

# A Review of the Factors Influencing Arctic Mixed-Phase Clouds: Progress and Outlook

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## Abstract

Mixed-phase clouds are ubiquitous in the Arctic and play a critical role in Earth's energy budget at the surface and top of the atmosphere. These clouds typically occupy the lower and midlevel troposphere and are composed of purely supercooled liquid droplets or mixtures of supercooled liquid water droplets and ice crystals. Here, we review progress in our understanding of the factors that control the formation and dissipation of Arctic mixed-phase clouds, including the thermodynamic structure of the lower troposphere, warm and moist air intrusions into the Arctic, large-scale subsidence and aerosol particles. We then provide a brief survey of numerous Arctic field campaigns that targeted local cloud-controlling factors and follow this with specific examples of how the Arctic Cloud Observations Using airborne measurements during polar Day (ACLOUD)/ Physical feedback of Arctic PBL, Sea ice, Cloud And Aerosol (PASCAL) and Airborne measurements of radiative and turbulent FLUXes of energy and momentum in the Arctic boundary layer (AFLUX) field campaigns that took place in the vicinity of Svalbard in 2019 were able to advance our understanding on this topic to demonstrate the value of field campaigns. Finally, we conclude with a discussion of the outlook of future research in the study of Arctic cloud-controlling factors and provide several recommendations for the observational and modelling community to advance our understanding of the role of Arctic mixed-phase clouds in a rapidly changing climate.

# 1     **A Review of the Factors Influencing Arctic Mixed-Phase Clouds: Progress and Outlook**

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## 17    **Index terms**

18    Clouds and aerosols, climate change and variability, cloud/radiation interaction, cloud physics  
19    and chemistry, aerosols and particles

20

## 21    **Keywords**

22    Arctic climate, mixed-phase clouds, cloud-controlling factors, aerosols

## 23    **Abstract**

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40 clouds in a rapidly changing climate.

## 41 **1 Introduction**

42 The Earth's Arctic is warming at approximately twice the pace of the rest of the globe. This  
43 phenomenon, commonly known as Arctic amplification, is most pronounced during the late  
44 autumn and early winter (Serreze et al. 2009). Arctic amplification has been considered in  
45 various ways; previous studies have defined it as the ratio of warming in the Arctic to either  
46 global or tropical warming (Pithan & Mauritsen 2014, Stuecker et al. 2018, Middlemas et al.  
47 2020), where the Arctic has been defined to be poleward of latitudes ranging from 60 to 75 °N  
48 and different definitions of the ratio have been used (Hind et al. 2016). Furthermore, the  
49 timescale of Arctic amplification has also been studied on both transient and equilibrium  
50 timescales (Holland & Bitz 2003, Tan & Storelvmo 2019). Here, we use Arctic amplification as  
51 an umbrella term that encompasses amplified warming in the Arctic relative to either the tropics  
52 or the entire globe and on either transient or equilibrium timescales (Yoshimori et al. 2016).

53  
54 A number of mechanisms have been proposed to explain Arctic amplification (Serreze & Barry  
55 2011, Taylor et al. 2013, Wendisch et al. 2017). An early mechanism proposed over half a  
56 century ago is the surface-albedo feedback, whereby warming induces the melting of snow and  
57 sea ice, which in turn induces further warming by reducing surface albedo (Budyko 1969, Sellers  
58 1969). This positive feedback is among many others that have since been proposed. These  
59 include feedbacks related to the strength of surface temperature inversions (Boe' et al. 2009,  
60 Bintanja et al. 2011), poleward energy transport (Hwang et al. 2011, Merlis & Henry 2018,  
61 Graversen & Langen 2019) and clouds (Vavrus 2004, Cronin & Tziperman 2015, Tan &  
62 Storelvmo 2019, Wendisch et al. 2019, Middlemas et al. 2020) that may also interact nonlinearly  
63 with the surface-albedo feedback to further amplify or dampen Arctic warming. Several studies  
64 suggest that the sea-ice albedo feedback is the leading contributor to Arctic amplification  
65 (Manabe & Wetherald 1975, Hall 2004, Dai et al. 2019). Furthermore, it has been shown that  
66 the sea ice minimum in summer and early fall both directly and indirectly contributes to Arctic  
67 amplification through surface heat flux exchange (Screen & Simmonds 2010). However,  
68 simulations have indicated that Arctic amplification still occurs even when the surface-albedo  
69 feedback is locked (Graversen & Wang 2009), and a combination of energy balance and coupled  
70 climate models suggest that although the surface-albedo feedback plays a contributing role to  
71 Arctic amplification, it does not play a dominating role in climate models (Winton 2006, Pithan  
72 & Mauritsen 2014).

73  
74 This review focuses on the processes and factors that control the evolution and properties of  
75 Arctic mixed-phase clouds known to influence Arctic amplification. These clouds consist of a  
76 combination of liquid droplets and ice crystals within the temperature range extending from 0 °C  
77 to the homogeneous freezing temperature of approximately -38 °C (Korolev et al. 2017).  
78 Although mixed-phase clouds are the focus of this manuscript, we note that some of the  
79 processes and factors considered herein also influence pure supercooled liquid clouds as well,  
80 especially in the summer where they are common in the Arctic boundary layer (Nomokonova et  
81 al. 2019). Since clouds were identified as the largest source of uncertainty in the climate

82 sensitivity in global climate models (Cess et al. 1989) decades ago, cloud feedbacks, i.e. the  
83 response of clouds to changes in surface temperature warming, continue to remain the largest  
84 contributor to uncertainty in climate projections today (Zelinka et al. 2020). However,  
85 substantial progress in narrowing the uncertainty range and clarifying the dominant mechanisms  
86 involved has been made throughout the decades (Zelinka et al. 2017), in large part due to  
87 improvements to model parameterizations and innovative diagnostic techniques such as satellite  
88 simulators that enable consistent comparisons between satellite observations and large-scale  
89 models (Bodas-Salcedo et al. 2011). The Arctic exhibits the largest spread in near-surface air  
90 temperature projections in climate models across all latitudes (Boucher et al. 2013). Arctic  
91 clouds are also especially poorly represented in climate models (Klein et al. 2009, Karlsson &  
92 Svensson 2011), with several models and even observations disagreeing on the annual cycle of  
93 cloud fraction (Boeke & Taylor 2016, Taylor et al. 2019). Although the magnitude of the  
94 contribution of the surface temperature-mediated cloud feedback to Arctic amplification was  
95 shown to be relatively small in the previous generation of climate models (Pithan & Mauritsen  
96 2014), poor observational constraints on Arctic clouds combined with linear diagnostic  
97 techniques for highly nonlinear cloud feedbacks in the Arctic (Zhu et al. 2019) call into question  
98 the true sign and magnitude of the Arctic cloud feedback. Many of these low-level clouds are of  
99 the mixed-phase type that exhibit a unique vertical structure (Curry et al. 2000) and commonly  
100 exist as multilayer clouds, especially during the summer months. Due to the gradient in  
101 saturation vapour pressure over liquid and ice surfaces, these clouds are inherently unstable due  
102 to the Wegener-Bergeron-Findeisen (WBF) process (Korolev et al. 2003) and their maintenance  
103 and life cycle are difficult to represent in models of all scales (Korolev et al. 2017). In particular,  
104 climate models have a tendency to overestimate the proportion of ice crystals relative to the total  
105 cloud water in mixed-phase clouds (Komurcu et al. 2014, Cesana et al. 2015, McCoy et al.  
106 2016), potentially due to the lack of a representation of subgrid-scale variability in cloud liquid  
107 and ice (Tan & Storelvmo 2016, Zhang et al. 2019) that is commonly observed in nature as  
108 revealed by aircraft in situ and remote sensing measurements (Korolev et al. 2003, Chylek &  
109 Borel 2004, D'Alessandro et al. 2019, Ruiz-Donoso et al. 2020). As such, climate models that  
110 parameterize the WBF process may be too active in climate models (Tan & Storelvmo 2016,  
111 Zhang et al. 2019), which may also lead to an excessive production of snow compared to  
112 observations (McIlhattan et al. 2017).

113  
114 The thermodynamic phase of Arctic clouds and how it is distributed spatially is of critical  
115 importance for climate and radiation because the radiative properties of ice crystals and liquid  
116 droplets differ substantially; for the same water path and solar zenith angle, the reflectivity of  
117 water clouds can be up to four times greater than that of ice clouds (Sun & Shine 1994). This is  
118 due to the greater abundance and smaller size of liquid droplets relative to their solid counterpart,  
119 which is facilitated through the amount of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) and ice-nucleating  
120 particles (INPs) available to initiate droplet and ice crystal formation in the atmosphere,  
121 respectively. Liquid clouds emit more downward longwave (LW) radiation to the surface  
122 compared to ice clouds. Here, LW radiation refers to radiation with wavelengths between 3-100  
123  $\mu\text{m}$ , where  $\sim 99\%$  of Earth's outgoing LW radiation is emitted (Petty 2006). Solar radiation  
124 wavelengths, on the other hand, range from  $\sim 0.25\text{-}4.0\mu\text{m}$ , which includes the visible and  
125 shortwave infrared part of the electromagnetic spectrum. The LW radiation effect is particularly  
126 important during the polar night, however, it saturates when the cloud liquid water path reaches  
127 approximately  $30\text{ gm}^{-2}$  (Shupe & Intrieri 2004), at which point clouds act as efficient blackbody

128 emitters, although the exact value for a given cloud depends on the average droplet effective  
129 radius (Wang et al. 2005). Downward LW radiation from clouds is also typically masked by  
130 increases in water vapour in a warmer climate, however, at constant relative humidity the LW  
131 cloud radiative effect (CRE), defined as the difference between all-sky and clear-sky cloud  
132 radiative forcing, was found to remain constant in the Arctic and, therefore, the sensitivity of the  
133 Arctic surface to LW CRE may increase in the future (Cox et al. 2015). Statistically significant  
134 multidecadal trends of cloud cover during spring and autumn based on data from ground stations  
135 in the Arctic Ocean also show increasing cloud cover that is conducive to sea-ice melt via  
136 surface warming from enhanced downward LW radiation (Eastman & Warren 2010). Ice  
137 crystals also tend to precipitate more efficiently as a result of their larger sizes, which affects  
138 cloud fraction and therefore the radiative impact of mixed-phase clouds. Therefore, the  
139 efficiency of the WBF process, which depends on how supercooled liquid and ice are spatially  
140 distributed within mixed-phase clouds, and in turn, the partitioning of the thermodynamic phase  
141 of mixed-phase clouds can therefore greatly impact the Earth's radiation budget and ultimately  
142 climate sensitivity (Mitchell et al. 1989, Tsushima et al. 2006, Tan et al. 2016, Frey & Kay 2018)  
143 and Arctic amplification as a result (Tan & Storelvmo, 2019).  
144

145 A better process-level understanding of Arctic mixed-phase clouds is required to reduce the  
146 spread in the representation of these clouds in large-scale and high-resolution models. Here, we  
147 review a number of studies that have approached the problem using various observations,  
148 controlled experiments in large-eddy simulations and cloud-resolving models. We first provide  
149 an overview of Arctic mixed-phase cloud formation mechanisms (Section 2). This is followed  
150 by an up-to-date overview of the influence of the dominant factors that control Arctic clouds  
151 from the microscale to the synoptic scale, and from the inter-annual to the decadal timescale and  
152 beyond using multiple tools and observations in Section 3. These factors include temperature  
153 and moisture inversions, moisture intrusions, large-scale subsidence and aerosol particles. We  
154 emphasize the importance of taking into account the different surface types in the Arctic when  
155 considering the impact of the factors on clouds, classifying the interactions as belonging to either  
156 sea ice or open ocean categories. We argue that a comprehensive understanding of these factors  
157 is necessary to better constrain the impact of clouds on Arctic climate change and point out  
158 weaknesses that require more attention in future studies. Section 3 provides a broad overview of  
159 a number of Arctic field observations that studied the targeted the role of various cloud-  
160 controlling factors and demonstrates the utility of airborne and shipborne in situ observations.  
161 We conclude with a discussion of the outlook for future research on Arctic clouds and put  
162 forward several recommendations for improving our understanding of Arctic mixed-phase clouds  
163 in Section 4.

