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Spectral Radiance of Snow and Clouds in the Near Infrared Spectral Region

FRANCIS R. VALOVCIN



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OPTICAL PHYSICS DIVISION PROJECT 7670 AIR FORCE GEOPHYSICS LABORATORY

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Unclassified SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PASE (When Date Entered) READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM **REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE** REPORT NUMBER GOVI-S CATALOG NUMBER AFSG-1102 1 AFGL-TR-78-0289 TITLE CALLE BURGEREN YFE OF REEA PERIOD COVERED SPECTRAL RADIANCE OF SNOW AND CLOUDS IN THE NEAR INFRARED Scientific Final PERFORMING OR SPECTRAL REGION . AFSG No. 403 AUTHOR(+) Francis R. Valovcin PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS PPOGRAM ELEMENT PROJEC APEA & WORK UNIT NUMBER Air Force Geophysics Laboratory (OP) Hanscom AFB 7670 302 Massachusetts 01731 11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS REPORT DA Air Force Geophysics Laboratory (OP) 17 November Hanscom AFB, 46 Massachusetts 01731 14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(II dillarent 8. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) olling Office Unclassified 154. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING 16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited. 17. DIST REUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report) 18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES 19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identity by black number) Snow Visible spectral region Clouds e cometers. Near infrared Radiance Reflectance STRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) The near infrared spectral radiance measurements of snow and cirrus and cumulus cloud backgrounds taken by the Air Force Geophysics Laboratory's flying laboratory are evaluated. From the analysis of the 124 spectra obtained, the spectral radiances or reflectance characteristics of snow and cirrus and currulus clouds between 5500 and 7000 cm⁻⁴ (1, 82-1, 43 (177)) were determined. Snow/cloud discrimination can be made by utilizing a sensor in the 5500 to 7000/cm spectral region. Based on the analysis of these data, certain snow/ and I mar cloud design parameters were identified; that is, slope of the spectral radiance, DD JAN 73 1473 EDITION OF I NOV 65 IS OBSOLETE Unclassified SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Date Entered) 409 08 22 036

Unclassified SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Date Entered) 20. (Cont) absolute spectral and/or total radiance, and the location and value of the maxi-mum spectral radiance for the snow and cirrus and cumulus cloud backgrounds. Finally, specific recommendations are made for an optimal operational snow/ cloud discrimination radiometer.

> Unclassified SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE(When Date Entered)

Preface

The author wishes to acknowledge the participation and assistance of Brian P. Sandford and the technical crew members on the AFGL KC-135 who flew the various missions and collected the data, and to thank Mr. C. Elam of the USAF Environmental Technical Applications Center (ETAC) for supplying the ground truth data in the formats of 3D NEPH, radiosonde, and surface observations, and Mr. Vincent Falcone for introducing me to the research subject. Also, special thanks to Dr. Robert McClatchey who critically reviewed the manuscript, Ed Lefebvre for his invaluable programming skills, and Kathy Lowe for typing the manuscript.

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Spectral Radiance of Snow and Clouds in the Near Infrared Spectral Region

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the near infrared spectral radiance measurements of snow and cloud backgrounds taken by the Air Force Geophysics Laboratory's flying laboratory (NKC-135 aircraft) so that a recommendation could be made for a sensor on the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellite to discriminate snow from clouds. Automated snow forecasts are a requirement of the Air Weather Service. At the present time, cloud and/or snow analyses are limited due to the difficulty of discriminating between snow and clouds from satellite imagery. An operational snow/cloud discriminating sensor on-board the DMSP satellite could eliminate these limitations and provide unque real-time data for improved analyses and forecasts.

The spectral reflectance of snow in the near infrared has been reported by O'Brien and Munis.¹ The lowest reflectance values of snow occur around 6667 and 5000 cm⁻¹ (1.5 and 2.0 μ m). Studies of the near infrared reflectance properties

Received for publication 17 November 1978)

^{1.} O'Brien, H.W., and Munis, R.H. (1975) <u>Red and Near Infrared Spectral</u> <u>Reflectance of Snow</u>, ERP No. 332, US <u>Army Cold Regions Research and</u> <u>Engineering Laboratory</u>, Hanover, NH, 18 pp.

of snow using Skylab S192 data (Band 11) have been reported, ^{2,3} Again, the low reflectance of snow in the near infrared (Band 11 of the Skylab S192 Experiment) 6452-5714 cm⁻¹ (1.55-1.75 μ m) is a potential feature in discriminating clouds from snow.

2. AIRCRAFT MEASUREMENTS

In September 1976 and April 1977, the Air Force Geophysics Laboratory (AFGL) collected signatures of snew and cloud backgrounds in the near infrared. The spectral measurements were made with a Michelson interferometer with a field-of-view of 1.6°, full angle at a spectral resolution of 3.8 cm⁻¹ in the 4000 to 3300 cm⁻¹ (2.5 to 1.2 μ m) region. This instrument is one of many used by AFGL on the NKC-135A aircraft, which is an infrared flying laboratory. A full description of the aircraft, instrumentation, and background measurements was reported by Sandford et al.⁴

The various backgrounds were measured at a 45° depression angle from the aircraft to record the snow or cloud background below the aircraft. When the selected snow or cloud measurement area is reached, the aircraft enters into a 45° right bank that is held for a full 360° orbit. Thus, the background is observed over a full 360° range of aspect angles.

The scan time for each interferogram from the interferometer is 1 sec, and the approximate average of 15 interferograms is used in the data analysis. The aspect angle changes 2.4° per sec so that the snow or cloud backgrounds are averages over sectors of 36° centered at the main aspect angles of 0°, 90°, 180°, and 270°. The four main aspect angles are defined and shown in Figure 1.

The Scientist-Director of the flight was solely responsible for choosing the target background and making notes pertinent to the run. A 16 mm camera coaligned with the interferometer was used to record the background scene. Relevant meteorological data such as 3D NEPH, radiosonde, and surface observations were obtained from the USAF Environmental Technical Applications Center (ETAC) for ground/cloud truth verification.

Barnes, J.C., and Bowley, C.J. (1977) Study of Near-Infrared Snow Reflectance Using Skylab S192 Multispectral Scanner Data, ERT Document No. 1874F, Final Report, Contract No. AA-635201, Environmental Research & Technology Inc., Concord, MA, 48 pp.

