

Author’s Response to Reviewer #2

AIRS Deconvolution and the Translation of AIRS to CrIS Radiances with Applications for the IR Climate Record

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1 General Remarks

We thank the reviewers for their thoughtful comments, and have tried to incorporate all suggestions and respond to all questions. The list below includes reviewer’s comments followed by our responses.

The discussion of reference truth for the deconvolution (starting on page 3 line 30 RHS of the original submission) was not clear. We have updated the labels in figures 3 and 4 from “gauss” to “decon ref” to better indicate we are showing the deconvolution reference truth. We updated the associated discussion to emphasize that the deconvolution reference truth is simply a check of the deconvolution step—we don’t need it to do the deconvolution or for subsequent reconvolution to CrIS or other targets.

We corrected the relationship of standard deviation and full-width half-max (FWHM), $s = \text{FWHM}/(2\sqrt{2\ln 2})$ in the original submission, to $s = \text{FWHM}/(2\sqrt{2}(\ln 2)^{1/(2p)})$. The latter is correct for the generalized Gaussian. The difference is small for the range of values p we used. As noted above this does not effect the accuracy of the translations, just (to a very small degree) the consistency of reference truth for the deconvolution and the basis functions for our L1d “idealized grating model”.

2 Response to Comments

- 1. Page 2 right column, line 26, $\|r_0\|_2$ should be $\|r_0\|^2$, there are several other places need to be corrected.

REPLY: $\|r_0\|^2$ would be the square of the Euclidian distance. That would be harmless in our inequality $\|r_0\|_2 \leq \|r_j\|_2$ but not what we want for condition number $\|S_b\|_2\|S_b^{-1}\|_2$ in the next sentence. $\|r\|_2$ is a common notation for the L^2 norm, and for vectors is simply Euclidian distance. The notation used in the paper is taken from the Wikipedia articles for the Moore-Penrose inverse and mathematical norm, and we’ve added both as citations.

- 2. Page 2, right column, lines 36-39 in the generalized Gaussian equation, please replace c with other symbol.

REPLY: Agreed, we replaced this with s .

- In Fig 3 subplots 2 and 3: why do we see some overshoot and ringing in the deconvolution, especially at the shortwave CO₂ absorption lines?

REPLY: The ringing and overshoot at 2310 cm⁻¹ appears to be caused by a change in the L1c channel spacing from 1.02 cm⁻¹ to 0.92 cm⁻¹. These jumps occur at the AIRS focal plane module boundaries. The first subplot of figure 2 shows channel spacing as a function of frequency, and the jump at 2310 cm⁻¹ is one of several such discontinuities. The deconvolution is sensitive to such changes in channel spacing; thus the ringing. These artifacts are acceptable because we do not propose using the deconvolved radiances directly; they are an intermediate step before reconvolution to a lower resolution.

- 4. The AIRS L1c channel spacing and resolving power R is around 1200 in Fig 2 (after deconvolution), why the direct convolution choose a resolving power of 2000 instead of 1200? The generalize Gaussian function could be adjusted to use a resolving power of 1200 to better match the deconvolved radiances.

REPLY: The direct convolution is reference truth for the deconvolution, and is now labeled “decon ref” in the plots. We choose 2000 because this is an approximate match to the resolving power of the deconvolution. Resolving power of the deconvolution is a property of the deconvolution—we just want to measure it. We compared the deconvolution with reference truth for a range of resolving powers from 1200 to 2400 and chose 2000 because the residuals do not decrease much beyond that point.

We don’t use the Gaussian basis for the AIRS deconvolution or the AIRS to CrIS translation—it is just a measure to see how well the deconvolution step alone works. The deconvolution reference truth for a resolving power of 1200 is a very close match to the original AIRS radiances.

- 5. Page 4 right column, line 46, “The constant or DC bias is...” What is DC?

REPLY: DC is direct current. We dropped this because we are doing statistics, not signal processing, and now just say “the constant bias”.

- 6. Page 4 right column, lines 53-54, “Up to this point there as been no statistical...” please correct this sentence

REPLY: OK, fixed.

- 7. Page 5, regarding the NEdN. I am not clear how do you measure the AIRS-to-CrIS NEdN. If you know AIRS NEdN at 280 K, how do you translate that NEdN to CrIS observation? I dont understand the sentence: “This is done repeatedly and the noise after translation is measured”.

REPLY: in outline, the steps are (1) generate “true AIRS” spectra without noise, (2) for each spectra from step (1) generate a set of n noise vectors at the AIRS NEdN spec and add them to the noise-free spectra, giving a set of n noisy spectra, (3) translate this set from AIRS to CrIS, and (4) measure the standard deviation of the translation. As a check we also measure the standard deviation before the translation, to verify that it agrees with our AIRS NEdN spec.