## List of Figures

1	.1	Nadir radiance at 620 nm versus element number. The dashed vertical line indicates the element number where, starting from largest element numbers, the first value is within $\pm 2.5\%$ of the value with element number 0 (marked with a horizontal dashed line). The data was recorded with <i>casi</i> on 06 September 2001, and the figure is redrawn from <i>Schröder et al.</i> (2004).	8
1	.2	Sketch to illustrate the plane-parallel bias. The function $f(x)$ reflects a similar course than the dependence of the reflectance on optical thickness. The non-linear behaviour of the relation results in different reflectances if averaging in x or $f(x)$ is considered.	10
1	.3	Mean free normalised reflectance and optical thickness versus distance. The figure shows fragments of the cloud field and simulated reflectance from section 5.2.	11
2	.1	Results of the radiometric and spectral calibration of <i>casi</i> : Calibration coefficients versus wavelength for four different apertures f2.8 - f8 (Fig. a) and relation between spectral pixel number and wavelength (Fig. b). In Fig. b the asterisk mark the sampling points and the solid line the interpolation. The calibration measurements were made in March 2002.	14
2	2	Inflight spectral calibration of <i>casi</i> for two different flight missions: 20 September 2001 (FL100 ~ 3048 m) and 23 September 2001 (FL60 ~ $1829$ m).	15
2	3	Comparison of three radiometric calibrations of FUBISS <i>vis</i> (nadir). The September 2001 calibration was carried out during the BBC campaign while the other two are conducted in the laboratory.	16
2	.4	Signal-noise ratio (SNR) of the FUBISS <i>vis</i> (nadir) spectrometer versus wavelength. Note the strong decrease of SNR at wavelengths larger than 850 nm.	17
2	5	Overview of flight missions carried out during BBC. The colour coding of the flight dates corresponds to the colour of each flight mission. The squares present the ground stations S1-S7, with S1 being Cabauw.	18
2	.6	<i>Casi</i> near true colour image. The data was recorded on 22 September 2001.	19
2	.7	Spectral (Fig. a) and time series (Fig. b) comparison of calibrated <i>casi</i> , FUBISS <i>vis</i> and <i>highvis</i> observations. The spectra are taken at 10.223 UTC, and the time series is compared at 753 nm. The times are given as floating point.	20
2	.8	Normalised radiance versus wavelength for two different underlying targets (cloud and meadow). Besides absorption features of water vapour and oxygen, the rededge is clearly visible at wavelengths larger than 700 nm. The normalisation is done to the radiance at 780 nm, and the spectra are taken from 13 September 2001.	20

2.9	Histograms of the radiance $L$ at 490 nm (Fig. a) and of the ratio of the radiances at 490 nm to 780 nm (Fig. b). The total number of data points sums up to more than $5 \times 10^5$ . The maximum radiance of 435 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> is not shown in Fig. a. The vertical lines indicate the thresholds as used in the cloudmask algorithm. The radiances was recorded on 13 September 2001.	21
2.10	The necessity and the effectiveness of the application of a second pair of thresholds to derive cloudiness are demonstrated. The left panel shows an enhanced <i>casi</i> image (13 September 2001). The middle panel presents the corresponding cloudmask with the following greyscales: Black stands for cloudfree, white for cloudy pixels after application of the first two thresholds and grey for cloudy pixels identified with the help of the second pair of thresholds. The red circle marks the position of the spectrum given in the right panel.	22
2.11	Exemplary near true colour <i>casi</i> images and cloudmasks from 18 (left panels) and 23 (right panels) September 2001. Both <i>casi</i> images, first and third panel, show broken cloud fields over land surfaces of various kind. The spatial high resolution cloudmasks, white corresponds to cloudy pixels, show a relatively high quality.	22
3.1	Sketch to explain the procedure of generating Fourier clouds. The starting fields, geometrical thickness and cloud top height, are given in Fig. a while Fig. b shows the cloud columns after the shift of columns according to requested cloud top variability.	25
3.2	Two LWP fields, simulated with Meso-NH (Figs. a and c) and corresponding horizontal transects of LWC, taken at 5 km (Figs. b and d).	27
3.3	Volume extinction coefficient $\sigma_{ext}$ (left panel) and effective radius $r_{eff}$ (right panel) versus height above cloud base for two different droplet number concentrations.	28
3.4	Cloud droplet number distribution versus squared radius (sketch). The effect of homogeneous and heterogeneous mixing on cloud droplet number distributions is demonstrated. The solid line gives the adiabatic distribution, the dashed lines the distribution after mixing and the arrows the change in radius (homogeneous) or cloud droplet number concentration (heterogeneous).	29
4.1	Phase function versus scattering angle (left panel) and the corresponding inverse cumulative phase function as a function of random number (right panel). This example is based on drop size distributions given by <i>Deirmandjian</i> (1969) and Mie calculations.	33
4.2	Probability density function of photon path length versus geometrical path. $P(l)$ is determined at an exemplary grid box of the computations presented in section 5.3.	33
4.3	Standard deviation (left panel) and uncertainty (right panel) versus photon number. The results are extrapolated to a photon number of $10^7$ (dashed lines).	35
4.4	Nadir reflectance as computed by the <i>local estimate model</i> (Fig. a) and MYSTIC (Fig. b). The range of the colour bar is kept fixed in both figures. The simulation is based on experiment p2cu_e7.	39

