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1 **Characterization of the white ovals on Jupiter's southern hemisphere using the first**
2 **data by the Juno/JIRAM instrument**

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26
27 **Key Points:**

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- 29 • JIRAM data from first Juno orbit highlighted the presence of several ovals in Jupiter's southern hemisphere.
 - 30 • Column densities and altitudes for an NH₃ cloud and a N₂H₄ haze have been retrieved for three ovals in the region between 60-120°W and 30-45°S.
 - 31 • Evidences of cyclonic and anticyclonic structures inside the ovals have been found.
- 32

33 Abstract

34 During the first perijove passage of the Juno mission, the Jovian InfraRed Auroral Mapper
35 (JIRAM) observed a line of closely spaced oval features in Jupiter's southern hemisphere,
36 between 30°S and 45°S. In this work, we focused on the longitudinal region covering the three
37 ovals having higher contrast at 5 μm , i.e. between 120°W and 60°W in System III coordinates.
38 We used the JIRAM's full spectral capability in the range 2.4-3 μm together with a Bayesian
39 data inversion approach to retrieve maps of column densities and altitudes for an NH_3 cloud and
40 a N_2H_4 haze. The deep (under the saturation level) volume mixing ratio and the relative humidity
41 for gaseous ammonia were also retrieved. Our results suggest different vortex activity for the
42 three ovals. Updraft and downdraft together with considerations about the ammonia
43 condensation could explain our maps providing evidences of cyclonic and anticyclonic
44 structures.

45 1 Introduction

46 The white ovals, together with the Great Red Spot (GRS), are the most prominent
47 features in the Jupiter's atmosphere. They were first observed by ground-based measurements
48 [Peek, 1958], then in more detail during the flybys of Jupiter carried out by the NASA Voyager
49 probes in 1979 and during the extensive in-system tour performed by the NASA Galileo
50 spacecraft in 1995-2003. These ovals are in a stable configuration known as a "Karman vortex
51 street", where anticyclones are staggered with cyclones [Youssef and Marcus, 2003]. These
52 vortices appear very bright in the visible range and for this reason they are usually called
53 "white". Their visible brightness is due to the scattering of the sunlight by upper clouds and
54 hazes condensed there. On the other hand, they appear very dark in the spectral range where the
55 thermal radiation becomes dominant since thick clouds block photons coming from the deeper
56 and hotter atmospheric layers. Color changes in the visible range, from white to red, have been
57 observed in ovals [Go *et al.*, 2006]. The reddish color is usually attributed to red "chromophores"
58 [West *et al.*, 1986], which are products of a series of complex chemical reactions, such as the UV
59 photolization of ammonia with acetylene [Carlson *et al.*, 2016]. These chromophores can act as
60 coating material for the ammonia particles.

61 The current understanding of the clouds structure in the Jupiter's atmosphere is mainly
62 related to theoretical models based on the thermochemical equilibrium theory [Weidenschilling
63 and Lewis, 1973; Atreya *et al.*, 1999]. They expect an ammonia ice layer at about 700 mbar, an
64 ammonium hydrosulfide cloud layer at about 2 bars and a water cloud layer with a base near 6
65 bars. Moreover, observations from the ground and from space in the visible, near and thermal
66 infrared provided important information about the aerosol composition of the planet [West *et al.*,
67 1986; West *et al.*, 2004]. In particular, the equatorial region, the GRS and other small-scale cloud
68 formations (as the ovals) were investigated using the Galileo/SSI (Solid-State Imaging)
69 instrument by Banfield *et al.* [1998]. They modeled the atmosphere with a stratospheric haze
70 layer, a denser upper tropospheric haze and a cloud like layer at pressures between 600 and 950
71 mbar. Their results suggested an increase of the altitude and of the aerosol optical depth inside
72 the GRS and the white ovals with a two-cell structure with subsidence in the upper troposphere
73 and upwelling in the lower troposphere. The three layered structure for the cloudy atmosphere of
74 Jupiter was also confirmed by Irwin *et al.* [1998]. Their analysis of Galileo/NIMS (Near Infrared
75 Mapping Spectrometer) spectra suggested the presence of a tropospheric haze at 200 mbar, an
76 ammonia cloud at about 700 mbar, and an ammonium hydrosulfide cloud at pressures between

