



Aerosols and Cloud Interactions

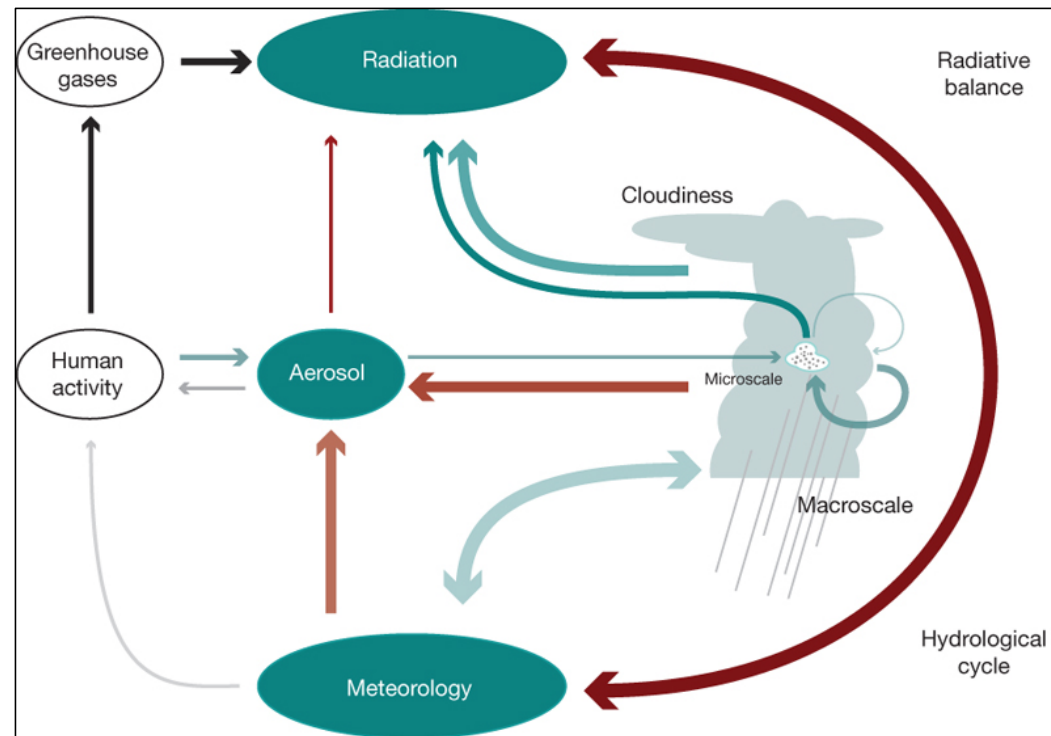
Bill Collins

Berkeley Lab and UC Berkeley

Outline

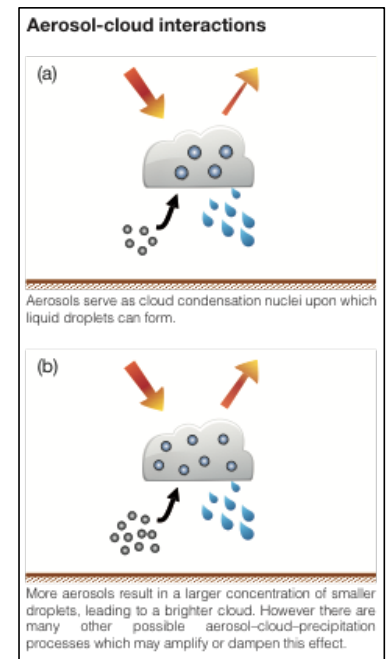
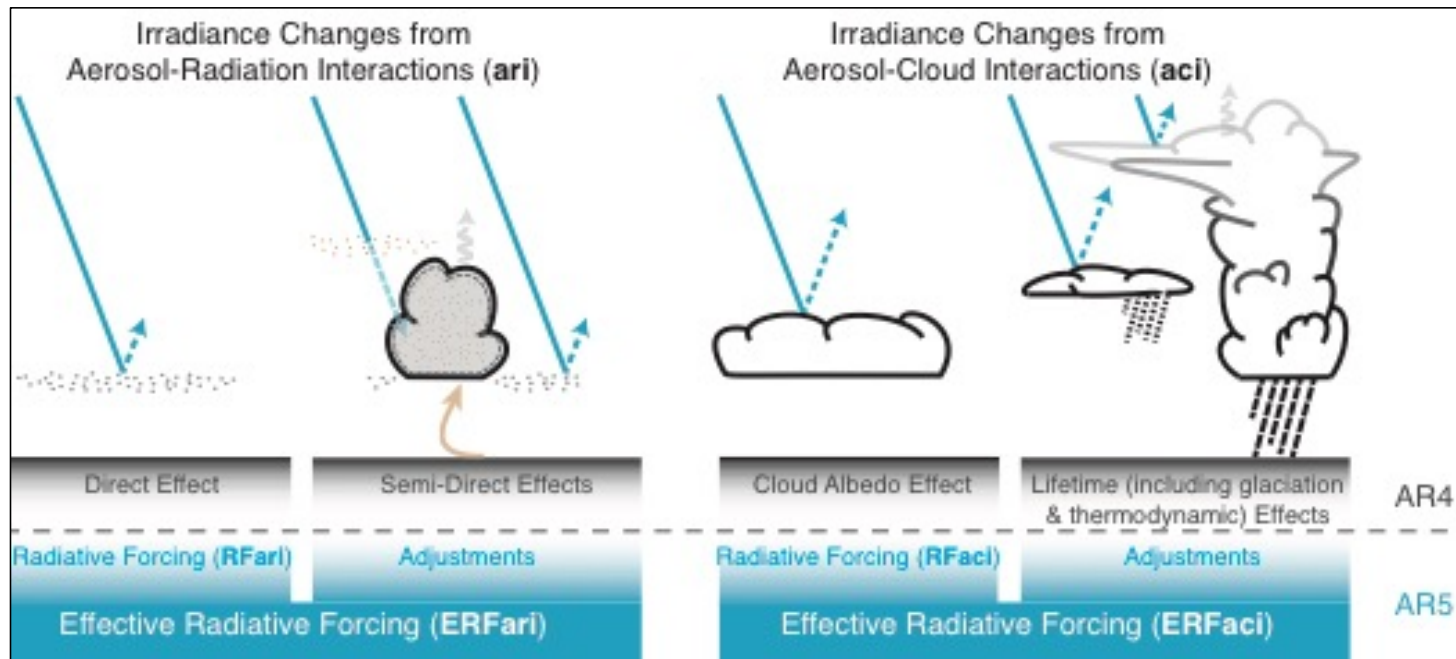
- Aerosol / Cloud Interactions circa IPCC AR5
- Implications of interaction uncertainties for climate projections
- Progress on the 1st indirect effect (RF_{aci}) from anthropogenic aerosols
- Further progress using natural biogenic and volcanic aerosols
- Natural experiments suggest 2nd indirect effect is smaller than thought.
- Supporting satellite and model evidence for this conclusion
- New paradigms for understanding buffering effect of cloud dynamics

