The radiative influence of aerosol effects on liquid-phase cumulus and stratiform clouds based on sensitivity studies with two climate models

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Abstract

Aerosol effects on warm (liquid-phase) cumulus cloud systems may have a strong radiative influence via suppression of precipitation in convective systems. A consequence of this suppression of precipitation is increased liquid water available for large-scale stratiform clouds, through detrainment, that in turn affect their precipitation efficiency. The nature of this influence on radiation, however, is dependent on both the treatment of convective condensate and the aerosol distribution. Here, we examine these issues with two climate models – CSIRO and GISS, which treat detrained condensate differently. Aerosol-cloud interactions in warm stratiform and cumulus clouds (via cloud droplet formation and autoconversion) are treated similarly in both models. The influence of aerosol-cumulus cloud interactions on precipitation and radiation are examined via simulations with present-day and pre-industrial aerosol emissions. Sensitivity tests are also conducted to examine changes to climate due to changes in cumulus cloud droplet number (N_c); the main connection between aerosols and cumulus cloud microphysics. Results indicate that the CSIRO GCM is quite sensitive to changes in aerosol concentrations such that an increase in aerosols increases N_c, cloud cover, total LWP and reduces total precipitation and net cloud radiative forcings. On the other hand, the radiative fluxes in the GISS GCM appear to have minimal changes despite an increase in aerosols and N_c. These differences between the two models --reduced total LWP in the GISS GCM for increased aerosols, opposite to that seen in CSIRO-- appear to be more sensitive to the detrainment of convective condensate, rather than to changes in N_c. If aerosols suppress convective precipitation as noted in some observationally based studies (but not currently treated in most climate models), the consequence of this change in LWP suggests that: (1) the aerosol indirect effect (calculated as changes to net cloud radiative forcing from anthropogenic aerosols) may be higher than previously calculated or (2) lower than previously calculated. Observational constrains on these results are difficult to obtain and hence, until realistic cumulus-scale updrafts are implemented in models, the logic of detraining nonprecipitating condensate at appropriate levels based on updrafts and its effects on radiation, will remain an uncertainty.

1. Introduction

Aerosol effects on precipitation formation in both large-scale stratiform and cumulus clouds have been observed over the last several years via satellite data (Rosenfeld and Lensky 1998, Rosenfeld and Woodley 2000, Rosenfeld 1999, 2000; Shepherd et al. 2001). Aerosol effects on large-scale stratiform clouds studied via several climate models (Lohmann et al. 1999; Ghan et al. 2001; Rotstayn and Lohmann 2002a; Menon et al. 2002; Menon 2004; Takemura et al. 2005; Lohmann and Feichter 2005) suggest that the suppression of precipitation with increased aerosols can alter the radiative fluxes due to changes in cloud lifetime or liquid water path (LWP). Wang (2005 a,b) and Jiang and Feingold (2006) have also recently examined aerosol effects on convective clouds in cloud resolving models. Wang (2005a) finds that the formation and development of precipitation in convective clouds to increased aerosols do not follow the same process as in stratiform or warm clouds and cleaner regions are more susceptible to aerosols than are polluted regions. While this study was confined to tropical deep convection, Jiang and Feingold (2006) in their study on aerosol effects on warm convective clouds, find that aerosol effects on cloud fraction and LWP are small compared to the dynamic variability of

clouds when aerosol radiative effects are neglected. With aerosol radiative effects, LWP, cloud fraction and cloud depths weaken with increased aerosols. However, both studies do not encourage a generalization of their results since they were confined to specific systems or regions.

Aerosol effects on convective clouds, while not radiatively significant, are important dynamically since latent heat released from tropical convection impacts the general circulation in tropical regions (Graf 2004). Precipitation changes in convective systems not only affect the vertical release of latent heat flux but can also shift the droplets that could coalesce to higher levels (Andreae et al. 2004). Since convective systems are linked to large-scale stratiform cloud systems via detrained water and moisture, the overall effects of aerosols on both these cloud systems provide a useful indicator on the influence of aerosols on precipitation as well as radiation and the sensitivity of schemes that treat these processes.

For convective systems, changes to the water cycle, via precipitation that reduces the amount of condensate in the updrafts, and detrained condensate that form anvil clouds, need to be well characterized to obtain appropriate cloud feedbacks (Del Genio et al. 2005, hereafter DG05). Based on observational analysis, DG05 find that convective and associated cirrus anvil amount depend on large-scale dynamical conditions as well as on the sea-surface temperatures. By suppressing precipitation in convective systems, one may also consider an aerosol influence on these processes, that may increase anvil formation, similar to the 'thermostat hypothesis' (Ramanathan and Collins 1991); except that the increased condensate here is not due to the increase in warming but rather due to the reduction in droplet sizes from the aerosol effect that acts to suppress precipitation. Furthermore, detrained condensate from cumulus clouds increases liquid water available for stratiform clouds; thereby influencing LWP as well as the precipitation efficiency of these clouds, in addition to the relative humidity profiles that can increase stratiform cloud cover. The larger radiative effects usually obtained from changes to stratiform cloud systems suggest that the detrained condensate and precipitation processes in cumulus clouds may have a strong indirect influence on the radiative forcing of stratiform cloud systems. Additionally, Clement and Soden (2005) suggest that recent decadal trends in tropical radiation budgets may be more sensitive to changes in convective precipitation efficiencies for high values of these efficiencies, than to changes in tropical circulation, based on sensitivity studies with a few climate models.

In terms of global effects, changes to convective cloud precipitation due to aerosol effects are only now being studied via global climate models (Nober et al. 2003, Menon and Del Genio 2006). These studies included aerosol effects on cumulus cloud droplets and imposed precipitation changes to convective systems based on empirical evidence. Thus, to further analyze previous work on aerosol effects on cumulus clouds, and to highlight the importance of condensate changes in convective systems on the aerosol indirect effect, we examine aerosol effects on warm cumulus clouds, in addition to their effects on warm stratiform clouds via two global climate models – the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) GCM and the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) GCM. Here, warm clouds refer to liquid-phase clouds. Changes in precipitation, as well as cloud properties are examined between simulations with present-day (PD) versus pre-industrial (PI) aerosol emissions to understand the role that anthropogenic aerosols play in modifying precipitation and radiation.

