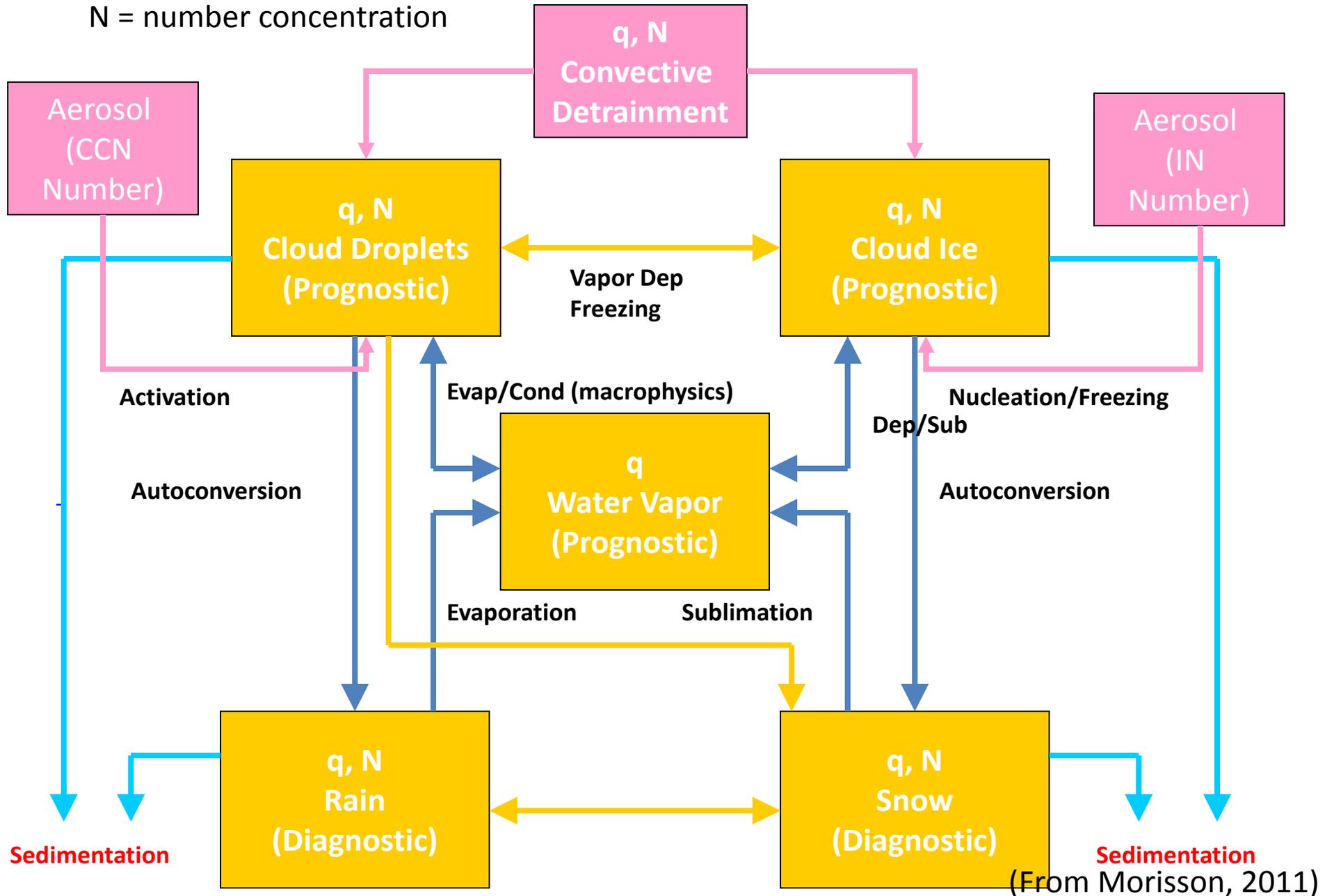


# **Improving the representation of subgrid scale cloud variability in CAM**

Xin Xie and Minghua Zhang

$q$  = mixing ratio

$N$  = number concentration



(From Morisson, 2011)

## Three types of subgrid scale cloud variability

1. Cloud and precipitation particle size distributions are represented by gamma functions:

$$\phi(D) = N_0 D^\mu e^{-\lambda D}$$

For cloud ice, snow, and rain,  $\mu = 0$ .

