Response to reviewer 2

Dear reviewer, first thank you for your encouraging comments. We sincerely appreciate your interest in this work. Additionally, we thank you for your comments, which were very helpful to improve the quality of the manuscript.

Below we present our detailed answer. Your comments are in blue text, followed by our answers in black text. The referred lines in the answers are indicated with respect to the change tracking document, at the end of this file.

Summary :

This work presents a conceptual model for adiabatic continental fog that relates fog liquid water path with its thickness, surface liquid water content and adiabaticity. This is an original powerful method to better understand fog life cycle and it could be the basis of a diagnostic tool for fog dissipation nowcasting.

Overall, I really like this work. It is the outgrowth of a good deal of soul-searching that began with Waersted's papers based on LWP budget. The manuscript is generally well written, and the figures in the manuscript are relevant. That being said, I would like the authors to be more upfront about the types of fog the model applies, the range of validity and the limits of the approach.

My concerns are presented below.

General comments:

1. The conceptual model is applied to fog formation and fog life cycle statistics are produced: does it concern only fog by stratus lowering? In this case, the sample size should be given and it should be clearly said that it only applies to fog by stratus lowering to remove the ambiguity (to be corrected at different locations and in the conclusion). If other types than the fog formed by stratus lowering are included, the conceptual model cannot be applied as the adiabaticity criteria is not verified for thin fogs. This would call into question the validity of the conceptual model.

Data from radiation and stratus lowering fog is considered in all the calculations. The only criteria used to detect fog events is visibility. This decision enabled adiabaticity retrievals for all fog types and situations, and enabled the finding of negative adiabaticity values when the LWP is less than ~30 g m-2. Negative adiabaticity indicates that fog LWC is, on average, decreasing with height, and therefore that fog is not adiabatic. The figure below, done using both fog types, complements this answer. The first plot shows the distributions of closure adiabaticity samples for all LWP ranges, the second for LWP values below 30 and the third for LWP values above 30 g m-2.

From this figure, we confirm that fog is adiabatic when the LWP is greater than 30 g m-2 (the limit where fog usually becomes opaque to infrared radiation, according to Waersted et al. (2017)). This enables the identification of the limits where fog lifting could not occur (fog can

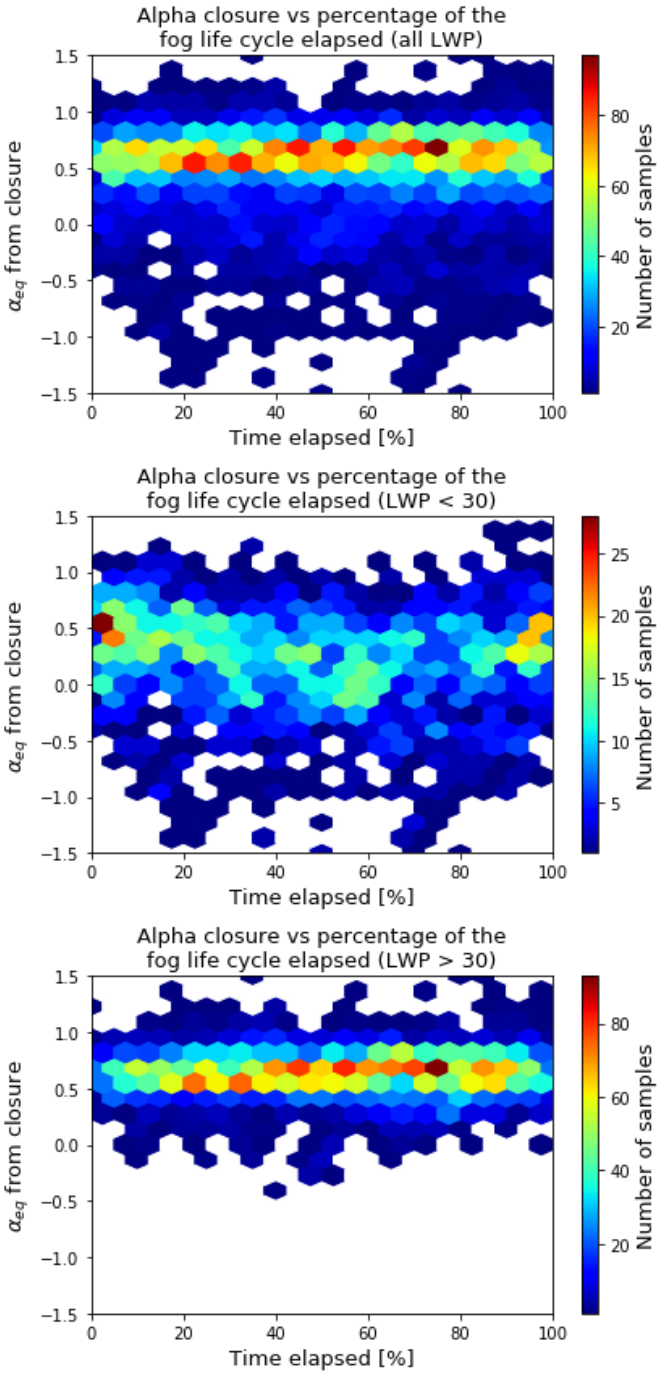
lift only when it is adiabatic). This does not mean that we cannot do conceptual model calculations for other situations, but rather that the premise (lifting when the RLWP is 0 g m-2) will not necessarily be true under specific conditions.

It's also worth noting that when the LWP is above 30-40 g m-2, adiabaticity is about 0.6 for most samples, without distinction between radiative or stratus lowering fog. Therefore, rather than the fog type, what is key is to have an adiabatic layer to predict fog lifting using the conceptual model. Your comment motivated the introduction of a new figure 3 (b), showing the eq. adiabaticity vs LWP, and the separation between the sections analyzing adiabaticity results and the adiabaticity parametrization. As stated before, it was essential to apply the conceptual model to radiative and stratus lowering fog cases to identify these regimes. This discussion on the limits of applicability of the model is now developed in a much clearer way in Section 4.1 (lines 284-308), and in the conclusions (lines 522-531).

Regarding the amount of samples, several comments and a supplementary material have been added to provide more clarity.

In the specific case of fog formation, in general it was not possible to observe radiation fog before and at formation time because of its low CTH (below the 85 m minimum from the radar). Therefore, statistics should consider data related with stratus lowering cases mostly. This is now stated in lines 469-472.

Additional statements on the amount of cases and samples considered can be read on lines 469-472 and 483-485, and in the caption of figures 10 and 11.



2. Concerning fog dissipation, it can be caused by three different factors: the increase of heat surface fluxes, the presence of higher clouds and the advection of dry or warm air. Most of the time, only the first factor has a slow effect on the LWP evolution, and can be detectable a few hours before, while the other factors have a drastic impact. I have understood that the cases with presence of higher clouds are excluded from the study. What's about the dissipation due to large scale conditions: are they also excluded and what is the criteria to exclude them? What are the statistics about the factors of dissipation at the SIRTA site? In Waersted et al. (2019) it was written that more than half the fog events dissipate after sunrise transition to a stratus which lasts at least 2 h. It is important to remind these statistics for the SIRTA site and to better define when the conceptual model can be applied to dissipation cases and to present the limits of the approach.

In principle, all cases are considered, since they are identified based on surface visibility measurements only. What is done, is that each 5 min average block of LWP samples is declared invalid if liquid clouds are suspected above the fog layer, since that would introduce overestimated fog LWP measurements. This is now better explained in lines 233-248.

This will, of course, reduce the amount of data contributed by fog cases that dissipated by the radiative sheltering due to the presence of higher clouds, however these cases are not excluded manually or following any specific criteria. The same applies for the other dissipation scenarios.

Yet, we think that this should not present an issue, because the conceptual model provides a diagnostic variable (the RLWP) which is not a function of the processes acting on fog at any given time, but rather on fog geometry and liquid water content.

However, we also agree that our study only considers continental fog at SIRTA. The results should be rather general for these fog types, since the results match previous observations of adiabaticity (lines 296-299). The applicability of the conceptual model to marine fog for example should be studied. This is now discussed in the article conclusions (lines 574-579).

As explained in the previous comment, the limits of the approach are discussed in lines 284-308 and 522-531.

3. The approach does not take into account the droplet concentration (Nc). But we know that for a same liquid water content (LWC), a fog will be optically thicker if Nc is high and vice-versa. It lasts also longer due to the droplet sedimentation which is reduced. In the same way, Dupont et al. (2012) have shown that evaporation of the droplets below the stratus is one of the main factors contributing to stratus lowering and fog formation, so a small concentration of droplets favors the growth of the droplets, their sedimentation and evaporation. How would you introduce these considerations in the approach? Do you consider that the impact of the microphysics is included in the LWP evolution, or that it is of 2nd order compared to the LWP and CTH evolutions? Again it is important to introduce this point of discussion.

LWP, CTH and adiabaticity drive the conceptual model variables. The equivalent adiabaticity should be related to fog microphysics, yet at present this relationship is not studied. Droplet number concentration may also have an impact on the calculation of surface LWC versus visibility, and therefore not considering it probably increases uncertainty when calculating fog LWP from the conceptual model. Its impact could be studied using the output from LES to study the behavior of the RLWP and of fog adiabaticity for different microphysical conditions. This is now better explained in the conclusions (lines 571-573).

Additionally, the conceptual model provides instant diagnostic variables about fog status at a given time, yet the main factors that you mention are processes that drive fog evolution. These mentioned processes and conditions could be used to predict the evolution of fog LWP, and also to estimate the evolution of the RLWP (paired with other processes to estimate fog CTH development and Temperature changes). This is now discussed in the conclusions (lines 560-568).

4. The readability of the paper could be improved if all the formula/equations were grouped together in one initial part when the fog conceptual model is presented.

We agree with the reviewer that a section presenting all the equation would help the readability of the paper. However, the constraint is that some equations arise from theory (section 2), and some are based on empirical observations (section 4). Therefore, it is complicated to introduce all the equations in the same place. In the end we found out that our original distribution works best in the article, because it is necessary to (1) to introduce the theory to explain which data is important, and (2) to describe the dataset and how it is processed, before performing calculations and obtaining the empirical equations.

5. The different cases are presented as a catalog, with the first three illustrating a dissipation by stratus, except the last one which considers a fog by stratus lowering. Could you introduce the benefit to present the second and the third cases, as only the first and the fourth should be kept. Or you cloud present another type of fog, for instance an advective fog, to better discriminate the limits of the approach.

We revised the cases, and in the end decided to leave cases one, two and four. Case three was moved to the supplementary material.

In case “one” fog dissipates in the morning due to LWP depletion. Meanwhile, in case “two”, fog dissipates by CTH lifting. These two cases remain in the paper because they illustrate dissipation by different mechanisms.

The previous case “three” was an example of a long-lasting fog case, probably explained by a very high RLWP value at sunrise, and strong thermal inversion at fog top preventing CTH to increase significantly after sunrise. This may be interesting on its own, however we agree that it does not introduce much more significant elements for analysis.

Case “four” shows an application of the conceptual model to stratus-lowering fog, therefore it remains interesting and different to the previous cases, therefore as you propose we did not remove it.

Detailed comments:

1. l 32 : “An adiabatic fog behaves similarly”: *almost* must be added because eddies are smaller in fog than in a stratocumulus.

Similarly in this context means, "alike yet not exactly the same", so in the end we decided to keep it as it is.

2. l 33: “stratocumulus clouds” must be replaced by “adiabatic fogs” as Nakanishi, 2000; Porson et al., 2011; Bergot, 2013, 2016; Wærsted et al., 2019 have not studied stratocumulus.

Thank you, we changed this in line 43.

3. l 172: As you have applied the Tardif and Rasmussen (2007) identification algorithm, how are partitioned the fog types, between radiative fog, fog by stratus lowering and advective fogs? Do you keep all the types in the rest of the study?

We have not classified or separated between fog types. We consider all fog events that are identified based on the Tardif and Rasmussen algorithm, using surface visibility measurements only. Since in this study we are aiming to find general properties, we prefered to use as much data as possible. The details on how data is selected and used are explained in our answer to the general comments 1 and 2.

4. l 206: It is not clear if cases with higher clouds detected by the radar are excluded.

The cases are considered. What is excluded is the LWP retrieval, and therefore the conceptual model calculations for the given 5 min time blocks associated with higher clouds. This is explained in our answer to the general comment 2, and in lines 233-241 and 244-248 of the text.

5. Fig. 4: What are the heights of temperature and visibility measurements?

The heights of the instruments are now presented more clearly in Table 1.

6. First case study: how do you use the fact that a is much more different than 0,66 after 7 UTC?

After sunrise, between 7-9 UTC, LWP decreases significantly (-25 gm-2) while the near-surface visibility (or LWC0) remains rather constant and CTH decreases moderately. Equation 6 (and Fig 7d) is the closure equivalent adiabaticity. It reveals if changes in LWP, CTH and LWC0 are not consistent with each other through changes in alpha-closure. Hence, here as alpha-closure deviates from the adiabatic value of 0.66 between 7-9 UTC, one could conclude that CLWP and RLWP calculations are less realistic then if alpha-closure remained near 0.66.

7. Fig.6,7,8,9: (a): this subfigure could be zoomed up to 500m height. As there is no cloud above, what is the subfigure (b) for? (c) : can you move the legend insert? (e) what is the height of temperature measurement? (f) the yellow does not go well. It would be nice to improve its readability by increasing its size as it is the most important subfigure.

We now significantly improved the figure considering your recommendations.

8. l 349: “When there is strong cooling at the fog layer top, LWP increases and vertical circulation is intensified.”: increased would be better than intensified as vertical velocity intensity is low. Where does this remark come from: is it a general consideration or the result of a figure which is not shown?

It is a general consideration, based on the cited work (E. Waersted 2018 thesis). We also replaced intensified by increased as recommended.

9. §5.2.1: Does it concern only stratus lowering? How many cases do you consider?

As explained in the answer to the general comment 1, this is now stated in lines 469-472.

10. §5.2.2: How many cases do you consider in the statistics? Idem for §5.2.3

The statistics of sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 consider 56 fog cases. All fog events are superimposed and considered for all calculations. This is done to look for general behaviors. However, as explained in Section 3.3, there may be a different number of valid samples contributed by each fog event, and this implies that each bin may be calculated using a different amount of samples.

To provide the number of samples per bin, we include two new figures in S2 of the supplementary material showing the number of samples for each bin.

11. Fig.10b1: Is the ordinate axis the same for the cumulative and norm. distributions?

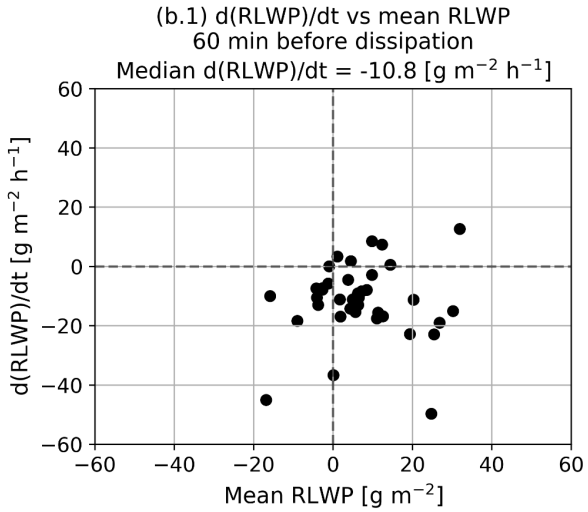
Yes, it is the same axis. This is now stated in the caption of this Figure.

