

# Intercomparison of methods of coupling between convection and large-scale circulation

- **C. Daleu and R. Plant**: University of Reading
- **S. Woolnough:** NCAS-climate, University of Reading
- A. Sobel and S. Wang: Columbia University
- S. Sessions and M. Herman: New Mexico Tech
- G. Bellon: University of Auckland
- F. Ferry and P. Peyrille: Meteo France
- A. Cheng: NASA
- P. Siebesma: Royal Netherlands Meteorological Inst. De Bilt, and Delft University of Technology
- B. Van Ulft: Royal Netherlands Meteorological Inst
- **D. Kim**: University of Washington

# Outline

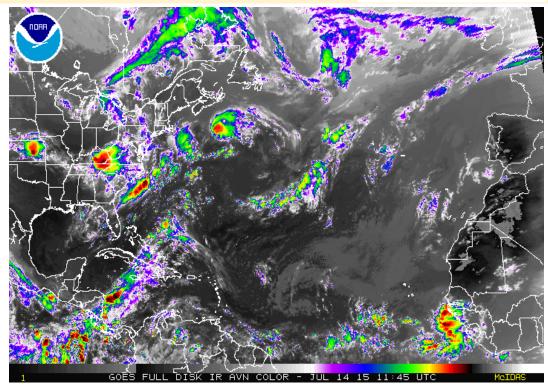


- Background
- Different methods of coupling between convection and large-scale circulation
- Motivation
- Models that participated in this project
- Experimental setup
- Results
- Conclusion



Understand tropical climate and its variability

- Science questions:
- What initiates tropical convection?
- What conditions favour moist convection?
- How is moist convection interacts with the large-scale tropical environment?



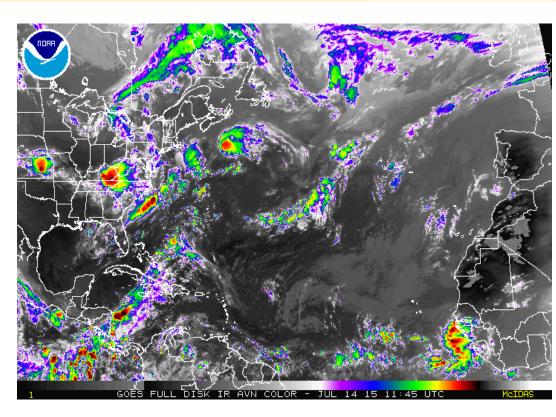
Snapshot of clouds taken on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 11:00 UTC. http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/PS/TROP/Basin\_Atlantic.html

- Why is tropical convection often organized in clusters?
- what conditions favour and what intensifies the aggregation of convection?



Understand tropical climate and its variability

- Option 1: observations
- Option 2: modelling

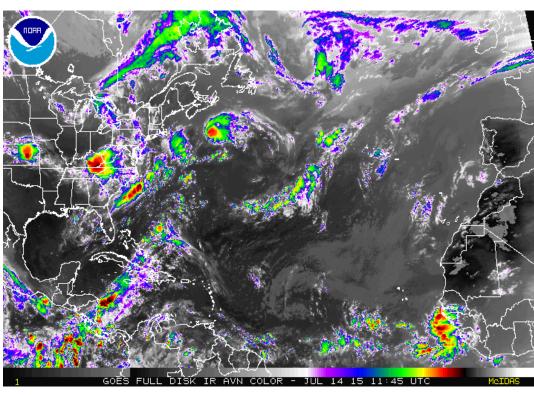




Understand tropical climate and its variability

- Option 1: observations
   Field campaign with the appropriated
   meteorological instruments is very expensive
   The real atmosphere is complicated
- Option 2: modelling

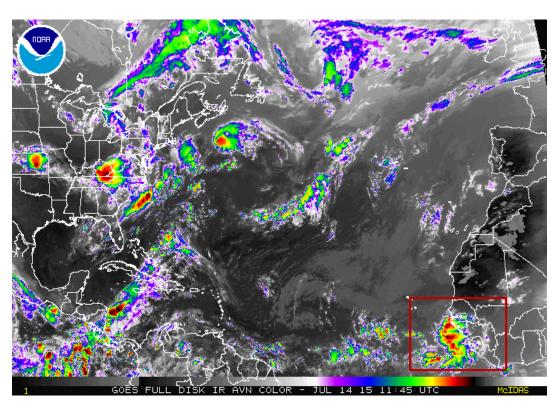
Discrepancies between observations and numerical simulations Numerical models lack the representation of many real phenomena





- Understand tropical climate and its variability
- Option 2.1: modelling- Entire tropic

• Option 2.2: modelling- Limited area





#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

• Option 2.1: modelling- Entire tropic individual convective cell ~ 100m-10 km large-scale circulation ~ 10 000 km Large range of special scales between convective cells and large-scale circulation: Large domain CRMs (~ 10000km) or GCMs with very high horizontal resolution Large-domain, high-resolution experiments: Cascade project (Holloway et al., 2012)

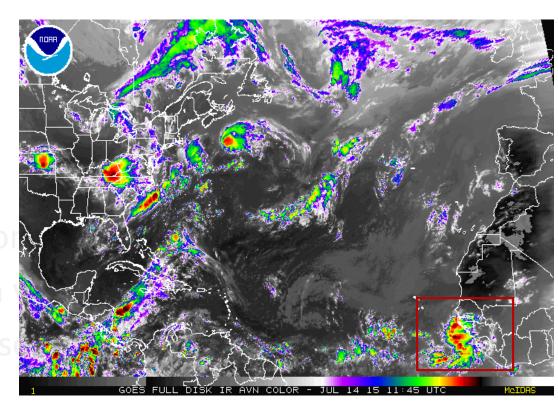
Computationally expensive

- Alternative approach
- GCMs, but convection is parameterized.



#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

Option 2.1: modelling- Entire tropic
 GCMs, but convection is parameterized.
 Only few studies have simulated both convection
 Large domain CRMs (~ 10000km) or GCMs with
 Large-domain, high-resolution experiments: Ca



• Option 2.2: modelling- Limited area

Computationally cheap compared to option 2.1 CRMs are powerful tools to simulate tropical convection

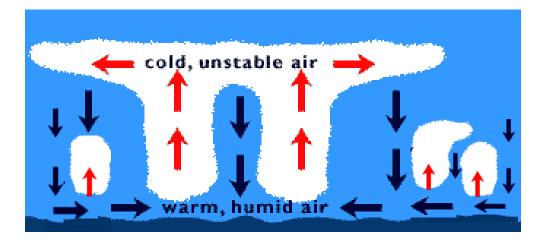


#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

- Option 2.2: modelling- Limited area
  - CRMs are often run in RCE mode
  - Convection generates T'
  - -T' drives a circulation
  - -Cyclic BCs=winds turn inward
  - T' cannot escape from the box

Evap - Precip = 0and LHF + SHF + Rad = 0

convection is disconnected from the influence of the large-scale flows





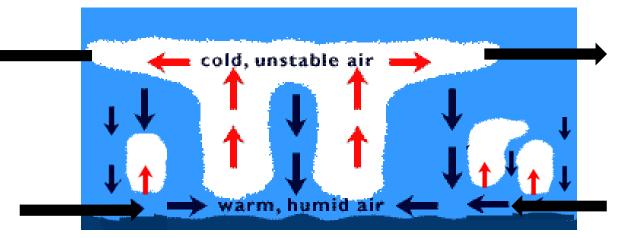
#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

• Option 2.2: modelling- Limited area In the real world we need the influence of the surrounding environment  $(\bar{u}_e, \bar{v}_e, \bar{w}_e)$ 

$$Evap - Precip + M_e = 0$$
  
And  
$$LHF + SHF + Rad + H_e = 0$$

The environmental large-scale flow  $(\bar{u}_e, \bar{v}_e, \bar{w}_e)$  has been shown to modulate convection (*Daleu et al 2015*)

Representation of the large-scale flow in limited area models





#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

- Option 2.2.1: modelling- Limited area-Imposed  $(\bar{u}_e, \bar{v}_e, \bar{w}_e)$  $(\bar{u}_e, \bar{v}_e, \bar{w}_e)$  idealized profiles or defined from observations
  - -Large horizontal temperature gradients over the tropics (compared to observations over the tropics)
     -convection does not feedback on the large-scale flow



-The rain rate is to much constrained

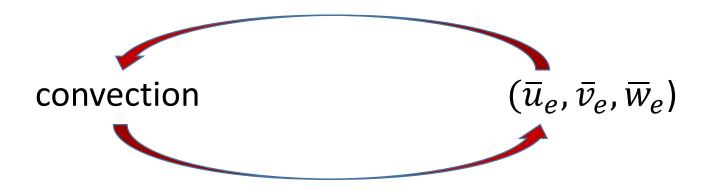
"what controls large-scale variations of tropical deep convection?"



#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

- Option 2.2.1: modelling- Limited area- Imposed ( $\overline{u}_e, \overline{v}_e, \overline{w}_e$ )
- To understand "what controls large-scale variations of tropical deep convection?"

There is a need of frameworks which allow:

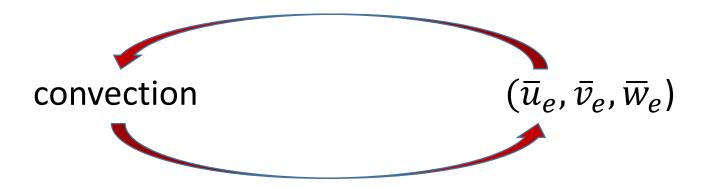




#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

- Option 2.2.1: modelling- Limited area- Imposed ( $\overline{u}_e, \overline{v}_e, \overline{w}_e$ )
- To understand "what controls large-scale variations of tropical deep convection?"

There is a need of frameworks which allow:



#### **Two-way interaction**

• Option 2.2.2: modelling- Limited area-parameterized ( $\overline{u}_e, \overline{v}_e, \overline{w}_e$ )

Let  $(\bar{u}_e, \bar{v}_e, \bar{w}_e)$  be parameterized by the model itself



#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

• Option 2.2.2: modelling- Limited area- parameterized  $(\bar{u}_e, \bar{v}_e, \bar{w}_e)$ 

Parameterization of the large-scale dynamics in SCMs and CRMs Simplified circulation models Parameterized environment using

- Weak-Temperature Gradient (WTG) / Spectral WTG (SWTG)
- Damped Gravity waves (DGW) / Weak Pressure gradient (WPG)

# Motivation



#### Understand tropical climate and its variability

• Option 2.2.2: Modelling- Limited area- parameterized  $(\bar{u}_e, \bar{v}_e, \bar{w}_e)$ 

Parameterization of the large-scale dynamics in SCMs and CRMs

- Different methods as well as different models of convection are used in different studies.
- Previous results show **both similarities and discrepancies in model behaviour**
- Can we attribute differences in the published results to either large-scale parameterization method or model of convection?

