

U.S. STANDARD ATMOSPHERE (1976)

A Standard Atmosphere is a hypothetical vertical distribution of atmospheric temperature, pressure, and density which is roughly representative of year-round, midlatitude conditions. Typical uses are to serve as a basis for pressure altimeter calibrations, aircraft performance calculations, aircraft and rocket design, ballistic tables, meteorological diagrams, and various types of atmospheric modeling. The air is assumed to be dry and to obey the perfect gas law and the hydrostatic equation which, taken together, relate temperature, pressure, and density with vertical position. The atmosphere is considered to rotate with the earth and to be an average over the diurnal cycle, the semiannual variation, and the range from active to quiet geomagnetic and sunspot conditions.

The U.S. Standard Atmosphere, (1976) is an idealized, steady-state representation of mean annual conditions of the earth's atmosphere from the surface to 1000 km at latitude 45°N, as it is assumed to exist during a period with moderate solar activity. The defining meteorological elements are sea-level temperature and pressure and a temperature-height profile to 1000 km. The 1976 Standard Atmosphere uses the following sea-level values which have been standard for many decades:

Temperature — 288.15 K (15°C)
 Pressure — 101325 Pa (1013.25 mbar, 760 mm of Hg, or 29.92 in. of Hg)

Density — 1225 g/m³ (1.225 g/L)
 Mean molar mass — 28.964 g/mol

The parameters included in this condensed version of the U.S. Standard Atmosphere are:

Z — Height (geometric) above mean sea level in meters
 T — Temperature in kelvins
 P — Pressure in pascals (1 Pa = 0.01 millibars)
 ρ — Density in kilograms per cubic meter (1 kg/m³ = 1 g/L)
 n — Number density in molecules per cubic meter
 ν — Mean collision frequency in collisions per second
 l — Mean free path in meters
 η — Absolute viscosity in pascal seconds (1 Pa s = 1000 cP)
 k — Thermal conductivity in joules per meter second kilogram (W/m K)
 v_s — Speed of sound in meters per second
 g — Acceleration of gravity in meters per second square

The sea-level composition (percent by volume) is taken to be:

N ₂ — 78.084%	He — 0.000524
O ₂ — 20.9476	Kr — 0.000114
Ar — 0.934	Xe — 0.0000087
CO ₂ — 0.0314	CH ₄ — 0.0002
Ne — 0.001818	H ₂ — 0.00005

The T and P columns for the troposphere and lower stratosphere were generated from the following formulas:

	T/K	P/Pa
$H \leq 11000$ m	$288.15 - 0.0065 H$	$101325(288.15/T)^{-5.25577}$
11000 m $< H \leq 20000$ m	216.65	$22632 e^{-0.00015768832(H-11000)}$
20000 m $< H \leq 32000$ m	$216.65 + 0.0010(H-20000)$	$5474.87(216.65/T)^{34.16319}$

where $H = rZ/(r + Z)$ is the geopotential height in meters and r is the mean earth radius at 45° N latitude, taken as 6356766 m. For altitudes up to 32 km, $\rho = 0.003483677(P/T)$ in the units used here. Formulas for the other quantities may be found in the references.

References

1. COESA, *U.S. Standard Atmosphere*, 1976, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1976.
2. Jursa, A. S., Ed., *Handbook of Geophysics and the Space Environment*, Air Force Geophysics Laboratory, 1985.

