

Data source

Data From the Earthdata NASA website

Link-

[https://search.earthdata.nasa.gov/search/granules?p=C1626121562-GES_DISC!C1626121562-GES_DISC&pg\[1\]\[v\]=t&pg\[1\]\[gsk\]=-start_date&pg\[1\]\[m\]=download&pg\[1\]\[cd\]=f&sb\[0\]=68.10%2C6.80%2C97.4%2C37.6&q=1980-01-01T00%3A00%3A00.000Z%2C2005-01-01T23%3A59%3A59.999Z&tl=1426662477.49!5!!&fst0=Atmosphere&fsm0=Atmospheric%20Chemistry&fs10=Carbon%20And%20Hydrocarbon%20Compounds&fsd0=Formaldehyde&lat=23.162266518964024&long=81.17194870095582&zoom=3.968804482879749](https://search.earthdata.nasa.gov/search/granules?p=C1626121562-GES_DISC!C1626121562-GES_DISC&pg[1][v]=t&pg[1][gsk]=-start_date&pg[1][m]=download&pg[1][cd]=f&sb[0]=68.10%2C6.80%2C97.4%2C37.6&q=1980-01-01T00%3A00%3A00.000Z%2C2005-01-01T23%3A59%3A59.999Z&tl=1426662477.49!5!!&fst0=Atmosphere&fsm0=Atmospheric%20Chemistry&fs10=Carbon%20And%20Hydrocarbon%20Compounds&fsd0=Formaldehyde&lat=23.162266518964024&long=81.17194870095582&zoom=3.968804482879749)

The screenshot displays the NASA Earthdata Search interface. The search results show 81 matching granules for OMI/Aura Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Daily L3 Weighted Mean Global 0.1deg Lat/Lon Grid V003 (OMHCHod) at GES DISC. The granules are listed in a table with columns for granule ID, start date, and end date. The spatial filter is set to a rectangle with SW: 6.80, 68.10 and NE: 37.6, 97.4. The temporal filter is set to Start: 1980-01-01 00:00:00 and Stop: 2005-01-01 23:59:59. The map on the right shows the region of interest, which is a rectangle covering parts of South Asia and Southeast Asia. The map includes labels for countries like India, China, and Indonesia, and bodies of water like the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. The map also shows a scale bar for 1000 km and 500 mi.

Granule ID	Start Date	End Date
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2004m1_005_v003-2019m0725193901.nc	2004-10-07 00:00:00	2004-10-07 23:59:59
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2004m1_006_v003-2019m0725193505.nc	2004-10-06 00:00:00	2004-10-06 23:59:59
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2004m1_005_v003-2019m0725194148.nc	2004-10-05 00:00:00	2004-10-05 23:59:59
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2004m1_004_v003-2019m0725194624.nc	2004-10-04 00:00:00	2004-10-04 23:59:59
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2004m1_003_v003-2019m0725193929.nc	2004-10-03 00:00:00	2004-10-03 23:59:59
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2004m1_002_v003-2019m0725194204.nc	2004-10-02 00:00:00	2004-10-02 23:59:59
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2004m1_001_v003-2019m0725193741.nc	2004-10-01 00:00:00	2004-10-01 23:59:59

Data of location



trial and error

File	Size (MB)	Last Modifie d	Min	Max	Mean	Valid Cells
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2 025m0727_v003-2025m072 8t074353.nc	63.0 2	2025-0 8-25 14:58:5 8	-9.96E+01 8	6.01E+01 8	33400000000000 00	221609 4 / 648000 0
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2 025m0728_v003-2025m072 9t074949.nc	64.7 7	2025-0 8-25 15:00:3 8	-9.9E+018 8	1.15E+01 8	28200000000000 00	230446 2 / 648000 0
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2 025m0729_v003-2025m073 0t065246.nc	64.6 8	2025-0 8-25 15:02:3 2	-9.83E+01 8	7.09E+01 8	39200000000000 00	227491 6 / 648000 0
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2 025m0730_v003-2025m073 1t075819.nc	62.5 7	2025-0 8-25 15:04:2 7	-9.95E+01 8	6.83E+01 7	43600000000000 00	219301 9 / 648000 0
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2 025m0731_v003-2025m080 1t063054.nc	63.0 8	2025-0 8-25 15:15:0 5	-9.89E+01 8	1.41E+01 8	36700000000000 00	222245 9 / 648000 0
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2 025m0819_v003-2025m082 0t071938.nc	64.2 8	2025-0 8-22 15:19:3 2	-9.51E+01 8	7.54E+01 8	26400000000000 00	226221 1 / 648000 0

What we can do from each file

Eg -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vSyHo0HLmsHilyH9jANWdR5tK5dReIYq/view?usp=drive_link

📁 Enter the Google Drive shareable link of the NetCDF file:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vSyHo0HLmsHilyH9jANWdR5tK5dReIYq/view?usp=drive_link

⬇ Downloading file from Google Drive...

Downloading...

From: <https://drive.google.com/uc?id=1vSyHo0HLmsHilyH9jANWdR5tK5dReIYq>

To: /content/OMI_HCHO.nc

100% |██████████| 67.4M/67.4M [00:01<00:00, 35.1MB/s]

📁 File path: OMI_HCHO.nc

📄 Size: 64.28 MB

🕒 Last modified: 2025-08-22 15:19:32

📊 HCHO Column Summary (Filtered):

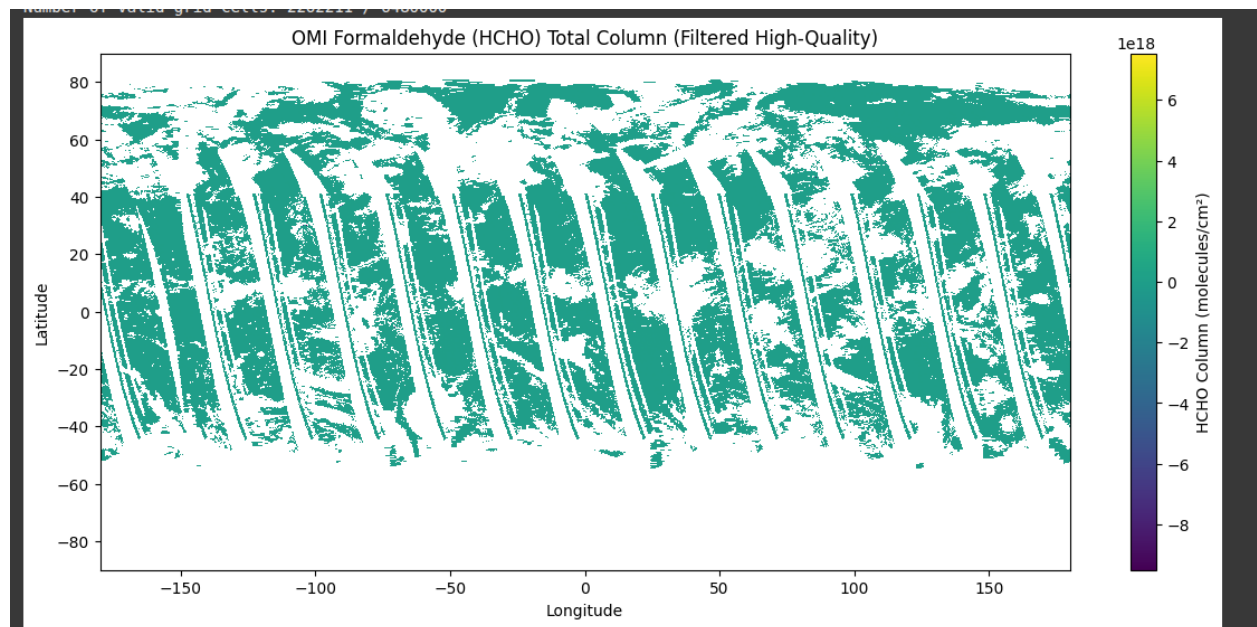
Min: -9.50628×10^{18}

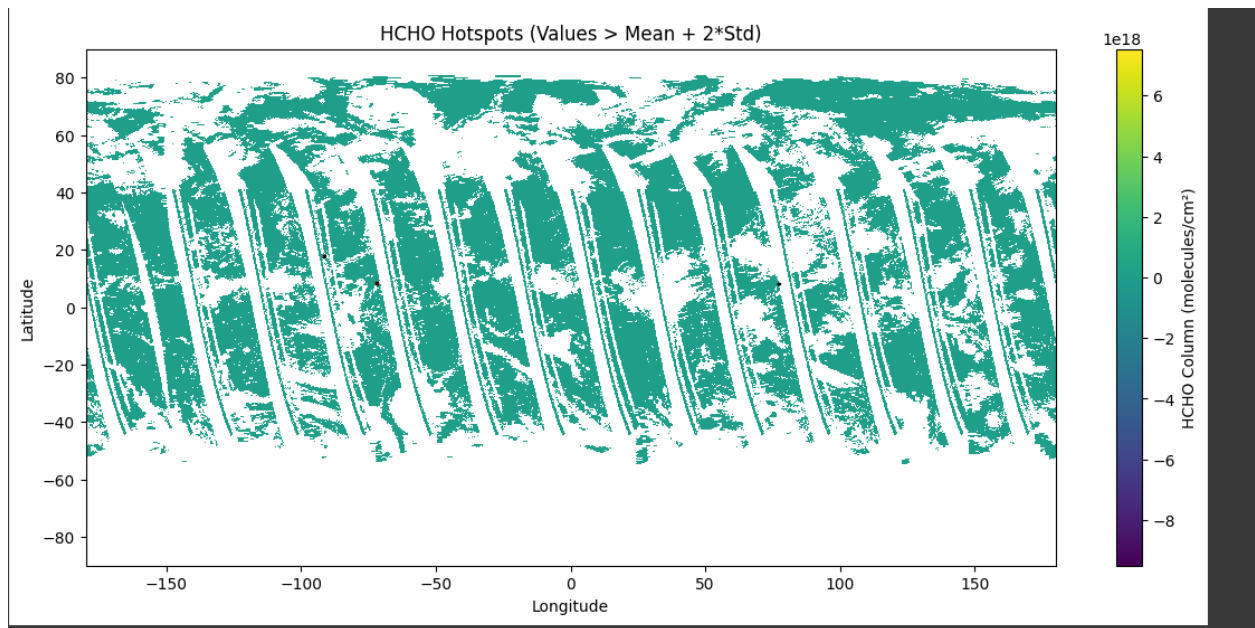
Max: 7.53609×10^{18}

Mean: 2.64013×10^{15}

Number of valid grid cells: 2262211 / 6480000

This was the data of the whole world showing an instance using heatmap





What other data we can extract from each .nc file (all the metadata)

