



## Global climate response to anthropogenic aerosol indirect effects: Present day and year 2100

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[1] Aerosol indirect effects (AIE) are a principal source of uncertainty in future climate predictions. The present study investigates the equilibrium response of the climate system to present-day and future AIE using the general circulation model (GCM), Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) III. A diagnostic formulation correlating cloud droplet number concentration ( $N_c$ ) with concentrations of aerosol soluble ions is developed as a basis for the calculation. Explicit dependence on  $N_c$  is introduced in the treatments of liquid-phase stratiform clouds in GISS III. The model is able to reproduce the general patterns of present-day cloud frequency, droplet size, and radiative balance observed by CloudSat, Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer, and Earth Radiation Budget Experiment. For perturbations of  $N_c$  from preindustrial to present day, a net AIE forcing of  $-1.67 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  is estimated, with a global mean surface cooling of 1.12 K, precipitation reduction of 3.36%, a southward shift of the Intertropical Convergence Zone, and a hydrological sensitivity of  $+3.00\% \text{ K}^{-1}$ . For estimated perturbations of  $N_c$  from present day to year 2100, a net AIE forcing of  $-0.58 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , a surface cooling of 0.47 K, and a decrease in precipitation of 1.7% are predicted. Sensitivity calculations show that the assumption of a background minimum  $N_c$  value has more significant effects on AIE forcing in the future than on that in present day. When AIE-related processes are included in the GCM, a decrease in stratiform precipitation is predicted over future greenhouse gas (GHG)-induced warming scenario, as opposed to the predicted increase when only GHG and aerosol direct effects are considered.

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### 1. Introduction

[2] Aerosols alter the energy balance of the Earth-atmosphere system directly by scattering and absorbing sunlight (aerosol direct effect (ADE)), and indirectly by affecting the reflectivity, lifetime, and precipitation formation of clouds. The so-called aerosol indirect effect (AIE), the modification of cloud optical properties (cloud albedo

effect), structure, and precipitation (cloud lifetime effect) by aerosols, is judged to be the most uncertain radiative forcing in the climate system [Forster *et al.*, 2007]. General circulation models (GCMs) with explicit aerosol-cloud interactions are the principal tool for estimating the radiative forcing and climatic impacts of the AIE. Current GCM-based estimation of AIE radiative forcing from preindustrial to present day for the cloud albedo effect range from  $-0.22$  to  $-1.85 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ; when changes in cloud lifetime and other feedbacks (e.g., glaciation indirect effects and thermodynamic effects) are included, the values vary from  $-0.29$  to  $-2.41 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  [Forster *et al.*, 2007].

[3] Climatic impacts of the present-day AIE, relative to preindustrial conditions, have been investigated in GCM studies [Rotstayn *et al.*, 2000; Williams *et al.*, 2001; Rotstayn and Lohmann, 2002; Kristjánsson *et al.*, 2005; Ming *et al.*, 2005; Kirkevåg *et al.*, 2008a, 2008b; Koch *et al.*, 2009]. In these studies the atmosphere is coupled to a slab ocean with interactive sea surface temperature (SST) and fixed heat transport. A qualitatively similar pattern in climate responses was found in these studies: cooling at Northern Hemisphere high latitudes and a southward displacement of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).

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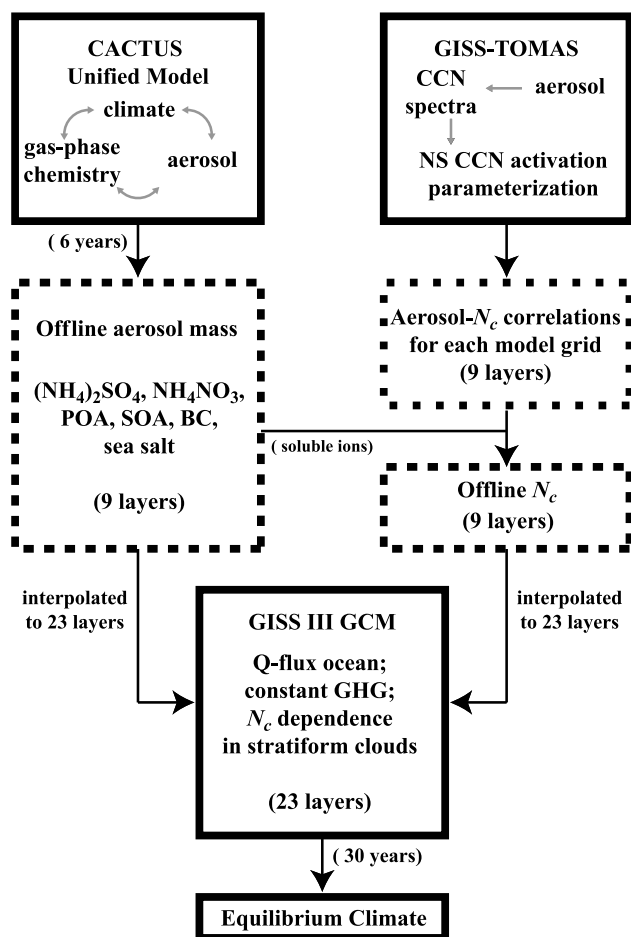
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**Figure 1.** Schematic diagram for experimental design.

Amplified cooling at northern high latitudes associated with sea ice and snow albedo feedbacks was identified by Williams *et al.* [2001] and Kristjánsson *et al.* [2005]. In studies exploring the combined impacts of present-day aerosol direct and indirect effects [Feichter *et al.*, 2004; Kristjánsson *et al.*, 2005; Takemura *et al.*, 2005; Kirkevåg *et al.*, 2008a, 2008b; Koch *et al.*, 2009], a weakening of the hydrological cycle over northern high latitudes and a similar southward shift of ITCZ was diagnosed. Combining the direct and indirect aerosol climatic effects with greenhouse gas (GHG) forcing, Feichter *et al.* [2004] identified a significant nonlinearity in the response of the hydrological cycle using the ECHAM4 model with interactive sulfur chemistry and primary carbonaceous aerosols, and online cloud droplet activation. However, in a similar study using the CCM-Oslo (based on the NCAR Community Climate Model CCM3) with online sulfate and black carbon and lookup tables for CCN activation, Kirkevåg *et al.* [2008a] found the climatic responses to aerosols and GHG are nearly additive.

[4] In the present work, climate responses to the AIE are studied, with emphasis on changes in the hydrological cycle. We address the following questions: (1) How is climate affected by the anthropogenic perturbations of cloud droplet number concentration ( $N_c$ ) alone from preindustrial to present day (year 2000), and from present day to future

(year 2100)? (2) How is future climate predicted to be influenced by the combined perturbations of anthropogenic GHG, aerosols, and  $N_c$ ?

[5] Here we use equilibrium climate simulations to investigate the above questions. The simulations are performed using the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) Global Climate Middle Atmosphere Model III (referred to as GISS III hereafter) coupled to a slab (Q-flux) ocean model. Modifications are made to the formulations of optical depth and autoconversion rates in liquid-phase stratiform clouds in GISS III to introduce explicit dependence on grid-by-grid offline  $N_c$  fields. In each of the simulations, specific levels of offline monthly averaged aerosol mass concentrations and  $N_c$  values are input, and the atmospheric dynamics, hydrological cycle, and temperature are allowed to respond accordingly. The corresponding aerosol indirect radiative forcing is calculated, and changes in cloud properties, temperature, precipitation, and circulation between the equilibrium climates are diagnosed. Note that the aerosol indirect effects on stratiform ice clouds and convective clouds are not included in the present study.

[6] A key ingredient in representing the AIE in GCMs is the relation of changes in aerosol amount and properties to changes in  $N_c$  and cloud droplet size distribution. In the empirical diagnostic approach,  $N_c$  is formulated as a function of aerosol mass or number concentration, based on ambient data [e.g., Boucher and Lohmann, 1995; Ghan *et al.*, 1997; Menon *et al.*, 2002; Dufresne *et al.*, 2005; Ming *et al.*, 2005; Quaas and Boucher, 2005]. In the prognostic approach, the cloud droplet distribution is predicted based on cloud microphysics [e.g., Kristjánsson *et al.*, 2005; Takemura *et al.*, 2005; Lohmann *et al.*, 2007]. While the earliest studies of the AIE employed the empirical diagnostic approach, the tendency in recent work is to adopt a prognostic microphysics approach to predict cloud droplet properties online and interactively. In the present study, we establish a new, physically based, computationally efficient formulation to relate aerosols and cloud properties diagnostically, allowing for geographical and seasonal variations of aerosol-cloud interactions.

[7] In section 2, a description of the diagnostic aerosol-cloud formulation is provided, together with the derivations of offline aerosol mass concentrations and offline  $N_c$  values, as well as the modifications to the cloud scheme in the GISS III GCM. The associated forcing for perturbations of GHG and aerosols direct and indirect effects is reported in section 3. Experimental design of the equilibrium climate simulations is outlined in section 4, with the results of the simulations analyzed and discussed in section 5.

## 2. Descriptions of Global Models

[8] Three different global models were used in this study: the Unified Model developed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) project “Chemistry, Aerosols, and Climate: Tropospheric Unified Simulation” (termed the “CACTUS Unified Model” hereafter), the Two-Moment Aerosol Sectional microphysics model within Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) GCM II’ (GISS-TOMAS hereafter), and the GISS III GCM. Table 1 summarizes the characteristics of each model, its usage here, and

**Table 1.** Global Models in This Study<sup>a</sup>

Model	Horizontal Resolution	$\sigma$ -Layers	Model Top (hPa)	Feature	Simulations Performed in This Study	Reference
CACTUS unified model	4° Lat by 5° Lon	9	10	Fully coupled chemistry-aerosol-climate simulations	Derivation of offline aerosol concentrations	<i>Liao et al.</i> [2003, 2004] and <i>Liao and Seinfeld</i> [2005]
GISS-TOMAS	4° Lat by 5° Lon	9	10	Size-resolved aerosol and CCN concentrations	Calculation of CCN spectra for deriving $N_c$ aerosol correlations	<i>Adams and Seinfeld</i> , [2002] and <i>Pierce and Adams</i> [2006]
GISS III	4° Lat by 5° Lon	23	0.002	Cloud scheme modified to include first and second AIE	Equilibrium climate simulation	<i>Rind et al.</i> [2007]

<sup>a</sup>AIE, Aerosol indirect effects; GISS, Goddard Institute for Space Studies; CCN, cloud condensation nuclei.

relevant references. Figure 1 is a flowchart of the simulations in this study, and the steps in which each model is involved. First, the CACTUS Unified Model is used, with fully coupled simulations of tropospheric chemistry, aerosols, and climate, to calculate an annual cycle of monthly averaged aerosol mass concentrations for preindustrial (PI, roughly corresponding to the year 1800), year 2000 (20C), and year 2100 (21C). Next, grid-by-grid correlation formulations between  $N_c$  and aerosol soluble ions are developed using GISS-TOMAS and the sectional cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) activation parameterization of *Nenes and Seinfeld* [2003] (hereafter NS) with the droplet growth kinetic modifications of *Fountoukis and Nenes* [2005] (hereafter FN). With this formulation and the aerosol mass concentrations from the CACTUS Unified Model, offline, monthly averaged values of  $N_c$  for PI, 20C, and 21C are calculated. Finally, optical depth and autoconversion rates in the liquid-phase stratiform cloud scheme of GISS III are adjusted to include explicit dependence on  $N_c$ . A set of equilibrium climate simulations was carried out, each with specific levels of GHG, offline aerosol mass, and offline  $N_c$ . The differences between the equilibrium simulations were analyzed to identify the impacts of AIE on the hydrological cycle and future climate changes.

## 2.1. CACTUS Unified Model and Offline Aerosol Mass Concentration

[9] The CACTUS Unified Model, based on the 4°-latitude-by-5°-longitude, 9 layer GISS GCM II', simulates the fully coupled interactions of chemistry, aerosol, and climate [*Liao et al.*, 2003; 2004; *Liao and Seinfeld*, 2005]. The model is coupled to a Q-flux ocean, with monthly horizontal heat transport fluxes taken from *Mickley et al.* [2004]. Changes in the sea surface temperature and sea ice are determined by energy exchange with the atmosphere, ocean heat transport, and the ocean mixed layer heat capacity [*Hansen et al.*,

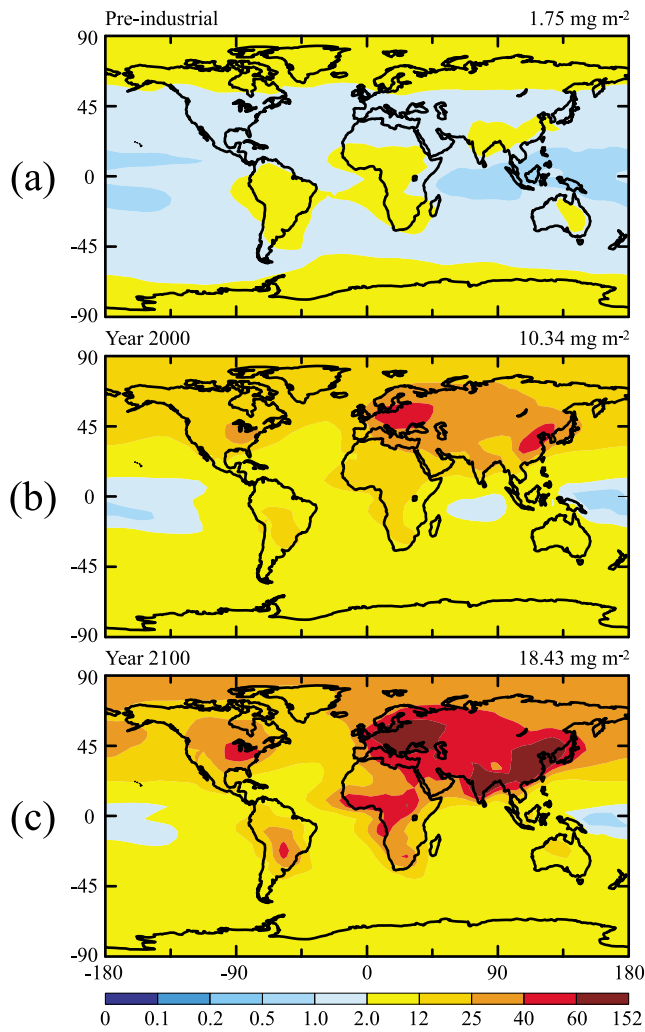
1984; *Russell et al.*, 1985]. The model includes detailed tropospheric O<sub>3</sub>-NO<sub>x</sub>-hydrocarbon chemistry, as well as heterogeneous processes, such as hydrolysis of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and irreversible absorption of NO<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and HO<sub>2</sub> on wetted particle surfaces. Aerosol species predicted in the model include sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, black carbon (BC), primary (POA) and secondary organic aerosol (SOA), sea salt, and mineral dust. Condensation and dry and wet deposition (not size-dependent) are included in determining the aerosol mass budgets. The CACTUS Unified Model has been used in a number of climate studies to identify the influence of climate change on the predictions of tropospheric chemistry and aerosol [*Liao et al.*, 2006], the climatic impact of AIE [*Chen et al.*, 2007], and the differences between fully coupled and offline chemistry-aerosol-climate simulations [*Liao et al.*, 2009].

