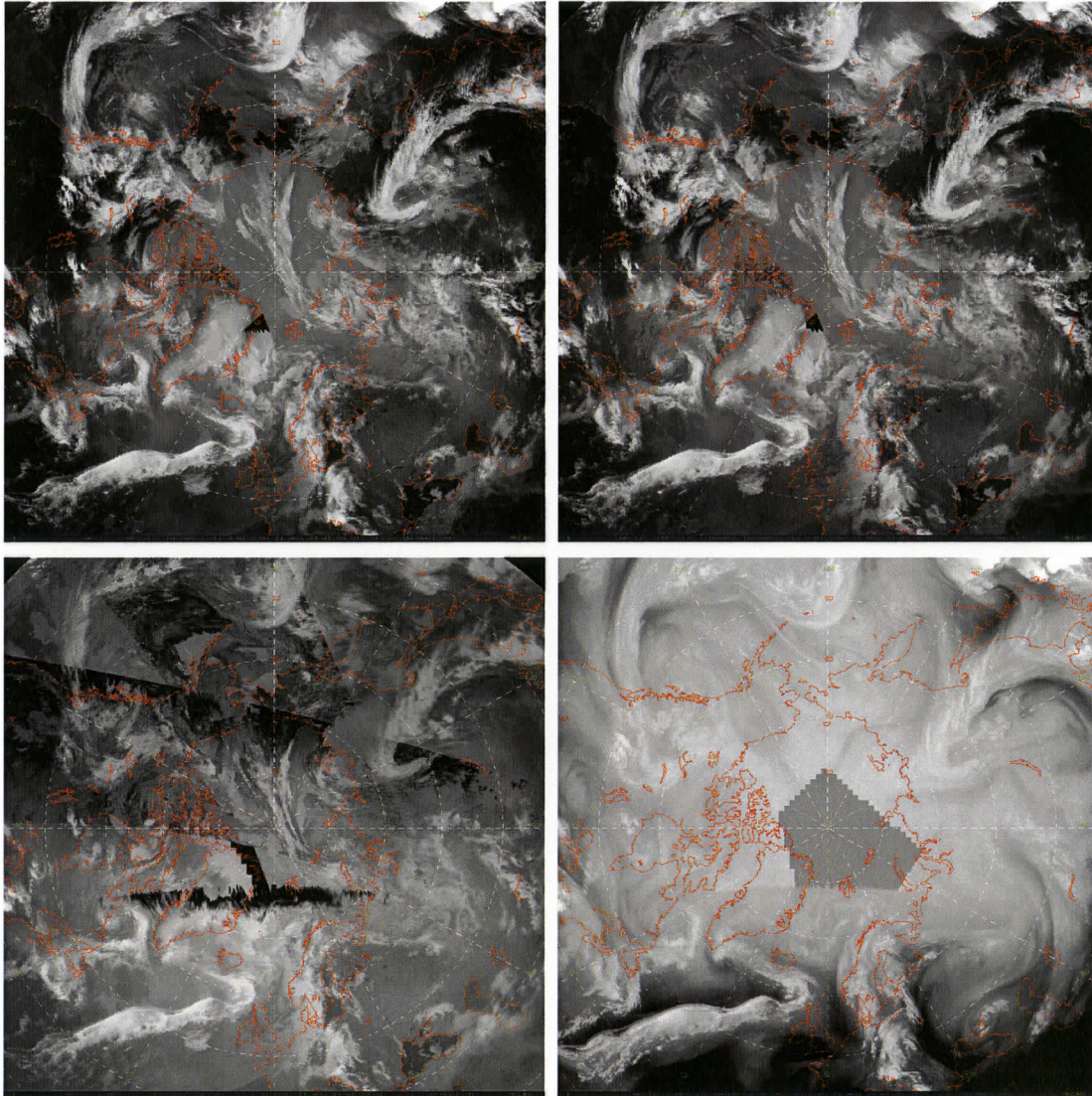


*Arctic Composite Annual Project Report: NSF-OPP Grant #ARC-0713843, September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009*

## Arctic Satellite Composite Project

*An Annual Report to the Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation*



Dr. Matthew A. Lazzara, Principal Investigator  
Shelley L. Knuth, co-Principal Investigator

Space Science and Engineering Center  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Submitted on August 17, 2009



**Annual Report for Period:**09/2008 - 08/2009

**Submitted on:** 08/17/2009

**Principal Investigator:** Lazzara, Matthew A.

**Award ID:** 0713843

**Organization:** U of Wisconsin Madison

**Submitted By:**

**Title:**

Arctic Satellite Composite Project

**Project Participants**

**Senior Personnel**

**Name:** Lazzara, Matthew

**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No

**Contribution to Project:**

Dr. Matthew Lazzara, Principal Investigator, oversees the Arctic satellite composite project. He developed the method that creates the Arctic Satellite Composites, specifically working on the infrared composites. He has also given presentations on the project.

**Name:** Knuth, Shelley

**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No

**Contribution to Project:**

Shelley Knuth has worked on the initial development of the Arctic Water Vapor Composite Satellite imagery, and has followed with developing shortwave and longwave infrared composite imagery. She has also given presentations on the effort.

**Post-doc**

**Graduate Student**

**Undergraduate Student**

**Name:** Schroeder, Nicole

**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** No

**Contribution to Project:**

Nicole has worked on generating time series of composite imagery for community use, animation creation, etc.

**Technician, Programmer**

**Other Participant**

**Research Experience for Undergraduates**

**Organizational Partners**

**Other Collaborators or Contacts**

Owen Cooper, NOAA CIRES

Tom Yoksas, Unidata

Activities and Findings

**Research and Education Activities: (See PDF version submitted by PI at the end of the report)**

Project Development/Activities (September 2008 to August 2009):  
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- \* Completed development of water vapor composite
- \* Development of long wave infrared composite
- \* Development of short wave infrared composite

Presentations/Conference:  
-----

Presentation at the American Meteorological Society's 10th Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography:

M.A. Lazzara, and S.L. Knuth, 2009: Arctic Satellite Composite Observations: A New Perspective. Tenth Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography, 18-21 May, Madison, WI.

Project Development/Activities (September 2007 to August 2008):  
-----

- \* Development of IR composite
- \* Initial Development of WV composite
- \* Initial Development of the Arctic composite web site/portal

Presentations and Conferences:  
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Colloquium at U. Toronto Department of Atmospheric Physics (Lazzara)

Presentation at IASC-SCAR in St. Petersburg (Knuth)

Poster at First Workshop on Satellite Imaging of the Arctic (in absentia)

**Findings: (See PDF version submitted by PI at the end of the report)**

Findings (2009):  
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This past year, the Arctic composite project has seen growth in the development of composites in two additional spectral channels, the shortwave infrared (~3.8 microns) and long wave infrared (~12.0 microns) in addition to the completion of the water vapor channel (~6.7 microns). All of these composite and the infrared window channel (~11.0 micron) composite continue to be produced in real-time.

The first year of this project had the composite trailed by two Arctic field programs, POLARCAT and ARCTAS. The second year of the project has seen not only the development of additional composites, but the initiation of having the composites made available to the Unidata community for broader use by the university and college

users. Future years will be a more complete availability of the composites from the server systems at the University of Wisconsin, as well as testing out an application of the composites, following in the foot-steps of the AMRC sister Antarctic composite project. Additionally, avenues of longer-term operational adoption of this project will be explored in the coming year.

Findings (2008):

See attached brief report on the project (2008).

**Training and Development:**

The project has given Ms. Knuth the opportunity to understand at a greater depth the satellite compositing process.

In addition, we have included an undergraduate student, Ms. Schroeder, working on the project, learning about the satellite composites as she works on building time series of composites for community use.

**Outreach Activities:**

The Arctic composite project's sister projects, the Antarctic Automatic Weather Station (AWS) Program, and Antarctic Meteorological Research Center (AMRC) have an established grassroots education outreach effort, of which this project is benefiting from.

Presentations to schools, the general public, and beyond have been a part of the activities over the past year. A sample include:

General Public:

- \* SSEC Public Tours, UW-Madison, Madison, WI (multiple tours, including University of Wisconsin Science Expeditions/Open House)
- Deerfield Cub Scouts, Deerfield, WI

University/College:

- \* Madison Area Technical College, Madison, WI

Middle School:

- Lodi Middle School, Lodi, WI

Elementary School:

- \* Deerfield Elementary School, Deerfield, WI (3 visits)

**Journal Publications**

**Books or Other One-time Publications**

### Web/Internet Site

**URL(s):**

<http://amrc.ssec.wisc.edu/arctic>

**Description:**

This web site hosts real-time Arctic composite imagery, both infrared and water vapor channels. Multiple sizes of the imagery are offered, as well as animations of the last 24 hours of imagery.