Z/m	T/K	P/Pa	$\rho/\text{kg m}^{-3}$	n/m^{-3}	v/s^{-1}	l/m	$\eta/\text{Pa s}$	$k/\text{J m}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$	$v_s/\text{m s}^{-1}$	$g/\text{m s}^{-2}$
-5000	320.68	1.778E+05	1.931	4.015E+25	1.151E+10	4.208E-08	1.942E-05	0.02788	359.0	9.822
-4500	317.42	1.685E+05	1.849	3.845E+25	1.096E+10	4.395E-08	1.927E-05	0.02763	357.2	9.830
-4000	314.17	1.596E+05	1.770	3.680E+25	1.044E+10	4.592E-08	1.912E-05	0.02738	355.3	9.819
-3500	310.91	1.511E+05	1.693	3.520E+25	9.933E+09	4.800E-08	1.897E-05	0.02713	353.5	9.818
-3000	307.66	1.430E+05	1.619	3.366E+25	9.448E+09	5.019E-08	1.882E-05	0.02688	351.6	9.816
-2500	304.41	1.352E+05	1.547	3.217E+25	8.982E+09	5.252E-08	1.867E-05	0.02663	349.8	9.814
-2000	301.15	1.278E+05	1.478	3.102E+25	8.623E+09	5.447E-08	1.852E-05	0.02638	347.9	9.813
-1500	297.90	1.207E+05	1.411	2.935E+25	8.106E+09	5.757E-08	1.836E-05	0.02613	346.0	9.811
-1000	294.65	1.139E+05	1.347	2.801E+25	7.693E+09	6.032E-08	1.821E-05	0.02587	344.1	9.810
-500	291.40	1.075E+05	1.285	2.672E+25	7.298E+09	6.324E-08	1.805E-05	0.02562	342.2	9.808
0	288.15	1.013E+05	1.225	2.547E+25	6.919E+09	6.633E-08	1.789E-05	0.02533	340.3	9.807
500	284.90	9.546E+04	1.167	2.427E+25	6.556E+09	6.961E-08	1.774E-05	0.02511	338.4	9.805
1000	281.65	8.988E+04	1.112	2.311E+25	6.208E+09	7.310E-08	1.758E-05	0.02485	336.4	9.804
1500	278.40	8.456E+04	1.058	2.200E+25	5.874E+09	7.680E-08	1.742E-05	0.02459	334.5	9.802
2000	275.15	7.950E+04	1.007	2.093E+25	5.555E+09	8.073E-08	1.726E-05	0.02433	332.5	9.801
2500	271.91	7.469E+04	0.957	1.990E+25	5.250E+09	8.491E-08	1.710E-05	0.02407	330.6	9.799
3000	268.66	7.012E+04	0.909	1.891E+25	4.959E+09	8.937E-08	1.694E-05	0.02381	328.6	9.797
3500	265.41	6.579E+04	0.863	1.795E+25	4.680E+09	9.411E-08	1.678E-05	0.02355	326.6	9.796
4000	262.17	6.166E+04	0.819	1.704E+25	4.414E+09	9.917E-08	1.661E-05	0.02329	324.6	9.794
4500	258.92	5.775E+04	0.777	1.616E+25	4.160E+09	1.046E-07	1.645E-05	0.02303	322.6	9.793
5000	255.68	5.405E+04	0.736	1.531E+25	3.918E+09	1.103E-07	1.628E-05	0.02277	320.6	9.791
5500	252.43	5.054E+04	0.697	1.450E+25	3.687E+09	1.165E-07	1.612E-05	0.02250	318.5	9.790
6000	249.19	4.722E+04	0.660	1.373E+25	3.467E+09	1.231E-07	1.595E-05	0.02224	316.5	9.788
6500	245.94	4.408E+04	0.664	1.299E+25	3.258E+09	1.302E-07	1.578E-05	0.02197	314.4	9.787
7000	242.70	4.111E+04	0.590	1.227E+25	3.058E+09	1.377E-07	1.561E-05	0.02170	312.3	9.785
7500	239.46	3.830E+04	0.557	1.159E+25	2.869E+09	1.458E-07	1.544E-05	0.02144	310.2	9.784
8000	236.22	3.565E+04	0.526	1.093E+25	2.689E+09	1.545E-07	1.527E-05	0.02117	308.1	9.782
8500	232.97	3.315E+04	0.496	1.031E+25	2.518E+09	1.639E-07	1.510E-05	0.02090	306.0	9.781
9000	229.73	3.080E+04	0.467	9.711E+24	2.356E+09	1.740E-07	1.493E-05	0.02063	303.9	9.779
9500	226.49	2.858E+04	0.440	9.141E+24	2.202E+09	1.848E-07	1.475E-05	0.02036	301.7	9.777
10000	223.25	2.650E+04	0.414	8.598E+24	2.056E+09	1.965E-07	1.458E-05	0.02009	299.5	9.776
10500	220.01	2.454E+04	0.389	8.079E+24	1.918E+09	2.091E-07	1.440E-05	0.01982	297.4	9.774