HCHO Column Summary:

Min: -9.54134×10^{18} , Max: 7.53609×10^{18} , Mean: 1.60334×10^{15}
 Uncertainty: Min 1.21679×10^{15} , Max 8.50235×10^{18} , Mean 1.02068×10^{16}
 Number of samples: Min 1.00003×10^{-6} , Max 3.97699, Mean 0.549759
 Quality flag unique values: [0 1 --]
 Cloud fraction: Min 0, Max 0.3, Mean 0.111238

- All the meta data whcih we have Upload widget is only available when the cell has been executed in the current browser session. Please rerun this cell to enable.
- Saving OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.nc to OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.nc
-  Uploaded file: OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.nc
-  Size: 64.28 MB
-  Last modified: 2025-08-22 15:38:56.877599
-  NetCDF Format: NETCDF4
-  File format: NETCDF4
-  Global Attributes:
 - ShortName: OMHCHOd
 - LongName: OMI/Aura Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Daily L3 Weighted Mean Global 0.1deg Lat/Lon Grid

- title: OMI/Aura Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Daily L3 Weighted Mean Global 0.1deg Lat/Lon Grid
- VersionID: 003
- Format: NetCDF-4
- ProcessingLevel: Level 3
- IdentifierProductionDOIAuthority: <https://www.doi.org>
- IdentifierProductDOI: 10.5067/AURA/OMI/DATA3010
- Conventions: CF-1.7
- source: OMI
- DataSetQuality: OMHCHOd dataset has been computed after excluding level 2 observations with SZA > 70 and cloud fraction > 0.3 and including only the highest quality retrievals as characterized by the level 2 product quality flags. Further details can be found in the OMHCHOd.README file
- DayOfYear: 231
- references: Sun et al., 2018 (<https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-11-6679-2018>), Gonzalez Abad et al., 2015 (<https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-8-19-2015>)
- ContactPersonName: Kelly Chance
- ContactPersonRole: Lead algorithm scientist
- ContactPersonEmail: kchange@cfa.harvard.edu
- institution: OMI SIPS
- GranuleID: OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.nc
- ProductionDateTime: 2025m0820t071938Z
- history: 2025m0820t071938Z; Original file created by OMI SIPS
- RangeBeginningDate: 2025-08-19
- RangeBeginningTime: 00:00:00Z
- RangeEndingDate: 2025-08-20
- RangeEndingTime: 00:00:00Z
- ObservationArea: Global
- InputOriginalFile:
OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0818t2353-o112215_v003-2025m0819t062538.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0132-o112216_v003-2025m0819t075428.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0311-o112217_v003-2025m0819t100055.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0449-o112218_v003-2025m0819t124439.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0628-o112219_v003-2025m0819t145042.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0807-o112220_v003-2025m0819t145426.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0945-o112221_v003-2025m0819t162147.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1124-o112222_v003-2025m0819t175009.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1303-o112223_v003-2025m0819t210517.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1441-o112224_v003-2025m0819t223852.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1620-o112225_v003-2025m0819t223928.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1759-o112226_v003-2025m0820t003343.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1937-o112227_v003-2025m0820t020015.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t2116-o112228_v003-2025m0820t052627.he5,OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t2254-o112229_v003-2025m0820t065942.he5
- ProductGenerationAlgorithm: OMHCHOd

- ProductGenerationAlgorithmVersion: 0.0.10
- SouthernmostLatitude: -90.0
- NorthernmostLatitude: 90.0
- WesternmostLongitude: -180.0
- EasternmostLongitude: 180.0
- LatitudeResolution: 0.10000000149011612
- LongitudeResolution: 0.10000000149011612
- MaximumCloudFraction: 0.30000001192092896
- MaximumSZA: 70.0
-
-  Dimensions:
 - longitude: 3600
 - latitude: 1800
-
-  Variables:
 -
 - ♦ longitude
 - Shape: (3600,)
 - Type: float32
 - Min: -179.95, Max: 179.972, Mean: 0.0109852
 -
 - ♦ latitude
 - Shape: (1800,)
 - Type: float32
 - Min: -89.95, Max: 89.9473, Mean: -0.00137153
 -
 -  Groups:
 - Group: key_science_data
 - Path: /key_science_data
 - Dimensions: []
 - Variables: ['column_amount', 'column_uncertainty']
 - Group: qa_statistics
 - Path: /qa_statistics
 - Dimensions: []
 - Variables: ['num_samples', 'data_quality_flag']
 - Group: support_data
 - Path: /support_data
 - Dimensions: []
 - Variables: ['albedo', 'terrain_height', 'amf', 'cloud_fraction', 'cloud_pressure', 'sample_weight']

Effective data which we can use for HCHO Summarized csv file

File	Size_MB	Last_Modified	HCHO_Min	HCHO_Max	HCHO_Mean	Valid_Cells
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	63.02	2025-08-25 14:58:58	-9.96E+018	6.01E+018	3340000000000000	2216094 / 6480000
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	64.77	2025-08-25 15:00:38	-9.9E+018	1.15E+018	2820000000000000	2304462 / 6480000
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0729_v003-2025m0730t065246.►	64.68	2025-08-25 15:02:32	-9.83E+018	7.09E+018	3920000000000000	2274916 / 6480000
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0730_v003-2025m0731t075819.►	62.57	2025-08-25 15:04:27	-9.95E+018	6.83E+017	4360000000000000	2193019 / 6480000
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0731_v003-2025m0801t063054.►	63.08	2025-08-25 15:15:05	-9.89E+018	1.41E+018	3670000000000000	2222459 / 6480000
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.►	64.28	2025-08-22 15:19:32	-9.51E+018	7.54E+018	2640000000000000	2262211 / 6480000

Other relevent deta points

File	Group	Variable	Dimensions	Shape	Units	Description
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	root	longitude	('longitude',)	(3600,)	degrees_east	longitude
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	root	latitude	('latitude',)	(1800,)	degrees_north	latitude
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	key_science_data	column_amount	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)	molecules/cm^2	HCHO column amount
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	key_science_data	column_uncertainty	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)	molecules/cm^2	HCHO column uncertainty
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	qa_statistics	num_samples	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.number of samples
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	qa_statistics	data_quality_flag	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		main data quality flag
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	support_data	albedo	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.surface albedo
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	support_data	terrain_height	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)	m	terrain height
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	support_data	amf	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.air mass factor
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	support_data	cloud_fraction	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.AMF cloud fraction
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	support_data	cloud_pressure	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)	hPa	AMF cloud pressure
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.►	support_data	sample_weight	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.sample weight
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	root	longitude	('longitude',)	(3600,)	degrees_east	longitude
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	root	latitude	('latitude',)	(1800,)	degrees_north	latitude
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	key_science_data	column_amount	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)	molecules/cm^2	HCHO column amount
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	key_science_data	column_uncertainty	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)	molecules/cm^2	HCHO column uncertainty
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	qa_statistics	num_samples	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.number of samples
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	qa_statistics	data_quality_flag	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		main data quality flag
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	support_data	albedo	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.surface albedo
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	support_data	terrain_height	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)	m	terrain height
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	support_data	amf	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.air mass factor
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	support_data	cloud_fraction	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.AMF cloud fraction
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	support_data	cloud_pressure	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)	hPa	AMF cloud pressure
OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t074949.►	support_data	sample_weight	('latitude', 'longitude')	(1800, 3600)		1.sample weight

GPT Explanation of what each parameter are :-



Root Variables

- **longitude** (degrees_east)
 - The longitude values (from -180° to $+180^{\circ}$), defining the east-west grid of the Earth.
- **latitude** (degrees_north)
 - The latitude values (from -90° to $+90^{\circ}$), defining the north-south

grid of the Earth.

Group: **key_science_data** (main product variables)

These are the **core scientific measurements**.

- **column_amount** (molecules/cm²)
 - The total **formaldehyde (HCHO) column amount** in the atmosphere, measured as the number of molecules per square centimeter of air column.
 - 👉 Think of it as: *"How much HCHO is there in a vertical column of air, above each grid cell?"*
 - **column_uncertainty** (molecules/cm²)
 - The estimated **uncertainty** (error margin) for the HCHO column measurement.
 - 👉 Higher uncertainty = less reliable measurement.
-

Group: **qa_statistics** (quality assurance info)

These are used to **filter out bad data**.