### Other Specific Products

**Product Type:**

**Data or databases**

**Product Description:**

Arctic composite satellite imagery: Infrared and Water Vapor satellite imagery from both geostationary and polar orbiting satellites are combined into a single view center on the Arctic. Additional spectral channels have been added in the second year, including shortwave infrared and long wave infrared composites.

**Sharing Information:**

This data is or will be made available via the following avenues:

- Web Site
- FTP Site
- McIDAS ADDE Server
- LDM/IDD

Additional avenues will be added and explored including Metadata via DIF with the NASA Global Change Master Directory and the National Snow and Ice Data Center. Future efforts will include raising community awareness of this data set.

### Contributions

**Contributions within Discipline:**

Initial early contributions of this project include aiding in the field efforts by the POLARCAT and ARCTAS projects.

At the end of the second year, the composites are beginning the distribution to the Unidata community for utilization in university and college classrooms.

**Contributions to Other Disciplines:**

**Contributions to Human Resource Development:**

This project is partially supporting an undergraduate student (Ms. Nicole Schroeder) in the Department of Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, assisting the project with generating time series of composites for community use, animations, etc.

**Contributions to Resources for Research and Education:**

**Contributions Beyond Science and Engineering:**

### Conference Proceedings

Special Requirements

Special reporting requirements: None

Change in Objectives or Scope: None

Animal, Human Subjects, Biohazards: None

Categories for which nothing is reported:

Organizational Partners

Any Journal

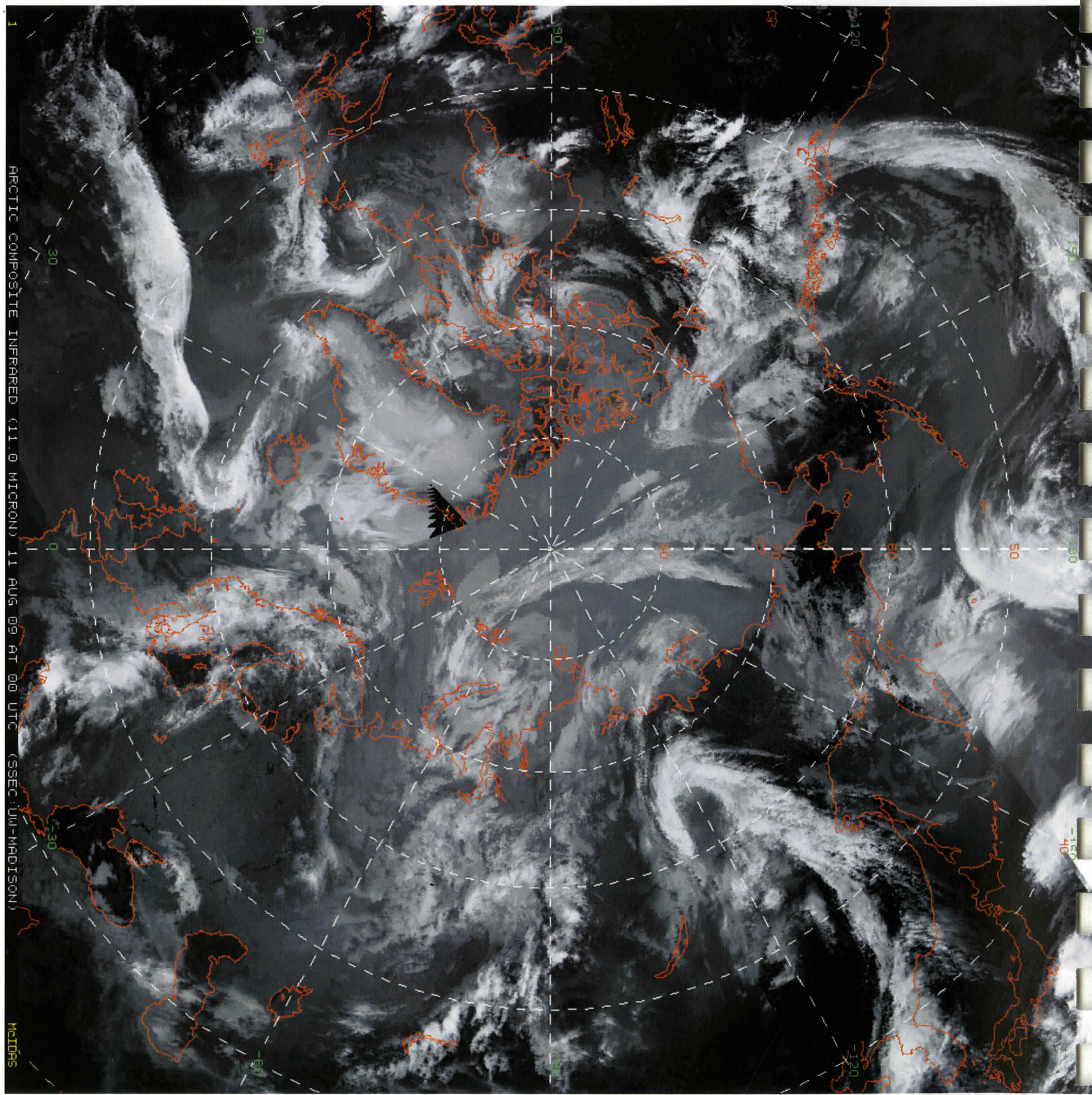
Any Book

Contributions: To Any Other Disciplines

Contributions: To Any Resources for Research and Education

Contributions: To Any Beyond Science and Engineering

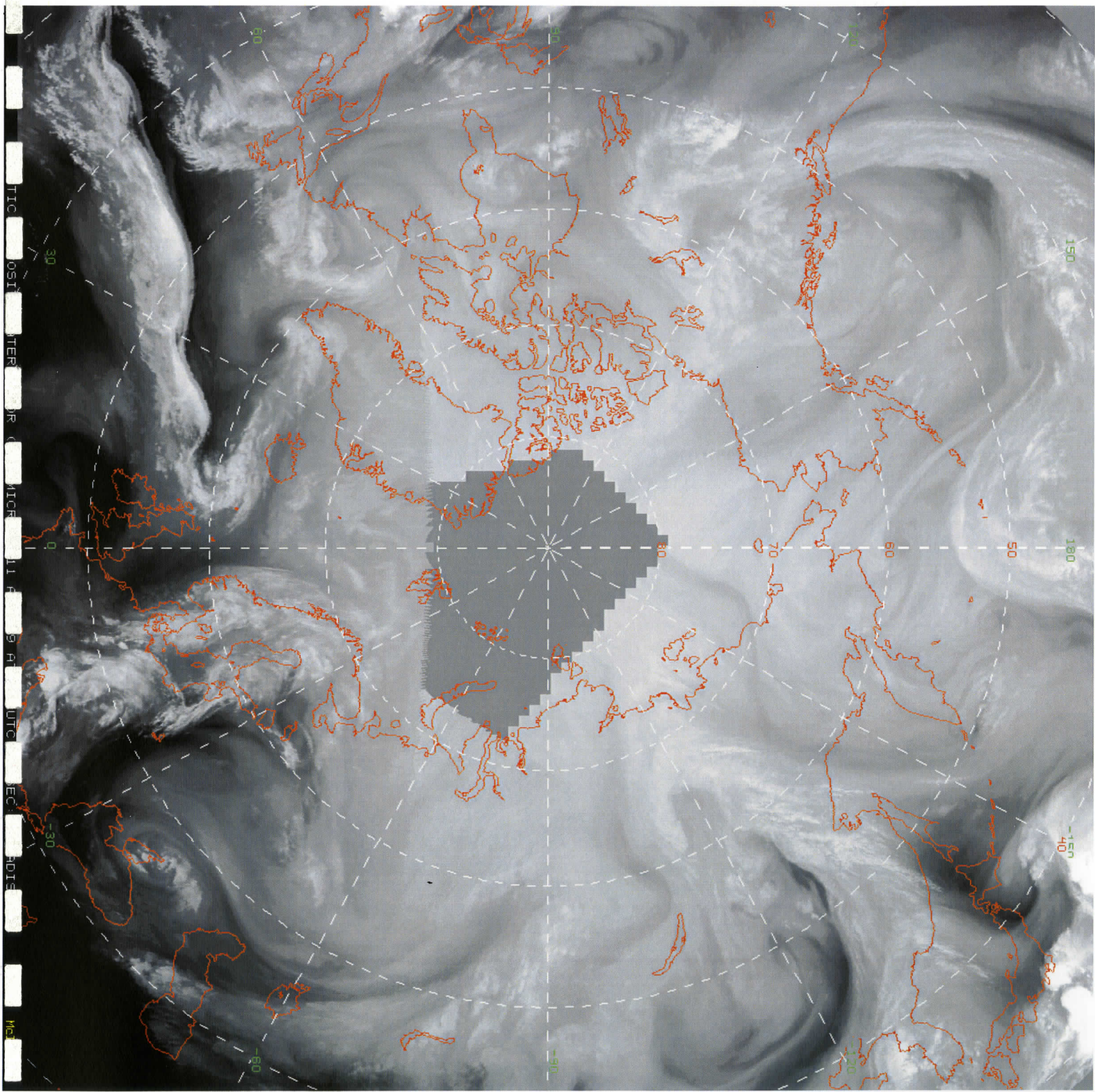
Any Conference



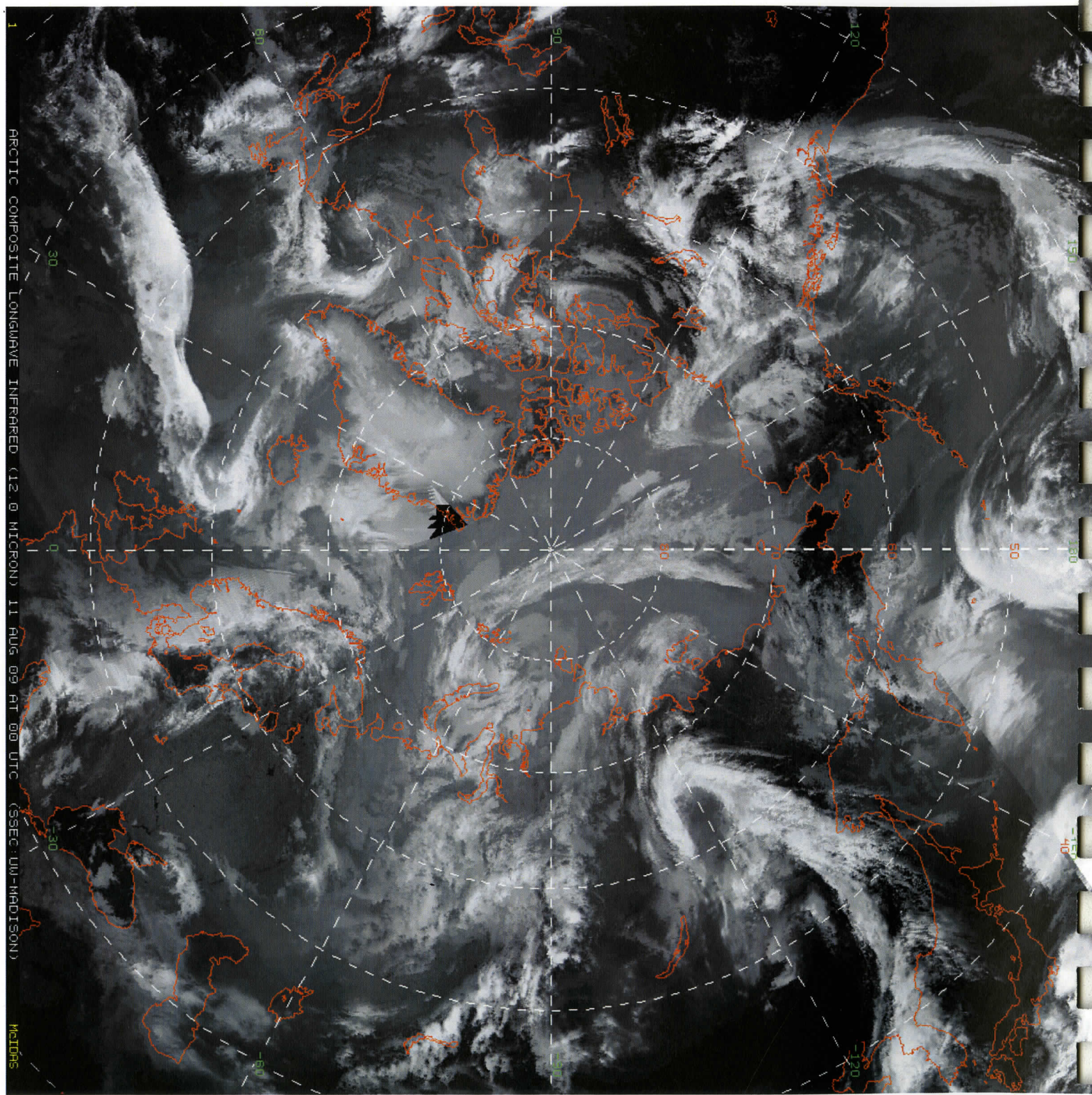
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ARCTIC COMPOSITE INFRARED (11.0 MICRON) 11 AUG 09 AT 00 UTC (SSEC:UW-MADISON)

