Raman lidar-derived optical and microphysical properties of ice crystals within thin Arctic clouds during PARCS campaign

5 Patrick Chazette[1], Jean-Christophe Raut[2]

[1] LSCE/IPSL, CNRS-CEA-UVSQ, Paris-Saclay University, CEA Saclay, 91191 Gif sur Yvette, France

[2] LATMOS/IPSL, Sorbonne University, UVSQ, CNRS, Campus Pierre et Marie Curie, 75252
10 Paris, France

Correspondence to: Patrick Chazette (patrick.chazette@lsce.ipsl.fr)

Abstract. Cloud observations in the Arctic are still rare, which requires innovative observation techniques to assess ice crystal properties. We present an original approach using the Raman
15 lidar measurements applied to a case study in northern Scandinavia. The vertical profiles of the optical properties, effective radius of ice crystals and ice water content (IWC) in Arctic semi-transparent clouds were assessed using quantitative ground-based lidar measurements at 355 nm performed from 13 to 26 May 2016 in Hammerfest (north of Norway, 70° 39′ 48″ North, 23° 41′ 00″ East). The field campaign was part of the Pollution in the ARCtic System
20 (PARCS) project of the French Arctic Initiative. The presence of low-level semi-transparent clouds was noted on 16 and 17 May. The cloud base was located just above the atmospheric boundary layer where the 0°C isotherm reached around 800 m above the mean sea level (a.m.s.l.). To ensure the best penetration of the laser beam into the cloud, we selected case studies with cloud optical thickness (COT) lower than 2 and out of supercooled liquid
25 pockets. Lidar-derived multiple scattering coefficients were found to be close to 1 and ice crystal depolarization around 10%, suggesting that ice crystals were small and had a rather spherical shape. Using Mie computations, we determine effective radii between ~7 and 25 μm in the clouds for ice water contents between 1 and 8 mg m^{-3}, respectively. The uncertainties on the effective radius and ice water content are on average 2 μm and 0.65 mg m^{-3},
30 respectively.

Keywords: Arctic ice clouds, lidar, optical properties, ice microphysical properties, effective radius, ice water content

1 Introduction

Cloud radiative effects significantly influence the radiative budget of the planet at high
35 latitudes (Kay and Gettelman, 2009; Schweiger et al., 2008; Morrison et al., 2012),

particularly beyond the Arctic Circle, and contribute to the well-known "Arctic amplification" phenomenon (Serreze and Barry, 2011; Liu and Key, 2014; Wendisch et al., 2019). In particular, clouds have impacted sea ice and glaciers which have been melting for several years in connection with climate change (Serreze et al., 2009; Hansen et al., 2010; Koenigk et al., 2013).

Arctic clouds exhibit a robust annual cycle with maximum cloudiness in fall and minimum cloudiness in winter (Yu et al., 2019). The annual cloud fraction amounts to about 80%, with predominant low-level clouds up to 70% of the time from spring to autumn (Curry and Ebert, 1992). Based on observations from spaceborne LITE (Lidar In-space Technology Experiment), GLAS (Geoscience Laser Altimeter System) and CALIOP (Cloud-Aerosol LIdar with Orthogonal Polarization) lidar, Berthier et al. (2008) showed that those low-level stratiform clouds represent between 30 and 40% of the cloud cover. As they are located in air masses below the 0°C isotherm, these clouds are very often composed of ice crystals. The presence of supercooled liquid water droplets at the top of these clouds has nevertheless often been reported (Morrison et al., 2012; Shupe et al., 2008). Their subgrid-scale treatment is usually underestimated by physical parameterizations used in the climate models (Klaus et al., 2016; Taylor et al., 2019). This leads to a wrong representation of surface radiative fluxes, both in the solar and infrared spectra (Harrington et al., 1999; Klein et al., 2009; Maillard et al., 2021; Koenigk et al., 2013; Di Biagio et al., 2021). Reliable observations of microphysical and optical properties of ice particles, in particular of their ice crystal effective sizes, are critical for the evaluation of cloud parameterizations and for determining how clouds impact radiation (Zhang et al., 1996). Harrington and Olsson (2001) showed changes of up to 80 W m^{-2} due to a variation in the effective radius of ice particles. Accurately representing ice clouds in models is therefore necessary to realistically simulate the evolution of the Arctic surface energy budget.

The accuracy of cloud observations has been greatly improved in recent decades by the widespread use of lidar observations so as to better understand and predict the Earth system climate (e.g. Hoffmann et al., 2009). Since the precursory work of Platt (1977), ground-based lidar observations have made it possible to better characterize the vertical distribution of cloud structures (Sassen, 1991). Coupled with infrared radiometric observations and even radar measurements, microphysical properties, such as effective radius of ice crystals, are now accessible (Kalesse et al., 2016). With aircraft and satellite-based instrumentation, microphysical properties are now rendered at a larger spatial scale (Delanoë and Hogan, 2010;

Chazette et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2012; Lampert et al., 2009). However, the velocity of those instrumented platforms, along with their temporal resolution, prevent from sampling clouds at a spatial resolution which would be adequate to properly highlight their internal structure. Indeed, the resulting data provide cloud properties typically averaged over 5 km for satellites and over 1 km for airborne platforms, which may be insufficient to study cloud processes at a microphysical scale. Examining cloud structures with a high horizontal and vertical resolutions is however possible via ground-based lidars. Such instruments are unable to match the level of detail from aircraft in situ measurements or the spatial coverage of satellites, but they are fittingly positioned to capture the diurnal variability with high temporal and vertical resolutions (Shupe et al., 2011). This remains a challenge, as it requires that lidar measurements penetrate through the cloud with low attenuation. Semi-transparent clouds with small optical thicknesses ($\lesssim 2$) are therefore accessible to lidar measurements.

Due to the growing interest of the climate science community in clouds over the Arctic region, numerous experiments have been set up recently. For instance the ACLOUD (Arctic Cloud Observations Using airborne measurements during polar Day (Ehrlich et al., 2019)), PASCAL (Physical feedback of Arctic PBL, Sea ice, Cloud And AerosoL (Wendisch et al., 2019)) both in 2017, AFLUX (Airborne measurements of radiative and turbulent FLUXes of energy and momentum in the Arctic boundary layer (Mech et al., 2022)), in 2019 or MOSAiC (The Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (Shupe et al., 2022)) in 2019-2020. In this respect, we conducted Raman lidar observations at 355 nm during the PARCS (Pollution in the ARCtic System) field experiment (Chazette et al., 2018; Totems et al., 2019) in May 2016 at Hammerfest (Norway, over 70° N) in order to better constrain the estimate of ice crystal properties in thin cloud vertical structures. The high vertical resolution of the lidar allowed to highlight the presence of supercooled water pockets embedded into ice clouds and to trace the vertical profiles of the optical properties of semi-transparent clouds. It is then possible to derive the hydrometeor size profiles taking into account the multiple scattering effects.

The lidar system and associated theory are presented in Section 2. Section 3 describes the methodology used to retrieve the effective radii of ice crystals and ice water content from the lidar measurements. The optical properties of the ice crystals accessible to the Raman lidar measurements are given in Section 4 and their associated effective radius in Section 5. Finally, the conclusions summarizing the findings are provided in Section 6.

2 Ground-based lidar observations

2.1 Instrument

The ground-based WALI (Water vapor and Aerosol Lidar) was the Raman lidar operated during the PARCS campaign (Totems et al., 2019; Chazette et al., 2018). It uses an emitted wavelength of 354.7 nm and is designed to fulfil eye-safety conditions. During the field experiment, the acquisition was performed continuously with a vertical resolution of 15 m for mean profiles of 1000 laser shots, leading to a temporal sampling close to 1 min. The overlap function of this lidar is ~200 m and can be assessed experimentally for lidar signal correction in the lowest atmospheric layers.

Three different channels have been used to study ice-clouds: the first one to detect the total (co-polarized and cross-polarized with respect to the polarized laser emission) backscatter coefficients, the second to detect solely the cross-polarized backscatter coefficients, and the third to detect the vibrational Raman scattering on nitrogen. The field of view of the lidar is less than 2 mrad to minimize the effect of multiple scattering within the troposphere.

