

MIXING RATIO AND TEMPERATURE VARIATION IN THE WINNIPEG AREA

by

Charles G. Ponce

A thesis
presented to the University of Manitoba
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts
in
Geography

Winnipeg, Manitoba

1986 Charles G. Ponce, 1986



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CHARLES G. PONCE

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ABSTRACT

Over a two year period, 1976 - 1977, 253 itineraries of 86.3 km. were randomly conducted under all weather conditions along a well defined urban - rural traverse, encompassing all major land usage, upwind and downwind of Winnipeg's core area. The automobile mounted, dew point hygrometer provided dew point and temperature data which were then standardized to the initial traverse commencement time. Climatological parameters, such as mixing ratio, saturation deficits, and absolute humidities were then calculated.

Ward's error sum of squares hierarchic fusion algorithm was utilized to achieve cluster traverse organization. Linearly interpolated surface to 500 mb. radiosonde data aided in detecting air mass groupings. To facilitate urban - rural climatological comparisons with the established literature, the primary air masses chosen for investigated were the bench mark air masses, continental Arctic and continental maritime Arctic.

The general postulation throughout the thesis was that no hypothesis would be formulated regarding the traverse data sample distributions, the spatial distributions of the climatological parameters under investigation, or the

temporal variability of these climatic parameters without statistical supporting evidence. As background information regarding the bench air mass data was absent, non - parametric statistical techniques were used. The equivalent parametric statistics were also utilized on the same data in order to measure outcome variability.

The procedure generated unique conclusions which often were contrary to those found in the literature field dealing with urban - rural humidity and temperature islands.

In the case of Winnipeg, it was statistically proven that a mixing ratio island does exist under cA - cMA air mass conditions and that the spatial zones are significant even if the climatological differences were less than 1.0g/kg. The spatial forms do not necessarily parallel that of temperature. Furthermore, under specific combinations of pressure, wind speed, wind direction and cloud cover, the mixing ratio humidity island can exist separately.

Statistically it was found that alteration of the analysis from the parametric to the non - parametric drastically modified the resulting conclusions, especially when air mass surface layer complexity increased. Previously undetected and insignificant mixing ratio and temperature regimes become exposed with non - parametric statistics.

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And finally, to my mother who understood the pressures associated with the undertaking. Her jovial character and constant support urged me onwards.

To all the above,

Bóg zapłać

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	viii
LIST OF TABLES.....	xi
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xiii
LIST OF MAPS.....	xiv
LIST OF SYMAPS.....	xv
APPENDICES.....	xvi

CHAPTER	PAGE
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background	
1.2 Objectives	
1.3 Methodology	
1.4 History of the Study	
1.5 Definitions and Units of Measurements	
References for Chapter 1.....	11
2 URBAN HEAT ISLAND: FORMATION AND RETENTION.....	13
2.1 Introduction	
2.2 Albedo Comparisons	
2.3 Thermal Properties of Natural and Anthropogenic Materials	
2.4 Aerosol - Radiative Interactions	
2.5 Summary	
References for Chapter 2.....	36
3 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	41
3.1 Introduction	
3.2 The Evaluation of the Literature Sample	
3.2.1 Introduction	
3.2.2 Literature Sample Analysis	
3.2.3 Summary	
3.3 Conclusion	
References for Chapter 3.....	61

