

# Aerosol effects on precipitation: A global model intercomparison under AEROCOM

Xiaohong Liu, Minghuai Wang and Steve Ghan  
(Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)

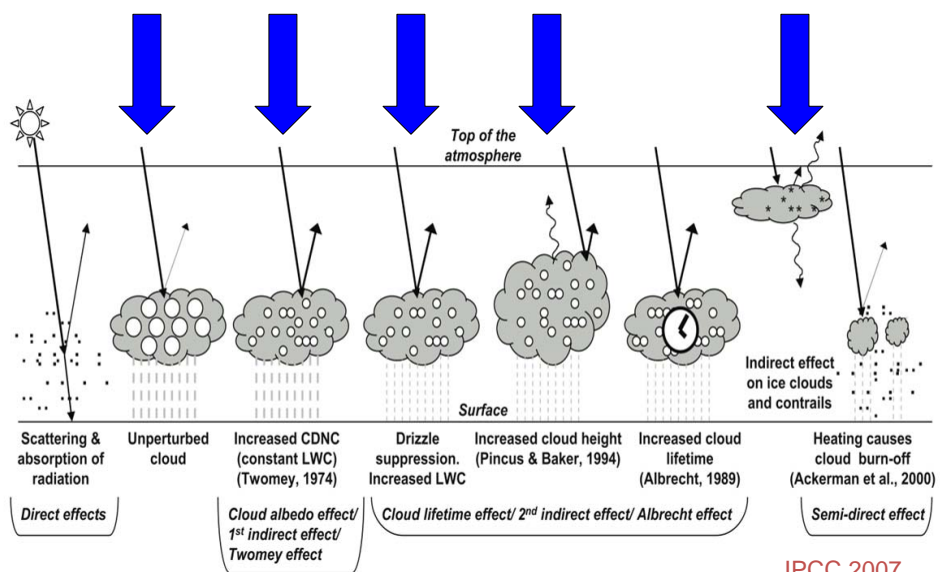
Zhanqing Li and Feng Niu  
(University of Maryland)

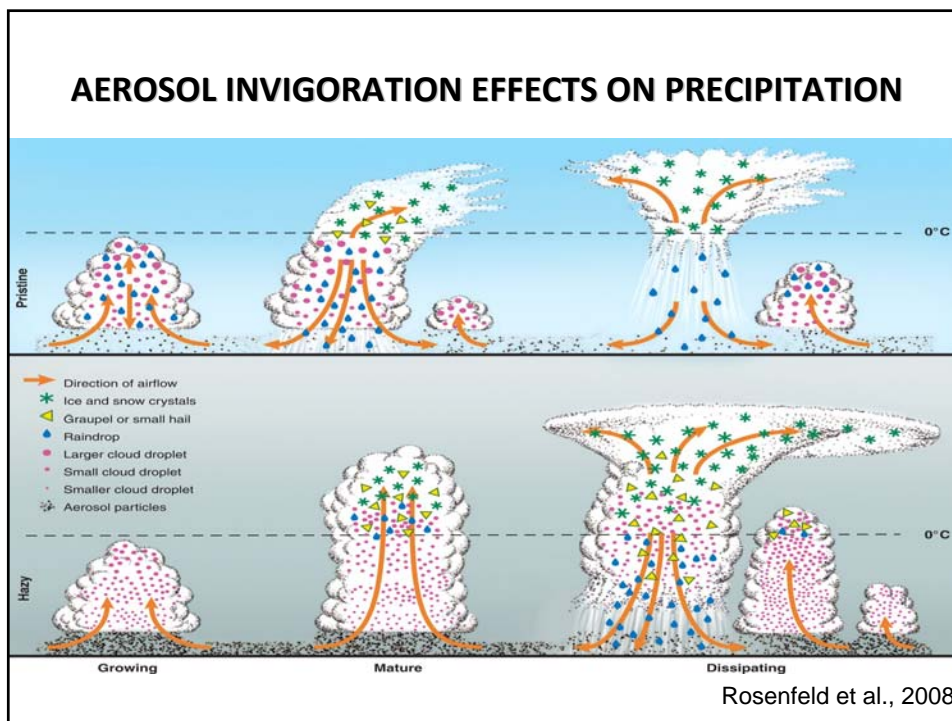
Xiu-Qun Yang and Yiquan Jiang  
(Nanjing University)

