Assessing Memory in Convection Schemes Using Idealized Tests

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Abstract

Two assumptions commonly applied in convection schemes—the diagnostic and quasi-equilibrium assumptions—imply that convective activity (e.g., convective precipitation) is controlled only by the large-scale (macrostate) environment at the time. In contrast, numerical experiments indicate a "memory" or dependence of convection also on its own previous activity whereby subgrid-scale (microstate) structures boost but are also boosted by convection. In this study we investigated this memory by comparing single-column model behavior in two idealized tests previously executed by a cloud-resolving model (CRM). Conventional convection schemes that employ the diagnostic assumption fail to reproduce the CRM behavior. The memory-capable org and LMDZ cold pool schemes partially capture the behavior, but fail to fully exhibit the strong reinforcing feedbacks implied by the CRM. Analysis of this failure suggests that it is because the CRM supports a linear (or superlinear) dependence of the subgrid structure growth rate on the precipitation rate, while the org scheme assumes a sublinear dependence. Among varying versions of the org scheme, the growth rate of the org variable representing subgrid structure is strongly associated with memory strength. These results demonstrate the importance of parameterizing convective memory, and the ability of idealized tests to reveal shortcomings of convection schemes and constrain model structural assumptions.

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Key Points:

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		Conserved a server strategy and the server started and the server started in the server started in the server started and the server star
8	•	Several convection schemes were tested via two recently proposed, idealized ex-
9		periments designed to isolate memory-like behavior
10	•	All schemes either fail to show any such behavior, or show weaker memory than
11		an explicit cloud-resolving model
12	•	By fitting simple equation sets to the results, structural assumptions and param-
13		eters related to subgrid memory processes can be constrained

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14 Abstract

Two assumptions commonly applied in convection schemes—the diagnostic and quasi-15 equilibrium assumptions—imply that convective activity (e.g., convective precipitation) 16 is controlled only by the large-scale (macrostate) environment at the time. In contrast, 17 numerical experiments indicate a "memory" or dependence of convection also on its own 18 previous activity whereby subgrid-scale (microstate) structures boost but are also boosted 19 by convection. In this study we investigated this memory by comparing single-column 20 model behavior in two idealized tests previously executed by a cloud-resolving model (CRM). 21 Conventional convection schemes that employ the diagnostic assumption fail to repro-22 duce the CRM behavior. The memory-capable org and LMDZ cold pool schemes par-23 tially capture the behavior, but fail to fully exhibit the strong reinforcing feedbacks im-24 plied by the CRM. Analysis of this failure suggests that it is because the CRM supports 25 a linear (or superlinear) dependence of the subgrid structure growth rate on the precip-26 itation rate, while the org scheme assumes a sublinear dependence. Among varying ver-27 sions of the org scheme, the growth rate of the org variable representing subgrid struc-28 ture is strongly associated with memory strength. These results demonstrate the impor-29 tance of parameterizing convective memory, and the ability of idealized tests to reveal 30 shortcomings of convection schemes and constrain model structural assumptions. 31

32 Plain Language Summary

33 Convection (clouds) has memory, can remember its own history, and is affected by it when evolving to the next step. However, this memory effect is often neglected in con-34 vection schemes, which are approximate sub-models used to represent (parameterize) con-35 vective processes in climate models whose resolutions are too low to properly resolve con-36 vection. In this study we apply two simple tests to probe the memory behavior of var-37 ious convection schemes. We found that most conventional schemes fail to mimic the mem-38 ory response of a cloud-resolving model (CRM) where convection is properly represented. 39 In two schemes where memory is parameterized, their responses are more similar but still 40 bear significant differences to the CRM. We show that this discrepancy can be explained 41 by the equations used in these schemes. For one of the schemes, we also found that the 42 strength of memory is related to the growth rate of the memory variable, rather than 43 its absolute value. Overall, our results demonstrate the importance of taking memory 44 into account in convection schemes, and show that the two tests implemented here are 45 simple but useful in shining light on potential shortcomings of convection schemes and 46 hence also ways to improve them. 47

48 1 Introduction

Cumulus convection is a key process in tropical climate dynamics and plays a cru-49 cial role in transporting and redistributing momentum, heat and moisture in the atmo-50 sphere. It is a complex process that involves a multitude of time and spatial scales. In 51 general circulation models (GCMs), the impact of unresolved convective processes on re-52 solved scales is accomplished through parameterization. Despite great strides in recent 53 years (Villalba-Pradas & Tapiador, 2022; Rio et al., 2019), convective parameterization 54 remains an important source of uncertainty in GCMs (Stephens et al., 2010; Stevens & 55 Bony, 2013). 56

Two structural assumptions or approximations that are commonly applied in convection schemes and relevant to the present study are the diagnostic and quasi-equilibrium assumptions. The former states that convective activity at any given instant can be determined using solely the resolved grid-scale variables at that instant via an unspecified function (typically different in different schemes) and that there is no conditional dependence of convection on its own history given the current grid-scale state. The latter assumes that convective instability generated by slowly-evolving large-scale forcing is quickly

consumed by fast-acting convective processes and is commonly used as a closure assump-64 tion in convection schemes (Arakawa & Schubert, 1974; Yanai et al., 1973; Yano & Plant, 65 2012). However, both assumptions do not fully capture what happens in reality because 66 convection takes a finite time to adjust to large-scale forcing (Arakawa & Schubert, 1974; 67 Pan & Randall, 1998), and is affected by pre-existing convection (Davies et al., 2009, 2013). 68 The fact that convection has inertia, can feel the influence of its own activity at an ear-69 lier time, and is modified by it, is termed the "memory" of convection (Davies et al., 2009). 70 Its parameterization is the focus of this study. 71

72 It is important to differentiate between two types of memory that have been identified in cloud-resolving model (CRM) studies: macro- and microstate memories (Colin 73 et al., 2019, henceforth C19). We refer to the memory effects arising from a changing 74 large-scale ("macrostate") environment as "macrostate memory". In the context of pa-75 rameterization, it represents the impact of processes that affect the mean profiles of a 76 single GCM grid cell over a finite time, relaxing the quasi-equilibrium assumption. It is 77 commonly taken into account in convection schemes via a finite "adjustment time scale" 78 of 1–5 h (Bechtold et al., 2008; Cohen & Craig, 2004; Kain, 2004; Xu & Randall, 1998). 79 In this study we are interested in another memory, which emerges due to small-scale ("mi-80 crostate") structures or heterogeneities within a GCM grid box (or within a CRM do-81 main), and is produced by but also promotes convection, the so-called "microstate mem-82 ory" (C19). These structures could arise as a consequence of individual clouds chang-83 ing their surroundings during their lifespans and manifest themselves as remnants of past 84 convective activity influencing the development of convection at the present time (Davies 85 et al., 2009, 2013). This type of memory arises from subgrid-scale processes that remain 86 unresolved in GCMs (but resolved in CRMs) and must therefore be parameterized. To 87 avoid confusion, memory in the present study refers to microstate memory. 88

Multiple CRM studies have shown that memory mainly resides in low-level ther-89 modynamic inhomogeneities (C19; Daleu et al., 2020; Davies et al., 2013). Two of these 90 studies are relevant to our analysis. To identify memory and its effects, C19 imposed an 91 instantaneous homogenization of the microstate structures (setting a given subset of prog-92 nostic variables to their domain-averaged values) and observed how convective activity 93 (precipitation) recovered after this homogenization. They found that memory is predom-94 inantly contributed by the water vapor and temperature microstructures (variability) 95 in the subcloud layer compared to winds and hydrometeors. A longer recovery time scale 96 was observed when convection is organized (> 24 h) than when disorganized (2-3 h). A 97 follow-up study by Colin and Sherwood (2021, henceforth CS21) explored the memory 98 behavior of a CRM when the macrostate is held fixed to its equilibrium mean state ("strongnudging" experiment). In this case convection displays a volatile behavior, with precip-100 itation either growing exponentially to an unrealistically large value or decaying to zero. 101 Additionally, the authors presented a two-variable, predator-prey model that was able 102 to capture this instability, as well as the CRM behavior in C19's homogenization exper-103 iment. Further description of the predator-prey model is presented in Section 3.3. 104

Despite the knowledge gained from CRM experiments it remains unclear how mem-105 ory should be parameterized, and a wide range of approaches have been attempted. These 106 include the introduction of prognostic variables that influence the evolution of various 107 scheme calculations such as entrainment (Mapes & Neale, 2011, henceforth MN11), clo-108 sure formulation (Pan & Randall, 1998; Randall & Pan, 1993), updraft area fraction (Gerard 109 et al., 2009), updraft and downdraft (Tan et al., 2018), convective vertical velocity (Guérémy, 110 2011), microphysics (Piriou et al., 2007); the explicit modeling of physical processes such 111 as cold pools (Del Genio et al., 2015; Grandpeix & Lafore, 2010; Park, 2014a, 2014b; Qian 112 et al., 1998), cloud lifecycles (Sakradzija et al., 2015, 2016), evolution of thermal clus-113 ters (Neggers & Griewank, 2021, 2022); the use of Markov chains (Hagos et al., 2018; 114 Khouider et al., 2010; Peters et al., 2013) and cellular automata (CA) (Bengtsson et al., 115 2013, 2021); the adoption of machine learning algorithms such as convolutional and re-116

current neural networks to capture temporal dependencies (Caseri et al., 2022; Y. Han
et al., 2020); and embedding CRM in GCM grid cells through super-parameterization
(Khairoutdinov & Randall, 2001; Khairoutdinov et al., 2005; Pritchard et al., 2011). Given
the immense diversity in memory parameterizations, we deem it an important task to
design tests in a simple and intuitive framework to probe the behavior and potentially
reveal the shortcomings of current schemes. It is therefore the goal of this paper to examine two convection schemes with memory using two idealized tests.

The first convection scheme is the UW-org scheme, which we briefly describe here 124 and refer to MN11 for in-depth details. The scheme is based on the University of Wash-125 ington (UW) shallow convection scheme implemented in the Community Atmosphere 126 Model (CAM5), which is a single-plume mass flux scheme (Park & Bretherton, 2009). 127 The modified UW-org scheme is conceptualized as a unified (shallow and deep) scheme. 128 Memory is parameterized via the introduction of a new prognostic orq variable meant 129 to capture the effects of subgrid-scale structures on convective processes such as entrain-130 ment rate and closure. While an arbitrary number of plumes can be computed, the cur-131 rent implementation contains only two plumes that are computed sequentially, and whose 132 mass fluxes and area coverages are combined to determine the total precipitation and 133 other convective tendencies. Entrainment rates and plume base conditions (temperature 134 and humidity) may differ between the plumes, and thus may also the heights the plumes 135 reach. org is a 2D, dimensionless variable whose prognostic equation is given by 136

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$$\frac{\mathrm{l}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t} = S - \frac{(org)}{\tau_{org}} \tag{1}$$

where S is the source of org (defined as the mass-weighted vertically integrated rain evaporation rate in kg m⁻² s⁻¹ times evap2org, an adjustable parameter) and $\tau_{\rm org}$ its characteristic time scale. Following MN11, we set evap2org to 2 m² kg⁻¹ and $\tau_{\rm org}$ to 10 ks (~3 h). We elaborate further on the effects of org on entrainment rate and closure in Section 2.2.

The second scheme we tested is the cold pool (CP) scheme in the Laboratoire de 143 Météorologie Dynamique Zoom (LMDZ) model (Grandpeix & Lafore, 2010). This scheme 144 represents spreading circular cold pools fed by precipitation evaporation in unsaturated 145 downdrafts. Their dynamics follows that of a density current: they convert gravitational 146 potential energy into kinetic energy. These cold pools impact convection in three ways. 147 First, their negative buoyancy provides energy to trigger deep convection via mechan-148 ical lifting. Second, cold pool edges act as gust fronts and provide power for the convec-149 tive closure via an Available Lifting Power (ALP), which is proportional to total cold 150 pool perimeter and increases with cold pool spread speed. Third, cold pools create two 151 subgrid-scale environments: the colder cold pool environment seen by downdrafts, and 152 the warmer exterior seen by updrafts in the convection scheme. The cold pools are prog-153 nostic, and their memory comes from their density current properties. The prognostic 154 memory variables are the cold pool temperature and humidity anomalies, as well as the 155 total cold pool surface area. A summary of the main cold pool governing equations is 156 presented in Grandpeix et al. (2010). 157

The overarching goal of this study is to examine and improve understanding of the memory behavior of the UW-*org* and LMDZ-CP schemes by using a single-column model (SCM) setup and comparing their responses to those of previously published CRM results (C19 and CS21). The specific research questions addressed are:

- How do convection schemes respond when we fix the large-scale environment, i.e.,
 disable the feedback between micro- and macrostates?
 - 2. How do convection schemes respond when we homogenize their microstate structures carrying memory?
- 3. How do their above responses compare to those of (1) schemes with no microstate
 memory, and (2) a CRM where convection is resolved?

168 2 Methods

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2.1 Models and Simulation Setup

Two models in their SCM setup were used in this study: the Weather Research and 170 Forecasting (WRF) and LMDZ models. WRF uses the Advanced Research WRF (ARW) 171 fully compressible, Eulerian non-hydrostatic solver (version 4.0.2; Skamarock et al., 2019). 172 The LMDZ model is the atmospheric component of the IPSL global climate model. Here 173 we used the LMDZ5B+ version of the model, which is based on the CMIP5 version (LMDZ5B; 174 Hourdin et al., 2013) but with additional developments (revision 2420). As reference we 175 used previously published WRF CRM results (202×202 grid points, horizontal reso-176 lution of 1 km; see C19 and CS21) and closely followed their simulation setup for our 177 SCM experiments, which we briefly summarize below. 178

The control simulations were conducted under non-rotating, radiative-convective equilibrium (RCE) conditions with the Coriolis parameter set to zero. An ocean surface was used, with a fixed SST of 302 K. In WRF SCM, a stretched vertical grid spacing with 74 model levels was used, with model bottom at around 40 m and model top at around 33 km. In LMDZ, another stretched vertical grid spacing was used, with 79 vertical levels, ranging from 10 m to 80 km.

