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Abstract Title:
“In-Flight Calibration of the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) on the EOS Aqua Spacecraft”

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Brief Biography:
Thomas S. Pagano is the Project Manager for the AIRS/AMSU/HSB Suite of instruments on the EOS Aqua Spacecraft. He was the lead engineer responsible for the calibration of the AIRS instrument in orbit. Prior to joining JPL in 1997, he was the Chief Systems Engineer on the MODIS instrument development program at Raytheon SBRS since 1985. He has a BS in Physics from UC Santa Barbara, and an MS in Physics from Montana State University. He holds 2 US patents and is author of numerous papers on space remote sensing systems.

Abstract Text:
The Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) is NASA's first operational ultraspectral infrared sounder for measuring atmospheric temperature and water vapor profiles from space. AIRS has 2378 infrared channels ranging in wavelength from 3.7 to 15.4 microns and has a spectral resolution of greater than 1200. AIRS was launched on the Aqua spacecraft on May 4, 2002 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, and is operating quite well. This paper discusses the AIRS instrument, its activation and calibration, and preliminary science results obtained to date.