Clouds First
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Photo taken outside of Twin Lakes, CO on Independence Pass
9:35 AM, October 1st, 2022
Cloud Types: Stratus and Altostratus

1: Introduction

This cloud photo was taken for the first cloud assignment for Flow Visualization. It was taken with the intention to capture the clouds surrounding the mountain peak that is at the center of the image, and also the fall colors that were appearing in Western Colorado at the time the photo was taken.

Figure 1: Edited Cloud Image

2: Circumstances of the Image

This cloud photo was taken facing Southwest on Independence Pass right outside of Twin Lakes, Colorado. It was taken at 9:35 AM on October 1st, 2022, and the mountain that is in the photo is Rinker Peak. The elevation of where the photo is being taken is about 9,600

feet, and the peak is 13,780 feet. The clouds that are being photographed appear to be stratus and altostratus clouds.

3: Visualization Techniques

The clouds that are in the image appear to be stratus and altostratus clouds. These clouds appear in stable atmospheres, and according to the Skew-T chart out of Grand Junction on the day that the photo was taken, the atmosphere captured was stable.
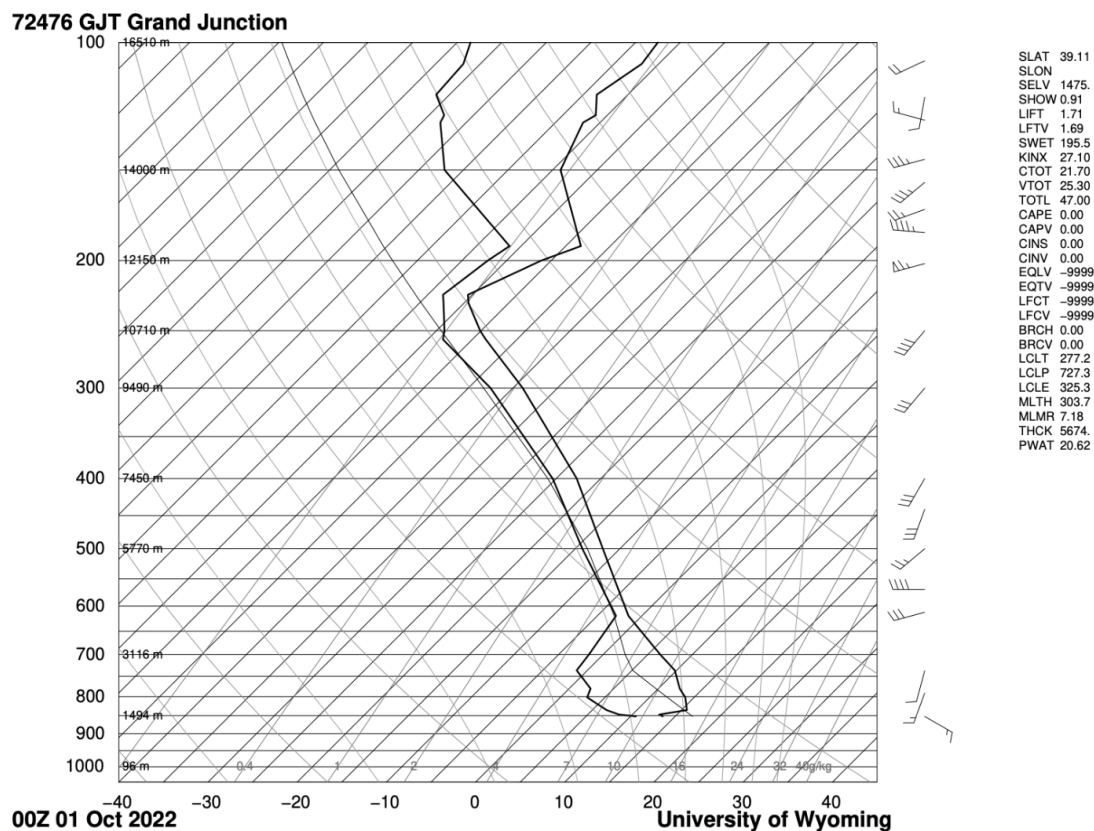

Figure 2: Skew-T Plot (Grand Junction, CO)

There are clouds lingering that can appear to be storm clouds, and it had just snowed overnight on Independence Pass. It wasn't too windy at the time the photo was taken but these clouds did appear to be moving out, with blue skies moving in. Stratus clouds both

make sense for the stability of the atmosphere but also for the weather conditions, due to the ligering moisture that was in the air. It looks like the clouds were at about 11,000 feet and higher.

4: Photographic Technique and Choices

Shot on a Sony A7III, the f/ stop was f/16, the shutterspeed was 1/80, and the ISO was 125. The focal length was 56mm. The final image is 5870 x 3961 pixels. Rinker Peak is 7.5 miles away from the pull off that the photo was taken from. For editing, all that was done was adjustments in saturation and highlights, to make the fall colors in the trees pop more.

Figure 3: Unedited Cloud Image

5: Final Thoughts

I think that image turned out incredibly well. The timing worked out in my favor, and it captures the cloud formations well. It would be incredibly interesting to see how these clouds changed over time, and see how they interact with their environment. Overall, I am very happy with this image.