Clouds, Aerosols and Precipitation in the Marine Boundary Layer (CAP-MBL)

Graciosa Island, Azores,
NE Atlantic Ocean
May 2009-December 2010

Rob Wood, University of Washington

AMF Deployment Team

Thanks to

Mark Miller: AMF Site Scientist

Kim Nitschke: AMF Site Manager

CAP-MBL Proposal Team

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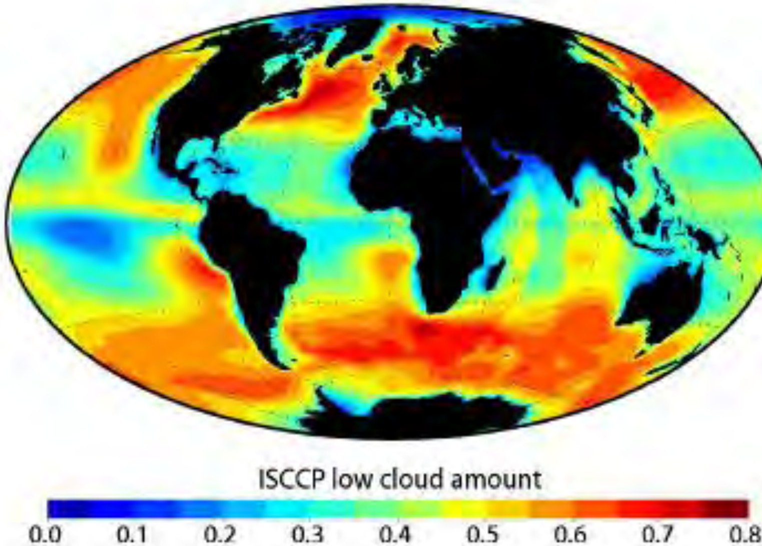
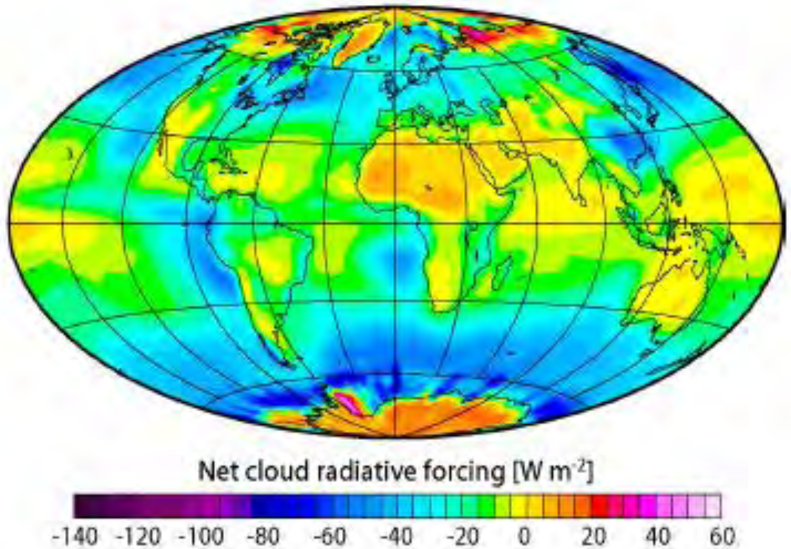
Bjorn Stevens, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA
Graham Feingold, NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory, Boulder, USA
David Turner, SSEC, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA





Importance of Low-Clouds for Climate

Imperative that we understand the processes controlling the formation, maintenance and dissipation of low clouds in order to improve their representation in climate models.

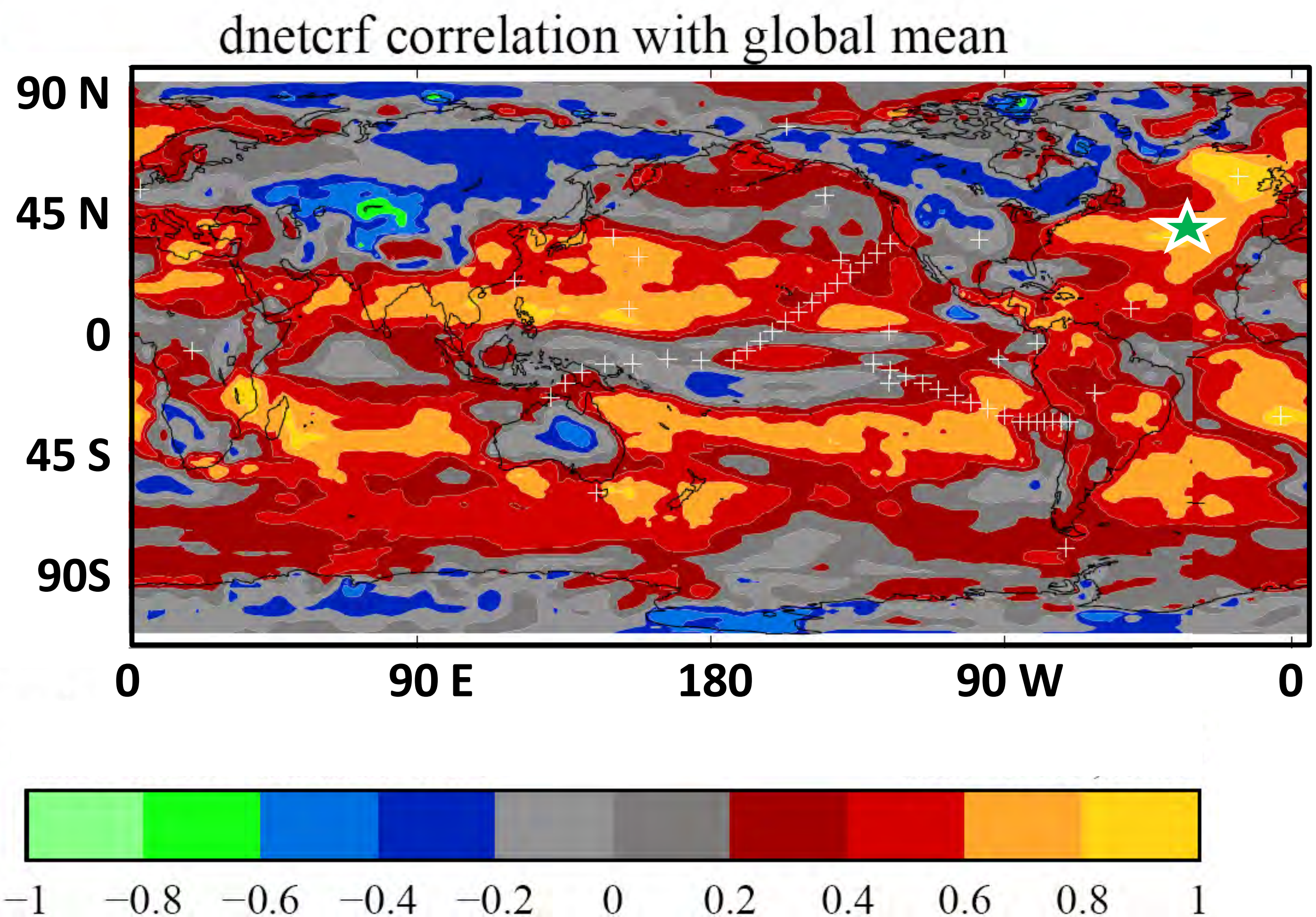
Which clouds matter for climate sensitivity?

Climate Feedbacks Model Intercomparison Project (CFMIP)

12 slab ocean models

$2xCO_2$ – control

Correlation of global mean ΔCRF with local values



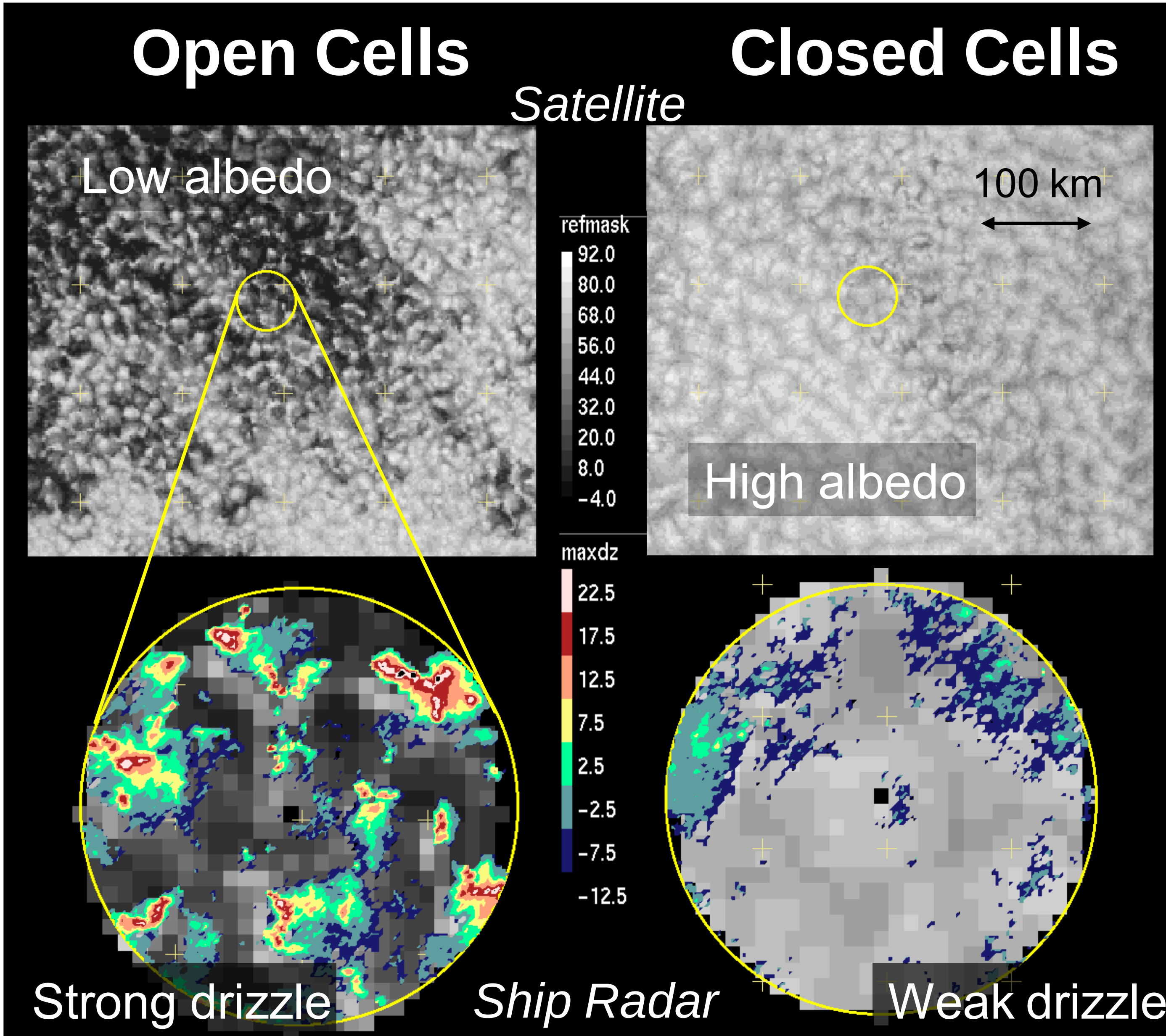
Mark Webb, Hadley Center

Precipitation and its effects on albedo

- Cloud albedo strongly dependent upon open/closed cells

- Strong precipitation associated with open cell structure

- Open cells form in clear marine environment – potential anthropogenic impacts



LES Models: Aerosol Effects on Cloud Morphology via Drizzle

Albedo

Closed-cell
Albedo ~ 0.6
(non-precipitating)

→ **high aerosol**

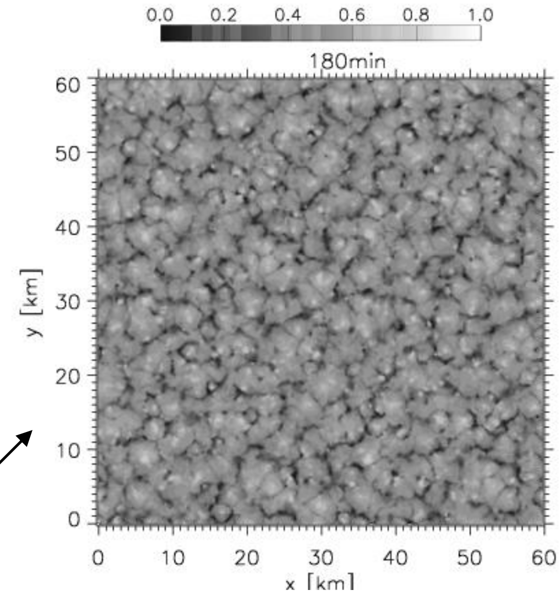
*Onset of **drizzle** results in transition to open-cell convection*

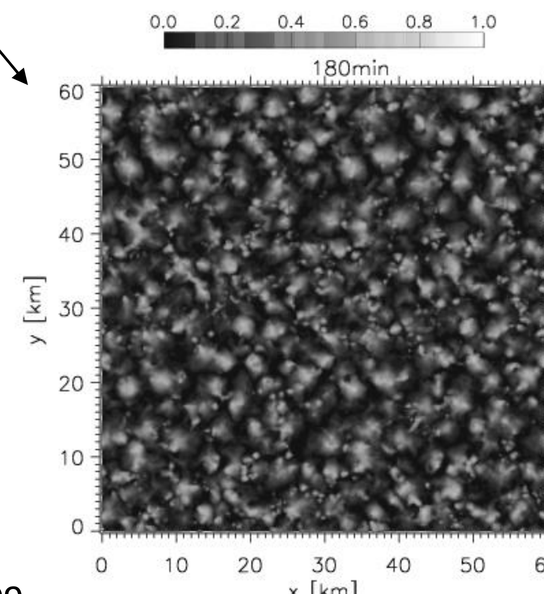
WRF Model
+ 2-moment
μphysics;
60 km domain;
$\Delta x = \Delta y = 300$ m
$\Delta z = 30$ m

Open-cell
Albedo ~ 0.2
(precipitating)

→ **low aerosol**

Albedo

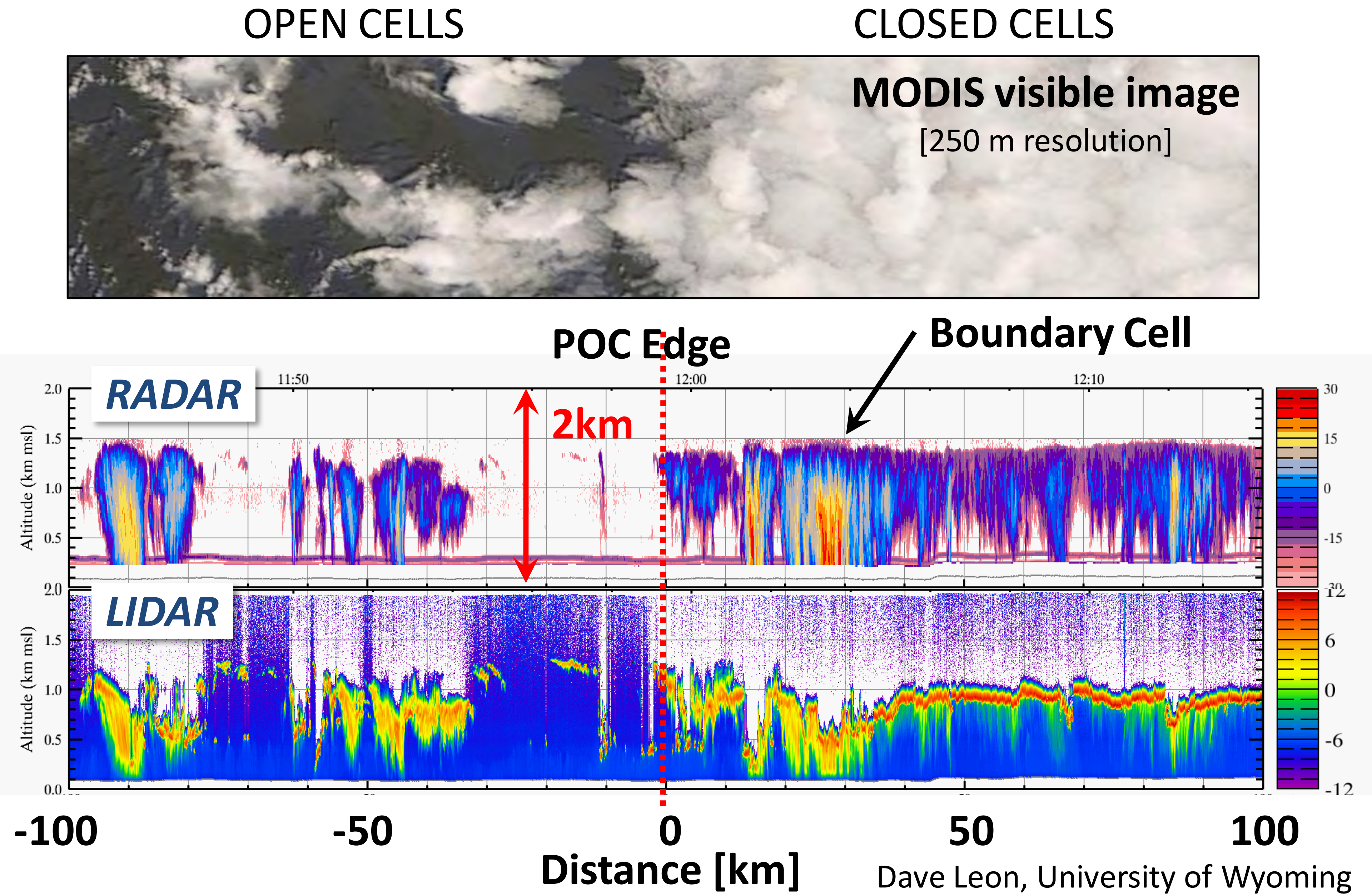




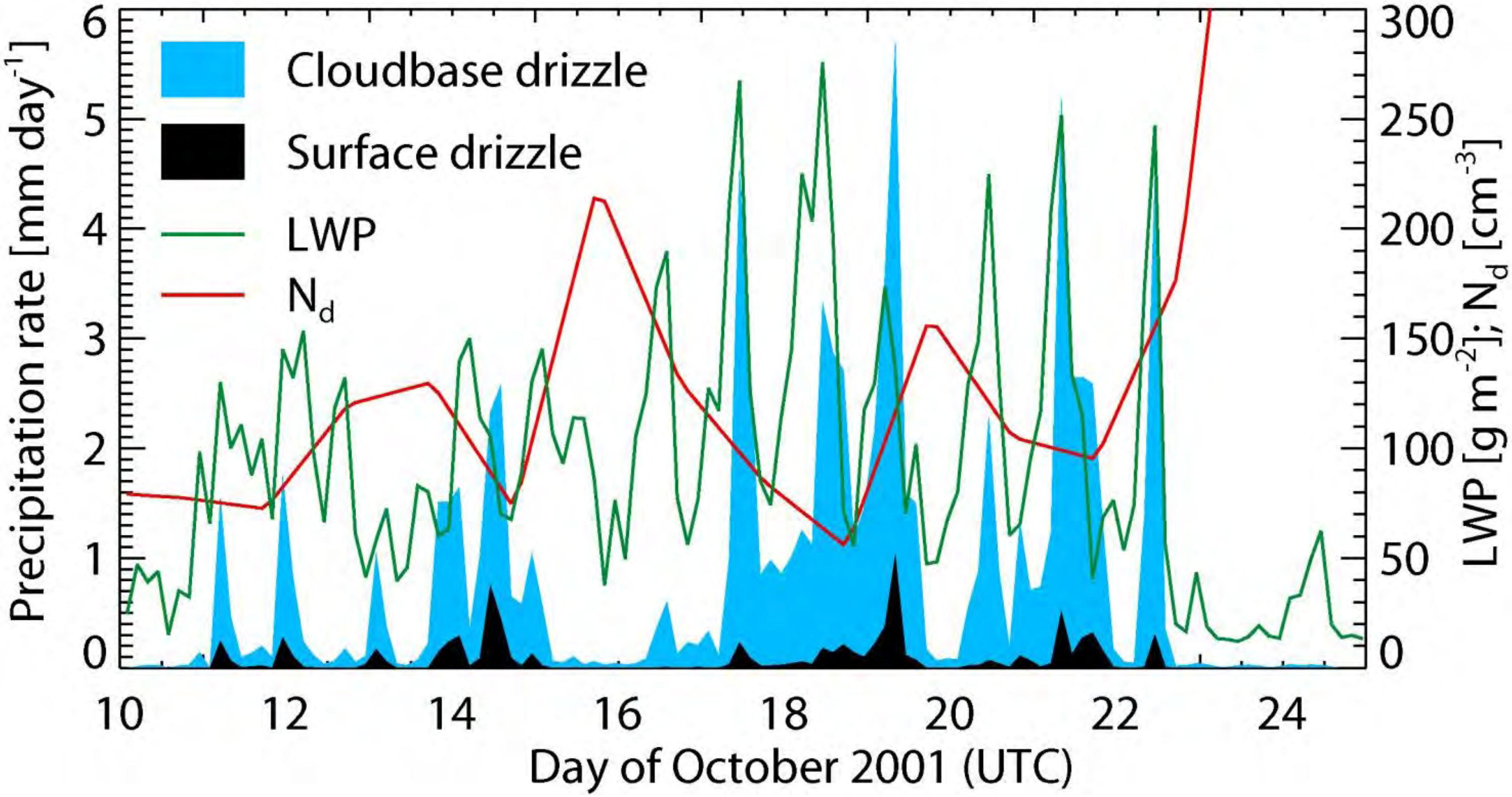
Garay et al. 2004, MISR

Wang and Feingold, 2009

VOCALS: Observations of Cloud and Precipitation



Aerosols, clouds, and precipitation



AMF-like suite on NOAA R/V Ronald H Brown
during EPIC 2001
(Bretherton et al. 2004)

No long-term records exist that can be used to link cloud, precipitation, and aerosol microphysical variability in the remote-capped MBL.

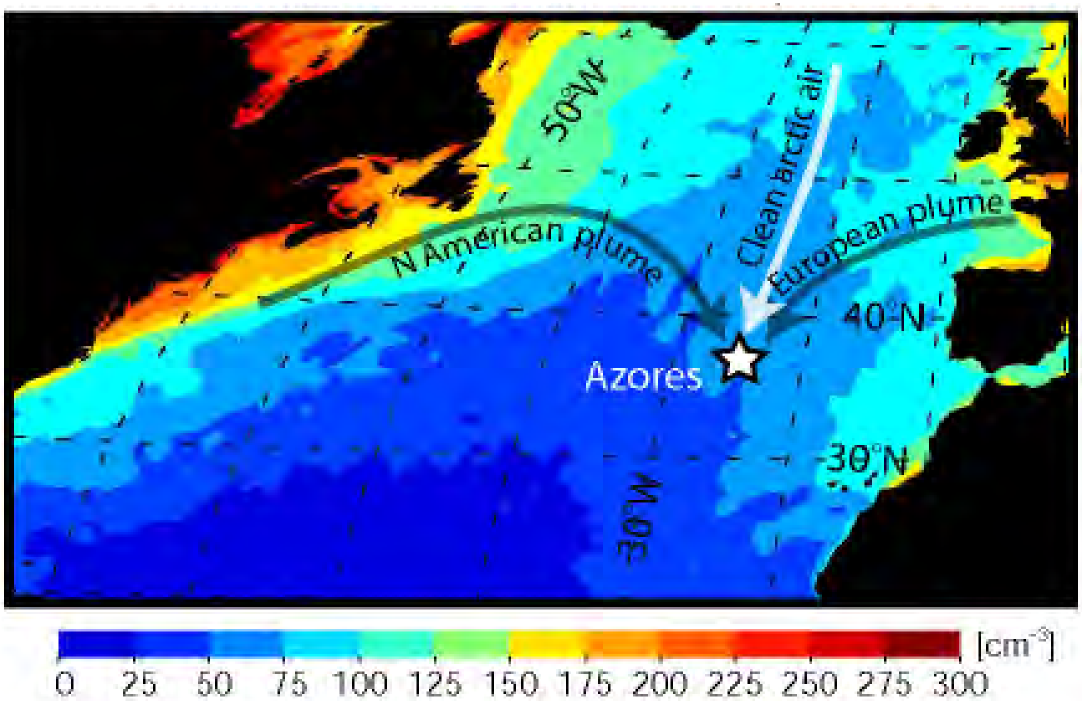
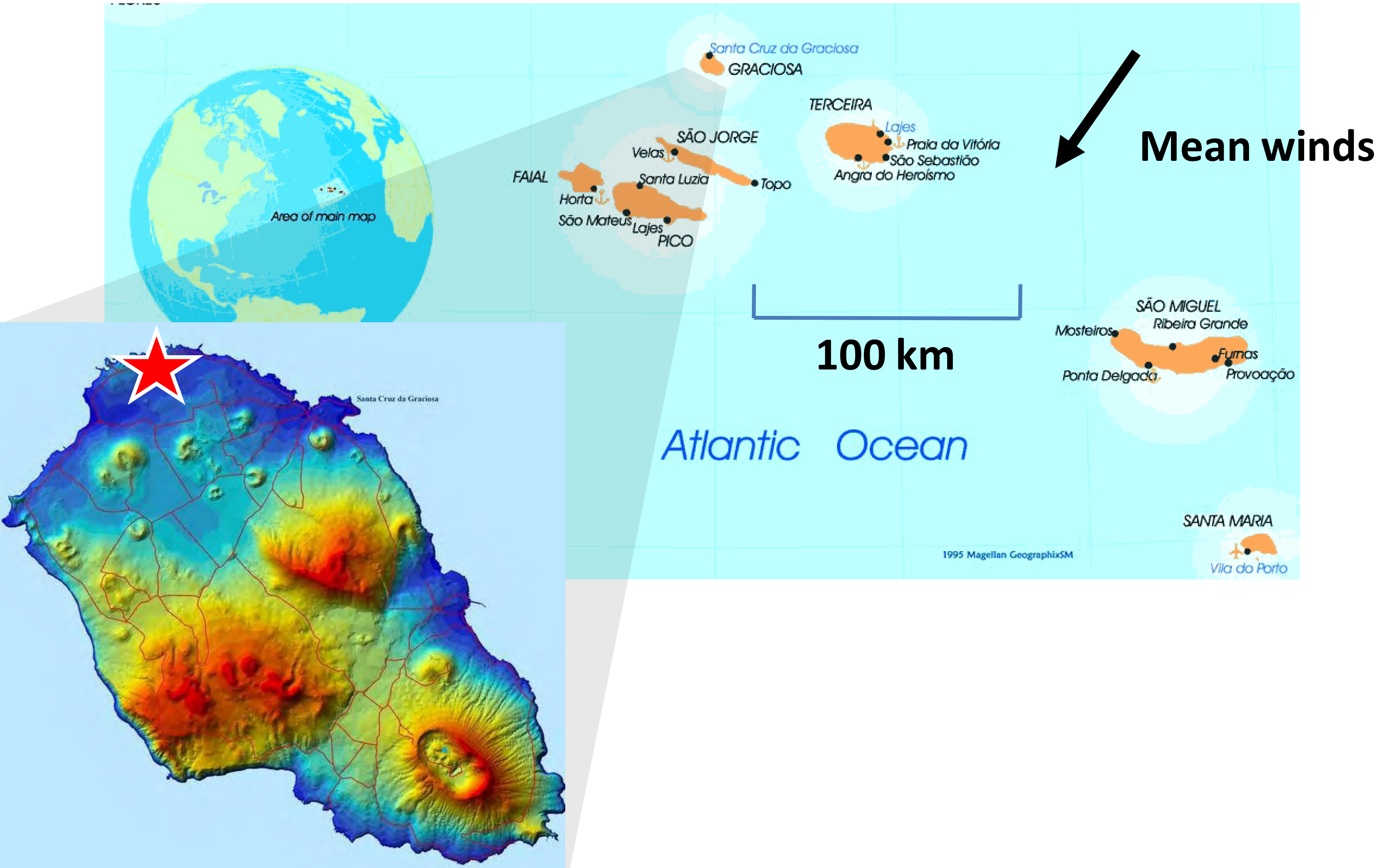


