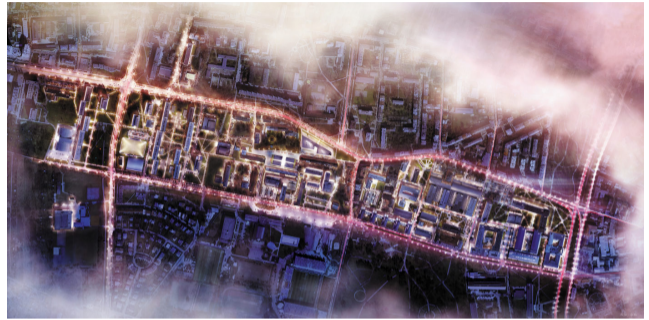
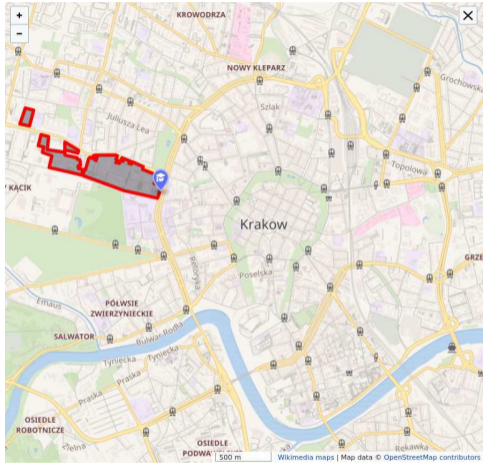


# Adaptive timestepping for diffusional processes in particle-based aerosol-cloud microphysics

Sylwester Arabas<sup>1</sup>, P. Bartman<sup>2</sup>, P. Dziekan<sup>3</sup>, T. Lüttmer<sup>4</sup>, A. Makulska<sup>3</sup>, A. Żaba<sup>1</sup>

1: agh.edu.pl, 2: uj.edu.pl, 3: uw.edu.pl, 4: uni-mainz.de



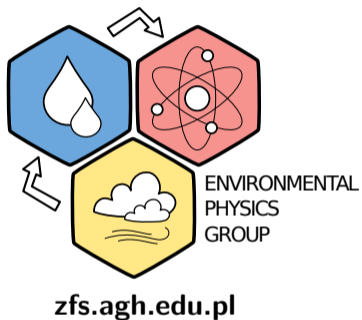
ca. 23 000 students & 2 400 academic/research staff





(Wissenschaftlich-Technische Universität)

est. 1913 (by emperor Franz Joseph of Austria)  
opened 1919 (by Polish government)





## ■ Field measurements

The AGH Environmental Physics Group is a leading national and internationally recognised center for environmental measurements, particularly using isotope methods. We present selected types of measurements performed by our group, along with references to relevant publications.



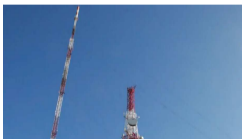
■ AGH KASLAB, Kasprowy Wierch (1989 m amsl)



■ AGH Campus 20m Tower (Kraków)



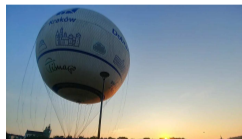
■ Hydrological and hydrogeological studies



■ Measurements at the 300-m BIK tower in North-East Poland



■ UAV-borne hydrological and meteorological observations



■ Meteo and air-quality profiling from a tethered balloon in Kraków

## ■ Modelling & software

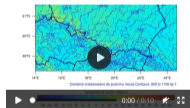
AGH Environmental Physics Group / Modelling & software

Computer simulations are an indispensable tool in our work. We specialize in the use of numerical models in environmental research, as well as in the engineering of open-source research software for use in environmental physics and, more broadly, in computational sciences. For high-performance computing, we employ AGH Cyfronet supercomputing resources. Methods and applications of numerical simulations and software engineering are part of our course offering. We leverage open-source software development and dissemination workflows for knowledge transfer across scientific disciplines and towards users outside of academia.

### ■ Operational weather prediction using WRF

contact: [Miroslaw Zimnoch](#)

Our WRF-based daily workflow is set up to compute 48-hour predictions on a country-wide domain, with initial and boundary conditions fetched from the NOAA GFS output. The forecasts are publicly available in form of weather maps and meteograms at [meteo.fis.agh.edu.pl](http://meteo.fis.agh.edu.pl) website.



### ■ Open-source research software engineering

contact: [open-atmos-krk team](#)

Our team, with collaborators from partnering institutions as well as AGH students, develops and maintains several open-source Python packages:

■ [numba-mpi](#) [ipyml package 1.3.1](#) [Anaconda.org 1.3.1](#) [AIRR package 1.3.1](#)



offers access to the Message Passing Interface (MPI) routines from Python code that uses the Numba just-in-time (JIT) compiler, enabling use of MPI communication in high-performance, multi-threaded, JIT-compiled Python code

use case: [py-pde](#) developed at [Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and](#)



## open-atmos

### What is open-atmos?

Open-atmos is a multi-institutional community hub for projects in atmospheric sciences. We support projects that are committed to an open development model. This includes:

- embracing open-source licenses
- developing code in public
- maintaining public issue trackers and discussion forums
- having automated cloud-hosted workflows executing thorough test suites
- being open to contributions from the entire community
- actively facilitating onboarding of new contributors by providing examples and tutorials
- supporting users with documentation maintained with the code
- empowering research users with reproducibility-oriented workflows for code dissemination and archiving, ensuring the ability to anonymously review and reuse the code and scientific results obtained with it
- adhering to best practices in software engineering

We welcome new members and projects to open-atmos!

### Who is the admin team?

Sylwester Arabas ([sylwester.arabas@agh.edu.pl](mailto:sylwester.arabas@agh.edu.pl))

Jeff Curtis ([jcurtis2@illinois.edu](mailto:jcurtis2@illinois.edu))

Matt Dawson ([matt@cohere-llc.com](mailto:matt@cohere-llc.com))

Oriol Jorba ([oriol.jorba@bsc.es](mailto:oriol.jorba@bsc.es))

Nicole Riemer ([nriemer@illinois.edu](mailto:nriemer@illinois.edu))

Matt West ([mwest@illinois.edu](mailto:mwest@illinois.edu))

### People









Invite someone

### Top languages

Python  Fortran  C++

## PySDM Public

Pythonic particle-based (super-droplet) cloud microphysics (and aqueous-chemistry) package with box, parcel & 1D/2D prescribed-flow examples in Python, Julia and Matlab

 Python  88  GPL-3.0  54  201 (2 issues need help)  40 Updated 2 days ago

## PyPartMC Public

Python (and C++) interface to PartMC with Jupyter/Python, Julia and Matlab examples

 C++  31  GPL-3.0  16  55 (1 issue needs help)  14 Updated 3 days ago

## PyMPDATA Public

Numba-accelerated Pythonic implementation of MPDATA with examples in Python, Julia, Rust and Matlab

 Python  33  GPL-3.0  25  31 (1 issue needs help)  22 Updated 5 days ago

## MOSAIC Public







Forked from [pnnl/MOSAIC](#)

Fork of MOSAIC maintained solely to support PartMC ([www.github.com/compdyn/partmc](http://www.github.com/compdyn/partmc)) integration. This is not a general-purpose fork and may diverge from upstream in ways only meaningful within PartMC workflows. Upstream changes will be selectively incorporated or omitted based on relevance to PartMC compatibility.

 Fortran  0  2  0  1 Updated 5 days ago

## camp Public

Multi-phase chemistry treatment for atmospheric models

 Fortran  16  MIT  10  6  2 Updated 3 weeks ago

# focus: aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions (numerics)

# focus: aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions



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

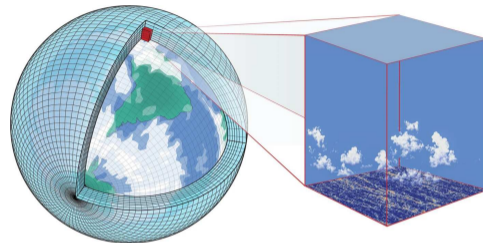
(photo: Yevgen Timashov / National Geographic)

# focus: aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions



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

(photo: Yevgen Timashov / National Geographic)



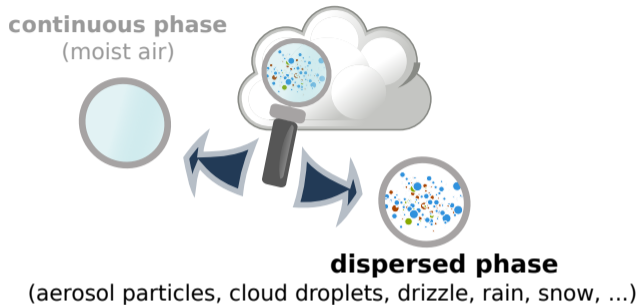
“Grid cells in a global climate model and a large-eddy simulation of shallow cumulus clouds at 5 m resolution”

(fig. from Schneider et al. 2017)

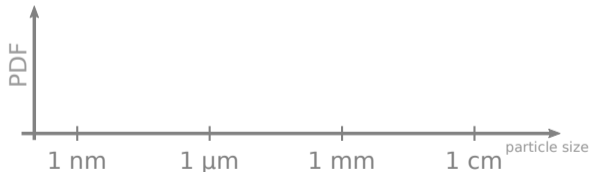
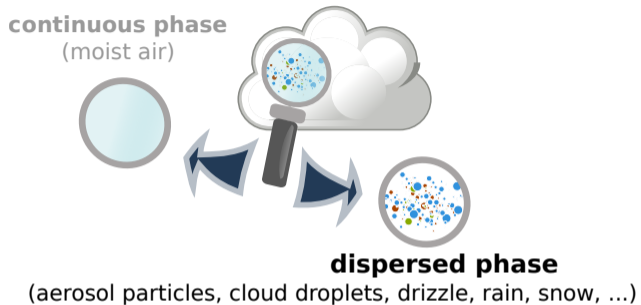
# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics

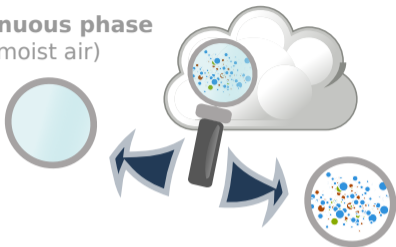


# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



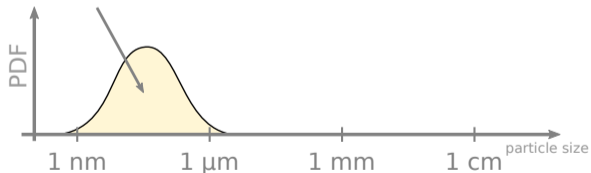
# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics

**continuous phase**  
(moist air)

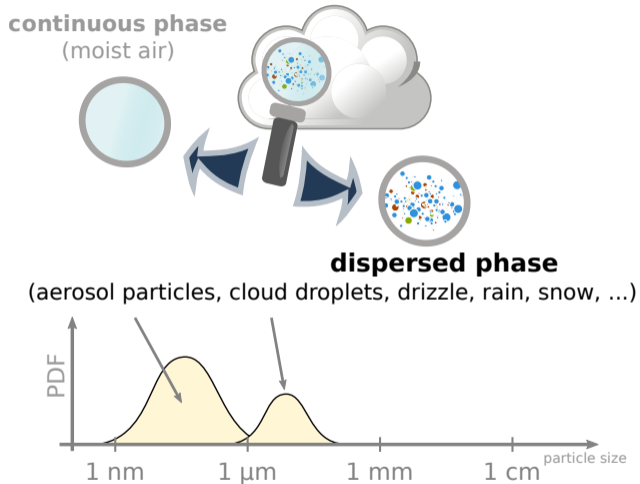


**dispersed phase**

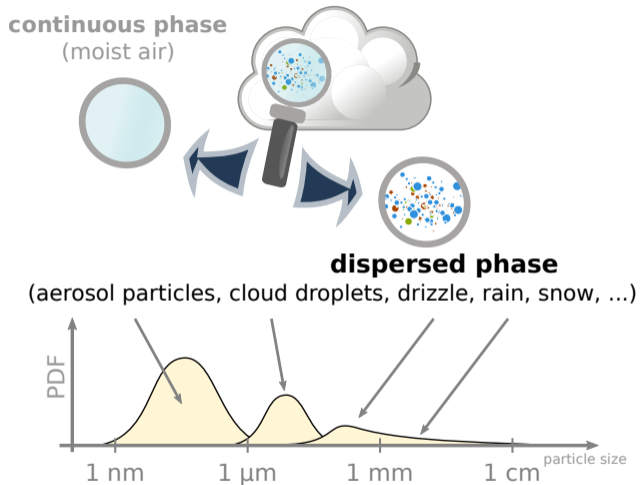
(aerosol particles, cloud droplets, drizzle, rain, snow, ...)