11000	216.77	2.270E+04	0.365	7.585E+24	1.787E+09	2.227E-07	1.422E-05	0.01954	295.2	9.773
11500	216.65	2.098E+04	0.337	7.016E+24	1.653E+09	2.408E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.771
12000	216.65	1.940E+04	0.312	6.486E+24	1.528E+09	2.605E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.770
12500	216.65	1.793E+04	0.288	5.996E+24	1.412E+09	2.818E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.768
13000	216.65	1.658E+04	0.267	5.543E+24	1.306E+09	3.048E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.767
13500	216.65	1.533E+04	0.246	5.124E+24	1.207E+09	3.297E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.765
14000	216.65	1.417E+04	0.228	4.738E+24	1.116E+09	3.566E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.764
14500	216.65	1.310E+04	0.211	4.380E+24	1.032E+09	3.857E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.762
15000	216.65	1.211E+04	0.195	4.049E+24	9.538E+08	4.172E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.761
16000	216.65	1.035E+04	0.166	3.461E+24	8.153E+08	4.881E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.758
17000	216.65	8.850E+03	0.142	2.959E+24	6.969E+08	5.710E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.754
18000	216.65	7.565E+03	0.122	2.529E+24	5.958E+08	6.680E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.751
19000	216.65	6.467E+03	0.104	2.162E+24	5.093E+08	7.814E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.748
20000	216.65	5.529E+03	8.891E-02	1.849E+24	4.354E+08	9.139E-07	1.422E-05	0.01953	295.1	9.745
21000	217.58	4.729E+03	7.572E-02	1.574E+24	3.716E+08	1.073E-06	1.427E-05	0.01961	295.1	9.742
22000	218.57	4.048E+03	6.451E-02	1.341E+24	3.173E+08	1.260E-06	1.432E-05	0.01970	296.4	9.739
23000	219.57	3.467E+03	5.501E-02	1.144E+24	2.712E+08	1.477E-06	1.438E-05	0.01978	297.1	9.736
24000	220.56	2.972E+03	4.694E-02	9.759E+23	2.319E+08	1.731E-06	1.443E-05	0.01986	297.7	9.733
25000	221.55	2.549E+03	4.008E-02	8.334E+23	1.985E+08	2.027E-06	1.448E-05	0.01995	298.4	9.730
26000	222.54	2.188E+03	3.426E-02	7.123E+23	1.700E+08	2.372E-06	1.454E-05	0.02003	299.1	9.727
27000	223.54	1.880E+03	2.930E-02	6.092E+23	1.458E+08	2.773E-06	1.459E-05	0.02011	299.7	9.724
28000	224.53	1.610E+03	2.508E-02	5.214E+23	1.250E+08	3.240E-06	1.465E-05	0.02020	300.4	9.721
29000	225.52	1.390E+03	2.148E-02	4.466E+23	1.073E+08	3.783E-06	1.470E-05	0.02028	301.1	9.718
30000	226.51	1.197E+03	1.841E-02	3.828E+23	9.219E+07	4.414E-06	1.475E-05	0.02036	301.7	9.715
31000	227.50	1.031E+03	1.579E-02	3.283E+23	7.925E+07	5.146E-06	1.481E-05	0.02044	302.4	9.712
32000	228.49	8.891E+02	1.356E-02	2.813E+23	6.818E+07	5.995E-06	1.486E-05	0.02053	303.0	9.709
33000	230.97	7.673E+02	1.157E-02	2.406E+23	5.852E+07	7.021E-06	1.499E-05	0.02073	304.7	9.706
34000	233.74	6.634E+02	9.887E-03	2.056E+23	5.030E+07	8.218E-06	1.514E-05	0.02096	306.5	9.703
35000	236.51	5.746E+02	8.463E-03	1.760E+23	4.331E+07	9.601E-06	1.529E-05	0.02119	308.3	9.700