12. Fig.11: It would be interesting to plot the same kind of representation than Fig.10b2

Figure 10b2 shows the statistics for all samples in the fog middle life. We cannot do the same figure for all the samples in the dissipation phase. What we did, however, is to plot this figure for the last 60 minutes of fog, shown in the figure below (mean and derivative of data from the last 60 min before dissipation).

As you can observe, in the last 60 minutes the RLWP is in average positive, below 30 g m-2, and has a negative dRLWP/dt. There is no apparent correlation between the values of both variables.

Hence, this figure does not add much information with respect to current Fig. 11 (a.1) and (a.2). Yet, an extra line has been added in (lines 488-490 and 562-563) to indicate that RLWP is very rarely above ~30 g m-2 in the last ~30 minutes before dissipation.



13. l 412: What does “using the same data points involved the slope calculation” mean?

This is now better explained. Lines 455-457 indicate in the same place how the sliding mean and the slope calculation is done.

14. l 427-430 434-435: Are you not talking about the same thing?

Yes, they are observations on the same figure and subject. Thanks for spotting the redundancy. The paragraph is now corrected in lines 501-506.

15. l 470: The model is presented as “a diagnostic tool to predict how close fog is from dissipation at the local scale”. What are you aiming for and for what kind of user: to predict the dissipation in the next hour for airports? This point could be slightly more developed.

Thanks for helping to improve our conclusions. This is now more developed in lines 557-559.

16. What do you mean by “implement this framework on LES simulations”? A LES does not need a conceptual model as it resolves most of the processes. But you can use the results from LES to validate and improve your conceptual model.

We agree the phrase was not correct. We meant what you explain in your comment. This is now corrected in the conclusions (lines 571-573).

17. l 485: “These proposals are presented in the following two chapters of the thesis.” must be replaced by a reference to Toledo et al. (2020) in AMT.

This was a mistake. In fact it was citing the same thesis chapter where the paper was on. Unfortunately we can't cite the related thesis in this work because it is not yet published, so this statement was removed.

Minor corrections:

- l 215 : consist**s**

- l 369: an LWP

- l 387 and 399: w**h**ere

- l 432: decre**a**ses

- l 414 and 420 : h^{-1} instead of Hr^{-1}

Thank you for the detailed corrections, these typos have been fixed in the text and figures.

A New Conceptual Model for Adiabatic Fog

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Abstract.

~~We~~ Visibility reduction caused by fog can be hazardous for human activities, especially for the transport sector. Previous studies show that this problem could be mitigated by improving nowcasting of fog dissipation. To address this issue, we propose a new paradigm ~~to describe the temporal evolution of continental fog layers. This paradigm defines fog~~ which could potentially improve our understanding of the life cycle of adiabatic continental fogs, and of the conditions that must take place for fog dissipation.

For this purpose, adiabatic fog is defined as a layer ~~saturated from~~ filled with suspended liquid water droplets, extending from an upper boundary all the way down to the surface, with a saturated adiabatic temperature profile. In this layer, the ~~surface to a known upper boundary, and whose~~ liquid water path (LWP) ~~exceeds~~ must exceed a critical value, the critical liquid water path (CLWP). When the LWP is less than the CLWP~~the fog water cannot~~, the amount of fog liquid water is not sufficient to extend all the way down to the surface, leading to a surface horizontal visibility greater than 1 km. ~~On the opposite~~Conversely, when the LWP ~~is larger than~~ exceeds the CLWP, the ~~fog water extends all the way to~~ amount of fog water is enough to reach the surface, inducing a horizontal visibility less than 1 km. The excess water with respect to the critical value is ~~then~~ defined as the reservoir liquid water path (RLWP).

The new fog paradigm is formulated as a conceptual model that relates the liquid water path of adiabatic fog with its thickness and surface liquid water content, and allows the critical and reservoir liquid water paths to be computed. Both variables can be tracked in real time using vertical profiling measurements, enabling a real time diagnostic of fog status.

The conceptual model is tested using data from seven years of measurements performed at the SIRTA observatory, combining cloud radar, microwave radiometer, ceilometer, scatterometer and weather station measurements. In this time period we found 80 fog events with reliable measurements, with 56 of these lasting more than three hours.

The paper presents the conceptual model and its capability to derive the LWP from the fog CTH and surface horizontal visibility with an RMS uncertainty of 10.5 g m^{-2}. The impact of fog liquid water path and fog top height variations on fog life cycle (formation to dissipation) is presented based on four case studies, and statistics derived from 56 fog events. Our results~~show in particular that the~~, based on measurements and an empirical parametrization for the adiabaticity, validate the applicability of the model. The calculated reservoir liquid water path is consistently positive during the mature phase of ~~the~~

~~fogand that it~~ fog, and starts to decrease quasi monotonously about one hour before dissipation, reaching a near-zero value at the time of dissipation. ~~The~~ Hence, the reservoir liquid water path and its time derivative could ~~hence~~ be used as ~~an indicator for~~ indicators of the life cycle stage~~and support short range forecasting~~ , to support nowcasting of fog dissipation.

1 Introduction

Fog occurs due to multiple processes that lead to ~~saturation of the air near the surface, through cooling~~ water vapor saturation in the air close to the surface. Water vapor saturation can be caused by a reduction of air temperature, ~~such as~~ due to radiative cooling, turbulent heat exchange, diffusion, adiabatic cooling through lifting, advection~~, and through moistening of the air , such as~~ . It can also occur by air moistening, due to water evaporation from the surface, evaporation of drizzle, advection of moist air, and vertical mixing (Brown and Roach, 1976; Gultepe et al., 2007; Dupont et al., 2012). ~~Similarly~~ On the contrary, fog dissipates as a result of warming and drying of the air near the surface, and also through the removal of droplets by precipitation (Brown and Roach, 1976; Haeffelin et al., 2010; Wærsted et al., 2017, 2019).

Stable fog and adiabatic fog should be distinguished because radiative, thermodynamic, dynamic and microphysical processes are significantly contrasted in the two types of fog. In a stable fog layer, the equivalent potential temperature increases with height, which inhibits vertical mixing. The surface is therefore weakly coupled with the fog top. Stable fog remains shallow and contains small amounts of liquid water, limiting the radiative cooling of the fog layer. In contrast, in an adiabatic fog the stability is close to neutral, enabling rapid vertical mixing, so that the surface and fog top are strongly coupled (Price, 2011; Porson et al., 2011). An adiabatic fog behaves similarly to stratocumulus clouds on top of convective boundary layers (Cermak and Bendix, 2011). The processes of ~~stratocumulus clouds~~ adiabatic fogs have been studied extensively in the past with large-eddy simulation (LES) and numerical weather prediction (NWP) models (Nakanishi, 2000; Porson et al., 2011; Bergot, 2013, 2016; Wærsted et al., 2019).

An adiabatic fog or stratiform cloud cools at its top from emission of long wave radiation, which destabilises the cloud and leads to convective mixing. When the cloud is coupled with the land surface, the destabilising process can be further strengthened by heat fluxes from below due to soil heat (Price, 2011). A thermal inversion develops right above the cooling cloud fog top and limits the coupling between the cloud and free atmosphere above. The thermal inversion defines the upper boundary of the adiabatic fog. The lower boundary of the stratiform cloud layer varies in time and space depending the amount of liquid water present in the cloud. For the adiabatic fog, the lower boundary is defined by the surface and is therefore fixed. Hence a fog layer may not grow geometrically deeper when the amount of liquid water increases.

Cermak and Bendix (2011) define fog and stratiform clouds based on cloud layer top altitude and liquid water content that follows a sub-adiabatic profile. A fog layer is thus defined as a stratiform cloud that contains sufficient liquid water to reach down to the surface.

Wærsted et al. (2019) showed using a large eddy-simulation model and remote sensing measurements that dissipation of fog can occur due to both reduction of liquid water content of the fog layer and increase of fog top height. Dissipation is defined here as removal of fog droplets leading to visibility increasing above 1 km at screen-level height. The simulations reveal a

similar behavior as proposed by Cermak and Bendix (2011). For a given fog top height, if the liquid water path contained in the fog layer becomes insufficient, the fog base lifts from the ground, which can be interpreted as fog dissipation through lifting into a stratiform cloud.

In adiabatic clouds, the thickness can be approximated from liquid water path. Brenguier et al. (2000) state that liquid water path is proportional to the square of cloud thickness. A precise quantification of the relationship between fog thickness and fog liquid water path is lacking in the literature.

In this article we present a conceptual model that relates the liquid water path of adiabatic fog to its geometrical thickness and surface liquid water content. The conceptual model enables an estimation of the minimum amount of column liquid water that is necessary to reach a visibility less than 1000 meters at the surface, defined as the critical liquid water path, and a calculation of the excess water that enhances fog persistence, defined as the reservoir liquid water path. The model also enables a quantification of the impact of liquid water path and geometrical thickness variations on the reservoir, a characteristic that could be later used to improve fog forecasting tools.

The conceptual model theory is explained in Section 2. In Section 3, we present all measurements used to construct and evaluate the conceptual model. In Section 4 we derive a parametrization for fog adiabaticity using historical data, and we compare the conceptual model predictions with fog thickness, liquid water path and surface liquid water content observations. In Section 5 we present case studies to exemplify how conceptual model variables enable us to understand fog evolution, and statistical results of fog behavior during its formation, middle life and dissipation phases.

2 Fog Conceptual Model

2.1 Fog LWP Conceptual Model

The hypothesis of this work is that ~~there is a general rule, dependent on fog macroscopic properties, that must be fulfilled when the~~ when a fog ~~layer persists at the surface level . To deduce this rule~~ layer is well-mixed, the persistence or not of fog at surface level will be determined by vertically integrated quantities of the whole fog layer, and in particular the integrated liquid water content. To test this hypothesis we develop a unidimensional model for a fog column, based on previous models for stratus clouds.

For stratus clouds, cloud Liquid Water Content (LWC) increases with height can be modelled using Eq. (1) ~~(Albrecht et al., 1990)~~ (Betts, 1982; Albrecht et al., 1990; Cermak and Bendix, 2011). In this equation, z is the vertical distance above the Cloud Base Height (CBH), which increases until reaching the Cloud Top Height (CTH). $\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$ is the negative of the change in saturation mixing ratio with height for an ideal adiabatic cloud, and $\alpha(z)$ is the local adiabaticity, defined as the ratio between the real and the ideal adiabatic liquid water content change with height. $\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$ is a quantity that depends on the local temperature T and pressure P. The equation used for its calculation can be found in appendix A.

$$\frac{dLWC(z)}{dz} = \alpha(z)\,\Gamma_{ad}(T, P) \tag{1}$$

This model can also be applied for well mixed fog layers, where the adiabatic profile assumption is valid. ~~This happens when fog is opaque , and thus radiative cooling happens~~ Fog layers that are radiatively opaque will cool almost exclusively at the fog top ~~. This cooling introduces instability, enhancing vertical mixing due to~~ and therefore tend towards static instability, which causes mixing through convective turbulence. During day time, convection is reinforced by sensible heat release from the surface. This mixing induces the formation of a saturated adiabatic temperature profile in fog layers (Roach et al., 1976; Boutle et al., 2018; Wærsted et al., 2019).

However, there is one key difference in fog layers that must be considered when integrating (1). In stratus clouds, it is assumed that the LWC at the cloud base is zero, because condensation is starting gradually from unsaturated air, and therefore there is a smooth transition between dry and moist air.

This smooth transition does not ~~hold in the case of~~ occur in fog layers. ~~Here, CBH is not limited by the dry-moist air transition but rather by a solid boundary, the surface. The surface limits vertical fogdevelopment, and causes an excess LWC~~ In this case, the cloud base is fixed by the surface height, and has a possitive LWC. These characteristics are the reason for the visibility reduction at the surface. It is worth noting that for adiabatic fog, the surface presence could produce a larger accumulation of LWC with respect to other clouds of the same thickness. This could happen because in this fog type, water vapor condensation can occur rapidly at the fog ~~base when compared to a cloud.This larger LWC is what drives the visibility reduction at the surface .~~ top, due to radiative cooling (e.g. Wærsted et al. (2017)), and this LWC would be redistributed in a layer of a fixed vertical extent. Vertical redistribution would happen because in adiabatic fog, the stability is close to neutral and therefore vertical circulation caused by surface heating, or cloud top radiative cooling, are possible (Smith et al., 2018).

Thus, when integrating Eq. (1) it is necessary to account for a non-zero Surface Liquid Water Content (LWC_0). Since fog (and stratus clouds) are shallow, ~~the~~ their LWC increases with height, and $\Gamma_{ad}(T,P)$ can be assumed constant for the whole layer (Albrecht et al., 1990; Braun et al., 2018). This leads to the LWC formulation of Eq. (2).

$$LWC(z) = \int_{z'=0}^{z'=z} \alpha(z')\,\Gamma_{ad}(T,P)\,z dz' + LWC_0 \tag{2}$$

The blue curve of Fig. 1 (a) illustrates how LWC behaves in well mixed fog. For most of the fog layer thickness, LWC increases with height due to upward motions of moisture from the surface and within the cloud (Oliver et al., 1978; Manton, 1983; Walker, 2003; Cermak and Bendix, 2011). Then, when approaching fog top from below, the LWC change with height decreases until becoming a net reduction of LWC near the top. This decrease is due to entrainment of dry-air at the top, which leads to a quick decline in droplet size and LWC (Brown and Roach, 1976; Roach et al., 1982; Driedonks and Duynkerke, 1989; Hoffmann and Roth, 1989; Boers and Mitchell, 1994; Cermak and Bendix, 2011).

Fog LWP is defined as the integral of LWC(z) in the fog column ~~. Its formulation~~ (Eq. 3a). Its formulation as a function of adiabaticity is presented in Eq. (3b), where z is the height above the surface. Since in fog the CBH is always at the surface, fog thickness is completely defined by its CTH.

$$LWP = \int_{z=0}^{z=CTH} LWC(z)\, dz \tag{3a}$$

$$= \int_{z=0}^{z=CTH} \left(\int_{z'=0}^{z'=z} \alpha(z')\, \Gamma_{ad}(T,P)\, z dz' + LWC_0 \right) dz \tag{3b}$$

$$LWP = \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{eq}\, \Gamma_{ad}(T,P)\, CTH^2 + LWC_0\, CTH \tag{3c}$$

To simplify the calculation of the integral in Eq. (3b), which requires the knowledge of the adiabaticity profile $\alpha(z)$, we introduce the Equivalent Adiabaticity α_{eq} term. The Equivalent Adiabaticity is defined as ~~a~~ the constant adiabaticity value that would ~~provide~~ give the same LWP ~~as that derived from~~ value, when replacing $\alpha(z')$ in Eq. (3b). ~~In our study, α_{eq} is estimated using a parametrization derived from 7 years of fog observations at the SIRTA observatory (see Sect. 4.2). It is worth mentioning that this parameter is also defined in literature as the in-cloud mixing parameter β (e.g. Cermak and Bendix (2011)), which is equivalent to α_{eq} and can be easily transformed using the rule $\alpha_{eq} = (1 - \beta)$.~~

~~The Equivalent Adiabaticity~~ The equivalent adiabaticity enables the definition of the Fog ~~LWP Conceptual Model , indicated~~ Conceptual Model LWP, in Eq. (3c).

