Organization of the convection in the Venus cloud layer

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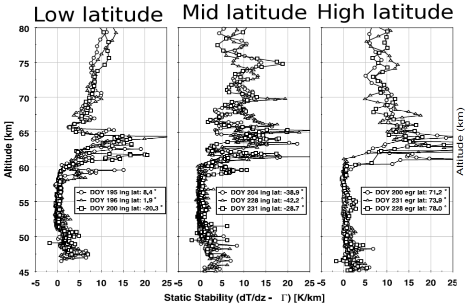
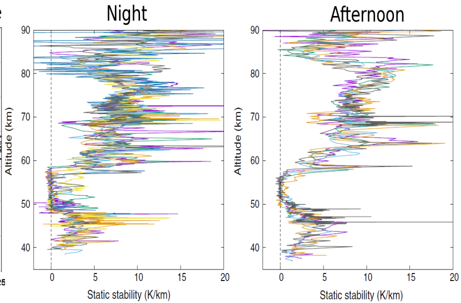
VeRa radio occultation
variability with latitude

Akatsuki radio occultation (40N-40S)
variability with local time



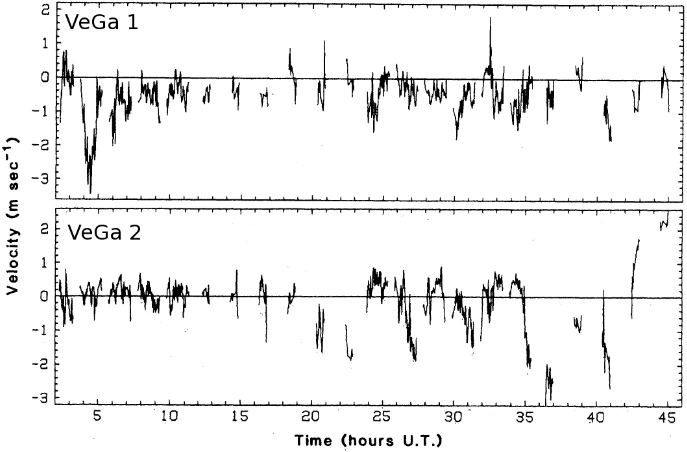


Tellmann et al., 2009

Imamura et al., 2017

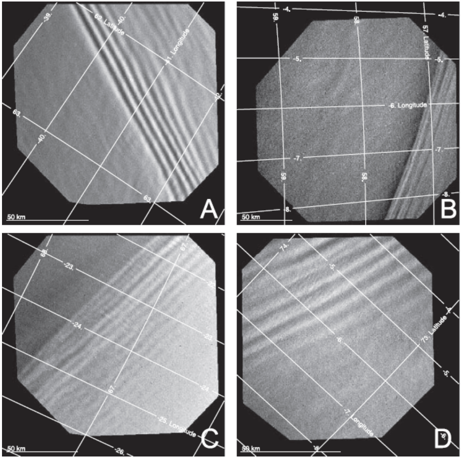
Introduction : Convective layer

VeGa Balloon vertical wind measurement $\sim \pm$ 3 m/s at $\pm$ 7°



Linkin et al., 1986

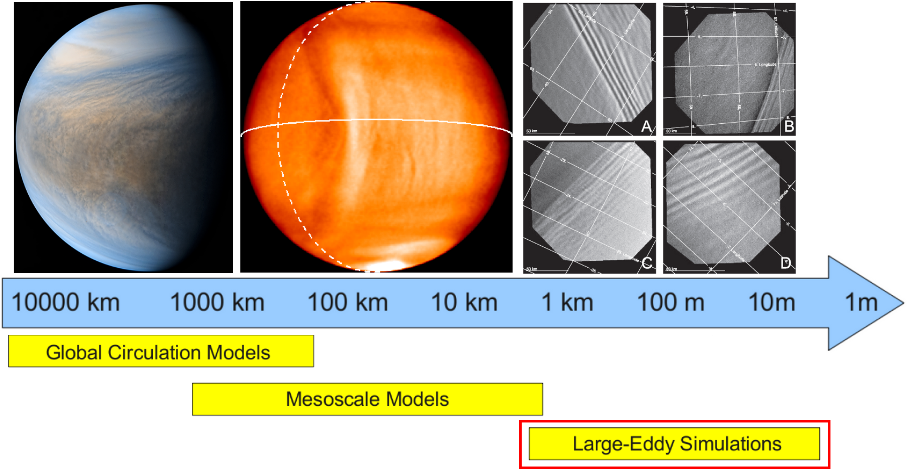
Venus Express observations at cloud top ($\sim$ 70 km)