^{3.} Valovcin, F.R. (1976) Snow/Cloud Discrimination, AFGL-TR-76-0174, 16 pp.

Sandford, B. P., Schummers, J. H., Rex, J. D., Shumsky, J., Huppi, R. J., and Sluder, R. B. (1976) <u>Aircraft Signatures in the Infrared 1.2 to 5.5 Micron</u> <u>Region, Volume 1 Instrumentation, Volume IJ Background Measurements,</u> <u>AFGL,-TR-76-0133 (I) 89 pp and (II) 72 pp.</u>



Figure 1. Aircraft Aspect Angles

A total of 124 spectra measurements (Snow 56, Cirrus 32, and Cumulus 36) were collected by the AFGL aircraft and analyzed at AFGL/OPI. Pertinent parameters of the background runs of the various spectra are summarized in Appendix A.

All spectra in this study are presented in absolute spectral radiance (N_{μ}) , as seen from the aircraft, in units of watts per cm² per steradian per wavenumber $(W \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1} (\text{cm}^{-1})^{-1})$. The absolute spectral radiance (N_{μ}) can be converted to units of (N_{μ}) , watts per cm² per steradian per micron (W cm⁻² sr⁻¹ μ m⁻¹), as follows:

$$N_{\mu} = N_{\nu} \cdot \nu^2 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

where ν is wavenumber in cm⁻¹. In the majority of illustrations, the abscissa scale is given in wavenumbers and microns. In addition, each data point represents a spectral resolution of 1.9287 cm⁻¹ averaged over a 21.2157 cm⁻¹ interval.

3. SPECTRAL RADIANCE OF BACKGROUNDS

3.1 Snow Backgrounds

The absolute spectral radiance of snow was measured with the AFGL aircraft altitudes ranging from 26,000 to 33,000 feet. A total of 56 snow spectra were obtained in September 1976 and April 1977. In September 1976, the measurements were obtained in the states of Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. In April 1977, measurements were obtained in the Province of Quebec, Canada.

Each snow spectrum was analyzed individually and categorized according to the total integrated amount of measured spectral radiance between 5500 and 7000 cm⁻¹

(1, 82-1, 43 μ m). These values of spectral radiance were arranged in increasing order, and the lowest-(highest) 25 percent of the snow spectra were designated as the 1st Quarter-(4th Quarter). Each quarter represents the sum of 14 snow spectra. The absolute spectral radiance of snow for the four quarters as a function of wave-number is shown in Figure 2.

The maximum mean spectral radiance and its location for snow backgrounds for the four quarters is given in Table 1.





	Value of Maximum	Locat	tion
Quarter	$\frac{Mean}{(W cm^{-2} sr^{-1} (cm^{-1})^{-1})}$	Wavenumber (cm ⁻¹)	Wavelength (µm)
lst	1.959×10^{-8}	5713	1,75
2nd	4.112×10^{-8}	5713	1.75
3rd	6.297×10^{-8}	5713	1.75
4th	17.224×10^{-8}	5825	1,72

Table 1. Maximum Mean Spectral Radiance and its Location for Snow-Quarterly Means

Although the location of the maximum value of the 4th Quarter mean is technically at 5825 cm⁻¹, the value at 5713 cm⁻¹ is 17.208 or 99.9 percent of the maximum. The spectral radiance normalized to the maximum mean for all 56 snow spectra as a function of wavenumber is shown in Figure 3. The value of the maximum mean spectral radiance (ordinate = 1) is 7.394×10^{-8} W cm⁻²sr⁻¹/cm⁻¹)⁻¹ and is located at 5713 cm⁻¹. Presentation of the data in this format allows one to compare the percentage of the maximum mean spectral radiance as a function of wavenumber. The filter curve between 5980 and 6780 cm⁻¹ represents a preliminary DMSP snow/ cloud discrimination sensor design that was evaluated on the aircraft-collected spectra.

Another feature that may be seen from. Figure 3 is the slope of the reflected radiance as a function of wavenumber for snow spectra. It is large and positive between 5500 and 5713 cm⁻¹, and large and negative between 5825 and 6300 cm⁻¹.



Figure 3. Spectral Radiance Normalized Over Snow-All Spectra, N = 53

The mean (X) and the standard deviation (σ) as a function of wavenumber for all the snow spectra are shown in Figure 4. The ordinate (0-25) was maximized for the snow background spectra. The negative values of the mean minus sigma $(\overline{X} - \sigma)$ in Figure 4 is an indication that the deviations among the snow spectra in the spectral interval 6100 to 7000 cm⁻¹ are large. Also, it indicates that the sample N = 56 is not large enough to be completely and statistically representative of snow backgrounds. For example, at 6612 cm⁻¹, 51 snow spectra have a spectral radiance value of less than 10×10^{-8} , and the remaining 5 snow spectra have values between 10 and 25×10^{-8} .



Figure 4. Sncw- \overline{X} ± Sigma-All Spectra, N = 56

The maximum spectral radiance for snow (Figure 5) was measured by the AFGL aircraft on 25 April 1977 on the west bank of Lake Crescent in Quebec, Canada, on Mission 703, Run 5.

3.2 Cirrus Backgrounde

The majority of the cirrus background measurements were made at altitudes ranging from 31,000 to 39,000 feet. The separation between the aircraft and the tops of the cirrus clouds was from 200 to 2000 feet. The optical thicknesses of the cirrus clouds ranged from semi-transparent to opaque. On some occasions, lower alto-cumulus or alto-stratus were visible through the cirrus. A total of 32 cirrus spectra were obtained by the AFGL aircraft.

Each cirrus spectrum was analyzed individually and categorized according to

the total integrated amount of measured spectral radiance between 5500 and 7000 cm⁻¹. The absolute spectral radiances for the four quarters, as previously defined for the cirrus background as a function of wavenumber, are shown in Figure 6. Each quarter represents the mean of eight cirrus spectra. Note that the ordinate scale (0-100) for cirrus clouds is four times that of the ordinate scale for snow in Figure 2.

The maximum mean spectral radiance and its location for cirrus backgrounds for each of the four quarters is given in Table 2.