4	THE CLIMATE OF WINNIPEG.....	66
	4.1 Record Length	
	4.1.1 Topography and Location	
	4.1.2 Geographic Influences	
	4.2 Fronts and Air Masses	
	4.3 Synoptic Climatology	
	4.4 Temperature	
	4.5 Hot Spells	
	4.6 Cold Spells	
	4.7 Dry Spells and Drought	
	4.8 Winds	
	4.9 Weather During the Study Period	
	References for Chapter 4.....	108
5	METHODS OF INVESTIGATION.....	110
	5.1 Introduction	
	5.2 Choice of Route	
	5.2.1 Introduction	
	5.2.2 Power Restraints as a Limiting Factor	
	5.2.3 Control Site Location	
	5.3 Instrumentation	
	5.3.1 Introduction	
	5.3.2 Sensor Lag Response Estimation	
	5.3.3 Principle of Operation of Model 110S-M	
	5.3.4 Maintenance of Equipment	
	5.4 Error Minimization	
	5.5 Data Conversion	
	References for Chapter 5.....	134
6	CLASSIFICATION OF WINNIPEG'S DEW POINT REGIMES..	136
	6.1 Introduction	
	6.2 Classification	
	6.3 Dew Point Regimes During the Study Period	
	References for Chapter 6.....	163

7	ANALYSIS PROCEDURE.....	164
	7.1 Introduction	
	7.2 Classification	
	7.2.1 Introduction	
	7.2.2 Cluster Analysis	
	7.2.3 Canonical Discriminant Analysis	
	7.2.4 Conclusion	
	7.3 Tests of Normality	
	7.4 Statistic Applications	
	7.4.1 Introduction	
	7.4.2 The Kurskal-Wallis Oneway Nonparametric Anova Test	
	7.4.3 The Oneway Analysis of Variance	
	7.4.4 Kruskal-Wallis Multiple Comparison Rank Sums	
	7.4.5 Bonferroni Multiple Comparisons Method	
	7.4.6 Conclusion	
	7.5 Summary	
	References for Chapter 7.....	204
8	DATA ANALYSIS.....	207
	8.1 Introduction	
	8.2 Dendrogram Selection	
	8.3 Continental Arctic Air Mass Analysis	
	8.3.1 Fusion Selection	
	8.3.2 Proof of Air Mass Classification	
	8.3.3 The Analysis	
	8.3.4 Symap Comparisons	
	8.4 Continental Maritime Arctic Warm to Maritime Arctic Cold Air Mass Analysis	
	8.4.1 Fusion Selection	
	8.4.2 Proof of Air Mass Classification	
	8.4.3 The Analysis	
	8.5 The Analytic Conclusions and Summations	
9	SUMMATION.....	340

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
2.3.1	Thermodynamic Properties of Various Substances.	28
3.1.1	Weather Changes Resulting From Urbanization...	43
3.2.1	Distribution of Information in Selected Literature Sample.....	49
4.5.1	Number and Length of Hot Spells at Winnipeg 1933 - 1976.....	77
4.6.1	Number and Length of Cold Spells at Winnipeg 1933 - 1976.....	78
4.7.1	Frequency of Dry Periods of Various Lengths at Winnipeg.....	81
4.7.2	Frequencies of Months Either Wet or Dry 1874 - 1975.....	82
4.9.1	Winnipeg International Airport Meteorological Data Summary for 1976.....	89
4.9.2	Winnipeg International Airport Meteorological Data Summary for 1977.....	90
5.2.2	Point Location, Distance and Time Information..	130
6.1.1	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for January...	139
6.1.2	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for February..	141
6.1.3	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for March.....	143
6.1.4	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for April.....	145
6.1.5	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for May.....	147
6.1.6	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for June.....	149
6.1.7	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for July.....	151
6.1.8	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for August....	153
6.1.9	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for September..	155
6.1.10	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for October...	157
6.1.11	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for November..	159
6.1.12	Mean Hourly and Monthly Averages for December..	161
7.3.1	Temperatures Recorded at 127 Locations During 3 cA Traverses.....	180
7.3.2	Frequency Distribution of Table 7.3.1 Data.....	183
7.3.3	Test of Normality for Data of Table 7.3.1.....	184
7.4.3.2	Analysis of Variance of Table 7.3.1 Data.....	194
7.4.4.1	Critical Inequalities of Multiple Comparison of Table 7.3.1 Data.....	197
7.4.4.2	Multiple Comparisons of Table 7.3.1 Temperature Data.....	198

