

Environmental Drivers of Arctic Low-Level Clouds: Analysis of the Regional and Seasonal Dependencies Using Space-Based Lidar and Radar

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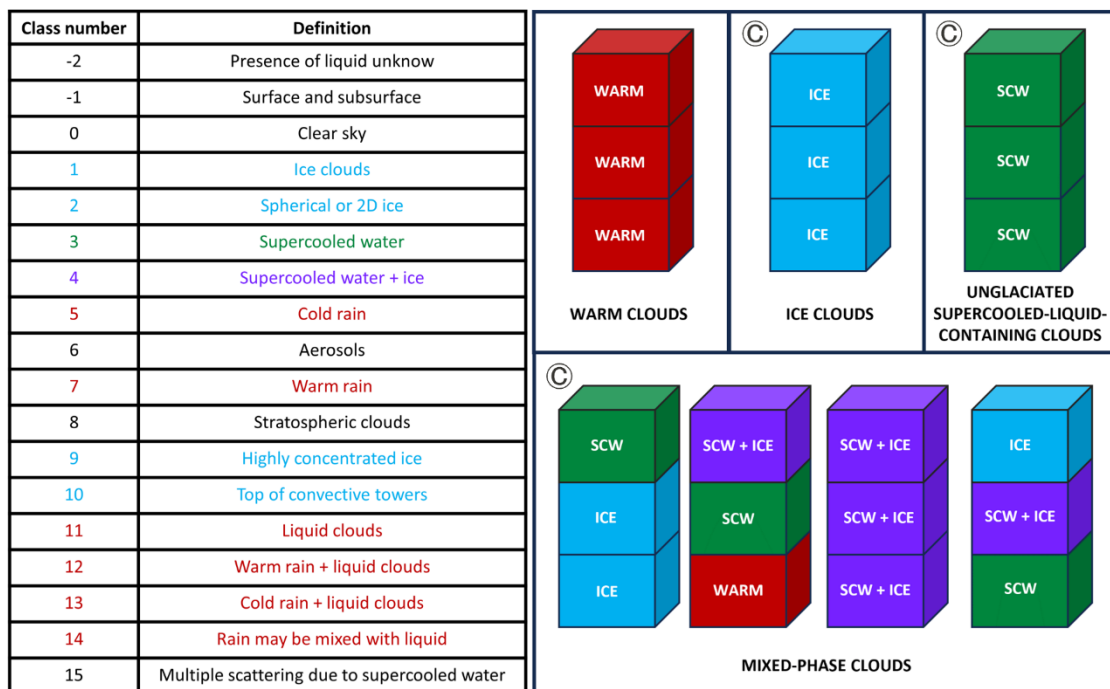


Figure S1. DARDAR classes used in the V2 version and cloud representation examples in DARDAR-SOCP (adapted from Bazantay et al., 2024). The colors of the classes in the table correspond to the pixel colors of the cloud representations. The symbol C in the diagrams represents cloud types belonging to the cold clouds (temperature $< 0^{\circ}\text{C}$).

