

# **VIIRS Active Fires Science Processing Algorithm (VIIRS-AF\_SPA) User's Guide**

**Version 1.3.6**

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**GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER  
GREENBELT, MARYLAND**

## VIIRS Active Fires Science Processing Algorithm

### VIIRS-AF\_SPA

#### General

The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's (GSFC) Direct Readout Laboratory (DRL), Code 606.3 developed this software for the International Polar Orbiter Processing Package (IPOPP). IPOPP maximizes the utility of Earth science data for making real-time decisions by giving fast access to instrument data and derivative products from the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (SNPP), Aqua, and Terra missions and, in the future, the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) mission.

Users must agree to all terms and conditions in the Software Usage Agreement on the DRL Web Portal before downloading this software.

Software and documentation published on the DRL Web Portal may occasionally be updated or modified. The most current versions of DRL software are available at the DRL Web Portal:

<http://directreadout.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/?id=software>

Questions relating to the contents or status of this software and its documentation should be addressed to the DRL via the Contact DRL mechanism at the DRL Web Portal:

<http://directreadout.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/?id=dspContent&cid=66>

#### Algorithm Wrapper Concept

The DRL has developed an algorithm wrapper to provide a common command and execution interface to encapsulate multi-discipline, multi-mission science processing algorithms. The wrapper also provides a structured, standardized technique for packaging new or updated algorithms with minimal effort.

A Science Processing Algorithm (SPA) is defined as a wrapper and its contained algorithm. SPAs will function in a standalone, cross-platform environment to serve the needs of the broad Direct Readout community. Detailed information about SPAs and other DRL technologies is available at the DRL Web Portal.

#### Software Description

This software package contains the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) Active Fires Science Processing Algorithm (VIIRS-AF\_SPA). This algorithm primarily uses brightness temperatures derived from bands M13 and M15 to detect fires. VIIRS bands M5, M7, M11, and M16 are used to reject false alarms and to mask clouds. The algorithm takes as input VIIRS Science Data Record (SDR) files, along with the associated geolocation file, and identifies active fires. The outputs are a two-dimensional fire mask in Hierarchical Data Format (HDF) and a fire location text file. The SPA functions in two modes: Standalone, or as an IPOPP plug-in.

## Software Version

Version 1.6 of the DRL algorithm wrapper was used to package the SPA described in this document. The SPA uses version 1.3.6 of the VIIRS-AF algorithm.

Enhancements to this SPA include:

- Update of the algorithm to version 1.3.6. This version of the algorithm has been synchronized with its heritage MODIS counterpart (i.e., MOD14) to fulfill NASA's objective of measurement continuity. VIIRS-AF\_SPA version 1.3.6 includes all relevant changes made to the MOD14 algorithm as part of the formal MODIS algorithm evolution (presently Collection 6 series) process.
- Updates to maintain compatibility with C-SDR SPA v1.9 or later.

This software will execute on a 64-bit computer and has been tested on computers with 32GB of RAM, with the following operating systems:

- a) Fedora 18 X86\_64;
- b) CentOS Linux 6.4 X86\_64;
- c) OpenSUSE Linux 12.1 X86\_64;
- d) Kubuntu 13.04 X86\_64.

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## Credits

The VIIRS-AF algorithm was co-developed by the Land Science Team and the DRL at NASA/GSFC, under the guidance of the International Land Direct Readout Coordinating Committee (ILDRCC).

## Prerequisites

To run this package, you must have the Java Development Kit (JDK) or Java Runtime Engine (JRE) (Java 1.6.0\_25 or higher) installed on your computer, and have the Java installation bin/ subdirectory in your PATH environment variable. This package contains 64-bit binaries statically pre-compiled on an x86-compatible 64-bit computer running under Fedora 14, using gcc 4.5.1. Also, the VIIRS-AF\_SPA requires at least 2 GB of memory to run successfully, although more is recommended for improved performance.

## Program Inputs and Outputs

See the Program Operation subsection.

## Installation and Configuration

### Installing as a Standalone Application:

Download the VIIRS-AF\_1.3.6\_SPA\_1.6.tar.gz and VIIRS-AF\_1.3.6\_SPA\_1.6\_testdata.tar.gz (optional) files into the same directory.

