Numerical Simulation of Aerosol Concentration Effects on Cloud Spectral Evolutions of Warm Stratiform Clouds in Jiangxi, China

Yi Li[1,2], Xiaoli Liu[1,2*], Hengjia Cai[1,2]

[1] China Meteorological Administration Aerosol-Cloud and Precipitation Key Laboratory, Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, Nanjing 210044, China.

[2] College of Atmospheric Physics, Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, Nanjing 210044, China.

Correspondence to: Xiaoli Liu (liuxiaoli2004y@nuist.edu.cn)

Abstract.

Aerosols, as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN), may impact cloud droplet spectrum relative dispersion (ε), affecting precipitation and climate change. However, the influence of various aerosol modes on cloud microphysics remains controversial, and this effect varies with area and cloud type. This study uses a bin microphysics scheme (WRF-SBM) to simulate a warm stratiform cloud process in Jiangxi, China, from 18:00 on December 24, 2014, to 06:00 (UTC) on December 25, 2014. Satellite observation and aircraft observation data of the same period were used to validate the simulation results, and it is shown that the numerical simulation predicted the macro and microstructure of the cloud process well. Further sensitivity experiments were conducted by increasing the concentrations of nucleation, accumulation, and coarse-mode aerosols, as well as the total aerosol concentration, to five times those of the control experiment. Additionally, an experiment was conducted by reducing the total aerosol concentration to one-fifth of the control experiment. The sensitivity experiments indicate that increased aerosol concentration promotes cloud formation and broadens the cloud droplet spectrum. In contrast, a decrease in aerosol concentration suppresses cloud formation and development. Different aerosol modes have varying effects on the cloud droplet spectrum. What's more, higher accumulation mode aerosol concentration increases small droplet concentration, while increased nucleation and coarse mode aerosol concentration favors larger droplet formation. It is also

批注 [鼗李1]: RC2: The title of this paper seems quite conventional and covers a broad area of Aerosol Effects on Stratiform Warm Clouds. The authors could consider narrowing the area to the more specific focus of this study, which could more accurately reflect the contents of this paper.

批注 [鼗李2]: RC2: In the abstract, several important symbols and abbreviations are used without definition, i.e., ε and Nc, which makes it difficult for the readers to understand the meaning.

批注 [鼗李3]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 2: L96 In this summary, it is not included that there are comparisons with observations, both satellite and flight derived

批注 [鼗李4]: RC1: The abstract does not describe which were all the variations performed: how many cases? It also does not specify what is the simulation / observation length of the case study.

批注 [鼗李5]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 1: L13 Cloud base height?

found that the correlation between ε and volume-weighted particle size (Rv) changes from positive to negative as Rv increases. The transition in correlation is influenced by the relative strengths of cloud droplet collision-coalescence, condensation, and activation processes. The increase in accumulation mode aerosol concentration strengthens the positive correlation between ε and Rv in the Rv range of 4.5-8 μm, while the decrease in aerosol concentration strengthens the negative correlation in the same Rv range. Regardless of different coalescence intensity, ε converges with the increase in number concentration of cloud droplet (Nc). Changes in number concentration for different aerosol modes do not alter the convergence trend of ε-Nc but only affect the dispersion state of ε at low Nc levels.

1 Introduction

According to Lau and Wu (2003), warm clouds account for 32% of total precipitation in tropical regions and cover 72% of the total precipitation area. Warm clouds play a critical role in evaluating cloud-precipitation-climate feedback, making the understanding of their formation, development, and cloud microphysical processes a crucial topic in cloud physics (Zhao and Ishizaka, 2004; Seifert and Onishi, 2010).

Grosvenor et al. (2018) identified a significant relationship between cloud droplet number concentration (Nc), cloud optical thickness, and cloud top temperature, proposing an improved remote sensing retrieval algorithm for cloud droplet effective radius to reduce the errors in satellite measurements of Nc. Zheng et al. (2021) utilized merged Cloud Sat-CALIPSO-MODIS products to compare the macro- and microphysical properties of precipitating and non-precipitating clouds during the warm season in central-eastern China, focusing on parameters such as cloud optical thickness and the effective radius of cloud droplets. Their findings indicated that the probability of precipitation increased with the increasing of cloud optical thickness, liquid water path, and ice water path, but showed a decreasing trend when the cloud droplet effective radius exceeded 22 micrometres. However, these studies have overlooked the impact of changes in particle size distribution in clouds, which may

批注 [懿李6]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 2: L16 You can specify that "generally" is in the context of your results.

批注 [懿李7]: RC2: In the abstract, several important symbols and abbreviations are used without definition, i.e., ε and Nc, which makes it difficult for the readers to understand the meaning.

批注 [懿李8]: RC2: The authors should consider re-arranging the introduction part and combine the paragraphs about the same topic. Line 48-53 is suggested to move forward before discussing the "cloud droplet spectrum correlations". Overall, there is a lack of a clear descriptions of what has been done, what remains uncertain, and what needs to be done, especially what is to be solved in this study. There is also a lack of description on the related research about the target area – Jiangxi, China or eastern China.

批注 [懿李9]: RC2: The authors should be careful with their narration. They say "many researchers" but only give 2 references, which is not very convincing. Additionally, the authors should have described the 2 references in more details before they blame on the references to be overlooking something.

be critical for parameterization of cloud droplet effective radius and is an essential factor that cannot be ignored during cloud-rain auto-conversion processes, affecting macroscopic and microscopic physical processes in clouds (Lu et al., 2022; Xie et al., 2015).

Cloud droplet spectral relative dispersion (ε) is an important parameter that describes the width and distribution of cloud droplet sizes. It is represented as the ratio between the standard deviation (σ) and the mean radius (R_{ave}) of the droplets (Wang and Lu, 2022). On the one hand, ε influences the effective radius of cloud droplets and the auto-conversion process, thereby affecting cloud precipitation processes (Liu et al., 2005, 2006; Zhu et al., 2020; Lu and Xu, 2021; Wang et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2023; Yang et al.,2023). On the other hand, ε affects cloud-aerosol interactions, impacting climate (Xie et al., 2017).

Many researchers have conducted causal analyses on the uncertainty of the effect of cloud microphysical properties on ε. The results indicate that the variability of ε is influenced by various factors, such as atmospheric temperature, humidity, and entrainment (Lu et al., 2013). Zhu et al. (2020) analysed data from a flight observation conducted in Monterey, California, in July 2008 as part of the US POST (Physics of Stratocumulus Top) project, found that in adiabatic clouds, vertical velocity plays a dominant role, and an increase in vertical velocity promotes the activation of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN), leading to an increase in Nc and facilitating droplet coalescence and growth. On the other hand, Kumar et al. (2017) conducted idealized simulation experiments using direct numerical simulation (DNS) to study the mixing dynamics at cloud edges and their impact on the droplet size distribution (DSD). They showed that ε is also related to turbulent mixing and variations in vertical velocity within the cloud.

However, as Lu et al. (2020) pointed out, existing studies on ε primarily rely on empirical data from observations, leading to significant uncertainty in characterizing the ε within clouds. In addition, the relationship between the ε and the volume-mean radius (Rv) has shown varied conclusions in different studies: some indicate a negative correlation (Liu et al., 2008; Pandithurai et al., 2012), while others suggest a positive correlation (Tas et al., 2012). It is also found that as Rv increases, the

批注 [懿李10]: RC2: Reviewer's comment 2: Line 38: What is "macroclimate"?

批注 [懿李11]: RC2: The authors should consider re-arranging the introduction part and combine the paragraphs about the same topic. Line 48-53 is suggested to move forward before discussing the "cloud droplet spectrum correlations". Overall, there is a lack of a clear descriptions of what has been done, what remains uncertain, and what needs to be done, especially what is to be solved in this study. There is also a lack of description on the related research about the target area – Jiangxi, China or eastern China.

批注 [懿李12]: RC2: Line 39: "cloud droplet spectrum correlations" – correlations between what?

批注 [懿李13]: RC2: Line 48: "its variations" – what do you mean?

批注 [懿李14]: RC1: L50 Are these modeling studies?

ε exhibits a converging trend (Chen et al., 2016). Meanwhile, the correlation between the ε and Nc also shows uncertainty. Jin et al. (2021) conducted aircraft observational studies on stratiform warm clouds in Jiangxi, China, indicating that ε in both precipitating and non-precipitating warm clouds is negatively correlated with Nc. But, some studies report a positive correlation (Pandithurai et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2016), while others indicate a negative correlation (Cecchini et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2011). Some studies even suggest that no significant correlation is observed between ε and Nc (Tas et al., 2015). Meanwhile, the correlation between ε and Nc also shows uncertainty. Jin et al. (2021) conducted aircraft observational studies on stratiform warm clouds in Jiangxi, China, indicate that ε in both precipitating and non-precipitating warm clouds is negatively correlated with Nc. Similarly, Cecchini et al. (2017) and Wang et al. (2011) reported negative correlations between ε and Nc. However, some studies report a positive correlation (Pandithurai et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2016). While some studies even suggest that no significant correlation is observed between ε and Nc (Tas et al., 2015).

Studies by Ma et al. (2010) and Wang et al. (2011, 2019 have shown that changes in ε are highly sensitive to aerosol concentration and its activation process. Additionally, alterations in aerosol concentration or size distribution significantly impact the cloud-rain auto-conversion process through ε changes. Consequently, ε becomes a critical link connecting the aerosol-cloud interaction effects (Liu and Daum, 2002).

Liu et al. (2003) compared aircraft observations and satellite retrievals for warm clouds in both the northern and southern hemispheres and found that an increase in aerosol concentration leads to a decrease in cloud droplet effective radius and narrowing of the droplet spectrum, thus suppressing warm precipitation processes. Fan et al. (2012) conducted a numerical simulation on variations of aerosol concentration in Eastern China, demonstrating that an increase in CCN leads to an increase in Nc and cloud droplet mass concentration, reduces the number concentration of raindrops, and delays the onset of precipitation. Yang et al. (2017) analysed aerosol concentration and cloud droplet spectrum distribution in the high-altitude region of eastern China during summer, and the results showed that increased aerosol concentration inhibits the cloud-rain

批注 [懿李15]: RC2: The authors should consider re-arranging the introduction part and combine the paragraphs about the same topic. Line 48-53 is suggested to move forward before discussing the "cloud droplet spectrum correlations". Overall, there is a lack of a clear descriptions of what has been done, what remains uncertain, and what needs to be done, especially what is to be solved in this study. There is also a lack of description on the related research about the target area – Jiangxi, China or eastern China.

批注 [懿李16]: RC2: Line 54: "In recent years," – how recent do you mean? 2010 and 2019 covers a decade, and is not very recent to 2024. Similarly, Line 58 "currently" is not suitable to reference 2016, 2018, and 2019. This will confuse the readers.

auto-conversion process, resulting in more cloud water remaining in the atmosphere and reducing warm precipitation. By analysing the aerosol observations in India from 2000 to 2017，Kant et al. (2019) found that strong updrafts with abundant mineral dust aerosols can activate more cloud droplets, leading to competition for water vapor and narrowing the droplet spectrum, limiting the growth of high-level liquid droplets. It is suggesting that an increase in aerosol concentration leads to a reduction in ε, thereby inhibiting the cloud-rain auto-conversion process (Chandrakar et al., 2016, 2018; Desai et al., 2019).

However, there are also studies indicating that an increase in aerosol concentration results in an increase in ε and enhances droplet collision-coalescence processes (Rotstayn and Liu, 2003; Yum and Hudson, 2005; Rotstayn and Liu, 2009; Prabha et al., 2012; Liu et al.,2020). For instance, Liu et al. (2020) found that increasing aerosol concentration in clean tropical or marine regions can prolong cloud lifetimes and enhance precipitation by modifying the cloud droplet spectrum distribution. Moreover, it is found that the influence of aerosol concentrations on cloud droplet size distribution exhibits strong regional dependence, varies according to cloud types and geographical regions (Chandraka et al., 2016; 2018).