9<sup>th</sup> AEROCOM Workshop, Oxford, UK, September 29, 2010



## Impacts of Aerosol on Cloud & Precipitation

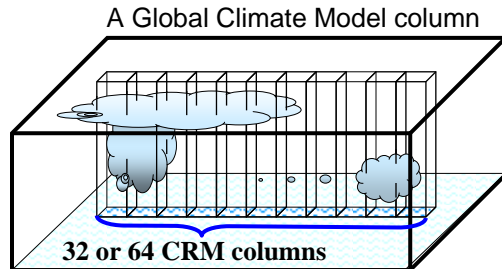




## Aerosol-Cloud Interactions in NCAR CAM5

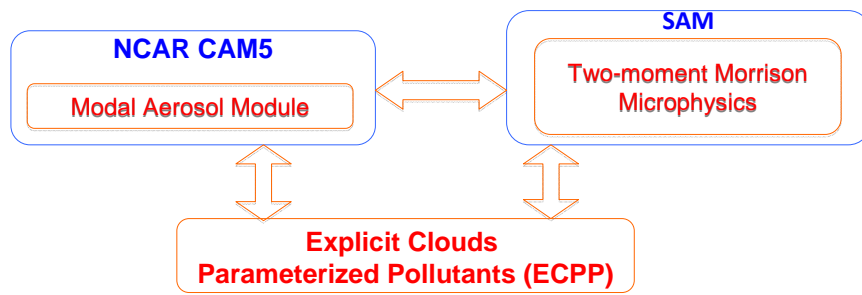
- **2-moment Modal Aerosol Module** ([Liu et al. 2010](#))
  - Prognostic *mass* and *number* concentration of 7 and 3 aerosol modes (log-normal function size distributions)
  - Internal mixing of aerosol components within mode and external mixing between modes
- **2-moment stratiform microphysics** ([Morrison & Gettelman 2008](#); [Gettelman et al. 2010](#))
  - Prognostic 'cloud mass' and 'cloud droplet number' ( $\Gamma$ -function size distributions)
  - Diagnostic 'precipitation mass' and 'precipitation droplet number'
- **Cloud liquid droplet activation** ([Abdul-Razzak & Ghan 2002](#))
- **Cloud ice crystal nucleation** ([Liu et al. 2007](#))
  - Homogeneous freezing on Sulfate
  - Heterogeneous nucleation on Dust
- **Aerosol effects on convective clouds through microphysics not included**

## Multiscale Modeling Framework Approach (MMF) (Superparameterization)



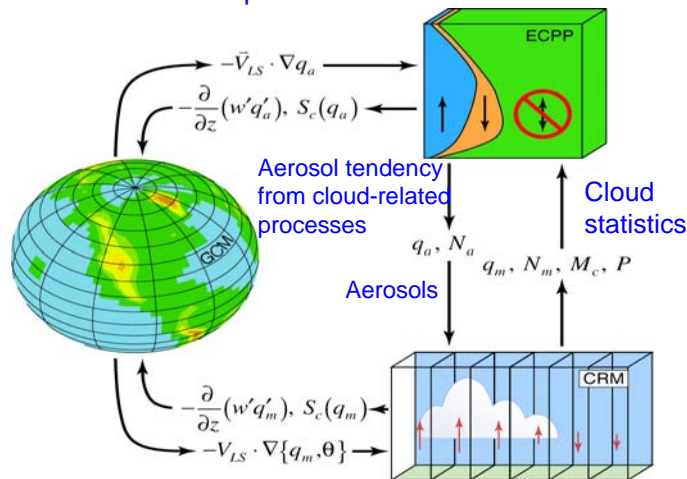
Grabowski, 2001;  
Khairoutdinov and  
Randall, 2001.