Aerosol / Cloud Interactions in Earth System



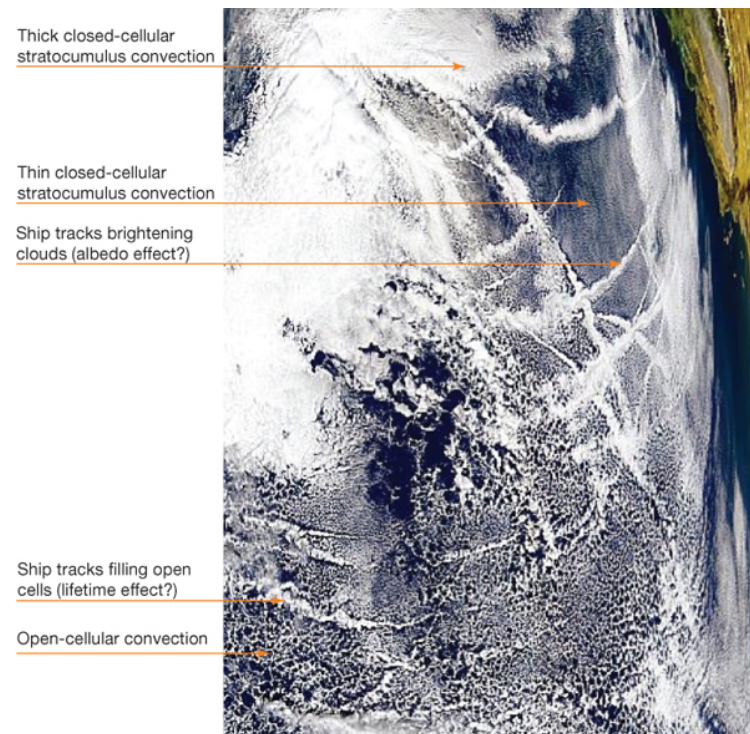
Stevens & Feingold, 2009

Radiative Aerosol / Cloud Interactions



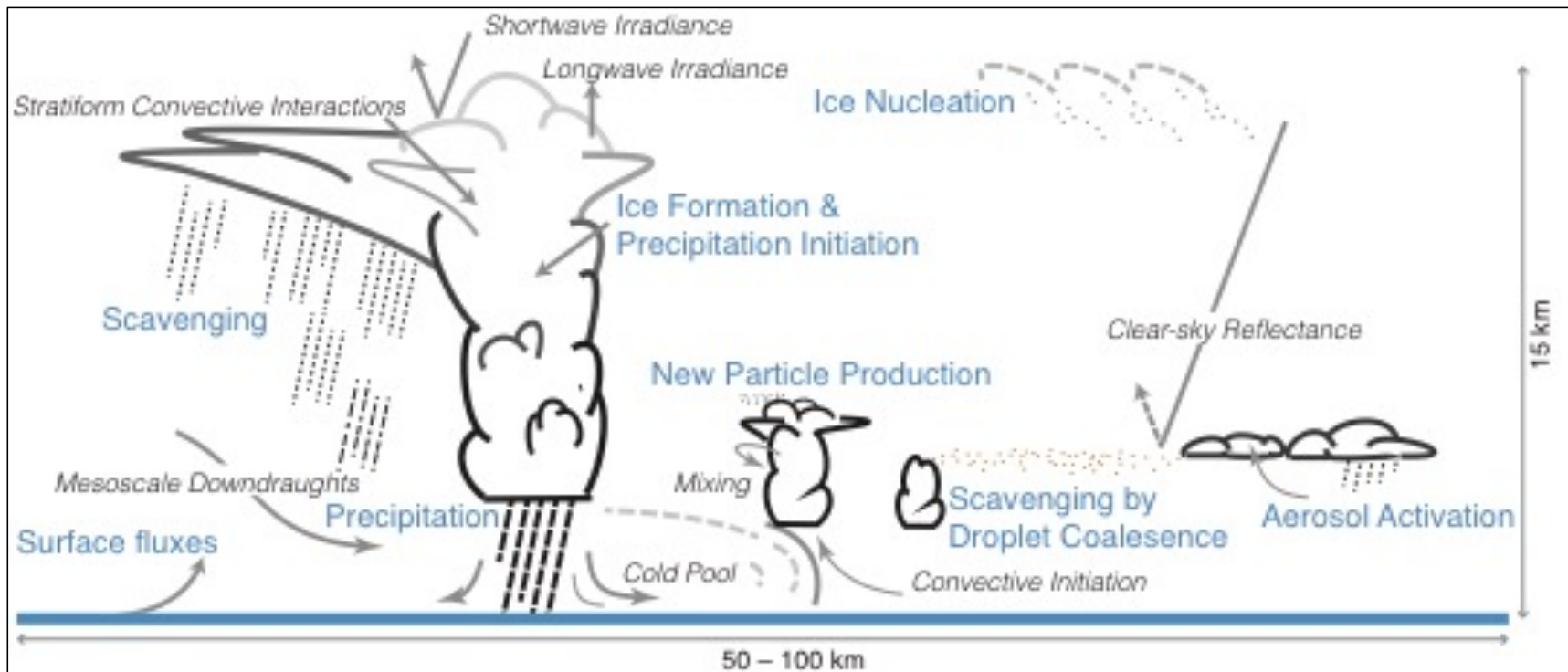
Cloud Albedo Effect is Readily Visible from Space

Satellite image of the northeast Pacific Ocean showing ship tracks, both in thin closed-cellular stratocumulus regions and in open-cellular regions.



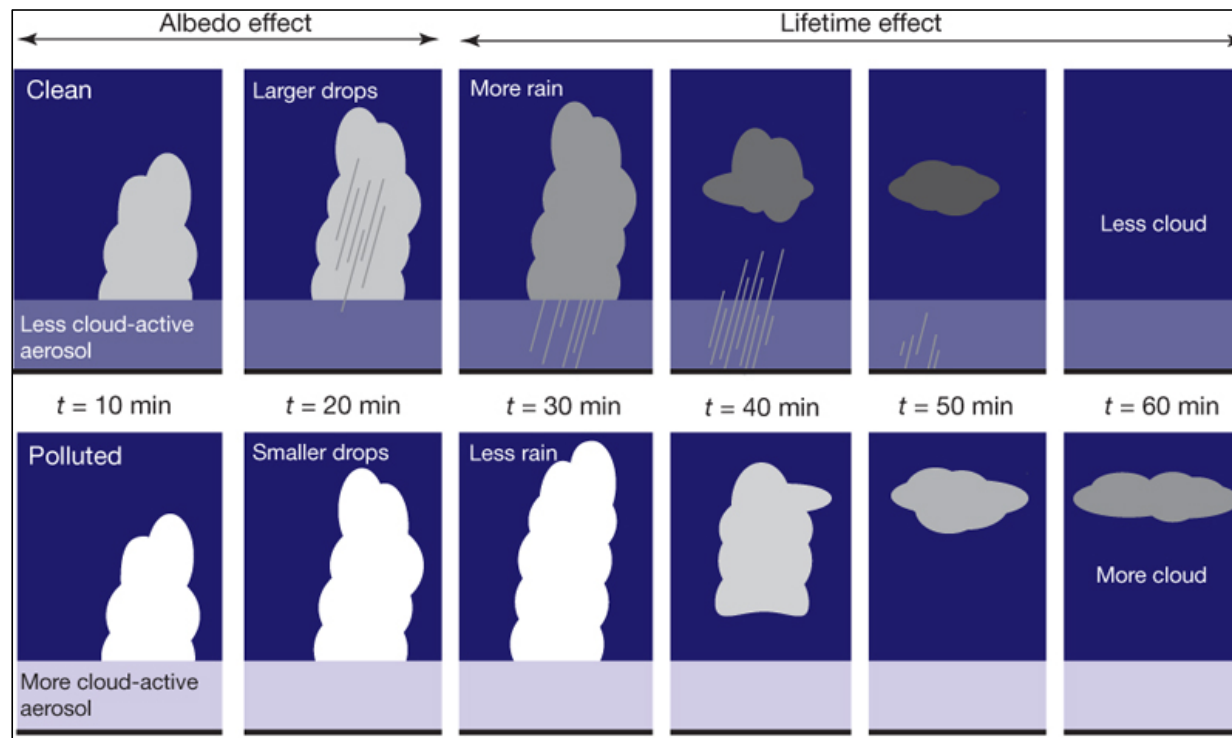
Stevens & Feingold, 2009

Relevant Aerosol / Cloud / Precipitation Processes

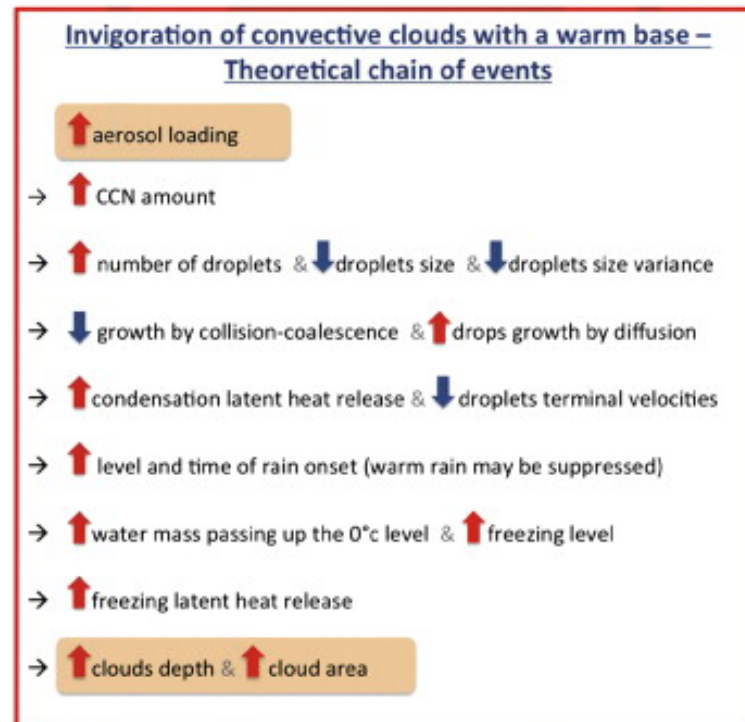


IPCC AR5 Fig 7.16

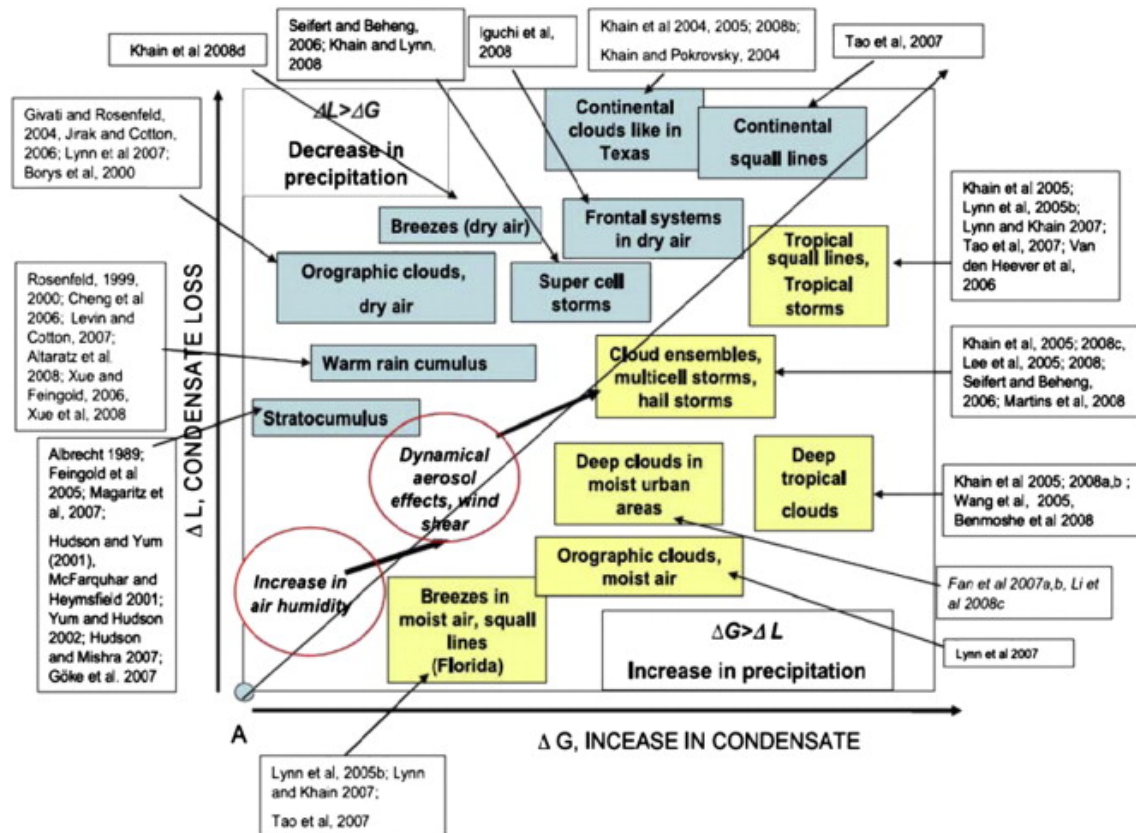
Lifetime and Albedo Effects as Originally Proposed



