

Aerosols and Meteorology

1) Background

2) Aerosols and precipitation

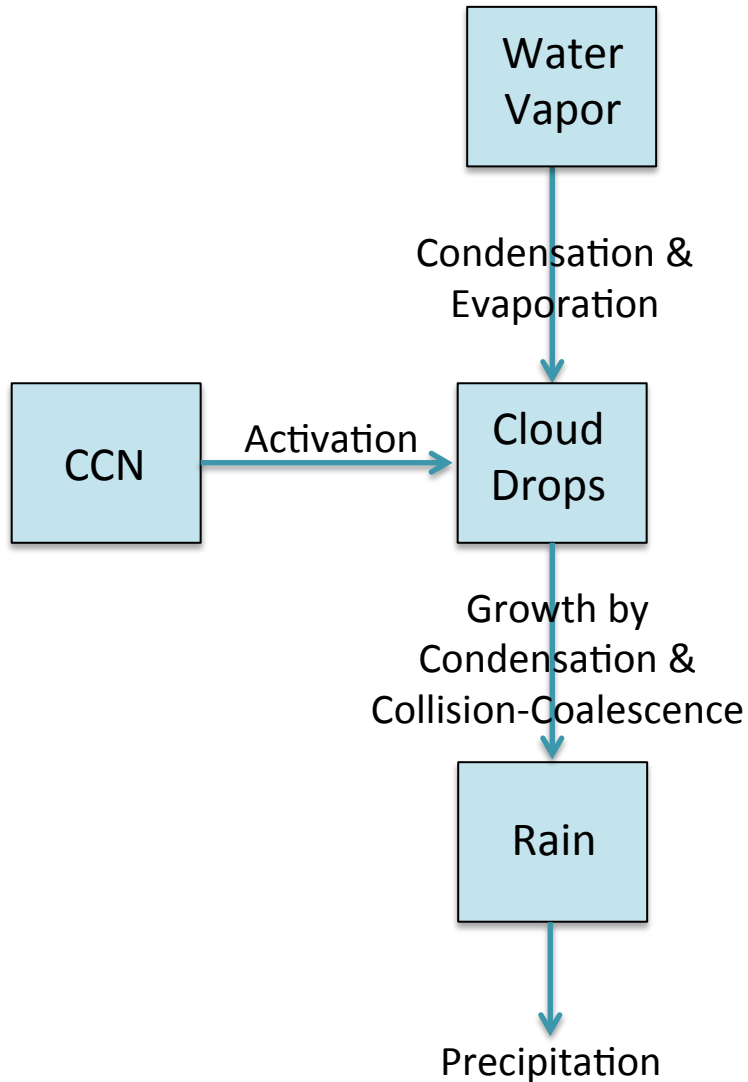
3) Aerosol effects on lightning

4) Smoke and severe storms

Lecture 2: Aerosols and Precipitation

- Summarize Tao et al. (2012) *Rev. Geophys.* article
- Present Some Cloud Resolving Model (CRM) Results
 - Teller and Levin (2006);
 - van den Heever and Cotton (2007);
 - Tao et al. (2012);
- Idealized Simulations vs “Real” Meteorology
 - Eidhammer et al (2014);
 - Sarangi et al (2015)

Review: Warm Rain Formation

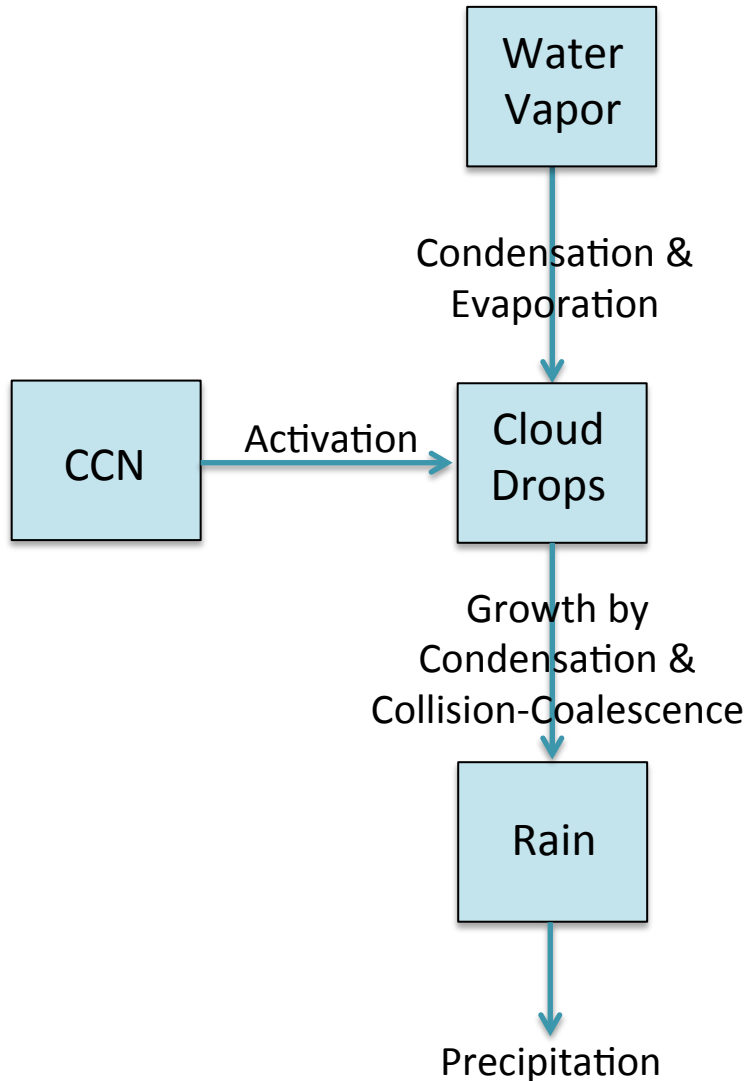


Rain formed by

- growing cloud drops,
- collision-coalescence of cloud drops,
- collection of cloud drops by rain drops

CCN = cloud condensation nuclei

Warm Rain Formation



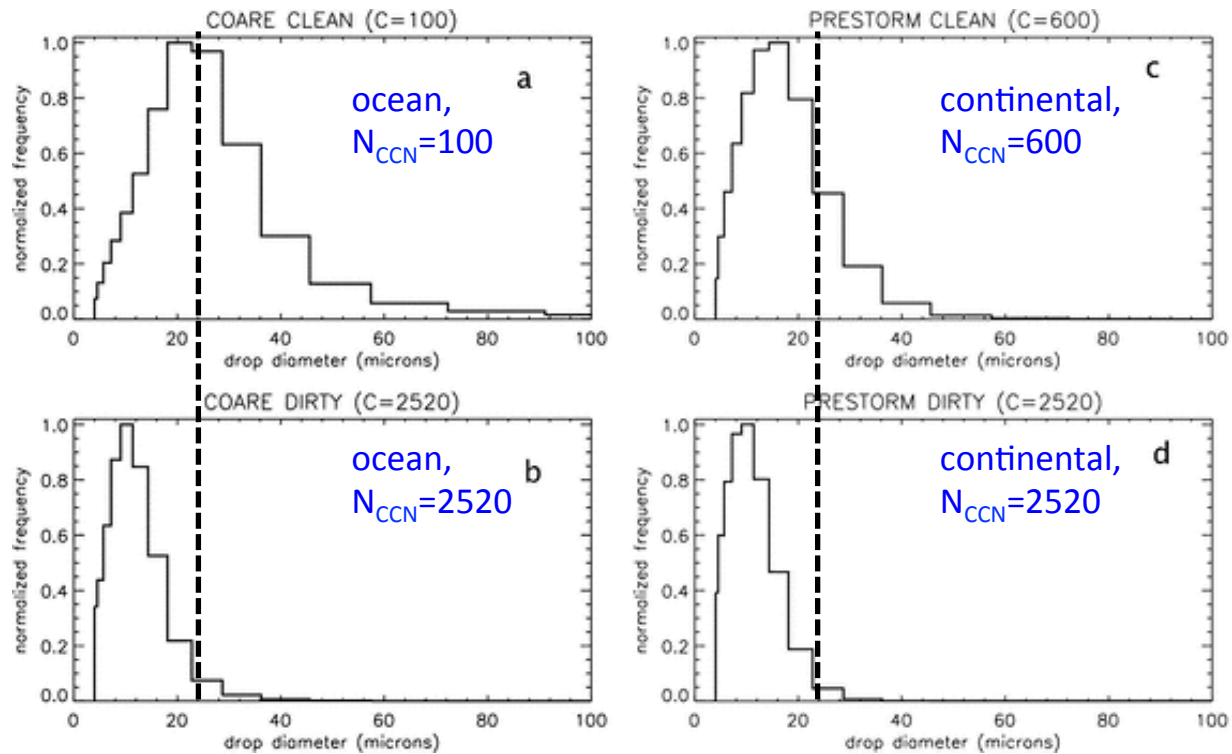
- When N_{CCN} increase, N_{drop} increase
- Higher N_{drop} leads to smaller cloud drops \rightarrow collision-coalescence becomes less efficient \rightarrow difficult to form rain (i.e., drops $> 24 \mu\text{m}$ diameter)
- Higher N_{drop} leads to narrow cloud drop size spectrum \rightarrow less difference in fall speeds leads to suppression of rain

CCN = cloud condensation nuclei
NCCN = number of CCN
Nd = number of cloud drops

Warm Rain Formation

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- **Higher N_{drop} leads to narrow cloud drop size spectrum \rightarrow less difference in fall speeds leads to **suppression of rain****

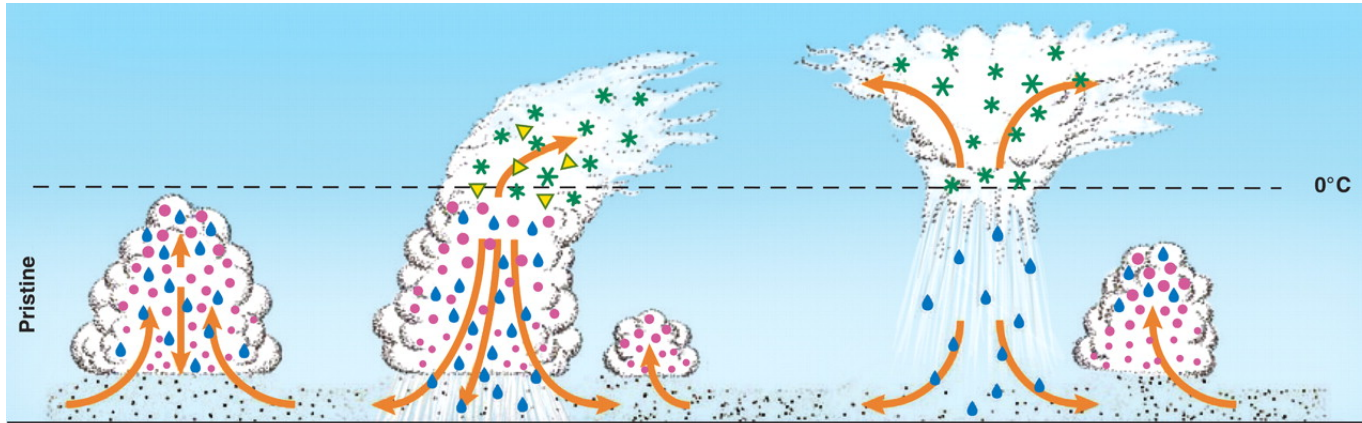
Compare drop size distributions in top panel to bottom panel



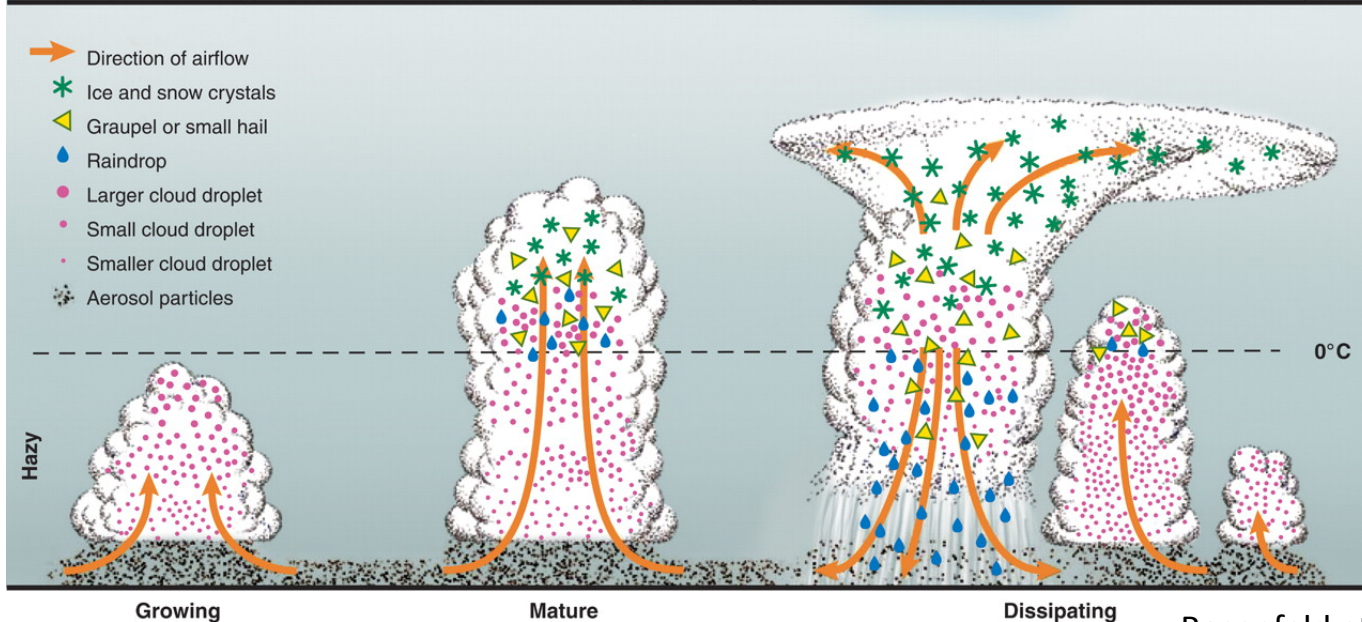
Convective Clouds with Ice Phase

Increased number of aerosols with same liquid water content lofts cloud drops to mixed phase region,
→ invigorates storms

Low aerosol number concentrations

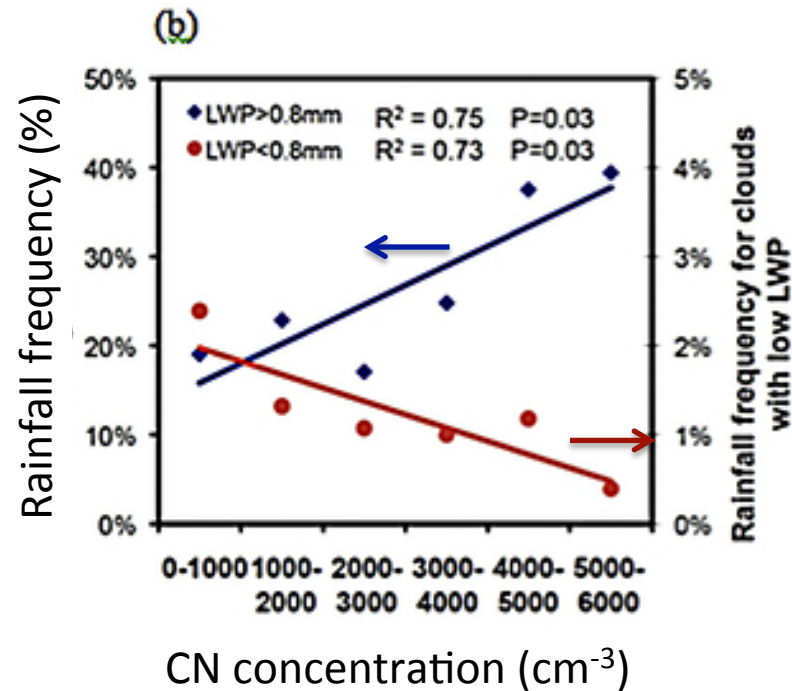


High aerosol number concentrations



Evidence of Aerosol Invigoration Effect

10 years of data from DOE ARM Southern Great Plains site



- As CN increases frequency of rainfall increases when LWP > 0.8 mm
- As CN increases frequency of rainfall decreases when LWP < 0.8 mm

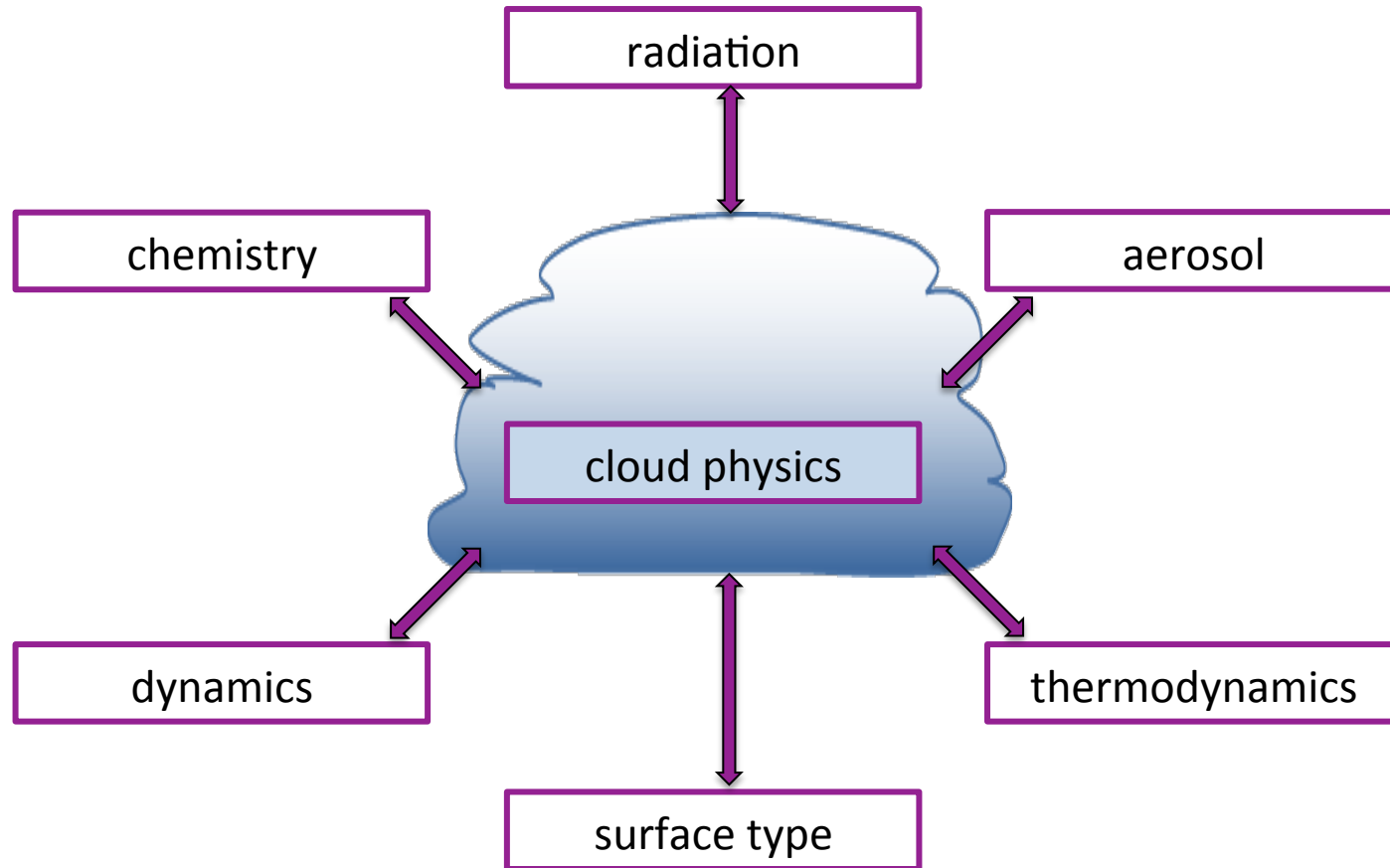
10 years of data from DOE ARM Southern Great Plains site

