

# Selection of IASI Channels for Use in Numerical Weather Prediction

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## Abstract

IASI (Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer) is an infrared Fourier transform spectrometer flying on the MetOp satellite series starting in October 2006. It measures the radiance emitted from the Earth in 8461 channels covering the spectral interval from 645–2760 $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at a resolution of 0.5 $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (apodised). The high volume of data resulting from IASI presents many challenges, particularly in the areas of data transmission, data storage and assimilation.

The simplest methods for reducing the data volume are spatial sampling and channel selection. The issue of channel selection is discussed and a selection of 300 channels suitable for transmission to NWP centres is examined, where the primary aim is the improvement of the temperature, humidity, ozone and carbon dioxide state vectors. The channel selection method takes account of redundancy, the effect of interfering species and robustness against the choice of assumed background error covariance and atmospheric state.

## 1 Introduction

The first of the IASI (Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer) series (Chalon *et al.*, 2001) was launched on the MetOp-A satellite on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006. IASI is an infrared Fourier transform spectrometer and as part of the EUMETSAT European Polar System (EPS) is the first such instrument to be designed for operational meteorological measurements.

IASI measures the radiance emitted from the Earth in 8461 channels covering the spectral interval from 645–2760 $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at a resolution of 0.5 $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (apodised) and with a spatial sampling of 18km at nadir. The high volume of data resulting from IASI presents many challenges, particularly in the areas of data transmission, data storage and assimilation.

The selection of a subset of channels is an established method for reducing the amount of data to be assimilated for each IASI field of view. Distribution and assimilation of selected channels is the current operational configuration for AIRS — the first high spectral resolution infrared sounder to be assimilated into NWP models.

This report describes a methodology for the selection of a subset of 300 IASI channels that may be distributed such that the total loss of information is a minimum. The value of 300 was chosen as this is the likely maximum number of IASI channels suitable for distribution by EUMETSAT via the Global Telecommunications System. The same approach (and the channels selected) is also applicable to choosing a subset of channels to be assimilated.

A number of techniques have been suggested for channel selection for high spectral resolution infrared sounders and these are reviewed and compared in Rabier *et al.* (2002) where they conclude that the channel selection method of Rodgers (1996, 2000) is the most optimal (for a static, rather than dynamic, channel selection).

Section 2 describes the channel selection method and discusses the choices that may be made at the various stages of the process. Section 3 then describes a practical implementation of the channel selection process for the specific aim of a general NWP selection of 300 channels. Section 4 reviews the selection of Section 3. Conclusions make up Section 5.

## 2 Overview of the method.

Before setting up the channel selection process we first need to identify the atmospheric properties for which information is to be preserved, as the exact content of a selected set of channels will be highly dependent on the precise application to which it is being applied. For the purpose of NWP the information we aim to preserve

in the channel selection relates to profiles of temperature, humidity, ozone, carbon dioxide and the surface temperature.

As techniques and modelling accuracy evolve, the “optimal” set of channels will also change. However, one must also consider that two very different channel selections may contain very similar information. Therefore, the aim with this approach is not to produce an absolutely “optimal” set of channels, as this is almost certainly not possible for all applications. Here we select a conservative and close to optimal set of channels for extracting atmospheric information for NWP.

In order to infer the above quantities, auxiliary knowledge of cloud properties and surface emissivity is necessary. These may also be inferred from the IASI observations and channels necessary for this purpose need to be chosen.

On choosing channels it should be remembered that shortwave channels ( $\lambda < 5\mu\text{m}$ ) can be affected by sunlight. Although current state of the art radiative transfer models such as RTIASI-5 (Matricardi, 2004) have the capability to model solar contaminated observations well, it is still more challenging to use these wavelengths (especially in the presence of cloud or aerosol), and they should not be chosen in preference to longwave channels that can provide similar information. Also, water vapour and ozone channels should not be the primary providers of temperature information as their temperature Jacobians can be highly state-dependent. Therefore at different stages of the channel selection process different sets of channels are considered.

The channel selection method presented here consists of three main stages:

1. Removal of channels based on *ad hoc* criteria to avoid spectral regions with large uncertainties in the modelled spectra (i.e., pre-screening).
2. The main selection algorithm based on the information content of the measurements. This is comprised of a number of individual selection runs.
3. *Ad hoc* addition of channels for specific purposes that could not be represented by the information content based selection algorithm.

The following three sections discuss possibilities for pre-screening (Section 2.1), the selection of channels (Section 2.2) and additional *ad hoc* channel selection (Section 2.3). A number of possible courses of action are discussed. The practical implementation of the selection algorithm is presented in Section 3.

## 2.1 Approaches to Pre-screening

The channel selection method described should avoid channels with large forward model uncertainty. Here a variety of approaches that may be considered for pre-screening are discussed. This is intended as an overview of all the possible pre-screening issues and for practical reasons not all of the following are considered in the actual channel selection runs (see Section 3).

1. Consideration of channels that are significantly dominated by trace species (i.e., minor species whose impact on the spectrum cannot be modelled with sufficient accuracy due to uncertainty in their abundances or spectroscopy). This may be achieved through radiative transfer calculations where species abundances in the radiative transfer model are varied by their climatological range (for various representative test atmospheres) and any channel showing variation by more than the IASI instrument noise level is rejected. However, for some species (e.g.,  $\text{CH}_4$ ) this might result in an unacceptably high rejection rate (thousands of channels) and

the criterion might need to be relaxed (but with the assumed forward model error adjusted accordingly). Conversely, some species might have a correlated spectral signal that, while below instrument noise level for a single channel, becomes significant when considered for the spectrum as a whole. The information on random noise contributed by trace species for un-rejected channels should be included in the estimate for the forward model error covariance matrix.

2. Consideration of inter-comparison exercises. Inter-comparison exercises such as LIE (Tjemkes *et al.*, 2003) and Rizzi *et al.* (2002) and the various AIRS validation studies can be used to identify areas in the spectrum where the radiative transfer calculations are particularly problematic. J. Taylor (priv. comm.) has, for example, identified spectral lines in the  $6.3\mu\text{m}$  water vapour band that appear to have erroneous spectroscopy in the line databases.

The LIE study includes comparisons between different radiative transfer models and between these models and existing observed high spectral resolution infrared observations (plus measurements of the associated atmospheric state), thus highlighting spectral regions where there is disagreement in forward modelling.

3. NWP monitoring statistics. Comparisons between observed radiances and simulated radiances from short-range forecast fields can identify possibly problematic channels which might necessitate changes to the channel selection. The current experience with AIRS can identify many such channels (e.g., the high-peaking channels around  $4.3\mu\text{m}$  which are highly influenced by unmodeled non-LTE effects) but AIRS does not cover the same spectral range nor does it have the same spectral resolution as IASI. If post-launch monitoring of IASI does identify bad channels, they may either be substituted for good ones (if such a change is not too late) or advice may be distributed on the use of these channels (as is current practice with satellite measurements).

In summary, channels should be avoided if they have large sensitivity to radiative transfer model errors; are sensitive to variable species whose variability is not considered in the background or on analysis; or which have known radiative transfer weaknesses.

## 2.2 Selection Methodology

After pre-screening, the selection of channels is performed.

The channel selection is based on the methodology suggested by Rodgers (1996, 2000). This method was shown to be the best method for *a priori* determination of an optimal channel set by Rabier *et al.* (2002) and has been further evaluated in the context of AIRS by Fourri  and Th paut (2003).

The method relies on evaluating the impact of the addition of single channels on a figure of merit and proceeds as follows:

1. Test which single channel most improves a chosen figure of merit. This figure of merit is normally a quantity reflecting the improvement of the analysis error covariance matrix,  $\mathbf{A}$ , over the background error covariance matrix,  $\mathbf{B}$ . Therefore, starting with  $\mathbf{A}_0 = \mathbf{B}$  (where  $\mathbf{A}_i$  is the analysis error covariance matrix after  $i$  channels have been chosen), the possible values of  $\mathbf{A}_i$  for each chosen channel will need to be calculated.
2. After the optimal  $\mathbf{A}_i$  has been determined through the choice of the best new channel, find the remaining channel that most improves the figure of merit.
3. Repeat until a sufficient number of channels have been selected.

