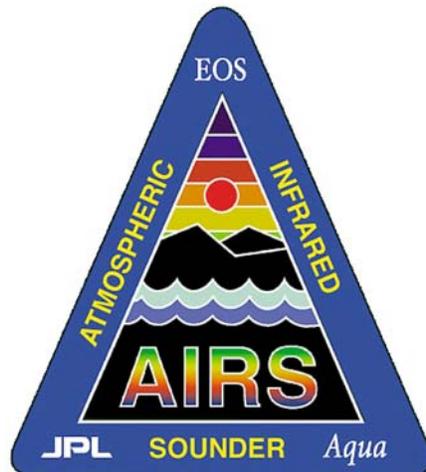


# AIRS/AMSU/HSB Version 5 Data Release User Guide

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June, 2007  
Version 1.0



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Submit Questions to:  
<http://airs.jpl.nasa.gov/AskAirs>

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### Introduction

The Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) instrument suite is designed to measure the Earth's atmospheric water vapor and temperature profiles on a global scale. It is comprised of a space-based hyperspectral infrared instrument (AIRS) and two multichannel microwave instruments, the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU-A) and the Humidity Sounder for Brazil (HSB). The AIRS instrument suite is one of several instruments onboard the Earth Observing System (EOS) Aqua spacecraft launched May 4, 2002. The Aqua spacecraft orbit is polar sun-synchronous with a nominal altitude of 705 km and an orbital period of 98.8 minutes. The repeat cycle period is 233 orbits (16 days) with a ground track repeatability of +/- 20 km. The platform equatorial crossing local times are 1:30 in the morning (descending) and 1:30 in the afternoon (ascending). Aqua orbital track information may be found at the URL:

<http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/datacenter/aqua/>

Aqua overpass prediction may be secured at the URL:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/MissionControl/overpass.html>

Operational L1B, L2 and L3 Products of the AIRS/AMSU/HSB instrument suite on the EOS Aqua spacecraft are available for use by the general public. They can be accessed on the web at the URL:

[http://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/AIRS/data\\_access.shtml](http://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/AIRS/data_access.shtml)

The full V5 User Documentation may be accessed at the URL:

<http://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/AIRS/documentation.shtml>

These data are in the standard HDF-EOS V4 swath format. See the NCSA HDF 4.2 Reference URL:

<http://hdf.ncsa.uiuc.edu/rel4links.html>

and the HDF-EOS Tools and Information URL:

<http://hdfeos.org/software.php>

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All data are released to the public. However, the state of product validation depends upon surface type, latitude and product type. Please read the Disclaimer and the CalVal Status Summary:

### **V5\_Data\_Disclaimer.pdf**

### **V5\_CalVal\_Status\_Summary.pdf**

The L1B data product includes geolocated, calibrated observed microwave, infrared and visible/near infrared radiances, as well as Quality Assessment (QA) data. The radiances are well calibrated; however, not all QA data have been validated. Each product granule contains 6 minutes of data. Thus there are 240 granules of each L1B product produced every day.

The L2 data product includes geolocated, calibrated cloud-cleared radiances and 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional retrieved physical quantities (e.g., surface properties and temperature, moisture, ozone, carbon monoxide and methane profiles throughout the atmosphere). Each product granule contains 6 minutes of data. Thus there are 240 granules of each L2 product produced every day.

The L3 data are created from the L2 data product by binning them in 1°x1° grids. There are three products: daily, 8-day and monthly. Each product provides separate ascending (daytime) and descending (nighttime) binned data sets.

A complete description of the contents of the product files may be found in the companion document titled "AIRS Version 5 Released Files Description":

### **V5\_Released\_ProcFileDesc.pdf**

The document provides for each product:

- Dimensions for use in HDF-EOS swath fields (name, value, explanation)
- Geolocation fields (name, explanation)
- Attributes (name, type, extra dimensions, explanation)
- Along-track data fields (name, type, extra dimensions, explanation)
- Swath data fields (name, type, extra dimensions, explanation)
- Special AIRS types for engineering data fields (name, type, explanation)

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It also provides the product file naming and local granule identification (LGID) conventions used in the identifier portion of the EOSDIS Core System (ECS) and a table of all current Science and Engineering products (L1A, L1B, L2 and L3).

Descriptions of the data products provided in that document and instrument and data features provided here are limited to the V5 released data set. For additional information, please consult the AIRS public web site:

<http://airs.jpl.nasa.gov>

Questions may also be submitted at the AskAIRS link there:

<http://airs.jpl.nasa.gov/AskAirs>

AIRS data users may register at the following URL

<http://airs.jpl.nasa.gov/DataRegistration/data/>

to receive periodical announcements of data features that may impact their research and an occasional newsletter.

Additional information may be accessed at the following web sites:

AIRS Data Support at the Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center (GES DISC):

<http://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/AIRS/index.shtml>

AIRS Theoretical Basis Documents (ATBD):

[http://eosps0.gsfc.nasa.gov/eos\\_homepage/for\\_scientists/atbd/viewInstrument.php?instrument=22](http://eosps0.gsfc.nasa.gov/eos_homepage/for_scientists/atbd/viewInstrument.php?instrument=22)

The version numbers that appear in the V5 AIRS Product Files are slightly different, depending upon the product due to a staged delivery of processing code to the GES DISC. They are:

- **All Level 1B Products:** v5.0.0.0 (with one exception)
- **Level 1B Calibration Subset Product:** v5.0.16.0
- **All Level 2 Products:** v5.0.14.0
- **All Level 3 Products:** v5.0.14.0

## ***SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FROM V4 TO V5***

A complete listing of the noteworthy changes from V4 to V5 is provided in the document:

### **V5\_Changes\_from\_V4.pdf**

The following are the most visible to the user.

#### **Improved Quality Indicators and Error Estimates**

In the V5 release, an improved set of quality indicators has been provided to inform the user separately about the quality of the retrieval of various products. Please read the Level 2 Quality Control and Error Estimation documentation for a description of these indicators and how they are set.

### **V5\_L2\_Quality\_Control\_and\_Error\_Estimation.pdf**

The V5 temperature profile yield is increased and the error estimate improved. The greatest yield increase is in the polar regions, and the greatest improvement in quality is over land. The yield in moisture retrievals has decreased slightly, but the quality of the accepted retrieval has increased, their error estimates improved and there are fewer outliers. In particular, there are no longer anomalously high moisture retrievals over warm scenes and the upper tropospheric dry bias and total water vapor wet bias have both improved over V4.

#### **Correction to Saturation and Relative Humidity**

The layer-average vapor pressure saturation relation for water vapor is provided over liquid and over liquid/ice dependent upon air temperature. The relative humidity calculation error present in V4 has been corrected.

#### **Correction to Outgoing Longwave Radiation**

The OLR calculation error present in V4 has been corrected. There was no error in the calculation for clear-sky OLR (clrolr) in V4.

#### **Improved O<sub>3</sub> Product**

The V5 ozone retrieval channel set has been refined and an observationally based climatology is used for a first guess rather than a regression. The result is that the V5 ozone retrievals are less biased in the mid to low troposphere.

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### **Addition of CO and CH<sub>4</sub> Products**

V5 L2 products now include total burden and profiles for carbon monoxide and methane. V5 L3 products contain profiles for both carbon monoxide and methane along with total column carbon monoxide. The methane product is an unvalidated research product that is still being refined.

### **Averaging Kernel, Verticality and Degrees of Freedom**

V5 L2 products now provide averaging kernel (in support product), verticality and degrees of freedom for moisture, ozone, carbon monoxide and methane profiles.

### **AMSU-A Level 1B Sidelobe Correction Implemented**

V5 AMSU-A L1B products now provide a sidelobe-correct brightness temperature in addition to the antenna temperature. The temperature error calculation is now fully implemented.

### **no HSB and including HSB**

The HSB instrument ceased operation on February 5, 2003 due to a mirror scan motor failure. Release V5 of AIRS Data Products provide two versions of the L2 and L3 data products up to the date of HSB failure, and a single version thereafter. The AIRS Level 2 and Level 3 data product file naming convention has been modified with release V5 to allow users to easily determine whether the data include HSB or not.

AIRS Level 2 Standard Product produced without using HSB

AIRS.2002.09.06.183.L2.RetStd.v5.0.14.0.G04283152315.hdf

AIRS Level 2 Standard Product produced using HSB

AIRS.2002.09.06.183.L2.RetStd\_H.v5.0.14.0.G04283152315.hdf

AIRS Level 3 Daily Product produced without using HSB

AIRS.2002.09.06.L3.RetStd001.v5.0.14.0.G04283152315.hdf

AIRS Level 3 Daily Product produced using HSB

AIRS.2002.09.06.L3.RetStd\_H001.v5.0.14.0.G04283152315.hdf

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See

### **V5\_Released\_Proc\_FileDesc.pdf**

for a complete description of the AIRS Data Product file name and local granule ID (LGID) convention.

### **Removal of VIS/NIR Derived Cloud Fields**

The Visible/Near Infrared derived cloud fields have been removed in V5.

### **Preparation of AIRS-Only Processing Option**

We have prepared an AIRS-Only processing option whose products will become visible to users in the event of an AMSU failure. Example product file names produced by this option are:

AIRS Level 2 Standard Product produced without using HSB

AIRS.2002.09.06.183.L2.RetStd\_IR.v5.0.14.0.G04283152315.hdf

AIRS Level 3 Daily Product produced without using HSB

AIRS.2002.09.06.L3.RetStd\_IR001.v5.0.14.0.G04283152315.hdf

## Instrument Description and Status

### **Overview**

The AIRS/AMSU/HSB instrument suite has been constructed to obtain atmospheric temperature profiles to an accuracy of 1 K for every 1 km layer in the troposphere and an accuracy of 1 K for every 4 km layer in the stratosphere up to an altitude of 40 km. The temperature profile accuracy in the troposphere matches that achieved by radiosondes launched from ground stations. The advantage of the AIRS suite in orbit is the provision of rapid global coverage; radiosonde coverage of the Earth's oceans is practically nonexistent. In conjunction with the temperature profiles, the AIRS instrument suite obtains humidity profiles to an accuracy of 10% in 2 km layers in the lower troposphere and an accuracy of ~50% in the upper troposphere. It also provides integrated column burden for several trace gases.

Summary descriptions of the instruments are available at the URLs:

<http://airs.jpl.nasa.gov/Technology/>  
<http://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/AIRS/instruments.shtml>

### **Description of Instruments**

#### **AIRS**

AIRS is a continuously operating cross-track scanning sounder, consisting of a telescope that feeds an echelle spectrometer. The AIRS infrared spectrometer acquires 2378 spectral samples at resolutions,  $\lambda/\Delta\lambda$ , ranging from 1086 to 1570, in three bands: 3.74  $\mu\text{m}$  to 4.61  $\mu\text{m}$ , 6.20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 8.22  $\mu\text{m}$ , and 8.8  $\mu\text{m}$  to 15.4  $\mu\text{m}$ . The spatial footprint of the infrared channels is 1.1° in diameter, which corresponds to about 15x15 km in the nadir.

During each scan, the rotating external mirror scans the underlying Earth scene from 49° on one side of the nadir to 49° on the other side, in 90 integration periods, and provides two views of dark space (one before and one after the Earth scene), one view of an internal radiometric calibration target, and one view of an internal spectral calibration target. Thus each scan produces 94 sets of measurements (90 earth scenes and 4 calibrations). The scan is repeated every 8/3 seconds. The downlink data rate from the AIRS instrument is 1.2 Mbit/sec.

The IR focal plane is cooled to about 58 K by a Stirling/pulse tube cryocooler. The scan antenna operates at approximately 265 K due to radiative coupling to the Earth and space and to the 150 K IR spectrometer. Cooling of the IR optics and detectors is necessary to achieve the required instrument sensitivity.

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### AIRS IR channel characteristics

The properties of the 2378 AIRS instrument detectors are individually listed in self-documenting text files. Some properties of the channels change slowly with time or discontinuously whenever the instrument is warmed by a spacecraft safety shutdown or in a defrost cycle. Whenever this occurs, a recalibration exercise is performed and a new channel properties file is created. Thus a series of these files will result. The L1B PGE must use the proper one (chosen by date of properties file and date of data) for initial processing and reprocessing.

The file names contain a date, identifying the first date for which they are valid (and supersede a calibration properties file and channel properties file containing an earlier date). As of this release, there are six files of each type covering the time period from 8/30/02 to the present. Text versions are provided as ancillary files to this document:

<b>Calibration Properties Files</b>
<b>L1B.cal_prop.2002.08.30.v9.5.0.txt</b>
<b>L1B.cal_prop.2002.09.17. v9.5.0.txt</b>
<b>L1B.cal_prop.2002.10.22. v9.5.0.txt</b>
<b>L1B.cal_prop.2003.01.10. v9.5.0.txt</b>
<b>L1B.cal_prop.2003.11.19. v9.5.0.txt</b>
<b>L1B.cal_prop.2005.03.01. v9.5.0.txt</b>

<b>Channel Properties Files</b>
<b>L2.chan_prop.2002.08.30.v9.5.1.txt</b>
<b>L2.chan_prop.2002.09.17. v9.5.1.txt</b>
<b>L2.chan_prop.2002.10.22. v9.5.1.txt</b>
<b>L2.chan_prop.2003.01.10. v9.5.1.txt</b>
<b>L2.chan_prop.2003.11.19. v9.5.1.txt</b>
<b>L2.chan_prop.2005.03.01. v9.5.1.txt</b>

We recommend users choosing L1B radiances for their research use the calibration properties files rather than the channel properties files. The information contained in the former set has been expanded with the user in mind and will be of greater utility for selecting channels. The latter set is provided for continuity and its primary function is to support the Level 2 software. We are planning to phase out the channel properties files in later releases. Both sets of files include a documenting header describing their contents.

### AIRS Instrument state

Instrument is in nominal science mode (instrument flag **OpMode** = 'Operate')  
The quality of the calibration is judged to be good

### Radiometric calibration

Refer to papers:

Aumann, H. H., M.T. Chahine and D. Barron (2003), Sea Surface Temperature Measurements with AIRS: RTG.SST Comparison, Proc. SPIE Vol.5151, pp.252-260, San Diego.

Aumann, H. H., D. Gregorich and D. Barron (2004), Spectral Cloud-screening of AIRS data: Non Polar Ocean, Proc. SPIE 49th Annual Meeting on Optical Science and Technology, , Denver Colorado 5548-42

Aumann, H.H., D. Gregorich, S. Gaiser and M. T. Chahine (2004), Application of Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) Data to Climate Research, Proc. SPIE 5570 Las Palomas, Spain.

Aumann H. H., S. Broberg, D. Elliott, S. Gaiser, D. Gregorich (2006), "Three years of Atmospheric Infrared Sounder radiometric calibration validation using sea surface temperatures", J. Geophys. Res., 111, D16S90, doi:10.1029/2005JD006822.

DeSouza-Machado S. G., L. L. Strow, S. E. Hannon, H. E. Motteler, M. Lopez-Puertas, B. Funke, D. P. Edwards (2007), Fast forward radiative transfer modeling of 4.3  $\mu$  m nonlocal thermodynamic equilibrium effects for infrared temperature sounders, Geophys. Res. Lett., 34, L01802, doi:10.1029/2006GL026684.