In addition, the impact of aerosol concentrations on cloud droplet spectrum varies for different size ranges of aerosols. Liu et al. (2022), using satellite data to investigate the influence of aerosols on warm cloud processes, found that fine particles with diameters ranging from 0.1 to 2.5 micrometres, acting as cloud condensation nuclei, can suppress precipitation and prolong the lifetime of maritime warm clouds, like the conclusions of Kovačević (2018) and Lerach and Cotton (2018). On the other hand, an increase in coarse-mode marine condensation nuclei with larger particle sizes leads to a noticeable increase in cloud droplet effective radius and warm rain intensity. It is found that large particles with diameters exceeding 2 micrometres, acting as giant cloud condensation nuclei, can increase ε and facilitate cloud droplet growth during the collision-coalescence process (Yin et al., 2000; Jensen and Nugent, 2017). However, Wehbe et al. (2020) analysed aircraft observations over the United Arab Emirates in 2019, and found that although giant cloud condensation nuclei were present, no significant collision-coalescence process was observed in warm clouds.

Furthermore, Rosenfeld et al. (2001) attributed the reduction in cloud droplet effective radius over the Sahara Desert to numerous submicron-sized cloud condensation nuclei (CCN), which decreased ε exacerbated the decrease in precipitation over the Sahara region. Numerical experiments by Flossmann and Wobrock (2010) yielded similar conclusions.

In summary, under the context of climate change, changes in the physicochemical properties of aerosols significantly affect the microphysical characteristics of warm clouds. Existing studies often rely on exploring the relationships between aerosol concentration and microphysical cloud quantities such as Nc and Rv, and further research on ε, a key factor affecting the cloud-aerosol effect, is still needed. However, the response of warm clouds to aerosol physicochemical properties depends on the region and cloud type, and due to limitations in observational methods, the response of ε to changes in aerosol concentration varies significantly across studies, making this issue a crucial and controversial scientific question in climate prediction.

This study utilizes the SBM-FAST bin microphysics scheme within the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model to simulate a stratiform warm cloud event in Jiangxi, China. The numerical experiments aim to explore the impacts of changes in nucleation, accumulation, coarse, and total mode aerosol concentrations on the macroscopic and microscopic characteristics of warm clouds in this region. The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 outlines the numerical simulation setup, aircraft, and satellite observations to validate simulation results, and the computational formulas used in the analysis, the third section 3 conducts validations of the control experiment's simulation results through comparisons with concurrent aircraft and satellite cloud top temperature observations, uncovering the effects of different aerosol modes on the macroscopic and microscopic physical properties of clouds, with a particular focus on the correlation between ε and cloud microphysical properties. The last two section include the discussion and conclusions.

批注 [懿李17]: RC1：L90 "dependent"

批注 [懿李18]: RC2: The authors should consider re-arranging the introduction part and combine the paragraphs about the same topic. Line 48-53 is suggested to move forward before discussing the "cloud droplet spectrum correlations". Overall, there is a lack of a clear descriptions of what has been done, what remains uncertain, and what needs to be done, especially what is to be solved in this study. There is also a lack of description on the related research about the target area – Jiangxi, China or eastern China.

2 Model Introduction and Experiment Design

2.1Simulation Setup and Weather Conditions

This paper selects a warm cloud process that occurred in the Jiangxi, China on December 25, 2014, and conducts simulations using the WRF (Weather Research and Forecasting) 4.2 version. The experiment comprises one control and five aerosol spectrum modification experiments. Except for aerosol concentrations, all groups keep the initial field data and simulation settings consistent. The simulations use the fifth generation of ECMWF atmospheric reanalyses of the global climate (ERA5) hourly data on pressure levels as the initial field, with a resolution of 0.25° × 0.25°.

批注 [懿李19]: RC2: Line 105: "Apart from aerosol concentrations" – I think you mean "except for", please check.

The simulations employ a two-layer nesting approach with 3 km and 1 km grid resolutions. The model is divided vertically into 57 layers, reaching a top pressure level of 50 hPa, and the innermost layer grid measure contains 376×376 grid points. The microphysics scheme used is the new version of SBM-fast bin scheme (FSBM-2) under the WRF 4.2 version. The boundary layer scheme selected is the Mellor-Yamada-Janjic (Eta) Turbulence Kinetic Energy (TKE) scheme, and the near-surface layer scheme uses the Monin-Obukhov (Janjic Eta) scheme. The land surface process adopts the unified Noah land-surface model. The (old) Goddard shortwave radiation scheme is used, and the Rapid Radiative Transfer Model (RRTM) scheme is chosen for longwave radiation.

批注 [懿李20]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 3: L109 What is the vertical resolution of the smaller domain?

The simulation region is illustrated in Figure 1, and the simulation duration is from 18:00 on December 24, 2014, to 06:00 on December 25, 2014 (UTC), with no precipitation was observed at the ground during the simulation period. The simulated area, Ganzhou City, is in the southern part of eastern China's Jiangxi province. It is located upstream of the Gan River and in the transitional zone between the southeastern coastal and central inland regions. The city is surrounded by mountains, with faulted basins traversed. The predominant topographical features are mountains, hills, and basins. The area is located at the southern edge of the subtropical zone and falls under the subtropical monsoon climate region.

As shown in Figure 2, at 00:00 on the 25th, a high-altitude trough shifted eastward, with the mid-level located in the southwest jet stream, which was relatively weak. At the 850hPa level, the Jiangxi region near the flight area displays a convergent wind field, indicating the presence of ascending air currents. The wind speeds are relatively low, and the upward motion is gentle.

批注 [甏李21]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 6: L123 Is this horizontal or vertical wind shear? (du/dx or du/dz) Is that expected to affect the cloud development?

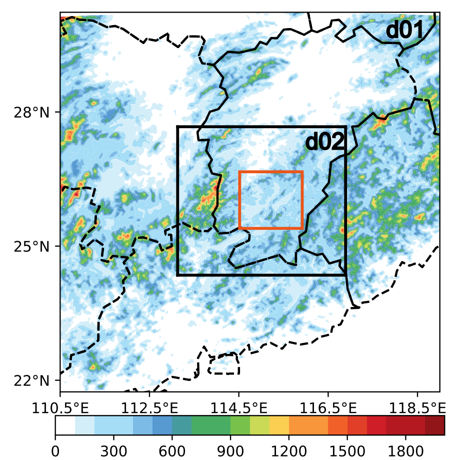


Figure 1: Simulated Region and Nesting Configuration. The shading represents the elevation (m) of the terrain, and the area within the red box is the analysis range.

批注 [甏李22]: RC1: Fig. 1. It should not be described mentioning "the figure".

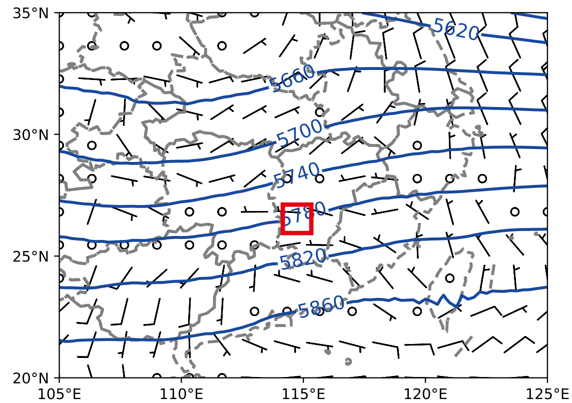


Figure 2: The 500 hPa geopotential height field (blue contour lines, unit: dagpm) and the 700 hPa wind field (wind barbs) at 00:00 (UTC) on December 25, 2014. The area within the red box indicates the starting point of the flight.

2.2 Introduction to Microphysics Scheme

The SBM-fast scheme was initially developed by Khain and Lynn (2009) as a simplified version of the SBM-full bin scheme based on the original microphysics scheme included in the Hebrew University Cloud Model (HUCM) (FSBM-1) (Khain and Sednev, 1996; Khain et al., 2000). The FSBM-2 used in this study is an improvement over FSBM-1 by Shpund et al. (2019) and has been verified to exhibit better simulation performance (Han et al., 2019).

In FSBM-2, cloud and rain droplets are described using a unified liquid droplet bin scheme, which is divided into 33 bins. The aerosol scheme is divided into marine and continental components, and the aerosol spectrum distribution is described using 43 or 33 mass bins. Regardless of whether 33 or 43 aerosol bins are used, the maximum dry aerosol radius is set to 2μm. The scheme activates aerosols into liquid droplets under supersaturation conditions (cloud nucleation: Pinsky and Khain, 2018). In the model, the minimum CCN size is assumed to be 0.003μm, and the initial aerosol distribution is represented by the sum of three lognormal distributions, corresponding to the nucleation mode (centered at 0.008μm), accumulation mode (centered at 0.034μm), and coarse mode (centered at 0.46μm). The calculation of cloud droplet nucleation considers the effect of supersaturation, and the algorithm's accuracy is verified through comparison with large-eddy simulation results (Ilotoviz et al., 2015).

2.3 Sensitivity Experiment Configuration

This paper includes five aerosol concentration modification experiments and one control experiment (ORG). The initial aerosol concentrations set in the control experiment, are shown in Table 1. The initial aerosol concentrations are modified for the other five experiment, as shown in Table 2. According to the aircraft observational study on the impact of aerosol concentration changes on precipitation in Eastern China (Qian et al., 2009) and the numerical simulation study on the effect of aerosol concentration changes on clouds and precipitation in Eastern China (Fan et al., 2012), increasing the initial aerosol concentration to five times realistically reflects the background concentration of continental aerosols under polluted conditions in Eastern China. This adjustment is beneficial for demonstrating the realistic impacts of aerosol concentration changes on warm clouds in eastern China. Experiments 1, 2, and 3, modify the aerosol concentrations of the nucleation mode (NM), accumulation mode (AM), and coarse mode (CM) to five times their original values, respectively. Experiment 4 (ITM) simultaneously modifies the aerosol concentrations of the nucleation, accumulation, and coarse modes to five times their original values, and experiment 5 (DTM) reduces the aerosol concentrations by five times compared to the original group. The initial background aerosol spectrums in the simulations are shown in Figure 3.

Table 1: Initial Aerosol Concentration in the Control Experiment.

Aerosol Types	Number Concentration (cm^{-3})	Mean Particle Size (μm)
Nucleation Mode	1000	0.008
Accumulation Mode	800	0.034
Coarse Mode	0.720	0.460

批注 [懿李23]: RC2: Line 142: “computed using supersaturation”?

批注 [懿李24]: RC2: The authors set the numerical simulations with aerosol concentrations of 5 times of the original value. Do you have some clues on why 5 times is a reasonable choice?

批注 [懿李25]: RC1: Table 1-2: Maybe you could skip the decimals in the large numbers

Table 2: Initial Aerosol Concentration Settings in Sensitivity Experiments.

