

1 **Ultraclean layers and optically thin clouds in the stratocumulus to cumulus**
2 **transition: Part II. Depletion of cloud droplets and cloud condensation**
3 **nuclei through collision-coalescence**

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ABSTRACT

9 In part I, aircraft observations are used to show that ultraclean layers (UCLs)
10 in the marine boundary layer (MBL) are a common feature of the stratocumu-
11 lus to cumulus (Sc-Cu) transition region over the NE Pacific. The ultraclean
12 layers are defined as layers of either cloud or clear air in which the concen-
13 tration of particles with diameter larger than $0.1 \mu\text{m}$ is below 10 cm^{-3} . Here,
14 idealized microphysical parcel modeling shows that in the cumulus regime,
15 collision-coalescence can strongly deplete cloud droplet concentration in Cu
16 updrafts thereby removing cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) from the atmo-
17 sphere, suggesting that collision-scavenging is likely the key process causing
18 the low particle concentration in UCLs. Furthermore, the model results sug-
19 gest that the stratocumulus regime is typically not favorable for UCLs forma-
20 tion, because condensate amounts are generally not large enough to deplete
21 drops in the time it takes to loft air to the upper PBL. A bulk parameteri-
22 zation of the coalescence-scavenging rate is derived based from in-situ mea-
23 surements. The fractional coalescence-scavenging rate is found to be strongly
24 dependent upon liquid water content (LWC), and hence the height above cloud
25 base, indicating that higher cloud top and thus thicker cloud thickness in Cu
26 updraft is an important factor accounting for the observed sharp rise of UCLs
27 coverage in the Sc-Cu transition region. An important implication from this
28 study is that planetary boundary layer (PBL) height, which controls maxi-
29 mum cloud thickness, and therefore LWC in updrafts, could be a crucial fac-
30 tor constraining efficiency of coalescence-scavenging and thus the formation
31 of UCLs in MBL.

32 **1. Introduction**

33 The number concentration of water droplets N_d and cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) N_{ccn} con-
34 tinue to be variables of importance in marine boundary layer (MBL) clouds because they help de-
35 termine cloud albedo (i.e., first indirect effect, Twomey 1977) and its perturbation due to aerosol
36 can modulate the ability to form precipitation (Albrecht 1989). N_d is limited by N_{ccn} through the
37 process of cloud droplet activation in which CCN serve as nuclei for cloud droplets. Changes in
38 precipitation due to variations in N_d and N_{ccn} can enhance the change in cloud albedo associated
39 with the Twomey effect. The smaller droplet size (i.e., smaller effective radius r_e) resulting from
40 increasing N_d and N_{ccn} (for a given cloud liquid water content q_L) can hinder collision-coalescence
41 and result in lower precipitation rate at cloud base R_{cb} , which could potentially increase cloud life-
42 time and hence cloud albedo, often called the second indirect effect (Albrecht 1989). Several
43 observational studies have found a consistent relationship between R_{cb} and N_d in MBL clouds,
44 and suggest that R_{cb} generally decreases as N_d increases (Hudson and Li 1995; Ferek et al. 2000;
45 Bretherton et al. 2004; Wood 2005; Lu et al. 2007; Terai et al. 2012). However, there remain
46 discrepancies in the degree of precipitation susceptibility to N_d and its dependence on liquid wa-
47 ter path (LWP) and cloud thickness (H_t) across modeling and observational studies (Feingold and
48 Siebert 2009; Sorooshian et al. 2009; Terai et al. 2015; Jung et al. 2016). Several studies have sug-
49 gested that the changes in macrophysical processes such as entrainment rate in the MBL induced
50 by aerosol perturbations can counter the second indirect effect and in some cases, may overcome
51 it (Ackerman et al. 2004; Wood 2007; Bretherton et al. 2007; Small et al. 2009; Lee et al. 2012),
52 emphasizing the difficulty in establishing a simple susceptibility metric.

53 Previous studies have focused upon variability of N_d and N_{ccn} as a driver of variability in pre-
54 cipitation. On the other hand, precipitation can also act as the driver of variability in N_d and

55 N_{ccn} through collision-coalescence. As pointed out by Hudson and Frisbie (1991), collision-
56 coalescence can efficiently remove dissolved CCN within droplets from the atmosphere even
57 with light precipitation rate (Feingold et al. 1996; Wood 2006). An evaporated coalesced droplet
58 only leaves behind one residual haze particle that is made up of the nuclei from many droplets,
59 the so-called coalescence-scavenging process, which is a irreversible process. Recently, by us-
60 ing a simplified aerosol budget model, driven by observations from aircraft and satellites, Wood
61 et al. (2012) showed that the geographical and temporally variability of global MBL N_d and N_{ccn}
62 are highly impacted by coalescence scavenging. This poses a potential positive feedback in the
63 aerosol-cloud-precipitation interaction as suggested by recent modeling studies (Yang et al. 2012;
64 Berner et al. 2013) such that the increase in N_{ccn} can reduce the efficiency of precipitation sink of
65 N_{ccn} , which hence amplify the initial perturbation of increasing N_{ccn} .

66 In-situ measurements showing the coalescence-scavenging driving of the vertical variability in
67 N_d and N_{ccn} have been presented in a mounting body of previous studies. Early in-situ measure-
68 ments of marine cumulus have reported that there is a substantial decrease in N_d with increasing
69 height (Weickmann and Aufm Kampe 1953; Squires 1958), suggesting the efficient depletion of
70 N_d by collision-coalescence. Measurements of N_{ccn} in cumulus and stratocumulus decks over the
71 northeastern Pacific Ocean (Hudson and Frisbie 1991; Hudson 1993) have shown there is def-
72 inite vertical decrease of N_{ccn} which the authors attributed to coalescence-scavenging. Aircraft
73 observations of MBL clouds over the southern Pacific ocean (Stephens and Platt 1987; Boers and
74 Krummel 1998; Boers et al. 1996) have demonstrated that N_d generally decreases with increasing
75 altitude while r_e shows the reverse trend, which is consistent with the occurrence of droplet growth
76 by collision-coalescence. Similar vertical variations of N_d are also observed in midlatitude warm
77 clouds and Arctic warm clouds as summarized by Gultepe and Isaac (2004). In recent observa-
78 tions over the southeastern Pacific Ocean, Terai et al. (2014) found that there is major vertical

79 stratification of N_{ccn} such that measurements at the surface can be a order of magnitude higher
80 than those at the level of the main cloud deck within the pockets of open cells (POCs). For obser-
81 vations near the top of the PBL, N_d scaled strongly with vertical motion within active Cu (Wood
82 et al. 2011). Further, N_d and N_{ccn} within POCs were found to be extremely low ($\sim 5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in
83 the mean), demonstrating that in-cloud collision-coalescence can be efficient in depleting N_d and
84 N_{ccn} , especially in the upper MBL and prompting characterization of these layers as *ultraclean*
85 *layers* (UCLs) (Sharon et al. 2006; Wood et al. 2011).

86 In Part I of this study (Wood et al. 2017), we demonstrated that during the Cloud System Evolu-
87 tion in the Trades (CSET) field program (CSET, Jul-Aug 2015, subtropical northeastern Pacific),
88 the NSF/NCAR G-V aircraft frequently encountered UCLs, which were therein defined as layers
89 of either cloud or clear air in which the concentration of particles larger than $0.1 \mu\text{m}$ is below
90 10 cm^{-3} (see part I for details regarding the definition of UCLs). We showed that the clouds in
91 the UCLs are typically geometrically thin and were commonly the veil clouds associated with ag-
92 gregated Cu clusters. Visible satellite images indicate that a large fraction of clouds observed in
93 the UCLs were optically thin ($\tau < 3$). In part, this is caused by the extremely low N_d in the UCL
94 clouds (see discussion in part I). Aircraft in-situ measurements showed that (a) UCL coverage in
95 CSET was as high as 40 – 60 % between 135W and 155W (i.e., Sc-Cu transition region with deep
96 planetary boundary layer height, hereafter PBL height) but that UCLs occurred very infrequently
97 ($< 10 \%$) east of 130W (i.e., the low-topped near-coastal stratocumulus region), (b) UCLs are
98 mostly commonly found at a height of 1.5-2 km, typically close to top of the PBL and (c) r_e in
99 the UCL clouds is $\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$ in the mean, which is twice as large as the mean r_e in the non-UCL
100 clouds (i.e., $N_d > 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) (see Fig. 1).

101 Based on the analysis of the aircraft measurements summarized in Part I, we hypothesize that the
102 observed UCLs most likely result from efficient collision-coalescence in the upper MBL over the

103 Sc-Cu transition region. The deep PBL height ($\sim 1500\text{ m}$) in the Sc-Cu transition region gives high
104 q_L in the active trade Cu towers. It provides an opportunity for collision-coalescence to sufficiently
105 deplete N_d and hence could result in the formation of UCL clouds with extremely low N_d and large
106 r_e in the upper MBL. Detrainment of cloudy air from the Cu towers forms horizontally extensive,
107 thin cloud layers in the upper MBL with extremely low N_d and low cloud optical depth as indicated
108 by the satellite data (see part I). Upon evaporation of UCL clouds, only a few accumulation mode
109 particles are returned to the clear sky, which could leave the upper MBL strongly depleted in N_{ccn} .

110 In Part II of this work, we quantitatively test the proposed hypothesis for the formation process of
111 the UCLs using idealized microphysical parcel model. The focus is on the depletion of N_d and N_{ccn}
112 through in-cloud collision-coalescence. An adiabatic two-dimensional (i.e., spanning droplet and
113 aerosol dry size) bin spectral parcel model is chosen as our main tool to test the hypothesis. The
114 details of the model formulation are furnished in Sect. 2. Section 3 gives the parcel model results
115 showing the temporal evolution of cloud microphysical processes in an idealized rising parcel in
116 typical cumulus and stratocumulus regimes. In Sect. 4, by obtaining the best-fit with the in-situ
117 measurements of cloud droplet size distributions (DSDs) from CSET, a bulk parameterization of
118 the droplet coalescence-scavenging rate $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs}$ is derived from the stochastic collection equation
119 as a function of N_d and q_L . With the parameterization, the relative importance of updraft, aerosol
120 concentration, cloud thickness and adiabaticity in coalescence-scavenging process are accessed.
121 Section 5 offers a conclusion.

122 2. Parcel model

123 a. Basic model formulations

124 A Lagrangian adiabatic parcel model with explicit two dimensional bin microphysics spanning
125 aerosol and water droplet sizes is formulated to simulate the evolution of cloud microphysical
126 processes in a rising parcel. First, the trajectory of the parcel follows an adiabatic ascent with a
127 constant vertical velocity U_z . After the parcel reaches the assumed height of cloud top z_{top} , we
128 include a period where the parcel moves horizontally as the cloud top layer with $U_z = 0$ (see Fig. 2).
129 Cloud microphysical processes are considered by holding the particles on a two dimensional grid,
130 and each grid point is characterized by the sizes of the dissolved aerosol and the water droplet.
131 Grid spacing for the aerosol size (i.e., dry size) and the water droplet size (i.e., wet size) are
132 logarithmically spaced. The grid of the droplet size starts and ends at $D_d = 0.02 \mu\text{m}$ and $D_d = 0.7$
133 cm. The aerosol size grid spans from $D_a = 0.016 \mu\text{m}$ to $D_a = 0.4 \text{ cm}$. Both liquid water and aerosol
134 grids have 40 bins resulting in total 1600 bins in the 2-D grid space. The model is integrated with
135 the time step of 0.05 s.