The Conceptual Model LWP has the same value as Fog LWP, but its LWC(z) profile is different because it uses a constant adiabaticity value.

~~The relationship between Fog and Conceptual Model LWP~~ This difference is illustrated in Fig. 1 (a). Fog LWP is the light blue surface, bound by the fog LWC curve with varying adiabaticity with height. Whereas, the Conceptual Model LWP corresponds to the dashed area. Its LWC increases linearly with height because of the constant adiabaticity value. This figure shows that both Fog and the Conceptual Model have the same Surface LWC for a given LWP value. Considering that surface LWC can be linked to visibility, this implies that for a given fog LWP value, the Conceptual Model should predict realistic visibility values at the surface.

In our study, α_{eq} is estimated using a parametrization derived from 7 years of fog observations at the SIRTA observatory (see Sect. 4.2). It is worth mentioning that this parameter is also defined in literature as the in-cloud mixing parameter β (e.g. Betts (1982); Cermak and Bendix (2011)), which is equivalent to α_{eq} and can be easily transformed using the rule $\alpha_{eq} = (1 - \beta)$.

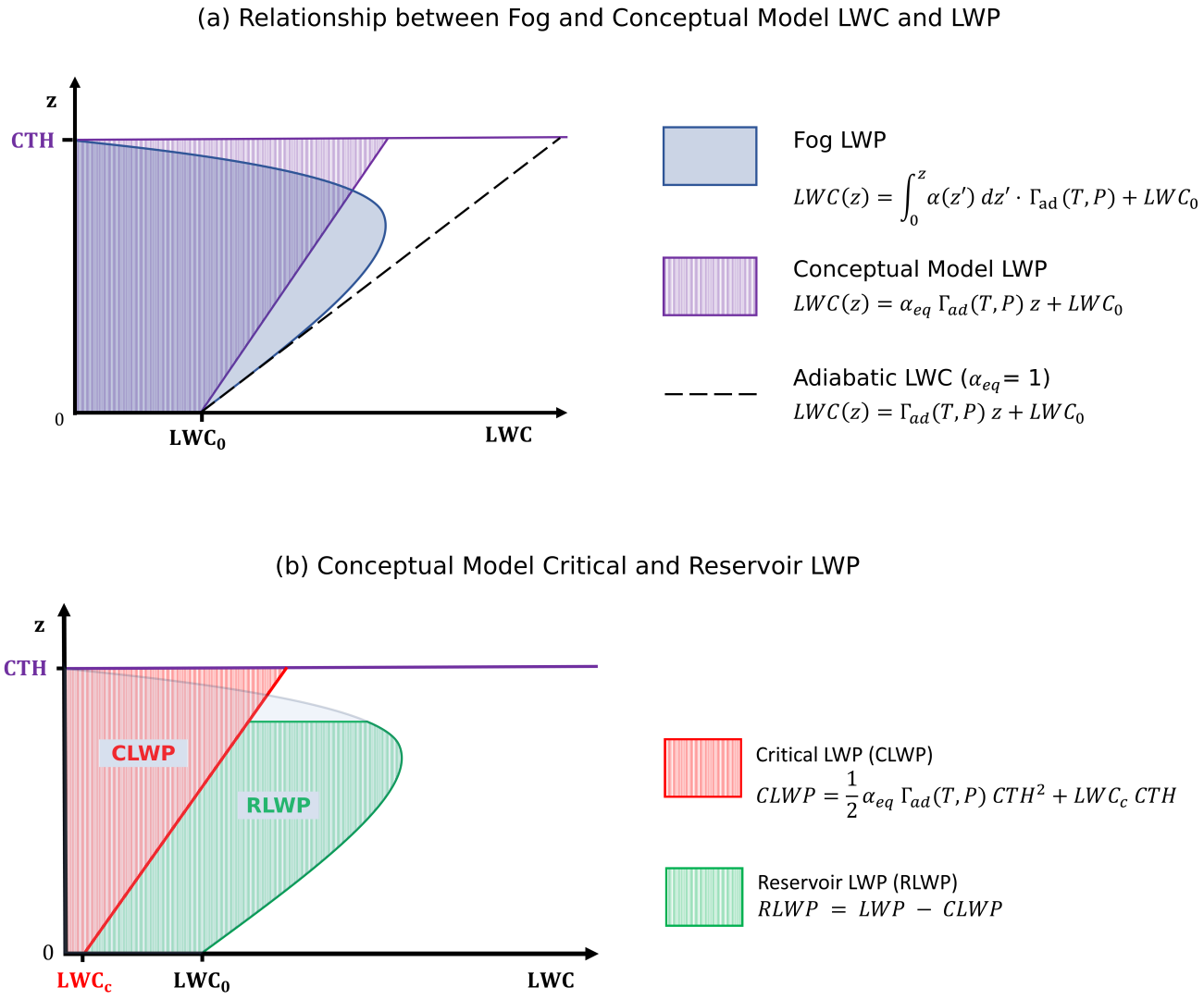

Figure 1. (a) Illustration of the relationship between Fog, Conceptual Model and adiabatic LWC with vs height. In all cases LWC changes with height from its surface value until reaching fog top (CTH). Fog and Conceptual Model LWP have the same value. (b) Representation of the Critical LWP (CLWP) and Reservoir LWP (RLWP) with respect to fog LWP. CLWP is predicted LWP value that fog should have when visibility equals 1000 meters at the surface (with an associated suface LWC defined as LWC_c). RLWP is the difference between fog and the CLWP, and represents the excess water that enables fog persistence.

2.2 Critical and Reservoir LWP

Wærsted (2018) found that fog dissipation by lifting of its base is explained by a deficit in LWP considering a given fog thickness. This motivated the definition of a Critical Liquid Water Path (CLWP), which is the minimum amount of LWP needed for a cloud to reach the surface, and reduce horizontal visibility below 1000 meters.

CLWP is formulated from Eq. (3c), assuming a Critical Liquid Water Content LWC_c at the surface. LWC_c is the LWC that would cause a 1000 meters visibility, calculated using the parametrization derived by Gultepe et al. (2006) (appendix B). This parametrization indicates that the LWC_c has a value of $\approx 0.02\ gm^{-3}$.

$$CLWP = \frac{1}{2}\alpha_{eq}\,\Gamma_{ad}(T,P)\,CTH^2 + LWC_c\,CTH \tag{4}$$

When fog is present, its LWP value must be always larger than the CLWP. This property motivates the definition of an additional parameter, the Reservoir Liquid Water Path (RLWP). RLWP is a quantitative metric on how far fog is from dissipation, and is calculated using Eq. (5).

$$RLWP = LWP - CLWP = LWP - \frac{1}{2}\alpha_{eq}\,\Gamma_{ad}(T,P)\,CTH^2 - LWC_c\,CTH \tag{5}$$

The relationship between CLWP and RLWP is illustrated in Fig. 1 (b). In this case, we have a fog with a given cloud top height CTH and a liquid water content LWP, that are associated ~~to~~ with a liquid water content LWC_0 at the surface. This LWC is greater than the critical value LWC_c, because visibility is less than 1000 m. The CLWP of this fog, indicated by the red surface to the left, is calculated using Eq. (4). Its value indicates the minimum LWP that fog can have before reducing surface LWC below its critical value, which could cause an increase of visibility above 1000 meters. All excess liquid water above the CLWP value creates the RLWP, indicated by the green surface to the right, and corresponds to all the excess LWP that must be removed before fog can dissipate at the surface.

3 Dataset and Data Treatment Methodology

The dataset used to study the Conceptual Model formulation consists on seven years of fog observations made at the SIRTA atmospheric observatory, from July of 2013 to March of 2020 (Haeffelin et al., 2005). This observatory is located 156 m above sea level, approximately 20 km south of Paris (48°43'N, 2°12'E) in a location with a relatively high fog incidence (about 30 fog events per year).

The observatory data must be treated to transform raw measurements into Conceptual Model variables. Section 3.1 indicates which instruments are used in this study, Sec. 3.2 describes how fog events are detected, and how their formation and dissipation time is identified, and Sec. 3.3 explains the processing of raw observations into Conceptual Model variables.

After data treatment, an additional data quality control stage is performed to remove from the data pool the fog cases with measurements taken under non optimal conditions. The criteria used is explained in Sec. 3.4. A summary of the complete data processing is shown in Fig. 2.

3.1 Observations

The SIRTA observatory is equipped with a large array of instruments, tailored for observing fog and fog processes (Haeffelin et al., 2010; Wærsted, 2018). A subset of these instruments is selected for studying the proposed conceptual model, based on the required inputs. These instruments are listed in Table 1.

Data from three remote sensing instruments is used: a CL31 Ceilometer, a BASTA Cloud Radar and a HATPRO Microwave Radiometer. The CL31 is a widely used instrument for Cloud Base Height (CBH) detection, with a vertical resolution of 15 meters (Kotthaus et al., 2016). In this study it is used to retrieve the CBH of low stratus clouds preceding fog events, and to track CBH lifting during temporary or definitive dissipation of the fog layer.

The Cloud Radar BASTA is a 95 GHz FMCW radar used to retrieve vertical profiles of cloud reflectivity, up to 12 km of height (Delanoë et al., 2016). It operates continuously alternating between 12.5, 25 and 100 m resolution modes every 12 seconds. The 12.5 m mode has the highest vertical resolution and therefore it is used to retrieve fog CTH. Meanwhile, the 100 m mode is the most sensitive and reaches the highest altitude of 12 km, and therefore is used to detect the presence of clouds above the fog layer.

The multi-wavelength microwave radiometer (MWR) HATPRO measures the integrated LWP of the atmospheric column. The manufacturer specified uncertainty of the LWP product is of $\pm$ 20 g m^{-2}, but for relatively small LWP ($<$ 40 g m^{-2}), investigations indicate that the uncertainty is within $\pm$ 5-10 g m^{-2}, at least when the fog forms in clear sky so that a possible time-independent bias can be corrected for (Marke et al., 2016; Wærsted et al., 2017). When no other cloud is present above the fog layer, LWP measured by the MWR will correspond to fog LWP. Thus, MWR and Cloud Radar data can be combined to perform reliable fog LWP retrievals.

These remote sensing instruments are complemented by a weather station 2 meters above the surface, and two Scatterometers, at 4 and 20 meters above the surface. The weather station provides the thermodynamic data necessary to calculate the saturated adiabatic lapse rate $\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$, and the 4-m scatterometer provides the visibility data used to detect fog events and to calculate fog LWC at the surface. Visibility data is also used to complement the CL31 CBH estimation for very low cloud layers.

3.2 Fog event detection

Fog periods are identified using a scheme based on previous work done by Tardif and Rasmussen (2007); Wærsted et al. (2019). This method requires the re-sampling of the surface visibility time series to 5 minute blocks. Each 5 min block is assigned a "fog" or "clear" value, depending on the distribution of visibility in its time period. A block is assigned the "fog" value when more than half of the visibility measurements are less than 1000 m, and is assigned "clear" otherwise.

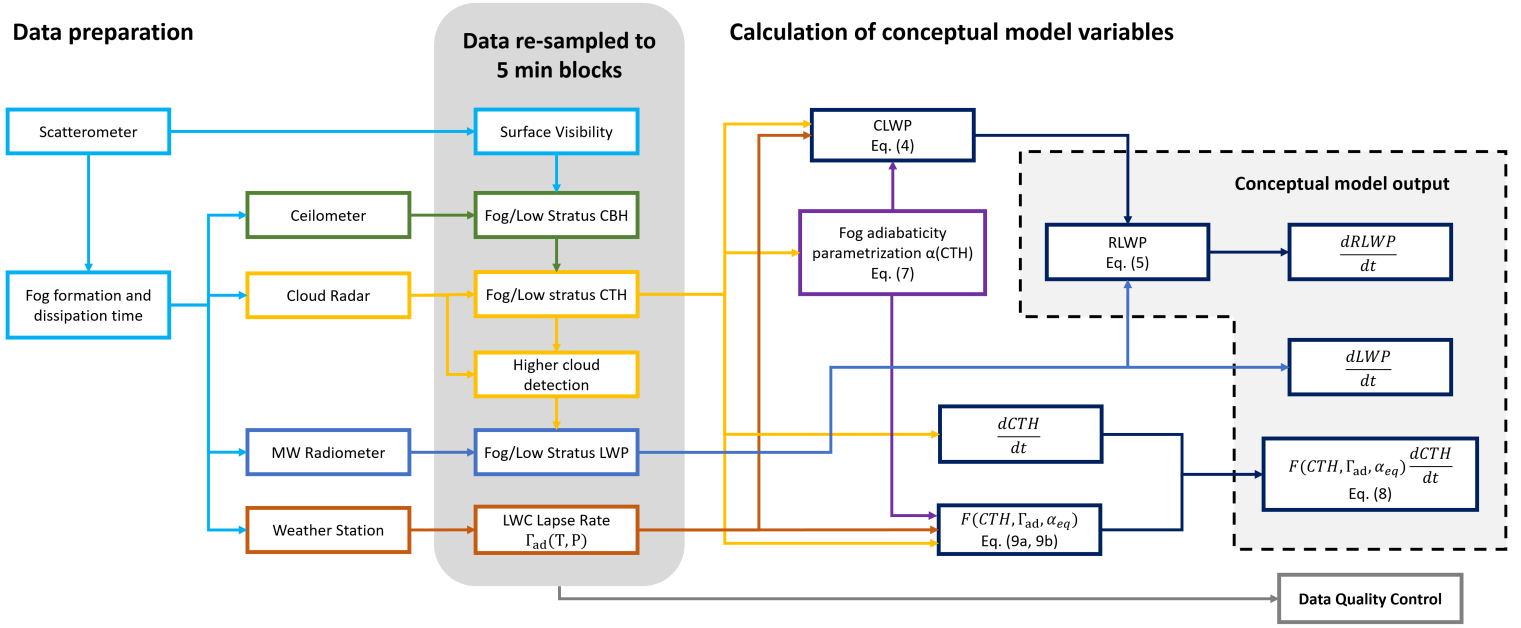

Figure 2. Summary of the data treatment and calculation methodology. The procedure can be separated in three main stages: First, data preparation consists in identifying fog periods from historical visibility measurements, and in gathering raw instrumental information for these periods. Second, data is re-sampled and homogenized into 5 minute time blocks. First order products such as fog CTH, LWP, among others are calculated. Third, the data treated in the second stage is used to calculate conceptual model variables. An additional data quality control stage is included, to check if ~~fog~~ the variables of each identified period were retrieved under reliable ~~instrument operation~~operating conditions of the instruments.

