

THE ADVANCED BASELINE IMAGER (ABI) ON GEOSTATIONARY OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITES (GOES)-R

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI) is being designed for future Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) starting with GOES-R in 2012 (Gurka and Dittberner, 2001, Schmit et al., 2005). As with the current GOES Imager, this instrument will be used for a wide range of qualitative and quantitative weather, climate and environmental applications. The ABI will improve over the existing GOES Imager with more spectral bands, higher spatial resolution, faster imaging, and broader spectral coverage. The ABI will improve the spatial resolution from nominally 4 to 2 km for the infrared bands and 1 to 0.5 km for the 0.6 μm band (Figure 4), 2 km for the 1.38 μm , and 1 km for the other visible/near-IR bands. The ABI expands the spectral band number to 16; five are similar to the 0.6, 4, 11, and 12 μm windows and the 6.5 μm water vapor band on the current GOES-8/11 Imagers (Table 1). For more information on the uses of the current GOES Imager; Menzel and Purdom (1994), Ellrod et al. (1998) or see <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes/goes8/>. The additional bands are a visible band at 0.47 μm for aerosol detection and visibility estimation; a visible band at 0.86 μm for the detection of aerosols and vegetation; a near-infrared band at 1.38 μm to detect very thin cirrus clouds; a snow/cloud-discriminating 1.6 μm band; the 2.26 μm will be used for particle size, vegetation, cloud properties/screening, hot spot detection, and moisture determinations; mid-tropospheric water vapor bands centered at approximately 7.0 and 7.34 μm to track atmospheric motions; an 8.5 μm band to detect volcanic dust clouds containing sulfuric acid aerosols and cloud phase; the 9.6 μm band for monitoring total column ozone; the 10.35 μm band to derive low-level moisture and cloud particle size; and a 13.3 μm band useful for determining cloud top heights (Table 2). Every fifteen minutes, ABI will scan the full disk, CONUS (Continental United States) three times, plus a selectable 1000 km by 1000 km area.

The six visible/near infrared bands are shown in Fig. 1 with a snow and grass spectra also plotted. These bands will be used to generate a number of products including visibility, vegetation, cloud cover and day-time surface features. Figure 2 shows simulated

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spectral response functions (SRFs) of the ten bands in the infrared portion of the spectra. The weighting functions, which show the layer of observed energy for each ABI band are shown in Figure 3. These are for the standard atmosphere at a local zenith angle of 40 degrees. The simulated ABI SRFs are available on-line at: <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes/abil/>.

Section 2 summarizes a select number of new and improved products possible with the GOES ABI. Section 3 briefly describes the uses for each of the bands on the ABI. Finally, Section 4 shows some ABI simulations using existing satellite observations.

2. PRODUCTS

2.1 Imagery/Radiances

As will be the case for the ABI, each of the current bands on the GOES Imager are displayed as a time-series of images. Additional information can be gleaned by differencing bands or applying principle components on the imagery (Hillger, 1996). For example, the current GOES Imager "water vapor" band 3 has many applications, ranging from estimating upper level moisture (Soden and Bretherton, 1993; Moody et al., 1999) to defining upper-level jetstreaks (Weldon and Holmes, 1991). While the difference between the 11 and 12 μm brightness temperatures (split window) helps detect dust, volcanic ash plumes, low-level moisture, and skin temperature and aids in distinguishing between cloud types and biomass burning aerosols (Ackerman, 1996; Ackerman and Chung, 1992; Moeller et al., 1996; Prata, 1989, Barton et al., 1992; Hayden et al., 1996; Prins et al., 1998). Out flow boundaries have also been observed (Dostalek et al. 1997). Also, averaged, clear-sky brightness temperatures from the imagers are being investigated for assimilating into numerical models. For example, the direct assimilation of water vapor (WV) clear-sky brightness temperatures (CSBT) from geostationary satellites are being used operationally at ECMWF, using the four-dimensional variational assimilation (4DVAR) system with data from MeteosaT-7 and -8 as well as GOES-9/10/12. This product will be improved with data from the ABI, in part due to a superior cloud mask with the additional bands and a better signal-to-noise ratio.