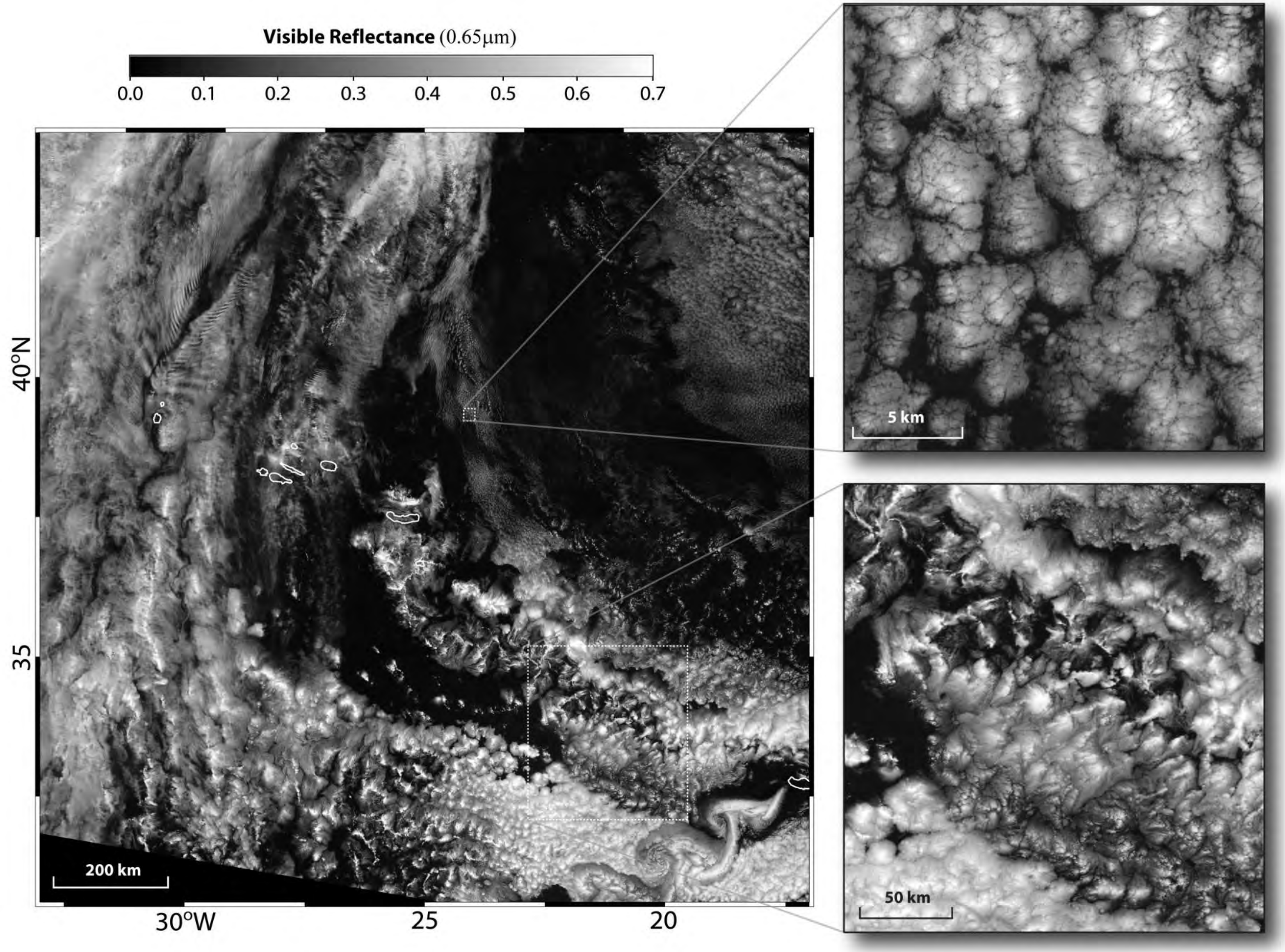
Figure 2: MODIS annual mean cloud droplet concentration for overcast warm clouds over the North Atlantic. The Azores typically experiences relatively clean conditions with northerly flow, but with periodic episodes of continentally-influenced polluted airmasses. The location is therefore ideal for capturing a wide range of aerosol conditions.

AMF Site: Graciosa Island in the Azores (28 °W 39 °N)

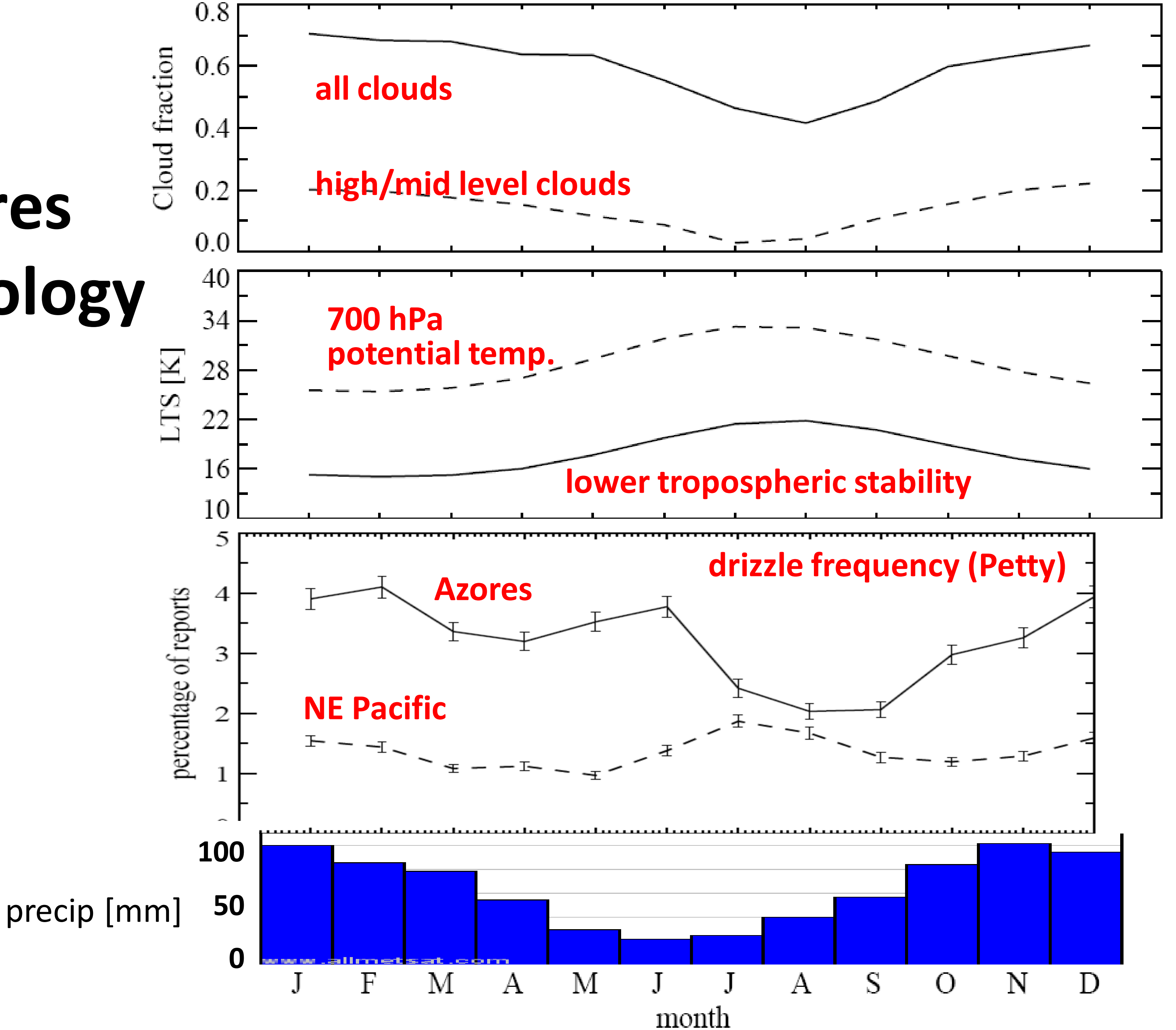
Small Low Island - No Direct Continental Influence - MBL Depths 1-2 km



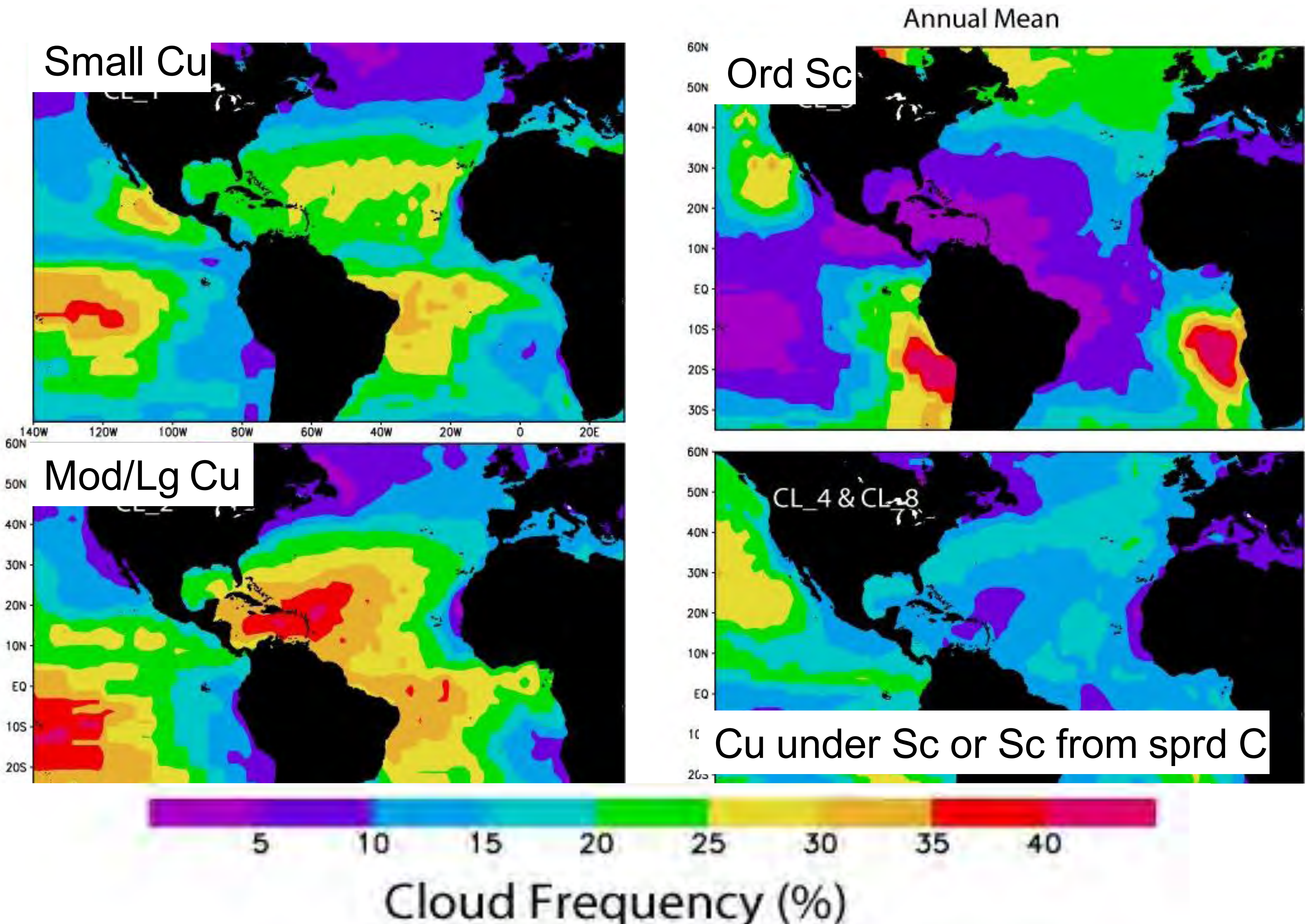
Marine boundary layer cloud in the Azores



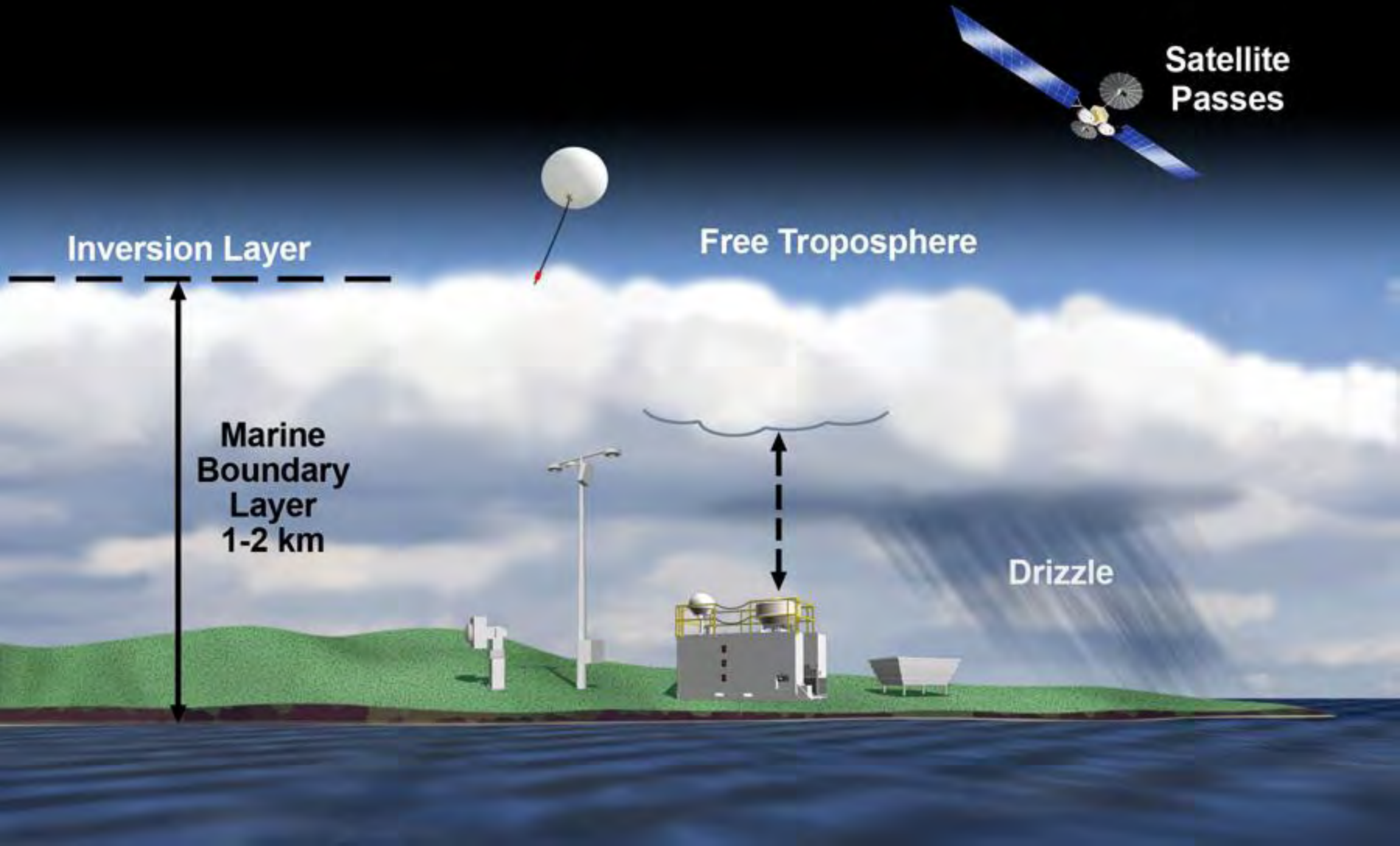
Azores climatology

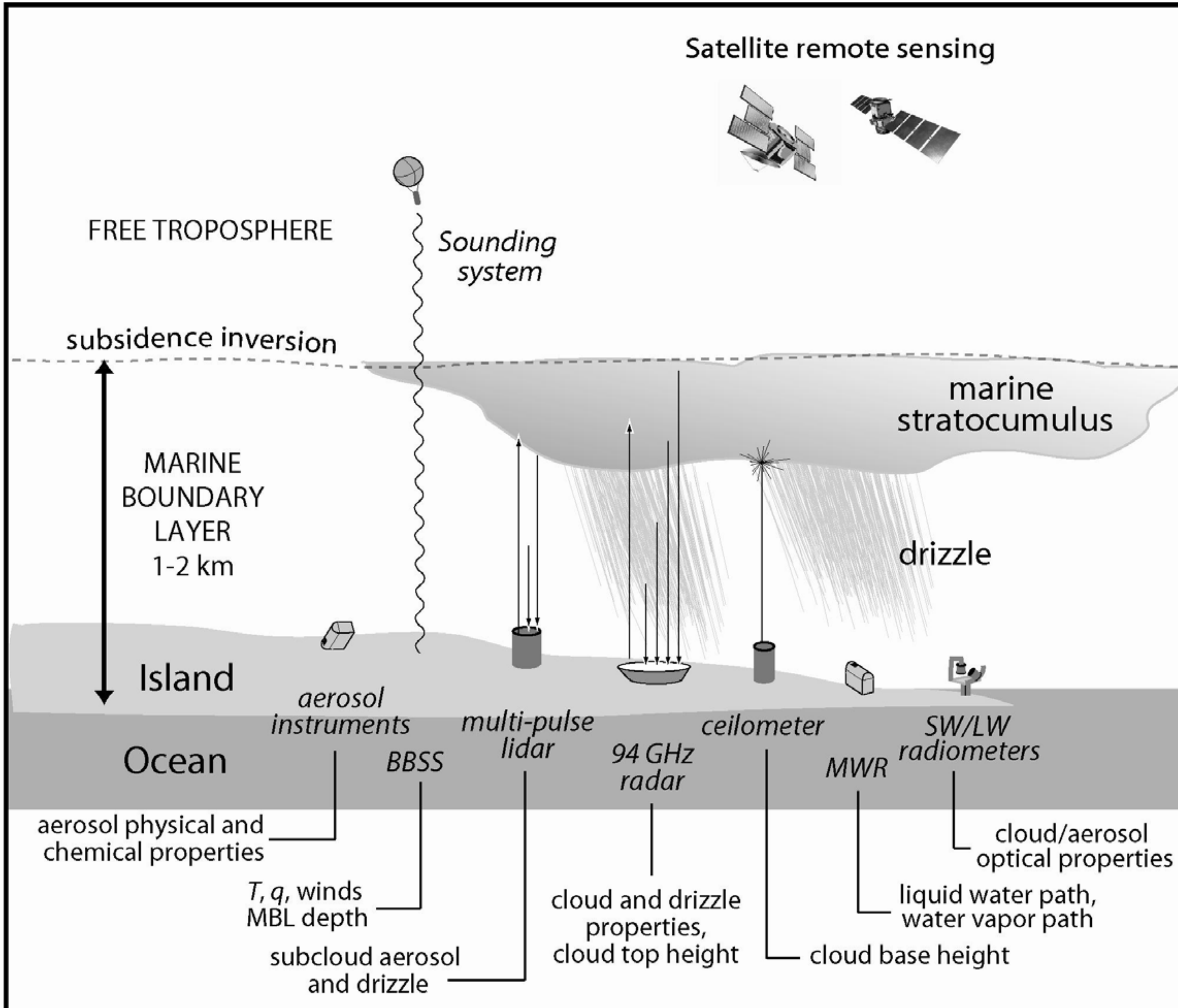


Low clouds - frequency



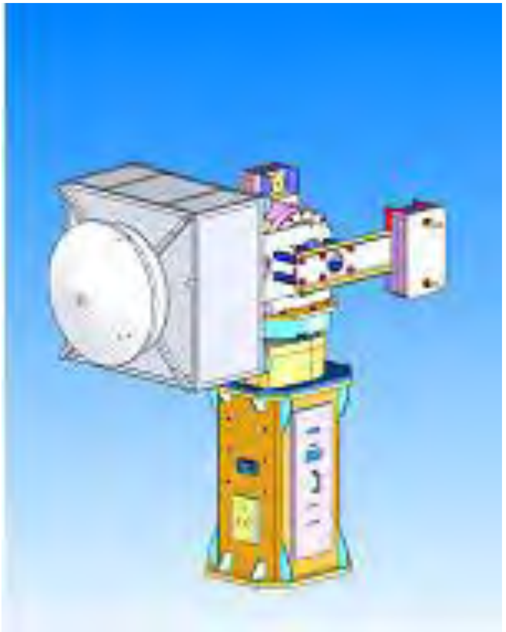
AMF configuration for CAP-MBL





Satellite remote sensing
FREE TROPOSPHERE
Sounding system
subsidence inversion
marine stratocumulus
MARINE BOUNDARY LAYER 1-2 km
drizzle
Island
Ocean
aerosol instruments
BBSS
multi-pulse lidar
94 GHz radar
ceilometer
MWR
SW/LW radiometers
aerosol physical and chemical properties
T, q, winds MBL depth
subcloud aerosol and drizzle
cloud and drizzle properties, cloud top height
cloud base height
liquid water path, water vapor path
cloud/aerosol optical properties

Scanning W-band ARM Cloud Radar



Same radar frequency as NASA's CloudSat

Capable of detecting all radiatively significant clouds in a radius of 5-10* km

Scanning capabilities:

1. Horizon to Horizon (fixed azimuth)
2. 360° revolution (fixed elevation)
3. Sector scan (for cloud tracking)
4. Staring mode

Discussion of scanning strategies in afternoon breakout session

Pavlos Kollias

Scientific Goals of CAP-MBL

- Which synoptic-scale features dominate the variability in subtropical low clouds on diurnal to seasonal timescales over the NEA? Do physical, optical, and cloud-forming properties of aerosols vary with these synoptic features? How well can state-of-the-art weather forecast and climate models (run in forecast mode) predict the day-to-day variability of NEA cloud cover and its radiative impacts?

- Can we find observational support for the Twomey effect in clouds over the NEA?

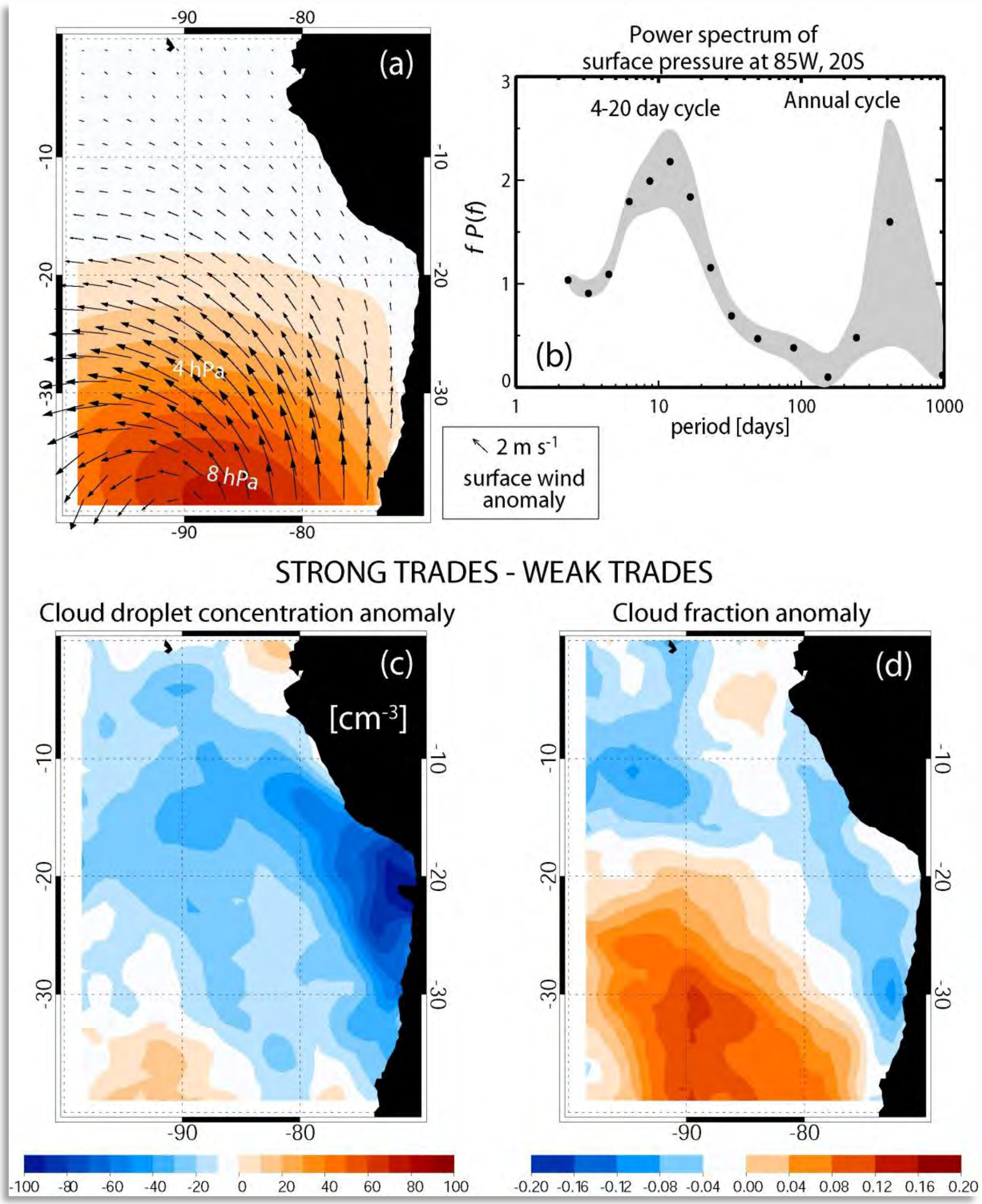
- What is the variability in precipitation frequency and strength in the subtropical cloud-topped MBL on diurnal to seasonal timescales, and is this variability correlated with variability in aerosol properties?