	Nucleation Mode (cm^{-3})	Accumulation Mode (cm^{-3})	Coarse Mode (cm^{-3})
Experiment 1 (NM)	5000	800	0.720
Experiment 2 (AM)	1000	4000	0.720
Experiment 3 (CM)	1000	800	3.600
Experiment 4 (ITM)	5000	4000	3.600
Experiment5 (DTM)	200	160	0.144

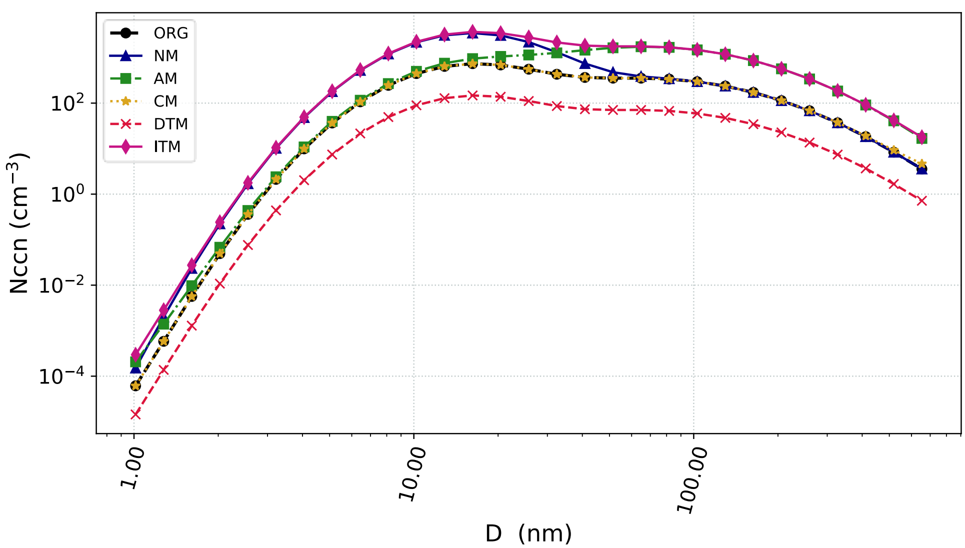


Figure 3: Initial aerosol number concentration (unit: cm^{-3}) as a function of particle diameters (unit: nm).

批注 **[懿李26]:** RC1: Reviewer's comment 8: Fig. 3. The CM and ORG cases look the same. Is this a plotting issue? I was expecting the CM to be larger for greater D.

2.4 Calculation of Cloud Droplet Spectrum Parameters

In this study, the changes in cloud droplet spectrum and cloud droplet spectral parameters were analysed. The mean cloud droplet Radius (Rm), Rv, cloud-rain auto-conversion threshold (T), ε, and cloud droplet activation intensity (Fbs) were calculated as shown in Supplement.

2.5 Introduction of Data

2.5.1 Introduction of Aircraft Observation Data

The aircraft observation data used in this study were sourced from a flight observation mission conducted in Jiangxi, China on December 25, 2014. Observations were carried out using the Yun-12 aircraft equipped with a comprehensive set of aerosol-cloud- precipitation detectors. The cloud microphysical data were obtained from the Cloud-Aerosol Spectrometer (CAS), while flight altitude and path information were obtained from the Aircraft Integrated Meteorological Measurement System (AIMMS-20). To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the observation data, all probes and the observation platform were precisely calibrated prior to the observations, and outliers were removed from the post-observation data.

The observation flight area was located above Ganzhou City in Jiangxi Province, spanning coordinates from 114.0°E to 117.0°E and from 25°N to 27°N. The flight trajectory, shown in Figure 4, details the specific path of the observation. The aircraft took off from Ganzhou Airport and followed a flight pattern that included ascending, cruising, and spiralling down. The flight lasted from 01:29 to 04:45 (UTC), reaching a maximum altitude of 4126 meters. To exclude data from non-cloud areas during the observation period, a cloud region criterion of cloud liquid water content (Clw) > 0.001 g/m^3 and number concentration of cloud droplets (Nc) > 10 particles cm^{-3} was applied (Jin et al. 2021).

批注 [懿李27]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 9: L173 Here is the first mention of the flight, although Fig. 4. is not mentioned in the text. Is Fig.4 useful at all if it's not even discussed?

批注 [懿李28]: RC1: L176 04:45

批注 [懿李29]: RC1: Clw or Clw? Also, you alternate between using the symbol and description throughout the text, which at times can be confusing.

批注 [懿李30]: RC1: There are flight measurements that are not consistently mentioned in the text. Please include them early to not surprise the reader.

批注 [懿李31]: RC2: The authors should have added a section in part 2 to describe the data used for validation purpose. The flight observations and FY2G satellite observations should be described in more details. This is very critical point.

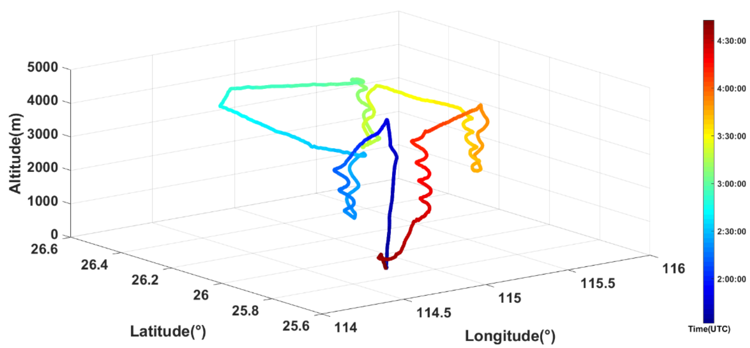


Figure 4: The flight track of the observing aircraft on December 25, 2014, with colors of the line representing the flight time.

批注 [懿李32]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 7: Fig. 2. This is the first time that the flight is mentioned, we have not read that in the main text.

2.5.2 Introduction to Satellite-Observed Cloud Top Temperature Data

This work utilizes the standard format cloud top temperature full-disk scan data provided by the FY-2F meteorological satellite of the National Satellite Meteorological Center, covering November to December 2014. The FY-2F satellite's scanning radiometer includes five channels. The cloud top temperature data used in this study come from the VISSR-II channel, which has a spatial resolution of 5 km, a temporal resolution of 1 hour, and a valid data range from 0 to 400 K.

3 Results and analysis

3.1 Simulation Results Validation

批注 [懿李33]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 10: L186 Here it mentions that "the simulation results are generally consistent" but the magnitudes of Clw and D are quite different according to Fig. 6. It'd be better to describe that and explain if that is significant or not.

批注 [懿李34]: RC2: Figure 6: How do you define the "normalized height"? The authors described the "Still, the magnitudes of the number concentrations of the control experiment and the observation are generally consistent. Additionally, the average particle size in both groups increases with height, and their vertical distribution trends are consistent." But to me, the simulation and the observation are far from "consistent" no matter in terms of magnitude or vertical distribution pattern. Please double check. Moreover, the observation-simulation comparison should have been carried out in higher temporal resolution, i.e. hourly, for better illustrations of the cloud property variations.

To verify the simulation performance of the control experiment, we compared the simulated results with cloud-top temperature observations from the FY-2F satellite and aircraft observations on December 25, 2014.

Figure 5 shows that the control experiment and satellite data both show band-like warm cloud regions with cloud-top temperatures ranging from 5 to 10℃ in the central and northern parts of Jiangxi. It is shown that the distribution of observed and simulated cloud-top temperatures is quite similar.

Aircraft observation data on December 25, 2014, in Jiangxi region was chosen to further validate the simulated vertical distribution of cloud microphysical characteristics. The data was obtained from the CAS probe onboard the aircraft, which measures aerosols and cloud particles with diameters ranging from 0.51 to 50 μm, covering 30 bins with varying size bins. The observation period was from 01:35 to 04:45 (UTC) on December 25, 2014. During the observation period, the warm cloud within the flight area had a maximum horizontal extent of over 50 kilometres, and it was characterized as a stratiform warm cloud process. For the control experiment, the cloud water content, cloud droplet number concentration, and average cloud droplet diameter were compared in the same observation duration and flight regions.

Figure 6 shows the flight trajectory and the cloud liquid water content along the observation path. To validate the control experiment's simulation results, a comprehensive cloud penetration segment from 04:10 to 04:20 UTC was selected. During this period, the Clw, Nc, and Rm were calculated and compared with the simulation results in the same region and time frame, as illustrated in Figure 7. To minimize the impact of differing vertical resolutions between aircraft observation data and model simulations, the cloud base height within the validation interval was set to 0 and the cloud top height to 1, thus achieving height normalization. Both the control experiment and the observational data exhibit an initial increase followed by a decrease in Clw and Nc with altitude. Additionally, the average particle size in both results increases with height, and their vertical distribution trends are consistent.

批注 [懿李35]: RC1: Reviewer’s comment 11: Fig. 6. What is the normalized height? Why is it only used in this Figure? Upper and bottom rows don’t have the same x axis limits. What is the vertical resolution of the A plots?

Overall, regarding the distribution of warm clouds and the vertical distribution of cloud microphysical properties, the simulation results are generally consistent with the observed data. Therefore, the simulation results are reliable.

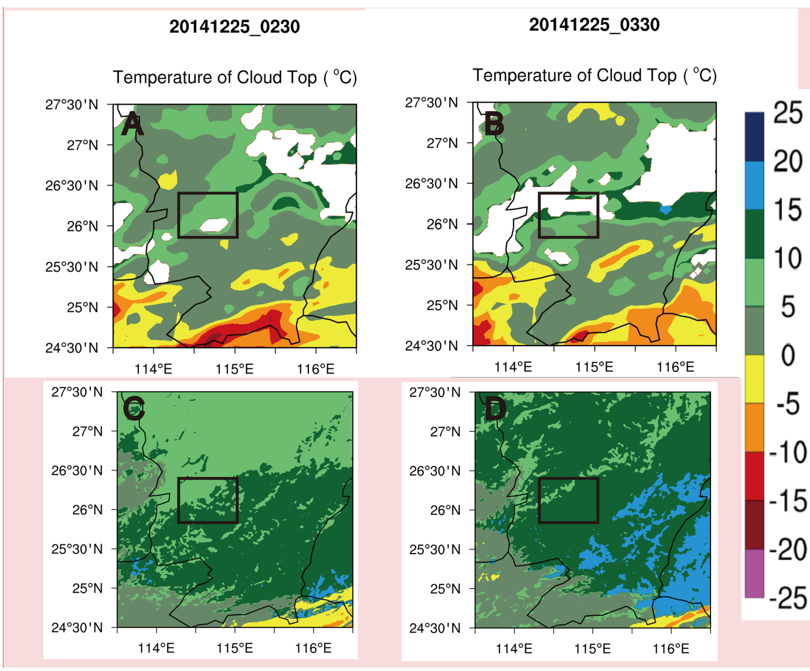


Figure 5: FY-2F satellite observed (A at 02:30, B at 03:30) and control experiment simulated (C at 02:30, D at 03:30) cloud-top temperatures on December 25, 2014 (unit: °C). The black box indicates the aircraft observation area.

批注 [懿李36]: ***The A1, B1, etc... notation in the figures is highly confusing since it makes the reader look at the caption very carefully every time instead of making good use of the plot labels/titles. I'd suggest replacing A1, B1 by the name of the case or the configuration shown in each subfigure.***

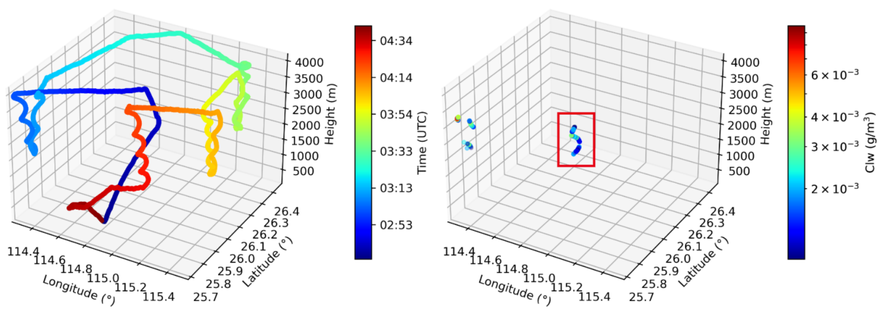


Figure 6 Aircraft flight trajectory and cloud liquid water content (Clw) within the cloud region along the observation path. The red box indicates a comprehensive cloud penetration process from 04:10 to 04:20 UTC.

