Clouds associated with cold and warm fronts



Dalton's law of partial pressures

 The total pressure exerted by a mixture of gases equals the sum of the partial pressure of the gases

$$p = p_{0_2} + p_{N_2} + e$$
$$e = p_{H_20} (vapor _ pressure)$$

- Partial pressure pressure a gas would exert if it alone occupied the volume the entire mixture occupies
- Meteorologists differentiate between "dry" gas partial pressure and water vapor partial pressure (vapor pressure)

$$p = p_d + e$$



Mixing ratio

- Measure of the amount of water vapor in the air
- Ratio of mass of water vapor to the mass of dry air in a volume of air

$$w \equiv m_v / m_d$$

- Units g/kg (use g/g or kg/kg in calculations)
- Typical values
 - Midlatitude winter = 1-5 g/kg
 - Midlatitude summer = 5-15 g/kg
 - Tropics = 15-20 g/kg
- Conserved following parcel motion if there is no net condensation/evaporation



Mixing ratio/vapor pressure relationship

Relationship between mixing ratio and vapor pressure

$$w = 0.622 \frac{e}{p-e}$$
 $e = \frac{w}{w+0.622} p$

Assuming mean sea-level pressure (1013 mb)

- Midlatitude winter = 1-5 g/kg ~ 1.5-8 mb
- Midlatitude summer = 5-15 g/kg ~ 8-24 mb
- Tropics = 15-20 g/kg ~ 24-32 mb

Thus, e<<p</p>



Evaporation



Bohren (1987)

Water molecules moving from liquid to vapor phase

- Accompanied by latent cooling
- Always occurring



Condensation



Bohren (1987)

Water molecules moving from vapor to liquid phase

- Accompanied by latent heating
- Always occurring



Net evaporation



Bohren (1987)

 What we commonly refer to as evaporation is when the rate of evaporation exceeds the rate of condensation



Net condensation



Bohren (1987)

 What we commonly refer to as condensation is when the rate of condensation exceeds the rate of evaporation



Equilibrium and saturation vapor pressure



Bohren (1987)

- Equilibrium vapor pressure evaporation and condensation are occurring, but are in equilibrium
- Saturation vapor pressure equilibrium vapor pressure for a plane surface of pure water
- For solutions and cloud droplets, equilibrium vapor pressure does not necessarily equal the saturation vapor pressure

Saturation vapor pressure

Varies with temperature

$$e_s \approx 6.11 \exp[\frac{L}{R_v}(\frac{1}{273} - \frac{1}{T})]$$

- L=latent heat of condensation (2.5 x 10⁶ J/kg)
- R_v = gas constant for water vapor (461.5 J/kg/K)



Saturation mixing ratio

 The ratio of the mass (m_{vs}) of water vapor in a given volume that is saturated with respect to a plane surface of pure water to the mass (m_d) of dry air in the same volume

$$w_{s} = \frac{m_{vs}}{m_{d}}$$

Relationship to saturation vapor pressure

$$w_s = .622(\frac{e_s}{p - e_s}) \cong .622\frac{e_s}{p}$$



Relative humidity, dewpoint, and supersaturation

 Relative humidity (with respect to water) - the ratio of the actual vapor pressure to the saturation vapor pressure at the same temperature

$$r = \frac{e}{e_s(T)} \approx \frac{w}{w_s(T,p)}$$

- Dewpoint the temperature to which air must be cooled at constant pressure for it to become saturated with respect to a plane surface of pure water
- Supersaturation = r 1



Evaporation of ice (sublimation)



Bohren (1987)

- Sublimation occurs when water molecules move directly from ice to vapor phase (no liquid phase)
- Accompanied by latent cooling
- Always occurring



Vapor deposition



- Water molecules move directly from vapor to ice phase
- Accompanied by latent heating
- Always occurring
- Also called deposition or vapor deposition



Equilibrium and saturation vapor pressure for ice



- Equilibrium vapor pressure for ice sublimation and deposition are occurring, but are in equilibrium
- Saturation vapor pressure for ice Equilibrium vapor pressure for a plane surface of pure ice
- For solutions and ice particles, equilibrium vapor pressure for ice doe not necessarily equal the saturation vapor pressure for ice

Saturation vapor pressure for ice

- The saturation vapor pressure for ice is ≤ that for water
 - $e_{si} = e_s$ at 0°C
 - Otherwise $e_{si} < e_s$
 - e_s - e_{si} is largest at -10°C to -15°C



