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Soundings and Radiation Parameters From TIROS-N for Winter MONEX

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1. Winter MONEX
2. Soundings and Radiation Parameters from TIROS-N for Winter MONEX.
3. Data Archiving Agency: World Data Center-A
Robert Williams (704)258-2850 x-381
National Climatic Center
Federal Building
Asheville, NC 28801
4. Data Processing Agency: Space Science and Engineering Center
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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5. Data Collection Agency: Satellite Data Services Division
World Weather Building, Room 606
Washington, D.C. 20233
6. Data Set Description
 - a. General description: This data set consists of (i) soundings and (ii) radiation parameters both derived from observations of the TIROS-N satellite over the area 95° to 130°E, 20°S to 30°N.
 - b. Type of data:
 - i. Soundings
Temperature (°K), dewpoint temperature (°K); also HIRS brightness temperatures (°K) for channels 1-19 and MSU brightness temperatures (°K) for channels 1-4; also elevation (m), sea level pressure (mb), total precipitable water vapor (cm of water), total long wave flux (W/m^2), cloud amount (%), cloud pressure (mb), cloud temperature (°K), retrieval type((whether infrared plus microwave (HIRS + MSU) or microwave only (MSU)), and solar zenith angle (deg). These are given as a function of latitude and longitude (deg), pressure, and time. Soundings are irregularly spaced, depending on the distribution of clouds and rain.

ii. Radiation parameters

Cloud height (mb), cloud amount (%), cloud temperature ($^{\circ}\text{K}$), long wave flux (W/m^2) and albedo (%); also solar zenith angle (deg). These are given as a function of latitude and longitude (deg). Radiation parameters are regularly spaced.

- c. Period covered: 1-31 December 1978. No data were available for the mornings of 1, 9, 12, 14, and 16 December and the afternoon of 12 December; also individual orbits were missing on the morning of 30 December and on the afternoons of 1, 2, 4, and 17 December.
- d. Resolution: Both morning and afternoon satellite passes were used whenever they were available.

Spatial resolution is determined by the field of view of the radiometer. For the HIRS the ground field view is 17.4 km in diameter at nadir and 58.5 km (cross track) by 29.9 km (along track) at the limits of the scan. For the MSU the ground field of view is 124 km at nadir and 323 km (cross track) by 179 km (along track) at the limits of the scan. Clear column and partly cloudy retrievals use HIRS plus MSU radiances whereas overcast cloud retrievals use only MSU radiances. The spacing between soundings depends partly on the distribution of clouds and rain and this is highly variable. On the average over the area of interest there is one sounding per six square degrees per half day. Radiation parameters use only HIRS radiances. Values were calculated for every spot and every line. Since scan lines are separated by 42 km, this resulted in an average spacing of ~ 40 km between adjacent values of radiation parameters. Because of limits on computer time, radiation parameters were not calculated for every orbit; however, insofar as possible they were calculated for at least one orbit each day.

e. Processing and quality control procedures: (This section is adapted from Smith (1978), Menzel et al (1978) and Winston et al (1972)).

The raw radiance data were calibrated and located before being ingested into the McIDAS for meteorological interpretation. To generate retrievals the McIDAS terminal operator instructed the computer, through the keyboard, to display magnified data images for several channels of data (typically visible, infrared window, and lower troposphere microwave) and to produce vertical temperature and moisture profiles for every third element and third line. Automatically, two types of infrared-based soundings were attempted for each location:

(1) a clear sounding from the single ~30 km field of view selected by the computer, and (2) a partly cloudy sounding which was obtained from data from two adjacent 30 km fields of view (the one selected by the computer and one of its neighbors). The algorithm for partly cloudy soundings assumed (a) only cloud coverage differed between the two fields of view and (b) the observed radiance (brightness temperature) of the mid-tropospheric microwave channel could be specified from a linear combination of the clear-column infrared radiances. The best partly cloudy result from the eight different neighboring fields of view surrounding the operator selected spot was specified on the basis of being in best r.m.s. agreement (sum of squares of temperature differences at several levels in the vertical) with a lower resolution sounding produced directly from the three microwave channel observations for the same area. A selection between the best "partly cloudy sounding" and the "clear

sounding" for the area was made on the same basis. (The r.m.s. selection criterion is not believed to bias the infrared sounding result to the lower resolution microwave product since cloud-induced errors should always tend toward poorer agreement in a vertical r.m.s. sense.) Soundings were discarded completely if the r.m.s. difference was excessive, which is generally the case in heavily clouded areas. The operator, by means of a cursor, then added soundings to fill gaps in the field produced by the computer. Sometimes, when clouds were extensive over an image area, the automatic mode was simply skipped.

Retrievals were generated by means of multiple linear regression using coefficients determined from simulated radiances. These radiances were calculated from climatological soundings for the belt from 30°S to 30°N (see Section 7.1 in Smith et al., 1974).

The objective of editing is twofold: (1) to remove those soundings for which temperature at any tropospheric level is grossly in error, and (2) to achieve a field of temperature which fairly and accurately portrays the major synoptic thermal features. Editing procedures varied somewhat, depending on circumstances. In general they included the following steps, in the order listed.

(1) Display as a field of numbers differences in temperature between microwave and infrared retrievals for the same field of view at one pressure level. Delete soundings for which the temperature difference is large. Repeat for other levels.

(2) Display temperature at a level, as numbers and as contours.

Delete soundings where (a) individual values are very high or very low, (b) gradients are large and show no vertical consistency, or (c) clear-column, partly cloudy and/or microwave soundings are systematically different. Repeat for several levels.

(3) Display fields of geopotential thickness, as numbers and as contours. Delete soundings as in (2) above. Repeat for several layers.

(4) In areas of extensive solid overcast, when rain is not implied in the lower troposphere channel, add microwave retrievals. Horizontal inconsistencies between these microwave soundings and their infrared neighbors were alleviated automatically by adding to the microwave result any systematic differences between microwave and infrared soundings in neighboring clear or partly cloudy areas. The differences were interpolated into the overcast region where the microwave soundings were generated.

(5) Selectively check temperatures and thicknesses again. Delete soundings as in (2) and (3).

With the exception of 12 December all processing was done by the same person (Lam). To insure that standards were uniform through the whole month, after all days had been processed, another person (Martin) reexamined and (where necessary) re-edited some of the first days processed (1,2,3,4, and 6 December).

Other things being equal, partly cloudy retrievals (which tended to be relatively warm in the lower troposphere) were removed before clear column retrievals. "Clear column" retrievals in areas that

appeared to be partly cloudy were regarded with suspicion, also "partly cloudy" retrievals in mostly cloudy areas.

Using the radiative transfer equation, cloud pressure is determined from the ratio of deviations in cloud produced radiances and neighboring clear air radiances for two or more spectral channels (Menzel et al, 1978). The technique takes advantage of the property that different frequencies receive different radiative contributions from the same level of the atmosphere. Investigating the ratios at various pressure levels, a reasonably unambiguous cloud pressure may be determined, and, from a nearby retrieval, cloud top altitude and temperature. The method is most reliable for clouds whose tops are above the 700 mb level.

Effective cloud amount η is determined from cloud top pressure and window infrared radiance through the relation

$$\eta = \epsilon N = \frac{I - I_{cl}}{I_{Bcd} - I_{cl}} .$$

N is the fractional cloud amount within the radiometer's field of view, I is the observed infrared radiance, I_{cl} is the observed infrared radiance from a nearby clear field of view and I_{Bcd} is the opaque cloud radiance. I_{Bcd} is calculated from the Planck function $B(T(p))$ where the temperature T is obtained from the cloud top pressure p through a nearby retrieval. ϵ is emissivity.