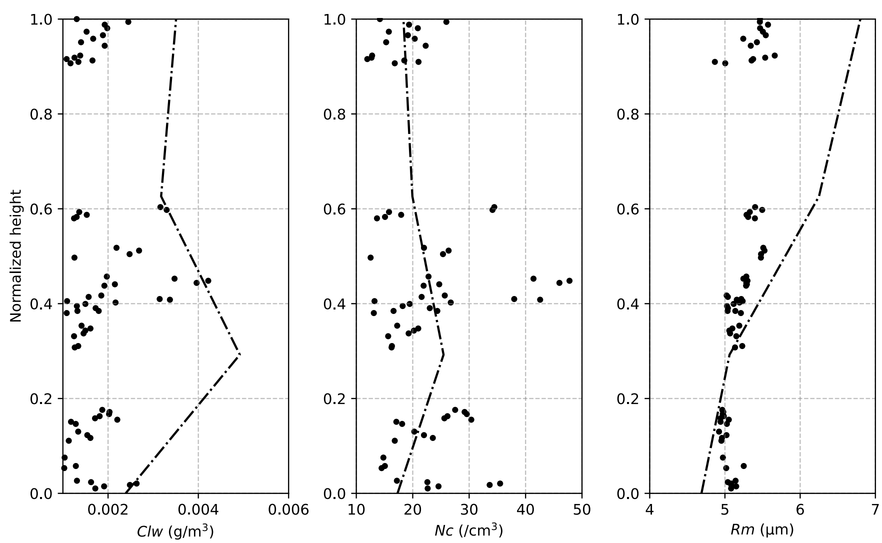


Figure 7: Aircraft observations (scatter points) of cloud liquid water content (Clw, in g/m³), cloud droplet number concentration (Nc, in cm⁻³), and cloud droplet mean radius (Rm, in μm) on December 25, 2014, compared with model simulations (black dashed lines) of Clw, Nc, and Rm.

3.2 Analysis of the Impact of Background Aerosols on Warm Cloud Properties

3.2.1 Vertical Distribution of Cloud Microphysical Properties

Figure 8-10 reflects that the cloud thickness significantly increases as the cloud system develops. Both Clw and Rm increase with height, show high consistency. In contrast, Nc exhibits different trends with height at different times. From 00:00 to 02:00 UTC, when the cloud system is in initial stage of development, Nc decreases with height, and many small cloud droplets appear at the cloud base, which is the main area for droplet activation. As the cloud system further develops, from 03:00 to 04:00 UTC, Nc shows relative uniform distribution with height. From 04:00 to 05:00 UTC, this trend changes again, with the maximum Nc appearing at the cloud base. Large numbers of small cloud droplets present at the cloud base, the primary area for droplet activation. The peak of Clw appears at higher cloud layers. In contrast, the maximum cloud droplet radius occurs in the middle to upper cloud layers, indicating that the main region of cloud droplet size increasing is near the top and middle-upper parts of cloud regions.

Compared to the control experiment, the increase in aerosol concentration promotes cloud development. This phenomenon is consistent with the findings of Khain et al. (2005) and Morrison et al. (2018). When the accumulation mode aerosol concentration increases, this "promoting" effect becomes most evident. On the other hand, when aerosol concentration decreases, cloud development is suppressed, resulting in a noticeable decrease in cloud-top height.

In terms of cloud microphysical properties, with an increase in aerosol concentration, Nc noticeably increases. As a result, more cloud droplets of small sizes compete for water vapor, reducing cloud droplet size. The maximum Nc and minimum cloud droplet size are observed in the ITM and AM experiments. However, with aerosol concentration decreased, despite cloud development being restrained, the DTM experiment exhibits the largest cloud droplet size.

批注 [懿李37]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 13: L202 I don't see the Clw and D decrease but an increase, and the opposite for Nc.

批注 [懿李38]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 14: L206 You say that the cases with greater concentration promote cloud growth but basically all the cases are showing that behavior. Same in L211, how noticeable is it when it seems like it is just 1 more grid point?

批注 [懿李39]: RC2: Line 212: "more small cloud droplets" – more cloud droplets of small sizes?

批注 [懿李40]: RC1: The first results of the simulations, where the cloud development is described, is not very thorough. First, some increasing/decreasing trends that are mentioned do not match the presented figures. Then, the magnitude of two of the properties are not so close when compared to the flight measurements, and there is no mention of that. Finally, the vertical resolution of the vertical-time plots is quite coarse, so the conclusions regarding cloud growth should be described carefully. In this sense, a more critical description, acknowledging the possible shortcomings of the chosen vertical resolution on cloud development could be included. Was there any way to validate cloud thickness for the reference case?

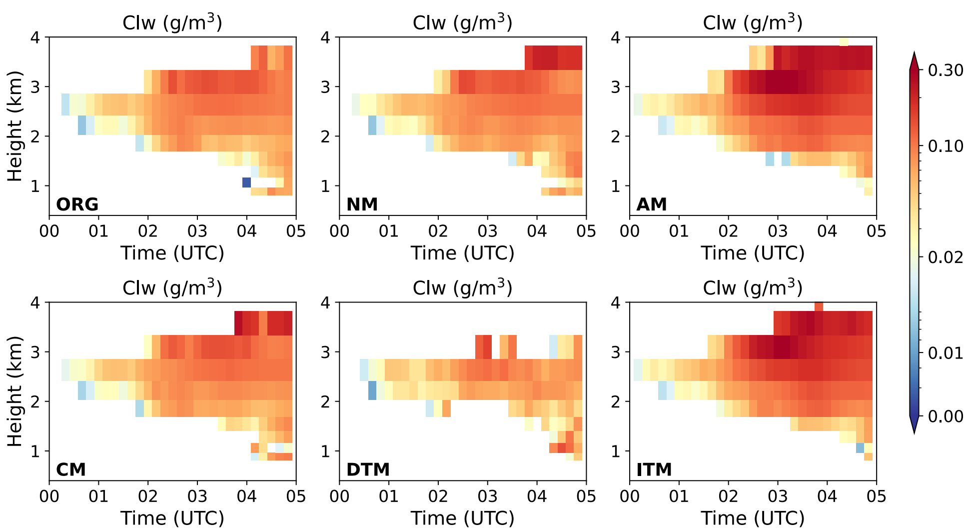
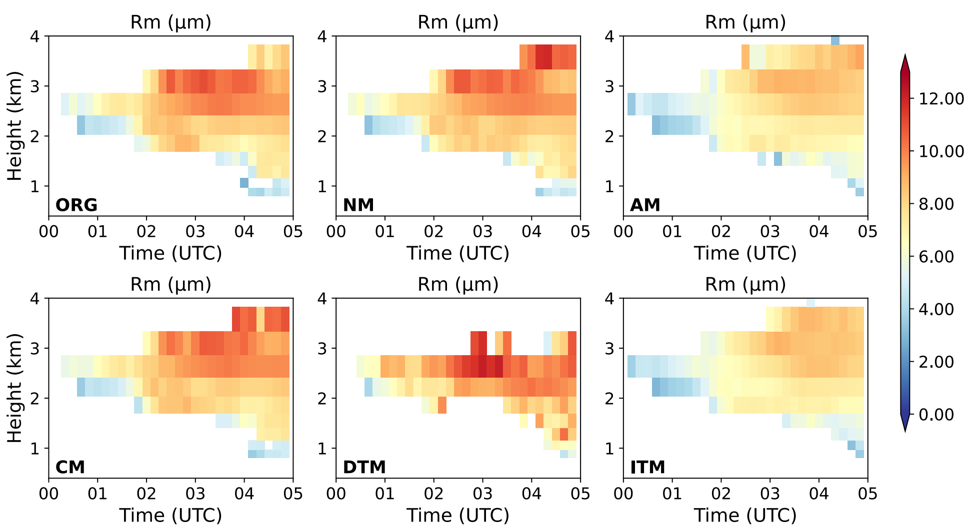


Figure 8: The variations of averaged cloud liquid water content (Clw, in g/m^3) with time (UTC) and altitude (km) within the study area of different experiments.

批注 [懿李41]: ***The A1, B1, etc... notation in the figures is highly confusing since it makes the reader look at the caption very carefully every time instead of making good use of the plot labels/titles. I'd suggest replacing A1, B1 by the name of the case or the configuration shown in each subfigure.***

批注 [懿李42]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 12: 3.2.1 Here it starts mentioning the growth of the cloud layer but in a very qualitative way. If the time resolution of the simulations is finer than 1 hour, I'd suggest to add time evolution plots for a better description.



270 **Figure 9: The variations of averaged cloud droplet radius (Rm, in µm) with time (UTC) and altitude (km) within the study area of different experiments.**

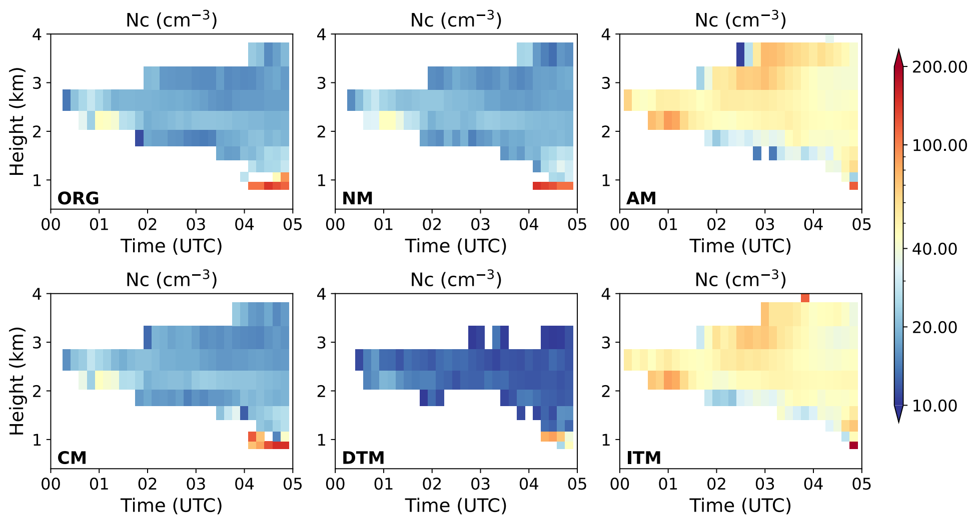


Figure 10: The variations of averaged cloud droplet number concentration (Nc, in cm^{-3}) with time (UTC) and altitude (km) within the study area of different experiments.

3.2.2 Cloud Droplet Size Distribution

Figure 11 represents the hourly probability distribution of Nc concerning D. As the cloud system develops, the cloud droplet spectrum widens and exhibits a unimodal distribution. When aerosol concentration increases, the cloud droplet spectrum broadens earlier, and the maximum Nc appears in the AM and ITM experiments. Additionally, the distribution characteristic of the droplet spectrum differs among the experiments. The AM and ITM experiments have their peaks in the 9-15 µm size range, while the NM and CM experiments have their peaks concentrated in the 15-24 µm size range. Meanwhile, with aerosol concentration decreased in the DTM experiment, a tendency of spectrum broadening is observed. However, the spectrum width is smaller than that in the control experiment, and the Nc is lower.

批注 [懿李43]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 15: L220 Is this analysis done for all simulation times or only 05 UTC? If separating the analysis by height is useful, why don't you continue using this approach later on?

