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Sampling the composition of cirrus ice residuals

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1 **Abstract**

2
3 Cirrus are high altitude clouds composed of ice crystals. They are the first tropospheric
4 clouds that can scatter incoming solar radiation and the last which can trap outgoing
5 terrestrial heat. Considering their extensive global coverage, estimated at between 25 and
6 33% of the Earth's surface, cirrus exert a measurable climate forcing. The global
7 radiative influence depends on a number of properties including their altitude, ice crystal
8 size and number density, and vertical extent. These properties in turn depend on the
9 ability of upper tropospheric aerosol particles to initiate ice formation. Because aerosol
10 populations, and therefore cirrus formation mechanisms, may change due to human
11 activities, the sign of cirrus forcing (a net warming or cooling) due to anthropogenic
12 effects is not universally agreed upon although most modeling studies suggest a positive
13 effect. Cirrus also play a major role in the water cycle in the tropopause region, affecting
14 not only redistribution in the troposphere but also the abundance of vapor entering the
15 stratosphere. Both the current lack of understanding of cirrus properties and the need to
16 improve our ability to project changes due to human activities in the future highlight the
17 critical need to determine the aerosol particles on which cirrus form.

18 This review addresses what is currently known about the abundance, size and
19 composition of cirrus-forming particles. We review aircraft-based field studies which
20 have either collected cirrus ice residuals for off-line analysis or determined their size,
21 composition and other properties in situ by capturing ice crystals and
22 sublimating/removing the condensed phase water. This review is predominantly restricted
23 to cirrus clouds. Limited comparisons are made to other ice-containing (e.g., mixed-
24 phase) cloud types. The findings of recent reviews on laboratory measurements that
25 mimic upper tropospheric cirrus formation are briefly summarized. The limitations of the
26 current state of the art in cirrus ice residual studies are outlined. Important ancillary
27 measurements and how they are integrated with ice residual data are also presented.
28 Concluding statements focus on the need for specific instrumentation and future studies.

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1 Introduction

2
3 The definition of what is a cirrus cloud, and what is not, is complex. The classical
4 definition of cloud type is based on morphology. According to the World Meteorological
5 Organization [WMO, 1975] there are three morphologically different sub-types (genera)
6 of high altitude clouds: ‘cirrus’ (detached clouds composed of filaments with a fibrous
7 appearance), ‘cirrocumulus’ (thin sheets or layers) and ‘cirrostratus’ (semi-transparent
8 fibrous with large sky coverage). The textbook *Cirrus* [2002], the most comprehensive
9 recent review of this cloud type, expands on the morphological description and adds
10 ‘subvisible’ or ‘subvisual’ cirrus (optical depth, normally considered at 0.694
11 micrometers wavelength, of < 0.03) and ‘contrail cirrus’ (due to input of water vapor
12 from an aircraft). The properties of these clouds are summarized in Table 1. For the
13 purpose of this review, cirrus are considered to be high altitude clouds of thin vertical
14 extent composed predominately of ice crystals.

15 Regarding ice, *Cirrus* [2002] notes that “all cirrus clouds are composed of ice, but not all
16 ice clouds are cirrus”. Ice fogs and other glaciated near-surface clouds are not considered
17 to be cirrus. Terrain induced ice clouds such as orographic or mountain wave clouds are
18 often differentiated from cirrus because their formation mechanism couples them to the
19 Earth’s surface. Since they are occasionally grouped with the other cirrus types, they are
20 briefly considered in this review. Of the cirrus types, only cirrocumulus and orographic
21 can be mixed phase (containing ice and water droplets) whereas the remainder, apart
22 from transient droplets or deliquesced aerosol particles during formation, are exclusively
23 ice.

24 Cirrus are generally delineated by five different formation mechanisms (Figure 1).
25 ‘Synoptic cirrus’ are formed by motion in the mid to upper troposphere, for example due
26 to the jet stream or frontal passage. These clouds are induced by the cooling of rising air,
27 normally in the range of few centimeters to a meter per second. Synoptic cirrus are
28 believed to form on in situ aerosol particles and are observed to form from the top (i.e.,
29 the coldest point) and proceed downward as ice sediments [Starr and Cox, 1985]. ‘Anvil’
30 or ‘injection cirrus’ are formed by the high-altitude detrainment of ice from a
31 cumulonimbus cloud. The formation of anvil cirrus is complex due to the uplift of aerosol
32 particles, droplets and ice from the lower to upper troposphere, often at several meters per
33 second. Ice formation competes with removal by sedimentation of the largest cloud
34 elements – water droplets or ice crystals. Ice formation in anvil cirrus can take place on
35 aerosol particles redistributed from the boundary layer or free tropospheric particles
36 entrained within the convective system. ‘Tropopause cirrus’ are normally considered
37 synonymous with the ‘subvisible’ type defined above. These clouds are restricted to the
38 low temperatures observed at the high tropical tropopause ($-70 - -90^{\circ}$ C). Tropopause
39 cirrus may be coupled to large scale vertical motions, for example from deep convection
40 [Heymsfield, 1986] or gravity waves [Randel and Jensen, 2013]. ‘Orographic’ or ‘wave
41 clouds’ are distinctly different from the remainder in that they are formed by meter per
42 second or greater vertical motion imparted by terrain. These clouds are often mixed in
43 phase and can form on aerosol particles from the boundary layer. ‘Contrail cirrus’ are the
44 only purely anthropogenically formed cirrus, due to the input of water vapor in the mid to
45 upper troposphere. Particles on which contrails form may be from the background free
46 troposphere or due to the aircraft emissions. Contrails are composed of the highest

1 number and smallest size ice crystals of the cirrus types [Sassen 1997]. The formation
2 mechanisms are shown schematically in Figure 1 and these naming conventions are used
3 throughout this review. A more comprehensive description of various cirrus formation
4 mechanisms is given in *Cirrus* [2002].

5 Cloud elements are understood to initially form on preexisting aerosol particles. These
6 processes are shown schematically in Figure 2. For conditions above 0° C only liquid
7 droplets can form. Considering the case of an uplifted and cooled air parcel, the water
8 vapor in that parcel is expected to remain constant, but as it is cooled the relative
9 humidity (RH) rises. If soluble aerosol particles are present those particles will rapidly
10 take up water and grow significantly at their deliquescence point (e.g., ~80% in the case
11 of sodium chloride or ammonium sulfate) [Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006]. These aqueous
12 solution particles are often termed ‘haze droplets’ and may reach several micrometers in
13 diameter. At a point slightly above 100% RH (i.e., slightly supersaturated with respect to
14 liquid water), Koehler theory predicts that both haze droplets, insoluble aerosol particles,
15 and internal mixtures will nucleate liquid water and grow, or ‘activate’, to super-
16 micrometer cloud droplets [Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006]. Note that the initial aerosol
17 particles can be soluble or insoluble or a combination of the two and either dissolve or
18 remain immersed.