Table 1. List of instruments and measurements used in this study.

Instrument	Measured Quantity	Vertical Range ~~and Resolution~~ (RA) and Resolution (RE)	Time Res.
905 nm Ceilometer *Vaisala CL31*	Attenuated backscatter (m^{-1} sr^{-1})	RA 0-7600 m, RE 15 m	60 s
14-Ch. Microwave Radiometer *RPG HATPRO*	Liquid Water Path (g m^{-2})	Integrated column	60 s
95 GHz FMCW Cloud Radar *BASTA*	Radar Equivalent Reflectivity (dBZ)	RA 85-6000 m, RE 12.5 m RA 100-12000 m, RE 100 m	12 s 12 s
550 nm Scatterometer *Degreane DF320/DF20+*	Visibility (m)	~~At~~ 4 m above ground ~~At~~ 20 m above ground	60 s 60 s
Thermometer *Guilcor PT100*	Air Temperature (K)	~~At~~ 2 m above ground	60 s
Barometer *Druck RPT410F*	Surface Pressure (Pa)	~~At~~ 2 m above ground	60 s

After asigning values to each block of the complete visibility time series, we analyze groups of five consecutive blocks in a sliding manner. These five contiguous blocks are defined as a construct, and its value is positive when the central and at least two other are fog blocks, and negative otherwise.

A fog event forms when a positive construct is encountered, with a formation time defined as the central time of the first fog block in the construct. Conversely, a fog event dissipates when the last positive construct is followed by either a negative construct or three consecutive clear blocks. Fog dissipation time is set as the central time of the block immediately after the last fog block in the last positive construct. Fog events separated by less than 1 hr are merged, and all fog events lasting less than 1 hr are discarded. This algorithm provides the formation and dissipation time of 217 fog events between July 2013 and March 2020. It's worth noting that this method, based on visibility measurements only, does not classify the fog type. Hence, all fog types are considered in this study.

3.3 Data processing

After identifying the fog events, it is necessary to process raw measurements from the instruments into information that can be used by the conceptual model. To ~~enable the study of~~ study the conceptual model variables during fog ~~itself~~ events, and the time period surrounding ~~it~~them, observational data is automatically processed and re-sampled to 5 min time blocks, covering the period from 3 hours before fog formation to 3 hours after fog dissipation.

CBH is retrieved using a threshold value of $2{\cdot}10^{-4}$ $m^{-1}sr^{-1}$ on the CL31 attenuated backscatter measurements, following the method of Haeffelin et al. (2016). When the liquid layer is closer than 15 m to the ground, the CL31 cannot identify the CBH anymore and therefore the Scatterometer measurements are checked, setting the CBH as 0 m when visibility drops below

1000 m. Both CBH and visibility measurements are averaged to five minute time blocks, matching the blocks used by the fog detection algorithm.

The Cloud Radar is used to retrieve fog CTH and to detect the presence of higher clouds above the fog layer, based on its vertical reflectivity profile (Wærsted et al., 2019). To retrieve CTH, reflectivity signals in each radar gate are analyzed, starting from the gate closest to the CBH and checking one gate at a time, going upwards. CTH is estimated as the height of the gate under the first gate where no cloud signal is detected. A gate is considered to have a valid cloud signal if more than half of the reflectivity samples in a five minute time block are not removed by the automatic noise filtering algorithm of the radar (Delanoë et al., 2016). As with CBH, time blocks used in CTH retrievals match those defined for fog detection.

A limitation of this method is that the minimum detectable CTH is of 85 meters. Under this height, radar interference becomes very significant, making the differentiation between a valid cloud signal and noise very difficult. ~~Therefore, we decide to not use data associated with CTH retrievals below 85 meters~~In this situation the CTH retrieval is not possible, and therefore the associated time block would not have a valid CTH value.

~~Additionally, radar data treatment creates~~ Radar data is also used to create a flag indicating the possible presence of liquid clouds above the fog layer ~~if~~ when another valid signal is observed above fog CTH, within the first kilometer for the 12.5 m resolution mode, or within the first 6000 m for the 100 m resolution mode. This flag is used in LWP retrievals, as explained below.

The HATPRO Microwave Radiometer ~~is used to perform~~ performs LWP retrievals of fog ~~. LWP measured by HATPRO is averaged~~ every 60 s, which are then averaged and re-sampled to the 5 min time ~~blocks and then is filtered using the radar higher cloud flag~~block grid. Additionally, when a given time block has an associated flag indicating the possible presence of higher liquid clouds, the LWP sample is declared not valid. This is done to ~~avoid~~ ensure that the LWP samples are reliable, by avoiding a possible fog LWP overestimation when liquid clouds are present~~above the fog layer~~.

Time series of surface temperature and pressure are all averaged to match the 5 minute time blocks. The saturated adiabatic lapse rate $\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$ is calculated for each of these time blocks using these measurements and the equations in appendix A.

In this scheme, it is important to note that to have a valid sample of conceptual model variables in a given 5 min time block, the block must have valid measurements of fog CTH, LWP, surface visibility, and surface temperature and pressure. Therefore, it is possible to have fog cases without valid samples of conceptual model variables for some time periods. We decided to use these cases (if they comply with the data quality control of Sect. 3.4), and to consider all the samples with valid conceptual model calculations for the statistical analyses.

3.4 Data quality control

After data treatment is complete for all automatically detected fog events, a manual check is done to remove cases where data is unreliable. This happens when instruments operate under non optimal conditions, or when the upper liquid cloud flagging algorithm did not work correctly.

This control consist on accepting or removing complete fog cases and their associated dataset. A fog case is removed from the data pool if measurements taken when the fog takes place comply with at least one of the following criteria:

1. Data is taken during or after strong precipitation: Strong precipitation wet the Microwave Radiometer radome, leading to unreliable LWP retrievals for an unpredictable period of time that can last up to hours, even when following all maintenance instructions (Görsdorf et al., 2020). Additionally, strong rain leads to difficulties in identifying the fog CTH because the strong reflectivity from rain hides the weaker returns from suspended fog droplets.

2. There are no valid data blocks: No CTH or LWP retrievals could be made for the given fog event. This can happen when fog is thinner than 85 meters, or when liquid clouds are present above fog for the complete event duration.

3. Fog and Cloud borders are not well identified: In some cases the automatic cloud border detection algorithm fails, leading to unfiltered LWP retrievals with liquid clouds above, or to a bad estimation of fog CTH when upper clouds are too close to the fog layer. The latter can be seen in the radar data as multilayer fog formed by the union of two previously independent cloud layers. This situation departs from the single well mixed layer assumption, and therefore the conceptual model is not applicable.

The quicklooks for the accepted and rejected fog cases are available in the article supplementary material. After this stage we end with 80 valid fog cases and 137 rejected cases, where 50 were removed because of criterion 1, 69 because of criterion 2 and 18 because of criterion 3. These 80 valid fog cases ~~pass to the next stage~~ have at least one valid sample of conceptual model variables (see Sect. 3.3), which are then used in the next stages of data analysis and results.

4 Data Analysis and Results

4.1 Fog Adiabaticity

A key parameter in the calculation of the CLWP is the Equivalent Fog adiabaticity α_{eq} (Eq. (4)). This parameter has been previously studied in literature for boundary layer stratocumulus and stratus clouds, where typically observed values of α_{eq} range between 0.6 and 0.9 (Slingo et al., 1982; Boers et al., 1990; Boers and Mitchell, 1994; Braun et al., 2018). In this situation, clouds have an adiabatic profile and are buoyant (Betts, 1982). Buoyancy is important because it is necessary to have dissipation by lifting of the fog base.

~~It~~ Hence, it is interesting to study whether these adiabaticity values also apply to fog, ~~since fog~~ which is a special ~~case of cloud whose vertical development is limited by~~ cloud case with a solid lower boundary at the surface. Therefore, we use ~~our~~ the complete database to calculate α_{eq} by closure, with Eq. (6). This equation is an inversion of the conceptual model formulation of Eq. (3c), and enables an estimation of the adiabaticity while correcting the impact of ~~excessive LWC accumulation caused by the solid lower boundary~~the LWC accumulation at the fog base. We only perform α_{eq} retrievals when visibility is below 2000 m, in order to remain close to fog conditions~~, where the conceptual model is valid~~.

$$\alpha_{eq}^{closure} = \frac{2(LWP - LWC_0\, CTH)}{\Gamma_{ad}(T,P)\, CTH^2} \tag{6}$$

Figure 3 (a) shows the ~~relationship between~~ resulting equivalent adiabaticity $\alpha_{eq}^{closure}$ ~~,~~ versus CTH and LWP. The results indicate that ~~fog layers with small LWP are characterized by large ranges~~ $\alpha_{eq}^{closure}$ increases for greater values of LWP and CTH. In addition, negative adiabaticity values are found for lower LWP values, specially below 30 g m^{-2}.

To study this behavior in more detail, Figure 3 (b) shows a boxplot with the statistics of $\alpha_{eq}^{closure}$ ~~, and sometimes it can even reach~~ for different LWP ranges. Here we observe that negative adiabaticity values become frequent when the LWP is below the 30-40 g m^{-2} range, until occuring for more than half of the samples when the LWP is below 20 g m^{-2}.

This can be explained by considering that fog with LWP less than 30 g m^{-2} is not optically thick (Wærsted et al., 2017). Under this condition, the liquid water condensation happens everywhere in the liquid layer, but it is mostly driven by surface cooling~~(Wærsted et al., 2017)~~. This process is associated with stable atmospheric conditions, where vertical mixing is almost neglibile (Zhou and Ferrier, 2008). Under this regime, the LWC will be distributed according to the cooling and condensation rate at each height, and therefore it is ~~likely~~ possible to have situations where surface LWC is greater than LWC values above, especially during radiation fog formation. This situation would lead to the observed negative α_{eq} values.

When fog LWP ~~begins to surpass 30~~ surpasses the 30-40 g m^{-2} ~~,~~ range, its adiabaticity converges to 0.7, which, as stated in the previous lines, is a value consistent with a value consistent with typical observations of boundary layer stratocumulus (Slingo et al., 1982; Boers et al., 1990; Boers and Mitchell, 1994; Cermak and Bendix, 2011; Braun et al., 2018). This can be explained because fog gradually becomes opaque to infrared radiation when its LWP surpasses 30 g m^{-2}(Wærsted et al., 2017). In this scenario, LWC generation is mostly driven by radiative cooling at the fog top. This radiative cooling induces a temperature gradient between the fog top and the surface, leading to convective motions. An increase in the intensity of convection will be correlated with an increase in fog CTH, because the additional energy would enhance boundary layer development. Then, as fog becomes deeper, it is expected that the relatively stronger convective motions associated would drive the vertical liquid water mixing closer to what is observed in boundary layer clouds. ~~Our results are consistent with this description. $\alpha_{eq}^{closure}$ increases in average with fog CTH until reaching a plateau at $\alpha \approx 0.7$, a value consistent with typical observations of boundary layer stratocumulus (Slingo et al., 1982; Boers et al., 1990; Boers and Mitchell, 1994; Cermak and Bendix, 2011; Braun et al., 2018) .~~ This result and theory also indicate that dissipation by base lifting should happen when the LWP is at or above the 30-40 g m^{-2} range, when the layer is adiabatic and buoyant.

Finally, we can also observe that adiabaticity sometimes reaches values slightly greater than 1, which can be associated with periods when fog is superadiabatic. This is possibly caused by an excess of liquid water with respect to the extent of the fog column, which may be caused by the surface presence, as introduced in Sect. 2.

~~The data presented~~

4.2 Adiabaticity parametrization as a function of CTH

The strong correlation between adiabaticity and CTH observed in Fig. 3 (~~b~~a) suggests that α_{eq} can be parametrized as a function of CTH. The parametrization curve is calculated by minimizing the error of the model presented in Eq. (7) with respect to the

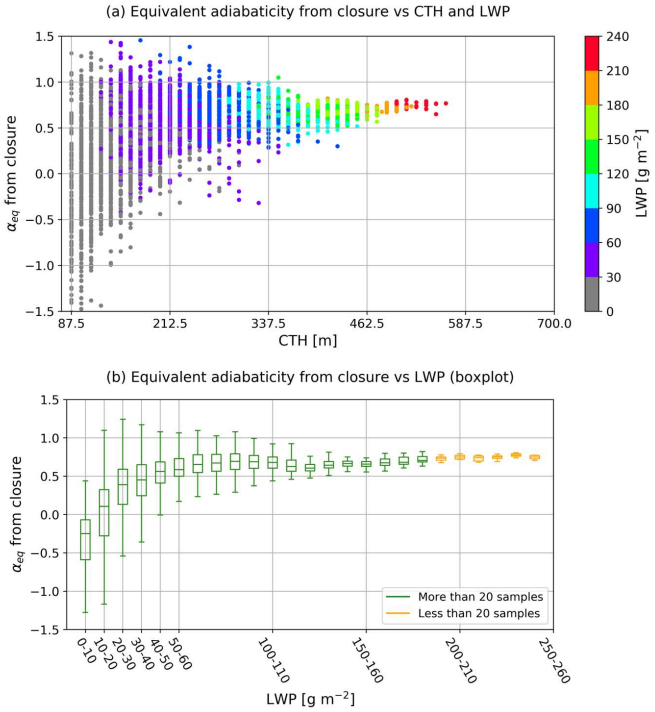

Figure 3. (a) ~~Closure~~ Equivalent adiabaticity ~~results~~ versus fog CTH and LWP~~.~~. The equivalent adiabaticity is calculated by closure, using Eq. (6)~~and samples with visibility inferior to 2000 m~~. (b) Boxplot ~~with the distribution~~ of ~~closure~~ the equivalent adiabaticity~~for each radar bin~~, calculated by closure, for different LWP ranges. In both figures only samples with ~~the derived parametrization superimposed (Eq~~visibility below 2000 m are considered.~~(7)).~~

median α_{eq} value at each radar range bin ~~.~~(see Fig. 4). To reduce uncertainty due to lack of data, ~~we only use range~~ only bins with more than 20 valid samples are used.

$$\alpha_{eq}(CTH) = \alpha_0 \left(1 - e^{-\frac{CTH - H_0}{L}}\right) \tag{7}$$

The retrieved value for each coefficient are ~~$\alpha_0 = 0.66$, $H_0 = 107.3$ m and $L = 50.2$~~ $\alpha_0 = 0.65$, $H_0 = 104.3$ m and $L = 48.3$ m. These parameters come from fog statistical behavior, and can be interpreted as follows: α_0 is the equivalent adiabaticity value that fog reaches when it has completely transitioned into an adiabatic regime. H_0 is the usual height at which LWC starts to increase with height. L indicates, based on adiabaticity, that the transition from stable to adiabatic fog is possible when CTH reaches 150 meters, and very likely when CTH is above 250 meters ($H_0 + L$ and $H_0 + 3L$ respectively).

