

Interactive comment on “Aerosol-Cloud Closure Study on Cloud Optical Properties using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Measurements during a BACCHUS Field Campaign in Cyprus”

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We thank the reviewer for his critical comments and corrections, which strengthen the quality of this manuscript.

Comments from the reviewer appear in italic, response from the authors follows.

Entrainment is certainly important for clouds and for cloud effects. But the statement in the last sentence that entrainment reduces the impact of cloud radiative forcing is patently untrue and needs to be deleted.

Response: This sentence was imprecise and not intended to suggest a link between entrainment and the impact of cloud forcing. It has been rephrased to avoid any confusion.

In the manuscript current text : “The case studies in Cyprus (this study) and at Mace Head illustrate the significance of the entrainment processes in determining cloud optical properties in two different environments, and highlight notably that entrainment processes reduce the impact of cloud radiative forcing.”

Updated text : “The case studies in Cyprus (this study) and at Mace Head illustrate the significance of the entrainment processes in determining cloud optical properties in two different environments. Entrainment mixing decreases the water content in the cloud relative to an adiabatic profile, therefore not taking into account entrainment leads to a significant overestimation of cloud radiative forcing.”

Entrainment is certainly a complicating factor for evaluating the indirect aerosol effect (IAE), but it is an unlikely mitigator of IAE. It mainly makes IAE more difficult to evaluate. This manuscript makes this point but it in no way shows that entrainment reduces IAE. Alterations of entrainment are not part of any IAE scenarios or any climate change scenarios. Just because there might be more variations of optical properties due to entrainment variations than there might be due to certain aerosol variations does not mean that IAE is in any way mitigated by entrainment. The entrainment variations will occur with or without IAE. It does not take any knowledge of cloud physics to see the logical flaw of this contention. IAE will affect adiabatic clouds and it will affect subadiabatic clouds. We certainly need to know about and understand entrainment but not just for IAE.

Response: We clarify the entrainment is not used for evaluating the indirect aerosol effect, and, yes, we do agree that variability in entrainment does make IAE more difficult to evaluate, which is one of the points that we attempt to highlight in this study. Nowhere in this manuscript do we intend to suggest that IAE and entrainment are related.

The factor of 2 greater N and the factor of 2 lower W are completely arbitrary and have no relationship with IAE.

Response: Yes, the factor of two changes are somewhat arbitrary, but only to show relative sensitivity. We follow similar methods where factor of two changes in aerosol concentrations are used in model sensitivity studies [e.g., Pringle et al. (2009); Moore et al. (2013)]. We are not suggesting w is purported to change with IAE or any other possible climate alterations.

The cloud microphysical analysis based on inhomogeneous mixing and Fig.13a are at odds with the 100 nm Hoppel minimum with 400 cm^{-3} . If there are really only 200 cm^{-3} droplets, then the Hoppel minimum should occur where there are 200 cm^{-3} .

Response: Since cloud base is close to adiabatic, nearly 400 cm^{-3} will activate. Even as many of the particles subsequently evaporate, there will be a shift in the aerosol number size distribution towards the accumulation mode. We originally just used the time for the individual RPA flight, however, the ground-based observations were several kilometers away and are not exactly coincident to the specific airborne observations. Therefore, Fig.3a has been updated to show Hoppel minimum related to a longer time period (from Fig.2) that represents the aerosol-cloud interactions over the region of the RPA flights.

With inhomogeneous mixing there is complete indiscriminate evaporation of some droplets (Baker et al., 1980; Telford & Wagner, 1981). The raison d'être for inhomogeneous (or entity) mixing was to reduce droplet concentration so that sizes would be large enough to initiate coalescence even with high CCN concentrations. Cloud droplets are evaporated with no relationship to their size or to the CCN that they were grown upon. Therefore, inhomogeneous mixing disrupts the relationship between CCN and cloud droplets. Thus, inhomogeneous mixing itself mitigates IAE because it severs the link between CCN and cloud droplet concentration and thus all cloud microphysics. Since surface aerosol measurements are a basic component of this analysis this presents a large disruption to this analysis. On the other hand, I have several papers that show that CCN remain related to droplet concentrations in spite of entrainment; these include those cited in this manuscript and Hudson et al. (2018). As stated in these papers homogeneous rather than inhomogeneous mixing is thus indicated.

Response: While we agree homogeneous entrainment can occur in clouds, a number of previous studies have shown that stratocumulus cloud-top entrainment specifically results in inhomogeneous mixing (Brenguier et al. (2011); Burnet et al. (2007); Yum et al. (2015); Painemal et al. (2011)). In a stratocumulus study, Painemal et al. (2011) showed the effective radius does not decrease despite a reduction in LWC. While inhomogeneous entrainment may weaken direct correlations between CCN and CDNC, the relationship is not expected to be eliminated. Similarly other dynamic processes controlling supersaturation, droplet nucleation, and droplet growth within clouds lead to non linear relationship between CCN and CDNC although correlations often still exist between CDNC and CCN (ex. Hudson et al. (2010), Figure 1).

The analysis presented here is too farfetched to be considered closure. Using a model as a proxy for N_c is unreasonable, especially when inhomogeneous mixing is assumed.

Response: We disagree, many closure experiments using a similar model have already been published in the literature (Conant et al. (2004); Peng et al. (2005); Fountoukis et al. (2007); Sanchez et al. (2017)).

Droplet spectral width seems to be ignored. It too can vary and have consequences. Some clouds that are less susceptible to IAE because they already altered by IAE. This is just the law of diminishing returns, which does not even require cloud physics knowledge.

Response: Droplet spectral width is not ignored. Equation 7, which is used to calculate the integrated cloud droplet extinction, is based on the droplet size distribution from the parcel model. The droplet extinction is used to determine the integrated cloud optical properties for comparison of simulations with and without entrainment. We propose an analysis of the droplet width sensitivity in a later comment.

Pollution will have less effect on clouds that are already somewhat polluted.

Response: Indeed, this point has been stated in Section 4.3.

In the manuscript current text : “Clouds formed in cleaner environments are likely to be of higher susceptibility compared to clouds in polluted areas, which illustrate the link between pollution and cloud albedo proposed by Twomey (1977).”

Vertical velocity is a redundant term. Velocity is speed with direction. Vertical is a direction. Vertical wind is not redundant.

Response: We agree, and it has been corrected through the paper to state ‘vertical wind’ or ‘updraft’.

Some abbreviate cloud droplet concentrations N_c others use N_d . N_d should be reserved for drizzle drop concentration.

Response: We agree that different abbreviates are have been used throughout the literature, e.g., in Conant et al. (2004), cloud droplet number concentration is N_D . In Fountoukis et al. (2007), it is N_d , in Sanchez et al. (2017), it is CDNC. In this study, it had been chosen as N_d to be consistent with the other closure studies with airborne measurements as drizzle drop concentrations are not discussed. However, to avoid any confusion, N_d has been replaced by CDNC in the manuscript.

Hudson et al. (2012) showed that mixing of cloud parcels with various W can help explain droplet spectral broadening.

Response: A weighted ensemble of updrafts were applied to the ACPM to account for spectral broadening due to variations in w . The following text was included to address this point.

In the manuscript current text : “In the literature, either a characteristic updraft velocity or an updraft distribution is used in ACPM. Conant et al. (2004), Hsieh et al. (2009), and Sanchez et al. (2017) have shown that a distribution of updraft velocities and a weighted distribution of in-cloud supersaturations better reproduce cloud microphysical properties than a single-updraft approximation. Consequently, positive vertical wind velocity distribution near cloud base are used as model input (updraft velocities from 0.1 to 4 m s⁻¹ in Fig.5).”

Updated text: “In the literature, either a characteristic updraft or a distribution of updrafts is used in ACPM. Conant et al. (2004), Hsieh et al. (2009), Hudson et al. (2012), and Sanchez et al. (2017) have shown that accounting for the distribution of updrafts better reproduces cloud microphysical properties, such as the droplet spectral width, than a single-updraft approximation. Consequently, a weighted distribution of the positive vertical winds near cloud base is used as model input (updrafts from 0.1 to 4 m s⁻¹ shown in Fig.5), resulting in a broader cloud droplet distribution than when using a single updraft.”

There is no entrainment at cloud base.

Response: Indeed, there is no entrainment at cloud base, only at cloud top; however, the dry entrained air (from above the cloud) is mixed downward throughout the cloud and the decrease in total water content affects the entire cloud. This process has been explained in Wang et al. (2009), and the following text has been updated :

In the manuscript current text : “To apply the cloud-top mixing, a fraction of air at cloud base and a fraction of air above cloud top are mixed, conserving the total water content and the equivalent potential temperature (Sanchez et al., 2017).”

Updated text : “To apply the cloud-top mixing, which corresponds to the dry entrained air from the cloud-top incorporated downward throughout the cloud, a fraction of air at cloud base and a fraction of air above cloud top are mixed, conserving the total water content and the equivalent potential temperature (Sanchez et al. (2017); Wang et al. (2009)).”

Cloud albedo does not approach 1.

Response: the text has been updated to avoid any confusions.

In the manuscript current text : “As the cloud thickens, the albedo approaches unity meaning that all incoming solar irradiance is reflected back to space (Fig.14).”

Updated text : “As the cloud thickens, the albedo increases (but remains less than 1) meaning that more incoming solar irradiance is reflected back to space (Fig.14).”

P4. L2. 100 nm in Fig.3a looks more like a shoulder than a minimum.

Response: As mentioned in an earlier comment, as cloud base is adiabatic and nearly 400 droplets cm^{-3} activate (and evaporate), then there were a shift to the accumulation mode as we see. Note that aerosol particles go through multiple cloud cycles before wet deposition, such that most CCN will have gone through multiple clouds before sampling at the ground. Fig.3a has been redrawn with a longer time period averaged to highlight that the break (related to the Hoppel minimum) at 100 nm is related to aerosol cloud-interactions. As mentioned previously, this longer time average also better represents the conditions over the period of the experiment.

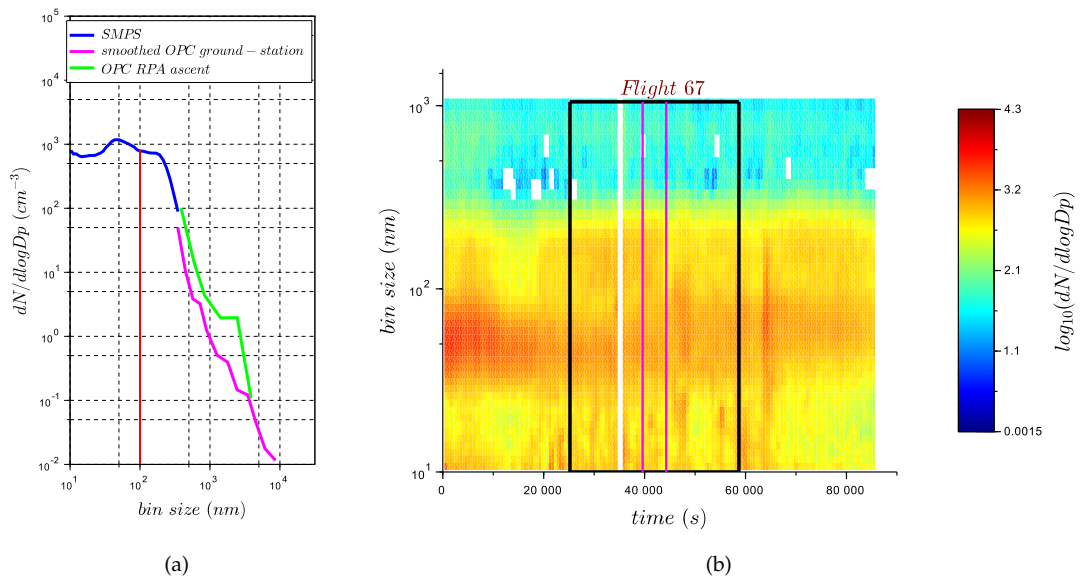


Figure 1: a) Particle size distribution showing combined data from the SMPS (blue), the ground-based OPC (magenta) and the RPA-OPC (green). The red line indicates the Hoppel minimum diameter. b) Contour plot showing time series of SMPS data 2015/04/01. The black rectangle represents the selected data for the analysis (8 hours) and the magenta lines delimit the flight (Flight 67). Local pollution, which is not representative of the regional aerosol, has been removed (white).

L12. I do not know what you are referring to in Hudson et al. (2015).

Response: We thank the reviewer for catching this mistake. The reference has been updated.

In the manuscript current text: "On the time scale of hours, the inactivated CCN, or interstitial aerosol, do not change critical size or supersaturation SS (Hudson et al., 2015)."

Updated text: "On the time scale of hours, the inactivated CCN, or interstitial aerosol, do not change critical size or supersaturation SS (Hoppel et al., 1996)."

L20. Delete long.

Response: 'long' has been deleted.

In the manuscript current text : "the wingspan is 1.5 m long."

Updated text: "the wingspan is 1.5 m."

L26.What size range for the Q-ACSM?

Response : The size range for the Q-ACSM is 40 nm to 1 μ m diameter.

In the manuscript current text : "An aerosol chemical speciation monitor (Q-ACSM, Aerodyne Research Inc) provides the chemical composition of non-refractory submicron aerosol particles."

Updated text: "An aerosol chemical speciation monitor (Q-ACSM, Aerodyne Research Inc.) provides the chemical composition of non-refractory submicron aerosol particles with a range from 40 nm to 1 μ m diameter."

P5. L12. Insert critical before supersaturation.

Response : 'critical' has been inserted.

In the manuscript current text : "On the time scale of hours, the inactivated CCN, or interstitial aerosol, do not change size or supersaturation SS."

Updated text : "On the time scale of hours, the inactivated CCN, or interstitial aerosol, do not change size or critical supersaturation SS."

P5.L17. This is not the critical diameter (dc). This would be the diameter of a droplet at the peak of the Kohler curve. It is the largest unactivated haze droplet or the minimum size of an activated droplet. For 0.24 % Sc this is 0.58 μ m (580 nm). This is not meant here. Apparently, this is the dry diameter that corresponds to 0.24 % Sc. But this would depend on particle composition. For NaCl this is 56 nm, for amon. sul. 70 nm. This is not consistent with the later kappa discussion that suggests 0.3, for a mixture of ammonium sulfate and organics. This does make sense for 0.24 % Sc and 100 nm. Later the term critical dry diameter is used,

and this is apparently what is meant here but where does 94.5 nm originate?

Response: N_{CCN} observations at 0.24 % give a cumulative number of particles of 420 cm^{-3} , which corresponds to the diameter of 94.5 nm on the Fig.3b (solid cyan line) by integrating the aerosol number size distribution.

In the manuscript current text : “Similarly, based on the CCN measurements at the ground-station, the CCN concentration at 0.24 % SS corresponds to 420 cm^{-3} . These results imply that a characteristic in-cloud supersaturation is close to 0.24 % SS. The critical diameter at 0.24 % SS is 94.5 nm.”

Updated text : “Similarly, based on the CCN measurements at the ground-station, the CCN concentration at 0.24 % SS is 420 cm^{-3} , which corresponds to a dry critical diameter of 94.5 nm (Fig.3b) and is similar to the Hoppel minimum in Fig.13a. These results suggest that a characteristic in-cloud supersaturation is close to 0.24 % SS.”

