How to constrain snow particle scattering models? A first approach using triplefrequency radar Doppler spectra.

Presenter: Stefan KNEIFEL
Address: University of Cologne, Pohligstrasse 3, 50969 Cologne
Country: Germany
Email: skneifel@meteo.uni-koeln.de
Authors: Stefan Kneifel (1), Alessandro Battaglia (2), Pavlos Kollias (3), Jussi Leinonen
(4), Maximilian Maahn (5), Heike Kalesse (6), Frederic Tridon (2)
Affiliations: (1) University of Cologne (2) University of Leicester (3) Stony Brook
University (4) California Institute of Technology (5) CIRES/NOAA (6) Leipzig
Institute for Tropospheric Research
Preference: Oral presentation

During the last years, an increasing number of microwave (MW) scattering databases and novel approximations for single particles, complex aggregates and even rimed and melting aggregates became available. While these developments are in general a great step forward, their evaluation with observations is a very necessary but also challenging task. Recently available multi-frequency radar observations which cover the Rayleigh up to the Mie scattering regime revealed characteristic signatures of rimed and unrimed aggregated particles. However, the observed signatures are still affected by both, the particle size distribution (PSD) and the single scattering properties of the particles which makes a clear evaluation of one or the other challenging.

In this contribution we present a new approach which uses the radar Doppler spectra at three frequencies (X, Ka, and W-band) collected during a recent winter field campaign in Finland. We analyzed a snowfall event which includes rimed and unrimed snow aggregates. A large selection of spectra obtained from low-turbulence regions within the cloud reveals distinctly different signatures of the derived Doppler spectral ratios. Due to the third frequency, a characteristic curve can be derived which is almost independent of the underlying particle size distribution and velocity-size relation. The characteristics of the curves obtained for rimed and unrimed are distinctly different. The observed signatures were compared with scattering calculations obtained with discrete dipole approximation (DDA), self-similar Rayleigh-Gans approximation (SSRG), and with the classical soft spheroid (T-Matrix) method. While the DDA calculations of unrimed and rimed aggregates fit the observed signatures well, the T-Matrix results lie far outside the observed range. The SSRG approximations was found to be principally able to recover

the main features but a better matching would need an adjustment of the published coefficients.