

Robert Pincus

Lamont Research Professor

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Education

B.S., 1986, Physics, University of Washington

Ph.D., 1994, Geophysics, University of Washington (Marcia B. Baker, advising)

Professional experience

07.21-present: Lamont Research Professor, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

03.17-06.21: Adjunct Senior Research Scientist, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

02.01-06.21: Research scientist, U. Colorado/CIRES and NOAA Physical Sciences Lab

09.98-01.01: Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences; Assistant Scientist, Cooperative Institute for Satellite Meteorological Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison

09.97 – 08.98: Assistant Research Scientist, Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

03.95-08.97: National Research Council Research Associate, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

Recent community activities

Member, Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) Panel (2020-)

Co-organizer, Princeton node of the Digital Earths Global Hackathon (2025)

Member, Advisory Board, EU project CleanCloud (2023-)

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems (2015-2020; Associate Editor 2013-2014)

Recent instructional activities

Atmospheric radiation (EESC 6922), Fall 2024, Fall 2022

5th Summer School on Theory, Mechanisms and Hierarchical Modelling of Climate Dynamics: Convection and Clouds (International Center for Theoretical Physics, Trieste), Summer 2024

Idealized models of climate processes (EESC 6926, with Galen McKinley), Spring 2023

Earth's environmental systems: The climate system (EESC 2100), Spring 2022

Student supervision

Postdoctoral fellows: Clare Singer (2023-2024; NOAA Climate & Global Change Fellow with Yi Ming, Boston University), Guillaume Bertoli (2024-2025, with Pierre Gentine), Sean Cohen (2024-; with Lorenzo Polvani)

PhD advisor: Paulina Czarnecki (Applied Physics and Applied Math, with Lorenzo Polvani, 2021-2025); Dion Ho (Applied Physics and Applied Math, with Kui Ren, 2022-

); Margaret Powell (Earth and Environmental Engineering, 2024-)
Student PhD committee: Haozhe He (U. Miami, 2023)
PhD examiner: Wouter Mol (Wageningen University and Research 2024), Erik Johnson (U. Stockholm, 2019); Peter Hill (U. Reading, 2012); Daniel Klocke (U. Hamburg, 2011)

University service

Graduate admissions committees: Applied Physics and Applied Math (2023-2026); Earth and Environmental Sciences (2022)

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Executive Committee, divisional representative (2023-)

Columbia University Research Computing Faculty Committee (2023-2024)

Publications

- Ho, D. J. X., & Pincus, R., 2025. Two-Streams Improved: A Physics-Guided Data-Driven Approach. Submitted to *J. Adv. Model. Earth Syst.* Nov 2025. Preprint at doi:10.22541/essoar.176487419.97424416/v1
- Czarnecki, P. and R. Pincus, 2025. How Clear-Sky Spectral Overlap Shapes Radiation in Cloudy Atmospheres. Revised for *J. Clim.* Mar 2026, preprint at doi:10.22541/essoar.176031268.82054152/v1
- Cohen, S., R. Pincus, and L. M. Polvani, in press: Why increases in CO2 cool the stratosphere and how this amplifies radiative forcing. *Nature Geosci.*, preprint at doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-7608058/v1
- Singer, C. E. and R. Pincus, 2026: Southern Ocean clear-sky brightening caused by wind-driven sea spray aerosol increase. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* **53**, e2025GL119637. doi:10.1029/2025GL119637
- Czarnecki, P., L. M. Polvani, and R. Pincus, 2025. Analytical Models of Instantaneous Radiative Forcing Across Opacity Regimes. *J. Clim.* **38**, 7351–7368, doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-25-0233.1.
- Dunne, J. P. et al., 2025. An evolving Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 7 (CMIP7) and Fast Track in support of future climate assessment. *Geosci. Model Dev.*, **18**, 6671–6700. doi:10.5194/gmd-18-6671-2025
- Hafner, K., F. Iglesias-Suarez, S. Shamekh, P. Gentine, M.A. Giorgetta, R. Pincus, and V. Eyring, 2025. Interpretable machine learning-based radiation emulation for ICON. *J. Geophys. Res. Machine Learn. Comput.*, **2**, e2024JH000501. doi:10.1029/2024JH000501.
- Chen, X. et al., 2025. Impacts of Weak Sea Surface Temperature Warm Anomalies on Trade Wind Cloudiness in Large Eddy Simulations. *J. Adv. Modeling Earth Syst.*, **17**, e2024MS004778. doi:10.1029/2024MS004778.
- Cohen, S. and R. Pincus, 2025. A spectroscopic theory for how mean rainfall changes with surface temperature. *Sci. Adv.*, **11**, eadv6191. doi:10.1126/sciadv.adv6191
- Mlawer, E. J., J. Mascio, D. D. Turner, V. Payne, C. Flynn, and R. Pincus, 2024. A more transparent water vapor window. *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.* **129**, e2024JD041366 doi:10.1029/2024JD041366

