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4 **The roles of island size and orography on tropical convection and aerosol transport**

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12 **Abstract**

13 This study investigates the impact of island diameter size and orographic height on precipitation,
14 convective organization and aerosol transport on and around tropical islands. Twenty-four model
15 simulations are set up and run, in which the island diameter (50 km, 100 km, and 200 km) and
16 peak orographic height (flat, 500 m, 1 km, and 2 km) are independently and simultaneously
17 varied under weak and strong zonal wind regimes. In these simulations, unlike many of the
18 previous island flow investigations, the full three-dimensional flow over and around islands is
19 resolved. Analysis of these numerical experiments demonstrates that island orographic height is
20 a stronger control than island size on precipitation, convective organization, and aerosol
21 redistribution. The wind regime is found to modulate these results. Under the strong zonal wind
22 regime, increasing orographic height induces changes to the flow around the island, leading to
23 lee-vortex formation, reverse flow, and the earlier development of deep convection than in the
24 flat simulation. In the weaker zonal wind experiment, increasing orographic height enhances the
25 role of radiational heating, leading to enhanced upslope flow and stronger convergence, which
26 produces earlier deep convection than in the flat simulation. The timing and location of the sea
27 breeze/mountain breeze convergence determines the location of the initial vertical aerosol
28 mixing with cloud formation and entrainment, whereas the timing of deep convection formation
29 dictates how quickly the aerosols are mixed out of the boundary layer. Finally, it is demonstrated
30 that cold pools play an important role in the propagation of convection towards the shore in the
31 simulations with orography.

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33 **1.0 Introduction**

34 Coastal regions are attractive places to live for numerous reasons including health and
35 recreational benefits. Sea ports and harbors also play an important role in the global economy



36 and transportation industry. Approximately 10% of the global population lives in low-elevation
37 coastal zones (McGranahan et al., 2007), and it is projected that the population density within
38 these regions will continue to grow throughout the next century (Neumann et al., 2015). Any
39 changes to the meteorology, air quality and visibility of these regions will therefore affect a
40 substantial portion of the population and its livelihood.

41 The considerable uncertainty surrounding aerosol effects on clouds and climate (Boucher
42 et al., 2013; Tao et al., 2012) extends to aerosol transport within coastal and island regions.
43 Furthermore, the meteorology and associated air quality and visibility within coastal regions are
44 frequently governed by local-scale thermally-induced circulations, such as land and sea breezes
45 and mountain-slope flows for land masses with near-coastal topography. In spite of their
46 importance to human health and safety, these coastal circulations are often poorly represented in
47 models, from climate models to regional and weather prediction models (Birch et al., 2015),
48 which makes the accurate prediction of these features challenging. Furthermore, mountainous
49 islands can exert a significant impact on the large-scale dynamics through drag (McFarlane,
50 1987), and yet are often too small to be resolved in global models (Glover, 1999; Neal and
51 Slingo, 2003). Efforts are currently underway to parameterize these effects (Choi and Hong,
52 2015). To effectively parameterize these processes, we need to enhance our understanding of the
53 roles played by mesoscale coastal circulations, such as land and sea breezes, on the distribution
54 of coastal aerosols, as well as the impacts of local environmental conditions including
55 precipitation and convective processes, on this aerosol transport.

56 The land and sea breeze circulation is driven by differential heating over land and ocean
57 that results in a baroclinic circulation (Pielke, 1974; Mahrer et al., 1977; Baker et al., 2001). This
58 circulation is induced when the differential heating of the ocean and adjacent land causes a tilt in
59 the isobaric and isopycnal surfaces over the land-sea interface. The intersection of the tilted



60 pressure and density surface induces the circulation from ocean to land during the day (Holton,
61 2012). At night, the circulation is reversed because the land surfaces cool more rapidly than the
62 ocean. Anabatic and katabatic winds are mountain-plains circulations that also occur due to the
63 differential heating and cooling of mountain slopes and the surrounding plains, leading to
64 upslope flow during the day and downslope flow at night. On mountainous islands, the sea
65 breeze and the mountain breeze can interact with each other, thereby impacting convergence and
66 associated convection (Wang et al., 2017). Wang and Kirschbaum (2017) investigated the
67 influence that mountain height has on the sea breeze and mountain-plains solenoid circulation
68 using a suite of numerical simulations. They found that with quiescent initial conditions,
69 increasing orographic height eventually decreases the strength of the sea breeze front. The
70 daytime upslope flow from the mountain warming draws the pre-sea-breeze frontal air upslope,
71 thereby weakening the convergence that would typically occur at the sea breeze front, as the
72 mass ahead of the front is moving away from, rather than towards, the front.

73 Convection and precipitation on and around islands have also been investigated as a
74 function of island size and background winds using the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission
75 (TRMM), idealized modeling, and a satellite simulator (Robinson et al., 2011). Robinson et al
76 (2011) defined convective vigor as stronger precipitation rates and higher cloud top heights.
77 They found from their study that convective vigor systematically increased with increasing
78 island size in several different convective environments in which the relative humidity and wind
79 shear were altered. The presence of a strong background wind has also been found to increase
80 precipitation amounts on the windward side of islands, and increasing the orographic height of
81 the island was associated with an increase in windward precipitation amounts (Wang and Sobel,
82 2017). In the tropical Atlantic, the trade winds encountering mountainous islands have also been
83 found to mechanically force convection as air travels up and over the mountains, subsequently



84 increasing the windward precipitation, (Nugent et al., 2013). Also, the formation of vortex pairs
85 in the lee of islands can contribute to the initiation of convection (Smolarkiewicz et al., 1989).

86 While our understanding of the impacts of island flow regimes on convection and
87 precipitation has been significantly enhanced by these previous idealized modeling studies, a
88 number of them have been based on simulations using simplified representations of island
89 morphology and characteristics. “Gaussian strip” islands have been implemented in which the
90 zonal mountain profile is prescribed with a Gaussian curve (unvarying in the meridional
91 direction), and the horizontal area of the island is represented by a rectangle that extends the
92 entire length of the meridional dimension of the model domain. While this type of idealized
93 configuration has often been used to great effect (Robinson and Sherwood, 2011; Nugent and
94 Minder, 2013; Wang and Kirchbaum, 2017; Wang and Sobel, 2017), it may have unintended
95 shortfalls when considering the three-dimensional wind flow and associated mass transport
96 *around* islands in that “strip” islands do not allow for flow to divert around the obstacle. The
97 absence of the around island flow may also have implications for flow that is blocked, either
98 partially or fully, by topography, and hence on convective initiation and precipitation
99 accumulation. The land surface assumptions of these “strip” islands is also quite often simplified.
100 For example, Robinson et al (2011) made use of water as their lower boundary condition, and
101 land was mimicked by disabling the latent heat fluxes and increasing the radiative fluxes in the
102 region of the strip. Aspects such as differential surface roughness lengths, latent heat fluxes and
103 surface friction are also quite often excluded (Robinson and Sherwood, 2011). The research
104 presented in this paper will build on and extend these prior studies through the use of simulations
105 that include three-dimensional, circular, mountainous islands and a fully interactive surface
106 scheme.



107 To address the difficulties in forecasting and observing three-dimensional aerosol
108 distribution and visibility in the littoral zones, a holistic approach involving a large team of
109 scientists utilizing process-based modeling, satellite observations and data assimilation has been
110 undertaken in the Office of Naval Research (ONR)-supported Holistic Analysis of Aerosols in
111 Littoral Environments (HAALE) Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI). Such
112 a holistic approach is necessary in order to draw on the complementary strengths of each
113 methodology. For example, while the characteristics and transport of aerosols are often detected
114 and successfully analyzed through the use of remote sensing platforms, such approaches are
115 complicated within coastal regions by the high spatio-temporal heterogeneity of water turbidity,
116 tidal influences, and complex coastlines (Kanitz et al., 2014). Combining the satellite and
117 modeling platforms through the use of tools such as satellite simulators, the physical processes
118 that govern aerosol transport in such heterogeneous environments can be investigated, and this
119 new knowledge can then be applied to aspects such as retrieval algorithms and parameterization
120 development.

121 The research outlined in this paper contributes to the ONR MURI effort by addressing the
122 following question: “How do island size and orography affect convective organization,
123 precipitation and aerosol distributions within tropical maritime environments?” More
124 specifically, the goal of this study is to understand how island size and topographic height
125 influence flow over and around three-dimensional islands and the subsequent impacts on
126 convective cloud systems and aerosol transport. The suite of numerical experiments used to
127 achieve this goal are described in Section 2. A discussion of the experiment results occurs in
128 section 3 and the implications of these results and conclusions are presented in section 4.

129 **2.0 Model Setup and Experimental Design**



130 Twenty-four simulations are performed using the open source Regional Atmospheric
131 Modeling System (RAMS: Pielke et al., 1992; Saleeby and van den Heever, 2013), version
132 6.2.05 in an idealized setting. RAMS includes sophisticated microphysical (Saleeby et al., 2004;
133 Saleeby et al., 2008), land surface (Walko et al., 2000b) and tracer parameterizations, all of
134 which are necessary to conduct the proposed research. The microphysical parameterization is a
135 two-moment, bin-emulating scheme (Saleeby and Cotton 2004) and tracks microphysical and
136 aerosol process information at all timesteps throughout the domain (Saleeby and van den Heever
137 2013). The RAMS model allows the user to methodically specify and vary the inputs. For
138 example, the user can build a model domain surface that consists of a circular and mountainous
139 island that is surrounded by ocean, where the ocean surface and island surface have specific
140 roughness lengths and emissivities. This means that for simulations utilizing identical
141 atmospheric conditions over the land and ocean that the respective surface fluxes and friction-
142 induced convergence will differ. Table 1 summarizes the model simulation configurations and
143 parameterizations used for this investigation.

144 To test the effects of island size on the flow around three-dimensional islands, we start
145 with circular islands with three different diameters: 50km, 100km, and 200km. The experimental
146 setup is shown in Table 2. The horizontal model domain size is varied with island size in order to
147 ensure that the land to ocean ratios are similar, and hence that each island has similar amounts of
148 water vapor available for convective processes. Domain sizes of 100km x 100km, 200km x
149 200km and 400km x 400km are used for the 50 km, 100 km and 200km diameter islands,
150 respectively. The lateral boundary conditions are cyclic. The number of vertical levels is constant
151 for all simulations, with 200 levels at 100 m grid spacing. The model top reaches 20 km AGL.
152 All of the simulations utilize a horizontal grid spacing of 1-km. The horizontal and vertical grid
153 spacing mimic the grid set up from Robinson et. al (2011), thereby facilitating comparisons.



154 Sensitivity tests with orography use the “Witch of Agnesi” mountain and four peak orographic
155 heights are tested: flat, 500 meters, 1 kilometer, and 2 kilometers (Figure 1a; Table 2). Mountain
156 half-widths vary with island size, but not with peak orographic height and are 12 km for the 50-
157 km diameter islands, 25 km for the 100 km islands, and 50 km for the 200 km islands. Therefore,
158 for a given island diameter, the orographic slopes increase with increasing orographic height.
159 Figure 1a demonstrates the topography and domain setup for the 100-km diameter, 1-km
160 orography simulation. Each simulation is run for one full diurnal cycle and does not include the
161 Coriolis effect.

162 This suite of 12 simulations testing island size and orographic height (Table 2) is
163 initialized with two different soundings. These two soundings are representative of typical
164 tropical maritime convective regimes and are utilized in order to further understand the role that
165 background winds play in convective organization and tracer redistribution (Figure 1b). They are
166 taken from the group of six soundings used by Robinson et al (2011), which were formulated
167 from 405 NCEP reanalysis soundings taken from January 1998 through December 2007 in order
168 to correspond to the TRMM data they analyzed. To test the effects that different wind regimes
169 have on island flows and aerosol redistribution, soundings with a strong zonal wind (STRONG-
170 EXP) and a weak zonal wind (WEAK-EXP) are selected for model initialization. All of the
171 simulations are initialized horizontally homogeneously using the selected soundings. Evergreen
172 shrub was specified as the land surface vegetation, and the surrounding oceans have a fixed SST
173 of 293 K.

174 To gauge the aerosol redistribution that occurs as a function of island size, orography and
175 wind regime, eight different tracers are released within 4 vertical levels, one in each level over
176 land and one in each of the 4 corresponding levels over ocean. The levels are as follows: 0-500
177 m above ground level (AGL), 500-1000 m AGL, 1000-1500 AGL, and 1500-2000 AGL (Figure



178 1c). These eight distinct tracers are tracked throughout the model domain at every time step.
179 Using the tracers as proxies for aerosols, the tracer placement allows for the assessment of the
180 predominant altitudes from which aerosols are entrained into the convection and / or lofted over
181 and around the islands. The tracers are released at the beginning of the simulation with a
182 concentration of 1 kg tracer/kg air and are passive in that they are not microphysically nor
183 radiatively active, however they are advected around the domain by the three-dimensional wind
184 field and thus are most suitable for the goals of this research.

185 **3.0 Results**

186 In the following sections, flow regimes, convective intensity metrics, precipitation, and the tracer
187 redistribution are all examined in order to understand the influence that island size, island
188 orographic height, and background winds have on convective organization and tracer
189 redistribution.

190 **3.1 Flow Fields and Moisture Convergence**

191 Orography is known to substantially alter the wind flow over mountainous terrain via
192 dynamical and / or thermo-dynamical forcing (Chen et al., 1994; Houze, 2012). In order to
193 examine the influence that island orography and island size have on convective organization,
194 precipitation accumulation, and aerosol redistribution, we must first determine how changes to
195 these factors alter the flow over and around the island.

196 **3.1.1 Surface Streamlines**

197 The WEAK-EXP and STRONG-EXP surface streamlines are examined at 08:30 UTC
198 (Figure 2). This time is selected as it falls after sunrise but before deep convection initiates,
199 which substantially alters the surface winds. As our analysis below demonstrates that island
200 orography has a stronger influence than island size on the flow regime, only the results from the



201 100-km diameter island simulations are shown here. Furthermore, in the interest of brevity, just
202 the flat and 1-km simulation results are discussed. However, the trends are consistent across both
203 island size and orography. It should also be noted that the background flow in the STRONG-
204 EXP and WEAK-EXP are westerly and northwesterly, respectively (Figure 1b).

205 The STRONG-EXP flat simulation (Figure 2a) clearly shows that the zonal flow is only
206 weakly altered by the presence of the island, with some convergence of the flow on the lee side
207 of the island. Over the island, the surface roughness is greater than that over the ocean, which
208 increases the frictional drag, thus slowing the flow and producing the observed convergence.
209 Downwind of the island, the reduced frictional drag over the ocean produces divergence of the
210 flow, a drop in the low-level pressure, and a corresponding turn of the downstream flow towards
211 the lower pressure. The 1-km STRONG-EXP simulation (Figure 2b), in which the 1km
212 orography has been incorporated, has considerably different flow features at the same point in
213 time. First, a strong reversal of the flow develops in the lee of the mountain (Figure 2b, black
214 triangle). The reverse flow occurs as a result of lee-vortex formation, a phenomenon that has
215 both been previously observed (Smith et al., 1993) and modeled (Smolakareic and Rotunno,
216 1989) for Froude numbers ranging from 0.1-0.5. The streamlines do show the flow going around
217 the island, which aids in the formation of the lee vortices (Figure 2b, black 'X') that then assist in
218 driving the reverse flow (Smolakareic and Rotunno, 1989). This reverse flow then meets the
219 over-the-mountain flow at the stagnation point (Figure 2b, black diamond).

220 To compare our simulations with previous work, we calculate the dimensionless Froude
221 number (1) at the model initialization for each grid point for each simulation, where U (m s^{-1}) is
222 the u-component of the wind, N (s^{-1}) is the Brunt-Vaisala frequency (2) and h_m is the height of
223 the obstacle in meters. For the Brunt-Vaisala frequency, g is gravity (9.8 m s^{-2}), θ_0 is the lowest
224 model level potential temperature (K), and $\partial\theta/\partial z$ is calculated from the model grid.



$$225 \quad Fr = U/h_m * N \quad [1]$$

$$226 \quad N = \sqrt{\left[\frac{g}{\theta_0} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} \right]} \quad [2]$$

227 Because of the wind shear in the simulations, only the first 30 model levels (lowest 3 km) are
228 used in the calculation. To attain one value for each simulation, the Froude number values for
229 each model grid cell were averaged over both the lowest 30 model levels and the entire
230 horizontal extent of the domain(s). The Froude number for the STRONG-EXP 1-km simulation
231 is 0.04, about one order of magnitude smaller than the conditions utilized in previous modeling
232 work that exhibit critical or supercritical flows (Smolakareic and Rotunno, 1989; Wang and
233 Sobel, 2017). The STRONG-EXP simulations, while having a relatively low Froude number,
234 exhibits characteristics of critical flows, such as a wake and lee vortex formation. In the WEAK-
235 EXP flat simulation (Figure 2c), the streamlines originate from the northwest and weakly
236 converge in the lee of the island. However, the 1-km WEAK-EXP simulation conveys a different
237 flow regime (Figure 2d). The WEAK-EXP has a Froude number of 0.01, which is characteristic
238 of tranquil flow. Under such conditions diurnal heating can more easily influence local
239 circulations than with stronger, more turbulent flows evident in the STRONG-EXP 1-km
240 simulation. At 08:30 UTC, upslope flow exists symmetrically around the entire island, which is
241 characteristic of daytime mountain circulations, and hence of the role of diurnal heating.

242 Finally, after deep convection is initiated in all simulations, these early morning initial
243 flow features break down (not shown) in all of the STRONG-EXP and WEAK-EXP simulations.

244 3.3.2 Moisture Flux Divergence

245 The moisture divergence field conveys how the island-altered flow redistributes the water
246 vapor near the surface, and thus how the three basic ingredients for convection, moisture,
247 instability, and lift (Emmanuel, 1994), are altered. To obtain the near-surface three-dimensional



248 moisture flux divergence field, the lowest model level above the model ground was used (Figure
249 3). A snapshot at 08:30 UTC is examined to relate the streamlines to the moisture field shown
250 above. At 08:30 UTC in the STRONG-EXP Flat simulation (Figure 3a), the region of strongest
251 moisture convergence unsurprisingly corresponds to the regions where the streamlines are
252 diverted inwards towards the island, as described in the previous section. In the WEAK-EXP flat
253 simulation (Figure 3c), the region of moisture flux convergence circumnavigates the island
254 almost symmetrically and is reflective of the inland propagation of the sea breeze. In the WEAK-
255 EXP, where the background winds are weaker than in the STRONG-EXP, the sea breeze
256 circulation dominates the near-surface moisture flux distribution. In the STRONG-EXP 1-km
257 simulation, the predominant moisture convergence is coincident with the stagnation point (Figure
258 3b, black diamond) and subsequent vortex and wake formation (Figure 3b, 2b, black triangle).
259 These regions of moisture flux convergence indicate those regions that deep convection is more
260 likely to initiate and will also impact convective organization. Finally, in the WEAK-EXP 1-km
261 simulation, moisture flux divergence occurs within the upslope flow (Figure 3d, black circles)
262 ultimately culminating in moisture flux convergence at the top of the island. A region of
263 moisture flux convergence also develops where the upslope flow interacts with the background
264 flow on the western side of the island (Figure 3d, black star). These regions of moisture flux
265 convergence are early indicators of where clouds are most likely to develop as they are
266 associated with both low-level convergence and enhanced moisture availability.

267 In summary, in the flat island cases there are zones of enhanced moisture convergence,
268 and thus potential convective initiation, near the island edges. However, with the addition of
269 topography, the moisture flux convergence shifts towards the mountain tops in the WEAK-EXP
270 cases and to the lee in the STRONG-EXP cases. These topographically-induced shifts govern
271 where convective initiation is most likely to occur.



272 **3.2. Convective Organization and Intensity**

273 As was shown in the previous section, increasing the topography of a circular island
274 substantially alters the flow and the moisture flux convergence around the island. It follows that
275 these flow changes can affect the organization and intensity of the convection that develops. In
276 this section, metrics of convective intensity and organization are examined to understand how the
277 changes in the flow regime can alter the character of deep convection.

278 **3.2.1 Cloud top height**

279 Cloud top height is frequently used as a proxy for convective intensity (Adler et al, 1986;
280 Sherwood et al 2004) as this variable is indicative of updraft strength and hence as to how deep
281 the convection becomes. Figure 4 is a Hovmoller diagram of latitudinally averaged cloud top
282 height, with time ranging from 06:00 – 16:20 UTC on the ordinate axis, and the averaged
283 latitudinal value along the abscissa. Due to the use of the cyclic boundary conditions, the
284 convective features from the eastern boundary do begin to affect the incoming/western
285 boundaries after 1620 UTC, and the analysis is therefore terminated at that time. The STRONG-
286 EXP (Figure 4 a-d) and WEAK-EXP (Figure 4 e-h) simulations demonstrate similar trends in the
287 orographic influence on convective storm development. The flat topography simulations (Figure
288 4a and d) are characterized by shallow convection over the island early (9:00 UTC). The cloud
289 top heights increase vertically, expand horizontally and ultimately converge in the island center
290 at ~12:00 UTC. This phenomenon is more obvious in the STRONG-EXP flat simulation, but
291 also exists in the WEAK-EXP flat simulation. Including topography changes this behavior of this
292 convective organization. In the STRONG-EXP, increasing orographic height to only 500 meters
293 causes a substantial change in the character of convection (Figure 4b). Instead of convection
294 beginning within shallow clouds systems and converging towards the island center as in the flat



295 case, convection begins earlier (08:30 UTC) near the center of the island, and subsequently
296 expands towards the shore with time (Figure 4b). The speed of the shoreward expansion
297 increases with increasing orographic height (Figures 4c-d). While increasing the topographic
298 height to 1 km AGL increases the occurrence of 13 km cloud top heights, further increasing the
299 orographic height to 2 km does not have the same result (Figure 4d). The deepest convection is
300 still generally concentrated in the middle of the island, with cloud tops exceeding 13 km,
301 however, the contiguous area of cloud top heights greater than 13 km is smaller in the 2-km
302 topography simulation than in the 1-km topographic simulation, in spite of the more rapid
303 expansion towards the shore in this simulation.

304 Enhancing the orography in the WEAK-EXP simulations also changes the behavior of
305 the convection development and organization. However, the change in convective behavior in
306 the WEAK-EXP simulations does not appear to be as extensive as in the STRONG-EXP
307 simulations. In the 500-m orographic height simulation, the initial convection is shallow and
308 scattered, but it is not until 12:00 UTC that the cloud top heights become higher, although the
309 cloud coverage is more contiguous in the 500-m simulation (Figure 4f) than in the flat simulation
310 (Figure 4e). The change in the timing of convection becomes more apparent when the orographic
311 height is increased to 1 km (Figure 4g). In this simulation, the evolution of cloud top height
312 begins to more closely resemble the STRONG-EXP orographic simulations. Convection begins
313 near the island center and expands horizontally and vertically, reaching up to 11 km AGL in
314 height in most of the convective region, and expanding towards the shore from 11:00-12:00
315 UTC. The 2-km WEAK-EXP simulation looks the most like the STRONG-EXP orographic
316 simulations, with deep convective triggering at the center of the island and convective cloud tops
317 reaching over 13 km at 09:00 UTC (Figure 4h), and subsequently expanding towards the shore at
318 a rate similar to the 1-km STRONG-EXP.



319 Overall, increasing the orographic height changes the distribution and organization of
320 convection regardless of the wind regime. In the flat topography simulations, convection begins
321 as scattered, low-level cumulus clouds that grow upscale, developing progressively towards the
322 center of the island. However, with increasing orography, deep convection initiates near the
323 island center and then radially expands towards the shoreline.

324 While deep convection initiates near the island center in both the WEAK-EXP and
325 STRONG-EXP with high topography, the processes that produce this deep convective initiation
326 vary as a function of wind regime. In the STRONG-EXP simulations, the lee vortex pair
327 development and strong reverse flow associated with the increased orography (Figures 1 and 2)
328 increases surface moisture flux convergence (Figure 3) near the stagnation point on the lee side
329 of the island, which leads to the earlier development of deeper convection. However, in the
330 WEAK-EXP experiments, the thermally induced upslope flow creates moisture flux convergence
331 near the mountain top, which then initiates deep convection in the island center, followed by the
332 expansion of this cloud development towards the coast.

333 **3.2.2 Cloud water mixing ratios**

334 Another metric that is often used to examine convective organization is the cloud water
335 mixing ratio distribution as represented through contour frequency with altitude diagrams
336 (CFADs) (Yuter and Houze, 2005) (Figure 5). Cloud water mixing ratios over land are
337 considered for the period 0600-1620 UTC, which is the same period as the cloud top height
338 hovmoller plots. As with the cloud top height analysis, increasing orographic height substantially
339 alters the distributions of cloud water mixing ratio. In the STRONG-EXP flat simulation (Figure
340 5a), there is a bimodal distribution of the cloud water mixing ratio, with peaks in the boundary
341 layer and upper levels. The boundary layer peak is representative of the shallow cumulus



342 convection that develops in response to the sea-breeze driven ring of moisture flux convergence
343 near the coastline (Figure 2a). The second peak is evident at altitudes ranging from 10 km to 15
344 km. Compared to the boundary layer peak, this second peak has a wider cloud water distribution
345 at higher altitudes. This is indicative of the convection that grows upscale in the flat simulation.
346 Increasing the orographic height to 500 meters changes the cloud water distribution, both in
347 terms of the altitude of where clouds occur, as well as the mixing ratio magnitudes (Figure 5b).
348 The frequency of the shallow convective mode decreases, and the deep convective mode peaks at
349 14 km. Increasing orography to 1 km further diminishes the probability of shallow convection
350 (Figure 5c), while enhancing the likelihood of deep convection. Increasing the orographic height
351 therefore appears to increase the probability of higher clouds with greater water contents and
352 reduces the probability of shallow cumulus convection.

353 In the WEAK-EXP simulations, shallow convection gradually gives way to deeper
354 convection with increasing orographic height (Figure 5e-h). The deep convection is generally
355 shallower than the deep convection that is observed in the corresponding STRONG-EXPs, and
356 the cloud mixing ratios also tend to be less. Furthermore, in the WEAK-EXP simulations, the
357 bimodal distribution cloud water distribution requires an increase to 2 km orography before only
358 a single mode of convection is evident. The shallow clouds that occur in both the STRONG-
359 EXP and WEAK-EXP are associated with the early moisture flux convergence near the surface.
360 In the STRONG-EXP, this is comprised of the shallow clouds forming on the windward side of
361 the island in association with the more pronounced inland propagation of the sea breeze due to
362 the stronger background winds. In the WEAK-EXP, the ring of clouds forming around the entire
363 island in association with the symmetrically developing sea breeze comprises the shallow mode.

364



365 3.2.3 Cold pools

366 In this section, the mechanisms behind the change from inland expansion and vertical
367 growth of convection to the shoreward propagation of convection with increasing orographic
368 height is assessed. First, the influence of cold pools on the development and propagation of
369 convection towards the shore is examined. Snapshots representing the temporal progression of
370 the near-surface perturbation potential temperature, surface winds, and the vertically-integrated
371 condensate are shown in Figure 6. The perturbation potential temperature has been calculated by
372 taking the difference of the potential temperature from the average potential temperature over the
373 entire lowest model level at that time, including both the ocean and the land portions of the
374 domain.

375 The WEAK-EXP flat simulation at 06:00 UTC (Figure 6a), demonstrates the
376 environmental state before sunrise, where the perturbation potential temperature is
377 approximately constant across the domain, and the flow is laminar and from the north northwest
378 (Figure 6a). By 09:30 UTC in the flat simulation (Figure 6b), the surface winds are directed
379 towards the island center, which is a result of the sea breeze. At 10:30 UTC (Figure 6c), small
380 cold pools circumnavigate the island in association with the sea breeze generated boundary layer
381 cumulus clouds. These cold pools have intensified and expanded by 11:30 UTC (Figure 6d). In
382 the 1-km WEAK-EXP simulation at 06:00 UTC (Figure 6e), the background surface winds
383 interact with the downslope winds on the western side of the island. Following sunrise,
384 symmetric upslope flow develops, with the region of convergence occurring on the mountain
385 top, as the slopes warm, with the higher elevations warming more quickly (Figure 6f). A strong
386 cold pool develops on the westward side of the mountain by 10:30 UTC in association with
387 precipitating convection at mountain top. The cold pool propagates down the mountain slope,



388 causing regions of convergence and convection as it propagates shoreward (Figure 6g), a trend
389 which continues through the next hour (Figure 6h).

390 The cold pool development and surface flow patterns are different for the STRONG-EXP
391 simulations. The STRONG-EXP flat simulation at 06:00 UTC (Figure 7a), demonstrates the
392 environmental state in this regime before sunrise, where the perturbation potential temperature
393 approximately constant across the domain, and the zonal flow is laminar and from the west
394 (Figure 7a). No clouds have formed as yet at this time. However, after sunrise, clouds start to
395 develop inland, as the strong westerly flow advects the sea breeze eastward, as is evident from
396 the vertically-integrated condensate field (Figure 7b). By 10:30 UTC, cold pools being produced
397 in association with the developing convection are evident. The surface winds have become less
398 westerly due to the interactions with the convectively-generated local mesoscale circulations
399 over and to the lee of the island (Figure 7c). By 11:30 UTC, the cold pools have intensified,
400 expanded, and are exclusively on the lee side of the island (Figure 7d).

401 The cold pool development is quite different with the introduction of orography. After
402 sunrise in the STRONG-EXP 1 km simulation (9:30 UTC, Figure 7f), the region of reverse flow
403 is associated with convergence, cloud development and precipitation, which subsequently
404 produces cold pools near the top of the mountain (Figure 7f). A strong cold pool is evident
405 expanding towards the shore on the western slope of the island, which interacts with the reverse
406 flow by 10:30 UTC (Figure 7g). The convergence between the outflow boundary and the reverse
407 flow produces additional convection and precipitation (Figure 7g), as is evident with the
408 eastward and westward expansion of integrated condensate contour. By 11:30 UTC (Figure 7h),
409 the region of cold (< 4 K) perturbation potential temperatures has expanded further east in
410 association with the enhanced convective precipitation, and smaller scale circulations are
411 dominating the mountain slope regions. Additionally, clouds and associated cold pools are



412 evident on the western coast. Clouds are still co-located along the outflow boundary that has now
413 reached the eastern shoreline. It therefore seems that the presence of orography in the STRONG-
414 EXPs initially produces deep convection at mountain top. The cold pool produced in association
415 with this convection converges with the return winds within the wake flow, thereby producing
416 additional convection. The latter continues to develop and move towards the coast with the
417 propagating outflow boundary. This sequence of events is evident in all of the STRONG-EXPs
418 with orography.

419 Overall, the expansion of clouds towards the shore with increasing orographic height is
420 clearly tied to the development of cold pools from precipitation produced earlier in the day.
421 Convection develops near mountain top and produces one or more cold pools. Because the cold
422 pools are denser than the surrounding air, they flow downslope towards the island shores. The
423 convergence and uplift produced by these shoreward propagating gust fronts initiates new
424 convection. Convection is therefore initially observed at mountain top, but develops closer to the
425 shore later in the day by virtue of these propagating cold pools.

426 3.3 Precipitation

427 In this section, we now examine how these changes in convective organization and
428 intensity influence the accumulated precipitation averaged over the land and the entire domain.
429 In figure 8 the accumulated precipitation is demonstrated as a function of island diameter
430 (abscissa), orography (size of symbols) and wind regime (red vs blue). Firstly, it is evident from
431 this figure that regardless of island size and background wind regime more surface precipitation
432 is produced as orography is increased. For example, the 2-km high mountains consistently
433 produce the greatest averaged accumulations. Increasing the topography to 2 kilometers causes
434 increases of 260%, 170%, and 150% in accumulated precipitation over land for the 50-km, 100-



435 km, and 200-km 2-km high STRONG-EXP simulations, respectively, and increases of 160%,
436 104%, and 98% for the 50-km, 100-km, and 200-km 2-km WEAK-EXPs, respectively, when
437 compared with the flat, 100km STRONG-EXP simulation. It is interesting that the increases
438 from the 50 km islands to the 100 km islands are larger than those from the 100 km islands to the
439 200 km islands.

440 Secondly, the STRONG-EXP simulations consistently produce more precipitation than
441 the WEAK-EXP simulations, regardless of island size or island height, with one exception. The
442 50 km, flat STRONG-EXP simulation, produces the least amount of precipitation over land of all
443 simulations. This appears to occur because the strong zonal flow advects the convection that
444 initially forms over land off the island, with the result that much of the precipitation occurs over
445 the ocean to the lee of the island. Two factors appear to contribute to the greater precipitation
446 amounts in the STRONG-EXP simulations: (a) the lee vortex formation and reverse flow
447 development in the STRONG-EXPs with orography cause earlier deeper convection as the
448 moisture flux convergence is concentrated near the stagnation point; and (b) the relative
449 humidity is greater in the STRONG-EXP sounding (Robinson et al 2011), which provides more
450 moisture for precipitation.

451 To further understand how the precipitation field evolves in time with respect to changing
452 island size and orography, we examine the time series of the accumulated precipitation for all the
453 simulations (Figure 9). As the differences between the domain-averaged precipitation amounts
454 were small compared to the land-only averaged precipitation differences, this section focuses on
455 the land-only averaged accumulated precipitation. Increasing the orographic height decreases the
456 time it takes for the initiation and intensification of the precipitation rates. For example, in the
457 100 km-diameter STRONG-EXP simulation, precipitation begins at 0940 UTC in the flat
458 simulation, but at 0820 UTC in the 2km simulation (Figure 9a). The trend is most noticeable in



459 the 50-km diameter STRONG-EXP simulations, where precipitation begins nearly two hours
460 earlier in the 2-km simulation (0750 UTC) than in the flat simulation (0940 UTC). These trends
461 are similar in the WEAK-EXP simulations, although precipitation initiation in all of the WEAK-
462 EXP simulations is delayed when compared with their corresponding STRONG-EXPs. The
463 maximum precipitation rate (mm/10 minutes) increases with increasing orography for all island
464 sizes in both the STRONG-EXP and WEAK-EXP simulations. In summary, precipitation occurs
465 earlier with increasing orography, and the average precipitation rate increases with increasing
466 topography.

467 Most of the precipitation has stopped accumulating in the STRONG-EXP 1 and 2km-
468 orographic height tests by 12:00 UTC. The 50-km diameter islands have the fastest accumulation
469 (Figure 9a), followed by those of the 100-km and 200-km diameter islands. This appears to be a
470 function of the time it takes for the reverse flow on the lee side of the island to traverse the
471 longer radius in the larger diameter simulations. The 2-km high 100 and 200-km diameter
472 simulations receive similar amounts of precipitation (11.63 & 11.14 mm respectively), but the
473 100-km diameter island has its greatest accumulation rates from 0900 UTC – 1050 UTC,
474 whereas the 200-km diameter island has its greatest accumulation rates an hour later, from 1000
475 UTC – 1200 UTC. The trends in the timing of the initiation and most rapid precipitation rates are
476 similar for lower orographic heights, but the magnitudes are smaller, further corroborating that
477 the peak orographic height is a stronger control on the accumulated precipitation than island size
478 in the strong zonal wind regime.

479 The WEAK-EXP simulations accumulate less precipitation than the STRONG-EXP
480 simulations, and the high precipitation rates do not last as long (Figure 9b). For the tallest
481 mountains, precipitation begins later in the WEAK-EXP simulations than in the STRONG-EXP.
482 For example, in the 50-km diameter island, 2-km high island simulations, precipitation begins to



483 accumulate at 0810 UTC (Figure 9b), compared to 0740 UTC in the STRONG-EXP (Figure 9a),
484 with accumulation rates of 0.8-1.1 mm/10 minutes through 0930 UTC, which taper off to lower
485 rates more quickly than in the STRONG-EXP simulations. A similar pattern exists for the 100-
486 km diameter island. However, the WEAK-EXP 200-km diameter island has a steady
487 accumulation rate from 1000 UTC until 1600 UTC of about .2 mm/10 minutes (.02/minute).

488 In summary, both the timing of the greatest precipitation rates, as well as the average
489 precipitation accumulations increase monotonically with increasing orographic height,
490 irrespective of island size. When the orographic height is kept constant, then precipitation rates
491 and amounts decrease with increasing island size. These orographic- and diameter-induced
492 differences are driven by the orographic-induced changes to the flow characteristics and the
493 timing of low-level convergence. Convergence takes longer to occur on the 200 km-diameter
494 islands than on the smaller diameter islands, even with the highest topography. This holds true
495 for both the WEAK-EXP and the STRONG-EXP simulations.

496 **3.4 Tracer Redistribution**

497 As described above, all of the model experiments are initialized with 500m deep layers of
498 tracers which are tracked throughout the simulation. No additional release of the tracers occurs.
499 The values shown in the figures corresponding to this analysis are represented as a percentage of
500 the initial tracer amount in the lowest tracer level (0-500m AGL), and thus represent the
501 horizontal and vertical redistribution of the tracers initially located nearest the surface. For
502 example, at the initial time the percentage of this tracer from 0-500 m AGL would be 100%,
503 whereas at higher altitudes, the value would be 0%. However, with the lofting of the tracers in
504 time, the tracer percentage would decrease in the lowest level but increase higher up.



505 In figure 10, the plan view represents the percent change of the tracer initially located in
506 the lowest level (0-500m AGL) for two layers in the modeled atmosphere, the 0-500 meters AGL
507 level and the 500-1000 meters AGL level. In the STRONG-EXP flat simulations (Figure 10a-f),
508 before sunrise, more than 95% of the original tracer is still resident in the lowest 500 meters,
509 while less than 5% of this tracer is in the 500-1000 m AGL level (Figure 10a,b), indicating the
510 limited amount of vertical mixing that occurs before sunrise. This pattern is similar in the
511 WEAK-EXP simulations (Figure 10g,h). At 09:00 UTC, in the STRONG-EXP simulation, low-
512 level convergence produces tracer lofting which leads to an increase in this tracer at the 500-
513 1000 m AGL level (Figure 10c, d), and as shallow convection initiates, more tracers are lofted
514 from the surface level to the next level (Figure 10e, f). Tracers in the WEAK-EXP are similarly
515 lofted, although the patterns are symmetrical around the island with the weaker zonal flow, in
516 keeping with the flow regimes discussed above. At 09:00 UTC (Figure 10i, j), the transport of
517 the near-surface tracers around the island edges (Figure 10i) through vertical lofting to the 500-
518 1000 m AGL region (Figure 10j) is evidence of the sea-breeze related convergence
519 circumnavigating the island. The continued convergence diminishes the amount of the original
520 tracer in the lowest level with time (Figure 10k, l).

521 The impacts of orography on the tracer redistribution are demonstrated in Figure 11. In
522 both the STRONG-EXP and WEAK-EXP simulations, tracers are rapidly lifted from the surface
523 at mountain top. This effect is stronger in the STRONG-EXP simulation, where only 5-15% of
524 the original tracer remains in the lowest level at 06:00 UTC (Figure 11a) before sunrise, whereas
525 30-40% of the original tracer is still evident at the same time (Figure 11g) in the WEAK-EXP. In
526 the STRONG-EXP, up to 70% of the near-surface tracers have been lofted in the lee-vortex
527 downwind of the mountain by 06:00 UTC (Figure 11b). In the WEAK-EXP, a slight downslope
528 wind develops in association with the mountain-valley circulation and is evident early on the



529 western portion of the mountain (06:00 UTC, Figure 11g, h). This interaction and subsequent
530 convergence of this flow with the background flow, lofts up to 65% of the original near-surface
531 tracer into the second vertical level. After sunrise, along the coast line, ~70% of the original
532 near-surface tracer gets lofted into the 500-1000 m AGL range (Figure 11i, j), in keeping with
533 the convergence (Fig 3d) and wind flow (Fig 2d) regimes at this point in time. Increasing the
534 orographic height causes the tracers to be lofted higher near mountain top in association with the
535 mountain top convergence, and in the presence of a strong background wind, the tracers are
536 effectively advected into the island wake (Fig 11).

537 In summary, the redistribution of aerosols in the flat topography cases is closely tied with cloud
538 formation via sea-breeze initiated convection. In the experiments with increased orographic
539 height, the resulting aerosol redistribution occurs due to a combination of the changes to the flow
540 around the islands and the manner in which the location of convection is altered.

541 **4.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

542 In this investigation 24 idealized simulations of tropical islands were conducted in which
543 the island size and orographic height were individually and simultaneously varied under a weak
544 and strong wind regime, in order to determine how the size and topography of an island
545 influences convection, precipitation and aerosol distribution. The simulations utilized three-
546 dimensional circular islands with varying degrees of topographic height. This model setup allows
547 for the development of the complex three-dimensional flow both over and around the islands.
548 Additionally, each simulated island has a realistic land surface of evergreen brush, thus
549 representing the surface flux response to the meteorology. A number of conclusions have been
550 drawn from the analyses of these numerical experiments.



551 Varying the island diameter has little effect on the overall flow patterns, regardless of the
552 background wind regime. However, enhancing topography, regardless of island size or wind
553 regime, results in substantial changes to the flow around the islands, which in turn impact three
554 primary features: (a) precipitation, (b) convective development and morphology, and (c) aerosol
555 transport. Orography is a stronger control on accumulated precipitation than is island size, with
556 increasing orography producing greater amounts of accumulated precipitation. While a weaker
557 influence, island size also impacts accumulated precipitation, with decreases in the land-
558 averaged precipitation with increasing island size. This decrease in precipitation with increasing
559 island size is different from what has previously been reported by Robinson and Sherwood
560 (2011) who found that increasing island size increased convective vigor and associated
561 precipitation production. In the experiments performed here, precipitation was also found to
562 increase on the lee side of the mountains in the high wind regime in association with the
563 convergence produced by the lee vortices and return flow. This finding also diverges from
564 previous work on this topic (Wang and Sobel, 2017; Nugent et al., 2014). The differences
565 between the results of the simulations conducted here and many of the previous findings is most
566 likely due to the model setup, particularly the domain configuration and the island morphology.
567 Many of the previous simulations were two dimensional, and those that were three dimensional
568 typically used a channel approach, where the y-dimension was typically one tenth of the x-
569 dimension (60 x 600 grid cells); the island was also frequently represented as a strip in the center
570 of the domain that extended the entire meridional extent of the domain. Furthermore, the island
571 was typically modeled using an ocean surface without latent heat fluxes and/or a free-slip
572 boundary. These representations of island morphology do not allow for three dimensional flows
573 around the island, nor for the detailed representation of potentially important surface processes
574 including surface fluxes, surface roughness and the impacts of drag. As the experimental setup



575 used here was intended to mimic the atmospheric conditions of Robinson and Sherwood (2011)
576 as closely as possible, these results suggest that it may be important to fully capture the three-
577 dimensional nature of the flow over and around the island, as well as the role played by surface
578 properties.

579 Regardless of island diameter or wind regime, convection begins as scattered boundary
580 layer cumulus and grows upscale towards the island center in the flat island simulations.
581 Increasing the island topography changes this behavior. Heightened topography causes
582 convection to initiate predominantly near the center of the islands, quickly become deep
583 convection, and then propagate towards the shorelines. The initiation of convection also varies as
584 a function of wind regime. In the STRONG-EXP simulations, the increasing orography causes
585 lee vortex development, and a strong reverse on-island flow associated with the vortex pair. This
586 wake formation increases surface moisture flux convergence near the stagnation point on the lee
587 side of the island, which leads to earlier and deeper convection. In the WEAK-EXPs, the
588 thermally induced upslope flow creates initial moisture flux convergence near the mountain top,
589 which then initiates deep convection in this location. In both wind regimes with enhanced
590 orography, the expansion of convective activity towards the shoreline throughout the day is tied
591 to the development of cold pools near the island center earlier in the day and the subsequent
592 shoreward propagation of these cold pools. The cold pools play an important role in initiating
593 and sustaining convection as they move towards the ocean. The cold pools do not propagate
594 towards the shore in the flat island cases, and hence this shoreward development of convection is
595 not observed.

596 The changes in convective organization also affect the horizontal and vertical distribution
597 of aerosols, which were represented using passive tracers in these experiments. In the STRONG-
598 EXP orographic simulations, tracers are lifted from the surface near the mountain tops and



599 advected into the island wake, where ~80% of them remain for much of the rest of the day. This
600 is a function of the lower wind speeds that are characteristic within these wakes (Isoguchi et al.,
601 2010), as well as the reverse flow that develops. In the WEAK-EXP orographic experiments,
602 ~70% of the initial tracer is first lofted from the region of near-surface convergence that occurs
603 as a function of the downslope mountain flow interacting with the background flow. These
604 orographic patterns are different than those which occur in the flat topography simulations,
605 where tracers are entrained into the convection developing after sunrise. While the magnitude of
606 tracer lofting is similar between the WEAK-EXP and STRONG-EXP orographic and flat
607 simulations, the mechanisms are therefore different. In the STRONG-EXP, mechanical forcing
608 via wake and vortex formation plays a predominant role, whereas in the WEAK-EXP the
609 thermally-induced mechanisms of upslope flow arising from diurnal heating dominate. After
610 sunrise, when convection begins, the ability to distinguish the predominant role of the thermal
611 versus mechanical mechanisms becomes difficult to determine.

612 The results from this study highlight the potentially important role of wake formation in
613 convective organization and aerosol transport. This is keeping with other work that has shown
614 the importance of a hydraulic jump that develops in the lee of the island under conditions of
615 strong environmental flow (Yang et al., 2008). Additionally, the analysis presented here
616 demonstrates that the movement of the cold pools down the mountain slopes assists in causing
617 progressive convective initiation towards the shore as the day develops. This suggests that cold
618 pools and surface interactions may be important in the convective organization, precipitation
619 processes, and aerosol redistribution on mountainous islands. As such, they are worthy of
620 consideration and representation in future island studies.

621 While the experiments presented here were carefully designed, there are limitations both
622 to the experiment setup and with the analyses. The 1-km horizontal grid spacing, though



623 generally sufficient for convection permitting models, will not fully resolve boundary layer
624 cumulus clouds. The constant vertical spacing of 100 meters is also a limitation, especially close
625 to the surface. The vertical structure was designed to mimic the vertical structure of similar past
626 works. However, enhancing the vertical resolution, particularly near the surface would enhance
627 the representation of the surface processes and cold pools, especially with the imposed orography
628 and surface heterogeneity. Another limitation of these experiments is with the treatment of
629 aerosols. In this experiment, given the focus of the study on aerosol transport, the redistribution
630 of aerosols is represented through the use of passive tracers – they do not absorb or scatter
631 radiation, they do not act as CCN, and they do not get scavenged by precipitation. Considering
632 that cloud formation and development is an important mechanism in tracer transport, the lack of
633 accountability in the cloud processing of aerosols means we are potentially missing aerosol loss
634 and production processes. By not including radiatively active aerosols, we are also not
635 accounting for both direct and semi-direct effects, which could influence the mesoscale
636 circulation (Grant et al., 2014; Lee, 2012). The next step in this research is to perform a similar
637 suite of experiments using aerosols that are fully microphysically and radiatively active.
638 Additionally, by not including the Coriolis effect, the latitudinal shifts in the timing of the land-
639 sea breeze circulation and the potential interactions with the mountain-breeze circulation
640 (Rotunno, 2983), are not included in this experiment. Finally, while we have tested two different
641 environmental regimes, countless others are observed in the tropics, and the study could be
642 expanded to include additional environments.

643 In summary, in spite of the study limitations, this research clearly demonstrates the
644 importance of orography and the resulting three-dimensional flow around tropical islands in
645 determining the initiation and amounts of precipitation, the convective organization, and aerosol
646 redistribution. Firstly, increasing island orographic height consistently increased accumulated



647 precipitation on the islands, regardless of island size or wind regime. For a 100-km diameter
648 island, increasing orography from flat to 2 km increases the accumulated precipitation by 170%
649 and encourages the earlier onset of precipitation. Secondly, by representing three-dimensional
650 flow, an interactive surface and the full diurnal cycle, the impacts of both the mountain and sea-
651 breeze circulations on convective organization have been shown. With a weak zonal flow, the
652 increasing topography increases the convergence at mountain top, which occurs as a function of
653 diurnal heating. Under strong zonal flow, the formation of a wake, lee vortices and a reverse
654 flow increase convergence on the lee side of the mountain, which leads to earlier development of
655 deep convection downwind of the mountain top. With both flow regimes, enhanced topography
656 results in the shoreward expansion of convection. This change in convective morphology occurs
657 as a function of cold pools, which form, propagate down the island mountain slopes, and initiate
658 and maintain convection as they progress towards shore. Finally, the aerosol redistribution is
659 closely tied to the development of convection. In the flat topography cases, aerosol redistribution
660 is driven by cloud formation associated with the sea breeze. In the enhanced topography cases,
661 the tracers are transported away from the mountain tops and their fates are more strongly
662 dependent on the specific circulations developing in association with the background wind
663 regime. Examining, understanding, and quantifying these relationships at these fine scales is
664 imperative if the community intends to create parameterizations that represent the impacts of
665 island size and orography on precipitation, convective organization and aerosol transport.

666 **Author Contributions**

667 Stacey Kawecki is the lead author and performed the experiment and wrote the manuscript.
668 Susan van den Heever guided the research and analysis and extensively contributed to the
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814 Florida cumulonimbus. Part II: Frequency distributions of vertical velocity, reflectivity, and
815 differential reflectivity. Monthly weather review, 123.7, 1941-1963, 1995.

816

817 **Table 1: Regional Atmospheric Modeling System (RAMS) Configuration**

Domain size: N_x, N_y, N_z	[100,200,400],[100,200,400],200
$\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z, \Delta t$	1km, 1km, 100m, 1 second
Boundary conditions	Initialized from soundings (Robinson et al, 2011) Cyclic
Microphysics	2 moment bulk scheme (Saleeby and Cotton 2004)
SW & LW radiation, Δt	Harrington 2-stream, 60 seconds
Surface model	LEAF3 (Walko et al, 2000)
Dynamics	Fully compressible; No Coriolis Force
Aerosols	Passive Tracers, near surface [0-500m above ground level; mixing ratio of 1 kg/kg]

818

819 **Table 2:** Experimental Set Up: For each island diameter (top row), simulations are run for
 820 increasing peak orographic heights. This set of twelve simulations is run for a strong zonal wind
 821 regime (STRONG-EXP simulations) and a weak zonal wind regime (WEAK-EXP simulations).

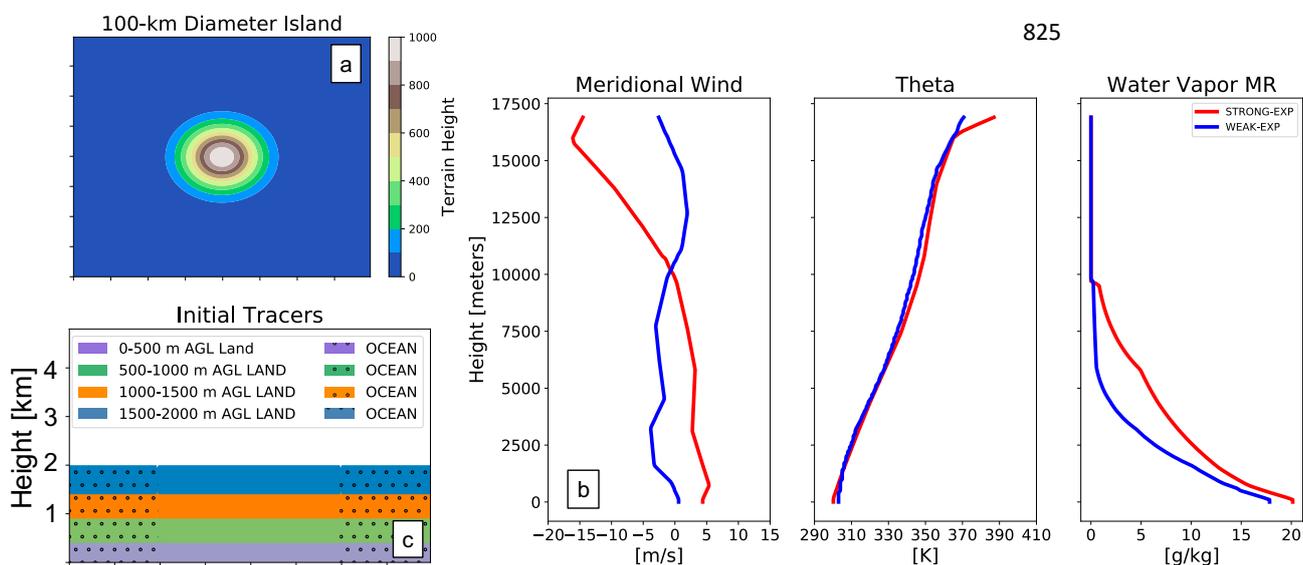
50 km	100 km	200 km
Flat	Flat	Flat
500 meters	500 meters	500 meters
1 km	1 km	1 km
2 km	2 km	2km

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823 **Figures**

824 **Figure 1**



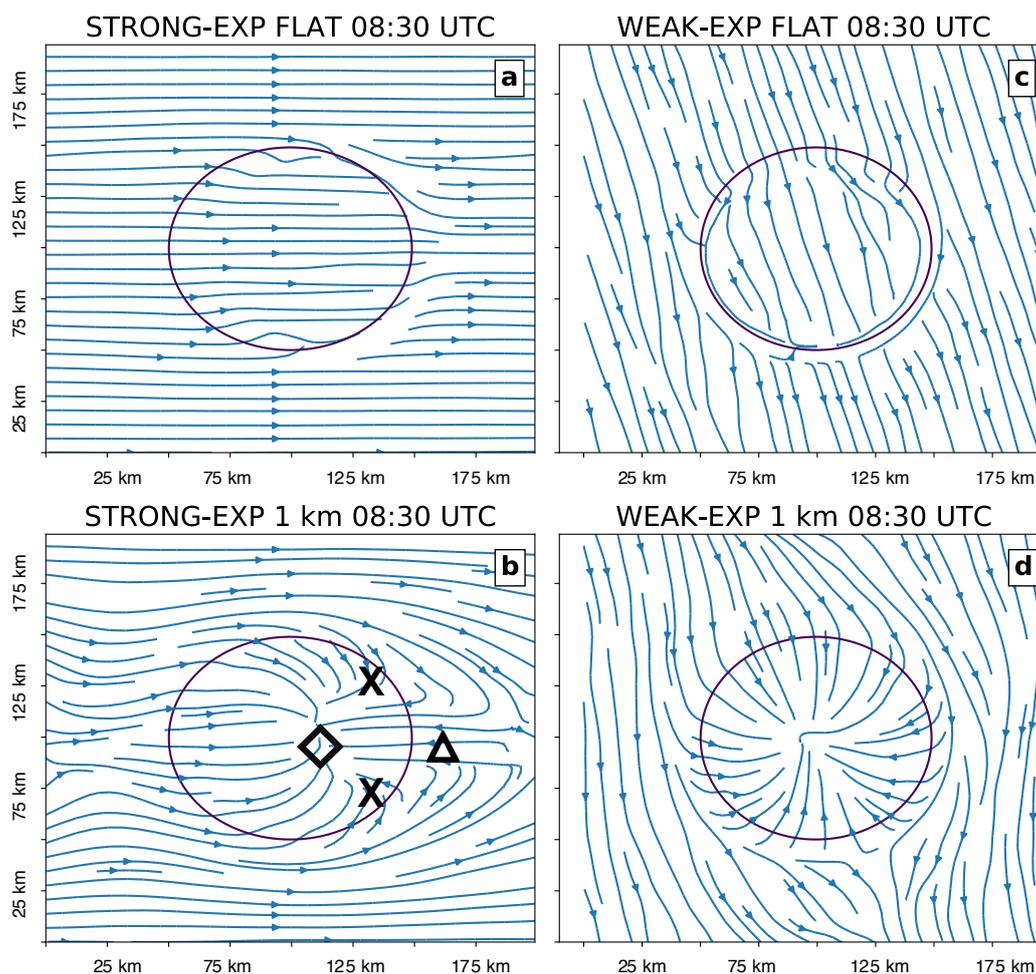
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827 **Figure 1:** Schematic of the experimental design: (a) the horizontal domain and the varying
828 topographic height of the 100-km diameter island; (b) the vertical profiles of zonal wind
829 components, potential temperature, and water vapor mixing ratio for the STRONG-EXP (red)
830 and WEAK-EXP (blue) experiments; (c) the vertical tracer distribution over the 100 km diameter
831 flat island, where hashing indicates tracers released over ocean.

832



833 **Figure 2**



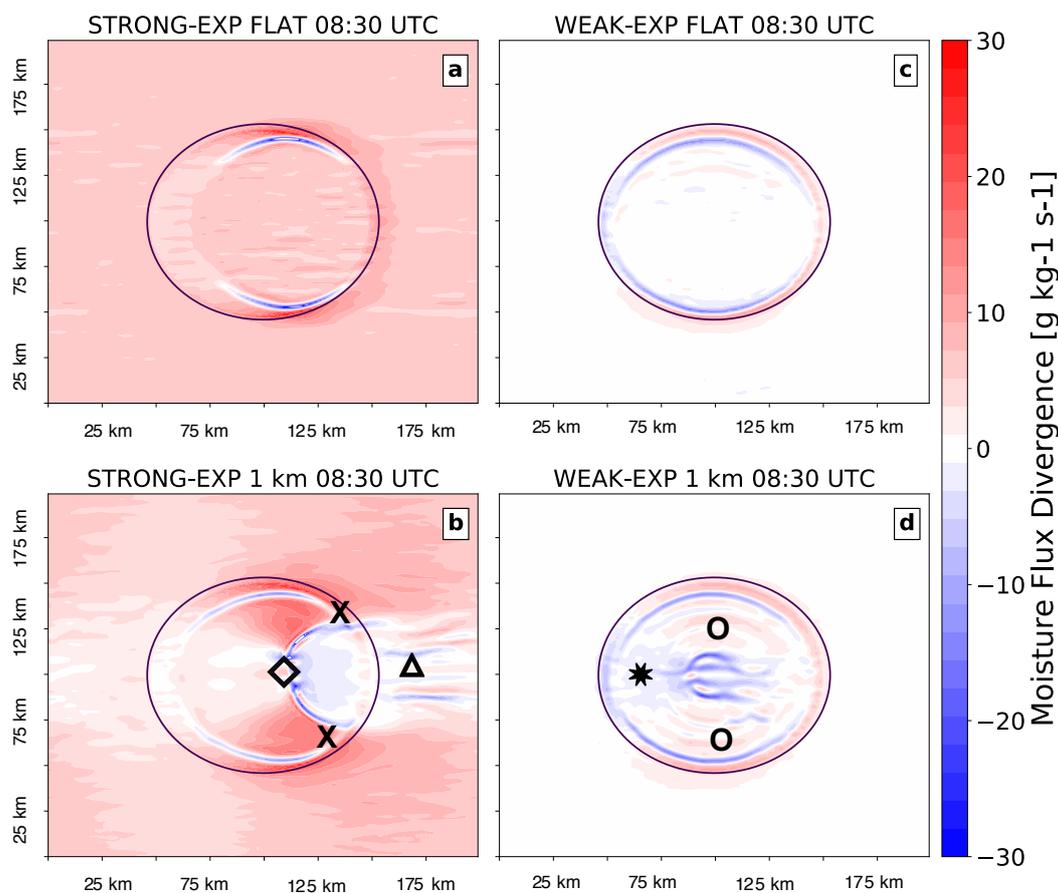
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835 **Figure 2:** Surface streamlines (~ 50 meters) for 100-km diameter island simulations at 08:30
836 UTC, for the STRONG-EXP (a and b) and the WEAK-EXP (c and d), flat (a and c) and 1-km
837 height (b and d) simulations. The black diamond indicates the stagnation point, the black “x”
838 denote the placement of lee vortices and the black triangle demonstrates where the reverse flow
839 occurs.

840



841 **Figure 3**



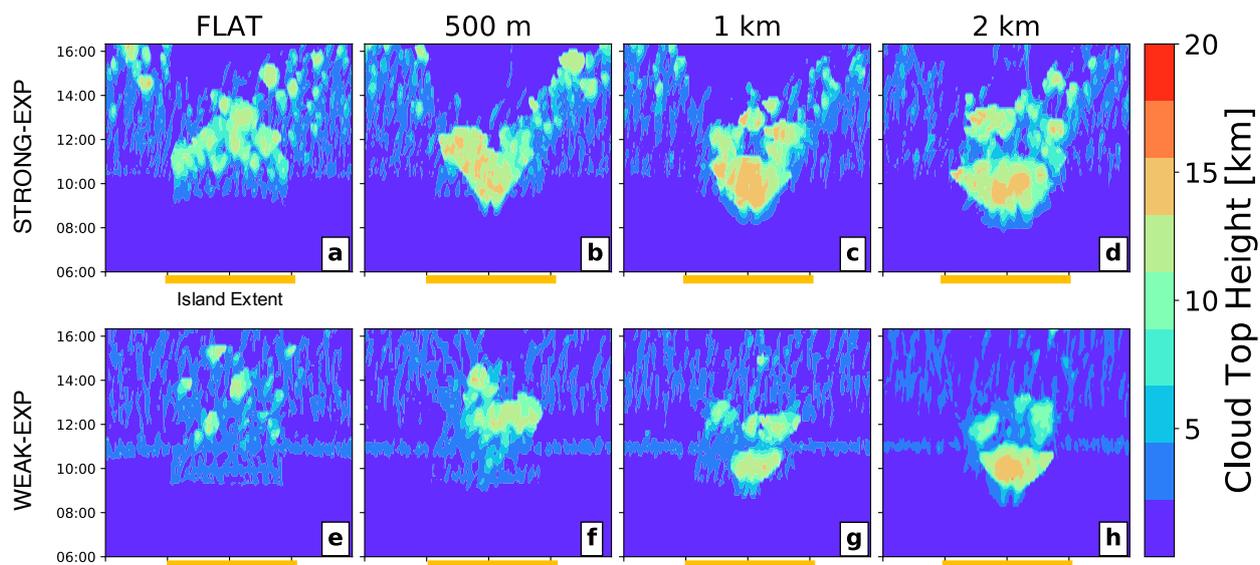
842

843 **Figure 3:** Surface moisture flux divergence for 100-km diameter island simulations at 08:30
844 UTC, for the STRONG-EXP (a&b) and the WEAK-EXP (c&d), flat (a&c) and 1-km height
845 (b&d) simulations. The black X's, diamond, and triangle are the same as figure 2. The black
846 circles indicate regions of upslope flow and moisture flux divergence, whereas the black star
847 indicates a region of moisture flux convergence.

848



849 **Figure 4**



850

851 **Figure 4:** Hovmöller plots of latitudinally-averaged cloud top height for the 100km island
852 diameter simulations, with STRONG-EXP simulations (a-d) and WEAK-EXP simulations (e-h),
853 with orographic height increasing from left to right.

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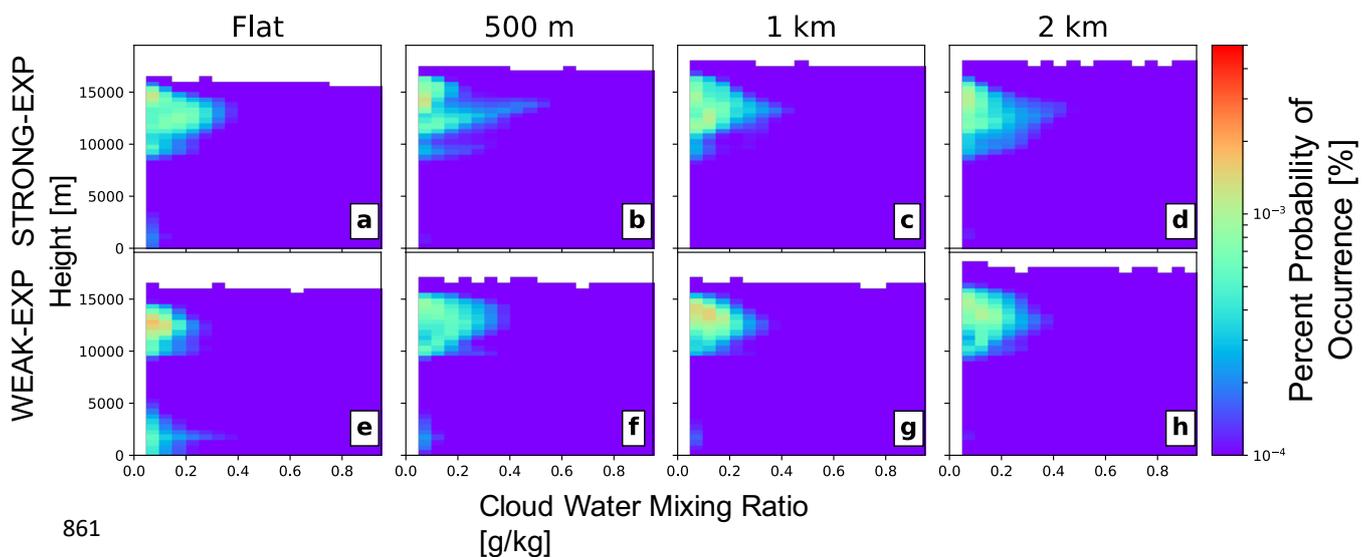
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860 **Figure 5**



861

862 **Figure 5:** CFADs of cloud water mixing ratio [g/kg] for the STRONG-EXP simulations (a-d)

863 and the WEAK-EXP simulations (e-h), with orographic height increasing from left to right.

864 Shading is the percent probability of occurrence.

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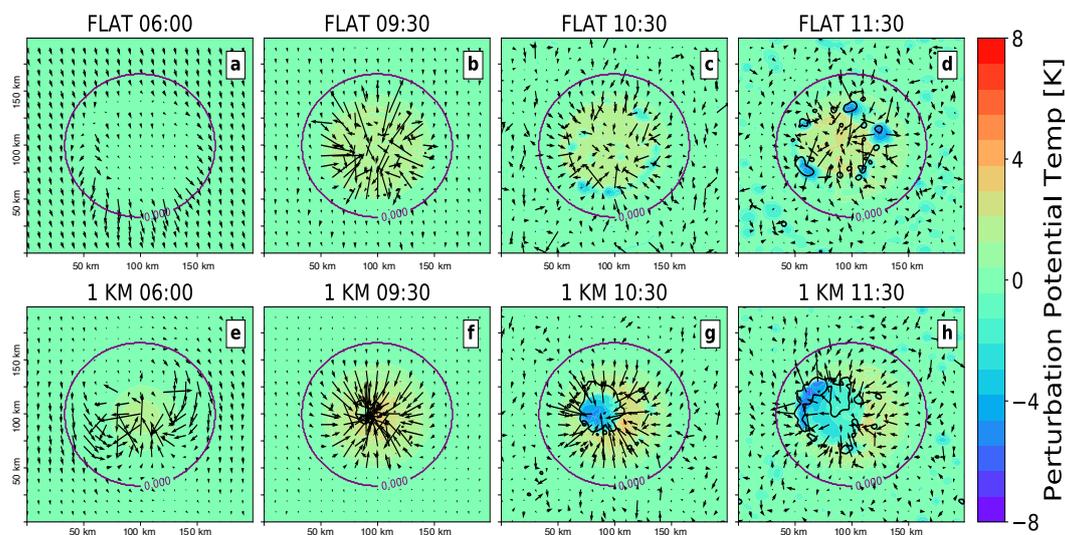
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873 **Figure 6**



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875

876 **Figure 6:** Surface potential temperature perturbation (K, colored contours), surface winds
877 (arrows; m/s), and the 20 g/kg integrated condensate mixing ratio isoline (black contour) for the
878 100-km WEAK-EXP simulations, showing the time dependent evolution of convective features
879 for the FLAT simulation (a-d) and the 1-km Height simulation (e-h).

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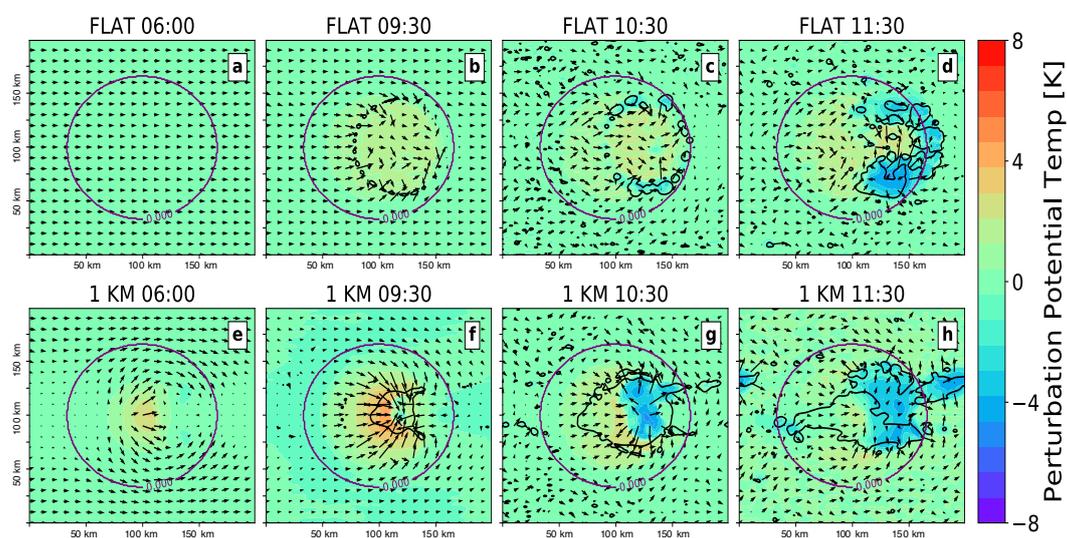
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886 **Figure 7**



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889 **Figure 7:** Same as Figure 8, except for the WEAK-EXP 100-km diameter islands.

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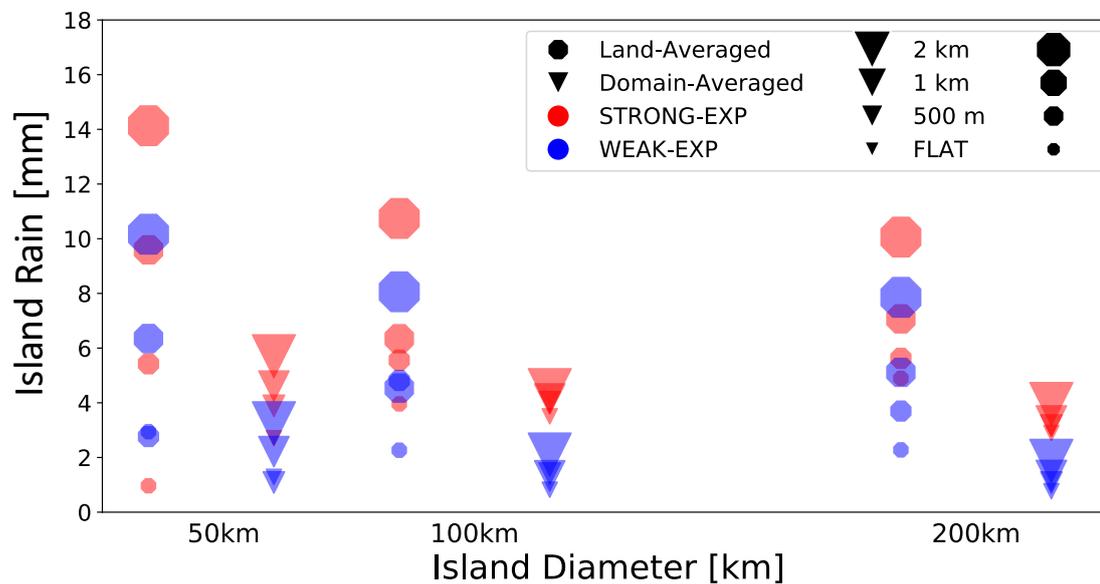
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898 **Figure 8**



899

900 **Figure 8:** Scatter plot showing the area-averaged accumulated precipitation for each simulation

901 as a function of island size. Triangles indicate that the averages are performed over the entire

902 domain, whereas octagons indicate precipitation is averaged over land only. Blue markers

903 indicate the STRONG-EXP simulations, and red markers indicate the WEAK-EXP simulations.

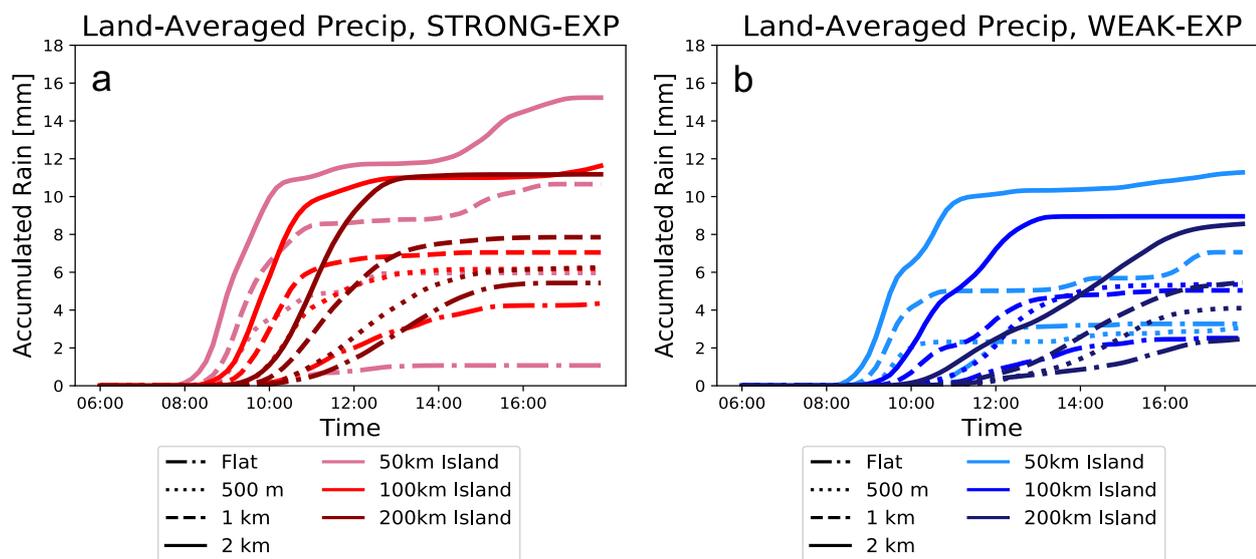
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907 **Figure 9**



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909 **Figure 9:** Time series of accumulated precipitation, averaged over land, for (a) the STRONG-
910 EXP and (b) the WEAK-EXP simulations.

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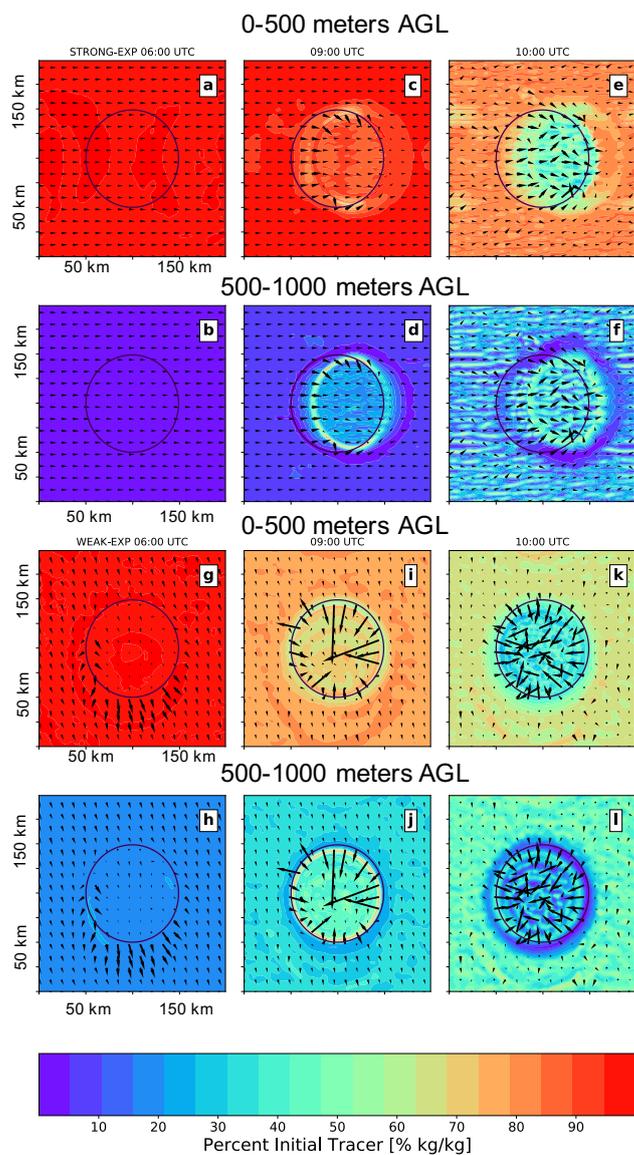
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918 **Figure 10**



919

920 **Figure 10:** The temporal evolution of the percentage of the initial tracers (colored shading, %

921 kg/kg) located in the 0-500m level AGL found at 0-500m AGL (top row) and at 500-1000m

922 AGL (bottom row), for the 100-km, flat, STRONG-EXP (a-f) and WEAK-EXP (g-l).. Shown are



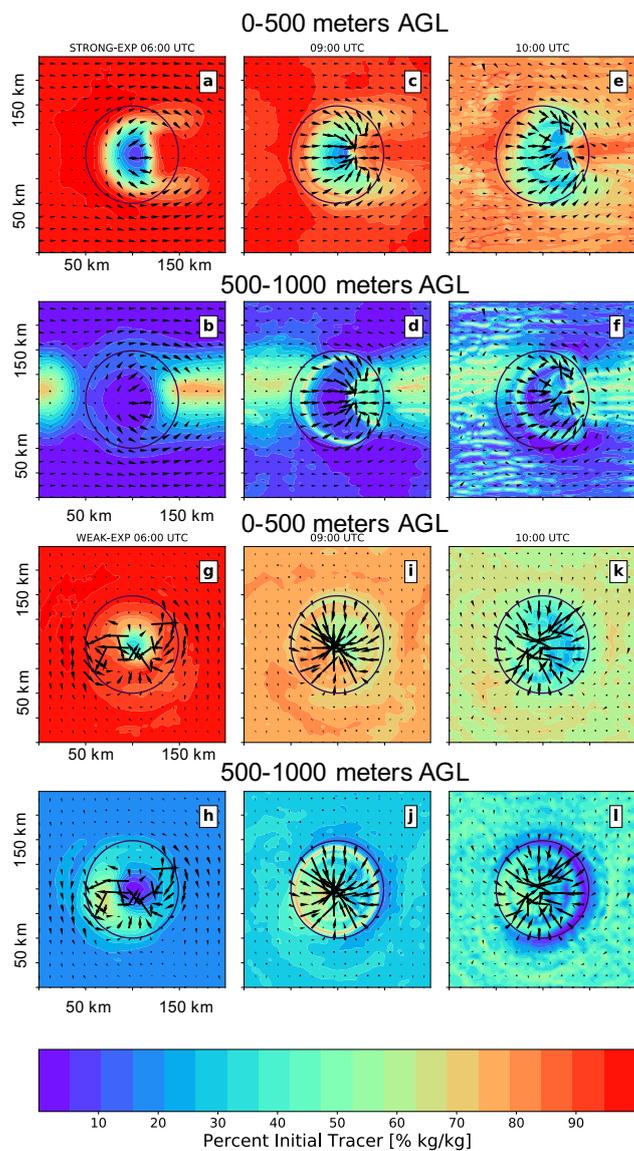
923 plans views at the respective heights (0-500m in the top row, 500-1000m in the bottom row).

924 Near surface winds are black wind vectors (m/s).

925



926 **Figure 11**



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928

929 **Figure 11:** Same as Figure 10, except for 100-km diameter, 1-km Height simulations.