Process Paradigm for 2nd Indirect Effect

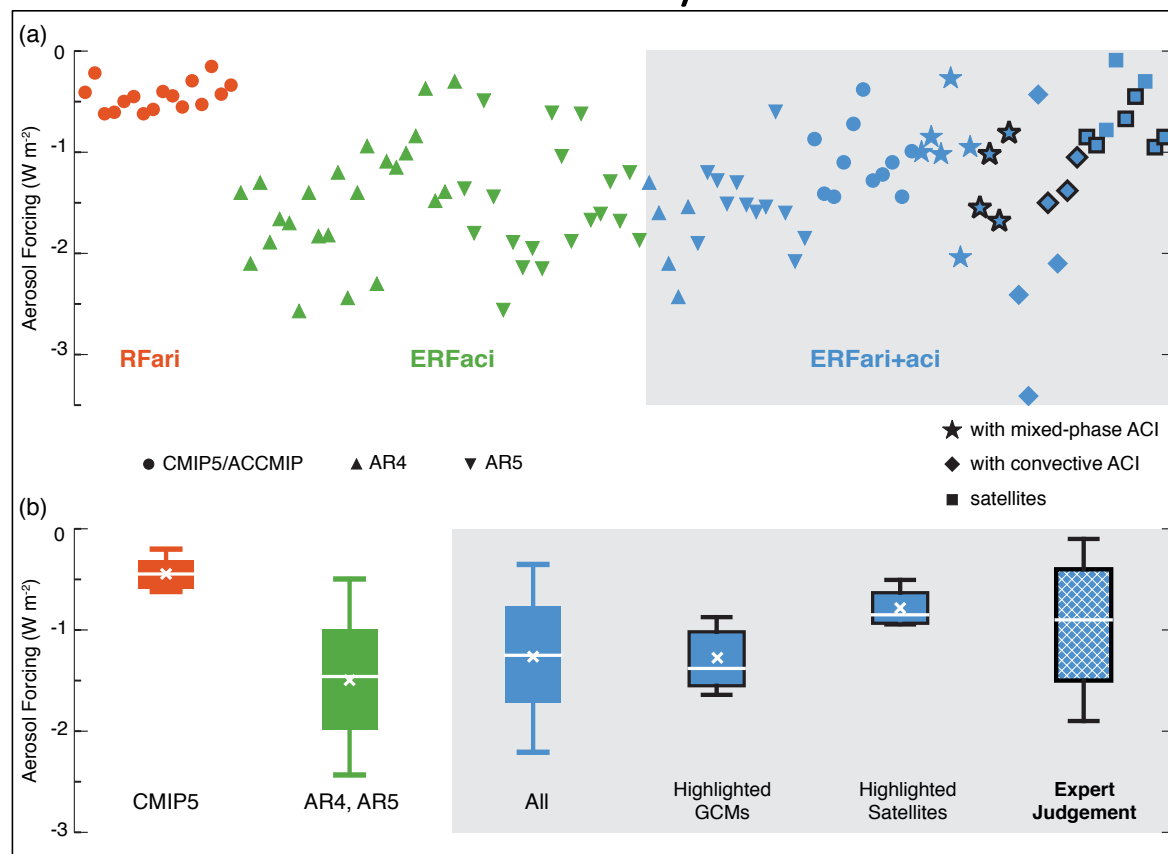


No Clear Consensus on Cloud Invigoration by Aerosols

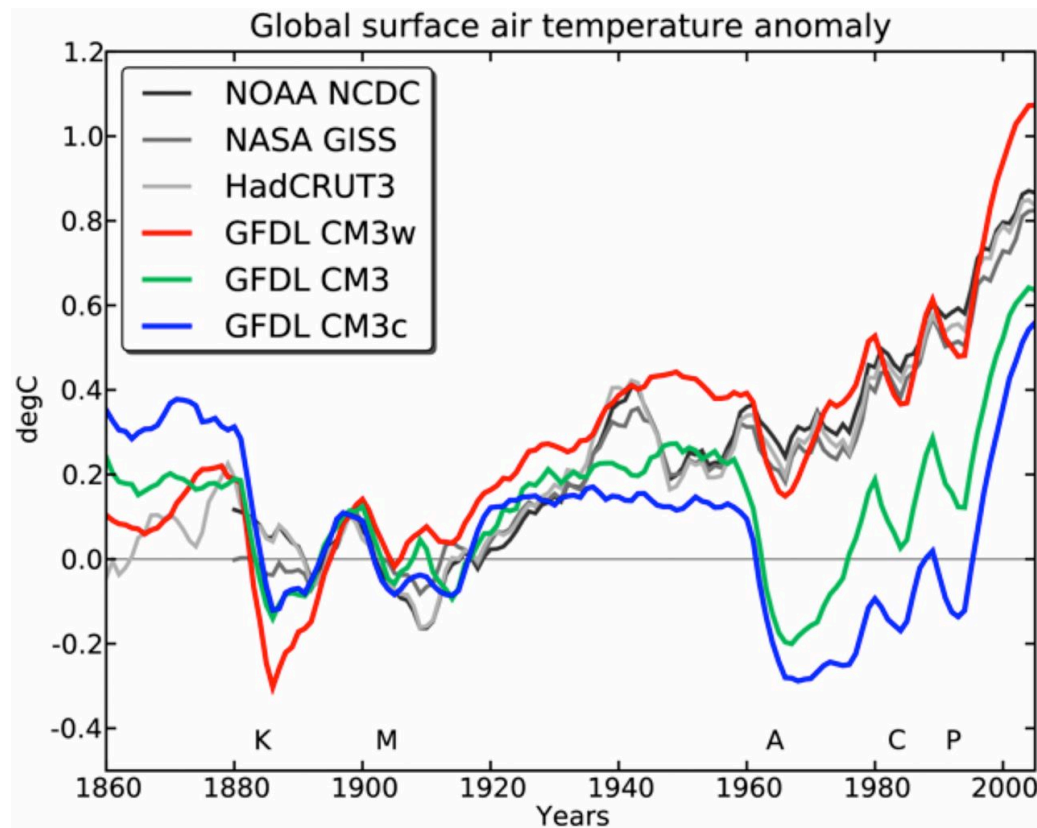


Altaratz et al, 2014

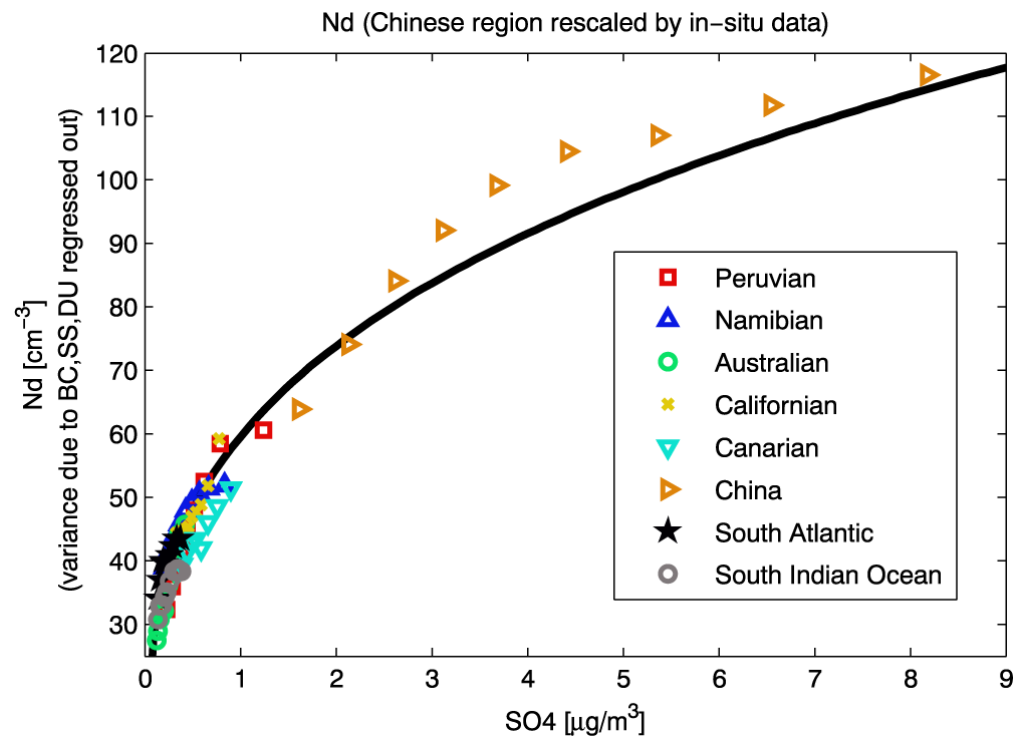
Spread in Radiative Aerosol / Cloud Interactions