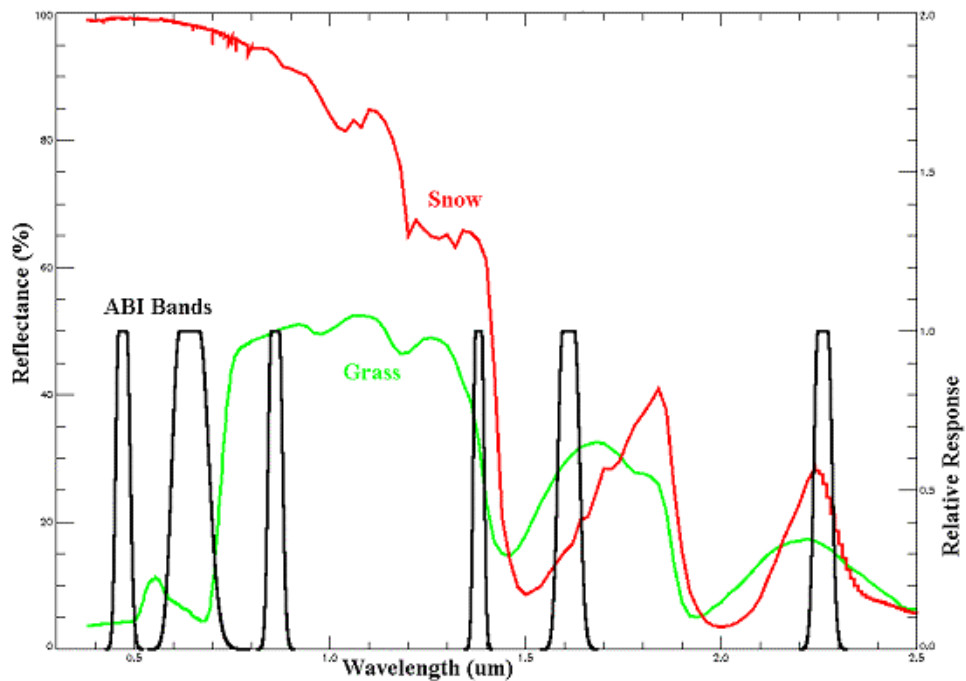


Figure 1. The spectral coverage of the six visible/near infrared bands with a representative clear-sky radiance plot. The current GOES has only one visible band (centered at approximately 0.64 μm).

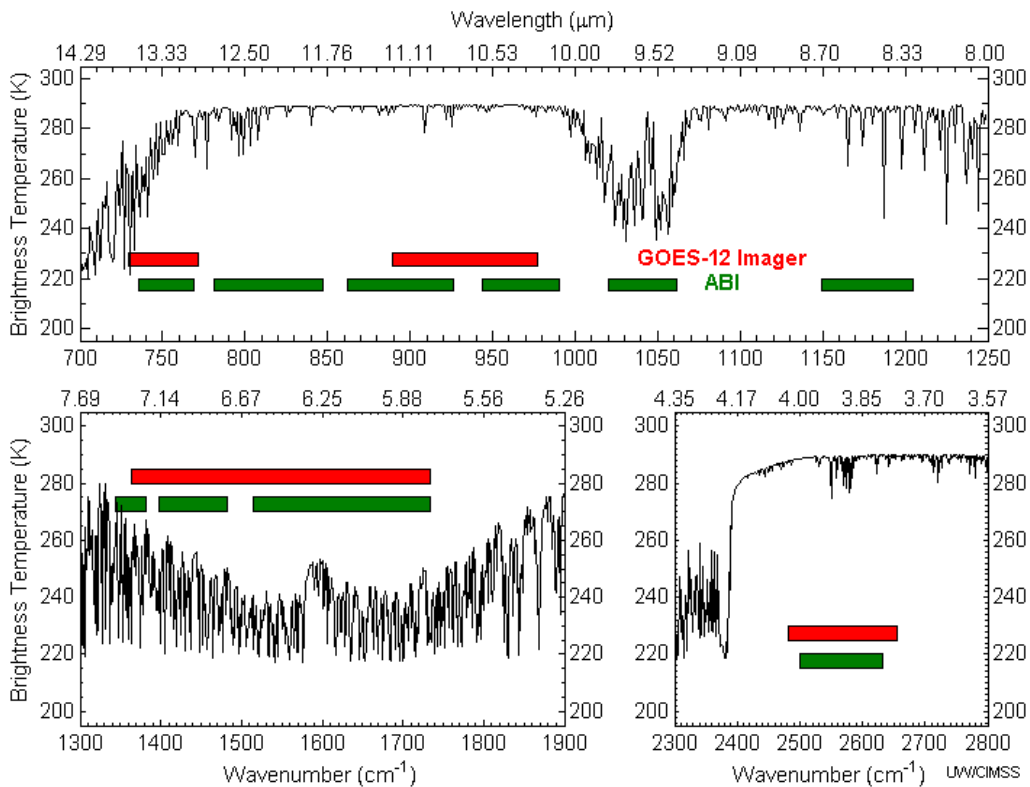


Figure 2. The spectral coverage of the ten ABI bands in the infrared portion of the spectra. These are compared with the spectral coverage from the GOES-12 imager and a sample high-spectral resolution earth-emitted spectra.

