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STUDY OF THE DISPERSION OF AGI EMITTED FROM GROUND-BASED GENERATORS
USING WRF-CHEM MODEL

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RESUMEN
En la siembra de nubes desde generadores terrestres, el análisis de la dispersión del aerosol glaciogénico de yoduro de plata (AgI) es una herramienta necesaria para estimar si éste alcanza la altura requerida para una siembra efectiva. En este trabajo se realizó un estudio de la dispersión del AgI emitido por generadores terrestres con localizaciones hipotéticas en la región oriental de Cuba, usando el modelo WRF-Chem, para dos distribuciones espaciales que difieren en la distancia entre los equipos y la altura a la que se encuentran instalados. Se realizaron dos experimentos para emisiones de 10 g/h y 30 g/h para una muestra de 6 días. En el primer caso, el aerosol no alcanza el nivel de activación. Para 30 g/h podría ocurrir la siembra estática pero las áreas con presencia del aerosol son poco significativas. La distribución espacial en la cual los generadores se encontraban más cercanos entre sí resultó ser la que reportó menores concentraciones máximas y mayores áreas ocupadas por el aerosol para un nivel dado. Para una tasa de emisión de 30 g/h dichas variables experimentan un aumento. De forma general la pluma de emisión responde a la influencia del viento y su ascenso en la vertical es determinado por la energía cinética turbulenta para el área donde se haya localizado el equipo.

Palabras claves: aerosol AgI, WRF-Chem, siembra estática
ABSTRACT

In cloud seeding by ground-based generators studies, a dispersion analysis of silver iodide (AgI) glaciogenic aerosol is a necessary tool to estimate if it reaches seeding heights. A study of the dispersion of AgI emitted by a network of generators with hypothetical locations in the eastern region of Cuba was developed using the WRF-Chem model. Two spatial distributions with different heights and distances between generators were analyzed. Two experiments were undertaken with emission rates of 10 g/h and 30 g/h, based on a sample of 6 days. The activation level was not reached for an emission rate of 10 g/h, while for 30 g/h, static seeding could occur but the area with seeding aerosol was not significant. The distribution in which generators were closer together turned out to be the one with smaller maximum concentrations and bigger areas occupied by the aerosol at a given level. Covered area and seeding aerosol concentration increased for emission rates of 30 g/h. In general, the plume follows the wind direction and its vertical rise is determined by the turbulent kinetic energy for the area where the generator is placed.

Key words: AgI aerosol, WRF-Chem, cloud seeding
1. Introduction

Drought affects directly or indirectly all spheres of the society, hence the importance attributed to the search of tools, methods and procedures to mitigate it, even more to face its effects. Between 2014 and 2017, the central and eastern provinces of Cuba faced periods of recurrent drought, reporting severe or extreme precipitation deficits during the rainy season (ranging from May to October) and also during the last months of 2016 (CITMA, 2016).

Artificial rain enhancement by cloud seeding can be considered an important tool to mitigate meteorological drought. Cloud seeding could contribute to an increase in the total amount of naturally-produced rainfall by 10-20% (Silverman, 2001). Methods based on the static and dynamic hypotheses are variants of glaciogenic seeding that have been studied in several experimental and numerical simulation investigations (Silverman, 2001; Woodley et al., 1982; Rosenfeld and Woodley, 1993).

The static seeding hypothesis is based on providing the optimal amount of ice particles for the available liquid water content to initiate the precipitation processes earlier and, perhaps, at lower heights of the developing cloud than would naturally occur; this is, in order to obtain concentrations of ice particles in the range of 1 to 10 crystals per liter (Silverman, 1986). The static method is applied when there is evidence to assume that the natural process of precipitation formation is not efficient. This must be related to the lack of natural ice nuclei in the atmosphere at the height and temperature where there is supercooled water in clouds (Gagin and Neuman, 1981; Silverman, 1986; Xue et al., 2013).

On the other hand, the dynamic seeding hypothesis is applied to clouds with high supercooled water content and vigorous updrafts, which will produce rain under natural conditions. This method would increase the total accumulated rainfall that is produced during the life cycle of the cloud system. It is based on the introduction of glaciogenic nuclei in the updraft with high supercooled water content, with the goal that this water would freeze quickly, releasing latent heat which increases cloud temperature and invigorates it. In the presence of a strong updraft, the continuity of the formation of supercooled water drops by coalescence is guaranteed, so that the ice crystals formed will continue to serve as ice nuclei, enabling the continuity of the process. This seeding method aims at introducing a large number of ice nuclei from 100 to 1000 nucleus/liter, so that massive glaciation occurs in the seeded area (Woodley et al., 1982). Many studies have shown that the application of the dynamic hypothesis increases the horizontal extension and lifetime of the seeded cloud as well as its accumulated rainfall.
Silver Iodide (AgI) aerosol has been widely used for cloud seeding (Simpson et al. 1967; Woodley, 1970; Gagin and Neumann, 1981; Smith et al. 1984; Koloskov et al. 1996, Geerts et al. 2010, Xue et al. 2013, Breed et al. 2014). AgI is activated as a glaciogenic nuclei at temperatures between -5 to -8ºC and increases with decreasing temperatures by three to four orders of magnitude to about -16ºC, and continues increasing by less than one order of magnitude with further decreases in temperature (Silverman., 1986). In many cases the activation levels coincide with the higher values of cloud liquid water content that decreases with height for orographic clouds (Politovich, M. K. and Vali, G. 1982).

Studies carried out in Cuba between 1985 and 1991 as part of the Cuban Artificial Weather Modification Project (PCMAT, by its acronym in Spanish) using AgI, showed that the randomized glaciogenic cloud seeding in the Camagüey experimental site increased the cloud top height, its life time and the probability of precipitation. The study was made in clouds with tops between -10 y -20ºC. The average increase in rain volumes in the seeded clouds was 120% for individual clouds and 65% for cloud clusters, compared to unseeded clouds and clusters (Koloskov et al., 1996).

The artificial rain enhancement project was resumed in Cuba in 2005, with a randomized experiment with a floating target design and radar control. This experiment was carried out in an area of the central-eastern region of Cuba centered in the city of Camagüey, via dynamic seeding with silver iodide pyrotechnics from aircraft (Martínez et al., 2011[a,b]). Simultaneously, in another region near the eastern end of Cuba, the method of dispersing silver iodide aerosol from ground-based acetone ignition generators was tested by the Chilean company Hidromet S.A (Martínez et al., 2011a). The equipment had to be installed on hillsides or mountain tops to ensure that most of the reagent could reach the convective clouds. This was done taking into consideration the high temperatures at cloud base in the study region, since the height of the 0ºC isotherm is generally found near 4,500 m in the summer months in Cuba, while the lifting condensation level at the time of maximum convection is in the range 1,000-1,500 m (Martínez et al., 2001, 2002). Twenty three ground-based generators were installed in the eastern region, distributed between the provinces of Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and Granma; however, due to accessibility problems, their locations did not meet the necessary
requirements, costs and resources, since they were generally located below the altitude of 200 m and, in many cases, even closer to sea level.

Numerical studies of AgI dispersion from the implementation of the modeling system MM5 - CALMET-CALPUFF indicated that the concentrations that reach the active zone of silver iodide at the top of the clouds are insufficient to obtain a seeding effect, so it is necessary to review their locations and the dosage of the reagent (Mayor et al., 2014). For this reason, this method was discontinued, pending further study of the dispersion of the reagent because the model presented limitations in the representation of the aerosol with height.

Several modeling studies have been aimed at analyzing the behavior of the emission plume of ground-based generators installed on mountain hillside (Jensen et al., 2004). In particular Xue et al. (2013) described a parameterization of AgI cloud seeding implemented within the single-moment Thompson microphysics scheme of the WRF model (Thompson et al. 2004) to investigate the seeding effect. The modeling results showed that the parameterization could reasonably simulate the physical processes of cloud seeding. Later on, Xue et al. (2013) carried out a numerical modeling study to explore the ability of the WRF LES (Large Eddy Simulations) to reproduce the dispersion of the AgI, comparing the results with observations made on February 16, 2011 over the mountains of Medicine Bow, Wyoming, United States. The main result of this study showed that the WRF LES simulates reasonably well the dispersion of AgI and that the turbulent flows induced by the terrain were mostly responsible for its vertical dispersion. A follow-up study with the WRF LES (Xue et al, 2015) showed that vertical dispersion of AgI particles is more efficient on cloudy days, and that wind shear and buoyancy dominate turbulence kinetic energy (TKE) production in the mountains of Wyoming in the winter season.

In the present study we aim to evaluate the vertical and horizontal dispersion of AgI, burned in a solution of acetone by ground-based generators. Since for glaciogenic seeding to occur it is necessary that the aerosol reach temperatures cold enough for its activation as a nucleation agent, the concentrations that reach the seeding heights are studied. Two spatial distribution and two emission rates are analyzed in order to determine which could be better for the future installation of ground-based generators in Cuban mountains.
2. Experimental design

2.1 WRF-Chem model. Simulation domains

The WRF-Chem model was developed by the WRF Atmospheric Chemistry Working Group and simulates turbulent mixing, transport, transformation and destiny of gases and aerosols simultaneously (Grell et al. 2005). The chemical module of WRF was used in this study with the volcanic emissions option enabled, assuming the ground-based generators as “ash-emitting small volcanoes”, and assuming that AgI aerosol dispersion properties were similar to those of ash in the model.

To avoid introducing large interpolation errors with a drastic decrease in resolution, a total of four domains were defined: a coarse external domain of 27 km and three nested domains of 9, 3 and 1 km; each of them identified as d01, d02, d03 and d04, respectively (Fig. 1).

The finest grid (1 km) covers the region of interest (eastern Cuba) centered on 20.334 °N and -75.824 °W. It has a horizontal extension of 442 X 220 grid points and 50 vertical levels distributed on an eta (\(\eta\)) coordinate axis that decreases with an inverse dependence of the difference between the pressure of the level and the pressure at the top of the troposphere, this is between the level \(\eta = 1\) at the surface until \(\eta = 0\) at the top of the model. The pressure at the top of the troposphere in the model is 50 hPa.

![Fig. 1. Simulation domains](image)

The topographic data were downloaded from the website https://www.usgs.gov, with a resolution of 30 seconds of arc (approximately 900 m), which is adequate for the accuracy that is required in this case study, since the higher resolution domain is 1km.
2.2 Emission parameters of the point sources

The emission parameters of the point sources are shown in Table I. The basic function of the silver iodide generator is the combustion of this chemical compound. The silver iodide solution burned by the generator is composed mostly of acetone, which acts as the primary solvent of the chemical and as a fuel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emission Velocity</th>
<th>0.3 m/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emission ratio</td>
<td>10, 30 g/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground-based generators size</td>
<td>1.5 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table I. Emission parameters of the ground-based generators.

The size distribution of emitted particles (where the size is assumed as particle diameter) has a large influence on aerosol dispersion, with smaller sizes resulting in greater spatial dispersion.

The distribution proposed by Demott (1982) was chosen because of the solution, and the generator were similar to those proposed for installation in Cuba. A 2% AgI concentration in the solution is common for both samples. So far, no measurements have been made in Cuba of the particle size distribution of the combustion result of the AgI solution in acetone. Since measurements of different 2% AgI solutions at Demott, (1982) were similar, the distribution was selected arbitrarily, because it was made a simulation study for them and results were quite similar as well. Measurements made by Demott (1982) of a 2% AgI-NH₄-acetone-water with 20 mole % NH₄ClO₄ solution (see Fig. 8b in Demott, 1982) were chosen as a reasonable estimate of the proposed generators particle size distribution. This was the distribution from which it was possible to calculate the total mass of AgI. It was split among 10 intervals of different sizes corresponding to ranges of aerosol particle diameter between 0.0075 and 0.244 μm (Fig. 2).
**Fig. 2.** Aerosol particle size distribution assumed from the combustion of 2% AgI-NH$_4$-acetone-water with 20 mole % NH$_4$ClO$_4$ as shown in distributed among 10 intervals (bins).

### 2.3 Case studies

Selected days for simulation correspond to the rainy period (May to October) in 2015 and 2016. They were selected considering the presence of convective clouds in eastern of Cuba related to synoptic scale or mesoscale phenomena (Table. II). This ensured the presence of atmospheric conditions suitable for convection.

The influence of the Azores High pressure system in common during the rainy season in Cuba, with the rain primarily produced by local conditions, mesoscale flux convergence and diurnal instability due to surface heating. These conditions are typical in all the selected cases for this study, as presented in Fig. 3. In some cases, convection was stimulated by the presence of a cut-off low-pressure system or associated trough at 200 hPa.
Fig. 3. Synoptic conditions of the selected days for simulation. Geopotential contours at 200 hPa level are presented in panels a, c, e, g, i, k, while the corresponding patterns at 850 hPa are shown in panels b, d, f, h, j, l.

The atmospheric variables for the selected days were taken from the output of the global model GFS (Global Forecast System), available at http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov. These data are in 3-hour intervals with a spatial resolution of 50 kilometers. Simulations were initialized at 00:00 UTC of each selected day until 03:00 UTC of the following day, for a total of 27 hours for each study day. Model output were recorded every 30 minutes.

The ground-based generators were turned on in the simulation at 13:00 UTC and remained working for 11 hours.

Two hypothetical spatial distributions of 13 generators were analyzed. Point sources were located on the hillside of the mountains, taking advantage of the orographic forcing and favoring the introduction of the reagent in the cloud.

The first distribution (I) corresponds to a location of the generators in nearby positions (10 to 15 km apart, according to the criteria used in the plan of installation of the generators in Cuba) at an average height of 445 m above the mean sea level (m a.m.s.l.), all located in the province of Santiago de Cuba, in the Sierra Maestra mountain range and the Cordillera de la Gran Piedra (Figure 2a). In the second experiment (II), the generators are hypothetically distributed in the main elevations of the eastern region and the heights above sea level are higher than in the first case, with an average height of 585 m a.m.s.l. In this case, the generators are scattered in the Sierra Maestra, Sierra del Cristal and in the Cordillera de la Gran Piedra (Figure 2b). In none of the cases the heights exceed 940 m a.m.s.l.
In order to establish if an increase in the number of generators would contribute positively in the seeding process, two case studies were simulated considering the same emission parameters but different emission rates. The first case assumes an emission rate of the generators of 10 g/h and the other of 30 g/h, which is equivalent to assuming the presence of three generators emitting at a rate of 10 g/h, located close enough to the original location so that they contribute to the same node of the model grid (1 km).

2.4 Seeding threshold

According to the technical characteristics of the pyrotechnic flares PV-26-01 (Martínez et al., 2011a) used in the second program of artificial increase of rain in Cuba in 2005, at -5°C, 1 g of AgI contributes $10^{13}$ ice nuclei. Hence, for the static seeding to occur about 0.1 ng/m$^3$ would be necessary to obtain one nucleus per liter. On the other hand, for dynamic seeding, approximately 10 ng/m$^3$ of AgI are necessary to obtain concentrations of the order of at least 100 nuclei per liter. Since there are no published measurements of the mixture of AgI that is burned in the generators, the above values are used as concentration thresholds necessary for the occurrence of glaciogenic seeding.

3. Results

3.1 Analysis of the maximum concentration and the area occupied by the aerosol

The maximum concentration of AgI between the 1,000 and 1,500 m levels above the surface was analyzed for each selected case study. The maximum daily concentrations for each of the six days simulated under experiments I and II are shown in Figure 5. For emissions of 10 g/h, most maximum concentrations do not exceed 1 ng/m$^3$, but most of the reports are above 0.1 ng/m$^3$ (Figures 5a and 5b). The maximum average concentration over the six selected days is reached at 17 h, 4 hours after the
generators are turned on. Approximate values of 0.53 ng/m$^3$ and 0.66 ng/m$^3$ were obtained for spatial distributions I and II, respectively. When the emission rates were increased to 30 g/h, the maximum concentrations grew proportionally to the rate of the emission increase (Figures 5c and 5d).

![Graphs showing concentration vs. time for different emission rates and spatial distributions.](image)

**Fig. 5.** Maximum concentration of AgI between 1,000 and 1,500 m above the surface for an emission rate of 10 g/h for the spatial distributions I (a) and II (b); and for emissions of 30 g/h for the spatial distributions I (c) and II (d) for the set of days simulated.

The area occupied by the aerosol in the studied layer was also obtained for concentrations greater than 0.1 ng/m$^3$ for each case study. For emissions of 10 g/h, the reported area for the spatial distribution I is greater than for II, with an average maximum surface area of 67 km$^2$ and 39 km$^2$, respectively, both at 16 h (Figures 6a and 6b). In the case of emissions of 30 g/h, the areas increase considerably, reaching more than 400 and 600 km$^2$, respectively, for distributions II and I (Figures 6c and 6d). After 16 UTC,
the AgI covered areas, with concentrations above 0.1 ng/m$^3$, as well as the maximum concentration value, experienced a decrease until the generators were turned off.

The output of the model was analyzed for greater heights, between the isotherms of -5 and -10ºC, where the aerosol particles may potentially be activated as ice nuclei. Since for 10 g/h emissions, AgI aerosol concentrations were not higher than 0.1 ng/m$^3$ at those altitudes, the analysis was carried out only for emissions of 30 g/h. Maximum concentrations slightly exceed 0.1 ng/m$^3$ in distribution II; whereas for distribution I they are higher and there are more hourly reports per day above this threshold value (Figure 7). The area occupied by the aerosol dispersed in concentrations greater than 0.1 ng/m$^3$ is very small. Values do not exceed 15 km$^2$ for distribution II and 30 km$^2$ for distribution I (not shown). Therefore, for the studied days, static seeding could occur with an emission rate of 30 g/h. However, the areal fraction occupied by the AgI concentrations above 0.1 ng/m$^3$ is very small. On the other hand, dynamic seeding would not occur in any case, because concentrations above 10 ng/m$^3$ were not obtained for any of the studied days between the seeding levels.
Fig. 6. Average area with the presence of AgI in concentrations greater than or equal to 0.1 ng/m$^3$, between 1,000 and 1,500 m above the surface for an emission rate of 10 g/h for the spatial distributions I (a) and II (b); and for emissions of 30 g/h for the spatial distributions I (c) and II (d) for the set of days simulated.

Fig. 7. Maximum concentration of AgI between -5 and -10°C for an emission rate of 30 g/h, for the spatial distributions I (a) and II (b) for the set of days simulated.

In order to study the cloud seeding effectiveness, it was calculated the convolution of the cloud water content and aerosol concentration greater than or equal to 0.1 ng/m$^3$. The presence of cloud water above 0°C isotherm is considered as supercooled water. Figure 8 shows the occupied area by the coincidence of these two variables for an emission rate of 30 g/h. The existence of coincidences indicate that the aerosol could serve as ice nucleus making possible the static seeding to occur mainly for distribution I (Fig. 8a.) where the area occupied is higher.
Fig. 8. Average area with the simultaneous presence of cloud water and aerosol concentration greater than or equal to 0.1 ng/m$^3$ between -5 and -10°C for an emission rate of 30 g/h, for the spatial distributions I (a) and II (b) for the set of days simulated.

3.2 Influence of the horizontal wind

Figure 9 shows the influence of wind on aerosol dispersion for levels between 1000 and 1500 m above the surface. On July 15, 2016 winds were predominantly easterly due to the influence of the North Atlantic High. Under these conditions, for the spatial distribution I the aerosol is advected by the prevailing wind towards the sea (Figures 9a, 9c, 9e and 9g). Similarly, for the spatial distribution II, the aerosol is driven away from land for generators located in the Cordillera de la Gran Piedra and some of the generators in the Sierra Maestra (Figures 9b, 9d, 9f and 9h). However, for this day the wind keeps the emission plume of the generators located in the Sierra del Cristal and in the westernmost part of the Sierra Maestra within the target region. In all cases, the aerosol is advected to sea after reaching its maximum concentration over land.
Fig. 9. Average hourly concentrations of AgI greater than or equal to 0.1 ng/m³, between 1000 and 1500 m above the surface, on July 15, 2016 for the distribution I (a, c, e, g) and II (b, d, f, h), for emissions of 10 g/h at various times. The wind barbs indicate the direction and speed of the average wind at the levels between these heights.

3.3 Vertical cross section

Figure 10 shows a longitudinal vertical cross section at latitude 20.11 ºN, corresponding to the location of one of the generators at 422.9 m a.m.s.l. and 75.95 ºW. The plume of another generator at a different latitude can be also detected in Fig. 9b, 9c and 9d. Note that the plume does not reach seeding levels in this case, as it remains under the 0°C isotherm. The main characteristics for 16 August 2016, was the presence of a cut-off law pressure system over eastern Bahamas at high levels inducing unstable conditions over eastern Cuba, and favoring plume ascent. Under spatial distribution I the plume
reached higher altitudes than for distribution II (not shown), indicating that the local prevailing conditions on a given day vary, mainly due to the local orography, that contributes to the ascent of the plume by mechanical forcing. The higher rise of the plume occurs in the first 4 hours of ignition of the generators for all simulated cases.

Fig. 10. Longitudinal vertical cross section at latitude 20.11 ºN, corresponding to the location of one of the generators for distribution I, on August 16, 2016, showing the concentration of AgI in ng/m³. The continuous blue isolines represent the TKE (J/kg). The isotherms of 15 and 0ºC are represented by dashed lines. The wind barbs indicate the direction and speed of the wind. The black triangle indicates the generator position.

Aerosol dispersion is closely related to the turbulent kinetic energy (TKE). The higher the values of TKE, the higher the probability of the vertical rise of the plume. TKE is the result of the sum of several terms that, in addition to the turbulent transport and wind shear terms, also consists of the buoyant production term, the TKE advection term, the dissipation term and the pressure adjustment of correlation term. TKE is an indicator of the height of the atmospheric boundary layer, therefore it can
be inferred that, for some cases, the plume exceeds the height of this layer. Therefore, it is likely, for
the aerosol to penetrate the base of the cloud under cloudy conditions.

Figure 11 shows a comparison of the mean plume height for concentrations greater than 0.1 ng/m$^3$ and
mean TKE height for values greater than its mean value below the PBL height (0.46 J/kg) between the
hours where the convection is active. This analysis was made for the cross section shown in Figure 10.
The vertical velocity was taken as a criterion for convection initiation, if values remained greater than
zero in the morning and early afternoon (Fig. 12). The convection time prevailed from 15:30 UTC to
18:30 UTC, where the TKE and the plume height show their maximum values (Fig. 11). The
dependence of the aerosol plume height to the TKE height is clear in Fig. 10. Maximum values for both
variables were reached at 18:00 UTC.

Fig. 11. Mean vertical distribution of the aerosol plume height and TKE height for the cross section shown in fig. 9.

Fig. 12. Mean vertical velocity for the cross section shown in Fig. 9.
In order to visualize the AgI plume concentration values that could reach the height for effective seeding, Figure 13 illustrates a longitudinal vertical cross section at 20.08 °N with the representation of the isotherms of 0, -5 and -10°C. The ground-based generator is located at this latitude and 75.78 °W, and at 383.2 m a.m.s.l. Note that concentrations of the order of 0.02 ng/m³ reach and surpass the height of the -5°C isotherm and coincide with the presence of supercooled water (Fig. 13c and 13d). However, these concentrations are insufficient for static seeding to occur. Thus, a simulated emission ratio of 10 g/h does not ensure that the reagent with sufficient concentration could actually reach the height required for seeding. Consequently, the use of ground generators with this emission rate would not accomplish the desired objective and would result in the total loss of seeding material for the selected case studies.

**Fig. 13.** As Figure 7, but for latitude 20.08 °N, with the 0, -5 and 10°C isotherms are represented by dashed lines. The continuous red isolines represent the cloud water mixing ratio (g/kg).
4. Conclusions and recommendations

The results obtained from the case studies allow the following conclusions to be reached:

- Spatial distribution I, corresponding to generators deployed close to each other and on average at 445 m a.m.s.l. (in the province of Santiago de Cuba, on hills in Sierra Maestra and the Cordillera de la Gran Piedra), reported lower maximum concentrations and greater areas occupied by aerosol between 1000 and 1500 m above the surface.

- Spatial distribution I showed the greatest maximum concentrations of AgI and coincidence area of supercooled water and AgI concentrations greater than or equal to 0.1 ng/m$^3$ between -5 and -10°C isotherms, which would be potentially positive for seeding.

- The rate of increase of the maximum concentration is proportional to the rate of increase of the emission, for the same spatial distribution.

- The area occupied by AgI concentrations above 0.1 ng/m$^3$ for the same spatial distribution of the generators increases considerably for emissions of 30 g/h, evidencing the need for increasing the number of generators for static seeding to occur.

- The plume does not reach the effective levels for seeding for emission rate of 10 g/h, whereas for 30 g/h it reaches the layers between the isotherms of -5 and -10°C, so that static seeding could occur even if these concentrations are not found in significant areas due to the existence of coincidences with supercooled water, nevertheless the seeding effect would probably be very limited.

- Part of the aerosol is advected out of the eastern region towards the sea, after reaching its maximum concentration over land.

- The TKE determines the degree of ascent of the emission plume of the generators.

This work can be considered as the first step in the application of the WRF-Chem model for simulating cloud seeding in Cuba. To generalize the results of the dispersion study it is necessary to carry out a systematic simulation program with different prevailing circulation conditions, as well as to consider the influence of AgI aerosol on ice crystal formation, depending on the spatial distribution of the reagent and the temperature.

The preliminary results obtained in this work show that the methodology applied in the experimental use of silver iodide generators between 2005 and 2010 had serious limitations such as the location of the generators below the minimum heights necessary for the dispersion of the reagent and an
underestimation of the dispersion time, since the generators were turned on when the convective clouds appeared, while the time necessary for their ascent to activation heights is approximately 4 hours.

From the comparison of the dispersion results between the two proposed distributions, it can be inferred that the optimization of the individual location and spatial distribution of the generators can lead to a significant increase of the reagent concentrations at activation heights but, even so, the values and coverage areas of these concentrations are very low.

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