Dear Editor-in-Chief,

please find in this document our responses to the reviewer #2 of our manuscript.

We thank the reviewer #1 for his/her valuable and constructive suggestions, which led to significant improvements of the quality of our manuscript. Below we detailed how their comments are addressed in the revised version of the manuscript. The corrections made in the manuscript and cited in this document appear in italic.

Review of egusphere-2023-1224 : Role of thermodynamic and turbulence processes on the fog life cycle during SOFOF3D

This manuscript presents case studies of four of the heaviest fog events from the SOFOG3D field experiment in Southern France during autumn / winter 2019/20. The field experiment deployed a wide range of in-situ and remote sensing instruments and so the fog events are well documented. A conceptual model for fog previously developed for another site (Toledo et al, 2021) is used to interpret the observations and help to understand the physical processes leading to the onset, development and dissipation of fog in each case. The observational data clearly represents a novel and valuable resource for studying fog, however I have some questions / suggestions regarding the interpretation of the results and the presentation of the work which I feel need addressing before the manuscript can be published.

Major comments

1) Case study papers such as this can often be very descriptive – simply documenting what is seen. While there is value in this, more impact usually comes from the interpretation of the results to learn something new about the underlying physical processes or to identify biases in models. The authors have attempted to do this through the use of the conceptual model, but I still felt that this was only partly successful. The description of the four cases takes up much of the paper and includes the quoting of lots of figures in the text. This is quite hard to read, and by describing each case separately it is hard to compare the figures. A lot of the figures are summarised in table 2. I wonder if they need to all be given in the text as well? Shortening the descriptions in the text would help focus on what was different / interesting about each case.

We agree with the reviewer that the description of the four case studies is quite long. This is explained by the fact that the objective of this paper is to properly document the physical processes driving each fog phase during it evolution and for each case study. Each case study is associated with specific processes driving the evolution of the fog phases. However, we have reduced the description of the case studies and improve the quality of the text. In the review version of the manuscript, we give a detailed analysis of the case study 1 and shortened the three other cases.

2) The paper talks about the "conceptual model" and how it can be used for nowcasting, but I struggled to make this link. So far as I can see, what is being presented is a series of diagnostics based on some assumptions about the structure of the fog. These can be used to understand what is happening in the fog, but not necessarily to make predictions about when and how the fog will change. I would suggest that i) you make clear this is a diagnostic model and ii) you either explain how this can be used for nowcasting or remove the references to this. The results seem to suggest that the model diagnoses dissipation an hour or so before the observations show it, but it is not clear to me whether this is due to any real predictive power (i.e. detecting precursors of dissipation) or just because of the different definitions of dissipation used. Either way it gives at most an hour's advanced warning of dissipation, which is of some use, but is a rather limited nowcasting tool.

We agree with the reviewer that the conceptual model used in this paper serve as a diagnostic for the understanding of fog evolution phases. When the fog is quite developed, the model allows the monitoring of the different fog phases. It is not a numerical weather forecasting model that can be used for nowcasting but rather a basic tool that can be used in nowcasting. In the new version of the manuscript, we presented the model as a nowcasting tool.

3) What is the new understanding this paper gives us? We know that radiation fog occurs on its own or sometimes as radiation-advection fog. These are nice case studies of these processes, but it's not clear to me what new understanding we get from them. Can you articulate that clearly both in the introduction (i.e. what the aim of the paper is) and in the conclusions?

This study is the first documenting fog thermodynamical processes driving the fog evolution phases over the southwestern France. It highlights the main physical processes (advection, mechanical and thermal turbulence) driving fog evolution.

We have reviewed in the introduction and conclusions of the manuscript, the parts presenting the objective of this paper. The following modifications are added in the introduction. "In particular, the role of horizontal advection, atmospheric stability and turbulence is further analyzed to better identify the drivers of fog phases. "(Lines 89-90) and in the conclusions section "Based on an innovative instrumental synergy combining in-situ and remote sensing measurements gathered in an adiabatic fog conceptual model, this study has documented the dynamical (advection) and thermodynamical (atmospheric stability, turbulence) processes favoring fog formation, evolution and dissipation of two categories of fog (radiation and radiation-advection) over Southwestern France." Line 543-548

4) The use of remote sensing does give valuable information on the vertical structure of the atmosphere, but these instruments do have some limitations in terms of vertical resolution and lowest range gate. In particular the lowest range gate for the radar is 37.5m and for the wind profiler it is 40m. Often fog can be shallow than this and so you are likely missing the early stages of the fog and also cases of shallow fog which does not deepen.