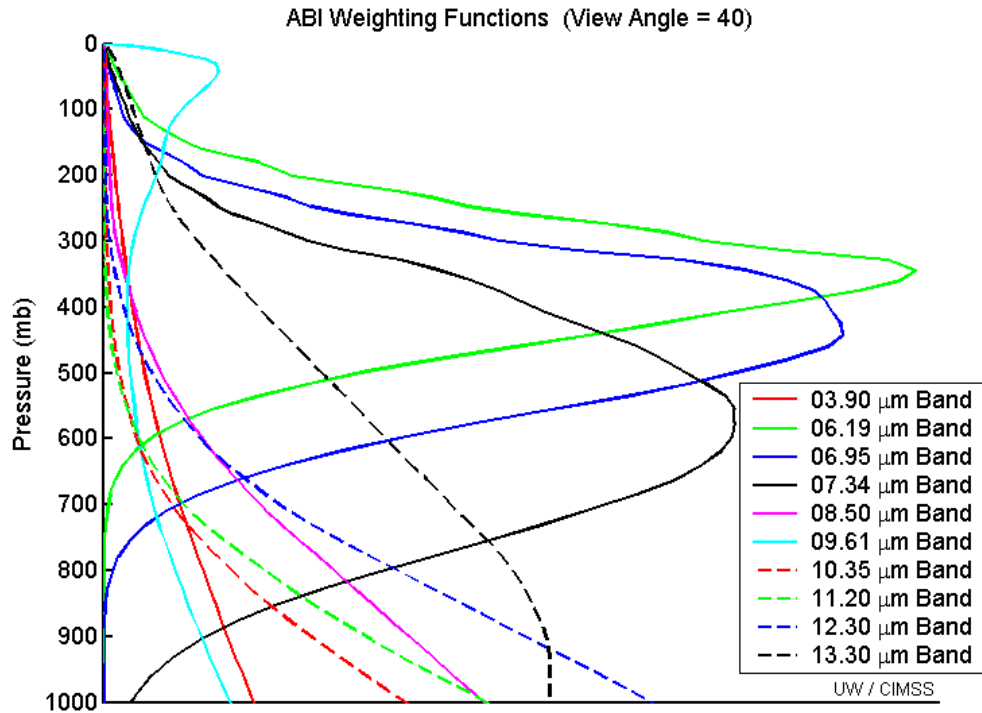


Figure 3. ABI weighting functions for the standard atmosphere at a local zenith angle of 40 degrees.

2.2 Cloud Products

Cloud products generated via the CO₂ absorption technique have been demonstrated from instruments on both geostationary and polar-orbiting platforms (Wylie and Wang, 1997; Schreiner et al., 1993; Wylie et al., 1994; Wylie and Menzel, 1999; Frey et al., 1999; Schreiner et al., 2001). Cloud products derived from the GOES Sounder have been used to initialize numerical models (Kim and Benjamin, 2000; Bayler et al., 2001). Improved products from the GOES ABI will include cloud top pressure (CTP), effective cloud amount (ECA) and cloud top temperature. The ECA represents the optical thickness of the cloud. Recent work has shown that the difference between the 6.7 μm and the 11 μm bands is correlated to convection (Mosher, 2001). These ABI cloud products will be improved over the current suite, especially if they are computed in conjunction with information from the Hyperspectral Environmental Suite (HES)(Li et al., 2002 a and b), formerly named the Advanced Baseline Sounder (ABS).

2.3 Sea Surface Temperature (SST)

The GOES platform allows frequent looks at a given area with the same viewing angle. This scanning feature is exploited to generate improved spatial and temporal coverage of Sea Surface Temperature (SST) from the GOES Imager (Wu et al., 1999). The GOES SST products have many applications, ranging from weather forecasting to fishery management (Seki et al., 2001). The information used to create the SST product

will be improved with the ABI due to: higher spatial resolution, more frequent images, more spectral bands, better cloud and aerosol detection, and less noisy data.

2.4 Dust and Volcanic Ash Detection

The detection of volcanic ash plumes is important for aviation applications (Casadevall, 1992; Davies and Rose, 1998; Hillger and Clark, 2002; Ellrod, 2001). The ABI will improve volcanic ash detection by returning the 12 μm data to the imager (Schmit et al. 2001), but more importantly due to inclusion of the 8.5 μm band.

2.5 Rainfall Estimations

Rainfall estimation techniques use data from the GOES Imager; some rely on only the infrared window, for example the auto-estimator (Vicente et al., 1998), and others use more bands, such as the GOES Multispectral Rainfall Algorithm (GMSRA) (Ba and Gruber, 2001, Scofield and Kuligowski, 2003). Both types of satellite rainfall estimations will be improved with the ABI data. This is due to the additional bands that will lead to a better cloud-type classification capability. Improved spatial resolution and improved coverage rate will also help. The improved rainfall estimations possible from the ABI data have been investigated by Kuligowski and Im (2004).

2.6 Satellite-Derived Wind Fields

The tracking of atmospheric features (Velden et al., 1997) will be improved using the GOES ABI. The 13.3 μm data will provide better estimates of cloud height for the tracking of atmospheric motions. Currently, the height assignment is one of the greatest sources of error (Nieman et al., 1993). A number of the ABI bands can be used to generate satellite-derived winds at different heights. Satellite-derived winds will be improved with the ABI due to: higher spatial resolution (better edge detection), more frequent images (offers different time intervals), better cloud height detection (with multiple bands), new bands (0.86, 1.38 μm) may allow wind products at different levels, better signal-to-noise ratio and better image navigation/registration.

2.7 Objective Dvorak Technique

The GOES Imager is used to determine hurricane location and intensity (Velden et al., 1998 a and b; Goerss et al., 1998; Bosart et al., 2000). The Objective Dvorak Technique is used to monitor the strength of tropical cyclones and relies on the longwave infrared window band (Velden et al., 1998a). The ABI, used in conjunction with the HES, will allow a multi-spectral approach to be further investigated. This product will also be improved due to the improved temporal and spatial resolutions.

2.8 Biomass Burning/Smoke

The detection of active fires using primarily the 3.9 μm and the 11 μm bands (Prins et al., 1998) will be improved with the ABI. This is due in part to the improved spatial and temporal resolutions, along with the hotter maximum temperature allowed for the 3.9 μm band. The 0.47 μm band will also detect daytime smoke.

2.9 Fog Detection

The bispectral technique for fog detection (Ellrod et al., 1998) is based on differences of the longwave and shortwave IR window brightness temperatures. Using simulated ABI data (derived from 1 km MODerate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) data), it has been shown that the fog detection of ABI will be an improvement over the current GOES Imager.