Z/m	T/K	P/Pa	$\rho/\text{kg m}^{-3}$	n/m^{-3}	v/s^{-1}	l/m	$\eta/\text{Pa s}$	$k/\text{J m}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$	$v_s/\text{m s}^{-1}$	$g/\text{m s}^{-2}$
36000	239.28	4.985E+02	7.258E-03	1.509E+23	3.736E+07	1.120E-05	1.543E-05	0.02142	310.1	9.697
38000	244.82	3.771E+02	5.367E-03	1.116E+23	2.794E+07	1.514E-05	1.572E-05	0.02188	313.7	9.690
40000	250.35	2.871E+02	3.996E-03	8.308E+22	2.104E+07	2.034E-05	1.601E-05	0.02233	317.2	9.684
42000	255.88	2.200E+02	2.995E-03	6.227E+22	1.594E+07	2.713E-05	1.629E-05	0.02278	320.7	9.678
44000	261.40	1.695E+02	2.259E-03	4.697E+22	1.215E+07	3.597E-05	1.657E-05	0.02323	324.1	9.672
46000	266.93	1.313E+02	1.714E-03	3.564E+22	9.318E+06	4.740E-05	1.685E-05	0.02376	327.5	9.666
48000	270.65	1.023E+02	1.317E-03	2.738E+22	7.208E+06	6.171E-05	1.704E-05	0.02397	329.8	9.660
50000	270.65	7.978E+01	1.027E-03	2.135E+22	5.620E+06	7.913E-05	1.703E-05	0.02397	329.8	9.654
52000	269.03	6.221E+01	8.056E-04	1.675E+22	4.397E+06	1.009E-04	1.696E-05	0.02384	328.8	9.648
54000	263.52	4.834E+01	6.390E-04	1.329E+22	3.452E+06	1.272E-04	1.660E-05	0.02340	325.4	9.642
56000	258.02	3.736E+01	5.045E-04	1.049E+22	2.696E+06	1.611E-04	1.640E-05	0.02296	322.0	9.636
58000	252.52	2.872E+01	3.963E-04	8.239E+21	2.095E+06	2.051E-04	1.612E-05	0.02251	318.6	9.632
60000	247.02	2.196E+01	3.097E-04	6.439E+21	1.620E+06	2.624E-04	1.584E-05	0.02206	315.1	9.624
65000	233.29	1.093E+01	1.632E-04	3.393E+21	8.294E+05	4.979E-04	1.512E-05	0.02093	306.2	9.609
70000	219.59	5.221	8.283E-05	1.722E+21	4.084E+05	9.810E-04	1.438E-05	0.01978	297.1	9.594
75000	208.40	2.388	3.992E-05	8.300E+20	1.918E+05	2.035E-03	1.376E-05	0.01883	289.4	9.579
80000	198.64	1.052	1.846E-05	3.838E+20	8.656E+04	4.402E-03	1.321E-05	0.01800	282.5	9.564
85000	188.89	4.457E-01	8.220E-06	1.709E+20	3.766E+04	9.886E-03	1.265E-05	0.01716	275.5	9.550
90000	186.87	1.836E-01	3.416E-06	7.116E+19	1.560E+04	2.370E-02				9.535
95000	188.42	7.597E-02	1.393E-06	2.920E+19	6.440E+03	5.790E-02				9.520
100000	195.08	3.201E-02	5.604E-07	1.189E+19	2.680E+03	1.420E-01				9.505
110000	240.00	7.104E-03	9.708E-08	2.144E+18	5.480E+02	7.880E-01				9.476
120000	360.00	2.538E-03	2.222E-08	5.107E+17	1.630E+02	3.310				9.447
130000	469.27	1.251E-03	8.152E-09	1.930E+17	7.100E+01	8.800				9.418
140000	559.63	7.203E-04	3.831E-09	9.322E+16	3.800E+01	1.800E+01				9.389
150000	634.39	4.542E-04	2.076E-09	5.186E+16	2.300E+01	3.300E+01				9.360
160000	696.29	3.040E-04	1.233E-09	3.162E+16	1.500E+01	5.300E+01				9.331
170000	747.57	2.121E-04	7.815E-10	2.055E+16	1.000E+01	8.200E+01				9.302
180000	790.07	1.527E-04	5.194E-10	1.400E+16	7.200	1.200E+02				9.274
190000	825.16	1.127E-04	3.581E-10	9.887E+15	5.200	1.700E+02				9.246
200000	854.56	8.474E-05	2.541E-10	7.182E+15	3.900	2.400E+02				9.218
220000	899.01	5.015E-05	1.367E-10	4.040E+15	2.300	4.200E+02				9.162
240000	929.73	3.106E-05	7.858E-11	2.420E+15	1.400	7.000E+02				9.106
260000	950.99	1.989E-05	4.742E-11	1.515E+15	9.300E-01	1.100E+03				9.051
280000	965.75	1.308E-05	2.971E-11	9.807E+14	6.100E-01	1.700E+03				8.997
300000	976.01	8.770E-06	1.916E-11	6.509E+14	4.200E-01	2.600E+03				8.943
320000	983.16	5.980E-06	1.264E-11	4.405E+14	2.900E-01	3.800E+03				8.889
340000	988.15	4.132E-06	8.503E-12	3.029E+14	2.000E-01	5.600E+03				8.836
360000	991.65	2.888E-06	5.805E-12	2.109E+14	1.400E-01	8.000E+03				8.784
380000	994.10	2.038E-06	4.013E-12	1.485E+14	1.000E-01	1.100E+04				8.732
400000	995.83	1.452E-06	2.803E-12	1.056E+14	7.200E-02	1.600E+04				8.680
450000	998.22	6.447E-07	1.184E-12	4.678E+13	3.300E-02	3.600E+04				8.553
500000	999.24	3.024E-07	5.215E-13	2.192E+13	1.600E-02	7.700E+04				8.429
550000	999.67	1.514E-07	2.384E-13	1.097E+13	8.400E-03	1.500E+05				8.307
600000	999.85	8.213E-08	1.137E-13	5.950E+12	4.800E-03	2.800E+05				8.188
650000	999.93	4.887E-08	5.712E-14	3.540E+12	3.100E-03	4.800E+05				8.072
700000	999.97	3.191E-08	3.070E-14	2.311E+12	2.200E-03	7.300E+05				7.958
750000	999.98	2.260E-08	1.788E-14	1.637E+12	1.700E-03	1.000E+06				7.846
800000	999.99	1.704E-08	1.136E-14	1.234E+12	1.400E-03	1.400E+06				7.737
850000	1000.00	1.342E-08	7.824E-15	9.717E+11	1.200E-03	1.700E+06				7.630
900000	1000.00	1.087E-08	5.759E-15	7.876E+11	1.000E-03	2.100E+06				7.525
950000	1000.00	8.982E-09	4.453E-15	6.505E+11	8.700E-04	2.600E+06				7.422
1000000	1000.00	7.514E-09	3.561E-15	5.442E+11	7.500E-04	3.100E+06				7.322