136 The prognostic thermodynamics variables are temperature and saturation ratio. The micro-
137 physical processes that are explicitly simulated in the model are activation of aerosol, conden-
138 sation/evaporation, interstitial scavenging, collision-coalescence, and droplet loss from the parcel
139 by sedimentation (the details regarding the treatments of droplet sedimentation process in the par-
140 cel model are given below). The details of the equations describing condensation and the changes
141 of the thermodynamic variables applied in the model can be found in the appendix of Korolev
142 and Mazin (2003). There is no artificial separation between unactivated aerosols, activated cloud
143 droplets and drizzle. The nucleation of unactivated aerosol (i.e., haze particles) is explicitly cal-
144 culated by solving the droplet growth equations. The κ -Kohler parameterization for aerosol hy-

145 groscopicity developed by Petters and Kreidenweis (2007) is applied and used to calculate the
146 saturation vapor pressure of all particles (the details regarding the size distribution and κ value of
147 aerosol are given later).

148 Collision-coalescence increases not only the size of water droplets but also size of the dissolved
149 aerosol inside. The advantage of the 2-D bin framework is that the resulting aerosol mass can be
150 saved after collision-coalescence takes place, which may be important for the temporal evolution
151 of DSDs. The hybrid bin scheme developed by Chen and Lamb (1994) (hereafter CL scheme)
152 is applied to treat condensation and evaporation processes. The two-dimensional flux method
153 developed by Bott (2000) (hereafter Bott scheme) is used to treat collision-coalescence in the 2-D
154 bin framework. Both the CL scheme and the Bott scheme are mass conservative and numerically
155 efficient. The CL scheme is a two-moment explicit scheme designed for the evolution of the DSDs
156 by condensation/evaporation, which produces little numerical diffusion and can be implemented
157 into the 2-D bin framework. The Bott scheme is an advanced method introducing the flux method
158 for the stochastic collection equations developed by Bott (1998) into the 2-D bin framework with
159 low artificial broadening of DSDs. The gravitational collection kernel is applied here and can be
160 given by $K(r, r') = E_c \pi (r + r')^2 |V_T(r) - V_T(r')|$ (where E_c is the collision efficiency, r and r' are
161 the radius of droplets and V_T is the terminal velocity of droplet). The collision efficiency E_c used
162 in the collection kernel is based on the combination data from Hall (1980) and Rogers and Yau
163 (1989). The coalescence efficiency is set to unity. The inertial scavenging is considered in the
164 model with the collection kernel for inertial scavenging developed by Berner et al. (2013). It is
165 shown later that aerosol activation is the dominant process depleting N_{ccn} , and inertial scavenging
166 does not contribute significantly to the depletion of N_{ccn} in the cloud regime investigated here. The
167 terminal particle velocity V_T is based on the relationship of V_T with D_d given in Pruppacher and
168 Klett (2012).

169 *b. Initial conditions and aerosol distribution*

170 A set of initial conditions must be specified to run the model. The initial temperature T_0 , the
171 initial saturation ratio S_0 and the initial pressure P_0 are specified to be 300 K, 0.8, and 1013
172 hPa respectively, which are typical of the lower MBL and give the cloud base z_{base} (i.e., lifting
173 condensation level, LCL) ~ 500 m. The average normalized aerosol size distribution from the
174 surface legs ($z < 170$ m) of 16 flights during CSET is used to specify the initial aerosol dry size
175 spectrum in the model. The average aerosol size distribution shown in Fig. 3 is the combination of
176 data from two probes, an ultra-high sensitivity aerosol spectrometer (UHSAS) ($0.06 \mu\text{m} < D_a <$
177 $1 \mu\text{m}$) and a cloud droplet probe (CDP) ($D_a > 1 \mu\text{m}$). The CDP can quantify giant CCN (GCCN).
178 The ambient size given by CDP is corrected to the dry size by using a 1.8 growth factor of sea
179 salt as reported in Zhang et al. (2014). The sensitivity of the model results to GCCN is tested
180 by removing GCCN from the initial aerosol input. The results (not shown) indicate that for the
181 cloud regimes investigated here (i.e., in terms of number concentration of aerosol, aerosol size
182 distribution, cloud top height and updraft speed), removal of GCCN from the initial aerosol input
183 does not significantly change the temporal evolution of N_d and N_{ccn} in a rising parcel. GCCN
184 could be relatively more important at the regime with more aerosol and lower cloud top height. To
185 thoroughly explore the importance of GCCN for the droplet coalescence-scavenging rate, a more
186 comprehensive study is needed to test the sensitivity to GCCN in various cloud regimes, which is
187 not our focus in this study. Clarke et al. (2006) reported the mean aerosol size distribution over
188 the coastal regions of Hawaii (i.e., the northeastern Pacific which is the same area investigated in
189 this study) with average 10-m wind speed of ~ 7 m s⁻¹. Note that the measurements in CSET
190 only provide the aerosol size distribution with $D_a > 0.06 \mu\text{m}$. To completely include the Aitken
191 mode aerosol ($D_a < 0.1 \mu\text{m}$), the aerosol concentration in size range $0.016 \mu\text{m} < D_a < 0.06 \mu\text{m}$

192 from Clarke et al. (2006) is included in the initial aerosol size distribution. The total initial aerosol
193 concentration assigned in the parcel model will be discussed in Sect. 3. The κ value of aerosols
194 is specified to be 0.8, which is typical at the surface over the northeastern Pacific according to a
195 recent modeling study (see Figs. 3 and 5 in Pringle et al. 2010). When the initial aerosol size
196 distribution is introduced into the 2-D aerosol and cloud bin spectrum, the initial equilibrium wet
197 size of the aerosol is calculated based on the κ -Kohler equation with the specified κ value and the
198 initial conditions of S_0 , P_0 and T_0 .

199 *c. Treatment of droplet sedimentation in the parcel model*

200 A significant deficiency of the Lagrangian parcel model is that droplet loss from the parcel by
201 sedimentation is typically not taken into account. This may lead to unrealistic rates of collision-
202 coalescence leading to the formation of millimeter-size drops with fall speeds substantially faster
203 than the updrafts. This shortage in the Lagrangian approach can be avoided in Eulerian model-
204 ing frameworks like large eddy simulation (LES), which explicitly calculate droplet loss rate by
205 sedimentation. On the other hand, in the Eulerian framework, the complexity of microphysical
206 schemes is usually limited by computational resources, and cloud microphysical processes must
207 typically be parameterized. With a focus in this study on microphysical processes for UCLs for-
208 mation, we choose the 2-D bin microphysics parcel model as the tool for our modeling study.
209 However, we also wish to consider the droplet loss due to sedimentation in the Lagrangian parcel
210 model, and to achieve this, a simple treatment is selected and tested.

211 According to Houze (2014), with an assumption that the parcel has thickness h_p , the sedimenta-
212 tion loss rate of given size droplets in a parcel can be approximated by the sedimentation flux

$$[N_{i,j}]_{sedi} = -N_{i,j}V_{T,j}/h_p \quad (1)$$

213 where i and j denote the aerosol dry size bin and droplet wet bin on the two-dimensional grid.
 214 A two step process is applied in the sedimentation flux method and is similar to the treatment in
 215 the 2-D collision-coalescence scheme proposed by Bott (2000). We first integrate the 2-D particle
 216 spectrum over the aerosol dry size which yields a 1-D droplet spectrum as a function of the droplet
 217 size. In the next step, the flux loss rate of droplet given in Eq. (1) is applied to each grid box of this
 218 intermediate spectrum. In the last step, the resulting new droplet spectrum is redistributed into the
 219 2-D bin grids based on the fraction of droplets over the aerosol size grid before the sedimentation
 220 flux is applied. The parcel thickness h_p is specified to be 100 m and is also used to specify the
 221 depth of the cloud top layer (i.e., cloud top detrainment layer) in the simulation.

222 The most uncertain factor in the sedimentation flux method is h_p , which requires an assumption
 223 of the parcel thickness. The choices of h_p may make a significant difference in the results. It is
 224 shown later that there is only a weak sensitivity to h_p assumed in the model. In general, there is
 225 no perfect treatment for the droplet sedimentation process in the Lagrangian parcel model, so we
 226 will perform sensitivity tests to ensure our conclusion on the microphysical process of the UCLs
 227 is consistent among the parcel model runs with different assumed values of h_p .

228 **3. Parcel modeling results**

229 In part I, analysis of the aircraft measurements in CSET found that UCLs are commonly found
 230 between 135 W and 155W over the northeastern Pacific, the typical Sc-Cu transition region, but
 231 occur infrequently east of 130W over the northeastern Pacific, the overcast stratocumulus region.
 232 We showed that the UCL clouds are commonly the veil clouds associated with the aggregated Cu

233 clusters. This implies that the cumulus regime is favorable for the formation of UCLs. Here, two
234 sets of idealized modeling representing the temporal evolution of cloud microphysics in a rising
235 parcel in stratocumulus (hereafter Sc regime) and cumulus (hereafter Cu regime) are presented.
236 According to Eastman et al. (2017), retrievals of PBL height from MODIS/CALIPSO and COS-
237 MIC GPS radio occultation show that the typical cloud-topped PBL heights at 20 N \sim 40N are
238 1500 m between 135 W and 155W (i.e., Cu regime), and 800 m east of 130W (i.e., Sc regime)
239 over the northeastern Pacific. These values are used to specify z_{top} in the parcel modeling for the
240 Cu and Sc regimes, respectively. The updraft speeds U_z in MBL clouds are typically $0.1 - 3 \text{ ms}^{-1}$,
241 and U_z in cumulus is typically more vigorous than in stratocumulus (Comstock et al. 2007; Gerber
242 et al. 2008; Ghate et al. 2011). Updraft velocity can influence both in-cloud times available for
243 air parcels rising through a cloud and the maximum supersaturation ratio in a cloud updraft. The
244 updraft speed U_z in the *base cases* for the Cu and Sc regimes are specified to be 0.75 ms^{-1} and
245 0.25 ms^{-1} , respectively. We will explore the sensitivity to updraft in both regimes by considering
246 updraft velocities of 0.1 and 3 ms^{-1} . In the following discussion, N_d is defined as the number con-
247 centration of the particles with diameter $\geq 1 \mu\text{m}$, and N_{ccn} is defined as the number concentration
248 of the particles with diameter $< 1 \mu\text{m}$. The initial aerosol concentration with $D_a > 0.06 \mu\text{m}$ is
249 based on the mean near-surface (i.e., $z < 170 \text{ m}$) aerosol concentration measured by the UHSAS
250 probe ($1 \mu\text{m} > D_a > 0.06 \mu\text{m}$) during CSET (Fig. 4), and is specified to be 75 cm^{-3} (i.e., the
251 mean value at 135W \sim 155W, the typical cumulus regime) in the Cu regime, and 200 cm^{-3} (i.e.,
252 the mean value at 125W \sim 132.5W, the typical stratocumulus regime) in the Sc regime. Note that
253 the near-surface concentration of GCCN with $D_a > 1 \mu\text{m}$ measured by CDP is mostly $< 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in
254 CSET. The aerosol concentration ($\sim 7 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and size distribution with $D_a < 0.06 \mu\text{m}$ from Clarke
255 et al. (2006) is included in the initial aerosol distribution in both regimes to completely include
256 the aitken mode aerosol. A summary of the input parameters applied in the Cu and Sc regimes is

257 given in Table 1. The discussion regarding liquid water content q_L in the parcel modeling will be
258 given in Sect. 4.