#### Time for an intercomparison !

# GASS-WTG project



Proposed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan-GASS meeting in Sept 2012. Launched in February 2014.

- We performed a systematic comparison of the behaviour of a set of CRMs and SCMs under the same large-scale parameterization method; the WTG method and the DGW method
- We performed a systematic comparison of the WTG and DGW methods with a consistent implementation in a set of models with different physics and numerics.

Our points of interest are:

- Q1: Can a large-scale circulation develop over uniform SST?
- Q2: Can given SST and *T* profile support both a rainy and dry state, depending on initial moisture conditions?
- Q3: How sensitive is a model (under the WTG/DGW method) to changes in the SST?

### The weak temperature gradient



$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + \vec{U}_h \cdot \nabla_h \theta + W \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} = Q_d \text{ (diabatic heating)}$$

In the tropics, gravity waves redistribute  $\theta$ '. Thus,  $\nabla_h \theta$  is very small At equilibrium  $\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} \sim 0$ 

### The weak temperature gradient



$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + \vec{U}_h \cdot \nabla_h \theta + W \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} = Q_d$$

#### Strict WTG method

#### Sobel and Bretherton (2000)

• 
$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = 0$$

• 
$$W_{wtg} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} = Q_d$$

### The weak temperature gradient

versus



$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + \vec{U}_h \cdot \nabla_h \theta + W \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} = Q_d$$

Strict WTG method

### Sobel and Bretherton (2000)

•  $\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = 0$ 

• **∇**<sub>h</sub>θ=**0** 

• 
$$W_{wtg} = Q_d / \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z}$$

**Relaxed** WTG method Raymond and zeng 2005  $\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = 0$  $\nabla_h \theta$  is small  $W_{wtg} = (\bar{\theta} - \theta_{Ref}) / (\tau \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z})$  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  is the adjustment time scale Small but  $\neq 0$ 

## The damped gravity wave



• Anelastic linearized perturbation equations of momentum:

$$\overline{\rho}\frac{\partial u'}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial p'}{\partial x} - \varepsilon \overline{\rho}u' \quad , \ \overline{\rho}\frac{\partial v'}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial p'}{\partial y} - \varepsilon \overline{\rho}v'$$

• Continuity: 
$$\frac{\partial \overline{\rho} u'}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \overline{\rho} v'}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \overline{\rho} w'}{\partial z} = 0$$

• Hydrostatic balance: 
$$\frac{\partial p'}{\partial z} = \overline{\rho} g \frac{T'}{\overline{T}}$$

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• Hydrostatic balance: 
$$\frac{\partial p'}{\partial z} = \overline{\rho} g_{\overline{T}}^{T'}$$

• Solution, single horizontal wave number k:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left\{ \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \right) \frac{\partial \overline{\boldsymbol{\rho}} w}{\partial z} \right\} = -k^2 \frac{\overline{\boldsymbol{\rho}} g}{\overline{T}} T'$$

• At equilibrium 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \sim 0$$

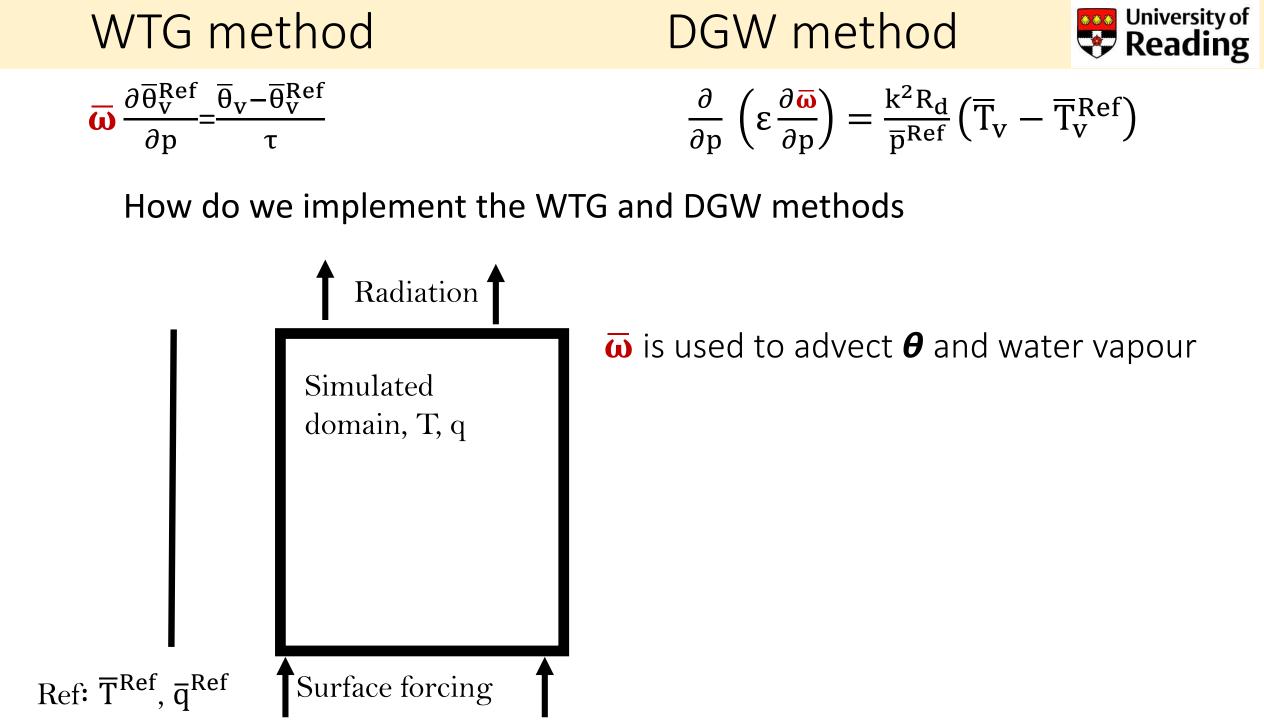
and

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left\{ \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \, \frac{\partial \overline{\boldsymbol{\rho}} w}{\partial z} \right\} = -k^2 \, \frac{\overline{\boldsymbol{\rho}} g}{\overline{T}} \, T'$$



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left( \varepsilon \frac{\partial \overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}}}{\partial p} \right) = \frac{k^2 R_d}{\overline{p}^{\text{Ref}}} \left( \overline{T}_v - \overline{T}_v^{\text{Ref}} \right)$$

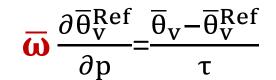
How do we implement the WTG and DGW methods

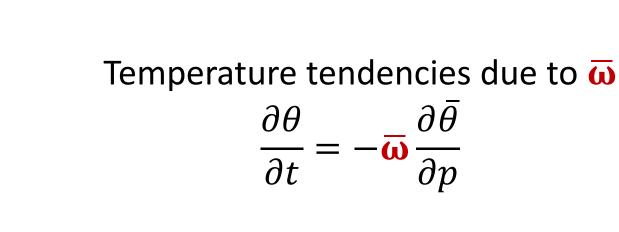


### WTG method

### DGW method

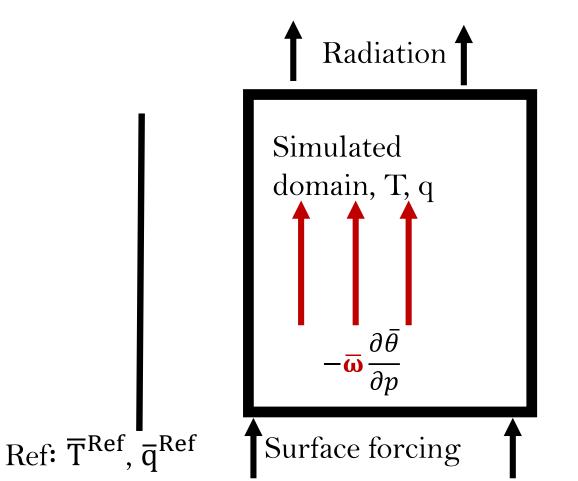






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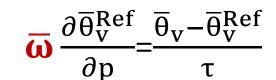
 $\overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}}$  cancels  $\boldsymbol{\theta}'$  via adiabatic lifting



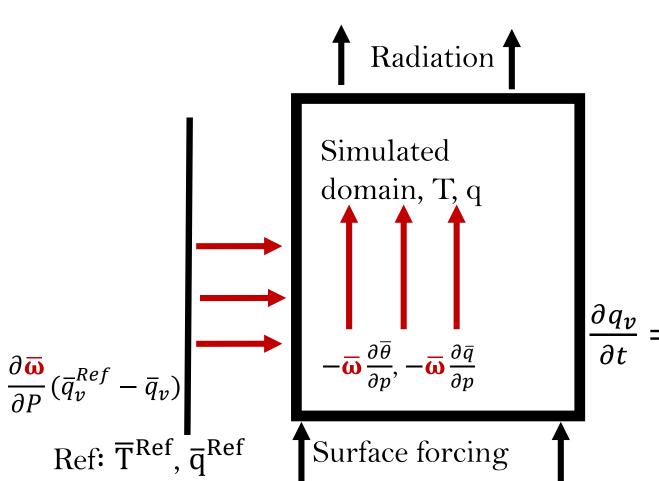
### WTG method

### DGW method





$$\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left( \varepsilon \frac{\partial \overline{\omega}}{\partial p} \right) = \frac{k^2 R_d}{\overline{p}^{\text{Ref}}} \left( \overline{T}_v - \overline{T}_v^{\text{Ref}} \right)$$



Temperature tendencies due to  $\overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}}$  $\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = -\overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}} \frac{\partial \overline{\theta}}{\partial p}$ 

 $\overline{\omega}$  cancels T' via adiabatic lifting

Moisture tendencies due to  $\overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}}$  $\frac{\partial q_{v}}{\partial t} = -\overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}} \frac{\partial \overline{q}_{v}}{\partial p} + \max\left(\frac{\partial \overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}}}{\partial P}, 0\right) \times (\overline{q}_{v}^{Ref} - \overline{q}_{v})$ Inflow only