Sensitivity of temperatures aerosol–cloud processes



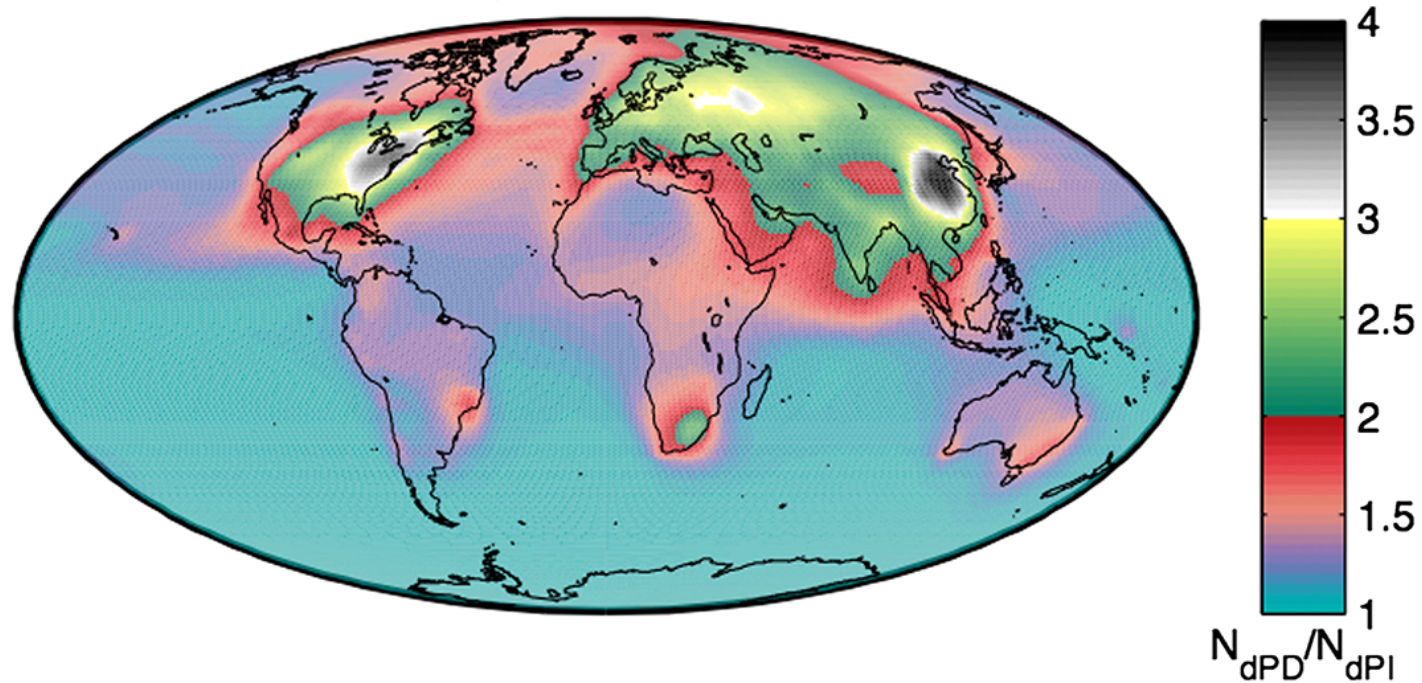
Measured Sensitivity of Droplet Number to Aerosols



McCoy et al, JGR, 2017

Anthropogenic Change in Droplet Number

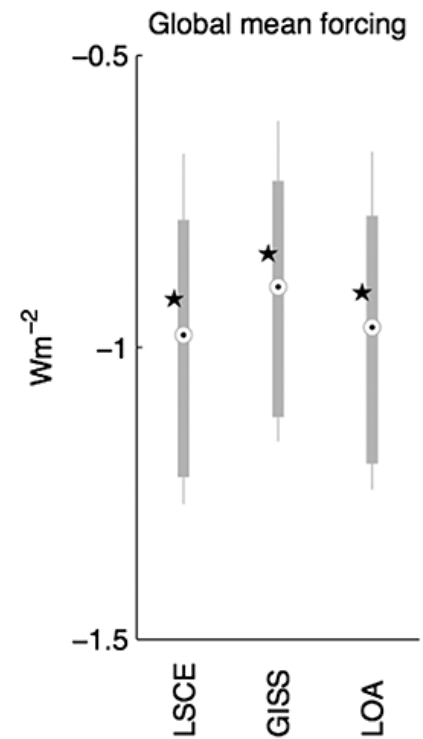
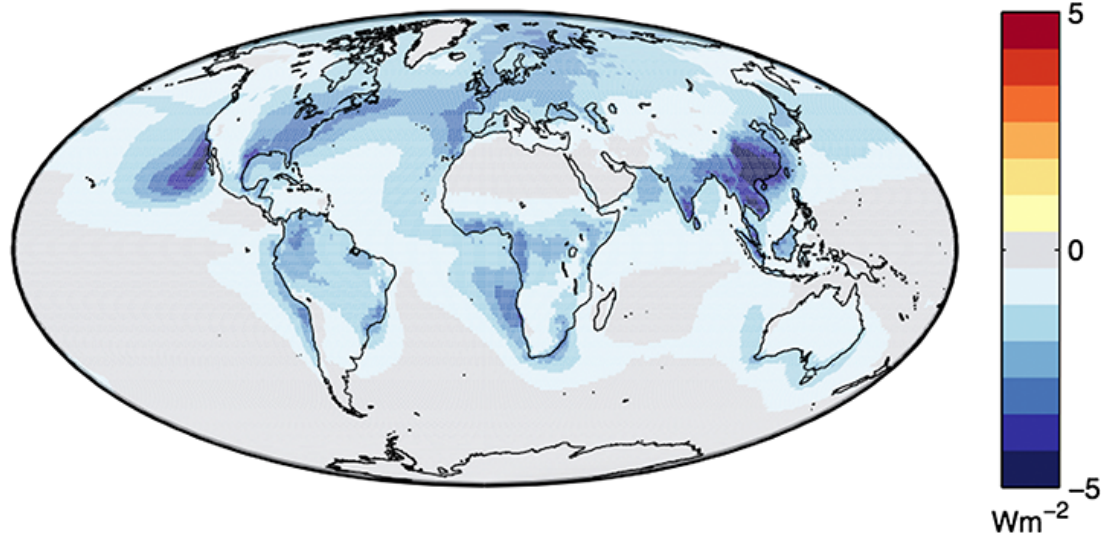
Fractional change in N_d between PI and PD



McCoy et al, JGR, 2017

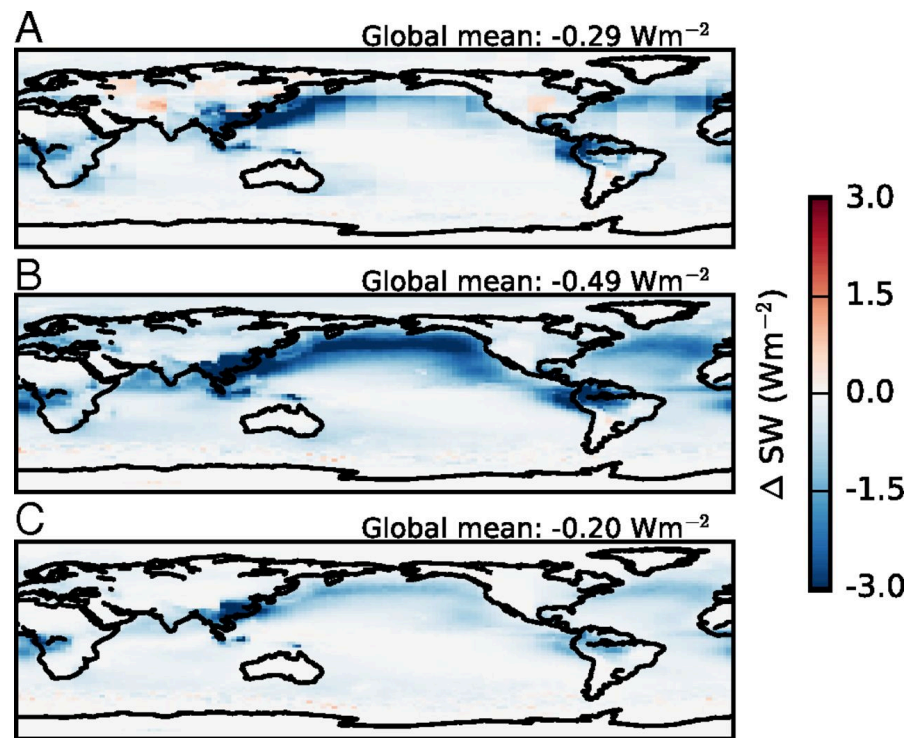
Radiative Forcing from First Aerosol Indirect Effect

