



# Colorado State University Laboratory Facilities and Measurements Focused on Ice Nucleation

Paul J. DeMott  
(acknowledging many)

September 24, 2021

Workshop on laboratory facilities for cloud research

Beijing/Virtual

# Today's talk

- Former fixed facilities and applications at CSU and research made possible by such facilities
  - Isothermal cloud chamber
  - Dynamic cloud chamber
  - Applications for cloud seeding and fundamental research
- Developed instruments for applications in lab or field for ice nucleation research (ongoing)
  - Continuous flow diffusion chambers
  - Ice spectrometer
- Other unique facilities for aerosol-cloud research we have used that should be considered in any overall plans for major facility capabilities

# Cloud Seeding Research at the Cloud Simulation and Aerosol Laboratory



Lewis O. Grant



- Past cloud chamber studies have provided:
  - Cloud chamber activation spectral (#particles/g)
  - Rates of ice crystal formation (ice formation mechanisms and quantification)
  - New types of agents that express specific behaviors tested under operational conditions
- Calibrating in-situ ice nucleating particle counter to lab “standard”
- New methods for sampling and characterizing ice nucleating particles



William Finnegan  
circa 2010



Feng Daxiong -  
1984

# Producing “Agl-type” aerosols

Solution combustion: Vonnegut (1949)

Agl + NH<sub>4</sub>I (solubilizing agent) + acetone  
+ H<sub>2</sub>O (solvent)

2% by weight typical

0.64% by weight

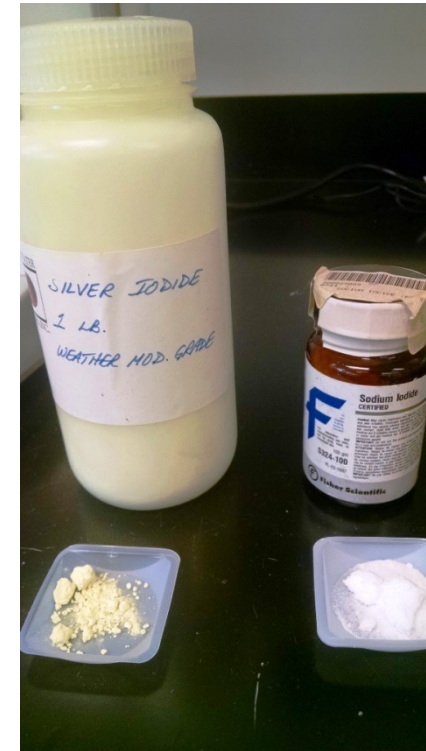
97% by weight

Pyrotechnic combustion: St. Amand et al. (1970)

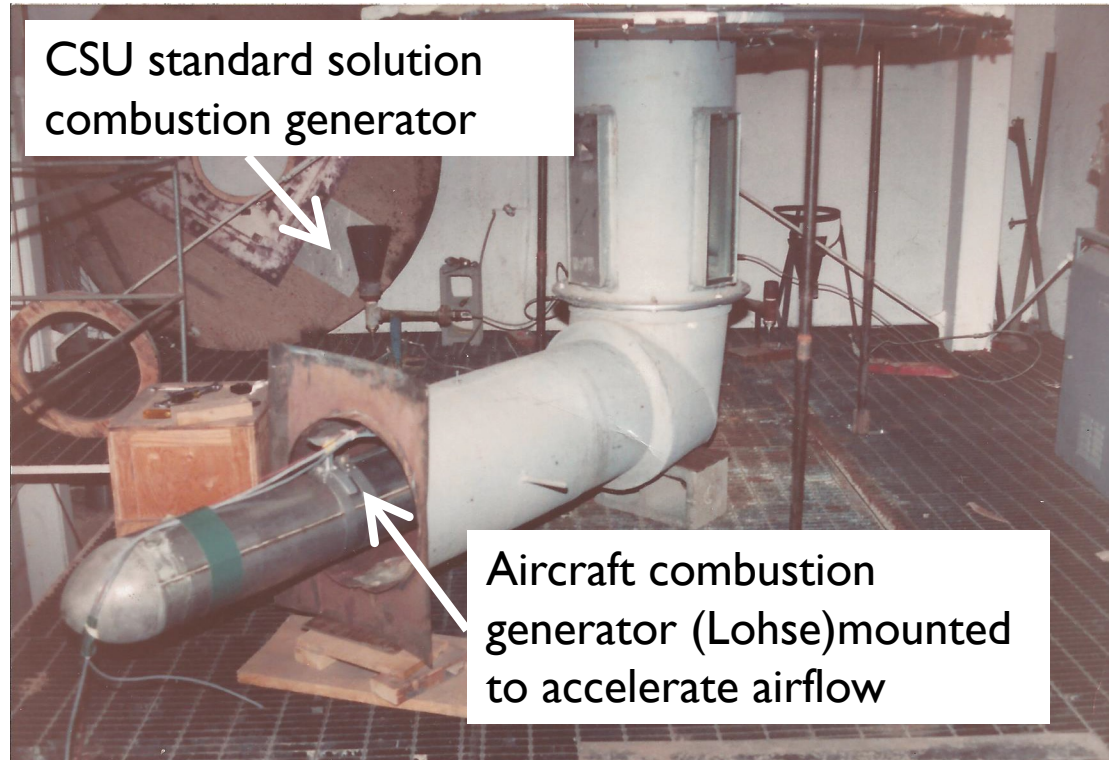
AgIO<sub>3</sub> + 2Al (+ other metals, oxidizer such as KIO<sub>3</sub> + binder) → AgI + Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> +

...

**Almost never simply AgI as a product**

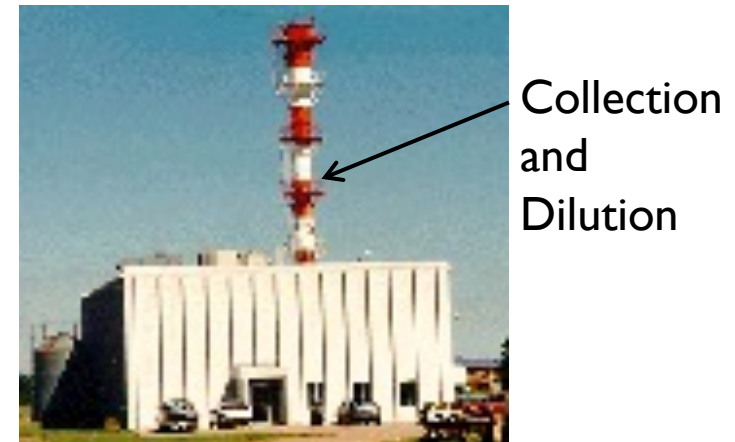


# Varied mounting of field generators



## Wind tunnel

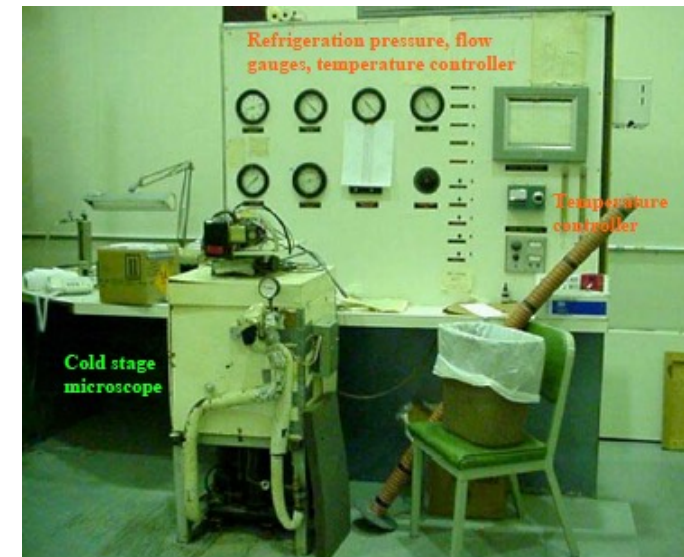
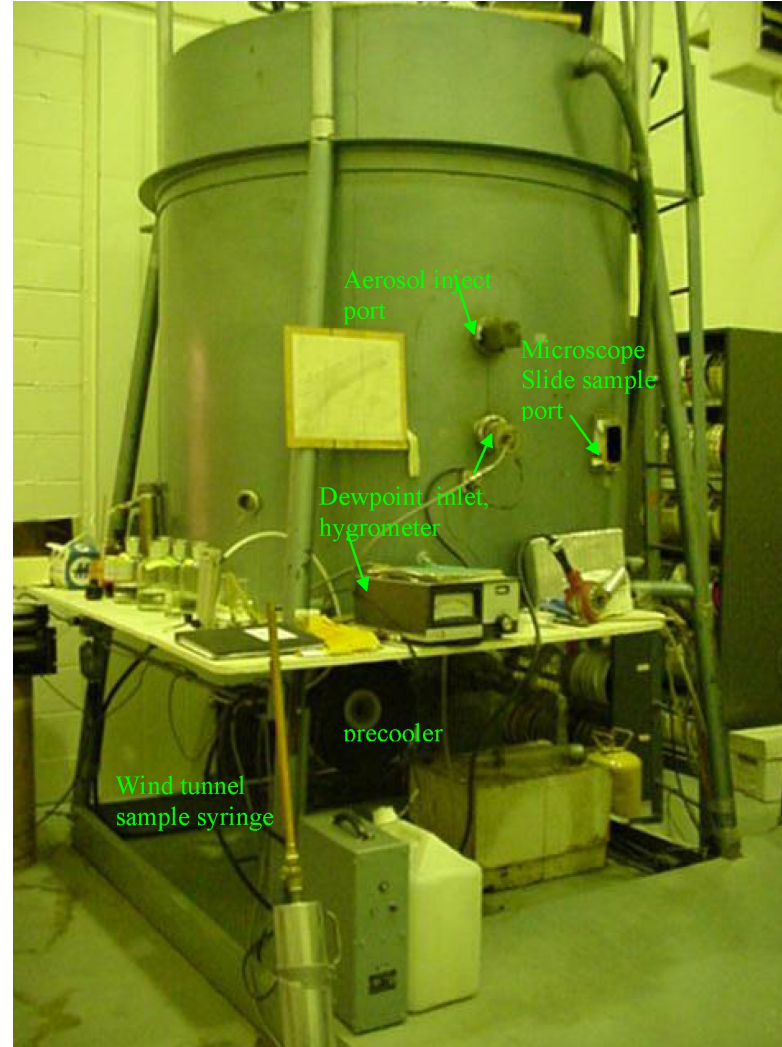
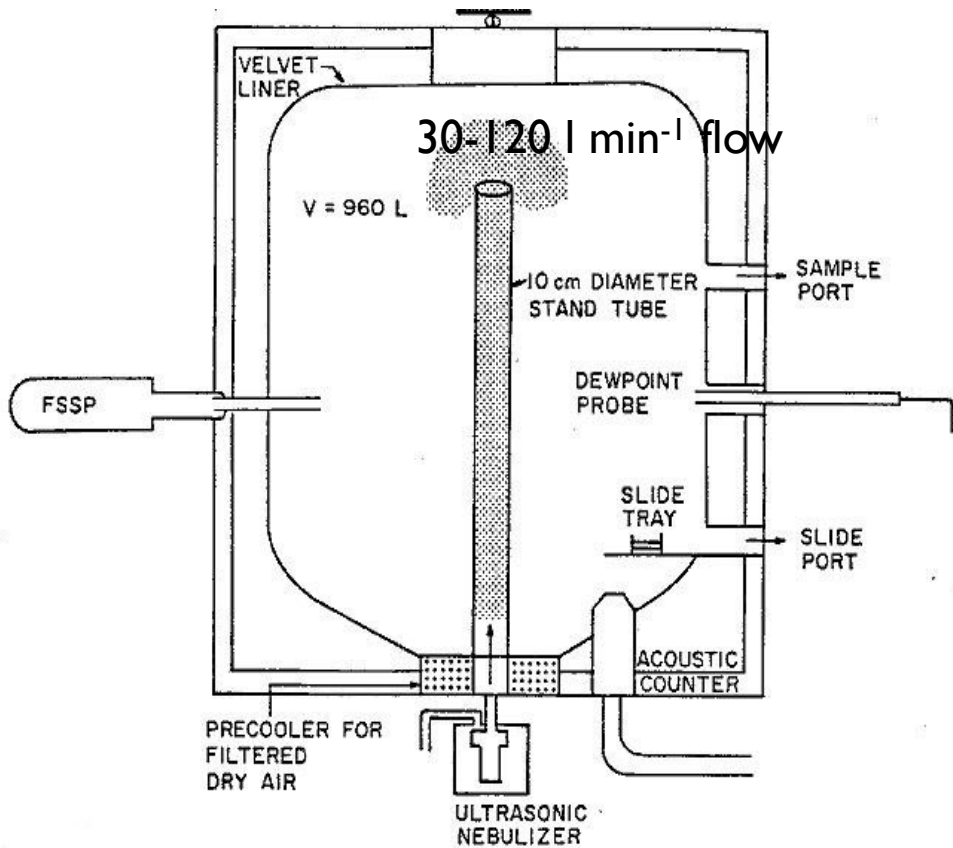
~3.2 million l min<sup>-1</sup> natural air  
55 m s<sup>-1</sup> tunnel flow at midpoint



Boe, B.A. and P.J. DeMott, 1999: Comparisons of Lohse Wing-tip nuclei generators and burn-in-place pyrotechnics in the North Dakota Cloud Modification Project. *Journal of Weather Modification*, **31**, 109-118.

# CSU Cloud Simulation Laboratory

Static, isothermal chamber  
(Garvey et al. 1975;  
DeMott et al., 1982)



# Calibration of seeding aerosols (Yield, Effectiveness, Activity)

Yield was the key factor determining decisions on seeding materials.

$$\text{Yield} = N_{ic} * (A_c/A_v) * (R_d/R_g) * (D_s/V_s) = \# \text{ g}^{-1}$$

$N_{ic}$ : total # ice crystals collected per microscope slide viewing area

$A_c$ : chamber cross-sectional area( $\text{cm}^2$ )

$A_v$ : microscope viewing area( $\text{cm}^2$ )

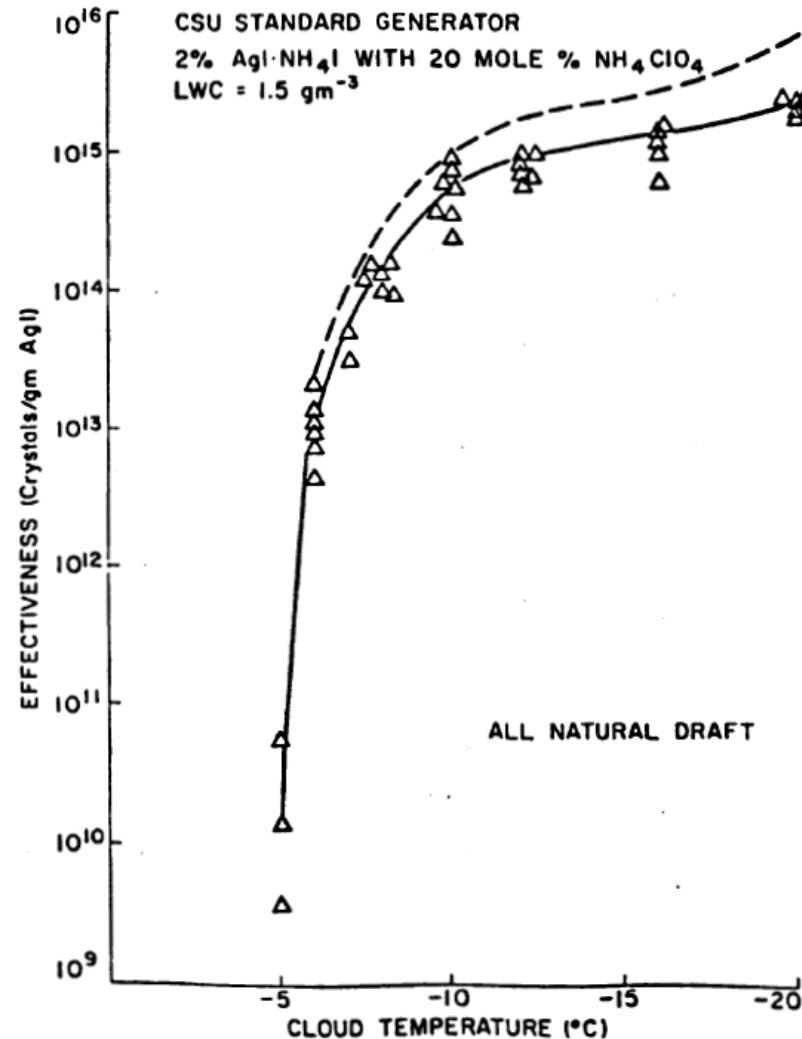
$R_d$ : wind tunnel dilution rate( $\text{l min}^{-1}$ )

$R_g$ : AgI generation rate( $\text{g min}^{-1}$ )

$V_s$ : volume of collected sample (l)

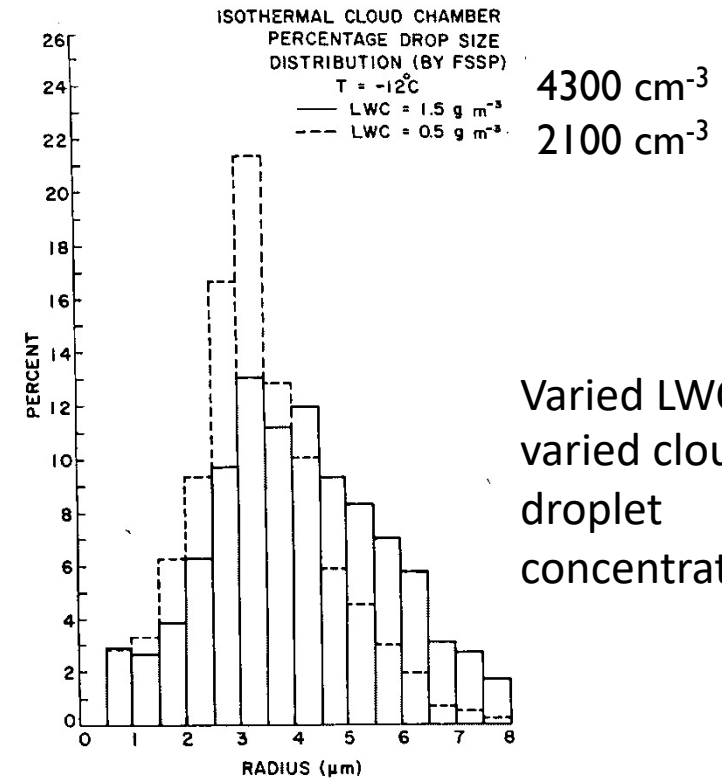
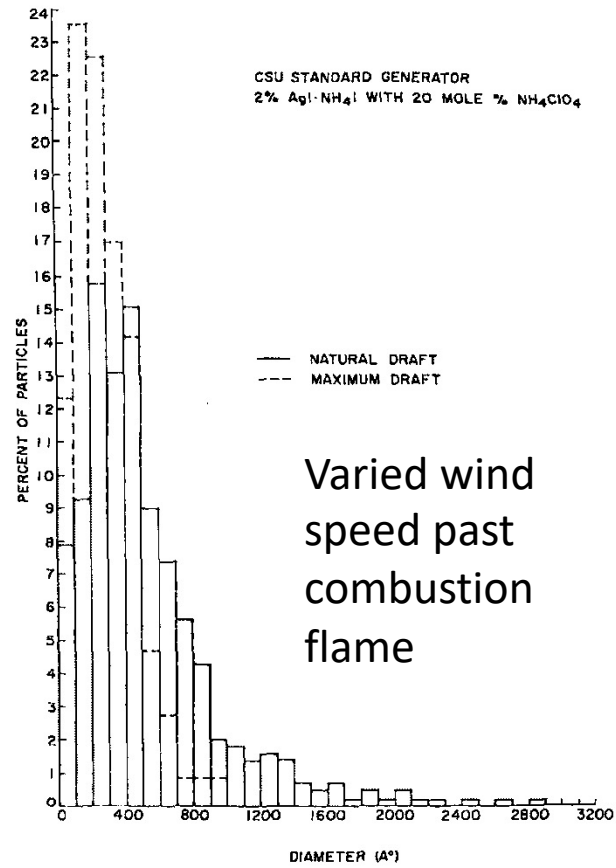
D: sample dilution factor

- In all cases, there was an attempt not to “overseed”