In the following, the lidar equation is applied to the specific case of thin ice clouds.

2.2 Approach

Using Raman lidar sampling of thin ice clouds, we aim to retrieve the vertical profiles of the optical and structural properties of ice crystals. This type of data remains very sporadic and is sorely lacking for a realistic modelling of the climatic impact of ice clouds.

Our approach is the following: i) isolate the cloud structures that are entirely sampled by the lidar laser beam, ii) assess the cloud optical thickness (COT) via the elastic and N_2-Raman channels and check the consistency of the result, iii) compute the integrated apparent backscatter coefficient of the cloud to derive the effective lidar ratio (LR), product of the LR by the multiple scattering coefficient, iv) compute the vertical profiles of extinction, backscatter coefficients and ice crystal depolarization ratio (ICDR) in the cloud, and v) invert Mie calculations to estimate the effective size of the ice crystal and ice water content of the selected cloud layers.

2.3 Theory

After the molecular transmission is corrected, the elastic lidar signal in the form of total apparent backscatter coefficient (β_{app}) at zenith viewing beyond the influence of the overlap factor (~200 m) is written at the altitude z in the cloud as:

$$\beta_{app}(z) = C \cdot \underbrace{\left(\beta_m(z) + \beta_a(z) + \beta_c(z)\right)}_{\beta(z)}$$

$$\cdot \exp(-2 \cdot \eta(z) \cdot COT(z_b, z)) \cdot \exp(-2 \cdot AOT(z_0, z_b)) \tag{1}$$

with

$$COT(z_b, z) = \int_{z_b}^{z} \alpha_c(z') \cdot dz' \tag{2}$$

and

$$AOT(z_0, z_b) = \int_{z_0}^{z_b} \alpha_a(z') \cdot dz' \tag{3}$$

Where C is the lidar system constant, β_m and β_a are the backscatter coefficients due to molecules and aerosols, respectively. The cloud backscatter coefficient is represented by β_c. The sum of the backscatter coefficients is the total volume backscatter coefficient (β). The vertical profile of the COT is calculated by integrating the extinction coefficient of ice crystal (α_c) between the cloud base (z_b) and altitude z in the cloud. Equation (1) assumes that the extinction coefficient due to aerosols is negligible above z_b, which is realistic during the PARCS campaign (Chazette et al., 2018). The aerosol optical thickness (AOT) is therefore calculated under the cloud base from lidar altitude z_o to z_b as the integral of the aerosol extinction coefficient (α_a). The multiple scattering coefficient η as defined by Platt (1981) traces the optical path lengthening associated with the multiple scattering process by the hydrometeors. The system constant C is obtained in cloud-free condition via the synergy between the lidar elastic and Raman channels above the planetary boundary layer (PBL) top, where only molecular scattering occurs, with a resultant relative accuracy of 0.5%.

For the N_2-Raman channel, after correction for molecular transmission and normalization to atmospheric density, the lidar signal β_{appN2} is written in a proportionality relationship as

$$\beta_{appN2}(z) \propto \exp\left(-\eta(z) \cdot \left(1 + \left(\frac{387}{355}\right)^{-A_c}\right) \cdot COT(z_b, z)\right)$$

$$\cdot \exp\left(-\left(1 + \left(\frac{387}{355}\right)^{-A_a}\right) \cdot AOT(z_0, z_b)\right) \tag{4}$$

where A_c (A_a) is the Ångström exponent in the cloud (aerosol layer) between the wavelengths of 355 and 387 nm. Ångström exponents are supposed to be constant. It is reasonable to

assume A_c to be close to 0. It is also assumed here that the multiple scattering coefficient in clouds is the same at 355 and 387 nm.

2.3.1 Cloud optical thickness

Using the elastic scattering channel, the ratio of β_{app} above the top (z_t) and below the base (z_b) of the cloud, where molecular diffusion is assumed to be the only one contribution to the lidar signal (negligible AOT), can be written as:

$$\frac{\beta_{app}(z_t)}{\beta_{app}(z_b)} = \frac{\beta(z_t)}{\beta(z_b)} \cdot exp(-2 \cdot \eta(z_t) \cdot COT(z_b, z_t)) \tag{5}$$

Hence, we can assess the COT between z_b and z_t by

$$COT(z_b, z_t) = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \eta(z_t)} \cdot \log\left(\frac{\beta(z_t) \cdot \beta_{app}(z_b)}{\beta(z_b) \cdot \beta_{app}(z_t)}\right) \tag{6}$$

The COT can also be determined directly from the N₂-Raman channel by normalizing to the altitude at the cloud base z_b for each altitude z:

$$COT(z_b, z) = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \eta(z)} \cdot \log\left(\frac{\beta_{appN2}(z_b)}{\beta_{appN2}(z)}\right) \tag{7}$$

Accurate determination of the COT requires knowing the multiple scattering coefficient η. At this stage, we do not know this value, so we can only calculate the effective COT ($COT_e = \eta \cdot COT$) instead, which includes multiple scattering processes. Furthermore, it should be noted immediately that if independent determinations of the COT_e by the elastic and Raman-N₂ channels match, this means that the assumption of free-aerosol altitude zones below and above the cloud is justified. Indeed, in this case, aerosols have negligible influence on the determination of COT_e via the N₂-Raman channel.

2.3.2 Vertical profiles of extinction and lidar ratio

The simultaneous use of the N₂-Raman and elastic channels makes it possible to find the vertical profiles of the extinction and backscatter coefficients associated with the clouds, and then the LR. The LR is a characteristic parameter of the scattering layers (Chazette et al., 2016).

Combining equations (1) and (5), the cloud backscatter coefficient between z_b and z_t can be derived for each z as:

$$\beta_c(z) \approx \frac{\beta_{app}(z)}{C} \cdot \frac{\beta_{appN2}(z_b)}{\beta_{appN2}(z)} \cdot \exp(2 \cdot AOT(z_o, z_b)) - \beta_m(z) \tag{8}$$

The AOT derived from Raman lidar below the cloud is lower than 0.04 in the PBL as in Chazette et al. (2018) just before the arrival of clouds.

In fact, $COT_e(z_b, z)$ is the effective cumulative optical thickness profile that tends towards the COT_e of the cloud when z is close to z_t. Its derivative with respect to z gives the effective extinction coefficient $\alpha_c^e(z)$ from which we obtain the vertical profile of the effective LR (LR_e), which is the ratio of α_c^e to β_c:

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_c^e(z) = \dfrac{\partial COT_e(z_b, z)}{\partial z} \\ LR_e(z) = \eta \cdot LR(z) = \dfrac{\alpha_c^e(z)}{\beta_c(z)} \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

It is worth noting that given the degrees of freedom of the equation system, it is only the effective values that are assessed.

The effective LR ratio equivalent to the cloud layer ($\widetilde{LR_e}$) can be directly evaluated by weighting LR_e by the cloud backscatter coefficient:

$$\widetilde{LR_e} = \frac{\int_{z_b}^{z_t} \beta_c(z) \cdot LR_e(z) \cdot dz}{\int_{z_b}^{z_t} \beta_c(z) \cdot dz} \tag{10}$$

2.3.3   Ice crystal linear depolarization ratio

The linear volume depolarization ratio (*VDR*) is calculated via the ratio of perpendicularly and parallelly polarized channels defined in respect to the laser emission as in Chazette et al. (2012a) where the different sources of uncertainty are discussed. The ICDR is calculated using a similar relationship to that used for aerosols (Chazette et al., 2012), from *VDR* and β_c:

$$ICDR(z) = \frac{\beta_m(r) \cdot (VDR_m - VDR(z)) - \beta_c(z) \cdot VDR(z) \cdot (1 + VDR_m)}{\beta_m(r) \cdot (VDR(z) - VDR_m) - \beta_c(z) \cdot (1 + VDR_m)} \tag{11}$$

where the molecular linear volume depolarization ratio (*VDR_m*) has been taken equal to 0.3945% at 355 nm following Collis and Russel (1976) for Cabannes scattering.

