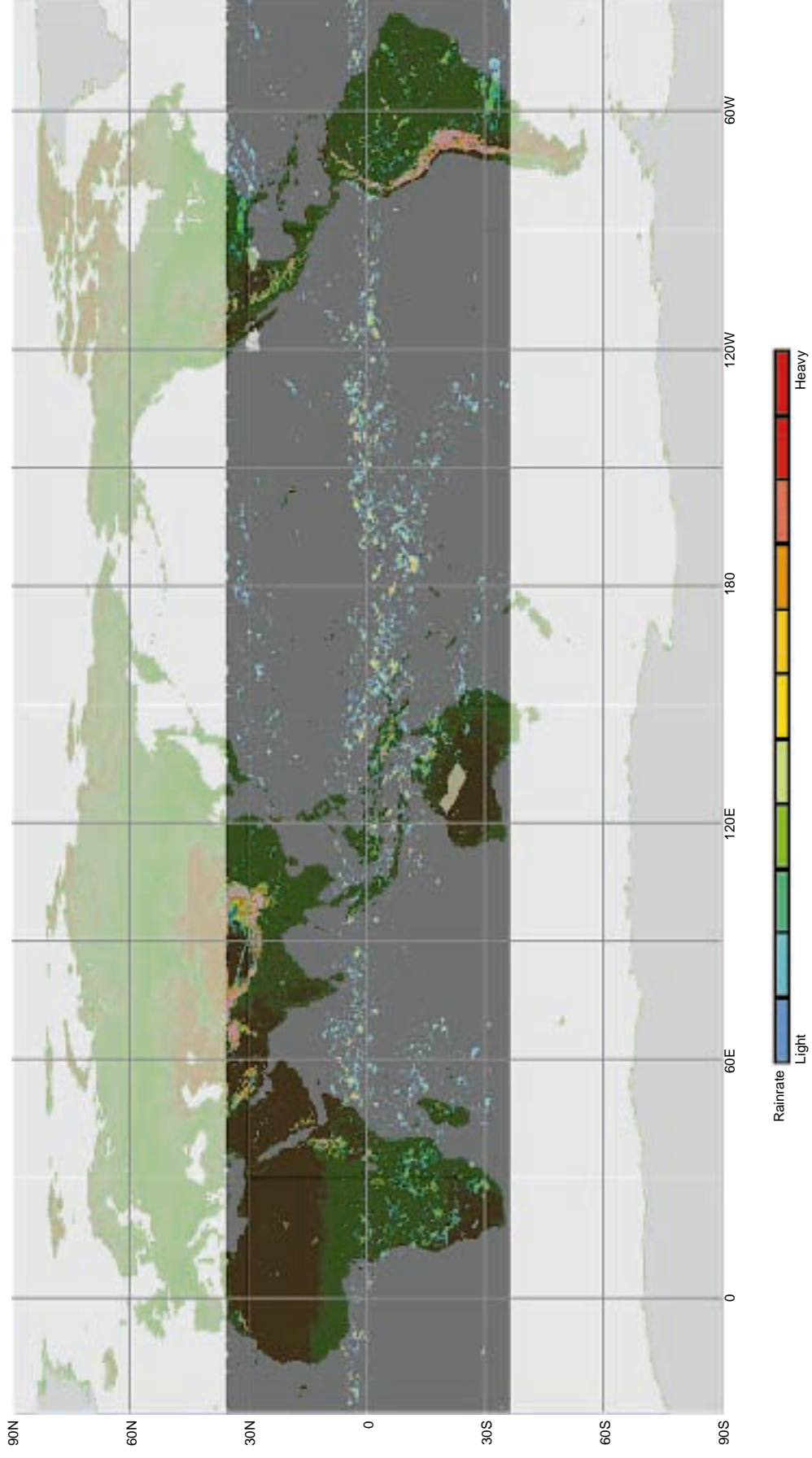




Global 10-day Rain Map (PR)



Horizontal Cross Section of Rain at 3.0km Height 20-29 Dec, 1997 (UTC)

Global 10-day Rain Map (PR)

This figure shows a 10-day composite of rain from the TRMM Precipitation Radar (PR) at an altitude of 3.0km. The PR observes the whole area from lat. 35 N to 35 S in about 10 days. There are two obvious rainy areas, the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), which is an East-West rainfall belt south of the equator, and the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ), which extends southeasterly from near New Guinea. Long-term accumulation of rainfall data will produce a more accurate global rain distribution. For example, the level 3 product, global monthly average rain over 5 deg. by 5 deg. boxes, will depict the shift of the active convection area from the tropical west Pacific Ocean to the central Pacific Ocean by El Niño.

The pink area, the Tibetan plateau, the Andes and the Rocky Mountains, are highlands where the altitude exceeds 3.0km. Data over these areas is strongly influenced by surface reflections, so these areas indicate a different color than rainfall. The high level standard products separate rainfall from surface reflection using a surface echo detection algorithm.