In terms of convective parameterization, for this study we have imported into WRF 185 the UW-org scheme originally developed for the CAM5 model. We also tested in WRF 186 five standard convection schemes without memory: the Zhang-McFarlane (ZM; G. Zhang 187 & McFarlane, 1995), Kain-Fritsch (KF; Kain, 2004), New-Tiedtke (NT; C. Zhang & Wang, 188 2017), New-Simplified Arakawa-Schubert (NSAS; J. Han & Pan, 2011), and Betts-Miller-189 Janjic (BMJ; Betts, 1986; Betts & Miller, 1986; Janjić, 1994) schemes. The LMDZ SCM 190 uses a modified version of the mass flux deep convection scheme of Emanuel (1991) and 191 Emanuel and Živković-Rothman (1999). In particular, the triggering and closure were 192 completely overhauled (Rio et al., 2013) so that both the cold pool scheme (Grandpeix 193 & Lafore, 2010) and the thermal plume scheme (Rio & Hourdin, 2008) control trigger-194 ing and closure. Therefore, convection is tightly governed by subgrid, subcloud layer pro-195 cesses (Mapes, 1997; Hourdin et al., 2020). For the other parameterizations, in WRF we 196 used the RRTMG longwave and shortwave radiation schemes (Iacono et al., 2008), the 197 WSM6 microphysics scheme (Hong & Lim, 2006), the YSU planetary boundary layer (PBL) 198 scheme (Hong et al., 2006) which also computes the vertical diffusion due to turbulence. 199 and the revised MM5 surface layer scheme based on Monin-Obukhov theory for surface 200 fluxes computations (Jiménez et al., 2012). In the LMDZ runs, the radiation scheme is 201 from an older ECMWF weather forecast model (Morcrette, 1991). Boundary layer tur-202 bulence is handled by a prognostic turbulent kinetic energy diffusion scheme based on 203 Yamada (1983) as well as by the mass flux thermal plume model. LMDZ also includes a large-scale condensation-precipitation-evaporation scheme and a gravity wave param-205 eterization (Hourdin et al., 2013, 2020). In WRF, diurnal cycles were removed by set-206 ting the solar constant to 544 W m⁻² and a fixed solar zenith angle of 37° to simulate 207 equatorial conditions. In LMDZ, the diurnal cycle of radiation was similarly removed. 208 The simulations were run for 1,000 days in WRF and 60 days in LMDZ, thereafter two 209 types of perturbations were applied, described in Sections 2.3 and 2.4. 210

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2.2 UW-org and LMDZ Cold Pool Schemes

²¹² In the UW-*org* scheme, the *org* variable can have several effects on convection (see ²¹³ Figure 1 in MN11). We focused on two of them: entrainment rate and closure. The frac-²¹⁴ tional entrainment (ϵ) and detrainment (δ) rates per unit height in this scheme are given ²¹⁵ by

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_o \chi_c^{\ 2},\tag{2}$$

 $\delta = \epsilon_o(1)$

$$\delta = \epsilon_o (1 - \chi_c)^2, \tag{3}$$

where χ_c is the critical mixing fraction of environmental air in the parcels depending on 219 height (see equation B1 in Bretherton, McCaa, & Grenier, 2004), ϵ_o (m⁻¹) is the frac-220 tional mixing rate and is inversely proportional to height following a common formula-221 tion in literature (de Roode et al., 2000; Holloway & Neelin, 2009; Siebesma et al., 2007). 222 i.e., $\epsilon_o = r/z$. For the 1st plume r is an empirical constant (r_1) and set to a large value 223 following the original UW shallow scheme (entrainment rates are usually larger in shal-224 low convection schemes), while r for the 2nd plume (r_2) undergoes org modification fol-225 lowing the equation 226

$$r_2 = \frac{r_1}{1 + org \cdot org2rkm},\tag{4}$$

where *org2rkm* is a unitless parameter. Simply put, the *org*-modulated entrainment rate impacts convection development via its changing effect over time: during early stages when rain rates are small (small *org* values, as rain evaporation is a source of *org*) big entrainment rates suppress convection and promote the development of large-scale variability (i.e., organization), while in later stages large rain rates (large *org* values) lead to reduced entrainment rates that encourage deeper convection that stabilizes the column.

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The second *org* effect we explored is its impact on cloud-base mass flux (CBMF; i.e., closure), which is computed as

$$M_b = M_{b,1}(1 + org \cdot org2cbmf),$$

(5)

where org2cbmf is a unitless parameter, $M_{b,1}$ is the CBMF of the 1st plume (given by Eq. A3 in Park & Bretherton, 2009). The sinking of chilled air from downdrafts can potentially trigger convection by influencing plume base vertical velocity. This has the effect of larger CBMFs on rainy days when *org* values are big and the plumes have a higher probability of overcoming convective inhibition (CIN) and attaining their level of free convection (the scheme closure is based on CIN).

We tested a few *org* configurations by changing and combining the *org2rkm* and *org2cbmf* parameters. For brevity, we refer to the cases where only the *org2rkm* parameter was changed as "WRF-RKM" and those where both *org2rkm* and *org2cbmf* were changed as "WRF-RKMCBMF".

For the LMDZ cold pool scheme, the version used here represents a population of circular, identical cold pools of radius r. The cold pools are assumed to have a fixed number density D_{CP} (m⁻²) which sets how many cold pools there are per unit area. Hence, they occupy a relative surface area

$$\sigma_{CP} = D_{CP} \pi r^2. \tag{6}$$

Cold pools can expand horizontally at a horizontal spread speed C following a simple geometrical relation:

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{CP}}{\partial t} = 2C\sqrt{\pi D_{CP}\sigma_{CP}},\tag{7}$$

although their expansion is capped as soon as they reach the maximum allowed relative surface area $\sigma_{CP,max} = 0.4$.

²⁵⁸ Cold pools are characterized by the vertical profile of their potential temperature ²⁵⁹ and humidity differences with the external air around them (θ' and q'). Since they are ²⁶⁰ denser than their environment, cold pools have a downward vertical velocity which is trans-²⁶¹ formed into horizontal spread speed C which can then be converted into upward motion ²⁶² at the cold pool edge. The total energy available for this mechanical process is the in-²⁶³ tegrated negative buoyancy in cold pools, called ALE (Available Lifting Energy):

$$ALE = -g \int_0^{h_{CP}} \frac{\delta\theta_v}{\bar{\theta}_v} \, dz,\tag{8}$$

where h_{CP} is the cold pool height, g gravity, θ_v virtual temperature, and θ_v denotes the grid cell mean θ_v . Deep convection is triggered when ALE > |CIN| (ALE being the largest between the ALE provided by cold pools and the ALE provided by PBL thermals), i.e., when PBL processes are strong enough to erode boundary layer stability. In particular, PBL thermals may trigger convection only if a stochastic triggering condition is fulfilled (Bochotin Couvrey et al. 2014; Bochotin Crandpoir et al. 2014)

(Rochetin, Couvreux, et al., 2014; Rochetin, Grandpeix, et al., 2014).

The experimental cases in this study are listed in Table 1.

Model	Convection scheme	Case name	org parame- ters	Description
	Standard WRF convection schemes	ZM, KF, NT, NSAS, BMJ	-	Conventional convection schemes in WRF
WRF	UW-org	rkm0	org2rkm = 0	Two identical plumes, no <i>org</i> effects (memory) in 2nd plume
		rkm10 rkm20 rkm30 rkm10cbmf10 rkm20cbmf10 rkm30cbmf10	$\begin{array}{l} {\rm org2rkm} = 10 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 20 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 30 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 10, \\ {\rm org2cbmf} = 10 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 20, \\ {\rm org2cbmf} = 10 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 30, \\ {\rm org2cbmf} = 10 \end{array}$	– – 2nd plume has <i>org</i> effe –
LMDZ	Cold pool + Modified Emanuel/ALP/AI schemes	LMDZ-CP JE	-	LMDZ5B+ ver- sion, settings for tropical ocean

 Table 1. Models and experimental cases in this study

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2.3 FixMacro Experiment

We first consider the "strong-nudging" experiment by CS21, where the macrostate 273 was fixed to its RCE mean. In the WRF CRM of CS21, this was achieved by applying 274 a tendency term for potential temperature (θ) , water vapor mixing ratio (q) and hor-275 izontal winds (u, v) uniformly in (x, y) at each model level, proportional to the differ-276 ence between the horizontal mean field and a target profile, with a short nudging time 277 scale of 40 s (see Eq. 1 in CS21). The idea is that if the diagnostic assumption used in 278 convection schemes were true—using CS21's notation, convective activity C were related 279 to the macrostate ξ via a function $(f): C(\mathbf{x}, t) = f[\xi(\mathbf{x}, t)]$ —convective activity would 280 remain unchanged while the macrostate is held fixed. In the presence of microstate mem-281 ory, however, in addition to its dependence on the large-scale environment convection 282 also remembers its own history. That is, $(f) : C(\mathbf{x},t) = f[\xi(\mathbf{x},t), C(\mathbf{x},t-1)]$, and 283 convection will not remain unchanged but will evolve in time under the influence of the 284 macrostate rather than being determined by it instantaneously. Fixing the macrostate 285 hence serves as a simple and direct test for microstate memory. 286

In the WRF SCM we emulate this experiment of CS21 via our fixed-macrostate 287 ("FixMacro") experiment. Instead of nudging as in CS21, however, we restarted the SCM 288 from its control macrostate so as to call the convection schemes with identical input pro-289 files of thermodynamic and wind fields at every time step. This FixMacro approach achieved 290 the desired result more directly and was feasible in the WRF SCM due to the model's 291 modular design. We modified the code of the convection schemes such that at every time 292 step the prognostic variables received by the schemes were overwritten with the values 293 from specific target profiles. An ensemble of twenty FixMacro experiments was run, each 294 with a target profile taken from a 20-day average of the unperturbed control run at a 295 different time interval. We also attempted these SCM experiments using the CRM strong-296 nudging method, which yielded similar results (not shown). 297

Note that this FixMacro part of the experiment was only conducted in the WRF and not LMDZ SCM because in LMDZ it was technically challenging to directly fix the prognostic variables received by the convection scheme specifically.

2.4 HomoMicro Experiment

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We next consider the "HomoMicro" experiment based on C19, where the WRF CRM 302 control runs were restarted from an equilibrated RCE state and subsets of prognostic 303 variables (T, q, u, v and others) were horizontally homogenized to their domain-mean 304 values at restart. This keeps the macrostate unchanged while essentially wiping out their 305 microstate structures or memory. The equivalent with parameterized physics would be 306 to set internal prognostic or "memory" variables to some reference value (e.g., zero). In 307 the UW-org scheme there is a single such variable org, while in the LMDZ cold pool scheme 308 there are prognostic cold pool temperature and moisture anomalies (T' and q'). For WRF 309 UW-org we ran one test setting org to zero, while with LMDZ we ran three tests, ze-310 roing either the T', the q', or both. An ensemble of 20 HomoMicro simulations was con-311 ducted for each test, as for FixMacro. Note that this part of the study cannot be con-312 ducted for the five standard WRF convection schemes, as they do not contain a microstate 313 memory variable, so they implicitly predict no change after homogenization. A diagram 314 of the control, FixMacro and HomoMicro experiments is shown in Figure 1. 315



Figure 1. Diagram of the macro- and microstate feedbacks for the (a) control, (b) FixMacro (holding macrostate constant at every time step), and (c) HomoMicro (setting memory variable to zero at one time step) experiments. Green positive and red negative symbols indicate, respectively, positive and negative feedbacks on convection C or on environmental instability ξ favoring C. Italicized words are parameters in the UW-*org* scheme (see text for description).

316 **3** Results and Discussion





Figure 2. RCE steady state profiles of (a) relative humidity (RH) for the CRM and various SCM configurations (for WRF SCM, only the ZM and UW-*org* schemes are shown), (b, c) mass fluxes of the 1st and 2nd plumes of the various UW-*org* configurations for the WRF SCM, and (d, e) temperature and moisture anomalies inside cold pools for the LMDZ SCM.

To illustrate the main features of the various model configurations we show the RCE 318 mean state profiles of the relative humidity (RH) of the CRM, LMDZ and WRF SCM 319 (for the standard convection schemes only ZM is shown as the other schemes have been 320 presented in Hwong et al. (2021)), updraft mass flux of each plume in the WRF UW-321 org SCM, and the cold pool temperature and moisture anomalies of the LMDZ SCM, 322 in Figure 2. There is a spread of around 20% of near-surface RH among the SCMs (panel 323 a), with LMDZ displaying the moistest low-level profile (around 90%). This spread is 324 comparable to that seen in previous SCM intercomparisons (e.g., Hwong et al., 2021; Wing 325 et al., 2020). Hwong et al. (2021) found a difference of around 30% at near-surface lev-326 els even with constrained surface fluxes and a prescribed radiative profile in all models, 327

and attributed this spread to the different parameterizations (primarily convection schemes) 328 used in the SCMs. The CRM near-surface RH profile lies close to the middle of the SCM 329 spread while in the free troposphere it is significantly moister. For the UW-org cases, 330 configurations with smaller entrainment rates (larger org2rkm values) display a drier free 331 tropospheric mean state, suggesting more precipitation-efficient convection and hence 332 stronger net drying. The addition of org effects also appears to attenuate the sharp changes 333 (kinks) in RH profile around the freezing level frequently seen in convection schemes (Hwong 334 et al., 2021), here apparent in the profiles of WRF-ZM and LMDZ-CP. This suggests that 335 the UW-org scheme might be more capable of handling state transitions, perhaps be-336 cause its memory effects contribute to the exploration of a wider variety of states. We 337 further note that the spread of RH in the troposphere here is smaller than reported in 338 previous model intercomparisons, which indicates that—although it does have signifi-339 cant impact—changing the org settings is less impactful than changing convection schemes. 340

The mass flux profiles of the two plumes in the UW-org scheme cases are shown 341 in panels b and c. For the rkm0 case (two identical plumes and no org effect) the two 342 plumes display the same mass flux profiles, while for the other cases a "division of la-343 bor" mechanism develops between the plumes: the 2nd plume, with its reduced entrain-344 ment due to the *org2rkm* effect, takes up the role of deep convection (deeper than in rkm0) 345 while the 1st plume, with its high entrainment rate as determined by the default UW 346 shallow convection scheme parameters, assumes the function of shallow convection (con-347 fined below 850 hPa). Further, the addition of org effects in the closure (via org2cbmf; 348 dashed lines in Figure 2) manifests itself in the larger mass flux of the 2nd plume around 349 the cloud-base. 350

The cold pool temperature (T') and moisture (q') anomaly profiles of LMDZ-CP 351 are shown in panels d and e. The profiles show a cold and moist anomaly at the surface 352 levels, illustrating the effect of cold pools on the thermodynamic microstate of the model. 353 Colder, drier, and deeper cold pools are more powerful to trigger convection and to pro-354 vide upward mass flux for the closure (Eq. 8). The cold pools here in this particular RCE 355 configuration are fairly shallow and not very cold, but this is enough to have some in-356 fluence on future convection. In particular, cold pools in this simulation are always dom-357 inant over thermals to trigger convection. Stronger updrafts and downdrafts both cre-358 ate a more distinct situation between cold pools and their environment. Therefore, the 359 stronger the unsaturated downdrafts given by the convection scheme, the colder the cold 360 pools. And likewise, the stronger the updrafts, the colder the cold pools. 361

3.2 Response to Fixed Macrostate Perturbation



Figure 3. The FixMacro ensemble-averaged responses of normalized (a) precipitation of the WRF-ZM and WRF UW-*org* cases, (b) integrated updraft mass flux and (c) *org* for the WRF UW-*org* cases. The response of one of the CRM ensemble members (growing to ~3000 mm d⁻¹) is shown in thick black line and in dashed black line the same response rescaled to the maximum range of the SCMs. For the SCMs the ensemble members' responses are normalized by their respective RCE values when FixMacro begins, and the final responses are obtained by averaging over all members. The RCE values are ~4 mm d⁻¹ for P, ~0.3 kg m⁻¹ s⁻¹ for \int MF and ~0.1 for *org*. The CRM response is reproduced from CS21. ⓒ American Meteorological Society. Used with permission.