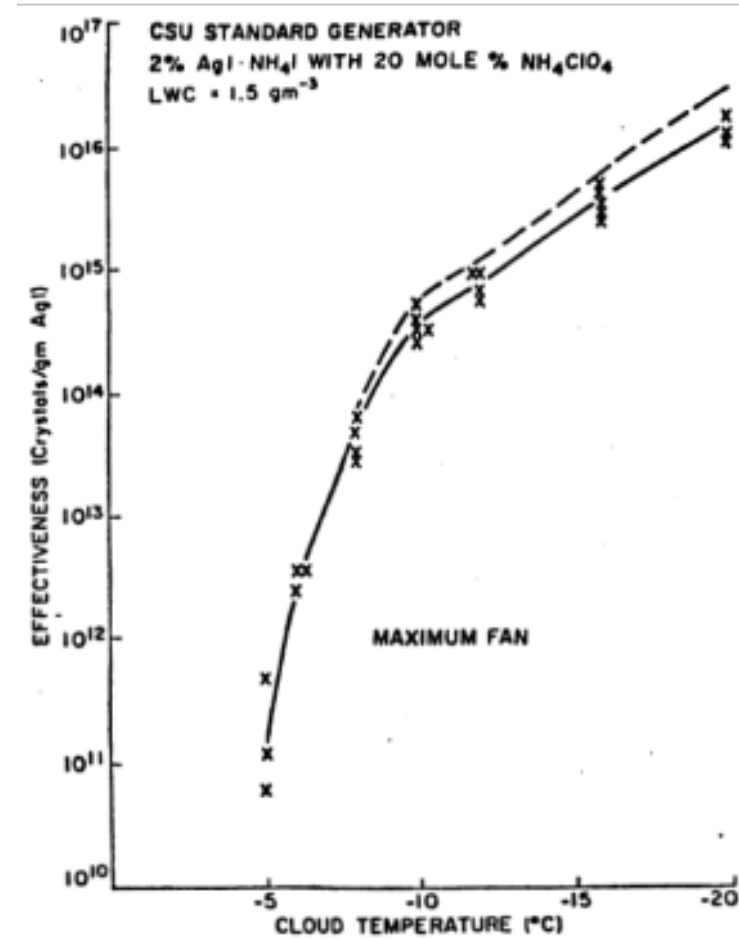
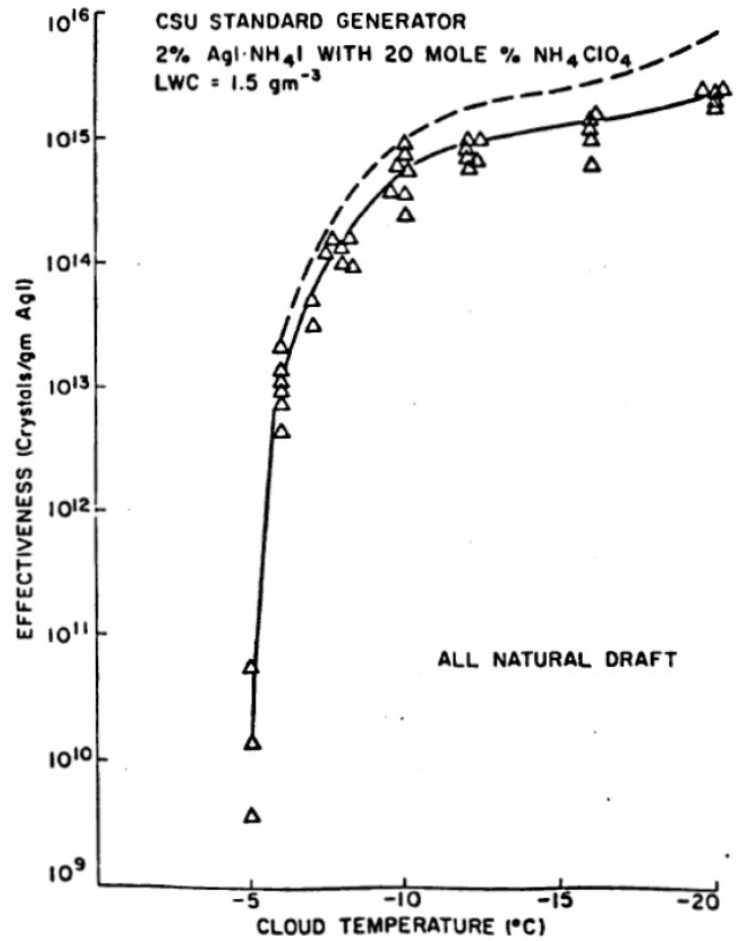
# Able to explore aerosol size and droplet concentration impacts – to provide hints at nucleation mechanisms

DeMott (1982 – thesis)  
DeMott et al. (1983, J. Clim. Appl. Meteor.).

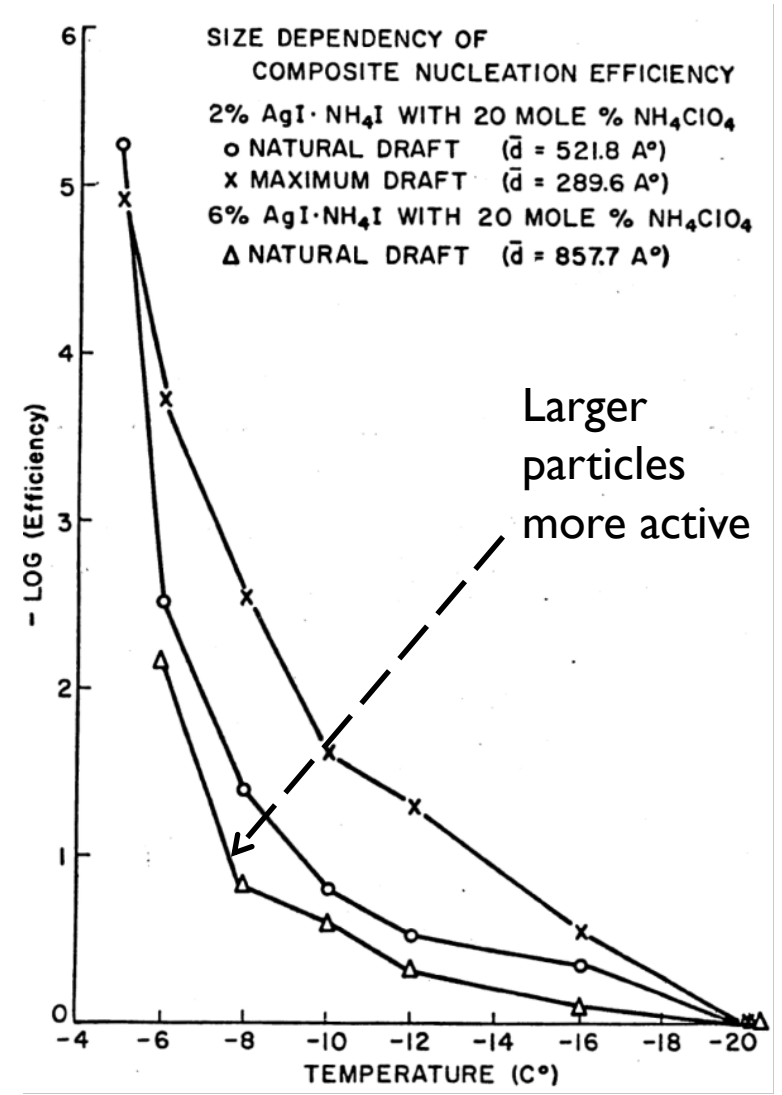
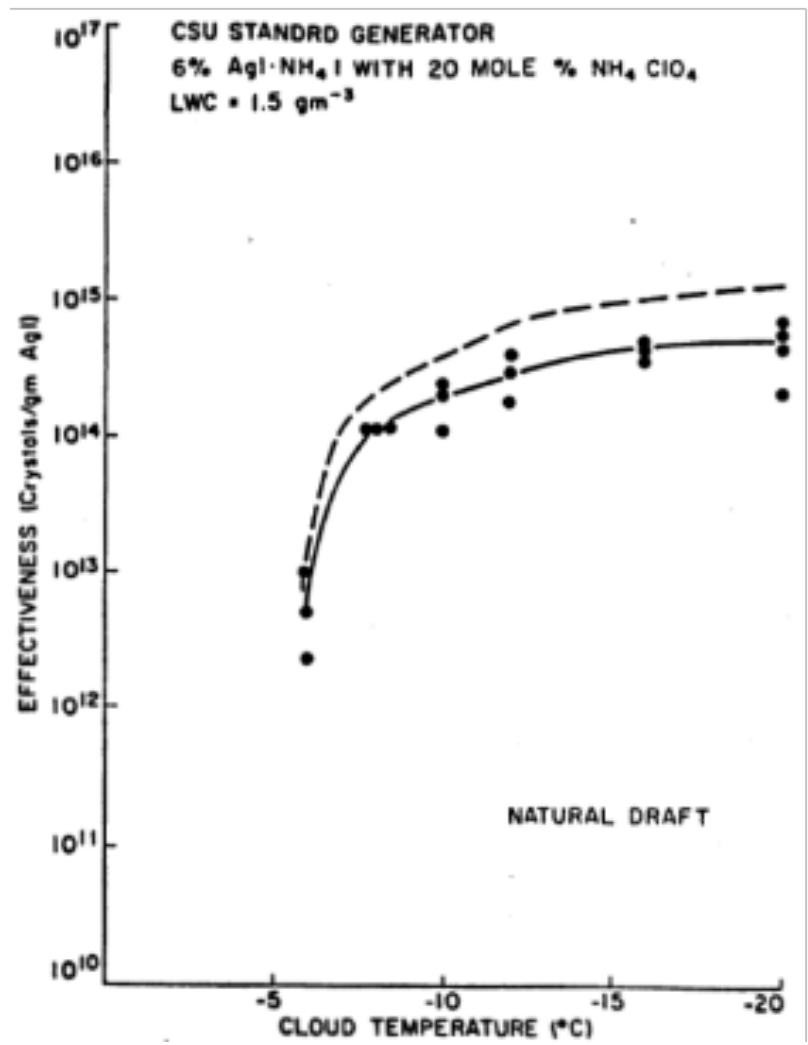




# Size distribution impacts Yield for most ice nuclei from combustion – flame quenching impact

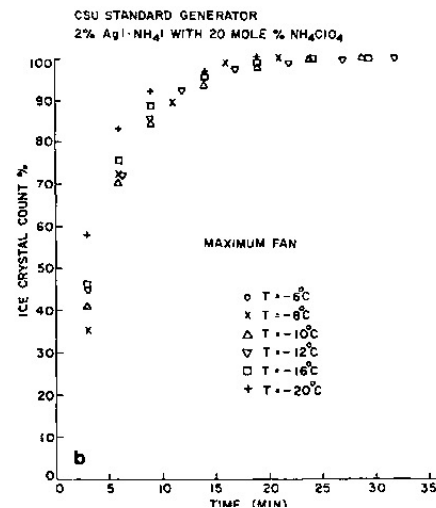
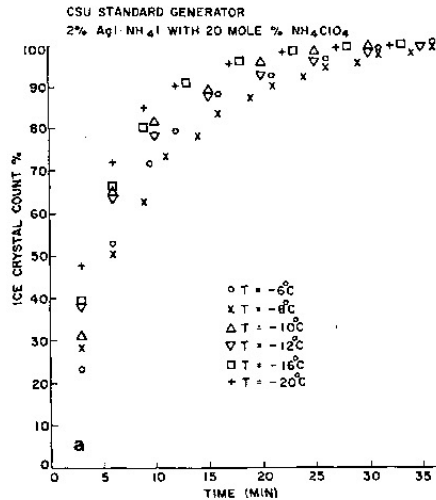


# Size distribution from combustion can also be controlled by AgI mass → size effects on ice nucleation



# Rates and mechanisms of ice formation reflect changes in particle sizes and cloud droplet concentration (LWC)

DeMott et al. (J. Clim. Appl. Meteor., 1983)



Ice formation is faster for smaller particles!

$$N_{ICt} = N_{IC\infty} (1 - \exp(-k_{app}t))$$

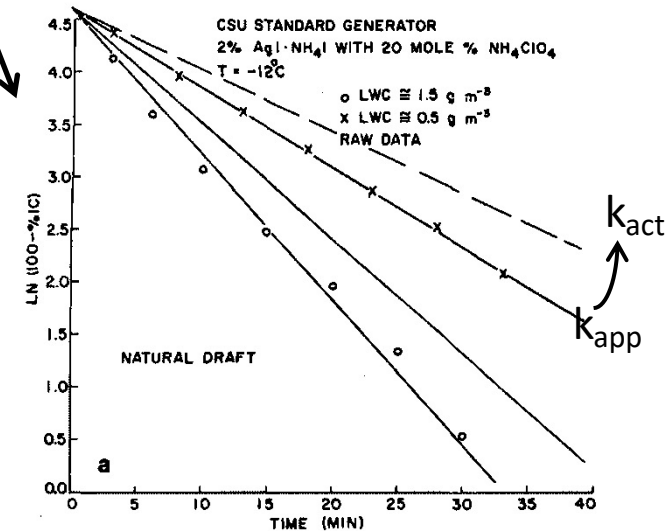
$N_{ICt}$ : cumulative ice crystal count at time  $t$

$N_{IC\infty}$ : total count at time infinity

$$k_{app} = k_{act} + k_{dilution}$$

$$\ln(100 - \%IC) = -k_{app} t$$

Ice formation is psuedo-first order process. Faster for higher droplet concentrations!

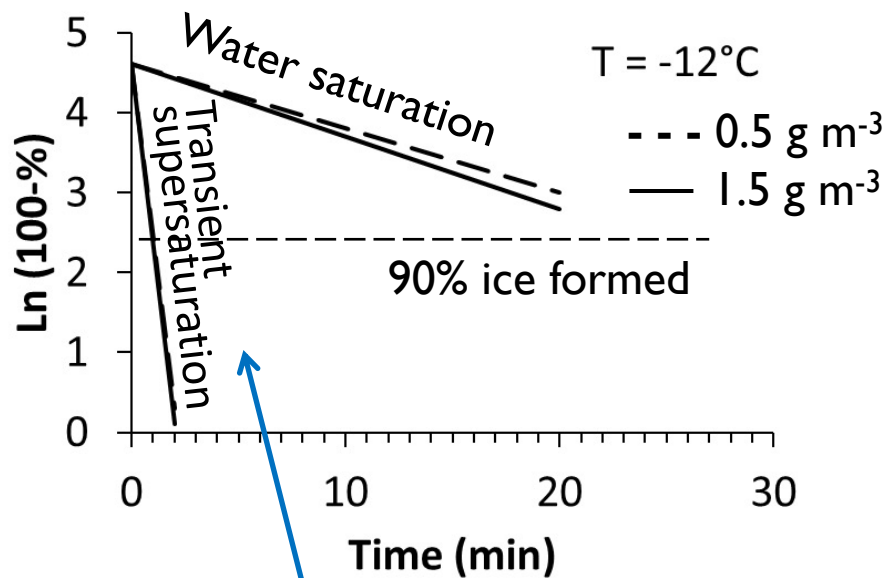


→ Contact freezing by  $AgI_xCl_y$  systems

# “Complexed, AgI-alkali halide nuclei systems were “slow” for condensation freezing, motivating designing “fast” hygroscopic $\text{AgI}_x\text{Cl}_y\text{-zNaCl}$ system

## Slow freezing at water saturation

AgI-NaI complex (Blumenstein et al. 1987)



However...

No sensitivity to droplet concentration  
→ condensation freezing nucleation

## Fast freezing at water saturation

AgI-AgCl-4NaCl (Feng Daxiong and W.G. Finnegan, JWMA, 1984)

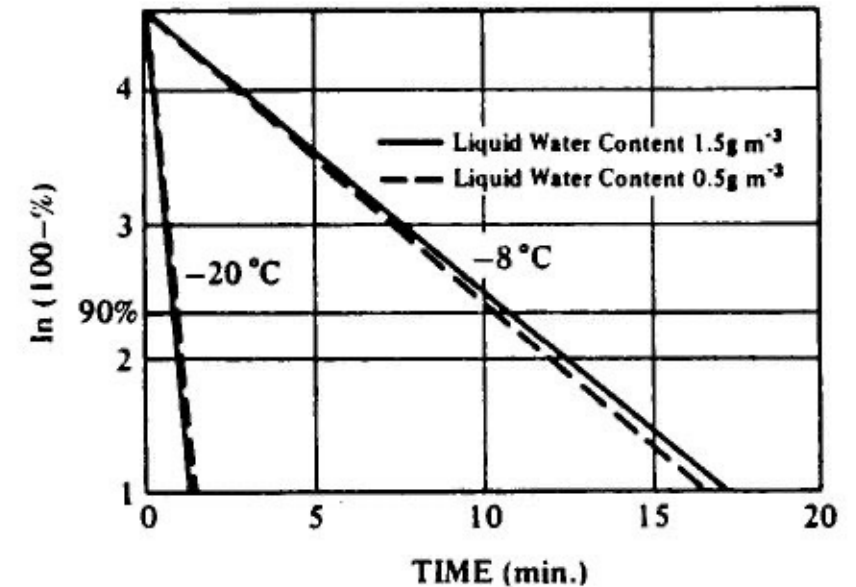
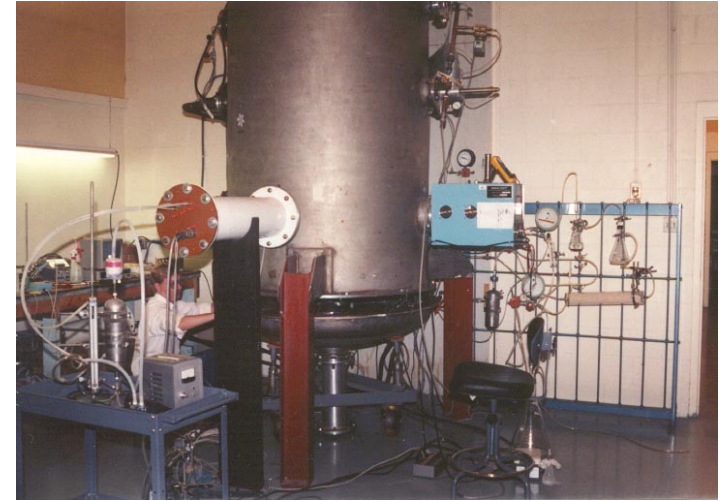
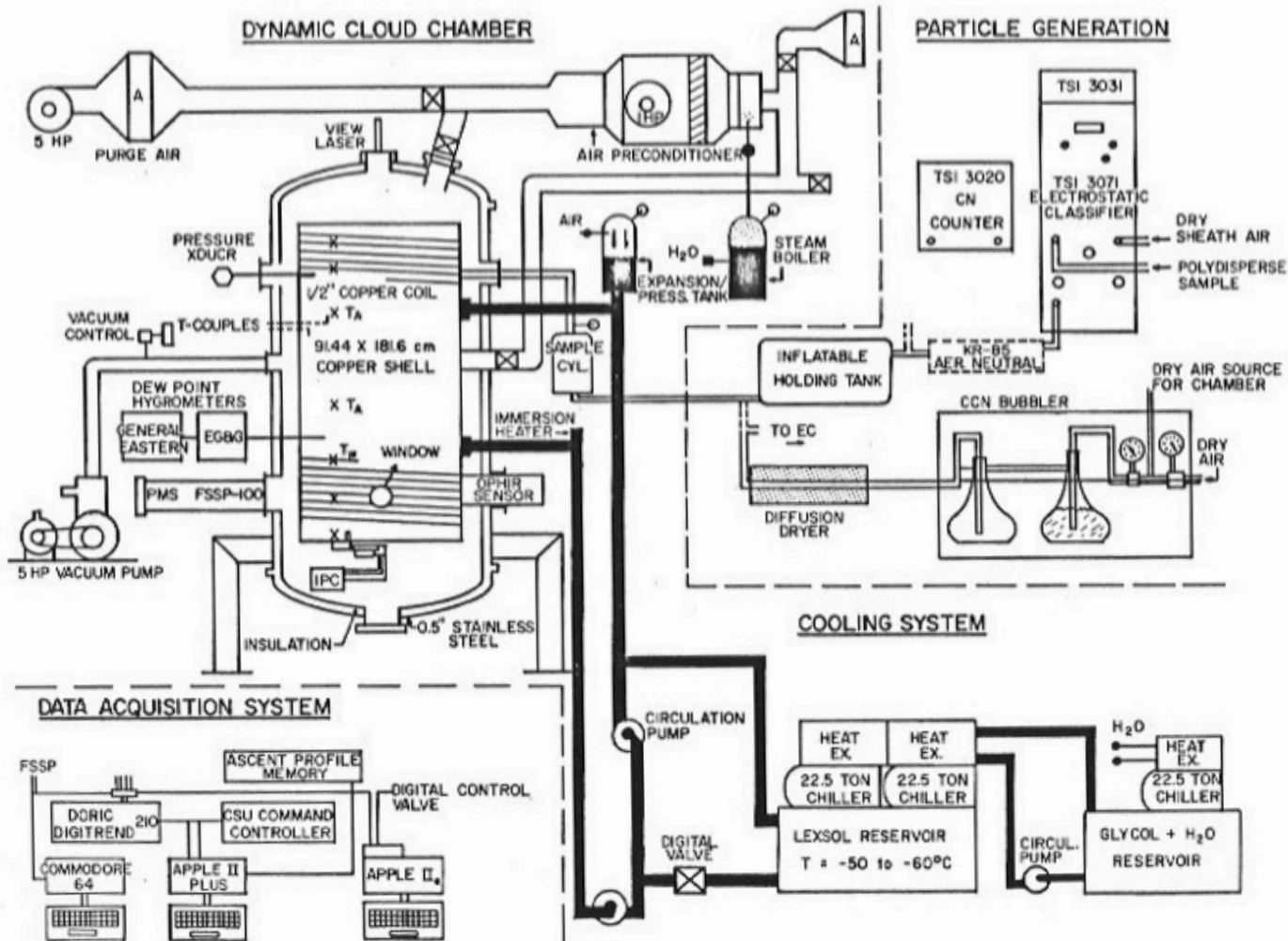


Fig. 3 Rates of depletion of AgI-AgCl-4 NaCl composite nuclei after introduction into the cloud chamber at different liquid water contents.