77 1.4 and 5 bars. Using the Galileo/NIMS and SSI data, *Dyudina et al.* [2001] investigated the
 78 cloud structure over the GRS and a white oval. They again suggested an increase in the optical
 79 thickness and in the elevation of the cloud inside both the atmospheric structures. Radiative
 80 transfer modeling of the infrared spectra in the 1-2 μm range acquired using ground-based
 81 measurements with Keck telescope [*de Pater et al.*, 2010] showed an overall similar vertical
 82 structure of all the studied features (GRS, Oval BA and two white ovals at 41°S). An
 83 atmospheric model based on three layer hazes (2-200 mbar, 200-650 mbar and 650-700 mbar)
 84 composed of ammonia ice particles revealed that the particle densities of the tropospheric-
 85 stratospheric hazes in the two white ovals are about 5-8 times smaller than in the GRS and Oval
 86 BA. The center of the vortexes shows a cloud at a pressure below of 600 mbar [*Dyudina et al.*,
 87 2001], which is approximately the ammonia condensation level considering the expected mixing
 88 ratio in Jupiter's atmosphere. An optically thick cloud near the NH_3 condensation level should
 89 contain large NH_3 -ice particles, which drop down to the equilibrium condensation level where
 90 they sublime [*West et al.*, 1986]. Thus, gaseous NH_3 depletion is associated with cloud
 91 formation. Both large-scale updrafts and turbulence can bring NH_3 back into the cloud raising in
 92 altitude its upper boundary.

93 Simultaneous observations in the solar (below $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$) and thermal ($\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$) spectral
 94 ranges highlighted the presence of hot rings (225-250 K) surrounding the periphery of ovals [*de*
 95 *Pater et al.*, 2010]. Since these thermal bright regions should be cloud-free down to about 5 bars,
 96 they suggested that anticyclones could extend vertically from the water cloud to the tropopause.
 97 Moreover, the observation of an anticorrelation in the opacities of the high tropospheric haze and
 98 of the low 5- μm absorbing cloud could be explained by the descent of air at high altitude and the
 99 air ascent at low altitude, and vice versa [*Dyudina et al.*, 2001].

100 The cloud structure of the Jupiter's atmosphere, and in particular the nature of vortex
 101 features, as the GRS and the white ovals, is still puzzling. Indeed, only a very limited number of
 102 ovals has been investigated in details using the visible and infrared spectroscopy. Space-borne
 103 new instruments will cast light on this issue thanks to their improved spatial resolution and the
 104 possibility to have a relatively long-time monitoring of the atmosphere.

105 Here we report the preliminary results about the cloud and haze structures inside and
 106 outside three ovals in the southern hemisphere of Jupiter obtained by the analysis of the Jovian
 107 InfraRed Auroral Mapper (JIRAM) observations acquired during the first perijove passage of the
 108 NASA spacecraft Juno after orbit insertion (PJ1). Spectral observations with a typical spatial
 109 resolution of around 250 km at the 1 bar level, the highest achieved so far from spacecraft, allow
 110 for an accurate characterization of these peculiar atmospheric features.

111 **2 Dataset**

112 The JIRAM instrument, aboard the NASA/Juno spacecraft, is composed of an infrared
 113 imager (IMG) and a spectrometer (SPE) [*Adriani et al.*, 2014], sharing a common optical head.
 114 The imager is further split in two spectral channels: L-filter, centered at $3.45 \mu\text{m}$ with a 290 nm
 115 bandwidth, and M-filter, centered at $4.78 \mu\text{m}$ with a 480 nm bandwidth. Each channel has a Field
 116 of View (FOV) of $1.75^\circ \times 5.94^\circ$ (128×432 pixels corresponding to the along and across track
 117 directions) and an Instantaneous Field of View (IFOV) of about $250 \times 250 \mu\text{rad}$. The
 118 spectrometer, based on grating diffraction of a pixel size slit, covers the spectral interval 2.0-5.0
 119 μm with a spectral resolution around 12 nm and has a FOV of 3.52° (across track) sampled by
 120 256 pixels with a square IFOV of $250 \times 250 \mu\text{rad}$. The radiometric calibration is described in

121 *Adriani et al.* [2014], whereas in-flight performances were first evaluated during the Earth-Moon
 122 flyby occurred in October 2013 [*Adriani et al.*, 2016]. In this work we used the M-filter of the
 123 IMG for the context and the SPE for the characterization analysis.

124 Juno orbit insertion successfully occurred on July 4, 2016, and during its first perijove
 125 passage (August 27-28, 2016) JIRAM acquired measurements covering almost the entire planet.
 126 In particular, JIRAM highlighted the presence of the white ovals belt in the southern hemisphere,
 127 between 30°S and 45°S. In this work, we focused on the longitudinal region covering the three
 128 ovals having higher contrast at 5 μm , i.e. between 60°W and 120°W (Fig. 1, in System III
 129 coordinates). Hereafter we refer to the region in this planetocentric rectangle as our Region of
 130 Interest (ROI). The identified ovals are all centered at a latitude of about 37°S and at longitudes
 131 of about 115°W, 88°W, and 67°W for Oval#1, Oval#2 and Oval#3, respectively. In the M band
 132 they show approximately the same diameter of less than 5° on both axes. At that latitude, this
 133 angular diameter results in a size of about 5000×6000 km.

