

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Key Points:

- New 4ICE microphysics scheme is implemented in a regional scale model
- Radar reflectivities and rain rate intensities are sensitive to the microphysics scheme
- The new 4ICE scheme produces radar structures superior to original 4ICE and 3ICE schemes

Supporting Information:

- Figures S1–S6

Correspondence to:

W.-K. Tao,

Wei-Kuo.Tao-1@nasa.gov

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High-resolution NU-WRF simulations of a deep convective-precipitation system during MC3E: Further improvements and comparisons between Goddard microphysics schemes and observations

Wei-Kuo Tao¹, Di Wu^{1,2}, Stephen Lang^{1,2}, Jiun-Dar Chern^{1,3}, Christa Peters-Lidard⁴, Ann Fridlind⁵, and Toshihisa Matsui^{1,6}

¹Mesoscale Atmospheric Processes Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA, ²Science Systems and Applications, Inc., Lanham, Maryland, USA, ³Goddard Earth Sciences Technology and Research Program, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, ⁴Hydrological Sciences Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA, ⁵NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York, New York, USA, ⁶Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA

Abstract The Goddard microphysics was recently improved by adding a fourth ice class (frozen drops/hail). This new 4ICE scheme was developed and tested in the Goddard Cumulus Ensemble (GCE) model for an intense continental squall line and a moderate, less organized continental case. Simulated peak radar reflectivity profiles were improved in intensity and shape for both cases, as were the overall reflectivity probability distributions versus observations. In this study, the new Goddard 4ICE scheme is implemented into the regional-scale NASA Unified-Weather Research and Forecasting (NU-WRF) model, modified and evaluated for the same intense squall line, which occurred during the Midlatitude Continental Convective Clouds Experiment (MC3E). NU-WRF simulated radar reflectivities, total rainfall, propagation, and convective system structures using the 4ICE scheme modified herein agree as well as or significantly better with observations than the original 4ICE and two previous 3ICE (graupel or hail) versions of the Goddard microphysics. With the modified 4ICE, the bin microphysics-based rain evaporation correction improves propagation and in conjunction with eliminating the unrealistic dry collection of ice/snow by hail can replicate the erect, narrow, and intense convective cores. Revisions to the ice supersaturation, ice number concentration formula, and snow size mapping, including a new snow breakup effect, allow the modified 4ICE to produce a stronger, better organized system, more snow, and mimic the strong aggregation signature in the radar distributions. NU-WRF original 4ICE simulated radar reflectivity distributions are consistent with and generally superior to those using the GCE due to the less restrictive domain and lateral boundaries.

1. Introduction

Many new and improved microphysical parameterization schemes have been developed over the past few decades [e.g., Ferrier, 1994; Meyers *et al.*, 1997; Reisner *et al.*, 1998; Hong *et al.*, 2004; Walko *et al.*, 1995; Colle and Zeng, 2004; Zhu and Zhang, 2006a, 2006b; Morrison *et al.*, 2005; Straka and Mansell, 2005; Milbrandt and Yau, 2005a, 2005b; Morrison and Grabowski, 2008; Thompson *et al.*, 2004, 2008; Dudhia *et al.*, 2008; Morrison and Milbrandt, 2015; Morrison *et al.*, 2015; and many others]. Please see Levin and Cotton [2008] and Tao and Moncrieff [2009] for a review of the microphysics used in cloud-resolving models as well as Table 1 in Tao *et al.* [2011a] and Lang *et al.* [2014] for a brief review of microphysics parameterizations. Table 1 lists the major characteristics for a range of previously published modeling papers in terms of model used, microphysics schemes (number of ice classes and number of moments), model resolution, integration time, and case(s). They include one- and two-moment bulk schemes with two or more ice classes, three-moment bulk schemes, and spectral bin microphysics schemes. Different approaches have been used to examine the performance of new schemes. One approach is to examine the sensitivity of precipitation processes to different microphysical schemes. This approach can help to identify the strength(s) and/or weakness(es) of each scheme in an effort to improve their overall performance [e.g., Ferrier *et al.*, 1995; Straka and Mansell, 2005; Milbrandt and Yau, 2005a, 2005b]. Idealized simulations have also been used to test new microphysical schemes by showing their behavior in a setting that is open to simpler interpretation. In addition,

Table 1. Key Papers Using High-Resolution Numerical Cloud Models with Bulk Microphysics Schemes to Study the Impact of Microphysical Schemes on Precipitation^a

Study	Model	Microphysics	Resolution/Vertical Layers	Integration Time	Case(s)
Lin et al. [1983]	2-D	3ICE	200 m/95	48 min	Montana hail event
Cotton et al. [1982, 1986]	2-D	3ICE	500 m/31	5 h	Orographic snow
Rutledge and Hobbs [1984]	2-D Kinematic	3ICE	600 m/20	Steady State	Narrow cold front
Lord et al. [1984] ^a	2-D axisymmetric	3ICE versus Warm Rain	2 km/20	4.5 days	Idealized
Yoshizaki [1986] ^c	2-D slab symmetric	3ICE versus Warm Rain	0.5 km/32	4.5 h	12 September GATE squall line
Nicholls [1987]	2-D slab symmetric	3ICE versus Warm Rain	0.5 km/25	5 h	12 September GATE squall line
Fovell and Ogura [1988] ^{c,f}	2-D slab symmetric	3ICE versus Warm Rain	1 km/31	10 h	Midlatitude squall line
Tao and Simpson [1989, 1993] ^c	2-D and 3-D	3ICE	1 km/31	12 h	GATE squall line
Tao et al. [1993]	2-D	3ICE	1 km/31	12 h	GATE squall line
McCumber et al. [1991] ^{d,f}	2-D and 3-D	3ICE (graupel versus hail, 2ICE versus 3ICE)	1 km/31	12 h	GATE squall line
Wu et al. [1999]	2-D slab symmetric	2ICE	3 km/52	39 days	TOGA COARE
Ferrier [1994]; Ferrier et al. [1995] ^c	2-D slab symmetric	two-moment 4ICE	1 km/31	12 h	COHMEX, GATE squall line
Tao et al. [1995]	2-D slab symmetric	3ICE	0.75 and 1 km/31	12 h	EMEX and PRE-STORM
Walcko et al. [1995] ^c	2-D	4ICE	0.3 km/80	30 min	Idealized
Meyers et al. [1997] ^{c,d}	2-D	two-moment 4ICE	0.5 km/80	30 min	Idealized
Straka and Mansell [2005] ^c	3-D	10-ICE	0.5 km/30	~2 h	Idealized
Lang et al. [2007] ^d	3-D	3ICE	0.25, 1, 1.5 km/41	8 h	LBA
Zeng [2008] ^d	2-D and 3-D	3ICE	1 km/41	40 days	SCSMEX, KWAJEX
Milbrandt and Yau [2005a, 2005b] ^c	1-D	three moment	N.A./51	50 min	Idealized hail storm
Morrison et al. [2005] ^c	1-D	two-moment 2ICE	N.A./27	3 days	SHEBA
Morrison and Grabowski [2008] ^c	2-D	two-moment ICE	50 m/60	90 min	FIRE-ACE
Reisner et al. [1998] ^c	MM5	3ICE and two-moment ICE	2.2 km/27	6 h	Idealized
Thompson et al. [2004] ^c	2-D MM5	3ICE	10 km/39	3 h	Winter storms
Thompson et al. [2008] ^d	2-D WRF	3ICE	10 km/39	6 h	Idealized
Colle and Mass [2000]	MM5	3ICE	1.33 km/38	96 h	Idealized
Colle and Zeng [2004] ^f	2-D MM5	3ICE	1.33 km/39	12 h	Orographic flooding
Colle et al. [2005] ^f	MM5	3ICE	1.33 km/320	36 h	Orographic
Yang and Ching [2005] ^a	MM5	3ICE	6.67 km/23	2.5 days	IMPROVE
Zhu and Zhang [2006b] ^a	MM5	3ICE	4 km/24	5 days	Typhoon Toraji (2001)
Wang [2002] ^a	TCM3-hydrostatic	3ICE	5 km/21	5 days	Hurricane Bonnie (1998)
Hong et al. [2004] ^c	2-D WRF	3ICE	250 m/80	1 h	Idealized
Li and Pu [2008] ^a	3-D WRF	3ICE	45 km/23	48 h	Idealized
Jankov et al. [2005, 2007] ^a	WRF	2ICE and 3ICE	3 km/31	1.25 days	Korea heavy rain event
Dudhia et al. [2008] ^a	WRF	2ICE and 3ICE	12 km/31	1 day	Hurricane Emily (2005)
Tao and Moncrieff [2009]; Tao et al. [2011a]	WRF	2ICE and 3ICE	5 km/31	1.5 days	IHOPE
Han et al. [2013] ^e	WRF	3ICE and 4ICE	1 km/41	1.5 days	Korean heavy snow event
Iguchi et al. [2012a, 2012b]	WRF	one- and two-moment 3ICE	1.667 km/31	3 days	IHOPE and Hurricane Katrina (2005)
Li et al. [2009a, 2009b] ^e	2-D GCE	3ICE and SBM	1.3 km/52	2 days	Northern California winter cyclone
Del Genio et al. [2012]	WRF	3ICE and SBM	1 km/60	36 h	C3VP and MC3E
Gilmore et al. [2004] ^d	SAM	two-moment 3ICE	1 km/33	12 h	PRE-STORM
Powell et al. [2012] ^e	WRF	3ICE	600 m/50	3 days	TWP-ICE
Tao et al. [2013] ^d	WRF	one- and two-moment 3ICE	1 km/40	2 h	Idealized
Wu et al. [2013] ^e	WRF	2ICE and 3ICE	3 km/61	24 h and 30 h	AMMA
Lang et al. [2011] ^d	3-D GCE	3ICE	2 km/41	2 days	MC3E
Morrison and Grabowski [2008] ^e	2-D WRF	one- and two-moment 3ICE	3 km/41	2 days	SGP MCSs
Varble et al. [2014a, 2014b] ^e	Multiple models	one- and two-moment 3ICE	250 and 500 m/70	6 h and 72 h	TRMM LBA and KWAJEX
Fridlund et al. [2012] ^e	Multiple models	one- and two-moment 2ICE/3ICE	250 m/N.A.	7 h	Idealized
Van Weverberg et al. [2012a] ^d	ARPS	3ICE	917 m and 1 km/50 or 120	6 days	TWP-ICE
			900 m–3 km/N.A.	6 days	TWP-ICE
			3 km/50	30 h	Convective and stratiform cases

Table 1. (continued)

Study	Model	Microphysics	Resolution/Vertical Layers	Integration Time	Case(s)
Van Weverberg et al. [2012b] ^e	2-D WRF	two-moment 3ICE and 4ICE	1 km/40	5 h	Idealized
Van Weverberg et al. [2013]	WRF	two-moment 3ICE	1 km/40	5 h	Idealized and TWP-ICE
Van Weverberg et al. [2013] ^e	WRF	one- and two-moment 2ICE and 3ICE	4 km/35	7 days	TWP-ICE
Bryan and Morrison [2012] ^e	3-D CM1	one- and two-moment 3ICE	250 m/100	9 h	Idealized
Morrison and Milbrandt [2011] ^e	WRF	two-moment 3ICE and 4ICE	1 km/500 m	2 h	Idealized
Morrison and Grabowski [2007] ^e	2-D Kinematic	two-moment 3ICE w/ bin warm rain	N.A.	N.A.	Idealized
Luo et al. [2010] ^{de}	WRF	one- and two-moment 3ICE	3.3 km/30	1 day	Mei-Yu front
Li et al. [2008]	3-D University of Utah CRM	3ICE	500 m/N.A.	3 days	KWAJEX
Molthan and Colle [2012]	WRF	one- and two-moment 3ICE	9, 3, 1 km/34	1 day	MCS
Guy et al. [2013]	3-D GCE	3ICE	1 km/63	>10 h	C3VP synoptic snow event
Lang et al. [2014]	3-D GCE	3ICE and 4ICE	200 m and 1 km/70 and 76	6 h and 96 h	AMMA 2 Sahel MCSs
Saleeby and Cotton [2004] ^c	3-D RAMS	one- and two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme and Drizzle mode	2.0 km/40	2 h	TRMM LBA and MC3E MCS
Saleeby et al. [2007] ^c	3-D RAMS	two-moment, new ice fall speeds	3.0 km/35	36 h	Idealized supercell
Saleeby and Cotton [2008] ^c	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE	2.0 km/45	27 h	Winter synoptic case/orographic
Saleeby et al. [2010] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	1.25 km/50	48 h	Orographic snowfall
Saleeby et al. [2009, 2013] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	750 m/45	42 h	Warm and mixed-phase maritime cumulus
Saleeby and van den Heever [2013] ^c	2-D and 3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	600 m/45	1 day	Orographic snowfall
Saleeby et al. [2015] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment, Aerosol scheme	200 m/50 m	1 day	Shallow warm rain
Igel et al. [2013] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	1 km/0.1–1 km	2 h	Deep convection
Igel et al. [2015] ^f	3-D RAM	one- and two-moment 5ICE	3 km/75–800 m	42 h	Orographic snowfall
Grant and van den Heever [2015] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	250 m/40	36 h	ATEX
Grant and van den Heever [2014] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	3.0 km/45	48 h	Synoptic warm front
van den Heever and Cotton [2004] ^e	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	70–750 m/65	10 days	RCE
van den Heever et al. [2006] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	25–300 m/92	3 h	Idealized supercell
van den Heever et al. [2011] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	100 m–1.0 km/57	16 h	Idealized sea breeze convection
van den Heever and Cotton [2007] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	1.0 km/35	2 h	Idealized supercell
van den Heever et al. [2014] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	500 m/36	12 h	CRYSTAL-FACE Deep convection
Seigel et al. [2013] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	1.5 km/40	26 h	St. Louis urban convection
Seigel and van den Heever [2013] ^e	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	1.0 km/38	100 days	Radiative convective equilibrium
Adams-Selin et al. [2013a] ^e	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	2.0 km/56	144 h	Idealized TC
Adams-Selin et al. [2013b] ^e	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	500 m/70	7 h	Idealized continental squall line
Storer et al. [2010] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	500 m/65	7 h	Idealized continental squall line
Storer and van den Heever [2013] ^f	3-D RAMS	two-moment 5ICE, Aerosol scheme	1.0 km/72	6 h	Oklahoma bow echo
Zhu et al. [2012] ^e	Multiple models	one- and two-moment 3ICE	3.0 km/35	24 h	Oklahoma bow echo
Varble et al. [2014a, 2014b] ^e	Multiple models	one- and two-moment 3ICE	1.0 km/65	5.5 h	Idealized supercell
			1–2.8 km/50–92	100 days	RCE deep convection
			917 m and 1 km/76–103	33 h	TWP-ICE
				33 h	TWP-ICE

^aModel type (2-D or 3-D), microphysical scheme (one moment or multimoment), horizontal resolution and number of vertical layers, integration time, and case(s) are listed. TCM3 stands for the "Tropical Cyclone Model with triple nested movable mesh." RCE is radiative-convective equilibrium, SGP the southern Great Plains, ATEX the AMMA the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analyses, TWP-ICE the Tropical Warm Pool International Cloud Experiment, CRYSTAL-FACE the Cirrus Regional Study of Tropical Anvils and Cirrus Layers—Florida Area Cirrus Experiment, IMPROVE the Improvement of Microphysical Parameterization through Observational Verification Experiment, EMEX the Equatorial Monsoon Experiment, SCSMEX the South China Sea Monsoon Experiment, KWAJEX the Kwajalein Experiment, PRE-STORM the Preliminary Regional Experiment for STORM-Central, TOGA-COARE the Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere Coupled Ocean Atmosphere Response Experiment, GATE the Global Atmospheric Research Program's Atlantic Tropical Experiment, SHEBA the Surface Heat Budget of the Arctic Ocean Experiment, COHMEX the Cooperative Huntsville Meteorological Experiment, and FIRE-ACE the FIRE Arctic Cloud Experiment.