We are aware that the remote sensing used in this paper has limitations on the vertical resolution. Although the radar does not allow to see with precision the very thin fogs (CTH \leq 37.5 m), we are able to define fog onset using the horizontal visibility at near surface.

To complete the information from the wind lidar, we used the TKE at 3 m from the mast. In addition, an instrumented mast on several levels up to 50 m a.g.l was installed at the supersite at the start of the campaign. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by the storm Amélie on November 3, 2019. For the rest of the campaign, only the firsts levels (2 m and 3 m) were maintained. The remote sensing information is valuable when the fog thickness is well developed vertically.

5) The lowest range gate and resolution for the microwave radiometer (MWR) are not given. You mention that lower angle scans were done as well as vertical stares in order to improve vertical resolution. It's not clear what has been presented here in the results though. Do they use a combination? The low angle scans improve vertical resolution, but at the expense of spreading the profile out in the horizontal. Is this important given the heterogeneity at the site? The MWR is also doing an inversion calculation using neural networks to retrieve the temperature and humidity profiles. In my experience this can often smear / smooth out the profiles compared to radiosondes. You can see your profiles are very smooth curves (unrealistically so). This can be particularly important when looking at features like inversions. Can you comment on this in the context of your results? It might be worth mentioning this as a cave at to the reader.

As MWRs are passive instruments, there is no real limitation in the vertical. However, that is true that, depending on the weighting functions, the information content of the instrument can be

degraded depending on the altitude. For channels used for temperature profiling, most of the information content is located within the first 4 km of altitude, most of the information being contained within the first kilometer. The information content of the instrument can be increased by adding measurements at several elevation angles from approximately 5° above ground in addition to the zenith angle. Temperature profiles shown in this study were retrieved from the MWR measurements made at all elevation angles (the lower elevations angles added to measurements at zenith). That is true that, to be rigorous, low elevation angles should be used when the atmosphere is supposed to be homogeneous in the horizontal at a distance of approximately 1 km (in which the first 500 meters are the most important) around the instrument. Several studies have demonstrated that, even in complex terrain in which this assumption is violated, boundary layer scans can still improve the temperature profile accuracy within the first kilometer compared to radiosoundings (Martinet et al, 2017). In this study, the homogeneity assumption should be respected as the terrain around the MWR is completely flat with no surface heterogeneity (it is entirely representative of cultivated fields). The addition of boundary layer scans for this study is thus beneficial in regards to the improved vertical resolution compared to using only zenith measurements.

When boundary layer scans are used, the expected vertical resolution of the instrument is around 50 to 100m for the first gates. The vertical resolution then degrades with altitude up to 500m at 1km. Temperature profiles retrieved from MWRs are thus smooth in line with the spread of the weighting functions. However, MWRs profiles are used in this study only to identify the evolution of fog between formation, stable, unstable and dissipation phases during well developed fog cases. To that end, the main proxy is the temperature gradient within the first 100 meters and the temporal evolution of this gradient which is well resolved by the MWR.

References

Martinet, P., Cimini, D., De Angelis, F., Canut, G., Unger, V., Guillot, R., Tzanos, D., and Paci, A.: Combining ground-based microwave radiometer and the AROME convective scale model through 1DVAR retrievals in complex terrain: an Alpine valley case study, Atmos. Meas. Tech., 10, 3385–3402, https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-10-3385-2017, 2017.