19 At temperatures below 0° C ice nucleation can occur once water vapor reaches saturation
20 with respect to ice. Below this temperature liquid water has a higher vapor pressure than
21 ice, increasingly so as temperature is further decreased. There are several known
22 mechanisms by which particles can nucleate ice. The freezing mechanisms are grouped
23 into two broad categories: heterogeneous (4+ known sub-mechanisms) and homogeneous
24 freezing. Heterogeneous freezing occurs at higher temperatures and/or lower
25 supersaturation with respect to ice and requires the action of a solid particle or inclusion,
26 termed an ‘ice nucleus’ or IN [Pruppacher and Klett, 1997]. The known heterogeneous
27 freezing mechanisms are (1) immersion and condensation freezing, in which the IN
28 nucleates ice from within a droplet, (2) contact freezing where a solid IN causes ice
29 formation upon striking a droplet surface, and (3) deposition nucleation where water
30 vapor directly forms ice upon a previously water-free IN surface. Immersion and
31 condensation freezing are often considered to be synonymous but are distinguished by the
32 separation of droplet formation and ice nucleation. In the case of immersion freezing the
33 droplet is formed, possibly at temperatures warmer than 0° C, and ice nucleation occurs
34 upon cooling. In the case of condensation nucleation the process of droplet activation
35 occurs below 0° C and is immediately followed by ice nucleation [Pruppacher and Klett,
36 1997]. Several other heterogeneous ice nucleation mechanisms have been proposed but
37 their atmospheric relevance is uncertain. These include ‘inside out nucleation’ where an
38 immersed insoluble particle causes freezing upon impacting the droplet surface in a
39 process similar to contact nucleation [Durant and Shaw, 2005]. Another mechanism is the
40 “preconditioning” of an IN by a previous freezing event [Pruppacher and Klett, 1997;
41 Kärcher and Lohmann, 2003]. Preconditioning assumes that in some cases ice will not
42 fully evaporate from a particle surface despite subsaturated conditions. A particle which
43 then experiences lower temperatures and/or supersaturation may freeze more readily than
44 the original.

45 Heterogeneous freezing has been shown to depend on the size, surface composition and
46 morphology of the IN [Pruppacher and Klett, 1997]. IN are rare in the background free

1 troposphere, with abundances from <1 to 100's per liter at temperatures greater than ~ -
2 50° C [DeMott et al., 2003a]. A cirrus cloud which forms via heterogeneous mechanisms
3 would therefore be expected to have no more than 100's of ice crystals per liter except in
4 locations with abnormally abundant IN, such as in outflow regions of dust storms
5 [DeMott et al., 2003b]. In the atmosphere this concentration can be modified by
6 subsequent processes such as ice multiplication and removal by sedimentation.

7 Homogeneous freezing occurs when ice spontaneously forms within a solution, or haze,
8 droplet. This process only occurs at temperatures below ~ -38° C for aerosol particles of
9 diameter ~100 nm, the size typically found in the atmosphere, and at water vapor content
10 near the saturation of liquid water (i.e., saturation ratio ~ 1.5 with respect to ice at -38°
11 C). An aerosol particle which freezes homogeneously is termed a homogeneous freezing
12 nucleus (HFN). The process of homogeneous freezing is better understood than
13 heterogeneous freezing. Koop et al. [2000] showed that homogeneous freezing is a
14 function of the particle volume and water activity (equivalent to RH for equilibrium
15 conditions). Because given sufficient supersaturation all atmospheric particles can
16 activate as droplets they can also act as HFN. Thus, unlike heterogeneous freezing,
17 homogeneous freezing can result in 10⁵ ice crystals or more per liter (i.e., up to the
18 abundance of aerosol particles).

19 Figure 3 presents a diagram of condensation and freezing mechanisms in temperature
20 versus supersaturation (with respect to ice) space. The various heterogeneous
21 mechanisms are shown to occur at higher temperatures and/or lower supersaturation than
22 homogeneous freezing. Note that droplet activation or deliquescence must occur before
23 the immersion and condensation modes and both droplets and IN must be present to have
24 contact freezing. Conversely, deposition nucleation can occur before liquid water
25 saturation is reached. Only at the coldest temperatures and highest supersaturation does
26 homogeneous freezing occur.

27 Two points are noteworthy. First, an ice crystal in a cirrus cloud is expected to contain
28 either an IN or HFN. The known ice multiplication mechanisms, such as breakup of
29 dendritic arms and the Hallett-Mossop process, act at temperatures significantly warmer
30 than cirrus formation, which proceeds from -30 to -90° C [Hallett and Mossop, 1974].
31 Although possible mechanisms leading to ice multiplication in cirrus clouds have been
32 proposed, at the time of this review there is no definitive evidence to support these
33 theories [Cirrus, 2002]. Aggregation is not uncommon in some cirrus types such as
34 frontal and anvil [Stith et al., 2011] although occurrence and quantification are difficult.
35 Scavenging of particles by cirrus ice crystals has not been comprehensively addressed
36 and, as described in the following sections, it can be confused with measurement
37 artifacts. We proceed in the assumption of a single IN or HFN being present within each
38 cirrus ice crystal. Second, the higher temperature portion of the cirrus formation regime is
39 regarded by some authors as coinciding with the onset of homogeneous nucleation (i.e., ~
40 -38° C), but this is inconsistent with in situ and remote sensing observations which show
41 cirrus formation at warmer temperatures [Cirrus, 2002]. The processes in Figure 3
42 therefore consider ice formation occurring at temperatures higher than the onset of
43 homogeneous freezing. This is significant because, as indicated by the two hypothetical
44 atmospheric trajectories in Figure 3, aerosol particles must first pass through one or more
45 of the heterogeneous freezing regimes before encountering temperatures and water vapor
46 conditions conducive to homogeneous freezing.

1 The implication that trajectories pass first through regions where heterogeneous ice
2 nucleation mechanisms are active has been considered by researchers such as Kay et al.
3 [2006] and Spichtinger and Cziczo [2010]. In brief, although the trajectories in Figure 3
4 initially pass through the heterogeneous regime, cirrus do not form exclusively by
5 heterogeneous mechanisms. Instead, the combination of IN abundance and how rapidly a
6 trajectory is traversed (i.e., the vertical velocity) determines where a cloud forms. For
7 example, a high abundance of IN and a low vertical velocity will result in a
8 heterogeneously formed cloud whereas a low abundance of IN and/or a rapid ascent will
9 result in homogeneously formed ice.