134 In order to achieve the best spatial coverage, we divided the ROI in 3600 square bins of
 135 0.5° in both latitude and longitude. The JIRAM spectrometer dayside acquisitions in PJ1 covered
 136 about 85% of these bins with a variable number of spectra spanning from 1 to 19, with an
 137 average of about 3. Since the variability in the observational (incidence, emission and phase)
 138 angles of spectra falling into each bin is mostly of the order of few degrees or less, measurements
 139 were then averaged to build a dataset composed of 3068 mean spectra (Fig. 1b-c).

140 We estimated the instrumental noise affecting the measurements by the standard
 141 deviation of a selected set of 522 spectra acquired when the JIRAM instrument pointed to deep
 142 space in the same science session. Therefore, our dataset has a mean signal-to-noise ratio (SNR)
 143 of 632 with a maximum of 1703, a minimum of 6 and a standard deviation of 269 at 2.75 μm .

144 3 The Analysis Procedure

145 3.1 Method

146 Clouds and hazes strongly affect the JIRAM spectra. We limited our analysis to the
 147 spectral range between 2.4 and 3 μm since it is sensitive to reflected sunlight and it can be used
 148 to sound the higher troposphere and the stratosphere. Moreover, it appears to be free from any
 149 calibration or instrumental issue. This range covers the spectral features of both gasses and
 150 particles of Jupiter's atmosphere and for this reason their interaction with radiation should be
 151 appropriately treated by using multiple scattering radiative transfer techniques.

152 The retrieval of the atmospheric composition exploits a data inversion technique with the
 153 Bayesian approach [*Rodgers*, 2000]. It uses the Gauss-Newton iterative procedure to minimize
 154 the χ^2 function. The solution at the n^{th} iterative step is:

$$155 \quad x_{n+1} = x_n + (S_a^{-1} + K_n^T S_e^{-1} K_n)^{-1} (K_n^T S_e^{-1} [y - F(x_n)] - S_a^{-1} [x_n - x_a]) \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

156 where x is the state vector of the free parameters, y is the vector with the measured
 157 radiances, F is the simulated spectrum, K is the Jacobian matrix, x_a is the a-priori knowledge of
 158 the state vector and S_a and S_e are the variance-covariance matrices for x_a and y , respectively. The
 159 synthetic spectrum F takes into account the multiple scatterings, both by molecules and particles,
 160 and it is computed using a line-by-line code in plane-parallel approximation [*Ignatiev et al.*,
 161 2005]. This approach is suitable for simulating nadir or slant observations (incidence and
 162 emission angles $< 70^\circ$), as is our case. Finally, the convergence criterion takes into account the χ^2

163 minimization. Convergence is reached when the minimum χ^2 does not decrease within 10
 164 subsequent iterations.

165 3.2 Atmospheric Model

166 The *a priori* knowledge of Jupiter's atmosphere is based on the model suggested by
 167 *Grassi et al.* [2010] and takes into account the gaseous opacities by CH₄, H₂O, NH₃, and PH₃ and
 168 the collision-induced absorptions (CIA) by H₂-H₂, H₂-He and H₂-CH₄. We used a temperature-
 169 pressure profile for Jupiter's atmosphere as derived from the Galileo Probe data [*Seiff et al.*,
 170 1998], which can be considered representative also for the conditions in ovals [*de Pater et al.*,
 171 2010]. Two tropospheric clouds and a stratospheric haze describe the atmospheric particulate
 172 component. The properties of the deepest NH₄SH cloud we considered are the ones suggested by
 173 *Giles et al.* [2015]. They are assumed to have single scattering albedo $\omega=0.9$ and asymmetry
 174 factor $g=0.7$ for the Henyey-Greenstein phase function in the entire spectral range of our interest.
 175 Moreover, the NH₄SH cloud is considered to extend between 1.3 and 0.73 bars with a constant
 176 volume density of 2.16 particles/cm³. Methane photochemistry models produced a haze of
 177 complex hydrocarbons in the stratosphere of Jupiter that was postulated to coat the ammonia
 178 clouds below [*Atreya et al.*, 2005], thus obscuring them except for fresh clouds that alone could
 179 be spectrally identified [*Baines et al.*, 2002]. Laboratory experiments [*Kalogerakis et al.*, 2008]
 180 suggested tholin as a possible coating substance for NH₃ ice particles. In our work, we computed
 181 the single scattering parameters for the tholin-coated NH₃ cloud using the BART code
 182 [*Quirantes and Delgado*, 1997], which is based on the Aden-Kerker theory, starting from the
 183 refractive index by *Howett et al.* [2007] and *Khare et al.* [1984] for ammonia ice and tholin,
 184 respectively. We tested different tholin refractive indexes covering the spectral region of interest
 185 as suggested in the work by *Brassé et al.* [2015]. The ones from *Khare et al.* [1984] provided the
 186 best-fit results on a sample of our dataset. For this cloud we assumed a Gaussian vertical
 187 distribution between 1 bar and 200 mbar with the center at 500 mbar and a volume density of
 188 about 19 particles/cm³. Finally, we considered a hydrazine (N₂H₄) stratospheric haze as
 189 suggested by *Moreno* [1996] with a Gaussian vertical distribution between 40 and 20 mbar
 190 centered at 30 mbar, and a particle volume density of about 4 particles/cm³. The optical
 191 properties for the haze were computed using the refractive index by *Clapp and Miller* [1996]
 192 with a code based on the Mie theory. Finally, the solar spectrum was modeled following
 193 *Drummond and Thekaekara* [1973] and rescaled according to the actual heliocentric distance at
 194 the time of the acquisition.