- **num_samples** (1)
 - Number of satellite retrievals (measurements) that were averaged into this grid cell.
 - 👉 More samples = higher reliability.
- **data_quality_flag** (1)
 - A flag that indicates whether the data for this grid cell is "good" or "bad."
 - 0 = good

- 1 or higher = lower quality (often excluded)

Group: support_data (extra geophysical + retrieval info)

These variables help explain conditions that affect the measurement.

- **albedo** (1, unitless)
 - Surface reflectivity (fraction of sunlight reflected by the ground).
 - 👉 Bright surfaces (like deserts, snow) have high albedo and influence the satellite retrieval.
- **terrain_height** (m)
 - Surface elevation above sea level at that grid point.
- **amf** (1, unitless, "air mass factor")
 - Relates the measured slant column (what the satellite sees at an angle) to the vertical column.
 - 👉 A correction factor depending on sunlight path length and scattering.
- **cloud_fraction** (1, unitless)
 - Fraction of the grid cell covered by clouds (0 = clear, 1 = fully cloudy).
 - 👉 Retrievals with high cloud fraction are usually discarded.
- **cloud_pressure** (hPa)
 - Pressure level of the cloud top (helps to locate cloud altitude).
- **sample_weight** (1, unitless)
 - A weighting factor for averaging grid cells, accounts for varying reliability of each measurement.



Quick "Cheat Sheet" (what matters most)

Variable	Meaning	Why Important
column_amount	Formaldehyde column density	Main data (target pollutant HCHO)
column_uncertainty	Error estimate	Tells reliability
num_samples	Number of retrievals	More = better average
data_quality_flag	Good/bad flag	Used for filtering
cloud_fraction	% of clouds	Filter out cloudy data
cloud_pressure	Cloud top pressure	Retrieval context
albedo	Surface reflectivity	Retrieval accuracy
terrain_height	Surface elevation	Contextual info
amf	Air mass factor	Conversion correction
sample_weight	Statistical weight	For averaging multiple points

Your files contain **Level 3** daily gridded data for formaldehyde measurements:

File naming convention breakdown:

OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCH0d_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074353.nc

- **OMI-Aura**: Instrument and satellite
- **L3**: Data processing level (gridded, daily averages)
- **OMHCH0d**: HCHO daily product
- **2025m0727**: Date (July 27, 2025)
- **v003**: Product version
- Processing timestamp information

Data Structure and Variables

Coordinate System

- **Longitude**: 3,600 points covering -180° to $+180^{\circ}$ (0.1° resolution)
- **Latitude**: 1,800 points covering -90° to $+90^{\circ}$ (0.1° resolution)
- **Grid**: Global coverage with approximately $11\text{ km} \times 11\text{ km}$ pixels at equator

Key Science Variables

Primary Measurements

- **column_amount**: The main measurement - total HCHO molecules in a vertical column through the atmosphere (molecules/cm²)
- **column_uncertainty**: Measurement uncertainty/error estimates (molecules/cm²)

Quality Assessment

- **num_samples**: Number of individual satellite observations averaged into each grid cell
- **data_quality_flag**: Quality indicators for each measurement
- **sample_weight**: Statistical weights used in averaging process

Supporting Information

- **albedo**: Surface reflectivity (affects measurement accuracy)
- **terrain_height**: Ground elevation (meters above sea level)

- **amf**: Air Mass Factor (correction for atmospheric path length)
- **cloud_fraction**: Fraction of pixel covered by clouds
- **cloud_pressure**: Atmospheric pressure at cloud top (hPa)

Data Processing Levels

Your data is **Level 3**, which means:

- **Level 0**: Raw instrument data
- **Level 1**: Calibrated radiances
- **Level 2**: Geophysical parameters (individual satellite pixels)
- **Level 3**: **Your data** - Gridded, temporally averaged products
- **Level 4**: Model assimilated or higher-level derived products

—

☆

Tools Help

all

Downloaded...

From: <https://drive.google.com/uc?id=1blyJSokV-hdgGZG9IhdIGgNnwp2BliH0>

To: /content/testing /OMI-Aura L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0730_v003-2025m0731t075819.nc

100% [] 65.6M/65.6M [00:01<00:00, 35.6MB/s]

Downloaded...

From: <https://drive.google.com/uc?id=12qBHyg7aFq5rwr6ZVg2qtSe9NppXjEbb>

To: /content/testing /OMI-Aura L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0731_v003-2025m0801t063054.nc

100% [] 66.1M/66.1M [00:01<00:00, 48.4MB/s]

Downloaded...

From: <https://drive.google.com/uc?id=1vSyHo0HlmsHilyH9jANWdR5tK5dReTyq>

To: /content/testing /OMI-Aura L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.nc

100% [] 67.4M/67.4M [00:01<00:00, 59.0MB/s]

Processing /content/testing /OMI-Aura L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t074949.nc ...

Processing /content/testing /OMI-Aura L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0729_v003-2025m0730t065246.nc ...

Processing /content/testing /OMI-Aura L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0730_v003-2025m0731t075819.nc ...

Processing /content/testing /OMI-Aura L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0731_v003-2025m0801t063054.nc ...

Processing /content/testing /OMI-Aura L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.nc ...

Summary saved to netcdf_summary.csv

Download completed

	File	Variable	Long Name	Units	Shape	Min	Max	Mean
0	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t0...	longitude	longitude	degrees_east	(3600,)	-179.949997	179.971970	0.010985
1	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t0...	latitude	latitude	degrees_north	(1800,)	-89.949997	89.947258	-0.001372
2	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t0...	longitude	longitude	degrees_east	(3600,)	-179.949997	179.971970	0.010985
3	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t0...	latitude	latitude	degrees_north	(1800,)	-89.949997	89.947258	-0.001372
4	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0729_v003-2025m0730t0...	longitude	longitude	degrees_east	(3600,)	-179.949997	179.971970	0.010985

Next steps: [Generate code with df](#) [View recommended plots](#) [New interactive sheet](#)

	File	Variable	Long Name	Units	Shape	Min	Max	Mean
0	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t0...	longitude	longitude	degrees_east	(3600,)	-179.949997	179.971970	0.010985
1	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0727_v003-2025m0728t0...	latitude	latitude	degrees_north	(1800,)	-89.949997	89.947258	-0.001372
2	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t0...	longitude	longitude	degrees_east	(3600,)	-179.949997	179.971970	0.010985
3	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0728_v003-2025m0729t0...	latitude	latitude	degrees_north	(1800,)	-89.949997	89.947258	-0.001372
4	OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOD_2025m0729_v003-2025m0730t0...	longitude	longitude	degrees_east	(3600,)	-179.949997	179.971970	0.010985

Next steps: [Generate code with df](#) [View recommended plots](#) [New interactive sheet](#)

Min

Max

Mean

File

Variable

Long Name

Units

Min vs Max

Max vs Mean

Min

Max

Mean

File vs Variable

Variable vs Long Name

Long Name vs Units

Units vs Shape

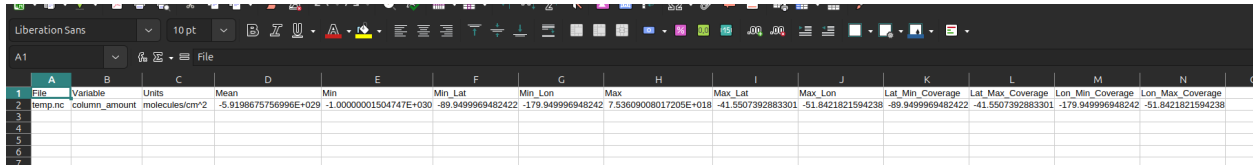
File vs Min

Variable vs Min

Long Name vs Min

Units vs Min

Data in each .nc file



File	Variable	Units	Mean	Min	Min_Lat	Min_Lon	Max	Max_Lat	Max_Lon	Lat_Min_Coverage	Lat_Max_Coverage	Lon_Min_Coverage	Lon_Max_Coverage
temp.nc	column_amount	molecules/cm ²	-5.9198675756996E+029	-1.00000001504747E+030	-89.9499969482422	-179.949996948242	7.53609008017205E+018	-41.5507392883301	-51.8421821594238	-89.9499969482422	-41.5507392883301	-179.949996948242	-51.8421821594238

Inspecting file structure:

Global Attributes

ShortName: OMHCHOD

LongName: OMI/Aura Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Daily L3 Weighted Mean
Global 0.1deg Lat/Lon Grid

title: OMI/Aura Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Daily L3 Weighted Mean
Global 0.1deg Lat/Lon Grid

VersionID: 003

Format: NetCDF-4

ProcessingLevel: Level 3

IdentifierProductionDOIAuthority: <https://www.doi.org>

IdentifierProductDOI: 10.5067/AURA/OMI/DATA3010

Conventions: CF-1.7

source: OMI

DataSetQuality: OMHCHOD dataset has been computed after excluding level 2 observations with SZA > 70 and cloud fraction > 0.3 and including only the highest quality retrievals as characterized by the level 2 product quality flags. Further details can be found in the OMHCHOD.README file

DayOfYear: 231

references: Sun et al., 2018
(<https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-11-6679-2018>), Gonzalez Abad et al., 2015
(<https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-8-19-2015>)

ContactPersonName: Kelly Chance

ContactPersonRole: Lead algorithm scientist

ContactPersonEmail: kchange@cfa.harvard.edu

institution: OMI SIPS

GranuleID: OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.nc

ProductionDateTime: 2025m0820t071938Z

history: 2025m0820t071938Z; Original file created by OMI SIPS

RangeBeginningDate: 2025-08-19

RangeBeginningTime: 00:00:00Z

RangeEndingDate: 2025-08-20

RangeEndingTime: 00:00:00Z

ObservationArea: Global

InputOriginalFile:

OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0818t2353-o112215_v003-2025m0819t062538.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0132-o112216_v003-2025m0819t075428.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0311-o112217_v003-2025m0819t100055.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0449-o112218_v003-2025m0819t124439.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0628-o112219_v003-2025m0819t145042.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0807-o112220_v003-2025m0819t145426.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t0945-o112221_v003-2025m0819t162147.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1124-o112222_v003-2025m0819t175009.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1303-o112223_v003-2025m0819t210517.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1441-o112224_v003-2025m0819t223852.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1620-o112225_v003-2025m0819t223928.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1759-o112226_v003-2025m0820t003343.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t1937-o112227_v003-2025m0820t020015.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t2116-o112228_v003-2025m0820t052627.he5, OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0819t2254-o112229_v003-2025m0820t065942.he5

ProductGenerationAlgorithm: OMHCHOd

ProductGenerationAlgorithmVersion: 0.0.10

SouthernmostLatitude: -90.0

NorthernmostLatitude: 90.0

WesternmostLongitude: -180.0

EasternmostLongitude: 180.0

LatitudeResolution: 0.10000000149011612

LongitudeResolution: 0.10000000149011612

MaximumCloudFraction: 0.30000001192092896

MaximumSZA: 70.0

Variables

longitude — dims: ('longitude',), shape: (3600,), units: degrees_east

latitude — dims: ('latitude',), shape: (1800,), units: degrees_north

```

Inspecting file structure:
### Global Attributes
ShortName                                OMHCH0d
LongName                                OMI/Aura Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Dail...
title                                    OMI/Aura Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Dail...
VersionID                                003
Format                                    NetCDF-4
ProcessingLevel                           Level 3
IdentifierProductionDOIAuthority           https://www.doi.org
IdentifierProductDOI                      10.5067/AURA/OMI/DATA3010
Conventions                               CF-1.7
source                                    OMI
DataSetQuality                            OMHCH0d dataset has been computed after exclud...
DayOfYear                                231
references                                Sun et al., 2018 (https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-...)
ContactPersonName                         Kelly Chance
ContactPersonRole                         Lead algorithm scientist
ContactPersonEmail                        kchange@cfa.harvard.edu
institution                               OMI SIPS
GranuleID                                 OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCH0d_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t0...
ProductionDateTime                        2025m0820t071938Z
history                                   2025m0820t071938Z; Original file created by OM...
RangeBeginningDate                        2025-08-19
RangeBeginningTime                        00:00:00Z
RangeEndingDate                           2025-08-20
RangeEndingTime                           00:00:00Z
ObservationArea                           Global
InputOriginalFile                         OMI-Aura_L2-OMHCHO_2025m0818t2353-o112215_v003...
ProductGenerationAlgorithm                OMHCH0d
ProductGenerationAlgorithmVersion          0.0.10
SouthernmostLatitude                       -90.0
NorthernmostLatitude                       90.0
WesternmostLongitude                       -180.0
EasternmostLongitude                       180.0
LatitudeResolution                         0.1
LongitudeResolution                        0.1
MaximumCloudFraction                       0.3
MaximumSZA                                70.0
dtype: object

```

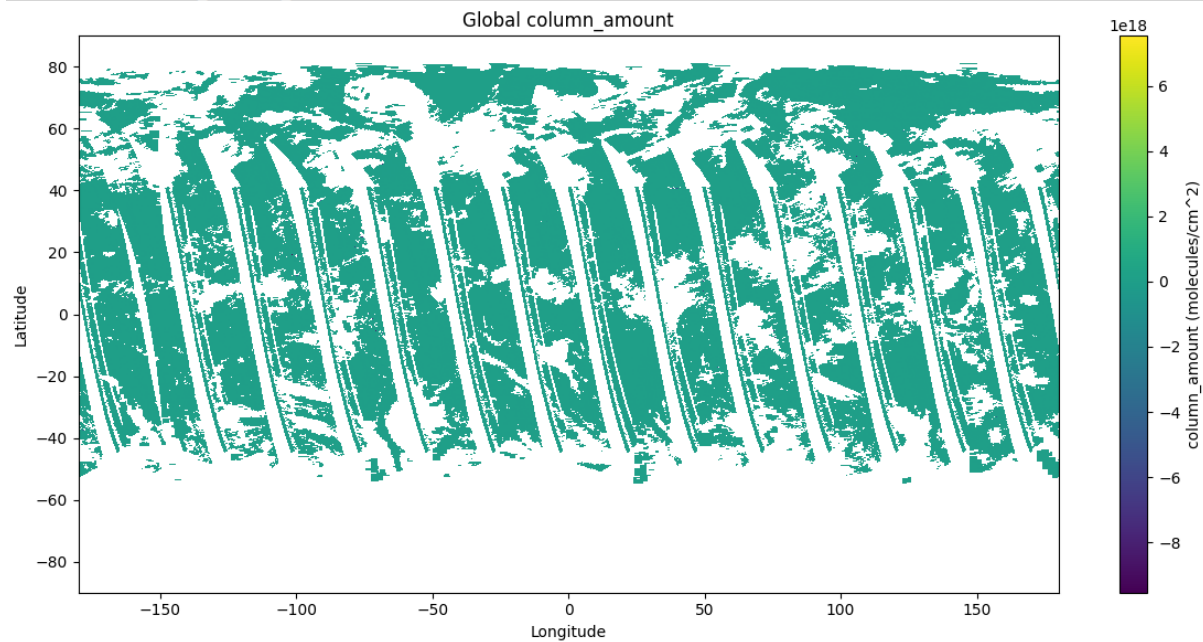
Variables

	Variable	Dimensions	Shape	Units	
0	longitude	(longitude,)	(3600,)	degrees_east	
1	latitude	(latitude,)	(1800,)	degrees_north	

Generating summary table...

	File	Variable	Units	Mean	Min	Max	
0	temp.nc	longitude	degrees_east	0.010985	-179.949997	179.971970	
1	temp.nc	latitude	degrees_north	-0.001372	-89.949997	89.947258	

summary saved to hcho_analysis_summary.csv



heatmap saved to hcho_map.png

A	B	C	D	E	F
File	Variable	Units	Mean	Min	Max
temp.nc	longitude	degrees_east	0.0109852431342006	-179.949996948242	179.971969604492
temp.nc	latitude	degrees_north	-0.00137152778916061	-89.9499969482422	89.9472579956055

- <https://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/panoply/>
- Net cdf file processing tool.
-

gpt says

OMI-Aura HCHO Satellite Data Documentation

Table of Contents

1. [Overview](#)
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 4. [Data Variables Reference](#)
 5. [Data Quality and Processing](#)
 6. [Working with the Data](#)
 7. [Applications and Use Cases](#)
 8. [Technical Specifications](#)
 9. [Contact Information](#)
-

Overview

The **OMI-Aura Level 3 Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Daily Dataset** provides global measurements of atmospheric formaldehyde concentrations from the Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) aboard NASA's Aura satellite. This documentation covers the structure, variables, and usage of these NetCDF4 format files.

[INSERT IMAGE: OMI-Aura satellite illustration or diagram]

Key Features

- **Global Coverage:** Complete Earth coverage at $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$ resolution
- **Daily Temporal Resolution:** One file per day
- **High Quality:** Pre-filtered for optimal data quality
- **Multiple Variables:** Column amounts, uncertainties, and supporting geophysical data

[INSERT IMAGE: Sample global HCHO column density map]

Dataset Description

What is Formaldehyde (HCHO)?

Formaldehyde is a trace gas in the atmosphere that serves as an important indicator of:

- **Air pollution** from industrial sources and vehicles
- **Biogenic emissions** from vegetation and natural processes
- **Biomass burning** from wildfires and agricultural fires
- **Secondary formation** from hydrocarbon oxidation

[INSERT DIAGRAM: HCHO sources and atmospheric processes]

Dataset Specifications

- **Product Name:** OMHCHOd (OMI HCHO daily)
- **Spatial Resolution:** 0.1° × 0.1° (approximately 11 km × 11 km at equator)
- **Temporal Resolution:** Daily
- **Coverage:** Global (-90° to +90° latitude, -180° to +180° longitude)
- **File Format:** NetCDF4
- **Data Level:** Level 3 (gridded, processed)

File Structure and Metadata

File Naming Convention

OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_YYYYmMMdd_v003-YYYYmMMddtHHmmss.nc

Example: OMI-Aura_L3-OMHCHOd_2025m0819_v003-2025m0820t071938.nc

- Date: August 19, 2025
- Version: 003
- Processing timestamp: August 20, 2025 at 07:19:38 UTC

Sample Dataset Statistics

File Date	Size (MB)	Valid Cells	Coverage
2025-07-27	63.02	2,216,094 / 6,480,000	34.2%
2025-07-28	64.77	2,304,462 / 6,480,000	35.6%

2025-07-29	64.68	2,274,916 / 6,480,000	35.1%
2025-07-30	62.57	2,193,019 / 6,480,000	33.8%
2025-07-31	63.08	2,222,459 / 6,480,000	34.3%
2025-08-19	64.28	2,262,211 / 6,480,000	34.9%

[INSERT CHART: Coverage statistics over time]

Global Attributes

The files contain comprehensive metadata including:

- **Contact Information:** Kelly Chance (kchange@cfa.harvard.edu), Lead algorithm scientist
- **Data Quality:** Pre-filtered for SZA < 70°, cloud fraction < 0.3
- **References:** Sun et al., 2018; Gonzalez Abad et al., 2015
- **Processing:** OMI SIPS (Science Investigator-led Processing System)