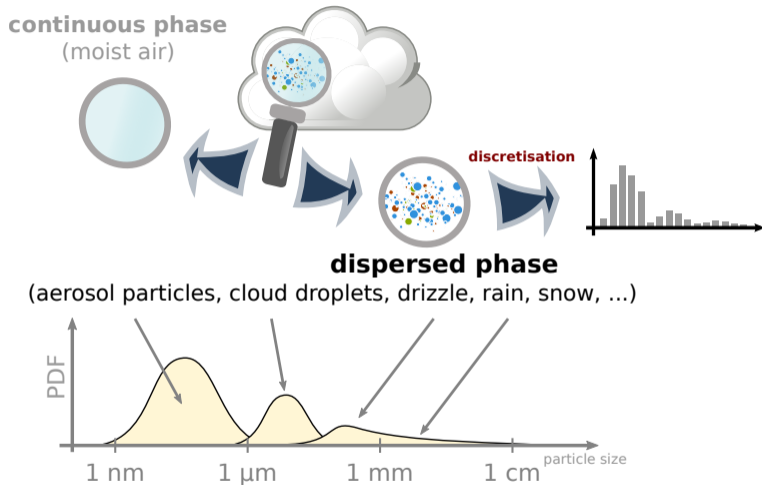
# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



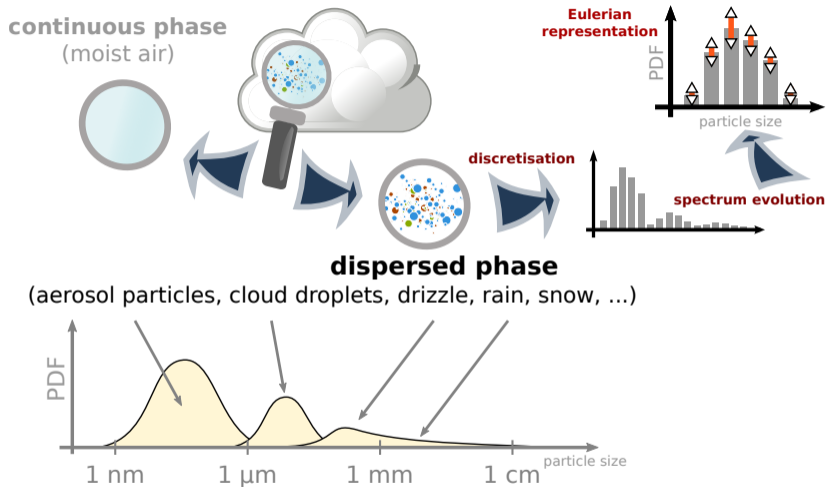
# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



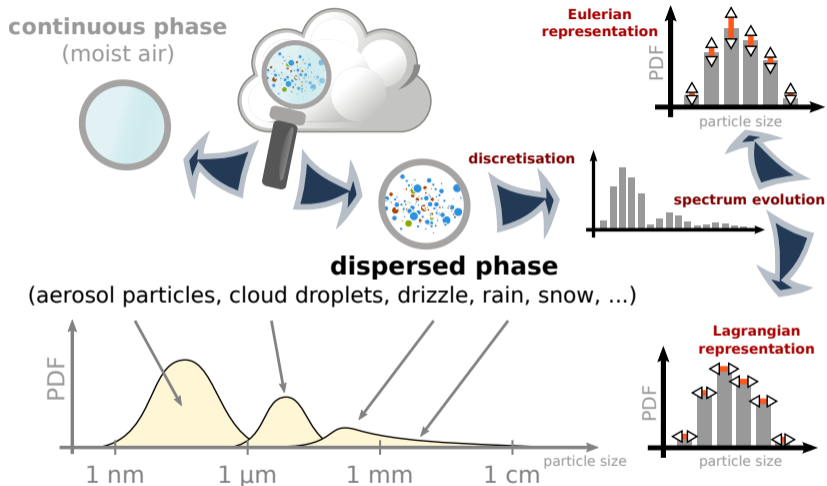
# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



PDEs

ODEs

# Lagrangian microphysics: early works (0D)

JOURNAL OF METEOROLOGY

## THE GROWTH OF CLOUD DROPS IN UNIFORMLY COOLED AIR

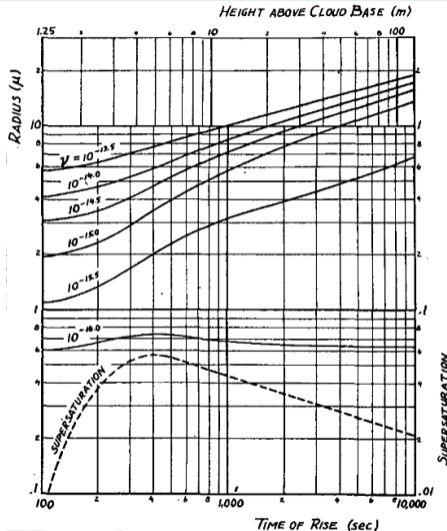
By Wallace E. Howell<sup>1</sup>

Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, Harvard University<sup>2</sup>

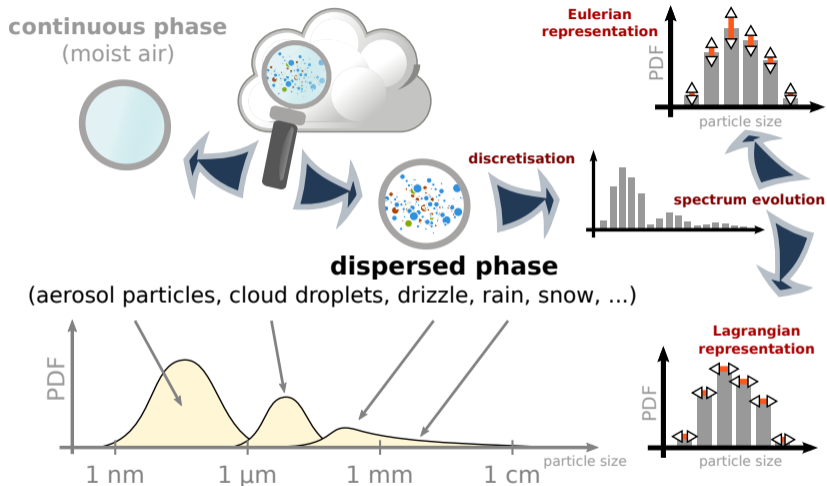
(Manuscript received 10 June 1948)

### ABSTRACT

Recent studies of precipitation, aircraft icing, and visibility through fog have focussed attention on the physical constitution of clouds, a subject to which knowledge of the drop-size spectrum and its origin would be an important contribution. The drop-size spectrum resulting when air containing condensation nuclei is uniformly cooled may be computed, leading to a differential equation for the growth of a cloud drop which cannot be integrated analytically. A numerical method of integration is therefore employed.



# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics

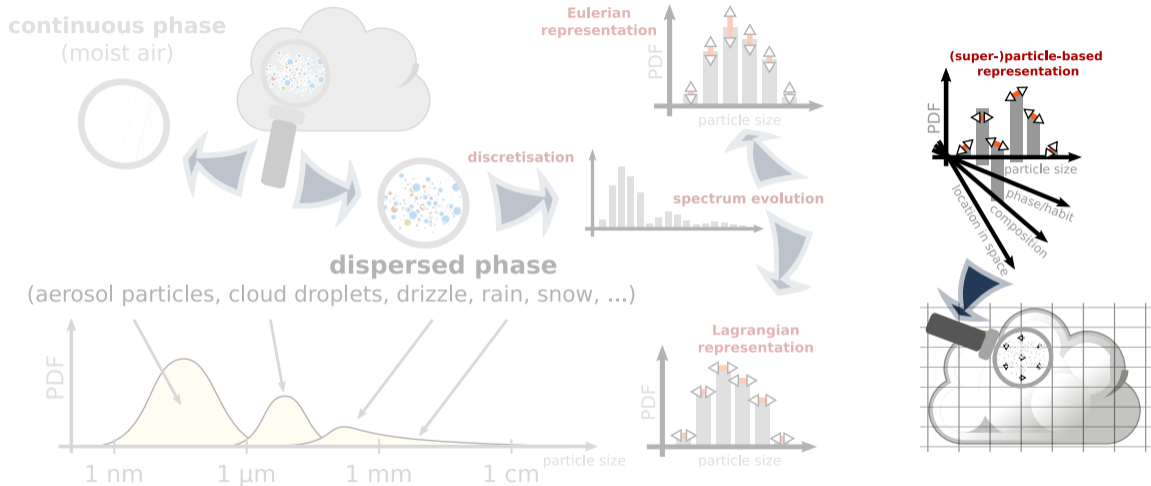


PDEs

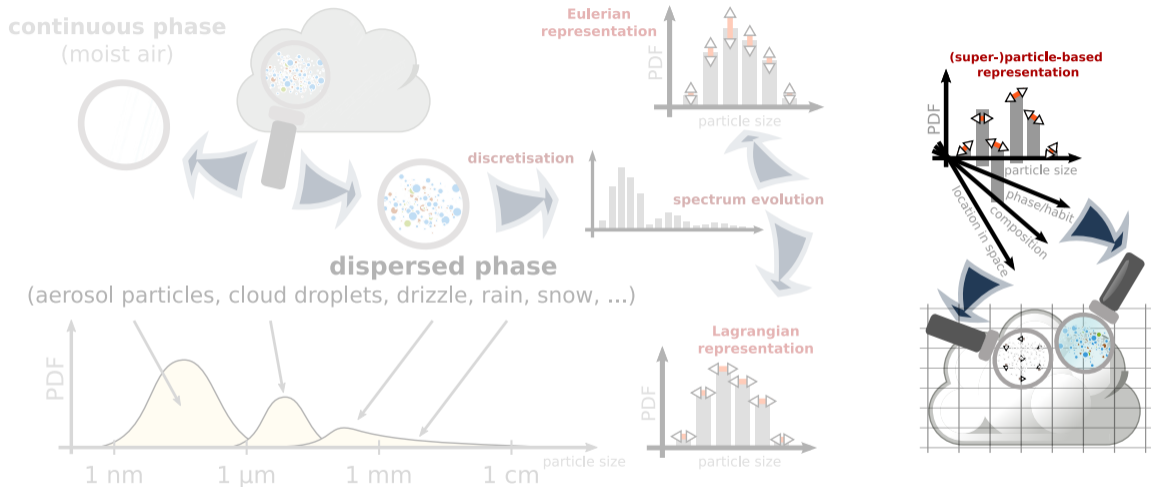
ODEs



# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics



JOURNAL OF THE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

## A Numerical Experiment on Stochastic Condensation Theory

TERRY L. CLARK AND W. D. HALL

*National Center for Atmospheric Research,<sup>1</sup> Boulder, CO 80307*

(Manuscript received 30 August 1978, in final form 20 November 1978)

### ABSTRACT

A three-dimensional numerical model is used to study the effect of small-scale supersaturation fluctuations on the evolving droplet distribution in the first 150 m above cloud base. The primary purpose of this research is to determine whether the irreversible coupling between the thermodynamics and dynamics due to finite phase relaxation time scales  $\tau_S$  is sufficient to produce significant small-scale horizontal variations in supersaturation. Thus, the paper is concerned only with this internal source for thermodynamic variability. All other source terms, such as the downgradient flux of the variance of thermodynamic fields, have purposely been neglected.

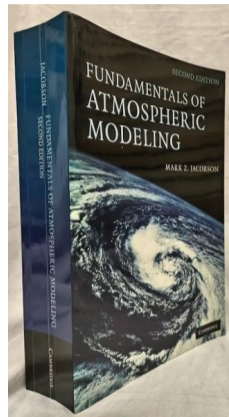
Lagrangian particle experiments were run in parallel with the basic Eulerian model. The purpose of these experiments is to relax some of the microphysical parameterization assumptions with respect to assumed distribution shape and as a result add credibility to the results of distribution broadening.

# Eulerian vs. Lagrangian microphysics: a (probabilistic) breakthrough

pre-2009:

„advantage of the full-moving size structure is that core particle material is preserved during growth ... second advantage ... it eliminates numerical diffusion ... [but] nucleation, coagulation ... cause problems ... the full-moving structure is **not used in three-dimensional models**”<sup>a</sup>

„the use of a fixed grid allows for an easy implementation of collision processes, which is **not possible for a moving grid (Lagrangian) approach**”<sup>b</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Jacobson 2005: Fundamentals of Atmospheric Modeling

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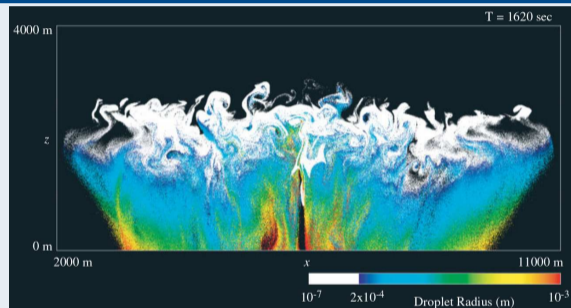
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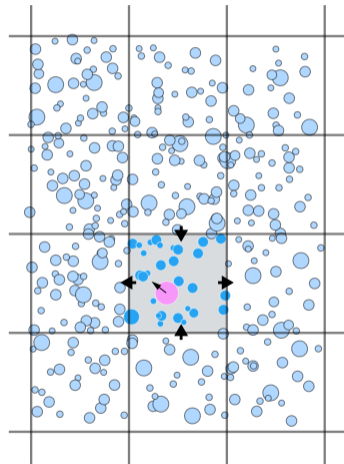
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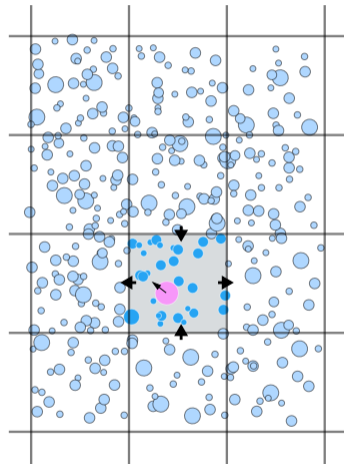
Super-droplet simulation of a shallow convective cloud  
(figure: Shima et al. 2009, QJRMS)

# focus: aerosol representation in particle-based $\mu$ -physics models



# focus: aerosol representation in particle-based $\mu$ -physics models

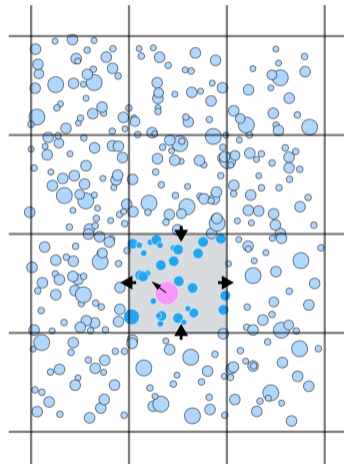
**no aerosol budget:**



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Riechelmann et al. '12 pre-existing arbitrary-sized droplets

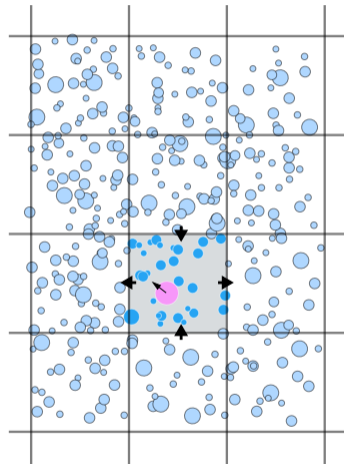


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Naumann & Seifert '15 precip-sized particles only