## 164 **2 The formation and characteristics of Arctic mixed-phase clouds**

165 Arctic mixed-phase clouds occur year-round with a minimum frequency of occurrence of 30% in  
166 the winter and 50% during the rest of the year based on spaceborne active remote sensing  
167 instruments limited to approximately 82°N (Mioche et al. 2015). Year-round ground-based  
168 remote sensing instruments in the Beaufort Sea observed mixed-phase clouds 41% of the time,  
169 with seasonal maxima in spring and autumn and cloud bases ranging from 0-2 km (Shupe et al.  
170 2006). Their rather unique vertical structure often consists of a geometrically thin layer of  
171 supercooled liquid water droplets with a depth of approximately 0.5 km and a layer of ice virga

172 beneath it that commonly precipitates down to the surface (Curry et al. 1997, Shupe et al. 2006,  
173 de Boer et al. 2009, Verlinde et al. 2007, Mioche et al. 2017, Silber et al. 2020a). Liquid water-  
174 topped clouds are particularly common in the Arctic. Active satellite observations have shown  
175 that this distinct vertical structure of mixed-phase clouds is observed in 55 to 70% of all mixed-  
176 phase clouds in the entire Arctic domain, however with the caveat that these satellite  
177 observations inaccurately quantify the bottommost kilometre closest to the surface (Mioche et al.  
178 2015). These clouds also occur at other latitudes; active spaceborne lidar and radar instruments  
179 observed their global frequency of occurrence to be ~8% based on (Zhang et al. 2010).

180

181 Advection of warm and moist air over the Arctic cold sea-ice surface initiates mixed-phase cloud  
182 formation and can lead to extensive stratus clouds (Herman & Goody 1976). LW radiation is  
183 then emitted to space from cloud-top (Pinto 1998), which decreases static stability and leads to  
184 the formation of eddies and a negatively buoyant overturning circulation (Nicholls 1984),  
185 analogous to the process occurring in subtropical stratocumulus clouds (Wood 2012). When  
186 supersaturation exceeds the equilibrium water vapour pressure of liquid water and ice surfaces,  
187 which is established through sufficient updraft velocities in the eddies, these turbulent eddies  
188 promote the growth of both thermodynamic phases --- liquid water and ice, rather than ice solely  
189 growing at the expense of the supercooled liquid droplets through the WBF process (Korolev  
190 2007). The interactions of the cloud-top layer driven by radiative cooling with the surface  
191 below and/or the advected air aloft play a critical role in sustaining the liquid condensate and  
192 preventing the cloud from immediate glaciation (Solomon et al. 2018). Overall, a complex web  
193 of interactions between turbulent, radiative and dynamical processes collectively contribute to  
194 sustaining them, causing Arctic mixed-phase clouds to ultimately persist for days despite their  
195 inherent thermodynamic instability due to the WBF process (Morrison et al. 2012).

196

197 Multilayer clouds are also common in the Arctic, especially during summer (Curry et al. 1996,  
198 Shupe et al. 2011). These structures often consist of a low-level liquid or mixed-phase cloud and  
199 higher level mixed-phase or cirrus clouds (Vassel et al. 2019). These clouds usually form when  
200 large-scale horizontal advection associated with low and high pressure synoptic systems brings  
201 warm and moist air into the Arctic, which can condense in the presence of sufficient CCN and  
202 INPs at various levels. However, multiple cloud layers can also form within the lower  
203 troposphere (Verlinde et al. 2013), when sublimation of ice precipitation generated by the upper  
204 clouds results in cooling and moistening of the subcloud layer; this can lead to the formation of  
205 secondary inversion and a lower cloud (Harrington et al. 1999). The upper clouds of a multilayer  
206 system not only interact with radiation directly but also impact the shape, microphysical and  
207 radiative properties of the lower clouds. Overlying clouds shield lower layers from cloud-  
208 radiative cooling (Verlinde et al. 2013), which limits cloud-generated turbulent motions in the  
209 latter and thus condensation (Shupe et al. 2013). Moreover, ice precipitation from the higher  
210 layers into lower mixed-phase clouds can act as a sink for liquid water droplets through both  
211 vapour growth of the ice and rime collection (Verlinde et al. 2013). Enhanced riming can further  
212 reinforce secondary ice production and eventually trigger cloud glaciation (Lawson et al. 2015,  
213 Lloyd et al. 2015). Despite the critical impact of multilayer systems on the structure of the  
214 atmospheric radiative heating profile, the interactions of the individual layers are poorly  
215 quantified and understood. As a result, the microphysical structure of these systems is  
216 inadequately represented in models, which often overestimate (underestimate) the overall cloud  
217 liquid (ice) content (Morrison et al. 2009).

218

## 219 **2 Factors that control Arctic clouds**

220 We contend that the main factors that influence Arctic mixed-phase clouds include the  
221 thermodynamic structure of the Arctic atmosphere, which is determined by the frequent presence  
222 of temperature and moisture inversions, the oscillation of moisture intrusions that bring large  
223 bouts of moisture to the Arctic and the presence of CCN and INPs. Although large-scale  
224 subsidence is an important factor controlling subtropical clouds (Myers & Norris, 2013),  
225 evidence suggests that large-scale subsidence plays a secondary role in controlling the evolution  
226 of Arctic mixed-phase clouds. A discussion of each of these cloud-controlling factors and the  
227 interconnection between them follows.

### 228 2.1 Thermodynamic structure of the Arctic atmosphere

229 The vertical profiles of temperature and humidity define the thermodynamic structure of the  
230 atmosphere. The Arctic atmosphere's thermodynamic structure is strongly influenced by the  
231 frequent presence of low-level temperature inversions (Curry et al. 1996). In addition, the Arctic  
232 frequently experiences coincident specific humidity inversions (Devasthale et al. 2011). The  
233 degree to which temperature and moisture inversions impact Arctic cloud properties strongly  
234 depends on surface type, i.e. the extent to which the underlying surface is covered by sea ice,  
235 open ocean or land, whether the cloud layer interacts with the surface layer, and the degree to  
236 which the clouds are coupled to the surface (Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2). Arctic clouds are deemed  
237 "coupled" to the Arctic surface when cloud-driven turbulence interacts with surface turbulence  
238 (Figure 1d) and "decoupled" when the subcloud mixed layer remains disconnected from the

239 surface layer (Figure 1b and c). Field measurements indicate that decoupled clouds dominate  
240 both in winter (Gierens et al. 2020) and summer (Shupe et al. 2013, Sotiropoulou et al. 2014).  
241 Cloud-surface interactions can have important implications for a cloud's life-cycle (Shupe et al.  
242 2013), especially from late spring to early October, when both ice-free ocean and melting sea-ice  
243 can supply clouds with enhanced moisture (Pinto & Curry 1995). Along with thermodynamic  
244 effects, clouds coupled to the surface may also be more affected by local sources of CCN  
245 (Mahmood et al. 2019) and INPs (Creamean et al. 2019), which may result in additional  
246 interactions and impacts on the Arctic's surface radiative energy budget and hydrological cycle  
247 (Section 4.4).

## 248 2.2 Temperature inversions

249 Temperature soundings from the year-long Surface Heat Budget of the Arctic Ocean (SHEBA)  
250 field campaign that took place in the Beaufort Sea in 1997 (Uttal et al. 2002) first revealed two  
251 preferred thermodynamic states over sea ice and snow-covered surfaces during the Arctic winter  
252 (Stramler et al. 2011). The most prevalent preferred state is characterized by strong surface  
253 inversions and cloud-free conditions or optically-thin ice clouds (Figure 1a) and is referred to as  
254 the "clear state". The second state is less preferred in the winter and dominates the summer and  
255 autumn seasons when clouds occur for 70-90% of the time and can persist for days to weeks  
256 (Shupe et al. 2011, Nomokonova et al. 2019, Zygmuntowska et al. 2012). The latter state is  
257 characterized by weaker, usually elevated temperature inversions (Tjernstro m & Graversen  
258 2009) and the formation of optically thick mixed-phase clouds (Figure 1b) and is referred to as  
259 the "cloudy state". Both "clear" and "cloudy" states have also been identified over open ocean and  
260 sea ice, such that altogether four states of typical atmospheric conditions in the ice-covered and  
261 open-ocean Arctic prevail (Wendisch et al. 2019).

262 The clear state is characterized by large net upward surface LW radiative energy flux densities of  
263 at least  $40 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ . Downward LW emission from clouds in the cloudy state tends to offset surface  
264 cooling (Zuidema et al. 2005), often resulting in near-zero surface net LW radiation (Stramler et  
265 al. 2011, Graham et al. 2017). While the accurate representation of these two preferred states is  
266 critical for the correct representation of the Arctic surface radiative energy budget, climate  
267 models partly fail to reproduce the cloudy state and this causes systematically cold surface  
268 temperature biases and a stronger winter surface inversion (Pithan et al. 2014).  
269

270 Satellite remote sensing and radiosonde observations show that temperature inversions tend to be  
271 stronger and occur closer to the surface over sea ice than open ocean (Pavelsky et al. 2011,  
272 Nygå rd et al. 2014). Although the temperature inversions are typically stronger during the  
273 winter months (Ganeshan & Wu 2015), averaging over 5 K, tend to be weaker during summer,  
274 averaging approximately 2K (Devasthale et al. 2011). The strength of the temperature  
275 inversions, as commonly quantified by the lower tropospheric stability (LTS), exerts a strong  
276 influence on Arctic low-level cloud properties, which in turn depends on whether the clouds are  
277 coupled or decoupled to the surface. Whether clouds are decoupled (Figure 1 c) or coupled  
278 (Figure 1 d) from the surface in turn is strongly influenced by surface type (Kay & Gettelman  
279 2009). Over sea ice, atmospheric columns with stronger LTS tend to have fewer clouds, less  
280 cloud liquid water content, more cloud ice water content, and are also closer to the surface with a  
281 tendency for more frequent multi-layer clouds (Taylor et al. 2015, Taylor et al. 2019). Here,