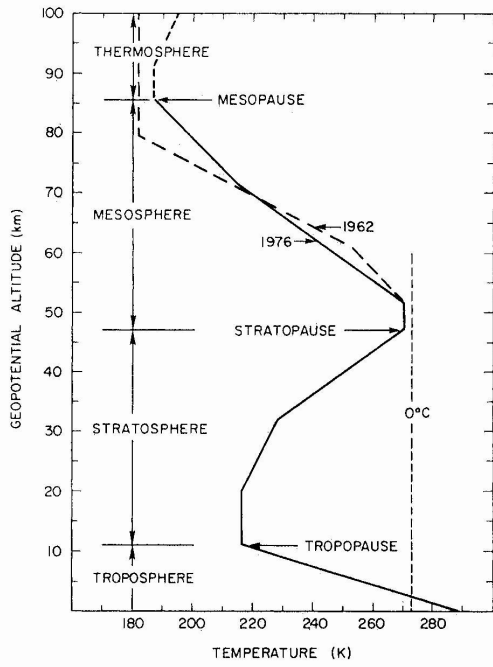


FIGURE 1. Temperature-height profile for U.S. Standard Atmosphere.

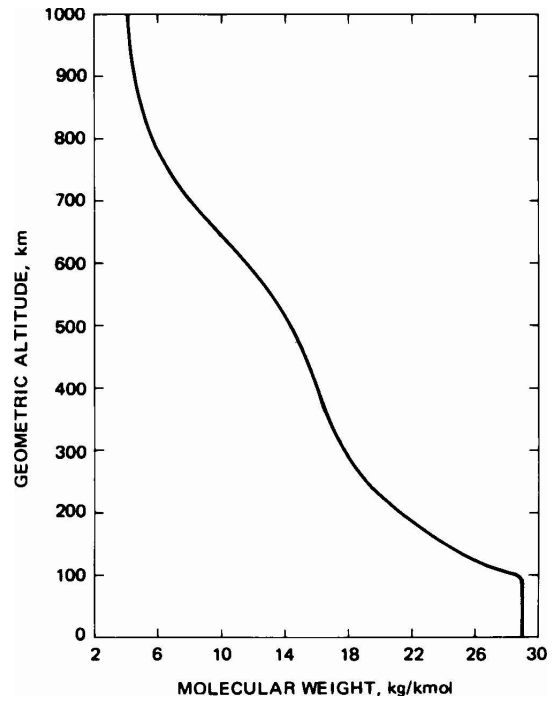


FIGURE 3. Mean molecular weight as a function of geometric altitude.

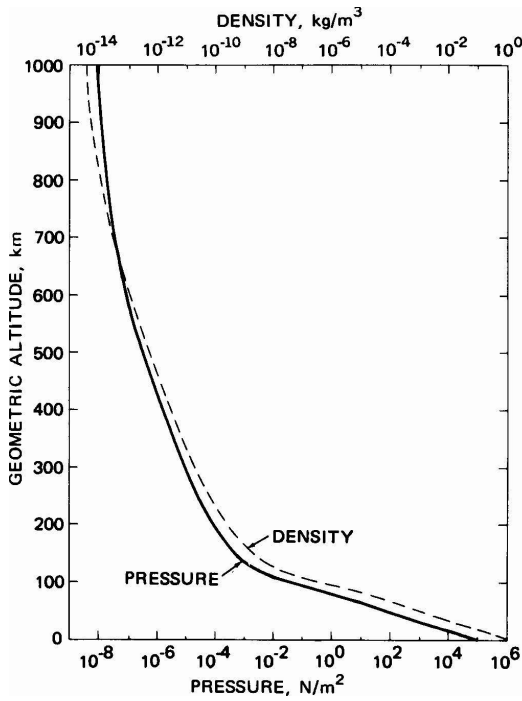


FIGURE 2. Total pressure and mass density as a function of geometric altitude.

