

Advanced σ Radiative Transfer Model: Enhancing Atmospheric Remote Sensing for Earth and Planetary Exploration



Guido Masiello^a, Tiziano Maestri^b, Giuliano Liuzzi^a, Michele Martinazzo^b,
Carmine Serio^a

a. Department of Engineering, University of Basilicata, Potenza, Italy

b. Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Bologna, Italy

AS ART

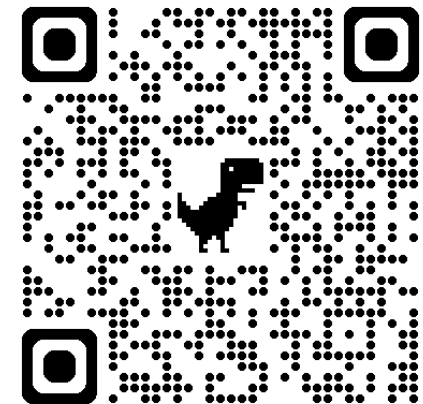
Applied Spectroscopy & Atmospheric Radiative Transfer

People

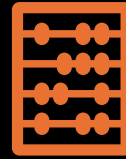


AS ART Group

- <https://www.as-art.it/>



Outline



The Model

Lines
Aerosols

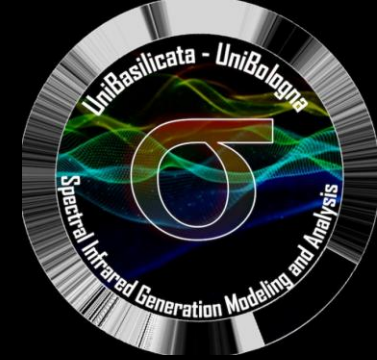


Applications

Polar
Stratospheric
Clouds
Mars



Future Developments



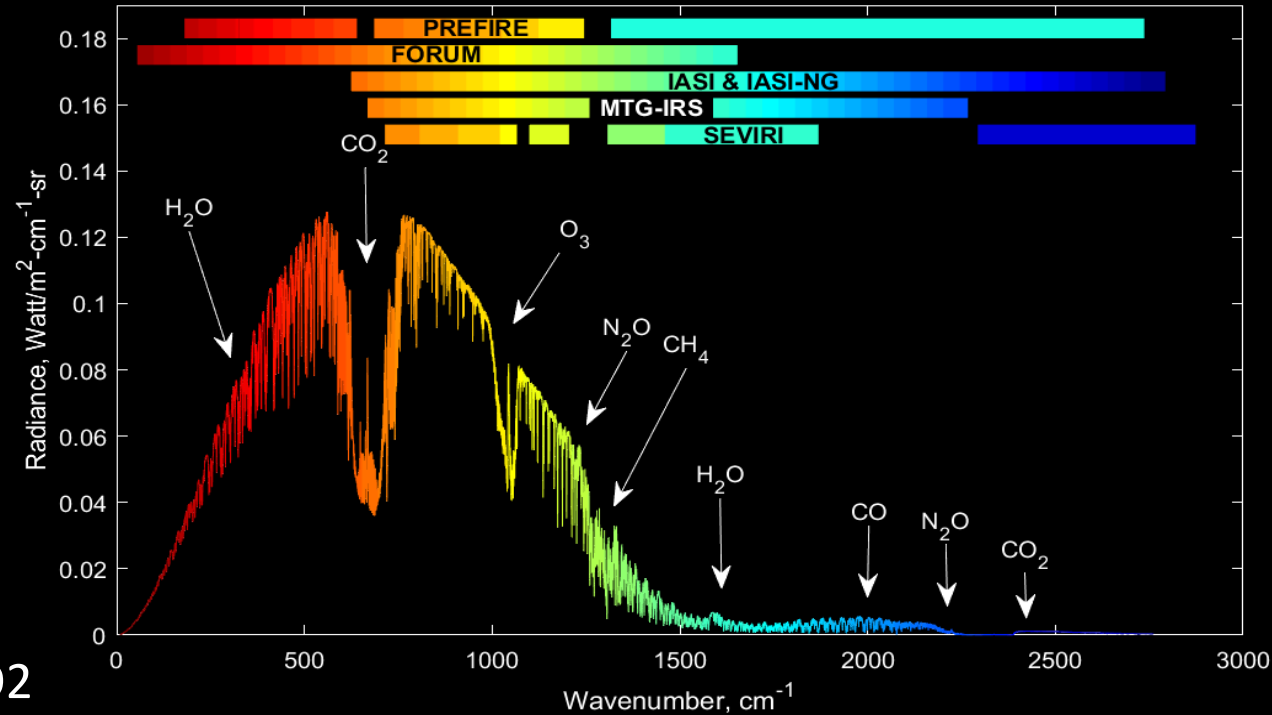
σ -IASI/F2N, $\rightarrow \sigma$

The RTM developed in the framework of EUMETSAT programs

- Assessment of IASI data for the Atmosphere (1996-2004) grants
 - EUM/CO/96/407/DD, EUM/CO/99/688/DD, EUM/CO/02/1053/PS
- Italian Space Agency ASI programs (2019-Now)
 - FORUM-Scienza Program of Italian Space Agency (Contract No. 2019-20-HH.0, P.I. CNR-INO)
 - FIT-FORUM (contract n. 2023-23-HH.0, CUP F33C23000240005, P.I. DIFA, University of Bologna),
 - MC-FORUM (contract n. 2023-23-HH.0, CUP F93C2300046000, P.I. IBE-CNR)
- Pseudo-monochromatic
- OD databases (parametrized in T and ρ)
- Clouds and aerosols properties (parametrized in ρ and r_{eff})
- Analytical Derivatives in clear and clouds
- Masiello, G., Serio, C., Liuzzi, G., Venafra, S., Maestri, T., Martinazzo, M., Amato, U., & Grieco, G. (2023). σ -IASI (2.4). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8152674>
- Masiello et al 2024, [doi:10.1016/j.jqsrt.2023.108814](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jqsrt.2023.108814)