Saturation mixing ratio with respect to ice

 The ratio of the mass (m_{vs}) of water vapor in a given volume that is saturated with respect to a plane surface of pure ice to the mass (m_d) of dry air in the same volume

$$w_{si} = \frac{m_{vsi}}{m_d}$$

 Always less than or equal to the saturation mixing ratio with respect to water

- w_{si}=w_s at 0°C
- $W_{si} \le W_s$ if T<0°C



Relative humidity with respect to ice

- Relative humidity (with respect to ice) the ratio of the actual vapor pressure to the saturation vapor pressure at the same temperature
 - RH wrt ice > RH wtr water (equal at 0°C)

$$r = \frac{e}{e_{si}(T)} \approx \frac{w}{w_{si}(T,p)}$$

Frost point - the temperature to which air must be cooled at constant pressure for it to become saturated with respect to a plane surface of pure ice

• Frost point > dewpoint (equal at 0°C



Growth of Cloud Droplets in Warm Clouds





Formation of cloud droplets

- Clouds can form when the air becomes supersaturated with respect to water (or ice)
- Usually occurs due to adiabatic cooling produced by ascent
- Can also occur due to
 - Radiational cooling (e.g., radiation fogs)
 - Sensible cooling (e.g., advection fogs)
 - Mixing (e.g., contrails)
 - Other processes that cool or moisten parcels

The formation of a cloud droplet is called nucleation



- Homogeneous nucleation: Formation of a pure water droplet by condensation without the aid of a particle suspended in the air
- Growth of a cloud droplet represents a battle between:
 - Work required to create more droplet surface area (called the interfacial energy or surface energy)
 - Proportional to R², where R is the droplet radius
 - Energy provided to the system by condensation (change in Gibbs free energy)
 - Proportional to R³
- This battle means that the saturation vapor pressure is a function of droplet radius (known as the Kelvin effect)



Homogeneous nucleation (WH 6.1.1)

 Growth of a cloud droplet involves a net change in the energy of the system due to the formation of the droplet:

$$\Delta E = A\sigma - nV(\mu_v - \mu_l)$$

where ΔE is the net increase in the energy of the system, A is the droplet surface area, V is the droplet volume, σ is the work required to to create a unit area of vapor-liquid interface, n is the number of water molecules per unit volume of liquid, and μ_v and μ_l are the Gibbs free energies per molecule in the vapor and liquid phases.



It can be shown that

$$\mu_v - \mu_l = kT \log \frac{e}{e_s}$$

where e and T are the vapor pressure and temperature of the system, e_s is the saturation vapor pressure over a plane surface of water at temperature T, and k is Boltzmann's constant.

Therefore,

$$\Delta E = A\sigma - nVkT\log\frac{e}{e_s}$$



For a droplet of radius R,

$$\Delta E = 4\pi R^2 \sigma - \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 nkT \log \frac{e}{e_s}$$

If subsaturated, $e < e_s$ so ΔE is always > 0, and the formation of droplets is not favored.

If saturated, $e > e_s$ so ΔE may be > 0 or < 0 depending on R.





- In subsaturated air, the energy needed to increase droplet surface area is too big for energy released by condensation to overcome
- Droplets form through molecular collisions, but quickly evaporate





 In supersaturated air, the energy required to increase the surface area (∝R²) exceeds that released by condensation (∝R³) for small droplets

 Beyond a critical radius, r, the energy released by condensation exceeds that needed to increase surface area and droplets spontaneously grow

METEOROLOGY



- At the critical radius
 - The droplet is at its equilibrium vapor pressure (evaporation = condensation)
 - It will either shrink or grow spontaneously if R < r or R > r.



- Why? It's easier for water molecules to "escape" if the radius is small (more surface area/molecule)
- Evaporation rate for small droplets is greater than for large droplets or a plane surface of pure water



Plane of pure water Saturation vapor pressure = e_s





Small water droplet Easier for molecules to escape $e_s > e_s$ for plane of pure water

Equilibrium vapor pressure is larger for small droplets
 Need large supersaturation for a pure cloud droplet to grophet

For a droplet of radius R,

$$\Delta E = 4\pi R^2 \sigma - \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 nkT \log \frac{e}{e_s}$$