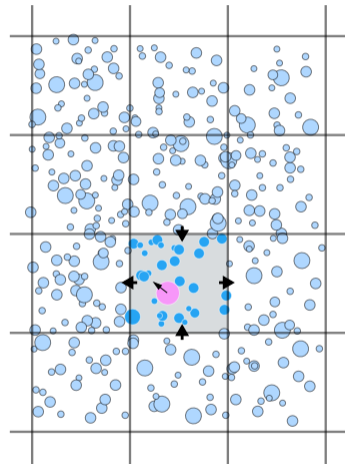
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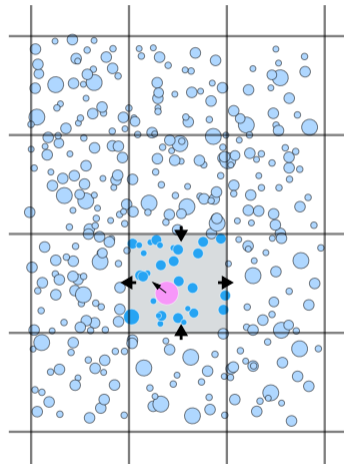
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Shima et al. '09 aerosol & droplets treated uniformly (Köhler terms)

~> CCN activation/deactivation resolved

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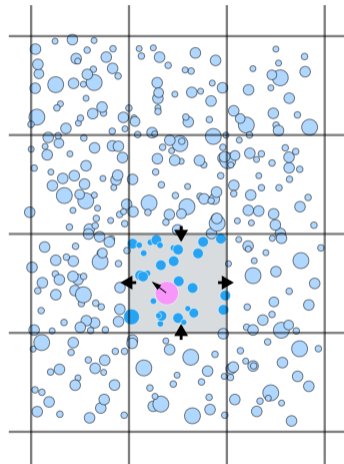
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Grabowski et al. '18 Twomey activation (saturation activity spectrum)

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~> aerosol processing not resolvable

~> kinetic limitations not fully resolvable



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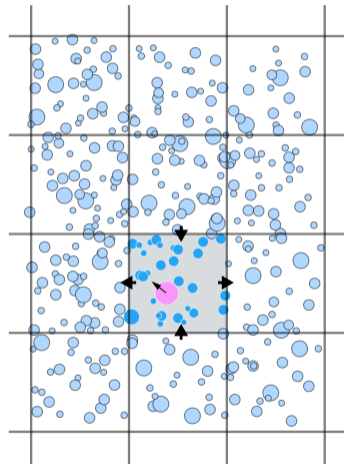
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## INP freezing (and melting) models:



# focus: aerosol representation in particle-based $\mu$ -physics models

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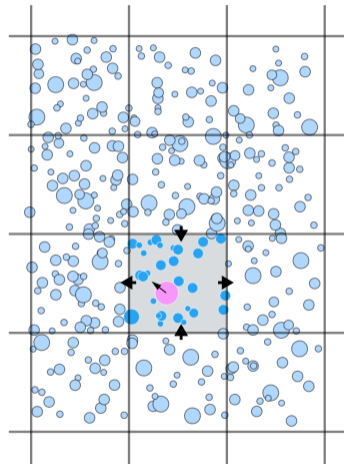
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- Shima et al. '20 "singular" (temp. spectrum, akin to Twomey CCN)
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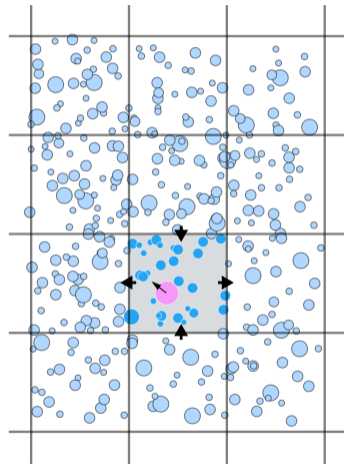
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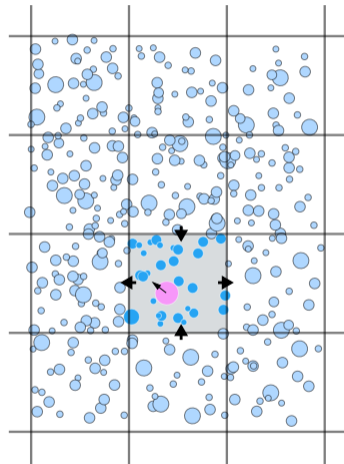
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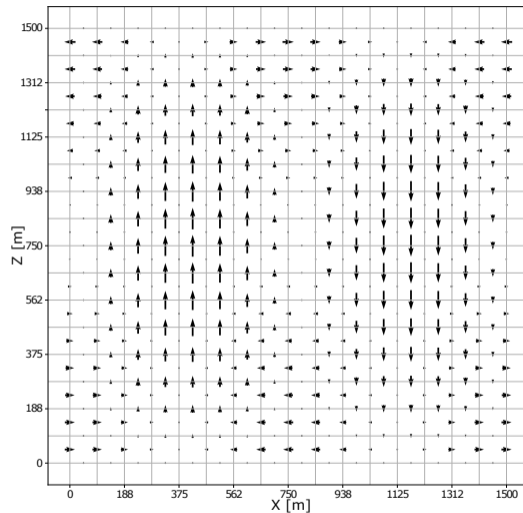
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# Kessler kinematic test (particle-based $\mu$ -physics setup as in Arabas et al. '15)



# pypi.org/p/PySDM: JIT-compiled (CPU/GPU) particle-based $\mu$ -physics

 Q

## pysdm 2.131

pip install pysdm

Released: Jul 3, 2025

Pythonic particle-based (super-droplet) warm-rain/aqueous-chemistry cloud microphysics package with box, parcel & 1D/2D prescribed-flow examples in Python, Julia and Matlab

### Navigation

- Project description
- Release history
- Download files

### Verified details

These details have been [validated by PyPI](#)



### Project links

- Documentation
- Source
- Tracker


### GitHub Statistics

- Repository
- Stars: 88
- Forks: 54
- Open issues: 201
- Open PRs: 40

### Maintainers

-  AgnieszkaZaba
-  prbartman
-  slayoo

### Project description



## PySDM

Python C/C++ Julia C# .NET C++ CUDA Fortran C++ Linux C++ ROOTS Windows Jupyter Fortran

ED Funding by: ANR PL Funding by: HPC US DOE Funding by: ASC

License: GPL v3

PyPI package: 2.131 [View details](#)

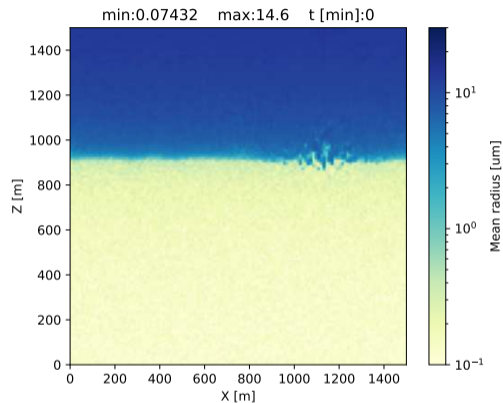
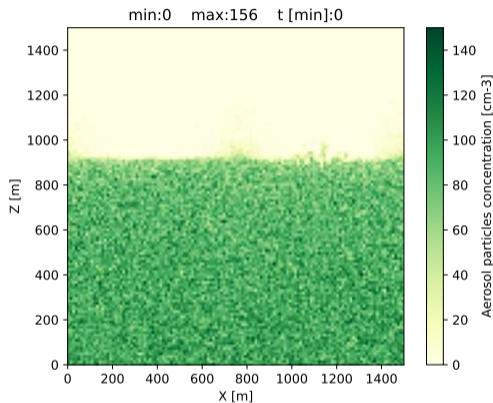
PySDM is a package for simulating the dynamics of population of particles. It is intended to serve as a building block for simulation systems modelling fluid flows involving a dispersed phase, with PySDM being responsible for representation of the dispersed phase. Currently, the development is focused 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 documentation is maintained at: <https://open-atmos.github.io/PySDM>

There is a growing set of [example Jupyter notebooks](#) exemplifying how to perform various types of calculations and simulations using PySDM. Most of the example notebooks reproduce results and plot from literature, see below for a list of examples and links to the notebooks (which can be either executed or viewed "in the cloud").

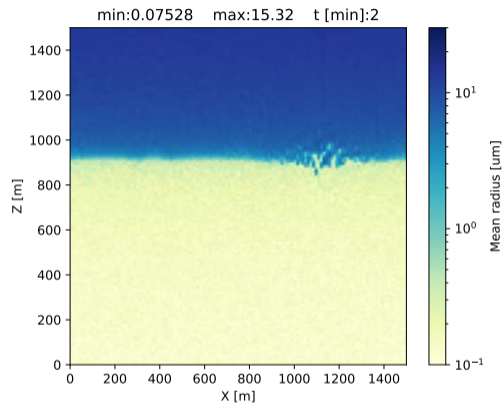
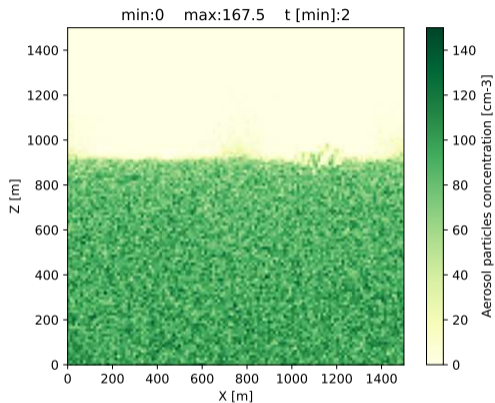
There are also a growing set of [tutorials](#), also in the form of Jupyter notebooks. These tutorials are intended for teaching purposes and include short explanations of cloud microphysical concepts paired with widgets for running interactive simulations using PySDM. Each tutorial also comes with a set of questions at the end that can be used as homework problems. Like the examples, these tutorials can be executed or viewed "in the cloud" making it an especially easy way for students to get started.

