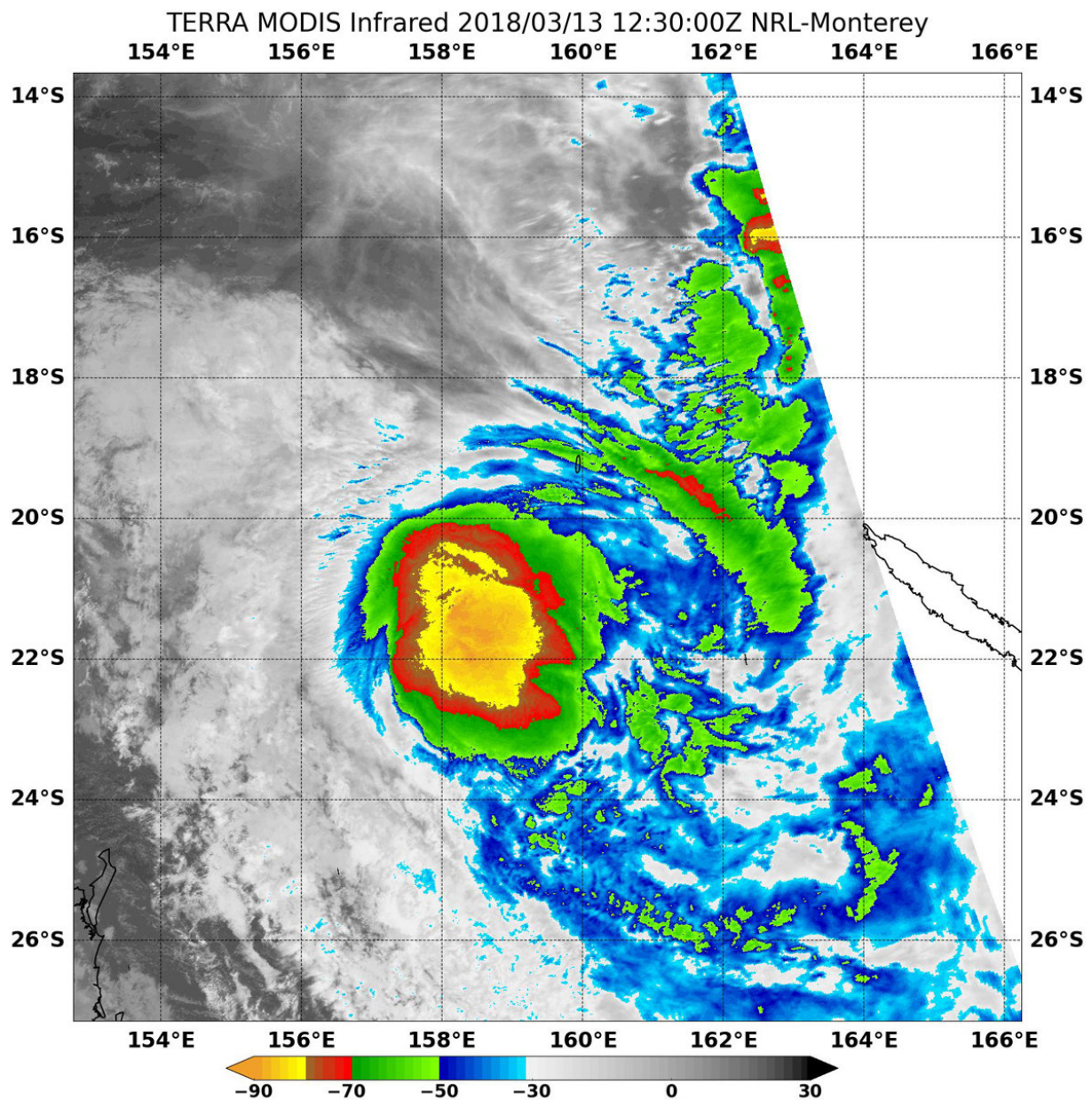


# NASA sees Tropical Cyclone Linda lose an 'arm'

March 13 2018, by Rob Gutro



On March 13, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. EDT (1230 UTC) NASA's Terra satellite found top temperatures of strongest thunderstorms (yellow) in Tropical Cyclone Linda. Temperatures were as cold as or colder than minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 62.2 Celsius). Credit: NRL/NASA

Tropical Cyclone 13P has been renamed Tropical Cyclone Linda in the Southern Pacific Ocean. NASA's Aqua and Terra satellites found a powerful band of thunderstorms east of Linda's center that resembled an arm, fell apart in 9 hours.