### WTG method

$$\overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}} \frac{\partial \overline{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{v}^{\text{Ref}}}{\partial p} = \frac{\overline{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{v} - \overline{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{v}^{\text{Ref}}}{\tau}$$

- $\tau = 3hr$
- Prescribed BL top=850 hPa
- Apply WTG from BL top to 100hPa
- $\overline{\omega}(p > 850 \ hP)$ = linear interpolation in pressure from  $\overline{\omega}(p = 850 \ hPa)$  to 0 at the surface

DGW method



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left( \varepsilon \frac{\partial \overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}}}{\partial p} \right) = \frac{k^2 R_d}{\overline{p}^{\text{Ref}}} \left( \overline{T}_v - \overline{T}_v^{\text{Ref}} \right)$$

 $\varepsilon(constant) = 1/day$  and  $k = 10^{-6}/km$ apply DGW from the surface to 100hPa  $\overline{\omega}(100 \ hPa) = \overline{\omega}(surface) = 0$ no BL treatment

### Models that participate in this project



	Models	Contributor	Dimension	Horizontal size(km)	Horizontal res (km)
Cloud-Resolving Models	WRF	S. Wang	3D	$190 \times 190$	2 × 2
	MesoNH	P. Peyrille	3D	$150 \times 150$	3 × 3
	LaRC_CRM	A. Cheng	2D	256	4
	MNTCMv3	M. J. Herman	2D	200	1
	LEMv2.4	C. Daleu	2D	128	0.5
Single-Column Models	LMDzA	G. Bellon	-	-	-
	LMDzB	G. Bellon	-	-	-
	GISS_SCM	D. Kim	-	-	-
	APRv6	G. Bellon	-	-	-
	UMv7.8	C. Daleu	-	-	-
	EC-Earthv1	P. Siebesma	-	-	-
	EC-Earthv3	P. Siebesma	-	-	-

-Time independent SST

-Fixed radiative cooling through most of the free troposphere



#### WTG and DGW simulations over uniform SST

- The Ref state of each model is defined with profiles from the RCE simulation of that model.
- For each model, we performed WTG and DGW simulations with the SST of the Ref state.
- The WTG and DGW simulations are initialized with profiles from the corresponding Ref state.
- Note that RC is fixed throughout most of the troposphere

The reference state and the simulated column have **same characteristics** at time=0



To evaluate the WTG and DGW simulations

We used  $\Omega = \frac{\int \overline{\omega} dp}{\int dp}$  and the ratio  $\mathbf{P}/\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{R}ef}$ 

**P:** mean precipitation in the simulated column

**P**<sub>Ref</sub>: mean precipitation of the Ref state.

A simulation reproduces the RCE conditions to a good approximation if:

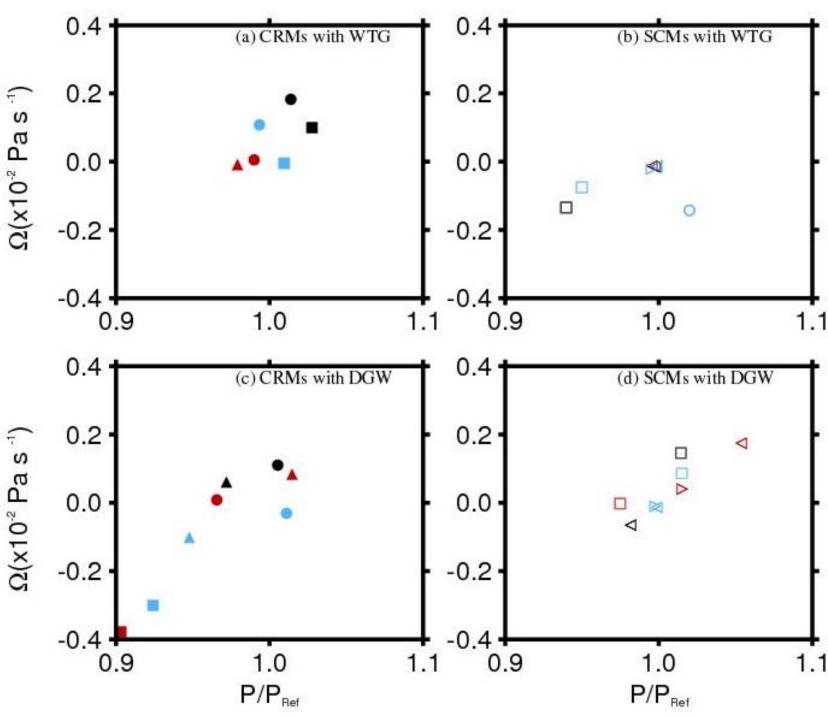
**0.9** <  $P/P_{Ref}$  <1.1 and -0.4 × 10<sup>-2</sup> < $\Omega\left(\frac{Pa}{s}\right)$  < 0.4 × 10<sup>-2</sup>

The large-scale circulation is significant if:

large-scale ascent:  $\Omega\left(\frac{Pa}{s}\right) > 0.4 \times 10^{-2}$  and  $P/P_{Ref} > 1.1$ large-scale descent:  $\Omega\left(\frac{Pa}{s}\right) < -0.4 \times 10^{-2}$  and  $P/P_{Ref} < 0.9$  Uniform SST (K)= 298, 300, 302

- WTG and DGW simulations which produce  $0.9 < P/P_{Ref} < 1.1$  and  $|\Omega| < 0.4 \times 10^{-2}$  Pa/s
- Under both WTG and DGW, regardless of the SST: ●WRF and ⊲LMDzA
- Under WTG/DGW,
- for some SSTs only:
- ▲ MesoNH, ■NMTCMv3 ▷ LMDzB, ○GISS-SCM and □ EC-Earthv3

Not for model like  $rac{1}{3}$  UMv7.8



SSTs of **298, 300, 302 K** 

 Symbol definitions

 ↓ LMDzA

 • WRF
 ▷ LMDzB

 ▲ MesoNH
 ○ GISS\_SCM

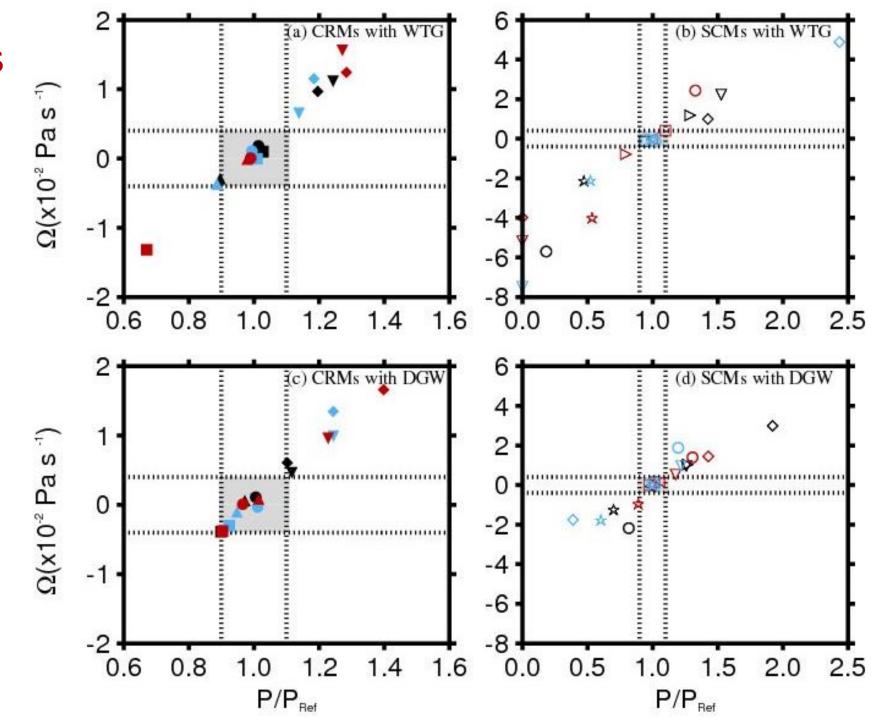
 • LaRC\_CRM
 ▽ ARPv6

 ■ NMTCMv3
 ★ UMv7.8

 ▼ LEMv2.4
 ○ EC-Earthv1

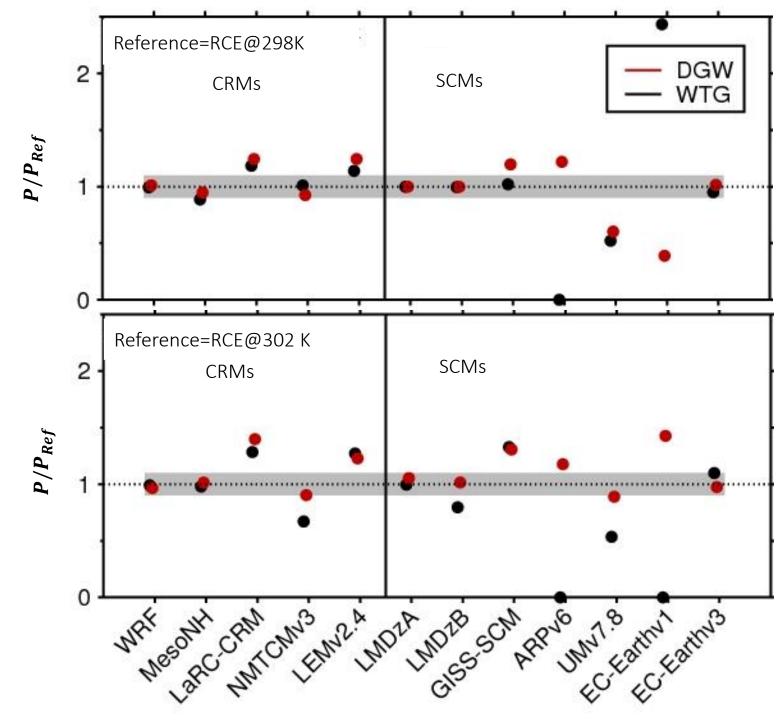
CRMs show a fairly linear relationship between P and Ω. SCMs show deviations from