Radiative forcing inferred from AeroCom SO₄ and MODIS cloud properties



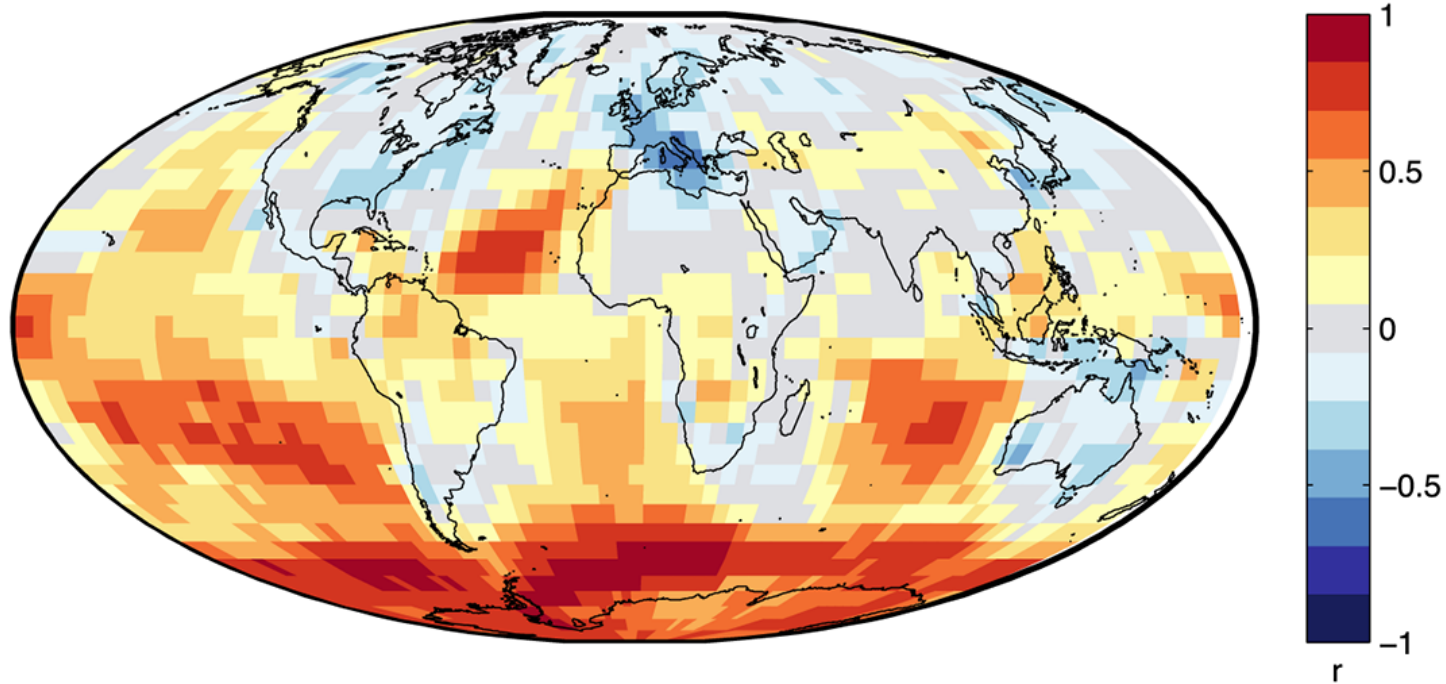
McCoy et al, JGR, 2017

Alternate Estimates of First Indirect Effect Forcing



Oceanic Sources for Biogenic Hydrophilic Aerosols

Correlation between anomalies in MSA and SO₄ from MERRA



McCoy et al, JGR, 2017

Biogenic Aerosols also Trigger Droplet Formation

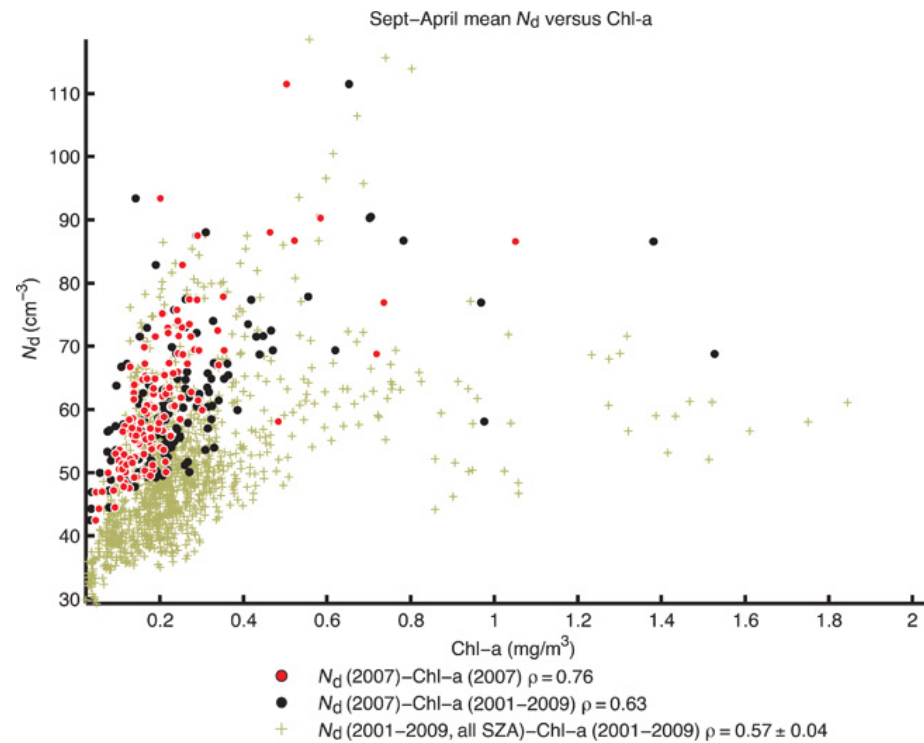
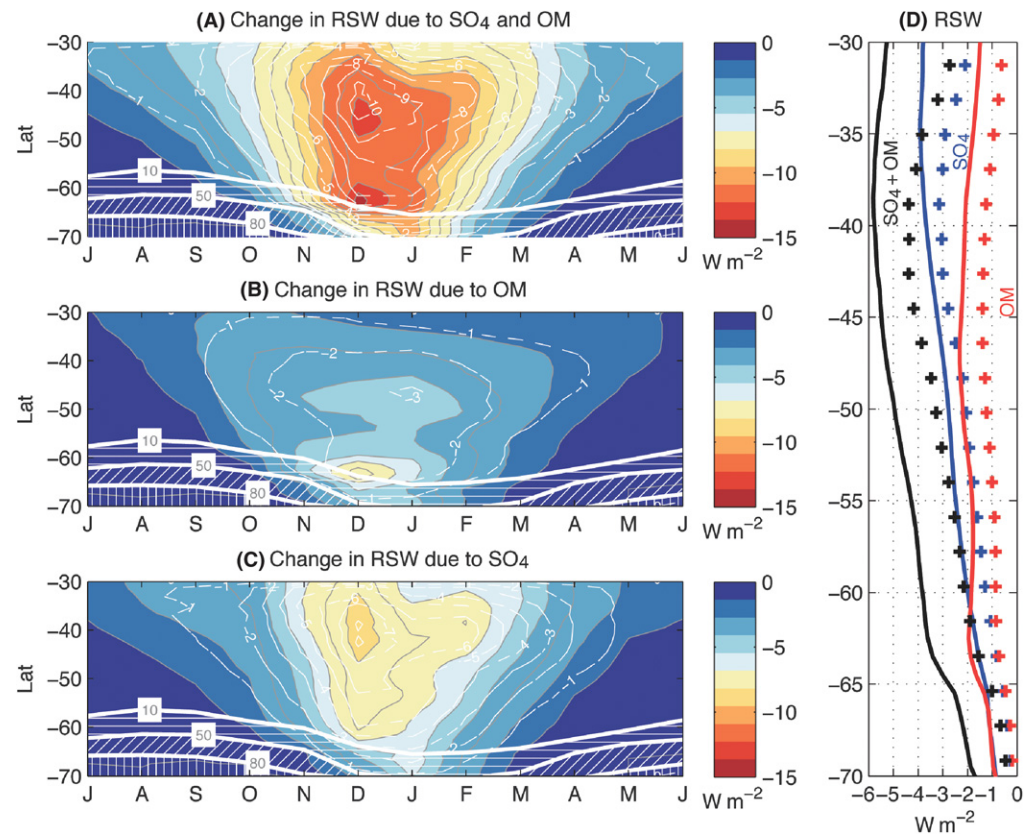


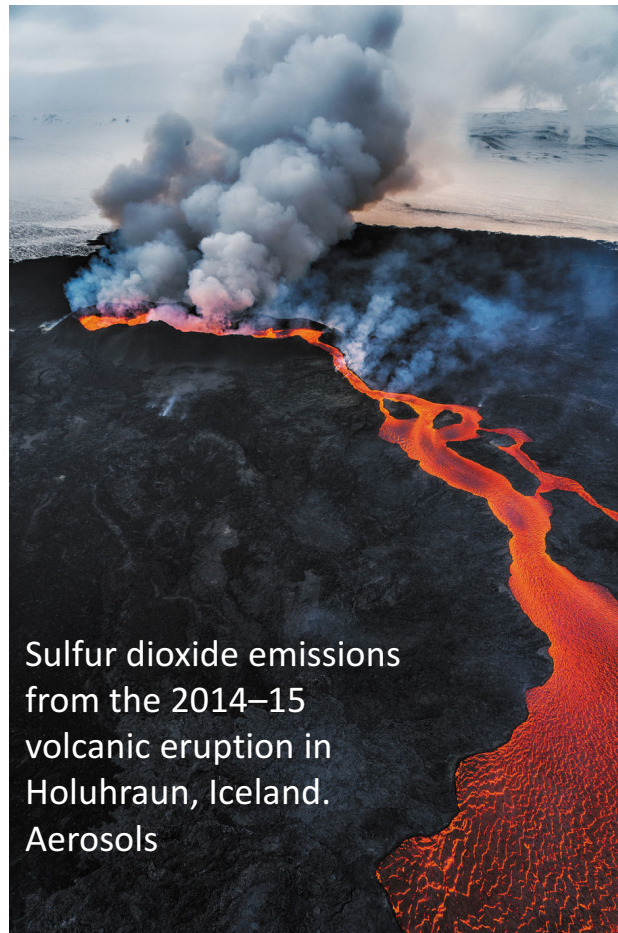
Fig. 1 Elevated mean September to April cloud droplet concentrations over the SO are associated with regions of high Chl-a (indicating the presence of phytoplankton biomass).