6) Paragraph at lines 140-147. I was a bit confused what was installed where here. Are the Licor IRGAs at 3m and the sonic anemometers at 10m? Why not mounted at the same height so you can get latent as well as sensible heat fluxes and also use the water vapour to correct the sonic temperature to the true temperature? If at different heights, how do you get the temperature from the Licor? The Licor's are good for measuring rapid fluctuations in water vapour, but have a tendency to drift over time so are not necessarily good for measuring absolute values of humidity without regular calibration. Was this done? They also suffer from issues with water on the lens in rain / fog which can impact on the data quality. Was this an issue? So far as I can see you don't actually use the high frequency water vapour measurements anyway? Later on you plot TKE at 3m (figs 4f, 6f, 8f, 10f) which seems inconsistent with having the sonic anemometer at 10m?

We agree with the review that as written in the paper there is a bit confusion on the installation of the Licor and the sonic anemometer. These two instruments were installed at the same level (3 m a.g.l). Yes, the Licor was calibrated according to the manufacturer's specifications. This calibration was done 15 days before it installation. The humidity problem on the Licor has not been resolved. We haven't data when the automatic gain control (AGC of the sensor is too high meaning the presence of large droplets. This installation was completed by a slow Vaisala HMP110 humidity senso to obtain an absolute value.

We corrected on the reviewed version of the paper as "Meteo-France installed in a fallow field near the supersite, several sensors as Licor analyzers and sonic anemometers to continuously measure the near-surface (3 m a.g.l) meteorological conditions (air temperature and relative humidity), the three components of the wind, and pressure at 0.3 m a.g.l). These instruments provided high frequency data at 20 Hz. In this study, to document turbulence and thermodynamical processes

driving fog phases, we use sensible heat flux (SHF), turbulence kinetic energy (TKE), and vertical velocity variance (σ_w^2). These variables are estimated using the Eddy-covariance methods (Foken et al., 2004, Mauder et al., 2013) calculated every 30 minutes after a high quality control of the data. More details on the data can be found in Canut, 2020. "Lines 138-145.

7) In figs 4f, 6f, 8f and 10f you plot TKE from both the sonic anemometer at a point and averaged over layers (from the lidar). How comparable are these values given the different sampling intervals and sampling volumes of the two instruments? It might be worth mentioning that these lines are from very different instruments and so might not be directly comparable.

Our objective isn't to compare the two TKE estimates but rather to see the consistency of the two instruments in the estimate of turbulence considering the same time interval (30 minutes) to see the vertical evolution of the turbulence by combining the information from these two instruments. Their consistency provides information on the quantification of turbulence from near surface up to 220 m a.g.l. Based on the temporal resolution used for the restitution of the TKE and from light to moderate turbulence, the two instruments should approximately detect the same eddies although the vertical resolution of the lidar (20 m) larger then the sonic anemometer. This is what we observed in figs 4f, 6f, 8f and 10f.

8) Section 2.1.4. I found this section a bit unclear. I appreciate the authors do not want to reproduce the whole conceptual model here, but there needs to be sufficient detail for the reader to understand the results. The split between the paper and the appendix also seemed slightly arbitrary at times. For example, the critical LWP is a key parameter in determining the RLWP, but this is only defined in the appendix.

For a good understanding of the methodology, we accept the reviewer's suggestion to put the critical LWP estimation method in the paper instead of in the appendix. In the reviewed version of the manuscript, we added the paragraph A4 after equation 2. Lines 241-252.

Minor comments

1) Title "SOFOF3D" → "SOFOG3D"

This has been corrected. Line 2

2) Line 189. "becomes" \rightarrow "has become"

This has been corrected. Line 189

3) Lines 243-244. "The RLWP gives information about the predictability of fog dissipation time at nowcasting range." - I don't agree with this as written. It does not give information about the predictability at all. What it tells you is whether the fog is likely to begin dissipating due to insufficient water vapour to maintain the surface visibility below 1000m.

The RLWP provides an estimation of the excess/deficit of water of fog in near real time that enables the fog layer to remain at the surface or dissipate. It can be used as a diagnostic to estimate how likely fog persistence is for the coming minutes, hours, based on its instantaneous values and its trend. This really conduct to fog dissipation nowcasting tool. We reworded this sentence for a further understanding of the used of the RLWP in this study as "*The RLWP gives an estimation of the excess/deficit of liquid water of the fog that enables the fog layer to remain at surface or dissipate. It can be used as a diagnostic of how likely the fog will persist in the coming minutes, hours (nowcasting of fog dissipation time).*" Line 258-261

4) Line 249. "expectation" \rightarrow "inspection"?