this relationship



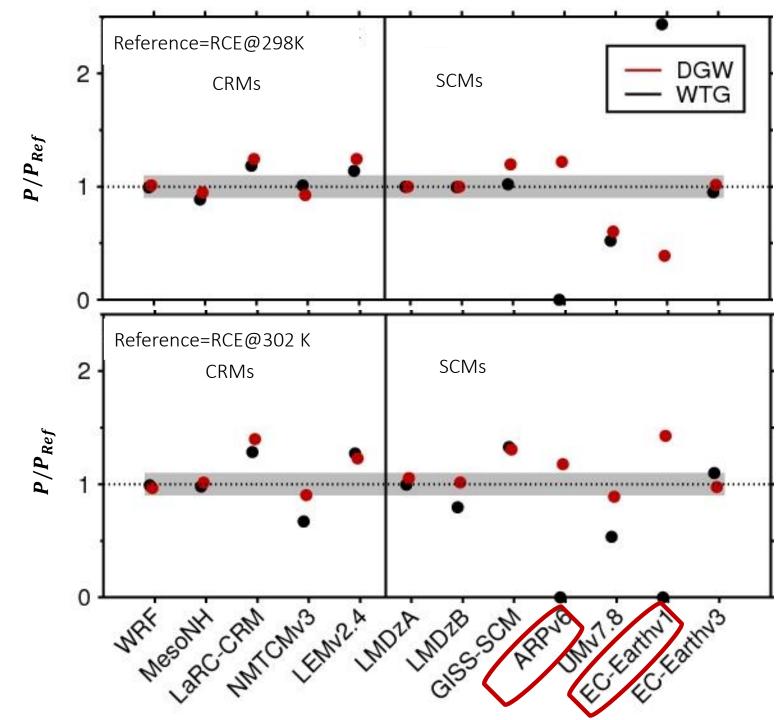
Grey areas indicates  $0.9 < P/P_{Ref} < 1.1$ 

- SCMs display a much wider ranges of behaviour
- Some SCMs under the WTG can produce **P=0** mm/day (e.g. ARPv6) within an individual SCM, a
- WTG sim and a corresponding
   DGW sim can produce different
   signs of the circulation
   (e.g., EC-Earthv1)



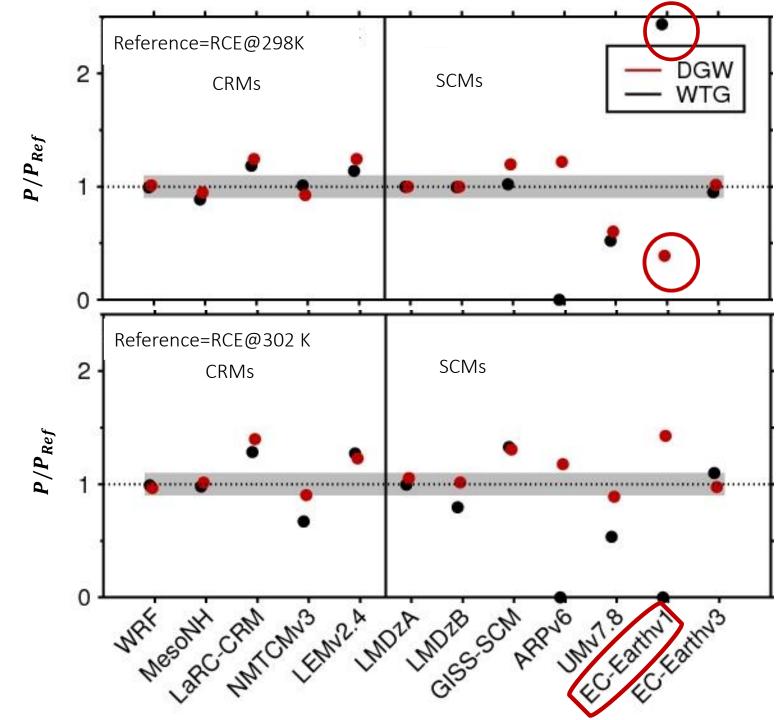
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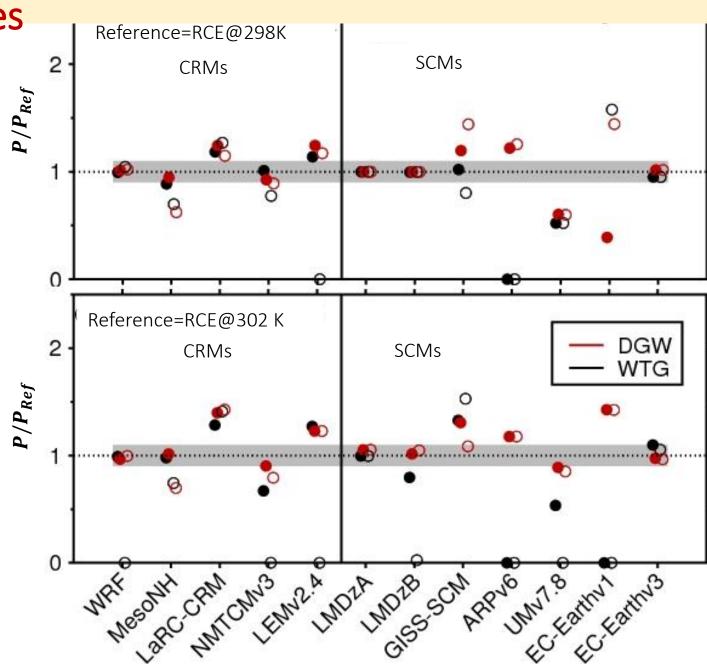
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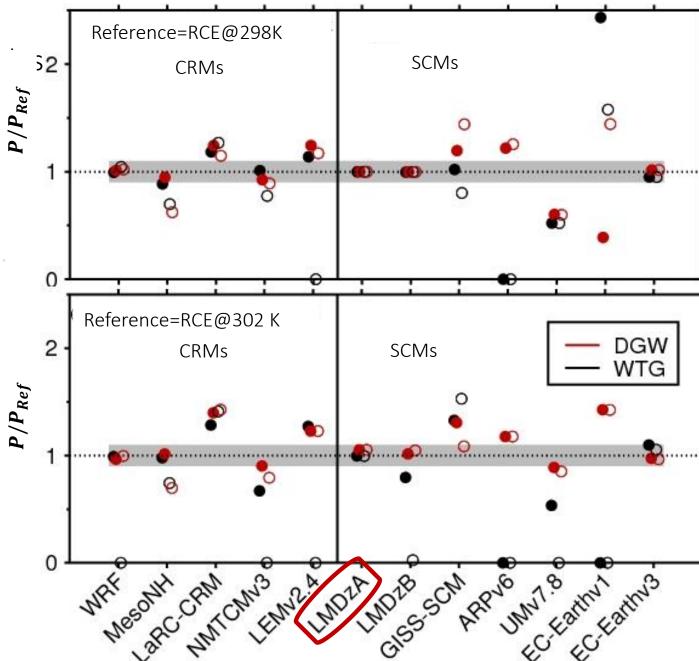
Q2: Can given SST and *T* profile support both a rainy and dry state, depending on initial moisture? Yes

- Sensitivity to the initial moisture conditions
- Initialized with RH of the RCE state (full circles)
- Initialized with 0% RH (open circles)

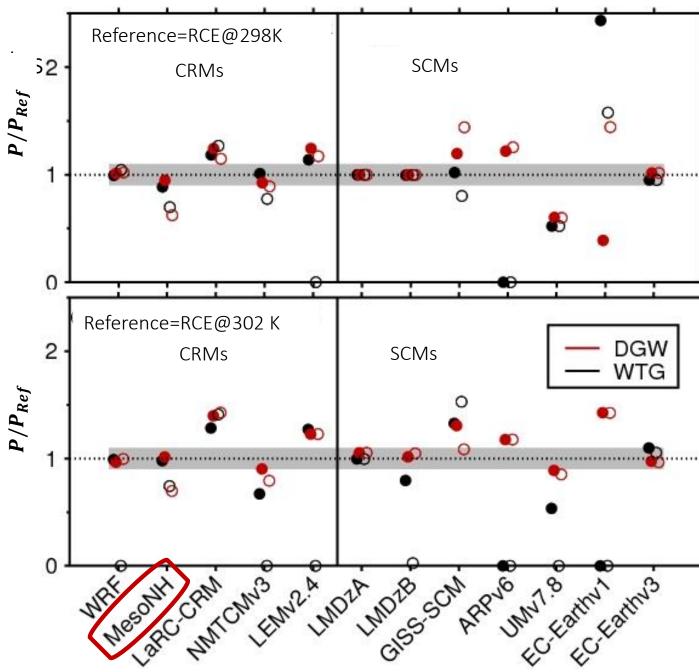


# Can given SST and *T* profile support both a rainy and dry state, depending on initial moisture? Yes

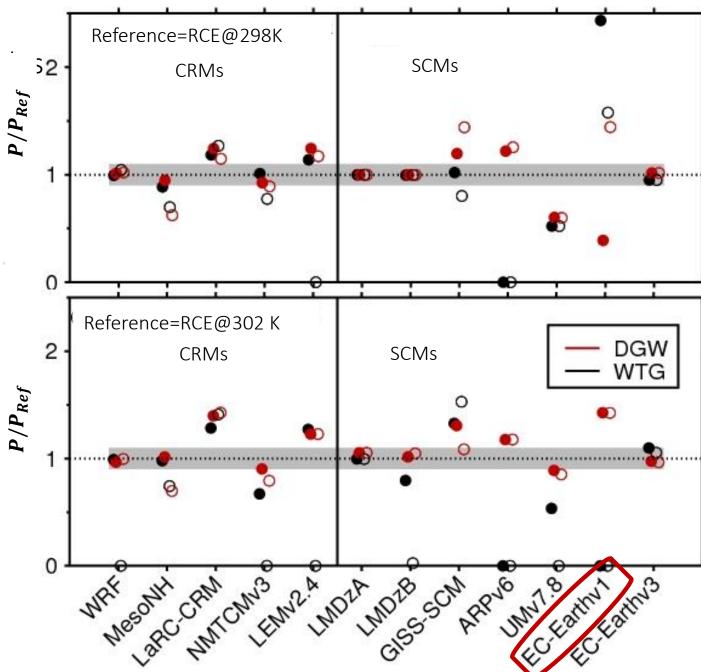
- Initialized with RH of the RCE state (full cir
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- 1-Some models are **not sensitive** to the initial RH
- 2-Some models can sustain two distinct precipitating equilibrium states (MesoNH
  3-Some models produce enhanced precip from the initially dry moisture
  4-DWG simulations always produce
- 5-In contrast to the DGW, some models under the WTG can sustain a state with zero precip or a state with persistent, precipitating convection depending of the initial RH. Here after called multiple equilibria (ME).