Decompress and un-archive VIIRS-AF\_1.3.6\_SPA\_1.6.tar.gz and VIIRS-AF\_1.3.6\_SPA\_1.6\_testdata.tar.gz (optional) files:

```
$ tar -xzf VIIRS-AF_1.3.6_SPA_1.6.tar.gz
$ tar -xzf VIIRS-AF_1.3.6_SPA_1.6_testdata.tar.gz
```

This will create the following subdirectories:

```
SPA
  VIIRS-AF
    algorithm
    ancillary
    station
    testdata
    testscripts
    wrapper
```

**Installing into an IPOPP Framework:** This SPA can also be installed dynamically into an IPOPP framework to automate production of VIIRS Active Fires Level2 HDF file and VIIRS Fire Location text file products. The SPA installation process will install SPA station(s) into IPOPP. An SPA station is an IPOPP agent that provides the mechanism necessary for running an SPA automatically within the IPOPP framework. Once this SPA is installed, users must enable the station(s) corresponding to this SPA along with any other Prerequisite station(s). Instructions for installing an SPA and enabling its stations are contained in the IPOPP User's Guide (available on the DRL Web Portal). The SPA stations associated with this SPA are listed in Appendix A.

### Software Package Testing and Validation

The testscripts subdirectory contains test scripts that can be used to verify that your current installation of the SPA is working properly, as described below. Note that the optional VIIRS-AF\_1.3.6\_SPA\_1.6\_testdata.tar.gz file is required to execute these testing procedures.

*Step 1:* cd into the testscripts directory.

*Step 2:* There is a script named run-vaf.sh inside the testscripts directory.

To run the VIIRS-AF algorithm, use

```
$ ./run-vaf.sh
```

A successful execution usually requires approximately one minute or more, depending on the speed of your computer and the size of the input. If everything is working properly, the scripts will terminate with a message such as:

```
Output viirs.ActiveFires is /home/ipopp/drl/SPA/VIIRS-AF/testdata/output/NPP_VIIRS-AF.hdf
Output viirs.FireLoc is /home/ipopp/drl/SPA/VIIRS-AF/testdata/output/FireLoc.txt
```

You can cd to the output directory to verify that the science products exist. Test output

product(s) are available for comparison in the testdata/output directory. These test output product(s) were generated on a 64-bit PC architecture computer running Fedora 14. The output products serve as an indicator of expected program output. Use a comparison utility (such as diff, hdiff, etc.) to compare your output product(s) to those provided in the testdata/output directory. Locally generated files may differ slightly from the provided output files because of differences in machine architecture or operating systems.

If there is a problem and the code terminates abnormally, the problem can be identified using the log files. Log files are automatically generated within the directory used for execution. They start with stdfile\* and errfile\*. Other log and intermediate files may be generated automatically within the directory used for execution. They are useful for traceability and debugging purposes. However it is strongly recommended that users clean up log files and intermediate files left behind in the run directory before initiating a fresh execution of the SPA. Intermediate files from a previous run may affect a successive run and produce ambiguous results. Please report any errors that cannot be fixed to the DRL.

## Program Operation

In order to run the package using your own input data, you can either use the run scripts within the wrapper subdirectories, or modify the test scripts within the testscripts subdirectory.

### To Use the Run Scripts

**Identify the 'run' scripts:** The wrapper directory within this package contains one subdirectory named VIIRS-AF. The subdirectory contains an executable called 'run'. Execute 'run' within the correct wrapper subdirectory to generate the corresponding product. For instance, the 'run' within wrapper/VIIRS-AF is used for creating VIIRS-AF outputs. Note that to execute 'run', you need to have java on your path.

**Specify input parameters using <label value> pairs:** To execute the 'run' scripts, you must supply the required input and output parameters. Input and output parameters are usually file paths or other values (e.g., an automatic search flag). Each parameter is specified on the command line by a <label value> pair. Labels are simply predefined names for parameters. Each label must be followed by its actual value. Each process has its own set of <label value> pairs that must be specified in order for it to execute. Some of these pairs are optional, meaning the process would still be able to execute even if that parameter is not supplied. The two types of <label value> pairs that the VIIRS-AF\_SPA uses are:

- a) Input file labels/values. These are input file paths. Values are absolute or relative paths to the corresponding input file.
- b) Output file labels/values. These are output files that are produced by the SPA. Values are absolute or relative paths of the files you want to generate.