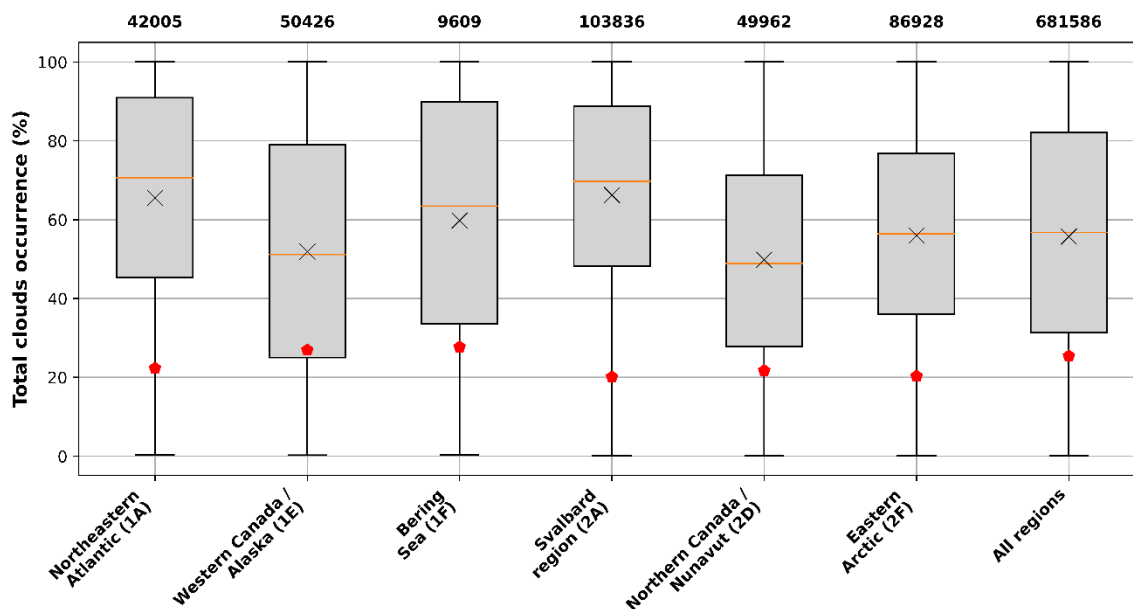


Figure S2. Boxplot showing the total cloud occurrence (%) statistics and uncertainties derived from DARDAR-MASK and DARDAR-SOCP products across different Arctic regions. The gray boxes represent the interquartile range (IQR), with the orange line indicating the median and the black cross representing the mean. Red pentagons denote the median absolute deviation (MAD).

Numbers above each boxplot indicate the number of data points for each region. The final boxplot on the right merges data from all regions.

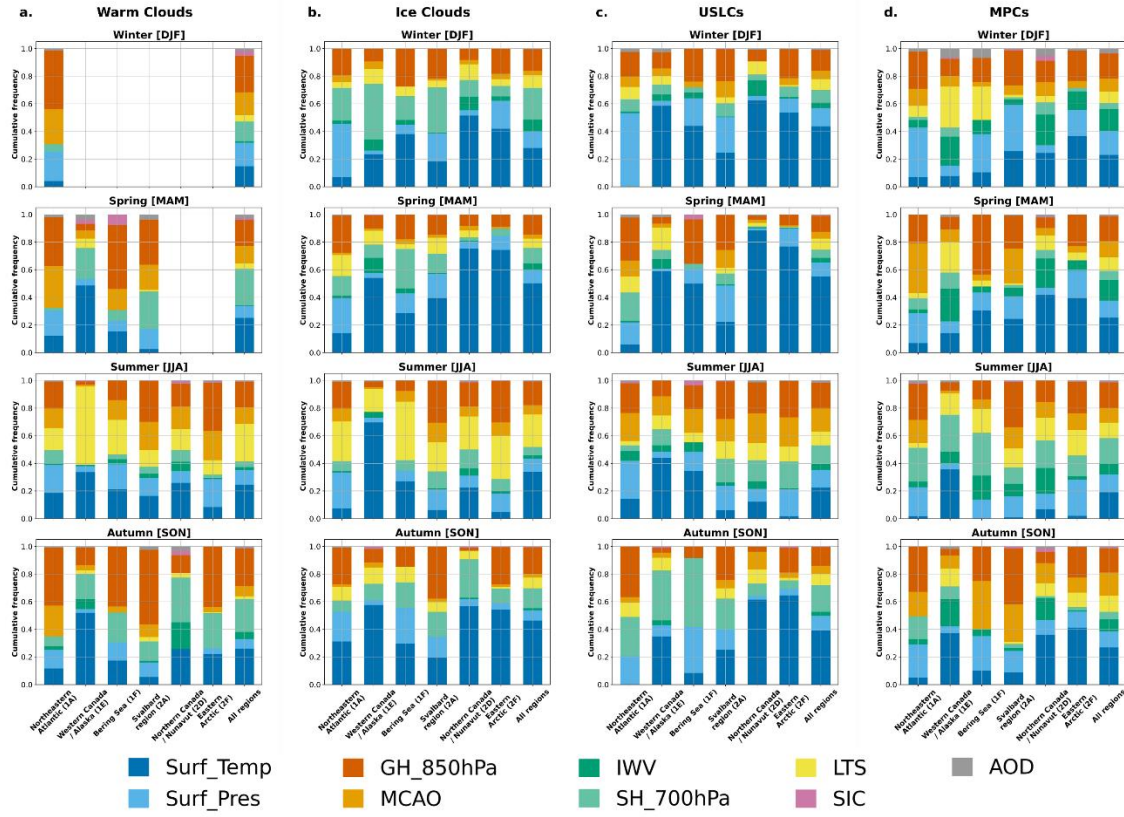


Figure S3. Cumulative frequency of most influential parameters of MLR for low-level (a) warm clouds, (b) ice clouds, (c) USLCs, and (d) MPCs. Each row corresponds to a season. The most influential parameter is only selected when MLR has $R^2 > 0.2$.