2.3.4   Multiple scattering coefficient

To evaluate η, we used a Monte Carlo radiative transfer model specially developed for lidar measurements. This model was used to analyze the LITE (Lidar In-Space Technology Experiment) measurements by Berthier et al. (2006). It has also been used to estimate multiple scattering through forest canopy (Shang and Chazette, 2015) for airborne and spaceborne lidar measurements. The outputs of the model were successfully compared with

the results of Wiegner et al. (1997) and again compared to simulations performed using the photon variance-covariance (PVC) method for quasi-small-angle multiple scattering (Hogan, 2006). The PVC algorithm can represent anisotropic phase function in the near 180° direction. As we noticed a very small difference in η ($< 5\%$) between the two modelling approaches, we can infer both approaches mutually validate. The Monte Carlo model was initialized with the ice crystal phase functions determined by the method presented below, themselves constrained by the lidar measurements.

3   Method for the determination of ice water content and ice crystal effective radius

In order to assess the vertical profiles of ice crystal effective radius (r_{eff}) and ice water content (IWC), we use a Mie code assuming ice particles are all spherical (Section 4.3). Ice crystals are generally not spherical. Nevertheless, for the clouds sampled in this study, the ICDR is ~10% (Sect. 4.3), far from the values associated with highly non-spherical crystals whose ICDR is between 30 and 50%. The complex index of refraction of ice is taken from the database established by Warren and Brandt (2008) from wavelengths between 44 nm and 2 µm at 266 K. The refractive index of ice crystals has been interpolated against the logarithm of the wavelength and assessed to be equal to 1.324 at the wavelength of the lidar (355 nm), with a negligible imaginary part.

Cloud ice crystal size distributions $\frac{dN}{dr}$ are commonly represented by generalized Gamma distribution (Stephens et al., 1990), as in microphysical schemes most widely used (Milbrandt and Yau, 2005; Morrison and Gettelman, 2008; Thompson et al., 2008):

$$\frac{dN}{dr} = 2^{(1+\mu_i)} \cdot N_{0i} \cdot r^{\mu_i} \cdot e^{-2 \cdot \lambda_i \cdot r} \tag{12}$$

where r is the radius of the ice crystal and dN the number concentration of ice crystals between r and r+dr. The intercept, slope and shape parameters of the size distribution are N_{0i}, λ_i and μ_i, respectively. The normalised size distribution $n(r)$ of the ice crystals can also be written equivalently as a function of r and the effective radius r_{eff} (Hansen and Travis, 1974):

$$n(r) = \frac{1}{N_t}\frac{dN}{dr} = \frac{1}{(v_{eff} \cdot r_{eff})^{\frac{1}{v_{eff}}-2}} \cdot \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{v_{eff}} - 2\right) \cdot r^{\frac{1}{v_{eff}}-3} \cdot e^{-\frac{r}{v_{eff} \cdot r_{eff}}} \tag{13}$$

where v_{eff} is the effective variance of the distribution and Γ the Euler-Gamma function. The total number of ice crystals is symbolized by N_t.

Here, ice crystals are assumed to be spheres. In this paper, to evaluate the sensitivity of the effective variance v_{eff} of ice crystals size distribution on cloud optical properties, we test two different values. First, the shape parameter μ_i is assumed to be zero (Marshall-Palmer distribution), as in many well-used two-moment microphysical schemes (Morrison et al., 2005; Thompson et al., 2008). The effective variance v_{eff} is therefore $v_{eff} = \frac{1}{\mu_i+3} = {}^1/_3$. Second, we consider a smaller value of the effective variance ($v_{eff} = 0.2$), corresponding to a larger shape parameter ($\mu_i = \frac{1}{v_{eff}} - 3 = 2$), which reduces the backscattering, then the LR, for the smallest particles.

The flow chart in Fig. 1 shows the process used to assess r_{eff} and *IWC*. Lidar-derived *LR* and *IWC* are compared with those calculated by a Mie code to retrieve the microphysical parameters of the ice crystals. Naturally, this calculation is carried out in altitude ranges where only ice crystals are present, i.e. with significant VDRs (> 2), avoiding pockets of liquid water.

Effective radius. The extinction and backscattering cross-sections are calculated using a Mie code as a function of the ice crystal radius in the range 1 to 200 µm. For a series of r_{eff} values ranging from 5 to 40 µm, the extinction and backscatter coefficients are then derived by integrating their respective cross sections over the size distribution *n(r)*, enabling the retrieval of LR for each value of r_{eff}. By definition, LR is independent of the assumed value of the total number of ice crystals N_t. Figure 2 shows the variation of LR as the function of r_{eff} following Mie calculation for v_{eff} equal to 0.20 and 0.33. LR turns out to be a monotonically decreasing function of r_{eff}. By minimising the discrepancies between the theoretical and measured values of LR, the effective radius of ice crystals can then unequivocally be determined for the considered size distribution range.

The parameters of the size distribution are thus derived as:

$$
\begin{cases}
\lambda_i = \dfrac{1}{2\,v_{eff} \cdot r_{eff}} \\[2mm]
N_{0i} = \dfrac{N_t \cdot \lambda_i^{\mu_i+1}}{\Gamma(\mu_i + 1)}
\end{cases}
\tag{2}
$$

where N_t is the total number of ice crystals obtained such that the theoretical extinction coefficient matches its observed counterpart.

Ice water content. After assessing the concentration of ice crystals by comparing the cloud extinction coefficients derived from the lidar measurement and the Mie code, the IWC is obtained using:

$$IWC = \frac{\pi}{6} \cdot \rho_i \cdot N_{0i} \frac{\Gamma(\mu_i + 4)}{\lambda_i^{\mu_i+4}} \tag{3}$$

where ρ_i = 920 kg m^{-3} is the density of pure ice.

5   The procedure is repeated at each altitude sampled, enabling us to derive vertical profiles of r_{eff} and *IWC* for each case study.

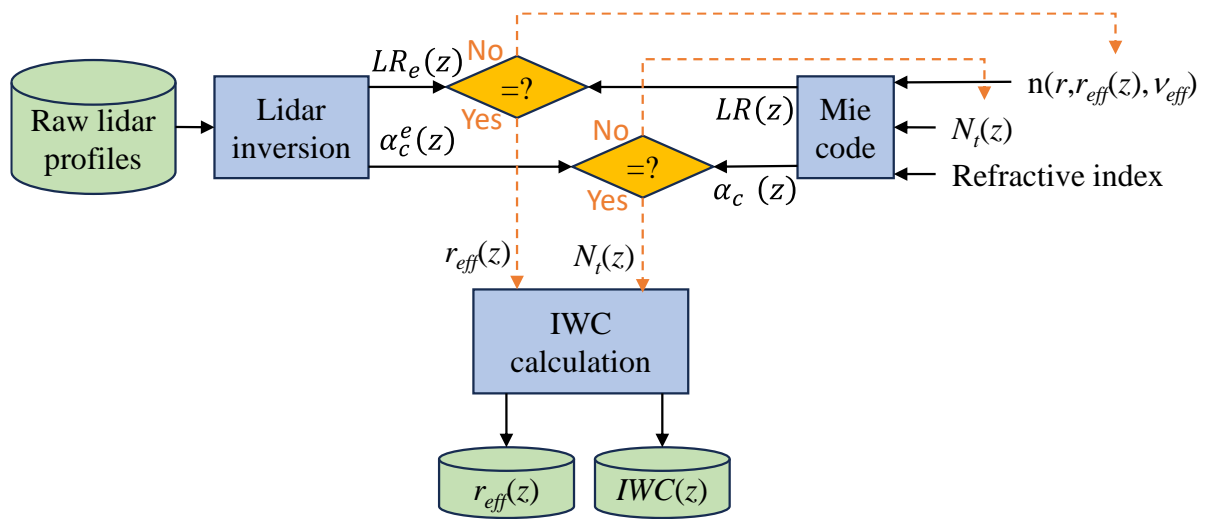



Figure 1. Flow chart of the process used to assess the effective radius r_{eff} and the ice water
10   content *IWC* at each altitude z by comparing the lidar ratio *LR* and the cloud extinction
coefficient $\alpha_c^e(z)$ derived from lidar inversion and those calculated by a Mie code. The Mie
code is initialized by the normalized size number distribution *n(r)* calculated for each radius *r*,
the total number N_t and the refractive index of the ice crystals. Multiple scattering is assumed
to be negligible.

