Modeling the effects of Black Carbon on Climate

V. Ramaswamy

with contributions from

W. Cooke, P. Ginoux, L. Horowitz, D. Schwarzkopf

NOAA/ Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Princeton University

Outline

- Modeling the distribution of the black carbon aerosols in GCMs.
- Modeling the optical characteristics of the aerosols.
- Model versus observations.
- Time evolution of BC's role in forcing.

Simulated BC concentrations

* SKYHI model

(Cooke, Ramaswamy, Kasibhatla, JGR 2002)

* GFDL MOZART model

Figures



Figure 1. Emission and transformation scheme for carbonaceous aerosol as implemented in the GCM.



Figure 2. Comparison of modeled (3 years of data) and measured black carbon at Sable Island (60°W, 43.9°N). The mean and geometric deviation of the observations is shown, while , for the model, the values for each of the 3 years of simulation are plotted.



Figure 3. Same as Figure 2 except at Bondville (88.4°W, 40.1°N).



Modelled versus measured BC







Ratio of column burdens for double transformation time





Sensitivity of global-mean forcing of black carbon aerosol from fossil-fuel combustion to aerosol microphysics.

Parameter

FACTOR DIFFERENCE

1

STANDARD

Transformation time halved	0.8
Transformation time doubled	1.1
100% hydrophobic emission	1.2
100% soluble aerosol	0.6
Wet deposition rate halved	1.3

OVERALL SENSITIVITY

 $\sim 2x$





Optics concerning BC

- Soot mixtures with other aerosols
- Soot mixtures in clouds
- Soot-snow mixture



Fig. 1. In an external mixture model (a) graphitic carbon particles are supposed to stay outside of the snow grains. Model calculations always require concentrations of graphitic carbon that are too high compared with measured values. An internal mixture model with graphitic carbon particles distributed randomly throughout the volume of snow grains (b) leads to carbon content compatible with measured values.





Fig. 2. The imaginary part of the refractive index of snow-soot composition is a very sensitive function of the soot volume fraction V. Around wavelength $\lambda = 0.5 \ \mu m$, an amount of soot of only 5×10^{-8} by volume increases the imaginary part of refractive index by almost a factor of 10. A fraction of 1×10^{-7} of carbon increases the imaginary part of the refractive index 50 times. In the near infrared, the refractive index is not affected by the amount of carbon present.









Time evolution of BC and other aerosols [GFDL Climate Model]

* Optical depths* Fluxes





70 1.0











Global-annual-mean forcing TOA [1990 – 1860]





nase nas nase Longitude ais.

πie

Longitude

120

nie –

aie.

1251



2000-1880 gbl mean = -1.802







Longitude



.

125

πit

1990-1860 gbl mean = -1.248





ais.





ais.

ait

190

1251

aie.

Longitude

1201

ais.



Longitude







1970-1860 gbl mean = -0.138

1980-1860 gbl mean = 0.155



1990-1860 gbl mean = 0.400



2000-1860 gbl mean = 0.636



CONCLUDING POINTS

- Meteorology may be MORE important than microphysical details in global free tropospheric distribution → esp. frequency of precipitation
- Temporal variations can be significant
- Internal mixtures of Carbonaceous aerosols with other aerosols, clouds and snow

 need spectral measurements AND aerosol amount
 - simultaneously
- HOW MUCH OF "IT" IS UP THERE ???
- CRITICAL to verify modeled time evolution of surface concentrations, vertical profile, optical depth and fluxes to construct an accurate picture of the forcing → providing CONSTRAINTS