Several sets of simulations are conducted to quantify the climate effects associated with the coupling between aerosol-cumulus and aerosol-stratiform clouds. Sensitivity tests have also been conducted to provide an indication of the sensitivity of precipitation to cloud droplet number concentration (N_c). General features of changes to climate from aerosols are studied between models without accounting for systematic differences between model physics since our focus is mainly on parameterization differences that cause a specific climate response in a model due to an imposed forcing. In this paper we only focus on aerosol effects on warm clouds. Both models however use a similar treatment for calculating N_c and the autoconversion process in warm clouds, which are the main processes linked with aerosols.

2. Model Description and Simulations

The standard features of the CSIRO and GISS GCMs relevant to cloud processes and the GCM in general are described below. The effects of aerosols on warm stratiform clouds in these models are described previously in Rotstayn and Liu (2003, 2005) and Menon et al. (2002, 2003).

The CSIRO GCM is a low-resolution (spectral R21) version of the CSIRO Mk3 GCM described by Gordon et al. (2002; http://www.dar.csiro.au/publications/gordon 2002a.pdf). Aerosol treatments have recently been added, as described by Rotstayn and Lohmann (2002b) for the sulfur cycle, and based on Cooke et al. (1999) for carbonaceous aerosols. The model includes a physically based stratiform cloud microphysical scheme (Rotstayn 1997) although the treatment of cloud fractional coverage is simple, being based on an assumed triangular distribution of subgrid moisture (Smith 1990). The CSIRO model's convection scheme (Gregory and Rowntree 1990) uses a single "bulk" cloud model to represent an ensemble of convective elements, and treats shallow, mid-level and deep convection. In convective clouds, a simple threshold-based scheme is used for precipitation formation, whereby all condensate in excess of a prescribed mixing ratio threshold, q_{min}, is allowed to precipitate. In the standard version of the scheme, information regarding aerosols is assumed to be unavailable, and q_{min} is set to $0.5 \times \min[1 \text{ g/kg}, q_{sat}]$, where q_{sat} is the saturation mixing ratio at the parcel's temperature and pressure. In warm convective clouds, we modify q_{min} to vary with aerosol concentration as described below. The convective cloud water mixing ratio that is saved for the radiation scheme is taken as the average of the values before and after the release of precipitation. The scheme includes two forms of detrainment. "Mixing detrainment" represents the detrainment of cloud air through turbulent mixing at the edge of the cloud, and occurs even when the cloud is positively buoyant. "Forced detrainment" occurs only when the cloud reaches the level of zero buoyancy (i.e., convective cloud top). The fraction of cloudy air that detrains due to mixing detrainment in any layer in a single model time step is small (generally less than 2% in a 30-minute time step). The remainder of the parcel is lifted to the next model level, if it is still positively buoyant. At cloud top, forced detrainment causes the remaining parcel to be entirely detrained into the environment, where it is split between two adjacent layers as described by Gregory and Rowntree (1990). The humidity of the environmental air outside the cloud is increased by detrainment of water vapor and cloud condensate, but there is no direct link of detrained condensate to the stratiform cloud scheme. Detrained cloud condensate is assumed to evaporate

instantly, but it increases available moisture for stratiform cloud formation if the relative humidity is above the threshold for cloud formation (85% over oceans and 75% over land).

The GISS GCM (4°×5° horizontal resolution with 20 vertical layers) used in this study is described in Schmidt et al. (2006) and Hansen et al. (2005). An aerosol chemistry and transport model, based on Koch (2001) and Koch and Hansen (2005), is coupled to the GCM. Aerosols treated include sulfates, sea-salt, organic and black carbon and dust. Additional details on aerosol processes used in the GISS GCM, as well as that for CSIRO, are described in Appendix A. In the GISS GCM the prognostic treatment of cloud water include sources from large-scale convergence and cumulus detrainment as well as sinks due to autoconversion, accretion, evaporation, and cloud top entrainment, as well as precipitation enhancement due to the seederfeeder effect (Del Genio et al. 1996). Stratiform cloud cover is diagnosed as a function of relative humidity and stability and subgrid vertical cloud fraction is accounted for. For moist convection, a quasi-equilibrium cloud base closure with entraining and non-entraining updrafts and a cumulus-scale downdraft is used. In the older version of the GISS GCM all condensate was converted to precipitation below freezing levels and above freezing, 50% was detrained (Del Genio and Yao 1993). In the new version of the GISS GCM used in this study, the partioning of convective condensate between precipitation and detrainment into anvil clouds is based on a microphysics scheme that uses a Marshall-Palmer distribution for cloud droplets, empirical droplet size - terminal velocity relationships for liquid, graupel, and ice hydrometeors and prescribed cumulus updraft speeds (DG05). This scheme only applies to deep convective clouds. and for shallow convection all condensate is allowed to precipitate. The addition of the cumulus microphysics scheme is an important addition in the newer version of the GISS GCM and the influence of this scheme on cloud feedbacks are discussed in DG05.

We perform several sets of simulations to separate between aerosol-cumulus and aerosol-stratiform effects: (1) Exp CON: Aerosol effects on warm cumulus clouds; (2) Exp CON_C: Similar to Exp CON but using monthly mean two-dimensional N_c distributions from the CSIRO GCM to eliminate the effects of different aerosol burdens— see Section 3.2; (3) Exp CON_S: Similar to Exp CON but including aerosol effects on warm stratiform clouds and the direct aerosol effects (i.e. aerosols are allowed to interact with the radiation scheme). The basic features of the microphysics schemes relevant to processes described in this paper are listed in Table 1. For the autoconversion scheme, for convective clouds, q_{min} is modified so that it is based on a threshold droplet effective radius of 14 μ m (Costa et al. 2005). The relation between volumemean radius r_v and effective radius, r_e is r_v = r_e / β . Here, β is the spectral shape factor defined as a function of the relative dispersion, ϵ , the ratio of the standard deviation to the mean radius of the droplet number size distribution (Liu and Daum 2000). Then q_{min} is obtained as a function of the critical volume mean radius (r_{vc}) as:

$$q_{\min} = \frac{4\pi\rho_l r_{vc}^3 N_c}{3\rho} \tag{1}$$

Here, ρ and ρ_l are the density of air and liquid water respectively. This scheme is applied to liquid-phase cumulus clouds in both models. For ice-phase cumulus clouds, the CSIRO GCM retains the standard treatment as described above, i.e., all ice condensate above a certain threshold mixing ratio is precipitated (dependent on q_{sat}). The GISS GCM employs the original