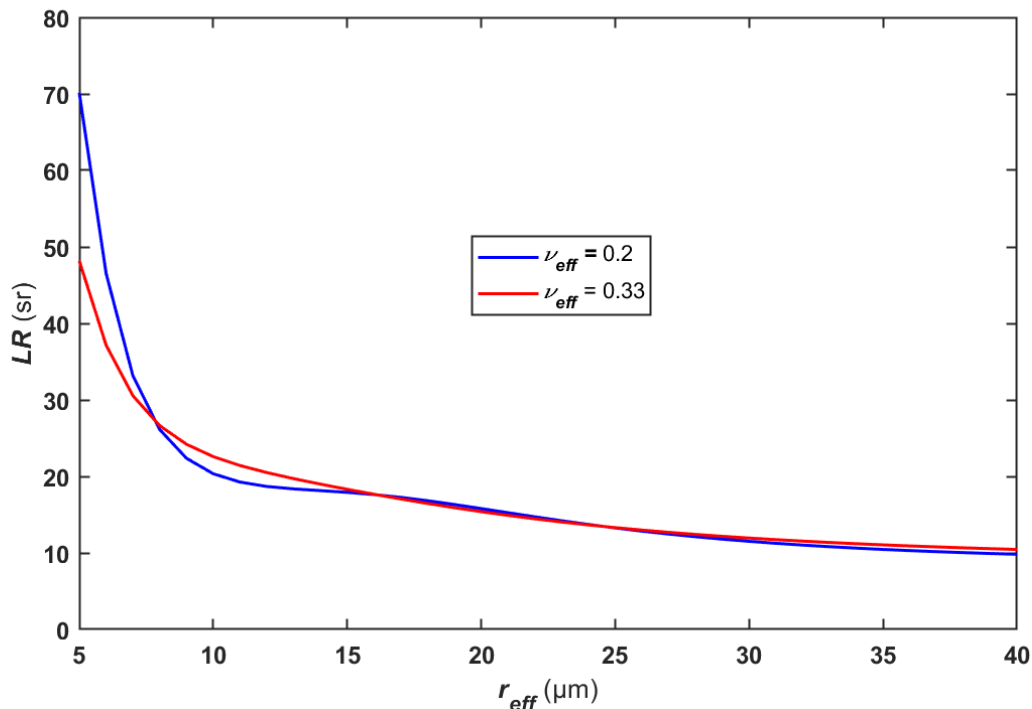



Figure 2. Variation of the theoretical lidar ratio (*LR*) obtained from Mie calculations as a function of the effective radius (r_{eff}) of ice crystals for two values of the effective variance ν_{eff}.

4   Lidar sampling

4.1   Site and meteorological synoptic conditions

The lidar measurements were obtained near Hammerfest airport on the island of Kvaløya, which lies in a south-west/north-east trough at an altitude of ~90 m a.m.s.l. The site is

10   bounded by the Norwegian Sea to the west and the Barents Sea to the north. It is bordered by relief peaking at around 360 m a.m.s.l. in the north-west and relief reaching up to 1045 m a.m.s.l. in the south-east. These reliefs can therefore significantly influence flows over the site by generating wind shears and vertical mixing.

From 14 to 16 May, two ridges block a low-pressure system between the Barents and

15   Norwegian Seas. This weather situation is illustrated by the geopotential height at 850 hPa (~1.5 km a.m.s.l.) in Fig. 3a, where the wind field is superimposed. The first ridge is located over Greenland and extends from the mid-latitudes to the Pole, while the second ridge is located between 55 and 90° E and passes over the Novaya Zemlya archipelago. The latter weakened from 16 to 17 May and thus favored the development of a low-pressure system

20   around the Svalbard archipelago. This low then spreads to the south of the Norwegian Sea. In the afternoon of 16 May, Hammerfest was on the edge of the low (Fig. 3b) with stratified cloud structures, before it spreads to cover the town completely by the late morning of 17

May (Fig. 3c). This leads to a significant evolution of the cloud cover towards denser and precipitating clouds which appear on the afternoon of 17 May over Hammerfest. The retrieval of the optical parameters of ice crystal relies on the lidar observations of semi-transparent frozen clouds before the arrival of denser precipitating clouds. The meteorological situation corresponds to a warm south-western regime as named by Mioche et al. (2017).

a)

b)

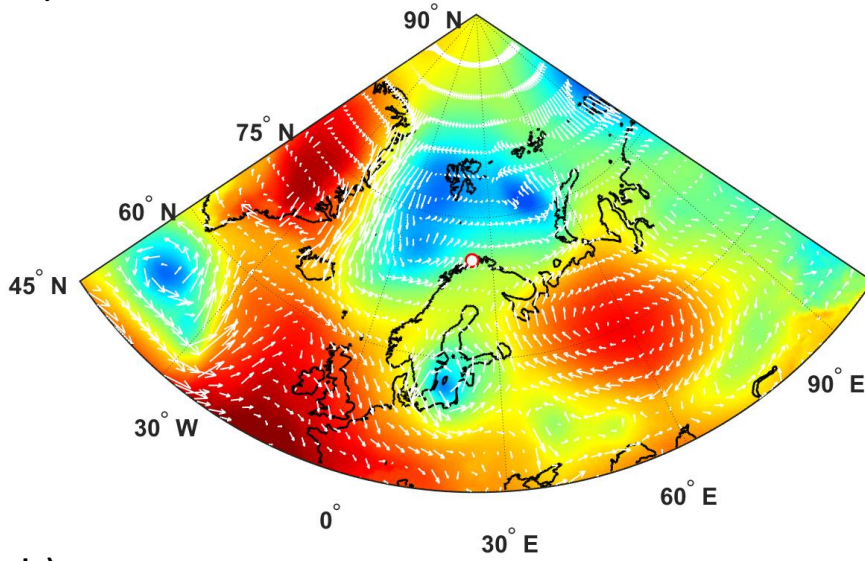
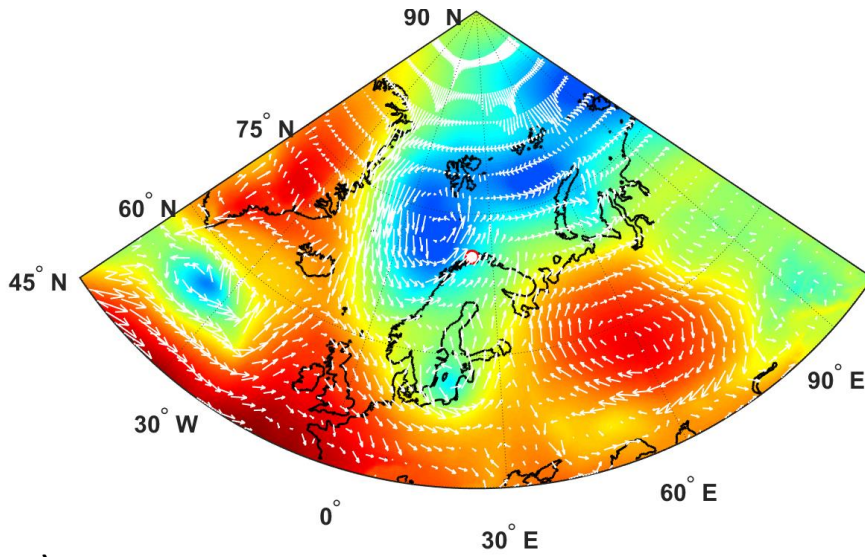
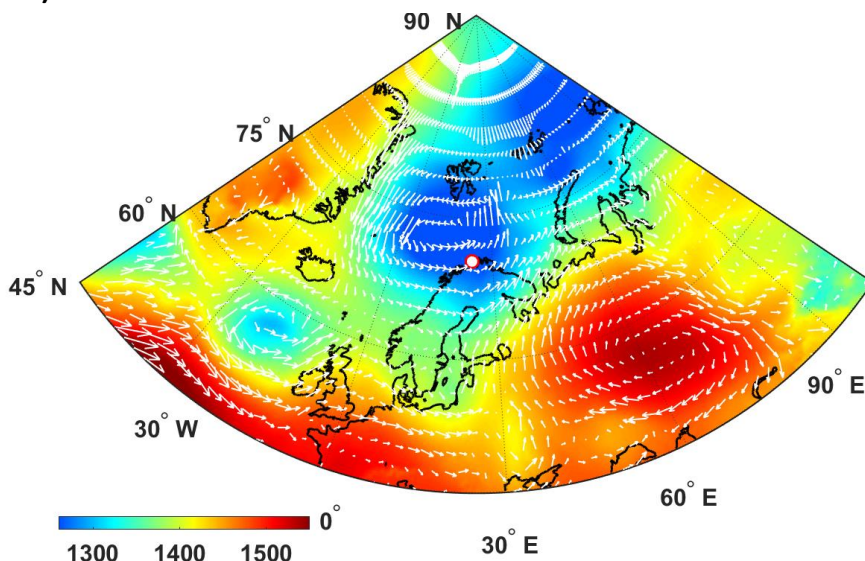
c)

Geopotential altitude at 850 hPa (km)

Figure 3. Geopotential height at 850 hPa on a) 16 May 2016, 06:00 UTC, b) 16 May 2016, 18:00 UTC, and 17 May 2016, 12:00 UTC. The wind field is also represented by white arrows. The measurement site close to Hammerfest in northern Norway is indicated by a white dot surrounded by red.

