



## Abstract Details

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**Corresponding Author :** Prof. Yukari Takayabu ([yukari@ccsr.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:yukari@ccsr.u-tokyo.ac.jp))

**Organization:** Center for Climate System Research, University of Tokyo

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**Title:** Low-latitudes rainfall characteristics and its meteorological factors analyzed with mesoscale statistics of TRMM PR data

### Abstract:

Rainfall has great impacts on climate. Not only its amount, but also its characteristics such as intensity, duration, frequency, and diurnal variation are important for evaluating actual impacts on the earth's surface (cf. Trenberth et al. 2003). Moreover, as we know by experience, characteristics of rain are intimately related to the meteorological phenomena that cause the rainfall. The first space-borne precipitation radar on the Tropical Rain Measuring Mission satellite (TRMM PR) has been provided us with the three-dimensional rainfall profile data over land as well as over ocean, which enabled us more precise statistics of rainfall characteristics than before. There have been extensive efforts to describe the global variability of rainfall characteristics (cf. Dai 2001a,b), including the TRMM PR analyses (Shimada and Nakamura 2000, Takayabu 2002, Hirose and Nakamura 2002). However, there have been no attempts yet to classify the meteorological factors that cause global rainfall dynamically, utilizing the statistics of satellite-observed precipitation data. Utilizing TRMM PR data, here we first investigate the tropical and subtropical rainfall characteristics from the mesoscale-based statistics. Secondly, we attempt the classification of dominant meteorological factors from the analyzed rainfall characteristics for each 2.5deg x 2.5deg longitude-latitude grid and for each three months. Then finally, we quantify the rainfall characteristics and amounts associated with each meteorological factor. Mesoscale boxes were cut out from the PR2A25 version 5 path data. The box size is comparable with 1degree x 1degree latitude-longitude. The statistical characteristics of rain in each box were obtained. The analysis period is from June 1998 to May 2001, and the analysis region is 35N-35S all longitudes. For each box, we calculated five parameters to characterize the rainfall properties, which are stratiform pixel ratio (SPR), stratiform ratio (SRR), precipitation area (Ares), averaged rain top height (RTH), and rain intensity (RI). From statistics of box parameters, it was shown that the statistics of above five parameters together with diurnal variation of rainfall can reasonably represent the meteorological factors. Then based on the statistical results, we determined the seven dominant meteorological factors for rainfall for 2.5 degree longitude-latitude grids for three months. For land, types of rain are classified over land; TYPE 1 is afternoon shower, TYPE 2 is continental shallow rain, TYPE 3 is continental frontal rain of extra-tropical storms, and TYPE 4 is continental organized systems. Other three types are over ocean; TYPE 5 is oceanic shallow rain, TYPE 6 is oceanic frontal rain