In principle, the adiabaticity parametrization is valid for CTH values below 462.5 m, where the parametrization is derived. Beyond this height there is not enough data to guarantee its reliability; however it is likely that adiabaticity should remain close

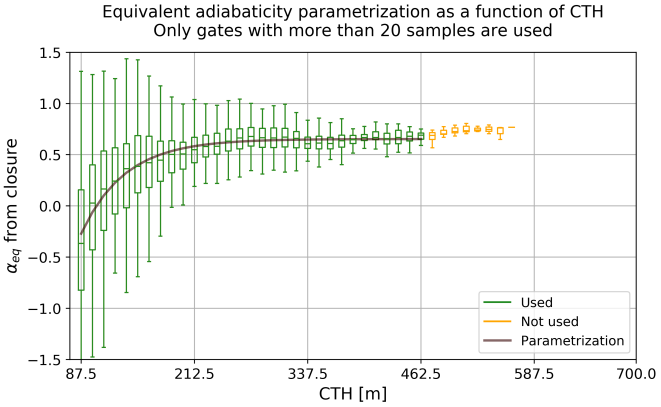

Figure 4. Boxplot with the distribution of equivalent adiabaticity for each radar CTH bin, with the derived parametrization superimposed (Eq. (7)). Equivalent adiabaticity is calculated by closure using Eq. (6). Only samples with visibility below 2000 m are considered.

to the convergence value of 0.66 based on our observations and on what has been previously published in literature (Slingo et al., 1982; Boers et al., 1990; Boers and Mitchell, 1994; Cermak and Bendix, 2011; Braun et al., 2018).

4.3 Conceptual model validation

In this section we study fog statistical data to study how it behaves with respect to the conceptual model. Figure 5 (a) shows all CTH, LWP and surface LWC measurements taken when fog is present (visibility less than 1000 m). Data is separated in different temperature ranges. Modeled LWP and CLWP curves are shown. LWP and CLWP theoretical curves are calculated using Eqs. (3c) and (4) respectively, with the $\alpha_{eq}(CTH)$ parametrization derived in Sec. 4.2. Each hexagon color is given by the mean LWC_0, calculated using all the data in their respective CTH+LWP space. Hexagons with less than 5 samples within their surface are removed, since they are likely to be associated with non replicable, noisy data.

This figure shows a good agreement between the theoretical curves and observed results. Most LWP samples are higher than the critical value, as the model predicts when visibility is less than 1000 meters. Additionally, it can be seen that for a fixed CTH, LWP increases with LWC_0. This behavior seems to be well captured in the current Conceptual Model formulation, as the difference between the three lines shows (each theoretical LWP line has a different LWC_0 value, indicated in the legend).

Figure 5 (b) shows data samples taken when visibility is between 1000 and 2000 meters, as an scatterplot. As in Sec. ~~4.2~~4.1, the 2000 m superior limit to visibility is selected, to remain close to fog conditions where the conceptual model is valid. LWP of these data samples should be less than the CLWP line for these visibility values, however we observe that sometimes they can also be larger. This can be explained by two main reasons: CLWP is calculated for a single temperature while data temperature varies within a range, and because of instrumental uncertainties. HATPRO LWP uncertainty is around 10 g m^{-2}, while radar CTH retrieval has a resolution of 12.5 m. This uncertainty is present in this retrieved data, and is also likely to be propagated inside the $\alpha_{eq}(CTH)$ parametrization, introducing some variability in the results. However this is not deemed critical, since

variability around the CLWP line is smaller than 10 g m^{-2}, and because the fog life cycle studies of Sec. 5) verify that LWP is lower than the critical value before fog formation and after fog dissipation.

Finally, we perform an evaluation on how well the Conceptual Model predicts fog LWP, based on CTH, Temperature, Pressure and surface LWC inputs. These variables are used to calculate the Conceptual Model LWP with Eq. (3c), with the $\alpha_{eq}(CTH)$ parametrization of Sec. 4.2, and compared against HATPRO LWP retrievals. Results are shown in Fig. 6. Here we can see that most samples are close to the 1-1 line for LWP values less than approximately 190 g m^{-2}. Beyond this LWP value some deviation appears, however there is not enough data available to verify if this is a systematic error of the model or on how data was taken. Despite this deviation, the good agreement between modeled and observed LWP can be seen in the linear fit, with a slope equal to 1, and in the RMSE of just 10.5 g m^{-2}, which is very close to the LWP retrieval uncertainty.

4.4 Drivers of RLWP temporal variations

Equation (5), indicates that changes in both LWP and CTH can contribute to RLWP depletion, and therefore to fog dissipation. To quantify the relative impact of LWP and CTH changes in RLWP, we calculate the time derivative of Eq. (5). By assuming constant temperature and pressure, and using the $\alpha(CTH)$ parametrization of Sec. 4.2, we obtain Eq. (8).

This equation shows that RLWP changes are proportional to LWP variations, and to CTH variations weighted by the function $F(CTH, \Gamma_{ad}, \alpha_{eq})$. This function, written explicitly in Eqs. (9a) and (9b), converts CTH variations into g m^{-2} units, and thus enables a comparison between both effects.

$$\frac{dRLWP}{dt} = \frac{dLWP}{dt} - F(CTH, \Gamma_{ad}, \alpha_{eq}) \frac{dCTH}{dt} \tag{8}$$

$$F(CTH, \Gamma_{ad}, \alpha_{eq}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \alpha_{eq}(CTH)}{\partial\, CTH}\, \Gamma_{ad}(T,P)\, CTH^2 + \alpha_{eq}(CTH)\, \Gamma_{ad}(T,P)\, CTH + LWC_c \tag{9a}$$

$$\frac{\partial \alpha_{eq}(CTH)}{\partial\, CTH} = \frac{\alpha_0}{L} e^{-\frac{CTH - H_0}{L}} \tag{9b}$$

Equation (8) implies that RLWP depletion, and thus fog dissipation, can occur by LWP reduction and/or by CTH growth. It also indicates that it is possible to have compensating effects enhancing fog persistence, for example fog that is reducing its LWP could persist if its CTH is also decreasing (which can happen under strong subsidence). Another implication is that it is possible to have fog dissipation even if LWP is increasing quickly, through a fast increase in CTH. The case studies of Sec. 5.1 show how useful this separation between LWP and CTH effects can be, by analyzing some examples of the previously mentioned scenarios. Section 5.2.3 shows statistical results of fog RLWP, LWP and CTH time derivatives just before dissipation.

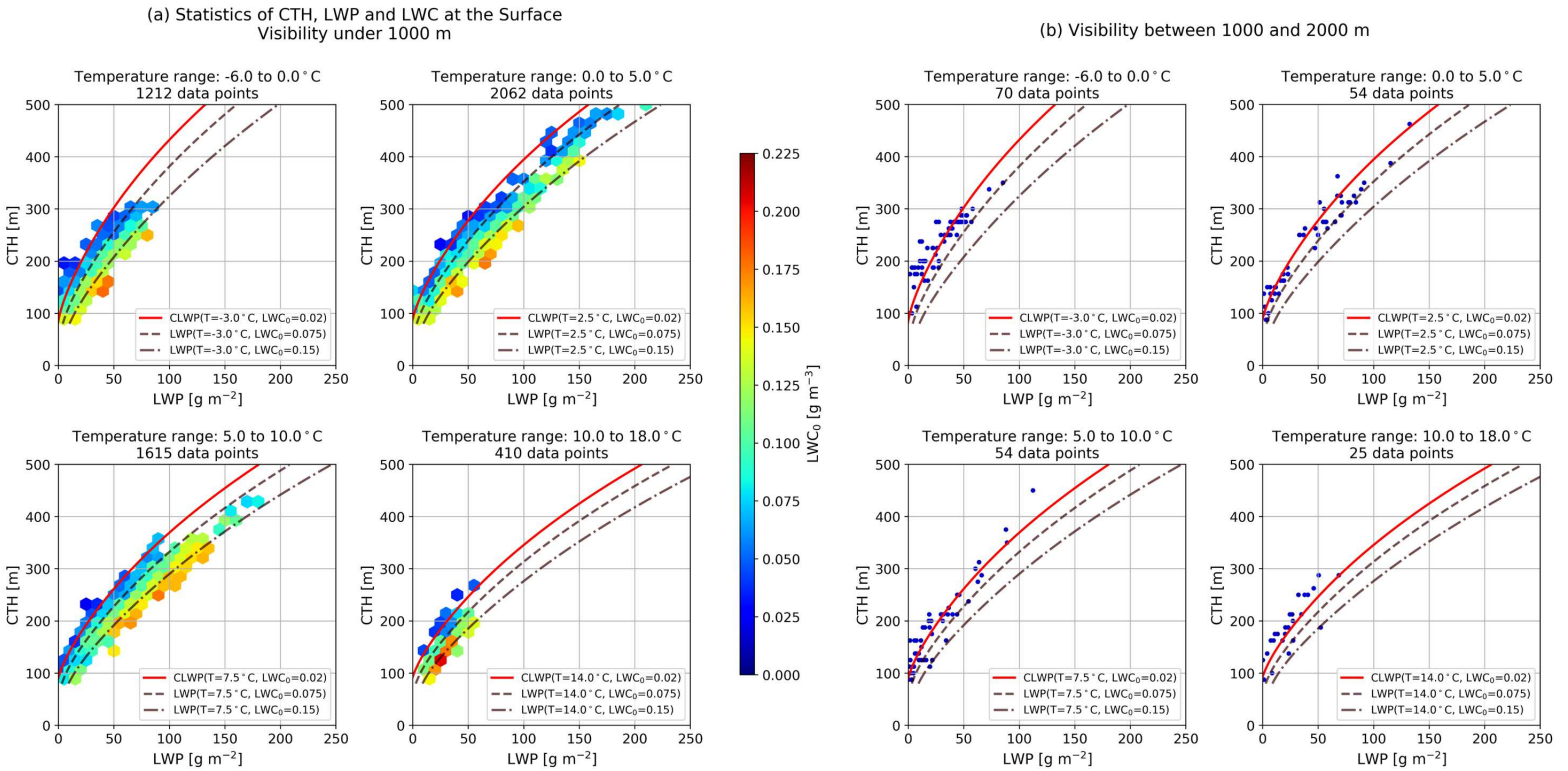

Figure 5. Observations of CTH, LWP and LWC at the surface for different temperature and visibility ranges. Data associated ~~to~~ with visibility values below 1000 m is to the left (title (a)), while data measured with visibility values between 1000 and 2000 m is to the right (title (b)). Conceptual model theoretical LWP and CLWP lines for different conditions, indicated in the legend, are superimposed. The adiabaticity values used in the conceptual model calculation ~~come from~~ are calculated using the adiabaticity parametrization of Sec. 4.2.

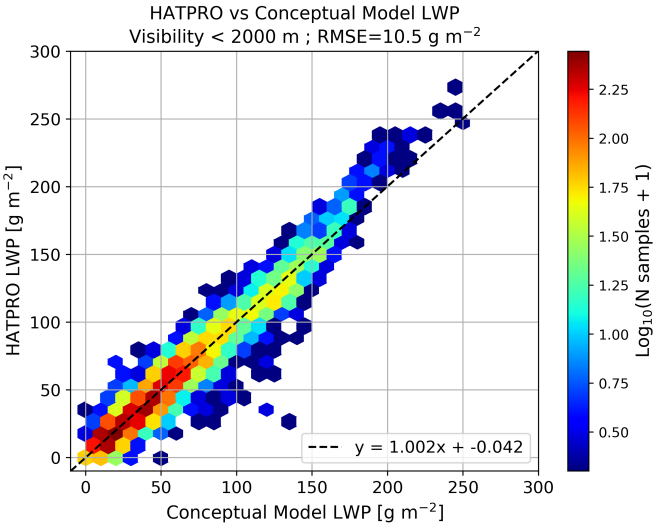

Figure 6. 2D histogram comparing HATPRO and Conceptual Model LWP values, for data retrieved when visibility is less than 2000 m. Conceptual model LWP is calculated using fog CTH, fog LWC at the surface derived from visibility, surface temperature, surface pressure and the adiabaticity parametrization of Eq. (7). Under these conditions, the conceptual model predicts LWP with an RMSE of 10.5 g m^{-2} and an almost perfect linear relationship.

5 Fog life cycle

5.1 Case studies

We present ~~4~~ 3 case studies to illustrate the behavior and role of changes in LWP and CTH on presence of fog at the surface during the fog life cycle (Figs. 7, 8 ~~, ??~~ and 9). For each case we provide a ~~6-panel~~ 5-panel figure that illustrates the time series of fog/stratus layer boundaries, reflectivity profile, 4-m and 20-m horizontal visibilities, the fog/stratus layer measured LWP and computed RLWP, temperature and closure adiabaticity; and the change rate of RLWP, with the individual contributions from LWP and CTH variations.

In all ~~four~~ three cases, we observe that fog is present at the ground (4-m height visibility < 1 km) when the RLWP is greater than 0 g m^{-2}. RLWP changes at a rate of +/-10 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1}, with values reaching + or – 30 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1} at times. The LWP estimation of all case studies is done directly ~~with~~ using the HATPRO, ~~since as radar images show, there are no cloud signals~~ verifying that the radar does not detect signals from liquid clouds below 6 km of height~~(panel (b) of each case study figure)~~.

Case study 1 (Fig. 7): Radiative fog occurring during fall season (31 October 2015) that forms six hours before sunrise and dissipates about three hours after sunrise at 10:25 UTC. The fog layer is about 200 m thick during the entire fog life cycle with a water content of 30-60 g m^{-2}. This LWP range and the adiabaticity values close to 0.6 indicates that fog is optically thick and can be considered as a well-mixed layer for most of its duration. The RLWP is not large, mostly near + 10 g m^{-2}, with a maximum value of 30 g m^{-2} observed 2-3 hours before sunrise. CTH changes are relatively slow during the entire fog life

cycle, with values less than 50 m ~~Hr~~h^{-1}. From 03 to 05 UTC, the CTH increases which acts as RLWP depletion of nearly -20 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1}, while at the same time the LWP increases with a rate reaching +50 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1} resulting in a net increase of RLWP. After 05 UTC, the trends in CTH and LWP reverse. The CTH subsides slowly (about -20 m ~~Hr~~h^{-1}) contributing positively on the RLWP at a rate of nearly +5-10 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1}, while the LWP initiates a progressive and nearly monotonous decrease of -10 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1} that brings the RLWP to 0 g m^{-2} at 09 UTC. The progressive drying of the fog layer is also identifiable in the closure adiabaticity value, which starts to decrease just after sunrise. After 09 UTC, the near-surface visibility initiates a rapid increase, exceeding 1 km at 10:25 UTC, time at which the entire fog layer is dissipated. The complete layer dissipation and the increasing temperature makes it highly unlikely that fog will re-form in the coming hours. Note on Fig. 7 (f) that LWP and CTH contributions to RLWP are nearly always of opposite signs, but not equal in magnitude.