2.10 Aircraft Icing

GOES Imagery is used to generate an experimental product that highlights areas of supercooled water clouds that could produce aircraft icing (Ellrod, 1996). This product uses the split window (band 4 minus band 5) temperature difference. The addition of the 1.6 and 8.5 μm bands will improve this product for giving improved information on the cloud-top microphysics.

2.11 Climate Applications

The ABI will also be used for a host of climate applications. The geostationary perspective is ideal for monitoring the diurnal trends of a number of phenomena. There are numerous potential GOES-R climate applications. Some of these include (along with the HES): satellite-to-satellite cross-calibration of the full operational satellite system; hourly high spectral resolution infrared radiances facilitate radiance calibration; measurements that resolve climate-relevant (diurnal, seasonal, and long-term inter-annual) changes in atmosphere, ocean, land and cryosphere; diurnal signatures of various phenomena such as fires, clouds, vegetation, land temperature, and sea surface temperature; improved measurements of Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR), O₃ and SO₂; improved measurements of aerosols over both the land and water; continuation of the geostationary radiance database.

3. INDIVIDUAL BANDS OF THE PROPOSED ABI

Table 3 summarizes which bands are used for select ABI products. HES refers to a product from the combined imager/sounder system.

3.1 0.47 μm or "Blue" Band

The utility of a band centered at 0.47 μm is well established from many satellites in low-earth orbit, including LANDSAT, SEAWIFS, MODIS and the future VIIRS on NPOESS. A geosynchronous platform is complementary to the polar observers, providing otherwise unknown time-of-day and bi-reflectance data at mesoscale resolution. Blue-band radiometry from GOES-R would provide nearly continuous observations of clouds, dust, haze, smoke, and the health of open waters. Finally, the addition of a blue band (0.47 μm) with "green" band (0.55 μm) and red (0.64 μm) bands would provide "true" (or natural)-color imagery of the atmosphere and its real time effects on land and sea. Given that the ABI will not have a 0.55 μm band, the "green" band will have to be synthesized from other spectral bands.

The blue channel would be particularly valuable for aviation applications. The shorter wavelengths (blue) scatter more off haze and air particles than do the longer wavelengths (red). The current GOES visible channel frequency centered in the red was chosen to minimize scattering by haze in order to see the ground more clearly. Having an additional channel centered near the blue frequencies would greatly improve the detection of haze and enable the calculation of slant range visibility from above. This channel would also have potential applications for air pollution studies, and for improving numerous other products during the day, that rely on obtaining clear sky radiances (i.e. land and sea surface products).

3.2 0.64 μm or "Red" Band

A very similar band is on the current GOES Imager. It has many uses, including the diurnal aspects of daytime clouds, fog detection and solar insolation (Diak et al., 1998). The 0.64 μm visible band is also used for: daytime snow and ice cover, severe weather onset detection, low-level cloud drift winds, fog, smoke, volcanic ash, hurricane analysis, and winter storm analysis. Along with the 0.86 μm , an NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) will be created.

3.3 0.86 μm

The 0.86 μm band is similar to a band on the next generation Meteosat and would provide synergy with the AVHRR/3. The band is used for daytime clouds, NDVI, fog, aerosols and ocean studies. The band can help in determining vegetation amount, aerosol locations and for ocean/land studies. This enables localized vegetation stress monitoring, fire danger monitoring, and fire burn scars. Only the GOES perspective can sense the diurnal changes. This may have implications in forecasting forest re-growth patterns. The current GOES visible channel (0.52 - 0.72 μm) does not delineate the burn scars. Other applications include suspended sediment detection (Aquirre-Gomez, 2000). Low-level winds may be derived from time sequences of 0.86 μm images. In some cases, the 0.86 μm band can also be used to help build false-color imagery.

3.4 1.38 μm

The 1.38 μm band will help to detect very thin cirrus clouds during the day. This is because the band does not sense into the lower troposphere due to water vapor absorption and thus it provides excellent daytime sensitivity to very thin cirrus. (The 1.38 μm band is centered *within* the atmospheric water vapor absorption region.) These thin clouds may not be detected with any other bands. Contrail detection is important when estimating many surface parameters. There is also interest in the climate change community. When the Total Precipitable Water (TPW) value is too dry (less than approximately 10 mm), then reflectance from the surface minimizes the benefits of this band for thin cirrus detection.

3.5 1.61 μm

During the day, the 1.6 μm band can be used for: cloud/snow/ice discrimination, total cloud cover, aviation weather analyses for cloud-top phase (Hutchison 1999), and detecting smoke from low-burn-rate fires. The daytime water/ice cloud delineation is useful for aircraft routing.

3.6 2.26 μm

The 2.26 μm is mainly for cloud particle size - detecting particle growth is an indication of cloud growth and intensity of that growth. Although the 1.6 μm band has a larger difference between the imaginary refraction components between the water and ice (Baum et al., 2000), the 2.26 μm band would still be used in this capacity. Other uses of the 2.26 μm band include cloud screening, hot spot detection, and total moisture determinations. For example, the MODIS cloud mask algorithm employs a very similar band (Ackerman et al., 1998). This band is also being considered for the third generation Meteosat imager.