CN = condensation nuclei
= aerosol concentration
LWP = liquid water path

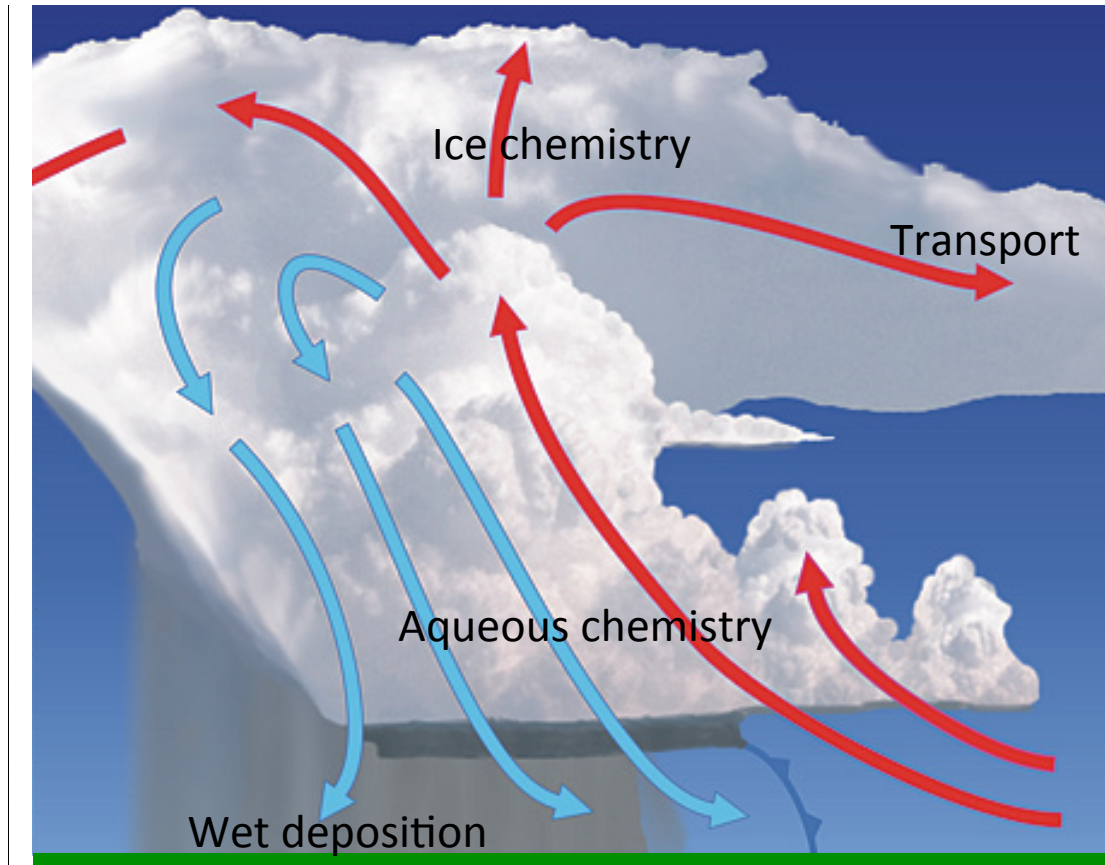
Li et al. (2011) *Nature Geosci.*

Modeling Aerosol Effects on Clouds and Precipitation

Complex System



Cloud Effects on Aerosols



Aerosol growth via cloud chemistry

Aerosol removal in precipitation

Two-moment bulk scheme

Two moments are number and mass

That is, predict N and M of aerosols and cloud particles

Have up to 3 aerosol categories:

CCN = cloud condensation nuclei that activate into cloud drops

GCCN = giant CCN, usually sea salt, that activate into rain drops

IN = ice nuclei that nucleate into ice crystals

Usually 5 cloud particle categories:

Cloud drops

Rain

Ice crystals

Snow

Graupel or Hail

Graupel and Hail

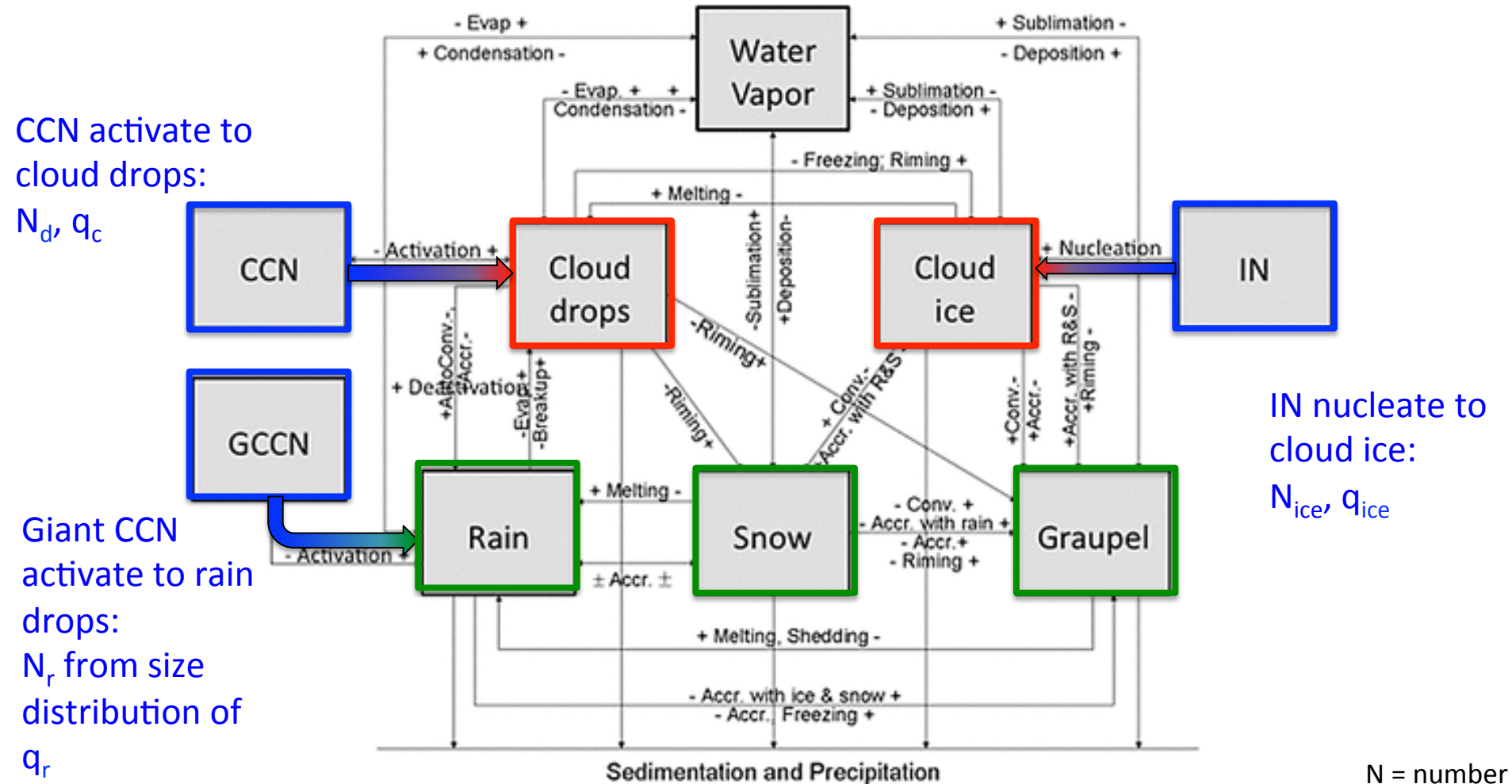


← Graupel is a supercooled droplets of water are collected and freeze on falling snowflakes. Snow pellets are graupel.



Hail is solid precipitation, water ice. It has layers of water (from liquid drops and vapor) as its structure.

Aerosols and Cloud Particle Processes for a Two-moment Bulk Scheme (Predict N and M)



CCN activate to cloud drops:
 N_d, q_c

Giant CCN activate to rain drops:
 N_r from size distribution of q_r

IN nucleate to cloud ice:
 N_{ice}, q_{ice}

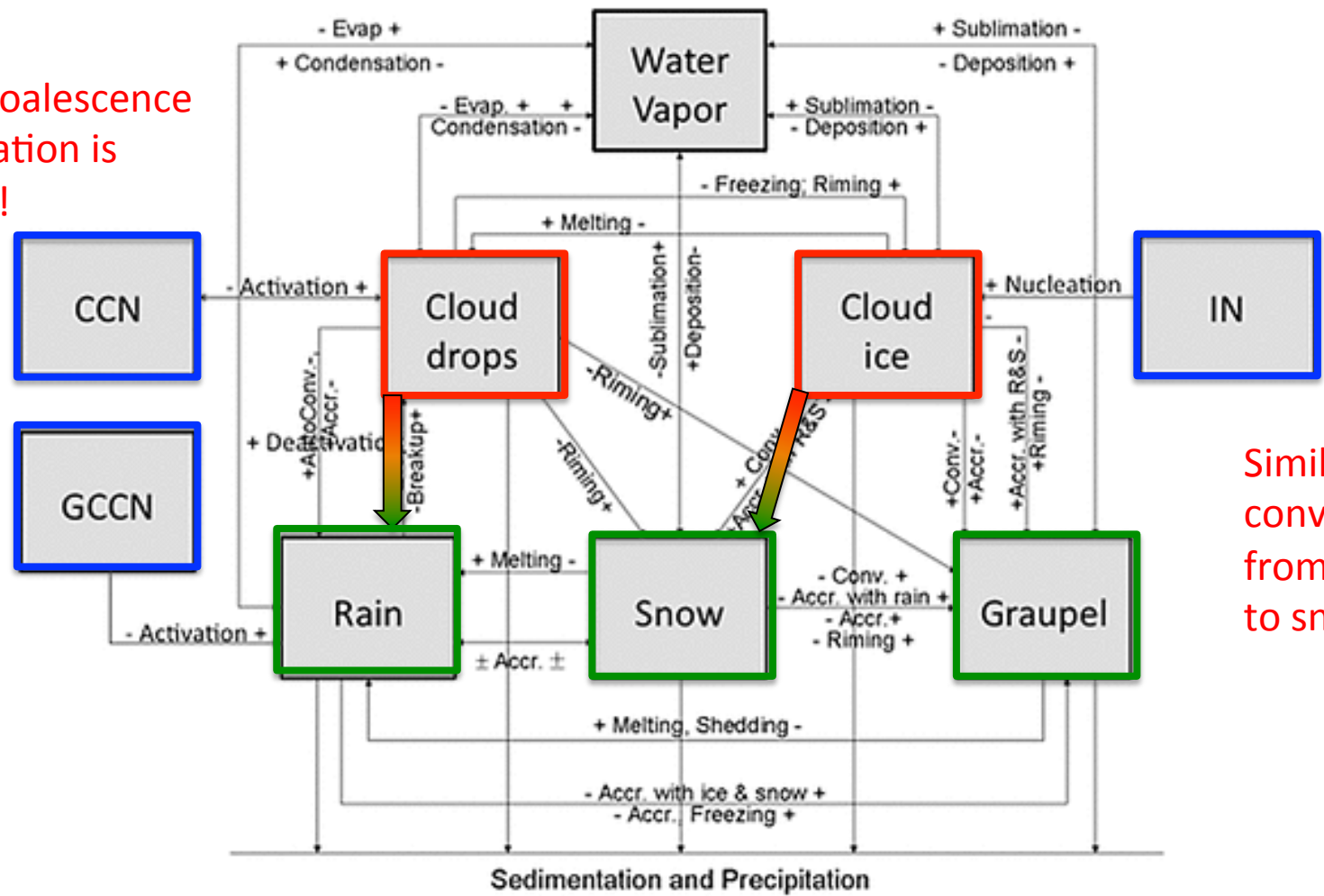
Aerosols **Non-precipitating cloud hydrometeors**
Precipitating cloud hydrometeors

N = number
M = mass
CCN = cloud condensation nuclei
q = mass mixing ratio

Predict N and M of aerosols and cloud particles

Two-moment bulk scheme

Collision-coalescence representation is important!



Similar conversion from cloud ice to snow

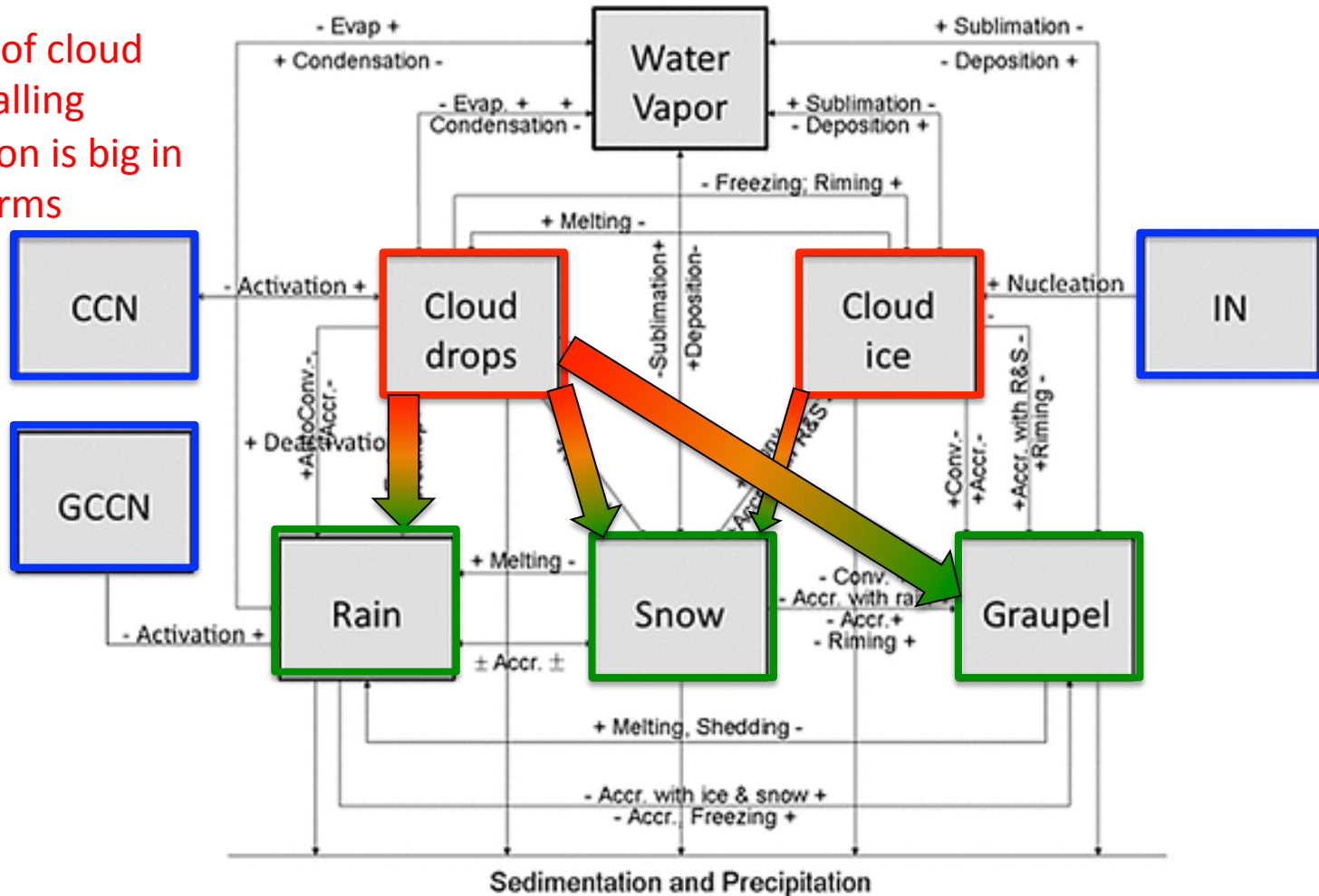
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Predict N and M of aerosols and cloud particles

Two-moment bulk scheme

Collection of cloud drops by falling precipitation is big in severe storms



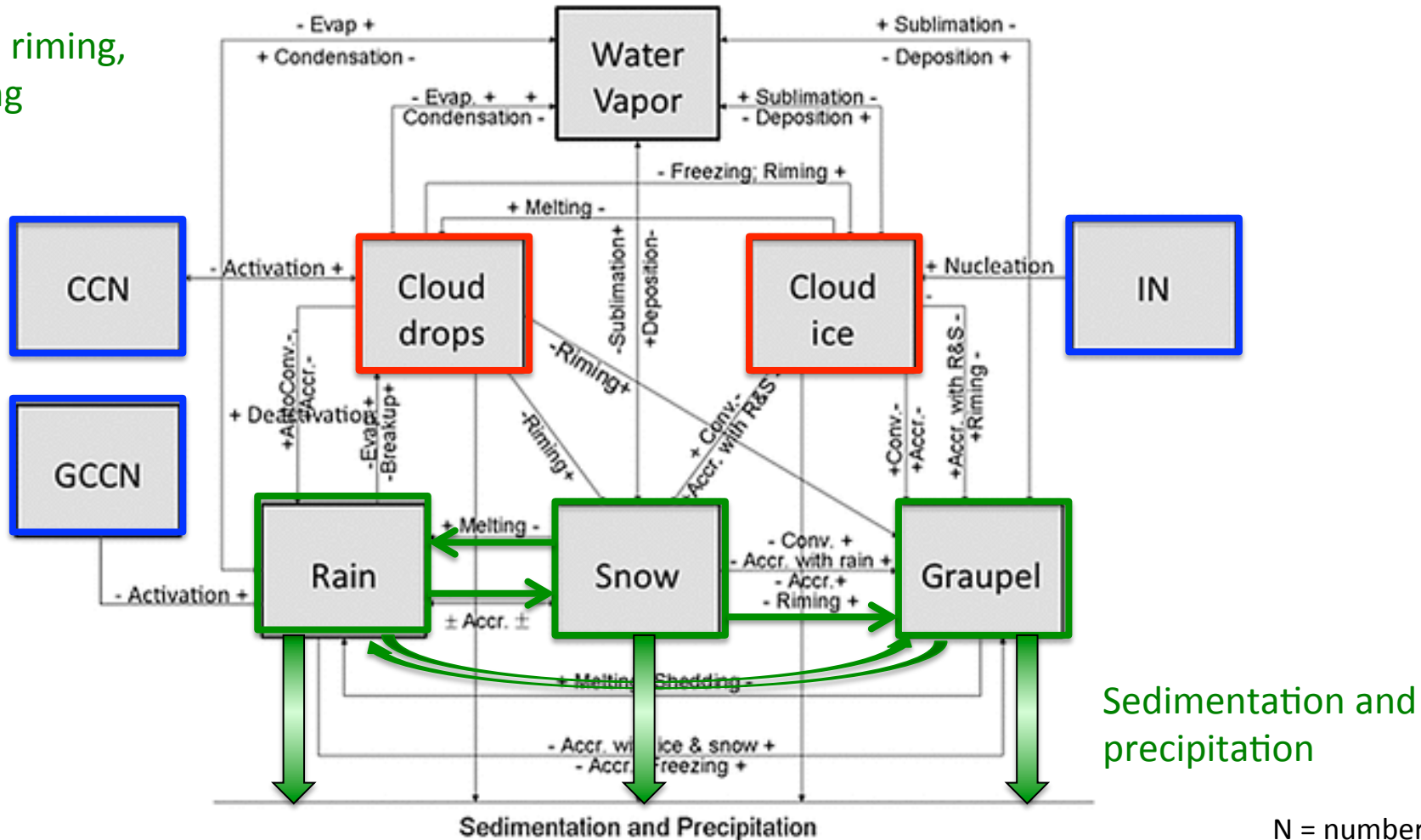
Aerosols **Non-precipitating cloud hydrometeors**
Precipitating cloud hydrometeors

N = number
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Predict N and M of aerosols and cloud particles

Two-moment bulk scheme

Collection, riming, and melting



Sedimentation and precipitation

Aerosols **Non-precipitating cloud hydrometeors**
Precipitating cloud hydrometeors

N = number
M = mass
CCN = cloud condensation nuclei
q = mass mixing ratio

Aerosol Effects on Precipitation

Results from Modeling Studies

- Reisin et al. (1996a,b) *J. Atmos. Sci.*
 - 2-D axisymmetrical cloud model with spectral bin cloud physics
 - Polluted clouds produce less precipitation
- Khain et al. (2005) *QJRMS*; Zhang et al. (2005) *JGR*
 - Smaller cloud droplets lofted to mixed phase region, freezing released latent heating, invigorating convection
 - No squall line at low N_{CCN} , but did produced squall line for high N_{CCN}
- Seifert and Beheng (2005) *Meteor. Atmos. Phys.*
 - Aerosol effects on convection depend on cloud type
 - Small convection \rightarrow decreased precipitation and w_{max}
 - Multi-cell storms \rightarrow secondary convection promoted, increasing w_{max} and precipitation
 - Supercell storms \rightarrow least sensitive to CCN increases
 - Importance of latent heat of freezing on storm