[10] In the version of the CACTUS Unified Model used here, the formation of SOA from monoterpenes is based on experimentally determined yield parameters [*Griffin et al.*, 1999a, 1999b; *Chung and Seinfeld*, 2002], assuming equilibrium partitioning; SOA formation from isoprene is not included in the current version of the model, which will be updated in future work. The aerosol semidirect effect on clouds (i.e., through changes in the atmospheric temperature structure caused by aerosol absorption), in-cloud chemistry, and wet removal of aerosols are accounted for. The model does not include the climatic impact of AIE on the prediction of aerosol fields. On the basis of the calculations given by *Liao et al.* [2006], a 10% increase in global mean precipitation results in a 9–13% decrease in burdens of tracer-like aerosols (e.g., BC and POA). Since the global precipitation change owing to AIE is generally less than 2%, as shown later in the climate simulations, the effects of neglecting AIE-induced climate change on global mean predicted aerosol mass in the present study should be small, but we note that some regional biases may exist.

**Table 2.** Global Annual Burdens of Aerosols Derived by the CACTUS Unified Model<sup>a</sup>

	PI			Year 2000 (20C)			Year 2100 (21C)		
	Global	NH	SH	Global	NH	SH	Global	NH	SH
Ammonium bisulfate	0.41	0.19	0.22	2.87	2.27	0.60	2.74	2.01	0.73
Ammonium nitrate	0.22	0.11	0.11	0.67	0.48	0.19	2.88	2.44	0.44
POA	0.08	0.05	0.03	1.23	0.88	0.35	2.88	2.11	0.77
SOA	0.17	0.08	0.09	0.28	0.18	0.10	0.38	0.26	0.12
BC	0.01	0.006	0.004	0.23	0.18	0.05	0.52	0.42	0.10
(Total)	0.89	0.44	0.45	5.28	3.99	1.29	9.40	7.24	2.16
Sea salt <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	4.96	1.64	3.32	-	-	-

<sup>a</sup>Present-day (20C) sea salt concentrations are used in the calculation of preindustrial (PI) and 21C  $N_c$  fields. Units are Tg dry mass. POA, primary organic aerosol; SOA, secondary organic aerosol; BC, black carbon. NH, Northern Hemisphere; SH, Southern Hemisphere.



**Figure 2.** Annual mean total column burden ( $\text{mg m}^{-2}$ ) of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, primary organic aerosol (POA), secondary organic aerosol (SOA), and black carbon (BC) for (a) preindustrial (PI), (b) 20th century (20C), and (c) 21st century (21C). Global average values are given in the upper right corner of each plot.

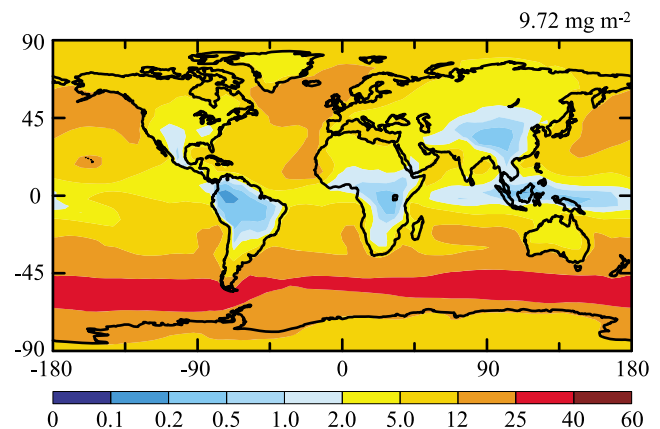
[11] Three simulations with the CACTUS Unified Model were carried out, each using emissions of aerosols, aerosol precursors, and ozone precursors corresponding to PI, 20C, and 21C, while GHG were held at present-day levels in all the simulations. Emissions for 20C and 21C are based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) A2. Emissions for PI are based on those for 20C, with relevant scaling (as detailed by Liao and Seinfeld [2005] and Liao et al. [2006]). All three simulations were initiated by an equilibrium climate corresponding to 20C GHG and integrated for 6 years. Since the levels of GHG are fixed throughout the simulations, the differences between the derived PI, 20C and 21C aerosol concentrations result entirely from emission changes. Results from the last 5 years in each simulation are averaged to obtain a grid-by-grid, annual cycle of monthly averaged aerosol mass concentrations. These aerosol concentrations are used later in deriving the offline  $N_c$  values (section 2.2)

and also to account for aerosol direct radiative effects (ADE) in the climate simulations (section 2.3.3).

[12] Table 2 lists the predicted global and hemispheric annual burdens of ammonium bisulfate, ammonium nitrate, POA, SOA, BC, and sea salt aerosols, derived for PI, 20C, and 21C. Each of the above species shows significant increase from PI to 20C. From 20C to 21C, sulfates are predicted to decrease owing to reductions in projected  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions; nitrate levels are predicted to increase more than fourfold, while POA and BC are predicted to double. Figure 2 shows the annual global mean column burdens of anthropogenic aerosol for PI, 20C, and 21C. Increases in peak concentrations are predicted over heavily industrialized and populated areas of South and East Asia, Europe, and the eastern United States. Outflows from the major biomass burning regions in South America and western Africa are also prominent. Predicted global column burdens of sea salt for 20C are shown in Figure 3. With a predicted global burden of 4.96 Tg, sea salt concentrations are highest over the southern ocean and the midlatitude ocean over Northern Hemisphere (NH), corresponding to the strong winds that lead to high emissions in these areas.

## 2.2. GISS-TOMAS Model, FN Activation Parameterization, and Derivation of Aerosol- $N_c$ Relationships

[13] GISS-TOMAS and the NS activation parameterization (with the mass transfer corrections as implemented in FN) are used to provide the diagnostic relationship between aerosol levels and  $N_c$ . The size-resolved TOMAS microphysics module simulates aerosol number concentration, size distribution, composition, and CCN online within the GISS GCM II'; detailed descriptions are provided by Adams and Seinfeld [2002] for sulfate simulations and Pierce and Adams [2006] for the implementation of sea salt aerosol. In brief, the module tracks both the number and the mass of aerosols in each size bin in the aerosol distribution. A sectional approach is applied to define the boundaries of 30 size bins (spanning approximately dry diameters of 0.01 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ), in terms of dry aerosol mass. Microphysical processes include coagulation, condensation/evaporation, nucleation,



**Figure 3.** Annual mean column burden of sea salt ( $\text{mg m}^{-2}$ ) for 20C. Global average values are given in the upper right corner.

and in-cloud sulfur oxidation. Sulfate is assumed to exist as ammonium bisulfate and to be internally mixed with sea salt. The NS activation parameterization is then applied online to compute nucleation scavenging of aerosol and  $N_c$  from the aerosol simulation. NS is a comprehensive and efficient formulation, which has been evaluated extensively with numerical simulations [Nenes and Seinfeld, 2003; Fountoukis and Nenes, 2005], as well as in situ measurements [Meskhidze et al., 2005; Fountoukis et al., 2007]. NS and FN is based on the framework of an ascending adiabatic cloud parcel;  $N_c$  is determined by the maximum supersaturation,  $s_{max}$ , which is controlled by the water vapor balance and is obtained by classifying the droplets by proximity to their critical diameter (“population splitting”). In this study, a single cloud base updraft velocity of  $0.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  over land and  $0.3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  over ocean is prescribed, based on in situ measurements of updraft velocity in stratocumulus clouds [Fountoukis et al., 2007]. Using a single updraft velocity gives optimal closure between observations and theory for cloud droplet calculations in cumulus and stratocumulus clouds, provided that it expresses the average vertical velocity distribution in the boundary layer [e.g., Meskhidze et al., 2005; Peng et al., 2005; Fountoukis et al., 2007]. On the basis of the calculations by R. Morales and A. Nenes (Characteristic updrafts for computing distribution-averaged cloud droplet number, autoconversion rate and effective radius, submitted to *Geophysical Research Letters*, 2009) and the conclusions from previous works [e.g., Meskhidze et al., 2005; Fountoukis et al., 2007],  $N_c$  computed as an integral over a updraft velocity distribution is close to that computed at a single, distribution-averaged updraft velocity, and the difference is at most 10%. For grid cells that contain both ocean and land, a weighted average of droplet number is computed based on the fractional coverage. The effective water vapor uptake coefficient (which affects the water vapor mass transfer coefficient during droplet formation) is set to 0.06, following Fountoukis et al. [2007]. The model was integrated for 2 years with present-day emissions of sulfur and sea salt; monthly, grid-by-grid CCN spectra are then derived from the simulations of the second year.

[14] On the basis of the monthly averaged CCN spectra obtained from GISS-TOMAS, an aerosol- $N_c$  relationship is derived for each grid cell and month as follows: the aerosol concentration is varied between 0.05 and 5 times the average concentration, and the corresponding  $N_c$  is computed by application of FN (using the same updraft velocity and water vapor uptake coefficient as in the online simulation). The relationship between aerosol amount (expressed in terms of molar concentration of total soluble ions from sulfate and sea salt,  $m_i$ , in mole  $\text{m}^{-3}$  air) and  $N_c$  ( $\text{m}^{-3}$ ) is then correlated in the format proposed by Boucher and Lohmann [1995],

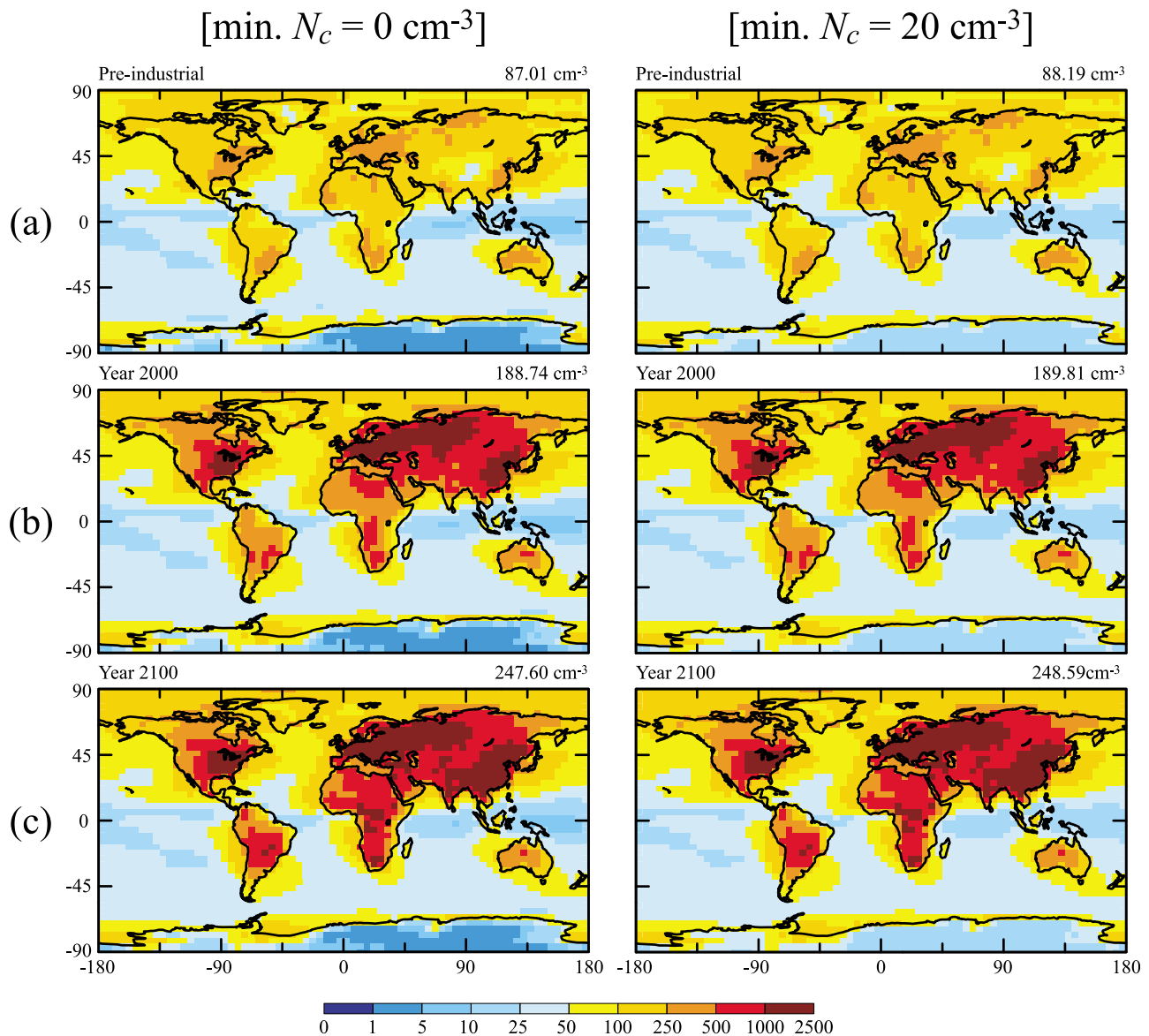
$$\log_{10} N_c = A + B \log_{10} m_i \quad (1)$$

[15] The coefficients  $A$  and  $B$  are computed for each grid cell in each month by least mean squares optimization. Thereby, geographic and seasonal variations of aerosol-cloud interactions are represented by the values of the two coefficients. The correlation coefficients in all fits range between 0.85 and 0.99. The diagnostic formulation developed here is particularly useful for GCM studies because it

is based on (1) aerosol soluble ions rather than mass or composition of certain aerosol species, and therefore can be applied broadly to global models; and on (2) detailed cloud microphysics and activation models, yet is computationally efficient as compared to an online detailed cloud microphysical module. In general, over pristine areas, coefficient  $A$  in equation (1) = 1.7 to 2.4, and coefficient  $B$  = 0.6 to 1.0; over highly polluted areas,  $A$  = 2.4 to 3.0, and  $B$  = 0.4 to 0.6. As a comparison, Boucher and Lohmann [1995], based on mass of sulfate aerosols, derived  $A$  = 2.06 and  $B$  = 0.48 over ocean and  $A$  = 2.240 and  $B$  = 0.257 over land (stratiform clouds); Quaas et al. [2006] correlated  $N_c$  with fine-mode aerosol optical depth from satellite data and yielded globally  $A$  = 2.17 and  $B$  = 0.30.

[16] To obtain the offline, monthly averaged  $N_c$  values for the equilibrium climate simulations, the 9 layer aerosol mass concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, carbonaceous, and sea salt aerosols derived in the Unified Model (section 2.1) are converted to soluble ion concentrations. We assume sea salt distributions in PI and 21C are the same as in 20C, since the uncertainties related to sea salt concentrations may be significant for PI and 21C [Liao and Seinfeld, 2005], and the focus of the present study is on the impacts of anthropogenic aerosols. We assume that ammonium bisulfate, ammonium nitrate, and sea salt aerosols are fully soluble, POA and SOA is 80% soluble [Limbeck and Puxbaum, 2000; Bougiatioti et al., 2009], BC is insoluble, and each of the soluble species forms an ideal solution. Since most carbonaceous compounds do not dissociate significantly, a van't Hoff factor of 1.0 is assumed for soluble organic aerosols [e.g., Giebl et al., 2002; Raymond and Pandis, 2002; Sun and Ariya, 2006; Dinar et al., 2006]. A molar mass of  $0.2 \text{ kg mole}^{-1}$  is used to convert mass concentration into molar concentration for organic aerosols [Asa-Awuku et al., 2008; Engelhart et al., 2008; Asa-Awuku et al., 2009; Bougiatioti et al., 2009], a rough surrogate for the diversity of organics traced in the Unified Model, of which the molar masses span between 0.09 and  $0.3 \text{ kg mole}^{-1}$ . The  $N_c - m_i$  formulations with the derived monthly coefficients at each grid cell were then applied to calculate  $N_c$  for PI, 20C, and 21C conditions. A lower limit of  $20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  is prescribed for  $N_c$  based on annual average  $N_c$  in pristine marine environments [e.g., Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998; Glantz and Noone, 2000; Bennartz, 2007]. The monthly  $N_c$  values were interpolated from a vertical resolution of 9 layers into 23 layers, according to the  $\sigma$  levels of the GISS-II' and GISS III GCMs, ensuring conservation of total  $N_c$  in the entire column.