The flux F is computed from the radiances I_1 and coefficients C_0 and C_1 obtained at any step n using the multiple linear regression equation:

$$F = C_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n C_i I_i .$$

The window channel alone explains most of the variance of the total flux, presumably because the primary modulator is cloudiness. However, significant reductions of standard error are obtained with the addition of all the longwave (5 - 15 μ m) moisture and CO₂ channels. Coefficients of the regression are obtained for a sample of 100 climatological atmospheres expanded into 1700 simulated cloudy radiance profiles from which fluxes are calculated according to the method of Rodgers and Walshaw (1966). An example of the application of a similar model is given in Winston, Smith and Woolf (1972).

The albedo is derived from the observed radiance in the HIRS visible channel (0.69 μ m), according to a model of Raschke et al (1973). The model takes into account sun angle and surface characteristics (land, sea, ice or snow).

Radiation parameters were not edited in any way.

- f. Soundings and radiation parameters are supplied on computer tapes.

g. Tape format is as follows:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

1600 BPI, odd parity, phase encoded, 9 track, ASCII with parity-0.

TAPE LAYOUT:

	G		G		E		E	E
file	O	file	O	. . .	O	file	O	O
	<u>F</u>		<u>F</u>		<u>F</u>		<u>F</u>	<u>F</u>

↑
indicates logical end of data

FILE LAYOUT:

2880 8-bit bytes per physical records

720 8-bit bytes per logical record--'TIRET' (sounding) data

72 8-bit bytes per logical record--'RADIATION' data

1st logical record of each file is header record.

Remaining logical records are data.

Logical records which are fillers are entirely 9's.

All values occupy exactly 8 ASCII bytes (sign included).

All values are scaled integers.

HEADER RECORD FORMAT:

Value 1 YYMMDD - year, month, day of data

Value 2 HHMMSS - Greenwich Mean Time for line 1, spot 1

Value 3 HHMMSS - Greenwich Mean Time for last line, spot 1

Value 4 number of lines in image

Value 5 satellite number: 1 = TIROS-N 2 = NOAA-6

Value 6 scan direction: 1 = N → S, 2 = S → N

Value 7 number of logical records of data

Remaining values not used.

'TIRET' DATA RECORD FORMAT :

<u>Values</u>	<u>Contents</u>	
1	Latitude, DDD.DD, W+S-	
2	Longitude, DDD.DD, W+E-	
3	Time, HHMM, hours & minutes	
4	Elevation, meters	
5-19	Mandatory level heights, geopotential meters, (1000-10mb)	
20-34	Temperatures, KKK.KK, (surface, 850-10mb); Kelvin	} IR+microwave
35-40	Dewpoints, KKK.KK, (surface, 850-300mb); Kelvin	
41-59	HIRS 1-19 Brightness temp, KKK.KK, °Kelvin	} Radiometric
60-63	MSU 1-4 Brightness temp, KKK.KK, °Kelvin	
64	Sea level pressure (mb)	
65	Orbit line number	
66	Scan element number	
67-81	MSU retrievals, KKK.KK	[Microwave (Air)]
82	Total precipitable water vapor, cm of water, CCCC.CCC	
83	Total long wave flux, W/m^2 , LLL.LL	(IR)
84	Cloud amount, %	
85	Cloud pressure, mb	
86	Cloud temperature, KKK.KK, °Kelvin	
87	Retrieval type	
88	Solar zenith angle, DDD.DD, degrees	
89-90	Not used	

'RADIATION' DATA RECORD FORMAT:

<u>Values</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Latitude, DDD.DD, N+S-
2	Longitude, DDD.DD, W+E-
3	Solar zenith angle, DDD.DD
4	Cloud height, millibars
5	Cloud amount, %, 0-100
6	Cloud temperature, °K, TTT.TT
7	Long wave flux, W/m^2 , LLL.LL
8	Albedo, %, 0-100
9	Not used

h. Input data are computer tapes of TIROS-N High Resolution Infrared Radiation Sounder 2 (HIRS/2) and Microwave Sounding Unit (MSU) raw radiances. Data were calibrated and earth located. These data are available from the Satellite Data Services Division (301/763-8111).