P6. L31. I do not see how this decrease can be observed within cloud where it is supersaturated, and RH cannot be measured.

Response: The text has been updated to avoid any confusion.

In the manuscript current text : “The relative humidity increases from 75 % at the ground to 100 % at the cloud base (1020 m a.s.l.), and then decreases again closer to the cloud top (Fig.9b).”

Updated text : “The relative humidity increases from 75 % at the ground to 100 % at the cloud base (1020 m a.s.l.), and then decreases again at cloud top (Fig.9b).”

L34. The air mass is not saturated only the cloud is saturated.

Response: The sentence has been updated.

In the manuscript current text : “the measured values have been scaled such that RH measurements are 100 % in a cloud (the air mass is considered saturated).”

Updated text : “The measured values have been scaled such that the air inside the cloud is saturated (i.e., RH is 100 %).”

P7. L20-1. That may be true for the simulations, but it may not be true for the real clouds being investigated.

Response: The case studied in the present manuscript is a non-precipitating cloud, and assumptions of negligible impacts of droplet collision, coalescence and drizzle rates are based on Feingold et al. (2013).

In the manuscript current text : “Droplet collision, coalescence and drizzle rates are negligible for the simulated values of liquid water content and cloud droplet number concentration in the

present case (i.e. droplet diameter $D_p < 20 \mu\text{m}$)."

Updated text : "The case study focuses on a non-precipitating cloud (i.e., droplet diameter $< 20 \mu\text{m}$); therefore, droplet collision, coalescence and drizzle rates are negligible for the simulated values of liquid water content and cloud droplet number concentration."

P12. L15. This will depend very much on the width of the droplet spectra.

Response: As mentioned in a previous comment, the impact of the droplet spectral width on the transmitted fraction of shortwave radiation has been investigated. Cloud droplet distributions from the parcel model have been represented by lognormal distributions and the width of the distribution (σ) was changed by a factor of two, while keeping total number of droplets and the LWC equal to the reference case. The difference in the fraction of transmitted radiation is 0.002 for a factor of two change in the droplet spectral width. This difference is nearly the same as the changes in transmitted fraction based on a factor of two changes in aerosol (0.002) and updraft (0.003) in the adiabatic case, which is still much smaller than the difference between adiabatic and entrainment cases.

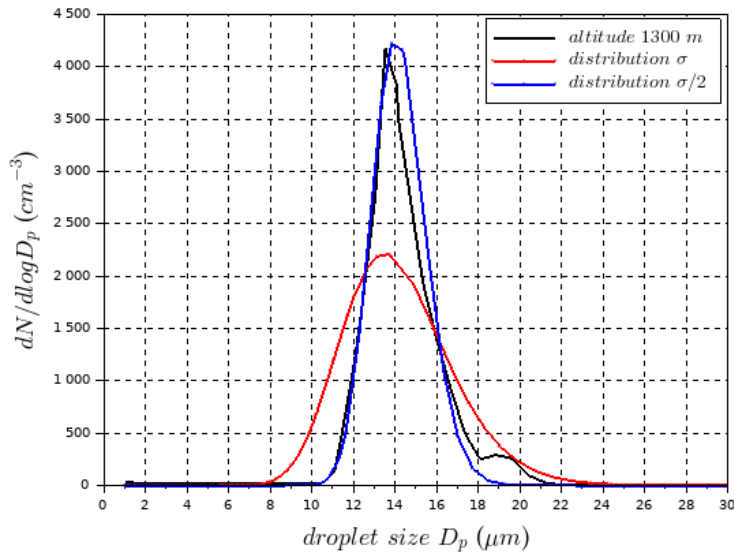


Figure 2: Droplet size distribution at 1300 m a.s.l., the black solid line corresponds to CDNC calculated from the parcel model (reference case). The blue and red lines are lognormal distributions of the corresponding output distribution with equal CDNC and LWC, only the standard deviation σ of the distributions varies.

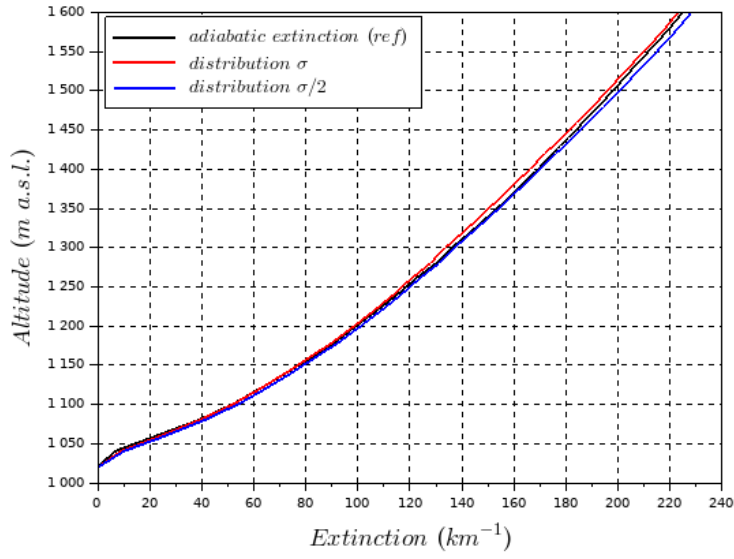


Figure 3: Calculated extinction as a function of altitude with different cloud droplet number spectral widths, with σ and $\sigma/2$.

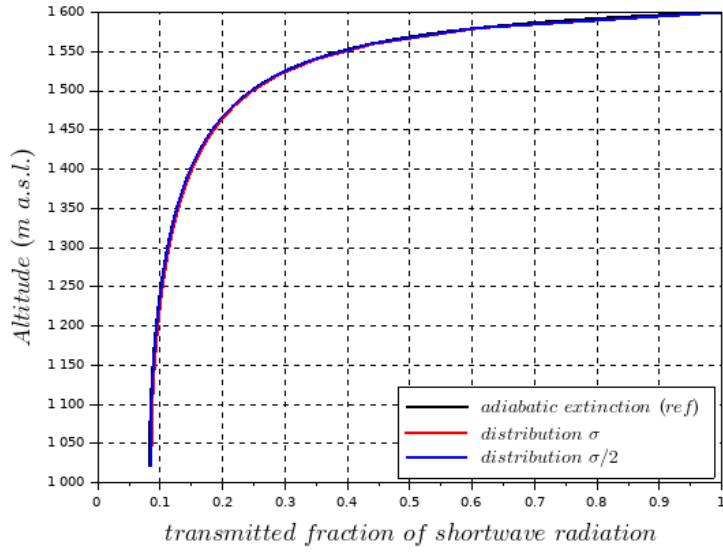


Figure 4: Transmitted fraction of shortwave radiation as a function of altitude for the adiabatic case compared to the impact of factor of two changes in droplet spectral width on the transmitted fraction of shortwave radiation.

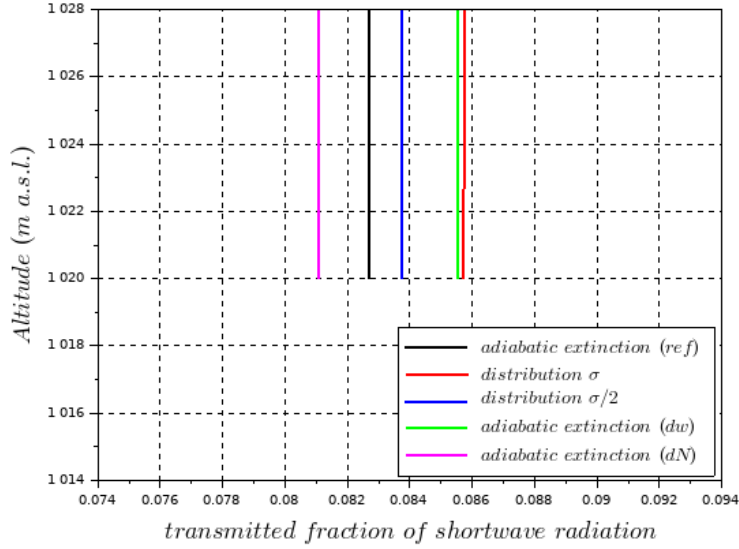


Figure 5: Zoom at cloud base on transmitted fraction of shortwave radiation for the reference adiabatic case compared to a factor of two change in updraft (dw), aerosol number (dN), and σ for the associated lognormal distributions (CDNC and LWC remain equal to the reference case).

Updated text : “The impact of a change in the droplet spectral width has also been studied, using two lognormal droplet distributions with a factor of two variation in the standard deviation (σ) while the total number of droplets and liquid water content remain the same as the reference case.

A factor of two change in the spectral width showed an even smaller difference of 0.002 in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation at cloud base.”

L27. Lower W causes lower S and lower N_c but it does not directly cause larger droplet sizes. This might be the case if LWC remains constant.

Response: We do not see any reason why the LWC would not remain constant under these conditions. However, the sentence has been changed to clarify this point.

In the manuscript current text : “The lower vertical wind velocities also results in lower cloud droplet number concentrations and larger effective radii owing to lower in-cloud supersaturations (Fig.13).”

Updated text : “The smaller updrafts also result in lower cloud droplet number concentrations owing to lower in-cloud supersaturations (Fig.13).”

L34. This would depend on the initial values. What are they?

Response: We agree, changes in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation depend on the initial values, which are summarized in Table 1 and 3, based on Figures 3 and 5.

P14. L16. This depends on the initial N_c and droplet size distribution.

Response: We agree and updated the manuscript to clarify this point.

In the manuscript current text : “A doubling of N increases the maximum cloud droplet number by 50 cm^{-3} , whereas a reduction in w decreases the maximum cloud droplet number by 70 cm^{-3} . The impact on cloud effective radius is relatively small, less than $\pm 1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ changes in the radius ($< 7 \%$ in relative changes).”

Updated text : “In addition to comparing ACPM results between entrainment and adiabatic cases, a sensitivity analysis presented here explores the impact of a change in aerosol particle number concentrations (dN) as well as changes in the updraft distribution (dw) on the cloud optical properties (Pringle et al. (2009); Moore et al. (2013)). Profiles of the cloud droplet number and effective radii (Fig.13) and cloud optical properties (Fig.14) are also simulated with the inputs of aerosol number concentration multiplied by two ($dN=2N$) and the updraft distribution divided by two ($dw=w/2$). Increasing the aerosol concentrations by a factor of two results in an aerosol concentration of $\sim 2400 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ representing more polluted conditions. Such an increase in aerosol/CCN concentrations also increases cloud droplet number concentration (Fig.13a), decreases the effective radii (Fig.13b), and presents a cloud with a higher albedo. In addition, halving the updraft distribution results in a distribution with maximum vertical wind near 2 m s^{-1} , which also happen to be similar to the updrafts observed in marine stratocumulus cloud layers over Mace Head Research Station, Ireland (Calmer et al., 2018). In this case study of dw , the lower updrafts also result in lower cloud droplet number concentrations with larger effective radii owing to lower in-cloud supersaturations (Fig.13). The lower cloud droplet number and larger effective radii results in lower albedo of the cloud layer and an increase of the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation (Fig.14). In the adiabatic case, a decrease of 16% in cloud droplet number is observed when the updraft distribution is divided by two (dw); and an increase of 11% of droplet number occurs when the number of dry particles is multiplied by two (dN). The impact of a change in the droplet spectral width has also been studied, using two lognormal droplet distributions with a factor of two variation in the standard deviation (σ) while the total number of droplets and liquid water content remain the same as the reference case. Factor of two changes in updraft distribution causes the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation to increase by 0.003 in the adiabatic case, and 0.005 in the entrainment case, corresponding to an decrease in albedo. Likewise, a factor of two increase in aerosol size distribution leads to a -0.002 (adiabatic case) and -0.004 (entrainment case) decrease in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation through the cloud (corresponding to similar net increase in cloud albedo, Fig.14). A factor of two change in the droplet spectral width showed an even smaller difference of 0.002 in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation at cloud base. To summarize, factor of two variations of N , w , and droplet spectral width correspond to a change within ± 0.005 in the transmitted shortwave radiation (and albedo) compared to the reference case. Yet, the change in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation between adiabatic and entrainment cases is 0.15 , corresponding to a factor of thirty change in cloud albedo compared to changes in droplet number, updraft, and spectral width. The impact of entrainment on cloud optical properties has long been known (Boers et al., 1994), and this study only emphasizes its impact relative to aerosol indirect effect, changes in vertical motion, and cloud droplet spectral width. Extending this analysis further suggests that the sensitivity of cloud optical properties related to entrainment variability also needs to be constrained in order to improve climate models.”

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Anonymous Referee #2

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We thank the reviewer for his/her critical comments and corrections, which strengthen the quality of this manuscript.

Comments from the reviewer appear in italic, response from the authors follows.

The manuscript by Calmer et al. shows results from an aerosol-cloud closure study based on ground-based and airborne measurements complemented by a numerical cloud parcel model. The basic methods used in the investigation are sound. The numerical modeling framework seems rather simplistic, but is probably adequate to characterize the aerosol-cloud closure in the stratiform cloud case. Moreover, it is nice to see that the effect of entrainment on the aerosol-cloud coupling is considered, which comprises some of the more interesting aspects of the manuscript.

Response: We acknowledge that the cloud parcel model is relatively simplistic, but we specifically choose to do so to conduct the closure experiment, directly compare with in-situ measurements, and quantify the impact of entrainment relative to other microphysical processes.

I'd like to ask the Authors to improve the presentation quality of the model description and some of the results, which seem very confusing and hard to follow at times. Please see the specific comments for details.

Response: We improved the presentation quality by rephrasing the model description. The updated text is shown under the specific comments from the reviewer (Section 3).

In addition, I think the contribution by the simple sensitivity tests to the outcome of the manuscript is rather weak, since it is very clear from the basic analysis (as well as from other sources) that neglecting such a central physical process as entrainment will not yield a good aerosol-cloud closure in most cases. It would be more interesting to try characterize e.g. the possible feedback effects between the aerosol-cloud microphysical perturbations and entrainment.

Response: We are well aware from the literature that entrainment constitutes a central physical processes; however, we are not aware of other studies that have directly quantified the impact of entrainment on cloud optical properties relative to changes in aerosol and vertical winds. In the parcel model, aerosol and vertical winds determine the cloud properties from the model; however, only for an adiabatic parcel. The impact of entrainment is determined by comparison with in situ observations and one of the short coming with the parcel model is that it is not possible to study feedback effects.

Other than the sensitivity tests, the manuscript does not touch on the subject of aerosol indirect effects specifically, and the sensitivity tests presented are not really enough to make any conclusions about AIE.

Response: The aerosol indirect effect (AIE) is only discussed to study relative impact of aerosol on cloud optical properties and is not the focus of the paper. The factor of two variations in aerosol and updraft are arbitrary and are designed to explore the sensitivity related to cloud optical properties as has been done in other simulations (Pringle et al. (2009); Moore et al. (2013)), and compare the sensitivity to the effect of entrainment. We have stated in the manuscript that our study focuses on a relatively polluted case and is inherently less sensitive (w.r.t. aerosols) than a case with lower aerosol concentrations.