78

5.1	Power spectrum analysis of normalised nadir radiances recorded on 20 September 2001 (leg 2). The dots present the original result of the power spectrum of nadir radiances at 620 nm while the squares give the corresponding (octave) binned power spectrum. The solid line is the least square fit of the binned power spectrum of radiances at 620 nm. The triangles and the dashed line refer to the power spectrum of nadir radiances at 780 nm. The original power spectrum of nadir radiances at 780 nm is not shown in order to maintain clarity.	43
5.2	Scale breaks (upper panels), small scale slopes (middle panels) and large scale slopes (lower panels) versus wavelength (left panels) and versus flight leg averages of observed reflectance (right panels). The data was recorded on 20 September 2001 (leg 2).	44
5.3	Normalised reflectance at 620 and 780 nm, their differences in percent as a function of element number and the corresponding scatterplot with limiting lines. The normalisation is based on the maximum of the reflectance at each wavelength. The maximum and minimum radiance values are 248 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> (780 nm) and 320 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> (620 nm) and 55 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> (780 nm) and 54 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> (620 nm), respectively. The data was recorded on 20 September 2001 (leg 2).	45
5.4	Optical thickness versus distance. The optical thickness represents the input field for RT simulations.	46
5.5	Power spectra for simulated reflectances with $A=0$ and 0.4 (Fig. a). The dashed vertical line indicates the scale break. The slopes are given in the text. In Fig. b the mean free reflectance is plotted versus distance.	46
5.6	Power spectrum analysis of normalised nadir radiances recorded on 20 September 2001 (leg 2). The dots present the original result of the power spectrum of nadir radiances at 880 nm while the squares give the corresponding (octave) binned power spectrum. The solid line is the least square fit of the binned power spectrum of radiances at 880 nm. The triangles and the dashed line refer to the power spectrum of nadir radiances at 935 nm. The original power spectrum of nadir radiances at 935 nm is not shown in order to maintain clarity.	47
5.7	Scale breaks (upper panels), small scale slopes (middle panels) and large scale slopes (lower panels) versus wavelength (left panels) and versus flight leg averages of observed reflectance (right panels). The data was recorded on 20 September 2001 (leg 2).	48
5.8	Normalised reflectance at 880 and 935 nm, their difference in percent as a function of element number and the corresponding scatterplot with limiting lines. The normalisation is based on the maximum of the reflectance at each wavelength. The maximum and minimum radiance values are 145 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> (935 nm) and 274 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> (880 nm) and 4 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> (935 nm) and 18 W m <sup>-2</sup> sr <sup>-1</sup> $\mu$ m <sup>-1</sup> (880 nm), respectively. The data was recorded on 20 September 2001 (leg 2).	49
5.9	Scale breaks (upper panels), small scale slopes (middle panels) and large scale slopes (lower panels) versus wavelength (left panels) and versus spatial averages of simulated reflectances (right panels).	51
5.10	Normalised reflectance versus distance for two different single scattering albedos $w_0$ . The simulation is based on the injection of photons at a single position.	52

## LIST OF FIGURES

5.11	Ensemble power spectrum analysis of data recorded over single layer clouds on 06 and 20 September 2001 (Fig. a) and over two layer clouds on 06 and 23 September 2001 (Fig. b). The plots are based on nadir radiance measurements at 620 nm. The large and small scale slopes with corresponding uncertainties, based on five wavelength centred around 620 nm, are given. The vertical lines indicate the scale break which is given in the text.	53
5.12	Enhanced <i>casi</i> image at 620 nm. The image shows the transition from a single layer (lower part) to a two layer (upper part) cloud. The data is taken from 23 September 2001 (leg 2).	53
5.13	Optical thickness of upper (black) and lower (red) cloud layer versus distance. Figures a and b show two different scenarios based on three different surrogate cloud fields to analyse the effect of two layer clouds on cloud radiative smoothing.	55
5.14	Two layer cloud effect on large scale cloud radiative smoothing (Fig. a), as estimated on the basis of simulated reflectances (Fig. b). The layout is similar to the layout presented in Figures 5.1 and 5.6 but here the power spectra of single and two layer clouds are compared. The dashed, thin vertical line gives the location of the scale break related to the single layer cloud. Figure b shows the mean free nadir reflectance of both systems.	55
5.15	Two layer cloud effect on large scale cloud radiative smoothing (Fig. a), as estimated on the basis of simulated reflectances (Fig. b). The layout is similar to the layout presented in Figures 5.1 and 5.6, but here, the power spectra of single and two layer clouds are compared. The dashed, thin vertical line gives the location of the scale break related to the single layer cloud. Figure b shows the mean free nadir reflectance of both systems.	56
6.1	LWC profiles from LES simulations (left panel). The right panel shows the same profiles plus the adiabatic one for constant LWP (see text for details).	58
6.2	Reflectance (Fig. a) and optical thickness (Fig. b) versus profiles for two different mixing schemes ( $\Delta z = 1$ m). The abbreviations of the cases are given in the text.	59
6.3	Behaviour of the reflectance dependent on profile type, mixing scheme, and layer thickness.	59
6.4	Photon path length distribution and weighting function versus height for the <i>adiab</i> and <i>cten</i> profile.	60
6.5	Difference between the normalised reflectance of the <i>adiab</i> and the <i>cten</i> profile. The spectral resolution is 0.01 nm.	60
6.6	Difference between normalised reflectance of non-adiabatic and adiabatic profiles versus transmission. Each figure gives the result for a different layer thickness: a) $\Delta z=1$ m, b) $\Delta z=10$ m, c) $\Delta z=50$ m, and d) $\Delta z=200$ m. The dependence on the mixing scheme is also demonstrated.	61
6.7	Difference between normalised reflectance and vertical homogeneous case versus transmission. Each figure gives the result for a different layer thickness: a) $\Delta z=1$ m, b) $\Delta z=5$ m, c) $\Delta z=10$ m, and d) $\Delta z=50$ m. The dependence on the mixing scheme is also demonstrated.	62