Yes, we mean 'inspection'. Line 266

5) Line 255-256. "At the supersite, the LWP observed during that transition is lower than the threshold at SIRTA (LWP > 30 g m-2)". Why might this be the case? Is it differences in the

topography affecting the depth of the fog layer or is it differences in the processes causing fog in this region?

This difference could be explained by the environments surrounding the two sites. The SIRTA is a peri-urban site under the influence of pollution from road traffic, heating etc. This pollution can contribute to the load of the atmospheric boundary layer in condensation nuclei favoring thick fogs with (visibility < 100 m). "La Charbonnière" is a rural site less polluted and under the influence of the Atlantic Ocean, mountains and lands forests.

6) Line 263 "triggered" → "were triggered" This has been corrected. Line 280

7) Line 314. How do you calculate a deep and strong inversion of 14°C km -1 ? I cannot see that big a temperature difference in the figures. This figure is quoted elsewhere in the paper too.

The inversion is calculated base the difference between temperatures at the base and top heights. The base is defined as the level that the air temperature start to increase and the top corresponds to the level that the temperature start again to decrease. We corrected in the reviewed version of the manuscript. The inversion magnitude is around 8 $^{\circ}$ C km⁻¹. Line 332.

8) Line 316. How do you know this is a low-level jet? The wind field plotted show wind increasing with height. There is no evidence I can see that this is a jet. It might be, but I don't think the observations show it.

Based on identical wind configuration between the IOPs 5 and 6 from the wind Lidar, we look at the radiosoundings of IOP 6. The vertical profiles of wind observed before fog onset show a low-level jet (see figure 1 below) on January 5, 2020 at 18:00 and 21:43 UTC. The jet core height is at around 500 m a.g.l. We based on this case study to assert that there is indeed a low-level jet for IOP 5. The same observations are also observed for IOP 11 and 14.



Figure 1: Vertical profiles of wind speed (left) and wind direction (right) from the radiosoundings lunched at the supersite during IOP6. The 4 first digit number of the legend indicate the date in MMDD and the last 4 digit number the time in hhmm. MM for month, DD for day, hh for hour and mm for minute. The times are in UTC.

9) Line 323. "very low radiative cooling rate". You don't actually measure or plot the radiative cooling rate. I assume you just mean the rate at which the temperature decreases and you are

assuming this is all due to radiative cooling? Since you only have the SHF at one height you can't rule out there being some flux divergence leading to warming. Just be careful about how you describe this.

We mean "cooling rate" instead of "radiative cooling rate". We corrected in the reviewed version of the manuscript. "*low negative near surface cooling rate* ". Line 340

10) Line 356-357. This sentence is confusingly worded. What you mean is "At the supersite, in the absence of any cloud above the fog layer, the fog dissipates after sunrise".

We accepted the suggestion and modified this sentence in the reviewed version of the manuscript "*At the supersite, in the absence of any cloud above the fog layer, the fog dissipates after sunrise.*". Line 371-372

11) Line 362. You talk about "thermal turbulence" in several places, but this can actually be referring to two different processes – either turbulence generated at the top of the dense fog layer due to radiative cooling overnight or turbulence generated at the surface due to solar heating after sunrise. I would be a bit more specific when you talk about thermal turbulence which process you mean.

Here, we mean thermal turbulence by the turbulence generated by the solar heating after sunrise. We reworded this sentence as "*The fog dissipation phase is induced by the increase of the vertical mixing generated by the thermal (solar heating) and mechanical turbulence associated with TKE values larger than 0.4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2} (Fig. 4f)." Line 376-378*

12) Line 390. "Thin fog (71m)". This is a very precise value given the vertical resolution of the remote sensing instrumentation. This comment applies in general through the paper when giving heights of the fog top / cloud top.

All fog thickness values given in the text were averaged in a time range. We agree that 71 m is not in the range of the Radar vertical resolution. We corrected taking the Radar closest gate to the CTH mean computed.