282 clouds tend to be decoupled from the surface since it is generally colder than the overlying  
283 atmospheric boundary layer, which is influenced by the episodic advection of warm air from  
284 lower latitudes. Decoupling of the clouds from the surface leaves radiation exchanges as the  
285 only coupling mechanism. Previous studies found that climate models tend to overestimate the  
286 decoupling and the related Arctic LTS relative to observations (Medeiros et al. 2011, Barton et  
287 al. 2014). This was due to cold surface temperature biases over sea ice that arise from a lack of  
288 cloud liquid water path (Barton et al. 2014). On the other hand, a study using active satellite  
289 remote sensing observations showed that the opposite correlation holds over the ocean ---  
290 stronger LTS favours more cloud cover with more liquid water and less ice (Yu et al. 2019).  
291 Over areas of open ocean, that are common during autumn, warmer surface temperatures relative  
292 to the atmosphere enhance surface turbulent fluxes to the atmosphere and couple the clouds more  
293 often to the surface. This warming and moistening of the lower atmosphere can promote larger  
294 cloud fraction and liquid water content, and strong LTS can restrict boundary layer deepening  
295 and enhance low-level liquid clouds. The opposite effect occurs in the presence of weak LTS  
296 that reduces low-level liquid clouds over a coupled boundary layer through enhanced  
297 entrainment effects that are well-studied in subtropical marine stratocumulus clouds (Klein &  
298 Hartmann 1993, Wood 2012). For example, sensible heat fluxes that deepen the boundary layer  
299 were found to reduce cloud cover above Arctic wintertime leads (Li et al. 2020). A notable  
300 exception to the coupling of Arctic clouds to the surface over partially open ocean occurs during  
301 the summer, when clouds are decoupled from the surface due to a lag in sea ice melting that  
302 keeps the surface cooler than the overlying atmosphere. In general, over both surface types,  
303 stronger LTS promotes lower cloud bases. Moreover, in addition to the direct impact of LTS on  
304 cloud macrophysical properties, it can also indirectly influence aerosol-cloud interactions  
305 through the entrainment, transport and recycling of aerosol particles (Section 2.6).

### 306 2.3 Moisture inversions

307 Specific humidity or “moisture” inversions are often observed to accompany temperature  
308 inversions in humidity soundings and satellite profiles of water vapour at multiple layers in the  
309 Arctic atmosphere (Devasthale et al. 2011, Nygård et al. 2014). Over Arctic land, moisture  
310 inversions coincide with temperature inversions roughly 50% of the time on average. These  
311 moisture inversions form via two mechanisms: (i) surface or cloud-top radiative cooling and (ii)  
312 large-scale moisture transport (Naakka et al. 2018). In the former mechanism, LW radiative  
313 cooling at either cloud-top or at the surface can decrease the local moisture supply by promoting  
314 the condensation of water vapour and simultaneously cool the cloud-top or surface, thereby  
315 forming coincident moisture and temperature inversions. In the latter mechanism, moisture  
316 inversions are formed via the advection of moist air over a dry air mass. Over mountainous  
317 regions with large slopes such those that exist in Greenland, katabatic winds are commonly  
318 responsible for moisture inversions (Vihma et al. 2011). Note that katabatic winds over  
319 Greenland and wind-induced mixing have the opposite effect on the strength of moisture  
320 inversions; although the latter typically tends to erode moisture inversions, the former  
321 strengthens them.

322  
323 The frequency, strength and mechanism of formation of Arctic moisture inversions varies with  
324 season and with surface type. Arctic moisture inversions tend to be stronger during summer.  
325 Annually, their strength varies from 0.2 - 2  $\text{gkg}^{-1}$ . However, moisture inversions are more  
326 frequent in the winter (Devasthale et al. 2011, Naakka et al. 2018), occurring up to 80% of the

327 time, with depths ranging from 200-900 m (Nygaard et al. 2014, Sotiropoulou et al. 2016).  
328 While the surface radiative cooling mechanism controls their frequency in the winter, the  
329 moisture advection mechanism is considered the dominant formation mechanism in summer  
330 (Naakka et al. 2018) when the Arctic Ocean is frequently affected by the transport of southerly  
331 warm and moist air (Naakka et al. 2018, Tjernstrom et al. 2019), although episodes of intense  
332 poleward moisture transport, known as moisture intrusions (Section 4.2) have been reported  
333 year-round (Pithan et al. 2018). Over sea ice, the frequency of co-existent moisture and  
334 temperature inversions is higher (Sedlar et al. 2012, Sotiropoulou et al. 2016) due to the fact that  
335 surface sensible and latent heat fluxes are generally small and of similar magnitude, which limits  
336 the instantaneous differences in boundary layer heat and moisture transport (Nygaard et al. 2014).  
337  
338 Although moisture inversions are not unique to the polar regions, they do occur much more  
339 frequently in the polar regions relative to warmer latitudes and they are also structurally different  
340 in the Arctic compared to other regions. The increasing moisture supplies above the temperature  
341 inversion base often promotes condensation within the stable layer, allowing Arctic low-level  
342 clouds to extend into the inversion (Figure 1 b and c). This unique feature of Arctic clouds is  
343 commonly found over sea-ice (Sedlar et al. 2012) but not over open-water (Sotiropoulou et al.  
344 2016). Moreover, the extension of the liquid layer into the inversion alters the effective cloud  
345 emission temperature; although it has a weak positive impact on LW irradiances at the surface  
346 ( $\sim 1.5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ ) the increase in outgoing LW radiation at the top of the atmosphere can be up to  $10$   
347  $\text{Wm}^{-2}$  (Sedlar et al. 2012).  
348

349 If the cloud layer is decoupled from the surface, elevated moisture inversions in the Arctic can  
350 play an important role in sustaining the lifetime of liquid clouds by entraining moist air from the  
351 inversion into the cloud and therefore increasing their optical thickness and radiative properties  
352 (Egerer et al. 2021). Idealized large-eddy simulations have shown that elevated moisture  
353 inversions can serve as a sufficient moisture source to maintain a decoupled cloud for days to a  
354 week, although this resulted in small differences in the properties of liquid and ice within a  
355 single mixed-phase cloud layer compared to the case with a coupled cloud without an elevated  
356 moisture inversion (Solomon et al. 2014). Thus, the existence of elevated moisture inversions  
357 implies that surface coupling is not the only source of moisture for Arctic clouds and that the  
358 cloud layer can evolve independently of whether it is coupled to the surface and is independent  
359 of the surface type. There is currently no consensus on the impact of surface coupling as a  
360 moisture source to maintain Arctic mixed-phase clouds based on the analysis of field  
361 observations; while some observational studies suggest that additional surface moisture sources  
362 enhance liquid condensate (Shupe et al. 2013, Gierens et al. 2020) others do not find a significant  
363 impact (Sotiropoulou et al. 2014). However, footprint-level satellite observations have shown  
364 that the influence of surface coupling on the evolution of cloud properties depends on the local  
365 atmospheric meteorological regime partitioned by LTS and mid-tropospheric vertical velocity  
366 (Taylor et al. 2015). The situation contrasts with cloud-surface decoupling in the mid-latitudes  
367 where decoupling promotes cloud break-up (Wood, 2012). Entrained air at cloud-top is usually  
368 dry air over the mid-latitude counterpart (Figure 1e) and thus cloud-top entrainment, evaporation  
369 and precipitation leads to cloud dissipation when the cloud system is disconnected from the  
370 surface vapour supply.

#### 371 2.4 Warm and moist air intrusions

372 Several recent studies indicate that anomalously large moisture and heat transport from the south  
373 into the Arctic plays a critical role in Arctic amplification (Kapschetal. 2013, Woods &  
374 Caballero 2016, Johanssonetal. 2017, Messori et al. 2018). Such episodes bring warm and moist  
375 air into the Arctic and are often linked to extreme surface and sea-ice melting (Woods et al.  
376 2013, Tjernstro'm et al. 2015, Park et al. 2015a, Park et al. 2015b, Park et al. 2015c, Boisvert et  
377 al. 2015, Hegyi & Taylor 2018). This phenomenon is sometimes referred to as warm and moist  
378 air intrusions or simply "moisture intrusions".

379  
380 Wintertime moisture intrusions are supported by a synoptic blocking pattern to the east of the  
381 region affected (Woods et al. 2013). Moreover, a blocking system over the Ural Mountains can  
382 induce significant sea-ice decline in the Barents and Kara Seas when combined with the positive  
383 phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation, as this circulation pattern favours southerly moisture  
384 transport into the basins (Gong & Luo 2017). Several studies have linked the transport of  
385 enhanced moisture to poleward-propagating planetary-scale Rossby waves triggered by tropical  
386 convection (Yoo et al. 2012, Lee 2014, Park et al. 2015c, Baggett et al. 2016), which is referred  
387 to as the "tropically excited Arctic warming mechanism".

388  
389 Moisture intrusions exert a substantial influence on Arctic cloud conditions. When transported  
390 air masses originate from open-water, they cool and condense when advected over sea-ice,  
391 resulting in cloud formation (Ali & Pithan 2020). Moisture intrusions are also one of the large-  
392 scale moisture transport mechanisms that lead to moisture inversions described in Section 4.1.2  
393 that sustain clouds that are decoupled from the surface. Many studies have linked the occurrence

394 of moisture intrusions with increased cloudiness (Persson et al. 2017, Johansson et al. 2017, Liu  
395 et al. 2018, Messori et al. 2018) and enhanced downward LW radiation (Woods et al. 2013, Park  
396 et al. 2015a, Park et al. 2015b, Park et al. 2015c, Messori et al. 2018) and thus surface warming.  
397 Large-eddy simulations reveal that advected heat has a relatively weak impact on cloud  
398 properties whereas moisture is crucial for cloud maintenance in the Arctic boundary layer  
399 (Sotiropoulou et al. 2018). In contrast, the advection of warm and moist air within oceanic  
400 boundary layers is associated with a negative impact on cloud fraction (Knudsen et al. 2018,  
401 Eirund et al. 2019). Heat and moisture increase within the boundary layer promote  
402 destabilization and convection in the lower atmosphere (Eirund et al. 2019). As a result, the  
403 stratocumulus cloud breaks up, the cloud-top is lifted and cloud fraction is substantially reduced.  
404 Decreases in cloud fraction and cloud liquid water content result in enhanced outgoing LW  
405 radiation and surface cooling. However, when advection occurs above the boundary layer, it can  
406 promote the formation of multilayer structures and thus an overall increase in liquid water path  
407 (Eirund et al. 2019).

408

409 While infrequent, moisture intrusions are responsible for the bulk of the poleward moisture  
410 transport in the Arctic during both winter and summer (Liu & Barnes 2015). Moreover, the  
411 associated anomalies in moisture content and cloudiness have been linked to accelerated onset of  
412 the sea-ice melting period (Kapsch et al. 2013, Mortin et al. 2016). Yet, despite their climatic  
413 significance (Pithan et al. 2018), moisture intrusions are poorly represented in climate models,  
414 which fail to reproduce their regional characteristics (Woods et al. 2017). These deficiencies can  
415 have a substantial impact on Arctic cloud representation in climate models, as models with  
416 enhanced poleward heat and moisture transport produce improved cloud fractions and cloud  
417 liquid properties (Baek et al. 2020). Resolving these model issues requires dedicated  
418 measurement campaigns in a Lagrangian air parcel framework (Pithan et al. 2018, Wendisch et  
419 al. 2021).

