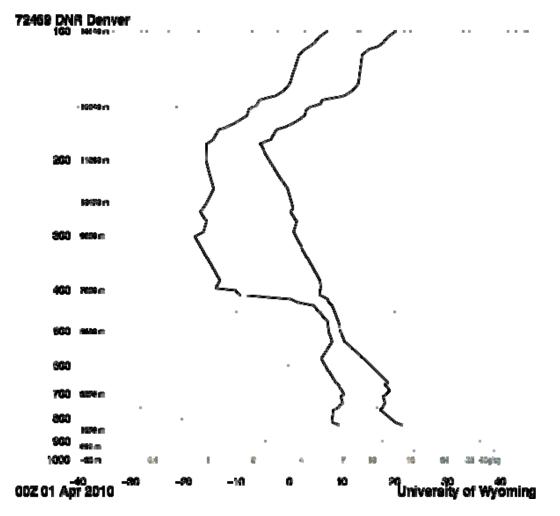
Jade Jauquet Flow Vis: Clouds 2 April 18th, 2010



The picture I took for my second Cloud photo was taken on the 31st of March. I was at the top of Table Mesa road, looking south from the NCAR visitor center. The time of the photo was 6o'clock. The ski was full of interesting clouds that day, allowing the sun to pierce though them and make some really cool beams of light. On ground level the wind was rather calm, but that air was chilly.

At first glance the cloud looks like the head of a cumulus cloud, with its flat bottom and soft puffy top. However, the skew-t test for this day shows a cape of 0.000 (figure 1), meaning that the atmosphere was stable and the cloud top wouldn't be growing. This means that the clouds formed that day were most likely formed as a result of the mountains pushing air up into the higher colder layers of the sky, known as a mountain wave cloud. The skew-t test also shows high winds at the height of the cloud. This shows that the puffy top of the cloud could actually be turbulence within the cloud itself.



For this image I used a Canon 7D. My guess is that I was about 18-20 miles away from the cloud when I took the picture. the Focal length was 70mm, ISO was 400, f/stop was 16, shutter speed was 1/80. The image size is 5184x3456. I choose to go up to NCAR because of its height above Boulder and to take advantage of being on a plateau to see the cloud at such a distance. Very little was done in Photo shop. The image was cropped and the colors saturated. I also increased the contrast; this made the bottom black out and for the cloud in question to pop at the viewer.

I like this image. The cloud formation is strong and dominating. It looks like a cumulus but because of the skew-t test we know that it is just another mountain wave form. However it does show some of the turbulence that goes on within the high reaches of a cloud. I would have liked if some of the foreground clouds hadn't been there, and that I was closer to the cloud in general.