Piccialli et al., 2014

Atmospheric Modeling

Small-scale turbulence → Large-Eddy Simulations (LES) with WRF core



First 3D coupled LES model

Model description

Heating rates decomposed in 3 different contributions :

-2 radiative ones : Solar and IR

- Dynamics: associated with global dynamics : Hadley cell (Adiabatic warming/cooling)

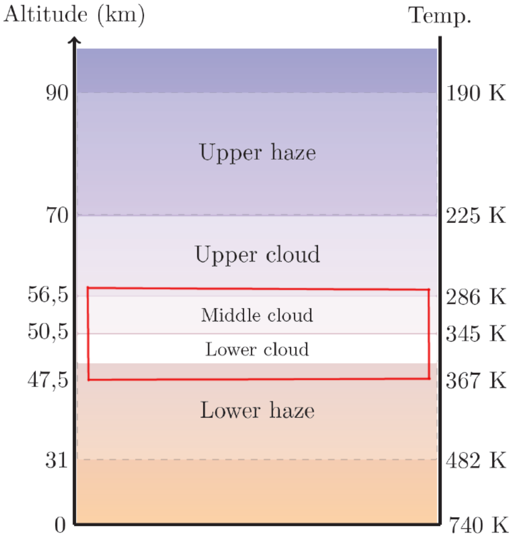
	Off-line (Lefèvre et al., 2017)	**On-line** (Lefèvre et al., 2018)
Solar	Constant	LMD Venus radiative transfer
IR	Constant	LMD Venus radiative transfer
Dynamics	Constant	Constant
Resolution	200 m	400 m
horizontal domain	36x36 km	60x60 km
vertical level	181	300
vertical domain	40 to 70 km	surface to 100 km

Cloud model (Haus et al.) is fixed during the simulation

No wind shear is imposed

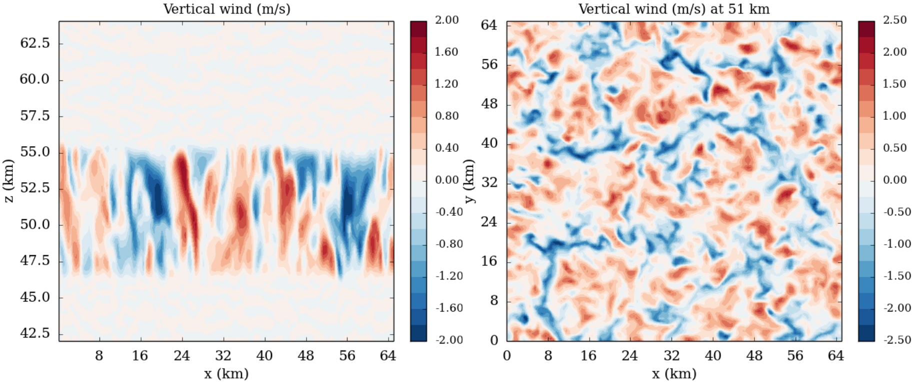
Input from LMD GCM Simulations (Garate-Lopez and Lebonnois, 2018)

Main convective layer



On-line mode

Equator noon

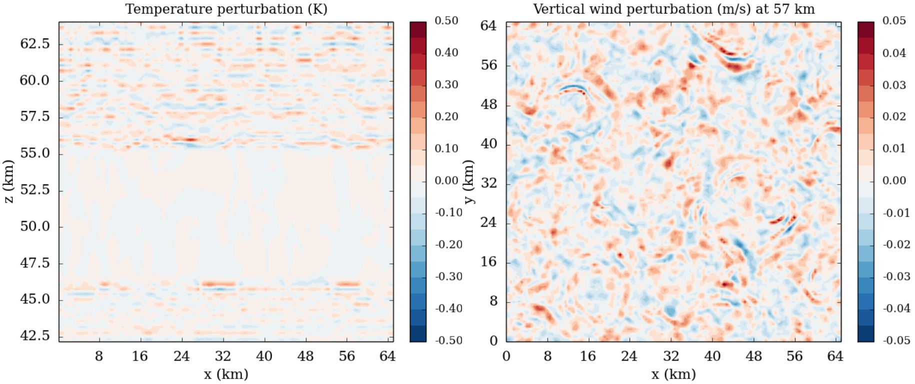


Lefèvre et al, 2018

Vertical wind between ± 2.5 m/s, consistent with observations

Convective cell of 20 km of diameter

Equator noon: : Gravity waves



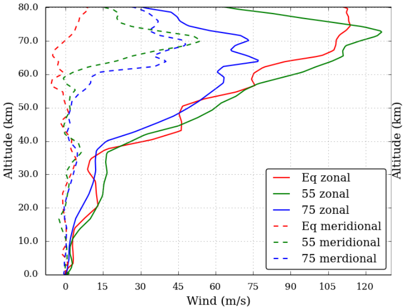
Amplitude of GWs ±0.5 K, smaller than the observations
Circular wavefront, not consistent with observations.

