Understanding the Cloudy Atmospheres of Brown Dwarfs and Extrasolar Planets

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Today's Message

- Clouds are exceptionally important
- 3 main cloud modeling approaches to date, one of which is "make them up"
- Applications: properties of the HR 8799 planets & the L to T transition
- Photochemistry
- Lots of room for new ideas & new models

Today's Objects

- Brown Dwarfs (L & T dwarfs)
 - objects with masses intermediate between planets and stars
 - composition similar to giant planets
 - vastly more & higher quality data than exoplanets
- Jovian mass exoplanets, young and old
- Issues broadly apply to terrestrial exoplanets





Burrows et al. 1997



Burrows et al. 1997















Thermal Emission





Hot Jupiters



Importance of Clouds: Reflected Light







Huge influence on Bond Albedo and T_{eq}





Color and albedo are functions of type and depth of clouds. Clouds depend on BOTH internal heat flow (mass, age) and incident flux.



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photochemistry

Scattered light Simulated direct images



Cahoy et al. (2009)

Importance of Clouds: Thermal Emission









Brown Dwarf Examples






What do we need to know for atmosphere modeling?

- Cloud Composition
- Particle Sizes
- Vertical (& horizontal) distribution





Lodders (2005)

Size & composition controls the opacity



scat

size distribution

Example



Big particles (~10 μm compared to < 1 μm)

• Mie vs. Rayleigh opacity

Scattering Angle



Monday, January 30, 12

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Simplest Model

$$\tau_{\lambda} = 75\epsilon Q_{\lambda}(r_c)\varphi\Big(\frac{P_{cl}}{1\,\mathrm{bar}}\Big)\Big(\frac{10^5\,\mathrm{cm\,s}^{-2}}{g}\Big)\Big(\frac{1\,\mu\mathrm{m}}{r_c}\Big)\Big(\frac{1.0\,\mathrm{g\,cm}^{-3}}{\rho_c}\Big).$$

- Can estimate cloud column mass
- Assume hydrostatic equilibrium
- Neglects dynamical effects
- How to compute sizes, vertical extent?
- Need a real model
- Or else guess and test

Cloud Modeling Schools

Top - Down





Helling et al. Microphysics, nucleation, etc. **Fixed** Many examples

Ackerman & Marley

Chemical Equilibrium PHOENIX - DUSTY

Cloud Modeling Schools

Top - Down

Bottom - Up



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Why Not Rossow?

Most extensive body of work on solar system clouds

- Compute timescales, τ, for key cloud processes (nucleation, falling, coagulation, etc.)
- Estimate sizes by comparing $\boldsymbol{\tau}$
- Popular
- Computation of τ's introduces many assumptions
 - Surface tensions, supersaturation, coagulation efficiences, size distributions...
- Results very sensitive to unknowable quantities
- Does not constrain vertical condensate profile



Rossow 1978

Philosophy Behind Ackerman Model

- Needed a global 1D mean cloud model
- Initiated collaboration with Andy Ackerman
- Ackerman is highly skeptical any 1D cloud model is even possible



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Crucial to properly account for sedimentation flux



In terrestrial clouds, large particles transport most of the mass, resulting in thinner and less optically thick cloud decks.

Ackerman Cloud Model

 $-K \frac{\partial q_t}{\partial z} - f_{\text{sed}} w_* q_c = 0$

 f_{sed} parameterizes efficiency of sedimentation relative to turbulent mixing (Jupiter $f_{sed} \sim 3$)



 $f_{sed}w^* = average$ sedimentation velocity of condensate

Model skips over microphysics to give a physically meaningful vertical profile of condensate sizes given assumed growth efficiency.

Ackerman Cloud Model



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ANDREW S. ACKERMAN AND MARK S. MARLEY¹ NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035; ack@sky.arc.nasa.gov, mmarley@mail.arc.nasa.gov Received 2000 October 26: accepted 2001 March $f_{sed}w^* = average$ sedimentation velocity of condensate

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Example: Silicate Cloud



Well-mixed cloud, no precipitation

Steady state, precipitating cloud

After Ackerman & Marley (2001)

Other Ingredients

- Chemistry (Katharina Lodders)
- Molecular opacities (Richard Freedman)
- Atmospheric structure (Marley, following McKay)
- Thermal evolution (Didier Saumon)
- With cloud model can predict emergent spectra
- Spectra obtained by collaborators







Tuning Parameters to fit the Cloudiest L dwarfs



Early T Dwarfs

Approach clearly works well, but not perfectly. Does not explain why f_{sed} varies.

How well does this tool work with the directly imaged planets?

Understanding Clouds & the Directly Imaged Planets

(in five years there will be far more data for these objects than the hot Jupiters)

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С

- Luminosities imply $T_{eff} \sim 900$ to 1000 K
- But photometry looks like hotter L dwarfs

Directly Imaged Planets Are Very Cloudy



- HR 8799 b,c,d and 2MI207B look like extensions of L sequence
- Why do low g objects turn blue later?

How Cloudy?

- Emerging conventional wisdom:
 - When compared to "standard" models...
 - HR 8799bcd clouds are "radically enhanced" (e.g., Bowler et al. 2010)
 - Entire "new class" of objects (Madhusudhan et al. 2011)
 - Fits require unusual object radii



Planet	Reference	Mass $(M_{\rm Jup})$	$\log g$	$T_{ m eff}\left({ m K} ight)$	$R(R_{ m J})$	age (Myr)
b^1	Barman et al. (2011a)	0.1 - 3.3	3.5 ± 0.5	1100 ± 100	0.63 - 0.92	30 - 300
	Galicher et al. (2011)	5 - 15 1.8	4 - 4.5 4	1100 = 1000	0.69	30 – 300
	Mad. et al. (2011)	2-12	3.5-4.3	750-850		10 - 150

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33% volume

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At lower gravity: cloud base at lower P so less mass to condense but higher in atmosphere



Combining Everything

— planets cool with time





b

Marois et al. (2008)

likely age range of star



- Mass ~ 5 M_{Jup} , T_{eff} = 1000 K, f_{sed} = 2
- "Normal" clouds, similar to warmer L dwarfs
- "Normal" planetary radius as predicted by evolution


Both ~ 10 M_J and fit with normal clouds and self-consistent radii

Moral: cloud model is crucial for data interpretation. Guess and test not adequate.

Marley et al. (2012)

What About the Transition?





In Field Transition is at \sim constant T_{eff}



 $\mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{eff}}$ and (infrared) spectral type adjusted for recently confirmed binaries and newer objects Error bars reflect unknown ages. The coldest object in the plot is the T8 2MASS |04|5-09.

data from Golimowski et al. (2004) & Luhman et al. (2007)

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Gravity Dependence to Transition



Less clouds

Gravity Dependence to Transition



Less clouds

Gravity Dependence to Transition



Less clouds



May need 3D Simulations to Understand

mt10g50mm00n03 t=130020.1 s



- Waves may be important mechanism that keeps dust aloft
- Interplay of dynamics and clouds only beginning to be explored



Photochemistry



Photochemistry at higher insolation?



Hot Jupiters are Extreme Case

Jupiter at 0.05 AU

- 10,000x higher UV flux
- H, C, O, N, S, P chemistry
- Many pathways to hazes



















Conclusions

- Clouds are very important
- Existing models are adequate but there is much room for improvement (talk by Helling)
- Brown dwarfs provide imporant tests
- HR 8799 planets are not strange but rather are consistent with known cloud physics
- Need cloud models to properly interpret data
- Photochemical products also may provide an important source of particulate opacity