Hagan, D. and P. Minnett (2003), AIRS radiance validation over ocean from sea surface temperature measurements, IEEE Transactions on Geosciences and Remote Sensing, pp 432-441, 41.

Huang X., Y. L. Yung (2005), Spatial and spectral variability of the outgoing thermal IR spectra from AIRS: A case study of July 2003, J. Geophys. Res., 110, D12102, doi:10.1029/2004JD005530.

Kahn, B. H., E. Fishbein, S. Nasiri, A. Eldering, E. J. Fetzer, M.J. Garay, S-Y Lee, (2007), The radiative consistency of Atmospheric Infrared Sounder and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer cloud retrievals, JGR, 11, D09201, doi: 10.1029/2006JD007486.

Pagano, T.S., Aumann, H.H., Hagan, D.E., and Overoye, K. (2003), Prelaunch and In-Flight Radiometric calibration of the Atmospheric infrared Sounder (AIRS), IEEE Transactions on Geosciences and Remote Sensing, pp 265-273, 41.

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Tobin D. C., et al. (2006), Radiometric and spectral validation of Atmospheric Infrared Sounder observations with the aircraft-based Scanning High-Resolution Interferometer Sounder, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D09S02, doi:10.1029/2005JD006094.

Tobin D. C., H. E. Revercomb, R. O. Knuteson, B. M. Lesht, L. L. Strow, S. E. Hannon, W. F. Feltz, L. A. Moy, E. J. Fetzer, T. S. Cress (2006), Atmospheric Radiation Measurement site atmospheric state best estimates for Atmospheric Infrared Sounder temperature and water vapor retrieval validation, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D09S14, doi:10.1029/2005JD006103.

Tobin D. C., H. E. Revercomb, C. C. Moeller, T. S. Pagano (2006), Use of Atmospheric Infrared Sounder high-spectral resolution spectra to assess the calibration of Moderate resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer on EOS Aqua, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D09S05, doi:10.1029/2005JD006095.

Walden V. P., W. L. Roth, R. S. Stone, B. Halter (2006), Radiometric validation of the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder over the Antarctic Plateau, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D09S03, doi:10.1029/2005JD006357.

### AIRS Spectral Calibration

Refer to papers:

Gaiser, S. L., H. H. Aumann, L. L. Strow, S. E. Hannon, and M. Weiler (2003), In-flight spectral calibration of the atmospheric infrared sounder (AIRS), *IEEE Trans. Geosci. Remote Sensing*, 41, pp. 287-297.

Strow, L.L., S.E. Hannon, M. Weiler, K. Overoye, S.L. Gaiser, H.H. Aumann, (2003), Prelaunch spectral calibration of the atmospheric infrared sounder (AIRS), *IEEE Trans Geosci Remote Sensing* 41, (2): 274.

Strow L. L., S. E. Hannon, S. De-Souza Machado, H. E. Motteler, D. C. Tobin (2006), Validation of the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder radiative transfer algorithm, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D09S06, doi:10.1029/2005JD006146.

Tobin D. C., et al. (2006), Radiometric and spectral validation of Atmospheric Infrared Sounder observations with the aircraft-based Scanning High-Resolution Interferometer Sounder, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 111, D09S02, doi:10.1029/2005JD006094.

Weiler, M.H., L. Strow, S. Gaiser, R. Schindler, K. Overoye, and H.H. Aumann (2001), Spectral Test and Calibration of the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) presented at the SPIE International Symposium on Optical Science and Technology, Vol. 4483, San Diego, CA, 29 July-3 August, 2001.

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### **AIRS Spatial Calibration**

Refer to paper:

Gregorich, D. T. and H. H. Aumann (2003), Verification of AIRS Boresight Accuracy Using Coastline Detection, IEEE Trans. Geosci. Remote Sensing, vol. 41, pp. 298-302.

### Visible/NIR

The Visible/Near-IR (VIS/NIR) photometer contains four spectral bands, each with nine pixels along track, with a 0.185 degree instantaneous field-of-view (FOV). It is boresighted to the IR spectrometer to allow simultaneous measurements of the visible and infrared scene. The VIS/NIR photometer uses optical filters to define four spectral bands in the 400 nm to 1000 nm region. The VIS/NIR detectors are not cooled and operate in the 293 K to 300 K ambient temperature range of the instrument housing. The spatial resolution at nadir is 2.3 km. The primary function of the AIRS VIS/NIR channels is to provide diagnostic support to the infrared retrievals: setting flags that warn of the presence of low-clouds or highly variable surface features within the infrared FOV.

### Visible/NIR Instrument state

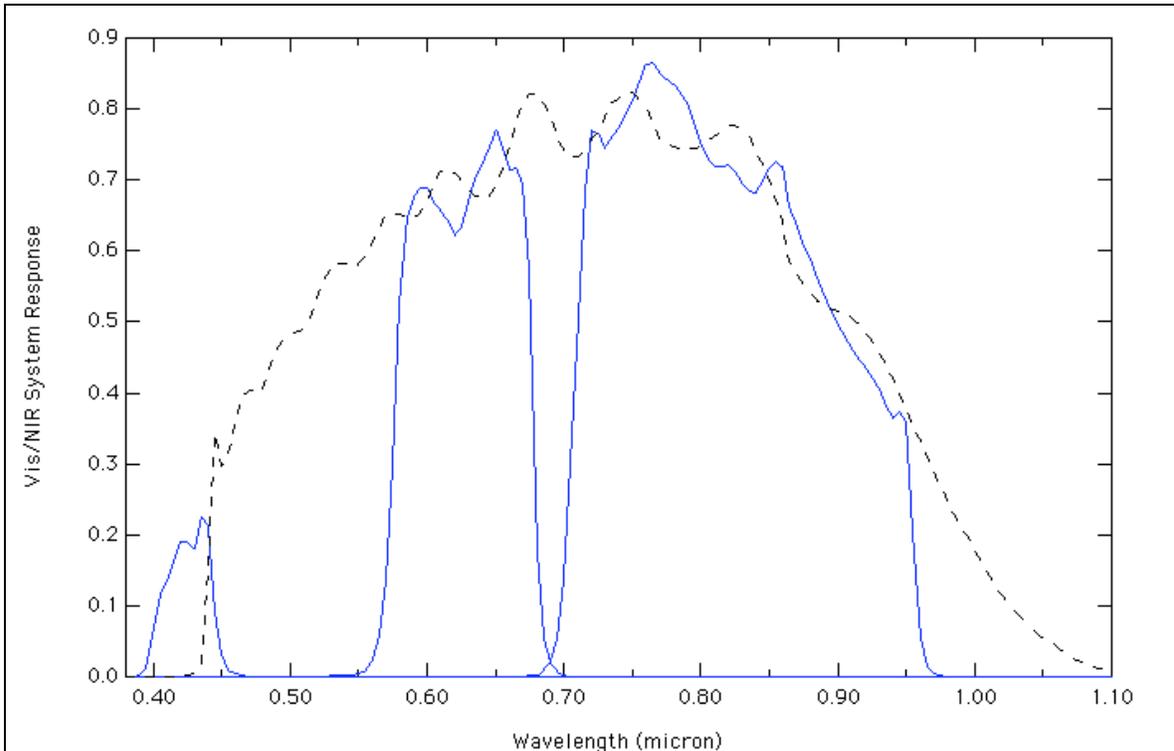
Instrument is in nominal science mode (instrument flag **OpMode** = 'Operate')

### Visible/NIR Radiometric calibration and Channel Characteristics

Refer to paper:

Gautier, C., Y. Shiren, L. L. Strow and M. D. Hofstadter (2003), AIRS vis/near IR instrument, IEEE Trans. Geosci. Remote Sensing, vol. 41, pp. 330-342, Feb. 2003

The Vis/NIR L1B radiances have been calibrated and validated by vicarious calibration. Unpublished field data confirms the radiances are valid to the quoted accuracy: 11% for Channel #1 and 7% for Channels #2, 3 and 4. This accuracy does not apply to the first few samples of Channel #4 in each scanline. These data have anomalously low values as reported in the accompanying disclaimer file.



**Figure 1: The approximate spectral response of the four VIS/NIR channels. The three solid curves are, from left to right, Channels 1, 2, and 3. The dashed curve is the response of Channel 4.**

Channel 1 (0.40 to 0.44  $\mu\text{m}$ ) is designed to be most sensitive to aerosols. Channels 2 (0.58 to 0.68  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and 3 (0.71 to 0.92  $\mu\text{m}$ ) approximate the response of AVHRR channels 1 and 2, respectively, and are particularly useful for surface studies. (AVHRR is an imaging instrument currently carried by NOAA polar orbiting satellites.) Channel 4 has a broadband response (0.49 to 0.94  $\mu\text{m}$ ) for energy balance studies.

### Visible/NIR Pointing

Validation of the Vis/NIR pointing has not been done, but initial comparisons to other satellite data (Terra MISR and Aqua MODIS instruments) suggests it is accurate to within 0.3 degrees (corresponding to 4 km at nadir).

Note: To reduce the data volume, not every VIS/NIR pixel is geolocated. Instead, only the four “corner pixels” of the 9x8 grouping associated with each IR footprint are geolocated. (A bi-linear interpolation can be used to locate the remaining pixels.) In the data files, four-element arrays called “**cornerlats**” and

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“**cornerlons**” carry this information. The first array element is the upper-left pixel when viewing an image aligned with “up” being North. The second element is the upper-right pixel. The third and fourth elements refer to the lower-left and lower-right pixels, respectively.

### **AMSU-A**

AMSU-A is a 15-channel microwave temperature sounder implemented as two independently operated modules. Module 1 (AMSU-A1) has 12 channels in the 50-58 GHz oxygen absorption band which provide the primary temperature sounding capabilities and 1 channel at 89 GHz which provides surface and moisture information. Module 2 (AMSU-A2) has 2 channels: one at 23.8 GHz and one at 31.4 GHz which provide surface and moisture information (total precipitable water and cloud liquid water). Like AIRS, AMSU-A is a cross-track scanner. The three receiving antennas, two for AMSU-A1 and one for AMSU-A2, are parabolic focusing reflectors that are mounted on a scan axis at a 45° tilt angle, so that radiation is reflected from a direction along the scan axis ( a 90° reflection). AMSU-A scans three times as slowly as AIRS (once per 8 seconds) and its footprints are approximately three times as large as those of AIRS (45 km at nadir). This results in three AIRS scans per AMSU-A scans and nine AIRS footprints per AMSU-A footprint.

### **AMSU-A Instrument state**

Instrument is in nominal science mode and both AMSU modules are in the optimal space view position.

On 11/16/2004 at 13:21:19 UT all of the AMSU-A2 temperature read outs except the warm load temperatures showed a sudden and simultaneous increase in noise. Subsequent analyses indicate that failure of a compensation capacitor in the reference voltage amplifier is the most probable cause. This will have a negligible effect on science products because RF shelf temperature enters into the calibration in a small second-order term. At the same time, however, the warm load temperature appeared to undergo a decrease of 0.15 K. Analysis continues to determine whether the warm load temperature offset continued. If so, the DN to EU conversion in the calibration algorithm will require modification.

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### **AMSU-A Radiometric calibration**

The data have been reprocessed with the current best calibration algorithm and calibration parameters. Calibration accuracy is estimated to be on the order of 1 K. Radiometric sensitivity is better than requirements – see AMSU-A channel characteristics table, below.

The quality of the calibration is judged to be good, but at present there are substantial scan biases. Modeling of the sidelobe pickup is under way to correct these scan biases.

Channel 7 has additional correlated noise, and should be avoided in applications that use single measurements, such as comparisons with collocated soundings. It may be used in applications in which some averaging is done (i.e. gridding/binning or regional averages).

Channel 6 exhibits additional correlated noise; similar to channel 7 but much smaller.

Channel 9 exhibits occasional popping, i.e. the calibration counts suddenly drop and then quickly recover. This typically occurs no more than once per orbit.

Channel 14 may have correlated noise, but it is minor.

### **AMSU-A Preliminary Pointing Analysis using Coastlines**

Valid for channels 1, 2, 3, 15 (window channels)

Pitch error < 10% of FOV (< 4 km at nadir)

Roll Error estimated to be less than 20% of FOV

Yaw error estimated to be less than 30% of FOV at swath edge

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### AMSU-A channel characteristics

Ch #	Module	Center freq [MHz]	Stability [MHz]	Bandwidth [MHz]	On-Orbit NEdT [K]	T/V NEdT [K]	Pol
1	A2	23800	±10	1x270	0.17	0.17	V
2	A2	31400	±10	1x180	0.19	0.25	V
3	A1	50300	±10	1x160	0.21	0.25	V
4	A1	52800	±5	1x380	0.12	0.14	V
5	A1	53596±115	±5	2x170	0.16	0.19	H
6	A1	54400	±5	1x380	0.21	0.17	H
7	A1	54940	±5	1x380	0.21	0.14	V
8	A1	55500	±10	1x310	0.14	0.16	H
9	A1	[f <sub>0</sub> ]=57290.344	±0.5	1x310	0.14	0.16	H
10	A1	f <sub>0</sub> ±217	±0.5	2x77	0.19	0.22	H
11	A1	f <sub>0</sub> ±322.4±48	±1.2	4x35	0.22	0.24	H
12	A1	f <sub>0</sub> ±322.4±22	±1.2	4x16	0.31	0.36	H
13	A1	f <sub>0</sub> ±322.4±10	±0.5	4x8	0.43	0.50	H
14	A1	f <sub>0</sub> ±322.4±4.5	±0.5	4x3	0.71	0.81	H
15	A1	89000	±130	1x2000	0.10	0.12	V

### HSB

The Humidity Sounder for Brazil (HSB) is a 4-channel microwave moisture sounder implemented as a single module. Three channels are located near 183 GHz, while the fourth is a window channel at 150 GHz. Physically HSB is identical to AMSU-B, which is operated by NOAA on its most recent POES satellites, but HSB lacks the fifth channel (89 GHz) of AMSU-B. Like AIRS, HSB is a cross-track scanner, and it has only one parabolic scan antenna. Its scan speed as well as its footprints is similar to AIRS (three scans per 8 seconds and about 15 km at nadir, respectively). There is therefore one HSB footprint per AIRS footprint.

**HSB ceased operation on February 5, 2003 due to a failure in the mirror scan motor electronics.**

### HSB Instrument state

Instrument failed Feb 5, 2003. An anomaly investigation team has concluded that the most likely failure cause was a bad connection or solder joint in the motor drive electronics commutation circuit. The symptoms seen on orbit were replicated on an engineering model.

### Radiometric calibration

The data have been reprocessed with the current best calibration algorithm and calibration parameters. Calibration accuracy is estimated to be on the order of 1 K. Radiometric sensitivity is better than requirements – see HSB channel characteristics table, below.

The quality of the calibration is judged to be good, but at present there are substantial scan biases. Modeling of the sidelobe pickup is under way to correct these scan biases.

