ASTER Satellite Imagery

ASTER is a Japanese instrument on NASA'a TERRA satellite - see home page (Fig. 1) for more details.

Figure 2 (next page) is a map showing the distribution of ASTER scenes over the Antarctic region that have been processed to Level 1B as of 31 May 2002. I can also provide an Excel workbook version or Arcview Shapefile with this information. The information contained in these files was extracted from databases at the EOS Data Gateway at USGS-EROS Data Center.

There is no assessment of cloud cover included in the files. My estimate is that about 50+% are badly affected by cloud. There have been approximately 11,000 acquisitions of ASTER scenes represented by the number of Level 1A products.

There are about 2200 Level 1B products. Data has been processed to Level 1B from Level 1A at the ASTER Data Centre in Japan on the basis of an automated cloud assessment algorithm but that algorithm [in my opinion] is not providing reliable assessments.

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