Interactive comment on “The Effects of Sea Spray and Atmosphere–Wave Coupling on Air–Sea Exchange during Tropical Cyclone” by Nikhil Garg et al.

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Received and published: 1 November 2017

The paper is an effort to demonstrate the effect of waves and sea-spray on development of a tropical cyclone within a coupled wind-wave model. The similar estimations for the effect of waves or spray are known from literature. This paper combines wind, waves and spray all together basing on recent models of coupling processes. The model presented in the paper can be better considered as the description of the instrument for investigation effects of coupling in air sea boundary layer, than a piece of study elucidating physical processes of the coupling. The main problem of this kind of modeling is strong uncertainty in elements of the models namely, 1) uncertainty of the
drag coefficient of the sea surface at hurricane wind speed; 2) poor quality of modeling surface waves at hurricanes (for example, DIA approximation widely used for nonlinear 4-wave coupling in wave field gives strong errors at hurricane winds); 3) uncertainty of the spray generation function given by different authors is about 3 orders of magnitude. 4) whitecap fraction is also strongly uncertain. 5) uncertainty in coefficients $\tilde{A}_a$, $\tilde{A}_c$ and $\tilde{A}_g$ describing the feedback effect of spray-mediated fluxes.

And the authors understand well the existing uncertainties, especially in the sea-spray physics. Investigating the sensitivity of the model to the uncertainties in its elements will help to understand the importance of this issues. 1) The model demonstrates strong sensitivity to the presence of waves. First, this fact needs explanation from the physical point of view. Second, investigation of sensitivity the wave model is strongly desirable, in particular sensitivity to the wind source term and wind dissipation term. 2) Authors’ estimations of the thermodynamic feedback coefficients $\tilde{A}_a$, $\tilde{A}_c$ and $\tilde{A}_g$ are in significant contract with another papers (eg., Andreas et al, 2008; Mueller, Veron, 2014). In this connection sensitivity study to the thermal feedback coefficients is needed. 3) Sensitivity study to spray generation function is also desirable.

Explanation of the effect of spray on momentum exchange is to brief. An equation for the horizontal velocity of spray droplet before falling back in ocean in Eq.(13) is needed. Besides, the starting lines of paragraph 2.2.3 consists of qualitative discussion of the effect of spray on momentum exchange in atmospheric boundary layer, but no quantitative description is given. It definitely should be explained in some details. Possibly some related references should be added:

Kudryavtsev V, Makin V (2011) Impact of ocean spray on the dynamics of the

Summing up, I recommend major revision of the paper to address the above issues.