- Are observed transitions in cloud mesoscale structure (e. g. from closed cellular to open cellular convection) influenced by the formation of precipitation?

Addressing the goals of CAP-MBL

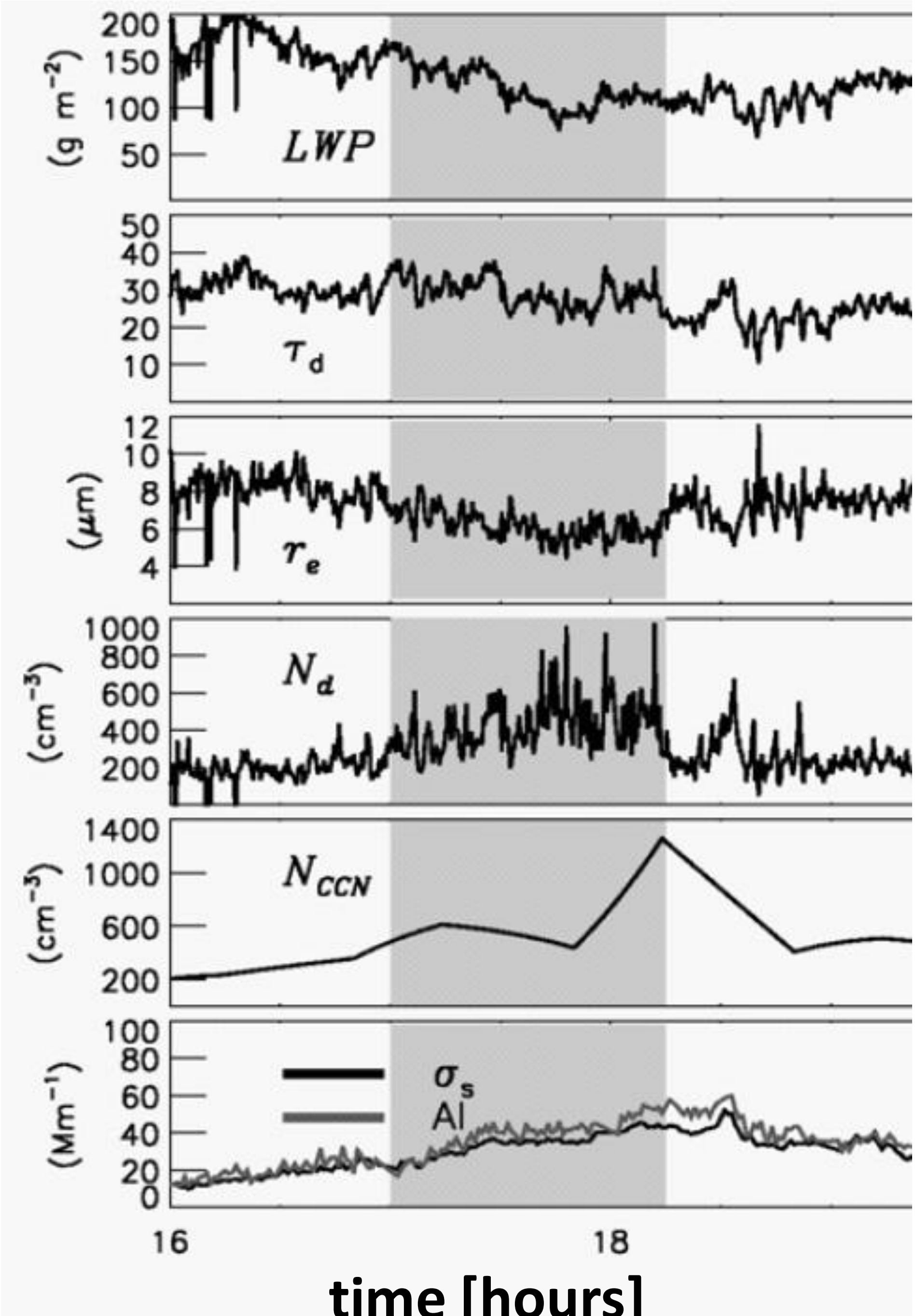
Microphysical synoptic (subseasonal) variability

Composite strong - weak SE Pacific high pressure



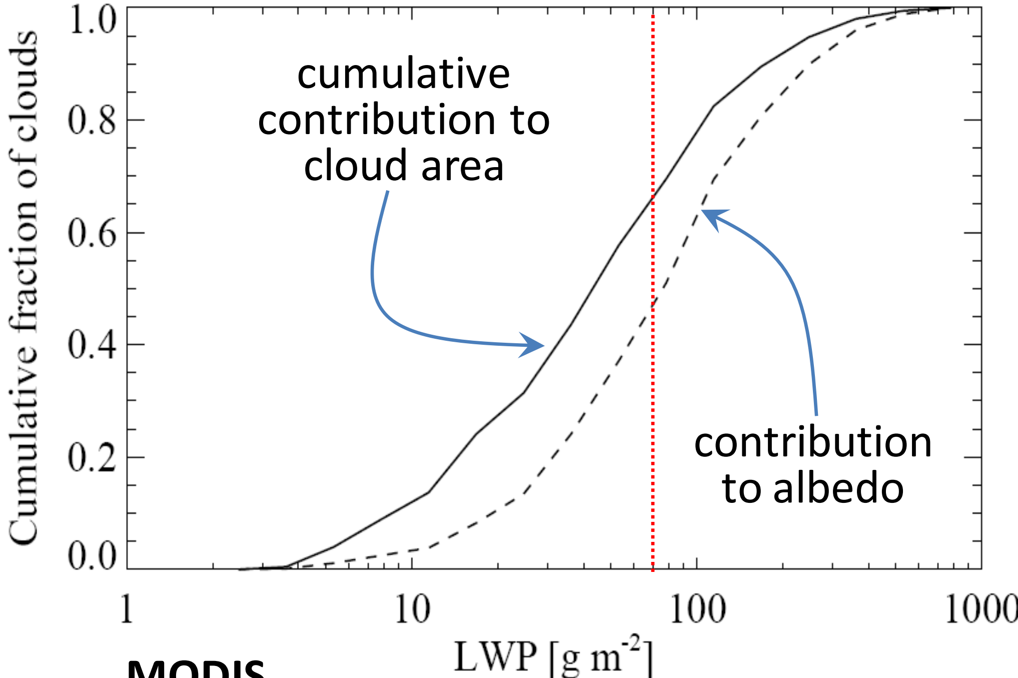
Rhea George

Can we find observational support for the Twomey effect in clouds over the NE Atlantic?



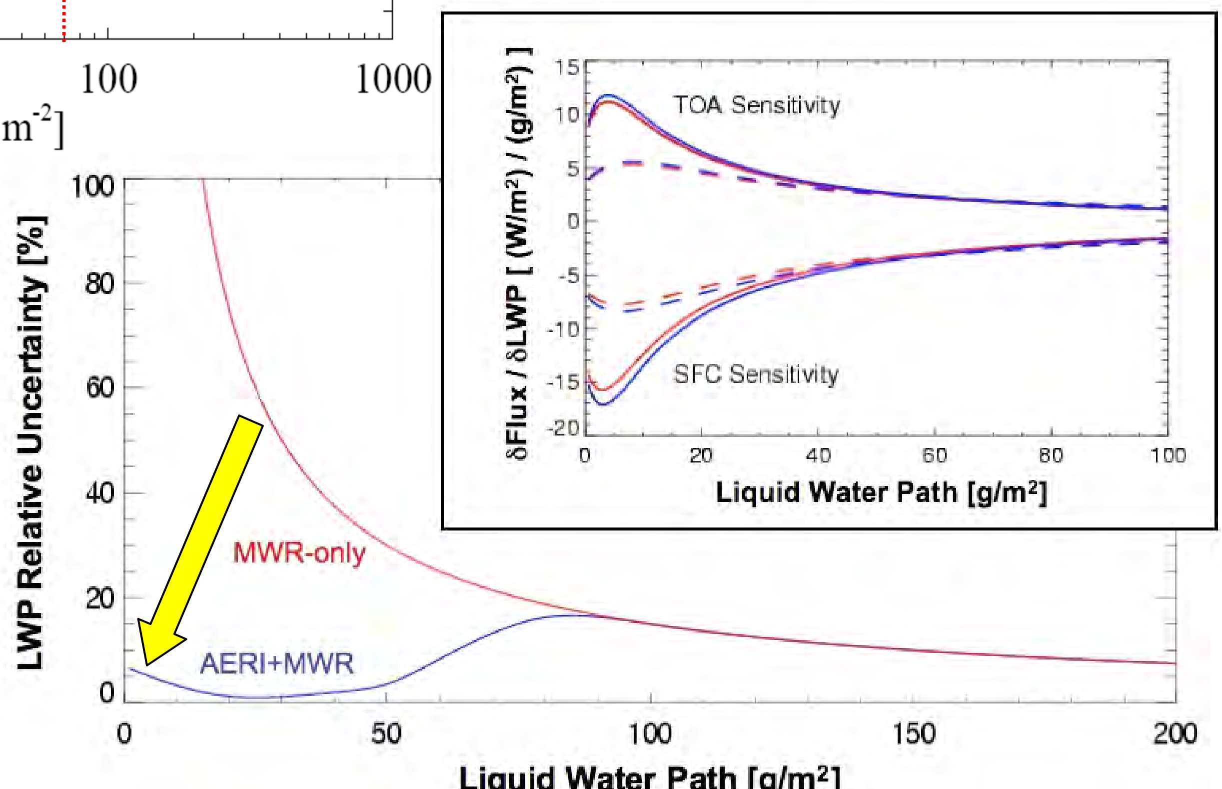
McComiskey et al. (2009)

The importance of thin clouds to albedo



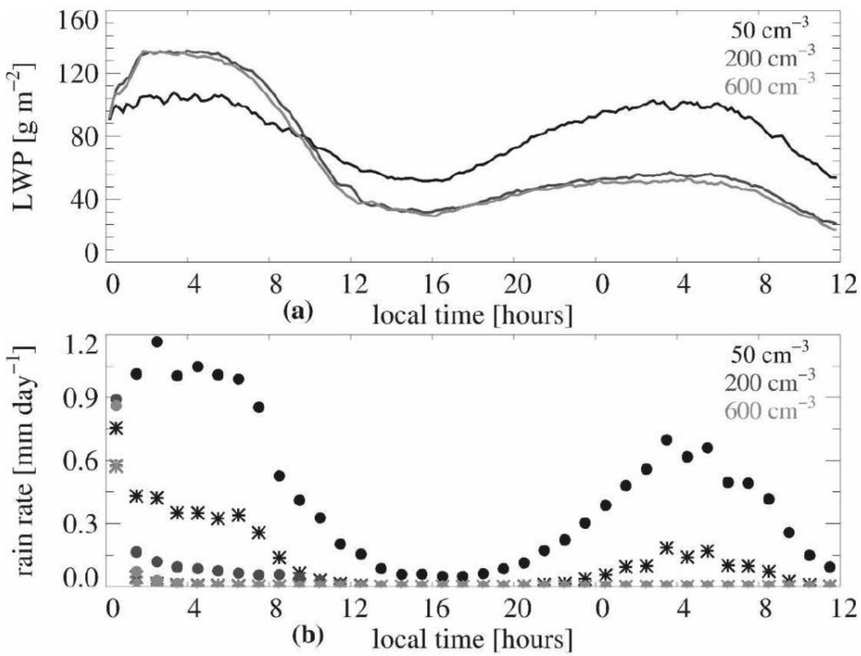
MODIS
Azores, Jun-Aug

cy in Liquid Water Path Retrievals



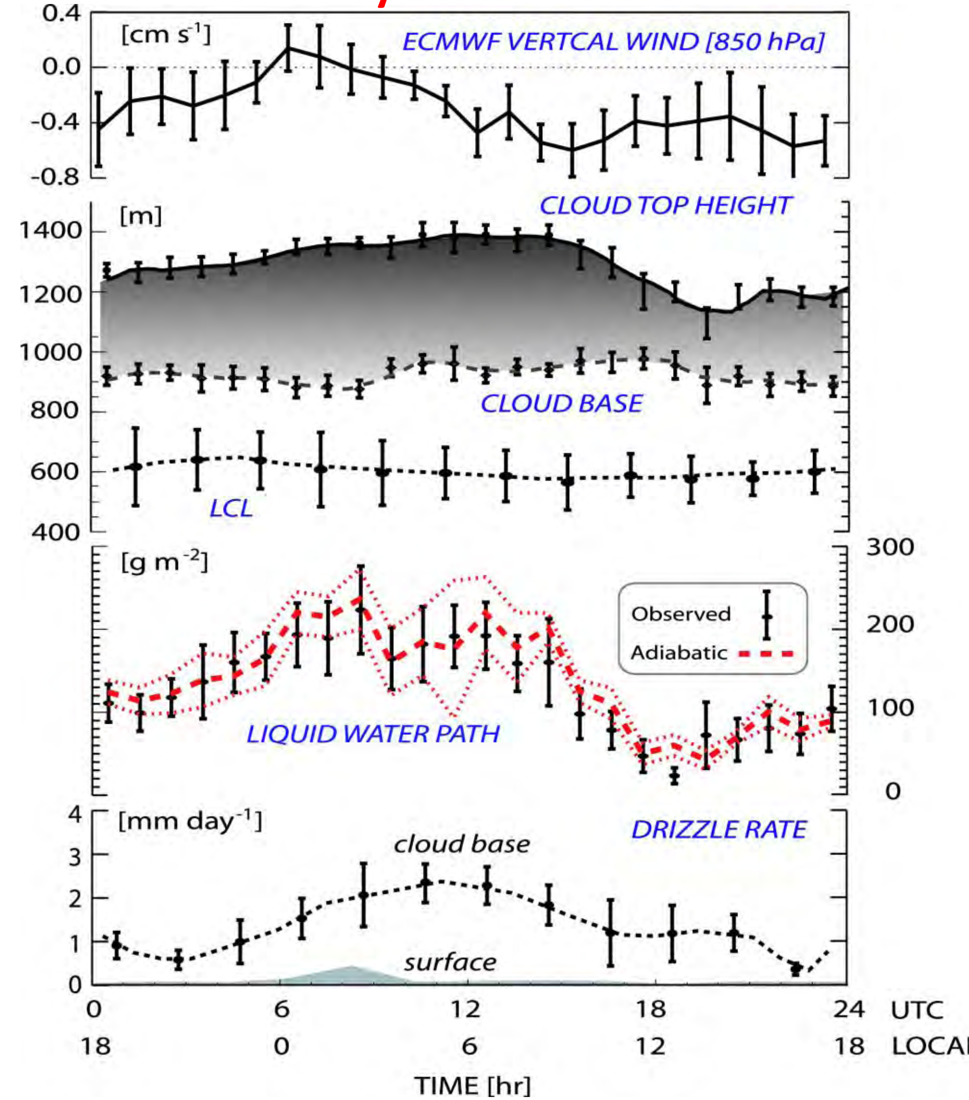
Turner, JGR, 2007

What is the variability in precipitation frequency and strength in the subtropical cloud-topped MBL on diurnal to seasonal timescales, and is this variability correlated with variability in aerosol properties?



LES simulations of the diurnal cycle of marine stratocumulus (Sandu et al. 2008)

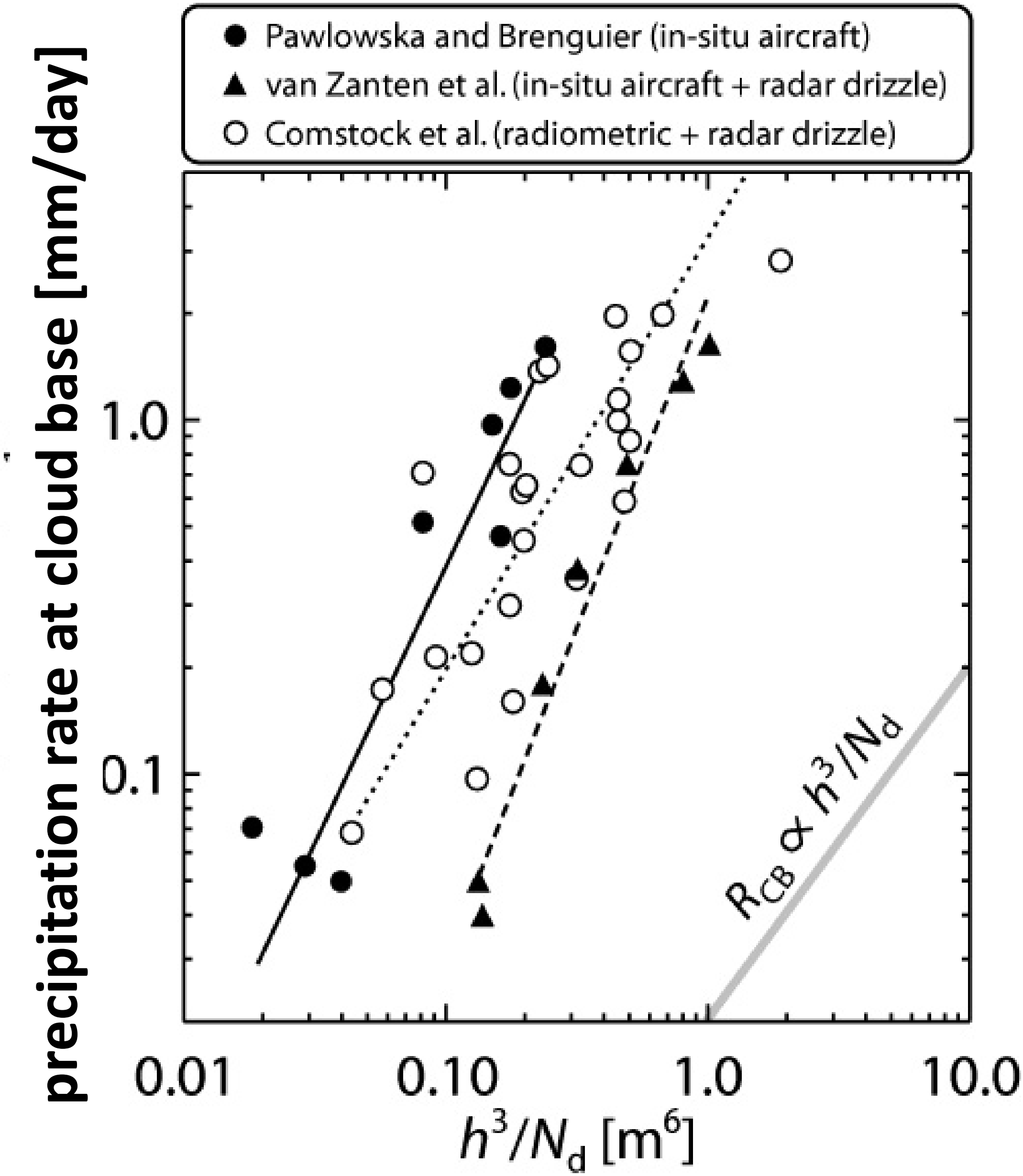
6 days from EPIC



Precipitation closure

- Precipitation rate dependent upon:
    - cloud **macrophysical** properties (e.g. thickness, LWP);
    - **microphysical** properties (e.g. droplet conc., CCN)

- Dependencies critical for constraining 2nd aerosol indirect effect in models



from Brenguier and Wood (2009)

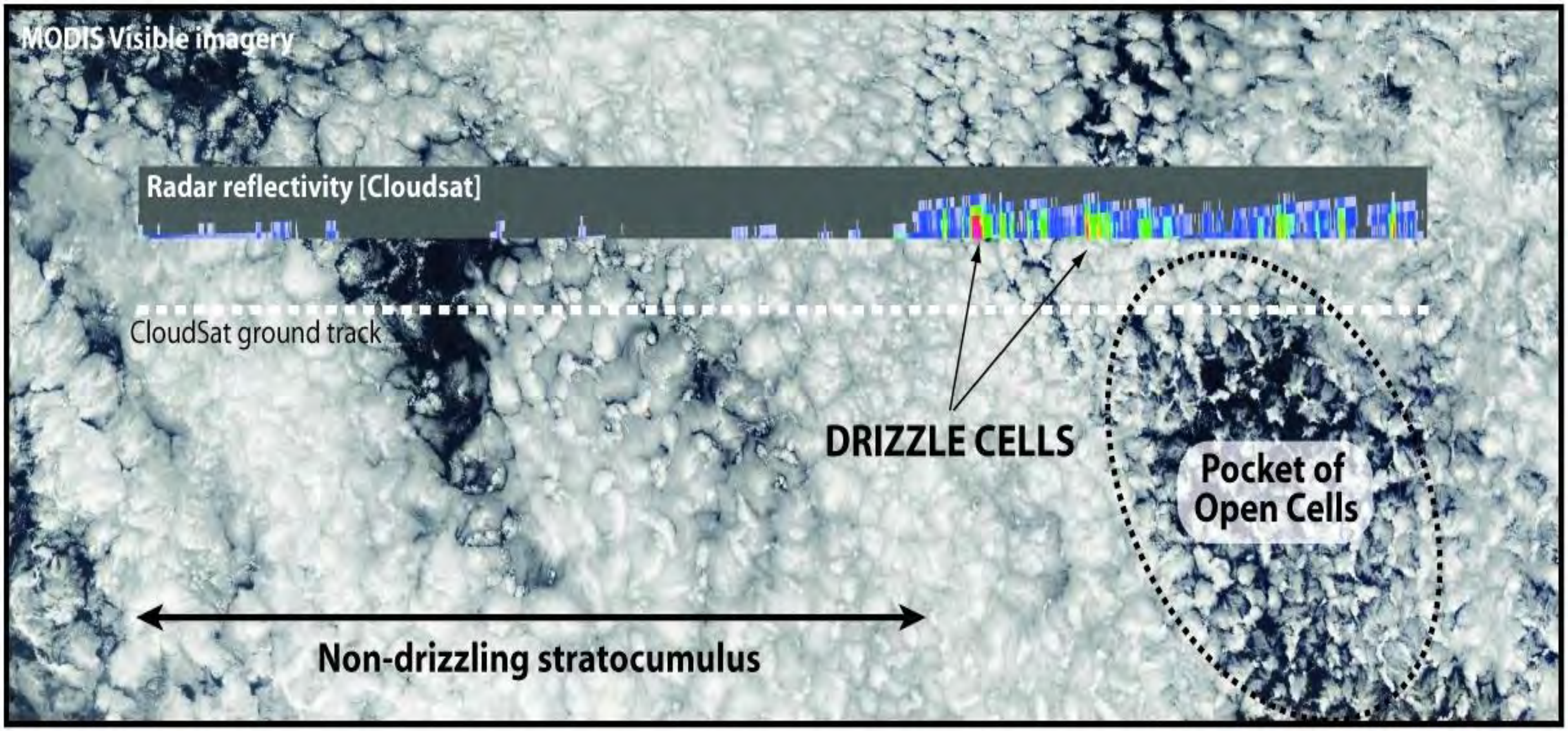
Synergistic Activities

- PICO international Chemical Observatory, a component of the North Atlantic Regional Experiment (PICO-NARE)
- Azores AERONET Site
- Modeling
- Satellite and Reanalysis Data Sets

