

OBSERVATIONS OF ATMOSPHERIC WATER WITH THE  
NIMBUS-6 SCANNING MICROWAVE SPECTROMETER

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The Nimbus-6 Scanning Microwave Spectrometer (SCAMS) has been mapping the earth almost continuously since June, 1975 in five frequency bands near 22.2, 31.6, 52.8, 53.8, and 55.4 GHz. The global maps of brightness temperatures have resolution of  $\sim 150$  km and cover the globe daily with rms sensitivities of  $\sim 0.2$ - $0.6$  K. The integrated water vapor and liquid water abundances over ocean are determined from these observations by a statistical technique and have rms accuracies of  $\sim 0.4$  and  $0.01 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$  respectively. The resulting maps clearly define frontal systems, the ITCZ, and other features.

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