10 Direct observation of the aerosol freezing mechanism in the ambient atmosphere is
11 difficult. However, the composition of residual particles within cirrus crystals can
12 elucidate the formation mechanism. This has been demonstrated by DeMott et al.
13 [2003a]. Using a continuous flow diffusion chamber (CFDC) which simulates the low
14 temperature and high saturation conditions at which cirrus formed, DeMott et al. showed
15 that HFN have a composition similar to the background free troposphere aerosol particles
16 with a majority being internal mixtures of sulfate and organic carbon [Murphy et al.,
17 1998]. Heterogeneously formed ice, conversely, is expected to have a residual
18 composition consistent with that of IN. The study of DeMott et al. [2003a] showed IN to
19 be predominantly mineral dust and metallic aerosol which is consistent with a
20 compilation of studies by Pruppacher and Klett [1997].

22 **2. Separation and characterization of cirrus ice residuals**

24 The two critical steps in determination of the composition of cirrus ice residuals (IRs) are
25 the separation of the ice crystals from the unactivated (interstitial) aerosol particles and
26 subsequent (compositional) analysis. The distinction between IR and IN or HFN is that
27 after nucleation an IN or HFN will acquire either gas- or particle-phase material via
28 condensation or impaction scavenging. The residual material remaining after condensed
29 phase water removal from a cirrus ice crystal is therefore termed an IR.

31 *2.1 Separation*

32 Counterflow virtual impaction is the most common technique used for separation of
33 cloud elements from unactivated aerosol particles. First described by Ogren et al. [1985]
34 for the separation of water droplets from aerosol particles in aircraft studies, a
35 counterflow virtual impactor (CVI) inlet uses a flow of gas directed against the motion of
36 the aircraft. This flow creates an inertial barrier which is a function of the aircraft velocity
37 (i.e., particle velocity relative to the inlet) and counterflow rate. Shown schematically in
38 Figure 4, the inertial barrier is adjusted to exclude aerosol particles but to allow more
39 massive ice crystals to enter the inlet. The smallest size ice crystal which can pass the
40 counterflow is termed the lower cutpoint or cutsize, typically taken at 50% impaction
41 efficiency. Since the counterflow effectively replaces the air when the crystals are
42 entrained, a warm and dry counterflow can be used to sublimate the ice while retaining
43 the non-volatile material as a residual aerosol particle. The stream into which the ice
44 crystals are entrained is termed the sample flow. A CVI inlet can “over-sample” or
45 enhance droplets and ice crystal concentrations since the cloud elements in a large
46 sampling volume are impacted into a relatively small sample flow. Enhancement factors

1 depend on the specific CVI design as well as aircraft flight conditions. CVI inlets have
2 been used by a number of researchers for cirrus IR sampling [Noone et al., 1992; Ström
3 and Heintzenberg, 1994; Heintzenberg, 1996; Ström et al. 1997; Petzold et al., 1998;
4 Twohy and Gandrud, 1998; Seifert et al., 2003; Seifert et al., 2004; Cziczo et al., 2004a;
5 Twohy and Poellot 2005; Pratt et al., 2009; Targino et al., 2010; Froyd et al., 2010; Stith
6 et al., 2011; Cziczo et al., 2013] with results shown in the next section.

7 There are several fundamental limitations of CVI inlets. First, when used in cirrus clouds,
8 CVI inlets need to operate at extremely high separation efficiency. The reason is that
9 cirrus clouds can contain very low number densities of ice crystals, often <1 and, on
10 average, only ~ 30 per liter [Cirrus, 2002; Randel and Jensen, 2013]. Because the
11 background aerosol abundance can be 100 per cm^3 , a rejection of $>10^4$ - 10^5 is required to
12 ensure less than 1% of IRs are incorrectly transmitted aerosol particles. Using aircraft
13 [Cziczo et al., 2004; Froyd et al., 2010] and a CVI designed for laboratory use [Boulter et
14 al., 2005] this rejection factor has been shown to be possible. Pekour and Cziczo [2011]
15 demonstrated that several mechanisms can lead to unintentional transmission of aerosol
16 particles below the CVI cutpoint, including particles riding in the wake of large ice
17 crystals. Stith et al. [2011] and Pekour and Cziczo [2011] also calculated that
18 aerodynamic stress can lead to breakup of ice crystals as they encounter the counterflow.
19 Complications in aircraft sampling can also lead to inadvertent aerosol particle
20 transmission such as a CVI angle-of-attack that deviates from flow streamlines or
21 sampling under turbulent conditions.

22 Second, sampled crystals must be slowed and sublimated in order to be analyzed for IR.
23 Slowing of crystals is related to their stopping distance. Shown in Figure 5 for an initial
24 velocity of 200 meters per second and a counterflow of 300 K air, the stopping distance
25 increases from ~ 0.04 meters for a 10 micrometer diameter crystal to > 1 meter for a 100
26 micrometer crystal. A related calculation is the time required to remove condensed phase
27 water, shown in Figure 5 for two inlet flow velocities. Crystals with a 100 micrometer
28 initial diameter require > 4 meters to fully sublimate for a typical inlet velocity of 0.5
29 meters per second. Sublimation of large crystals is only accomplished using very low
30 flow velocities, ~ 0.1 meters per second. However, with such long residence times crystals
31 will gravitationally settle to the bottom of the inlet prior to sublimation. Increasing the
32 CVI temperature beyond ~ 350 K has diminishing returns because the sublimation rate
33 becomes diffusion-limited and losses of volatile components will occur. Since traditional
34 CVI inlets are < 0.5 meters in length, ice crystals > 50 micrometers diameter are the limit
35 of what can be sampled without crystal impaction. This limit of stopping and sublimation
36 is termed the upper cutpoint. Three representative cirrus ice crystal size distributions are
37 shown in Figure 6. For all except tropical tropopause cirrus, the crystal number mode lies
38 outside the range that can be stopped and sublimated by traditional inlets. An advanced
39 CVI inlet utilizing neon as a counterflow due to its higher viscosity and thermal
40 conductivity and a “folded” design stops and sublimates crystals up to ~ 70 micrometers
41 diameter [Cziczo et al., 2013]. At the time of this review there are no CVI inlets that have
42 an ability to analyze IR from larger ice crystals without crystal impaction artifacts.
43 Artifacts are explained in more detail in the following paragraphs.