Rodgers speeds this process up by noting that, if the instrumental noise plus forward model error covariance matrix is diagonal<sup>1</sup>, on adding a new channel,  $i$ , to the analysis, the solution error covariance is changed from

<sup>1</sup>Theoretically, a realistic estimate of the full error covariance matrix would be desirable, even though the channel selection calcu-

$\mathbf{A}_{i-1}$  to  $\mathbf{A}_i$  thus:

$$\mathbf{A}_i = \mathbf{A}_{i-1} \left\{ \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{h}_i (\mathbf{A}_{i-1} \mathbf{h}_i)^T / [1 + (\mathbf{A}_{i-1} \mathbf{h}_i)^T \mathbf{h}_i] \right\}.$$

Here  $\mathbf{h}_i$  is the Jacobian for channel  $i$  normalised by the standard deviation of the instrument plus forward model noise for that channel.

In this scheme, the degrees of freedom for signal (DFS) for the assimilation ( $\text{Tr}(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}^{-1})$ ) is used as the figure of merit. An alternative is the entropy reduction ( $-0.5 \ln |\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}^{-1}|$ ) but past experience (e.g., Rabier *et al.*, 2002) has shown that the differences between choosing DFS or entropy reduction are small. Required for this method are an estimate of the background error covariance matrix (the ECMWF NWP background error covariance matrix operational from Jan. 2003 – Jun. 2005, modified for use in a 1DVar scenario), an estimate of the observational error covariance matrix (including forward model errors), and a forward model to estimate the Jacobians for the atmospheres being considered (RTIASI-4: Matricardi and Saunders, 1999; Matricardi, 2003). Usually, the process is applied to the case of a single atmospheric profile, but may be extended to consider, simultaneously, multiple profiles.

As the effect of the precise atmospheric profiles used on the final selection may be important (Rabier *et al.*, 2002), the final channel selection should be tested against the optimal selection for a diverse range of atmospheric profiles.

The method is then implemented as follows:

1. Take the IASI channels that remain after pre-screening
2. Choose a range of atmospheric scenarios: the six AFGL standard atmospheres or part of the ECMWF atmospheric database (Chevallier, 1999; Chevallier *et al.*, 2000), for example. Consider these different scenarios simultaneously, so that, while the  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  matrices themselves are calculated independently, the total DFS for all the profiles is used as the figure of merit (one may also weight each individual profile by the inverse of the total achievable DFS as in Lipton, 2003). The reason for this is to ensure that channels are chosen based on the combined requirements of the range of atmospheres.
3. To ensure that temperature information is primarily coming from the relatively linear<sup>2</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> channels, start by ignoring those channels that are most sensitive to water vapour or ozone (based on the sensitivity of the IASI radiances to realistic variations in the water vapour or ozone abundance). Also, pre-screen those channels that are sensitive to solar irradiance; as it should be ensured that the channel selection does not rely on channels that cannot be used in the daytime.
4. Perform the above analysis for temperature, using the channels that remain. The number of channels that are chosen is determined by consideration of the total number that are required and the amount of DFS that is explained as a function of the total for all the channels being considered. This choice will necessarily be somewhat subjective
5. With the temperature channels chosen above pre-selected, perform the DFS analysis once more with the water vapour channels included and with both water vapour and temperature assimilation allowed. Further channels are thus chosen which are primarily sensitive to humidity but which will also contribute further temperature information.
- 5a. Optionally repeat the above for trace gas (O<sub>3</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, N<sub>2</sub>O, etc.) assimilation, if required.

lations would be slowed significantly. This matrix is, however, very difficult to estimate and, furthermore, for various practical reasons the assumed error covariance matrix is often very conservative and very different from the true matrix. With these considerations in mind, it is practically more sensible to consider a reasonable diagonal matrix. The impact of this assumption has not been determined and is beyond the scope of this report.

<sup>2</sup>Linear in this context refers to the case where the temperature Jacobian is not sensitive to realistic variation in the absorber amounts.

6. Repeat steps 3 and 4, but include the solar-affected channels.

The channel selection process is normally stopped either once a pre-selected number of channels is reached or once the improvement on adding new channels is relatively small. In the above method both criteria will be used and there will necessarily be some subjective choices to be made.

### 2.3 Selection of Additional Channels.

The selection of channels useful in the determination of cloud properties and surface emissivity, if this is required, is probably best done through manual selection of channels (if suitable ones are not already in the above dataset) on consideration of the spectral properties being considered. This approach or alternative automatic approaches (e.g., Crevoisier *et al.*, 2003) may also be preferable for trace gases (rather than step 5a above) as our knowledge of the B-matrices for these is often poor.

## 3 A Practical Selection of 300 IASI Channels for NRT distribution to NWP Centres.

In this section an example of the channel selection method is given where a total of 300 channels are chosen. This is an example with a diagonal combined observation and forward model error covariance matrix, where the forward model error is 0.2K plus the effect of trace gases only. The selection of channels for the assimilation of trace gases (i.e., all species except water vapour, ozone and carbon dioxide) is not performed.

### 3.1 Pre-screening.

The channels which are initially removed on pre-screening (“blacklisted channels”) are shown in Figure 1. Channels are removed if the effect on the brightness temperature due to climatological variability is greater than 1K for any of the six AFGL standard atmospheres. Ten species were examined in this way (CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, N<sub>2</sub>O, CCl<sub>4</sub>, CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-14, HNO<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, OCS, NO, and SO<sub>2</sub>) but only the first three had large enough effects for blacklisting. If a species has an impact lower than 1.0K, its effect is added to the forward model error covariance matrix. CO<sub>2</sub> has been assumed to have a constant abundance in this example (although variability in its abundance can cause variations in the observed brightness temperature of up to around 0.5K in the 15 $\mu$ m band), as much of its variability can probably be removed through bias correction or the use of a climatological mean (e.g., Engelen *et al.*, 2001).

Channels applicable to the assimilation of trace gas abundances are not chosen explicitly. It is suggested that trace gas channels may be added with reference to techniques developed specifically for this purpose (e.g., Crevoisier *et al.*, 2003).

Additionally shown in Figure 1 are those channels which are significantly influenced by the surface, by water vapour, by ozone and by solar irradiance. Some or all of these channels are removed in “pre-selection” runs.

### 3.2 Information content based channel selection.

The assumed instrument plus forward model error is shown in Figure 2. The instrument noise is measured level 1c flight model instrument noise as supplied in November 2004 (Phulpin, *priv. comm.*); the forward

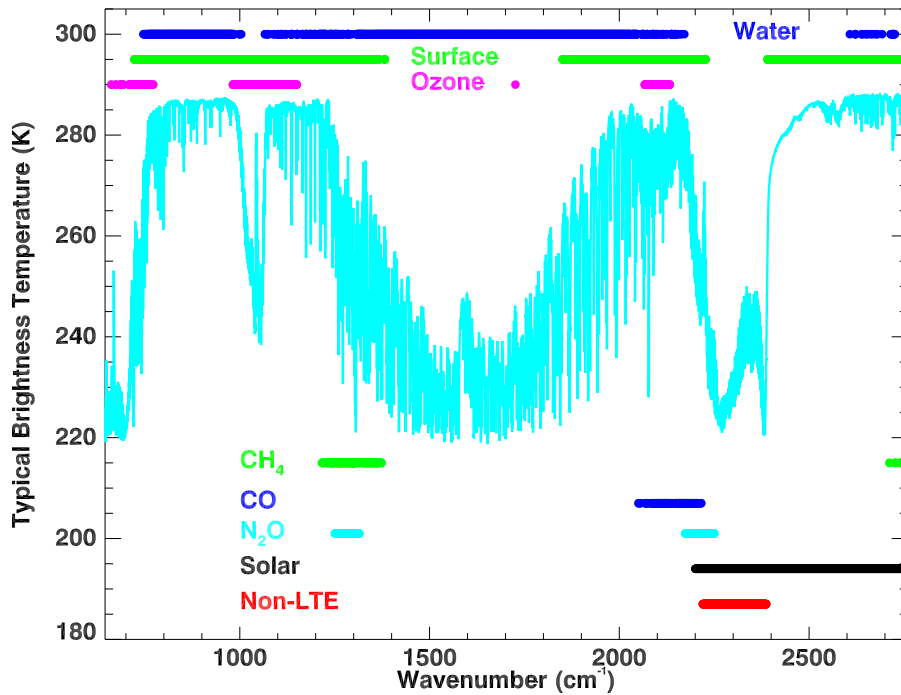


Fig. 1. Blacklisted channels for channel selection. Channels with possible signals from CH<sub>4</sub>, CO or N<sub>2</sub>O greater than 1K are blacklisted together with those channels in the 4.3μm CO<sub>2</sub> band which are affected by non-LTE effects. Channels with large contributions from H<sub>2</sub>O, O<sub>3</sub>, the surface and solar irradiance are also indicated.

model noise is taken to be a constant 0.2K plus estimates of the error due to the variability of trace gases. In this case the combined instrument and forward model error covariance matrix is assumed to be diagonal. The instrument noise is assumed to be constant in radiance space and thus varies with scene temperature in brightness temperature space, the 0.2K forward model noise is assumed to be constant in brightness temperature space.