259 *a. Cumulus regime*

260 Fig. 5 shows the base case for the Cu regime, which suggests the Cu regime is favorable for the
261 formation of UCLs and supports our hypothesis. The modeling result shows that N_d is strongly
262 depleted in the cumulus updraft, leading to the occurrence of UCL clouds at the cloud top layer.
263 Surprisingly, there is substantial depletion ($> 80\%$) of N_d with height within the Cu updraft. Fig.
264 5-d shows the fraction of droplet loss caused by collision-coalescence, droplet sedimentation and
265 evaporation. It indicates that collision-coalescence within the parcel is the dominant process in
266 depleting N_d and the formation of UCLs in the Cu regime. The temporal evolution of r_e is shown
267 in Fig 5-b with the black line, indicating considerable growth of droplet size in the Cu updraft by
268 collision-coalescence. Cloud droplets can grow through condensation and collision-coalescence.
269 By using an analytical expression for diffusional droplet growth, Pinsky et al. (2014) has shown
270 that without including the collision-coalescence process, the r_e of droplets in warm liquid clouds
271 can hardly reach $15\ \mu m$ by condensation alone (see Fig. 6 in Pinsky et al. 2014). Thus, the
272 substantial growth of r_e shown in the parcel modeling and the large r_e in UCL clouds observed
273 during CSET ($20\ \mu m$ in the mean, see Fig. 1) must be due to collision-coalescence. The modeling
274 results show that r_e can be larger than $\sim 30\ \mu m$ in the UCL clouds (black line in Fig. 5-b), and
275 such large droplet size in the UCL clouds is also observed during CSET as shown in Fig. 1. After
276 the parcel has reached its assumed max height, due to the relatively large droplet loss caused by
277 droplet sedimentation (black line in Fig. 5-c), r_e in the UCL clouds decreases gradually. This
278 may explain why the UCL cloudy samples observed during CSET have relatively large spread
279 in r_e (see Fig. 1). After the parcel stops lifting, droplet sedimentation gradually becomes the

280 primary process depleting N_d (see Fig. 5-d) with very low droplet loss rate and very low droplet
281 concentration ($< 5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$). The results presented here suggest that there is a transition of dominant
282 cloud microphysics process from the updraft to the cloud top layer such that the depletion of N_d
283 is dominated by collision-coalescence resulting in the increase of r_e in the updraft, while at the
284 cloud top layer, sedimentation loss is the main process depleting N_d and thus cause the decrease of
285 r_e . Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) retrievals of r_e suggests that such
286 behavior of r_e is typical in the Sc-Cu transition region. Figure 6 shows that in the Cu clusters, r_e
287 (from 3.7 micron MODIS channel) reduces from $\sim 30 \mu\text{m}$ at the updraft region to $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$ at
288 the cloud edge, which is consistent with the sedimentation process at the cloud top shown by the
289 parcel modeling presented here. The schematic evolution of cloud microphysics in the cumulus
290 updraft described here is summarized in Fig. 2.

291 The left panel in Fig. 7 shows the parcel modeling results for the Cu regime but with an arti-
292 ficially small U_z of 0.1 ms^{-1} . The cumulus case with U_z of 0.1 ms^{-1} has low S_{max} ($\sim 0.2 \%$) in
293 the updraft, resulting in fewer particles activated at the cloud base than in the cases with U_z of
294 0.75 and 3 ms^{-1} (Fig. 5 and the right panels of Fig. 7). N_d in the Cu updraft is strongly depleted
295 by collision-coalescence, which eventually cause the formation of UCLs in the updraft. In the
296 case with low updraft of 0.1 ms^{-1} , UCLs is formed at fairly low altitude ($\sim 1100 \text{ m}$) even before
297 the parcel reaches its assumed max height (i.e., 1500 m). Note that in the Cu cases with U_z of
298 0.75 and 3 ms^{-1} , UCLs are formed after the parcel reaches the assumed cloud top height. This
299 indicates that slower U_z can help the formation of UCLs at lower altitude, which can be linked to
300 the updraft time scale τ_{up} (i.e., a parcel to ascend from base to top) as discussed in Ovchinnikov
301 et al. (2013). A longer τ_{up} (i.e., slower U_z , given same cloud thickness) can provide longer in-
302 cloud time in updraft for collision-coalescence to act to deplete N_d , so the formation of UCLs is
303 favored by slower updrafts (see detailed discussion in Ovchinnikov et al. (2013)). In addition to

304 the maximum supersaturation S_{max} at the cloud base, there is a second maximum in S_w occurring
 305 near the cloud top because of the substantial decrease of N_d (i.e., depletion term for supersatura-
 306 tion ratio S_w) and constant U_z in the Cu updraft (i.e., source term for S_w) (see equation 2 in Pinsky
 307 et al. 2013), leading to multiple secondary activation events of small aerosols (see Fig. 7-e) that
 308 can not be activated at the cloud base. Secondary activation of aerosols not only increases N_d but
 309 also hence slightly increases the droplet loss rate by collision-coalescence (droplet loss rate by
 310 collision-coalescence is positively correlated with N_d , see Eq. 3 in Sect. 4), which results in the
 311 blue jagged line of fraction of droplet loss by collision-coalescence shown in Fig. 7-d.

312 The right panel in Fig. 7 shows the parcel modeling result for the Cu regime with U_z of 3 ms^{-1} .
 313 Due to the high U_z (i.e., 3 ms^{-1}) assumed in this case, the available time for collision-coalescence
 314 to act to deplete N_d in the updraft is much shorter than in the other two cases (i.e., $U_z = 0.1$ and 0.75
 315 ms^{-1}). The fractional loss of N_d from the cloud base to the cloud top $f_{top-loss}$ is $\sim 50 \%$, which
 316 is lower than in the case with U_z of 0.1 ms^{-1} and 0.75 ms^{-1} ($f_{top-loss} > 80 \%$). Interestingly,
 317 in this case with high U_z , the maximum coalescence-scavenging rate (i.e., blue line in Fig. 7-h)
 318 is at the cloud top, while the maximum coalescence-scavenging rate in the previous cases with
 319 relatively lower updraft speed (i.e., Fig. 5 and left panel of Fig. 7) are typically not at the cloud
 320 top and their values are much lower (see blue lines in Figs. 5-c, 7-c and 7-h). This is because
 321 coalescence-scavenging rate is positively correlated with N_d and q_L (see Sect. 4 for details). In
 322 the cases with relatively low updraft (i.e., $U_z = 0.1$ and 0.75 ms^{-1}), most of N_d is depleted before
 323 the parcel reaches the cloud top. When the parcel reaches the cloud top, due to very low N_d ($<$
 324 10 cm^3), the coalescence-scavenging rate is very low, even though maximum q_L in the adiabatic
 325 updraft is at the cloud top. In contrast, in the case with fast U_z , more than 50% of N_d still remain
 326 in the parcel at the cloud top where adiabatic q_L reaches its maximum in the updraft, resulting in
 327 the maximum coalescence-scavenging rate at the cloud top. Regarding the droplet size in the UCL

328 clouds, both of the modeling results shown in Fig. 7 suggest that r_e is $\sim 20 \mu m$ in the UCL clouds,
329 consistent with the observations shown in Fig. 1. The parcel modeling results for the Cu regime
330 also suggest that UCL clouds contain a monomodal droplet size distribution, which is consistent
331 with the observations summarized in Part I of this study. This indicates that the bin model can
332 produce a droplet spectra in UCL clouds that is realistic compared with the observations. With
333 the sensitivity test presented in Figs. 5 and 7 by considering a wide range of updraft speed in the
334 Cu regime, we conclude that the parcel modeling results for the Cu regime agree well with the
335 hypothesized microphysical process we proposed for UCL formation. The results indicate that in
336 the Cu regime, collision-coalescence can cause the formation of UCL clouds by rapidly depleting
337 N_d . Once the UCL clouds evaporate, this efficient coalescence-scavenging process can result in
338 very low N_{ccn} in the upper MBL.

339 Fig. 8 shows a sensitivity test of the Cu base case to the choice of h_p applied in the sedimentation
340 flux. The model runs with h_p of 100, 300 and 500 m are demonstrated here. The results shown in
341 Fig. 8 all suggest that collision-coalescence is the key physical process controlling the depletion of
342 N_d , and droplet loss by sedimentation is of secondary importance. The comparison between three
343 model runs in Fig. 8 suggests that in the parcel, there is a compensating feedback in the parcel
344 modeling between collision-coalescence and sedimentation processes in depleting N_d . When the
345 parcel is assumed to be thinner (e.g., $h_p = 100$ m), large drizzle-sized droplets tend to fall out of
346 the parcel faster by sedimentation (i.e., depleting N_d), but this lowers the efficiency of collision-
347 coalescence by removing those drops that are the most efficient collectors, and vice versa. As
348 a result of compensation between collision-coalescence and droplet sedimentation in the parcel
349 model, the choice of h_p applied in the parcel model does not result in major differences in the
350 temporal evolution of N_d . The parcel modeling runs for the Sc regime and the Cu regime with
351 different U_z suggest the same compensating feedback (not shown). Thus, based on the sensitivity

352 test presented in Fig. 8, we conclude that the sedimentation treatment applied in the parcel model
353 does not affect our conclusion that collision-coalescence is the process governing the formation of
354 UCLs.

355 *b. Stratocumulus regime*

356 On the other hand, the modeling result of the Sc base case indicates that Sc regime is not favor-
357 able for the formation of UCLs (Fig. 9). One important feature in stratocumulus is that usually
358 parcels would be forced to descend by long-wave cooling in a relatively short period of time than
359 in cumulus. By using LES, Kogan (2006) showed that the residence time of air parcels at the
360 cloud top is typically < 30 mins in stratocumulus. Thus, in the parcel modeling runs for the Sc
361 regime, the time for which parcels stay in the cloud top layer is simply assumed to be 30 minutes.
362 Although there is also an appreciable decrease of N_d caused largely by collision-coalescence, the
363 fractional loss of N_d in the stratocumulus updraft is smaller than in the Cu updraft. N_d is 126 cm^{-3}
364 when first reaching the cloud top, giving the fractional loss of 37.5 % from the cloud base (N_d is
365 $\sim 200 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at the cloud base). After the parcel stops lifting, there is a remarkable ripening effect
366 (i.e., large droplets with positive growth rates continue to grow at the expense of small droplets
367 with negative growth rates; see Celik and Marwitz 1999; Wood et al. 2002) which results in the
368 evaporation of small droplets and thus an increase of *interstitial* N_{ccn} (see Fig. 9-e) at the cloud
369 top level. Droplet evaporation can contribute about 10 % of the droplet loss at the cloud top level
370 in the Sc regime. On the contrary, in the Cu case, there is nearly no evaporation because droplets
371 in the Cu updraft can grow to larger sizes (which have saturation vapor pressure ~ 100 %) due
372 to higher S_{max} and more efficient collision-coalescence process in the Cu updrafts. At cloud top
373 level in the Sc base case, when there is still a considerable concentration of droplets and aerosols,
374 the droplet depletion rate by collision-coalescence becomes very low, preventing the formation of

375 UCLs at the cloud top layer. The mean r_e in the non-UCL clouds in the Sc base case is $\sim 10 \mu m$,
376 which is consistent with the in-situ measurements summarized in Fig. 1.