[17] Figure 4 shows the derived annual mean  $N_c$  at the lowest model level (972 hPa) for PI, 20C, and 21C, with the results before and after applying the minimum  $N_c$  value. Assuming a minimum  $N_c$  of  $20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (right column) would increase  $N_c$  over pristine ocean in PI and 20C conditions, whereas the change in 21C is essentially negligible. Figures 5a and 5b show the changes from PI to 20C and from 20C to 21C. The predicted increase in annual mean  $N_c$  value in 850 hPa level is  $58.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  from PI to 20C and  $31.9 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  from 20C to 21C. The areas predicted to exhibit a significant  $N_c$  increase from PI to 20C are closely related to areas of enhanced concentrations of anthropogenic sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, and organic aerosols (Figure 2). For changes between 20C and 21C (Figure 5b), large increases



**Figure 4.** Predicted annual mean  $N_c$  at the lowest model layer (972 hPa) for (a) PI, (b) 20C, and (c) 21C. (left) Results assuming no minimum  $N_c$  value. (right) Results assuming a minimum value of  $N_c = 20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . Global average values are given in the upper right corner of each plot.

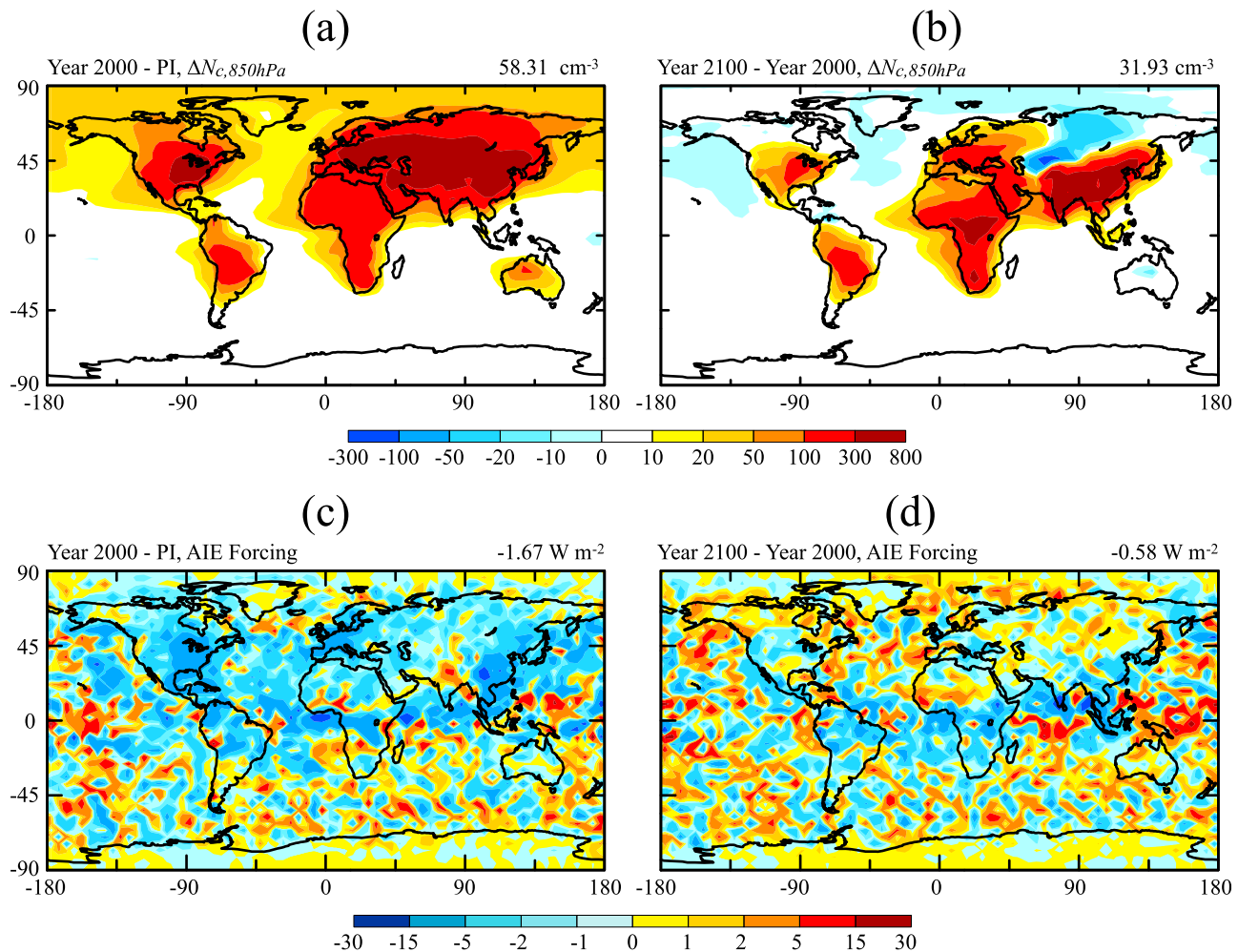
in near-surface  $N_c$  are predicted over the aerosol source regions over China, South America, and southern Africa where all anthropogenic aerosols are predicted to increase in 21C. Over the source regions of western Europe and eastern United States, the predicted future decrease in sulfate aerosols owing to sulfate precursor emission regulation is canceled by the increase of nitrate and OA, leading to higher  $N_c$  in 21C. Over northern high latitudes where the predicted decrease of sulfate aerosols dominates the future change of soluble aerosol burdens,  $N_c$  is estimated to decrease. The enhancement in  $N_c$  from 20C to 21C is 58% of that from PI to 20C, although the predicted increase in aerosol mass column (Table 2) is of comparable magnitude in each period (+4.39 Tg between PI and 20C; +4.13 Tg between 20C and 21C). The value of  $N_c$  is correlated with aerosol soluble mass by the power law in equation (1), and the coefficient  $B$

in equation (1) is mostly between 0.5 and 1.0. Therefore the increase in predicted  $N_c$  has a smaller magnitude as compared with the increase in aerosol column mass.

[18] Note that the  $N_c$ - $m_i$  correlations are developed based on CCN predictions of sulfate and sea salt only, while the  $N_c$  values are calculated based on mass of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, soluble OA, and sea salt. The version of the TOMAS model used in the present study does not include nitrate and carbonaceous aerosols, therefore the chemical and number concentration effects of nitrate and carbonaceous aerosols on the CCN spectrum are not included in the derivation of the  $N_c$ - $m_i$  correlations.

### 2.3. GISS III GCM

[19] Detailed descriptions and evaluation of the GISS III are provided by Rind *et al.* [2007]. In addition to the



**Figure 5.** (top) Changes in annual mean  $N_c$  at the 850 hPa level from (a) PI to 20C and (b) 20C to 21C. (bottom) Annual mean full aerosol indirect effects (AIE) forcing from (c) PI to 20C and (d) 20C to 21C. Global average values are given in the upper right corner of each plot. Displayed are results of setting minimum  $N_c$  values = 20  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ .

increase in vertical resolution from 9  $\sigma$ -layers in GISS GCM II' (between surface and 10 hPa) to 23  $\sigma$ -layers (between surface and 0.002 hPa), major modifications in GISS III include more sophisticated treatments in downdraft entrainment and the detrainment of cumulus condensate into an anvil similar to stratiform cloud, the addition of compensatory subsidence in moisture advection, new formulations of boundary layer temperature, moisture and scalar fluxes, and turbulent kinetic energy, as well as more correlated k intervals in the radiative scheme. Compared to the other commonly used version of GISS GCM, the GISS ModelE, GISS III predicts different liquid water path, interhemispheric transport, precipitation over land in the monsoon region, total cloud cover and albedo, and gravity wave drag [Rind *et al.*, 2007], owing to differences in detailed treatments. The stratiform cloud scheme in GISS III is based mainly on the work of Del Genio *et al.* [1996]. In order to simulate AIE-related response in cloud optical properties, precipitation, and radiation, the formulations of cloud optical depth and autoconversion rate in the stratiform cloud scheme were revised, as described below.

### 2.3.1. Modification of Stratiform Cloud Scheme: Droplet Effective Radius and Cloud Optical Depth

[20] The stratiform cloud scheme diagnoses the cloud radiative properties based on the cloud optical depth  $\tau$  and the effective droplet radius  $r_e$ , which is related to the volume-weighted mean droplet radius  $r_v$  by

$$r_e = \kappa^{-\frac{1}{3}} r_v \quad (2)$$

[21] A single value of 0.48 is chosen for the constant  $\kappa$  in the standard GISS III [Menon *et al.*, 2002; Rind *et al.*, 2007], which corresponds to an effective variance of 0.2. In the standard algorithm in GISS III,  $r_v$  is determined by an empirical scaling based on the value of  $\mu$ , which implicitly assumes a constant value of  $N_c = 60 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  over ocean and  $N_c = 170 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  over land [Del Genio *et al.*, 1996]. In the present study, to include the cloud albedo effect in stratiform clouds, the following equation is applied,

$$r_v = \left[ \frac{3\mu}{4\pi N_c \rho_w} \right]^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad (3)$$

so that  $r_v$  is determined by  $\mu$  and the offline  $N_c$  ( $\text{m}^{-3}$ ) values imported to each grid cell on a monthly basis. Therefore,  $r_e$  and  $\tau$  are controlled by the spatial and seasonal variations of  $N_c$ , which are driven by the changes in aerosol mass and aerosol-cloud interactions. Note that equation (3) is also applied to compute the radius in droplet evaporation. Additional modifications to the scheme of *Del Genio et al.* [1996] include a change in the value of  $\kappa$  (0.67 over land and 0.80 over ocean [*Martin et al.*, 1994]) to reflect the broader distributions of terrestrial clouds (with respect to oceanic), constraints on the minimum and maximum values of  $r_e$  (2 and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively), and a constraint of in-cloud liquid water content  $< 3 \text{ g m}^{-3}$ . The above modifications are applied to pure liquid stratiform clouds only (temperature  $> 4^\circ\text{C}$  over ocean, and  $> -10^\circ\text{C}$  over land); ice stratiform clouds (temperature  $< -40^\circ\text{C}$ ), mixed-phase stratiform clouds, as well as convective clouds, follow the scheme of *Del Genio et al.* [1996].

### 2.3.2. Modification of Stratiform Cloud Scheme: Autoconversion Rate

[22] The basic autoconversion formulation in GISS III is related to that given by *Sundqvist et al.* [1989],

$$\left. \frac{dq_l}{dt} \right|_{\text{aut}} = C_0 q_l \left\{ 1 - e^{-\left(\frac{\mu}{\mu_{\text{crit}}}\right)^4} \right\} \quad (4)$$

where  $q_l$  is the cloud liquid water mixing ratio,  $C_0$  is the limiting autoconversion rate ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ), and  $\mu_{\text{crit}}$  is the critical in-cloud water content for the onset of rapid conversion. To explicitly relate  $q_l$  to  $N_c$ , this parameterization is replaced with that developed by *Khairoutdinov and Kogan* [2000] (KK hereafter), and modified to account for the fractional cloudiness in each GCM grid cell,

$$\left. \frac{dq_l}{dt} \right|_{\text{aut}} = -1350\gamma b \left(\frac{q_l}{b}\right)^{2.47} N_c^{-1.79} \quad (5)$$

To ensure that the same radiative balance is maintained before and after the replacement of the autoconversion parameterization, a tuning parameter  $\gamma$  is used [*Hoose et al.*, 2008]. In the typical ranges of liquid water and  $N_c$ , autoconversion rates calculated by the KK scheme can be 1 to 1000 times smaller than those by the Sundqvist scheme [*Penner et al.*, 2006; *Hsieh et al.*, 2009]. When implementing the KK scheme in GISS III, proper adjustment to the autoconversion rates is needed to avoid the unintentional increase in liquid water path (LWP) and the subsequent “drift” toward a cooler climate. The value of  $\gamma$  is determined by minimizing the imbalance of top-of-atmosphere (TOA) radiation, the same approach adopted by *Hoose et al.* [2008]. Starting from a present-day equilibrium climate predicted by the standard GISS III with fixed present-day SST and sea ice (the HadISST1 observed climatology for 1993 to 2002 [*Rayner et al.*, 2003]), the modified GCM is integrated for 1 year, with a specific value of  $\gamma$ . The annual mean TOA net radiation is diagnosed. By testing various values between 1 and 100,  $\gamma = 8.0$  produces the closest net TOA radiation balance and thus is chosen.

[23] A new Q-flux field is derived to secure consistency between the ocean model and the atmospheric model that

has 20C GHG levels and 20C  $N_c$  with modified stratiform cloud scheme. This Q-flux ocean is then used in all AIE equilibrium climate simulations described in section 4.

### 2.3.3. Aerosol Direct Effect in GISS III

[24] The sulfate, nitrate, ammonium and carbonaceous aerosol masses derived by the Unified Model are also to be used in the equilibrium climate simulations to account for the anthropogenic aerosol direct effect in GISS III. Calculation of the anthropogenic aerosol direct effect follows *Chen et al.* [2007]. The monthly averaged aerosol mass concentrations derived by the CACTUS Unified Model (section 2.1) are interpolated into 23 layers accordingly. Internal mixing of ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate, BC, POA, SOA and aerosol associated water is assumed. A standard gamma size distribution is assumed for the aerosol mixture with a surface area-weighted dry radius = 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  and variance = 0.2. The density of the internally mixed aerosol is computed as the mass-averaged density of water and dry aerosols. Refractive indices are derived based on a volume-weighted mixing rule. The refractive index of dry nitrate is assumed the same as that of dry sulfate [*Toon et al.*, 1976], while the refractive indices for organic carbon, BC, and water are from *d’Almeida et al.* [1991] (organic carbon as “water soluble,” BC as “soot”). Mie theory is applied to determine extinction efficiency, single-scattering albedo, and asymmetry parameter from a lookup table, which are then supplied to the radiation scheme of the GCM to calculate the aerosol optical depth and the radiation fluxes. The internal mixing assumption yields a relatively high absorption efficiency per unit mass of BC [e.g., *Haywood et al.*, 1997; *Myhre et al.*, 1998; *Jacobson*, 2000; *Chung and Seinfeld*, 2002, 2005].

[25] The ADE of sea salt and dust is accounted for by using the background, present-day sea salt and dust optical depth climatology provided in the standard GISS III. This sea salt/dust climatology is identical to that in GISS ModelE, [e.g., *Schmidt et al.*, 2006]. All the simulations used the same sea salt and dust ADE, so the climatic effects of these natural aerosols are removed when the simulations are differentiated in pairs. The ADE forcing in the present study results solely from the changes in the internal mixture of anthropogenic aerosols (i.e., sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, and carbonaceous particles) predicted by the Unified Model.