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  6-ME is more likely at higher SST.



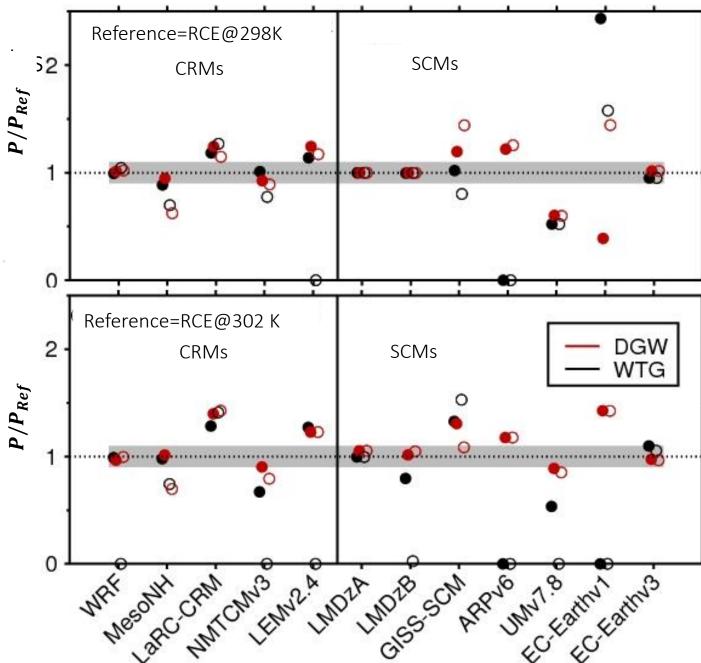
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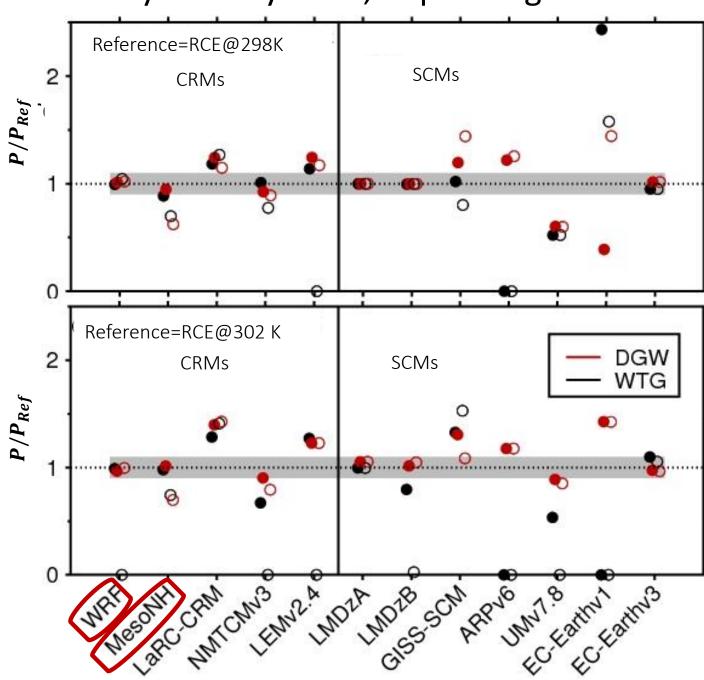
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- Reference=RCE@298K 52. **SCMs** CRMs  $P/P_{Ref}$ B ..... 0 Reference=RCE@302 K DGW CRMs SCMs  $P/P_{Ref}$ ..... ................... 0 MDZ NN2 SCI ND1 RP C/S

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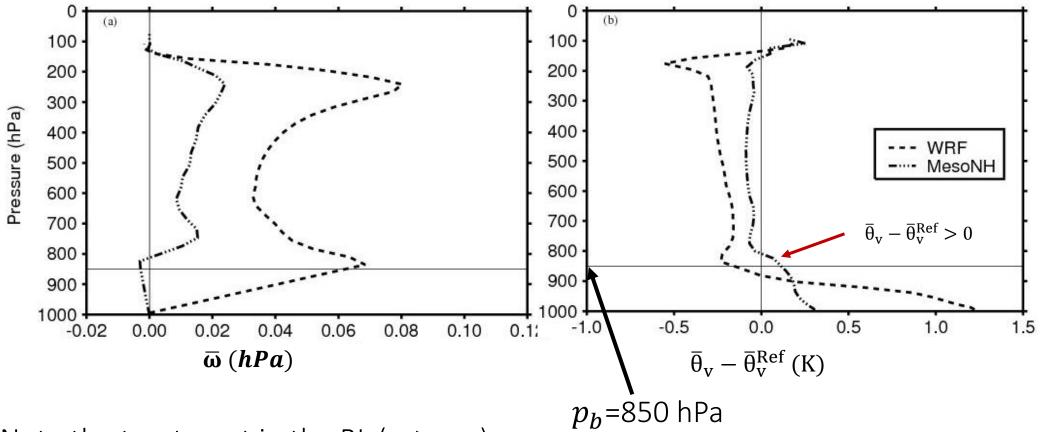
Under the WTG, some models sustain ME, while other models do not

why?



#### Sensitivity to initial moisture conditions

Over a uniform SST=302 K, we compared the initially dry WTG simulations of WRF and MesoNH



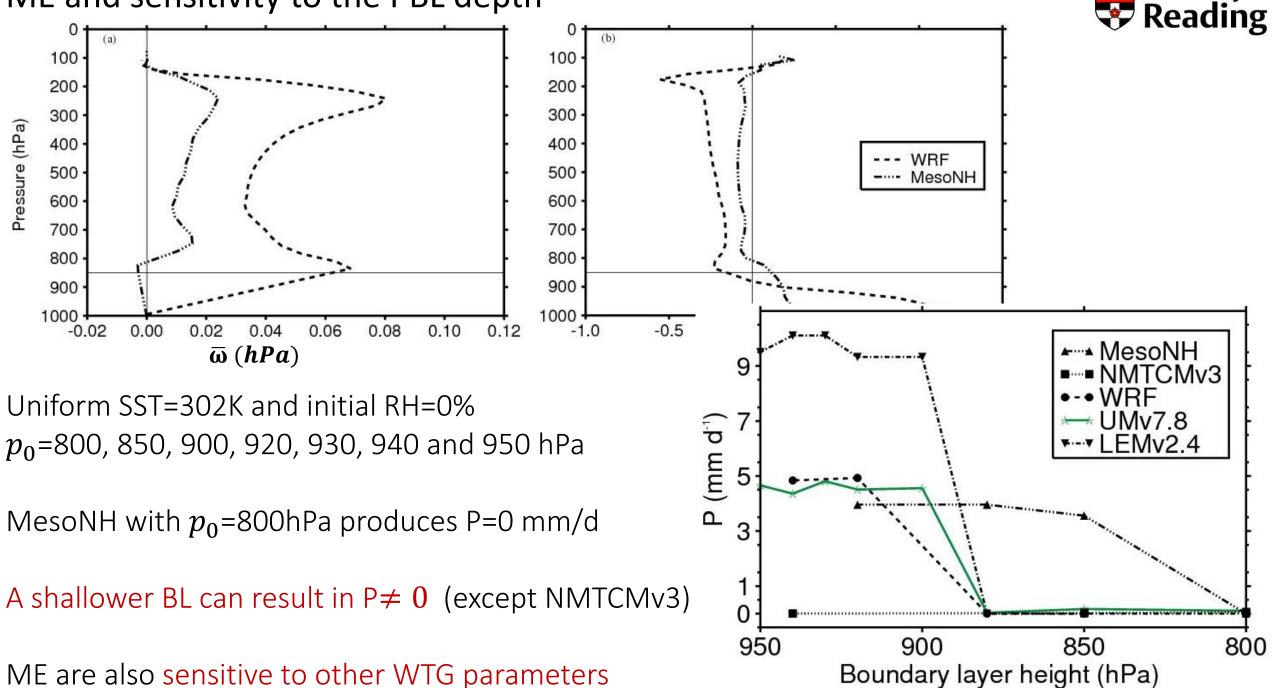
Note the treatment in the BL  $(p > p_b)$ :

The sign of  $\overline{\theta}_v - \overline{\theta}_v^{\text{Ref}}$  at the 1<sup>st</sup> model level above  $p_b$  determines the sign of  $\overline{\omega}$  in the BL.

A large-scale ascent is produced by MesoNH, consistent with  $\overline{\theta}_v - \overline{\theta}_v^{Ref} > 0$ A large-scale descent is produced by WRF whilst  $\overline{\theta}_v - \overline{\theta}_v^{Ref} > 0$ 

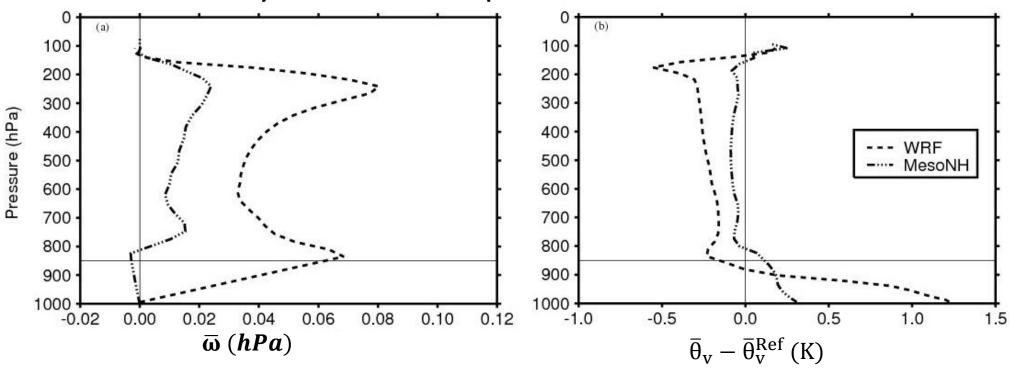


ME and sensitivity to the PBL depth



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ME and sensitivity to the PBL depth

