

# A Drought Indicator reflecting Ecosystem Responses to Water Availability: The Normalized Ecosystem Drought Index



Kuang-Yu Chang<sup>1</sup>, Kyaw Tha Paw U<sup>1,2</sup>, and Liyi Xu<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of California, Davis;

<sup>2</sup>Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

➤ Ecosystem water availability ( $W_i$ )

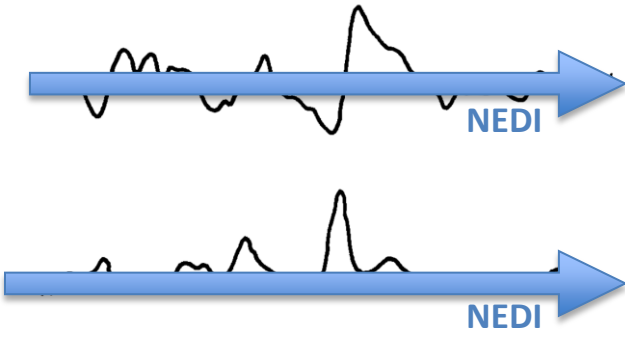
$$W_i = P_{i-j} - PET_i$$

➤ Normalized Ecosystem Drought Index

$$NEDI_i = \frac{W_i}{\max(abs(W_{i=1,I}))}$$

➤ Variable Interval Time Averaging (VITA)

➤ Detects Thresholds in Drought Index



Blackwelder and Kaplan (1976)

