Aerosols and Air Pollution



- Solid or liquid particles (in range of 0.002μm to 100μm) suspended in the air, both natural & anthropogenic are known as aerosols
- Aerosol particles vary greatly in size, source, chemical composition, amount and distribution in space and time

Aerosol Optical Depth Data

- AOD is the degree to which aerosol prevents transmission of light to earth by means of scattering & absorbing sunlight
- An AOD of less than 0.1 indicates clear sky with maximum visibility; whereas AOD value more than 1 indicates presence of aerosol & extinct solar radiation reaching ground surface by absorbing or scattering
- Depending upon their size, type, location & source of emission, aerosols can either cool the surface (Sulfates & Nitrates), or warm it (Black Carbon)







Aerosol Optical Depth Data



Retrieval of Aerosol Optical Depth Data

- AOD data can be retrieved by following means:
 - i. Ground based measurement
 - ii. Satellite data & imagery
- Ground based measurements can be carried out with:
 - i. Hand-held sunphotometers which measures AOD at 5 wavelengths (380,440,500,675 & 870 nm)
 - ii. Sunphotometers installed by AERONET-NASA at selected sites
 - iii. CIMEL Sun-sky Radiometers

Satellite data can be retrieved from the sensors on-board to various satellites launched by NASA, which are named below:

Sensor/Platform	Parameter	Spatial Coverage
AVHRR/NOAA-series	 Optical Depth, Angstrom exponent	Daily coverage of global ocean
TOMS/Nimbus, ADEOSI, EP POLDER12 PARASOL	Optical DepthOptical Depth.	Daily coverage of Global land & ocean
	 fine mode fraction, Angstrom Exponent, Non-spherical fraction 	MODIS: Aqua /Terra $k_{a,z}$ $k_{a,z}$ $k_{a,z}$ Column integrated AOD Ground
MODIS/Terra,Aqua	 Optical Depth Fine-mode fraction Angstrom exponent Effective radius 	
MISR/Terra	 Optical depth Angstrom Exponent Small-medium-large fraction Non-spherical fraction 	Weekly coverage of global land & ocean, including bright desert

https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/

Aerosol Direct Radiative forcing

- The AODs and associated aerosol optical and microphysical parameters, obtained from the Sun-sky radiometer observations during the study period, along with other radiation and chemical parameters of aerosols prevailing over the experimental site in the Optical Properties of Aerosols and Clouds(OPAC) model have been used as input information to the SantaBarbara DISORT Atmospheric Radiative Transfer (SBDART)model to derive the aerosol direct radiative forcing (ADRF in W/m²) at the:
 - i. Bottom of the atmosphere (BOA)
 - ii. In the atmosphere (ATM)
 - iii. At top of the atmosphere (TOA)



Spectral-Temporal variation & Influence of Meteorological parameter



Long range transport & satellite images of fire/smoke aerosols



Terra, and (d) Aqua MODIS images observed at granule overpass time on Diwali day.