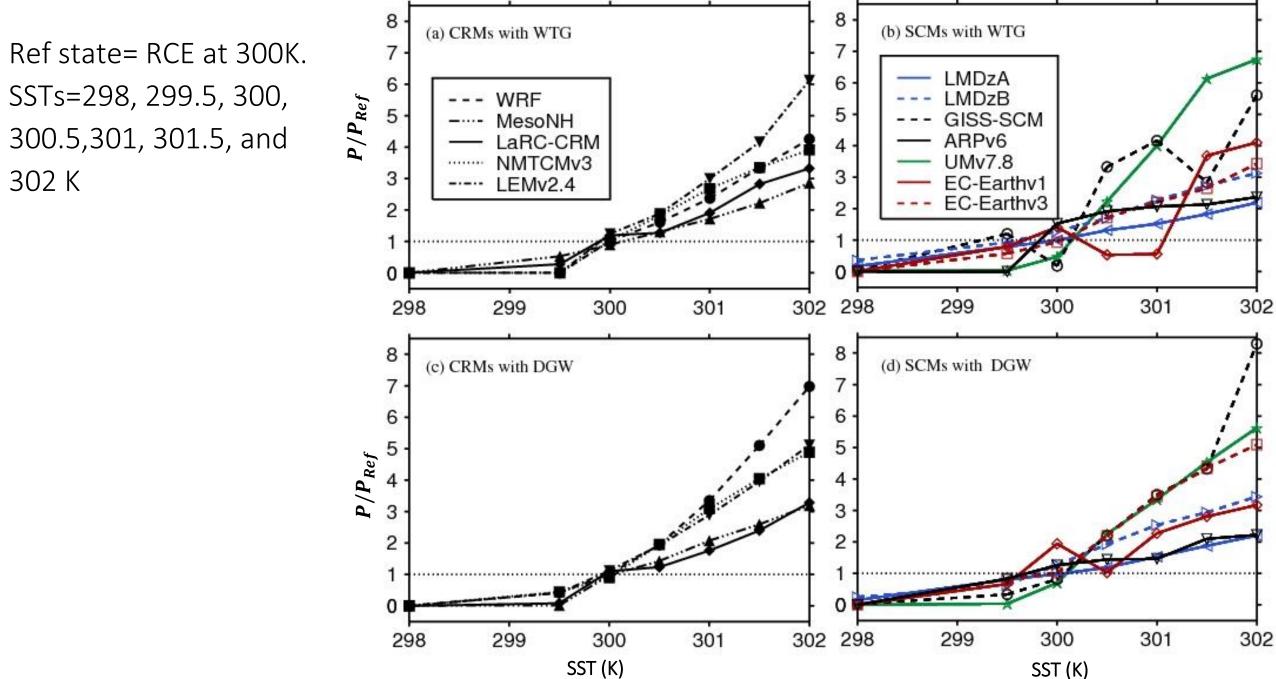




Uniform SST=302K and initial RH=0% and BL top=850 hPa

- A shallower BL can result in  $P \neq 0$  (except NMTCMv3)
- $\overline{\mathbf{w}} \frac{\partial \overline{\theta}_{v}^{\text{Ref}}}{\partial z} = \frac{\overline{\theta}_{v} \overline{\theta}_{v}^{\text{Ref}}}{\tau} f(z), f(z) = \sin(\pi z/H) \text{ can result in P} \neq \mathbf{0} (\text{LEMv2.4, UMv7.8})$
- A longer WTG adjustment time scale ( $\tau$ ) can result in P  $\neq 0$  (LEMv2.4, UMv7.8 and LMDzB)

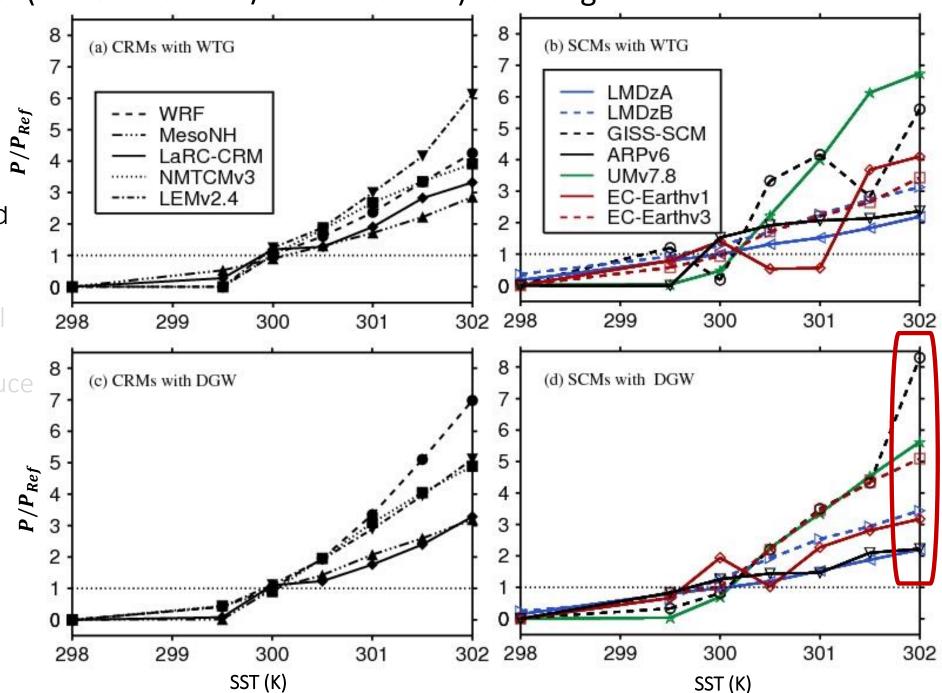
ME is very sensitive to the details of the implementation of the WTG method



Ref state= RCE at 300K. Various SSTs

1-Under the same large-scale parameterization method models produce different solutions

2-within an individual model a WTG and corresponding DGW simulations can produce different solutions (e.g., EC-Earthv1) 3-for all CRMs, P increase Non-linearly with SST 4-SCMs shows sensitivity Of P to the SST which is not is not always monotonic (e.g.,., GISS-SCM).