^bComparison with the present study.

^cDevelopment of a new scheme.

^dExisting schemes.

^eDifferent schemes.

^fProcess (budget) studies.

another approach has been to examine specific microphysical processes (e.g., turning melting/evaporation on or off, reducing the autoconversion rate from cloud water to rain, etc.) within one particular microphysical scheme. This approach can help to identify the dominant microphysical processes within a particular scheme (i.e., evaporation, melting of large precipitating ice particles, etc.) responsible for determining the organization and structure of convective systems (e.g., *Tao et al.* [1995], *Wang* [2002], *Colle et al.* [2005], *Zhu and Zhang* [2006a], and many others). In this paper, the main focus is on the first approach wherein the performance of several different Goddard microphysical schemes is examined; however, the sensitivity to some individual processes is also presented.

Cloud-resolving models (CRMs) are typically run at a horizontal grid spacing of 1–2 km or finer and can simulate the dynamical and microphysical processes associated with deep, precipitating atmospheric convection. One advantage of using CRMs is that they allow for explicit interactions between cloud microphysics, radiation, and surface processes. Another advantage is that each model grid is either fully clear or cloudy, so that no cloud (maximum and random) overlap assumption is required.

Simulations using the Goddard Cumulus Ensemble (GCE) model [*Tao et al.*, 2014] with a new 4ICE (cloud ice, snow, graupel, and frozen drops/hail) scheme for an intense squall line observed over central Oklahoma during the Midlatitude Continental Convective Clouds Experiment (MC3E) and loosely organized moderate convection observed over Amazonia during the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission Large-Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experiment in Amazonia (TRMM LBA) [*Lang et al.*, 2014] produced peak reflectivity profiles that were superior to previous iterations of the Goddard 3ICE graupel microphysics scheme [*Tao et al.*, 2003; *Lang et al.*, 2007, 2011] with peak intensities closer to the observed and that monotonically decreased with height also as observed. The 4ICE scheme was able to match the infrequent but relatively rare occurrence of intense echoes within the convective cores. Simulated reflectivity distributions versus height were also improved versus radar in both cases compared to the earlier 3ICE versions. The main reason for developing the 4ICE scheme was to expand the ability of the microphysics to include more intense convection without the need to switch schemes (i.e., from 3ICE-graupel to 3ICE-hail) a priori. Furthermore, hail and graupel can occur in real weather events simultaneously. Therefore, a 4ICE scheme with both graupel and hail is useful for numerical weather prediction, especially for high-resolution prediction of severe local thunderstorms, midlatitude squall lines and tornadoes. Current and future global high-resolution CRMs need the ability to predict/simulate a variety of weather systems from weak to intense (i.e., tropical cyclones and thunderstorms) over the entire globe; a 4ICE scheme can respond appropriately to such a variety of environmental conditions.

GCE model simulations are typically forced with the observed large-scale advective tendencies for temperature and water vapor using cyclic lateral boundary conditions [i.e., *Tao et al.*, 2003; *Moncrieff et al.*, 1997], as was the case for the simulations of the intense MC3E squall line in *Lang et al.* [2014]. However, the horizontally uniform forcing and cyclic boundaries can influence the simulated spatial structures of the squall line. Therefore, the performance of the 4ICE scheme needs to be further assessed with different types of numerical models and initial/lateral boundary conditions. Improved versions of the Goddard bulk microphysics with different options (3ICE and 4ICE) have been implemented into the NASA Unified-Weather Research and Forecasting (NU-WRF) model. The major objectives of this study are to examine the performance of these different Goddard schemes in terms of their simulated radar structures, reflectivity distributions, and precipitation characteristics versus observations and their vertical distributions of cloud species. Data collected during the joint NASA/Department of Energy MC3E field campaign will be used for this study. The paper has the following organization. Section 2 describes NU-WRF, the Goddard microphysics and a synopsis of the modifications made to it, the MC3E case, and the numerical experiments. Section 3 presents the simulation results and their evaluation versus observations, and the summary and conclusions are given in section 4.

2. NU-WRF, Goddard Microphysics and Case Descriptions

2.1. NU-WRF

To better represent/simulate cloud aerosol precipitation land surface processes and their interactions on satellite resolvable scales (~1 km grid spacing), several physical process parameterizations developed for NASA, including CRM-based microphysics and radiation [*Tao et al.*, 2003; *Lang et al.*, 2007, 2011], have been implemented into WRF (versions 3.1.1 up through 3.5.1), collectively known as the NASA Unified-WRF or NU-WRF [*Peters-Lidard et al.*, 2014], which is available to non-NASA users. These physical processes have been tested on convective systems in different environments, including a linear convective system in Oklahoma

from the International H₂O project (IHOP-2002) [Santanello *et al.*, 2009], an Atlantic hurricane (Hurricane Katrina, 2005) [Tao *et al.*, 2011a], high latitude snow events from the Canadian CloudSat CALIPSO Validation Project (C3VP) in 2007 [Shi *et al.*, 2010; Iguchi *et al.*, 2012a, 2012b, 2014], a Pacific typhoon (Typhoon Morakot, 2009) [Tao *et al.*, 2011b], and mesoscale convective systems (MCSs) in Africa [Shi *et al.*, 2014] and the Southern Great Plains (MC3E in 2011 [Tao *et al.*, 2013]). In addition, two other major NASA modeling components have been coupled with NU-WRF representing land surfaces (i.e., the Land Information System) [Kumar *et al.*, 2006] and aerosols (i.e., the WRF Chemistry Model and Goddard Chemistry Aerosol Radiation and Transport Model) [Chin *et al.*, 2000, 2002, 2004].

2.2. Goddard Microphysics

Several versions of the one-moment (1 M) two-class liquid and three-class ice microphysics scheme developed and coded at Goddard for the GCE model [Tao and Simpson, 1993] mainly based on Lin *et al.* [1983] with additional processes from Rutledge and Hobbs [1984] have been implemented into NU-WRF, including the 3ICE scheme with graupel [Tao and Simpson, 1989, 1993; Lang *et al.*, 2007, 2011] and the 3ICE scheme with hail [McCumber *et al.*, 1991; Tao *et al.*, 2003]. A new 1 M Goddard four-class ice (4ICE) scheme built upon previous, successive revisions [Lang *et al.*, 2007, 2011] to the Goddard 3ICE scheme with graupel has recently been developed [Lang *et al.*, 2014]. This new 4ICE scheme, which requires ~20% more CPU time than the improved 3ICE graupel scheme, has prognostic variables for cloud ice, snow, graupel, and hail and has just now been implemented into NU-WRF based on WRF 3.4.1. In this study, this new 4ICE scheme (referred to hereafter as the “original” 4ICE scheme) is further enhanced with the addition of a simple hail size mapping, a snow breakup effect and revisions to the prescribed snow size mapping, saturation adjustment scheme, and number concentration formula (and is referred to hereafter as the “modified” 4ICE scheme) and then evaluated in NU-WRF versus the Goddard 3ICE graupel, 3ICE hail, and the original version of the new 4ICE scheme.

2.2.1. The Improved 3ICE Graupel Scheme

Lang *et al.* [2007] eliminated the dry collection of ice/snow by graupel in the Goddard 3ICE-graupel scheme to reduce the unrealistic presence of graupel in simulated anvils. However, radar comparisons using contoured frequency with altitude diagrams (CFADs) [Yuter and Houze, 1995] revealed that the resulting snow contents were too large. These were reduced mainly by lowering the collection efficiency of cloud water by snow and resulted in further agreement with the radar observations. Overall, the transfer of cloud-sized particles to precipitation-sized ice appeared to be too efficient in the original scheme. The resulting changes lead to more realistic model precipitation ice contents and as a consequence more physically realistic hydrometeor profiles for radiance calculations for remote sensing applications.

The performance of the 3ICE graupel scheme was further improved by reducing the bias in over penetrating 40 dBZ echoes at higher altitudes due mainly to excessively large contents and/or sizes of graupel particles at those altitudes [Lang *et al.*, 2011]. This was achieved primarily by introducing size mappings for snow/graupel as functions of temperature and mass. Other improvements were made and include: accounting for relative humidity and cloud ice size in the vapor growth of ice to snow, adding Hallett-Mossop rime splintering, replacing the Fletcher curve for the number of active ice nuclei (IN) with the Meyers *et al.* [1992] curve in the cloud ice nucleation, depositional growth, and Bergeron growth parameterizations, allowing ice supersaturations of 10% in the saturation scheme, adding contact nucleation and immersion freezing, including cloud ice fall speeds, and allowing for graupel/snow sublimation. These changes both reduced excessive 40 dBZ penetrations aloft while significantly improving the overall model reflectivity CFADs.

2.2.2. The New 4ICE Scheme

The improved 3ICE graupel scheme was then enhanced by the addition of hail processes and further modified to produce a new 4ICE scheme (cloud ice, snow, graupel, and frozen drops/hail) capable of simulating both intense and moderate convection [Lang *et al.*, 2014]. Hail processes taken from the 3ICE hail scheme based on Lin *et al.* [1983] included hail riming, accretion of rain, deposition/sublimation, melting, shedding, and wet growth. However, hail dry collection was eliminated to prevent the same excessive buildup of hail as had occurred previously with graupel [Lang *et al.*, 2007], but hail near wet growth is allowed to efficiently collect other ice particles. Processes that freeze rain now initiate hail not graupel, and upon reaching wet growth, graupel is transferred to hail. Four new hail processes were added: wet hail accretion of graupel, rime splintering via hail riming, hail conversion to snow via deposition at colder temperatures (also applied to graupel), and hail conversion to graupel due to riming under nonwet growth conditions. Besides the addition of hail processes, further modifications were made to the 3ICE processes, including the allowance of ice supersaturations of

20%, mitigating spurious evaporation/sublimation, the inclusion of a bin microphysics-based [Li *et al.*, 2009a, 2009b, 2010] rain evaporation correction but with physical raindrop size constraints, and a vapor diffusivity factor. The 3ICE snow/graupel size-mapping schemes were adjusted for more stability at higher mixing ratios and to increase the aggregation effect for snow. A snow density mapping [Brandes *et al.*, 2007] was also added.

The resulting 4ICE scheme was shown to perform well not only for the intense MC3E 20 May squall line case presented in this study but also for less organized moderate convection observed during TRMM LBA. Not only were the 4ICE radar CFADs as good or better than the previous 3ICE graupel versions, but peak reflectivity profiles even for the moderate case were superior to the 3ICE in overall intensity despite the addition of a frozen drops/hail category by realistically decreasing monotonically with height above the freezing level as observed due to the greater fall speeds of hail, which allowed higher density precipitation ice to remain near the freezing level.

2.2.3. Additional Modifications to the 4ICE Scheme

Several additional modifications are added in this article to further improve the flexibility and performance of the 4ICE scheme. First, although ice supersaturations on the order of tens of percent are commonly observed [Jensen *et al.*, 2001; Stith *et al.*, 2002; Garrett *et al.*, 2005], average values are much lower [Heymsfield and Miloshevich, 1995; Fu and Hollars, 2004]. The maximum allowable ice supersaturation was increased to 20% in the original 4ICE scheme. But this, as will be shown, when applied everywhere, results in a weak convective system overall. Therefore, a new formulation is used that allows for a background ice supersaturation of 5%, which increases linearly up to a maximum of 21% as the updraft intensity increases above a background value of 2 m s^{-1} . Second, the autoconversion of cloud ice to snow (Psaut) follows a Kessler-style formulation wherein a threshold ice amount must be exceeded before the excess is converted to snow based on a specified timescale and efficiency. The previous configuration for Psaut was quite weak and although strengthened in the original 4ICE, still appears too weak and contributes to having a patchy anvil. The threshold is therefore lowered from 0.6 to 0.06 g m^{-3} to improve the homogeneity of the simulated anvils. The Meyers *et al.* [1992] curve for the number of active IN is also replaced by the Cooper curve [Cooper, 1986]. Being a 1 M scheme, the previous ice concentration is not stored, which, using the Meyers curve, results in the number of IN decreasing as excess vapor is absorbed. In conjunction with this change, the IN concentration is constrained so the mean cloud ice particle size cannot exceed the specified minimum snow size of $100 \mu\text{m}$.

Next, the snow mapping scheme was reconfigured to account for the effects of snow breakup via interactions with graupel and hail. Although dry collection is turned off in the original 4ICE such that graupel and hail do not collect snow, their interaction can affect the distribution of snow particle sizes. Over the years much effort [e.g., Hallet and Mossop, 1974; Hobbs and Rangno, 1985; Oraltay and Hallet, 1989] has been devoted to explaining the mechanisms by which ice crystal concentrations can be observed well in excess of the background IN concentration [e.g., Mossop *et al.*, 1968, 1972; Hobbs, 1969, 1974]. These secondary ice multiplication studies have focused primarily on the enhancement of ice crystal concentrations. Less research has been done in the area of mechanical ice breakup via ice-ice collisions [Yano and Phillips, 2011] and very little regarding the impact on the larger parent particles. In addition to the potential for interactions between various sizes of snow particles themselves to produce a self-limiting snow size distribution [Lo and Passarelli, 1982], larger aggregates are unlikely to coexist with faster falling graupel or hail particles as they would likely breakup as a result of such collisions. Vardiman [1978] performed early laboratory measurements of ice fragmentation and demonstrated the potential efficacy of mechanical fracturing especially of rimed dendrites by graupel. Griggs and Choulaton [1986] also conducted a laboratory study on ice fragmentation and reported that vapor-grown dendrites are fragile and that their collision with graupel could produce a substantial number of ice crystals.