I suppose the currently used model setup is not able to adjust entrainment in response to changes in the cloud radiative properties caused by changing droplet number etc.?

Response: No, the model set up is not able to adjust entrainment in response to changes in the cloud radiative properties caused by changing droplet number. The correction for entrainment is applied to the model output based on observed thermodynamic properties.

Specific comments:

Section 3: The model description is not adequate: is it actually a 1-D column model, or a (0-D) parcel model which you lift along a vertical trajectory? Where and how do you set the model top, do you limit it exactly at cloud top height? How long timestep do you use? Please be more precise and put some more effort to details.

Response: We specifically kept the model description succinct and cited Sanchez et al. (2017), Russell et al. (1999) and Russell et al. (1998) for a more detailed description of the model and methods. The model is a 0-D parcel model in which a parcel is lifted vertically at the observed distribution of updrafts. The model is limited to the cloud top height (as observed). The time step is 0.1 seconds to account for kinetic limitations on droplet growth (Chuang et al., 1997). To address the

concerns of the reviewer, we have added the specific details and highlighted them below in the relevant text.

In the manuscript : “The 0-D Aerosol-Cloud Parcel Model (ACPM) is based on Russell et al. (1998) and Russell et al. (1999), where the main equations explicitly described the processes of activation of aerosol particles and the condensation of water vapor on the resulting cloud droplets. The model is designed to be initialized from aircraft-based field observations. The ACPM lifts a parcel of air along a vertical trajectory limited by the observed cloud top height, at timesteps of 0.1 seconds, to account for kinetic limitations in droplet growth (Chuang et al., 1997). The input aerosol particle distribution is divided into 70 bins that are equally log spaced with a minimum bin edge size of $0.02\ \mu\text{m}$, and a maximum bin edge size of $3.0\ \mu\text{m}$. The ACPM uses a fixed sectional approach for distinct aerosol populations to calculate particle growth under supersaturated conditions (Russell et al., 1998). Evaporation from the entrainment is parameterized and applied to the ACPM results. Deposition is also included but negligible for the study here. Droplet collision, coalescence and drizzle rates are negligible for the simulated values of liquid water content and cloud droplet number concentration in the present case (i.e. droplet diameter $D_p < 20\ \text{nm}$). The model is designed to be initialized from aircraft-based field observations, and The model employs a dual-moment (number and mass) algorithm to calculate the particle growth.”

Page 7, line 18: Aerosols are given in fixed bins, but what is the size range and spacing of the bins? The sentence on line 26 talks about the aerosol particles again, while the previous sentence is about liquid water in “moving section representation”? Please describe one issue at a time (i.e. aerosol bin characteristics, cloud droplet bin characteristics, the coupling between aerosol and cloud etc.) to make it easier to read and, again, try to make it consistent and precise.

Response: The size range and spacing of the bins has been stated in the text, but we agree the organization of this section made it hard to follow. The first paragraph of section 3.1 has been reorganized to more clearly discuss the model details and is included in response to the previous comment. The updated text to describe the size range and spacing is:

In the manuscript current text : “To simulate drops in the model, aerosol particles are divided into 70 bins that are log spaced. The minimum size is $0.02\ \mu\text{m}$, and the maximum size is $3.0\ \mu\text{m}$.”

Updated text: “The input aerosol particle distribution is divided into 70 bins that are equally log spaced with a minimum bin edge size of $0.02\ \mu\text{m}$, and a maximum bin edge size of $3.0\ \mu\text{m}$.”

Page 11, line 15: In reality, cloud albedo remains somewhat smaller than unity. This assumption does not seem legitimate.

Response: Both reviewers have pointed this out. The text has been updated to avoid any confusion.

In the manuscript current text : “As the cloud thickens, the albedo approaches unity meaning that all incoming solar irradiance is reflected back to space (Fig.14).”

Updated text : “As the cloud thickens, the albedo increases (but remains less than 1) meaning that more incoming solar irradiance is reflected back to space (Fig.14).”

Section 4.3: Please declare the notation for the experiments (dw and dN) already in the beginning of the section to make it easier to read.

Response: Section 4.3 has been updated to declare the notation at the beginning.

In the manuscript current text : “In addition to comparing ACPM results between entrainment and adiabatic cases, a sensitivity analysis presented here explores the impact of a change in aerosol particle number concentrations as well as changes in the vertical velocity distribution on the cloud optical properties.”

Updated text : “In addition to comparing ACPM results between entrainment and adiabatic cases, a sensitivity analysis presented here explores the impact of a change in aerosol particle number concentrations (dN) as well as changes in the updraft distribution (dw) on the cloud optical properties.”

Section 4.3: Please check and revise the presentation of the results. First you state that halving the updraft velocity decreases the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation. Do you mean increases, since this contradicts the change shown in Fig 14 as well as the general expectation, or do you change the point of reference from the control experiment to the dw experiment? In the latter case, please don't do that. Also, the reported total range of change seen in the transmitted fraction (dN effect as the low limit, dw effect as the high) then adds to this confusion.

Response : We thank the reviewer for point out the inconsistency. Halving the updraft velocity indeed increases the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation. We clarify the point of reference from the control experiment.

In the manuscript : “In addition to comparing ACPM results between entrainment and adiabatic cases, a sensitivity analysis presented here explores the impact of a change in aerosol particle number concentrations (dN) as well as changes in the ~~vertical velocity distribution~~ **updraft distribution (dw)** on the cloud optical properties (Pringle et al. (2009); Moore et al. (2013)). Profiles of the cloud droplet number and effective radii (Fig.13) and cloud optical properties (Fig.14) are also simulated with the inputs of aerosol number concentration multiplied by two ($2N$ ~~$dN=2N$~~) and the updraft ~~velocity distribution~~ **divided by two ($w/2$ ~~$dw=w/2$~~)**. Increasing the aerosol concentrations by a factor of two results in an aerosol concentration of $\sim 2400 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ representing more polluted conditions. Such an increase in aerosol/CCN concentrations also increases cloud droplet number concentration (Fig.13a), decreases the effective radii (Fig.13b), and presents a cloud with a higher albedo. In addition, halving the ~~vertical wind velocity~~ **updraft** distribution results in a distribution with maximum vertical wind ~~velocities~~ **near 2 m s^{-1}** , which also happen to be similar to the ~~updraft velocities~~ **updrafts** observed in marine stratocumulus cloud layers over Mace Head Research Station, Ireland (Calmer et al., 2018). ~~The lower vertical wind velocities also results~~ **In this case study of dw , the lower updrafts also result** in lower cloud droplet number concentrations ~~and with~~ **larger effective radii** owing to lower in-cloud supersaturations (Fig.13). The lower cloud droplet number and ~~smaller~~ **larger** effective radii results in lower albedo of the cloud layer **and an increase of the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation** (Fig.14). ~~A decrease of 70 cm^{-3}~~ **In the adiabatic case, a decrease of 16 %** in cloud droplet number is observed when the updraft ~~velocity distribution~~ **is divided by two (dw)**; and an increase of ~~50 cm^{-3}~~ **11 % of droplet number** occurs when the number of dry particles is multiplied by two (dN). **The impact of a change in the droplet spectral width has also been studied, using two lognormal droplet distributions with a factor of two variation in the standard deviation (σ) while the total number of droplets and liquid water content remain the same as the reference case.** Factor of two changes in updraft distribution causes the fraction of

transmitted shortwave radiation to ~~decrease~~ **increase** by 0.003 in the adiabatic case, and 0.005 in the entrainment case, corresponding to an ~~increase in extinction~~ **decrease in albedo**. Likewise, a factor of two increase in aerosol size distribution leads to a -0.002 (adiabatic case) and -0.004 (entrainment case) ~~changes~~ **decrease** in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation through the cloud (corresponding to similar net ~~changes~~ **increase** in cloud albedo, Fig.14). **A factor of two change in the droplet spectral width showed an even smaller difference of 0.002 in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation at cloud base.** To summarize, a factor of two variations of N and w , and **droplet spectral width** correspond to a change ~~in a range between -0.004 and~~ **within \pm 0.005** in transmitted shortwave radiation **(and albedo) compared to the reference case.** Yet, the change in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation between adiabatic and entrainment cases is 0.15, corresponding to a factor of ~~three~~ **thirty** change in cloud albedo compared to changes in droplet number and vertical wind velocity distributions, **updraft, and droplet spectral width.** **The impact of entrainment on cloud optical properties has long been known (Boers et al., 1994) , and this study only emphasizes its impact relative to aerosol indirect effect and changes in vertical motion. Extending this analysis further suggests that the sensitivity of cloud optical properties related to entrainment variability also needs to be constrained in order to improve climate models."**

Page 12, lines 28-29: "The lower cloud droplet number and smaller effective radii results in lower albedo" - do you mean larger effective radii? Does all this still refer to the dw experiment? Please clarify.

Response: We thank the reviewer for catching this mistake, and we have updated the manuscript for the *dw* experiment leading to larger effective radii and lower cloud droplet number concentration.

In the manuscript current text : "The lower vertical wind velocities also results in lower cloud droplet number concentrations and larger effective radii owing to lower in-cloud supersaturations (Fig.13) . The lower cloud droplet number and smaller effective radii results in lower albedo of the cloud layer (Fig.14)."

Updated text : "In this case study of *dw*, the lower vertical wind velocities also result in lower cloud droplet number concentrations owing to lower in-cloud supersaturations and larger effective radii (Fig.13). The lower cloud droplet number and larger effective radii results in lower albedo of the cloud layer or an increase of the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation (Fig.14)."

Page 14, line 18: Combining the range of variation in the cloud radiative properties from the dw and dN sensitivity experiments feels a bit awkward, since the perturbations used in the two quantities and their magnitudes have nothing to do with each other whatsoever. Please consider keeping the results from these sensitivity experiments separate.

Response: To avoid confusion, we have chosen to simplify the summary of the sensitivity experiments.

In the manuscript current text : "These changes in cloud droplet number concentrations by varying N and w lead to changes between -0.004 and 0.005 in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation. In comparison, the change in fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation and albedo related to entrainment is 0.15."

Updated text : "To summarize, factor of two variations of N , w , and droplet spectral width

correspond to a change within ± 0.005 in transmitted shortwave radiation (and albedo) compared to the reference case. Yet, the change in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation between adiabatic and entrainment cases is 0.15, corresponding to a factor of thirty change in cloud albedo compared to changes in droplet number, updraft, and droplet spectral width."

Page 14, line 25: ". . . highlight notably that entrainment processes reduce the impact of cloud radiative forcing." Please reconsider this statement. This generalization is not the same thing as having biased model results because of neglecting this essential physical process. Instead, referring to the general comment in the beginning of this review, entrainment can react e.g. to aerosol induced changes in the cloud and create a feedback loop, but this is not investigated in the manuscript.

Response : We have corrected our phrasing of the quoted text. While it is clear that neglecting entrainment will result in inaccurate results, past closure studies do neglect including entrainment to focus on closure of cloud droplet number concentrations (particularly near cloud base). The impact of entrainment was observed for example in Conant et al. (2004), and Meskhidze et al. (2005); however, the data was screened and only on the case studies close to adiabatic values were studied. Feedbacks causing changes in entrainment due to aerosol induced changes is not included in the manuscript because it is out of the scope of this paper. Though these feedback effects are important, such a study cannot be conducted with a 0-D model as the model does not account for entrainment. The unique contribution of this paper is to use in-situ ground-based and airborne observations to initialize a 0-D model and compare adiabatic simulated outputs of cloud optical properties to those measured directly. The impact of entrainment is then identified by accounting for the differences between the simulated and observed cloud optical properties. To highlight these objectives, we state in the following text: "In this study, cloud droplet number concentration was not measured directly, and the closure study is conducted on cloud optical properties. RPAS measurements of cloud optical properties are more accurately reproduced by an ACPM simulation using a parameterization for entrainment compared to an adiabatic simulation."

In the manuscript current text : "The case studies in Cyprus (this study) and at Mace Head illustrate the significance of the entrainment processes in determining cloud optical properties in two different environments, and highlight notably that entrainment processes reduce the impact of cloud radiative forcing."

Updated text : "The case studies in Cyprus (this study) and at Mace Head illustrate the significance of the entrainment processes in determining cloud optical properties in two different environments. Entrainment mixing decreases the water content in the cloud relative to an adiabatic profile, which leads to a significant overestimation of cloud radiative forcing."

Technical comments

Figure 10: Please rephrase the caption; "number of particles greater than 0.3 μm " etc.

Response: Captions have been changed, and now read :

In the manuscript current caption : "Figure 10. Vertical profiles of aerosol number concentration for a previous flight an hour earlier (Flight 65) greater 0.3 μm and greater 1 μm ."

Updated text : "Figure 10. Vertical profiles of aerosol number concentration for number of particles greater than 0.3 μm and greater than 1 μm . Measurements of the aerosol number

concentration were conducted during a previous flight (Flight 65), which occurred an hour earlier than the flight considered in this study (Flight 67)."

Figure 11: Please rephrase the caption; "mass concentration and chemical composition of aerosol during the flight ..." etc.

In the manuscript current caption : "Figure 11. a) Concentration of aerosol chemical composition during the flight (Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ACSM) measurement). b) Normalized mass fraction of aerosol chemical composition during the flight."

Updated text : "Figure 11. a) Measurements from the Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ACSM) for the mass concentration of aerosols depending on their chemical composition. The time period covers the flight presently studied. b) Normalized aerosol mass concentration depending on aerosol chemical composition for the same period."

Figure 13: Please explain the shaded areas briefly in the caption.

In the manuscript current caption : "Figure 13. a) Simulated cloud droplet number function of the cloud height, for the adiabatic and the entrainment cases, with variation of updraft velocity (dw) and particle number (dN)."

Updated text : "Figure 13. a) Simulated cloud droplet number function of the cloud height, for the adiabatic and the entrainment cases, with variation of updraft velocity (dw) and particle number (dN). Shaded areas are obtained from a variation of LWC of $\pm 0.05 \text{ g m}^{-3}$ in the calculation of cloud droplet number in the reference case, dark gray for the adiabatic case and light gray for the simulation with the entrainment parameterization. The intermediate gray corresponds to the intersection of the two cases."

Figure 14: The x-axis label is pretty confusing, try to simplify.

In the manuscript current figure : "Averaged normalized downwelling pyranometer and transmitted fraction of shortwave radiation"

Updated text: "Observed and simulated transmitted fraction of shortwave radiation"

Page 3 lines 21-22 unclear sentence

In the manuscript current text : "In Conant et al., (2004) and Meskhidze et al., (2005) closure studies on consistency between the variables N_d , the impact of entrainment was observed; however, the data was screened and only on the case studies close to adiabatic values were studied."

Updated text : "In Conant et al. (2004) and Meskhidze et al. (2005), the impact of entrainment was observed; however, the data was screened and only the case studies approximating adiabatic

values were used to show aerosol-cloud closure of cloud droplet number concentrations near cloud base.”

Are the model code and data publicly available?

Response: the data will be publicly available at the publication of the manuscript.