377 The left panel in Fig. 10 shows the modeling results for the Sc regime with U_z of 0.1 ms^{-1} .
378 Due to low S_{max} caused by low U_z , a large fraction of aerosols are not activated at the cloud
379 base. Due to long τ_{up} (because of low U_z) in the updraft and relatively small amount of activated
380 aerosols compared with the Sc base case, UCL cloud ($N_d < 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) is formed at the cloud
381 top layer mainly caused by collision-coalescence. This suggests that in the Sc regime, if U_z is
382 low enough, formation of UCL cloud is possible, but due to low S_{max} and thus a large amount of
383 unactivated aerosols remaining in the parcel, formation of a clear UCL (i.e., $N_{ccn} < 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) is
384 difficult. Such low U_z ($\sim 0.1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$) in stratocumulus rarely occurs over the northeastern Pacific
385 according to a recent observational study. Zheng et al. (2016) showed that observed cloud base
386 updraft in stratocumulus over the northeastern Pacific are typically in the range of $0.2 - 1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$,
387 which may explain why the observed occurrence of UCL clouds is fairly low ($< 10 \%$) in the
388 stratocumulus decks observed in CSET as we showed in Part I. The right panel in Fig. 10 shows
389 the Sc case with U_z of 3 ms^{-1} , suggesting that high U_z in updraft can possibly result in nearly
390 constant N_d vertical profile in stratocumulus, which is consistent with the previous discussion
391 regarding fractional droplet loss and τ_{up} in the updraft. For both cases, r_e in the non-UCL clouds
392 is $\sim 10 \mu m$, consistent with the in-situ measurements shown in Fig. 1. Based on the parcel
393 modeling results for the Sc regime shown in Figs. 9 and 10 with the sensitivity test on U_z , we
394 conclude that the Sc regime is typically not favorable for UCL formation.

395 Although there are some major advantages to the adoption of a Lagrangian parcel model ap-
396 proach especially for the study focus on cloud microphysical processes, there are two major
397 caveats should be addressed and discussed here: (1) the droplets falling into the parcel from above
398 (2) the entrainment of aerosol from free troposphere are not taken into account, which could be the

399 significant source of droplet concentration in the rising parcel. However, the large droplet falling
400 from above could also increase the efficiency of collision-coalescence by adding those drops that
401 are the most efficient collectors, which can result in the compensating feedback as shown in Fig.
402 8. In addition, as shown in part I of this study, veil clouds in UCLs tend to be much less tur-
403 bulent than non-UCL clouds in the same altitude, suggesting that the entrainment rate of aerosol
404 from above into the veil clouds may be much lower than in the active cumulus updraft. There-
405 fore, it seems very likely that these caveats would not affect our conclusion that UCLs should be
406 the common feature throughout the trade cumulus regions of the subtropics further to the west
407 of the Sc-Cu transitions, wherever the cumulus clusters typically precipitate with strong in-cloud
408 collision-coalescence process.

409 **4. Parameterization of droplet coalescence-scavenging rate**

410 *a. Derivation*

411 The stochastic collection equation (SCE) gives an expression for the droplet loss rate through
412 coalescence-scavenging $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs}$ (e.g., Wood (2006))

$$[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-SCE} = \frac{-1}{2} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty n(r)n(r')K(r,r') dr dr' \quad (2)$$

413 Given that each droplet coalescence event reduces the number of CCN by one, Eq. (2) can also be
414 interpreted as being a loss rate for the CCN. To explicitly solve Eq. (2), a bin microphysics scheme
415 and the full DSD is required. However, deployment of bin microphysics in a numerical model
416 needs considerable computational expense, so the microphysical schemes in LES and general
417 circulation model (GCMs) are mostly of the bulk form, which solve the prognostic equations only

418 for the bulk parameters such as N_d and q_L . Further, by using Eq. (2) and the parcel modeling,
 419 the time scale of droplet depletion and its dependence on N_d and q_L cannot be easily explored
 420 and examined. Thus, we use CSET observations to derive a parameterization for $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-SCE}$ as
 421 a function of bulk parameters, which may provide more insight into the time scale of droplet
 422 depletion by collision-coalescence. In addition, with the parameterization of droplet coalescence-
 423 scavenging rate, we will explore the role of adiabaticity f_{ad} in the collision scavenging process.
 424 With the in-situ measurements of DSDs (i.e., droplet size distribution from CDP and 2DC probes
 425 of only the cloudy samples) from CSET (the details of the measurements used here and the criteria
 426 choosing the cloudy samples is summarized in Part I), we fit the following formula to the droplet
 427 loss rate calculated from the SCE (Eq. 2).

$$[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM} = -a(N_d)^b(q_L)^c \quad (3)$$

428 Note that units of $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM}$, N_d and q_L in Eq. (3) are $[m^{-3}s^{-1}]$, $[m^{-3}]$ and $[kg\ m^{-3}]$. The
 429 values of a, b and c from the best-fitting are 8×10^4 ($7 \times 10^4, 9 \times 10^4$), 0.55 (0.545, 0.555) and
 430 1.37 (1.36, 1.375). The values in the parentheses are the lower and upper confidence bounds with
 431 95 % confidence level. Fig. 11 shows the comparison of Eq. (3) with the values calculated by
 432 SCE, indicating that the bulk parameterization of Eq. (3) agrees fairly well with the SCE (corre-
 433 lation coefficient = 0.84). It should be noted that most of the bulk microphysics models divide
 434 condensate into cloud and rain, and calculate the loss of N_d in terms of the sum of autoconversion
 435 and accretion processes. The derived droplet loss rate from SCE (Eq. 2) combine both of these
 436 effects, and describe them in terms of a single q_L , which is simpler than one would use in a bulk
 437 parameterization and is useful for our purpose here. To further examine the accuracy of the pa-

438 parameterization, $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-BIN}$ calculated from the bin microphysics parcel model (i.e., blue lines in
 439 Figs. 5-c and 9-c) can serve as the benchmark for the parameterized formula of Eq. (3).

440 Figs 12-a and 12-d show the temporal evolution of N_d and q_L calculated from the parcel model
 441 in the Cu and Sc base cases (same as Figs. 5 and 9). Note that in Fig. 12, $q_L[parcel]$ is the
 442 liquid water content of the cloud droplets inside the parcel, and $q_L[parcel + sedimentation]$ is
 443 $q_L[parcel]$ plus the liquid water content lost to sedimentation. In both cases, the comparison of
 444 adiabatic q_L (calculated based on Eq. (19) from Pinsky et al. (2013)) with the output of q_L from
 445 the parcel model (i.e., $q_L[N_d + sedimentation]$) shows good agreement, indicating that the mass of
 446 the condensate is well conserved in the modeled adiabatic rising parcel. With the outputs of N_d
 447 and $q_L[N_d]$ from the parcel model, $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM}$ can be calculated based on Eq. (3). Figs. 12-(b)
 448 and 12-(e) show the comparison of $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM}$ with $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-BIN}$ in the Cu and Sc base cases. The
 449 droplet loss rate calculated from the bin microphysics scheme and the parameterization are quite
 450 similar, suggesting that Eq. (3) could be a useful parameterization for $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs}$.

451 The maximum q_L in the Cu base case is three times as high as in the Sc base case because of
 452 the higher z_{top} assigned in the Cu base case. Interestingly, as the product of N_d and q_L , the values
 453 of $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs}$ are actually of the same order in two cases (N_d is higher in the Sc base case). Because
 454 the Cu and Sc base cases have different initial aerosol concentration assigned in the simulation, a
 455 better way to compare the efficiency of collision-coalescence is to use the fractional droplet loss
 456 rate given by

$$\frac{[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM}}{N_d} = -8 \times 10^4 (N_d)^{-0.45} (q_L)^{1.37} \quad (4)$$

457 Figs. 12-(c) and 12-(f) show the fractional loss rate of droplets in the Cu and Sc cases. The results
 458 indicate that the maximum fractional loss rate in the Sc base case is nearly five times smaller than
 459 in the Cu base case. In the Cu base case, the fractional loss rate can be higher than $20\% \text{ min}^{-1}$.
 460 On the contrary, the maximum fractional loss rate in the Sc base case is lower than $5\% \text{ min}^{-1}$.
 461 Given that the initial aerosol concentration in the Sc base case is twice as large as in the Cu base
 462 case, this further illustrates that the formation of UCLs is very unfavorable in the Sc regime.

463 With Eq. (4), the exponential time scale of droplet depletion by collision-coalescence can be
 464 written as

$$\tau_{cc}[s] = \frac{(N_d)^{0.45}(q_L)^{-1.37}}{8 \times 10^4} \quad (5)$$

465 Fig. 13 shows τ_{cc} calculated based on Eq. (5), indicating that the time scale of droplet depletion by
 466 collision-coalescence has strong dependence upon q_L but weak dependence upon N_d . This finding
 467 is consistent with the modeling results presented in Feingold et al. (1996), which suggests that the
 468 fractional droplet depletion rate by collision-coalescence is a strongly convex function of q_L and
 469 is almost independent of N_d (see Fig. 9 in Feingold et al. (1996)). Because q_L is proportional
 470 to the height above cloud base, it implies that the cloud thickness H_t is a more important factor
 471 constraining the coalescence-scavenging time scale in the MBL than is the aerosol concentration,
 472 as suggested in Wood (2006) (see Eq. (18) in Wood (2006)).

473 *b. Fractional loss of droplets $f_{top-loss}$ and its dependence on U_z , N_d , H_t and f_{ad}*

474 In this section, we derive a simple formula from Eq. (3) relating $f_{top-loss}$ with U_z , N_d , H_t and f_{ad}
 475 in order to access the relative importance of different factor in coalescence-scavenging process. By
 476 making an assumption that q_L increases linearly with the height z above cloud base, we can write

$$q_L = f_{ad}\Gamma_{ad}z \quad (6)$$

477 where Γ_{ad} is the adiabatic rate of increase of liquid water content with respect to height, and f_{ad} is
 478 the degree of adiabaticity with the range between 0 and 1. In stratocumulus, f_{ad} is often observed
 479 to be close to unity, particularly for nondrizzling stratocumulus (Albrecht et al. 1990; Zuidema
 480 et al. 2005). However, in cumulus, f_{ad} can be significantly lower because of entrainment and
 481 precipitation (Hobbs and Rangno 1996; Rauber et al. 2007). Several observational studies have
 482 shown that f_{ad} typically decreases with increasing altitude in cumulus (Hobbs and Rangno 1996;
 483 Rauber et al. 2007). Wood et al. (2009) showed that observed f_{ad} in cumulus can be parameterized
 484 by $z_0/(z_0 + z)$, where z_0 is a scaling parameter, set to 500 m. Our main purpose here is to derive a
 485 simple formula relating $f_{top-loss}$ with U_z , N_d , H_t and f_{ad} , which is no longer possible if we retain
 486 the height dependence of f_{ad} in the derivation. Therefore, in this study, we assume f_{ad} is constant
 487 with height for simplicity. Γ_{ad} is assumed to have a fixed value of $2.1 \text{ gm}^{-3}\text{km}^{-1}$ which is typical
 488 for the MBL clouds in the subtropics and tropics (Albrecht et al. 1990). With Eq. (6), integrated
 489 liquid water path (LWP) from the cloud base to z can be written as

$$LWP(z) = \frac{f_{ad}\Gamma_{ad}z^2}{2} \quad (7)$$

490 By substituting q_L from Eq. (6) into Eq. (3) and dividing Eq. (3) by U_z , the decrease in N_d with
 491 increasing altitude can be given by

$$\frac{dN_d}{dz} = \frac{-a(N_d)^{0.55}(f_{ad}\Gamma_{ad}z)^{1.37}}{U_z} \quad (8)$$

492 The integration of Eq. (8) yields

$$\frac{(N_d)_z^{0.45} - (N_d)_{base}^{0.45}}{0.45} = \frac{-a(f_{ad}\Gamma_{ad})^{1.37}z^{2.37}}{2.37U_z} \quad (9)$$