More details about Radiative Transfer Calculations

- Spectral Range : 5-3000 cm^{-1}
- Surface Type: Lambertian or Specular
- Radiance
- Jacobian with respect to
 - Temperature,
 - H₂O, HDO, CO₂, O₃, N₂O, CO, CH₄, SO₂, NH₃, HNO₃, OCS, CF₄, CFC11, CFC12, HFC22, CCL₄ concentrations
 - Surface Temperature and Emissivity
 - Liquid cloud re, and concentrations
 - Ice cloud re, and concentrations
 - Aerosols re, and concentrations
 - H₂O self and foreign continua coefficients, CO₂ foreign continuum coefficients
- High resolution 10^{-2} cm^{-1}



Spectral coverage of FORUM, PREFIRE, IASI-NG and MTG-IRS

Gases OD Look-Up-Table: Parametrization

Low order (2) Polynomial Interpolation

1) For the trace gases (N)

$$\tau_{i,N,\sigma} = \rho_{i,N} \left(C_{0,i,N,\sigma} + C_{1,i,N,\sigma} \Delta T_i + C_{2,i,N,\sigma} \Delta T_i^2 \right)$$

- $\rho_{i,N}$ is the mixing ratio of the species N at layer i ,
- ΔT_i is the difference between the actual and reference temperature
- $C_{0,i,N,\sigma}$, $C_{1,i,N,\sigma}$, $C_{2,i,N,\sigma}$, parabolic fit coefficients

2) For main radiatively Active species (H2O Earth, CO2 Mars and Venus, CH4 Uranus...)

$$\tau_{i,W,\sigma} = \rho_{i,W} \left(C_{0,i,W,\sigma} + C_{1,i,W,\sigma} \Delta T_i + C_{2,i,W,\sigma} \Delta T_i^2 + C_{3,i,W,\sigma} \Delta \rho_{i,W} \right)$$

- $\rho_{i,W}$ is the water vapour mixing ratio ,
- $\Delta \rho_{i,W}$ is the difference between the actual and reference water vapour profiles
- $C_{3,i,N,\sigma}$, Takes into account self broadening of Water Vapour

Clouds and Aerosols OD parametrization

- According the Chou approximation (Chou et al 1999), particles scattering contribution is accounted for by replacing the optical depth with an apparent optical depth for extinction:

$$\tau = \frac{3}{4} \frac{x_{pc}}{r_e \rho_p} \tilde{\beta} \Delta z$$
$$\tilde{\beta} = \beta [(1 - \omega) + b\omega]$$

β, b, ω are parametrized as a function of r_e , if Y is one among β, b, ω

$$Y = \sum_{i=1}^7 P_i x^{i-1}; \quad x = \frac{1}{r_e + t}$$

With P_i, t function of wavenumber

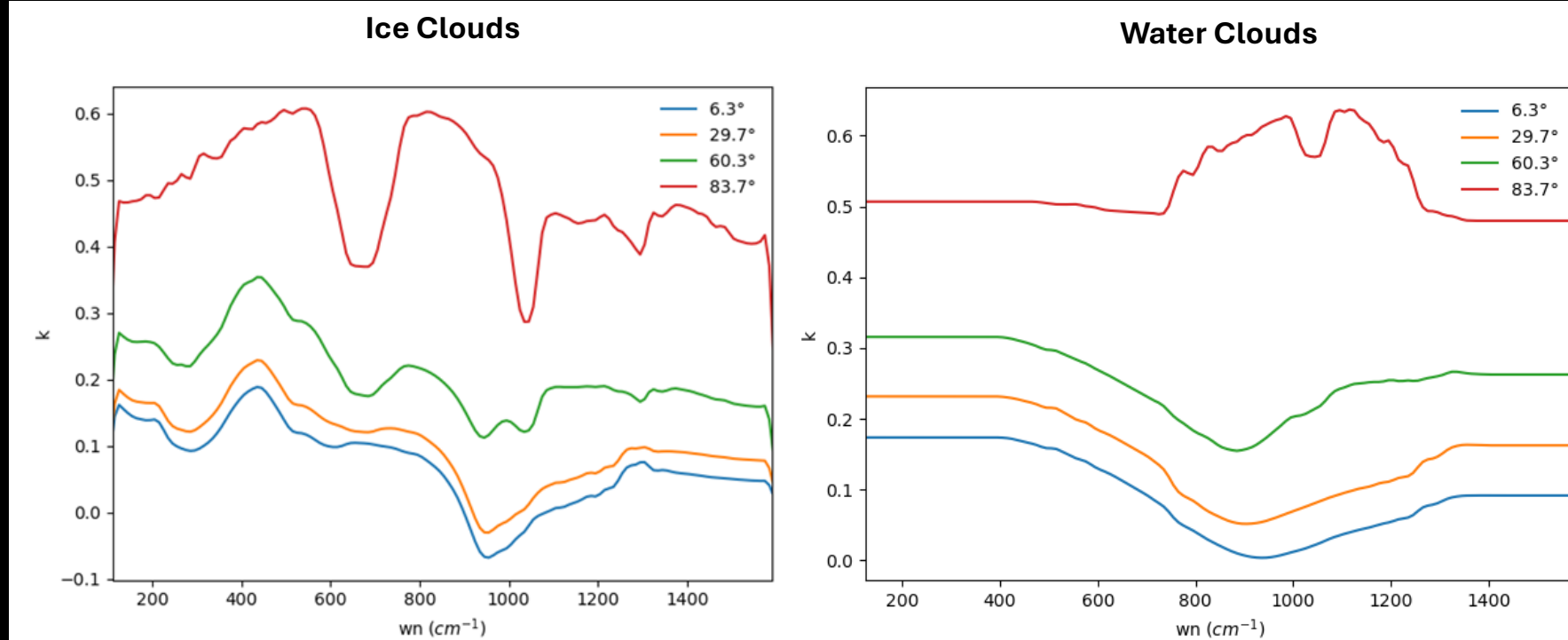
From Chou to Tang to k-Tang

- The application of scaling methodologies introduces errors that are generally acceptable in the MIR for most realistic cloud scenarios. On the other hand, when simulations of ice clouds in the FIR are considered, accurate results are obtained only in the case of optically thin clouds ($OD < 0.1-1$).
- A possible way to improve the scaling method proposed by Chou is described in the work by Tang et al. 2018