To get equilibrium radius r, set $d(\Delta E)/dR = 0$:

$$r = \frac{2\sigma}{nkT\log\frac{e}{e_s}}$$

Invert to obtain equilibrium saturation vapor pressure:

$$\frac{e}{e_s} = \exp\frac{2\sigma}{nkTr}$$



- For a given temperature, equilibrium vapor pressure (and RH) increases with decreasing droplet radius
- If r=.01 μm, equilibrium RH
 is 112.5% (for T=5 C)
- RH>103% is rarely observed
- It's very difficult for homogeneous nucleation to occur in the atmosphere





Heterogeneous nucleation (WH 6.1.1)

- How do clouds form?
 - They get help: Heterogeneous nucleation
- Heterogeneous nucleation: Formation of a cloud droplet on an atmospheric aerosol
- Atmospheric aerosols that are soluble in water dissolve when water begins to condense on them
- The solution lowers the equilibrium vapor pressure & thus creates more favorable conditions for droplet growth



Heterogeneous nucleation



In a solution, there are fewer water molecules on the water surface available for evaporation

Evaporation rate is lower than for pure water

Equil. saturation vapor pressure is lower than for pure wake

Heterogeneous nucleation



Small pure water droplet:

- Surface is all water molecules.
- Largest possible evaporation rate.
- Maximum equilibrium vapor pressure.



Small solution droplet:

- Surface has fewer water molecules.
- Less evaporation.
- Smaller equilibrium vapor pressure.



The reduction in saturation vapor pressure adjacent to a solution droplet is given by *Raoult's law*:



where e' is the saturation vapor pressure adjacent to a solution droplet that contains a mole fraction f of pure water, and e is the saturation vapor pressure adjacent to a pure water droplet of the same size and temperature.



The *mole fraction of pure water* is the number of moles of pure water in the solution divided by the total number of moles (pure water plus solute):

$$f = \frac{N_w}{N_w + N_s}$$

If the solution droplet of radius r contains a mass m of solute of molecular weight M_s that dissociates into i ions per molecule, then

$$N_s = im/M_s$$

If the solution density is ho', molecular weight of water is M_w , then

$$N_w = (\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \rho' - m)/M_w$$



The *mole fraction of pure water* is the number of moles of pure water in the solution divided by the total number of moles (pure water plus solute):

$$f = \frac{(\frac{4}{3}\pi r^{3}\rho' - m)/M_{w}}{(\frac{4}{3}\pi r^{3}\rho' - m)/M_{w} + im/M_{s}}$$
$$= \left[1 + \frac{imM_{w}}{M_{s}(\frac{4}{3}\pi r^{3}\rho' - m)}\right]^{-1}$$


The reduction of saturation vapor pressure e'adjacent to a solution droplet of radius r relative to that over a plane surface of pure water e_s is

$$\frac{e'}{e_s} = \left[\exp\frac{2\sigma'}{n'kTr}\right] \left[1 + \frac{imM_w}{M_s(\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3\rho' - m)}\right]^{-1}$$

where σ' and n' indicate the surface energy and number concentration of water molecules for the solution.



Heterogeneous nucleation (RY Chapter 6)

For a weak solution droplet $(m \ll \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \rho')$, and for r not too small,

$$\frac{e}{e_s} \approx 1 + \frac{a}{r} - \frac{b}{r^3}$$

where

$$a = \frac{2\sigma'}{n'kT}$$
$$b = \frac{imM_w}{\frac{4}{3}M_s\pi\rho'}$$



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Heterogeneous nucleation



Rogers and Yau (1989) Kohler curve for droplet formed on 10⁻¹⁶ g ammonium sulfate particle

- Kohler curve: Combines solute and Kelvin effects
- Equilibrium RH lowered for small droplets by solute effect
- Kelvin effect does result in a critical RH for nucleation of > 100% (in this case 100.6%)



Heterogeneous nucleation



- Very small solution droplets are in equilibrium at S < 1.
- If S increases, droplet grows to a new equilibrium radius.
- This process can continue until the critical S, S*, and critical radius, r*, are reached.
- If S > S* so that r > r*, then the equilibrium S < S*, and the droplet will continue to grow without any change in S.
- For r < r* or r=r*, droplet is in stable equilibrium:</p>
 - r adjusts to its equilibrium size for a given S.
- For r > r*, droplet is in unstable equilibrium:
 r increases as long as S > S_{eq}



For a weak solution droplet $(m \ll \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \rho')$, and for r not too small, the peak in the Köhler curve occurs at

$$r = \left(\frac{3b}{a}\right)^{1/2}$$
$$\frac{1}{2}$$
$$\frac{1}{2} = 1 + \left(\frac{4a^3}{a}\right)^{1/2}$$

27b



Heterogeneous nucleation



(1) pure water
(2) 10⁻¹⁹ kg of NaCl
(3) 10⁻¹⁸ kg of NaCl
(4) 10⁻¹⁷ kg of NaCl
(5) 10⁻¹⁹ kg of (NH₄)₂SO₄
(6) 10⁻¹⁸ kg of (NH₄)₂SO₄

Wallace and Hobbs (1977)

 Kohler curves, critical RH, and critical radius vary with type and concentration of solution

A droplet that has passed over its Kohler curve peak is called activated

Not all droplets are activated – there are winners and losers!



