Multi-Year Statistics of Mixed-Phase Arctic Stratus at Barrow and Eureka: Process Studies, Assessment of CloudSAT Detection, and Applications to Models

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Introduction





Barrow: 09/04-11/04 Eureka: 08/05-present High Spectral Resolution Lidar MMCR (35 GHz) Radiosondes



Introduction



AHSRL Backscatter

AHSRL Depolarization

MMCR Reflectivity

Introduction

- Low altitude stratus frequency of up to 70% during transition seasons (Herman and Goody, 1976; Curry et al., 1996)
- Reduces wintertime net surface cooling by 40-50 W/m² (Curry et al., 1996)
- Commonly observed during several recent Arctic experiments (SHEBA, MPACE, SEARCH, ISDAC)
- Often long-lived, surviving up to several days at a time (de Boer et al., 2008)
- Difficult to simulate (Klein et al., 2008)

Property Statistics



Single-layer mixed phase stratus observations

- 216 hours from Barrow (fall 2004)

- 1240 hours from Eureka (fall 2005-2007)



















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Measurement Coverage



Measurement Coverage



CloudSAT



CloudSAT



Summary

- -Low, single-layer mixed-phase clouds commonly observed at both Eureka and Barrow
- -Differences in macrophysical and microphysical characteristics between different locations and inter-seasonal variation at Eureka
- -Large available database to improve and validate simulation of these mixed-phase clouds (as well as others)
- -Some low level clouds may easily be missed by CloudSAT

References

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