METERS

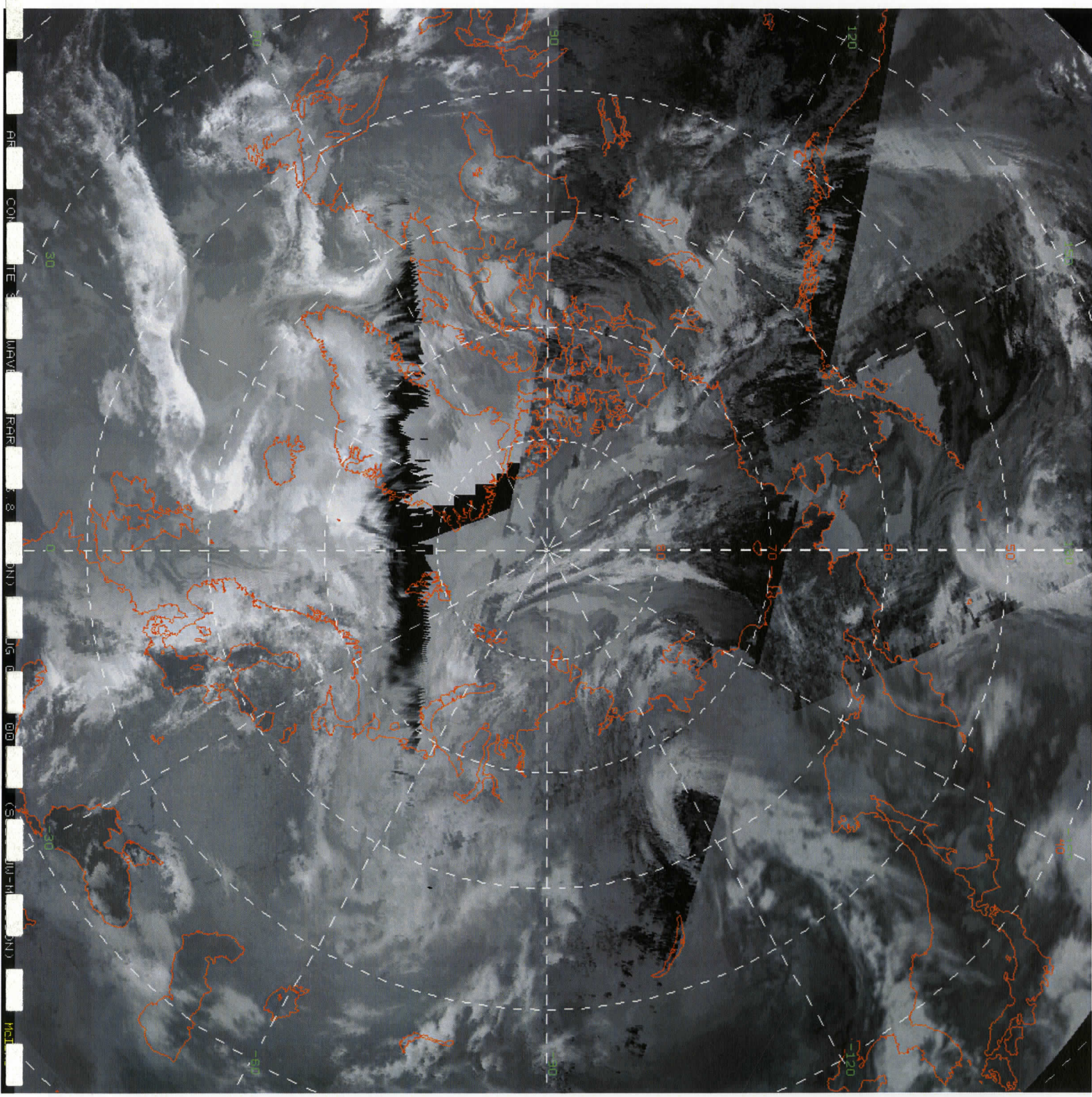






1  
ARCTIC COMPOSITE LONGWAVE INFRARED (12.0 MICRON) 11 AUG 09 AT 00 UTC (SECC: UM-NRADISON)

MCDI05



# Arctic Satellite Composite Observations: *A New Perspective*



THE UNIVERSITY  
of  
**WISCONSIN**  
MADISON



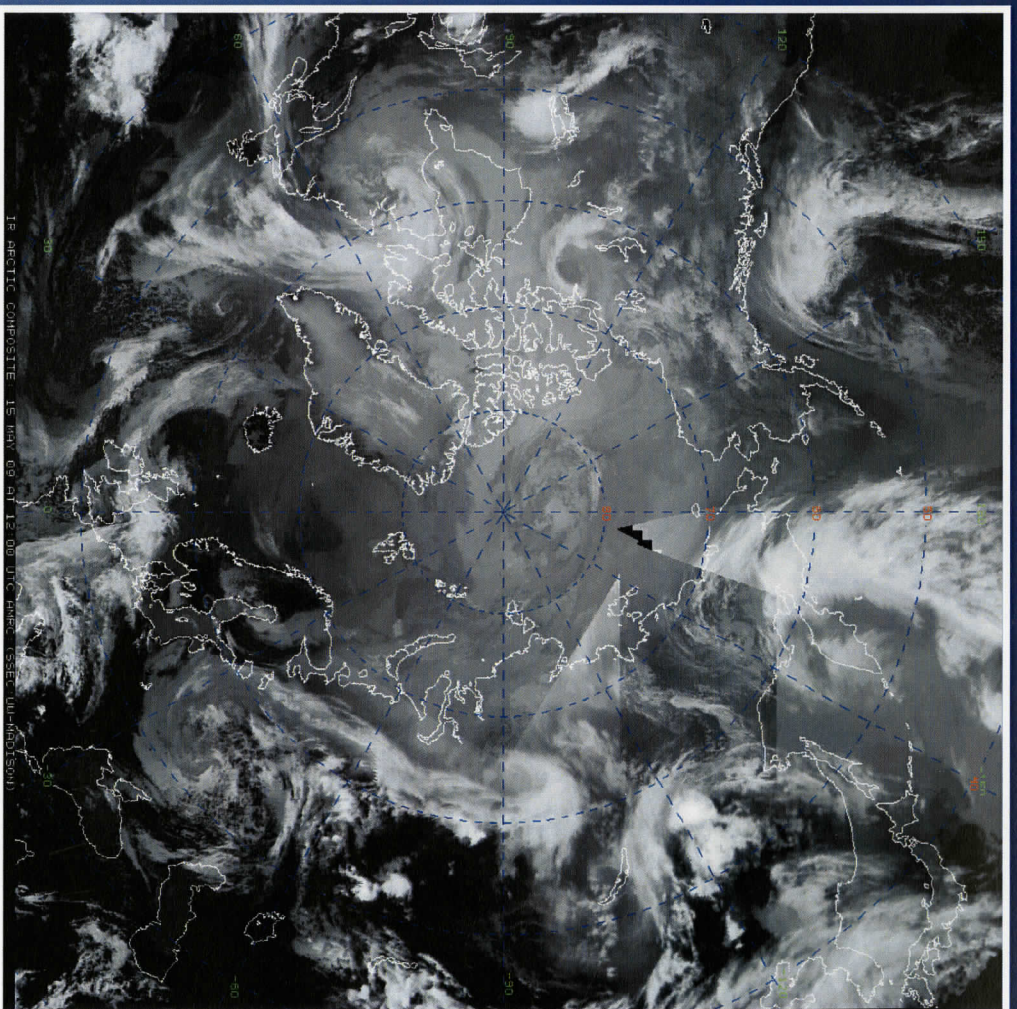
**Matthew A. Lazzara**

**Shelley L. Knuth**

**Antarctic Meteorological Research Center**

**Space Science and Engineering Center**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**



# The Road to Arctic Composites (aka going bi-polar!)

- \* Antarctic composites (inspired from one-time composites, Dr. Charles Stearns)
  - \* First(?) to use both geostationary and polar orbiting
- \* Multiple attempts with multiple agencies to fund an Arctic cousin
  - \* No luck for over 10 years to over 4 agencies!
- \* Success – National Science Foundation, Arctic Natural Science program at the start of the International Polar Year!
  - \* Learning lessons from Antarctic effort
  - \* New opportunities...

# Composite Generation

- \* Satellite acquisition at SSEC Data Center
- \* “Clean up” of bad lines
- \* Remapping imagery
- \* Removal of “space” background
- \* Merge imagery
  - \* Geostationary first
  - \* Polar orbiting last
- \* Post processing and distribution

# Arctic Composite

## Satellite Sources

- \* Geostationary:
  - \* GOES-10, -11, -12
  - \* KALPANA-1
  - \* Meteosat-7, -9
  - \* FY-2C
  - \* MTSAT-1R
- \* Polar orbiting
  - \* NOAA-15, -16, -17, -18
  - \* Aqua and Terra
- \* Spectral Bands:
  - \* Infrared Window (~11.0 microns)
  - \* Water Vapor (~6.7 microns)
  - \* Shortwave Infrared (~3.9 microns)
  - \* Longwave Infrared (~12.0 microns)

## Specifications

- \* 3 hourly data (at synoptic hours 0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21 UTC)
- \* +/- 50 minutes to the top of the hour
  - \* Most +/- 15 minutes
  - \* Otherwise its left missing...
- \* 5 kilometer nominal resolution
- \* Polar stereographic
  - \* Centered at North Pole 90°
  - \* Standard/True at 60° North
  - \* "Dateline up/Greenwich down" Standard at 0°

# Distribution & Formats

Web:

<http://arctic.ssec.wisc.edu>

FTP:

<ftp://arctic.ssec.wisc.edu/arctic>

ADDE:

Group: ARCTIC

Machine: arctic.ssec.wisc.edu

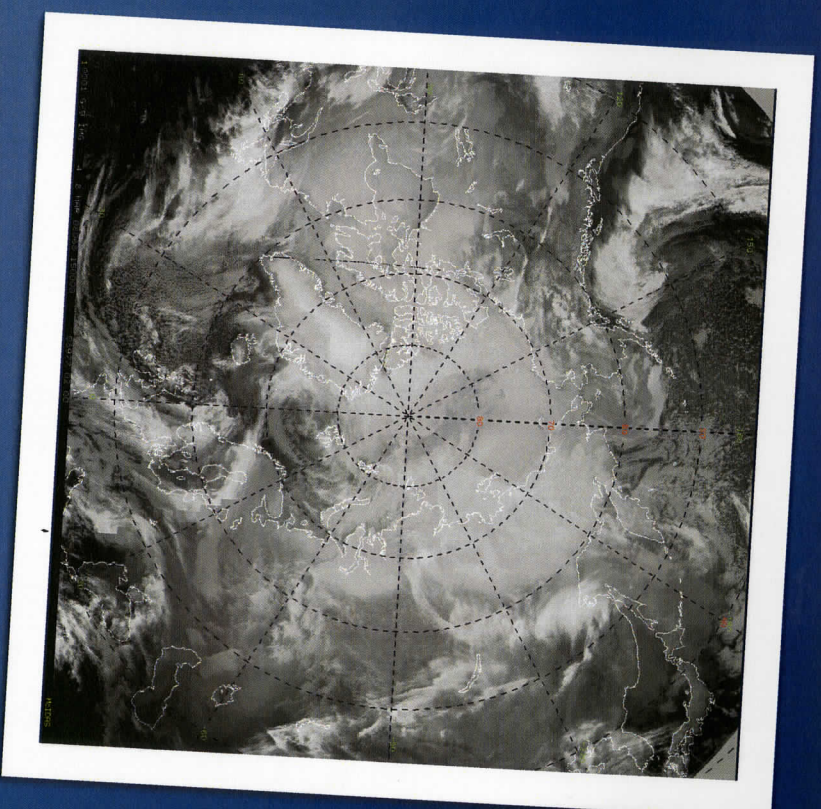
LDM (Antarctic-IDD):

ANSP.AMRC.Composite.<band>.<date>.<time>

ANSP.AMRC.Composite.<band>.<date>.<time>.jpg

Formats:

McIDAS AREA, netCDF, GIF/JPEG/etc., "flat" file (ASCII, binary), etc.

