Dear Dr. Andrew J. Kavanagh and Dr. Christoph Jacobi,

On behalf of my co-authors, we thank you very much for giving us another opportunity to revise our manuscript entitled “The research on small-scale structures of ice particle density and electron density in the mesopause region” (#angeo-2019-10). We would like to express our great appreciation to you and the reviewer for some constructive comments and suggestions on our manuscript. Based on the comments and requests, we have made careful modification on the original manuscript. We attached revised manuscript and every question from the reviewer was summarized.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and best regards!

Yours sincerely

Ruihuan Tian

Dear Reviewer,

Thank you for your insightful comments concerning our manuscript entitled “The research on small-scale structures of ice particle density and electron density in the mesopause region”. Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied these comments carefully and have made corrections which we hope make our paper more acceptable. The responds to the comments are as following. Once again, special thanks to you for good comments and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Responses to Reviewer

The authors have made significant revisions to the original manuscript (particularly the ionospheric plasma model) that have strengthened it significantly. They are to be credited/acknowledged for this. However, the prime issue with the first revision still exists. The authors have not made a persuasive case of the advance made by this work relative to other work in the field. This is not clarified in the Abstract, Introduction, or most importantly, the Conclusions section. Therefore, the manuscript is still not worthy of publication in its current state until this critical issue is addressed through further major revisions.

Response

Thank you very much for pointing it out. We are sorry for not giving a persuasive description on the novelty of our work.

To sum up, the theoretical model of this manuscript mainly consists of two parts: one is the particle growth and motion model that determines the ice particle density irregularities, and another is the plasma model that determines the corresponding electron density irregularities.

Between the two theoretical models, the particle growth and motion model is originally developed by our research group to try to give a possible explanation on the formation of the ice particle density irregularities in PMSE region. The motion equation of variable mass object is introduced into the particle growth and motion model, and as far as we know, similar work hasn't been reported before. Although the particle growth and motion model may be not perfect, we still find out some useful results and the significance of this work shouldn't be denied. As for the plasma model for determining the corresponding electron density irregularities, it has been studied by many authors, and we utilize the well-developed and widely used one in reference (Lie - Svendsen et al. 2003) to conduct the calculation of electron density irregularities corresponding to the obtained particle irregularities to make our paper more complete.

Frankly speaking, the particle growth and motion model is the emphasis of this manuscript and the place where the novelty lies. We have made some modification in the manuscript to highlight the advances of our work.

Some examples of this inadequacy are as follows:

1. Abstract: The authors do not note the uniqueness or novelty of the growth model. Is it the first of its kind or an advance over previous models? This must be clarified to make the case that this is work suitable for publication in Annales Geophysicae. The last few sentences state the results of applying the plasma model to the neutral density obtained with the model. The conclusion is correct, but is it also well known by a number of previous investigations (both modeling and data). Again, the question arises what is the novelty or contribution of the work. The reader is again brought back to the fact that the neutral model (and incorporating it into the plasma model) is most likely the primary contribution of the manuscript. However, this is poorly articulated and a persuasive case not made.

Response

Thank you very much for pointing it out. We are sorry for our unclearly description on the novelty of this manuscript.

In this manuscript, we have proven that small-scale density structures of ice particle can be obtained in PMSE region via the particle growth and motion model. This model is originally developed by our research group by combining action of gravity, neutral drag force and particle growth by adsorption of water vapor. We believe that our work should have some novelty since the small-scale structures of ice particle density can be produced by our model.

And calculating the influence of these obtained ice particle density structures on plasma is actually not the focus of this paper, but makes it more complete, because the small-scale electron density irregularities (but not the ice particle density irregularities) are the direct cause of PMSE.

We have made some modification in Abstract to highlight the novelty of this paper.

2. Introduction: The authors state near the end of the Introduction that ‘this study is trying to explain the formation of these ice particle irregularities through a growth and motion model.’ Is this model new? If so, how is it different from past work? How does the new model allow the authors to solve an unknown critical problem in the field? Why is this problem important in the grand scheme of advancing the state-of-the-art in the field. Also how does incorporating this (possible new) neutral model into the ionospheric plasma model (which is the same as past models) facilitate resolution of important unresolved issues in the field. Without such a clarification, no persuasive case has been made on how the work is novel.

Response

Thank you very much for your instructive suggestions.

As far as we know, the growth and motion model of ice particles is a new model in the PMSE field since we haven’t seen any similar work before.

In the polar mesopause region, there is neutral airflow moving upward. The ice particles are subjected to upward neutral drag force and downward gravity, and grow simultaneously by absorbing water vapor. In addition, the size of initial condensation nuclei has a certain distribution. These factors can cause complex trajectories of ice particles and result in an inhomogeneous distribution of particle number density, which then leads to small-scale structures of ice particle density and the corresponding electron density structures. This may be an important mechanism that can produce PMSE phenomenon. But as far as we know, few people have studied the formation process of small-scale ice particle structures from the perspective of ice particle growth and movement. In view of this, we develop a growth and motion model of condensation nuclei in PMSE region to analyze the ice particle trajectories and calculate the number density distribution of ice particles.

In last few decades, the ice particle growth processes have been studied extensively. And most studies among of the past work are mainly concentrated on the nucleation process by considering the phase transition process (Keesee 1989; Gumbel and Witt 2002; Gumbel and Megner 2009). However, in our growth and motion model of ice particles, we assume that the supersaturated water vapor and condensation nuclei larger than the critical size already exist and stable growth of ice particles will continue when water molecules collide with them during thermal motion. We take the growth of particles into account in the equation of motion and study the complex trajectories of ice particles. Though the small-scale structures of ice particle density are produced successfully through the particle growth and motion model, we still don't dare to say that we have solved the unknown critical problem in this field since the formation mechanism of small-scale particle density structures is very complex and our model may be just one of the many mechanisms.

In addition, the neutral model and the ionospheric plasma model are separate with each other. The plasma model is carried out after the calculation of ice particle density structure. It should be stressed that the plasma model is not the emphasis of this manuscript. And we calculate the electron density irregularities based on the obtained ice particle density structures to make the manuscript more complete. So the well-developed and widely used plasma model in reference (Lie‐Svendsen et al. 2003) is employed in this manuscript to make our calculations more accurate, which should not affect the novelty of this manuscript obviously. According to the obtained plasma density structures, we can also check the validity of the growth and motion model of ice particles.

We have made some more detailed description in Introduction section to make our models more persuasive.

3. Conclusions: The Conclusion section also does not make a persuasive case of the novelty of the work. The first paragraph, for the most part, just reiterates the model. The second paragraph should make the case for novelty of the overall contribution. It is stated 'When the radius distribution function of condensation nucleus is Gaussian, stable small-scale ice particle density structures can be obtained based on the growth and motion model.' Is this the primary contribution? If so, why is it important? Has this already been known before or have other models been able to produce this result? It is also stated 'Furthermore, the reduction of electron density and the increment of ion density are about half the charge number density of ice particles, which is in line with the results under diffusion equilibrium approximations.' Why is this important? Has it been shown with other models before? To reiterate, it is very difficult to understand the contribution or importance of the work from the Conclusion section.

Response

Thank you very much for pointing it out.

The novelty of the work is that we have originally developed the particle growth and motion model to give a possible explanation on the formation of the ice particle density irregularities in PMSE region. And it has been stressed in the new version of the manuscript.

In our particle growth and motion model, the action of gravity, neutral drag force and particle growth by adsorption of water vapor are considered. The size distribution of initial condensation nuclei can affect the width and amplitude of the final obtained ice particle density structures. No matter what kind of particle size distribution is chosen, there will be a corresponding ice particle density structures. And in this manuscript, the Gaussian distribution is used because it have been proven by U. Berger and U. von Zahn's study (Berger and Von Zahn 2002) that the size distribution of ice particles in the summer mesopause region is closer to Gaussian in shape.

As for the calculations of electron and ion densities under a certain ice particle density structure, they are important for explaining the PMSE phenomenon and have been studied by many researchers(Lie - Svendsen et al. 2003). But in this manuscript, they are not the novelty part and they are mainly conducted to show the electron and ion densities corresponding to our obtained ice particle structures. With the calculated electron and ion densities, we can compare them with observation results, and then the ice particle structures obtained in our manuscript can be supported by the comparison results.

The decrease of electron density Δn_e and the increase of ion density Δn_i in the ice particle region are similar to the results under diffusion equilibrium approximation, which has been discussed in detail in reference (Lie - Svendsen et al. 2003). This is not an important conclusion of this manuscript, so it has been deleted for brevity.

In Conclusion section, we have made some modification to highlight the contribution of our work and make our research more persuasive.

4. Figure 3 and 6: Do these two Figures perhaps show the primary overall contribution of the work? Is the contribution the utilization of the overall model (neutral and ionospheric plasma when used together) that happens to produce results of electron fluctuations (both spatial scales and amplitudes) in line with experiments? If this is the case this needs to be carefully clarified to help address the issues raised in 1., 2., 3. Also, has the parameter regime used in Figure 3 and 6 been explored to perhaps provide a more novel contribution on unresolved questions?

Response

Thank you for pointing it out. We are sorry for making readers misunderstand the primary contribution of this manuscript.

As we have stated in question 2, the neutral model and the ionospheric plasma model are separate with each other. And the plasma model is carried out after the calculation of ice particle density structure. Since we have originally developed the particle growth and motion model with action of gravity, neutral drag force and particle growth by adsorption of water vapor considered, Figure 2 and 5 obtained from the particle growth and motion model are the most important contributions of the manuscript.

Calculating the influence of these obtained ice particle density structures on plasma is not the focus of this paper, but makes it more complete, because the small-scale electron density irregularities (but not the ice particle density irregularities) are the direct cause of PMSE. Also, the obtained plasma density structures are in line with observation, which in turn supports ice particle density structures obtained in our manuscript.

In the new version of the manuscript, we have made some modifications to highlight the contribution of our work.

In overall summary, the authors again have not made the persuasive case (although it may exist) of the novelty of the work to the degree the manuscript warrants publication. They should be commended on greatly improving the ionospheric plasma model, however, this is now just equivalent to past work.

Response

Thank you very much for your instructive suggestions.

According to the reviewer's comments on our manuscript, we have made many modifications to highlight the novelty of our work, which is mainly focused on the particle growth and motion model. The detailed explanation on the novelty of the particle growth and motion model has been stated in question 2. Also we have made explanations for the choice of ionospheric plasma model. Since the ionospheric plasma model is not the emphasis of this manuscript, the use of the well-developed and widely used plasma model in reference (Lie‐Svendsen et al. 2003) should not affect the novelty and significance of this manuscript obviously.

REFERENCE

Alcala, C. M.: Radar scattering from nonturbulent layers in the summer polar mesosphere, 1999.

Berger, U., and U. Von Zahn. Icy particles in the summer mesopause region: Three-dimensional modeling of their environment and two-dimensional modeling of their transport, Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics, 107, SIA 10-11-SIA 10-32, 2002.

Gumbel, J., and L. Megner. Charged meteoric smoke as ice nuclei in the mesosphere: Part 1—A review of basic concepts, Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, 71, 1225-1235,

2009.
Gumbel, J., and G. Witt. Cluster ions and ice particle nucleation: Positive feedback at the summer mesospause, Geophysical Research Letters, 29, 29-21-29-24, 2002.
Keesee, R.: Nucleation and particle formation in the upper atmosphere, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 94, 14683-14692, 1989.
Lie-Svendsen, Ø., T. Blix, U. P. Hoppe, and E. Thrane. Modeling the plasma response to small-scale aerosol particle perturbations in the mesopause region, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 108, 8442, 2003.

The research on small-scale structures of ice particle density and electron density in the mesopause region

Ruihuan Tian [1,2], Jian Wu[2], Jinxiu Ma[3], Yonggan Liang [1,2], Hui Li [1,2], Chengxun Yuan[1,4], Yongyuan Jiang[1] and Zhongxiang Zhou[1, 4]

[1]Department of Physics, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin 150001, China

[2]National Key Laboratory of Electromagnetic Environment (LEME), China Research Institute of Radio Wave Propagation, Beijing 102206, China

[3]CAS Key Laboratory of Geospace Environment and Department of Modern Physics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China

[4] Center of Space Environment of Polar Regions, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin 150001, China

Correspondence to: Hui Li (lihui_2253@163.com) and Chengxun Yuan (yuancx@hit.edu.cn)

Abstract. A growth and motion model of ice particles is originally developed based on the equation of motion of a variable mass object to explain the formation of ice particle density irregularities with meter scale in the mesopause region. The action of gravity, neutral drag force and particle growth by adsorption of water vapor are considered in the growth and motion model. The evolution of radius, velocity, and number density of ice particles is investigated by solving the growth and motion model numerically. It is shown that, for certain nucleus radius, the velocity of particles can be reversed at particular height, which leads to local gathering of particles near the boundary layer. And then the small-scale ice particle density structures are formed and can maintain stable as long as the external environment does not change. The influence of these stable small-scale structures on electron and ion density is further calculated by a charging model, which considers the production, loss and transport of electrons and ions, and dynamic particle charging processes. The results show that, for particles with radii of 11 nm or less, the electron density is anti-correlated to charged ice particle density and ion density due to plasma attachment by particles and plasma diffusion, which is in accordance with most rocket observations. These small-scale electron density structures caused by small-scale ice particle density irregularities can produce the polar mesosphere summer echoes (PMSE) phenomenon.

1 Introduction

The polar mesosphere summer echoes (PMSE) are strong radar echoes from the polar mesopause in summer(Rapp and Lübken 2004). One of the features of PMSE is that the spectra widths of echoes are much narrower than that of incoherent scatter (being due to the Brownian movement of electrons)(Röttger, et al. 1988;Röttger, et al. 1990). And it has been proposed that the PMSEs are radar waves coherently scattered by the irregularities of the refractive index which are mainly determined by electron density(Rapp and Lübken 2004). Furthermore, the efficient scattering occurs when the spatial scale of electron density structures is half of the radar wavelength, the so-called Bragg scale. For typical VHF radars, the scale is about 3 m(Rapp and Lübken 2004). Experimentally, in the ECT02 campaign(Lübken, et al. 1998), the sounding rocket with electron probe has detected electron density irregularities on the order of meters during the simultaneous observation of PMSE, which provides a vital argument for that small-scale electron density structures can indeed create strong radar echoes.

Lots of researches indicate that small scale ice particle density irregularities in the PMSE region play a key role in creating and maintaining small-scale structures of electron density (Chen and Scales 2005;Lie - Svendsen, et al. 2003;Mahmoudian and Scales 2013;Rapp and Lübken 2003;Scales and Ganguli 2004). Markus Rapp and Franz-Josef Lübken investigated electron diffusion in the vicinity of charged particles revisited (Rapp and Lübken 2003). They developed coupled diffusion equations for electrons, charged aerosol particles, and positive ions subject to the initial condition of anti-correlated perturbations in the charged aerosol and electron distribution. These solutions showed that electron perturbations were anti-correlated to both perturbations in the distributions of negatively charged aerosol particles and positive ions. Ø. Lie-Svendsen et al studied the response of the mesopause plasma to small-scale aerosol particle density perturbations based on time-dependent, one-dimensional, coupled continuity and momentum equations for an arbitrary number of charged and neutral particle species (Lie - Svendsen, et al. 2003). The results were consistent with the solution of Markus Rapp's model that particle density structures on the order of a few meters could lead to small-scale electron density perturbations due to electron attachment and ambipolar diffusion.

In all researches mentioned above, the aerosol particle density profiles were directly set as specific small scale structures such as Gaussian, hyperbolic tangent or sinusoidal. However the formation mechanism of these small-scale particle density structures has always been neglected, though they are helpful to understand PMSE phenomenon better. Kopnin et al. used dust acoustic solitons to explain the localized structures of charged dust grains in the PMSE region (Kopnin, et al. 2004), but the spatial scale of the obtained structures was much smaller than the observed scale and the wavelength of VHF radar. Therefore, it is still an open physical problem to study the formation mechanism of the small scale structures in PMSE region.

As is well-known, in the polar mesopause region, there is neutral airflow moving upward (Garcia and Solomon 1985). The ice particles are subjected to upward neutral drag force and downward gravity, and grow by absorbing water vapor simultaneously. In addition, the size of initial condensation nuclei has a certain distribution. These factors can cause complex trajectories of ice particles and result in an inhomogeneous distribution of particle number density, which then leads to small-scale structures of electron density. This may be an important mechanism that can produce PMSE phenomenon. But as far as we know, few people have studied the formation process of small-scale ice particle structures from the perspective of ice particle growth and movement.

In view of this, the particle growth and motion model is developed in this paper to describe the evolution of ice particle radius, velocity and density distribution in mesopause region. The growth of particles is based on collision and adsorption process of water vapor and condensation nuclei. The particle movement is mainly controlled by the gravity and the neutral drag force. With the obtained ice particle density structures, the corresponding electron and ion density is calculated based on a charging model, in which the continuity equations for ice particles with various charges and ions, momentum equation for ions and electrons, and quasi-neutral condition are included.

2 Model

In this section the equations of the growth and motion model of condensation nuclei and the charging model of ice particles are described.

The simulation is carried out at summer polar mesopause region between 80 ~ 90 km, where the water vapor carried by neutral gas is supposed to move upwards at a constant speed(Garcia and Solomon 1985). It is assumed that micrometeorites enter the study region at a certain flux from the upper boundary, and volcanic ash or particles ejected by aircraft rise into the region from the lower boundary. These grains serve as condensation cores. With the temperature lower than the frost point(Körner and Sonnemann 2001), the water vapor molecules that touch the surface of the grains due to thermal motion can easily condense into ice, which makes condensation cores become ice particles and keep growing. In this article, we will only discuss the growth, motion and charging of particles inside the condensation layer. Meantime, only vertical transport of particles and plasma is considered in this paper, because the horizontal gradients of transport parameters are much smaller than the vertical ones(Lie‐Svendsen, et al. 2003).

For growing ice particles, the dynamic equation for variable mass object is applied:

$$m_{\mathrm{d}}\frac{\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{u}_{\mathrm{d}}}{\mathrm{d}t}+(\boldsymbol{u}_{\mathrm{d}}-\boldsymbol{u})\frac{\mathrm{d}m_{\mathrm{d}}}{\mathrm{d}t}=m_{\mathrm{d}}\boldsymbol{g}-\mu_{\mathrm{dn}}m_{\mathrm{d}}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\mathrm{d}}-\boldsymbol{u})+q_{\mathrm{d}}\boldsymbol{E} \tag{1}$$

where m_{d}, $\boldsymbol{u}_{\mathrm{d}}$ and q_{d} are the mass, velocity, and charge of ice particles respectively. $\boldsymbol{u}$ is the velocity of neutral gas; $\boldsymbol{g}$ is the gravitational acceleration; μ_{dn} is the collision frequency between ice particles and gas; and $\boldsymbol{E}$ is the electric field. The electric force has trivial effect on the motion of ice particles, because the charge-mass ratio of particles is usually very small(Jensen and Thomas 1988;Pfaff, et al. 2001). The inertial term is also negligible since its magnitude is much smaller that gravity (Garcia and Solomon 1985).

The water vapor is supersaturated in the polar mesopause region (Lübken 1999) and we assume that the size of condensation nuclei is larger than the condensation critical size, so stable growth of ice particles will continue when water molecules collide with them during thermal motion. Ignoring reverse process such as sublimation, the mass change rate for ice particles is

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}m_{\mathrm{d}}}{\mathrm{d}t}=\mu_{\mathrm{wd}}m_{\mathrm{w}} \tag{2}$$

The collision frequency between water vapor and ice particles is $\mu_{\mathrm{wd}} = n_{\mathrm{w}}\pi r_{\mathrm{d}}^2 v_{\mathrm{w}}$ based on the hard-sphere collision model (Lieberman and Lichtenberg 2005). m_{w}, n_{w} and v_{w} are mass, number density and thermal velocity of water molecules, respectively.

The collision frequency between air molecules and ice particles in the neutral drag force term is(Schunk 1977)

$$\mu_{\mathrm{dn}}=\frac{8}{3\sqrt{\pi}}\frac{n_{\mathrm{n}}m_{\mathrm{n}}}{m_{\mathrm{d}}+m_{\mathrm{n}}}\sqrt{\frac{2k_{\mathrm{B}}T_{\mathrm{g}}(m_{\mathrm{d}}+m_{\mathrm{n}})}{m_{\mathrm{d}}m_{\mathrm{n}}}}\pi(r_{\mathrm{d}}+r_{\mathrm{n}})^2 \tag{3}$$

where n_{n}, m_{n}, and r_{n} are number density, mean molecule mass, and effective radius of neutral molecule, respectively. T_{g} is the gas temperature. The neutral molecule mass m_{n} is assumed as $28.96m_{\mathrm{u}}$. $\mathrm{m_u}$ is the proton mass.

From Eq. (1) we can get the velocity of ice particles

$$\boldsymbol{u}_{\mathrm{d}}=\boldsymbol{u}+\frac{m_{\mathrm{d}}}{\mu_{\mathrm{dn}}m_{\mathrm{d}}+\mu_{\mathrm{wd}}m_{\mathrm{w}}}\boldsymbol{g} \tag{4}$$

With the facts that $n_{\mathrm{w}} \ll n_{\mathrm{n}}$(Seele and Hartogh 1999), $m_{\mathrm{w}} \ll m_{\mathrm{d}}$, $m_{\mathrm{n}} \ll m_{\mathrm{d}}$, $r_{\mathrm{n}} \ll r_{\mathrm{d}}$ and $v_{\mathrm{n}} \sim v_{\mathrm{w}}$, and taking vertical up to be the positive direction, the velocity of ice particles is simplified as

$$u_d = u - g/\mu_{dn} \tag{5}$$

Ice particles are composed of condensation nuclei and attached ice. The mass of a single ice particle is

$$m_d = \frac{4}{3}\pi r_0^3 \rho_0 + \frac{4}{3}\pi (r_d^3 - r_0^3)\rho_d \tag{6}$$

where r_0 and ρ_0 are the initial radius and mass density of condensation nuclei, and ρ_d is the mass density of ice.

Based on the expressions of m_d and μ_{dn}, the relationship between ice particle velocity and radius is

$$u_d = u - \frac{g}{n_n m_n v_n}[\rho_d r_d + (\rho_0 - \rho_d)\frac{r_0^3}{r_d^2}] \tag{7}$$

At the upper and lower boundaries of study region, with $r_d = r_0$ the initial velocity of condensation nuclei is

$$u_{d0} = u(1 - r_0/r_c) \tag{8}$$

r_c is the critical radius

$$r_c = n_n m_n v_n u/(g\rho_0) \tag{9}$$

When the radius of condensation nuclei $r_0 > r_c$, gravity is larger than the neutral drag force, $v_{d0} < 0$, and particles move downwards. Otherwise, particles move upwards.

Based on the relation of m_d with r_d, the change rate of ice particle radius is

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}r_d}{\mathrm{dt}} = \frac{1}{4}\frac{n_w m_w v_w}{\rho_d} = c \tag{10}$$

It is easy to see that the ice particle radius increases linearly with time

$$r_d = r_0 + ct \tag{11}$$

Then the particle trajectory can be obtained by the following integral

$$z - z_0 = \int_0^t u_d \mathrm{d}t = c^{-1}\int_{r_0}^{r_d} u_d \mathrm{d}r_d \tag{12}$$

z_0 is the reference height where condensation nuclei enter the studied region. It is set that $z_0 = 0$ for the lower boundary and $z_0 = h$ for the upper one, where h is the distance between the two boundaries.

We assume that the condensation nucleus radius ranging from r_{0min} to r_{0max} has a certain distribution function $f(r_0)$. The density of condensation nuclei with radius in a small scale $r_0 \rightarrow r_0 + \mathrm{d}r_0$ is $\mathrm{d}n(r_0) = f(r_0)\,\mathrm{d}r_0$, and their velocity is u_{d0}. When these particles arrive at height z, their radius increases to $r_d(r_0, z)$, the corresponding number density turns into $\mathrm{d}n(r_0, z)$, and the velocity becomes $u_d(r_0, z) = v_d[r_0, r_d(r_0, z)]$.

According to the particle-conservation law, we have

$$u_{d0}\mathrm{d}n(r_0) = u_d(r_0, z)\mathrm{d}n(r_0, z) \tag{13}$$

Then the number density of ice particles at height z can be obtained by

$$n_d(z) = \int \mathrm{d}n(r_0, z) = \int_{r_{0\min}}^{r_{0\max}} \frac{u_{d0} f(r_0)}{u_d(r_0, z)} \mathrm{d}r_0 \tag{14}$$

The average ice particle radius at height z is

$$\bar{r}_d(z) = \frac{\int r_d(z)\mathrm{d}n(r_0, z)}{n_d(z)} \tag{15}$$

Through integrating all the condensation nucleus radii, stable distribution of n_d and r_d can be obtained. The particles keep entering and leaving the condensation region, but as long as the external environment does not change, the distribution of particle density and radius remains unchanged. Then the influence of these stable n_d and r_d profiles on electron and ion density is calculated.

Considering generation, recombination, and loss on particles, the continuity equation for ion density can be written as

$$\frac{\partial n_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(n_i u_i)}{\partial z} = Q - \alpha n_i n_e - D^+ n_i \tag{16}$$

Ignoring gravity, the drift velocity of ions u_i is determined by

$$u_i = \frac{eE}{m_i \mu_{in}} - \frac{k_B T_g}{m_i \mu_{in}} \frac{1}{n_i} \frac{\partial n_i}{\partial z} \tag{17}$$

The electric field E is mainly determined by electron density gradient because the diffusion coefficient and mobility of electrons are much larger than that of ions:

$$E = -\frac{k_B T_g}{e} \frac{1}{n_e} \frac{\partial n_e}{\partial z} \tag{18}$$

In the typical PMSE layer, there are several kinds of ions carrying one unit positive charge: N_2^+, O_2^+, NO^+ and $H^+(H_2O)_n$. According to Ref. (Reid 1990), the averaged ion parameters n_i, m_i, and T_g are applied to describe the density, mass, and temperature of ions, respectively, and the averaged ion mass m_i is set as $50m_u$. According to Hill and Bowhill's theory (Hill and Bowhill 1977), the ion-neutral collision frequency is

$$\mu_{in} = 2.6\times10^{-15} n_n \left(0.78 \frac{28}{M_i + 28} \sqrt{1.74 \frac{M_i + 28}{28 M_i}} + 0.21 \frac{32}{M_i + 32} \sqrt{1.57 \frac{M_i + 32}{32 M_i}} + 0.01 \frac{40}{M_i + 40} \sqrt{1.64 \frac{M_i + 40}{40 M_i}} \right) \tag{19}$$

where $M_i = m_i/m_u$.

The production rate for ions and electrons Q is chosen as 3.6 $\times 10^7$ $m^{-3}s^{-1}$ and electron-ion recombination coefficient α is set as 10^{-12} m^3s^{-1} (Lie - Svendsen, et al. 2003). Then the undisturbed density of ions and electrons $n_0 = 6 \times 10^9$ m^{-3}. The loss coefficient of ions on ice particles $D^+ = \Sigma n_q v_{i,q}$, where n_q is the number density of the q-charged ice particles, and $v_{i,q}$ represents the capture rate of ions by particles with q charges. According to the quantized stochastic charging model (Robertson and Sternovsky 2008):

$$v_{i,q\leq 0} = \pi r_d^2 c_i \left(1 + C_q \sqrt{\frac{e^2}{16\varepsilon_0 k_B T_g r_d}} + D_q \frac{e^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 k_B T_g r_d}\right) \tag{20}$$

The particle radius r_d used here is the averaged radius $\bar{r}_d$, which is obtained according to Eq. (15). The ion thermal velocity $c_i = (8k_B T_g/\pi m_i)$. k_B is Boltzmann's constant and ε_0 is the permittivity of vacuum. C_q and D_q are given in Table 1 of Robertson and Sternovsky's work (Robertson and Sternovsky 2008). And the corresponding capture rates of electrons by particles (Robertson and Sternovsky 2008) are written as

$$v_{e,q\geq 0} = \pi r_d^2 c_e \left(1 + C_q \sqrt{\frac{e^2}{16\varepsilon_0 k_B T_g r_d}} + D_q \frac{e^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 k_B T_g r_d}\right) \tag{21}$$

$$v_{e,q<0} = \pi r_d^2 \gamma^2 c_e \exp\left[-\frac{|q|e^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 k_B T_g r_d \gamma}\left(1 - \frac{1}{2\gamma(\gamma^2-1)|q|}\right)\right] \tag{22}$$

The thermal velocity of electrons $c_e = (8k_B T_g/\pi m_e)$, and the value of γ for each q is referred from Natanson's paper (Natanson 1960).

Although the distribution of total particle density $n_d = \Sigma n_q$ has reached stable state under the effects of gravity and neutral drag force, the number density of the q-charged ice particles n_q is dynamic in the charging process. The continuity equation for q-charged ice particles is

$$\frac{\partial n_q}{\partial t} = n_{q+1} v_{e,q+1} n_e + n_{q-1} v_{i,q-1} n_i - (n_q v_{e,q} n_e + n_q v_{i,q} n_i) \tag{23}$$

According to the growth and motion model, the maximum radius of ice particles involved in this study is about 11 nm (see below), which is similar to the ice particle radius (10 nm) used in the paper of Lie - Svendsen et al. (Lie - Svendsen, et al. 2003;Rapp and Lübken 2001). So based on their work, it is assumed that a single particle carries two negative charges at most, i.e., q = -2, -1, 0 and +1 in this study.

According to the typical parameters in PMSE region(Rapp and Lübken 2001), the plasma Debye length λ_D is estimated to be about 9 mm, which is much smaller than the vertical spatial scale of PMSE layer. So the dusty plasma satisfies the quasi-neutral condition:

$$n_i + \sum_q q n_q = n_e \tag{24}$$

In subsequent calculations, parameters are taken in the atmospheric environment at altitude of 85 km. The number density of neutrals $n_n = 2.3\times10^{20}$ m^{-3}(Hill, et al. 1999), the number density of water vapor $n_w = 2.5\times10^{14}$ m^{-3}(Seele and Hartogh 1999), temperature T_g = 150 K, the mass density of ice $\rho_d = 1\times10^3$ kg/m^3, the velocity of neutral wind u = 3 cm/s(Garcia and Solomon 1985), the mass density of condensation nucleus $\rho_0 = 2.7\times10^3$ kg/m^3, and the growth rate of ice particles $c \approx 7.8\times10^{-4}$ nm/s. In this work, we only consider the growth and movement of condensation nucleus which fall from the upper boundary with initial radius $r_0 > r_c$ and rise from lower boundary with $r_0 \leq r_c$.

3 Results and discussion

For simplicity, dimensionless parameters are used:

$$V_d = v_d/u,\quad \rho = \rho_d/\rho_0,\quad R_0 = r_0/r_c,\quad R_d = r_d/r_c$$

$$T = t/t_c,\quad Z = (z - z_0)/z_c$$

where $t_c = r_c/c$, which represents the time it takes for ice particle radius r_d growing to $r_d + r_c$, and $z_c = ut_c$ is the distance that neutral wind moves during the time t_c. In this study r_c = 4.2 nm, $t_c \approx 5385$ s, and $z_c \approx 161$ m.

The expression for dimensionless ice particle velocity is

$$V_d = 1 - \rho R_d - (1-\rho)\frac{R_0^3}{R_d^2} \tag{25}$$

The expressions for dimensionless position coordinate of particles based on T and R_d are

$$Z(R_0, T) = T - \frac{1}{2}\rho T(T + 2R_0) - (1-\rho)R_0^2 \frac{T}{T + R_0} \tag{26}$$

$$Z(R_0, R_d) = R_d - R_0 - \frac{1}{2}\rho(R_d^2 - R_0^2) + (1-\rho)R_0^3\left(\frac{1}{R_d} - \frac{1}{R_0}\right) \tag{27}$$

The relation between V_d and R_d is illustrated in Fig. 1(a), which shows that condensation nuclei with initial radius $R_0 \leq 1$ rise into the PMSE region through the lower boundary, while particles with $R_0 > 1$ fall into the region from the upper boundary. At the beginning, the upward-moving particles accelerate and the downward ones decelerate due to $\partial V_d/\partial R_d = 2 - 3\rho > 0$ when $R_d = R_0$. Later, with the increase of R_d, $\partial V_d/\partial R_d < 0$, all particles will move with a downward acceleration, which makes them move downward eventually.

Figure 1(b) shows the movement curves of ice particles near the lower boundary.

These particles, with an initial radius $R_0 \leq 1$, rise into the condensation layer. With the collection of ice, the grains become larger and heavier, which leads to the deceleration of the grains. And then, the grains will accelerate downward until they leave the condensation layer from the lower boundary. All particles rising from the lower boundary will retrace in the range of $Z_m < Z < Z_M$.

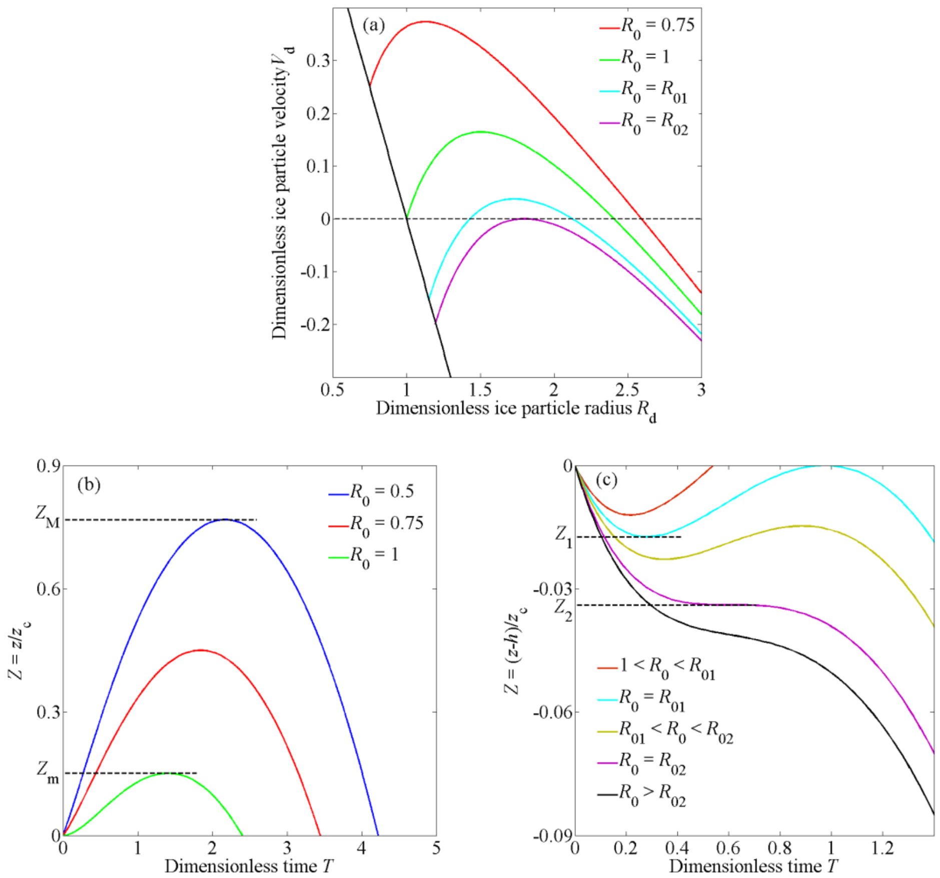


Figure 1 (a) The dependence of ice particle velocity on radius for different initial nucleus radii. The black solid line V_{d0} = 1- R_0 represents the distribution of initial particle velocity with respect to initial radius. (b) The movement curves of ice particles near the lower boundary. (c) The movement curves of ice particles near the upper boundary. Z_m is the maximum height that particles with initial radius R_0 = 1 can reach; Z_M is the maximum height that particles with initial radius $R_0 = R_{0min}$ = 0.5 can reach. Based on above parameters, Z_m = 0.1512 and Z_M = 0.7631. R_{01} and R_{02} are two critical values of condensation nucleus radius. For $R_0 = R_{01}$ particles fall into the condensation layer, first retrace at height Z_1, and then retrace exactly at the upper boundary. When $R_0 = R_{02}$, the particles move down and reach the height Z_2, the velocity and acceleration are exactly zero, and then they continue to move down. According to above parameters, R_{01} and R_{02} are solved as 1.1519 and 1.19705, respectively.

Figure 1(c) shows the movement curves of ice particles near the upper boundary, which can be sorted by the value of R_0. For $1 < R_0 < R_{01}$, the neutral drag force increases faster than gravity as the particles fall. The particles decelerate to zero speed, retrace upward, and then leave the condensation layer from the upper boundary. For $R_0 = R_{01}$, the particles retrace at the height $Z = Z_1$. Then they arrive at $Z = 0$ with exactly zero velocity, and the particles move back into the condensation layer again. For $R_{01} < R_0 < R_{02}$, the particles retrace upward in the range of $Z_2 < Z < Z_1$ and move downward again before they reach the upper boundary. For $R_0 = R_{02}$, the particles decelerate downward until zero speed at $Z = Z_2$. Here, the acceleration happens to be zero. Then the gravity exceeds the drag force, and the particles accelerate downward. For $R_0 > R_{02}$, the particles keep going down after entering the condensation layer.

From Fig. 1, it is concluded that the particles with a certain range of initial radius will move up and down several times near the boundary, namely, ice particles will accumulate at that region and form some kind of small-scale density structure. The resulting number density and radius distribution of ice particles are

$$n_{\mathrm{d}}(Z) = n_0 \int_{R_{0\min}}^{R_{0\max}} \frac{V_{\mathrm{d}0} F(R_0)}{V_{\mathrm{d}}[R_0, R_{\mathrm{d}}(R_0, Z)]} \mathrm{d}R_0 \tag{28}$$

$$\bar{R}_{\mathrm{d}}(Z) = \frac{n_0}{n_{\mathrm{d}}(Z)} \int_{R_{0\min}}^{R_{0\max}} \frac{R_{\mathrm{d}}(Z) V_{\mathrm{d}0} F(R_0)}{V_{\mathrm{d}}[R_0, R_{\mathrm{d}}(R_0, Z)} \mathrm{d}R_0 \tag{29}$$

where n_0 is the density of condensation cores at the boundary, and is assumed as $5\times10^{8}\ \mathrm{m}^{-3}$ (Bardeen, et al. 2008). The normalized radius distribution function $F(R_0)$ satisfies $\int_{R_{0\min}}^{R_{0\max}} F(R_0)\mathrm{d}R_0 = 1$.

Firstly, the density and radius distribution of ice particles near the lower boundary are solved. It is shown in Fig. 1(b) that all ice particles with initial radius $R_0 \le 1$ will pass the range $0 < Z < Z_{\mathrm{m}}$ twice, so they contribute twice to the calculation of particle density. And in the height range $Z_{\mathrm{m}} < Z < Z_{\mathrm{M}}$, only the particles that reach the Z height can contribute to the density at Z. their density and mean radius near the lower boundary are shown below:

$$n_{\mathrm{d}}(Z) = n_0 \int_{0.5}^{R_{0Z}} V_{\mathrm{d}0} F(R_0) \left[\frac{1}{V_{\mathrm{d}1}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d}1})} + \frac{1}{|V_{\mathrm{d}2}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d}2})|} \right] \mathrm{d}R_0 \tag{30}$$

$$\bar{R}_{\mathrm{d}}(Z) = \frac{n_0}{n_{\mathrm{d}}(Z)} \int_{0.5}^{R_{0Z}} V_{\mathrm{d}0} F(R_0) \left[\frac{R_{\mathrm{d}1}}{V_{\mathrm{d}1}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d}1})} + \frac{R_{\mathrm{d}2}}{|V_{\mathrm{d}2}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d}2})|} \right] \mathrm{d}R_0 \tag{31}$$

$R_{\mathrm{d}1}$ and $R_{\mathrm{d}2}$ are particle radii when particles pass through the Z height; $V_{\mathrm{d}1}$ and $V_{\mathrm{d}2}$ are their corresponding velocities; the upper limit of integral R_{0Z} can be determined by

$$R_{0Z} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 0 < Z < Z_{\mathrm{m}} \\ \text{solution of } \left(Z\left(R_{0Z}, R_{\mathrm{d}}\right) = Z \right) & \text{if } Z_{\mathrm{m}} < Z < Z_{\mathrm{M}} \end{cases} \tag{32}$$

In this study, the radius distribution function of condensation cores is assumed as

Gaussian distribution

$$F(R_0) = A\exp[-(R_0 - R_{00})^2 / \Delta^2] \tag{33}$$

where the center of the radius distribution function R_{00} is chosen as 0.8, the characteristic width Δ = 0.01, and the corresponding normalized coefficient A = 56.4.

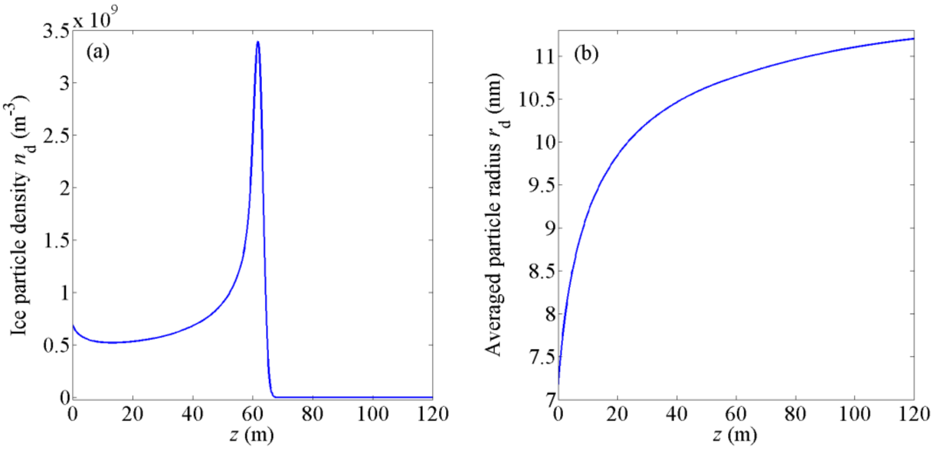


Figure 2 The distribution of (a) ice particle density and (b) mean particle radius near the lower boundary of condensation layer.

The obtained density and mean radius of ice particles near the lower boundary are presented in Fig. 2(a) and 2(b) respectively. Figure 2(a) shows that a sharp peak appears in the density distribution of ice particles. The width at half maximum of the irregularity is about 5 meters, which is consistent with the assumed ice particle density structure scale in the theoretical work (Lie-Svendsen, et al. 2003;Rapp and Lübken 2003) and observation by the sounding rocket flight ECT02 in July 1994 (Rapp and Lübken 2004). From Fig. 2(b), we can see that the average radius of ice particles increases from 7 nm to 11 nm with height.

With the obtained density and average radius of ice particles in Fig. 2(a) and Fig. 2(b), the density distribution of electrons, ions, and charged ice particles is calculated based on the charging model described by Eq. (16) ~ (24). At the initial moment of the charging model, all ice particles are assumed to be neutral to conduct the calculation more conveniently, since the final distributions of charge are independent on the initial ice particle charge state (Lie - Svendsen, et al. 2003). The timescale of electron collected by negatively charged particles with a radius of 10 nm is about 700 s, which is the longest timescale in the charging process. And a quasi-steady state of charging can be obtained after this timescale. Therefore, the calculation is terminated after 1000 s and the results are illustrated in Fig. 3.

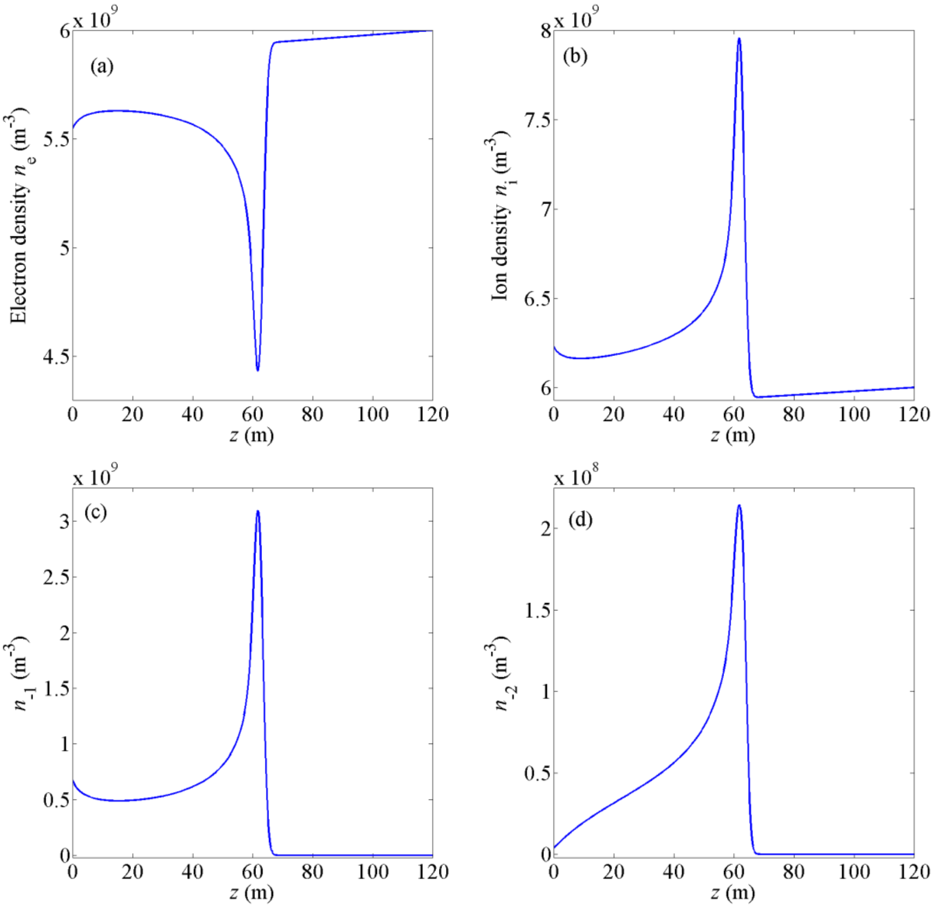


Figure 3 The number density distribution of (a) electrons n_e, (b) ions n_i, (c) particles carrying one negative charge n_{-1}, and (d) particles carrying two negative charges n_{-2} near the lower boundary of condensation layer at t = 1000 s.

Figure 3(a) shows that electron density decreases sharply around z = 60 m due to adsorption by particles. And the reduction of electron density $\Delta n_e \approx (n_{-1} + 2n_{-2})/2$, which is in line with the results under diffusion equilibrium approximations in (Lie‑Svendsen, et al. 2003). Ion number density increases sharply around 60 m due to its movement under ambipolar electric field. The ambipolar diffusion process of electrons and ions has been described in detail in (Lie‑Svendsen, et al. 2003). Electron density is anti-correlated to density irregularities of ions and charged ice particles due to attachment and diffusion processes. These anti-correlations are in agreement with rocket observations by the sounding rocket flight SCT-06 in August 1993 (Lie‑Svendsen, et al. 2003) and the sounding rocket flight ECT02 in July 1994 (Rapp and Lübken 2004), respectively. It can be extracted from Fig. 3(c) and Fig. 3(d) that, for particles with radii ranging from 7 nm to 11 nm, the proportion of particles carrying one negative charge ranges from 97.5% to 85.1%, and that value for particles carrying two negative charges is 0.53% - 13.6%, which is consistent with observations by Havnes et al. (Havnes, et al. 1996) and numerical results by Rapp and Lübken (Rapp and Lübken 2001). The density of positively charged particles is less than 1.1×10^5 m^{-3} and is insignificant in this study.

Next, the parameters of ice particles and plasma near the upper boundary are discussed based on the movement curves of ice particles near the upper boundary, which are shown below:

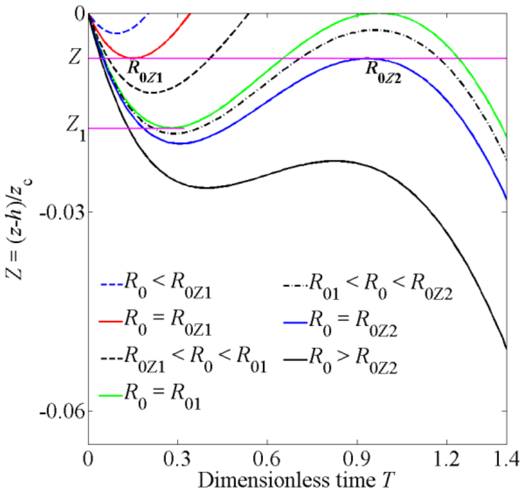


Figure 4 The movement curves of ice particles near the upper boundary. The particles with initial radius R_{0Z1} move upward after turning back at the Z height (the red line), and the particles with initial radius R_{0Z2} move downward after turning back at Z (the blue line).

For $Z_1 < Z < 0$, two kinds of particles turn back at Z: particles with initial radius R_{0Z1} and R_{0Z2}. They go upward and downward separately as shown in Fig. 4. And the values of R_{0Z1} and R_{0Z2} are determined by equations $V_d(R_{0Z}, R_d) = 0$ and $Z(R_{0Z}, R_d) = Z$. The contribution of ice particles to the density distribution near the upper boundary can be classified as follows:

(1) $R_0 < R_{0Z1}$: ice particles cannot reach Z and make no contributions to the number density.

(2) $R_{0Z1} < R_0 < R_{01}$: ice particles pass through Z twice and contribute to $n_d(Z)$ twice. The radius of particles when passing through the Z height can be obtained as R_{d31} and R_{d32} based on Eq. (27). Meanwhile their corresponding velocities are calculated as V_{d31} and V_{d32} respectively based on Eq. (25).

(3) $R_{01} < R_0 < R_{0Z2}$: ice particles pass through Z three times. The corresponding radii and velocities at Z are defined as R_{d41}, R_{d42}, R_{d43}; V_{d41}, V_{d42}, V_{d43}.

(4) $R_0 > R_{0Z2}$: ice particles pass through Z only once and their radius and velocity are R_{d5} and V_{d5}, respectively.

Substituting these parameters into Eq. (28) and (29), the density and mean radius of ice particles in the range of $Z_1 < Z < 0$ are deduced as

$$n_{\mathrm{d}}(Z) = n_0 \int_{R_{0Z1}}^{R_{01}} V_{\mathrm{d0}} F(R_0) \left[\frac{1}{|V_{\mathrm{d31}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d31}})|} + \frac{1}{V_{\mathrm{d32}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d32}})} \right] \mathrm{d}R_0$$
$$+ n_0 \int_{R_{01}}^{R_{0Z2}} V_{\mathrm{d0}} F(R_0) \left[\frac{1}{|V_{\mathrm{d41}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d41}})|} + \frac{1}{V_{\mathrm{d42}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d42}})} + \frac{1}{|V_{\mathrm{d43}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d43}})|} \right] \mathrm{d}R_0 \quad (34)$$
$$+ n_0 \int_{R_{0Z2}}^{R_{0\max}} \frac{V_{\mathrm{d0}} F(R_0)}{|V_{\mathrm{d5}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d5}})|} \mathrm{d}R_0$$

$$\bar{R}_{\mathrm{d}}(Z) = \frac{n_0}{n_{\mathrm{d}}(Z)} \int_{R_{0Z1}}^{R_{01}} V_{\mathrm{d0}} F(R_0) \left[\frac{R_{\mathrm{d31}}}{|V_{\mathrm{d31}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d31}})|} + \frac{R_{\mathrm{d32}}}{V_{\mathrm{d32}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d32}})} \right] \mathrm{d}R_0$$
$$+ \frac{n_0}{n_{\mathrm{d}}(Z)} \int_{R_{01}}^{R_{0Z2}} V_{\mathrm{d0}} F(R_0) \left[\frac{R_{\mathrm{d41}}}{|V_{\mathrm{d41}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d41}})|} + \frac{R_{\mathrm{d42}}}{V_{\mathrm{d42}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d42}})} + \frac{R_{\mathrm{d43}}}{|V_{\mathrm{d43}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d43}})|} \right] \mathrm{d}R_0 \quad (35)$$
$$+ \frac{n_0}{n_{\mathrm{d}}(Z)} \int_{R_{0Z2}}^{R_{0\max}} \frac{R_{\mathrm{d5}} V_{\mathrm{d0}} F(R_0)}{|V_{\mathrm{d5}}(R_0, R_{\mathrm{d5}})|} \mathrm{d}R_0$$

where the radius distribution function of condensation cores $F(R_0)$ are set to satisfy the Gaussian distribution with the distribution function center R_{00} = 1.08, the characteristic width Δ = 0.01, and the corresponding normalized coefficient A = 56.4.

The ice particle density in the range of $Z < Z_1$ is close to zero, since only particles with initial radius $R_0 \geq R_{01}$ can arrive at the range and the number of particles in this radius range is very few based on the parameters of $F(R_0)$ set above.

At the upper boundary, the number density of condensation cores n_0 is set as 5×10^8 m^{-3}; the maximum radius of condensation cores R_{0max} = 1.3. The number density and mean radius of ice particles are obtained from Eq. (34) and (35). Then the density distribution of electrons, ions, and charged ice particles is calculated further based on the charging model.

Figure 5(a) shows that there is a meter scale structure in the distribution of ice particle density, which is consistent with the assumed ice particle density structure scale in previous theoretical work (Lie - Svendsen, et al. 2003;Rapp and Lübken 2003) and rocket observations (Rapp and Lübken 2004). The average radius of ice particles is slightly larger than 5 nm (shown in Fig. 5(b)).

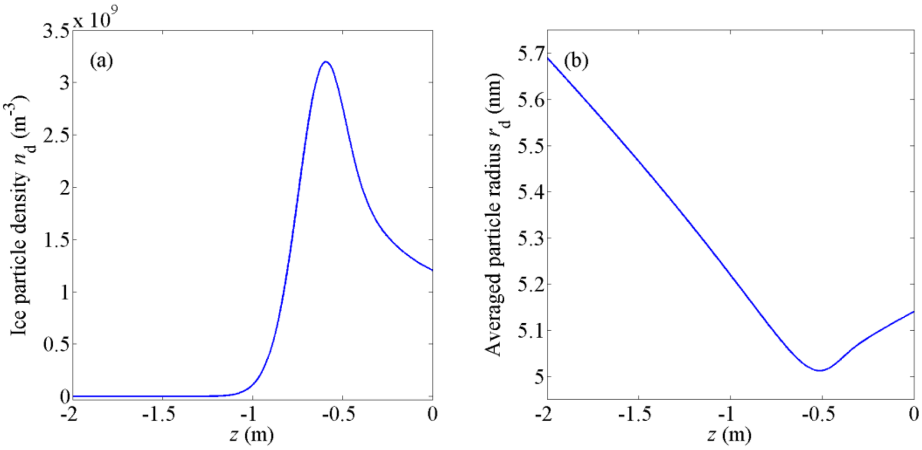
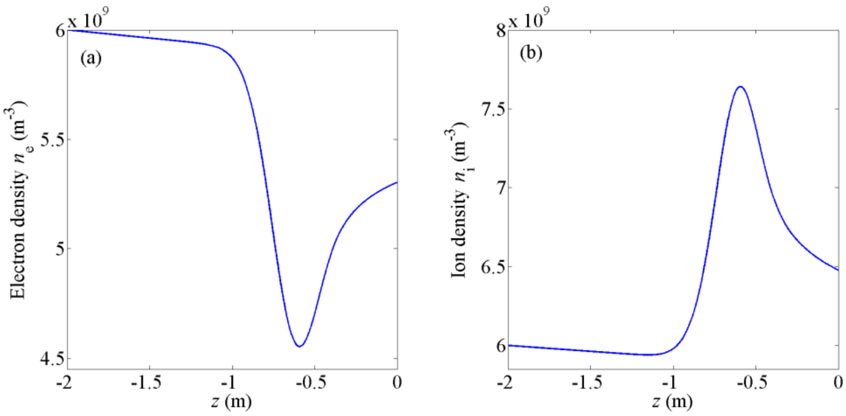


Figure 5 The distribution of (a) ice particle density and (b) mean particle radius near the upper boundary of condensation layer.

Figure 6(a) shows that, compared with ice particle density, there is a similar but anti-correlated structure in electron density profile because of the adsorption of electrons by particles. Due to ambipolar diffusion, ion density increases in the perturbed region. The reduction of electron density Δn_e and the increment of ion density Δn_i meet with the results under diffusion equilibrium approximations: $\Delta n_e \approx \Delta n_i \approx (n_{-1} + 2n_{-2})/2$, which has been concluded in reference (Lie - Svendsen, et al. 2003). From Fig. 6(c) and Fig. 6(d) we can see that, 97% of the particles carry one negative charge, and particles carrying two negative charges are very few. This is reasonable for particles with radius slightly larger than 5 nanometers.



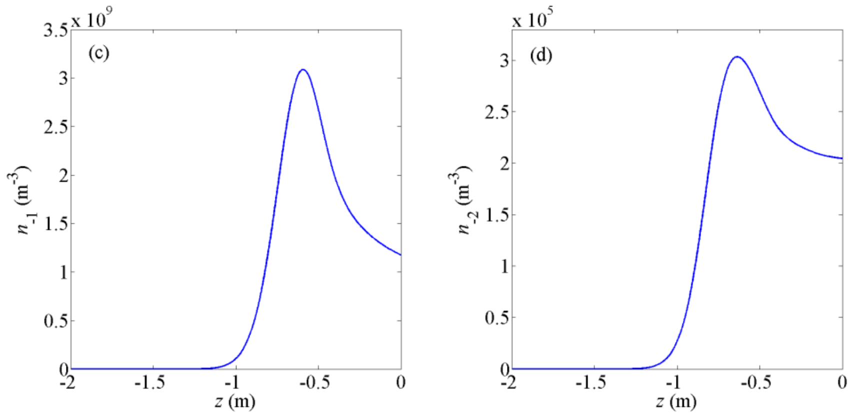


Figure 6 The number density distribution of (a) electrons, (b) ions, (c) particles carrying one negative charge, and (d) particles carrying two negative charges near the upper boundary of condensation layer at t = 1000 s.

4 Conclusions

In summary, a growth and motion model of ice particles is originally developed based on the equation of motion of a variable mass object to explain the formation of ice particle density irregularities with meter scale in the polar mesopause region. The density profile of ice particles with height is investigated according to the conservation of particle number. Based on the growth and motion model, the small-scale structures of ice particle density are produced successfully. And then the density distributions of electrons and ions corresponding to the ice particle density distribution are obtained based on the quasi-neutrality and the quantized stochastic charging model. The more detailed conclusions are shown as follow.

The ice particle radius increases linearly with time. But there is a complex relation between the velocity and radius of particles due to the variable mass of ice particles and complicated force on them. And for a certain radius of the condensation nucleus, ice particles can bounce near the boundary layer, which leads to the local gathering phenomenon of ice particles. When the radius distribution of condensation nuclei is assumed to be Gaussian, meter scale ice particle density structures are obtained. And the small-scale ice particle density irregularities remain stable if atmospheric conditions do not change. In the ice particle gathering region, the electron density is anti-correlated to charged ice particle density and ion density because of the plasma attachment by ice particles and plasma diffusion. To sum up, the small-scale ice particle density irregularities are formed and maintained in polar mesopause region based on the growth and motion model, and the obtained corresponding small-scale electron density structures are in accordance with most rocket observations.

Acknowledgements

The research has been financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grant Nos. 11775062 and 61601419.

REFERENCE

Bardeen C., Toon O., Jensen E., etc.: Numerical simulations of the three‐dimensional distribution of meteoric dust in the mesosphere and upper stratosphere, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 113, D17202, 2008.

Chen C., Scales W.: Electron temperature enhancement effects on plasma irregularities associated with charged dust in the Earth's mesosphere, Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics, 110, 2005.

Garcia R. R., Solomon S.: The effect of breaking gravity waves on the dynamics and chemical composition of the mesosphere and lower thermosphere, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 90, 3850-3868, 1985.

Havnes O., Trøim J., Blix T., etc.: First detection of charged dust particles in the Earth's mesosphere, Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics, 101, 10839-10847, 1996.

Hill R., Bowhill S.: Collision frequencies for use in the continuum momentum equations applied to the lower ionosphere, Journal of Atmospheric and Terrestrial Physics, 39, 803-811, 1977.

Hill R., Gibson-Wilde D., Werne J., etc.: Turbulence-induced fluctuations in ionization and application to PMSE, Earth, planets and space, 51, 499-513, 1999.

Jensen E., Thomas G. E.: A growth‐sedimentation model of polar mesospheric clouds: Comparison with SME measurements, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 93, 2461-2473, 1988.

Körner U., Sonnemann G.: Global three‐dimensional modeling of the water vapor concentration of the mesosphere‐mesopause region and implications with respect to the noctilucent cloud region, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 106, 9639-9651, 2001.

Kopnin S., Kosarev I., Popel S., etc.: Localized structures of nanosize charged dust grains in Earth's middle atmosphere, Planetary and Space Science, 52, 1187-1194, 2004.

Lübken F. J.: Thermal structure of the Arctic summer mesosphere, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 104, 9135-9149, 1999.

Lübken F. J., Rapp M., Blix T., etc.: Microphysical and turbulent measurements of the Schmidt number in the vicinity of polar mesosphere summer echoes, Geophysical Research Letters, 25, 893-896, 1998.

Lie‐Svendsen Ø., Blix T., Hoppe U. P., etc.: Modeling the plasma response to small‐scale aerosol particle perturbations in the mesopause region, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 108, 8442, 2003.

Lieberman M. A., Lichtenberg A. J.: Principles of plasma discharges and materials processing, John Wiley & Sons, 2005.

Mahmoudian A., Scales W.: On the signature of positively charged dust particles on plasma irregularities in the mesosphere, Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, 104, 260-269, 2013.
Natanson G.: On the theory of the charging of amicroscopic aerosol particles as a result of capture of gas ions, Sov. Phys. Tech. Phys., 30, 573-588, 1960.
Pfaff R., Holzworth R., Goldberg R., etc.: Rocket probe observations of electric field irregularities in the polar summer mesosphere, Geophysical research letters, 28, 1431-1434, 2001.
Röttger J., La Hoz C., Kelley M. C., etc.: The structure and dynamics of polar mesosphere summer echoes observed with the EISCAT 224 MHz radar, Geophysical research letters, 15, 1353-1356, 1988.
Röttger J., Rietveld M., La Hoz C., etc.: Polar mesosphere summer echoes observed with the EISCAT 933‐MHz radar and the CUPRI 46.9‐MHz radar, their similarity to 224‐MHz radar echoes, and their relation to turbulence and electron density profiles, Radio Science, 25, 671-687, 1990.
Rapp M., Lübken F.-J.: Modelling of particle charging in the polar summer mesosphere: Part 1—General results, Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, 63, 759-770, 2001.
Rapp M., Lübken F.-J.: Polar mesosphere summer echoes (PMSE): Review of observations and current understanding, Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 4, 2601-2633, 2004.
Rapp M., Lübken F. J.: On the nature of PMSE: Electron diffusion in the vicinity of charged particles revisited, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 108, 8437, 2003.
Reid G. C.: Ice particles and electron "bite‐outs" at the summer polar mesopause, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 95, 13891-13896, 1990.
Robertson S., Sternovsky Z.: Effect of the induced-dipole force on charging rates of aerosol particles, Physics of Plasmas, 15, 040702, 2008.
Scales W., Ganguli G.: Investigation of plasma irregularity sources associated with charged dust in the Earth's mesosphere, Advances in Space Research, 34, 2402-2408, 2004.
Schunk R.: Mathematical structure of transport equations for multispecies flows, Reviews of Geophysics, 15, 429-445, 1977.
Seele C., Hartogh P.: Water vapor of the polar middle atmosphere: Annual variation and summer mesosphere conditions as observed by ground‐based microwave spectroscopy, Geophysical Research Letters, 26, 1517-1520, 1999.