The background error covariance matrix assumed is based on the operational ECMWF background error covariance matrix. The standard deviations for this matrix are shown in Figure 3.

This channel selection is based on the six AFGL standard atmospheres and view angles of 0° (nadir) and 40°. Degrees of freedom for signal (DFS) is used as the figure of merit. As interchannel error correlations are not accounted for and the IASI level 1c data are apodised (and thus have highly correlated errors between adjacent channels), a channel cannot be chosen if one of its immediate neighbours is already chosen.

This channel selection is performed in seven stages:

- 1) An initial run is performed with only the temperature analysis being considered and with the water vapour, ozone and solar channels excluded (in addition to the blacklisted channels, of course). This is to ensure that a minimum amount of temperature information is derived from CO<sub>2</sub> channels rather than H<sub>2</sub>O and O<sub>3</sub> channels (as in a linear analysis the dependence of the temperature Jacobians on H<sub>2</sub>O and O<sub>3</sub> amount is not accounted for). Solar channels are excluded to ensure that this set is usable in the daytime as well as night. Approximately 55% of the total degrees of freedom for signal (considering temperature only) are obtained with the first 30 channels.



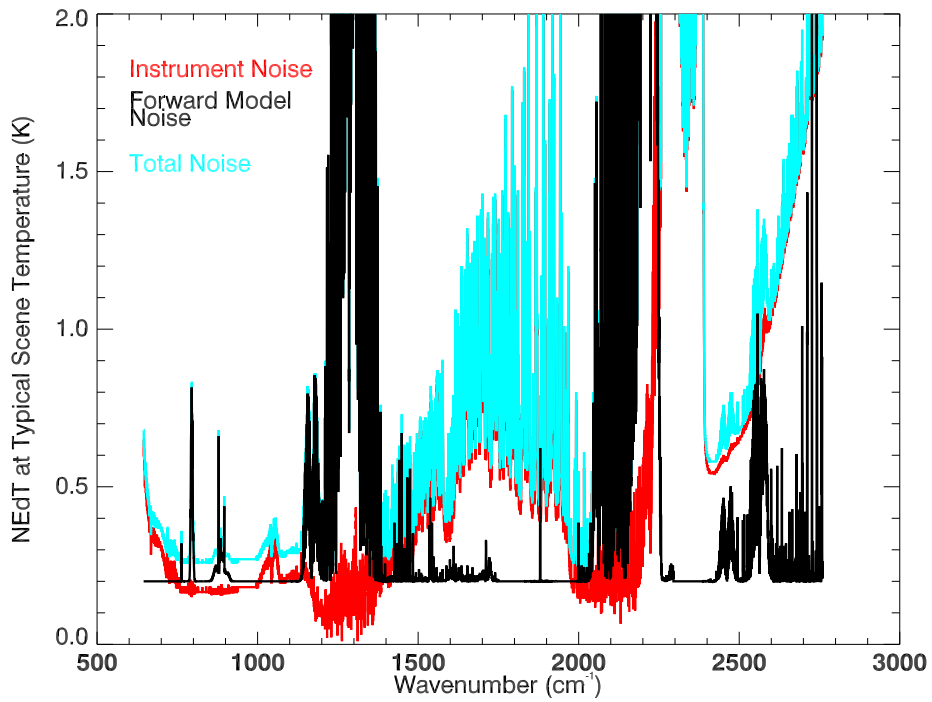


Fig. 2a: The assumed observational plus forward model noise as used in the channel selection for the AFGL U.S. Standard Atmosphere.

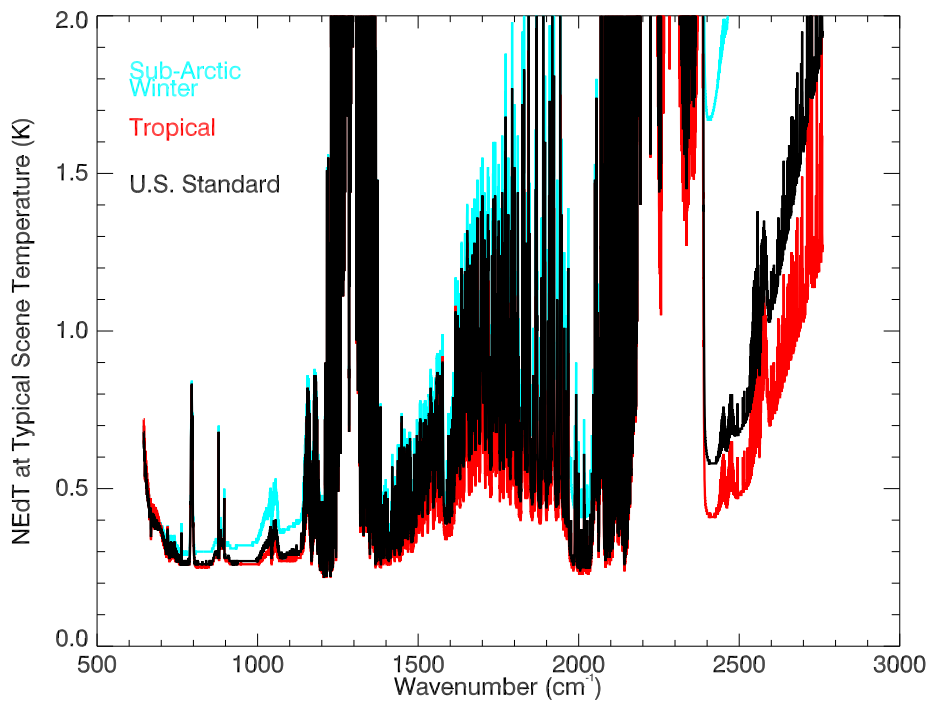


Fig. 2b: Variability of the assumed noise with different AFGL standard atmospheres.