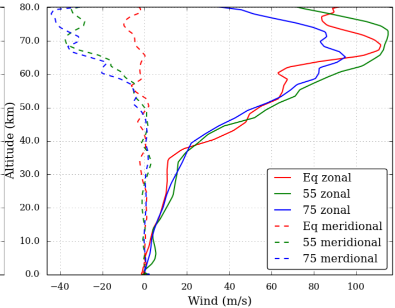
Impact of the wind shear

Wind shear

Prescribed wind from the LMD Venus GCM

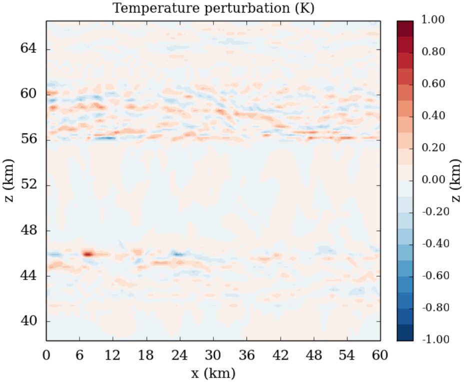
Noon | Midnight



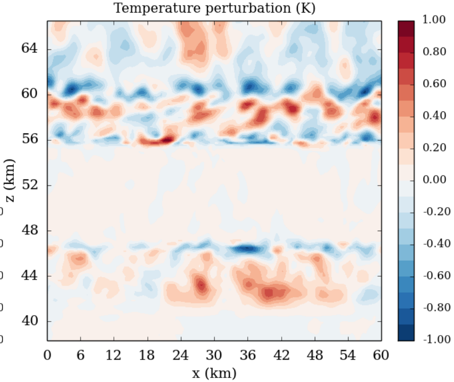


Comparison : the Equator midnight

No wind shear



Wind shear

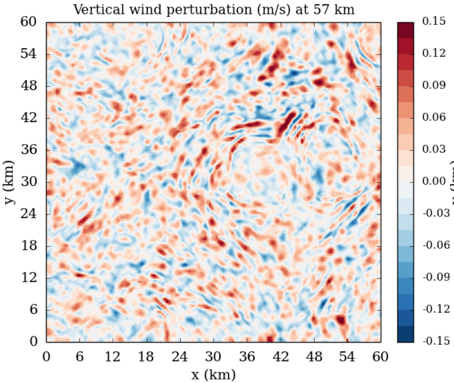


Few impact on convection but strong on GWs
Stronger amplitude with the wind shear : obstacle effect