For cloud droplets,  $\mu = 1/\eta^2 - 1$        $\eta = 0.0005714N + 0.2714$

2. Subgrid scale distribution of cloud water and ice:

$$P(q_c^n) = \frac{q_c^{n\nu-1} \alpha^\nu}{\Gamma(\nu)} e^{-\alpha q_c^n}$$

$$\nu = 2.0$$

3. How clouds are vertical stacked.

## Subgrid scale variability of the 2nd type – cloud hydrometeors

For any generic microphysical process rate given by

$$M_p = xq_c^{1+y} \quad P(q_c^{1+y}) = \frac{q_c^{1+y-1} \alpha^y}{\Gamma(\nu)} e^{-\alpha q_c^y}$$

the grid mean process rate can be expressed by

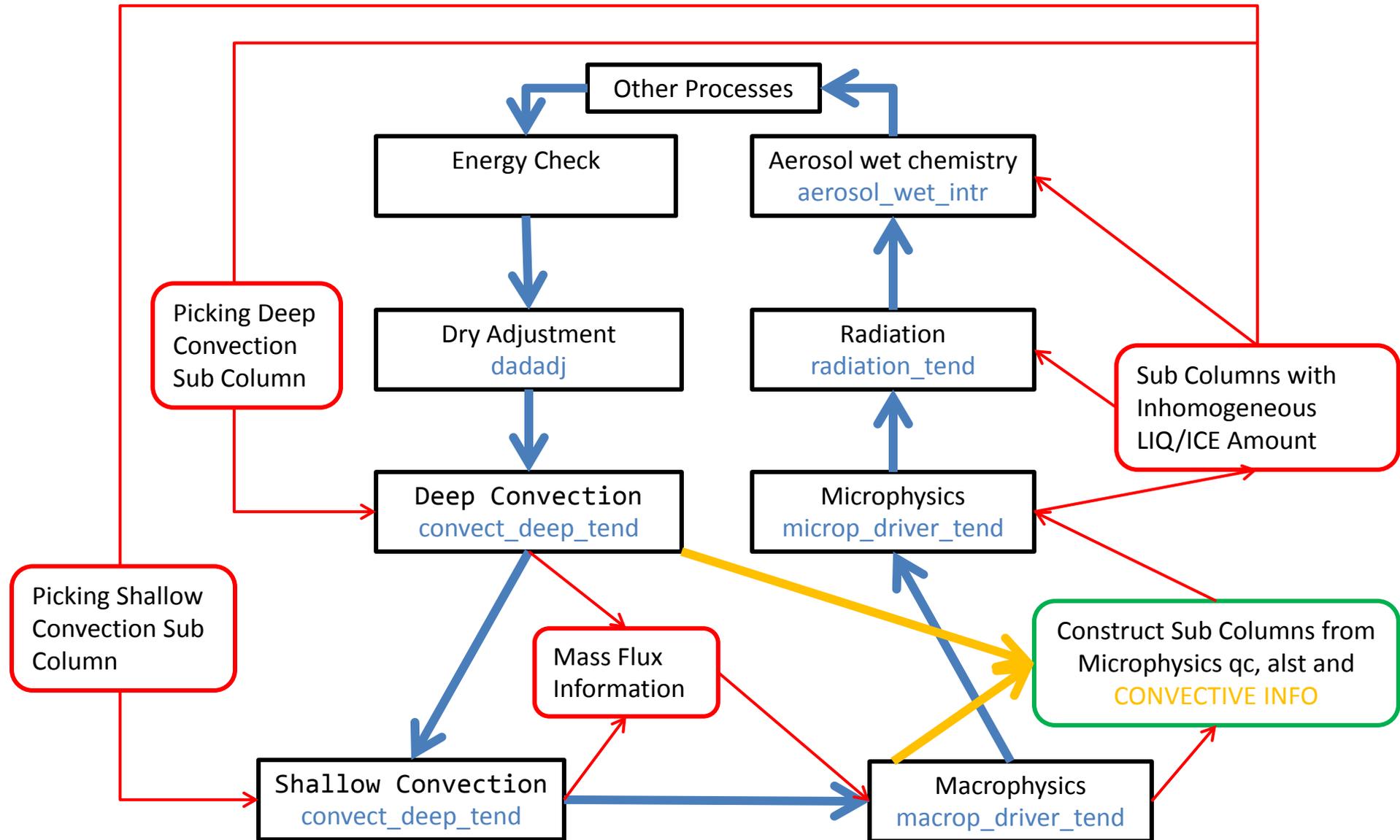
$$M_p' = x \frac{\Gamma(\nu + y)}{\Gamma(\nu) \nu^y} q_c^{1+y}$$