# prescribed-flow Sc (incl. virga/CCN resuspension) – PySDM



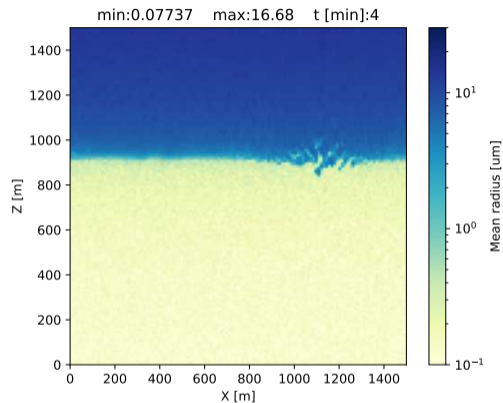
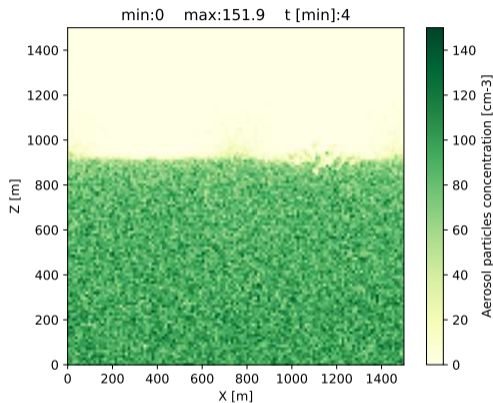
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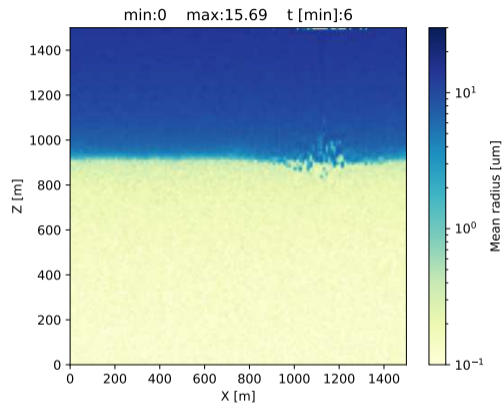
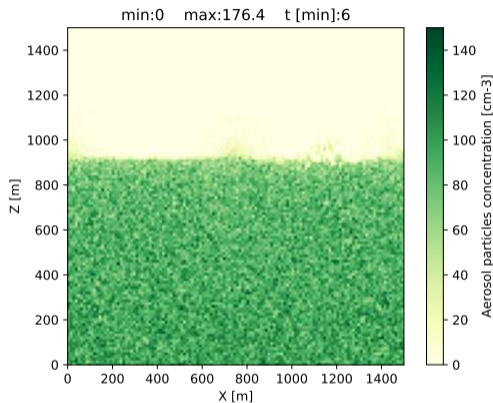
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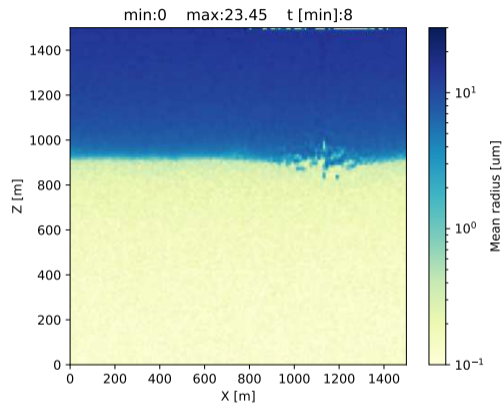
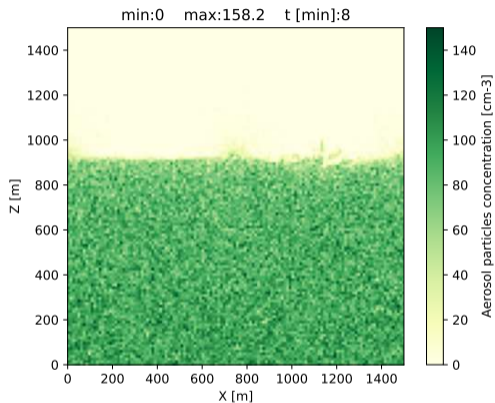
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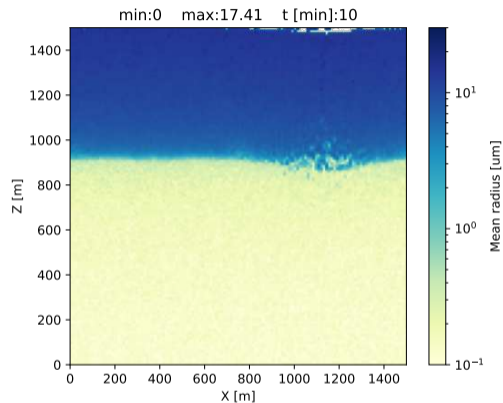
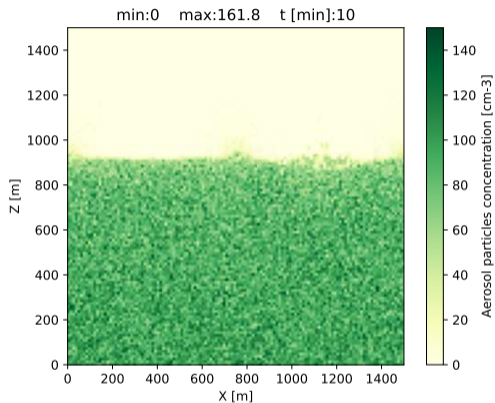
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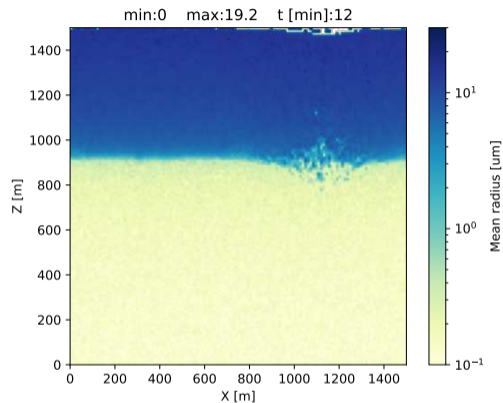
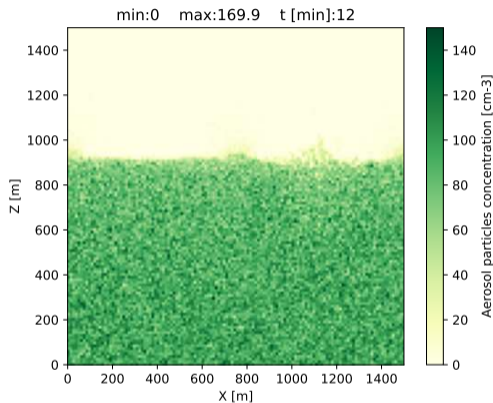
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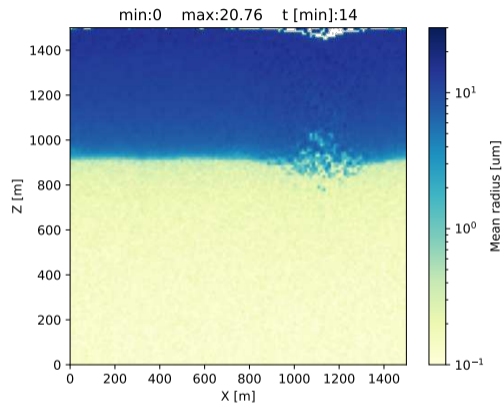
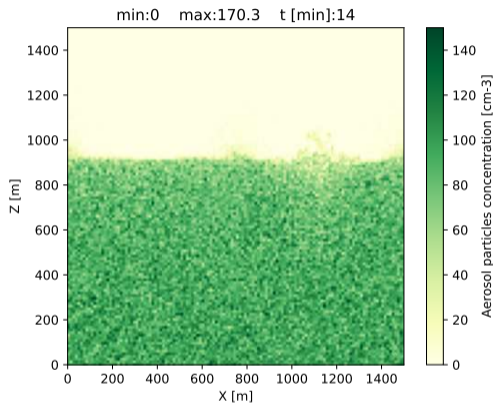
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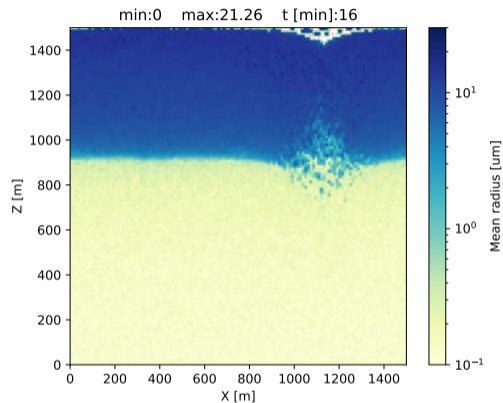
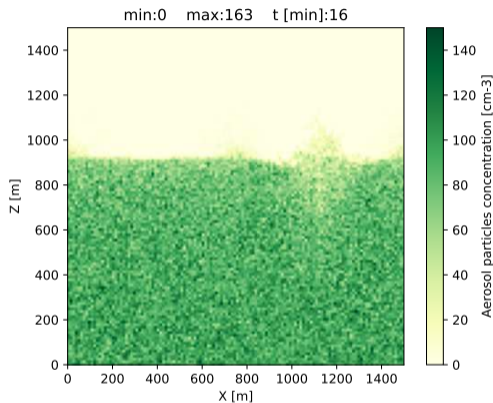
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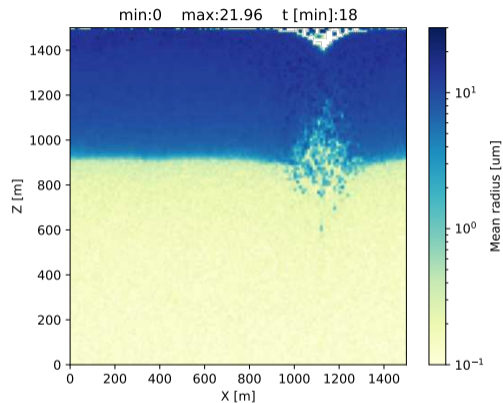
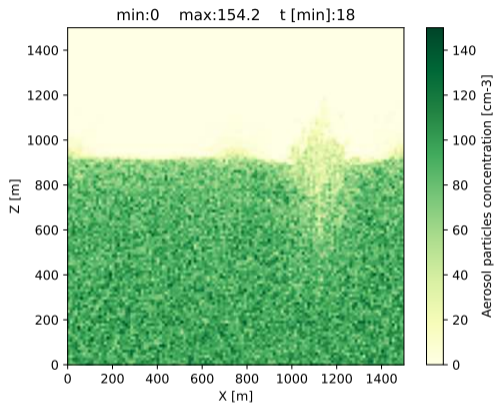
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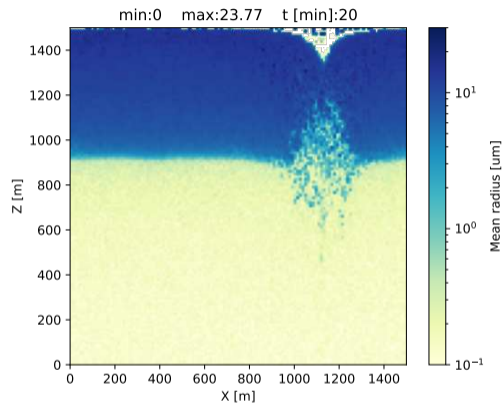
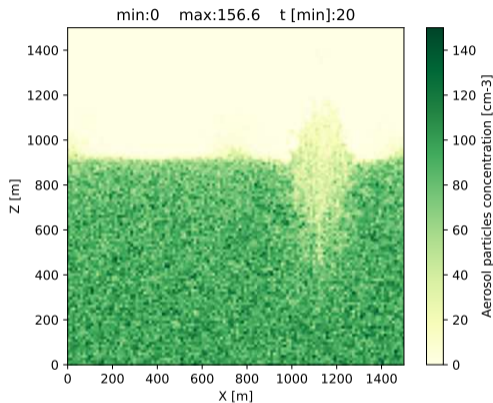
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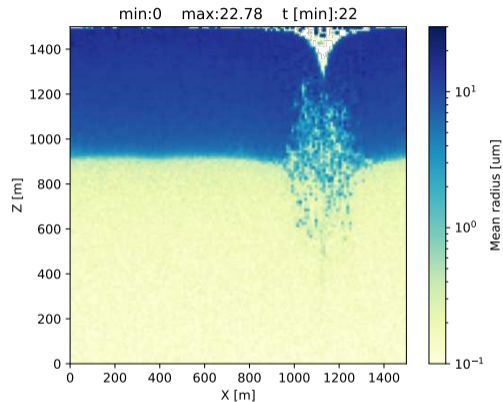
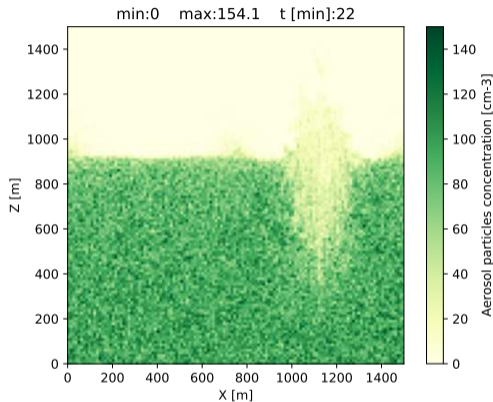
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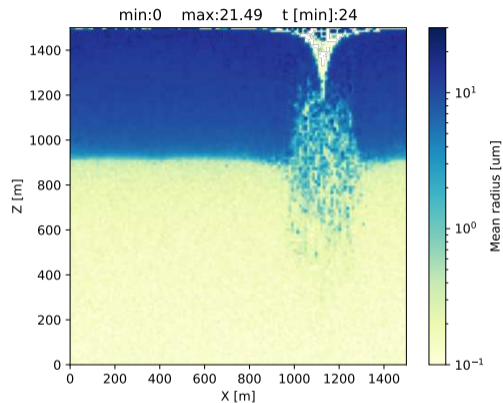
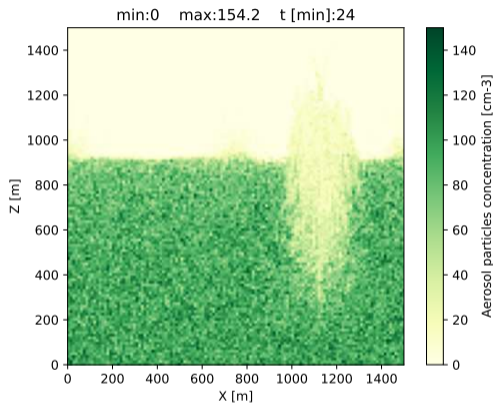
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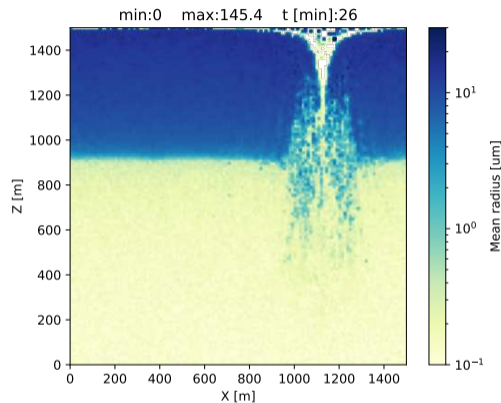
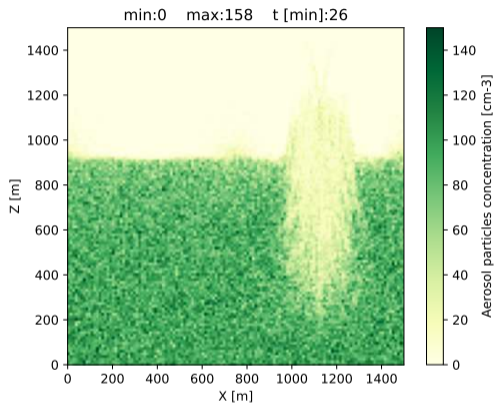
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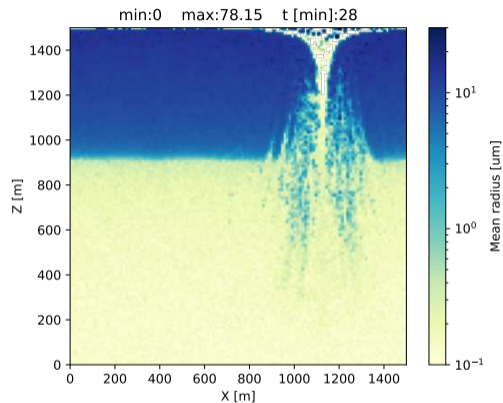
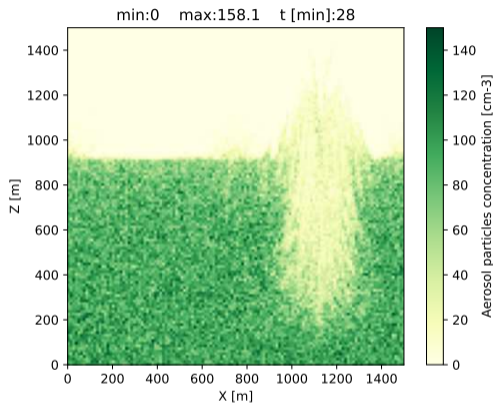
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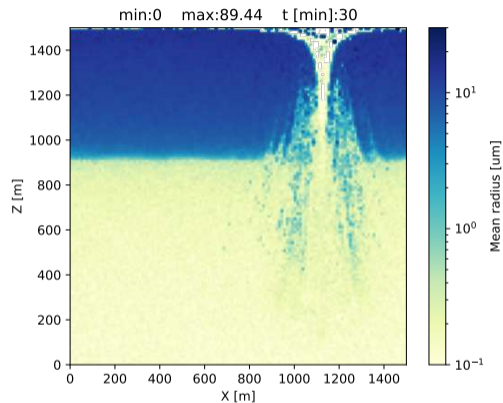
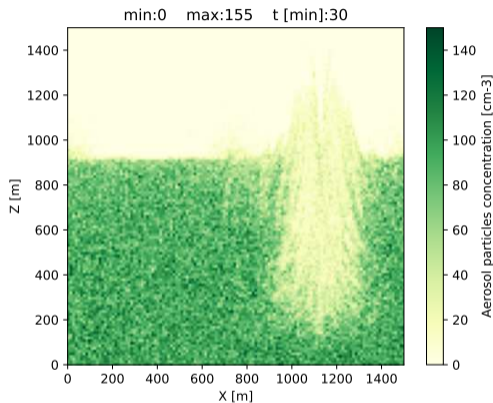
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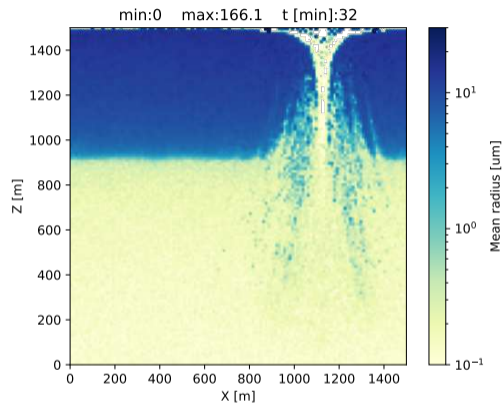
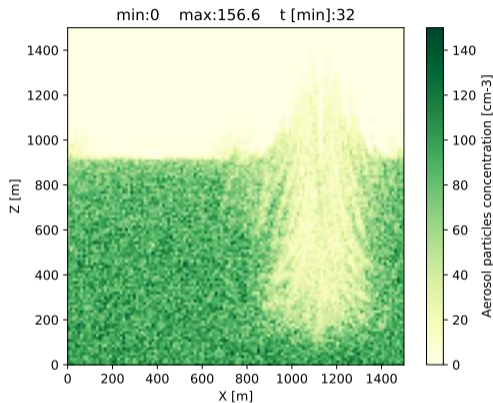
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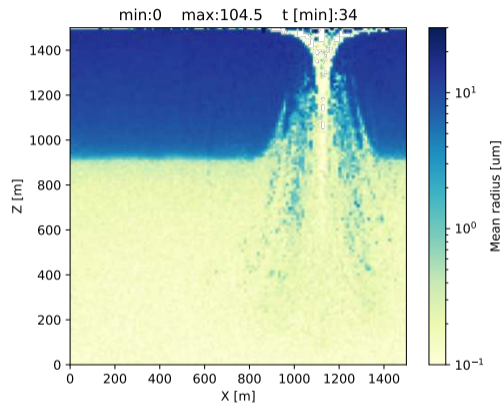
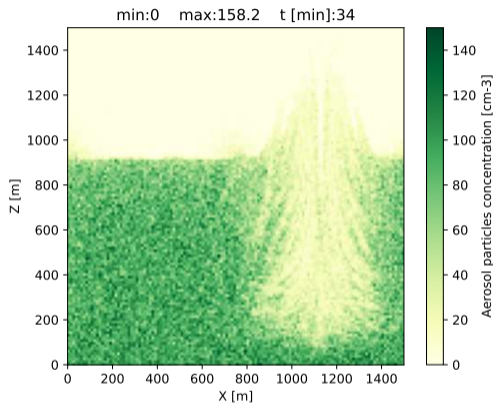
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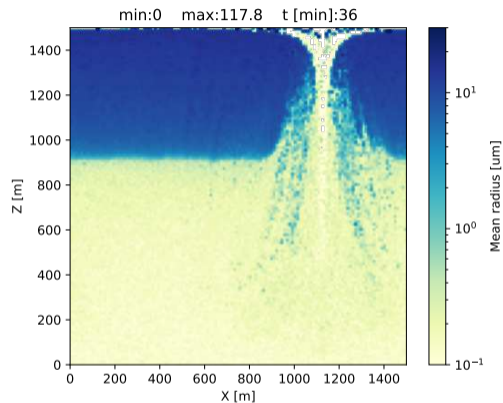
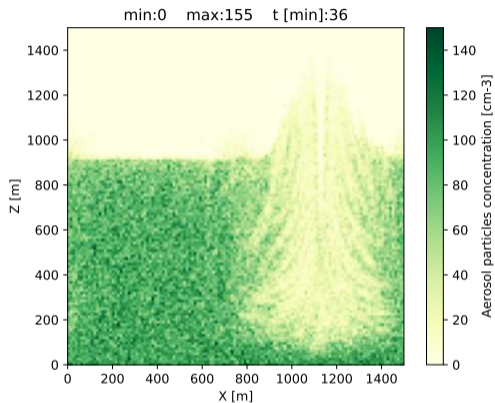
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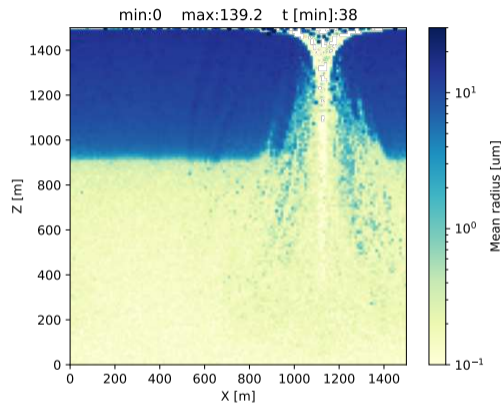
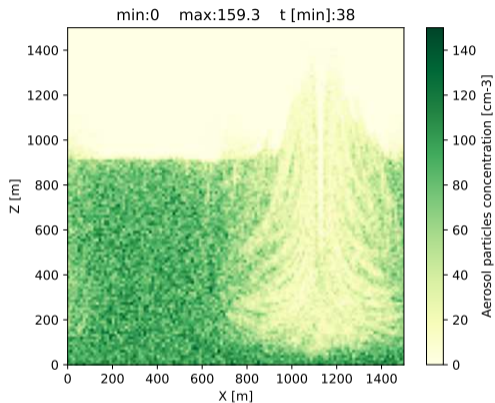
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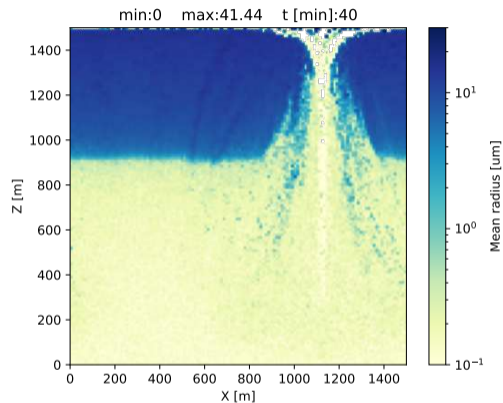
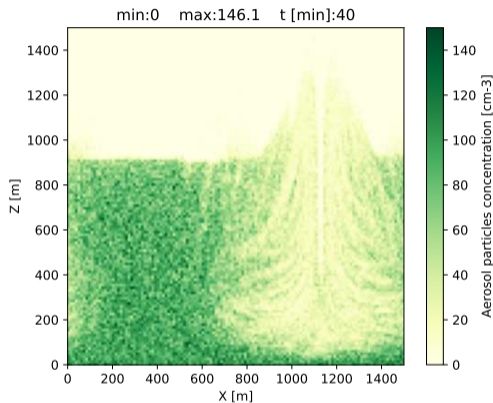
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# (super-)particle growth via diffusion and its challenges

