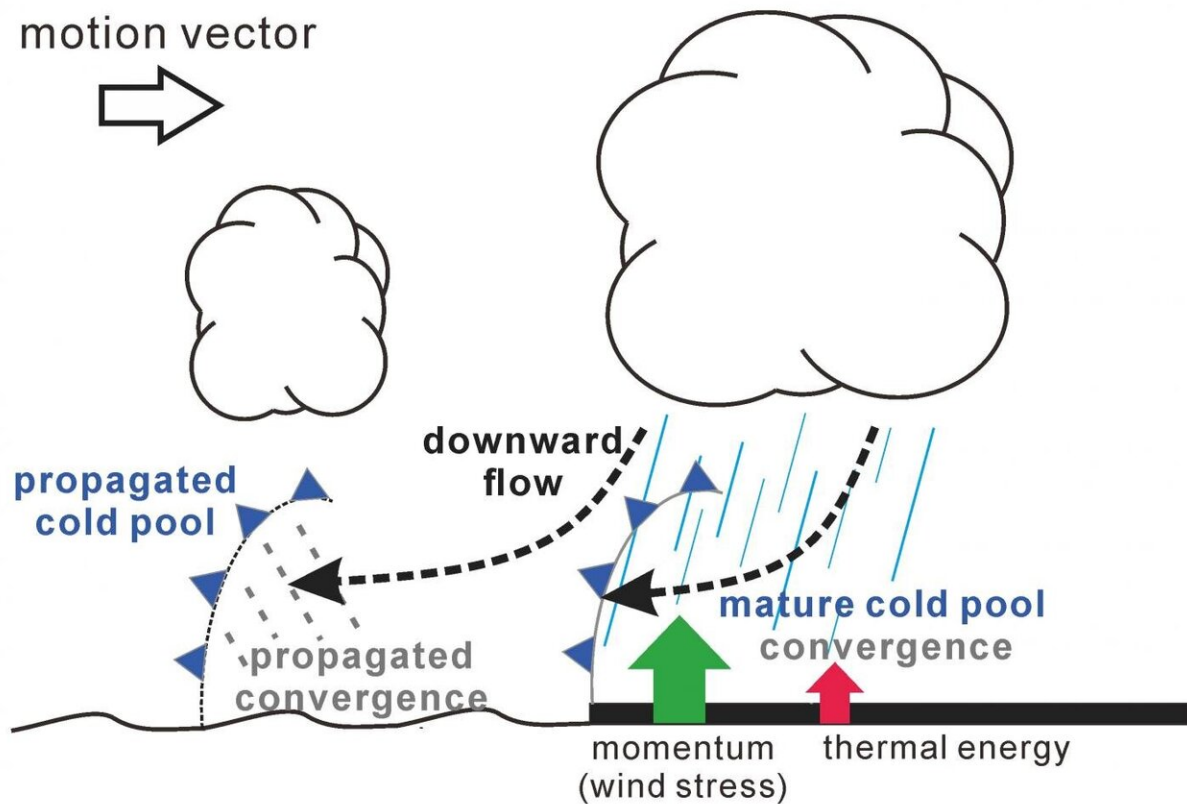


Steep momentum gradients play a major role in coastal precipitation

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A schematic diagram of coastal precipitation in the western coastal region of Korea. Credit: Dong-In Lee

Steep gradients of wind stress and potential temperature enable sustainable nearshore precipitation systems along the western coastal

region of Korea, according to Prof. Dong-In Lee, lead scientist at the Group of Environmental Atmospheric Research (GEAR), Pukyong National University, and one of the authors of a recently published study.

"Coastal precipitation, which refers to the occurrence of heavy precipitation in coastal areas, has always been an interesting study area, but it is difficult to prove its cause from the mesoscale point of view, although surface discontinuity is known to play an important role," says the corresponding author of the study, Prof. Lee. "In order to reveal the effect of surface discontinuity on coastal precipitation from the mesoscale perspective, we investigated the process of momentum transportation using the radar-retrieved wind field and a model experiment."

By using [observational data](#) from two S-band radars, C-band radar, and surface weather variables, Prof. Dong-In Lee and his team—a group of researchers from GEAR at Pukyong National University, the New and Renewable Energy Resource Center at the Korea Institute of Energy Research, and the Storm, Flood and Landslide Research Department at the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience—have had their findings on the causes of coastal precipitation in the western region of Korea published in *Advances of Atmospheric Sciences*.

In order to verify the effect of surface discontinuity in the coastal region, the team investigated coastal precipitation on 26 July 2011. Using three-dimensional wind fields and model experiments, they proved the effect of surface discontinuity on sustainable precipitation systems.

Radar analysis clearly showed that a change in wind at the surface border played an important role in the development of the nearshore convection

system. The simulation results, which were very similar to the observations, showed that the surface border generated and maintained the convergence zone. The surface roughness change enhanced the convergence, and the interaction between the deepening cold pool and downward flow maintained the convergence zone. The surface mechanical discontinuity affected by the roughness change between sea and land formed the convergence, which induced energy transfer.

Prof. Lee believes that "The presence of the coast can contribute to sustaining precipitation. A key point of the paper is that changes of roughness can contribute to the sustained development of precipitation in [coastal areas](#). We are preparing an idealized experiment based on the results of this study and will investigate the microphysical processes of coastal [precipitation](#) through DSD [drop size distribution] observations in the future."

More information: Jung-Tae Lee et al, Analysis of Determinants for an Enhanced and Long-lasting Coastal Convective System by Means of a Case Study (26 July 2011), *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* (2019).
[DOI: 10.1007/s00376-019-9025-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00376-019-9025-x)

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