3.7 3.90 μm

The shortwave IR window (3.9 μm) band has many uses: fog (Ellrod et al., 1998) and low-cloud discrimination at night, fire identification (Prins et al., 1998), volcanic eruption and ash detection, and daytime reflectivity for snow/ice. This band is based on the current GOES Imager band 2.

3.8 6.2 μm

Based on current GOES, and Meteosat Second Generation (MSG/SEVIRI). This band will be used for upper-level tropospheric water vapor tracking, jet stream identification, hurricane track forecasting, mid-latitude storm forecasting, severe weather analysis, rainfall, and for estimating upper level moisture.

3.9 7.0 μm

Based on current GOES Sounder band 11, and MSG. This band will be used for mid-level tropospheric water vapor tracking, jet stream identification, hurricane track forecasting, mid-latitude storm forecasting, severe weather analysis, and for estimating upper level moisture. Multiple water vapor bands allow for vertical changes to be detected.

3.10 7.3 μm

Based on current GOES Sounder band 10. This band will give flow information of the mid/lower levels. It can also identify jet streaks. This band will help with volcanic plumes, given the central wavelength is near 7.3 μm .

3.11 8.5 μm

The 8.5 μm band, in conjunction with the 11.2 μm band, will enable detection of volcanic dust clouds containing sulfuric acid aerosols (Realmuto et al. 1997; Ackerman and Strabala, 1994). In addition, the 8.5 μm band can be combined with the 11.2 and 12.3 μm bands to derive cloud phase (Strabala et al. 1994). This determination of the microphysical properties of clouds

includes a more accurate and consistent delineation of ice clouds from water clouds during the day or night.

Other uses of the 8.5 μm band include: thin cirrus detection in conjunction with the 11 μm (to improve other products by reducing cloud contamination), a better atmospheric correction in relatively dry atmospheres (to improve SST), and surface properties can be observed in conjunction with the 10.35 μm channel. The MSG carries a similar channel (8.5 to 8.9 μm) as well as MODIS and Global Imager (GLI).

3.12 9.6 μm

A thermal infrared ozone channel on the GOES-R Imager will provide information both day and night about the real time dynamics of the atmosphere near the tropopause at high spatial and temporal resolutions (Li et al., 2001, Schmidt et al. 2004). Significant wind shear, turbulence and tropopause folding occur in the middle latitudes, particularly during the baroclinic storms in the spring and fall. The 9.6 μm band may give some indications to clear-air turbulence and will also complement a similar channel on MSG, as part of a global observing system.

3.13 10.35 μm

The 10.35 μm band will help to derive low-level moisture, cloud particle size and surface properties. Chung et al. (2000) showed how the 10 - 11 μm region is important for determining particle sizes of ice-clouds.

3.14 11.2 μm

The longwave infrared window (11.2 μm) band will provide day/night cloud analyses for general forecasting and broadcasting applications, precipitation estimates (Vicente et al., 1998), severe weather analyses, cloud drift winds (Velden et al. 1998a), hurricane strength (Velden et al. 1998b) and track analyses, cloud top heights, volcanic ash detection (Prata 1989), fog detection in multi-band products (Lee et al. 1997), winter storms, and cloud phase/particle size estimates in multi-band products.

3.15 12.3 μm

The 12.3 μm band will offer nearly continuous cloud monitoring for numerous applications, low-level moisture determinations, volcanic ash identification detection (Davies and Rose 1998), Sea Surface Temperature measurements (Wu et al. 1999), and cloud particle size (in multi-band products). It has been shown that mid-level dust amounts (from the Saharan Air Layer) may be useful in determining hurricane intensification in the Atlantic basin. (Dunion and Velden 2004)

3.16 13.3 μm

The 13.3 μm band will be used for cloud top height assignments for cloud-drift winds, cloud products for ASOS supplement (Schreiner et al. 1993; Wylie and Menzel 1999), tropopause delineation, and estimating cloud opacity. These cloud products will be further improved by combining the data with high-spectral resolution sounder data from HES.

Table 1. Summary of the bands on the current GOES Imagers from Hillger et al. (2003).

Current GOES Imager Band	Wavelength Range (μm)	Central Wavelength (μm)	Meteorological Objective
1	0.55 to 0.75	0.65	Cloud cover and surface features during the day
2	3.8 to 4.0	3.9	Low cloud/fog and fire detection
3	6.5 to 7.0 5.8 to 7.3	6.7 (GOES-8/11) 6.5 (GOES-12)	Upper-level water vapor
4	10.2 to 11.2	10.7	Surface or cloud-top temperature
5	11.5 to 12.5	12.0 (GOES-8/11)	Surface/cloud-top temperature and low-level water vapor
6	12.9 to 13.7	13.3 (GOES-12)	CO ₂ band: Cloud detection

Table 2. Summary of the bands on the future GOES Imagers (ABI).