Data Variables Reference

Grid Coordinates

longitude (degrees_east)

- **Shape:** (3600,)
- **Range:** -179.95° to +179.972°
- **Resolution:** 0.1°
- **Description:** East-west grid coordinates

latitude (degrees_north)

- **Shape:** (1800,)
- **Range:** -89.95° to +89.947°
- **Resolution:** 0.1°
- **Description:** North-south grid coordinates

[INSERT DIAGRAM: Global grid system illustration]

Key Science Data (/key_science_data/)

column_amount (molecules/cm²)

- **Primary Variable:** ☒ Main scientific measurement
- **Units:** molecules per square centimeter
- **Typical Range:** $\sim 10^{15}$ to 10^{16} molecules/cm²
- **Description:** Total atmospheric formaldehyde column density
- **Interpretation:** Higher values indicate more HCHO in the vertical air column

[INSERT IMAGE: Global HCHO column amount visualization with color scale]

column_uncertainty (molecules/cm²)

- **Units:** molecules per square centimeter
- **Range:** $\sim 10^{15}$ to 10^{18} molecules/cm²
- **Description:** Estimated measurement uncertainty
- **Usage:** Quality assessment and error propagation in analyses

[INSERT IMAGE: Uncertainty distribution map or histogram]

Quality Assurance (/qa_statistics/)

num_samples (dimensionless)

- **Range:** $\sim 10^{-6}$ to ~ 4
- **Mean:** ~ 0.55
- **Description:** Number of Level 2 retrievals averaged into each grid cell
- **Quality Indicator:** More samples = higher reliability

data_quality_flag (dimensionless)

- **Values:**
 - 0 = Good quality data
 - 1 = Lower quality
 - -- = Missing data
- **Usage:** Filter data by excluding non-zero flags

[INSERT CHART: Quality flag distribution pie chart]

Support Data (/support_data/)

Geophysical Context Variables

cloud_fraction (dimensionless)

- **Range:** 0 to 0.3 (pre-filtered)
- **Description:** Fraction of grid cell covered by clouds
- **Impact:** Higher cloud fraction reduces retrieval accuracy

cloud_pressure (hPa)

- **Description:** Pressure at cloud top level
- **Usage:** Contextual information for cloud-affected retrievals

terrain_height (meters)

- **Description:** Surface elevation above sea level
- **Impact:** High altitude areas may have different HCHO profiles

albedo (dimensionless)

- **Range:** 0 to 1
- **Description:** Surface reflectivity
- **Impact:** Affects satellite measurement sensitivity

[INSERT DIAGRAM: How surface properties affect satellite measurements]

Retrieval Parameters

amf (dimensionless)

- **Description:** Air Mass Factor - conversion between slant and vertical columns
- **Technical:** Accounts for light path geometry and atmospheric scattering
- **Quality:** Values far from 1.0 may indicate retrieval challenges

sample_weight (dimensionless)

- **Description:** Statistical weight for grid cell averaging
- **Usage:** Accounts for varying measurement reliability

Data Quality and Processing

Quality Filters Applied

The Level 3 data has been pre-processed with quality filters:

1. **Solar Zenith Angle:** $\text{SZA} \leq 70^\circ$
2. **Cloud Screening:** Cloud fraction ≤ 0.3
3. **Quality Flags:** Only highest quality Level 2 retrievals included

[INSERT FLOWCHART: Data processing and quality control workflow]

Data Coverage

- **Typical Coverage:** ~35% of global grid cells have valid data per day
- **Coverage Variation:** Depends on clouds, sun angle, and instrument availability
- **Missing Data:** Represented as fill values in NetCDF

[INSERT MAP: Typical daily coverage pattern]

Recommended Additional Filtering

For research applications, consider additional filters:

Example filtering criteria

```
good_data = (  
    (data_quality_flag == 0) &          # Good quality only  
    (num_samples > 0.1) &              # Sufficient samples  
    (column_uncertainty < 5e15) &      # Reasonable uncertainty  
    (cloud_fraction < 0.2)             # Extra cloud screening  
)
```

Working with the Data

File Access Methods

1. Google Drive Integration

Files can be accessed via Google Drive shareable links:

Example: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vSyHo0HLmsHilyH9jANWdR5tK5dReIYq/view>

2. Direct Download

Use tools like `gdown` to download from Google Drive:

```
import gdown
url = 'https://drive.google.com/uc?id=1vSyHo0HLmsHilyH9jANWdR5tK5dReIYq'
gdown.download(url, 'OMI_HCHO.nc', quiet=False)
```

Reading the Data

Python with xarray (Recommended)

```
import xarray as xr
import numpy as np

# Open dataset
ds = xr.open_dataset('OMI_HCHO.nc')

# Access main variable
hcho_column = ds['key_science_data/column_amount']
uncertainty = ds['key_science_data/column_uncertainty']
quality_flag = ds['qa_statistics/data_quality_flag']

# Apply quality filter
good_data = quality_flag == 0
hcho_filtered = hcho_column.where(good_data)
```

[INSERT CODE SCREENSHOT: Example data loading and filtering]

Alternative Tools

- **MATLAB:** Use `ncread()` function
- **IDL:** Use `ncdf_open()` routines
- **R:** Use `ncdf4` package
- **Command Line:** `ncdump`, `ncview` for quick inspection

Data Visualization Examples

Basic Global Map

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import cartopy.crs as ccrs

fig = plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
ax = plt.axes(projection=ccrs.PlateCarree())
ax.coastlines()

# Plot HCHO data
im = ax.pcolormesh(ds.longitude, ds.latitude,
                  hcho_filtered * 1e-15, # Convert to 1015 molecules/cm2
                  transform=ccrs.PlateCarree(),
                  cmap='YlOrRd', vmin=0, vmax=10)

plt.colorbar(im, label='HCHO Column (×1015 molecules/cm2)')
plt.title('OMI HCHO Column Density')
```

[INSERT IMAGE: Example visualization output]

Applications and Use Cases

1. Air Quality Monitoring

- **Urban Pollution:** Track HCHO hotspots over cities
- **Industrial Emissions:** Monitor point sources and industrial areas
- **Trend Analysis:** Multi-year time series for pollution trends

[INSERT CHART: Time series of HCHO over major cities]

2. Biomass Burning Detection

- **Fire Monitoring:** Identify wildfire and agricultural burning events
- **Seasonal Patterns:** Track burning seasons globally
- **Emissions Estimation:** Quantify fire-related HCHO emissions

[INSERT IMAGE: HCHO enhancement during fire events]

3. Biogenic Emissions Research

- **Forest Emissions:** Study natural HCHO from vegetation
- **Seasonal Cycles:** Analyze vegetation emission patterns
- **Climate Impact:** Understand biosphere-atmosphere interactions

4. Model Validation

- **Chemical Transport Models:** Validate HCHO simulations
- **Emission Inventories:** Evaluate bottom-up emission estimates
- **Process Studies:** Test chemical mechanism representations

[INSERT CHART: Model vs. satellite comparison example]

Technical Specifications

Measurement Principle

OMI measures HCHO using differential optical absorption spectroscopy (DOAS) in the UV spectral region (328.5-356.5 nm).

[INSERT DIAGRAM: OMI measurement principle and spectroscopy]

Retrieval Algorithm

- **Version:** 003
- **Reference Spectrum:** Solar irradiance
- **Spectral Fitting:** Polynomial baseline correction
- **Air Mass Factor:** Calculated using atmospheric profiles

Uncertainties and Limitations

- **Random Error:** ~40-100% for individual pixels
- **Systematic Error:** ~30% for column amounts
- **Detection Limit:** $\sim 5 \times 10^{14}$ molecules/cm² for daily averages
- **Interference:** Possible from other absorbing species

[INSERT TABLE: Detailed uncertainty breakdown by conditions]

Validation Status

The dataset has been validated against:

- Ground-based MAX-DOAS measurements
- Aircraft observations
- Other satellite instruments (TROPOMI, GOME-2)

[INSERT CHART: Validation statistics and correlation plots]

Data Processing Workflow

[INSERT FLOWCHART: Complete data processing from L1 to L3]

Level 1 → Level 2

1. Radiance calibration
2. Spectral fitting (DOAS)
3. Air mass factor calculation
4. Quality flag assignment

Level 2 → Level 3

1. Spatial gridding ($0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$)
 2. Temporal averaging (daily)
 3. Quality filtering
 4. Statistical computation
-

Best Practices

Data Usage Guidelines

1. **Always apply quality filters** using `data_quality_flag`
2. **Consider uncertainty** for quantitative analysis
3. **Account for missing data** in spatial/temporal averaging
4. **Validate results** against independent measurements when possible
5. **Cite properly** using provided DOI: 10.5067/AURA/OMI/DATA3010

Common Pitfalls

-  Using data without quality filtering

- **✗** Ignoring measurement uncertainties
- **✗** Assuming complete spatial coverage
- **✗** Mixing different algorithm versions
- **✗** Over-interpreting single-day anomalies

[INSERT CHECKLIST: Data quality verification steps]

File Format Details

NetCDF4 Structure

Root Group

- └─ Dimensions: longitude(3600), latitude(1800)
- └─ Variables: longitude, latitude
- └─ Group: key_science_data/
 - └─ Variables: column_amount, column_uncertainty
- └─ Group: qa_statistics/
 - └─ Variables: num_samples, data_quality_flag
- └─ Group: support_data/
 - └─ Variables: albedo, terrain_height, amf, cloud_fraction, cloud_pressure, sample_weight

Missing Data Convention

- **Fill Value:** Varies by variable (check `_FillValue` attribute)
 - **Valid Range:** Check `valid_min` and `valid_max` attributes
 - **Scale Factor:** Some variables may use scale/offset packing
-

Contact Information

Algorithm Team

- **Lead Scientist:** Kelly Chance
- **Email:** kchange@cfa.harvard.edu
- **Institution:** Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Data Provider

- **Institution:** OMI Science Investigator-led Processing System (SIPS)
- **Website:** https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datasets/OMHCHO_003/summary

References

1. **Sun, K. et al. (2018):** "Deriving the slit functions from OMI solar observations and its implications for ozone-profile retrieval." *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques*, 11(12), 6679-6695. DOI: 10.5194/amt-11-6679-2018

2. **González Abad, G. et al. (2015):** "Updated Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Ozone Monitoring Instrument (SAO OMI) formaldehyde retrieval." *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques*, 8(1), 19-32. DOI: 10.5194/amt-8-19-2015

Dataset Citation

NASA/GSFC (2025): OMI/Aura Formaldehyde (HCHO) Total Column Daily L3 Weighted Mean Global 0.1deg Lat/Lon Grid V003, Greenbelt, MD, USA, Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center (GES DISC). DOI: 10.5067/AURA/OMI/DATA3010

Appendix: Variable Summary Table

Variable	Group	Units	Typical Range	Primary Use
longitude	Root	degrees_east	-180 to +180	Grid coordinate
latitude	Root	degrees_north	-90 to +90	Grid coordinate
column_amount	key_science_data	molecules/cm ²	10 ¹⁵ - 10 ¹⁶	Main HCHO data
column_uncertainty	key_science_data	molecules/cm ²	10 ¹⁵ - 10 ¹⁸	Uncertainty estimate

num_samples	qa_statistics	dimensionless	0 - 4	Sample count
data_quality_flag	qa_statistics	dimensionless	0, 1, missing	Quality control
cloud_fraction	support_data	dimensionless	0 - 0.3	Cloud screening
cloud_pressure	support_data	hPa	Variable	Cloud context
terrain_height	support_data	meters	Variable	Surface elevation
albedo	support_data	dimensionless	0 - 1	Surface reflectivity
amf	support_data	dimensionless	Variable	Retrieval factor
sample_weight	support_data	dimensionless	Variable	Averaging weight

[INSERT VISUAL SUMMARY: Infographic of all variables and their relationships]

codes

Downloading Data and processing NC files