批注 [懿李44]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 16: Fig. 8. What time is this data from? 05 UTC?

批注 [懿李45]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 17: L223 I'm not sure if it's an exponential decay.

This analysis shows that increased aerosol concentration promotes cloud development and leads to an earlier widening of the cloud droplet spectrum. The increase in accumulation mode aerosols tends to increase the number concentration of small-sized cloud droplets. In contrast, an increase in nucleation and coarse mode aerosols favors the production of large-size cloud droplets. In the NM experiment, although the particle size of nucleation mode aerosols is small, the increase in aerosol concentration still leads to an increase in cloud droplet number concentration because aerosol particle sizes follow a normal distribution in the WRF-SBM scheme. Therefore, aerosol particles with larger sizes within the nucleation mode range can still participate in cloud droplet activation.

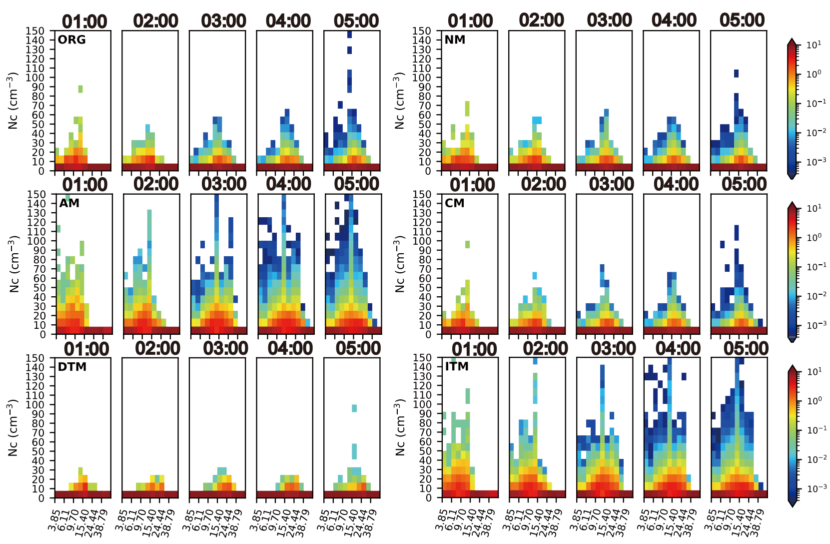


Figure 11: The probability distribution of the averaged cloud droplet number concentration (Nc, in cm^{-3}) with respect to the mean diameter (D, in μm), the subfigures represent 01:00, 02:00, 03:00, 04:00, and 05:00 (UTC) on the 25th, respectively. The shading represents the probability magnitude.

3.3 Analysis of Cloud Droplet Spectrum Characteristics

3.3.1 Vertical profiles of cloud droplet spectrum characteristics

To analyse the impact of aerosols on cloud droplet spectrum and cloud microphysical processes, Figure 12-14 given out the variations of hourly averaged ε, cloud-rain auto-conversion intensity (T), and Rv with altitude. The T value represents the probability of auto-conversion occurrence, which can be used to assess the intensity of collision-coalescence processes during cloud and precipitation (Liu et al., 2005, 2006). In the early development stage, the collision-coalescence intensity within the cloud is low. As the cloud system develops, at the vigorous development stage, the T value increases significantly, and the intensity increases with altitude. The intense collision–coalescence processes (with T values > 0.5) are primarily located in the middle to upper parts of the cloud, consistent with the distribution trend of Rv with altitude. It can be found from Figure 13 that the relative dispersion ε does not change monotonically with Rv or T. The correlation between them will be discussed in the next section.

批注 **[懿李46]:** RC1: L259 Avoid starting a sentence with a symbol.

Compared to the control experiment, the ITM and AM experiments have significantly smaller Rv values, resulting in smaller cloud droplet sizes and lower collision-coalescence intensities than the other experiments. When the aerosol concentration decreases, the Rv in the DTM experiment increases, leading to higher collision - coalescence intensity with respect to other experiments. Additionally, fewer small cloud droplets are activated due to the lower aerosol concentration in the DTM experiment, resulting in lower relative dispersion of cloud droplet spectrum than the other experiments.

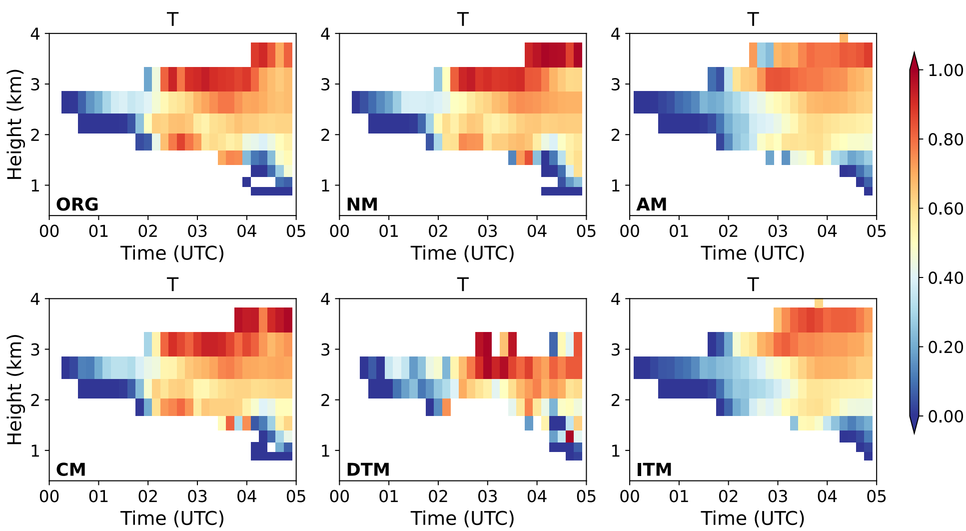
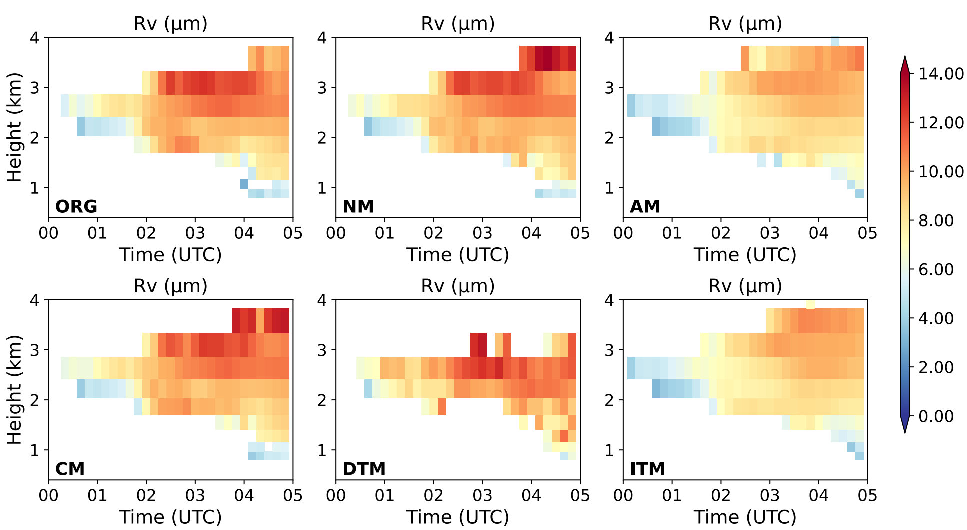


Figure 12: Distribution of cloud droplet collision-coalescence intensity (T) over time (UTC) and altitude (km). The color shading indicates the collision-coalescence intensity values.

批注 [懿李47]: RC2: Figure 10: what is “cloud-rain auto-conversion intensity (T)”, or “cloud droplet collision and coalescence intensity (T)”? Why the terms are different in the main text and in Figure 10 caption?



315 **Figure 13: Distribution of cloud droplet volume-weighted mean diameter (Rv, in μm) over time (UTC) and altitude (km). The color shading indicates the magnitude of Rv values.**

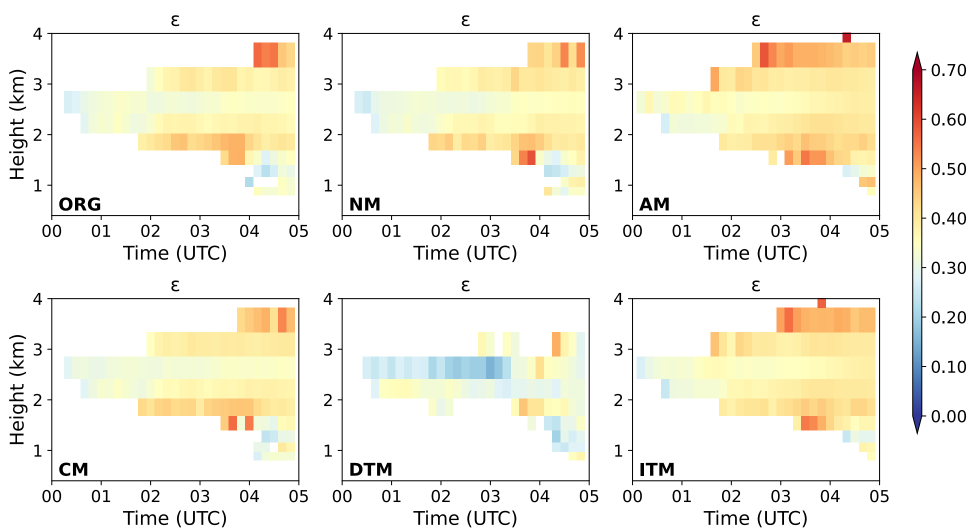


Figure 14: Distribution of relative dispersion (ε) of cloud droplet spectrum over time (UTC) and altitude (km). The color shading indicates the magnitude of relative dispersion values.

3.3.2 Relationship between ε-Rv

Figure 15 reflects the correlation between ε and Rv in experiments involving changes in concentration of aerosol modes within the cloud area from 01:00 to 05:00, illustrating the variation of ε during the growth of cloud droplet sizes. Fbs indicates the activation intensity corresponding to the fitted correlation in specific droplet size ranges. The ε-Rv correlation coefficient table is in the Supplement (Table S1). It is shown that ε does not vary monotonically with Rv. There is a significant transition in cloud droplet collision-coalescence intensity around 8 μm radius of cloud droplet. When the Rv is smaller than 8 μm, cloud droplet growth mainly depends on the condensation process. At this stage, there exists a critical radius (Rc) of 4.2 μm. When Rv < 4.2 μm, ε shows a positive correlation with Rv. While Rv > 4.2 μm, ε shows a negative correlation with Rv. This trend is close to Lu et al. (2020), but with the value of Rc differs. Among the experiments, increased aerosol concentration enhances

批注 [懿李48]: RC1: Fig. 11, 13. In the y axis label: Should it be xi (ξ) or epsilon(ε)?

批注 [懿李49]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 18: Fig. 11. This is probably one of the central results of the study. Not much is said about the data itself. Are all the points combining all the states in the whole domain and throughout the simulation? Were these results separated by height, time, etc.

批注 [懿李50]: RC1: For the main figures of the study (Figs. 11-13), we do not know what the data points represent. Are they combining all the data, at all times, for all the domain? Please specify. If this analysis were categorized, would it be helpful for exploring different processes?

批注 [懿李51]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 19: Section 3.3. Here many correlations are mentioned but no correlation factor is ever reported. Would that add value to the analysis?

the positive correlation between ε and Rv with Rv < 4.2 μm. In the ITM and AM experiments, when Rv is between 4.2μm and 8μm, the negative correlation trend changes to a positive one. In contrast, decreasing aerosol concentration strengthens the negative correlation trend between ε and Rv within the same size range (4.2 μm < Rv < 8 μm).