# CSU Dynamic Cloud Chamber

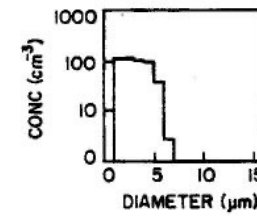
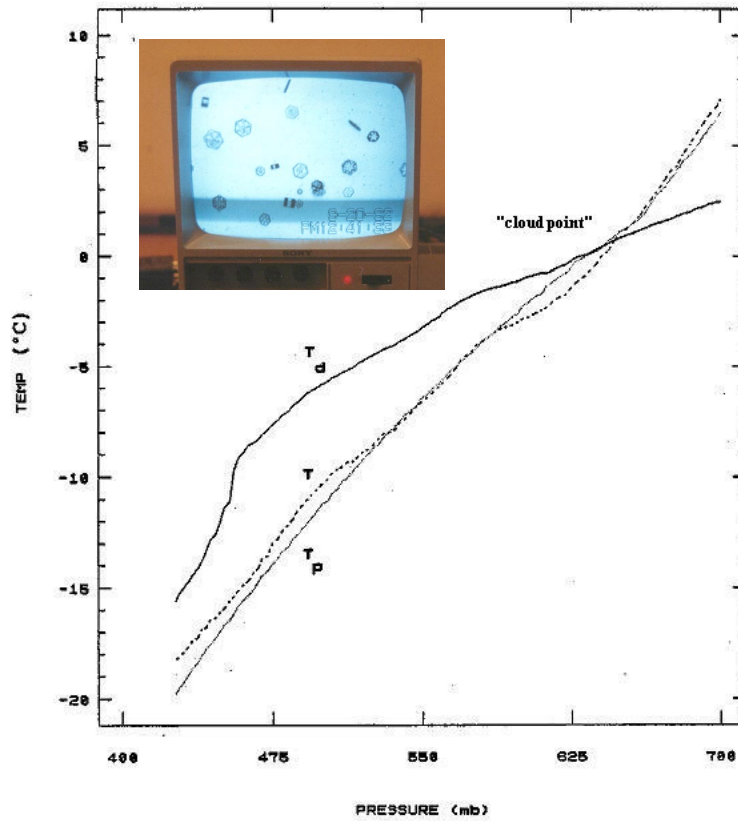
Dynamic cloud chamber (Garvey, 1975; DeMott and Rogers, 1990)



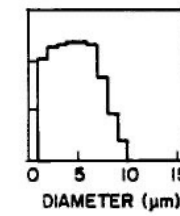
NCAR Electra air sample delivered to laboratory (circa 1992)

# CSU Dynamic Cloud Chamber

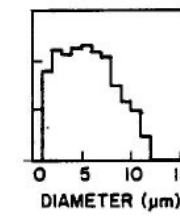
Could reproduce adiabatic profile through cooling rate to form clouds



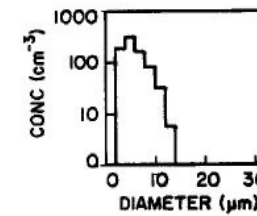
t = 40s  
T = -0.9°C  
P = 634mb  
 $\bar{d}$  = 3.2μm



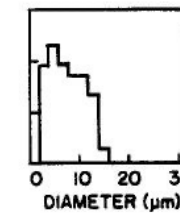
t = 100s  
T = -1.8°C  
P = 621mb  
 $\bar{d}$  = 4.5μm



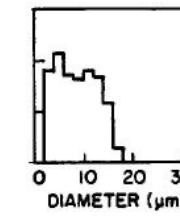
t = 160s  
T = -2.5°C  
P = 610mb  
 $\bar{d}$  = 5.0μm



t = 310s  
T = -4.0°C  
P = 580mb  
 $\bar{d}$  = 5.6μm



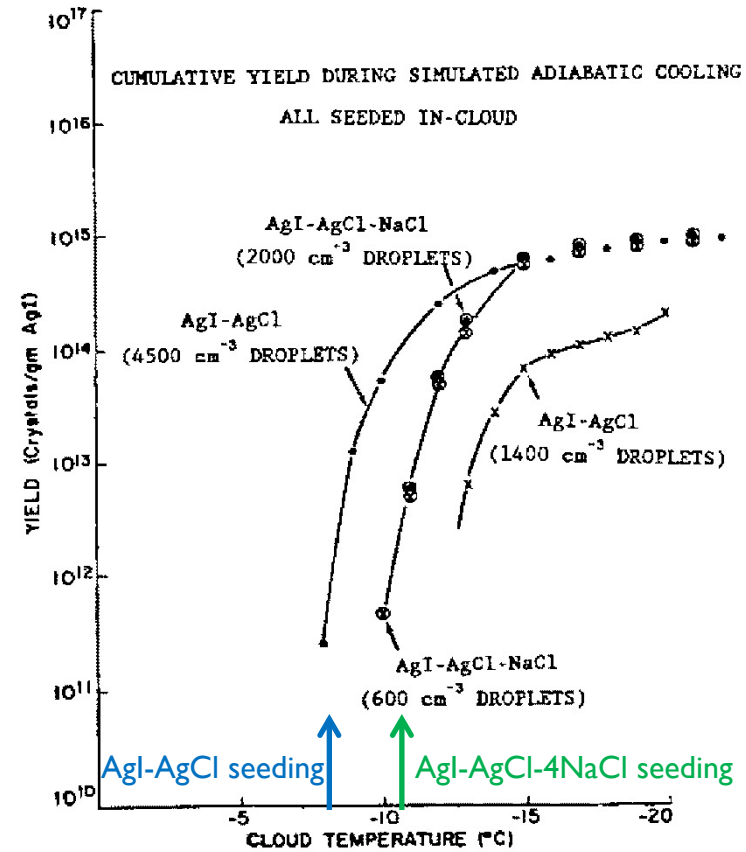
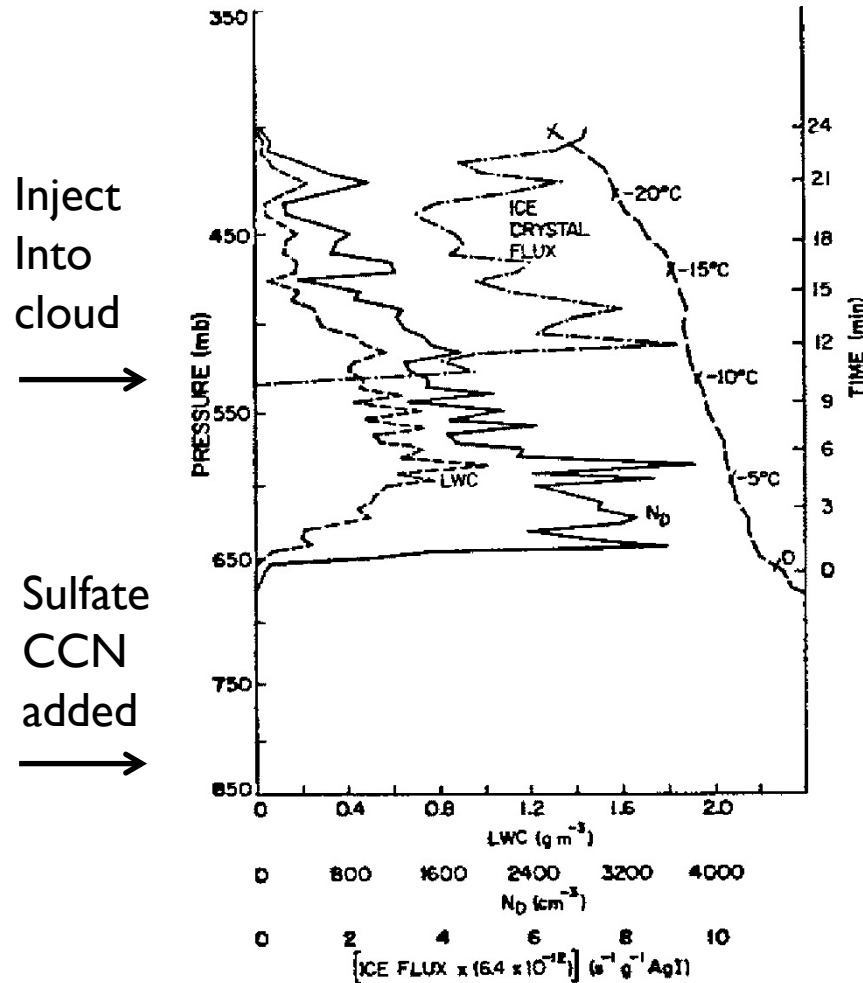
t = 445s  
T = -6.3°C  
P = 553mb  
 $\bar{d}$  = 6.4μm



t = 580s  
T = -8.3°C  
P = 532mb  
 $\bar{d}$  = 7.6μm

# Mechanistic behaviors preserved when AgI-AgCl and AgI-AgCl-NaCl aerosols are seeded into supercooled clouds

DeMott et al. (JWMA 1988)



Corroborates primary action by contact freezing versus condensation freezing of the hydrophobic versus hygroscopic systems seeded into a cloud

# Supercooled cloud base supersaturations can switch AgI-AgCl mechanism from contact-freezing to condensation/immersion freezing

74

P.J. DeMott / Atmospheric Research 38 (1995) 63-99

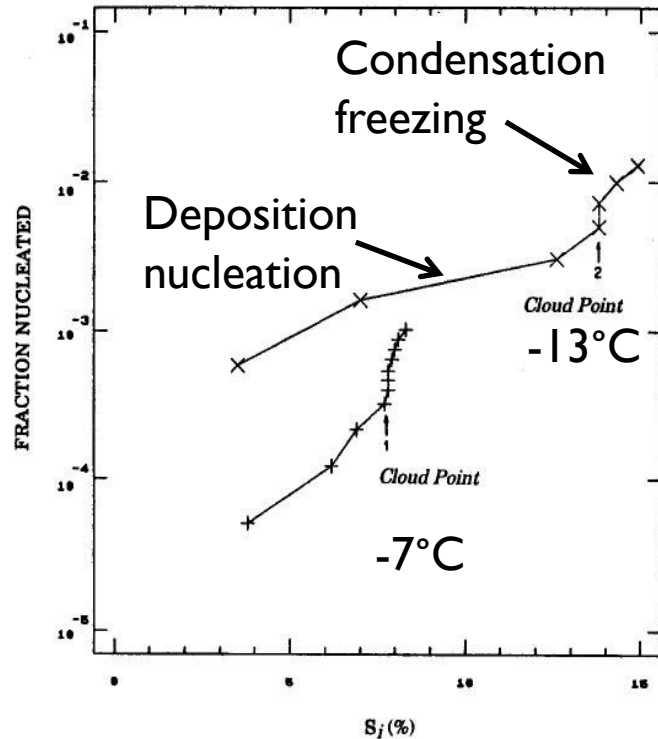
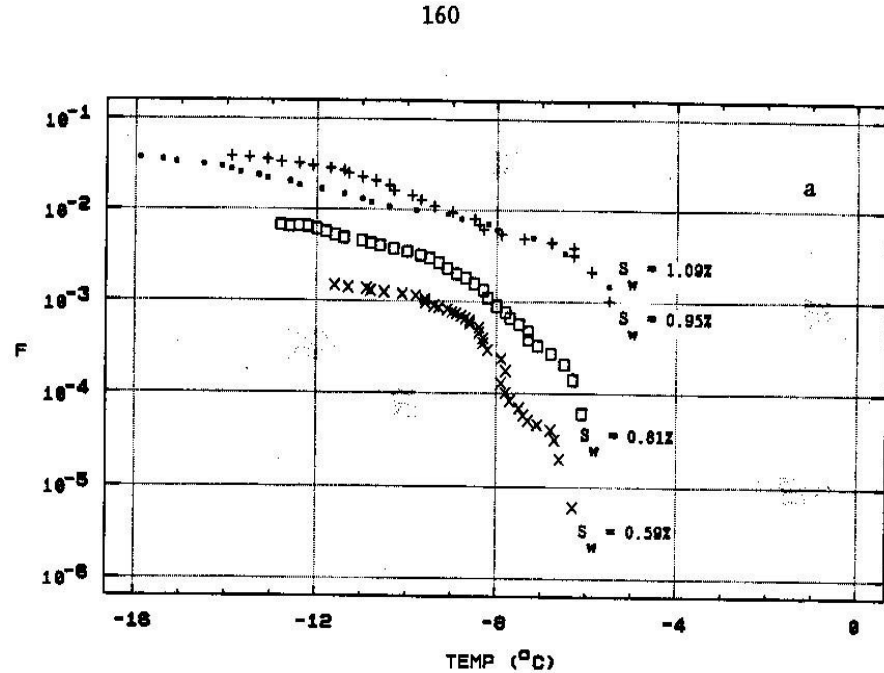


Fig. 2. Fraction of monodisperse AgI-AgCl aerosols nucleated versus ice supersaturation in two continuous expansions. Cloud formation point is indicated by the numbered arrows at  $T = -7^\circ\text{C}$  (1) and  $T = -13^\circ\text{C}$  (2). Experiments proceed left to right.

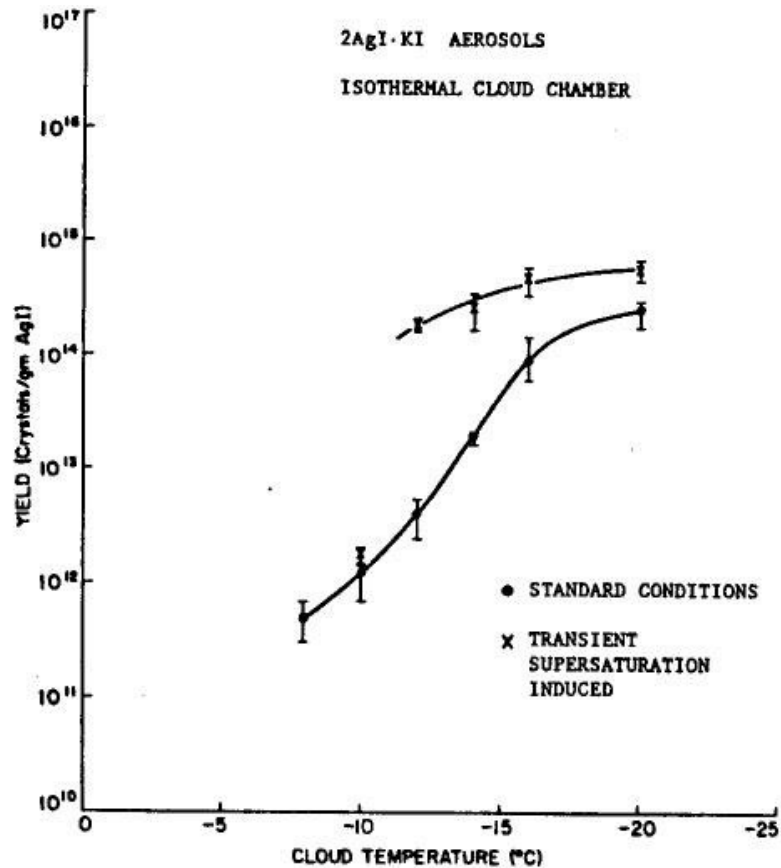


AgI-AgCl are contact freezing nuclei but also express condensation freezing behavior in response to water vapor supersaturations at supercooled cloud base (calculated for varied cooling rate in dynamic chamber).

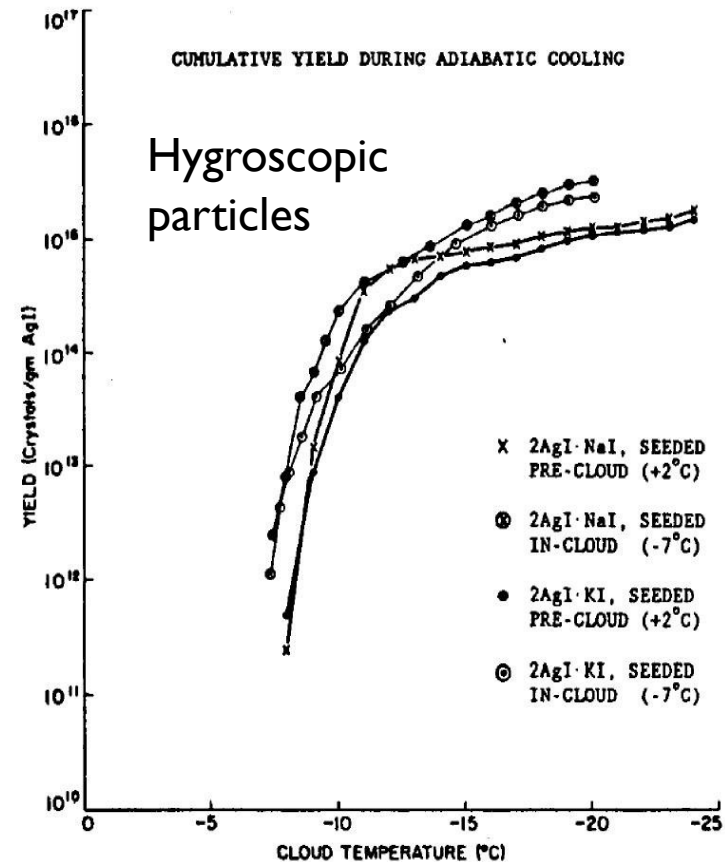


# How seeding agents are “tested” can affect estimate of their utility, as can their conditions of exposure after seeding

Transient water vapor supersaturation enhances yield of “complexed” AgI



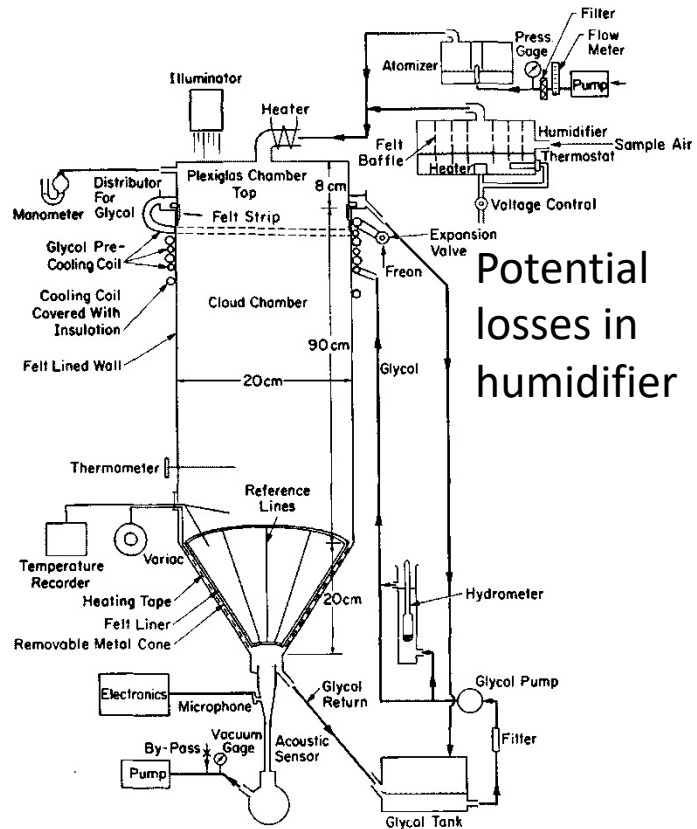
As does low steady state supersaturation in dynamic cloud chamber



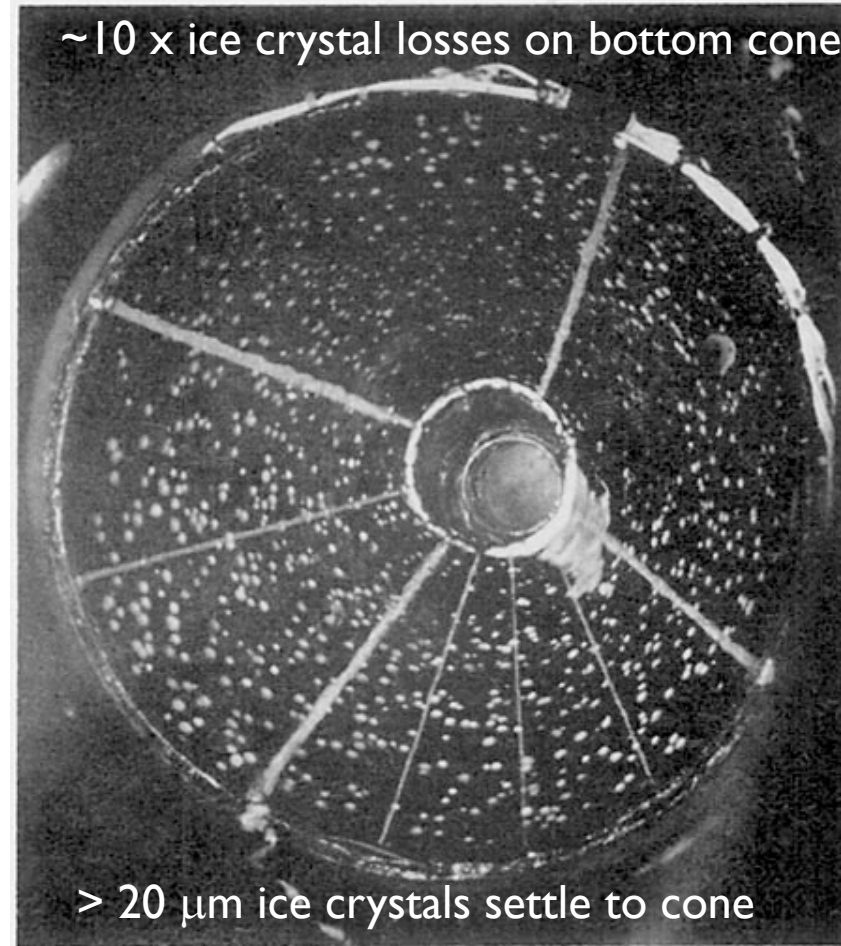
See Blumentstein et al. (JCAM, 1987) for demonstration of impact in 2D orographic cloud scenario.