# (super-)particle growth/evap. modelled via vapour & heat diffusion in air

governing drop-growth law (Howell 1949, Mason 1971, ...):

$$\dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dr} \dot{r} = \frac{dx}{dr} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\text{RH}(q, \theta, \rho) - 1 - \frac{a}{r} + \frac{b}{r^3}}{F(q, \theta, \rho)}$$

$r$  – radius of droplet,  $x$  – diffusion solver coordinate,  $\text{RH}$  – relative humidity

$a=a(T)$ ,  $b=\kappa r_d^3$  - aerosol parameters (e.g.,  $\kappa$ -Köhler curve)

$F^{-1}$  - effective diffusion coefficient (incl. ventilation and latent heat effects)

$q, \theta, \rho$  – thermodynamic state variable triplet

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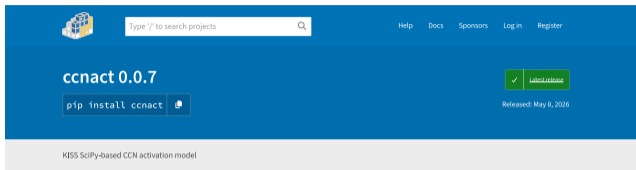
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**coupled with supersaturation evolution:  $\dot{\text{RH}} = f(\dot{r}, \dots)$**



ccnact 0.0.7

pip install ccnact

Released: May 11, 2026

KISS SciPy-based CCN activation model

## Navigation

Project description

Release history

Download files

## Verified details

These details have been verified by PyPI

## Project links

Source

Tracker

## GitHub Statistics

Repository

Stars: 1

Forks: 0

Open issues: 18

Open PRs: 4

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KISS SciPy-based [CCN](#) activation model

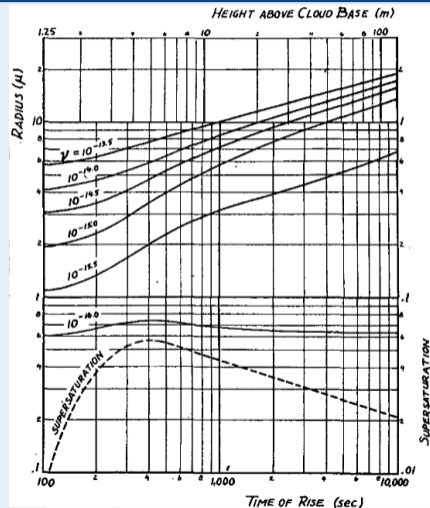
PyPI package 0.0.7

## overview

ccnact is a simple, yet complete, adiabatic/hydrostatic air-parcel framework employing moving-sectional/particle-resolved aerosol-cloud microphysics, featuring:

- Integration using SciPy's interface to LSODE stiff ODE solver
- ODE system based on [Arabas & Shima 2017](#) (extended to polydisperse aerosol size spectrum)
- [Kohler](#) wet radii equilibration of input dry-size spectrum with SciPy's [elementwise root-finder](#)
- capability of resolving aerosol activation, deactivation, drop growth, evaporation and ripening
- multi-modal lognormal (using SciPy's [stats routines](#)) spectrum specification (concentration at STP)
- portable across platforms and architectures (CI on Linux, macOS & Windows, on Intel & ARM CPUs)
- single-function interface allowing to modify every single constant, and returning a tuple of:
  - concentration of activated droplets (at STP)
  - maximal supersaturation
- effective interfacing options for [Matlab](#), [IDL](#), [Julia](#), etc
- unit-aware implementation using [Pint](#) (dimensional analysis enabled for tests only)
- subsecond execution times for common parameter settings
- [KISS design](#): depends on SciPy, NumPy & Pint only; single ~500 LOC file (physics + setup + tests)

## Howell 1949



# numerical issues and selected developments

Arnason & Brown '71

numerical analysis of the (stiff) problem

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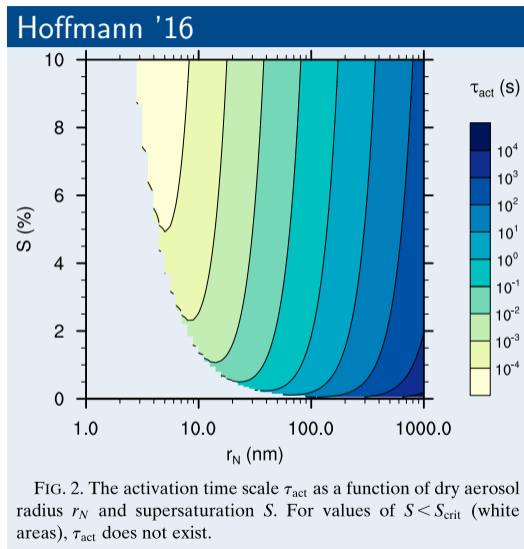
revisits of the adaptive timestep criteria

Lüttmer '26 (PySDM)

substepping for ice-phase deposition growth/sublimation/WBF

**crux of the problem?**

# LES timesteps vs. activation timescale



# adaptivity scheme in PySDM

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_{[i]} \\ \vdots \\ \rho_d \\ q \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(x_{[i]}, \theta, q, \rho_d) \\ \vdots \\ \dot{\rho}_d \\ \dot{q}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{q}_{\text{env}} \\ \dot{\theta}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{\theta}_{\text{env}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$m_{[i]} = e^{x_{[i]}}$$

grid-cell tendencies:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_{[i]} \\ \vdots \\ \rho_d \\ q \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(x_{[i]}, \theta, q, \rho_d) \\ \vdots \\ \dot{\rho}_d \\ \dot{q}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{q}_{\text{env}} \\ \dot{\theta}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{\theta}_{\text{env}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$m_{[i]} = e^{x_{[i]}}$$

$$\dot{\rho}_d \approx 0$$

$$\dot{q}_{\text{cond}} = -\frac{1}{\rho_d} \frac{1}{\Delta V} \sum_i \xi_{[i]} \frac{dm_{[i]}}{dt}$$

grid-cell tendencies:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_{[i]} \\ \vdots \\ \rho_d \\ q \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(x_{[i]}, \theta, q, \rho_d) \\ \vdots \\ \dot{\rho}_d \\ \dot{q}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{q}_{\text{env}} \\ \dot{\theta}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{\theta}_{\text{env}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$m_{[i]} = e^{x_{[i]}}$$

$$\dot{\rho}_d \approx 0$$

$$\dot{q}_{\text{cond}} = -\frac{1}{\rho_d} \frac{1}{\Delta V} \sum_i \xi_{[i]} \frac{dm_{[i]}}{dt}$$
$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{cond}} = -\frac{l_v \theta \dot{q}_{\text{cond}}}{c_p T}$$

grid-cell tendencies:

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$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{cond}} = -\frac{l_v \theta \dot{q}_{\text{cond}}}{c_p T}$$

$$\dot{q}_{\text{env}} = -\rho_d^{-1} \nabla \cdot (\vec{u} \rho_d q_v)$$

grid-cell tendencies:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_{[i]} \\ \vdots \\ \rho_d \\ q \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(x_{[i]}, \theta, q, \rho_d) \\ \vdots \\ \dot{\rho}_d \\ \dot{q}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{q}_{\text{env}} \\ \dot{\theta}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{\theta}_{\text{env}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$m_{[i]} = e^{x_{[i]}}$$

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$$\dot{q}_{\text{env}} = -\rho_d^{-1} \nabla \cdot (\vec{u} \rho_d q_v)$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{env}} = -\rho_d^{-1} \nabla \cdot (\vec{u} \rho_d \theta_v)$$

