**The characterization of cloud in reunion**

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Abstract

Keywords: South West Indian Ocean, cloud cover,

k

# Introduction

The cloud for SSR prediction: [Riihimaki et al., 2021](#_ENREF_9):

A 5-year, 1-minute resolution observational dataset of clouds and solar radiation was produced that includes two metrics of the variability in surface solar irradiance due to cloud type and fractional sky cover. Multiple regression models were trained to fit observations of surface solar irradiance variability from those two cloud property predictors. We found that ensemble tree-based methods, Random Forest and Gradient Boosting Machine, have the least overfitting issues and showed the best performance with an R2 of 0.42. While the observational data trained in this study was only from one site, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Southern Great Plains (SGP) site in Oklahoma, initial comparisons of the seasonality of the statistics suggest that these results are relatively weather regime independent; the generality of such a finding across sites will be tested in future work. The observational data and developed machine learning model are being used to create a numerical weather prediction model parameterization to enable day-ahead solar variability prediction in a computationally efficient way. This is a first step towards creating a new paradigm of predicting day-ahead variability with the potential to provide a new tool to improve grid operation, planning, and resilience.

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Previous studies:

Cloud Type product issued from retrievals of the Spinning Enhanced Visible and InfraRed Imager onboard MeteoSat Second Generation (MSG-SEVIRI) offers a classification of clouds at 3 km spatial resolution and 15 min time resolution over the period 2010–2014. This cloud type classification was used for a diurnal and seasonal analysis to exam its role on the annual forests greenness in central Africa (between 0 and 5°N and 12–19°E). In this study [Philippon et al. (2016)](#_ENREF_8) redefined 7 cloud type according to cloud altitude and their optical properties; then

The climatological distribution of low-cloud fraction (LCF) over south Indian Ocean and its seasonality is presented by using satellite data, and lined to the storm-track activity and subtropical high. ([Miyamoto et al., 2018](#_ENREF_7)).

[Li et al. (2014)](#_ENREF_5) have shown some evidence of linkage between the cloud vertical structure and large-scale climate by exploring large-scale atmospheric dynamics, meteorological processes, and tropospheric cloudiness.

Using the DARDAR mask product based on Cloud–Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO) and CloudSat measurements (between 2007 and 2010), the characterization of the spatial, seasonal and vertical variability of clouds over the whole southwest Indian Ocean is investigated in the latitudinal band between 10 and 30◦S ([Vérèmes et al., 2019](#_ENREF_10)).

In the southwest Indian Ocean, vertical distribution of tropical clouds and their temporal variability of at the diurnal and seasonal scales are investigated in the northern part of Reunion Island (55.5°E; 21.1°S) using data from a 95 GHz cloud radar during 2016–2018 ([Durand et al., 2021](#_ENREF_3)).

[Kahn et al., 2008](#_ENREF_4)

[Chen et al., 2000](#_ENREF_2)

In the present study, the focus is put on Reunion island.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the data used in this study and the methods to XXX. The results are shown in section 3. Then conclusions are made in section 4 followed by a brief discussion.

# Context, Data

## climate of Reunion Island

* topography, circulation, pr, see [Mialhe et al., 2020](#_ENREF_6)

## SAFNWC/GEO cloud type product

Reference of this data (to confirmed):

<https://www.nwcsaf.org/web/guest/scientificdocumentation#NWC/GEO%20v2018>

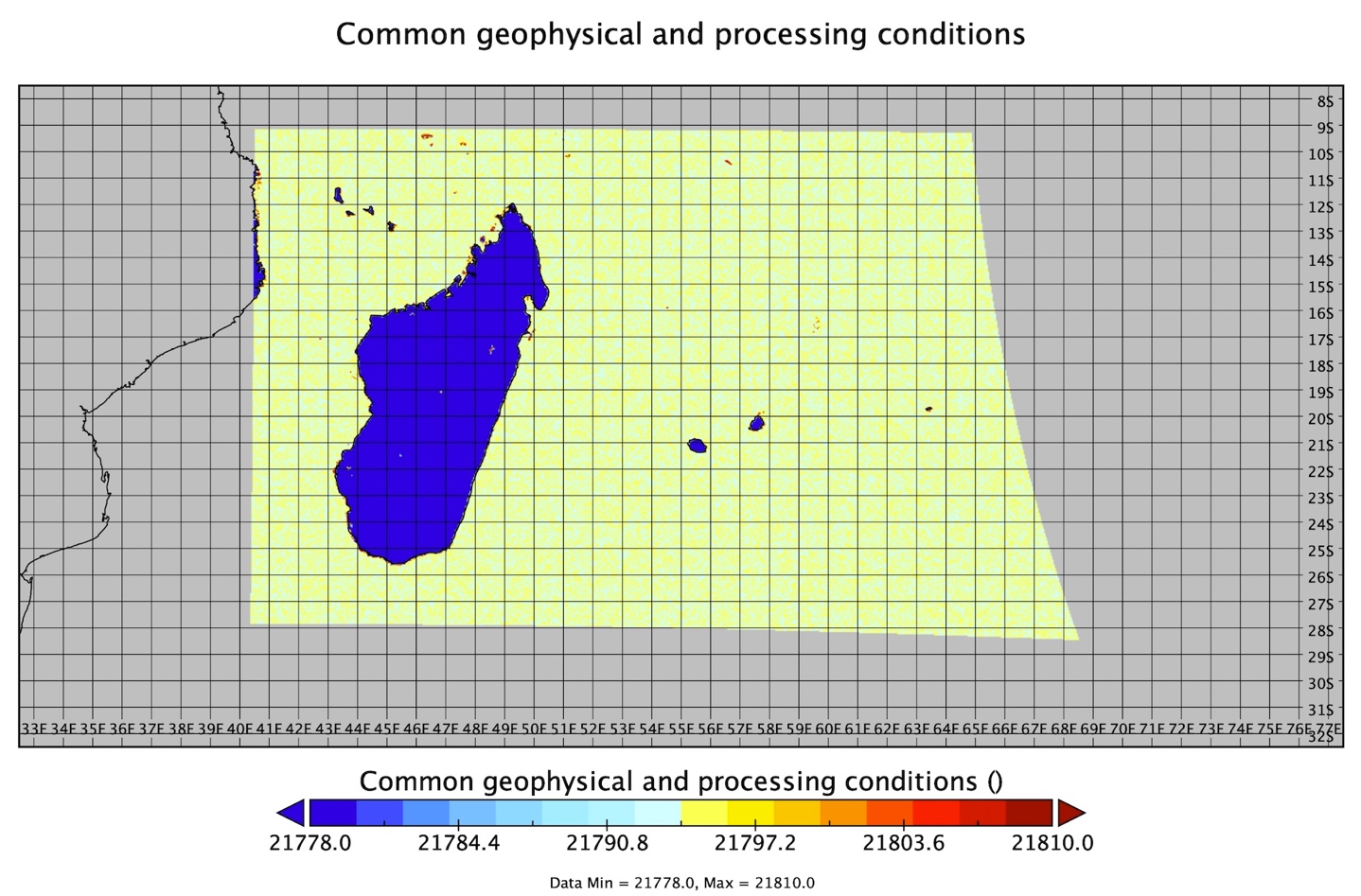


Fig. 1 spatial coverage of downloaded SAF\_NWC cloud product, variable is ct\_conditions as an example, in general projection.

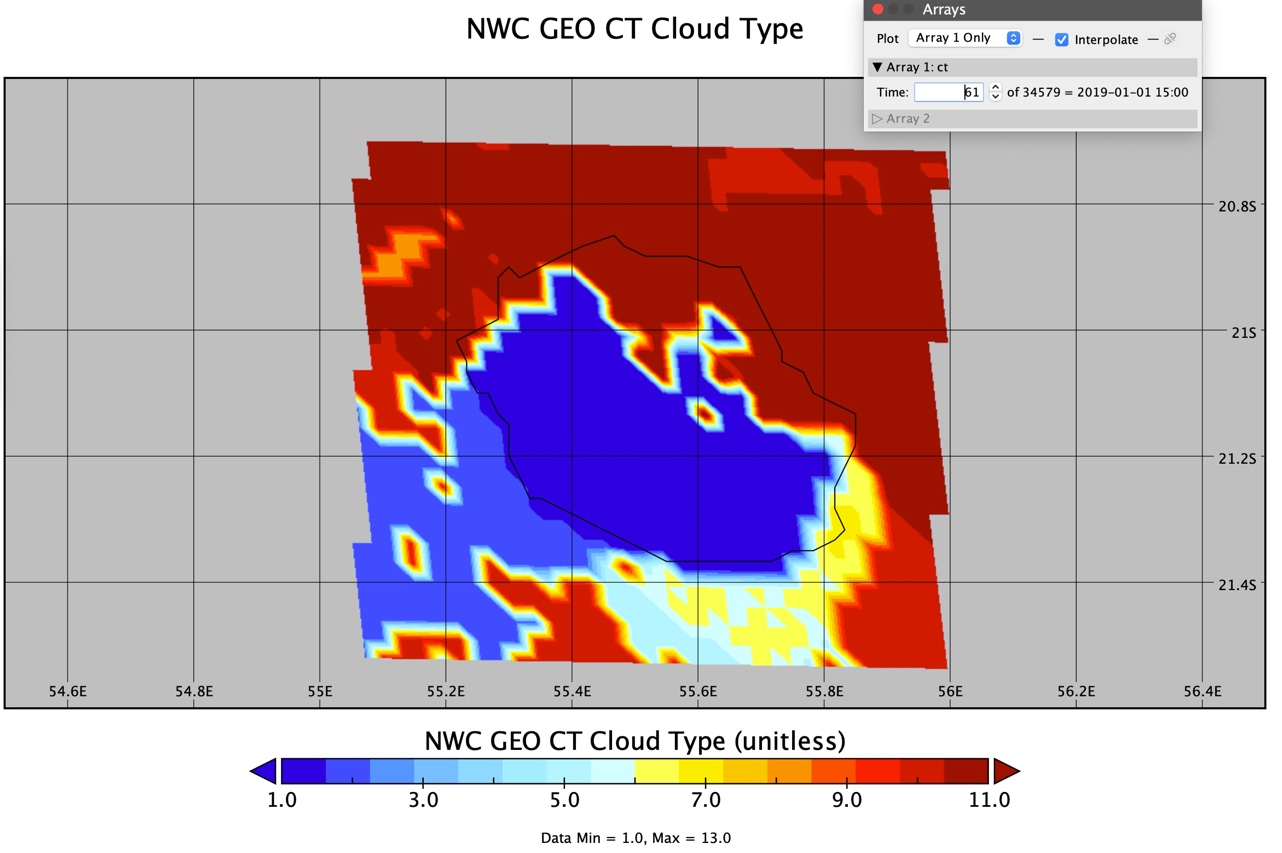


Fig. 2 Spatial coverage of SAF\_NWC cloud product over Reunion Island (30/34 pixels in the latitude/longitude direction)

### Data completeness

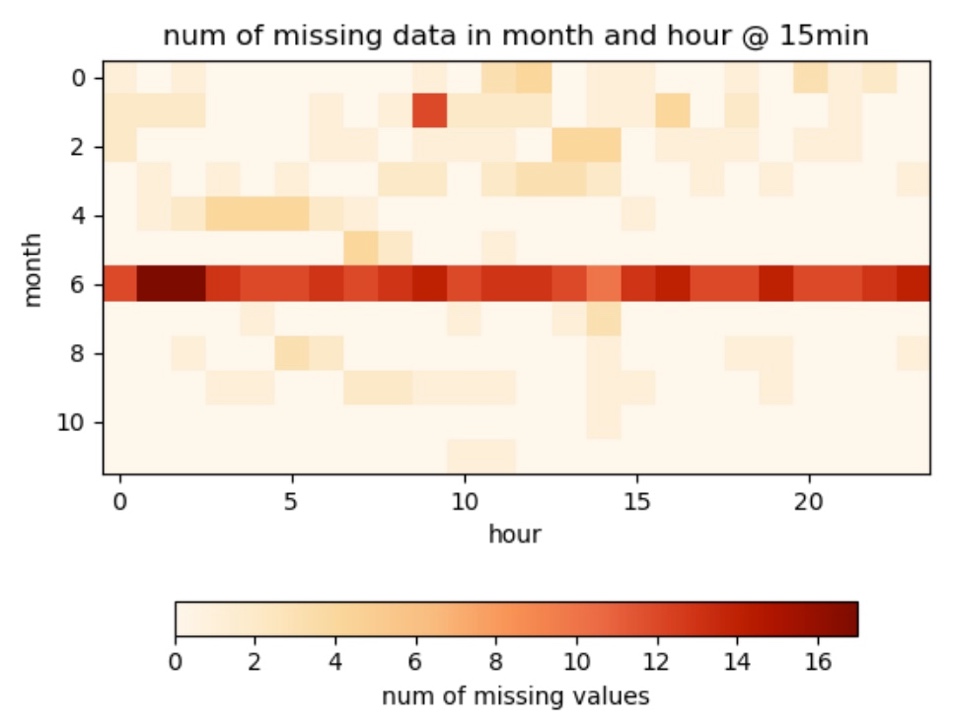
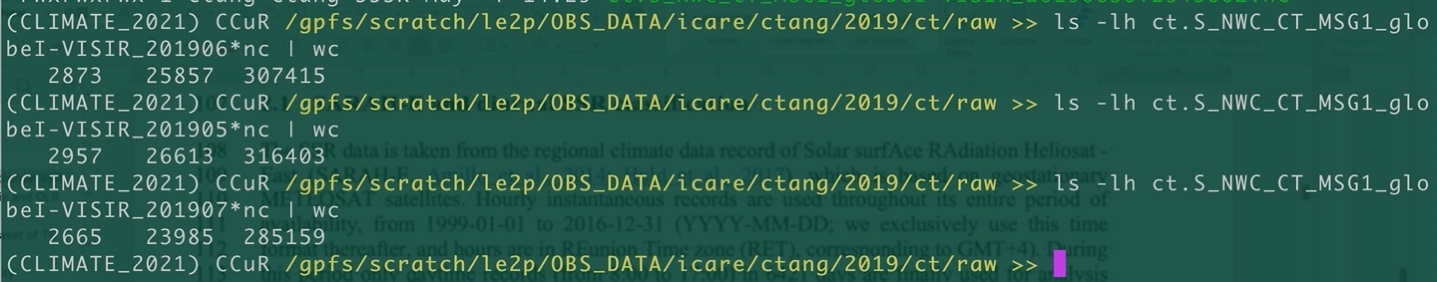


Fig. 3 Number of missing data in month and hour of the year 2019. The total number of records of one pixel depends on the number of days in corresponding month and the frequency of data (every 15 minutes). The total number of missing values is indicated on the plot. 461 are missing, and 1 map is found with only nan @: ['2019-03-27T11:00:00.000000000'], removed.

* Each pixel should have about 120 values (30 days \* 4 values / hour).
* July: few missing data are found, even still only less than 15%.



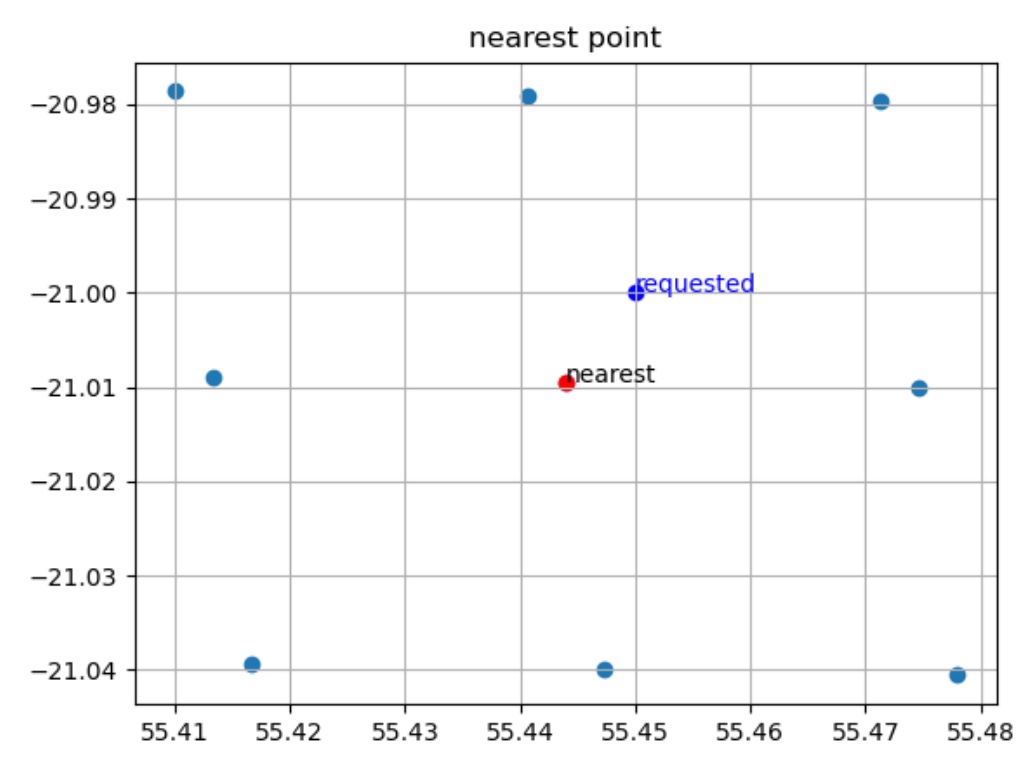
### Data quality

Ct\_condition ?

* Recent study on the reliability of SAF\_NWC data
* Validation report: User accuracy for low opaque, high opaque, semi-transparent high clouds : between 79% and 96% depending on illumination

### Data treatment

We selected the closest SAF\_NWC pixels to the r the respective Cam stations.



### regroup of cloud types

In SAF\_NWC CT products, a pixel is either clear-sky or cloudy or partly cloudy (fractional clouds).

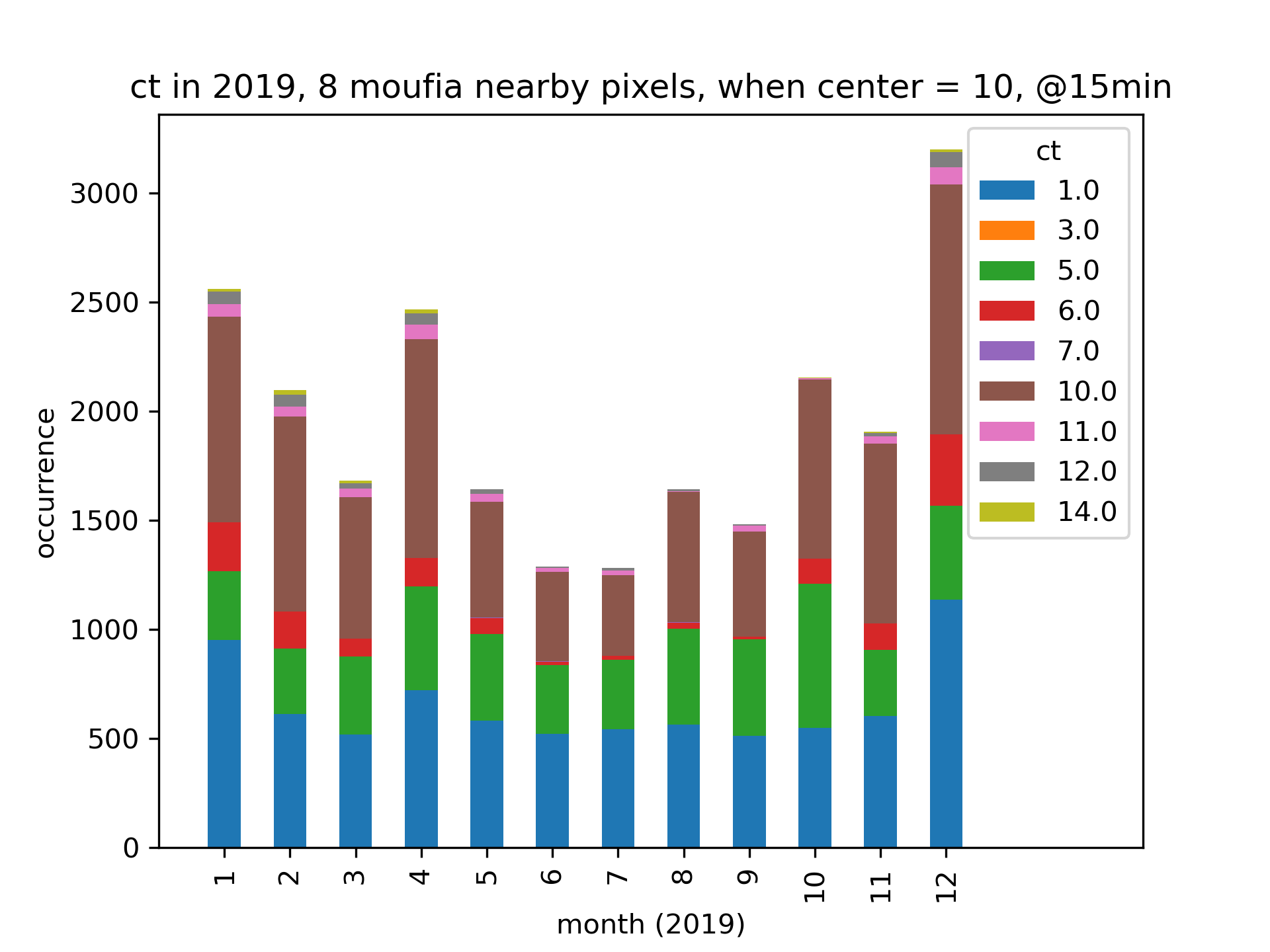
After excluding, grouping or reallocating some classes, 7 classes are defined: clearskies (’CS’), ultra-low (’vLow’), low (’Low’), medium (’Med’), highopaque (’HOp’), very high opaque (’vHOp’), and semi-transparentclouds (’sTp’, , last column).

Table 1 Columns 1–4: cloud type value, name, type of clouds in presence, and frequency (in percentage) over our study period and region, of the 15 initial classes of clouds of the SAFNWC cloud type. columns 5–7: the 7 classes finally retained for our study and the final name attributed. Column 4, parenthesis: final frequency after the reallocation of the fractional clouds.

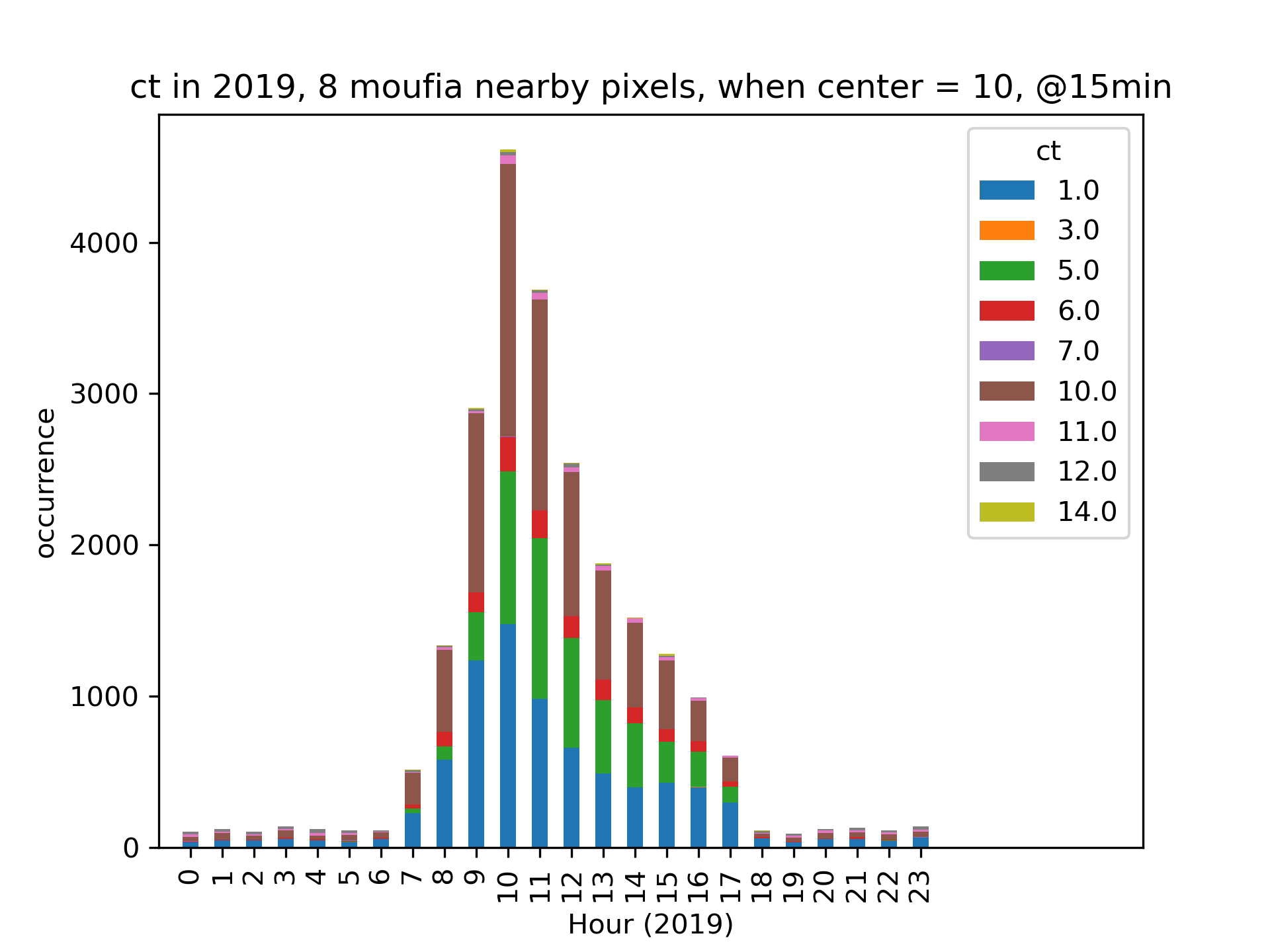
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cloud type class | Initial classification name | Type of clouds in presence | Frequency in %  (Campus/Reunion) | Final classification | Final name |
| 1 | Cloud-free land |  |  | Clear sky | CS |
| 2 | Cloud-free Sea |  |  | excluded |  |
| 3 | Snow over land |  |  | excluded |  |
| 4 | Sea ice |  |  | excluded |  |
| 5 | Very low clouds |  |  |  | vLow |
| 6 | Low clouds |  |  |  | Low |
| 7 | Mid-level clouds |  |  |  | Mid |
| 8 | High opaque clouds |  |  |  | HOp |
| 9 | Very high opaque clouds |  |  |  | vHOp |
| 10 | Fractional clouds |  |  | Reallocated  pixels covered by fractional clouds, i.e., sub-pixel water clouds. These pixels were reprocessed and reallocated so that they fall into the cloud type most frequently observed among the 8 neighbouring pixels. |  |
| 11 | High semitransparent thin clouds |  |  |  | sTp |
| 12 | High semitransparent moderately thick clouds |  |  |  |
| 13 | High semitransparent thick clouds |  |  |  |
| 14 | High semitransparent above low or medium clouds |  |  |  |
| 15 | High semitransparent above snow/ice |  |  |  |
| FillValue | No data or corrupted data |  |  | excluded |  |

**reallocation of fractional cloud**

There are 2923 timesteps with fraction cloud in Moufia pixel to be reallocated, so that they fall into the cloud type most frequently observed among the 8 neighboring pixels. While there are 11 days that all the 8 Moufia nearby pixels are in the cloud type #10, i.e., fractional cloud, where the cloud type of previous timestep (15 minutes before) is finally used. The fractional cloud is mainly found in the daytime (Supplementary Fig. 2) and more in summer than winter (Supplementary Fig. 1).

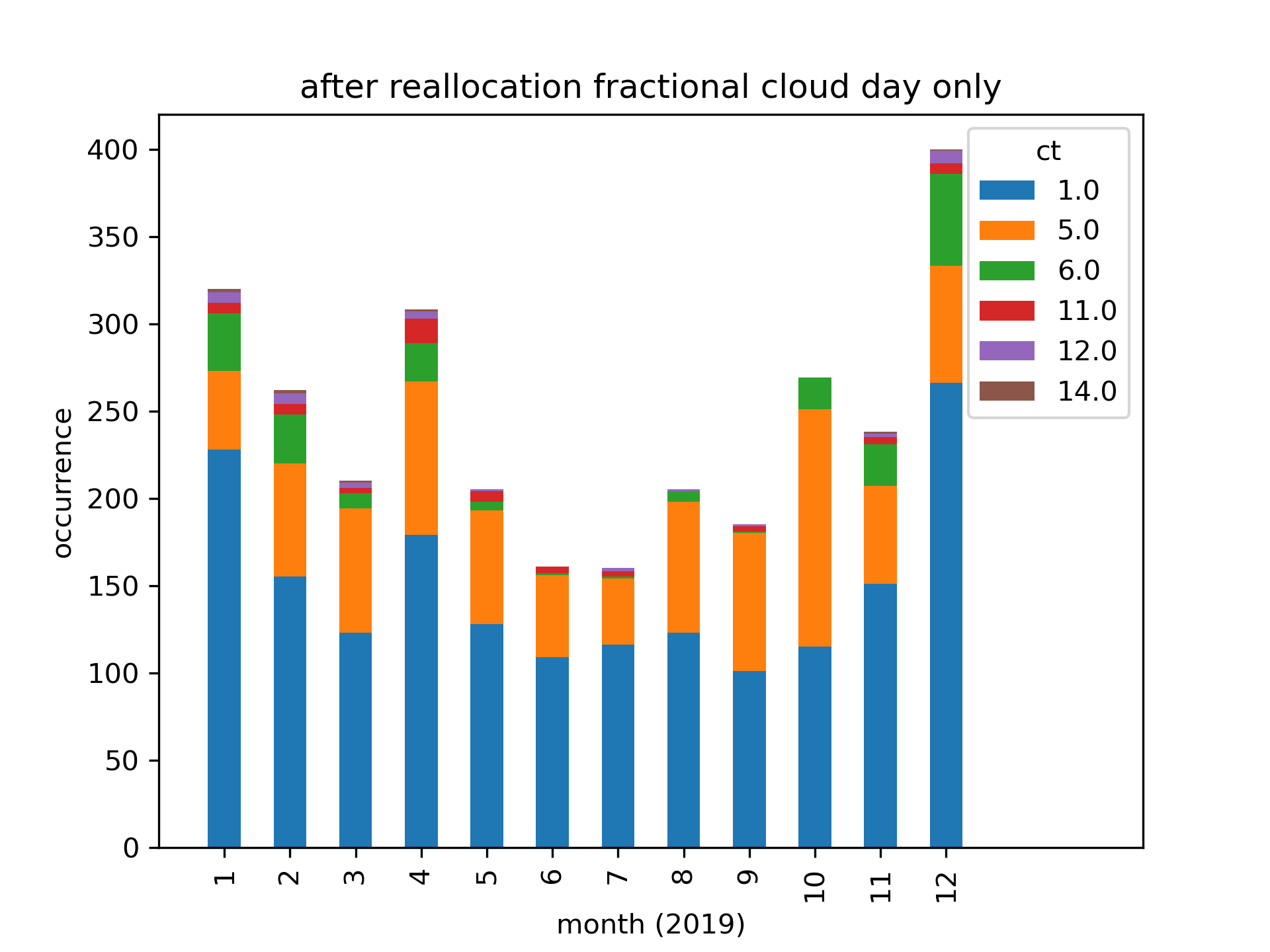


Supplementary Fig. Cloud types at the 8 Moufia nearby pixels, when Moufia pixel is covered by fractional cloud as #10, 29 days totally.

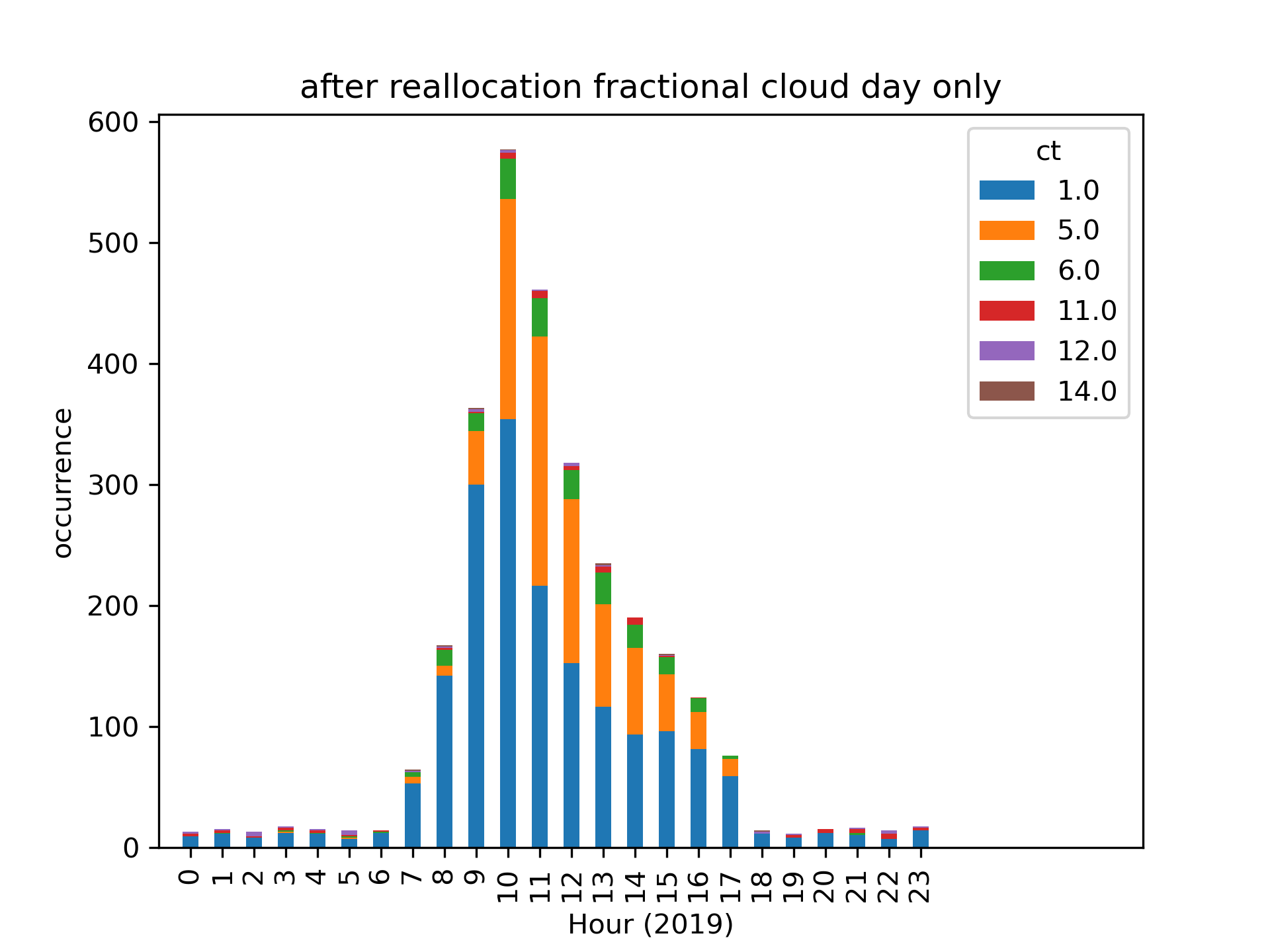


Supplementary Fig. Cloud types at the 8 Moufia nearby pixels, when Moufia pixel is covered by fractional cloud as #10, 29 days totally.

As shown in Supplementary Fig. 3 and Supplementary Fig. 4, the fractional cloud are reallocated mostly to the cloud free land and very low cloud, where the very low cloud happens mainly during the daytime.



Supplementary Fig. Moufia pixel cloud types after reallocation of fractional cloud, only 2923 timesteps originally covered by fractional cloud are shown.



Supplementary Fig. Moufia pixel cloud types after reallocation of fractional cloud, only 2923 timesteps originally covered by fractional cloud are shown.

## regrouping:

after reallocation of fractional cloud, regrouping are performed according to the rules described in section 2.2.4.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Clear sky |
| 5 | Very low clouds |
| 6 | Low clouds |
| 7 | Mid-level clouds |
| 8 | High opaque clouds |
| 9 | Very high opaque clouds |
| 10 | Fractional clouds |
| 11 | High semitransparent clouds |

The numbers of occurrences of cloud type after reallocation and regrouping over Moufia are shown in Supplementary Table. 1, the clear sky condition is about 65% which is mainly during the night. The very low Cloud has the largest number of occurrences, more then 15% (where 2.4% from reallocation) followed by sTp cloud (#11) and low cloud (#6) about 7%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cloud Type** | **raw** | | **reallocation** | | **regroup** | |
| **N.** | **%** | **N.** | **%** | **N.** | **%** |
| 1 | 20884 | 60.4 | 22678 | 65.59 | 22678 | 65.59 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 11 | 0.03 | 11 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 4421 | 12.79 | 5253 | 15.19 | 5253 | 15.19 |
| 6 | 2357 | 6.82 | 2558 | 7.4 | 2558 | 7.4 |
| 7 | 511 | 1.48 | 511 | 1.48 | 511 | 1.48 |
| 8 | 716 | 2.07 | 716 | 2.07 | 716 | 2.07 |
| 9 | 95 | 0.27 | 95 | 0.27 | 95 | 0.27 |
| 10 | 2923 | 8.45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 308 | 0.89 | 363 | 1.05 | 2756 | 7.97 |
| 12 | 1467 | 4.24 | 1500 | 4.34 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 428 | 1.24 | 428 | 1.24 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 457 | 1.32 | 465 | 1.34 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Supplementary Table. 1 Occurrence and percentage of Moufia cloud types in 2019 of 15min frequency for the raw data, and data after reallocation of fractional cloud, and regrouping.

## All sky camera

Attention:

Seasonal varying sunshine duration, hours of the daytime.

cloud fraction from camera: [Aebi et al., 2018](#_ENREF_1).

# Methods

## Cloud type annual cycles

The annual cycles of Cloud type in the site of Campus are presented during the year 2019 (first look).

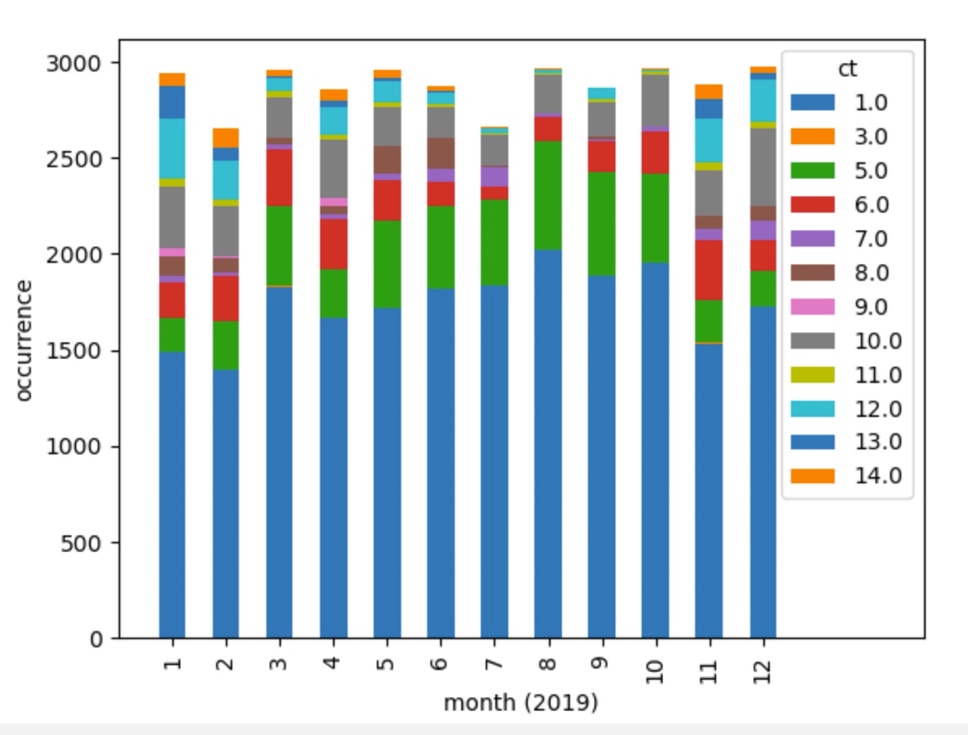


Fig. 4 Annual occurrences of all raw cloud types in the Moufia campus location in the year of 2019.

Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 show the monthly and hourly cloud type disctirbution.

1. The Cloud-free found slightly more in winter than summer.
2. The Very low clouds (#5), which is highly attenuating for the shortwave radiation, presents in all the months of the year. A variation is observed, with lower occurrence in summer (from Nov to Apr) and higher occurrence in the winter months from May to Oct. why ?
3. The Low clouds (#6), on the other hand, have higher occurrence in summer than in winter, opposite with Very low clouds.
4. The semitransparent clouds (#11) are more abundant in summer than in winter. However, these clouds do not play a major role in the water and light availability since they are not rain-bearing, nor do they decrease the solar radiation (“sTp” correlation with “Rain” and “Solar radiation” ??).
5. The Fractional clouds (#10) contribute a large part of the total cloud cover, with lower occurrence in winter than in summer and mainly in daytime.

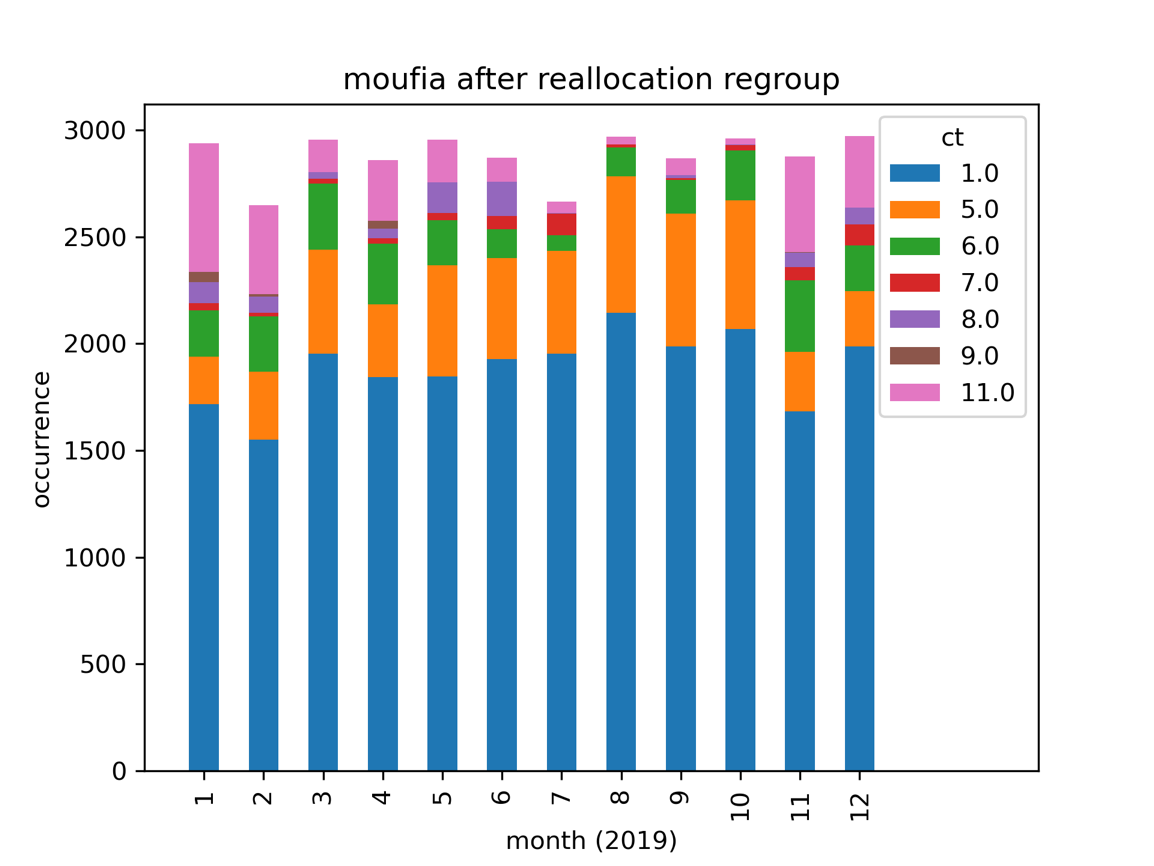


Fig. 5 monthly occurrence of cloud types in the year 2019.

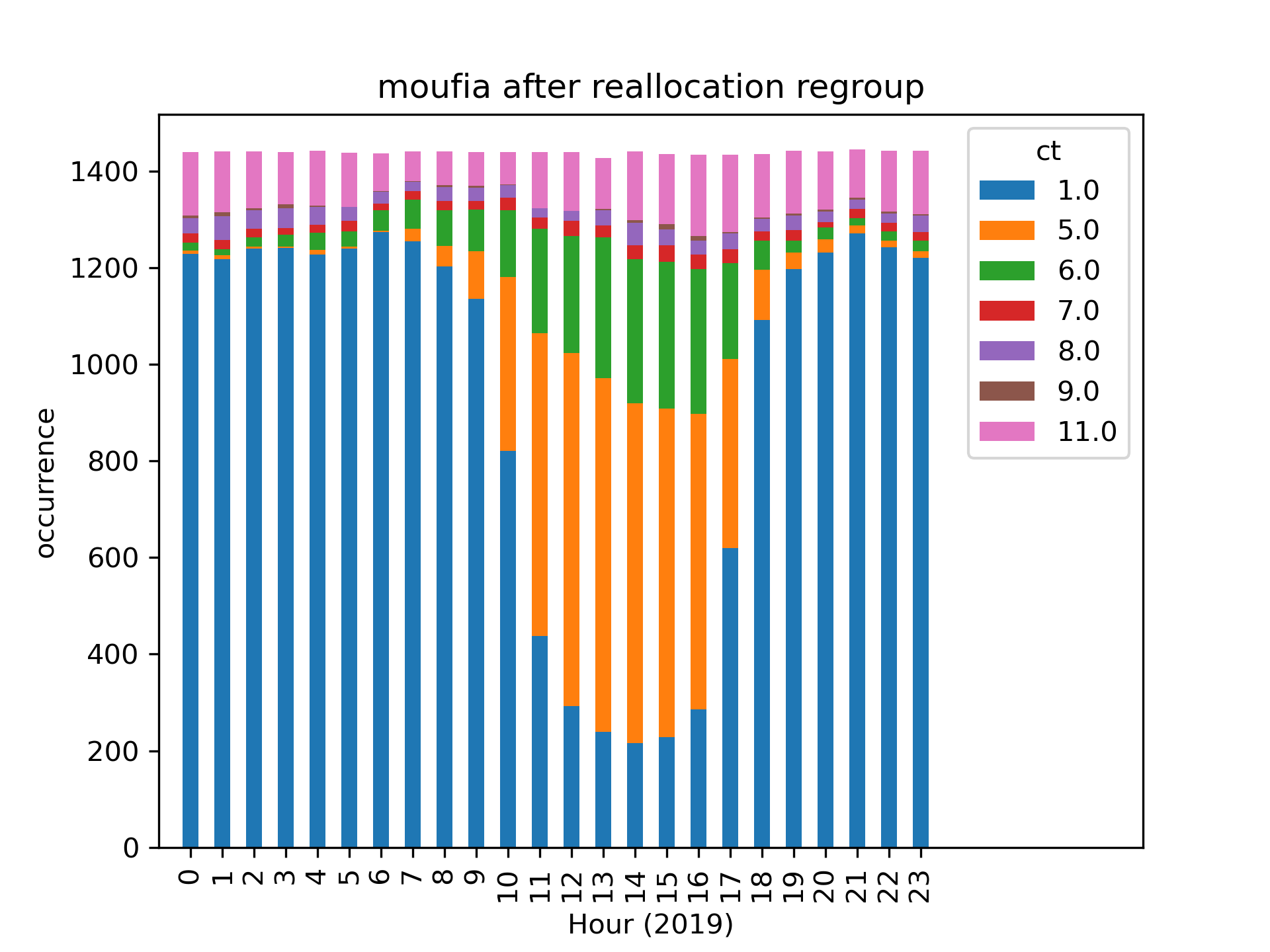


Fig. 6 Hourly occurrence of clouds in 2019.

At the diurnal scale:

1. Cloud free condition are largely seen during night than daytime.
2. During the daytime,
   1. Fraction cloud dominate the total cloud cover before 10h, while its contribution is decreasing rapidly after that.
   2. After 10h, Very low (#5) and low cloud (#6) is the most important.
   3. High semitransparent clouds have its lowest occurrence in early morning.
   4. #7,8,9 have higher contribution overnight.

## Cloud type correlation vs SSR

First the distribution type (gaussian or not) is checked to know if Pearson correlations

and biases are appropriate or not.

3.3

## Clustering of the mean annual cycles Low Level Cloud.

# variability of cloud in Reunion

the characterization of cloud in reunion

## Campus Saint-Denis

1. get 2019 data in Saint-Denis Campus in pandas DataFrame
2. regroup or select cloud types
3. show annual cycles in 2019 by (month or 2 weeks (1440) or bi-month)
4. diurnal cycles in different seasons.
5. Plot as well the mean of SSR and Pr.
6. And lacy cloud types. From 2019-09 to 2020-08.
7. Lacy cloud fraction (multi-year, from old and new camera)

monthly and diurnal:

Chart, bar chart

Description automatically generatedChart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Fig. 7 examples of monthly and diurnal cloud type, from [Philippon et al. (2016)](#_ENREF_8" \o "Philippon, 2016 #60).

## SSR classification

### SSR climatology over Reunion

# Discussion and Conclusion

Summary:

climate change impacts:

Perspective:

This study focusses on the SSR variability due to climate variabilities, where the analysis is at regional scale, over Reunion area. However, more detailed variation at local scale is still missing. Uniformly distributed anomalous SSR (see the classification of SSR anomaly in section 3.1) implies an investigating at smaller scales, such as the cloud process and topography lifting, etc, which is a perspective of this study.

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# Appendix

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