

Influence of anthropogenic aerosol on cloud optical depth and albedo shown by satellite measurements and chemical transport modeling

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Sulfate column burden (vertical integral of concentration) in mid North Atlantic at 1800 Universal Time Coordinated (UTC) on April 2-8, 1987 and April 24-29, 1987, as evaluated with a chemical transport and transformation model. Note logarithmic scale. Boxes denote areas chosen for analysis of satellite retrievals of cloud properties.

Figure 2. Time series of sulfate column burden from chemical transport model and pixel-average (1 km × 4 km) cloud properties determined from satellite retrievals over mid North Atlantic, 25-30°W, 50-55°N, April 2-8, 1987 (Figure 2.1, left) and 20.25-23.625 °W, 43.875-47.25 °N, April 24-29, 1987 (Figure 2.2, right). *a*) Modeled sulfate column burden, obtained by interpolation of model output at 6-h intervals; *b*) Effective radius at cloud top, r_e ; *c*) Optical depth, τ_c ; *d*) Cloud-top spherical albedo, α_{sph} ; *e*) Cloud-top temperature (note inverted scale); *f*) Liquid water path, LWP; *g*) Enhancement of cloud-top spherical albedo relative to that calculated for April 2 (Figure 2.1) or April 24 (Figure 2.2) for the same LWP distribution. Bars denote central 80% of the data; ticks note upper quartile, median, and lower quartile. Two sets of data are shown for April 8, 27, and 28, for which the study area was within range of the satellite on two successive overpasses. Dates and times are UTC.

Figure 3. Pixel-average cloud optical depth τ_c as a function of vertical cloud liquid water path for eight satellite overpasses over the study area 50-55°N, 25-30°W, for April 2-8, 1987. Data points with $\tau_c > 70$ are plotted at $\tau_c = 70$ because of insensitivity of retrieval method at high optical depth; these points are evident as horizontal clusters at $\tau_c = 70$. Data points with $\tau_c \lesssim 3$ have been excluded to eliminate pixels that could be covered by haze but not clouds. Lines denote cloud optical depth for indicated constant values of effective radius near cloud top, r_e .

Figure 4. Pixel-average cloud spherical albedo as a function of vertical cloud liquid water path, for three satellite overpasses *a*) for the first episode, study area 50-55°N, 25-30°W, and *b*) for the second episode, study area 43.875-47.25 °N, 20.25-23.625 °W, for indicated dates in April, 1987. Clusters of points at albedo ~0.88 represent points with $\tau_c > 70$ for which spherical albedo was calculated as if $\tau_c = 70$. Curves denote cloud albedo for indicated constant values of effective radius near cloud top, r_e .

Figure 5. Enhancement of pixel-average cloud spherical albedo $\Delta\alpha_{\text{sph}}$ on April 5, 1987, relative to that on April 2, as a function of LWP, for the study area 50-55°N, 25-30°W. $\Delta\alpha_{\text{sph}}$ was evaluated for each datum of April 5 as the difference between α_{sph} obtained by Eq 2 from τ_c and r_e obtained from satellite data for that date and the value at the same LWP calculated using a linear fit of τ_c to LWP for the April 2 data. Data points for $\tau_c > 70$ (592 data out of a total of 6443) were calculated for $\tau_c = 70$ and lie along the diagonal line at the upper right of the cluster of points.