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Aerosol-Cloud Closure Study on Cloud Optical Properties using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Measurements during a BACCHUS Field Campaign in Cyprus

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Abstract. In the framework of the EU-FP7 BACCHUS project, an intensive field campaign was performed in Cyprus (2015/03). Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), ground-based instruments, and remote-sensing observations were operating in parallel to provide an integrated characterization of aerosol-cloud interactions. Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) were equipped with a 5-hole probe, pyranometers, pressure, temperature and humidity sensors, and measured ~~updraft velocity~~ **vertical wind** at cloud base and cloud optical properties of a stratocumulus layer. Ground-based measurements of dry aerosol size distributions and cloud condensation nuclei spectra, and RPA observations of ~~vertical wind velocity~~ **updraft** and meteorological state parameters are used here to initialize an Aerosol-Cloud Parcel Model (ACPM) and compare the in situ observations of cloud optical properties measured by the RPA to those simulated in the ACPM. Two different cases are studied with the ACPM, including an adiabatic case and an entrainment case, in which the in-cloud temperature profile from RPA is taken into account. Adiabatic ACPM simulation yields cloud droplet number concentrations at cloud base (ca. 400 cm^{-3}) that are similar to those derived from a Hoppel minimum analysis. Cloud optical properties have been inferred using the transmitted fraction of shortwave radiation profile measured by downwelling and upwelling pyranometers mounted on a RPA, and the observed transmitted fraction of solar radiation is then compared to simulations from the ACPM. ACPM simulations and RPA observations show better agreement when associated with entrainment compared to that of an adiabatic case. The mean difference between observed and adiabatic profiles of transmitted fraction of solar radiation is 0.12, while this difference is only 0.03 between observed and entrainment profiles. A sensitivity calculation is then conducted to quantify the relative impacts of two-fold changes in aerosol concentration, and ~~updraft velocity~~ to highlight the importance of accounting for the impact of entrainment in deriving cloud optical properties, as well as the ability of RPAs to leverage ground-based observations for studying aerosol-cloud interactions.

1 Introduction

The influence of aerosol-cloud interactions on the climate is through the first indirect aerosol effect (Twomey, 1974), the second indirect aerosol effect (Albrecht, 1989), and other effects of aerosols on cloud (a comprehensive review is given in Lohmann and Feichter (2004)). As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (Boucher et al., 2013) aims to quantify the effective radiative forcing due to aerosol-cloud interactions, discrepancies still remain between observations and model results. Even though the Twomey or cloud-albedo effect might be considered as the most studied, discussions are still on-going to better understand the correlation between cloud condensation nuclei (CCN), supersaturation (S), ~~vertical wind velocity up-draft~~ (w), cloud droplet number concentration (N_d -CDNC), and the impact on cloud albedo depending on the environmental conditions (Hudson and Noble (2014a); Werner et al. (2014); Cecchini et al. (2017); Sarangi et al. (2018)). With the support of fifteen years of satellite measurements, calculation of albedo susceptibilities helps to better understand the cloud radiative response due to aerosol-cloud interactions, and supports the conclusion that polluted clouds less efficiently change their albedo compared to more pristine clouds for the same change in N_d -CDNC (Painemal, 2018). Cloud droplet number concentrations have been the center of interest for satellite retrieval calculations based on cloud optical depth, cloud droplet effective radius, and cloud top temperature. Nonetheless, a high relative uncertainty is still associated with N_d -CDNC (Grosvenor et al., 2018). Bender et al. (2016) also showed disagreement between model and satellite observations for the influence of aerosol loading on cloud albedo. Consequently, climate models tend to overestimate the albedo compared to observations when the contribution of aerosol was considered. Ma et al. (2018) identified steps in satellite retrieval procedures, which led to errors in cloud susceptibilities to aerosols, and biased comparison with climate model. More generally, a call for more validation studies in different cloud regimes with in situ data has been expressed (Grosvenor et al., 2018), specifically to provide the whole cloud profile and detailed picture of the causes of differences between in situ measurements, satellite retrievals, and model simulations.

Traditionally, manned aircraft have been used to conduct aerosol-cloud closure studies, where a closure experiment aims to characterize the same parameters of a system with different, independent methods and models to minimize the measurement uncertainties through comparison of derived values (i.e., Weinzierl et al. (2017)). Closure studies mainly focus on comparisons between cloud droplet number concentration, obtained from in situ measurements, and calculated from an Aerosol-Cloud Parcel Model (ACPM). Conant et al. (2004) presented the first study to achieve a closure within 15 % for cumulus clouds of marine and continental origin during the CRYSTAL-FACE experiment (Key West, Florida, July 2002). Meskhidze et al. (2005) also obtained a good agreement, within 30 %, for stratocumulus clouds (CSTRIPE, Monterey, California, July 2003). For a highly polluted environment (ICARTT, Detroit, Michigan, Cleveland, Ohio, 2004), Fountoukis et al. (2007) achieved a closure within 10 % on average. These studies also highlight that cloud droplet number concentrations are more sensitive to aerosol and up-draft velocity depending on atmospheric conditions. The aerosol- and updraft-limited regimes for cloud droplet formation were studied with an adiabatic parcel model in Reutter et al. (2009), and a differentiation between the regimes was proposed based on the relative sensitivity ratios ($d\ln CDNC/d\ln w$ and $d\ln CDNC/d\ln N$). The results of the model were consistent with field observations in clean/polluted environments (Fountoukis et al. (2007); Hudson and Noble (2014a); Hudson and Noble

(2014b)). Previous closure studies on N_d -CDNC were only conducted with adiabatic simulations, even if already pointed out in Conant et al. (2004) that 1) the effects of entrainment mixing had to be included for a more comprehensive description of cloud microphysics, and 2) nearly adiabatic profiles were maintained only through the lowest part of the cloud. To address some of the discrepancies in previous studies, a BACCHUS (impact of Biogenic versus Anthropogenic emissions on Clouds and Climate: towards a Holistic UnderStanding) field campaign took place at Mace Head, Ireland, in a clean marine environment in August 2015, coupling ground-based, in situ and remote sensing observations with Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) and satellite observations (Sanchez et al., 2017). In this study, cloud droplet number concentration was not measured directly, and the closure study was conducted on cloud optical properties. RPAS measurements of cloud optical properties were more accurately reproduced by an ACPM simulation using a parameterization for entrainment compared to an adiabatic simulation.

The present work is based on an analysis that is similar to Sanchez et al. (2017), and further extends aerosol-cloud closures with a sensitivity study on the impacts of aerosol and updraft on cloud optical properties.

Entrainment is well-known for influencing the boundary layer and clouds (e.g., Blyth (1993); Baker (1992); Carman et al. (2012)). Recent works have been published, investigating the role of entrainment and turbulence for broadening the cloud droplet spectra with an adiabatic parcel model (Grabowski and Abade (2017); Abade et al. (2018)), aiming to improve subgrid-scale representation for a large eddy simulation cloud model. Studies of entrainment-mixing mechanisms in cumulus clouds used manned aircraft observations (CIRPAS Twin Otter) to highlight the scale dependence of the mixing processes (Lu et al., 2018). However, as the scale of entrainment processes ranges from km to mm, Lu et al. (2014) point out the limitation of a 10 Hz sampling rate with a manned aircraft flying at 50 m s^{-1} (spatial resolution 5 m). Similar conclusions were also deduced in Burnet and Brenguier (2007) for a resolution scale of 10 m (10 Hz data, manned aircraft Météo-France Merlin IV, NCAR C130) for turbulence and droplet evaporation. In Conant et al. (2004) and Meskhidze et al. (2005) closure studies on consistency between the variables N_d , the impact of entrainment was observed; however, the data were screened and only on the case studies close to approximating adiabatic values were studied.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) brings new possibilities for studying aerosol-cloud interactions and optical cloud properties at higher spatial resolution (e.i., 1.6 m with 10 Hz sampling rate) due to lower airspeed (16 m s^{-1}), which result in a better representation of the cloud.

This study focuses on an aerosol-cloud closure between in-cloud observations of downwelling solar irradiance from RPA and results of an ACPM initialized with RPA and ground-based measurements. The second section introduces the case study observed during the BACCHUS field campaign in Cyprus with a description of the ground-based observations of aerosol number size distribution and CCN, and airborne observations of temperature, relative humidity, vertical wind velocity, particle number and solar irradiance. The third section of this study focuses on the ACPM, and how a parameterization of entrainment-mixing is applied to the adiabatic simulation to take into account for the impact of entrainment. The last section highlights the closure on cloud optical properties with a sensitivity study that compares adiabatic profiles from ACPM simulations and the entrainment parameterization.

2 Cyprus case study

Cyprus is a highly relevant environment to study aerosols, particularly dust and ice-nucleating particles (e.g., Schrod et al. (2017)), as the island is located in the Mediterranean Sea, at the intersection of pollution from Europe, Middle East, and dust from the Sahara. Cyprus is also impacted by marine aerosols and local anthropogenic emissions. The present study focuses on the BACCHUS field campaign in Cyprus, which took place from 2015/03/05 to 2015/04/02. Ground-based instruments, remote-sensing, and RPAS activities contributed to the field campaign. 52 scientific flights were conducted with the RPAS platforms corresponding to 38 hours of airborne observations. This case study concentrates on one-day flight measurements, and contains all of the necessary elements to study aerosol-cloud interactions by combining the RPA measurements with aerosol and CCN measurements at the ground. The purpose of this case study is to use in situ ground-based and airborne observations to initialize an aerosol-cloud parcel model and compare in situ observations of cloud optical properties to those simulated in the ACPM. The present case study focuses on a RPA flight on 2015/04/01, which measured convective updrafts at cloud base and cloud optical properties of a stratocumulus layer (Fig.1).

2.1 Ground-based observations

Cyprus Atmospheric Observatory at Agia Marina Xyliatou (40 km West of Nicosia, 35.0386N; 33.0577E; 535 m a.s.l. (meters above sea level)) is operated by the Cyprus Institute, and provided complimentary measurements of physicochemical properties of aerosols during the BACCHUS field campaign. Atmospheric studies including data from the Agia Marina Station in Cyprus have already been published on ozone concentration observations (Kleanthous et al., 2014), and particle matter variability (Pikridas et al., 2018). The station is part of the WMO-GAW regional station, EMEP et AERONET networks. Among the instrumentation installed at the ground-based site, multiple measurement devices provided input to conduct an aerosol-cloud closure study. A miniature CCN instrument provides the number of activated particles at 0.24 % supersaturation (Roberts and Nenes, 2005). A scanning mobility particle sizer (Grimm 5400 SMPS) measures the aerosol number dry size distribution from 10 to 360 nm diameter. An optical particle counter (Grimm OPC 1.108) gives the number of particles per bin for dry sizes between 0.3 and 20 μm (14 bins). A condensation particles counter (CPC, model TSI 3010) counts the total aerosol concentration (particle diameter $D_p > 10$ nm) and is also used to normalize the SMPS measurements. An aerosol chemical speciation monitor (Q-ACSM, ~~Aerodyne Research Inc~~ Aerodyne Research Inc.) provides the chemical composition of non-refractory submicron aerosol particles with a range from 40 nm to 1 μm diameter. The ground-based measurements were conducted at a site that was 2 km from the RPAS operations.

2.2 Particle size distribution

Figure 2 shows the time series of the aerosol particle number distributions for 2015/04/01 measured at the Cyprus Atmospheric Observatory, where the black rectangle represents the 3-hour period selected to average the aerosol size distribution and the magenta lines represents the time period of the RPA flight (take-off at 2:00 pm local time, 11:00 am UTC time). The aerosol

particle number size distribution shows the presence of modes at 50 and 150 nm, with a trough near 100 nm implying cloud-processed aerosol. Figure 3a presents the average size distribution from normalized SMPS, as well as ground-based and RPA OPC measurements. A minimum at 100 nm (known as the Hoppel minimum) is visible in Fig.3a. OPC concentrations of ground-based and RPA measurements (from surface to cloud base) are within a factor of two, which is within variability observed at the ground station on 2015/04/01. As the CPC measurements ended on 2015/03/27 (end of the BACCHUS field campaign), no simultaneous measurements of aerosol number concentrations between the CPC and the SMPS are available for the case study day. Therefore, to quantify uncertainties between the integrated SMPS and CPC aerosol concentrations, CPC and SMPS data were compared for one week period (2015/03/20 to 2015/03/27). The CPC is a reference counting instrument and used to normalize the integrated SMPS concentration (Wiedensohler et al., 2012). To account for uncertainties associated with the SMPS inversion routines, we compare periods with and without new particle formation events, and the integrated SMPS/CPC ratio shows a mean value of 0.63 ± 0.16 and 0.65 ± 0.15 , respectively. Consequently, we use the minimum ratio (ca. 0.5) as the lowest concentration for the ACPM simulations (Section 3.2). On the time scale of hours, the inactivated CCN, or interstitial aerosol, do not change size or critical supersaturation SS (Hudson et al., 2015)(Hoppel et al., 1996). The cumulative distribution of particle number (based on SMPS and OPC measurements, Fig.3b) is used to estimate the number of particles that can grow into cloud droplets at a given diameter. In Fig.3, the Hoppel minimum diameter at 100 nm corresponds to an estimate of $400\text{--}388\text{ cm}^{-3}$ particles that activate to form cloud droplets. Similarly, based on the CCN measurements at the ground-station, the CCN concentration at 0.24 % SS corresponds to 420 cm^{-3} , which corresponds to a dry critical diameter of 94.5 nm (Fig.3b), and is similar to the diameter corresponding to the Hoppel minimum in Fig.13a. These results imply suggest that a characteristic in-cloud supersaturation is close to 0.24 % SS . The critical diameter at 0.24 % SS is 94.5 nm. Table 1 summarizes these parameters, diameters and concentrations. We expect to observe the Hoppel minimum or a break in the aerosol number size distribution at the diameter that corresponds to CCN particles which grow into cloud droplets at cloud base near adiabatic conditions.

2.3 RPAS observations

The RPAs are commercially available Skywalker X6 models that have been modified to be equipped with atmospheric measurement instruments (Fig.4). The wingspan is 1.5 m long, and take-off weight varies between 1.5 kg and 2.5 kg depending on the mission specific payload. The RPA's autonomous navigation system is the open source autopilot Paparazzi from Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (Brisset et al., 2006). All the RPAs measured temperature (IST, Model P1K0.161.6W.Y.010), absolute pressure (All Sensors, Model 15PSI-A-HGRADE-SMINI), relative humidity (IST, P14 Rapid-W). Measurement errors for the relative humidity and temperature sensors are $\pm 5\%$ and $\pm 0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, respectively. The RPAs had a video camera attached to the wing (Camsports EVO PRO 2). The Centre National de Recherches Météorologiques (CNRM) group deployed different types of instrumented RPAs. Among them was an aerosol-RPA, equipped with an optical particle counter (OPC, Met One Model 212-2, for aerosol size between 0.3 and $3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$), and a wind-RPA, equipped with a 5-hole probe (Aeroprobe Corporation) and an Inertial Navigation System (INS, Lord Sensing Microstrain 3DM-GX4-45) to measure vertical wind velocities near cloud base and pyranometers (LICOR LI-200R pyranometers, from 400 to 1100 nm wavelengths) to measure cloud optical

properties. The field to operate the RPAS (35.056429N; 33.055761E; 450 m a.s.l.) was located 1 km north of the Cyprus Atmospheric Observatory instrumented site. A rectangular airspace approximately 2.6 x 1.7 km² was used for the flight operations with a ceiling at 2286 m a.s.l.; 7500 ft a.s.l.

