

The climate record from the NASA Atmospheric Infrared Sounder

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The Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) satellite instrument began taking hyperspectral infrared observations in August 2002. AIRS continues operating, with an expected lifetime of 15-20 years. The AIRS radiances, along with observations from the companion Advanced Microwave Sounder (AMSU), have been used to retrieve a detailed record of geophysical quantities relevant to climate, weather, atmospheric composition, and greenhouse gas forcing. This talk describes some of the important scientific advances made with the AIRS/AMSU observations, and discusses how those observations are being integrated into a complete picture of the climate system.