44 Third, all aircraft CVI inlets separate only based on inertia and do not differentiate ice
45 from liquid water. Although a phase-separation inlet has been used for ground base
46 application by Mertes et al. [2007], this technique is currently too large and operates at

1 velocities too slow for cirrus-sampling aircraft. This limitation is significant because IR
2 can not be determined within mixed-phase clouds, which normally contain a greater
3 number of droplets than ice, often by orders of magnitude [Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006].
4 There are significant artifacts generated by CVI inlets. IR particles collected using CVI
5 inlets that do not employ an orthogonal (pickoff) sampling arrangement (see Fig. 4) are
6 more suspect since cirrus crystals can undergo impaction prior to IR collection although
7 these provide an accurately determination of total water. In this case two CVI inlets (with
8 and without orthogonal pickoff) might be considered. Due to the large stopping distance
9 shown in Figure 5, it is known that ice crystals do not follow gas flow lines and can
10 impact surfaces with high velocity [Korolev et al., 2005]. Large ice crystals are also
11 known to break up without encountering surfaces at the high Weber number associated
12 with deceleration [Stith et al., 2011; Pekour and Cziczo et al., 2011]. These impaction
13 events abrade aircraft and inlet surfaces and generate artifact particles that are of similar
14 size to cirrus IR. Crystal impaction and artifact generation mechanisms are shown
15 schematically in Figure 7. These processes take place (1) outside the inlet when ice
16 crystal fragments are accepted into the sample flow, (2) when large crystals impact the
17 back surface of the inlet and (3) on the inner CVI surface in cases with non-zero aircraft
18 angle of attack or yaw. Impact-generated artifacts were initially identified using single
19 particle mass spectrometry (SPMS; described in the next section) by Murphy et al.
20 [2004]. The various generation mechanisms are summarized in the following paragraph
21 and in Figure 8.

22 Examples of artifact particles generated via the different impaction mechanisms are
23 shown in Figure 8. Impaction events not only generate particles of pure inlet or aircraft
24 material (Fig 8, Panels A-C), but ice crystals can also capture small amounts of foreign
25 material (Fig 8, Panel D). When water is removed from the crystal fragments the
26 analyzed IR can be a mixture of a real IN and foreign material. The foreign material
27 within these mixtures often comprises a small fraction of the IR mass ($< 1-10\%$), and
28 such minor artifact signatures can go undetected by many composition analyses. Internal
29 mixtures of a real atmospheric particle with trace amounts of inlet artifact material, such
30 as gold or stainless steel, are common in some SPMS studies. For some artifact
31 generation mechanisms it is still possible to sample and analyze the real cirrus IRs.
32 However, aerosol particles previously adsorbed onto inlet surfaces are resuspended
33 during cirrus encounters and can be mistaken for IR [Murphy et al., 2004]. This artifact
34 generation mechanism can further confound IR analysis and is demonstrated here to
35 produce substantial artifact signals. In the Tropical Composition, Cloud and Climate
36 Coupling (TC4) aircraft study, sea salt aerosol coated inlet and aircraft surfaces during
37 marine boundary layer flight legs. These adsorbed particles were subsequently
38 resuspended in heavy cirrus and were detected in the IR flow stream. These artifact
39 particles were positively identified by trace metallic elements, not present in typical sea
40 salt particles, that may have leached from the inlet surface as a result of sea salt corrosion
41 (Figure 8, Panel E). These artifacts were strongly correlated with ice crystal size, as were
42 stainless steel particles. Even when sampling cirrus with crystal mode sizes < 100
43 micrometers diameter, the resuspended artifacts represented $\sim 50\%$ of particles collected
44 in the sample flow. Surface adsorption efficiency is likely to depend on aerosol phase,
45 composition and sampling environment. Consequently, sea salt aerosol collected in the
46 marine boundary layer may represent a worst case scenario. However, solid particles

1 have been observed to undergo the surface adsorption / resuspension process as well
2 [Murphy et al., 2004].

3 Supporting evidence of artifacts generated in ice clouds has also been provided using a
4 conventional inlet operated within anvil cirrus with particles analyzed by electron
5 microscopy (EM) [Kojima et al., 2004]. Kojima et al. detected abundant aluminum,
6 silicon and zinc-containing particles, which were suggested to be paint chipped by ice
7 crystals. More recently, Perring et al. [2013] used a single particle soot photometer (SP2)
8 to describe a significant BC artifact when a traditional forward-facing inlet was used in
9 cirrus clouds. Perring et al. recommend a new inlet design to allow for interstitial
10 sampling and showed the significance of artifacts when impaction was not considered.
11 These studies have led to modern CVI and traditional inlets being constructed with
12 distinct design elements (i.e., flow patterns) and materials such as titanium or gold [Stith
13 et al., 2011; Froyd et al., 2010].

14 2.2 Composition

15 Characterization of IRs has been accomplished using three methods. In the first cirrus
16 sampling flights ice crystals were sublimated for counting and, in some cases, sizing
17 [Noone et al., 1992; Ström and Heintzenberg, 1994; Heintzenberg, 1996; Ström et al.
18 1997; Seifert et al., 2003; Seifert et al., 2004]. In subsequent studies particles were
19 impacted onto grids for off-line size and morphology analysis using EM coupled to
20 several compositional analysis methods [Petzold et al., 1998; Twohy and Gandrud, 1998;
21 Twohy and Poellot 2005; Targino et al., 2010; Cziczo et al., 2013]. Because this method
22 uses simple inertial impaction it requires relatively little space, power and complexity.

23 Since the early 2000's SPMS has been used for real-time in situ analysis of aerosol
24 particles. Most SMPS instruments focus particles using an aerodynamic inlet. Particles
25 are detected and sized using scattered light as they pass through one or two laser beams
26 set a fixed distance apart. A second laser, normally in the near UV, is fired to evaporate
27 the particle and ionize the components. Ions are extracted into a single- or dual-polarity
28 time-of-flight mass spectrometer. In this way a complete mass spectrum is generated for
29 each detected particle. SPMS is considered a qualitative analysis method since detected
30 signals depend on the quantity of components and the efficiency with which they are
31 ionized. SPMS has been recently reviewed by Murphy [2007]. SMPS has become the
32 more common technique for IR analysis since ~2004 [Cziczo et al, 2004ab; Pratt et al.,
33 2009; Froyd et al., 2010; Cziczo et al., 2013].