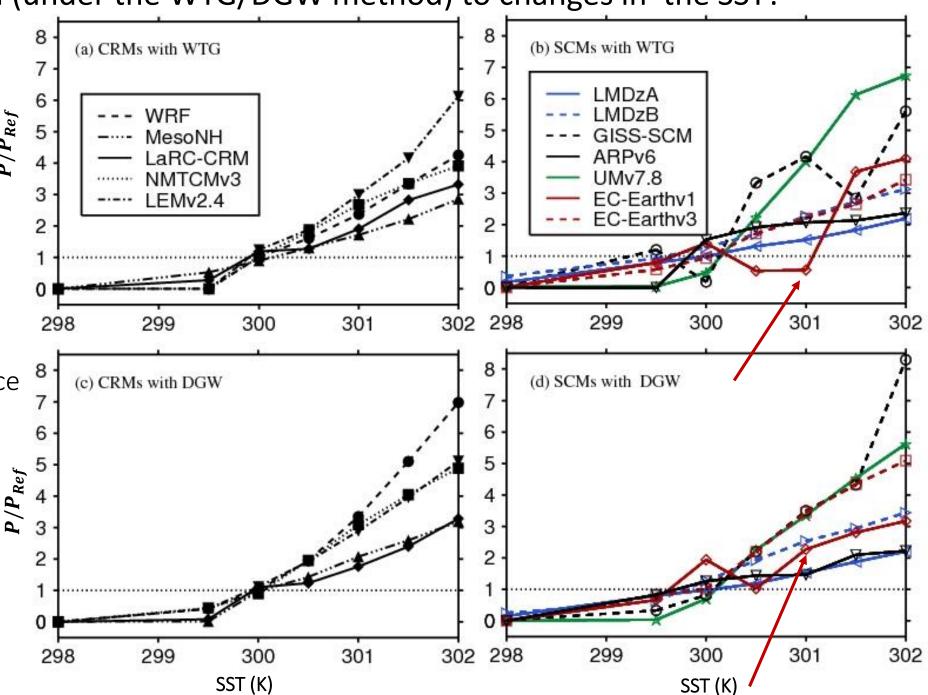


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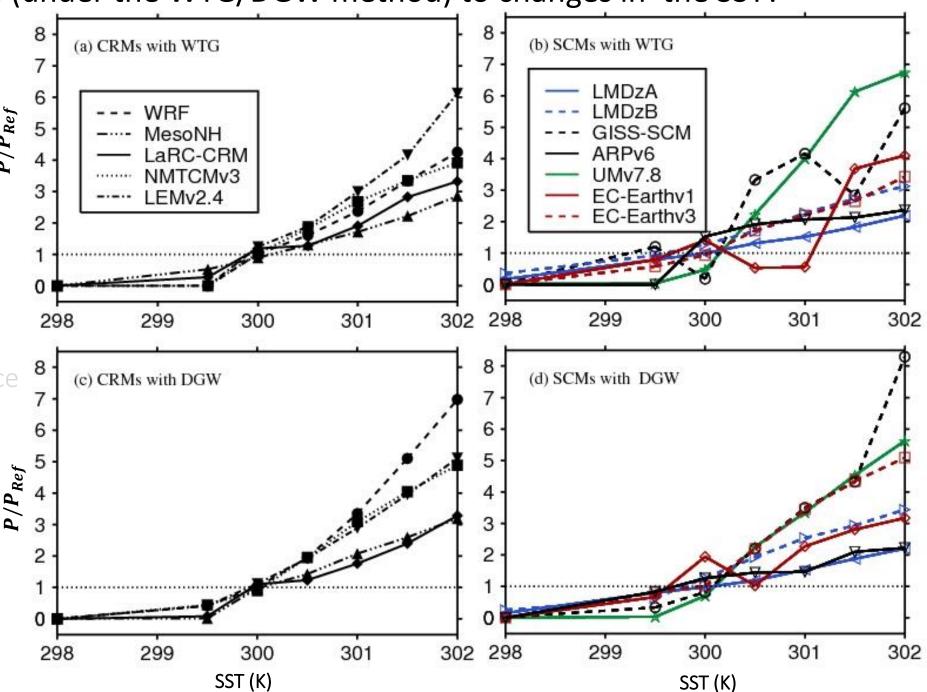
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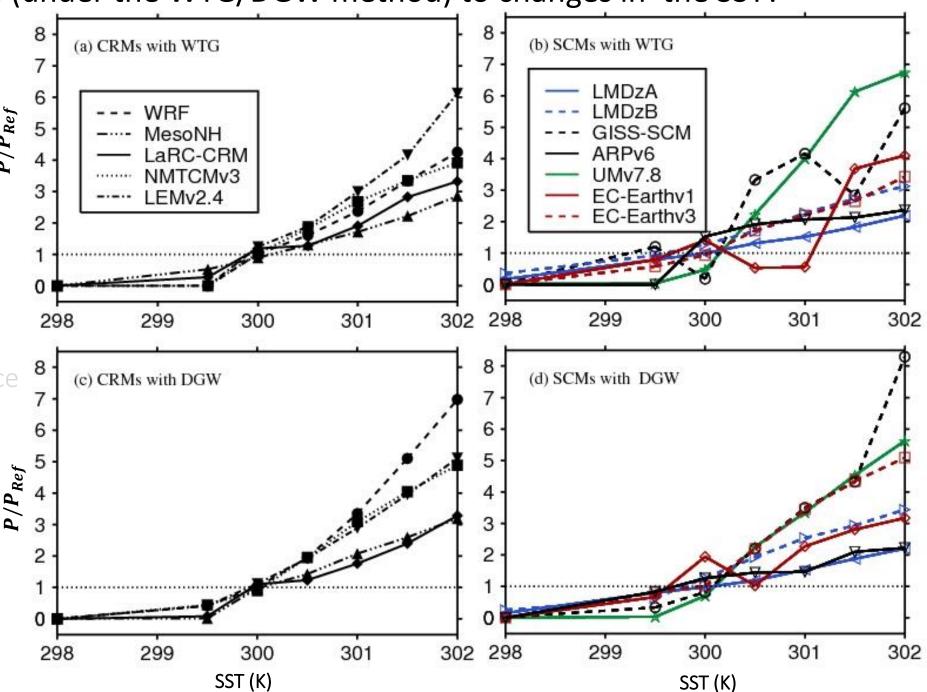
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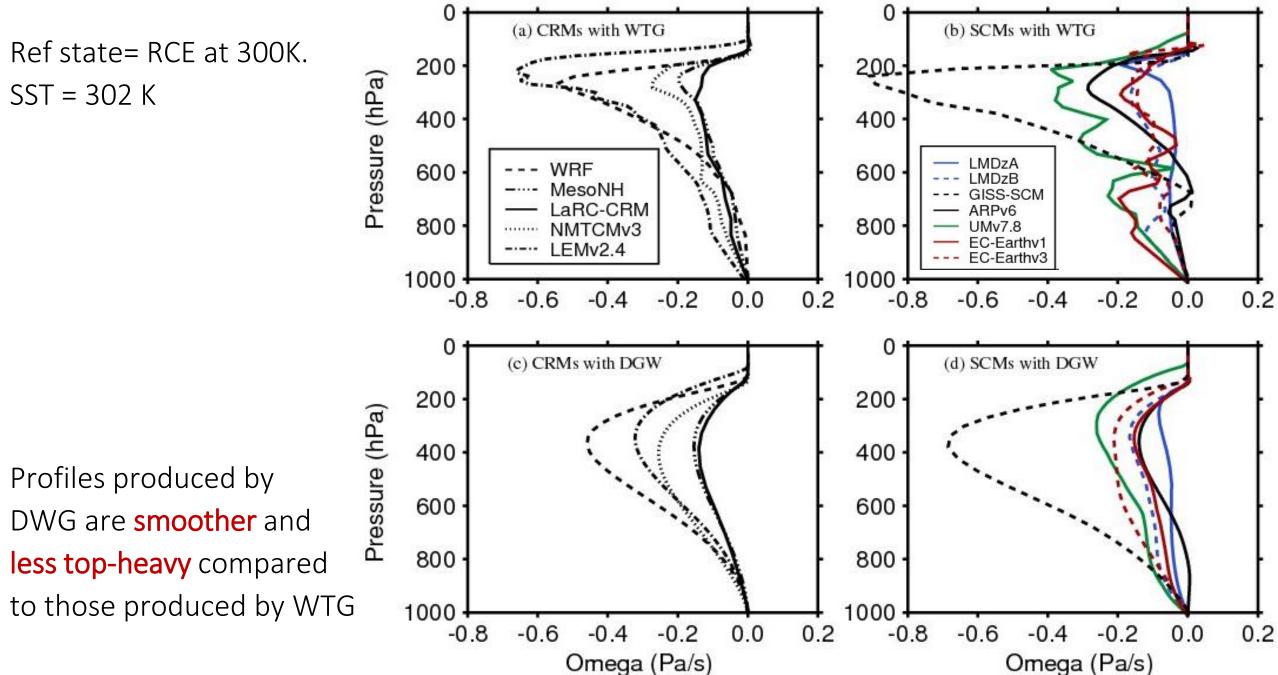
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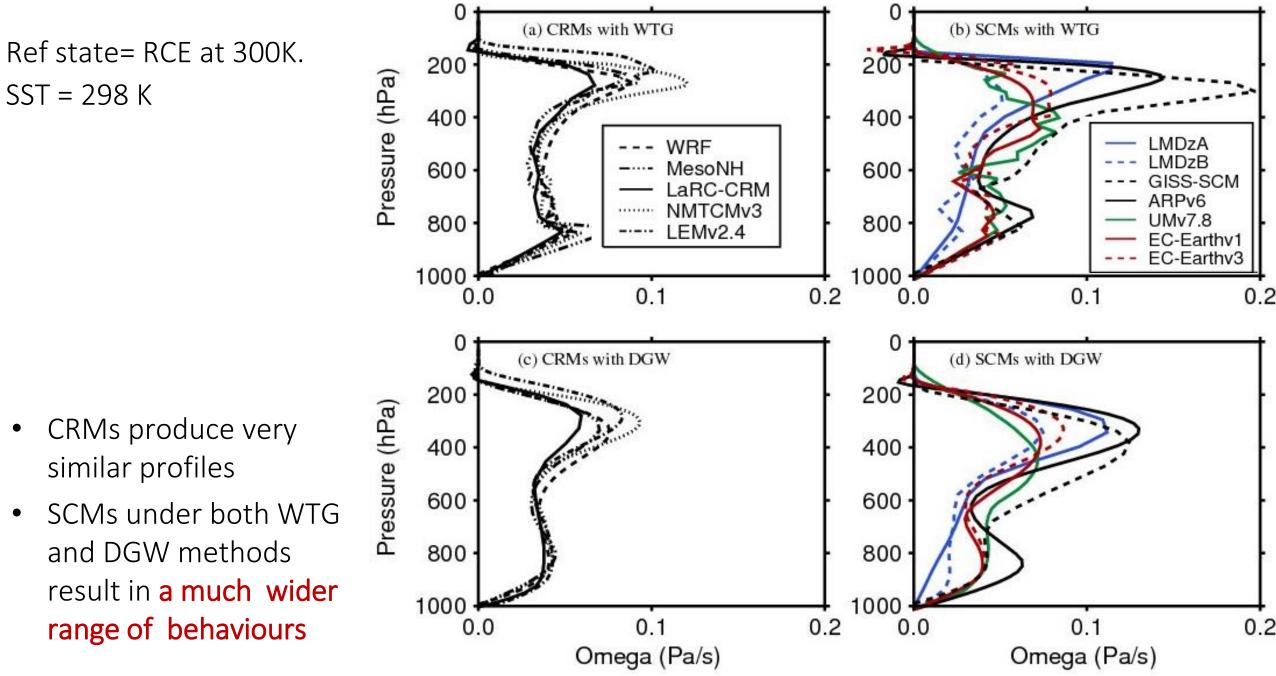
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WTG and DGW simulation over non-uniform SST



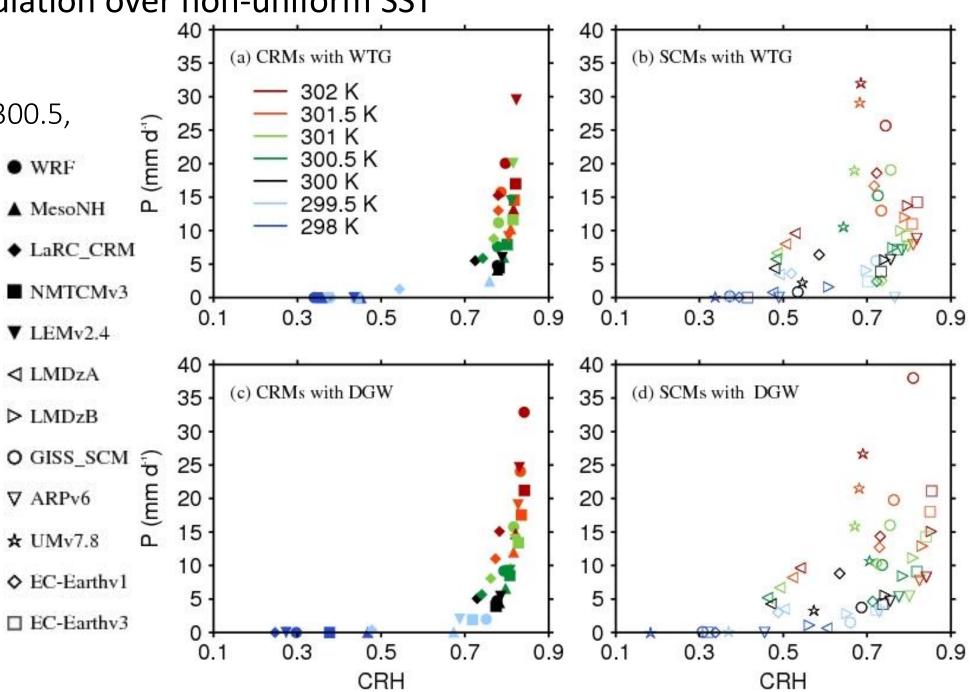
WTG and DGW simulation over non-uniform SST



#### WTG and DGW simulation over non-uniform SST

Ref state= RCE at 300K. SST = 298, 299.5, 300, 300.5, 301, 301.5 and 302 K

- CRMs under both WTG and DGW methods produce very similar relationship between P and CRH.
- SCMs results in a much wider range of behaviours



#### Summaries



- Over uniform SST, large-scale circ develops under the WTG/DGW in some models but not all. More likely under the WTG than under the DGW.
- Some models sustain multiple equilibria (ME) under the WTG, while others do not.
- ME are more likely at higher SST, but sensitive to PBL depth
- No model sustain ME under the DGW.

#### Overall

- The WTGs produce a wider range of behaviours than DGWs
- CRMs under the WTG/DGW method behave broadly in a similar way, while SCMs exhibit a much wider range of behaviours.