2.4 Case study : stratocumulus layer

- 5 The flight with the wind-RPA took place on 2015/04/01 at 11:00 am UTC (Flight 67) for a duration of 1 hour and 20 min. The flight plan, as shown in Fig.1, consisted of a first set of 1.5 km straight-and-level legs at 1000 m a.s.l. near cloud base, then a profile up to 2100 m a.s.l. through the stratocumulus layer, and another set of straight-and-level legs at 950 m a.s.l.. Figure 5 shows the vertical wind distributions measured by the wind-RPA for the two sets of legs before and after the profile through the cloud layer. Even as the altitude of the legs were slightly different (1000 m a.s.l. and 950 m a.s.l.) because of an evolving
- 10 boundary layer, nearly the same vertical wind ~~velocity~~-distributions are obtained before and after the cloud layer sampling. The similarity between the vertical wind ~~velocity~~-distributions demonstrates that the boundary layer dynamics were relatively constant throughout the flight and that the 5-hole probe functioned well even after a profile through the cloud layer. Comparing Fig.5 with vertical wind distributions obtained during the BACCHUS field campaign at Mace Head Research Station in Ireland (Calmer et al. (2018); Sanchez et al. (2017)), it is noticeable that the vertical wind ~~velocity~~-distribution for the Cyprus case
- 15 study is wider than the distributions obtained in Ireland (Cyprus: $-2.5 < \text{vertical wind} < 4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$; Ireland: $-1.5 < \text{vertical wind} < 2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$). The pictures in Fig.6 captured during the flight by the video camera show the cloud base and cloud top of the stratocumulus layer. By combining information between the video camera and the altitude of the wind-RPA, the history of the flight is described in Table 2. Each period is also confirmed by pyranometer measurements (Fig.7). Broadband shortwave pyranometers mounted on the top and at the bottom of the RPA fuselage provided upwelling and downwelling profiles of
- 20 solar irradiance. Normalized pyranometer profiles are shown without correction of the oscillations due to the cosine-angle response of direct sunlight on the sensor (Fig.7). These oscillations are particularly visible on the downwelling pyranometer above the cloud layer. Results highlight the fraction of ~~shortwave~~-**shortwave** radiation of the incoming solar irradiance through the cloud layer. The profiles of cloud measured optical properties from the RPA are compared in the next section with those of the ACPM. Figure 8 shows the Hysplit model (Stein et al., 2015) run for three days ending at 1000 m a.s.l. (altitude of
- 25 cloud base) over the field site on 12:00 pm UTC 2015/04/01. The back trajectories show air masses originated from the Western Mediterranean Basin, with trajectories carrying anthropogenic sources from Southern Europe, Northern Africa, and Turkey. The aerosol number concentrations are similar to the regional urban background (Reddington et al., 2011) mixed with particles from recent particle formation events and sea salt emissions.

2.5 RPA vertical profiles

- 30 Figure 9 presents ascent profiles of the atmosphere sampled by the wind-RPA during the flight. Profiles of temperature and relative humidity during the ascent and the descent of the RPA are similar, particularly in cloud. The temperature in the boundary layer decreases $-10.1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C km}^{-1}$, which is close to a dry adiabatic lapse rate. In cloud, the lapse rate changes to $-4.5 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C km}^{-1}$ (Fig.9a). The relative humidity increases from 75 % at the ground to 100 % at the cloud base (1020 m a.s.l.), and then

decreases again closer to the ~~at~~ cloud top (Fig.9b). As mentioned in Sanchez et al. (2017), measurements error for the relative humidity is $\pm 5\%$, however, as the sensors are not accurate at $RH > 90\%$, the measured values have been scaled such that ~~RH measurements are~~ **the air inside the cloud is saturated (i.e., RH is 100 % in a cloud (the air mass is considered saturated %))**. The in situ measurements have been approximated by linear expressions that serve as input parameters for the ACPM in

5 Section 3.2 (magenta lines in Fig.9). The profile of equivalent potential temperature, which is conserved for changes in the air parcel pressure in Fig.9c, shows a neutrally buoyant layer below the cloud base, which implies a well-mixed boundary layer. In addition, profiles of aerosol number concentrations (Fig.10) are measured during an earlier flight on the same day (Flight 65, aerosol-RPA, 8:50 am UTC, 11:50 am local time), and present similar concentrations in the atmospheric boundary layer from the ground to cloud base (1020 m a.s.l.). This observation also confirms a well-mixed boundary layer, such that ground-based

10 CCN and aerosol size distributions are then representative of the aerosol concentrations at cloud base.

3 Aerosol-Cloud Parcel Model

The term closure is used in a number of aerosol-cloud interactions studies to evaluate the cloud droplet number concentration ~~N_d (CDNC)~~ obtained from a parcel model based on observations of aerosol and ~~updraft velocities~~ **updrafts** (Conant et al. (2004); Fountoukis et al. (2007); Kulmala et al. (2011)). In the present work, as no direct measurements of ~~N_d CDNC~~ were

15 available, the closure is addressed through the in-cloud fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation profile deduced from the ACPM and measured with the pyranometers. The ACPM is used as a proxy for cloud droplet number concentration. An entrainment parameterization is implemented on the model results to obtain a better agreement between the model and observations.

3.1 Description of the Aerosol-Cloud Parcel Model (ACPM)

The ~~0-D~~ Aerosol-Cloud Parcel Model (ACPM) is based on Russell and Seinfeld (1998) and Russell et al. (1999), where the

20 main equations explicitly described the processes of activation of aerosol particles and the condensation of water vapor on the resulting cloud droplets. The **model is designed to be initialized from aircraft-based field observations. The ACPM lifts a parcel of air along a vertical trajectory limited by the observed cloud top height, at timesteps of 0.1 seconds, to account for kinetic limitations in droplet growth (Chuang et al., 1997). The input aerosol particle distribution is divided into 70 bins that are equally log spaced with a minimum bin edge size of $0.02\ \mu\text{m}$, and a maximum bin edge size of $3.0\ \mu\text{m}$. The ACPM uses a**

25 fixed sectional approach for distinct aerosol populations to calculate particle growth under supersaturated conditions (Russell and Seinfeld, 1998). ~~Evaporation from the entrainment is parameterized and applied to the ACPM results. Deposition is also included but negligible for the study here. Droplet collision, coalescence and drizzle rates are negligible for the simulated values of liquid water content and cloud droplet number concentration in the present case (i.e. droplet diameter $< 20\ \mu\text{m}$). The model is designed to be initialized from aircraft-based field observations, and~~ **The model** employs a dual-moment (number and

30 mass) algorithm to calculate the particle growth. ~~The aerosol population observed in our studies is assumed to be internally mixed as the particles generally undergo long-range transport from their source (Fig.8). However, liquid~~ **Liquid** water is treated in a moving section representation to have an agreement between the particle number and mass (Russell and Seinfeld, 1998).

To simulate drops in the model, aerosol particles are divided into 70 bins that are log spaced. The minimum size is $0.02\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, and the maximum size is $3.0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. Deposition is also included but negligible for the study here. The case study focuses on a non-precipitating cloud (i.e., droplet diameter $D_p < 20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$); therefore, droplet collision, coalescence and drizzle rates are negligible for the simulated values of liquid water content and cloud droplet number concentration. The equation describing the evolution

5 of the thermodynamic energy of the air parcel is given by the vertical temperature gradient :

$$dT = -\frac{gwdt + Ldq_l}{c_p} \quad (1)$$

where dT is the change in temperature corresponding to the dt time step in the ACPM, w is the updraft velocity, g is the acceleration due to gravity, L is the latent heat of water condensation, q_l is the liquid water mixing ratio, and c_p is the specific heat of water. Equation 1 relates the vertical wind velocity-updraft with the release of latent heat of a rising air parcel in an
10 adiabatic parcel of air. The vertical velocities (updraft and downdraft) are measured near the cloud base or within the cloud. For the 1D model, positive 0-D model, updrafts generate supersaturated conditions in which aerosol particles are activated into cloud droplets. Therefore, the downdrafts are not considered in the simulation.

Evaporation from the entrainment is parameterized and applied to the ACPM results. The measured temperature profile is
15 used to parametrize entrainment. To apply the cloud-top mixing, which corresponds to the dry entrained air from the cloud-top incorporated downward throughout the cloud, a fraction of air at cloud base and a fraction of air above cloud top are mixed, conserving the total water content and the equivalent potential temperature (Sanchez et al., 2017)(Sanchez et al. (2017); Wang et al. (2009)). The gradient in the conserved variable is nearly linear, and is then used to adjust the liquid water content by assuming inhomogeneous mixing. A number of previous studies have shown that stratocumulus cloud-top entrain-
20 ment specifically results in inhomogeneous mixing (Brenguier et al. (2011); Burnet and Brenguier (2007); Yum et al. (2015); Painemal and Zuidema (2011)). The fraction of air masses originating from below and above the cloud layer is determined as :

$$\theta_{e,c}(z) = \theta_{e,ent}X(z) + \theta_{e,CB}(1 - X(z)) \quad (2)$$

where $\theta_{e,c}(z)$ is the equivalent potential temperature in cloud as a function of height, $\theta_{e,ent}$ is the equivalent potential temperature of the cloud-top entrained air, $\theta_{e,CB}$ is the equivalent potential temperature of air at cloud base, and $X(z)$ is the
25 fraction of cloud-top entrained air as a function of height (Sanchez et al., 2017). Then, the entrainment fraction $X(z)$ is given by :

$$X(z) = \frac{\theta_{e,c}(z) - \theta_{e,CB}}{\theta_{e,ent} - \theta_{e,CB}} \quad (3)$$

Sanchez et al. (2017) illustrates the importance of including entrainment to simulate cloud optical properties using the ACPM. A similar approach to this case study is presented in the following sections.

3.2 Model inputs from ground measurements and RPAs

To initiate the APCM model, in situ measurements of aerosol size distribution and calculated hygroscopic properties from the ground-station are combined with vertical profiles of temperature and relative humidity and ~~vertical wind velocity~~-updraft distributions from the RPA. The aerosol size distribution described in Fig.3, along with the hygroscopicity parameter obtained in Section 3.3 are implemented in the APCM to approximate the CCN spectra at cloud base. The temperature and humidity profiles (Fig.9, magenta lines) derived from observations of the RPA profile are used as input parameters in the APCM model. Yet, in the cloud, the temperature and supersaturation are calculated. The APCM temperature profile in the cloud is moist adiabatic.

In the literature, either a characteristic updraft velocity or an ~~updraft distribution~~ or a distribution of updrafts is used in APCM. Conant et al. (2004), Hsieh et al. (2009), Hudson et al. (2012) and Sanchez et al. (2017) have shown that a ~~distribution of updrafts velocities and a weighted distribution of in-cloud supersaturations better reproduce the distribution of updrafts~~ better reproduces cloud microphysical properties, such as the droplet spectral width, than a single-updraft approximation. Consequently, ~~positive vertical wind velocity distribution~~ a weighted distribution of the positive vertical winds near cloud base are ~~is~~ used as model input (~~updraft velocities~~ updrafts from 0.1 to 4 m s⁻¹ shown in Fig.5), resulting in a broader cloud droplet distribution than when using a single updraft. The APCM model simulates the cloud droplet growth using 40 bins of ~~vertical wind velocities~~ updrafts between 0 and 4 m s⁻¹ (Sanchez et al., 2016). Each bin corresponds to a maximum supersaturation and a number of CCN activated into cloud droplets. The overall cloud microphysical properties are weighted based on the ~~vertical wind velocity~~ updraft distribution. The cloud droplet number concentration corresponds to the summation of the number of CCN activated weighted with updraft, and is expressed as:

$$\underline{N_d} \text{CDNC} = \sum_{i=1}^{40} f(w_i) \cdot N_{CCN}(w_i) \cdot w_i \quad (4)$$

Where $\underline{N_d} \text{CDNC}$ is the cloud droplet number concentration, i is the bin number, $f(w_i)$ is the occurrence of updraft w_i at the supersaturation Sc_i , and $N_{CCN}(w_i)$ is the number of activated particles based on the cloud droplet distribution for Sc_i and w_i . $\underline{N_d} \text{CDNC}$ is volume weighted by the factor w_i . Results are in line with the case studies (marine environment) presented in Sanchez et al. (2017).

3.3 Aerosol-CCN closure

The aerosol population observed in our studies is assumed to be internally mixed as the particles generally undergo long-range transport from their source (Fig.8). To describe the relationship between particle composition and CCN activity, Petters and Kreidenweis (2007) define the hygroscopicity parameter, κ , based on the Köhler theory (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). The hygroscopicity parameter, κ , represents a quantitative measure of water-soluble ions on CCN activity.

$$\kappa = \frac{4A^2}{27D_p^3 \ln^2 S_c} \quad (5)$$

where D_p is the droplet diameter, S_c is the critical supersaturation, and A is expressed as:

$$A = \frac{4\sigma_w M_w}{RT\rho_w} \quad (6)$$

where M_w is the molecular weight of water, σ_w is the solution surface tension, ρ_w is the water density, R is the universal gas constant, and T is the temperature. κ calculated using the CCN measurement with a critical dry diameter at 100 nm for a supersaturation of 0.24 % gives 0.3. The value of κ calculated from the aerosol size distribution and CCN measurement is compared to κ obtained from chemical constituents measured by the ACSM instrument at the ground station (Fig.11). From the ratio provided by the ACSM approximated to 50 % ammonium sulfate/organic matter submicron aerosol, κ is estimated to be 0.26. The sulfates are assumed to be in the form of ammonium sulfate, and the organic matter (or insoluble fraction) presented a hygroscopicity of 0.1 based on typical values of observed organic hygroscopicity (Petters and Kreidenweis (2007), Gunthe et al. (2009), Prenni et al. (2007)). These values are in good agreement, and confirm a closure between aerosol physical and chemical properties and the CCN measurements.

4 Aerosol-cloud closure study

The purpose of the parcel model is to serve as the link between in situ measurements of aerosol and vertical velocity distributions to the observed cloud microphysical properties. 1D-0-D aerosol-parcel models with explicit cloud microphysics are specifically designed to explore droplet growth/evaporation for a given CCN spectrum and vertical velocity updraft distribution. The procedure is to run the 1D-0-D model adiabatically, then use the observations of mixing of the conservative variable to calculate how much water should have evaporated due to cloud entrainment. (Fig.12a)-Figure 12a presents the water vapor content derived from the relative humidity (q_v), which is equivalent to the total water content (q_t) above and below the cloud, as a function of equivalent potential temperature. The total water content and equivalent potential temperature in an adiabatic parcel is conserved; however, in Fig.12a the total water content decreases from 7.5 g kg⁻¹ at cloud base to 6.7 g kg⁻¹ cloud top ($R^2 = 0.95$). An adiabatic profile would show that the total water content at cloud top would remain unchanged from the cloud base value of 7.5 g kg⁻¹. This indicates that the cloud is not adiabatic. The total water content at cloud top is much lower than the total water content closer to cloud base, suggesting air masses above the cloud top are the source of dry air entrainment, consistent with previous studies of stratocumulus cloud-top entrainment (Wood, 2012). The decrease in water vapor content throughout the cloud is a result of the combination of cloud top entrainment of dry, warm air and water vapor condensation. In-cloud measurements of equivalent potential temperature are reliable despite the presence of liquid water. Using Eq.2 and measurements of the equivalent potential temperature throughout the cloud, the fraction of entrained air can be estimated and the in-cloud profile of liquid water content can be calculated. The linear relationship between the simulated total water content

and the measured equivalent potential temperature is a result of the cloud reaching a steady-state, with air coming from cloud base and cloud top (Fig.12a). The reduction in number concentration due to entrainment is driven by the amount of evaporated water as we approximate the evaporation through inhomogeneous mixing (Jacobson et al., 1994). Figure 12b presents the profiles of LWC calculated from the ACPM in case of the adiabatic simulation and when the entrainment parameterization is considered.