195 The analysis procedure retrieves for each bin, starting from the reported *a priori* values
 196 (apv), the following parameters:

- 197 - the column number density for the NH₃-tholin cloud (NH₃-Tho_cnd): apv = 2.8 x 10⁷
 198 #/cm²;
- 199 - the peak altitude of the NH₃-tholin cloud (NH₃-Tho_alt): apv = 17.45 km;
- 200 - the column number density for the N₂H₄ haze (N₂H₄_cnd): apv = 2.0 x 10⁶ #/cm²;
- 201 - the peak altitude of the N₂H₄ haze (N₂H₄_alt): apv = 70.10 km;
- 202 - the deep mixing ratio of gaseous ammonia (NH₃_vmr_deep): apv = 6.77 x 10⁻⁴;
- 203 - the relative "humidity" of gaseous ammonia (NH₃_rh): apv = 2.02 %.

204 We fixed the radii ratio to 0.5 and the total radius to 0.8 μm for the tholin-coated NH_3
 205 particles and the radius of the N_2H_4 haze to 0.3 μm as the best result of several tests obtained
 206 from a sample of our dataset. Among the gaseous atmospheric components, only ammonia
 207 showed variability in the analyzed spectral range. The other atmospheric quantities were fixed to
 208 their *a priori* values. A typical example of spectral best fit is displayed in Fig. 2.

209 The quality of the retrieval is assessed using the χ^2 . Results showing a reduced χ^2 greater
 210 than 50 are discarded. Then, for each parameter we further filtered the retrieved values,
 211 discarding those out of the 99.9% confidence level for the statistical distribution of the parameter
 212 population on the entire retrieved dataset. This statistical filter in fact rules out retrieved values
 213 with a high probability to be non-physical, even though providing a good fit (low χ^2). Following
 214 this approach, we finally discarded about 16.5% of our results and retained retrievals obtained at
 215 around 2560 out of 3068 bins.

216 3.3 Uncertainties

217 We estimated the uncertainties for the retrieved parameters by applying the retrieval
 218 procedure to a simulated synthetic dataset. The statistics on our retrieved dataset naturally
 219 provide the range of variability of the considered parameters. We created a set of 100 synthetic
 220 spectra for each of the six parameters with randomly variable values in that range, obtaining a
 221 total of 600 synthetic spectra. After the addition of the instrumental noise we analyzed them.
 222 The mean differences between the known random parameters used for the spectra generation and
 223 the retrieved parameters provide the uncertainties on each of them. Thus, we obtained 24.76%,
 224 29.77%, 69.59%, 63.36%, 49.23% and 32.05% for the relative maxima uncertainties on NH_3 -
 225 Tho_cnd , NH_3 - Tho_alt , N_2H_4 - cnd , N_2H_4 - alt , NH_3 - vmr_deep , NH_3 - rh , respectively, over our
 226 dataset. The two parameters related to the upper haze are those with higher uncertainty, whereas
 227 the retrieval of other parameters has errors of about 30%.

228 4 Results and Discussion

229 In Fig. 3 we report the main results of the analysis of JIRAM's spectroscopic data in the
 230 ROI. Maps of retrieved parameters are smoothed over two neighboring points to improve
 231 legibility.