Comparison between CRMs and SCMs under the WTG/DGW may be a useful tool for trying to reduce biases or improve the SCMs or a useful tool when developing and testing parameterization schemes.



# Questions?

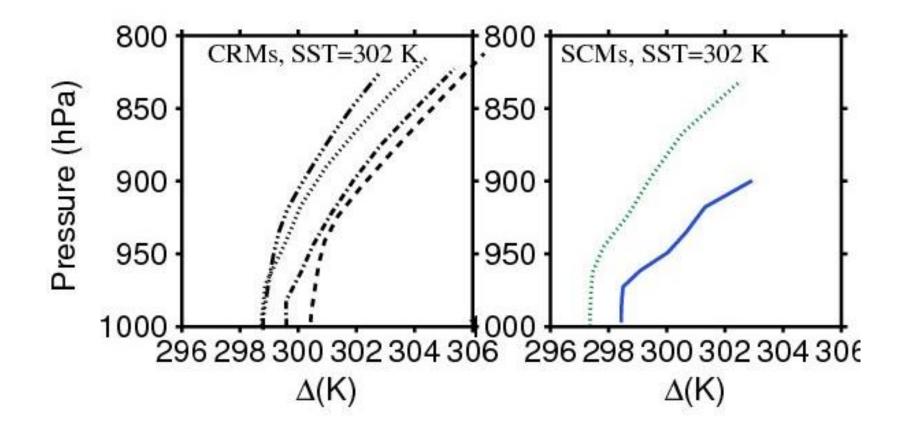
Radiative-Convective Equilibrium (RCE) simulations

Fixed sea surface temperature (SST) and no Coriolis force is applied Idealized radiative forcing profile:

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \begin{cases} -1.5 & \text{if } \overline{p} \ge 100 \\ -1.5 \times \frac{\overline{p} - 100}{100} - \alpha_T \times \frac{200 - \overline{p}}{100} \times (\overline{T} - 200) & \text{if } 100 < \overline{p} < 200 \\ \alpha_T \times (\overline{T} - 200) & \text{if } \overline{p} \le 100 \end{cases}$$

 $\bar{p}(hPa)$ 

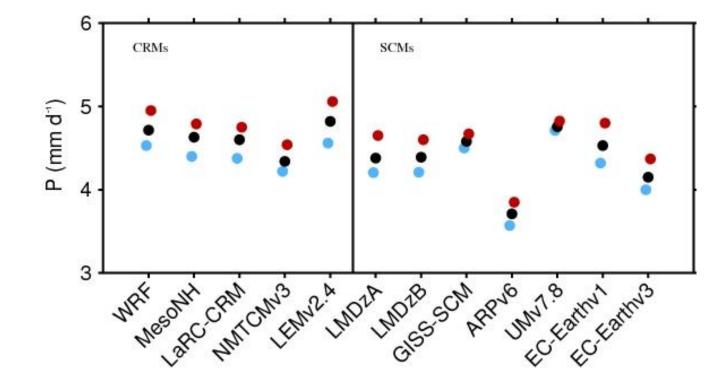
RCE simulations with SST =298, 300 and 302 K

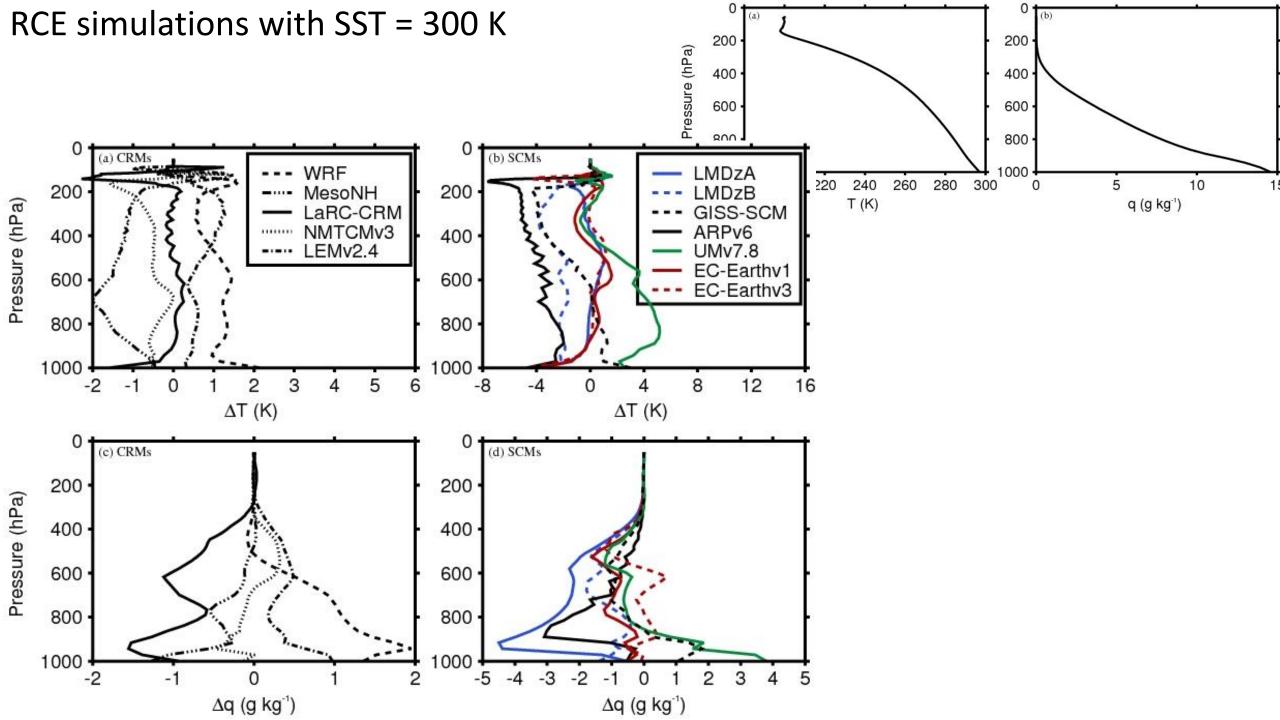


*Potential; temperature in the lowest 200 hPa. RCE simulations with SST=302K* 

RCE simulations with SST =298, 300 and 302 K

Colour code: 298, 300, 302 K

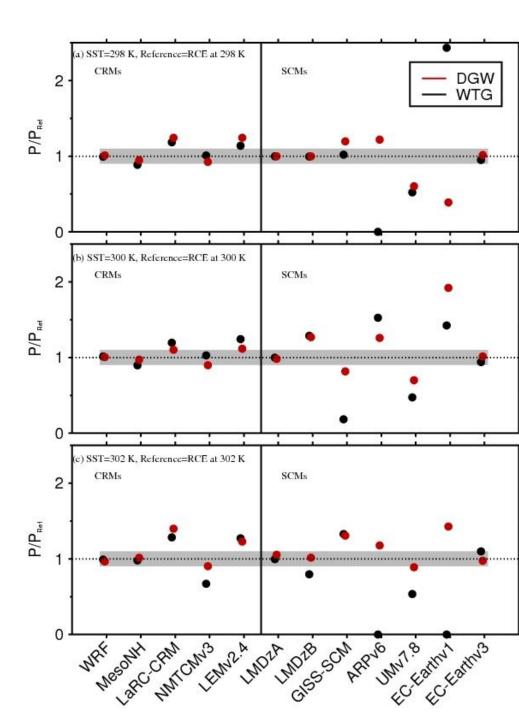




#### WTG and DGW simulation over uniform SST

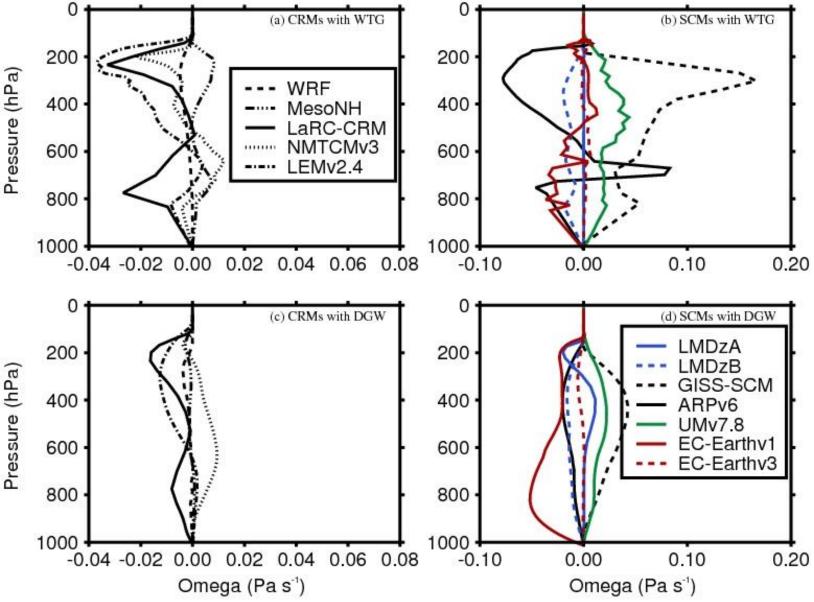
- The reference state of each model comes from the radiative-convective equilibrium (RCE) simulations of the same model.
- The WTG and DGW simulations are performed over uniform SST of 298, 300 and 302 K with the reference state from the same SST.
- The WTG and DGW simulations are initialized with profiles from the reference state.

Wider range of behaviours across SCMs compared to CRMs



#### WTG and DGW simulation over uniform SST

- Wider range of behaviour across SCMs compared to CRMs
- The profiles produced by DGW simulations are smoother compared to those produced by WTG simulations
- We defined  $\Omega = \frac{1}{\Delta p} \int \overline{\omega} dp$ A simulation replicate the RCE State to a good approximation If
- 0.9 < MRR/MRR\_{RCE}<1.1 and  $-4\times10^{-3} < \Omega < 4\times10^{-3}$



Sensitivity to initial moisture conditions

- Initialized with RH from the RCE state (full circles)
- Initialized with 0% RH (open circles)

Some simulations are insensitive to the initial RH.

No dry equilibrium under the DGW method

Over a uniform SST of 302 K,

we compared the profiles at equilibrium in the WTG simulations of WRF, NMTCMv3, LEMv2.4, UMv7.4, LMDzB to those obtained in the WTG simulation of MesoNH