Figure 5. Maximum Spectral Radiance Measured Over Snow

	Value of Maximum	Location	
Quarter	Mean (W cm ^{^2} sr ⁻¹ (cm ⁻¹) ⁻¹)	Wavenumber cm ⁻¹	Wavelength (μm)
1st	5.902×10^{-8}	5938	1.68
2nd	$23,892 \times 10^{-8}$	7000	1.43
3rd	43.679×10^{-8}	5825	1.72
4th	67.315×10^{-8}	5825	1.72

Table 2. Maximum Mean Spectral Radiance and its Location for Cirrus-Quarterly Means



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Figure 6. Spectral Radiance Over Cirrus, Quarterly Means



Figure 7. Spectral Radiance Normalized Over Cirrus-All Spectra, N = 32

The spectral radiance normalized to the maximum mean for all 32 cirrus spectra as a function of wavenumber is shown in Figure 7. The value of the maximum mean spectral radiance (ordinate = 1) is 34.687×10^{-8} W cm⁻² sr⁻¹(cm⁻¹)⁻¹ and is located at 5825 cm⁻¹.

Care Colors of the

The slope of the reflected radiance as a function of wavenumber for cirrus spectra can also be seen in Figure 7. A positive slope is seen between 5500 and 5825 cm⁻¹, a negative slope between 5825 and 6750 cm⁻¹, and a positive slope between 6750 and 6860 cm⁻¹.

Figure 8 shows the mean (\overline{X}) and standard deviations (σ) as a function of wavenumber for all of the cirrus spectra. Comparing Figure 8 with Figure 4 for snow spectra, it can be seen that the means and standard deviations for cirrus as a function of wavenumber are larger than those for snow.

The maximum absolute spectral radiance for cirrus was measured by the AFGL aircraft on 28 April 1977 on Mission 705, Run 10, and is shown in Figure 9. The maximum spectral radiance is $84,457 \times 10^{-8}$ W cm⁻²sr⁻¹(cm⁻¹)⁻¹ and is located at 5827 cm⁻¹.



Figure 8. Cirrus- $X \pm$ Sigma-All Spectra, N = 32



Figure 9. Maximum Spectral Radiance Measured Over Cirrus

3.3 Cumulus Backgrounds

The cumulus background measurements were made over stratocumulus and altocumulus clouds whose tops ranged between 6000 and 20,000 feet. The separation between the aircraft and the tops of the cumulus clouds was between 10,000 and 25,000 feet. A total of 36 cumulus spectra was obtained by the AFGL aircraft.

Again, each cumulus spectrum was analyzed individually and categorized according to the total integrated amount of measured spectral radiance between $5500 \text{ and } 7000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The absolute spectral radiance for the quarterly means for the cumulus backgrounds as a function of wavenumber is shown in Figure 10. Note that the ordinate scale (0-150) for cumulus is a factor of 1.5 greater than the scale of cirrus (Figure 6), and a factor of 6 greater than the scale for snow (Figure 2). Each quarter represents the mean of nine cumulus spectra.

The maximum mean spectral radiance and its location for cumulus backgrounds for each of the four quarters is given in Table 3.



Figure 10. Spectral Radiance Over Cumulus, Quarterly Means

Table 3.	Maximum	Mean for	r Spectral	Radiance	and	its	Location	for
Cumulus-	-Quarterly	Means						

	Value of Maximum	Location	
Quarter	$\frac{Mean}{(W cm^{-2} sr^{-1} (cm^{-1})^{-1})}$	Wavenumber (cm ⁻¹)	Wavelength (µm)
1st	17.796×10^{-8}	5871	1.70
2nd 28.566 \times 10 ⁻⁸		5981	1,67
3rd	54.222 \times 10 ⁻⁸	6027	1.66
4th	121.630×10^{-8}	6156	1.62

Figure 11 shows the spectral radiance normalized to the maximum mean for all 36 cumulus spectra as a function of wavenumber. The value of the maximum mean spectral radiance (ordinate = 1) is 55.040×10^{-8} W cm⁻²sr⁻¹(cm⁻¹)⁻¹ and is located at 5985 cm⁻¹.

The slope of the reflected spectral radiance for cumulus spectra is also shown in Figure 11. A large positive slope is seen between 5500 and 5825 cm⁻¹, a zero slope between 5825 and 6200 cm⁻¹, and a large negative slope starting at 6400 cm⁻¹ and continuing to 6800 cm⁻¹.



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The means (X) and standard deviations (σ) as a function of wavenumber for all 36 cumulus spectra are shown in Figure 12. The negative values of the mean minus sigma $(\overline{X}, -\sigma)$ curve in the spectra intervals 5500 to 5560 cm⁻¹ and 6700 to 7000 cm⁻¹ in Figure 12 are an indication that the deviations from the mean are large and that the sample of 36 cumulus spectra is not large enough to be completely representative of cumulus backgrounds.

Finally, the maximum spectral radiance over cumulus (Figure 13) was measured on 28 April 1977 on Mission 795, Run 16, in the vicinity of Lewiston, Maine. The maximum spectral radiance was 202.95×10^{-8} W cm⁻² sr⁻¹(cm⁻¹)⁻¹ and is located at 6156 cm⁻¹





3.4 Comparison of Backgrounds

The spectral radiance normalized to the value of the cumulus maximum $(55.04 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W cm}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1} (\text{ cm}^{-1})^{-1}$ and located at 5984.8 cm⁻¹) for all cumulus, cirrus, and snow spectra is illustrated in Figure 14 and tabulated in Table B1 in Appendix B. The range of the spectral radiance of snow backgrounds, when compared to the maximum spectral radiance of cumulus cloud backgrounds, has a minimum of 1.5 percent at 5500.7 cm⁻¹ and a maximum of 13.4 percent at 5712.8 cm⁻². The range of the spectral radiance of cirrus backgrounds has a minimum of 28.4 percent at 5500.7 cm⁻¹ and a maximum 63.0 percent at 5824.7 cm⁻¹ (see Table B1). When all cumulus, cirrus, and snow spectra are considered, it can be seen that the location of the maximum spectral radiance measured is a function of wavenumber (wavelength). The location of the maximum mean spectral radiance for cumulus is 5985 cm⁻¹, for cirrus it is 5825 cm⁻¹, and for snow it is 5713 cm⁻¹.