8.1	Code Assignment for Critical Alpha Levels of Kruskal-Wallis Multiple Comparison Rank Sums Data.....	217
8.2.1	Clustan-1C2 Job Fusion Variation of cA and cmA Traverses.....	219
8.3.1.1	Climatological and Cluster Information for Traverses Conducted Under cA and cmA Air Mass Conditions.....	234
8.3.1.2	Statistical Information on Traverses Conducted Under cA and cmA Air Mass Conditions.....	235
8.3.2.1	cA Tephigram Comparisons.....	248
8.3.3.1	Kolmogorov - Smirnov Goodness - of - Fit Test for Temperature Data of S - W Group and Cycle 126.....	263
8.3.3.2	The Squared Ranks Test for Variances (First Five Locations of Table 7.3.1).....	269
8.3.3.3	Significant Multiple Squared Ranks Test Comparisons for Cycle 126 Temperature Variance.....	272
8.4.1.1	Climatological Information for Traverses Conducted Under the Various cmAw to mAk Air Mass Transformation Stages.....	303
8.4.1.2a	Early cmAw - mAk Air Mass Transformation Traverse Dendrogram.....	304
8.4.1.2b	Later cmAw - mAk Air Mass Transformation Traverse Dendrogram.....	305
8.4.1.3a	Statistical Information of Traverses Conducted Under Early cmAw - mAk Air Mass Transformation Stages.....	306
8.4.1.3b	Statistical Information of Traverses Conducted Under Later cmAw - mAk Air Mass Transformation Stage.....	307
8.4.2.1	cmAw - mAk Tephigram Comparisons.....	316

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
5.3.3.1	General Block Diagram of the Automatic Meteorological Temperature and Dew Point Model 110S - M Measuring System.....	122
6.1.1	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for January.....	140
6.1.2	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for February.....	142
6.1.3	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for March.....	144
6.1.4	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for April.....	146
6.1.5	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for May.	148
6.1.6	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for June	150
6.1.7	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for July	152
6.1.8	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for August.....	154
6.1.9	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for September.....	156
6.1.10	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for October.....	158
6.1.11	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for November.....	160
6.1.12	Hourly Temperature and Dew Point Means for December.....	162
8.2.1	Chosen Cluster Analysis Dendrogram.....	231
8.3.3.4a	3 - Dimensional View of Symap 8.3.3.1a.....	291
8.3.3.4b	3 - Dimensional View of Symap 8.3.3.1b.....	292
8.3.3.5	3 - Dimensional View of Symap 8.3.3.2.....	293

LIST OF MAPS

MAPS		PAGE
4.9.1	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for January, 1976.....	91
4.9.2	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for February, 1976.....	92
4.9.3	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for March, 1976.....	93
4.9.4	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for April, 1976.....	94
4.9.5	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for May, 1976.....	95
4.9.6	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for June, 1976.....	96
4.9.7	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for July, 1976.....	97
4.9.8	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for August, 1976.....	98
4.9.9	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for September, 1976.....	99
4.9.10	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for October, 1976.....	100
4.9.11	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for November, 1976.....	101
4.9.12	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for December, 1976.....	102
4.9.13	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for January, 1977.....	103
4.9.14	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for February, 1977.....	104
4.9.15	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for March, 1977.....	105
4.9.16	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for April, 1977.....	106
4.9.17	Precipitation and Temperature Abnormalities for May, 1977.....	107
5.2.1	Research Traverse Route with Point Locations (Used in Conjunction with Table 5.2.2).....	114

LIST OF SYMAPS

SYMAPS	PAGE
8.3.3.1a cA: S - W Wind Direction Group -- Temperature..	288
8.3.3.1b cA: S - W Wind Direction Group -- Mixing Ratio.	289
8.3.3.2 cA: Cycle 126 -- Temperature..	290
8.4.3.1 Early cmAw to mAk Transformation -- Temperature.....	294

LIST OF APPENDICES

LETTER		PAGE
A	Hypothetical Estimation of St. Norbert Heat Generation.....	346
B	Hypothetical Estimation of Unicity Fashion Square Heat Lose.....	351
C	Dates On Which Traverses Were Conducted.....	353

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

This thesis is an analysis of the spatial and temporal horizontal distribution of humidity and temperature within an urban-rural context. The analysis, however, has been based upon the results and comparison of the results of nonparametrical and parametrical computations. Not a single assumption, climatological nor statistical, has been made without prior justification.