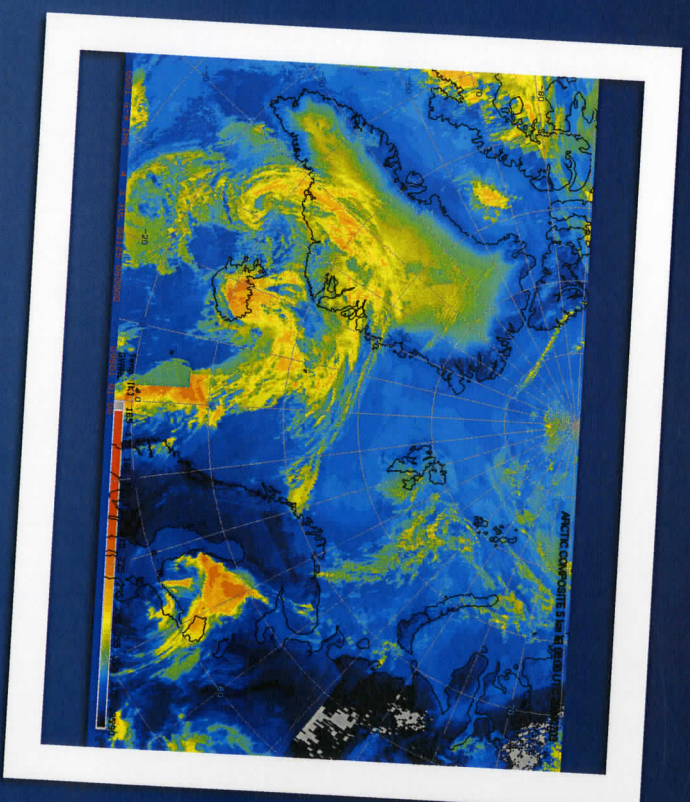


# Applications

## ARCTAS

Arctic Research of the  
Composition of the  
Troposphere Aircraft and  
Satellite program

<http://www.nasa.gov/arctas/>



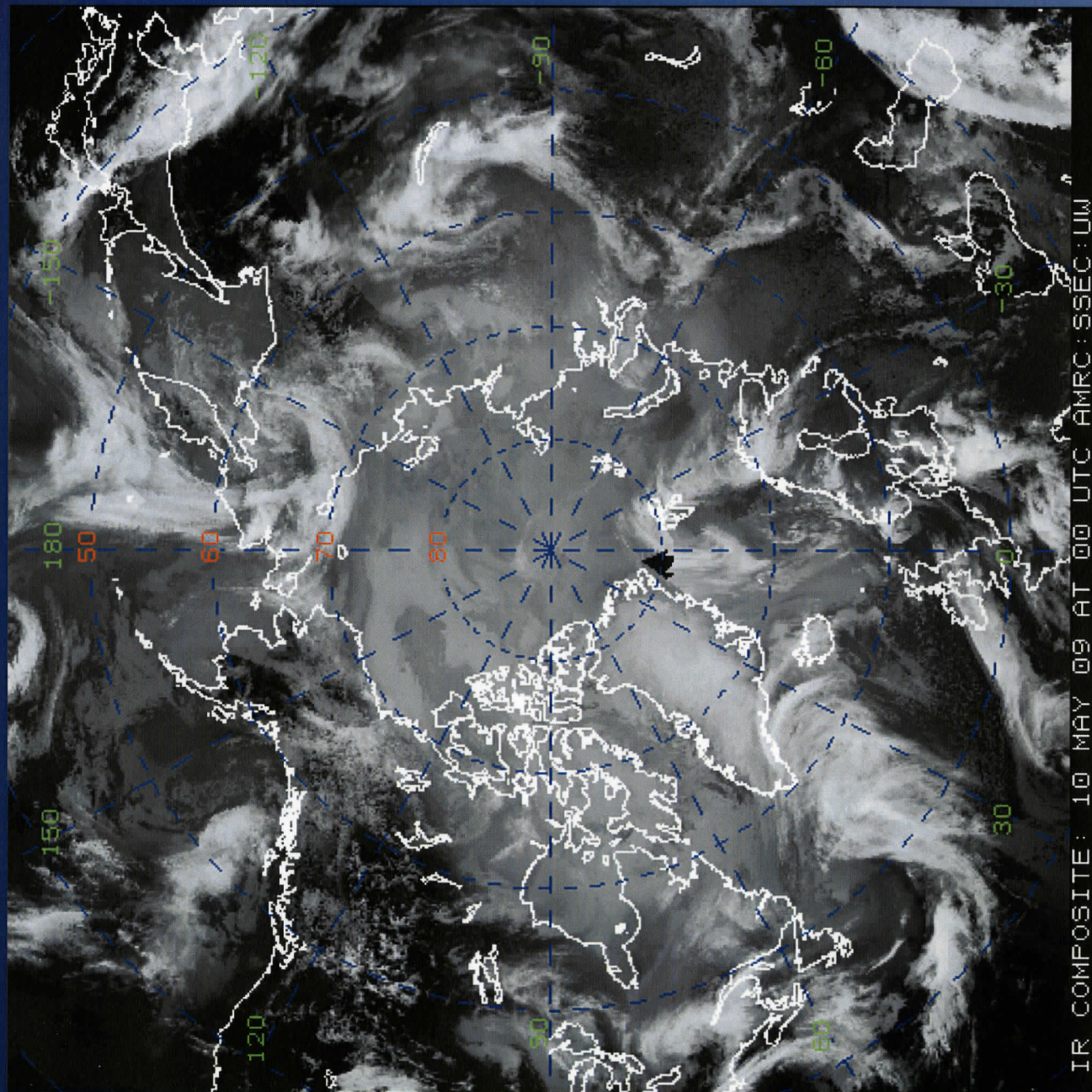
## POLARCAT

Polar study using aircraft, remote sensing, surface  
measurements and modeling.

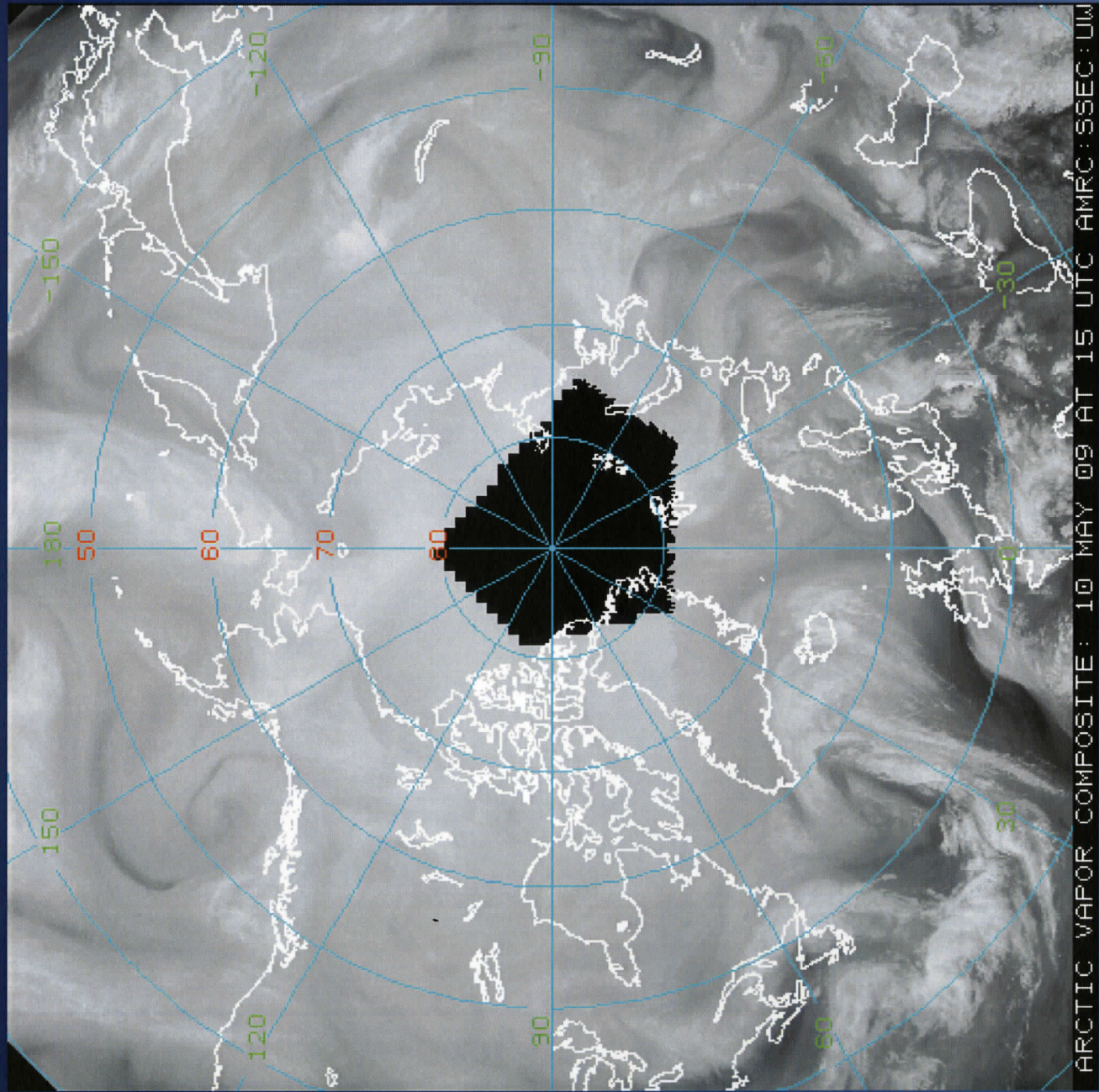
Exploring climate, chemistry, aerosols, and transport