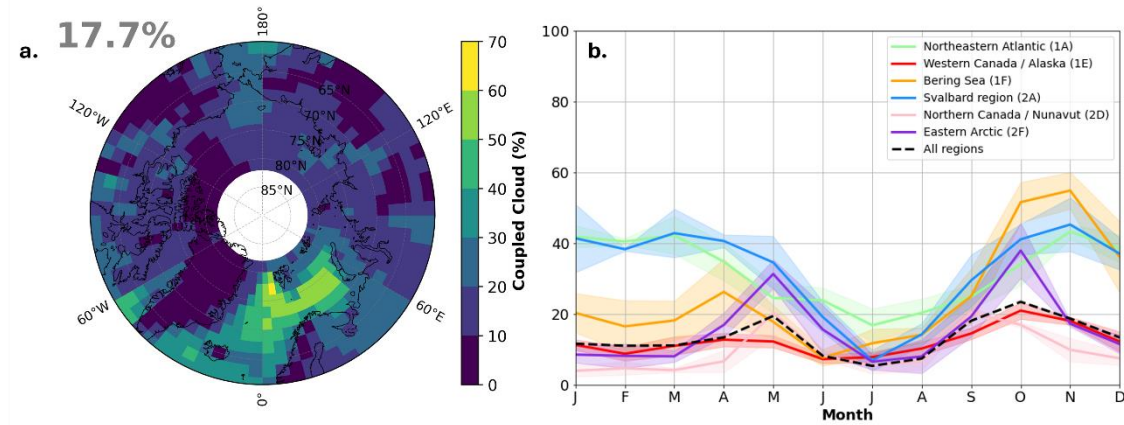


Figure S4. (a) Stereographic projections of median coupled low-level cloud fractions between 2007 and 2016. The number in the upper left represents the median fraction for the entire study

area. **(b)** Monthly evolution of coupled clouds for low-level clouds between 2007 and 2016. The colored areas around the curves represent the interquartile range.