Using the laboratory data of Takahashi *et al.* [1995] and Yano and Phillips [2011] constructed an idealized model to demonstrate that mechanical break up due to ice-ice collisions involving graupel can substantially contribute to the ice multiplication effect. Although these studies again focused on the production of ice fragments, such collisions would have an impact on the parent snow particle sizes. The snow mapping scheme that was carried over and modified in the original 4ICE scheme has been further modified to allow a more robust aggregation effect in the absence of graupel and hail. However, when graupel and/or hail is present, a simple scaling (S_{hgx}) based on the local graupel/hail mixing ratio(s) is used to increase the snow intercept obtained from the mapping scheme to reduce snow particle size where

$$S_{hgx} = \max(1, q_h \times 125.) + \max(1, q_g \times 25.) \quad \text{when } q_h > 0.008 \text{ g m}^{-3}, q_g > 0.04 \text{ g m}^{-3}$$

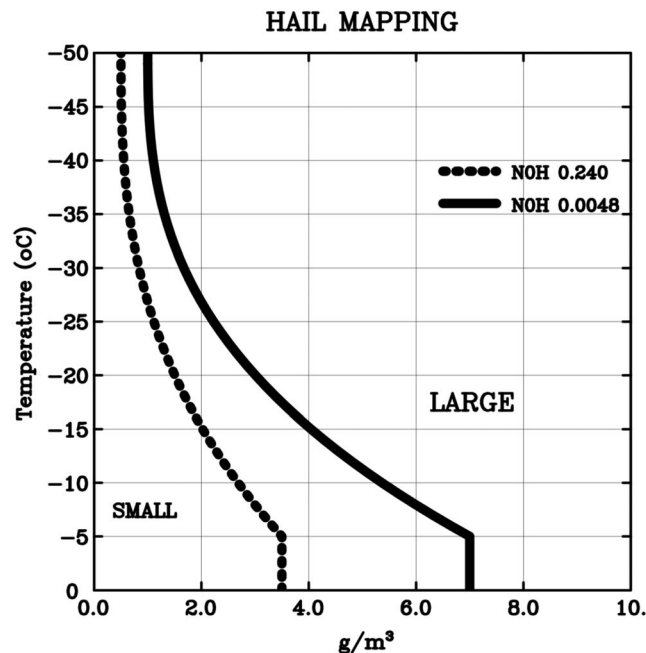


Figure 1. Hail mapping size thresholds as a function of (horizontal axis) hail mixing ratio and local (vertical axis) cloud temperature. Hail mixing ratios less than the dashed line use a larger intercept (i.e., 0.240 cm^{-4}) representative of smaller hail, while those greater than the solid line use a smaller intercept (i.e., 0.0048 cm^{-4}) representative of larger hail at each given temperature. Intercept values are interpolated for mixing ratios between the two thresholds.

devised based on the peak hail profiles from the moderate and intense cases in the *Lang et al.* [2014] study. In the mapping, a starting intercept appropriate for smaller hail (i.e., 0.240 cm^{-4}) is scaled down (i.e., hail size increases) as the hail mixing ratio increases beyond a minimum threshold. It then reaches a minimum value (i.e., 0.0048 cm^{-4}) upon reaching a maximum threshold beyond which it no longer changes. Figure 1 shows the two thresholds as a function of the local (i.e., in cloud not environmental) temperature.

2.3. The 20 May 2011 Squall Line

MC3E was a joint field campaign between the DOE Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program Climate Research Facility and NASA's Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission ground validation program [Petersen and Jensen, 2012]. It took place in central Oklahoma from 22 April to 6 June 2011. Some of its major objectives involve the use of high-resolution CRMs in precipitation science and include (1) testing the fidelity of CRM simulations via intensive statistical comparisons between simulated and observed cloud properties and latent heating fields for a variety of case types, (2) establishing the limits of CRM space-time integration capabilities for quantitative precipitation estimates, and (3) supporting the development and refinement of physically based GPM microwave imager, dual-frequency precipitation radar, and DPR-GMI combined retrieval algorithms using ground-based observations, aircraft measurements, airborne radar and radiometer, and CRM simulations. The focus of this study will be the intense squall line case presented in *Lang et al.* [2014].

On 20 May 2011 a deep, upper level low over the central Great Basin moved across the central and southern Rockies and into the central and northern Plains. A surface low pressure center in southeastern Colorado drew warm, moist air from the southern Plains to a warm front over Kansas, while a dry line extended southward from the Texas/Oklahoma Panhandle. As a result, several convective lines formed over the Great Plains and propagated eastward. The northern portion of a long convective line began to enter the MC3E sounding network around 07 UTC 20 May and by 09 UTC had merged with ongoing convection near the KS-OK border to form a more intense convective segment with a well-defined trailing stratiform region that then propagated through the network between 09 and 12 UTC. The convection along the leading edge of this intense squall line exited the network around 13 UTC leaving behind a large area of stratiform rain. For further details see *Lang et al.* [2014]. This case was also simulated with NU-WRF by *Tao et al.* [2013] as part of a post mission case study to

and q_h and q_g are the hail and graupel mixing ratios, respectively. This formulation produces convective snow sizes that remain small but allows anvil snow sizes to become large using a common snow mapping and thus improves the effective mapping in each region rather than utilize a single compromise mapping for both.

Finally, a simple hail mapping scheme was introduced. *Lang et al.* [2014] demonstrated the performance of the original 4ICE scheme for both moderate and intense convection; however, because the scheme still retained the use of a fixed intercept, a series of experiments was conducted for each case using different hail intercepts (i.e., equivalent to smaller-, medium-, and larger-sized hail). It was found that smaller hail performed the best for the moderate case, while medium hail performed best for the intense. As noted in *Lang et al.* [2014], it is not optimal to have to choose the hail intercept for each case a priori. Therefore, a simple hail mapping scheme has been

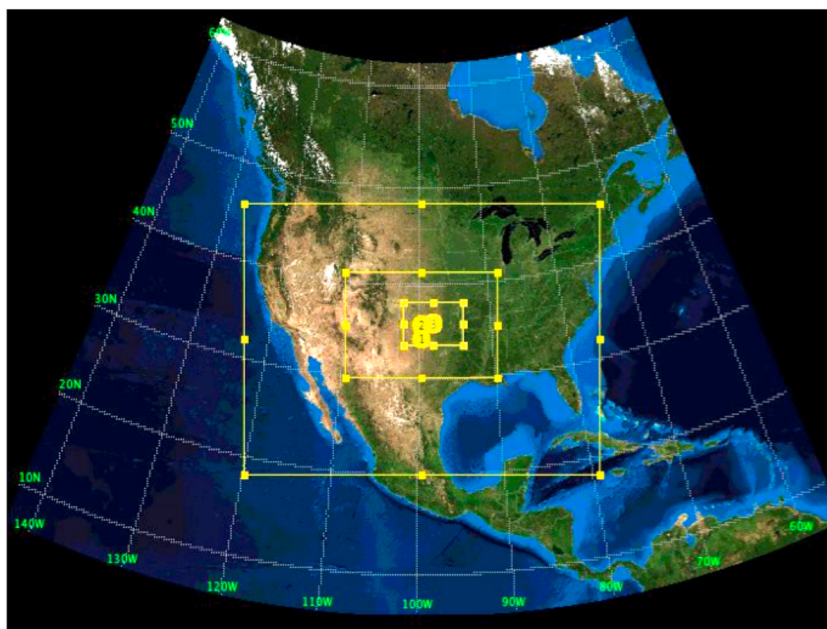


Figure 2. NU-WRF grid configuration. The outer domain (labeled 1 at the center) has a horizontal resolution of 9 km. The middle domain (labeled 2) has a horizontal resolution of 3 km, and the inner domain (labeled 3) has a horizontal resolution of 1 km and covers the southern Plains.

examine the performance of the NU-WRF, real-time forecasts during MC3E. They found propagating precipitation features and their associated cold pool dynamics were important for the diurnal variation of precipitation. Terrain effects were also found to be important during initial MCS development with surface fluxes and radiation processes having only a secondary effect for short-term simulations. Differences between *Tao et al.* [2013] and this study include the model configuration (18, 6, and 2 km versus 9, 3, and 1 km grid spacing) and initial conditions (North American Regional Reanalysis versus GFS Final Analysis (FNL)).

2.4. Model Setup

Figure 2 shows the model grid configuration, which includes an outer domain and two inner-nested domains having a horizontal grid spacing of 9, 3, and 1 km using $524 \times 380 \times 61$, $673 \times 442 \times 61$, and $790 \times 535 \times 61$ grid points, respectively. Time steps of 18, 6, and 2 s were used in these nested grids, respectively. The Grell-Devenyi cumulus parameterization scheme [Grell and Devenyi, 2002] was used for the outer grid (9 km) only. For the inner two domains (3 and 1 km), the convective scheme was turned off. The planetary boundary layer parameterization employed the Mellor-Yamada-Janjic [Mellor and Yamada, 1982] level 2 turbulence closure model through the full range of atmospheric turbulent regimes. The scheme was coded/modified by Dr. Janjic for the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Eta model.

The Goddard broadband two-stream (upward and downward fluxes) approach was used for the short- and long-wave radiative flux and atmospheric heating calculations [Chou and Suarez, 1999, 2001] and its explicit interactions with clouds (microphysics). Model terrain is smoothed from the 5 m (~ 5 km), 2 m (~ 4 km), and 30 s (~ 0.9 km) U.S. Geological Survey terrain database for the three nested domains, respectively. Simulations start at 00 UTC 20 May 2014 and are integrated for 48 h. Initial conditions are from the GFS-FNL (Global Forecast System Final global gridded analysis archive) as are the lateral boundary conditions, which are updated every 6 h.

2.5. Numerical Experiments

Four main numerical experiments and one sensitivity test are conducted for the 20 May 2011 MC3E case using various versions of the Goddard microphysics: 3ICE-graupel (or graupel) [Lang et al., 2007, 2011], 3ICE-hail (or hail) [McCumber et al., 1991; Tao et al., 2003], the original 4ICE scheme or (4ICE_v0) [Lang et al., 2014], the modified 4ICE scheme (4ICE), and the modified 4ICE scheme but without the rain evaporation correction (4ICE_nec). Table 2 lists the numerical experiments used in this study.

Table 2. List of Numerical Experiments

Run	Microphysics
Graupel	3ICE scheme with graupel option and 1 km horizontal grid
Hail	3ICE scheme with hail option and 1 km horizontal grid
4ICE_v0	Original 4ICE scheme and 1 km horizontal grid
4ICE	Modified 4ICE scheme and 1 km horizontal grid
4ICE_nec	Modified 4ICE scheme but no rain evaporation correction, 1 km horizontal grid

3. Results

3.1. Radar Structures, Reflectivity Comparisons, and Vertical Velocity Characteristics

The National Mosaic and Multi-Sensor Quantitative Precipitation Estimates (QPE) (NMQ) system is a multiradar, multisensor system, ingesting base level data from all available radars (Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD), Canadian Radar, Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR), and gap radars) at any given time; it performs quality control and combines reflectivity observations from individual radars onto a unified 3-D Cartesian frame. The data have a spatial and temporal resolution of 1 km and 5 min, respectively [Zhang *et al.*, 2011]. Simulated radar reflectivities are calculated from model rain, snow, graupel, and hail contents following the model inverse exponential size distributions and accounting for all size and density mappings and assuming a Rayleigh approximation using the formulation of Smith *et al.* [1975] and Smith [1984]. Figure 3 shows horizontal cross sections of observed and simulated composite radar echoes for the 20 May MCS at 10 UTC. NEXRAD data (Figure 3a) show a well-developed squall line with an intense, slightly bowed convective leading edge, and prominent trailing stratiform region separated by a distinct transition region, extending southwestward from the Kansas-Oklahoma border down into central West Texas. The system is well organized on the mesoscale; its convective line is long and coherent of fairly uniform intensity with a distinct bow shape, and its trailing stratiform region is sizeable and extends fairly continuously along the length of the line. A vertical cross section taken normal to the line (Figure 4a) shows a classic continental unicellular squall line structure [Rutledge *et al.*, 1988; Johnson and Hamilton, 1988] (see review by Houze [1997]) with deep, erect leading

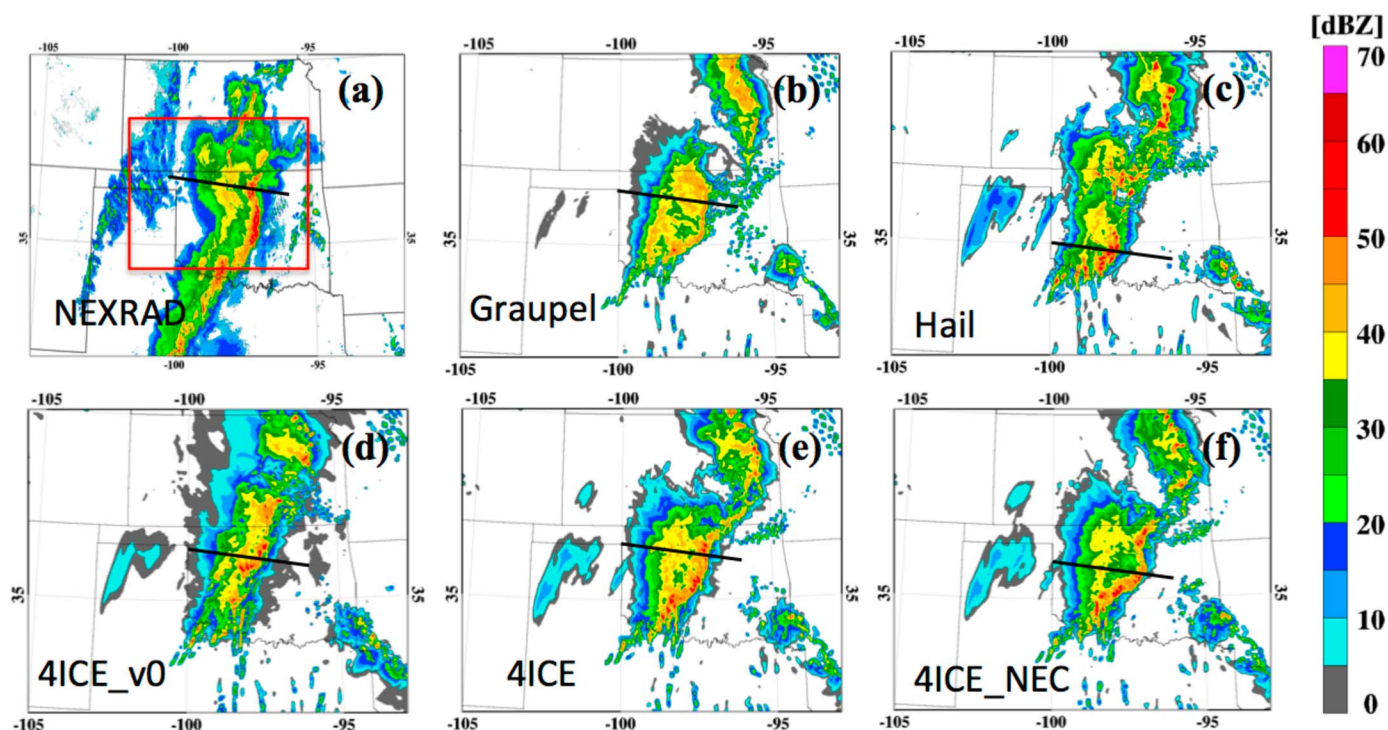


Figure 3. Composited radar reflectivity from (a) NEXRAD observations and NU-WRF simulations with the (b) Graupel, (c) Hail, (d) original 4ICE, (e) modified 4ICE, and (f) modified 4ICE with no rain evaporation correction at 10 UTC on 20 May 2011. The precipitation analysis area is indicated by the red boundary. Longitude and latitude values are shown along the horizontal and vertical edges, respectively.