The MMF approach permits  
explicit simulations of deep  
convective clouds.

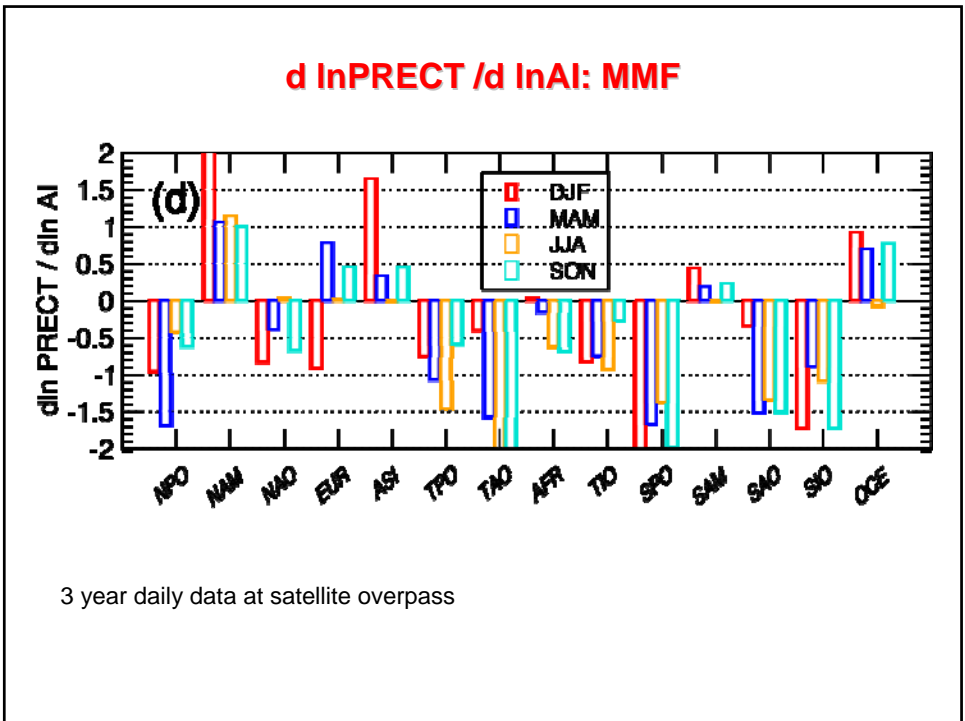
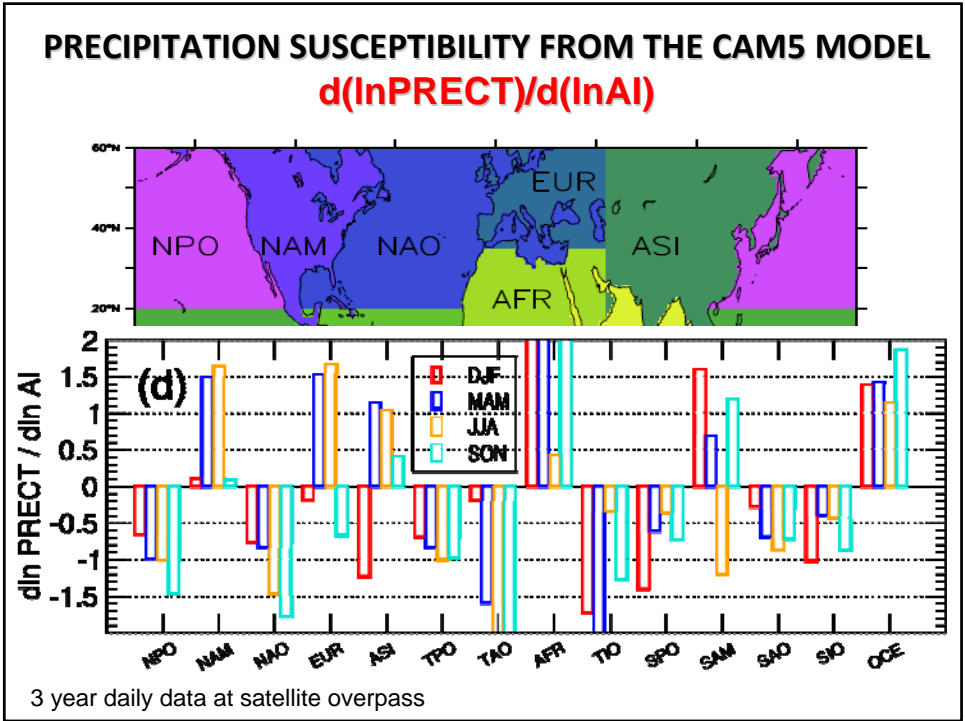