Emphasis has been placed upon mixing ratio variations and its relationship with temperature.

The role of humidity and temperature in meteorological-climatological studies can no longer be considered as only a prime tool for synoptic analysis (Ruskin, 1963). Although the understanding of the dynamics of the atmosphere-humidity systems is still in an embryonic stage, horizontal and vertical humidity variations, in time and space, are now major considerations in cloud physics and mechanics, weather modification¹, upper atmospheric

¹ The processes of evaporation and condensation of water vapor provide a means of transporting energy from one locale to another. A change in the mean temperature of the lower atmosphere shifts the location in which these processes take place and thus alters the distribution of atmospheric temperature over a greater portion of the area.

circulation², refraction of radio waves, aircraft condensation formation and in fog forecasting. For certain purposes, such as studies of radiative fluxes and the role humidity plays in air pollution reactions and urban heat island development, mixing ratios and absolute humidities are now an absolute requirement (Hage, 1975).

Distributional aspects of humidity are also of vital concern in fields such as agriculture, food science, medicine, air-conditioning and military. For example, the precise knowledge of seasonal and diurnal variations of humidity and temperature are critical to the specification of ventilation requirements for civil defense shelters (Ludwig, 1967).

Unfortunately, accurate representation of areal, spatial, and temporal distribution of water vapor in the atmosphere, at all levels and at all meteorological-climatological scale ranges, has lagged considerably behind representation of other climatic elements. Temperature variations have dominated and still dominate most discussions (Dodd, 1964; Oke, 1974; Yoshino, 1976). As early as the late 18th-early 19th century when Louis Cotte and Luke Howard, pioneers of urban-climatic studies, published explicit accounts on urban climate

² During the 'International Quite Sun Year' (IQSY), humidity was used as a tracer in the study of world-wide stratospheric circulation.

variations of Paris and London respectively, the humidity research gap was present. Kremser's paper entitled "Der Einfluss der Grosstädte auf die Luftfeuchtigkeit" (The Influence of Large Towns on Air Humidity) was the first article since Cotte's publication that treated humidity variations not as strict dependents of temperature but as the results of urbanization (Greiger, 1961). Anthropogenic sources of water vapor were now recognized as important contributing factors.

Out of 230 papers presented at the 1963 International Symposium on Humidity and Moisture in Washington D.C., not one paper at the conference dealt with the distributional aspects of humidity (Dodd, 1964). This was paradoxical since the symposium was convened in order to provide a perspective view of the total cross-disciplinary nature of humidity and moisture studies (Rushin, 1963). Even in 1968, at the Geneva World Meteorological Organization Conference on Urban Climates, again not a single paper dealing with humidity variation and dispersion was again presented. From 1774 to 1969 only 17 articles have dealt with humidity variations, both within and between an urban and rural complex (Chandler, 1969). During the time raw data for this thesis was acquired and analyzed, only one major paper entitled "Humidity Distributions in a Small City and Their Relationships to Surface Materials" by James A. Henry, was published (Chandler, 1976).

Of the few comparative studies undertaken, analysis has been limited to those days and nights when such climatic parameters as wind speed and opacity were advantageous to the establishment and retention of intense urban heat islands, not humidity islands. Measurements of the moisture content of urban and rural atmospheres were also limited in time duration. Thus what observational evidence there is, is not completely conclusive (Chandler, 1976).

