

PySDM: a novel Pythonic tool for modelling cloud microphysics

Sylwester Arabas^{1,2}

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@Caltech: E. de Jong, C. Singer, A. Jaruga, B. Mackay, I. Dula, S. Azimi ...

@UIUC: N. Riemer, M. West & J. Curtis

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Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland



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- ▶ 1917 Smoluchowski elected as Rector
(professor since 1913)

Plan of the talk

PySDM: context

PySDM: statement of need & goals

PySDM: demo (role play: reviewer)

PySDM: summary of key features

context: aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions (scales!)



"Cloud and ship. Ukraine, Crimea, Black sea, view from Ai-Petri mountain"

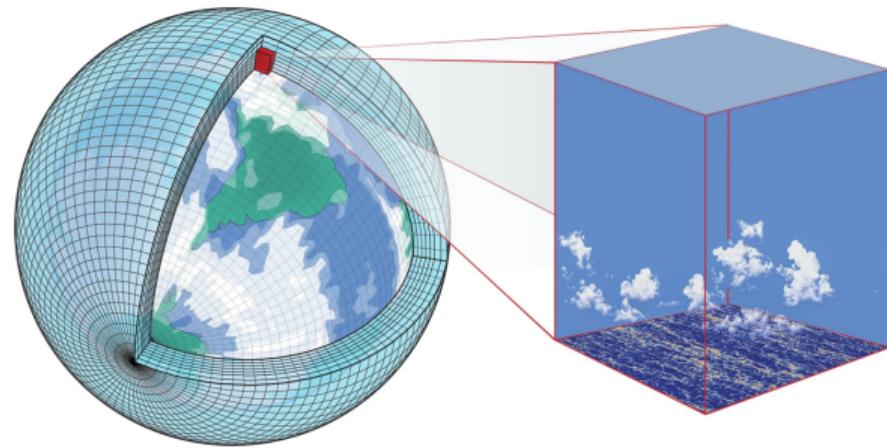
(photo: Yevgen Timashov / National Geographic)

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"Cloud and ship. Ukraine, Crimea, Black sea, view from Ai-Petri mountain"

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"Grid cells in a global climate model and a large-eddy simulation of shallow cumulus clouds at 5 m resolution"
(fig. from Schneider et al. 2017)

context: aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions (uncertainty!)



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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

WORKING GROUP II SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

WMO UNEP Nobel 2007 PEACE PRIZE GO THE MELIOR FOUNDATION

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Final Government Draft

Chapter 7

IPCC AR6 WGI

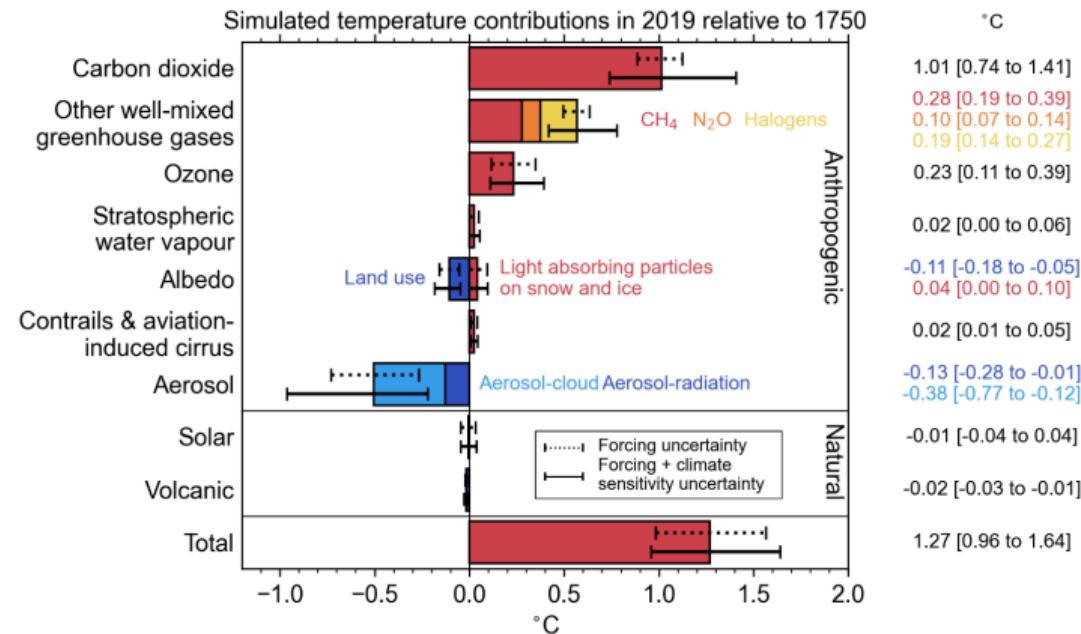
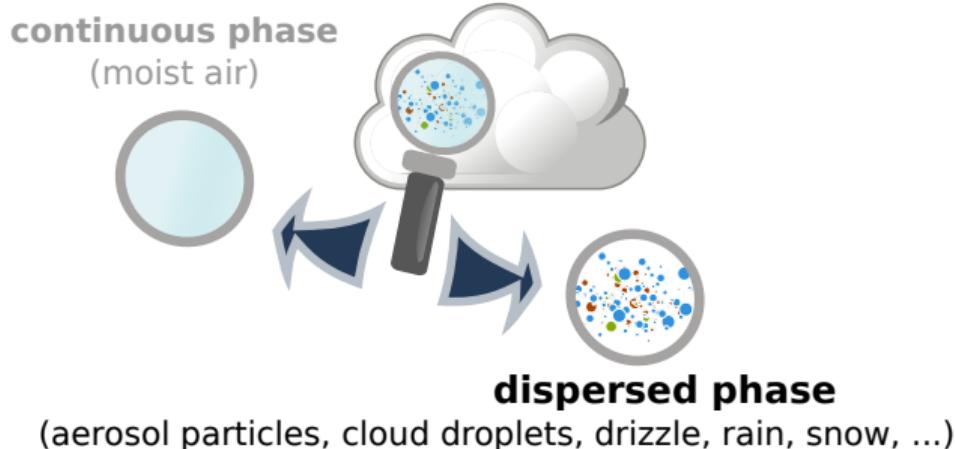


Figure 7.7: The contribution of forcing agents to 2019 temperature change relative to 1750 produced using the two-layer emulator (Supplementary Material 7.SM.2), constrained to assessed ranges for key climate metrics described in Cross-Chapter Box 7.1.

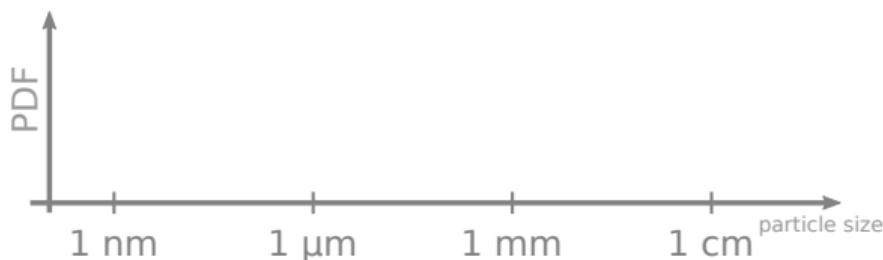
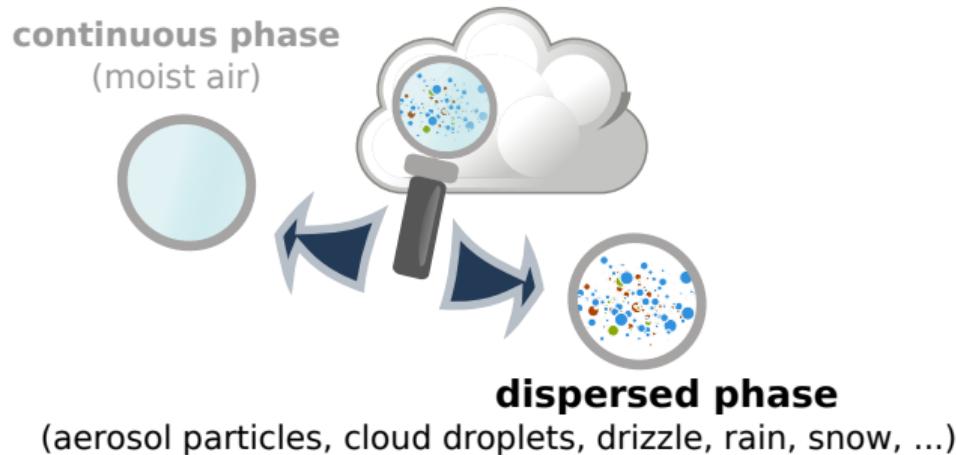
modelling cloud μ -physics: Eulerian vs. Lagrangian approaches



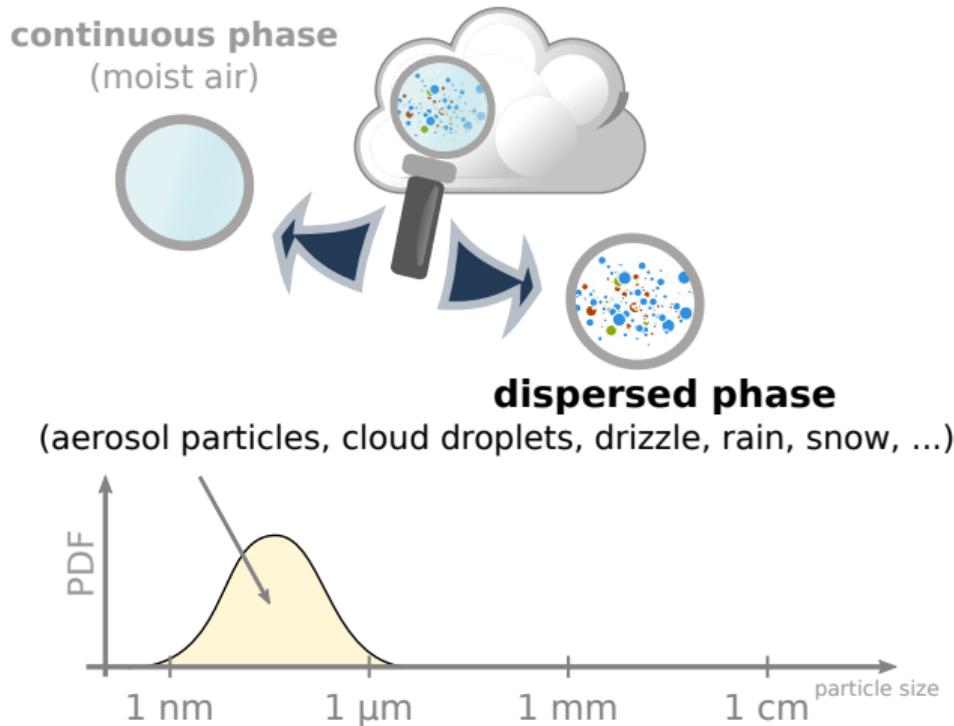
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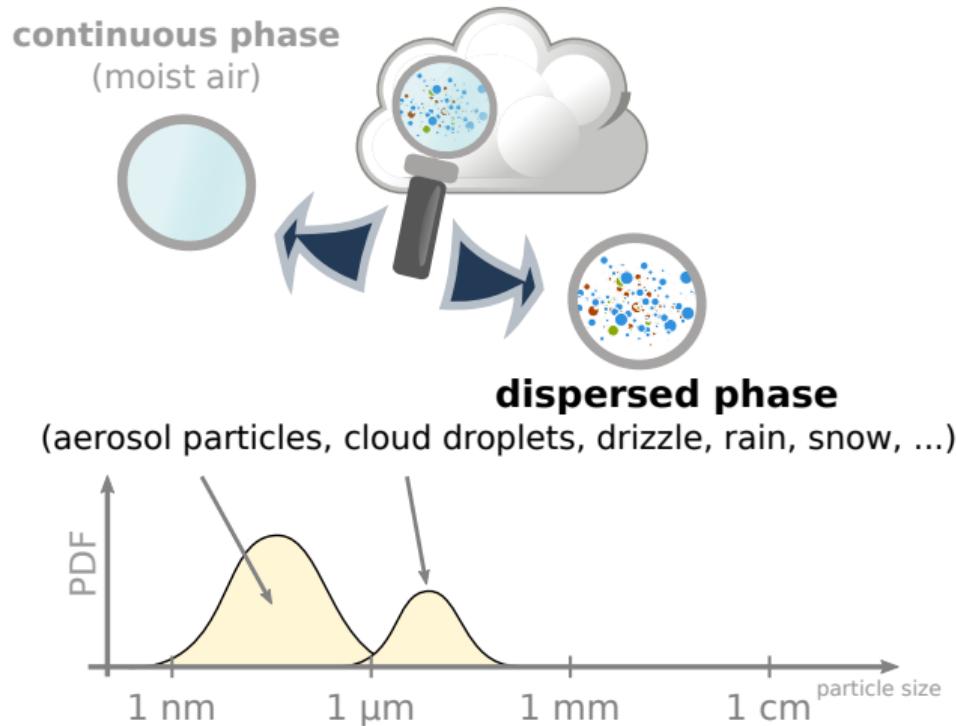
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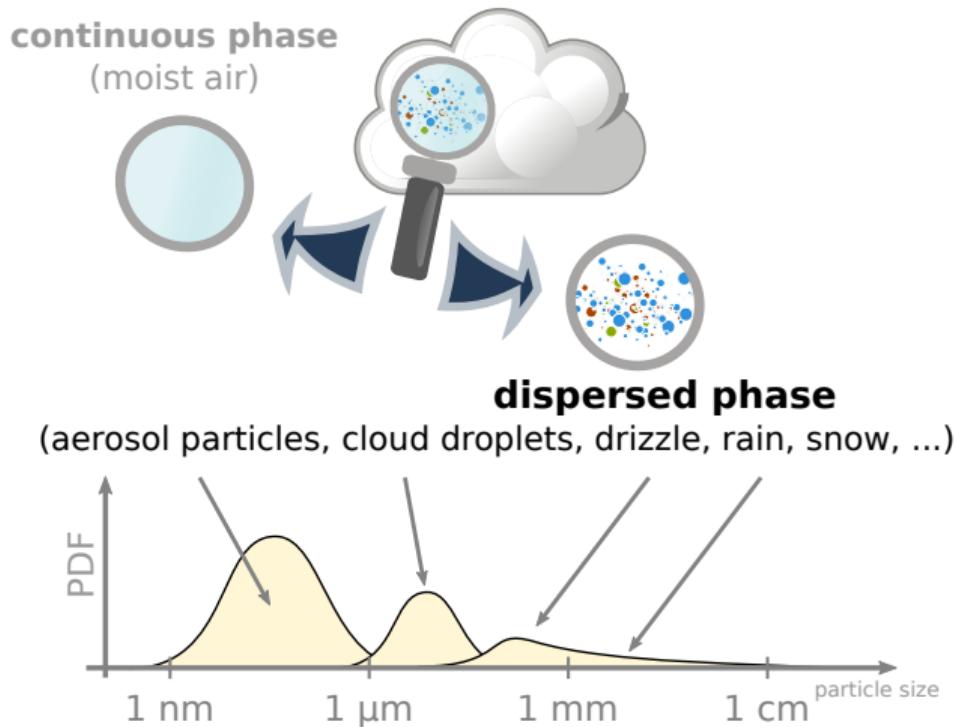
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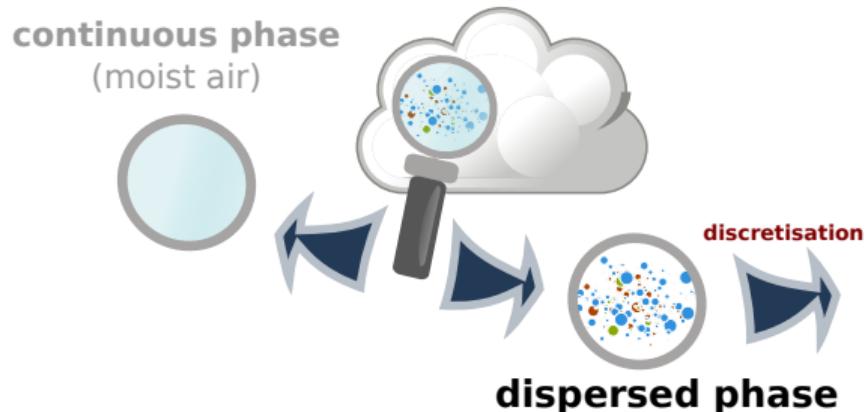
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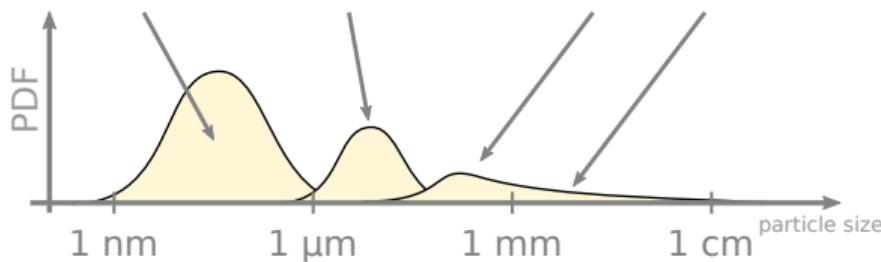
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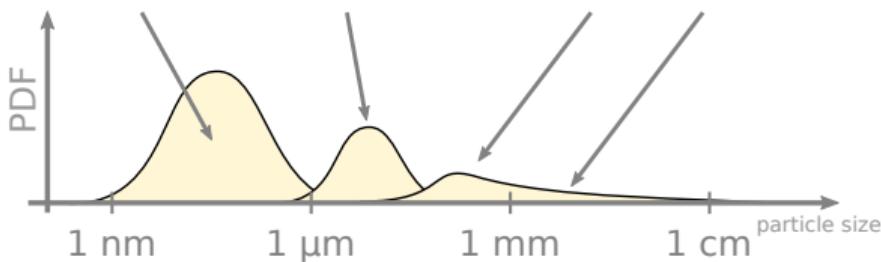
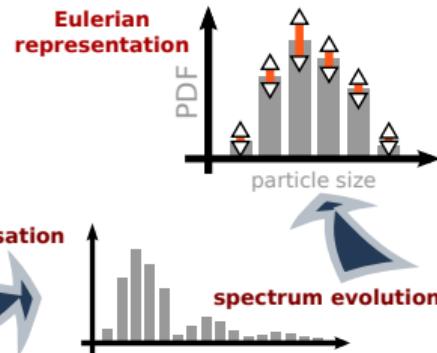
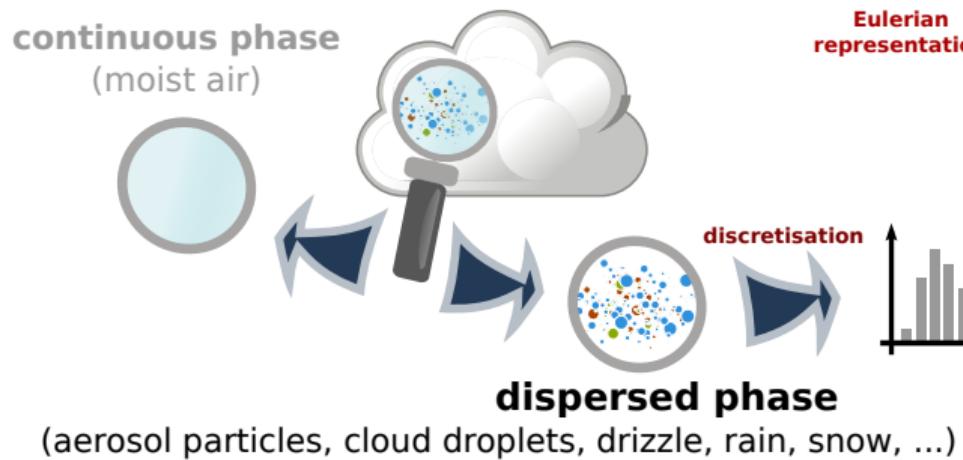
modelling cloud μ -physics: Eulerian vs. Lagrangian approaches



