



Interactive comment on “Mountain-wave induced polar stratospheric clouds and their representation in the global chemistry model ICON-ART” by Michael Weimer et al.

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Response to Referee #2

Dear Referee,

thank you for your detailed review of our manuscript. Please find our responses to your comments below.

Major changes include

- a comprehensive revision of the introduction
- moving the description of the PSC scheme in the appendix and keeping just the important information in the main text
- restructuring of the simulation description
- correcting an error in the CALIOP comparison and accordingly a revision of Sect. 5.2
- moving the reaction mechanism from the appendix to the supplementary material

Yours sincerely and on behalf of all co-authors,
Michael Weimer

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1 Major comments

- 1.1 As it stands the paper is rather awkward to read and rather disjointed and would really benefit from some quite rigorous editing to make it more concise. I have given many examples below, but they are far from exhaustive. For example, at times the text is much too 'wordy', making it difficult to follow and unconvincing (see e.g. Section 3). The description of the results could also be tighter and more concise. The various sections also aren't well linked and the reader is never sure of the scope of the work. These issues really affect the readability/coherency of the paper. If you properly address these issues the paper will be much stronger and convincing and polished.

To address your concerns, we have completely revised the Introduction and the section about the CALIOP comparison with ICON-ART. We moved the PSC scheme description in the appendix, thus making the main part of the manuscript more concise and focused on the results. We shortened and rearranged Sect. 3 which, we hope, improves the readability of the section. Of course, we also addressed the specific comments as well.

- 1.2 The Introduction seems rather limited and patchy, and not as coherent as it could be. I've given some suggestions as to how it could be improved below. But an obvious one would be to expand on why the Antarctic Peninsula has been identified as the focus for this case study, as well as more mention of other orographic hotspots in both the southern and northern hemispheres to reinforce the importance/impact of this work. Currently, we get to the final paragraph of the Introduction with little idea of what the 'description of the simulation' is, what model results are examined (PSC chemistry, GWs, dynamics?), or what satellite data is used in the study. I understand that this is elaborated on in the later sections, but these items also need to 'introduced' so that the paper is coherent, stronger, and easier to read. See also the comment below on lines #252-255, which is the sort of information that should be included here.

We completely revised the introduction in order to account for all the points you made here, and below.

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- 1.3 Line #54-61: I think that more information is required in this paragraph, especially on the difference/increase in resolution between the global domain and the refined grid in ICON-ART, and whether the refined grid is therefore suitable to resolve the relatively small horizontal scale mountain waves that typically form over the narrow Antarctic Peninsula. For example, Noel and Pitts (2012) used a resolution of 20 km to resolve these waves, while studies such as Orr et al. (2015) suggested that a much higher resolution of ~ 4 km was required. Perhaps the resolution used in the refined grid is justified as suitable for longer climatological runs (lower computational cost), which requires a compromise. For example, line #60 claims that these waves will be 'directly simulated', but this doesn't necessarily mean that they are realistically represented. These sort of details would be helpful.

We included a discussion of the resolutions in the introduction, which should provide the reader with a better overview how to interpret the 40 km resolution. In brief, it is our goal to start with a global resolution comparable to other CCMs and see the impact of the two-way nesting in the region of the Antarctic Peninsula when the large-scale flow can excite waves triggering PSCs.

1.4 Section 2: This is a very lengthy and detailed description of the ICON-ART model, and especially its PSC scheme. Its not clear to me why such a detailed description is required (in the main text), as this has surely been explained elsewhere. To a non-chemist such a long section is difficult to follow. If such a detailed description is required, then explain in a sentence or so why. If such detail is not required, then please remove much of it. I would encourage that much of it is deleted or moved to the Appendix, as it made getting to the results difficult and frustrating as this had to be read firstly. I also don't see any point in all the equations in the Appendix being included, so please delete. Additionally, the description of the PSC scheme needs to discuss how it deals with the mountain wave temperature perturbations. For example, if the 'warm phase' of the mountain wave temperatures results in temperatures being higher than the PSC formation threshold temperatures, then what happens? Do the PSCs evaporate instantaneously? Also, please describe whether the PSC scheme is able to advect PSCs downstream of the orography, as seen in observations (Eckermann et al., 2009).

We moved the main parts of the PSC scheme description to the appendix. Some statements are left in Sect. 2 because they are required for later sections. We also added a paragraph about the scheme's design with respect to mountain waves. Especially, the PSC scheme in ICON-ART is able to transport ice and NAT PSCs downstream as they are calculated prognostically.

From our point of view, the chemical reactions in the appendix are important because they follow the guideline of ACP: "2. A paper should contain sufficient detail and references to public sources of information to permit the author's peers to replicate the work." (see https://www.atmospheric-chemistry-and-physics.net/policies/obligations_for_authors.html, accessed on March 6, 2021). But we agree with your point that it is not needed in the main text and moved the equations to the supplement.