34 3. Field Studies

35
36 Separation of cirrus ice crystals using counterflow virtual impaction with subsequent off-
37 or on-line analysis has been conducted since 1989. At the date of this review there are
38 ~18 papers, discussed chronologically in this section, which characterize cirrus residuals.
39 There are several related instrument description papers, referenced in these works, that
40 are not considered here. Single field missions are sometimes considered in multiple
41 papers so the number of studies (13) is somewhat less than the total papers. We include
42 papers from glaciated orographic but not mixed-phase clouds. A summary of the
43 presented data is given in Table 2.
44
45

1 The initial use of counterflow virtual impaction of cirrus was by Noone et al. [1992]. This
2 study, the international cirrus experiment (ICE), was conducted aboard the DLR Falcon
3 during October, 1989 over northern Europe and the North Sea. Cirrus residual number
4 density, using a condensation nucleus counter (CNC) and size distributions from 0.15 to
5 10 micrometers diameter, using an optical particle counter (OPC), were measured in situ
6 and compared to ice water content. Composition of the residual material was not
7 determined. The CVI had lower and upper cutpoints of 4 and ~55 micrometers diameter.
8 The upper cutpoint was based upon comparative measurements to cloud probes;
9 limitations of this method are discussed in the next section. Theoretical determination of
10 the upper cutpoint for this CVI was somewhat lower, 12 - 20 micrometers. One flight in a
11 prefrontal/synoptic cloud (which may not have been fully glaciated) and four flights in
12 cirrostratus were described. The OPC results showed averages of 30 – 225 IR per liter
13 with a mode size between 0.3 and 0.7 micrometers diameter. It was noted that the CPC
14 count was most often considerably higher, suggesting a second mode of IR constituting
15 ~80% of the total, in the size range below 0.15 micrometers diameter. This ‘bi-modal’
16 distribution was discussed in more detail for these flights by Ström et al. [1994]. The
17 authors considered shatter when ice crystals larger than the upper cutpoint were
18 encountered and demonstrated that this likely happened in two cases. The authors
19 suggested that other cases of high number density correlated with smaller ice crystals. Ice
20 crystal shatter, later quantified by Field et al. [2003], was not considered the dominant
21 small-mode IR source.

22 The second use of a CVI in glaciated clouds was by Ström and Heintzenberg [1994]. Two
23 cirrus sampling flights took place on January 13 and 14, 1992 over southern Germany
24 and the Austrian Alps. This instrument package was the same as in Noone et al. [1992]
25 and was also flown on the DLR Falcon although only CNC data were presented. The
26 authors conducted a theoretical calculation of the upper CVI cutpoint with a value
27 between 12 and 20 micrometers diameter and report a value of ~25 micrometers when a
28 comparison to was made to two cloud probes that quantified ice crystals from 20 to 600
29 micrometers diameter. The authors did not report data for concentrations less than 20
30 per liter, below which point the cloud probe concentration was equal or larger than the CVI
31 concentration. The authors inferred that below this concentration the CVI was subject to
32 losses; they did not consider the possibility of cloud probe overcounting which was later
33 reported by Field et al. [2003]. The CVI data were reported to >3000 per liter although
34 this corresponded to cloud probe densities of only ~1-10 ice crystals per liter. The
35 discrepancy of $>10^3$ was inferred to be due to ice crystals below the cloud probe size
36 limit. Ice crystal shatter was not considered.

37 The first compositional measurements of cirrus IRs using a CVI were accomplished by
38 Heintzenberg et al. [1996]. The residuals were collected during the January 13, 15, and
39 17 flights also considered by Ström and Heintzenberg [1994]. Residuals were only
40 collected on the first flight and these were compared to interstitial aerosol collected
41 during the second and outside cloud particles on the third. The IR data corresponded to a
42 flight section with ~ 90 crystals per liter. Impacted residuals larger than 0.12 micrometers
43 diameter were investigated with electron microscopy for size, morphology (long versus
44 orthogonal axis) and elemental analysis by energy dispersive x-ray (EDX) analysis. 84 IR
45 were analyzed, compared to 50 interstitial and 98 out of cloud. A median 1 micrometer
46 diameter for the IR was reported and a compositions similar to mineral. The IR

1 composition was different than the mineral dust in the interstitial and out of cloud cases,
2 however. Samples of Saharan dust and Mt. Pinatubo volcanic ash were analyzed by the
3 authors for comparison. The IRs were found to have had a higher abundance of iron and
4 less silicon and aluminum compared to the other samples. Pitting of the inlet, later
5 considered by Murphy et al. [2004], was not considered as a particle source.
6 Ström et al. [1997] presented data from the DLR Falcon using the same instrumental
7 package described above. Four flights were conducted over southern Germany and
8 Austria during March, 1994. Number density and size distributions were presented from
9 the CVI and an interstitial inlet on one of these flights, March 18, in a cloud with a
10 temperature from -35 to -60 °C. Note that Perring et al. [2013] have recently
11 demonstrated artifacts that can be associated with the use of traditional inlets attempting
12 to measure interstitial aerosol within clouds; this was not considered by Ström et al.
13 [1997]. IR number density ranged up to 14000 with a median of 2500 per liter. IR
14 composition was not determined. Contrail sampling was intentionally excluded by
15 removal of data at high interstitial number density. The IR mode size was found to be
16 below 0.3 micrometers diameter, suggesting that homogeneous freezing of sulfate
17 droplets had led to this cloud formation.
18 Petzold et al. [1998] determined composition of cirrus, including contrail IRs, using the
19 instrumental package described by Heintzenberg et al. [1996]. Four flights over Germany
20 and Austria aboard the DLR Falcon during mid-October, 1996 were considered. Of these
21 2 contrail and 2 cirrus encounters were compared to 3 interstitial cases. A total of 380
22 contrail IRs, 197 cirrus IRs and 36 interstitial aerosol particles were analyzed by
23 impaction on filters with off-line scanning electron microscope (SEM) and EDX.
24 Interstitial and residual particles were grouped into three size classes with the majority of
25 all samples in the smallest, between 0.1 and 0.5 micrometers. Four classes of composition
26 were considered (black carbon (BC), metallic, metallic and BC, and silicate) with the
27 majority of interstitials and residuals being BC. There are several inconsistencies in this
28 paper that need to be specifically noted. First, interstitial aerosol particles were observed
29 to be 70 – 95%, by number, BC. This number is more than an order of magnitude higher
30 than reported by modern measurements of BC [Bond et al., 2013] and likely were caused
31 by the artifacts produced by in cloud sampling with traditional inlets later shown by
32 Perring et al. [2013]. Second, the number density of IR particles on the filter samples in
33 contrail and cirrus corresponded to 200 and 20 per liter. When compared to the CNC IR
34 concentrations (10000 and ~2000 per liter) the filter-based IR concentration represents
35 only 1 - 2%. This suggests that 98-99% of IRs were smaller than 0.1 micrometers. Third,
36 the metallic category corresponded to particles with a composition of stainless steel.
37 Although the CVI inlet was made of this material the authors consider these to be of
38 aircraft engine origin. Described more fully in subsequent sections, it is likely that ice
39 crystal shatter and artifact generation due to pitting of the CVI resulted in the large
40 number of small IRs and stainless steel composition.
41 A CVI inlet was used by Ström and Ohlsson [1998] aboard the DLR Falcon during the
42 AEROCONTRAIL (Formation Processes and Radiative properties of particles in aircraft
43 wakes) experiment in October 1996 over southern Germany. The inlet and experimental
44 package were similar to that discussed in the previous references although the upper
45 cutpoint of the CVI was described as 60 micrometers diameter. Ice crystal number
46 density was compared to interstitial aerosol and absorbing IR number density in contrails

1 and cirrus clouds located in dense air traffic corridors during 5 flights. The number of
2 absorbing IR was determined by sending the CVI sample flow to a particle soot
3 absorption photometer (PSAP). The authors reported higher ice crystal number density in
4 areas with higher absorbing aerosol concentration and suggested this was linked to the
5 presence of aircraft exhaust.

