONLY.
# Numbers 3-4 correspond to not real-time/archived run ONLY.
#
## IMPORTANT NOTE: ONLY change values on the right side of equals sign!!

#1)
#Is this a real-time run or not? (y/n):
real_time = n

#2)
#Question 2 corresponds to real-time run ONLY. Ignore if real_time in Q1 is n or no
#Type below the number of hours you want the model to run for:
number_of_hours = 0.01

#3)
#Question 3 corresponds to not-real-time run ONLY. Ignore if real_time in Q1 is y or yes
#Enter the model start date (ex. 2017-04-29 00:00:00):
start_date = 2022-08-23 23:00:00

#4)
#Question 4 corresponds to not-real-time run ONLY. Ignore if real_time in Q1 is y or yes
#Enter the model start date (ex. 2017-04-29 00:00:00):
end_date = 2022-08-24 00:02:00

#5)
#Question 5 corresponds to not-real-time run ONLY. Ignore if real_time in Q1 is y or yes
#Do you need to download the satellite data files? (y/n):
download_data = y

#6)
#If download_data is n or no or if real_time in Q1 is y or yes, ignore this question.
#Question 6 corresponds to not-real-time/archived run ONLY.
#Enter the location of raw data files:
#DEFAULT = None, which implies to use the default file root location in the code.
raw_data_directory = None

#5)
#Type below the name of the satellite you wish to use (ex. goes-16, goes-17, goes-18)
satellite = goes-16

#6)
```

```

#Type the satellite scan sector you wish to use. If satellite does not have multiple
#scan sectors, ignore this. (ex. M1, M2, F, C)
sector = M2

#7)
#Type US state or country you wish to bound model output to.
#DEFAULT = None, so model is not bound to any particular state or country.
#See extract_us_lat_lon_region in rdr_sat_utils_jwc.py for examples. User
#can also add their own regions there.
region = None

#8)
#Type longitude and latitude boundaries to confine the data to (in degrees):
#[longitude_min, latitude_min, longitude_max, latitude_max]
#(ex. [-100.0, 36.0, -86.0, 42.0])
#DEFAULT = [], so model results output are not restricted to any user
#specified lat/lon bounding box
xy_bounds = []

#9)
#Enter the desired severe weather indicator (OT or AACP):
#OT    = Overshooting Top
#AACP  = Above Anvil Cirrus Plume
severe_storm_signature = AACP

#10)
#Would you like to be able to seamlessly transition between previously identified (y/n)?
#best day and night models?
#Best OT model for daytime is IR+VIS and best OT model at night is IR.
#Best AACP model for daytime is IR+DIRTYIRDIFF and best AACP model at night is IR+DIRTYIRDIFF.
optimal_params = y

#11)
#If optimal_params is n or no, what model inputs would you like to use? Keep in mind,
#visible data is not available during night time hours and thus, no model
#results files will be created at night if using VIS, snowice, or cirrus.
#Best OT model for daytime is IR+VIS
#Best OT model at night is IR.
#Best AACP model for daytime is IR+DIRTYIRDIFF
#Best AACP model at night is IR+DIRTYIRDIFF.
#(ex. IR, TROPDIFF, IR+VIS, IR+GLM, IR+WVIRDIFF, IR+VIS+GLM, IR+TROPDIFF,
#IR+CIRRUS, IR+SNOWICE, IR+DIRTYIRDIFF, VIS+TROPDIFF, GLM+TROPDIFF, IR+VIS+TROPDIFF,
#VIS+GLM+TROPDIFF, TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF, IR+VIS+DIRTYIRDIFF, VIS+TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF)
#DEFAULT = IR
model_inputs = IR

#12)
#If optimal_params is n or no, what model type would you like to run? Keep in mind,
#visible data will is not available during night time hours and thus, no model
#results files will be created.
#Mutiresunet model has been found to be the best model for both OTs and AACPs
#(ex. multiresunet, unet, attentionunet)
#NOTE: mutltiresunet is the only model type available for AACP model runs
model_type = multiresunet

```

```

#13)
#Would you like to map the model results on top of IR/VIS sandwich images for each
#individual scene (y/n)?
#NOTE: time to plot may cause model run to be slower.
plot_data = n

#14)
#If plot_data is n or no, ignore the remaining 2 prompts.
#If plot_data is y or yes, would you like to use the previously identified best
#likelihood score threshold for your above choices (y/n)?
optimal_likelihood_response = y

#15)
#If optimal_likelihood_response is set to y or yes, ignore this.
#If optimal_likelihood_response is set to n or no, what thresholds would you like to use
#for creating the plots and identifying objects in post-processing?
#optimal_likelihood_score must be between 0 and 1.
optimal_likelihood_score = 0.4