i. TIROS-N retrievals should be useful in describing temperature and moisture structure on a regional scale and smaller features of a marked thermodynamic signature. In a small number of comparisons, temperature from clear column retrievals most closely matched temperature from dropsondes. Clear column retrievals tended to be too cold, especially near the surface, partly cloudy retrievals tended to be too warm. The differences generally were less than 1.5°C. Owing to faulty microwave surface emissivity corrections along coastlines, partly cloudy retrievals have been found to be too warm in

the lower troposphere. Not all of these bad retrievals were removed in editing, thus retrievals within 150 km of coastlines should be treated with special caution. This effect appears to be most pronounced along the coast of mainland China. In regions of extensive cloud, only microwave retrievals were possible. These suffer from poor vertical resolution and occasional contamination by cloud liquid water; they must be considered less reliable than adjacent clear column and partly cloudy retrievals.

TIROS moisture profiles tend to be too dry in the middle troposphere. Through an oversight dewpoint temperatures are given for microwave retrievals. These have no physical meaning and should be disregarded. Clear column and partly cloud precipitable water should be useful; however, because of the natural high variability of moisture and the deleterious effects of clouds in the field of view of the radiometer, individual dewpoint values cannot be taken too seriously.

- j. There are 4 tapes, 2 for retrievals, 2 for radiation parameters. The first tape in each subset is nearly full, the second about one-half full.
- k. Descriptions of the TIROS-N HIRS/2 and MSU instruments are available in references 3, 5, and 9.
- l. Inventory is as follows:
 - 1) Retrievals

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR TAPE 101

FILE	PAGE	TIME/SEC	TIME/SEC	#LINES	S.D.	SCANS	#RECORDS
1	781201	58302	58304	48	1	1	148
2	781201	62201	62204	22	1	1	13
3	781201	192301	192304	147	1	1	219
4	781201	242301	242304	147	1	1	219
5	781222	78301	78304	146	1	1	217
6	781202	112301	112304	147	1	1	141
7	781202	132301	132304	147	1	1	249
8	781202	142301	142304	147	1	1	198
9	781202	152301	152304	147	1	1	214
10	781202	162301	162304	147	1	1	225
11	781204	182301	182304	147	1	1	188
12	781204	192301	192304	147	1	1	188
13	781205	202301	202304	147	1	1	189
14	781205	212301	212304	147	1	1	184
15	781205	222301	222304	147	1	1	22
16	781205	232301	232304	147	1	1	188
17	781206	242301	242304	147	1	1	189
18	781206	252301	252304	147	1	1	147
19	781206	262301	262304	147	1	1	182
20	781207	272301	272304	147	1	1	147
21	781207	282301	282304	147	1	1	191
22	781207	292301	292304	147	1	1	217
23	781208	302301	302304	147	1	1	167
24	781208	312301	312304	147	1	1	216
25	781209	322301	322304	147	1	1	184
26	781209	332301	332304	147	1	1	184
27	781209	342301	342304	147	1	1	182
28	781209	352301	352304	147	1	1	185
29	781210	362301	362304	147	1	1	148
30	781210	372301	372304	147	1	1	148
31	781210	382301	382304	147	1	1	217
32	781210	392301	392304	147	1	1	182
33	781210	402301	402304	147	1	1	182
34	781211	412301	412304	147	1	1	182
35	781211	422301	422304	147	1	1	201
36	781212	131501	131504	114	1	2	126