493 where $(N_d)_z$ is the number concentration of droplets at the altitude z , and $(N_d)_{base}$ is the number
 494 concentration of droplets activated at the cloud base. Then, by Eq. (9), the fractional loss of N_d
 495 from the cloud base to the cloud top $f_{top-loss}$ by collision-coalescence can be given by

$$f_{top-loss} = 1 - \frac{(N_d)_{top}}{(N_d)_{base}} = 1 - (1 - \chi_{cc})^{2.2}$$

$$\chi_{cc} = k \frac{(f_{ad})^{1.37} H_t^{2.37}}{(N_d)_{base}^{0.45} U_z} \quad (10)$$

$$k = 0.19a(\Gamma_{ad})^{1.37}$$

496 where $(N_d)_{top}$ is the droplet concentration at the cloud top, and χ_{cc} is termed the *collision-*
 497 *coalescence efficiency factor*. The expression in Eq. (10) shows that $f_{top-loss}$ increases with the
 498 increase in f_{ad} and H_t , but decreases with the increase in U_z and $(N_d)_{base}$. The positive correlation
 499 of $f_{top-loss}$ with f_{ad} and H_t is straightforward. The droplet coalescence-scavenging rate is strongly
 500 dependent on q_L (see Section 4-a), so higher adiabaticity and deeper cloud depth (i.e., higher
 501 *LWP*) both increase the depletion of N_d through collision-coalescence. Regarding the negative
 502 correlation of $f_{top-loss}$ with U_z and $(N_d)_{base}$, the illustration is already given in Sect. 3 and Sect.
 503 4-a. Fig. 14 shows contour plots of $f_{top-loss}$ against U_z , N_d , H_t and f_{ad} by assuming a reference U_z
 504 $= 1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$, $(N_d)_{base} = 75 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $H_t = 1000 \text{ m}$, and $f_{ad} = 0.6$. These values are used when they are
 505 not the variables in the contour plots (e.g., $U_z = 1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and $f_{ad} = 0.6$ are assumed in Fig. 13-a).
 506 To explore the sensitivity to the assumed reference values, another set of reference values is used

507 (i.e., $U_z = 0.25 \text{ ms}^{-1}$, $(N_d)_{base} = 200 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $H_t = 300 \text{ m}$, and $f_{ad} = 1$), and the results are shown in
 508 Fig. 15. The results calculated using two different sets of reference values are qualitatively very
 509 similar, which indicate that H_t is the most dominant factor determining $f_{top-loss}$, and $f_{top-loss}$
 510 is found to be very insensitive to $(N_d)_{base}$. U_z is found to play more important role determining
 511 $f_{top-loss}$ than does f_{ad} . Overall, the relative importance of these factors determining $f_{top-loss}$
 512 can be summarized as $H_t > U_z > f_{ad} > (N_d)_{base}$. This finding implies that H_t is a critical factor
 513 governing the efficiency of the coalescence-scavenging process.

514 5. Conclusions

515 In part I, based on the aircraft measurements from CSET, we found that ultraclean layers (UCLs)
 516 are common features in the Sc-Cu transition region over the northeastern subtropical Pacific ocean,
 517 and their fractional coverage can exceed $\sim 50 \%$ where the PBL height exceeds 1 km. In part II
 518 of this study, the main goal is to test a hypothesis for the formation of UCLs in the MBL, namely
 519 that the deep PBL height over the Sc-Cu transition region can provide high q_L in the active Cu for
 520 collision-coalescence to sufficiently deplete N_d , resulting in low N_d and large r_e in clouds that are
 521 frequently observed in the upper MBL over the Sc-Cu transition region. Because of the efficient
 522 coalescence-scavenging process, after the evaporation of UCL clouds, only a few accumulation
 523 mode particles are returned to the clear sky, leaving very low N_{ccn} in the upper MBL.

524 A rising adiabatic parcel model with a 2D bin microphysics scheme is formulated to test the
 525 hypothesis. The results suggest that in the cumulus regime, collision-coalescence can efficiently
 526 deplete N_d , grow droplets, and remove N_{ccn} from the atmosphere in Cu updrafts, leading to the
 527 occurrence of UCLs in the upper MBL. In part I of this study, a case study with the geostationary
 528 satellite data has revealed that the UCL clouds are often associated with considerable amount of
 529 optically thin MBL clouds ($\tau < 3$). We postulate that the observed optically thin clouds are often

530 layers detraining from the active Cu towers in the upper MBL. The shallow depth and low N_d
531 in these cloudy detrainment layers both contribute to the observed low cloud optical depth. The
532 maintenance of these optically thin cloudy detrainment layers involves a balance between radia-
533 tion, mesoscale ascent and cloud microphysics, which is certainly important but beyond the scope
534 of our current paper. We leave that for a future LES study. On the other hand, the parcel modeling
535 suggests that the formation of UCLs is typically not favored in the Sc regime. In summary, the
536 idealized cloud parcel simulation in this work is able to explain the observed sharp rise of UCL
537 coverage in the Sc-Cu transition region.

538 A parameterized expression for the droplet coalescence-scavenging rate $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM}$ is derived
539 as a function of bulk parameters N_d and q_L based on the in-situ measurements of DSDs from
540 CSET. The comparison of $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM}$ with the droplet loss rate derived from the SCE and the
541 bin microphysics parcel model generally shows good agreement, suggesting that $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM}$ is
542 a useful parameterization. The derived parameters in $[\dot{N}_d]_{cs-PARAM}$ imply that the time scale of
543 droplet depletion by collision-coalescence is strongly dependent upon q_L , but is weakly dependent
544 upon N_d . An expression for the fractional droplet loss from the cloud base to the cloud top $f_{top-loss}$
545 by collision-coalescence is formulated as a function of a collision-coalescence efficiency factor
546 χ_{cc} that depends on the cloud layer thickness, adiabaticity, updraft velocity, and cloud base droplet
547 concentration. Of these factors, cloud thickness is the most dominant factor determining $f_{top-loss}$,
548 and such finding is consistent with the results presented in Feingold et al. (1996) and Wood (2006).
549 In the Sc-Cu transition region, the variation of cloud thickness is controlled mainly by cloud top
550 height (i.e., cloud base heights do not vary as much as cloud top heights), which is constrained by
551 PBL height. The implication is that PBL depth could play a crucial role governing the temporal
552 and spatial variation of N_d and thus UCLs in the transition region, an issue that will be throughly
553 explored in future work.

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714 **LIST OF TABLES**

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717 during CSET and from Clarke et al. (2006). See Sect. 2 and Sect. 3 for details. . . . 36

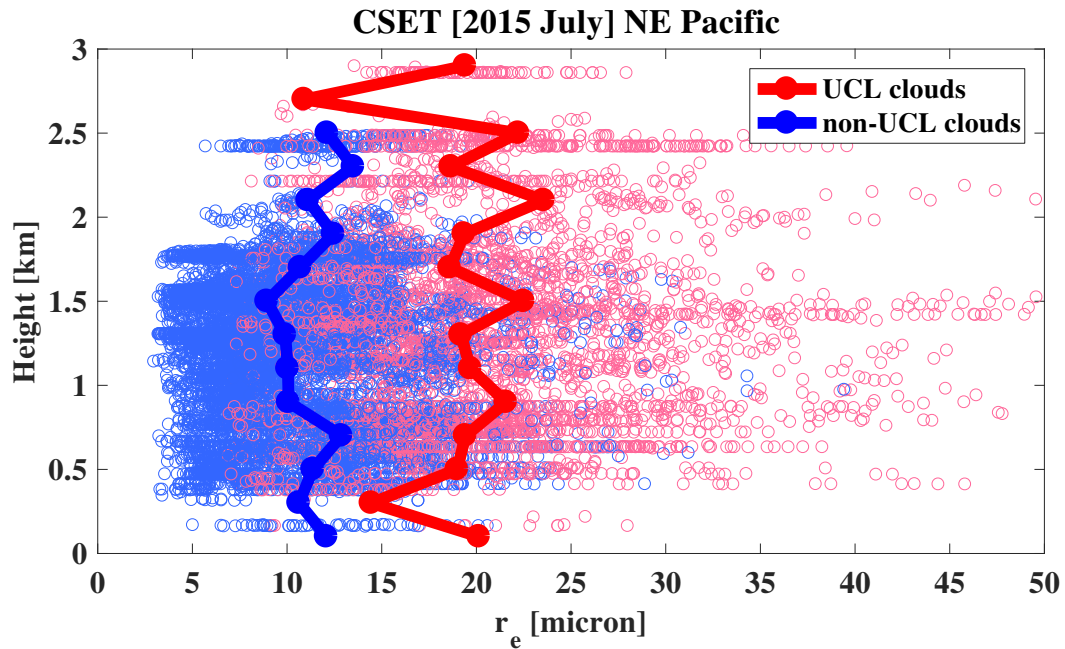
718 TABLE 1. Input parameters for the Cu and Sc regimes applied in the parcel model. Initial N_{ccn} includes both
 719 aitken mode and accumulation mode aerosol measured during CSET and from Clarke et al. (2006). See Sect. 2
 720 and Sect. 3 for details.

<i>Input parameters</i>	<i>Cumulus</i>	<i>Stratocumulus</i>
Initial N_{ccn} [cm^{-3}]	77	207
z_{top} [m]	1500	800

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773	variables in the plot (e.g., $U_z = 0.25 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and $f_{ad} = 1$ are assumed in Fig 15-a).	53