4.2 Description of cloud structures

Just before the arrival of clouds over the measurement site, ultralight aircraft flights were made with a payload including: i) a meteorological probe to measure temperature, relative humidity, and pressure, and ii) the Lidar for Automatic Atmospheric Survey Using Raman

10 Scattering (LAASURS) for the retrieval of the aerosol extinction coefficient. This payload is described in Chazette et al. (2018). On 16 May 2016, 11:30 local time (LT), the vertical profiles of temperature, relative humidity and aerosol extinction coefficient derived from the ultralight payload are given in Fig. 4. That latter is negligible over 1.2 km above mean sea level (a.m.s.l.) (Chazette et al., 2018). The 0°C isotherm is reached at an altitude of 0.8 km

15 a.m.s.l. with relative humidity increasing with altitude. With the advection of moist air masses over the site, the presence of cold clouds is therefore probable above 0.8 km a.m.s.l. This value is within the range of the bottom height of boundary layer mixed phase clouds in the western Arctic (McFarquhar et al., 2007; Maillard et al., 2021). At temperatures close to those encountered here, i.e. slightly below 0°C, Luke et al. (2021) have recently shown that

20 secondary ice formation can significantly increase the amount of ice crystals in clouds in the Arctic.

In the early afternoon of 16 May, the sky became overcast, leading to stratiform and cirrus clouds around 16:00 LT. These clouds were sampled between 16 and 17 May by the ground-based lidar. The apparent backscatter ratio ($\beta_{app}/(C \cdot \beta_m)$) and VDR time series are given in

25 Fig 5a. The clouds extend between ~0.8 and 6 km a.m.s.l. and display complex structures highlighting their great heterogeneity. Some stratiform clouds may occur at 2 km altitude on 16 May and in the range 2-3 km altitude on 17 May and can be detected by a strong attenuation of the lidar signal at their tops. This might indicate the presence of supercooled liquid droplets at the top of mixed-phase clouds, as often reported in the Arctic region

30 (Mioche et al., 2017; McFarquhar et al., 2017). Higher clouds (2-6 km altitude) are also detected by the lidar. The sedimentation of ice crystals from those higher ice clouds leads to a glaciation of most of the lower liquid cloud layers (seeder-feeder effect, Fernández-González et al., 2015).

The VDR is also highly variable temporally and vertically (Fig. 5b). The higher values (>8%) indicate the location of frozen hydrometeors, while the lower values inside clouds (< 1%) may indicate the presence of supercooled water liquid droplets or molecular holes in the cloud structure. It is worth noting that, as the cloud-related scattering coefficient is very large compared to that of the molecules and aerosols, the VDR should not be very far from the PDR. Our observations with a vertical resolution of 15 m of liquid structures embedded in ice clouds are in agreement with previous field measurements (Rangno and Hobbs, 2001; Korolev and Isaac, 2003) which suggested that different pockets of solely water or ice in mixed-phase regions coexist with typical scale of tens of meters. In contrast, large-scale models erroneously assume that liquid and ice phases are uniformly mixed within each model grid box (Tan and Storelvmo, 2016), with implications on the efficiency of the Wegener-Bergeron-Findeisen effect (Beesley and Moritz, 1999; Tan and Storelvmo, 2019).

The clouds are not formed over the site but over the ocean. They are then transported with a vertical gradient of the horizontal wind that generates some of the noticeable structures, such as the comma-like configuration between 00:00 and 04:00 on 17 May (Fig. 5). Between 05:00 and 07:00 LT, a cloud layer composed of supercooled droplets can be observed between 2 and 2.5 km a.m.s.l. In this case, β_{app} is higher than 10 with a very low VDR. We also note the probable presence of supercooled liquid droplets on 16 May between 18:30 and 19:30 LT around 2.5 km a.m.s.l. Estimating the properties of ice crystals therefore requires selecting profiles outside supercooled water pockets.

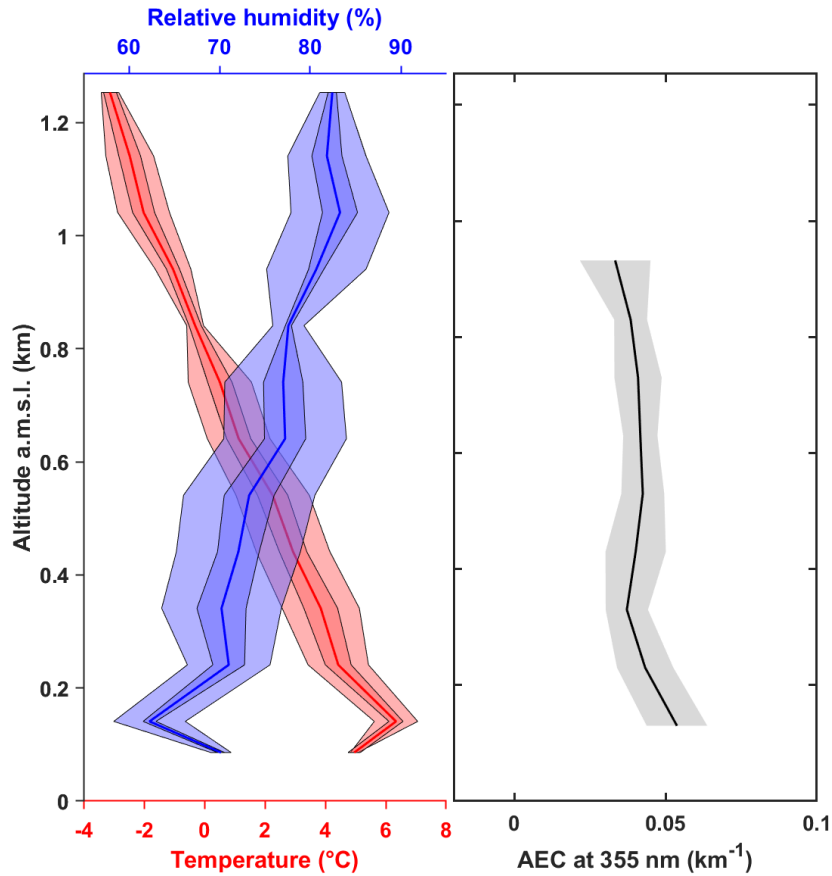



Figure 4. Vertical profiles of temperature, relative humidity, and aerosol extinction coefficient (AEC) derived from the ultralight on 16 May 2016, 11:30 LT. The light shaded areas give the data variability in 100 m-thick atmospheric layers. The darker colored areas give the error on temperature (red) and relative humidity (blue). The grey shaded area is the error on the AEC.