Special studies at Cloud Simulation and Aerosol Laboratory – comparison of portable instruments to fixed devices (a paradigm carried forward to present day)

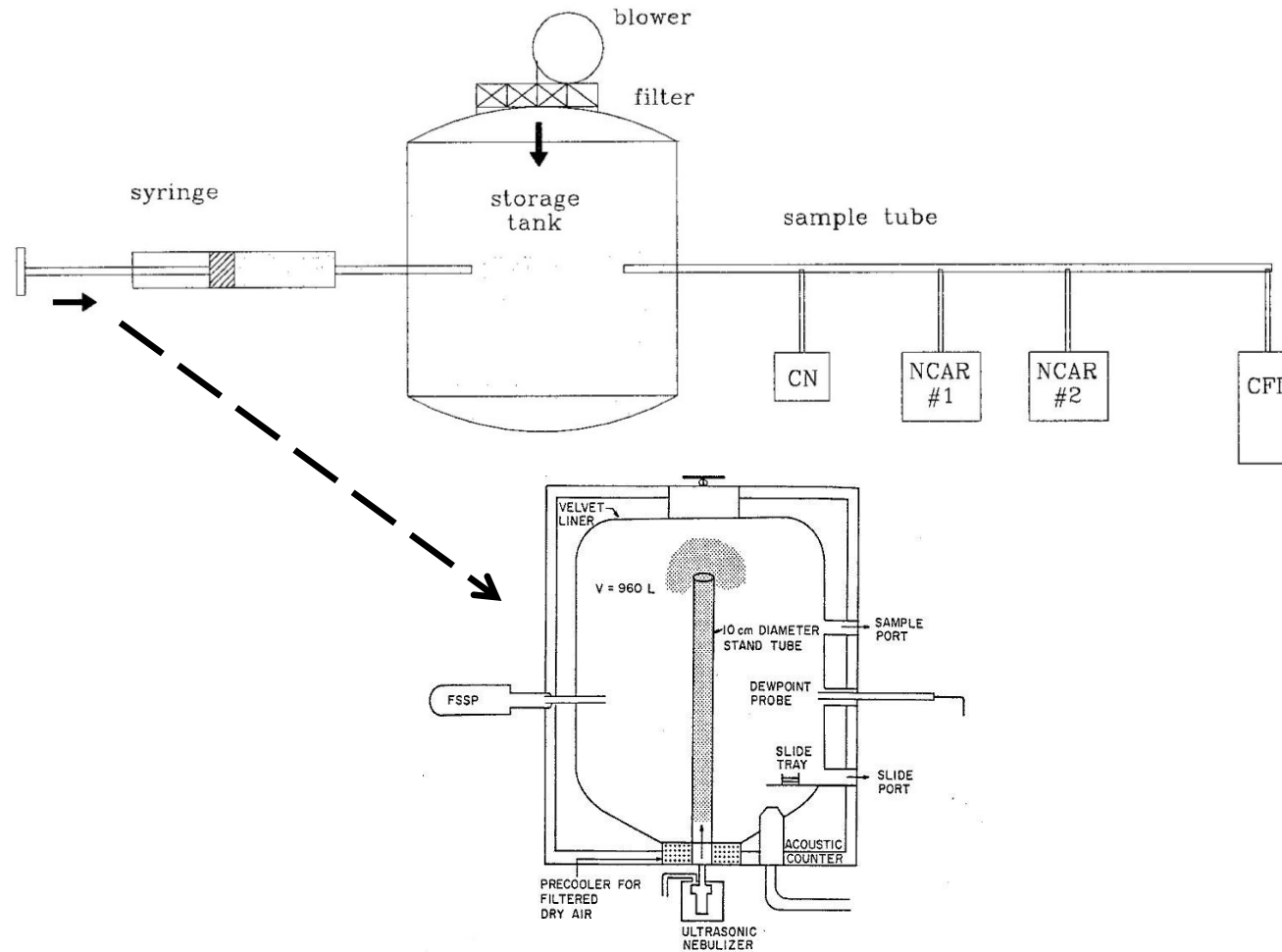
# Portable INP counters (Langer et al., 1973)



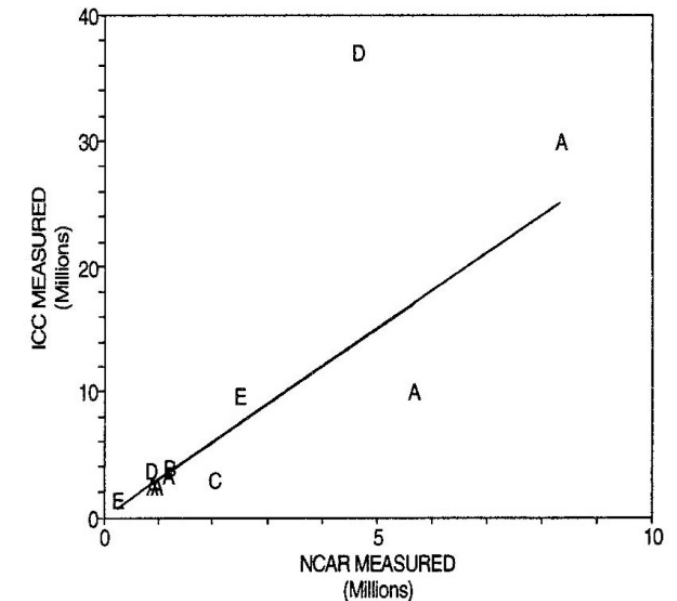
Potential losses in humidifier



# Comparisons between portable INC and Isothermal cloud chamber gives confidence and calibration (DeMott et al., JWMA, 1995)

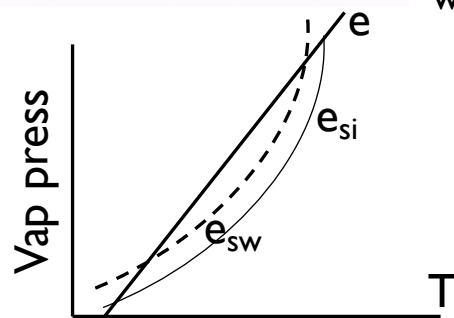
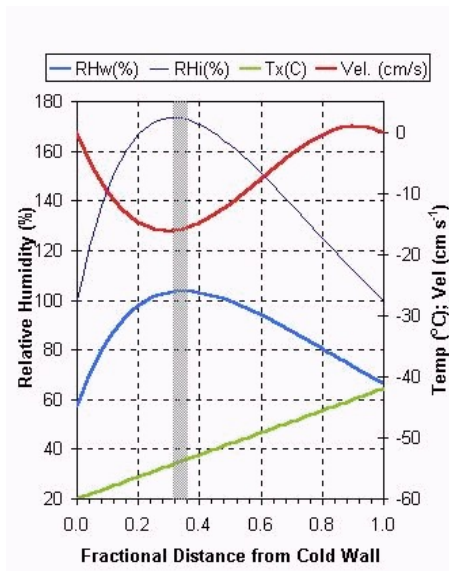


$$\text{NCAR} = \text{ICC} * 0.34$$



DeMott, P. J., A. B. Super, G. Langer, D. C. Rogers, and J. T. McPartland, 1995: Comparative characterizations of the ice nucleus ability of AgI aerosols by three methods. *J. Wea. Mod.*, **27**, 1-16.

# Continuous Flow Diffusion Chamber



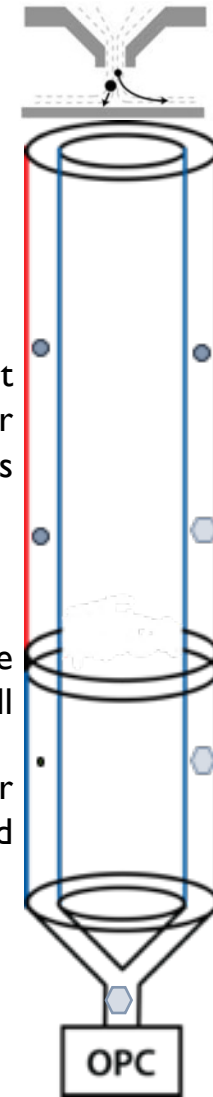
See Rogers et al. (1988; 2001) for fundamentals

refrigerated walls set processing temperature

temperature gradient controls ice and water supersaturations

warm wall temperature matched to cold wall

ice saturated, water subsaturated



inertial impactor removes particles larger than 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$

Varied cut-point

particles encounter controlled ice supersaturation

Conditions may also be water supersaturated to activate particles into droplets

a fraction of particles freeze

evaporation section reduces any liquid droplets back to haze sizes

optical counting of ice crystals

# IN measurement by CFDC as function of supersaturation. These instruments are now well understood and mature

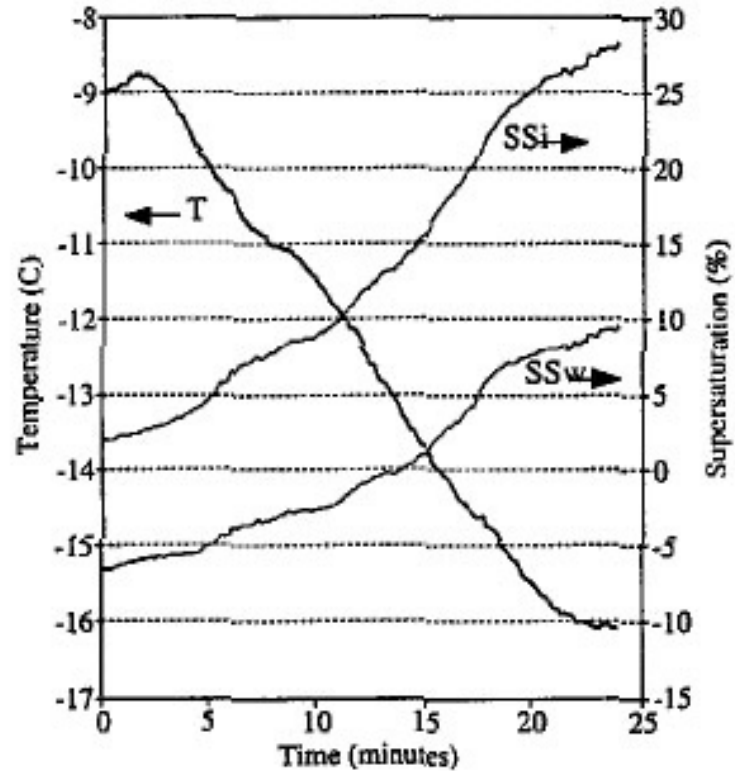


Figure 9. History of temperature, SSw, and SSi at the location of the AgI aerosol in the CFD.

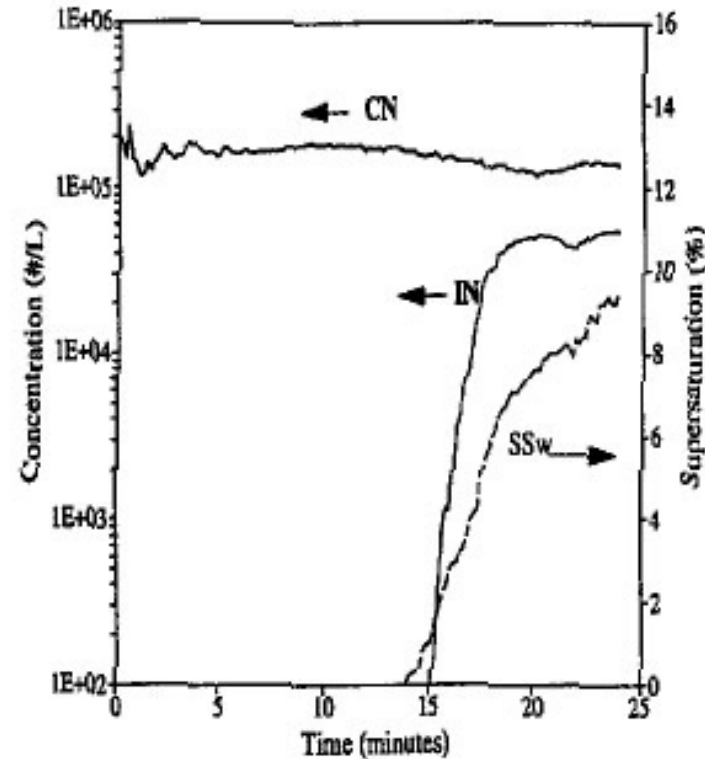


Figure 10. History of particle concentrations and water supersaturation in CFD experiment. Note that IN and SSw traces are in phase.

40% active fraction  
within factor 2 of ICC  
values

# Future Needs, Possibilities, Recommendations for cloud seeding laboratory studies applications

- Need to understand natural ice nucleation processes in order to place seeding in context
- More realistic testing of INP behavior should be done
  - Lab tests designed to mimic generation conditions as well as considering all IN mechanisms
  - Detailed modeling of dynamics of aerosol generation like what has been done for aircraft engines?
- Major facilities for research and testing seeding agents are limited or no longer active to quality control product
  - AgI solution combustion and pyrotechnic generation methods have probably been exploited to their maximum extent, though not fundamentally understood (opinion)

# Future Needs, Possibilities, Recommendations for cloud seeding laboratory studies applications

- Specialized new INPs with high ice formation efficiency and rates should be investigated (coatings, biological)
- Models should include detailed information on nucleation processes, so that seeding hypotheses can be tested
- In-situ INP detection as part of field research programs would be beneficial and the technology is ready



# Non-weather modification related studies at CSAL cloud chamber: Homogeneous and heterogeneous freezing

Drop diam. Freezes in 1 s  
DeMott and Rogers (J. Atmos. Sci., 1990)  
©1990 American Meteorological Society

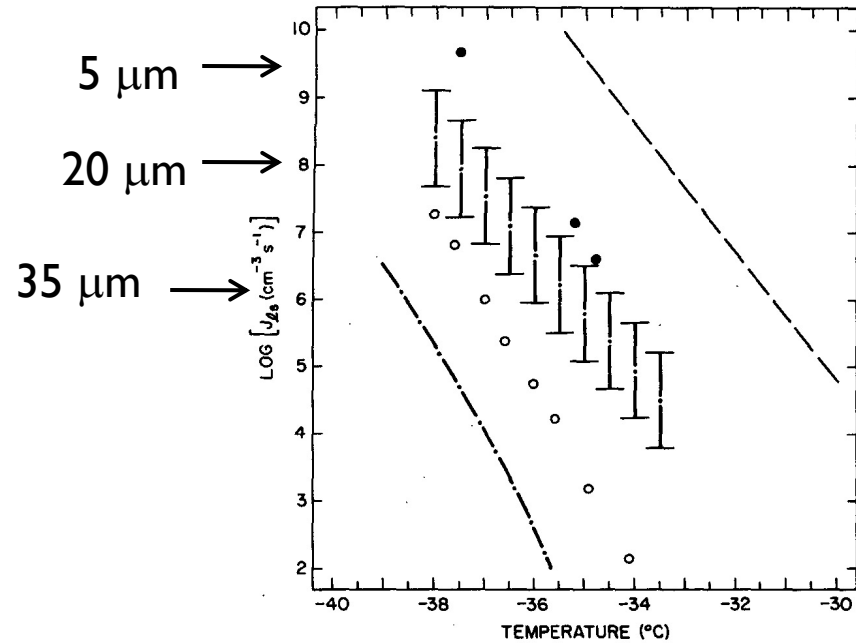
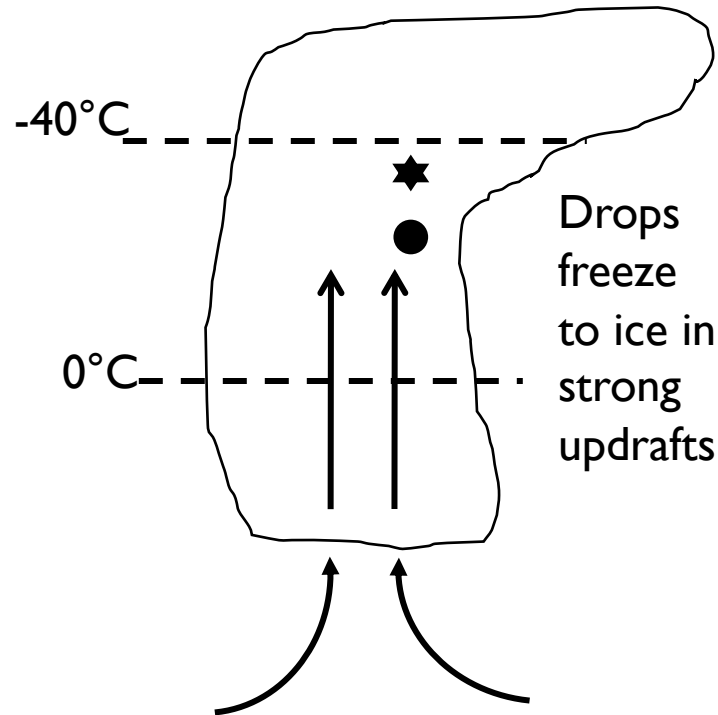


FIG. 9. Average  $J_{1s}$  versus temperature from this study is plotted (with uncertainties given by bars) for comparison with results extrapolated from Hagen et al. (1981) (---), from Sassen and Dodd (1988) (●), from Butorin and Skripov (1972) (○), and from theoretical homogeneous-freezing nucleation (Pruppacher and Klett 1978) (—●—).



Acetylene soot freezing as a function of updraft

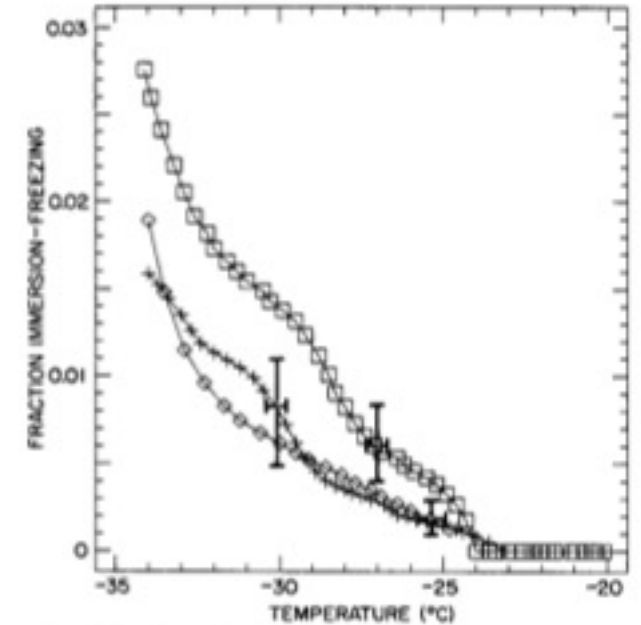


FIG. 5. Fractions of soot nucleated as ice with respect to the numbers of aerosol immersed in cloud droplets for 0.08  $\mu\text{m}$  soot in  $1^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$  (—+—) and  $2^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$  (—○—) cooling rate expansions, and for 0.12  $\mu\text{m}$  (actual diameter, not mobility diameter) soot in  $1^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$  cooling rate expansion (—□—). Uncertainties are noted by horizontal and vertical bars at one data point in each experiment.