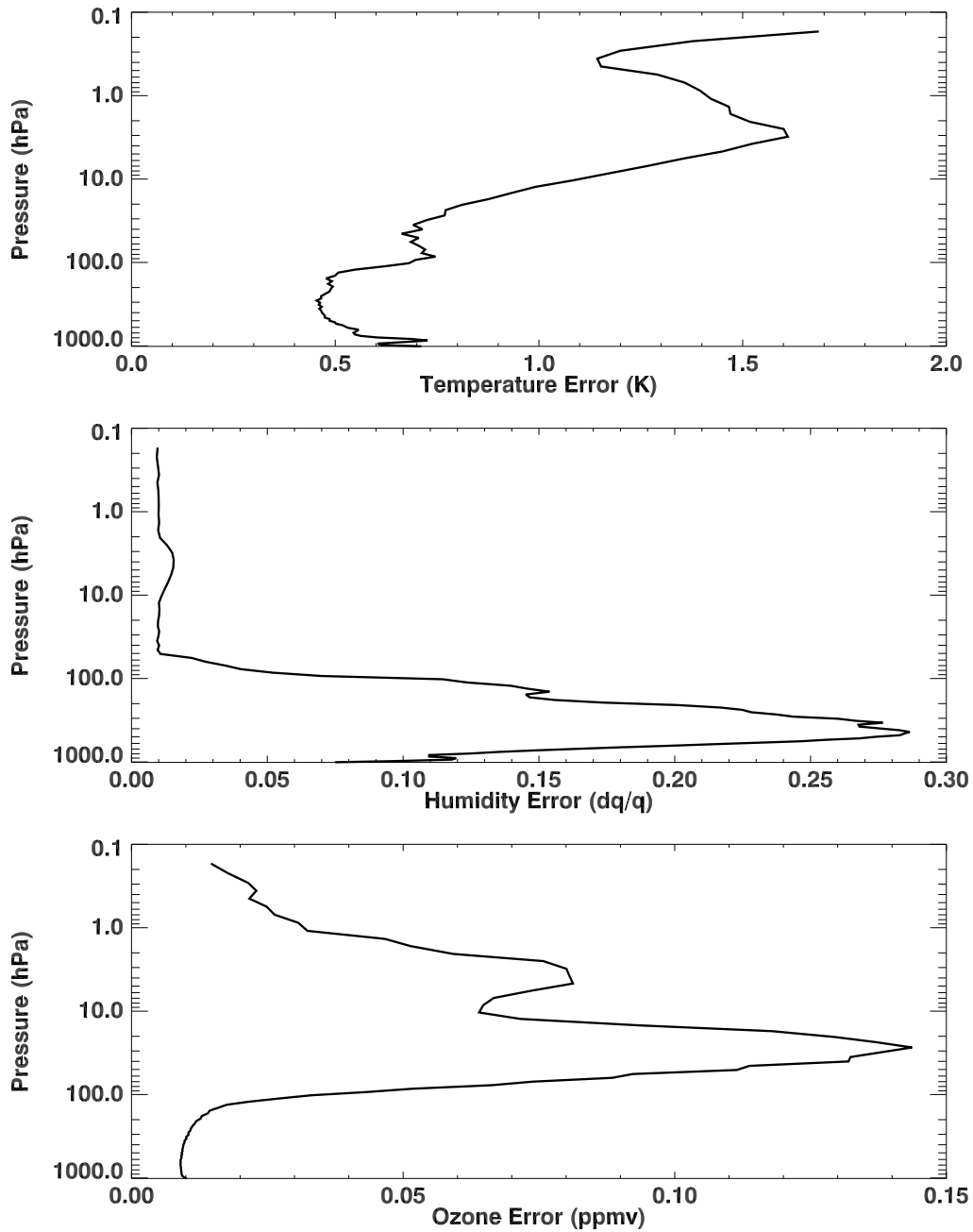


Fig. 3: Standard deviations of temperature, humidity and ozone taken from the operational ECMWF background error covariance interpolated onto the 90 RTIASI levels. A skin temperature error of 2.0K is assumed.

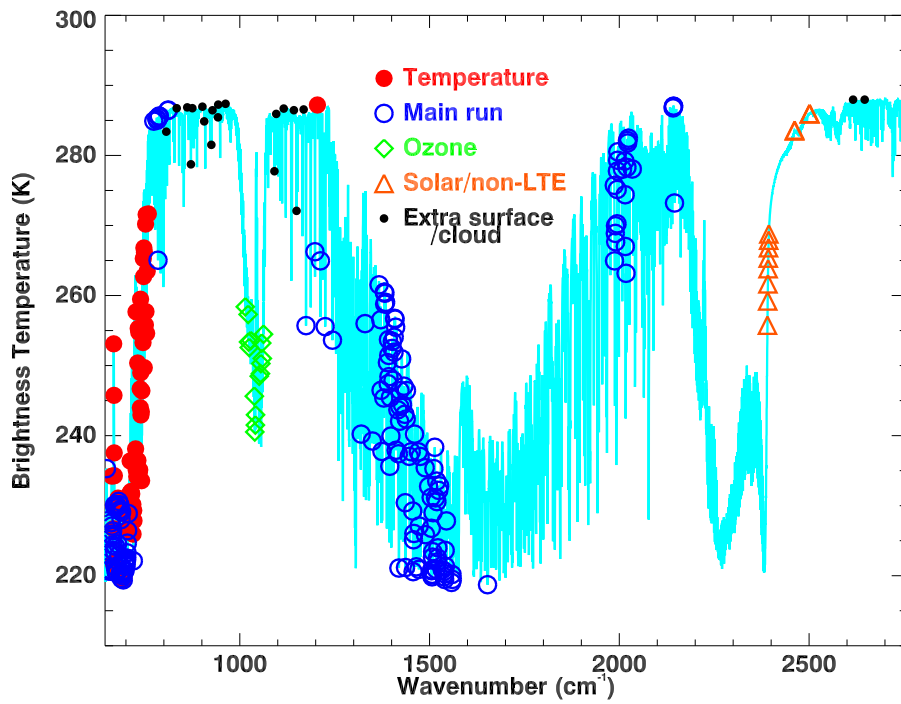


Fig. 4. 300 channels chosen with the methodology described in the text.

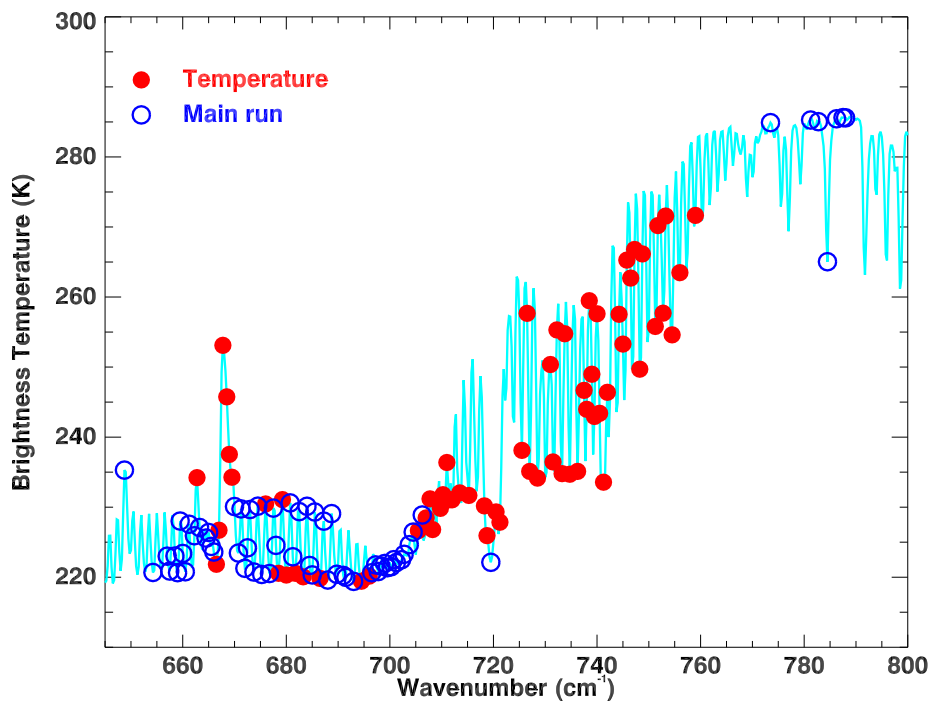


Fig. 5: As Figure 4, except focusing on the  $15\mu\text{m}$   $\text{CO}_2$  band.

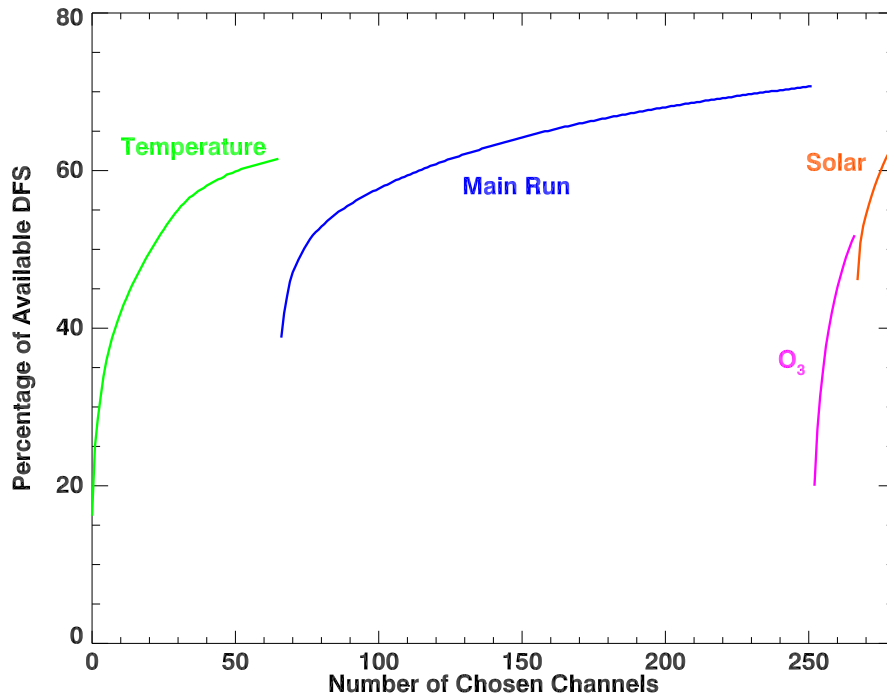


Fig. 6: Evolution of the DFS during the channel selection. The “available DFS” is derived for temperature assimilation only, temperature and humidity assimilation, ozone assimilation only; and temperature and humidity assimilation when using channels with wavelengths less than  $5\mu\text{m}$  only.

2) Following the ECMWF experience with AIRS (G. Kelly, *priv. comm.*), it is expected that a large fraction of the total forecast impact from IASI will come from the upper tropospheric temperature sounding channels in the  $15\mu\text{m}$   $\text{CO}_2$  band. Therefore, an additional step is introduced to ensure a maximum number of such channels are included in the final selection (while preserving the restriction on adjacent channels). An additional 36 channels in the range  $250\text{--}460$  ( $707.25\text{--}759.75\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) with temperature jacobian peaks in the troposphere are thus chosen. These channels increase the fraction of the total temperature degrees of freedom to 62%.