Biogenic Aerosols increase Shortwave Cloud Effects



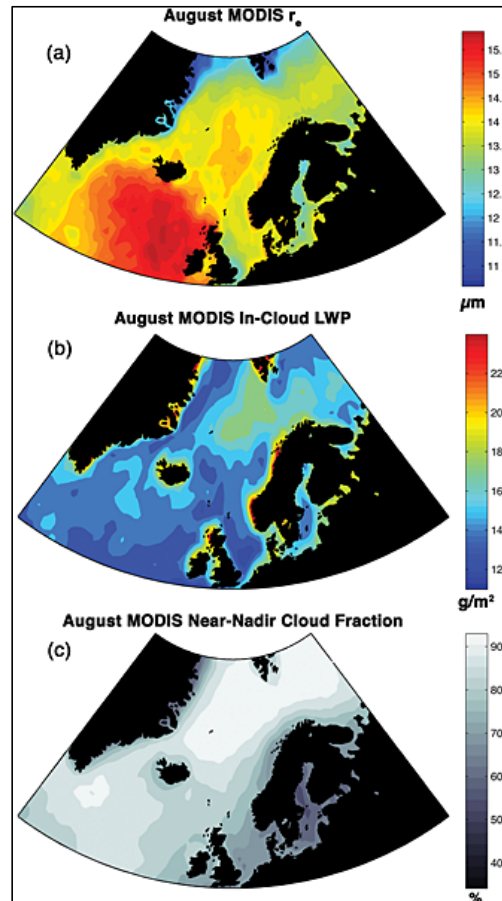
McCoy et al. Science 2015

Tests using Volcanic Aerosol / Cloud Interactions



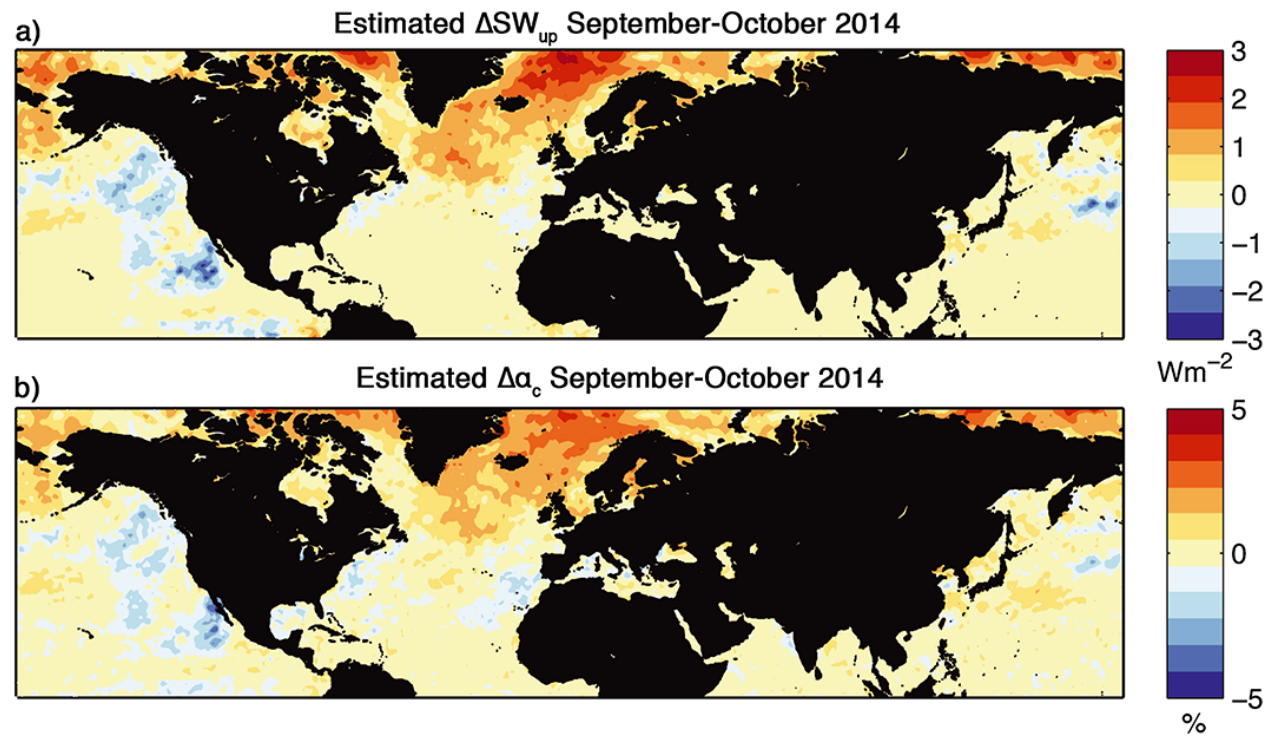
Stevens Nature 2017

Volcanic Emissions Decrease Cloud Droplet Size



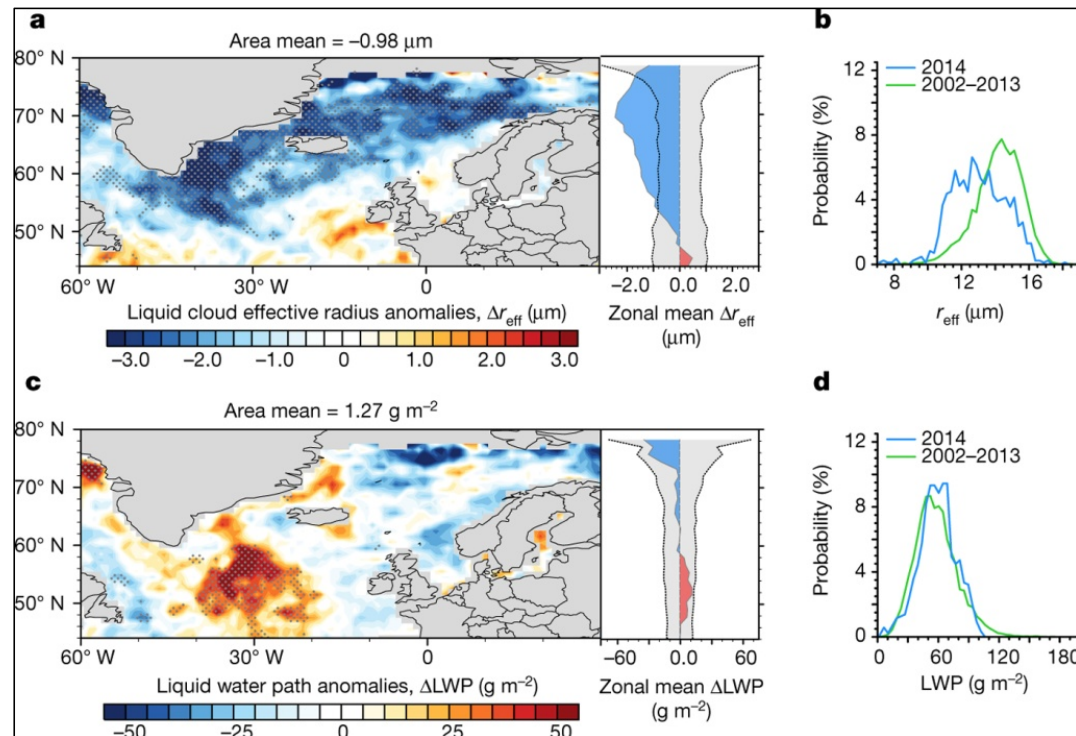
McCoy et al GRL 2015

Elevated Cloud Reflection from Volcanic Aerosols