- Quaas, J. et al. 2024. Adjustments to climate perturbations - mechanisms, implications, observational constraints. *AGU Adv.*, **5**, e2023AV001144. doi:10.1029/2023AV001144
- Ho, D. J. X. and R. Pincus, 2024. Two-streams revisited: General equations, exact coefficients, and optimized closures. *J. Adv. Model. Earth Syst.*, **16**, e2024MS004504, doi:10.1029/2024MS004504
- Roemer, F. E., S. A. Buehler, L. Kluft, and R. Pincus, 2024. Effect of uncertainty in water vapor continuum absorption on radiative forcing, longwave feedback, and climate sensitivity, *J. Adv. Model. Earth Syst.*, **16**, e2023MS004157, doi:10.1029/2023MS004157
- Veerman, M. A., Pincus, R., Mlawer, E. J., & van Heerwaarden, C. C., 2024. The impact of radiative transfer at reduced spectral resolution in large-eddy simulations of convective clouds. *J. Adv. Modeling Earth Syst.* **16**, e2023MS003699. doi:10.1029/2023MS003699
- Chen, X. et al., 2023: Ubiquitous sea surface temperature warm anomalies increase spatial heterogeneity of trade-wind cloudiness on daily timescales. *J. Atmos. Sci.*, **80**, 2969-2987, doi:10.1175/JAS-D-23-0075.1
- Črnivec, N, G. Cesana, and R. Pincus, 2023. Evaluating the Representation of Tropical Stratocumulus and Shallow Cumulus Clouds As Well As Their Radiative Effects in CMIP6 Models Using Satellite Observations. *J. Geophys. Res.*, **128**, e2022JD038437, doi:10.1029/2022JD038437
- Czarnecki, P., L. M. Polvani, and R. Pincus, 2023. Sparse, empirically optimized quadrature for broadband spectral integration. *J. Adv. Modeling Earth Syst.*, **15**, e2023MS003819. doi:10.1029/2023MS003819
- Pincus, R., P. A. Hubanks, S. A. Platnick, K. Meyer, R. E. Holz, D. Botambekov, and C. J. Wall, 2023: Updated observations of clouds by MODIS for global model assessment. *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, **15**, 2483–2497, doi:10.5194/essd-15-2483-2023.
- Fildier, B., C. Muller, R. Pincus, and S. Fueglistaler, 2023: How moisture shapes low-level radiative cooling in subsidence regimes. *AGU Advances*, **4**, e2023AV000880, doi:10.1029/2023AV000880
- Cesana, G. V., A. S. Ackerman, N. Črnivec, R. Pincus, and H. Chepfer, 2023: An observation-based method to assess tropical stratocumulus and shallow cumulus clouds and feedbacks in CMIP6 and CMIP5 models. *Env. Res. Commun.*, **5**, 045001, doi: 10.1088/2515-7620/acc78a.
- Chen, T.-C., S. G. Penny, J. S. Whitaker, S. Frolov, R. Pincus, and S. Tulich, 2022: Correcting systematic and state-dependent errors in the NOAA FV3-GFS using neural networks. *J. Adv. Modeling Earth Syst.*, **14**, e2022MS003309, doi:10.1029/2022MS003309
- Buehler, S. A. et al., 2022: A new halocarbon absorption model based on HITRAN cross-section data and new estimates of halocarbon instantaneous clear-sky radiative forcing. *J. Adv. Modeling Earth Syst.*, **14**, e2022MS003239, doi:10.1029/2022MS003239
- Giorgetta, M.A. et al, 2022: The ICON-A model for direct QBO simulations on GPUs (version icon-cscs:baf28a514). To appear in *Geosci. Model Dev.*, preprint doi: 10.5194/egusphere-2022-152.