(aerosol particles, cloud droplets, drizzle, rain, snow, ...)



modelling cloud μ -physics: Eulerian vs. Lagrangian approaches



Smoluchowski's coagulation equation (SCE)

concentration of particles of size x at time t : $c(x, t) : \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

collision kernel: $a(x_1, x_2) : \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

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discretised particle concentration: $c_i = c(x_i)$ where $x_i = i \cdot x_0$

$$\dot{c}_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} a(x_k, x_{i-k}) c_k c_{i-k} - \sum_{k=1}^\infty a(x_k, x_i) c_k c_i \quad (2)$$

cloud droplet collisional growth

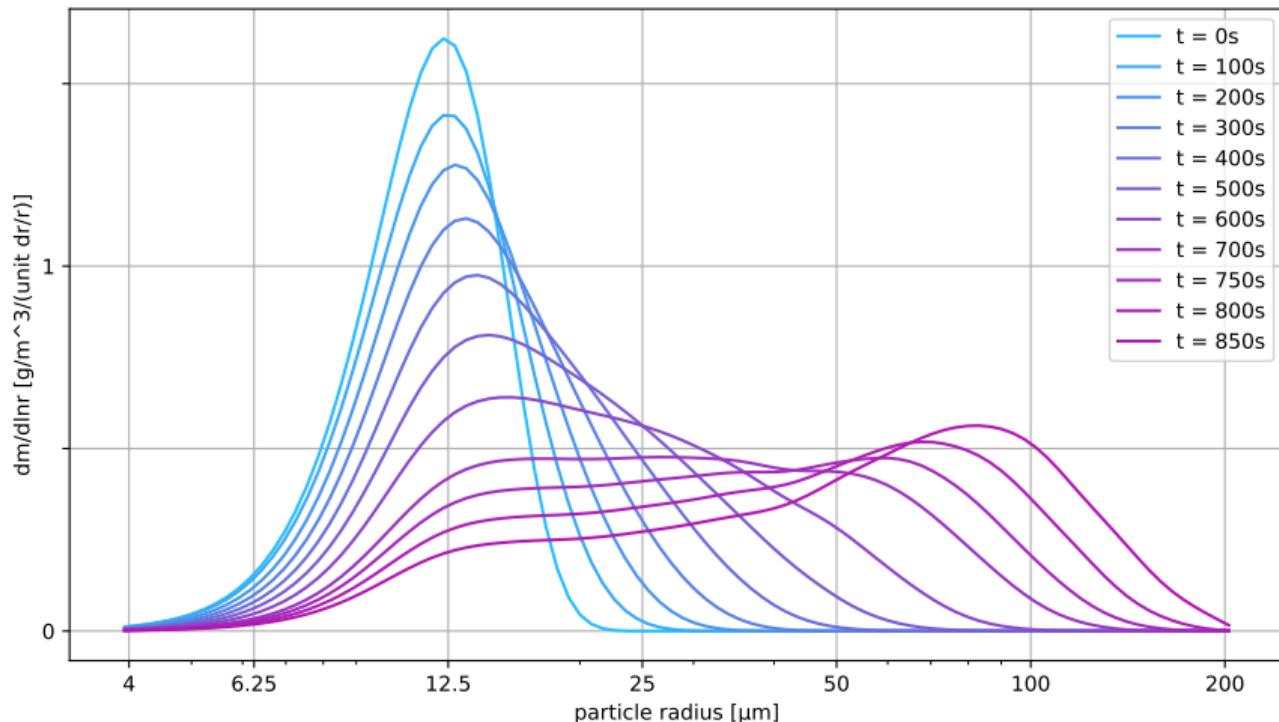


figure (PySDM simulation): Bartman, Arabas et al. 2021, LNCS
(doi:10.1007/978-3-030-77964-1_2)

SCE: challenges/problems

- ▶ analytic solutions known only for simple kernels

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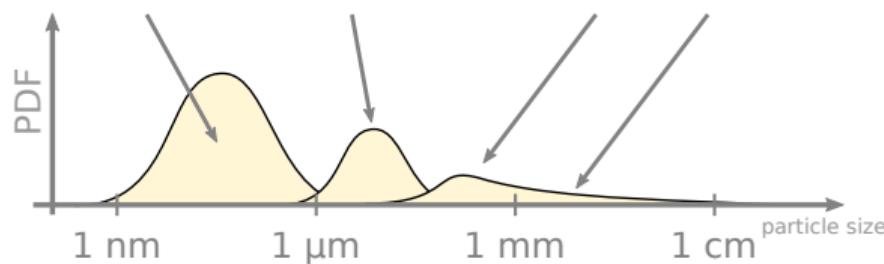
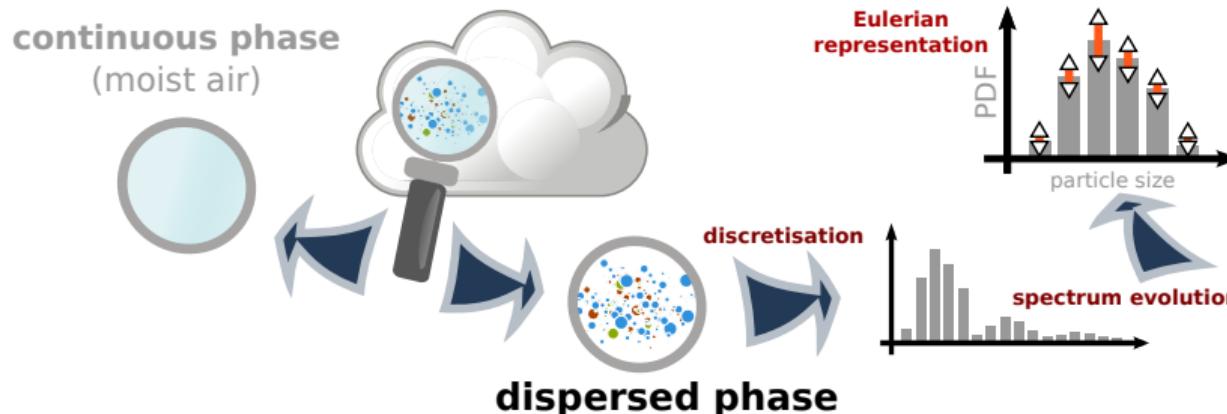
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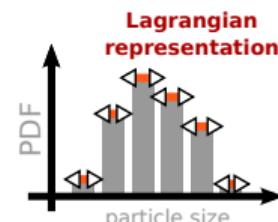
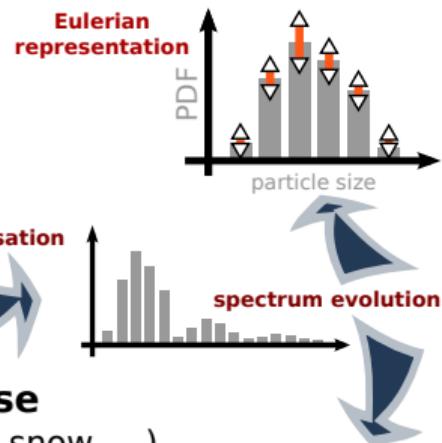
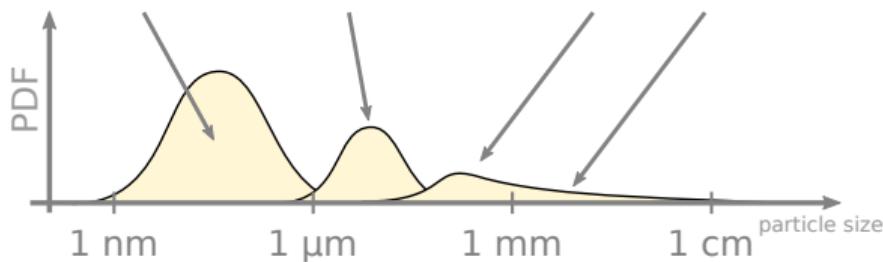
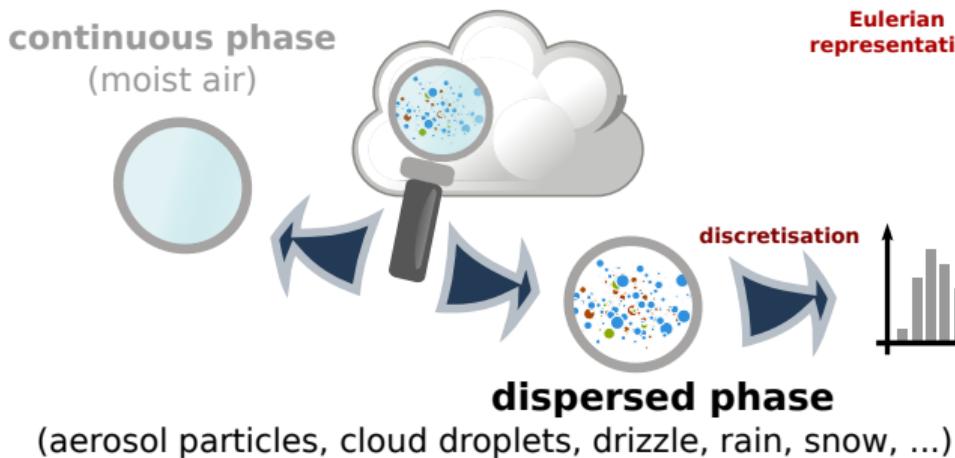
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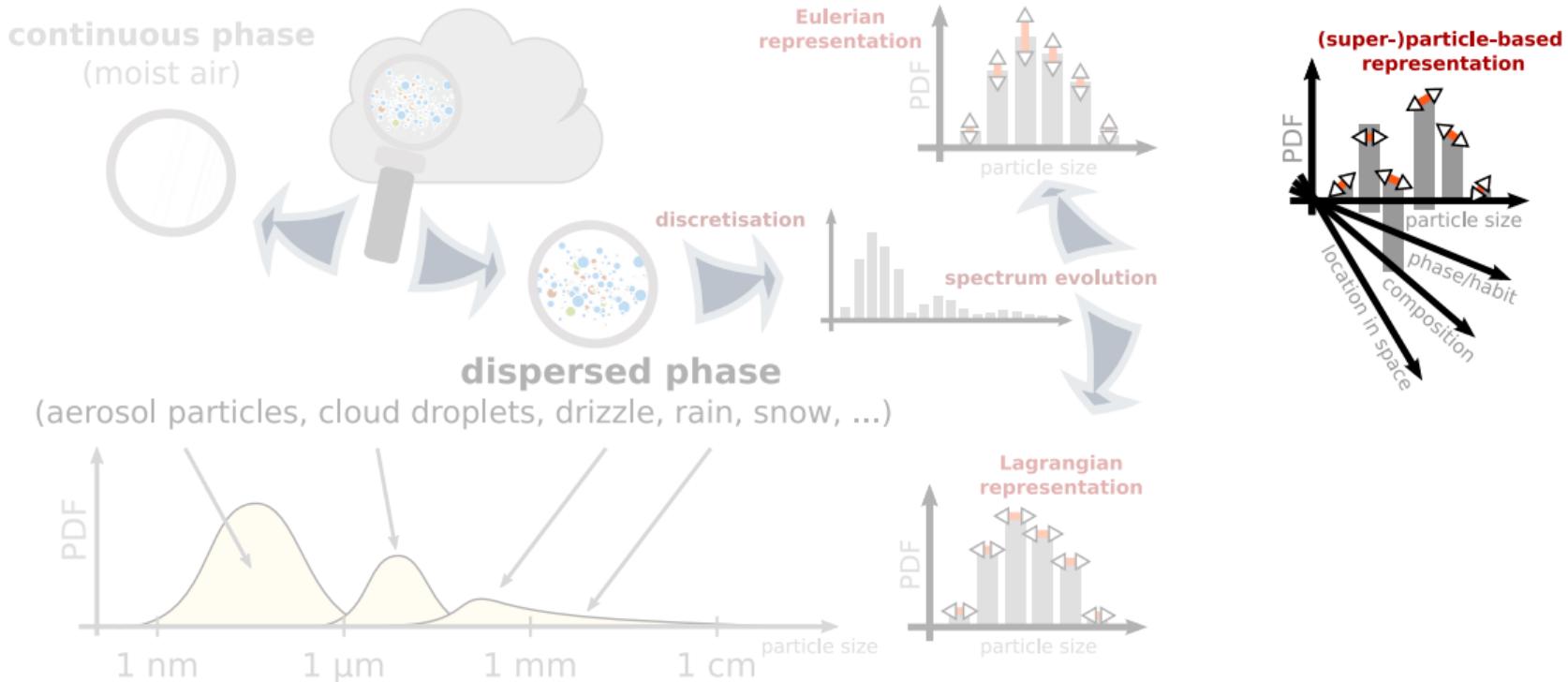
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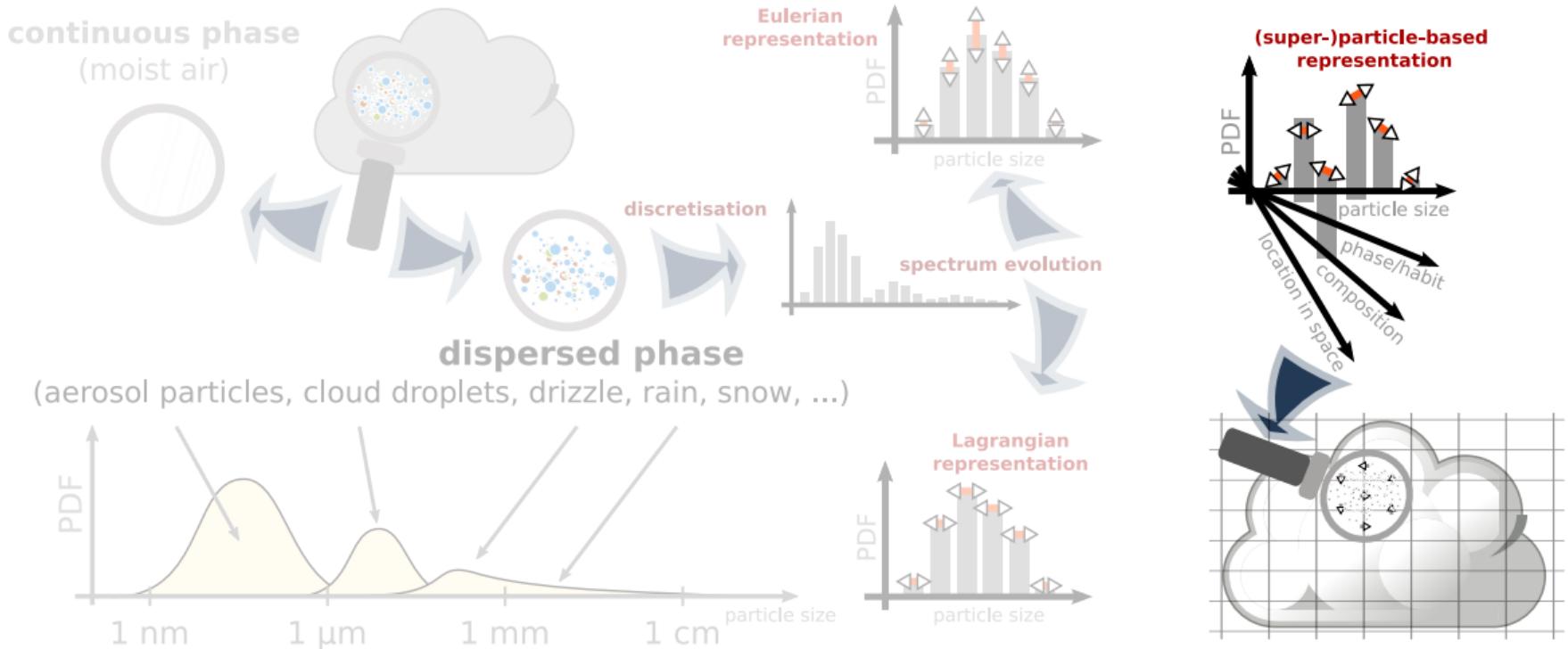
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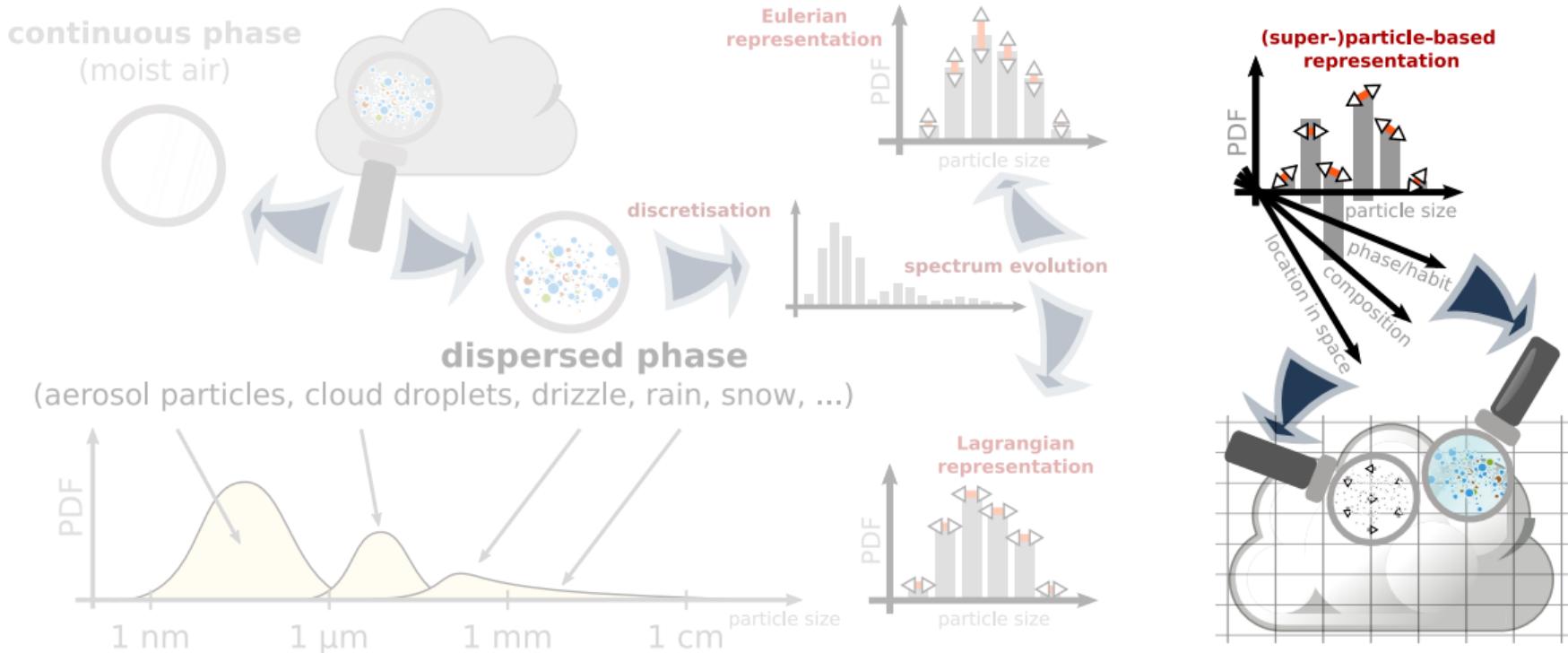
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Monte-Carlo SCE alternatives: e.g., SDM by Shima et al.