#16)
#If severe_storm_signature is set to AACP, ignore this.
#If severe_storm_signature is set to OT, percent_omit removes the coldest and warmest X%
#when calculating the mean anvil brightness temperatures (BTDs) in post-processing.
#Default is 20 which means 20% of the warmest and coldest anvil pixel temperatures are
#removed in order to prevent the contribution of noise to the OT IR-anvil BTD calculation.
#percent_omit must be between 0 and 100.
percent_omit = 20

```

### 3.4 *Optimal Models*

See Table 2 for the model types and inputs along with the optimal model thresholds for each model type allowed.

#### 3.4.1 *OT Optimal Model From Testing*

During the day, the OT detection model that performed best during our tests was the VIS+TROPDIFF MultiResUnet model. Table 2 shows the optimal threshold for this model is 0.15. See Section 4.4 for more details regarding optimal model thresholds.

During the night, the OT detection model that performed best during our tests was the TROPDIFF MultiResUnet model. Table 2 shows the optimal threshold for this model is 0.65. See Section 4.4 for more details regarding optimal model thresholds.

### **3.4.2 AACP Optimal Model From Testing**

During the day and night, the AACP detection model that performed best during our tests was the IR+DIRTYIRDIFF MultiResUnet model. Table 2 shows the optimal threshold for this model is 0.45. See Section 4.4 for more details regarding optimal model thresholds.

### **3.4.3 Version 2 Software and Older**

Previously, we used IR BTs as our optimal models but found that they saturated when the brightness temperatures were very cold ( $< 190$  K). Instead of using BTs, we now will use tropopause-relative temperature differences as the default. This was how the section was previously written. OTs:

During the day, the OT detection model that performed best during our tests was the IR+VIS MultiResUnet model. Table 2 shows the optimal threshold for this model is 0.25. See Section 4.4 for more details regarding optimal model thresholds.

During the night, the OT detection model that performed best during our tests was the IR MultiResUnet model. Table 2 shows the optimal threshold for this model is 0.40. See Section 4.4 for more details regarding optimal model thresholds.

## **3.5 Model Checkpoint Files**

The best model checkpoint files are included during the install process. These files were output during our model training from runs that performed well in tests. They are located in the ‘data/model\_checkpoints/’ directory of the install. These files contain the information that the model needs in order to make detections for AACPs or OTs.

## **3.6 Script Breakdown**

The following shows the order of operations for the software and the scripts that are called to carry that out.

1. `run_all_plume_updraft_model_predict.py` is the MAIN function. This function prompts the user with questions regarding what parameters they want to use to run the model

and the dates/region to run the model over. A configuration file can also be loaded into this function which answers the questions for the user ahead of time.

2. (a) `run_tf_1_channel_plume_updraft_day_predict` takes 1 model input channel (typically IR only) and calls all of the subroutines to pre-process and run the model.  
(b) `run_tf_2_channel_plume_updraft_day_predict` takes 2 model input channels (IR+VIS or IR+GLM) and calls all of the subroutines to pre-process and run the model.  
(c) `run_tf_3_channel_plume_updraft_day_predict` takes 3 model input channels (IR+VIS+GLM) and calls all of the subroutines to pre-process and run the model.
3. (a) `run_download_goes_ir_vis_l1b_glm_l2_data` used in real-time model runs. Downloads the latest GOES ABI and GLM data from Google Cloud's public data storage. See Section 5.2 for more details.  
(b) `run_download_goes_ir_vis_l1b_glm_l2_data_parallel` used in archived model runs. This model uses parallel threads in order to speed up GOES ABI and GLM data downloads from Google Cloud's public data storage. See Section 5.2 for more details.  
(c) `run_download_mtg_fci_data` used in real-time model runs that use MTG data. Downloads the latest MTG data from EUMETSAT public data storage. A EUMETSAT account will be needed to download these files. See Section 5.2 for more details.  
(d) `run_download_mtg_fci_data_parallel` used in archived model runs that use MTG data. This model uses parallel threads in order to speed up MTG data downloads from EUMETSAT. A EUMETSAT account will be needed to download these files. See Section 5.2 for more details.
4. (a) `run_create_image_from_three_modalities` used in real-time model runs. If the user specifies they want output maps, this function will open a new Thread to start creating the image in the background while the rest of the model process runs. Once the model is finished running and the output file is available, the parallel Thread will

- plot the model results onto an IR/VIS sandwich image. Creates “combined” netCDF file of the data. See Section 6 for more details.
- (b) `run_create_image_from_three_modalities2` used in archived model runs. This model uses parallel threads in order to speed up archived runs. This function interpolates IR and GLM data onto the VIS data grid to create “combined” netCDF file of the data. See Section 6 for more details.
  - (c) `run_mtg_create_image_from_three_modalities` Same as (a) but for MTG.
  - (d) `run_mtg_create_image_from_three_modalities2` Same as (b) but for MTG.
5. (a) `create_vis_ir_numpy_arrays_from_netcdf_files2` creates IR, VIS, and GLM numpy files for a specific date and satellite scan sectors. The numpy arrays are stored (1, number of latitude pixels, number of longitude pixels). This function uses the combined netCDF files (created from `combine_ir_glm_vis`) to normalize the IR, VIS, and GLM data (0-1) which is then output to numpy arrays that are loaded as input into the model. See Section 7.1 for more details. **IMPORTANT NOTE!!!** IR data values are set to -1 in regions that are not able to be scanned by the satellite. These regions come about due to the gridding process for CONUS and FULL disk scans. They are set to -1 in order to distinguish that there should never be any model detection at those points. When running the model, we can easily find those points and make sure the results likelihoods are set to 0 (not an OT or AACP).
- (b) `mtg_create_vis_ir_numpy_arrays_from_netcdf_files2` same as (a) but for MTG.
6. (a) `tf_1_channel_plume_updraft_day_predict` takes 1 model input channel and runs the specified model. Writes model output to numpy file and also opens the combined netCDF file and writes model results there too.
- (b) `tf_2_channel_plume_updraft_day_predict` takes 2 model input channels and runs the specified model. Writes model output to numpy file and also opens the combined netCDF file and writes model results there too.
  - (c) `tf_3_channel_plume_updraft_day_predict` takes 3 model input channels and



runs the specified model. Writes model output to numpy file and also opens the combined netCDF file and writes model results there too.

7. `write_plot_model_result_predictions` is used in archived runs to map the model results for each individual scene as well as a time aggregated map of the model results, SPC reports, and minimum brightness temperatures.

### **3.7 Model Input/Output Files and Locations**

The software creates files that are used as input into the model and also outputs multiple files and, optionally, an image file. This list of input and output files as well as their default locations are listed below.

1. If downloading files, the user can specify the download directory location, however, the default location is `'../../data/goes-data/'`. The subdirectory is then the 4 digit year + 2 digit month + 2 digit day. For ESSL MTG data users, by setting the keyword `-essl`, the subdirectory is 4 digit year + `'/'` + 2 digit month + `'/'` + 2 digit day. This setup makes it so ESSL users, who are already downloading the data on their own, to not make any changes and have the software fit in their framework. IMPORTANT NOTE: The `essl` setup is only available for MTG.
2. The first file created is termed in this document as the combined netCDF file. It is created by the `combine_ir_glm_vis` function, as described in Section 6. An example file header is provided in Section 13.4.1. This file contains satellite information which can be used for mapping the data and model input variables. This file will also be rewritten later to add the contents of the model detections. These files can be read into the McIDAS-V software for visualization. The files are stored in `'../../data/goes-data/combined_nc_dir/'`. The subdirectory is then the 4 digit year + 2 digit month + 2 digit day.
3. Numpy files for each model input variable are created for a single time/scan. Depending on the model run chosen, numpy arrays for IR, VIS, and GLM are used as model inputs into the machine learning algorithm. All of the numpy arrays contain normalized values ranging between 0 and 1. These files are stored in `'../../data/labelled/'`. DEFAULT is to delete this

files after use if the user does not wish to plot the data using the routines provided. This substantially saves on disk space. See Section 7 for more details.

4. csv file containing IR/VIS/GLM file names with dates and times. This is created in order to keep organized which numpy file goes with which date and raw data file. These files are stored in ‘../../data/labelled/’. See Section 7 for more details.
5. DEFAULT is to no longer write these files, starting with Version 2. To save on local memory, the model results will only be written to the netCDF files....Numpy model results file stores the model likelihoods of a detection for each point in the domain. Values range from 0 to 1, with values closer to 1 implying the model is more confident in a detection. These root directory to these files is ‘../../data/aacp\_results/’. The subdirectories to the file are then the model type (day\_night\_optimal, IR, IR+GLM, etc.), what the model was trying to detect (updraft or plume), whether it was a real-time or not real-time model, the date that the model was run, the date of interest, and the scan sector.
6. As mentioned in item (2) in this list, the model results are also output to the combined netCDF file. The combined netCDF is opened and a new variable containing the model output, similar to that seen in the numpy output files is written. Some example variable names are ir\_ot, ir\_glm\_ot, ir\_glm\_aacp, and ir\_vis\_glm\_aacp. This data was written to the combined netCDF files in order to provide an easier user experience and also be able to visualize the results in the McIDAS-V software.

## **4 Model Characteristics**

### **4.1 Model Training**

For training the model, we used 1-minute mesoscale domain sectors (M1 or M2) GOES-16 data. Table 1 shows the dates and mesoscale regions used. The variable ‘Case Classifier’ corresponds to whether or not the date was input into the model as a training (train) or validation (val) dataset. The independent model testing (test) dataset was not input into the model at any time.

Table 1: Dates and times of convective events included in this study.

Date	Time Range (UTC)	Mesoscale Sector	Case Classifier
30 April 2019	1800-2359	1	train
01 May 2019	0000-0043	1	train
05-06 May 2019	2200-0055	1	train
05-06 May 2019	1930-0102	2	train
07-08 May 2019	1800-0100	1	train
17-18 May 2019	1700-0122	2	val
20-21 May 2019	1800-0104	1	train
26-27 May 2019	1800-0056	2	test
13-14 May 2020	1800-0105	2	train

## 4.2 Model Types

See Table 2 for the model types and inputs allowed for each model type.

### 4.2.1 OTs

For detecting OTs, we set up the software to handle a variety of satellite inputs and model types. Most model input combinations only are available for MultiResUnet. Model inputs for OTs available include: IR only, TROPDIFF only, IR+VIS, IR+GLM, IR+WVIRDIFF, IR+VIS+GLM, IR+TROPDIFF, IR+CIRRUS, IR+SNOWICE, IR+DIRTYIRDIFF, VIS+TROPDIFF, GLM+TROPDIFF, IR+VIS+TROPDIFF, VIS+GLM+TROPDIFF, TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF, IR+VIS+DIRTYIRDIFF, and VIS+TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF. TROPDIFF stands for 10.3 micron IR BT - GFS Tropopause temperature, WVIRDIFF stands for 6.2 micron - 10.3 micron channel difference, and DIRTYIRDIFF stands for 12.3 micron - 10.3 micron channel difference. For each of these input combinations we tested 3 distinct model architectures: unet, multiresunet, and attentionunet. Since VIS data are not available at night, we found optimal models for daytime and nighttime.

During the day, the OT detection model that performed best during our tests was the IR+VIS multiresunet model.

During the night, the OT detection model that performed best during our tests was the IR multiresunet model.

#### **4.2.2 AACPs**

For detecting AACPs, we set up the software to handle a variety of satellite inputs but only 1 model type (MultiResUnet) is available. Model inputs for AACPs available include: IR only, TROPDIFF only, IR+VIS, IR+GLM, IR+WVIRDIFF, IR+VIS+GLM, IR+TROPDIFF, IR+CIRRUS, IR+SNOWICE, IR+DIRTYIRDIFF, VIS+TROPDIFF, GLM+TROPDIFF, IR+VIS+TROPDIFF, VIS+GLM+TROPDIFF, TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF, IR+VIS+DIRTYIRDIFF, and VIS+TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF. TROPDIFF stands for 10.3 micron IR BT - GFS Tropopause temperature, WVIRDIFF stands for 6.2 micron - 10.3 micron channel difference, and DIRTYIRDIFF stands for 12.3 micron - 10.3 micron channel difference.

During the day and night, the AACP detection model that performed best during our tests was the IR+DIRTYIRDIFF multiresunet model.

#### **4.3 Allowed Data Ranges**

For more details on allowed data ranges, refer to `create_vis_ir_numpy_arrays_from_netcdf_files2.py` or Section 7.2 of this document.

IR BT ( $10.3\mu\text{m}$ ) range is 180 K to 230 K. VIS reflectance ( $0.64\mu\text{m}$ ) range is 0 to 1. GLM flash extent density range is 0 to 20. WVIRDIFF ( $6.2\mu\text{m}$  -  $10.3\mu\text{m}$ ) range is -20 K to 10 K. TROPDIFF ( $10.3\mu\text{m}$  - GFS TropT) range is -15 K to 20 K SNOWICE ( $1.6\mu\text{m}$ ) range is 0 to 1. CIRRUS ( $1.37\mu\text{m}$ ) range is 0 to 1. DIRTYIRDIFF ( $12.3\mu\text{m}$  -  $10.3\mu\text{m}$ ) range is -1 to 2.

#### **4.4 Optimal Model Likelihood Scores & Thresholds**

For each pixel in the domain, the model outputs the ‘confidence’ that a pixel is part of the desired severe storm signature. These scores range from 0, not confident, to 1, very confident. Higher scores indicate a higher likelihood that the object you are trying to detect is in fact that object. If you are trying to detect OTs, for instance, a pixel with a score of 0.8 indicates that that pixel is very likely part of an OT. Using Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves and Intersection Over Union (IOU) statistical metrics in test cases independent from model training, we have found

thresholds that we believe work best for limiting the number of false detections while still identifying the vast majority of severe storm signature events. Now, it is important to note that these thresholds may not be best for each individual case and thus need to be adjusted based on the case the user is reviewing. While running the model, the user has the option to change the thresholds to suit their needs and findings. The optimal thresholds found for each model type and inputs at the VIS resolution of 0.5 km are shown in Table 2. IR resolution (2 km) optimal model thresholds are shown in Table 3.

## 5 Model Input Data

### 5.1 Model Satellite Data Inputs

Raw Level 1b GOES, GLM data, and GFS tropopause temperatures are used as the primary satellite inputs for training the deep learning models. The ABI is featured on the latest generation of NOAA/NASA geostationary satellites, including GOES-16, -17, and -18 (Schmit et al., 2017, 2018). The ABI samples 16 spectral bands at 0.5-2 km horizontal resolution every 1 min for mesoscale domains, 5 mins for CONUS, and 10 mins for full disk scans. Mesoscale domains are fixed areas, each  $\sim 1000 \text{ km}^2$ , chosen to provide detailed observations for areas of interest like severe storms. Raw Level 1b GOES-16 channel files used as model input includes the  $0.64 \mu\text{m}$  (VIS band),  $1.37 \mu\text{m}$  (CIRRUS band),  $1.6 \mu\text{m}$  (SNOWICE band),  $10.3 \mu\text{m}$  (IR band), and  $12.3 \mu\text{m}$  (dirty IR band). The IR band is interpolated to the VIS band resolution when both inputs are used together. Otherwise, the model software runs using the native IR data resolution. We have also set up the software to handle MTG-1 satellite channels which are available every 10 mins.

The flash extent density product measured by GLM can also be used as input into the deep learning model. Flash extent density indicates the number of flashes (both cloud-to-ground and cloud-to-cloud) that occur within a grid cell over a given time period. The horizontal resolution of the flash extent density data are 8 km with new GLM data files available every 20 seconds. GLM data are gridded using the glmtools Python library provided in Bruning et al. (2019). Only GLM files within  $\pm 2.5$  minutes of GOES IR/VIS start scan times are gridded and considered co-located. GLM data are also interpolated to the VIS data resolution of 0.5 km prior to being input into the model. Lightning is not yet available for MTG satellite imagery runs.

Table 2: Model types and optimal thresholds found from independent test cases for data on VIS 0.5 km resolution.

Severe Storm Signature	Model Type	Model Inputs	Optimal Model Threshold
OT	MultiResUnet	IR	0.40
OT	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF	0.65
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+VIS	0.25
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+GLM	0.65
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+WVIRDIFF	0.30
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+SNOWICE	0.60
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+CIRRUS	0.50
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.45
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+TROPDIFF	0.25
OT	MultiResUnet	VIS+TROPDIFF	0.15
OT	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF+GLM	0.55
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+VIS+GLM	0.40
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+VIS+TROPDIFF	0.15
OT	MultiResUnet	VIS+TROPDIFF+GLM	0.40
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+VIS+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.30
OT	MultiResUnet	VIS+TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.45
OT	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.45
OT	Unet	IR	0.45
OT	Unet	IR+GLM	0.45
OT	Unet	IR+VIS	0.35
OT	Unet	IR+WVIRDIFF	0.45
OT	Unet	IR+VIS+GLM	0.45
OT	AttentionUnet	IR+VIS	0.65
OT	AttentionUnet	IR+VIS+GLM	0.20
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR	0.75
AACP	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF	0.80
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+VIS	0.50
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+GLM	0.20
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+WVIRDIFF	0.80
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+SNOWICE	0.25
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+CIRRUS	0.60
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.50
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+TROPDIFF	0.80
AACP	MultiResUnet	VIS+TROPDIFF	0.70
AACP	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF+GLM	0.55
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+VIS+GLM	0.35
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+VIS+TROPDIFF	0.70