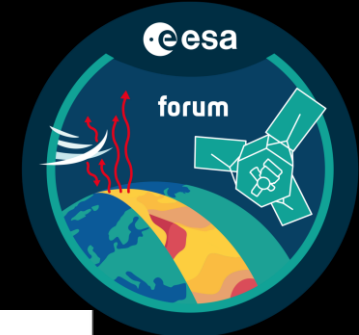
$$I_{tang}^n = k_{tot} \frac{\omega_{tot} b_{tot}}{[1 - \omega_{tot}(1 - b_{tot})]} \left[(I_n^\downarrow - B_n) - (I_n^\downarrow - B_n) e^{-2\tau_n^*} \right]$$

Our *K*-Tang Methodology

- Tang's correctional coefficients are provided at nadir and at for 4 gaussian angles after a smoothing filtering procedure.
- The $k(\mu)$ values are produced from accurate simulations obtained with the DISORT model for four gaussian angles (6.3°, 29.7°, 60.3°, and 83.7°).



$$k(r_{eff}, \mu) = P_0(\mu) + P_1(\mu) \frac{1}{r_{eff}} + P_2(\mu) \frac{1}{r_{eff}^2}$$



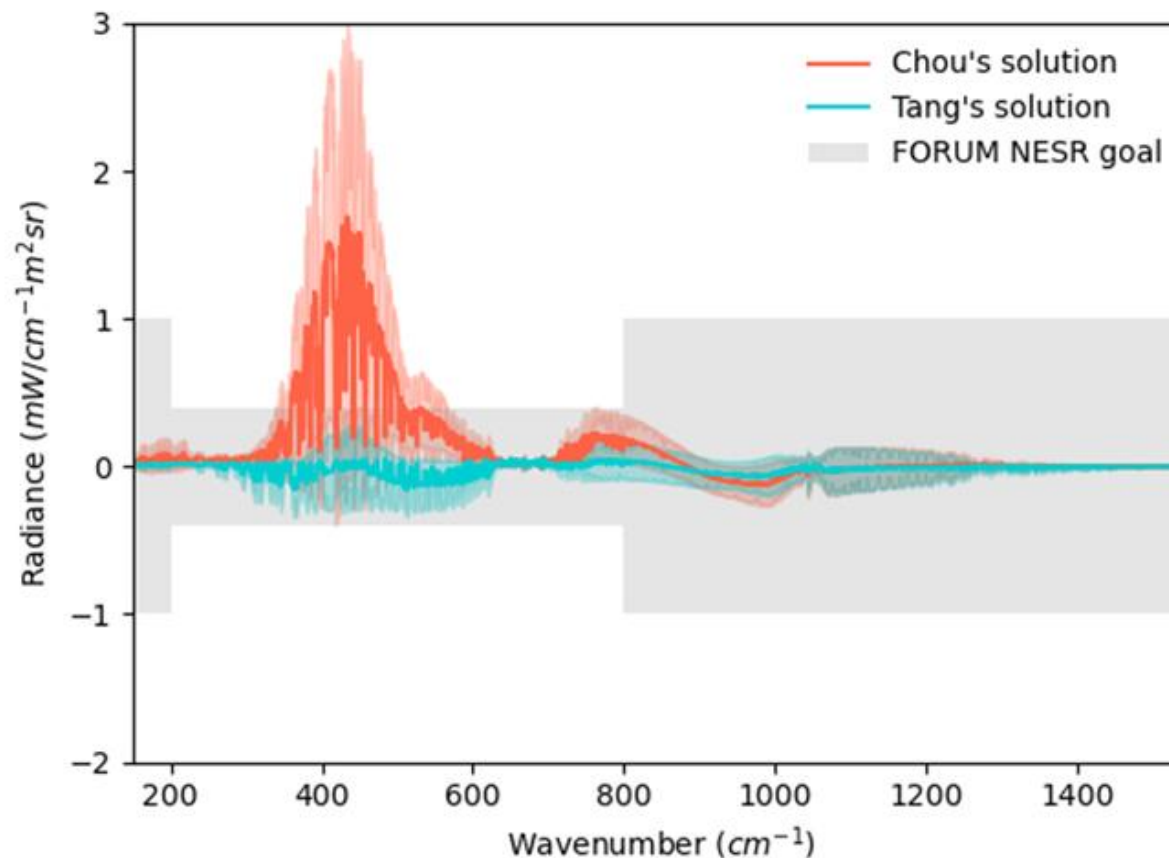
Comparison with line-by-line and multiple scattering

ESA FORUM (Far-infrared Outgoing Radiation Understanding and Monitoring) is the **9th Earth Explorer mission** and the **first satellite** dedicated to measuring Earth's **far-infrared** energy.

It will provide critical insights into the greenhouse effect and heat loss.

Scheduled for Launch **2027**.