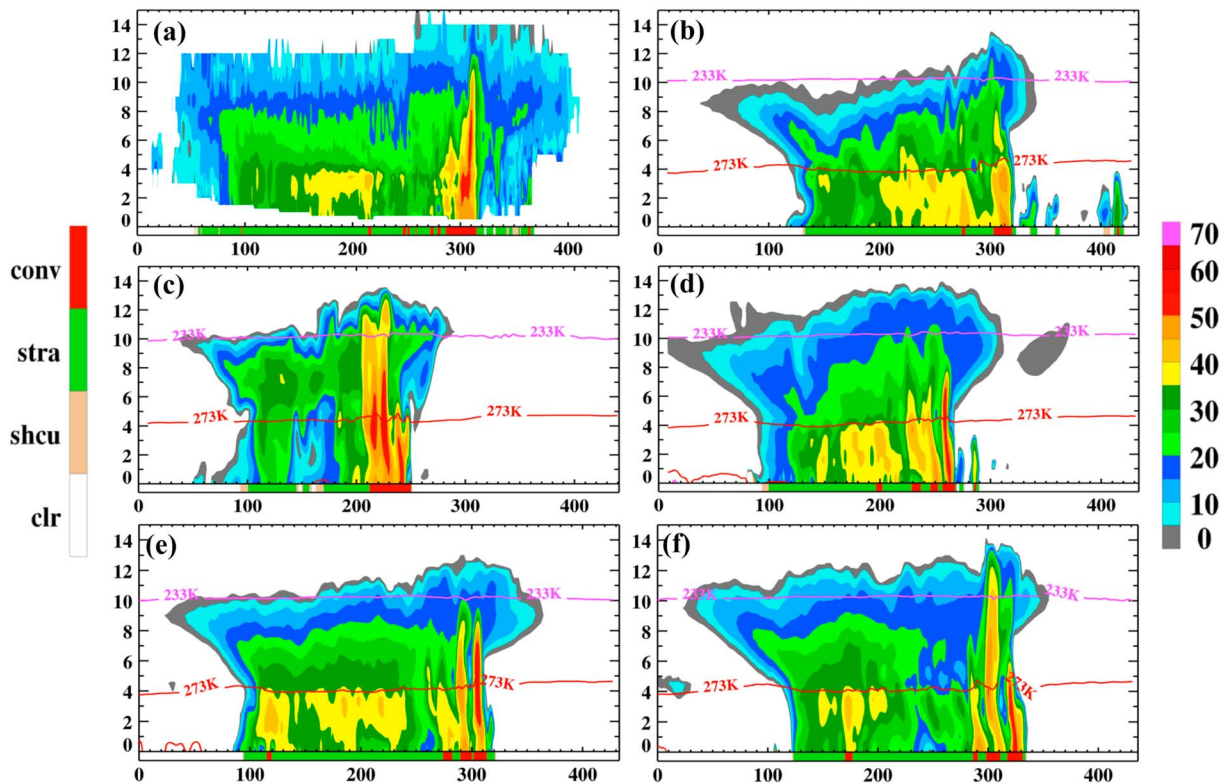


Figure 4. Vertical cross sections of (a) NEXRAD-observed radar reflectivity and NU-WRF-simulated reflectivity from the (b) Graupel, (c) Hail, (d) original 4ICE, (e) modified 4ICE, and (f) modified 4ICE with no rain evaporation correction simulations at 10 UTC on 20 May 2011. Positions of the cross sections are shown by the lines in Figure 3 for the radar observations and WRF simulations, respectively. The vertical axes show height in kilometers and the horizontal axes the horizontal distance in kilometers along the cross section.

convective cell(s) followed by a wide trailing stratiform region, featuring a distinct high radar reflectivity bright band near the melting level separated from the convective core(s) by a transition area with a less prominent bright band. Each of the four NU-WRF simulations captures the basic squall line organization; however, there are several notable differences between the schemes, namely, variations in the continuity and intensity of their leading edge convection as well as the size and consistency of their stratiform areas, as well as various discrepancies with the observations.

The Graupel scheme (Figure 3b) produces a wide trailing stratiform region as observed but with too many moderate reflectivities and leading edge reflectivities that are too weak, although continuous. Without hail, the Graupel scheme simply cannot match the intense radar returns associated with such large, solid, dense, ice particles, while too much moderately falling graupel is transported rearward into the stratiform region. A vertical cross section (Figure 4b) confirms the weak leading edge reflectivities as well as a tendency for peak values there to be elevated due to moderately falling graupel being easily carried aloft (L2014). Stratiform echoes are maximized near and below the melting level but are slightly too intense and with more vertical undulations above the freezing level than observed. The system is well organized, but the convective leading edge propagates too quickly across central Oklahoma (Figure 5a) as a result of a very strong surface cold pool due largely to excessive rain evaporation, a typical problem with 1 M schemes [Morrison *et al.*, 2009].

The Hail scheme (Figure 3c) captures the intense nature of the leading convective reflectivities, but their intensity tends to be localized, as the overall convective leading edge is not as continuous as with the observed MCS. This also results in a somewhat disjointed stratiform region though the composite magnitudes appear to match the observed rather well. However, a vertical cross section through the Hail MCS (Figure 4c) shows the highest reflectivities in the stratiform region are elevated in the upper troposphere not near or below the melting layer as observed, which is completely unrealistic. This is partially due to having a fixed snow intercept (i.e., no size mapping) as snow size is maximized only with snow mass, which is maximized aloft (please see Figure S1 in the supporting information). Also, the convective structure tends

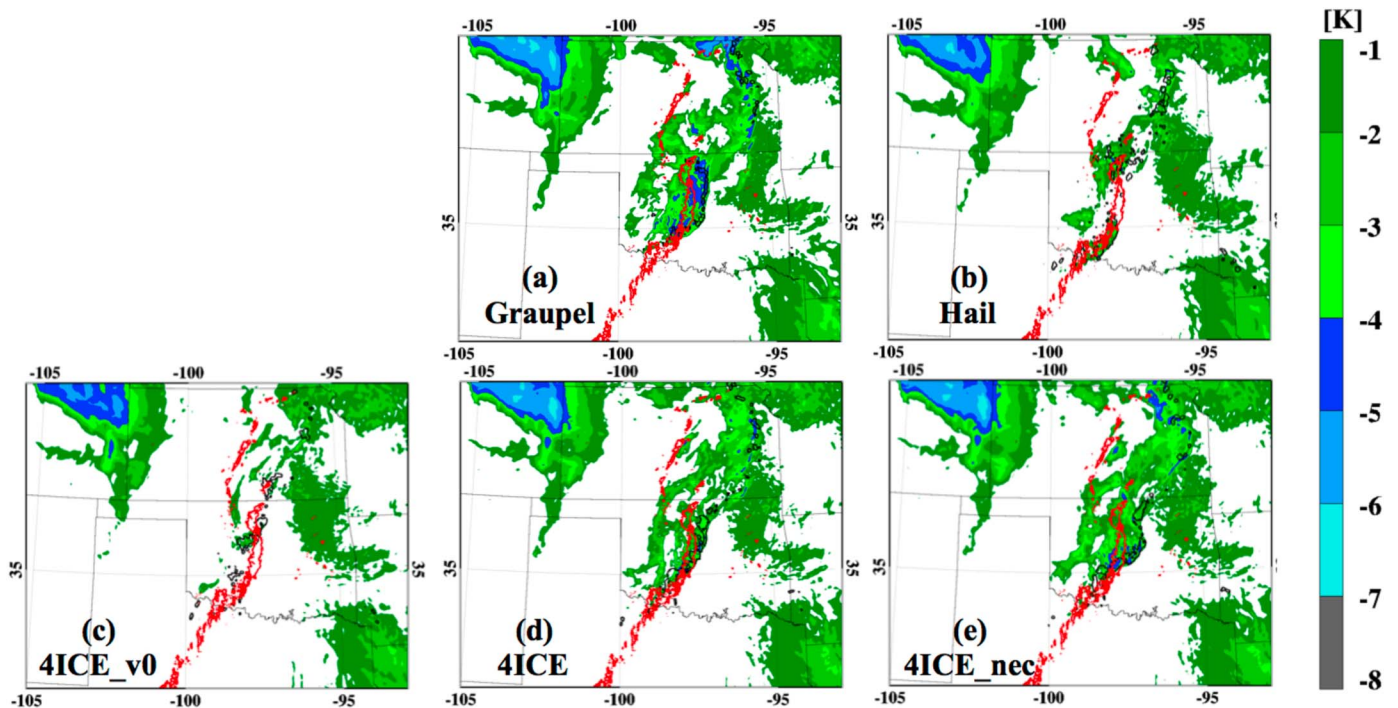


Figure 5. Surface perturbation potential temperature (color shade) overlaid with 45 dBZ radar reflectivity contours from the model simulations (black) and NEXRAD (red). Longitude and latitude values are shown along the horizontal and vertical edges, respectively.

to be more multicellular than was observed. Overall the system lacks organization as a result of a weak and fragmented surface cold pool (Figure 5b). Though the Hail scheme does not have a rain evaporation correction, its stratiform region is too small and the structure too poor to generate a large cold pool. This is due in part to the inclusion of dry collection whereby hail collects ice and snow too efficiently, reducing their transport into the stratiform region (please see *Lang et al.* [2007] and their Figures 4 and 10 for a similar example with regards to dry collection by graupel as well as Figure S2 in the supporting information).

The original 4ICE scheme (Figure 3d) is somewhat of a blend between the Graupel and Hail schemes with locally intense reflectivities similar to the Hail scheme but with a somewhat more continuous convective line though not as organized as the Graupel scheme and a stratiform region that is slightly more coherent than the Hail scheme but not as well developed as the Graupel scheme. A vertical cross section (Figure 4d) through the 4ICE_v0 MCS, however, shows there are some notable improvements in its simulated structures relative to the 3ICE schemes. First, in terms of the leading edge convection, its simulated convective reflectivity core (s) are closer to the observed overall, being both erect due to the inclusion of the rain evaporation correction [*Li et al.*, 2009a, 2009b] and narrow and intense due to the inclusion of hail in conjunction with eliminating dry collection. Second, in terms of the trailing stratiform region, the scheme produces a broad, well-developed stratiform area with a more vertically stratified (i.e., more horizontally uniform) radar structure with values maximized near and below the melting level and overall values that closely match the observed. This is a result of the revisions to the snow mapping, namely, an enhanced aggregation effect via a greater temperature dependency [see *Lang et al.*, 2014, Figure 1], which for a given snow mixing ratio increases the size more strongly with temperature. The improvement due to this effect is also reflected in the CFAD analysis (see Figure 7) presented later in this section. These 4ICE_v0 convective and especially stratiform features are much closer to the observed than the 3ICE schemes. Overall the original 4ICE scheme has the essential elements but appears to lack the overall intensity and organization of the observed system. This is confirmed by the extremely weak surface cold pool (Figure 5c) and corresponding lack of forward propagation.

In contrast, the modified 4ICE scheme (Figure 3e) produces a more organized system with a longer, more continuous line of leading convection that has a slightly bowed structure and a broader stratiform area with a more defined transition region separating it from the leading convection. All of which are in good or better agreement with the observed. Based on the series of specific modifications made to the 4ICE scheme

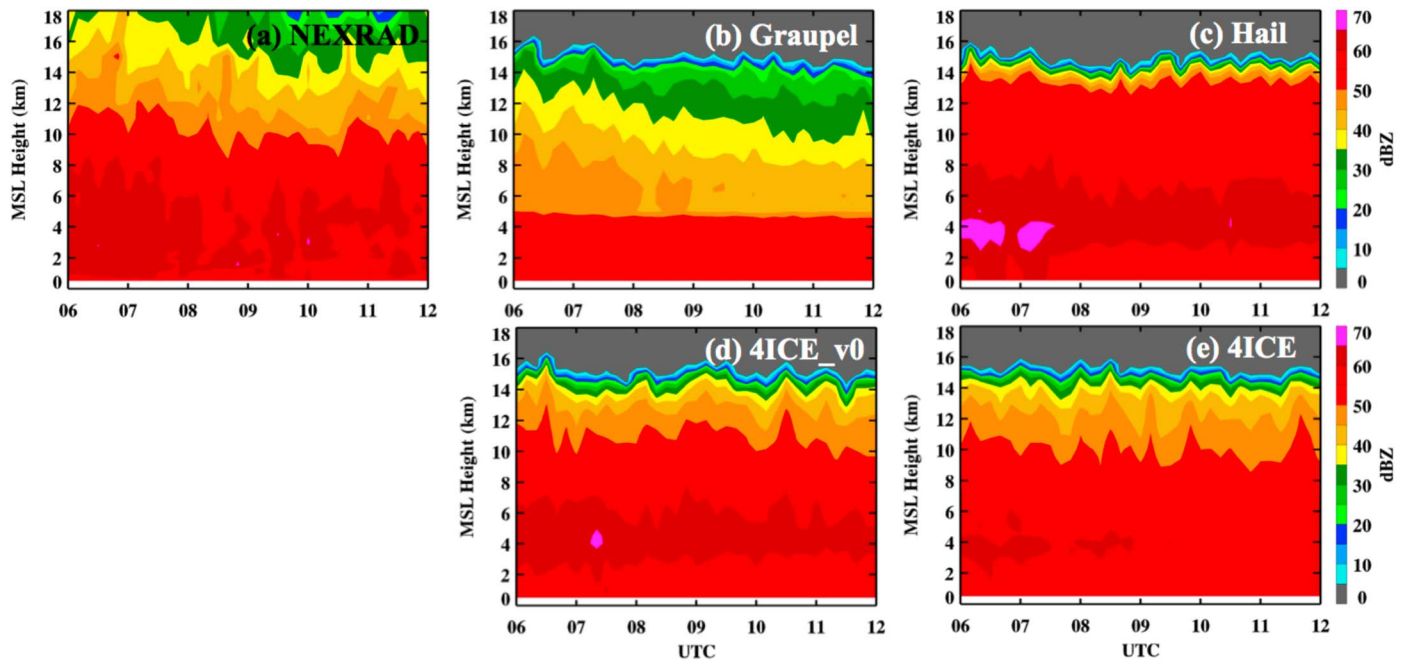


Figure 6. Maximum radar reflectivities for (a) NEXRAD and NU-WRF with the (b) Graupel, (c) Hail, (d) original 4ICE, and (e) modified 4ICE microphysics schemes. Vertical axes are heights in kilometers; horizontal axes indicate time from 06 to 12 UTC on 20 May 2011.