232 The entire latitudinal belt between 41° and 37°S is characterized for the most part by very
 233 low NH_3 -tholin cloud densities at altitudes relatively higher than the surrounding atmosphere.
 234 The three ovals are generally identifiable in all the retrieved maps. However, Oval#1 and Oval#3
 235 show more prominent features. They are mainly characterized by higher column densities for the
 236 NH_3 -tholin cloud. The first cloud (Fig. 3, upper panels) has values around 8.0×10^8 particles/ cm^2
 237 in Oval#1 and Oval#3, whereas Oval#2 shows lower values by a factor of two. In Ovals#2 and
 238 Oval#3, the thickness of their NH_3 -tholin cloud increases from the border to the center of the
 239 vortex. On the contrary, the cloud thickness at the center of Oval#1 is 1.5 times lower than in the
 240 surrounding ring, which delimits the boundary of the vortex. In all the ovals we find an
 241 increasing altitude (measured from the pressure level of 1 bar) of the cloud from the boundary
 242 rings, with a peak at about -1 km (1.04 bar), toward the vortex center, where the peak is at about
 243 10 km (660 mbar). This result is in agreement with previous observations by Galileo/NIMS and
 244 Galileo/SSI data [Dyudina *et al.*, 2001], where the altitude of the NH_3 ice cloud in the center of a
 245 white oval is at pressures less than 600 mbar. These instruments also observed an increase of the
 246 cloud thickness from the boundary ring toward the center of the vortex. Our analysis shows a

247 similar behavior for Oval#3 and partially for Oval#2, whereas Oval#1 exhibits the opposite
248 configuration. A possible explanation for these differences can be found in the updrafts and
249 downdrafts in the centers of vortices that carry gaseous ammonia and condensed particles [*West*
250 *et al.*, 1986]. In Oval#2 and Oval#3 an updraft transports the NH₃ gas to higher altitudes (above
251 10 km, 660 mbar), where it condenses into ice particles. Then they subside in the ring boundary
252 and sublimate at lower altitude. This is consistent with the behavior of an anticyclonic structure
253 in a giant planet [*Irwin*, 2009; *de Pater et al.*, 2011]. On the contrary, in Oval#1, NH₃ condenses
254 at lower altitudes (around 940 mbar) in the ring and then ice particles move with increasing
255 altitudes (up to the level around 660 mbar) toward the center, where they subside. The central
256 downdrafts and turbulence push the particles down to atmospheric layers where the temperature
257 is above the condensation level, so they can sublimate and decrease the thickness of the cloud.
258 This behavior is instead typical of cyclones.

259 In Fig. 3 (middle panel) we observe a different behavior for the stratospheric N₂H₄ haze.
260 Only Oval#3 shows a notably high column density of about 6.0×10^7 particles/cm². The
261 latitudinal belt 40-35°S, which contains the three ovals, shows a diffuse and relatively thick haze
262 (about 4.0×10^7 particles/cm²). This haze stripe hides the presence of Oval#1 and Oval#2. These
263 ovals cannot be identified also in the haze altitude map. Oval#3, the only one identifiable,
264 corresponds to the minimum value of the entire map. It is characterized by increasing densities
265 and decreasing peak altitude of the N₂H₄ haze, suggesting that hydrazine is condensing at lower
266 altitudes (around 69 km, 29 mbar). Another atmospheric structure on the east side of Oval#3
267 dominates the N₂H₄ maps. It has both high densities (5.5×10^7 particles/cm²) and altitudes (71.9
268 km, 25.27 mbar). A possible explanation could involve an updraft centered around 63°W-38°S
269 that, carrying tropospheric molecules to higher altitude, triggers the chemical production and
270 condensation of hydrazine. However, this peculiar atmospheric feature will be investigated in
271 detail in future works.

272 The map for the deep mixing ratio of gaseous ammonia is generally anticorrelated with
273 the density map for the NH₃-tholin map. This suggests that, as we can expect, ammonia
274 condenses in the deep atmosphere and then atmospheric dynamics transport the NH₃ ice particles
275 to the upper layers. While moving, they can act as condensation nuclei for hydrocarbons or other
276 chemical products.

277 A peculiarity shows up in the map for the ammonia relative humidity. Oval#2 and
278 Oval#3 show high values up to about 10.0% and 19.5%, respectively, increasing from the
279 boundary ring toward the vortex center, whereas Oval#1 has lower values (~4-7%) with a flatter
280 spatial distribution. This result can be explained by invoking condensation at different altitudes.
281 Indeed, higher values for relative humidity imply lower atmospheric pressures (higher altitudes)
282 to condense particles, and vice versa. Our finding suggests a correlation between the
283 condensation altitude for ammonia ice particles and the relative humidity map, highlighting
284 again the high differentiation in the dynamics of ovals in the same latitudinal belt.