Marshall Palmer distribution and the relationship between terminal velocity and particle size to determine the onset of precipitation for ice-phase cumulus condensate, as described in DG05. In the CSIRO GCM, no mixed-phase cumulus clouds are allowed, and liquid-phase cumulus clouds are defined as those with temperatures above 258.15K. In the GISS GCM (which includes a mixed-phase category) liquid-phase cumulus clouds are defined as those with temperatures greater than 273.15K. The cumulus microphysics scheme is only applied to deep convective clouds in the GISS GCM, hence aerosol effects on shallow convective precipitation are neglected. However, since shallow convective cloud cover is larger over the oceans than over the continents, where it is underestimated relative to observed surface climatologies; and given that changes in N_c occur more over continents than over oceans, the aerosol effect on shallow convective precipitation may be small for the GISS GCM (Del Genio, Personal Communication). For stratiform clouds, both models use similar autoconversion treatments based on Rotstayn and Liu (2005).

Aerosol emissions used in the two models are given in Appendix A. N_c in convective clouds is obtained as shown in Table 1 and is based on Segal et al. (2004). The conversion of aerosol mass predicted by the model to aerosol number are given in Appendix A. N_c for stratiform clouds are based on Gultepe and Isaac (1999) as described in Menon and Del Genio (2006) and Hansen et al. (2005). The relationship between aerosol number concentration and N_c from Table 1 for convective and stratiform clouds are shown in Fig.1. The relationships show larger N_c in convective clouds for a given aerosol number (consistent with larger updraft speeds in convective clouds) and also show more sensitivity to variations in aerosol number at low aerosol numbers. All runs use climatological mean sea-surface temperatures for present-day conditions and are averaged over five years after a spin-up of one year.

3. Results

Below, we describe results from three sensitivity tests mainly conducted to illustrate changes to precipitation and radiation from aerosol effects on cumulus clouds and its subsequent impacts on stratiform clouds.

3.1. Sensitivity of cumulus clouds to aerosols: Some of the main differences between the two models may be related to the differences in aerosol fields used in the two models that were generated from different aerosol emission sources. Dust aerosols are not allowed to influence N_c due to considerable uncertainty in the knowledge of their soluble fraction and their anthropogenic component. The sea-salt aerosol burdens do not change appreciably between PD and PI conditions, and are comparable in both the CSIRO and GISS GCMs (5.52 mg m⁻² in CSIRO and 5.6 mg m⁻² in GISS). However, the other aerosols that affect N_c (sulfates, organic matter (OM) and black carbon (BC)) differ between PD and PI conditions, have a large anthropogenic component, and also differ between the models. The lower total burden of these aerosols in the GISS GCM (3.71 and 1.64 mg m⁻² for PD and PI simulations, respectively) compared to the CSIRO GCM (7.34 and 2.67 mg m⁻² for PD and PI simulations, respectively) is partly due to lower SO₂ and biomass emissions used (Menon and Del Genio 2006); and mainly due to the use of a dissolved species budget that reduces the sulfate produced from clouds since more sulfate is being rained out rather than being returned to the grid box at the end of the model

time step as in other chemistry models (Koch et al. 2003). This results in less sulfate aerosol available in cloud water. To compensate for the large differences in anthropogenic aerosol burden between the two models we increase industrial SO_2 (factor of 4) and biomass emissions (factor of 2) in the GISS GCM so that the anthropogenic components are more comparable between the models. We refer to this as Exp CON. Differences between Exp CON and the simulations with standard aerosol emissions for GISS, for PD and PI aerosol emissions, indicate that apart from changes to aerosol burdens, the net top of the atmosphere (TOA) radiation and N_c , differences in other diagnostics are less than 5%.

To understand the response of cloud properties to differences in parameterizations used in the two models, we focus on differences for Exp CON for PD versus PI aerosol emissions (sulfur, OM and BC). In Figure 2, vertical profiles of global annual averaged aerosol mass are shown for the two models. The main sources of OM and sulfate for the PI cases are from biomass and volcanic emissions, respectively. We note that in CSIRO high values at the surface decrease exponentially as a function of height, and aerosol mass values are also higher than that of GISS for the surface and lower layers of the atmosphere. Prior studies have shown that models differ greatly in their vertical aerosol profiles (Lohmann et al., 2001). The main reasons are likely to be different treatments of scavenging (Rasch et al. 2000) and vertical advection (Textor et al. 2006). A full examination of the reasons for these differences is beyond the scope of this paper. Annual average differences between PD and PI simulations are given in Table 2. Since N_c values will be different at different levels, to facilitate a comparison of N_c between the two models, we use the model levels closest to 750 hPa since aerosol mass simulated by the models at this level is comparable, as seen in Fig. 2. Changes between the two models, as shown in Table 2, include: more negative values for the net TOA and net cloud radiative forcing (CRF) mainly due to the larger changes in LWP, total and convective cloud cover for CSIRO. Although the CSIRO values for N_c are generally larger than those from GISS, changes in N_c (grid-box mean) for CSIRO, as shown in Table 2, are smaller at the level closest to 700 hPa, since the CSIRO aerosol mass is lower at this level. Vertical profiles of N_c values for moist convective clouds indicate largest values near the surface for CSIRO, although the lowest levels would generally be below cloud base, and in GISS, values of N_c are highest between 850 to 740 hPa.