(individual results not shown), the main reason for having a stronger, more organized system is the change in the saturation formulation from a global 20% ice supersaturation value to one that varies starting at just 5% (please see Figure S3 in the supporting information for the results from this sensitivity test). The smaller value allows more water vapor to be converted to ice, which releases more heat aloft over a broad area. A vertical cross section through the modified 4ICE MCS (Figure 4e) shows features that are generally similar to the original 4ICE except for a more pronounced transition zone aloft as a result of introducing the snow breakup effect and even more vertically stratified echoes with a sharper vertical gradient in the trailing stratiform region due to an even larger aggregation effect in the prescribed snow size mapping scheme (please see Figure S4 in the supporting information as well as the CFAD analysis presented later in this section). The modified 4ICE scheme produces a moderate intensity cold pool (Figure 5d) relative to the other schemes, and its simulated convective line is closest to the observed propagation, especially over central Oklahoma. Without the rain evaporation correction, the surface cold pool becomes stronger, causing the center of the simulated convective line to propagate too fast (Figure 5e) and develop an excessive bow structure over central Oklahoma (Figure 3f) similar to the Graupel scheme (Figure 3b). This also results in the leading convective cells having a more tilted structure at low levels (Figure 4f). Overall, the modified 4ICE scheme with the rain evaporation correction best captures more of the observed features and has the most realistic structures compared to the other schemes.

In addition to the structural comparisons, which provide the necessary context, a combination of time varying and comprehensive statistical quantities are crucial for an overall evaluation. Figure 6 shows time series of vertical profiles of maximum reflectivity both observed by NEXRAD radar and simulated for each of the four NU-WRF simulations within the innermost model domain from 06 to 12 UTC 20 May 2011. For this situation, it provides a way of evaluating the model's ability to produce the largest hydrometeors in the convective cores. Over this period within the analysis domain (shown in Figure 2), peak reflectivities associated with this intense squall line frequently exceeded 50 dBZ up to 10 km and 60 dBZ below about 7 km with 40 dBZ echoes reaching as high as 15 km. Maximum echo values do fluctuate but overall are fairly steady with only a slight decrease after ~08 UTC (Figure 6a).

The Graupel scheme (Figure 6b) greatly underestimates the peak 50 to 60 dBZ intensities of the observed squall line above the freezing level and simply cannot produce such intense echoes due to the smaller size and lower density of graupel. The Hail scheme does produce intense reflectivities (Figure 6c) due to large-

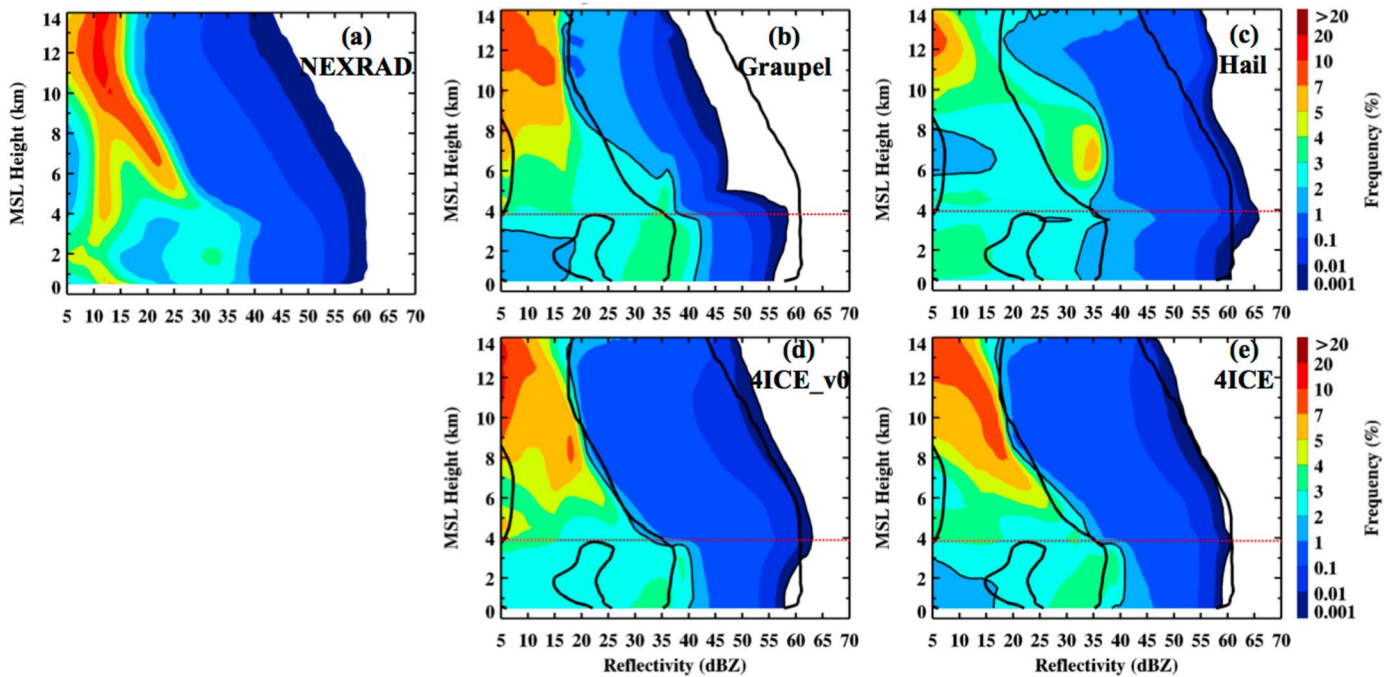


Figure 7. Radar reflectivity CFADs from (a) NEXRAD observations and NU-WRF simulations with the (b) Graupel, (c) Hail, (d) original 4ICE, and (e) modified 4ICE microphysics schemes from 06 to 12 UTC on 20 May 2011. Horizontal dashed lines in red indicate the level of the 0°C environmental temperature. The thicker solid black lines are overlays of the observed 0.001% and 2.0% frequency contours; the thinner black lines highlight the simulated 2.0 frequency contours.

sized hail as a result of its fixed low intercept value (i.e., 0.01 cm^{-4}) for hail with peak values near 70 dBZ at ~3–4 km and 55 dBZ values regularly reaching above 12 km, which are more intense near the melting level and above 10 km than was observed. The scheme also produces an unrealistic elevated secondary maximum near 11 km. In contrast, the original 4ICE simulation (Figure 6d) produces peak reflectivity values that decrease monotonically with height as observed. Its maximum intensities are fairly good at most levels though somewhat too weak at the lowest levels and too strong near the freezing level. It also uses a fixed but slightly larger intercept for hail (i.e., 0.02 cm^{-4}) based on the results from L2014 for this case. Peak reflectivities for the modified 4ICE scheme (Figure 6e) are fairly similar to 4ICE_v0 in general but slightly weaker near the freezing level, where they are slightly too weak as opposed to slightly too strong for 4ICE_v0. However, although rather simple, the new 4ICE hail mapping performs comparably without having to choose the appropriate hail intercept a priori for the given environmental notable advantage.

In addition to comparing the peak reflectivities, which are representative of the convective cores, statistical comparisons in the form of CFADs [see Yuter and Houze, 1995] are performed to evaluate the overall performance of each simulation with respect to reflectivity. This technique computes the probability of a field as a function of height. To achieve the most meaningful comparisons, the CFADs must be computed as similarly as possible between the model and radar-derived fields. Comparisons between the model and observations are based on a 10 min temporal resolution for each. Reflectivity CFADs were constructed by binning the reflectivities into 1 dBZ bins from 0 to 70 dBZ at each level.

Figure 7a shows the observed CFAD. The highest probabilities follow a coherent pattern with the peak density steadily decreasing with height from between 20 and 35 dBZ near the melting level to between 5 and 15 dBZ above 12 km, indicative of a robust sedimentation/aggregation effect. Maximum reflectivities at the lowest frequency contour of 0.001% are just over 60 dBZ from the surface up to 6 km and drop off steadily aloft to around 45 dBZ at 14 km. The Graupel scheme simulated CFAD (Figure 7b) has some notable discrepancies with the observed. First, it lacks all of the reflectivity values higher than 45 dBZ above the freezing level. Second, although it captures some of the aggregation effect evident in the observed CFAD, it is too weak with too few echoes in the 20–25 dBZ range between 4 and 8 km. In contrast, the Hail scheme (Figure 7c) can simulate the rare high reflectivity values above the freezing level as was observed, though its peak values at the lowest contour of ~65 dBZ near the melting level are higher than the observed peak at

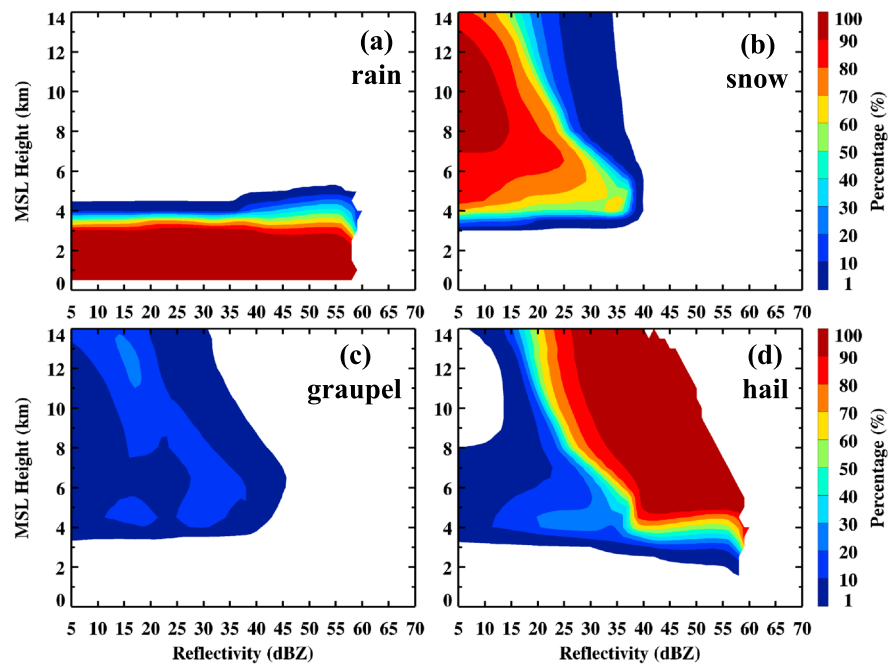


Figure 8. Contribution to the modified 4ICE radar reflectivity CFAD shown in Figure 7e from (a) rain, (b) snow, (c) graupel, and (d) hail as a percentage of the power in each bin.

this frequency of ~ 61 dBZ. However, when it comes to the most common echoes, the Hail scheme has an unrealistic aggregation signature quite unlike the observed with the area of highest probabilities shifted too low (<10 dBZ) aloft, too high (~ 30 to 35 dBZ) at midlevels and which then decrease down toward the melting level. This is a direct result of having a fixed snow intercept where size varies only with mass with no temperature dependence, causing snow size to peak at midlevels.

The original 4ICE scheme (Figure 7d), on the other hand, contains the best features of both the Graupel and Hail schemes but improves upon both. It produces a very realistic radar reflectivity CFAD with a more robust and coherent aggregation signature than the Graupel scheme that much more closely resembles the observed as well as peak reflectivities similar to the Hail scheme only closer to the observed and which realistically monotonically decrease with height as observed. With a further enhanced aggregation effect in the snow mapping (also see Figure 4 for comparison), the modified 4ICE scheme (Figure 7e) produces an even better aggregation signature than the original 4ICE at middle and upper levels, though the effect appears slightly too strong right above the freezing level. The distributions of rare but intense echoes are quite similar between the two 4ICE schemes with peak values slightly weaker in the modified scheme. Below the melting level, all schemes having hail maintain higher peak reflectivities due to melting hail in agreement with the observations, though they still decrease too quickly near the surface. Figure 8 shows the individual contribution of precipitating particles (rain, snow, graupel, and hail) to the modified 4ICE CFAD; snow is largely responsible for the high occurrence of low dBZ values aloft and hail for the low occurrence of high dBZ values aloft.

Figure 9 shows the normalized degree of overlap between the observed and simulated probability distribution functions (PDFs) at each level where unity represents perfect overlap, and zero indicates no overlap between the observed and simulated reflectivity PDFs at a given level. The two 4ICE simulated PDFs are consistently better than the Graupel between the surface and ~ 11 km, which is itself vastly better than the Hail for all levels above 5 km. Between the two 4ICE schemes, the modified scheme is better overall, being consistently better at middle and upper levels but not so at ~ 5 km, which is just above the freezing level, and at lower levels. These improvements to the radar distributions were gained largely through the introduction of the snow mapping (i.e., the Graupel scheme) and its subsequent revisions with a stronger (i.e., 4ICE_v0) and stronger (i.e., 4ICE) aggregation effect (please see Figures S4 and S5 for additional details). With its fixed snow intercept, the Hail scheme suffers from a lack of an aggregation effect, resulting in its low scores aloft. Overall, the Hail scheme has the poorest overall performance in terms of CFADs, while the modified 4ICE clearly performs the best

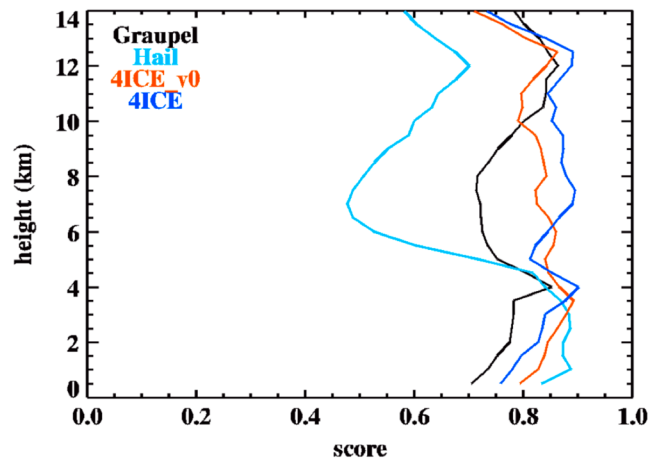


Figure 9. PDF matching scores for the CFADs in Figure 7. The score indicates the amount of overlap between the simulated and observed PDF at each level.

overall due to its ability to replicate the observed aggregation effect the best, especially above 6 km. Also, the original 4ICE scheme scores in NU-WRF are better than those using the GCE model for this case (see Figure 7 in L2014); this is likely due primarily to the smaller domain and cyclic lateral boundaries used in the GCE model, which can inhibit the size and continuity of the stratiform region (see Figure 2 in L2014) and therefore the proportion of stratiform echoes and possibly the structure of the stratiform region itself. Differences between the large-scale forcing imposed in the GCE model and the updated lateral boundary conditions used in NU-WRF

could contribute to the differences, but the smaller domain size and cyclic boundaries are first order issues.

