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AUTOMATED CONTRAIL DETECTION FROM AVHRR DATA

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We describe a fully automated scheme that allows for the detection of contrails using the infrared channels of the Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR).

The presented algorithm is adjusted to have a low rate of misdetection in spite of the low contrail detection efficiency resulting of this tuning. We derive a time-series and regional patterns of contrail cloudiness over Central and Western Europe. Daily analysis of noon scenes in 1996 indicates that the average of daytime contrail coverage over Central Europe was $0.5 \% \pm 0.25 \%$ with regional maxima of 1.2% . Further results from the ongoing analysis of 10 years of archived AVHRR HRPT data will be presented.

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