XXI CNSP, Reggio Emilia



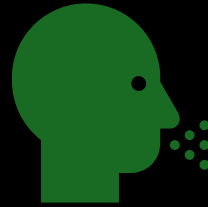
Fast models: parameterizations



Gases

Polynomial with respect

- concentration
- Temperature

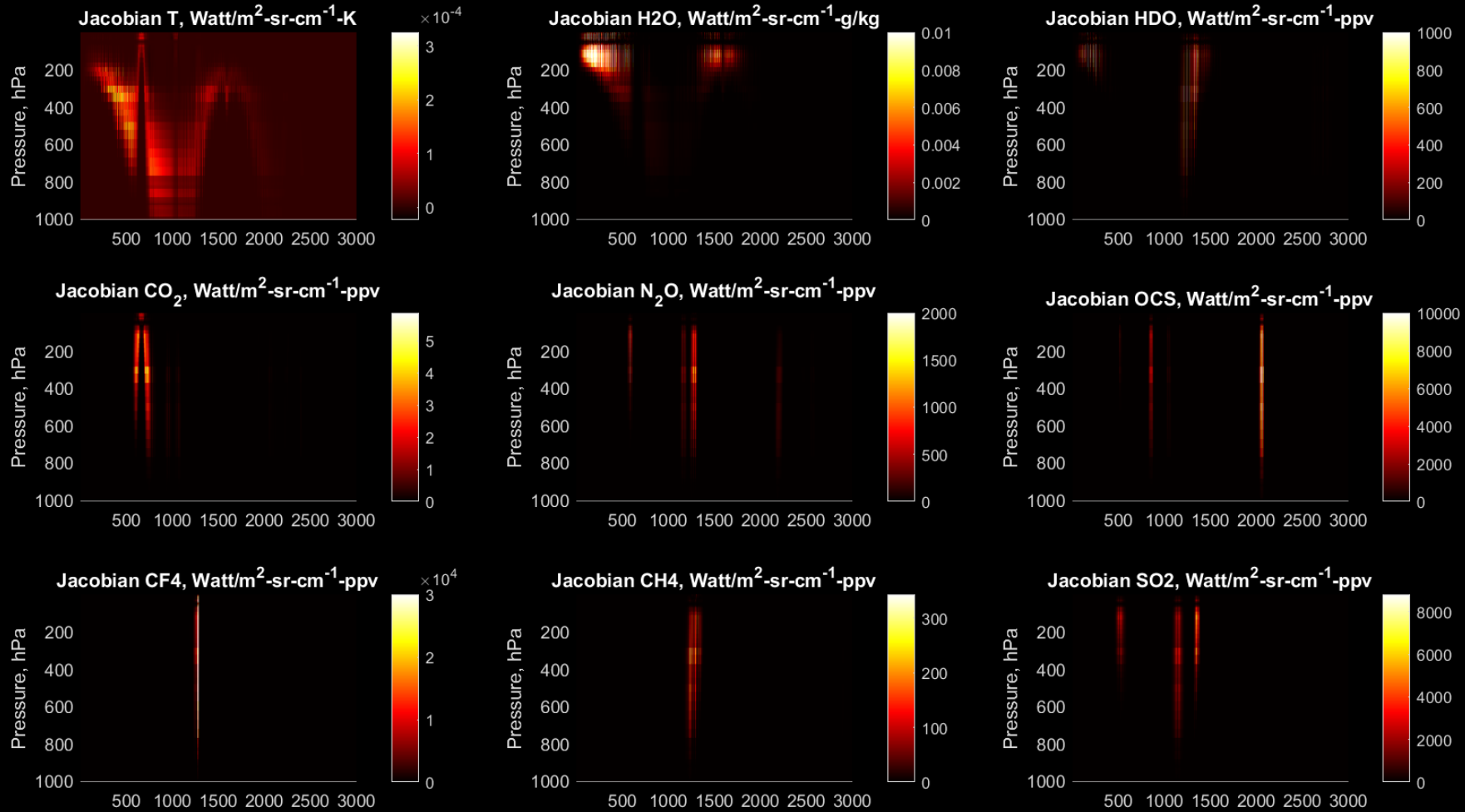


Aerosols

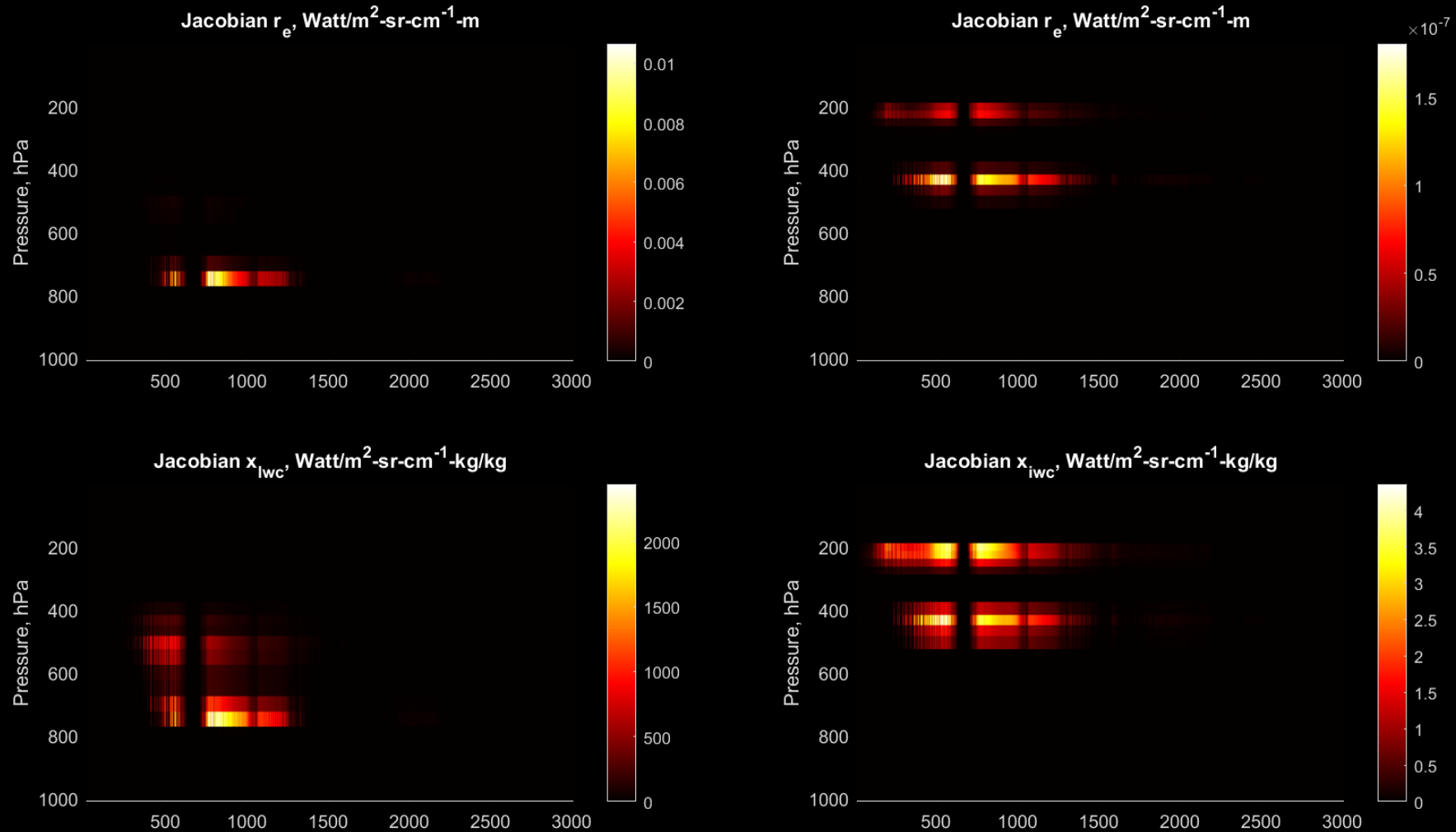
Polynomial with respect to

- concentration
- effective dimensions

Gases and Temperature Jacobians



Clouds and Aerosols Jacobians



Applications



Retrieval of Polar Stratospheric Cloud