L1B data contain fields named “**antenna\_temp**” and “**brightness\_temp**”. Both are well calibrated and without sidelobe correction in this release. The **brightness\_temp** data field may include sidelobe correction in a future release. In this release the two fields are identical.

**HSB Preliminary Pointing Analysis using Coastlines**

Valid for channel 2 (window channel)

Pitch error < 10% of FOV (< 1.5 km at nadir)

Roll Error estimated to be less than 20% of FOV

Yaw error estimated to be less than 30% of FOV at swath edge

Refer to paper:

Lambrigtsen, B. H., and R. V. Calheiros (2003), The humidity sounder for Brazil--an international partnership, IEEE Trans. Geosci. and Remote Sensing, 41, 2, pp 352-361.

**HSB channel characteristics**

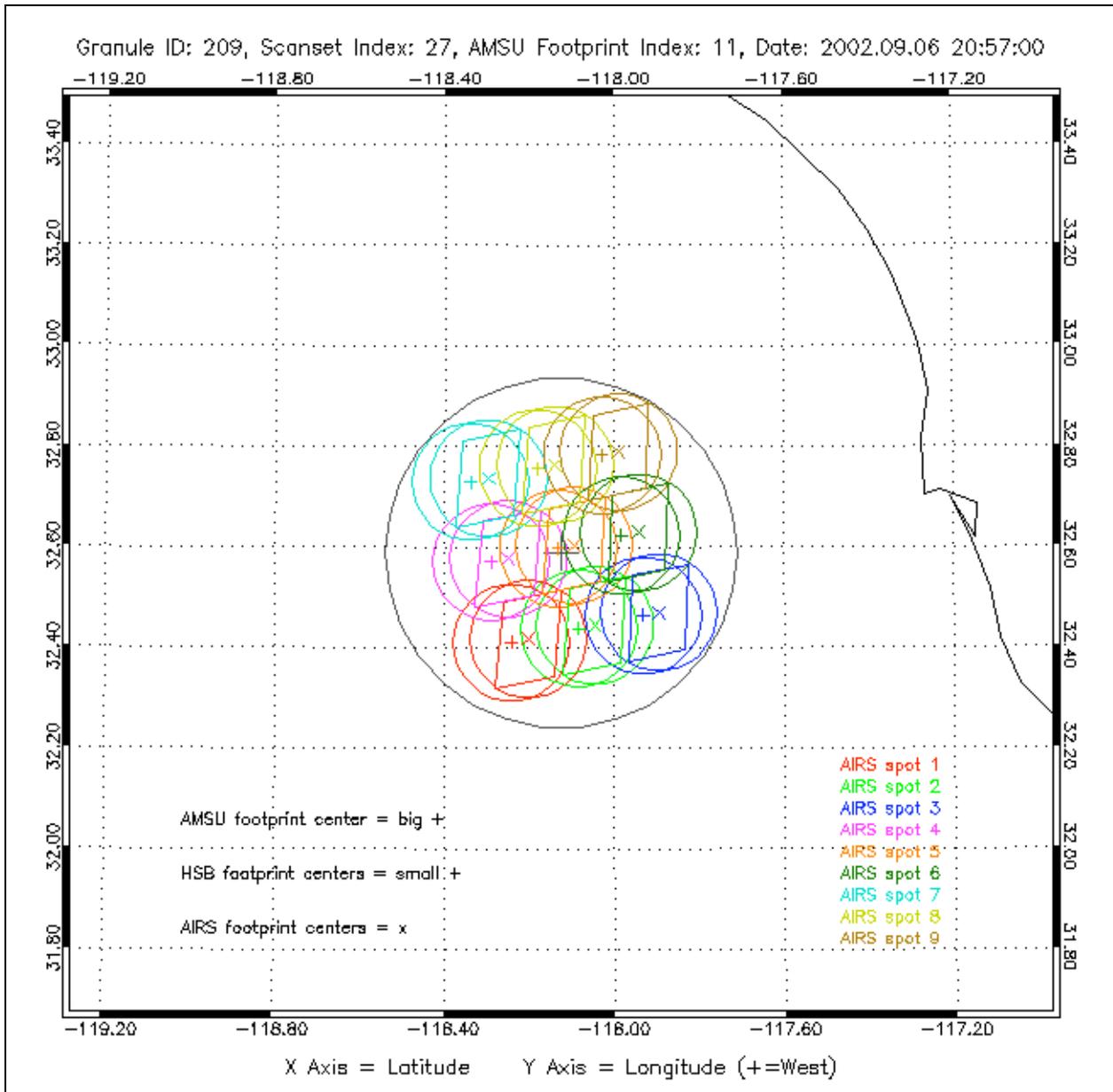
<b>Ch #</b>	<b>Center freq [MHz]</b>	<b>Stability [MHz]</b>	<b>Bandwidth [MHz]</b>	<b>On-Orbit NEdT[K]</b>	<b>T/V NEdT [K]</b>	<b>Pol</b>
1	AMSU-B channel 1 was not implemented for HSB					
2	150000	±100	2x1000	0.58	0.68	V
3	183310±1000	±50	2x500	0.55	0.57	V
4	183310±3000	±70	2x1000	0.35	0.39	V
5	183310±7000	±70	2x2000	0.28	0.30	V

## Relation of Fields of View of AIRS/AMSU/HSB

A granule of data contains 45 scansets, corresponding to 45 cross-track scans of the AMSU-A mirror. The AMSU-A radiance data sampled in a scanset are combined to create integrated radiances for 30 contiguous AMSU-A FOVs. An integration encompasses the time required for the mirror to sweep through an AMSU-A instantaneous FOV. Figure 2 illustrates the retrieval FOV pattern over Southern California that make up Granule 209 of AIRS/AMSU/HSB products on September 6, 2002.



Figure 2: AIRS/AMSU/HSB Footprint Pattern Sept 6, 2002; Granule 209



**Figure 3: AIRS/AMSU/HSB Footprint Pattern**  
**Sept 6, 2002; Granule 209; Scanset 27; Footprint 11**  
**central (lat,lon) = (32.6°, -118.1°)**

An AMSU-A FOV encompasses 9 AIRS FOVs (arranged in a 3x3 matrix) and 9 HSB FOVs (arranged in a 3x3 matrix). Each AIRS footprint encompasses 72 Vis/NIR pixels (arranged in a 9x8 rectangular array). This arrangement is illustrated in Figure 2, which was produced from the geolocation information contained within Granule 209 of data taken September 6, 2002, just off the coast of Southern California. The association shown comprises those data which are combined into a retrieval field-of-view located in the 11<sup>th</sup> AMSU-A FOV of the 27<sup>th</sup> AMSU-A scanset. The large circle represents the 3.3 deg instantaneous

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FOV of an AMSU-A observation. The smaller colored circles represent the 1.1 deg instantaneous FOVs of the associated arrays of AIRS and HSB observations. The colored rectangles represent the areas covered by the associated arrays of VIS/NIR pixels.

Since granule 209 is an ascending (daytime) granule, the spacecraft track tends toward the northwest. The scan direction as seen by an observer sitting on the spacecraft and facing the direction of motion is left to right. Thus the scan direction on the Earth for this granule is also left to right in this figure.

Within each scanset are three scanlines, corresponding to 3 cross-track scans of the AIRS and HSB mirrors. The AIRS and HSB radiance data sampled in each scanline are combined to create integrated radiances for 90 AIRS and 90 HSB footprints.

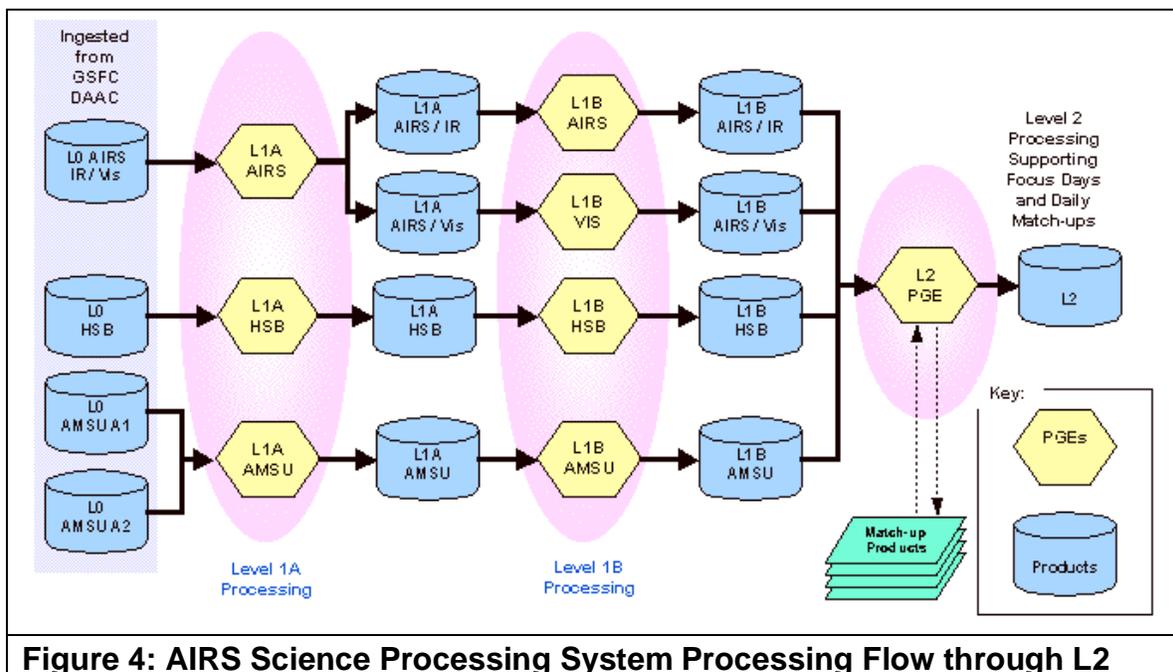
The VIS/NIR instrument has an array of 9 detectors arranged along the spacecraft track direction that look at the AIRS mirror. Sampling and integration are arranged so that there are 8 cross-track samples of each VIS/NIR detector as the mirror sweeps through one AIRS instantaneous FOV.

## AIRS Science Processing System

### System Overview

The AIRS Science Processing System (SPS) is a collection of programs, or Product Generation Executives (PGEs), used to process AIRS Science Data. These PGEs process raw, low level AIRS Infrared (AIRS), AIRS Visible (VIS), AMSU, and HSB instrument data to obtain temperature and humidity profiles.

AIRS PGEs can be grouped into four distinct processing phases for processing: Level 1A, Level 1B, Level 2 and Level 3. Each consecutive processing phase yields a higher-level data product. Levels 1A and 1B result in calibrated, geolocated radiance products. Level 2 processing derives temperature and humidity profiles, and cloud and surface properties. Level 3 produces gridded ascending and descending products from the Level 2 products averaged daily, over 8-day periods and for each calendar month. In addition to the standard processing PGEs, there is a radiosonde matchup PGE which collects and associates all AIRS products derived within 100 km and 3 hr of ADP operational upper air radiosonde launches reported in the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) quality controlled final observation data files (PREPQC). Figure 4 is a diagram illustrating the processing flow of the AIRS Science Processing System through Level 2.



### ***Data Processing –Version 5***

The V5 Release Science Processing Software (SPS) provided to the Goddard Earth Sciences (GES) Data and Information Services Center (DISC) for L2 Product Generation is version 5.0.14.0 and represents the best refinement of all Level 1A, Level 1B Level 2 and Level 3 PGEs as of May 2, 2007. It contains working versions of all Level 1A, Level 1B, Level 2 and Level 3 software modules. Specific features and characteristics of version 5.0.14.0 are described in other sections of this documentation. See **V5\_Released\_Proc\_FileDesc.pdf** for a complete description of the data product files and the ancillary static and dynamic inputs to the various PGEs.

The enhancements to Level 1A and Level 1B reflect lessons learned from analysis of post-launch data. The Level 2 and Level 3 software is being refined, and JPL plans to continue to upgrade these PGEs and will periodically deliver updated code modules to the GES DISC to support public release of their products.

### ***Level-1A Processing***

AIRS data processing begins with receipt of Level 0 data from the Earth Observing System (EOS) Data and Operations System (EDOS). When Level 0 data are received, Level 1A PGEs are scheduled. The Level 1A PGEs perform basic house keeping tasks such as ensuring that all the Level 0 data are present and ordering the data into time of observation synchronization. Once the Level 0 data are organized, algorithms perform geolocation refinement and conversion of raw Data Numbers to Engineering Units (DN to EU). Finally, the level 1A data are collected into granules of data (six minutes of instrument data) and are forwarded to Level 1B PGEs for further processing.

### ***Level-1B Processing***

Level 1B PGEs receive 240 granules of AIRS (AIRS IR, AIRS VIS, AMSU and HSB) Level 1A EU data and produce calibrated, geolocated radiance products. Calibration data and calibration control parameters are analyzed to develop processing specifications for Level 1B processing. Then, the Level 1A data are processed, yielding our Level 1B standard products. Each type of AIRS Level 1A data is processed by a specialized Level 1B PGE. Each Level 1B PGE generates 240 granules of Level 1B standard products.

