



Monash Weather and Climate seminar series

SPECIAL SEMINAR: Tuesday 18th August

Clouds in Climate Models: Real, lies, or statistics?

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The comment that “there are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics” is attributed to Benjamin Disraeli (and popularized by Mark Twain). One might well ask if clouds in climate models represent reality or fall into one of Disraeli’s categories. And, equally importantly, how would we know? Over the last decade we have been acquiring data which have the potential to answer these questions and, in the process of answering them, identify paths to improved parameterizations. Detailed cloud data are being collected from ground-based sites and from space. Cloud observations from space have largely relied on multi-wavelength imagers, but important new information is being provided by active sensors like CloudSat and multi-angle imagers like MISR. By the nature of the problem, much of the comparison between data and climate models relies on statistics, which introduces additional complications in interpretation. This presentation focuses on strategies to compare data from various sources with a new type of climate model, the Multi-scale Modeling Framework (MMF, also known as the “superparameterization”). Our results show the promise of the methodology but also illustrate limitations.

Seminars held in Room 345, Building 28, 1-2pm

All Welcome!

For more information, contact Laura Davies or Jo Brown
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