Changes in convective precipitation are shown in Fig. 3 for both models and tend to decrease mainly for convective cases since the total precipitation change is offset by a slight increase in stratiform precipitation (from moist convective anvils). However, these changes are rather small. Areas of decreases in convective precipitation generally follow areas with an increase in warm moist convective N_c (Fig. 4) in the GISS model. Similar features are also seen in the CSIRO model with adjacent areas tending to show a compensating increase of convective precipitation. Convective precipitation accounts for $\sim 82\%$ of the total precipitation in the CSIRO model; whereas in GISS the convective fraction of total precipitation is about 56%. To evaluate the differences between the two models more meaningfully would require global distributions of the partitioning between the stratiform and convective components of precipitation that are difficult to obtain. Observations of the annual average (1998-2000) distribution of total, convective and stratiform precipitation between 20 S to 20N from TRMM suggest that the ratio of convective to stratiform precipitation is > 5 over most land areas and is < 4 over the oceans, with an average value of 4 overall (Schumacher and Houze 2003). However, the stratiform precipitation in Schumaher and Houze refers to deeper cloud systems associated with deep convective clouds

and is not directly comparable to model fields that also include warm stratiform precipitation. Analysis of precipitation fields from both models for Exp CON (PD), shown in Fig. 5, indicates that although the total precipitation fields are comparable for both models, the GISS model does not capture convective rainfall rates greater than 1.5 m/yr over the Amazon and central Africa as seen in the CSIRO model and in the TRMM analysis. The stratiform precipitation fields between the models differ more significantly with higher values simulated by GISS over the continents (Asia, Central Africa and the Amazon). It appears that the CSIRO model underestimates stratiform precipitation over the continents and the GISS model underestimates the convective precipitation over the continents and these differences compensate for small differences in the total precipitation field seen between the two models.

Another difference between the two models is the change in the sign of the LWP (total) differences as shown in Fig. 6. These differences may be related more to the treatment of cumulus and stratiform coupling and the calculation of LWP. In CSIRO, both the stratiform and convective components of LWP increase, especially over the ocean. The convective LWP is calculated from the same liquid water contents that are saved for the radiation, i.e., from the average of the values before and after the calculation of precipitation. As explained above, the detrained convective condensate is made available for stratiform cloud formation by increasing the humidity of the air outside the convective clouds, although it only forms stratiform cloud once a threshold relative humidity is reached. For GISS, LWP decrease is mainly seen in convective clouds. The moist convective LWP is calculated as the integral of liquid water (fraction remaining after removal of the detrained component, condensate that evaporates in the downdraft and precipitation) over the convective plume. The detrained fraction of condensate contributes to the LWP of stratiform clouds and not of moist convective clouds. The detrainment of condensate into anvils takes place at each level where condensate exceeds precipitation, and the fraction detrained is larger than that of the CSIRO model. Figure 7 indicates the global annual average values of detrained condensate (liquid + ice) at various levels for Exp CON for both PD and PI aerosol emissions for the CSIRO and GISS GCM. Values for PD are greater than PI values since the suppression of convective rainfall increases the liquid water content of the detrained air for CSIRO. For GISS, the fraction detrained is a function of both moist convective cloud fraction as well as condensate remaining after precipitation. Since less precipitation is obtained for PD conditions, the fraction detrained tends to be larger for PD conditions. Despite a difference in the detrained amount, both models indicate a maximum at ~ 850 hPa where the warm moist convective N_c differences are usually larger.

Figure 8 shows global scale distributions of maximum detrained condensate (at 850 hPa) for differences in PD and PI aerosol emissions for Exp CON for both models. The amount of detrainment is much smaller in the CSIRO model, due to the relatively small amount of mixing detrainment assumed, whereas in GISS the detrained amount includes all condensate that does not precipitate into the environment in that layer scaled by the cloud fraction. For both models areas of increase in detrained condensate, from differences in aerosol emissions (PD-PI), are mainly over the oceans and coincide with areas where the deep convective cloud cover increases. Differences in aerosol emissions (PD-PI) are greater over land and adjacent ocean areas near the continents. Since the detrained fraction depends both on the condensate difference from precipitation and the fraction of clouds, regions with larger cloud cover (in this case ocean regions) tend to exhibit maximum detrainment amounts. Increased detrainment for PD conditions

in the tropical areas (especially over the oceans) as seen in Fig. 8 suggests that these regions may be more susceptible to the aerosol influence. In relative terms, the pattern of detrainment differences in the CSIRO model is less concentrated in the tropics, possibly due to the inclusion of shallow convection in the model's convection scheme.

The difference in the treatment of convective condensate and differences in the detrained fraction may partly explain the difference in sign we obtain for LWP changes between the two models. Thus, the total water path increases in the CSIRO GCM, whereas in the GISS GCM, the reduced total water path is mainly due to the reduction in moist convective LWP (ice water paths (IWP) increase by 0.12). However, since we do not allow for aerosol-ice nuclei interactions nor modify cold cloud precipitation, IWP differences are mainly a response to changes in warm cloud precipitation and the level at which detrainment takes place.

The choice for detrainment depends on cumulus updraft speeds used in the model and terminal vertical velocities of particles, if these can be specified realistically. Problems in large-scale models to adequately resolve cumulus-scale updrafts will result in additional uncertainty when accounting for detrainment effects (DG05). Typically, most models assume that anvil coverage is proportional to convective condensate from updrafts that detrain into the environment (usually a fixed fraction). The CSIRO GCM does not include an explicit parameterization of convective anvils. Instead, condensed detrainment at cloud top increases available moisture for stratiform cloud formation if the relative humidity is above the threshold for cloud formation (85% over oceans and 75% over land). If the relative humidity is below the threshold, the statistical cloud scheme (Smith 1990) instantly evaporates the detrained water. In the GISS GCM convective condensate that gets converted to precipitation follows the treatment described in DG05 (based on Marshall-Palmer droplet distribution), except for warm (liquid-phase) clouds, where the condensate converted to precipitation is based on a droplet threshold size of 14 µm (as described in Sec. 2) and the remainder of condensate in each layer gets detrained. Thus, for polluted conditions, anvil coverage should increase, which although not explicitly calculated, can be extrapolated from the amount of detrained condensate shown in Fig.8.

