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Impacts of interactive sea salt aerosol on reflected shortwave radiation in idealized extratropical cyclones

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1. Motivation and research questions



- General circulation models yield Prescribed Interactive bias in reflected shortwave radiation over Southern Oceans of up to 25 Wm⁻² (e.g.Bodas-Salcedo, 2014)
- Is this bias related to the representation of aerosol?
- What is the impact of interactive compared to prescribed aerosol on reflected shortwave radiation in extratropical cyclones?



2. Model setup



- ICON-ART, R2B06 (~40 km)
- Aquaplanet with prescribed SST
- Sea salt is single aerosol
- Initially pristine atmosphere with wave number 6 perturbation Simulation of idealized baroclinic waves

6. Variation of reflected shortwave radiation with aerosol distribution at constant mass







clear-sky regions

overcast regions

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total

3. Baroclinic wave and sea salt distribution



- Dynamics of baroclinic wave is insensitive to sea salt aerosol due to prescribed SST
- Sea salt distribution is similar across simulations $m(t,\varphi,\lambda) = m_{tot}(t) \cdot \delta(t,\varphi,\lambda)$

4. Variation of reflected shortwave radiation with total aerosol mass





- Horizontal redistribution of aerosol in 1D single-layer offline radiative model (Taylor et al., 2007)
- Redistribution of aerosol locally causes strong changes in ARE of about +- 20 Wm⁻²
- Yield area-mean ARE is enhanced by 2 Wm⁻²

7. Conclusions

$$dR = \left(\frac{\partial ARE}{\partial m_{tot}} + \frac{\partial CRE_{0,T}}{\partial m_{tot}} + \frac{\partial CRE_{0,A}}{\partial m_{tot}}\right) dm_{tot} + \frac{\partial ARE}{\partial \delta} d\delta$$





- proportional to m_{tot}
- Albrecht effect shows no impact on CRE
- Twomey effect considerably impacts *CRE*
- Tenfold m_{tot} translates to enhancement of CRE by 5 Wm⁻² and ARE by 11 Wm⁻² at maximum cyclone intensity



- Aerosol-radiation interactions and Twomey effect show considerable impacts on reflected shortwave radiation
- Strong sensitivity of reflected shortwave radiation to total aerosol mass via aerosol-radiation interactions is expected to be well confined by climatologies derived from observations
- Twomey effect may help to reduce biases in reflected shortwave radiation in general circulation models, but is unlikely to entirely eradicate biases

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