6 Twohy and Gandrud [1998] analyzed IR in two contrails, one generated by a Boeing 757
7 and the other produced by the sampling aircraft, the NASA DC-8. The two flights were
8 part of the Subsonic Assessment: Contrail and Cloud Effects Special Study (SUCCESS)
9 which took place in April and May, 1996 over the south- and northwestern USA. The
10 lower cutpoint of the CVI was variable, from 5 – 14 micrometers diameter during this
11 study. An upper cutpoint was not presented. Residual number density was counted with
12 one CNC and after heating to 250 °C with a second CNC. The heated value corresponded
13 to the “non-volatile” IRs (i.e., above the volatility temperature of sulfates and some
14 organics). Both CNCs had a lower size limit of 20 nm and reported concentration values
15 ranging up to 12000 per liter for the total IRs and 9000 per liter for the non-volatile IRs.
16 Chemical composition was determined by collecting a portion of the CVI sample flow on
17 a two-stage impactor fitted with EM grids for off-line analysis. Assuming a density of 1.8
18 grams per cm³ (similar to sulfates) the collection range for the first stage was 0.10 to 0.42
19 and the second stage >0.42 micrometers aerodynamic diameter. A total of 76 particles
20 from the 757 and 36 particles from the DC-8 were analyzed. Soot IR represented 5 –
21 25%, metallic aerosol (stainless steel and titanium) 11 – 12 % and minerals were 31 –
22 48%.

23 Measurements of IRs were compared to interstitial aerosol for the interhemispheric
24 differences in cirrus properties from anthropogenic emissions (INCA) project by Seifert
25 et al. [2003]. The study was conducted with the DLR Falcon during March and April,
26 2000 based in Punta Arenas, Chile (10 flights) and also during September and October,
27 2000 from Prestwick, Scotland (9 flights). The CVI inlet was the same as that described
28 by Ström et al. [1997] with the addition of a size-resolving differential mobility analyzer
29 (DMA), which scanned from 0.025 to 0.1 micrometers diameter, in addition to a CNC
30 and OPC for IR analysis. In both the northern and southern hemisphere data the number
31 mode size of the IRs was found to be bi-modal with a small mode of super-micrometer
32 size and the dominant mode of less than 0.1 micrometers diameter. The fraction of
33 nucleated particles was calculated by comparing the IR number to the sum of interstitial
34 and IR particles. Nucleated fractions exhibited a relatively flat profile with respect to size
35 and increased from <0.1% when less than 300 IR were counted per liter to >4% at >3000
36 per liter. Seifert et al. [2004] considered total IRs versus non-volatile IRs in a method
37 similar to Twohy and Gandrud [1998] for this same set of flights. Particles were
38 classified as volatile, semi-volatile and non-volatile based on presence when heated to
39 125°, from 125 to 250°, and above 250° C. Samples were further divided into a colder
40 and warmer cloud temperature range delineated by -38 ° C. The non-volatile IR fraction
41 was relatively invariant in the two cloud temperature regimes with 10 – 30% in the
42 northern and 20 – 40% in the southern hemispheres. Few semi-volatile particles were
43 found so that the volatile particles corresponded to the remainder. In this context, non-
44 volatile particles were assumed to be possible IN whereas volatiles particles were
45 considered possible HFN.

1 A SPMS was first used in combination with a CVI inlet by Cziczo et al. [2004a]. Cirrus
2 of predominantly convective origin (cumulonimbus anvils) were sampled during 12
3 flights for the Cirrus Regional Study of Tropical Anvils and Cirrus Layers - Florida Area
4 Cirrus Experiment (CRYSTAL-FACE) from the NASA WB-57 aircraft over Florida and
5 the Gulf of Mexico during July, 2002. Two flights encountered a cross-Atlantic
6 transported Saharan dust layer. The lower and upper CVI cutpoints for these flights was 5
7 and 22 micrometers diameter, respectively. IRs from 0.2 to 2 micrometers were sized and
8 their composition determined on a particle by particle basis. The IR mode size was
9 between 0.3 and 1 micrometer diameter with the larger values corresponding to the
10 Saharan dust flights. Spectra were grouped into four categories (sulfate/organic/biomass
11 burning, sea salt, mineral dust/fly ash and others). A comparison was made between
12 particles in the vicinity of clouds, interstitial and IRs. Outside cloud (2126 particles) and
13 interstitial (299 particles) were observed to be predominantly (>95%)
14 sulfate/organic/biomass burning. On 11 of the 12 flights the IRs (211 particles) were
15 predominantly (>60%) mineral dust/fly ash and sea salt. In the case of the two flights in
16 the vicinity of Saharan dust the IRs were >60% mineral dust. One of the flights (127 IRs)
17 was considered consistent with homogeneous nucleation because the IR composition was
18 predominantly sulfate/organic/biomass burning. EC was less than 1% of the particles near
19 clouds and in the interstitial particles and IRs. Cziczo et al. [2004b] considered the
20 relative abundance of organic material in IRs versus the frozen fraction during
21 CRYSTAL-FACE. Organics were shown to be essentially absent at low frozen fractions,
22 implying that homogeneous freezing was more likely on pristine sulfate particles. This
23 observation was supported by kinetic arguments made by Kärcher and Koop [2005].
24 Cziczo et al. [2004a] reported that a considerable fraction, in some cases >80% of IRs,
25 were composed of stainless steel, the same material that composed the CVI inlet. All
26 metallic particles, stainless steel or otherwise, were removed from this dataset. These
27 artifact particles were considered by Murphy et al. [2004] who showed that impacts of ice
28 crystals at aircraft velocity (>180 m/s) could ablate metal inlets and thereby introduce
29 contaminant particles into the sample flow. The implications were two-fold: (1) studies
30 using CVIs in cirrus needed to consider the production of metallic aerosol from ice
31 crystal impaction and (2) ice crystals could potentially shatter and produce multiple small
32 ice “shards”. While one of these shards could contain the original IN or a major fraction
33 of an HFN, each shard, when evaporated, would leave behind a small residual core of any
34 material acquired via scavenging during the cloud lifetime and some soluble material
35 from the IN or HFN distributed through the ice crystal. Murphy et al. [2004] suggested
36 that future CVI inlets be plated with compositionally distinct materials less prone to
37 pitting.