## Explicit clouds Parameterized Pollutants (ECPP) Approach (Gustafson et al., 2008)

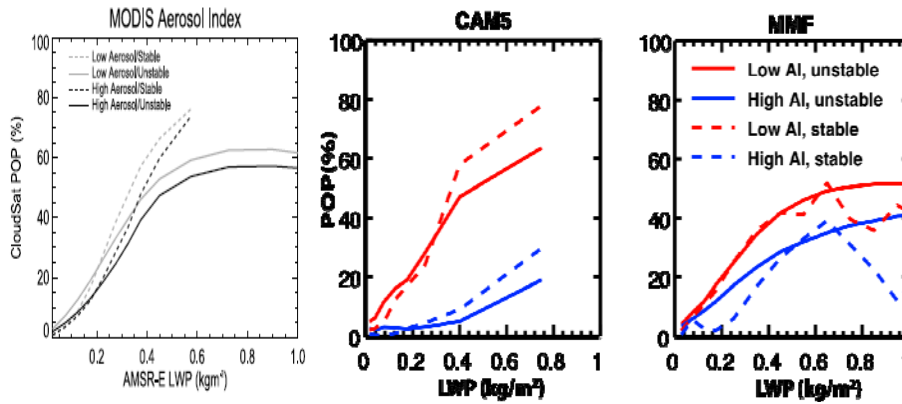
Use cloud statistics to drive a physically-based treatment of aerosol and trace gas processing by clouds, which replaces conventional treatment of these processes in CAM5.



See Ghan et al.  
poster



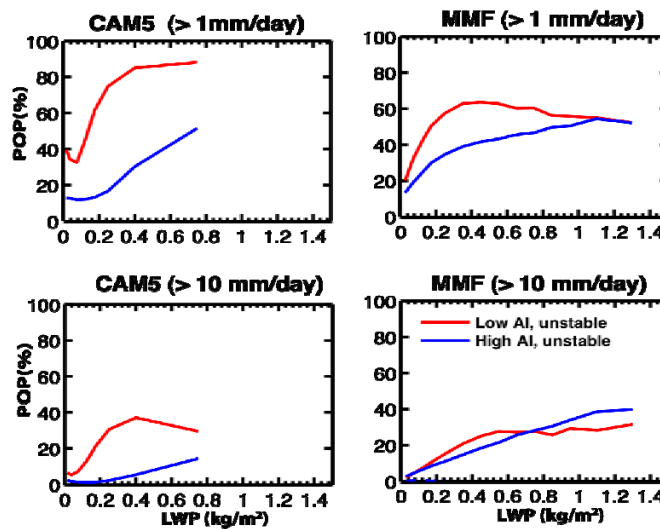
### Probability of Precipitation (POP) (cloud top warmer than 273 K)