Figure 14. Spectral Radiance Normalized-All-Cumulus, Cirrus, and Snow

4. SNOW/CLOUD DISCRIMINATION SENSOR DESIGN PARAMETERS

Based on the analysis of the 124 spectra measurements obtained by AFGL's flying laboratory, the reflectance characteristics of snow and cirrus and cumulus clouds are significantly different in the 5500 to 7000 cm⁻¹ spectral range; consequently, it appears that a sensor can be used to make snow/cloud discriminations in that spectral range. Many parameters were investigated and the following specific sensor design parameters will be reported:

- Absolute spectral radiance, averages and ratios
- Maximum spectral radiance
- Location of the maximum spectral radiance
- Slope of the spectral radiance.

4.1 Absolute Spectral Radiance

In Section 3, the absolute spectral radiance (W cm⁻¹sr⁻¹(cm⁻¹)⁻¹) was averaged over 11 data points or 21.2157 cm⁻¹ and plotted at intervals of 1.9287 cm⁻¹. The maximum spectral radiance averaged for the 56 snow spectra was 7.394×10^{-8} ,

for the 32 cirrus spectra it was 34.687 $\times 10^{-8}$, and for the 36 cumulus spectra it was 55.040 $\times 10^{-8}$ W cm⁻²sr⁻¹(cm⁻¹)⁻¹.

4.1.1 AVERAGES

Spectral radiances averaged over 50 to 500 wavenumber intervals between $5500 \text{ and } 7000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and plotted at intervals of 50 cm⁻¹ for cumulus (36 spectra), cirrus (32 spectra), and snow (56 spectra) are shown graphically in Figures 15, 16, and 17 respectively. The averaging is performed by summation of all the spectral radiances over 50 to 500 cm⁻¹, moved at intervals of 50 cm⁻¹, and plotted at the maximum wavenumber in the interval. All averages start at 5500 cm⁻¹ and end at 7000 cm⁻¹. Thus, the average 50 cm⁻¹ (100 cm⁻¹, etc.) represents the summation of the spectral radiances between 5500 and 5550 cm⁻¹, 5550 and 5600 cm⁻¹, etc. (5500 and 5600 cm⁻¹, 5500 and 5650 cm⁻¹, etc.). Note that the ordinate values of spectral radiance in Figure 17 (snow) are a factor of 10 less than the ordinate values in Figure 15 (cumulus) and Figure 16 (cirrus). Table 4 lists the spectral radiance as a function of wavenumber interval for all snow, cirrus, and cumulus spectra averaged over 50 cm⁻¹.



Figure 15. Spectral Radiance Averaged 50 to 500 cm⁻¹-Cumulus



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Figure 16. Spectral Radiance Averaged 50 to 500 cm⁻¹-Cirrus

Figure 17. Spectral Radiance Averaged 50 to 500 cm^{-1} -Snow

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Interval			
(cm-1)	Snow	Cirrus	Cumulus
5500-5550	9.258×10^{-7}	$1,045 \times 10^{-5}$	5.670×10^{-6}
5550-5600	2.218 × 10 2.016 × 10-6	1, 339 × 10-5	1.279 X 10-5
5600-5650	2.810 × 10-6		
5050-5700	3.414×10^{-6}	1.010×10^{-5}	2.102 × 10 -5
5700-5750	3.491 × 10-6	1.650×10^{-5}	2.314×10 2.400×10^{-5}
5750-5800	3,452 × 10-6	1.004×10^{-5}	2.408×10^{-5}
5950 5000	3 473 × 10-6	1.600×10^{-5}	2.340×10^{-5}
5000-5900	3 375 × 10-6	1.633×10^{-5}	2.030×10^{-5}
5950-6000	$3,221 \times 10^{-6}$	1.636×10^{-5}	*2 508 × 10 ⁻⁵
6000-6050	3124×10^{-6}	1.599×10^{-5}	2.679×10^{-5}
6050-6100	2.970×10^{-6}	1.526×10^{-5}	2617×10^{-5}
6100-6150	2.951×10^{-6}	1.539×10^{-5}	2.677×10^{-5}
6150-6200	2.854×10^{-6}	1.514×10^{-5}	2.642×10^{-5}
6200-6250	2.527×10^{-6}	1.420×10^{-5}	2.421×10^{-5}
6250-6300	2.488×10^{-6}	1.354×10^{-5}	2.399×10^{-5}
6300-6350	2.372×10^{-6}	1.335×10^{-5}	2.413×10^{-5}
6350-6400	2.257×10^{-6}	1.271×10^{-5}	2.386×10^{-5}
C400-6450	2.257×10^{-6}	1.240×10^{-5}	2.455×10^{-5}
6450-6500	2.160×10^{-0}	$1,190 \times 10^{-3}$	2.401×10^{-5}
6500-6550	2.044×10^{-6}	1.117×10^{-3}	2.268×10^{-5}
6550-6600	$1,890 \times 10^{-6}$	1.061×10^{-5}	2.104 \times 10 ⁻⁵
6600-6650	1.736×10^{-6}	$9.779 \times 10^{-6}_{-6}$	1.828×10^{-5}
6650-6700	1.485×10^{-0}	9.219×10^{-6}	1.585×10^{-5}
6700-6750	1.157×10^{-0}	$*8.698 \times 10^{-0}$	$1.169 \times 10^{-5}_{-6}$
6750-8800	$*8.872 \times 10^{-7}$	$8.853 \times 10^{-6}_{-5}$	8.409×10^{-6}
6800-6850	$9.644 \times 10^{-7}_{-6}$	$1.009 \times 10^{-3}_{-5}$	7.811×10^{-6}
6850-6900	1.119 \times 10 ⁻⁰ ₋₇	$1.300 \times 10^{-3}_{-5}$	9.123×10^{-6}
6900-6950	$9,451 \times 10^{-1}_{-6}$	$1.256 \times 10_{-5}^{-5}$	$5.921 \times 10_{-6}$
6950-7000	1.022×10^{-6}	1.337×10^{-5}	*5.130 \times 10
5500-7000	6.914×10^{-5}	4.019×10^{-4}	5.870 \times 10 ⁻⁴

Table 4. Spectral Radiance (W cm⁻²sr⁻¹(cm⁻¹)⁻¹) of Snow, Cirrus, and Cumulus Averaged Over 50 cm⁻¹ Wavenumbers

*Denotes maximum/minimum values.