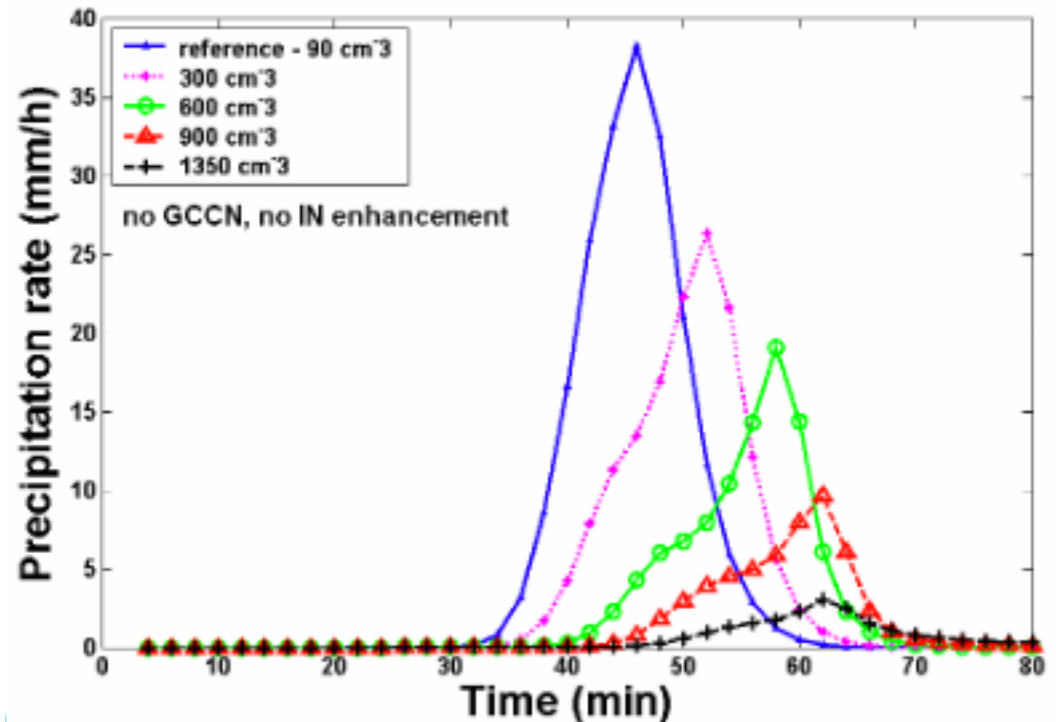
Results from Modeling Studies

Teller and Levin (2006) *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*

2-D cloud model with spectral bin cloud physics

Polluted clouds produce less precipitation, initiation of precipitation is delayed and lifetime of clouds is longer

Precipitation rate as a function of time



Results from Teller and Levin (2006)

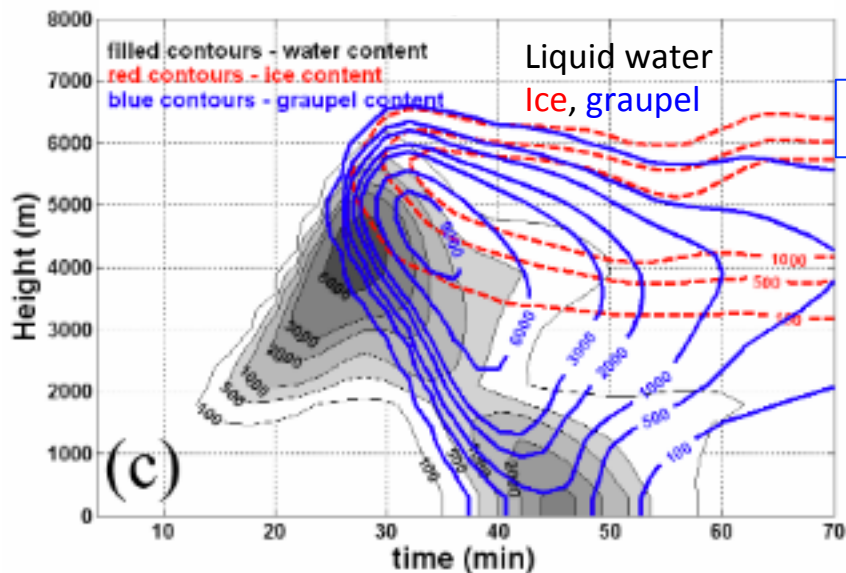
Polluted clouds produce less precipitation, initiation of precipitation is delayed and lifetime of clouds is longer

Polluted clouds have higher cloud tops than clean clouds

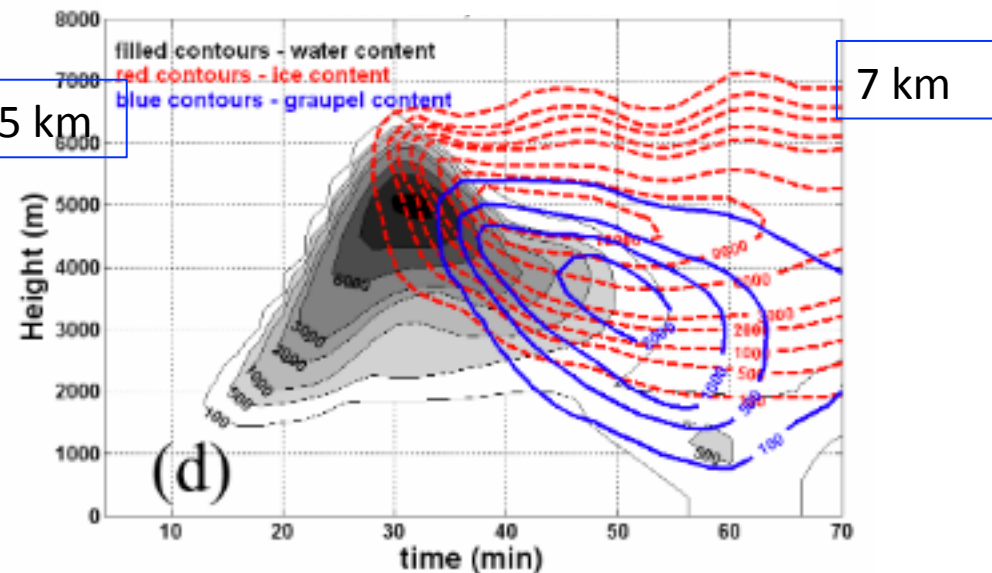
(in agreement with aerosols invigorating storms)

Vertical cross sections of water, ice, and graupel horizontally integrated as a function of time

NCCN = 90 cm^{-3}



NCCN = 1350 cm^{-3}



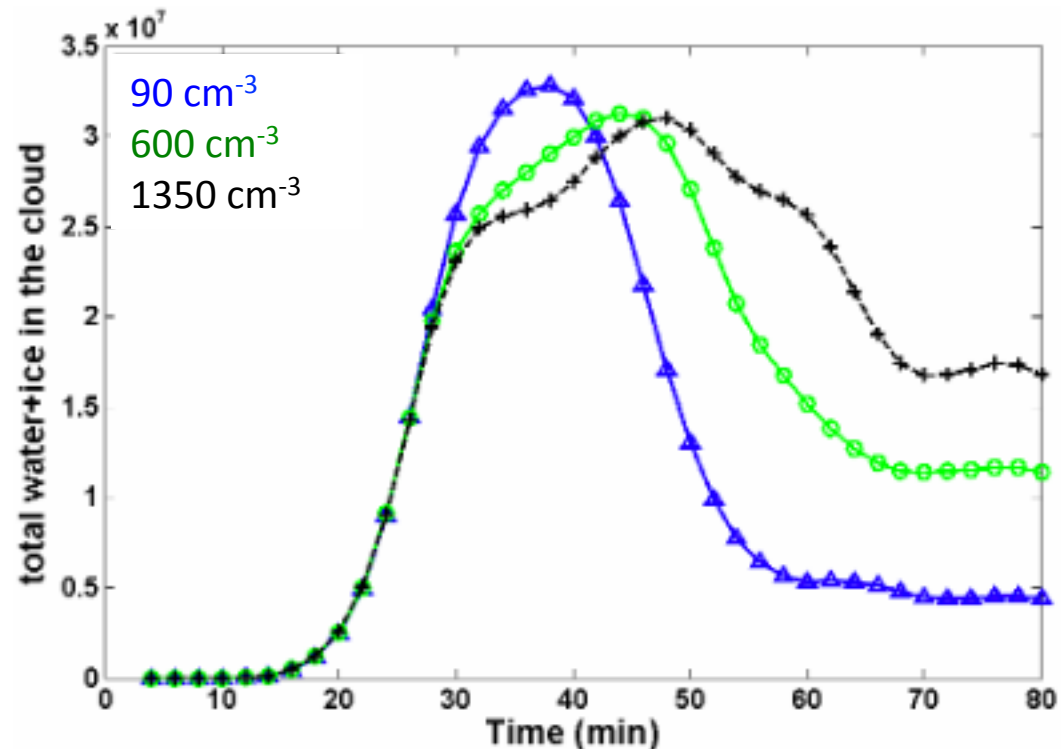
Results from Teller and Levin (2006)

Polluted clouds produce less precipitation, initiation of precipitation is delayed and lifetime of clouds is longer

Polluted clouds have higher cloud tops than clean clouds

More water vapor transported to mid troposphere in polluted conditions

Total condensed water mass in atmosphere as a function of time



Results from Teller and Levin (2006)

Polluted clouds produce less precipitation, initiation of precipitation is delayed and lifetime of clouds is longer

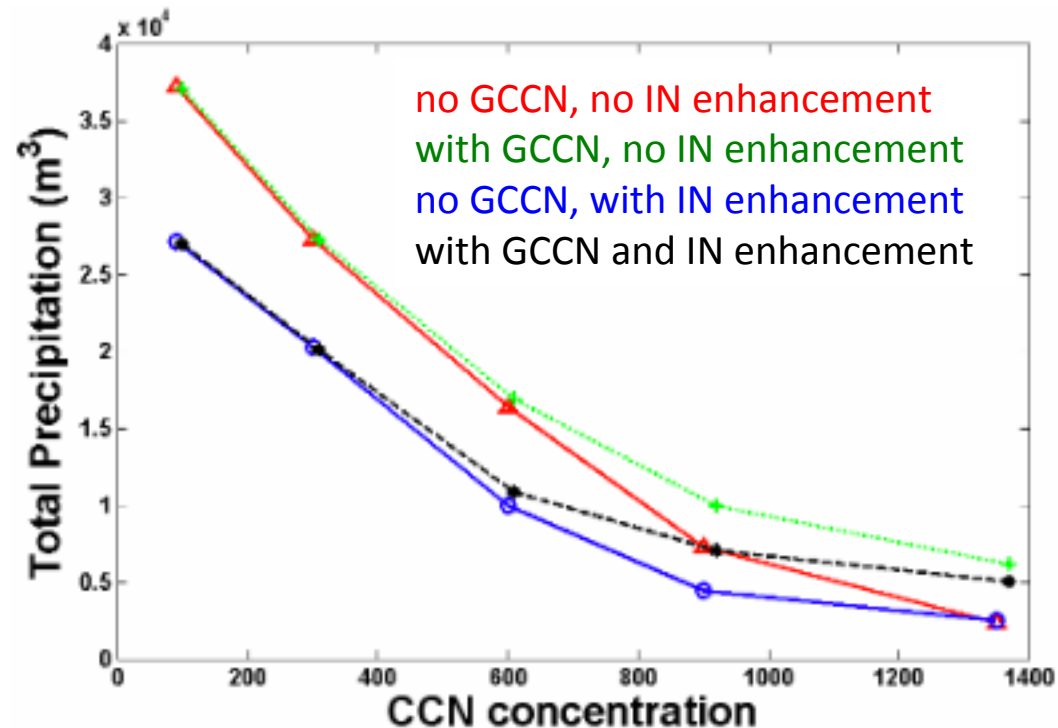
Polluted clouds have higher cloud tops than clean clouds

More water vapor transported to mid troposphere in polluted conditions

GCCN and IN affect amount of precipitation, cloud size, etc

(GCCN = giant CCN, IN = ice nuclei)

Total precipitation at ground as a function of CCN concentration



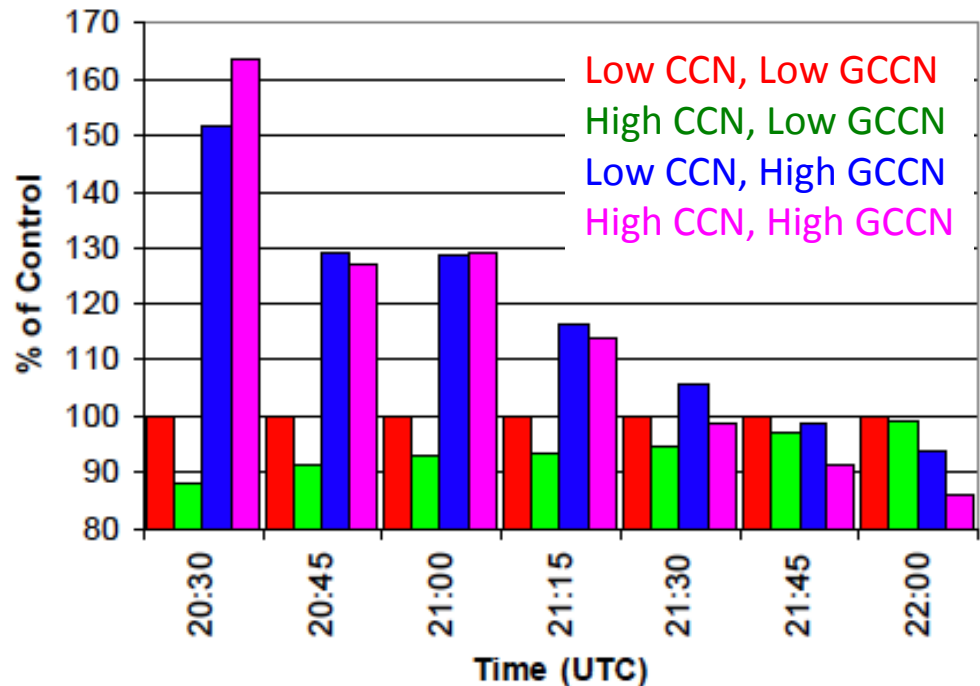
Results from Modeling Studies

Van den Heever et al. (2006); van den Heever and Cotton (2007)

3-D RAMS cloud model with two-moment cloud physics and lookup tables for cloud drop activation

Variations in aerosol concentration affect both physical and dynamical characteristics of storms

Percent Change in Total Precipitation between simulations with different CCN concentrations as a function of time from simulations over St. Louis, MO



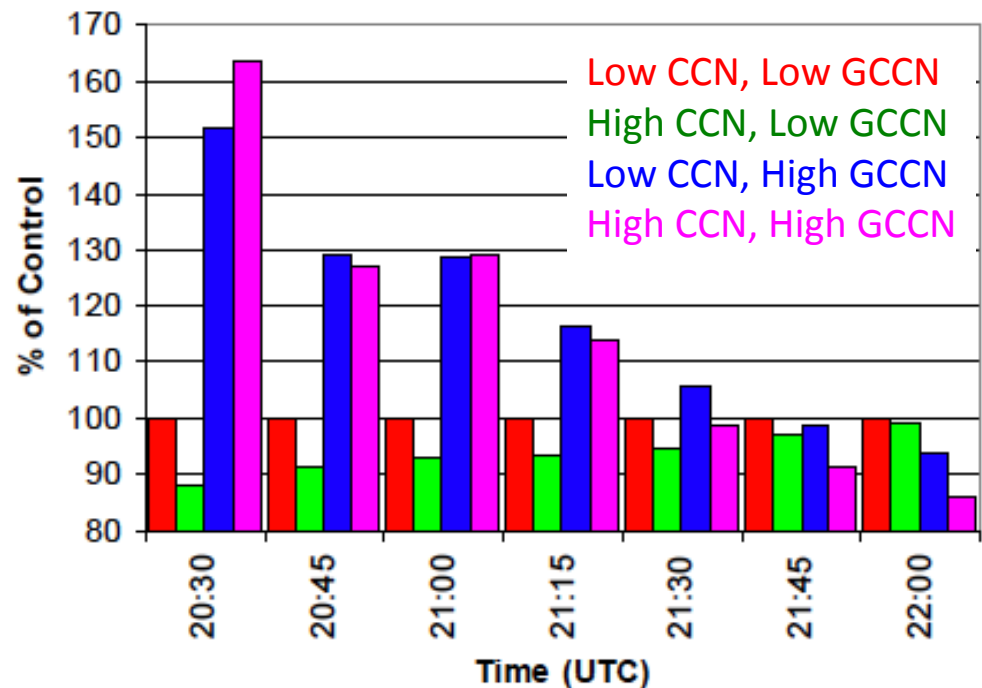
Results from van den Heever and Cotton (2007)

Variations in aerosol concentration affect both physical and dynamical characteristics of storms

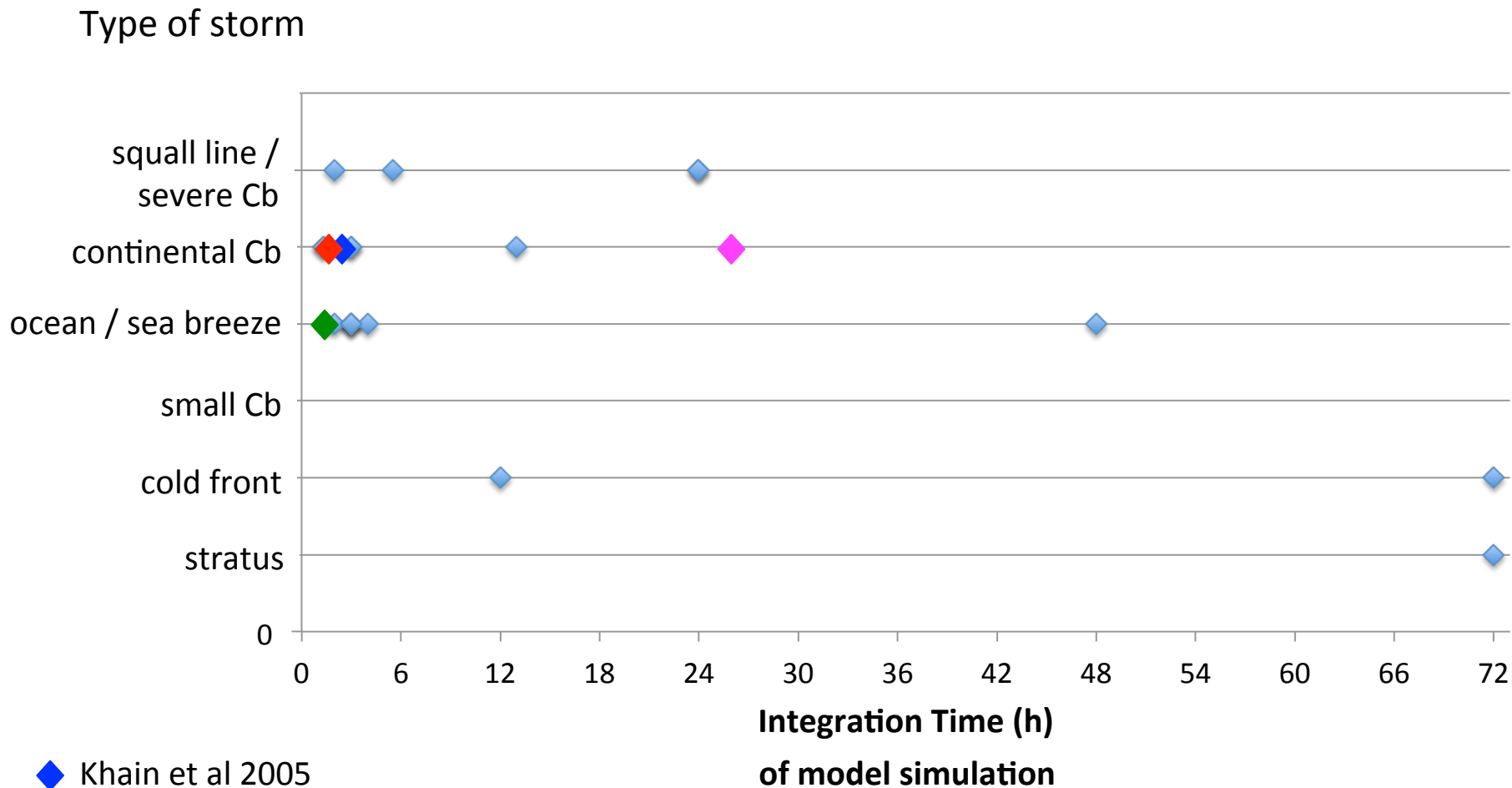
Venting of aerosols actually cleans lower atmosphere consequently changing inflow aerosol concentrations