420

## 421 2.5 Large-scale subsidence

422 While several recent studies have focused on the impact of large-scale advection on Arctic  
423 clouds, less is known about the impact of subsidence, which often accompanies poleward  
424 atmospheric transport (Tjernstro m et al. 2019, Neggers et al. 2019). Large-scale subsidence is  
425 weaker in the Arctic compared to the subtropics and thus potentially plays a lesser role in the  
426 Arctic. Dedicated measurements of synoptic-scale divergence and derived vertical pressure  
427 velocity, such as those performed in the subtropics (Stevens et al., 2021) are scarce in the Arctic;  
428 however, there are plans to conduct appropriate samplings (Wendisch et al. 2021). In the Arctic,  
429 large-scale subsidence is weak and can be thought of as being correlated with the generation of a  
430 surface temperature inversion --- as the air is advected over the central Arctic from lower  
431 latitudes it slowly sinks as the air radiatively cools (Tjernstro m et al. 2019). Thus, unlike the  
432 case in the subtropics, subsidence is not an active driver of the inversion strength and is merely  
433 correlated with stronger LTS and inversion strength. In this section, we discuss our current  
434 limited knowledge of the role of subsidence in Arctic clouds based on a limited set of field  
435 observations, large-eddy simulations, as well as large-scale climate models and satellite  
436 observations.

437

438 Reanalysis data and field observations from the Arctic Clouds in Summer Experiment (ACSE)  
439 have revealed that air parcels were higher in altitude and further south a few days before the  
440 presence of a surface inversion (Tjernström et al. 2019). Although subsidence is generally  
441 linked with the presence of a surface temperature inversion over melting sea-ice, moisture and  
442 cloud characteristics are more variable (Tjernström et al. 2019). In particular, the formation of  
443 moisture inversions and low clouds or fog was found to be associated with weaker subsidence,  
444 compared to cases where the stratified boundary layer is drier and often cloud-free. While  
445 reanalysis data suggests that subsidence weakly enhances the fraction and liquid water path of  
446 Arctic clouds (Zhao & Wang 2010), field observations suggest that subsidence is correlated with  
447 the existence of optically thinner Arctic clouds, potentially by impacting the entrainment of  
448 aerosol particles into the boundary layer (Zuidema et al. 2005).

449

450 The limited number of large-eddy simulations has shown contradictory results in terms of the  
451 role of subsidence in Arctic low-level cloud properties. In a study employing large-eddy  
452 simulations, increases in large-scale subsidence result in more turbulent clouds with enhanced  
453 liquid condensate over open-water (Young et al. 2018). The enhanced subsidence reinforces the  
454 boundary layer inversion strength and reduces entrainment of warmer air aloft. This allows for  
455 greater cloud liquid, thus more efficient precipitation, cloud-top radiative cooling and downdraft  
456 turbulent production. The combination of strong cloud-top radiative cooling, sub-cloud rain  
457 evaporative cooling and latent heat release from snow growth at cloud base destabilize the  
458 boundary layer, resulting in more convective structures (Young et al. 2018). However, other  
459 studies showed that enhanced subsidence resulted in an overall decrease in cloud liquid water  
460 content over sea-ice due to entrainment of drier air (Dimitrelos et al. 2020). In line with this  
461 study, strong and sudden subsidence led to cloud dissipation when the boundary layer top was  
462 pushed below the lifting condensation level (Neggers et al. 2019). The cloud response to  
463 variations in large-scale vertical forcing for different surface, thermodynamic and microphysical  
464 conditions has not been comprehensively explored. Additional studies with cloud resolving  
465 simulations, preferably in a Lagrangian framework (Neggers et al. 2019, Dimitrelos et al. 2020),  
466 are necessary to improve the understanding of the role of subsidence in Arctic cloud evolution  
467 and radiation (Wendisch et al. 2021).

468

469 Finally, the role of subsidence as an Arctic cloud-controlling factor is also limited to a few  
470 studies employing large-scale climate models and satellite observations. Synergistic  
471 CloudSat/CALIPSO observations and reanalysis-based regimes have shown that the Arctic  
472 atmosphere produces a wide range of 500 hPa vertical pressure velocity values ( $\omega_{500}$ ) ranging  
473 from weak ascent to strong sinking motion for each of the LTS-based regimes (Barton et al.  
474 2012, Taylor et al. 2015). Under conditions of large-scale subsidence, the altitude of low-level  
475 clouds was very sensitive to LTS. Satellite observations and a climate model also show that  
476 stronger subsidence may also increase relative humidity in the lower troposphere (Curry et al.  
477 1988), and in turn trigger Arctic sea-ice melt in the summer via enhanced downward LW cloud  
478 radiation at the surface (Huang et al. 2021). However, the dependence of cloud properties on  
479  $\omega_{500}$  was shown to be much weaker than that on LTS in the CMIP5 models (Taylor et al. 2019),  
480 suggesting a relatively minor role compared to other cloud-controlling factors in the context of  
481 large spatial and temporal scales.

482

## 483 2.6 Aerosol particles

484 The influence of aerosol particles on the cloud microphysical properties that drive cloud  
485 radiative effects is poorly quantified yet is of fundamental importance to Earth's climate and its  
486 future change (Fan et al. 2016). Although Arctic low- and mid-level cloud properties and  
487 radiative effects can be highly susceptible to aerosol effects on a local scale (Garrett & Zhao,  
488 2006, Lubin & Vogelmann, 2006), regional-scale impacts have not been thoroughly explored. A  
489 series of recent reviews on topics related to Arctic aerosol distributions, mixed phase cloud  
490 modeling, microphysics, and aerosol interactions show that regional uncertainty in aerosol-cloud  
491 interactions (ACIs) is in large part due to (i) CCN and INP levels being difficult to predict, and  
492 (ii) aerosol impacts on clouds being microphysically complex and linked to meteorology  
493 (Morrison et al. 2012, Fan et al. 2016, Kanji et al. 2017, Lohmann 2017, Fridlind et al. 2007,  
494 Willis et al. 2018, Schmale et al. 2021). This section complements these reviews by linking the  
495 larger-scale meteorological influences discussed in the sections above with what is known about  
496 Arctic-specific aerosol sources and microphysical cloud impacts. Specifically, we discuss the  
497 factors affecting the concentrations and activity of Arctic CCN and INPs, the robust and  
498 uncertain mechanisms by which these CCN and INPs impact radiation-relevant cloud properties,  
499 and how aerosol cloud interactions may be changing with a warming Arctic.

### 500 2.6.1 Sources, concentrations, and activity of Arctic CCN and INPs

501 CCN and INPs are derived from marine, terrestrial, and anthropogenic sources. Combustion-  
502 derived aerosols are sporadically transported to the Arctic from lower latitudes (Soja et al. 2008)  
503 and there are local near-surface aerosol particle sources from exposed glacial till dust (Zwaafink  
504 et al. 2016, Tobo et al. 2019), shipping and oil extraction (Schmale et al. 2018), and thawing  
505 permafrost (Creamean et al. 2020). However, more commonly, summertime Arctic aerosol  
506 particles are produced from local marine primary and secondary sources. These sources can  
507 provide at least half of the CCN supply to the Arctic atmosphere via primary sea spray emissions  
508 (Quinn et al. 2017) and new particle formation (Dunne et al. 2016, Heintzenberg et al. 2017,  
509 Merikanto et al. 2009, Yu & Luo 2009). Marine aerosols may also supply more than half of all  
510 INPs at high latitudes (Burrows et al. 2013, Wilson et al. 2015). In contrast, during winter and

511 spring, marine biogenic aerosol particle concentrations are lower when the open ocean is less  
512 exposed to the atmosphere due to both greater sea ice cover and lower biological productivity,  
513 and aerosol particles derived from long-range transport, dust and combustion sources are more  
514 prevalent (Barrie 1986, Stohl 2006, Quinn et al. 2007, Arrigo 2008, Engvall et al. 2008, Croft et  
515 al. 2016), although marine sources of INPs are still present to some extent (Hartmann et al.  
516 2019b). Sea salt aerosol particle concentrations can be larger in winter, potentially due to  
517 upward migration of brine from underlying sea ice and subsequently lifting and sublimation in  
518 the atmosphere through a strong influence from blowing snow (Huang & Jaegle 2017). Long-  
519 range transport of aerosol particles to the Arctic from sources such as dust and smoke (Bullard et  
520 al. 2016) as well as biomass burning aerosols derived from boreal forest fires especially during  
521 the spring season (Marelle et al. 2015) are also important sources of Arctic CCN and INPs.  
522 Long-range transported wintertime aerosols can accumulate and form Arctic haze due to the  
523 combination of a cold, stable boundary layer and reduced particle and gas removal rates (Shaw  
524 1995). In particular, black carbon is an important contributor of Arctic haze and its wintertime  
525 peak is controlled by its hydrophilic fraction and weak wet deposition rate (Shen et al. 2017).

526  
527 Concentrations of CCN typically range between 1-100 cm<sup>-3</sup> at supersaturations between 0.3-  
528 0.8%, but “tenuous” regimes with CCN concentrations < 10 cm<sup>-3</sup> have been observed during  
529 multiple field campaigns (Bigg & Leck 2001, Bigg et al. 1996, Lannefors et al. 1983, Leitch et  
530 al. 2016, Leck & Svensson 2015, Leck et al. 2002, Mauritsen et al. 2011, Tjernstro m et al.  
531 2014). CCN levels are lowest during the summer, when midlatitude aerosol transport is  
532 inefficient and midlatitude wet deposition is likely to scavenge long-range transported aerosols  
533 before they reach the Arctic (Bourgeois & Bey 2011, Di Pierro et al. 2013, Law & Stohl 2007,  
534 Quinn et al. 2007). Unlike CCN and aerosols in general, Arctic INPs appear to be more  
535 prevalent during the summer (Wex et al. 2019), although overall their concentrations tend to be  
536 quite low, ranging from 10<sup>-4</sup> – 10<sup>-2</sup> L<sup>-1</sup> at -15°C (Mason et al. 2016, Si et al. 2018, Creamean et  
537 al. 2019, Hartmann et al. 2019a, Irish et al. 2019, Wex et al. 2019), although concentrations have  
538 been observed as high as 0.25 L<sup>-1</sup> (Bigg 1996). Ice core data suggests that the summertime INP  
539 peak is caused by biological aerosols of marine and possibly terrestrial origin (Hartmann et al.  
540 2019b). Ship-based CCN observations from (Wendisch et al. 2019) were lowest when their  
541 research vessel was surrounded by sea ice and highest during open ocean conditions, which  
542 supports the role of local marine emissions. However, in those locations where dust is present,  
543 dust may be an equal or more significant source of INPs than biogenic aerosols (Si et al. 2018,  
544 Vergara-Temprado et al. 2017, Abbatt et al. 2019, Irish et al. 2019, Huang et al. 2018, Tobo et al.  
545 2019). Local dust is more exposed during the summer, but long-range transported dust may be  
546 more common in the winter.