L' Ecuyer et al., 2009

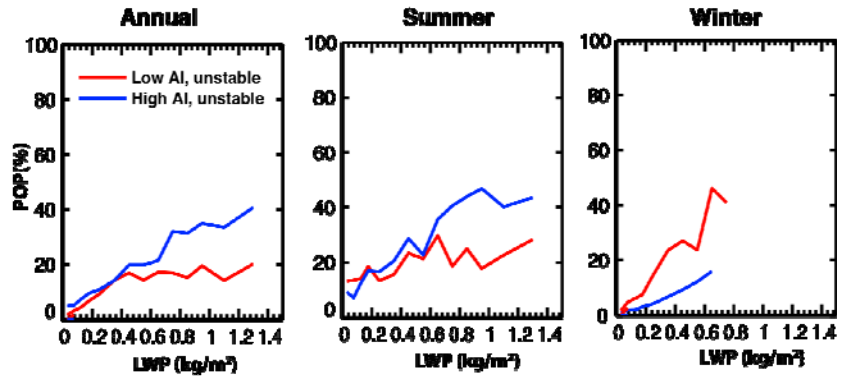
Global, 3 year daily data

### Probability of precipitation (cloud top colder than 263 K)



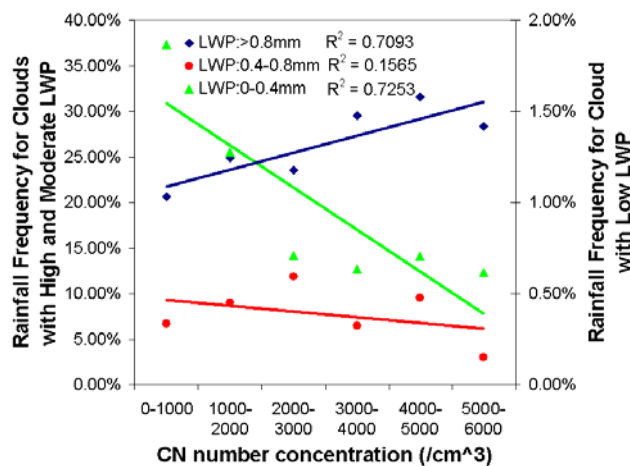
Global, 3 year daily data

**Probability of precipitation in North America (MMF)  
(cloud top colder than 263 K, rain rate >10 mm/day)**



**Probability of precipitation at ARM SGP site**

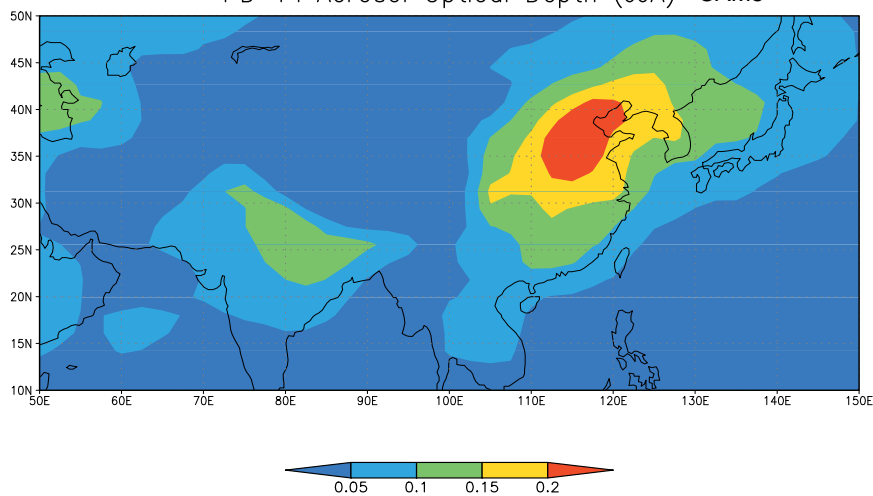
10 years



1. For low LWP, rainfall occurrence is suppressed by aerosols (30-50%)
2. For large LWP, rainfall frequency is increased by aerosols (50%)
3. For moderate LWP, aerosols have little impact

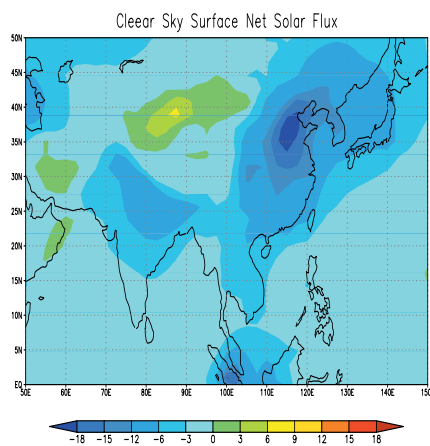
## Regional impacts of aerosol on precipitation: East Asia