Case study 2 (Fig. 8): Another radiative fog that occurs in the fall season, just a few days apart from case study 1 (26 October 2015). It forms just three hours before sunrise and dissipates about 3.5 hours after sunrise at 10:55 UTC. The fog layer is about 200 m thick during the mature phase of the fog life cycle and nearly doubles between sunrise and time of dissipation, while the water content remains above 50 g m^{-2}. After fog formation, RLWP reaches 30 g m^{-2} in about one hour and remains at this level for about 2 hours. Fog adiabaticity indicates that after the first hour from formation fog remains in a well mixed state. Around sunrise, RLWP initiates a nearly monotonous decreasing trend of -10 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1} that will last until fog dissipation. The negative RLWP rate is driven by the rise of CTH that contribute negatively on RLWP with a rate that exceeds -20 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1} only partially compensated by +20 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1} LWP increase rates. Oscillations in LWP and CTH contributions to RLWP are clearly visible in Fig. 8 (f). When there is strong cooling at the fog layer top, LWP ~~increases~~ and vertical circulation ~~is intensified. This increases~~ increase. This in turn increases the mixing with the layer above fog, resulting in a CTH increase. On the contrary, processes associated with CTH subsidence tend to decrease LWP rates (Wærsted, 2018). In this case study, the depletion of RLWP is clearly driven by the CTH increase and the fog LWP still exceeds 75 g m^{-2} at the time of dissipation.

Case study 3 (Fig. **??**): ~~This third case occurred also in the fall season a few days apart from the two previous cases. It is characterized by a very late dissipation time 14:40 UTC, which is eight hours after sunrise. We will focus here on differences with the two previous cases that can explain the persisting character of this fog layer. During the fog life cycle of case 3, the CTH behaves similarly to that of case 1, reaching about 200 m agl and revealing both positive and negative evolutions with a rate of about +/- 25 m Hr^{-1}. During the fog life cycle of case 3, the LWP behaves similarly to that of case 2, ranging between 50 and 100 g m^{-2}, which leads to a fog layer with a significant RLWP reaching +50 g m^{-2} during the first five hours of its life cycle. Adiabaticity remains always close to 0.6, indicating that the layer is well mixed for the complete fog duration. At 12:00 UTC, nearly six hours after sunrise, the RLWP is still greater than +30 g m^{-2}, a clear sign that the fog is not about to dissipate, as confirmed by the 200-m near surface visibility. Between sunrise and noon, the rate of change of RLWP switches from positive to negative values (mostly within +/-10 g m^{-2} Hr^{-1}). Contributions to RLWP changes from LWP and CTH changes are of opposite signs, with LWP being the dominant contributor, and their values cross the zero line nearly simultaneously eight times during the fog life cycle (Fig. **??** (f)). This is clear evidence of the feedback mechanisms that occur in fog between CTH changes and LWP, that tend to dampen the evolution of RLWP and lead to fog layers that persist for many hours even during daytime. The fog dissipation at 14:40 results primarily from a significant decrease of LWP after 12:00 UTC with a~~

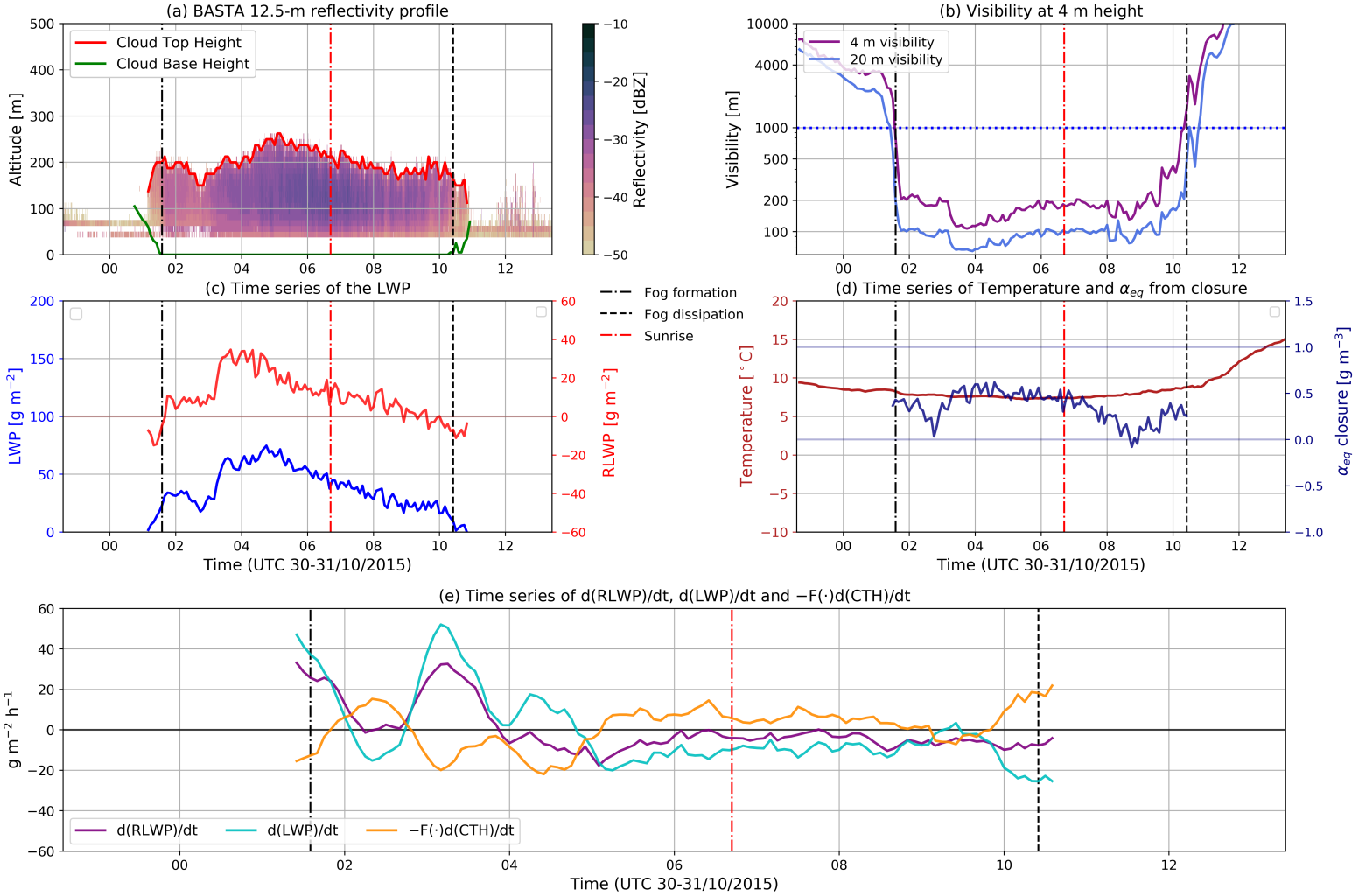

Figure 7. Case study 1. (a) Cloud Base Height (CBH), Cloud Top Height (CTH), and the cloud radar 12.5 m resolution reflectivity profile for the first 1000 m of height. (b) ~~Cloud radar 100 m resolution reflectivity profile up to 10 km of height. (c)~~ 4-m and 20-m horizontal visibilities. (~~d~~c) Fog/Stratus layer measured LWP and computed RLWP. (~~e~~d) Temperature and closure adiabaticity (calculated only when visibility is less than 2000 m). (~~f~~e) Change rate of RLWP, with the individual contributions from LWP and CTH variations. In each panel, the time of fog formation and fog dissipation are clearly marked as well as the time of sunrise.

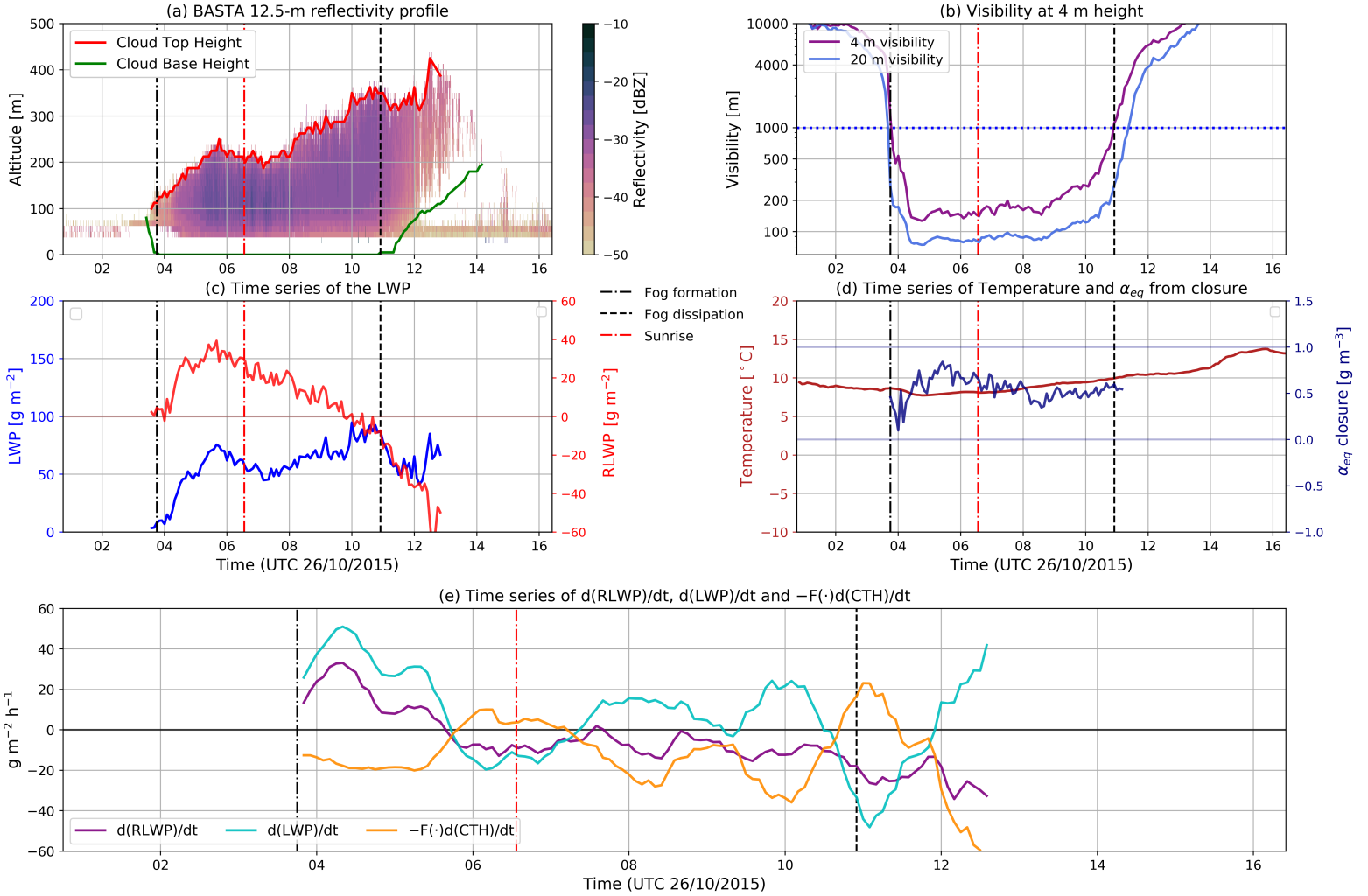

Figure 8. Case study 2. (a) Cloud Base Height (CBH), Cloud Top Height (CTH), and the cloud radar 12.5 m resolution reflectivity profile for the first 1000 m of height. (b) ~~Cloud radar 100 m resolution reflectivity profile up to 10 km of height. (c)~~ 4-m and 20-m horizontal visibilities. (~~d~~c) Fog/Stratus layer measured LWP and computed RLWP. (~~e~~d) Temperature and closure adiabaticity (calculated only when visibility is less than 2000 m). (~~f~~e) Change rate of RLWP, with the individual contributions from LWP and CTH variations. In each panel, the time of fog formation and fog dissipation are clearly marked as well as the time of sunrise.

~~comparatively stable CTH. At the time of dissipation, when RLWP reaches 0 g m^{-2}, there is still about 25 g m^{-2} of LWP in the 200 m thick fog layer, which becomes insufficient to maintain the fog at the ground.~~

~~Case study 3. (a) Cloud Base Height (CBH), Cloud Top Height (CTH), and the cloud radar 12.5 m resolution reflectivity profile for the first 1000 m of height. (b) Cloud radar 100 m resolution reflectivity profile up to 10 km of height. (c) 4-m and 20-m horizontal visibilities. (d) Fog/Stratus layer measured LWP and computed RLWP. (e) Temperature and closure adiabaticity (calculated only when visibility is less than 2000 m). (f) Change rate of RLWP, with the individual contributions from LWP and CTH variations. In each panel, the time of fog formation and fog dissipation are clearly marked as well as the time of sunrise.~~

~~Case study 4 (Fig.~~ 9): Here we have a typical case of a very low stratus cloud layer with CTH near 250 m agl and an LWP that ranges 25-50 g m^{-2}. This combination leads to a negative RLWP that is insufficient for the stratus to deepen all the way to the surface. As expected for low stratus clouds, the value of closure adiabaticity is close to 0.6 for all valid samples (when visibility is less than 2000 m, to have valid conceptual model conditions with positive LWC at the surface). The stratus is present from 18:00 UTC onwards during twelve hours with a near-surface visibility of about 2-3 km. From 18 until 23 UTC, RLWP is clearly negative changing frequently from negative to positive rates of change (about +/- 5 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1}) as the contributions of LWP and CTH changes oscillate from positive to negative values (as also seen in Case 3). At 01 UTC, the stratus reaches a new equilibrium with an LWP hovering around 50 g m^{-2}, which brings the RLWP very close to 0 g m^{-2}. The fog CBH is then below 20 agl, as evidenced by the visibility values measured at 20 m agl (Fig. 9 (c)). Between 04:30 and 06:30 UTC, the RLWP becomes again negative and the stratus base lifts. A strong increase in LWP (+40 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1}) starting after 06:00 UTC leads to a positive RLWP after 06:30 UTC and the stratus layers deepens all the way to the surface. The trend in LWP reverses around 08 UTC (-20 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1}) while the CTH remains mostly constant hence reducing the RLWP towards 0 g m^{-2} before 10 UTC. This case study shows that the RLWP is also a good indicator of the possibility for a very low stratus layer to deepen into fog and then reversely for the fog to lift into a low stratus.

5.2 Fog life cycle statistics

Taking advantage of our large database, we study the behavior of fog RLWP and its time derivative dRLWP/dt statistically, for three different periods: fog formation, mature stage and dissipation. The objective is to identify patterns that these fog variables follow at each stage. This could lead to the development of new indicators to enhance the capabilities of fog forecasting models.