4.1 Cloud droplet number concentration

Results of the ACPM for the profile of cloud droplet number concentration (N_d) and effective radius are presented in Fig.13. For the adiabatic reference case, N_d is around 420 cm^{-3} . The adiabatic profile of N_d is compared to the profile incorporating the entrainment parameterization that forces the model to the observed temperature lapse rate (Eq.2). Most of the closure studies neglect entrainment (Snider et al. (2003); Conant et al. (2004); Peng et al. (2005)), as they investigated aerosol closure, and observed that the entrainment did not affect much the results at cloud base. However, for the case studies at Mace Head (Sanchez et al., 2017), the difference between observed and simulated parameters (in the case, the cloud-top temperature) suggested a source of heating in the cloud, and a closer approximation of cloud radiative properties was obtained when the entrainment was included in the model results. The entrainment parameterization approximates the impact of inhomogeneous mixing on N_d due to evaporation of a subset of the cloud droplet population. For the entrainment case, N_d reaches highest number concentration a few tens of meters above cloud base, and then decreases with altitude, as the inhomogeneous mixing is assumed (Fig.13a). However, N_d is very sensitive to the entrainment fraction at cloud base, as the droplets are very small so even a small change in the amount of water evaporated (from entrainment) will cause a large difference in the number concentration. Shaded areas in Fig.13a highlight the model sensitivity to a small variation of LWC in obtaining cloud droplet number, as the sensitivity of the N_d profile is a function of LWC. This variation in LWC is obtained based on the mixing line (Fig.12a) and represents the standard deviation calculated from the difference between the mixing line in cloud and its best fit (0.052 g kg^{-1}). N_d in the adiabatic profiles varies within $\pm 160 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ near cloud base (ca. 45 % variation relative to the adiabatic reference case). However, variations up to 230 cm^{-3} are observed for the entrainment profiles near cloud base (ca. 230 % variation relative to the entrainment reference case). Yet, higher in cloud, the impact of LWC variation on N_d is less pronounced. The peaks of N_d for the entrainment profile are then sensitive to observed temperature profiles; however, as clouds are optically thin at cloud base, the impact of this sensitivity on overall cloud optical properties is small. Yet, at cloud top, the maximum difference in N_d between the entrainment and adiabatic ACPM profiles is $\sim 300 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, which ultimately, plays a large role in the overall cloud optical properties. Profiles of direct observations of cloud droplet numbers show a similar large sensitivity at cloud base and a decrease in number with altitude (Roberts et al. (2008); Rauber et al. (2007)).

4.2 Cloud optical properties

To study the cloud optical properties, solar irradiance obtained from the pyranometers mounted on the wind-RPA is compared to ACPM fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation profiles, which represents the solar irradiance transmission through the cloud layer. The transmission through the cloud layer is approximated by downward integration of the calculation of albedo and subtracting from unity. For example, an infinitely thin cloud has an albedo of zero; therefore, 100 % of incoming solar irradiance is transmitted through the cloud. As the cloud thickens, the albedo approaches unity meaning that all-increases (but remains less than 1) meaning that more incoming solar irradiance is reflected back to space (Fig.14). To derive the cloud optical properties from the ACPM, the method presented in Sanchez et al. (2017), is followed here, based on Hansen and Travis (1974) and Stephens (1978). The cloud droplet extinction is proportional to the total droplet surface area and has the form :

$$\sigma_{ext} = \int_0^{\infty} Q_{ext}(r) \pi r^2 n(r) dr \quad (7)$$

where r is the radius of the droplet, $n(r)$ is the number of the cloud droplets with a radius of r , and $Q_{ext}(r)$ is the Mie efficiency factor. $Q_{ext}(r)$ asymptotically approaches 2 for water droplets at large size ($r > 2 \mu\text{m}$; Seinfeld and Pandis (2006)). The cloud optical depth is defined as:

$$\tau = \int_0^H \sigma_{ext}(h) dh \quad (8)$$

where H is the cloud thickness and σ_{ext} is the cloud droplet extinction calculated from the simulated cloud droplet size distribution (Eq.7). The cloud albedo is then calculated with τ :

$$albedo = \frac{\sqrt{3}(1-g)\tau}{2 + \sqrt{3}(1-g)\tau} \quad (9)$$

with g the asymmetric scattering parameter. The albedo is estimated based on the cloud optical depth and the asymmetric scattering parameter (approximated as 0.85 based on the Mie scattering calculation).

20

The solar irradiance profile from the RPA, based on the normalized downwelling pyranometer measurements during the descent, is used to compare simulated and observed cloud optical properties (Fig.14). To facilitate comparison with the model results, normalized pyranometer is averaged every 50 m (which averages the oscillations related to pitch-and-roll cosine-angle response of the pyranometer). Observations show a sharp gradient in the attenuation of downwelling solar irradiance near cloud top and decrease to ca. 0.2 at cloud bottom. Overlaid on Fig.14 are model results from the ACPM for adiabatic and entrained cases. In order to compare ACPM and RPA observations, the albedo of the cloud layer is calculated top-down using the profiles of simulated cloud droplet number and size distribution in Fig.13 to estimate the amount of solar irradiance reflected back to

25

space and subtracted from unity to compare with the downwelling pyranometer profile. The mean difference in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation for in situ measurements and adiabatic simulation is 0.3, although when accounting for entrainment, the mean difference is only 0.03. Therefore, comparison between RPA observations and ACPM for adiabatic and entrainment fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation profiles suggests that cloud optical properties are best represented when including entrainment mixing of cloud-top air.

4.3 Sensitivity study on cloud optical properties

In addition to comparing ACPM results between entrainment and adiabatic cases, a sensitivity analysis presented here explores the impact of a change in aerosol particle number concentrations (dN) as well as changes in the vertical velocity distribution up-draft distribution (dw) on the cloud optical properties (Pringle et al. (2009); Moore et al. (2013)). Profiles of the cloud droplet number and effective radii (Fig.13) and cloud optical properties (Fig.14) are also simulated with the inputs of aerosol number concentration multiplied by two ($2N$) and the updraft velocity distribution divided by two ($w/2$). Increasing the aerosol concentrations by a factor of two results in an aerosol concentration of $\sim 2400 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ representing even more polluted conditions. Such an increase in aerosol/CCN concentrations also increases cloud droplet number concentration (Fig.13a), decreases the effective radii (Fig.13b), and presents a cloud with a higher albedo. In addition, halving the vertical wind velocity updraft distribution results in a distribution with maximum vertical wind velocities near 2 m s^{-1} , which also happen to be similar to the updraft velocities observed in marine stratocumulus cloud layers over Mace Head Research Station, Ireland (Calmer et al., 2018). The lower vertical wind velocities also results in lower cloud droplet number concentrations and with larger effective radii owing to lower in-cloud supersaturations (Fig.13). The lower cloud droplet number and smaller larger effective radii result in lower albedo of the cloud layer and an increase of the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation (Fig.14). A decrease of 70 cm^{-3} in cloud droplet number is observed when the updraft velocity distribution is divided by two (dw); and an increase of 50 cm^{-3} of droplet number occurs when the number of dry particles is multiplied by two (dN). The impact of a change in the droplet spectral width has also been studied, using two lognormal droplet distributions with a factor of two variation in the standard deviation (σ) while the total number of droplets and liquid water content remain the same as the reference case. Factor of two changes in updraft distribution causes the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation to decrease-increase by 0.003 in the adiabatic case, and 0.005 in the entrainment case, corresponding to an increase-in-extinction decrease in albedo. Likewise, a factor of two increase in aerosol size distribution leads to a -0.002 (adiabatic case) and -0.004 (entrainment case) changes decrease in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation through the cloud (corresponding to similar net changes-increase in cloud albedo, Fig.14). A factor of two change in the droplet spectral width showed an even smaller difference of 0.002 in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation at cloud base. To summarize, factor of two variations of N and, w , and droplet spectral width correspond to a change in a range between -0.004 and within ± 0.005 in transmitted shortwave radiation (and albedo) compared to the reference case. Yet, the change in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation between adiabatic and entrainment cases is 0.15, corresponding to a factor of three-thirty change in cloud albedo compared to changes in droplet

number and vertical wind velocity distributions, updraft, and spectral width. The impact of entrainment on cloud optical properties has long been known (Boers and Mitchell, 1994), and this study only emphasizes its impact relative to aerosol indirect effect and changes in vertical motion. Extending this analysis further suggests that the sensitivity of cloud optical properties related to entrainment variability also needs to be constrained in order to improve climate models.

5

The sensitivity of albedo to changes in droplet concentrations was first introduced by Platnick and Twomey (1994), which defined a degree of susceptibility function of cloud optical thickness, effective radius, and liquid water content. Clouds formed in cleaner environments are likely to be of higher susceptibility compared to clouds in polluted areas, which illustrate the link between pollution and cloud albedo proposed by Twomey (1977). Painemal and Minnis (2012) used the same definition of susceptibility to investigate the albedo sensitivity to changes in the cloud microphysics. The increase of albedo susceptibility with LWC was observed for three maritime clouds regimes. Feingold (2003) and McFiggans et al. (2006) used the equation $S(X_i) = d\ln Y / d\ln X_i$ as a representation of the sensitivity of X on Y . Y is a physical property of the cloud (e.g. the effective radius, the cloud droplet number concentration) and X is a meteorological parameter (e.g. updraft velocity, LWC) or property of the dry aerosol (e.g. concentration, size distribution). A similar calculation of sensitivity is used to compare the influence of the particle number and updraft on albedo in the adiabatic and entrainment case.

$$S_{di} = \frac{d\ln a_{ref} - d\ln a_{di}}{d\ln N_{ref} - d\ln N_{di}} \frac{d\ln a_{ref} - d\ln a_{di}}{d\ln CDNC_{ref} - d\ln CDNC_{di}} \quad (10)$$

Where a is the albedo at cloud top, N_{di} is the cloud droplet number at cloud top, ref represents the reference case, and di represents either a variation of the particle number dN or the updraft velocity dw in the adiabatic or the entrainment case. Table 3 summarizes the input values for the sensitivity calculation and results are presented in Table 4. The sensitivity in the reference case between the adiabatic and entrainment cases (0.118) is higher than the other sensitivities, demonstrating a significantly larger importance of the entrainment parameterization on albedo compared to the initial conditions of particle number N or updraft w . Figure 15 shows the calculation of S_{di} as a function of the cloud depth. As mentioned in Section 4.1, the initial conditions influence mainly the cloud base, and then, higher in cloud, albedo is more sensitive to the entrainment parameterization.

25 5 Conclusions

An aerosol-cloud closure on cloud optical properties is conducted on a case study by comparing measured and simulated shortwave radiation transmission profile. The measurements were conducted for this closure study on one day (2015/04/01) of the one-month BACCHUS field campaign in Cyprus. Ground-based measurements at Cyprus Atmospheric Observatory are combined with Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) observations to initiate an Aerosol-Cloud Parcel Model (ACPM) to compare observed and simulated cloud optical properties. Input parameters of the model include the ground-based aerosol size distribution obtained from combined SMPS and OPC distributions averaged for the studied period as well as the vertical velocity

distribution at cloud base as measured by the RPA. Vertical profiles of temperature and relative humidity measured during a RPA flight are implemented in the model. The in-cloud lapse rate is lower than simulated for adiabatic conditions, suggesting cloud-top mixing from above the stratocumulus layer. Two different simulation cases are studied with the ACPM (i.e., an adiabatic case and an entrainment case), where the in-cloud temperature profile is taken into account to calculate the fraction of cloud-top entrained air throughout the cloud. The adiabatic ACPM simulations yield cloud droplet number concentrations (ca. 400 cm^{-3}) that are similar to those derived from the Hoppel minimum analysis ($420\text{--}388 \text{ cm}^{-3}$). Cloud optical properties have been observed using the transmitted shortwave radiation profile measured by a downwelling pyranometer. The normalized transmitted shortwave radiation is then compared to simulations from the ACPM, and shows a better agreement with the entrainment parameterization rather than with the adiabatic profile. These results highlight the importance of accounting for entrainment in deriving cloud optical properties.

To better evaluate the sensitivity of the ACPM results, variation of input parameters are implemented by multiplying the aerosol concentrations by two (from 1234 to $\sim 2400 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; even more polluted conditions), and dividing the updraft velocity distribution by two (maximum w from 4 to 2 m s^{-1} ; conditions similar to marine environment, (Lu et al. (2007), Calmer et al. (2018)). ~~A~~ For the conditions observed in this case study, a doubling of N increases the maximum cloud droplet number by $50\text{--}11 \%$, whereas a reduction in w decreases the maximum cloud droplet number by $70\text{--}16 \%$. The impact on cloud effective radius is relatively small, less than $\pm 1 \mu\text{m}$ changes in the radius ($< 7 \%$ in relative changes). The impact of a change in cloud droplet spectral width (σ) is roughly the same as factor of two changes in N and w . These changes in cloud droplet number concentrations by varying N , w lead to changes between -0.004 and 0.005 , and droplet spectral width lead to variations within ± 0.005 in the fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation. In comparison, the change in fraction of transmitted shortwave radiation and albedo related to entrainment is 0.15. The sensitivity calculation S_d of albedo to cloud droplet number concentration shows the significant impact of entrainment-mixing compared to those of aerosol concentration and updraft velocity for cloud optical properties. These results are in agreement with the conclusion of closure studies conducted at Mace Head Research Station (Sanchez et al., 2017), whereby the incorporation of a parameterization for entrainment improves the estimate for shortwave radiative flux. The case studies in Cyprus (this study) and at Mace Head illustrate the significance of the entrainment processes in determining cloud optical properties in two different environments, and highlight notably that entrainment processes reduce the impact. As expected, entrainment mixing decreases the water content in the cloud relative to an adiabatic profile, therefore not taking into account entrainment leads to a significant overestimation of cloud radiative forcing. As the impact of entrainment mixing on cloud optical properties is relatively large, this study shows that variability in entrainment mixing also needs to be constrained in order to improve climate models. More observations in climatically different regions are needed to understand the relative impact of aerosol, updraft and entrainment on cloud radiative properties.

Author contributions. The analysis of the case study was conducted by Radiance Calmer and Kevin Sanchez with the supervision of Greg Roberts. The coauthors have contributed to the writing of the manuscript. Greg Roberts and Radiance Calmer carried out the RPAS flights.