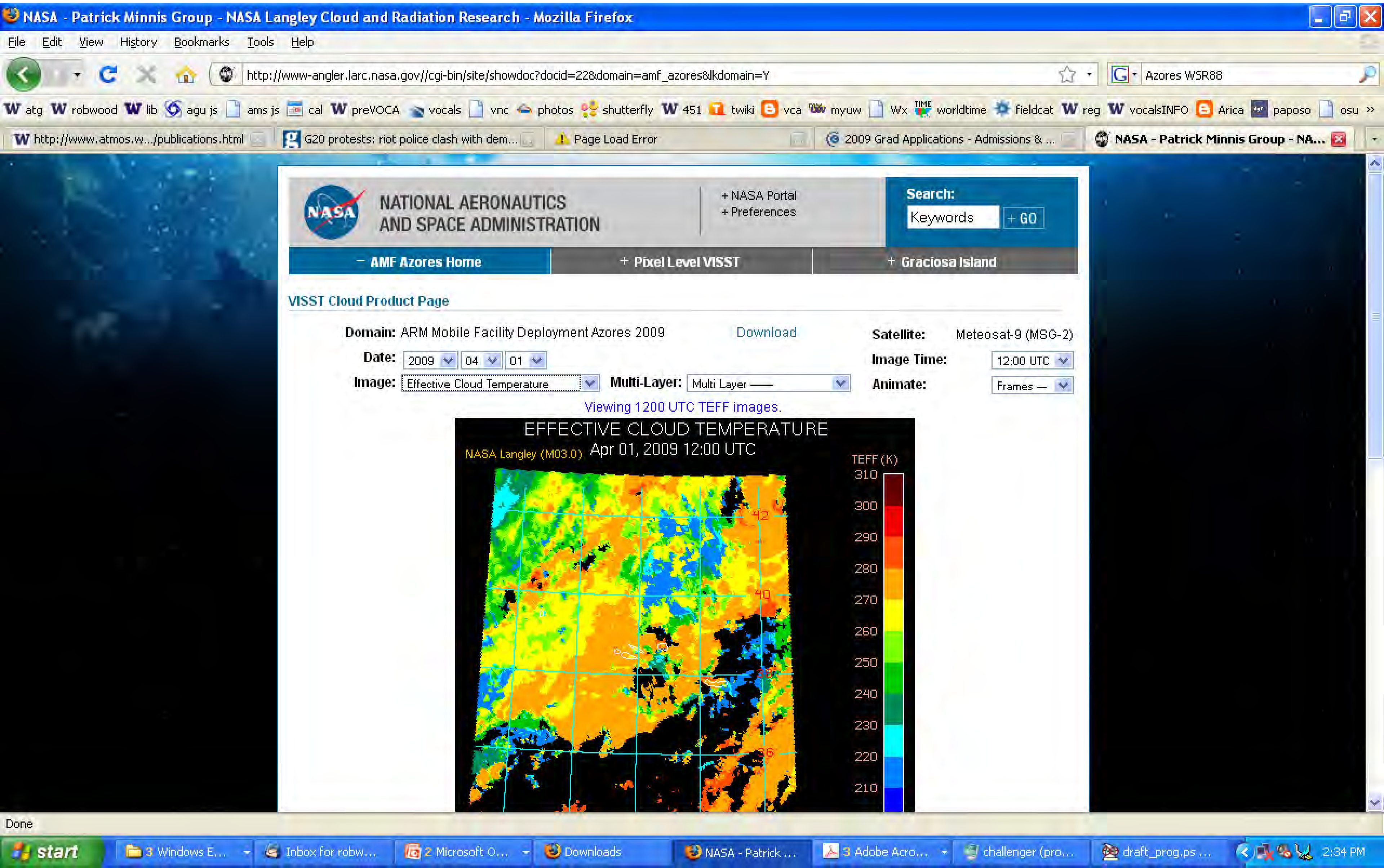
Modeling activities with CAP-MBL

- Forcing datasets for model initialization
- Process models (LES, mixed layer)
  - Run for entire campaign
- Regional mesoscale models
- Global models
  - CAPT Framework, extend to investigation of aerosol-cloud interactions in models
  - Ensemble Kalman Filter (DART)

Satellite activities with CAP-MBL

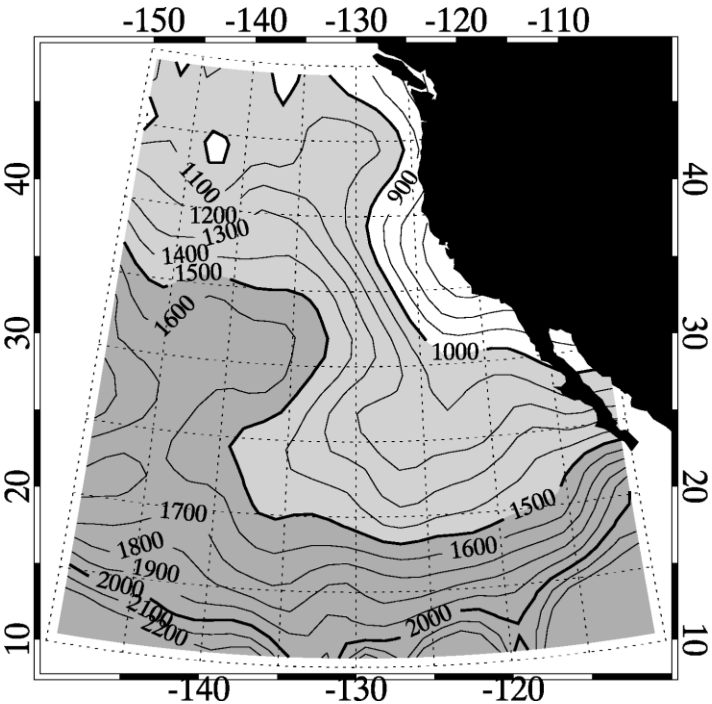


Minnis: CAP-MBL subset

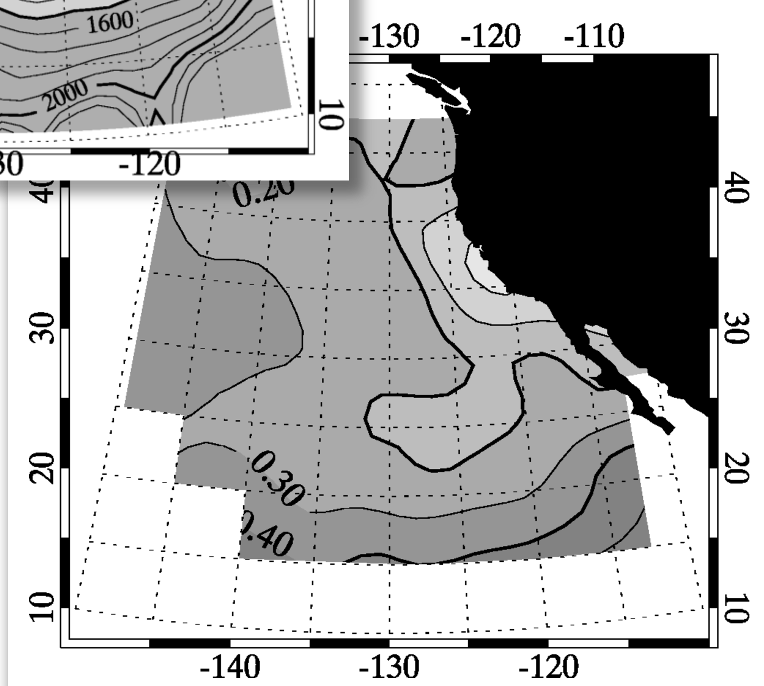


MBL depth, decoupling and entrainment rate using MODIS

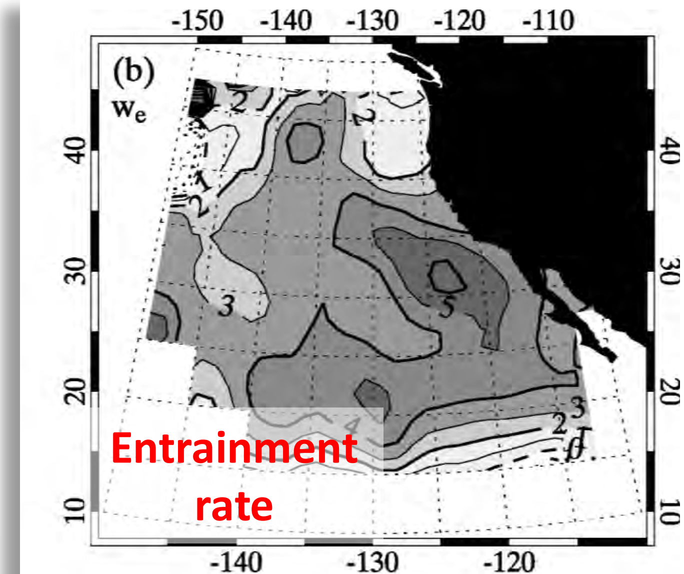
Wood and Bretherton (2004)



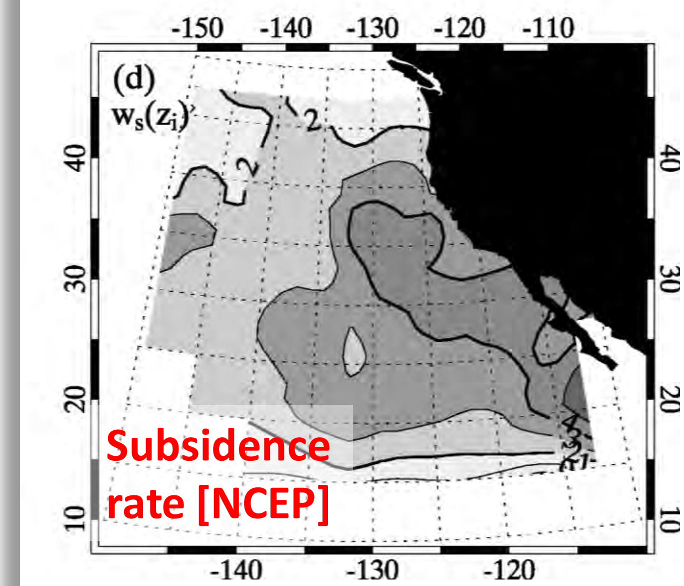
MBL Depth



Decoupling parameter



Entrainment rate



Subsidence rate [NCEP]

Afternoon breakout session, 1-3 pm

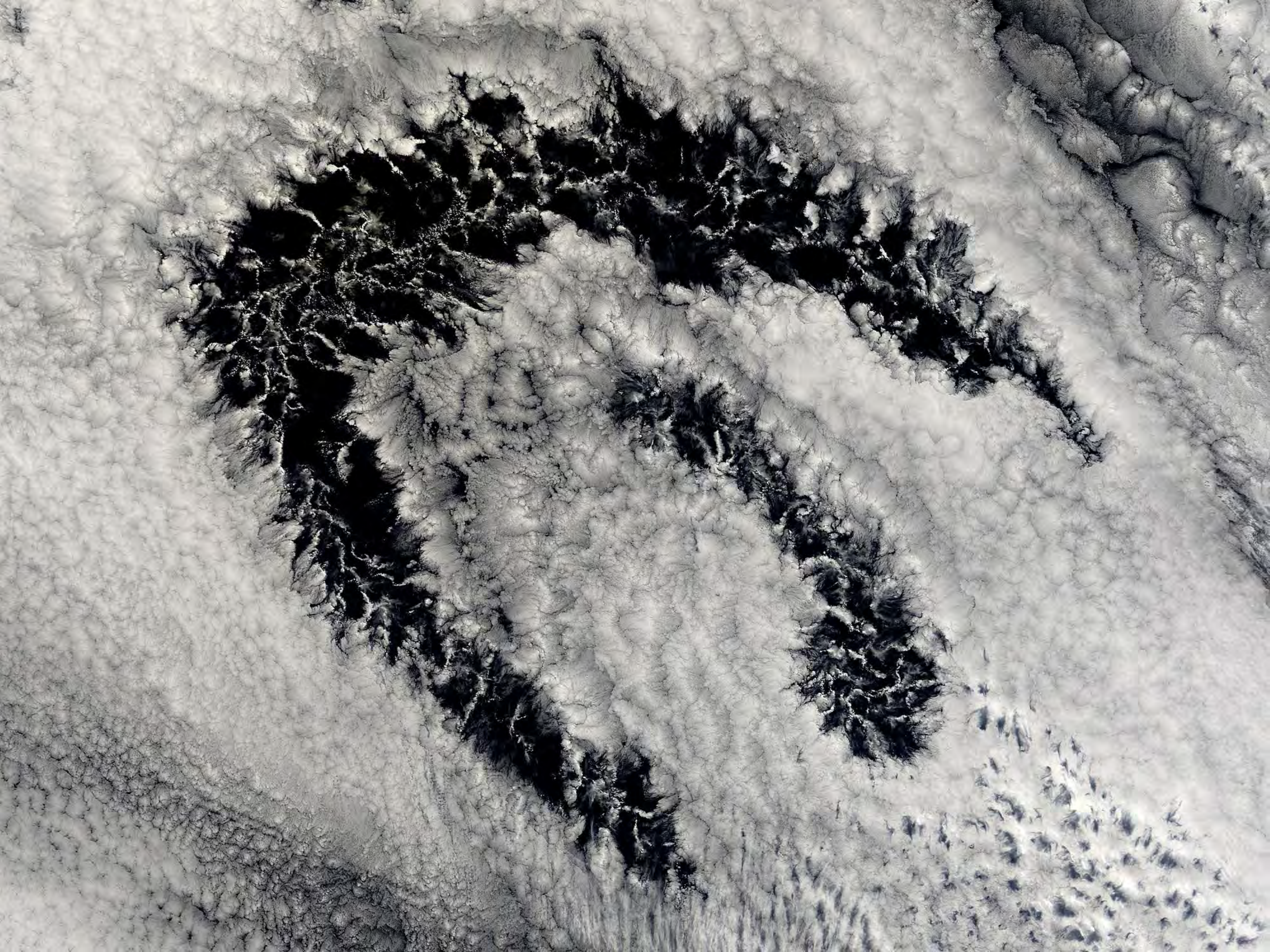
Short (nominally 15 minutes) presentations:

<u>Rob Wood</u>: Introductions, brief recap of deployment science, notes on climatology, and planned modeling activities.

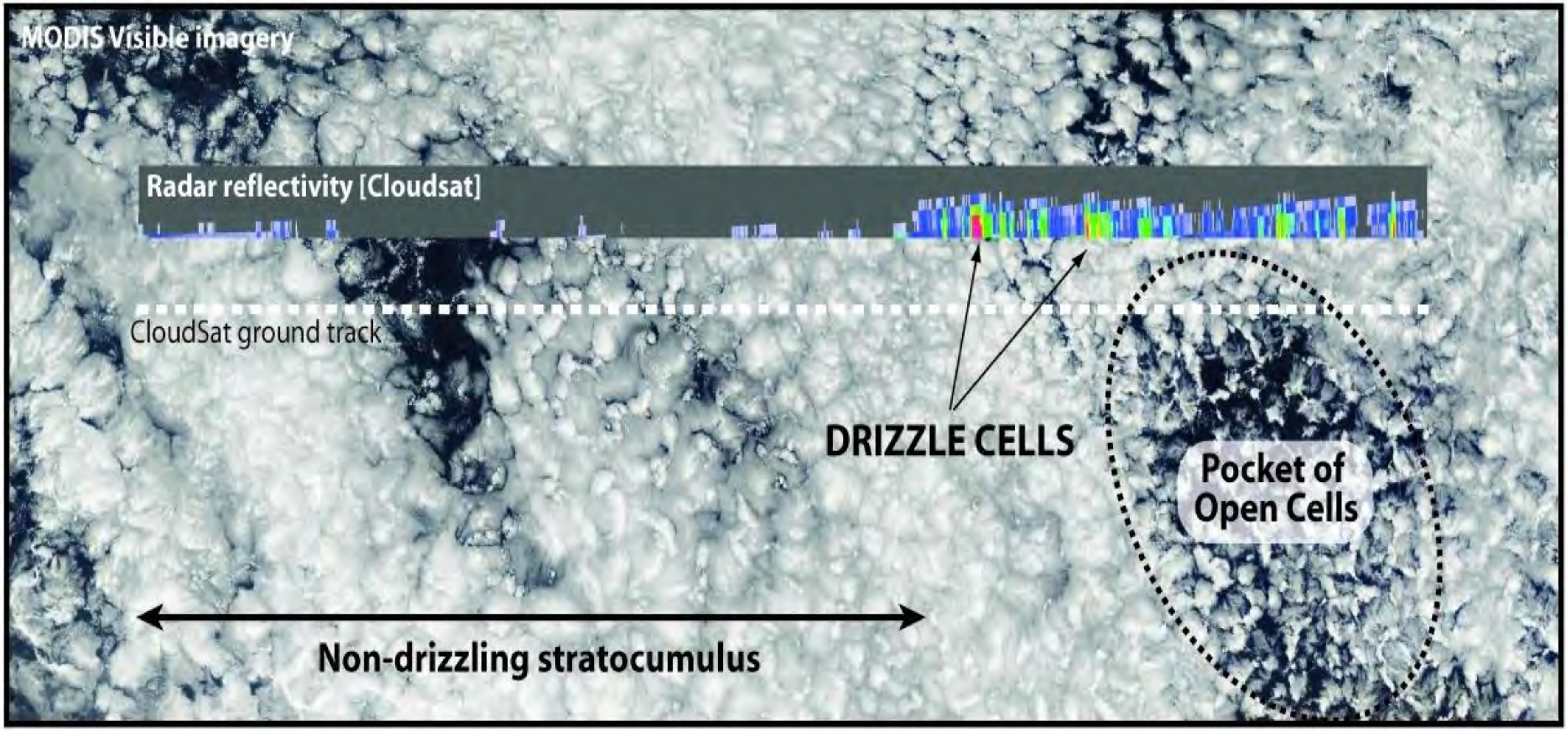
<u>Mark Miller</u>: AMF Graciosa site, free-tropospheric measurements

<u>Bruce Albrecht/Pavlos Kollias</u>: SWACR Scanning Radar deployment in the Azores

General discussion.



Satellite activities with CAP-MBL



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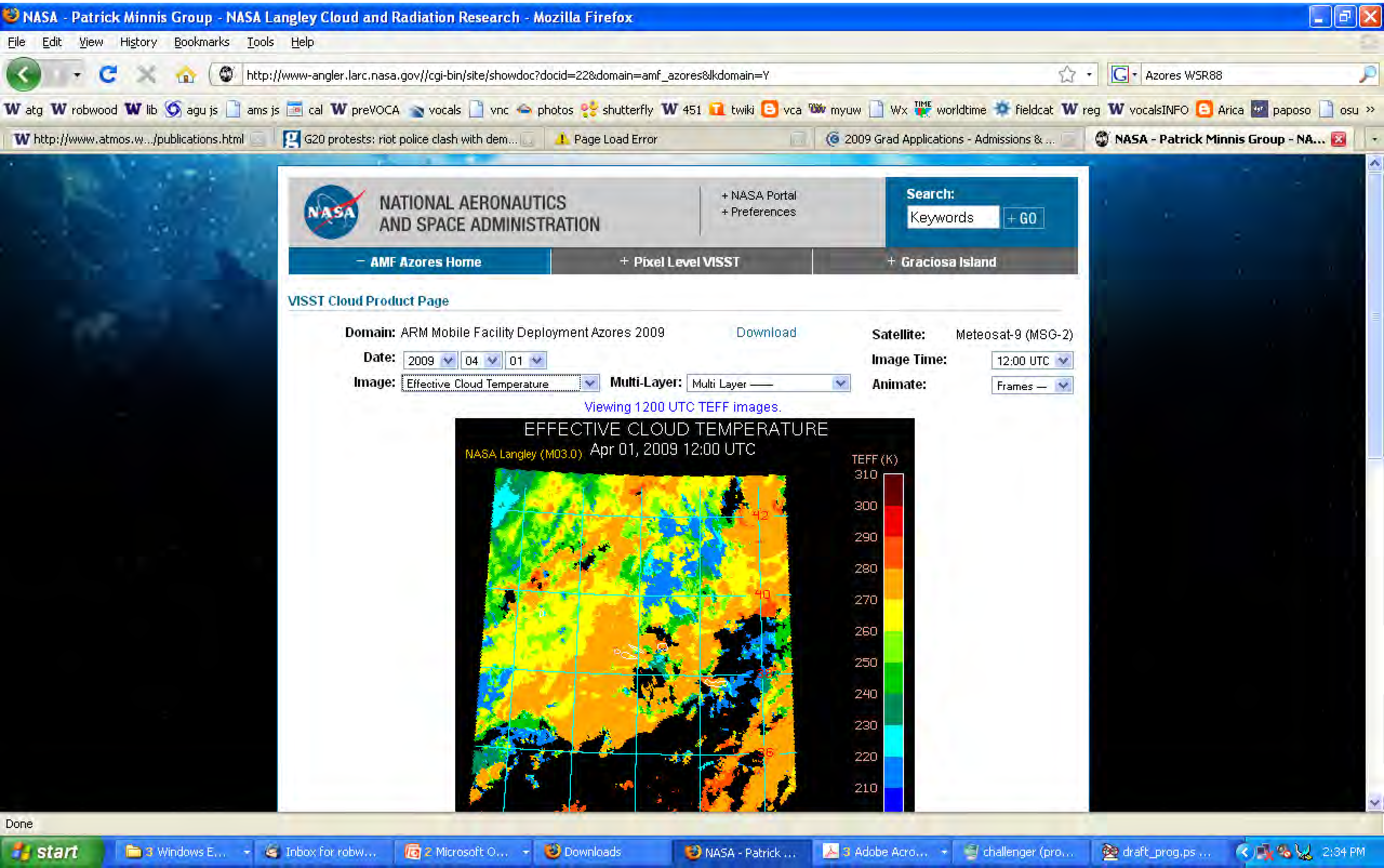
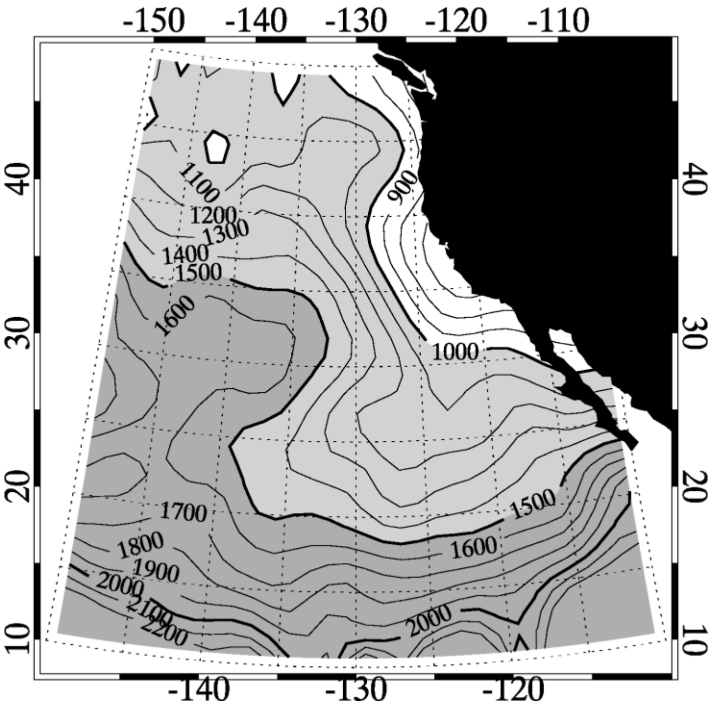
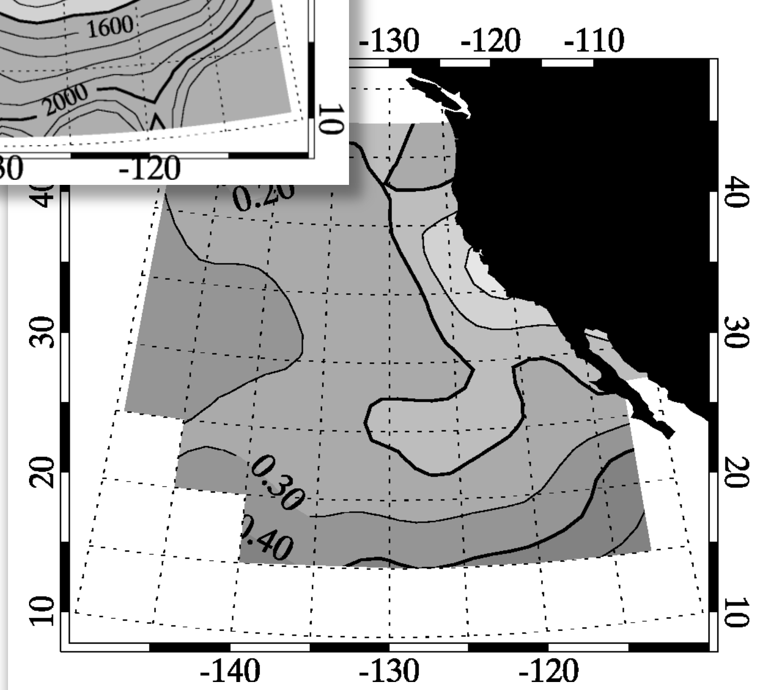