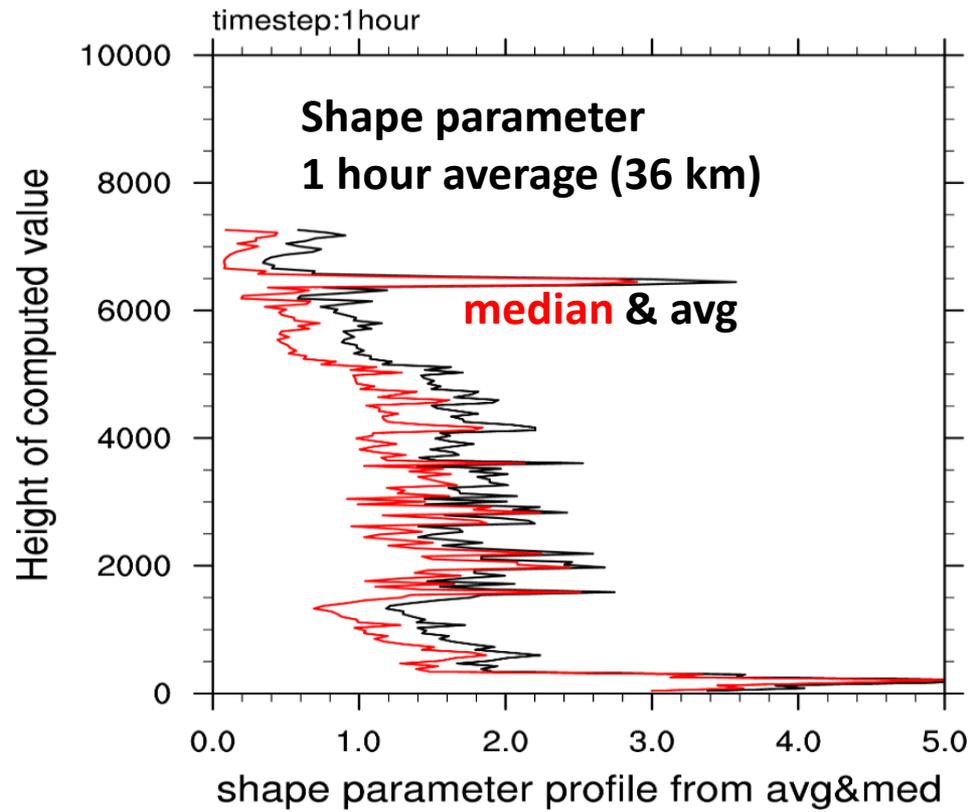
Thus, to account for sub-grid variability microphysical processes are multiplied by a factor of