547  
548 The distributions and ability of CCN and INPs to impact Arctic clouds are quite heterogeneous  
549 in space and time (Willis et al. 2018, Moore et al. 2011), and are difficult to characterize because  
550 both CCN and INPs can be modified during atmospheric transport. For example, polluted  
551 aerosols are not thought to be major sources of INPs at the temperature ranges important to  
552 mixed phase clouds (Borys 1989, Hartmann et al. 2019b). Moreover, if they mix with INPs from  
553 other sources, the INP activity of these other particles may be reduced after being coated with  
554 sulphuric acid, and they may not freeze until colder temperatures (Girard & Asl 2014, Borys  
555 1989, Cziczo et al. 2009, Eastwood et al. 2009, Grenier & Blanchet 2010, Tan et al. 2014,  
556 Coopman et al. 2018b). However, it is important to note that while some studies found that

557 pollution coatings can decrease the ice-nucleating ability of certain INPs, others found no impact  
558 (Archuleta et al. 2005, Knopf & Koop 2006). Given the generally low concentrations of aerosols  
559 in the region, the impact of pollution coatings may be particularly important for Arctic aerosol  
560 cloud interactions (Coopman et al. 2018a).

561  
562 Neither CCN nor INPs can be accurately measured in the Arctic with current satellite remote  
563 sensors, so much of our information on their distributions relies on field data. Arctic INP field  
564 data are rare and are associated with non-negligible uncertainties (Demott et al. 2015, Garimella  
565 et al. 2018). The link between CCN and INP distributions and ambient meteorological  
566 conditions adds another level of challenge to CCN and INP prediction. At temperatures below ~  
567  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the Arctic, INPs can be activated from sources that otherwise might not have been  
568 important at lower latitudes (Wilson et al. 2015, Kanji et al. 2017) where INPs cannot get lofted  
569 to high enough altitudes with sufficiently cold temperatures outside regions of deep convection.  
570 At the same time, Arctic INPs are able to nucleate ice at temperatures as high as  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Wex et  
571 al. 2019), although activation at these warm temperatures are typical for INPs composed of  
572 bacteria that can also be found at other latitudes (Murray et al. 2012). Moreover, INPs become  
573 less effective at warmer temperatures, and more INPs and CCN become active at higher water  
574 vapour supersaturations. CCN are easier to sample than INPs, but their distribution is also not  
575 well known. For example, in very clean Arctic conditions, even particles as small as 20-30 nm  
576 can nucleate cloud droplets at high water vapour supersaturations (Burkart et al. 2017, Croft et  
577 al. 2016, Koike et al. 2019, Leaitch et al. 2016). These potentially cloud-active aerosol particles  
578 are too small to be detectable from current cooling, orne instruments (Hallen & Philbrick 2018),  
579 and must be sampled by in situ measurements. Moreover, the aforementioned tenuous aerosol  
580 layers consisting of low concentrations of CCN and INPs that are very optically thin are also not  
581 detectable from spaceborne instruments (Winker et al. 2013, Cho et al. 2013). For these reasons,  
582 CCN and INP distributions are least well-constrained outside of clouds, at high altitudes and  
583 over remote regions where few CCN and INP field data exist.

584

## 585 2.6.2 Aerosol-cloud-radiation interactions

586 Models consistently show that aerosol impacts in Arctic mixed-phase clouds are large enough to  
587 potentially affect sea ice melt (Jiang et al. 2000, Shindell & Faluvegi 2009, Gagné' et al. 2017,  
588 Regayre et al. 2015, Mahmood et al. 2019, Koch et al. 2009, Alterskjær et al. 2010, Dalsøren et  
589 al. 2013). For example, INP levels have a large impact on modelled cloud phase, cloud fraction  
590 and precipitation (Fridlind et al. 2012, Prenni et al. 2007, Ovchinnikov et al. 2014, Morrison et  
591 al. 2011), with potentially important impacts on surface CREs (Shupe & Intrieri 2004), top-of-  
592 the-atmosphere CREs (Xie et al. 2013, English et al. 2014), and ultimately, Arctic amplification  
593 (Tan & Storelvmo 2019). Enhanced INP levels will affect heterogeneous ice crystal formation  
594 and growth processes, for example via immersion freezing (de Boer et al. 2010). INP-driven  
595 glaciation could affect cloud lifetime and precipitation through either liquid removal in the cloud  
596 or through the WBF process referred to as the "glaciation effect" (Curry 1995, Lohmann 2002)  
597 and/or associated secondary ice multiplication (Field et al. 2017, Korolev & Leisner 2020).  
598 Conversely, deactivation of pre-existing INPs when pollution aerosols are present can reduce ice  
599 nuclei levels and glaciation (Girard et al. 2005, Lohmann 2017).

600

601 However, clear in situ evidence is still lacking for how often these processes occur or how  
602 important they might be in part because many past aircraft campaigns (Table 1) have missed key  
603 parameters, such as INP or CCN levels, aerosol composition, or ice cloud particle habit. Also,  
604 parameterizations for ice phase processes in mixed-phase clouds lead to large uncertainties in  
605 modelled cloud properties that have not yet been resolved (Tan & Storelvmo 2016, Boucher et  
606 al. 2013, Xie et al. 2013, Liu et al. 2011, Morrison et al. 2011, Klein et al. 2009, Taylor et al.  
607 2019). Moreover, while INP-related processes appear to drive cloud microphysical and radiative  
608 responses to aerosols in some conditions and locations (Solomon et al. 2018, Costa et al. 2017,  
609 Jouan et al. 2012), CCN-related processes may be more important in other situations (Lance et  
610 al. 2011, Norgren et al. 2018). For example, the role of CCN-driven processes seems to be  
611 particularly important in tenuous mixed-phase cloud regimes with very low cloud droplet  
612 number concentrations (Loewe et al. 2017, Stevens et al. 2018).

613  
614 There are also various other ways that CCN can impact mixed phase clouds. Enhanced levels of  
615 CCN lead to smaller and more numerous liquid cloud droplets in Arctic mixed-phase clouds on  
616 average over large spatial and time scales (Coopman et al. 2018a). Smaller droplets can affect  
617 cloud lifetime and precipitation by (i) impeding liquid droplet precipitation (Albrecht 1989), (ii)  
618 reducing liquid droplet collection from falling ice particles (Borys et al. 2000, Lohmann et al.  
619 2003) known as the the “riming indirect effect” (Lohmann 2017), and (iii) reducing secondary  
620 ice production from collision and splintering processes (Rosenfeld 2000). Cloud lifetime and  
621 droplet size in thin clouds affect cloud LW radiative emissivity (Shupe & Intrieri 2004), which in  
622 turn impacts moisture and surface turbulent fluxes, cloud-top cooling, and mixed layer depth  
623 (Solomon et al. 2018, Lubin & Vogelmann 2006, Garrett & Zhao 2006, Garrett et al. 2009). In  
624 summer, smaller and more numerous droplets at constant liquid water content will also cause  
625 more radiation to be scattered back to space (Twomey 1977). Multi-layer clouds are commonly  
626 observed in this region (Liu et al. 2012), and changes to mixed-phase cloud CCN-driven  
627 precipitation could also affect seeding of lower-level clouds. Subsequent seeding-related changes  
628 to cloud ice and precipitation formation (Luo et al. 2008, Silber et al. 2020a, Vassel et al. 2019)  
629 may then affect cloud dissipation and surface albedo. In some conditions both CCN and INPs  
630 might drive co-occurring processes that can behave nonlinearly.

631  
632 Currently, the concentrations of CCN and INPs are a major source of uncertainties in models of  
633 Arctic mixed-phase clouds. These concentrations are particularly poorly constrained within  
634 clouds, where they can be entrained (Avramov et al. 2011, Igel et al. 2017), redistributed  
635 (Solomon et al. 2018), scavenged and precipitated (Morrison et al. 2005, Willis et al. 2018).  
636 INPs may also be sublimated and then re-entrained (Solomon et al. 2015, Possner et al. 2017,  
637 Verlinde et al. 2007, Fan et al. 2009) and they may become more efficient when CCN-related  
638 processes like LW cloud-top radiative cooling lower cloud temperatures and increase immersion  
639 freezing rates (Fu & Xue 2017, Possner et al. 2017). The uncertainty in aerosol impacts on cloud  
640 phase are another major issue in models. Cloud phase, along with cloud fraction, exerts a large  
641 influence on CREs. Aerosol impacts on cloud phase are poorly constrained in global climate  
642 models not solely in the Arctic but also globally (Karlsson & Svensson 2011, Cesana et al. 2015,  
643 Tan et al. 2016, McCoy et al. 2016, Taylor et al. 2019).

644  
645 Field and remote sensing data offer complementary insights to models of aerosol interactions in  
646 Arctic mixed-phase clouds, but must be viewed in light of their own uncertainties. A main

647 challenge is that aerosols often co-vary with meteorological factors that control clouds as  
648 discussed in the previous sections. For example, across Arctic sea ice regions during polar night,  
649 satellite observations showed that combustion aerosols are associated with an average  $10 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$   
650 difference in surface LW CREs, but that between 57-91% of this signal is caused by changes in  
651 meteorological conditions associated with aerosol transport (Zamora et al. 2018). Other  
652 challenges with interpreting field data include that ice concentrations within clouds are difficult  
653 to measure accurately (Fridlind et al. 2007), and microphysical processes can be impacted by co-  
654 occurring cold-weather phenomena, including secondary ice production (Field et al. 2017,  
655 Korolev & Leisner 2020) and seeding from either Arctic multi-layer clouds above the mixed-  
656 phase cloud layer (Luo et al. 2008) or frost flowers (Xu et al. 2016). Moreover, the sign,  
657 magnitude, and mechanisms by which aerosols impact Arctic mixed-phase cloud precipitation  
658 and radiative effects vary, depending not only on CCN and INP levels, but also on incoming  
659 radiation and surface albedo, multi-layer cloud radiative shielding, and cloud properties such as  
660 height, temperature, and liquid water content (Quinn et al. 2008, Shupe & Intrieri 2004, Sedlar et  
661 al. 2011, Willis et al. 2018, Sedlar & Shupe 2014, Morrison et al. 2012, Stofferahn & Boybeyi  
662 2017). For example, at Utqiagvik, Alaska, aerosol microphysical effects on clouds may lead to  
663 surface heating as large as  $12 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  in winter, and surface cooling as large as  $12 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  in the  
664 summer (Zhao & Garrett 2015). Therefore, to quantify aerosol-cloud effects across the Arctic,  
665 observations are needed over large spatial and temporal scales, with attention paid to verifiably  
666 accounting for meteorological co-variability with aerosols.

667  
668 When data are compared over large temporal and spatial scales and across cloud types, most  
669 remote sensing-based observations seem to agree that combustion and dust aerosols are  
670 associated with some combination of higher glaciation temperatures, more cloud ice, more  
671 precipitation, and reduced cloud fraction in the Arctic (Zhang et al. 2018, Coopman et al. 2018b,  
672 Filioglou et al. 2019, Zamora et al. 2018, Villanueva et al. 2020, Coopman et al. 2020). Aerosols  
673 have been associated with less cloud ice and less precipitation at specific locations or in specific  
674 cloud types (Zamora et al. 2017, Norgren et al. 2018), but these trends seem to be associated  
675 with combustion aerosols (Filioglou et al. 2019) and might be caused by either a CCN-related  
676 process or by a deactivation effect. Even presuming that the glaciation effect is dominant now  
677 (and more work is still needed to verify this hypothesis), it is unclear whether this process will  
678 remain dominant in a future warmer, wetter, and more aerosol-laden Arctic environment. Either  
679 way, for the reasons discussed above, aerosol-related uncertainties contribute to major  
680 uncertainties in climate projections (Bellouin et al. 2020), especially for the Arctic where rapid  
681 changes to historic aerosol, moisture, and heat fluxes are expected.