MBL depth, decoupling and entrainment rate using MODIS

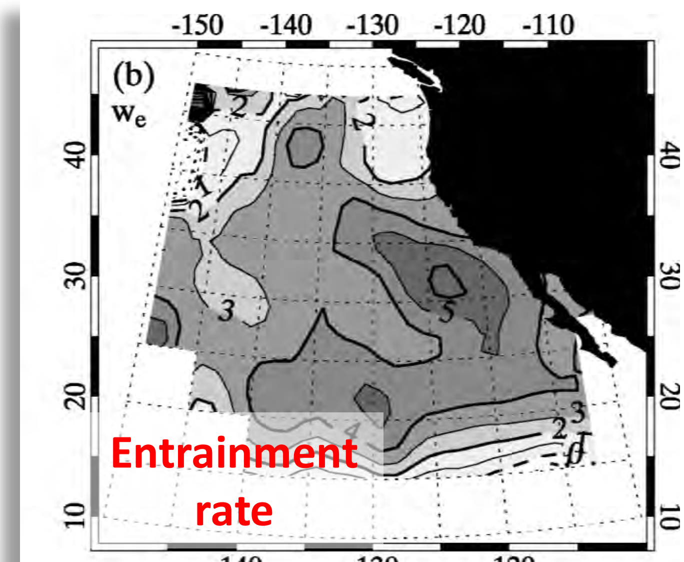


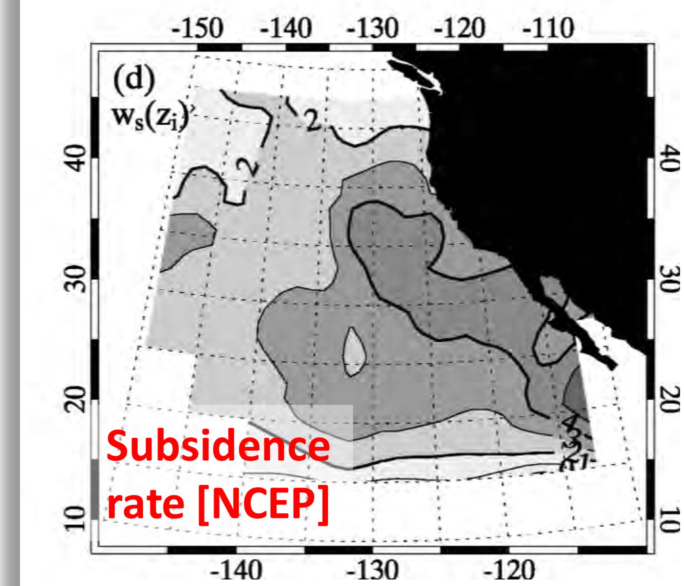
MBL Depth



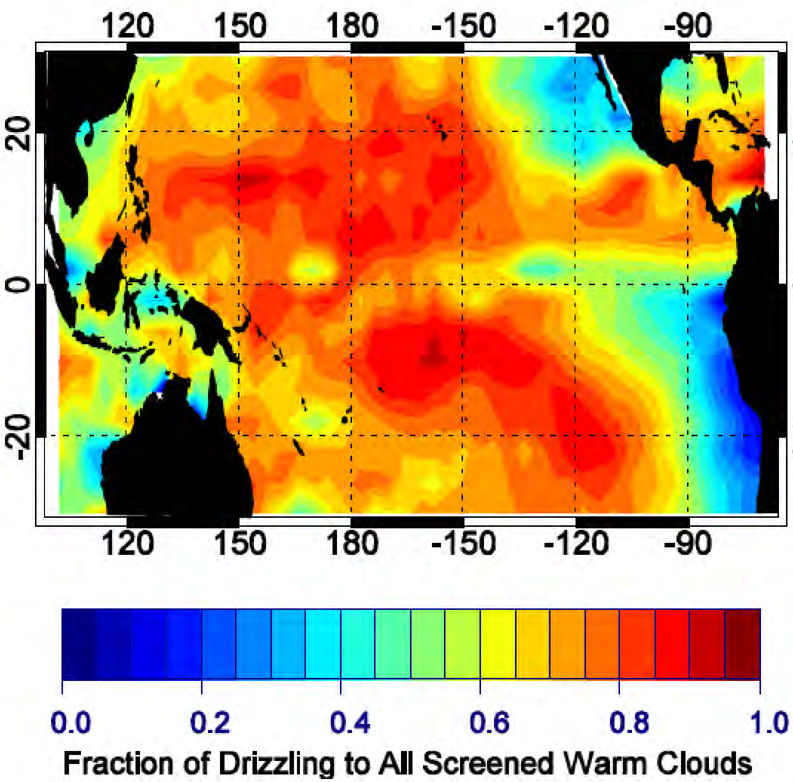
Decoupling parameter

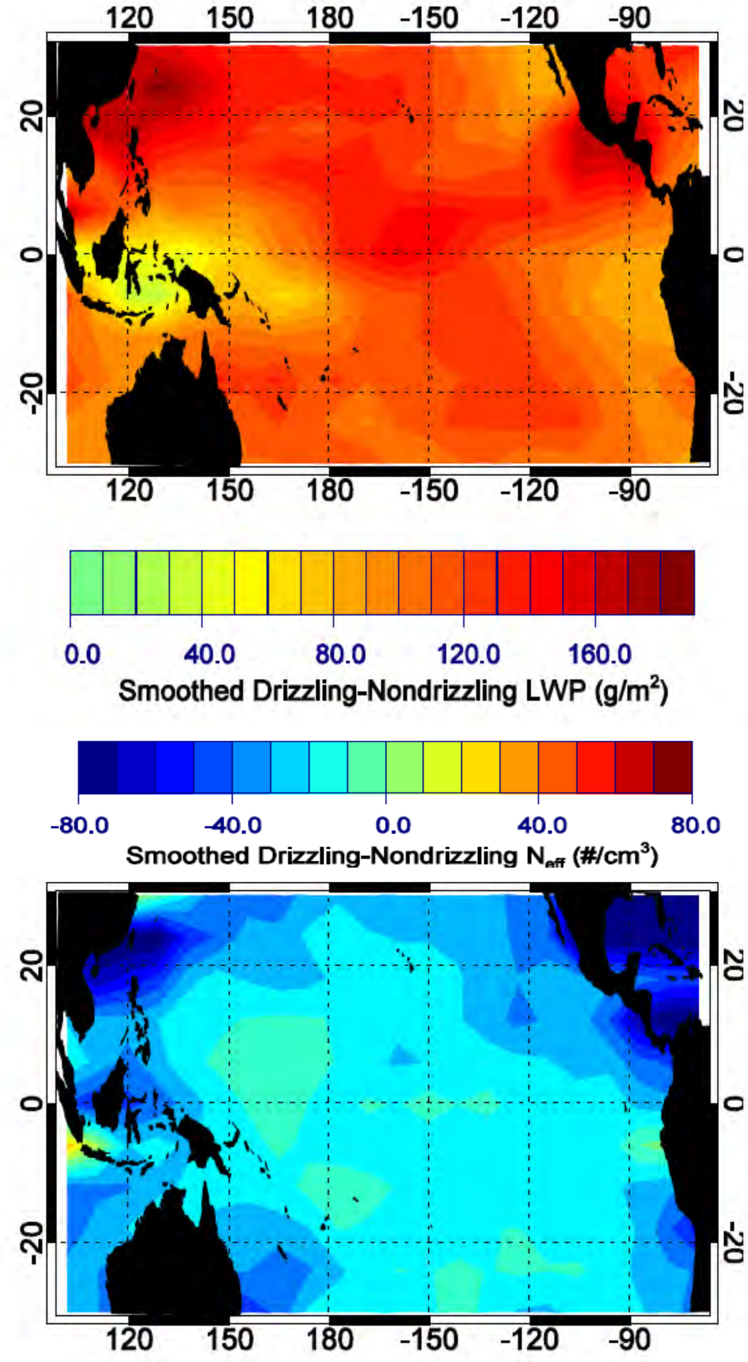
Wood and Bretherton (2004)





A-Train
(CloudSat, CALIPSO, AMSR, MODIS)





Kubar et al., in review

Modeling activities with CAP-MBL

- Forcing datasets for model initialization
- Process models (LES, mixed layer)
  - Run for entire campaign
- Regional mesoscale models
- Global models
  - CAPT Framework, extend to investigation of aerosol-cloud interactions in models
  - Ensemble Kalman Filter (DART)

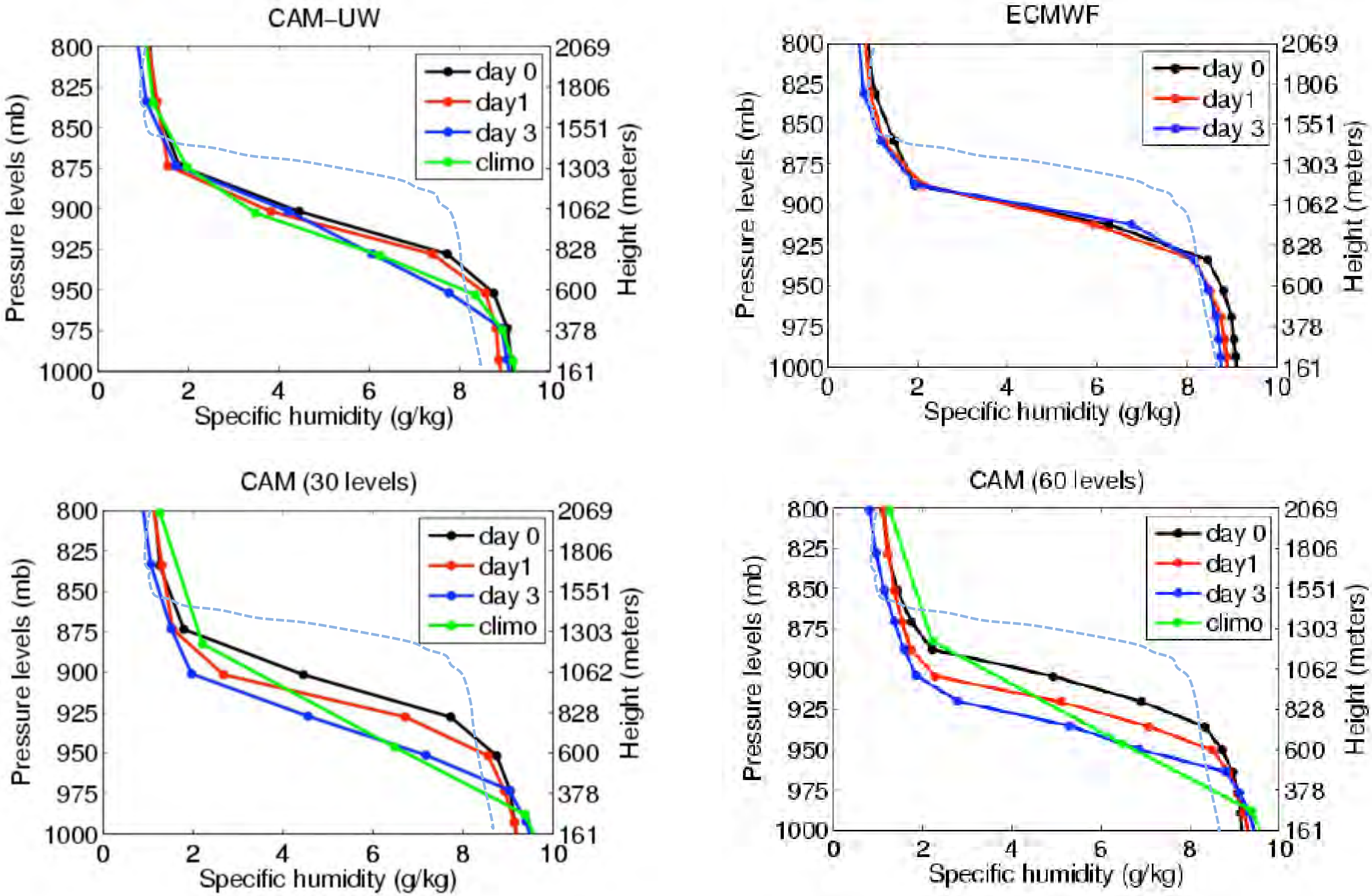
Large eddy simulations

- Run LES for entire campaign nudged to observed large-scale forcings

Climate models in forecast mode

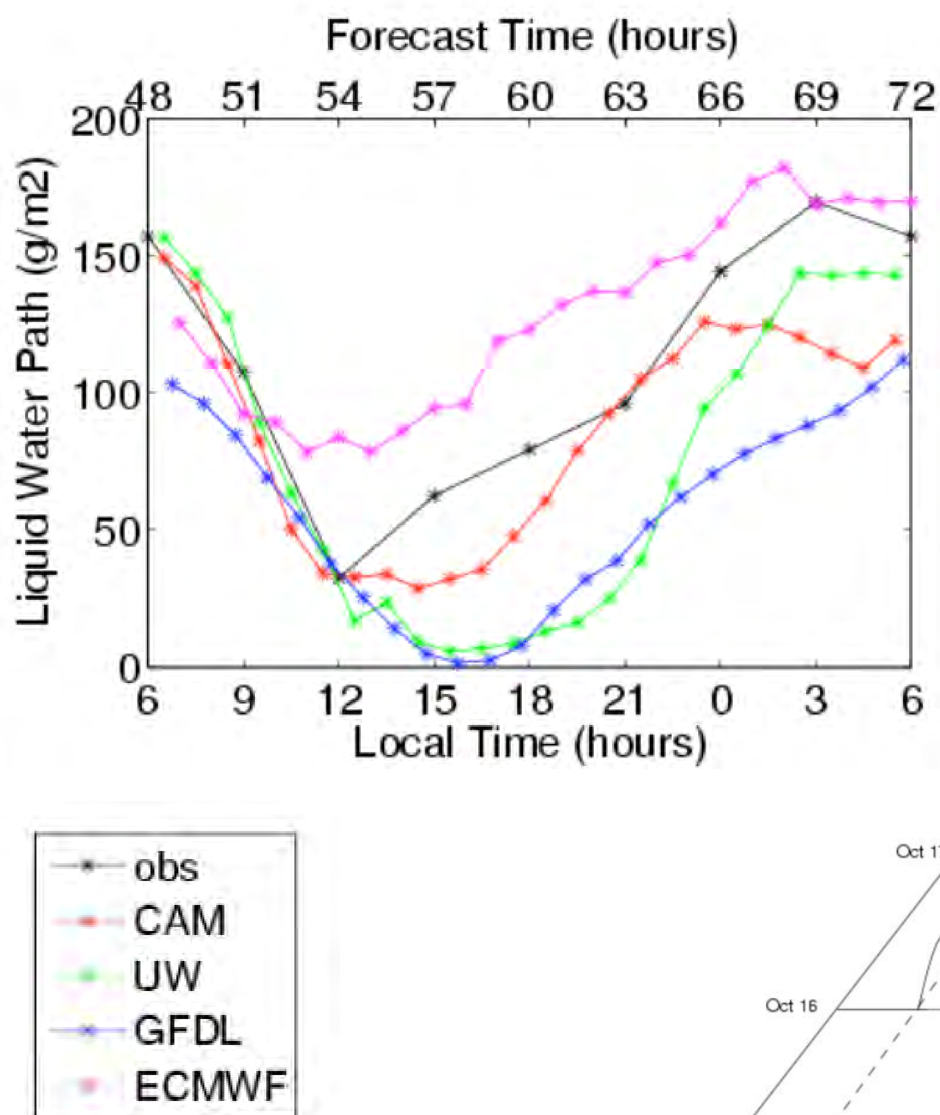
(in collaboration with PCMDI/NCAR)

Obs.
SE Pacific



from Hannay et al. (2009)

Climate models in forecast mode: diurnal cycle



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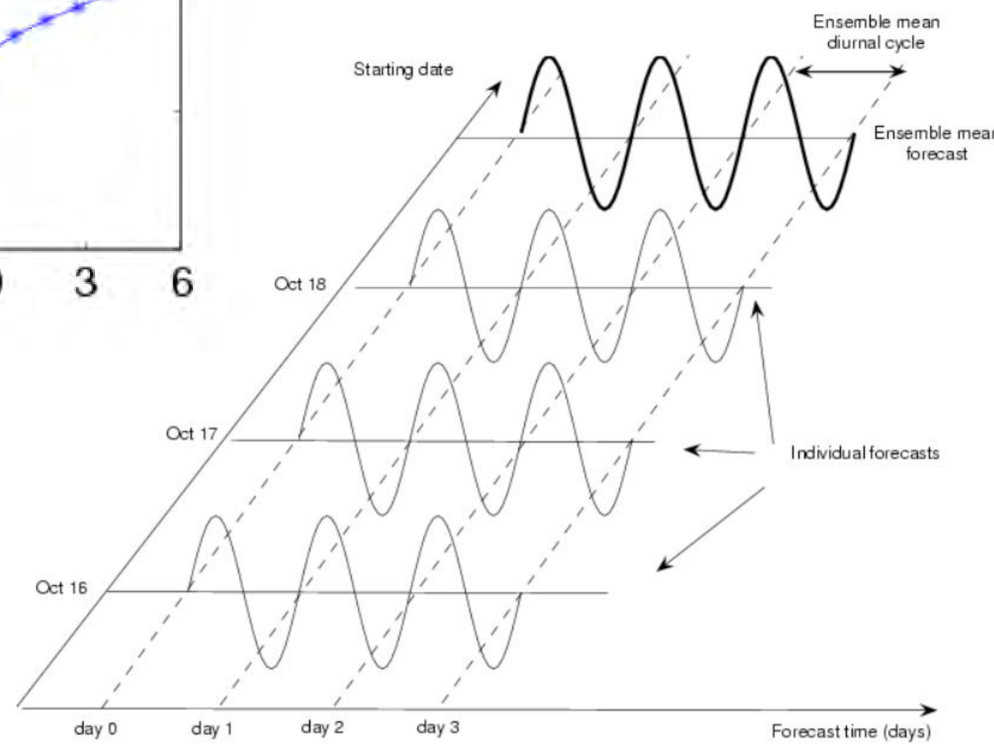
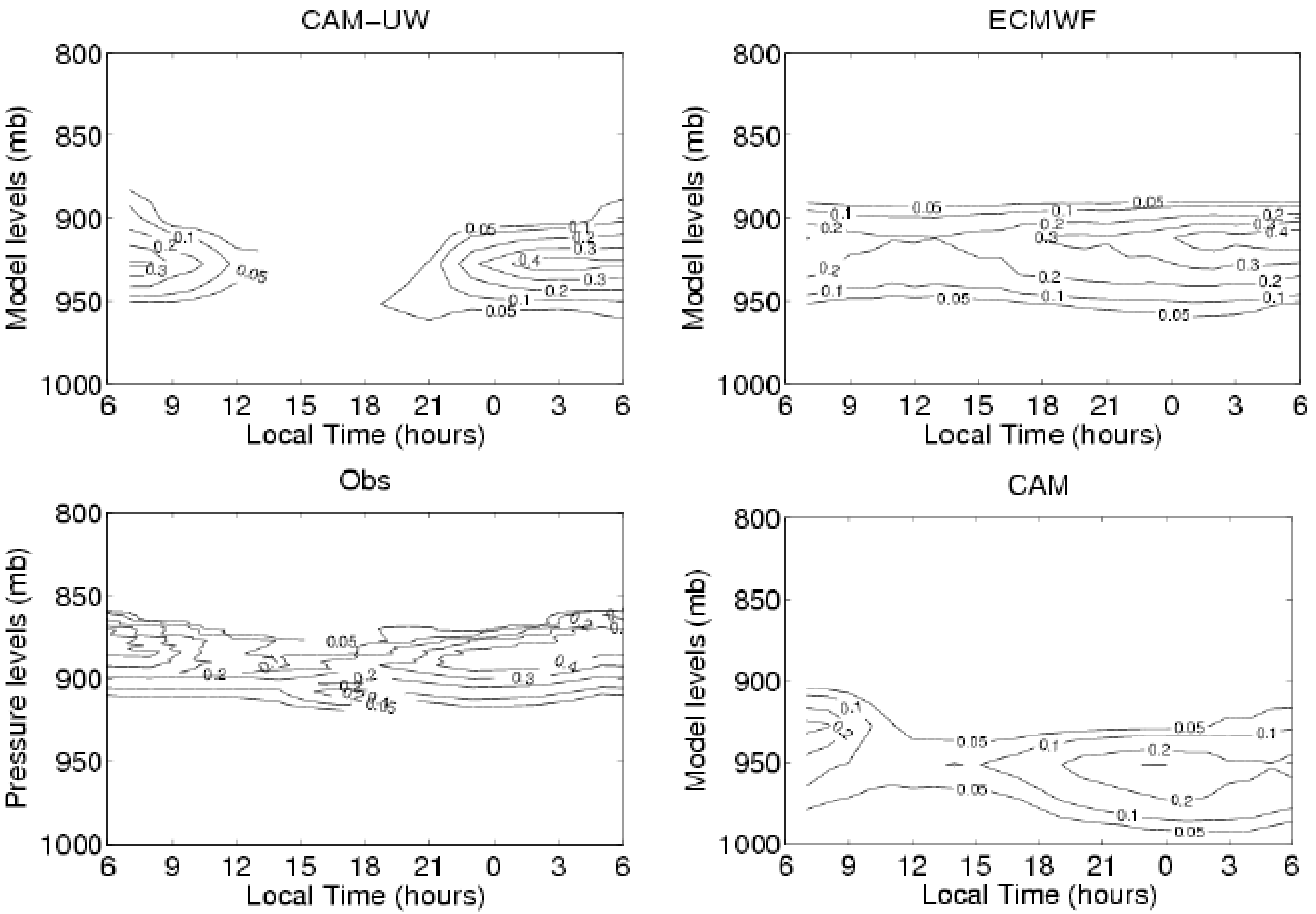


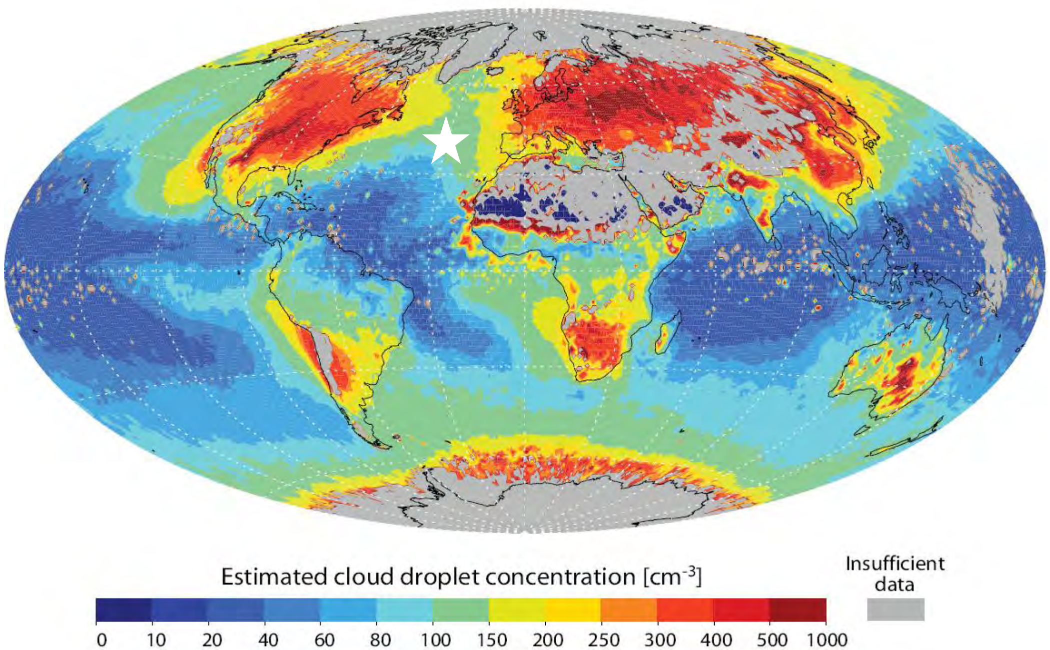


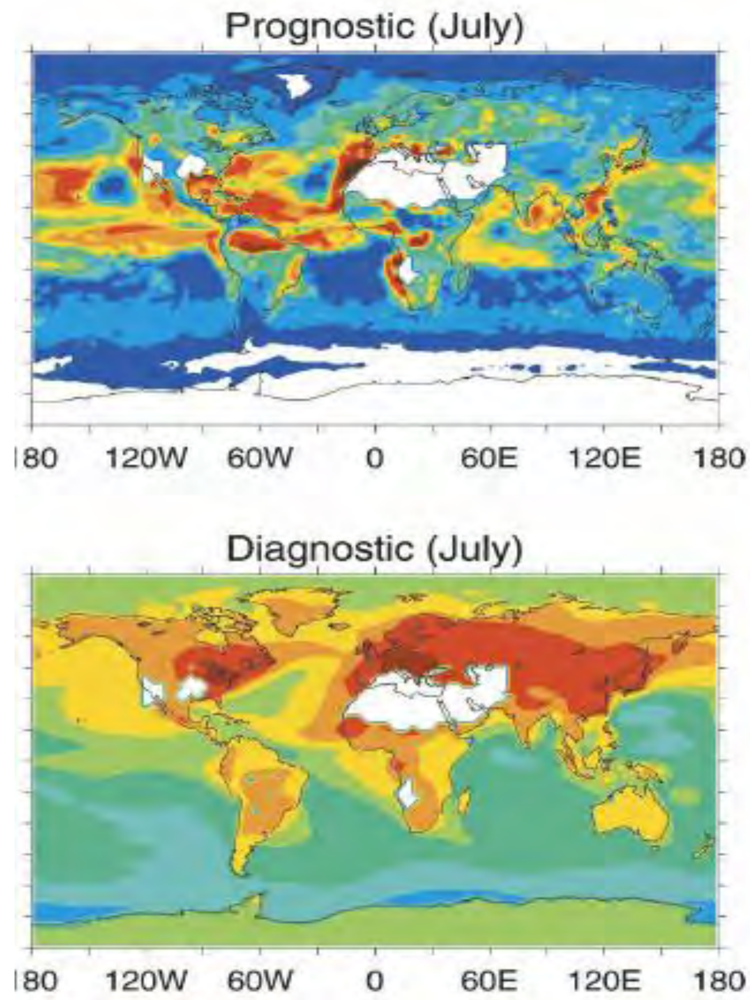
from Hannay et al. (2009)

Cloud microphysics/aerosol transport

- Long term aerosol physical measurements at a remote marine boundary layer site, cloud number measurements from surface remote sensing (Dong and Mace)

MODIS cloud droplet conc., Wood (2009)





GFDL Model, Ming et al. (2007)

DART/Ensemble Kalman filter (EnKF)

- Run 50-100 single column versions of CAM
  - vary large-scale forcings (based on ECMWF or NCEP)
  - perturbed physics experiments (a la *climateprediction.net*)
- Nudge ensemble towards AMF Azores measurements and local satellite measurements
- Useful for exploring sensitivity of model simulations to both large scale forcings and model physics

Modeling center collaborators

- ECMWF (Martin Koehler) and NCEP (Hualu Pan) will provide column data from operational models for Graciosa for entire deployment
- CAM (Cecile Hannay); GFDL (Yanluan Lin)
- Involvement of CAPT (Klein)

Cloud Climatology for Azores

AMF Site: Graciosa Island in the Azores (28 °W 39 °N)