The maximum/minimum values in Table 4 are designated by an *. Note in Table 4 that the spectral radiance averaged over 50 cm⁻¹ for cumulus, in general, is greater than cirrus, which in turn is greater than snow. Also note in Table 4 that the spectral radiance for cumulus backgrounds is greater than that for cirrus back-grounds between wavenumber interval of 5650 to 6750 cm⁻¹. However, between the wavenumber intervals of 5500 to 5650 cm⁻¹ and 6750 to 7000 cm⁻¹, the spectral radiance of cirrus backgrounds is greater than that of cumulus backgrounds.

The absolute spectral radiance averages over 50 to 500 cm^{-1} for 32 cirrus spectra as a function of wavenumber are shown in Figure 16. The hexagons on

each line labeled 50 to 500 cm⁻¹ in Figure 16 represents the maximum or end wavenumber for maximum spectral radiance ratios between cumulus and cirrus. The locations of the hexagons are obtained by taking ratios of the spectral radiance of cumulus to cirrus at the same wavenumber interval, and then plotting the location of the maximum ratio.

Figure 17 shows the absolute spectral radiance averaged over 50 to 500 cm⁻¹ intervals for 56 snow spectra as a function of wavenumber. The boxed X in Figure 17 on the line marked 500 cm⁻¹ represents the approximate spectral radiance that would be observed by the preliminary DMSP snow/cloud discrimination sensor design. The 50 percent transmission curve of this sensor lies between 6135 and 6625 cm⁻¹. The * on each line in Figure 17 represents the maximum or end wavenumber for maximum spectral radiance ratios between cumulus and snow.

Hased on the analysis of the 56 snow spectra collected by the AFGL aircraft, the DMSP snow/cloud discrimination sensor could be improved by moving the 50 percent transmission approximately 150 cm⁻¹, so that it senses reflected energy in the 6300 to 6800 cm⁻¹ spectral region. Again, depending on the averaging over 50 to 500 cm⁻¹ intervals, the maximum spectral radiance ratios between cumulus and snow are found at the maximum wavenumber between 6600 and 6800 cm⁻¹, as compared to the ratios between cumulus and cirrus where the maximum wavenumbers are located between 6550 and 6700 cm⁻¹.

4.1.2 RATIOS

The ratio of the absolute spectral radiance of cumulus/cirrus and cumulus/snow averaged over 50 to 700 cm⁻¹ intervals as a function of wavenumber between 5500 and 7000 cm⁻¹ is shown in Figures 18 and 19 respectively. The spectral radiance ratio between cumulus and cirrus is shown in Figure 18, and generally runs between 0.4 and 2.0 over the wavenumber interval of 5500 to 7000 cm⁻¹, depending on the averaging of 50 to 700 cm⁻¹. Values less than 1.0 indicate that the cirrus backgrounds have a greater spectral radiance than that of cumulus backgrounds. The maximum ratios of 1.8 to 2.0 are found in the wavenumber interval of 6500 to 6700 cm⁻¹. The range of maximum spectral radiance ratios between cumulus and cirrus is 2.0, averaging over 50 cm⁻¹ intervals between 6500 and 6550 cm⁻¹, and 1.8, averaging over 700 cm⁻¹ intervals between 6000 and 6700 cm⁻¹. The maximum ratio between all cumulus and cirrus spectra that would be observed by the DMSP sensor would be 1.9. Cumulus/cirrus discrimination on an individual basis may be difficult. See Table 8, Section 5. 1.



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Figure 19. Ratio Cumulus/Snow

The spectral radiance ratios between cumulus and snow is illustrated in Figure 19. In the 5500 to 7000 cm⁻¹ interval, the ratios have values between 5 and 11, depending on the averaging interval between 50 and 700 cm⁻¹. The maximum ratios of 10 and 11 are found in the wavenumber intraval of 6600 to 6900 cm⁻¹. The range of maximum spectral radiance ratios between cumulus and snow is 11.2, averaging over 50 cm⁻¹ between 6550 and 6600 cm⁻¹, and 10.3, averaging over 700 cm⁻¹ intervals between 6200 and 6900 cm⁻¹ (1.61-1.45 μ m). The DMSP sensor would observe a reflectance ratio of 10.3 between cumulus and snow; again, sufficient to discriminate between cumulus and snow backgrounds.

4.2 Maximum Spectral Radiance

The maximum spectral radiance values in the spectral range of 5500 to 7000 cm⁻¹ for each of the 124 measured spectra are shown in Figure 20. The range or lowest and highest values of the maximum spectral radiance observed for snow and cirrus and cumulus clouds is shown graphically to the right of spectra No. 125. These values are tabulated in Table 5.



Figure 20. Maximum Spectral Radiance for Cumulus, Cirrus, and Snow

"alue	Snow	Cirrus	Cumulus
Lowest Highest	$8.417 \times 10^{-9} 2.905 \times 10^{-7}$	2.041×10^{-8} 8.446 × 10 ⁻⁷	$1.215 \times 10^{-7} \\ 2.029 \times 10^{-6}$

Table 5. Maximum Spectral Radiance ($W \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{sr}^{-1} (\text{cm}^{-1})^{-1}$)

In general, the maximum spectral radiance of snow on any given day is lower than that of either cirrus or cumulus. Thresholding the maximum spectral radiance at a value equal to 1×10^{-7} , the number of spectra categorized as under (over) for the three different backgrounds are as follows: snow 43 under (13 over), cirrus 7 under (25 over), cumulus 0 under (36 over). Increasing the threshold value to 1.5×10^{-7} , the number of spectra categorized are as follows: snow 47 under (9 over), cirrus 9 under (23 over), cumulus 2 under (34 over).