## 3. Radiative Forcing

### 3.1. Radiative Forcing of GHG, ADE, and AIE

[26] Table 3 summarizes the radiative forcings of GHG, ADE, and AIE in the present study. For GHG and ADE, the forcings are determined by the instantaneous change in net radiative fluxes at the tropopause (without adjustment in stratospheric temperature). The calculations are carried out with prescribed present-day SST and sea ice, using parallel calls of the radiation scheme. Between the present day and year 2100, the changes in GHG and ADE in the simulations are estimated to result in forcings of  $+6.47 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  and  $+0.12 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , respectively. These values are close to those reported by *Chen et al.* [2007] ( $+6.58 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  for GHG and  $+0.18 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  for ADE), which were derived using the 9 layer GISS GCM II’ with identical offline aerosol fields and similar GHG levels to the present work.



**Table 3.** AIE, ADE, and GHG Forcing in the Present Study

	20C to PI ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )	21C to 20C ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )
Instantaneous ADE forcing	-	+0.12
Instantaneous GHG forcing	-	+6.47
AIE forcing, full <sup>a</sup>	-1.67 (-1.70, 2%)	-0.58 (-0.65, 12%)

<sup>a</sup>AIE forcing is derived with prescribed sea surface temperature (SST) and the modified stratiform cloud scheme, allowing full response of cloud water and precipitation. AIE forcing is defined as the change in net (shortwave + longwave) cloud forcing (i.e., all-sky minus clear-sky net radiative fluxes) at top of atmosphere (TOA). Values in parenthesis are the AIE forcing with minimum  $N_c = 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and the percentage change relative to the case of minimum  $N_c = 20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . ADE, aerosol direct effect. GHG, greenhouse gas.

[27] Because AIE involves feedback mechanisms, the concept of instantaneous radiative forcing cannot be applied, especially when the cloud lifetime effect is considered. Total AIE radiative forcing has to be determined by diagnosing the changes in cloud forcing (CF, i.e., all-sky minus clear-sky radiative fluxes), allowing at least the cloud water and precipitation to respond, as described in the IPCC report [Forster *et al.*, 2007].

[28] Total AIE radiative forcing is derived by following the literatures summarized in IPCC AR4 [Denman *et al.*, 2007]. The full AIE forcing calculations in the present studies includes three simulations using prescribed present-day SST and sea ice and the modified stratiform cloud scheme, each with the offline  $N_c$  values for PI, 20C, and 21C, respectively. The GHG is fixed to levels in 2000 in all three calculations. Cloud and precipitation are allowed to respond to different  $N_c$  values, while most of the temperature response is suppressed with the fixed SST. Therefore, both cloud albedo and lifetime effects are taken into account. The simulations were integrated for 20 years; with a 5 year spin-up time, the net cloud forcing (CF, i.e., all-sky minus clear-sky net radiative fluxes) at TOA over the last 15 years were averaged and compared (Table 3 and Figure 5). The predicted global mean full AIE forcing is  $-1.67 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  for perturbation of  $N_c$  from PI to 20C, lying within the range to total AIE forcing reported in the literature ( $-0.29$  to  $-2.41 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) [e.g., Lohmann and Feichter, 2005; Denman *et al.*, 2007; Forster *et al.*, 2007; Kirkevåg *et al.*, 2008b]. The full AIE forcing is  $-0.58 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  for perturbation of  $N_c$  from 20C to 21C. This value is larger than that predicted by Kristjansson [2002] ( $-0.02 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), which is based on the IPCC A2 emission scenario from 20C to 21C but considered only changes in anthropogenic sulfate and BC aerosols, implying that the future AIE forcing is mainly contributed by the increase in nitrate and organic aerosols.

### 3.2. Sensitivity of AIE Forcing to the Lower Limit of $N_c$ Concentrations

[29] The AIE forcing can be sensitive to the minimum  $N_c$  concentrations assumed in the calculations [Lohmann and Feichter, 2005]. To explore this sensitivity of the AIE forcing in the present study, we repeat the above AIE forcing calculations with a minimum  $N_c = 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Table 3; numbers in parenthesis). When the minimum  $N_c$  is reduced, the magnitude of the AIE forcing between PI and 20C is predicted to be slightly enhanced (2%). Because predicted

$N_c$  fields in pristine regions are below the minimum value (Figure 4) in both PI and 20C conditions, the magnitudes of CF in PI and 20C decrease almost equally when a smaller minimum  $N_c$  value is used. Thus, the AIE forcing, which is the difference of CF between PI and 20C, only shows a limited change with the value of minimum  $N_c$ . However, the enhancement of AIE forcing between 20C and 21C is more significant (+12%). The  $N_c$  fields in 21C are generally above the minimum value. Since the CF in 21C exhibits small change and the CF in 20C decreases with smaller minimum  $N_c$ , the AIE forcing between 20C and 21C is predicted to increase when the minimum  $N_c$  is set to  $10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ .

[30] As compared to the previous studies, the present works predicts a weaker sensitivity of present-day AIE forcing to the lower limit of  $N_c$ . For example, Lohmann and Feichter [2005] showed that an increase of minimum  $N_c$  from  $10$  to  $40 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  results in a higher predicted present-day AIE forcing from  $-1.9$  to  $-1.1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (72%); Kirkevåg *et al.* [2008b] found that a global increase in  $N_c$  by  $15 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  changes the present-day AIE forcing from  $-2.34$  to  $-1.36 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (42%); Hoose *et al.* [2009] calculated a reduction of global mean shortwave (SW) CF from  $-1.88$  to  $-0.62 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (67%) when minimum  $N_c$  is increased from  $0$  to  $40 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . This sensitivity is associated with the differences in original  $N_c$  values (i.e., before any minimum  $N_c$  value is applied) predicted over pristine ocean between PI and present-day conditions.

## 4. Experimental Setup for Equilibrium Climate Simulations With GISS III GCM

[31] The experimental setups of the equilibrium climate simulations with GISS III are summarized in Table 4. The nomenclature of the simulations is as follows: (1) Upper case letters denote the forcing mechanisms imposed on each simulation, with *G* for greenhouse gas forcing, *D* for aerosol Direct effect, and *I* for aerosol Indirect effect; and (2) subscripts denote the levels of the forcing agents, with PI for

**Table 4.** Experimental Design of the Equilibrium Simulations with GISS III GCM<sup>a</sup>

Simulation <sup>b</sup>	GHG <sup>c</sup>	ADE <sup>d</sup>	AIE <sup>e</sup>	Years of Integration
<i>GD</i> <sub>20C</sub>	20C	20C	-	100
<i>GD</i> <sub>21C</sub>	21C	21C	-	100
<i>GD</i> <sub>20C</sub> <i>I</i> <sub>20C</sub>	20C	20C	20C	30
<i>GD</i> <sub>20C</sub> <i>I</i> <sub>PI</sub>	20C	20C	PI	30
<i>GD</i> <sub>20C</sub> <i>I</i> <sub>21C</sub>	20C	20C	21C	30
<i>GD</i> <sub>21C</sub> <i>I</i> <sub>21C</sub>	21C	21C	21C	30

<sup>a</sup>GCM, general circulation model.

<sup>b</sup>In the abbreviations, upper case letters denote the forcings imposed in each simulations: *G*, greenhouse gases; *D*, aerosol direct effects; *I*, aerosol indirect effects. The subscripts denote the levels of the forcing: PI, preindustrial; 20C, year 2000; 21C, year 2100. The first two simulations were carried out with the standard GISS III, while the last four simulations were performed with the modified GISS III.

<sup>c</sup>For 20C levels,  $\text{CO}_2 = 367 \text{ ppmv}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4 = 1668 \text{ ppbv}$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O} = 315 \text{ ppbv}$ ,  $\text{CFC}=11 = 260 \text{ pptv}$ , and  $\text{CFC}=12 = 520 \text{ pptv}$ . For 21C levels,  $\text{CO}_2 = 856 \text{ ppmv}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4 = 3578 \text{ ppbv}$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O} = 445 \text{ ppbv}$ ,  $\text{CFC}-11 = 44 \text{ pptv}$ , and  $\text{CFC}-12 = 216 \text{ pptv}$ .

<sup>d</sup>From offline, monthly imposed aerosols of internally mixed sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, BC, POA, SOA, and water.

<sup>e</sup>From offline, monthly imposed  $N_c$  in the calculation of optical depth and autoconversion in warm stratiform clouds.

**Table 5.** Global Annual Mean Values of Key Climate Variables in the Present-Day Equilibrium Simulations With and Without Explicit Droplet Dependence in Stratiform Clouds

Climate Variable <sup>a</sup>	$GD_{20C}$	$GD_{20C}I_{20C}$
$T_s$ (°C)	14.52	14.45
Total cloud (%)	61.31	61.16
Strat. cloud (%)	57.05	56.87
Low cloud (%)	51.70	51.30
TOA SW cloud forcing ( $W m^{-2}$ )	-53.41	-53.84
LWP ( $g m^{-2}$ )	119.38	111.49
Precip., (mm $d^{-1}$ )	2.99	2.98
Precip. (strat.) (mm $d^{-1}$ )	0.96	0.93
Surface SW flux ( $W m^{-2}$ )	161.98	162.83

<sup>a</sup> $T_s$ , surface temperature; SW, shortwave flux; CF, cloud forcing; LWP, liquid water path; precip., precipitation; strat., stratiform.

preindustrial level, 20C for year 2000 level, and 21C for year 2100 level.

[32] GHG forcing is imposed by fixing the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CFC-11, and CFC-12 at specific levels; the values, based on IPCC SRES A2, are listed in the footnotes in Table 4. ADE forcing is imposed by the using the offline, monthly averaged aerosol mass concentrations from the fully coupled CACTUS Unified Model (sections 2.1 and 2.3.3). AIE forcing is imposed by using the offline, monthly averaged  $N_c$  fields derived from the diagnostic formulation and aerosol soluble ion concentrations (section 2.2) to perturb cloud optical depth and liquid water (autoconversion). The 12 month, annual cycle of both aerosol mass and  $N_c$  is repeated throughout the entire integration.

[33] The first two simulations were carried out to obtain a starting climate for the four key simulations. These two runs used the standard version of GISS III coupled with a Q-flux ocean that is consistent with the atmosphere of 20C GHG levels and standard stratiform cloud scheme (i.e., without droplet-dependent cloud optical depth and autoconversion). These two 100 year simulations are (1)  $GD_{20C}$ : present-day equilibrium climate accounting for GHG and anthropogenic aerosol direct effect at present-day levels; and (2)  $GD_{21C}$ :

year 2100 equilibrium climate accounting for GHG and anthropogenic aerosol direct effect at year 2100 levels.

[34] The final year climate from the above simulations is used as the starting point for the following four AIE equilibrium climate runs. These 30 year simulations used the modified GCM with the droplet-dependent stratiform clouds and the consistent Q-flux ocean mentioned in section 2.3.2: (1)  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ : present-day equilibrium climate accounting for GHG and anthropogenic aerosol direct and indirect effects at present-day levels (offline  $N_c$  values corresponding to present-day aerosol levels); (2)  $GD_{20C}I_{PI}$ : equilibrium climate accounting for GHG and anthropogenic aerosol direct effect at present-day levels and aerosol indirect effects at preindustrial levels (offline  $N_c$  values corresponding to preindustrial aerosol levels); (3)  $GD_{20C}I_{21C}$ : equilibrium climate accounting for GHG and anthropogenic aerosol direct effect at present-day levels, and aerosol indirect effects at year 2100 levels (offline  $N_c$  values corresponding to year 2100 aerosol levels); and (4)  $GD_{21C}I_{21C}$ : year 2100 equilibrium climate accounting for GHG, and anthropogenic aerosol direct and indirect effects at year 2100 levels (offline  $N_c$  values corresponding to year 2100 aerosol levels).

[35] Statistics over the last 20 years of each of the above equilibrium climates are determined. Differences between the simulations are analyzed as follows: (1)  $GD_{20C}$  versus  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ : the effect of incorporating explicit droplet-dependent autoconversion and optical depth and offline  $N_c$  values on present-day equilibrium climate (section 5.1); (2)  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$  versus  $GD_{20C}I_{PI}$ : differences in equilibrium climate owing only to changes in  $N_c$  between preindustrial and present day (section 5.2); (3)  $GD_{20C}I_{21C}$  versus  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ : differences in equilibrium climate owing only to changes in  $N_c$  between present day and year 2100 (section 5.3); and (4)  $GD_{21C}I_{21C}$  versus  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ : differences in equilibrium climate between present day and year 2100 accounting for changes in GHG and anthropogenic aerosol direct and indirect effects (section 5.4).

[36] When differentiating each pair of the simulations, the two-sample “usual”  $t$  test was applied to calculate the 95% confidence intervals [Zwiers and von Storch, 1995; Chen et

**Table 6.** Comparison of Global Annual Mean Cloud Properties in Present-Day Simulation  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$  With Remote Sensing Observations and Predictions in Selected GCM Studies

	$GD_{20C}I_{20C}$	Observation	Modeling Studies
Total column $N_c^a$ ( $10^{10} m^{-2}$ )	6.16	4.4 <sup>b</sup>	2.1 to 7.6 <sup>c</sup>
$N_c$ at 850 hPa ( $cm^{-3}$ )	122.22	-	75.0 to 135.0 <sup>d</sup>
$r_c$ at cloud top <sup>e</sup> ( $\mu m$ )	(global) 12.18, (land) 9.26, (ocean) 13.10	(global) 11.4 <sup>f</sup> and 14.7, <sup>g</sup> (land) 12.5, <sup>g</sup> (ocean) 15.6 <sup>g</sup>	(global) 6.8 to 11.3 <sup>h</sup>
LWP ( $g m^{-2}$ )	111.49	93.3 <sup>i</sup>	41.5 to 110.0 <sup>j</sup>
TOA SW CF ( $W m^{-2}$ )	-53.84	-50.0 <sup>k</sup>	-49.9 to -61.0 <sup>l</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Accounts for cloudy periods in cloudy regions only.

<sup>b</sup>Han et al. [1998] (International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP), average of January, April, July, and October 1987).

<sup>c</sup>Menon et al. [2002] (GISS II with prescribed SST) and Hoose et al. [2008] (ECHAM5-HAM with in-cloud aerosol processing scheme and prescribed SST).

<sup>d</sup>Penner et al. [2006] (CAM-Oslo, LMD-Z, and CCSR with prescribed SST, in exp. 6).

<sup>e</sup>Modeled values are multiplied by  $2^{1/3}$  to approximate cloud top condition in the satellite retrievals.

<sup>f</sup>Han et al. [1994] (ISCCP, average of January, April, July, and October 1987).

<sup>g</sup>Meskhidze et al. [2007] (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS), 2000 to 2006).

