TABLE OF CONTENTS

page

ABSTRACT iii

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS iv

LIST OF TABLES x

LIST OF FIGURES xi

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS xviii

INTRODUCTION 1

BACKGROUND 3

2.1 Introduction 3

2.2 Stratospheric Aerosol 5

2.2.1 Aerosol Sources and Microphysics 7

2.2.2 Climate Effects 10

2.3 Aerosol Measurements 11

2.3.1 In-Situ Measurements 11

2.3.2 Occultation 12

2.3.3 Lidar 14

2.3.4 Limb Scatter 15

2.4 Radiative Transfer 18

2.4.1 Scalar Radiative Transfer 18

2.4.2 Vector Radiative Transfer 22

2.4.3 Rayleigh Scattering 23

2.4.4 Mie Scattering 24

2.4.5 SASKTRAN Radiative Transfer Model 25

2.5 ALI Prototype and Stratospheric Balloon Flight 26

OPTICAL DESIGN AND CALIBRATIONS 28

3.1 AOTF Theory and Background 28

3.1.1 Solution to the Acoustic Equation 28

3.1.2 Diffraction Efficiency 32

3.1.3 Diffraction Angle 33

3.1.4 Tuning Curve 36

3.2 AOTF Calibration and Operation 38

3.2.1 AOTF Operation 38

3.2.2 AOTF Tuning Curve Analysis 40

3.2.3 AOTF Point Spread Function 43

3.2.4 AOTF Diffraction Efficiency 44

3.3 Optical Chain Development 44

3.3.1 Telecentric System Prototype 45

3.3.2 Telescopic System Prototype 52

3.3.3 ALI Optical Design 57

3.3.4 Correction to the Optical Design 62

3.4 Opto-Mechanical Design and Thermal Balancing 63

3.4.1 Opto-Mechanical Design 64

3.4.2 Baffle Design 69

3.4.3 Light Tight Case 74

3.4.4 Thermal Considerations 75

3.5 Control Software 77

3.6 ALI Calibrations and System Test 81

3.6.1 Exposure Time Determination 81

3.6.2 DC Offset Removal 83

3.6.3 Dark Current Correction 85

3.6.4 Stray Light Calibration 86

3.6.5 Relative Flat-Fielding Correction 87

3.6.6 Integrated Testing 90

AEROSOL SENSITIVITY TO POLARIZATION 92

4.1 Introduction 92

4.2 Model and Scenarios and Aerosol Sensitivity 93

4.2.1 SASKTRAN-HR model 93

4.2.2 Aerosol Scenarios 93

4.2.3 Methodology 95

4.3 Analysis 98

4.3.1 Aerosol Sensitivity 98

4.3.2 Retrievals 103

4.3.3 Precision analysis 107

4.4 Conclusions 111

STRATOSPHERIC BALLOON FLIGHT AND AEROSOL RETRIVALS 115

5.1 Stratospheric Balloon Flight 115

5.1.1 Preflight Preparations 115

5.1.2 Balloon Flight 119

5.2 Limb Measurements 123

5.3 Aerosol Retrievals 129

5.3.1 Aerosol Extinction Retrieval Methodology 130

5.3.2 Aerosol Extinction Retrievals 135

5.3.3 Particle Size Retrieval Methodology 139

5.3.4 A Sample Particle Size Retrieval 143

5.4 Results 145

CONCLUSION 147

LIST OF REFERENCES 150

ALI HARDWARE COMPONENTS 161

A.1 Optical Components 161

A.1.1 Optical Lenses 161

A.1.2 Polarizers 161

A.1.3 AOTF 162

A.2 Opto-Mechanical and Electrical Components 163

A.2.1 RF Driver 163

A.2.2 QSI CCD Camera 163

A.2.3 OCELOT Computer 163

A.2.4 Opto-Mechanical Pieces 164

ALI SOFTWARE COMMANDS 165

B.1 List of Commands for ALI Software 165

B.1.1 EnableScience 166

B.1.2 DisableScience 166

B.1.3 EnableRF 166

B.1.4 DisableRF 167

B.1.5 EnableAutoSendStats 167

B.1.6 DisableAutoSendStats 167

B.1.7 SetScienceMode 167

B.1.8 ReloadConfig 168

B.1.9 LdCusCnf 168

B.1.10 LdCusExp 168

B.1.11 GetFile 169

B.1.12 EndCurrentScienceCycle 169

B.1.13 SetExposureScaleFactor 169

B.1.14 UpdateExposureTimeCurve 169

B.1.15 EnableCheckRfTemps 170

B.1.16 DisableCheckRfTemps 170

B.1.17 ResetHousekeeping 170

B.1.18 DumpConfig 170

B.1.19 SetBitsPerSecond 170

B.1.20 EnableAutomation 171

B.1.21 DisableAutomation 171

B.1.22 SetAutomationTimeout 171

B.1.23 EnableGps 171

B.1.24 DisableGps 171

B.1.25 EnablePulse 172

B.1.26 DisablePulse 172

B.2 List of ALI Science Modes 172

B.2.1 Invalid Mode 172

B.2.2 Calibration Mode 172

B.2.3 Aerosol Mode 173

B.2.4 H2O Mode 173

B.2.5 O2 Mode 174

B.2.6 Custom Mode 175

B.2.7 Aerosol Constant Exposure Time Mode 175

B.3 List of ALI Exposure Modes 175

B.3.1 Invalid Mode 176

B.3.2 Calibrated Exposure Mode 176

B.3.3 Custom Exposure Mode 176