682

### 683 2.6.3 Aerosol-meteorology interactions and their impact on clouds and radiation

684 Aerosol impacts on radiation-relevant cloud properties have a strong relationship with  
685 meteorological conditions, such as temperature. Warmer temperatures reduce INP effectiveness  
686 and glaciation and riming processes (Eirund et al. 2019). As Arctic INPs are thought to have a  
687 large influence on mixed phase cloud processes (Section 4.4.2) this warming could become  
688 increasingly important to cloud dynamics. Warmer temperatures can also affect the  
689 microphysical environment in which aerosols are suspended, influencing the degree to which  
690 aerosols contribute to the Twomey effect, the WBF process, precipitation, splintering, and  
691 riming, and more generally, the potential importance of CCN compared to INP-dominated

692 aerosol microphysical processes. Thus, although many uncertainties remain, INP-driven  
693 glaciation processes might become less influential in the future warmer Arctic.

694  
695 Besides temperature, other related meteorological parameters can influence Arctic ACIs as well,  
696 such as decoupling with the surface (Creamean et al. 2021), as well as stability and moisture  
697 levels. Besides affecting temperature, decoupling limits the influence of surface aerosol sources  
698 on clouds at higher altitudes, but promotes recycling of INPs that are released during sublimation  
699 of precipitating ice particles at the base of the subcloud layer (Fan et al. 2015, Solomon et al.  
700 2018). This process, which plays a critical role in maintaining cloud-phase partitioning (Solomon  
701 et al. 2015, Solomon et al. 2018), is likely not favoured in coupled clouds (Kalesse et al. 2016).  
702 A more stable atmosphere (such as over sea ice) promotes weaker cloud-top entrainment of free-  
703 tropospheric air that can serve as moisture and a source of CCN and INP concentrations in the  
704 cloud layer (Solomon et al. 2011, Solomon et al. 2014, Morrison et al. 2012, Fridlind et al. 2007,  
705 Coopman et al. 2018b). It may also concentrate aerosols emitted from local sources (Willis et al.  
706 2018). Atmospheric moisture content, which is impacted by temperatures, atmospheric stability  
707 and moisture intrusions, influences aerosol deposition and loss processes (Browse et al. 2012),  
708 and in turn impacts a CCN/INP's lifetime potential for impacting clouds. More moist and less  
709 stable conditions over open ocean can also activate smaller CCN particles, which might then  
710 affect cloud droplet feedbacks with mixed-phase cloud vertical mixing and radiative cooling  
711 (Silber et al. 2020b).

712  
713 Moisture intrusions may also influence ACIs, particularly in areas decoupled from the surface.  
714 These intrusions are often aerosol-laden, and they produce not only in more aerosol transport  
715 (Thomas et al. 2019), but also in more frequent precipitation and aerosol loss. The extension of  
716 cloud top into the inversion layer modulates aerosol fluxes into the cloud as well as moisture  
717 entrainment fluxes and can thus impact cloud lifecycles (Solomon et al. 2011, Egerer et al. 2020,  
718 Igel et al. 2017). Other changes, for example in large-scale subsidence, might also affect the  
719 cloud microphysical environment upon which aerosols operate, for example impacting cloud-top  
720 radiative cooling rates and ice and liquid water paths, as well as aerosol entrainment rates and  
721 precipitation loss rates (Young et al. 2018, Brooks et al. 2017, Dimitrelos et al. 2020).

722

723 Multiple studies have found Arctic cloud responses to non-marine aerosols to be clearly reduced  
 724 over open ocean compared to sea ice (Zamora et al. 2017, Zamora et al. 2018, Eirund et al. 2019,  
 725 Filioglou 2019). That there would be a difference between open ocean and sea ice ACIs is not  
 726 surprising, given that the two surface types produce very different levels of stability and aerosol,  
 727 heat, and moisture fluxes and aerosol emissions (Wendisch et al. 2019, Willis et al. 2018,  
 728 Schmale et al. 2021). For example, not only are marine aerosol levels much larger over the open  
 729 ocean than over sea ice, but clouds over open ocean generally experience warmer and wetter  
 730 conditions compared to those over sea ice. Aerosols may at times also impact meteorology, as  
 731 when aerosol-driven increases in thin cloud LW radiative emissivity warm the surface and  
 732 thereby increase moisture and heat fluxes (Morrison et al. 2012). Although the dominant causes  
 733 for the observed differences between open ocean and sea ice are unknown, the trend of reduced  
 734 aerosol influence over open ocean regions suggests that in the absence of significant new aerosol  
 735 sources or pathways, the impacts of non-marine aerosols may become less influential in the  
 736 future as the Arctic warms.

737

### 738 **3 A brief survey of Arctic field campaigns targeting cloud-controlling factors**

739 Despite limitations in their temporal and spatial coverage, in situ field observations are an  
 740 indispensable tool for climate science by virtue of their relatively high accuracy and frequency of  
 741 measurements relative to global satellite observations that can be used to validate regional  
 742 models and develop model parameterizations. A number of field campaigns over the Arctic that  
 743 took place mostly during the non-winter months have been performed over the past few decades  
 744 (Figure 2a) and have been combined with ground-based stations in the Arctic (Figure 2b) to  
 745 compensate for the limitations of spaceborne remote sensing. This section begins with a brief  
 746 overview of a number of these field campaigns and some of the studies that have applied  
 747 observations from them to gain insight on the influence of several factors that influence Arctic  
 748 clouds. This is followed a short discussion of some lessons learned from three examples of the  
 749 numerous field campaigns conducted in the past, namely the combined airborne and ship-based  
 750 Arctic Cloud Observations Using airborne measurements during polar Day (ACLOUD), the  
 751 Airborne measurements of radiative and turbulent FLUXes of energy and momentum in the  
 752 Arctic boundary layer (AFLUX) and the Physical feedback of Arctic PBL, Sea ice, Cloud And  
 753 Aerosol (PASCAL) field campaigns.

#### 754 **3.1 Overview**

755 Several aspects of Arctic clouds, aerosols, radiation and their interactions were targeted by field  
 756 campaigns. Selected examples that aimed to study the interaction of the thermodynamic and  
 757 turbulent boundary layer structure with clouds include the Beaufort and Arctic Storms  
 758 Experiment (BASE) (Gultepe et al. 2000), the First International Satellite Cloud Climatology  
 759 Project (ISCCP) Regional Experiment-Arctic Cloud Experiment (FIRE-ACE) (Curry et al.  
 760 2000), the Mixed-Phase Arctic Cloud Experiment (M-PACE) (Verlinde et al. 2007), the Arctic  
 761 Summer Cloud Ocean Study (ASCOS) (Tjernstro'm et al. 2014), the Arctic Clouds in Summer  
 762 Expedition (ACSE) (Tjernstro'm et al. 2015), AFLUX and Surface Heat Budget of the Arctic  
 763 Ocean (SHEBA) (Uttal et al. 2002). Taken together with data collected from ground-based  
 764 remote sensing observations at Ny-Ålesund, cloud liquid and ice water contents appear to be

765 strongly influenced by synoptic conditions such as wind direction and the degree of  
766 thermodynamic coupling to the surface (Gierens et al. 2020).

767  
768 The influence of aerosols on Arctic clouds was also documented based on observations from a  
769 large number of campaigns such as M-PACE (Prenni et al. 2009), the Arctic Study of Aerosol,  
770 Clouds and Radiation (ASTAR) (Yamagata et al. 2009), the Indirect and Semi-Direct Aerosol  
771 Campaign (ISDAC) (McFarquhar et al. 2011), the Aerosol-Cloud Coupling and Climate  
772 Interactions in the Arctic (ACCACIA) (Lloyd et al. 2015), the Aerosol, Radiation and Cloud  
773 Processes affecting Arctic Climate (ARCPAC) (Brock et al. 2011), PASCAL (Griesche et al.  
774 2020), and the Polar Study using Aircraft, Remote Sensing, Surface Measurements and Models,  
775 of Climate, Chemistry, Aerosols, and Transport (POLARCAT) (Law et al. 2014), Radiation-  
776 Aerosol-Cloud Experiment in the Arctic (RACEPAC) (Herenz et al. 2018), the Vertical  
777 Distribution of Ice in Arctic Clouds (VERDI) (Klingebiel et al. 2015), and The Arctic Research  
778 of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) (Jacob et al.  
779 2010), which was one of the largest airborne field campaigns to study the impact of air pollution  
780 on Arctic climate. Network on Climate and Aerosols: Addressing Key Uncertainties in Remote  
781 Canadian Environments (NETCARE) (Abbatt et al. 2019) was a highly interdisciplinary field  
782 campaign that was able to observe melt ponds as a source of dimethyl sulfide and long-range  
783 mineral dust as a prominent springtime source of INPs and local mineral dust as a local source in  
784 the summer. Arctic Mechanisms for the Interaction of the Surface and Atmosphere (AMISA)  
785 (Persson et al. 2017) was also a field campaign that complemented ASCOS with its information  
786 on the impact of synoptic and mesoscale flow and vertical mixing of aerosol particles.  
787 Additionally, International Chemistry Experiment in the Arctic Lower Troposphere (ICEALOT)  
788 was a field campaign dedicated to determining the influence of local and transported aerosol  
789 particles on clouds among other effects such as haze and ozone over open ocean in the Arctic  
790 (Russell et al. 2010, Quinn et al. 2017, Huang & Jaeglé 2017). Rare high-resolution airborne  
791 measurements of INPs and air temperature in the high Arctic were measured by the Polar  
792 Airborne Measurements and Arctic Regional Climate Model Simulation Project (PAMARCMiP)  
793 (Hartmann et al. 2019a) while evidence from airborne measurements during the Fifth Airborne  
794 Carbon Measurements (ACME-V) field campaign in the Alaska revealed that the Arctic is not  
795 always as pristine in the summer as once thought due to wildfires and local oil extraction  
796 activities (Creamean et al. 2018).

797  
798 A number of field campaigns have also studied cloud-radiation impacts. Among the earliest to  
799 study Arctic surface energy fluxes were the Radiation and Eddy Flux Experiment (REFLEX)  
800 (Hartmann et al. 1991) and the Arctic Radiation and Turbulence Interaction Study (ARTIST)  
801 (Hartmann et al. 1999). Other studies with goals to better understand the impact of clouds on  
802 atmospheric radiation followed, including SHEBA (Stramler et al. 2011), ASCOS (Sedlar et al.  
803 2011), the Solar Radiation and Phase Discrimination of Arctic Clouds (SoRPIC) (Bierwirth et al.  
804 2013), the Arctic Radiation-IceBridge Sea & Ice Experiment (ARISE) (Smith et al. 2017) and  
805 ALOUD/PASCAL (Stapf et al. 2021).

806  
807 The influence of various surface types such as the Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ), melt ponds, leads  
808 and polynyas on cloud properties were also the interest of several Arctic field campaigns such as  
809 Measurements of Arctic Clouds, Snow, and Sea Ice nearby the Marginal Ice Zone  
810 (MACSSIMIZE), ALOUD/PASCAL (Stapf et al. 2021), the recently completed

811 Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC) campaign,  
812 melt ponds on energy and momentum fluxes between atmosphere and ocean (MELTEX) (Roßel  
813 & Kaleschke 2012), Microbiology-Ocean-Cloud-Coupling in the High Arctic (MOCCHA),  
814 which aimed to quantify influences of new aerosol particle formation (Baccarini et al. 2020),  
815 particularly over leads, and PAMARCMiP. A summary of the impact of these various factors on  
816 clouds and the relevant field campaigns are summarized in Table 1.