- 1.5 Figure 5: Please include results from the global ICON-ART version in Figure 5 so that we can clearly see the benefit of moving from a resolution of 160 km to 40 km. The resulting plot would be very strong and highly novel, clearly demonstrating the direct benefits of resolving mountain waves in terms of PSCs for the first time (rather than indirectly, such as how often PSC formation temperature thresholds are exceeded, such as in Orr et al. 2020). Results for the global model should also be added to Figs 6 and 7.

We included the new panels in Figs. 5-7. They clearly demonstrate the improvement using a higher resolution around the Antarctic Peninsula because temperatures lower than about 180 K don't occur in the resolution of 160 km. Since we found an error in our analysis comparing ICON-ART with CALIOP thanks to comments by referee 1, we comprehensively revised Sect. 5.2.

2 Minor Comments

- 2.1 + Line #26. Please quantify the horizontal scale of mountain waves. Also, a high model resolution is required to resolve the actual wave dynamics/evolution, and not just the orography. For example, it is thought that as many as 8 grid points is required to adequately resolve a gravity wave.

We included the horizontal scale of orographic wavelength and the requirement to the number of grid points in the introduction.

2.2 + Line #28: You have mentioned the resolution of global models, but not the resolution for mesoscale models. Please add this.

We included some examples of the resolution of mesoscale models used in the past for detection of mountain-wave induced PSCs.

2.3 + Line #30: I don't follow your statement that 'A method to bridge this gap for interactive calculations is missing so far', as in this paragraph you have stated that solutions such as parameterizing the effects of orographic GWs exist. Please revise.

We changed the statement to "An approach for global CCMs to directly benefit from high-resolution simulations is missing so far."

2.4 + Line #36: Some mention of the AIRS GW climatology (Hoffmann et al. 2016) would also be appropriate, as well as the various orographic hotspots that this reveals in both the southern and northern hemispheres.

We mentioned other hotspots of mountain-wave induced PSCs. We also included Hoffmann et al. (2016).

2.5 + Lines #52-52: The statement that Alexander et al. (2011) concluded that about 30% of all southern hemispheric PCSs can be related to mountain waves is incorrect. Alexander et al. (2011) includes the caveat that this number is only for the latitudinal range 60-70S. A better study to cite is probably Alexander et al (2013), which states that 'For all types of PSC, 5% in the whole Antarctic and 12% in the whole Arctic are attributed to OGW forcing'. Please revise the manuscript to reflect this, and also check that the numbers quoted from the other studies are correct and consistent with Alexander et al. (2013).

We replaced the statement by Alexander et al. (2013).

2.6 + Lines #77-78. Please revise the sentence '...used which is similar to other studies (e.g., Stone et al., 2019; Zambri et al., 2019; Nakajima et al.,2020) and can be found in Appendix A.' as its not clear. Also please elaborate why these equations need to be listed in the Appendix, as its not clear. If they are not necessary then please delete them to improve the flow/readability of the paper.

We separated the sentences and included a sentence listing the chemical families covered by the reaction system.

2.7 + Line #87: I have made this point already, but you can't simply make statements such as 'simulate e.g. mountain waves' without justifying this, such as explaining the scale of the waves and the grid scales used by the model. You need to do this.

We replaced the sentence by "Thus, the global domain is nudged towards the values in the nests, which will be further investigated in Sect. 5."

2.8 + Equations (1) and (2): Please check that the temperature T is defined before it is first used. (It is defined in line #119, after these equations.)

We added all symbols for equations 1 and 2 in the same sentence (now in the appendix Eqs. A1 and A2).

2.9 + Line #175: Out of the blue we are informed that 'In order to compare the results of the PSC scheme in ICON-ART with satellite measurements and to investigate the impact of the nesting technique on mountain-wave induced PSCs,....'. As explained above, please make this clearer much earlier on. This would make the paper much clearer.

We have included this in the introduction.

2.10 + Line #179: Some basic information needs to be included such as to the synoptic conditions that result in the formation of the orographic wave. For example, presumably this is due to an easterly wind over the Antarctic Peninsula? Please include this sort of information. Also, please put the period (July) examined into the wider context of the austral winter / PSC season.

We added a figure to the manuscript showing the meteorological conditions at the mountain wave event and put the July in the context of the ozone year 2008.

2.11 + Line #185: Has EMAC been defined?

Yes, on line 138. And also in the revised manuscript in Sect. 2.

2.12 + Lines #191-194: These two sentences are unclear. Please revise.

We explained the reason why we are using emissions only by CFC-11 in a clearer way.

2.13 + Lines #204-209: This paragraph could be better written.

We separated the reasoning and the description of the third part of the simulation.

