Refined analysis of the generation of AACP and related storm top phenomena

Pao Wang Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Storm top features

- Overshooting top (OT)
- Above anvil cirrus plumes (AACP)
- Jumping Cirrus (JC)
- Cold-U (V)
- Close-in Warm Area (CWA)
- Cold Ring (CR)
- Pancake Cloud (PC)
- Ship waves (SW)
- Radial Cirrus (RC)



Blocking effect of thunderstorms on the ambient winds

- The thunderstorm behaves as an obstacle to the ambient winds at various points of the storm, producing many observed storm top features both in satellite images and by other platforms.
- Surface energy and momentum are transported vertically by the updraft and convectively generated internal gravity waves to upper levels



Evidence of blocking





Windward – high pressure, lee – low pressure



Above anvil cirrus plumes (AACP)





Courtesy of Martin Setvak)



Ship waves – resistance of the obstacle



Cold U (V) and CWA windward side –cloud surface forced higher due to the obstacle lee side – air descends rapidly



Courtesy of Martin Setvak)

When shear is weak - cold ring, pancake





Courtesy of Martin Setvak)

Pancake clouds observed



Courtesy of Martin Setvak)

Courtesy of Po-Hsiung Lin

radial cirrus – interference phenomena



Courtesy of Maria Putsay

Same phase, frequency, amplitude, constant wind 2 point sources. D = 3.5 lambda