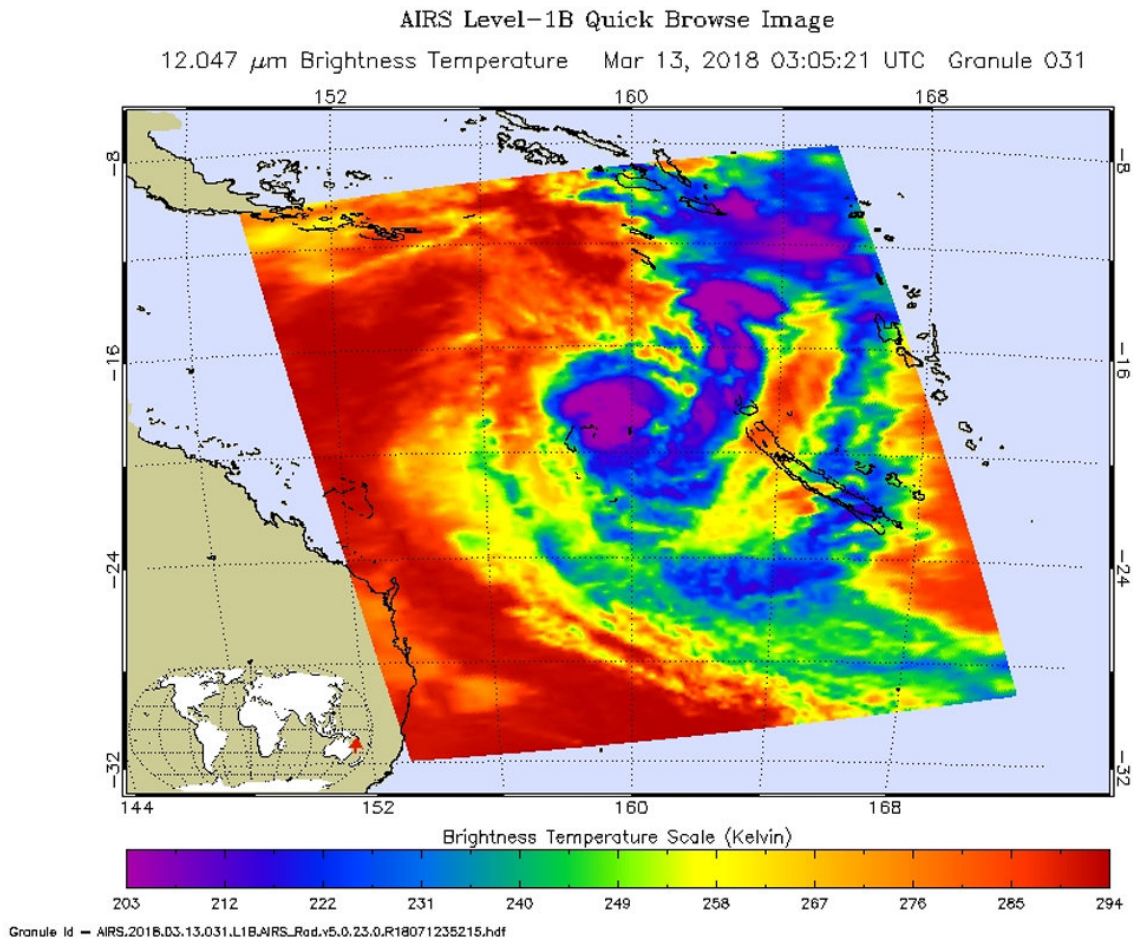
By analyzing a [storm](#) in infrared light, scientists can tell cloud top temperatures that give clues about the location of the highest, coldest and strongest storms.

On March 12 at 11:05 p.m. EDT (March 13 at 0305 UTC), infrared data from the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder, or AIRS, instrument aboard NASA's Aqua satellite found the strongest storms in Linda. AIRS data showed powerful storms around Linda's center and in a strong band of thunderstorms east of the center.

By 8:30 a.m. EDT (1230 UTC) the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer, or MODIS, instrument aboard NASA's Terra satellite provided an infrared look at Tropical Storm Linda's cloud top temperatures. The MODIS image showed that the once-strong band of thunderstorms east of Linda's center had weakened and fragmented.

MODIS data also found cloud top temperatures of strongest thunderstorms were as cold as or colder than minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 62.2 Celsius) around the center of circulation. The center was located over the open waters of the South Pacific. Cloud top

temperatures that cold indicate strong storms that have the capability to create heavy rain.



On March 12, 2018, at 11:05 p.m. EDT (Mar. 13 at 0305 UTC), infrared data from the AIRS instrument aboard NASA's Aqua satellite showed a strong eastern band of thunderstorms from Linda's center that would later fragment. Credit: NASA/Heidar Thrastarson

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center noted on March 13 at 11 a.m. EDT (1500 UTC) when the center was located near 21.1 degrees south

latitude and 158.9 degrees east longitude, about 397 nautical miles west-northwest of Noumea, New Caledonia. Linda had maximum sustained winds near 46 mph (40 knots/74 kph) and it was moving to the south-southwest at 19.5 mph (17 knots/31.4 kph).

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center noted that Linda is being affected by northerly vertical wind shear, pushing [clouds](#) south of center. Linda is moving south-southwest along the western edge of subtropical ridge (an elongated area of high pressure), which is located to the east-southeast of the tropical storm.

Linda is expected to continue moving under increasing adverse conditions, so the storm is expected to dissipate by March 15.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: NASA sees Tropical Cyclone Linda lose an 'arm' (2018, March 13) retrieved 20 March 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-03-nasa-tropical-cyclone-linda-arm.html>

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