In terms of radiative effects obtained, both models show an increase in the total water cloud optical depth (15% and 1%, respectively for CSIRO and GISS). However, the optical depths are calculated differently. For CSIRO, total cloud optical depth in each grid box is calculated from the mean in-cloud N_c and LWP (the means being weighted by the stratiform and convective cloud fractions). In both stratiform and convective clouds, the LWP at each time step is taken as the average of the values saved before and after the calculation of precipitation. In the GISS GCM, moist convective cloud optical depth is either a function of droplet size and LWP (function of detrained mixing ratio) for the detrained portion, or is specified as a function of layer thickness for the in-cloud portion (DG05). Thus, increasing aerosols increases moist convective cloud optical depth for the detrained portion. Stratiform cloud optical depth is a function of droplet size and LWP. The mean optical depth for stratiform and convective clouds are weighted by the respective cloud fractions, similar to CSIRO. The total optical depth in the GISS GCM is then based on the maximum value of optical depth obtained for stratiform or convective clouds (Del Genio et al. 1996). The larger percentage increase in total water cloud optical depth (15%) and cloud cover (1.7%) for CSIRO results in more negative values of net CRF (10%). For GISS, the small increase in total water cloud optical depth and cloud cover

(\sim 1% for both) result in the 0.2% change in the net CRF. Thus, radiative effects from changes to cumulus precipitation are much higher in the CSIRO GCM than in the GISS GCM.

- 3.2. Sensitivity of cumulus clouds to cloud droplet number: Differences in N_c between the two models may result in different responses of LWP and radiation to implied aerosol perturbations. To minimize and isolate differences due to aerosols, (since it is much more difficult to employ the same model physics schemes for detrainment effects) we conduct sensitivity tests to evaluate the changes in cloud microphysics, precipitation and radiation due to fixed N_c. Both models used a prescribed distribution based on results from the CSIRO model (values of N_c at 700 hPa from CSIRO (Fig.4) were used to generate uniform vertical profiles of N_c for both PD and PI, separately) to eliminate differences that may arise due to differences in aerosol burdens (Exp CON_C). Differences between Exp CON_C and Exp CON for PD and PI aerosol emissions are shown in Table 2. Although values of N_c at 760 hPa are higher for Exp CON than CON_C for GISS, average column values of N_c are higher in Exp CON_C. N_c values that influence precipitation are prescribed similarly in both models, however, the treatment of condensate detrainment and its effects on optical depths are different in the two models as discussed earlier. In CSIRO this results in an increase in total LWP (13%) and hence reduces the net CRF (17%), whereas, in the GISS GCM, an overall increase in N_c increases the detrained fraction and reduces the total LWP by a small amount (3%). However, there is no change to the net CRF. A comparison of the results between Exp CON and CON_C indicates that the radiative fluxes in CSIRO are more sensitive to the changes in aerosols and their effects on cloud microphysics, whereas, in GISS, increasing aerosols increases the detrainment and reduces the total LWP. However, the changes are small enough to cause minimal changes in the radiative fluxes. Thus, the radiative effects of aerosols on warm cumulus clouds are much larger in the CSIRO GCM than in GISS. Based on the results obtained from Exp CON and CON C, the main reason for the differences in radiative fluxes between the two models appears to be related to the treatment of detrained cumulus condensate and its vertical distribution in the GCM, since convective precipitation changes are similar in the two models.
- **3.3.** Effects of aerosols on stratiform and cumulus clouds: To evaluate the implications of the changes in LWP and radiation from aerosol suppression of convective precipitation, we now include the influence of anthropogenic aerosols on both stratiform and cumulus warm clouds and aerosol-radiation interactions —Exp CON_S. We compare changes in cloud properties for differences between PD and PI aerosol emissions for Exp CON and Exp CON_S as shown in Table 3. Allowing for the interaction between aerosols and radiation, as well as aerosol effects on stratiform clouds, results in more negative values for net TOA radiation and net CRF. As expected, main changes to net TOA radiation, net CRF, cloud cover and LWP come from including aerosol effects on warm stratiform clouds. Values of the aerosol indirect effect (net CRF), without aerosol-cumulus cloud interactions, are –0.89 and –1.52 Wm⁻² for the CSIRO and GISS GCM, respectively (from the difference between Exp CON and CON_S). With aerosol-cumulus cloud interactions, the aerosol indirect effect for the CSIRO and GISS GCM are –2.47 and –1.46 Wm⁻² respectively.

Accounting for anthropogenic aerosol effects on convective clouds results in shifts in LWPs to lower values (LWP change becomes negative) that are opposite to that obtained when only aerosol effects on stratiform clouds are considered for the GISS GCM. A similar study by Menon

and Del Genio (2006), using a similar version of the GISS GCM but with different autoconversion and N_c parameterizations, found less negative values of net CRF when including aerosol-cumulus cloud effects. The high value of the aerosol indirect effect usually obtained, from changes to LWP and cloud cover, may thus be lower if suppression of precipitation from aerosol effects on convective clouds are accounted for, at least in the GISS GCM. On the other hand, results from the CSIRO model for Exp CON_S suggests that the addition of aerosol effects on warm cumulus clouds would result in increased LWP and cloud cover, and thus increase the cloud radiative fluxes. Thus, the addition of aerosol effects on both cumulus and stratiform clouds can enhance or diminish the net CRF depending on the nature of the LWP changes, which appear to be related to the treatment and distribution of convective condensate and associated anvils.

4. Summary

The effects of aerosols on warm (liquid-phase) cumulus and large-scale stratiform clouds were investigated with two climate models, the CSIRO and the GISS GCM. Both models used similar schemes to treat the influence of aerosols on cloud droplet number and autoconversion. However, the basic model cloud physics and aerosol emissions used in the two models differ considerably. To eliminate differences arising from differences in aerosol concentrations, a sensitivity test was conducted, wherein both models use similar N_c distributions. The changes to condensate distribution, imposed via the influence of aerosols, into precipitation and anvils, appear to produce opposite tendencies for LWP changes. Model results appear to be more sensitive to the treatment of convective condensate than to the aerosol distribution.

In the CSIRO GCM, the smaller detrainment rates relative to GISS result in enhanced LWP for both stratiform and moist convective clouds, thereby increasing the total LWP and cloud cover. The LWP is diagnosed from increased cloud water in the convective plume from the suppression of precipitation and includes the contribution from any detrained condensate that contributes to stratiform cloud formation. This in turn increases the optical depth and the radiative fluxes become more negative with increasing aerosols. In the GISS GCM, the moist convective LWP and precipitation decrease with increasing aerosols. The suppression of precipitation in deep convective clouds due to an increase in aerosols increases the detrainment of cloud water that in turn increases the liquid water in stratiform clouds and hence stratiform precipitation. Although the GISS GCM neglects the suppression of precipitation from aerosol effects on shallow convective systems, this should not have much of an effect on LWP or precipitation changes due to the underestimation of shallow convection over continents where aerosol changes are larger. The total LWP decreases with increasing aerosols. However, the changes are rather small and the overall influence on radiative fluxes are minimal. The above features, seen in the GISS GCM, are different from the CSIRO GCM perhaps due to the scheme that treats detrainment of nonprecipitating condensate to anvils. The end result is that with aerosol-cumulus cloud interactions, the large value of the aerosol indirect effect, usually obtained from the increase in stratiform LWP and cloud cover, is reduced at least for the GISS GCM.