13) Line 392. "associated with decrease" \rightarrow "are associated with a decrease"

We reworded this part of the manuscript following the first suggestion of the reviewer.

14) Line 421. "fog layer with fall" \rightarrow "fog layer that then fall"

We reworded this part based on the suggestion of reviewer 1 and your suggestion for shortening the description of the IOPs. Line 402-403

15) Line 422. "gravity" \rightarrow "size"? It's not the gravity of the snowflakes which is important it is their weight / size leading to a higher fall speed under the action of the Earth's gravity.

Yes, we mean the size instead of gravity. Thank. Line 402-403

16) Line 460. "low intensity of about 3°C". What does this mean? Do you mean the inversion strength?

Here, we means the temperature inversion strength. Following your first suggestion in major comments section, we reworded this part in the reviewed version of the manuscript.

17) Line 460-461. "from 20:40 UTC and 23:00 UTC" \rightarrow "from 20:40 UTC to 23:00 UTC" or "between 20:40 UTC and 23:00 UTC".

We mean "from 20:40 UTC to 23:00 UTC" but this paragraph is reworded in the reviewed version of the manuscript as you suggested in your first suggestion in major comments section.

18) Line 485. "sustainable dissipation". What does this mean? Do you mean a sustained dissipation rather than a temporary increase in visibility?

In the previous version of the manuscript, we mean by "sustainable dissipation" a "*definitive dissipation*" of the fog. Line 436

19) Line 489. "Advected air mass" \rightarrow "The advected air mass"

We corrected this part following the suggestions of the two reviewers. "Increasing wind aloft brings warm drier air over the top of the fog that then mixed into it (TKE = $0.33 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$ and $\sigma_w^2 = 0.07 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$), evaporating fog droplets, reducing the RLWP to negative values and causing the fog to lift into low stratus. The fog dissipation phase is thus driven by the advection of warm air at the supersite (Fig. 7e)." Line 426-430

20) Line 494. "resulting to the evolution as a stratus" \rightarrow "resulting in the evolution of the fog into a stratus cloud".

This has been corrected in the previous comment.

21) Line 507. "ftime" → "time"

We reworded this part of the manuscript following the first suggestion in major comments section of the reviewer.

22) Line 507. "such as in" \rightarrow "as in"

We reworded this part of the manuscript following the first suggestion in major comments section of the reviewer.

23) Line 518-520. How do the the occurrence of middle and high clouds allow the identification of this as a radiative-advective fog case? I don't follow the logic in this sentence.

We known that middle clouds are associated with a change in weather (advection of air mass). They are observed at the supersite when the stratus fog formed.

24) Line 532-533. "Therefore, ..." How does this sentence follow on from the previous sentence? I don't follow the logic.

We reworded this part of the manuscript following the first suggestion in major comments section of the reviewer.

25) Line 617. "04:00 and 06:40" → "04:00 and 06:40 hours". Same on line 619.

This has been corrected. Line 516 and 518

26) Line 623. "fog adiabatic by closure parameter" → "fog adiabatic closure parameter"

This has been corrected. Line 522

27) Line 672-676. Not sure I agree. You have shown these instruments are useful to understand the processes. You've not demonstrated how they help with nowcasting, or indeed that you would need all of them for that. It's a lot to install at a site for nowcasting.

We reworded this part by highlighting the usefulness of having these instruments to monitor fog in near real-time. Monitoring fog is the basis of it nowcasting. This is the added-value of how these instruments can help to nowcasting fog.

We reworded this part as

"Indeed, this paper highlights that fog nowcasting tools in this region needs in addition to the numerical weather prediction models, a cloud radar, a microwave radiometer, a wind lidar, a surface energy balance, and meteorological stations. Operationalizing these instruments would allow to improve fog nowcasting, which will reduce its socioeconomic impacts in this region." Line 590-594

28) Table 2. "Fog top height (FTH)". You only use this phrase / abbreviation in the table. In the text you talk about CTH. Be consistent.

This has been corrected in the new version of the manuscript. We used CTH (cloud top height). See Table 2 and line 874.