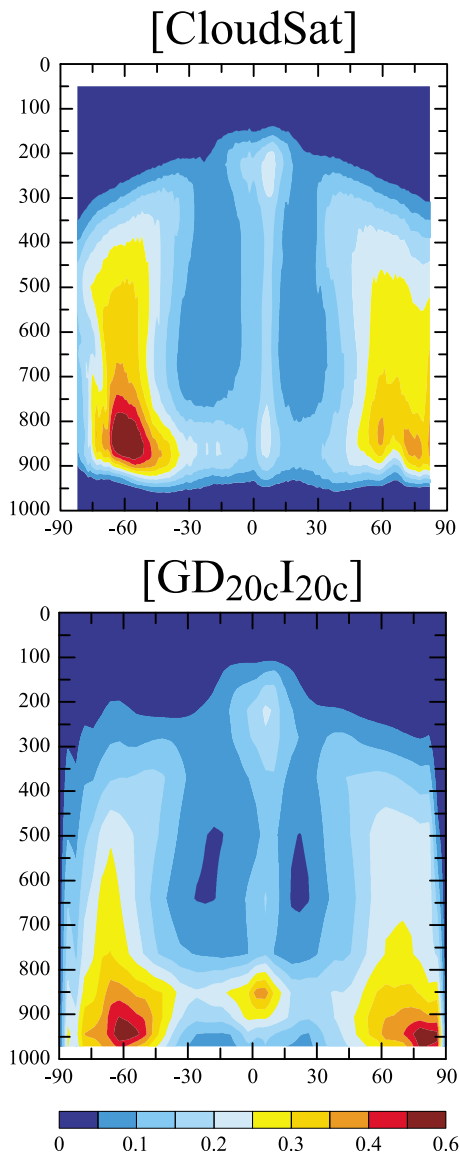
<sup>h</sup>Menon et al. [2002], Kristjánsson et al. [2005] (CCM-Oslo with slab ocean, exp. ALLTOT), and Penner et al. [2006].

<sup>i</sup>Penner et al. [2006] (MODIS).

<sup>j</sup>Kristjánsson et al. [2005], Penner et al. [2006], and Hoose et al. [2008].

<sup>k</sup>Kiehl and Trenberth [1997] (Earth Radiation Budget Experiment (ERBE), November 1984 through February 1990).

<sup>l</sup>Collins et al. [2006a] (CCSM3), Collins et al. [2006b] (CAM3), Penner et al. [2006], Hoose et al. [2008], and Kirkevåg et al. [2008b] (CAM-Oslo).



**Figure 6.** Zonal vertical distribution of present-day cloud frequency from (top) CloudSat observations (from July 2001 to August 2002) and (bottom) Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) III general circulation model (GCM) prediction ( $GD_{20c}I_{20c}$ , accounting for aerosol indirect effects).

*al.*, 2007] (see Table 7, footnote). The results reported in sections 4 and 5 are statistically significant, unless otherwise explicitly noted.

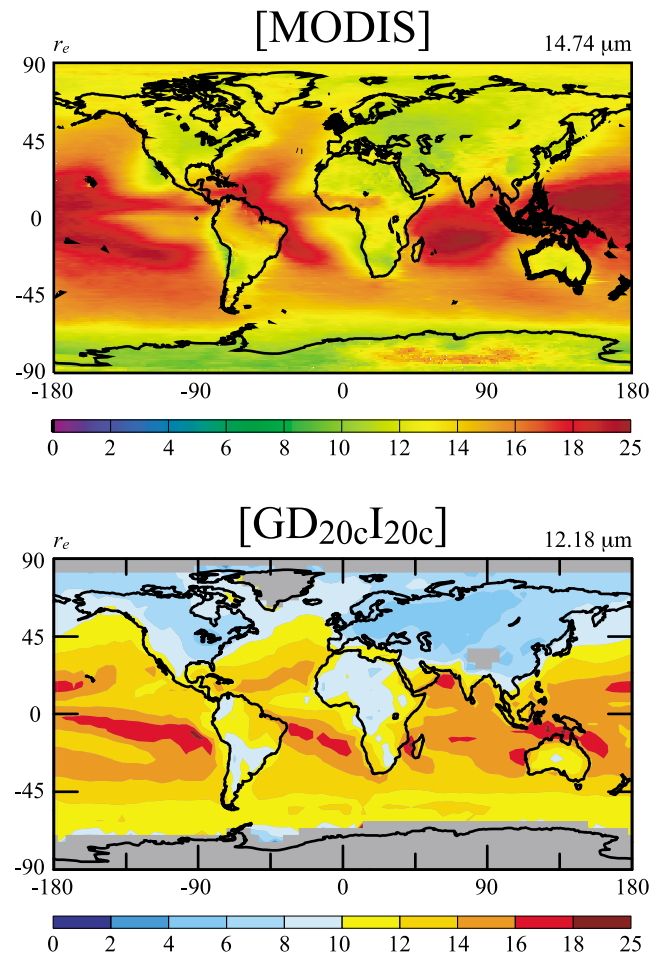
## 5. Responses of the Equilibrium Climate

### 5.1. Predicted Present-Day Equilibrium Climate

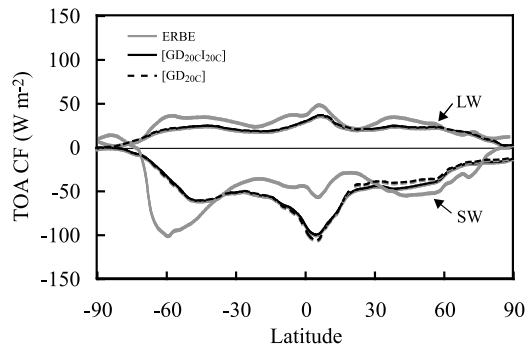
[37] Comparing simulations  $GD_{20c}$  versus  $GD_{20c}I_{20c}$ , it is found that (Table 5) replacement of the autoconversion scheme results in a smaller ( $-4.1\%$ ) global annual mean LWP, which can be explained as follows. The offline, present-day  $N_c$  values imposed on the modified model are, on average, higher than the constant values of  $N_c$  implicitly assumed in the standard model in the calculation of cloud

optical depth (section 2.3.1). Before replacing and tuning the autoconversion scheme, this change in  $N_c$  fields alone causes the predicted stratiform clouds to be more reflective (results not shown). Since the new autoconversion scheme is tuned to match the overall TOA radiation balance simulated in the standard model (section 2.3.2), to compensate for the previous effect of higher  $N_c$ , the tuning eventually results in a lower LWP in the modified model. The modified GISS III also predicts a slightly cooler global mean surface temperature (4.45 K versus 4.52 K), less cloud cover, stronger (more negative) SW CF, and a more positive surface SW flux, whereas the predicted global mean precipitation rate is essentially identical between the standard and modified versions of GISS III.

[38] Several key cloud properties in the predicted present-day equilibrium climate with AIE-related processes ( $GD_{20c}I_{20c}$ ) are compared to satellite-retrieved climatology in Table 6 and Figures 6–8; the remote sensing instruments, observational periods, and related references are given in the footnotes for Table 6 and captions for Figures 6–8. Note that



**Figure 7.** Present-day cloud droplet radius at warm cloud top from (top) Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) retrievals (year 2000 to 2006) and (bottom) GISS III GCM prediction ( $GD_{20c}I_{20c}$ , accounting for aerosol indirect effects). Global average values are given in the upper right corner of each plot.



**Figure 8.** Zonal annual mean distribution of present-day top-of-atmosphere (TOA) shortwave (SW) and longwave (LW) cloud forcing (CF) observations from Earth Radiation Budget Experiment (ERBE) [Kiehl and Trenberth, 1997] (gray lines) and predicted in GISS III with AIE process ( $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ , black solid lines) and without AIE process ( $GD_{20C}$ , black dashed lines).

exact agreement is not expected because of different time periods as well as the fact that the simulation is an equilibrium climate corresponding to present-day forcing, whereas the data reflect the actual transient climate. Also, the model data are sampled and summed at each time step (i.e., every 1 h for cloud microphysics; every 4 h for radiative properties), more frequently than the sampling of the satellite retrievals. Thus, the general latitudinal distributions of the variables are most relevant.

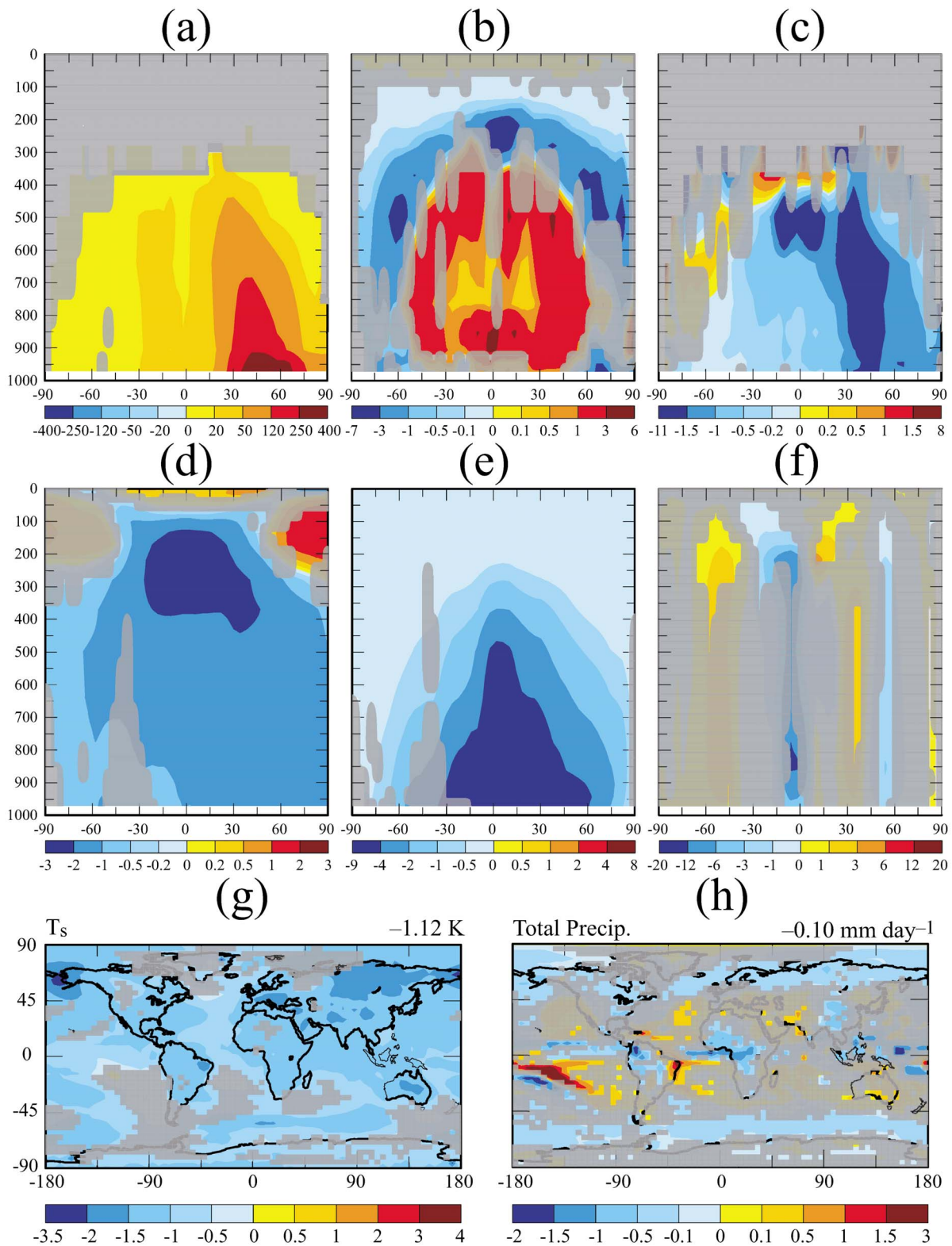
[39] Figure 6 compares the modeled present-day annual mean total cloud frequency zonal vertical profile (in  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ ) with observation from the CloudSat cloud profiling radar (version 5.1, release 4 [RO4], August 2006 to July 2007). CloudSat measures the backscattered power using a 94 GHz, nadir-viewing radar to derive cloud and precipitation properties [Stephens et al., 2008]. The modified GISS III captures the general shape of the cloud frequency zonal vertical distribution, including the ITCZ over the tropics and the midlatitude storm tracks. For low-level liquid cloud, which is the focus in the present study, the altitude of peak cloud frequency at midlatitudes in GISS III locates around 950–900 hPa (the second and third model layers), lower than the peak altitude at 850 hPa in the CloudSat observation (corresponding to the fourth model layer in GISS III). GISS III also overestimates the low cloud near the Tropics. The cloud frequency predicted in the standard GISS III ( $GD_{20C}$ ) is essentially identical to that in the modified model (not shown), implying the biases are not related to the modifications of the stratiform cloud scheme. The lower altitude of midlatitude liquid cloud frequency and overestimation of Tropical shallow clouds are commonly predicted in many GCMs (results not shown). These differences between the modeled and observed low-level cloud frequency may be related to the facts that (1) vertical resolution is different between GISS III (increasing from 200 m in the first layer to 600 m in the fourth layer) and CloudSat (250 m), (2) low cloud with tops below 1 km ( $\sim 900$  hPa) are underrepresented in the CloudSat data, owing to radar clutter contamination from the surface [Stephens et al., 2008], and (3) the uncertainties in cloud parameterization,

such as the relative humidity (RH) threshold for determining cloudiness in the RH-based stratiform cloud scheme in GISS GCM.