Cloud droplets primarily grow through condensation within the radius range (Rv) of 2-8 μm. Figure 16 illustrates the variation of cloud droplet number concentration (Nc) with Rv during the same stage as the ε-Rv correlation, reflecting the concurrent changes in Nc during the growth of cloud droplet sizes. As shown in Figure 16, when Rv is less than 4.2 μm, accompanied by higher intensity of cloud droplet activation, Nc increases with Rv, and ε shows a positive correlation with Rv. When Rv ranges between 4.2 and 8 μm, strong collision-coalescence processes have not yet been initiated, and activation intensity is lower. At this stage, Nc does not exhibit significant changes with increasing Rv. Due to the negative correlation between condensation growth efficiency and droplet size, smaller droplets grow rapidly through condensation, whereas larger droplets experience slower growth rate. As Rv increases, ε exhibits a negative correlation with Rv, leading to a more uniform droplet size distribution and a narrower cloud droplet spectrum. This finding aligns with the results of Liu et al. (2006) and Peng et al. (2007). When Rv exceeds 8 μm, as Rv increases, higher collision-coalescence intensity rapidly depletes smaller droplets (Figure 16), with ε shows a converging trend, ultimately approaching the range of 0.3-0.4, consistent with the findings of Lu et al. (2020).

For the sensitivity experiments, an increase in aerosol concentration enhances the activation of cloud droplets, enhancing the positive correlation between ε and Rv when 4.2 < Rv <8 μm. Among different aerosol modes, an increase in accumulation mode aerosol contributes to the prolonged maintenance of cloud droplet activation and significantly increases Nc (Figure 16). When 4.2 < Rv <8 μm, ε shows a positive correlation with Rv. However, when cloud droplet size increases above 8 μm, cloud droplet collision-coalescence intensity increases with particle size, while cloud droplet number concentration decreases as Rv increases. Therefore, in this situation, dominant cloud droplet coalescence promotes the rapid growth of cloud droplet size,

批注 [懿李52]: RC2: Line 280-294: You may consider combing the paragraphs as they are discussing the same point?

increasing large-sized cloud droplets while simultaneously consuming small-sized cloud droplets. As a result, ε tends to converge with droplet size.

As it is shown in Figure 16 that the correlation between Nc and cloud microphysical processes is more complex. Regions with the same Nc may be dominated by condensation growth or coalescence processes. Furthermore, the ε-Nc correlation, which is significantly influenced by cloud droplet activation, condensation, and collision-coalescence processes, may exhibit even more complex variations.

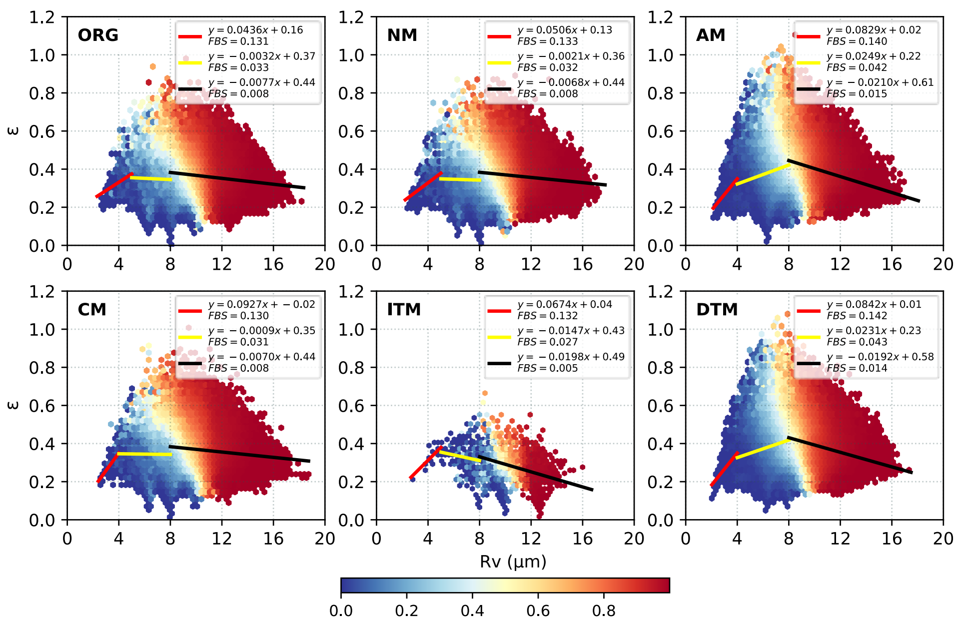


Figure 15: The variation of relative dispersion (ε) of cloud droplet spectrum against the cloud droplet volume-weighted radius (Rv, in µm) for different experiments. FBS indicates the cloud droplet activation intensity, and the shading represents the coalescence intensity.

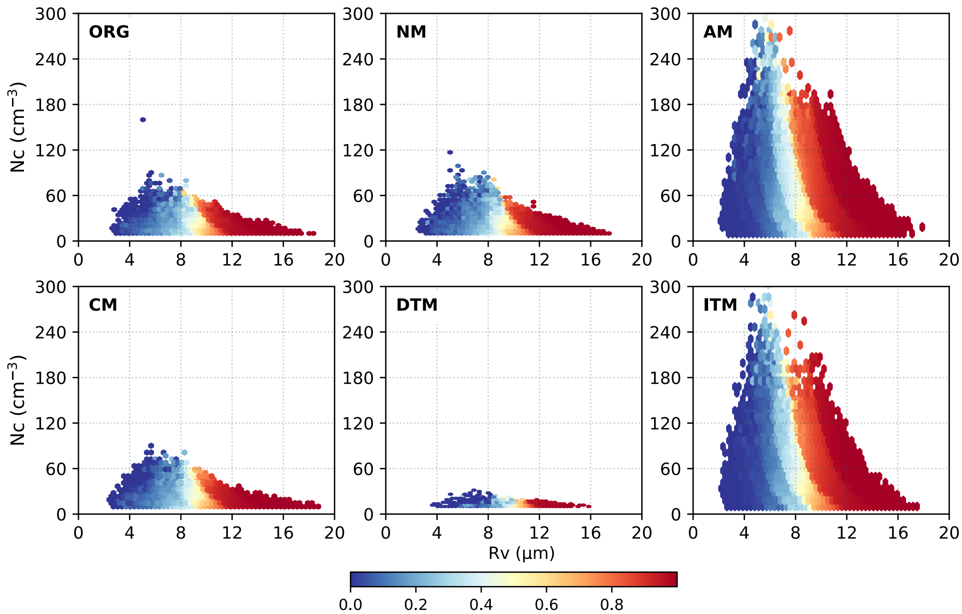


Figure 16: The variation of cloud droplet number concentration (Nc, in cm^{-3}) against the cloud droplet volume-weighted radius (Rv, in μm) for different experiments. The shading represents the coalescence intensity.

3.3.3 Relationship between ε-Nc

Figure 17 shows the relationship between ε and Nc in experiments involving changes in aerosol concentration modes within the cloud area from 01:00 to 05:00. As shown in Figure 17 as Nc increases, ε tends to converge, consistent with the findings of Zhao et al. (2006) and Jin et al. (2021). Additionally, the coalescence intensity does not significantly impact the ε-Nc correlation. With increased coalescence intensity, the dispersion of ε in the low Nc region decreases, but the ε-Nc relationship still shows a converging trend.

批注 [懿李53]: RC1: The two sections of results; first the time/height description, and then the aerosol statistics trends, seem a bit disconnected. For example, when aerosol statistics were analyzed by height in the first part, then that dimension was not mentioned again in the trend analysis. If the first part is not as important as the second, maybe the text could be simplified in order to be brief and to the point.

Compared to the control experiment, changes in aerosol concentration did not affect the ε-Nc correlation. When the aerosol concentration increased, Nc significantly increased, and in the AM and ITM experiments, the dispersion of ε slightly increased in the low coalescence intensity region. On the other hand, a decrease in aerosol concentration led to a significant reduction in Nc and increased cloud droplet size. In the region with T > 0.8, the dispersion of ε was higher.

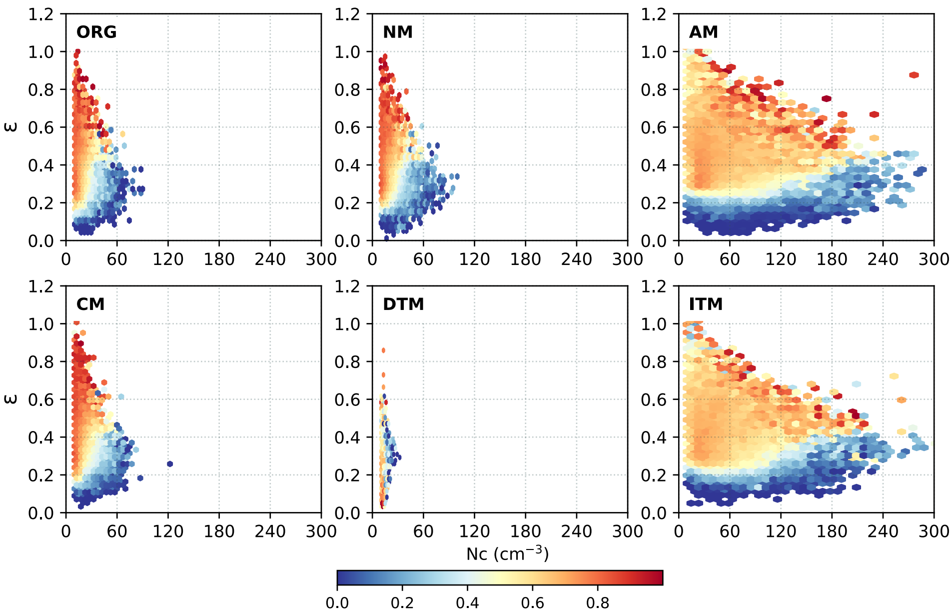


Figure 17: The variation of cloud droplet spectral relative dispersion (ε) against cloud droplet number concentration (Nc, in cm^{-3}). The shading represents the coalescence intensity.

4 Discussion

In this study, the increase in coarse-mode aerosol concentration resulted in an increase in Rv and enhanced collision-coalescence intensity, consistent with the findings of Liu et al. (2022). However, unlike Liu et al. (2022), the increase in nucleation-mode aerosol concentration in this study also promoted the early development of cloud tops above 3 km. Compared to the control experiment, both Rv and collision-coalescence intensity at the cloud top region were enhanced. This difference may stem from the classification of aerosol particle sizes; in the WRF-SBM scheme, the distribution of different aerosol modes is assumed to follow a normal distribution. Therefore, for the nucleation mode, some aerosol particles also reach the size scale of the accumulation mode, promoting an increase in Nc and a rise in T values.

Moreover, the relationship between ε and cloud microphysical properties differs from previous studies. In this study, ε shows a convergence trend as Nc increases, and changes in aerosol concentration do not alter this trend but rather affect the degree of dispersion, like the findings of Deng et al. (2009) and Yu et al. (2018). In contrast, study on non-precipitating stratiform clouds in northern China using aircraft observational data (Ma et al., 2010) shown that with an increase in aerosol concentration, ε tended to decrease with increasing Nc, whereas Anil et al. (2016) observed the opposite trend, with ε showing a positive correlation with Nc.