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Shima et al. 2020 (doi:10.5194/gmd-13-4107-2020): mixed-phase

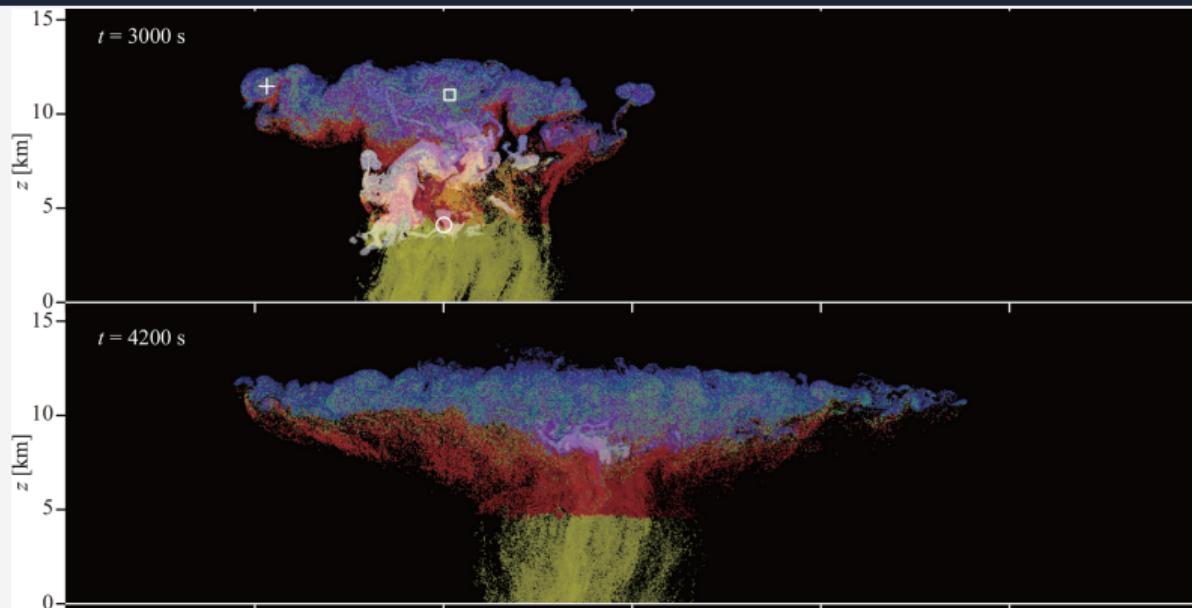


Figure 1. Typical realization of CTRL cloud spatial structures at $t = 2040, 2460, 3000, 4200$, and 5400 s. The mixing ratio of cloud water, rainwater, cloud ice, graupel, and snow aggregates are plotted in fading white, yellow, blue, red, and green, respectively. The symbols indicate examples of unrealistic predicted ice particles (Sects. 7.3 and 9.1). See also Movie 1 in the video supplement.

Super Droplet Method vs. SCE: differences

SCE (naïve impl)

SDM

method type

mean-field, deterministic

Monte-Carlo, stochastic

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considered pairs

all (i,j) pairs

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interpretation

concentration " c_i " in size bin " i "

besides c_i , each "particle" i carries other physicochemical attributes, e.g. position (x_i, y_i, z_i)

SDM

PySDM

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KPI: continuous integration on all targeted platforms
- ▶ **curation**: open licensing (GPL), public versioned development (Github)
KPI: instant and anonymous execution on commodity environment

PySDM: 2D kinematic Sc test (Morrison & Grabowski '07)

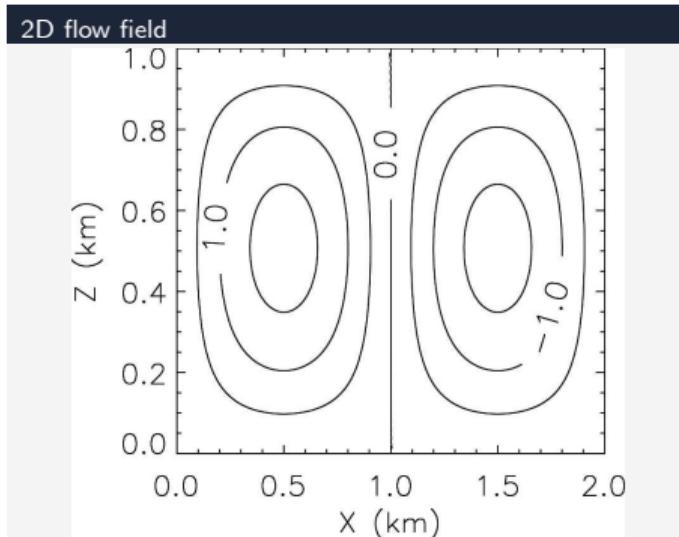
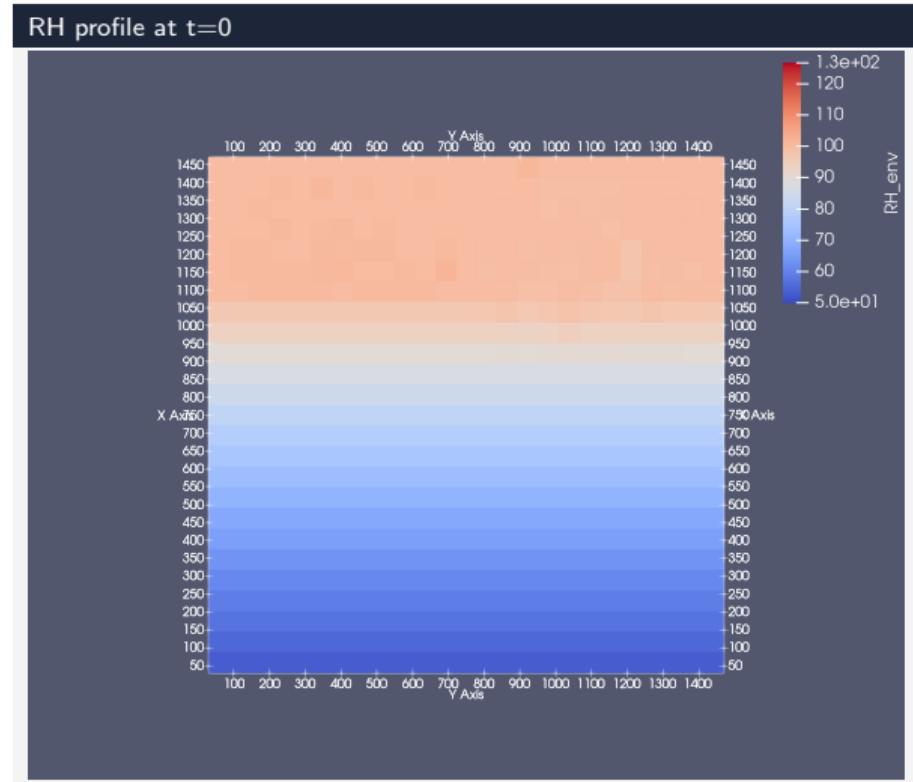
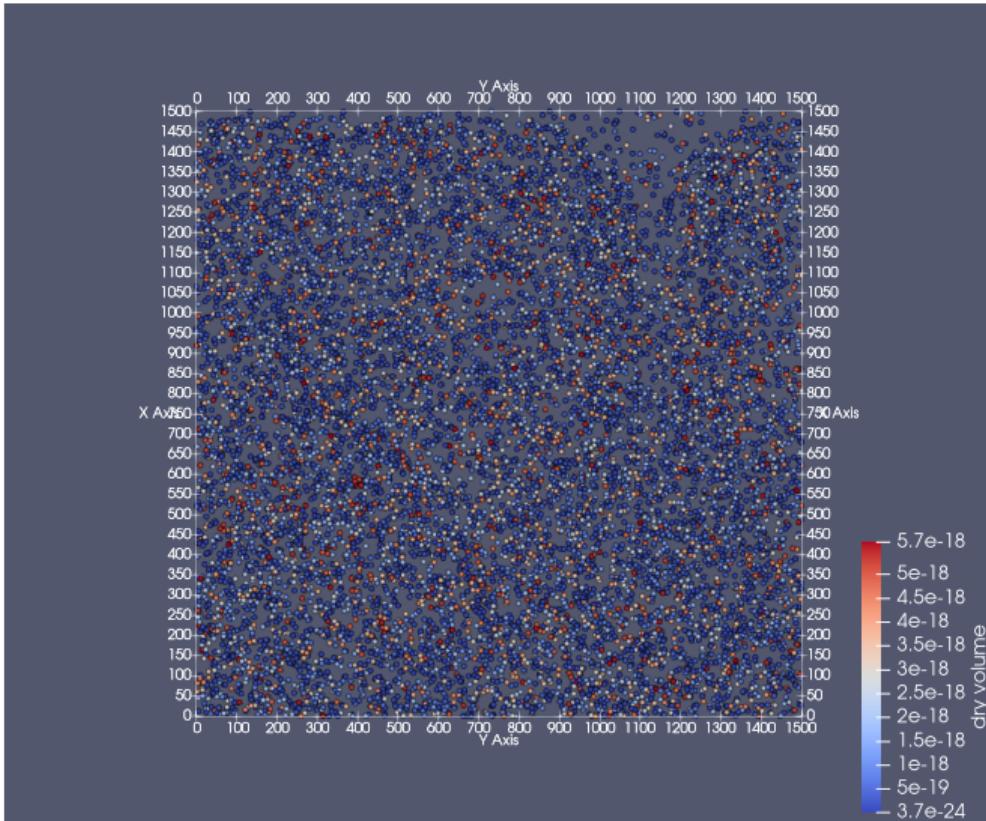


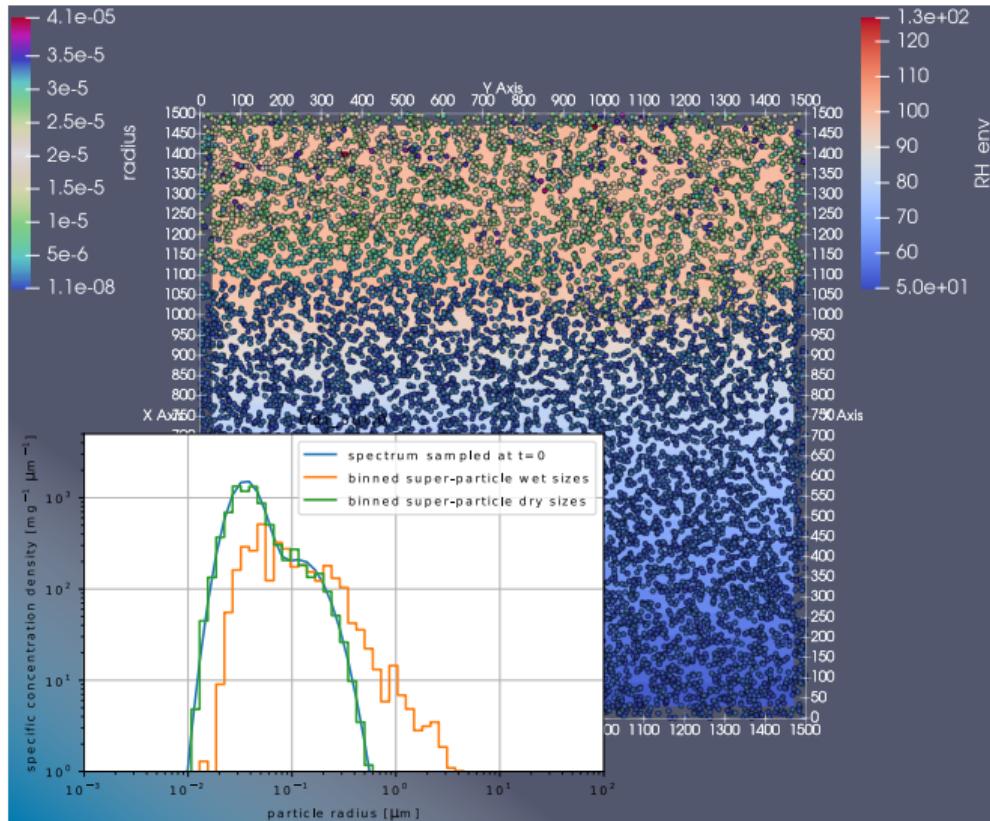
FIG. 1. Time-invariant vertical velocity for the stratocumulus case (contour interval is 0.5 m s^{-1}).