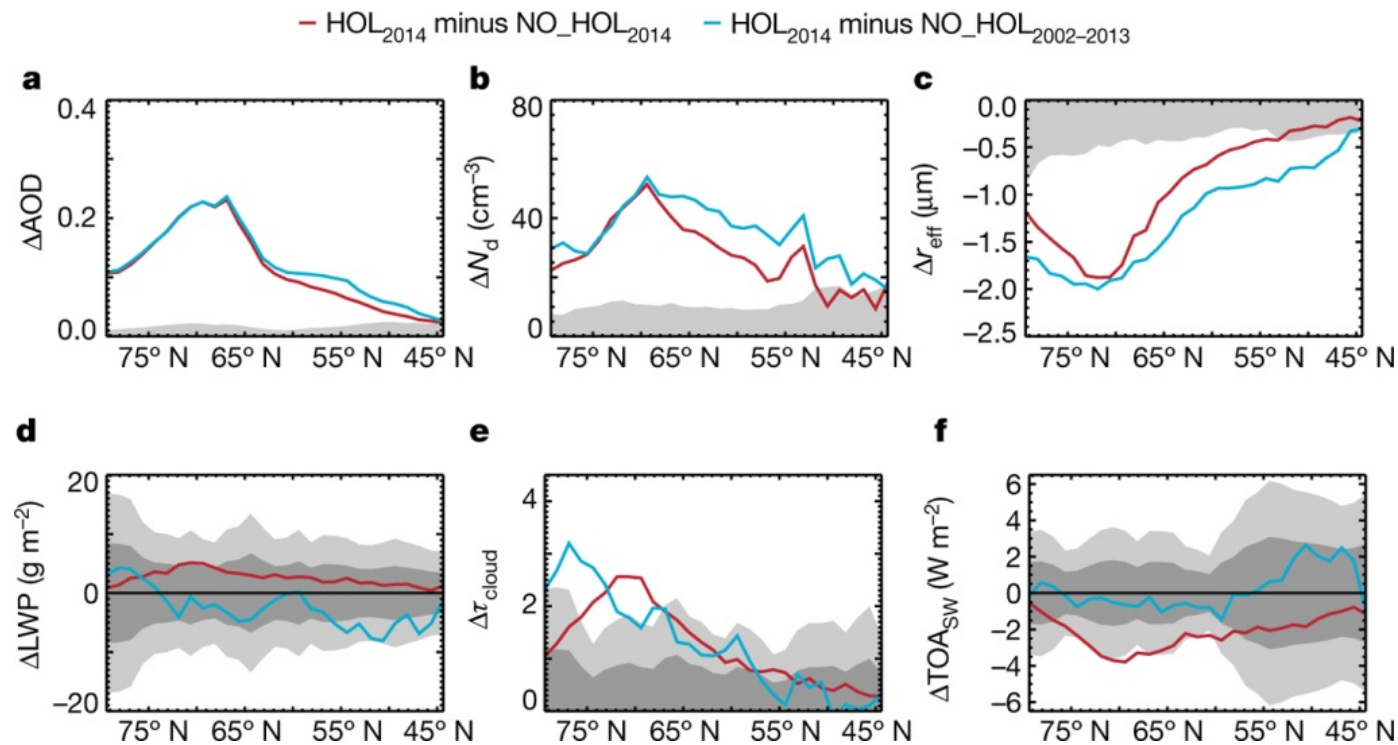
McCoy et al GRL 2015

Small Volcanic Impacts on Cloud Liquid Water Paths



Malavelle et al Nature 2017

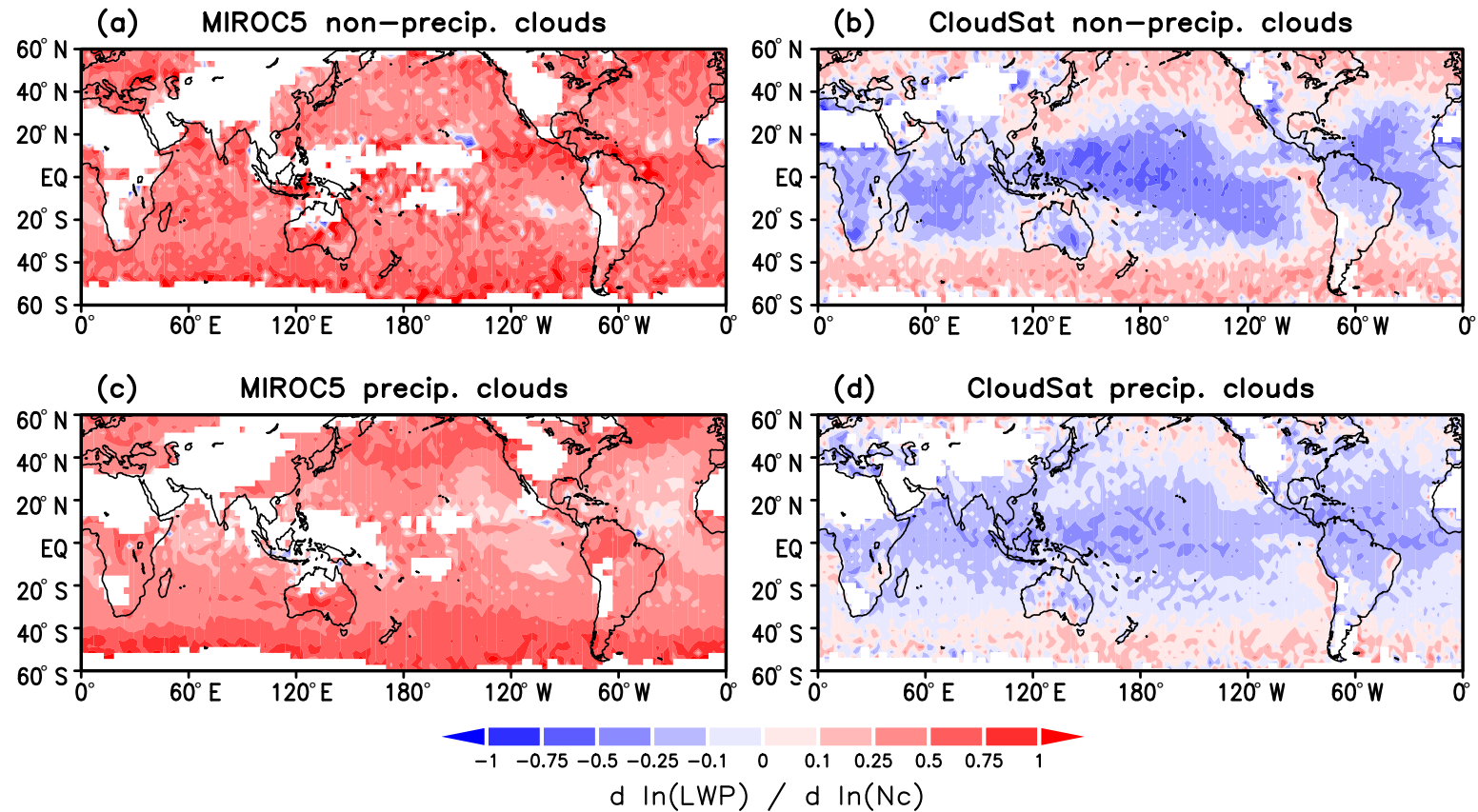
Models Confirm Small Volcanic 2nd Indirect Effect



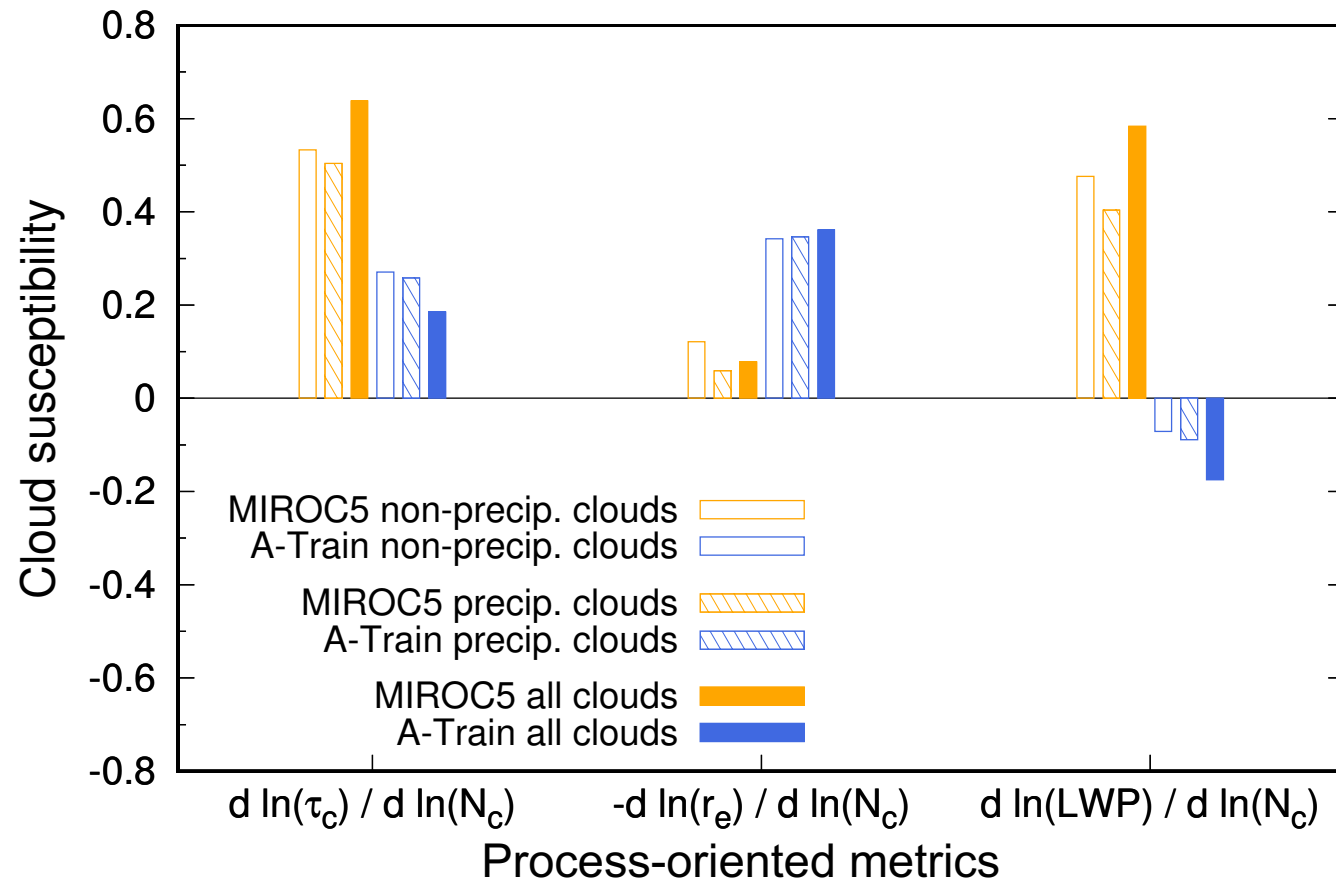
Modelled perturbations from HadGEM3 using UKCA for September–October 2014