817

### 818 3.2 Insights on Arctic cloud-controlling factors gained from ACLOUD, PASCAL and 819 AFLUX

820 The influence of a number of cloud-controlling factors on Arctic low-clouds was investigated  
821 during ACLOUD, PASCAL (Wendisch et al. 2019) and ALFUX, which were components of  
822 Phase I of the German Arctic Amplification: Climate Relevant Atmospheric and SurfaCe  
823 Processes and Feedback Mechanisms (AC)<sup>3</sup> field campaign (Wendisch et al. 2017). ACLOUD  
824 and PASCAL concurrently took place in May and June 2017 in and around Svalbard, while  
825 ALFUX took place between mid-March and mid-April 2019 in the same area. Here, we present  
826 a brief description of results from the campaigns to demonstrate the effectiveness of Arctic field  
827 campaigns in advancing our understanding of the factors driving cloud formation and cloud  
828 properties.

829

830 The influence of INPs on clouds and their dependence on the coupling state of the clouds to the  
831 surface was observed using ship-based remote sensing instruments taken during PASCAL. A  
832 high occurrence of surface-coupled ice-containing clouds with cloud-top temperatures warmer  
833 than -10°C suggests the influence of near-surface INPs on Arctic boundary layer clouds at  
834 relatively warm supercooled temperatures when the cloud layer is coupled to the surface.

835

836 The combination of ACLOUD/PASCAL and AFLUX, both of which took place in a MIZ  
837 revealed that the familiar cloud-free and cloudy atmospheric states observed during SHEBA over  
838 sea ice and snow-covered regions also occur over open ocean (Wendisch et al. 2019). The  
839 differences in the surface temperature and lapse rates between the ACLOUD/PASCAL and  
840 AFLUX field campaigns, which took place during different months, influence the clear and  
841 cloudy states. While the horizontal surface temperature gradient between sea ice and open ocean  
842 was 25 K in AFLUX, it was only 6 K in ACLOUD. The horizontal surface temperature  
843 gradients in turn affects the vertical lapse rate, i.e. thermodynamic stability of the atmosphere,  
844 which consequently affects downward LW emission profile in cloud-free conditions. Less stable  
845 atmospheric conditions decrease the net irradiances because less downward LW radiation is  
846 emitted from the atmosphere. Thus, the cloud-free modes over sea ice and open ocean may both  
847 shift in response to thermodynamic stability. Cloud-base temperature remains almost unchanged  
848 whether over sea ice or open ocean and, thus, downward LW radiation emitted by the cloud-base  
849 stays nearly constant. These shifts were revealed during the early-spring AFLUX (very stable)  
850 and the summer ACLOUD/PASCAL (less stable) campaigns.

851

852 ACLOUD and PASCAL also raised several open questions related to Arctic clouds and the  
853 factors that control them. Although clouds are clearly impacted by surface type, the degree to

854 which sea ice and open water impact cloud properties still remains poorly quantified. Moreover,  
855 observations revealed stronger turbulence between clouds at high altitudes than expected, raising  
856 the question of the dominant contributing physical processes leading to the enhanced turbulence.  
857 On the other hand, atmospheric thermodynamic stability was also observed to be weaker than  
858 previous studies suggest (Stapf et al. 2021).

859

## 860 4 Outlook

861

862 We have outlined and discussed the influence of various meteorological factors and aerosols, and  
863 the mechanisms by which they influence Arctic mixed-phase cloud properties. In so doing, we  
864 have identified several outstanding questions that remain to be addressed in the future to improve  
865 our understanding of the factors controlling the behaviour of Arctic mixed-phase clouds.

866

867 Progress in resolving these major questions in Arctic cloud evolution and their radiative effects is  
868 hindered by the limited number of high quality observations of cloud and aerosol processes.  
869 Satellite measurements have substantially advanced our current state of knowledge of Arctic  
870 cloud properties and their interaction with sea ice, however, both passive and active satellite  
871 observations suffer from a number of limitations. Current passive satellite data of cloud  
872 properties are limited by inaccurate retrievals at steep solar zenith angles that are exacerbated in  
873 the polar regions (Grosvenor & Wood 2014). While the development of new algorithms to  
874 correct for these biases related to the lack of three-dimensional radiative transfer effects has led  
875 to promising improvements (Lebsock & Su 2014, Khanal et al. 2020), there is still nontrivial  
876 disagreement in the various cloud properties among satellite instruments. The common  
877 supercooled liquid-topped structure of Arctic mixed-phase clouds also presents a challenge for  
878 active spaceborne lidar that cannot penetrate entire cloud layers with optical thicknesses greater  
879 than approximately 5 (Winker et al. 2009). Although the synergistic use of collocated  
880 measurements with spaceborne radar can remediate this shortcoming, the combination of  
881 instruments still fails to observe the bottommost kilometre of the atmosphere due to the  
882 combination of radar ground clutter and lidar beam attenuation (Liu et al. 2017). The horizontal  
883 and vertical spatial resolution of satellite observations is also insufficient to accurately determine  
884 the spatial distribution of clusters of liquid and ice structures that comprise mixed-phase clouds,  
885 which in turn impact the efficiency of the WBF process. Furthermore, spaceborne remote  
886 sensing instruments cannot reliably retrieve CCN and INP concentrations at a spatial resolution  
887 that is sufficient for cloud process modelling; this is particularly true for very small aerosol  
888 particles  $< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$ . To evaluate these issues dedicated validation exercises using ground and  
889 airborne measurements are required. While in situ observations are a more suitable tool for this  
890 purpose, they suffer from a lack of spatial coverage for the widespread low-level stratiform  
891 mixed-phase clouds that are ubiquitous in the Arctic (Eastman & Warren 2010). The lack of in  
892 situ observations is especially problematic during Arctic winter when harsh weather conditions  
893 prevail that can lead to aircraft icing during in situ measurements. In addition to clouds, tenuous  
894 aerosol layers are common in the Arctic and preclude measurements from spaceborne  
895 observations. Moreover, while the TOA radiative fluxes are better observed by satellite  
896 observations compared to surface fluxes (Kato et al. 2018), it is crucial to characterize surface

897 radiative energy fluxes for the important surface radiative energy budget and the related near-  
898 surface warming in the Arctic, which are difficult to retrieve from satellite data. Finally,  
899 although spaceborne infrared sounders have improved our knowledge of temperature and  
900 moisture inversions in the Arctic, their coarse vertical resolution precludes observations of  
901 shallow inversions. As a result of the limited high-quality observations, the precise mechanisms  
902 relating lower tropospheric stratification, cloud dynamics and vertical velocity are still poorly  
903 understood. We emphasize the need for reliable and comprehensive data of the response of  
904 Arctic mixed-phase clouds under a broad range of relevant meteorological and surface  
905 conditions. In this regard, the validation of models using data from dedicated measurement  
906 campaigns have a powerful potential to unravel model deficiencies in parameterizations, sub-  
907 scale process representation, and other issues. The validated models then reveal critical processes  
908 determining the evolution and effects of clouds.  
909

910 Regarding the impact of aerosols on Arctic mixed-phase clouds, it is clear that Arctic  
911 meteorology and aerosol levels are continually undergoing dramatic changes. Local CCN and  
912 INP emissions will likely increase due to shipping and oil and gas development, mining, exposed  
913 soil from irreversible loss of snow, permafrost, and sea ice (Meredith et al. 2019), and altered sea  
914 spray and biogenic emissions from changes in sea ice cover, wind intensity and warmer  
915 temperatures (Arrigo 2008, Ardyna et al. 2014, Deslippe et al. 2012). A better understanding of  
916 continually changing natural aerosol emissions and the fundamental physical processes involved  
917 was emphasized to better constrain Arctic ACIs (Schmale et al. 2021). Aerosol transport from  
918 lower latitudes will also change with shifting wind and precipitation patterns, and there will  
919 likely be increasing sub-Arctic wildfire emissions and changing anthropogenic aerosol particle  
920 emissions as well. Drawing from the previous sections, we put forth ten recommendations to  
921 improve our understanding of cloud-controlling factors in the Arctic that would ideally involve  
922 the development of an overall community-wide strategic plan to improve on this front:

- 923
- 924 • Targeted field campaigns, dedicated model validations and model intercomparisons of  
925 synoptic influences such as cyclones, moisture intrusions and large-scale subsidence on  
926 clouds. In particular, cloud evolution and airmass transformations over Arctic sea ice and  
927 open ocean during moist intrusions, particularly from a Lagrangian perspective based on  
928 in situ observations are lacking yet important for model evaluation (Pithan et al. 2018,  
929 Neggers et al. 2019, Dimitrellos et al. 2020, Wendisch et al. 2021). This last point is the  
930 target of the upcoming HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup> field campaign planned to take place in 2022.
  - 931 • Detailed investigations using high-resolution models to quantify the impact of surface  
932 aerosol and moisture sources versus cloud-top entrainment fluxes under various  
933 meteorological and surface conditions. High-resolution models are also needed to clarify  
934 the dominant planetary boundary layer processes affecting the in-cloud redistribution of  
935 CCN and INPs in mixed-phase clouds.
  - 936 • Improved methods for observing INPs, CCN and ice particles in situ and to the extent  
937 possible, also from remote sensing measurements. The former task requires higher  
938 sensitivity to tenuous aerosol layers typical of the Arctic and accurate distinctions  
939 between INP and CCN types. Although limited accurate high-latitude (poleward of  
940 82°N) aerosol particle measurements are available from passive satellite observations,  
941 they are currently unavailable from active spaceborne remote sensing instruments,

942 despite their increasing importance in a warming Arctic with decreasing sea ice extent.  
 943 There has recently been active progress on in situ INP measurements. Year-long surface-  
 944 based INP measurements at Oliktok that uses techniques described in (McCluskey et al.  
 945 2018) and (Suski et al. 2018) will soon be available and MOSAiC will provide the first  
 946 year-round observations of Arctic INPs in the Arctic Ocean. However, these  
 947 observations are limited to the surface and may not represent the cloud layer. The latter  
 948 task requires improved retrieval algorithms for ice number concentration and ice crystal  
 949 effective radius with reduced uncertainties in stratiform mixed-phase clouds. While such  
 950 algorithms have been explored for ice number concentration using ground-based  
 951 observations (Zhang et al. 2014), they are completely lacking using current satellite  
 952 observations. This also includes further reduced shattering effects of ice crystals on  
 953 aircraft measurements (Korolev et al. 2013).