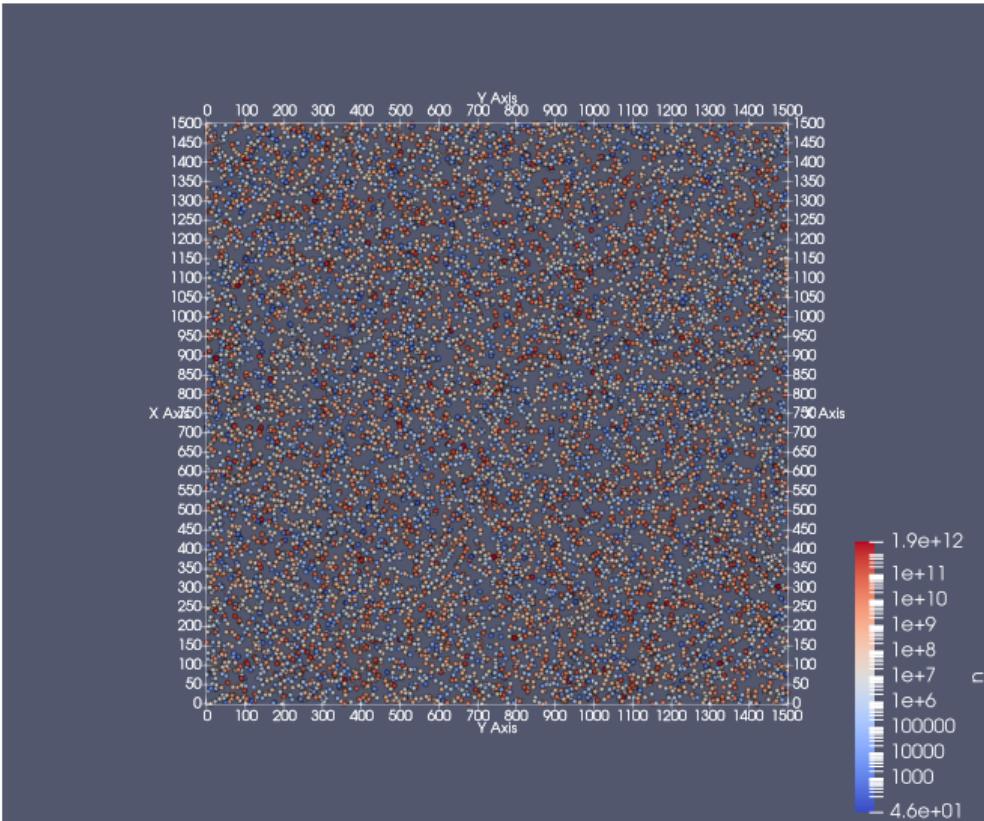
particle attribute initialisation: dry/wet volume



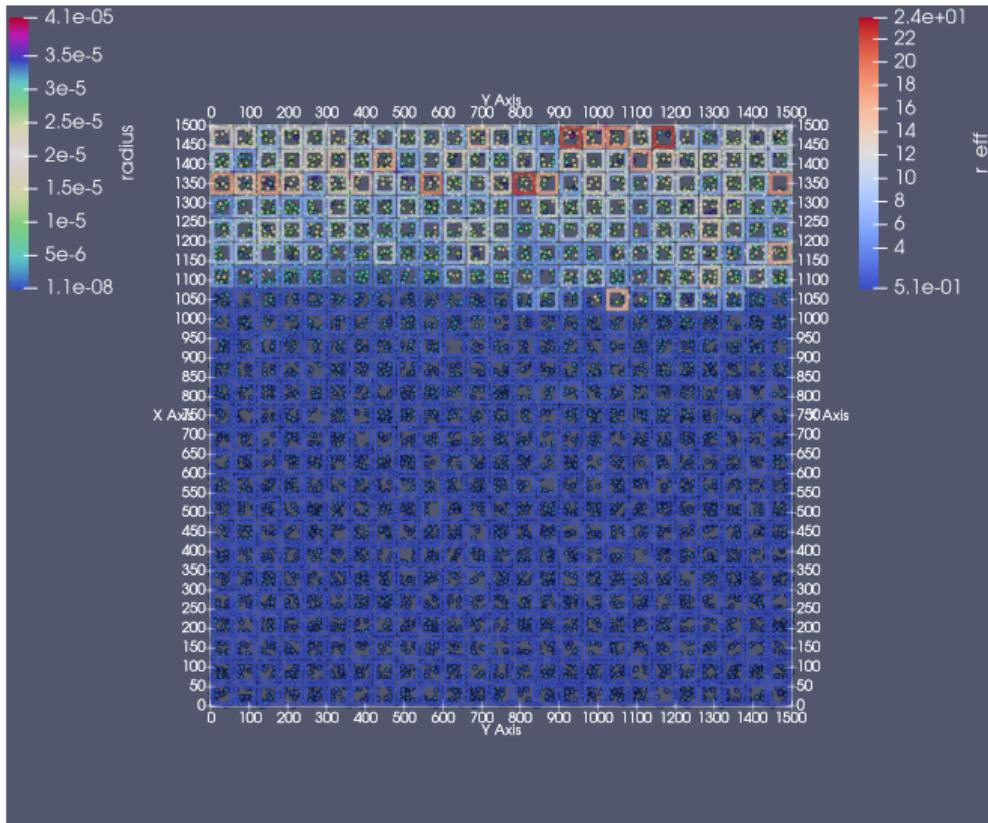
particle attribute initialisation: dry/wet volume



particle attribute initialisation: multiplicity

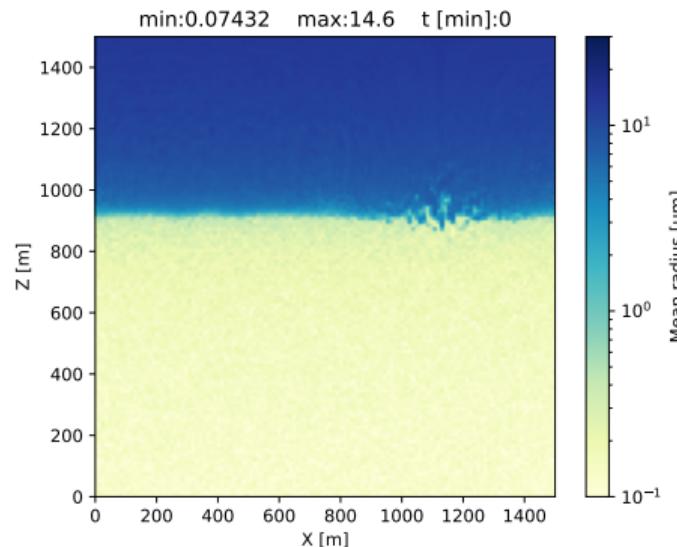
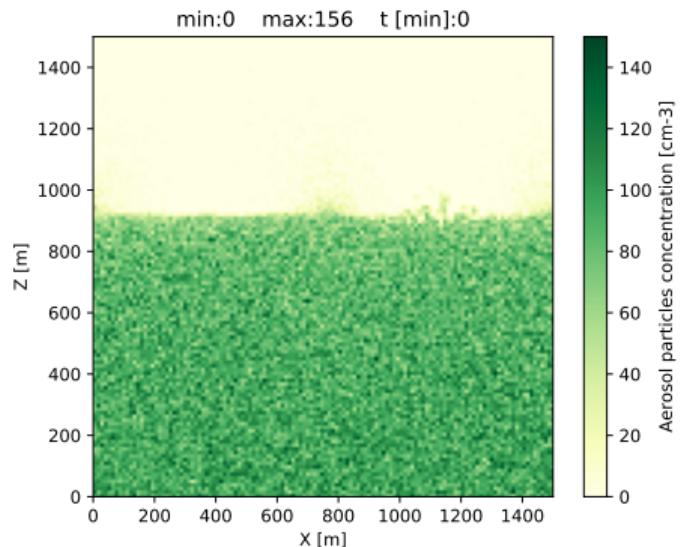


particle attribute evolution: droplet radius



sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

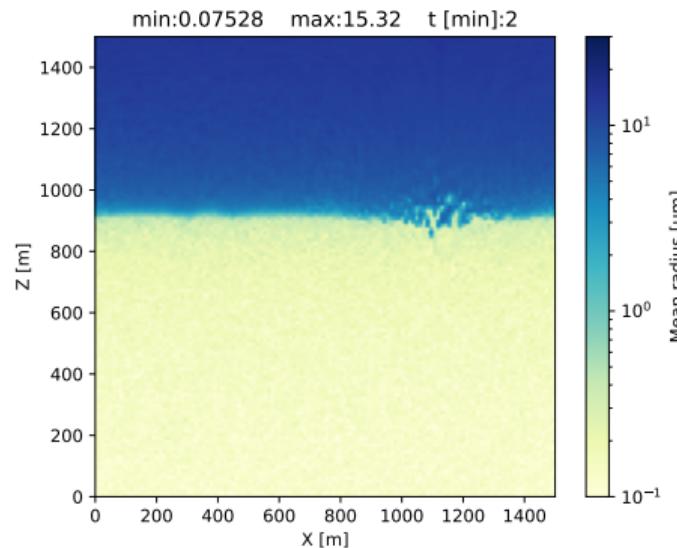
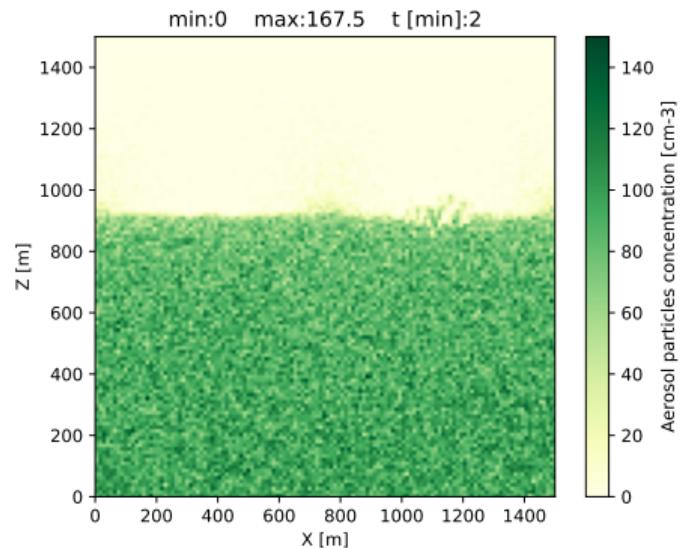
Computational grid: 128x128
Computational particles: 2^{21}



Simulation & visualisation: Piotr Bartman

sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

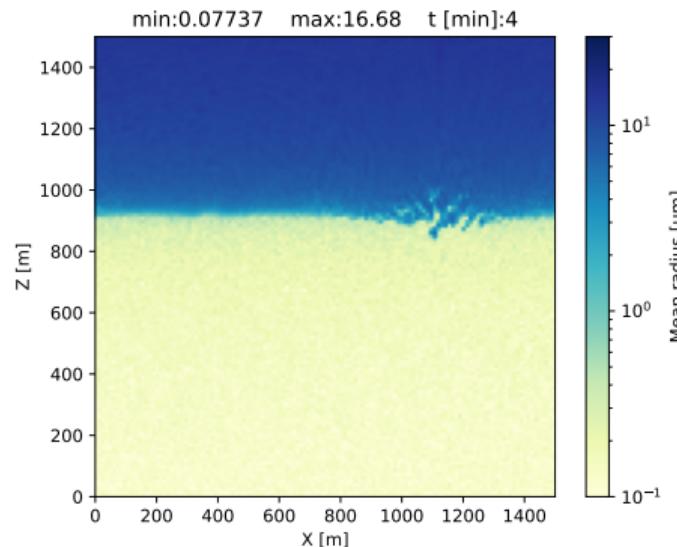
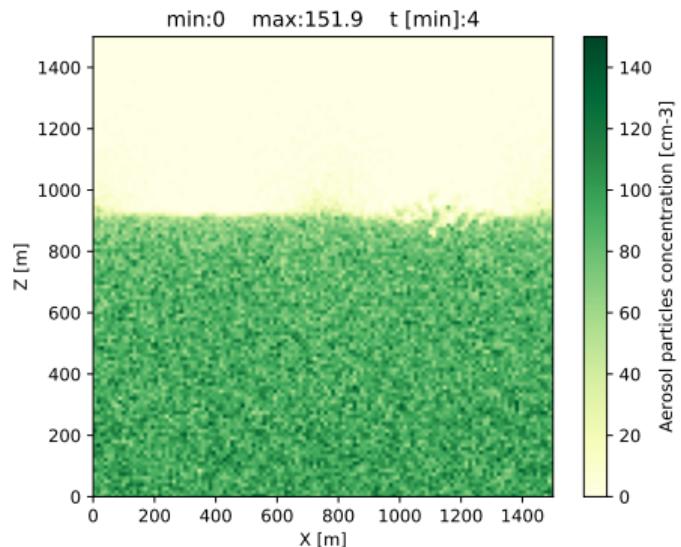
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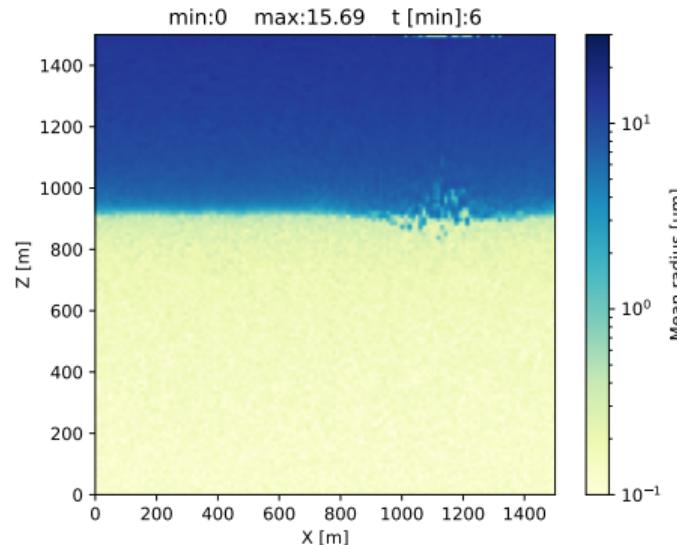
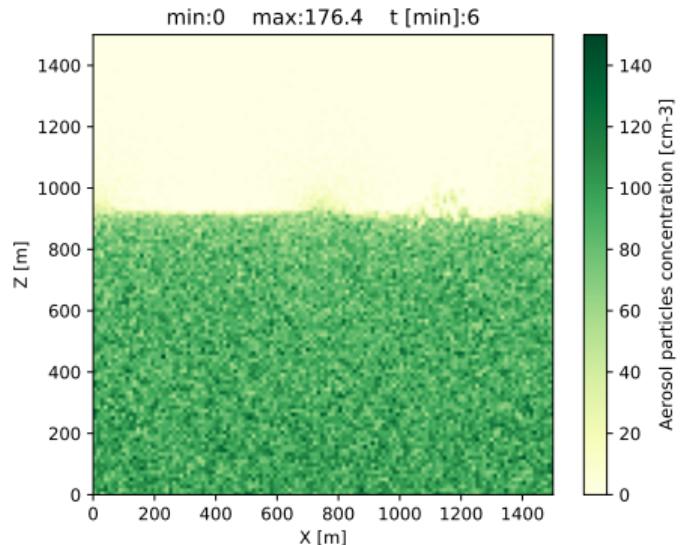
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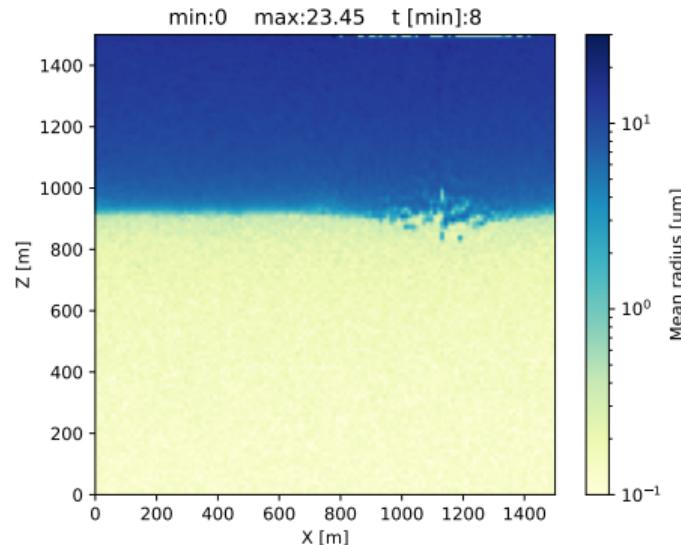
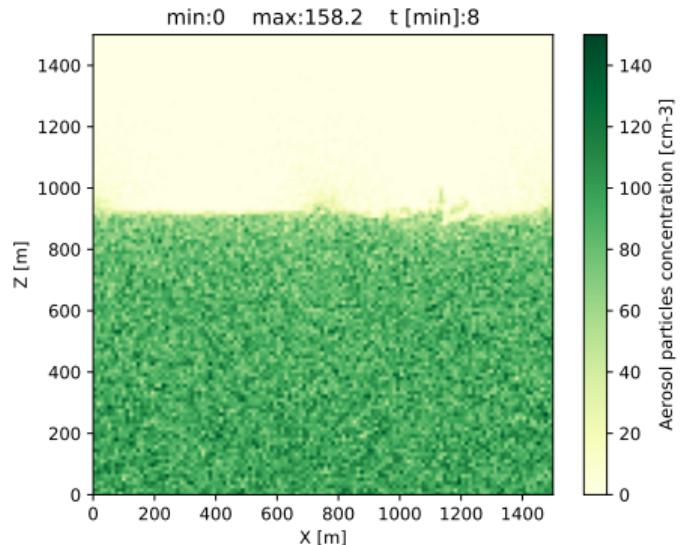
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sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