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_{[i]} \\ \vdots \\ \rho_d \\ q \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{x}(x_{[i]}, \theta, q, \rho_d) \\ \vdots \\ \dot{\rho}_d \\ \dot{q}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{q}_{\text{env}} \\ \dot{\theta}_{\text{cond}} + \dot{\theta}_{\text{env}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$m_{[i]} = e^{x_{[i]}}$$

grid-cell tendencies:

$$\dot{\rho}_d \approx 0$$

$$\dot{q}_{\text{cond}} = -\frac{1}{\rho_d} \frac{1}{\Delta V} \sum_i \xi_{[i]} \frac{dm_{[i]}}{dt}$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{cond}} = -\frac{l_v \theta \dot{q}_{\text{cond}}}{c_p T}$$

$$\dot{q}_{\text{env}} = -\rho_d^{-1} \nabla \cdot (\vec{u} \rho_d q_v)$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{\text{env}} = -\rho_d^{-1} \nabla \cdot (\vec{u} \rho_d \theta_d)$$

adiabatic/hydrostatic parcel tendencies:

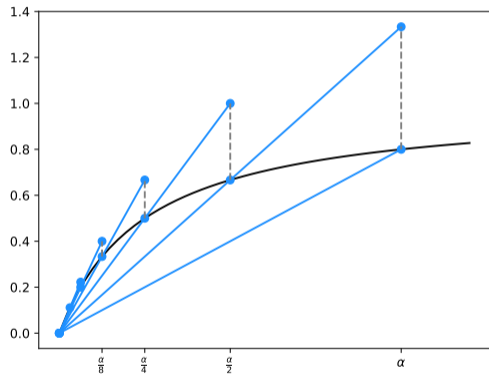
$$\dot{q}_{\text{env}} = 0 \quad \dot{\theta}_{\text{env}} = 0 \quad \dot{\rho}_d \neq 0$$

In each major time step  $n$ , the number of time substeps is adjusted iteratively searching for such  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , and as a consequence  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2^m}$ , for which the following condition holds:

$$\left| \underbrace{(\theta^{n,2\alpha} - \theta^n)}_{\Delta\theta} - 2 \underbrace{(\theta^{n,\alpha}|_{\alpha} - \theta^n)}_{\Delta\theta|_{\alpha}} \right| < r_{\theta} \theta^n$$

where  $r_{\theta}$  is the relative tolerance. Note that if only  $\theta$  is differentiable in the limit of  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , the left-hand side  $|\Delta\theta|_{2\alpha} - 2 \Delta\theta|_{\alpha}| \rightarrow 0$  assuring convergence.

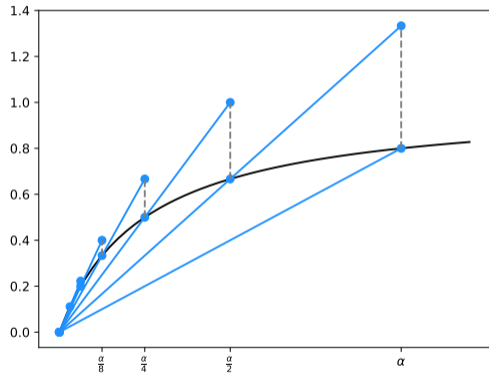
# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



conceptual view (Y axis could be  $\theta$  or supersaturation)

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM

- implicit-in- $\ln(\text{mass})$  / explicit-in-thermo

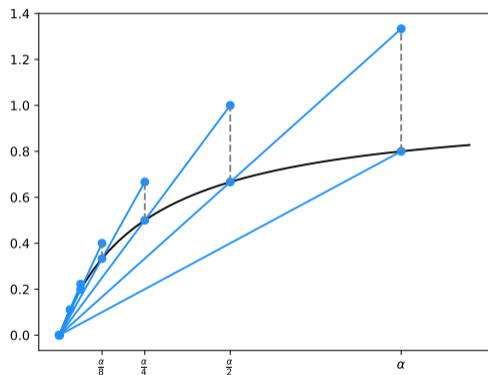


conceptual view (Y axis could be  $\theta$  or supersaturation)

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM

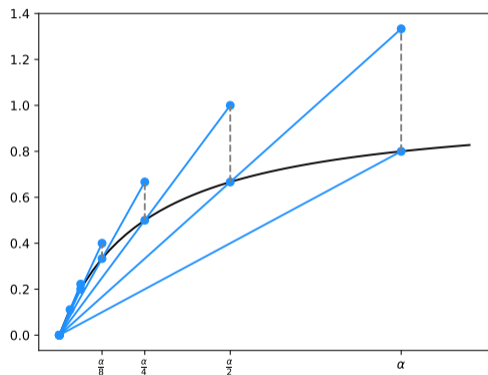
- implicit-in- $\ln(\text{mass})$  / explicit-in-thermo

- condensation step adapted:
  - once per major time step
  - in each cell independently (for all particles in the cell)



conceptual view (Y axis could be  $\theta$  or supersaturation)

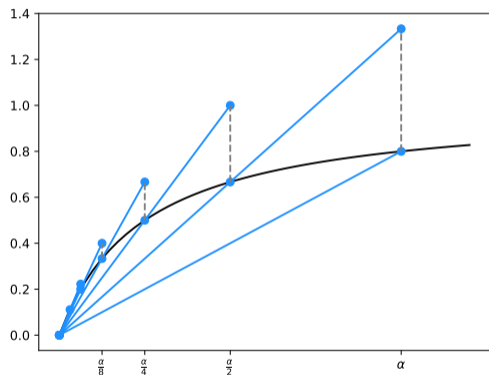
# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



conceptual view (Y axis could be  $\theta$  or supersaturation)

- implicit-in- $\ln(\text{mass})$  / explicit-in-thermo
- condensation step adapted:
  - once per major time step
  - in each cell independently (for all particles in the cell)
- no additional memory is required

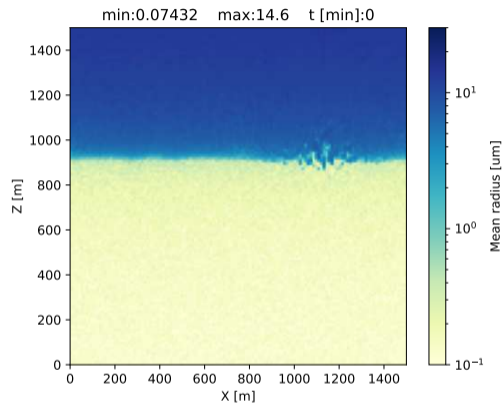
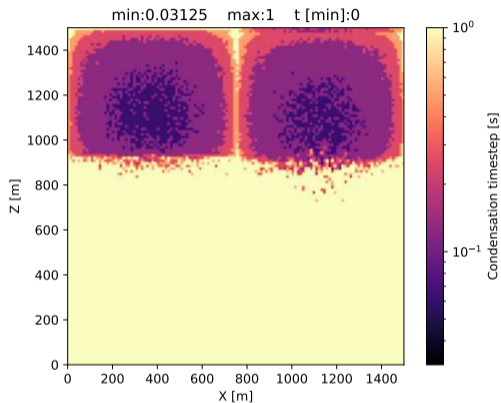
# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



conceptual view (Y axis could be  $\theta$  or supersaturation)

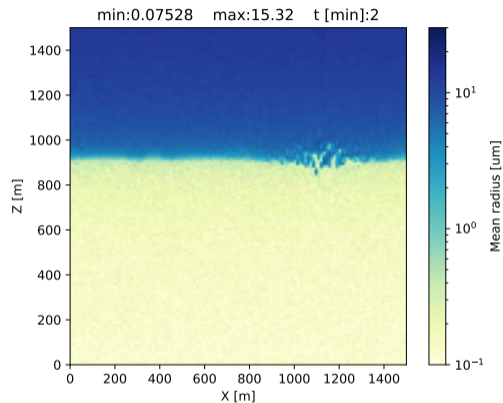
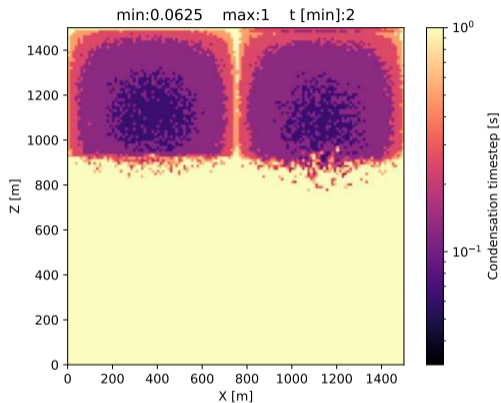
- implicit-in- $\ln(\text{mass})$  / explicit-in-thermo
- condensation step adapted:
  - once per major time step
  - in each cell independently (for all particles in the cell)
- no additional memory is required
- on CPU: cells sorted by prior  $\Delta t$ :
  - ↪ avoiding idling threads
- on GPU: global  $\Delta t$

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



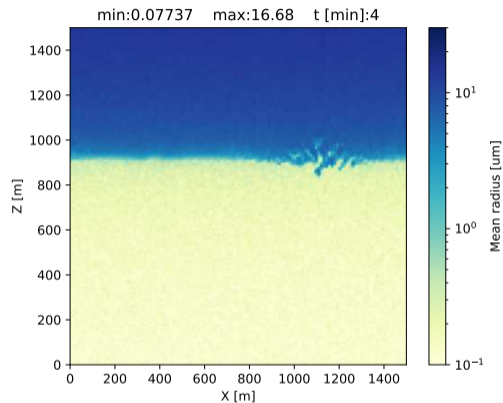
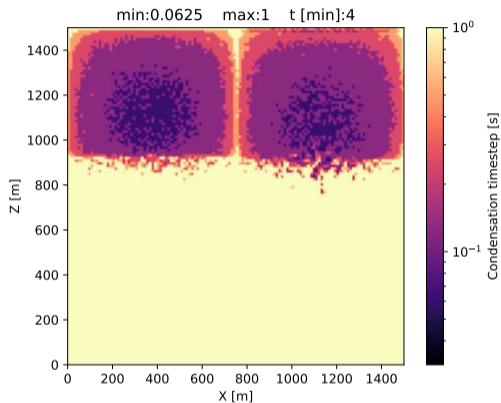
Computational grid: 128x128  
Computational particles:  $2^{21}$

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



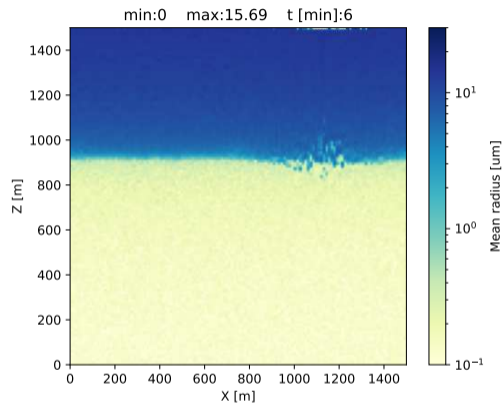
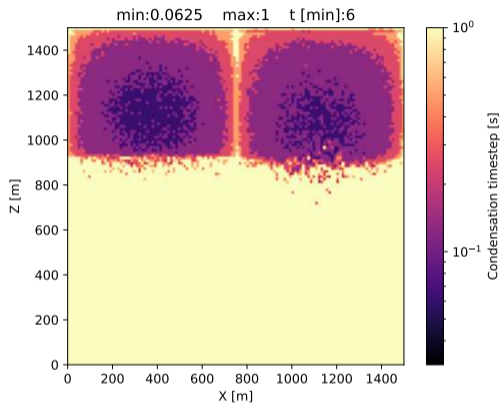
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# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



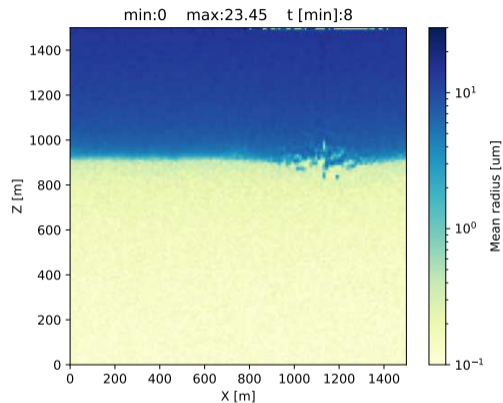
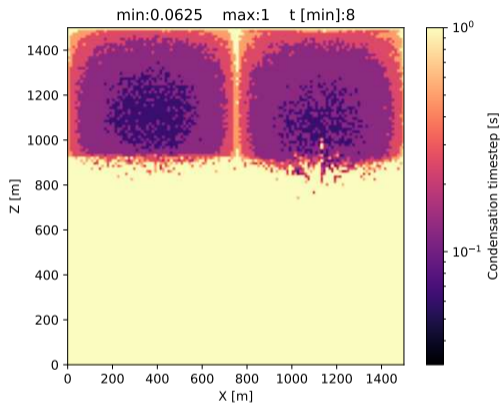
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Computational particles:  $2^{21}$

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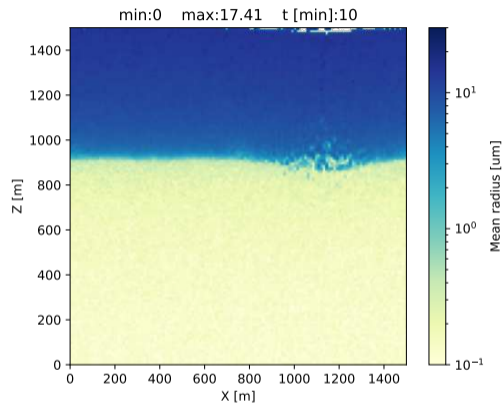
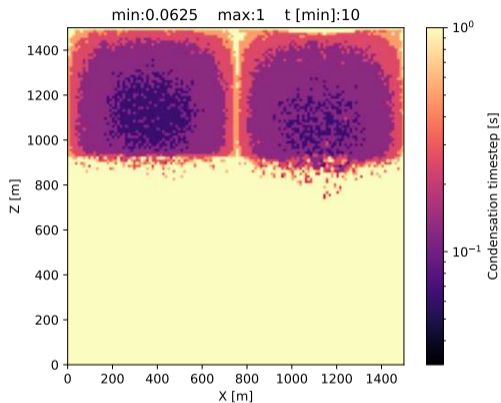
Computational grid: 128x128  
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# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