Cold pools differ substantially between simulations altering storm dynamics

Percent Change in Total Precipitation between simulations with different CCN concentrations as a function of time from simulations over St. Louis, MO

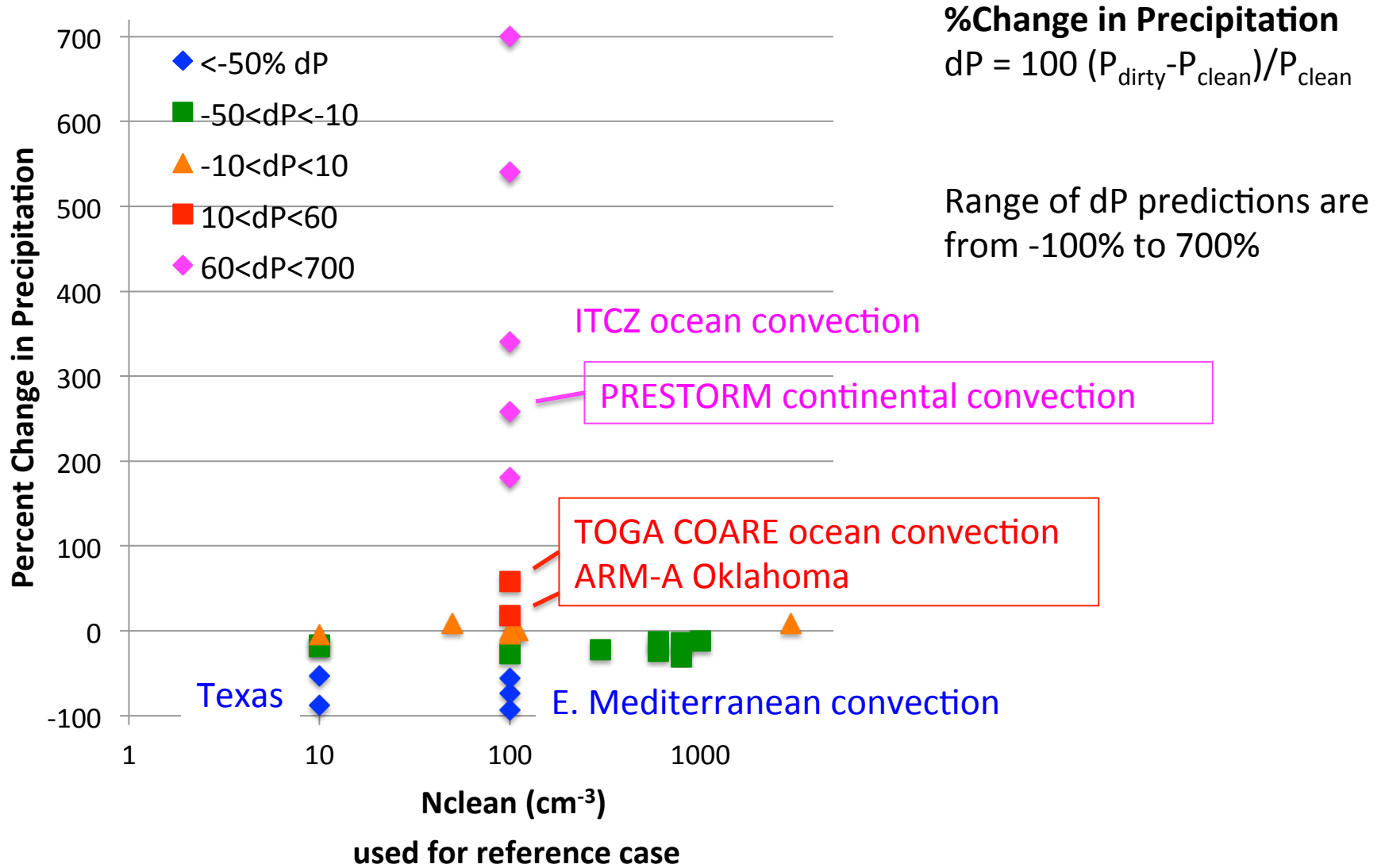


Tao et al. (2012) list 22 Studies from 2004-2011

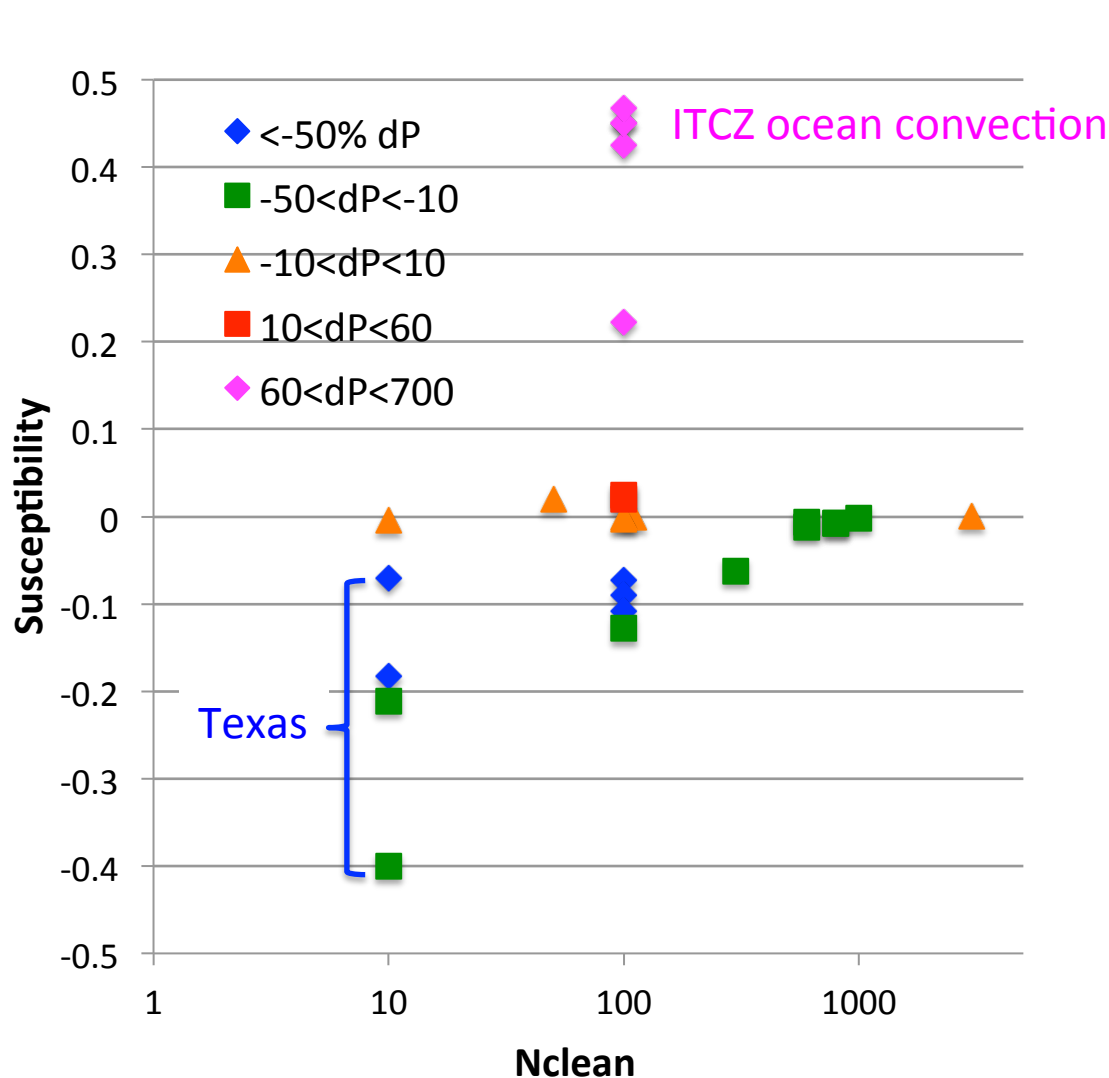


- ◆ Khain et al 2005
- ◆ Teller and Levin 2006
- ◆ Van den Heever et al 2006
- ◆ Van den Heever and Cotton 2007

27 Simulation Sensitivity Cases Reported in Tao et al. (2012)



Susceptibility of Convective Storms to Aerosols



$$\text{Susceptibility} = \frac{dP}{dN}$$

No obvious reason why some simulations predict more precipitation and others predict less precipitation

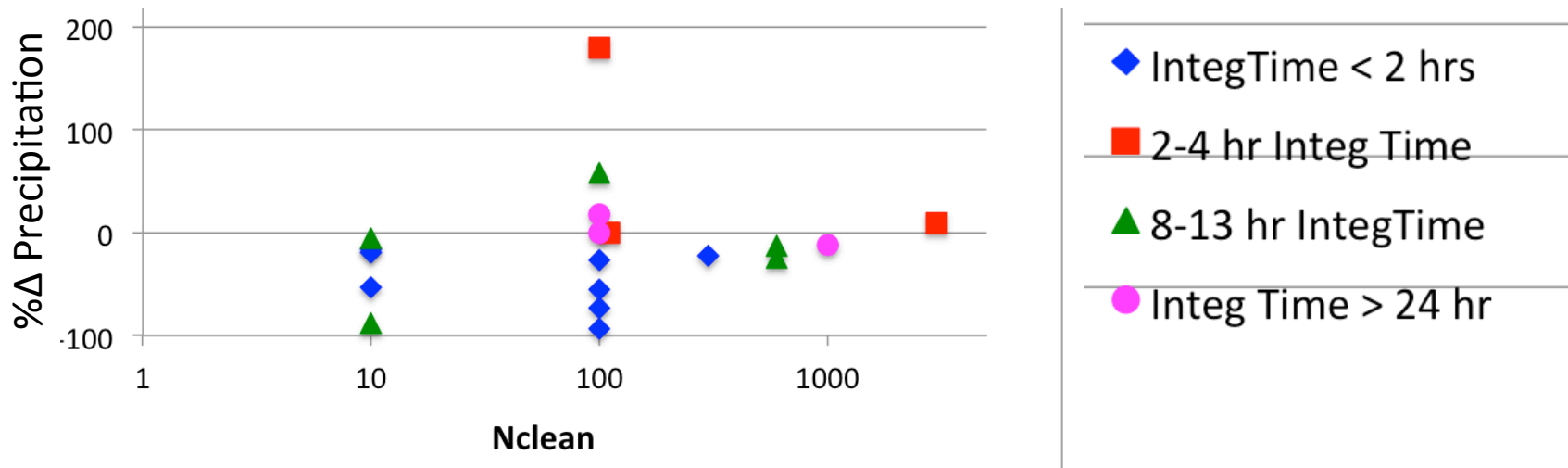
Factors:

Early stages of storm often dominated by microphysical processes → less rain
 → Length of integration possibly important

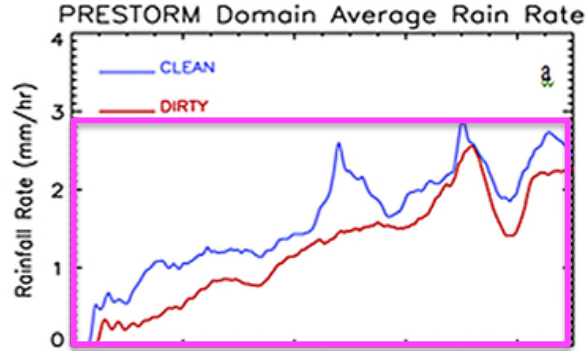
Relative Humidity
 Cloud Type
 Wind Shear

Factors Causing Differences Among Model Studies

- Early stages of storm often dominated by microphysical processes → less rain
→ Length of integration possibly important
- All of the simulations integrating for ≤ 2 hours conclude precipitation is reduced



Early stage of storm has less rain under high CCN conditions



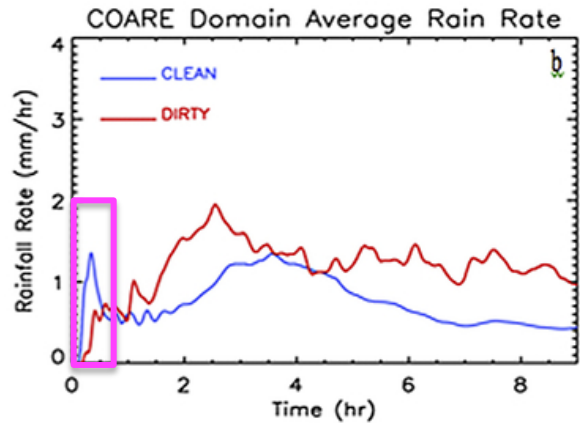
Oklahoma-Kansas

$N_{\text{clean}} = 600$

$N_{\text{dirty}} = 1900$

Precipitation rate as a function of time for 3 storms

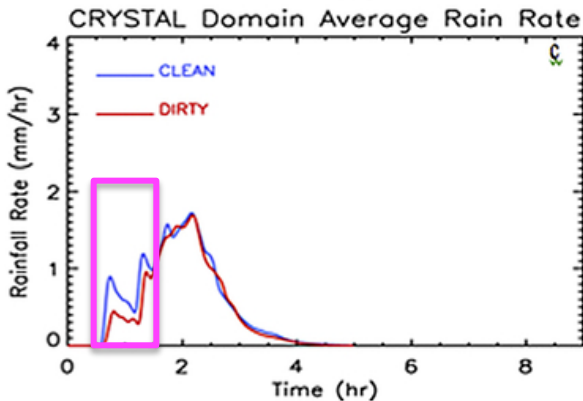
For TWP and Florida, precipitation reduced during first 30-60 minutes of storm



Oceanic (TWP)

$N_{\text{clean}} = 100$

$N_{\text{dirty}} = 2400$



Florida

$N_{\text{clean}} = 600$

$N_{\text{dirty}} = 1900$

Factors Causing Differences Among Model Studies

- Early stages of storm often dominated by microphysical processes → less rain
→ Length of integration possibly important
- Relative Humidity
- Cloud Type
- Wind Shear

Khain et al. (2008) *J. Atmos. Sci.*

→ More precipitation in more humid regions

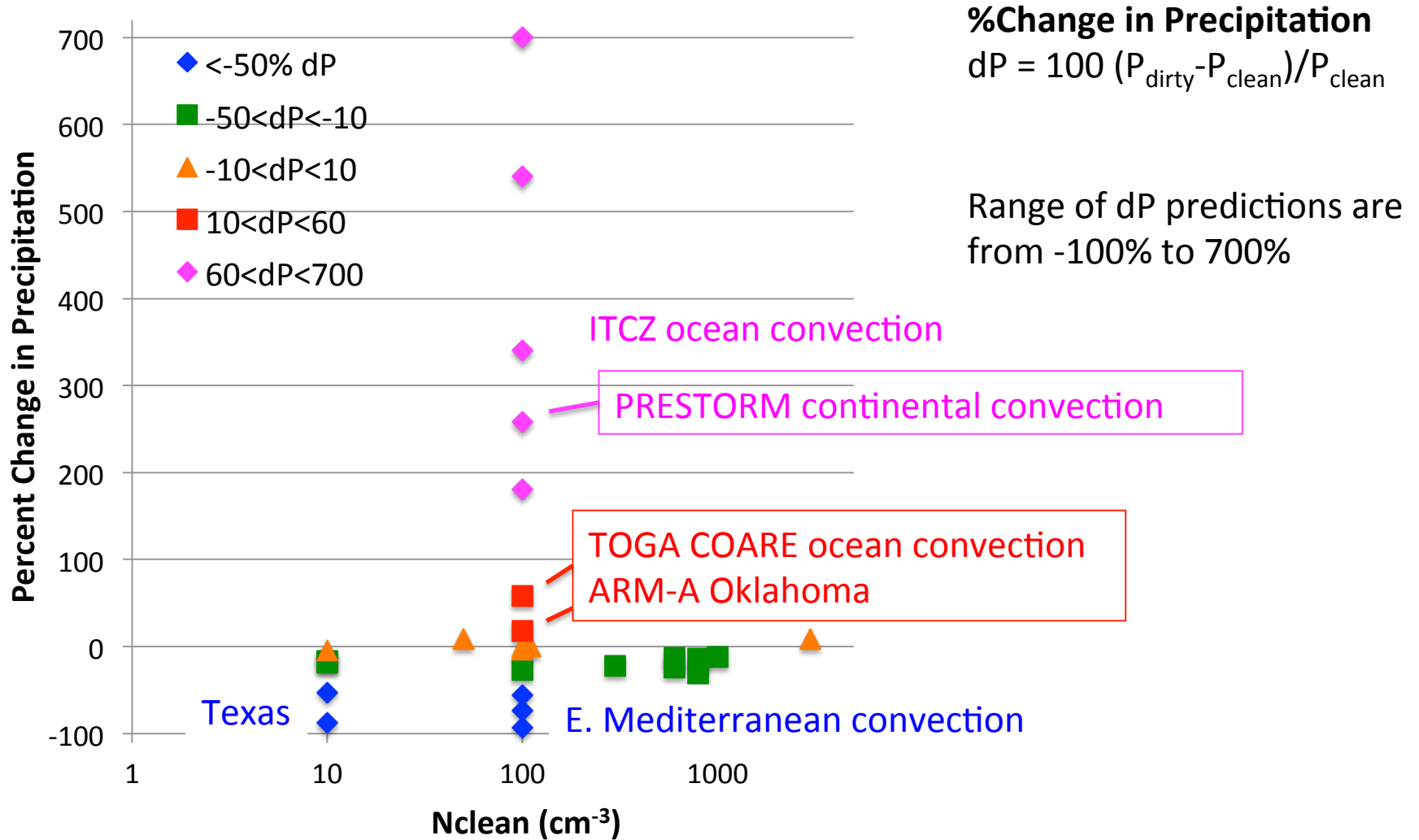
Van den Heever et al. (2011) simulation of tropical convection found that for high CCN

→ Less precipitation from shallow clouds

→ More precipitation in deep convective clouds

→ Mixed response in moderate convective storms

27 Simulation Sensitivity Cases Reported in Tao et al. (2012)



Factors Causing Differences Among Model Studies

- Early stages of storm often dominated by microphysical processes → less rain
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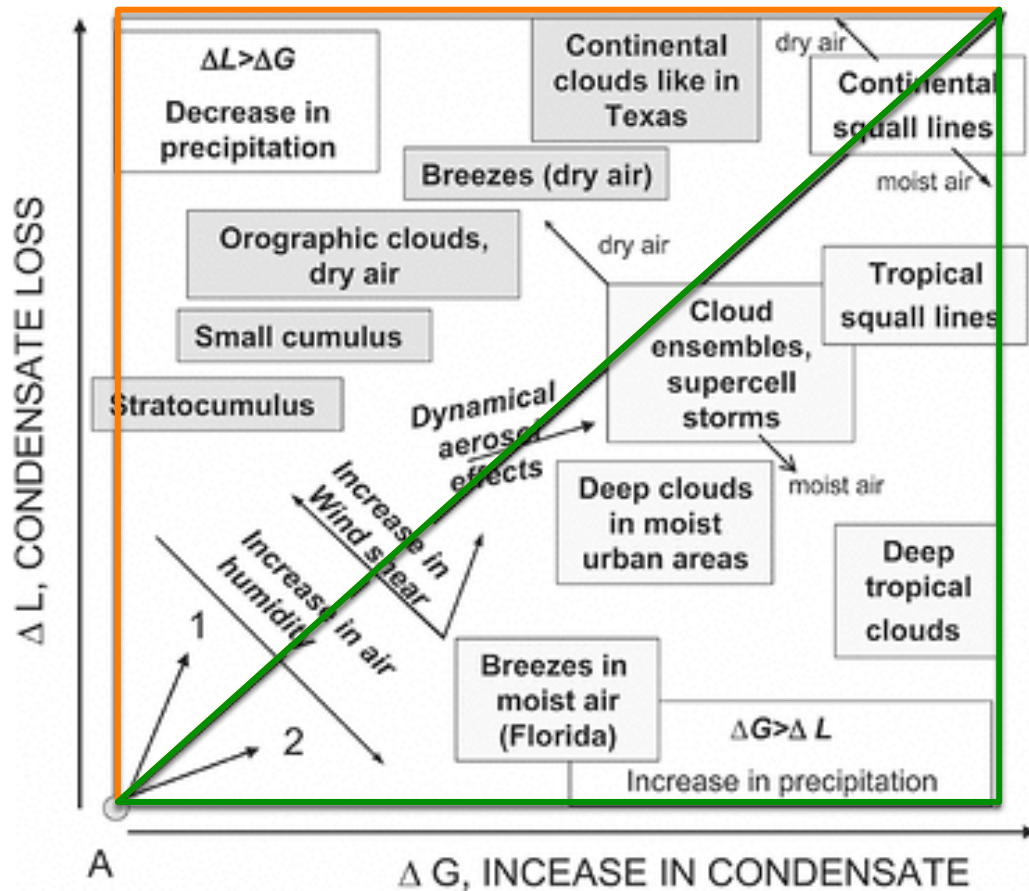
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Relative Humidity Affects Aerosol Effects on Precipitation



Khain et al. (2008) state relative humidity affects condensation rate.