- George, G. et al., 2021: JOANNE: Joint dropsonde Observations of the Atmosphere in tropical North Atlantic meso-scale Environments. *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, **13**, 5253–5272, doi:10.5194/essd-13-5253-2021
- Stevens, B., S. Bony, D. Farrell et al., 2021: EUREC⁴A, *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, **13**, 4067–4119, doi:10.5194/essd-13-4067-2021
- Pincus, R. et al., 2021: Observations from the NOAA P-3 aircraft during ATOMIC, *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, **13**, 3281–3296, doi:10.5194/essd-13-3281-2021.
- Quinn, P. K. et al., 2021: Measurements from the RV Ronald H. Brown and related platforms as part of the Atlantic Tradewind Ocean-Atmosphere Mesoscale Interaction Campaign (ATOMIC). *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, **13**, 1759–1790, doi:10.5194/essd-13-1759-2021.
- Albright, A. L. et al., 2021: Atmospheric Radiative Profiles during EUREC⁴A. *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, **13**, 617–630, doi:10.5194/essd-13-617-2021.
- Veerman, M. A. et al., 2020: Predicting atmospheric optical properties for radiative transfer computations using neural networks. *Phil. Trans. Royal Soc. A*, **379**, 20200095, doi:10.1098/rsta.2020.0095.
- Pincus, R. et al., 2020: Benchmark calculations of radiative forcing by greenhouse gases, *J. Geophys. Res. – Atmos.*, **125**, e2020JD033483, doi:10.1029/2020JD033483.
- Ukkonen, P., R. Pincus, R. J. Hogan, K. P. Nielsen, and E. Kaas, 2020: Accelerating radiation computations for dynamical models with targeted machine learning and code optimization. *J. Adv. Modeling Earth Syst.*, **12**, e2020MS002226, doi:10.1029/2020MS002226.
- Pincus, R. and H. Chepfer, 2020: Clouds as light. In A. Siebesma, S. Bony, C. Jakob, & B. Stevens (Eds.), *Clouds and Climate: Climate Science's Greatest Challenge* (pp. 99–122). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781107447738.005.
- Smith, C. J. et al., 2020: Effective radiative forcing and adjustments in CMIP6. *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, **20**, 9591–9618, doi:10.5194/acp-20-9591-2020.
- Pincus, R., E. J. Mlawer, and J. S. Delamere, 2019: Balancing accuracy, efficiency, and flexibility in radiation calculations for dynamical models. *J. Adv. Modeling Earth Syst.*, **11**, 3074–3089, doi:10.1029/2019MS001621.
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- Mauritsen, T. et al., 2019: Developments in the MPI-M Earth System Model version 1.2 (MPI-ESM 1.2) and its response to increasing CO₂. *J. Adv. Modeling Earth Syst.*, **11**, 998–1138, doi:10.1029/2018MS001400.
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- Mauritsen, T. and R. Pincus, 2017: Committed warming inferred from observations. *Nature Clim. Change*, **7**, 652–655, doi:10.1038/nclimate3357.
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- Mauritsen, T. et al., 2012: Tuning the climate of a global model. *J. Adv. Model Earth Syst.*, **4**, M00A01. doi:10.1029.2012MS000154.
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