

Characteristics of cloud fractions from whole-sky camera and ceilometer observations onboard R/V *Shirase*

Makoto Kuji¹, *Saori Yamano¹, Masahiro Hori², Kyohei Yamada³, Naohiko Hirasawa^{3,4} and Masataka Shiobara^{3,4}

¹Faculty of Science, Nara Women's University

²Earth Observation Research Center, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

³National Institute of Polar Research

⁴The Graduate University for Advanced Studies

Cloud has opposite effects on the earth climate system: warming and cooling. Their magnitudes depend on cloud fraction, height, and so on. They influence the radiation balance on the earth and they are one of the greatest error sources for the climate prediction [IPCC, 2013]. Nevertheless, it is not easy to make a detailed observation due to their spatial and temporal variability. Furthermore, we do not have enough observation sites over ocean which covers about 70% of the earth surface. It is, therefore, important to elucidate their behavior. Thus, we make a periodical shipboard observation to investigate maritime cloud using whole-sky camera, ceilometer and visual observations onboard R/V *Shirase* between Japan and Antarctica.

Shipboard observations were carried out onboard R/V *Shirase* (AGB-5003) [Kuji et al., 2016]. The whole-sky camera system mainly consists of a digital camera (NIKON D7000, NIKON Corporation) and a circular fisheye lens (4.5 mm F2.8 EX DC Circular Fisheye HSM, SIGMA Corporation) to take a photo of a whole sky. The observation interval is 5 min. We have 70,618 images from 10 August 2017 to 12 April 2018 (JARE 59). We investigated the distribution of clouds over ocean by estimating cloud fraction from whole-sky camera images based on a cloud detection method [Yoshimura and Yamashita, 2013]. However, we analyzed the whole-sky images over sea ice region as a function of solar height because sea surface albedo over sea ice regions is very different from that over open ocean [Kuji et al., 2018]. The ceilometer is an instrument to determine cloud base height by measuring the return time of laser beam (Vaisala CL51). The observation interval is 36 s. We have 321,358 profiles from 29 November 2017 to 12 April 2018 (JARE 59). We can obtain up to three cloud base heights with the software built in the system. The cloud fraction with the ceilometer was defined as a frequency of cloud appearance, that is, the ratio of cloudy to total effective profiles. In addition, we can use the cloud fraction by visual observation as one of the meteorological datasets. The observation interval is 1 h. We have 3,624 cloud fractions from 12 November 2017 to 12 April 2018 (JARE 59).

Figure 1 illustrates the temporal variation of the cloud fractions resulted from the ceilometer and visual observations during JARE 59. It is found that the variation of cloud fractions is generally consistent. As a result of the initial analysis, the correlation coefficient is very high of 0.95.

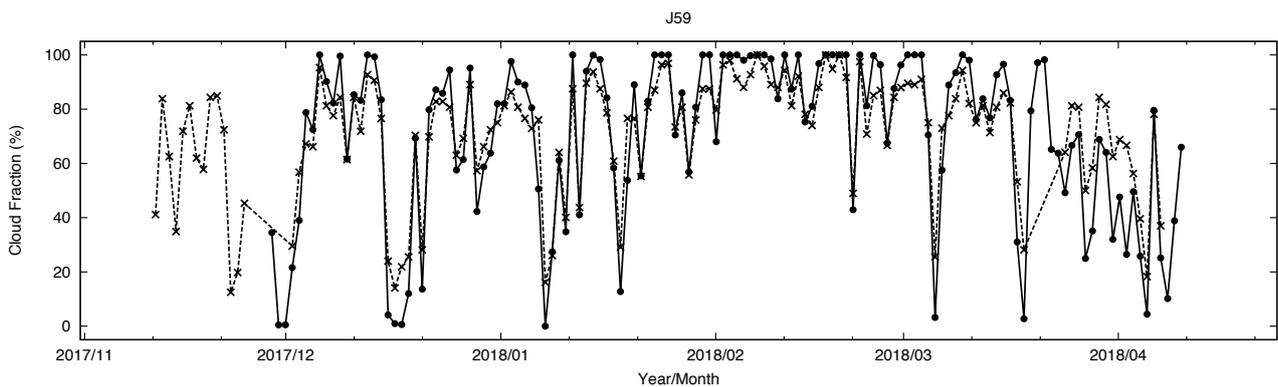


Figure 1. Temporal variation of daily-averaged cloud fractions during JARE 59. Solid and dashed lines correspond to the ceilometer and the visual observations, respectively.

We are going to examine the characteristics of the cloud fraction estimated from the whole-sky camera on the ship tracks. Furthermore, we will make a validation study comparing the cloud fractions from R/V *Shirase* as well as satellite observations.

Acknowledgments

The shipborne observation was conducted in cooperation with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and National

Institute of Polar Research. The authors are grateful to those who related to the observations onboard R/V *Shirase* during JARE 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59. The authors are also grateful to Ms. Misako Hagiwara of Nara Women's University, Japan, for her kind advices.

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