



A New Perspective on Model Data Fusion for Improving Climate models: Especially clouds

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Mark Fielding, ECMWF Newsletter

Climate: Cloud Radiative Effects are Large



IPCC 2013 (Boucher et al 2013) Fig 7.7

Climate Feedbacks

Climate Sensitivity Uncertainty: It's all about cloud feedback



IPCC AR6 Fig 7.10

Aerosol Effects on Clouds: Climate Forcing

Scattering & Absorption = Aerosol-Radiation Interactions Aerosol – Cloud – Interactions (ACI) +Aerosols \rightarrow +CCN \rightarrow +N_c \rightarrow Δ CRE



Brighter clouds (albedo effect) with smaller drops (S. Twomey 1977) Also: delay in precipitation (B. Albrecht, 1989). Longer lived Clouds?

Aerosol Largest Uncertainty for Climate Forcing



Change in effective radiative forcing from 1750 to 2019

IPCC, 2021, Fig 7.6

Outline

- Motivation: Clouds are Critical for Climate
- ESM Advancements (at any scale)
- Model-Data Comparisons with Simulators (Climate Focus)
- Machine Learning the Rain Processes
- Larger vision: Model-Data Fusion

Improving (weather, climate) predictions requires synergistic use of observations and models

Where are ESMs (GCMs) Going?

- GSRMs (e.g. uniform high resolution)
- Traceable to lower resolution Global, Regional
 - Merging with mesoscale models (especially cloud processes)
 - Scalable complexity: chemistry, aerosols, cloud processes (e.g. rimed ice)
- New methods
 - Emulators, Machine Learning (new generation of 'empirical' parameterizations)
- Better analysis, optimization methods
 - Nudging, Satellite Simulators
 - Data Assimilation for Climate (especially for clouds)

Climate Extremes: Variable-Resolution ESM

0.5

0.1

0.05

0.01

- Global Model: CESM-MPAS: 60→3km regional, non-hydrostatic dynamics.
- Regional climate model: WRF (CONUS) 4km (Rasmussen et al., 2021)

W. USA Wet-season (Nov-Mar) precip (5yrs)

- CESM-MPAS results compare well to obs
- Smaller biases than WRF mesoscale model

Daily precipitation Intensity PDF

4km Mesoscale Model (WRF) 3km Global Model (CESM) 4km Observations

CESM captures **observed PDF** better than **WRF**, especially for extreme precipitation

Huang et al, 2022, GMD



Major Climate Issues for Clouds & Precipitation

- Cold Cloud Phase:
 - Critical for high latitude radiative effects, cloud feedbacks, weather extremes
- Cloud Microphysics:
 - Size distributions govern process rates
 - Cross scale convective processes
- Dynamics-Microphysics coupling
 - Vertical structure of clouds: cloud base, freezing, entrainment at top
 - Vertical velocity critical for activation (Aerosol-Cloud Interactions)
- Precipitation Formation: Frequency & Intensity
- Convective organization across scales

Cloud Phase

SOCRATES in-situ flights over the S. Ocean used to understand & improve models

CESM2-CAM6: Too little ice. This contributes to high climate sensitivity.





Gettelman et al 2020

Microphysics, Size distributions

- Advanced GCMs/GSRMs can be compared directly to cloud microphysical size distributions
- This is one type of 'instrument simulator'

Comparison of GCM (colors) cloud microphysics along aircraft flight tracks with in-situ data (black)



Cloud Dynamics & Microphysics

- Cloud dynamics (velocity) influences/controls cloud microphysics & aerosol activation
- Leads to different cloud drop/crystal number, precipitation & radiative effects
- S. Ocean SOCRATES example
- Note: GSRMs are still not 'resolving' these interactions



Observation Simulators *Reflectivity in the IFS-SCM*

Comparisons over Macquarie Island in S. Ocean between a precipitation radar and single column simulations with one-moment and 2-moment microphysics in the ECMWF-IFS SCM.



