

# 3D cloud-radiation interaction

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Can change total cloud effect by -25% to +100% in shortwave or +30% in longwave locally – how important globally?

# 3D effects neglected in most radiation models (1D)





Global model's 2-stream scheme





SPARTACUS: Incorporating 3D effects in a new rapid radiation scheme

(SPeedy Algorithm for Radiative TrAnsfer through CloUd Sides, proposed by Hogan and Shonk, 2013)



Based on 2-stream calculation, incorporates 3D effects as additional transfer terms between clouds and clear sky through cloud sides

Numerical cost ca  $2 \times$  that of standard 2-stream scheme

# Cloud geometry parameters



Cloud side transfer terms  $\propto$  Effective cloud edge length - smoother than measured edge length (Radiative smoothing, Marshak et al., J.G.R. 1995)

### Good approximation: Ellipses



Also need to consider clustering of clouds, which determines how much cloud-side emission is intercepted by other clouds

# **Cloud structure observations**

- Scanning cloud radar observations from Jülich Observatory for Cloud Evolution (JOYCE) and A-train satellites
- Derive effective edge length and clustering





MIRA scanning cloud

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3D Cloud field from MIRA data, visualisation courtesy of M. Fielding

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# SPARTACUS performance



Broadband longwave fluxes



SPARTACUS and fully 3D Monte Carlo MYSTIC agree to within 10%
better if we compensate for clustering

• SPARTACUS  $10^4 - 10^7 \times cheaper$ 

## **Global 3D effects**

- **SPARTACUS** is efficient enough for global model implemented in version of ECMWF's IFS radiation code
- 3D effects globally ۲ appreciable!
- Effects depend on cloud structure and solar zenith angle

Surface cloud radiative forcing 00 UTC 1 June 2013 90 0 -10045 Latitude (°N) -200 -300 > -400 -45 -500 -90 -600 360 45 90 135 180 225 270 315 Longitude (°E) Solar zenith angle Surface net 3D effect 00 UTC 1 June 2013 90 20 10 Latitude (°N) 0 -45 -10 -90 -20 45 135 270 360 n 90 80 225 31 Longitude (°E) *Night-time: High sun:* Low sun: positive SW effect positive LW effect negative SW effect

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Sophia Schäfer, Meteorological Technology World Expo

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### Thank you for your attention !



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