4.3 Location of the Maximum Spectral Radiance

Figure 21 shows the spectral location of the maximum spectral radiance for the 124 collected spectra. About 93 percent (52 out of 56) of the snow spectra show the location of the maximum spectral radiance to be between 5650 and 5825 cm⁻¹. In the case of cumulus, approximately 89 percent (32 out of 36) of cumulus spectra show the location to be between 5860 and 6435 cm⁻¹. The location of the maximum spectral radiance of cirrus spectra, on the other hand, is similar to that of snow, sometimes similar to that of cumulus, and sometimes its location is unique—such as the seven spectra located at 7000 cm⁻¹.





4.4 Slope of the Spectral Radiance

The slope of the spectral radiance for the three different backgrounds was discussed in Section 3. Another way of analyzing the slope of the reflected radiance as a function of wavenumber for the 124 collected spectra for the three different backgrounds may be seen in Figures 22 and 23. By taking the ratios of the spectral radiance in the wavenumber interval 5500 to 5615 cm⁻¹ to the spectral radiance in the wavenumber interval 5715 to 5825 cm⁻¹, the slope characteristic for both snow and cumulus spectra is positive-large. As can be seen in Figure 22, the ratio values for snow and cumulus are in general between 5 and 50, which is defined as large. In the case of cirrus, the ratio is generally less than 2.5 (defined as small), as depicted by the hexagons in Figure 22, and thus the slope is positive-small for cirrus backgrounds. The value of the slope between wavenumber intervals of 5500 and 5825 cm⁻¹ may be used to discriminate cirrus from snow or cumulus.

Figure 23 shows the slope of the spectral radiance in the wavenumber intervals of 5715 to 5825 cm⁻¹ and 6060 to 6125 cm⁻¹ for snow and cumulus spectra. All 56 snow spectra show a negative slope (value greater than 1). In the case of cumulus backgrounds, 29 out of 36 cumulus spectra show a positive slope (value equal to or less than 1). Thus, the slope between 5825 and 6125 cm⁻¹ for cumulus backgrounds is generally positive-small, and for snow it is negative. Again the value and sign of the slope between wavenumber interval 5715 and 6125 cm⁻¹ may be used to discriminate snow from cumulus.



Figure 22. Ratio of Radiance at $5500-5615 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ to Radiance at $5715-5825 \text{ cm}^{-1}$



Figure 23. Ratio of Radiance at $5715-5825 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ to Radiance at $6060-6125 \text{ cm}^{-1}$

The various properties of the slope are summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Slope of Spectral Radiance

	Between 5500-5825 cm ⁻¹ (1.82-1,72 μ m)	Between 5715-6125 cm ⁻¹ (1. $(5-1, 63 \ \mu m)$	
A) Cumulus	Positive-Large (>5,0)	*Positive (<1,0)*	
B) Cirrus	*Positive-Small (<2.5)*	Positive/Negative	
C) Snow	Positive-Large (>5.0)	*Negative (>1.0)*	

*Can be used to discriminate between cumulus/cirrus/snow.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Analysis of the 124 AFGL-measured spectra of snow and cirrus and cumulus clouds shows marked differences in their spectral reflectance characteristics in the near IR spectral region. These differences in the 5500 to 7000 cm⁻¹ spectral region could be used in snow/cloud discrimination. Specifically, a snow/cloud discrimination sensor design in the near IR spectral region should consider the following

parameters: absolute spectral and/or total radiance; slope of the spectral radiance; and the location and value of the maximum spectral radiance. Based on the analysis of the spectra measured over snow/cloud backgrounds, the following recommendations are made for an optimal operational snow/cloud discrimination sensor design.

5.1 Narrow Spectral Band Radiometer-Imager

As designed, this preliminary DMSP snow/cloud sensor should be more than adequate in snow/cloud discrimination. However, a slight improvement may be obtained in the cumulus/snow signal ratios by moving this experimental snow/cloud SSP sensor 150 cm⁻¹ to larger wavenumbers (shorter wavelength). The 100 percent transmission that presently lies approximately in the interval of 6375 to 6450 cm⁻¹ (1.57-1.55 μ m) should be moved to the interval of 6525 to 6600 cm⁻¹ (1.53-1.52 μ m). The 50 percent transmission that lies in the 6135 to 6625 cm⁻¹ interval(1.63-1.51 μ m) should be moved to the interval of 6285 to 6775 cm⁻¹ (1.59-1.48 μ m) for maximum spectral radiance ratios between cumulus and snow.

On the average, the absolute spectral and/or total radiance for cumulus backgrounds is greater than that for cirrus backgrounds which in turn is greater than that for snow backgrounds. The reflectance characteristics of the three different backgrounds in the near IR could be categorized or defined as follows: cumulus-high (white), cirrus-medium (gray), and snow-low (black). Using this definition, a narrow spectral band radiometer or imager could be designed for maximum cumulus/ snow (white/black) or cumulus/cirrus (white/gray) spectral radiance ratios, as shown in Table 7 below.

Radiometer Bandwidth (cm ⁻¹)	Optimum Spo Wavenumber (cm ⁻¹)	ectral Band <u>Wavelength</u> (cm ⁻¹)	Spectral Ra Cumulus/Snow	diance Ratios <u>Cumulus/Cirrus</u>
50	6550-6600	1.53-1.52	11.2	2.0
100	6500-6600	1.54-1.52	11.2	2.0
200	6400-6600	1.56-1.52	11.1	2.C
300	6400-6700	1.56-1.49	10.9	1.9
400	6350-6750	1.58-1.48	10.8	1.9
500	6300-6800	1.59-1.47	10.7	1.8
600	6200-6800	1.61-1.47	10.4	1.8
700	6200-6900	1.61-1.45	10.3	1.6

Table 7. Radiometer Bandwidth vs Optimum Spectral Band

The preliminary DMSP snow/cloud SSP sensor would require a visible channel for comparison in a snow/cloud discrimination decision. In addition, a thresholding capability should be utilized on the sensor. The value of thresholding could be two-way (snow/cloud) or three-way (snow/cirrus/cumulus). Using the response curve of the preliminary snow/cloud sensor and assigning a value of total radiance less than 5×10^{-5} W cm⁻²sr⁻¹ to define black, the snow/cloud discrimination results on the aircraft-measured spectra are as follows: snow 48/56 or 86 percent and clouds 57/68 or 84 percent would be correctly observed. Further discrimination with clouds could be accomplished by using a three-way thresholding value such as black, less than 5×10^{-5} W cm⁻²sr⁻¹; gray, 5×10^{-5} -1.75 $\times 10^{-4}$; and white, greater than 1.75×10^{-4} W cm⁻²sr⁻¹. The results are shown in Table 8.