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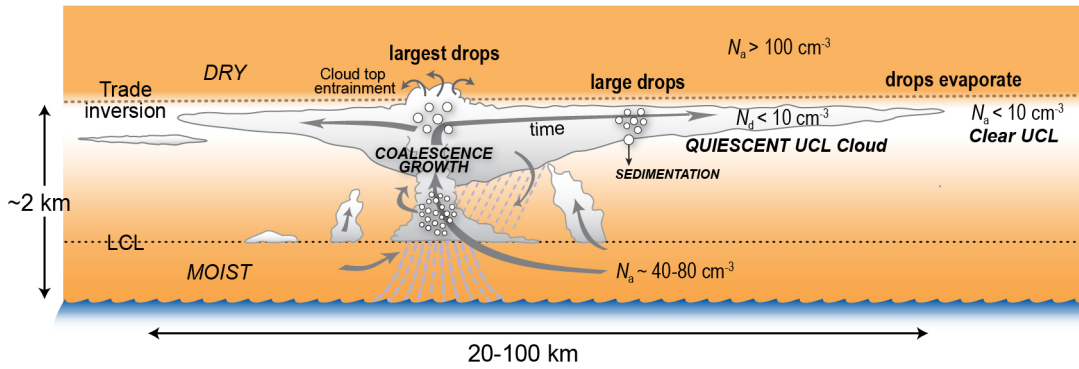
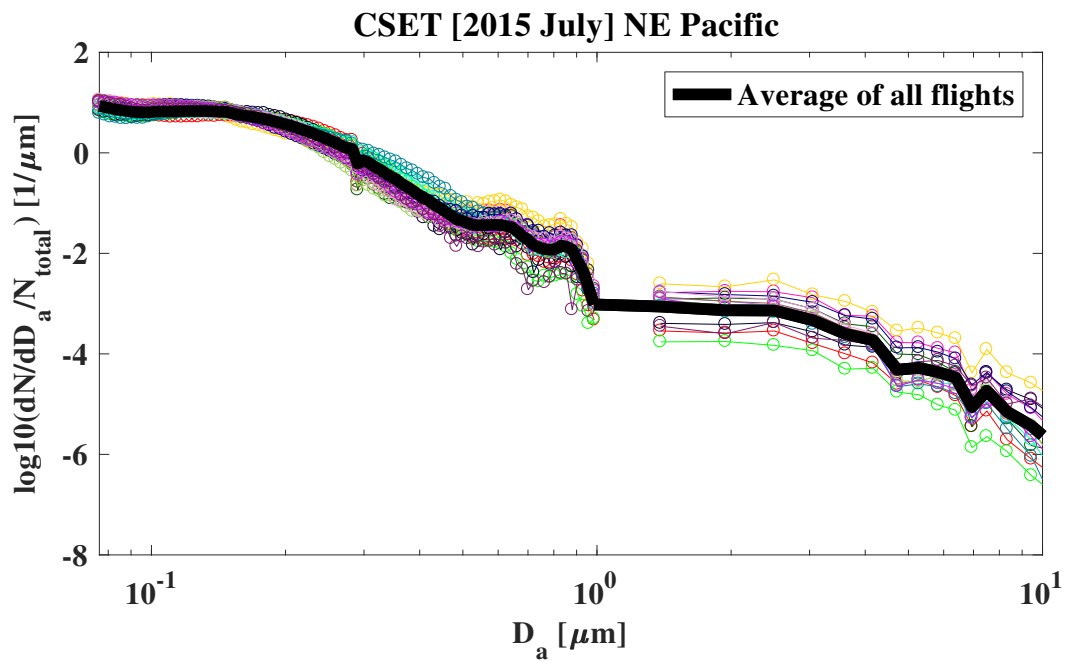
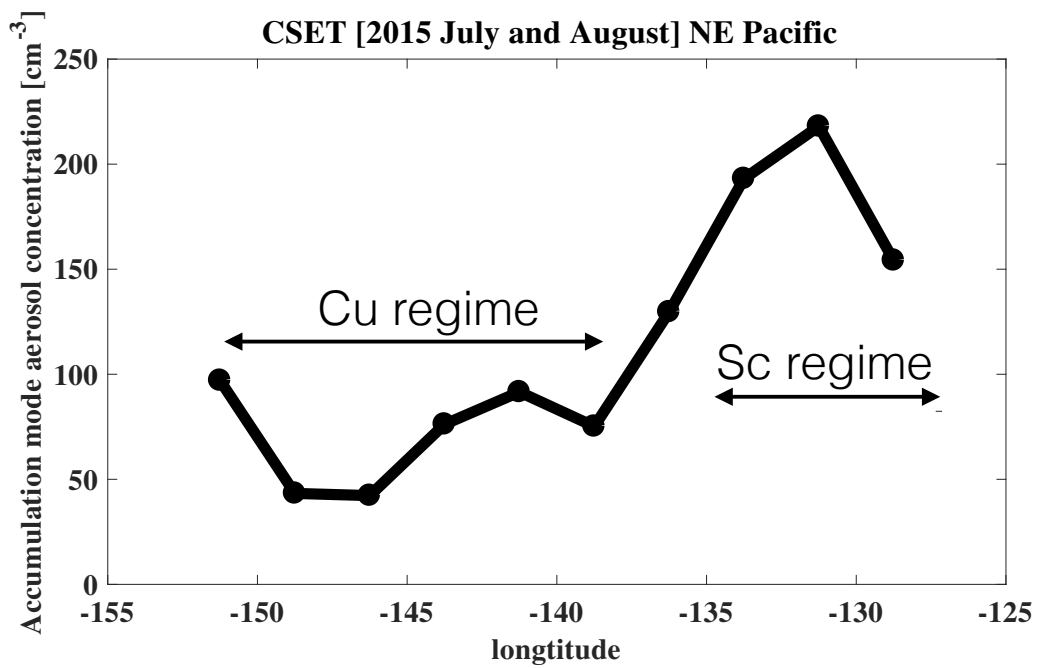


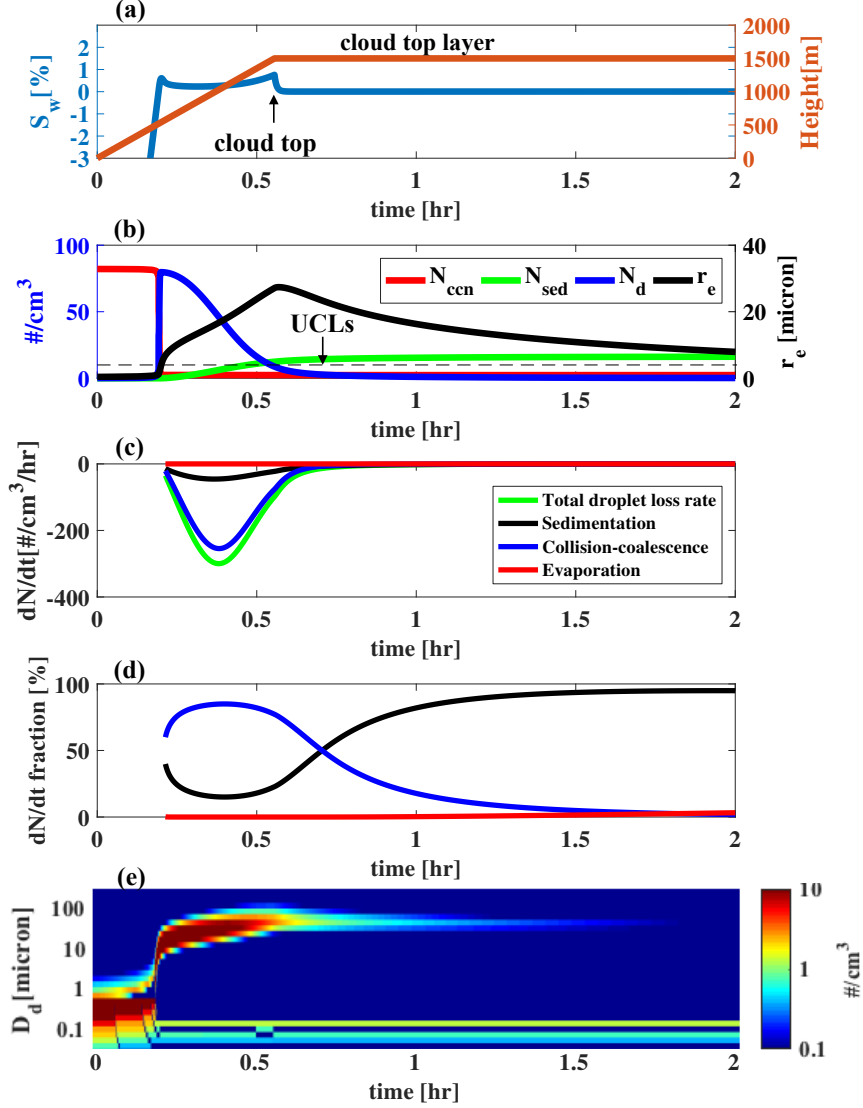
FIG. 2. Conceptual diagram of the formation of ultraclean layers in the Sc-Cu transition.



779 FIG. 3. Average normalized aerosol size distribution from CSET surface legs ($z < 170$ m) of 16 flights
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 781 size distribution from all flights.



782 FIG. 4. Average accumulation mode aerosol concentration from CSET surface legs ($z < 170\text{ m}$) as a function
 783 of longitude based on the UHSAS probe.



784 FIG. 5. Cumulus base case with U_z of 0.75 ms^{-1} . (a) Height (orange) and supersaturation ratio (blue) of
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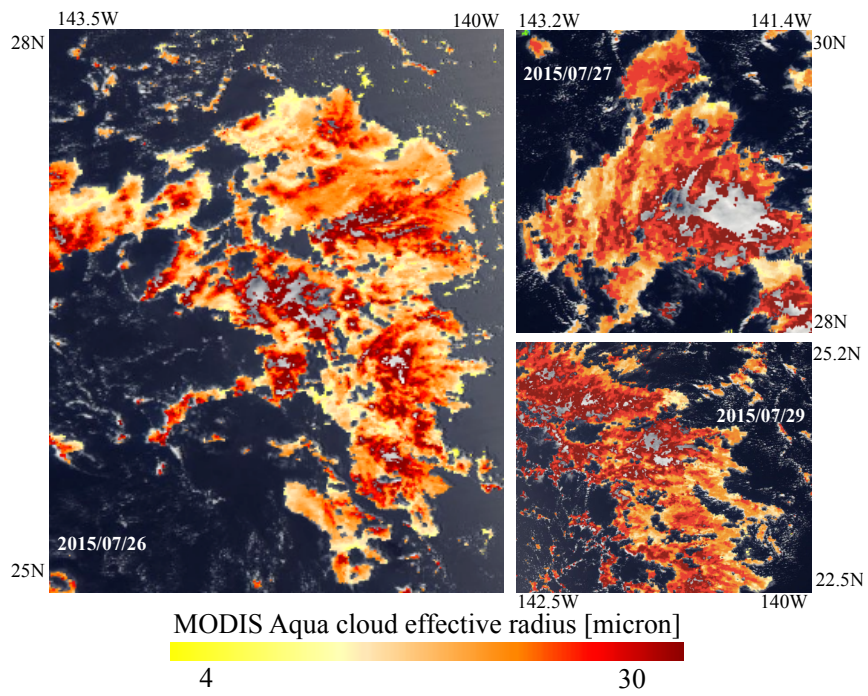


FIG. 6. MODIS retrieval of effective radius of Cu clusters in the Sc-Cu transition [3.7 micron MODIS channel]

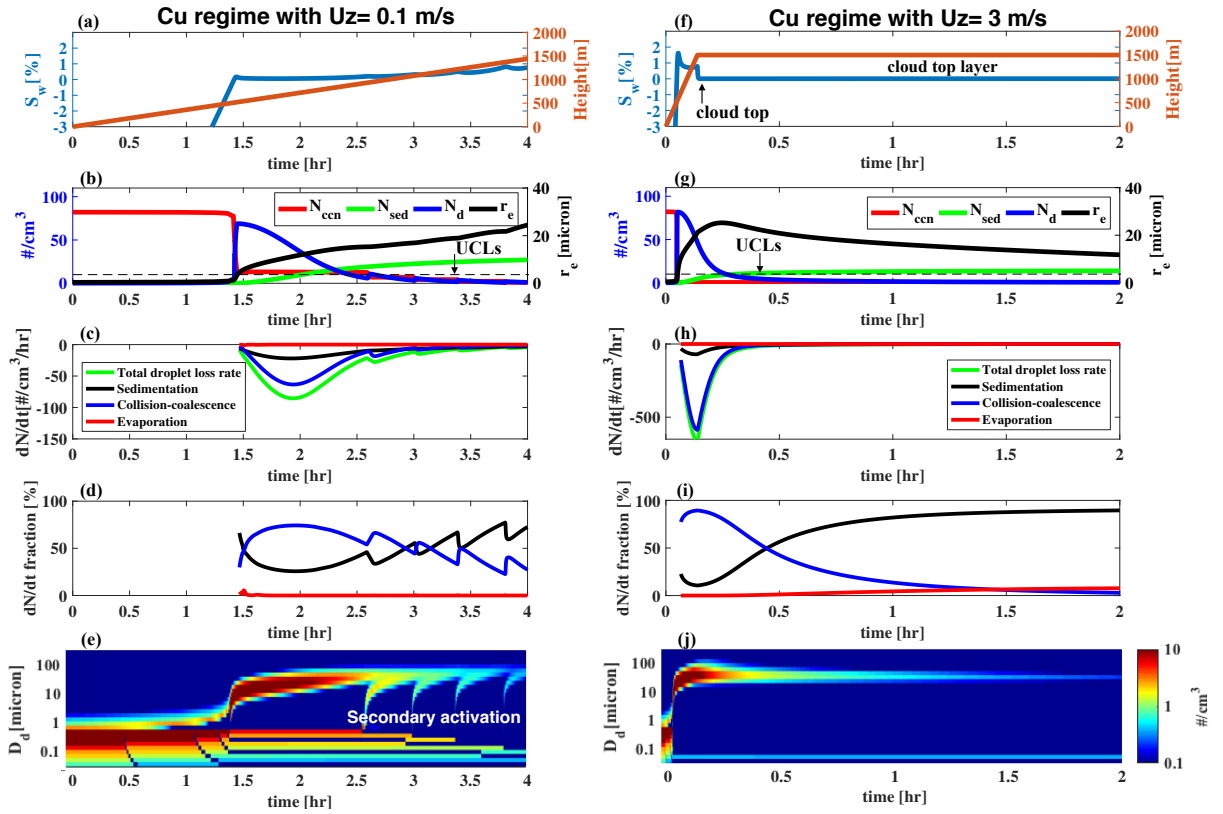
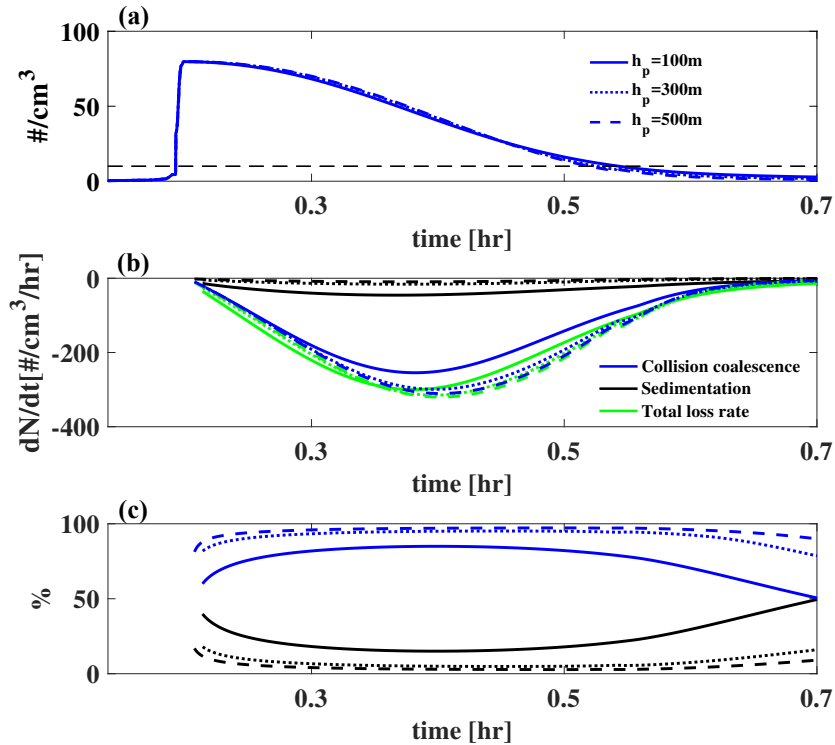