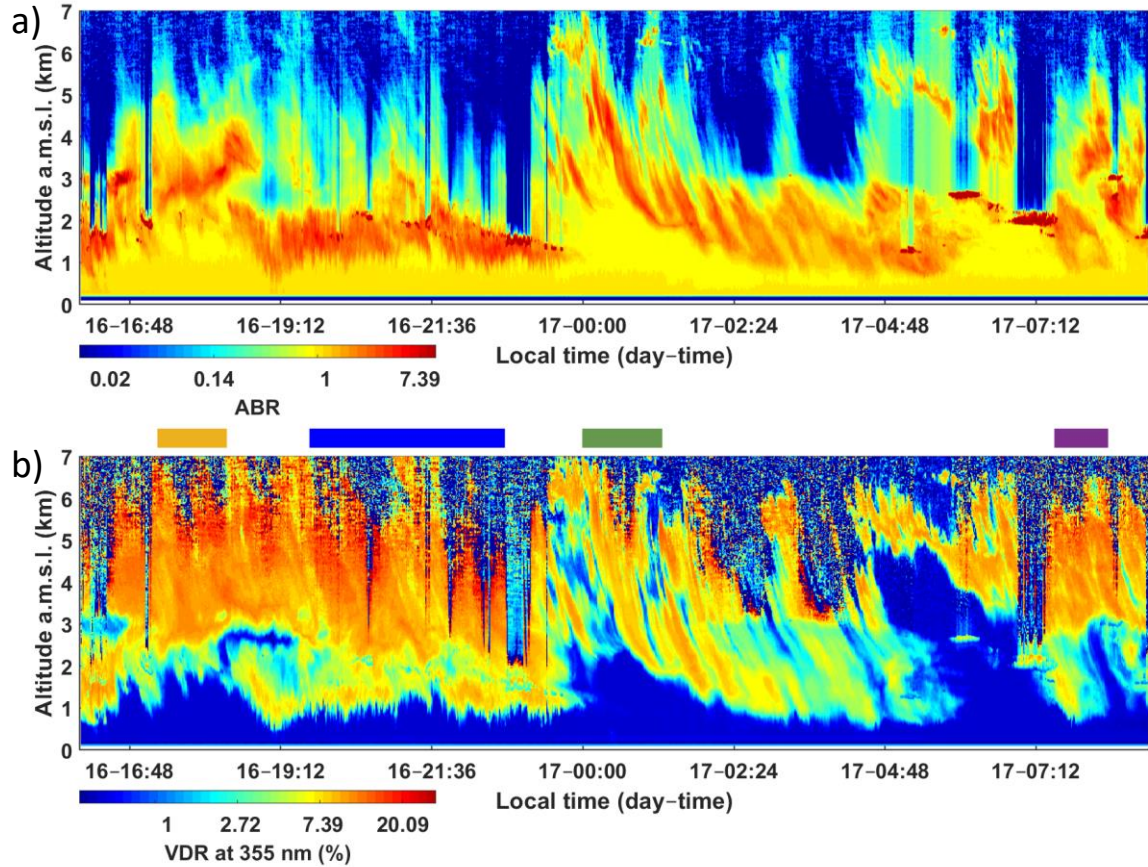



Figure 5. Time series of the a) apparent backscatter ratio (ABR) and b) linear volume depolarization ratio (VDR) derived from the ground-based lidar from 16 to 17 May 2016. Cases studied specifically are highlighted by the color bar above each period concerned: case 1 in orange, case 2 in blue, case 3 in green and case 4 in violet.

4.3 Lidar derived optical properties

We selected 4 cases indicated by the horizontal-colored bands in Fig. 5, when the laser beam passed through ice clouds. For each selected period we averaged the profiles over the previous time intervals to increase the signal to noise ratio of the lidar measurements. The lidar-derived integrated optical parameters of sampled clouds are given in Table 1 for each case. The optical properties are assuming a contribution from multiple scattering which is evaluated later. The consistency of the retrievals can be assessed by comparing COT_e derived from both elastic and N₂-Raman channels, which are two independent measurements. This ensures that the assumptions for molecular scattering before and after the cloud are reasonable. The difference may have several origins: i) the level of noise above the cloud layer that affects the boundary condition and ii) the smaller range of the N₂-Raman channel that therefore integrates less of the upper part of the clouds. In Table 1, the "Klett" columns give the result of the Klett (1981) inversion using $\widetilde{LR}_e$ calculated via the N₂-Raman (equation 10) channel. The differences observed with the Klett inversion remain lower than 3%. Note

that the stable Klett inversion significantly reduces the errors as one moves away from the top of the cloud layer. The value of $\widetilde{LR}_e$ derived from the N$_2$-Raman channel is shown to be very stable from one case to another (between 21 and 25 sr).

In the following, we therefore use the coupling between the elastic and N$_2$-Raman channels to determine the vertical profiles of LR and the vertical profiles of extinction coefficient of ice crystals. For the 4 cases, the vertical profiles derived from the lidar measurements are shown in Fig. 6. $\widetilde{LR}_e$ are mainly between 10 and 30 sr for the cloudy structures. The higher values observed in the lowest layers are related to the transition with the atmospheric boundary layer where there can be a contribution of aerosols when the cloud structures have a very low density. ICDR is retrieved between 5 and 15% in the clouds, mostly below 10%, as shown in Fig. 7 for the 4 cases. Such values are weak for large non-spherical ice crystals. We can therefore infer that the clouds observed are composed of small ice crystals with a rather spherical shape. It is worth noting that Nakoudi et al. (2021) found ICDR values between 10 and 35% for cirrus clouds over Svalbard.

Assuming that the retrieved optical properties are slightly influenced by multiple scattering and considering the processes presented in Section 3, we can constrain the size distribution of the ice crystals. The phase functions calculated using Mie model, coupled to the extinction profile α_c^e then allow us to evaluate the importance of multiple scattering using a Monte Carlo model. The retrieved values of η remain above 0.95 for all cases and mainly influence the top part of the clouds. We can therefore make the reasonable assumption that multiple scattering has negligible influence on our results. Note that the derived values are close to those previously determined from ground-based lidar measurements for the same type of clouds in the Arctic region ($\eta = 0.92\pm0.03$) by Mariage et al. (2017).

Table 1. Equivalent integrated optical parameters at 355 nm and their uncertainties for 4 case studies of cloud layers: effective optical thickness (COT$_e$) from the elastic and N$_2$-Raman channels, and equivalent effective lidar ratio ($\widetilde{LR}_e$). The "Klett" column shows results using the Klett (1981) inversion. Altitude ranges where calculations are made are given in brackets.

Case	Time range (LT)	COT_e Elastic channel		COT_e N$_2$-Raman channel	
		COT$_e$ From equation 6	Klett	$\widetilde{LR}_e$ (sr)	COT$_e$ From equation 7
1	16 May 2016 17:15 - 18:20	1.84±0.03 (1.3 - 6.3 km)	1.80±0.04	25±0.9	1.79±0.03 (1.3 - 4.8 km)
2	16 May 2016 19:40 - 22:45	2.08±0.03 (0.7 - 5.9 km)	2.04±0.05	21±0.2	2.28±0.03 (0.7 - 5.26 km)
3	17 May 2016 00:00 - 01:15	1.02±0.01 (1.6 - 7 km)	1.03±0.02	24±0.3	1.17±0.01 (1.6 - 6 km)

4	17 May 2016 07:30 - 08:20	1.51±0.02 (0.55 - 6.0 km)	1.48	21±0.3	1.28±0.02 (0.55 - 4.5 km)

