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Flow Visualization
Cloud Project #2 Write-up.

This project, like the first cloud project, was practically non-labor intensive compared to the rest of the assignments. Again, the project as described by the syllabus was to capture a striking image of cloud formations within the sky while adding a brief description and skewT diagram to compliment the image. The description and story behind this image is easily explainable but I had an unbelievably hard time trying to find a skewT diagram to explain, solely due to the fact that I hadn't the faintest clue as to where I was when I Snapped this photo from a plane.

Due to health complications, I was able to turn in some assignments I had missed from class, this being one of them. I had a photo that I originally shot and planned on using for this assignment back in April, but considering that I had the opportunity to submit another photo, I took that option. The original photo was of some raincloud formations above the mountains just west of Boulder, taken from the top of Flagstaff. With that being said, I felt this photo was exponentially better. There's nothing quite like observing the clouds from above them, as opposed to the ground-of course. This photo is quite simple to explain. It was snapped somewhere in the airspace between Charlotte, North Carolina and Denver Colorado on June 13, 2013. I was on my second flight of the day and on the last stretch home all the way from Rome. I had studied abroad in Rome on a Global Seminar right after the Spring 2013 semester had ended, and it felt so right that this be the imagery to top off such an amazing experience. After my flight from Rome, I had an hour layover in Charlotte that turned into three hours due to a nasty rain delay. But once we had officially taken off, steadily approaching our cruising altitude, the sight of the beautiful orange sunrise felt almost like a reward for our patience.

Although it isn't the most glorious ever taken, this photo is quite personal to me, and when I took it, there wasn't much thought that went into it other than just encapsulating the area of beauty and serenity between two very different cloud formations. Like I mentioned, I am completely unsure where this photo is geographically as well as what elevation it's at. What I do know is that the setting on the camera was 1/100 shutter at an f-stop of 5.6. As for the cloud formations, I have come to the conclusion that the formation below the plane is that of cumulonimbus, and the clouds above the plane are cirrostratus. I came to the assumption due to that fact that we were flying directly over the massive storm and had hit the airport hours earlier, and that we were basically at cruising altitude and the only clouds that exist that high and look like that are cirrostratus.

Once again, like every project, I really enjoyed this one. I'm beginning to notice that these projects, mainly the cloud assignments, are quite reflexive. It's almost like you can tell a good amount about yourself by the pictures you take, definitely an odd concept. I've also noticed that my framing just sets naturally to the rule of thirds and more often than not provides a nice, natural vanishing point. This was a far more interesting photo than my original.