END OF TAPE DUMP

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FILE	DATE	TIMEBEGIN	TIMEEND	#LINES	SAT#	SCANNER	#RECORDS
1	781213	64200	65200	100	1		
2	781214	65200	66200	100	1	1	155
3	781214	66200	67200	100	1	1	177
4	781214	103250	104245	140	1	2	217
5	781215	63950	64440	140	1	1	157
6	781215	62200	62600	140	1	1	195
7	781216	63400	64450	140	1	1	218
8	781216	61104	62600	140	1	1	153
9	781216	205501	212000	70	1	2	203
10	781217	62200	63400	140	1	2	121
11	781217	100200	101600	140	1	1	177
12	781217	204450	205500	90	1	2	146
13	781218	61200	62440	140	1	2	155
14	781218	155104	162000	140	1	1	206
15	781218	203400	204440	140	1	2	207
16	781219	62304	61400	104	1	2	146
17	781219	74201	75501	140	1	1	152
18	781219	104100	105500	140	1	1	181
19	781219	202050	203000	140	1	2	133
20	781220	73000	74440	140	1	1	154
21	781220	103101	104500	140	1	1	166
22	781221	65200	65300	30	1	2	213
23	781221	71950	72440	140	1	1	50
24	781221	90000	90000	0	1	1	176
25	781221	100000	100000	0	1	1	53
26	781221	203004	204000	140	1	2	179
27	781222	71000	72400	140	1	2	124
28	781222	101400	102000	104	1	1	135
29	781222	105100	106000	140	1	2	223
30	781223	64100	65100	90	1	2	133
31	781223	102001	103000	140	1	1	243
32	781223	104000	105000	140	1	2	118
33	781224	64900	65900	140	1	2	171
34	781224	63000	64000	140	1	1	204
35	781224	175001	182000	50	1	1	234
36	781224	103104	104000	140	1	2	59
37	781224	211400	211000	0	1	2	234
38	781225	63800	65200	140	1	1	56
39	781225	62001	63100	140	1	1	181
40	781225	175150	175500	45	1	1	230
41	781225	102100	103000	140	1	2	115
42	781225	210050	211000	50	1	2	153
43	781225	62001	64201	140	1	2	120
44	781226	61000	62440	140	1	1	147
45	781226	101101	102000	140	1	1	209
46	781226	205250	210001	90	1	2	156
47	781227	61000	62440	140	1	2	205
48	781227	75050	81440	140	1	1	154
49	781227	102001	101400	140	1	1	168
50	781227	204004	205001	114	1	2	174
51	781229	61000	62001	140	1	2	168
52	781229	75000	80400	140	1	1	167
53	781229	105000	106440	140	1	1	187
54	781229	203100	204000	140	1	2	155
55	781229	62000	61000	104	1	2	177
56	781229	74201	75501	140	1	1	103
57	781229	202200	203000	140	1	1	152
58	781230	55004	60000	66	1	2	202
59	781230	70000	74000	140	1	1	107
60	781230	103000	104400	140	1	1	187
61	781232	201104	203000	140	1	2	132
62	781231	54001	55000	40	1	1	166
63	781231	71001	72000	140	1	1	57
64	781231	60050	60600	140	1	1	107
65	781231	102050	103004	40	1	1	60
66	781231	202102	201000	140	1	2	166
							100

