HIWC-2022 Particle Density





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NCAR | Modeling and TCu Workshop

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Mass-size distribution (MSD)

- Product of the particle size distribution and a masssize parameterization gives MSD
- Most commonly used parameterizations (including HIWC projects) are appropriate for small ice and snow
- Graupel mass is significantly underestimated





Mass-size distribution (MSD)

- Apply hybrid approach in graupel cloud pass
 - Snow < 750 μm
 - Solid Ice > 750 μm
- Leads to improved IWC match
- MMD increases significantly from 200µm to 1000µm
- Solid ice is probably too dense, truth may be somewhere in-between





Average area ratio as function of size for the 2018 (left) and 2022 (right) campaigns. The data are stratified in low, medium, and high IWC as measured by the IKP-2. The 2015 results are similar to 2018 and are omitted here.



MSDs from 2018 and 2022 as a function of temperature using the standard ice-graupel mass size parameterization.



MSDs from 2018 and 2022 as a function of temperature using a hybrid ice-graupel mass size parameterization.





MSDs and area ratio distributions from the 2022 campaign under low aerosol boundary-layer conditions (red) and higher aerosol boundary-layer conditions (blue). Data here are limited to cloud passes where the IKP-2 measured a condensed water content of at least 2.0 g/m3.



Median Mass Diameter (MMD)

- Typical application of snowbased mass-size distribution leads to low MMD in HIWC conditions
- MMD will increase if graupel density is considered, especially in the highest IWC regions



Summary

- Graupel was present in most HIWC could penetrations with IWC above 2 g/m³
- Current HIWC mass-size parameterization does not take the density of graupel into account, misattributing its mass to small particles
- Using a hybrid parameterization reveals bimodal MSDs in most HIWC clouds