1   # The Role of Ice Nuclei Recycling in the Maintenance of Cloud Ice in

2   # Arctic Mixed-Phase Stratocumulus

3   Amy Solomon[12], Graham Feingold[2], and Matthew D. Shupe[12]

4   (1) Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado

5   Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, USA.

6   (2) Earth System Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

7   Boulder, Colorado, USA.

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9   Corresponding author: Amy Solomon, NOAA/ESRL, PSD3, 325 Broadway, Boulder,

10   Colorado 80305-3337, USA. (amy.solomon@noaa.gov)

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12   **Abstract**

13   This study investigates the maintenance of cloud ice production in Arctic mixed phase

14   stratocumulus in large eddy simulations that include a prognostic ice nuclei (IN) formulation

15   and a diurnal cycle. Balances derived from a mixed-layer model and phase analyses are used

16   to provide insight into buffering mechanisms that maintain ice in these cloud systems. We

17   find that for the case under investigation, IN recycling through subcloud sublimation

18   considerably prolongs ice production over a multi-day integration. This effective source of

19   IN to the cloud dominates over mixing sources from above or below the cloud-driven mixed

20   layer. Competing feedbacks between dynamical mixing and recycling are found to slow the

21   rate of ice lost from the mixed layer when a diurnal cycle is simulated. The results of this

22   study have important implications for maintaining phase partitioning of cloud ice and liquid

23   that determine the radiative forcing of Arctic mixed-phase clouds.

1 Introduction

Reliable climate projections require realistic simulations of Arctic cloud feedbacks. Of particular importance is accurately simulating Arctic mixed-phase stratocumuli (AMPS), which are ubiquitous and play an important role in regional climate due to their impact on the surface energy budget and atmospheric boundary layer structure through cloud-driven turbulence, radiative forcing, and precipitation (Curry et al., 1992; Walsh and Chapman, 1998; Intrieri et al., 2002; Shupe and Intrieri, 2004; Sedlar et al., 2011; Persson, 2012). For example, Bennartz et al. (2012) showed that the extreme melt events observed at Summit, Greenland in July 2012 would not have occurred without the surface radiative forcing produced by AMPS.

AMPS are characterized by a liquid cloud layer with ice crystals that precipitate from cloud base even at temperatures well below freezing (Hobbs and Rangno, 1998; Intrieri et al., 2002; McFarquhar et al., 2007). Radiative cooling near cloud top generates turbulence that maintains the liquid layer and forms an approximately well-mixed layer that extends as far as 500 meters below cloud base. These cloud-driven mixed layers are frequently decoupled from the surface layer, limiting the impact of fluxes of heat, moisture, and aerosols on the cloud layer from below (Solomon et al., 2011; Shupe et al., 2013). However, unlike subtropical cloud-topped boundary layers where decoupling enhances cloud breakup by cutting the cloud system off from the surface source of moisture, decoupled AMPS can persist for extended periods of time due to weak precipitation fluxes out of the mixed layer and relatively moist air entrained into the cloud layer at cloud top (Tjernström et al., 2004; Solomon et al., 2011; Sedlar et al., 2012; Solomon et al., 2014).

46 AMPS are challenging to model due to uncertainties in ice microphysical processes that

47 determine phase partitioning between ice and radiatively important cloud liquid water

48 (Sandvik et al., 2007; Tjernström et al., 2008; Klein et al., 2009, Karlsson and Svensson,

49 2011; Barton et al., 2012; Birch et al., 2012; de Boer et al., 2012), which drives turbulence

50 that maintains the system. Phase partitioning depends upon the number, shape, and size of ice

51 crystals, since these determine the efficiency of water vapor uptake by ice and hence the

52 availability of water vapor for droplet formation (Chen and Lamb, 1994; Sheridan et al.,

53 2009; Ervens et al., 2011; Hoose and Möhler, 2012).

54 Since temperatures in AMPS are too warm for homogenous ice nucleation, ice must form

55 through heterogeneous nucleation. Aerosols with properties to serve as seeds for

56 heterogeneous ice crystal formation are referred to as ice nuclei (IN). A number of different

57 aerosols such as mineral dust (Broadley et al., 2012; Kulkarni et al., 2012; Lüönd et al., 2010;

58 Möhler et al. 2006; Pinti et al., 2012; Welti et al., 2009), soot (DeMott, 1990), sea salts (Wise

59 et al., 2012), and bacteria (Kanji et al., 2011; Levin and Yankofsky, 1983) have been

60 observed to act as IN, all of which nucleate at different temperatures and supersaturation

61 ranges. In addition, observations indicate that nucleation properties are modified by aging

62 and coating of aerosols (Möhler et al., 2005; Cziczo et al. 2009). Heterogeneous ice

63 nucleation can occur by a number of modes: either in the presence of super-cooled droplets,

64 when an aerosol comes into contact with a droplet (contact freezing), is immersed in a

65 droplet (immersion freezing), or by vapor deposition on IN (deposition freezing) (Pruppacher

66 and Klett, 1997).

67   IN can be entrained into the cloud-driven mixed layer through turbulent mixing from above

68   and/or below. Recent studies indicate that entrainment alone cannot account for observed ice

69   crystal number concentration (N_{ICE}) (Fridlind et al., 2012), motivating the use of diagnostic

70   formulations for ice formation to produce model simulations of AMPS with realistic phase

71   partitioning (Ovchinnikov et al., 2011). While this modeling strategy constrains N_{ICE} to be

72   close to the measured values it eliminates the dynamical-microphysical feedbacks that

73   regulate ice/liquid phase partitioning (Avramov et al., 2011).

74   Here we investigate a relatively unexplored source of ice production--recycling of ice nuclei

75   in regions of ice subsaturation. AMPS frequently have ice-subsaturated air near the cloud-

76   driven mixed-layer base where falling ice crystals can sublimate, leaving behind IN. This

77   feedback loop is referred to hereon as "recycling". Recycling was found to be significant in

78   large eddy simulations of a single-layer stratocumulus observed during the Department of

79   Energy Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program's Mixed-Phase Arctic Cloud

80   Experiment (M-PACE; Verlinde et al., 2007; Fan et al., 2009). AMPS observed during M-

81   PACE formed due to a cold-air outbreak, where large fluxes of heat and moisture over the

82   open ocean forced turbulent roll clouds that were coupled to the surface layer. This coupling

83   with the surface layer prevented the identification of the role of dynamics internal to the

84   cloud-driven mixed layer in maintaining phase-partitioning.

85   In this study we focus on the internal microphysics and dynamics of the cloud-driven mixed

86   layer by investigating processes in an AMPS decoupled from surface sources of moisture,

87   heat, and ice nuclei. We posit that recycling plays a significant role more generally since, for

88   example, assuming an adiabatic vertical profile, a 650 meter-deep mixed layer with a cloud-

89 top temperature of -16°C requires a water vapor mixing ratio of at least 1.7 g kg^{-1} at mixed-

90 layer base to be saturated with respect to ice, i.e., in order for recycling to be a *negligible*

91 source of ice nuclei in the mixed layer. This value is typically only seen in the Arctic

92 between May-September (Serreze et al., 2012), while persistent AMPS frequently occur

93 outside of these months (Shupe et al., 2011).