Total Radiance ($W \text{ cm}^2 \text{sr}^{-1}$) (<5 × 10 ⁻⁵)	$(5 \times 10^{-5} - 1.75 \times 10^{-4})$	$(>1.75 \times 10^{-4})$
Color: Black	Gray	White
Snow 48 (86%) Cirrus 8 (25%) Cumulus 3 (8%)	8 (14%) 16 (50%) 17 (47%)	0(0%) 8(25%) 16(44%)

Table 8. Three-Way Thresholding

As seen in Table 8, three-way thresholding would not make any significant contribution to cirrus/cumulus discrimination.

5.2 Three-Detector, Narrow-Spectral-Band, Near-IR Radiometer

If the spectral radiance or reflectance is sufficient, serious consideration should be made for a three-detector, narrow-spectral-band, near-IR radiometer that utilizes the slope of the spectral radiance. As previously discussed, the slope of the spectral radiance for cirrus in the 5500 to 5825 cm⁻¹ interval is positive-small (less than a factor of 2, 5), whereas for snow and cumulus it is positive-large (greater than a factor of 5). This feature should allow one to discriminate cirrus from snow or cumulus clouds. Next, in the case of snow backgrounds, the slope of the spectral radiance in the 5825-6125 cm⁻¹ interval is negative, whereas it is positive for cumulus backgrounds. This feature should allow one to discriminate between snow and cumulus,

The three-detector, near-IR radiometer could be designed as follows: Detector No. 1 should sense the reflectance in the 5500 to 5615 cm⁻¹ spectral band; Detector No. 2 in the 5715 to 5825 cm⁻¹ spectral band, and Detector No. 3 in the 6060 to 6125 cm^{-1} spectral band. The instrument could be preprogrammed to compare the reflectance of the three detectors. If the comparisons between Detectors No. 1 and No. 2 give a small value (that is, a value less than a factor of 3), the background is cirrus. If the value is large (that is, a value greater than a factor of 5), compare Detector No. 2 with No. 3; if the value is positive (negative slope) the background is snow. If the comparison of Detector No. 2 with No. 3 gives a negative value (positive slope) or zero value, the background is cumulus. In addition, a thresholding capability on Detectors No. 2 and No. 3 could aid in discriminating snow from cumulus (that is, large reflectances on either Detectors would represent a cumulus rather than snow background).

If we utilize this principle on the aircraft-measured spectra, the snow/cirrus/ cumulus discrimination results are as follows: cirrus, 31/32 or 97 percent correct; snow, 52/56 or 93 percent correct; and cumulus, 30/36 or 83 percent correct. In general, the above percentages are a definite improvement over those for the instrument described in Section 3.1

5.3 Multispectral Radiometer

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A multispectral radiometer operating in the spectral interval of from 5625 to 6450 cm^{-1} with a spectral resolution of 15 to 20 cm⁻¹ could be designed in order to utilize the location and value of the maximum spectral radiance for discrimination between snow and cirrus and cumulus cloud backgrounds.

If we utilize this principle on the aircraft-measured spectra, the snow/cirrus/ cumulus discrimination results are as follows: snow, 52/56 or 93 percent correct; cirrus, 21/32 or 66 percent correct; and cumulus, 33/36 or 92 percent correct.

5.4 Conclusions

Based on the results of the analysis performed on the aircraft-measured spectra, it appears that the three-detector, near-IR Radiometer described in Section 3.2 would have the highest potential of discriminating snow and cirrus and cumulus clouds. In addition, this type of instrument that utilizes the slope of the spectral radiance could obviate the need of a visible channel for comparison purposes, and could easily be preprogrammed for on-board processing of the signal. The data rate from this type of instrument could be very minimal.

The Radiemeter-Imager described in Section 3.1 should be adequate for snow/ cloud discrimination. However, when the attempt is made to discriminate cirrus from cumulus, it may be difficult. It would probably require a variable thresholding capability as a function of latitude and solar elevation angle to optimize the cirrus/ cumulus discrimination. The need of a visible channel for comparison purposes and the data rate required would be a negative feature of this instrument.

Finally, the multispectral radiometer could be quite useful for snow/cumulus discrimination. Nothing would be gained by using this instrument in trying to identify cirrus backgrounds.

Appendix A

Mission Parameters

A number of relevant parameters are listed for each snow (Table A1), cirrus (Table A2), and cumulus (Table A3) background run performed in September 1976 and 1977. The information for each heading follows:

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Spectra No.	 Reference number used in main text
Mission No.	- Reference number for mission identification
Run	- Reference number for run identification
Date	- Day, month, year
Time	 Universal time, hours and minutes
Lat N	- North latitude, decimal degrees
Long W	 West longitude, decimal degrees
Solar Az	- Solar azimuth, true bearing, decimal degrees
Solar El	- Solar elevation, decimal degrees
Alt T	- True altitudes of aircraft, feet
Remarks	- Information relative to location, height, and texture