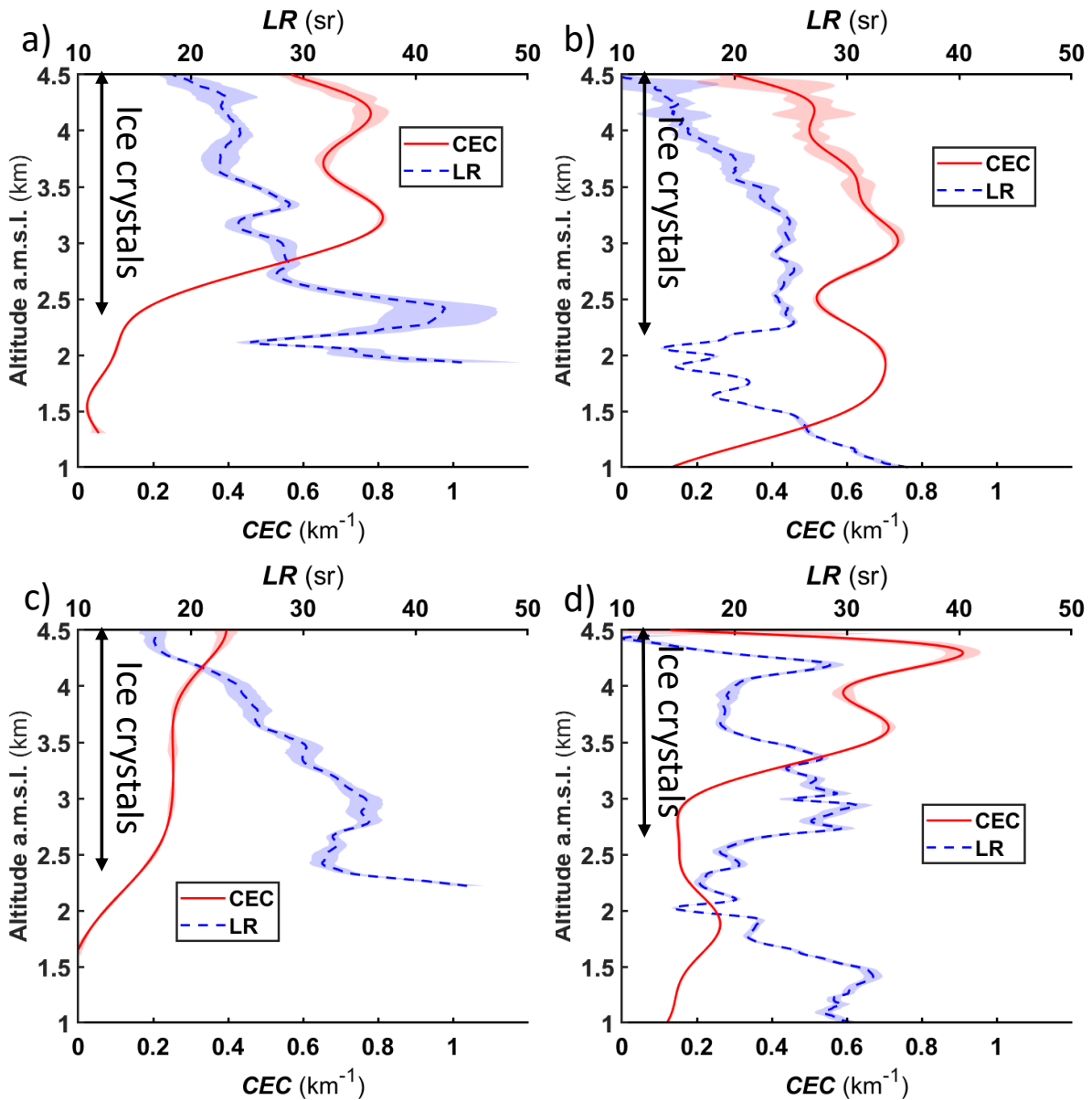



Figure 6. Vertical profiles of lidar-derived cloud extinction coefficient (CEC) and lidar ratio (LR) on a) 16 May 2016, 17:15 – 18:20 local time (LT) (case 1), b) 16 May 2016 19:40 – 22:45 LT (case 2), c) 17 May 2016 00:00 – 01:15 LT (case 3), and d) 17 May 2016 07:30 – 08:20 LT (case 4). The altitude location of ice crystals is indicated. The colored areas around the lines represent the data uncertainties.

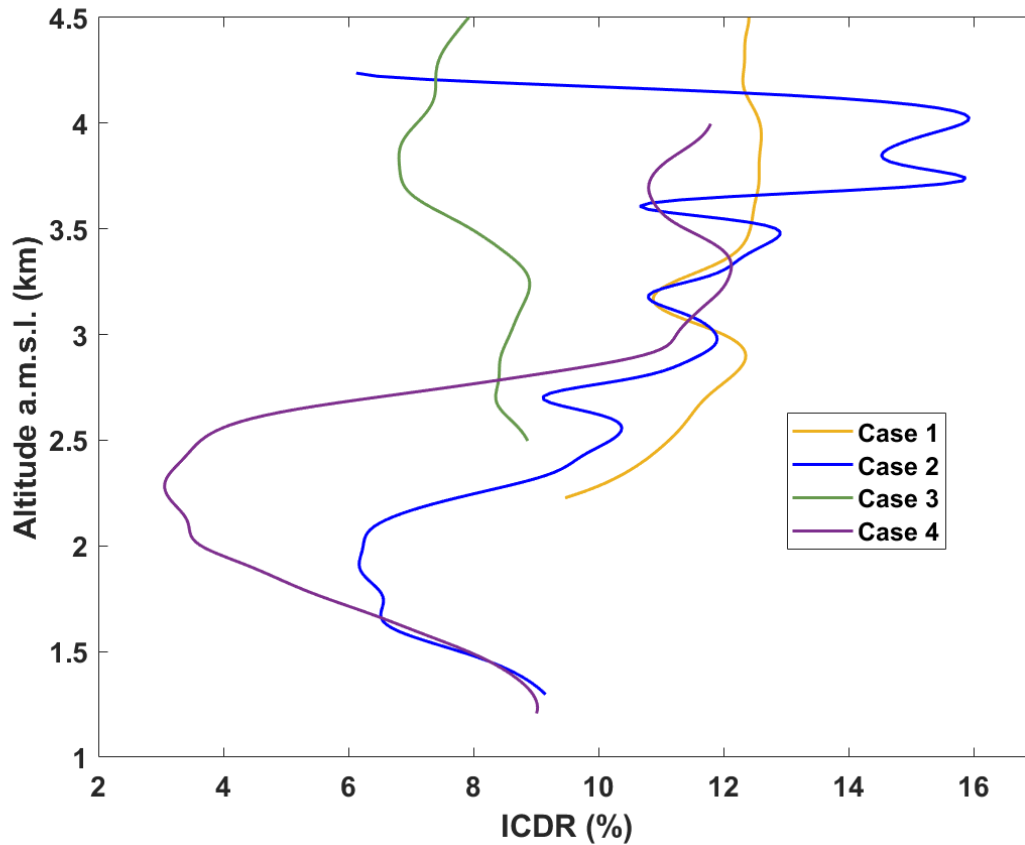



Figure 7. Vertical profiles of lidar-derived linear ice crystal depolarization ratio (ICDR) on a) 16 May 2016, 17:15 – 18:20 local time (LT), b) 16 May 2016 19:40 – 22:45 LT, c) 17 May 2016 00:00 – 01:15 LT, and d) 17 May 2016 07:30 – 08:20 LT.

5   Vertical profile of cloud microphysical properties

The vertical profiles of the effective radius r_{eff} and ice water content calculated as in Section 3 are shown in Fig. 8. Two values of ν_{eff} are considered (0.33 and 0.20) to evaluate potential ranges of r_{eff} and IWC (Fig 8a, c, e, g). The effective radius r_{eff} of ice crystals presents rather small values, between 7 and 25 µm. The corresponding IWC is lower than 8 mg m^{-3}, as it corresponds to small ice crystals and semi-transparent clouds. It can be noted that the value of ν_{eff} has little influence on r_{eff} and IWC because the backscatter phase functions do not change significantly (Fig. 2). The uncertainties on r_{eff} and IWC (Fig 8b, d, f, h) are mainly due to the shot noise of the detection and have been calculated using a statistical error propagation. They are at most 2 µm and 0.65 mg m^{-3}, respectively. The highest uncertainties are generally found at higher altitudes, where the lidar signal is most attenuated.

The values of r_{eff} are in the lowest range of those reported in the literature for the Arctic region by Mioche et al. (2017). They have analyzed the vertical distribution of microphysical

properties, in most cases stratiform mixed-phase clouds in the boundary layer, using in situ measurements from four airborne spring campaigns in the European Arctic between 2004 and 2010. For these clouds of different nature in the south-western regime, they showed that the ice phase dominates the microphysical properties with mean values of ~25 µm and less than 25 mg m^{-3} for effective radius and IWC, respectively. Their analysis also revealed that large values of the liquid water content and high concentrations of small droplets may be linked to polluted situations and air mass origins from the south, leading to the lower values of ice crystal size and IWC ~ 10 mg m^{-3}. Our results are therefore consistent with airborne measurements on the same cloud types. Note that during PARCS, measurements were carried out over the coast of Northern Norway, where the influence of local sources of pollution was not negligible (gas flaring from the Melkoya processing facility, presence of shipping activities close to Hammerfest, transport of anthropogenic pollution from Russia) and when a plume containing biomass burning aerosols from huge forest fires in Canada reached Scandinavia (Chazette et al., 2018). The small values of ice crystals sizes and IWC found in our study may be explained by such polluted situations in comparison to clouds sampled in more pristine conditions in the High Arctic.