- 954 • Improved understanding of ice formation and growth in Arctic mixed-phase clouds and  
 955 representations of these processes in climate models. For example, representing subgrid-  
 956 scale variability in the liquid and ice partitioning in mixed-phase clouds in climate  
 957 models (Tan & Storelvmo 2016, Zhang et al. 2019) can result in more accurate rates of  
 958 the WBF process in climate models and requires continuous and high spatial resolution  
 959 observations of mixed-phase clouds. Detailed observations of snowflakes using three-  
 960 dimensional ground-based cameras, e.g. the Multi-Angle Snowflake Camera (Garrett et  
 961 al. 2012) in the Arctic are expected to aid in the development of more sophisticated  
 962 parameterizations of ice cloud microphysical processes.
- 963 • Long-term observations that can be linked to multi-scale models, including in multi-layer  
 964 cloud conditions. Furthermore, existing fair and consistent comparisons between models  
 965 and satellite remote observations via the satellite simulator approach (Bodas-Salcedo et  
 966 al. 2011) should not only be continued given their previous success in identifying model  
 967 biases (Nam et al. 2012, Cesana et al. 2015), but also expanded to include other types of  
 968 remote sensing instruments and a larger variety of observables. Ground-based satellite  
 969 simulators (Kuma et al. 2021) are an example of a recent advance that has taken us one  
 970 step closer to closing the gap between model and observation comparisons from the  
 971 surface perspective, and the development of scale-aware and definition-aware diagnostics  
 972 for near-surface precipitation frequency are also another example (Kay et al. 2018). The  
 973 full potential of model and satellite comparisons is critical to reducing model biases but  
 974 has yet to be fully exploited.
- 975 • Upgraded sophisticated methods to isolate the aerosol in observational studies from  
 976 confounding factors such as co-varying meteorology and secondary ice formation; these  
 977 methods are needed in the current and changing Arctic climate, including in response to  
 978 sea ice decline.
- 979 • Boosted development and testing of Arctic aerosol transport models of dust and other  
 980 aerosol particles, particularly over remote regions and in the presence of precipitation,  
 981 along with better techniques for integrating satellite and suborbital data with models.  
 982 These efforts could benefit from focused field campaigns that aim to validate Arctic  
 983 aerosol transport models.

984 In summary, we have highlighted and reviewed a number of important Arctic cloud-controlling  
 985 factors. The influences of these cloud-controlling factors share similarities yet are also markedly  
 986 different from the impacts of tropical cloud-controlling factors (Klein et al. 2017). We contend

987 that a better understanding of the various controls over Arctic clouds is contingent on improved  
 988 observations of clouds and aerosols in terms of both quality and quantity. Some of the  
 989 shortcomings in the satellite instruments of the past and present are currently being considered in  
 990 NASA's ATMosphere Observing System (ATMOS) mission resulting from the National  
 991 Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's 2017 Decadal Survey (National Academies  
 992 of Sciences and Medicine 2018). The launch of a spaceborne high spectral resolution lidar will  
 993 enable higher sensitivity to tenuous aerosol layers. Additionally, while currently still under  
 994 development, coincident observations of aerosols and clouds in the Arctic by exploiting far-  
 995 infrared measurements as well as and improved observations of cloud ice microphysics and  
 996 snowfall are being considered. Due to the previous success of active satellite instruments in  
 997 improving our understanding of cloud processes and better constraining cloud feedbacks  
 998 (Winker et al. 2017), particularly in the Arctic (Kay & Gettelman 2009, Taylor et al. 2015,  
 999 Morrison et al. 2018), active satellite observations are being considered in the ACCP mission.  
 1000 Combining these observations with targeted field campaigns presents a path forward to closing  
 1001 the gap in our knowledge of the controls over Arctic clouds and therefore enable a better  
 1002 understanding of the role of clouds in the changing Arctic climate system.

1003

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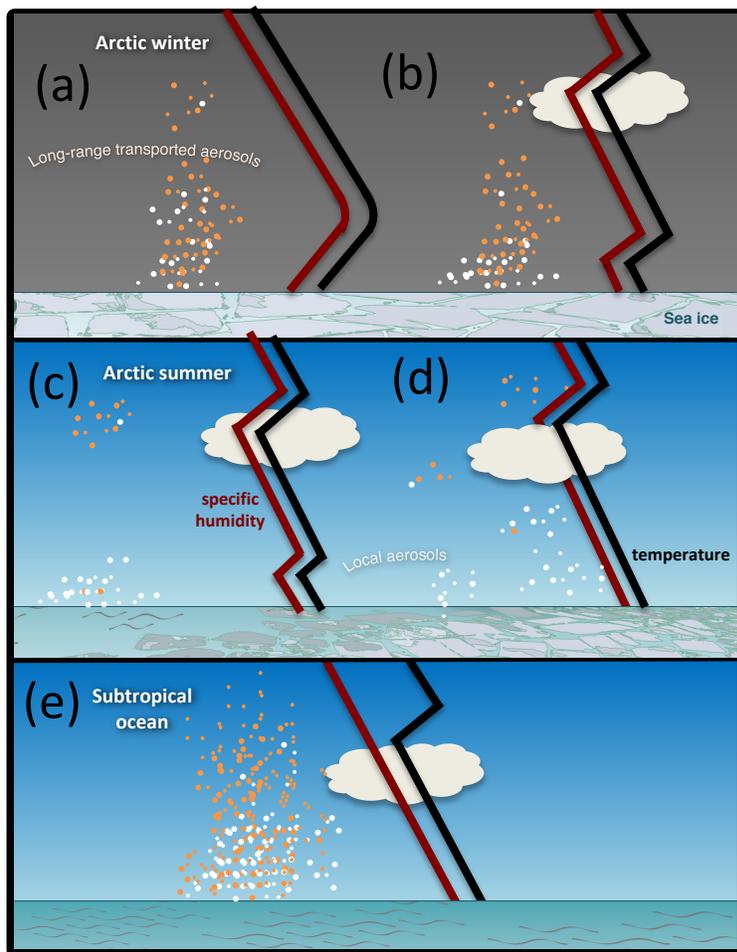
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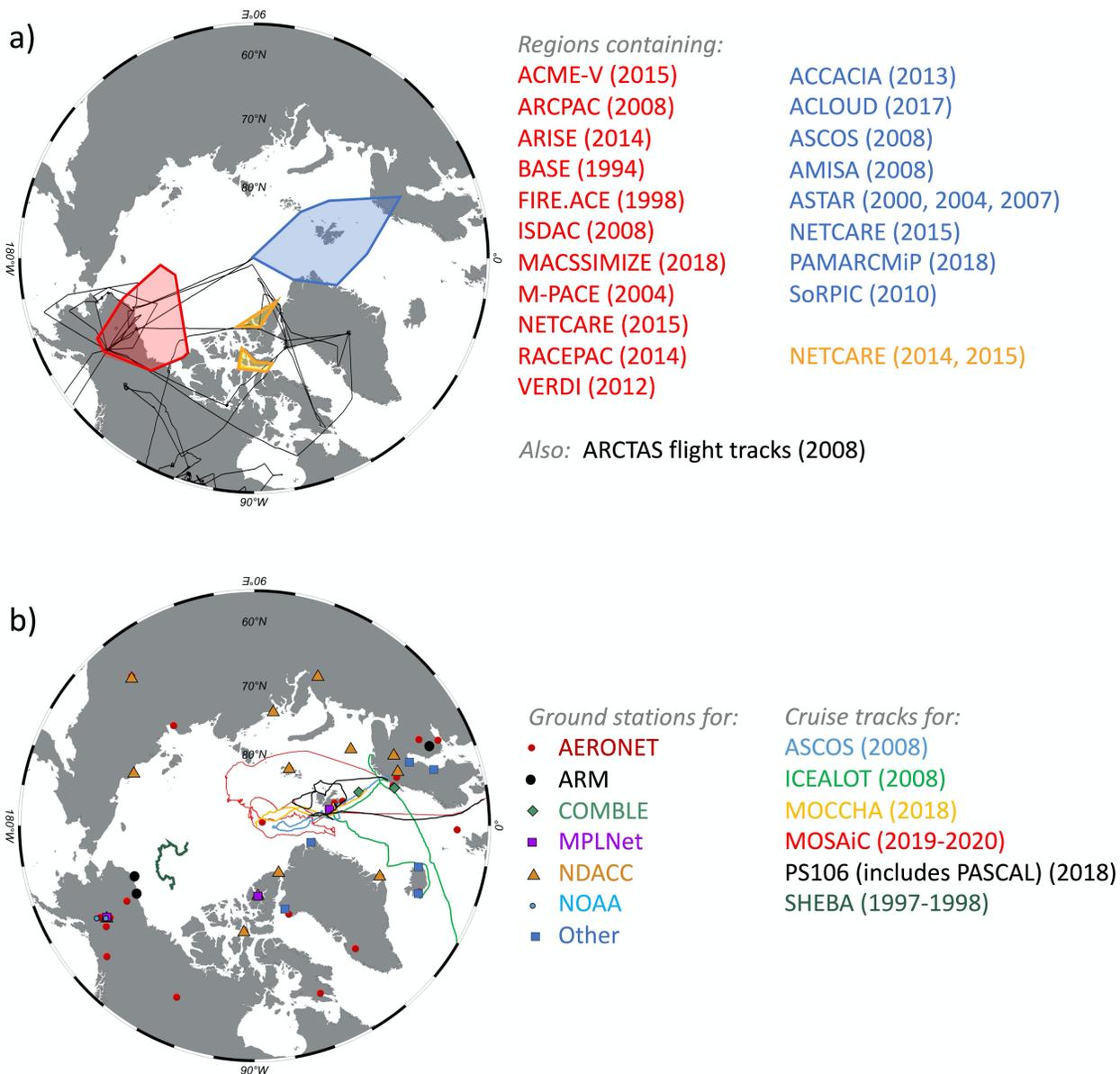
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1919 **Figure 1.** Schematic of typical thermodynamic structures of the Arctic atmosphere during (a)  
 1920 winter in the presence of clear-sky or thin ice clouds, (b) winter in the presence of mixed-phase  
 1921 clouds, (c) summer when clouds are decoupled from the surface, (d) summer when clouds are  
 1922 coupled to the surface (e) subtropical stratocumulus clouds. The dashed (solid) lines indicate  
 1923 specific humidity (temperature) profiles and the triangles indicate local aerosol particles that are  
 1924 overall less abundant than long-range transported aerosol particles (dots) in the winter. Coupling  
 1925 of the clouds to the surface facilitates interactions with more local aerosol particles. Overall,

1926 aerosols are generally less abundant in the Arctic compared to the lower latitudes, such as the  
 1927 subtropics.

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1932 **Figure 2.** Locations of selected Arctic campaigns and datasets, including **a)** aircraft datasets, and  
 1933 **b)** ground and ship-based datasets.

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1935

1936 **Table 1.** List of Arctic field campaigns and the cloud0controlling factors that were observed  
 1937

Meteorological variable	Surface type	Relevant field campaign
Thermodynamic structure		BASE, FIRE-ACE, M-PACE, ASCOS, ACSE, AFLUX, SHEBA
Moisture intrusions		SHEBA, ACCACIA, ACLOUD, PASCAL, MOSAiC
Aerosol particles		M-pace, AMISA, ASTAR, ISDAC, ACCACIA, ARCTAS, ARCPAC, POLARCAT, VERDI, ICEALOT, RACEPAC, ACME-V, NETCARE
	Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ)	ACSE, ACLOUD, PASCAL,
	Melt ponds	MACCSIMIZE,
	Polynya	NETCARE
	Leads	MELTEX, NETCARE PAMARCMiP ASCOS, MOCCHA, PAMARCMiP

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