Figure 1

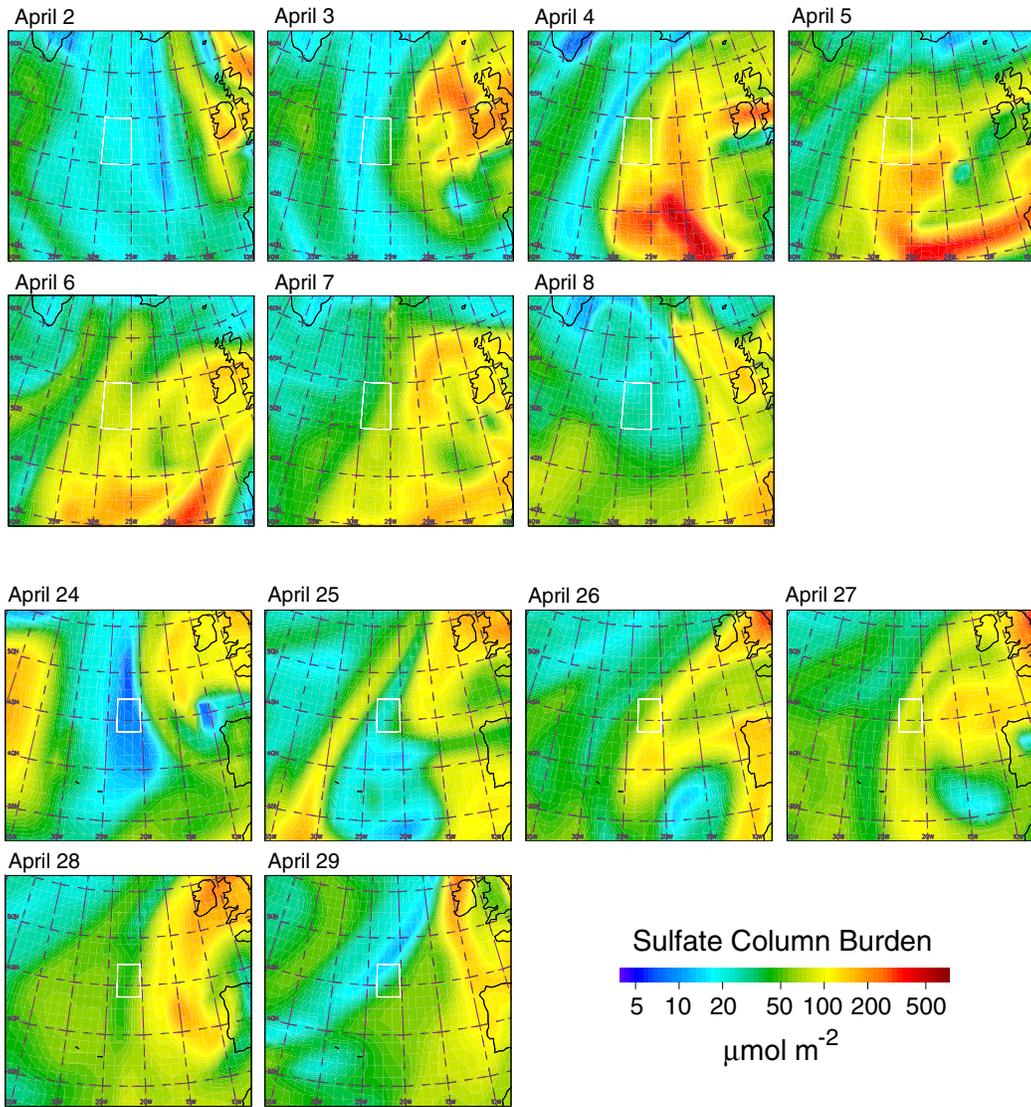


Figure 2

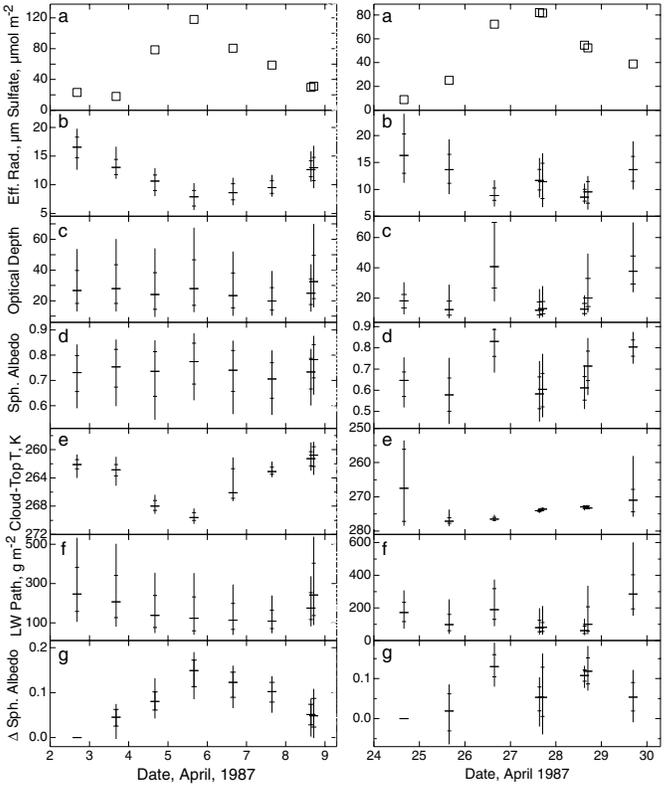