Results from the two models highlight the importance of the convective condensate treatment in convective systems when determining aerosol effects on cumulus clouds. Our sensitivity study

suggests that model physics appear to have a more profound influence on LWP changes than do the aerosol distributions. Speculating on the physical nature of responses and model physics used to treat cumulus condensate detrainment are at best exploratory, in the absence of measurements that can address the problem of obtaining the right cumulus scale updraft profiles and the partioning of detrained condensate at appropriate levels in large scale models (DG05). Clearly, the treatment of autoconversion is extremely important since these schemes ultimately affect LWP and precipitation, as also suggested by Clement and Soden (2005). Within the context of simulations performed with the two GCMs, it appears that the sensitivity of radiation to aerosol effects on warm stratiform and cumulus clouds is dependent more on the treatment of cloud condensate than to changes in aerosol or N_c distributions. These results are dependent on the model physics used. Thus, the radiative influence of aerosol effects on warm clouds will remain unconstrained or model dependent without observations of aerosols and its effects on convection and associated anvils. Changes to ice water distribution and the implied radiative effects due to aerosols have not been considered in this paper and will be considered in future work.

Appendix A

1. Aerosol Processes

Below, we briefly describe the aerosol processes treated in both models. For CSIRO, the transport of aerosols and other trace quantities occurs by advection, vertical turbulent mixing and vertical transport inside deep convective clouds as described in Rotstayn and Lohmann (2002b). Large-scale wet scavenging processes are linked to the warm-rain and frozen precipitation processes in the stratiform cloud microphysical scheme (Rotstayn 1997) and the convection scheme (Gregory and Rowntree 1990). Below-cloud scavenging is proportional to the area swept out by precipitation, based on the assumed raindrop or snowflake size distribution. In-cloud scavenging is proportional to the amount of precipitation removed, divided by the liquid-water (or ice-water) content. Also included is the re-evaporation of aerosol due to evaporation (sublimation) of rain (snow). Further details are in Rotstayn and Lohmann (2002b). Prognostic variables in the sulfur-cycle model are dimethyl sulfide (DMS), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and sulfate. The treatment of the sulfur chemistry is based on that in ECHAM4 (Feichter et al. 1996). The carbonaceous aerosol module follows the approach of Cooke et al. (1999), with an e-folding time of 1.15 days used for the conversion of black carbon (BC) and particulate organic matter (POM) from their hydrophobic to hydrophilic forms.

For the GISS aerosol chemistry and transport model, prognostic species for the sulfur cycle include SO₂, DMS, sulfate, and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and are described in detail in Koch (2001) and Koch et al. (1999). The sulfate chemistry scheme treats both gas-phase and aqueous-phase chemistry. Dry deposition of aerosols and gases is through a resistance in series scheme. Large-scale wet scavenging processes uses a first-order removal mechanism and is dependent on the autoconversion process. For moist convection, scavenging is applied to species that get dissolved with cloud updrafts, and is then treated similarly as raindrops. Both below-cloud scavenging and evaporation of species is included. Aerosol tracers are advected via a highly non-diffusive quadratic upstream scheme as described in Schmidt et al. (2006). Source terms for carbonaceous aerosols are obtained from emissions, and these get transported similar to sulfates

as described in Koch (2001). The hydrophobic to hydrophilic conversions for carbonaceous aerosols follow an e fold time of 1 day for the industrial (fossil-fuel and biofuel) component and for the biomass component partial solubility for BC (20%) and POM (50%) are assumed.

2. Aerosol Emissions

The CSIRO model includes anthropogenic emissions of sulfur dioxide (Smith et al. 2001) and carbonaceous aerosols (Ito and Penner 2005), both for the year 2000. The carbonaceous aerosol emissions include primary sources of BC and particulate organic matter (POM) from the burning of fossil fuel, open vegetation and biofuel. Since secondary sources of POM were not considered by Ito and Penner, the fossil-fuel POM source for each year was multiplied by 11.2, so that the global emission for 1985 matched that from Liousse et al. (1996), as used in the model intercomparison by Penner et al. (2001). The total anthropogenic aerosol burden for the year 2000 in the CSIRO model are 1.18 TgS as sulfate, 1.18 TgC as OC, and 0.17 TgC as BC. The CSIRO model also includes natural sources of sulfur (Rotstayn and Lohmann 2002b) and natural organic carbon from terpenes (Guenther et al. 1995), with a yield of 13% assumed for rapid conversion of terpenes to POM. In addition, number concentrations of two modes of sea salt aerosol (film-drop and jet-drop) are diagnosed as a function of 10-metre wind speed above the ocean surface, following O'Dowd et al. (1997). Sea salt aerosols are assumed to be well mixed in the marine boundary layer, and are set to zero above the top of the boundary layer. Aerosol emissions in the GISS model are specified by the AEROCOM project (An aerosol model intercomparison project: http://nansen.ipsl.jussieu.fr/AEROCOM/aerocomhome.html) and are described in Menon and Del Genio (2006). The total anthropogenic aerosol burden for the year 2000 in the GISS model are 0.86 TgS as sulfate, 0.87 TgC as OC and 0.18 TgC as BC. Although the industrial SO₂ emissions have been increased, the relatively low values of sulfate compared to CSIRO are due to less aqueous phase sulfate production (Koch et al. 2003).