# CSU laboratory studies (natural aerosol activation and freezing; instrument testing)

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- Sullivan, R. C., M. D. Petters, P. J. DeMott, S. M. Kreidenweis, H. Wex, D. Niedermeier, F. Stratmann, P. Reitz, and J. Schneider, 2010: Irreversible loss of ice nucleation surface sites in mineral dust particles induced by sulphuric acid condensation. *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 10, 11471–11487.
- Sullivan, R. C., L. Miñambres, P. J. DeMott, A. J. Prenni, C. M. Carrico, E. J. T. Levin, and S. M. Kreidenweis, 2010: Chemical processing does not always impair heterogeneous ice nucleation of mineral dust particles. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 37, L24805, doi:10.1029/2010GL045540.

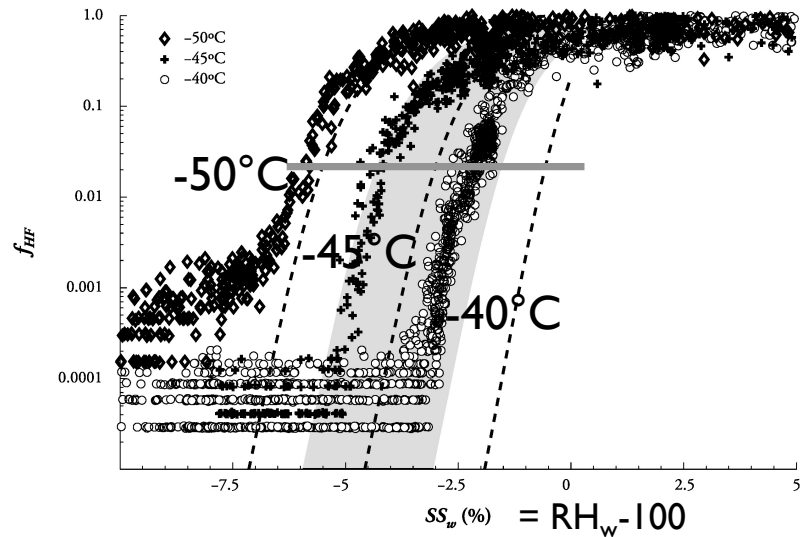
# Laboratory-field interface for ice nucleation studies

There is a continuing need to understand our ability to measure ice nucleation and capture INP properties via online and offline methods at a variety of tropospheric conditions, with different ways of capturing INPs, different activation times, capturing different aerosol systems etc...

# Low temperature (e.g., cirrus ) CFDC applications for a variety of relevant aerosol systems – as for any large cloud chamber

## Natural air from outside of home laboratory

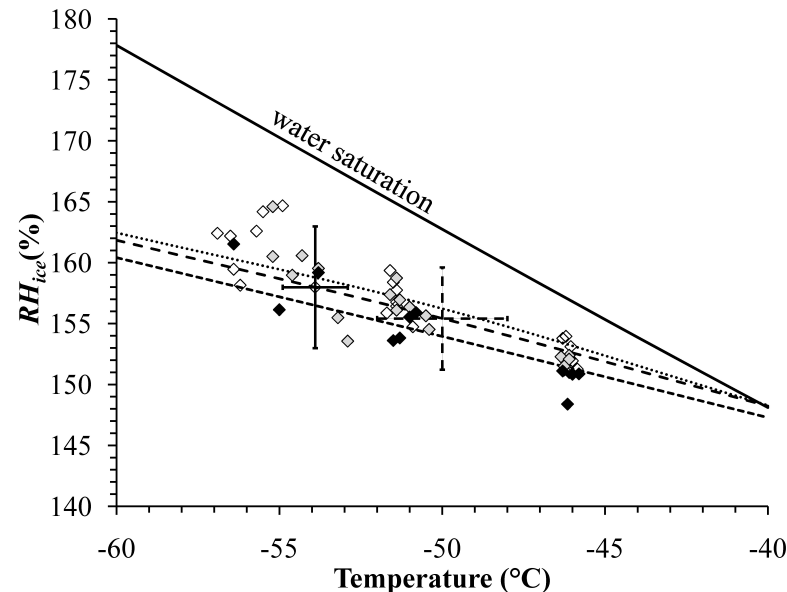
- Richardson et al. (2010) [Copyright [2010] American Geophysical Union. Reproduced by permission of American Geophysical Union.]



Freezing fraction of ambient particles at indicated T versus water activity prediction of homogeneous freezing (dashed).

## USFS Fire Sciences Laboratory

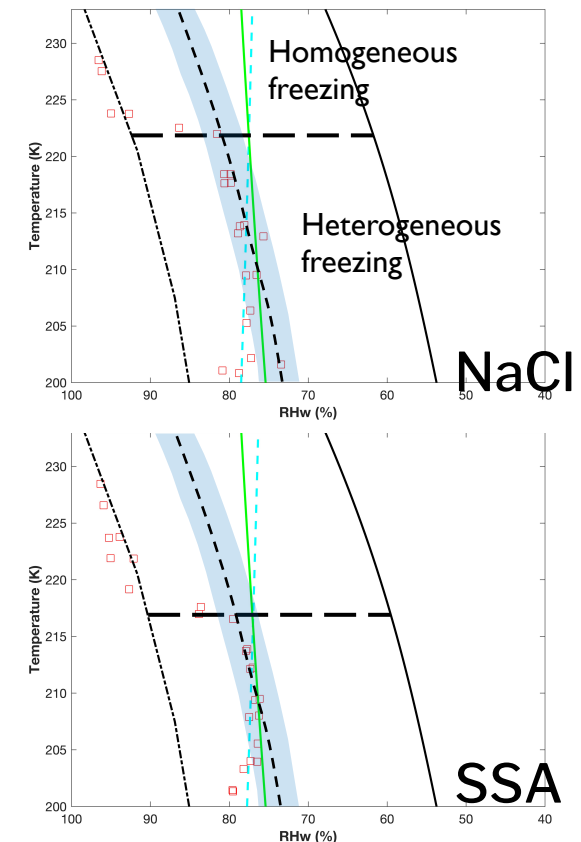
DeMott, P.J., et al., Ice nucleation behavior of biomass combustion particles at cirrus temperatures, *J. Geophys. Res.* 114: D16205, doi:10.1029/2009JD012036, 2009. Copyright [2009] American Geophysical Union. Reproduced by permission of American Geophysical Union.



Conditions of 1% particles freezing for biomass combustion particles versus water activity prediction of homogeneous freezing (dashed lines)

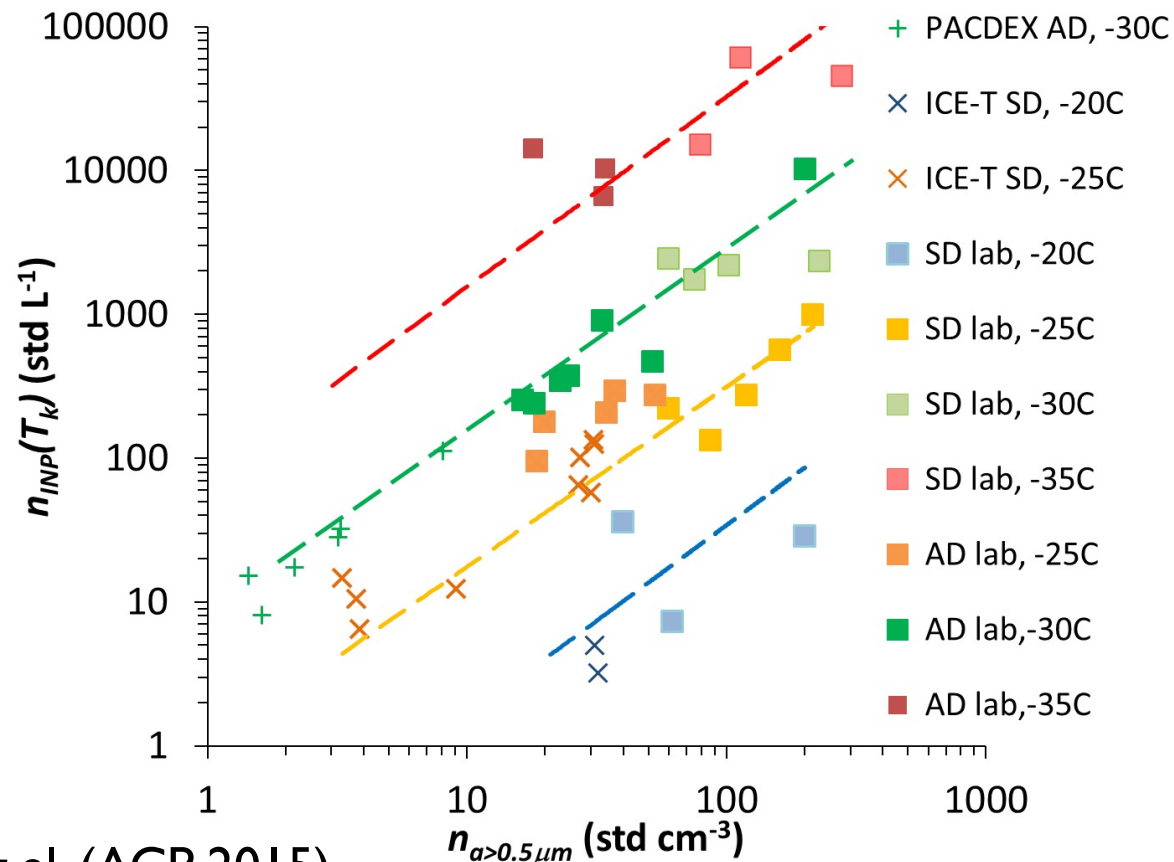
## Seawater sea spray particles

Patnaude, R., et al. (2021), Is ice formation by sea spray particles at cirrus temperatures controlled by crystalline salts? *ACS Earth and Space Chemistry*, Article ASAP, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsearthspacechem.1c00228>



# Development of empirical parameterizations for mixed-phase clouds through combining lab and field measurements

$$n_{INP, T_k} = (cf) (n_{a>0.5\mu m})^{(\alpha(273.16-T_k)+\beta)} \exp(\gamma(273.16-T_k) + \delta)$$

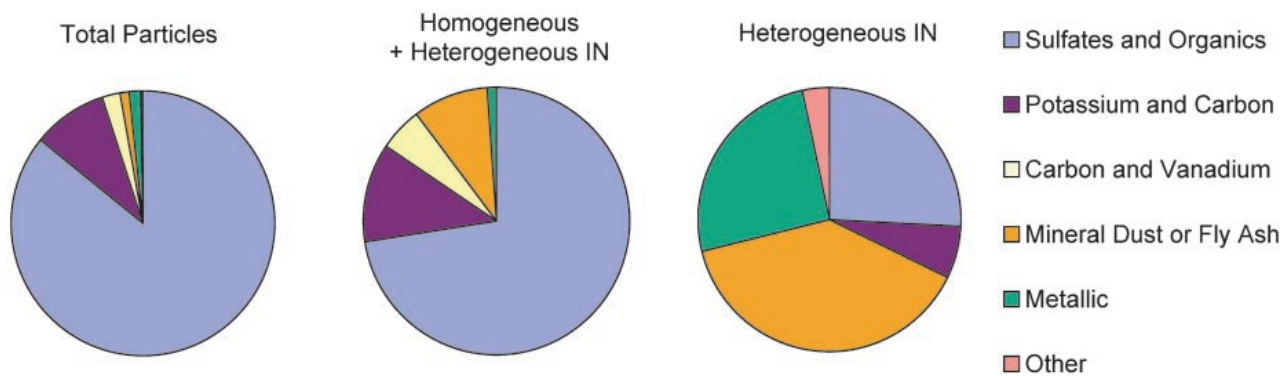


CFDC measurements at mixed phase cloud temperatures of regional mineral dust in the laboratory at KIT compared to field data in aerosol layers from Saharan and Asian deserts

DeMott et al. (ACP, 2015)

# Development and testing of systems for characterizing INP composition (indoor/outdoor laboratories)

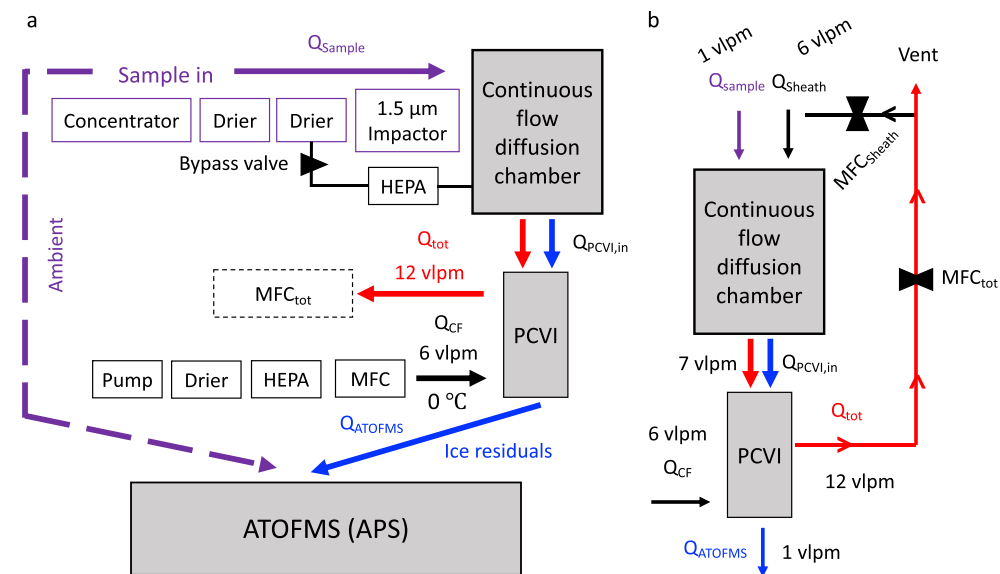
## Single particle laser ablation mass spectrometry of INPs using pumped CVI (DeMott et al. 2003b)



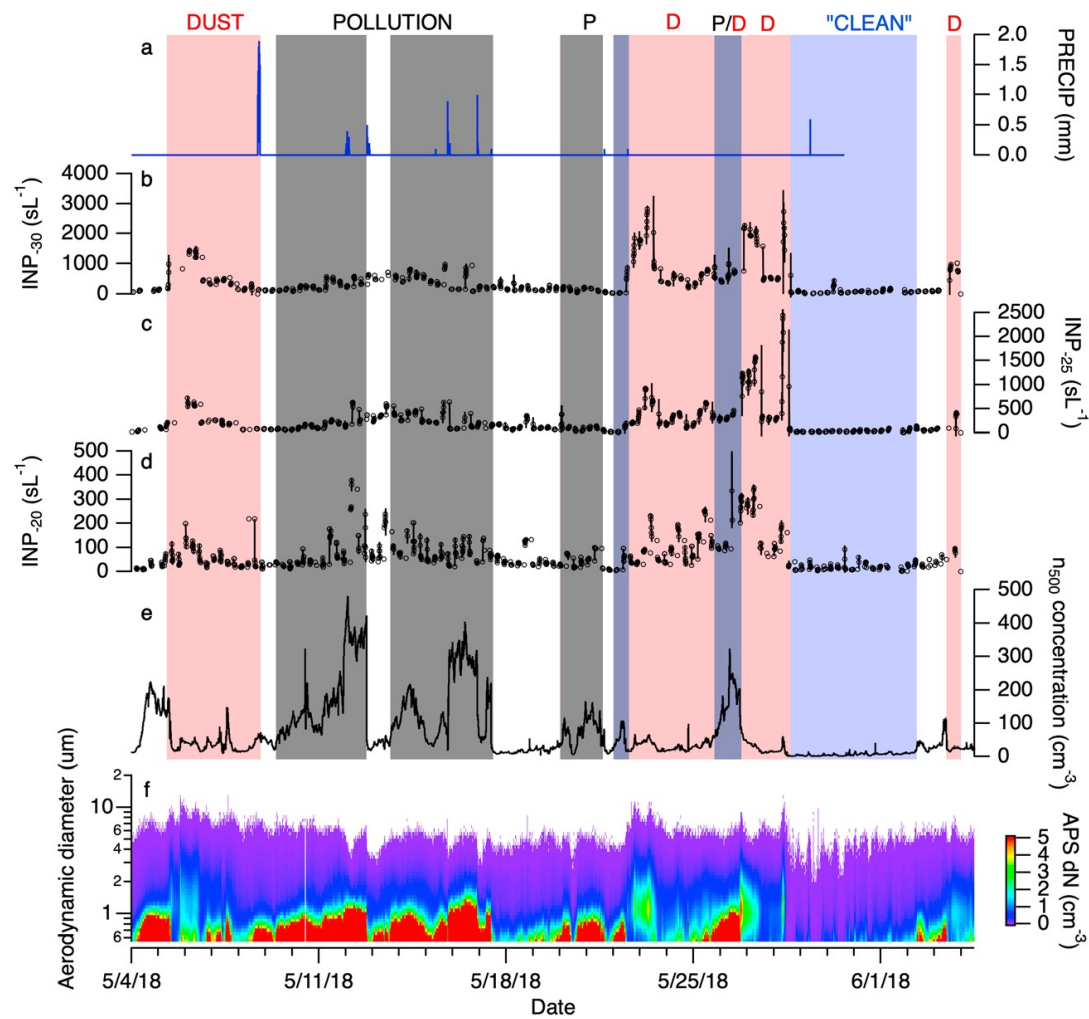
## Impaction collection for TEM analyses

Kreidenweis, S. M., Y. Chen, P. J. DeMott, and D. C. Rogers, 1998: Isolating and identifying atmospheric ice-nucleating aerosols: A new technique. *Atmospheric Research*, **46**, 263-278.

Cornwell, G. C., McCluskey, C. S., Levin, E. J. T., Suski, K. J., DeMott, P. J., Kreidenweis, S. M., & Prather, K. A. (2019). Direct online mass spectrometry measurements of ice nucleating particles at a California coastal site. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *124*, 12,157–12,172. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JD030466>



# New CFDC developments (automation and commercialization)



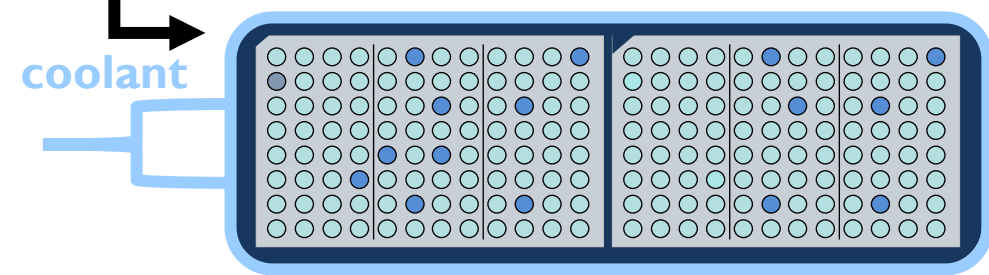
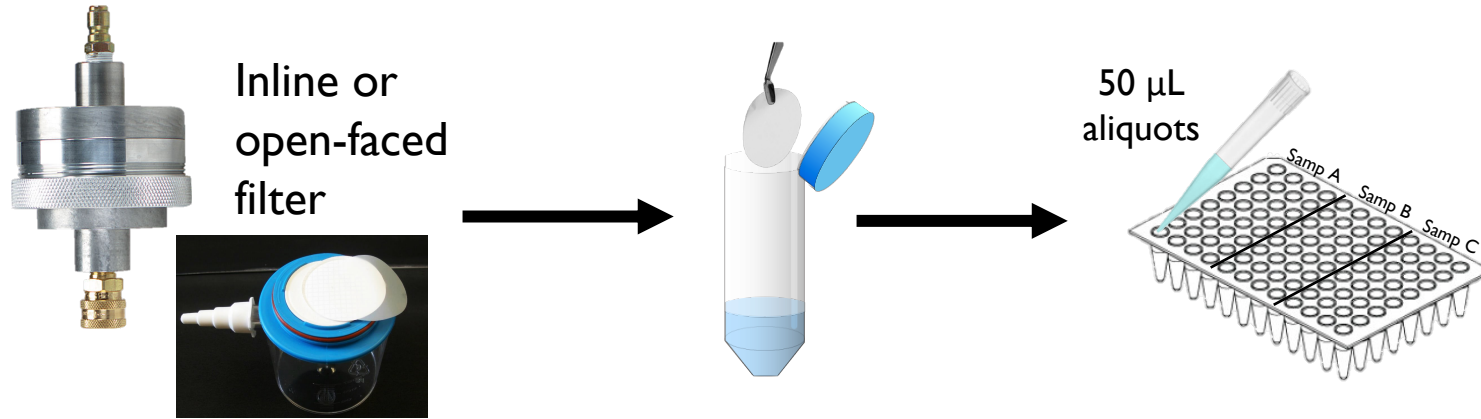
- New aircraft CFDCs:
- For mixed phase conditions
  - For cirrus conditions

Bi, K et al., 2019: Measurements of ice nucleating particles in Beijing, China. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 124, 8065–8075, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JD030609>.