Level 1B PGEs produce 240 granules of four Level 1B standard products and two quality assessment (QA) subset products. Each granule is composed of 45 scansets. The Earth Science Data Type (ESDT) short names and normal granule sizes are:

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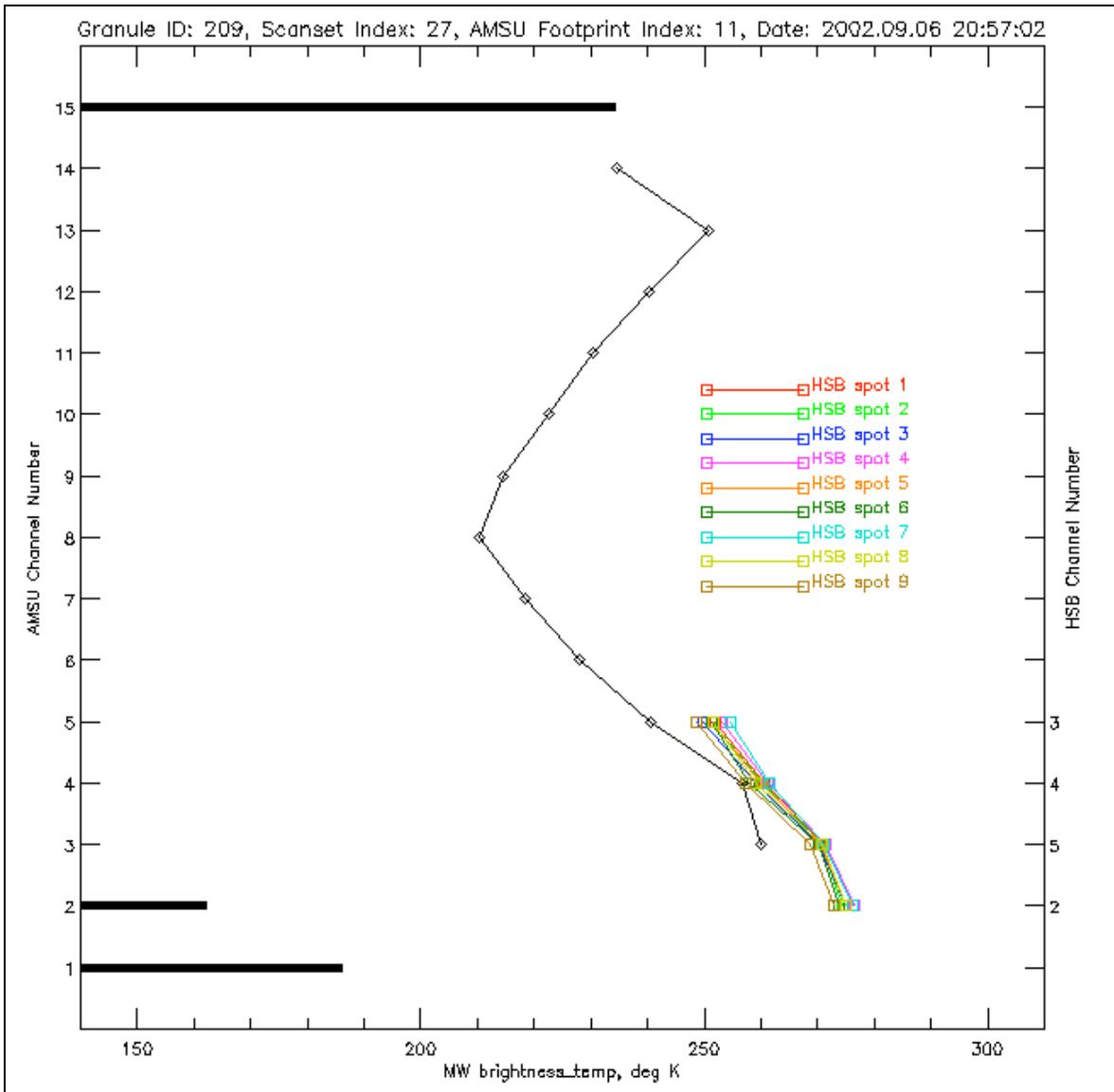
Data Set	Short Name	Granule Size
L1B AMSU-A radiances	AIRABRAD	0.5 MB
L1B HSB radiances	AIRHBRAD	1.7 MB
L1B AIRS radiances	AIRIBRAD	56 MB
L1B VIS radiances	AIRVBRAD	21 MB
L1B AIRS QA	AIRIBQAP	5.6 MB
L1B VIS QA	AIRVBQAP	1.1 MB

Figure 5 on the following page shows the combined AMSU and HSB spectra for the example AMSU FOV first introduced in Figure 2. Channel number is shown along the vertical axes (AMSU to the left and HSB to the right), and the horizontal axis represents brightness temperature. The AMSU temperature sounding channels (3-14) are connected with line segments and that plot can be viewed as a rudimentary representation of the temperature profile. The lowest channel is affected by the surface, however, which depresses the brightness temperature relative to the atmospheric temperature for this oceanic FOV. The nominal weighting functions for the tropospheric channels peak as follows: surface (#3), 1000 mb (#4), 750 mb (#4), 400 mb (#6), 250 mb (#7), 150 mb (#8)

AMSU channels 1, 2 and 15 are plotted separately as bars, since they are window channels that are primarily influenced by the surface brightness (i.e. the product of surface temperature and emissivity). Ocean emissivity is very low for channels 1 and 2, which causes very low brightness temperatures, even though the SST is relatively high. Channel 1 is warmer than channel 2 because it is affected by water vapor and clouds, which elevates the brightness temperature over the "cold" ocean background. Channel 15 is warmer still, due to a higher emissivity as well as higher sensitivity to both water vapor and clouds.

HSB has 4 channels and 9 FOVs within the single AMSU FOV, resulting in the 9 line plots shown to the right. The vertical order of the channels reflects the order of the peak in the weighting function rather than the serial channel number. These channels essentially reflect the atmospheric temperature near the peaks of the water vapor/liquid weighting functions. The lowest channel (#2) peaks near the surface (but is slightly "cooler" than the surface due to the emissivity). The highest channel (#3), which is too opaque to have much influence from the surface, has a brightness temperature somewhere between AMSU channels 4 and 5, which suggests it peaks at perhaps 850 mb. The spread between the 9 plots suggests there is some (but not much) variability in water vapor and liquid water.

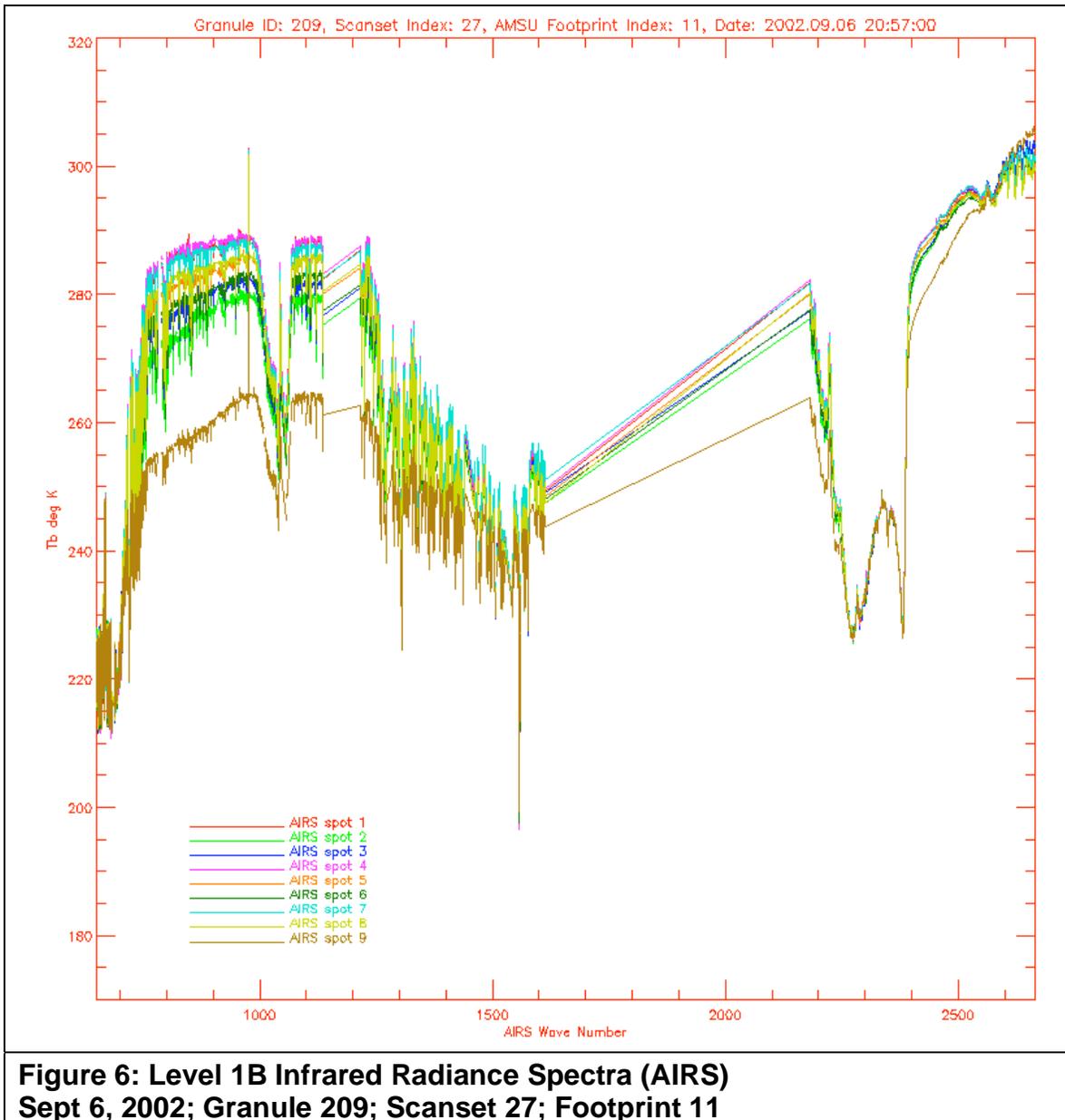
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**Figure 5: Level 1B Microwave Radiances (AMSU-A and HSB)  
Sept 6, 2002; Granule 209; Scanset 27; Footprint 11**

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Figure 6 shows the infrared Level 1B radiance spectra (AIRS) from the example FOV, which contains 9 AIRS spots. These data are contained in the L1B AIRS Radiance Product.



The brightness temperature in the  $900\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region varies from around 260K to just under 290K. The AMSU footprint is over ocean and relatively uniform with the exception of cloud properties. Thus the variability of brightness temperature is mostly due to the effect of clouds. Cloud-clearing in the Level 2 retrieval estimates the clear column radiance from the cloud radiances by extrapolation. Note the slope of the coldest spectrum (color-coded brown) in the  $900\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region. Since cloud tops tend to be colder than the surface, this is most likely the

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cloudiest of the nine AIRS footprints. The slope is one of the signatures of cirrus clouds. This spectrum appears to reflect more solar radiance than other AIRS spectra (i.e., higher brightness temperature in  $2600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region).

Experience with on-orbit AIRS data prompted the AIRS Calibration Team to alter some AIRS L1B algorithms (e.g. AutomaticQAFlag, DC Restore, pop detection, Moon-in-view, offset, noise estimation and gain). The brief AIRS Design File Memo describing these changes, dated 6/24/03, is

### **L1bqa\_changes.pdf**

A summary report of the status V5 calibration and validation status of each retrieval product is provided in the document:

### **V5\_CalVal\_Status\_Summary.pdf**

The visible/near infrared data provide diagnostic support to the infrared retrievals as well as several research products. The field of radiances from the four channels can be combined to produce a low-resolution false color image of a granule. On the following page, Figure 7 is an example. It shows a false color image of the entire granule from which the data of Figures 4 and 5 were taken.

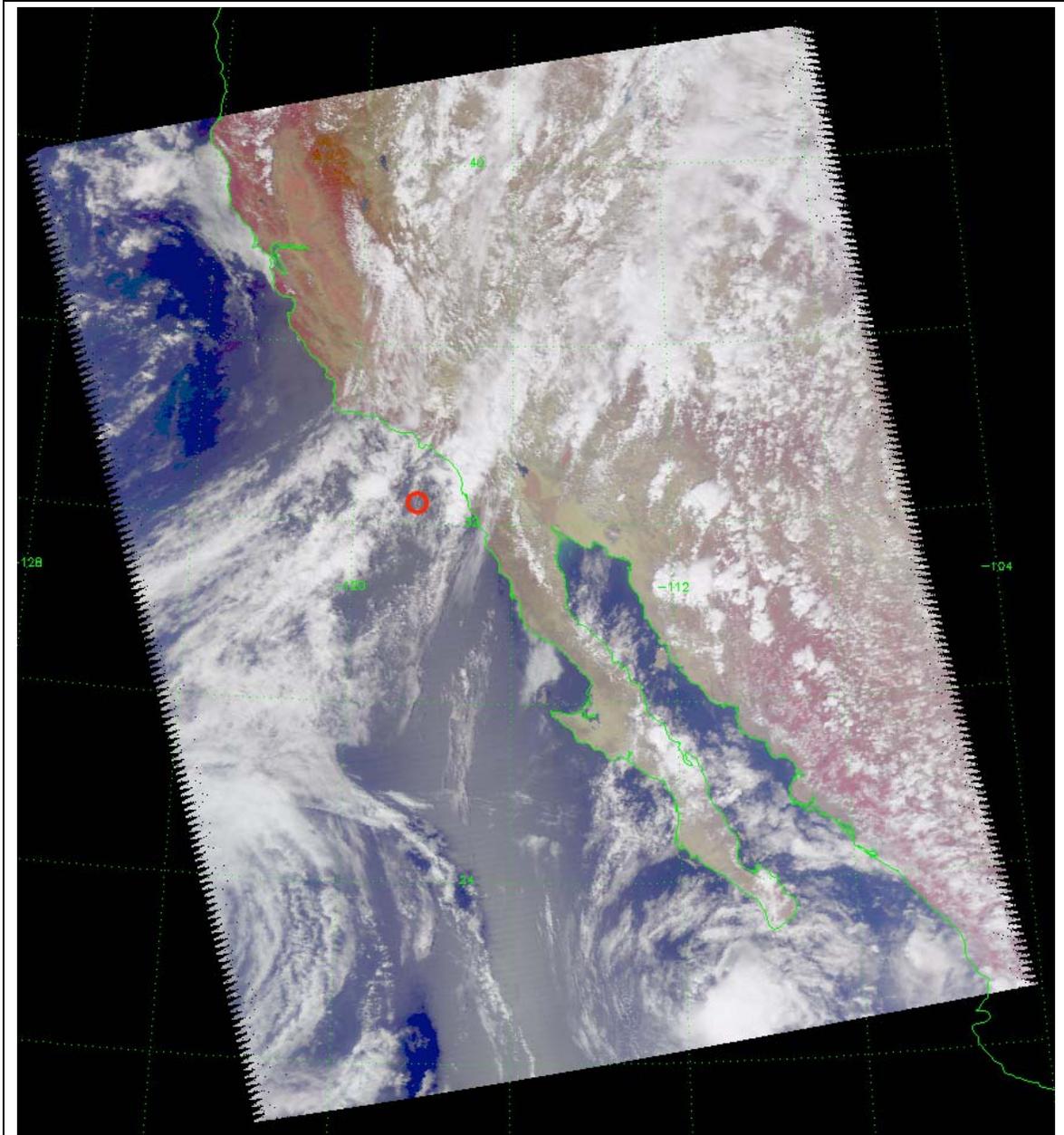


Figure 7: false color image of Sept 6, 2002 Granule 209  
constructed from Vis/NIR radiances  
red circle outlines example FOV; interior is approximate size of FOV

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### ***Level-2 Processing***

The single Level 2 PGE reads corresponding Level 1B data granules from all instruments (AIRS IR, AIRS VIS, AMSU and HSB), the surface pressure from the NCEP forecasts and a digital elevation map. The steps in the retrieval flow are shown in the document:

#### **V5\_Retrieval\_Flow.pdf**

Depending upon the results of tests applied at each stage of the retrieval flow, the resulting Level 2 product may be one of several possibilities. Refer to the two documents:

#### **V5\_L2\_Standard\_Product\_QuickStart.pdf**

#### **V5\_L2\_Quality\_Control\_and\_Error\_Estimation.pdf**

Level 2 produces 240 granules of each of the following AIRS products:

<b>Data Set</b>	<b>Short Name</b>	<b>Granule Size</b>
L2 Cloud-cleared radiances	AIRI2CCF	10 MB
L2 Standard Product	AIRX2RET	5.4 MB
L2 Support Product	AIRX2SUP	20 MB

Each granule contains the data fields from 1350 retrievals laid out in an array of dimension 30x45, corresponding to the 30 AMSU footprints (cross-track) in each of 45 scansets (along-track).

### ***Level-3 Processing***

Level 3 products are statistical summaries of geophysical parameters that have been spatially and temporally re-sampled from lower level data products (e.g., Level 2 data). Due to re-sampling and selecting a reduced set of reporting parameters, Level 3 datasets are substantially smaller than the lower level source products from which they are derived. Thus, Level 3 products can be used without a great deal of overhead in terms of data handling.