END OF TIREC TAPE DUMP

2) Radiation parameters

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FILE	DATE	TIMEBEGIN	TIMEEND	#LINES	SAT#	SCANDIP	#RECORDS
1	781201	55023	55524	48	1		
2	781201	57532	58074	23	1	1	2688
3	781201	192371	193757	140	1	1	1122
4	781202	72501	72251	140	1	2	7842
5	781202	161732	122435	65	1	1	7842
6	781202	195203	202453	140	1	2	3808
7	781203	64421	85259	86	1	2	7842
8	781203	127758	121830	96	1	1	4916
9	781204	83372	84453	114	1	2	5376
10	781204	180102	152122	65	1	1	6384
11	781204	192423	194853	140	1	2	3828
12	781205	63958	65448	140	1	2	7842
13	781205	175322	175659	38	1	1	7842
14	781225	192421	193251	140	1	2	2128
15	781206	63223	64453	140	1	2	7842
16	781207	62221	63451	140	1	1	7842
17	781207	204459	205605	106	1	1	7842
18	781208	61104	62502	132	1	2	5936
19	781208	75158	87645	140	1	1	7392
20	781209	74059	75549	140	1	1	7842
21	781209	184200	185549	140	1	1	6272
22	781210	55823	60459	66	1	2	7842
23	781210	73104	74553	140	1	1	2242
24	781210	201521	202952	140	1	1	5842
25	781211	72102	73552	140	1	2	7842
26	781212	181501	182734	114	1	1	7842
27	781213	84230	85259	124	1	2	6364
28	781214	65020	70449	140	1	1	5824
29	781214	83158	84459	124	1	1	7842
30	781214	193259	194749	140	1	1	6944
31	781215	63958	65448	140	1	2	7842
32	781216	63303	64453	140	1	1	7784
33	781216	81104	82553	140	1	1	7842
34	781217	204459	205501	96	1	1	7842
35	781218	203400	204849	140	1	2	5376
36	781219	74001	75451	140	1	2	7842
37	781220	73002	74449	140	1	1	7842

END OF RADIATION TAPE DUMP

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR TAPE 104

FILE	DATE	TIMEBEGIN	TIMEEND	#LINES	SAT#	SCAN/DIP	#RECORDS
1	7E1221	55003	55302	30	1	1	16FF
2	7E1221	71555	7344E	140	1	1	7E42
3	7E1221	182271	183451	140	1	2	7E42
4	7E1221	209304	211703	140	1	2	7E42
5	7E1221	71233	72453	140	1	1	7E42
6	7E1222	195158	200048	140	1	2	7E42
7	7E1222	182701	182150	140	1	2	7E42
8	7E1223	194203	195653	140	1	2	7E42
9	7E1224	83003	84401	132	1	1	7392
10	7E1224	175921	182459	55	1	2	324E
11	7E1224	193104	194553	140	1	2	7E42
12	7E1225	63803	65253	140	1	1	7E42
13	7E1225	82271	83451	140	1	1	7E42
14	7E1225	192102	193552	140	1	2	7E42
15	7E1226	81700	82449	140	1	1	7E42
16	7E1226	191101	192544	140	1	2	7E42
17	7E1227	75955	8144E	143	1	1	7E42
18	7E1227	190071	191451	140	1	2	7E42
19	7E1227	224374	225521	114	1	2	63E4
20	7E1228	75303	80453	140	1	1	7E42
21	7E1229	60272	61259	104	1	1	5B24
22	7E1229	74001	75451	140	1	1	7E42
23	7E1229	202203	203653	140	1	2	7E42
24	7E1230	72902	74352	140	1	1	7E42
25	7E1230	183003	184453	140	1	2	7E42
26	7E1230	201104	202553	140	1	2	7E42
27	7E1231	54801	55205	40	1	1	224E
28	7E1231	71901	73350	140	1	1	7E42
29	7E1231	90059	90600	4E	1	1	26EE
30	7E1231	182059	183504	134	1	2	7504

END OF RADIATION TAPE DUMP

m. These data were produced between March and December 1980.

n. Tapes were sent to World Data Center A on December 1980.

Information on retrieval methods and quality are available in the following references:

- 1) Hayden, C. M., L. F. Hubert, E. P. McClain, and R. S. Seaman, 1979: Quantitative Meteorological Data from Satellites. Tech. Note No. 166 (WMO No. 531), World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, 1-32.
- 2) Kidwell, K. B., 1979: NOAA polar orbiter data (TIROS-N and NOAA-6) users guide (preliminary version). National Climatic Center Satellite Data Services Division, World Weather Building, Washington, D.C.
- 3) Phillips, N., L. McMillin, A. Gruber, and D. Wark, 1979: An evaluation of early operational temperature soundings from TIROS-N. Bull. Am. Meteor. Soc., 60, 1188-1197.
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