Fog formation statistics are taken between 90 minutes before and 90 minutes after the time block were fog formation is identified from visibility measurements (Sec. 3.2). Likewise, for the dissipation period the analyzed data is taken from 90 minutes before to 90 minutes after the dissipation time block. All remaining blocks between 90 minutes after fog formation, and 90 minutes before fog dissipation, are considered to be fog middle life data. Because of how the fog stages are defined, the cases included in this statistical analysis must have a duration of at least 3 hours. This is valid for 56 cases, which are used for statistical analysis in the following sections.

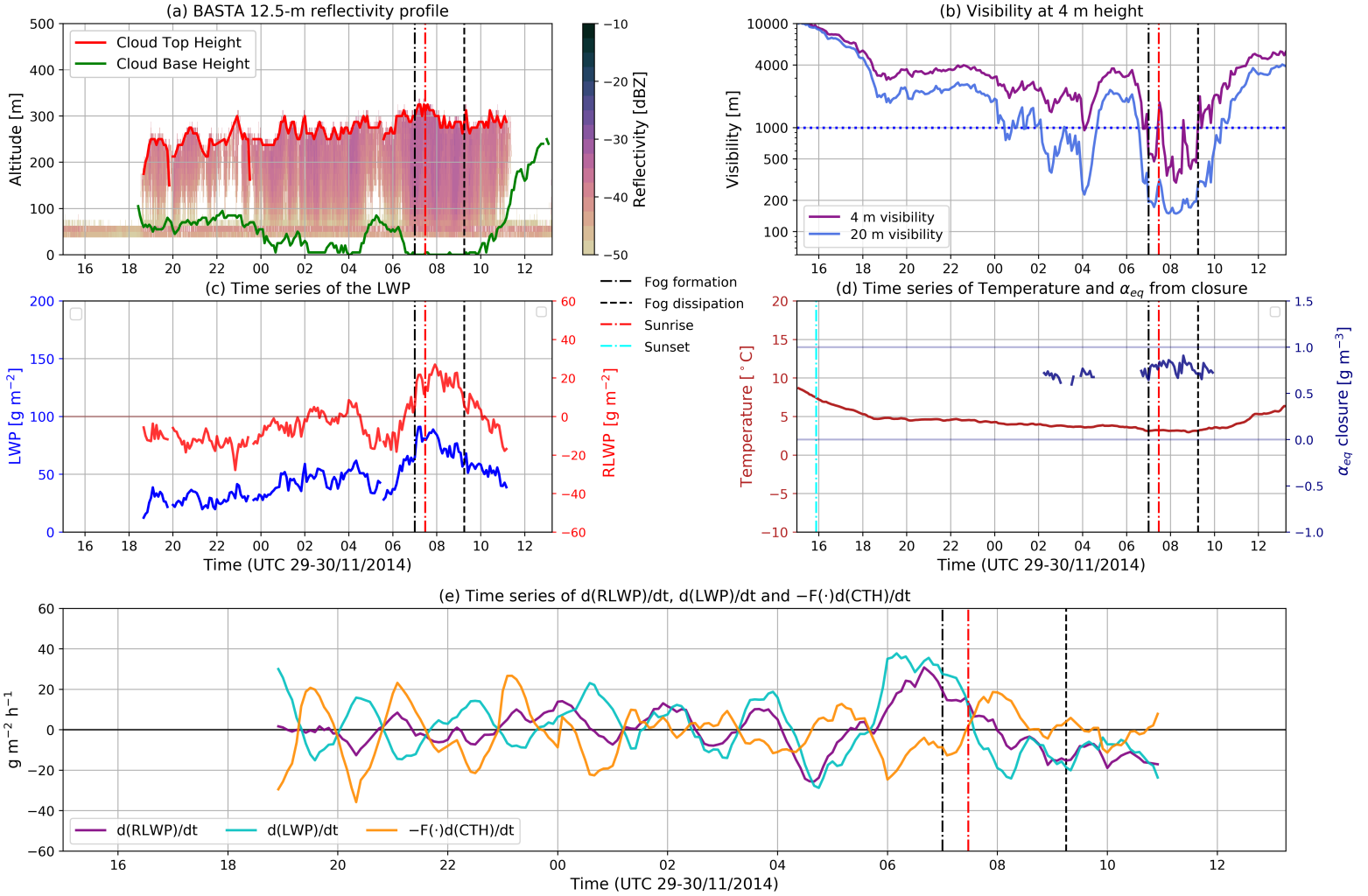

Figure 9. Case study ~~4.~~ 3. (a) Cloud Base Height (CBH), Cloud Top Height (CTH), and the cloud radar 12.5 m resolution reflectivity profile for the first 1000 m of height. (b) ~~Cloud radar 100 m resolution reflectivity profile up to 10 km of height. (c)~~ 4-m and 20-m horizontal visibilities. (~~d~~c) Fog/Stratus layer measured LWP and computed RLWP. (~~e~~d) Temperature and closure adiabaticity (calculated only when visibility is less than 2000 m). (~~f~~e) Change rate of RLWP, with the individual contributions from LWP and CTH variations. In each panel, the time of fog formation and fog dissipation are clearly marked as well as the time of sunrise.

The time derivative of the RLWP (and the sliding mean used in Fig. 10 (b.2)) is estimated by calculating the slope of a linear fit on RLWP data within ± 30 minutes of a given time block. The retrieved slope value is declared valid only if at least 75% of the RLWP samples used in its calculation are valid.

5.2.1 Fog formation

Figure 10 (a.1) shows the statistical behavior of RLWP between 90 minutes before and 90 minutes after for formation. It can be seen that at fog formation there is a transition from negative to positive RLWP values. The relatively lower amount of samples before -35 minutes from fog formation happen because there are less fog cases were the cloud has formed that early, or that have an identifiable CTH above 85 meters. Yet, we can see that RLWP cannot be significantly lower than -10 g m^{-2} if fog will form within 30 minutes.

Additionally, in Fig. 10 (a.2) we can see that dRLWP/dt becomes positive about one hour before formation, and remains consistently positive for another hour after formation. This first hour after fog formation is when fog reservoir grows the most, reaching a change rate of 10 to 25 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1}, and it may be critical in establishing fog persistence for the coming hours. After this first hour, fog RLWP stabilizes around 10 to 20 g m^{-2} and the increase per hour is reduced until entering the mature stage.

All 56 fog cases lasting more than 3 hours are considered for the statistics. However, since radiation fog is formed from a shallow layer close to the surface, these cases usually do not provide valid data points because their CTH cannot be retrieved with the radar (it can only observe CTH values above 85 m). Therefore, most of the data points before and around formation time are contributed by stratus lowering fog events.

5.2.2 Fog mature stage

A histogram with RLWP values ~~in the period defined as fog mature stage~~ is shown in Fig. 10 (b.1). We can see that approximately 90% of the time fog has a positive RLWP value, with a median value of 20.1 g m^{-2} ~~over all cases~~and reaching up to 60 g m^{-2}. Negative RLWP values in fog mature stage are explained by short-term temporary lifting of fog from the surface, most likely caused by RLWP oscilations.

Figure 10 (b.2) shows the statistics of dRLWP/dt versus the sliding mean value of RLWP~~using the same data points involved the slope calculation~~. This figure shows that RLWP and its time derivative are not correlated, and that most of the time dRLWP/dt remains within ± 20 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1}. The very low median value of dRLWP/dt = -0.2 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h^{-1} shows that fog does not have a clear tendency of RLWP increase or decrease in the long term. Thus, during this stage of fog life cycle, RLWP remains positive most of the time, with variations driven by oscillations in the value of dRLWP/dt.

The statistics for this period defined as fog mature stage are derived using the 56 fog events lasting more than 3 hours. In the fog mature stage several radiation fog cases will be developed beyond 85 m of CTH, and therefore both stratus lowering and radiation fog cases contribute to the statistics.

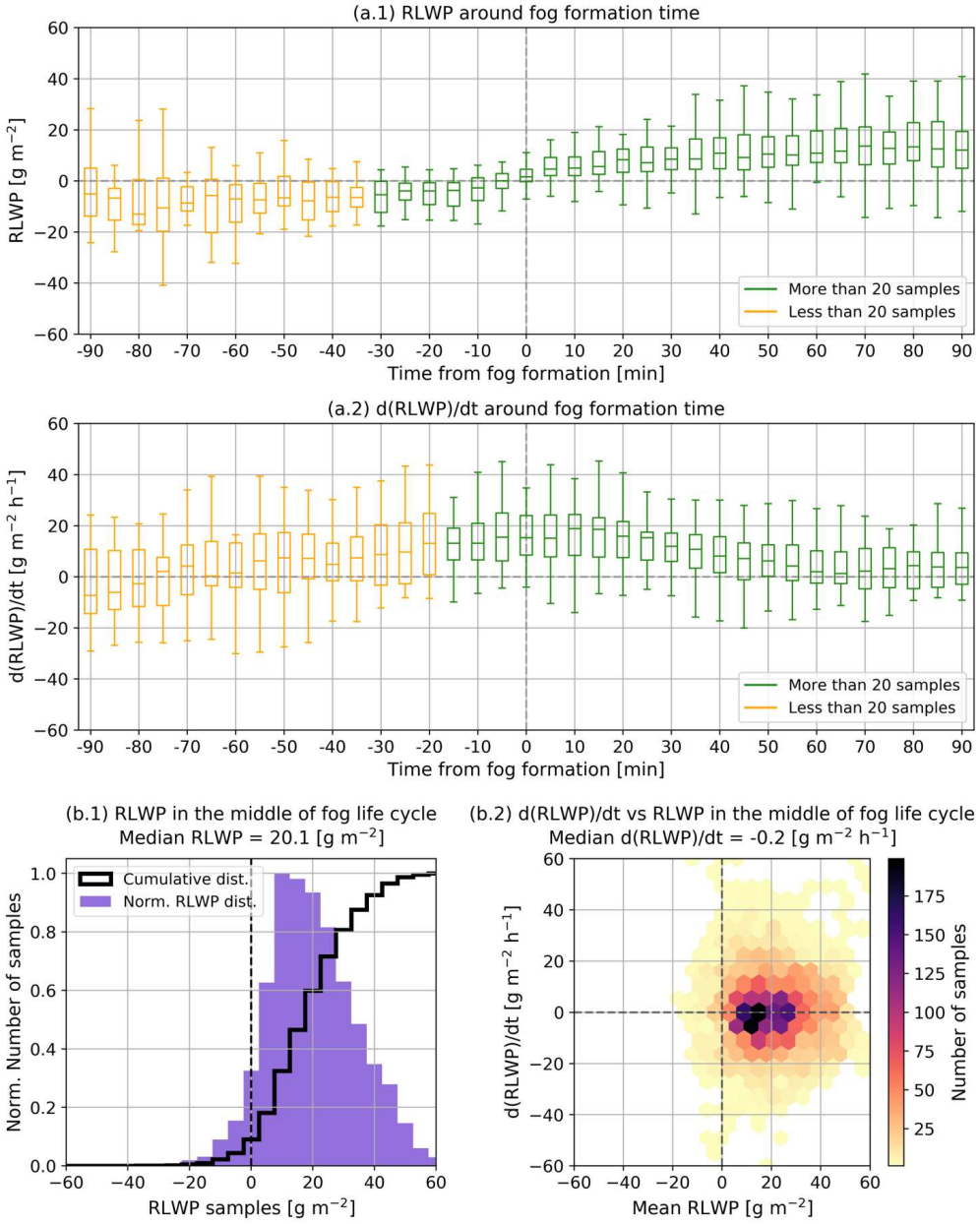

Figure 10. The boxplots of panels (a.1) and (a.2) represent RLWP and dRLWP/dt statistics for each time block 90 minutes before and after fog formation. Boxplot shows the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles, and the maximum and minimum values. The number of samples per bin is shown in Fig. S2 of the supplementary material. Panels (b.1) and (b.2) show RLWP and dRLWP/dt statistics during fog middle life, between 90 minutes after fog formation and 90 minutes before ~~fog~~ dissipation, calculated using 4064 and 3952 samples respectively. ~~Only fog events longer than 3 hours are considered~~The ordinate axis of panel (b.1) is associated with the cumulative and normalized distributions.

5.2.3 Fog dissipation

In the latter stage of fog life cycle, shown in Fig. 11 (a.1), RLWP decreases consistently from positive values associated ~~to~~ with the middle of the life cycle until reaching negative values after fog dissipation. Additionally, there are almost no RLWP samples above 30 g m^{-2} observed in the last 30 minutes before dissipation. Hence, an RLWP value above 30 g m^{-2} may be interpreted as an indicator of fog persistence.

Figure 11 (a.2) shows that the monotonous decrease in RLWP begins about 60 minutes before fog dissipation, and can commonly reach values of about -10 to -30 g m^{-2} ~~Hr~~h-1. These negative values in the time derivative continue after fog dissipation, and can be explained by further lifting or drying of the remaining low stratus cloud (Wærsted et al., 2019).

~~To observe~~ To study what is the main driver of fog dissipation, ~~we calculate~~ Fig. 11 (b) shows the calculated dRLWP/dt, dLWP/dt and $-$F(CTH, Γ_{ad}, α_{eq})·dCTH/dt trends, defined in Sec. 4.4, using the last 60 minutes of data before dissipation. Theoretically, dissipation can only happen when the RLWP decreases, which only happens when the sum of the LWP and CTH time derivative terms is negative (Eq. (8). This matches the results of Fig. 11, which has most points in the quadrants leading to the aforementioned condition. The few points that show a RLWP increase before dissipation, to the right of the dashed line, are associated with uncertain retrievals due to low absolute RLWP values, or fast RLWP depletion in the few minutes just before dissipation (time trends are calculated using a one hour linear ~~fit).~~

~~Overall, data shows that fog dissipation happens in~~ fits). Additionally, observations confirm that fog dissipates under the same scenarios predicted ~~by the Conceptual Model in Sec~~in Sect. 4.4. ~~Fog dissipates~~ Here the conceptual model predicts that fog could dissipate, even when the LWP ~~increases when the layer thickening effect~~ is increasing, if the RLWP reduction from layer thickening is larger (~~large~~ strong CTH increase)~~, and leads to a net reduction of RLWP. Alternatively~~. Conversely, fog can also dissipate when ~~LWP decreses, even if~~ the LWP decreases, even when the CTH subsides. Finally, some cases dissipate with the contribution of both effects, LWP decrease and layer thickening. ~~Data also shows that some regimes are forbidden in the last 60 minutes of fog life cycle, specifically any case in which the addition of dLWP/dt and $-$F(CTH, Γ_{ad}, α_{eq})·dCTH/dt is positive. This condition can be helpful for identifying conditions where fog is likely to persist or dissipate.~~

6 Conclusions

This work presents a Conceptual Model for adiabatic fog that relates fog liquid water path with its thickness, surface liquid water content and adiabaticity. The model predicts that LWP can be split into two contributions: the first is proportional to the adiabaticity and the square of CTH, and the second is the product of surface LWC and CTH. The later dependency is due to an excessive accumulation of water with respect to an equally thick cloud, which ~~happens only~~ appears in fog because the surface presence limits vertical development.