AIRS Level 3 products are a direct representation of the lower level datasets; the underlying geophysical values are retained in Level 3. In addition, counts and standard deviations are carried forth in the AIRS Level 3 products as well as the mean value per grid cell.

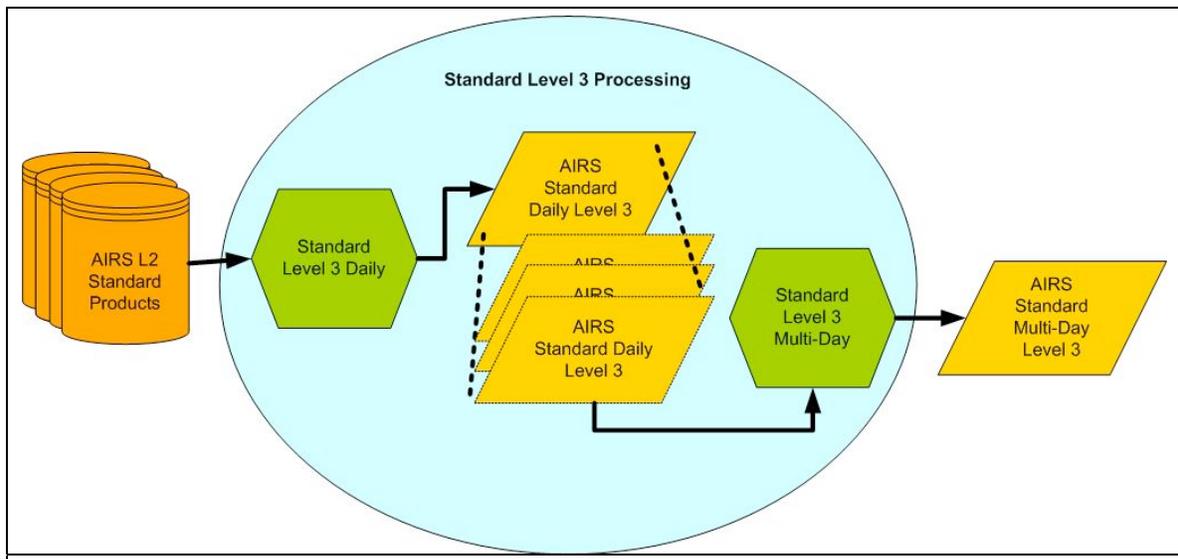
The daily Level 3 PGE reads Level 2 standard product data granules and a land/sea mask ancillary file. The input Level 2 data are filtered according to associated quality indicators described in:

**V5\_L2\_Standard\_Product\_QuickStart.pdf**  
**V5\_L2\_Quality\_Control\_and\_Error\_Estimation.pdf**

Level 3 files contain geophysical parameters that have been averaged and binned into 1°x1° grid cells. Grid maps correspond to -180.0° to +180.0° longitude and -90.0° to +90.0° latitude. For each grid map of 4-byte floating-point mean values there is a corresponding 4-byte floating-point map of standard deviation and a 2-byte integer grid map of counts. The counts map provides the user with the number of points per bin that were included in the mean and can be used to generate multi-day maps from the daily gridded products. For some geophysical parameters, we include maps of error estimates. The error estimates are binned from the Level 2 error estimate values as sums of squares.

AIRS Level 3 data products consist of three "types" of product, daily, 8-day (one-half of the Aqua orbit repeat cycle), and monthly (calendar). Each of the three Level 3 data products is separated into ascending and descending portions of the orbit, where "ascending or descending" refers to the direction of the sub-satellite point in the satellite track at the equatorial crossing. The ascending direction of movement is from Southern Hemisphere to Northern Hemisphere; the descending direction of movement is from Northern Hemisphere to Southern Hemisphere. Outside of the polar zones, these correspond respectively to daytime and nighttime. Spatial resolution for all standard Level 3 products is 1°x1° where each grid cell is bounded by latitude and longitude lines. Figure 8 is a high level flow diagram of the AIRS standard Level 3 processing, showing the production of the daily and multi-day products.

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**Figure 8: High Level Flow Diagram of AIRS Standard Level 3 Processing**

The daily and multi-day Level 3 PGEs produce the following AIRS products:

Data Set	Short Name	Granule Size
L3 standard daily product	airx3std	~70 MB
L3 8-day standard product	airx3st8	~103 MB
L3 monthly standard product	airx3stm	~105 MB

The daily Level 3 products will have gores between the satellite paths where there is no coverage for that day. The 8-day Level 3 products may have missing data due to data dropouts. Monthly Level 3 products will likely contain complete global coverage without gores and with little missing data.

The AIRS Level 3 Daily Product is time-continuous from east to west and encompasses all ascending or descending orbits in 24-hour temporal period. AIRS Level 3 data begin just West of the dateline and end just East of the dateline. This is done to prevent data points that are 24 hours apart from being averaged within the same grid cell.

The AIRS Daily Level 3 processing flow is given in Figure 9.

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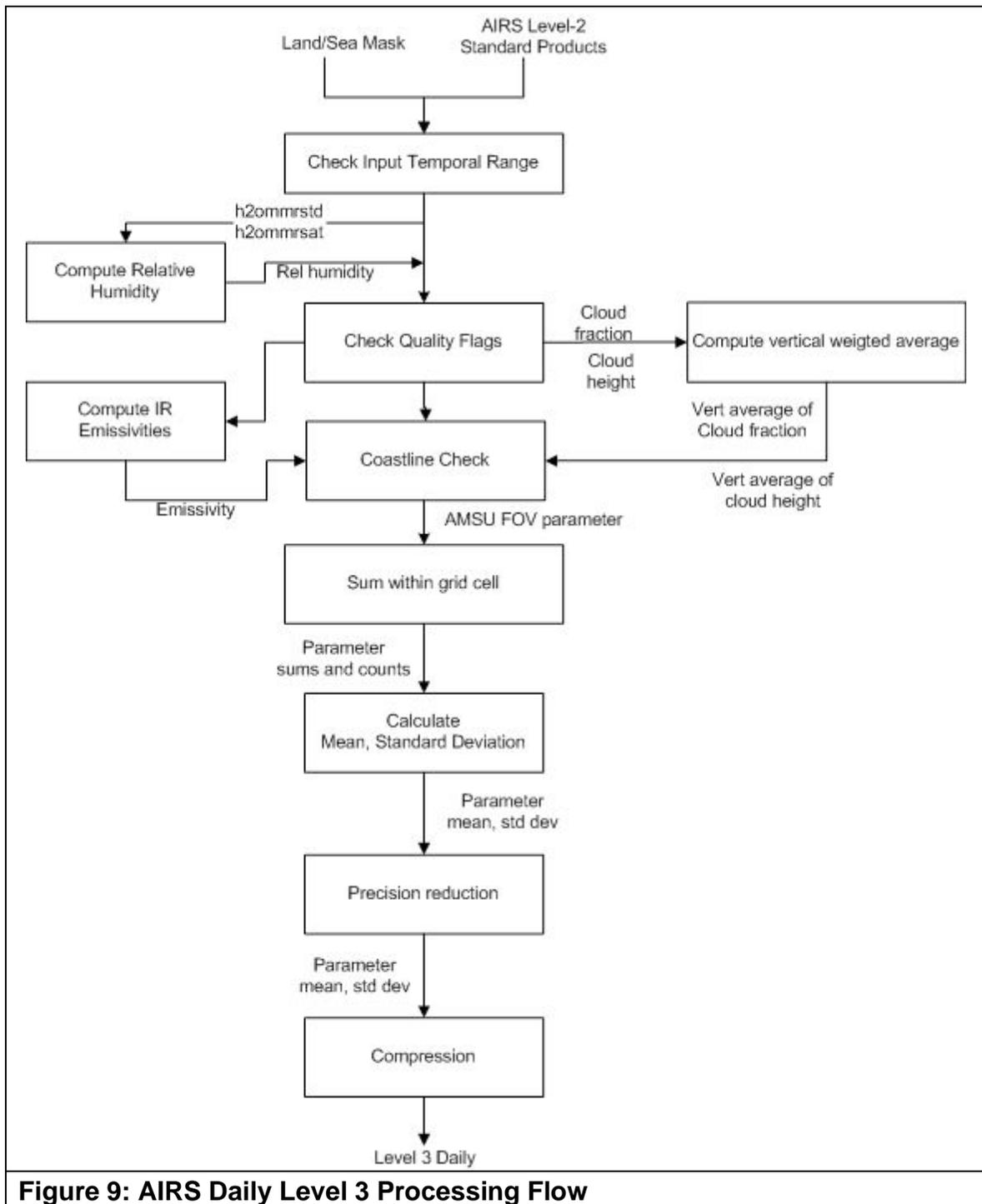


Figure 9: AIRS Daily Level 3 Processing Flow

## **V5 Release Data Information**

### ***Data Disclaimer and Quick Start Quality Assurance***

#### **Data Disclaimer**

The accompanying file:

**V5\_Data\_Disclaimer.pdf**

provides information which affects the availability of data for ordering (i.e., may be unavailable due to instrument outage or spacecraft maneuvering). It also lists the known liens against each instrument.

#### **Quick Start Quality Assurance**

The accompanying file:

**V5\_L1B\_QA\_Quick\_Start.pdf**

is a guide to the most basic L1B AIRS/AMSU/HSB quality assurance (QA) parameters that a novice user of AIRS/AMSU/HSB data should access to judge L1B Radiance Product quality.

A brief user guide for the selected L1B AIRS Radiance Product QA swath data fields is in the accompanying file:

**V5\_Selected\_AIRS\_QA\_Fields.pdf**

Please refer to the L2 Quality Control and Error Estimation Documentation for a description of the various quality indicators and how they are set:

**V5\_L2\_Quality\_Control\_and\_Error\_Estimation.pdf**

## **Data Products**

The following is a quick guide to the contents of the data products which we believe are of greatest interest to the user.

### **L1B AMSU Radiance Product**

See **V5\_Released\_Proc\_FileDesc.pdf** for a complete description. Please note that values of -9999 (if integer) and -9999.0 (if floating) denote invalid data.

**The geolocation data fields of immediate interest to the user are:**

- **Latitude**  
AMSU footprint boresight geodetic latitude  
(degrees North, -90->+90), dimension (30,45)
- **Longitude**  
AMSU footprint boresight geodetic longitude  
(degrees East, -180->+180), dimension (30,45)

**The per-granule data fields of immediate interest to the user are:**

- **center\_freq**  
channel center frequency (GHz), dimension (15)
- **IF\_offset\_1**  
offset of first intermediate frequency stage (MHz)  
(zero for no mixing), dimension (15)
- **IF\_offset\_2**  
offset of second intermediate frequency stage (MHz)  
(zero for no second mixing), dimension (15)
- **Bandwidth**  
bandwidth of sum of 1,2 or 4 channels (MHz),  
dimension (15)
- **NeDT**  
instrument noise level estimated from warm count scatter (15)

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The along-track data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **qa\_scanline**  
Bit field for each scanline (bit 0 set if sun glint in scanline; bit 1 set if costal crossing in scanline, bit 2 set if some channels had excessive NeDT estimated), dimension (45)
- **qa\_channel**  
Bit field by channel for each scanline (bit 0 set if all space view counts bad; bit 1 set if space view counts marginal; bit 2 set if space view counts could not be smoothed; bit 3 set if all blackbody counts bad; bit 4 set if blackbody counts marginal; bit 5 set if blackbody counts could not be smoothed; bit 6 set if unable to calculate calibration coefficients; bit 7 set if excessive NeDT estimated), dimension (15,45)

The swath data fields of immediate interest to user are:

- **antenna\_temp**  
calibrated, geolocated channel-by-channel AMSU observed raw antenna temperature (K), dimension (15,30,45)
- **brightness\_temp**  
calibrated, geolocated channel-by-channel AMSU sidelobe-corrected antenna temperature (K), dimension (15,30,45)
- **brightness\_temp\_err**  
error estimate for brightness\_temp (K), dimension (15,30,45)
- **landFrac**  
fraction of AMSU footprint that is land (0.0 -> 1.0), dimension (30,45)
- **landFrac\_err**  
error estimate for landFrac, dimension (30,45)

## L1B HSB Radiance Product

See **V5\_Released\_Proc\_FileDesc.pdf** for a complete description. Please note that values of -9999 (if integer) and -9999.0 (if floating) denote invalid data.

**The geolocation data fields of immediate interest to the user are:**

- **Latitude**  
HSB spot boresight geodetic latitude  
(degrees North, -90->+90), dimension (90,135)
- **Longitude**  
HSB spot boresight geodetic longitude  
(degrees East, -180->+180), dimension (90,135)

**The per-granule data fields of immediate interest to the user are:**

- **center\_freq**  
channel center frequency (GHz), dimension (5)
- **IF\_offset\_1**  
offset of first intermediate frequency stage (MHz)  
(zero for no mixing), dimension (5)
- **IF\_offset\_2**  
offset of second intermediate frequency stage (MHz)  
(zero for no second mixing), dimension (5)
- **Bandwidth**  
bandwidth of sum of 1,2 or 4 channels (MHz),  
dimension (5)
- **NeDT**  
instrument noise level estimated from warm count scatter (5)

## AIRS/AMSU/HSB Version 5 Data Release User Guide

The along-track data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **qa\_scanline**  
Bit field for each scanline (bit 0 set if sun glint in scanline; bit 1 set if costal crossing in scanline, bit 2 set if some channels had excessive NeDT estimated; bit 3 set if near sidelobe correction applied), dimension (135)
- **qa\_receiver**  
Receiver bit field for each scanline (bit 0 set if calibration was not derived due to instrument mode in scanline; bit 1 set if calibration was not derived due to bad or missing PRT values in scanline, bit 2 set if scanline was calibrated but the Moon was in the space view; bit 3 set if scanline was calibrated but there was a space view scan position error; bit 4 set if scanline was calibrated but there was a blackbody view scan position error; bit 5 set if scanline was calibrated but some PRT values were bad or marginal; bit 6 set if scanline calibrated but there was a data gap; bit 7 set if some channels were not calibrated), dimension (135)
- **qa\_channel**  
Bit field by channel for each scanline (bit 0 set if all space view counts bad; bit 1 set if space view counts marginal; bit 2 set if space view counts could not be smoothed; bit 3 set if all blackbody counts bad; bit 4 set if blackbody counts marginal; bit 5 set if blackbody counts could not be smoothed; bit 6 set if most recent calibration coefficients used; bit 7 set if excessive NeDT estimated), dimension (15,135)

The swath data fields of immediate interest to user are:

- **antenna\_temp**  
calibrated, geolocated channel-by-channel HSB observed raw antenna temperature (K), dimension (5,90,135)
- **brightness\_temp**  
calibrated, geolocated channel-by-channel HSB sidelobe-corrected antenna temperature (K). No sidelobe correction applied in V5, so set equal to **antenna\_temp**, dimension (5,90,135)
- **brightness\_temp\_err**  
error estimate for brightness\_temp (K), do not use since no sidelobe correction applied in V5, dimension (5,90,135)
- **landFrac**  
fraction of HSB spot that is land (0.0 -> 1.0), dimension (90,135)
- **landFrac\_err**  
error estimate for landFrac, dimension (90,135)

### L1B AIRS Radiance Product

See **V5\_Released\_ProcFileDesc.pdf** for a complete description. Please note that values of -9999 (if integer) and -9999.0 (if floating) denote invalid data.