# Offline (post processing of filters) immersion freezing INP measurement with the CSU Ice Spectrometer (IS) and similar devices

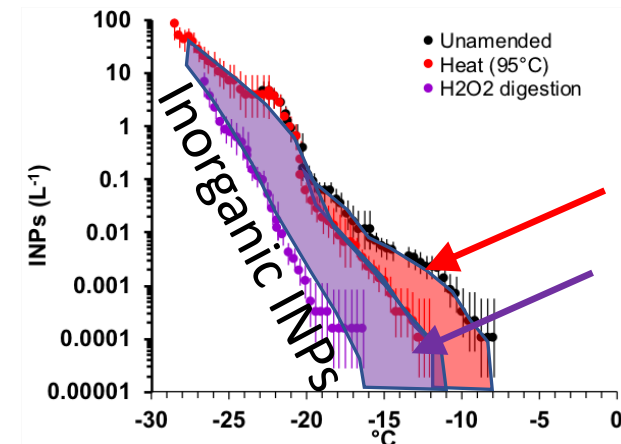
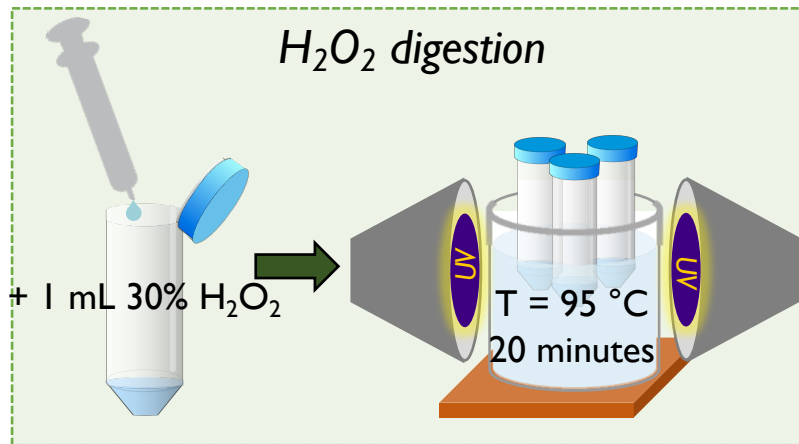
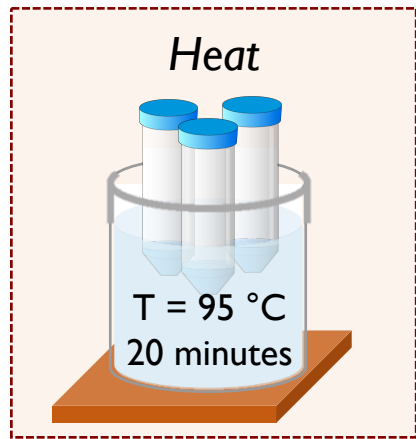
Methods: Tom Hill (CSU)

Samples cooled at  $0.33^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  and frozen wells recorded until  $\sim -28^{\circ}\text{C}$



● Frozen well    ○ Unfrozen well

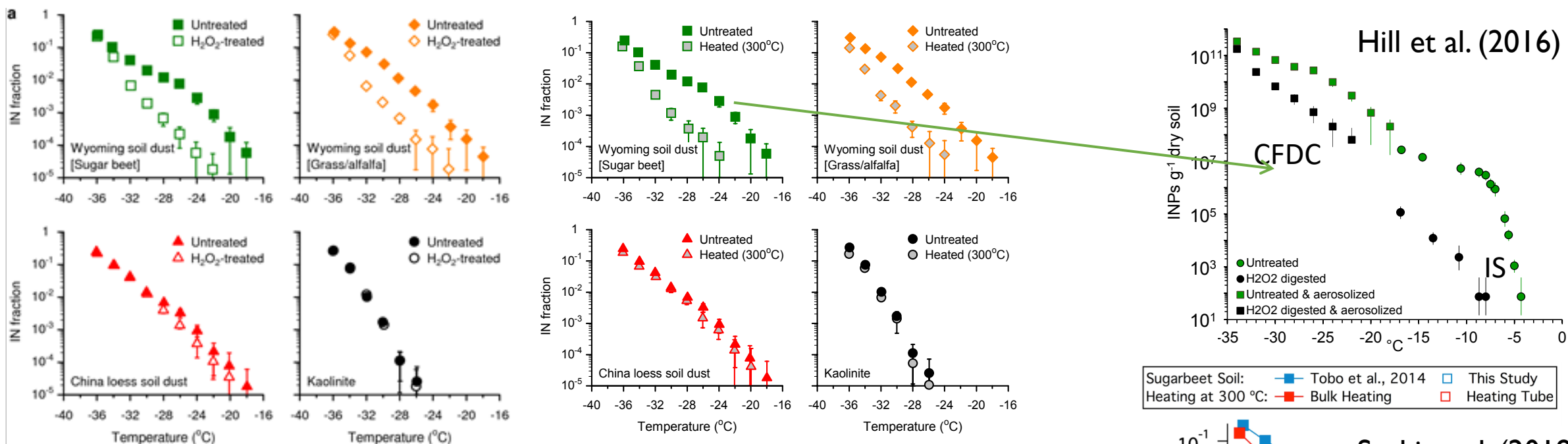
Offline treatments:



Biological INPs  
Organic INPs

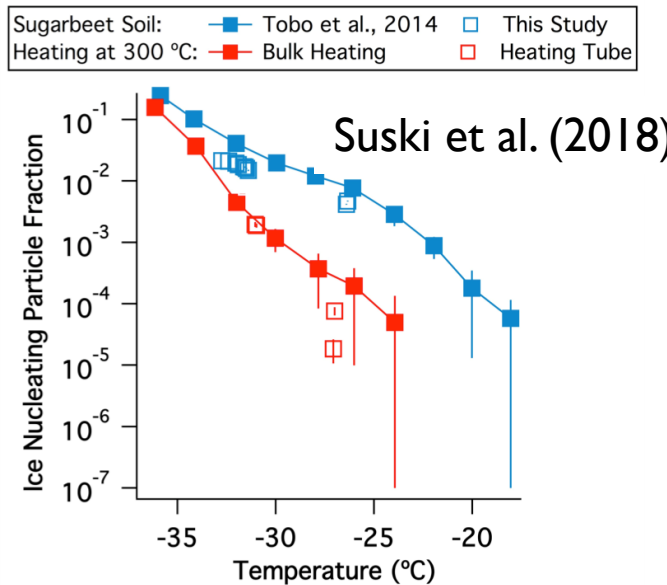


# Soil particles tested in laboratory examining the ability H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> digestions and high heat to target organic C-containing INPs

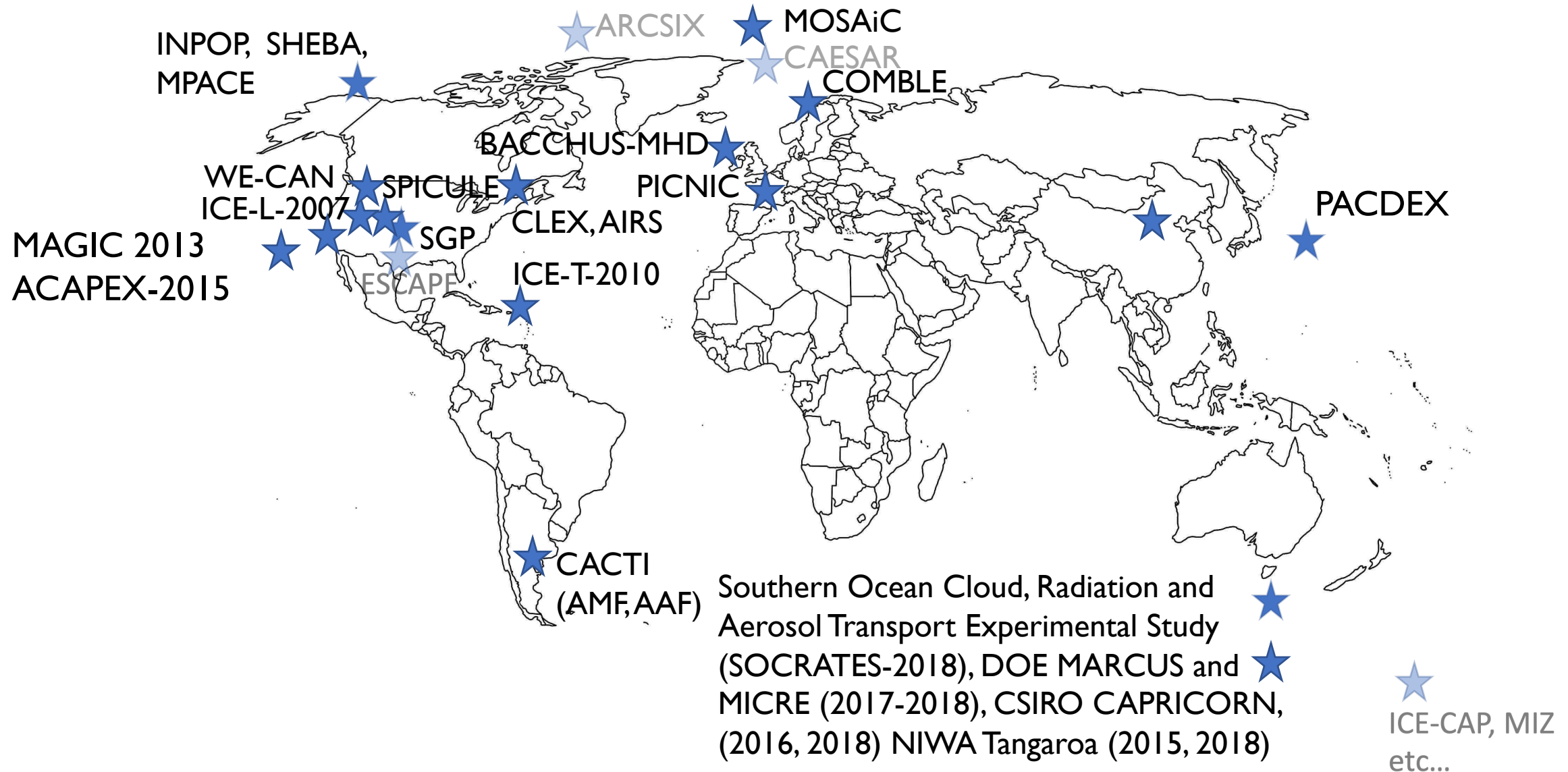


Tobo et al. (2014): CFDC tests of equivalence of heat and peroxide impact on INPs from bulk soil particles and desert dusts

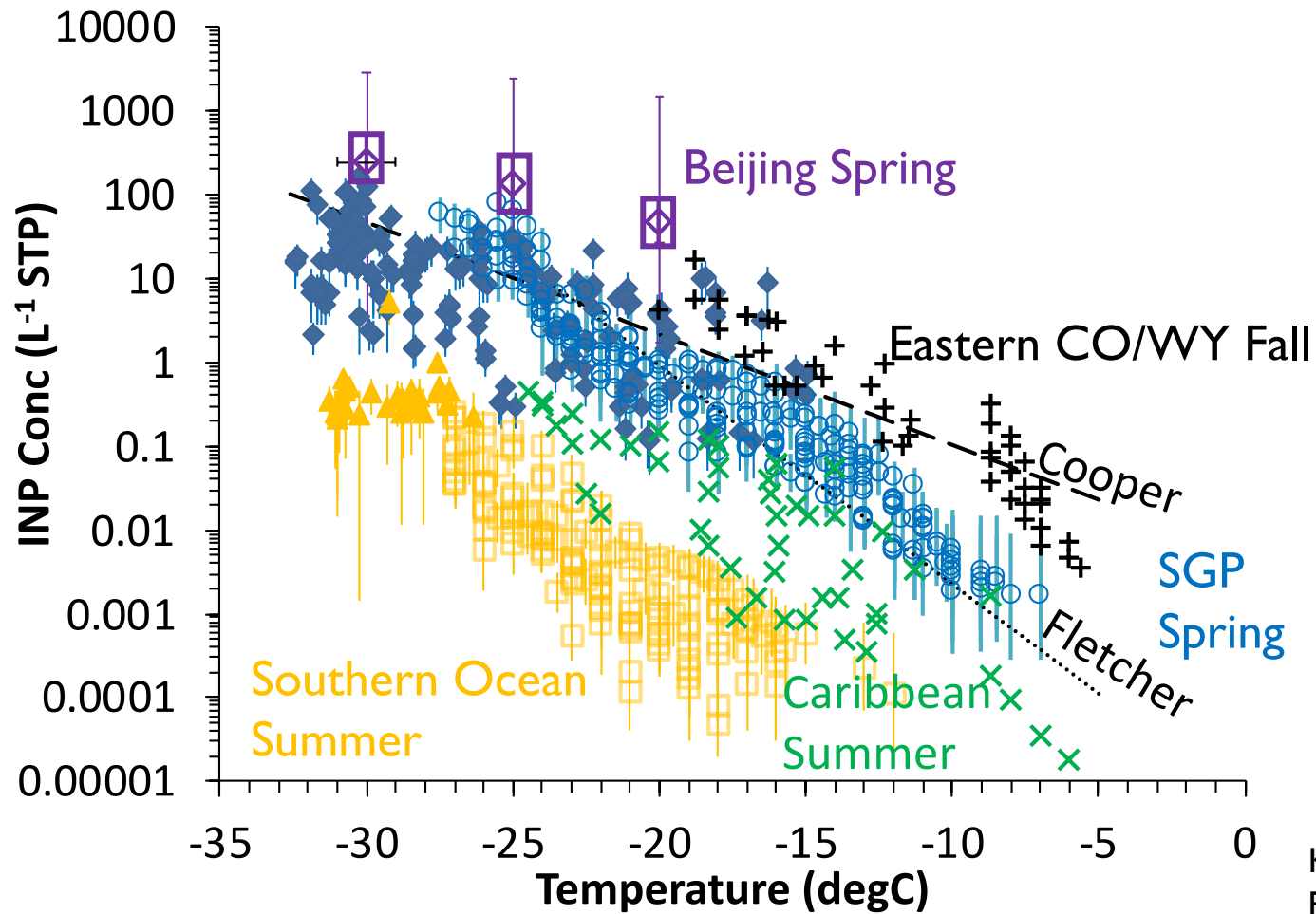
CFDC single heated particles = bulk heated particles resuspended



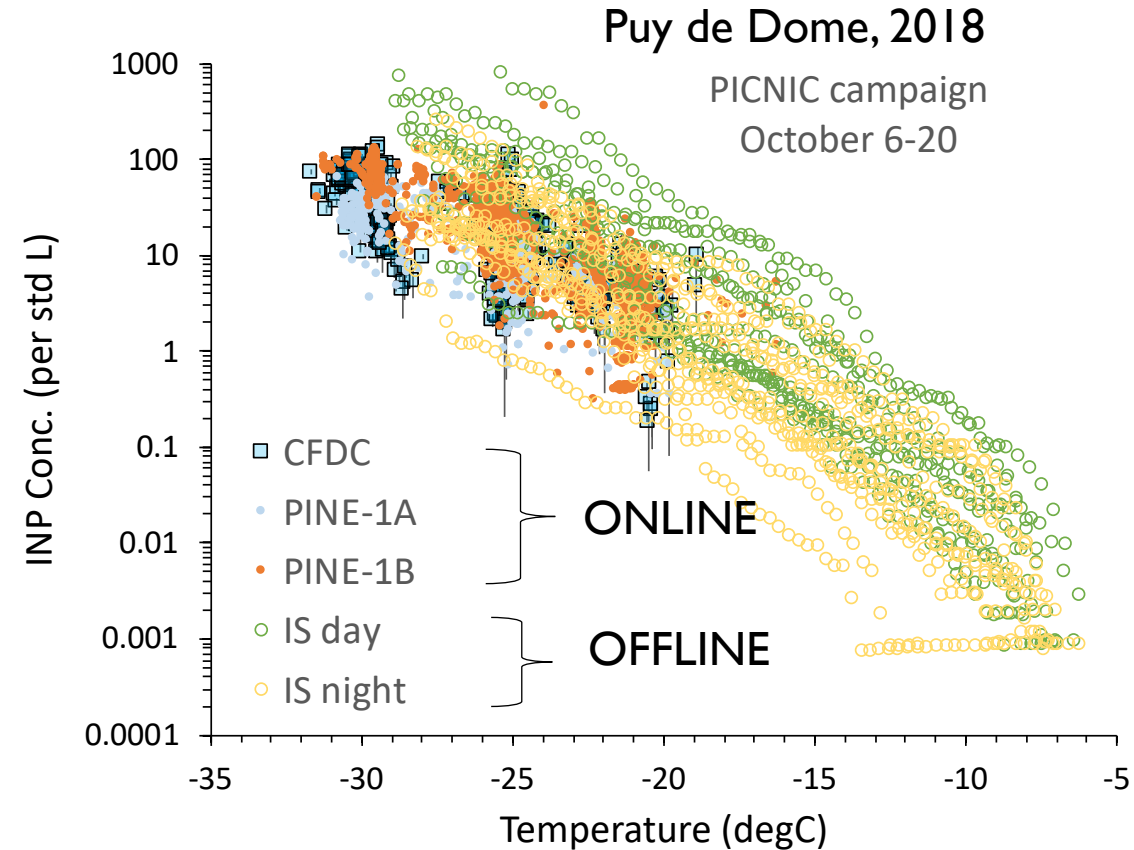
# INPs sampled in a variety of marine and continental locations in both hemispheres with the CSU CFDC and IS instruments



# Application of online and offline measurements in field studies and international intercomparison efforts (lab studies – See Möhler presentation)