G = condensate mass formed by drop condensation and ice deposition

L = rain, snow, graupel loss due to evaporation and sublimation

$$\text{Precipitation} = G - L$$

$$\Delta P = \Delta G - \Delta L$$

Decrease in precipitation with aerosol concentration

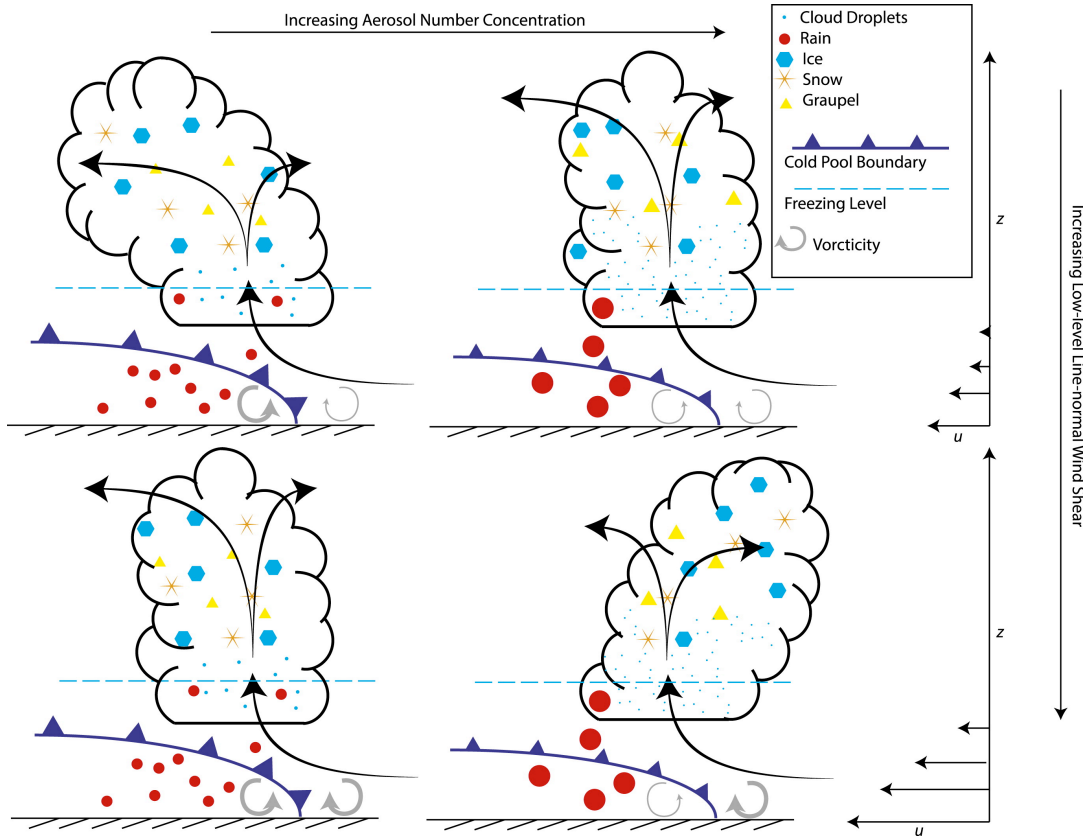
Increase in precipitation with aerosol concentration

Van den Heever et al. (2011) simulation of tropical convection found that for high CCN

- Less precipitation from shallow clouds
- More precipitation in deep convective clouds
- Mixed response in moderate convective storms

Aerosols and Storm Dynamics of a Squall Line

Lebo and Morrison (2014)



Based on Rotunno et al (1988) theory

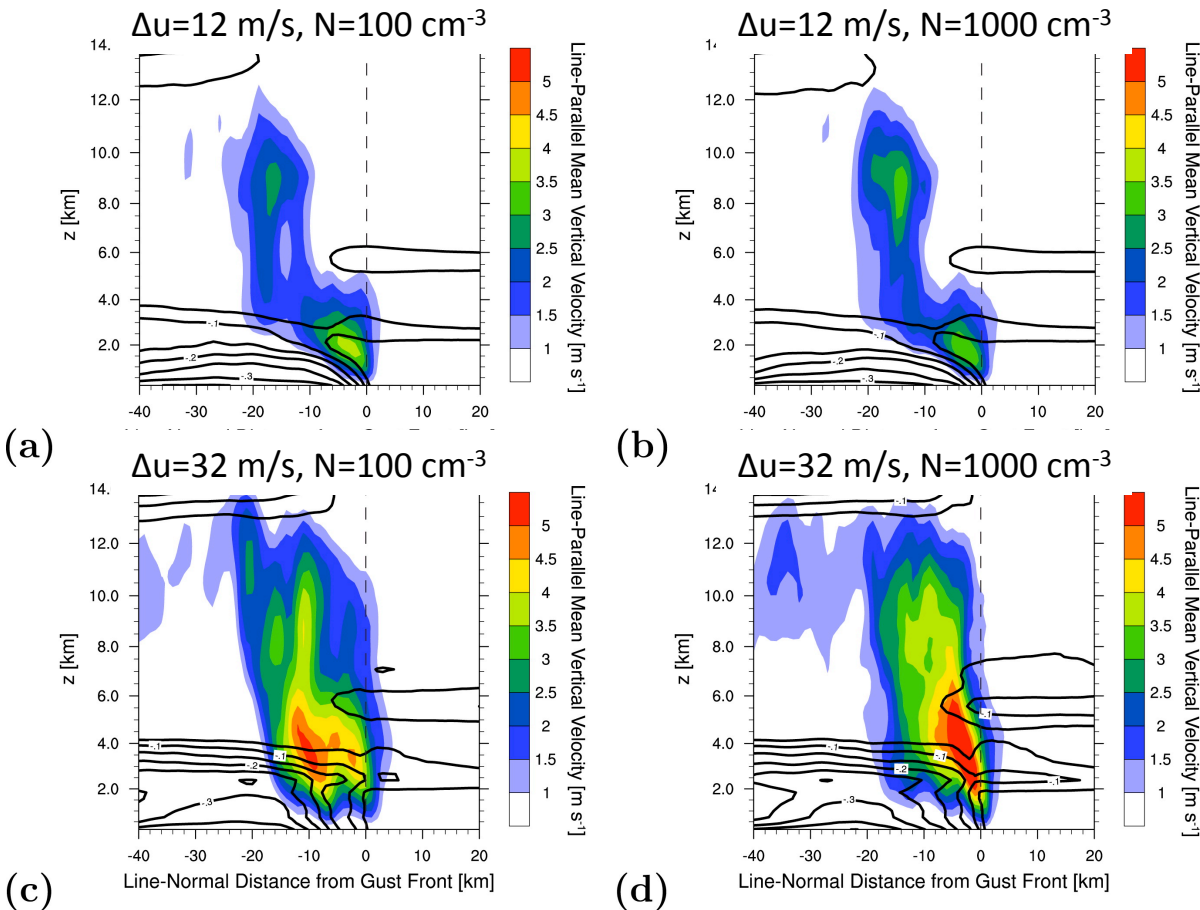
Aerosols affect the raindrop size distribution, altering the bulk rain evaporation rate and cold pool intensity

The balance between the cold pool induced circulations with the low-level environmental shear is modified

Causes an intensification of squall line in weak wind shear, and weakening of squall line in strong wind shear environments

Aerosols and Storm Dynamics of a Squall Line

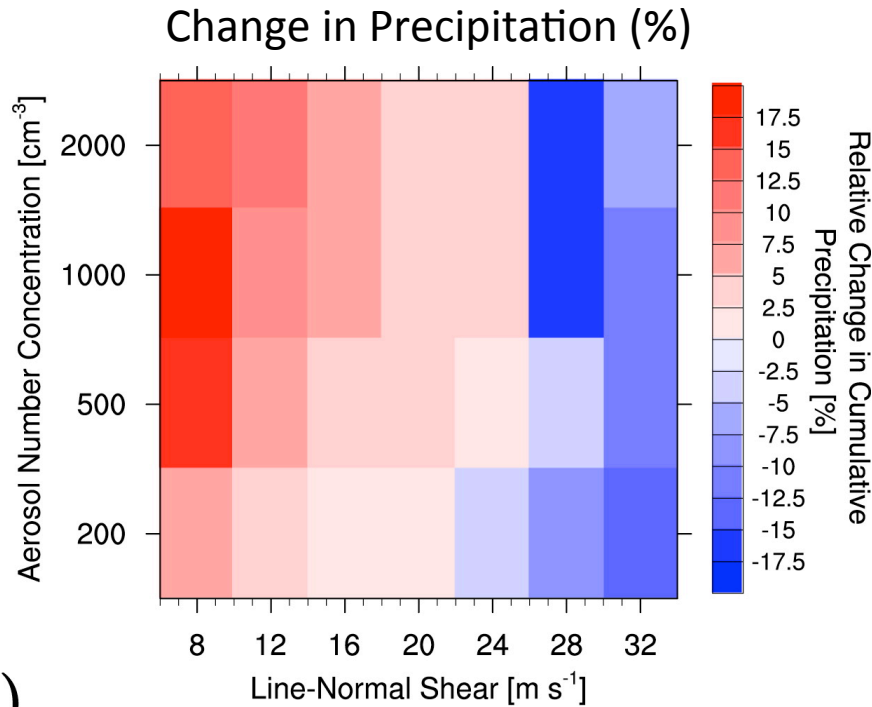
Line Parallel Mean Vertical Velocity



Based on Rotunno et al (1988) theory

Updrafts are stronger and more vertical for high aerosol loading and high shear

Aerosols and Storm Dynamics of a Squall Line



b)

ΔP as function of aerosol number concentration and line-normal shear relative to $N_{\text{clean}} = 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Increased ΔP , Decreased ΔP

Previous Studies

Nearly all previous CRM studies used idealized aerosol concentrations (N_{CCN} , N_{GCCN} , N_{IN})

Very few CRM studies compared model results with observed cloud structures, organization, radar reflectivities, aerosol concentrations, etc.

- Real meteorology cases can be generated with mesoscale models such as WRF (weather research and forecasting model)
- Realistic distributions of aerosols can be produced with models coupled with aerosols and chemistry, e.g. WRF-Chem
- More challenging to represent convection well and to predict aerosol concentrations (mostly because of emissions)

Weather Research and Forecasting Model Coupled with Chemistry (WRF-Chem)

Numerical weather and chemical constituent prediction

Wide range of applications 10s meters to 1000s kilometers

→ Cloud resolving scales with domains of up to 1000 km and grid spacings < 4 km

Chemistry is calculated at each meteorological time step

Emissions,

Transport,

Chemical transformations,

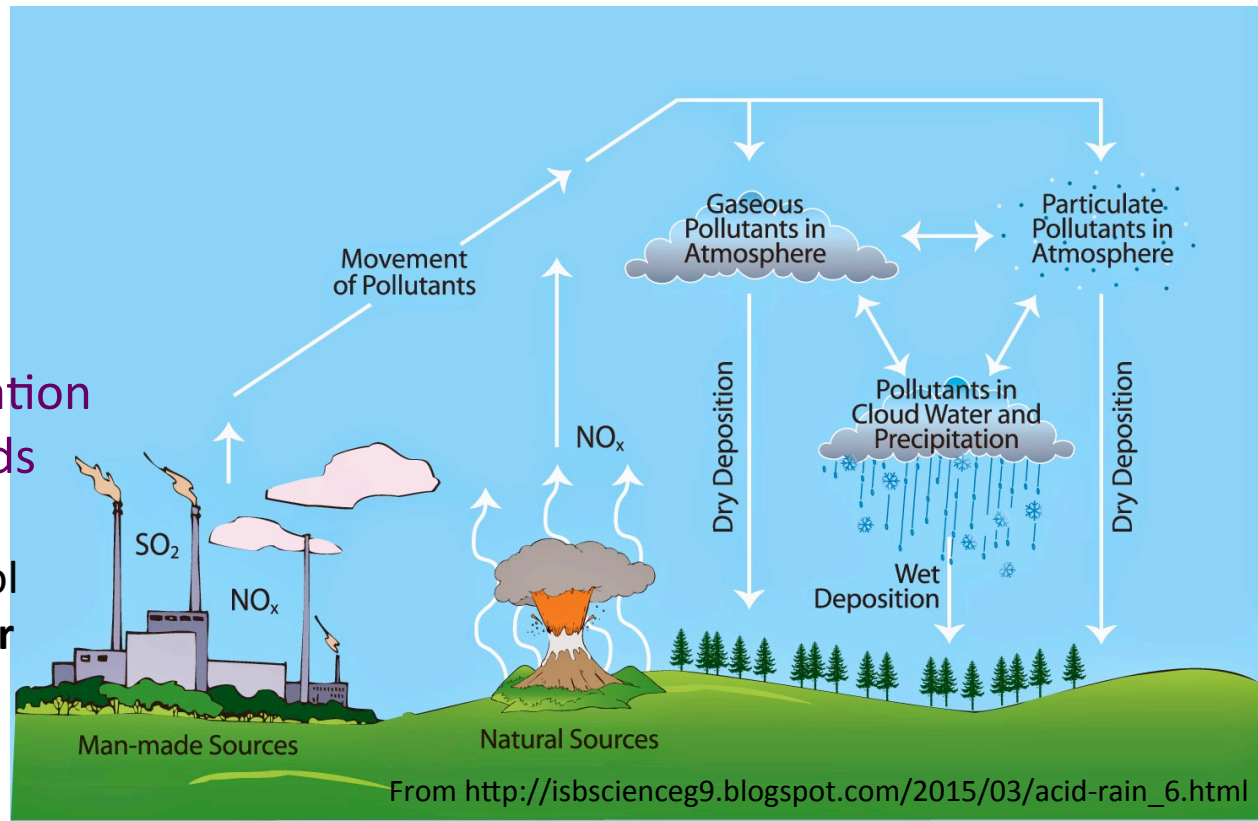
Removal by precipitation,

Removal by dry deposition

Effects of aerosols on radiation

Effects of aerosols on clouds

Chemical properties of aerosol represented with κ parameter



Using WRF-Chem to Study Aerosol-Cloud Interactions

Chapman et al. (2009) implemented Abdul-Razzak and Ghan (2002) cloud droplet activation scheme to bulk cloud physics scheme in WRF → predict drop number

Technique extended to Morrison et al. (2009) double-moment cloud physics scheme

Some aerosol-cloud-precipitation CRM convection studies using WRF-Chem:

Ntelekos et al. (2009) NE United States

Fan et al. (2012, 2013, 2015)

Eidhammer et al. (2014) North America monsoon

Saide et al. (2015) SE United States tornadic event

Sarangi et al. (2015) Gangetic Basin, India

Fan et al. (2015) SW China

Yang et al. (2016) Central China

Recent WRF-Chem versions also include aerosols affecting parameterized convection

Using WRF-Chem to Study Aerosol-Cloud Interactions

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Aerosol microphysical impact on summer convection in Rocky Mountain Region (Eidhammer et al., 2014)

WRF-Chem simulations over 820 x 820 km² domain using 3 km grid spacing for 3-day simulations

Sub region analyzed to remove potential effects of boundaries

First 12 hours are spin up and not analyzed

Gas-phase chemistry (CBMZ) but no secondary organic aerosol production

Sectional-approach for representing aerosols (MOSAIC 8-bin)

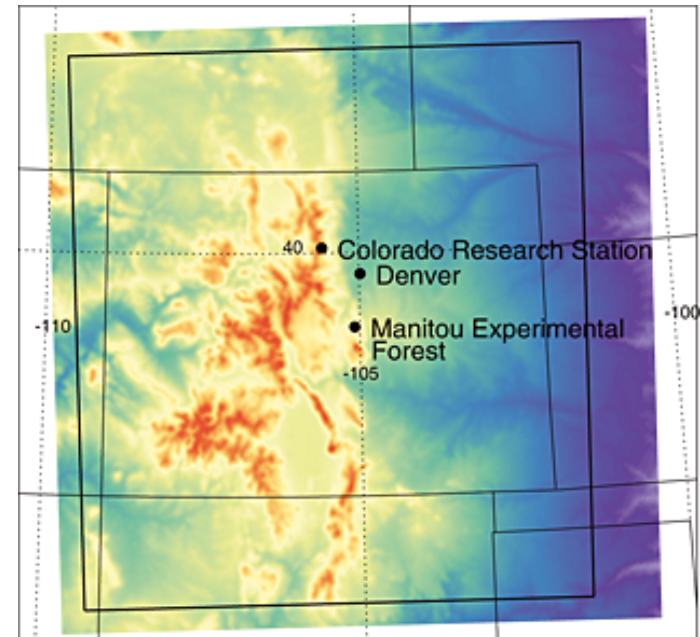
Cloud physics is Purdue Lin scheme with drop activation linked to aerosols

Anthropogenic emissions from EPA NEI 2005

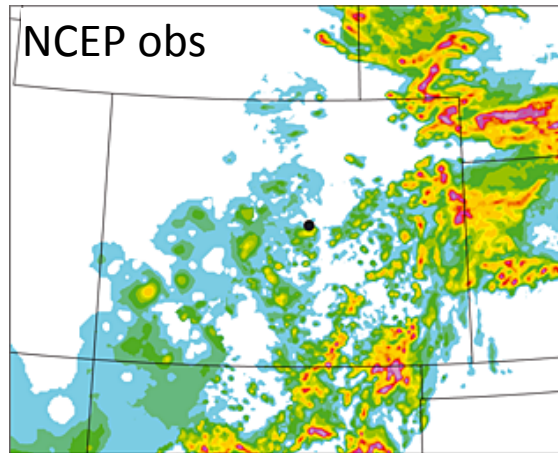
Biogenic emissions calculated online (MEGAN)

No wildfire emissions

Model domain and
sub-region for analysis

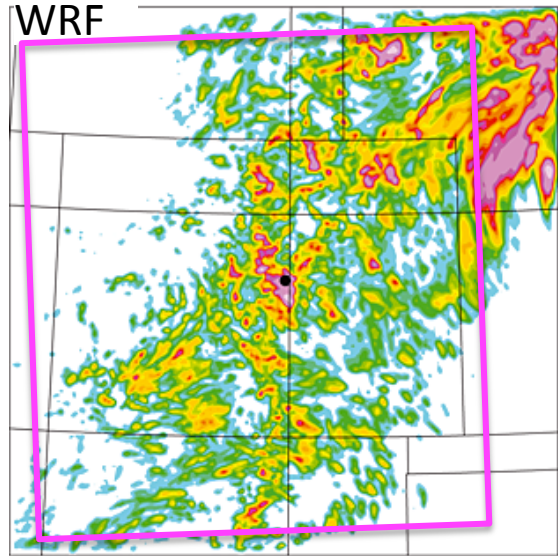


WRF-Chem Prediction of Precipitation



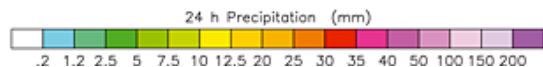
← 24-hr cumulative precipitation ending at 12 UTC 5 August

More precipitation predicted than observed (top)



Analysis region removes much of this overprediction

→ Challenging to represent storms as well with “real meteorology” cases



Aerosol effects on summertime convection

→ Do aerosols affect precipitation on regional scale?