PD-PI Aerosol Optical Depth (JJA) CAM5

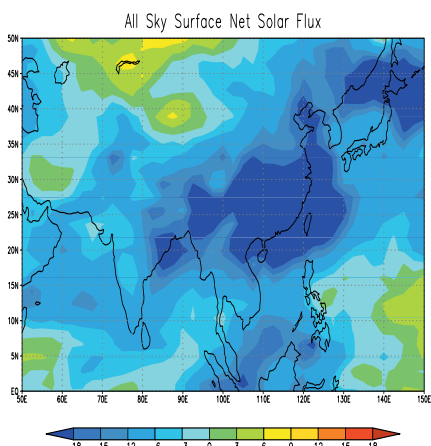


## PD-PI: Surface solar flux

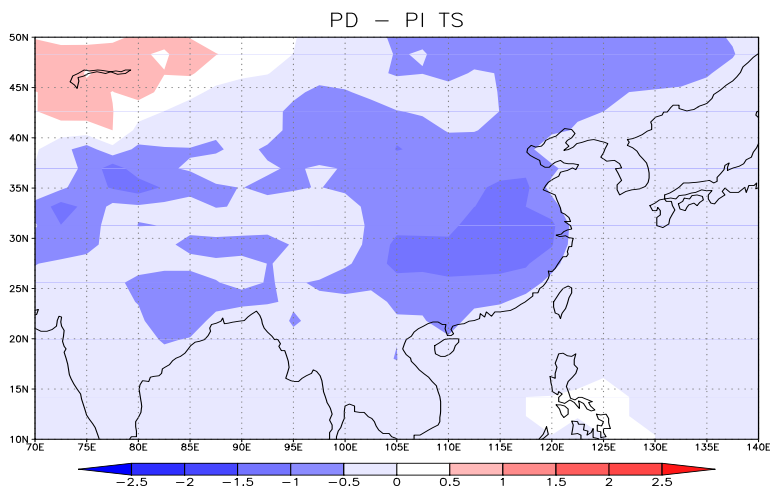
Clear-Sky



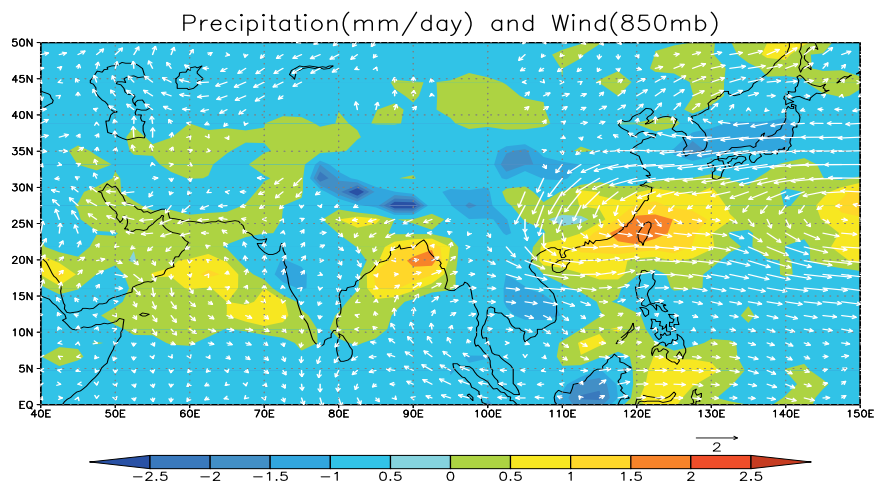
All-Sky



## PD-PI: Surface temperature



## PD-PI: Wind and precipitation





## Intercomparison of Aerosol Effects on Precipitation under AEROCOM

- Invite GCMs with aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions to participate; also satellite and in situ data analysis
- Submit GCM simulations: monthly & daily data at satellite overpass
  - PD & PI, PD with prescribed aerosol
- Analysis of
  - POP vs LWP;  $d \ln R / d \ln AI$  vs LWP
  - Segregated into regions and seasons
- Regional precipitation pattern change