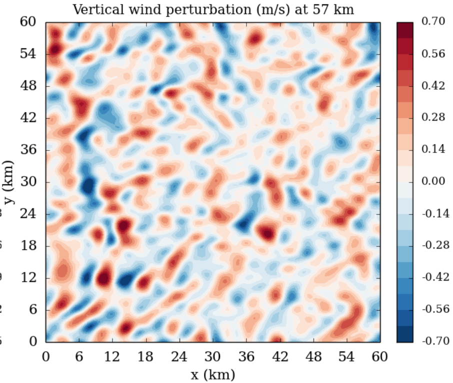
Comparison : the Equator midnight

At 57 km

No wind shear

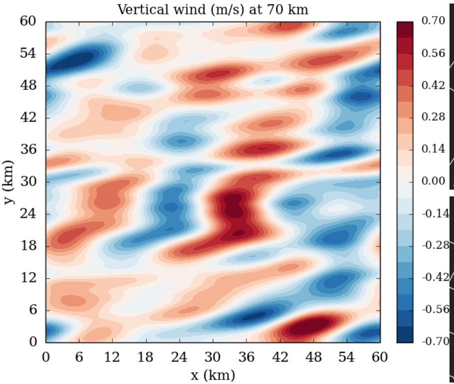


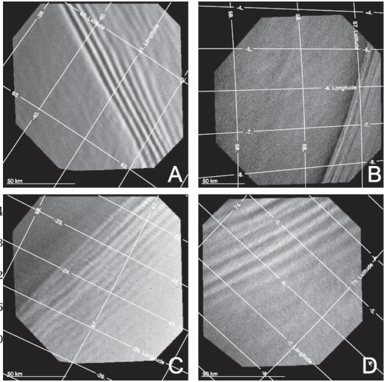
Wind shear



Linear wave front and stronger amplitude

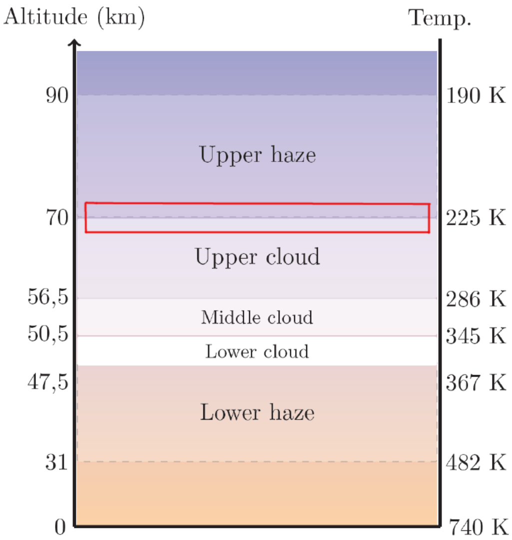
At cloud top





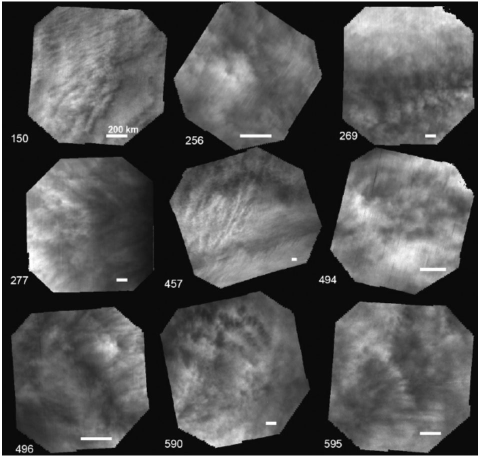
Wavelength up to 20 km. Very close to VMC observations.

Cloud top convective activity



Observations

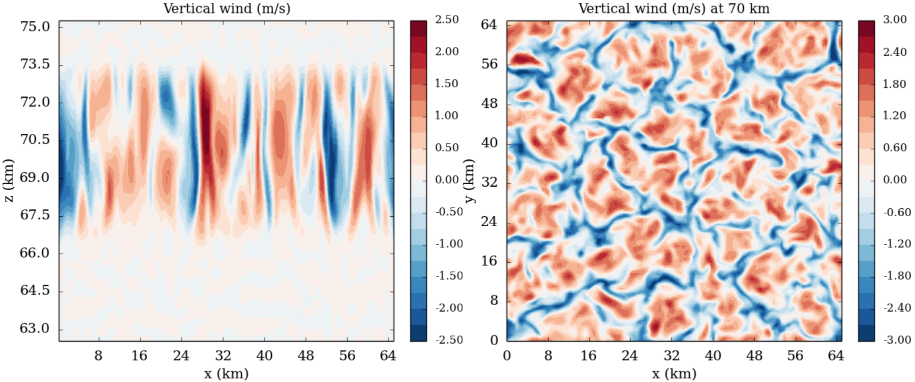
VMC observations



Titov et al., 2012

Puffy clouds at subsollar point at low latitude : convection ?

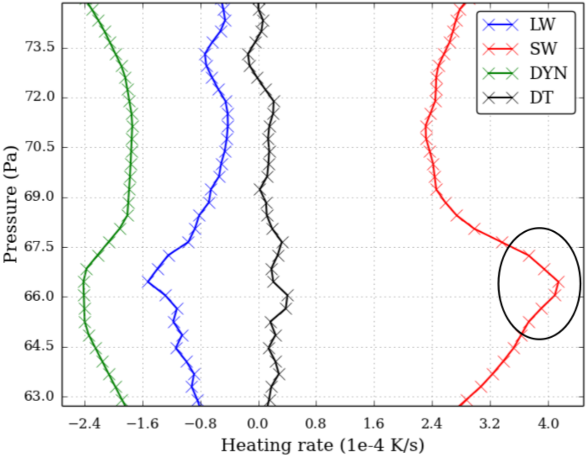
Cloud top convective activity : Equator noon



Vertical wind between ± 3 m/s

Convective cell of diameter of 10 km

Cloud top convective activity : Mechanism



Strong solar heating from unknow UV absorber → destabilization.

Conclusion

- First 3D coupled LES model for Venus
- Fine vertical resolution radiative transfer for realistic convective layer
- Strong impact of the wind shear : generated waves enhanced by obstacle effect
- Convection activity at cloud top due to UV absorber

	Off-line	On-line	On-line with wind shear
Convection morphology	✓	✓	✓
Convection depth	×	✓	✓
Plumes strength	×	✓	✓
Gravity waves amplitude	×	×	✓
Gravity waves morphology	×	×	✓

Perspectives

- Subgrid parametrization : Thermall Plume model and Gravity waves
- Planetary boundary layer turbulence
- Implementation of Photochemistry and Microphysics scheme