285 An interesting atmospheric structure appears in all of our maps. It is located at latitudes
286 slightly higher with respect to the ovals and it has an irregular shape. It extends from 92°
287 113°W longitude and from 33° to 37°S latitude (see panels in Fig. 3). It is characterized by a
288 very high column density for the NH₃-tholin cloud growing from the boundaries to the center,
289 where it reaches values around 1.2×10^9 particles/cm². Consistently with the gaseous ammonia
290 condensation at low altitude, this structure shows a very low NH₃ deep mixing ratio ($< 10^{-6}$
291 below the saturation level). Similarly, it results to be strongly depleted in N₂H₄ haze particles.

292 Here we can sound altitudes down to about 1.3 bars, where we find the peak of the first
293 significant cloud.

294 Several other atmospheric features can be recognized in our maps, whose detailed
295 analysis is beyond the scope of this paper and will be the subject of forthcoming papers.

296 **5 Conclusions**

297 The JIRAM measurements acquired during the first orbit of Juno around Jupiter
298 highlighted the presence of several ovals in the southern hemisphere. We selected the three ovals
299 (Oval#1, Oval#2 and Oval#3) showing the higher contrast in the M band (around 5 μm) on
300 which we performed a preliminary analysis using the JIRAM's full spectral capability in the
301 range 2.4-3 μm . This spectral range is sensitive to changes in high tropospheric clouds and in
302 stratospheric hazes, as well as to gaseous ammonia. The application of a data inversion algorithm
303 based on a Bayesian approach provided information about the atmospheric structure inside and
304 outside the oval vortices. As a result of our retrieval we produced maps of the region between
305 60-120°W and 30-45°S for the column densities and the altitudes of a tholin-coated NH_3 cloud
306 and of a N_2H_4 haze. Moreover, we mapped also the gaseous ammonia deep mixing ratio (below
307 the saturation level) and its relative "humidity".

308 Our results show a different behavior for the three ovals we studied. We observe
309 evidences of a strong anticyclone producing Oval#3, where both the NH_3 -tholin cloud thickness
310 and peak altitude increase toward the center. This is consistent with the central updraft that
311 carries gaseous ammonia above the saturation level. The same structure is observed for the
312 Oval#2 but with much less intense features. On the contrary, Oval#1, having higher cloud
313 thickness in the boundary ring and higher cloud peak altitude in the vortex center, implies the
314 presence of a central downdraft and thus shows evidence of a typical cyclonic structure in a giant
315 planet. JIRAM data from further orbits will be used to monitor these behaviors.

316 Very high densities in the hydrazine haze with respect to other vortices and the
317 surrounding environment also suggest the stronger activity of Oval#3. Moreover, the relative
318 humidity map for the gaseous NH_3 reveals higher values in Oval#3, which implies condensation
319 for ice particles at higher altitudes. Condensation is also observed in Oval#2 and Oval#1, though
320 with weaker effects and at lower altitudes.

321 The results reported in this paper are the first obtained from JIRAM observations and
322 therefore should be regarded as preliminary. Simultaneous analysis of solar and thermal
323 dominated spectral range, as well as the extension to other interesting atmospheric features,
324 could provide important insights into the clouds structure and the gaseous content in Jupiter's
325 atmosphere.

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331 The JIRAM-Juno data are not currently publicly available. They will be made publicly
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343 through the projects “HPP - High Performance Planetology” and “DataWell”.

344 **References**

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452 **Figure Captions**

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454 **Figure 1:** M-filter single image acquired by JIRAM Imager on 28th August 2016 (a), where the
455 three main ovals are clearly visible in the southern hemisphere of Jupiter. Integrated radiance in
456 the 4.30-5.26 μm (b) and 2.40-3.00 μm (c) spectral ranges as acquired by the JIRAM
457 Spectrometer during the first orbit. In panels b and c spectra are averaged in square bins of size
458 0.5° in planetocentric longitude and latitude. Data are projected in System III West coordinates
459 and blank bins represent no coverage.