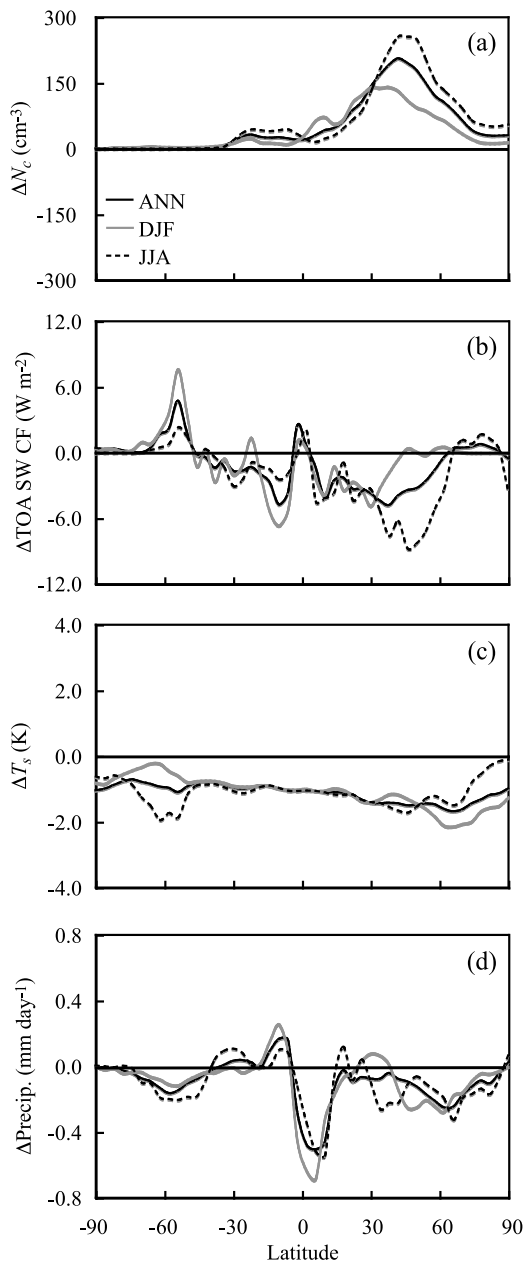
[40] Figure 7 compares the predicted global annual mean  $r_e$  at warm cloud top in  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$  with the climatology retrieved by Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS Terra, Collection 005, Level-3, quality-assured pixel-weighted cloud properties averaged at  $1^\circ$  by  $1^\circ$  resolution; composites were made using monthly averages of available MODIS data from year 2000 to 2006 [Meskhidze et al., 2007; M. King et al., Collection 005 change summary for the MODIS cloud optical property (06-OD) algorithm, 2006, available at [http://modis-atmos.gsfc.nasa.gov/products\\_C005update.html](http://modis-atmos.gsfc.nasa.gov/products_C005update.html)]) To ensure proper comparison with the satellite data, the predicted values at cloud top are taken and averaged over cloudy regions with cloud top temperature higher than 273 K, with the cloud top defined as the highest GCM layer with liquid water content (LWC)  $> 10^{-9}$  g m $^{-3}$  [Meskhidze et al., 2007]. Note that the  $r_e$  in satellite retrieval represents the characteristic value at the cloud top, while the model value represents the average over the entire GCM layer in which the cloud top resides [Boucher and Lohmann, 1995; Quaas et al., 2004; Chen and Penner, 2005; Meskhidze et al., 2007]. To address this issue, we follow the treatment of Meskhidze et al. [2007] and multiply the modeled  $r_e$  at cloud top by  $2^{1/3}$ , assuming that LWC varies linearly with height (i.e., LWC at the top =  $2 \times$  LWC averaged over the layer) and  $N_c$  remains constant with height in the cloud top layer. This scaling to the modeled  $r_e$  is applied here only for the comparison with satellite retrievals, but not in the climate simulations. As compared to MODIS data, GISS III simulates similar land-ocean contrast of  $r_e$ , with highest values over tropical Pacific owing to the conditions of low  $N_c$  and high LWC, and lowest values over industrialized regions in China, western Europe and eastern United States owing to highly enhanced  $N_c$ . However, GISS III systematically underestimates  $r_e$  by 2 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$  in both land and ocean areas, as summarized in Table 6. Such biases are common in many present GCMs [Boucher and Lohmann, 1995; Quaas et al., 2004; Chen and Penner, 2005; Meskhidze et al., 2007], and are likely related to the uncertainties in the updraft velocity, liquid water content and its variability, and the cloud parameterization in the model, as well as the coarse model resolution and uncertainties in the retrieval algorithms.

[41] Figure 8 shows the zonal mean present-day shortwave and longwave TOA cloud forcing. While the predicted longwave (LW) CF matches well the observations of the Earth Radiation Budget Experiment (ERBE) [Kiehl and Trenberth, 1997], the model-derived SW CF exhibits a negative bias over the Tropics and a positive bias in mid-latitudes to high latitudes in both hemispheres. Present-day cloud forcings predicted by modified GISS III ( $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ , black solid lines) are very similar to those in the standard GISS III ( $GD_{20C}$ , black dashed lines), indicating the bias in CF is not associated with the AIE-related processes introduced in section 2.3.

[42] Table 6 lists the corresponding global mean values reported in several modeling studies focusing on AIE. Predictions of  $N_c$ ,  $r_e$ , and CF in simulation  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$  generally fall within the range of previous studies. Although LWP is overestimated in the present work when compared to both



**Figure 9.** Present-day climate response to perturbation of AIE from preindustrial to present day ( $GD_{20C}I_{20C} - GD_{20C}I_{PI}$ ): vertical zonal profiles of changes in annual mean (a)  $N_c$  in liquid stratiform clouds ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ), (b) total cloud water mixing ratio ( $10^{-6} \text{ kg H}_2\text{O (kg air)}^{-1}$ ), (c)  $r_e$  in liquid stratiform clouds ( $\mu\text{m}$ ), (d) temperature (K), (e) specific humidity ( $10^{-4} \text{ kg H}_2\text{O (kg air)}^{-1}$ ), and (f) mass stream function ( $10^{10} \text{ kg s}^{-1}$ ; positive values indicate counterclockwise flows); and annual mean changes in (g)  $T_s$  (K) and (h) precipitation ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ ). Changes that are insignificant relative to the 95% confidence intervals are shaded. Global average values are given in the upper right corner of Figures 9g and 9h.



**Figure 10.** Present-day climate response to perturbation of AIE from preindustrial to present day ( $GD_{20C}I_{20C} - GD_{20C}I_{PI}$ ): zonal mean changes in (a)  $N_c$  at 850 hPa ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ), (b) TOA SW CF ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ), (c)  $T_s$  (K), and (d) precipitation ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ ) (Black solid lines indicate annual average, gray lines indicate average over December–January–February (DJF), and dotted lines indicate average over June–July–August (JJA)).

observation and previous predictions, one should note the uncertainties involved in the retrieval of this variable, the difference in cloud schemes and aerosol treatments used in various global models. Besides, from the simulations discussed subsequently, we find that the LWP in the GISS III is sensitive to temperature change, and increased/decreased LWP is always predicted when the model climate is warmed/cooled. The high bias of the present-day LWP can

be explained partly by the fact that the simulated equilibrium climate is about 0.5 K warmer than the actual present-day climate [Jones *et al.*, 1999], with the “warming commitment” of the GHG forcing not yet fully realized.

## 5.2. Effects of Change of $N_c$ from Preindustrial to Present Day on Equilibrium Climate

[43] In this section, the equilibrium climate response to the AIE perturbation from preindustrial to present day is analyzed, by comparing simulations  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$  and  $GD_{20C}I_{PI}$ . In both simulations, the GHG and ADE forcing are fixed at the present-day level, while offline  $N_c$  fields for preindustrial and present-day conditions are imposed, respectively, in each simulation. The changes in key climate variables ( $GD_{20C}I_{20C} - GD_{20C}I_{PI}$ ) are summarized in Figures 9 and 10 and the first column in Tables 7 and 8.

[44] The maximum increase of  $N_c$  in liquid stratiform clouds (+100 to +400  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ) is predicted to occur over 30–60°N, from the surface to 700 hPa, as shown in the latitude–pressure profile in Figure 9a. The latitudinal distribution of changes in  $N_c$  at 850 hPa in Figure 10a reveals that the estimated increase in  $N_c$  is more pronounced in June–July–August (JJA, dotted line), and located at higher latitudes, than the increase in December–January–February (DJF, gray solid line). Over the region of maximal  $N_c$  increase, autoconversion rates are predicted to decrease, which leads to increased liquid cloud water mixing ratio (+1 to +3 ppm) in the low and midtroposphere in NH, as shown in Figure 9b. For the change in droplet size, the effect of larger  $N_c$  dominates that of increased cloud water, as the predicted  $r_e$  in warm stratiform cloud decreases by more than 1  $\mu\text{m}$  (Figure 9c). Around 400 hPa over the Tropics, the cloud droplet size is predicted to increase (Figure 9c, 0.2–1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ), owing to the higher cloud water in stratiform clouds (not shown) and the relatively small change in  $N_c$  estimated over this region. Note that pure liquid stratiform clouds do not frequently occur at this altitude over the Tropics, and therefore the impact of increasing droplet size should be small. The estimated change in cloud cover is small (<2% of absolute amount in all latitudes) for both stratiform and convective clouds, and therefore is not shown.

[45] As a result of increased cloud optical depths associated with smaller droplet size and higher cloud water in warm stratiform clouds, negative changes in zonal mean TOA SW CF of up to  $-5 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  are predicted over 30–60°N (Figure 10b). The negative AIE forcing results in a predicted global cooling of  $-1.12 \text{ K}$  at the surface. Figures 9d and 9e show that the predicted cooling leads to a decrease in atmospheric water vapor. The maximum cooling near the tropical tropopause is a result of vertical temperature convective adjustment toward the moist adiabatic lapse rate; the pattern is similar to the simulated global warming owing to increased GHG [Manabe and Wetherald, 1975], but with an opposite sign. As displayed in Figures 9g and 10c, the surface temperature is reduced more significantly in NH ( $-1.46 \text{ K}$ ) and over land ( $-1.31 \text{ K}$ ), with a prominent cooling over the northern middle to high latitudes. Over 30–50°N, the surface cooling is predicted to be more substantial in JJA; this is also the season of maximum  $N_c$  increase and negative AIE forcing, indicating that the cooling is a direct response to perturbation of  $N_c$ . North of 50°N, however, the most significant cooling is estimated to occur in DJF, when

**Table 7.** Changes in Annual Mean Cloud Properties Between the Equilibrium Climates<sup>a</sup>

	Regions	$GD_{20C}I_{20C} -$	$GD_{20C}I_{21C} -$	$GD_{21C}I_{21C} -$
		$GD_{20C}I_{PI}$	$GD_{20C}I_{20C}$	$GD_{20C}I_{20C}$
$\Delta$ column $N_c$ ( $10^{10} \text{ m}^{-2}$ )	Global	+2.96	+1.53	+1.80
	Ocean	+0.84	+0.28	+0.38
	Land	+9.68	+5.64	+6.18
	NH	+5.37	+2.65	+3.40
	SH	+0.58	+0.49	+0.21
$\Delta r_c$ at cloud top <sup>b</sup> ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Global	-0.78	-0.27	(+0.05)
	Ocean	-0.44	-0.20	+0.03
	Land	-1.84	-0.50	-0.06
	NH	-1.15	-0.31	-0.19
	SH	-0.40	-0.23	+0.20
$\Delta$ LWP ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ )	Global	-4.03	-0.60	+20.45
	Ocean	-4.73	(-0.19)	+22.26
	Land	-2.26	-1.66	+15.84
	NH	-6.46	(-1.03)	+24.00
	SH	-1.61	(-0.17)	+16.89
$\Delta$ LWP (strat.) ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ )	Global	+1.50	(+0.24)	+2.93
	Ocean	+1.55	+0.42	+2.34
	Land	+1.44	(-0.25)	+4.57
	NH	+2.20	(+0.19)	+3.77
	SH	+0.79	(+0.27)	+2.10
$\Delta$ strat. cloud (% (absolute))	Global	+0.71	+0.37	-2.00
	Ocean	+0.61	+0.40	-1.96
	Land	+0.97	(+0.32)	-2.08
	NH	+0.63	+0.34	-1.66
	SH	+0.80	+0.41	-2.33
$\Delta$ TOA SW CF ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )	Global	-1.61	-0.69	-1.88
	Ocean	-1.42	-0.88	-1.72
	Land	-2.08	(-0.22)	-2.29
	NH	-2.48	-0.94	-2.35
	SH	(-0.74)	(-0.44)	-1.42
$\Delta$ net CF ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )	Global	-1.48	-0.62	-2.18
	Ocean	-1.13	-0.72	-2.20
	Land	-2.37	-0.39	-2.14
	NH	-2.58	-0.86	-2.34
	SH	(-0.39)	(-0.39)	-2.03

<sup>a</sup>Differences insignificant relative to the 95% confidence intervals are parenthesized. The usual  $t$  test takes into account the temporal correlation in each set of sample data (i.e., the global, land, ocean, or hemispherical annual average of the climate variable of interest in the last 20 years of each simulation). The sample sizes are reduced to the equivalent sample sizes  $n_e$  and  $m_e$ . The 95% confidence interval equals to  $1.98 \times s \times (1/n_e + 1/m_e)^{0.5}$  if  $n_e + m_e \geq 30$ , where  $s$  is the pooled standard deviation; for  $n_e + m_e < 30$ , the interval is determined by a lookup table. For a more detailed explanation, please refer to *Zwiers and von Storch* [1995].

<sup>b</sup>Values reported here are not scaled by  $2^{1/3}$  as in the model-satellite comparison.

the change in  $N_c$  and TOA SW CF is relatively small. This pattern of predicted temperature response is similar to those found in previous studies investigating present-day AIE impacts [Rotstayn *et al.*, 2000; Williams *et al.*, 2001; Rotstayn and Lohmann, 2002; Kristjánsson *et al.*, 2005].

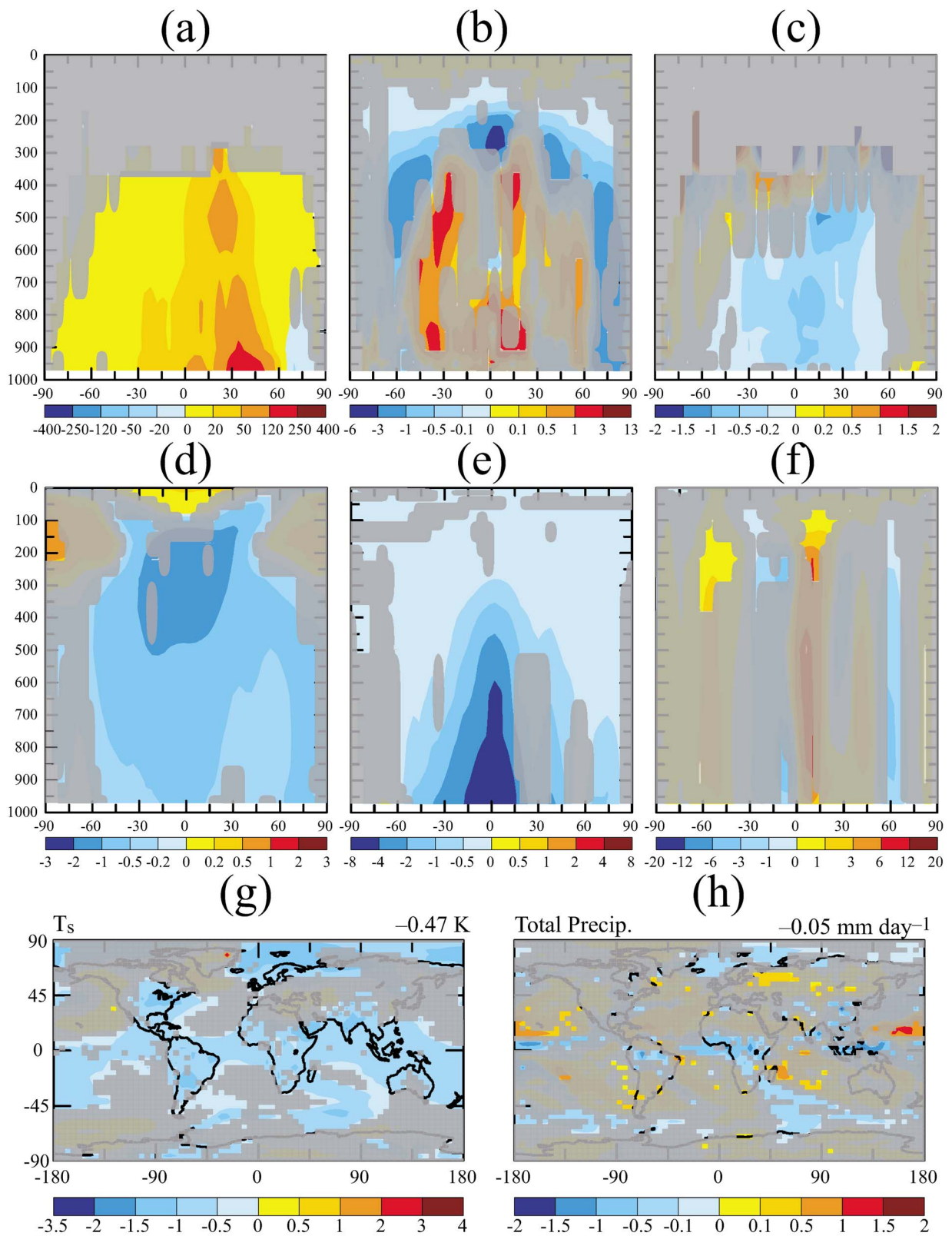
[46] The amplification and the difference in the seasons of peak forcing and surface temperature in the northern high latitudes are likely related to ice-albedo feedback as well as feedback mechanisms involving sea ice, ocean-atmosphere heat exchange, and atmospheric dynamics, as analyzed by Williams *et al.* [2001] and Kristjánsson *et al.* [2005]. Note that the previous studies have predicted a more prominent

polar amplification, which is likely associated with the difference in sea ice models, and the fact that aerosol concentrations were predicted interactively in those studies. However, considering the uncertainties in predicted sea ice and insufficient knowledge of the radiative impact of polar stratiform clouds, the actual mechanism of polar response to AIE requires more detailed studies [Garrett and Zhao, 2006].