FIG. 7. Cu regime as in figure 5 except for $U_z = 0.1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and 3 ms^{-1}



791 FIG. 8. Sensitivity test to the value of h_p used in the Cu base case ($U_z = 0.75 \text{ ms}^{-1}$). solid line: $h_p = 100 \text{ m}$;
792 dotted line: $h_p = 300 \text{ m}$; dashed line: $h_p = 500 \text{ m}$. (a) Temporal evolution of cloud droplet concentration N_d in
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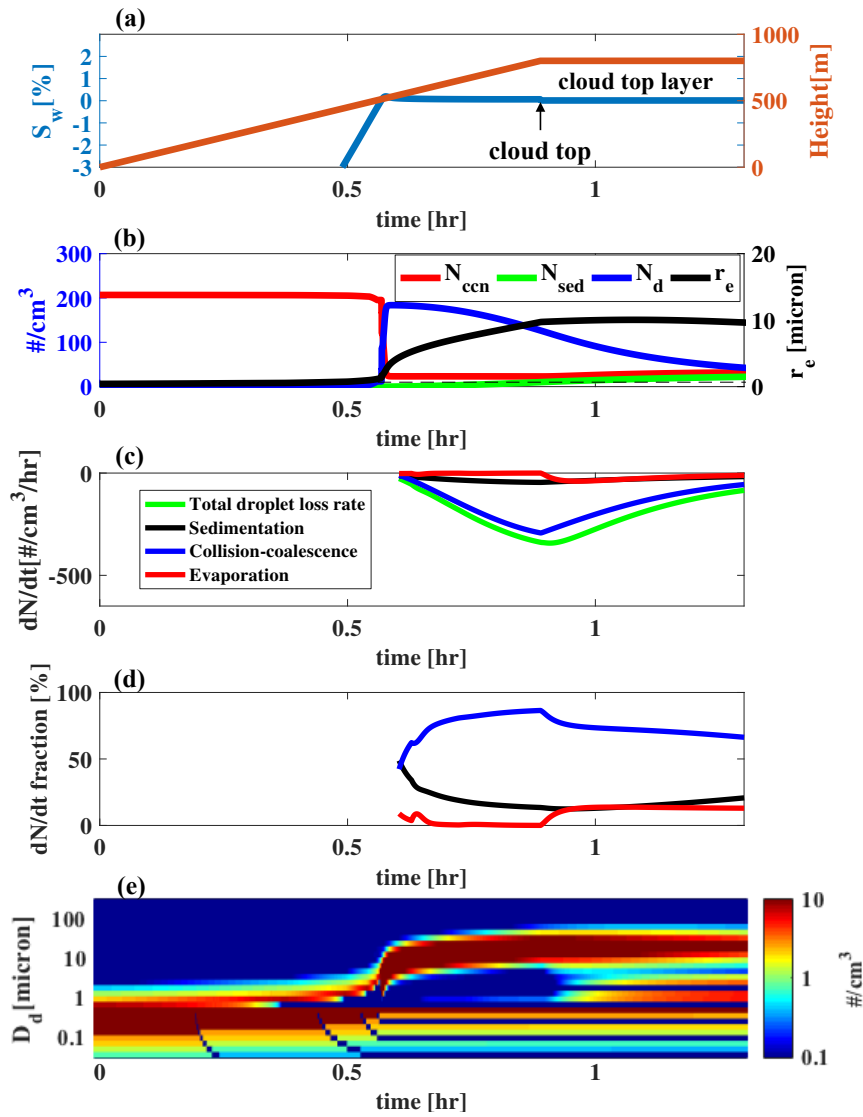


FIG. 9. As figure 5 except for the stratocumulus regime.

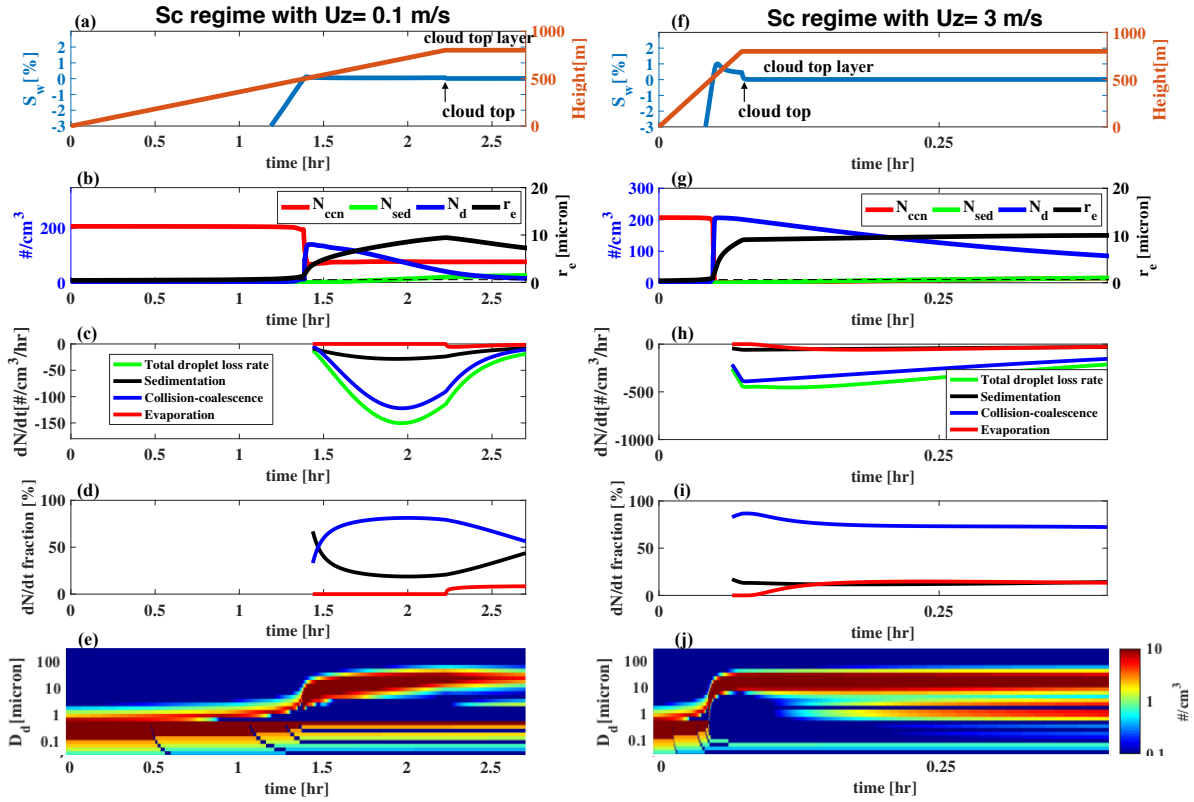
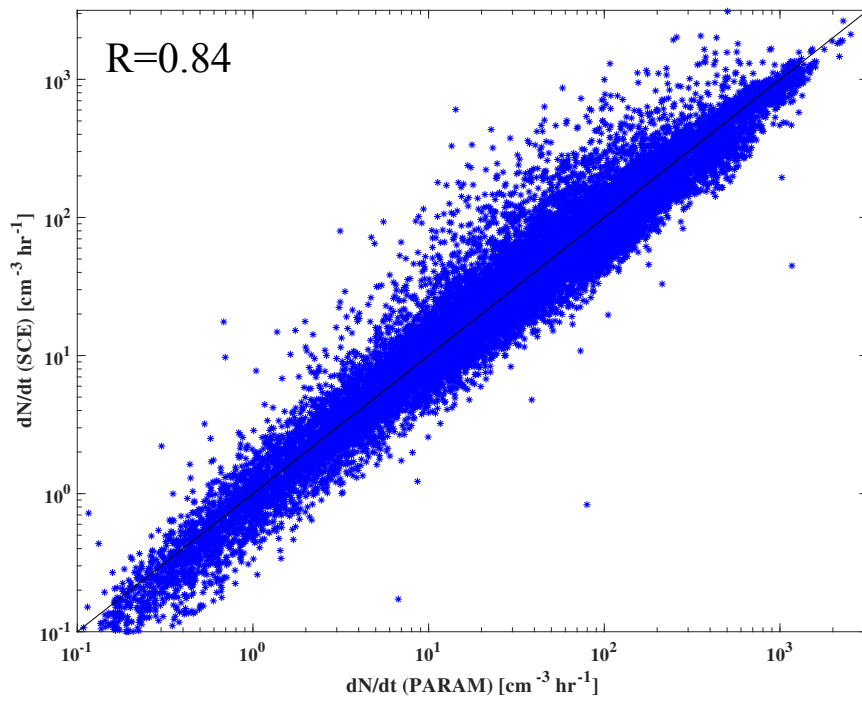
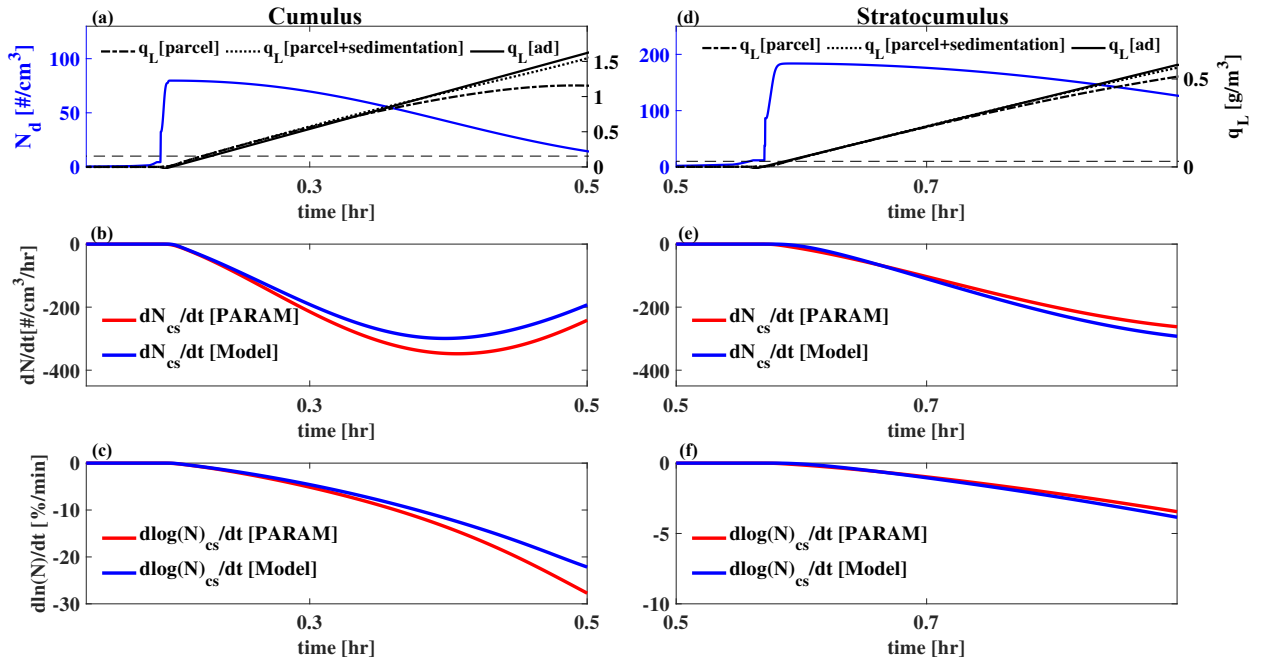


