GROUND BASED MEASUREMENTS
OF ATMOSPHERIC INFRARED
RADIATION FROM CLEAR AND
CLOUDY SKIES

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THESIS
SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
(SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS)

May 2007
IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST MERCIFUL MOST COMPASSION

DEDICATION

THIS THESIS IS DEDICATED TO

THE

MEMORY OF MY MOTHER, WHO PASSED AWAY

NOVEMBER 2006,

BEFORE I COULD COMPLETE THIS THESIS

TO MY FATHER

TO MY WIFE FATEN AND MY TWINS, ABDUL MAJEED AND

MARAWA
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Originality Declaration

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being available for loan and photocopying.

Signed .................................................. Dated..........................9/05/2007...

Abdullrahman H. Maghrabi BSc, MSc
ABSTRACT

This thesis presents results for the infrared (IR) sky temperature measurements using IR thermopile detectors (wavelength peak at 10 µm) at 6 locations around the globe: Adelaide; Australia, Riyadh, Jeddah, Abha and Tabouk; Saudi Arabia, and the Pierre Auger observatory site; Argentina. Based on these measurements empirical models for predicting hourly night-time IR sky temperatures clear skies have been developed. These models showed very good performance and better prediction to the measured sky temperatures. Some of these new models showed excellent predictive power for the presence of the cloud over the site. It was found that under some extreme conditions other factors, e.g. aerosols, have great influence on the atmospheric radiation and need to be accounted for. MODTRAN software was used to give the theoretical justifications for the proposed models and was used to investigate some of these factors. A unified model for clear sky temperature from all the sites was found. The applicability of some existing clear sky models to the sites was also tested. While some of them were adequate for estimating IR sky temperatures, others were not.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am truly and deeply indebted to so many people that there is no way to acknowledge them all, or even any of them properly. I sincerely hope that everyone who knows that they have influenced me feels satisfaction that they have helped such a poor soul along and does not feel remorse that either I did not get it right or then ungratefully omitted them from explicit mention. Thank you.

I particularly wish to thank my supervisor, Prof. Roger Clay, for his excellent guidance and invaluable support. His professional explanations of unfamiliar material ease a lot of difficulties. He did a wonderful job in editing the fractures of my language which create a document difficult to traverse. Roger has been so much more than just the best supervisor that he is beyond categorization. He has been a friend, mentor, teacher, companion and confident. I am truly fortunate to have been able to enjoy and benefit from such a relationship with him and the best way to show this is for me to extend these qualities to others. Thanks Roger.

I also want to thank my second supervisor Dr. Bruce Dawson for his help, support and kindly cooperation. Bruce’s analytical way of looking at ideas and successful comments has opened a new vision of ideas to me. Bruce’s red pen comments on the drafts of this thesis were highly constructive; he gave excellent comments on them.

I also wish to thank many people who have contributed to this study in various ways over the years. I am grateful to Mr. Neville Wild for his excellent technical assistance, taking care of the experiment and his patience answering my questions. His help is highly appreciated. I have enjoyed the friendship and the collegiality of the High-Energy Astrophysics group members, staff and postgraduate students. Donna Riordan is particularly thanked for her help in many infrared issues and her useful discussion. The efforts of Dr Paddy McGee in producing the 3D plots are highly appreciated. Mr. Bruce Brock from the Bureau of Meteorology, Kent Town is thanked for providing me with meteorological data. I want to thank Auger people in Argentina, France and US,
for their kindly cooperation, providing me with the data and taking care of the experiment on the site. King Abdul-Aziz City for Science and Technology KACST is thanked for giving me the opportunity to do my PhD. My friends in Australia who make me feel like home. I would like, particularly, to thank, Hani, Ibraheem Al shede, and Eyad, for their great friendship which I am proud of it. I would never forget their support and their standing next to me in very hard situations. Thank you very much guys. Rosa Farse is a great family friend deserves my respect and must be acknowledged. She was always next to us and I will not forget her help and companionship for us in the very early days of our arrival in Australia. My colleagues in the institute of Astronomy and Geophysics in KACST. Especial thanks to Mr. Motaz Kordi for his great friendship. His role in taking the responsibility for the whole experiments in Saudi Arabic is highly appreciated. Also, Dr Zaki Alomstafa is thanked for his companionship and his kind supportive attitude in conducting the experiment in Saudi Arabia. Mr Ibraheem Al-Moneef, the deputy director of the administrative development department is also thanked for his excellent friendship and the great support to me to come to Australia again. The Saudi Arabian Cultural office in Pakistan and in Canberra is both thanked for taking care of my affairs in Australia. Family is extremely important to me in all likelihood because I am blessed to have such a wonderful one. I m indebted to my older brother Dr Talal Maghrabi for his unforgettable words of support and continues encouragement. My sisters and their husbands are all thanked for their support, encouragements, courtesy, hospitality and their calls to me while I was in Australia. Nephews and Nieces are all thanked for their support and for the fantastic times we spend together in the holidays. Abdullah Eid is particularly thanked for his support, hospitality and the enjoyable time we have spend together. My mother in law, who always being kind, soft and supportive to me deserves my sincere. To the memory of my father in law Mr. Fouad Sabagh who passed away in the second year of my candidature. He was so kind, with great humanity and generous with me and my family as well as he was a great friend. I pray to his soul to be in the heaven. I am tremendously indebted to my father who always prays for my successfulness. He is an extra ordinarily excellent man. I honor him by many things he has done to me. There is no way I can repay him. My wife, Faten, who has helped me in innumerable ways. Thank you very much for your help, support, courage, unfailing patience and taking care of me and my children.
It was her sacrifice to enable me to succeed. From the bottom of my heart I thank her for everything she has done to me.

I have learned and gained more from my children, Marwa and Abdul majeed than I could ever hope they could get from me. I am so proud of them it is ridiculous. So many people tell me how wonderful they are that it must be true and not just my subjective opinion. When people compliment them and ask how I managed it, I like to joke that if you set a bad enough example, then your kids act right saying "you don't want to grow up like Dad." I am afraid it might be more a truth than a joke. It is strange to say that one's children are an inspiration, but in my case it is true. I love them more than anything.

Finally, to the memory of my mother who passed away in the last month of my candidature. She devoted all her life for me and waited patiently to see me getting my PhD degree. She had done a lot to me in so many ways that there is no way I can repay her. Unfortunately, she missed this moment and I miss her, I do not think I will taste the joy of the completion of my thesis as it would be. I will not forget you and I will pray to God every day for your soul to be in the greatest heaven.
Nomenclature

Some of the variables used throughout this thesis are, occasionally, defined and abbreviated differently from one place to another. In order to make the definitions of these variables clearer and help the reader to remember them, the author has therefore added this section. The most commonly used variables in the thesis which are used with different symbols are:

- \( T_{sky}, T_{sky}, T_{-sky} \rightarrow \) Sky Temperature.
- \( \sqrt{eo} \) or \( \sqrt{eo} \rightarrow \) where \( eo \) refers to the vapor pressure, ground level vapor pressure, water vapor pressure or screen level vapor pressure.
- \( T_{air}, T_a, T_{air}, T_a \rightarrow \) Air temperature alternatively referred to as screen level air temperature, or ground level temperature.