Figure 3 shows responses of the CRM and WRF SCM to the FixMacro experiment. 363 where the macrostate (large-scale environment) was held fixed to the RCE state. We first 364 briefly summarize the CRM results, which are described in detail in CS21. Around half 365 of the ensemble members (four out of nine) show exponential precipitation growth to un-366 physical values, an example of which is shown in Figure 3, while for the remaining mem-367 bers precipitation decays to zero. CS21 found the trajectory of precipitation (growth or 368 decay) depends on the target profile: members exhibiting growth behavior generally have 369 higher CAPE values compared to the decaying members. The authors referred to this 370 state of the model as an "unstable equilibrium in a thermodynamically fixed mean en-371 vironment". By restraining the macrostate—thus preventing it from freely evolving—we 372 are essentially overriding the natural negative feedback loop between the large-scale en-373 vironment and subgrid-scale activities (see Figure 1b). Under normal non-nudged cir-374 cumstances, instability caused by the large-scale environment (e.g., water vapor or CAPE) 375 would be rapidly eliminated by convective activity C (e.g., convective heating and dry-376

ing), hence maintaining a state of balance between the macro- and microstates. With-377 out this restoring branch in the system (red negative symbol in Figure 1), an unopposed 378 positive feedback loop established itself: a macrostate conducive (unfavorable) to con-379 380 vection results in increased (decreased) precipitation, boosting (weakening) microstate memory, which in turn enhances (reduces) precipitation. Cold pools, for example, are 381 a well-known source of microstate memory that are aided by the evaporation of rain and 382 aid convection themselves (Schlemmer & Hohenegger, 2016; Tompkins, 2001; Zuidema 383 et al., 2017). Further, CS21 also found low-level microstate structures (standard devi-384 ation of temperature and moisture at 2 m) to be the first variables to change during the 385 initial development of instability. These findings collectively suggest that boundary layer 386 inhomogeneities are the primary source of microstate memory. 387

For the WRF SCMs, precipitation remains constant as expected for the standard 388 convection schemes and rkm0 (two identical plumes and no orq effects) when the macrostate 389 is fixed (panel a), illustrative of the diagnostic assumptions in these cases, i.e., absence 390 of microstate memory. As the five standard schemes all behave the same way, we only 391 show the results of the ZM scheme here. For the cases with org effects, precipitation rates 392 exhibit an initial growth stage (between 2–10 h after FixMacro started), before stabi-393 lizing latest by around half a day. Similar to the CRM, either growth or decay in pre-394 cipitation rates was observed amongst the ensemble members, with a smaller proportion 395 showing decay (hence the overall growth shown in Figure 3). Precipitation and the org 396 variable appear to be monotonically related: precipitation grows amongst members where 397 org increases, and decays where org decreases. However, there are marked differences 398 between the response trajectory of the org cases and the CRM. Using rkm10 as an ex-399 ample, its response initially closely tracks that of the CRM, but starts to diverge from it by around 4 h. While the CRM's growth accelerates exponentially, rkm10's growth 401 appears to slow down and eventually stabilizes. We will further explore this discrepant 402 response between the CRM and UW-org scheme in Section 3.3. 403

For the UW-org cases where org affects entrainment only (WRF-RKM), we found 404 smaller entrainment rates (larger org2rkm) to be associated with more rapid precipitation-405 rate growth. This can be explained by stronger convection resulting from reduced mix-406 ing with environmental air, rendering a quicker feedback on the precipitation rate. The 407 eventual departure from RCE also appears to increase with smaller entrainment rate. 408 For the corresponding cases where *org* also affects the closure (e.g., rkm10 vs. rkm10cbmf10; 409 same-colored solid vs. dashed lines in Figure 3), faster initial precipitation growth rates 410 and larger eventual departures from RCE were observed, indicating that making the scheme's 411 closure prognostic via dependence on org acts to enhance convection, thereby speeding 412 up its reaction time. 413

We show in Figure 3 two additional variables that are useful to understand the pre-414 cipitation response: integrated updraft mass flux (panel b) and orq (panel c). The growth 415 shape of the integrated updraft mass flux bears strong qualitative resemblance to that 416 of precipitation (panel a), which is expected given the way the scheme diagnoses precip-417 itation: updraft condensates exceeding a critical mixing ratio (1 g kg^{-1}) are expelled as 418 precipitation (Bretherton, McCaa, & Grenier, 2004). As is common in mass flux schemes, 419 the mass flux profile is used to compute all thermodynamic variables, including the pre-420 cipitating condensates. Thus, precipitation is roughly proportional to the integral of mass 421 flux over the convecting layer. For *org*, its growing response is emblematic of the microstate 422 memory effect: org remembers its previous state and grows when precipitation grows, 423 since rain evaporation is a source of org. As mentioned, there appears to be a monotonic 424 relationship between org and precipitation, at least in the initial growth stages. Given 425 the fixed large-scale environment, this suggests that org (representing microstate mem-426 ory) is chiefly responsible for the precipitation growth, and vice versa. 427

3.3 Why Does the UW-org Scheme Respond Differently to the CRM?

The initial exponential growth or decay of the CRM FixMacro responses presented in Section 3.2 can be explained using a predator-prey (PP) model, as described in CS21, and which we briefly summarize here. For a detailed description of the PP model we refer readers to Section 3 of CS21. The three key equations of the PP model are

$$\frac{\partial R}{\partial t} = E_0 - P,\tag{9}$$

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$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = \alpha_{vp} P - \alpha_{damp} V, \tag{10}$$

$$P = \alpha_n R V, \tag{11}$$

where R represents aspects of the macrostate environment that are conducive to con-438 vection but are also consumed by it (e.g., CAPE or water vapor), V represents features 439 of microstate convective structures that stimulate convection and are stimulated by it 440 (convective memory), E_0 is the source of R, P is precipitation, and α_{damp} , α_{vp} and α_p 441 are the damping rate of V, sensitivity coefficient of V to P and of P to the other vari-442 ables, respectively. Under FixMacro conditions, Eq. (9) disappears. Substituting Eq. (11) 443 into (10) and fixing R to a constant R_0 (hereafter a zero subscript denotes the target Fix-444 Macro fixing values), combined with one of the steady state (RCE) solutions $R_{\rm rce} = \frac{\alpha_{\rm damp}}{\alpha_{\rm vp}\alpha_{\rm p}}$ 445

(see Eqs. 5-7 of CS21), we get

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = \alpha_{vp} \alpha_p (R_0 - R_{rce}) V, \qquad (12)$$

which predicts an exponential growth (if $R_o > R_{\rm rce}$) or decay (if $R_o < R_{\rm rce}$) of V (and P, since they are linearly related when R is fixed). Expressed in terms of quantities normalized by their RCE values, Eq. (12) can be reformulated as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\widehat{V}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \alpha_{damp} \left(a \,\widehat{V} - \widehat{V} \right),\tag{13}$$

where $\hat{V} = V/V_{\rm rce}$ and $a = R_0/R_{\rm rce}$. Numerical integration of the PP model under FixMacro conditions indeed produces qualitatively the initial exponential growth of the CRM simulations (Figure 6 of CS21). Hence, by comparing the UW-*org* scheme to the PP model, we can gain useful insights that may shed light on the FixMacro behavior of the scheme when compared to the CRM.

For the UW-*org* scheme, under FixMacro conditions we have observed a monotonic relationship between *P* and *org*, as presented in Section 3.2. For simplicity, and motivated by findings of previous studies (e.g., Kirsch et al., 2021; Kruse et al., 2022), we assume a linear approximation:

$$P = \beta \, org,\tag{14}$$

where β is the proportionality factor. Eq. (1), describing the UW-*org* scheme, is roughly equivalent to Eq. (10) of the PP model, with $V \equiv org$, $\alpha_{damp} \equiv 1/\tau_{org}$, and $\alpha_{vp}P \equiv evap2org$. *E*, where *E* is the mass-weighted vertical integral of rain evaporation rate and is proportional to (1 – RH) multiplied by the square root of *P* (Eq. A8 in Park & Bretherton, 2009). Replacing *org* with *V* and reformulated in terms of quantities normalized by their RCE values to ease comparison with the PP model, Eq. (1) can be simplified as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}V}{\mathrm{d}t} = \alpha_{damp} \left(b\sqrt{\widehat{V}} - \widehat{V} \right),\tag{15}$$

where $\alpha_{\text{damp}} = 1/\tau_{\text{org}}$ and $b = \frac{1 - \overline{\text{RH}_0}}{1 - \overline{\text{RH}_{\text{rce}}}}$, with overbar indicating vertical mean values (see Appendix A for a detailed derivation of Eq. 15).

Eq. (13) and (15) are equivalent versions of the prognostic equation for the mem-471 ory variable V in the PP model and UW-org scheme under FixMacro conditions. Ap-472 plying a damping rate α_{damp} of $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ the timeseries of \hat{V} predicted by numer-473 ical integration of the two equations for the growth (a, b > 1) and decay (a, b < 1) cases 474 are shown in Figure 4. The results bear strong qualitative resemblance to the simulated 475 P responses presented in Section 3.2 (noting that the timeseries of P would be qualita-476 tively similar to org or V given the assumption of their linear relationship). The impact 477 of a small mismatch between the target FixMacro and RCE values is initially the same: 478 for a = b, the P responses predicted by the PP model and the UW-org scheme initially 479 closely follow each. Their behavior begins to depart only when P has changed signifi-480 cantly. In the PP model, $\frac{dP}{dt}$ is linearly related to P, producing exponential growth, and no value of P can restore the balance between the growth and decay terms on the RHS 481 482 of Eq. (13) if a > 1 (or a < 1 for the decay case). This reproduces the exponential 483 growth (or decay) behavior observed in the CRM. By contrast, a negative feedback is 484 built into the UW-org scheme because the growth term (first term on the RHS of Eq. 485 15) increases more weakly with P than the damping term (second term on the RHS of 486 Eq. 15), which eventually brings the system toward a stable equilibrium. Note that this 487 behavior is valid given any sub-quadratic function P(org). In other words if $P = \beta org^{\lambda}$. 488 then as long as $\lambda < 2 \ \widehat{org}$ (and P) will eventually stagnate under FixMacro conditions, 489 as the source term in Eq. (1) will grow slower than the sink term. In our case, scatter-490 plots of model outputs from the FixMacro experiments show that P is approximately 491 linearly related to org (not shown), which supports our assumption of a linear relation-492 ship (Eq. 14). 493



Figure 4. Timeseries of memory variable \hat{V} under FixMacro conditions predicted by numerical integration of Eq. (13) of the PP model and Eq. (15) of the UW-*org* scheme for the (a) growth and (b) decay cases. Note that the PP curve displays an exponential trajectory similar to the CRM response shown in Figure 3 when integrated over a longer period of time, even though it appears linear within the 24 h shown here.

We further note that for the *org* growth (decay) case, the condition of b > 1 (b < 1) can only be met if the FixMacro target profile for RH is such that $\overline{\text{RH}}_0 < \overline{\text{RH}}_{\text{rce}}$ ($\overline{\text{RH}}_0 > \overline{\text{RH}}_{\text{rce}}$). Indeed, we found these conditions to be true for the respective growing and decaying ensemble members (not shown). Additionally, the *org* cases with faster growth rates generally also have larger average b values (e.g., rkm10 vs. rkm20 in Figure 3), consistent with the results shown in Figure 4.

500 Overall, our results provide strong evidence that the CRM supports a linear (or 501 superlinear) relationship between subgrid-scale structure growth rate and the current pre-502 cipitation rate. This implies that—given a linear damping—any scheme that predicts

a sublinear relationship would eventually stabilize under FixMacro conditions. The Fix-503 Macro perturbation described here can thus be applied as a simple test to probe the be-504 havior of convection schemes and constrain core modeling assumptions. Nevertheless, 505 several caveats must be noted. First, although our assumption that P is proportional 506 to org only captures the leading order qualitative behavior and is not exactly quantita-507 tively accurate, our goal is to probe whether the trajectory of P under FixMacro con-508 ditions can be understood from the scheme's structural assumptions. Our numerical re-509 sults presented here, albeit idealized, can shed light into how the P responses can be ex-510 plained by the scheme's governing equations. Second, by using the CRM as a benchmark, 511 we have made the implicit assumption that the scheme's more stable response is some-512 how an erroneous behavior compared to the CRM's exponential growth. Whether this 513 assumption is fair remains an open question. There are often sound operational reasons 514 to put in checks and balances in a convection scheme—however unrealistic or ad hoc though 515 they may be—to prevent simulations from crashing in a GCM (as an exponential pre-516 cipitation growth would be prone to do). Despite these caveats, it is nonetheless useful 517 to be able to verify that the scheme's FixMacro responses do indeed comply with its struc-518 tural assumptions, and that its discrepant response to the CRM can thus be explained. 519

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3.4 Response to Instantaneous Change in Microstate

Figure 5 shows the responses of the CRM and SCMs in the HomoMicro experiment 521 described in Section 2.4, in which subgrid-scale variabilities at RCE were homogenized 522 away at one time step without changing the column/domain average. We show a selec-523 tion of C19's CRM results in panel a. In most of these CRM cases, homogenization re-524 sults in a drop to (close to) zero in precipitation rates, which then recover to their re-525 spective RCE values over a certain time period, defined here as $t_{\rm mem}$ (black dots in Fig-526 ure 5). If convection were solely dependent on the macrostate, precipitation would re-527 cover almost instantly, as the homogenization step only affects the microstate. The time 528 the system takes to recover (t_{mem}) is hence a measure of the strength of the microstate 529 memory. In effect, the homogenization step removes the subgrid-scale structures that 530 are conducive to convection, hence the system needs to "start from scratch" and wait 531 for instability to build up again before precipitating. C19 found that memory is mostly 532 stored in thermodynamic heterogeneities, rather than winds or hydrometeors. In par-533 ticular, low-level water vapor variability is the dominant memory carrier. For simula-534 tions where convection is unorganized, homogenizing both T and q led to the longest re-535 covery time (2.5 h), followed by only T (2 h) and q (1.5 h) homogenization. In contrast 536 to the other variables, homogenizing T leads to an initial increase in precipitation. C19 537 explained this by noting that the precipitating locations usually have cold pools and hence 538 also a colder boundary layer. Homogenizing T therefore resulted in an increase in moist 539 static energy in these locations (instead of a decrease as when only q or both T and q540 were homogenized), leading to an increase in precipitation. Further, convective organ-541 ization leads to a drastic increase in memory, as seen in the significantly longer $t_{\rm mem}$'s 542 of the wind-shear organized (12 h) and self-aggregated (> 24 h) cases where both ther-543 modynamic quantities were homogenized. 544



Figure 5. The HomoMicro ensemble-averaged responses of precipitation of the (a) CRM, (b) LMDZ-CP, (c) WRF-RKM, and (d) WRF-RKMCBMF cases. The responses of the vertically integrated updraft mass flux of the (e) WRF-RKM and (f) WRF-RKMCBMF cases are also shown. Black dots indicate the times t_{mem} (x coordinates) when the responses first recover to the RCE values (y coordinates) in the respective control runs. The CRM responses are reproduced from C19. \bigcirc American Meteorological Society. Used with permission.

In the SCMs, we mimicked the CRM HomoMicro perturbation by setting the mem-545 ory variable(s) (org in the UW-org scheme in WRF, T' and/or q' in LMDZ-CP) to zero 546 at one time step. For LMDZ-CP (panel b), HomoMicro led to an initial growth instead 547 of reduction in precipitation for all three cases, with very similar $t_{\rm mem}$'s of 1–2 h, which 548 are comparable to the CRM's unorganized cases. We think that the increase in precip-549 itation of LMDZ-CP after HomoMicro is related to the fact that in all cases, the per-550 turbation increases ALP, which directly controls convection intensity (closure). Inter-551 estingly, the ALE (triggering) provided by cold pools is successfully decreased by Ho-552 moMicro for about 10 to 15 min when T' or both T' and q' are set to zero. Likewise, the 553

ALP provided by cold pools also decreases after HomoMicro for about 45 min for these 554 two tests. However, it is the ALP provided by the PBL thermals that dramatically in-555 creases for 15 min after HomoMicro and causes precipitation to first increase. After rain 556 increases, cold pools become colder, more powerful, and they partially maintain an ad-557 ditional supply of mass flux. In contrast to the diverse CRM responses to the three types 558 of homogenization (T, q or Tq), LMDZ-CP displays similar behavior in all three. The 559 CRM recovery time almost doubled when homogenizing both Tq compared to when only 560 T or q was homogenized, while in LMDZ-CP t_{mem} when both Tq were homogenized is 561 almost the same as when homogenizing only T. Analyses of the responses of cold pool 562 properties (T', q') and cold pool surface area) also show that homogenizing Tq and T only 563 led to almost identical behavior. Moreover, T homogenization has a clear impact on q', 564 but q homogenization did not affect T'. These results suggest that memory is mainly car-565 ried by the temperature variable in the LMDZ-CP scheme (Colin, 2020), as opposed to 566 a dominant moisture memory in the CRM. 567

For the UW-org cases with memory (panels c, d), the responses are strikingly sim-568 ilar to the CRM where both thermodynamic variables or only moisture were homoge-569 nized, with precipitation falling immediately almost to zero, then overshooting and fi-570 nally returning to RCE. Although both schemes employ rain evaporation as the mem-571 ory source, it appears that—in contrast to LMDZ-CP—the UW-org scheme emphasizes 572 a stronger moisture memory effect, reminiscent of the CRM response. The responses are 573 especially close to the wind-shear experiment in the CRM, which had an intermediate 574 level of convective organisation. Since org represents subgrid-scale variability (organi-575 zation) that both promotes and is promoted by convection, setting its value to zero is 576 akin to removing the self-enhancing effect of convection via its own memory (positive 577 feedback), hence precipitation takes time to build up again (see Figure 1c). As expected, 578 the rkm0 case (which does not contain memory) does not respond to the perturbation. 579 Similar to the FixMacro results, we again found the time evolutions of the integrated mass 580 flux (panels e, f) to be very similar to those of precipitation. Additionally, the cases with 581 longer recovery times here appear to correspond to those with slower precipitation growth 582 in the FixMacro experiment. For instance, rkm10 displays the longest recovery time here 583 and the slowest growth in the FixMacro experiment amongst the WRF-RKM cases. This 584 is also true for corresponding WRF-RKM and WRF-RKMCBMF cases: cases where org 585 also affects CBMF evolve more rapidly than their WRF-RKM counterparts in FixMacro 586 and also recover more quickly here. This shows that both experiments have managed to 587 capture similar aspects of memory, albeit via different perturbation methods. 588