```
import os, netCDF4 as nc
import numpy as np, pandas as pd, requests, time
from tqdm import tqdm
from getpass import getpass

# -----
# Force CPU (safe for Colab free runtimes)
# -----
xp = np
GPU_AVAILABLE = False
print("🔴 Running in CPU mode with NumPy (GPU skipped)")

# -----
# Upload CSV
# -----
from google.colab import files
print("📁 Please upload your CSV file containing the 'urls' column...")
uploaded = files.upload()
csv_file = list(uploaded.keys())[0]
print(f"✅ Uploaded file: {csv_file}")

# -----
# Earthdata .netrc Setup
# -----
print("\n🔑 Please enter your NASA Earthdata Login credentials")
username = input("Username (default=ayan_7869): ").strip() or "ayan_7869"
password = getpass("Password: ")

# Create ~/.netrc dynamically in Colab
netrc_path = os.path.expanduser("~/netrc")
with open(netrc_path, "w") as f:
    f.write(f"machine urs.earthdata.nasa.gov login {username} password\n{password}\n")
os.chmod(netrc_path, 0o600)
```

```

print(f"✅ Created .netrc at {netrc_path}")

# -----
# Helpers
# -----
skipped_rows = [] # global log for skipped/problematic files

def safe_download(session, url, out_path, retries=3, timeout=60):
    """Robust file downloader with retry, timeout, and HTML detection +
    progress bar."""
    for attempt in range(retries):
        try:
            with session.get(url, stream=True, allow_redirects=True,
timeout=timeout) as resp:
                if resp.status_code == 200:
                    total = int(resp.headers.get("content-length", 0))
                    # with open(out_path, "wb") as f, tqdm(
                    #     total=total, unit="B", unit_scale=True,
unit_divisor=1024,
                    #     desc=f"⬇️ {os.path.basename(out_path)}",
leave=False
                    # ) as bar:
                    #     for chunk in resp.iter_content(8192):
                    #         if chunk:
                    #             f.write(chunk)
                    #             bar.update(len(chunk))

                    with open(out_path, "wb") as f:
                        for chunk in resp.iter_content(8192):
                            if chunk:
                                f.write(chunk)

                    # sanity check size
                    size = os.path.getsize(out_path)
                    if size < 10_000:
                        with open(out_path, "r", errors="ignore") as fh:
                            head = fh.read(500)

```

```

        if "<html" in head.lower():
            reason = "Downloaded HTML (login/error
page) "

        else:
            reason = "Downloaded file too small"
            skipped_rows.append({"File":
os.path.basename(out_path), "Reason": reason})
            print(f"⚠️ {os.path.basename(out_path)} skipped →
{reason}")

            os.remove(out_path)
            return False
        return True
    else:
        raise ValueError(f"HTTP {resp.status_code}")
except Exception as e:
    print(f"⚠️ Download error ({e}), attempt
{attempt+1}/{retries}")
    time.sleep(3)
    skipped_rows.append({"File": os.path.basename(out_path), "Reason":
"Download failed"})
    return False

def summarize_netcdf(file_path, date=None, processing_timestamp=None):
    rows = []
    try:
        with nc.Dataset(file_path, 'r') as ds:
            if "latitude" not in ds.variables or "longitude" not in
ds.variables:
                reason = "Missing latitude/longitude"
                print(f"⚠️ {file_path} skipped → {reason}")
                skipped_rows.append({"File": os.path.basename(file_path),
"Reason": reason})
                return []

            lat, lon = ds.variables["latitude"][:],
ds.variables["longitude"][:]

            if "key_science_data" not in ds.groups:
                reason = "Missing key_science_data group"

```

```

        print(f"⚠️ {file_path} skipped → {reason}")
        skipped_rows.append({"File": os.path.basename(file_path),
"Reason": reason})
        return []

    if "column_amount" not in
ds.groups["key_science_data"].variables:
        reason = "Missing column_amount variable"
        print(f"⚠️ {file_path} skipped → {reason}")
        skipped_rows.append({"File": os.path.basename(file_path),
"Reason": reason})
        return []

    try:
        var =
ds.groups["key_science_data"].variables["column_amount"]
        arr = xp.array(var[:,], dtype=float)
        arr[arr < -1e20] = xp.nan
    except MemoryError:
        reason = "MemoryError while loading array"
        print(f"⚠️ {file_path} skipped → {reason}")
        skipped_rows.append({"File": os.path.basename(file_path),
"Reason": reason})
        return []

    if xp.isnan(arr).all():
        reason = "All values NaN"
        print(f"⚠️ {file_path} skipped → {reason}")
        skipped_rows.append({"File": os.path.basename(file_path),
"Reason": reason})
        return []

    # Stats
    mean_val = float(np.nanmean(arr))
    min_val = float(np.nanmin(arr))
    max_val = float(np.nanmax(arr))

    try:
        idx_min = int(np.nanargmin(arr))
        idx_max = int(np.nanargmax(arr))

```

```

        coords_min, coords_max = np.unravel_index(idx_min,
arr.shape), np.unravel_index(idx_max, arr.shape)
        min_lat, min_lon = float(lat[coords_min[0]]),
float(lon[coords_min[1]])
        max_lat, max_lon = float(lat[coords_max[0]]),
float(lon[coords_max[1]])
    except Exception:
        min_lat = min_lon = max_lat = max_lon = None

DU_factor = 2.69e16

rows.append({
    "Dataset": os.path.basename(file_path).split("_")[0],
    "File": os.path.basename(file_path),
    "date": date,
    "processing_timestamp": processing_timestamp,
    "Units": "molecules/cm2",
    "HCHO_Mean (molecules/cm2)": f"{mean_val:.3e}" if not
np.isnan(mean_val) else "NA",
    "HCHO_Min (molecules/cm2)": f"{min_val:.3e}" if not
np.isnan(min_val) else "NA",
    "HCHO_Max (molecules/cm2)": f"{max_val:.3e}" if not
np.isnan(max_val) else "NA",
    "HCHO_Mean (DU)": f"{mean_val/DU_factor:.2f}" if not
np.isnan(mean_val) else "NA",
    "HCHO_Min (DU)": f"{min_val/DU_factor:.2f}" if not
np.isnan(min_val) else "NA",
    "HCHO_Max (DU)": f"{max_val/DU_factor:.2f}" if not
np.isnan(max_val) else "NA",
    "Min_Lat": f"{min_lat:.2f}" if min_lat is not None else
"NA",
    "Min_Lon": f"{min_lon:.2f}" if min_lon is not None else
"NA",
    "Max_Lat": f"{max_lat:.2f}" if max_lat is not None else
"NA",
    "Max_Lon": f"{max_lon:.2f}" if max_lon is not None else
"NA",
    })

except Exception as e:

```

```

        print(f"⚠️ {file_path} skipped → {e}")
        skipped_rows.append({"File": os.path.basename(file_path), "Reason":
f"Processing error: {e}"})

    return rows

# -----
# Stream download + process
# -----
def stream_process(csv_file, output_csv="hcho_analysis.csv",
threshold=30):
    df = pd.read_csv(csv_file)
    if "urls" not in df.columns:
        raise ValueError("CSV must have a column named 'urls'")

    if "date" not in df.columns or "processing_timestamp" not in
df.columns:
        raise ValueError("CSV must have 'date' and 'processing_timestamp'
columns")

    session = requests.Session()
    all_rows = []
    output_dir = "./downloads"
    os.makedirs(output_dir, exist_ok=True)

    for i, row in enumerate(tqdm(df.itertuples(), desc="Processing URLs",
unit="url")):
        url = row.urls
        date = getattr(row, "date", None)
        processing_timestamp = getattr(row, "processing_timestamp", None)

        fname = os.path.basename(url.split("?")[0])
        out_path = os.path.join(output_dir, fname)