The following tables contain labels, and their descriptions, required by the VIIRS-AF\_SPA.

Input File Labels	Description	Source
viirs.gmtco	VIIRS MOD Terrain-Corrected Geolocation input HDF file path	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The C-SDR_SPA or VIIRS-SDR_SPA may be used to create these products.</li> <li>Real time products over the eastern US region are available from the DRL ftp site at: <a href="ftp://is.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfcddata/npp/viirs/level1/&lt;GMTCO SVMxx&gt;_npp_dyymmdd_thhmmssS_ehhmmssS*.h5">ftp://is.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfcddata/npp/viirs/level1/&lt;GMTCO SVMxx&gt;_npp_dyymmdd_thhmmssS_ehhmmssS*.h5</a> Where yyyy, mm, dd represents the year, month, and day of month for the start of the swath; the first hh, mm, ss, S represents the hour, minutes, seconds, and 10<sup>th</sup> of a second for the start of the swath and the second hh, mm, ss, S represents the end time of the swath. (xx = 05, 07, 11, 13, 15, 16)</li> <li>Products for other locations and times are available for download at <a href="http://www.class.noaa.gov">www.class.noaa.gov</a></li> </ol>
viirs.svm05	VIIRS 750m M5 band SDR input HDF file path	
viirs.svm07	VIIRS 750m M7 band SDR input HDF file path	
viirs.svm11	VIIRS 750m M11 band SDR input HDF file path	
viirs.svm13	VIIRS 750m M13 band SDR input HDF file path	
viirs.svm15	VIIRS 750m M15 band SDR input HDF file path	
viirs.svm16	VIIRS 750m M16 band SDR input HDF file path	

Output File Labels	Description
viirs.ActiveFires	VIIRS Active Fires Level2 HDF file path (VAF)
viirs.FireLoc	VIIRS Fire Location text file path

**Execute the 'run':** The following script shows an example of a command line to run the VIIRS-AF algorithm from the testscripts directory:

```
$ ../wrapper/VIIRS-AF/run \
viirs.gmtco ../testdata/input/GMTCO_npp_d20140901_t1738560_e1740201_b14746_c20140908200702642321_noaa_ops.h5 \
viirs.svm05 ../testdata/input/SVM05_npp_d20140901_t1738560_e1740201_b14746_c20140908200735223402_noaa_ops.h5 \
viirs.svm07 ../testdata/input/SVM07_npp_d20140901_t1738560_e1740201_b14746_c20140908200729256422_noaa_ops.h5 \
viirs.svm11 ../testdata/input/SVM11_npp_d20140901_t1738560_e1740201_b14746_c20140908200858348915_noaa_ops.h5 \
viirs.svm13 ../testdata/input/SVM13_npp_d20140901_t1738560_e1740201_b14746_c20140908200931364181_noaa_ops.h5 \
viirs.svm15 ../testdata/input/SVM15_npp_d20140901_t1738560_e1740201_b14746_c20140908200911898965_noaa_ops.h5 \
viirs.svm16 ../testdata/input/SVM16_npp_d20140901_t1738560_e1740201_b14746_c20140908200729274370_noaa_ops.h5 \
viirs.ActiveFires ../testdata/output/NPP_VIIRS-AF.hdf \
viirs.FireLoc ../testdata/output/FireLoc.txt
```

A successful execution usually requires approximately one minute or more, depending on the speed of your computer and the size of the input. If execution fails, you will see an error message indicating the cause of failure (e.g., a file cannot be found, or a label cannot be recognized). Correct it and run again. If the problem has some other cause, it can be identified using the log files. Log files are automatically generated within the directory used for execution. They start with stdfile\* and errfile\* and can be deleted after execution. Other log and intermediate files may be generated automatically within the directory used for execution. They are useful for traceability and debugging purposes. However it is strongly recommended

that users clean up log files and intermediate files left behind in the run directory before initiating a fresh execution of the SPA. Intermediate files from a previous run may affect a successive run and produce ambiguous results. The 'run' can be executed from any directory the user chooses. This can be done by prefixing it with the file path for the 'run' script.