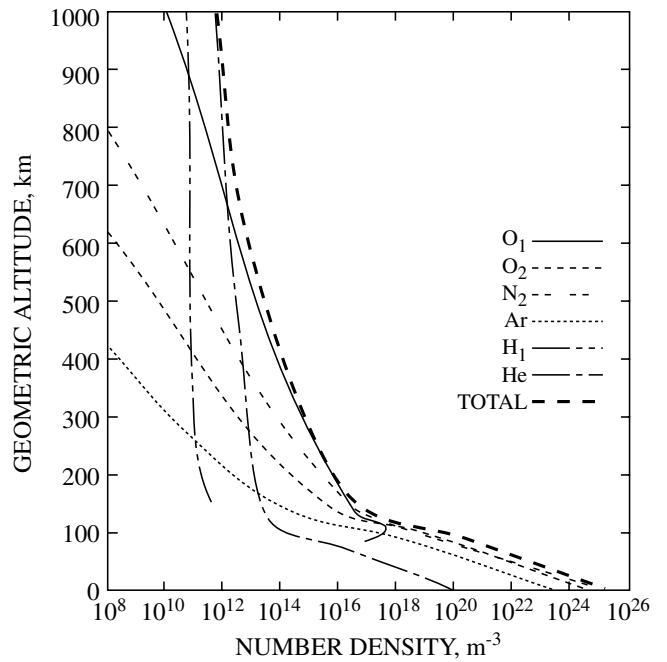


FIGURE 4. Number density of individual species and total number density as a function of geometric altitude.

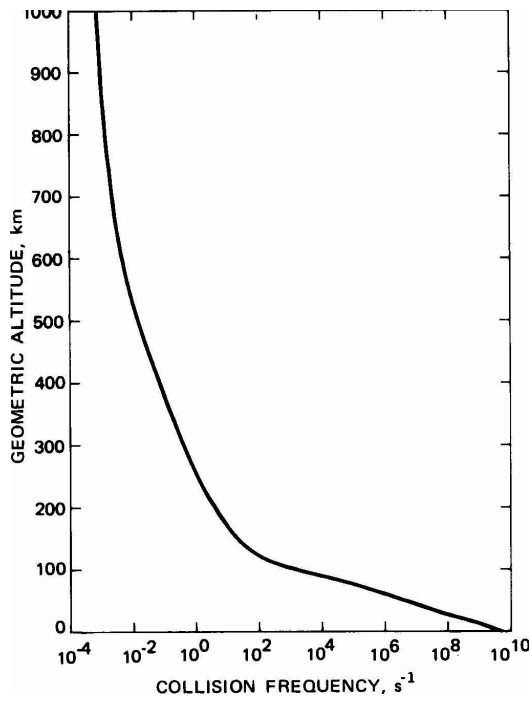


FIGURE 5. Collision frequency as a function of geometric altitude.

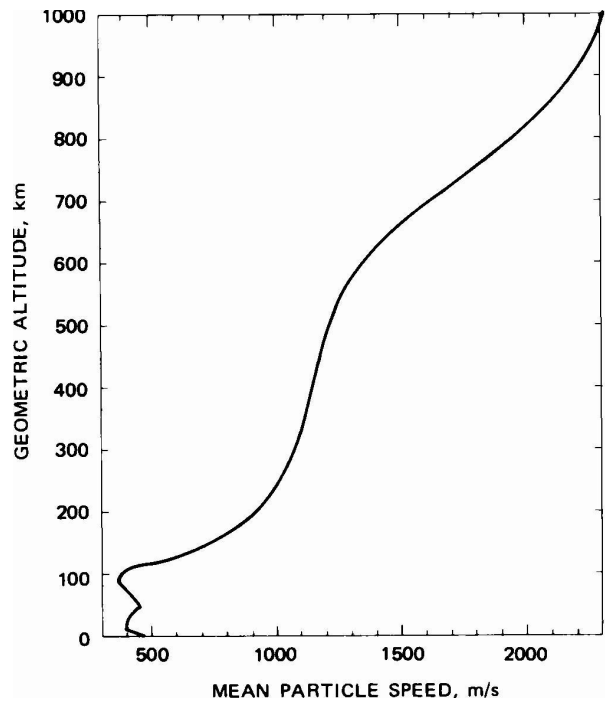


FIGURE 7. Mean air-particle speed as a function of geometric altitude.