Lacher et al., in preparation

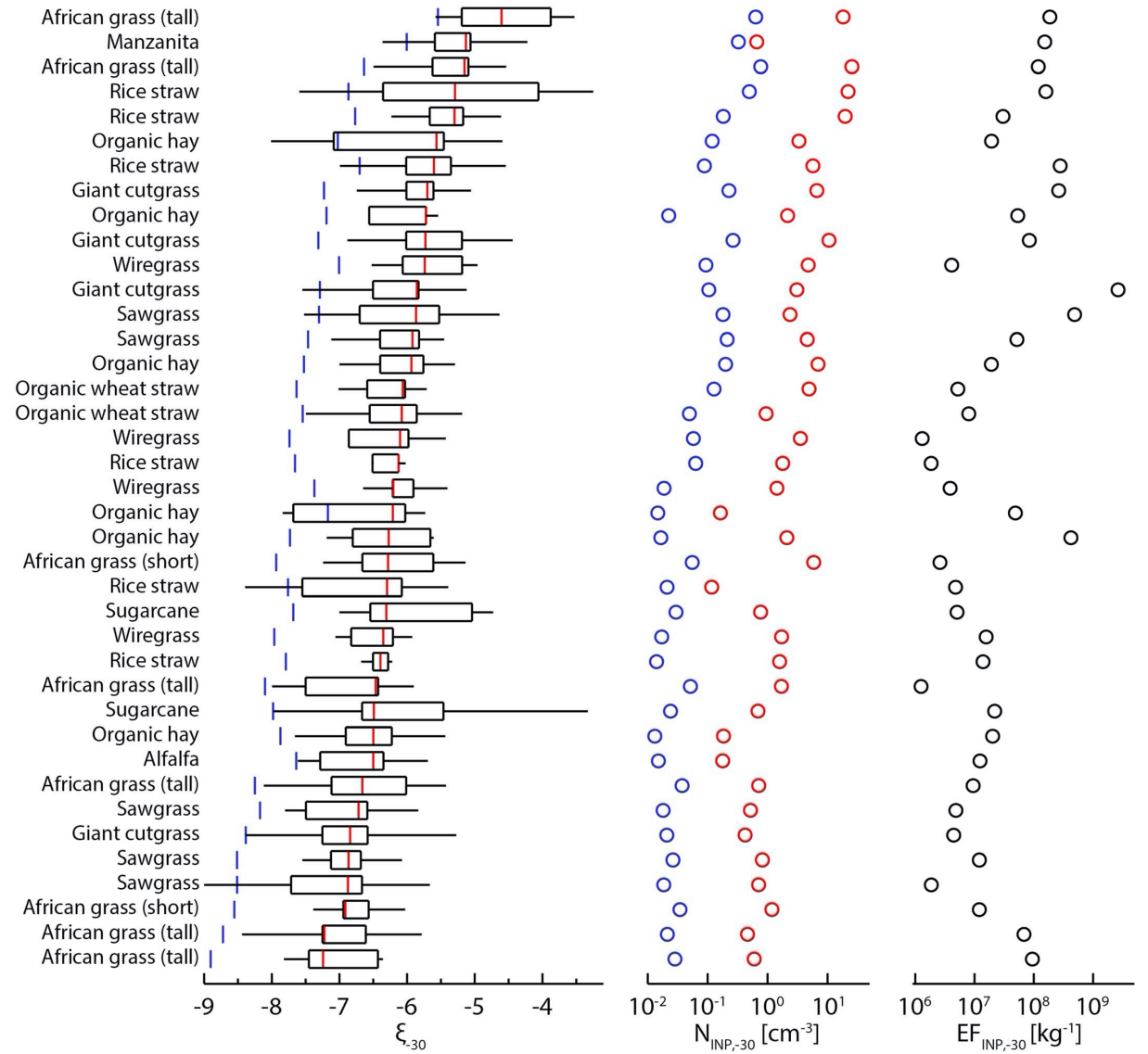
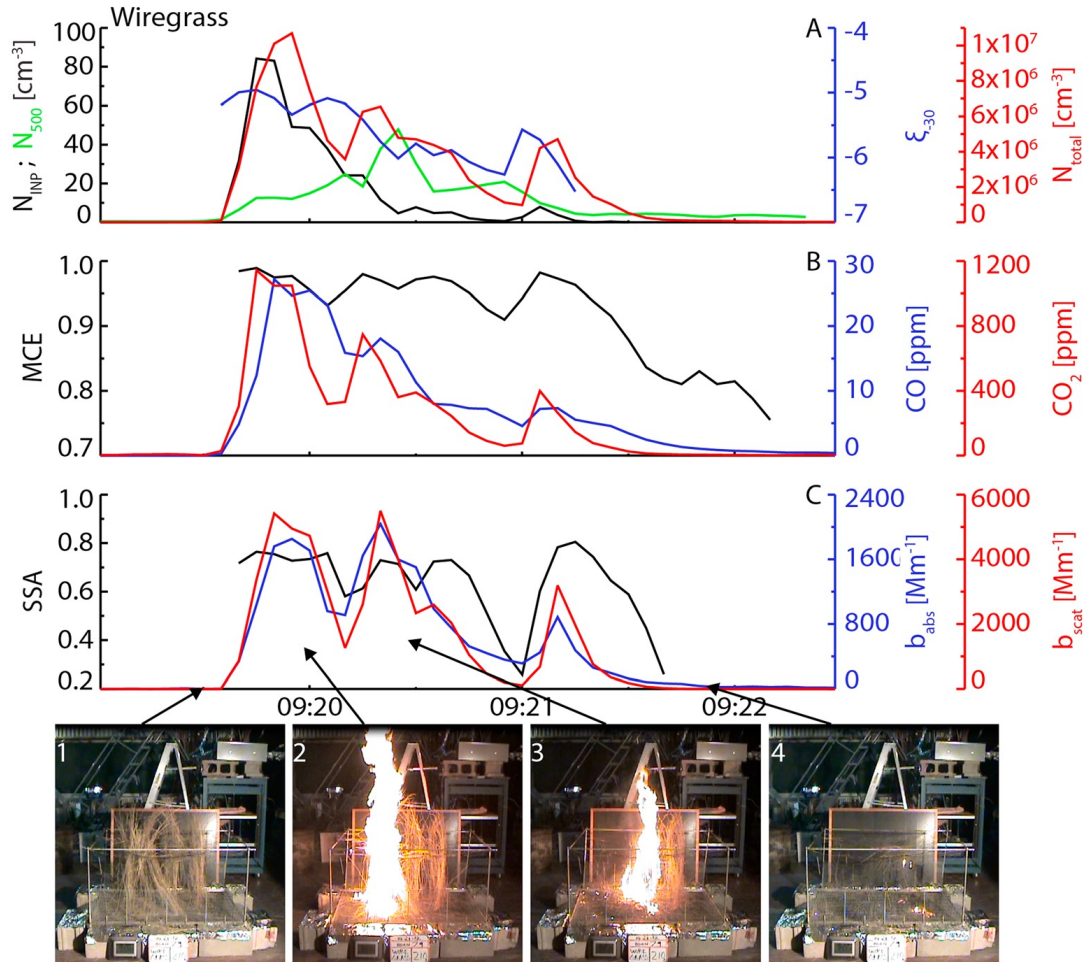


Knopf et al. (2021). Aerosol-Ice Formation Closure: A Southern Great Plains Field Campaign, Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (published online ahead of print 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-20-0151.1>

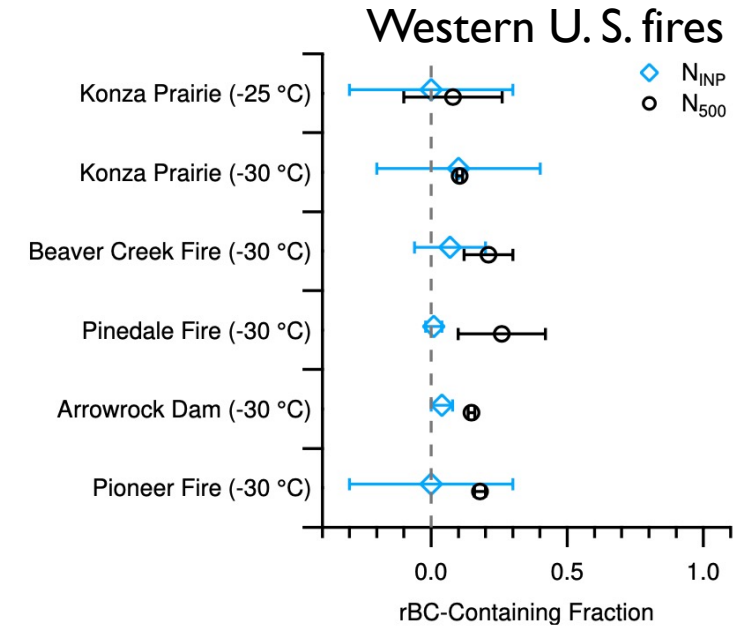
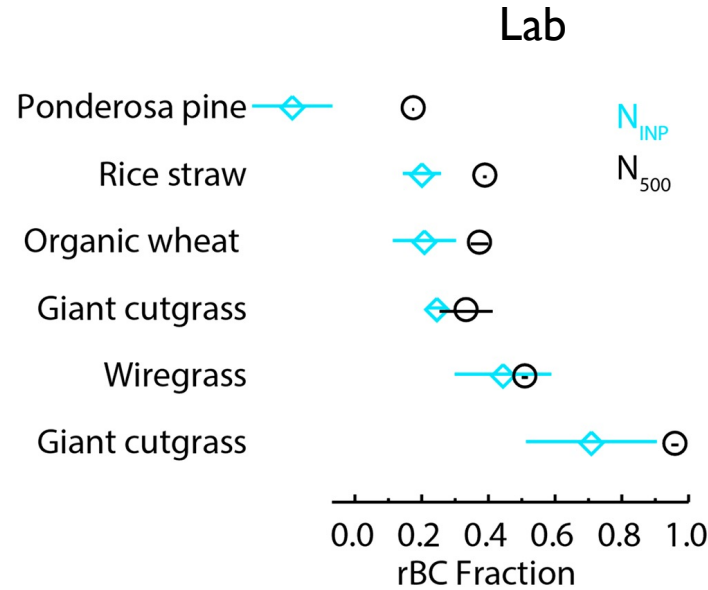
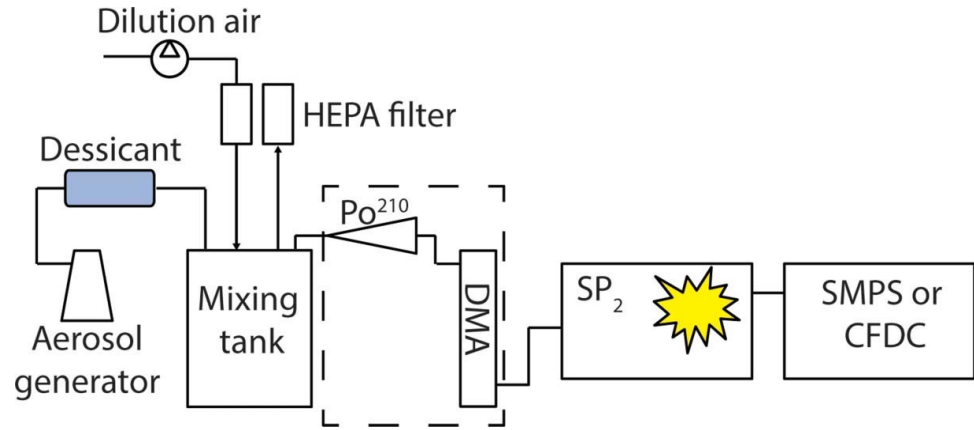
# Associating with other laboratory facilities for ice nucleation studies

# USFS Fire Sciences Laboratory (e.g., Levin et al., 2016)

$$\xi_{-30^\circ\text{C}} = \log(n_{in}/n_{cn})_{RH_W \sim 105\%}$$



# Development of integrated methods in same setting (e.g., SP2-CFDC) and subsequent application in field



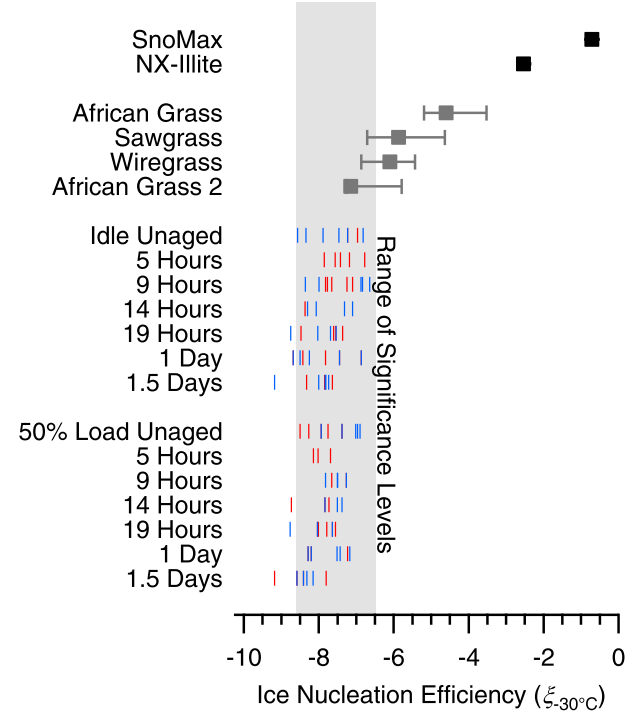
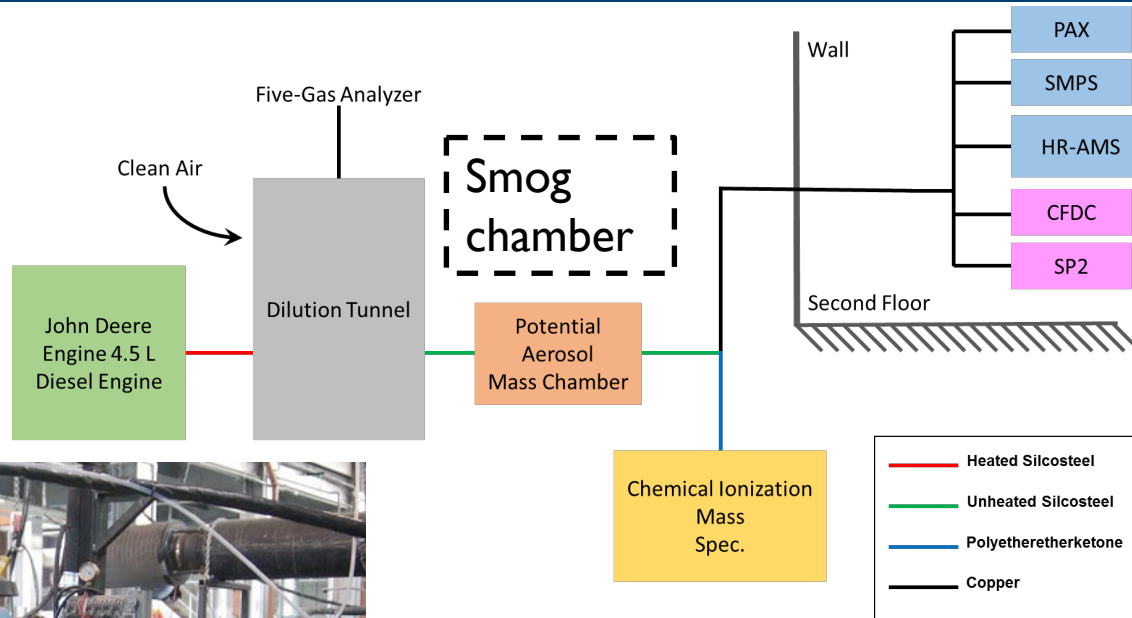
Levin, E. J. T. et al., 2014: A New Method to Determine the Number Concentrations of Refractory Black Carbon Ice Nucleating Particles, *Aerosol Science and Technology*, 48:12, 1264-1275, DOI: 10.1080/02786826.2014.977843.

Levin, E. J. T. et al., 2016: Ice-nucleating particle emissions from biomass combustion and the potential importance of soot aerosol, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, 121 (10), 5888-5903, doi:10.1002/2016JD024879.

Schill, G. P., P. J. DeMott, E. J. T. Levin, and S. M. Kreidenweis, 2018: Use of the Single Particle Soot Photometer (SP2) as a pre-filter for ice nucleation measurements: Effect of particle mixing state and determination of SP2 conditions to fully vaporize refractory black carbon, *Atmos. Meas. Tech.*, 11, 3007-3020, <https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-11-3007-2018>.

Schill, G. P. et al., 2020: The contribution of black carbon to global ice nucleating particle concentrations relevant to mixed-phase clouds. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117 (37), 22705-22711, DOI: 10.1073/pnas.2001674117

# Use of specialized labs: CSU Engines Laboratory (e.g., Schill et al., 2016)



Schill, G. P., S. H. Jathar, J. K. Krodos, E. J. T. Levin, A. M. Galang, B. Friedman, D. K. Farmer, J. R. Pierce, S. M. Kreidenweis, and P. J. DeMott, 2016: Ice nucleating particle emissions from photo-chemically-aged diesel and biodiesel exhaust, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **43**, 5524-5531, doi:10.1002/2016GL069529.

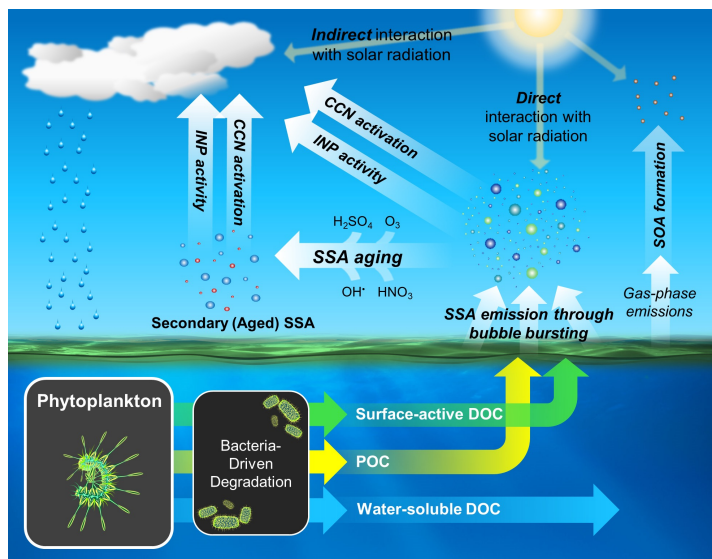
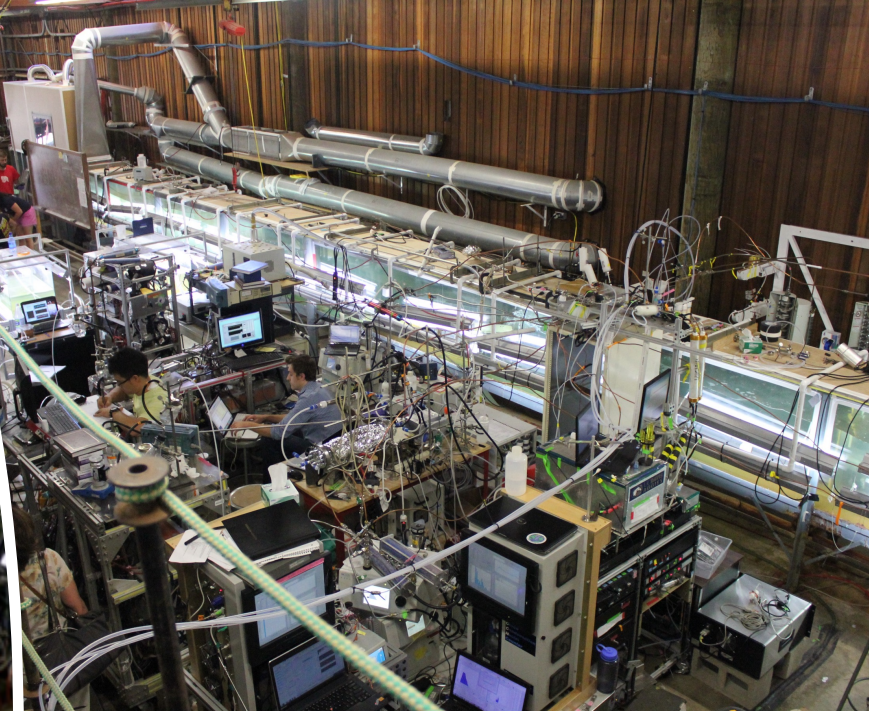
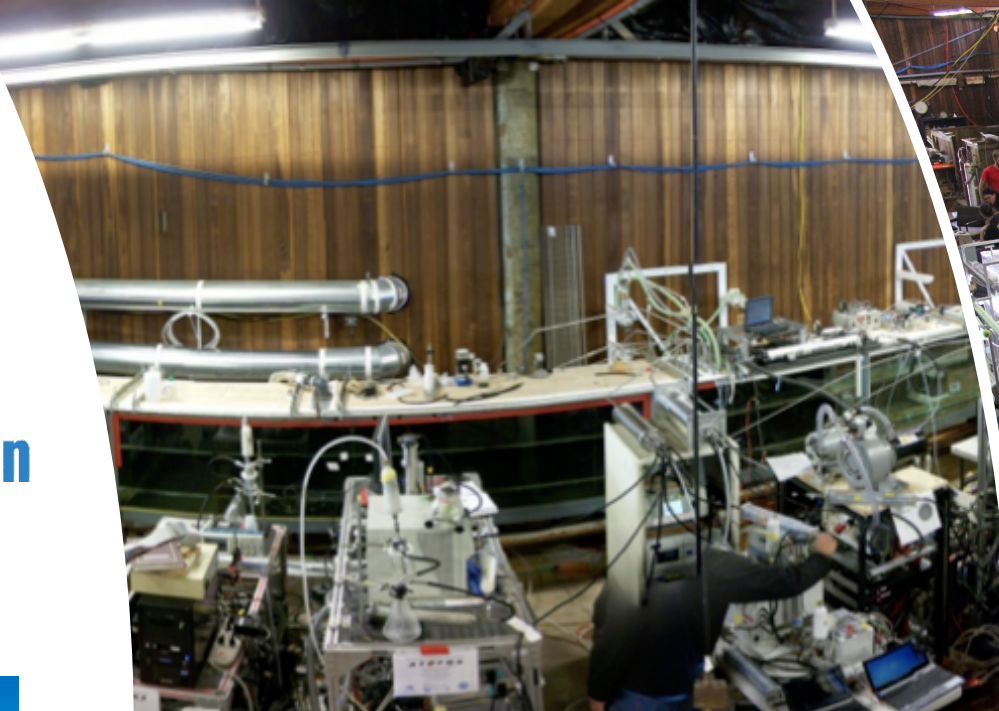
# Isolated Ocean-Atmosphere Studies in the Laboratory