A satellite image of Earth from space, showing the South Pole region. A large, bright, white, and somewhat irregularly shaped cloud is visible over the continent of Antarctica, extending into the surrounding Southern Ocean. The cloud has a textured, fibrous appearance. The rest of the Earth's surface shows swirling cloud patterns over the oceans and some landmasses.

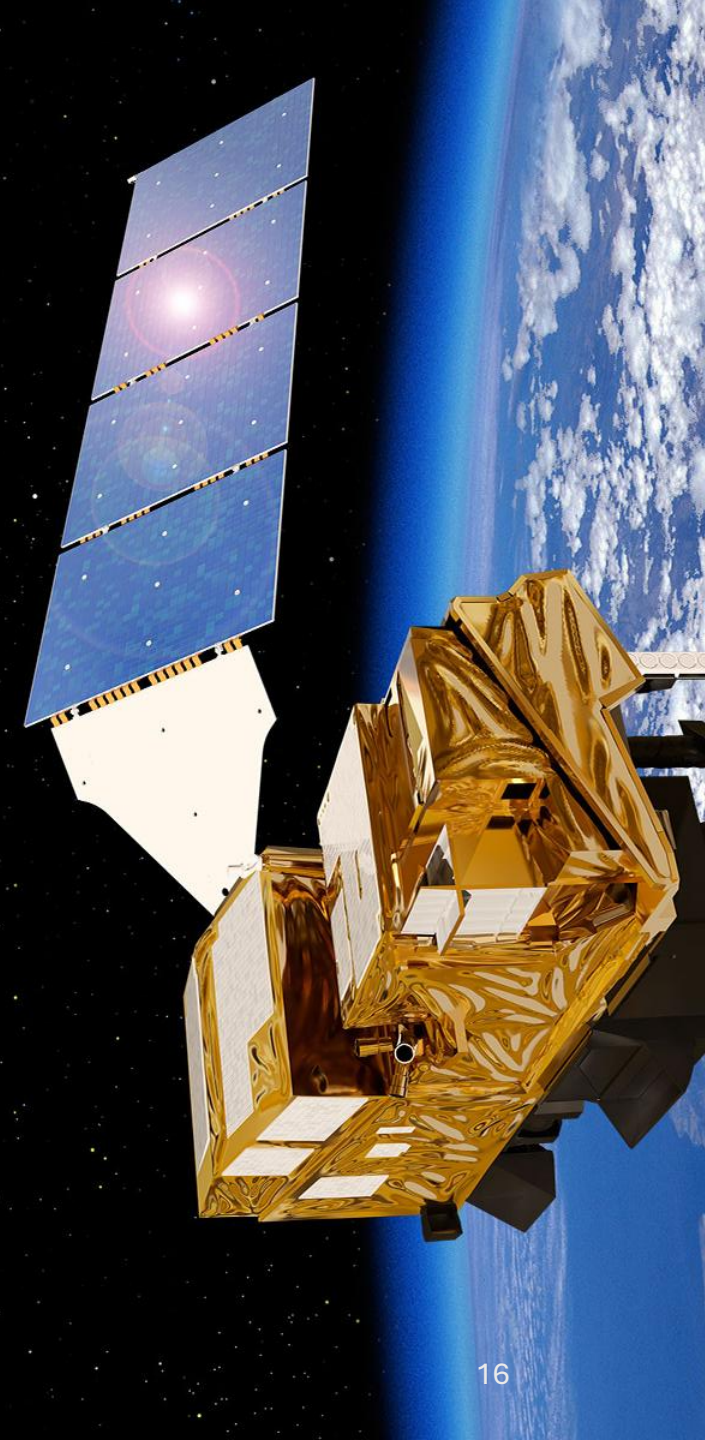
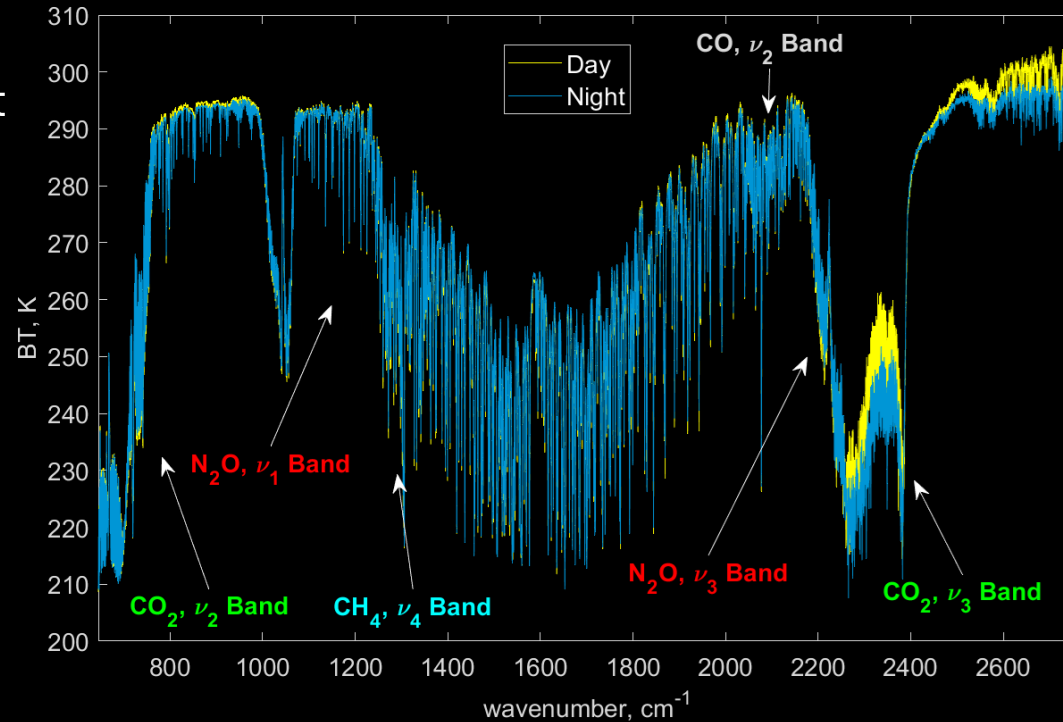
IASI (Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer)