Future GOES Imager (ABI) Band	Wavelength Range (μm)	Central Wavelength (μm)	Objective
1	0.45-0.49	0.47	Daytime aerosol-over-land, Color imagery
2	0.59-0.69	0.64	Daytime clouds fog, insolation, winds
3	0.84-0.88	0.86	Daytime vegetation & aerosol-over-water, winds
4	1.365-1.395	1.38	Daytime cirrus cloud
5	1.58-1.64	1.61	Daytime cloud water, snow
6	2.235 - 2.285	2.26	Day land/cloud properties, particle size, vegetation
7	3.80-4.00	3.90	Sfc. & cloud/fog at night, fire
8	5.77-6.6	6.19	High-level atmospheric water vapor, winds, rainfall
9	6.75-7.15	6.95	Mid-level atmospheric water vapor, winds, rainfall
10	7.24-7.44	7.34	Lower-level water vapor, winds & SO ₂
11	8.3-8.7	8.5	Total water for stability, cloud phase, dust, SO ₂
12	9.42-9.8	9.61	Total ozone, turbulence, winds
13	10.1-10.6	10.35	Sfc. & cloud
14	10.8-11.6	11.2	Total water for SST, clouds, rainfall
15	11.8-12.8	12.3	Total water & ash, SST
16	13.0-13.6	13.3	Air temp & cloud heights and amounts

Table 3. Select imager products and needed spectral coverage from the ABI. The column labeled HES reflects products that can be improved with high spectral infrared data from the HES Sounder.

Sample Product list	Primary ABI Band(s) (μm)	Secondary ABI Band(s) (μm)	HES
aerosols/dust/smoke	0.47, 2.2, 8.5, 12.3	0.64, 0.86, 1.6, 10.3, 11.2	Yes.
clear sky masks (Imager)	0.64, 1.38, 8.5, 11.2, 12.3	0.47, 0.86, 1.6, 8.5, 13.3	
cloud imagery	0.64, 1.38, 3.9, 11.2, 13.3	0.86, 8.5, 10.35	Yes.
cloud-top microphysics	0.64, 1.6, 3.9, 10.35, 11.2	0.86, 2.2, 8.5	Yes.
cloud-top phase	1.6, 8.5, 11.2, 13.3	0.6, 1.38, 2.2	Yes.
cloud-top pressure/temperature	8.5, 11.2, 13.3	3.9, 6.15, 7, 10.3, 13.3	Yes.
fires/hot spots	3.9, 11.2	0.64, 2.2, 12.3, 13.3	
fire burn scars	0.86	0.64, 10.3	
hurricane intensity	11.2	0.64, 3.9, 6.15, 8.5, 13.3	Yes.
insolation	0.47, 0.64	0.86, 1.6	
land skin temperature	3.9, 11.2, 12.3	7.3, 8.5, 10.3	Yes.
low cloud and fog	3.9, 11.2	0.64, 1.61, 10.3, 12.3	Yes.
Rainfall rate/QPE	8.5, 11.2, 12.3, 13.3	0.64, 6.15, 7.3, 10.3	Yes.
Derived motion	0.64, 3.9, 6.19, 7, 7.3, 11.2	0.86, 1.38, 9.6, 10.3, 12.3, 13.3	Yes.
sea ice products	0.64, 1.6	2.2, 3.9, 11.2, 12.3	
sea surface temperature	3.9, 11.2, 12.3	8.5, 10.35	Yes.
snow detection (cover)	1.61	0.64, 0.86, 2.2, 3.9, 11.2	
SO ₂ concentration (upper-level)	8.5, 7.34	9.6, 11.2, 13.3	Yes.
Surface properties	8.5, 10.35	11.2	Yes.
suspended sediment	0.64, 0.86	0.47	
total ozone	9.6	11.2, 13.3	Yes.
turbulence	6.15, 7, 9.6	7.3, 11.2, 13.3	
vegetation index	0.86	0.64, 2.2	
volcanic ash product	0.64, 3.9, 8.5, 12.3	7.3, 11.2, 13.3	Yes.

4. BAND SIMULATIONS

Each ABI band selection has been arrived at by building upon the experience of heritage instruments and being aware of other sensors that will be available in the GOES-R era, while meeting the stated user requirements.

Meteosat-8 data, along with other ABI simulated data from MODIS, AIRS or forward model calculations, are being used to prepare for ABI. The next generation Meteosat(-8) was launched in 2002 and has 12 bands, including two water vapor bands centered at 6.2 and 7.3 μm (Schmetz et al., 1998; Schmetz et al., 2002, Woick et al., 1997). A sample "16 band" ABI multiple panel image from April 11, 2004 at approximately 13 UTC was developed (Figure 5). This image over France is compiled from measurements from three separate satellite instruments (MODIS, Meteosat-8 and AIRS). MODIS data was used to

simulate bands 1-4, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 14-16. Meteosat-8 was used for bands 5 and 8, while AIRS data was used for bands 9, 10 and 13. The spectral simulation is more representative for those bands derived from the high-spectral resolution AIRS data due to convolution. The spatial information is more representative for those bands derived from higher spatial resolution MODIS data. The 1.38 μm band is dark because it is centered within an absorption band. Note that the snow covered Alps are bright (reflective) in the first three visible bands, while it is darker (absorbing) in both the 1.6 and 2.2 μm bands. ABI will allow similar multi-spectral observations every 5 or 15 minutes. The images from the AIRS were made by convolving simulated ABI SRF with the high-spectral resolution data. These images are built from AIRS data received via direct broadcast at the Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) in Madison, WI.