## Centers for Chemical Innovation



NSF center for aerosol impacts<sup>™</sup> on chemistry of the environment



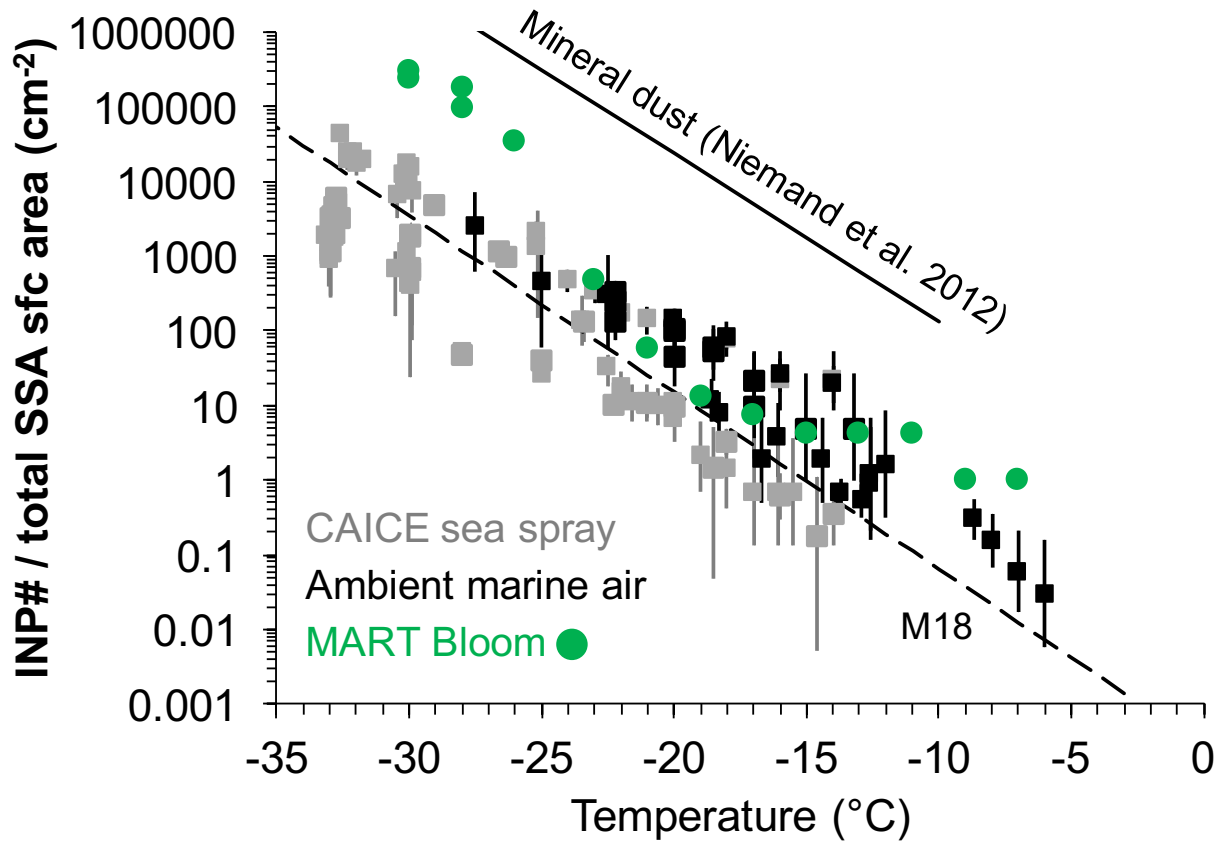
Marine aerosol reference tanks (MARTs)

Prather *et al.* PNAS 2013

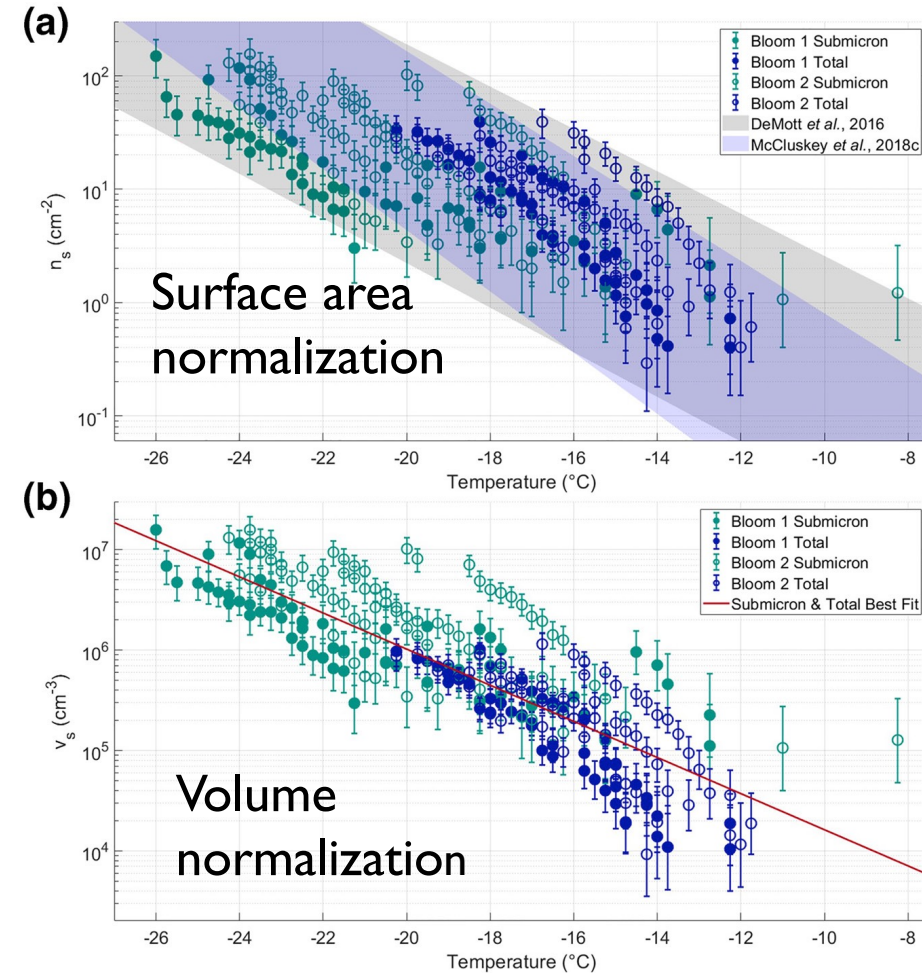


# CFDC and IS studies using wave flume and portable sea spray devices for ice nucleation studies

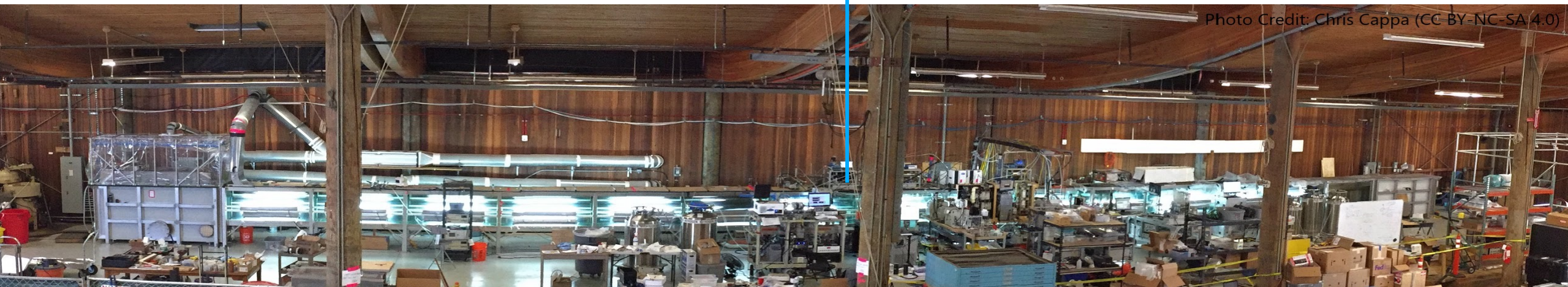
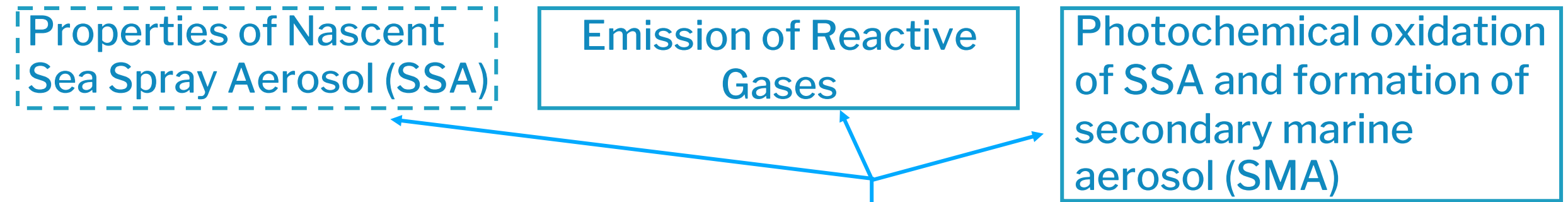
DeMott et al., 2016: Sea spray aerosol as a unique source of ice nucleating particles. *Proc. Natnl. Acad. Sci.*, 113 (21), 5797-5803, doi:10.1073/pnas.1514034112.



Mitts, B.A., Wang, X., Lucero, D. D., Beall, C. M., Deane, G. B., DeMott, P. J., & Prather, K. A. (2021), *Geophysical Research Letters*, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GL089633>



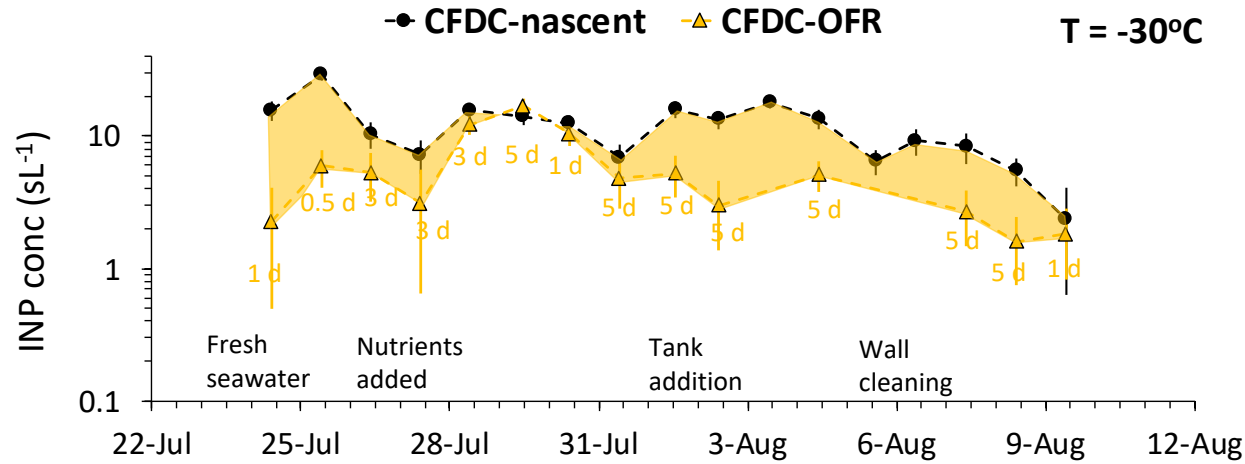
SeaSCAPE (2019) was designed to replicate the chemical complexity of the marine atmosphere and surface ocean in the laboratory.



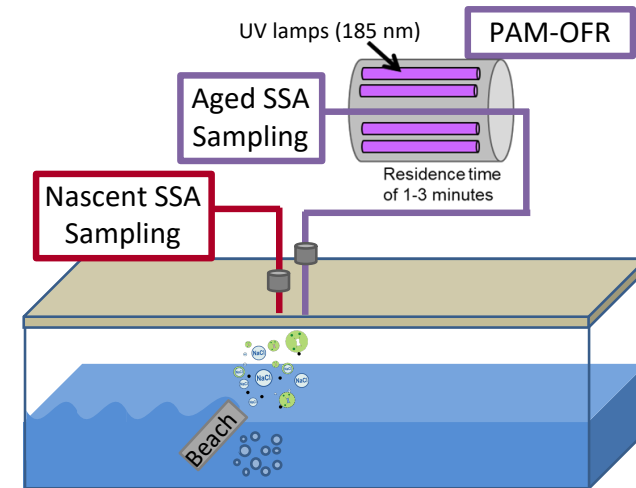
# Timeline of Oxidation Impact on Ice Nucleating Particles in SeaSCAPE 2019 Studies



NSF center for aerosol impacts on chemistry of the environment



Oxidation imposes **up to 5x loss** of INPs following emissions, equivalent to up to  **$\sim 2^{\circ}C$  degradation** on basis of IS temperature spectra

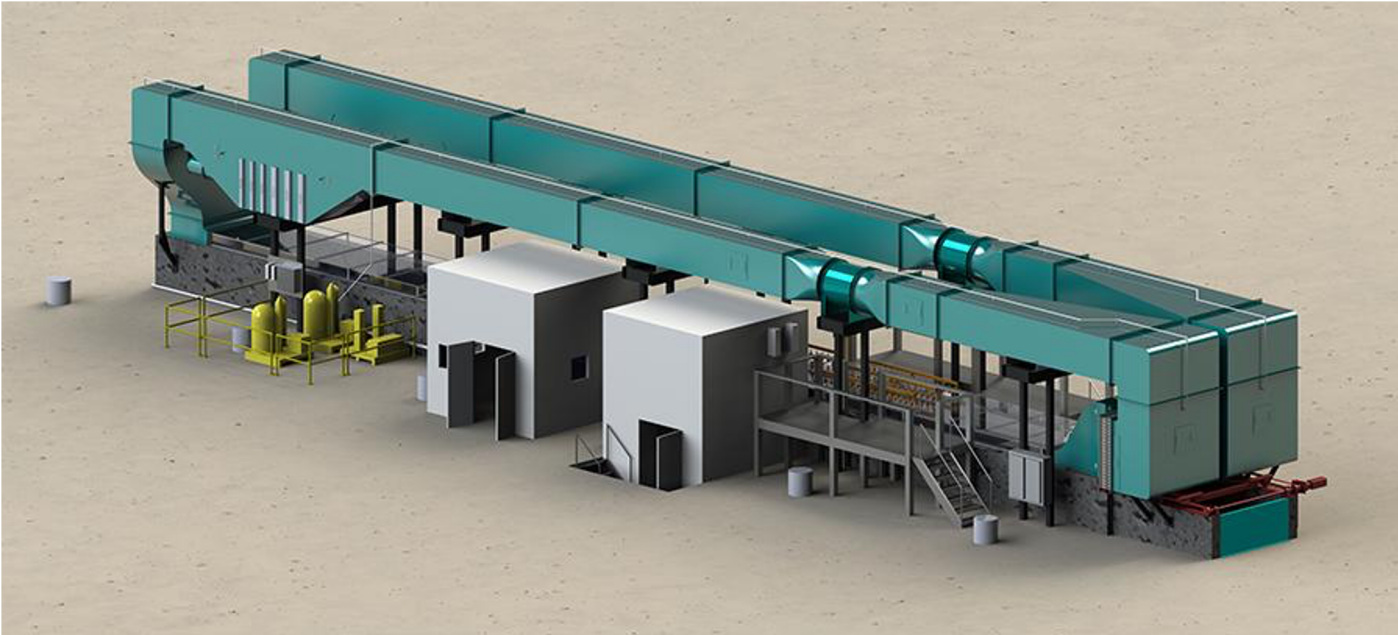


SIO Waveflume (DeMott et al. In Prep)

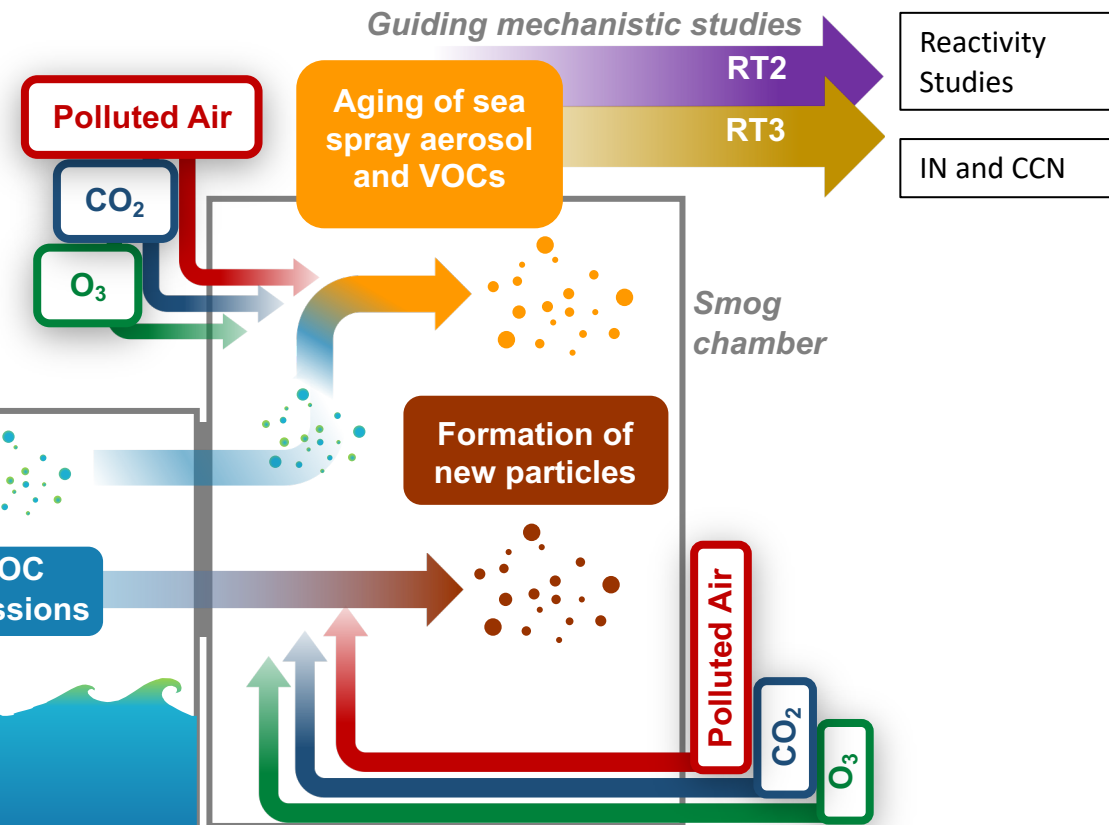
# Scripps Ocean-Atmosphere Research Simulator (SOARS)



NSF center for aerosol impacts on chemistry of the environment

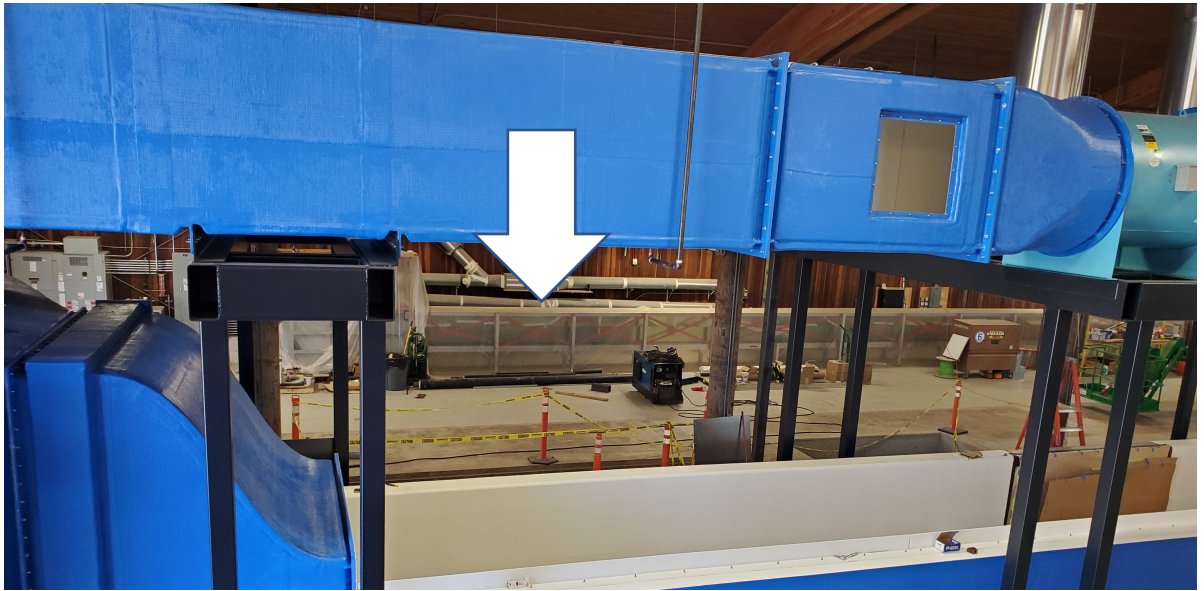


UC San Diego



**Simulate future (and past) climate scenarios with full environmental control (T, RH, winds)**

**Wind speeds up to 19 m/s  
T = -15 to 25°C (ocean)**



September 24, 2021

Workshop on laboratory facilities for cloud research

Beijing/Virtual