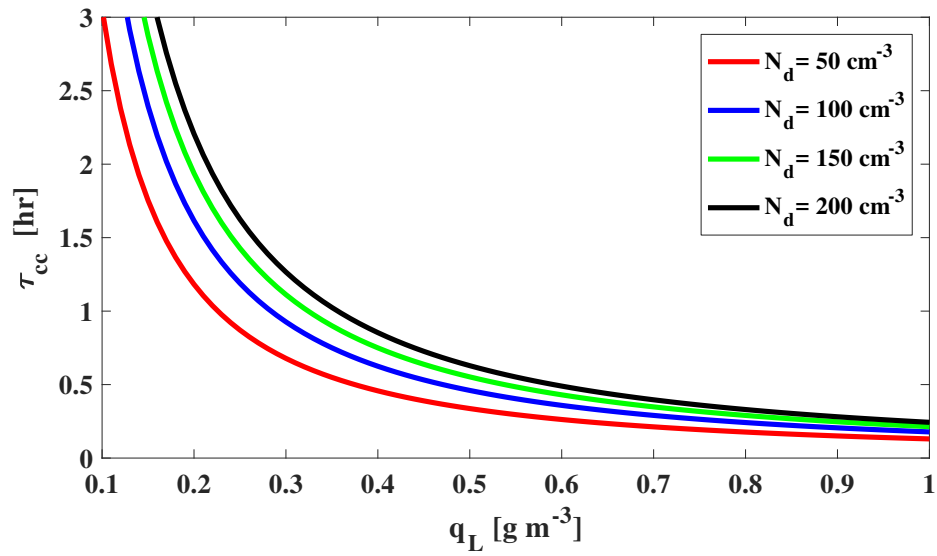
FIG. 10. Sc regime as in figure 8 except for $U_z = 0.1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ and 3 ms^{-1}



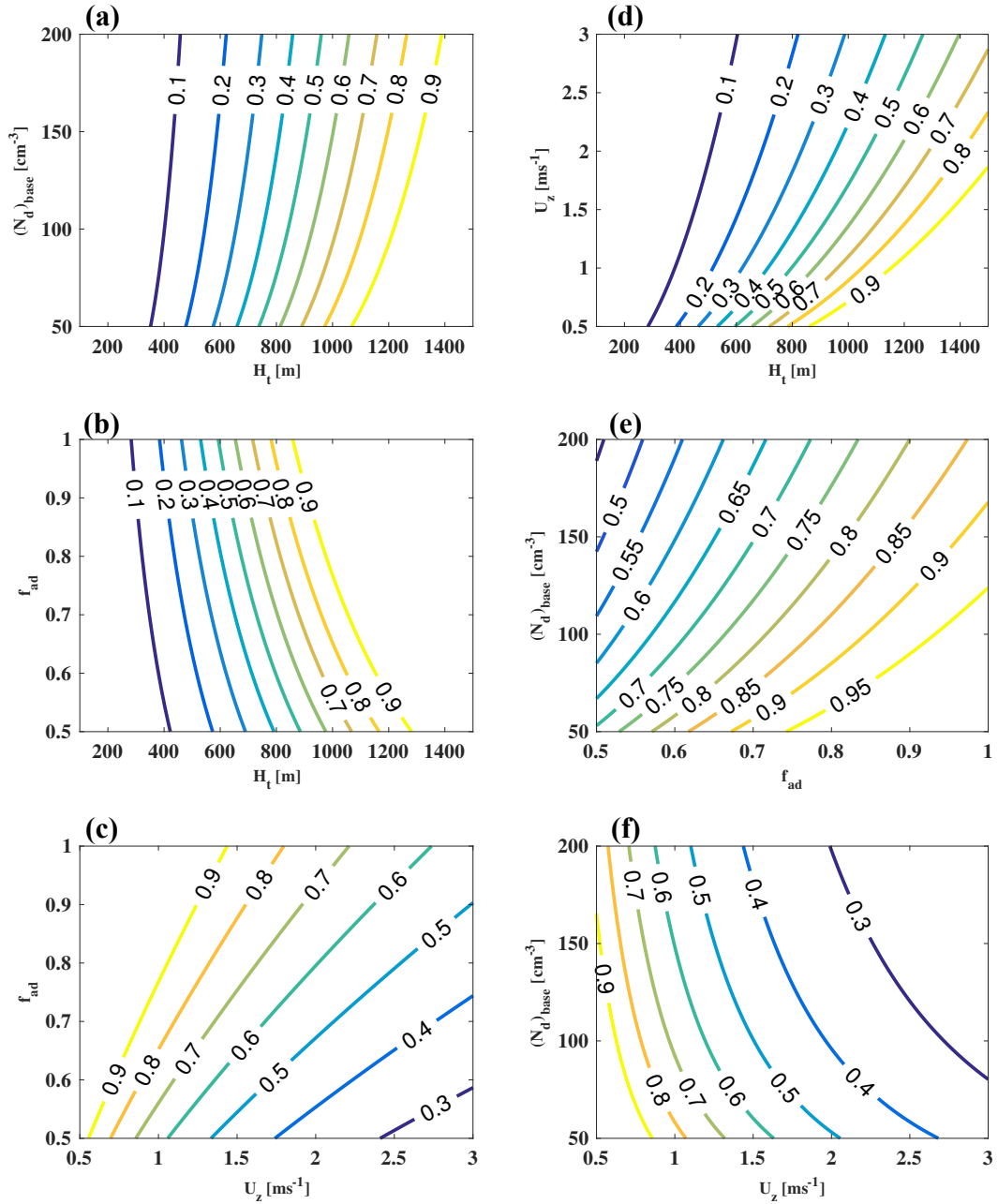
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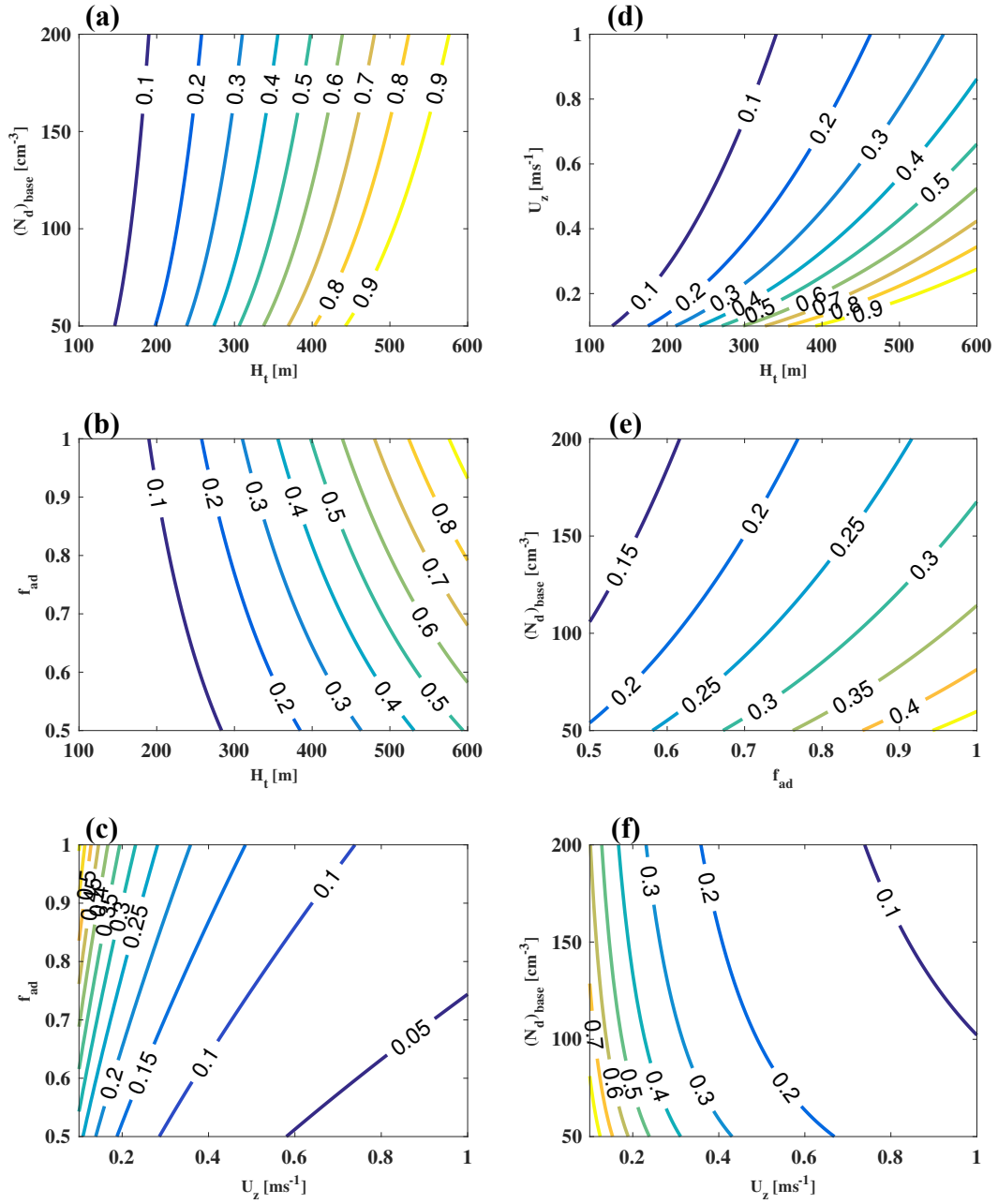
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805 FIG. 13. Time scale of droplet loss by collision-coalescence calculated by Eq. (5) as a function of liquid water
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807 FIG. 14. Contour plots of fractional loss of N_d at the cloud top from the cloud base $f_{top-loss}$ and its dependence
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811 FIG. 15. Contour plots of fractional loss of N_d at the cloud top from the cloud base $f_{top-loss}$ and its dependence
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