IASI is a Michelson Interferometer, developed at CNES/EUMESAT, measuring the spectral distribution of the atmospheric radiation covering the Spectral range 15.5 to 3.62 micron with a sampling rate of 0.25 cm^{-1}

MetOp-A (2006 -2021)
MetOp-B (2012-Now)
MetOp-C (2018-Now)

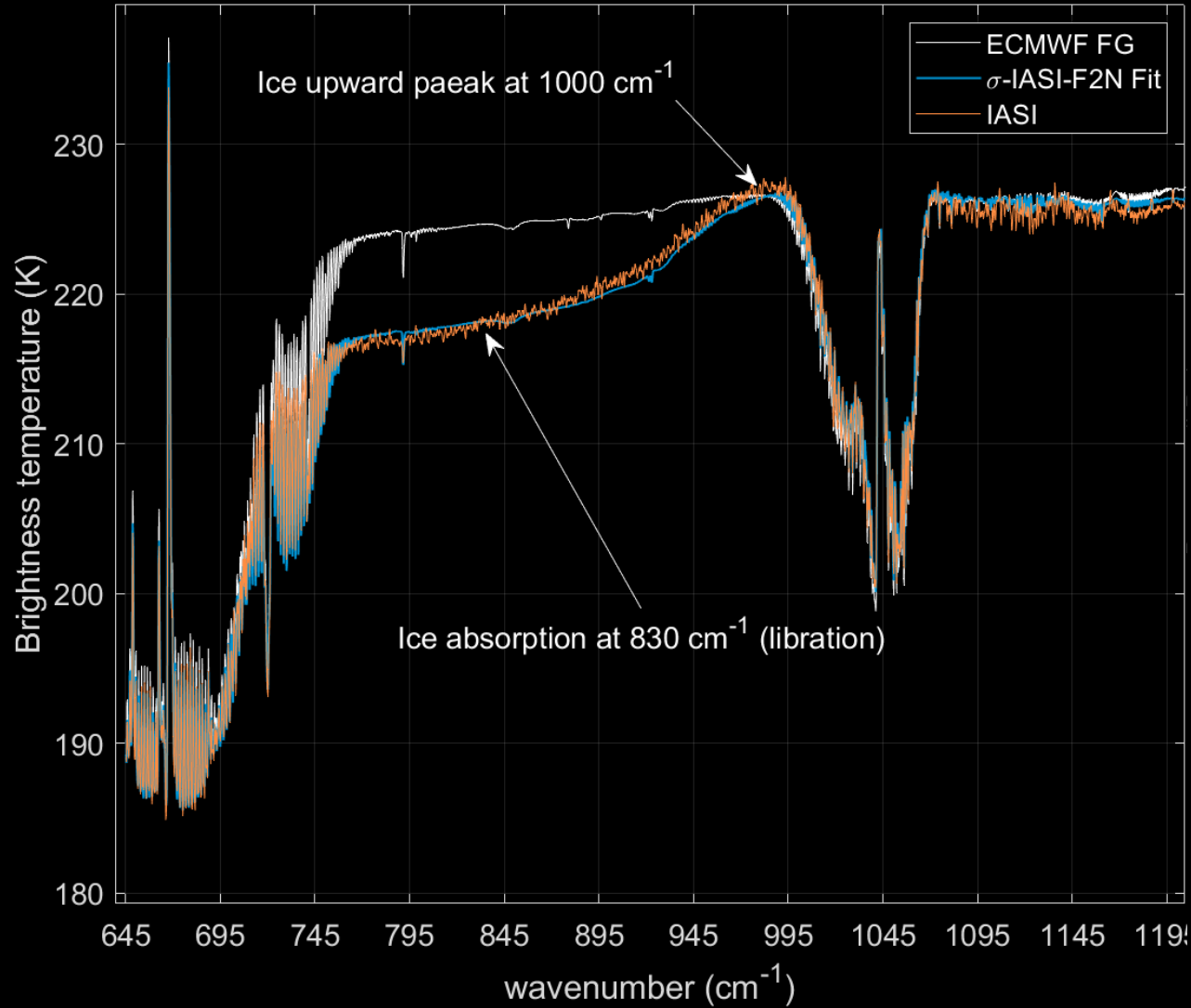
<http://smc.cnes.fr/IASI/>

Next generation of IASI has been launched on August 13 2025.