Heterogeneous nucleation



- Droplet 2 is activated in a supersaturation of 0.4 %.
- Droplet 5 will grow only up to A in a supersaturation of 0.4 %, and is unactivated.



 Calculation of the growth of CCN (500/cm³) by condensation in an updraft of 60 cm/s.

 Activated droplets are monodisperse by 100 s.





Cloud condensation nuclei



Wallace and Hobbs (1977)

- Cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) Aerosol particles that serve as nuclei for water vapor condensation
- The larger and more soluble the aerosol, the lower the supersaturation needed for activation
- There are an order of magnitude more CCN in continental air than maritime air

Cloud condensation nuclei





- Large cloud droplet number concentrations
- Smaller cloud droplets
- Maritime clouds feature
 - Smaller cloud droplet number concentrations
 - Larger cloud droplets

Wallace and Hobbs (1977)



Growth of Cloud Droplets in Warm Clouds





The warm cloud rain process



Cloud droplet growth initially dominated by condensation
 Growth into raindrops dominated by collision-coalescence
 Most effective in maritime clouds

 small concentrations of large cloud droplets (due to fewer CCN)



Time

 Increase of droplet radius by condensation is initially rapid, but diminishes as droplet grows.

 Condensational growth by itself cannot produce raindrops. (Why not?)



Consider an isolated droplet of radius r in a supersaturated environment.



Diffusive flux of water vapor is $Dd\rho_v/dx$, where D is the *diffusion coefficient* of water vapor in air.

$$\rho_v(x) \qquad \qquad \rho_v(\infty)$$

Total flux of water vapor across a sphere of radius x is

$$4\pi x^2 D d\rho_v/dx.$$

In steady state, total flux at any radius x is the same as at r, so

 $\frac{dM}{dt} = 4\pi x^2 D \frac{d\rho_v}{dx}.$

 $M = \frac{4}{2}\pi r^3 \rho_l$

Write

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = 4\pi x^2 D \frac{d\rho_v}{dx}$$

as

$$\frac{dM}{dt}\frac{dx}{x^2} = 4\pi D d\rho_v$$

then integrate from x = r to $x = \infty$:

$$\frac{dM}{dt} \int_{x=r}^{x=\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2} = 4\pi D \int_{\rho_v(r)}^{\rho_v(\infty)} d\rho_v$$

to get

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = 4\pi r D[\rho_v(\infty) - \rho_v(r)].$$



Use

$$\rho_v = \frac{e}{R_v T} \text{ (EOS)}$$
$$M = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \rho_l \text{ (droplet mass)}$$

in

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = 4\pi r D[\rho_v(\infty) - \rho_v(r)]$$

to get

$$r\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{De_s(T)}{\rho_l R_v T} \frac{e(\infty) - e(r)}{e_s(T)}$$



$$r\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{De_s(T)}{\rho_l R_v T} \frac{e(\infty) - e(r)}{e_s(T)}$$

can be written as

$$r\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{De_s(T)}{\rho_l R_v T}S,$$

where

$$S \equiv \frac{e(\infty) - e_s}{e_s} \approx \frac{e(\infty) - e(r)}{e_s(T)},$$

and $e_s(T)$ is the saturation vapor pressure over a plane surface of water.



Our equation for droplet growth

$$r\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{De_s(T)}{\rho_l R_v T} S$$

neglects the solute and Kelvin curvature effects. These are not important for droplets with $r > 1 \mu m$.

It also neglects the diffusion of heat away from the droplet as the droplet is warmed by condensation.



 Calculation of the growth of CCN (500/cm³) by condensation in an updraft of 60 cm/s.

 Activated droplets are monodisperse by 100 s.





Cloud droplet size distribution measured 244 m above cloud base (red), and corresponding **DSD** calculated with only condensation (blue).