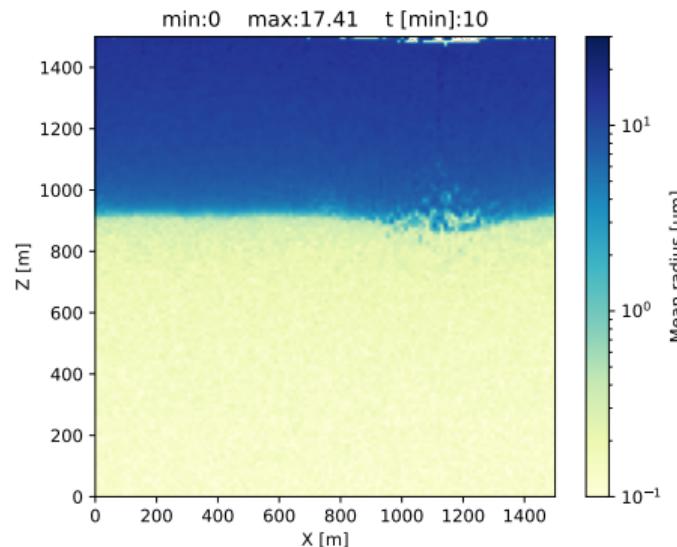
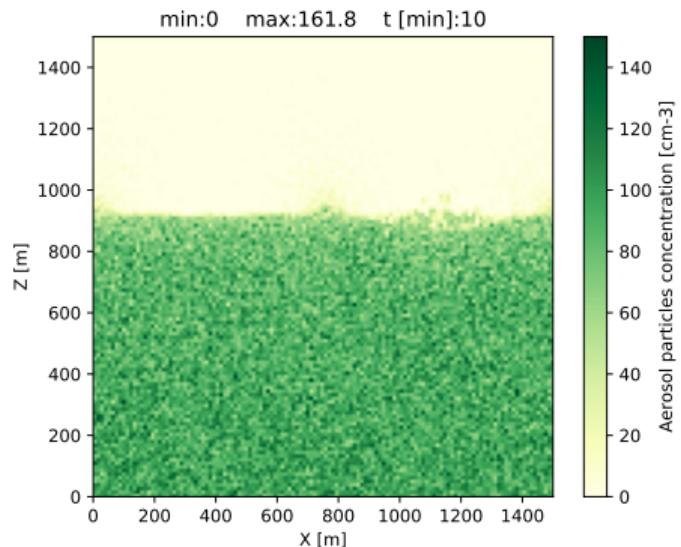
Computational grid: 128x128
Computational particles: 2^{21}



Simulation & visualisation: Piotr Bartman

sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

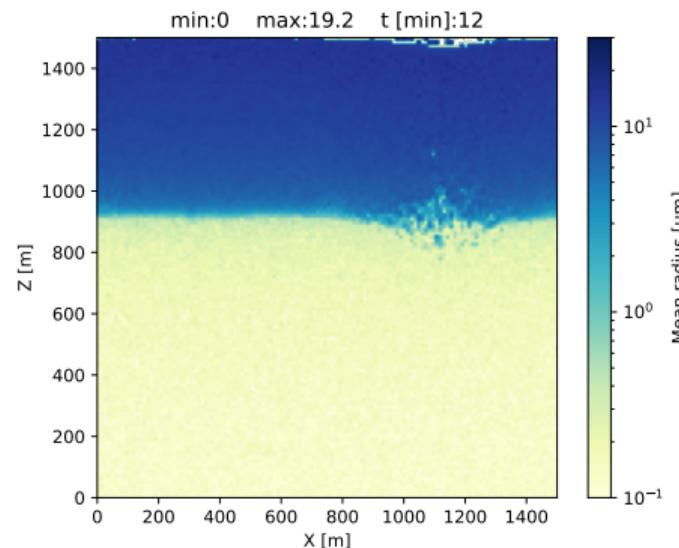
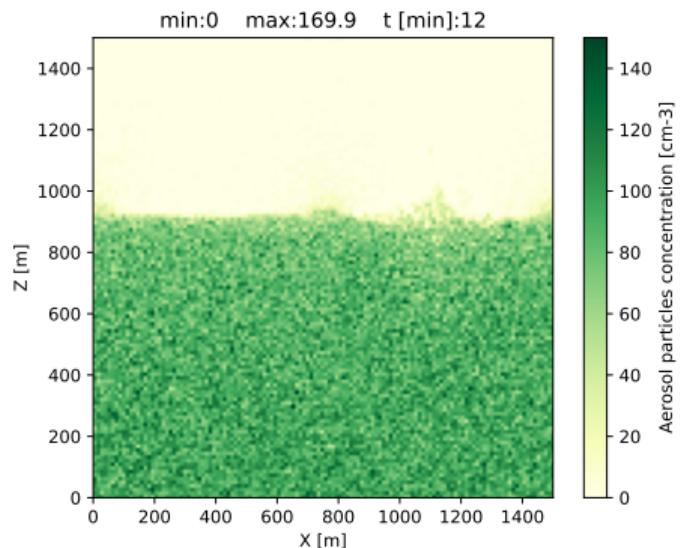
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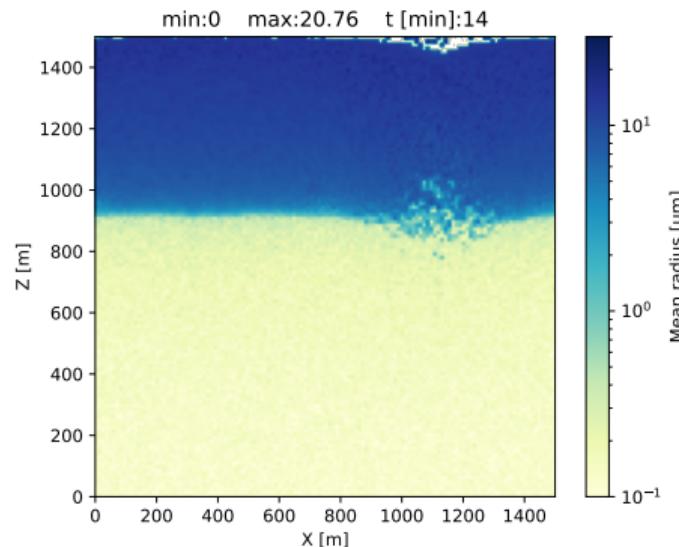
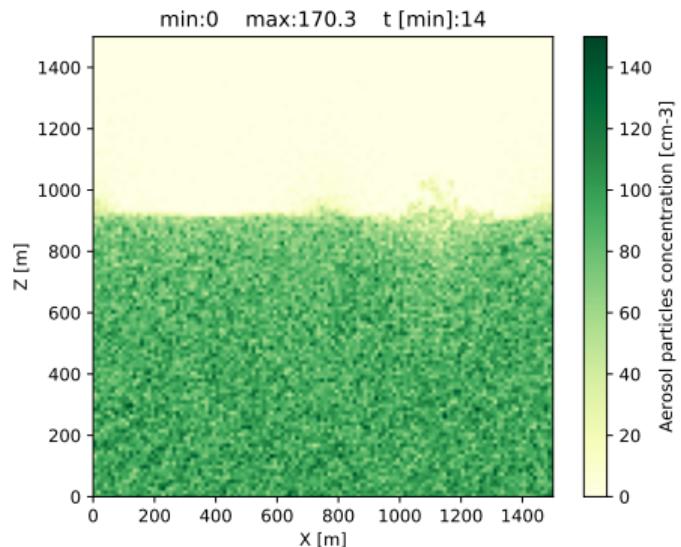
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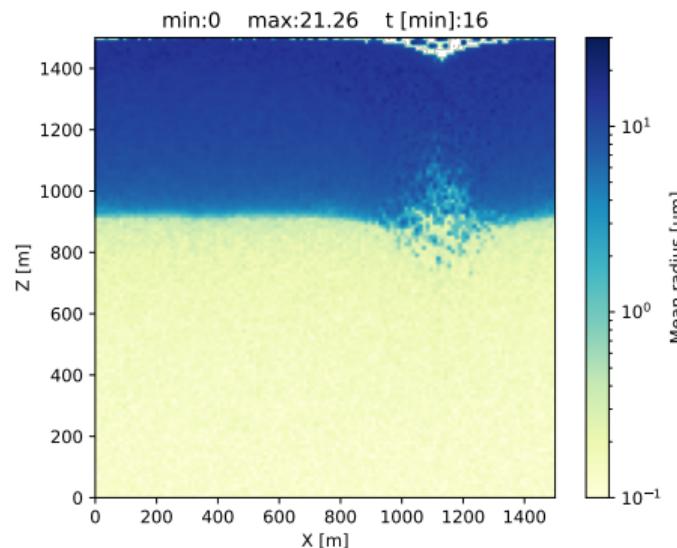
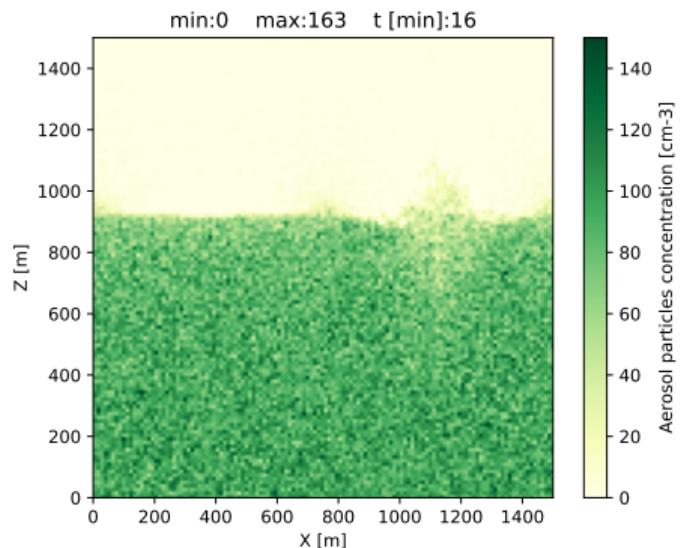
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Computational particles: 2^{21}



Simulation & visualisation: Piotr Bartman

sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

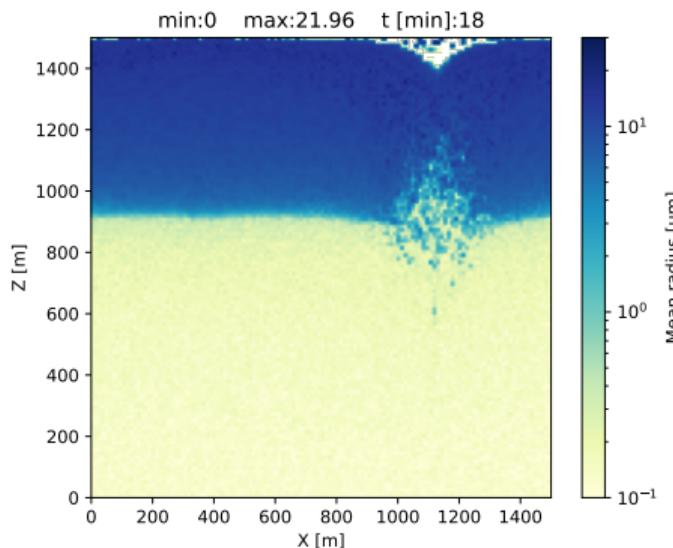
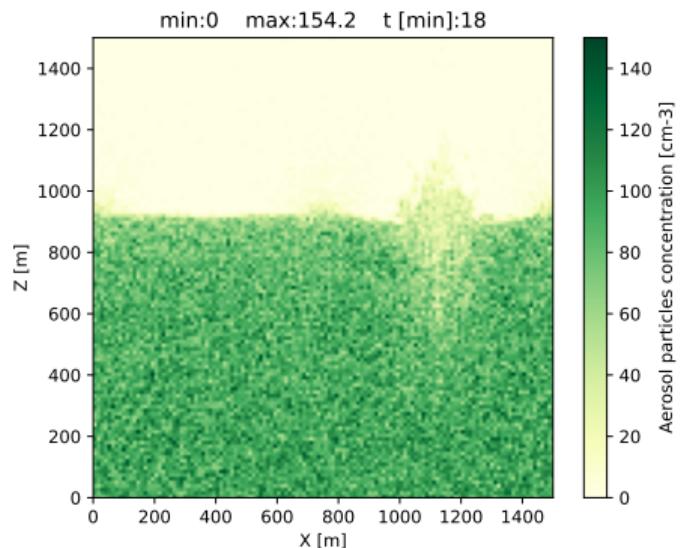
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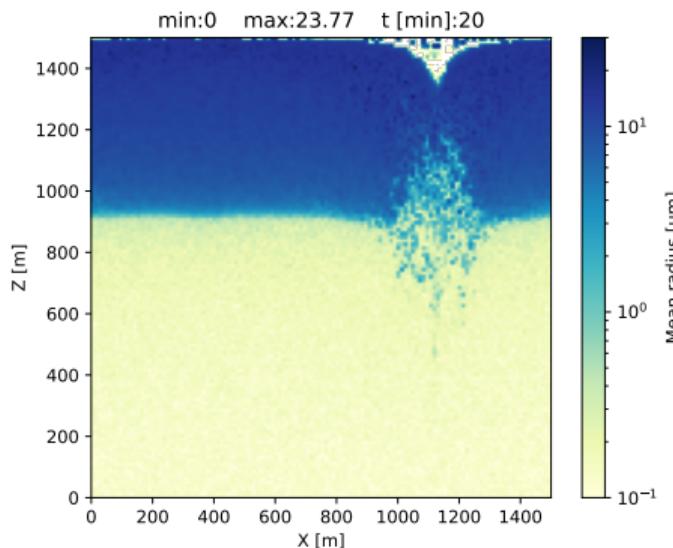
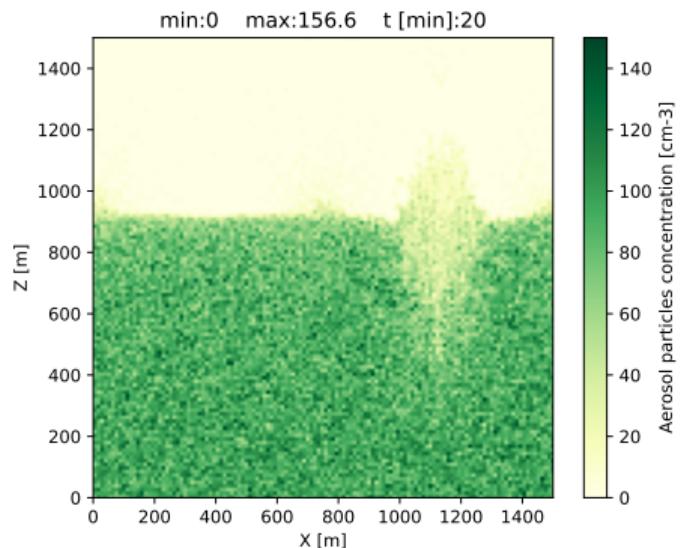
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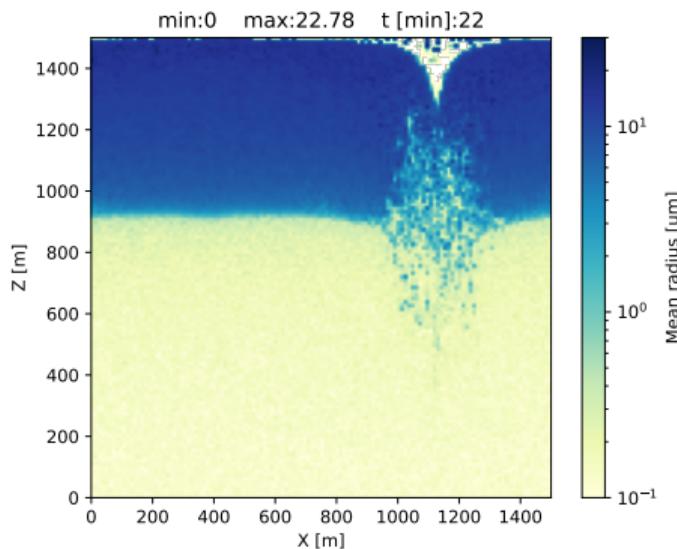
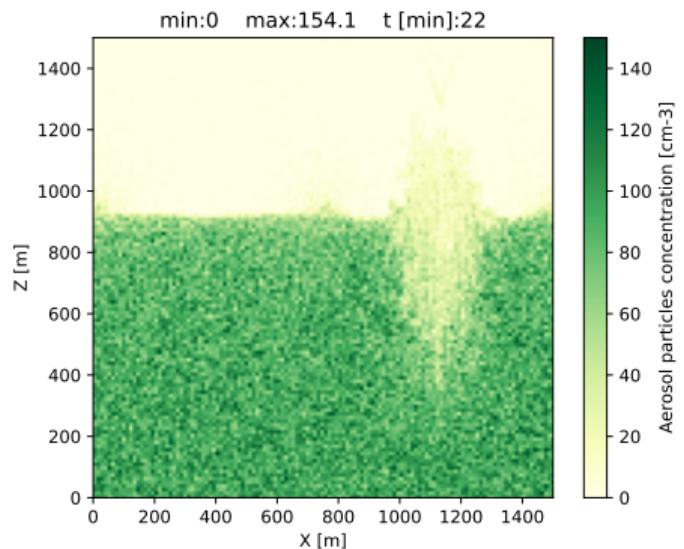
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sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