Figure 10 shows CFADs of in-cloud vertical air velocity over the total (i.e., convective + stratiform + anvil), convective and stratiform regions, which are determined based on the Steiner *et al.* [1995] convective stratiform separation method (please see the following section for further details), somewhat similar to those shown in Tao *et al.* [1987, their Figure 10]. The velocity CFADs characterize the cloud dynamics, which both drive and respond to the microphysics. The general features are similar for all the simulations, with upward velocities exceeding 40 m s^{-1} in the middle-to-upper troposphere in the convective regions, peak convective updrafts about twice as strong as the downdrafts, and higher probabilities of moderate (~ 10 to 20 m s^{-1}) updrafts in the convective regions than in the stratiform. Differences in the microphysics schemes lead to relatively minor variations in the velocity CFADs. For example, the Graupel and modified 4ICE schemes, which have the strongest cold pools and most organization, also have slightly broader total velocity CFADs aloft (Figure 10a). Stratiform PDFs for the Graupel scheme (Figure 10c) are appreciably wider than the other schemes with stronger updrafts/downdrafts classified as stratiform. The scheme also has a higher percentage of weak-to-moderate updrafts (~ 5 – 10 m s^{-1}) in the lower troposphere in the convective region (Figure 10b) but a somewhat reduced proportion aloft compared to the others. The combination of more moderate reflectivities and more sheared updraft structures due to stronger cold pool dynamics in the absence of a rain evaporation correction [cf. Li *et al.*, 2009a, 2009b] makes it more difficult to cleanly separate the convective and stratiform regions in the Graupel simulation. This causes low-level updrafts to be included in the convective region but the upper portion of some of those more tilted updrafts to be assigned to the stratiform region. Overall, the fact that the total distributions are quite similar for all the

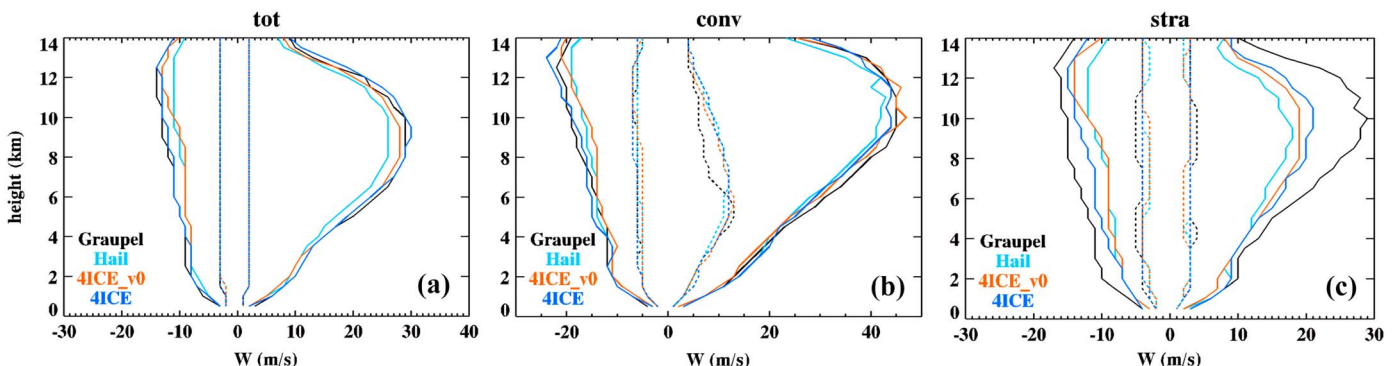


Figure 10. Vertical velocity CFADs of in-cloud updrafts and downdrafts in the (a) total, (b) convective, and (c) stratiform regions from 06 to 12 UTC on 20 May 2011. Solid lines indicate 0.005% frequencies and dashed lines 1.0% frequencies.

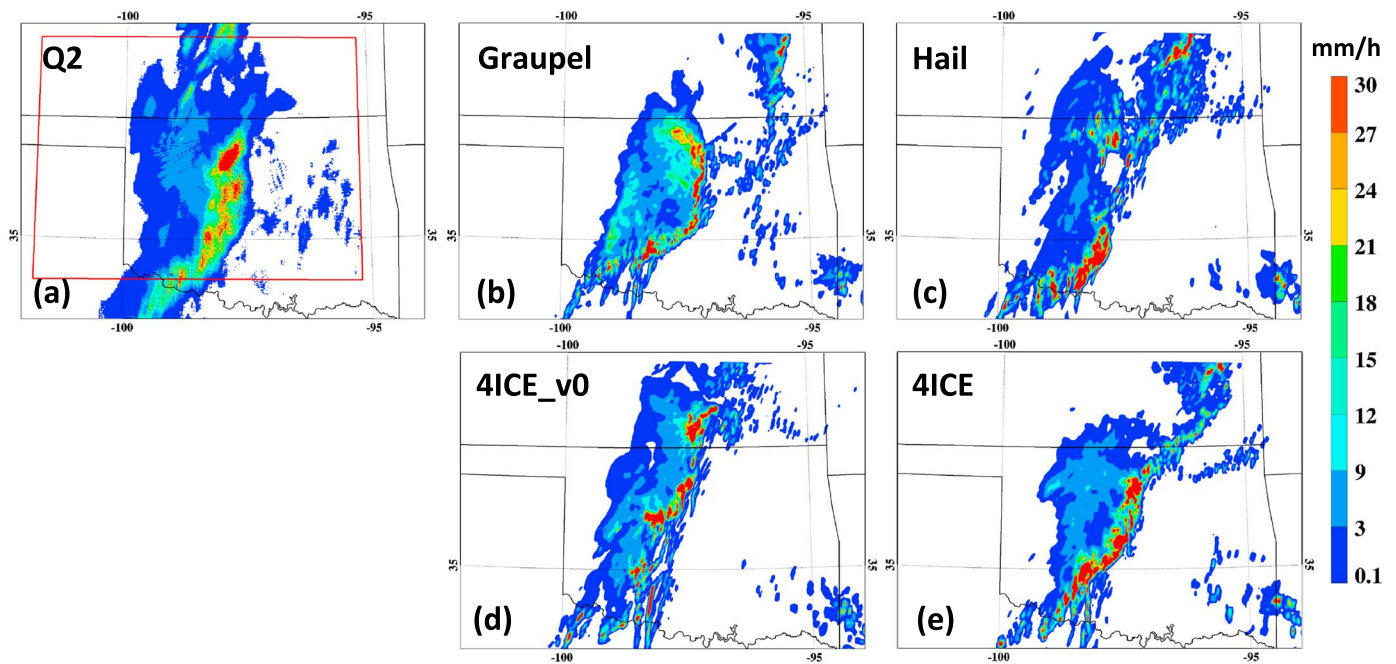


Figure 11. Surface 1 h accumulated rainfall from (a) NMQ Q2 Stage IV bias-corrected radar rain estimates and the NU-WRF simulations with the (b) Graupel, (c) Hail, (d) original 4ICE and (e) modified 4ICE schemes ending at 10 UTC on 20 May 2011. The precipitation analysis area is indicated by the red boundary shown in Figure 11a. Longitude and latitude values are shown along the horizontal and vertical edges, respectively.

schemes suggests that the large-scale shear and instability dominate microphysics scheme differences in determining the updraft intensities and distribution, especially for such a strongly unstable and sheared environment.

3.2. Surface Rainfall and Its Convective and Stratiform Characteristics

Surface rainfall and its characteristics are important for hydrological applications, including hydrological as well as ocean mixed layer models, and surface processes and are a key model component in the development of satellite rain retrieval algorithms. Another key component of the NMQ system is the next generation quantitative precipitation estimation (Q2). However, despite its high temporal and spatial resolution, radar-only Q2 rainfall has its own limitations. As noted in *Tang et al.* [2014], daily average Q2 rainfall has a positive bias compared to gage-corrected Stage IV and NCEP Climate Prediction Center rain gage estimates during summer (June, July, and August, 2010). Therefore, Stage IV bias-corrected surface rainfall estimates (Q2bias) [Tang et al., 2014], which incorporate rain-gage data to correct the radar product bias, are used to compare with the model simulations. Figure 11 shows 1 h accumulated surface rainfall at 10 UTC for the NU-WRF simulations and the NMQ Q2 Stage IV bias-corrected estimates. All of the NU-WRF simulations produce areas of heavy rain with trailing lighter rain areas consistent with their radar signatures (shown back in Figure 3). There are, however, some notable differences between the simulations in terms of the size, organization, and intensity of their heavy as well as light rain areas. The Graupel scheme (Figure 3b) produces a broad, coherent area of trailing light to moderate rainfall, but the extensive areas of moderately intense rainfall there are not observed. Though well organized, the heavy rainfall at the leading edge of the Graupel system appears too narrow and somewhat weak. Without hail, moderate-falling graupel is more easily transported rearward in the Graupel simulation, reducing convective rain rate intensities while intensifying those in the trailing stratiform region. Locally, heavy rainfall in the Hail simulation (Figure 3c) appears to capture the intensity and breadth of the observed but lacks the coherent extended arc structure of the observations. It also produces a slightly narrow, less coherent light rain area, but its intensity appears similar to the observed estimates. Dry collection in the Hail scheme allows some slow-falling snow to be collected and fall out as hail in the convective leading edge as opposed to being transported rearward and inhibits stratiform development [also see *Lang et al.*, 2007]. The original 4ICE scheme (Figure 3d) is similar to the Hail in that it produces locally heavy rainfall but lacks in the overall intensity and organization of the heavy rain areas associated with the convective leading line; its trailing light rain area is also too narrow compared to the NMQ estimates. In terms of both light and

Table 3. Total Rainfall and Its Convective and Stratiform Components From an NMQ Bias-Corrected Observational Radar Network Estimate and Four NU-WRF Simulations Using Different Goddard Bulk Microphysical Schemes

	Total Rainfall (mm)	Convective Rainfall (mm)	Stratiform Rainfall (mm)	Stratiform %
Q2bias	9.74	6.21	3.25	33.5
Graupel	9.31	3.86	4.90	52.7
Hail	9.38	5.59	3.27	34.9
4ICE_v0	8.73	3.95	4.35	49.9
4ICE	10.30	5.83	4.02	39.1

heavy rain features and the overall rainfall pattern, the modified 4ICE scheme (Figure 3e) best matches the observations. It is generally able to replicate both the coherent arc of heavy rain along the leading edge as well as the width, coherence, and intensity of the trailing stratiform region. The 4ICE schemes allow only ice that was formed in a manner that would produce a high particle density (e.g., freezing drops or extreme riming) to fall out as hail in the convective leading edge and therefore more slow-falling snow to be transported rearward. Although the enhanced snow autoconversion in the modified 4ICE scheme helps to produce a slightly broader, more uniform anvil and thus light rain area, as previously noted, a key difference between the original and modified 4ICE schemes is the amount of ice supersaturation permitted with the smaller global value of 5% in the modified scheme leading to a much better developed and organized and realistic MCS.

Tables 3 and 4 show the quantitative rainfall amount and area coverage (at 1 km grid spacing) between 06 and 12 UTC on 20 May 2011. Data from the first 6 h were not used since the simulations use a cold start. Only areas with surface rain rates greater than 0.15 mm h^{-1} , the minimum Q2 rain rate, are partitioned. Unclassified rain due to light rain areas in the model and a mismatch between the rain and classification time intervals in both the model, which requires 3-D data for the partitioning, and NMQ estimates causes the totals to exceed the sum of the convective and stratiform parts. The results show that the total rainfall amount in the modified 4ICE run is significantly more (~10%) than the 3ICE runs (both Graupel and Hail) and vastly more (~18%) than the original 4ICE. When compared to the bias-corrected Q2 estimate, the modified 4ICE, Graupel, and Hail rainfall totals are all relatively close to the bias corrected—just 5.7% higher, 4.4% lower, and 3.7% lower, respectively. The original 4ICE total rainfall, however, is 10.4% lower, which may indicate a possible low bias. In terms of the total convective plus stratiform rain (i.e., not including the model light rain rate areas below 0.15 mm/h), the modified 4ICE is closest to the bias corrected (4.1% higher), while the others are 12.3% (original 4ICE), 7.4% (Graupel), and 6.3% (Hail) less than the bias corrected, which suggests they may have a slight low bias, but there are no error estimates for the bias-corrected estimates. Clear sky initiation (i.e., a cold start), initial/lateral boundary conditions, and the fact that the observed line extended farther south than the innermost domain could also account for the differences. Consistent with Figure 11, in terms of total rain area coverage (Table 4), all of the schemes are very close to that of the bias corrected (within 3% relative to the total area). The models appear to miss the complete extent of the observed light rain area over western Oklahoma. This could be due to the real squall line extending further south than in the simulations, resulting in the stratiform region in the simulations being under developed at the southern end of the analysis domain relative to the observed.

Rainfall can also be separated into convective and stratiform regions. There are several reasons for the distinction [Houze, 1997]. Precipitation rates are generally much higher in the convective region where ice particles tend to be rimed as opposed to the stratiform region where aggregates dominate. Microphysics and, as a result, surface rainfall rates and the vertical distribution of latent heating are also different in the two regions (see reviews by Houze [1997] and Tao *et al.* [2003]). The convective stratiform partitioning method used in this

Table 4. Total Rainfall Coverage (For Rain Rates Greater Than the Q2 Minimum of 0.15 mm/h) and Its Convective and Stratiform Components From the Q2 Bias-Corrected Observational Radar Network Estimate and Four NU-WRF Simulations Using Different Goddard Bulk Microphysical Schemes

Run	Total Rainfall Area Coverage in %	Convective Area Coverage in %	Stratiform Area Coverage in %
Q2bias	26.1	4.4	18.7
Graupel	25.1	5.0	15.4
Hail	25.6	4.4	13.7
4ICE_v0	23.3	4.0	15.4
4ICE	24.0	5.1	15.0

Table 5. Convective and Stratiform Conditional Rain Rate (mm/10 min) From Q2 Bias-Corrected Rainfall Estimates and Four NU-WRF Simulations Using Different Goddard Bulk Microphysical Schemes

Run	Convective Rain Rate	Stratiform Rain Rate
Q2bias	3.80	0.47
Graupel	2.08	0.86
Hail	3.43	0.65
4ICE_v0	2.66	0.76
4ICE	3.07	0.73

study is based on the horizontal radar reflectivity gradient with the criteria for identifying convective regions based on intensity, “peakedness,” and the surrounding area as described by *Steiner et al.* [1995]. Because the scheme was originally developed for tropical convection, several parameters have been tuned for midlatitudes [*Feng et al.*, 2011].