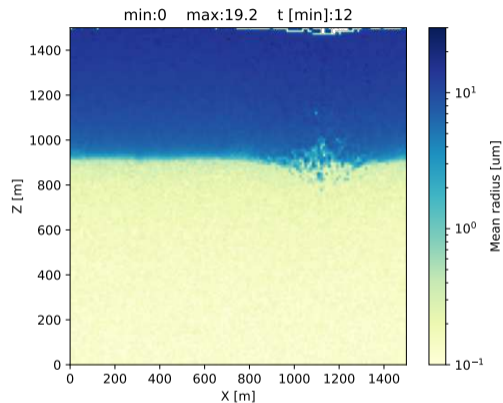
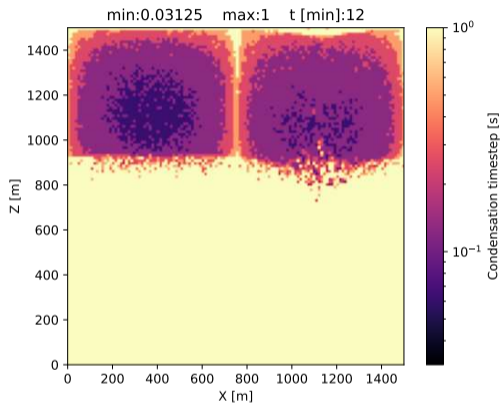
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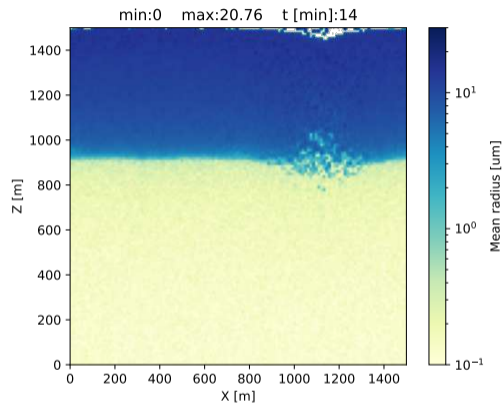
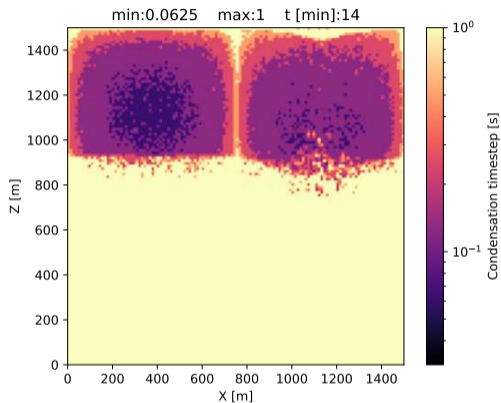
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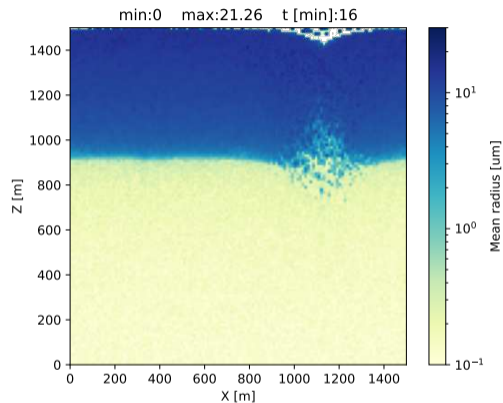
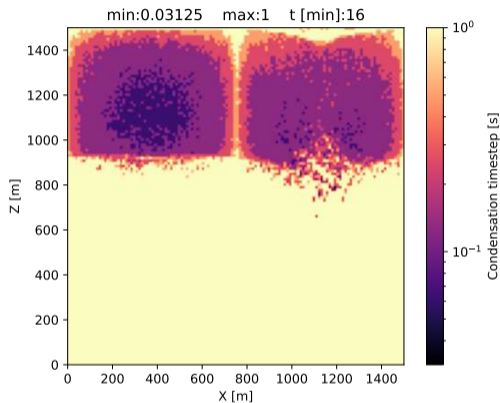
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Computational particles:  $2^{21}$

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



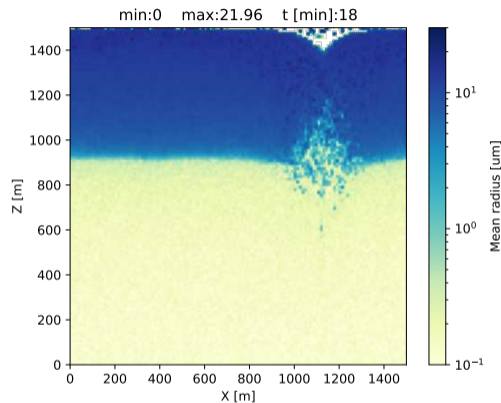
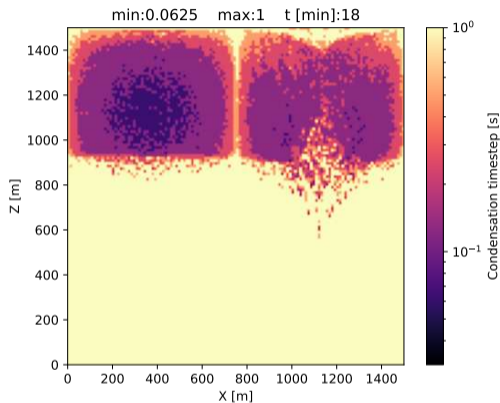
Computational grid: 128x128  
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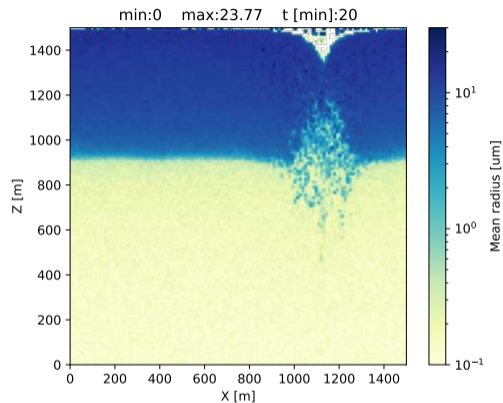
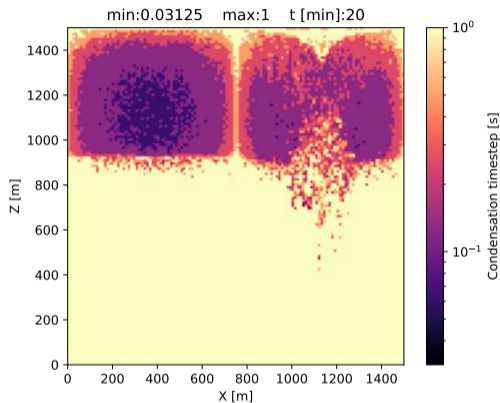
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# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



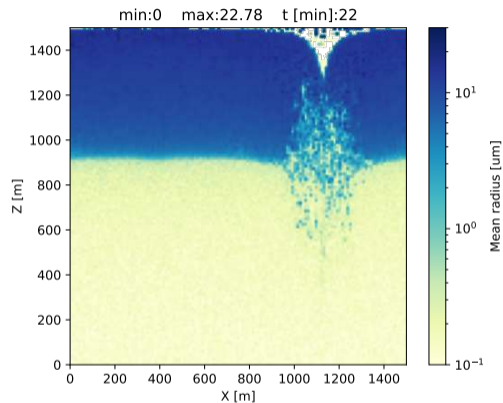
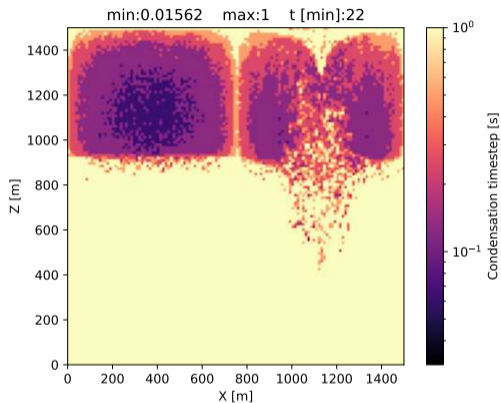
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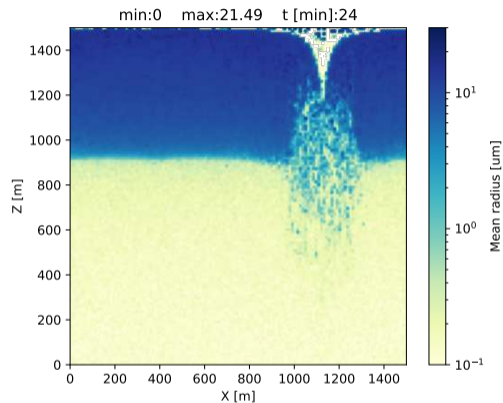
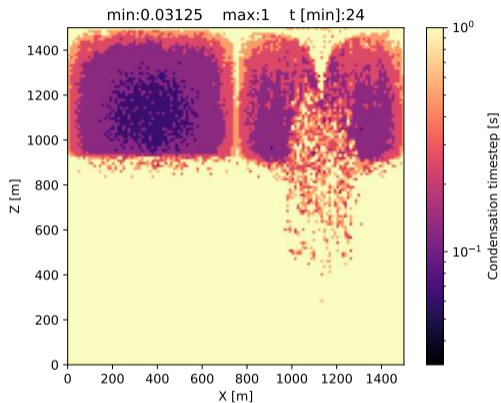
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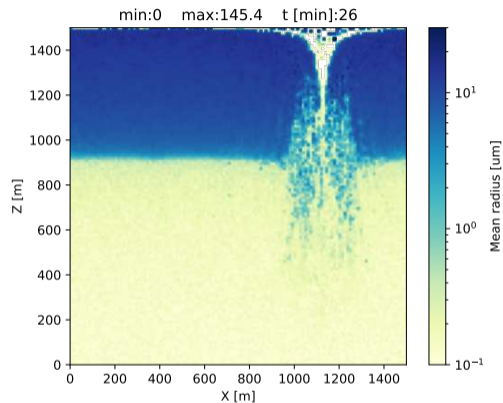
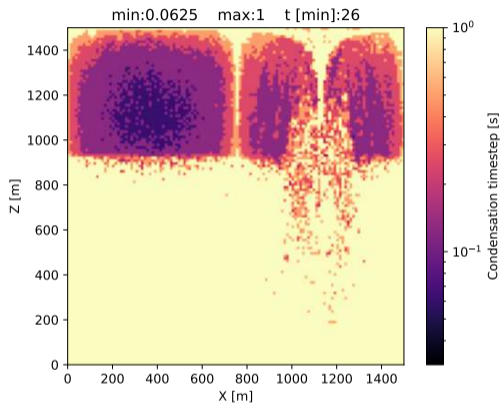
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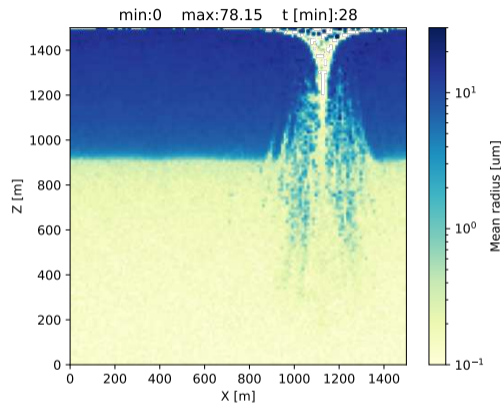
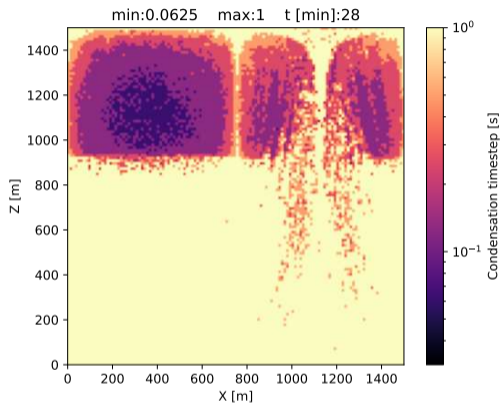
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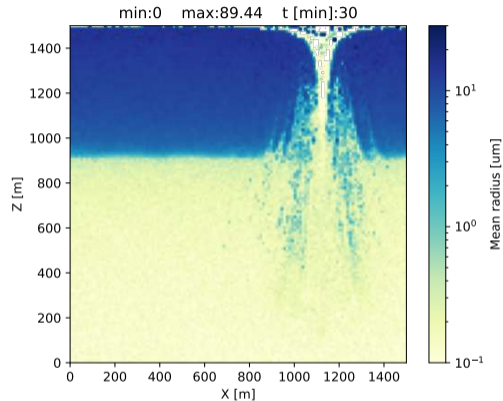
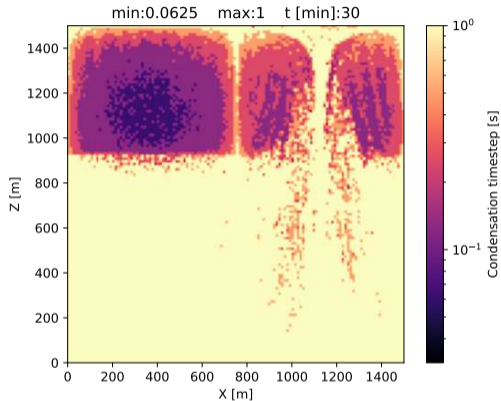
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Computational particles:  $2^{21}$

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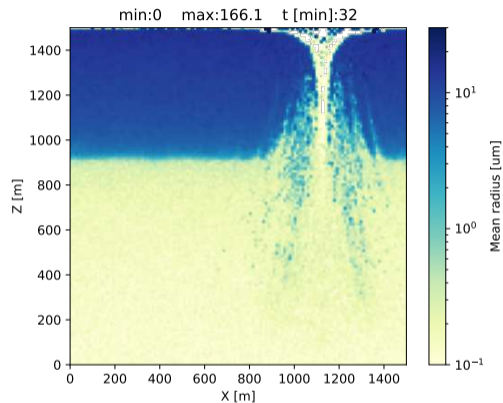
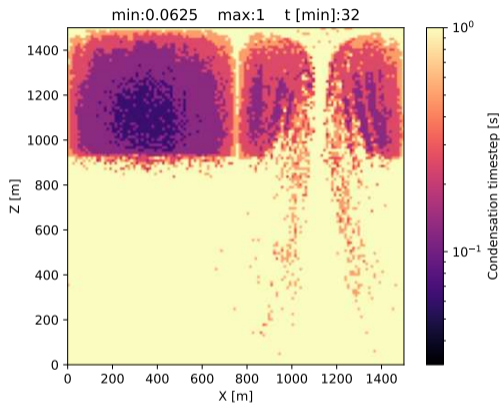
Computational grid: 128x128  
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# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