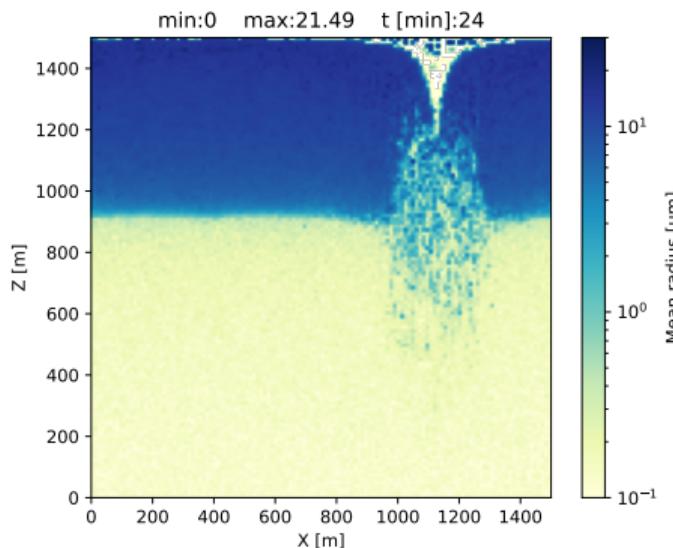
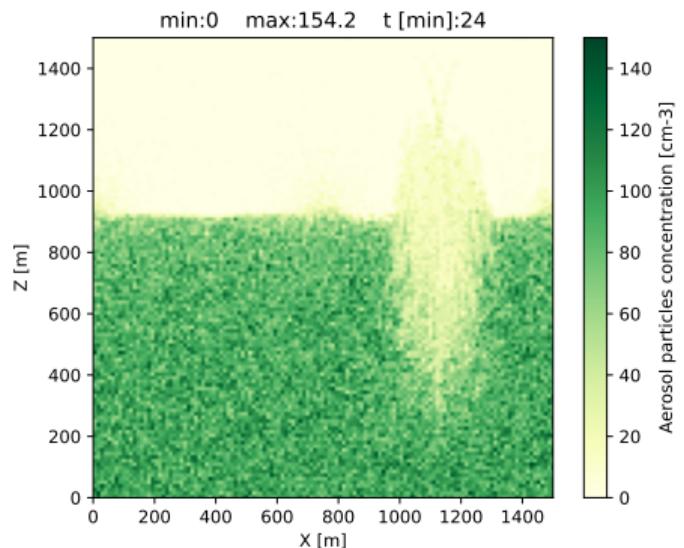
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sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

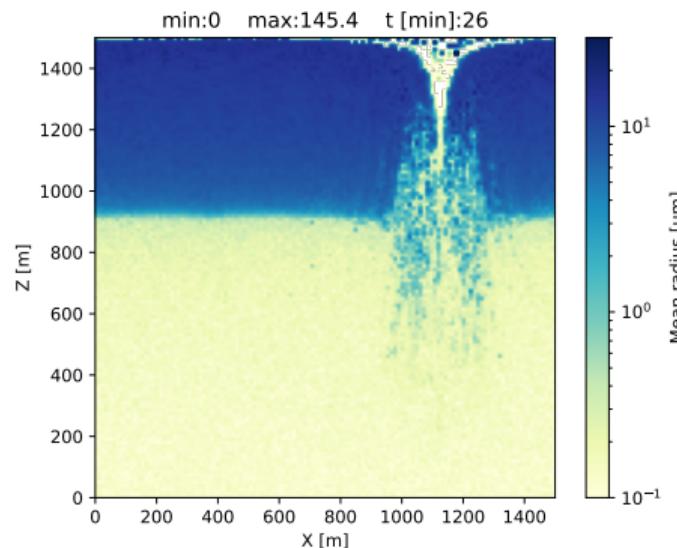
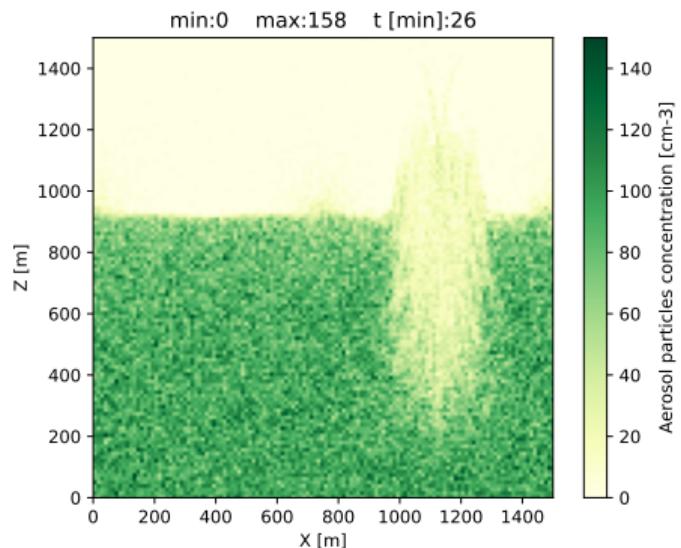
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Simulation & visualisation: Piotr Bartman

sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

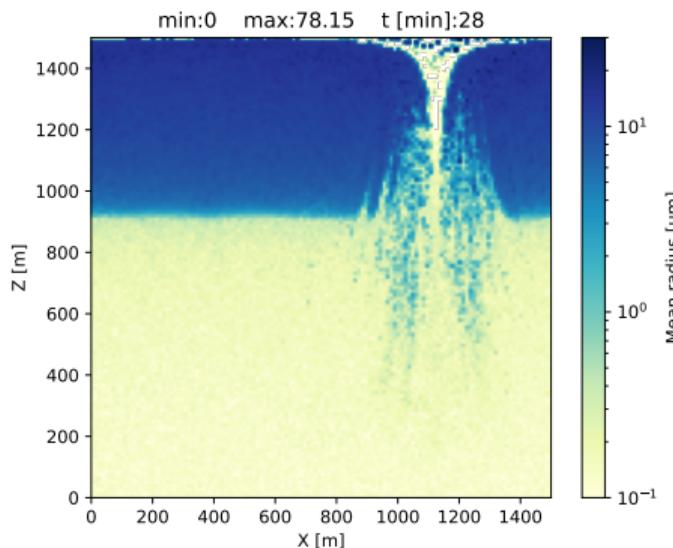
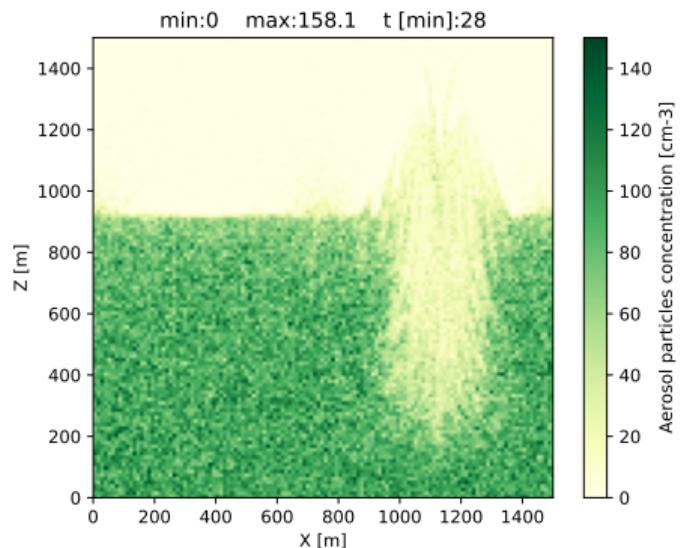
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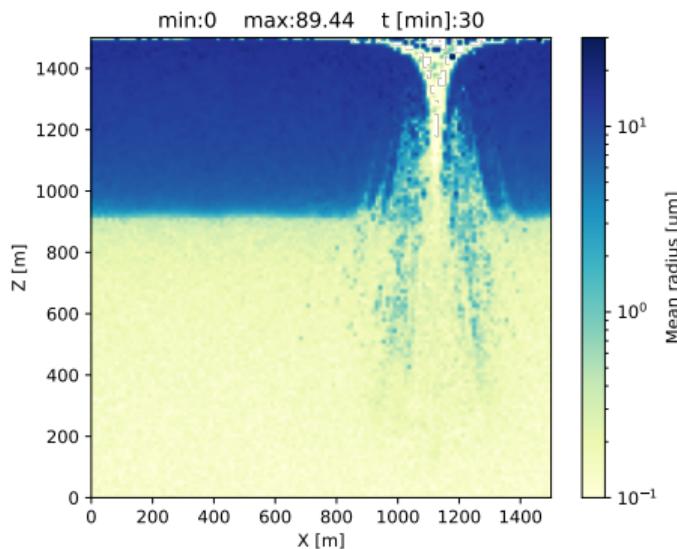
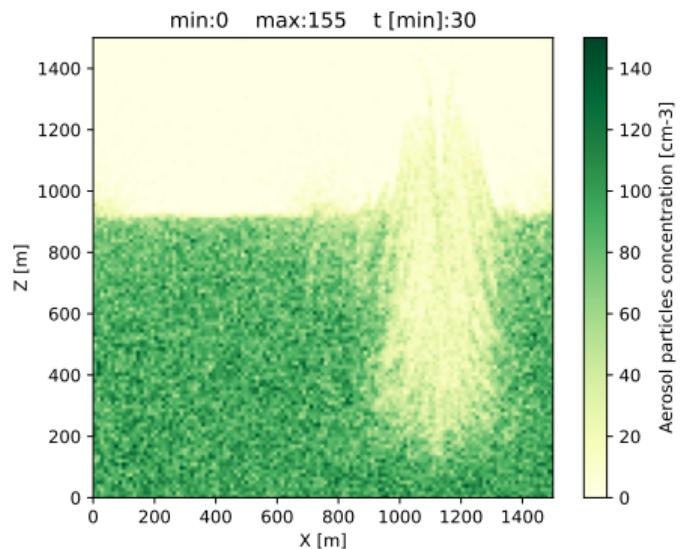
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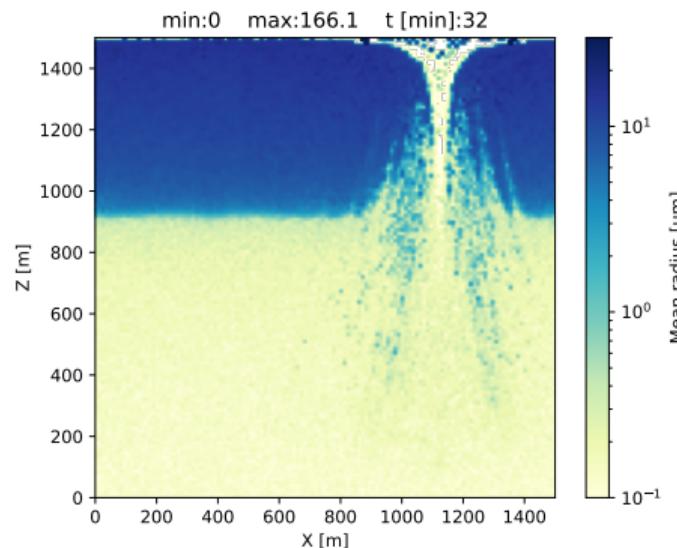
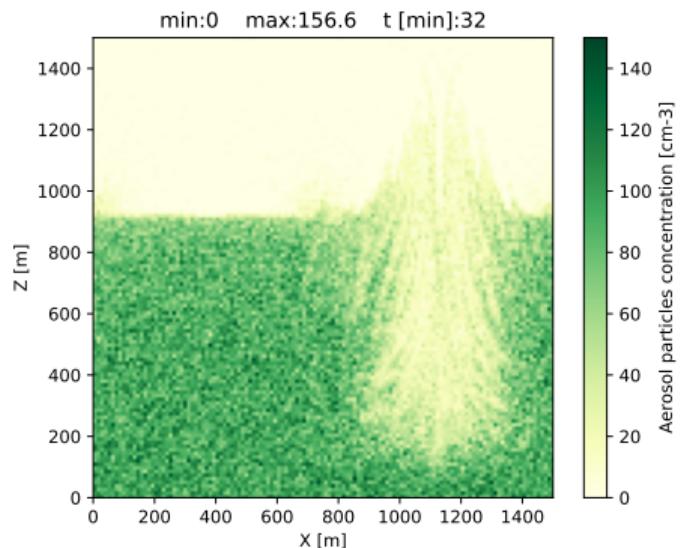
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Simulation & visualisation: Piotr Bartman

sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

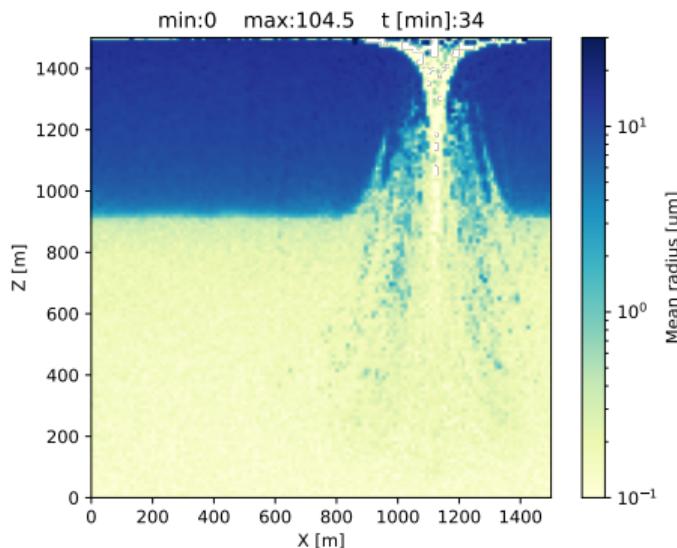
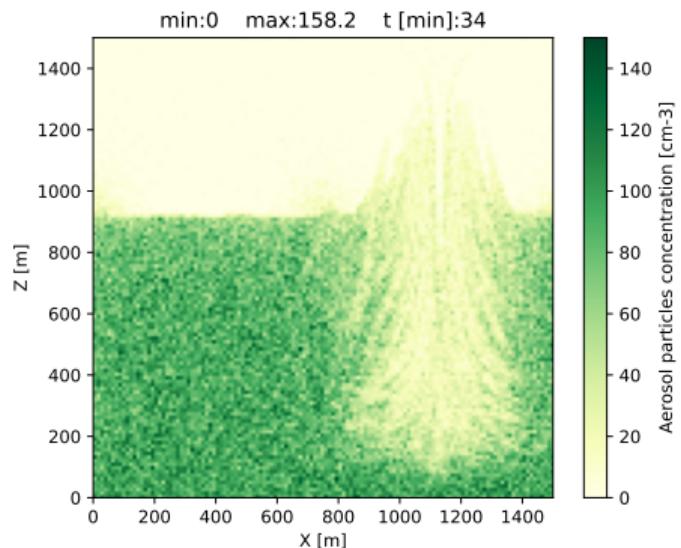
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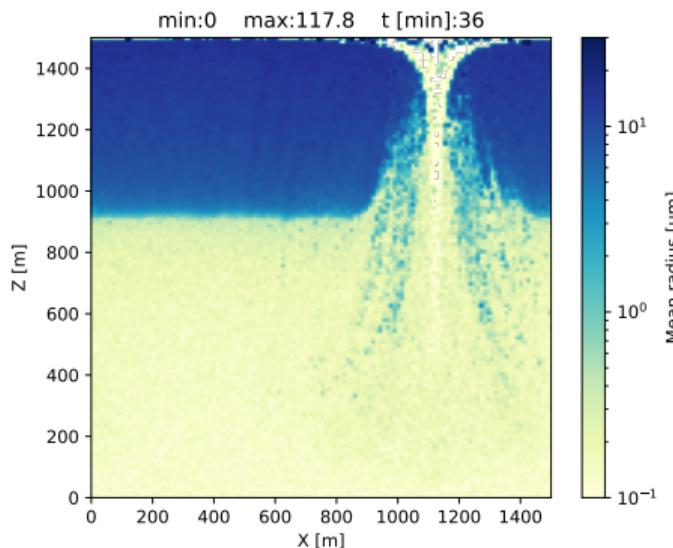
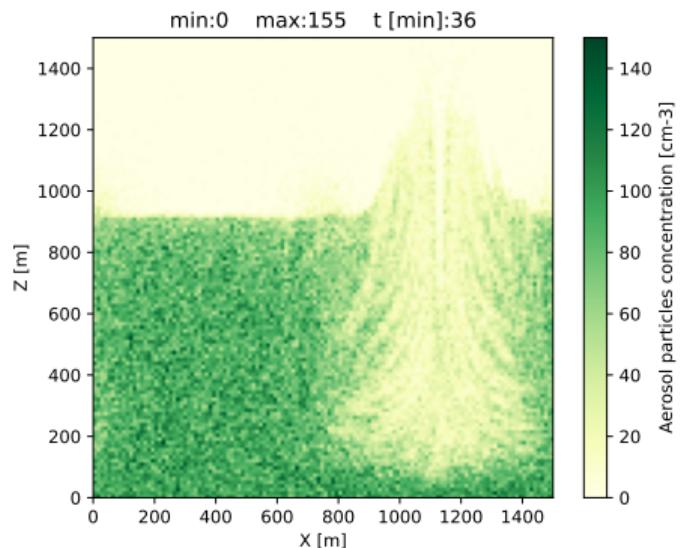
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Simulation & visualisation: Piotr Bartman