Figure 3

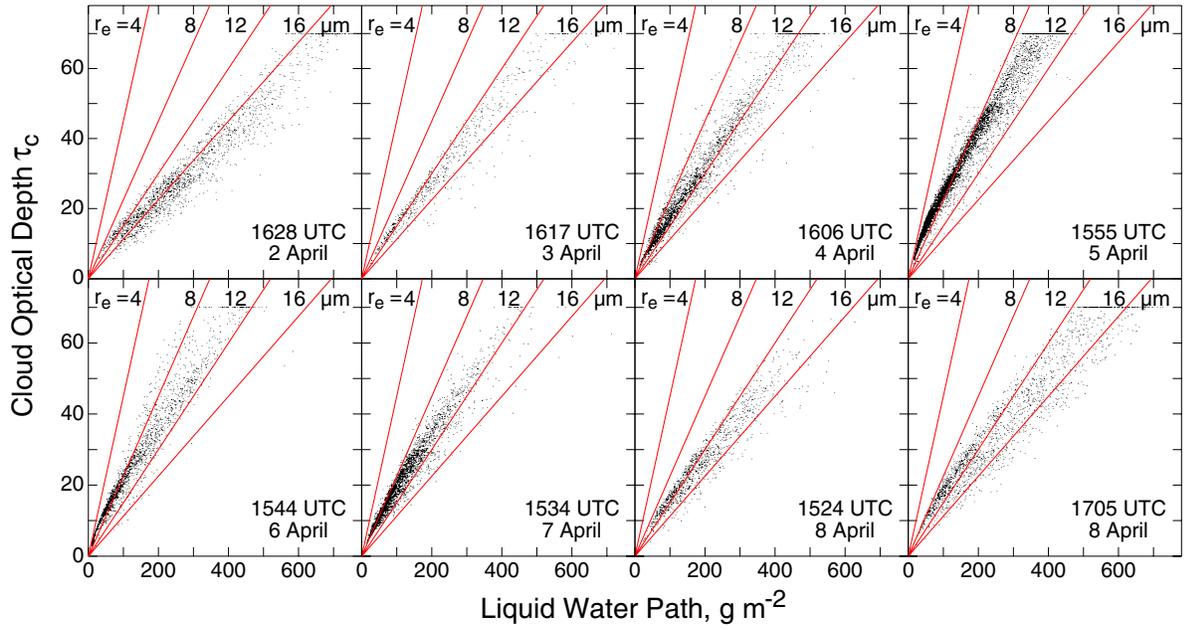


Figure 4

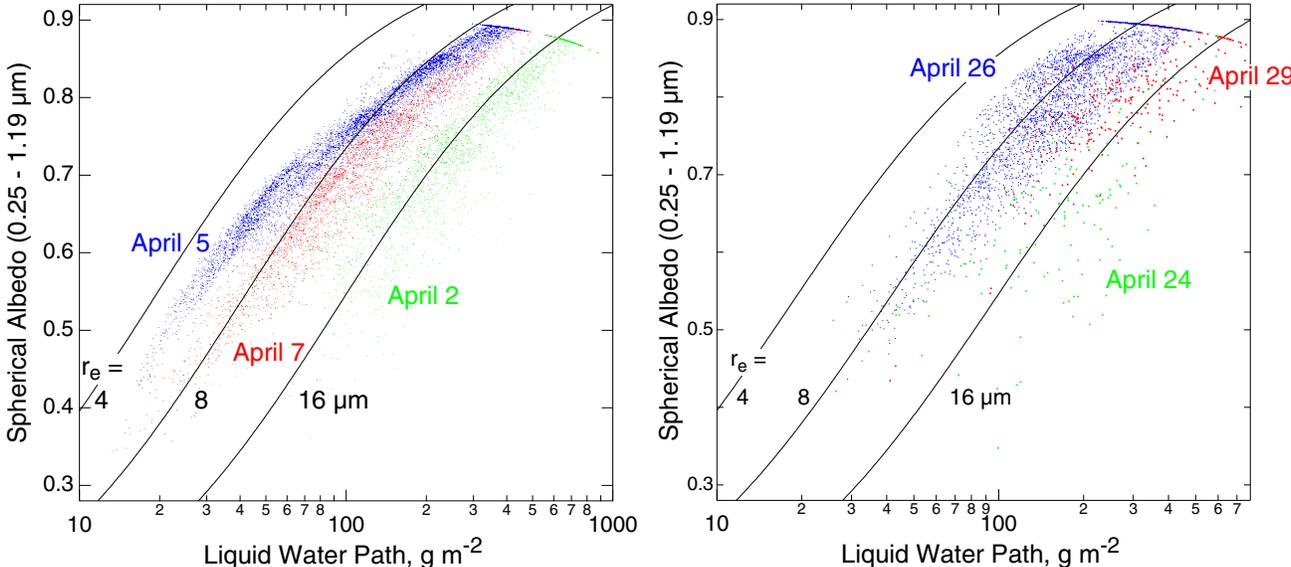


Figure 5