460

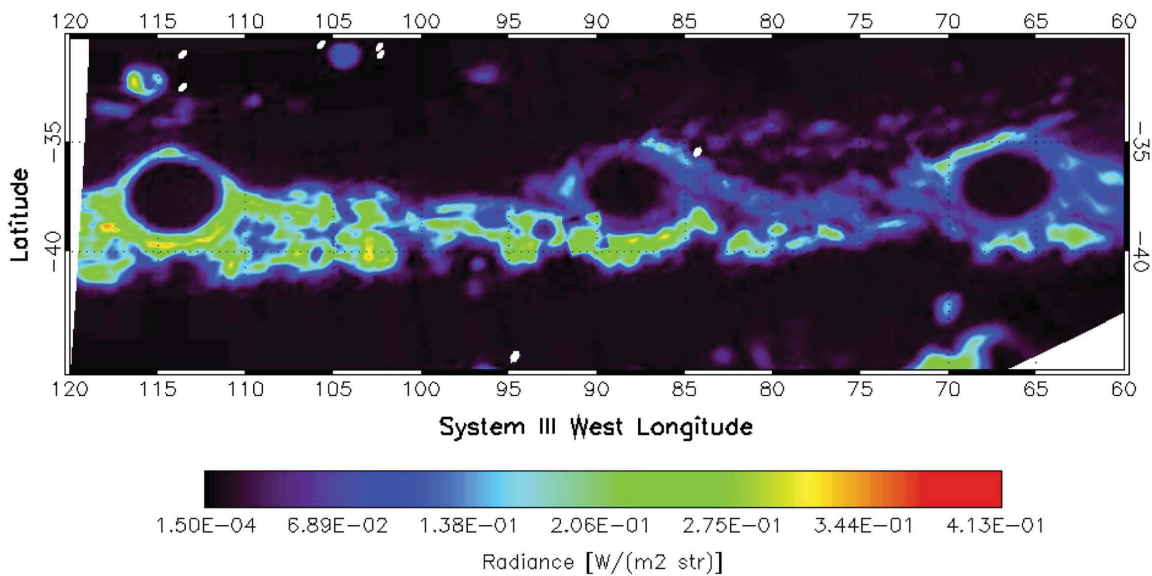
461 **Figure 2:** Example of two spectral best fits as a result of the data inversion procedure. Black dots
462 and the red line represent the JIRAM measured mean spectrum and the best-fit synthetic
463 spectrum, respectively. The spectra refer to a bin inside the Oval#1 around longitude 115.70°W
464 and latitude 36.54°S (a) and a bin outside the ovals around longitude 75.75°W and latitude
465 36.68°S (b). The horizontal colored bars highlight the ranges where the gaseous features affect
466 the spectrum.

467

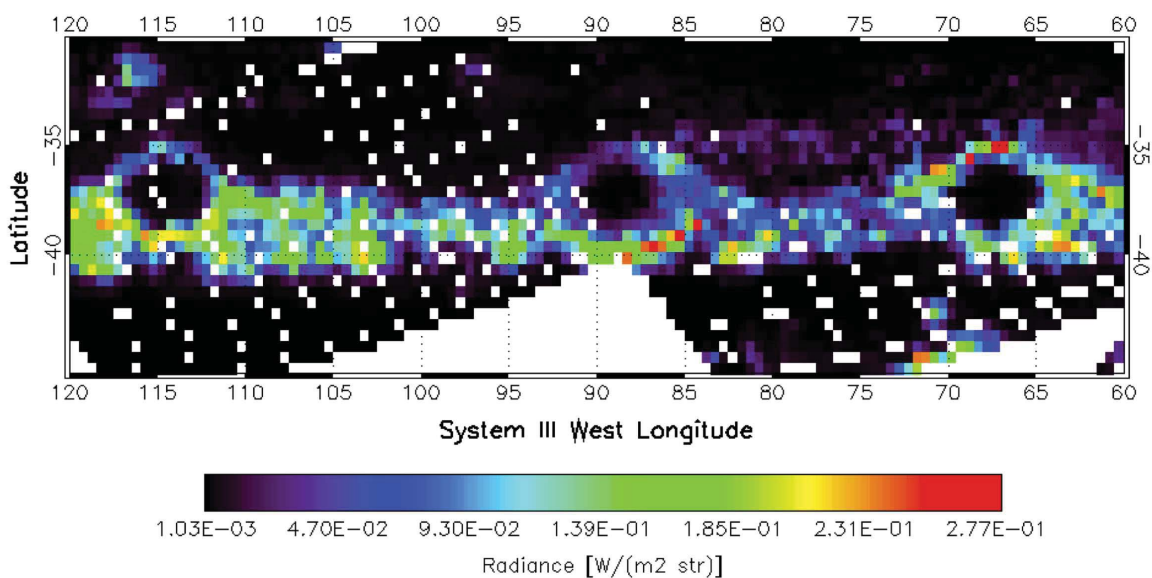
468 **Figure 3:** Maps of the retrieved parameters over the ovals ROI. Blank data represents no
469 coverage or discarded results. Top: Column densities (left) and peak altitudes (right) for the
470 NH_3 -tholin clouds. Middle: Column densities (left) and peak altitudes (right) for the N_2H_4 haze.
471 Bottom: Deep volume mixing ratio (left) and relative humidity (right) for the gaseous ammonia.
472 Column densities and altitudes are expressed in $\text{particles}/\text{cm}^2$ and km above the 1 bar level,
473 respectively, whereas other quantities are dimensionless.