Similarly, McFarquhar et al. (2007) investigated the microphysical properties of single-layer stratus clouds over Barrow and Oliktok Point in Alaska as part of the M-PACE (Mixed-Phase Arctic Cloud Experiment (Verlinde et al., 2007) campaign in fall 2004. They found that the effective radius of ice crystals was 25.2±3.9 µm and nearly independent of the normalized cloud altitude. Korolev and Isaac (2003) investigated mixed-phase clouds associated with frontal systems. They found that the mean volume radius of particles in ice clouds varied between 10 and 17.5 µm. Between -50°C and -30°C where all cloud particles were presumably ice, the effective radius was found to be about 7 µm which is of similar magnitude to our retrievals despite higher temperatures. They argued that IWC in glaciated clouds decreased with decreasing temperature, from about 100 mg m^{-3} at -5°C to 20 mg m^{-3} at -35 °C. Our observations shown in Fig. 7 do not show any evidence of such behavior for clouds encountered during PARCS. The vertical profile of IWC cannot be explained solely by the temperature values but may also be ascribed to the history of the air masses.

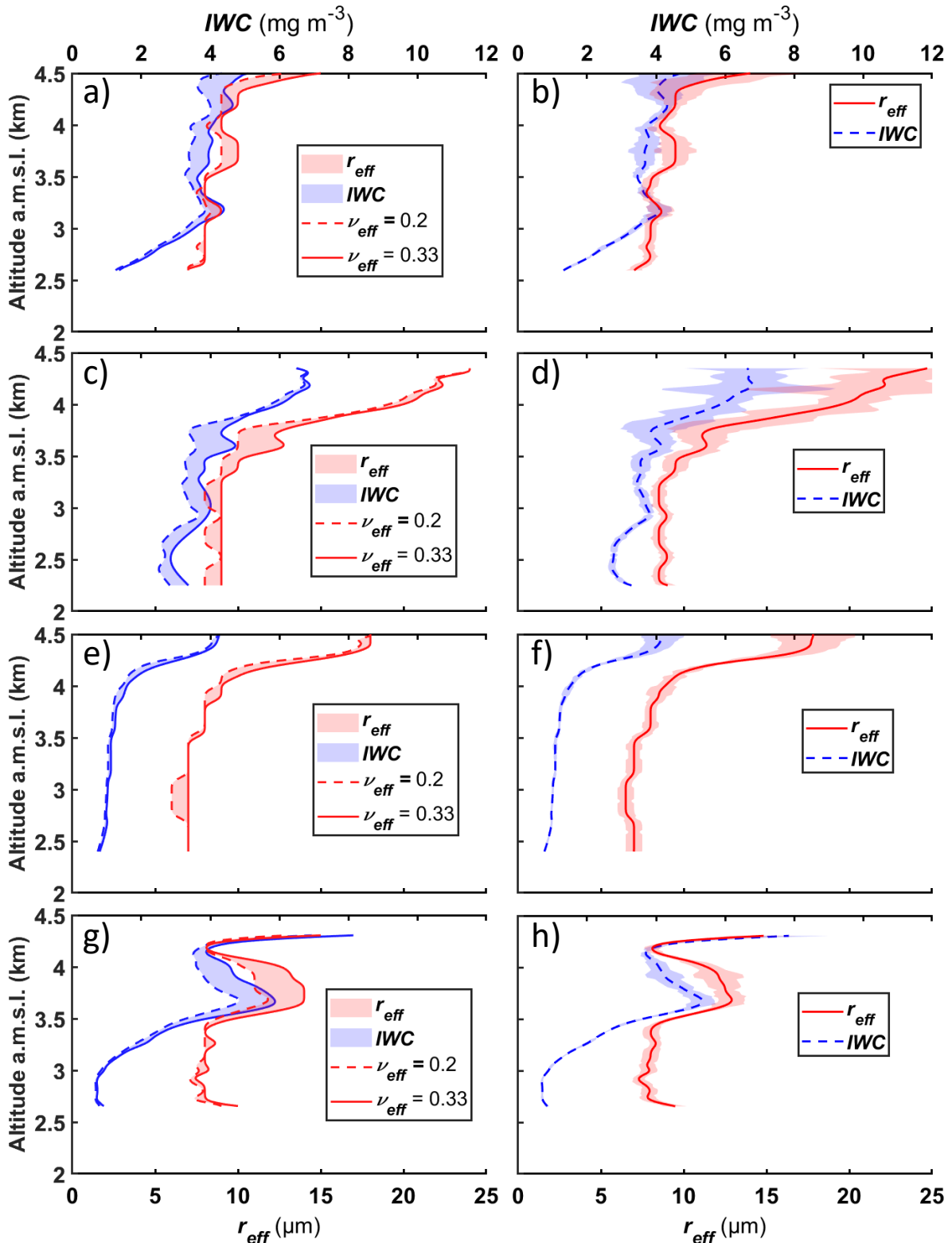



Figure 8. Vertical profiles of effective radius (r_{eff}) of ice crystal and ice water content (*IWC*) on a-b) 16 May 2016, 17:15 – 18:20 LT (case 1), c-d) 16 May 2016 19:40 – 22:45 LT (case 2), e-f) 17 May 2016 00:00 – 01:15 LT (case 3), and g-h) 17 May 2016 07:30 – 08:20 LT (case 4). The left-hand panel (a, c, e, f) represents the bias that may be linked to the choice of the ν_{eff} value, and the right-hand panel (b, d, f, h) represents the shaded areas associated with the lidar measurements assuming a ν_{eff} value between 0.2 and 0.33.

6 Conclusion

Thin ice clouds were sampled by ground-based lidar in late spring 2016 over the Hammerfest area in northern Norway. In the presence of semi-transparent clouds with an optical thickness of less than 2 at the wavelength of 355 nm, ground-based lidar measurements allow to differentiate the contributions of ice crystals and liquid water pockets embedded in the cloud. The clouds are located just above the atmospheric boundary layer, with a cloud-base between 0.8 and 1.2 km a.m.s.l. where the temperature is below the 0°C isotherm. The inversion of the lidar profiles shows a modest level of depolarization, of the order of 10%, with a negligible multiple scattering coefficient (<0.95 at the cloud top), suggesting that sampled ice crystals are small and of rather spherical shape. This agrees with Mie computations determining effective radii between ~7 and 25 µm. The ice water contents are found to be lower than 8 mg m^{-3}Such small values may be ascribed to more polluted situations compared to pristine conditions in the High Arctic. It is worth noting that the uncertainties on the effective radius and ice water content are in average of 2 µm and 0.65 mg m^{-3}, respectively, allowing us to follow their evolution in the cloud, as long as the lidar signal is not too attenuated.

The use of vibrational Raman measurements to constrain the elastic lidar equation allows to remove ambiguities on the restitution of optical properties of semi-transparent ice clouds. It is an alternative approach to airborne measurements limited by the ability to sample the clouds over long periods of time. It is complementary to approaches proposing the coupling of lidar and radar measurements at 95 GHz. Its limitation is mainly on the ability of the lidar to sample the cloud layer along the line of sight and on the assumptions of sphericity of ice crystals, which have been justified by the observed values of the depolarization ratio. Our approach can nevertheless be easily extended to clouds containing non-spherical ice crystals if we consider the appropriate phase functions, which can be obtained for instance using T-matrix approaches applied on specific shape functions.

Data availability. Data from the PARCS Hammerfest campaign can be downloaded from the https://www4.obs-mip.fr/parcs/database/ database upon request to the first author of the paper.

Author contributions. Both authors conceived and participated to the experiment, contributed to the analysis of the lidar data, the conception, and the writing of the manuscript.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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