80

LIST	OF	FIG	URES
------	----	-----	------

6.8	Profiles of the volume extinction coefficient, in black for the <i>adiab</i> and in red for the <i>cten</i> case. The dashed vertical line gives the value for vertical homogeneity.	62
6.9	Effect of horizontal averaging on nadir reflectances and window to absorbing channel ratios, each normalised to its value at maximum scale. The different black lines belong to different data sets: Fig. a and b are based on data recorded over closed single layer clouds while Fig. c and d consider a variety of complex cloud situations (two layer clouds and broken cloud fields). The red lines mark the uncertainty level of the radiance measurement, 3%, and the minimum error for cloud top height retrieval, 1.7%.	64
6.10	Reflectance fields simulated on the basis of the LWP fields presented in Figure 3.2. Figs. a and b show reflectance of the stratus and Figs. c and d of the cumulus. The left panels are related to heterogeneous and the right panels to homogeneous mixing. The maxima of the heterogeneous cases are slightly smaller than those of the homogeneous cases. To make the comparisons between both mixing schemes easier the range is kept fixed to the range of each homogeneous case.	66
6.11	Effect of horizontal averaging on nadir reflectance (left panels) and window to absorption channel ratio (right panels), each normalised to the large scale value. The black lines are related to horizontal transects (100 in each panel), and the red lines give the uncertainty measures (similar to Figure 6.9). The green lines give the results, if averaged over the complete 2d field. Note, that in this case the effect depends on the square of the spatial scale in km <sup>2</sup> . The upper (lower) panels show the results for simulations based on the stratus (cumulus), see Figure 3.2 to get an impression of the LWP fields.	67
6.12	Mean optical path length versus geometrical cloud thickness. Each sampling point (asterisk) presents a simulation of specific N and $\tau$ . A linear relationship, $\langle l \rangle$ =-0.04 + 1.42 H, can be seen with slight variations for different microphysics.	69
6.13	Isolines of mean path length ranging from 0.1 to 1 km (black lines). The phase space is defined by the effective radius and the optical thickness. Also shown are lines of constant cloud droplet number concentration in units of $\rm cm^{-3}$ (coloured lines). The simulations were performed with the sun at zenith and a nadir viewing observer.	69
6.14	Mean path length versus optical thickness for $\theta_0{=}0^\circ$ and 60° (A=0, $N=\!100~{\rm cm}^{-3}$ ).	70

## List of Tables

1	Selected instruments and satellites relevant for cloud remote sensing. MERIS and Meteosat-8 (MSG) have a high resolution modus and channel, respectively. The spatial resolution of Meteosat-8 refers to	
	nadir viewing. MERIS has programmable spectral channels.	4
2.1	Instrumentation of the Cessna during BBC.	18
2.2	Date, start and stop times of conducted flight missions during BBC.	19
4.1	Overview of experiments used for the validation of the <i>local estimate model</i> .	37
4.2	Summary of the outcome of the validation experiments. The mean $\langle R \rangle$ , the standard deviation $\sigma_R$ , and the skewness $\gamma_R$ of reflectance $R$ as computed by the <i>local estimate model</i> and MYSTIC are confronted with each other.	38
5.1	Description of flight missions that are used to study cloud radiative smoothing.	41
6.1	Mean ( $\langle R \rangle$ ) and standard deviation ( $\sigma_R$ ) of reflectance fields simulated based on the adiabatic assumption and on heterogeneous and homogeneous mixing.	65
6.2	Mean photon path lengths in km for the simulations discussed in section 6.1 ( $\Delta z$ =1 m).	70