Figure 1.

a JIRAM IMG M filter – August 28, 2016



b JIRAM SPE – Integrated Radiance 4.30–5.26 μm



c JIRAM SPE – Integrated Radiance 2.40–3.00 μm

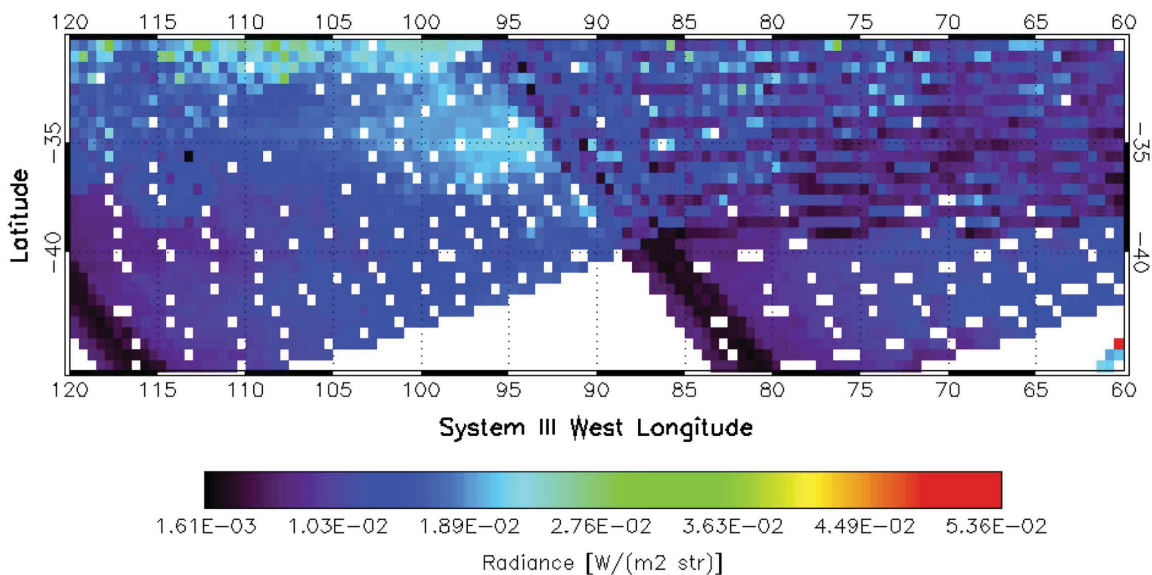


Figure 2.

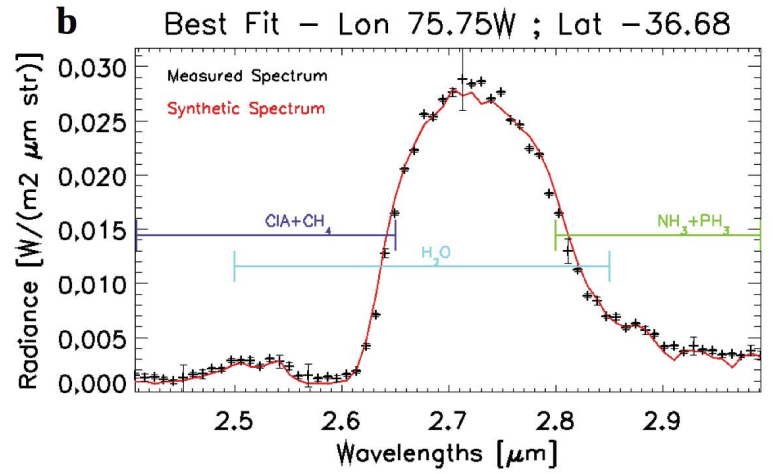
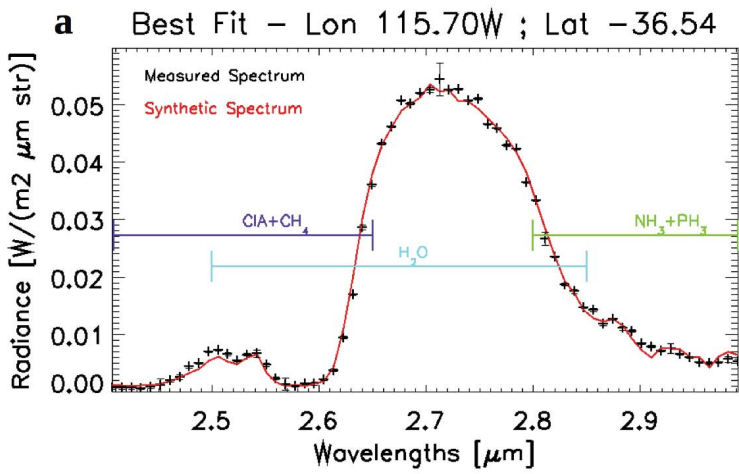


Figure 3.

