

OBSERVATION OF CHANGES IN THE  
TEMPERATURE STRUCTURE OF THE MIDDLE ATMOSPHERE OF  
VENUS BETWEEN 55 AND 90 km BY THIRTEEN YEARS OF  
PIONEER VENUS RADIO OCCULTATIONS

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About 350 successful measurements of the vertical temperature structure in the lower middle atmosphere of Venus between the altitudes of about 55 and 90 km were obtained from radio occultations of the Pioneer Venus orbiter. These measurements were made from late 1978, at the time of solar maximum, through the 1984-86 solar minimum, and during the 1989-91 solar maximum. Comparison of the global temperature structure during these three epochs shows little change between solar maximum and solar minimum; however, some statistically significant changes, possibly due to changes in the global circulation, are observed

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