AACP	MultiResUnet	VIS+TROPDIFF+GLM	0.30
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+VIS+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.30
AACP	MultiResUnet	VIS+TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.25
AACP	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.75

Table 3: Model types and optimal thresholds found from independent test cases on IR 2.0 km resolution.

Severe Storm Signature	Model Type	Model Inputs	Optimal Model Threshold
OT	MultiResUnet	IR	0.20
OT	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF	0.40
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+GLM	0.25
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+WVIRDIFF	0.55
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.25
OT	MultiResUnet	IR+TROPDIFF	0.40
OT	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF+GLM	0.55
OT	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.45
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR	0.30
AACP	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF	0.60
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+GLM	0.30
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+WVIRDIFF	0.55
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.40
AACP	MultiResUnet	IR+TROPDIFF	0.20
AACP	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF+GLM	0.50
AACP	MultiResUnet	TROPDIFF+DIRTYIRDIFF	0.15

In addition to satellite imagery, the Global Forecast System (GFS) model tropopause temperature product was tested as input to the machine learning models. GFS was chosen due to its production of near real-time analysis files. GFS grib files are downloaded from the NCAR Research Data Archive. The GFS lapse-rate tropopause temperature product (TropT), available 6-hourly on a  $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$  longitude-latitude grid (National Centers for Environmental Prediction, National Weather Service, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015), is linearly interpolated in time and space from the GFS grid to the GOES ABI pixels. Occasionally, reanalysis tropopause temperature fields can show unrealistic spatial variability. At one location, the reanalysis may accurately capture the primary tropopause while nearby it may incorrectly label the secondary tropopause as the primary. This is most common near jet streams (Khlopenkov et al., 2021). To mitigate potential artifacts, tropopause temperature outliers are identified and replaced using spatial filtering methods described in Khlopenkov et al. (2021). For our purposes, we used a 10 grid box radius for the spatial filtering.

## **5.2 *Data Download Sources***

It is recommended that users download data from the Google Cloud Platform in order to get the full usage out of the software, but it is not required to run the software. Additional resources are included below. As a reminder, our software uses the L1b GOES data products. In addition, our software uses EUMETSAT data services in order to download MTG satellite data.

### **5.2.1 *Google Cloud***

GOES and GLM data can be downloaded from Google Cloud (see Section 9 for more information about the Google Cloud Platform). All satellite imagery used in this study were obtained from the GCP (Google). Data are available in Google’s public storage buckets within a minute of the satellite scan completion. Software functions that do the downloading are named `run_download_goes_ir_vis_l1b_glm_l2_data.py` and `run_download_goes_ir_vis_l1b_glm_l2_data_parallel.py` functions. Using Google Cloud, data can be downloaded in ‘real-time’ (1 VIS file, 1 IR file, and 15 GLM files) closest to the time of day the script is run. 15 GLM files are downloaded because data files are created every 20 seconds and we want enough data to use with the 1-minute IR and VIS data. See Section 9 for Google Cloud setup instructions.



GFS tropopause temperature data when used in real-time is also downloaded from Google Cloud. If tropopause temperatures in post-processing, then the data are downloaded from data.rda.ucar.

### **5.2.2 *Additional GOES Resources***

The software is setup to be run if you have locally stored GOES files and do not want to download from the GCP. If you would prefer to download the data yourself to store and not use Google Cloud storage, please refer to page 14 of [NOAA Website Documentation](#). I have provided this link because I think they do a better job of linking to sites and explaining the process than I would here. This page of the document refers to NOAA’s CLASS data repository. As a reminder, our software uses the L1b GOES data products.

A similar but easier website to navigate might be NCEI’s Archive Information Request System (AIRS). No account is needed for this site ([AIRS Website](#)). Description of downloading GOES data from AIRS is also on page 14 of the pdf link sent above. Both NOAA’s class system and AIRS will allow you to download GOES data using FTP.

### **5.2.3 *EUMETSAT Data Services***

The previous subsections discuss how to download GOES satellite imagery. Users who wish to use MTG satellite imagery will need to follow the steps outlined in Section 13.3. Data are available on this portal for both real-time and archived applications. Software functions that do the downloading are named `run_download_mtg_fci_data.py` and `run_download_mtg_fci_data_parallel.py` functions.

## **6 *Output netCDF Files***

### **6.1 *Overview***

The pipeline necessary to create a layered image and combined netCDF file has four parts: 1) Main run script, 2) GLM data gridding (optional), 3) Combining IR, VIS, and GLM data into netCDF file, and 4) image creation. These functions are named `run_create_image_from_three_modalities` (or `run_create_image_from_three_modalities2` for parallel jobs in archived model runs), `glm_gridder`, `combine_ir_glm_vis`, and `img_from_three_modalities2`, respectively. The main function (1) runs the other three subroutines. These “combined” netCDF files can be loaded into the McIDAS-V

software.

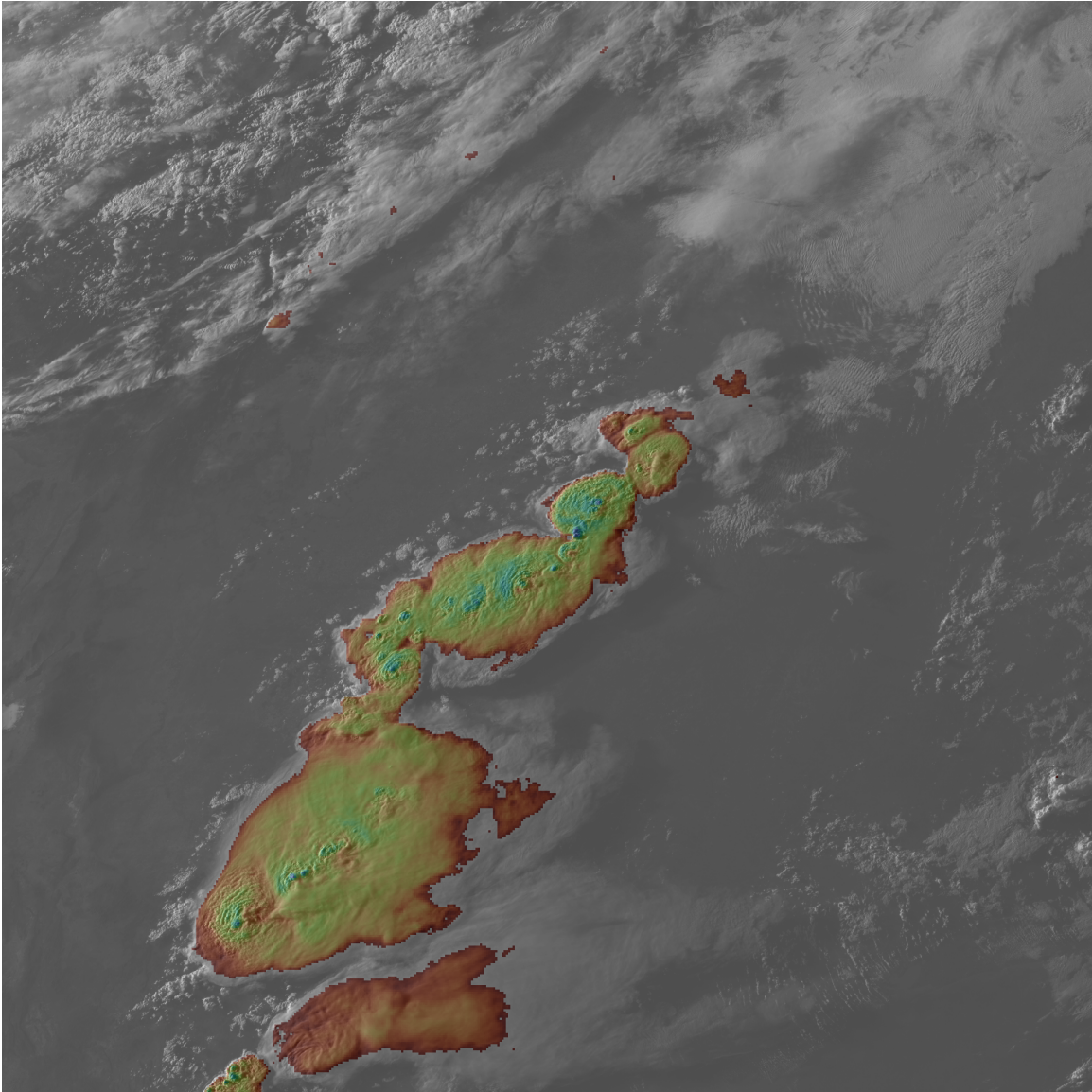


Figure 1: Example IR/VIS image for combined netCDF file: OR\_ABI\_L1b\_M2\_COMBINED\_s20201350016495\_e20201350016564\_c20201350017016.

## 6.2 *Script Breakdown*

1. `run_create_image_from_three_modalities` is the MAIN PROGRAM. Another program that can act as the main program is `run_create_image_from_three_modalities2`. This program runs the netCDF file creations in parallel threads which is useful for archived model runs. The programs import and call all of the following functions. User specifies the input directory (inroot) to the GOES IR/VIS and GLM raw data directories and the function

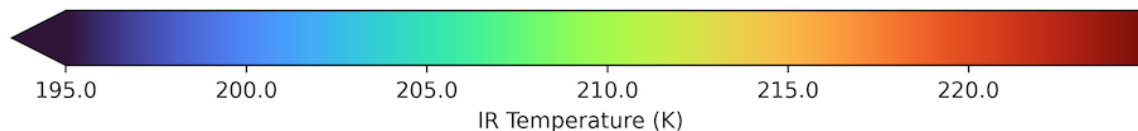


Figure 2: IR color bar.

- creates the GLM gridded file and loops over all of the GOES IR and VIS files (in alphabetical order.). Optional keywords for GLM data included in netCDF file creation (`no_write_glm` keyword). The default functionality is to not write or plot the GLM data (saves time and space and not needed for IR/VIS sandwich images). Optional keywords for VIS data included in netCDF file creation (`no_write_vis` keyword). Setting the keyword to True allows the job to be run on the native IR resolution which is lower than VIS. Ultimately, this saves time and space. The default functionality is to not write or plot the VIS data if VIS data are not required.
2. `glm_gridder` grids and reformats the GLM lightning flash data and writes output to a netCDF file. Grids ONLY files within  $\pm 2.5$  minutes of GOES IR/VIS start scan time as default. The 'twindow' keyword can specify time window of files surrounding GOES IR/VIS start scan time. Example file ncdump header is provided in Section 13.4.1. This file is read in `combine_ir_glm_vis.py`.
  3. `combine_ir_glm_vis` reads in the three data types and finds the subset of GLM data that matches the IR data. Function also converts the visible radiance to reflectance and then normalizes reflectance by the solar zenith angle (at every lat/lon pixel), IR radiance to brightness temperature, and calculates the latitude and longitude of the selected viewpoint. The latitude and longitude are then written to a netCDF file along with the data from the three modalities. IR data are written in terms of brightness temperature, VIS data are written in terms of reflectance normalized by the solar zenith angle, solar zenith angle in degrees, and GLM data are written in terms of flash extent density. The ncdump header information of an example file is provided in Section 13.4.2. The user can choose whether or not they want to include GLM data or VIS data in the output netCDF file.
  4. `glm_data_processing` contains utility functions that are used to grid/project the GOES

data and convert it into desired units.

5. `img_from_three_modalities2` creates a composite PNG image from the combined netCDF file. If VIS data are not available or the zenith angle in the middle of the image scene exceeds  $85^\circ$ , only the IR data are plotted. VIS data are plotted using greyscale while IR data are plotted using a rainbow color table. A colorblind version of the rainbow color table created using Google AI and named `turbo_colormap` is also available and is set as the function's default. Figures 1 and 2 provide an example on IR/VIS sandwich image and the color bar, respectively.

### 6.3 Path Setup

The default file path setup is listed below. The keywords in `run_create_image_from_three_modalities` will do most of the work and decide what directory to send the images based upon the keywords that are set.

1. GLM, IR, and VIS input files = `'../../data/goes-data/20200513/'`. The files for each GOES file type is within subdirectories `'glm/'`, `'ir/'`, and `'vis/'`, respectively.
2. GLM outfile directory = `'../../data/goes-data/out_dir/'`. Location of re-gridded GLM data file.
3. Combined IR, GLM, and VIS directory file directory = `'../../data/goes-data/combined_nc_dir/'`.

### 6.4 Removed Data

IR BT  $< 163$  K or NaN are set to 500 K. This removes incomplete or invalid data and makes sure that those points will not be used by the model. Bad pixels will be sporadic, often on domain edges or in a bad scan line, and not possessing a spatial configuration that should look like an OT or AACP to a deep learning model. Often times such bad pixels/lines have anomalously cold temperatures. With that said, it would probably be best to have it register as a 0 weight in the scaled brightness temperature so that it is disregarded.

ONLY GLM flash extent density within  $\pm 2.5$  minutes of the GOES IR/VIS scan are used and written to the combined netCDF files.

Visible, snowice, and cirrus data are not available if the solar zenith angle in 5% or more of the domain exceeds  $85^\circ$ . In this case, ONLY IR and WV data channels are used. This prevents retention of data with artificially high reflectance values as a result of solar zenith angle transitioning from daytime to nighttime.

## ***7 Creating Numpy Arrays for Model Input***

### ***7.1 Overview***

Numpy arrays for IR, VIS, TROPDIFF, DIRTYIRDIFF, CIRRUS, SNOWICE, WVIRDIFF, and GLM are used as model inputs into the machine learning algorithm. Numpy arrays are created for a single time. All of the numpy arrays contain normalized values ranging between 0 and 1. The scripts necessary to create a numpy array has 2 parts: 1) Create model input variable numpy arrays and 2) Create corresponding csv file that gives how the numpy files are organized. The script used is `create_vis_ir_numpy_arrays_from_netcdf_files2.py`.

### ***7.2 Script Breakdown***

This first list shows the script breakdown for creating numpy mask files.

1. `run_write_severe_storm_post_processing` is the MAIN function that appends the output netCDF files. This function calculates brightness temperature differences and extracts object ID numbers.
2. `append_combined_ncdf_with_model_post_processing` is a function that is called by `run_write_severe_storm_post_processing` that opens the model output netCDF file and appends it with the post-processed data variables.
3. `download_gfs_analysis_files` is a function that uses the request python module to download GFS GRIB analysis files from NCAR.
4. `gfs_nearest_time` is a function that calculate the date and time of the GFS analysis or forecast file nearest to 'date'.

5. `gfs_interpolate_tropT_to_goes_grid` is a function that interpolates tropopause temperatures from GFS onto a satellite data grid.

## **8 *Post-Processing Model Results***

### **8.1 *Overview***

Once model runs are complete, the software now provides post-processed data into the output netCDF files. The post-processed products include object identification numbers, the brightness temperature difference between the anvil and the OT, as well as the GFS tropopause temperature. As of 20 May 2025, post-processing now includes an automated quality control process for AACP and OTs to remove spurious detections. The quality control process for AACP was added to remove detections far from cold cores as well as remove detections along the edges of convective cells where false positives were identified. For OTs, any OT ID with OT-anvil mean brightness temperature difference  $> 0$  K is removed, suggestive of the OT is warmer than the anvil, is removed from OT identifications. Raw probabilities within the output netCDF file are unchanged but even though they are larger than the optimal likelihood scores, they are removed from consideration.

### **8.2 *Post-Processing Variables and Calculations***

#### **8.2.1 *Object Identification Numbers***

There are 2 possible object types that the User can specify to the software, OT and AACP. In the configuration file, the User has the option to specify the likelihood threshold in which they would like the data to be post-processed around. The User can also not specify this or choose to use the optimal threshold found during testing (see Table 2 for the optimal thresholds for each model found during testing). The dataset is first cleaned by removing all pixels with output likelihood values less than 0.05. Next, the software uses `scipy.ndimage.label` to identify individual objects. Objects that contain a pixel that has a likelihood score that exceed the User specified likelihood threshold (or if not specified then the optimal threshold identified in our testing) move on to determine which pixels should be included as part of the object. For AACP (OTs), the software retains all pixels that are at least 10% (50%) of the value of the maximum likelihood score in the object. Each pixel that satisfies this condition within the object is given the same ID number. Thus, the object

Identification Number field shows all pixels that belong to an individual object region. The ID numbers apply uniquely to each satellite scan, i.e. ID number 1 in one scan will likely not be the same feature as ID number 1 in the next scan, and therefore cannot be used to track an object throughout its lifetime. read database and health and monitoring data technique

### **8.2.2 *IR OT-Anvil Brightness Temperature Difference***

IR OT-Anvil Brightness Temperature Difference (BTD) is calculated for OTs only. For each OT object ID, the software identifies the coldest BT in the object. Then, the software searches for anvil pixels within a 30x30 km domain surrounding the coldest pixel in the OT. A pixel is considered to be anvil if it is not part of any OT object. The software then omits the coldest and warmest X% when calculating the mean anvil brightness temperature. The default for X is 20% which means that 20% of the warmest and coldest anvil pixel temperatures are removed in order to prevent the contribution of noise to the OT IR-anvil BTD calculation. This value can be specified by the User in the configuration file. The mean brightness temperature of the remaining anvil pixels is calculated and subtracted from the minimum BT in the OT in order to get IR OT-Anvil BTD.

### **8.2.3 *Tropopause Temperature***

Tropopause temperatures are calculated from GFS analysis files. GFS analysis files are downloaded from the NCAR data archive and will automatically download analysis times that encompass the date range that the model was run over, whether it was a real-time or archived model run. The GFS lapse-rate tropopause temperature product (TropT), available 6-hourly on a 0.25° x 0.25° longitude-latitude grid (National Centers for Environmental Prediction, National Weather Service, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015), is linearly interpolated in time and space from the GFS grid to the GOES ABI pixels. Occasionally, reanalysis tropopause temperature fields can show unrealistic spatial variability. At one location, the reanalysis may accurately capture the primary tropopause while nearby it may incorrectly label the secondary tropopause as the primary. This is most common near jet streams (Khlopenkov et al., 2021). To mitigate potential artifacts, tropopause temperature outliers are identified and replaced using spatial filtering methods described in Khlopenkov et al. (2021). In Version 2 and earlier we used a 10 grid box radius for the spatial filtering, however, found this to be insufficient so starting in Version 3 we use 20 grid

boxes.. Tropopause temperatures are only included in the output netCDF files for OT object model runs or for runs that used TROPDIFF as model input.

## **9 *Google Cloud Platform (GCP)***

### **9.1 *Overview***

**IMPORTANT NOTE 1:** Google Cloud is not essential for this project. All of the software can be run without installing Google Cloud, however, users that want to run the model in real-time would be advised to install Google Cloud Services such that, data can be downloaded from the cloud. In testing we often found the ucar.rda site not responsive and in Version 3 made Google Cloud the backup location to use for downloading GFS data.

**IMPORTANT NOTE 2:** In order to use Google Cloud services, the user must have a gmail account. Downloading data from the Google Cloud public storage repository is free with a gmail account.

Raw Level 1 GOES files are downloaded from Google public storage buckets and we often store files that are used as input into the model on our own storage buckets which can be accessed by Google's Virtual Machines (VMs). This project ran the model training, validation, and prediction on Google's VMs. This section will discuss the storage buckets in which the data are stored, the VMs, and code used to writing and reading from storage buckets. All of the scripts, made by John Cooney, are capable of reading and writing the data locally as well as to and from the Google Cloud Storage Buckets. If the following subsections are not helpful, refer to the code for some examples on how to read and write from the GCP buckets.

### **9.2 *Installing Google Cloud***

The following steps are used to install Google Cloud on your device. I have included as many details and separated the tasks to be small so that they are as easy to follow as possible. Hopefully, Google does not change how this process.

**Step 1:** To install Google Cloud, follow the directions on [Google Cloud Install](#). Download the package for your operating system.

**Step 2:** Follow instructions on the page (steps 2a, 2b, and 2c). Even if it says Optional, I



recommend doing those steps. The instructions include unzipping the downloaded file, running the install script (from the root of the folder you extracted in the last step) as described on the website (ex. `./google-cloud-sdk/install.sh`), and allowing the install to update your PATH in your `.bash_profile` or `.zshrc` whatever you are using. Your `.bash_profile` or `.zshrc` should look similar to the following after completing these steps:

```
# The next line updates PATH for the Google Cloud SDK.
if [ -f '/Users/user-name/google-cloud-sdk/path.bash.inc' ]; then . '/Users/user-name/google-cloud-sdk/path.bash.inc'; fi

# The next line enables shell command completion for gcloud.
if [ -f '/Users/user-name/google-cloud-sdk/completion.bash.inc' ]; then . '/Users/user-name/google-cloud-sdk/completion.bash.inc'; fi
```

**Step 3:** Initialize the gcloud CLI by running `gcloud init`. Running this will give the user prompts they need to answer.

First, the user will be prompted for a configuration name. This configuration name can be anything that the user wants, as long as it is not already being used by another user project. In testing, I chose `tmptestproj2-7363823364` because it was very unlikely to have been used by someone else previously. You can choose something that corresponds more closely to your project though.

Second, the user will be prompted for an account to be associated with this configuration (user must have a Gmail account in order for this to work). You can login with new account when prompted.

This will redirect the user to their default web browser.

Click on your gmail account or enter it in and login to the account.

Click 'Allow' at bottom of page to authenticate the Google Cloud CLI.

User will next be prompted to create a project ID.

You can again name this anything you would like as long as it is not being used by another Google Cloud user.

Example: In testing, I chose a random assortment (e.g. `tmptestproj-673527384`)

**Step 4:** Once signed in, click select a project (next to 'GoogleCloud text' in left hand corner).

**Step 5:** Select your project name.

**Step 6:** Select the 3 horizontal lines to the left of 'GoogleCloud' text.

**Step 7:** Scroll down to 'IAM & Admin'.

**Step 8:** Within 'IAM & Admin' menu, Click on 'Service Accounts'.

**Step 9:** Once at Service Accounts page, Click ‘+ CREATE SERVICE ACCOUNT’ near top of page.

**Step 10:** Type in a Service Account name. Again, this can be anything you want. Once you have typed in the Service Account name, Click Done. You have now created a service account.

**Step 11:** Click the 3 vertical dots next to the service account that you just enabled.

**Step 12:** Scroll down and Click Manage Keys.

**Step 13:** Click ‘ADD KEY’ on webpage.

**Step 14:** Click ‘Create new key’ (Create a JSON key type). This will download the json file to your local computer.

**Step 15:** Move the json file that was just downloaded into your google-cloud-sdk directory.

**Step 16:** Within your .zshrc, .bashrc, or whatever it is that you use, type:

export GOOGLE\_APPLICATION\_CREDENTIALS=path-to-json-file

(e.g. in my file, ‘export GOOGLE\_APPLICATION\_CREDENTIALS=/Users/jack/google-cloud-sdk/tmpstestproj-673527384-a2baeabf78a0.json’).

**Step 17:** Open a new Terminal window. All new Terminal windows should now be able to use Google Cloud which will be accessed by the software code.

This should allow you to use gsutil commands. For downloading, you may need to run *gcloud iam service-accounts keys create /Users/user-name/google-cloud-sdk/google-service-account-file.json --iam-account=project-name@appspot.gserviceaccount.com* in your terminal in order to get necessary json file. Put this file in a location that you want and then export it in .zshrc or .bash\_profile by adding a line similar to:

```
export GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS=/Users/user-name/google-cloud-sdk/google-service-account-file.json
```

## 9.3 Google Cloud Problems Users May Encounter

### 9.3.1 Local Web Proxy/Firewall Error

When running the ‘gcloud init’ command (to initialize the gcloud CLI utilities), some users have reported running into an error message that looks like the following:

```
ERROR: Reachability Check failed.
  httpLib2 cannot reach https://accounts.google.com:
[SSL: CERTIFICATE_VERIFY_FAILED] certificate verify failed: self signed certificate in certificate chain (_ssl.c:1129)

  httpLib2 cannot reach https://cloudresourcemanager.googleapis.com/v1beta1/projects:
[SSL: CERTIFICATE_VERIFY_FAILED] certificate verify failed: self signed certificate in certificate chain (_ssl.c:1129)

  httpLib2 cannot reach https://www.googleapis.com/auth/cloud-platform:
[SSL: CERTIFICATE_VERIFY_FAILED] certificate verify failed: self signed certificate in certificate chain (_ssl.c:1129)
```

```
httplib2 cannot reach https://dl.google.com/dl/cloudsdk/channels/rapid/components-2.json:
[SSL: CERTIFICATE_VERIFY_FAILED] certificate verify failed: self signed certificate in certificate chain (_ssl.c:1129)