- Small Low Island
- No Direct Continental Influence
- MBL Depths 1-2 km

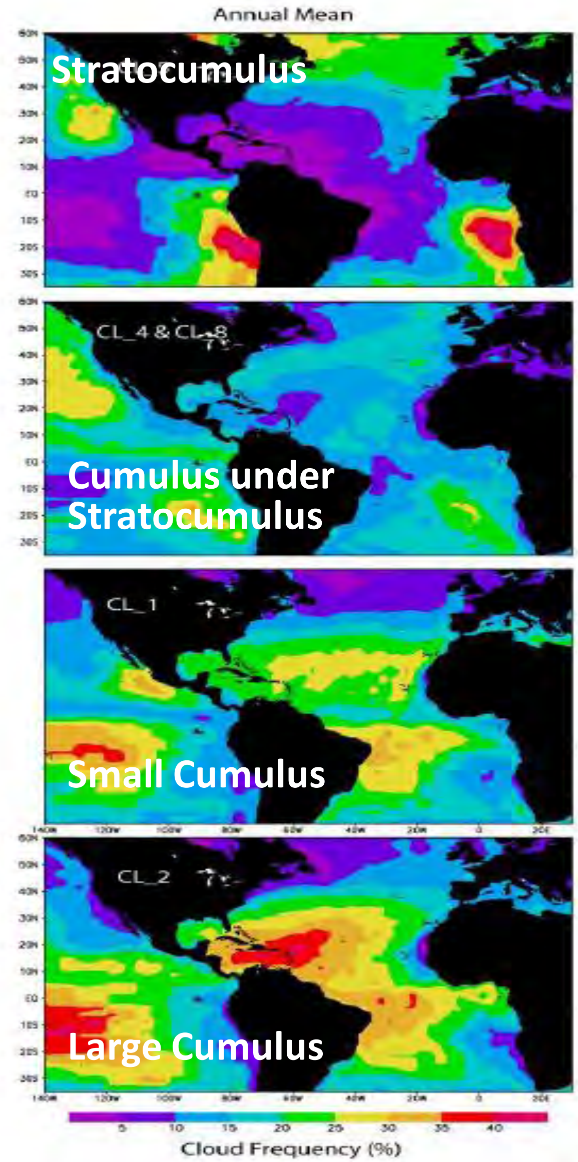
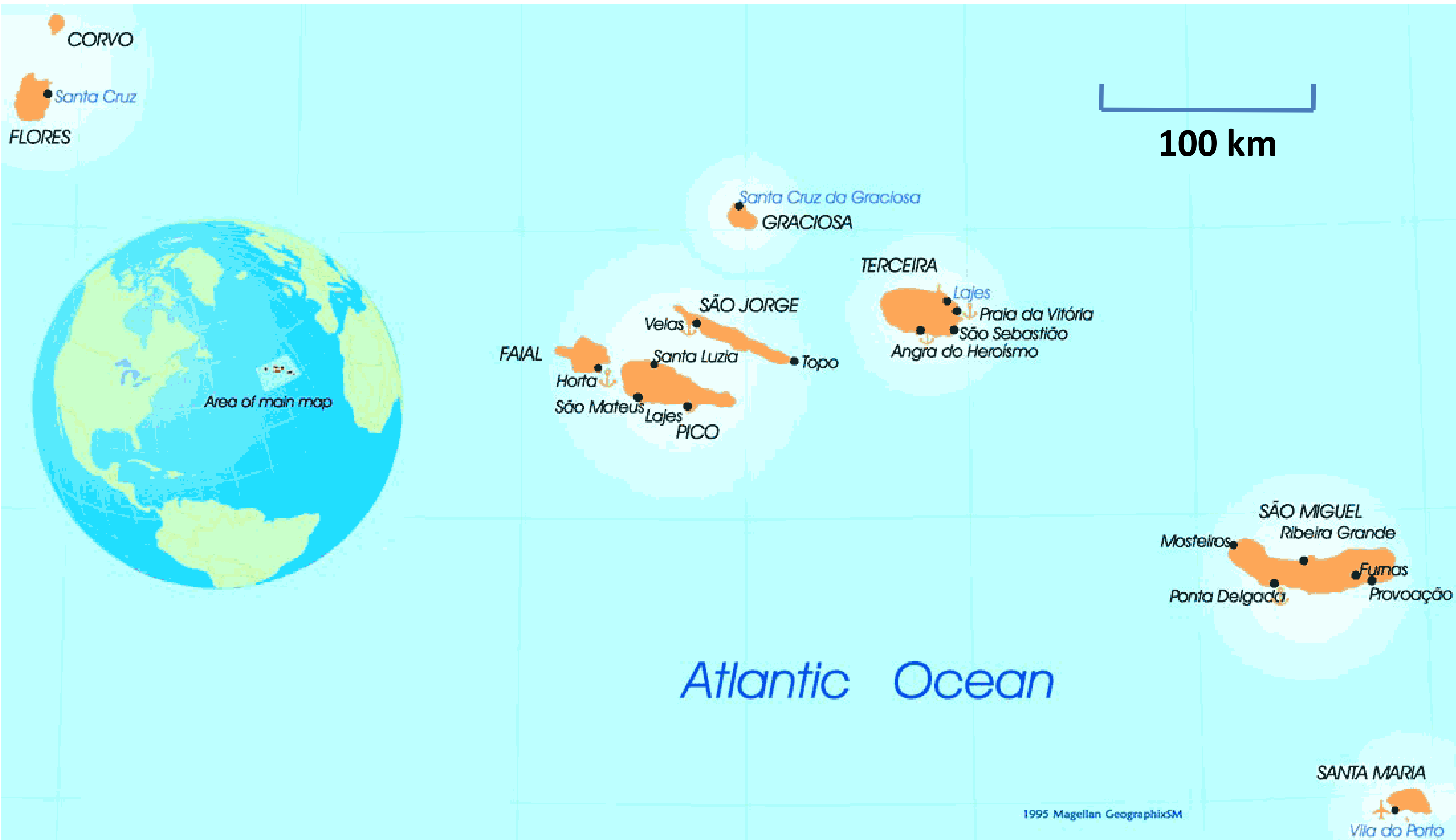
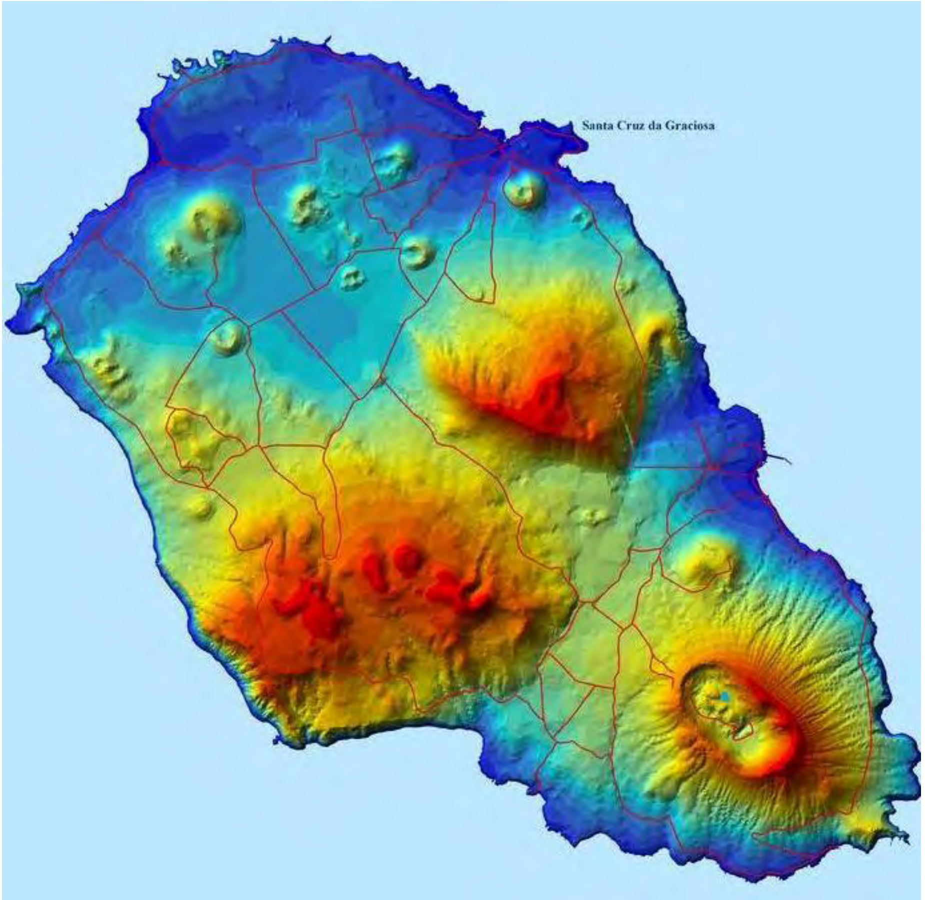


Figure 6: Annual mean frequency of occurrence of (from top) stratocumulus, stratocumulus with cumulus beneath or formed from spreading cumulus, small cumulus, and large cumulus

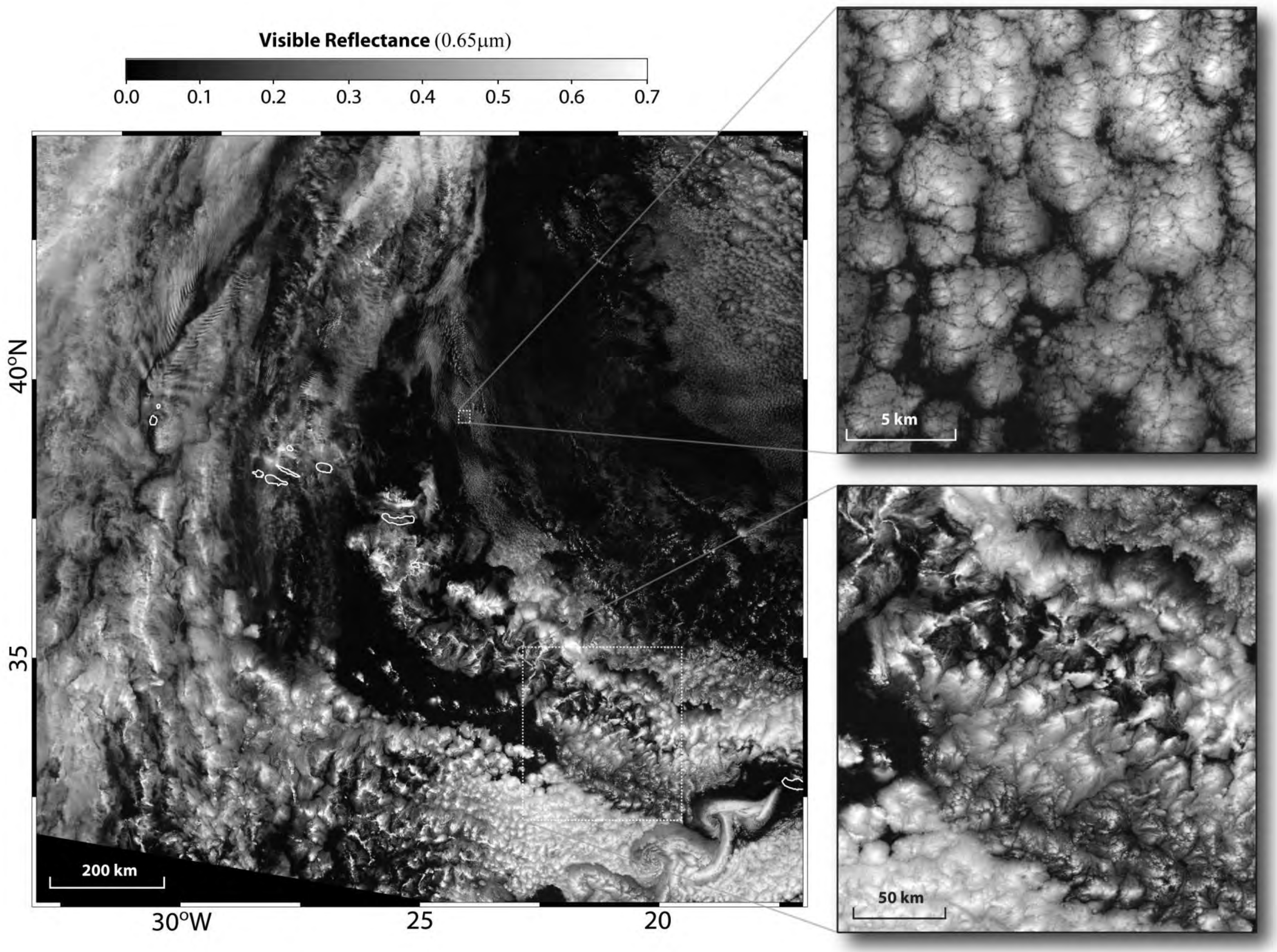
The Azores and Graciosa



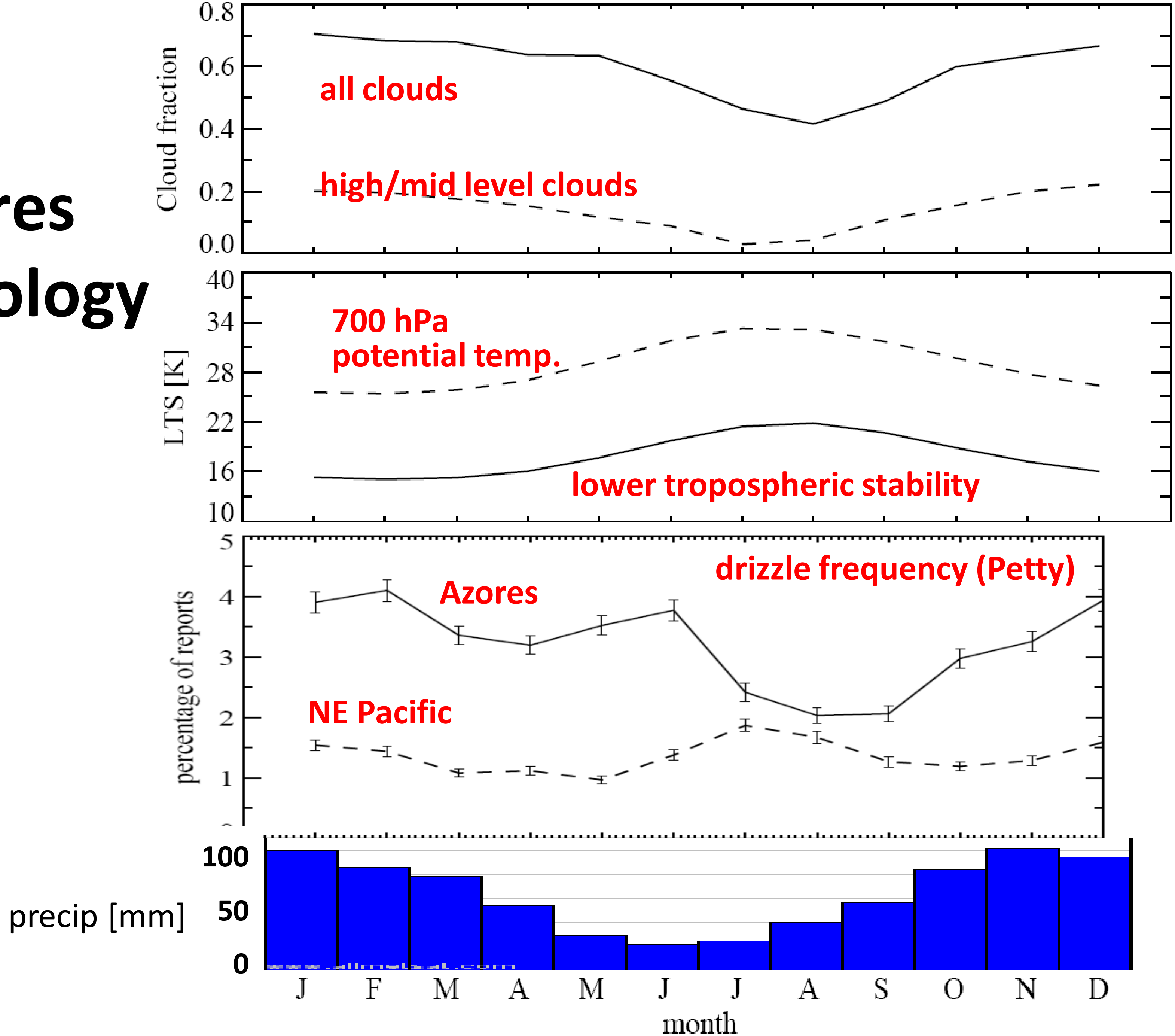

Flores
Fajazinha
Santa Cruz


Santa Cruz da Graciosa

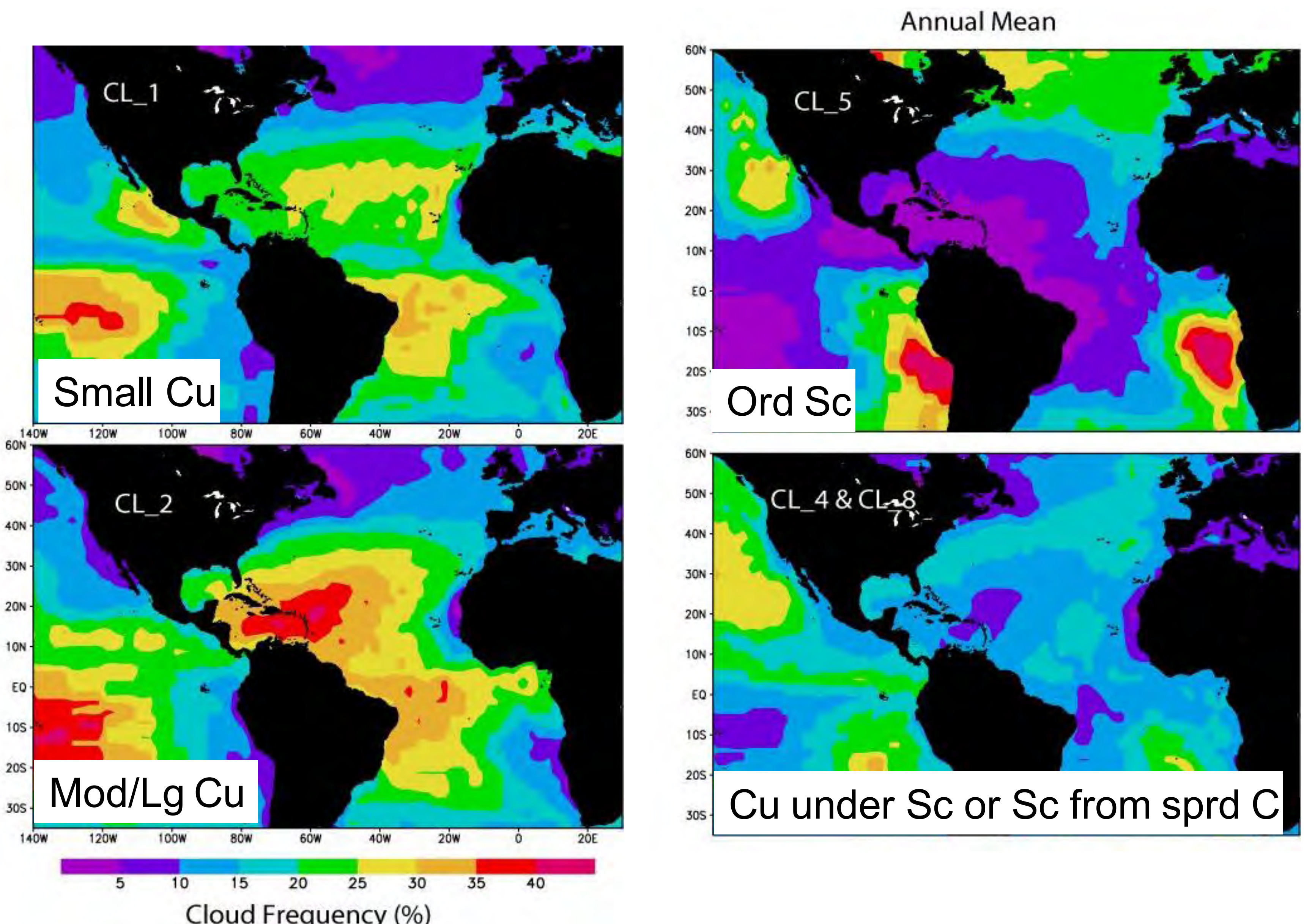
Marine boundary layer cloud in the Azores



