Study of maritime convection using the HALO Microwave Package (HAMP)

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1. Motivation
The representation of maritime clouds and precipitation is a major source of uncertainty in numerical weather prediction and climate models.

- Better understanding of clouds and precipitation processes is a key for improved climate simulations. Observations are fundamental to understand cloud processes and evaluate models.

2. Need for highly resolved observations
- Satellites observe the global distribution of clouds and water vapor, but miss small scale features due to their coarse resolution.

- Higher spatial resolution is achieved with research aircraft like the High Altitude Long range research aircraft HALO.

- HALO carries remote sensing instruments including HAMP:

2.1. HALO Microwave Package (HAMP)
- active and passive remote sensing package pointing downwards (nadir).

- passive: Microwave Radiometer (MWR)
  - 26 channels: 22 to 183 GHz
  - receives integrated signal from ground and atmosphere
  - ground footprint, flying at 12 km: 1.0 to 0.6 km

- active: Cloud Radar (35.6 GHz)
  - emits pulse and receives the backscatter signal from particles
  - range attribution via signal propagation time

- 4 campaigns observed of clouds:
  NARVAL-I-North (Dec, 2013), NARVAL-I-South (Jan, 2014)
  NARVAL-II (Aug, 2016), NAWDEX (Sep & Oct, 2016)

3. My Goals
- Develop retrieval algorithms:
  - temperature and humidity profiles. (passive MWR)
  - differentiate between cloud ice, snow, graupel, rain and cloud water. Retrieve contents. (active + passive)

- Comparative characterization of clouds:
  - tropical North Atlantic vs. mid-latitude North Atlantic
  - cold/dry season vs. warm/wet season

- Is it possible to retrieve the profile of the cloud drop size distribution from liquid clouds?

- How does the synergy of active and passive constrain ice particle characterization?

4. Exemplary cloud characterization
- Synergetic use of active and passive HAMP and a solar spectrometer.
  - Found drizzling clouds with little water content.

- No strong correlation between water content and rain probability.

5. Example of preliminary data
- Linear regression model to retrieve the integrated water vapor content (IWV).

- Regression model trained with a dataset of dropsonde profiles and simulated radiometer measurements
  - Uses Passive and Active Microwave TRAnsfer model PAMTRA

- Water vapor is increased in the vicinity of clouds in satellite images. ▶ qualitative agreement

- quantitative IWV comparison with dropsondes
  - rmsd = 2.0 kg/m², bias = 1.6 kg/m²
  - next step: improve passive microwave calibration

6. Acknowledgment and references
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Fig. 1: High Altitude Long range research aircraft (HALO)

Fig. 2: Flight tracks of NARVAL-II (left) and NAWDEX (right).

Fig. 3: Probability of a raining cloud as a function of the total liquid water content (LWC). Sketch after Schnitt et al. (2017) for the dry season over the tropical Atlantic (NARVAL-I-South).

Fig. 4: Top: Water vapor signal seen from satellite (gray scale). Figure based on the NARVAL-II flight report of 2016-08-10. Bottom: Retrieved integrated water vapor (IWV) along flight track. Arrows connect time and position on map.