Network connection problems may be due to proxy or firewall settings.
```

The key step to fixing this issue was doing: `gcloud config set core/custom_ca_certs_file $SSL_CERT_FILE`. Your system should then populate this environment variable with a specific `tls-ca-bundle.pem` file on it, allowing the gcloud products to all work.

If the above fix does not work for you, I found some other resources that might be helpful and included them here. One a possible solution to the problem is setting: `gcloud config set auth/disable_ssl_validation True`. This would disable the ssl validation. Some other links that may be useful are provided here: [Stack Overflow Link](#) and [Google Cloud Documentation Link](#). Your resident IT expert may be best to discuss the proxy issue with though as certain user's settings may have different permissions and allowances than others.

## 9.4 *Script Breakdown*

All of the code for reading and writing to and from the Google Cloud is located within the script *gcs\_processing.py*. All of the software code calls the functions in this script. There are multiple functions that will list the files within a particular google storage bucket, read a file on the storage bucket, download a file from a storage bucket, and write a file to a storage bucket. The functions are capable of handling csv files, numpy files, image files, netCDF files, and model checkpoint files. Choose the function that best suits your needs.

NOTE, netCDF and model checkpoint files must be available locally in order to be read. Thus, we must download them from a Google Cloud storage bucket. Other file types can just be loaded into memory directly from the Google Cloud storage buckets so they do not need to be downloaded first.

## **10 *Software Updates***

### **10.1 *MAJOR REVISIONS***

#### **10.1.1 *05 June 2023***

Added post-processing function that yields object ID numbers of OTs and AACPs as well as OT IR-anvil brightness temperature differences.

Fixed issue that occurred in full disk and CONUS scanned model runs. The issue occurred at the very edge of the domain where the satellite view is off in to space on the edge of Earth. This issue was fixed prior to release for OTs but AACPs needed to be fixed in a unique way.

#### **10.1.2 *22 June 2023***

Added tropopause temperature to post-processing functionality for OT model runs. This software downloads GFS data from NCAR and then interpolates and smooths the tropopause temperature onto the satellite data grid before writing the output to the netCDF files.

#### **10.1.3 *23 August 2023***

Added Windows .yml file to the git repo. This should allow Windows users an easier time to setup and install the software. Minor changes to path in `run_tf_1_channel_plume_updraft_day_predict.py` function as well that occurred when `re split` was being used and the pattern being searched for included path separators.

#### **10.1.4 *6 March 2024 VERSION 2 Release***

VERSION 2 of software!!! LARGE model performance enhancement, particularly with AACP detection. Added A LOT of new model input combinations as possibilities, including TROPDIFF, DIRTYIRDIFF, SNOWICE, and CIRRUS. Added the new and improved checkpoint files associated with those model runs. Optimal models and thresholds have been updated since the Version 1 release. Changed how we interpolate the GFS data onto the GOES grid. We now follow the methods outlined in Khlopenkov et al. (2021). New version changes how software decides between daytime and nighttime model runs. Previously used the maximum solar zenith angle within the

domain and checked if that exceeded  $85^\circ$ , however, there was an issue of only nighttime models being used for CONUS domains due to how the satellite views the Earth and the data are gridded. Thus, now the software checks to see if more than 5% of the pixels in the domain have solar zenith angles that exceed  $85^\circ$ . If they do, then the software acts as if the domain is nighttime and if not the software acts as if it is daytime within the domain. Fixed major issue with looping over post-processing dates and the month or year changed during a real-time or archived model run. New version speeds up post-processing for OTs. Set variables to None after using them in order to clear cached memory. Catch and hide RunTime warnings that the User does not need to worry about.

Software Users prior to 6 March 2024 will need to pull the latest python files from GitHub. This should be very fast. Users MUST also download the new checkpoint files from '[https://science-data.larc.nasa.gov/LaRC-SD-Publications/2023-05-05-001-JWC/data/ML\\_data.zip](https://science-data.larc.nasa.gov/LaRC-SD-Publications/2023-05-05-001-JWC/data/ML_data.zip)'. Once downloaded and unzipped, replace the old model\_checkpoints subdirectory with the latest one that was just downloaded. This directory includes all of the improved model detection files as well as checkpoint files for the new input combinations. If you have issues downloading and unzipping the file from the browser, run the run\_download\_model\_checkpoint\_files.py script. Users have experienced issues downloading the checkpoint files from the browser and this script has been successful.

#### **10.1.5 2 May 2024**

Visualization product offered with the python package. This add on product allows for images to be created for both real-time and archived model runs. The script that does the mapping is named img\_from\_three\_modalities2.py. In real-time, images are started in the background while the software is pre-processing and running the ML model on the data. In archived mode, images are created after each day is run. Thus, output images ARE NOT object identifications. Object identifications are made in post-processing. Instead, the output is just OT/AACPs that exceed some likelihood threshold.

NOTE, plotting the data does slow down the software as it takes some time to create the maps. However, real-time run tests have shown the software still easily keeps up with GOES ABI sampling frequency. Thus, everything from downloading the model inputs to creating an output map are completed prior to the next GOES scan is available.

User must install cartopy version 0.20.1 in the svrstormsig conda environment. Try pip install

cartopy==0.20.1

### **10.1.6 9 January 2025**

issue was identified with the native IR OT detection checkpoint files located in directory path: data/model\_checkpoints/ir/updraft\_day\_model/2023-11-21/multiresunet/chosen\_indices/by\_date/by\_updraft/. We are unsure what caused this checkpoint file corruption but it has since been fixed.

Software Users prior to 9 January 2025 will need to download the latest checkpoint files from '[https://science-data.larc.nasa.gov/LaRC-SD-Publications/2023-05-05-001-JWC/data/ML\\_data.zip](https://science-data.larc.nasa.gov/LaRC-SD-Publications/2023-05-05-001-JWC/data/ML_data.zip)'. Once downloaded and unzipped, replace the old model\_checkpoints subdirectory with the latest one that was just downloaded. This directory includes all of the improved model detection files as well as checkpoint files for the new input combinations. If you have issues downloading and unzipping the file from the browser, run the run\_download\_model\_checkpoint\_files.py script.

### **10.1.7 16 April 2025 VERSION 3 Release**

VERSION 3 of software!!! Major changes include making software more applicable to global applications as well as the additions of MTG-1 and GOES-19 satellites into the software framework. Optimal models and thresholds have been updated since the Version 2 release for TROPDIFF and VIS+TROPDIFF OT models. A new default VIS+TROPDIFF OT model is included with this release. TROPDIFF and VIS+TROPDIFF OT detection model inputs are now the default. Our team decided to change these to the default inputs because IR-only and IR+VIS was not performing up to standards for global situations across various seasons. This change should hopefully improve model detections. We also changed how we interpolate the GFS data onto the GOES grid. Previously, we used 10 GFS grid boxes to smooth the tropopause temperatures but now we use 20. We chose to use additional grid boxes because we noticed that in some cases there were tropopause temperature discontinuities which resulted in OT detections where the tropopause was warmer even though the underlying satellite imagery did not show an OT. Another change that was added was that in the optimal run settings and not plotting the data, we delete the intermediate numpy files after using them. By deleting these files, Users will save a lot of disk space.

Because of the new satellites, intermediate files for those satellites has been created. Thus, Software Users prior to 16 April 2025 will need to pull the latest python files from GitHub. This

should be very fast. Users MUST also download the new checkpoint files from ‘[https://science-data.larc.nasa.gov/LaRC-SD-Publications/2023-05-05-001-JWC/data/ML\\_data.zip](https://science-data.larc.nasa.gov/LaRC-SD-Publications/2023-05-05-001-JWC/data/ML_data.zip)’. Once downloaded and unzipped, replace the old `model_checkpoints` subdirectory with the latest one that was just downloaded. This directory includes all of the improved model detection files as well as checkpoint files for the new input combinations. If you have issues downloading and unzipping the file from the browser, run the `run_download_model_checkpoint_files.py` script. Users have experienced issues downloading the checkpoint files from the browser and this script has been successful.

## **10.2 MINOR REVISIONS**

### **10.2.1 13 June 2023**

Fixed issue where user wants to correct the model inputs or model type and not everything like the correct optimal model to be called followed with it.

Pass `optimal_threshold` for a given model to be written to output netCDF file rather than whatever is chosen by user for post-processing and plotting. The one chosen by the user is still passed into the subroutines for plotting and post-processing and is referred to as the `likelihood_threshold` in order to differentiate it from the `optimal_thresh` attribute in the raw model likelihood output variables. Users can identify objects in post-processing by specifying their own likelihood thresholds, rather than being forced to use the optimal thresholds found for a particular model.

Decrease size of files by improving compression by setting `least_significant_digits` keyword when creating the variables.

### **10.2.2 21 August 2023**

In post-processing, some users experienced a ‘Runtime Warning:invalid value encountered in cast’ when initializing the `ot_id` array. This was likely due to differences in OS’s. Numpy is aware of the issue but the line of code has been changed to `ot_id = np.full_like(res, 0).astype(‘uint16’)`. This should remove the issue for those users.

ReadME documentation was updated for Google Cloud and includes additional ways to download GOES L1b data for ingestion into the software.

### **10.2.3 2 May 2024**

Added proj4 string as a global variable to the output netCDF files to assist with users with their own visualization. Earlier releases contained this information in the imager\_projection variable but this string was requested to make plotting easier.

### **10.2.4 20 May 2025**

VERSION 3.1 of software. Added post-processing automated quality control for AACP (primarily) and OTs. AACPs  $< 0.7$  removed (below AACP threshold) if not near a cold spot. AACPs  $< 0.7$  are also removed if along the border of a convective cell. This removes some good detections but removes many FARs. For OTs, we remove detections where the mean anvil brightness temperature difference  $\geq 0$  (OT region warmer than surrounding anvil). Lastly, we removed VIS+TROPDIFF OTs within a 64-8:64+8x64-8:64+8 pixel upper and right hand image border surrounding the 2000x2000 mesoscale images. It was found that there were spurious detections along this border. One last change. It seems that the rda.ucar no longer is being updated with tropopause files. The new methods check this and downloads data from Google Cloud instead.

## **11 Authors**

This software was produced through collaborative work between John W. Cooney, Kristopher M. Bedka, and Charles A. Liles at NASA Langley Research Center.

### **11.1 Contact Information**

This software is intended for research and operational use. Users can contact the software team regarding its use, especially before publication or public presentation. This is the first official release of this software; these products that are still undergoing validation, testing, quality control, and debugging. Users are invited to address questions and provide feedback to the contacts below.

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## **12 *Disclaimer and Copyright Notices***

### **12.1 *Notices***

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BY LAW. RECIPIENT'S SOLE REMEDY FOR ANY SUCH MATTER SHALL BE THE IMMEDIATE, UNILATERAL TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.

## **13 Appendix**

### **13.1 Allowed Satellites**

This software is capable of being used for the following satellites: MTG-1, GOES-16, GOES-17, GOES-18, and GOES-19.

### **13.2 Anaconda Installation**

The following anaconda installation steps are primarily useful for Mac users. Please see [Windows Anaconda Install](#) for better steps on how to install anaconda using Windows. Note that the steps refer to the anaconda packages, NOT Anaconda-Navigator.app.

1. Go to: [Anaconda Install Website](#)
2. Click download. (This will take you to bottom of web page)
3. Install the 64-Bit Graphical Installer for your system
4. Locate your download and double click it
5. NOTE: when you install Anaconda, it modifies your .bash\_profile (this can be important for later)
6. Agree to License Agreement and install anaconda
7. Once complete, close the installer and move it to the trash
8. Activate conda by going to the command line within terminal source <path toconda>/bin/activate.  
The <path toconda> can change. The default location for Anaconda is:

Linux = /home/<your\_username>/Anaconda3

Windows = C:\Users\<your\_username>\Anaconda3

Mac = /Users/<your\_username>/Anaconda3

For Mac, if anaconda was installed at the system level, the anaconda package may be located in your /opt directory. If you cannot find the package and, specifically, the anaconda3 directory + bin subdirectory folder then go into your finder and search for anaconda. This should give you the location.

9. In terminal enter *conda init* (this may or may not yield a successful output message).

### 13.3 MTG Satellite Setup

1. Go to: [EUMETSAT API KEY](#)
2. If you have an account, login. If you do not have an account, you will need to register one.
3. Once you have an account, copy the contents from ‘Consumer key’ and ‘Consumer secret’ to the bottom of your .bashrc, .zshrc, or whatever it is that you use so that the document looks similar to the following where the contents that you copied are respectively contained within the quotation marks.