## NOTES:

1. The Fire Location text file contains information about each fire pixel detected by the SPA. Each line represents one fire pixel and has the following seven columns, separated by commas:
  - o Column 1: Fire Pixel Latitude
  - o Column 2: Fire Pixel Longitude
  - o Column 3: M13 Brightness Temperature
  - o Column 4: Along scan pixel dimension (km)
  - o Column 5: Along track pixel dimension (km)
  - o Column 6: Fire Detection Confidence
  - o Column 7: Fire Radiative Power (FRP)

Please note that the Fire Location text file is not generated if no fire pixels are detected for the datasets processed. When running in standalone mode, the VIIRS-AF\_SPA will terminate with a message similar to the following when no Fire Location text file is generated:

```
Output viirs.ActiveFires is /home/ipopp/drl/SPA/VIIRS-AF/testdata/output/NPP_VIIRS-AF.hdf
```

```
Output viirs.FireLoc is null
```

2. The data products generated by this SPA may be visualized with the DRL's H2G\_SPA (Hierarchical Data Format [HDF] to Georeferenced Tagged Image File Format [GeoTIFF] Converter Science Processing Algorithm). H2G is designed specifically for Direct Readout applications to create geolocated GeoTIFF images, jpeg browse images, and png browse images for parameter datasets in SNPP products and EOS products. H2G\_SPA and its User Guide are available for download from the DRL Web Portal. Please refer to Appendix A for information on enabling image production for this SPA in IPOPP.

## To Use the Scripts in the testscripts Directory

One simple way to run the algorithms from the directory of your choice using your own data is to copy the run-vaf.sh script from the testscripts directory to the selected directory. Change the values of the variables like WRAPPERHOME, INPUTHOME, and OUTPUTHOME to reflect the file paths of the wrapper directories and the input/output file paths. Then modify the input/output file name variables. Run the script to process your data.

## Appendix A SPA Stations

Installation of this SPA in IPOPP mode will make the SPA stations listed in Table A-1 available to IPOPP. These stations along with any other prerequisite stations (listed in Table A-2) will need to be enabled to allow IPOPP to automate production of the VIIRS-AF\_SPA data products. Furthermore, users who wish to generate image products from the data products generated by this SPA will need to enable the image-generating stations listed in Table A-3. The SPAs containing the prerequisite and the image-generating stations listed in Tables A-2 and A-3 can be downloaded from the DRL Web Portal, in case they are not already available in your IPOPP installation. Details about these other SPAs are available in the respective SPA User's Guides. Please refer to the IPOPP User's Guide for instructions on how to install an SPA in IPOPP and enable the corresponding stations.

**Table A-1. SPA Stations**

Stations for this SPA	Data Products Produced	
VIIRS-AF	Product Name	Destination (when installed in IPOPP)
	VIIRS Active Fires Level 2 HDF File	/raid/pub/gsfcddata/npp/viirs/level2/VAF_npp_dyymmdd_thmmssS_ehmmssS*.h5
	Product Name	Destination (when installed in IPOPP)
	VIIRS Fire Location Text File	/raid/pub/gsfcddata/npp/viirs/level2/FireLoc_npp_dyymmdd_thmmssS_ehmmssS*.txt

\* Where *yyyy*, *mm*, *dd*, *hh* represents the year, month and day of month for start of swath; the first *hh*, *mm*, *ss*, *S* represents the hour, minutes, seconds and 10th of a second for the start of swath and the second *hh*, *mm*, *ss*, *S* represents the end time of the swath.

**Table A-2. Prerequisite Stations**

<b>Prerequisite SPA stations</b>	<b>SPA in which they are available</b>
VIIRS_C-SDR OR VIIRS-SDR	C-SDR_SPA  VIIRS-SDR_SPA

**NOTE:** The stations VIIRS-SDR and VIIRS\_C-SDR must never be run simultaneously.

**Table A-3. Image-generating Stations**

<b>Image-generating stations</b>	<b>SPA in which they are available</b>
viirsaf-geotiff	H2G_SPA
vcviirsfire-geotiff	H2G_SPA

**NOTES:**

1. Please refer to the H2G\_SPA User's Guide for more details about the image products, including their locations and filename patterns when they are generated in IPOPP.
2. The vcviirsfire-geotiff station additionally needs CVIIRS\_SPA to be installed and the "CVIIRS" SPA station enabled in IPOPP in order to run. CVIIRS\_SPA is available for download from the DRL Web Portal in case it is not already available in your IPOPP installation.