Retrieval of Polar Stratospheric Cloud

IASI sounding on July 9, 2023, Lat. -89.17, Long. -176.79



P=43 hPa (~20 km)
T=182 K
IWC=4.5 10⁻⁷ kg/kg
D_e=4 μm

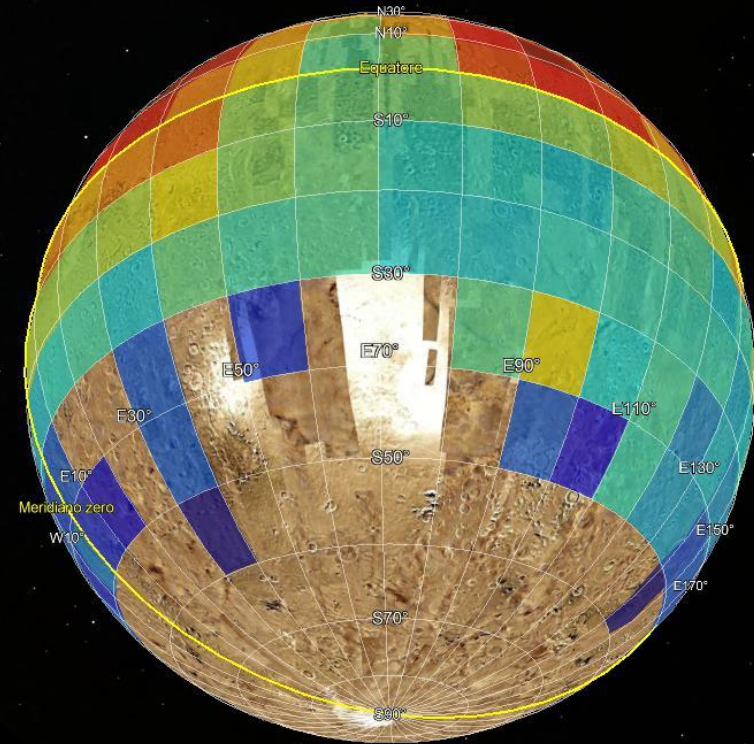
Orange – IASI Measurement
White – Computed with ECWMMF profile
Blue – Computed with IASI retrieved profile

Applications



Application to MARS

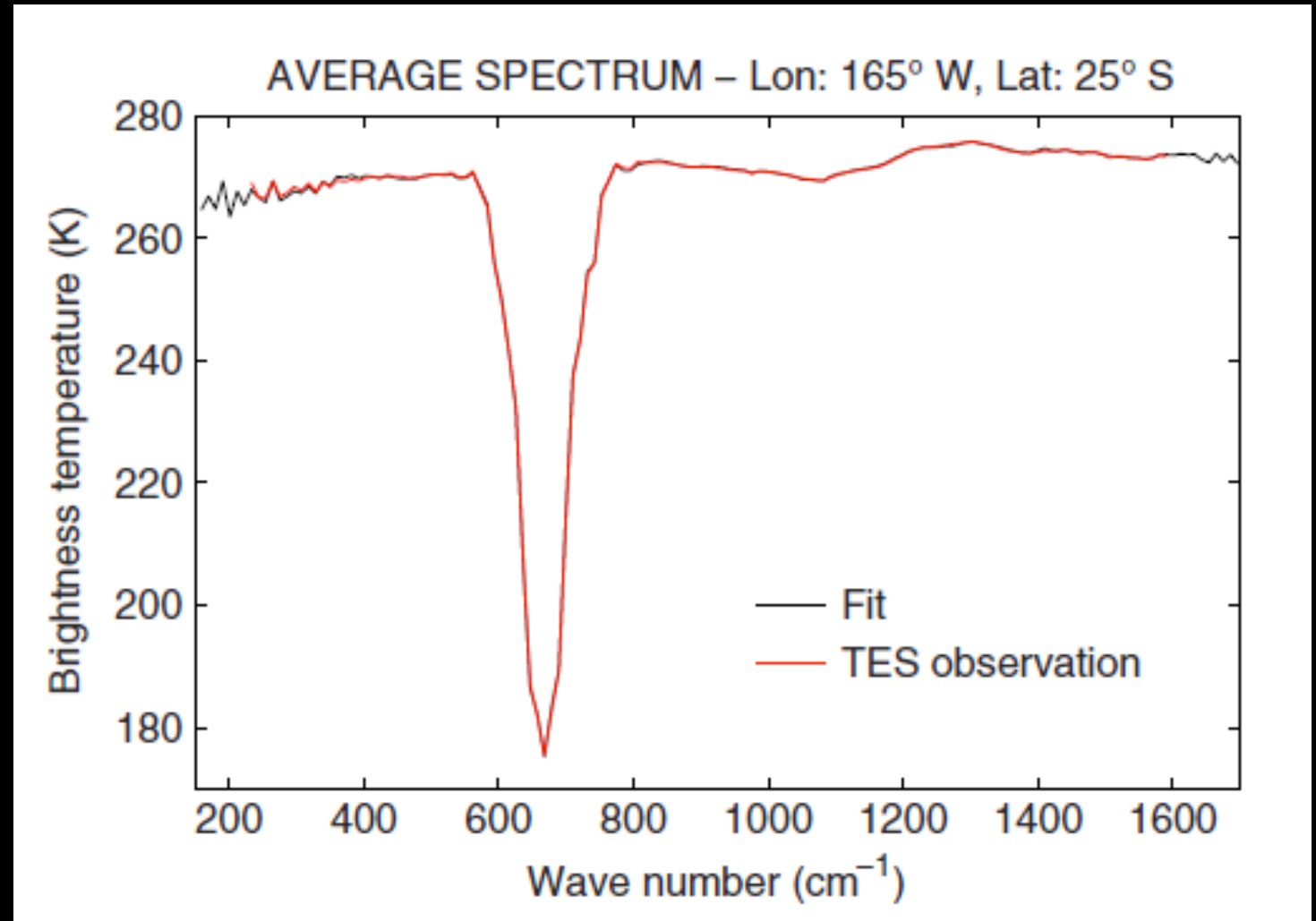
- Thermal Emission Spectrometer (TES) spectra
- We applied the same methodology to Martian atmosphere and surface
- Liuzzi et al. (2015)
[doi:10.1364/AO.54.002334](https://doi.org/10.1364/AO.54.002334)