38 A CVI inlet was also utilized by Twohy and Poellot [2005] during CRYSTAL-FACE
39 from the University of North Dakota Citation aircraft. The CVI inlet cutpoints were not
40 reported. IRs were collected on a two stage impactor with cutsizes of 0.07 - 0.38 and
41 >0.38 micrometer diameter assuming 1.7 g cm^{-3} density particles. IR number density was
42 inferred from the number on the grids to correspond to 30 – 300 per L. Approximately 50
43 particles were analyzed using SEM/EDX on 14 in cloud and 4 out of cloud samples for a
44 total of 1115 IRs and 400 ambient particles. Particles were categorized as crustal,
45 organic, soot, sulfate, industrial, salt, mixed and unknown. Salts were the largest category
46 by number for both the small and large size samples, 30 – 40%. Crustal material was 10 –

1 18% while industrial (metallic) particles were 6 – 29%. Soot was 7 – 10%. Artifacts such
2 as stainless steel were found to be <2% of the residual particles. Twohy and Poellot
3 [2005] discussed their results in the context of cloud probe data, noting for the first time
4 among the papers discussed in this section, that these probes often overcounted crystal
5 number by an order of magnitude or more because of shatter on the aircraft of inlets
6 [Field et al., 2003; Korolev and Isaac, 2005]. Twohy and Poellot [2005] showed that
7 insoluble IRs, presumably heterogeneous IN, were more common at warmer cloud top
8 temperatures than soluble, presumable HFN, IRs. Twohy and Poellot [2005] also noted
9 that their result of salt abundance as an IR was inconsistent with the Fridlind et al. [2004]
10 theory, which used suspect cloud probe data, that convective systems entrain
11 considerable mid-tropospheric aerosol particles.

12 Orographic cirrus IRs were sampled during the INTeraction of Aerosol and Cold Clouds
13 (INTACC) experiment in October, 1999 over Scandinavia by Targino et al. [2006]. A
14 total of 5 flights of the British Met Office C-130 aircraft were made using the CVI
15 described by Noone et al. [1992]. 609 particles were analyzed using SEM/EDX. Particles
16 were grouped based on size (sub- and super-micrometer diameter) and categorized based
17 on their elemental abundance. Targino et al. [2006] noted that cloud temperatures
18 exceeded -35 °C and inferred that IRs were IN and not HFN. In total, 23.3% of the IRs
19 were mineral dust, 6.7% sea salt, and 23.3% presumed to be organic carbon. A further
20 24.1% were iron. Targino et al. [2006] attempted to account for possible artifact particles
21 by removing those that contained only stainless steel components (Fe, Cr, Ni). Using
22 these criteria, ~3% of the particles were removed. However, as shown by Murphy et al.
23 [2004], metal pitted from an inlet surface can be mixed with other materials. These
24 include the IR from the ice crystal and material that had adhered to the inlet wall. Mixed
25 stainless steel and other components, considered valid IRs and not artifacts, were ~7% of
26 the particles analyzed by Targino et al. [2006].

27 Pratt et al. [2009] used a SPMS to investigate a single glaciated orographic cloud during
28 November, 2007 over Wyoming during the Ice in Clouds Experiment Layer Clouds
29 (ICE-L). This study was conducted aboard the NCAR C-130 and utilized a CVI with a
30 lower cutpoint of 7 micrometers diameter similar to that used by Twohy and Poellot
31 [2005]. A total of 46 IRs between 0.14 and 0.7 micrometers diameter were analyzed. Of
32 these 23 were mineral, 2 soot, 4 salt, and 2 organic carbon. Mixed mineral and biological
33 material, inferred from the presence of organic carbon, nitrogen and phosphate, was
34 found on 15 particles.

35 Subvisible cirrus at the tropical tropopause were investigated by Froyd et al. [2010]. Due
36 to their altitude these represent the coldest cirrus; assuming a vertical displacement of <1
37 km between formation and sampling Froyd et al. [2010] estimated a temperature range of
38 -73 to -88 °C. The CVI used by Cziczo et al. [2004a], modified with gold plating, was
39 used on board the NASA WB-57 During the Costa Rica Aura Validation Experiment
40 (CRAVE) during January and February, 2006. A total of 127 IRs were compared to 873
41 interstitial aerosol particles. Comparison was also made to redesigned cloud probes less
42 prone to overcounting from crystal shatter. Ice crystal number density was shown to be
43 <50 per liter in these clouds, and most crystals were within the size sampling range of the
44 CVI. The composition of the residuals was predominately submicron sulfate/organic
45 mixtures and was chemically indistinguishable from out of cloud aerosol. Froyd et al.
46 suggested heterogeneous ice nucleation by anhydrous salts [Abbatt et al., 2006] and/or

1 organic glasses [Murray et al., 2009] could be the formation mechanism. Froyd et al.
2 [2010] also demonstrated that artifact particles were present in anvil cirrus from pitting of
3 the aircraft (e.g. fiberglass), the inlet, and inlet materials mixed with ambient particles.
4 The presence of gold and other materials on the same particle was used as definitive
5 proof that mixed inlet and ambient particles could be produced as an artifact. Moreover,
6 Froyd et al. [2010] cautioned that in many cases the inlet material was a minor spectral
7 feature.

8 Mixed-phase and glaciating clouds from cold fronts and extratropical storms over the
9 Pacific Ocean were investigated by Stith et al. [2011]. A total of 14 flights using the
10 NCAR GV platform were conducted during April and May, 2007. A titanium CVI inlet
11 was used for ice crystal separation. The lower cutsize was 5 micrometers diameter. The
12 upper cutpoint was not specified but the authors noted that crystals larger than ~70
13 micrometers diameter were likely to break up due to aerodynamic stress. A total of 4108
14 residuals were analyzed using EM/EDX. Black carbon as an IR was considered in a
15 separate publication for 7 of these flights by Baumgardner et al. [2008] using an SP2.
16 Comparisons were made to the number and composition of IN provided by a CFDC. Stith
17 et al. [2011] showed that particles with “high enough titanium levels to potentially be
18 from the inlet” varied from ~2% of 0.1 – 0.3 micrometer diameter particles to as much as
19 31% of super-micrometer particles. Low titanium particles and other artifacts were not
20 described. Both Baumgardner et al. [2008] and Stith et al. [2011] note that the signal
21 from titanium artifacts produced an unknown signal in the SP2. Stith et al. showed,
22 through comparison to the CFDC, that the convective nature of the storm may have led to
23 multiple scavenged particles per initial IN and no specific IR numbers or fractions were
24 given. Stith et al. [2011] also noted that although IR were enhanced in number density
25 relative to a cloud probe the number of IN from the CFDC, located after the CVI, were
26 not enhanced. Biomass burning was indicated as the major category of the nuclei and
27 scavenged particles with minimal mineral dust. Baumgardner et al. [2008] similarly noted
28 an inability to separate the IN from the scavenged BC but suggested a major role of
29 scavenging by comparing the IRs to the near cloud aerosol particles. Stith et al. [2011]
30 noted that the biomass burning particles analyzed were complicated in composition and
31 may have contained mineral components.