A 2 km mean sea level height (versus 3 km in *Steiner et al.* [1995]) is used as the analysis level to avoid bright band contamination, and the convective reflectivity threshold is 43 dBZ (versus 40 dBZ in *Steiner et al.* [1995]), according to the Z-R relationship in midlatitudes. Echoes that exceed 10 dBZ but not identified as convective are designated as stratiform [*Feng et al.*, 2011] (see *Lang et al.* [2003] for a review of convective stratiform observational and modeling studies and different separation methods). The same separation method is applied to both the observations and model results.

Tables 3 and 4 also show the observed and simulated rainfall amounts and area coverage in the convective and stratiform regions with their corresponding conditional rain rates listed in Table 5. The simulations reproduce the observed convective area coverage to within a factor of 0.8–1.2 but underestimate the total convective rainfall, ranging from a factor of 0.94 to 0.62 relative to the bias-corrected value. Thus, on average, the simulated conditional convective surface rain rates are too weak. However, while the Graupel scheme has an average conditional convective surface rain rate of just 55% of the bias-corrected rate (Table 5), which is no surprise given the moderate fall speeds of graupel, the conditional convective surface rain rates for the Hail and modified 4ICE schemes are 91% and 81% of the bias-corrected rate, respectively. Though much closer, aliasing in the rain/hail sedimentation and in the hail melting due to the use of a 1 M scheme could be factors. As rain or hail begins to fall toward the surface, their initial mass in the next lowest grids cells will be small, which in a 1 M scheme will force their sizes to be too small, slowing their fall speeds and overdoing hail melting. The rain evaporation correction has a significant impact on the stratiform region, where it can help to overcome this effect by boosting drop sizes, but very little on the convective. Overall, the modified 4ICE has the most convective rainfall with more intense convective rain rates than the Graupel scheme and a larger convective area as a result of having a longer continuous length of leading edge convection than the Hail scheme due to being better organized.

All of the NU-WRF simulations are within a factor of 0.73 to 0.82 of the bias-corrected stratiform area coverage (Table 4) and thus all produce too little stratiform rain area in comparison. However, all of the simulated stratiform rainfall amounts are equal to or greater than the bias corrected (Table 3), meaning the model conditional stratiform surface rain rates appear too intense (Table 5). Though vastly lower than the conditional convective surface rain rates, which agrees well with the observed trend of having much higher conditional rain rates in the convective region (Table 5), the Hail and both 4ICE conditional stratiform surface rain rates are still 38 and 58% higher than the bias corrected, respectively, while the conditional Graupel rate is 84% higher. The degree of overbias is in rough proportion to the amount of graupel present in each scheme’s respective stratiform region (see Figure 15 and the related discussion in section 3.3). In terms of the overall stratiform percentage, the Hail scheme is quite close to the observed value of ~33% followed by the modified 4ICE. The original 4ICE and Graupel scheme stratiform percentages are too high (~50–53%) due to both too little convective and too much stratiform rainfall.

Consistent with previous modeling results, the Hail scheme produces less stratiform but more convective rain than the Graupel scheme. *McCumber et al.* [1991] suggested that the most important characteristic difference between graupel and hail is the terminal velocity.

Figures 12a and 12b show PDFs of the total simulated and observed surface rain rate intensities. Both the Hail and the two 4ICE schemes, which all include faster falling hail, have a higher proportion of heavy precipitation (i.e., $>30 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$) as well as less moderate precipitation (i.e., $10\text{--}20 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$) than does the Graupel scheme, placing them in better agreement with the bias-corrected Q2 radar estimates in both situations. However, the Hail and especially the modified 4ICE scheme are in the best agreement with the observed frequencies of heavy surface rain rates (i.e., $>30 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$). In terms of very light (i.e., $<2.5 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$) and moderate (i.e., $5\text{--}20 \text{ mm h}^{-1}$) surface rainfall rates, the Hail scheme’s frequencies are consistently closest to the Q2 bias-corrected (Figure 12b)

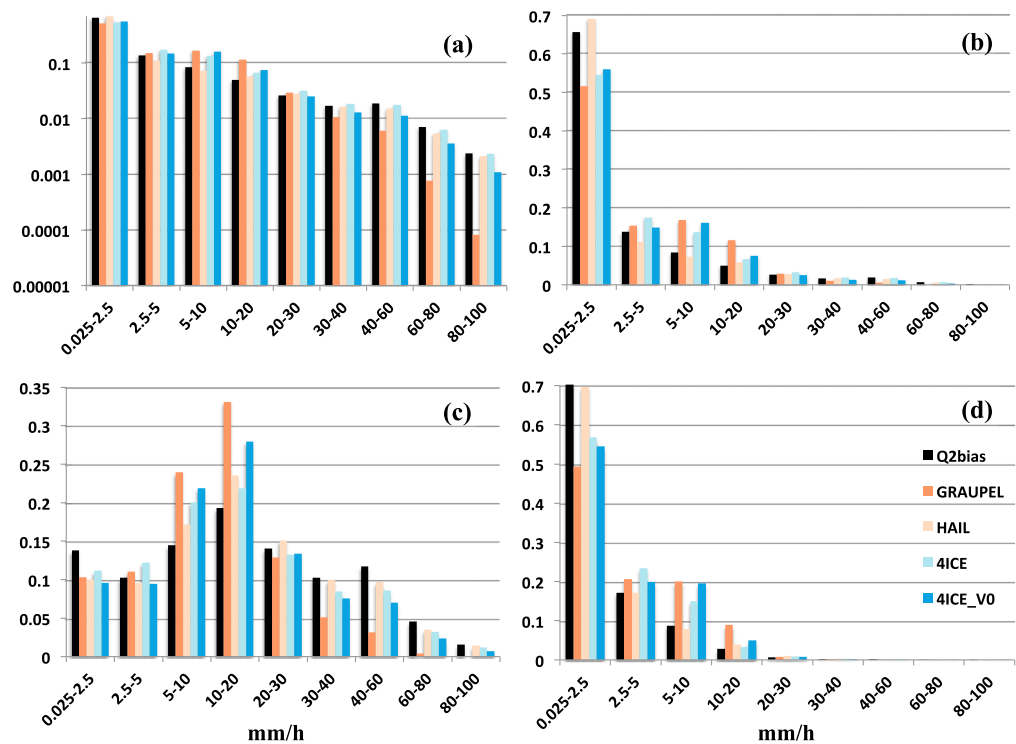


Figure 12. PDFs of NMQ-observed and NU-WRF-simulated rainfall intensity in millimeters per hour from four different variations of the Goddard microphysical schemes for the (a) total region using a logarithmic scale and (b) total, (c) convective, and (d) stratiform regions using a linear scale. The observed rain rates are estimated from the Stage IV bias-corrected Q2 radar estimates. PDFs were calculated every 10 min from both the observed and simulated data sets from 06 to 12 UTC on 20 May 2011 within the analysis domain shown in Figure 3.

despite its unrealistic anvil radar structure. For the convective region (Figure 12c), both the simulated and NMQ-estimated surface rain rate PDFs are shifted to higher intensities relative to the total as expected but with similar biases; the Hail and modified 4ICE schemes are again fairly comparable and reasonably close to the biased corrected frequencies but slightly underestimate the occurrence of surface rain rates above 30 mm/h. This bias is more apparent with the original 4ICE scheme, whereas the Graupel scheme greatly underestimates their occurrence. This is consistent with and shows the source of the low biases in the conditional convective surface rain rates in relation to the intensity spectrum. All of the simulations, but especially the Graupel scheme, tend to produce too high of a proportion of moderate convective rain rates (i.e., 5 to 20 mm h⁻¹) compared to the NMQ frequencies. Rain rate PDFs for the stratiform region (Figure 12d) are shifted to lower surface rain rate intensities as expected. Overall, as with the total PDFs, the Hail scheme performs quite well and clearly agrees the best with the bias-corrected frequencies for the light to moderate rain rates prevalent in the stratiform region and is consistent with it having the best conditional stratiform rain rate (Table 5). Again as with the convective region, the Graupel scheme greatly overestimates the frequency of moderate surface rain rates (between 5 and 20 mm h⁻¹) only this time at the expense of too few light rain rates (versus too few heavy rain rates in the convective region). The two 4ICE schemes also produce too high a fraction of moderate stratiform surface rain rates but mainly from 5 to 10 mm h⁻¹. At the weakest rain intensities (i.e., <2.5 mm h⁻¹), they are slightly better than the Graupel scheme but not nearly as good as the Hail.

3.3. Simulated Hydrometeor Properties

Although simulated hydrometeor profiles have traditionally lacked effective (i.e., comprehensive) validation, in situ and polarimetric radar-based hydrometeor identification (HID) algorithms [Straka *et al.*, 2000] can provide information on the type of species expected in different parts of a convective system. For example, Stith *et al.* [2002] noted that graupel-dominated, GCE model-simulated stratiform profiles (using an earlier version of the Goddard microphysics) were unrealistic based on their in situ aircraft studies, which were dominated by aggregates with graupel not found in significant amounts. An accurate vertical distribution of

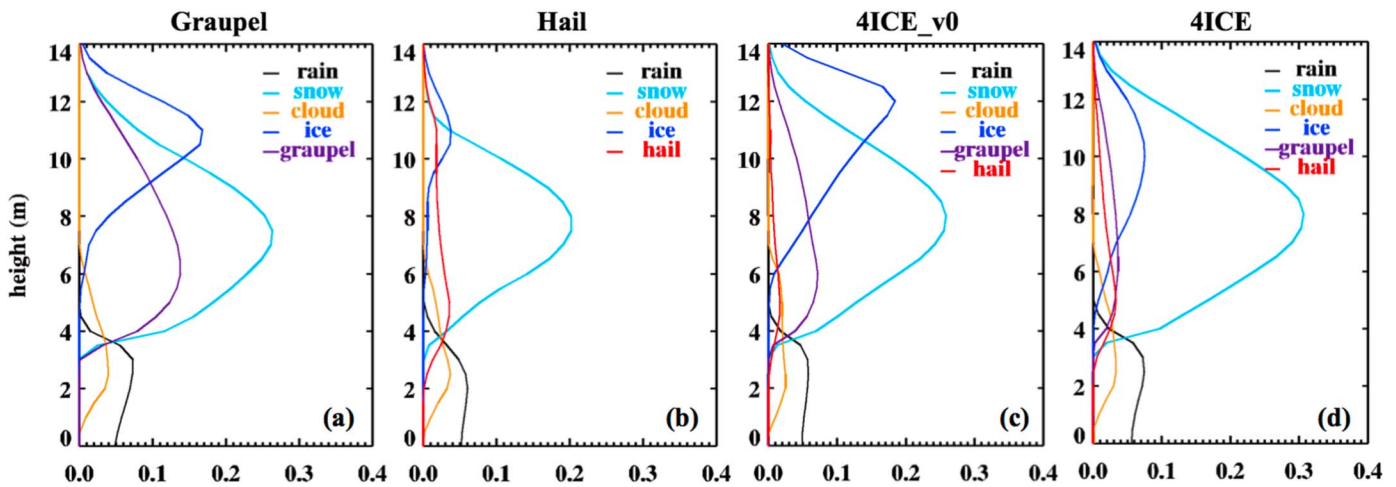


Figure 13. Domain- and time-averaged hydrometeor profiles from the (a) Graupel, (b) Hail, (c) original 4ICE, and (d) modified 4ICE schemes from 06 to 12 UTC on 20 May 2011. The horizontal axes show mixing ratio in grams per kilograms.

cloud species is important for satellite retrievals [i.e., *Lang et al.*, 2007; *Olson et al.*, 2006]. Unrealistic precipitation ice contents (i.e., snow and graupel), for example, can bias the simulated brightness temperatures and make it difficult to infer cloud properties from remote sensing data, which link them with synthetic values from models [*Matsui et al.*, 2013]. Simulated hydrometeor profiles can also be used to confirm or explain specific model behavior. Figure 13 shows vertical profiles of the total horizontal domain- and time-averaged cloud species (i.e., cloud water, rain, cloud ice, snow, graupel, and/or hail). Low-level rain and cloud water mixing ratios have only subtle variations with the Graupel and modified 4ICE schemes having on average slightly stronger low-level rain evaporation signatures due to their better organization and more developed stratiform regions and lack of a rain evaporation correction in the Graupel scheme. Snow is a dominant ice species to varying degrees in all of the schemes, but the modified 4ICE scheme has the most snow and less cloud ice than the Graupel or 4ICE_v0. Snow autoconversion, which was slightly increased in the original 4ICE, was further strengthened in the modified 4ICE, allowing more cloud ice to be converted into snow than in the Graupel and 4ICE_v0 schemes. The combination of a prescribed fixed snow intercept smaller than the other schemes' snow mappings, which for a given amount of mass yields larger snow sizes aloft and hence less snow deposition, and the allowance of dry collection in the Hail scheme contributes to it having less snow and cloud ice. The Graupel scheme produces a much larger graupel profile than the two 4ICE schemes, as both rimed particles and frozen drops are treated as graupel, which has a moderate fall speed and remains suspended much longer than hail. The modified 4ICE scheme has less graupel than the original, partially as a result of switching from the Meyers to the Cooper curve for the number of active IN and capping cloud ice size to the minimum snow size. These changes result in a higher proportion of ice and deposition growth and hence snow and a decrease in the proportion of riming and graupel (please see Figure S6 in the supporting information). Hail is much larger and has much faster fall speeds than graupel. This allows it to fall further than graupel below the melting layer before fully melting but also greatly reduces the amount that is suspended aloft as shown by the differences between the Graupel scheme's graupel profile and the Hail scheme's hail profile. In terms of the two 4ICE schemes, the modified 4ICE has more hail due in part to its better organization and slightly larger convective area but also to the new hail size-mapping scheme, which produces smaller hail with both a larger surface area and reduced fall speeds than that for the fixed hail intercept used in the original 4ICE until mixing ratios become fairly large. The vertical distribution of snow and hail for the Hail scheme is quite similar to the results of *Lin et al.* [1983] upon which it is based and which were also for midlatitude convection.