[47] The predicted response in global circulation to surface cooling is a southward displacement of the ITCZ, which manifests itself by the change of distribution of precipitation in Figures 9h and 10d. Figure 9f shows the changes in zonal mean mass stream function. The more substantial cooling in the NH induces a weak anomalous clockwise flow over the Tropics between 20°S and 20°N, but is mostly statistically insignificant. In general, a slower hydrological cycle is predicted in response to the perturbation of  $N_c$  from preindustrial to present day. Global annual mean precipitation is predicted to decrease by  $0.10 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$  (3.36%), especially in NH ( $-0.19 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$ ). The predicted decrease in stratiform precipitation is only  $0.01 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$ , and the precipitation reduction comes mostly from lower convective precipitation, owing to decreasing moisture in the atmosphere. The overall effects of all the feedbacks lead to an increase in global mean LWP in stratiform cloud ( $+1.50 \text{ g m}^{-2}$ ) but a decrease in total LWP ( $-4.03 \text{ g m}^{-2}$ ). The global mean change in TOA net CF is  $-1.48 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ .

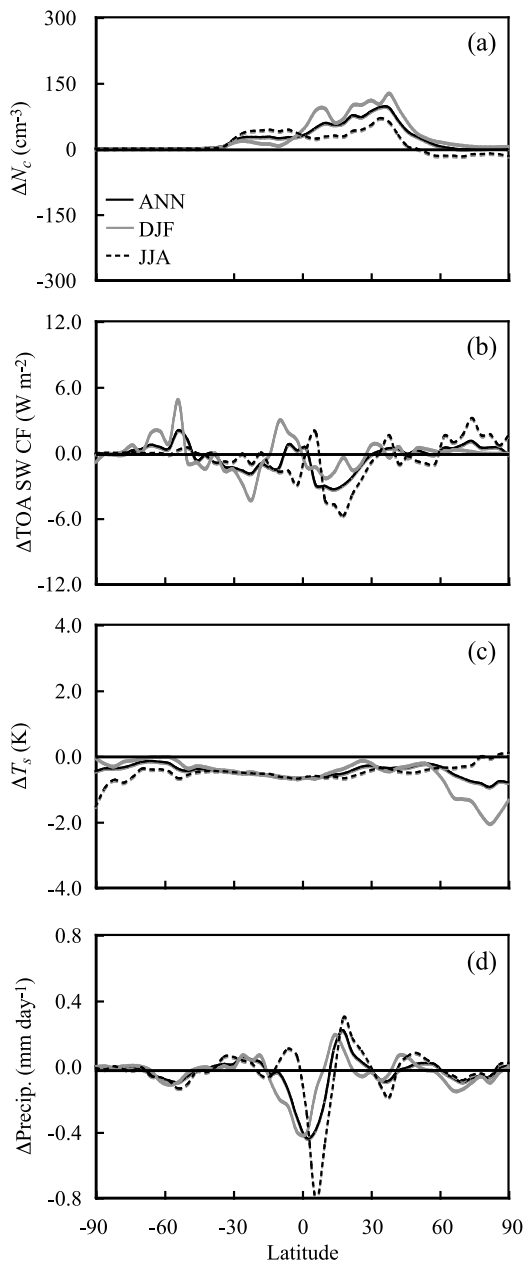
**Table 8.** Similar to Table 7, but for Changes in Annual Mean Temperature, Precipitation, Hydrological Sensitivity, and Surface Radiative Fluxes

	Regions	$GD_{20C}I_{20C} -$	$GD_{20C}I_{21C} -$	$GD_{21C}I_{21C} -$
		$GD_{20C}I_{PI}$	$GD_{20C}I_{20C}$	$GD_{20C}I_{20C}$
$\Delta T_s$ (K)	Global	-1.12	-0.47	+4.60
	Ocean	-0.99	-0.43	+4.20
	Land	-1.46	-0.58	+5.61
	NH	-1.31	-0.47	+4.63
	SH	(-0.93)	-0.48	+4.58
$\Delta$ precip. ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ )	Global	-0.10	-0.05	+0.26
	Ocean	-0.08	-0.04	+0.32
	Land	-0.16	-0.09	+0.12
	NH	-0.19	-0.06	+0.29
	SH	(-0.02)	-0.04	+0.23
$\Delta$ precip. (strat.) ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ )	Global	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
	Ocean	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02
	Land	-0.04	-0.02	+0.02
	NH	-0.01	-0.01	-0.03
	SH	(-0.00)	-0.01	+0.01
$\Delta$ precip./ $\Delta T_s$ (% $\text{K}^{-1}$ )	Global	+3.00	+3.57	+1.90
$\Delta$ surface SW flux ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )	Global	-2.38	-1.08	+0.91
	Ocean	-1.90	-1.07	+0.91
	Land	-3.60	-1.12	+0.92
	NH	-2.93	-1.06	+0.44
	SH	-1.83	-1.12	+1.38
$\Delta$ surface LW flux ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )	Global	-0.84	-0.39	+6.17
	Ocean	-1.22	-0.53	+7.12
	Land	(+0.12)	(-0.04)	+3.75
	NH	-1.00	-0.39	+6.02
	SH	-0.68	-0.39	+6.32



**Figure 11.** Similar to Figure 9 but for present-day climate response to perturbation of AIE from present day to year 2100 ( $GD_{20c}I_{21c} - GD_{20c}I_{20c}$ ).





**Figure 12.** Similar to Figure 10 but for present-day climate response to perturbation of AIE from present day to year 2100 ( $GD_{20C}I_{21C} - GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ ).

### 5.3. Perturbations of $N_c$ from Present Day to Year 2100 to Equilibrium Climate

[48] The equilibrium climate response to the AIE perturbation from present day to year 2100 is diagnosed here, by comparing simulations  $GD_{20C}I_{21C}$  and  $GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ . Present-day GHG and ADE forcings are used in both simulations, while the imposed  $N_c$  values in each simulation are for present day and year 2100, respectively. The results ( $GD_{20C}I_{21C} - GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ ) are presented in Figures 11 and 12 and the second column of Tables 7 and 8.

[49] In NH, the predicted  $N_c$  increase from present day to year 2100 is smaller than that from preindustrial to present day, and the interhemispheric contrast is not as great. Over

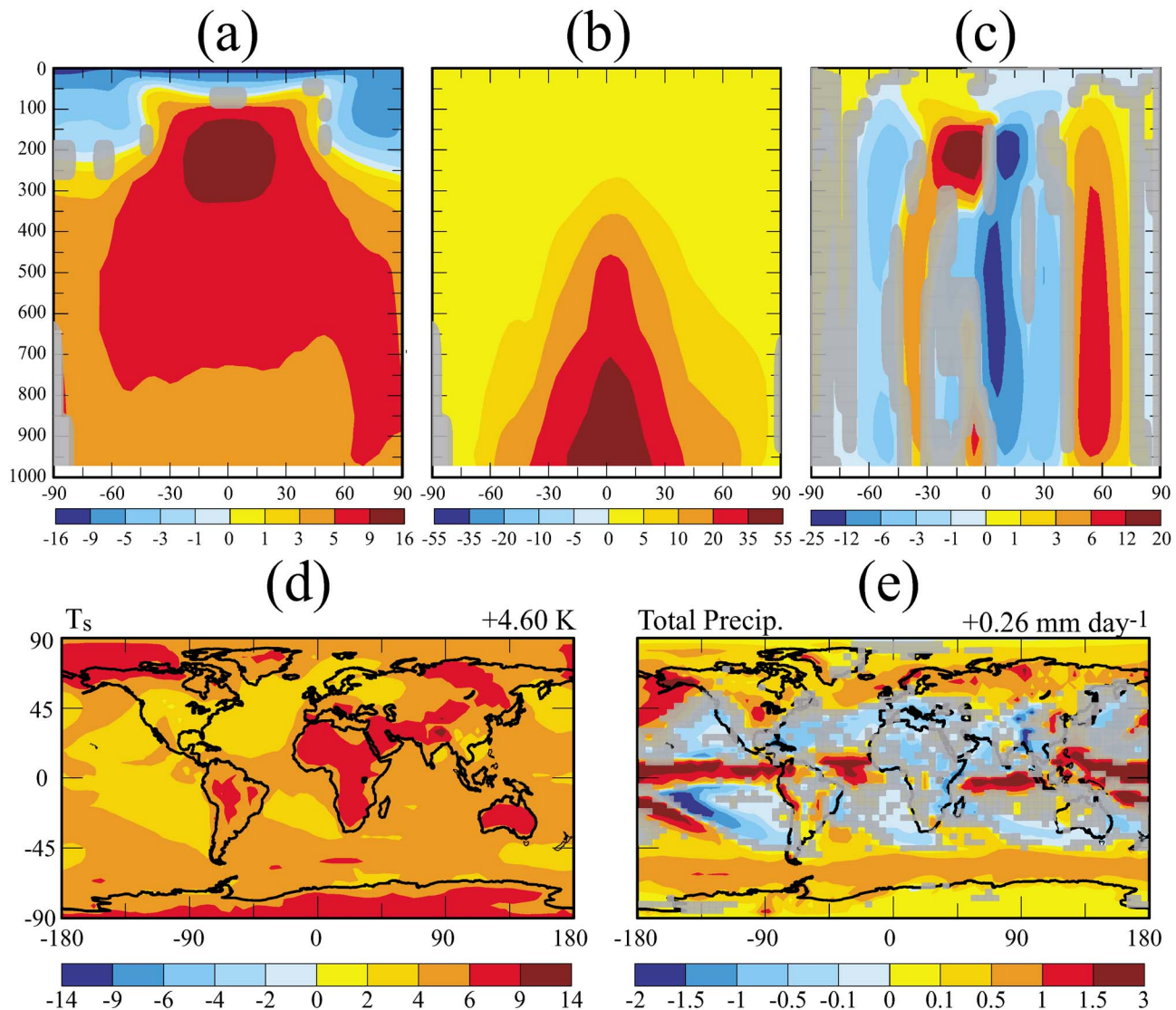
NH high latitudes,  $N_c$  is predicted to slightly decrease ( $-15$  to  $-20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ) in JJA (Figures 11a and 12a), corresponding to the estimated reduction in sulfate aerosols in this region [Chen *et al.*, 2007]. Also, the latitude of peak increase in  $N_c$  is predicted to shift southward to  $30^\circ\text{N}$ . The changes in  $N_c$  in the lower troposphere lead to a slight increase in cloud water ( $+0.1$  to  $+0.5 \text{ ppm}$ ) and a decrease in warm stratiform clouds ( $-0.2$  to  $-0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) (Figures 11b and 11c). The response in cloud cover is, again, insensitive to the perturbation in  $N_c$ . The predicted global mean surface cooling is  $-0.47 \text{ K}$ , with small cooling over low and midlatitudes and amplified cooling over the polar regions (Figures 11g and 12c). Statistically significant cooling of  $-0.5$  to  $-1.0 \text{ K}$  is predicted over NH continents in midlatitudes to high latitudes. The maximum cooling near the tropical tropopause associated with water vapor feedback is still evident.

[50] The response in general circulation to the pattern of predicted surface cooling is mostly insignificant. A similar southward displacement of the ITCZ is predicted, leading to a suppression in annual mean precipitation around the equator by as much as  $0.4 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$  (Figure 11h and 12d). The predicted global mean precipitation reduction from present day to year 2100 is  $0.05 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$  (1.68%). The predicted global mean LWP also exhibits a decrease ( $-0.60 \text{ g m}^{-2}$ ).

### 5.4. Combined Effects of GHG, ADE, and AIE From Present Day to Year 2100 on Equilibrium Climate

[51] The differences between the equilibrium climates ( $GD_{21C}I_{21C} - GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ ), revealing the response to the combined forcing of GHG, ADE, and AIE from present day to year 2100, are outlined in Figures 13 and 14 and the third column of Tables 7 and 8. The changes in  $N_c$  are similar to those in section 4.3 and hence not displayed. As expected, the general pattern of the response is largely dominated by the GHG-induced warming. The increase of equilibrium global surface temperature from present day to year 2100 is predicted to be  $4.60 \text{ K}$ . The warming is prominently amplified in polar regions by snow and ice albedo feedback and near the tropical tropopause through moist adiabatic adjustment (Figures 13a, 13d, and 14a). A broadened and weakened Hadley cell is revealed in the predicted difference in mass stream function (Figure 13c). Global annual mean total precipitation is predicted to increase by  $0.26 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$ . The latitudinal pattern of excess precipitation (total precipitation minus total evaporation) is enhanced (Figure 14b), owing to the effects of increasing water vapor (Figure 13b) and increasing poleward moisture transport (not shown), as discussed by Held and Soden [2006]. A poleward shift of the storm tracks is also predicted (not shown). The predicted change in Hadley circulation, excess precipitation, and storm track, are consistent qualitatively with the projected future climate in most of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) models in response to GHG induced warming [e.g., Mitas and Clement, 2005; Held and Soden, 2006; Meehl *et al.*, 2007].