$$E = \frac{\Gamma(\nu + y)}{\Gamma(\nu) \nu^y}$$

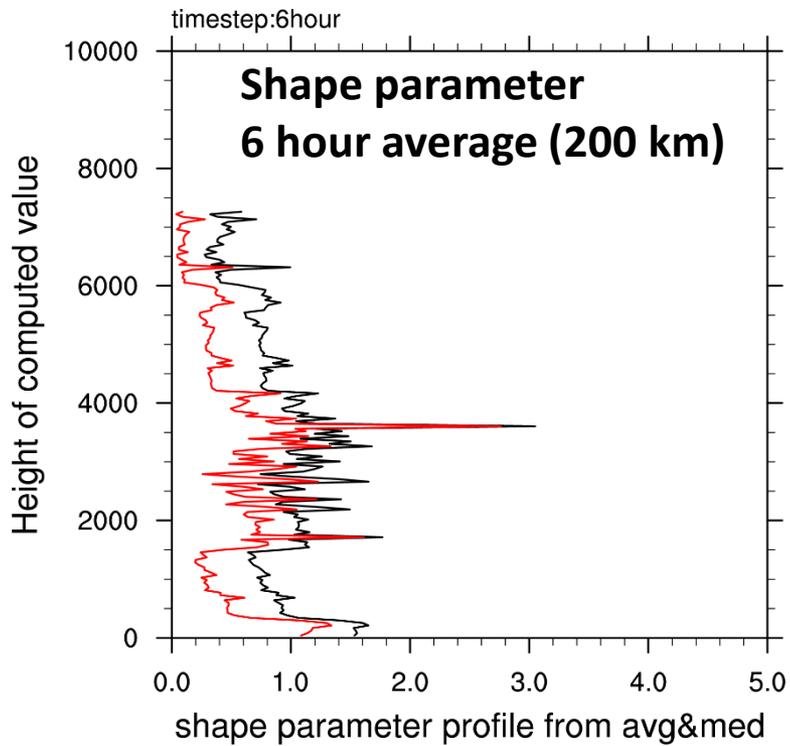
Default  $\nu = 2.0$

(From Morrison, 2011)

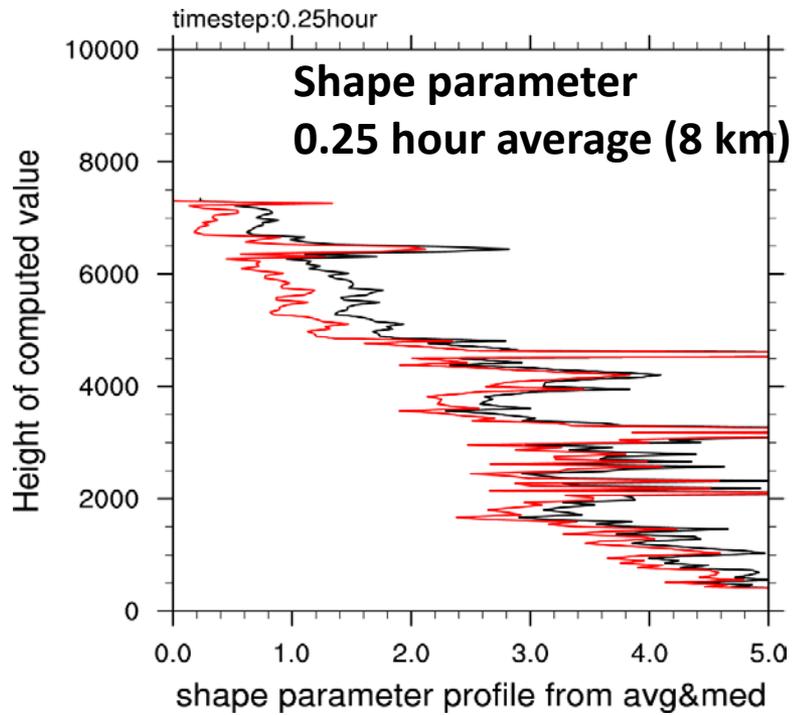




$v$



$v$



$v$