

QME AERI LBL CLOUDS

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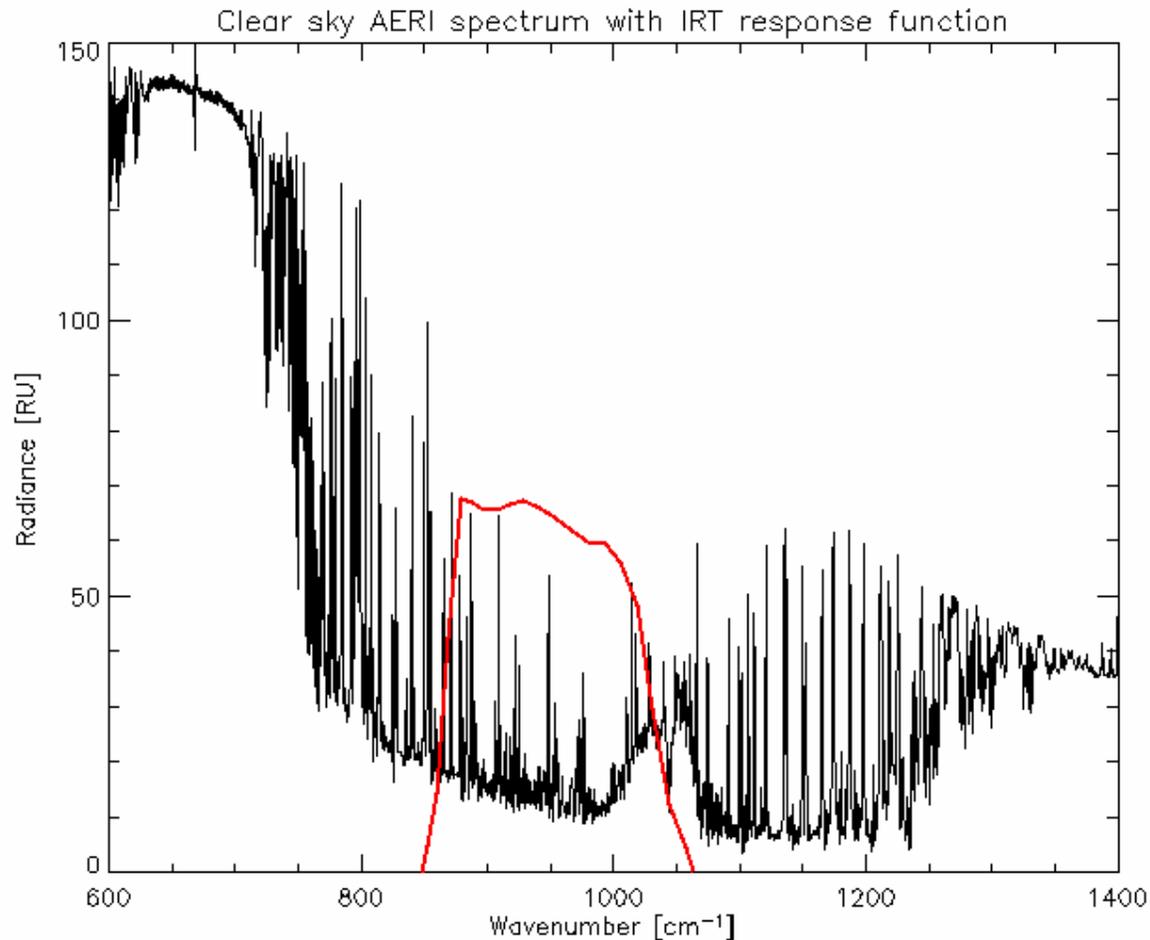


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History of 'QME Clouds'

- Originally developed in mid-1990's to provide cloud information for the QME AERI LBLRTM
 - Time sync lidar and ceilometer data
 - Provide temporal stdev values for MWR and AERI data (high stdev values imply inhomogeneity which is usually due to clouds)
- Later added routine to convolve AERI spectrum with IRT spectral response function so IRT and AERI could be easily compared
 - This component is used by the IRT instrument mentor to monitor health and status of the IRT
- Only available at SGP site; exists a desire to run it at other ARM sites (NSA, TWP, AMF)

AERI Observation and the IRT Spectral Response Function



Now and Future

- However, the VAP not currently being used for its original purpose!
 - Screening clouds is critical for QME AERI LBLRTM analysis; therefore, most investigators prefer to have “control”
 - Porting entire VAP seems wasteful
- I propose that
 - A) Retire QME Clouds
 - B) Develop a new simple VAP to compare the AERI and IRT, which is easily portable to other sites
- *This is a good example of a VAP that needed more of a “trial” period before full automation occurred...*