The conversion of aerosol mass to aerosol number, used for the cloud droplet number prediction, is described as follows: For tropospheric sulfate, the size distribution (effective radii=0.05 μm, standard deviation=1.9, density=1.77 g cm⁻³) follows the fossil-fuel size distribution given in Penner et al. (2001). For carbonaceous aerosols--organic matter (1.3xOC) and black carbon--the size distribution for an internal mixture (effective radii=0.08 μm, standard deviation=1.65, density=1.25 and 1.5 g cm⁻³, for the mixture and for BC, respectively) follows the biomass burning size distribution given in Penner et al. (2001). For sea salt distributions, the aerosol number used in the CSIRO GCM is as described earlier. In the GISS GCM sea salt mass in the 0.1 to 1.0 μm range is converted to an aerosol number following Lohmann et al. (1999) (volume radii=0.44 μm, and density=2.169 g cm⁻³).

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Table 1: Description of microphysical processes used in the models for the various simulations. The cloud droplet number concentration (N_c) from the aerosol concentration N_{al} and N_{ao} (land and ocean, respectively) for cumulus (C) and large-scale stratiform clouds (S) is as given. The autoconversion treatment is based on a modified version of the treatment used in Rotstayn and Liu (2005) (RL05) for S.

| Simulation | N _c (| (cm ⁻³) | Autoconversion | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|--|
| | С | S | С | S | |
| Exp CON | $174.8 + 1.51 N_{al}^{0.886}$ | Land: 200 | Based on a droplet | RL05 | |
| | $-29.6+4.92N_{ao}^{0.694}$ | Ocean: 50 | threshold size of 14 µm. | | |
| Exp CON_S | Same as above | $-595 + 298 \log N_{al}$ | Same as above | RL05 | |
| - | | $-273 + 162 \log N_{ao}$ | | | |

Table 2: Annual average differences between present-day (PD) and pre-industrial (PI) aerosol emissions for CSIRO and GISS GCM for Exp CON and CON_C. S and C stand for stratiform and cumulus, respectively. τ_c refers to total optical depth for water clouds. GISS values for N_c are at 760 hPa.

| Variable | CSIRO | | GISS | |
|----------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | CON | CON_C | CON | CON_C |
| TOA Net radiation (W m ⁻²) | -1.31 | -2.12 | 0.02 | 0.08 |
| Net CRF (W m ⁻²) | -1.58 | -2.43 | 0.06 | 0.00 |
| Total cloud (%) | 1.08 | 1.40 | 0.05 | -0.03 |
| Convective cld (%) | 1.38 | 2.24 | -0.01 | -0.03 |
| Water τ_c | 0.92 | 1.34 | 0.14 | 0.27 |
| LWP $(g m^{-2})$ | 1.44 (S) | 2.25 (S) | -0.07(S) | 0.1 (S) |
| | 5.03(C) | 7.49 (C) | -1.03 (C) | -1.66 (C) |
| Total LWP | 6.47 | 9.74 | -1.10 | -1.55 |
| IWP $(g m^{-2})$ | 1.77 (S) | 2.89 (S) | 0.01 (S) | -0.11(S) |
| | 0.69 (C) | 1.20 (C) | 0.11(C) | 0 (C) |
| Total IWP | 2.46 | 4.09 | 0.12 | -0.11 |
| Total Precip. (mm/d) | -0.025 | -0.019 | 0.0 | -0.002 |
| Convective Precip. (mm/d) | -0.051 | -0.072 | -0.041 | -0.07 |
| $N_{c} (cm^{-3}) @700 hPa$ | 75 | 75 | 118 | 76 |
| Aerosol burden (mg m ⁻²) | 5.67 | 5.67 | 4.45 | 4.45 |

Table 3: Similar to Table 2 but differences are for Exp CON and CON_S.

| Variable | CSIRO | | GISS | |
|----------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | CON | CON_S | CON | CON_S |
| TOA Net radiation (W m ⁻²) | -1.31 | -3.41 | 0.02 | -2.41 |
| Net CRF (W m ⁻²) | -1.58 | -2.47 | 0.06 | -1.46 |
| Total cloud (%) | 1.08 | 1.47 | 0.05 | 0.35 |
| Convective cloud (%) | 1.38 | 1.50 | -0.01 | 0.05 |
| Low cloud (%) | 0.54 | 0.97 | 0.02 | 0.45 |
| Water τ_c | 0.92 | 1.50 | 0.14 | 3.14 |
| LWP $(g m^{-2})$ | 1.44 (S) | 3.32 (S) | -0.07(S) | 1.56 (S) |
| | 5.03(C) | 5.24 (C) | -1.03 (C) | -0.85(C) |
| Total LWP | 6.47 | 8.56 | -1.10 | 0.71 |
| $IWP (g m^{-2})$ | 1.77 (S) | 1.70 (S) | 0.01 (S) | 0.65(S) |
| | 0.69 (C) | 0.69 (C) | 0.11(C) | 0.04(C) |
| Total IWP | 2.46 | 2.39 | 0.12 | 0.69 |
| Total Precip. (mm/d) | -0.025 | -0.022 | 0.00 | -0.012 |
| Convective Precip. (mm/d) | -0.051 | -0.048 | -0.042 | -0.035 |

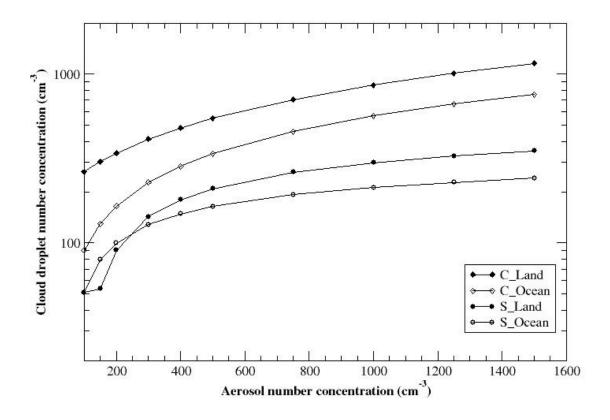


Figure 1: Scatter plot of the relationship between cloud droplet number concentration and aerosol number concentration for cumulus (C) and stratiform (S) clouds for land and ocean as derived from equations in Table 1.