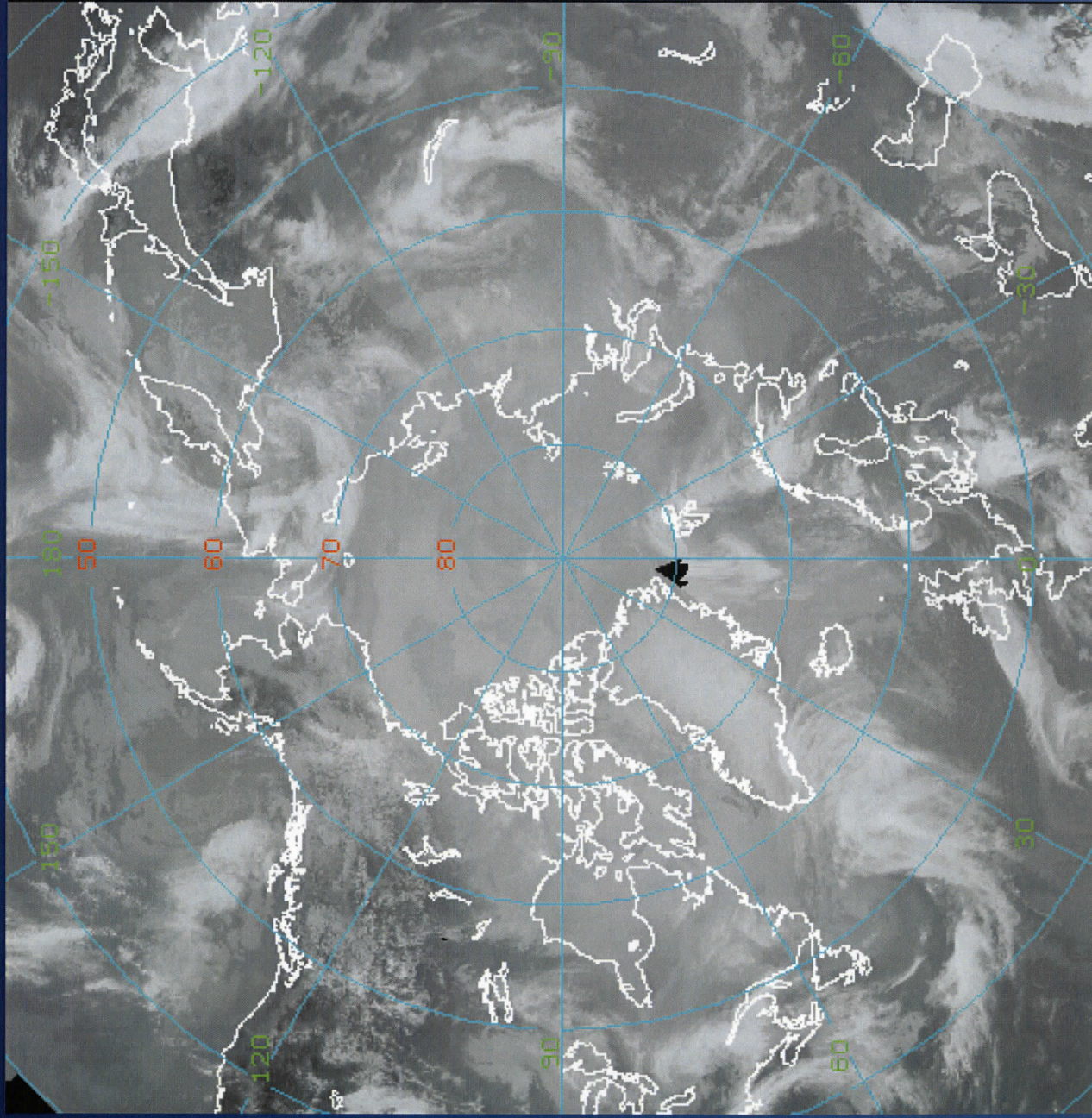
<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/csd/metproducts/polarcat/>