1.2 Objectives

Since cities appear to initiate complex interactions between advective, diffusive and radiative processes following local changes in boundary conditions, an understanding of the relative temporal and spatial distribution of water vapor and its relationship to temperature may provide further impetus for analysis or re-analysis of the urban mesoclimate. The probability of a re-analysis increases, not only at an urban mesoclimatic scale but at all climatic levels, when one examines the underlining reasoning behind climatological-meteorological studies. That is, the statistical framework for the majority of these studies was based upon parametric data assumptions. Assumptions which either were carried over from similar research undertakings or were assumed as valid for the data in question mainly because the field of parametric statistics is far better understood and is much better represented in computer packages. Whether or not the

assumptions were valid were not to be questioned. The results of the findings are therefore distorted unless otherwise proven.

Therefore, the objectives of this study are:

- (1) to deduce the possible anthropogenic and meteorological parameters which would influence the structure, duration and magnitude of the urban heat and mixing ratio islands with specific reference to the research zone and the climatic conditions that prevailed prior and during the acquisition of climatic data. By adopting such an approach, a theoretical foundation is built. The selected statistically significant analyzed data can thus be fitted against the hypothesis. This procedure, furthermore, prevents the fitting of numerous questionable ideals against the data.
- (2) to present, analyze and delineate statistically-significant spatial and temporal distributions of mixing ratio from original traverse data taken over a two year span under all weather conditions within a well defined urban-rural complex. Cluster analysis will be employed to achieve some sort of traverse organization while non-parametric statistical techniques will be used on the particular fusions in order to locate which of these fusions have statistically significant temperature and/or mixing ratio distributions. The selected dendrogram groupings will then be subjected to the equivalent parametric statistics. Comparisons will be made with emphasis placed upon discovering to what degree parametric assumption violations effect or alter the computed results.
- (3) to estimate and delineate the magnitude variations of the temperature and mixing ratio islands on the basis of air mass type and climatic parameter differentiation. These changes will be further investigated through the examination of case studies. However, if the selected data groupings are such that there seems to be no time unity, case studies will not be undertaken. For example, if only 5 out of 30 traverses of a particular air mass have been proven to be statistically significant on one or both of the climatic parameters under scrutiny and these 5 traverses are not within the same time

frame, it would be misleading to label this group as a general representation of temperature and/or mixing ratio variations for that particular air mass.

Fulfillment of these interrelated objectives will be achieved through an inverse hierarchical examination of the data. Scrutinization shall commence with the analysis of the most illogical climatological cluster, that is, the main cluster comprising of 253 traverses, and shall terminate with the numerous explicitly defined sub-clusters of the main air mass categories. Meteorological-temporal parameter combinations to be infused with each analysis will be introduced such that those conditions which maximize the urban mixing ratio and/or heat islands will precede those which minimize island formation.

Though scrupulous in nature, these methods ensure the dominance of statistical inferred conclusions. Hence, the prior "reference" and inductive hypothetical reasoning techniques will be rendered validless. A non-significant statistical conclusion is in itself significant because it has proven the fact of insignificance.

A static methodology is thus ruled out. New test statistics chosen for objective optimization, shall be introduced whenever greater clarification of the results

are required. However, when the nonparametric and their equivalent parametric forms yield conflicting conclusions for the same data field, conclusions which would appear as "false inadequate impressions" in the literature field of this thesis' topic, the thesis shall terminate. This of course does not connote abandonment of the objectives, but on the contrary, indicates investigation and enlightenment. Clarification will be provided in later chapters. Here themes dealing with the so-called unifying framework of urban climatological systems shall be investigated.

Revision, where required, will follow.

1.3 Methodology

The research objectives are attained through the acquisition of a large quantity of dew point and temperature data, measured by automobile mounted instrumentation, driven along a well defined traverse, encompassing all major land usage, upwind and downwind of Winnipeg's core area, over a two year sampling period. Traverse data was reduced to a constant time after conversion from millivolts to degrees Celsius was completed. Regular synoptic observations at the Winnipeg International Airport Meteorological Station were then merged to form the data base. Analysis of daily surface and upper air charts plus examination of

prognostic aviation forecasts provided the broader meteorological picture with respect to air mass type. The data base was subdivided according to season, air mass and wind quadrant direction. Fixed point estimators were grouped accordingly and subjected to para- and nonpara-metric tests of significance. Interpretation, conclusion, and assumptions were based upon those results which showed strong statistical significance.