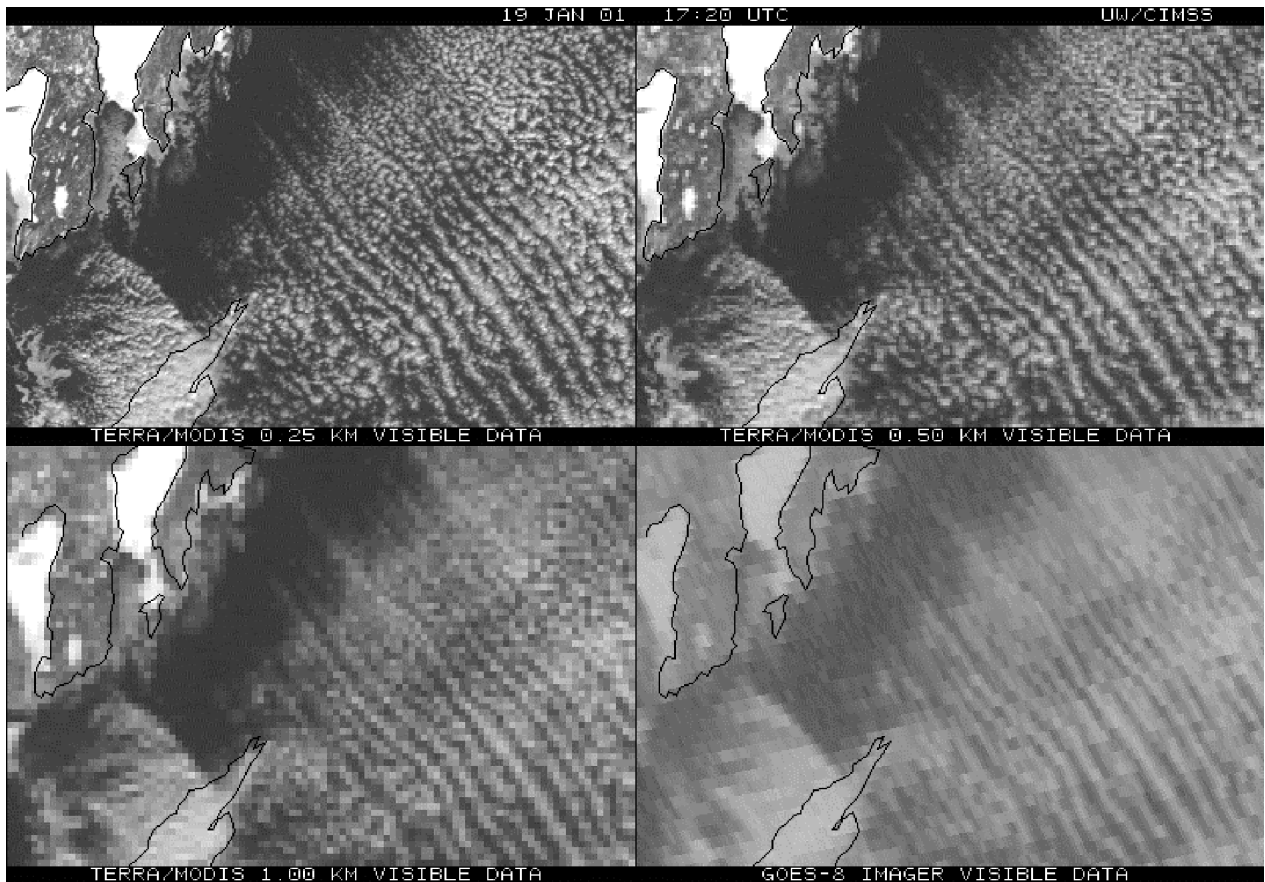


Figure 4. MODIS visible bands (and GOES in the lower-right panel) from January 19, 2001 at approximately 17:20 UTC. Note the finer spatial resolution of the ABI (0.5 km) in the upper-right panel versus either MODIS or GOES Imager 1 km 0.6 μm data. All the images have been remapped to the GOES perspective.