3) Taking the 66 pre-selected channels from the first stage, the channel selection is now preformed with water vapour being considered in addition to temperature and with the water vapour channels included. 252 channels (including the 66 pre-selected ones) are chosen. The total available DFS in this case is 168.0 (i.e., an average of 14.0 per profile) of which 118.8 (71% ) is obtained with the 252 channels.

4) Next the channels from stage 3 are preselected and ozone analysis is allowed. For this step the analysis is for ozone only (i.e., the temperature and water vapour profiles are assumed to be known). The total DFS for ozone is 23.0 (1.9 per profile); 52% of this DFS is accounted for with the 15 ozone channels that are chosen.

5) Allow the solar irradiance-affected channels to be used. Unfortunately, the noise in these channels is so high that channels in the longwave part of the spectrum are still selected in preference to the shortwave. As for research purposes, these channels might still be of interest, 13 channels were chosen when wavelengths below  $4.189\mu\text{m}$  were considered *only* (this value being chosen to avoid channels which suffer from non-LTE effects). The total DFS when considering this spectral region is only 20.3 (1.7 per profile) and the 13 channels chosen account for 63% of it.

6) Taking the channels from the previous steps, allow carbon dioxide analysis. As with ozone, the analysis is for CO<sub>2</sub> only — the other quantities are assumed to be known. A simple diagonal background error covariance is assumed with a constant standard deviation of 10ppmv. The total DFS in this case is 16.3 (1.36 per profile) and 59.7% of this is already explained by the channels already chosen. No additional CO<sub>2</sub> specific channels are added, therefore.

7) In order to allow for derivation of surface emissivity and cloud properties, 20 additional window channels and channels on weak absorption lines in the window are added. The use of weak absorption lines in the derivation of surface and cloud emissivity is discussed in Huang *et al.* (2004).

The chosen channels are shown in Figures 4 and 5 and the evolution of the DFS is shown in Figure 6.

## 4 Discussion of Results.

This section reviews the channel selection and investigates its robustness against the choice of profiles and background error covariance.

### 4.1 Some notes on the channels chosen.

Many channels are chosen in the 670–710cm<sup>-1</sup> region which are sensitive to the temperature of the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere. This is partially a reflection of the relatively high *a priori* temperature errors in this region, compared to the troposphere, but also reflects the somewhat higher instrument noise levels for these channels.

Very few surface sounding channels are chosen as the skin temperature variance is reduced by over an order of magnitude by the very first surface sounding channel chosen. This is a result of the forward model error not including the highly correlated errors resulting from emissivity uncertainty and undetected cloud. This deficiency has been addressed by the manual inclusion of extra window channels in Step 7 above.

Figures 7 and 8 compare this IASI channel selection with the 324 channels chosen for near-real time distribution from AIRS. However, it is hard to make a direct comparison as the AIRS channels do not have exactly the same frequencies as the IASI ones; the instrument spectral response functions differ; the instrument noise characteristics are different; the shortwave portion of the 6.3μm water vapour band is not measured by AIRS and the criteria for choosing these channels was different.

Another consideration of the utility of the channel selection is whether the Jacobians of the selected channels are sufficiently localised. In particular if channels sensitive to the troposphere have high sensitivity to the state of the atmosphere in the upper stratosphere or above, large errors in the upper level model temperature fields can compromise the accuracy of the information being provided lower down.

Figures 9a and 9b show for the main temperature and water vapour sounding regions of the spectrum the impact of a 1K temperature perturbation for all levels above 10hPa on the observed brightness temperature as a function of the level of the Jacobian peak for each channel. The red dots are the channels in this selection, the green dots are those channels available for selection but not chosen; and the small black dots are blacklisted channels. It can be seen that the channels chosen are generally either as good as the channels that were omitted or, in the case of the water vapour, often significantly better.

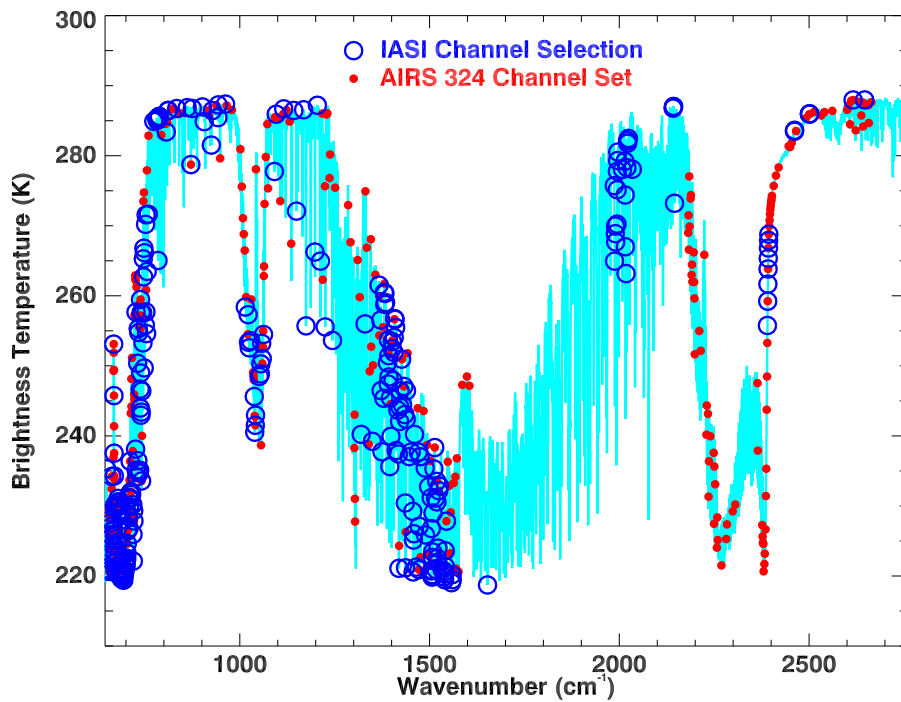


Fig. 7: A comparison of the 324 channels distributed for AIRS and the 300 channels chosen for IASI.

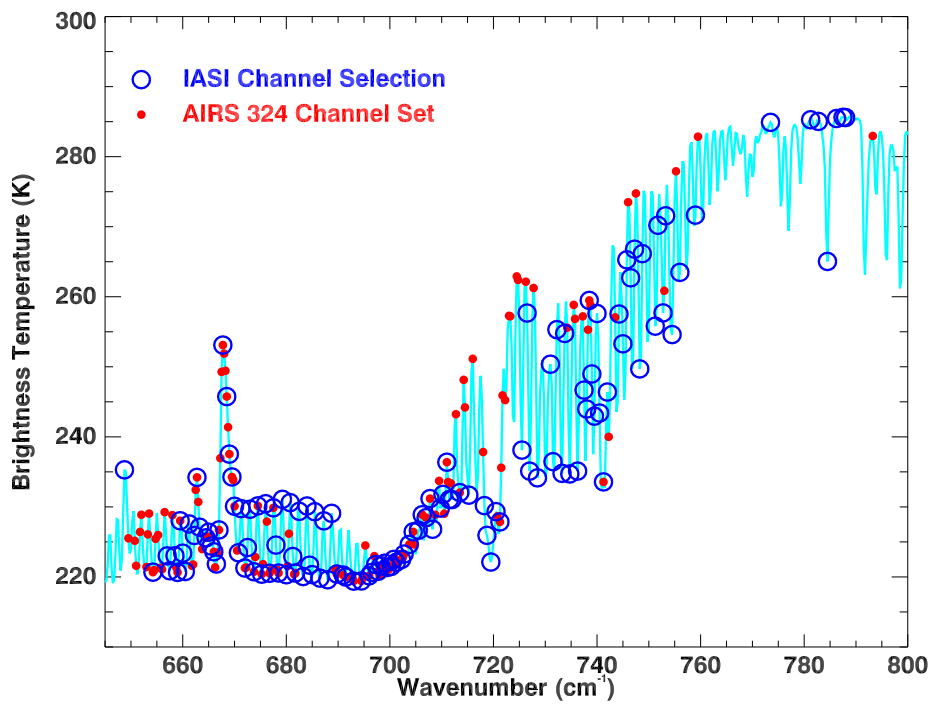


Fig. 8: As Figure 7, except focusing on the 15 $\mu$ m CO<sub>2</sub> band.