[52] It is of interest to compare this present day to year 2100 equilibrium climate response to that predicted by the standard version of GISS III (i.e.,  $[GD_{21C} - GD_{20C}]$ ) versus  $[GD_{21C}I_{21C} - GD_{20C}I_{20C}]$ . According to Table 9, the modified GISS III, which incorporates AIE-related stratiform clouds, predicts a slightly weaker warming ( $4.60 \text{ K}$  versus  $4.85 \text{ K}$ ), less precipitation increase ( $0.26 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$

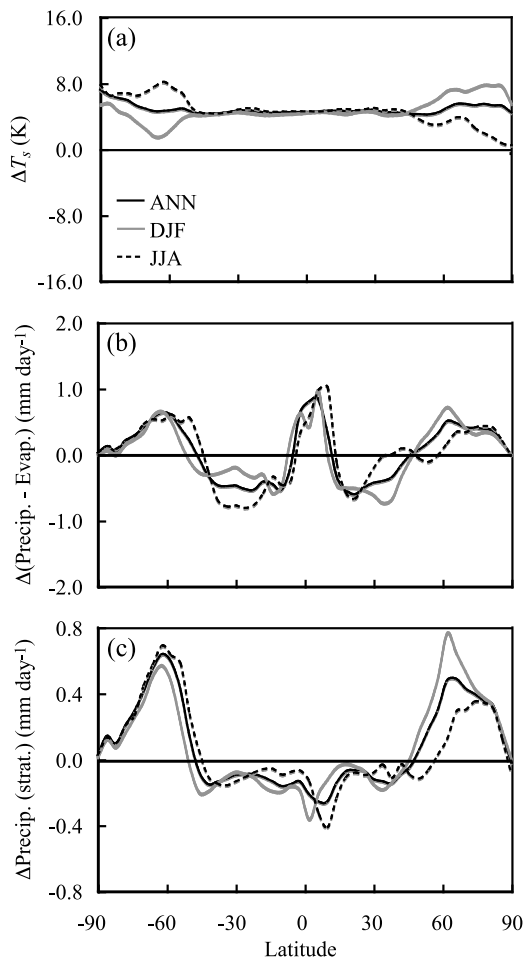


**Figure 13.** Climate responses to combined effects of greenhouse gas (GHG) and anthropogenic aerosol direct and indirect effects from present day to year 2100 ( $GD_{21C}I_{21C} - GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ ): vertical zonal profiles of changes in annual mean (a) temperature (K), (b) specific humidity ( $10^{-4} \text{ kg H}_2\text{O} (\text{kg air})^{-1}$ ), and (c) mass stream function ( $10^{10} \text{ kg s}^{-1}$ ); annual mean changes in (d)  $T_s$  (K) and (e) precipitation ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ ). Global average values are given in the upper right corner of Figures 13d and 13e. Note the color scales are different from those of previous figures.

versus  $0.30 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$ ), and smaller reduction of absolute cloud cover ( $-2.24\%$  versus  $-2.38\%$ ). The most pronounced difference between the predicted responses is the reversed sign in the change of stratiform cloud precipitation:  $-0.01 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$  in the modified GISS III versus  $+0.05 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$  in the standard GISS III. Figures 14c and 15c show that the standard model predicts minimal change of stratiform precipitation over Tropics and subtropics, in contrast to the predicted decrease of stratiform precipitation of 0.2 to  $0.3 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$  in the modified model over the same regions. This reveals the impact of the AIE on suppressing stratiform precipitation. The predicted latitudinal distributions of temperature, precipitation, and circulation changes are similar in both versions (Figures 14 and 15).

### 5.5. Hydrological Sensitivities

[53] The hydrological sensitivity is defined as the ratio of the percentage change in global total precipitation to the global surface temperature change. This section compares the hydrological sensitivity of AIE from 20C to 21C estimated in the current study with those reported in two related studies, *Chen et al.* [2007] and *Liao et al.* [2009] (Table 10), and in the literature. *Chen et al.* [2007] simulated the equilibrium climate response to ADE and GHG from present day to year 2100, based on SRES A2 scenario, using the 9 layer GISS II' GCM. The 20C and 21C offline aerosol fields used in that study are very similar to those in the present work (before interpolation from 9 to 23 vertical layers). *Liao et al.* [2009] performed fully coupled

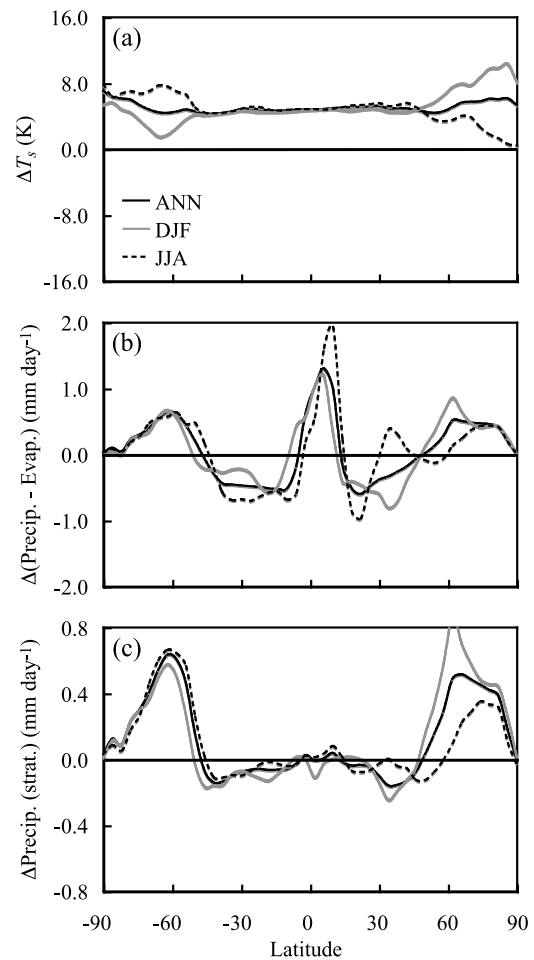


**Figure 14.** Climate responses to combined effects of GHG and anthropogenic aerosol direct and indirect effects from present day to year 2100 ( $GD_{21C}I_{21C} - GD_{20C}I_{20C}$ ): zonal mean changes in (a)  $T_s$  (K), (b) excess precipitation (total precipitation minus evaporation,  $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ ), and (c) precipitation from stratiform clouds ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ ). Black solid lines, annual (ANN) average; gray lines, DJF; and dashed lines, JJA.

chemistry-aerosol-climate simulations for present day and year 2100. Since the model physics, the length of integrations, and number of years for statistical analyses differ in these three studies, only qualitative comparisons are addressed below.

**Table 9.** Change in Global Annual Mean Values of Key Climate Variables Between the Present Day and Year 2100 Equilibrium Simulations, Predicted by the Modified and Standard Version of GISS III

	$GD_{21C} - GD_{20C}$	$GD_{21C}I_{21C} - GD_{20C}I_{20C}$
$\Delta T_s$ (K)	+4.85	+4.60
$\Delta \text{precip.}$ ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ )	+0.30	+0.26
$\Delta \text{precip. (strat.)}$ ( $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ )	+0.05	-0.01
$\Delta \text{precip.} / \Delta T_s$ ( $\% \text{ K}^{-1}$ )	+2.07	+1.90
$\Delta \text{total cloud}$ ( $\%$ (absolute))	-2.38	-2.24
$\Delta \text{strat. cloud}$ ( $\%$ (absolute))	-2.02	-2.00
$\Delta \text{net CF}$ ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )	-0.79	-2.18
$\Delta \text{LWP}$ ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ )	+20.78	+20.45



**Figure 15.** Similar to Figure 14, but for climate responses from present day to year 2100 predicted by the standard version of GISS III ( $GD_{21C} - GD_{20C}$ ).

[54] For the hydrological sensitivity of individual forcing, alone, the reported value GHG forcing is  $2.19\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  in the work of *Chen et al.* [2007], as compared to  $1.5\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  in the work of *Feichter et al.* [2004] (ECHAM4, GHG from PI to present day), and  $1.8\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  in the work of *Kirkevåg et al.* [2008a] (CCM-Oslo,  $\text{CO}_2$  doubling). The hydrological sensitivity for ADE alone from 20C to 21C is  $-7.34\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  in GISS GCM II', as reported by *Chen et al.* [2007]. The value is negative because the anthropogenic aerosols, including BC, are assumed to be internally mixed. The absorbing aerosols are predicted to lead to a small global mean surface warming ( $+0.14 \text{ K}$ ), as regional warming by absorbing aerosols over reflective surfaces offsets the regional cooling by the increase of scattering aerosols. However, the associated global mean precipitation is slightly suppressed ( $-1.03\%$ ), owing to the dominant effects of reduced evaporation and enhanced stability over regions exhibiting surface cooling. The hydrological sensitivity for AIE forcing reported in the present study is  $3.00\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  from PI to 20C and  $3.57\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  from 20C to 21C (Table 8).

[55] For combined GHG, ADE, and AIE forcing, the hydrological sensitivity in the present study is  $1.90\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  for 20C to 21C. The reported value is  $-1.90\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  for PI to present day in the work of *Feichter et al.* [2004], and  $0.30$  or

**Table 10.** Comparisons of Present Day to Year 2100 Hydrological Sensitivity Between the Present Study and Two Previous Related Studies

Types of Forcing	GHG	ADE	GHG + ADE	GHG + ADE	AIE	GHG + ADE + AIE
Study	<i>Chen et al.</i> [2007]	<i>Chen et al.</i> [2007]	<i>Liao et al.</i> [2009]	Present study	Present study	Present study
GCM	GISS II'	GISS II'	CACTUS unified model (GISS II')	Standard GISS III	Modified GISS III	Modified GISS III
Predictions of aerosols and/or $N_c$ in the simulations	—	Offline	Online with fully coupled chemistry and climate	Offline	Offline	Offline
Integration (diagnostic period) (years)	80 (last 30)	80 (last 30)	35 (last 20)	100 (last 20)	100+30 (last 20)	100+30 (last 20)
Equilibrium response of global $T_s$ (K)	+5.31	+0.14	+6.00	+4.85	-0.47	+4.60
Equilibrium response of global precip. (%)	+11.64	-1.03	+9.00	+10.03	-1.68	+8.72
Hydrological sensitivity (% $K^{-1}$ )	+2.19	-7.34	+1.5	+2.07	+3.57	+1.90

0.24%  $K^{-1}$  for a combined 2XCO<sub>2</sub> and changed aerosol emissions from PI to present day or year 2100, respectively, in the work of *Kirkevåg et al.* [2008a]. In the multimodel ensemble average in the IPCC 2007 report [*Meehl et al.*, 2007], considering transient response to GHG and all other forcings with the A2 scenario from 20C to 21C, the hydrological sensitivity is 1.45%  $K^{-1}$ . These very different values indicate high uncertainties associated with the hydrological processes in the model when the effects of aerosols and GHG are included simultaneously. Note that *Feichter et al.* [2004] and *Kirkevåg et al.* [2008a] both simulated full aerosol-cloud-climate interactions. The hydrological sensitivity may be highly sensitive to the degree of “coupling” in the model. For example, *Liao et al.* [2009] calculated the fully coupled response to ADE and GHG changes from 20C to 21C with the GISS GCM II' and derived a hydrological sensitivity of 1.5%  $K^{-1}$ , smaller than that for GHG with offline ADE in the standard GISS III in the present study (2.07%  $K^{-1}$ ).

## 6. Summary and Conclusions

[56] To investigate the climatic impacts of aerosol indirect effects with GISS III GCM, explicit dependence on  $N_c$  has been introduced to the formulations of optical depth and autoconversion rates for liquid stratiform clouds in the GCM, to account for both cloud albedo and lifetime effects. Fully coupled chemistry-aerosol-climate simulations with the CACTUS Unified Model have been carried out to obtain offline aerosol mass concentrations. Additionally, using simulations with the GISS-TOMAS microphysics model and

the FN CCN activation parameterization, grid-by-grid correlations between aerosol soluble ion concentration and  $N_c$  have been established. The diagnostic correlations have been applied to the aerosol mass predicted in the Unified Model to compute corresponding offline  $N_c$  fields.

[57] Two 100 year simulations using the standard GISS III have been carried out, each with GHG and aerosol direct forcing from offline aerosol mass for present day or year 2100, to provide starting climates for the four equilibrium climate simulations using the GISS III with AIE-related implementation, each integrated for 30 years. By imposing offline monthly averaged  $N_c$  for PI, present day, and year 2100 in each simulation, the climate responses to the perturbations of  $N_c$  have been analyzed. The general patterns of the climate responses are summarized below and in Table 11.

[58] The perturbation of  $N_c$  from PI to 20C, of which the full AIE forcing is  $-1.67 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , is predicted to cause an equilibrium global surface cooling of 1.12 K, with maximum cooling at the NH high latitudes. The predicted interhemispheric temperature gradient induces an anomalous general flow between 20°S and 20°N, and a southward displacement of the ITCZ. The equilibrium global mean precipitation reduction is  $0.10 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$ , with a corresponding hydrological sensitivity of 3.00%  $K^{-1}$ . The results are consistent with previous GCM studies on preindustrial to present-day AIE forcing.

[59] The perturbation of  $N_c$  from 20C to 21C, which is weaker in magnitude and has different latitudinal distribution than that from PI to 20C, results in a full AIE forcing of  $-0.58 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . A small decrease of 0.47 K in predicted

**Table 11.** Summary of Patterns of Equilibrium Climate Response in the Present Study<sup>a</sup>

	Perturbation of $N_c$ From PI to 20C	Perturbation of $N_c$ From 20C to 21C	Perturbation of GHG, ADE and $N_c$ From 20C to 21C
Change in $N_c$	Increase globally with maxima over 30–60°N	Maximum of increase over 15–45°N; slight decrease north of 60°N in JJA	Maximum of increase over 15–45°N; slight decrease north of 60°N in JJA
Surface temperature	Cooling globally, with amplification especially at NH high lat.	Small cooling over the Tropics and subtropics; polar amplified	Warming globally with polar amplification
General circulation	Weak clockwise flow over the Tropics; southward shift of ITCZ	Weak clockwise flow over the Tropics; southward shift of ITCZ	Broadened Hadley Cell; strengthened ascending branches in convection zone
Precipitation	Reduced global average; maximum decrease over the Tropics; slightly enhanced around 15°S	Slightly reduced global average; maximum decrease over the Tropics;	Enhanced global average with maximum at Equator; decreased stratiform precipitation over 45°S to 45°N

<sup>a</sup>JJA, June–July–August.

global surface temperature, with small interhemispheric contrast, and a weak response in precipitation and general circulation is predicted. The location of the ITCZ does not show a significant shift. The hydrological sensitivity has a similar value of  $3.57\% \text{ K}^{-1}$ , despite the AIE forcing is much smaller than that from PI to 20C, indicating that the response of the hydrological cycle to AIE forcing in GISS III is likely characterized by a value of sensitivity larger than 3.0.

[60] In general, the simulated equilibrium climate response to the combined forcing of GHG, ADE, and AIE from present day to year 2100, dominated by GHG warming effects, agrees with previous GCM studies, with a global temperature increase of 4.60 K, maximized warming in polar regions and the tropical tropopause, broadened Hadley cell, and enhanced precipitation in the tropical convection zone and midlatitudes to high latitudes. The inclusion of AIE-related processes in the modified version of GISS III leads to a decrease in predicted stratiform precipitation and a hydrological sensitivity of  $1.90\% \text{ K}^{-1}$ , as compared to the increase in stratiform precipitation and the higher hydrological sensitivity of  $2.07\% \text{ K}^{-1}$  predicted by the standard model.

[61] On the basis of the sensitivity calculation of the AIE forcing to the assumption of minimum  $N_c$  values, when a smaller minimum  $N_c$  is used, the present-day AIE forcing only changes slightly, whereas the future AIE forcing is enhanced by 12%. This sensitivity indicates the climate responses predicted in the present study would be robust for AIE from PI to 20C, while those for AIE from 20C to 21C would be enhanced/decreased, given a smaller/larger value of minimum  $N_c$ .

[62] Finally, we note that the indirect effects on ice clouds and convective clouds are not considered in the present study. In addition, offline aerosols and droplet number concentrations have been used. Although the aerosol mass was derived by the fully coupled model, in the equilibrium climate calculations, feedbacks of temperature, precipitation, cloud, and transport on distribution of aerosol and droplet number were not accounted for. Evaluating the full indirect effects and the full coupling between tropospheric chemistry, aerosols, clouds, and climate is worthy of a future study.

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