Malavelle et al Nature 2017

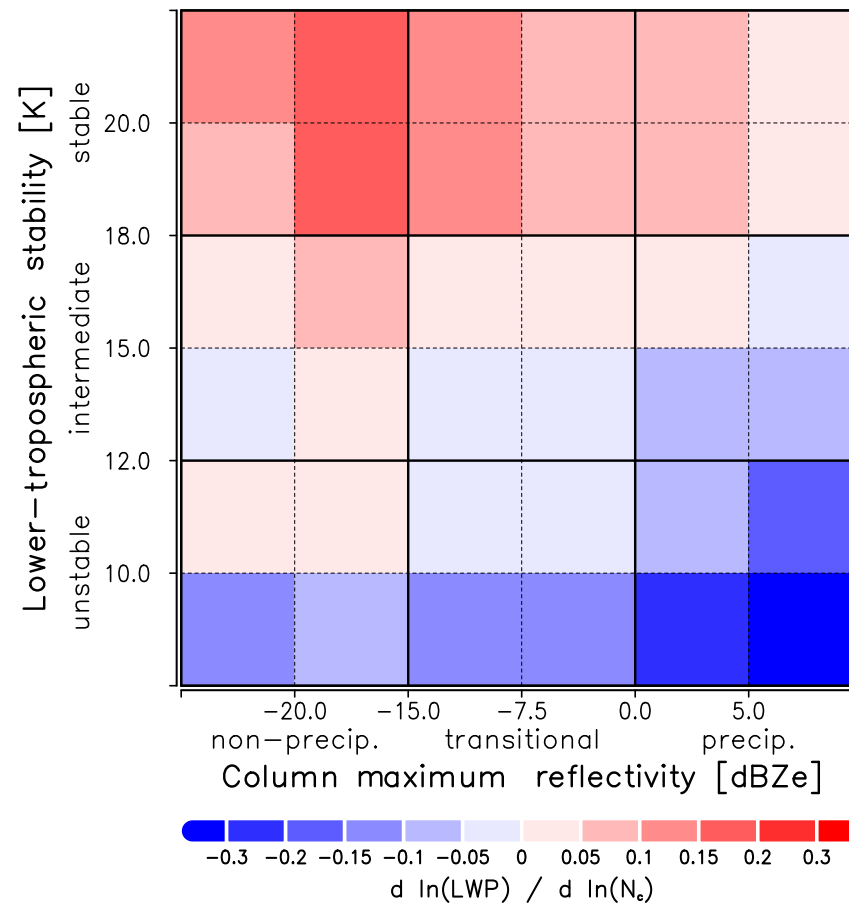
GCMs Overestimate Cloud LWP Aerosol Sensitivity



Modeled / Measured Aerosol-Cloud Interactions



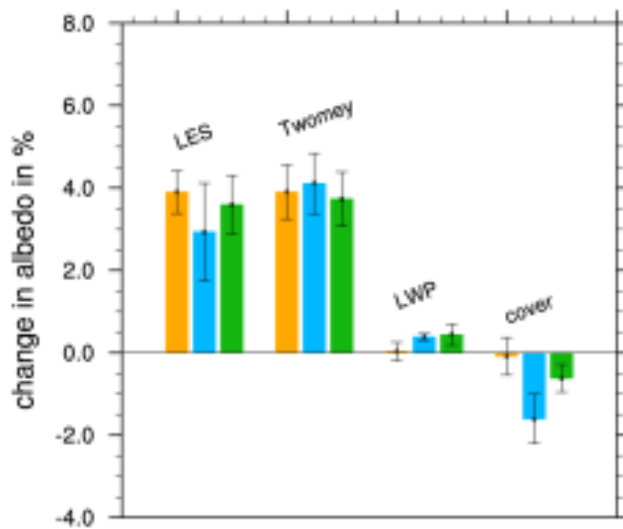
Susceptibility of Cloud LWP Response to Aerosols



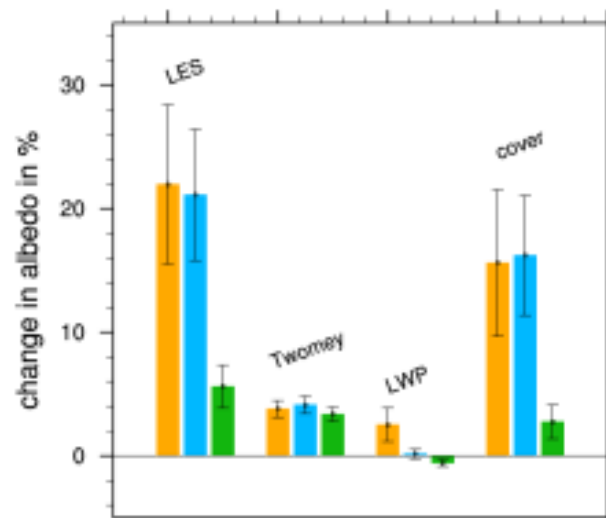
Michibata et al ACP 2016

Large Eddy Simulations of Indirect Effects

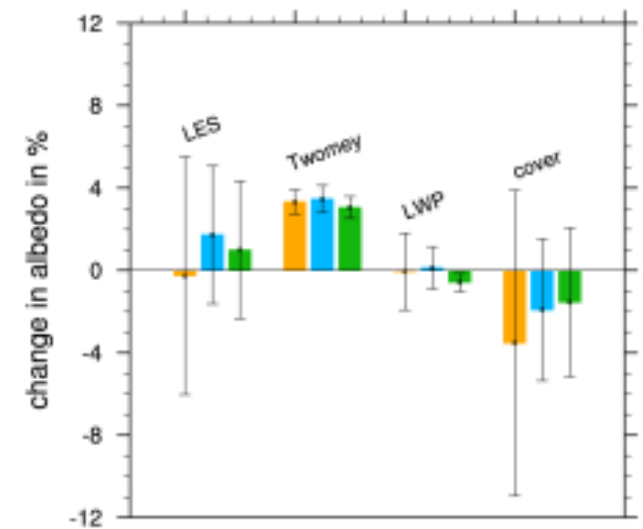
a) non-precipitating regime



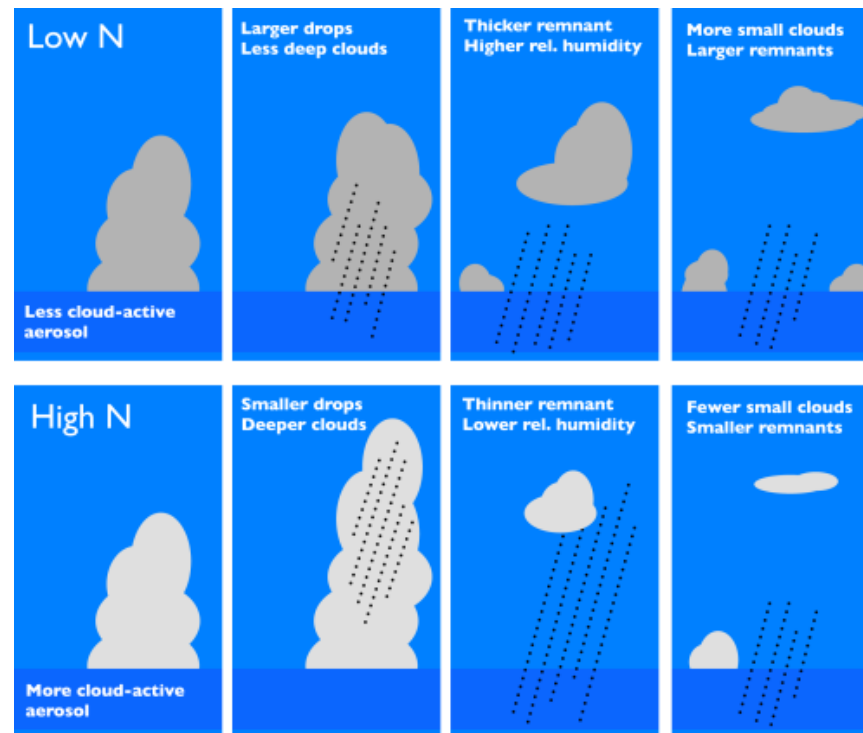
b) transition regime



c) near-equilibrium regime



New Paradigm for Precipitating Cloud Susceptibility



What we've discussed

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