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Composite particles model of doppler-polarimetric meteorological radar signal

New wetness and iciness parameters were proposed to use in composite particles model of the doppler-polarimetric meteorological radar signal. This allows to simulate the mixed microstructure of clouds and precipitation with the possibility to tune the melting stage and set the mass density of dry subvolume. The model can be used to improve meteorological data interpretation and analysis of Doppler polarimetric meteorological radars.

Introduction

Information about the phase state of hydrometeors and precipitation is crucial for solving the range of meteorological tasks for aviation. It includes the detection of hail regions and dangerous icing-in-flight. The information also can be important for improving data interpretation and ambiguity avoidance when data analysis of modern and prospective meteorological radars.

The development of modern meteorological radars is aimed to combine the ability of the Doppler and Polarimetric measurements mostly. This combination is succeeded in solving mentioned tasks as well as in atmospheric turbulence detection [1-3]. The operation of Doppler and Polarimetric radars is connected with enhancement of obtained data that, in turn, requires the development of the model that relates reflected radar signal with raindrops, snow, hail, ice pellets, graupel, snow grains and other types of precipitation and cloud constituents. The model should be common enough to consider the real situation of the mixed microstructure of clouds and precipitation of many types. In this paper, the progress in model development is focused on combinations of water-air-ice mixture additionally to the raindrops.

Problem statement and solution

The mixture of ice-air or water-ice-air hydrometeors and their representation as the composite particles which consist of a surrounding media with given dielectric permittivity and some internal inclusions with other permittivity were given in [4-6]. The Maxwell Garnet mixing theory was used to represent the effective dielectric permittivity of the composite particle. The two stages of sequential two-mixture calculations were used to achieve the effective permittivity of three-mixture particles. The model modification to the wet snow case using the direct one-stage account of air and ice inclusions in the water media was done in [7]. The drawback of the Maxwell Garnet mixing approach such as the non-symmetry according to the media and inclusions [8, 9], does not allow to realize the generalized tunable model for different types of cloud and precipitation constituents with an arbitrary water-ice-air mixture.

Bruggeman's solution [8] is another approach that describes the multicomponent particle. Bruggeman's solution solves the described above problem by selecting some appropriate "virtual" surrounding media that is true under the assumption that the combined fractional volume is unity.

We propose to modify Bruggeman's mixing equation by introducing parameters of wetness $\xi: [0..1]$ and iciness $\zeta: [0..1]$. This should simplify the hydrometeor representation for modeling.

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 f_i \frac{\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{eff}}{\varepsilon_i + 2\varepsilon_{eff}} = 0, \text{ assuming } \sum_{i=1}^3 f_i = 1, \quad (1)$$

where ε_{eff} is the effective dielectric permittivity of the three-mixture particle; ε_i is corresponding relative permittivity of water ε_w , ice ε_{ice} , or air ε_{air} ; f_i is the corresponding fractional volume of water f_w , ice f_{ice} , or air f_{air} .

The fractional volumes f_i can be represented using the wetness and iciness parameters by the following way:

$$f_w = \xi, \quad (2)$$

$$f_{ice} = (1 - \xi)\zeta, \quad (3)$$

$$f_{air} = (1 - \xi)(1 - \zeta). \quad (4)$$

After selecting the ξ and ζ , the effective permittivity of multicomponent particle can be calculated using the (1) and its radar cross section can be also determined.

In this approach, the wetness represents the melting stage of hydrometeor and varies from the zero value that corresponds to the completely dry stage, to the unity that corresponds to the water drop.

The iciness reflects an ice fraction of the dry, ice-air, subvolume of a whole composite particle. Therefore, it gives one the simple way to select the mass density of the dry mixture. For example, hail can be represented by almost unity iciness, while snowflake contains a quite small fractional volume of ice.

The simulation of the dependence of iciness parameter on the corresponding spherical water drop size is shown in Fig. 1.

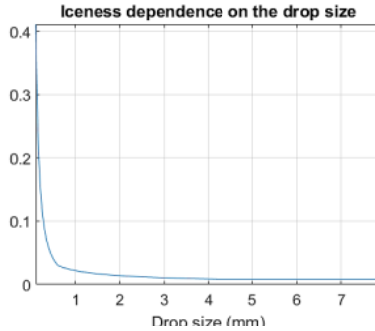


Fig. 1. Dependence of the iceness ζ on the water drop size.

It is possible to see the decreasing of the ice fractional volume with the drop size increasing. This corresponds to the appropriate mass density decreasing of biggest snowflakes.

The dependence represented in Fig.2 and Fig. 3 shows the result of Reflectivity dependence on wetness and Differential Reflectivity dependence on wetness that were modeled for the different melting conditions. In radar meteorology, the Differential Reflectivity is defined as

$$Z_{DR} = 10 \log (Z_{hh}/Z_{vv}) = 10 \log (P_{hh}/P_{vv}) = 10 \log (\sigma_{hh}/\sigma_{vv})$$

where Z means radar reflectivity factor, P is average received power, σ is RCS; the indexes h and v corresponds to the horizontal and vertical polarizations.

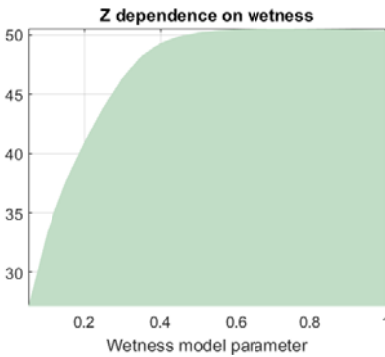


Fig. 2. Reflectivity dependence on wetness.

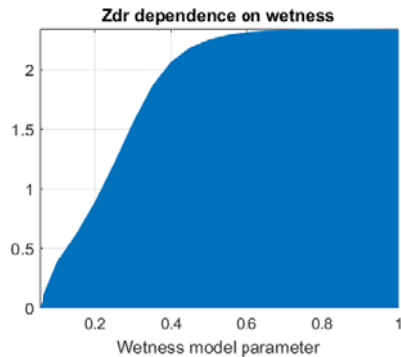


Fig. 3. Differential Reflectivity dependence on wetness.

Conclusions

New wetness and iceness parameters were proposed to use in composite particles model of the doppler-polarimetric meteorological radar signal. This allows to simulate the mixed microstructure of clouds and precipitation with the possibility

to tune the melting stage and set the mass density of dry subvolume. In this paper, the snow case enhancement of rain model was considered. Other mixed water-ice-air precipitation types can be easily added the same way.

The developed model can be used for modeling Doppler-polarimetric spectra of the radar signal reflected from different types of meteorological objects for improving meteorological data interpretation and analysis of Doppler and polarimetric meteorological radars.

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