Gettelman, Forbes, Marchand, Fielding, in Prep



Radiation Comparisons

MICRE Low Cloud Cases in IFS

- 2-Moment Microphysics does a good job of reproducing the radiative fluxes
- Low clouds too bright at TOA, okay at surface?
- But large LWP bias!
- LWP v. Albedo saturates





Precipitation Frequency

Improving precipitation formation with emulators

1500

1000

500

5

iquid water path (g/m²)

Replace rain formation (autoconversion and accretion) in a bulk cloud microphysics scheme with detailed treatment from a bin scheme (stochastic collection).

Emulate with a neural network (perfect model experiment)

Reduces rain rate for small drop sizes but large LWP

Precipitation Frequency

Control v. Observations and

Bin precipitation and ML Emulator.

Using stochastic collection from a bin scheme improves large scale precipitation frequency in shallow clouds

Gettelman et al 2021, JAMES



Models and Observations....

T=f(volume) Is a model

Key points:

- All observations have a model in them
- The forward (or observation) model is the inverse of the retrieval (inverse)



w (processes/parameters): includes traditional methods + machine learning, variational methods

Improving prediction by integrating observations and models

Observation model: 1/Retrieval Helps optimize model (Radar Example)

Fill in time, space, state not observed: enables process studies

Data Cube or 'Twin'

Prediction

'Applications'

Model

Empirical Models/Training **Observations** and/or Theory (Machine Learning Example)

Use for optimizing models Assimilation **Model error analysis** (Nudging: SOCRATES/MICRE Examples)

Obs Simulator



Retrieval

Model OSSE Experiments Design data system, maximize impact

Observations

Signal (Voltage)

Radiance

Only see part of the system (Space, time, wavelength)



Need a priori data (often from models....)

Gettelman et al 2022, Sci Advances

Putting Model-Data Fusion Into Practice

Example: Atmosphere Observing System

Aerosols, Clouds, Convection, and Precipitation



https://aos.gsfc.nasa.gov



2 orbit planes, 4 Platforms 11 Sensors

- W+Ka Doppler Radar (Polar)
- HSRL Lidar (Polar)
- Polarimeter, (Polar)
- IR Radiometer (Polar)
- 2 Limb Imagers (Polar)
- 3 Multi-Freq MW Radiometers
- Ku-band Doppler Radar (Inclined)
- Backscatter Lidar (Inclined)

3 International Partners

AOS and Model-Data Fusion

Incorporating modeling and DA from the beginning of mission design

- 1. Build an open and consistent framework for retrieval and forward operator development
 - Provide 'nature' runs as reference data
 - Integrate forward operators (simulators for models) and retrievals
 - Creating a 'cloud' platform for a priori data, simulations, software

2. Plan for future model-data integration

- Production of Level 4 (model + obs integrated) products
- Model evaluation (e.g., observation simulators for AOS)
- Data assimilation (observation operators, adjoints)
- Enable/explore machine learning for faster simulators, inversion of retrievals
- 3. Assist in sub-orbital (field campaign) planning
 - Nature runs + reanalysis + orbit simulators
 - Help to optimize planned deployments







Summary

- Key cloud issues for cliamte:
 - Cloud Phase
 - Cloud dynamics-physics coupling
 - Precipitation
- Improving (weather, climate) predictions requires synergistic use of observations and models
 - New methods for Model-Data Fusion
 - Simulators & Assimilation (adjonts, ML creation of adjoints)
 - Use integrated systems to help predict (and reduce uncertainty)
 - Target observations (Observation System Simulation Experiments)
 - Data driven modeling at different scales (emulators, optimization, assimilation)
- NASA AOS Satellite constellation following a Model-Data Fusion paradigm



'Digital Earths' WCRP Lighthouse Activity

Support the design and building of **integrated interactive digital information systems** that provide global and regional information on the past, present, and future of our planet, including both natural and human systems.

Areas of activity

 Fully coupled km-scale regional and global models: Need a global research network in km-scale modeling of the Earth system and individual components

– Data assimilation for climate: Establish an active community in data assimilation for climate, expanding on the excising numerical weather prediction and re-analysis efforts

– Beyond the Physical Earth System: Include human interactions on and impacts to human systems in ESMs