IR COMPOSITE: 10 MAY 09 AT 00 UTC AMRC:SSEC:UW



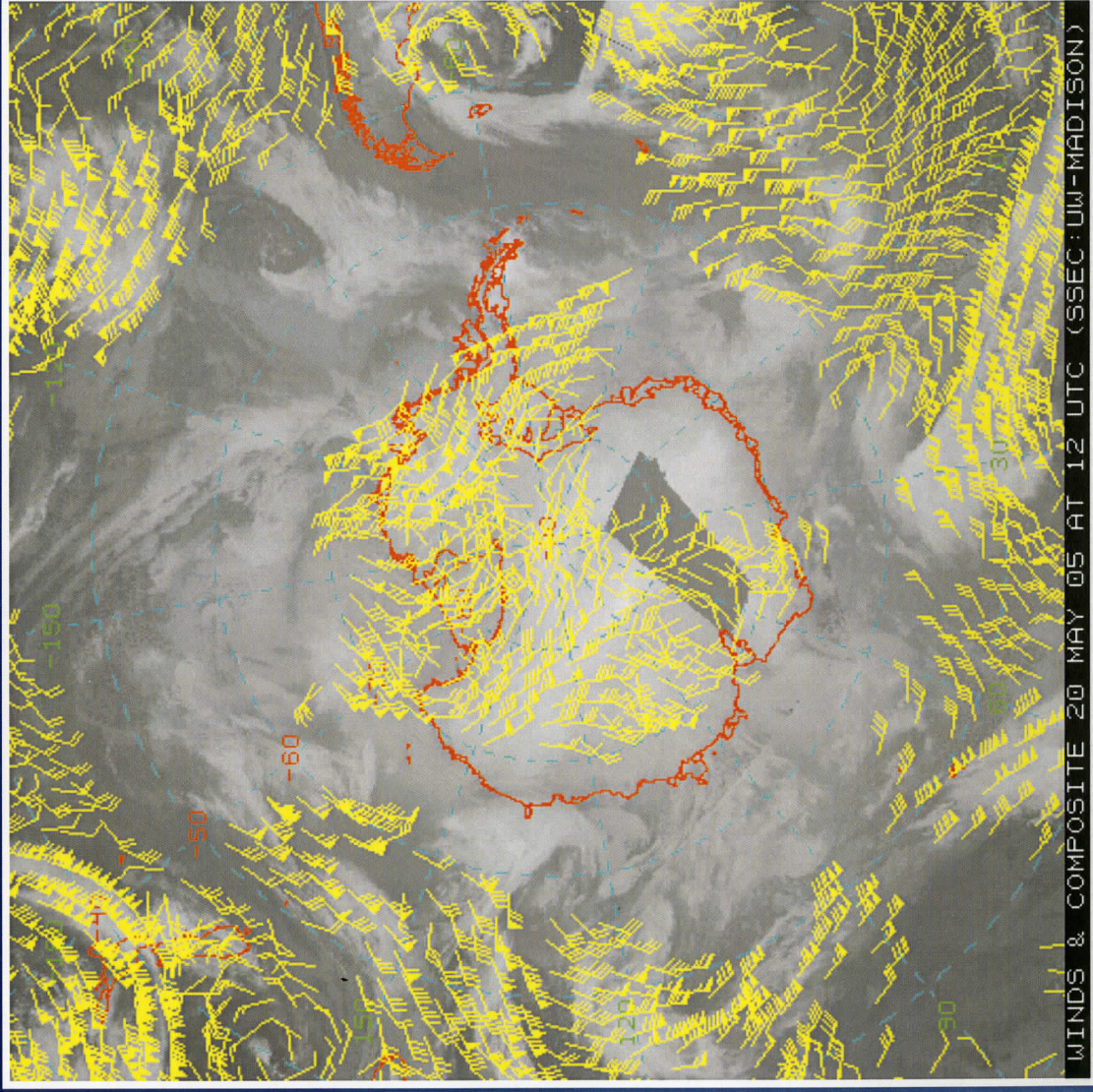


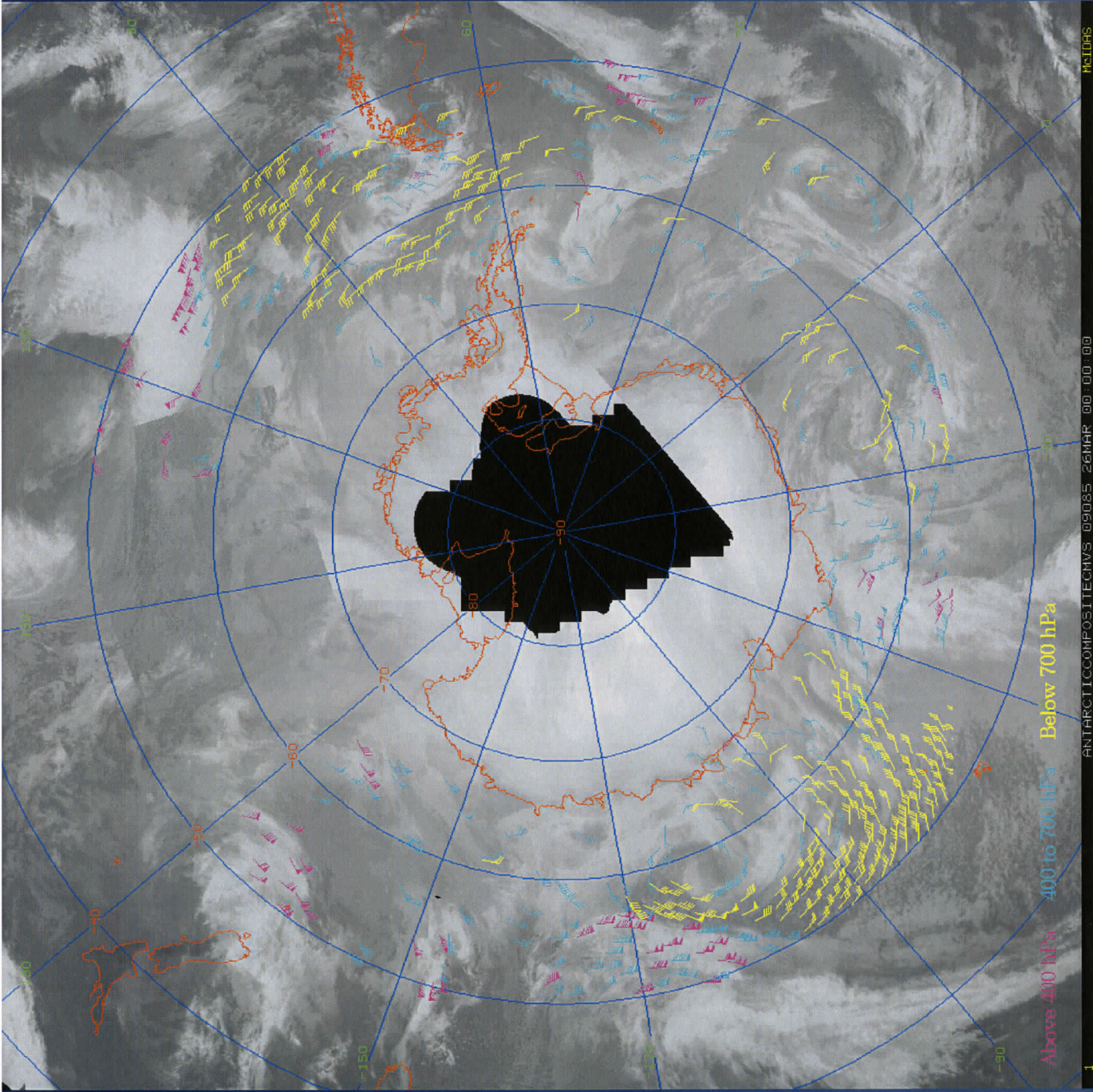
ARCTIC LONG WAVE COMPOSITE: 10 MAY 09 AT 00 UTC AMRC:SSE

# Future Work

- \* Adding satellites
  - \* FY-2D
  - \* NOAA-19
  - \* MetOp-A
  - \* Aqua/Terra (water vapor composites)
- \* Visible channel composites
- \* Hourly composites
- \* Archive/rsync server/Web site
- \* Unidata Internet Data Distribution (IDD)
- \* Application: Atmospheric Motion Vectors (AMV) ?

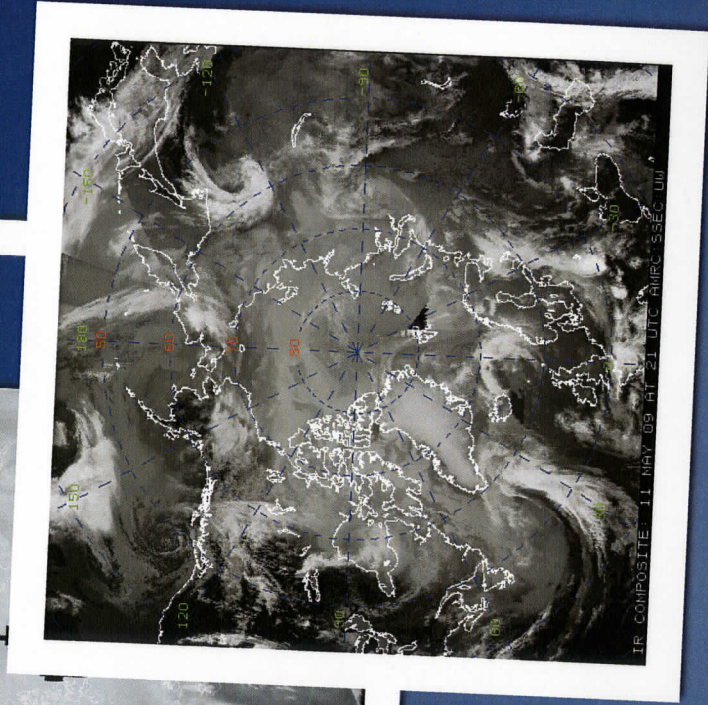
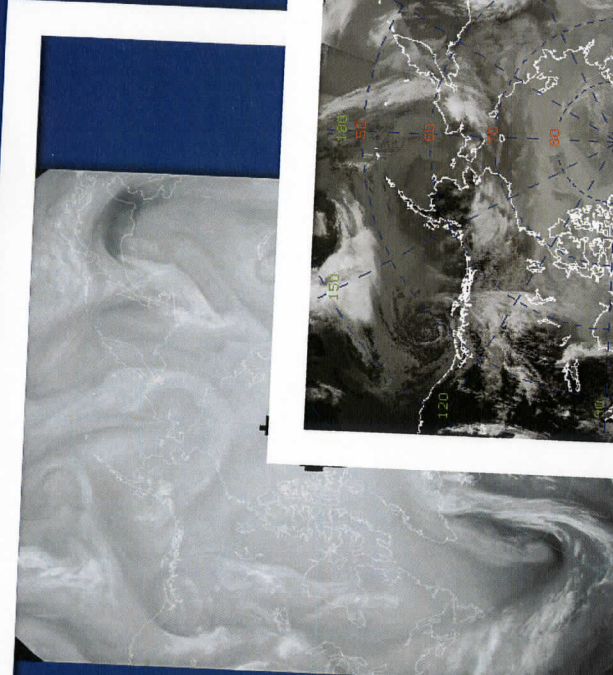
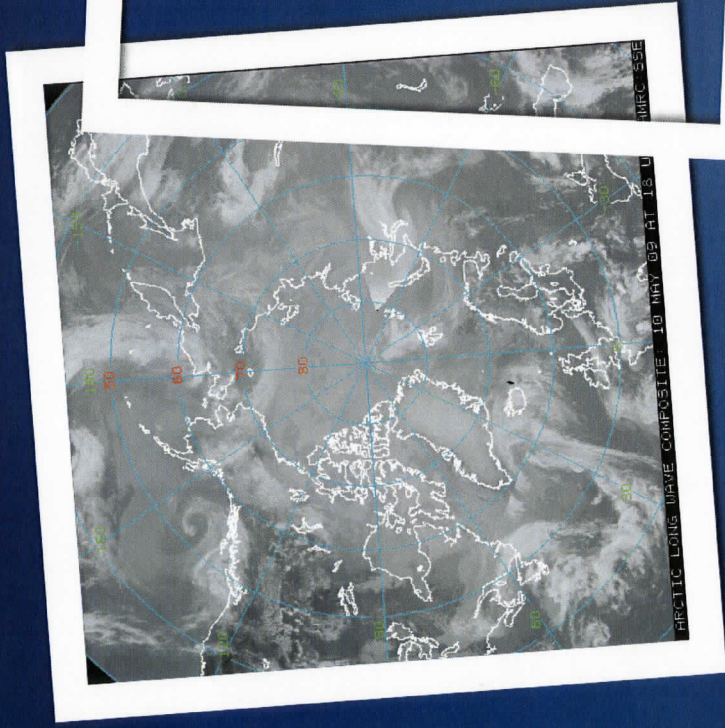
# Atmospheric Motion Vectors