For WRF-RKM, larger entrainment rates (smaller org2rkm) correspond to longer 589 $t_{\rm mem}$'s. As stronger dilution by entrainment suppresses convection, precipitation thus 590 takes a longer time to recover to its RCE values. In other words, entrainment acts as a 591 brake on convection: stronger entrainment means it takes more time for convective up-592 drafts to develop and evolve, hence a longer memory. For WRF-RKMCBMF, the ad-593 dition of org effects to the scheme's closure seems to attenuate the dilution by entrain-594 ment by providing an additional boost to convection, leading to quicker precipitation re-595 covery compared to the corresponding WRF-RKM cases. We could also interpret the 596 positive correlation between entrainment rate and $t_{\rm mem}$ in terms of convective organi-597 zation, whose effect the org variable is meant to capture: higher entrainment rates have 598 been found to correlate with more organized convection (Tompkins & Semie, 2017) and, 599 by extension, stronger memory. The longer recovery times revealed here for the UW-org 600 cases with smaller org2rkm values are therefore demonstrative of the function of org in 601 mimicking the effects of stronger convective organization / memory via higher entrain-602 ment rates. We explore the org variable further in Section 3.5. 603

3.5 Convective Memory and *org*

The HomoMicro experiment revealed that larger entrainment rates in the UW-org 605 scheme are related to longer $t_{\rm mem}$'s. An important question then is their relationship to 606 the org variable of the scheme: if org adequately represents the effects of subgrid-scale 607 heterogeneity, or convective organization, in principle it would be related to $t_{\rm mem}$. Here, 608 we explore the *org* variable and its relationship to convective memory. To improve sta-609 tistical confidence, we conducted four additional experiments with org2rkm = 40, 50 and 610 additionally paired them with org2cbmf = 10, resulting in a total of 10 simulations for 611 612 our analyses (excluding rkm0 run as it does not contain memory). Additionally, to account for the possibility that setting org to zero may represent disparate effects for cases 613 with different org_{rce} values (i.e., a configuration with larger org_{rce} value could display 614 bigger $t_{\rm mem}$ simply because of the stronger perturbation incurred when org is set to zero), 615 we conducted another set of experiments where we set org to a value equals to the re-616 spective RCE orq values minus 0.05, representing the same absolute change for all con-617 figurations. We refer to this set of experiment as ORG_ABS and to the experiments where 618 org is set to zero as ORG_ZERO. 619



Figure 6. Scatterplots of t_{mem} versus the (a) mean *org* values at RCE for the ORG_ZERO experiment, where *org* is set to zero, (b) same as panel a but for the ORG_ABS experiment, where *org* is set to the respective *org*_{rce} values minus 0.05, (c) \widehat{org} growth rate over one time step after HomoMicro begins for ORG_ZERO, and (d) same as panel c but for ORG_ABS.

Results are shown as scatterplots in Figure 6, where data from the final 300 days 620 of the 1000 days control simulations were used to derive the mean $org_{\rm rce}$ values (results 621 are not sensitive to the averaging period). For ORG_ZERO, we found a very high cor-622 relation between t_{mem} and the mean values of org_{rce} (r = 0.92, p < 0.001; panel a). 623 A weaker but still high negative correlation (r = -0.81, p = 0.005; panel c) was also 624 found between $t_{\rm mem}$ and the initial $d(\widehat{org})/dt$ immediately after HomoMicro was applied 625 (where $\widehat{org} = org/org_{rce}$ as described in Section 3.3), indicating that a slower org re-626 covery rate is associated with larger $t_{\rm mem}$. For ORG_ABS, the strong association between 627 $t_{\rm mem}$ and $org_{\rm rce}$ discovered for ORG_ZERO disappears (r = 0.45, panel b), but a mod-628 erately strong correlation remains between t_{mem} and the org growth rate (r = -0.77, 629 p = 0.01; panel d). Note that as the ORG_ABS results contain an outlier (rkm10), we 630 have computed the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, which is less sensitive to out-631 liers (Pearson's coefficient returns r values of 0.83 and -0.95 for panels b and d, respec-632 tively). With the exception of rkm10, the $t_{\rm mem}$'s for the ORG_ABS cases are significantly 633 more similar to each other (they are closer to each other in panels b and d) compared 634 to the ORG_ZERO cases, pointing to the possibility that the highly linear relationship 635 between $t_{\rm mem}$ and $org_{\rm rce}$ found for ORG_ZERO could be due to the more vigorous per-636 turbation the homogenization step has when there is more *org* to be homogenized, which 637 leads to longer recovery times. Overall, the robustness of the results between panels c 638 and d suggest that it is not the absolute value of orq but its rate of change that encodes 639 information about the memory strength of a system (before perturbation, it is the same 640 RCE system in c and d, so it should have the same memory). Further evidence for this 641 can be seen in the initial negative growth rates of a few configurations with the strongest 642 memory (longest t_{mem} 's) in the ORG_ABS experiment (panel d), indicating that org con-643 tinued to decrease (instead of immediately recovering as in other cases) after the instan-644 taneous homogenization step because of its higher inertia in these cases. 645

By changing the entrainment rates of the different cases via the org2rkm param-646 eter, org simulates the functionality of convective organization: higher entrainment rates 647 are associated with increased mixing of dry air into convecting plumes, resulting in the 648 confinement of convection to sufficiently moist regions and hence more organized con-649 vection and stronger memory. When HomoMicro is applied, cases with more feeble con-650 vection—owing to the larger entrainment rates—therefore display slower recovery. Note 651 that although the rkm10 (and rkm20 for HomoMicro) responses appear closest to those 652 of the CRM in both the FixMacro and HomoMicro experiments, we have refrained from 653 suggesting the "best" values for the org2rkm and org2cbmf parameters. As is usual for 654 parameterization, these are essentially tunable parameters and the most appropriate val-655 ues probably depend on the scenario that one wishes to simulate. Here, we merely demon-656 strate the relationship between entrainment rate and convective memory, facilitated via 657 the org variable. 658

659 4 Conclusions

The main objective of the present study is to evaluate the memory behavior of sev-660 eral configurations of the UW-org scheme as well as the LMDZ cold pool convection scheme, 661 with memory being defined as the dependence of convection on its own history given its 662 current environment, present in these schemes. As control (memory-less) cases we also 663 tested five conventional convection schemes. We compare the responses of these schemes 664 in a single-column model (SCM) setup to those of a cloud-resolving model (CRM) us-665 ing two idealized RCE experiments. The CRM results are taken from previously pub-666 lished studies (Colin et al., 2019; Colin & Sherwood, 2021), and include two tests: Fix-667 Macro, where we hold the macrostate environment of convection fixed and observe the 668 evolution of convection; and HomoMicro, where we reset subgrid prognostic variables to 669 neutral values at one time and observe the subsequent evolution as they recover. These 670 tests serve two purposes. As presented in the previous studies, they allow us to test the 671

diagnostic assumption where convective activity is assumed to be instantaneously and solely determined by the macrostate. As newly implemented here, they further allow us to differentiate between different possible parameterizations of convective memory processes.

The picture that emerges from these experiments can be summarized into three main 676 points. First, standard convection schemes that do not contain any internal prognostic 677 variables and diagnose convective behavior from their environment behave very differ-678 ently to the CRM in the FixMacro experiment. Precipitation (a proxy for convective ac-679 tivity) remains invariant in time, while in the CRM it grows or decays exponentially. This 680 invariance reveals the diagnostic assumption used in these convection schemes: convec-681 tion is slave to and only to the macrostate, hence when the large-scale environment is 682 restrained, convective activity also remains unchanged. These results are unsurprising, 683 but nonetheless serve as a clear and easy-to-understand demonstration of the memory 684 (or rather, lack thereof) behavior of schemes that employ the diagnostic assumption. Since 685 the time scales of growth or decay shown by the CRM are many hours, this failure of 686 diagnostic schemes is likely to cause large discrepancies in transient convective behav-687 ior on subdaily time scales. 688

Second, the memory-capable UW-org and LMDZ-CP schemes partially, but do not 689 fully, capture the behavior of the CRM under FixMacro and HomoMicro conditions. For 690 the UW-org scheme, precipitation mimics the behavior of the CRM in that precipita-691 tion either grows or decays when its large-scale environment is fixed, indicating the ef-692 fects of microstate memory. However, its growth trajectory departs from that of the CRM 693 after a few hours, trending towards a stable equilibrium, while in the CRM precipita-694 tion continues to evolve exponentially. This behavior can be explained by the scheme's 695 structural assumptions, in particular that the impact of precipitation on the subgrid state 696 scales sublinearly with precipitation, while the CRM exhibits a linear (or superlinear) 697 dependence between the two. When the microstate memory variables are set to zero in-698 stantaneously, the UW-org scheme behaves similarly to the CRM cases where both Tq699 or only q were homogenized: precipitation falls to zero and then recovers to its RCE state. 700 The LMDZ-CP scheme, on the other hand, displays responses that mimic the CRM be-701 havior when only T was homogenized: precipitation grows before falling back to its RCE 702 value after a few oscillations. We found bigger entrainment rates in the UW-org scheme 703 to be associated with slower precipitation growth (in FixMacro) and recovery (in Ho-704 moMicro). This more sluggish behavior is symptomatic of a bigger inertia or persistence 705 of past convective states, which we interpret as greater memory strengths. Further, the 706 rate of change in time of *org* is shown to be correlated with memory strength in both 707 the FixMacro and HomoMicro experiments, suggesting that org has captured crucial as-708 pects of memory. 709

Third, different ways convection schemes parameterize memory clearly have an im-710 pact on their behavior. Again, this might seem trivial and unsurprising, but it is use-711 ful to be able to highlight these differences in a clear and convincing way. One impor-712 tant difference that was revealed here was the dominant type of memory represented by 713 the schemes. Even though both schemes use rain evaporation as their memory source 714 (with explicit dependence on relative humidity, a thermodynamic variable), the LMDZ-715 CP scheme appears to emphasize temperature-stored memory while the UW-org scheme 716 displays a prevailing moisture memory response that is more similar to the CRM's be-717 havior. This intriguing disparity is no doubt a manifestation of the general conceptual 718 difference between the schemes, and indeed, the way they aim to represent memory through 719 their governing equations. Perhaps the UW-org scheme's use of a prognostic org vari-720 able that mimics the behavior of the prey in the predator-prey equations (akin to Colin 721 and Sherwood (2021)) was better at reproducing the CRM's behavior. Of course, whether 722 our results imply one scheme's definitive superiority over another cannot be ascertained 723 based only on two simple idealized tests: the LMDZ-CP scheme may very well perform 724

better in other (perhaps more realistic) tests, which we have not taken into account here.
Nevertheless, our findings could perhaps inspire ideas about or guide the search for ways
to investigate potential flaws in a scheme.

Our study has several limitations. We have relied on results from a single CRM 728 (WRF) to provide "truth" for assessing the convection schemes. Findings could poten-729 tially differ with another CRM. Even in the WRF CRM we found varying results with 730 different states of convective organization. We hence cannot rule out the possibility that 731 other model configurations (e.g., domain size, horizontal resolution) could also influence 732 733 the results presented here. The two experiments conducted are highly idealized and do not resemble anything that would happen naturally in the atmosphere, and thus poten-734 tially may be unfair tests of parameterizations that might reveal deficiencies that don't 735 matter in practice. We acknowledge that these experiments are indeed more akin to lab-736 oratory experiments and are not meant to be realistic. However, they serve the purpose 737 of providing ways to understand the behavior of convection schemes (which is not at all 738 a straightforward endeavour) in a simple framework that may offer useful insights on their 739 complicated behavior in realistic scenarios. Under steady-state conditions we investigated 740 here (RCE), the importance of the temporal dependence of convection on its own past 741 state (i.e., the prognosticity of the memory variable) may not be as apparent compared 742 to transient scenarios. Nonetheless, the memory timescales revealed in our experiments 743 $(\sim 12 \text{ h in the UW-} org \text{ scheme})$ are very similar to that of the diurnal cycle as well as 744 the moisture adjustment time scale observed over the tropical oceans (Bretherton, Pe-745 ters, & Back, 2004), suggesting that our experiments have likely isolated issues related 746 to the inability of some memory-less schemes in the correct simulation of diurnal cycles 747 (Daleu et al., 2020; Harvey et al., 2022). Lastly, our SCM setup necessarily means that 748 no insights about convective organization can be provided, which limits the interpreta-749 tion of certain results. The connection between convective memory and organization, for 750 example, cannot be verified. Nevertheless, 1D and 3D results have been found to be com-751 parable (Hwong et al., 2022), suggesting there is a chance the findings of our study can 752 be applied to improve temporal memory parameterization, which in turn could help im-753 prove the representation of spatial organization (Tobin et al., 2013). It is therefore a high 754 priority to validate the results discussed here using a 3D setup. 755

756 5 Appendix A

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The source term of the *org* prognostic equation (Eq. 1) is $evap2org \cdot E$, where Eis the mass-weighted vertical integral of rain evaporation rate, given by the following equation (Eq. A8 in Park & Bretherton, 2009):

$$E = \int_{0}^{EL} (1 - \mathrm{RH}) \sqrt{K_e^2 p'} \rho \,\mathrm{d}z, \qquad (16)$$

where RH, p' and ρ are the vertical profiles of relative humidity, precipitation flux and air density, respectively, EL is the equilibrium level, and K_e is a constant and has the value of 0.2×10^{-5} [(kg m⁻² s⁻¹)^{-1/2}s⁻¹] (Park & Bretherton, 2009). E and p' are in the units of kg m⁻² s⁻¹. To enable a more numerically tractable formulation, we simplify Eq. (16) to

$$E = K(1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}})\sqrt{P},\tag{17}$$

where *P* is surface precipitation (in units kg m⁻² s⁻¹), $\overline{\text{RH}}$ is the vertical mean of relative humidity, and *K* is a constant (in units [kg m⁻² s⁻¹]^{1/2}). Substituting Eq. (17) in (1) we get

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t} = evap2org \cdot K(1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}})\sqrt{P} - \frac{org}{\tau_{org}},\tag{18}$$

We have assumed a linear approximation for the relationship between P and org(i.e., $P = \beta org$), Eq. (18) thus becomes

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t} = evap2org \cdot K(1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}})\sqrt{\beta \, org} - \frac{(org)}{\tau_{org}},\tag{19}$$

There are two steady state (RCE) solutions to the system $\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t}=0\right)$, one of which is $org_{rce}=0$, and the other one gives

$$\sqrt{org_{rce}} = \sqrt{\beta} \ evap2org \cdot K\tau_{org}(1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}}_{\mathrm{rce}}).$$
⁽²⁰⁾

Combining Eq. (19) and (20) we get

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{org_{rce}}{\tau_{org}} \left[\left(\frac{1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}}}{1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}}_{\mathrm{rce}}} \right) \sqrt{\frac{org}{org_{rce}}} - \frac{org}{org_{rce}} \right]. \tag{21}$$

Under FixMacro conditions, Eq. (21) can be formulated in terms of a normalized org, with $\widehat{org} = org/org_{rce}$, and a FixMacro profile, $\overline{\mathrm{RH}_0}$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(\widehat{org})}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{1}{\tau_{org}} \left(b\sqrt{\widehat{org}} - \widehat{org} \right), \qquad (22)$$

where $b = \frac{1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}_0}}{1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}_{rce}}}$. Substituting \widehat{org} with the normalized memory variable \widehat{V} we get Eq. (15). Numerical integration of Eq. (22) shows that, for an initial value of $\widehat{org_0} =$ 1 (i.e., $org = org_{rce}$),

$$\widehat{org} = 1, \quad \text{if } b = 1, \text{ control case.}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(\widehat{org})}{\mathrm{d}t} > 0, \quad \text{if } b > 1, \text{ FixMacro growth case.}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(\widehat{org})}{\mathrm{d}t} < 0, \quad \text{if } b < 1, \text{ FixMacro decay case.}$$
(23)