The complex variations in the ε-Nc relationship are mainly due to the sensitivity of Nc and ε to many microphysical processes, such as updraft strength, aerosol properties, or condensation-coalescence processes (Lu et al., 2012; Peng et al., 2007). During the fitting process of the ε-Nc relationship, it is challenging to determine the corresponding relationship between Nc and cloud microphysical processes. In regions with low Nc, it may correspond to strong collision/coalescence initiation zones, while in regions with high Nc, it may be in the condensation/coalescence dominant zone. As Liu et al. (2008) and Tas et al. (2012) have stated, compared to Nc, Rv considers the synergistic relationship between Nc and water content, providing a more explicit mapping to cloud microphysical processes. Therefore, this study explored the ε-Rv relationship to provide a more systematic understanding of the stratiform warm clouds in Eastern China. The ε-Rv correlation is summarized in Figure 18.

批注 [懿李54]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 20: Section 4 There's no need to repeat what was already described in the Introduction. Simplify if possible.

批注 [懿李55]: RC2: Line 340: "This difference may arise from variations in cloud height and cloud water content." – please explain more.

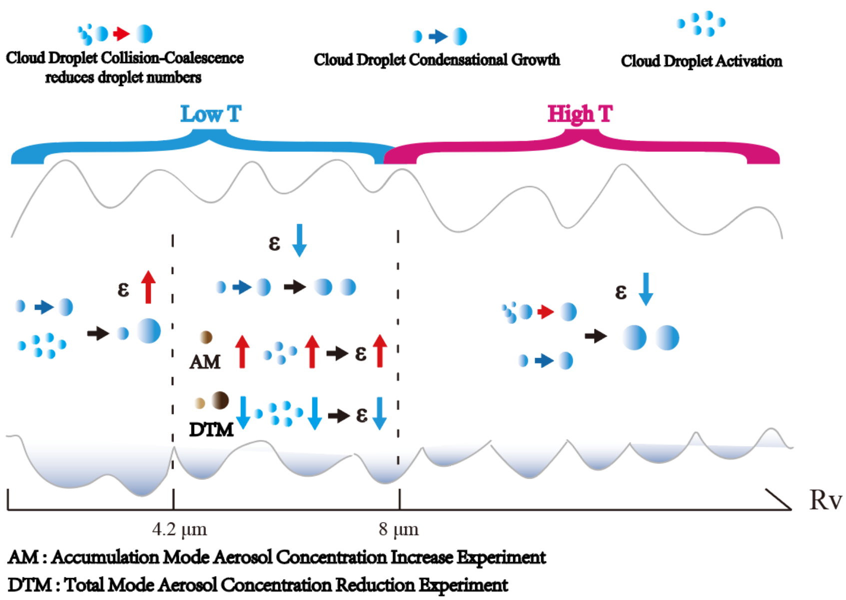


Figure 18: Correlation Mechanism between ε and Rv.

5 Conclusions

This study used the SBM-FAST bin scheme in the WRF model to simulate a warm cloud process in Jiangxi, China. Numerical experiments were further conducted to investigate the impact of changes in nucleation mode, accumulation mode, coarse mode, and total aerosol concentrations on the macroscopic and microscopic characteristics of warm clouds. The variations in cloud microphysical parameters with aerosol concentrations were analysed, the ε-Rv and ε-Nc relationships were fitted to explore the influence of microphysical processes on ε. Specific conclusions are as follows:

(1) The numerical simulation with bin microphysics scheme reproduces warm clouds' macro- and microscopic characteristics in Jiangxi, China. As the cloud system develops, Rv and T values gradually increase. Vertically, Rv increases

with height, and T also strengthens synchronously with the enlargement of cloud droplet size. The relationship between ε and Rv is not strictly monotonic; as Rv increases, ε initially increases and then decreases. Furthermore, it is found that variations in aerosol concentrations exert a significant influence on cloud development. With an increase in the aerosol concentration of any mode, the cloud droplet spectrum widens earlier. Specifically, higher aerosol concentrations promote cloud growth, increasing cloud-top height. In comparison, lower aerosol concentrations impede cloud droplet activation, decreasing the concentration of cloud droplets and leading to a notable reduction in ε and increased Rv and higher T values.

(2) In contrast, different modes of aerosol concentration variations impact cloud microphysical properties differently. An increase in accumulation mode aerosol tends to increase the concentration of small-size cloud droplets, leading to decreased Rv and a lower collision and coalescence intensity concerning the control experiment. An increase in nucleation mode and coarse mode aerosols favors the production of large cloud droplets. As a result, the increase in accumulation mode aerosol has the most significant impact on Nc enhancement. On the other hand, increases in nucleation mode and coarse mode aerosol concentrations result in an increase in Rv and an enhancement of collision and coalescence intensity.

(3) The variation of ε in the cloud is closely related to cloud microphysical processes. Fitting the ε with Rv and Nc reveals that as Rv increases, the correlation between ε and Rv changes from positive to negative, eventually converging. This transformation is mainly related to cloud droplet activation, condensation, and collision-coalescence processes within the cloud. When T values are less than 0.5, as cloud droplet condensation growth becomes more active and nucleation weakens, the cloud droplet spectrum relative dispersion transitions from an increasing trend to a decreasing trend with the increase in Rv. With the enhanced coalescence between cloud droplets, ε primarily decreases with the increase in Rv. Increasing accumulation mode aerosol concentration contributes to the prolonged cloud droplet activation, enhancing the positive correlation trend between ε and Rv. On the other hand, a decrease in aerosol concentration leads to a reduction in cloud droplet activation intensity, making the negative correlation trend between ε and Rv more pronounced. In addition, regardless of different T values, ε

converges with the increase in Nc. As Nc increases, ε converges to a range of 0.2-0.4. Changes in aerosol concentration for different modes do not alter the converging trend of ε with Nc but only affect the dispersion degree of ε at low Nc values.

Lastly, in this study, due to computational power limitations, the vertical resolution of our simulation setup is relatively coarse. Future research could consider enhancing the resolution to reveal the variations of cloud-aerosol effects more effectively within the vertical profile of clouds. Moreover, while this study has explored the effects of variations in aerosol concentrations across different modes on the macroscopic and microscopic characteristics of warm clouds, mainly focusing on the influence of these variations on the relationship between ε and cloud microphysical properties, the interaction between clouds and aerosols is a complex process influenced by multiple factors, including cloud dynamics and supersaturation levels. Therefore, future research should investigate other vital factors affecting cloud-aerosol interactions further. Additionally, incorporating case studies from diverse regions could effectively reduce the regional dependency of cloud-aerosol effect research, thereby enhancing our comprehensive understanding of these complex interactions on a global scale.

批注 [懿李56]: RC1: Reviewer's comment 22: Conclusions: What are the future directions for this work?

6 Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

7 Acknowledgments

In addition, we acknowledge the High Performance Computing Center of Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology for their support of this work.

8 Funding

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant Nos. 42061134009 and 41975176) and 2023 Jiangsu Provincial College Students' Innovative Entrepreneurial Training Program (Grant Nos.202310300108Y).

9 Data Availability Statement

The data used in this study can be accessed at the following link: https://doi.org/10.57760/sciencedb.11210. The data link includes the satellite-observed cloud top temperature data, WRF model simulation results, and simulated initial aerosol spectrum information used in this study.

The cloud top temperature data used in this study is obtained from the China National Meteorological Science Data Center. It represents the hourly cloud top temperature product observed by the VISSR instrument on the FY2G satellite. The data format is .hdf, and the temporal resolution is 30 minutes.

The WRF model simulation configurations are described in the previous section. The data format is .netcdf, and details about the data and its dimensions can be found in the data description.

The initial aerosol spectrum data includes the distribution information of aerosol spectra within the first hour of the simulation for one control group and five experimental groups mentioned in the article. The temporal resolution is 10 minutes. Data details can be found in the data description.

In addition, the initial fields used in the numerical simulations are based on the Fifth generation of ECMWF atmospheric reanalysis of the global climate (ERA5) hourly data on pressure levels. These data can be accessed at the following link: https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/reanalysis-era5-pressure-levels?tab=overview. The study utilized all height variables for every 6 hours from December 24th, 2014, 18:00 to December 25th, 2014, 06:00.

If the manuscript is accepted, the data will be publicly available through the aforementioned link (https://doi.org/10.57760/sciencedb.11210). To access the data, you only need to use the database link and provide your name, affiliation, and purpose of the data request to the authors for download.

10 References

Anil Kumar, V. et al.: Investigation of aerosol indirect effects on monsoon clouds using ground-based measurements over a high-altitude site in Western Ghats, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 16(13), pp. 8423–8430. doi:10.5194/acp-16-8423-2016, 2016.

Cecchini, M.A. et al.: Sensitivities of amazonian clouds to aerosols and updraft speed, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 17(16), pp. 10037–10050. doi:10.5194/acp-17-10037-2017, 2017.

Chandrakar, K.K. et al.: Aerosol indirect effect from turbulence-induced broadening of cloud-droplet size distributions, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 113(50), pp. 14243–14248. doi:10.1073/pnas.1612686113, 2016.

Chandrakar, K.K., Cantrell, W. and Shaw, R.A.: Influence of turbulent fluctuations on cloud droplet size dispersion and aerosol indirect effects, Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, 75(9), pp. 3191–3209. doi:10.1175/jas-d-18-0006.1, 2018.

Chen, J. et al.: New understanding and quantification of the regime dependence of aerosol-cloud interaction for studying aerosol indirect effects, Geophysical Research Letters, 43(4), pp. 1780–1787. doi:10.1002/2016gl067683, 2016.

Desai, N. et al.: Search for microphysical signatures of stochastic condensation in marine boundary layer clouds using airborne digital holography, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 124(5), pp. 2739–2752. doi:10.1029/2018jd029033, 2019.

Fan J, Leung L R, Li Z, et al. Aerosol impacts on clouds and precipitation in eastern China: Results from bin and bulk microphysics [J]. Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 117(D16), doi: 10.1029/2011JD016537, 2012.

Flossmann, A.I. and Wobrock, W.: A review of our understanding of the aerosol–cloud interaction from the perspective of a bin resolved cloud scale modelling, Atmospheric Research, 97(4), pp. 478–497. doi:10.1016/j.atmosres.2010.05.008, 2010.

Grosvenor, D. P., Sourdeval, O., Zuidema, P., Ackerman, A., Alexandrov, M. D., Bennartz, R., et al.: Remote sensing of droplet number concentration in warm clouds: A review of the current state of knowledge and perspectives. Reviews of Geophysics, 56, 409– 453. https://doi.org/10.1029/2017RG000593, 2018.

Han, B. et al.: Cloud-Resolving Model Intercomparison of an MC3E squall line case: Part II. Stratiform precipitation properties, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 124(2), pp. 1090–1117. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1029/2018jd029596, 2019.

Hersbach, H., Bell, B., Berrisford, P., Biavati, G., Horányi, A., Muñoz Sabater, J., Nicolas, J., Peubey, C., Radu, R., Rozum, I., Schepers, D., Simmons, A., Soci, C., Dee, D., Thépaut, J-N.: ERA5 hourly data on pressure levels from 1940 to present. Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store (CDS), DOI: 10.24381/cds.bd0915c6, 2023.

Ilotoviz, E. et al.: Effect of aerosols on freezing drops, hail, and precipitation in a midlatitude storm, Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, 73(1), pp. 109–144. doi:10.1175/jas-d-14-0155.1, 2015.

Jensen, J.B. and Nugent, A.D.: Condensational growth of drops formed on giant sea-salt aerosol particles, Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, 74(3), pp. 679–697. doi:10.1175/jas-d-15-0370.1, 2017.

Jin Yuchen, Niu Shengjie, Lü Jingjing, et al.: Study of the Microphysical Structural Characteristics and Cloud–Rain Autoconversion Threshold Function of Stratiform Warm Clouds in Jiangxi [J]. Chinese Journal of Atmospheric Sciences, 45(5): 981−993. doi: 10.3878/j.issn.1006-9895.2102.20166, 2021.