94 We examine the role of IN recycling in maintaining ice production using large eddy

95 simulations of a springtime decoupled AMPS. Three simulations are analyzed; a "Control"

96 with recycling turned on and shortwave radiation turned off (to compare with previous

97 simulations of this case that use different IN formulations and shortwave radiation turned off),

98 "NoRecycle" with IN recycling turned off to identify the impact of recycling on the cloud

99 life-time and phase partitioning, and "SW" with recycling and shortwave radiation turned on

100 to identify the impact of realistic diurnal heating and cooling tendencies on the recycling

101 process. This study builds on previous studies of this case, all of which exclude shortwave

102 radiation (Avramov et al., 2011; Solomon et al., 2011, 2014), by including a prognostic

103 equation for IN and a diurnal cycle. Within this modeling framework we investigate the

104 relative roles of recycling and entrainment of IN in maintaining cloud ice production.

105 **2 Case Description**

106 The case derives from observations of a persistent single-layer Arctic mixed-phase

107 stratocumulus cloud observed near Barrow, AK on 8 April 2008 during the Indirect and

108 Semi-Direct Aerosol Campaign (McFarquhar et al., 2011) (see Fig. 1). The adjacent Beaufort

109 Sea was generally ice covered during this time, with significant areas of open water observed

110 east of Barrow. A 4-K temperature inversion with inversion base at 1.05 km was observed

111   via a radiosonde at 17:34UTC; static stability was near neutral within the mixed layer

112   overlaying a stable near-surface layer with static stability greater than 2 K km^{-1} below 500 m.

113   The water vapor mixing ratio, q_v, decreased from 1.7 g kg^{-1} at the surface to 1.2 g kg^{-1} at

114   cloud top, above which a secondary maximum of 1.6 g kg^{-1} was observed. Winds were east-

115   southeasterly throughout the lowest 2 km.

116   Measurements from ground-based, vertically pointing, 35-GHz cloud radar, micropulse lidar,

117   and dual-channel microwave radiometer at Barrow indicated a mixed-phase cloud layer

118   starting at 8 UTC on 8 April 2008 with a cloud top at approximately 1.5km that slowly

119   descended to approximately 0.5 km over a 26 hour period. At the time of the 17:34 sounding

120   the cloud layer extended into the inversion by 100 m, had a cloud base at 0.9 km, and cloud

121   top at 1.15 km. Cloud ice water path (IWP), derived from cloud radar reflectivity

122   measurements, varied from 20–120 g m^{-2} within 10 min of the sounding, with an uncertainty

123   of up to a factor of 2 (Shupe et al., 2006). Concurrently liquid water path (LWP), derived

124   from dual-channel microwave radiometer measurements, was 39–62 g m^{-2}, with an

125   uncertainty of 20–30 g m^{-2} (Turner et al., 2007).

126   Research flights were conducted by the National Research Council of Canada Convair-580 at

127   22:27-23:00 UTC on 8 April 2008 over the ocean northwest of Barrow (McFarquhar et al.,

128   2011). Droplet concentrations measured by a Particle Measuring Systems Forward Scattering

129   Spectrometer Probe varied between 100 and 200 cm^{-3}. Ice crystal number concentrations

130   measured by Stratton Park Engineering Company 2D-S and Particle Measuring Systems 2D-

131   P optical array probes for sizes larger than 100 mm together averaged 0.4 L^{-1}. IN

132   concentrations measured with the Texas A&M Continuous Flow Diffusion Chamber varied

133   from 0.1 L^{-1} to above 20 L^{-1}. Ice crystal habit estimated using the automated habit

134   classification procedure of Korolev and Sussman (2000) indicated primarily dendritic crystal

135   habits.

136   **3 Model Description**

137   We use the large eddy simulation mode of the Advanced Research WRF model (WRFLES)

138   Version 3.3.1 (Yamaguchi and Feingold, 2012) with the National Center for Atmospheric

139   Research Community Atmospheric Model longwave radiation package (Collins et al., 2004),

140   RRTMG shortwave package (Iacono et al., 2008), the Morrison two-moment microphysical

141   scheme (Morrison et al., 2009), and a 1.5-order turbulent kinetic energy prediction scheme

142   (Skamarock et al., 2008). Surface fluxes are calculated uses the modified MM5 similarity

143   scheme which calculates surface exchange coefficients for heat, moisture, and momentum

144   following Webb (1970) and uses Monin-Obukhov with Carlson-Boland viscous sub-layer

145   and standard similarity functions following Paulson (1970) and Dyer and Hicks (1970).

146   All model runs are initialized with winds, temperature, and water vapor from the 17Z 8 April

147   2008 sounding at Barrow, AK (see Fig.1). Initial surface pressure is 1020 hPa. Divergence is

148   assumed to be 2.5x10^{-6} s^{-1} below the temperature inversion and zero above, giving a linear

149   increase in large-scale subsidence from zero at the surface to 2.7 mm s^{-1} at the base of the

150   initial inversion (z=1.1 km). This value for divergence was chosen so that the height of the

151   temperature inversion at cloud top is steady. The divergence used in this study is smaller than

152   the divergence used in the WRFLES study of the same case by Solomon et al. (2014) due to

153   the reduced LWPs in this current study and therefore reduced turbulent entrainment that

154   balances large-scale subsidence in a steady simulation.

155   All simulations are run on a domain of $3.2 \times 3.2 \times 1.8$ km with a horizontal grid spacing of

156   50 m and vertical spacing of 10 m. The domain has 65(x)×65(y)×180(z) gridpoints and is

157   periodic in both the x- and y-directions. The top of the domain is at 1.8 km, which is 0.7 km

158   above cloud top in this case. The model time step is 0.75 s. The structure of the cloud layer is

159   insensitive to changes in resolution and domain size. For example, tests run for Solomon et al.

160   (2014) demonstrated that increasing the vertical and horizontal resolutions by a factor of two

161   resulted in an increase in LWP and IWP by 5% and 1%, respectively, while increasing the

162   domain size by a factor of two in both the x- and y-directions results in an increase in LWP

163   and IWP of less than 1%.

164   Cloud droplets are activated using resolved and subgrid vertical motion (Morrison and Pinto

165   2005) and a log-normal aerosol size distribution (assumed to be ammonium bisulfate and

166   30% insoluble by volume) to derive cloud condensation nuclei spectra following Abdul-

167   Razzak and Ghan (2000). The aerosol accumulation mode is specified with concentrations of

168   165 cm^{-3}, modal diameter of 0.2 μm, and geometric standard deviation of 1.4 mm, based on

169   in situ ISDAC measurements. In this formulation, IN and cloud condensation nuclei are

170   treated as separate species.

171   Temperature and moisture profiles are nudged to the initial profiles in the top 400 m of the

172   domain with a time scale of 1 hour. The model is initialized with winds, temperature, and

173   water vapor similar to the Control integration from Solomon et al. (2014). Horizontal winds

174   are nudged to the initial profiles at and above the initial inversion base with a timescale of 2

175   hours. Initial temperature and subgrid turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) are perturbed below the

176   top of the mixed layer with pseudo-random fluctuations with amplitudes of +/- 0.1 K and 0.1

177   $m^2 s^{-2}$, respectively. The liquid layer is allowed to form in the absence of ice during the first

178   hour of the integration to prevent potential glaciation during spinup.

179   The cloud-driven mixed layer is defined as the region where the liquid-ice water static energy

180   is approximately constant with height. We define the boundaries of the mixed-layer top and

181   base to occur where the slopes of liquid-ice static energy exceed $7x10^{-3}$ K m^{-1} and $1x10^{-3}$ K

182   m^{-1}, respectively. Cloud top and base are defined as the heights where cloud water mixing

183   ratio, q_c, is equal to $1x10^{-4}$ g kg^{-1}.

184   Nested Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model simulations of this case performed

185   with an inner grid at LES resolution (Solomon et al. 2011) demonstrate that moisture is

186   provided to the cloud system by a total water inversion at cloud top and that the mixed layer

187   does not extend to the surface, i.e., the mixed layer is largely decoupled from surface sources

188   of moisture. In addition, the nested simulations indicate that cloud liquid water, q_c, is

189   maintained within the temperature inversion by downgradient turbulent fluxes of q_v from

190   above and direct condensation driven by radiative cooling. These processes cause at least

191   20% of q_c to extend into the temperature inversion.

192   WRFLES has been modified to include a prognostic equation for IN number concentration

193   (N_{IN}),

$$\frac{\partial N_{IN}}{\partial t} + ADV + DIFF = \frac{\delta N_{IN}}{\delta t}\bigg|_{activation} + \frac{\delta N_{IN}}{\delta t}\bigg|_{sublimation} \qquad (1)$$

10

194 where ADV represents advection and DIFF represents turbulent diffusion. Activation is also

195 referred to as nucleation of ice and sublimation is also referred to as recycling of IN.

196 Here we adopt an empirical approach by initializing N_{IN} with an observationally based

197 relationship expressing the number of available IN as a function of temperature in regions of

198 water-saturation (DeMott et al., 2010),

$$N_{IN} = \text{F} * 0.117 \exp\big(-0.125 * (\text{T} - 273.2)\big) \qquad (2)$$

199 where F is an empirically derived scale factor and T is temperature in Kelvin. Sixteen

200 prognostic equations are integrated for N_{IN} in equally spaced temperature intervals with

201 nucleation thresholds between -20.2°C and -15.5°C (see Fig. 2). Therefore, additional IN

202 become available for activation with decreasing temperature and as the cloud layer cools. IN

203 number concentrations are initially specified using equation 2, such that the initial IN in bin k

204 is equal to the number of IN calculated by equation 2 at the threshold temperature $k + 1$

205 minus that calculated at temperature k. After the initial time 50% of the IN available in a bin

206 nucleates if the in-situ temperature is below the threshold temperature and the local

207 conditions exceed water saturation. Therefore, initial N_{IN} concentrations are a function of the

208 nucleation threshold temperatures and are independent of the in-situ temperature. The in-situ

209 temperature in regions of water saturation determines how many IN are activated. The

210 activation of 50% of the available IN is used to take deviations from the empirical derivation

211 into account, however results are insensitive to this parameter (not shown). Due to the

212 pristine dendritic nature of the observed crystals, ice shattering and aggregation are neglected

213 in the simulations and sublimation returns one N_{IN} per crystal.

214   N_{IN} (in units of L^{-1}) integrated over the domain in each temperature bin k at time t is equal to

$$\overline{N}_{IN}(k,t) = \iiint N_{IN}(x,y,z,k,t) \; dx \, dy \, dz. \qquad (3)$$

215   Upon sublimation, the modification of activation thresholds that can occur for previously

216   nucleated IN, i.e. preactivation (Roberts and Hallett, 1967), is not considered and N_{IN} are

217   returned to each bin k with weighting

$$W_k = [\overline{N}_{IN}(k,0) - \overline{N}_{IN}(k,t)\,]/\,\overline{N}_{IN}(k,0) \qquad (4)$$

218   where W_k is normalized such that $\sum W_k = 1$. The W_k are recalculated each time step. In this

219   way, IN are recycled preferentially to each of the 16 temperature bins from which they

220   originated (Feingold et al., 1996).

221   The factor F in Eq. (2) is set to 4 for all simulations yielding an initial N_{IN} summed over all

222   bins at every gridpoint equal to 5.8 L^{-1} at 20.2^{o}C, compared to 10 L^{-1} used in LES studies of

223   the same case presented in Avramov et al. (2011). Using a discrete bin formulation to

224   represent eq. (2) and assigning the coldest bin to the coldest temperature reached by the

225   Control simulation (-20.2^{o}C) results in 3.26 L^{-1} in the warmest bin and 0.23 L^{-1} additional IN

226   that are available for nucleation in the coldest bin. Given the initial temperatures in the cloud

227   layer, all IN from the first bin in the cloud layer nucleate. This causes an initial spike in cloud

228   ice number concentration, which also causes a large precipitation flux out of the mixed layer.

229   It takes approximately 6 hours for the cloud layer to reach a quasi-equilibrium with steady

230   cloud ice production. Supplementary integrations were done to test for robustness of the

231   results presented in Section 4 by varying initial IN concentrations, i.e., the factor F, (shown

232   in Fig. 3) and by varying snow density and fall speeds (shown in Fig. 4). Fig. 3 shows that

233   the simulation maintains ice production when the initial N_{IN} is increased or decreased by ~3

234   L^{-1} relative to Control. Fig. 4 shows that the simulations maintain quasi-steady ice and liquid

235   water paths after an initial spinup but the amount of ice produced is sensitive to the snow fall

236   speed.

237   Crystal size distributions for averaged values of ice water mixing ratio and number

238   concentration from the Control integration are shown in Fig. 5. These crystal size

239   distributions are consistent with the Avramov et al. (2011) simulations of this case where

240   crystal habits are assumed to be high-density pristine dendrites. The distribution shown in Fig.

241   5 underestimates the number of large (greater than 5mm) crystals as estimated by the 2D-S

242   and 2D-P probes (see Avramov et al. (2011) for a detailed discussion of the measurements).

243   The Control integration is run with shortwave radiation turned off in order to compare with

244   previous LES studies of this case (Avramov et al. 2011; Solomon et al. 2014). The results of

245   Control are compared to two additional simulations; one with IN recycling turned off

246   (hereafter "NoRecycle") and one with recycling and shortwave radiation both turned on

247   (hereafter "SW"). SW is used to investigate how the diurnal cycle impacts IN recycling and

248   ice formation. All runs use the same setup except SW has subsidence reduced by 30% to

249   keep the mixed-layer top from lowering appreciably because of smaller LWPs. This allows

250   for direct comparisons of mixed layer structure and fluxes at the mixed layer boundaries. The

251   NoRecycle run is started from the Control run at hour 6 to prevent the two simulations from

252   diverging due to spinup. The first six hours of integration are not used in the analysis to allow

253   for the spinup of cloud ice. Hours 6-40 are used for analysis of the Control and NoRecycle

254   simulations and hours 16-76 are used for analysis of the SW simulation to allow for multiple

255   diurnal cycles.

256   **4 Model Results**

257   *4.1 Control Integration*

258   In the quasi-steady Control integration, the mixed-layer depth is approximately 850 m and

259   comprises a 375 m deep mixed-phase cloud layer (henceforth "the cloud layer"), extending

260   above the mixed-layer top by 25 m, and a 500 m subcloud layer below (Fig. 6). IN are

261   produced by sublimation of ice crystals below the cloud layer, advected to the cloud layer by

262   turbulence, and activated as ice crystals (Fig. 6). Ice that forms in the cloud layer is

263   transported vertically by turbulence, precipitates to cloud base and below, and sublimates

264   below the cloud layer. At the mixed-layer base, an increase in N_{ICE} due to precipitation

265   approximately balances a decrease in N_{ICE} due to sublimation. These processes constitute a

266   feedback through which ice production and IN recycling are closely related. This feedback

267   between ice production and IN in the mixed layer is linked to dynamic-thermodynamic

268   tendencies, which sustain a subsaturated subcloud layer because the decrease in relative

269   humidity due to an upward turbulent vapor flux exceeds the increase due to sublimation.

270   The time evolution of horizontally-averaged IN advection plus subsidence (Fig. 7a) shows

271   that the majority of IN activate at cloud base, which is a bit warmer than cloud top but is

272   sufficiently cold to activate many of the IN. However, IN from bins with colder threshold

273   temperatures are advected higher into the cloud where they activate at their threshold

274   temperature. A secondary maximum is seen at cloud top where the coldest temperatures are

275   found. Also, it is seen that IN are advected into the cloud layer at cloud top for the first 15-18

276   hours, but this source of IN decreases as IN in the upper entrainment zone are depleted. The

277   turbulent mixing of snow and ice in the mixed-phase cloud layer is clearly seen in Fig. 7b,

278   where ice plus snow number concentrations are well-mixed in the cloud layer. Given the

279   efficient mixing by the turbulent eddies, it is not possible to identify whether ice has

280   nucleated at cloud base or cloud top from the ice number concentrations alone. Fig. 7 also

281   shows the time-height cross sections of horizontally-averaged water vapor mixing ratio and

282   relative humidity with respect to ice. These figures show that the continuous drying and

283   cooling of the mixed layer results in continuous sublimation in the subcloud layer.

284   LWP and IWP remain steady until hour 16 of the simulation, and decrease slowly thereafter

285   (solid lines in Fig. 8a). LWP and IWP magnitudes are within the observational estimates for

286   this case. In addition, the cloud system is sustained over a multi-day period similar to

287   measurements taken during ISDAC. Continuous cloud-top cooling causes the minimum

288   horizontally-averaged temperature (near cloud top) to decrease from -17.5°C to -20°C from

289   hour 10 to hour 40 (Fig. 8b).

290   Over the 40-hour integration, the mixed layer remains decoupled from the surface (Fig. 8c).

291   However, this does not prevent the number concentration of ice crystals (N_{ICE}) in the cloud

292   layer from remaining relatively steady, decreasing from vertically integrated values of 372 to

293   365 m L^{-1} (Fig. 8d, or in terms of vertically averaged cloud layer values, 1.2 L^{-1} to 1.1 L^{-1}).

294   By contrast, while N_{ICE} is maintained in the cloud layer, N_{IN} in the subcloud layer decreases

295   significantly from 2 L^{-1} to 0.2 L^{-1} over the same period. Therefore, even though more N_{ICE}

296   are lost from the cloud than are activated (Fig. 9a), the relatively constant flux of IN into the

15

297　　cloud layer (Fig. 9b) allows N_{ICE} in the cloud to decrease at a slower rate than N_{IN} in the

298　　subcloud layer. The continuous loss of N_{IN} in the subcloud layer is due to the IN flux into the

299　　cloud layer exceeding the N_{IN} gained through sublimation and turbulent advection at mixed-

300　　layer base (Fig. 9b). This loss is not mitigated by entrainment at mixed-layer top, which is

301　　found to be negligible (Fig. 9c), consistent with Fridlind et al. (2011).

302　　The feedback loops discussed above are illustrated by the conceptual diagram in Fig. 10,

303　　where any change to one link in the cycle leads to an increase or decrease in ice production.

304　　For example, a decrease in the turbulent advection of N_{IN} into the cloud layer, slows the

305　　activation of IN, reduces the precipitation flux into the subcloud layer, reducing sublimation

306　　and availability of IN below cloud base. Both dynamics and thermodynamics play a role in

307　　the buffering aspect of these feedback loops since, for example, the slowing of IN activation

308　　in the example above would lead to increased cloud liquid production, cloud-top radiative

309　　cooling, and enhanced turbulent mixing, which would lead to increased transport of IN into

310　　the cloud layer and therefore increased activation of IN.

311　　*4.2 Impact of turning off recycling*

312　　When IN recycling is turned off, all IN that activate are lost from the system. This results in a

313　　more rapid loss of IN, a decrease in IWP, and a rapid increase in LWP (Fig. 8a,d, dashed

314　　lines), in contrast to the measurements that show a steady liquid layer and consistent ice

315　　production. Increased cloud liquid water when recycling is turned off results in increased

316　　radiative cooling at cloud top, which causes the cloud-driven mixed layer to cool more

317　　rapidly (Fig. 8b). These results demonstrate the importance of IN recycling in regulating

318   phase partitioning. The rapid increase in LWP increases cloud-generated turbulence via

319   enhanced radiative cooling and increases the turbulent mixing of IN from the subcloud layer

320   into the cloud layer, contributing to a more rapid depletion of IN relative to the Control

321   integration. This process eventually becomes limited due to depletion of IN in the reservoir

322   below (Fig. 9b). Due to the additional activation of IN as the cloud layer cools, ice

323   production is maintained in the absence of recycling and the activation of IN in the cloud

324   layer exceeds the upward IN flux at cloud base (Fig. 9a,b). However, the diminishing N_{IN} in

325   the subcloud layer limits IN activation and N_{ICE} rapidly decreases in the cloud layer (Fig. 8d).

326   *4.3 Impact of diurnal cycle*

327   A diurnal cycle is added to the Control simulation in order to investigate how the feedback

328   loops identified in the Control and NoRecycle runs are modified with realistic transient

329   heating and cooling tendencies due to variations in incoming shortwave radiation. A question

330   that is addressed in this diurnal simulation is, to what extent is the continuous production of

331   ice in the Control simulation due to the lack of incoming shortwave radiation, which may

332   overestimate the cooling tendencies in the cloud layer, resulting in an overestimate of IN

333   activation? In addition, we investigate whether allowing for a realistic diurnal cycle provides

334   for additional negative or "buffering" feedbacks.

335   Adding a diurnal cycle to the Control simulation produces a diurnal peak in downwelling

336   surface shortwave radiation of 510 W m^{-2} and 6 hours of total darkness per day (Fig. 11b).

337   As shortwave radiation increases, the net radiative cooling near cloud top diminishes, which

338   decreases cloud-generated turbulence, decreasing LWP and cloud-layer thickness. In addition,

339　it is seen that the peak daily LWP coincides with zero shortwave radiation when in-cloud

340　turbulence and cloud thickness are largest (Fig. 11a). These values are on the low end but

341　within the measurements for this ISDAC case.

342　Fig. 11a,b shows that LWP and IWP variability is predominantly driven by the diurnal cycle.

343　However, IWP variability is seen to lag LWP by 3-4 hours because as shortwave radiation

344　decreases the cloud layer cools, which increases activation of IN, increasing N_{ICE}, allowing

345　more ice crystals to grow, which increases IWP (Fig. 11a,b). Similar to the Control

346　simulation subcloud N_{IN} decreases at a faster rate than cloud layer N_{ICE}, but allowing for the

347　warming and cooling tendencies in the diurnal cycle results in cloud layer N_{ICE} that decreases

348　40% more slowly than in the Control simulation (Fig. 11c).

349　Precipitation and turbulent mixing of N_{ICE} (hereafter turbulent mixing is referred to as

350　"T_{ICE}") at cloud base are out of phase by 10 hours (Fig. 11d), with turbulence leading

351　precipitation. When shortwave radiation is weak or absent, the increase in N_{ICE} eventually

352　becomes limited by a decreasing turbulent mixing of IN ("T_{IN}") into the cloud layer from

353　below, as recycling slows due to a decrease in N_{ICE} flux from the cloud layer (Fig. 11d,f).

354　When shortwave radiation is strong, reduction in IWP is limited by weaker precipitation

355　losses, and attendant weaker sublimation and IN flux into the cloud layer (Fig. 11d,f).

356　Entrainment of N_{IN} at the mixed-layer top is insignificant throughout the integration (Fig.

357　11e).

358　**5 Analysis from a mixed-layer perspective**

359   The results discussed in Section 4 can be understood from balances in a well-mixed layer

360   with sources/sinks at the upper and lower boundaries. Total particle concentration

361   ($N_{IN}+N_{ICE}$) is only changed by fluxes at the mixed-layer boundaries when recycling is

362   allowed. These fluxes are entrainment of N_{IN} at mixed-layer top and turbulent mixing of both

363   N_{ICE} and N_{IN} (T_{ICE} and T_{IN}) and precipitation of N_{ICE} (P) at mixed-layer base. Since there

364   are no sources and sinks of $N_{IN}+N_{ICE}$ within the mixed layer, the horizontally-averaged

365    $N_{IN}+N_{ICE}$ flux ($f(z)$) must vary linearly from mixed-layer base to mixed-layer top (Lilly,

366   1968; Bretherton and Wyant, 1997). If it is assumed that f at the mixed-layer base is

367   downward (assumed negative in this formulation) and f at the mixed-layer top is negligible

368   (robust assumptions for a scenario where ice is precipitating from the mixed layer and

369   entrainment is weak), then

$$f(z) =\ R * \frac{H - z}{H - B}\ , \qquad B \leq z \leq H \tag{5}$$

370   where H is the mixed-layer height, B is the mixed-layer base and R is the total $N_{IN}+N_{ICE}$ flux

371   at the mixed-layer base,

$$R =\ f|_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}}\ =\ [P + T_{ICE} + T_{IN}]_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}}\ , \tag{6}$$

372   and

$$[T_{ICE} + T_{IN}]_{\text{Cloud Base}} \approx\ [f - P]_{\text{Cloud Base}}. \tag{7}$$

373   Since $f < 0$, the turbulent flux of N_{IN} into the cloud layer plus the turbulent flux of N_{ICE} into

374   the subcloud layer is always less than precipitation of N_{ICE} at cloud base. In addition, in a

19

375   slowly evolving state where $T_{IN}|_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}} > 0$, total IN flux due to sublimation in the

376   mixed layer, S, can be written as

$$S \approx [P + T_{ICE}]_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}} - [P + T_{ICE}]_{\text{Cloud Base}} \qquad (8a)$$

377    $$\approx [f - T_{IN}]_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}} - [f - T_{IN}]_{\text{Cloud Base}} \qquad (8b)$$

378   and since $f|_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}}$ is downward and $f|_{\text{Mixed-Layer Top}}$ is negligible (eq. 5),

$$S < T_{IN}|_{\text{Cloud Base}} - T_{IN}|_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}} \qquad (8c)$$

$$< T_{IN}|_{\text{Cloud Base}} \, . \qquad (8d)$$

379   Thus in a well-mixed layer with an upward $T_{IN}|_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}}$, sublimation is always less than

380   the flux of N_{IN} into the cloud layer.

381   Based on results from Control, precipitation of N_{ICE} at cloud base is sufficient to balance the

382   upward turbulent flux of N_{IN} (i.e., $|T_{IN}| \gg |T_{ICE}|$ at cloud base). Therefore, in a well-mixed

383   layer with precipitation of N_{ICE} at the mixed-layer base that is larger in magnitude than an

384   upward turbulent N_{IN} flux at the mixed-layer base, and assuming negligible entrainment at

385   the mixed-layer top

$$|P|_{\text{Cloud Base}} > T_{IN}|_{\text{Cloud Base}} > S. \qquad (9)$$

386   However, if all N_{ICE} sublimate in the mixed layer and the upward turbulent flux of N_{IN}

387   dominates at the mixed-layer base then $f > 0$ and

$$T_{IN}|_{\text{Cloud Base}} > |P|_{\text{Cloud Base}} = S, \hspace{3cm} (10)$$

388   the mixed layer gains $N_{IN} + N_{ICE}$ over time, resulting in a continuously increasing ice

389   production in the cloud layer. In the presence of shortwave radiation (i.e., in the SW

390   simulation), $T_{IN}|_{\text{Cloud Base}}$ is also greater than $|P|_{\text{Cloud Base}}$ after a period of weakened

391   turbulence and weaker precipitation at the mixed-layer base, due to increased activation of

392   N_{IN} due to decreasing shortwave radiation.

393   If IN entrainment at the mixed-layer top is not negligible then $f(z)$ must be modified to

394   include fluxes at the mixed-layer top and $|f|_{\text{Cloud Base}}$ will increase. If $|f|_{\text{Cloud Base}}$ increases

395   such that $f_{\text{Cloud Base}} < P_{\text{Mixed-Layer Base}}$, then sublimation will exceed $T_{IN}|_{\text{Cloud Base}}$.

396   This mixed-layer analysis provides a framework to understand the results presented in

397   Section 4. Specifically, sublimation being less than the turbulent flux of IN is seen to be a

398   property of a well-mixed layer where the total flux at mixed-layer base is downward and the

399   total flux at the mixed-layer top is negligible. In the case where the mixed layer is saturated

400   with respect to ice, sublimation is equal to zero and the turbulent flux of IN at the mixed-

401   layer base is less that the turbulent flux of IN at the cloud base, reducing the flux of IN into

402   the cloud layer. The relationships outlined in this section are appropriate for any AMPS with

403   weak entrainment at cloud top, weak large-scale advective fluxes, and net downward fluxes

404   at the mixed-layer base.

405   **6 Analysis of Buffered Feedbacks in SW**

406   Phase diagrams highlight the processes involved in ice production when a diurnal cycle is

407   allowed (following the arrows from green to blue to black to red in Fig. 12a,b). When

408   incoming shortwave radiation is a maximum, recycling (sublimation) is seen to be at a

409   minimum. This is counterintuitive since subcloud relative humidity is low at this time, which

410   would be expected to produce increased sublimation. However, due to weak turbulent mixing

411   between the cloud and subcloud layers the net N_{ICE} flux into the subcloud layer is weak,

412   resulting in weak sublimation and recycling. This situation is reversed as shortwave radiation

413   decreases, since increased cloud-top cooling increases cloud-driven turbulent mixing, which

414   allows recycling to increase in the regions of reduced subcloud relative humidity. As is seen

415   in the conceptual diagram (Fig. 10), this then leads to an increased N_{ICE} flux into the

416   subcloud layer (green arrows, Fig. 12). However, N_{ICE} in the cloud layer doesn't begin to

417   increase until activation in the cloud layer exceeds the flux of N_{ICE} into the subcloud layer

418   (green arrows). This cycle is further amplified as shortwave radiation decreases, namely,

419   decreased shortwave radiation increases cloud-driven turbulence, increasing the flux of IN

420   into the cloud layer, increasing the activation of IN, which increases N_{ICE} in the cloud layer

421   and the N_{ICE} flux from the cloud layer into the subcloud layer (blue arrows).

422   When incoming shortwave radiation is a minimum, more N_{IN} are activated because the cloud

423   layer cools. However, again we see that N_{ICE} tendencies due to thermodynamics are buffered

424   by the slowing of turbulence-driven feedbacks due to a thickening of the cloud layer. Thus, a

425   net increase in N_{ICE} in the cloud layer, commensurate with an increased IWP and

426   precipitation (black arrows), is buffered by a decrease in the downward turbulent mixing of

427   N_{ICE}, which reduces recycling, slowing the feedback loop (see Fig. 10). During the morning

428   hours, as the cloud layer warms and thins and ice activation becomes less efficient,

22

429   turbulence continues to decline, slowing the recycling feedback process to the point where

430   limited IN fluxes to the cloud layer inhibit ice production and N_{ICE} declines (red arrows).

431   **7 Summary**

432   We have demonstrated that sustained recycling of IN through a drying subcloud layer and

433   additional activation of N_{IN} due to a cooling cloud layer are sufficient to maintain ice

434   production, and regulate liquid production over multiple days in a decoupled AMPS.

435   This study provides an idealized framework to understand feedbacks between dynamics and

436   microphysics that maintain phase-partitioning in AMPS. In addition, we have shown that

437   modulation of the cooling of the cloud layer and the humidity of the subcloud layer by the

438   diurnal cycle buffers the mixed-layer system from a loss of particles and promotes the

439   persistence of a mixed-phase cloud system. The results of this study provide insight into the

440   mechanisms and feedbacks that may maintain cloud ice in AMPS even when entrainment of

441   IN at the mixed-layer boundaries is weak. While the balance of these processes changes

442   depending upon the specific conditions of the cloud layer, for example whether the cloud

443   layer is coupled to the surface layer, the mechanisms detailed in this paper will manifest to

444   some degree and therefore the current study provides a framework for understanding the role

445   of recycling in maintaining phase-partitioning in AMPS.

Author Contributions:

A.S., G.F., and M.D.S. conceived and designed the experiments; A.S. performed the simulations; A.S., G.F., and M.D.S. analyzed the model results and co-wrote the paper.

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Figure Captions

662 **Figure 1:** Sounding measured at 17:34 UTC 8 April 2008 at Barrow, Alaska (71.338N,

663 156.68W). Left) Water vapor mixing ratio (q_v), temperature (T), and potential temperature

664 (Theta), in units of g kg^{-1}, degrees Kelvin, and degrees Kelvin respectively. Right) Zonal

665 wind (U) and meridional wind (V), in units of m s^{-1}. Gray shading marks the extent of the

666 cloud layer. The dashed lines show the initial profiles used in the WRFLES experiments. The

667 dashed line overlaying water vapor mixing ratio is the initial profile for the total water

668 mixing ratio.

669 **Figure 2:** IN number concentration active at water saturation vs. temperature based on the

670 empirical relationship derived in DeMott et al. (2010) (blue line) used to initialize IN number

671 concentration in each bin. Black vertical lines indicate threshold temperatures for nucleation

672 in the 16 IN bins. Note additional IN become available for nucleation at colder temperatures,

673 such that, for example, at -20.2°C (the coldest temperature in the Control simulation) the total

674 number of IN available for activation is ~1.5 L^{-1}.

675 **Figure 3:** Sensitivity of ice water path to the parameter F in equation (2). Note the similar ice

676 water paths for F=4 and F=6 (total N_{IN} initial values 5.8 and 8.7 L^{-1}, respectively).

677 **Figure 4:** A,B,D) Sensitivity of LWP and IWP to snow density and fall speeds. LWP shown

678 with solid lines and IWP shown with dashed lines, in units of g m^{-2}. C) Fall speeds used in

679 sensitivity studies, in units of m s^{-1}. A) Sensitivity to reducing snow density from 100 kg m^{-3}

680 to 50 kg m^{-3} (red lines) using Control (CNT) fall speeds (red line in C). B) Sensitivity to

681 reducing snow fall speeds (green line in C) using Control snow density (red lines). D)

682 Sensitivity to increasing snow fall speeds (blue line in C) using Control snow density (red

683   lines).

684   **Figure 5:** Simulated ice particle number size distributions using in-cloud mass and number

685   concentrations. Ice water mixing ratio = 3e-4 g/kg, ice number concentration = 0.4/L, snow

686   water mixing ratio = 2.4e-2 g/kg, snow number concentration = 0.45/L.

687   **Figure 6:** (A) N_{IN} and (B) N_{ICE} averaged over 0.5 hours at hour 20, in units of L^{-1} hr^{-1}. Grey

688   shading indicates the extent of the cloud layer. Green dash lines indicate the top and bottom

689   of the mixed layer.

690   **Figure 7:** Time-height cross sections of horizontally-averaged (A) IN advection plus

691   subsidence, in units of $L^{-1}hour^{-1}$, (B) ice plus snow number concentration, in units of L^{-1}, (C)

692   water vapor mixing ratio, in units of $g\ kg^{-1}$, and (D) relative humidity with respect to ice, in

693   units of percent, from CNT simulation. Temperature, in units of °C, shown with black

694   contour lines in (B,C,D).

695   **Figure 8:** Control and NoRecycle time series for hours 6-40 (smoothed with 90 minute

696   running average). NoRecycle shown with red and black dashed lines. A) LWP (black) and

697   IWP (red), in units of $g\ m^{-2}$. B) Minimum horizontally-averaged temperature in the column,

698   in units of °C. C) Mixed-layer depth (blue), top height (red), and base height (black), in units

699   of km. D) N_{ICE} integrated over cloud layer (referred to as CL, red) and N_{IN} integrated over

700   subcloud layer (referred to as SubCL, black), in units of $m\ L^{-1}$(i.e., meters/liter).

701   **Figure 9:** Horizontally-averaged fluxes from Control and NoRecycle integrations for hours

702   6-40 (smoothed with 90 minute running average). NoRecycle shown with red and black

703   dashed lines. A) N_{ICE} flux at cloud base due to turbulence+subsidence+precipitation (red),

704   mixed-layer base due to turbulence+subsidence+precipitation (black), and due to activation

705   (multiplied by -1, blue), in units of m L^{-1} hr^{-1}. B) N_{IN} flux at cloud base (indicated by CB in

706   legend) due to turbulence (red), N_{IN} flux due to sublimation (black), and precipitation of N_{ICE}

707   at cloud base (multiplied by -1, blue), in units of m L^{-1} hr^{-1}. C) N_{IN} entrainment at mixed-

708   layer top (red) and base (black), in units of m L^{-1} hr^{-1}.

709

710   **Figure 10:** Schematic of feedback loops that maintain ice production and the phase-

711   partitioning between cloud liquid and ice in an AMPS. Red colors denote N_{IN}. Blue colors

712   denote N_{ICE}. The size of the arrow indicates the relative magnitude of the flux. Vertical

713   profiles of N_{ICE}, N_{IN}, relative humidity, and temperature shown with thin blue, red, green, and

714   yellow lines, respectively.

715   **Figure 11:** A) LWP (black) and IWP (red), in units of g m^{-2}. (B) Downward surface

716   shortwave radiation and turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) at cloud base, in units of Wm^{-2} and

717   m^2s^{-2}, respectively. C) N_{ICE} in cloud layer (referred to as CL, red) and N_{IN} in subcloud layer

718   (referred to as SubCL, black), in units of m L^{-1}. (D) Total, turbulent, precipitation N_{ICE} flux at

719   cloud base (referred to as CL base, red, green, blue, respectively) and total N_{ICE} flux at

720   mixed-layer base (referred to as ML base, black), in units of m L^{-1} hr^{-1}, for the SW

721   integration for hours 16-76. Grey shading indicates hours with zero downwelling surface

722   shortwave radiation. E) N_{IN} entrainment at mixed-layer top (red) and base (black), in units of

723   m L^{-1} hr^{-1}. (F) N_{IN} flux at cloud base due to turbulence (red), N_{IN} flux due to sublimation

724   (black), and activation of N_{ICE} (blue), in units of m L^{-1} hr^{-1}.

725 **Figure 12:** A) Phase diagram of TKE at cloud base vs. N_{ICE} in the cloud layer starting at

726 peak shortwave hour 40, in units of m L^{-1} and m L^{-1} hr^{-1}, respectively. Colors show

727 sublimation in units of m L^{-1} hr^{-1}. H) 24-hour phase diagrams of sublimation vs. minimum

728 relative humidity in the subcloud layer starting at peak shortwave hour 40, in units of m L^{-1}

729 hr^{-1} and %, respectively. Colors show total N_{ICE} flux at cloud base, m L^{-1} hr^{-1}. Hours 42-47,

730 47-50, 50-56, and 57-62 indicated with green, blue, black, red arrows, respectively.

731 Minimum shortwave indicated with the moon symbol. Maximum shortwave indicated with

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740

IN Concentration Active at Water Saturation

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Ice Water Paths
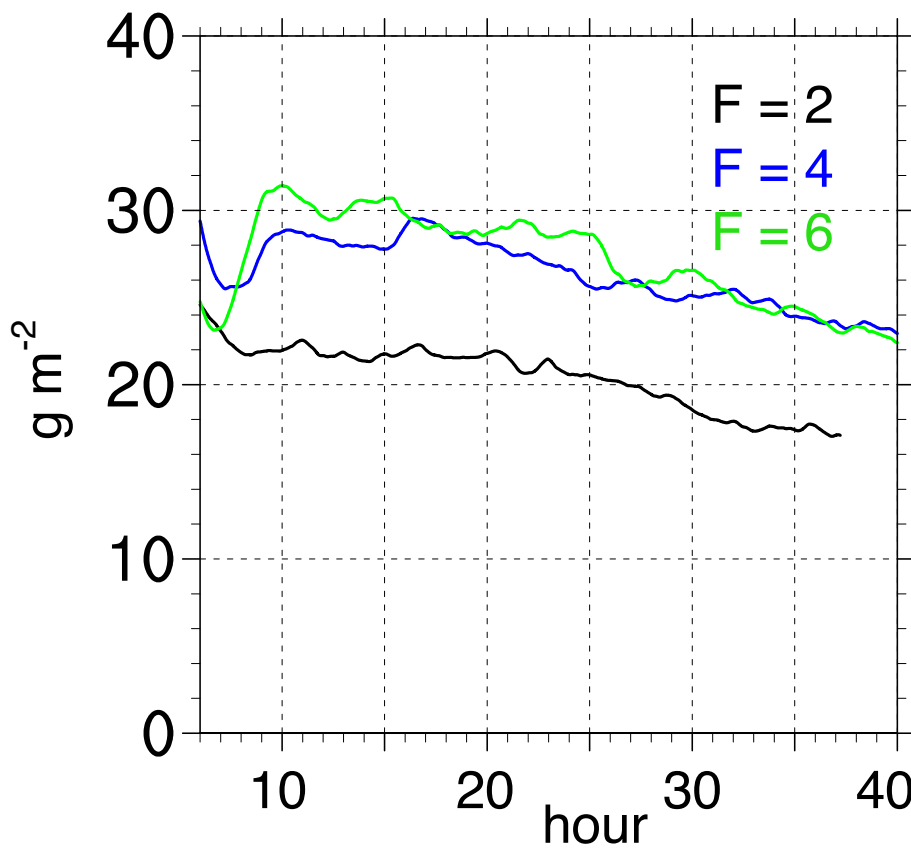
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41

752

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760

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764

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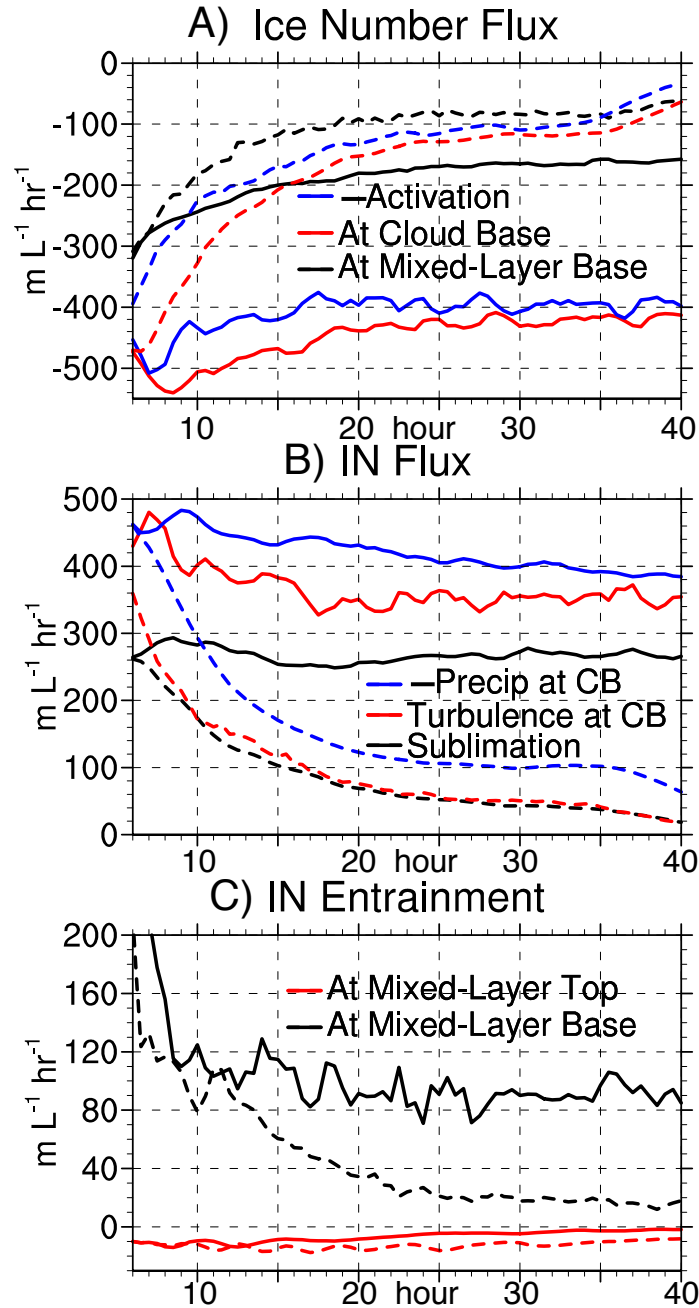
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Water Paths

Temp Minimum

Mixed Layer

Number in Layer

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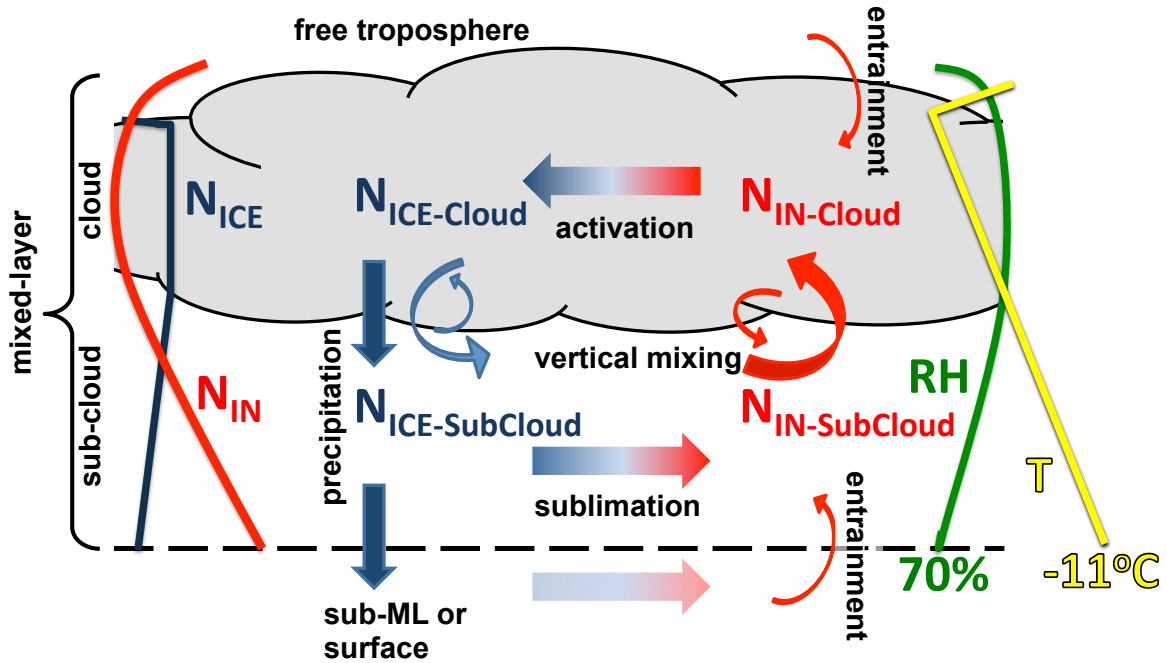
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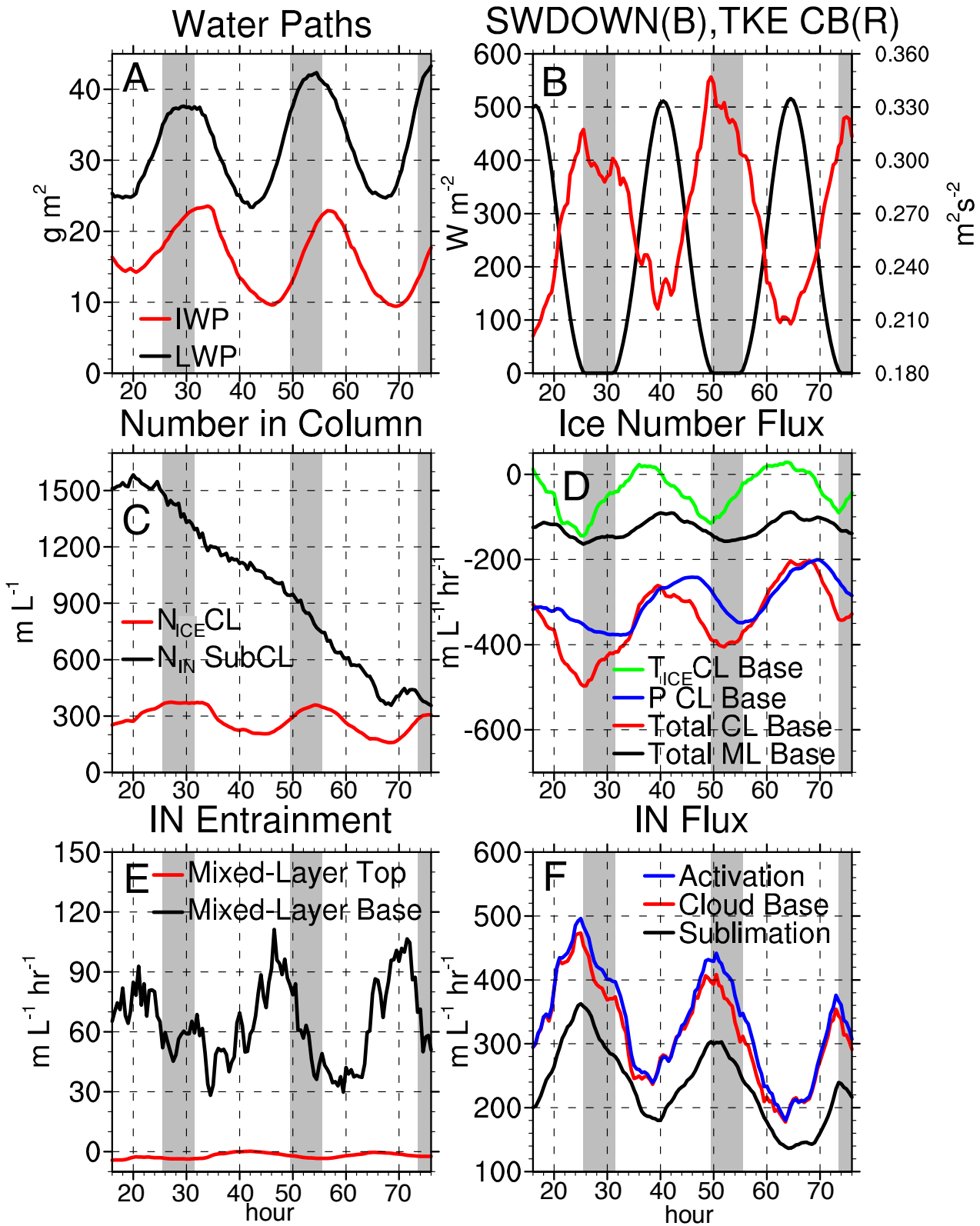
Figure 11: SW time series (see Figure captions).
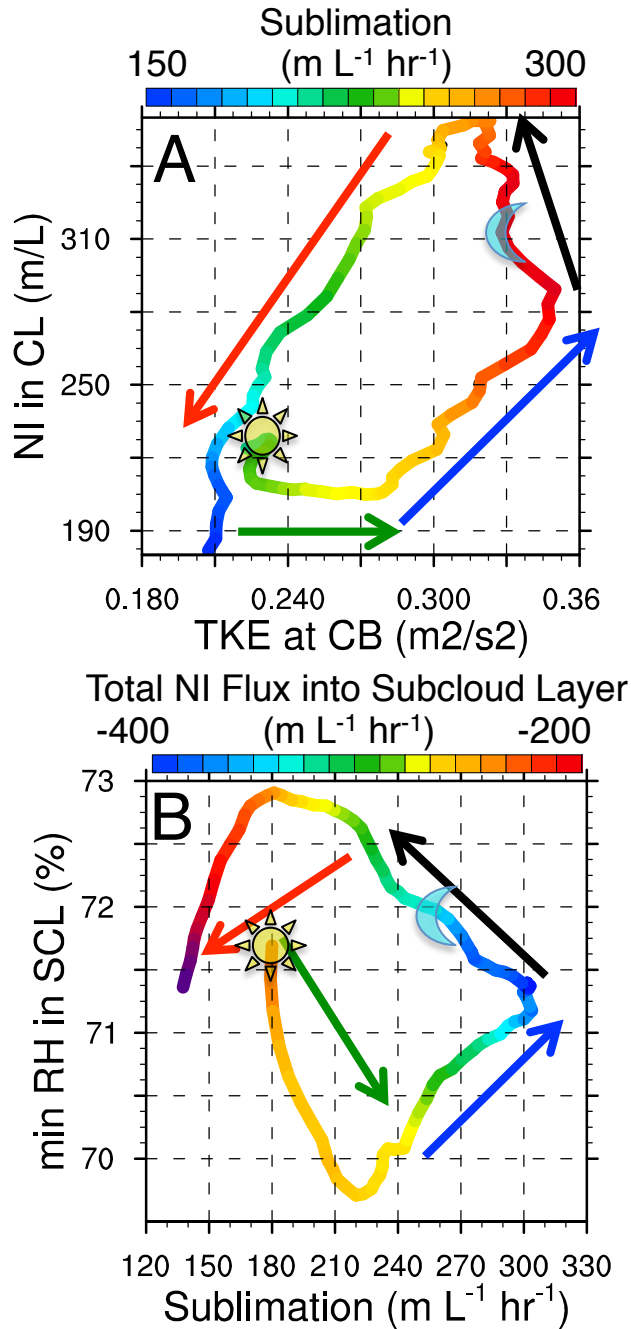
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