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⁷⁸⁶ 6 Open Research

The data, scripts and model source codes and files required to reproduce the re sults described in this manuscript are available at https://zenodo.org/record/7784952
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Assessing Memory in Convection Schemes Using Idealized Tests

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Key Points:

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8	•	Several convection schemes were tested via two recently proposed, idealized ex-
9		periments designed to isolate memory-like behavior
10	•	All schemes either fail to show any such behavior, or show weaker memory than
11		an explicit cloud-resolving model
12	•	By fitting simple equation sets to the results, structural assumptions and param-
13		eters related to subgrid memory processes can be constrained

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14 Abstract

Two assumptions commonly applied in convection schemes—the diagnostic and quasi-15 equilibrium assumptions—imply that convective activity (e.g., convective precipitation) 16 is controlled only by the large-scale (macrostate) environment at the time. In contrast, 17 numerical experiments indicate a "memory" or dependence of convection also on its own 18 previous activity whereby subgrid-scale (microstate) structures boost but are also boosted 19 by convection. In this study we investigated this memory by comparing single-column 20 model behavior in two idealized tests previously executed by a cloud-resolving model (CRM). 21 Conventional convection schemes that employ the diagnostic assumption fail to repro-22 duce the CRM behavior. The memory-capable org and LMDZ cold pool schemes par-23 tially capture the behavior, but fail to fully exhibit the strong reinforcing feedbacks im-24 plied by the CRM. Analysis of this failure suggests that it is because the CRM supports 25 a linear (or superlinear) dependence of the subgrid structure growth rate on the precip-26 itation rate, while the org scheme assumes a sublinear dependence. Among varying ver-27 sions of the org scheme, the growth rate of the org variable representing subgrid struc-28 ture is strongly associated with memory strength. These results demonstrate the impor-29 tance of parameterizing convective memory, and the ability of idealized tests to reveal 30 shortcomings of convection schemes and constrain model structural assumptions. 31

32 Plain Language Summary

33 Convection (clouds) has memory, can remember its own history, and is affected by it when evolving to the next step. However, this memory effect is often neglected in con-34 vection schemes, which are approximate sub-models used to represent (parameterize) con-35 vective processes in climate models whose resolutions are too low to properly resolve con-36 vection. In this study we apply two simple tests to probe the memory behavior of var-37 ious convection schemes. We found that most conventional schemes fail to mimic the mem-38 ory response of a cloud-resolving model (CRM) where convection is properly represented. 39 In two schemes where memory is parameterized, their responses are more similar but still 40 bear significant differences to the CRM. We show that this discrepancy can be explained 41 by the equations used in these schemes. For one of the schemes, we also found that the 42 strength of memory is related to the growth rate of the memory variable, rather than 43 its absolute value. Overall, our results demonstrate the importance of taking memory 44 into account in convection schemes, and show that the two tests implemented here are 45 simple but useful in shining light on potential shortcomings of convection schemes and 46 hence also ways to improve them. 47

48 1 Introduction

Cumulus convection is a key process in tropical climate dynamics and plays a cru-49 cial role in transporting and redistributing momentum, heat and moisture in the atmo-50 sphere. It is a complex process that involves a multitude of time and spatial scales. In 51 general circulation models (GCMs), the impact of unresolved convective processes on re-52 solved scales is accomplished through parameterization. Despite great strides in recent 53 years (Villalba-Pradas & Tapiador, 2022; Rio et al., 2019), convective parameterization 54 remains an important source of uncertainty in GCMs (Stephens et al., 2010; Stevens & 55 Bony, 2013). 56

Two structural assumptions or approximations that are commonly applied in convection schemes and relevant to the present study are the diagnostic and quasi-equilibrium assumptions. The former states that convective activity at any given instant can be determined using solely the resolved grid-scale variables at that instant via an unspecified function (typically different in different schemes) and that there is no conditional dependence of convection on its own history given the current grid-scale state. The latter assumes that convective instability generated by slowly-evolving large-scale forcing is quickly

consumed by fast-acting convective processes and is commonly used as a closure assump-64 tion in convection schemes (Arakawa & Schubert, 1974; Yanai et al., 1973; Yano & Plant, 65 2012). However, both assumptions do not fully capture what happens in reality because 66 convection takes a finite time to adjust to large-scale forcing (Arakawa & Schubert, 1974; 67 Pan & Randall, 1998), and is affected by pre-existing convection (Davies et al., 2009, 2013). 68 The fact that convection has inertia, can feel the influence of its own activity at an ear-69 lier time, and is modified by it, is termed the "memory" of convection (Davies et al., 2009). 70 Its parameterization is the focus of this study. 71

72 It is important to differentiate between two types of memory that have been identified in cloud-resolving model (CRM) studies: macro- and microstate memories (Colin 73 et al., 2019, henceforth C19). We refer to the memory effects arising from a changing 74 large-scale ("macrostate") environment as "macrostate memory". In the context of pa-75 rameterization, it represents the impact of processes that affect the mean profiles of a 76 single GCM grid cell over a finite time, relaxing the quasi-equilibrium assumption. It is 77 commonly taken into account in convection schemes via a finite "adjustment time scale" 78 of 1–5 h (Bechtold et al., 2008; Cohen & Craig, 2004; Kain, 2004; Xu & Randall, 1998). 79 In this study we are interested in another memory, which emerges due to small-scale ("mi-80 crostate") structures or heterogeneities within a GCM grid box (or within a CRM do-81 main), and is produced by but also promotes convection, the so-called "microstate mem-82 ory" (C19). These structures could arise as a consequence of individual clouds chang-83 ing their surroundings during their lifespans and manifest themselves as remnants of past 84 convective activity influencing the development of convection at the present time (Davies 85 et al., 2009, 2013). This type of memory arises from subgrid-scale processes that remain 86 unresolved in GCMs (but resolved in CRMs) and must therefore be parameterized. To 87 avoid confusion, memory in the present study refers to microstate memory. 88

Multiple CRM studies have shown that memory mainly resides in low-level ther-89 modynamic inhomogeneities (C19; Daleu et al., 2020; Davies et al., 2013). Two of these 90 studies are relevant to our analysis. To identify memory and its effects, C19 imposed an 91 instantaneous homogenization of the microstate structures (setting a given subset of prog-92 nostic variables to their domain-averaged values) and observed how convective activity 93 (precipitation) recovered after this homogenization. They found that memory is predom-94 inantly contributed by the water vapor and temperature microstructures (variability) 95 in the subcloud layer compared to winds and hydrometeors. A longer recovery time scale 96 was observed when convection is organized (> 24 h) than when disorganized (2-3 h). A 97 follow-up study by Colin and Sherwood (2021, henceforth CS21) explored the memory 98 behavior of a CRM when the macrostate is held fixed to its equilibrium mean state ("strongnudging" experiment). In this case convection displays a volatile behavior, with precip-100 itation either growing exponentially to an unrealistically large value or decaying to zero. 101 Additionally, the authors presented a two-variable, predator-prey model that was able 102 to capture this instability, as well as the CRM behavior in C19's homogenization exper-103 iment. Further description of the predator-prey model is presented in Section 3.3. 104

Despite the knowledge gained from CRM experiments it remains unclear how mem-105 ory should be parameterized, and a wide range of approaches have been attempted. These 106 include the introduction of prognostic variables that influence the evolution of various 107 scheme calculations such as entrainment (Mapes & Neale, 2011, henceforth MN11), clo-108 sure formulation (Pan & Randall, 1998; Randall & Pan, 1993), updraft area fraction (Gerard 109 et al., 2009), updraft and downdraft (Tan et al., 2018), convective vertical velocity (Guérémy, 110 2011), microphysics (Piriou et al., 2007); the explicit modeling of physical processes such 111 as cold pools (Del Genio et al., 2015; Grandpeix & Lafore, 2010; Park, 2014a, 2014b; Qian 112 et al., 1998), cloud lifecycles (Sakradzija et al., 2015, 2016), evolution of thermal clus-113 ters (Neggers & Griewank, 2021, 2022); the use of Markov chains (Hagos et al., 2018; 114 Khouider et al., 2010; Peters et al., 2013) and cellular automata (CA) (Bengtsson et al., 115 2013, 2021); the adoption of machine learning algorithms such as convolutional and re-116

current neural networks to capture temporal dependencies (Caseri et al., 2022; Y. Han
et al., 2020); and embedding CRM in GCM grid cells through super-parameterization
(Khairoutdinov & Randall, 2001; Khairoutdinov et al., 2005; Pritchard et al., 2011). Given
the immense diversity in memory parameterizations, we deem it an important task to
design tests in a simple and intuitive framework to probe the behavior and potentially
reveal the shortcomings of current schemes. It is therefore the goal of this paper to examine two convection schemes with memory using two idealized tests.

The first convection scheme is the UW-org scheme, which we briefly describe here 124 and refer to MN11 for in-depth details. The scheme is based on the University of Wash-125 ington (UW) shallow convection scheme implemented in the Community Atmosphere 126 Model (CAM5), which is a single-plume mass flux scheme (Park & Bretherton, 2009). 127 The modified UW-org scheme is conceptualized as a unified (shallow and deep) scheme. 128 Memory is parameterized via the introduction of a new prognostic orq variable meant 129 to capture the effects of subgrid-scale structures on convective processes such as entrain-130 ment rate and closure. While an arbitrary number of plumes can be computed, the cur-131 rent implementation contains only two plumes that are computed sequentially, and whose 132 mass fluxes and area coverages are combined to determine the total precipitation and 133 other convective tendencies. Entrainment rates and plume base conditions (temperature 134 and humidity) may differ between the plumes, and thus may also the heights the plumes 135 reach. org is a 2D, dimensionless variable whose prognostic equation is given by 136

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$$\frac{\mathrm{l}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t} = S - \frac{(org)}{\tau_{org}} \tag{1}$$

where S is the source of org (defined as the mass-weighted vertically integrated rain evaporation rate in kg m⁻² s⁻¹ times evap2org, an adjustable parameter) and $\tau_{\rm org}$ its characteristic time scale. Following MN11, we set evap2org to 2 m² kg⁻¹ and $\tau_{\rm org}$ to 10 ks (~3 h). We elaborate further on the effects of org on entrainment rate and closure in Section 2.2.

The second scheme we tested is the cold pool (CP) scheme in the Laboratoire de 143 Météorologie Dynamique Zoom (LMDZ) model (Grandpeix & Lafore, 2010). This scheme 144 represents spreading circular cold pools fed by precipitation evaporation in unsaturated 145 downdrafts. Their dynamics follows that of a density current: they convert gravitational 146 potential energy into kinetic energy. These cold pools impact convection in three ways. 147 First, their negative buoyancy provides energy to trigger deep convection via mechan-148 ical lifting. Second, cold pool edges act as gust fronts and provide power for the convec-149 tive closure via an Available Lifting Power (ALP), which is proportional to total cold 150 pool perimeter and increases with cold pool spread speed. Third, cold pools create two 151 subgrid-scale environments: the colder cold pool environment seen by downdrafts, and 152 the warmer exterior seen by updrafts in the convection scheme. The cold pools are prog-153 nostic, and their memory comes from their density current properties. The prognostic 154 memory variables are the cold pool temperature and humidity anomalies, as well as the 155 total cold pool surface area. A summary of the main cold pool governing equations is 156 presented in Grandpeix et al. (2010). 157

The overarching goal of this study is to examine and improve understanding of the memory behavior of the UW-*org* and LMDZ-CP schemes by using a single-column model (SCM) setup and comparing their responses to those of previously published CRM results (C19 and CS21). The specific research questions addressed are:

- How do convection schemes respond when we fix the large-scale environment, i.e.,
 disable the feedback between micro- and macrostates?
 - 2. How do convection schemes respond when we homogenize their microstate structures carrying memory?
- 3. How do their above responses compare to those of (1) schemes with no microstate
 memory, and (2) a CRM where convection is resolved?

168 2 Methods

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2.1 Models and Simulation Setup

Two models in their SCM setup were used in this study: the Weather Research and 170 Forecasting (WRF) and LMDZ models. WRF uses the Advanced Research WRF (ARW) 171 fully compressible, Eulerian non-hydrostatic solver (version 4.0.2; Skamarock et al., 2019). 172 The LMDZ model is the atmospheric component of the IPSL global climate model. Here 173 we used the LMDZ5B+ version of the model, which is based on the CMIP5 version (LMDZ5B; 174 Hourdin et al., 2013) but with additional developments (revision 2420). As reference we 175 used previously published WRF CRM results (202×202 grid points, horizontal reso-176 lution of 1 km; see C19 and CS21) and closely followed their simulation setup for our 177 SCM experiments, which we briefly summarize below. 178

The control simulations were conducted under non-rotating, radiative-convective equilibrium (RCE) conditions with the Coriolis parameter set to zero. An ocean surface was used, with a fixed SST of 302 K. In WRF SCM, a stretched vertical grid spacing with 74 model levels was used, with model bottom at around 40 m and model top at around 33 km. In LMDZ, another stretched vertical grid spacing was used, with 79 vertical levels, ranging from 10 m to 80 km.

In terms of convective parameterization, for this study we have imported into WRF 185 the UW-org scheme originally developed for the CAM5 model. We also tested in WRF 186 five standard convection schemes without memory: the Zhang-McFarlane (ZM; G. Zhang 187 & McFarlane, 1995), Kain-Fritsch (KF; Kain, 2004), New-Tiedtke (NT; C. Zhang & Wang, 188 2017), New-Simplified Arakawa-Schubert (NSAS; J. Han & Pan, 2011), and Betts-Miller-189 Janjic (BMJ; Betts, 1986; Betts & Miller, 1986; Janjić, 1994) schemes. The LMDZ SCM 190 uses a modified version of the mass flux deep convection scheme of Emanuel (1991) and 191 Emanuel and Živković-Rothman (1999). In particular, the triggering and closure were 192 completely overhauled (Rio et al., 2013) so that both the cold pool scheme (Grandpeix 193 & Lafore, 2010) and the thermal plume scheme (Rio & Hourdin, 2008) control trigger-194 ing and closure. Therefore, convection is tightly governed by subgrid, subcloud layer pro-195 cesses (Mapes, 1997; Hourdin et al., 2020). For the other parameterizations, in WRF we 196 used the RRTMG longwave and shortwave radiation schemes (Iacono et al., 2008), the 197 WSM6 microphysics scheme (Hong & Lim, 2006), the YSU planetary boundary layer (PBL) 198 scheme (Hong et al., 2006) which also computes the vertical diffusion due to turbulence. 199 and the revised MM5 surface layer scheme based on Monin-Obukhov theory for surface 200 fluxes computations (Jiménez et al., 2012). In the LMDZ runs, the radiation scheme is 201 from an older ECMWF weather forecast model (Morcrette, 1991). Boundary layer tur-202 bulence is handled by a prognostic turbulent kinetic energy diffusion scheme based on 203 Yamada (1983) as well as by the mass flux thermal plume model. LMDZ also includes a large-scale condensation-precipitation-evaporation scheme and a gravity wave param-205 eterization (Hourdin et al., 2013, 2020). In WRF, diurnal cycles were removed by set-206 ting the solar constant to 544 W m⁻² and a fixed solar zenith angle of 37° to simulate 207 equatorial conditions. In LMDZ, the diurnal cycle of radiation was similarly removed. 208 The simulations were run for 1,000 days in WRF and 60 days in LMDZ, thereafter two 209 types of perturbations were applied, described in Sections 2.3 and 2.4. 210

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2.2 UW-org and LMDZ Cold Pool Schemes

²¹² In the UW-*org* scheme, the *org* variable can have several effects on convection (see ²¹³ Figure 1 in MN11). We focused on two of them: entrainment rate and closure. The frac-²¹⁴ tional entrainment (ϵ) and detrainment (δ) rates per unit height in this scheme are given ²¹⁵ by

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_o \chi_c^{\ 2},\tag{2}$$

 $\delta = \epsilon_o(1)$

$$\delta = \epsilon_o (1 - \chi_c)^2, \tag{3}$$

where χ_c is the critical mixing fraction of environmental air in the parcels depending on 219 height (see equation B1 in Bretherton, McCaa, & Grenier, 2004), ϵ_o (m⁻¹) is the frac-220 tional mixing rate and is inversely proportional to height following a common formula-221 tion in literature (de Roode et al., 2000; Holloway & Neelin, 2009; Siebesma et al., 2007). 222 i.e., $\epsilon_o = r/z$. For the 1st plume r is an empirical constant (r_1) and set to a large value 223 following the original UW shallow scheme (entrainment rates are usually larger in shal-224 low convection schemes), while r for the 2nd plume (r_2) undergoes org modification fol-225 lowing the equation 226

$$r_2 = \frac{r_1}{1 + org \cdot org2rkm},\tag{4}$$

where *org2rkm* is a unitless parameter. Simply put, the *org*-modulated entrainment rate impacts convection development via its changing effect over time: during early stages when rain rates are small (small *org* values, as rain evaporation is a source of *org*) big entrainment rates suppress convection and promote the development of large-scale variability (i.e., organization), while in later stages large rain rates (large *org* values) lead to reduced entrainment rates that encourage deeper convection that stabilizes the column.