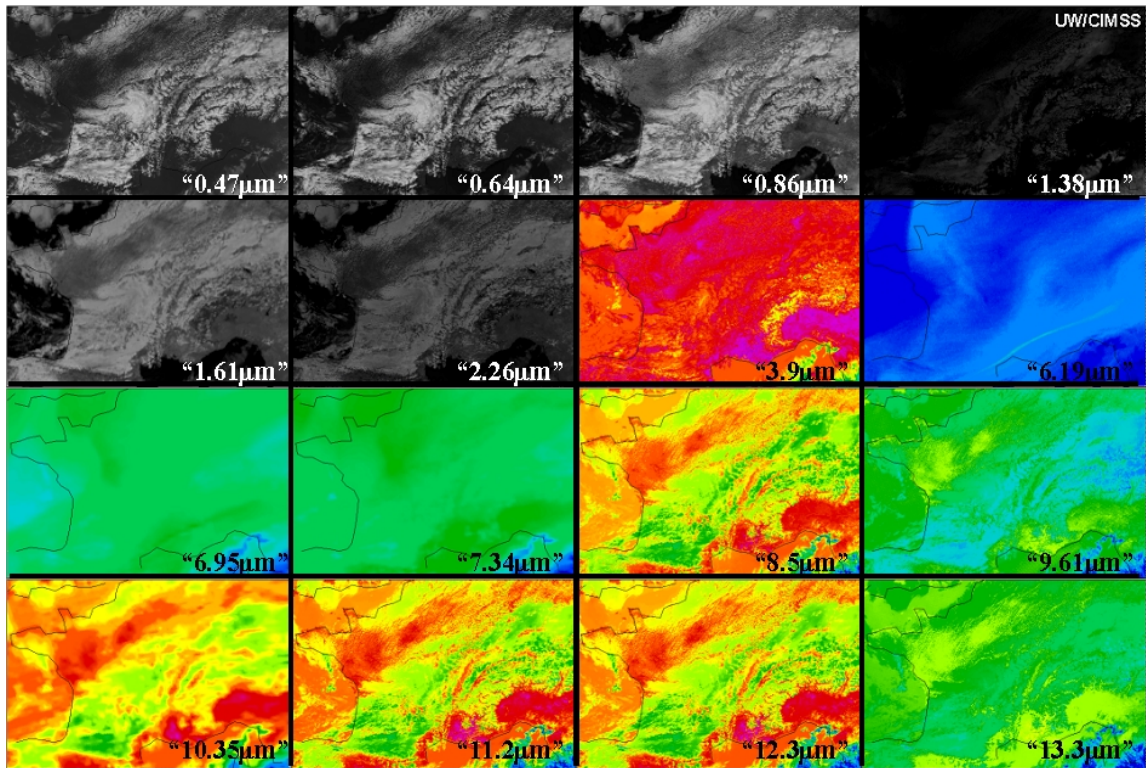


Figure 5. A simulated “16 band” ABI image from April 11, 2004 at approximately 13 UTC. This image over France is built from measurements from three separate satellite instruments (MODIS, MET-8 and AIRS).

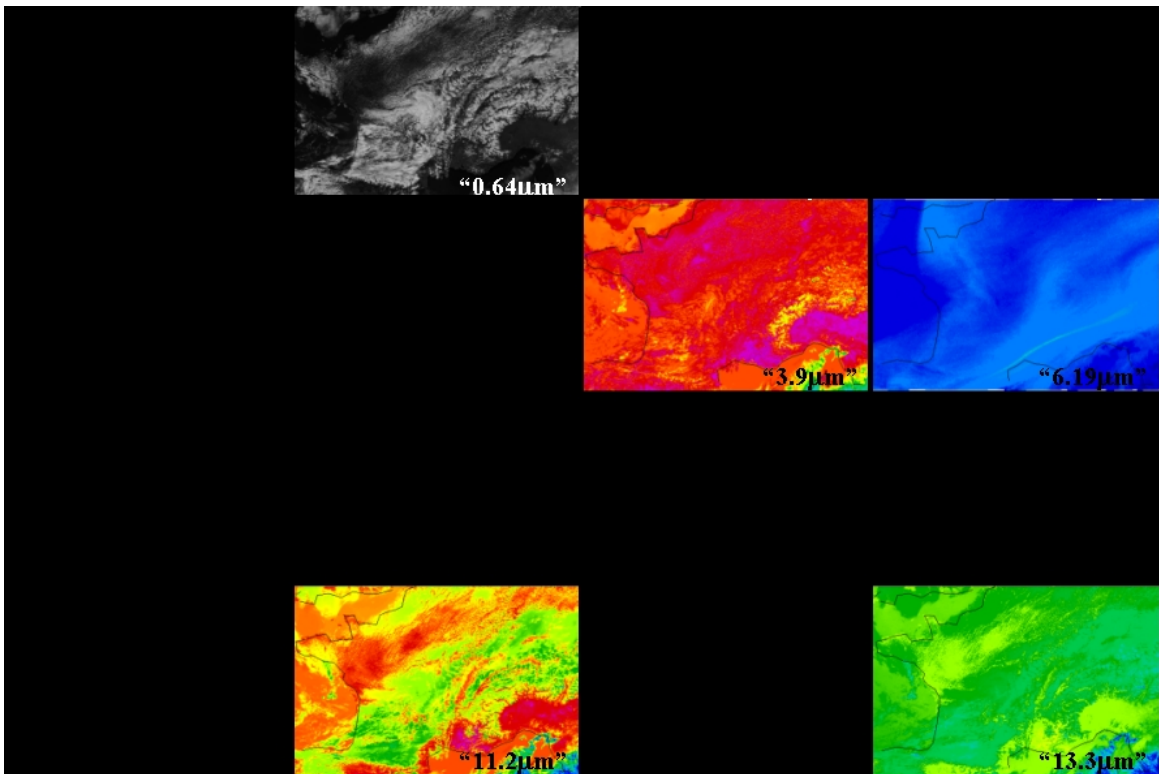


Figure 6. The same case as in Figure 5, but only showing the corresponding bands available on the GOES-12+ imagers.

5. SUMMARY

The ABI represents an exciting expansion in geostationary remote sensing capabilities. The ABI addresses the needs of the National Weather Service (and others) by increasing spatial resolution (to better depict a wider range of phenomena), by scanning faster (to improve temporal sampling and to scan additional regions) and by adding spectral bands (to enable new and improved products). Every product that is being produced from the current GOES Imager will be improved with data from the ABI.

Of course the ABI will not be operating alone. Where appropriate, products will be produced in concert with the GOES-R high-spectral resolution sounder. It has been shown that several products can be improved when using high spatial resolution imager data with co-located high-spectral resolution measurements (Li et al. 2003a, Li et al. 2003b). In the preceding case, MODIS/AIRS was used to simulate the ABI/HES synergy. Also, the GOES system complements the polar systems and the entire Global Observing System (GOS).

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