This excess accumulation of water motivates the definition of two diagnostic parameters, which later will prove to be key in understanding fog evolution: the Critical LWP and the Reservoir LWP. The Critical LWP (CLWP) is the minimum amount of column water that would fill the fog layer and cause a visibility reduction down to 1000 m at the surface. The Critical LWP can be calculated using the conceptual model, by imposing a surface LWC equivalent to a 1000 m visibility. Meanwhile, the

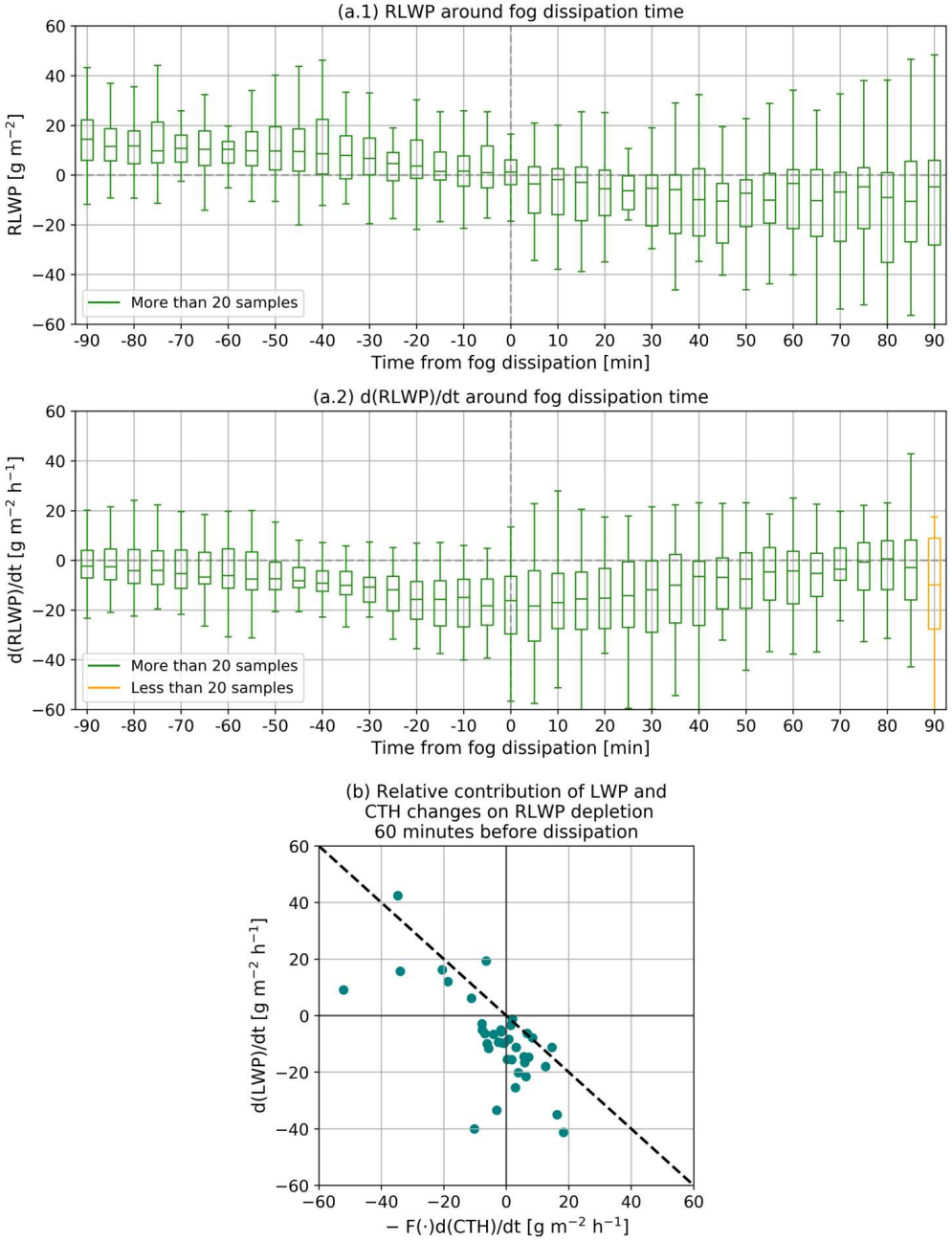

Figure 11. The boxplots of panels (a.1) and (a.2) show RLWP and dRLWP/dt statistics for each time block, 90 minutes before and after fog dissipation. These statistics are derived using 56 fog events, however there may be less than this amount of valid samples for each bin. The number of valid samples per bin is shown in Fig. S3 of the supplementary material. Panel (b) ~~uses~~ shows the ~~last 60 minutes of data before dissipation to calculate the~~ impact of LWP and CTH variations in RLWP depletion, using data from the last 60 minutes before dissipation. The dashed line indicates the theoretical limit where fog dissipation is possible (only to the left of this line). In quadrants II and III cloud base lifting contributes to RLWP decrease, while in Quadrants III and IV the LWP decrease contributes to RLWP depletion. This panel contains 40 valid samples from 56 fog cases, calculated using the method explained at the beginning of Sect. 5.2

Reservoir LWP (RLWP) is the difference between fog LWP and the Critical value, and represents the excess of water that enables fog persistence. Case studies and statistical results show that the Reservoir LWP is positive when fog is present, and reaches 0 g m^{-2} at about the same time as fog dissipation.

The model is used to statistically study fog adiabaticity. Important conclusions are that thinner fog~~has relatively lower adiabaticity values, less than the~~ , with a LWP less than 20 g m^{-2}, have adiabaticity values below 0.6~~value commonly found in literature for boundary layer clouds, even reaching~~ , and can even reach negative values. This happens when the fog layer is not yet opaque during the fog formation stage, when LWC distribution is not even and may be larger closer to the surface. ~~Meanwhile~~In this situation fog is not buoyant and therefore it may not lift when the RLWP reaches 0 g m^{-2}. Conversely, when fog is developed, its adiabaticity value gets closer to previously observed values for boundary layer fog, converging at approximately 0.66 for fog ~~thicker than 250 meters. An adiabaticity~~ with a LWP greater than 30-40 g m^{-2}. Here the fog layer is adiabatic, and therefore the fog base should lift when the RLWP depletes down to 0 g m^{-2}. Adiabaticity results are highly variable for LWP values between 20-30 g m^{-2}, and therefore it may be necessary to include additional observations to discern the adiabaticity of the fog layer in this LWP range.

Another result from the study of adiabaticity is an adiabaticity parametrization as a function of fog thickness~~is derived to~~ , which can be used to estimate fog LWP and to perform conceptual model calculations.

~~Using this parametrization, the conceptual model enables an~~ The estimation of fog LWP ~~with~~ has an RMSE of 10.5 g m^{-2}, which is close to the uncertainty in LWP measurement of 10 g m^{-2}~~. Additionally, data shows that the modeled LWP dependency~~ , validating the modeled dependency of the LWP on surface LWC, temperature~~and CTH is well captured by the model formulation~~, pressure and CTH.

The temporal derivative of the ~~Reservoir LWP~~ RLWP is studied, obtaining an analytic formulation that enables the ~~separation of~~ quantification of the contribution of LWP and CTH ~~contributions to reservoir depletion , and thus in causing~~ variations to the depletion of the reservoir, and therefore leading to fog dissipation. This formulation~~predicts~~ , which is validated by observations, indicates that fog dissipation will depend on the ~~relationship~~ ratio between LWP and CTH ~~changes~~variations, and that ~~it is possible for fog to dissipate even if~~ fog can dissipate by lifting as long as the net RLWP trend is negative, even if 1. LWP and CTH are both increasing, 2. LWP is decreasing and CTH increasing and 3. LWP ~~is increasing or CTH is decreasing if the other term impact on reducing the reservoir is larger. This prediction is verified by statistically studying the LWP and CTH dissipation trends, where in some cases it was found that dissipation happened under antagonist LWP~~ and CTH ~~effects~~are both decreasing.

~~In addition, the database is used to statistically observe the Reservoir LWP time derivative, finding a significant increase of Reservoir LWP~~ Statistical observations of the fog life cycle indicate that the RLWP increases, in general, about 60 minutes before and after fog formation. This is followed by ~~oscillating Reservoir LWP variations of lower magnitude, sometimes created by larger but compensating LWP and CTH variations, sustaining a stable positive Reservoir LWP value~~ positive RLWP values, during fog middle life~~. Fog life cycle ends when the Reservoir~~ , that may oscilate or vary depending on the LWP and CTH evolution. Then, about 60 minutes before dissipation, the RLWP starts to decrease consistently ~~, a trend that starts roughly 60 minutes before fog dissipation~~ until reaching 0 g m^{-2} at dissipation time.

The aforementioned conclusions and the paper results indicate that the ~~Reservoir LWP~~ RLWP and its time derivative can be used as indicators of the fog life cycle stage~~and as a diagnostic tool to predict~~ , at the local scale. This enables its potential use as an additional diagnostic variable, to quantify how close fog is from dissipation~~at the local scale. Reservoir LWP forecasting is also conceivable by eventually including fog processes linked to~~ . This may complement visibility measurements at key sites affected by fog, such as airports and land roads, and help improving their logistics to reduce costs and the probability of accidents (Tardif and Rasmussen, 2007).

At present, the RLWP provides an estimation, in real time, of the excess of water of fog that enables the fog layer to remain at the surface. This can already be used as a diagnostic to estimate how likely fog persistence is for the coming minutes, based on the instant RLWP value and its trend (fog dissipation nowcasting). For example, results indicate that fog will not dissipate in the next 30 min if its RLWP is greater than 30 g m^{-2}. Additionally, the RLWP must have a decreasing trend before dissipation, and therefore a positive trend would indicate fog persistence. This result could be improved by introducing forecasting tools to the conceptual model scheme. Forecasting when the RLWP will become 0 g m^{-2} would provide a proxy to predict fog dissipation by base lifting. This forecasting could be done, for example, by considering physical processes. They provide information on fog evolution, and could be used to estimate how the LWP and CTH~~variations in the calculations.~~ , and thus the RLWP, will evolve in the near future (e.g. Wærsted et al. (2019)).

~~Regarding future work, it could be interesting to implement this framework on LES simulations, to improve our understanding of adiabaticity and of the surface effect in the excess accumulation of water that happens in fog with respect to equally thick clouds~~Another interesting perspective would be to test conceptual model calculations using the output of fog large-eddy simulations (LES). If the conceptual model variables behave as theoretically expected in these simulations, they could be used to further study the impact of microphysics or surface properties on fog adiabaticity.

Other area of ~~future work is to improve the exploitation of the measurements. For example, the conceptual model formulation could be tested with data obtained in~~ interest would be to study the conceptual model at other sites with frequent fog events. When fog is adiabatic (LWP > 30-40 g m^{-2}), the observed equivalent adiabaticity results is consistent with values observed at other sites. This hints that the conceptual model could be applicable at other sites with ~~frequent fog events, to test how general is~~ similar fog types (continental mid-latitude fogs), with possible variations in the adiabaticity parametrization ~~.~~ due to local conditions. This remains to be verified using real observations.

It would also be of interest to study how the direct retrieval of adiabaticity profiles from cloud radar reflectivity profiles could ~~improve the quality of fog RLWP estimation. For example by enabling the retrieval of adiabaticity profiles instead of relying on a single average value. Other observations of interest include the quantification of local processes and larger area effects, such as advection, to enable the forecasting of RLWP. RLWP forecasting would greatly improve our real time assessment of fog dissipation tendency. However, these improvements would require a significant improvement on cloud radar calibration standards. As is explained in the introduction, cloud microphysic retrievals are very sensitive to the radar calibration. Additionally, to enable the comparison of data between different sites, standarized calibration methodologies must be put in place. Thus, significant work is done to rise solution proposals for these issues. These proposals are presented in the following~~

~~two chapters of the thesis.~~ be used to improve the accuracy of the RLWP estimation, compared to the use of a single equivalent value.

Data availability. All data used in this study is hosted by the SIRTA observatory. Data access can be requested for free following the conditions indicated in the SIRTA data policy (https://sirta.ipsl.fr/data_policy.html).

SIRTA observatory website: https://sirta.ipsl.fr/

Data request form: https://sirta.ipsl.fr/data_form.html

Appendix A: Calculation of $\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$

The inverse of the saturation mixing ratio change with height $\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$ is calculated using the formulation published by Albrecht et al. (1990) and Braun et al. (2018), shown in Eq. (A1).

$$\Gamma_{ad}(T,P) = \left[\frac{(\epsilon + w_s) w_s l_v}{R_d T^2}\Gamma_w - \frac{g w_s P}{(P - e_s) R_d T}\right]\rho_d \tag{A1}$$

A description and the equations necessary to calculate each term used in the calculation of $\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$ are given in Tab. A1.

Table A1. List of all the terms needed for the calculation of $\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$.

Term	Definition	Calculation	Units
T	Surface temperature		K
P	Surface pressure		Pa
l_v	Latent heat of vaporization	$2.5 \cdot 10^6$	J Kg^{-1} K^{-1}
c_p	Specific heat of dry air at constant pressure	1005	J Kg^{-1} K^{-1}
g	Acceleration of gravity	9.81	m s^{-2}
R_d	Dry air ideal gas constant	287.0	J Kg^{-1} K^{-1}
R_v	Water vapor ideal gas constant	461.5	J Kg^{-1} K^{-1}
ϵ	Ratio of R_d to R_v	$\frac{R_d}{R_v}$	
e_s	Vapor saturation pressure	$611.2 \cdot \exp\left(\frac{17.67(T-273.15)}{T-29.65}\right)$	Pa
w_s	Saturation mixing ratio	$\epsilon \frac{e_s}{P-e_s}$	
ρ_d	Dry air density	$\frac{P-e_s}{R_d T}$	Kg m^{-3}
Γ_w	Moist adiabatic lapse rate	$\frac{g}{c_p}\left(1 + \frac{l_v w_s}{R_d T}\right) / \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon l_v^2 w_s}{R_d c_p T^2}\right)$	K m^{-1}
$\Gamma_{ad}(T, P)$		Eq. (A1)	Kg m^{-4}

Appendix B: Visibility-LWC parametrization

Surface LWC estimation from visibility measurements is done by inverting Gultepe et al. (2006) Eq. (6). This results in Eq. (B1), where LWC is Liquid Water Content in Kg m^{-3} and VIS is the visibility in meters.

$$LWC = 0.0187 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \left(\frac{VIS}{1000}\right)^{-1.041} \tag{B1}$$

Author contributions. FT and MH developed the conceptual model and its formulation, based on initial work by EW and MH. FT and EW developed the code used for data analysis. FT and MH defined the paper structure and content. MH and JCD manage the SIRTA observatory, which provided the used dataset. All authors reviewed the paper.

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