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The second *org* effect we explored is its impact on cloud-base mass flux (CBMF; i.e., closure), which is computed as

$$M_b = M_{b,1}(1 + org \cdot org2cbmf),$$

(5)

where org2cbmf is a unitless parameter, $M_{b,1}$ is the CBMF of the 1st plume (given by Eq. A3 in Park & Bretherton, 2009). The sinking of chilled air from downdrafts can potentially trigger convection by influencing plume base vertical velocity. This has the effect of larger CBMFs on rainy days when *org* values are big and the plumes have a higher probability of overcoming convective inhibition (CIN) and attaining their level of free convection (the scheme closure is based on CIN).

We tested a few *org* configurations by changing and combining the *org2rkm* and *org2cbmf* parameters. For brevity, we refer to the cases where only the *org2rkm* parameter was changed as "WRF-RKM" and those where both *org2rkm* and *org2cbmf* were changed as "WRF-RKMCBMF".

For the LMDZ cold pool scheme, the version used here represents a population of circular, identical cold pools of radius r. The cold pools are assumed to have a fixed number density D_{CP} (m⁻²) which sets how many cold pools there are per unit area. Hence, they occupy a relative surface area

$$\sigma_{CP} = D_{CP} \pi r^2. \tag{6}$$

Cold pools can expand horizontally at a horizontal spread speed C following a simple geometrical relation:

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{CP}}{\partial t} = 2C\sqrt{\pi D_{CP}\sigma_{CP}},\tag{7}$$

although their expansion is capped as soon as they reach the maximum allowed relative surface area $\sigma_{CP,max} = 0.4$.

²⁵⁸ Cold pools are characterized by the vertical profile of their potential temperature ²⁵⁹ and humidity differences with the external air around them (θ' and q'). Since they are ²⁶⁰ denser than their environment, cold pools have a downward vertical velocity which is trans-²⁶¹ formed into horizontal spread speed C which can then be converted into upward motion ²⁶² at the cold pool edge. The total energy available for this mechanical process is the in-²⁶³ tegrated negative buoyancy in cold pools, called ALE (Available Lifting Energy):

$$ALE = -g \int_0^{h_{CP}} \frac{\delta\theta_v}{\bar{\theta}_v} \, dz,\tag{8}$$

where h_{CP} is the cold pool height, g gravity, θ_v virtual temperature, and θ_v denotes the grid cell mean θ_v . Deep convection is triggered when ALE > |CIN| (ALE being the largest between the ALE provided by cold pools and the ALE provided by PBL thermals), i.e., when PBL processes are strong enough to erode boundary layer stability. In particular, PBL thermals may trigger convection only if a stochastic triggering condition is fulfilled (Bochotin Couvrey et al. 2014; Bochotin Crandpoir et al. 2014)

(Rochetin, Couvreux, et al., 2014; Rochetin, Grandpeix, et al., 2014).

The experimental cases in this study are listed in Table 1.

Model	Convection scheme	Case name	org parame- ters	Description
	Standard WRF convection schemes	ZM, KF, NT, NSAS, BMJ	-	Conventional convection schemes in WRF
WRF	UW-org	rkm0	org2rkm = 0	Two identical plumes, no <i>org</i> effects (memory) in 2nd plume
		rkm10 rkm20 rkm30 rkm10cbmf10 rkm20cbmf10 rkm30cbmf10	$\begin{array}{l} {\rm org2rkm} = 10 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 20 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 30 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 10, \\ {\rm org2cbmf} = 10 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 20, \\ {\rm org2cbmf} = 10 \\ {\rm org2rkm} = 30, \\ {\rm org2cbmf} = 10 \end{array}$	– – 2nd plume has <i>org</i> effe –
LMDZ	Cold pool + Modified Emanuel/ALP/AI schemes	LMDZ-CP JE	-	LMDZ5B+ ver- sion, settings for tropical ocean

 Table 1. Models and experimental cases in this study

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2.3 FixMacro Experiment

We first consider the "strong-nudging" experiment by CS21, where the macrostate 273 was fixed to its RCE mean. In the WRF CRM of CS21, this was achieved by applying 274 a tendency term for potential temperature (θ) , water vapor mixing ratio (q) and hor-275 izontal winds (u, v) uniformly in (x, y) at each model level, proportional to the differ-276 ence between the horizontal mean field and a target profile, with a short nudging time 277 scale of 40 s (see Eq. 1 in CS21). The idea is that if the diagnostic assumption used in 278 convection schemes were true—using CS21's notation, convective activity C were related 279 to the macrostate ξ via a function $(f): C(\mathbf{x}, t) = f[\xi(\mathbf{x}, t)]$ —convective activity would 280 remain unchanged while the macrostate is held fixed. In the presence of microstate mem-281 ory, however, in addition to its dependence on the large-scale environment convection 282 also remembers its own history. That is, $(f) : C(\mathbf{x},t) = f[\xi(\mathbf{x},t), C(\mathbf{x},t-1)]$, and 283 convection will not remain unchanged but will evolve in time under the influence of the 284 macrostate rather than being determined by it instantaneously. Fixing the macrostate 285 hence serves as a simple and direct test for microstate memory. 286

In the WRF SCM we emulate this experiment of CS21 via our fixed-macrostate 287 ("FixMacro") experiment. Instead of nudging as in CS21, however, we restarted the SCM 288 from its control macrostate so as to call the convection schemes with identical input pro-289 files of thermodynamic and wind fields at every time step. This FixMacro approach achieved 290 the desired result more directly and was feasible in the WRF SCM due to the model's 291 modular design. We modified the code of the convection schemes such that at every time 292 step the prognostic variables received by the schemes were overwritten with the values 293 from specific target profiles. An ensemble of twenty FixMacro experiments was run, each 294 with a target profile taken from a 20-day average of the unperturbed control run at a 295 different time interval. We also attempted these SCM experiments using the CRM strong-296 nudging method, which yielded similar results (not shown). 297

Note that this FixMacro part of the experiment was only conducted in the WRF and not LMDZ SCM because in LMDZ it was technically challenging to directly fix the prognostic variables received by the convection scheme specifically.

2.4 HomoMicro Experiment

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We next consider the "HomoMicro" experiment based on C19, where the WRF CRM 302 control runs were restarted from an equilibrated RCE state and subsets of prognostic 303 variables (T, q, u, v and others) were horizontally homogenized to their domain-mean 304 values at restart. This keeps the macrostate unchanged while essentially wiping out their 305 microstate structures or memory. The equivalent with parameterized physics would be 306 to set internal prognostic or "memory" variables to some reference value (e.g., zero). In 307 the UW-org scheme there is a single such variable org, while in the LMDZ cold pool scheme 308 there are prognostic cold pool temperature and moisture anomalies (T' and q'). For WRF 309 UW-org we ran one test setting org to zero, while with LMDZ we ran three tests, ze-310 roing either the T', the q', or both. An ensemble of 20 HomoMicro simulations was con-311 ducted for each test, as for FixMacro. Note that this part of the study cannot be con-312 ducted for the five standard WRF convection schemes, as they do not contain a microstate 313 memory variable, so they implicitly predict no change after homogenization. A diagram 314 of the control, FixMacro and HomoMicro experiments is shown in Figure 1. 315



Figure 1. Diagram of the macro- and microstate feedbacks for the (a) control, (b) FixMacro (holding macrostate constant at every time step), and (c) HomoMicro (setting memory variable to zero at one time step) experiments. Green positive and red negative symbols indicate, respectively, positive and negative feedbacks on convection C or on environmental instability ξ favoring C. Italicized words are parameters in the UW-*org* scheme (see text for description).

316 **3** Results and Discussion





Figure 2. RCE steady state profiles of (a) relative humidity (RH) for the CRM and various SCM configurations (for WRF SCM, only the ZM and UW-*org* schemes are shown), (b, c) mass fluxes of the 1st and 2nd plumes of the various UW-*org* configurations for the WRF SCM, and (d, e) temperature and moisture anomalies inside cold pools for the LMDZ SCM.

To illustrate the main features of the various model configurations we show the RCE 318 mean state profiles of the relative humidity (RH) of the CRM, LMDZ and WRF SCM 319 (for the standard convection schemes only ZM is shown as the other schemes have been 320 presented in Hwong et al. (2021)), updraft mass flux of each plume in the WRF UW-321 org SCM, and the cold pool temperature and moisture anomalies of the LMDZ SCM, 322 in Figure 2. There is a spread of around 20% of near-surface RH among the SCMs (panel 323 a), with LMDZ displaying the moistest low-level profile (around 90%). This spread is 324 comparable to that seen in previous SCM intercomparisons (e.g., Hwong et al., 2021; Wing 325 et al., 2020). Hwong et al. (2021) found a difference of around 30% at near-surface lev-326 els even with constrained surface fluxes and a prescribed radiative profile in all models, 327

and attributed this spread to the different parameterizations (primarily convection schemes) 328 used in the SCMs. The CRM near-surface RH profile lies close to the middle of the SCM 329 spread while in the free troposphere it is significantly moister. For the UW-org cases, 330 configurations with smaller entrainment rates (larger org2rkm values) display a drier free 331 tropospheric mean state, suggesting more precipitation-efficient convection and hence 332 stronger net drying. The addition of org effects also appears to attenuate the sharp changes 333 (kinks) in RH profile around the freezing level frequently seen in convection schemes (Hwong 334 et al., 2021), here apparent in the profiles of WRF-ZM and LMDZ-CP. This suggests that 335 the UW-org scheme might be more capable of handling state transitions, perhaps be-336 cause its memory effects contribute to the exploration of a wider variety of states. We 337 further note that the spread of RH in the troposphere here is smaller than reported in 338 previous model intercomparisons, which indicates that—although it does have signifi-339 cant impact—changing the org settings is less impactful than changing convection schemes. 340

The mass flux profiles of the two plumes in the UW-org scheme cases are shown 341 in panels b and c. For the rkm0 case (two identical plumes and no org effect) the two 342 plumes display the same mass flux profiles, while for the other cases a "division of la-343 bor" mechanism develops between the plumes: the 2nd plume, with its reduced entrain-344 ment due to the *org2rkm* effect, takes up the role of deep convection (deeper than in rkm0) 345 while the 1st plume, with its high entrainment rate as determined by the default UW 346 shallow convection scheme parameters, assumes the function of shallow convection (con-347 fined below 850 hPa). Further, the addition of org effects in the closure (via org2cbmf; 348 dashed lines in Figure 2) manifests itself in the larger mass flux of the 2nd plume around 349 the cloud-base. 350

The cold pool temperature (T') and moisture (q') anomaly profiles of LMDZ-CP 351 are shown in panels d and e. The profiles show a cold and moist anomaly at the surface 352 levels, illustrating the effect of cold pools on the thermodynamic microstate of the model. 353 Colder, drier, and deeper cold pools are more powerful to trigger convection and to pro-354 vide upward mass flux for the closure (Eq. 8). The cold pools here in this particular RCE 355 configuration are fairly shallow and not very cold, but this is enough to have some in-356 fluence on future convection. In particular, cold pools in this simulation are always dom-357 inant over thermals to trigger convection. Stronger updrafts and downdrafts both cre-358 ate a more distinct situation between cold pools and their environment. Therefore, the 359 stronger the unsaturated downdrafts given by the convection scheme, the colder the cold 360 pools. And likewise, the stronger the updrafts, the colder the cold pools. 361

3.2 Response to Fixed Macrostate Perturbation



Figure 3. The FixMacro ensemble-averaged responses of normalized (a) precipitation of the WRF-ZM and WRF UW-*org* cases, (b) integrated updraft mass flux and (c) *org* for the WRF UW-*org* cases. The response of one of the CRM ensemble members (growing to ~3000 mm d⁻¹) is shown in thick black line and in dashed black line the same response rescaled to the maximum range of the SCMs. For the SCMs the ensemble members' responses are normalized by their respective RCE values when FixMacro begins, and the final responses are obtained by averaging over all members. The RCE values are ~4 mm d⁻¹ for P, ~0.3 kg m⁻¹ s⁻¹ for \int MF and ~0.1 for *org*. The CRM response is reproduced from CS21. ⓒ American Meteorological Society. Used with permission.

Figure 3 shows responses of the CRM and WRF SCM to the FixMacro experiment. 363 where the macrostate (large-scale environment) was held fixed to the RCE state. We first 364 briefly summarize the CRM results, which are described in detail in CS21. Around half 365 of the ensemble members (four out of nine) show exponential precipitation growth to un-366 physical values, an example of which is shown in Figure 3, while for the remaining mem-367 bers precipitation decays to zero. CS21 found the trajectory of precipitation (growth or 368 decay) depends on the target profile: members exhibiting growth behavior generally have 369 higher CAPE values compared to the decaying members. The authors referred to this 370 state of the model as an "unstable equilibrium in a thermodynamically fixed mean en-371 vironment". By restraining the macrostate—thus preventing it from freely evolving—we 372 are essentially overriding the natural negative feedback loop between the large-scale en-373 vironment and subgrid-scale activities (see Figure 1b). Under normal non-nudged cir-374 cumstances, instability caused by the large-scale environment (e.g., water vapor or CAPE) 375 would be rapidly eliminated by convective activity C (e.g., convective heating and dry-376

ing), hence maintaining a state of balance between the macro- and microstates. With-377 out this restoring branch in the system (red negative symbol in Figure 1), an unopposed 378 positive feedback loop established itself: a macrostate conducive (unfavorable) to con-379 380 vection results in increased (decreased) precipitation, boosting (weakening) microstate memory, which in turn enhances (reduces) precipitation. Cold pools, for example, are 381 a well-known source of microstate memory that are aided by the evaporation of rain and 382 aid convection themselves (Schlemmer & Hohenegger, 2016; Tompkins, 2001; Zuidema 383 et al., 2017). Further, CS21 also found low-level microstate structures (standard devi-384 ation of temperature and moisture at 2 m) to be the first variables to change during the 385 initial development of instability. These findings collectively suggest that boundary layer 386 inhomogeneities are the primary source of microstate memory. 387

For the WRF SCMs, precipitation remains constant as expected for the standard 388 convection schemes and rkm0 (two identical plumes and no orq effects) when the macrostate 389 is fixed (panel a), illustrative of the diagnostic assumptions in these cases, i.e., absence 390 of microstate memory. As the five standard schemes all behave the same way, we only 391 show the results of the ZM scheme here. For the cases with org effects, precipitation rates 392 exhibit an initial growth stage (between 2–10 h after FixMacro started), before stabi-393 lizing latest by around half a day. Similar to the CRM, either growth or decay in pre-394 cipitation rates was observed amongst the ensemble members, with a smaller proportion 395 showing decay (hence the overall growth shown in Figure 3). Precipitation and the org 396 variable appear to be monotonically related: precipitation grows amongst members where 397 org increases, and decays where org decreases. However, there are marked differences 398 between the response trajectory of the org cases and the CRM. Using rkm10 as an ex-399 ample, its response initially closely tracks that of the CRM, but starts to diverge from it by around 4 h. While the CRM's growth accelerates exponentially, rkm10's growth 401 appears to slow down and eventually stabilizes. We will further explore this discrepant 402 response between the CRM and UW-org scheme in Section 3.3. 403

