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Cloud Remote Sensing: Current Status and Perspective

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Message from the Guest Editors

Clouds are composed of liquid water droplets, ice crystals or a mixture of the two. Clouds with mixtures of ice particles and cloud droplets also occur. Clouds are inherently inhomogeneous media with inhomogeneity both in the vertical and horizontal directions. Therefore, theoretical studies on radiation transport in clouds (e.g., clouds of various shapes) are performed using the 3D radiative transfer theory. Accounting for 3D effects and cloud vertical inhomogeneity is critical in modern cloud remote sensing. In addition, the modelling of light-scattering properties of irregular ice crystals and effects of possible cloud pollution via various impurities (e.g., dust, smoke, volcanic eruptions) is at the frontier of modern cloud research and remote sensing.

Because clouds play an important role in the water cycle, atmospheric radiative transfer, weather prediction and climate change, they have been thoroughly studied using ground-based, shipborne, airborne and satellite instrumentation operating from the optical to thermal and microwave spectral ranges.

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Message from the Editorial Board

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