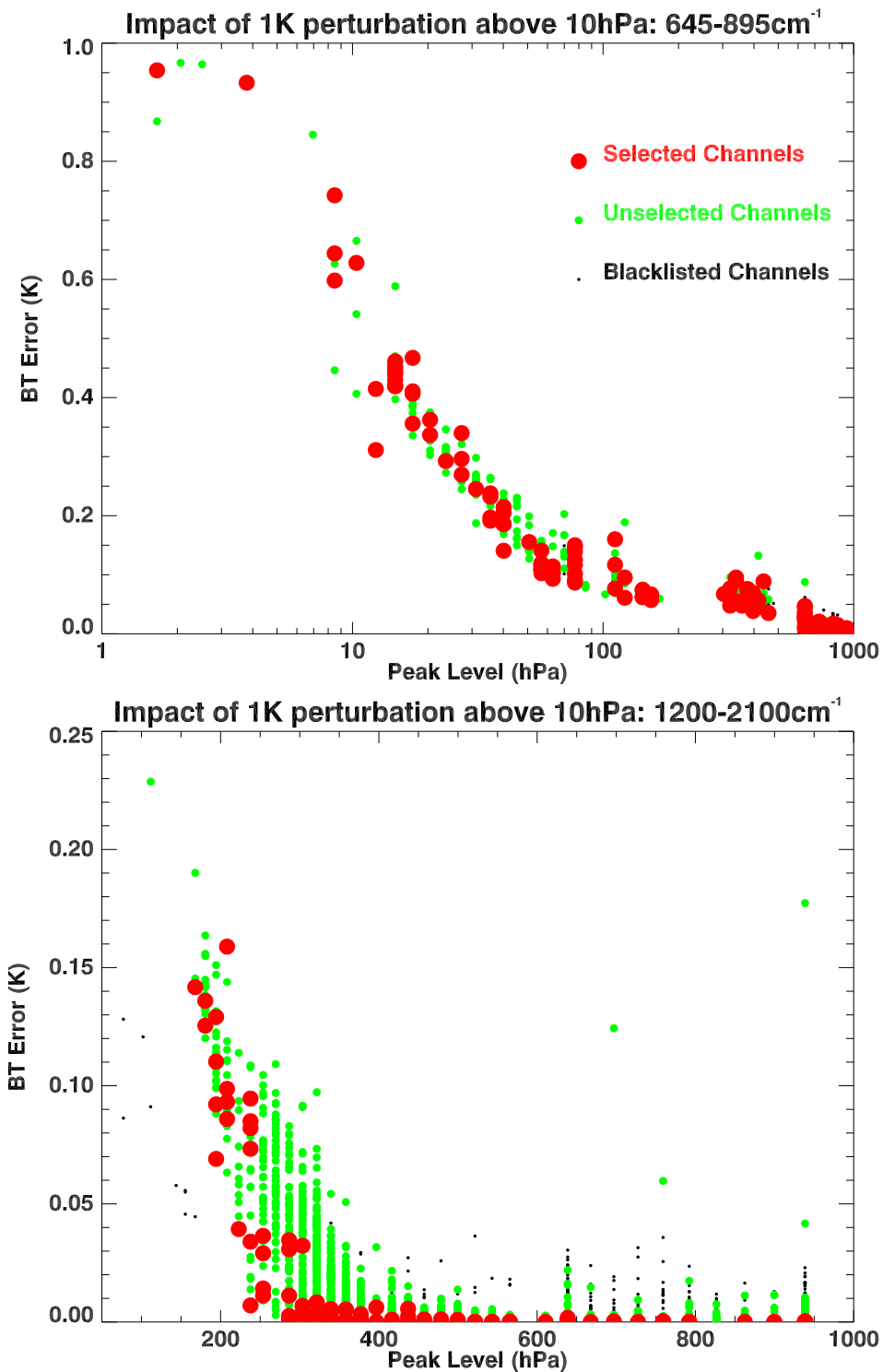


Fig. 9a (top) and 9b (bottom): The impact of a 1K temperature perturbation for all levels above 10hPa on the observed brightness temperature as a function of the level of the Jacobian peak for the main temperature and water vapour sounding regions of the spectrum. The large dots are the channels in this selection, the medium dots are those channels available for selection but not chosen; and the small dots are blacklisted channels.

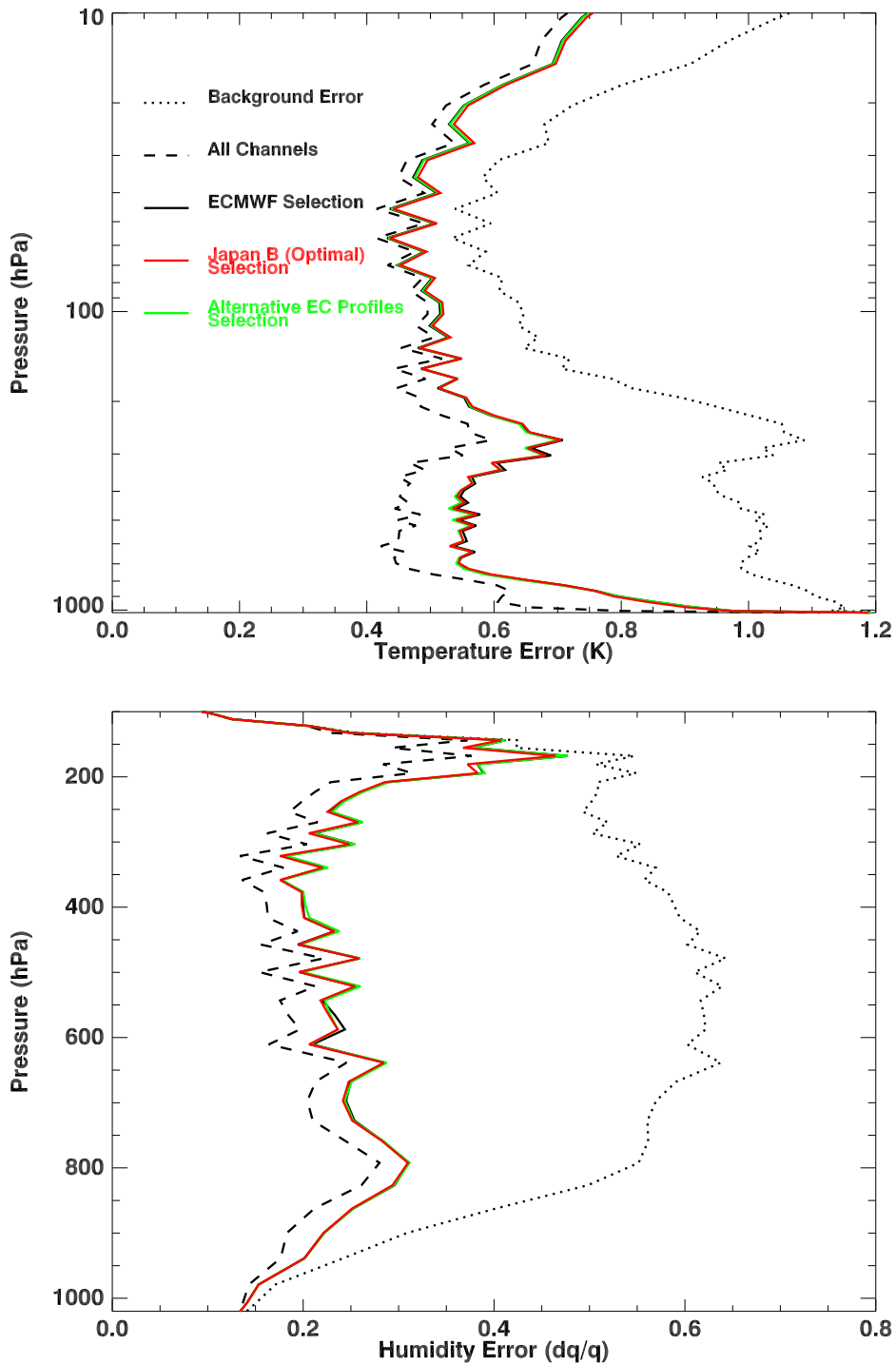


Fig. 10: Analysis errors for the U.S. Standard atmosphere and the JMA B-matrix on using all the channels; the optimal selection of 300 channels for the ECMWF B-matrix and the AFGL profile dataset; the optimal selection for the JMA ATOVS 1DVar B-matrix; and the optimal selection for the ECMWF B-matrix and an alternate set of atmospheric profiles.



## 4.2 Robustness of the channel selection.

The robustness of the algorithm is addressed with respect to its dependence on the assumed background error covariance matrix and also on its dependence of the atmospheric profiles being considered. It is tested by performing the channel selection for alternate scenarios (i.e., different B-matrix or different atmospheric profiles) and recomputing the DFS's that would result from the alternate channel sets but for the original scenario. That is, the detailed channel selection may well be different in the alternate scenarios but what is tested is whether the alternate channel selection contains similar information to the original when considered for the same profile and B-matrix.