```
export CONSUMER_KEY="your_consumer_key_goes_here"
```

```
export CONSUMER_SECRET="your_consumer_secret_goes_here"
```

4. Close Terminal window and open a new one. This should now allow you to use the python functions `run_download_mtg_fci_data_parallel.py` and `run_download_mtg_fci_data.py`.
5. If you run into issues using .bashrc, .zshrc etc. an alternative method would be to copy the contents from ‘Consumer key’ and ‘Consumer secret’ from [EUMETSAT API KEY](#) into lines 93-94 and 67-68 in the python functions `run_download_mtg_fci_data_parallel.py` and `run_download_mtg_fci_data.py`, respectively. An example is shown below. In each of those 2 functions (`run_download_mtg_fci_data_parallel.py` and `run_download_mtg_fci_data.py`), replace:

```
consumer_key = os.getenv("CONSUMER_KEY")
```

```
consumer_secret = os.getenv("CONSUMER_SECRET")
```

with the following:

consumer\_key = “your\_consumer\_key\_goes\_here”

consumer\_secret = “your\_consumer\_secret\_goes\_here”

## 13.4 *netCDF File Contents*

### 13.4.1 *GLM Gridder netCDF File*

Example GLM gridder file is shown below.

```
netcdf 20191201800333_gridded_data {
dimensions:
  x = 2500 ;
  y = 1500 ;
  dim_0 = 1 ;
variables:
  short x(x) ;
    x:_FillValue = -999s ;
    x:axis = "X" ;
    x:long_name = "GOES fixed grid projection x-coordinate" ;
    x:standard_name = "projection_x_coordinate" ;
    x:units = "rad" ;
    x:add_offset = -0.151844 ;
    x:scale_factor = 5.6e-05 ;
  short y(y) ;
    y:_FillValue = -999s ;
    y:axis = "Y" ;
    y:long_name = "GOES fixed grid projection y-coordinate" ;
    y:standard_name = "projection_y_coordinate" ;
    y:units = "rad" ;
    y:add_offset = 0.151844 ;
    y:scale_factor = -5.6e-05 ;
  int goes_imager_projection ;
    goes_imager_projection:long_name = "GOES-R ABI fixed grid projection" ;
    goes_imager_projection:grid_mapping_name = "geostationary" ;
    goes_imager_projection:perspective_point_height = 35786023. ;
    goes_imager_projection:semi_major_axis = 6378137. ;
    goes_imager_projection:semi_minor_axis = 6356752.31414 ;
    goes_imager_projection:inverse_flattening = 298.2572221 ;
    goes_imager_projection:latitude_of_projection_origin = 0. ;
    goes_imager_projection:longitude_of_projection_origin = -75. ;
    goes_imager_projection:sweep_angle_axis = "x" ;
  byte DQF(y, x) ;
    DQF:_FillValue = -1b ;
    DQF:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
    DQF:number_of_qf_values = 6 ;
    DQF:units = "1" ;
    DQF:standard_name = "status_flag" ;
    DQF:long_name = "GLM data quality flags" ;
    DQF:flag_values = 0, 1 ;
    DQF:flag_meanings = "valid, invalid" ;
    DQF:_Unsigned = "true" ;
  double nominal_satellite_subpoint_lat ;
    nominal_satellite_subpoint_lat:_FillValue = -999. ;
    nominal_satellite_subpoint_lat:long_name = "nominal satellite subpoint latitude (platform latitude)" ;
    nominal_satellite_subpoint_lat:standard_name = "latitude" ;
    nominal_satellite_subpoint_lat:units = "degrees_north" ;
  double nominal_satellite_subpoint_lon(dim_0) ;
```

```

nominal_satellite_subpoint_lon:FillValue = -999. ;
nominal_satellite_subpoint_lon:long_name = "nominal satellite subpoint longitude (platform longitude)" ;
nominal_satellite_subpoint_lon:standard_name = "longitude" ;
nominal_satellite_subpoint_lon:units = "degrees_east" ;
short flash_extent_density(y, x) ;
flash_extent_density:FillValue = 0s ;
flash_extent_density:standard_name = "flash_extent_density" ;
flash_extent_density:long_name = "Flash extent density" ;
flash_extent_density:units = "Count per nominal 3136 microradian^2 pixel per 1.0 min" ;
flash_extent_density:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
flash_extent_density:add_offset = 0. ;
flash_extent_density:scale_factor = 0.0625 ;
flash_extent_density:_Unsigned = "true" ;
short flash_centroid_density(y, x) ;
flash_centroid_density:FillValue = 0s ;
flash_centroid_density:standard_name = "flash_centroid_density" ;
flash_centroid_density:long_name = "Flash centroid density" ;
flash_centroid_density:units = "Count per nominal 3136 microradian^2 pixel per 1.0 min" ;
flash_centroid_density:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
flash_centroid_density:add_offset = 0. ;
flash_centroid_density:scale_factor = 1. ;
flash_centroid_density:_Unsigned = "true" ;
short average_flash_area(y, x) ;
average_flash_area:FillValue = 0s ;
average_flash_area:standard_name = "average_flash_area" ;
average_flash_area:long_name = "Average flash area" ;
average_flash_area:units = "km^2 per flash" ;
average_flash_area:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
average_flash_area:add_offset = 0. ;
average_flash_area:scale_factor = 10. ;
average_flash_area:_Unsigned = "true" ;
short total_energy(y, x) ;
total_energy:FillValue = 0s ;
total_energy:standard_name = "total_energy" ;
total_energy:long_name = "Total radiant energy" ;
total_energy:units = "nJ" ;
total_energy:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
total_energy:add_offset = 0. ;
total_energy:scale_factor = 1.52597e-06 ;
total_energy:_Unsigned = "true" ;
short group_extent_density(y, x) ;
group_extent_density:FillValue = 0s ;
group_extent_density:standard_name = "group_extent_density" ;
group_extent_density:long_name = "Group extent density" ;
group_extent_density:units = "Count per nominal 3136 microradian^2 pixel per 1.0 min" ;
group_extent_density:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
group_extent_density:add_offset = 0. ;
group_extent_density:scale_factor = 0.25 ;
group_extent_density:_Unsigned = "true" ;
short group_centroid_density(y, x) ;
group_centroid_density:FillValue = 0s ;
group_centroid_density:standard_name = "group_centroid_density" ;
group_centroid_density:long_name = "Group centroid density" ;
group_centroid_density:units = "Count per nominal 3136 microradian^2 pixel per 1.0 min" ;
group_centroid_density:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
group_centroid_density:add_offset = 0. ;
group_centroid_density:scale_factor = 1. ;
group_centroid_density:_Unsigned = "true" ;
short average_group_area(y, x) ;
average_group_area:FillValue = 0s ;
average_group_area:standard_name = "average_group_area" ;

```

```

average_group_area:long_name = "Average group area" ;
average_group_area:units = "km^2 per group" ;
average_group_area:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
average_group_area:add_offset = 0. ;
average_group_area:scale_factor = 1. ;
average_group_area:_Unsigned = "true" ;
short minimum_flash_area(y, x) ;
minimum_flash_area:_FillValue = 0s ;
minimum_flash_area:standard_name = "minimum_flash_area" ;
minimum_flash_area:long_name = "Minimum flash area" ;
minimum_flash_area:units = "km^2" ;
minimum_flash_area:grid_mapping = "goes_imager_projection" ;
minimum_flash_area:add_offset = 0. ;
minimum_flash_area:scale_factor = 10. ;
minimum_flash_area:_Unsigned = "true" ;

// global attributes:
:cdm_data_type = "Image" ;
:Conventions = "CF-1.7" ;
:id = "93cb84a3-31ef-4823-89f5-c09d88fc89e8" ;
:institution = "DOC/NOAA/NESDIS > U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service" ;
:instrument_type = "GOES R Series Geostationary Lightning Mapper" ;
:iso_series_metadata_id = "f5816f53-fd6d-11e3-a3ac-0800200c9a66" ;
:keywords = "ATMOSPHERE > ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY > LIGHTNING, ATMOSPHERE > ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENA > LIGHTNING" ;
:keywords_vocabulary = "NASA Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) Earth Science Keywords, Version 7.0.0.0" ;
:license = "Unclassified data. Access is restricted to approved users only." ;
:Metadata_Conventions = "Unidata Dataset Discovery v1.0" ;
:naming_authority = "gov.nesdis.noaa" ;
:processing_level = "National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) L2" ;
:project = "GOES" ;
:standard_name_vocabulary = "CF Standard Name Table (v25, 05 July 2013)" ;
:summary = "The Lightning Detection Gridded product generates fields starting from the GLM Lightning Detection Events, Groups, Flashes product. It contains the Lightning Detection Gridded Product." ;
:title = "GLM L2 Lightning Detection Gridded Product" ;
:dataset_name = "OR_GLM-L2-GLMC-M3_G16_s20191201801400_e20191201802400_c20203501353540.nc" ;
:date_created = "2020-12-15T13:53:54.935958Z" ;
:instrument_ID = "FM1" ;
:orbital_slot = "GOES-East" ;
:platform_ID = "G16" ;
:production_data_source = "Postprocessed" ;
:production_environment = "DE" ;
:production_site = "TTU" ;
:scene_id = "CONUS" ;
:spatial_resolution = "2km at nadir" ;
:time_coverage_end = "2019-04-30T18:02:40Z" ;
:time_coverage_start = "2019-04-30T18:01:40Z" ;
:timeline_id = "ABI Mode 3" ;
}

```

Size of file depends on how many GLM files are used to create this gridded file. A single gridded file is created for all of the raw GLM data files in specified directory. Creating the gridded GLM files also takes a good chunk of time to do so it might be beneficial for the user to create these files prior to running main script. As long as the files are named using a similar convention to that in the main program, there should not be any issue reading it in.

## 13.4.2 Combine IR, VIS, and GLM Data netCDF File

Example IR, VIS, and GLM combined netCDF file is shown below.