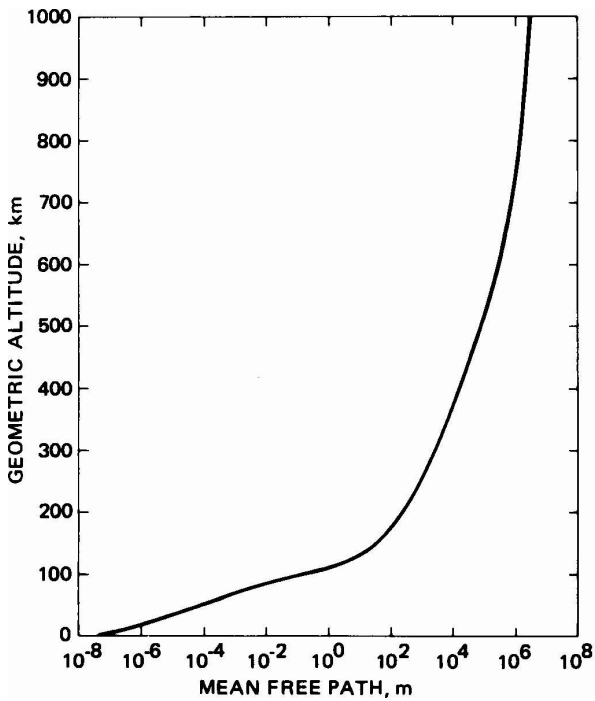


FIGURE 6. Mean free path as a function of geometric altitude.

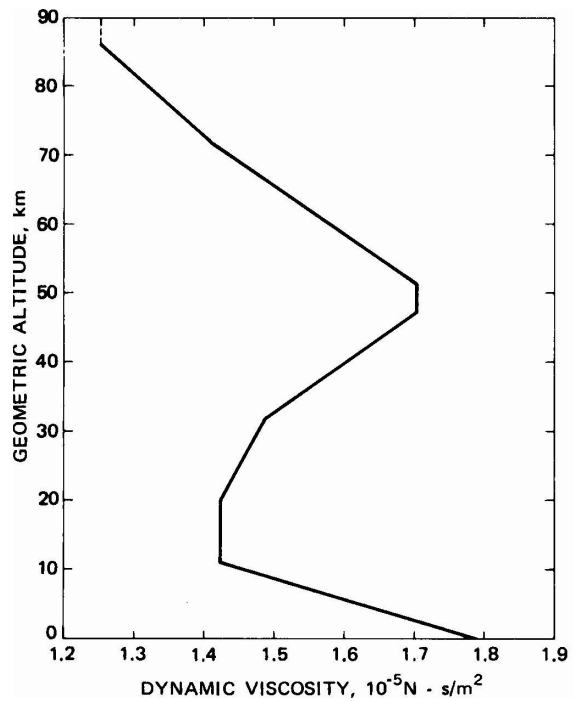


FIGURE 8. Dynamic viscosity as a function of geometric altitude.

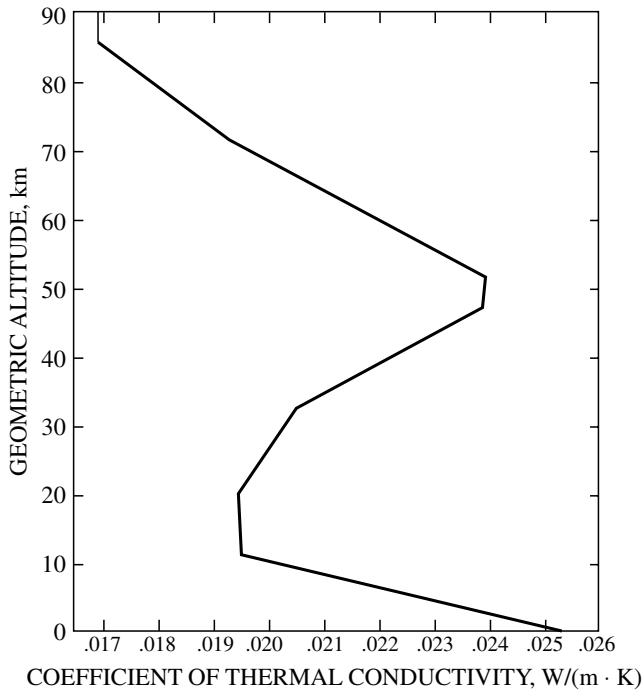


FIGURE 9. Coefficient of thermal conductivity as a function of geometric altitude.