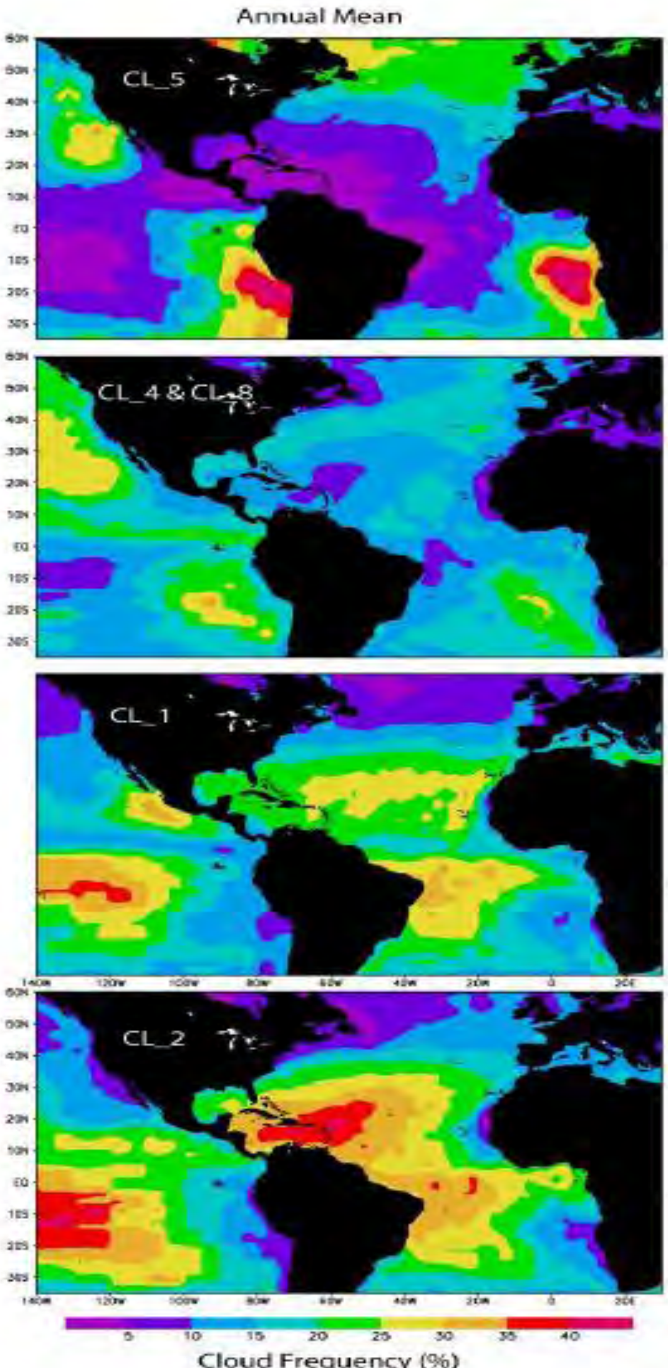
Azores climatology

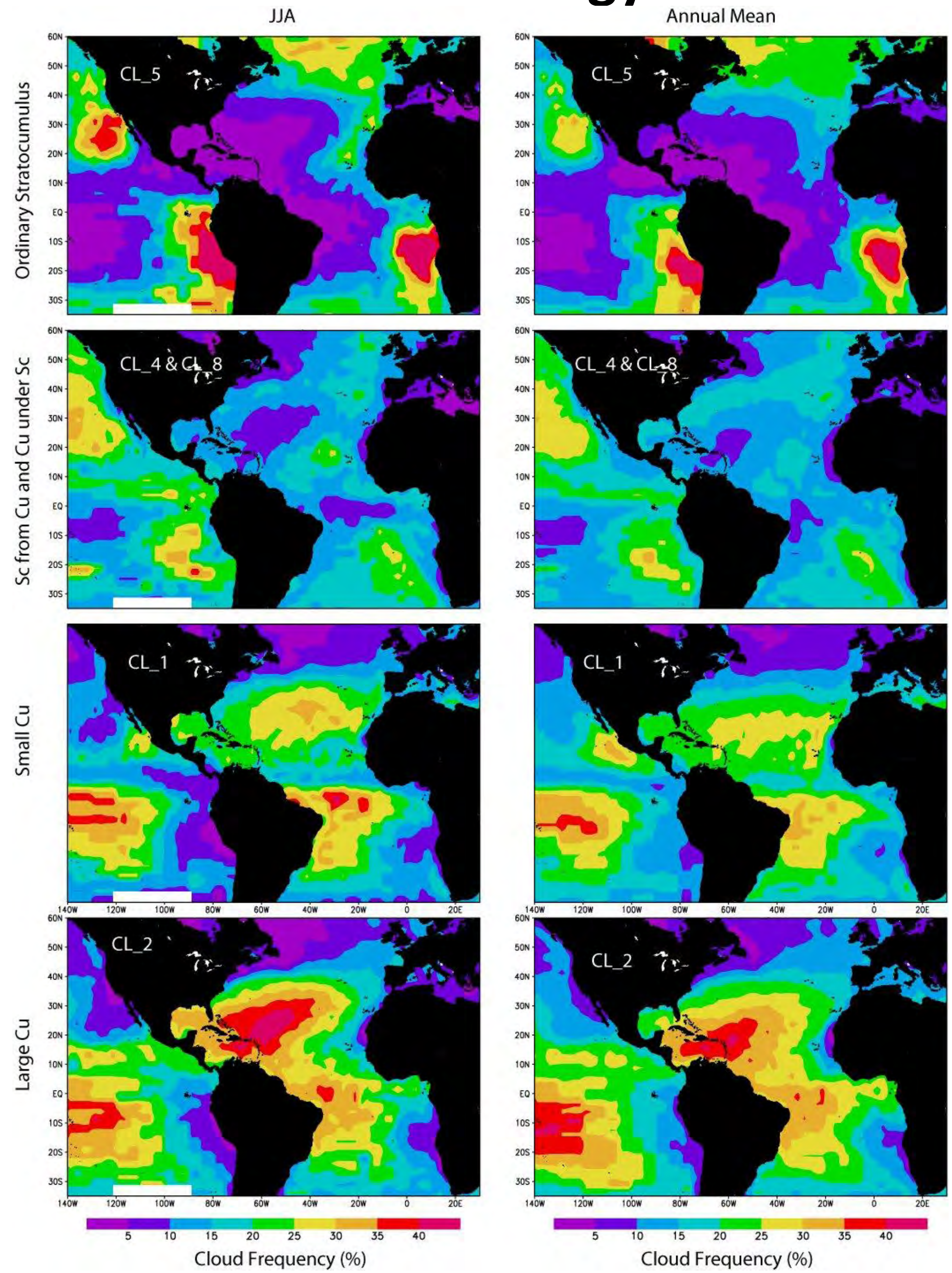


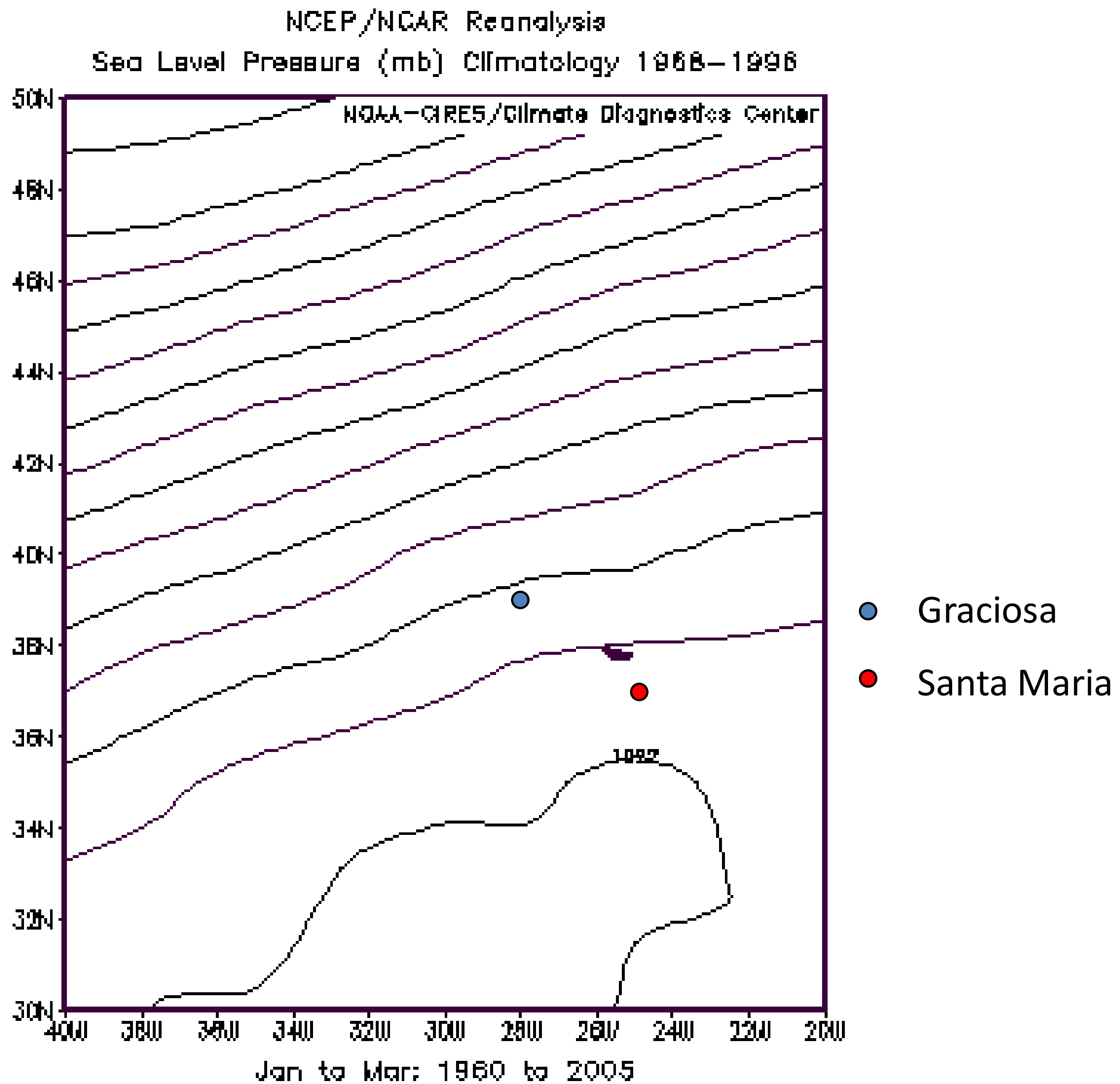
Low clouds - frequency

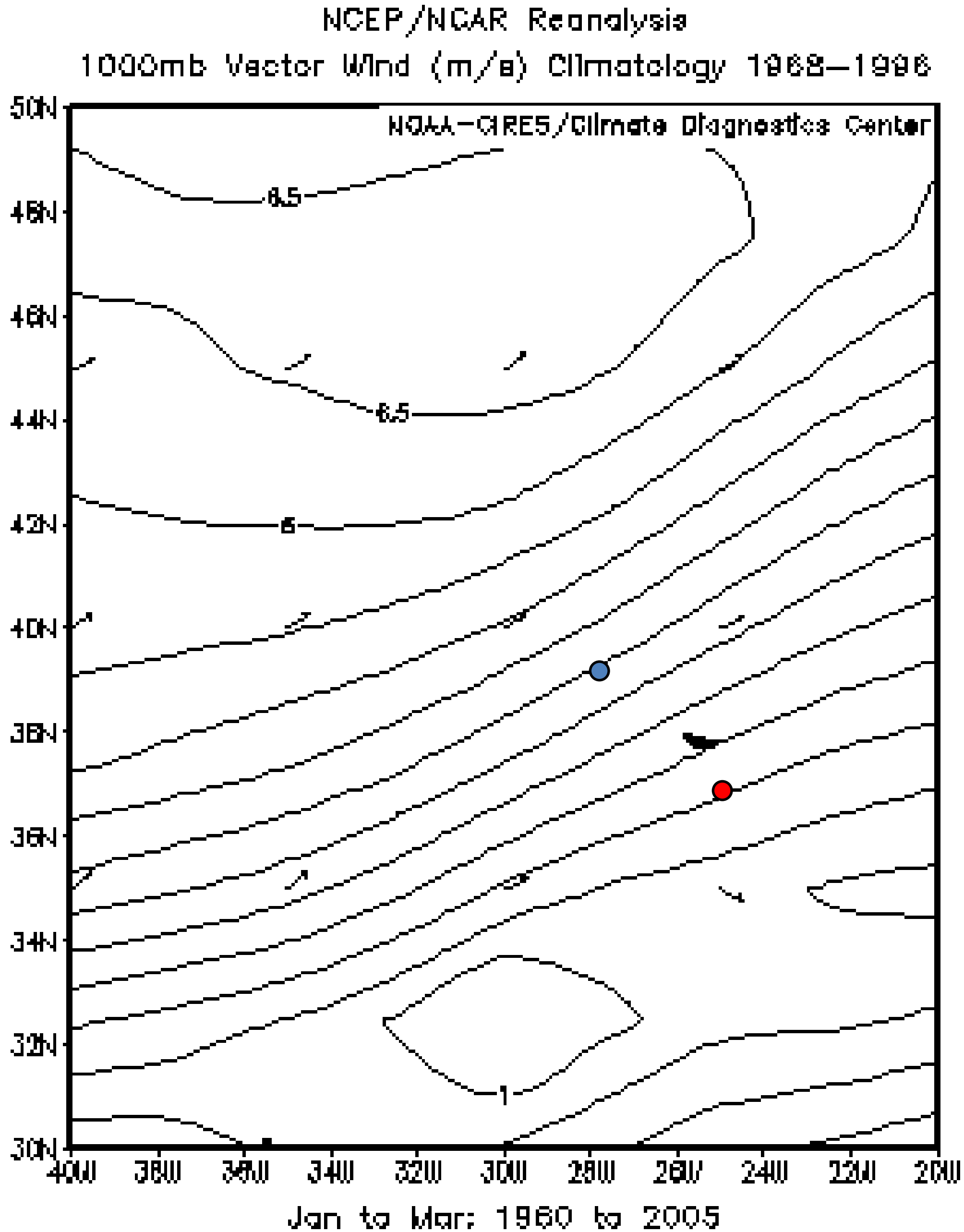


Cloud Climatology for Azores






NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
Sea Level Pressure (mb) Climatology 1968–1996
NOAA–CIRES/Climate Diagnostics Center
50N
48N
46N
44N
42N
40N
38N
36N
34N
32N
30N
40W
38W
36W
34W
32W
30W
28W
26W
24W
22W
20W
1022
Jan to Mar: 1960 to 2005
Graciosa
Santa Maria



NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
1000mb Vector Wind (m/s) Climatology 1968–1996
NOAA–CIRES/Climate Diagnostics Center
6.5
6.5
6
1
50N
48N
46N
44N
42N
40N
38N
36N
34N
32N
30N
40W
38W
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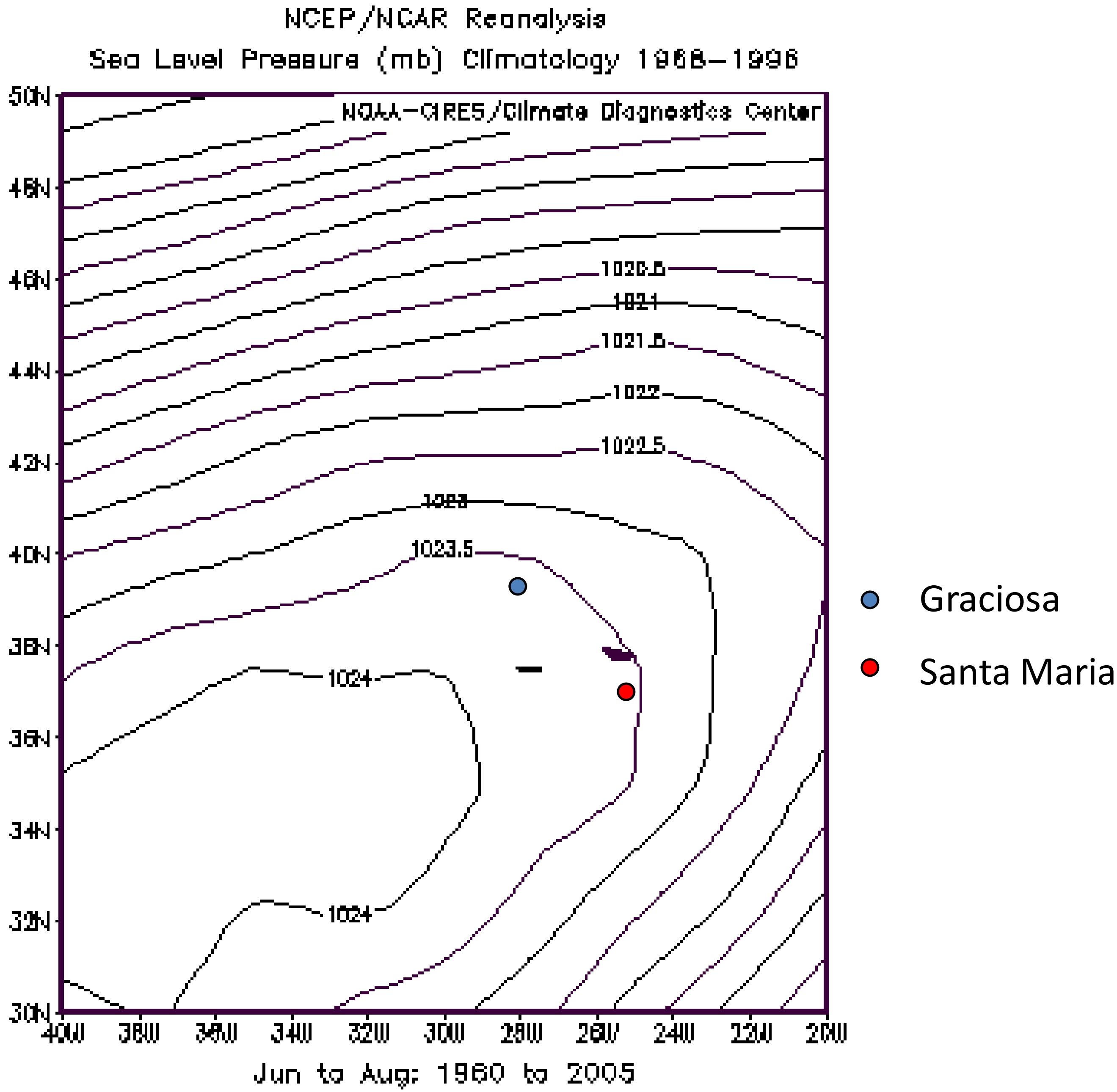
32W
30W
28W
26W
24W
22W
20W
Jan to Mar: 1960 to 2005


NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
Sea Level Pressure (mb) Climatology 1968–1996
NOAA–CIRES/Climate Diagnostics Center
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36N
34N
32N
30N
40W
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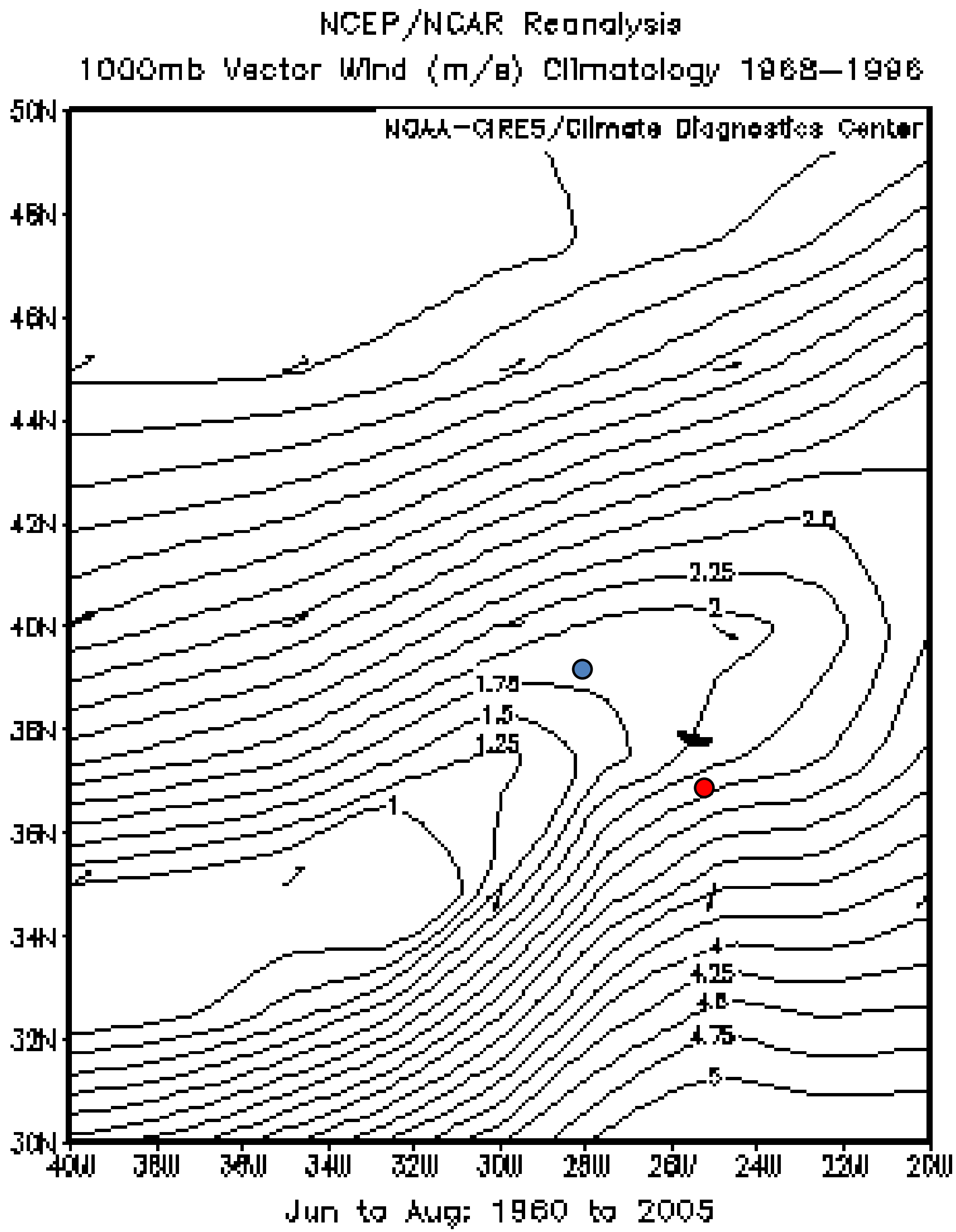
32W
30W
28W
26W
24W
22W
20W
Jun to Aug: 1960 to 2005
Graciosa
Santa Maria


NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
1000mb Vector Wind (m/s) Climatology 1968–1996
NOAA–CIRES/Climate Diagnostics Center
50N
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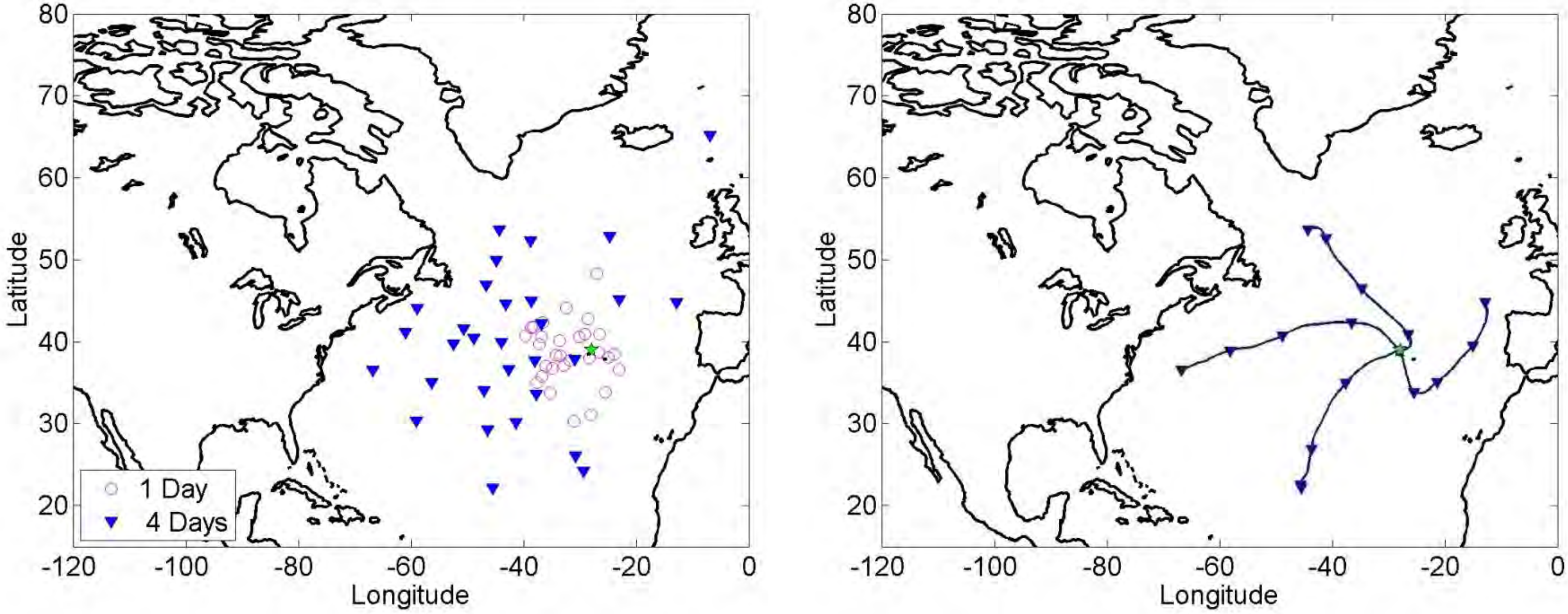
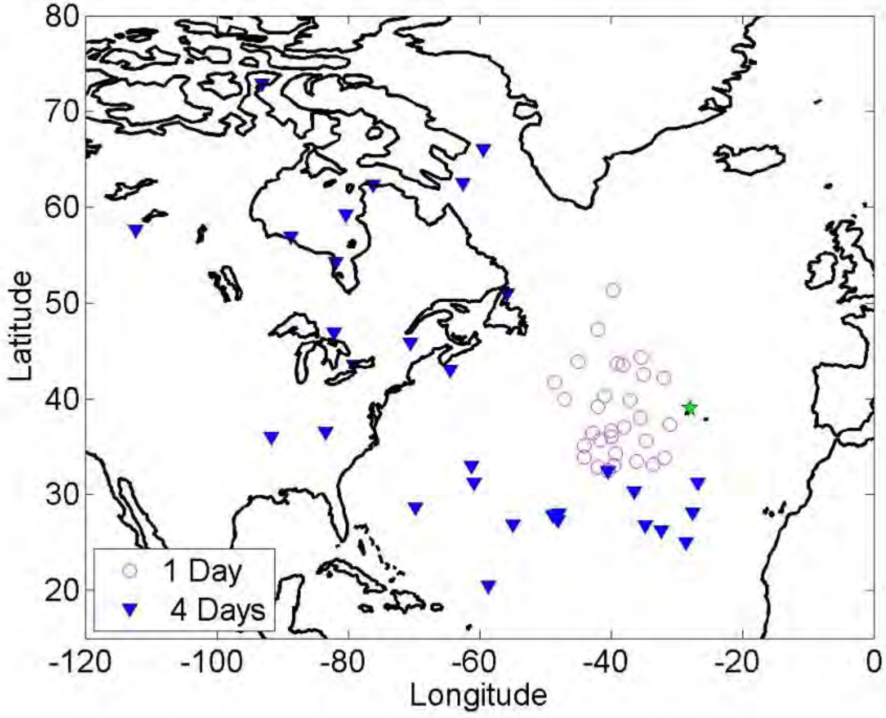
40N
38N
36N
34N
32N
30N
40W
38W
36W
34W
32W
30W
28W
26W
24W
22W
20W
2.5
2.25
2
1.75
1.5
1.25
1
4
4.25
4.5
4.75
5
Jun to Aug: 1960 to 2005

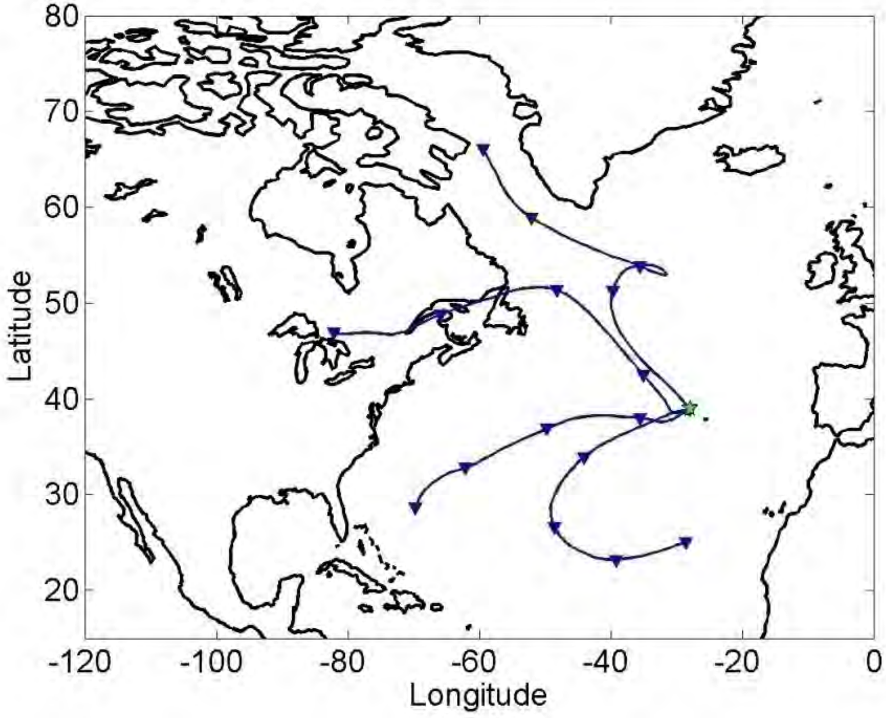
NCEP July 2008 (500m) Back Trajectories



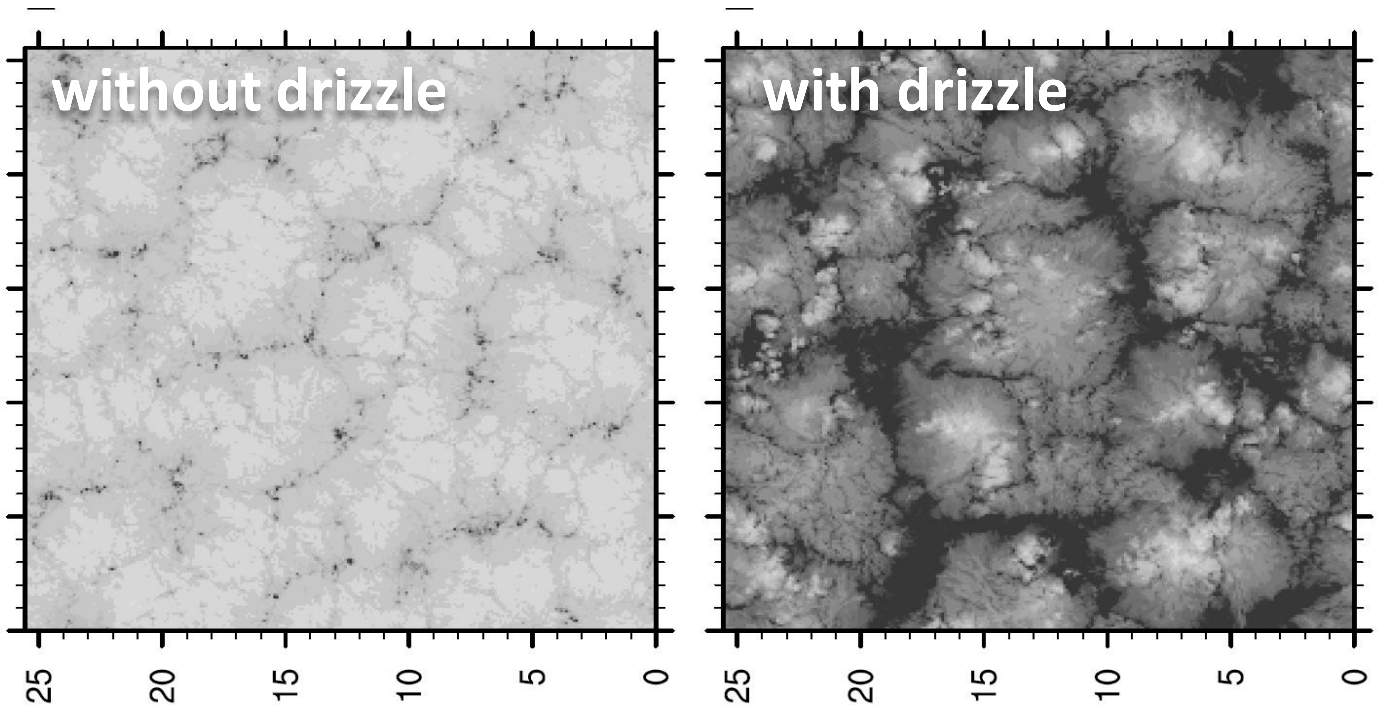
Bruce Albrecht

NCEP January 2009 (500m) Back Trajectories





Drizzle



Large eddy simulations by Savic-Jovcic and Stevens (2007)