        # Download
        if not safe_download(session, url, out_path):
            continue

    # Summarize

```

```

rows = summarize_netcdf(out_path, date, processing_timestamp)
all_rows.extend(rows)

# Cleanup
try:
    if os.path.exists(out_path):
        os.remove(out_path)
except Exception as e:
    print(f"⚠️ Could not delete {out_path}: {e}")

# 📌 log progress like "22/31 URLs processed"
print(f"✅ Processed {i+1}/{len(df)} → {fname}")

# Save periodically
if (i + 1) % threshold == 0 or (i + 1) == len(df):
    try:
        pd.DataFrame(all_rows).to_csv(output_csv, index=False)
        print(f"💾 Saved {len(all_rows)} rows to {output_csv} (up
to file {i+1})")
    except Exception as e:
        print(f"⚠️ Failed saving main CSV: {e}")

    if skipped_rows:
        try:
            pd.DataFrame(skipped_rows).to_csv("skipped_files_log.csv", index=False)
        except Exception as e:
            print(f"⚠️ Failed saving skipped log: {e}")

print(f"\n✅ Finished. Summary saved to {output_csv}")
if skipped_rows:
    print(f"⚠️ {len(skipped_rows)} files skipped →
skipped_files_log.csv")

# -----
# Run
# -----
stream_process(csv_file, output_csv="hcho_analysis_from_2024_2022.csv",
threshold=50)

```



Data Visualizer

```
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import os
from google.colab import files
import zipfile

# -----
# Upload CSV
# -----
print("📁 Please upload your HCHO summary CSV file...")
uploaded = files.upload()
csv_file = list(uploaded.keys())[0]
print(f"✅ Uploaded file: {csv_file}")

# Create output folder
out_dir = os.path.splitext(csv_file)[0]
os.makedirs(out_dir, exist_ok=True)
print(f"📁 Output folder created: {out_dir}")

# -----
# Load CSV
# -----
df = pd.read_csv(csv_file)

# Normalize column names
df.columns = df.columns.str.strip()

# Pick date column
date_col = "date"
df[date_col] = pd.to_datetime(df[date_col], errors="coerce")
df = df.sort_values(date_col)

# Pick HCHO columns (Dobson Units)
mean_col = "HCHO_Mean (DU)"
min_col = "HCHO_Min (DU)"
```

```

max_col = "HCHO_Max (DU)"

# Convert to numeric
for col in [mean_col, min_col, max_col]:
    df[col] = pd.to_numeric(df[col], errors="coerce")

# -----
# Clean Data: remove invalid/extreme values
# -----
df = df[(df[mean_col] >= 0) & (df[mean_col] <= 5)]
df = df.dropna(subset=[mean_col, min_col, max_col])

print(f"✅ Cleaned dataset: {len(df)} valid rows remain")
print("Value ranges:")
print(df[[mean_col, min_col, max_col]].describe())

# -----
# 1. Time Series with Min-Max Shading
# -----
plt.figure(figsize=(12,6))
plt.plot(df[date_col], df[mean_col], label="Mean HCHO (DU)", color="blue")
plt.fill_between(df[date_col], df[min_col], df[max_col],
                 color="skyblue", alpha=0.3, label="Min-Max Range")

plt.title("Daily Formaldehyde (HCHO) Column Amount (Cleaned)")
plt.xlabel("Date")
plt.ylabel("HCHO (Dobson Units)")
plt.legend()
plt.grid(True)
plt.savefig(os.path.join(out_dir, "time_series.png"), dpi=300,
            bbox_inches="tight")
plt.close()

# -----
# 2. Histogram
# -----
plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
plt.hist(df[mean_col].dropna(), bins=30, color="green", alpha=0.7)
plt.title("Distribution of Daily Mean HCHO (Cleaned)")
plt.xlabel("HCHO (Dobson Units)")

```

```

plt.ylabel("Frequency")
plt.grid(True)
plt.savefig(os.path.join(out_dir, "histogram.png"), dpi=300,
bbox_inches="tight")
plt.close()

# -----
# 3. Rolling Average (7-day)
# -----
df["HCHO_7day_MA"] = df[mean_col].rolling(window=7).mean()

plt.figure(figsize=(12,6))
plt.plot(df[date_col], df[mean_col], label="Daily Mean", alpha=0.5)
plt.plot(df[date_col], df["HCHO_7day_MA"], label="7-day Moving Avg",
color="red", linewidth=2)

plt.title("Smoothed Trend of HCHO (7-day Moving Avg, Cleaned)")
plt.xlabel("Date")
plt.ylabel("HCHO (Dobson Units)")
plt.legend()
plt.grid(True)
plt.savefig(os.path.join(out_dir, "rolling_average.png"), dpi=300,
bbox_inches="tight")
plt.close()

# -----
# Save cleaned CSV
# -----
cleaned_csv = os.path.join(out_dir, "HCHO_cleaned.csv")
df.to_csv(cleaned_csv, index=False)

# -----
# Zip & Download
# -----
zip_filename = f"{out_dir}.zip"
with zipfile.ZipFile(zip_filename, 'w') as zipf:
    for root, _, files_list in os.walk(out_dir):
        for f in files_list:
            zipf.write(os.path.join(root, f),
arcname=os.path.join(os.path.basename(root), f))