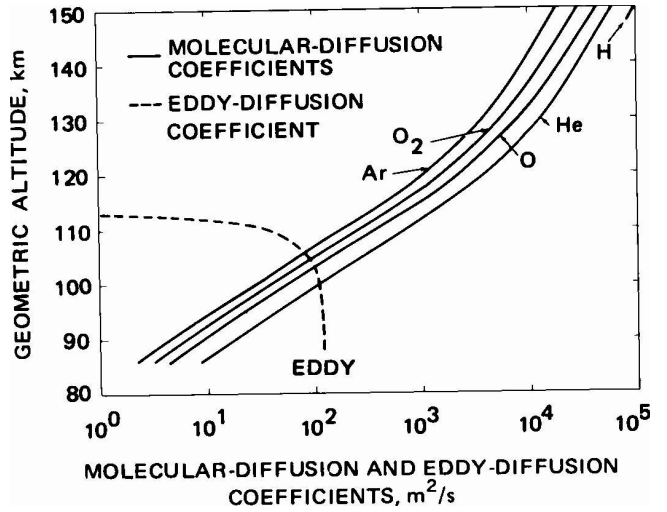


FIGURE 11. Molecular-diffusion and eddy-diffusion coefficients as a function of geometric altitude.

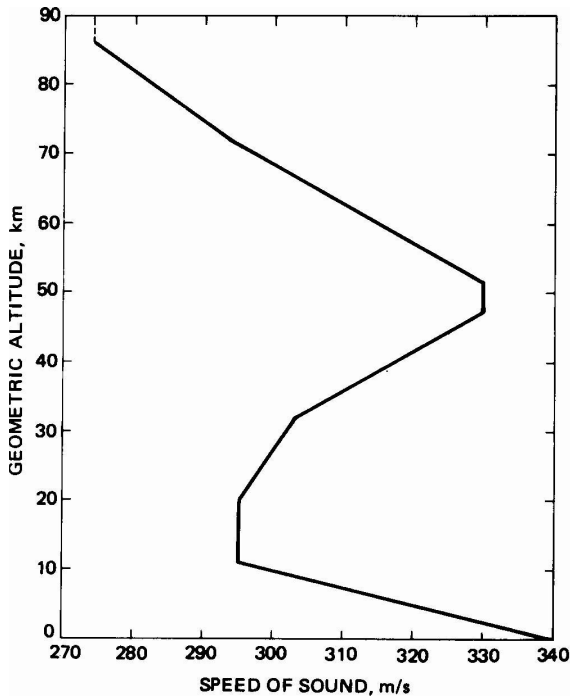


FIGURE 10. Speed of sound as a function of geometric altitude.

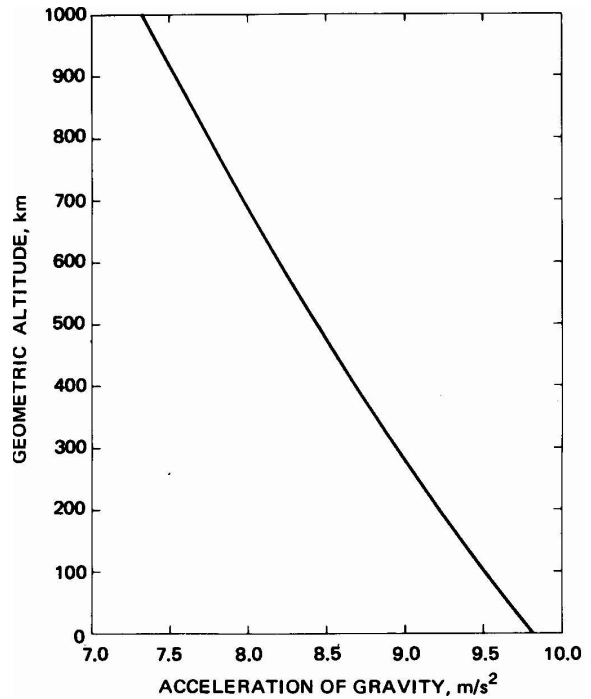


FIGURE 12. Acceleration of gravity as a function of geometric altitude.