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Title: Cloud and Precipitation Characteristics over the Western Pacific Revealed by TRMM and other Satellites

Abstract:

Western Pacific is the well-known strong cloud activity region. The cloud activity drives the general circulation, such as Walker Circulation and El Niño Southern Oscillation. Thus, the cloud and precipitation characteristics is crucial for understanding the actual driving mechanism. The tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) satellite was launched in November 1997 and provides unique data on the three dimensional precipitation system structure compared to the precipitation radar onboard TRMM. TRMM observation, however, is a snapshot and it is difficult to observe the cloud and precipitation system evolution. On the other hand, visible/infrared observation from other satellites makes possible to observe evolutions. The observation from geostationary orbit is hourly and has far more frequency than TRMM. In this study, we tried to combine TRMM data with other satellite data to reveal the characteristics of the cloud and precipitation system over Western Pacific. Using the geostationary satellite (GMS) data, we identified each cloud system over and around the maritime continent. The systems were categorized as over land, over coast and over ocean. The TRMM data of the cloud system were picked up and statistical characteristics of precipitation, storm height, etc. in terms of cloud system evolution were revealed. The rainfall was the maximum at the time of TBB minimum. The storm height was earlier. Vertical development was significant over coast area, while remarkable horizontal expansion appeared over land. Precipitation intensity and the storm height showed differences among land, coast, and ocean. Moreover, the relationship between cloud and precipitation activity and the sea surface conditions was investigated. OLR, rainrate, storm height were used as indicators of cloud activity. The surface conditions include SST, near surface wind speed and near surface wind divergence. Midlevel (500 hPa) vertical velocity from NCEP reanalysis data set was used as a parameter representing the general atmospheric circulation. When the surface condition is unfavorable for convections, the atmospheric circulation strengthens the existing system and anvil amounts. On the other hand, when the surface condition is in favor of convections, the storm height easily reaches its limit and is insensitive to atmospheric circulation, but rain occurrence cloud particle density seems to be affected by the atmospheric circulation.

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