- Growth of droplets into raindrops is achieved by collisioncoalescence.
- Fall velocity of a droplet increases with size.
- Larger drops collect smaller cloud droplets and grow.



Terminal fall speed of a droplet in air is due to a balance between gravity and drag:

$$\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 g \rho_l = F_{drag} = 6\pi\eta r v \ (r \le 30\mu m)$$

where v is the terminal velocity and η is the dynamic viscosity.

Solve for v:

$$v = \frac{2}{9} \frac{g\rho_l}{\eta} r^2 = k_1 r^2$$

with $k_1 = 1.19 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.





Relative motion of a droplet with respect to a collector drop. At the radius y the two make a grazing collision.

The collision efficiency is

 $E = \frac{\text{effective collision cross section}}{\text{geometrical collision cross section}}$

therefore

$$E = \frac{y^2}{(r_1 + r_2)^2}$$





Relative motion of a droplet with respect to a collector drop. At the radius y the two make a grazing collision.

The collision efficiency is

 $E = \frac{\text{effective collision cross section}}{\text{geometrical collision cross section}}$

therefore

$$E = \frac{y^2}{(r_1 + r_2)^2}$$







 Collection efficiency = collision efficiency X coalescence efficiency







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According to the *continuous collection model*, the rate of increase of the collector drop's mass M due to collisions is the volume of the cylinder swept out per unit time by the collector drop moving at the relative velocity $v_1 - v_2 \times LWC \times collection$ efficiency:

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = \pi r_1^2 (v_1 - v_2) w_l E_c$$

where w_l is the LWC of the cloud droplets of radius r_2 .





Substitute $M = 4/3\pi r_1^3 \rho_l$ into

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = \pi r_1^2 (v_1 - v_2) w_l E_c$$

to get

$$\frac{dr_1}{dt} = \frac{(v_1 - v_2)w_l E_c}{4\rho_l}$$

If $v_1 \gg v_2$ and $E_c = E$, then we get

$$\frac{dr_1}{dt} = \frac{v_1 w_l E}{4\rho_l}$$

Note that for collection,

$$\frac{dr}{dt} \sim v(r) \sim r^2$$

while for condensation,

$$\frac{dr}{dt} \sim \frac{1}{r}$$





If there is a steady updraft of speed w, the speed of a collector drop with respect to the ground is $w - v_1$, so that its motion is

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = w - v_1$$

where h is the height of the drop. Combine this with

$$\frac{dr_1}{dt} = \frac{v_1 w_l E}{4\rho_l}$$

to get

$$\frac{dr_1}{dh} = \frac{v_1 w_l E}{4\rho_l (w - v_1)}$$





FIG. 8.4. Bowen's calculated trajectories of (a) the air, (b) cloud droplets, initially 10 μ m in radius, and (c) drops which have initially twice the mass of the cloud droplets. Updraft speed 1 m/sec, cloud water content M = 1 g/m³. (From Fletcher, 1962.)





FIG. 8.5. Drop trajectories calculated for the collision efficiencies of Table 8.2 and Fig. 8.3, assuming a coalescence efficiency of unity. Initial drop radius $20 \,\mu$ m. Cloud water content $1 \, g/m^3$; all cloud droplets of $10 \,\mu$ m radius.











FIG. 8.10. Example of the development of a droplet spectrum by stochastic coalescence. (From Berry and Reinhardt, 1974b.)


Collision-coalescence

Rearrange this

$$\frac{dr_1}{dh} = \frac{v_1 w_l E}{4\rho_l (w - v_1)}$$

into

$$4\rho_l \frac{(w - v_1)}{v_1 E} \, dr_1 = w_l \, dh$$

then integrate

$$4\rho_l \int_{r_0}^{r_H} \frac{(w-v_1)}{v_1 E} \, dr_1 = \int_0^H w_l \, dh = w_l H$$



Collision-coalescence

$$H = \frac{4\rho_l}{w_l} \int_{r_0}^{r_H} \frac{(w - v_1)}{v_1 E} \, dr_1$$

A drop starts at cloud base with radius r_0 , goes up and down in a cloud with constant E, then reaches the base again with radius R. Relate R to r_0 and the (constant) updraft speed w. Set H = 0 and $r_H = R$ to get

$$0 = \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{(w - v_1)}{v_1} dr_1 = \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{w}{v_1} dr_1 - \int_{r_0}^{R} dr_1$$

or

$$R = r_0 + w \int_{r_0}^{R} \frac{dr_1}{v_1}$$