Kant, S., Panda, J. and Gautam, R.: A seasonal analysis of aerosol-cloud-radiation interaction over Indian region during 2000–2017, Atmospheric Environment, 201, pp. 212–222. doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2018.12.044, 2019.

Khain, A. and Sednev, I.: Simulation of precipitation formation in the Eastern Mediterranean Coastal Zone using a spectral microphysics cloud ensemble model, Atmospheric Research, 43(1), pp. 77–110. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1016/s0169-8095(96)00005-1, 1996.

Khain, A. et al.: Notes on the state-of-the-art numerical modeling of Cloud Microphysics, Atmospheric Research, 55(3-4), pp. 159–224. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1016/s0169-8095(00)00064-8, 2000.

Khain A P, Rosenfeld D, Pokrovsky A, et al.: Effects of Atmospheric Aerosols on Precipitation From Deep Convective Clouds As Seen From Simulations Using A Spectral Microphysics Cloud Model[J]. Available at: 2002EGSGA.27.6326K, 2002.

Khain, A., Rosenfeld, D. and Pokrovsky, A.: Aerosol impact on the dynamics and microphysics of deep convective clouds. Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society: A journal of the atmospheric sciences, applied meteorology and physical oceanography, 131(611), pp.2639-2663, 2005.

Khain, A. and Lynn, B.: Simulation of a supercell storm in clean and dirty atmosphere using weather research and forecast model with spectral bin Microphysics, Journal of Geophysical Research, 114(D19). Available at: https://doi.org/10.1029/2009jd011827, 2009.

Kovačević, N.: Hail suppression effectiveness for varying solubility of natural aerosols in water, Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics, 131(3), pp. 585–599. doi:10.1007/s00703-018-0587-4, 2018.

Kumar, B. et al.: Cloud-edge mixing: Direct numerical simulation and observations in Indian Monsoon clouds, Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems, 9(1), pp. 332–353. doi:10.1002/2016ms000731, 2017.

Lau, K.M. and Wu, H.T.: Warm rain processes over tropical oceans and climate implications, Geophysical Research Letters, 30(24). Available at: https://doi.org/10.1029/2003gl018567, 2003.

Lerach, D.G. and Cotton, W.R.: Simulating southwestern U.S. desert dust influences on supercell thunderstorms, Atmospheric Research, 204, pp. 78–93. doi:10.1016/j.atmosres.2017.12.005, 2018.

Liu, F. et al.: Opposing comparable large effects of fine aerosols and coarse sea spray on marine warm clouds, Communications Earth & amp; Environment, 3(1). doi:10.1038/s43247-022-00562-y, 2022.

Liu, G.: Retrieval of cloud droplet size from visible and microwave radiometric measurements during INDOEX: Implication to aerosols' indirect radiative effect, Journal of Geophysical Research, 108(D1). doi:10.1029/2001jd001395, 2003.

Liu, Y. and Daum, P.H.: Indirect warming effect from dispersion forcing, Nature, 419(6907), pp. 580–581. doi:10.1038/419580a, 2002.

Liu, Y.: Size truncation effect, threshold behavior, and a new type of autoconversion parameterization, Geophysical Research Letters, 32(11). doi:10.1029/2005gl022636, 2005.

Liu, Y. et al.: Generalized threshold function accounting for effect of relative dispersion on threshold behavior of autoconversion process, Geophysical Research Letters, 33(11). doi:10.1029/2005gl025500, 2006.

Liu, Y. et al.: Dispersion bias, dispersion effect, and the aerosol–cloud conundrum, Environmental Research Letters, 3(4), p. 045021. doi:10.1088/1748-9326/3/4/045021, 2008.

Liu, Y. et al.: Tibetan Plateau driven impact of Taklimakan dust on northern rainfall, Atmospheric Environment, 234, p. 117583. doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2020.117583, 2020.

Lu, C. et al.: Observed impacts of vertical velocity on cloud microphysics and implications for aerosol indirect effects, Geophysical Research Letters, 39(21). doi:10.1029/2012gl053599, 2012.

Lu, C. et al.: Empirical relationship between entrainment rate and microphysics in cumulus clouds', Geophysical Research Letters, 40(10), pp. 2333–2338. doi:10.1002/grl.50445, 2013.

Lu, C. et al.: Reconciling contrasting relationships between relative dispersion and volume-mean radius of cloud droplet size distributions, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 125(9). doi:10.1029/2019jd031868, 2020.

Lu, C. S., & Xu, X. Q.: Research Progress on Cloud Entrainment-Mixing Processes. Torrential Rain and Disasters (in China), 40(3), 271-279. DOI: 10.3969/j.issn.1004-9045.2021.03.005, 2021.

Ma, J. et al.: Strong air pollution causes widespread haze-clouds over China, Journal of Geophysical Research, 115(D18). doi:10.1029/2009jd013065, 2010.

Morrison, H. et al.: Broadening of modeled cloud droplet spectra using bin microphysics in an Eulerian spatial domain, Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, 75(11), pp. 4005–4030. doi:10.1175/jas-d-18-0055.1, 2018.

Pandithurai, G. et al.: Aerosol effect on droplet spectral dispersion in warm continental cumuli, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 117(D16). doi:10.1029/2011jd016532, 2012.

Peng, Y. et al.: An investigation into the aerosol dispersion effect through the activation process in marine stratus clouds, Journal of Geophysical Research, 112(D11). doi:10.1029/2006jd007401, 2007.

Pinsky, M. and Khain, A.: Theoretical Analysis of the Entrainment–mixing process at cloud boundaries. part I: Droplet size distributions and humidity within the interface zone, Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, 75(6), pp. 2049–2064. doi:10.1175/jas-d-17-0308.1, 2018.

Prabha, T.V. et al.: Spectral width of premonsoon and monsoon clouds over Indo-Gangetic Valley, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 117(D20). doi:10.1029/2011jd016837, 2012.

Qian Y, Gong D, Fan J, et al. Heavy pollution suppresses light rain in China: Observations and modeling [J]. Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 114(D7), doi: 10.1029/2008jd011575, 2009.

Rosenfeld, D., Rudich, Y. and Lahav, R.: Desert dust suppressing precipitation: A possible desertification feedback loop, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 98(11), pp. 5975–5980. doi:10.1073/pnas.101122798, 2001.

Rotstayn, L.D. and Liu, Y.: Sensitivity of the first indirect aerosol effect to an increase of cloud droplet spectral dispersion with droplet number concentration, Journal of Climate, 16(21), pp. 3476–3481. doi:10.1175/1520-0442(2003)016<3476: sotfia>2.0.co;2, 2003.

Rotstayn, L.D. and Liu, Y.: Cloud droplet spectral dispersion and the indirect aerosol effect: Comparison of two treatments in a GCM, Geophysical Research Letters, 36(10). doi:10.1029/2009gl038216, 2009.

Seifert, A., Nuijens, L. and Stevens, B.: Turbulence effects on warm-rain autoconversion in precipitating shallow convection. Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, 136(652), pp.1753-1762, 2010.

Shpund, J. et al.: Simulating a mesoscale convective system using WRF with a new spectral bin Microphysics: 1: Hail vs graupel, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 124(24), pp. 14072–14101. doi:10.1029/2019jd030576, 2019.

Tas, E., Koren, I. and Altaratz, O.: On the sensitivity of droplet size relative dispersion to warm cumulus cloud evolution, Geophysical Research Letters, 39(13). doi:10.1029/2012gl052157, 2012.

Tas, E. et al.: The relative dispersion of cloud droplets: Its robustness with respect to key cloud properties, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 15(4), pp. 2009–2017. doi:10.5194/acp-15-2009-2015, 2015.

Wang Fei, Lu Chunsong.: Advances of Theoretical, Observational, and Numerical Studies on Relative Dispersion of Cloud Droplet Spectral (in China). Plateau Meteorology. DOI：10. 7522/j. issn. 1000-0534. 00067, 2022.

Wang, F. et al.: An airborne study of the aerosol effect on the dispersion of cloud droplets in a drizzling marine stratocumulus cloud over eastern China, Atmospheric Research, 265, p. 105885. doi:10.1016/j.atmosres.2021.105885, 2022.

Wang, X. et al.: A study of shallow cumulus cloud droplet dispersion by large eddy simulations, Acta Meteorologica Sinica, 25(2), pp. 166–175. doi:10.1007/s13351-011-0024-9, 2011.

Wang, Y. et al.: An observational study on cloud spectral width in North China, Atmosphere, 10(3), p. 109. doi:10.3390/atmos10030109, 2019.

Wang, Y. et al.: Diverse dispersion effects and parameterization of relative dispersion in urban fog in eastern China, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 128(6). doi:10.1029/2022jd037514, 2023.

Wehbe, Y., Temimi, M. and Adler, R.F.: Enhancing precipitation estimates through the fusion of weather radar, satellite retrievals, and surface parameters, Remote Sensing, 12(8), p. 1342. doi:10.3390/rs12081342, 2020.

Xie, X. N., Liu, X. D., & Wang, Z. S.: Research Progress on the Impact of Cloud Droplet Spectrum Dispersion on Aerosol Indirect Effects (in China). Journal of Earth Environment, 6(2), 8. DOI: 10.7515/JEE201502008, 2015.

Xie, X. et al.: Sensitivity study of cloud parameterizations with relative dispersion in CAM5.1: Impacts on aerosol indirect effects, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 17(9), pp. 5877–5892. doi:10.5194/acp-17-5877-2017, 2017.

Yang, F. et al.: Evaluation of multiple forcing data sets for precipitation and shortwave radiation over major land areas of China, Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, 21(11), pp. 5805–5821. doi:10.5194/hess-21-5805-2017, 2017.

Yang, S. et al.: Effects of aerosol number concentration and updraft velocity on relative dispersion during the collision–coalescence growth stage of warm clouds, Atmosphere, 14(5), p. 828. doi:10.3390/atmos14050828, 2023.

Yin, Y. et al.: The effects of giant cloud condensation nuclei on the development of precipitation in convective clouds — a numerical study, Atmospheric Research, 53(1–3), pp. 91–116. doi:10.1016/s0169-8095(99)00046-0, 2000.

Yu Guohang, Yang Suying, Hu Cheng-rong, et al.: Simulation on Impacts of Aerosol Number Concentration on Physical Characteristics of Warm Clouds during Different Growth Stages [J]. Journal of Meteorology and Environment, 38(3): 52-64, 2022.

Yum, S.S. and Hudson, J.G.: Adiabatic predictions and observations of cloud droplet spectral broadness, Atmospheric Research, 73(3–4), pp. 203–223. doi:10.1016/j.atmosres.2004.10.006, 2005.

Zhao, C. and Ishizaka, Y.: Modeling marine stratocumulus with a detailed microphysical scheme, Advances in Atmospheric Sciences, 21(1), pp. 61–74. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1007/bf03342546, 2004.

Zhao, C. et al.: Aircraft measurements of cloud droplet spectral dispersion and implications for indirect aerosol radiative forcing, Geophysical Research Letters, 33(16). doi:10.1029/2006gl026653, 2006.

Zheng, X. et al.: Comparison of macro- and microphysical properties in precipitating and non-precipitating clouds over Central-eastern China during warm season, Remote Sensing, 14(1), p. 152. doi:10.3390/rs14010152, 2021.

Zhu Lei, Lu Chunsong, Gao Sinan, Yum Seong Soo.: Spectral Width of Cloud Droplet Spectra and Its Impact Factors in Marine Stratocumulus[J]. Chinese Journal of Atmospheric Sciences, 44(3): 575-590. doi: 10.3878/j.issn.1006-9895.1905.19115, 2020.