The alternate B-matrix used was supplied by K. Okamoto (*priv. comm.*) and is based on the B-matrix used for ATOVS 1DVar pre-processing at JMA. On using this different B-matrix, the DFS after the temperature channels pre-selection was 73.6 (i.e., 6.1 per profile) rather than 75.5 for the optimal case. After the main run the respective values were 163.0 and 165.4 (i.e., a difference of 0.2 per profile). Out of the 252 channels chosen in each case 167 (66%) were common to both selections.

Seven alternate atmospheric profiles are taken from the Chevallier dataset and are chosen to cover a representative set of possible atmospheric states. In this case the DFS was 53.5 for the temperature channels pre-selection rather than the optimal 53.3. For the main run the values were 145.2 and 148.0 respectively. 180 channels were common to both selections.

The impact of these different selections on the expected analysis errors for the U.S. Standard atmosphere and the ECMWF B-matrix are shown in Figure 10.

While, as expected, there is some loss of information on changing the selection scenarios, these losses are relatively small and indicate that the channel selection is robust enough to serve as a global channel selection set.

The final set of 300 channels is given in Appendix A.

## 5 Summary of channel selection.

A selection of IASI channels has been determined based on the ECMWF background error covariance matrix. Channels have been chosen based on their information content (degrees of freedom for signal) derived from a linear analysis, but with the non-linear effects of the change in Jacobians for variable species being accounted for. The robustness of the selection has been explored with respect to the assumed atmospheric states and the background error covariance matrix.

It is necessary to combine the automatic channel selection algorithm of Rogers (1997, 2002) with manual intervention not only to mitigate the effects of non-linearity but also to ensure that the selection is as close to optimal as possible in various circumstances (e.g., daytime versus nighttime) and to allow for effects that are difficult to explicitly include in the algorithm (correlated error from surface emissivity).

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Garand, Reinhold Hess, Allen Huang, Bob Knuteson, Nadia Fourrié, Florence Rabier, Alan Lipton, Kozo Okamoto, Peter Rayer, Peter Schlüssel, Roger Saunders, Tim Schmidt, Bill Smith and Claudia Stubenrauch.

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## Appendix: A 300 Channel Selection.

The 300 channels chosen by the example selection in this paper. Channels marked “Temp” were derived in the initial temperature pre-selection; Main refers to the main run and “Window” were the additional channels added to ensure cloud and emissivity effects are allowed for (Window/CO<sub>2</sub> and Window/H<sub>2</sub>O are on weak absorption lines). The numbers indicate the order in which the channels were chosen within each run.

| Chan | Waveno. | Notes    | Chan | Waveno. | Notes    |
|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 16   | 648.75  | Main 63  | 116  | 673.75  | Main 50  |
| 38   | 654.25  | Main 179 | 119  | 674.50  | Main 39  |
| 49   | 657.00  | Main 153 | 122  | 675.25  | Main 29  |
| 51   | 657.50  | Main 167 | 125  | 676.00  | Temp 24  |
| 55   | 658.50  | Main 165 | 128  | 676.75  | Main 35  |
| 57   | 659.00  | Main 121 | 131  | 677.50  | Main 45  |
| 59   | 659.50  | Main 180 | 133  | 678.00  | Main 128 |
| 61   | 660.00  | Main 134 | 135  | 678.50  | Temp 27  |
| 63   | 660.50  | Main 130 | 138  | 679.25  | Temp 30  |
| 66   | 661.25  | Main 156 | 141  | 680.00  | Temp 16  |
| 70   | 662.25  | Main 160 | 144  | 680.75  | Main 31  |
| 72   | 662.75  | Temp 15  | 146  | 681.25  | Main 113 |
| 74   | 663.25  | Main 122 | 148  | 681.75  | Temp 21  |
| 79   | 664.50  | Main 149 | 151  | 682.50  | Main 55  |
| 81   | 665.00  | Main 97  | 154  | 683.25  | Temp 13  |
| 83   | 665.50  | Main 144 | 157  | 684.00  | Main 87  |
| 85   | 666.00  | Main 78  | 159  | 684.50  | Main 103 |
| 87   | 666.50  | Temp 18  | 161  | 685.00  | Main 43  |
| 89   | 667.00  | Temp 11  | 163  | 685.50  | Main 105 |
| 92   | 667.75  | Temp 2   | 167  | 686.50  | Temp 23  |
| 95   | 668.50  | Temp 5   | 170  | 687.25  | Main 116 |
| 97   | 669.00  | Temp 7   | 173  | 688.00  | Main 32  |
| 99   | 669.50  | Temp 10  | 176  | 688.75  | Main 175 |
| 101  | 670.00  | Main 73  | 180  | 689.75  | Main 56  |
| 104  | 670.75  | Main 58  | 185  | 691.00  | Main 83  |
| 106  | 671.25  | Main 100 | 187  | 691.50  | Main 65  |
| 109  | 672.00  | Main 70  | 193  | 693.00  | Main 37  |
| 111  | 672.50  | Main 90  | 199  | 694.50  | Temp 22  |
| 113  | 673.00  | Main 68  | 205  | 696.00  | Temp 28  |

| Chan | Wavenumber | Notes    | Chan | Wavenumber | Notes                   |
|------|------------|----------|------|------------|-------------------------|
| 207  | 696.50     | Main 98  | 383  | 740.50     | Temp 34                 |
| 210  | 697.25     | Main 177 | 386  | 741.25     | Temp 33                 |
| 212  | 697.75     | Main 42  | 389  | 742.00     | Temp 37                 |
| 214  | 698.25     | Main 161 | 398  | 744.25     | Temp 8                  |
| 217  | 699.00     | Main 115 | 401  | 745.00     | Temp 12                 |
| 219  | 699.50     | Main 49  | 404  | 745.75     | Temp 62                 |
| 222  | 700.25     | Main 141 | 407  | 746.50     | Temp 65                 |
| 224  | 700.75     | Main 95  | 410  | 747.25     | Temp 48                 |
| 226  | 701.25     | Main 61  | 414  | 748.25     | Temp 46                 |
| 230  | 702.25     | Main 76  | 416  | 748.75     | Temp 19                 |
| 232  | 702.75     | Main 91  | 426  | 751.25     | Temp 66                 |
| 236  | 703.75     | Main 106 | 428  | 751.75     | Temp 9                  |
| 239  | 704.50     | Main 69  | 432  | 752.75     | Temp 51                 |
| 243  | 705.50     | Temp 17  | 434  | 753.25     | Temp 4                  |
| 246  | 706.25     | Main 84  | 439  | 754.50     | Temp 6                  |
| 249  | 707.00     | Temp 25  | 445  | 756.00     | Temp 56                 |
| 252  | 707.75     | Temp 29  | 457  | 759.00     | Temp 31                 |
| 254  | 708.25     | Temp 43  | 515  | 773.50     | Main 109                |
| 260  | 709.75     | Temp 45  | 546  | 781.25     | Main 12                 |
| 262  | 710.25     | Temp 35  | 552  | 782.75     | Main 26                 |
| 265  | 711.00     | Temp 32  | 559  | 784.50     | Main 119                |
| 267  | 711.50     | Temp 40  | 566  | 786.25     | Main 86                 |
| 269  | 712.00     | Temp 47  | 571  | 787.50     | Main 54                 |
| 275  | 713.50     | Temp 14  | 573  | 788.00     | Main 137                |
| 282  | 715.25     | Temp 49  | 646  | 806.25     | Window/CO <sub>2</sub>  |
| 294  | 718.25     | Temp 42  | 662  | 810.25     | Main 183                |
| 296  | 718.75     | Temp 36  | 668  | 811.75     | Main 159                |
| 299  | 719.50     | Main 152 | 756  | 833.75     | Window                  |
| 303  | 720.50     | Temp 20  | 867  | 861.50     | Window                  |
| 306  | 721.25     | Temp 39  | 906  | 871.25     | Window/H <sub>2</sub> O |
| 323  | 725.50     | Temp 64  | 921  | 875.00     | Window                  |
| 327  | 726.50     | Temp 53  | 1027 | 901.50     | Window                  |
| 329  | 727.00     | Temp 61  | 1046 | 906.25     | Window/H <sub>2</sub> O |
| 335  | 728.50     | Temp 57  | 1121 | 925.00     | Window/H <sub>2</sub> O |
| 345  | 731.00     | Temp 3   | 1133 | 928.00     | Window                  |
| 347  | 731.50     | Temp 50  | 1191 | 942.50     | Window/CO <sub>2</sub>  |
| 350  | 732.25     | Temp 38  | 1194 | 943.25     | Window                  |
| 354  | 733.25     | Temp 55  | 1271 | 962.50     | Window                  |
| 356  | 733.75     | Temp 44  | 1479 | 1014.50    | Ozone 5                 |
| 360  | 734.75     | Temp 58  | 1509 | 1022.00    | Ozone 4                 |
| 366  | 736.25     | Temp 59  | 1513 | 1023.00    | Ozone 2                 |
| 371  | 737.50     | Temp 63  | 1521 | 1025.00    | Ozone 1                 |
| 373  | 738.00     | Temp 54  | 1536 | 1028.75    | Ozone 11                |
| 375  | 738.50     | Temp 41  | 1574 | 1038.25    | Ozone 15                |
| 377  | 739.00     | Temp 60  | 1579 | 1039.50    | Ozone 10                |
| 379  | 739.50     | Temp 52  | 1585 | 1041.00    | Ozone 13                |
| 381  | 740.00     | Temp 26  | 1587 | 1041.50    | Ozone 6                 |