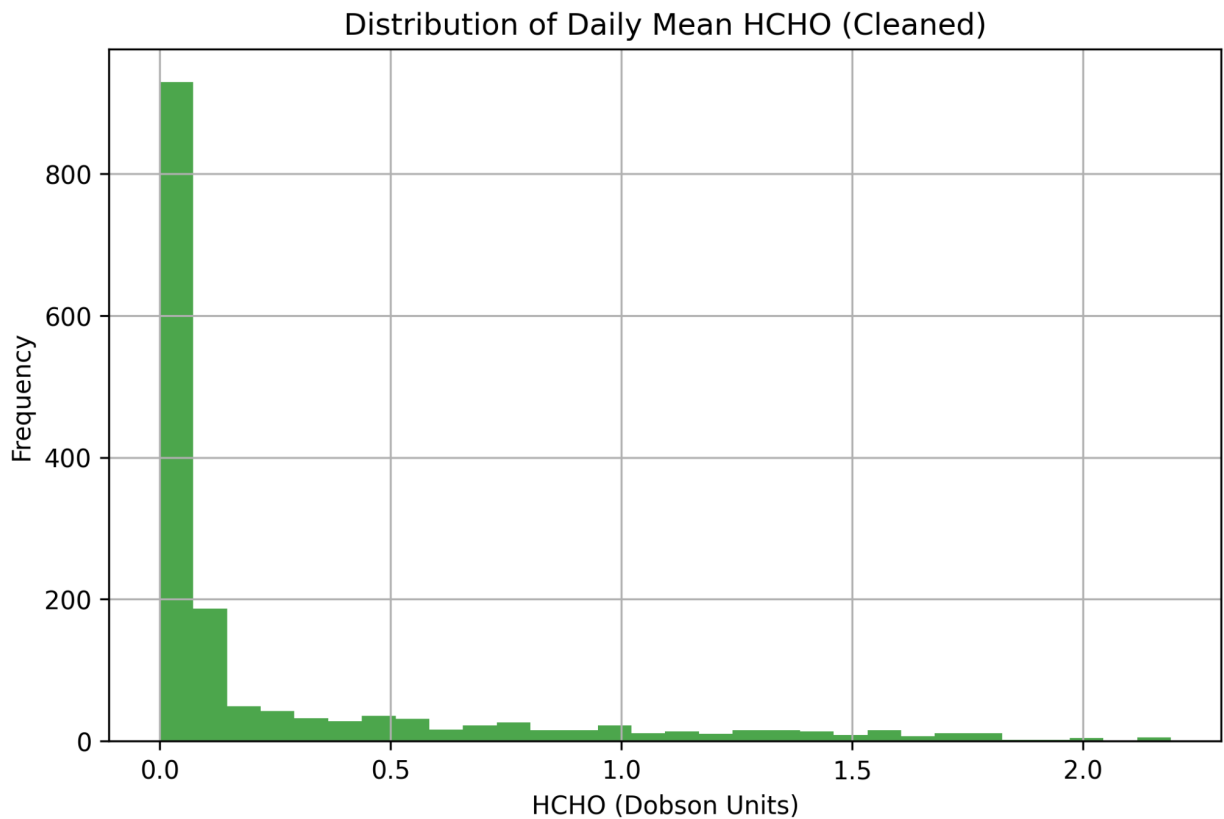
```

```
files.download(zip_filename)
```

Viz outputs

What does 2.153e+16 molecules/cm² mean?

- Your dataset (OMI-Aura L3 OMHCHOd) is reporting **column density**.
- **Column density** = the total number of HCHO molecules in a column of air extending from the surface up to the top of the atmosphere, per unit area on the ground.
- Dobson Unit, a unit of measurement for the total atmospheric ozone concentration
- One Dobson Unit (DU) is equivalent to approximately 2.69×10^{16} molecules per square centimeter of a substance.

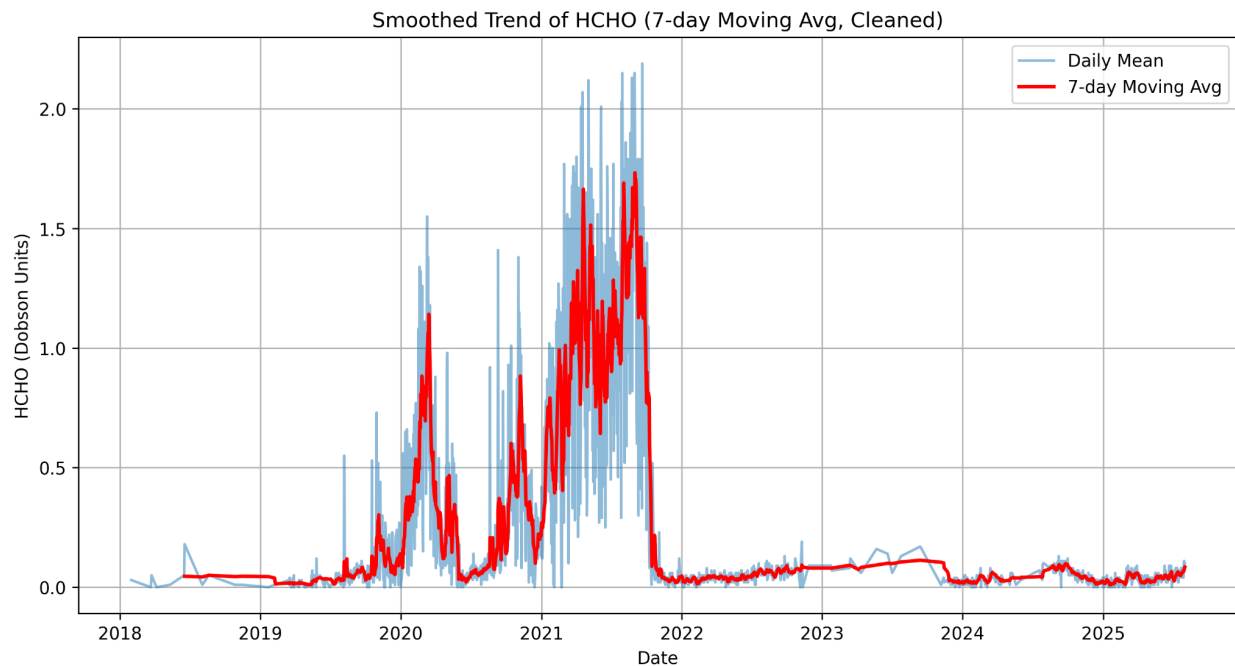


What it shows:

- This plot counts **how many days** had a certain range of **HCHO Mean (DU)** values.
- Most days fall between **0 and 0.1 DU** → which makes sense, because background atmospheric HCHO is usually very small.
- A smaller number of days show higher values (0.5–2 DU), which may be linked to **special events** like crop burning, wildfires, or industrial emissions.

Takeaway:

- HCHO distribution is very **skewed** → mostly low, with a long tail of high values.
- Those few “spikes” are the **events worth investigating**.



What it shows:

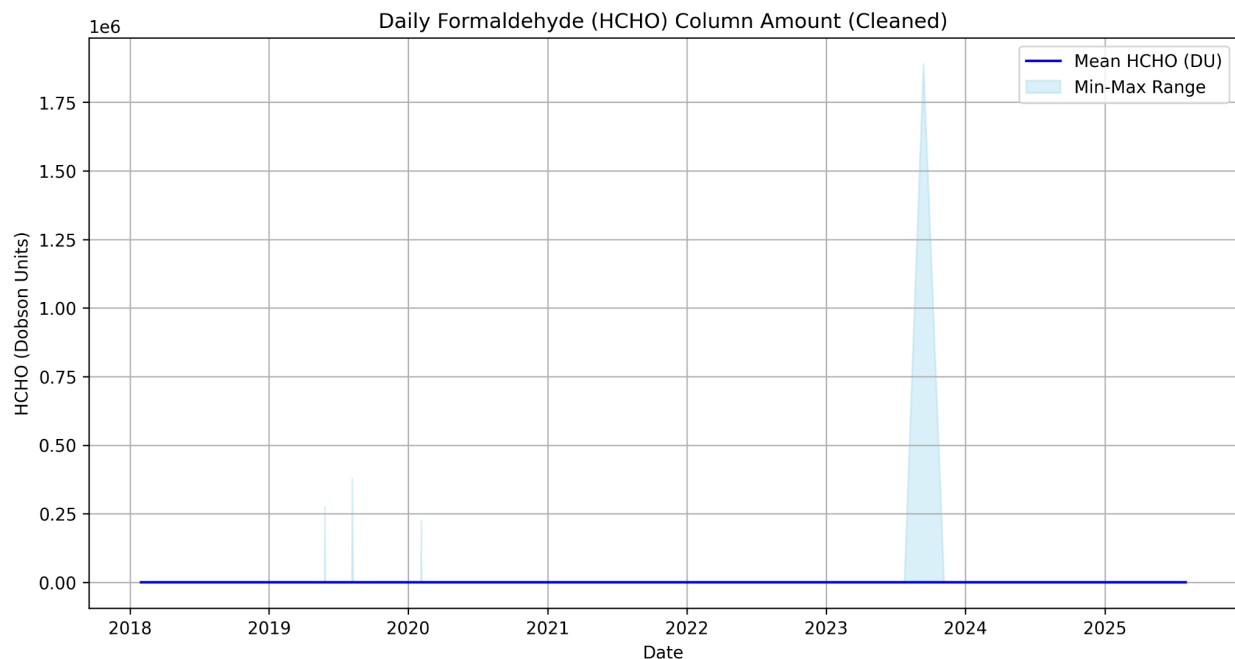
- The **light blue line** = daily mean HCHO over time (2018–2025).
- The **red line** = 7-day moving average (smoother trend).

Observations:

- Between **2019 and 2021**, there were big HCHO increases (up to ~2 DU).
- After 2022, the values dropped back closer to **background levels** (~0.05 DU).
- Spikes align with **seasonal/episodic pollution events** (biomass burning, seasonal vegetation, industrial activity).

Takeaway:

- HCHO had **major pollution episodes around 2020–2021**, but not much after.
- Useful for studying **long-term pollution changes**.



What it shows:

- The **blue line** = mean HCHO (DU).
- The **shaded band** = min–max values for each day.

Problem here:

- The Y-axis goes up to **1e6 DU**, which is unrealistic.
- That means your **HCHO_Min / HCHO_Max (DU)** column still has some corrupted values (e.g., -9999 placeholders).
- The **mean values look fine** (close to 0–2 DU), but min/max aren't cleaned properly yet.

Takeaway:

- This plot is supposed to show “variability” around the mean.
- But currently, the shading is dominated by **bad values**, not real data.
- Once we filter **HCHO_Min/Max** properly (e.g., only keep **0–5 DU** like we did for mean), this plot will look normal.

What else plots can be done

1. Trend & Seasonality Analysis

- **Monthly/Seasonal averages** → aggregate data by month or season (e.g., summer vs. winter HCHO levels).
- **Year-over-Year trends** → detect long-term changes in formaldehyde emissions (possibly linked to pollution control policies, wildfires, or vegetation cycles).
- Use **time-series decomposition** (`statsmodels`) to separate trend, seasonal cycle, and residuals.

2. Spatial Analysis

- Since your dataset has `Min_Lat`, `Max_Lat`, `Min_Lon`, `Max_Lon`, you can:
 - Plot **HCHO concentration maps** (heatmaps or contours) over the region.
 - Use **Cartopy / Basemap / Folium / Plotly maps** in Python to visualize spatial variation.
 - Compare **urban vs. rural** regions.

3. Extreme Events Detection

- Identify days with **spikes** in HCHO (above 95th percentile).
- Correlate spikes with **wildfire data**, **crop burning periods** in India, or **industrial activity**.
- Detect **outliers/anomalies** with machine learning (Isolation Forest, DBSCAN).

4. Correlation with Other Environmental Data

- Compare with:
 - **NO₂** (from OMI satellite) → both are tracers of combustion.
 - **Temperature, rainfall, wind speed** (from ERA5 or NASA MERRA reanalysis).
 - **PM2.5 ground data** from CPCB (India) to see how HCHO links to surface air quality.

5. Machine Learning & Forecasting

- Build models to **predict HCHO levels** from weather + other pollutants.
- Time-series forecasting:
 - ARIMA / SARIMA
 - Facebook Prophet
 - LSTMs/Transformers (deep learning)
- Cluster analysis to group regions/days with similar pollution signatures.

6. Policy & Health Impact Studies

- Compare **pre-lockdown vs. post-lockdown** HCHO levels (e.g., COVID-19 2020).
- Assess impact of **crop residue burning** in Punjab/Haryana on regional HCHO.
- Relate HCHO to **ozone formation potential** (since it's a precursor to tropospheric ozone).

7. Data Products & Visual Dashboards

- Build an **interactive dashboard** in:
 - **Streamlit/Dash** (Python)
 - **Tableau/PowerBI** (business-style reports)
- Show daily/weekly air quality updates.
- Could be valuable for **citizen science projects** or **policy monitoring**.

- Video dashboard link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ArzvHxndMaUXlOeJF2ZfGmlVNxPF4P7A/view?usp=sharing>

Tab 6

Random forest output for next year predictions all over india

