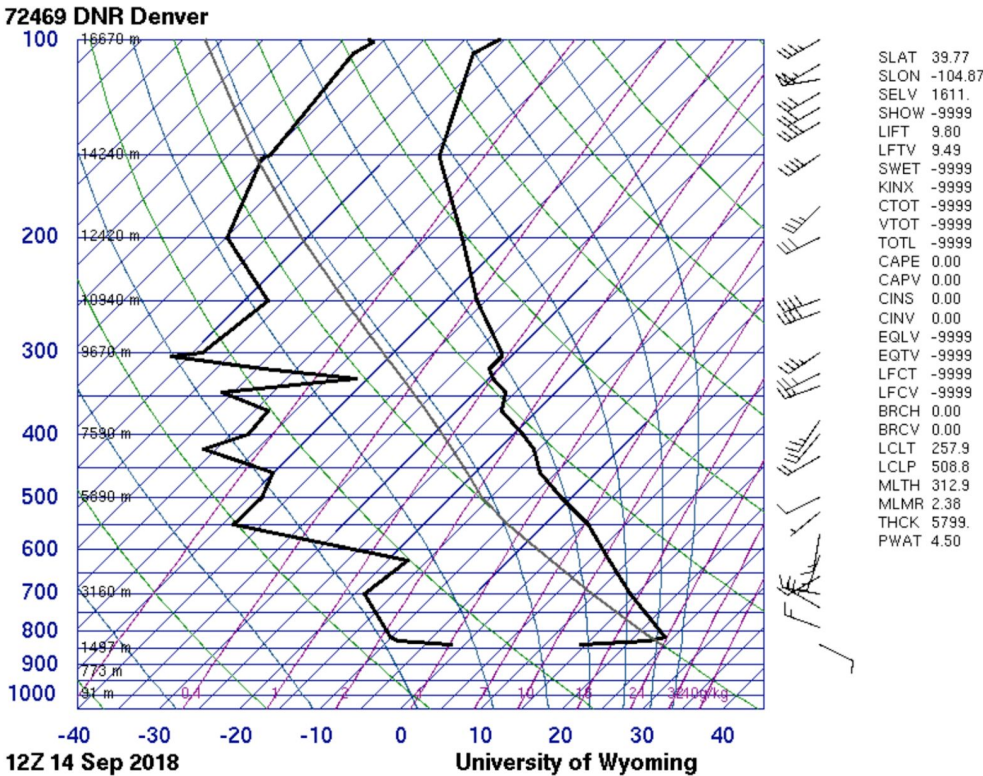


Charles Keely
 Clouds First
 Stratocumulus Lenticularis
 September 14th, 6:45 A.M.
 Castle Rock, CO

My first cloud image was a lucky capture for me because although I had not planned to take pictures of the sunrise, I woke up early to try get to Boulder in time for class and happened to witness that incredible sunrise! I did not have my DSLR handy so I took the image with an iphone. Luckily, the wave of clouds was so massive that despite the distance I was from the clouds, I was still able to capture a large portion of them.

I capture the image from atop a hill in my backyard in Castle Rock Colorado at roughly 6,300 feet above sea level. The image was taken at the eastward direction where the sun was just beginning to rise at 6:45 AM on September 14th.



Description of the [sounding indices](#).

The skew T that I used for this image was data taken from Denver which is about 45 minutes from the area from where the photo was taken which may have lead the data to be somewhat inaccurate, but there is information to be extracted from it nevertheless. For one, the

dew point and the temperature appear to be closest at around 9,000 feet, so the clouds were likely around that elevation. This makes sense because many of the clouds in the area are formed by a final bounce or lift off of the mountains before hitting the eastern plains. The clouds at the time of the image seemed to have quite a bit of height from top to bottom. The weather around that time in september had been quite decent for taking cloud photos as there was about a week of partly cloudy days before the photo was taken. The atmosphere at the time of the photo was stable, however since stratocumulus clouds tend to occur when a warm or cold front comes through, it is likely that a front was present. Since the atmosphere was stable, it makes sense that there were clouds around of the stratus variety. Stratocumulus and other stratus clouds were uniformly allocated in the western portion of the sky.

I took the photo such that the field of view would primarily be composed of clouds, so the field of view was quite wide. The distance from the clouds was likely hundreds, if not thousands of meters as the clouds were quite aloft in the sky. Since the photo was taken with an iphone, it only had 12 MP and the photos was taken with a f/1.8 aperture and a 1/30 shutter speed.

I really enjoyed capturing this image because it displayed a nice color gradient between the scattered light and the shadows. It gives the appearance of what one might call a "cotton candy" sky and displays a pink that is not necessarily commonplace among sunrises. I would have liked to get a better picture with a DSLR to get a more clear image but I was happy with the results that I got with an iphone. I was a bit worried that the accuracy of the SKEW-T could have been off because of how far away the nearest reading was. Also, the framing could have been a bit wider had I been more prepared for the shot, but since it was a quick, in the moment shot, I was not thinking much about the framing other than catching the detail of the clouds in the photo. I would like to try to get a timelapse of a sunset or sunrise in the future to try to capture a greater array of detail in the clouds.