| Chan | Waveno. | Notes                   | Chan | Wavenumber | Notes    |
|------|---------|-------------------------|------|------------|----------|
| 1626 | 1051.25 | Ozone 3                 | 3087 | 1416.50    | Main 185 |
| 1639 | 1054.50 | Ozone 7                 | 3093 | 1418.00    | Main 14  |
| 1643 | 1055.50 | Ozone 8                 | 3098 | 1419.25    | Main 13  |
| 1652 | 1057.75 | Ozone 12                | 3105 | 1421.00    | Main 2   |
| 1658 | 1059.25 | Ozone 14                | 3107 | 1421.50    | Main 46  |
| 1671 | 1062.50 | Ozone 9                 | 3110 | 1422.25    | Main 18  |
| 1786 | 1091.25 | Window/H <sub>2</sub> O | 3127 | 1426.50    | Main 170 |
| 1805 | 1096.00 | Window                  | 3136 | 1428.75    | Main 169 |
| 1884 | 1115.75 | Window                  | 3151 | 1432.50    | Main 94  |
| 1991 | 1142.50 | Window                  | 3160 | 1434.75    | Main 27  |
| 2019 | 1149.50 | Window/H <sub>2</sub> O | 3165 | 1436.00    | Main 38  |
| 2094 | 1168.25 | Window                  | 3168 | 1436.75    | Main 44  |
| 2119 | 1174.50 | Main 154                | 3175 | 1438.50    | Main 81  |
| 2213 | 1198.00 | Main 88                 | 3178 | 1439.25    | Main 146 |
| 2239 | 1204.50 | Temp 1                  | 3207 | 1446.50    | Main 111 |
| 2271 | 1212.50 | Main 129                | 3228 | 1451.75    | Main 162 |
| 2321 | 1225.00 | Main 57                 | 3244 | 1455.75    | Main 1   |
| 2398 | 1244.25 | Main 72                 | 3248 | 1456.75    | Main 22  |
| 2701 | 1320.00 | Main 126                | 3252 | 1457.75    | Main 7   |
| 2741 | 1330.00 | Main 145                | 3256 | 1458.75    | Main 85  |
| 2819 | 1349.50 | Main 140                | 3263 | 1460.50    | Main 104 |
| 2889 | 1367.00 | Main 8                  | 3281 | 1465.00    | Main 110 |
| 2907 | 1371.50 | Main 33                 | 3303 | 1470.50    | Main 125 |
| 2910 | 1372.25 | Main 114                | 3309 | 1472.00    | Main 143 |
| 2919 | 1374.50 | Main 157                | 3312 | 1472.75    | Main 15  |
| 2939 | 1379.50 | Main 47                 | 3322 | 1475.25    | Main 41  |
| 2944 | 1380.75 | Main 53                 | 3375 | 1488.50    | Main 92  |
| 2948 | 1381.75 | Main 176                | 3378 | 1489.25    | Main 181 |
| 2951 | 1382.50 | Main 108                | 3411 | 1497.50    | Main 21  |
| 2958 | 1384.25 | Main 17                 | 3438 | 1504.25    | Main 132 |
| 2977 | 1389.00 | Main 107                | 3440 | 1504.75    | Main 147 |
| 2985 | 1391.00 | Main 136                | 3442 | 1505.25    | Main 151 |
| 2988 | 1391.75 | Main 150                | 3444 | 1505.75    | Main 89  |
| 2991 | 1392.50 | Main 23                 | 3446 | 1506.25    | Main 4   |
| 2993 | 1393.00 | Main 11                 | 3448 | 1506.75    | Main 19  |
| 3002 | 1395.25 | Main 6                  | 3450 | 1507.25    | Main 82  |
| 3008 | 1396.75 | Main 123                | 3452 | 1507.75    | Main 20  |
| 3014 | 1398.25 | Main 60                 | 3454 | 1508.25    | Main 164 |
| 3027 | 1401.50 | Main 77                 | 3458 | 1509.25    | Main 102 |
| 3029 | 1402.00 | Main 52                 | 3467 | 1511.50    | Main 178 |
| 3036 | 1403.75 | Main 59                 | 3476 | 1513.75    | Main 139 |
| 3047 | 1406.50 | Main 184                | 3484 | 1515.75    | Main 62  |
| 3049 | 1407.00 | Main 3                  | 3491 | 1517.50    | Main 168 |
| 3053 | 1408.00 | Main 135                | 3497 | 1519.00    | Main 79  |
| 3058 | 1409.25 | Main 93                 | 3499 | 1519.50    | Main 173 |
| 3064 | 1410.75 | Main 117                | 3504 | 1520.75    | Main 101 |
| 3069 | 1412.00 | Main 71                 | 3506 | 1521.25    | Main 186 |

| Chan | Waveno. | Notes    | Chan | Wavenumber | Notes    |
|------|---------|----------|------|------------|----------|
| 3509 | 1522.00 | Main 34  | 5483 | 2015.50    | Main 67  |
| 3518 | 1524.25 | Main 155 | 5485 | 2016.00    | Main 172 |
| 3527 | 1526.50 | Main 112 | 5492 | 2017.75    | Main 80  |
| 3555 | 1533.50 | Main 127 | 5502 | 2020.25    | Main 99  |
| 3575 | 1538.50 | Main 30  | 5507 | 2021.50    | Main 158 |
| 3577 | 1539.00 | Main 131 | 5509 | 2022.00    | Main 75  |
| 3580 | 1539.75 | Main 9   | 5517 | 2024.00    | Main 133 |
| 3582 | 1540.25 | Main 120 | 5558 | 2034.25    | Main 182 |
| 3586 | 1541.25 | Main 66  | 5988 | 2141.75    | Main 142 |
| 3589 | 1542.00 | Main 163 | 5992 | 2142.75    | Main 74  |
| 3599 | 1544.50 | Main 124 | 5994 | 2143.25    | Main 25  |
| 3653 | 1558.00 | Main 36  | 6003 | 2145.50    | Main 166 |
| 3658 | 1559.25 | Main 51  | 6982 | 2390.25    | Solar 13 |
| 3661 | 1560.00 | Main 64  | 6985 | 2391.00    | Solar 11 |
| 4032 | 1652.75 | Main 174 | 6987 | 2391.50    | Solar 9  |
| 5368 | 1986.75 | Main 138 | 6989 | 2392.00    | Solar 7  |
| 5371 | 1987.50 | Main 148 | 6991 | 2392.50    | Solar 5  |
| 5379 | 1989.50 | Main 24  | 6993 | 2393.00    | Solar 8  |
| 5381 | 1990.00 | Main 5   | 6995 | 2393.50    | Solar 4  |
| 5383 | 1990.50 | Main 40  | 6997 | 2394.00    | Solar 12 |
| 5397 | 1994.00 | Main 96  | 7267 | 2461.50    | Solar 3  |
| 5399 | 1994.50 | Main 16  | 7269 | 2462.00    | Solar 1  |
| 5401 | 1995.00 | Main 28  | 7424 | 2500.75    | Solar 2  |
| 5403 | 1995.50 | Main 48  | 7426 | 2501.25    | Solar 6  |
| 5405 | 1996.00 | Main 118 | 7428 | 2501.75    | Solar 10 |
| 5455 | 2008.50 | Main 171 | 7885 | 2616.00    | Window   |
| 5480 | 2014.75 | Main 10  | 8007 | 2646.50    | Window   |