1.4 History of the Study

The foundation of this study and interest of the author stemmed from similar research previously undertaken along a parallel traverse in Winnipeg by Bell of the University of Winnipeg. The lack of humidity research in urban-rural mesoclimatic studies intensified by the desire to examine the effect of urbanization on certain climatic parameters, provided the stimulus to undertake a few night time traverses in November 1975. Results indicated that even under cloudy, windy conditions, the heat and humidity islands exist climatologically, even though statistical significance between the average fixed point observations was less than the 95% level. Plans were therefore made with Bell to undertake further study.

Over a two year period, 253 traverses were randomly conducted, yielding 32, 131 cases of point data. There

were 127 fixed point measurements per traverse (see Map 5.2.1). From the basic data acquired, air vapor pressure also known as the saturated vapor pressure at dew point, was calculated. Formulae for the above conversions and for further conversions to mixing ratios, etc. were obtained from the Smithsonian Meteorological Tables.

The data was accordingly edited and an attempt was made to perform a comprehensive analysis of this data.

1.5 Definitions and Units of Measurements

The two climatic parameters under investigation in this study are mixing ratio and temperature. As the former climatic parameter can not be directly measured from the environment, the dew (frost)-point temperature of the air will be logged. All units in this thesis are metric.

The thermodynamic dew point temperature, T_d , of moist air at temperature, T , and at pressure, p , and mixing ratio, r , is the temperature to which the air must be cooled in order that it shall be saturated with respect to liquid water at the initial pressure, p , and mixing ratio, r . Temperature is the major climatic control determining the maximum dew point value. Other influencing factors are:

- (1) air mass type
- (2) wind direction and speed

- (3) moisture conditions on the ground
- (4) turbulent mass exchange
- (5) cloudiness as affecting the insolation of an area
- (6) water surface temperature and water body area upwind of an area
- (7) evapotranspiration and anthropogenic sources of water vapor

The thermodynamic frost point temperature's definition parallels the above in all respects except that it is determined with respect to ice.

The mixing ratio, r , of moist air is the ratio of the mass, m_v , of water vapor in grams to the mass of dry air in kilograms with which the water vapor is associated with. Together with absolute humidities, mixing ratios are the best indicators of air mass type for only condensation and evaporation can alter the values.

All definitions of the above parameters correspond to those formulated and adopted by the World Meteorological Organization. These definitions are in affect at present.

The boundaries of Winnipeg are defined as all areas located within and bounded by Manitoba Provincial Highways 100 and 101. The latter highways are locally referred to as the Perimeter.

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CHAPTER 2

Urban Heat Island:Formation and Retention

2.1 Introduction

The following discussion on urban heat island formation and retention shall be very selective since voluminous literature has been directed towards this topic. Detailed examination of such contributing parameters to heat island formation, as:

- (1) the effect varying concentrations of gaseous pollutants have on the radiative balance.
- (2) wind velocity
- (3) cloud cover and opacity
- (4) anthropogenic heat sources
- (5) city density structure
- (6) time

have been adequately documented by Oke(1944), Yoshino(1975), Bach(1976) and Chandler(1976). These aspects, therefore, need not be mentioned here. Consequently, the discussion shall be limited to those contributing factors most prominent within the research area. Typical urban albedoes¹ and the thermodynamic properties of urban surfaces shall be compared with their rural counterparts. The possible effect aerosols might have upon the research area's radiative balance shall then be discussed. The latter control is of considerable

¹ Albedo is defined here as the decimal fraction of reflected or scattered to incident global radiation, and is used to denote the characteristic reflectivity of radiation within the range 0.36 to 4.00 microns.