Users should consult the appropriate (by date) Calibration Properties File. The channel properties files are named

#### **L1B.cal\_prop.yyyy.mm.dd.v9.5.0.txt**

Here, **yyyy.mm.dd** is the year, month and day of month (i.e., 2005.03.01) on which the calibration properties file supersedes the previous version. The file provides the quality indicators on a per-channel basis. Key indicators are the frequency centroids and widths, NEdT at 250 K and 300 K, spatial centroids, **AB-weight**, **Spec\_qual**, **n3sigma** and **npops**. We recommend that users filter channels by requiring that **Spec\_qual** = 1 (or both 1 and 2) and **npops**  $\leq$  1 and **NEdt250**  $\leq$  1 K.. Users may work out an effective NEdT for any scene temperature from the values quoted at 250 K and 300 K. They may also choose to further filter channels by thresholding on **n3sigma**. Refer to the following documents for additional quality assurance information:

#### **V5\_Selected\_AIRS\_QA\_Fields.pdf**

#### **V5\_L1B\_QA\_Quick\_Start.pdf**

#### **V5\_L2\_Quality\_Control\_and\_Error\_Estimation.pdf**

#### **V5\_L2\_Standard\_Product\_QuickStart.pdf**

The L1B AIRS Radiance Product files contain dynamic quality indicators, on-the-fly estimates of noise and indicators of abnormal behavior by the instrument or algorithms.

**SUGGESTION TO USERS FOR CHOOSING CHANNELS TO USE IN RESEARCH:**

**Evaluate Candidate Channel Spectrally**

- Check the **Spec\_qual** field in appropriate (by date) calibration properties file and avoid using channels for which **Spec\_qual** > 2. A more rigorous test is to require that **Spec\_qual** = 1.

**Evaluate Candidate Channel Radiometrically**

- Check the **NEdT250** field in appropriate (by date) calibration properties file and avoid using channels for which **NEdT250** > 1 K
- Check the **npops** field in the appropriate (by date) calibration properties file and avoid using channels for which **npops** > 1.
- Pick a noise limit and filter out channels exceeding it using dynamic **Min\_NEdT250** and **Max\_NEdT250**.
- Exclude channels having nonzero **CalChanSummary** (a 2378 element attribute in the L1B radiance granules. A zero means the channel was well calibrated for all scanlines in the granule.

**Evaluate Candidate Channel Spatially**

If sensitivity to channel co-registration is a concern:

- Check the X- and Y- centroid fields in the appropriate (by date) calibration properties and avoid using channels with absolute values greater than 0.25 degree, or
- Use the **Sceneinhomogeneous** flag, the **Rdiff\_swindow** and **Rdiff\_lwindow** flags and/or the radiances themselves to restrict data selection to uniform scenes where co-registration is not an issue. All flags are full swath fields, i.e. there is a value for each of the 90x135 AIRS footprints in the L1B radiance granule.

**The geolocation data fields of immediate interest to the user are:**

- **Latitude**  
AIRS spot boresight geodetic latitude  
(degrees North, -90->+90), dimension (90,135)
- **Longitude**  
AIRS spot boresight geodetic longitude  
(degrees East, -180->+180), dimension (90,135)

### The attribute of immediate interest to the user are:

- **CalGranSummary**  
Bit field that is a bitwise OR of **CalScanSummary**. Zero means that all channels with **ExcludedChans** < 3 were well calibrated in the entire granule, dimension (1)

### The per-granule data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **CalChanSummary**  
Bit field that is a bitwise OR of CalFlag by channel over all scanlines. Zero means that channel was well calibrated in the entire granule, dimension (2378)
- **ExcludedChans**  
Bit field (**AB\_state** from the channel properties file) that indicates A/B detector weights and radiometric quality assessment. Should require value to be less than 3, dimension (2378)
- **NeN**  
Noise equivalent radiance for each channel for an assumed 250 K scene (milliWatts/m<sup>2</sup>/cm<sup>-1</sup>/steradian), dimension (2378)
- **nominal\_freq**  
nominal frequencies of each channel (cm<sup>-1</sup>),  
**USE THIS FOR FREQUENCIES**, dimension (2378)
- **spectral\_freq**  
calculated frequencies of each channel (cm<sup>-1</sup>),  
noisy since determined using single granule, dimension (2378)
- **spectral\_freq\_unc**  
uncertainty in calculated frequencies(cm<sup>-1</sup>),  
noisy since determined using single granule, dimension (2378)

### The along-track data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **CalFlag**  
Bit field by channel for each scanline. Zero means the channel was well calibrated, dimension (2378,135)
- **CalScanSummary**  
Bit field that is a bitwise OR over the “good” channel list (i.e., channels with **ExcludedChans** < 2). Zero means that all such channels were well calibrated for a scanline, dimension (135)

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The swath data fields of immediate interest to user are:

- **radiances**  
calibrated, geolocated channel-by-channel AIRS observed infrared spectra ( $\text{milliWatts/m}^2/\text{cm}^{-1}/\text{steradian}$ ), dimension (2378,90,135)
- **landFrac**  
fraction of AIRS spot that is land (0.0 -> 1.0), dimension (90,135)
- **landFrac\_err**  
error estimate for landFrac, dimension (90,135)
- **sun\_glint\_distance**  
distance from AIRS spot center to location of sun glint; -9999 if unknown and 30000 for no glint visible because platform is in the Earth's shadow (km), dimension (90,135)
- **solzen**  
solar zenith angle (degrees, 0->180; daytime if < 85), dimension (90,135)
- **Sceneinhomogeneous**  
flag using band-overlap detectors which is set non-zero if the scene is inhomogeneous as determined by Rdiff\_swindow, Rdiff\_lwindow or Rdiff\_strat, dimension (90,135)
- **Rdiff\_swindow**  
radiance difference in the  $2560 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  window region, used to warn of possible errors caused by scene non-uniformity and misalignment of the beams ( $\text{milliWatts/m}^2/\text{cm}^{-1}/\text{steradian}$ ), dimension (90,135)
- **Rdiff\_lwindow**  
radiance difference in the  $850 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  window region, used to warn of possible errors caused by scene non-uniformity and misalignment of the beams ( $\text{milliWatts/m}^2/\text{cm}^{-1}/\text{steradian}$ ), dimension (90,135)

### L1B Visible/NIR Radiance Product

See [V5\\_Released\\_Proc\\_FileDesc.pdf](#) for a complete description. Please note that values of -9999 (if integer) and -9999.0 (if floating) denote invalid data.

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The geolocation data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **Latitude**  
AIRS spot boresight geodetic latitude  
(degrees North, -90->+90), dimension (90,135)
- **Longitude**  
AIRS spot boresight geodetic longitude  
(degrees East, -180->+180), dimension (90,135)

The attributes of immediate interest to the user are:

- **VISDarkAMSUFOVCount**  
number of AMSU-A footprints in the granule that are uniformly dark in the L1B VIS/NIR and are thus likely to be uniformly clear, dimension (1)
- **VISBrightAMSUFOVCount**  
number of AMSU-A footprints in the granule that are uniformly bright in the L1B VIS/NIR and are thus likely to be uniformly cloudy, dimension (1)

The per-granule data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **gain**  
number of radiance units per count, dimension (9,4)
- **gain\_err**  
error estimate for number of radiance units per count caused by imperfect fit for gain, dimension (9,4)

The along-track data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **NeN**  
noise equivalent radiance for each channel ( $\text{Watts/m}^2/\text{micron/steradian}$ ),  
dimension (9,4,135)

The swath data fields of immediate interest to user are:

- **radiances**  
calibrated, geolocated channel-by-channel radiances for each channel  
( $\text{Watts/m}^2/\text{micron/steradian}$ ), dimension (8,9,4,90,135)

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- **landFrac**  
fraction of AIRS spot that is land (0.0 -> 1.0),  
dimension (90,135)
- **landFrac\_err**  
error estimate for landFrac, dimension (90,135)
- **sun\_glint\_distance**  
distance from AIRS spot center to location of sun glint; -9999 if unknown  
and 30000 for no glint visible because  
platform is in the Earth's shadow (km), dimension (90,135)
- **solzen**  
solar zenith angle (degrees, 0->180; daytime if < 85),  
dimension (90,135)

## L2 Standard Product

See **V5\_Released\_Proc\_FileDesc.pdf** for a complete description. Please note that values of -9999 (if integer) and -9999.0 (if floating) denote invalid data.

Please read the document that discusses the finer points of AIRS products defined on levels, layers, trapezoids, TOA and surface.

### **V5\_L2\_Levels\_Layers\_Trapezoids.pdf**

Please refer to the L2 Quality Control and Error Estimation documentation for a description of the various quality indicators and how they are set.

### **V5\_L2\_Quality\_Control\_and\_Error\_Estimation.pdf**

**The geolocation data fields of immediate interest to the user are:**

- **Latitude**  
FOV boresight geodetic latitude  
(degrees North, -90->+90), dimension (30,45)
- **Longitude**  
FOV boresight geodetic longitude  
(degrees East, -180->+180), dimension (30,45)

**The per-granule data fields of immediate interest to the user are:**

- **pressStd**  
standard pressure (mb) for each of 28 levels in atmosphere associated with temperature, moisture and ozone profiles. **The array order is from the surface upward, in conformance with WMO standard.** Note that topography may place some of these levels below the surface, dimension (28)
- **MWHingeSurfFreqGHz**  
frequencies in GHz for MW Surface parameters, dimension (7)

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The swath data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

See the extensive discussion in

**V5\_L2\_Standard\_Product\_QuickStart.pdf**

### L2 Cloud-Cleared Radiance Product

See **V5\_Released\_Proc\_FileDesc.pdf** for a complete description. Please note that values of -9999 (if integer) and -9999.0 (if floating) denote invalid data.

### **SUGGESTION TO USERS FOR CHOOSING DATA TO USE IN RESEARCH:**

Evaluate candidate channel as described for AIRS L1B Radiance Product

Evaluate **Qual\_CC\_Rad** for FOV

- Researchers should use radiances only from FOVs in which **Qual\_CC\_Rad = 0**
- FOVs in which **Qual\_CC\_Rad = 1** may be sufficiently accurate for statistical studies, but results should be carefully checked
- FOVs in which **Qual\_CC\_Rad = 2** must be avoided

The geolocation data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **Latitude**  
FOV boresight geodetic latitude  
(degrees North, -90->+90), dimension (30,45)
- **Longitude**  
FOV boresight geodetic longitude  
(degrees East, -180->+180), dimension (30,45)

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The attribute of immediate interest to the user are:

- **CalGranSummary**  
Bit field that is a bitwise OR of **CalScanSummary**. Zero means that all “good” channels were well calibrated in the entire granule, dimension (1)

The per-granule data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **CalChanSummary**  
Bit field that is a bitwise OR of **CalFlag** by channel over all scanlines. Zero means that channel was well calibrated in the entire granule, dimension (2378)
- **ExcludedChans**  
Bit field that indicates A/B detector weights, dimension (2378)
- **NeN**  
Noise equivalent radiance for each channel for an assumed 250 K scene (milliWatts/m<sup>2</sup>/cm<sup>-1</sup>/steradian), dimension (2378)
- **nominal\_freq**  
nominal frequencies of each channel (cm<sup>-1</sup>), dimension (2378)
- **NeN\_L1B**  
Level 1B noise equivalent radiances for an assumed 250 K scene. Note that effective noise on cloud-cleared radiances will be modified (milliWatts/m<sup>2</sup>/cm<sup>-1</sup>/steradian), dimension (2378)

The along-track data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **CalFlag**  
Bit field by channel for each scanline. Zero means the channel was well calibrated, dimension (2378,45)
- **CalScanSummary**  
Bit field that is a bitwise OR over the good channel list (i.e., channels not in ExcludedChans). Zero means that all “good” channels were well calibrated for a scanline, dimension (45)

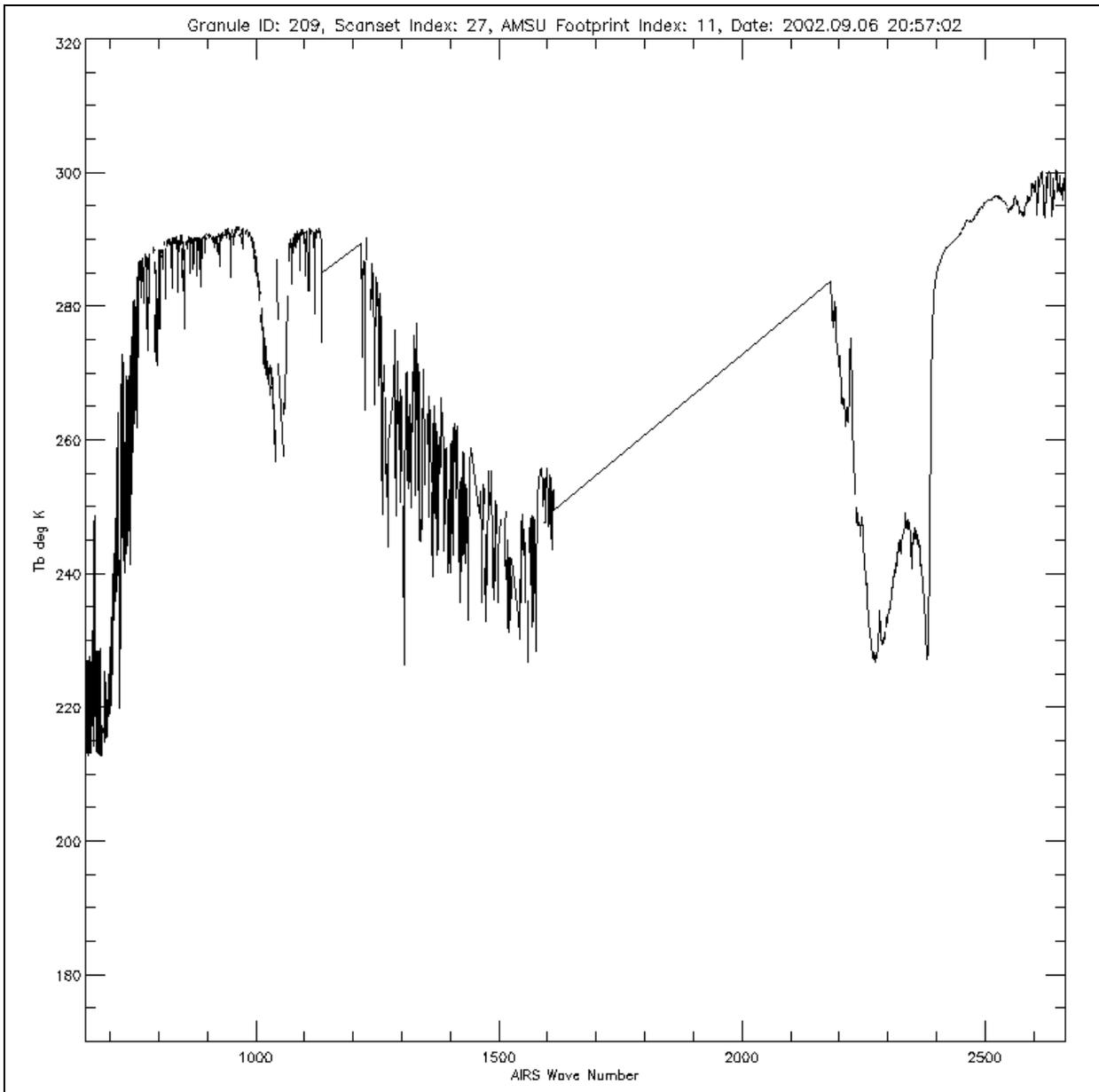
The swath data fields of immediate interest to user are:

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- **Qual\_CC\_Rad**  
overall quality flag for cloud-cleared radiances. 0 indicates highest quality; 1 indicates good quality; 2 means do not use, dimension (30,45)
- **radiances**  
cloud-cleared channel-by-channel observed infrared spectra that would have been observed over FOV in absence of clouds (milliWatts/m<sup>2</sup>/cm<sup>-1</sup>/steradian), dimension (2378,30,45)
- **radiance\_err**  
error estimate for radiances (milliWatts/m<sup>2</sup>/cm<sup>-1</sup>/steradian), dimension (2378,30,45)
- **CldClearParam**  
cloud-clearing parameter eta, dimension (3,3,30,45)
- **landFrac**  
fraction of FOV that is land (0.0 -> 1.0), dimension (30,45)
- **landFrac\_err**  
error estimate for landFrac, dimension (30,45)
- **sun\_glint\_distance**  
distance from FOV center to location of sun glint; -9999 if unknown and 30000 for no glint visible because platform is in the Earth's shadow (km), dimension (30,45)
- **solzen**  
solar zenith angle (degrees, 0->180; daytime if < 85), dimension (30,45)
- **scanang**  
scanning angle of AIRS instrument with respect to the spacecraft for this FOV, negative at start of scan and zero at nadir (degrees, -180->180), dimension (30,45)

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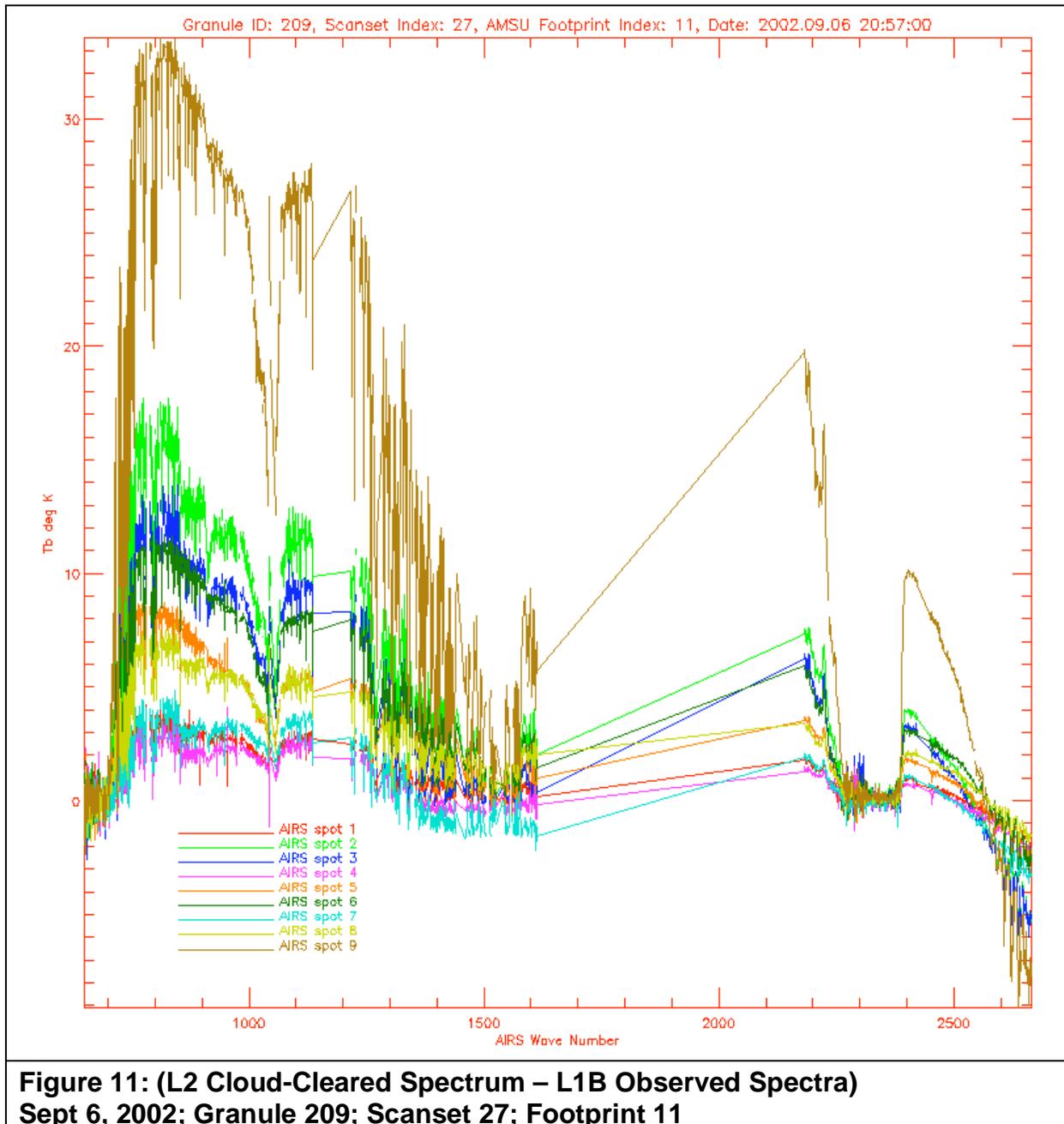
Figure 10 shows the AIRS Level 2 cloud-cleared radiance spectrum (**radiances**) from the example FOV converted to brightness temperature. These data contained in the L2 Cloud-Cleared Radiance Product.



**Figure 10: Level 2 Cloud-Cleared Infrared Radiance Spectrum (AIRS)  
Sept 6, 2002; Granule 209; Scanset 27; Footprint 11**

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Figure 11 illustrates the magnitude of the difference between the final Level 2 cloud-cleared radiance spectrum reported for the example FOV and the nine observed L1B AIRS radiance spectra. The bulk of this difference is due to the effect of clouds, which is removed during the Level 2 processing. The cloudiest AIRS footprint was spot #9 (color-coded in Figures 2,4,5 and 8 by brown). The least cloudy was spot #4 (color-coded in Figures 2,4,5 and 8 by magenta).



### L2 Support Product

See **V5\_Released\_Proc\_FileDesc.pdf** for a complete description. Please note that values of -9999 (if integer) and -9999.0 (if floating) denote invalid data. General users are urged to order the L2 Standard Product. The L2 Support Product is intended for the knowledgeable, experienced user of AIRS products. It contains high-resolution profiles to be used for computation of radiances, as-yet unimplemented research products and various parameters and intermediate results used to evaluate and track the progress of the retrieval algorithm.

Please read the document that discusses the finer points of AIRS products defined on levels, layers, trapezoids, TOA and surface:

#### **V5\_L2\_Levels\_Layers\_Trapezoids.pdf**

The geolocation data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **Latitude**  
FOV boresight geodetic latitude  
(degrees North, -90->+90), dimension (30,45)
- **Longitude**  
FOV boresight geodetic longitude  
(degrees East, -180->+180), dimension (30,45)

The per-granule data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **pressSupp**  
support pressure (mb) for each of 100 levels in atmosphere associated with temperature, moisture and ozone profiles. **The array order is from the top of atmosphere downward.** This is the reverse of **pressStd** ordering. Note that topography may place some of these levels below the surface, dimension (100)

The swath data fields that are not part of the L2 Standard Product and may be of interest to the user are:

- **PsurfStd**  
first guess surface pressure, interpolated from forecast and mean topography of FOV (mb), dimension (30,45)
- **nSurfSup**  
index of first pressure level above the mean surface (90, ..., 100), dimension (30,45)
- **TAirSup**  
retrieved atmospheric temperature profile (K) at the **pressSupp** pressures. Array values below the surface (index < **nSurfStd**) are not physically meaningful. In particular, the first level below the surface contains an extrapolated value. Always check **nSurfSup** to identify where extrapolated values begin. The surface value (at **PsurfStd**) must be calculated by interpolating in the log(pressure) domain between this value and the value in the next level up (index = **nSurfSup**-1), dimension (100,30,45)
- **TAirMWOnly**  
MW-only retrieved atmospheric temperature profile (K), dimension (100,30,45)
- **H2OCDSup**  
Retrieved layer column water vapor (molecules/cm<sup>-2</sup>). The layer corresponding to value **H2OCDSup**(index) is bounded by **pressSupp**(index) at the bottom and **pressSupp**(index-1) at the top. Array values below the surface (index < **nSurfStd**) are not physically meaningful. In particular, the first level below the surface contains an extrapolated value. Always check **nSurfSup** to identify where extrapolated values begin. The surface value (at **PsurfStd**) must be calculated by interpolating in the log(pressure) domain between this value and the value in the next level up (index = **nSurfSup**-1), dimension (100,30,45)
- **H2OCDMWOnly**  
**layer-averaged** MW-only retrieved column water vapor, dimension (100,30,45)
- **lwCDSup**  
Retrieved layer column cloud liquid water (molecules/cm<sup>-2</sup>). The layer corresponding to value **lwCDSup**(index) is bounded by **pressSupp**(index) at the bottom and **pressSupp**(index-1) at the top. Array values below the surface (index < **nSurfStd**) are not physically meaningful. In particular, the first level below the surface contains an extrapolated value. Always check **nSurfSup** to identify where extrapolated values begin. The surface value (at **PsurfStd**) must be

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calculated by interpolating in the log(pressure) domain between this value and the value in the next level up (index = **nSurfSup**-1), dimension (100,30,45)

- **O3CDSup**  
Retrieved layer column ozone (molecules/cm<sup>2</sup>). The layer corresponding to value **O3CDSup**(index) is bounded by **pressSupp**(index) at the bottom and **pressSupp**(index-1) at the top. Array values below the surface (index < **nSurfStd**) are not physically meaningful. In particular, the first level below the surface contains an extrapolated value. Always check **nSurfSup** to identify where extrapolated values begin. The surface value (at **PsurfStd**) must be calculated by interpolating in the log(pressure) domain between this value and the value in the next level up (index = **nSurfSup**-1), dimension (100,30,45)

### Level 3 Data Products

See **V5\_Released\_Proc\_FileDesc.pdf** for a complete description.. Please note that values of -9999 (if integer) and -9999.0 (if float) or a count of 0 indicate invalid or missing data.

#### The location data fields of immediate interest to the user are:

- **Latitude**  
geodetic latitude of center of grid box  
(degrees north, -90. to +90.), dimension (360,180)
- **Longitude**  
geodetic longitude of center of grid box  
(degrees East, -180. to +180.), dimension (360,180)
- **LandSeaMask**  
unitless, (1 = land, 0 = ocean), dimension (360,180)
- **Topography**  
height of surface above the geoid (meters) (360,180)

Note: the grid box resolution on the surface of the Earth is 1°x1°  
the upper left point corresponds to -180.0, 90.0  
the lower right point corresponds to 180.0, -90.0  
the projection is GCTP-GEO

#### The attributes of immediate interest to the user are:

- **NumOfDays**  
total number of days of input Level 2 data included in gridded maps.
- **AscendingGridStartTimeUTC**  
begin time of mapped fields (UTC), ascending.
- **AscendingGridEndTimeUTC**  
end time of mapped fields (UTC), ascending.
- **DescendingGridStartTimeUTC**  
begin time of mapped fields (UTC), descending.
- **DescendingGridEndTimeUTC**  
end time of mapped fields (UTC), descending.
- **TempPresLvls**  
standard pressure (mb) for each of 24 levels in the atmosphere associated with temperature profiles and geopotential height. The array order is from

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the surface upward, in conformance with WMO standard. Note that the Level-3 pressure levels are a subset of Level-2 pressure levels and are constrained to begin at 1000.0 mb and end at 1.0 mb

- **H2OpresLvls**  
standard pressure (mb) for each of 12 layers in the atmosphere associated with AIRS Level-3 water vapor profiles. The array order is from surface upward in accordance with the WMO standard. Note that Level-3 pressure levels for water vapor are constrained to be between 1000.0 and 100.0 mb.
- **IREmisFreqs**  
Frequencies for emissivities reported in the AIRS Level-3 product in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$
- **MWEmisFreqs**  
Frequencies for microwave emissivity products reported in AIRS Level-3 in GHz.
- **CH4\_TrapezoidLayers**  
Layers on which the methane values reported in the AIRS Level-3 product are defined.
- **CO\_TrapezoidLayers**  
Layers on which the carbon monoxide values reported in the AIRS Level-3 product are defined.

### The ascending and descending grid fields are:

- **TotalCounts\_A, TotalCounts\_D**  
The total counts of non-missing (-9999) points that fell within grid cell, whether included in the final L3 product or not. Used for QC, dimension (360,180).
- **Temperature\_A, Temperature\_D**  
Atmospheric temperature profile (K) at 24 standard pressure levels: 1000-1 mb., dimension (360,180,24)
- **GPHeight\_A, GPHeight\_D**  
Geopotential height (meters) at 24 standard pressure levels: 1000-1 mb., dimension (360,180,24)
- **H2OVapMMR\_A, H2OVapMMR\_D**  
Water vapor mass mixing ratio (gm/kg dry air) at 12 layers: 1000 - 100 mb, dimension (360,180,12)
- **RelHumid\_A, RelHumid\_D**  
Relative humidity (percent) at 12 layers: 1000 - 100 mb, dimension (360,180,12)
- **TotO3\_A, TotO3\_D**  
total integrated column ozone burden (Dobson Units), dimension (360,180)

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- **TotH2OVap\_A, TotH2OVap\_D**  
total integrated column water vapor burden ( $\text{kg/m}^2$ ), dimension (360, 180)
- **SurfPres\_A, SurfPres\_D**  
Mean surface pressure (mb), dimension(360,180).
- **TotCldLiqH2O\_A, TotCldLiqH2O\_D**  
Total integrated column cloud liquid water ( $\text{kg/m}^2$ ), dimension (360,180)
- **SurfAirTemp\_A, SurfAirTemp\_D**  
Surface air temperature (K), dimension (360,180)
- **SurfSkinTemp\_A, SurfSkinTemp\_D**  
Surface skin temperature (K), dimension(360,180)
- **CloudTopPress\_A, Cloud\_Top\_Press\_D**  
Combined cloud top pressure (mb) weighted by cloud fraction, dimension (360,180)
- **CloudFrc\_A, CloudFrc\_D**  
Combined layer cloud fraction (unitless), dimension(360,180)
- **OLR\_A, OLR\_D**  
Outgoing long-wave radiation flux ( $\text{watts/m}^2$ ), dimension (360,180)
- **OLR\_clear\_A, OLR\_clear\_D**  
Clear-sky outgoing long-wave radiation flux ( $\text{watts/m}^2$ ), dimension(360,180)
- **EmisIR\_A, EmisIR\_D**  
IR surface emissivity (unitless) on a frequency grid (832, 961, 1203,  $2616 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), dimension(360,180,4)
- **CO\_total\_column\_A, CO\_total\_column\_D**  
retrieved total column carbon monoxide ( $\text{molecules/cm}^2$ ), dimension (360, 180)
- **CH4\_VMR\_eff\_A, CH4\_VMR\_eff\_D**  
effective methane volume mixing ratio for three trapezoids layers (ppm), dimension (360, 180, 3)
- **CO\_VMR\_eff\_A, CO\_VMR\_eff\_D**  
effective carbon monoxide volume mixing ratio for seven trapezoid layers (ppm), dimension (360, 180, 7)
- **CO\_dof\_A, CO\_dof\_D**  
measure of the amount of information in the carbon monoxide retrieval (degrees of freedom), dimension (360, 180)
- **CO\_Verticality\_A, CO\_verticality\_D**  
sum of carbon monoxide averaging kernels at 7 trapezoidal layers (unitless), dimension (360, 180, 7)
- **CH4\_dof\_A, CH4\_dof\_D**  
measure of the amount of information in the methane retrieval (degrees of freedom), dimension (360, 180)
- **CoarseCloudFcd\_A, CoarseCloudFrc\_D**  
cloud fraction at coarse cloud resolution, 3 layers: low, middle, high.