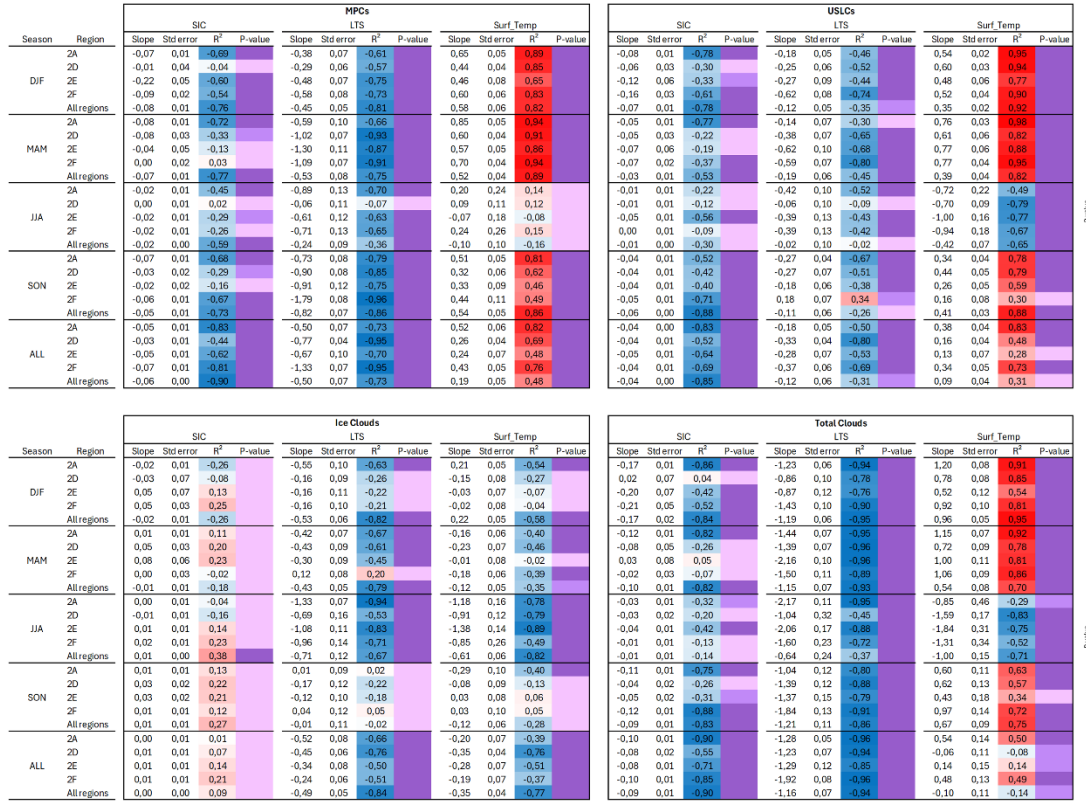


Figure S5. Spearman's rank correlations, slopes, and p-value for three parameters: sea ice concentration (SIC), Lower-Tropospheric Stability (LTS), and surface temperature (Surf_Temp). Simple regressions are applied to the normalized data to compare the slopes. Correlations are made for MPCs, USLCs, ice clouds, and total clouds.

Text S1.

The calculation of cloud occurrences involves statistical uncertainties. All the different statistical parameters calculated for this study are given in **Figure S2**. They are calculated from each grid cell (2°x2°) averaged over 1 week of measurements, resulting in a study area represented by approximately 680 000 points. The medians are not the same as those shown in the main figures, they are not calculated on the same time scales (monthly/annual). For the whole area, the average cloud occurrence is 55.7%, with a standard deviation of 25.4%. The standard deviation obtained (Gaussian distribution hypothesis) for the different regions of the study area varies between 26 and 32%. In this study, the Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney and Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests (not shown here) are used to evaluate the statistical significance of the observed disparities between regional cloud occurrences. The statistical analysis indicates that the distributions of cloud occurrence do not align with the normal hypothesis and that these distributions vary significantly between the different regions that are studied. Therefore, we choose to use the median cloud occurrence and the Median Absolute Deviation (MAD), which are more robust parameters to characterize non-Gaussian samples.

Text S2.

A cloud is coupled with the surface when its processes and formation conditions are linked to the thermodynamic conditions of the surface. Surface-coupled clouds are typically boundary-layer clouds. They form as a result of heat and moisture exchanges between the surface and the atmosphere. This coupling is determined by potential temperature profiles. If the difference between the potential temperature at the base of the cloud's liquid layer and that at the surface is less than 0.5 K, the cloud is considered to be coupled (Gierens et al., 2020). Analysis of the spatial distribution over the study area shows considerable heterogeneity (**Fig. S4a**). Clouds tend to be more coupled over oceanic regions, with up to 60% of them to the southwest of Svalbard. This highlights that cloud-surface is more important over the oceans. In oceanic regions, vertical transport of water vapor is more efficient (especially in the absence of pack ice), which favors the initiation and maintenance of the liquid phase in MPCs (Gayet et al., 2009). There are three areas where coupled clouds are very rare: western Canada (1E), Russia (1G), and Western Europe (1H). These are areas where clouds are decoupled more than 90% of the time. Seasonal variations (**Fig. S4b**) show a bimodal distribution for all regions (except oceanic regions). The seasonal variations confirm the greater presence of this type of cloud over oceanic regions (1A, 1F, and 2A). During the second peak in autumn, the Bering region has more than 50% coupled clouds. For all regions, summer is the season with the fewest coupled clouds (less than 20%). Summer is also the season with the fewest low-level clouds over the Arctic, so the proportion of this type of cloud is lower. In contrast, autumn and spring seem to be the seasons with the most coupled clouds, with heterogeneities between regions. It can be seen that averaging cloud occurrences by region does not reveal local anomalies. For the Labrador region (1-2C), the mouth of the strait has around 50% coupled clouds, so this anomaly is not visible over the whole region.

References.

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- Gierens, R., Kneifel, S., Shupe, M. D., Ebell, K., Maturilli, M., and Löhnert, U.: Low-level mixed-phase clouds in a complex Arctic environment, *Atmospheric Chem. Phys.*, 20, 3459–3481, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-20-3459-2020>, 2020.