For the UW-org cases where org affects entrainment only (WRF-RKM), we found 404 smaller entrainment rates (larger org2rkm) to be associated with more rapid precipitation-405 rate growth. This can be explained by stronger convection resulting from reduced mix-406 ing with environmental air, rendering a quicker feedback on the precipitation rate. The 407 eventual departure from RCE also appears to increase with smaller entrainment rate. 408 For the corresponding cases where *org* also affects the closure (e.g., rkm10 vs. rkm10cbmf10; 409 same-colored solid vs. dashed lines in Figure 3), faster initial precipitation growth rates 410 and larger eventual departures from RCE were observed, indicating that making the scheme's 411 closure prognostic via dependence on org acts to enhance convection, thereby speeding 412 up its reaction time. 413

We show in Figure 3 two additional variables that are useful to understand the pre-414 cipitation response: integrated updraft mass flux (panel b) and orq (panel c). The growth 415 shape of the integrated updraft mass flux bears strong qualitative resemblance to that 416 of precipitation (panel a), which is expected given the way the scheme diagnoses precip-417 itation: updraft condensates exceeding a critical mixing ratio (1 g kg^{-1}) are expelled as 418 precipitation (Bretherton, McCaa, & Grenier, 2004). As is common in mass flux schemes, 419 the mass flux profile is used to compute all thermodynamic variables, including the pre-420 cipitating condensates. Thus, precipitation is roughly proportional to the integral of mass 421 flux over the convecting layer. For *org*, its growing response is emblematic of the microstate 422 memory effect: org remembers its previous state and grows when precipitation grows, 423 since rain evaporation is a source of org. As mentioned, there appears to be a monotonic 424 relationship between org and precipitation, at least in the initial growth stages. Given 425 the fixed large-scale environment, this suggests that org (representing microstate mem-426 ory) is chiefly responsible for the precipitation growth, and vice versa. 427

3.3 Why Does the UW-org Scheme Respond Differently to the CRM?

The initial exponential growth or decay of the CRM FixMacro responses presented in Section 3.2 can be explained using a predator-prey (PP) model, as described in CS21, and which we briefly summarize here. For a detailed description of the PP model we refer readers to Section 3 of CS21. The three key equations of the PP model are

$$\frac{\partial R}{\partial t} = E_0 - P,\tag{9}$$

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$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = \alpha_{vp} P - \alpha_{damp} V, \tag{10}$$

$$P = \alpha_n R V, \tag{11}$$

where R represents aspects of the macrostate environment that are conducive to con-438 vection but are also consumed by it (e.g., CAPE or water vapor), V represents features 439 of microstate convective structures that stimulate convection and are stimulated by it 440 (convective memory), E_0 is the source of R, P is precipitation, and α_{damp} , α_{vp} and α_p 441 are the damping rate of V, sensitivity coefficient of V to P and of P to the other vari-442 ables, respectively. Under FixMacro conditions, Eq. (9) disappears. Substituting Eq. (11) 443 into (10) and fixing R to a constant R_0 (hereafter a zero subscript denotes the target Fix-444 Macro fixing values), combined with one of the steady state (RCE) solutions $R_{\rm rce} = \frac{\alpha_{\rm damp}}{\alpha_{\rm vp}\alpha_{\rm p}}$ 445

(see Eqs. 5-7 of CS21), we get

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = \alpha_{vp} \alpha_p (R_0 - R_{rce}) V, \qquad (12)$$

which predicts an exponential growth (if $R_o > R_{\rm rce}$) or decay (if $R_o < R_{\rm rce}$) of V (and P, since they are linearly related when R is fixed). Expressed in terms of quantities normalized by their RCE values, Eq. (12) can be reformulated as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\widehat{V}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \alpha_{damp} \left(a \,\widehat{V} - \widehat{V} \right),\tag{13}$$

where $\hat{V} = V/V_{\rm rce}$ and $a = R_0/R_{\rm rce}$. Numerical integration of the PP model under FixMacro conditions indeed produces qualitatively the initial exponential growth of the CRM simulations (Figure 6 of CS21). Hence, by comparing the UW-*org* scheme to the PP model, we can gain useful insights that may shed light on the FixMacro behavior of the scheme when compared to the CRM.

For the UW-*org* scheme, under FixMacro conditions we have observed a monotonic relationship between *P* and *org*, as presented in Section 3.2. For simplicity, and motivated by findings of previous studies (e.g., Kirsch et al., 2021; Kruse et al., 2022), we assume a linear approximation:

$$P = \beta \, org,\tag{14}$$

where β is the proportionality factor. Eq. (1), describing the UW-*org* scheme, is roughly equivalent to Eq. (10) of the PP model, with $V \equiv org$, $\alpha_{damp} \equiv 1/\tau_{org}$, and $\alpha_{vp}P \equiv evap2org$. *E*, where *E* is the mass-weighted vertical integral of rain evaporation rate and is proportional to (1 – RH) multiplied by the square root of *P* (Eq. A8 in Park & Bretherton, 2009). Replacing *org* with *V* and reformulated in terms of quantities normalized by their RCE values to ease comparison with the PP model, Eq. (1) can be simplified as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}V}{\mathrm{d}t} = \alpha_{damp} \left(b\sqrt{\widehat{V}} - \widehat{V} \right),\tag{15}$$

where $\alpha_{\text{damp}} = 1/\tau_{\text{org}}$ and $b = \frac{1 - \overline{\text{RH}_0}}{1 - \overline{\text{RH}_{\text{rce}}}}$, with overbar indicating vertical mean values (see Appendix A for a detailed derivation of Eq. 15).

Eq. (13) and (15) are equivalent versions of the prognostic equation for the mem-471 ory variable V in the PP model and UW-org scheme under FixMacro conditions. Ap-472 plying a damping rate α_{damp} of $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ the timeseries of \hat{V} predicted by numer-473 ical integration of the two equations for the growth (a, b > 1) and decay (a, b < 1) cases 474 are shown in Figure 4. The results bear strong qualitative resemblance to the simulated 475 P responses presented in Section 3.2 (noting that the timeseries of P would be qualita-476 tively similar to org or V given the assumption of their linear relationship). The impact 477 of a small mismatch between the target FixMacro and RCE values is initially the same: 478 for a = b, the P responses predicted by the PP model and the UW-org scheme initially 479 closely follow each. Their behavior begins to depart only when P has changed signifi-480 cantly. In the PP model, $\frac{dP}{dt}$ is linearly related to P, producing exponential growth, and no value of P can restore the balance between the growth and decay terms on the RHS 481 482 of Eq. (13) if a > 1 (or a < 1 for the decay case). This reproduces the exponential 483 growth (or decay) behavior observed in the CRM. By contrast, a negative feedback is 484 built into the UW-org scheme because the growth term (first term on the RHS of Eq. 485 15) increases more weakly with P than the damping term (second term on the RHS of 486 Eq. 15), which eventually brings the system toward a stable equilibrium. Note that this 487 behavior is valid given any sub-quadratic function P(org). In other words if $P = \beta org^{\lambda}$. 488 then as long as $\lambda < 2 \ \widehat{org}$ (and P) will eventually stagnate under FixMacro conditions, 489 as the source term in Eq. (1) will grow slower than the sink term. In our case, scatter-490 plots of model outputs from the FixMacro experiments show that P is approximately 491 linearly related to org (not shown), which supports our assumption of a linear relation-492 ship (Eq. 14). 493



Figure 4. Timeseries of memory variable \hat{V} under FixMacro conditions predicted by numerical integration of Eq. (13) of the PP model and Eq. (15) of the UW-*org* scheme for the (a) growth and (b) decay cases. Note that the PP curve displays an exponential trajectory similar to the CRM response shown in Figure 3 when integrated over a longer period of time, even though it appears linear within the 24 h shown here.

We further note that for the *org* growth (decay) case, the condition of b > 1 (b < 1) can only be met if the FixMacro target profile for RH is such that $\overline{\text{RH}}_0 < \overline{\text{RH}}_{\text{rce}}$ ($\overline{\text{RH}}_0 > \overline{\text{RH}}_{\text{rce}}$). Indeed, we found these conditions to be true for the respective growing and decaying ensemble members (not shown). Additionally, the *org* cases with faster growth rates generally also have larger average b values (e.g., rkm10 vs. rkm20 in Figure 3), consistent with the results shown in Figure 4.

500 Overall, our results provide strong evidence that the CRM supports a linear (or 501 superlinear) relationship between subgrid-scale structure growth rate and the current pre-502 cipitation rate. This implies that—given a linear damping—any scheme that predicts

a sublinear relationship would eventually stabilize under FixMacro conditions. The Fix-503 Macro perturbation described here can thus be applied as a simple test to probe the be-504 havior of convection schemes and constrain core modeling assumptions. Nevertheless, 505 several caveats must be noted. First, although our assumption that P is proportional 506 to org only captures the leading order qualitative behavior and is not exactly quantita-507 tively accurate, our goal is to probe whether the trajectory of P under FixMacro con-508 ditions can be understood from the scheme's structural assumptions. Our numerical re-509 sults presented here, albeit idealized, can shed light into how the P responses can be ex-510 plained by the scheme's governing equations. Second, by using the CRM as a benchmark, 511 we have made the implicit assumption that the scheme's more stable response is some-512 how an erroneous behavior compared to the CRM's exponential growth. Whether this 513 assumption is fair remains an open question. There are often sound operational reasons 514 to put in checks and balances in a convection scheme—however unrealistic or ad hoc though 515 they may be—to prevent simulations from crashing in a GCM (as an exponential pre-516 cipitation growth would be prone to do). Despite these caveats, it is nonetheless useful 517 to be able to verify that the scheme's FixMacro responses do indeed comply with its struc-518 tural assumptions, and that its discrepant response to the CRM can thus be explained. 519

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3.4 Response to Instantaneous Change in Microstate

Figure 5 shows the responses of the CRM and SCMs in the HomoMicro experiment 521 described in Section 2.4, in which subgrid-scale variabilities at RCE were homogenized 522 away at one time step without changing the column/domain average. We show a selec-523 tion of C19's CRM results in panel a. In most of these CRM cases, homogenization re-524 sults in a drop to (close to) zero in precipitation rates, which then recover to their re-525 spective RCE values over a certain time period, defined here as $t_{\rm mem}$ (black dots in Fig-526 ure 5). If convection were solely dependent on the macrostate, precipitation would re-527 cover almost instantly, as the homogenization step only affects the microstate. The time 528 the system takes to recover (t_{mem}) is hence a measure of the strength of the microstate 529 memory. In effect, the homogenization step removes the subgrid-scale structures that 530 are conducive to convection, hence the system needs to "start from scratch" and wait 531 for instability to build up again before precipitating. C19 found that memory is mostly 532 stored in thermodynamic heterogeneities, rather than winds or hydrometeors. In par-533 ticular, low-level water vapor variability is the dominant memory carrier. For simula-534 tions where convection is unorganized, homogenizing both T and q led to the longest re-535 covery time (2.5 h), followed by only T (2 h) and q (1.5 h) homogenization. In contrast 536 to the other variables, homogenizing T leads to an initial increase in precipitation. C19 537 explained this by noting that the precipitating locations usually have cold pools and hence 538 also a colder boundary layer. Homogenizing T therefore resulted in an increase in moist 539 static energy in these locations (instead of a decrease as when only q or both T and q540 were homogenized), leading to an increase in precipitation. Further, convective organ-541 ization leads to a drastic increase in memory, as seen in the significantly longer $t_{\rm mem}$'s 542 of the wind-shear organized (12 h) and self-aggregated (> 24 h) cases where both ther-543 modynamic quantities were homogenized. 544



Figure 5. The HomoMicro ensemble-averaged responses of precipitation of the (a) CRM, (b) LMDZ-CP, (c) WRF-RKM, and (d) WRF-RKMCBMF cases. The responses of the vertically integrated updraft mass flux of the (e) WRF-RKM and (f) WRF-RKMCBMF cases are also shown. Black dots indicate the times t_{mem} (x coordinates) when the responses first recover to the RCE values (y coordinates) in the respective control runs. The CRM responses are reproduced from C19. \bigcirc American Meteorological Society. Used with permission.

In the SCMs, we mimicked the CRM HomoMicro perturbation by setting the mem-545 ory variable(s) (org in the UW-org scheme in WRF, T' and/or q' in LMDZ-CP) to zero 546 at one time step. For LMDZ-CP (panel b), HomoMicro led to an initial growth instead 547 of reduction in precipitation for all three cases, with very similar $t_{\rm mem}$'s of 1–2 h, which 548 are comparable to the CRM's unorganized cases. We think that the increase in precip-549 itation of LMDZ-CP after HomoMicro is related to the fact that in all cases, the per-550 turbation increases ALP, which directly controls convection intensity (closure). Inter-551 estingly, the ALE (triggering) provided by cold pools is successfully decreased by Ho-552 moMicro for about 10 to 15 min when T' or both T' and q' are set to zero. Likewise, the 553

ALP provided by cold pools also decreases after HomoMicro for about 45 min for these 554 two tests. However, it is the ALP provided by the PBL thermals that dramatically in-555 creases for 15 min after HomoMicro and causes precipitation to first increase. After rain 556 increases, cold pools become colder, more powerful, and they partially maintain an ad-557 ditional supply of mass flux. In contrast to the diverse CRM responses to the three types 558 of homogenization (T, q or Tq), LMDZ-CP displays similar behavior in all three. The 559 CRM recovery time almost doubled when homogenizing both Tq compared to when only 560 T or q was homogenized, while in LMDZ-CP t_{mem} when both Tq were homogenized is 561 almost the same as when homogenizing only T. Analyses of the responses of cold pool 562 properties (T', q') and cold pool surface area) also show that homogenizing Tq and T only 563 led to almost identical behavior. Moreover, T homogenization has a clear impact on q', 564 but q homogenization did not affect T'. These results suggest that memory is mainly car-565 ried by the temperature variable in the LMDZ-CP scheme (Colin, 2020), as opposed to 566 a dominant moisture memory in the CRM. 567

For the UW-org cases with memory (panels c, d), the responses are strikingly sim-568 ilar to the CRM where both thermodynamic variables or only moisture were homoge-569 nized, with precipitation falling immediately almost to zero, then overshooting and fi-570 nally returning to RCE. Although both schemes employ rain evaporation as the mem-571 ory source, it appears that—in contrast to LMDZ-CP—the UW-org scheme emphasizes 572 a stronger moisture memory effect, reminiscent of the CRM response. The responses are 573 especially close to the wind-shear experiment in the CRM, which had an intermediate 574 level of convective organisation. Since org represents subgrid-scale variability (organi-575 zation) that both promotes and is promoted by convection, setting its value to zero is 576 akin to removing the self-enhancing effect of convection via its own memory (positive 577 feedback), hence precipitation takes time to build up again (see Figure 1c). As expected, 578 the rkm0 case (which does not contain memory) does not respond to the perturbation. 579 Similar to the FixMacro results, we again found the time evolutions of the integrated mass 580 flux (panels e, f) to be very similar to those of precipitation. Additionally, the cases with 581 longer recovery times here appear to correspond to those with slower precipitation growth 582 in the FixMacro experiment. For instance, rkm10 displays the longest recovery time here 583 and the slowest growth in the FixMacro experiment amongst the WRF-RKM cases. This 584 is also true for corresponding WRF-RKM and WRF-RKMCBMF cases: cases where org 585 also affects CBMF evolve more rapidly than their WRF-RKM counterparts in FixMacro 586 and also recover more quickly here. This shows that both experiments have managed to 587 capture similar aspects of memory, albeit via different perturbation methods. 588