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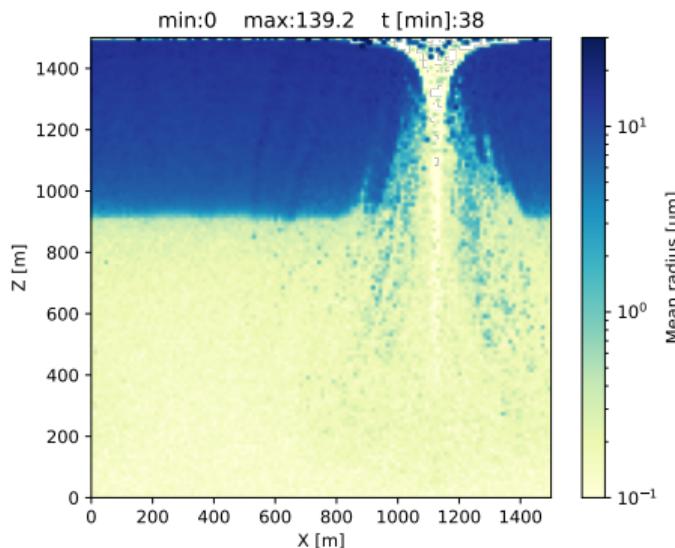
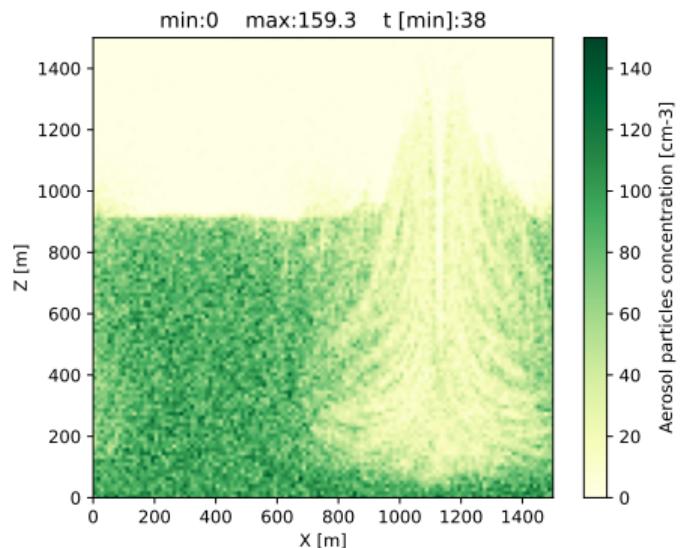
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sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

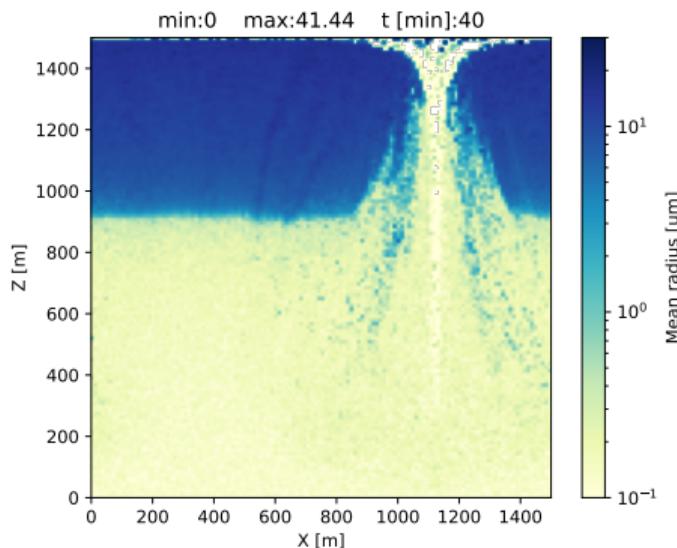
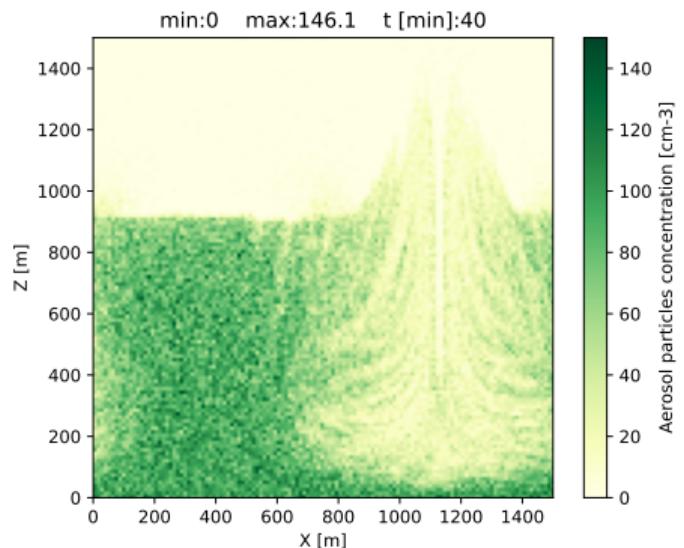
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Simulation & visualisation: Piotr Bartman

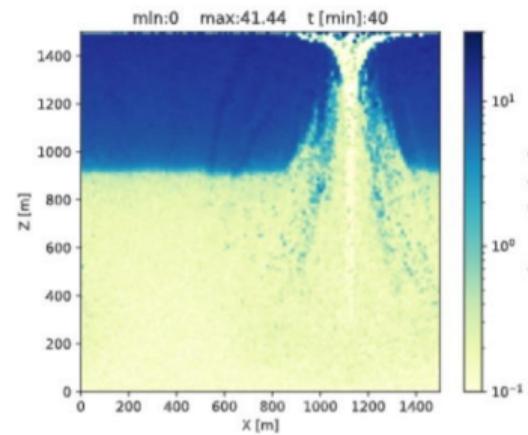
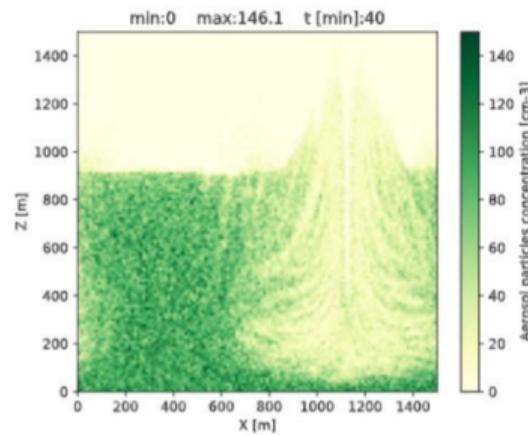
sample aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions simulation

Computational grid: 128x128
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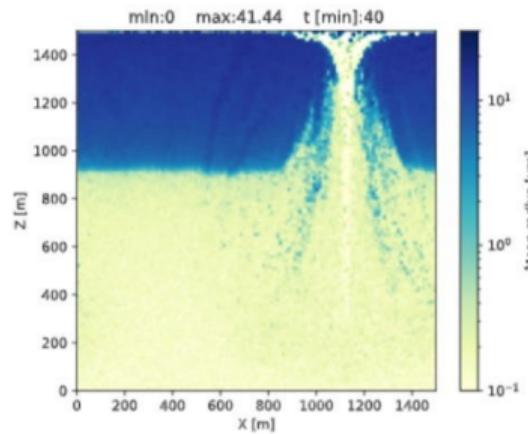
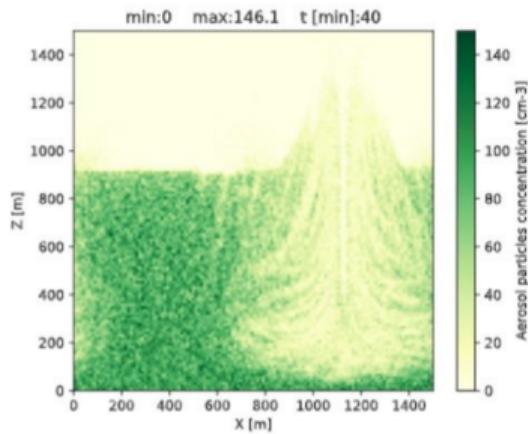
Simulation & visualisation: Piotr Bartman

PySDM:

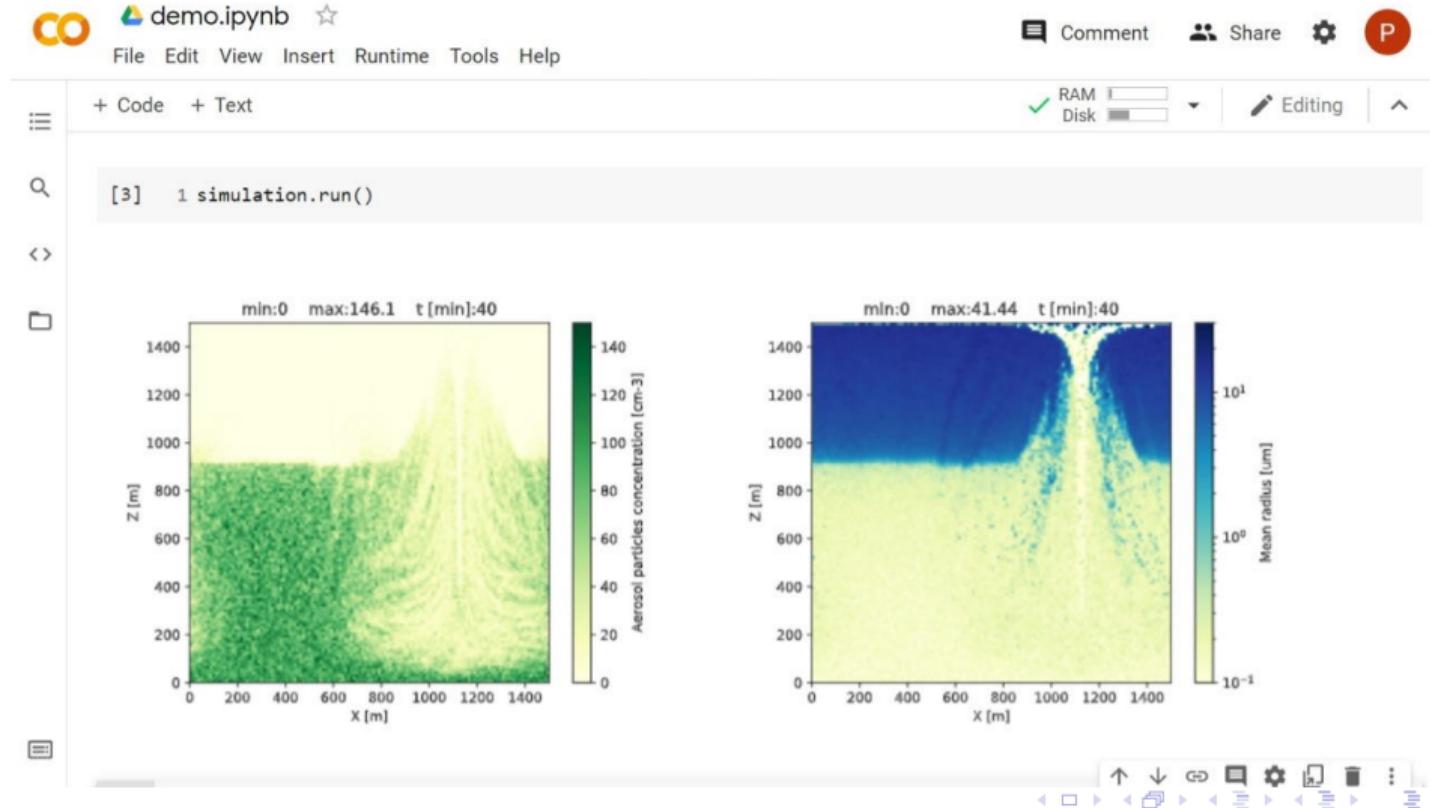


PySDM: Pythonic

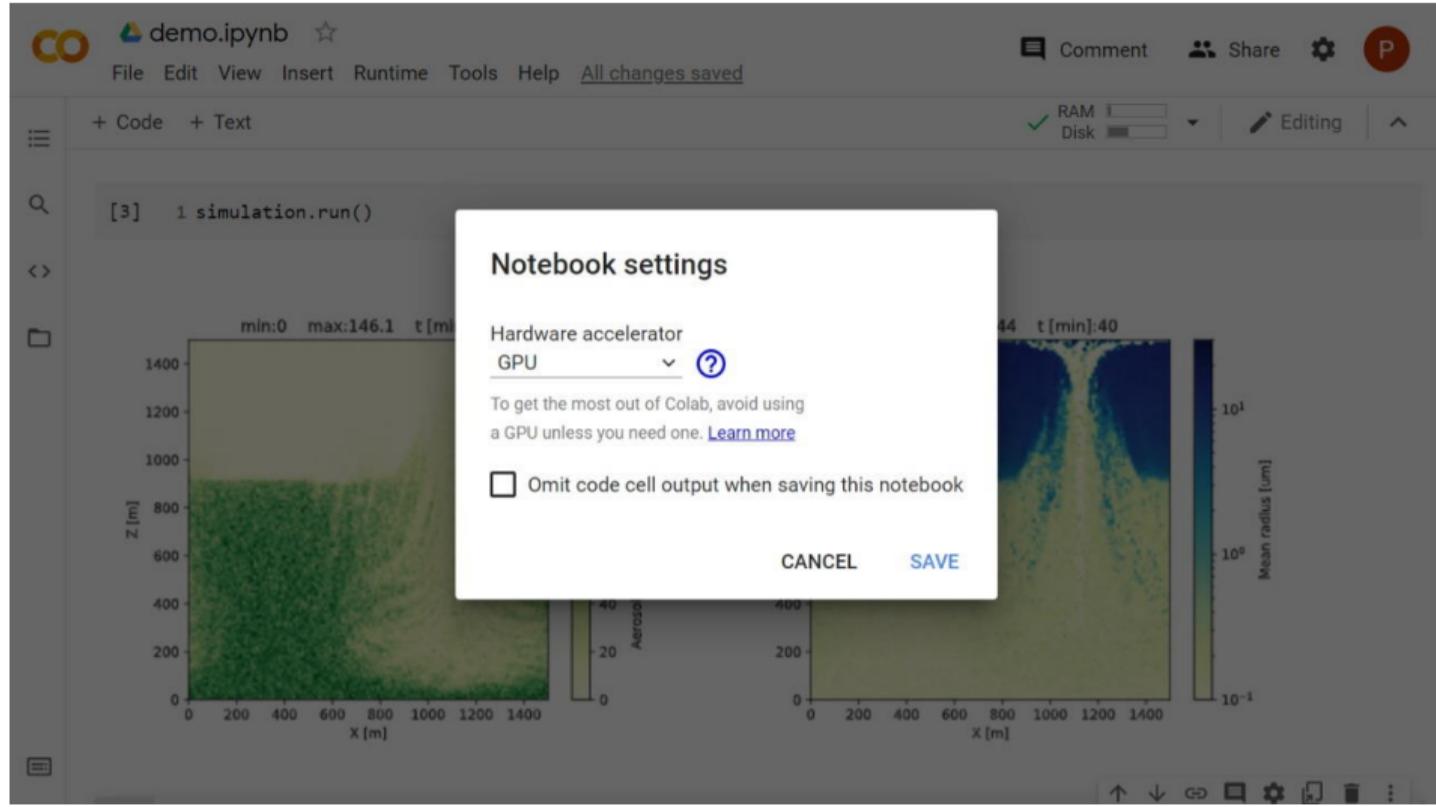
```
[3] 1 simulation.run()
```



PySDM: Pythonic, Jupyter-friendly



PySDM: Pythonic, Jupyter-friendly, GPU-enabled



first coupling with an external CFD code (Oleksii Bulenok) (<https://github.com/CliMA/ClimateMachine.jl/pull/2244>)

PySDM and ClimateMachine coupling examples in Kinematic setup #2244

[Open](#) abulenok wants to merge 16 commits into `CLIMA:master` from `abulenok:ob-pysdmachine`

Conversation 32 · Commits 16 · Checks 10 · Files changed 17 · +2,528 -1

abulenok commented on 27 Oct 2021

This PR includes a coupling logic for ClimateMachine.jl and PySDM.