In this study, aerosols affect only clouds and not radiation

Aerosol concentrations are controlled by the initial and boundary conditions (low anthropogenic emissions in region)

Initial and boundary conditions from global model (MOZART)

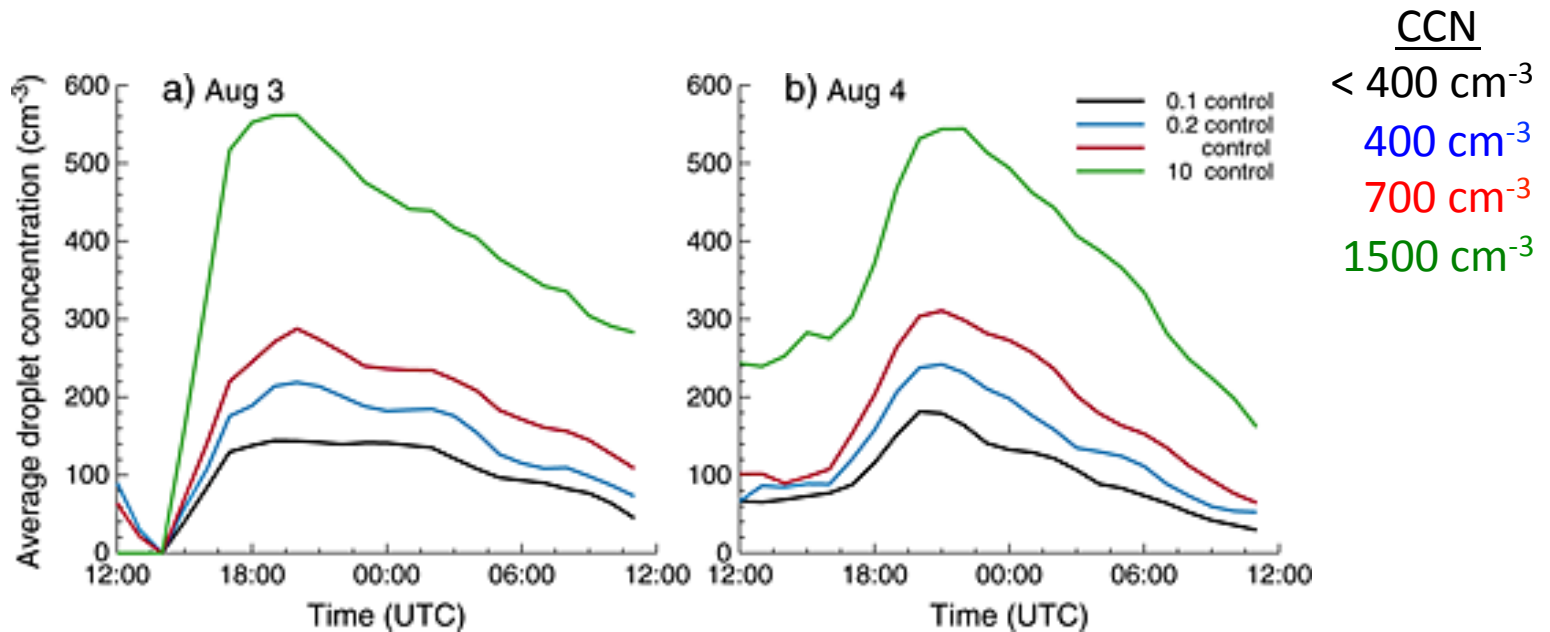
Simulations:

1. Control
2. Aerosol mass conc. are 10xControl
3. Aerosol mass conc. are 0.2xControl
4. Aerosol mass conc. are 0.1xControl



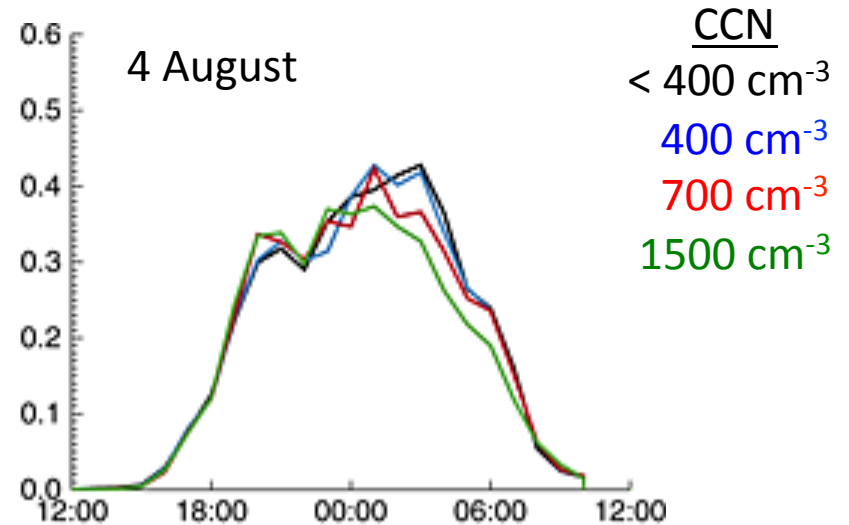
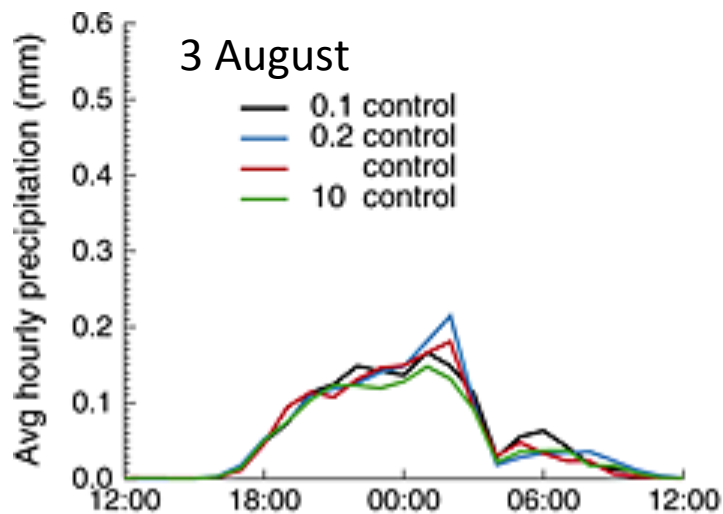
Aerosol affects cloud drop concentration

Increased aerosol mass concentration increases cloud droplet number concentrations, and vice versa

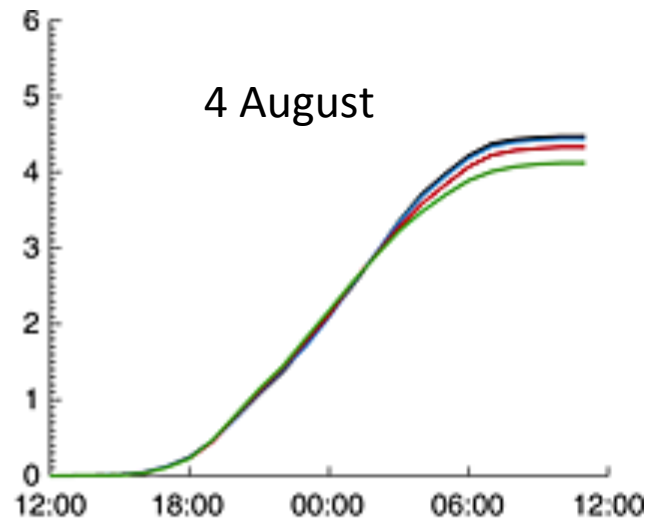
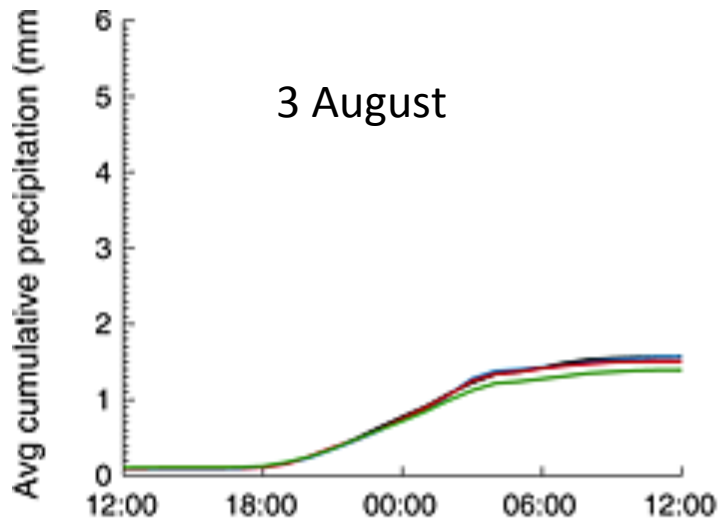


Aerosol effects on precipitation

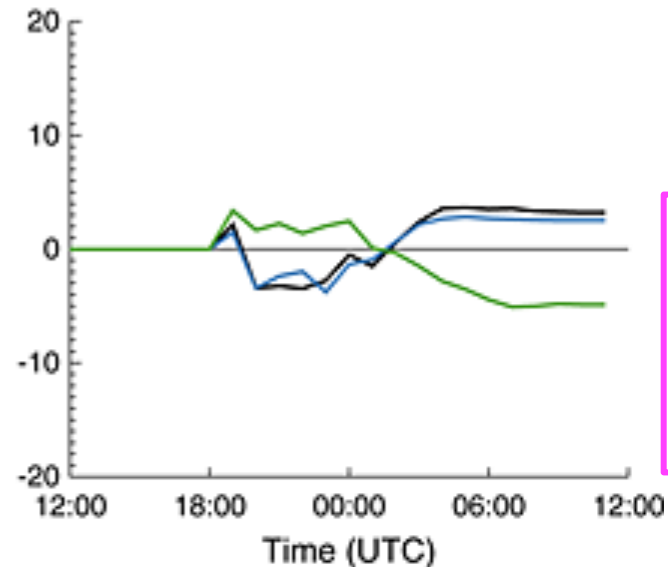
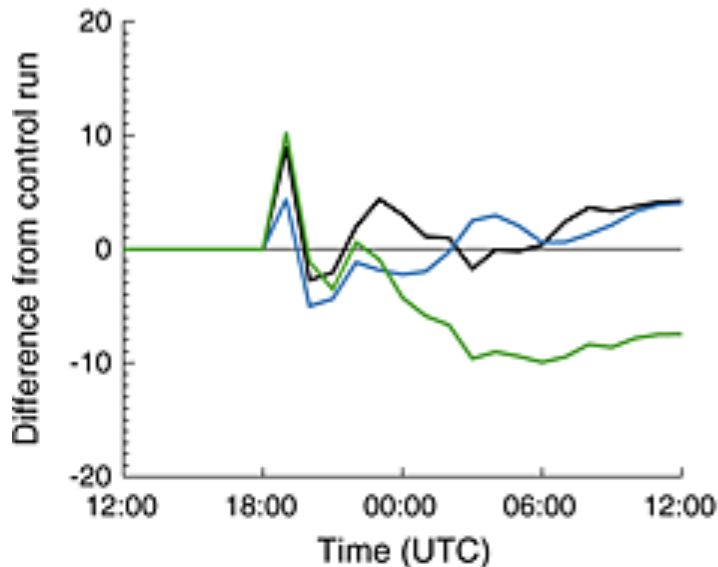
Hourly rain rate from four simulations
(simulations integration: 2-5 August)



Precipitation changes are <10%



CCN
<math>< 400 \text{ cm}^{-3}</math>
400 cm^{-3}
700 cm^{-3}
1500 cm^{-3}

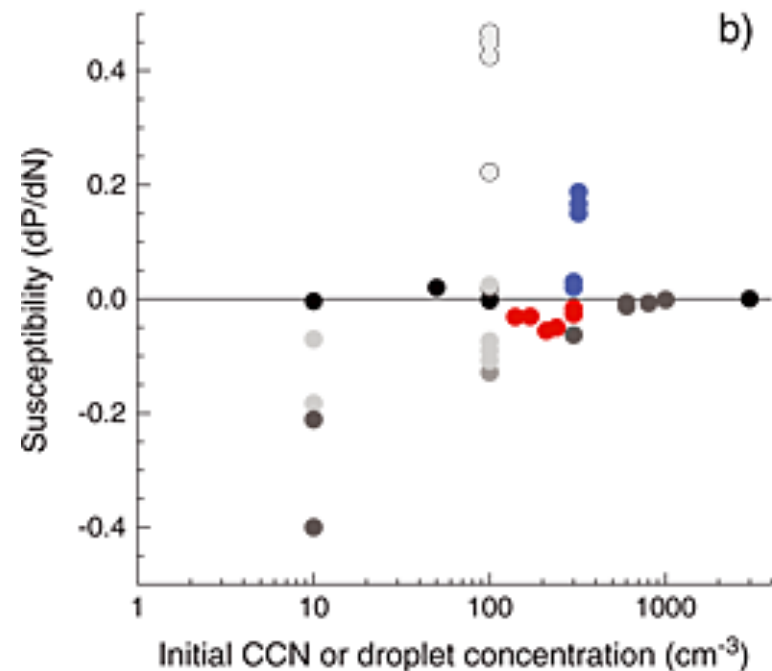
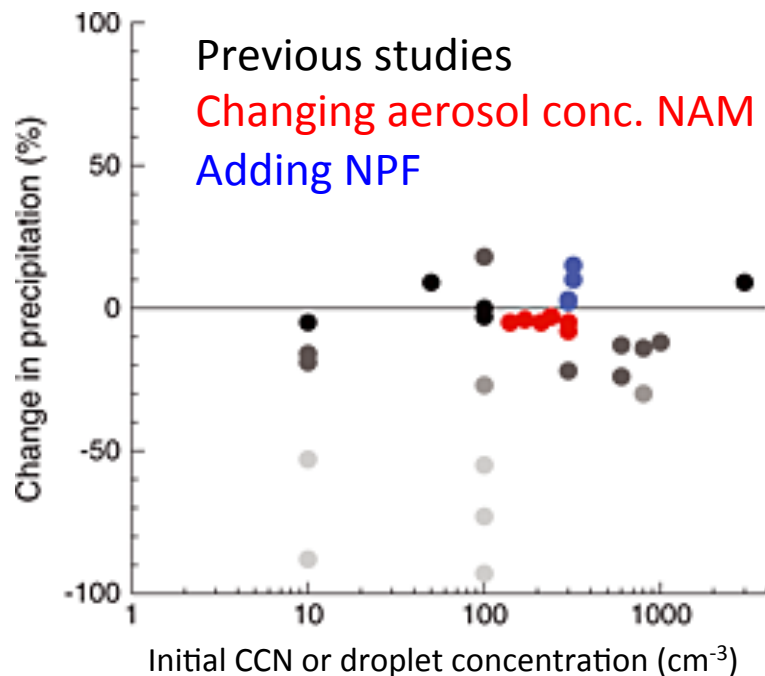


< 10% decrease
in precipitation
when N_{CCN}
increased

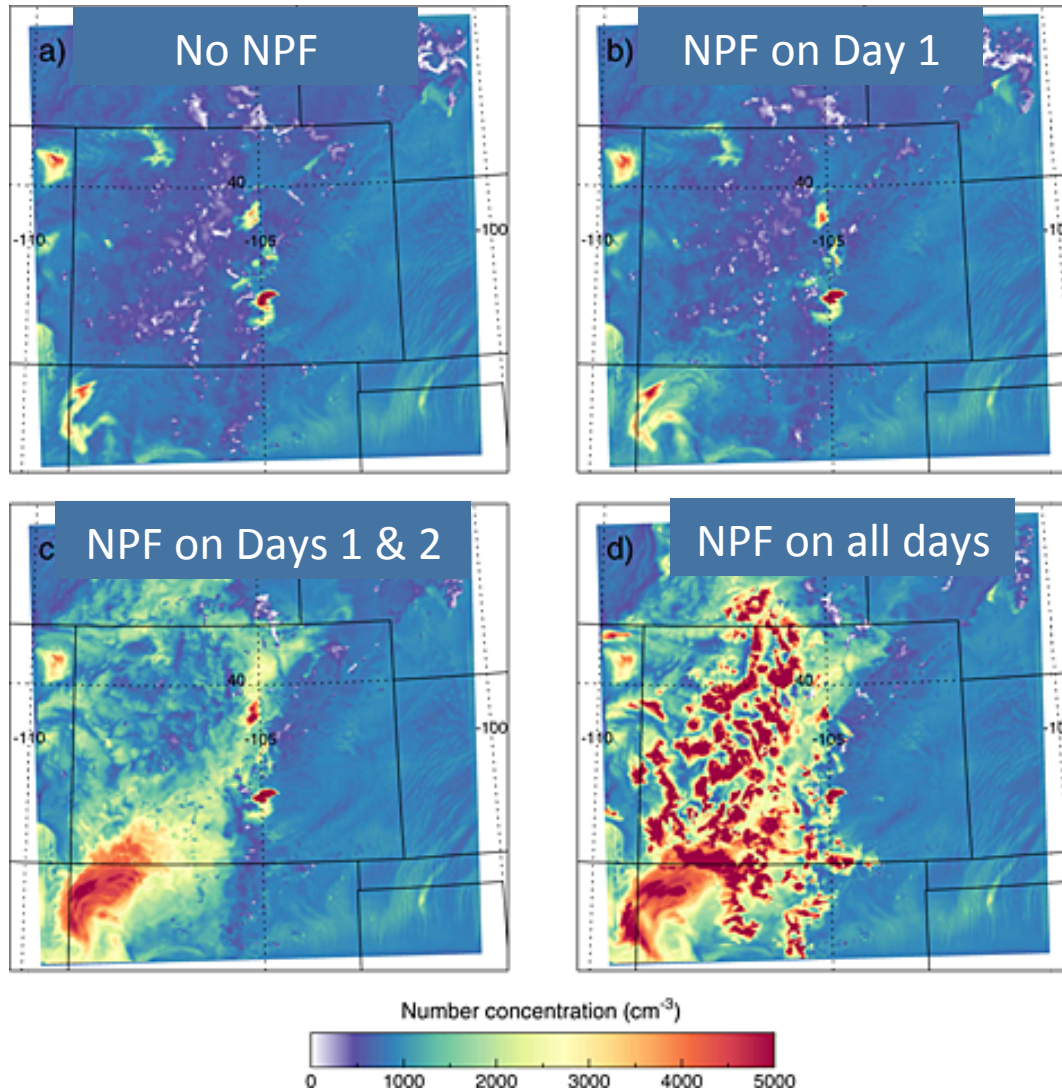
Comparison of dP and dP/dN to Previous Studies

Increasing aerosols cause small decrease in precipitation over a large region -- suggests storms occur in slightly different locations, not changing overall condition; longer simulation also captures regional effect

Similar results to two studies of Florida storm, a New Mexico storm, GATE case (ocean), frontal system in Taiwan



New Particle Formation from Biogenic Organic Compounds



Representation of NPF:

Emission rate of $0.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$

Evergreen and needleleaf forests

12-18 local time (afternoon)