```
netcdf OR_ABI_L1b_M2_COMBINED_s20231692357560_e20231692358033_c20231692358050 {
dimensions:
  Y = 2000 ;
  X = 2000 ;
  time = 1 ;
variables:
  float longitude(Y, X) ;
    longitude:least_significant_digit = 3LL ;
    longitude:long_name = "longitude -180 to 180 degrees east" ;
    longitude:standard_name = "longitude" ;
    longitude:units = "degrees_east" ;
  float latitude(Y, X) ;
    latitude:least_significant_digit = 3LL ;
    latitude:long_name = "latitude -90 to 90 degrees north" ;
    latitude:standard_name = "latitude" ;
    latitude:units = "degrees_north" ;
  float time(time) ;
    time:long_name = "J2000 epoch mid-point between the start and end image scan in seconds" ;
    time:standard_name = "time" ;
    time:units = "seconds since 2000-01-01 12:00:00" ;
  int visible_reflectance(time, Y, X) ;
    visible_reflectance:_FillValue = -2147483648 ;
    visible_reflectance:long_name = "Visible Reflectance Normalized by Solar Zenith Angle" ;
    visible_reflectance:standard_name = "Visible_Reflectance" ;
    visible_reflectance:units = "reflectance_normalized_by_solar_zenith_angle" ;
    visible_reflectance:coordinates = "longitude latitude time" ;
    visible_reflectance:add_offset = 1.009126f ;
    visible_reflectance:scale_factor = 4.614115e-10f ;
  int solar_zenith_angle(time, Y, X) ;
    solar_zenith_angle:_FillValue = -2147483648 ;
    solar_zenith_angle:least_significant_digit = 2LL ;
    solar_zenith_angle:long_name = "Solar Zenith Angle" ;
    solar_zenith_angle:standard_name = "solar_zenith_angle" ;
    solar_zenith_angle:units = "degrees" ;
    solar_zenith_angle:add_offset = 76.50061f ;
    solar_zenith_angle:scale_factor = 3.591184e-09f ;
  int imager_projection ;
    imager_projection:long_name = "GOES-R ABI fixed grid projection" ;
    imager_projection:satellite_name = "G16" ;
    imager_projection:grid_mapping_name = "geostationary" ;
    imager_projection:perspective_point_height = 35786023. ;
    imager_projection:semi_major_axis = 6378137. ;
    imager_projection:semi_minor_axis = 6356752.31414 ;
    imager_projection:inverse_flattening = 298.2572221 ;
    imager_projection:latitude_of_projection_origin = 0. ;
    imager_projection:longitude_of_projection_origin = -75. ;
    imager_projection:sweep_angle_axis = "x" ;
    imager_projection:bounds = "-1923606.125,-922098.4375,2665593.5,3667101.25" ;
    imager_projection:bounds_units = "m" ;
  int ir_brightness_temperature(time, Y, X) ;
    ir_brightness_temperature:_FillValue = -2147483648 ;
    ir_brightness_temperature:long_name = "Infrared Brightness Temperature Image resampled onto VIS data grid" ;
    ir_brightness_temperature:standard_name = "IR_brightness_temperature" ;
    ir_brightness_temperature:units = "kelvin" ;
    ir_brightness_temperature:coordinates = "longitude latitude time" ;
    ir_brightness_temperature:add_offset = 254.1493f ;
```

```

    ir_brightness_temperature:scale_factor = 2.284545e-08f ;
int glm_flash_extent_density(time, Y, X) ;
glm_flash_extent_density:_FillValue = -2147483648 ;
glm_flash_extent_density:least_significant_digit = 4LL ;
glm_flash_extent_density:long_name = "Flash extent density within +/- 2.5 min of time variable resampled onto VIS data grid and then smoothed using C";
glm_flash_extent_density:standard_name = "Flash_extent_density" ;
glm_flash_extent_density:units = "Count per nominal 3136 microradian^2 pixel per 1.0 min" ;
glm_flash_extent_density:coordinates = "longitude latitude time" ;
glm_flash_extent_density:add_offset = 4. ;
glm_flash_extent_density:scale_factor = 1.86264515009832e-09 ;
float ir_vis_glm_ot(time, Y, X) ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:standard_name = "IR+VIS+GLM_OT_Model_Results" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:least_significant_digit = 3LL ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:optimal_thresh = 0.4 ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:missing_value = 0.f ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:units = "dimensionless" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:coordinates = "longitude latitude time" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:valid_range = 0.f, 1.f ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:checkpoint_file = "/Users/jwcooney/python/code/aacp/data/model_checkpoints/ir_vis_glm/updraft_day_model/2022-02-18/multiresunet/chosen";
ir_vis_glm_ot:model_type = "Multiresunet" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot:long_name = "IR+VIS+GLM OT Multiresunet Machine Learning Detection Likelihood" ;
ushort ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number(time, Y, X) ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number:description = "The object Identification Number field shows all pixels that belong to an individual object region. The ID number is the first 16 bits of the 32-bit object ID number." ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number:standard_name = "IR+VIS+GLM OT ID Number" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number:missing_value = 0US ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number:units = "dimensionless" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number:likelihood_threshold = 0.4 ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number:coordinates = "longitude latitude time" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number:model_type = "Multiresunet" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_id_number:long_name = "IR+VIS+GLM OT Identification Number" ;
float ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference(time, Y, X) ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:description = "Minimum brightness temperature within an OT Minus Anvil Brightness Temperature Difference" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:standard_name = "IR+VIS+GLM OT - Anvil BTD" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:least_significant_digit = 2LL ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:missing_value = NaNf ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:units = "K" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:likelihood_threshold = 0.4 ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:coordinates = "longitude latitude time" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:valid_range = -50.f, 0.f ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:model_type = "Multiresunet" ;
ir_vis_glm_ot_anvilmean_brightness_temperature_difference:long_name = "IR+VIS+GLM Overshooting Top Minus Anvil Brightness Temperature Difference" ;
float tropopause_temperature(time, Y, X) ;
tropopause_temperature:standard_name = "GFS Tropopause" ;
tropopause_temperature:least_significant_digit = 2LL ;
tropopause_temperature:missing_value = NaNf ;
tropopause_temperature:units = "K" ;
tropopause_temperature:coordinates = "longitude latitude time" ;
tropopause_temperature:valid_range = 160.f, 310.f ;
tropopause_temperature:long_name = "Temperature of the Tropopause Retrieved from GFS Interpolated and Smoothed onto Satellite Grid" ;

// global attributes:
:Conventions = "CF-1.8" ;
string :description = "This file combines unscaled IR data, Visible data, and GLM data into one NetCDF file. The VIS data is on its original grid but has been smoothed to match the IR data grid." ;
:geospatial_lat_min = "25.43004" ;
:geospatial_lat_max = "37.462128" ;
:geospatial_lon_min = "-98.60013" ;
:geospatial_lon_max = "-84.41396" ;
:x_inds = "" ;
:y_inds = "" ;
:spatial_resolution = "0.5km at nadir" ;
}

```



These files are each up to  $\sim 45$  MB. A single file is created for each IR/VIS file. The file above scales the data to save space as well as resamples the GLM and IR data to the VIS data grid. The GLM data are smoothed using a Gaussian smoother after resampling the GLM data but prior to writing the netCDF file.

### 13.5 GOES Storage Bucket Download Examples

A few examples of how the GOES-16 IR, VIS, and GLM data can be downloaded. For these examples, the data are downloaded to another Google Cloud Storage Bucket named, ‘goes-data’. The data can also be downloaded to local directories as well.

```
gsutil -m cp -r gs://gcp-public-data-goes-16/GLM-L2-LCFA/2019/125/1[8-9]/**** gs://goes-data/20190505-06/glm  
  
gsutil -m cp -r gs://gcp-public-data-goes-16/ABI-L1b-RadM/2019/128/0[0-3]/*C13_G16_* gs://goes-data/20190507-08/ir  
  
gsutil -m cp -r gs://gcp-public-data-goes-16/ABI-L1b-RadM/2019/128/0[0-3]/*C02_G16_* gs://goes-data/20190507-08/vis
```

Bruning, E. C., et al., 2019: Meteorological imagery for the geostationary lightning mapper. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, **124** (24), 14 285–14 309.

Google, ????: gcp-public-data-goes-16. <https://console.cloud.google.com/marketplace/product/noaa-public/goes>.

Schmit, T. J., P. Griffith, M. M. Gunshor, J. M. Daniels, S. J. Goodman, and W. J. Lebar, 2017: A closer look at the abi on the goes-r series. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, **98**, 681–698.

Schmit, T. J., S. S. Lindstrom, J. J. Gerth, and M. M. Gunshor, 2018: Applications of the 16 spectral bands on the advanced baseline imager (abi). *J. Operational Meteor.*, **6** (4), 33–46.