The ACPM was run and interpreted by Kevin Sanchez. Karine Sellegri and David Picard operated the SMPS, and CPC instruments at the Cyprus Atmospheric Observatory and provided the associated data. Greg Roberts operated the miniature CCN counter at the Cyprus Atmospheric Observatory. Michael Pikridas operated the ACSM and was responsible for the ground site at the Cyprus Atmospheric Observatory. Mihalis Vrekoussis was in charge of the RPAS regulations in Cyprus during the field campaign. Jean Sciare and Mihalis Vrekoussis hosted the BACCHUS field campaign on behalf of the Cyprus Institute.

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Table 1. Particle number distribution from SMPC and OPC during the 3-hour period including the flight. The values are obtained from Fig.3. The minimum and maximum values are based on the standard deviation of the cumulative sum of number of particles N

total number of particles (cm ⁻³)	Hoppel minimum diameter (nm)	particle number at the Hoppel minimum (cm ⁻³)	number of particles at 0.24 % SS (cm ⁻³)	diameter at 0.24 % SS (nm)
1234 (± 63.6)	100	400-388 (min=365.4 max=434.2)	420	94.5-91.15 (min=85.99 max=103.95)

Table 2. Profile history from cloud base (1000 m a.s.l.) to the ceiling (2100 m a.s.l.) and down near cloud base again (950 m a.s.l.) during the flight

Video time (min)	Altitude (m a.s.l.)	Observations
30:44	1072	cloud base, start of the ascent profile
32:55	1295	change in visibility, enter in the cloud
36:17	1602	cloud top
39:40	1904	below a convection cell
41:00	2102	maximum altitude of the profile
46:43	1730	cloud cell, video-camera sees in cloud
51:42	1121	first sight of ground
53:11	996	cloud base, end of the descent profile

Table 3. Input values to calculate the sensitivity S_d used in Eq.10

	adiabatic			entrainment		
	ref	dN	dw	ref	dN	dw
Albedo*	0.917	0.919	0.915	0.767	0.771	0.762
N_d^* -CDNC* (cm ⁻³)	436.4	503.1	367.0	96.3	111.0	81
LWC* (g m ⁻³)	1.47			0.324		

*at cloud top

Table 4. Results of the sensitivity S_d of albedo for cloud droplet number concentration with variation of aerosol concentration (dN) and updraft velocity (w) given by Eq.10. The comparison of sensitivity calculation between adiabatic and entrainment cases at cloud top is $S_{d_{ent}}=0.118$

	adiabatic	entrainment
S_{dN}	0.012	0.032
S_{dw}	0.018	0.037

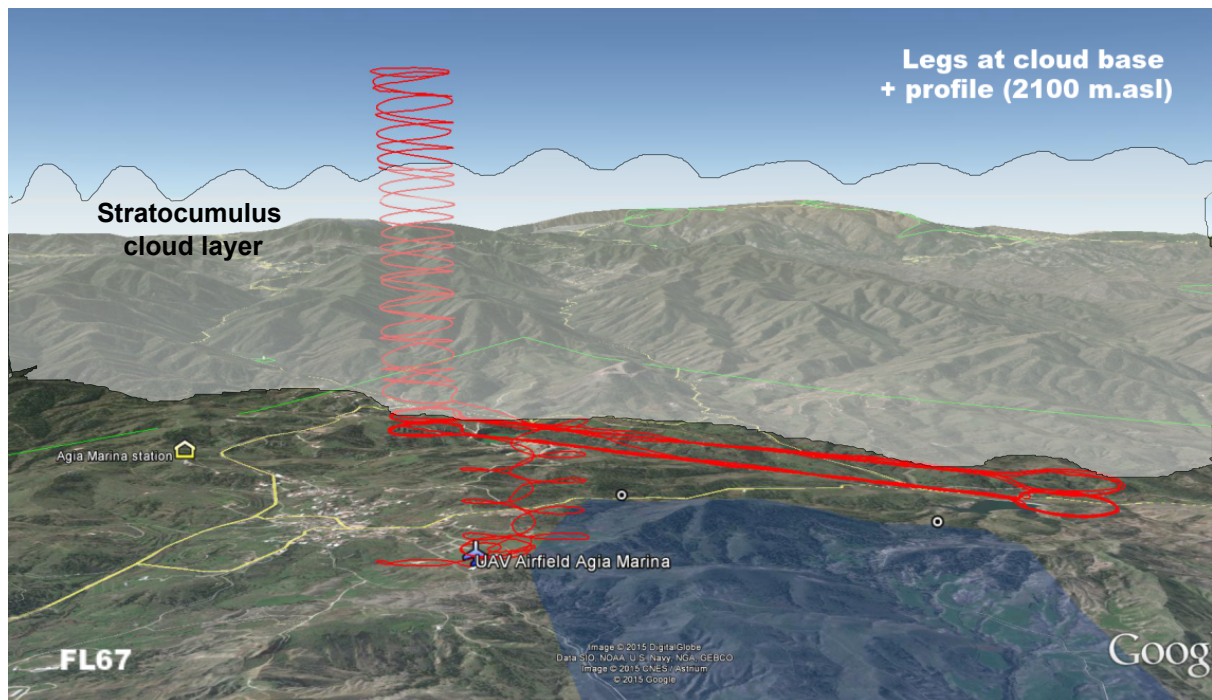


Figure 1. Flight plan for the flight (Flight 67), legs at 1000 m a.s.l., profile up to 2100 m a.s.l. and legs at 950 m a.s.l.. The approximate location of the stratocumulus layer is overlaid on the flight track.

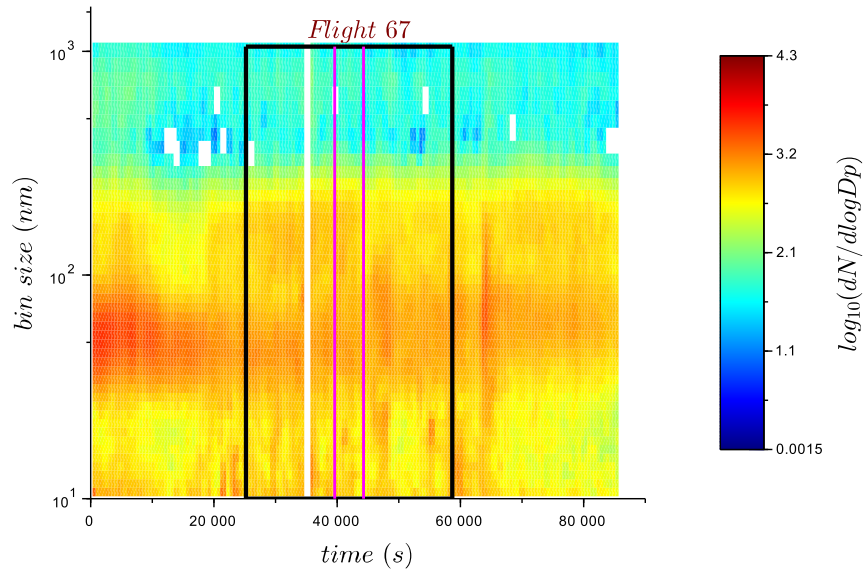
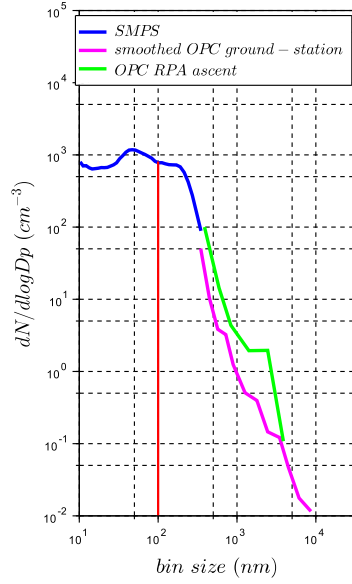
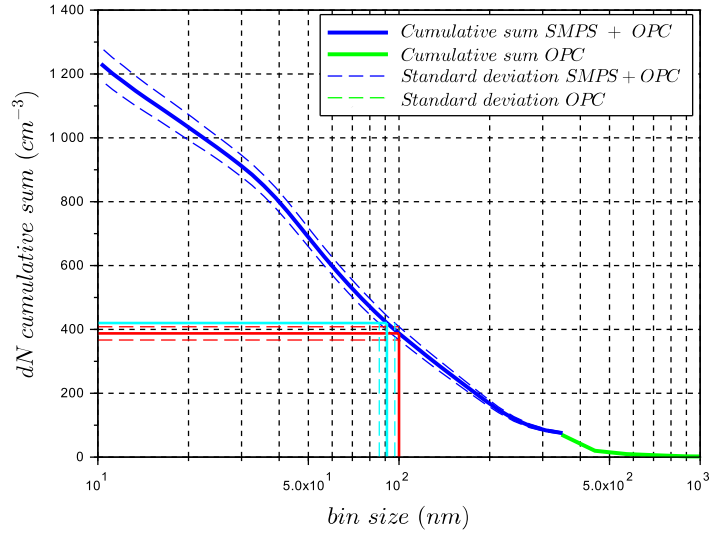


Figure 2. Contour plot showing time series of SMPS data 2015/04/01. The black rectangle represents the selected data for the analysis (3-8 hours) and the magenta lines delimit the flight (Flight 67). Local pollution, which is not representative of the regional aerosol, has been removed (white).



(a)



(b)

Figure 3. a) Particle size distribution showing combined data from the SMPS (blue), the ground-based OPC (magenta) and the RPA-OPC (green). The red line indicates the Hoppel minimum diameter. b) Cumulative particle size distribution with a combination of data from the SMPS and the ground-based OPC. The red solid lines indicate the number of particles at the Hoppel minimum diameter (100 nm), the red dotted lines correspond to the associated number of particles for the standard deviation of the cumulative sum. The cyan solid lines correspond to the aerosol diameter for 420 cm^{-3} particles ($SS = 0.24 \%$) as measured by the CCN instrument. The cyan dotted lines indicate the aerosol diameters for the standard deviation of the cumulative sum. The values are written in Table 1.



Figure 4. Remotely Piloted Aircraft on the operation field during the BACCHUS field campaign in Cyprus (March 2015).

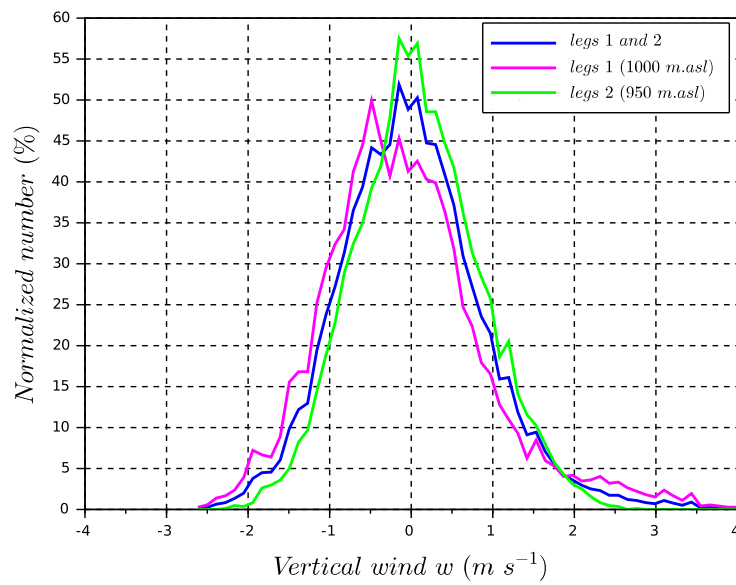


Figure 5. Vertical wind distributions from straight-and-level legs near cloud base during the flight.



(a)



(b)

Figure 6. Pictures of the flight from the on board video camera (Table 2), a) near cloud base (1000 m a.s.l.), b) above clouds (2000 m a.s.l.)

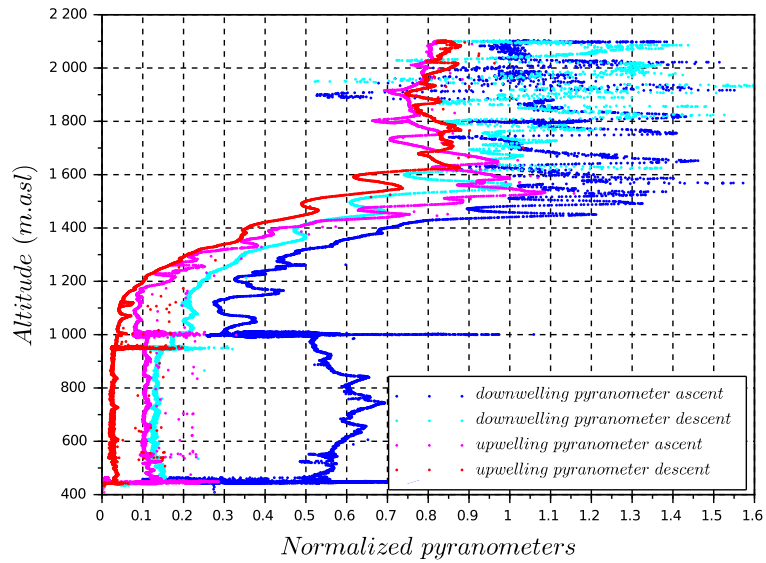


Figure 7. Solar irradiance profiles from normalized pyranometer measurements during the flight. The normalization parameter is the measured solar irradiance for clear sky, above the cloud layer, validated from the pyranometer profiles and the video camera (above 1600 m a.s.l.)

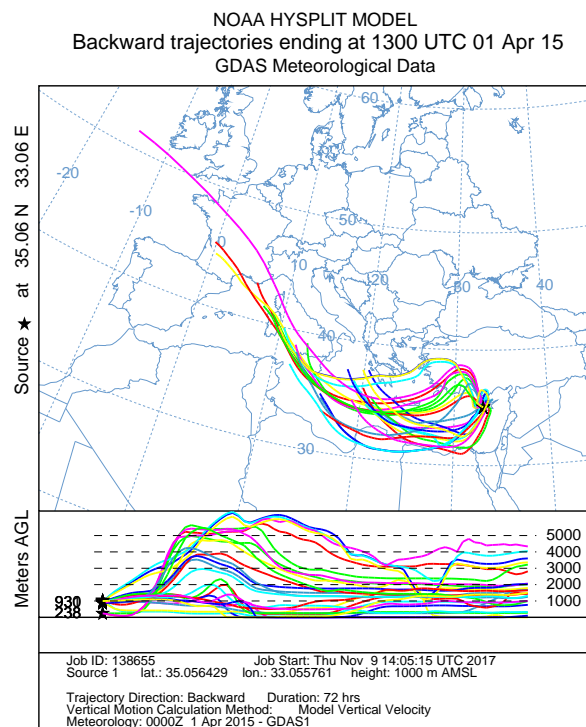


Figure 8. Hysplit model showing 3-day backtrajectories 1 April 2015. Black Star shows the location of the ground station and RPA operations near Agia Marina Xyliatou in Cyprus.