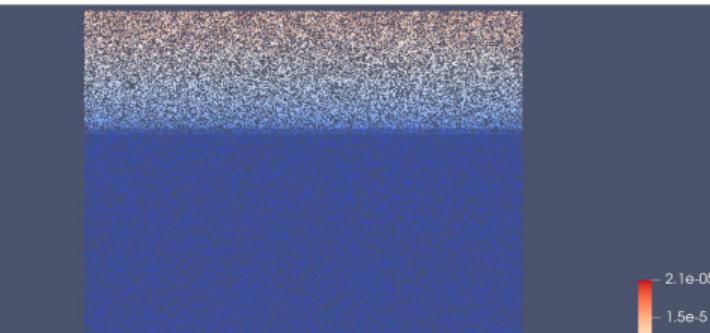
PySDM is a particle-based aerosol/cloud microphysics package written entirely in Python.

This PR depicts how Python modules can be leveraged within ClimateMachine.jl including the continuous integration setup.

The initial set of tests included here is based on the kinematic 2D example previously used as a test case in both PySDM and ClimateMachine.jl. In the tests added in this PR, ClimateMachine.jl handles air motion and total water transport, while PySDM handles representation of aerosol and liquid water transport as well as phase changes leading to formation of cloud water.

Output from PySDM is handled using VTK files. Example animation with an evolution of radius computed from particle properties is shown below:

`output.mp4`



Reviewers

- slayoo
- charleskawczynski
- claresinger
- jakebolewski
- edeljongs@caltech
- tapios

Assignees

- trontryte

Labels

- Microphysics

Projects

- None yet

Milestone

- No milestone

Development

Successfully merging this pull request may close these issues.

None yet

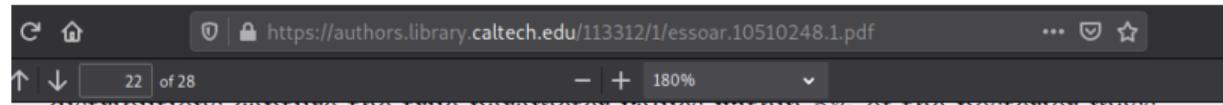
26/38

first independent development!

manuscript submitted to *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems (JAMES)*

An efficient Bayesian approach to learning droplet collision kernels: Proof of concept using “Cloudy”, a new n -moment bulk microphysics scheme

Melanie Bieli¹, Oliver R. A. Dunbar¹, Emily K. de Jong², Anna Jaruga¹,
Tapio Schneider¹, Tobias Bischoff¹



- Moving beyond perfect-model experiments, we have learned collision kernel parameters from output generated by PySDM (Bartman et al., 2021), a Lagrangian particle-based microphysics model. In this experiment, we represent model error resulting from the closure assumption in Cloudy (an assumption that PySDM does not need to make) as a simple bias term. This modification in the setup of the inverse problem allows CES to retrieve the posterior distribution of the “true” parameter, not of that which minimizes the mismatch with the PySDM data.

Plan of the talk

PySDM: context

PySDM: statement of need & goals

PySDM: demo (role play: reviewer)

PySDM: summary of key features

<https://pypi.org/p/PySDM-examples>

The screenshot shows the PyPI project page for PySDM-examples version 2.9. The top navigation bar includes links for Help, Sponsors, Log in, and Register. A search bar is at the top left. The main title is "PySDM-examples 2.9". Below it is a button to "pip install PySDM-examples" and a green "Latest version" badge. The release date is "Released: 4 minutes ago". A sub-header below the title reads: "PySDM usage examples reproducing results from literature and depicting how to use PySDM from Python Jupyter notebooks".

Navigation

[Project description](#)

[Release history](#)

[Download files](#)

Project links

[Homepage](#)

Statistics

GitHub statistics:

Stars: 2

Forks: 10

Open pull requests: 2

Project description

License: [GPL v3](#) Copyright: Jagiellonian University DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.6604645

PySDM-examples [passing](#)

pull requests: 2 open pull requests: 159 closed

[PyPI package](#) 2.8 API docs: [pdoc3](#)

This repository stores example files for PySDM depicting usage of PySDM from Python via Jupyter. For information on the PySDM package itself and examples of usage from Julia and Matlab, see [PySDM README.md](#) file.

Please use the [PySDM issue-tracking](#) and [discussion](#) infrastructure for PySDM-examples as well.

0D box-model coalescence-only examples:

- [Shima et al. 2009](#) (Box model, coalescence only, test case employing Golovin analytical solution):

Fig. 2: [render](#) [nbviewer](#) [launch](#) [binder](#) [Open in Colab](#)

- [Berry 1967](#) (Box model, coalescence only, test cases for realistic kernels):

Figs. 5, 8 & 10: [render](#) [nbviewer](#) [launch](#) [binder](#) [Open in Colab](#)

- [Bieli et al. 2022](#) (Box model, coalescence and breakup with fixed coalescence efficiency):

Fig. 2: [render](#) [nbviewer](#) [launch](#) [binder](#) [Open in Colab](#)





<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12982-0>

OPEN

Key drivers of cloud response to surface-active organics

S.J. Lowe^{1,2}, D.G. Partridge³, J.F. Davies⁴, K.R. Wilson⁵, D. Topping⁶ & I. Riipinen^{1,2,7*}

Aerosol-cloud interactions constitute the largest source of uncertainty in global radiative forcing estimates, hampering our understanding of climate evolution. Recent empirical evidence suggests surface tension depression by organic aerosol to significantly influence the formation of cloud droplets, and hence cloud optical properties. In climate models, however, surface tension of water is generally assumed when predicting cloud droplet concentrations. Here we show that the sensitivity of cloud microphysics, optical properties and shortwave radiative effects to the surface phase are dictated by an interplay between the aerosol particle size distribution, composition, water availability and atmospheric dynamics. We demonstrate that accounting for the surface phase becomes essential in clean environments in which ultrafine particle sources are present. Through detailed sensitivity analysis, quantitative constraints on the key drivers – aerosol particle number concentrations, organic fraction and fixed updraft velocity – are derived for instances of significant cloud microphysical susceptibilities to the surface phase.

PySDM-examples: Lowe et al. 2019

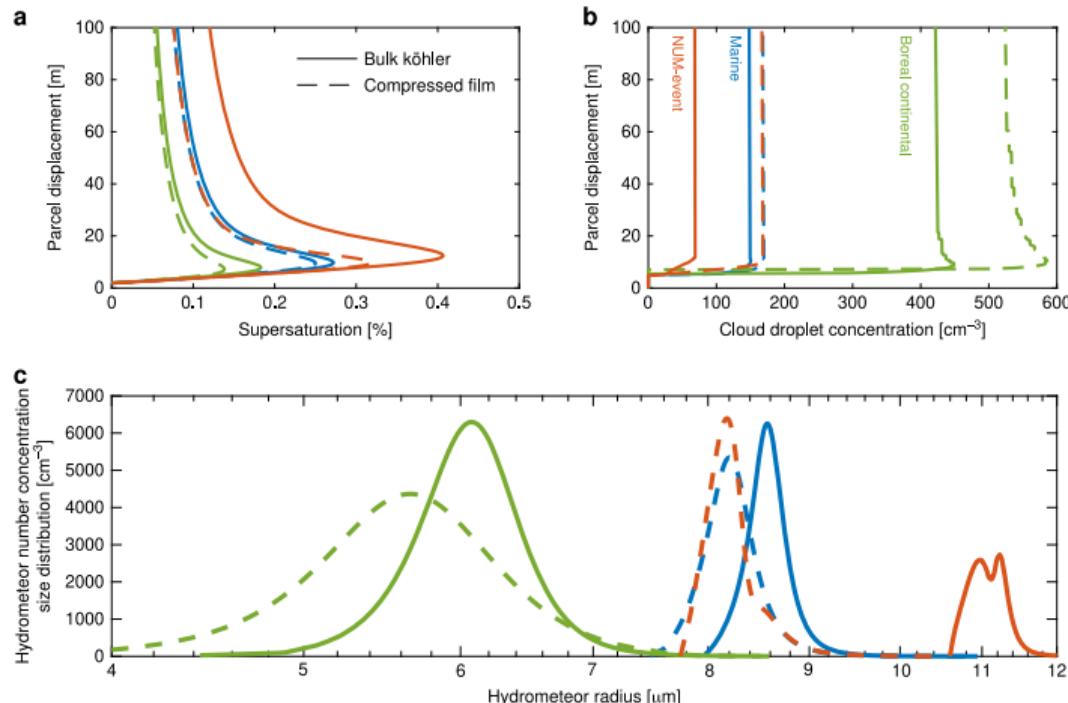


Fig. 2 Simulated microphysics of cloud events on marine (MA, blue), boreal (HYY, green) and NUM-event (NE, orange) aerosol populations. Cloud-formation event simulations using bulk Köhler BK (solid lines) and approximate compressed film CF (dotted lines) models of cloud droplet activation with initial temperature $T = 280 \text{ K}$, pressure $P = 98,000 \text{ Pa}$, supersaturation $s = -0.1\%$ and fixed updraft velocity $w = 0.32 \text{ ms}^{-1}$. Simulated (a) ambient parcel supersaturation and (b) cloud droplet number concentration during parcel ascent. c Simulated droplet size distribution at a parcel displacement 200 m above initialisation

PySDM-examples: Lowe et al. 2019

example contributed by Clare Singer et al. (<https://claresinger.github.io/>)

The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook interface with the following details:

- File Menu:** File, Edit, View, Run, Kernel, Tabs, Settings, Help.
- Launcher:** Shows a list of files and notebooks in the current directory:
 - /PySDM_examples /Lowe_et_al_2019/
 - Name Last Modified
 - __init__.py 4 hours ago
 - aerosol.py 4 hours ago
 - fig_1.ipynb 4 hours ago
 - + fig_2.ipynb 4 hours ago
 - settings.py 4 hours ago
 - simulation.py 4 hours ago
- Code Cell (Cell 4):**

```
figsize = (15, 5)
pylab.rcParams['font.size']=14)
fig, axes = pylab.subplots(1, 2, figsize=figsize, sharey=True)

for idx, var in enumerate(['S_max', 'n_c_cm3']):
    for key in output.keys():
        Y = np.asarray(output[key][var])
        axes[idx].plot(output[key][var], Y, label=key,
                       color=output[key]['color'],
                       linestyle='-' if key.endswith('-bulk') else '--')
    axes[idx].set_xlim(0, 100)

    axes[idx].set_ylabel('Displacement [m]')
    if var == 'S_max':
        axes[idx].set_xlabel('Supersaturation [%]')
        axes[idx].set_xlim(0, 0.5)
    elif var == 'n_c_cm3':
        axes[idx].set_xlabel('Cloud droplet concentration [cm$^{-3}$]')
        axes[idx].set_xlim(0, 600)
    else:
        assert False

for ax in axes:
    ax.grid()
axes[0].legend()
```
- Plots:** Two side-by-side line plots showing Displacement [m] on the y-axis (0 to 100) against an unlabeled x-axis (0 to 0.5).
 - Left Plot:** Shows curves for different aerosol types: AerosolMarine-bulk (solid blue), AerosolMarine-film (dashed blue), AerosolBoreal-bulk (solid green), AerosolBoreal-film (dashed green), AerosolNascent-bulk (solid orange), and AerosolNascent-film (dashed orange). The curves generally decrease from higher displacements at lower supersaturation to lower displacements at higher supersaturation.
 - Right Plot:** Shows curves for the same aerosol types, but with more pronounced vertical spikes or jumps in displacement. The spikes occur at specific supersaturation values, indicating phase transitions or coagulation events.
- Page Footer:** Includes navigation icons (back, forward, search) and page number 31/38.

Plan of the talk

PySDM: context

PySDM: statement of need & goals

PySDM: demo (role play: reviewer)

PySDM: summary of key features

PySDM: backends, dynamics & environments

PySDM: backends, dynamics & environments

“backends”

- ▶ CPU (Numba/LLVM)
- ▶ GPU (ThrustRTC/CUDA)

PySDM: backends, dynamics & environments

“dynamics”

- ▶ coalescence (SDM + dt-adaptivity)
- ▶ condensation (dt-adaptive,
bespoke semi-implicit ODE solver)
- ▶ displacement (incl. sedimentation)
- ▶ aqueous chemistry (Hoppel gap)
- ▶ immersion freezing (INAS & ABIFM)
- ▶ collisional breakup
- ▶ ...

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PySDM: backends, dynamics & environments

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“backends”

- ▶ CPU (Numba/LLVM)
- ▶ GPU (ThrustRTC/CUDA)

“environments”

- ▶ Box
- ▶ Parcel
- ▶ PyMPDATA-based:
 - ▶ Kinematic1D
 - ▶ Kinematic2D

<https://github.com/atmos-cloud-sim-uj/PySDM/>

The screenshot shows the GitHub page for the PySDM repository. At the top, there are badges for Python 3, LLVM Numba, CUDA ThrustRTC, Linux, macOS, Windows, Jupyter, and Maintained? yes. Below that are links for JOSS 10.21105/joss.03219 and DOI 10.5281/zenodo.6604644. There are also funding links for EU Funding by FNP, PL Funding by NCN, and US DOE Funding by ASR. The license is listed as GPL v3 and the copyright as Jagiellonian University. Below the header are badge links for PySDM passing, build passing, and codecov 76%. There are also links for pull requests (5 open, 423 closed), issues (79 open, 340 closed), and a PyPI package version 2.9 with API docs and pdoc3.

PySDM is a package for simulating the dynamics of population of particles. It is intended to serve as a building block for simulation systems modelling fluid flows involving a dispersed phase, with PySDM being responsible for representation of the dispersed phase. Currently, the development is focused on atmospheric cloud physics applications, in particular on modelling the dynamics of particles immersed in moist air using the particle-based (a.k.a. super-droplet) approach to represent aerosol/cloud/rain microphysics. The package features a Pythonic high-performance implementation of the Super-Droplet Method (SDM) Monte-Carlo algorithm for representing collisional growth (Shima et al. 2009), hence the name.

PySDM has two alternative parallel number-crunching backends available: multi-threaded CPU backend based on [Numba](#) and GPU-resident backend built on top of [ThrustRTC](#). The [Numba](#) backend (aliased `CPU`) features multi-threaded parallelism for multi-core CPUs, it uses the just-in-time compilation technique based on the LLVM infrastructure. The [ThrustRTC](#) backend (aliased `GPU`) offers GPU-resident operation of PySDM leveraging the [SIMT](#) parallelisation model. Using the `GPU` backend requires nVidia hardware and [CUDA](#) driver.

For an overview paper on PySDM v1 (and the preferred item to cite if using PySDM), see [Bartman et al. 2021 arXiv e-print](#) (submitted to JOSS). For a list of talks and other materials on PySDM, see the [project wiki](#).

A [pdoc-generated](#) documentation of PySDM public API is maintained at: <https://atmos-cloud-sim-uj.github.io/PySDM>

PySDM: technological stack

- ▶ 100% Python code python.org
- ▶ Numba (JIT, multi-threading) numba.pydata.org
- ▶ ThrustRTC (GPU-resident backend)
pypi.org/project/ThrustRTC



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- ▶ GitHub & GitHub Actions github.com
- ▶ Codecov codecov.io
- ▶ AppVeyor appveyor.com



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- ▶ Codecov codecov.io
- ▶ AppVeyor appveyor.com

- ▶ Jupyter jupyter.org
- ▶ Binder mybinder.org
- ▶ Colab colab.research.google.com



<https://atmos.ii.uj.edu.pl/>

 Atmospheric Cloud Simulation Group @ Jagiellonian University

📍 Poland ⌂ http://atmos.ii.uj.edu.pl/

Unfollow

Overview Repositories 8 Projects Packages Teams 2 People 13 Settings

README .md

News:

- [JOSS under review] PySDM v2 outline paper
- [youtube] Sylvester's talk at Caltech on PySDM/PyMPDATA mixed-phase cloud simulations
- [PR] Ołeksil Bulenčik's PR to ClimateMachine.jl exemplifying coupling with PySDM
- [JOSS under review] PyMPDATA outline paper
- [youtube] Piotr Bartman's Monte-Carlo on GPU with Python talk at NCAR's 2021 Improving Scientific Software conference
- > 2103.17238 PySDM outline paper (published in JOSS)
- > 2101.06318 Piotr Bartman's paper on the PySDM coagulation solver design (published in LNCS)
- > 2011.14726 Michael Olesik's paper on an application of PyMPDATA in bin microphysics (published in GMD)

Our technological stack:

- Python Numba LLVM ThrustRTC/CUDA NumbaPy pytest
- Colab Codecov PyPi GitHub Actions Jupyter PyCharm

Our Python packages (with usage examples for Julia & Matlab):

- PySDM: [pypi package](#) 2.8 [codecov](#) 76% [PySDM docs](#) [pdoc3](#)
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PySDM v1: particle-based cloud modeling package for warm-rain microphysics and aqueous chemistry

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Introduction

PySDM is an open-source Python package for simulating the dynamics of particles undergoing condensational and collisional growth, interacting with a fluid flow and subject to chemical composition changes. It is intended to serve as a building block for process-level as well as computational-fluid dynamics simulation systems involving representation of a continuous phase (air) and a dispersed phase (aerosol), with PySDM being responsible for representation of the dispersed phase. For major version 1 (v1), the development has been focused on atmospheric cloud physics applications, in particular on modeling the dynamics of particles immersed in moist air using the particle-based approach to represent the evolution of the size spectrum of aerosol/cloud/rain particles. The particle-based approach contrasts the more commonly used

Review

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