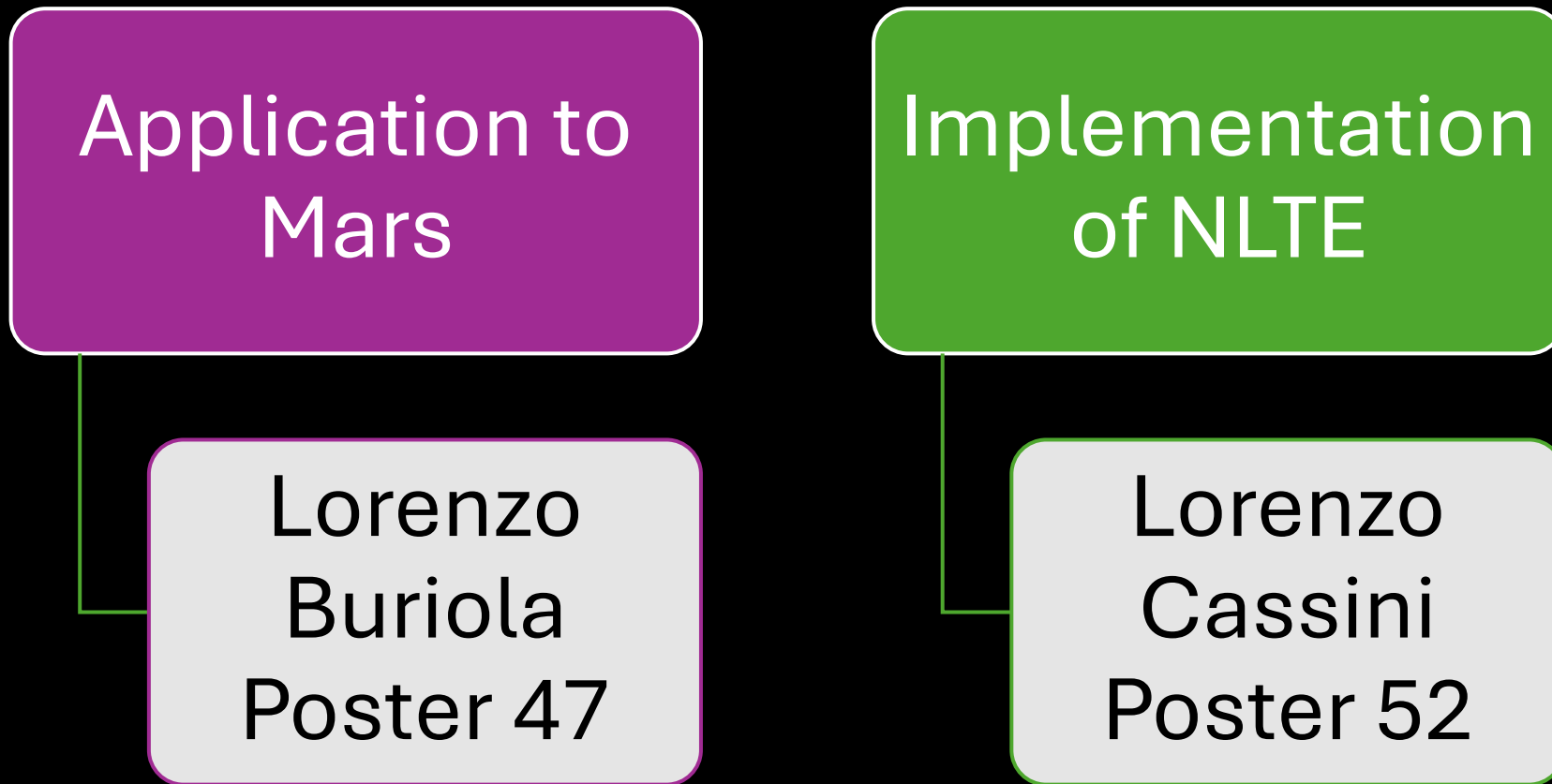
Martian Spectra and Geophysical Parameters

We retrieved from TES spectrum

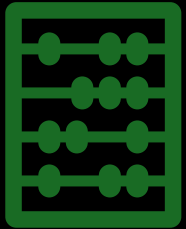
- Profile of Temperature
- dust aerosol mass mixing ratios
- Ice mass mixing ratios
- surface skin temperature
- Emissivity coefficients
- water vapor integrated columnar amount



Future developments



Conclusions



We developed a fast RTM that enables

- Retrieval of physical parameters
- Assessment spectroscopy
- Consider both gases and particles



It can be applied to planetary atmosphere



More information and Contact
<https://www.as-art.it/>

Special Issue

Advances in Far-to-Near
Infrared Quantitative
Spectroscopy and Application
to Remote Sensing, in Honor of
Prof. Carmine Serio

Guest Editors

Dr. Guido Masiello
Dr. Tiziano Maestri
Dr. Giuliano Liuzzi

Deadline

20 November 2026

mdpi.com/si/262677



remote sensing