For WRF-RKM, larger entrainment rates (smaller org2rkm) correspond to longer 589 $t_{\rm mem}$'s. As stronger dilution by entrainment suppresses convection, precipitation thus 590 takes a longer time to recover to its RCE values. In other words, entrainment acts as a 591 brake on convection: stronger entrainment means it takes more time for convective up-592 drafts to develop and evolve, hence a longer memory. For WRF-RKMCBMF, the ad-593 dition of org effects to the scheme's closure seems to attenuate the dilution by entrain-594 ment by providing an additional boost to convection, leading to quicker precipitation re-595 covery compared to the corresponding WRF-RKM cases. We could also interpret the 596 positive correlation between entrainment rate and $t_{\rm mem}$ in terms of convective organi-597 zation, whose effect the org variable is meant to capture: higher entrainment rates have 598 been found to correlate with more organized convection (Tompkins & Semie, 2017) and, 599 by extension, stronger memory. The longer recovery times revealed here for the UW-org 600 cases with smaller org2rkm values are therefore demonstrative of the function of org in 601 mimicking the effects of stronger convective organization / memory via higher entrain-602 ment rates. We explore the org variable further in Section 3.5. 603

3.5 Convective Memory and *org*

The HomoMicro experiment revealed that larger entrainment rates in the UW-org 605 scheme are related to longer $t_{\rm mem}$'s. An important question then is their relationship to 606 the org variable of the scheme: if org adequately represents the effects of subgrid-scale 607 heterogeneity, or convective organization, in principle it would be related to $t_{\rm mem}$. Here, 608 we explore the *org* variable and its relationship to convective memory. To improve sta-609 tistical confidence, we conducted four additional experiments with org2rkm = 40, 50 and 610 additionally paired them with org2cbmf = 10, resulting in a total of 10 simulations for 611 612 our analyses (excluding rkm0 run as it does not contain memory). Additionally, to account for the possibility that setting org to zero may represent disparate effects for cases 613 with different org_{rce} values (i.e., a configuration with larger org_{rce} value could display 614 bigger $t_{\rm mem}$ simply because of the stronger perturbation incurred when org is set to zero), 615 we conducted another set of experiments where we set org to a value equals to the re-616 spective RCE orq values minus 0.05, representing the same absolute change for all con-617 figurations. We refer to this set of experiment as ORG_ABS and to the experiments where 618 org is set to zero as ORG_ZERO. 619



Figure 6. Scatterplots of t_{mem} versus the (a) mean *org* values at RCE for the ORG_ZERO experiment, where *org* is set to zero, (b) same as panel a but for the ORG_ABS experiment, where *org* is set to the respective *org*_{rce} values minus 0.05, (c) \widehat{org} growth rate over one time step after HomoMicro begins for ORG_ZERO, and (d) same as panel c but for ORG_ABS.

Results are shown as scatterplots in Figure 6, where data from the final 300 days 620 of the 1000 days control simulations were used to derive the mean $org_{\rm rce}$ values (results 621 are not sensitive to the averaging period). For ORG_ZERO, we found a very high cor-622 relation between t_{mem} and the mean values of org_{rce} (r = 0.92, p < 0.001; panel a). 623 A weaker but still high negative correlation (r = -0.81, p = 0.005; panel c) was also 624 found between $t_{\rm mem}$ and the initial $d(\widehat{org})/dt$ immediately after HomoMicro was applied 625 (where $\widehat{org} = org/org_{rce}$ as described in Section 3.3), indicating that a slower org re-626 covery rate is associated with larger $t_{\rm mem}$. For ORG_ABS, the strong association between 627 $t_{\rm mem}$ and $org_{\rm rce}$ discovered for ORG_ZERO disappears (r = 0.45, panel b), but a mod-628 erately strong correlation remains between t_{mem} and the org growth rate (r = -0.77, 629 p = 0.01; panel d). Note that as the ORG_ABS results contain an outlier (rkm10), we 630 have computed the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, which is less sensitive to out-631 liers (Pearson's coefficient returns r values of 0.83 and -0.95 for panels b and d, respec-632 tively). With the exception of rkm10, the $t_{\rm mem}$'s for the ORG_ABS cases are significantly 633 more similar to each other (they are closer to each other in panels b and d) compared 634 to the ORG_ZERO cases, pointing to the possibility that the highly linear relationship 635 between $t_{\rm mem}$ and $org_{\rm rce}$ found for ORG_ZERO could be due to the more vigorous per-636 turbation the homogenization step has when there is more *org* to be homogenized, which 637 leads to longer recovery times. Overall, the robustness of the results between panels c 638 and d suggest that it is not the absolute value of orq but its rate of change that encodes 639 information about the memory strength of a system (before perturbation, it is the same 640 RCE system in c and d, so it should have the same memory). Further evidence for this 641 can be seen in the initial negative growth rates of a few configurations with the strongest 642 memory (longest t_{mem} 's) in the ORG_ABS experiment (panel d), indicating that org con-643 tinued to decrease (instead of immediately recovering as in other cases) after the instan-644 taneous homogenization step because of its higher inertia in these cases. 645

By changing the entrainment rates of the different cases via the org2rkm param-646 eter, org simulates the functionality of convective organization: higher entrainment rates 647 are associated with increased mixing of dry air into convecting plumes, resulting in the 648 confinement of convection to sufficiently moist regions and hence more organized con-649 vection and stronger memory. When HomoMicro is applied, cases with more feeble con-650 vection—owing to the larger entrainment rates—therefore display slower recovery. Note 651 that although the rkm10 (and rkm20 for HomoMicro) responses appear closest to those 652 of the CRM in both the FixMacro and HomoMicro experiments, we have refrained from 653 suggesting the "best" values for the org2rkm and org2cbmf parameters. As is usual for 654 parameterization, these are essentially tunable parameters and the most appropriate val-655 ues probably depend on the scenario that one wishes to simulate. Here, we merely demon-656 strate the relationship between entrainment rate and convective memory, facilitated via 657 the org variable. 658

659 4 Conclusions

The main objective of the present study is to evaluate the memory behavior of sev-660 eral configurations of the UW-org scheme as well as the LMDZ cold pool convection scheme, 661 with memory being defined as the dependence of convection on its own history given its 662 current environment, present in these schemes. As control (memory-less) cases we also 663 tested five conventional convection schemes. We compare the responses of these schemes 664 in a single-column model (SCM) setup to those of a cloud-resolving model (CRM) us-665 ing two idealized RCE experiments. The CRM results are taken from previously pub-666 lished studies (Colin et al., 2019; Colin & Sherwood, 2021), and include two tests: Fix-667 Macro, where we hold the macrostate environment of convection fixed and observe the 668 evolution of convection; and HomoMicro, where we reset subgrid prognostic variables to 669 neutral values at one time and observe the subsequent evolution as they recover. These 670 tests serve two purposes. As presented in the previous studies, they allow us to test the 671

diagnostic assumption where convective activity is assumed to be instantaneously and solely determined by the macrostate. As newly implemented here, they further allow us to differentiate between different possible parameterizations of convective memory processes.

The picture that emerges from these experiments can be summarized into three main 676 points. First, standard convection schemes that do not contain any internal prognostic 677 variables and diagnose convective behavior from their environment behave very differ-678 ently to the CRM in the FixMacro experiment. Precipitation (a proxy for convective ac-679 tivity) remains invariant in time, while in the CRM it grows or decays exponentially. This 680 invariance reveals the diagnostic assumption used in these convection schemes: convec-681 tion is slave to and only to the macrostate, hence when the large-scale environment is 682 restrained, convective activity also remains unchanged. These results are unsurprising, 683 but nonetheless serve as a clear and easy-to-understand demonstration of the memory 684 (or rather, lack thereof) behavior of schemes that employ the diagnostic assumption. Since 685 the time scales of growth or decay shown by the CRM are many hours, this failure of 686 diagnostic schemes is likely to cause large discrepancies in transient convective behav-687 ior on subdaily time scales. 688

Second, the memory-capable UW-org and LMDZ-CP schemes partially, but do not 689 fully, capture the behavior of the CRM under FixMacro and HomoMicro conditions. For 690 the UW-org scheme, precipitation mimics the behavior of the CRM in that precipita-691 tion either grows or decays when its large-scale environment is fixed, indicating the ef-692 fects of microstate memory. However, its growth trajectory departs from that of the CRM 693 after a few hours, trending towards a stable equilibrium, while in the CRM precipita-694 tion continues to evolve exponentially. This behavior can be explained by the scheme's 695 structural assumptions, in particular that the impact of precipitation on the subgrid state 696 scales sublinearly with precipitation, while the CRM exhibits a linear (or superlinear) 697 dependence between the two. When the microstate memory variables are set to zero in-698 stantaneously, the UW-org scheme behaves similarly to the CRM cases where both Tq699 or only q were homogenized: precipitation falls to zero and then recovers to its RCE state. 700 The LMDZ-CP scheme, on the other hand, displays responses that mimic the CRM be-701 havior when only T was homogenized: precipitation grows before falling back to its RCE 702 value after a few oscillations. We found bigger entrainment rates in the UW-org scheme 703 to be associated with slower precipitation growth (in FixMacro) and recovery (in Ho-704 moMicro). This more sluggish behavior is symptomatic of a bigger inertia or persistence 705 of past convective states, which we interpret as greater memory strengths. Further, the 706 rate of change in time of *org* is shown to be correlated with memory strength in both 707 the FixMacro and HomoMicro experiments, suggesting that org has captured crucial as-708 pects of memory. 709

Third, different ways convection schemes parameterize memory clearly have an im-710 pact on their behavior. Again, this might seem trivial and unsurprising, but it is use-711 ful to be able to highlight these differences in a clear and convincing way. One impor-712 tant difference that was revealed here was the dominant type of memory represented by 713 the schemes. Even though both schemes use rain evaporation as their memory source 714 (with explicit dependence on relative humidity, a thermodynamic variable), the LMDZ-715 CP scheme appears to emphasize temperature-stored memory while the UW-org scheme 716 displays a prevailing moisture memory response that is more similar to the CRM's be-717 havior. This intriguing disparity is no doubt a manifestation of the general conceptual 718 difference between the schemes, and indeed, the way they aim to represent memory through 719 their governing equations. Perhaps the UW-org scheme's use of a prognostic org vari-720 able that mimics the behavior of the prey in the predator-prey equations (akin to Colin 721 and Sherwood (2021)) was better at reproducing the CRM's behavior. Of course, whether 722 our results imply one scheme's definitive superiority over another cannot be ascertained 723 based only on two simple idealized tests: the LMDZ-CP scheme may very well perform 724

better in other (perhaps more realistic) tests, which we have not taken into account here.
Nevertheless, our findings could perhaps inspire ideas about or guide the search for ways
to investigate potential flaws in a scheme.

Our study has several limitations. We have relied on results from a single CRM 728 (WRF) to provide "truth" for assessing the convection schemes. Findings could poten-729 tially differ with another CRM. Even in the WRF CRM we found varying results with 730 different states of convective organization. We hence cannot rule out the possibility that 731 other model configurations (e.g., domain size, horizontal resolution) could also influence 732 733 the results presented here. The two experiments conducted are highly idealized and do not resemble anything that would happen naturally in the atmosphere, and thus poten-734 tially may be unfair tests of parameterizations that might reveal deficiencies that don't 735 matter in practice. We acknowledge that these experiments are indeed more akin to lab-736 oratory experiments and are not meant to be realistic. However, they serve the purpose 737 of providing ways to understand the behavior of convection schemes (which is not at all 738 a straightforward endeavour) in a simple framework that may offer useful insights on their 739 complicated behavior in realistic scenarios. Under steady-state conditions we investigated 740 here (RCE), the importance of the temporal dependence of convection on its own past 741 state (i.e., the prognosticity of the memory variable) may not be as apparent compared 742 to transient scenarios. Nonetheless, the memory timescales revealed in our experiments 743 $(\sim 12 \text{ h in the UW-} org \text{ scheme})$ are very similar to that of the diurnal cycle as well as 744 the moisture adjustment time scale observed over the tropical oceans (Bretherton, Pe-745 ters, & Back, 2004), suggesting that our experiments have likely isolated issues related 746 to the inability of some memory-less schemes in the correct simulation of diurnal cycles 747 (Daleu et al., 2020; Harvey et al., 2022). Lastly, our SCM setup necessarily means that 748 no insights about convective organization can be provided, which limits the interpreta-749 tion of certain results. The connection between convective memory and organization, for 750 example, cannot be verified. Nevertheless, 1D and 3D results have been found to be com-751 parable (Hwong et al., 2022), suggesting there is a chance the findings of our study can 752 be applied to improve temporal memory parameterization, which in turn could help im-753 prove the representation of spatial organization (Tobin et al., 2013). It is therefore a high 754 priority to validate the results discussed here using a 3D setup. 755

756 5 Appendix A

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The source term of the *org* prognostic equation (Eq. 1) is $evap2org \cdot E$, where Eis the mass-weighted vertical integral of rain evaporation rate, given by the following equation (Eq. A8 in Park & Bretherton, 2009):

$$E = \int_{0}^{EL} (1 - \mathrm{RH}) \sqrt{K_e^2 p'} \rho \,\mathrm{d}z, \qquad (16)$$

where RH, p' and ρ are the vertical profiles of relative humidity, precipitation flux and air density, respectively, EL is the equilibrium level, and K_e is a constant and has the value of 0.2×10^{-5} [(kg m⁻² s⁻¹)^{-1/2}s⁻¹] (Park & Bretherton, 2009). E and p' are in the units of kg m⁻² s⁻¹. To enable a more numerically tractable formulation, we simplify Eq. (16) to

$$E = K(1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}})\sqrt{P},\tag{17}$$

where *P* is surface precipitation (in units kg m⁻² s⁻¹), $\overline{\text{RH}}$ is the vertical mean of relative humidity, and *K* is a constant (in units [kg m⁻² s⁻¹]^{1/2}). Substituting Eq. (17) in (1) we get

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t} = evap2org \cdot K(1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}})\sqrt{P} - \frac{org}{\tau_{org}},\tag{18}$$

We have assumed a linear approximation for the relationship between P and org(i.e., $P = \beta org$), Eq. (18) thus becomes

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t} = evap2org \cdot K(1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}})\sqrt{\beta \, org} - \frac{(org)}{\tau_{org}},\tag{19}$$

There are two steady state (RCE) solutions to the system $\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t}=0\right)$, one of which is $org_{rce}=0$, and the other one gives

$$\sqrt{org_{rce}} = \sqrt{\beta} \ evap2org \cdot K\tau_{org}(1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}}_{\mathrm{rce}}).$$
⁽²⁰⁾

Combining Eq. (19) and (20) we get

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(org)}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{org_{rce}}{\tau_{org}} \left[\left(\frac{1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}}}{1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}}_{\mathrm{rce}}} \right) \sqrt{\frac{org}{org_{rce}}} - \frac{org}{org_{rce}} \right]. \tag{21}$$

Under FixMacro conditions, Eq. (21) can be formulated in terms of a normalized org, with $\widehat{org} = org/org_{rce}$, and a FixMacro profile, $\overline{\mathrm{RH}_0}$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(\widehat{org})}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{1}{\tau_{org}} \left(b\sqrt{\widehat{org}} - \widehat{org} \right), \qquad (22)$$

where $b = \frac{1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}_0}}{1 - \overline{\mathrm{RH}_{rce}}}$. Substituting \widehat{org} with the normalized memory variable \widehat{V} we get Eq. (15). Numerical integration of Eq. (22) shows that, for an initial value of $\widehat{org_0} =$ 1 (i.e., $org = org_{rce}$),

$$\widehat{org} = 1, \quad \text{if } b = 1, \text{ control case.}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(\widehat{org})}{\mathrm{d}t} > 0, \quad \text{if } b > 1, \text{ FixMacro growth case.}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(\widehat{org})}{\mathrm{d}t} < 0, \quad \text{if } b < 1, \text{ FixMacro decay case.}$$
(23)

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⁷⁸⁶ 6 Open Research

The data, scripts and model source codes and files required to reproduce the re sults described in this manuscript are available at https://zenodo.org/record/7784952
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