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Title: Effects of a Convectively Forced Gravity Wave Drag Parameterization on Mesoscale Convective System

Abstract:

Vertically propagating gravity waves deposit their momentum to the mesoscale flow at the levels where wave breaking occurs. Even though mesoscale models are developed with high resolutions, gravity waves forced by individual convective cloud, which is one of the important sources of gravity waves, cannot be entirely resolved. Therefore, convectively forced internal gravity wave drag is better to be parameterized in the mesoscale model. In this study, a parameterization of gravity wave drag by cumulus convection (GWDC) by Chun and Baik (1998, JAS) is implemented in the PSU/NCAR Mesoscale Model (MM5), and effects of the GWDC on mesoscale convective system are investigated for a heavy rain event associated with convection band on 4~6 August 1998. In order to investigate effects of the GWDC, simulations without (CTL) and with (GWDC) the parameterization are performed in a two-way nested grid system (45 km/15 km). Impact of the GWDC is significant above convection, and it extends down to the lower atmosphere through the vertical change of horizontal divergence/convergence pattern. Deceleration of wind above cloud induces convergence (divergence) on upstream (downstream) side of convection and it results in convergence on downstream side of convection at the lower atmosphere. As a result, convection is enhanced and rainfall increases on downstream side by the GWDC. Effect of the GWDC on mesoscale convective system is theoretically studied by considering analytic solutions of 2-D gravity waves induced by specified momentum forcing. Gravity wave response to momentum forcing can explain the enhancement of convective cell on downstream side obtained by the simulation. GWDC affects on mesoscale convective system directly by deposition of momentum forcing induced by wave breaking, and indirectly by grid-resolvable gravity waves induced by momentum forcing. Therefore, impact of the GWDC is not localized to regions where wave breaking occurs, but it is extended to the lower atmosphere.

Presentation Mode:

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