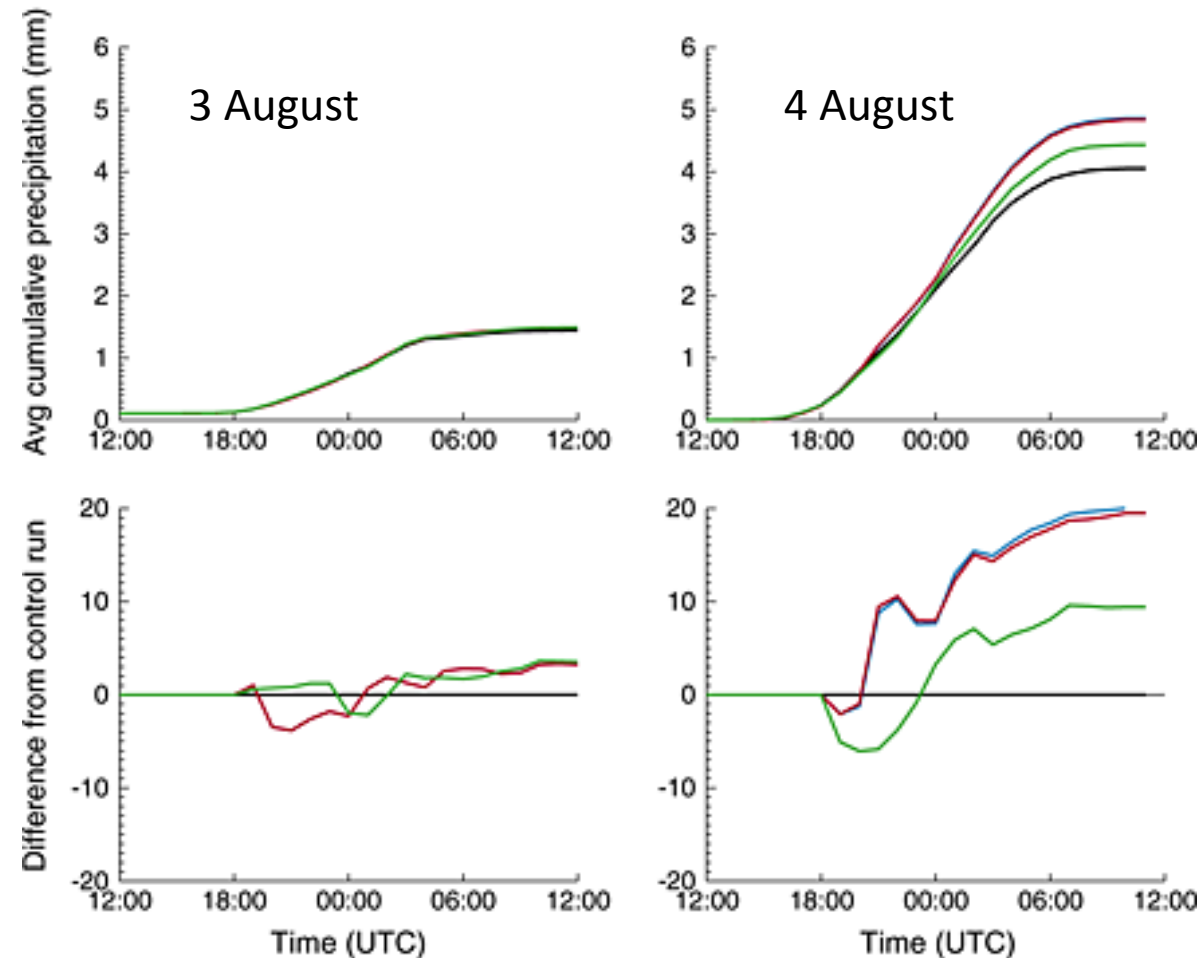
Aerosol concentrations in smallest size bin at ~ 1700 m above ground

→ Affects hygroscopicity of CCN (organic aerosols)

→ Increases cloud drop concentration

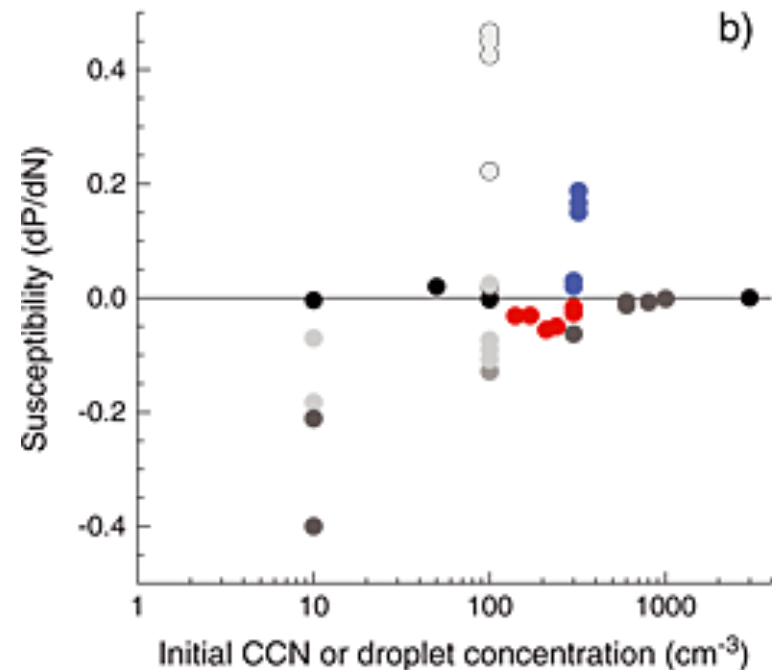
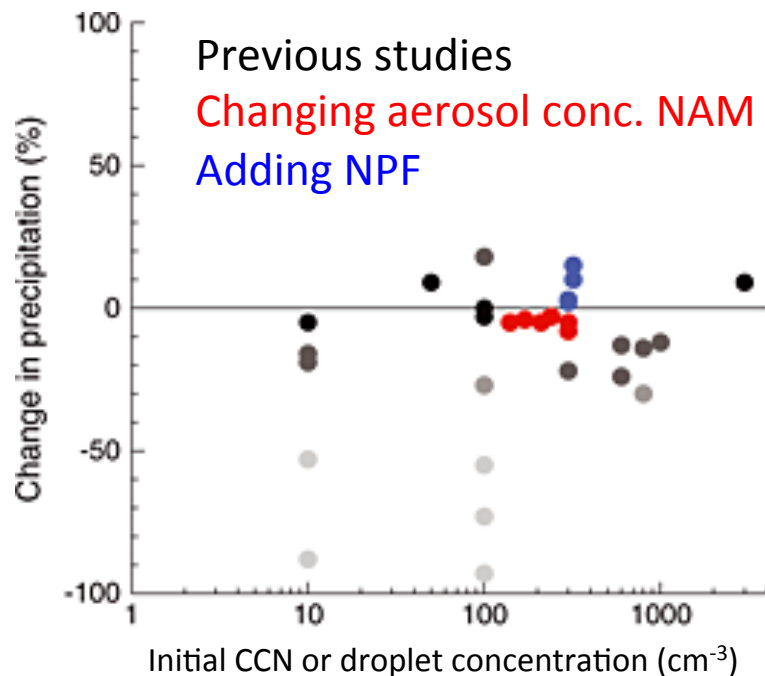
New Particle Formation Increases Precipitation

Cumulative Precipitation increases by 8-20%



Comparison of dP and dP/dN to Previous Studies

Increasing small aerosols cause increase in precipitation over a large region
-- dynamic system of meteorology, natural and anthropogenic emissions



Regional-Scale, Multi-day Simulations of Real Meteorology

Evaluation of results with observations is possible!

Challenge of doing “real meteorology” cases in representing storms and precipitation well

Small effect on precipitation when aerosol concentrations change

New particle formation may contribute to increased precipitation

These small changes in regional-scale precipitation may be of same order as changes in model parameterizations, e.g. PBL schemes, cloud physics schemes

Using WRF-Chem to Study Aerosol-Cloud Interactions

Chapman et al. (2009) implemented Abdul-Razzak and Ghan (2002) cloud droplet activation scheme to bulk cloud physics scheme in WRF → predict drop number

Technique extended to Morrison et al. (2009) double-moment cloud physics scheme

Some aerosol-cloud-precipitation CRM convection studies using WRF-Chem:

Ntelekos et al. (2009) NE United States

Fan et al. (2012, 2013, 2015)

Eidhammer et al. (2014) North America monsoon

Saide et al. (2015) SE United States tornadic event

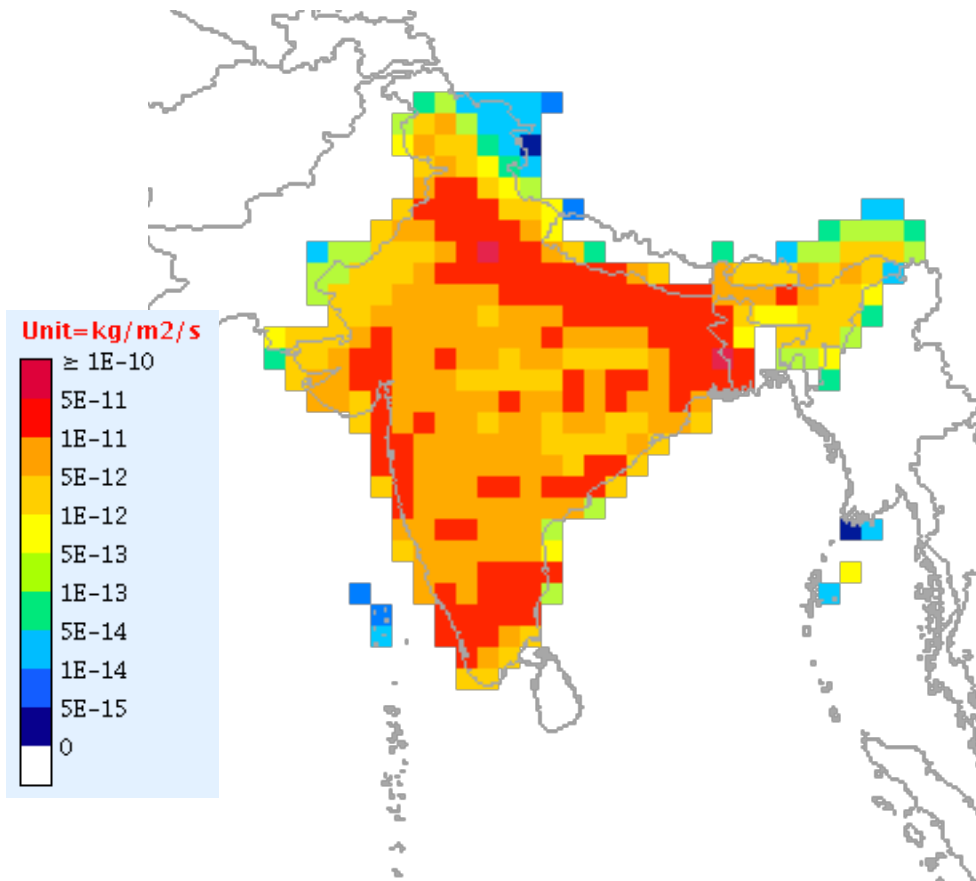
Sarangi et al. (2015) Gangetic Basin, India

Fan et al. (2015) SW China

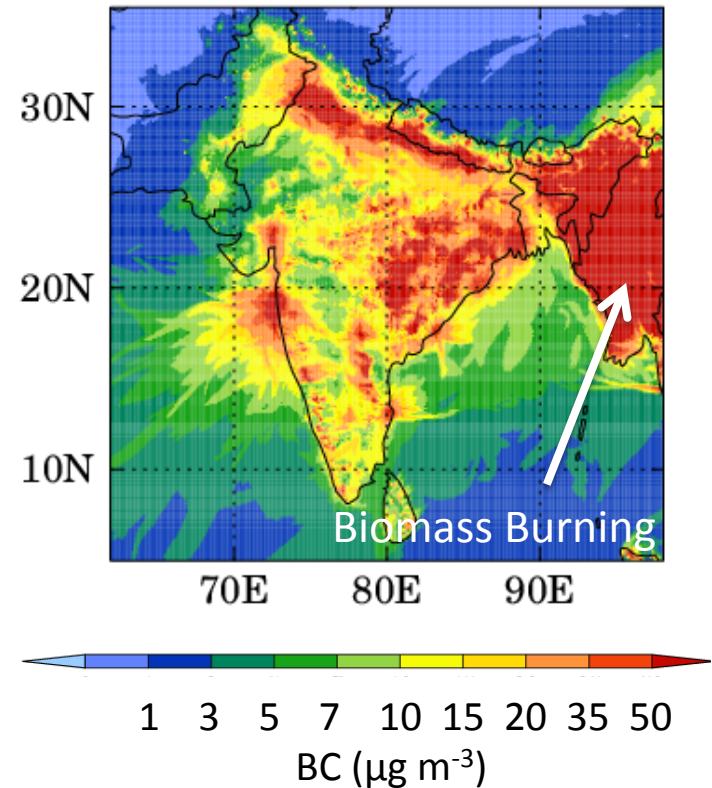
Yang et al. (2016) Central China

Regional-Scale, Multi-day Simulations for India

Anthropogenic Black Carbon Emissions for 2011 based on SAFAR inventory



Black Carbon Concentrations predicted by WRF-Chem

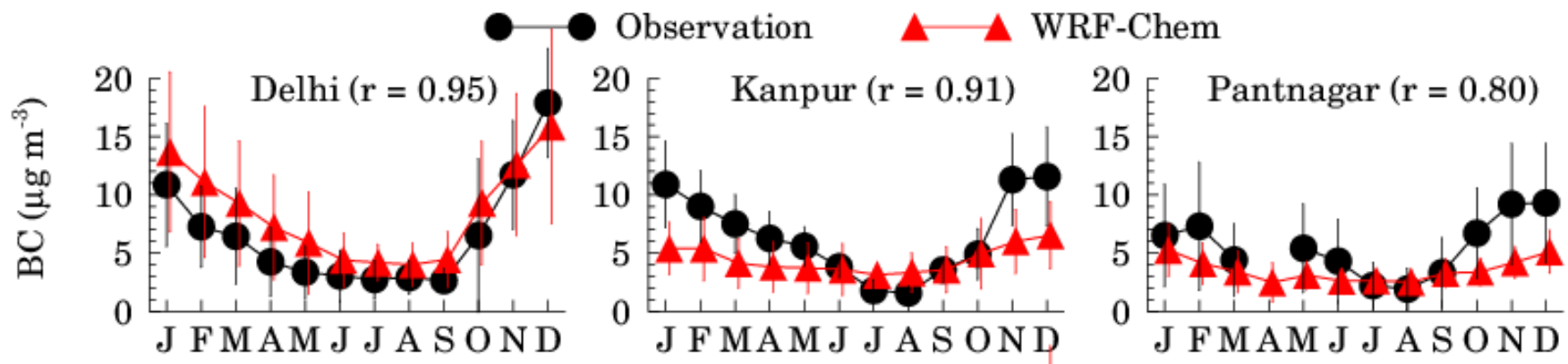


Regional-Scale, Multi-day Simulations for India

Black carbon and organic carbon contribute much more to aerosol composition

Impacts radiation (BC absorbs solar radiation)

Impacts hygroscopicity

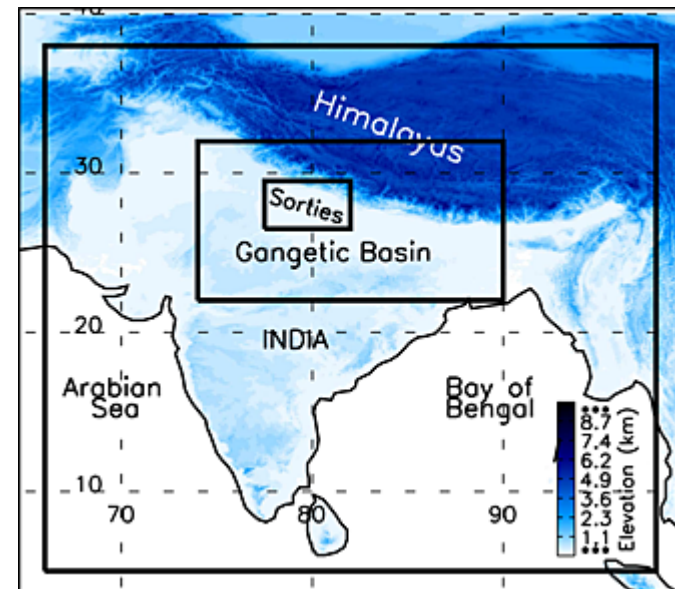


Aerosol-cloud associations over Gangetic Basin during a typical monsoon depression event using WRF-Chem simulation (Sarangi et al., 2015)

WRF-Chem simulations over 3 domains. Innermost using 3 km grid spacing
10-day simulations (3-day spin up time)
“CAIPEEX Sorties” region analyzed

Gas-phase chemistry (CBMZ) but no secondary organic aerosol production
Sectional-approach for representing aerosols (MOSAIC 4-bin)
Cloud physics is Morrison double-moment scheme with drop activation
linked to aerosols

Anthropogenic emissions from MACCity (2010) and
INTEX-B for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ (2006)
Biogenic emissions calculated online (MEGAN)
Biomass Burning emissions (NCAR FINN model)

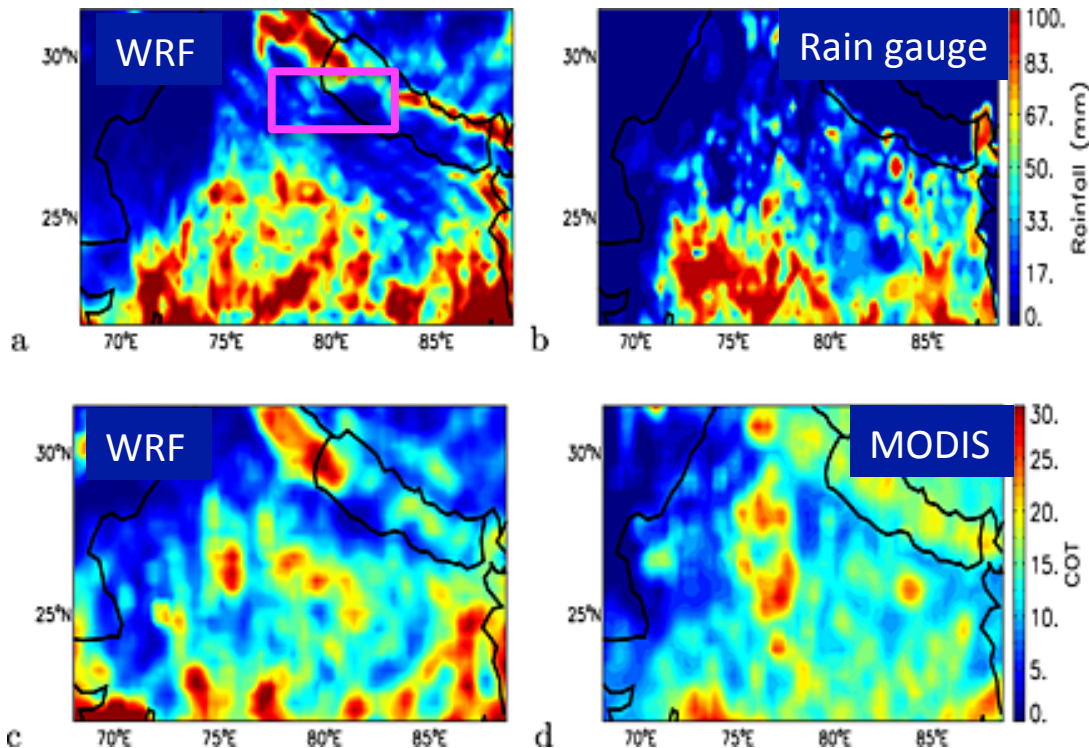


WRF-Chem Prediction of Precipitation

More precipitation predicted than observed (top)

Analysis region removes much of this overprediction

→ Challenging to represent storms as well with “real meteorology” cases



Northern India and Nepal
(top) accumulated rainfall
(bottom) cloud optical depth

Aerosol effects on monsoon convection

→ Do aerosols affect precipitation in Gangetic Plain?