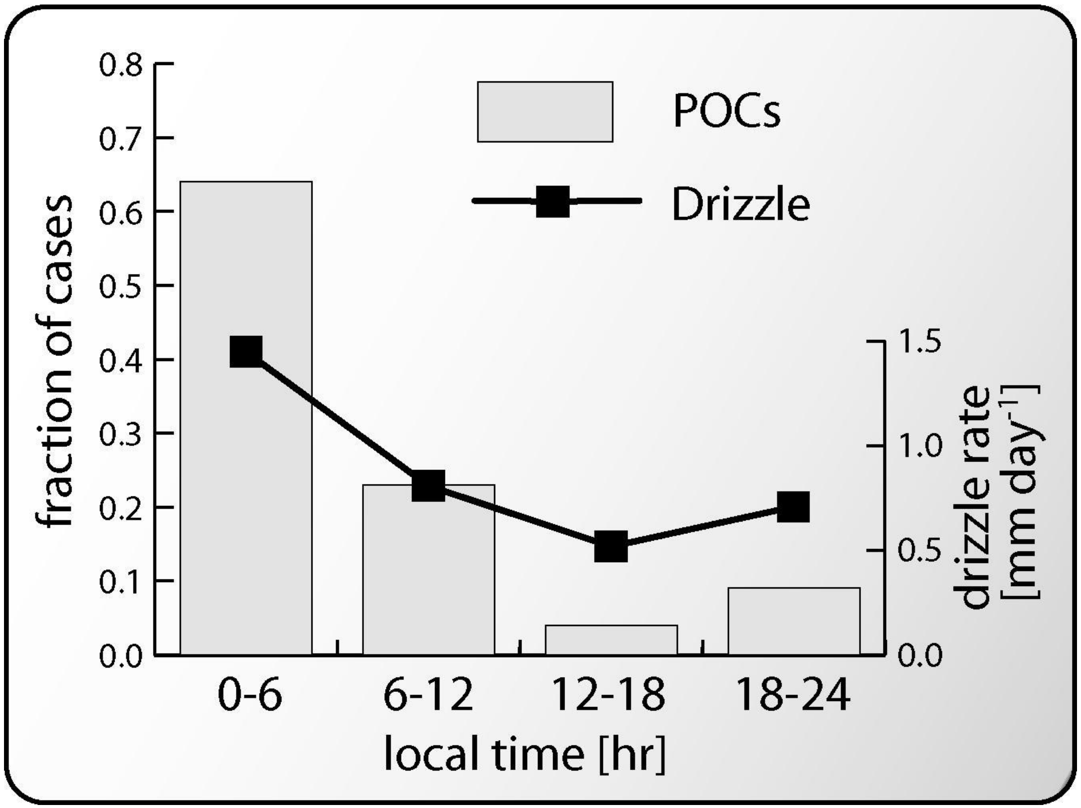
Table 2: Key additional instrumentation and observational datasets

Instrument [Provider]	*Important derived parameters*
Scanning X-band radar [Bruce Albrecht, University of Miami]	Light precipitation horizontal and vertical structure
High Resolution Doppler Lidar (HRDL) [NOAA ESRL]	(i) MBL winds below cloud base, (ii) Vertical turbulent wind estimates (iii) Vertical aerosol stratification/homgeneity
Ground-based chemistry [Hugh Coe, University of Manchester, UK]	(i) Aerosol size resolved chemistry (inorganic, organic) (ii) Aerosol hygroscopic growth
BAe-146 aircraft deployment [coordinator Hugh Coe, University of Manchester]	(i) Cloud and drizzle microphysical properties (ii) Turbulence and meteorology measurements (iii) Aerosol and gas phase chemistry suite, CCN, aerosol mass spectrometry

Table 1: Key instrumentation requirments for the AMF deployment

Instrument	*Important derived parameters*
94 GHz Profiling Radar	(i) Cloud and precipitation vertical structure (ii) Cloud top height (iii) Drizzle drop size distribution using both Doppler spectral measurements (Frisch et al. 1995) and with MPL below cloud base (O'Connor et al. 2005)
Micropulse Lidar (MPL)	(i) Cloud occurrence, (ii) Precipitation profiling below cloud base (with radar) (iii) Aerosol properties in MBL and above MBL (clear skies)
Microwave Radiometer (MWR)	(i) Cloud liquid water path (ii) Column water vapor path
MultiFilter Rotating Shadowband Radiometer (MFRSR) and Narrow Field of View Radiometer (NFOV)	(i) Cloud visible optical thickness. Will be used to infer cloud microphysical properties (droplet concentration, effective radius) in combination with MWR (ii) Aerosol optical properties in clear skies
Marine Atmospheric Emitted Radiance Interferometer (MAERI).	Cloud liquid water path estimates for thin clouds (combined with MWR, following Turner 2007)
Total Sky Imager (TSI)	Cloud coverage and type
Ceilometer (VCEIL)	(i) Cloud base height (ii) Cloud cover
Balloon-borne Sounding System (BBSS)	(i) Atmospheric profile structure (ii) MBL depth (iii) Inversion strength
Eddy Correlation Systems (ECOR)	Surface turbulent fluxes of latent and sensible heat
Surface Meteorological Instruments	Surface temperature, humidity, pressure, winds
Sky Radiometers	Downwelling shortwave and longwave radiative fluxes used to constrain the surface energy budget
Surface aerosol observing system	Aerosol physical properties (total concentration, scattering and absorption), CCN characteristics

Are observed transitions in cloud mesoscale structure (e.g. from closed cellular to open cellular convection) influenced by the formation of precipitation?



ARM Scanning Radar

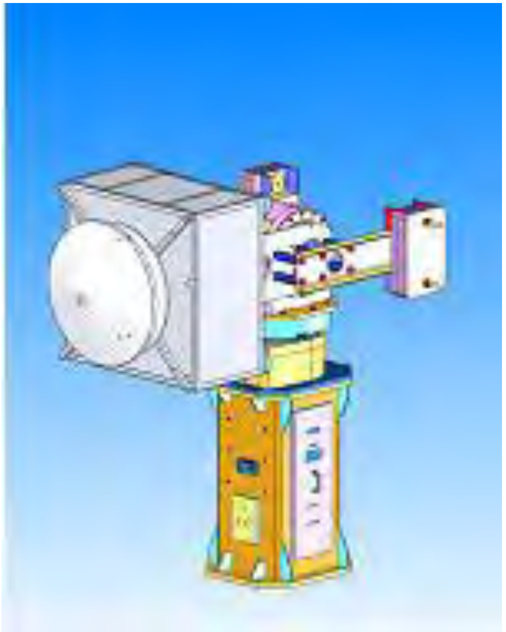
Scanning W-band ARM Cloud Radar

Same radar frequency as NASA's CloudSat

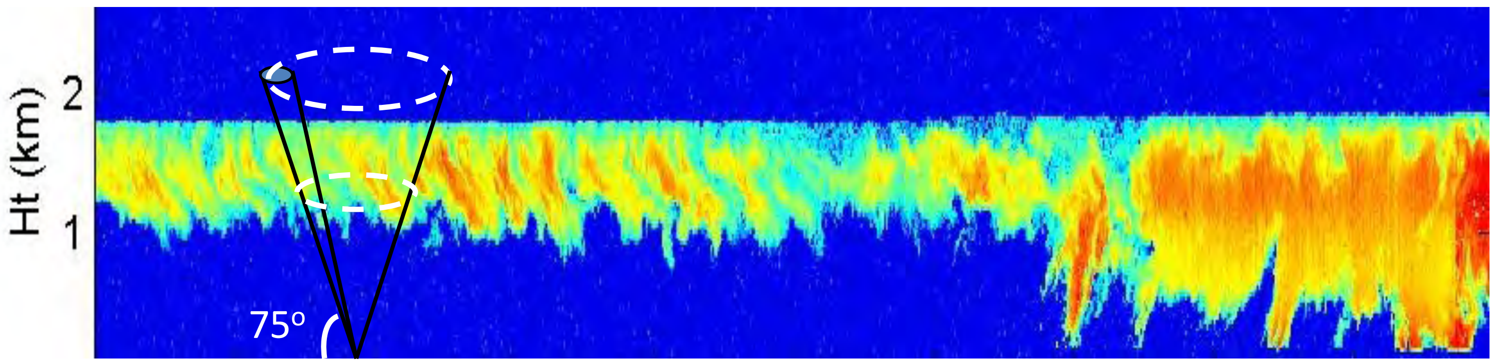
Capable of detecting all radiatively significant clouds in a radius of 5-10* km

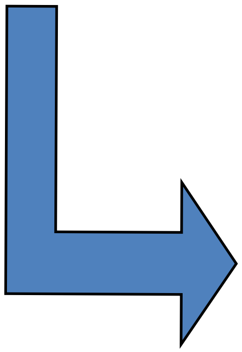
Scanning capabilities:

1. Horizon to Horizon (fixed azimuth)
2. 360° revolution (fixed elevation)
3. Sector scan (for cloud tracking)
4. Staring mode

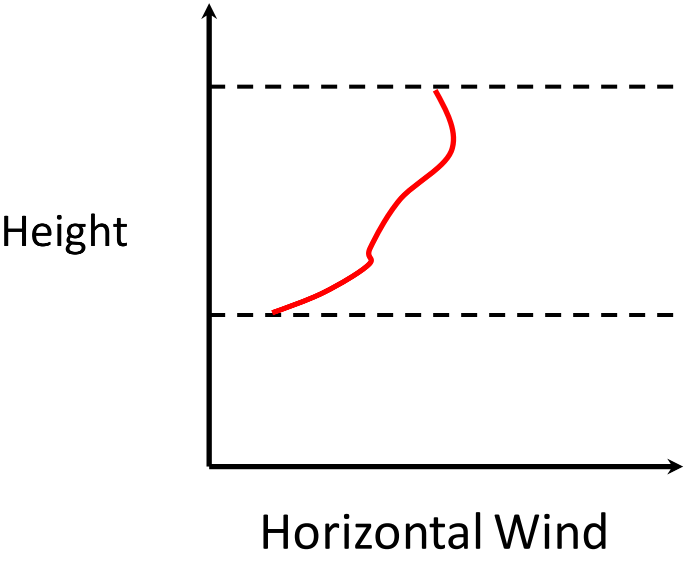


3D-Cloud Products
Case Study - Marine Stratocumulus

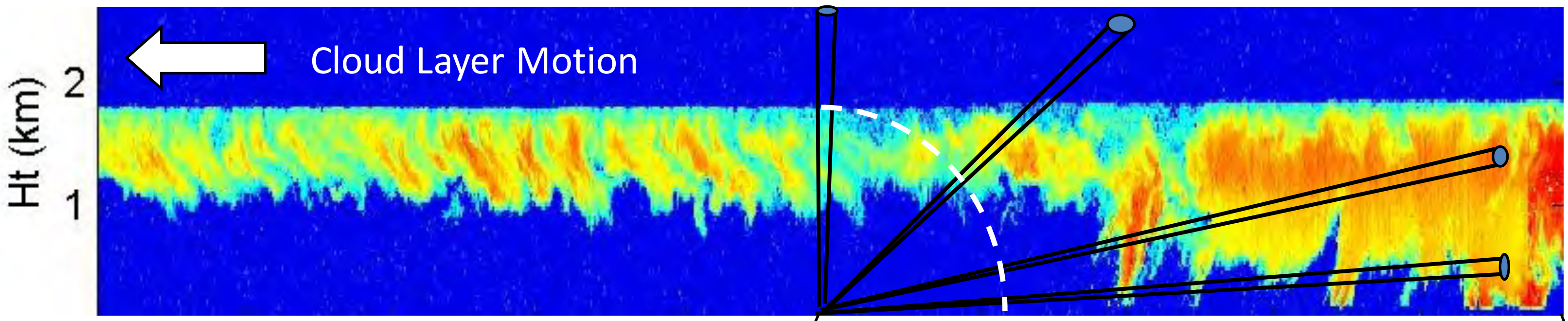




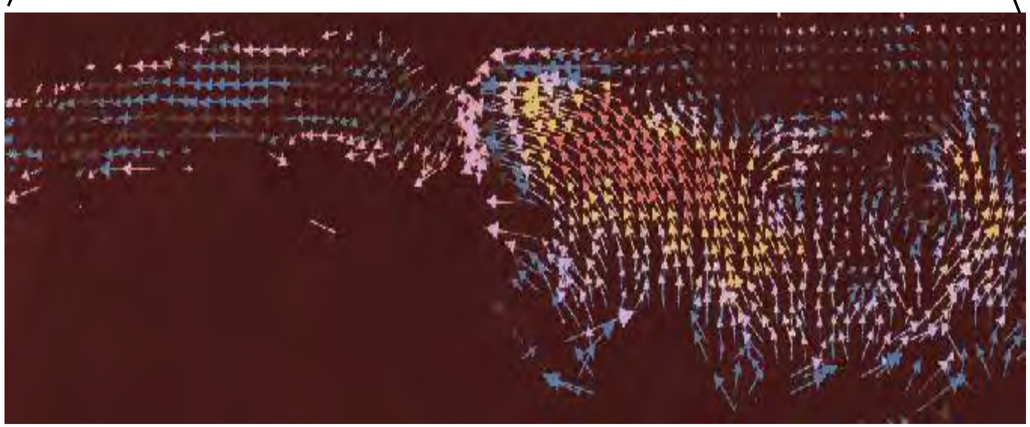
In-cloud horizontal wind direction and magnitude



3D-Cloud Products
Case Study - Marine BL Clouds



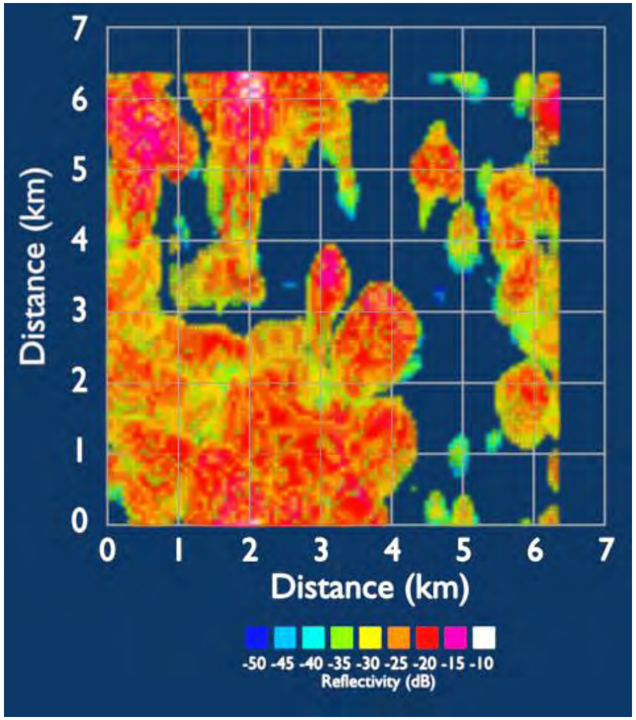
Scan into the direction the cloud layer comes from

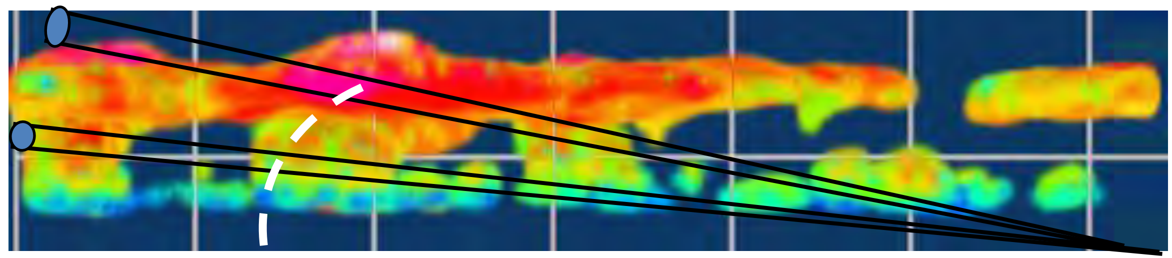


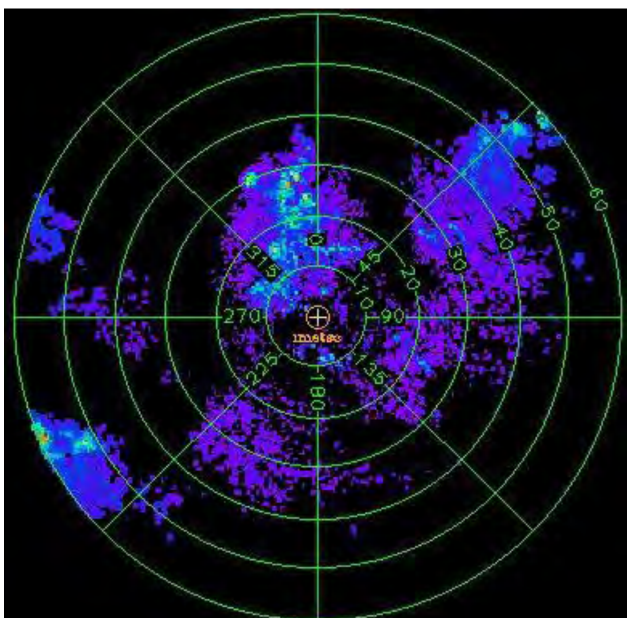
Follow the lifecycle of cloud elements

Retrieve the 2D kinematic structure of the cloud

3D-Cloud Products
Case Study - Marine BL clouds



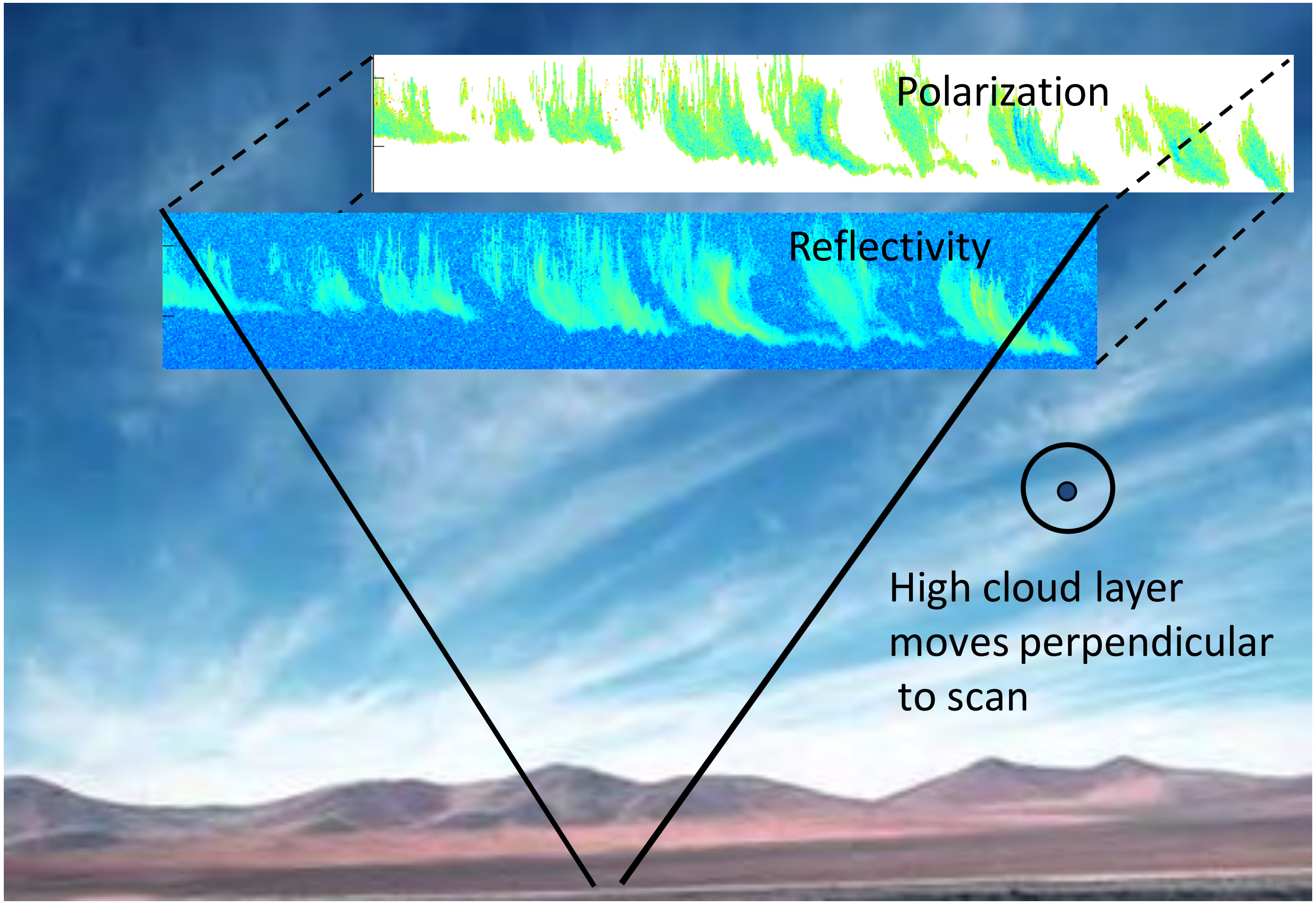




Low Elevation 360° revolution

Product: 3D cloud fraction

3D-Cloud Products
Case Study - Cirrus Clouds



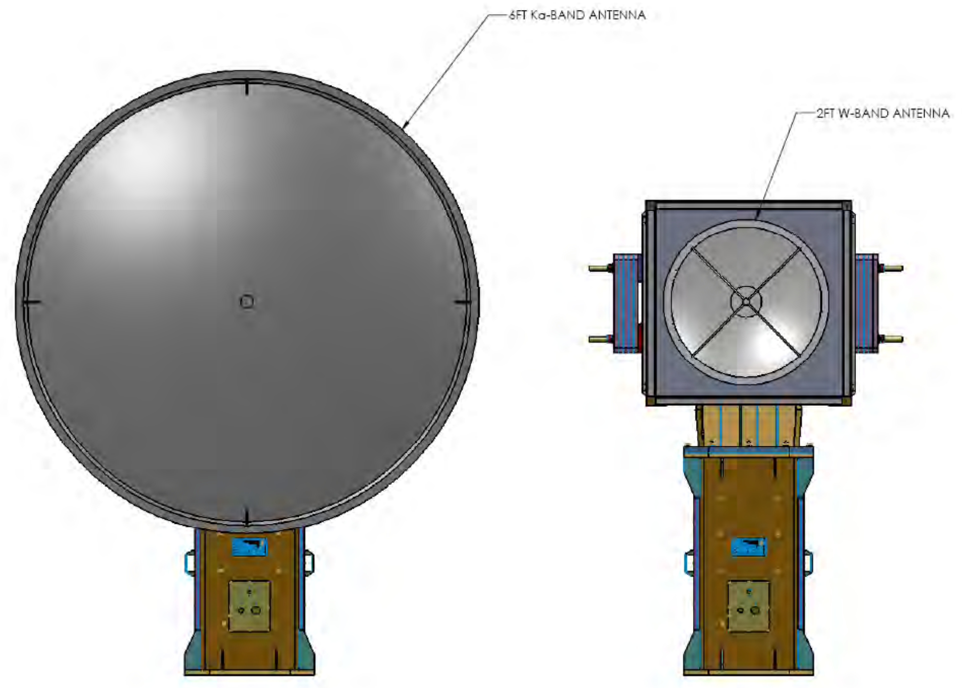
Particle size

Cloud Structure

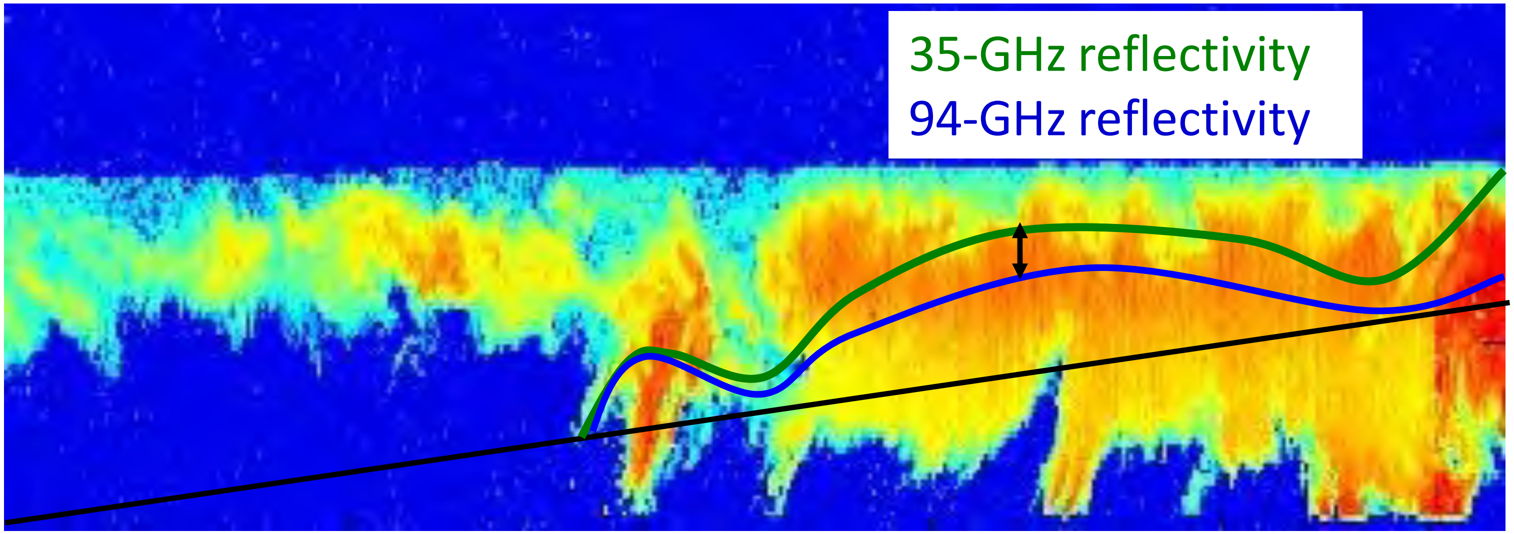
Scanning Dual-Frequency Radar

- Scanning dual frequency, dual polarization millimeter-wave cloud radar (35/95 GHz)
- Auxiliary radiometer channels at 35 and 95 GHz
- Matched beamwidths
- Implementation will be similar to SWACR

- Two independent radars mounted on separate pedestals
- Allows re-use of SWACR
  - RF unit could be slightly modified to add radiometer channel
- Phase II SBIR funds sufficient to build Ka-band system



Scanning Dual-Frequency Radar



The second frequency extends the range of the system into drizzle and shallow precipitation.

The second frequency allow the retrieval of LWC and particle size using the differential reflectivity that is proportional to cloud LWC