

EDITORIAL

The research papers presented in this special issue represent the analyses of measurements obtained during a 36-hour period 28–29 October 1986, during the FIRE Cirrus Intensive Field Observation (IFO). The Cirrus IFO was conducted in central Wisconsin from 13 October to 2 November 1986 and involved coordinated satellite, airborne, and surface-based measurements of cirrus clouds. The objective of the Cirrus IFO was to collect high space and time resolution data of the physical, radiative, dynamic, and thermodynamic properties of cirrus clouds. The Cirrus IFO is a major component of the ongoing FIRE research program. The goals of this program are to develop a better understanding of the interaction between the physical state of the atmosphere and cirrus lifecycles, and to investigate the relationships among high resolution cloud data, ISCCP data, and model cloud parameterizations. FIRE represents one of the best strategies to address the role of clouds in climate, which is the highest scientific priority of the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of Dave McDougal of NASA/Langley and his staff, without whom the FIRE IFO studies could not have been carried out. FIRE has been supported by NASA, NSF, ONR, AFGL, DOE, and NOAA.

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Guest Editors