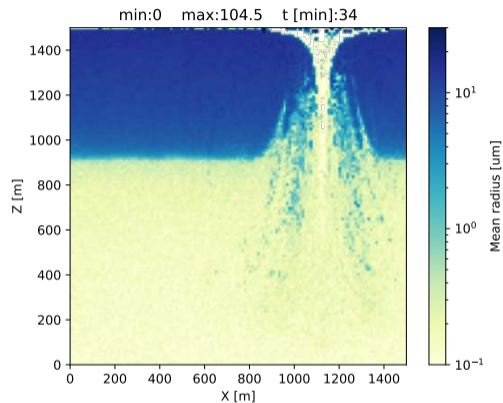
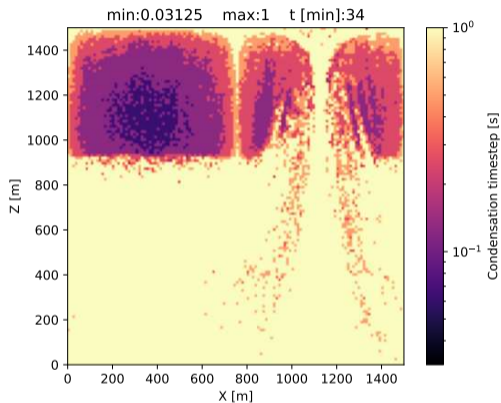
Computational grid: 128x128  
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# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



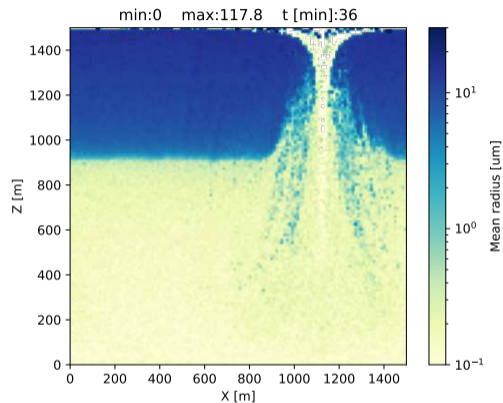
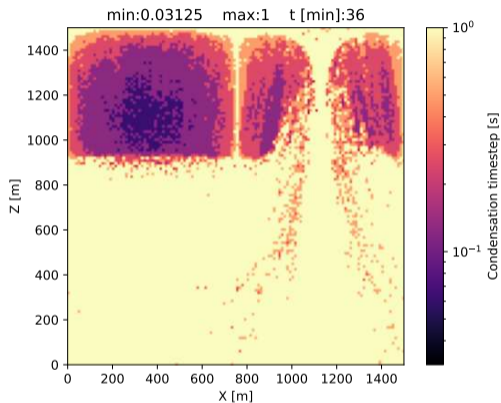
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# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



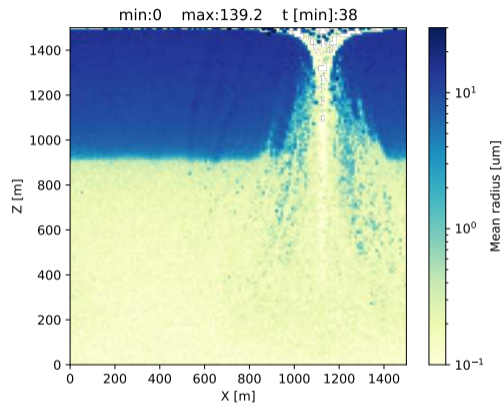
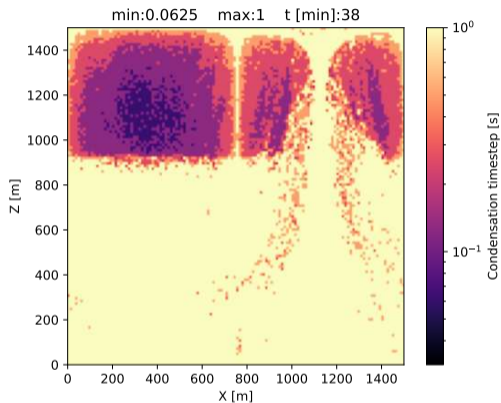
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Computational particles:  $2^{21}$

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



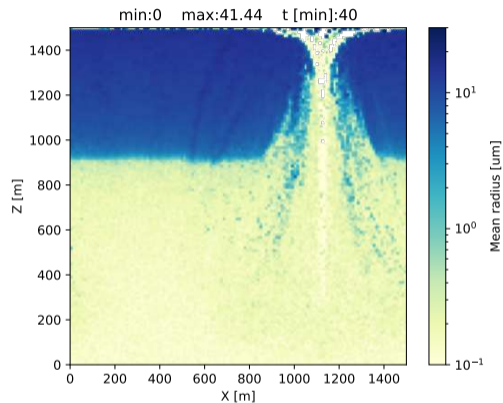
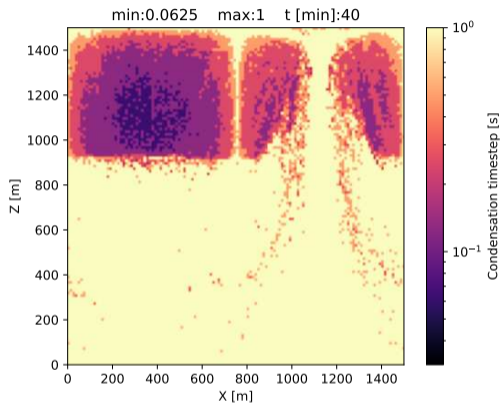
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# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



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

# adaptive time stepping for cond/evap in PySDM



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

# related developments

# Shima et al. 2020: operator splitting scheme for super-droplets

Table 1 in Shima et al. '20

**Table 1.** An example of the calculation order when updating the system state from  $t$  to  $t + \Delta t$ . We first calculate the fluid dynamics and then calculate cloud microphysics. Each process is integrated one time step forward at a time. Processes lagging in time are calculated preferentially.

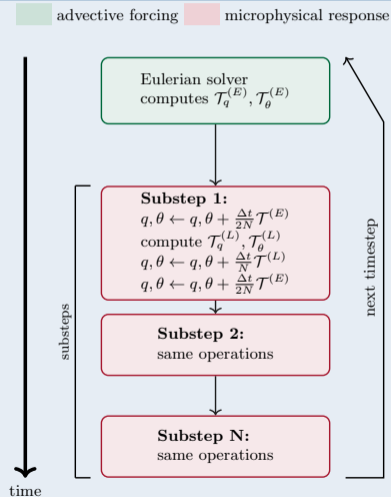
	$t \longrightarrow t + \Delta t$					
Fluid dynamics	1	2	3	4	5	6
Advection	7					
Freezing/melting	8					
Condensation/evaporation	9	12	13	15	17	19
Deposition/sublimation	10	14		18		
Collision-coalescence/ -riming/-aggregation	11		16			

Let  $\Delta t_{\text{dyn}}$  be the time step for moist air fluid dynamics.

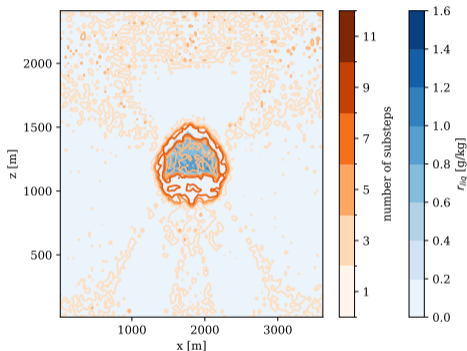
These process time steps are all divisors of the common time step  $\Delta t$ .

We first calculate fluid dynamics without the coupling terms from particles to moist air (Eqs. 76–81), and update moist air from  $\mathbf{G}_{lmn}(t)$  to  $\mathbf{G}'_{lmn}(t)$ . Then, we update super-particles  $\{\{\xi_i, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{a}_i\}\}$  from  $t$  to  $t + \Delta t$ . We select one elementary cloud microphysics process, integrate it forward by one time step, and then move on to the next process.

## Kogan '91 tendency “chunking” (as in UWLCM & PySDM)



# cond/evap adaptivity in UWLCM (Piotr Dziekan & Agnieszka Makulska)



- particle-local substepping (i.e. timesteps vary within a cell)
- several adaptivity criteria (incl. option to toggle it by proximity to critical radius)
- tests with 2D warm-bubble setup ✓
- semi-Lagrangian thermodynamics option

<https://hanami-project.com/2026/05/20/advancing-cloud-modelling-hanami-microphysics-hpc-optimisation-uwlcm/>

## Appendix B: Condensation substepping algorithm

Consider **condensation of SDs within cell  $i$**  at time step  $n$ . The vector of thermodynamic conditions in that cell at the moment right before condensation is calculated is denoted by  $\psi_i^{[n]} = (\theta^{[n]}, q_v^{[n]})_i$ . The number of time steps is denoted by  $S_c$  and substeps are indexed by  $v$ , starting at  $v = 1$ . Superdroplets within cell  $i$  are numbered by  $\mu$ . The vector of thermodynamic conditions that a given SD experiences at substep  $v$  is denoted by  $\check{\psi}_\mu^{[v]}$ . Using this notation, the substepping algorithm is

$$\check{\psi}_\mu^{[v+1/2]} = \check{\psi}_\mu^{[v]} + \frac{\psi_i^{[n]} - \check{\psi}_\mu^{[v=1]}}{S_c}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

$$r_\mu^{2[v+1]} = r_\mu^{2[v]} + \frac{\Delta t}{S_c} \left. \frac{dr^2}{dt} \right|_{r_\mu^{2[v+1]}, \check{\psi}_\mu^{[v+1/2]}}, \quad (\text{B2})$$

$$\check{\psi}_\mu^{[v+1]} = \check{\psi}_\mu^{[v+1/2]} + A \frac{4\pi\rho_w V}{3\rho_d^r} \sum_{\mu=1}^{\mu=N_i^{[n]}} \xi_\mu \left[ \left( r_\mu^{2[v+1]} \right)^{3/2} - \left( r_\mu^{2[v]} \right)^{3/2} \right], \quad (\text{B3})$$

where  $r_\mu^2$  is the square of the wet radius of the  $\mu$ th SD,  $N_i^{[n]}$  is the number of SDs in cell  $i$  at time step  $n$  and  $A = (\theta^c l_v / (c_{pd} T^c), -1)$ . The sum in Eq. (B3) is calculated over all SDs in cell  $i$  at time step  $n$ .

The initial value  $\check{\psi}_\mu^{[v=1]}$  is equal to the thermodynamic conditions after condensation finished in the previous time step. Two ways of defining  $\check{\psi}_\mu^{[v=1]}$  are considered that differ regarding the spatial cell from which this initial condition is diagnosed:

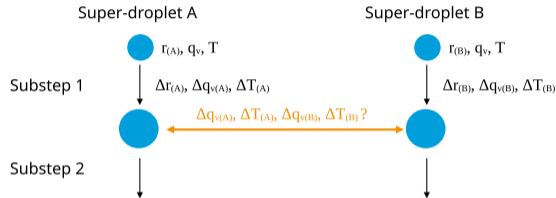
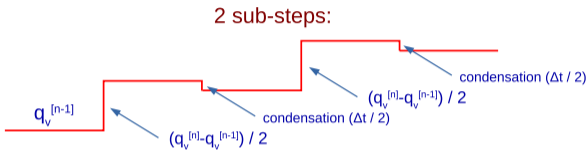
$$\check{\psi}_\mu^{[v=1]} = \left( \psi^{[n-1]} + R_c^{[n-1]} \right)_{i(n-1)}, \quad (\text{B5})$$

referred to as “per-particle” substepping, and

$$\check{\psi}_\mu^{[v=1]} = \left( \psi^{[n-1]} + R_c^{[n-1]} \right)_{i(n)}, \quad (\text{B6})$$

a procedure we call “per-cell” substepping. **The notation  $i(n)$  stands for the index of the cell in which the  $\mu$ th SD was at time step  $n$ .** The per-cell substepping is less accurate, but requires less computational time and uses less memory. The reason for this is that in the per-cell method, all SDs in a given cell have the same values of  $\check{\psi}_\mu^{[v]}$ .


# the issue of “mixing” (Piotr Dziekan & Agnieszka Makulska)



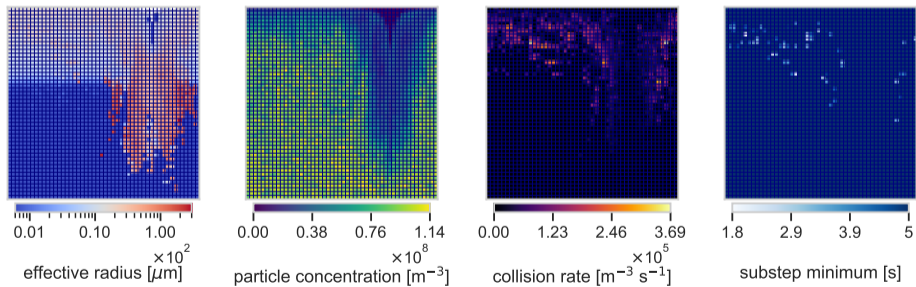
- ❑ mean distance between droplets:  $\sim 2$  mm
- ❑ turbulent mixing timescale at a 2 mm distance:  $\sim 0.1$  s
- ❑ turbulent mixing timescale at a 1 cm distance:  $\sim 0.5$  s
- ❑ no clear answer if it's better to “mix” (homogenize) cell every substep or every step?

# what about coagulation?

## Adaptive time-stepping for the Super-Droplet Method Monte Carlo collision-coalescence scheme

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Time = 5160s, Grid 50x50, dt=5s,  $n_{sd}=256$  per gridbox,



Thank you for your attention!

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