2.14 + Table 2: The caption just seems like a repeat of the text in the section. Please consider revising this.

We shortened the table caption.

2.15 + Line #207: Here you mention that a grid spacing of 40 km will be used for the nested simulation, but there is still no justification as to why this resolution was chosen and why it is thought to be appropriate. See other comments above.

We included this in the introduction.

2.16 + Line #228: Please revise the sentence: '...on the one hand and exclude tropospheric clouds on the other hand'.

We revised the sentence and added Pitts et al. (2018) as citation.

2.17 + Lines #252-255: This is the sort of information that needs to have been included much earlier, say at the end of the Introduction. So that you are clearly explaining early on to the reader the scope of the paper.

We included this in the introduction.

2.18 + Line #259: I think that the results are much more nuanced and subtle than simply saying 'can be directly simulated with the resolution of 40 km'. Especially, because you are not showing any evidence at this point that the 40 km simulation of the wave is realistic.

We deleted this sentence since it is discussed better in the later paragraphs of this section.

2.19 + Lines #262-264: Please revise this text. As already mentioned above, there is more to accurately representing a mountain wave than just resolving the steepness/height of the orography. This is a rather naive understanding of the problem.

We revised the whole paragraph.

2.20 + Figure 4: The 80 km results don't seem to be mentioned.

We mentioned it as the transition between these two resolutions.

2.21 + Line #265: Its not clear what you are referring to by 'Therefore, the flow over the mountain range is under represented in the model'. The global model with a much smoother/lower orography might actually have enhanced flow over the Peninsula, although this is not a given as the model has a sub-grid scale orographic drag scheme to represent unresolved drag. Please revise.

We deleted the sentence.

2.22 +Lines #265-266: This is not clear. Please revise.

We have rephrased the sentences.

2.23 + Line #275: As I have tried to emphasize, I think that you need to make these sort of statements more comparative, ie compared to the 160 km model, the 40 km model represents a well defined mountain wave with an amplitude of 10 K – this wave is entirely absent in the 160 km model. So you are trying to justify that you have produced a step change improvement in the representation of mountain waves in the model by going from 160 to 40 km.

We adapted this sentence and all the sentences where such statements occurred.

2.24 + Line #280: Spelling. Fourth.

Corrected.

2.25 + Line #314: Not clear what 'datasets' you are referring to here. Please clarify in the text.

We replaced it by "CALIOP and ICON-ART".

2.26 + Line #317: Its not at all clear what 'the results can be found in Fig. 5' are referring to. Maybe you are referring to the model v CALIOP PSC volume concentration, but this was introduced many paragraphs previously.

We replaced it by "comparison between CALIOP and ICON-ART".

2.27 + Figure 5: I'm not convinced that a statistical analysis is possible for such a short period considered. Please justify that this in the text, or amend the language so that you say that you are simply making a comparison for the period examined. For example, what is the frequency of CALIOP measurements etc.

We added the number of grid points that are in the nest during the mountain wave event to the CALIOP discussion. In total, we get more than 0.5 million grid points with PSCs in CALIOP and in ICON-ART.

2.28 + Figure 5: Its not clear what the temperature values are on the figure. The ICON-ART panel has two different sets of values, which are unclear. The CALIOP panel has different values, which range from 23K to 349K (I think this is wrongly labelled). This is confusing, and makes it unclear how to compare the model results v CALIOP. Consequently, I found it difficult to follow the explanation of the Figure 5 in lines #324-330.

As mentioned in the figure caption, the numbers on the right hand side are the number of grid points with PSCs. To make it clearer, we added this to the panels and also added an example in the figure caption of Fig. 5.

2.29 + Lines #324-330: You haven't referred to where the improvement resulting from resolving mountain waves would be expected in terms of PSCs. Presumably, you would expect more of a benefit for ice PSCs due to their lower temperature formation threshold compared to NAT and STS PSCs, ie they require the additionally cooling from GWs to exceed this temperature. Please clarify this when referring to Figure 5.

This can be seen quite nicely by the new panels added in response to your last Major Comment. Discussion of this point is included, too.

2.30 + Lines #367-369: How important are these missing fine scale features? What are the implications for the simulated GW temperature perturbations? Does this suggest that ideally a higher resolution is required? Can you connect these deficiencies to the results in Figure 5, 6 and 7?

We included some statements about the fine structures, in Sect. 5.2 and 5.3, which also connect them better.

2.31 + Figure 11: The 80 km results are included but not discussed. How do these compare with the 40 km results?

We included a sentence to ice PSCs and the 80 km resolution.

2.32 + Figures 13: It's a little confusing jumping from the Peninsula region to a global domain. Perhaps this needs a separate subsection or added to the section describing Figure 14.

We moved the section describing Fig. 14 upwards.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2020-1156>, 2020.

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