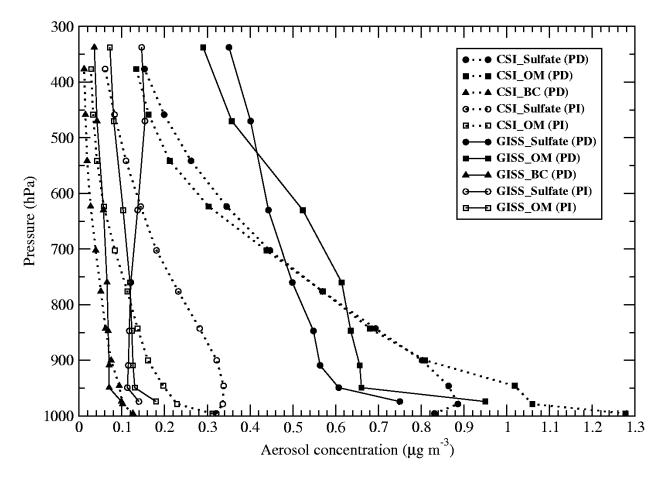


Figure 2: Vertical profile of global annual average values of aerosol concentration for Exp CON for present day (PD) and pre-industrial (PI) aerosol emissions for sulfate, organic matter (OM), and black carbon (BC). BC values for PI are usually very low ($<<0.1 \, \mu g \, m^{-3}$) and are not shown as are values at levels above 300 hPa.

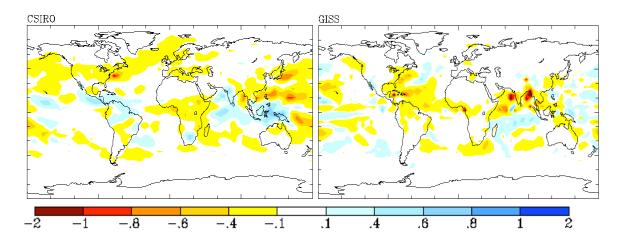


Figure 3: Global annual differences in convective cloud precipitation (mm/day) between present day and pre-industrial aerosol emissions for CSIRO and GISS for Exp CON.

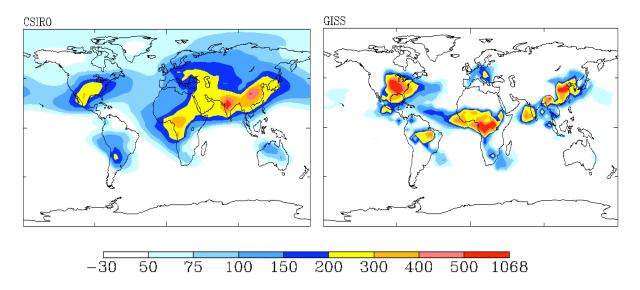


Figure 4: Global annual differences in cloud droplet number concentration (N_c) (cm⁻³) between present day and pre-industrial aerosol emissions for warm moist convective clouds for Exp CON for CSIRO and GISS at 700 and 760 hPa, respectively.

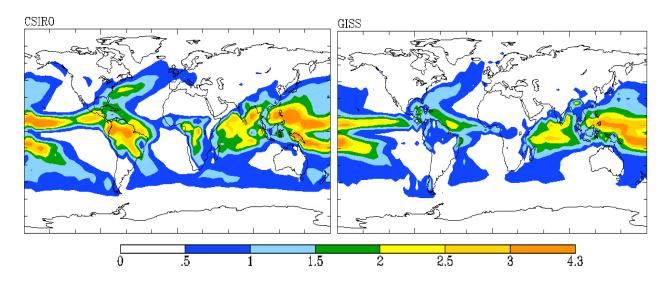


Figure 5: Global annual convective cloud precipitation (m/yr) for present day aerosol emissions for CSIRO and GISS for Exp CON. Units and colors are chosen to facilitate comparison with TRMM data (Fig. 3 of *Schumacher and Houze* 2003).

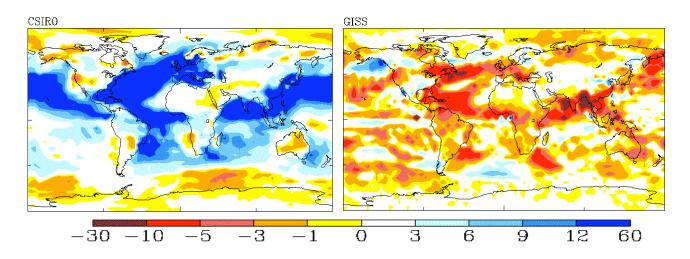


Figure 6: Global annual average differences in total liquid water paths (g/m^{-2}) between present day and pre-industrial aerosol emissions for CSIRO and GISS for Exp CON.

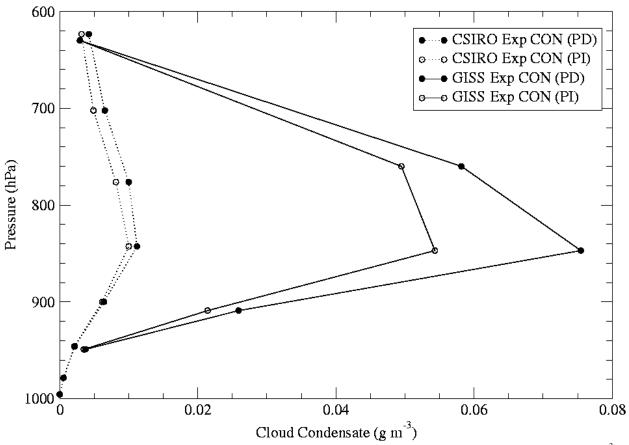


Figure 7: Vertical profiles of global annual average values of detrained cloud condensate (g m⁻³) for Exp CON for both present day (PD) and pre-industrial (PI) aerosol emissions for CSIRO and GISS.

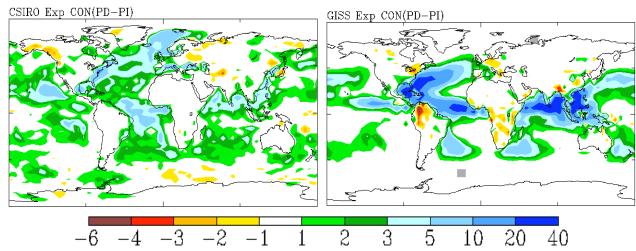


Figure 8: Global annual average differences in detrained condensate (mg m⁻³) for Exp CON for present day (PD) and pre-industrial (PI) aerosol emissions at 850 hPa (level of maximum detrainment) for CSIRO and GISS. Note that GISS values are reduced by a factor of 10 for better comparison with CSIRO.