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Where low is between 1100-680 hPa, middle is between 680-440 hPa and high is 440-10 hPa (unitless), dimension (360, 180, 3)

- **CoarseCloudTemp\_A, CoarseCloudTemp\_D**  
cloud top temperature at coarse cloud resolution (Kelvin), dimension (360, 180, 3)
- **CoarseCloudPres\_A, CoarseCloudPres\_D**  
cloud layer pressure in coarse cloud resolution (hPa), dimension (360, 180, 3)
- **FineCloudFrc\_A, FineCloudFrc\_D**  
cloud fraction at fine resolution at 12 vertical layers (unitless), dimension (360, 180, 12)
- **TropPres\_A, TropPres\_D**  
pressure of the tropopause (hPa), dimension (360, 180)
- **TropHeight\_A, TropHeight\_D**  
height of the tropopause (meters), dimension (360, 180)
- **TropTemp\_A, TropTemp\_D**  
temperature at the tropopause (Kelvin), dimension (360, 180)
- **RelHumidLiq\_A, RelHumidLiq\_D**  
liquid water mass mixing ratio at 12 vertical layers, dimension (360, 180, 12)

The ascending\_MW\_only and descending\_MW\_only grid fields are:

- **TotalCounts\_A, TotalCounts\_D**  
The total counts of non-missing (-9999) points that fell within grid cell, whether included in the final L3 product or not. Used for QC, dimension (360,180).
- **Temperature\_MW\_A, Temperature\_MW\_D**  
Atmospheric temperature profile (K) measured by AMSU at 24 standard pressure levels: 1000.0 - 1.0 mb, dimension(360,180,24)
- **GPHeight\_MW\_A, GPHeight\_MW\_D**  
Geopotential height (meters) at standard pressure levels: 1000 - 1 mb, dimension (360,180,24)
- **EmisMW\_MW\_A, EmisMW\_MW\_D**  
MW spectral emissivity (unitless) on a frequency grid (23.8, 50.3, & 89.0 GHz), dimension (360,180,3)
- **TotH2O\_Vap\_MW\_A, TotH2O\_Vap\_MW\_D**  
Total integrated column water vapor burden ( $\text{kg/m}^2$ ), dimension (360,180).

## ***Sample Data Readers***

### **IDL-Based Data Readers**

The AIRS Project releases to the broad scientific community sample data readers written in Interactive Data Language (IDL) to facilitate user community use of data products. IDL is an array-oriented data analysis and visualization environment developed and marketed by Research Systems, Incorporated (RSI) of Boulder, Colorado.

The user community must realize that the AIRS Project does not have the resources to support consultation on these readers. They are being provided as an aid to give the user community a leg up in using the data. There is no commitment to provide assistance to the broad user community beyond the release of these readers.

#### **read\_airs\_swath.pro**

The IDL procedure to read AIRS L1B and L2 Product files written in HDF-EOS swath format is provided in the file:

#### **read\_airs\_swath.pro**

#### **FUNCTION NAME:**

read\_airs\_swath.pro

#### **USAGE:**

```
status = read_airs_swath(filename,  
content_flag,buffer,[content_list=content_list],[swathname=swathname])
```

#### **INPUT ARGUMENTS:**

- **filename** - The fully qualified path to a Level 1B or Level 2 HDF-EOS swath data file.
- **content\_flag** - An integer that specifies the type of data to be extracted, as follows:
  - 0 - an array of the names of all data swaths in the file.
  - 1 - names and values of specified swath's dimension parameters.
  - 2 - names and values of specified swath's attribute parameters.

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- 3 - names and values of specified swath's data field parameters,
- 4 - an array of the data field names within a specified swath.
- **content\_list** [OPTIONAL] - An array of text strings which are the names of specific parameters that will be extracted per the content flag choice (Choices 1-3 only). If content\_list is left unspecified, the function will retrieve the content on ALL items in the category specified by the content\_flag.
- **swathname** [OPTIONAL] - A single text expression which is the exact name of the data swath to be extracted from the granule file. If swathname is left unspecified and there is only one data swath in a file, that swath will automatically be used.

HINT: Run this function with the content\_flag=0 option first if you suspect that there are more than one data swath in a granule file. AIRS L1B and L2 Data Products have only one swath in each granule file.

### OUTPUTS:

- standard success code, stored in **status** in the USAGE description above
  - 0 = success
  - -1 = failure.
- **buffer** - This is a general-purpose data buffer. When content\_flag=0 or 4, "buffer" is a single text expression. When the other content\_flag options are used, buffer is an IDL structure which has the results expressed as buffer.<item\_name> and buffer.<item\_value>. HINT: To query these results, type "help,buffer,/struct" after running this function.

### HOW TO USE:

See [README\\_Swath\\_Reader\\_IDL.txt](#)

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### read\_airs\_grid.pro

The IDL procedure to read L3 Product files written in HDF-EOS grid format is provided in the file:

### read\_airs\_grid.pro

#### FUNCTION NAME:

read\_airs\_grid.pro

#### USAGE:

```
status = read_airs_grid(filename,  
content_flag,buffer,[content_list=content_list],[gridname=gridname])
```

#### INPUT ARGUMENTS:

- **filename** - The fully qualified path to a Level 3 HDF-EOS grid data file.
- **content\_flag** - An integer that specifies the type of data to be extracted, as follows:
  - 0 - an array of the names of all data grids in the file.
  - 1 - names and values of specified grid's dimension parameters.
  - 2 - names and values of specified grid's attribute parameters.
  - 3 - names and values of specified grid's data field parameters.
  - 4 - an array of the data field names within a specified grid.
- **content\_list** [OPTIONAL] - An array of text strings which are the names of specific parameters that will be extracted per the content flag choice (Choices 1-3 only). If content\_list is left unspecified, the function will retrieve the content on ALL items in the category specified by the content\_flag.
- **gridname** [OPTIONAL] - A single text expression which is the exact name of the data grid to be extracted from the granule file. If gridname is left unspecified and there is only one data grid in a file, that grid will automatically be used.

HINT: Run this function with the content\_flag=0 option first if you suspect that there are more than one data grid in a granule file. AIRS L3 Data Products have four swaths in each granule file.

#### OUTPUTS:

- standard success code, stored in **status** in the USAGE description above
  - 0 = success
  - -1 = failure.

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- **buffer** - This is a general-purpose data buffer. When the `content_flag=0` or 4, 'buffer' is a single text expression. When the other `content_flag` options are used, buffer is an IDL structure which has the results expressed as `buffer.<item_name>` and `buffer.<item_value>`. HINT: To query these results, type "help,buffer,/struct" after running this function.

### HOW TO USE:

See [README\\_Grid\\_Reader\\_IDL.txt](#)

### MATLAB-Based Data Readers

The AIRS Project releases to the broad scientific community sample data readers written in MATLAB to facilitate user community use of data products. MATLAB is an array-oriented data analysis and visualization environment developed and marketed by The MathWorks of Natick, Massachusetts.

The user community must realize that the AIRS Project does not have the resources to support consultation on these readers. They are being provided as an aid to give the user community a leg up in using the data. There is no commitment to provide assistance to the broad user community beyond the release of these readers.

#### **read\_L12\_swath\_file.m**

The MATLAB procedure to read L1B and L2 Product files written in HDF-EOS swath format is provided in the file:

**read\_airs\_swath.m**

#### **FUNCTION NAME:**

`read_airs_swath.m`

#### **USAGE:**

```
buffer = read_airs_swath(filename,  
content_flag,[content_list],[swathname])
```

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### INPUT ARGUMENTS:

- **filename** - The fully qualified path to a Level 1B or Level 2 HDF-EOS swath data file.
- **content\_flag** - An integer that specifies the type of data to be extracted, as follows:
  - 0 - an array of the names of all data swaths in the file.
  - 1 - names and values of specified swath's dimension parameters.
  - 2 - names and values of specified swath's attribute parameters.
  - 3 - names and values of specified swath's data field parameters,
  - 4 - an array of the data field names within a specified swath.
- **content\_list** [OPTIONAL] - A cell array of text strings which are the names of specific parameters that will be extracted per the content flag choice (Choices 1-3 only). If content\_list is left unspecified, the function will retrieve the content on ALL items in the category specified by the content\_flag.
- **swathname** [OPTIONAL] - A single text expression which is the exact name of the data swath to be extracted from the granule file. If swathname is left unspecified and there is only one data swath in a file, that swath will automatically be used.

HINT: Run this function with the content\_flag=0 option first if you suspect that there are more than one data swath in a granule file. AIRS L1B and L2 Data Products have only one swath in each granule file.

### OUTPUTS:

- **buffer** - This is a general-purpose data buffer. When the content\_flag=0 or 4, 'buffer' is a comma-delimited text string showing the names of the swaths present in the granule file. When the other content\_flag options are used, buffer is a MATLAB data structure in which the results are expressed as buffer.<item\_name> and buffer.<item\_value>. HINT: To query these results, type "buffer" after running this function.

### HOW TO USE:

See [README\\_Swath\\_Reader\\_MATLAB.txt](#)

### read\_airs\_grid.m

The MATLAB procedure to read L3 Product files written in HDF-EOS grid format is provided in the file:

### read\_airs\_grid.m

#### FUNCTION NAME:

read\_airs\_grid.m

#### USAGE:

buffer = read\_airs\_grid(filename, content\_flag,[content\_list],[gridname])

#### INPUT ARGUMENTS:

- **filename** - The fully qualified path to a Level 3 HDF-EOS grid data file.
- **content\_flag** - An integer that specifies the type of data to be extracted, as follows:
  - 0 - an array of the names of all data grids in the file.
  - 1 - names and values of specified grid's dimension parameters.
  - 2 - names and values of specified grid's attribute parameters.
  - 3 - names and values of specified grid's data field parameters,
  - 4 - an array of the data field names within a specified grid.
- **content\_list** [OPTIONAL] - A cell array of text strings which are the names of specific parameters that will be extracted per the content flag choice (Choices 1-3 only). If content\_list is left unspecified, the function will retrieve the content on ALL items in the category specified by the content\_flag.
- **swathname** [OPTIONAL] - A single text expression which is the exact name of the data grid to be extracted from the granule file. If gridname is left unspecified and there is only one data grid in a file, that grid will automatically be used.

HINT: Run this function with the content\_flag=0 option first if you suspect that there are more than one data grid in a granule file. AIRS L3 Data Products have four swaths in each granule file.

#### OUTPUTS:

- **buffer** - This is a general-purpose data buffer. When the content\_flag=0 or 4, "buffer" is a comma-delimited text string showing the names of the grids present in the granule file. When the other content\_flag options are used, buffer is a MATLAB data structure in which the results are

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expressed as buffer.<item\_name> and buffer.<item\_value>. HINT: To query these results, type "buffer" after running this function.

### **HOW TO USE:**

**See README\_Grid\_Reader\_MATLAB.txt**

### **FORTRAN and C Data Readers**

The AIRS Project releases to the broad scientific community sample data readers written in FORTRAN and C to facilitate user community use of data products.

The user community must realize that the AIRS Project does not have the resources to support consultation on these readers. They are being provided as an aid to give the user community a leg up in using the data. There is no commitment to provide assistance to the broad user community beyond the release of these readers.

Note that AIRS products are in HDF4 format. To use the FORTRAN and C readers, the user must also download the HDF-EOS2 Library built on HDF4. The URL where this library may be accessed is:

[http://hdfeos.net/software.php#PGS\\_Toolkit](http://hdfeos.net/software.php#PGS_Toolkit)

### **SUMMARY OF MODULES:**

**See README\_FORTRAN\_C.txt**

Examples input and output are included.

## **Acronyms**

<b>ADPUPA</b>	Automatic Data Processing Upper Air (radiosonde reports)
<b>AIRS</b>	Atmospheric infraRed Sounder
<b>AMSU</b>	Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit
<b>DAAC</b>	Distributed Active Archive Center
<b>DISC</b>	Data and Information Services Center
<b>DN</b>	Data Number
<b>ECMWF</b>	European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (UK)
<b>ECS</b>	EOSDIS Core System
<b>EDOS</b>	Earth Observing System Data and Operations System
<b>EOS</b>	Earth Observing System
<b>EOSDIS</b>	Earth Observing System Data and Information System
<b>ESDT</b>	Earth Science Data Type
<b>EU</b>	Engineering Unit
<b>FOV</b>	Field of View
<b>GDAAC</b>	Goddard Space Flight Center Distributed Active Archive Center
<b>GES</b>	Goddard Earth Sciences
<b>GSFC</b>	Goddard Space Flight Center
<b>HDF</b>	Hierarchical Data Format
<b>HSB</b>	Humidity Sounder for Brazil
<b>L1A</b>	Level 1A Data
<b>L1B</b>	Level 1B Data
<b>L2</b>	Level 2 Data
<b>L3</b>	Level 3 Data
<b>LGID</b>	Local Granule IDentification
<b>MW</b>	Microwave
<b>NCEP</b>	National Centers for Environmental Prediction
<b>NESDIS</b>	National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service
<b>NIR</b>	Near Infrared
<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>PGE</b>	Product Generation Executive
<b>PGS</b>	Product Generation System
<b>PREPQC</b>	NCEP quality controlled final observation data
<b>QA</b>	Quality Assessment
<b>RTA</b>	Radiative Transfer Algorithm
<b>SPS</b>	Science Processing System

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<b>URL</b>	Universal Reference Link
<b>VIS</b>	Visible
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization