



bjorn stevens  
ucla dep't atmos & ocean sci

- ***what factors (formulaic and physical) are important to the development of rain in shallow cumulus?***
- ***what key processes determine the dynamic evolution of precipitating cumulus?***



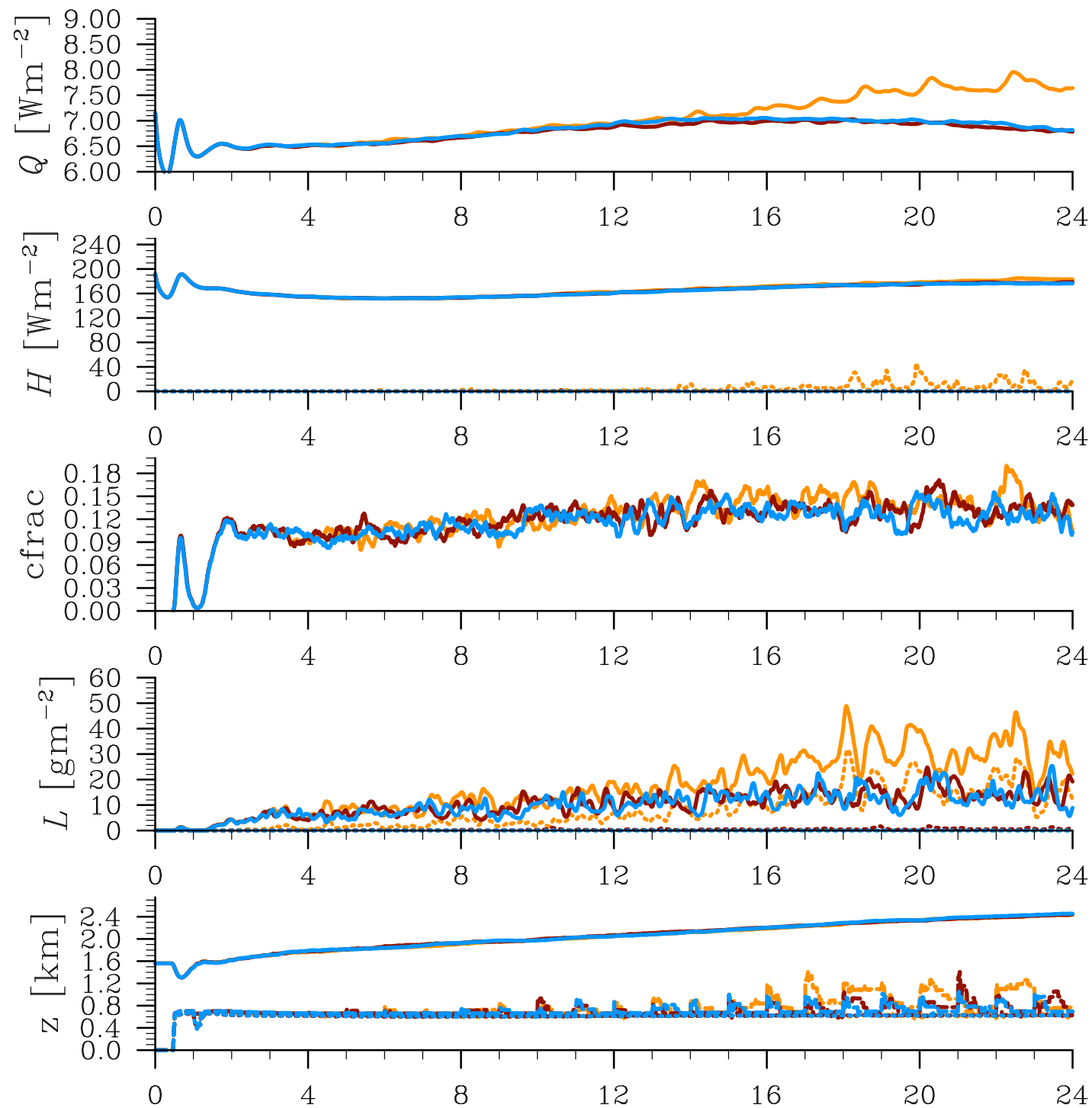
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### **outline:**

- explore rico-like cloud simulations ([rainscheme](#)|[specification](#)|[domainsize](#)|[ndroplets](#)|[meshsize](#)).
- introduce an idealization.
- understand the dynamics of the idealization.

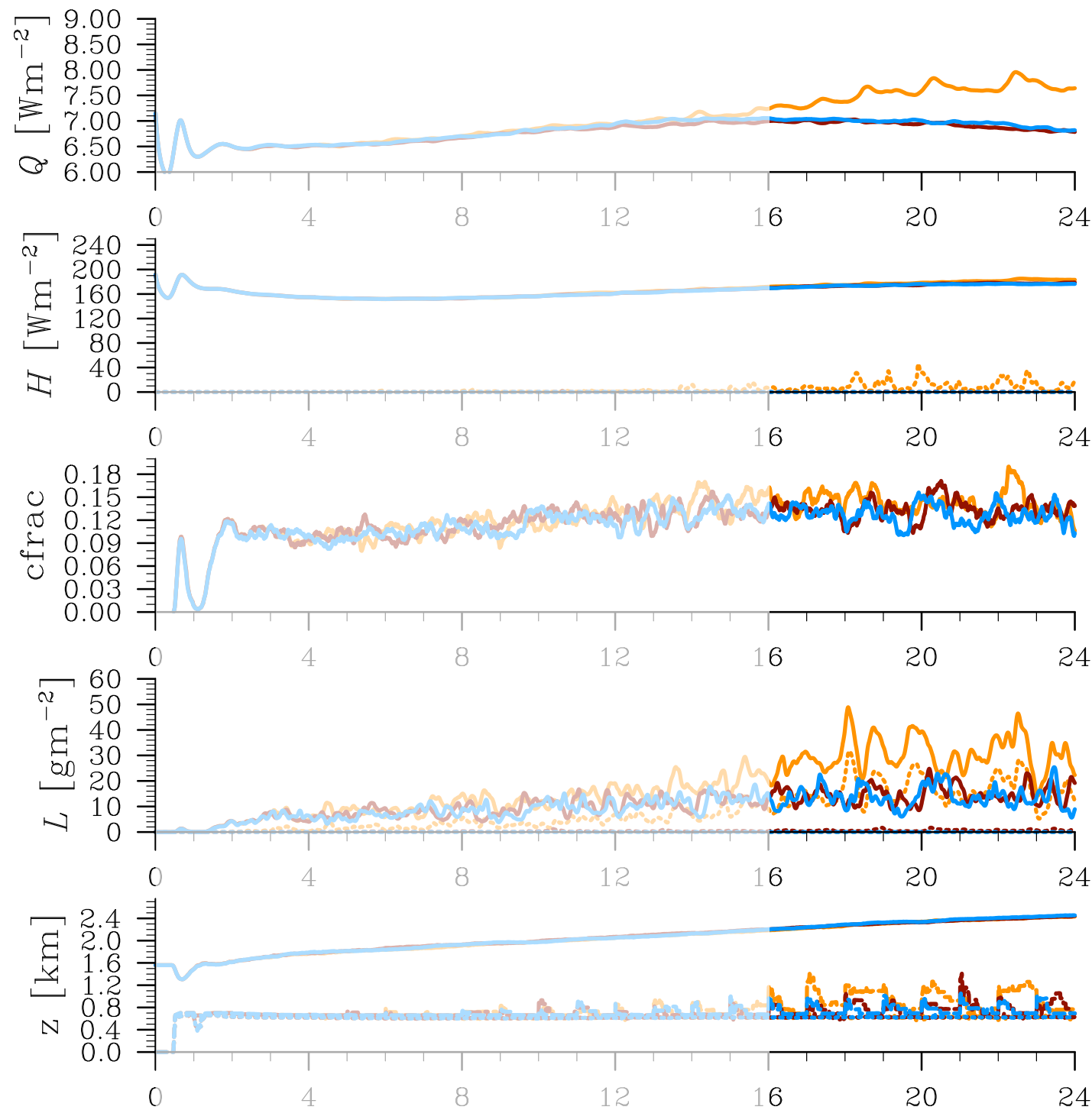
## rainscheme.g10



**rainscheme:** none|KK|SB

- ▶ SB produces significantly more rain than KK
- ▶ more rain is associated with more cloud (xie & feingold)
- ▶ rwp significant fraction of lwp

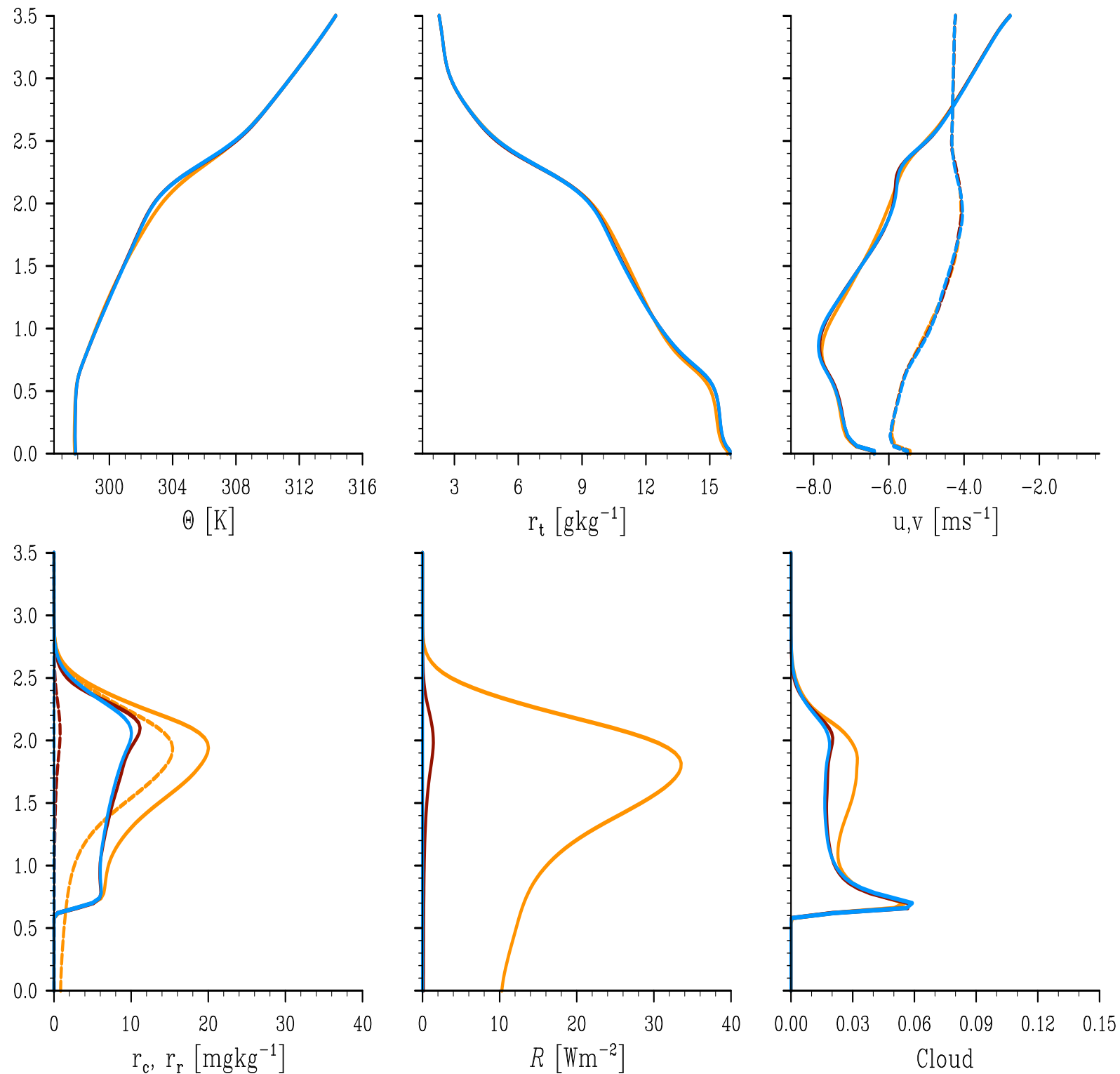
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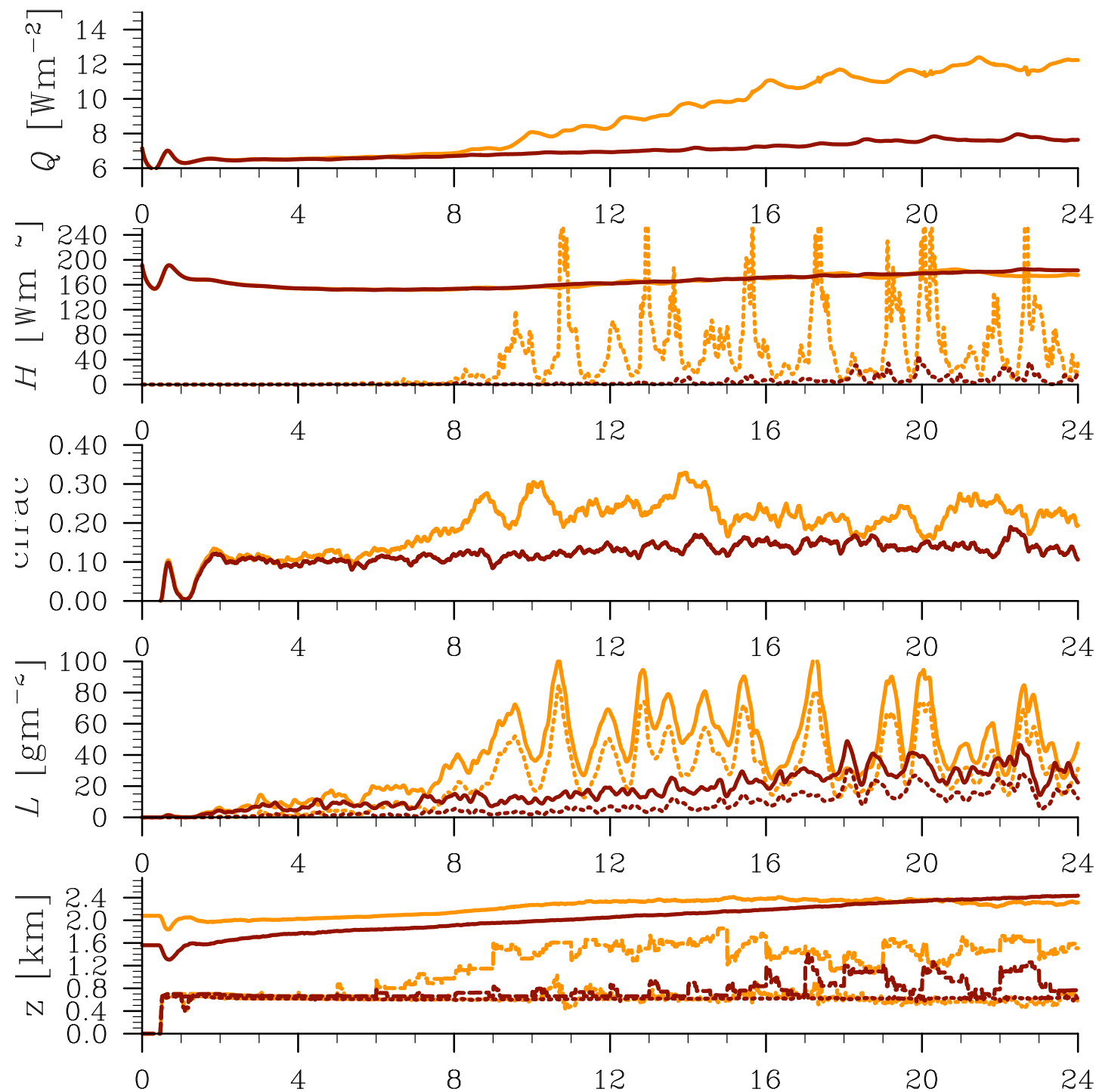
# rainscheme.glop



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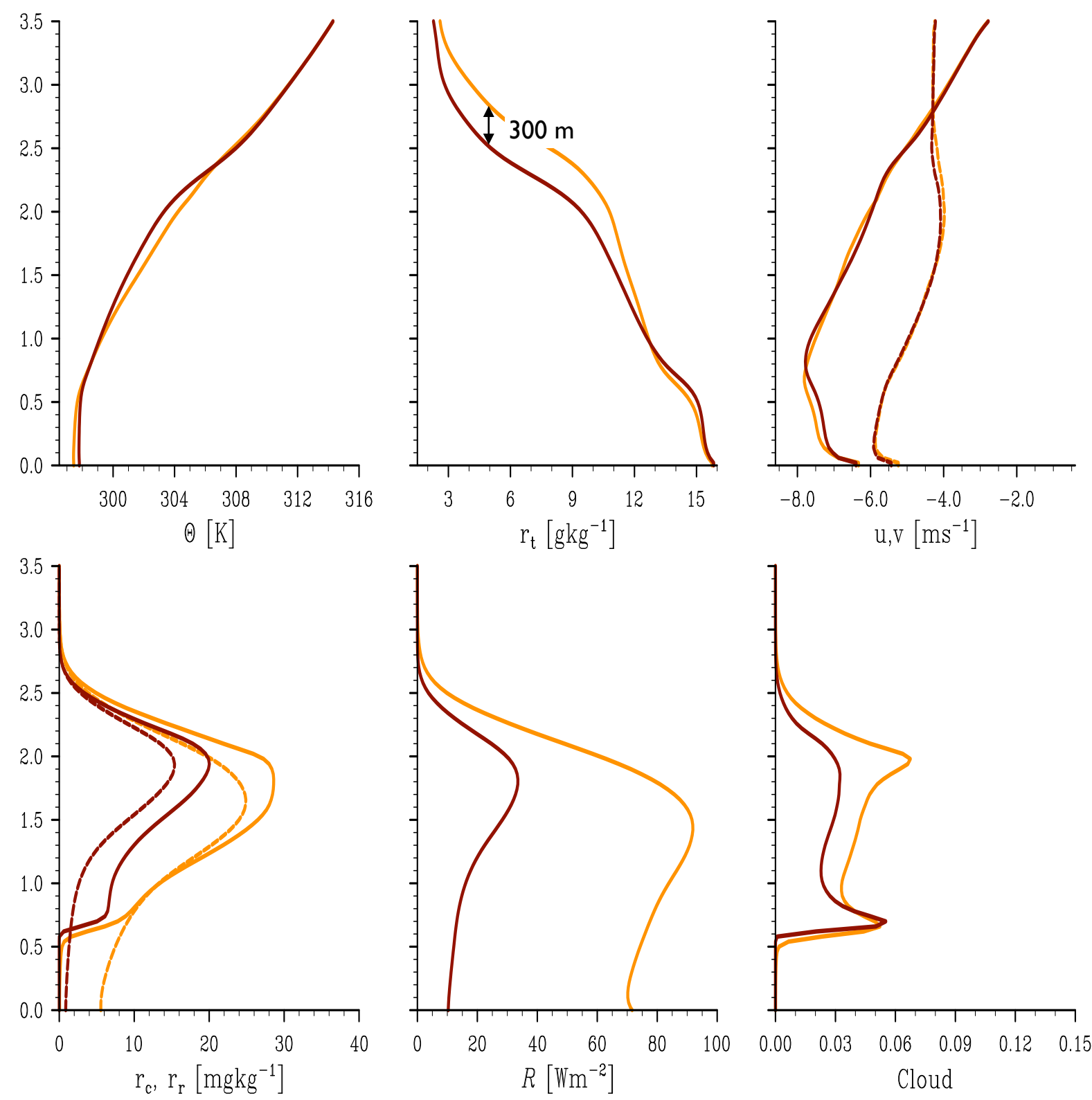
## specification.g10



### specification: control | p

- ▶ the **perturbation** experiment does not let the moisture profile feel the subsidence.
- ▶ **perturbation** develops more rain, cloud cover and liquid water.
- ▶ **perturbation** deepens cloud layer less rapidly.
- ▶ **rwp** a much more significant fraction

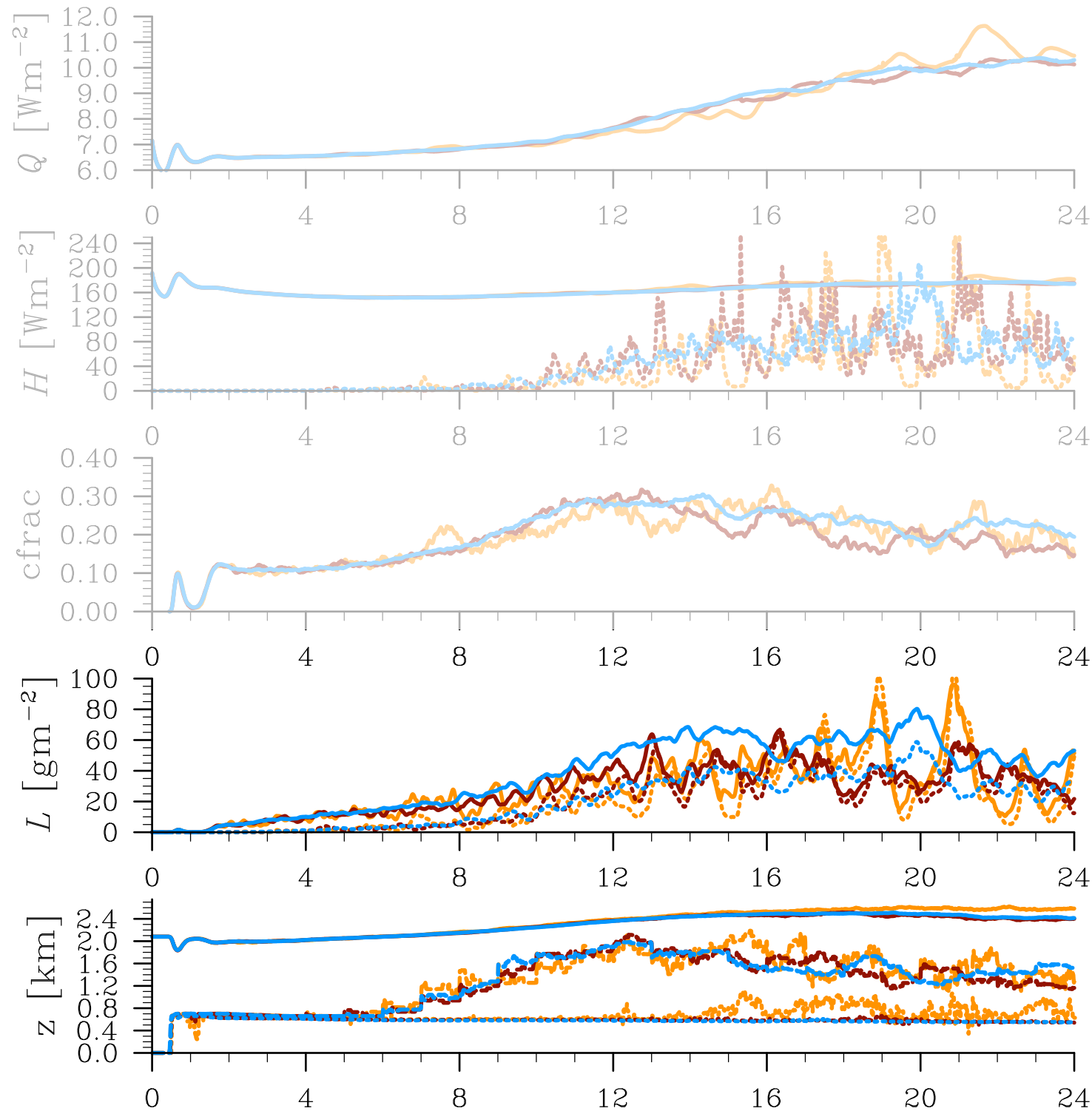
specification.g10



specification: control | p

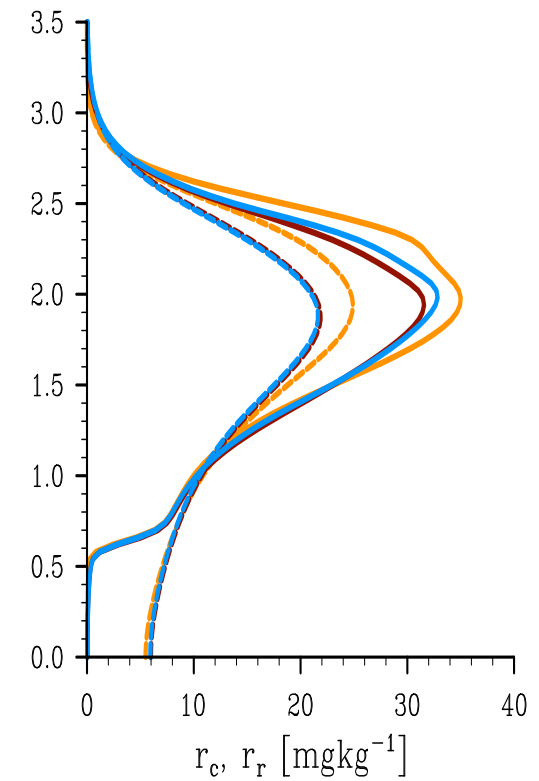
- ▶ the **perturbation** ~~experiment~~ mistake yields a deeper moist layer.
- ▶ **perturbation** cloud cover excess is in upper layers.
- ▶ **perturbation** rain fraction much higher.
- ▶ **perturbation** mean rain rates much larger.

## domainsize.gl0p



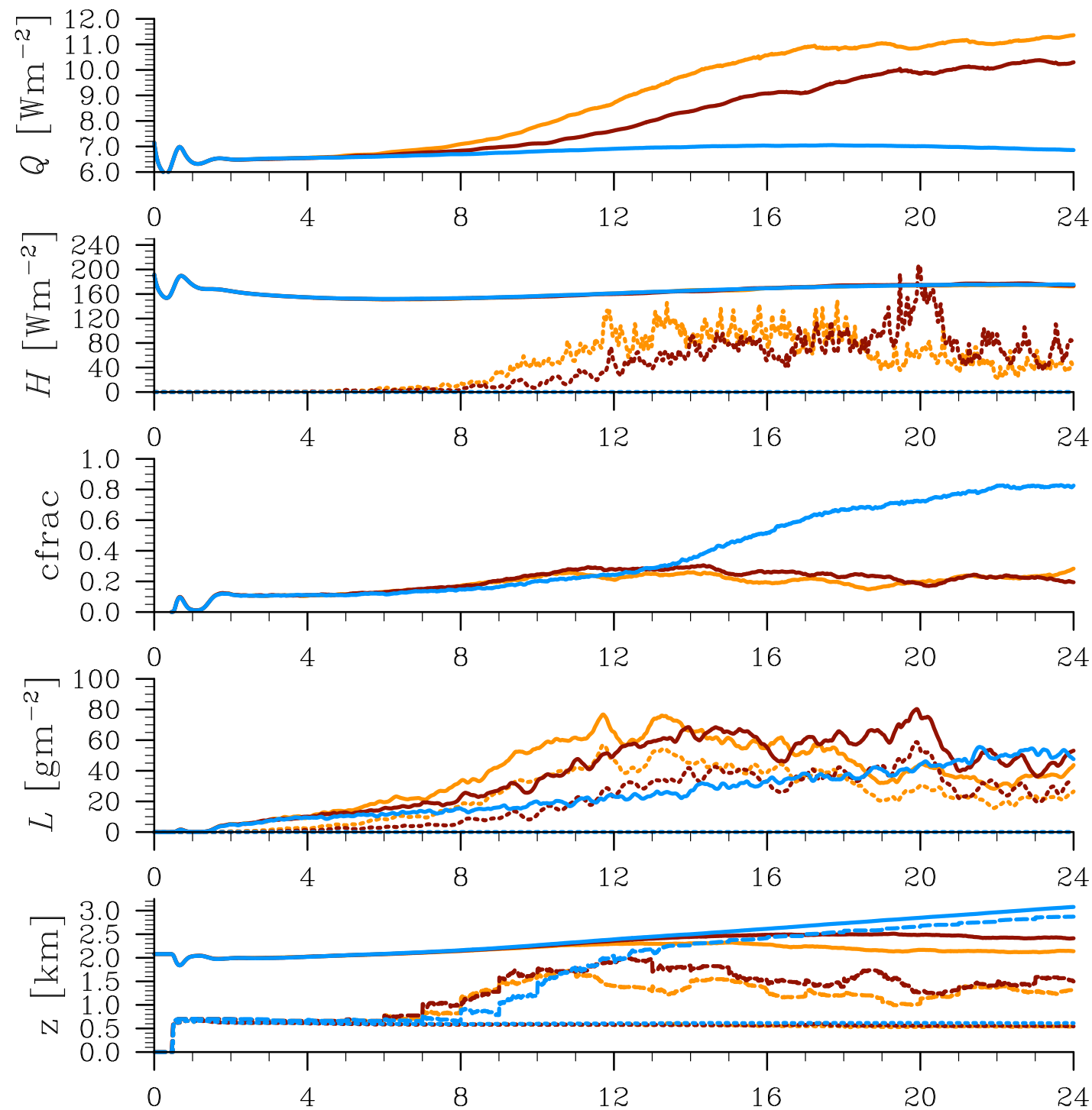
## domainsize: 5l|26|l3 km

- bigger domain better sampling
- time series relatively similar, especially between 26 and 5l km
- biggest effect in rwp versus lwp





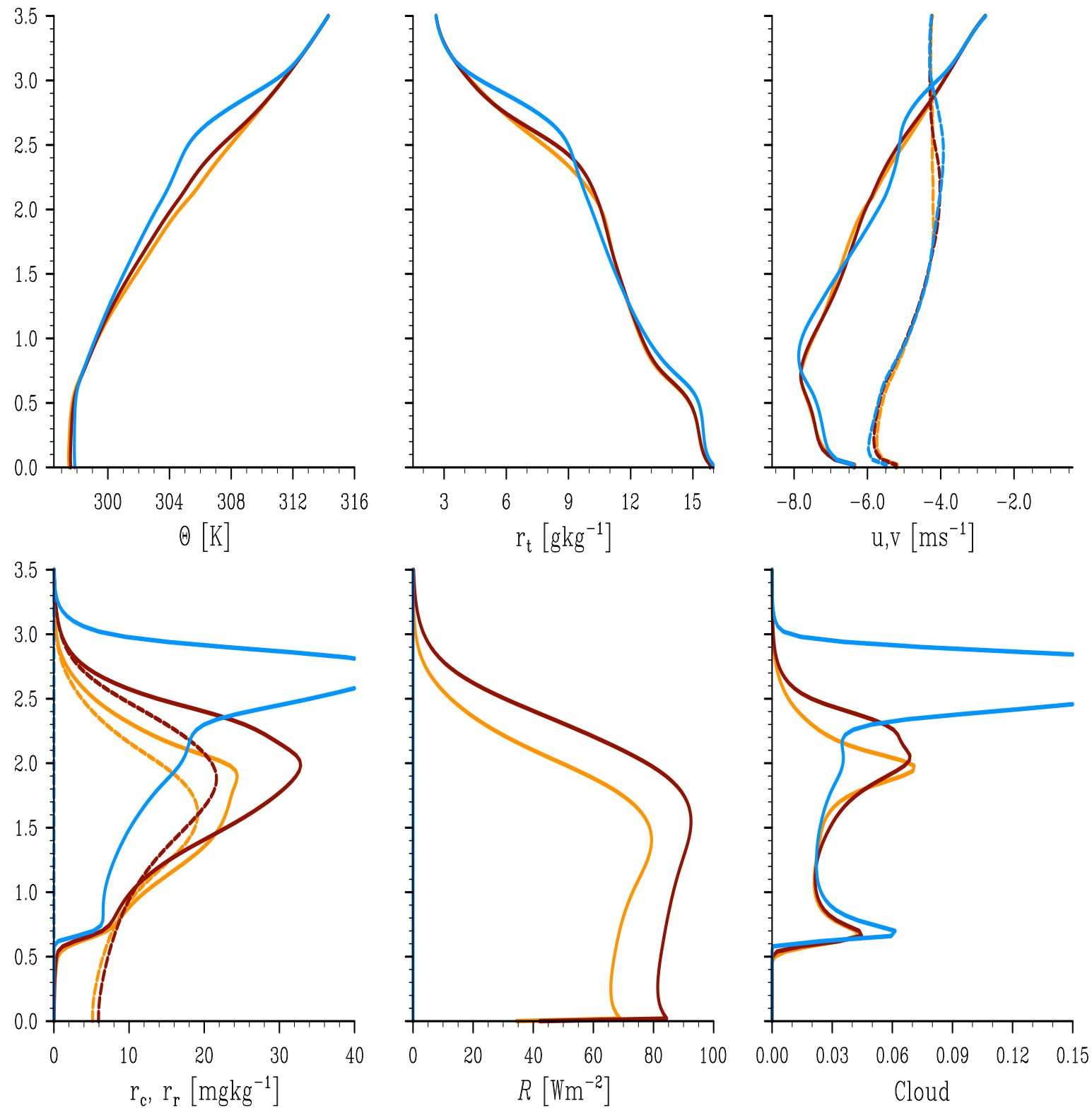
## ndroplets.g10p



**ndroplets:** infinite | 100 | 45

- ▶ no rain deeper layer
- ▶ deeper layer more rain
- ▶ fewer drops, less rain, then more
- ▶ more drops more rain

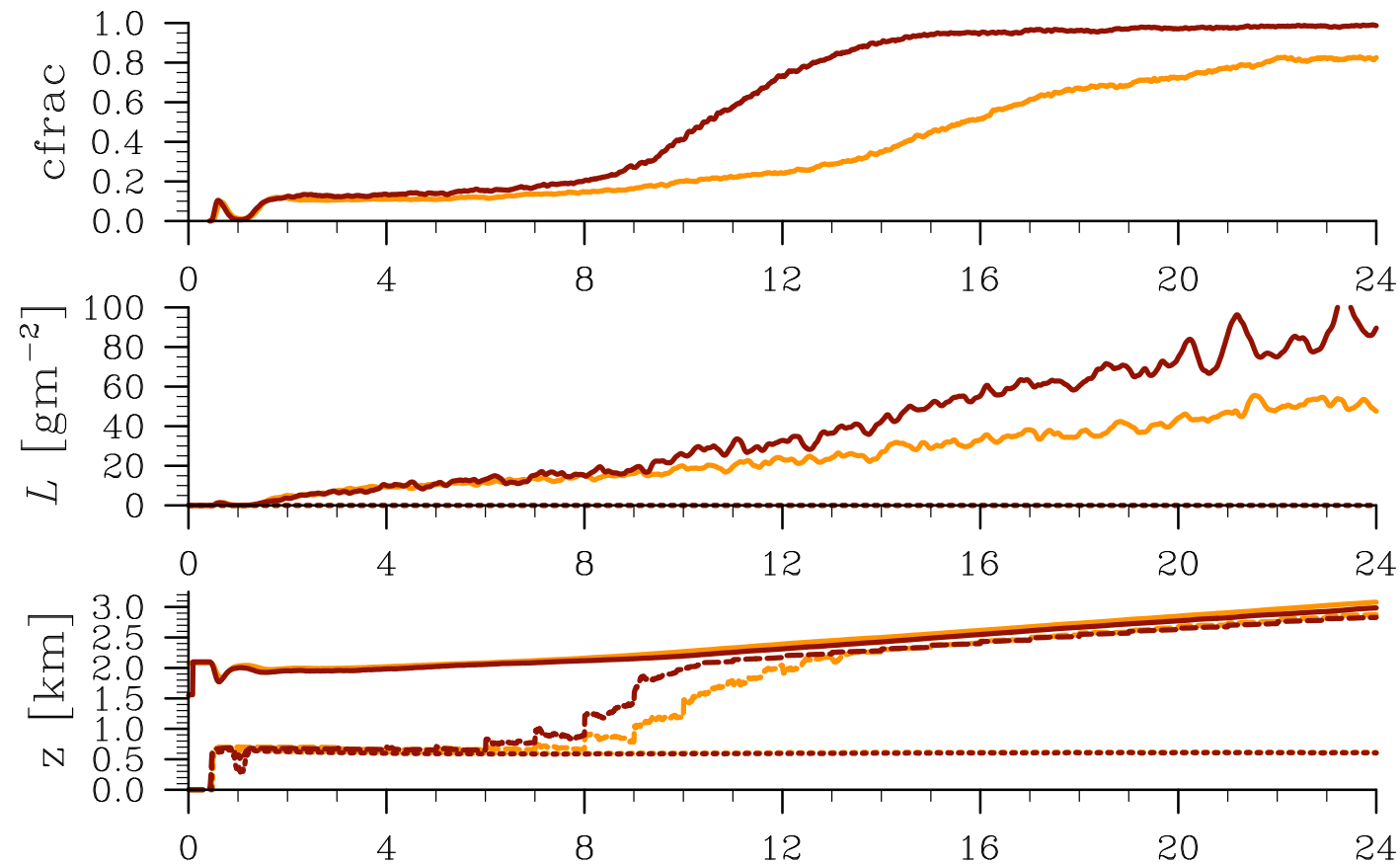
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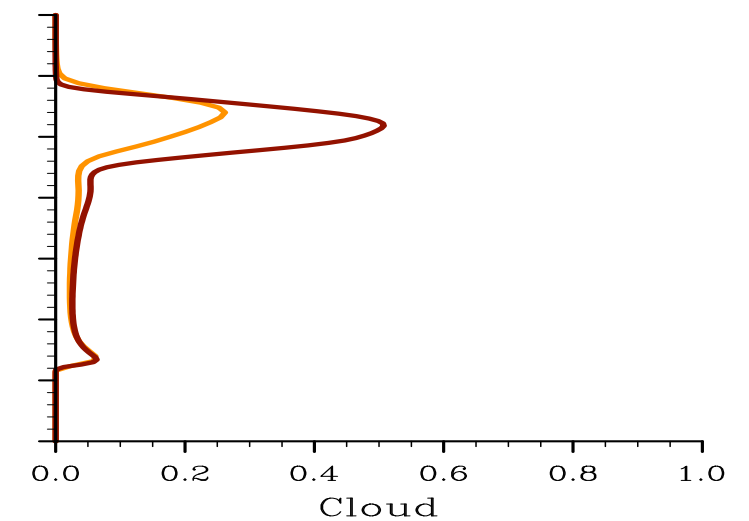
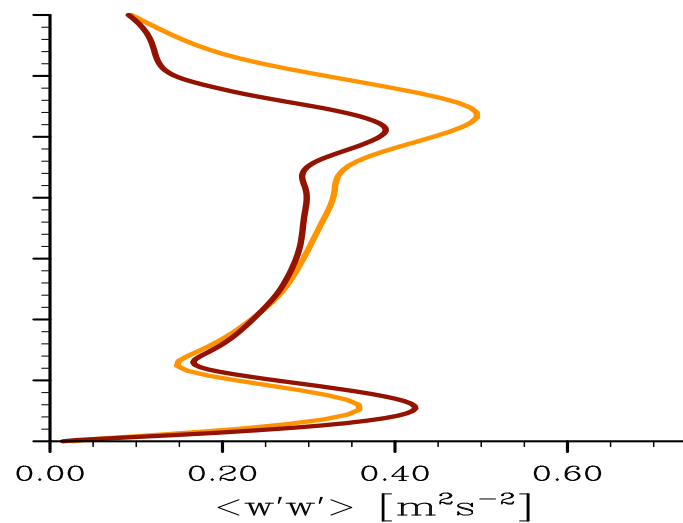
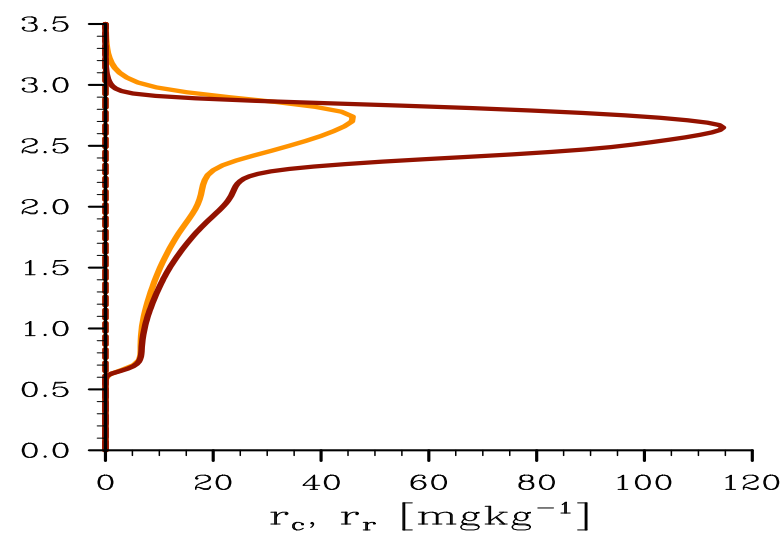
- ▶ fewer droplets => shallower layer
- ▶ fewer droplets need not imply more rain
- ▶ rain mitigates formation of stratiform layer.
- ▶ rain can affect mean lapse rate, effective stability, and development (or not) of inversion.

## meshsize.g10p



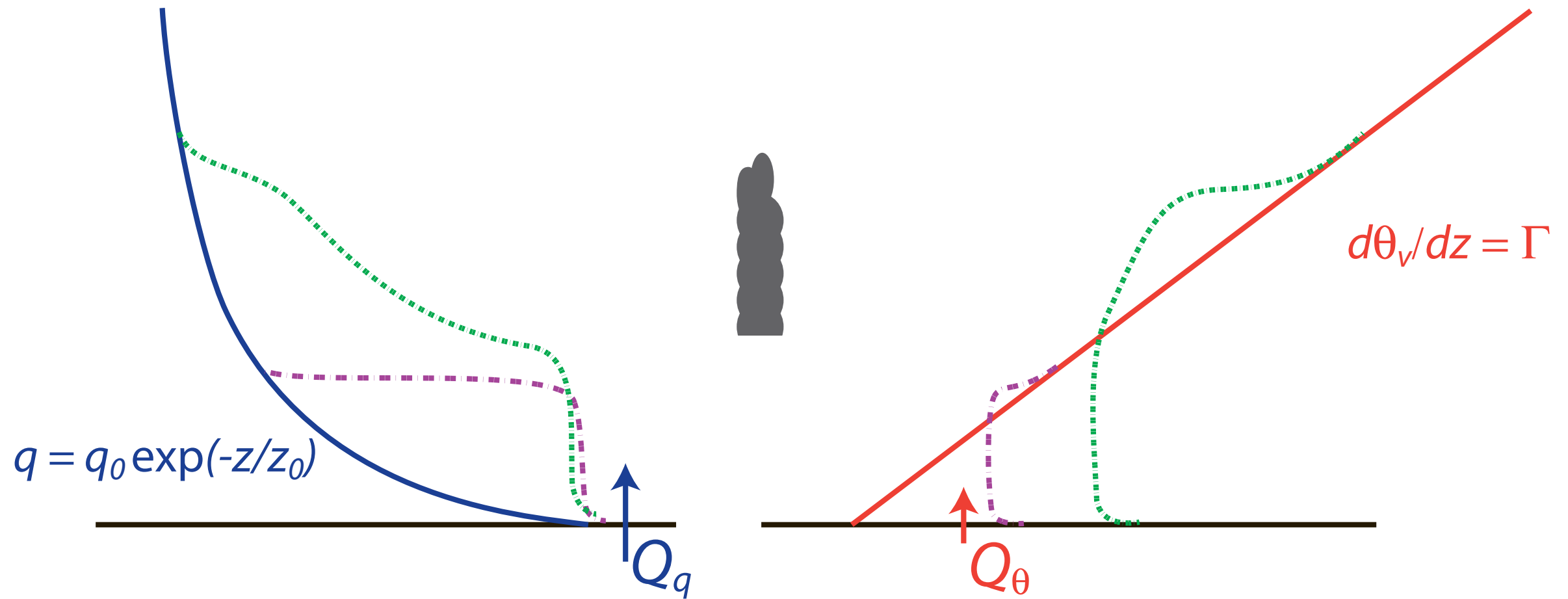
meshsize: 50/20 | 100/40

- ▶ there are all non precipitating.
- ▶ finer grid develops stratiform layer faster.
- ▶ liquid water quite sensitive (probably to vertical grid).
- ▶ vertical velocity variances sensitive to grid (this is resolved component).

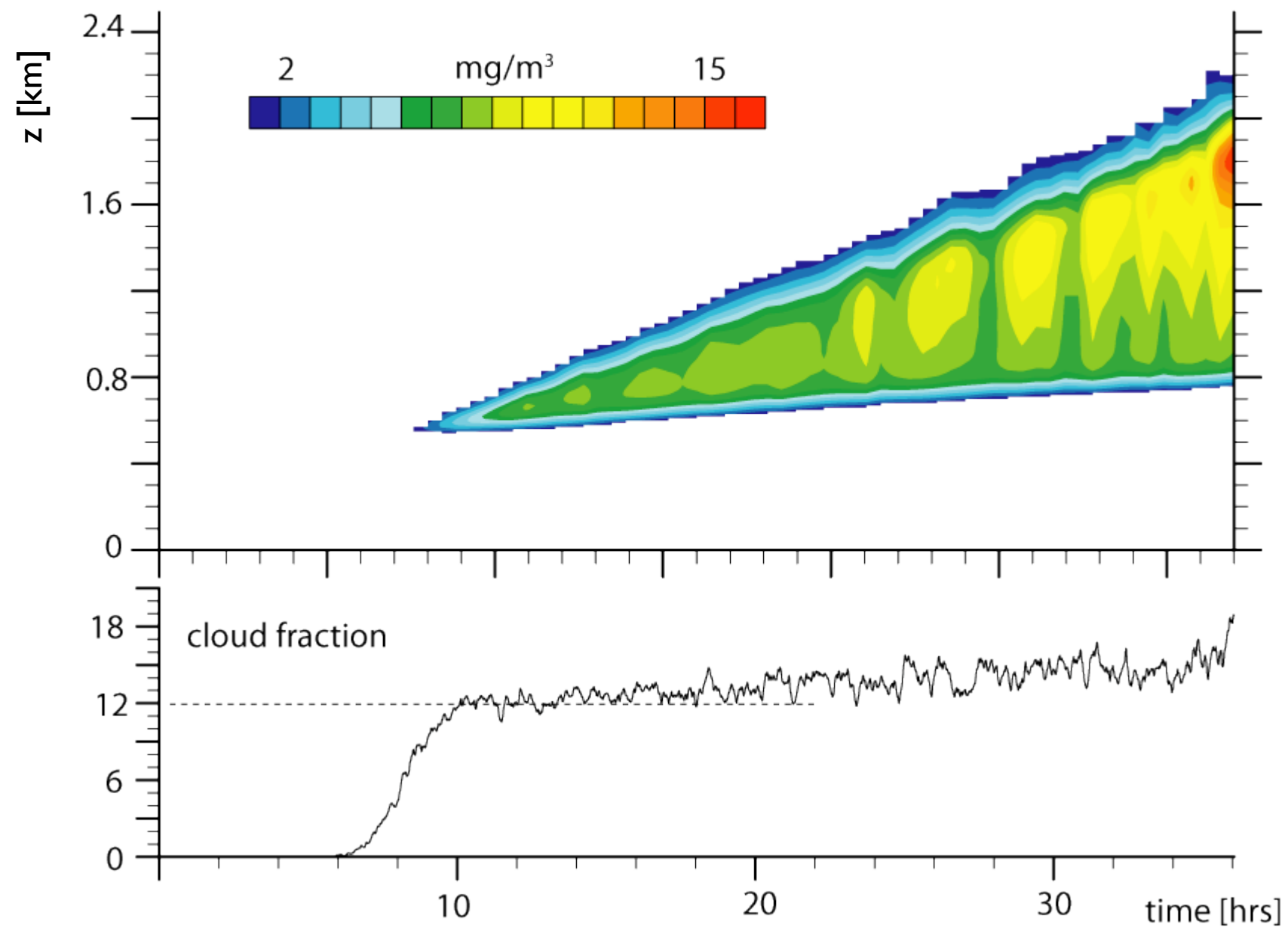


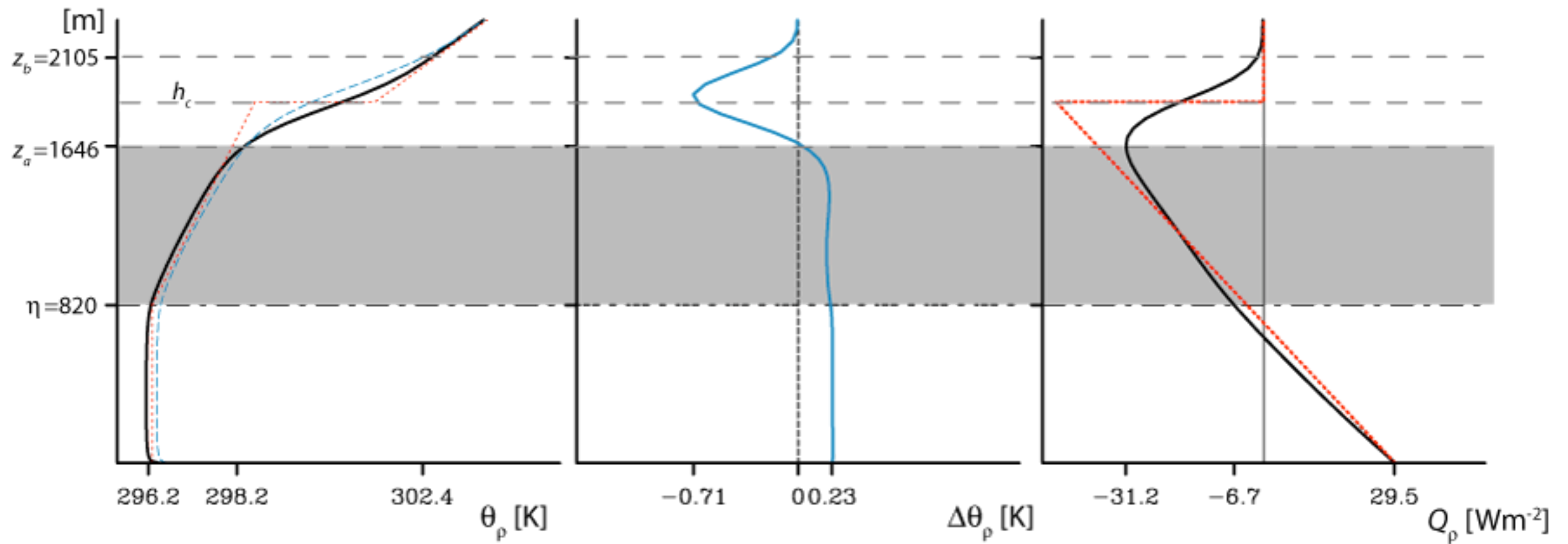
## remarks.g10

- ▶ order of magnitude rain-rate sensitivities to formulation of microphysics & mean state.
- ▶ in many cases more rain meant more cloud.
- ▶ less rain typically meant deeper layers (which could make more rain).
- ▶ domain probably too small and grid spacing probably too large.
- ▶ at large rain rates,  $q_r$  approximately equals  $q_l$ .
- ▶ profile typically insensitive to rain-rates, but for large rain-rate differences, differences in mean cloud layer stratification become apparent, and are significant.



- ▶ what determines growth rate of layer?
- ▶ cloud fraction?
- ▶ how does precipitation scale with the depth of the layer?
- ▶ how does rain affect the statistics of the layer?



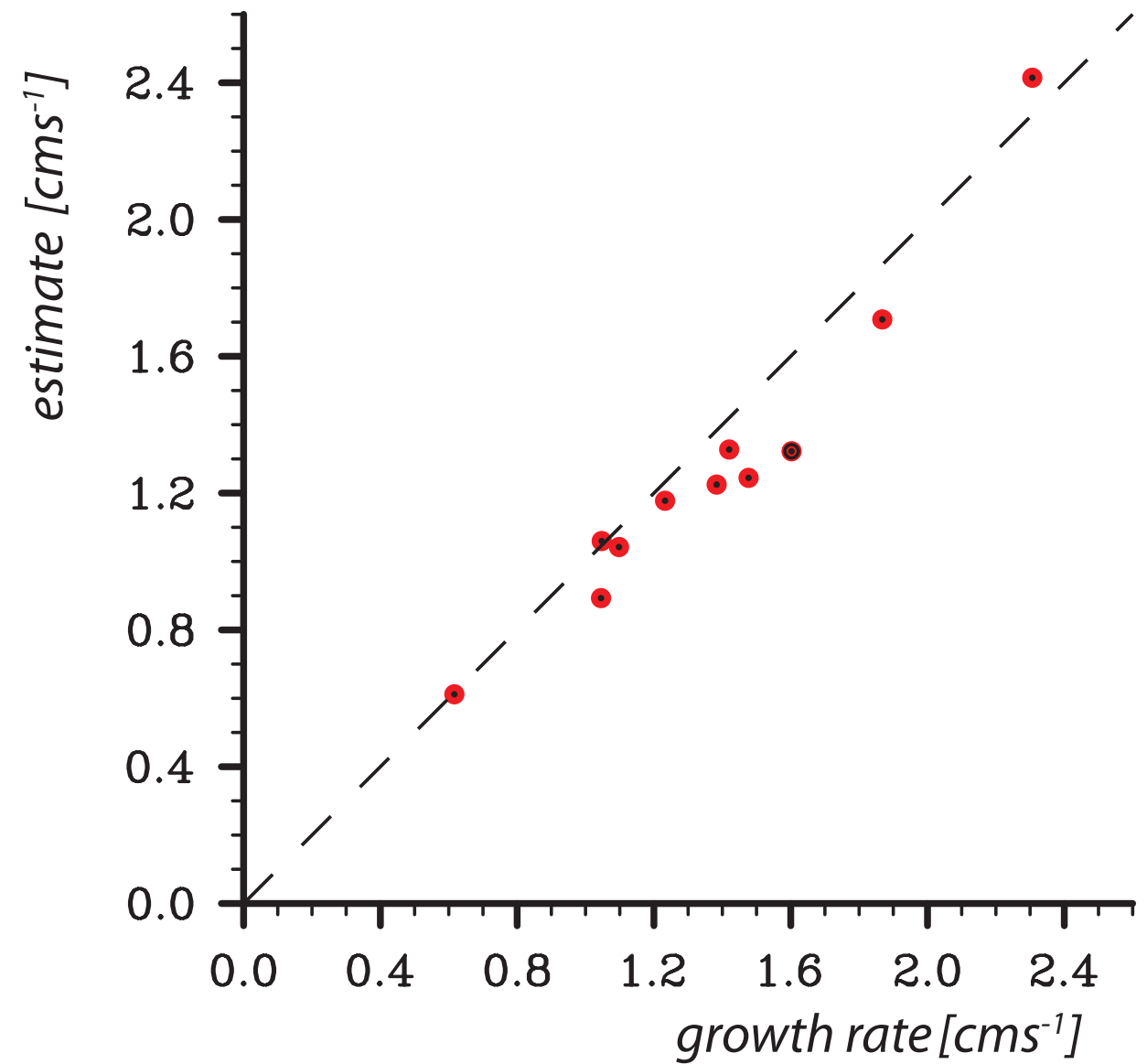


$$\frac{dh}{dt} = -\frac{\tilde{Q}_\rho(z=h)}{\Delta\theta_\rho}$$

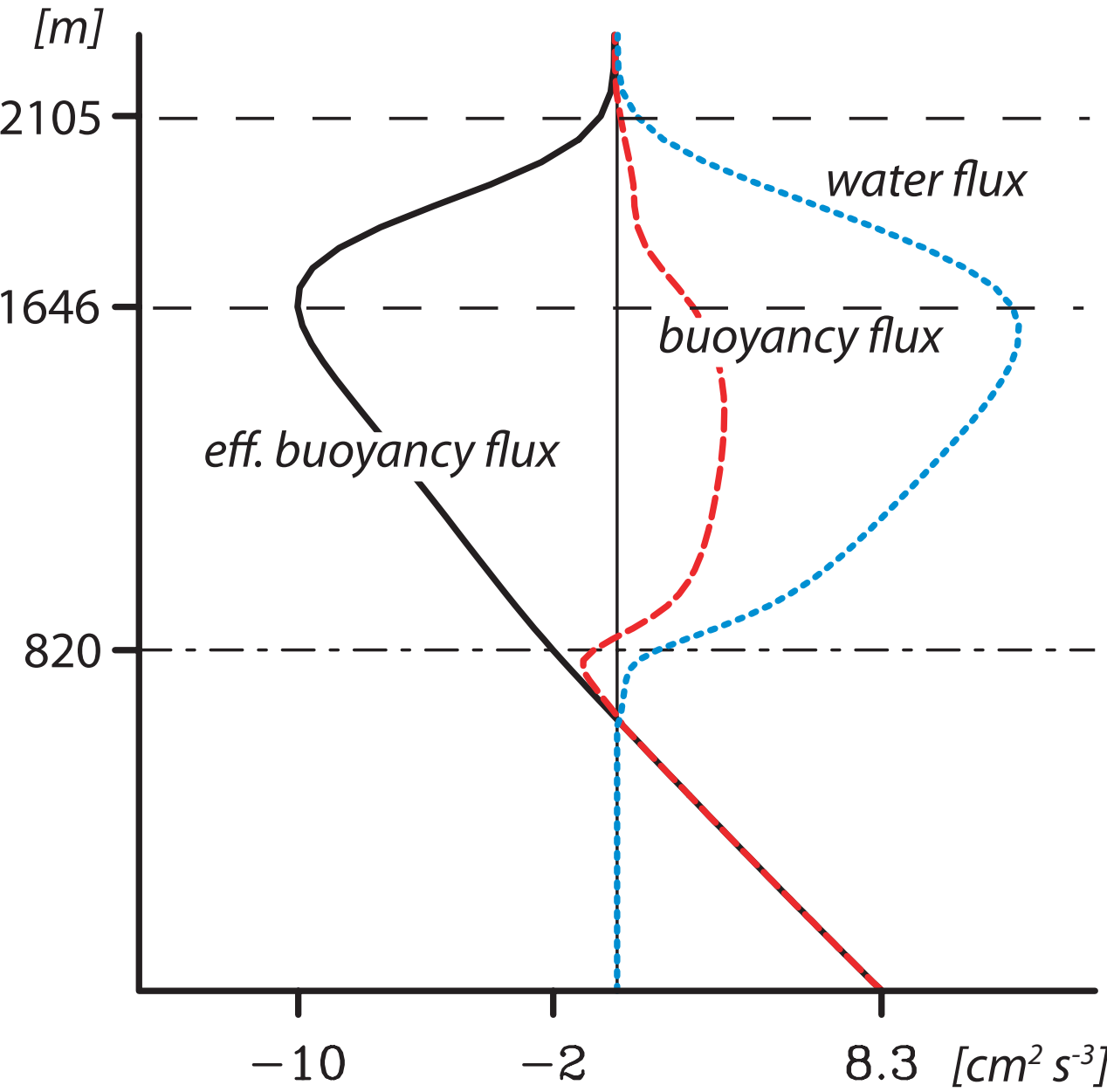
$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{\tilde{Q}_{\rho,0}(1 - 1.25\frac{h}{\eta})}{\Theta + \Gamma h - (\hat{\theta}_\rho + \Gamma_c(h - \eta))}$$

### 3 assumptions

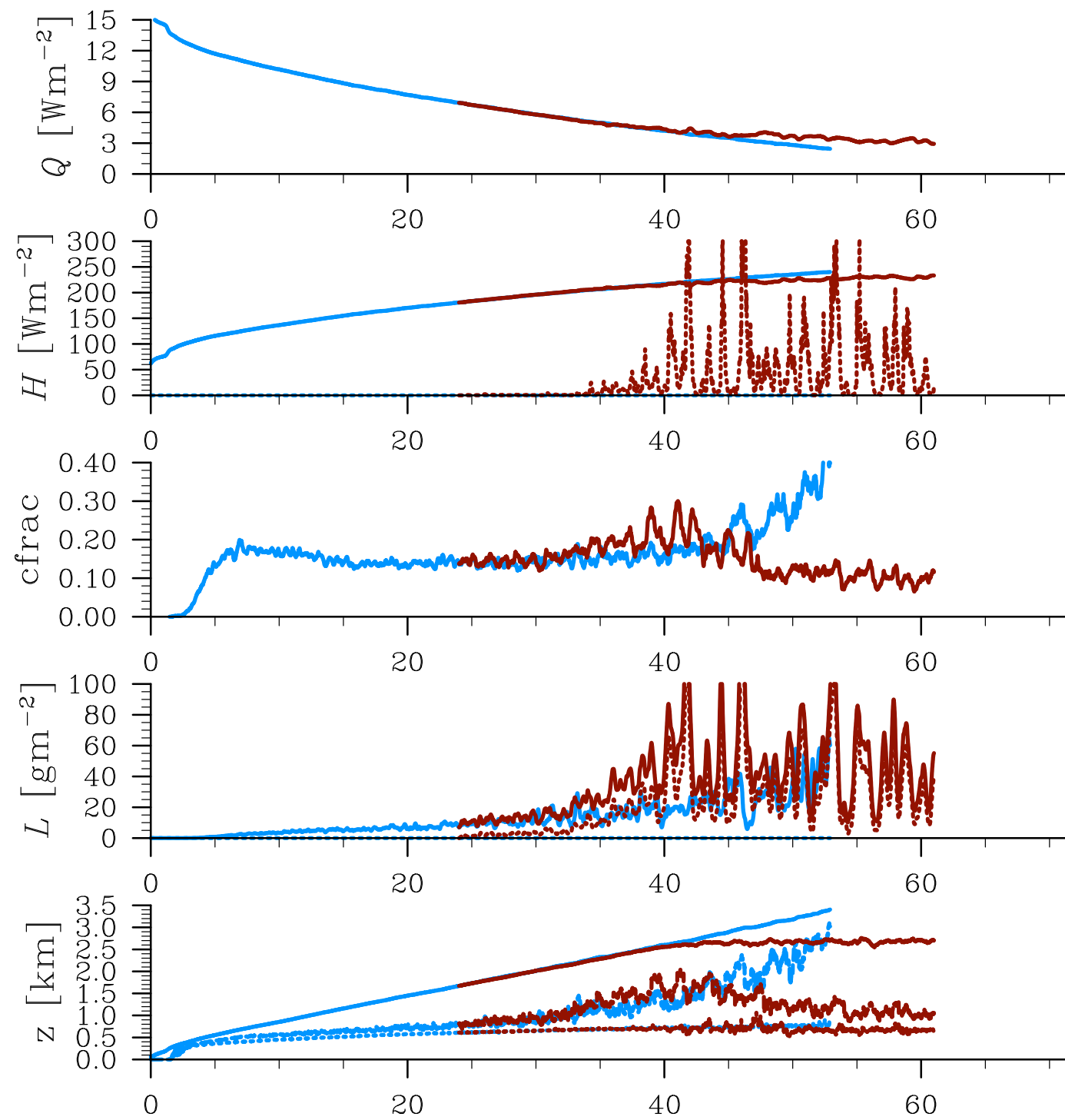
- subcloud layer  $\Leftrightarrow$  dry cbl
- cloud water *in cloud layer* is stationary
- cloud layer density slaved to subcloud layer

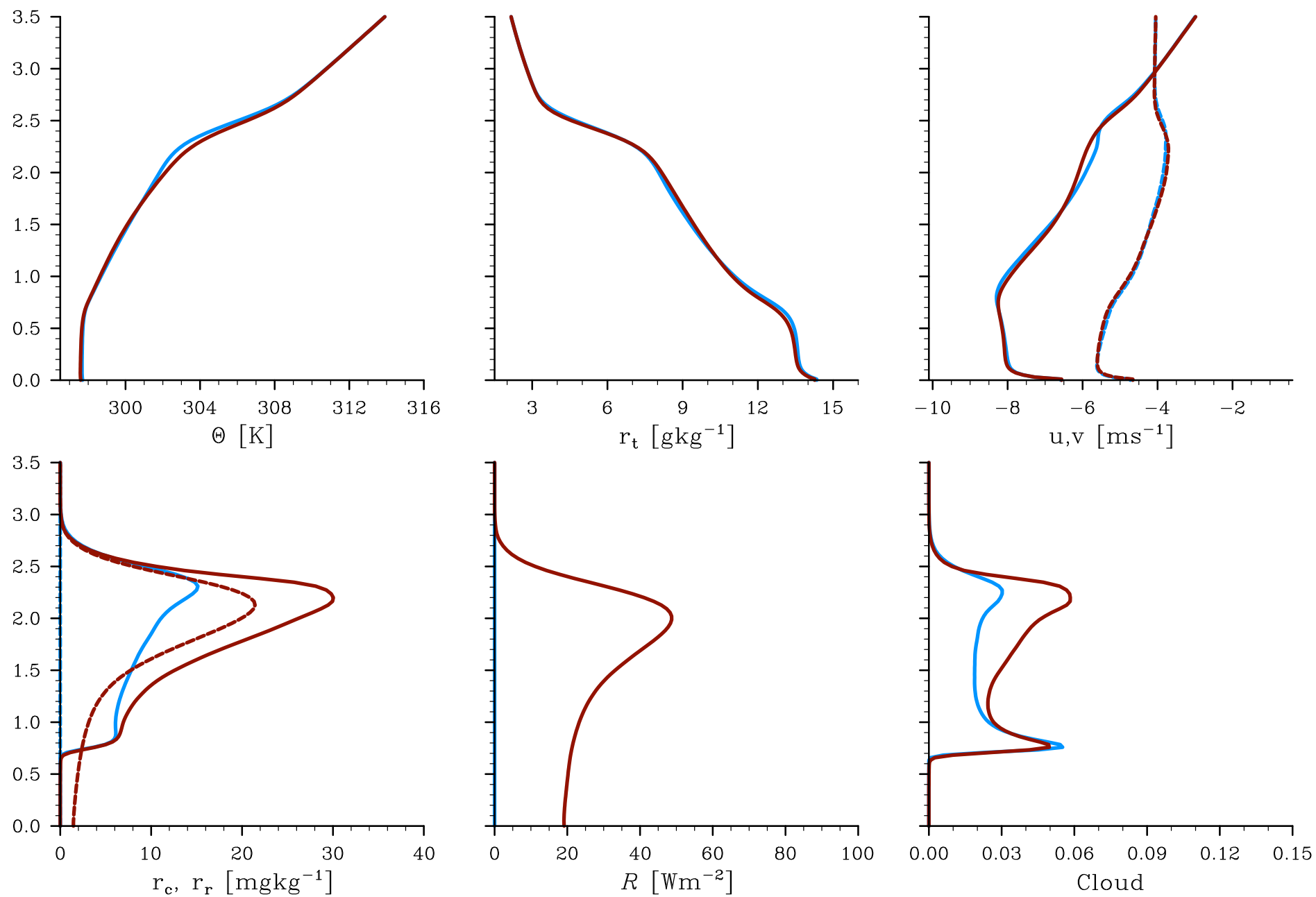


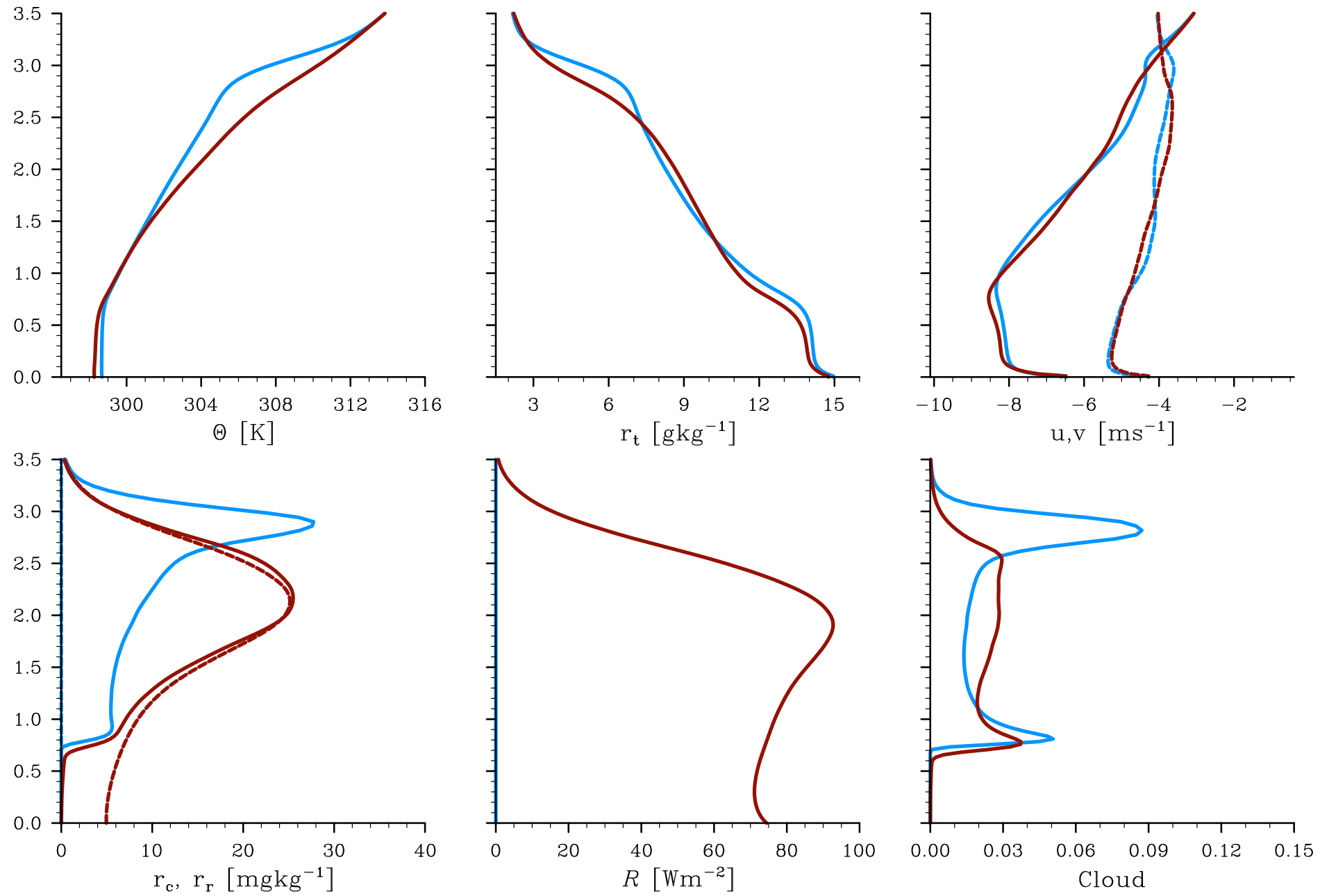




$$\partial_t \theta_\rho = - \underbrace{\left[ (a \partial_z Q_l + \epsilon \theta \partial_z R) + b \theta \partial_z R_l \right]}_{\partial_z \tilde{Q}_\rho} + b \theta C$$





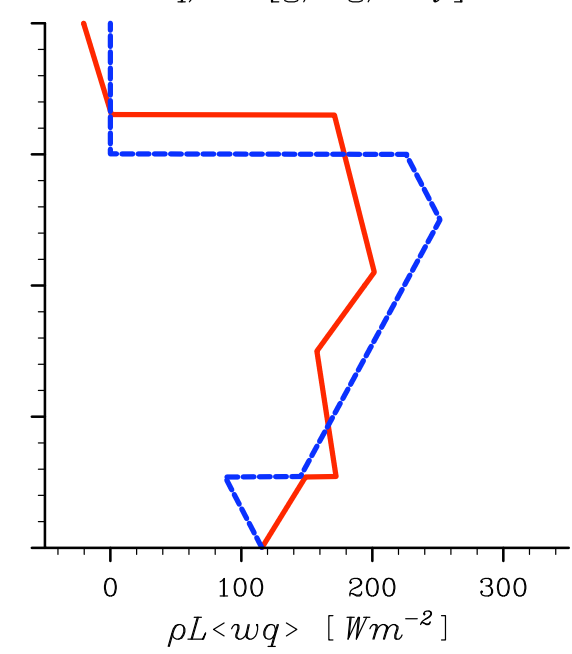
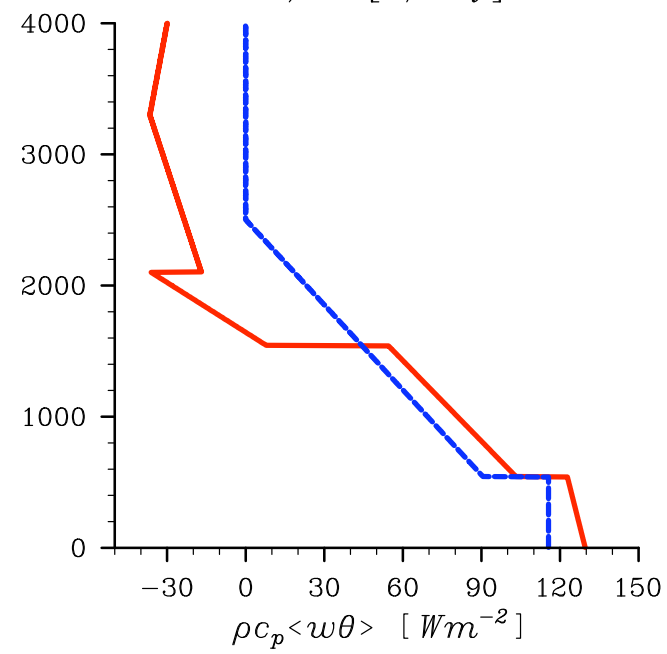
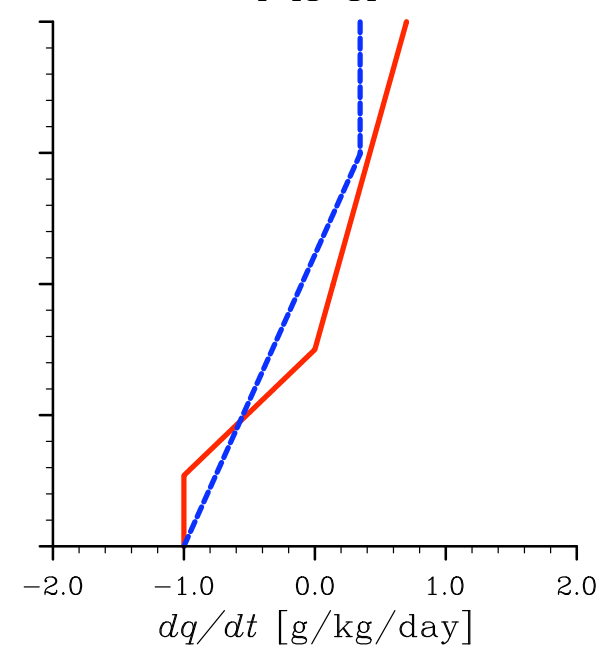
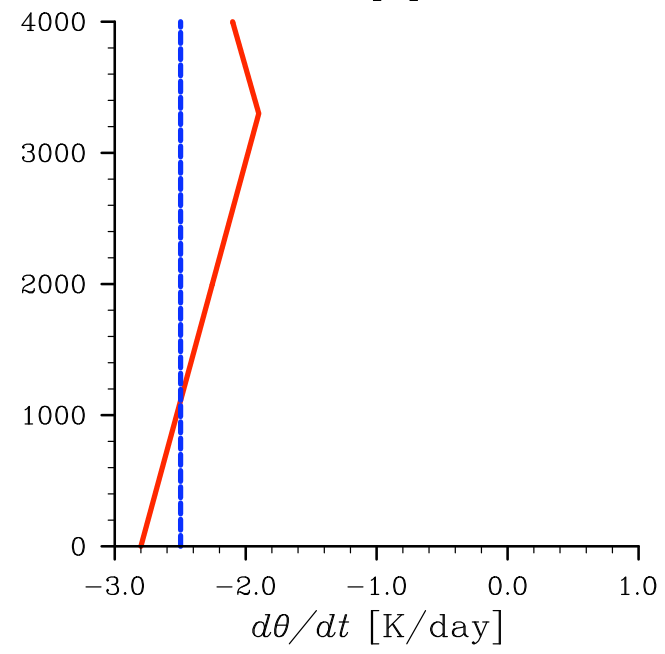
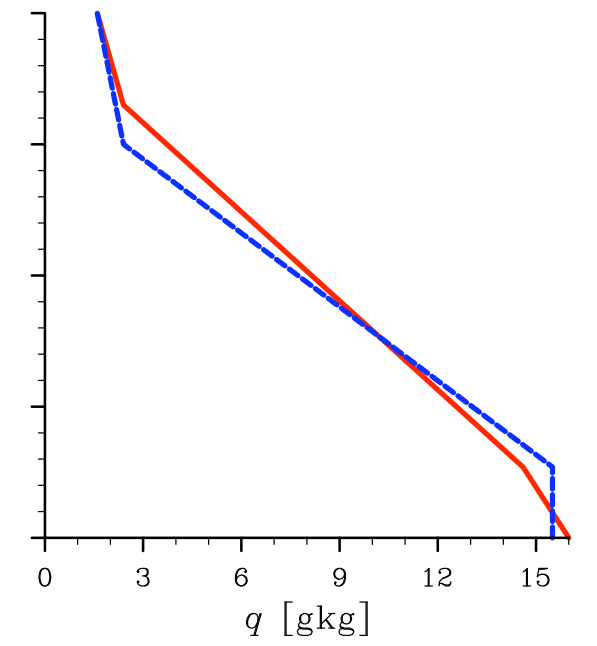
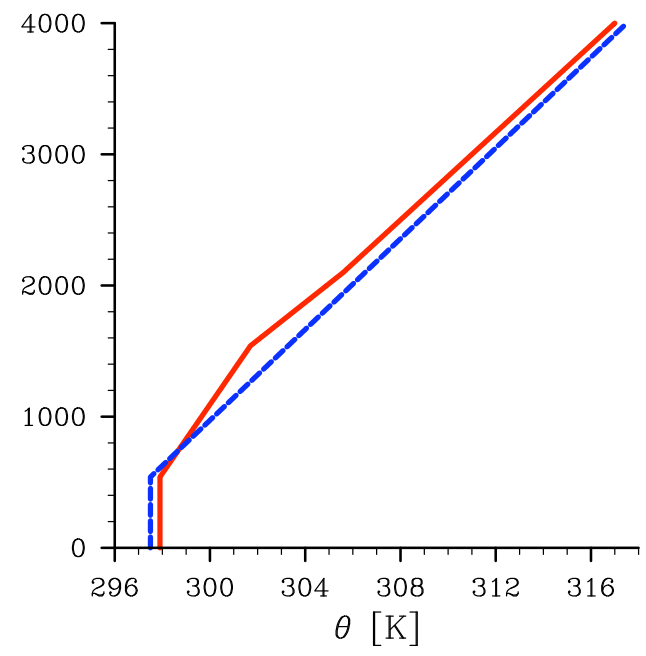


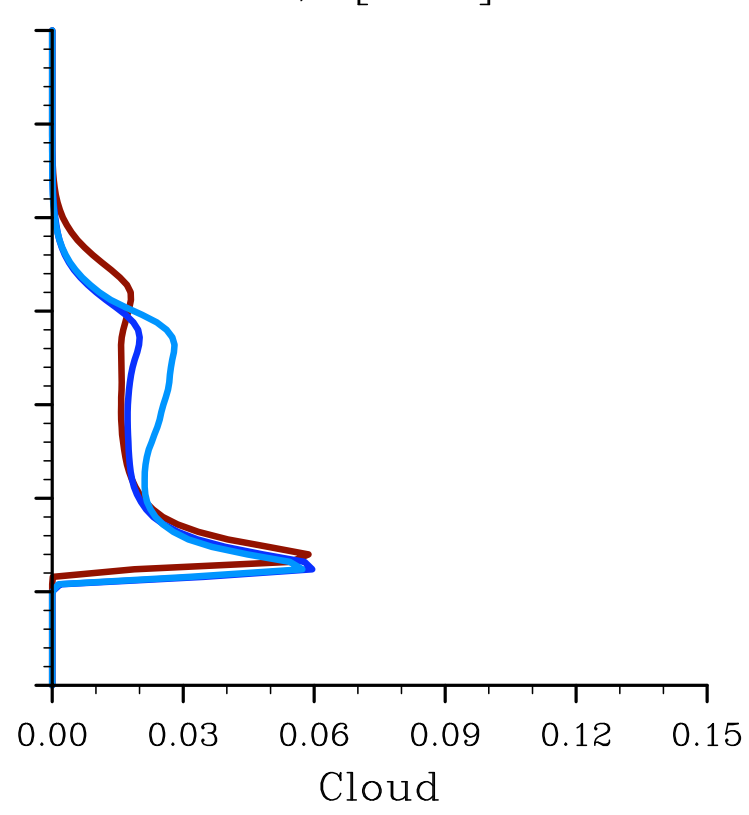
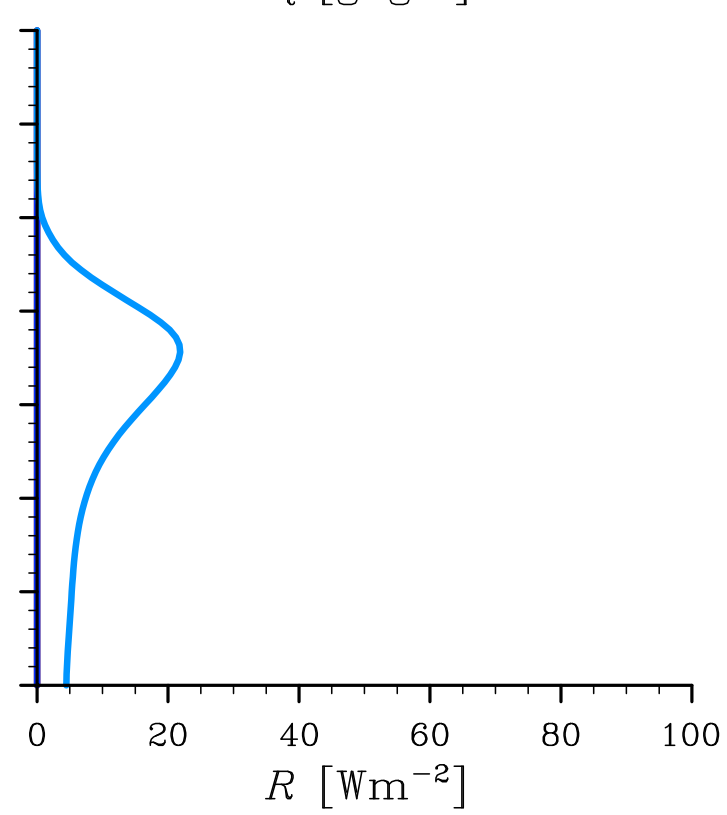
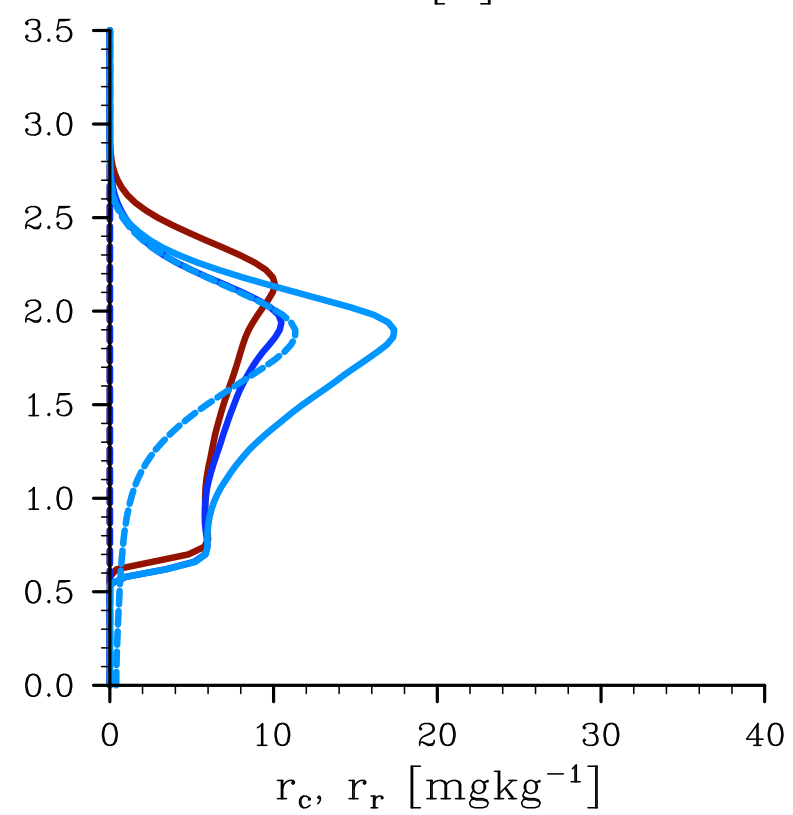
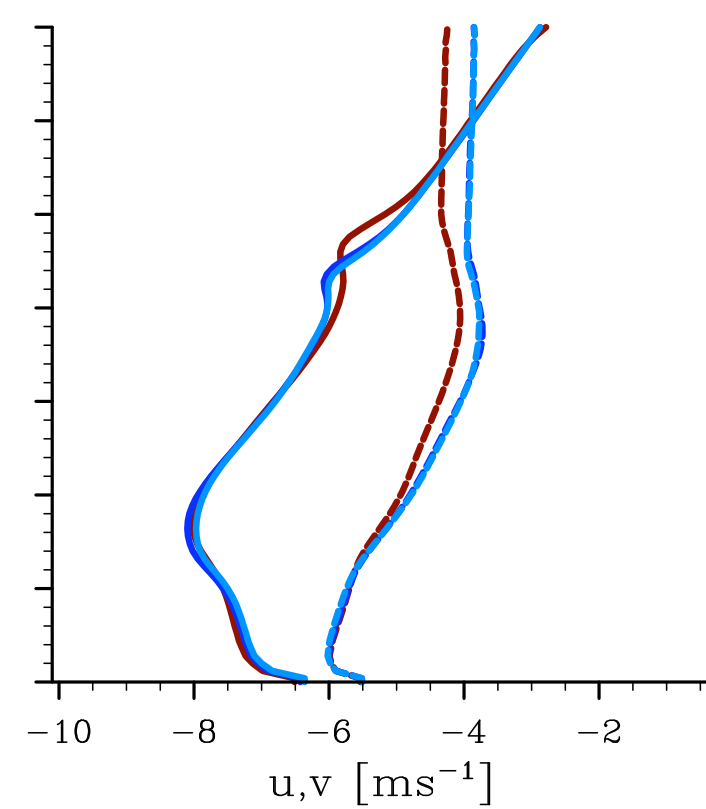
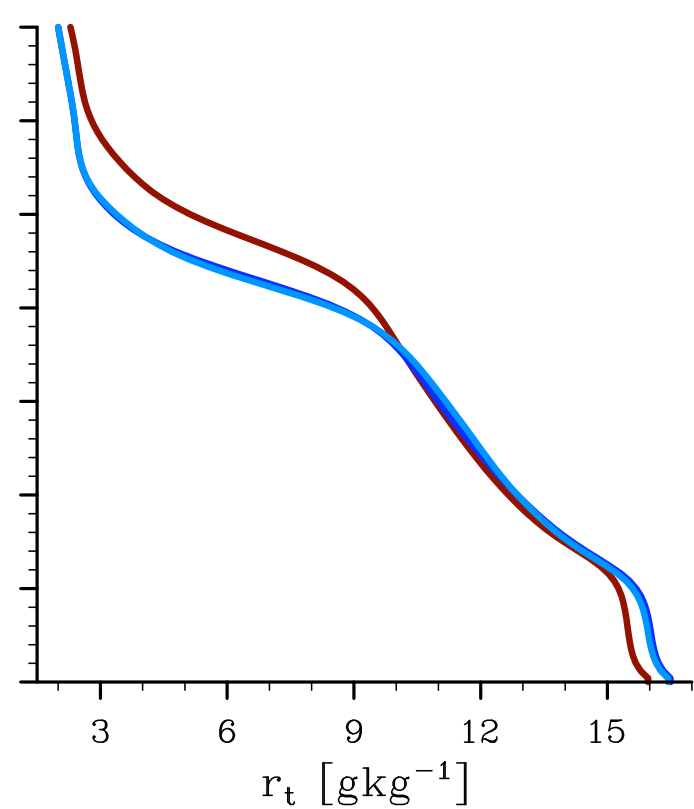
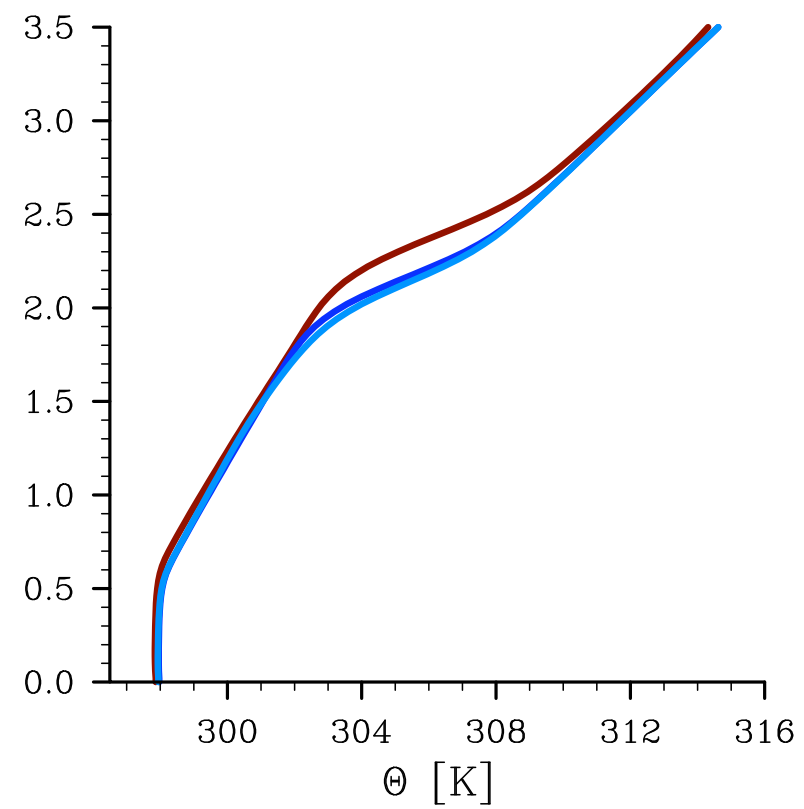
## remarks.simple

- ▶ growth of cloud layer largely explained by flux of liquid water into the inversion.
- ▶ this implies that rain can limit the growth of the cloud layer ... it does.
- ▶ but deeper clouds should produce more rain ... they do.
- ▶ this can lead to uncanny sensitivity in the cloud behavior ... and does
- ▶ probably enough “aerosol effects” for each of us to attach our name to one.

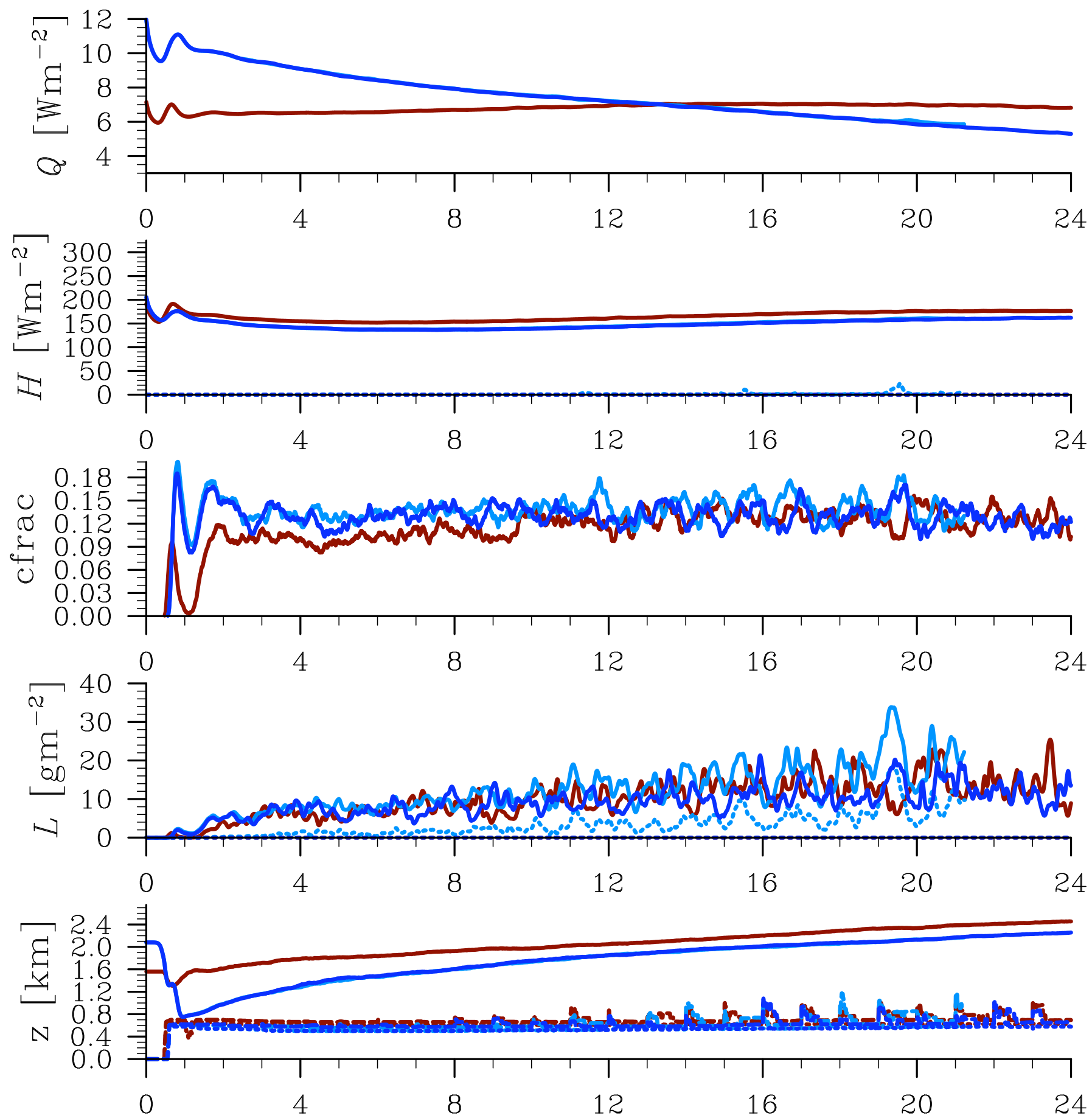
## newcase.simple

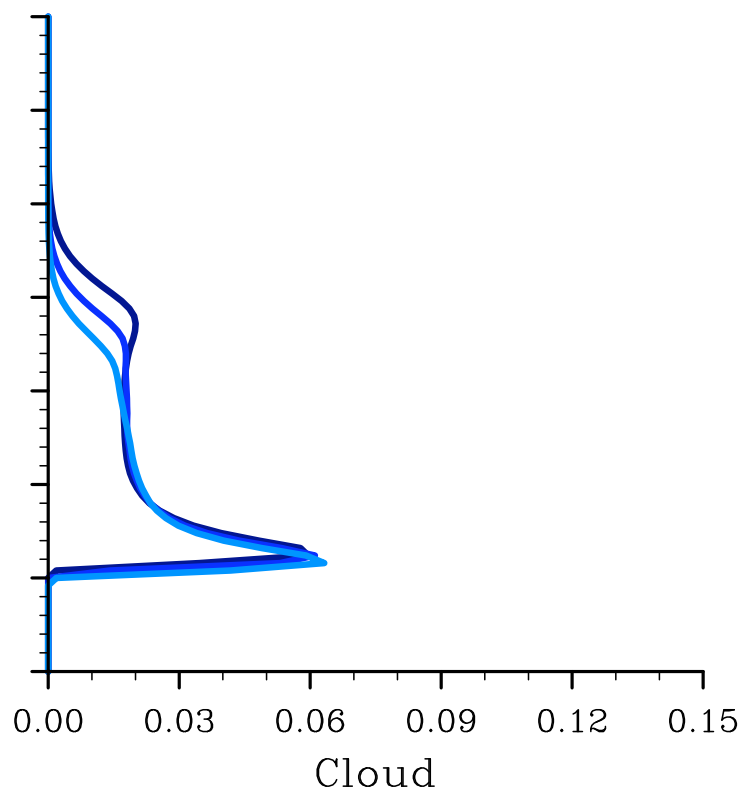
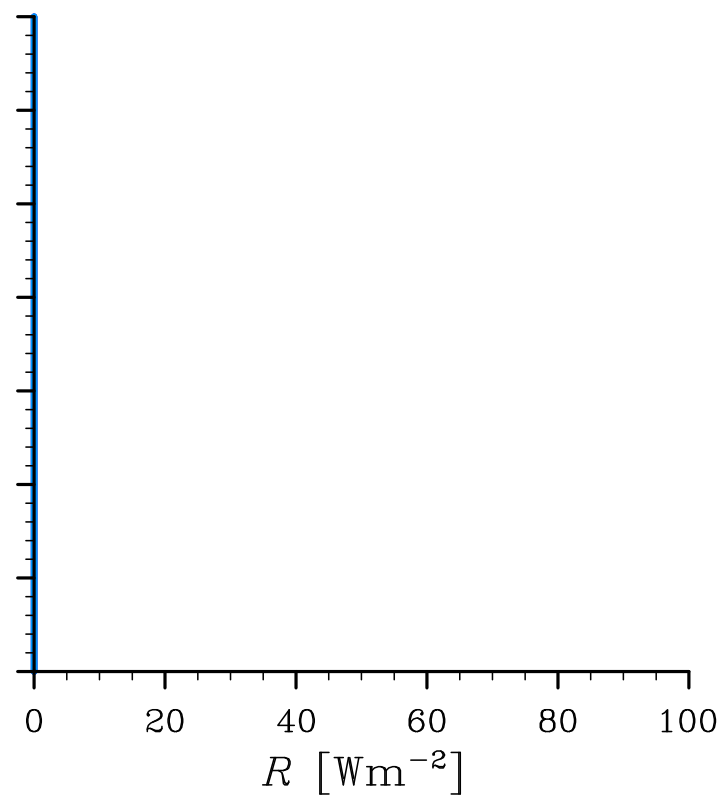
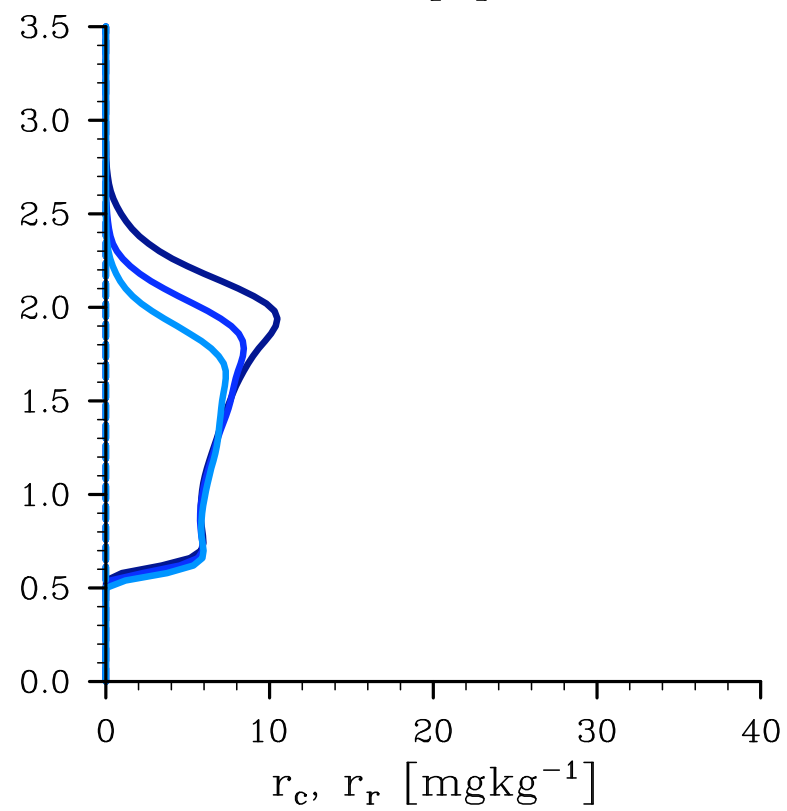
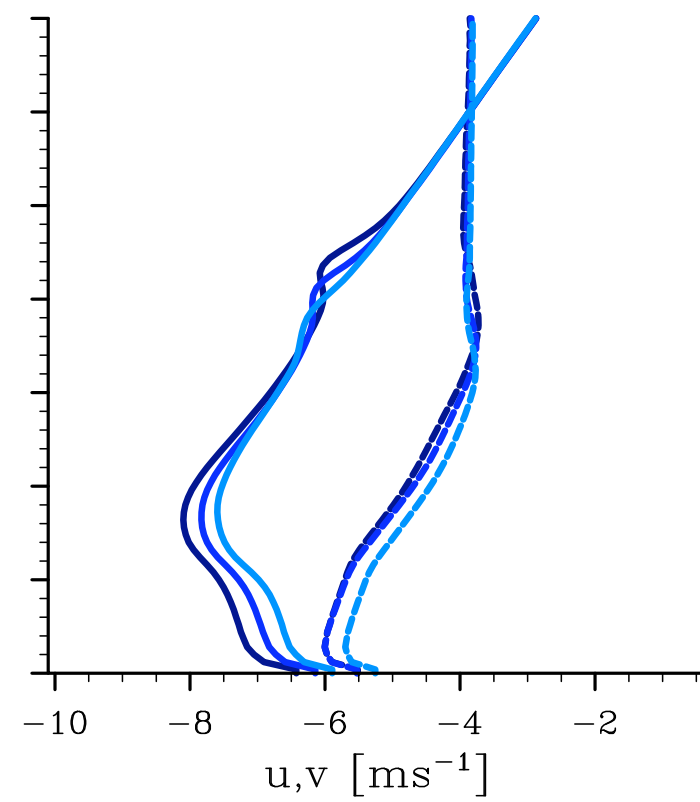
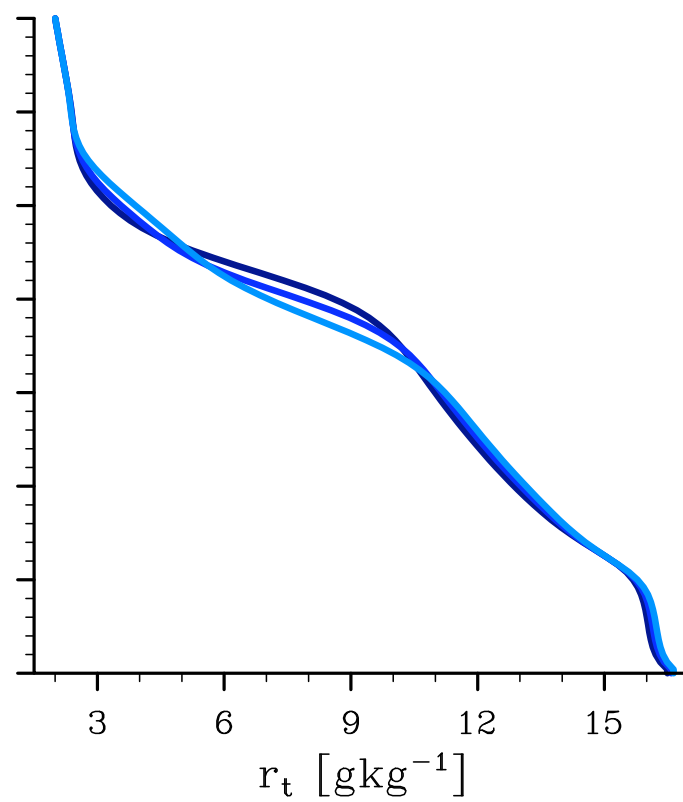
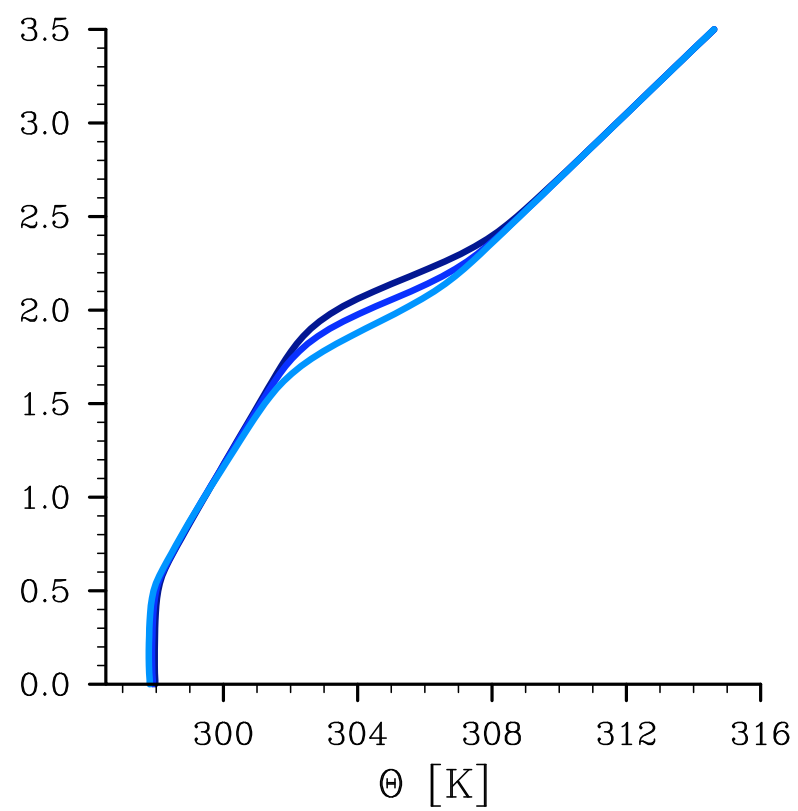
- ▶ come up with the simplest plausible composite.
- ▶ have balanced forcings in the troposphere
- ▶ avoid the stratocumulus catastrophe.

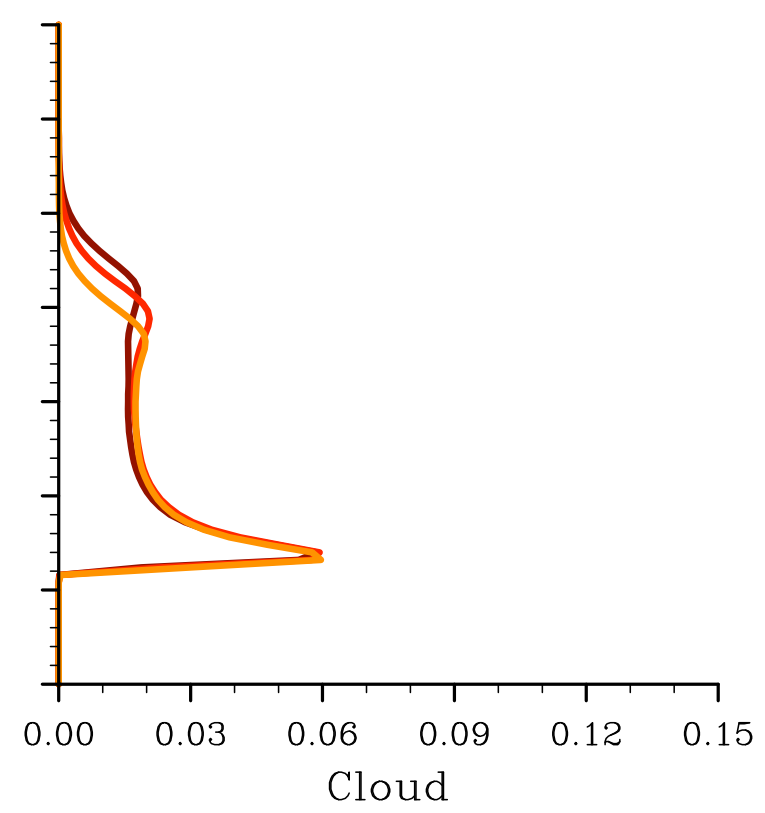
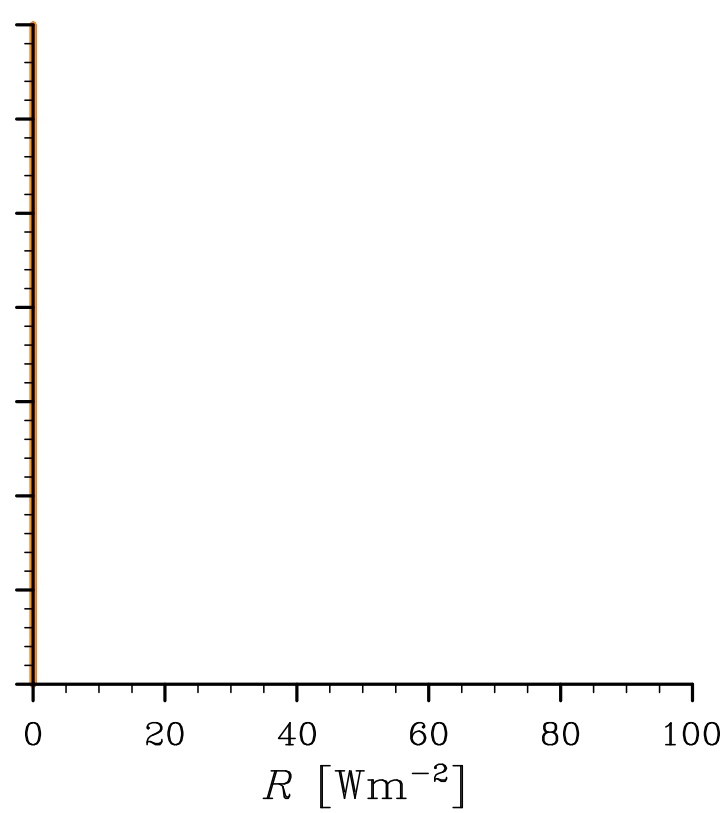
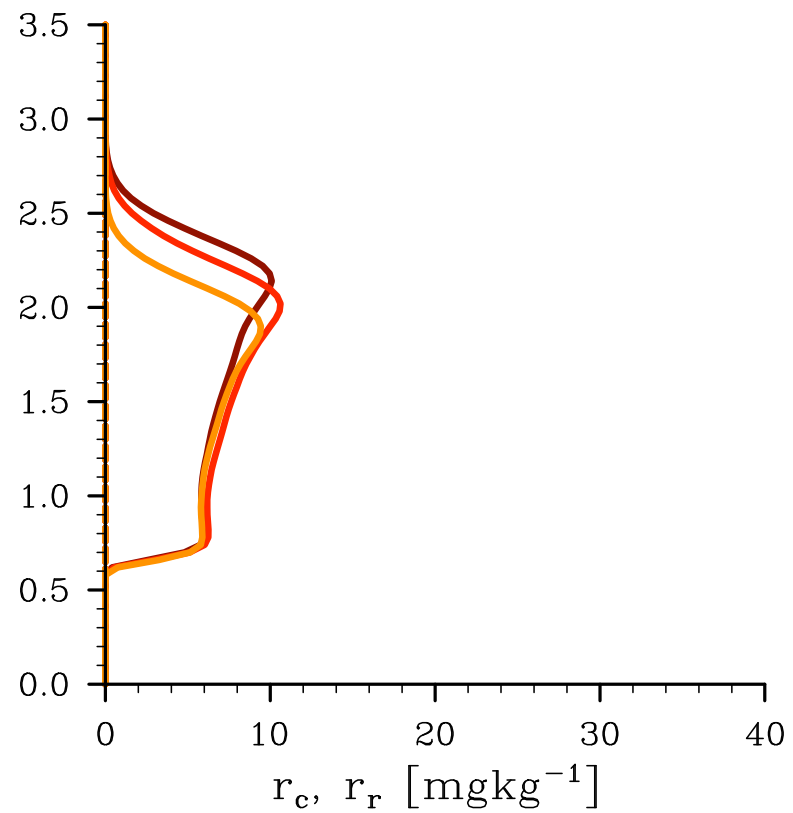
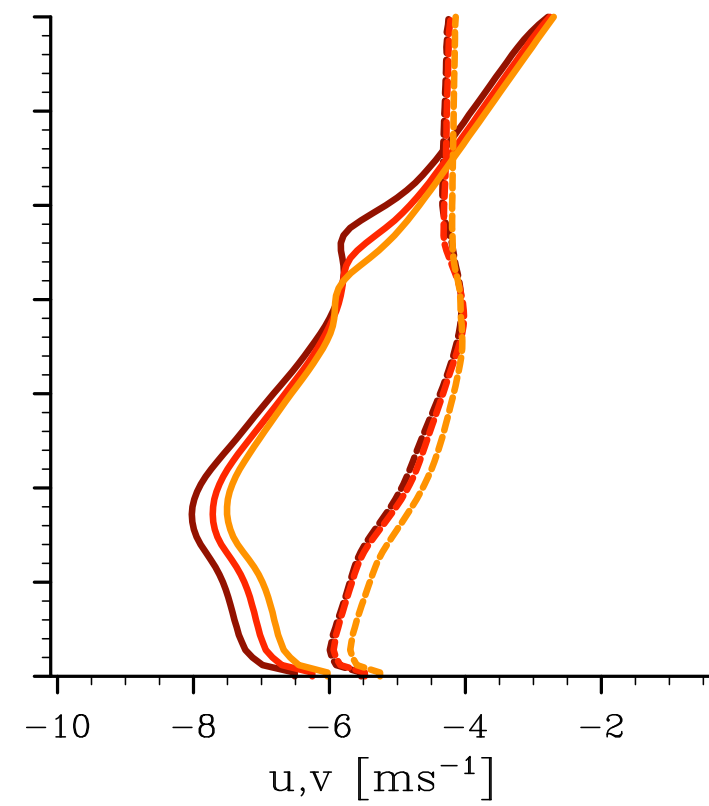
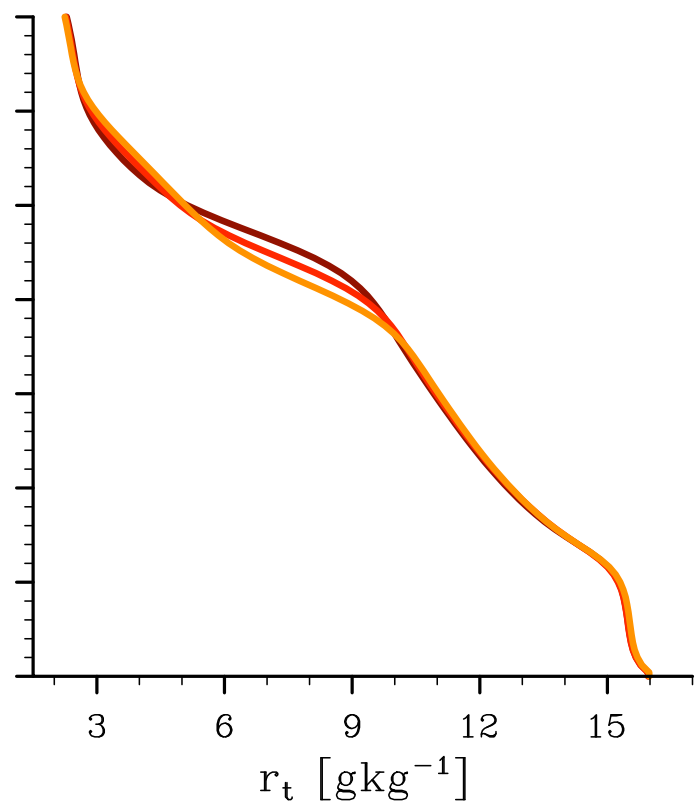
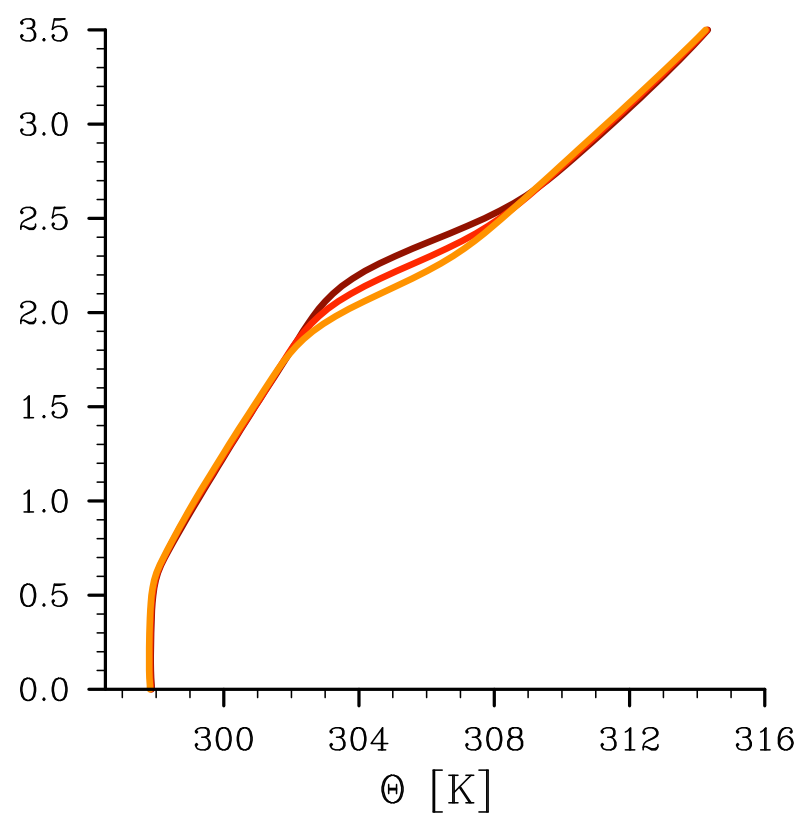












## newcase.simple

- ▶ new case seems to meet design objectives.
- ▶ surface sensible heat flux evolves more, but perhaps better in other respects.
- ▶ suggest running microphysics for only last eight hours.
- ▶ damp net tendencies,  $\exp(-(z-3500)/500)$  for  $z > 3500\text{m}$