Above 400 hPa 400 to 700 hPa Below 700 hPa

ANTARCTIC COMPOSITE CHWS 09085 26MAR 00:00:00 MSLDPS



Thank you!

<http://arctic.ssec.wisc.edu/>

[arctic@ssec.wisc.edu](mailto:arctic@ssec.wisc.edu)

This effort is funded by National Science Foundation  
Office of Polar Programs Grant #ARC-0713843

## ARCTIC COMPOSITE SATELLITE PROJECT

Matthew A. Lazzara\* and Shelley L. Knuth  
Antarctic Meteorological Research Center, Space Science and Engineering Center,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

<http://amrc.ssec.wisc.edu/arctic/>

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The University of Wisconsin has made Antarctic satellite composite imagery for over 15 years in support of forecasting, research and education. Unfortunately efforts to offer the same product for the Arctic have not been possible until now. The Arctic Natural Science program at the Office of Polar Programs of the National Science Foundation has funded an Arctic composite satellite project. This unique project is timely as it is available during the International Polar Year.

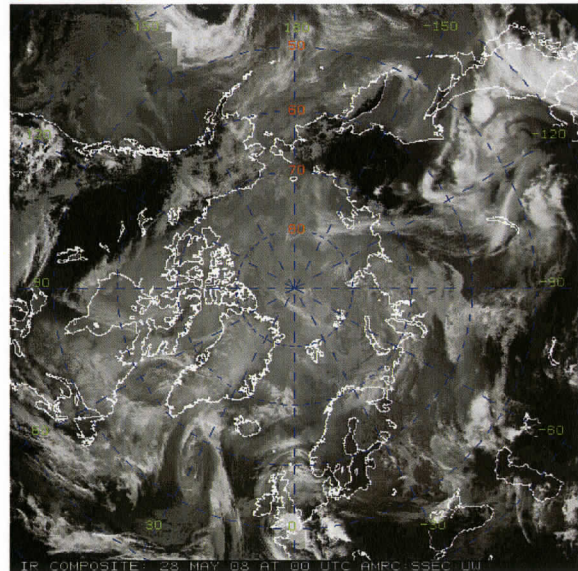
### 2. COMPOSITE GENERATION

The composite imagery for the Arctic currently follows the same process as the Antarctic (Lazzara, 2003): imagery is made every three hours using all available geostationary and polar-orbiting satellite imagery (see Table 1). Data used in each composite includes data primarily within plus or minus 15 minutes to the top of the synoptic hour, and then failing that uses data plus or minus 50 minutes to the top of the synoptic hour. The resulting image resolution is a nominal 5 kilometers making the final image size over 4 megabytes in raw format. The composite are assembled using the Man computer Interactive Data Access System (McIDAS) interactive processing system (Lazzara et al. 1999).

**Table 1. Satellites used in generating the Arctic composite imagery.**

Platform	Satellites
Geostationary	GOES-10 GOES-11 GOES-12 KALPANA-1 Meteosat-7 Meteosat-9 FY-2C MTSAT-1R
Polar-orbiting	NOAA-15, -16, -17, -18 Aqua Terra

As a part of the process of making the composite, any bad lines of satellite imagery are cleaned up along with any bad buffer flakes removed to improve the resulting image. To allow for proper merging of the satellites, the space background it removed as well. The final composite, which is made in both the infrared (~11.0 micron) and water vapor (~6.7 micron) bands, do retain some temperature information, in addition to brightness information. However, the accuracy of the information is not as good as the original 2-byte data, as the final product is 1-byte deep.



**Figure 1. A display of an example Arctic composite infrared image created on 00 UTC on 26 May 2008.**

The final composite image is navigated in a polar stereographic projection centered at the North Pole, with standard latitude of 60 degrees South and standard longitude of 0 degrees. This orientation was selected to match the most common view of the Arctic basin. The process for generating the composites is completely automated and experiences only a few failures other than those due to missing satellite imagery, power outages, etc.

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Email: mattl@ssec.wisc.edu



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### 3. APPLICATIONS

One of the first uses of the composite is in support of the Polar study using Aircraft, Remote sensing, surface measurements and modeling of the Climate, chemistry, Aerosols and Transport (POLARCAT) and Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) programs. These IPY efforts are important applications of the composite in both an operational setting with the data used in briefing/determining logistics for the airborne portion of the field campaigns as well as for research as a part of the diagnostics involved in the analysis. More applications and users are expected in the upcoming year as word of the availability of these composites spreads to the community.

### 4. DISTRIBUTION AND FORMAT

The distribution of the composites takes several available routes, including:

- File Transmission Protocol (FTP)
- World Wide Web (WWW)
- Unidata Internet Data Distribution (IDD)
- Abstract Data Distribution Environment (ADDE)
- Various computer media
- Printed form or hard copy

Currently, real-time composites can be viewed on the web servers as still images and animations.

The archived data format for the composite is McIDAS AREA format. However, it can be made available into netCDF format, "flat" binary or ASCII formats along with imagery formats such as JPG, GIF, etc.

### 5. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

With regards to the future, Arctic composite project has several unmet goals. First will be to continue to create composites in other commonly available spectral channels found on board both geostationary and polar orbiting satellite platforms. This includes visible channel, shortwave and longwave infrared channels as well. A second activity will be to continue to inform the community of the composites availability. A third activity will be the utilization of the composite in educational settings and public outreach events.

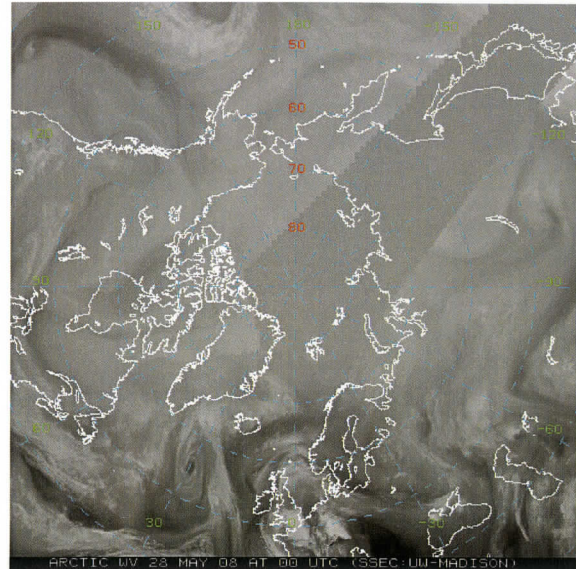


Figure 2. A sample water vapor Arctic composite satellite imagery taken at 00 UTC on 28 May 2008.

### 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank the Arctic National Sciences Program at the Office of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation for its commitment to fund this effort, specifically grant ARC-0713843. The authors also wish to thank all of the users of the Antarctic composite for their interest in and support of the project as well as unique applications of the Antarctic composite images.

### 7. REFERENCES

- Lazzara, M.A., J.M. Benson, R.J. Fox, D.J. Laitsch, J.P. Rueden, D.A. Santek, D.M. Wade, T.M. Whittaker, and J.T. Young, 1999: The Man computer Interactive Data Access System: 25 Years of Interactive Processing. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, **80**, 271-284.
- Lazzara, M.A., C.R. Stearns, J.A. Staude, and S.L. Knuth, 2003: 10 years of Antarctic composite images. Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography, 7th, and Joint Symposium on High-latitude Climate Variations, Hyannis, MA, 12-16 May 2003. Proceedings. Boston, MA, American Meteorological Society, 2003, Paper 9.4.