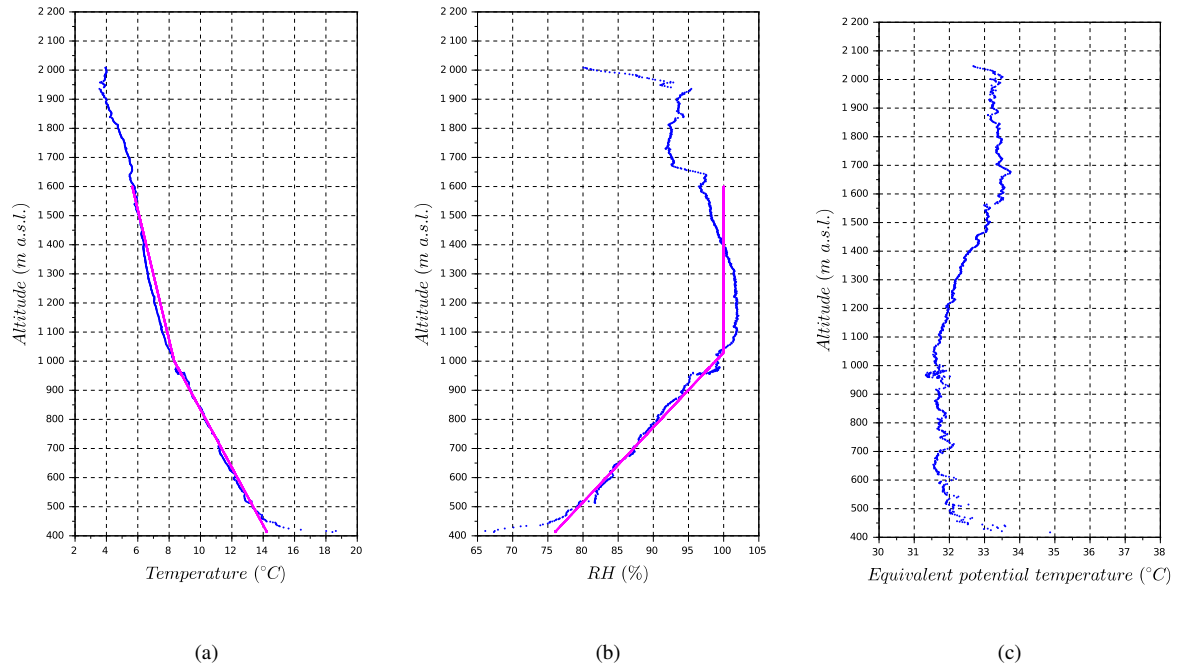


Figure 9. Meteorologic profiles during the flight a) temperature, b) relative humidity. The magenta curves correspond the linear best fit implemented in ACPM. c) Equivalent potential temperature

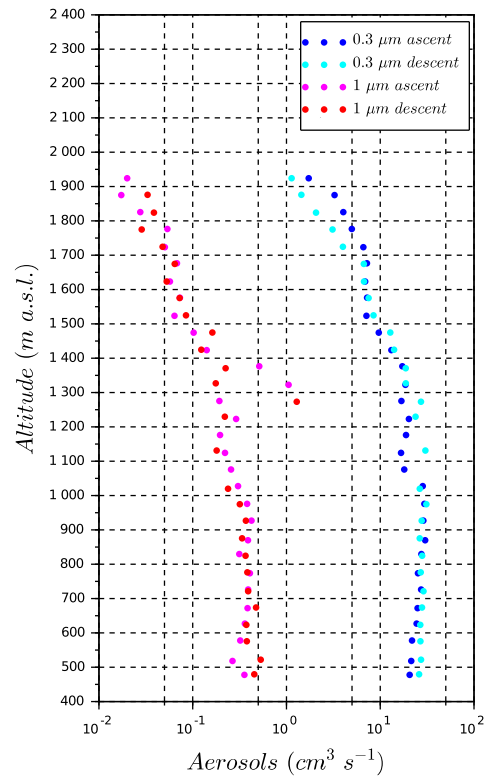


Figure 10. Vertical profiles of aerosol number concentration for a previous flight an hour earlier (Flight 65) number of particles greater than 0.3 μm and greater than 1 μm . Measurements of the aerosol number concentration were conducted during a previous flight (Flight 65), which occurred an hour earlier than the flight considered in this study (Flight 67).

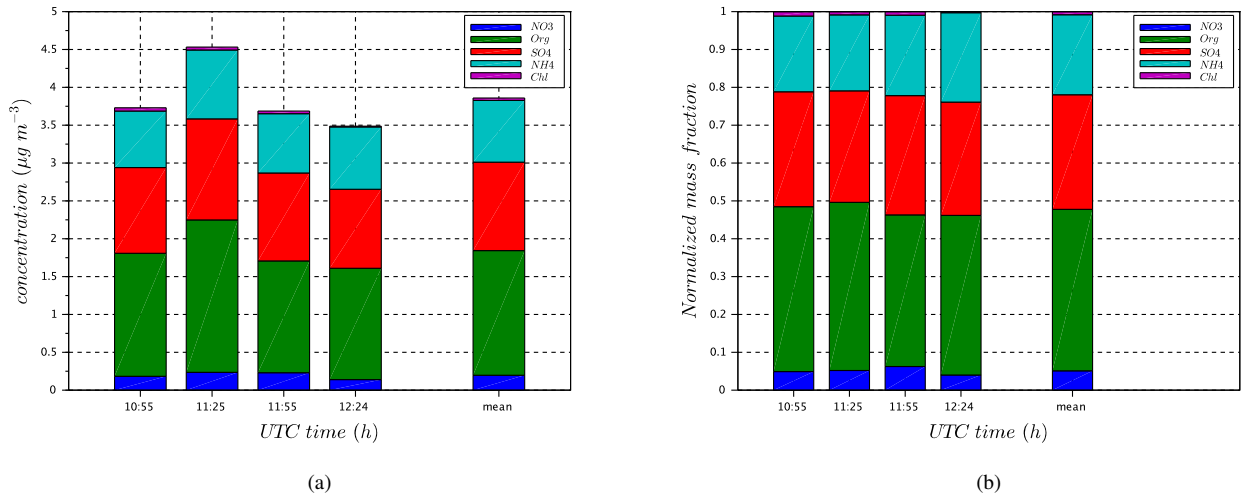


Figure 11. a) Concentration Measurements from the Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ACSM) for the mass concentration of aerosols depending on their chemical composition during the flight. The time period covers the flight (Aerosol chemical speciation monitor measurement) presently studied. b) Normalized aerosol mass fraction of concentration depending on aerosol chemical composition during the flight same period.

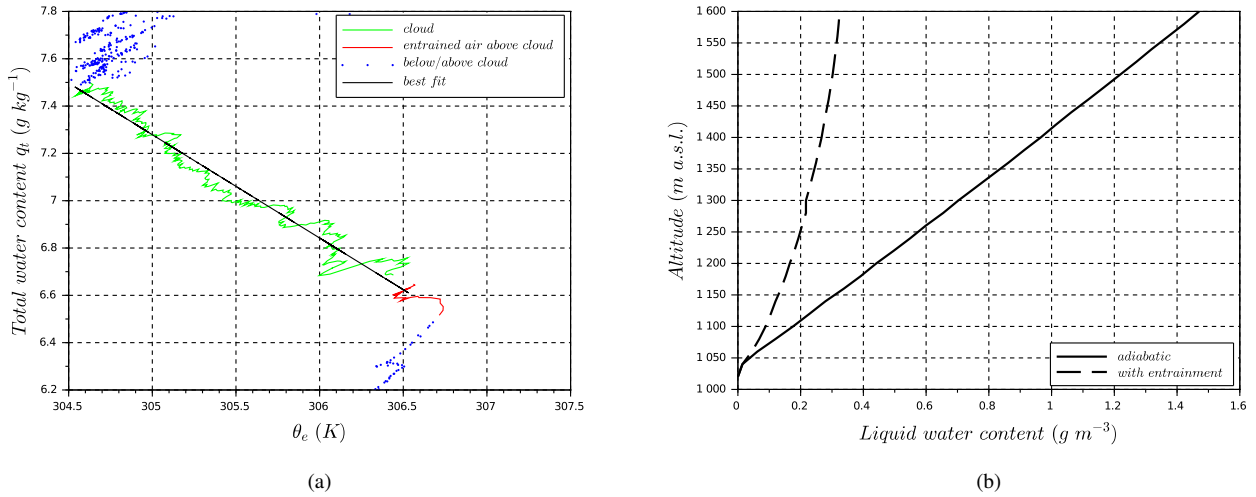


Figure 12. a) Total water content q_t and equivalent potential temperature θ_e identify mixing between cloud air and entrained air. b) Liquid water content in cloud calculated for an adiabatic profile and when the entrainment is considered.

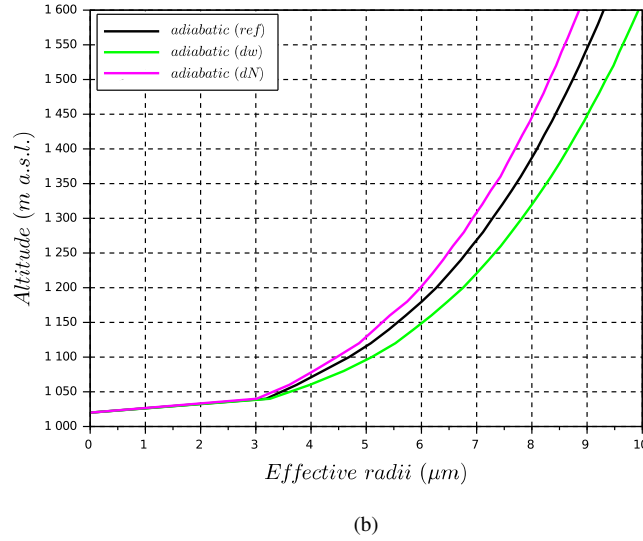
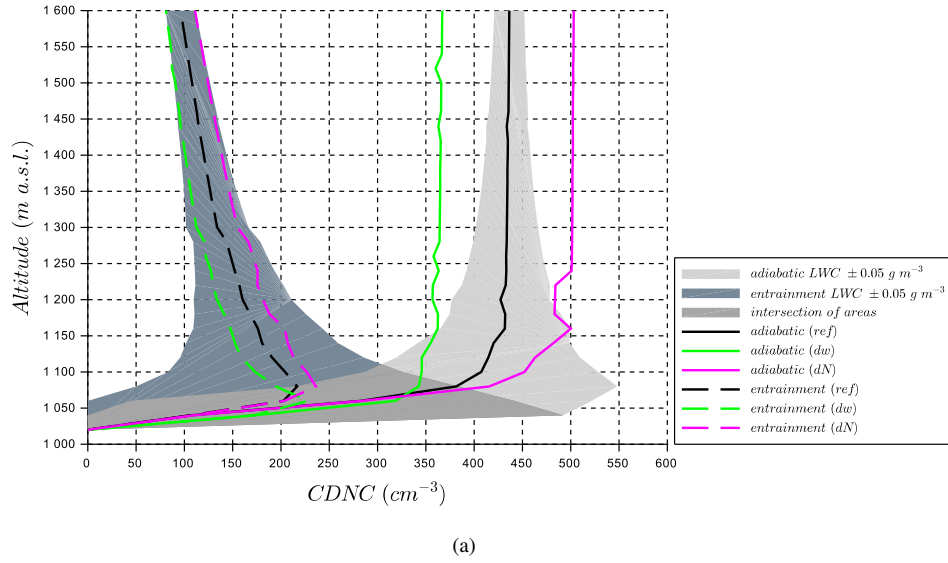


Figure 13. a) Simulated cloud droplet number as function of the cloud height, for the adiabatic and the entrainment cases, with variation of updraft velocity (dw) and particle number (dN). b) Cloud effective radii. Shaded areas are obtained from a variation of LWC of $\pm 0.05 \text{ g m}^{-3}$ in the calculation of cloud droplet number in the reference case, dark gray for the adiabatic case and light gray for the simulation with variation the entrainment parameterization. The intermediate gray corresponds to the intersection of updraft velocity (dw) and particle number (dN) the two cases.

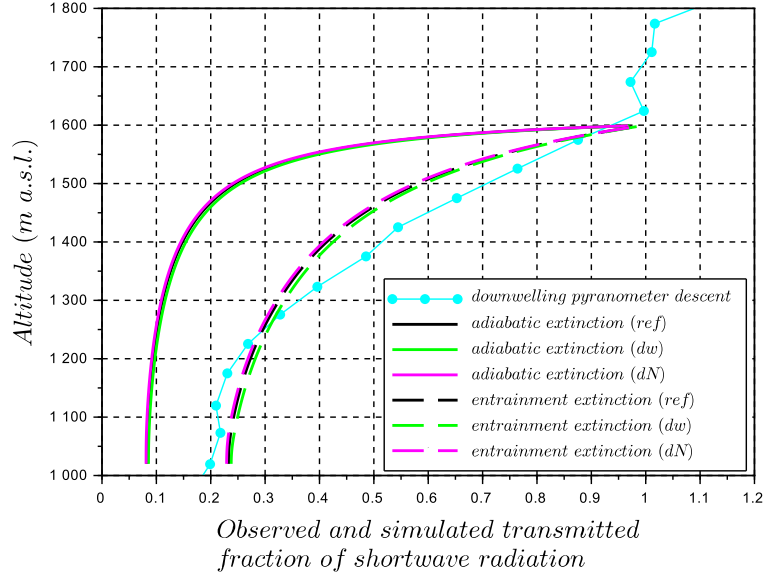


Figure 14. Optical cloud profile, comparison of pyranometer profiles and model simulations for the normalized transmission, with adiabatic and entrainment processes. Cloud top is at 1600 m a.s.l.. Cloud base is at 1020 m a.s.l.

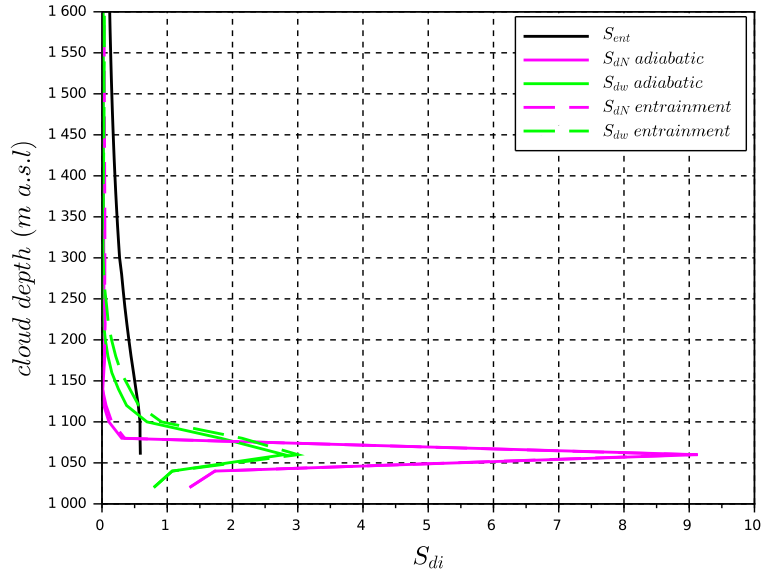


Figure 15. Sensitivity of albedo function of cloud depth, S_{di} is defined in Eq.10.