High resolution details of ship tracks in the lower middle portion of the image shown at beginning of this chapter. The observations are at 1200 UTC (top) and 1340 UTC (bottom). During these 100 minutes, the ship tracks have moved from the tail of each arrow (top) to the head of each arrow (bottom), due to the combined effect of the ship movement and the local wind vector during this time period. (Data from the MODIS instrument on the Terra satellite at top and Aqua satellite at bottom.)

1200 UTC



1340 UTC





Cloud Droplet Effective Radius (µm)

4 8 12 16 20

Below: Cloud droplet radii in micrometers for ship track clouds and the background liquid water clouds in which they form. The individual ship tracks correspond to those shown in the 1340 UTC image on the right. Relative to the unpolluted background clouds, substantially smaller droplet sizes are found within the tracks as expected. (Data from the MODIS instrument on the Aqua satellite.)