Spectra No.	5-8	15-18	23-26	31-34	39-42	46-49	53-56	
Mission No.	T R46	TR45	TR45	TR45	TR45	TR44	T R44	
Run	Q		4		11	1	4	
Date	21 Sept 76	20 Scpt 76	20 Sept 76	20 Sept 76	20 Sept 76	18 Sept 76	18 Sept 76	
Time	22:36	20:12	20:48	21:17	22:01	17:42	21:17	
Lat N	68.12	61.82	60.40	60, 28	61.40	46.20	46.85	
Long W	146.63	143.33	141.22	141.58	141.75	121.50	121.77	
Solar Az	197.1	160.5	173.1	181.2	193.8	136.6	208.4	
Solar El	22.1	28.6	31.2	3:.5	30.6	37.7	42.2	
Alt T	27000	26000	26000	26000	33000	28000	3:000	
Remarks	Brooks	Nebesna	Columbus) antse	Mt. Bond	Mt. Adams	Mt. Rainer	
	Kange 6000	7500	Glacier 5000	Glacier 3500	14500	12300	14400	
Spectra No.	85-90	91-96	101-16	192-106	107-112			
Mission No.	7 03	7 03	7 03	7 03	7.03			
Run	1	5	4	10	(~			
Date	25 Apr 77	25 Apr 77	25 Apr 77	25 Apr 77	25 Apr 77			
Time	16:11	16:23	17:15	17:21	18:03			
Lat N	51.58	51.50	51.17	Ξ 1.10	51.67			
I ong W	68, 50	68.67	73.33	13.25	79.42			
Solar Az	171.6	176.0	188.8	191.7	198.2			
Solar El	51.4	51.6	51.8	51.6	50.4			
Alt T	29000	29000	28000	23000	28000			
Remarks	I.ake	Snow Cov.	Lake	West Bank	Hudson Eav			
	MAIIICOUAgan	1/2 rocks	no puddles	or Lake Crescent	some puddles			
-		1 1 4 11.44	-					

Table A1. Mission Parameters for Snow, N = 56

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			TRI HOTCEIN		70 - 11 CO 11	
Spectra No.	i - 4	11-14	43-45	5 1-64	65-68	73-76
Mission No.	T R46	TH46	T.R45	T R44	7 05	7 05
Run	4	10	19	8	1	ıň
Date	21 Sept 76	21 Sept 76	20 Sept 76	19 Sept 76	28 Apr 77	28 Apr 77
Time	21:25	23:55	23:27	00:53	16:19	16:43
Lat N	72.32	63.90	63.02	63, 08	43.33	43.25
1 Jong W	148, 83	150.17	142.6	142.12	67.33	67.08
Solar Az	175.6	215.3	216.1	237.5	176.5	188.9
Solar El	19.0	23. 2	24.2	17.6	60.8	60.7
Alt T	37000	37000	39000	37000	31000	31000
Remarks	Thin	Thin	Mod-Thick	Thin	Thick	Thick
	36000	35000	37500	36000	31000	31000
Spectra No.	02	113-116	121-124			
Mission No.	7 05	702	7 0 2			
Run	10		11			
Date	28 Apr 77	22 Apr 77	22 Apr 77			
Time	17:51	18:10	22:06			
Lat N	46.50	45.87	44.00			
N. guo.1	67.42	68.75	71.00			
Solar Az	215.6	218.8	272.4			
Solar El	53.2	51.0	15.3			
Alt T	33000	29000	37000			
Remarks	Thick	Thick	Semi T.			
	31000	ç.	37,000			

Spectra No.	9-10	19-22	27-30	35-38	<u> 30-32</u>	57-60
Mission No.	TR46	TR45	TR45	T R45	T R44	T R44
Run	బ	51	10	ω	2	9
Date	21 Sept 76	20 Sept 75	20 Sept 76	20 Sept 76	18 Sept 76	18 Sept 76
Time	22:57	20:18	20:57	21:22	17.46	21:33
Lat N	5 3. 0 8	61.72	60.45	60.22	46.2	46.85
I.ong W	149.27	143.42	142.08	141.88	121.48	121.77
Solar Az	200.0	162.1	174.7	182.3	137.7	213.4
Solar El	22.1	28.9	31.2	31.5	38.2	40.8
Alt T	27 000	25000	26000	26000	28000	31000
Remarks	7 - 8K	15-16K	10-12K	9- 1 0K	12-13K	14~15K
Spectra No.	69-72	22-22	18-03	82-54	118-120	
Mission No.	7 05	705	7 05	705	702	
Run	3	6	13	16	ŝ	
Date	28 Apr 77	28 Apr 77	28 Apr 77	28 Apr 77	22 Apr 77	
Time	16:30	17:35	18:46	10:08	19:10	
I.at N	43.25	45.42	43.83	44.00	43.13	
Long W	66.83	69.00	68, 31	70.50	72.70	
Solar Az	182.8	207.6	235.0	238.1	235.2	
Solar El	60.9	56.2	48.6	46.5	46.8	
Alt T	31000	33000	31000	24000	28000	
Remarks	10-14K	20K	6-10K	6-10K	13-15K	

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Table A3. Mission Parameters for Cumulus, N = 36

Appendix B

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Spectral Radiance Normalized and Ratios

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	CU/CI	1.53	1- 53		1.53	1. 5.3	1.53	+		1.55	1.96	1.56	1.57	1.51	1. 57			1.51	1.57	1.57	1.57	1.57	1.58	2	2					1.59	1. 54	1.59	1.53	f5.	1.6.1		1.6.	1.61	19.1	4 2	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.67	1. 63	1.63	1 63	1.64	1.64	1-54	1.5	1.64	
	NS.	•126	.126	227.	.125	.126	92T-	-126	127	128	.128	.128	121	.127	.127	121.	110	125	124	.124	.125	.125	.126	.125	•17E	120	921		. 127	126	.1.5	.124	+27.	•124	122	122	121	.121	121.	121	12.	.12.	.114	.113	.119	. 118	.115	.118	.118	.110		911. 911.	811.	
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U AVE	LENGTH	1.710	1.7.9	2. ' J	1.708	1.767	1.7.7	1.70F		1,754	1.704	2.7.1	1753	1.762	1.732	1.7.1	1.705		1.699	1,693	1.538	1.697	1.697	1.696	1.056	1,695	169.1			1.692	1.532	1.691	1.691	1.640	1.689		1.608	1.687	1.667	460.1	1.605	1.604	1.E3+	1.643	1.663	1.682	1.682 1.681	1.651		1.68.	1.679	1.678	1.677	
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LA VE	15 NG 74	1.556	1.556	1.55	1.555	1.554	1.554	1.553	1.57	1.55	1.551	1.551	1.55	1.550	1.55	1.549	1.549		11041	1 1 1 2	. 545	1.545	1.545	1.545	1.544	1 - 5 46	1.544	1.540				1.541	1.54	1.54	1. 1. 1. 1.	1.05		1.5 18	1.537	1.537			1.535	1.514	1.5.34	1.01 1.01 1.01		1.00	<	1.531	1.5.1	1.53 ^c	1.535	1.524
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