Figures 14 and 15 show the vertical distributions of cloud species in the convective and stratiform regions. The Graupel scheme's convective region is dominated by both graupel and snow. Without hail, freezing of supercooled water is forced to become graupel, which can remain suspended longer and results in a large proportion of graupel. However, with graupel dry collection turned off, snow and cloud ice are also present in large amounts. In the stratiform region, snow is more dominant; however, graupel is still present in large quantities, having been efficiently transported into the stratiform region due to its moderate fall speed as

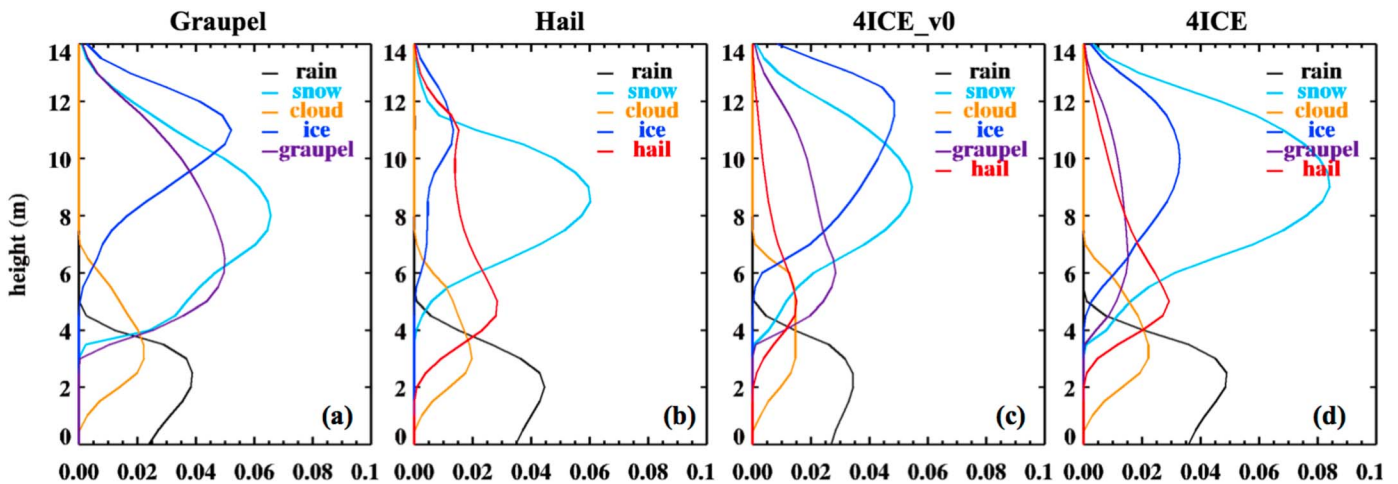


Figure 14. Same as Figure 13 except for the convective regions.

is cloud ice due to the weak snow autoconversion effect. In contrast to the Graupel, the Hail scheme's convective region has very little cloud ice, much less snow, and a large proportion of hail considering its high fall velocity. With hail dry collection included, ice and snow are scavenged to become hail. Its hail profile also contains a secondary maximum near 11 km, which coincides with the secondary reflectivity maximum that was not observed. The combination of hail dry collection and deposition likely contribute to this secondary hail peak, which is not present in either 4ICE scheme. The Hail stratiform region is almost completely snow, though the amount is less than the other schemes. Unlike graupel, hail falls out quickly in the convective region while cloud ice is depleted via an over efficient Psfi term (vapor growth of ice into snow, see *Lang et al.* [2011]).

As for the two 4ICE schemes, both contain sizeable proportions of cloud ice, snow, graupel, and hail in their convective regions. Similar to the Graupel scheme, eliminating dry collection allows for ample cloud ice and snow to be present with the modified 4ICE having a higher proportion of snow relative to cloud ice due to its enhanced snow autoconversion, which is likewise apparent in the stratiform profiles. While the modified 4ICE has a larger convective hail profile due in part to the hail mapping, both have almost no hail in their stratiform regions. As with the total profiles, the Cooper curve leads to less graupel in proportion to snow in the modified scheme compared to the original in both the convective and stratiform regions. Both 4ICE schemes produce much less graupel than the Graupel scheme, as a significant fraction of frozen supercooled water becomes hail. The end result is that the modified 4ICE scheme has very little graupel in its stratiform region, which is largely dominated by snow consistent with both in situ measurements [e.g., *Stith et al.*, 2002] and radar

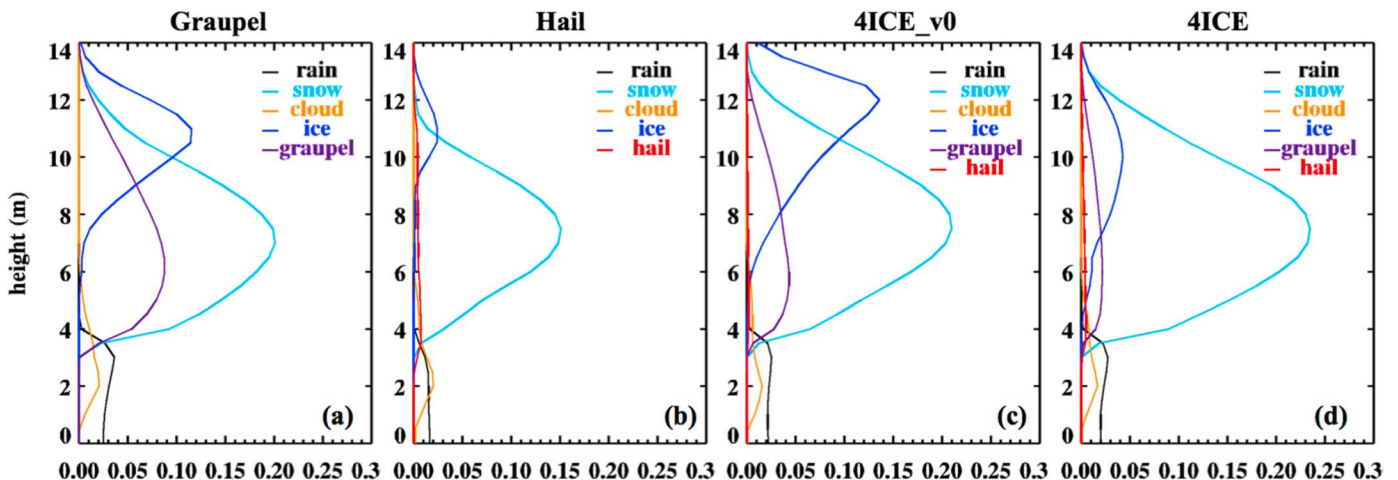


Figure 15. Same as Figure 13 except for the stratiform regions.

HID analyses [e.g., *Lerach et al.*, 2010; *Guy et al.*, 2013] of MCSs and also similar to the Hail scheme except that the total amount of stratiform snow is much greater in the modified 4ICE.

4. Summary and Discussion

In this study, NU-WRF was used at a relatively high horizontal resolution (i.e., 1 km for the innermost domain) to examine the performance of a modified version of the new Goddard 4ICE microphysics scheme in relation to the original and two previous 3ICE versions of the Goddard microphysics, a hail scheme and an improved graupel scheme, for a strong, well-organized MCS with intense leading edge convection and a well-developed trailing stratiform region that was observed on 20 May 2011 during the MC3E field campaign. The schemes were evaluated in terms of their radar reflectivity structures and distributions, propagation, rainfall, and surface rain rate histograms versus NMQ NEXRAD radar data and gage-corrected rainfall estimates and also compared in terms of their simulated hydrometeor profiles. The major results are as follows:

1. All four schemes reproduce the basic leading convective edge trailing stratiform squall line structure, though individual performance metrics varied significantly from scheme to scheme and between metrics. However, collectively the modified 4ICE scheme clearly performed the best, equaling or outperforming the other schemes in terms of system organization and structure, propagation, horizontal and vertical reflectivity structures, radar echo distributions, peak reflectivity profiles, and total surface rain rate histograms.
2. The Hail scheme actually produces conditional surface rain rates that are closest to the observed with the highest convective and lowest stratiform rates. Without graupel, all high-density ice falls out quickly in the convective region, leaving its stratiform region completely dominated by snow. However, the vertical structure of its stratiform region is completely unrealistic. With only a fixed snow intercept, reflectivities are maximized well above the freezing level, which results in it having the worst radar CFAD scores aloft. Having hail, it can produce intense echoes, but dry collection causes some of the slow-falling snow to be collected and fall out prematurely as hail in the convective leading edge and may contribute to an unrealistic secondary echo maximum at upper levels. Overall, its simulated MCS also lacks organization.
3. The Graupel scheme produces a well-developed MCS with a large, coherent stratiform rain area. Its radar CFAD scores are much better than the Hail aloft as a result of having a snow size-mapping scheme. However, without hail, it vastly underestimates peak reflectivities and convective surface rain rates, and too much graupel is carried into the stratiform region causing excessively high stratiform surface rain rates. Also, without a rain evaporation correction, its leading edge convection propagates too fast.
4. The original Goddard 4ICE scheme improves upon the Graupel by including hail, which allows it to produce intense echoes and higher convective surface rain rates. It eliminates the biases associated with hail dry collection by allowing only ice that was formed in a manner that would produce a high-density hydrometeor (e.g., freezing drops or extreme riming) to fall out as hail in the convective leading edge and therefore more slow-falling snow to be transported rearward to produce a broader more uniform light rain area. This effect was originally demonstrated by *Lang et al.* [2007] with respect to graupel (please see their Figures 4 and 10 for examples). The increased aggregation effect in its revised snow mapping produces radar CFADs that are even better than the Graupel and far better than the Hail and more vertically stratified stratiform reflectivity features in better agreement with observations. Also, omitting dry collection while including a rain evaporation correction leads to relatively narrow but intense and erect leading convective cells. Unlike the Hail scheme, its peak reflectivities monotonically decrease with height above the freezing level as observed. However, its simulated MCS lacks overall organization and intensity due to an allowed ice supersaturation value of 20% being applied system wide.
5. Although only the complete set of comprehensive changes is shown (except for the sensitivity test on the rain evaporation correction), based on the series of individual changes that were made (please see the supporting information for additional individual results), the modified 4ICE scheme improves upon the original in four ways. Though still allowing locally high ice supersaturations, lowering the background value to 5% strengthened the simulated MCS overall, leading to a better developed stratiform region, a longer, more coherent leading convective line and improved system organization and propagation and results in it having the most total rainfall, best total surface rain rate histograms and better conditional convective surface rain rates. Continued revisions to the snow mapping with an even greater aggregation effect coupled with the addition of a snow breakup effect via graupel/hail collisions, lead to the highest radar CFAD scores aloft, the most vertically stratified stratiform radar echoes, and best representation of the weak echo transition

region. The use of the Cooper curve for the number of active IN leads to a higher proportion of snow over graupel, which lowers the amount of graupel present in the stratiform region, which lowers and thereby improves stratiform surface rain rates. Though peak reflectivity values are slightly underestimated, the addition of a simple hail mapping relaxes the need to choose a fixed hail intercept value a priori.

6. Though conditional convective surface rain rates were too low, the Hail and modified 4ICE schemes had rates that were 91% and 81%, respectively, of the bias corrected. Despite having hail, the 1 M rain could be a factor in their low bias. Conversely, all four schemes were over biased in their conditional stratiform surface rain rates in rough proportion to the amount of graupel in their stratiform regions.
7. Hail processes were critical for this intense summertime MCS. Hail is essential for producing intense echoes above ~50 dBZ and higher surface rain rates. Without it, the Graupel scheme fails to produce echoes above 45 dBZ above the freezing level and allows too much moderate-falling graupel to be transported rearward. As a result, the 4ICE and Hail schemes produced more heavy (i.e., >30 mm/h) and less moderate precipitation (i.e., 10–20 mm/h) than the Graupel, in better agreement with observations.
8. The rain evaporation correction improved system propagation and leading cell structure. Schemes with a well-developed stratiform region and no correction (i.e., Graupel and the modified 4ICE without the correction) had stronger cold pools and tended to propagate too quickly. Leading convective cells also exhibited a greater tilt without the correction.
9. Snow size mapping greatly improves the vertical variation of the modal values within the reflectivity distributions. Without it, the Hail scheme produced a disjointed weak reflectivity mode quite unlike the robust aggregation mode in the observations. The revised snow mappings in the new and modified 4ICE schemes more realistically reproduce the robust and coherent aggregation signature (i.e., the vertical variation of mode values) in the observed radar reflectivity distribution (i.e., within the low values from ~5–25 dBZ), respectively, than the original mapping that was first implemented in the improved Graupel scheme. PDFs of vertical velocity were largely similar for all four schemes, suggesting the larger-scale shear and instability are more important than the changes made in the microphysics for determining the updraft intensities and distribution in such an unstable and sheared environment.

The 20 May 2011 MC3E case was one of the cases used to develop and evaluate the new 4ICE scheme in *Lang et al.* [2014] using the GCE model. Overall, the 4ICE results here are consistent with those from the GCE model [Lang et al., 2014]. However, as noted previously, those GCE model simulations were forced with observed large-scale advective tendencies for temperature and water vapor requiring the use of cyclic lateral boundary conditions, which can complicate and inhibit (along with the smaller domain) the simulated spatial structures of the squall line, namely, the stratiform region, by allowing the leading edge convection to wrap around behind the MCS [see, for example, Lang et al., 2014, Figure 2]. Restricting the stratiform area can affect the distribution of radar echoes and hence the agreement between the observed and simulated radar distributions. Accordingly, CFAD scores for the original 4ICE scheme for this same case in the GCE model study are consistently lower (i.e., less than 0.75) [see Lang et al., 2014, Figure 7] than they are using NU-WRF in this study (i.e., consistently above 0.8) using the same original version of the 4ICE scheme. Also, the double cyclic boundaries made it difficult to see the impact of the rain evaporation correction, which is quite evident in this study. The ability to use a larger domain with open lateral boundaries and nonuniform horizontal forcing in NU-WRF is less restrictive and produces superior results and is a more realistic evaluation of the 4ICE scheme.

Simultaneously, the new 4ICE scheme has been implemented and tested in the Goddard multi-scale modeling system (MMF), which utilizes the GCE model as the cloud-precipitation parameterization within the Goddard Earth Observing System global model. T. Matsui et al. (On the land-ocean contrast of tropical convection and microphysics statistics derived from TRMM satellite signals and global storm-resolving models, submitted to *Journal of Hydrometeorology* IPWG-7 special collection, 2015) evaluated statistical distributions of convective-precipitation type from the Goddard MMF with the new modified 4ICE scheme by contrasting land and ocean regions in the Tropics in comparison with TRMM signal statistics. Chern et al. [2016] studied the impact of different microphysical schemes, including the new modified 4ICE scheme, as well as their performance within the Goddard MMF compared with three CloudSat/CALIPSO retrieval products.

In Part II, the new Goddard 4ICE scheme with the additional modifications presented in this study will be compared with other WRF microphysics schemes (i.e., Morrison, WSM6, and WDM6). This modified version will also be implemented into the National Center for Atmospheric Research WRF for community use.

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