In this study, aerosols affect both cloud physics and radiation

Aerosol anthropogenic emissions altered to evaluate changes

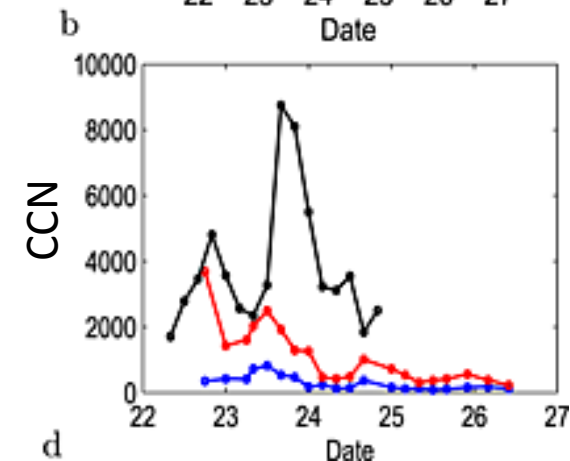
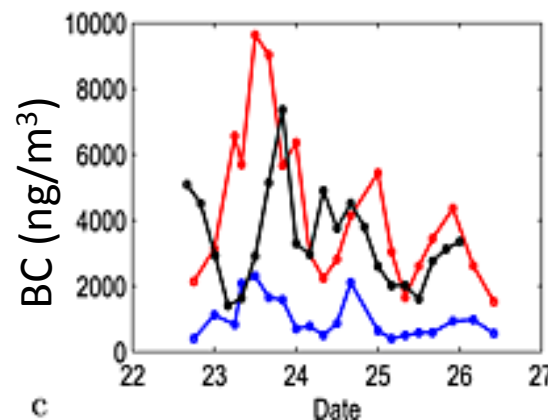
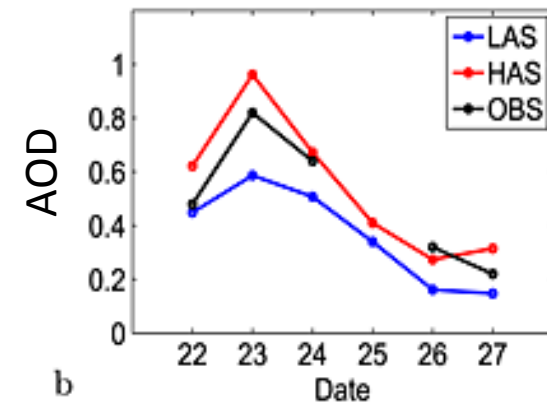
Simulations:

1. Low aerosol scenario

2. High aerosol scenario

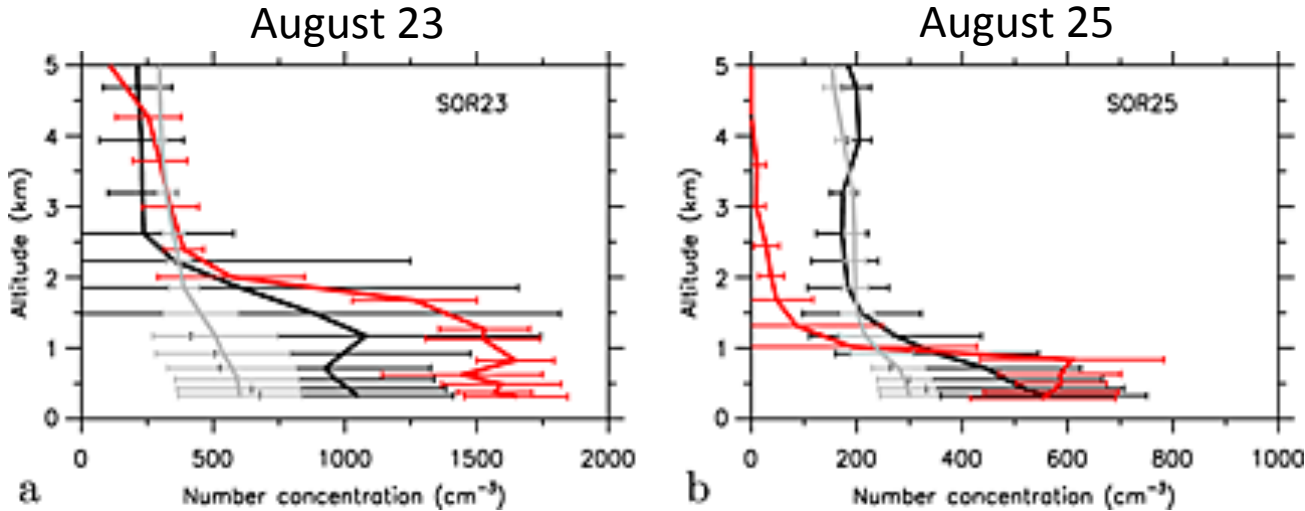
(emissions are 6x low aerosol scenario)

Compare with 2 sorties from CAIPEEX campaign



Aerosol prediction compared to aircraft data

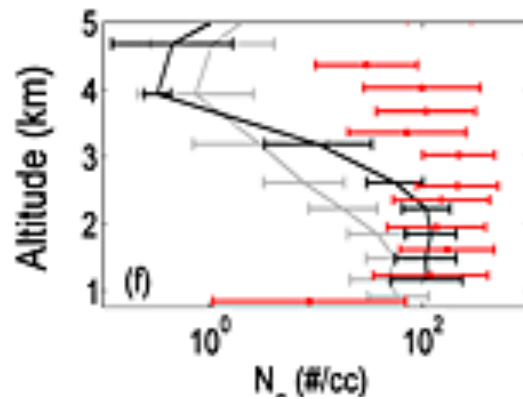
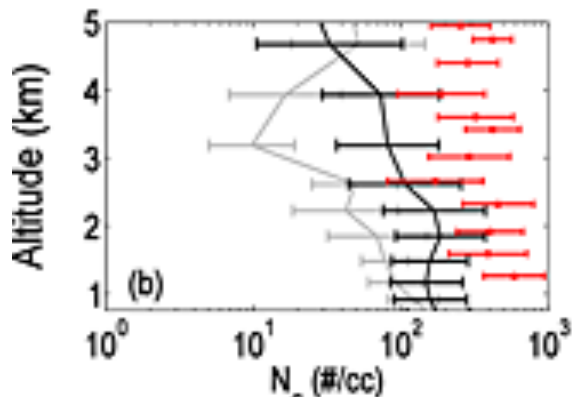
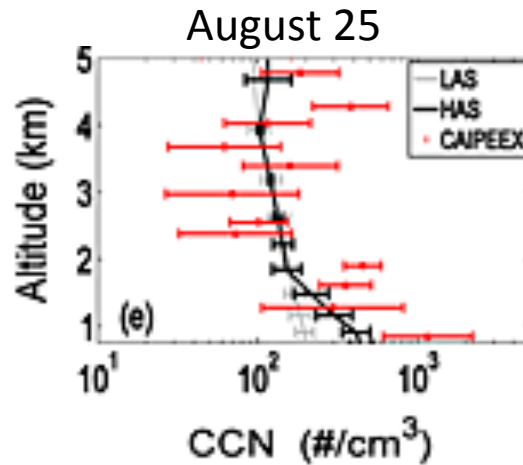
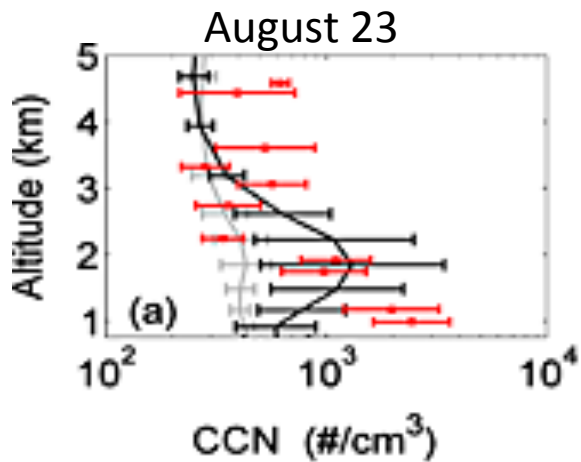
Increased aerosol emissions give better agreement with observed aerosol number concentrations from flight



High aerosol scenario
Low aerosol scenario
Observations

Aerosol affects cloud drop concentration

Increased aerosol emissions give higher CCN and cloud drop number concentrations

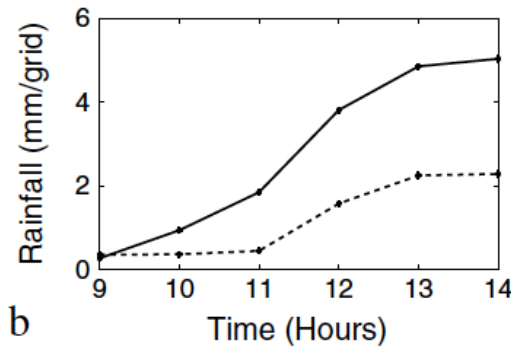
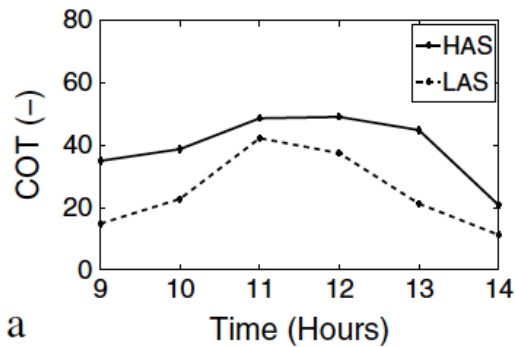


High aerosol scenario
Low aerosol scenario
Observations

Aerosol affects cloud drop concentration

Increased aerosol emissions give higher CCN and cloud drop number concentrations

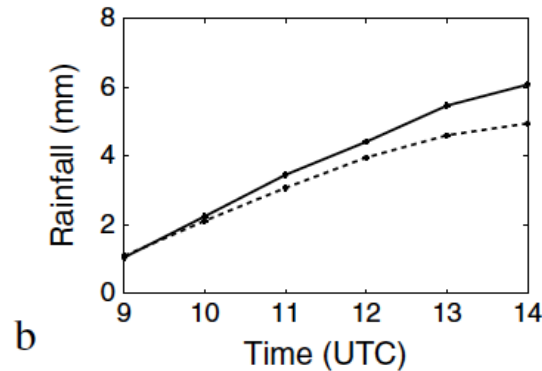
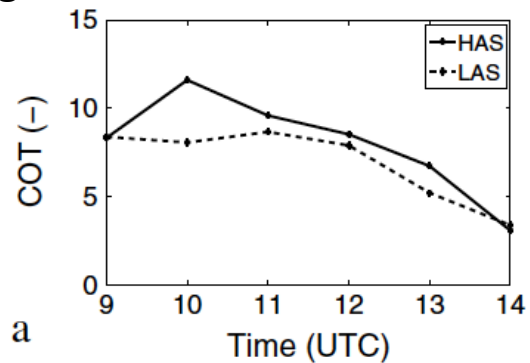
August 23



High aerosol scenario
Low aerosol scenario

More rain when
aerosol emissions are
6x greater

August 25



Higher cloud optical
thickness for high
aerosol case

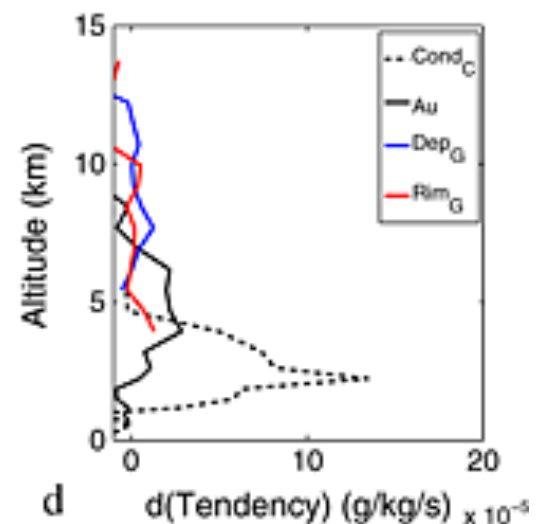
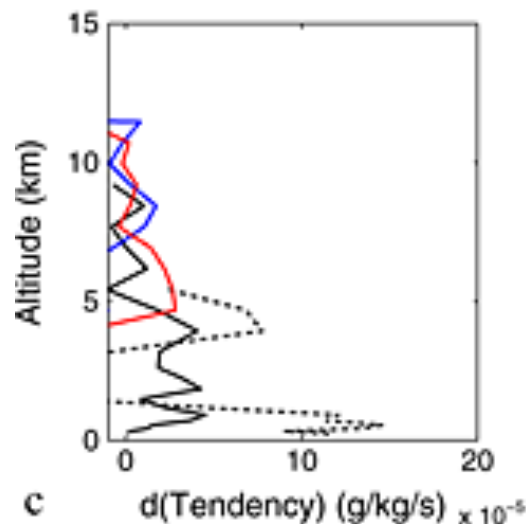
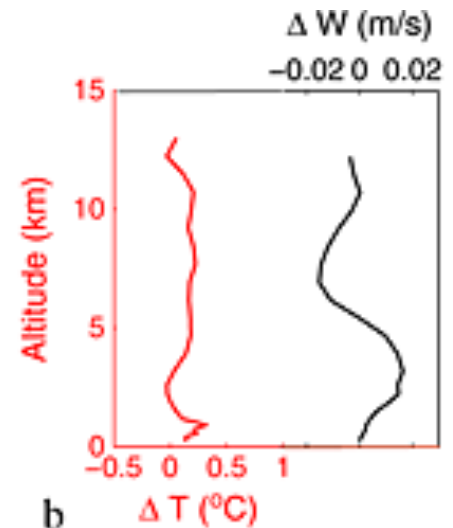
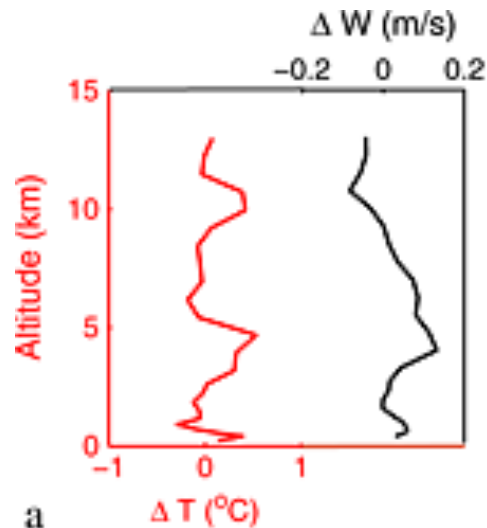
Aerosol effects on storm structure and vertical velocity

High Aerosol – Low Aerosol

Temperature changes
 CAPE increases by 300 J/kg
 and 50 J/kg
 Increase in updraft speed

High Aerosol – Low Aerosol

Condensation increases
 Riming increases
 Conversion from drops to
 rain increases



August 23

August 25

Regional-Scale, Multi-day Simulations over Gangetic Plain

Increasing Aerosol Concentrations in boundary layer via emissions:

BC aerosol in PBL is absorbing radiation, heating PBL

- increase in mean temperature and convective available potential energy (CAPE)
- Formation of more, smaller cloud drops near cloud base
- Both processes increased updraft velocities below the freezing level
- Increased upward flux of cloud drops to mixed phase region, increases riming and cloud top height
- Downdraft also intensifies (increased water loading)

- Aerosol-induced cloud invigoration

Although aerosols were removed by precipitation during the first day (August 23), they were quickly replaced by the aerosol emissions

Mechanisms Proposed to Explain Precipitation Changes by Increasing Aerosol Concentrations

Increased Aerosol Concentrations Cause Decreased Precipitation:

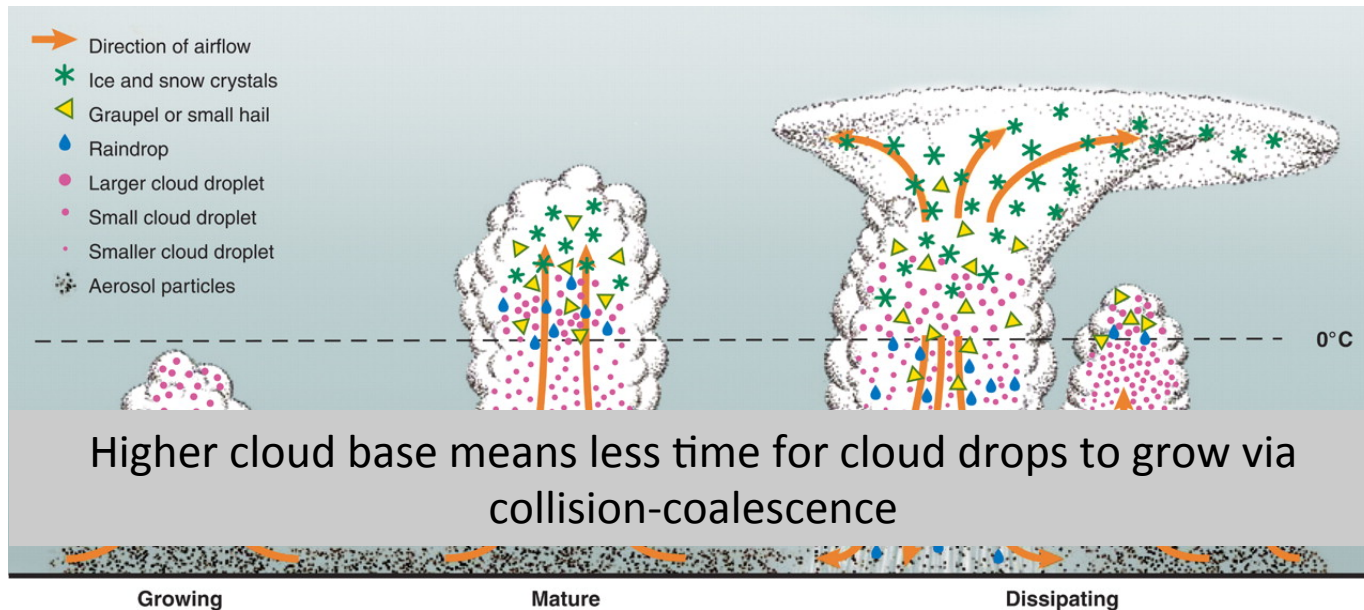
1. Less efficient collision-coalescence for producing rain due to more aerosols activating to produce more small cloud drops

Increased Aerosol Concentrations Cause Increased Precipitation:

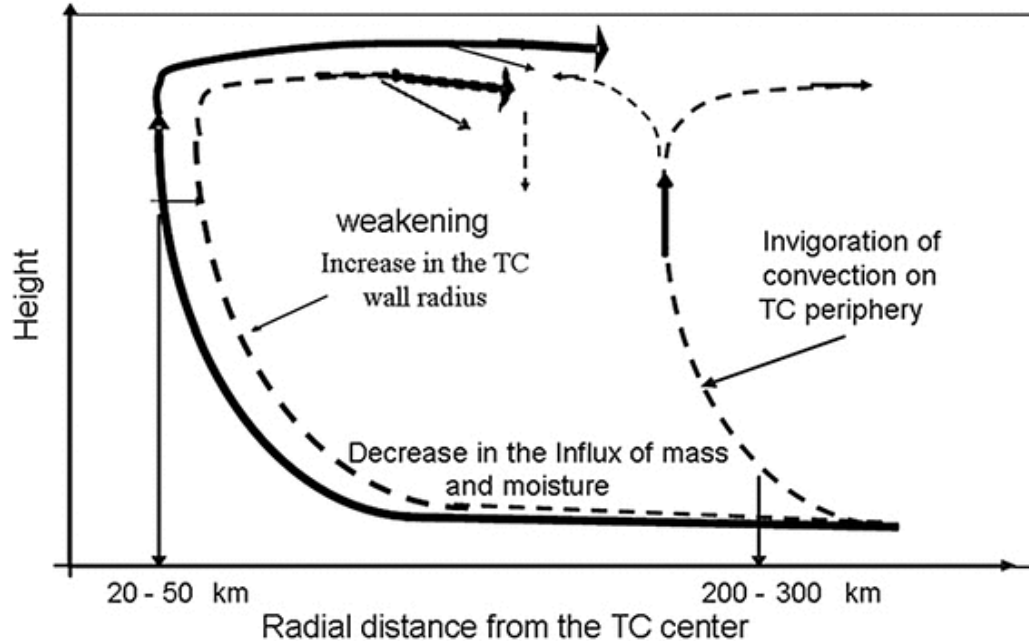
1. *Latent heat – Dynamic Effect*: small cloud drops lofted to above freezing level; Freezing of drops releases latent heat, enhancing updrafts
2. *Cool Pool Effect*: stronger evaporative cooling from more, but smaller, raindrops enhances strength of cold pool; interactions with wind shear can invigorate updrafts and convection
3. *Cold Microphysics Effect*: higher CCN concentrations increases total water content condensed enhancing ice physics processes – can lead to more or less precipitation

Other Factors to Consider in Explaining Precipitation Changes by Increasing Aerosol Concentrations

1. Relative Humidity – dry environment or moist environment
2. Wind shear
3. Cloud type – small clouds versus deep clouds and systems of storms
4. Type of aerosol – absorbing aerosols affect the thermodynamics of environment
5. Depth from cloud base to freezing level (warm cloud depth)



Schematic Depicting How Aerosols Affect Tropical Cyclones



- Invigorates outer rainbands
- Decreases the influx of mass and moisture to the center of the TC
- Weakens tropical cyclone convection in the wall of the eye
- Increases the radius of the eye