32 Cziczo et al. [2013] compared data from the TC4 aircraft campaign conducted from San
33 Jose, Costa Rica during July and August, 2007 using the NASA DC-8, the Mid-latitude
34 Airborne Cirrus Properties Experiment (MACPEX) based in Houston, Texas during
35 March and April, 2012 using the NASA WB-57, and the CRAVE campaign to the study
36 of Cziczo et al. [2004a]. A combination of anvil and synoptic cirrus were sampled during
37 these flights. The CVI inlet during TC4 was described by Twohy and Poellot [2005]. An
38 advanced CVI using a Ne counterflow for increased viscosity and heat transfer, a longer
39 stopping distance and an inline laser to sublimate water were used during MACPEX. A
40 SPMS was used during all flights (1119 IR particles) and a comparison was made to
41 SEM/EDX IR samples during MACPEX (433 particles). Cziczo et al. [2013] showed that
42 that majority of IRs were mineral dust and metallic particles (61%) which were enhanced
43 from near cloud abundance of 5%. Sulfates, organic and biomass burning particles were
44 depleted compared to their near cloud abundance. Sea salt was a common IR during
45 flights conducted over ocean (25%). The IR mode size using EM was between 0.3 and
46 0.5 micrometers diameter. A comparison to RH data showed that the supersaturation near

1 cirrus was similar to the value found for heterogeneous freezing (120 – 140%) in
2 laboratory studies. Redesigned cloud probe data provided frequent values of < 200 ice
3 crystals per liter. Only a single case of a cloud with IR composition consistent with
4 homogeneous freezing (sulfate/organic) was found during MACPEX. Cziczo et al. [2013]
5 also showed that EC and biological material were neither abundant in the near cloud
6 aerosol or IR, contributing < 1%.

8 **4. Ancillary Measurements**

10 *4.1 Cloud Probes*

11 The techniques to count, size and determine the composition of cirrus IRs in the previous
12 section have often been compared to other in situ measurements to provide information
13 about the freezing mechanism and/or temporal and spatial changes in cloud formation
14 properties. Among the ancillary techniques, the most common has been a comparison to
15 cloud probes which count and size the ice crystals. A complete discussion of cloud
16 probes is beyond the scope of this manuscript, but recent reviews such as Baumgardner et
17 al. [2011] comprehensively discuss the capabilities and limitations of these instruments.

18 Cloud probe data has predominantly been used for two purposes. First, ice crystals
19 number density has been compared to CVI sample flow IR number density [e.g. Noone et
20 al., 1992; Ström and Heintzenberg, 1994; Heintzenberg, 1996; Ström et al. 1997; Seifert
21 et al., 2003; Seifert et al., 2004, Stith et al., 2011]. In these studies the comparison was
22 often used as evidence of a functional CVI, for example by showing that the IR number
23 was equivalent to the portion of the ice crystal size range above the CVI lower cutpoint
24 and smaller than the upper cutpoint. In some cases, however, the CVI cutpoints were
25 changed from their calculated values to limits that corresponded to agreement with the
26 cloud probe data. For example, Ström and Ohlsson [1998] suggested an upper cutpoint of
27 60 micrometers diameter, instead of a calculated value by Ström and Heintzenberg
28 [1994] of 12 – 20 micrometers. Second, the number density of ice crystals has been used
29 to infer the mechanism of freezing either directly [Heymsfield and Miloshevich, 1993] or
30 via comparison to IR composition [Cziczo et al., 2013]. As stated in the Introduction,
31 heterogeneous freezing has been shown to be consistent with ice crystals from <1 – 100³s
32 per liter whereas homogeneous freezing can occur on the majority of aerosol particles
33 (i.e., 10's or more per cm³). Thus, cases with less than 100 ice crystals per liter may
34 correlate with heterogeneous freezing whereas higher number densities could suggest
35 homogeneous freezing.

36 There are limits to both types of comparison. Regarding direct comparison to ice crystal
37 number density from cloud probes, it is now known that prior to ~2008 ice probes often
38 overcounted ice crystal number density by an order of magnitude or more. Shown
39 initially by Field et al. [2003] and Korolev and Issac [2005], ice crystals can impact probe
40 inlets resulting in shatter phenomena that can lead to multiple shards. This process,
41 shown schematically in Figure 7, is analogous to the impacts that can take place on CVI
42 tips or walls [Murphy et al., 2004]. More recent work by McFarquhar et al. [2007],
43 Jensen et al. [2009], Korolev et al. [2011] and Lawson [2011] have shown that shatter is a
44 complex function of aircraft speed, ice crystal size and number density. These authors
45 show that although the effect of shattering impacts can be decreased by removal of
46 multiple small coincident ice crystals via the so-called interarrival time method, this does

1 not remove all incidents of overcounting [Field et al., 2006]. Redesigned probes and
2 inlets since ~2008 appear to have reduced this problem significantly [Randel and Jensen,
3 2013]. Regarding use of ice number density to infer freezing mechanism, Jensen et al.
4 [2013] has shown that cloud evolution after formation can critically impact ice
5 concentration. For example, a localized homogeneous freezing event can, through
6 advection and sedimentation, create a larger area of lower ice crystal number density that
7 might mimic heterogeneous freezing. Similarly, Spichtinger and Krämer [2012] have
8 shown low ice crystal concentration can be replicated by homogeneous freezing
9 simulations using small scale, short frequency updrafts. Both of these limitations suggest
10 previous work should be treated with caution and highlights the need to consider the
11 limitations of in situ cloud microphysical measurements in future nucleation studies.

12 13 *4.2 Relative Humidity*

14 Measurements of RH with respect to ice have also been compared to IR number density
15 and composition to infer freezing mechanism. As stated in the Introduction,
16 heterogeneous freezing initiates at lower ice supersaturation levels than does
17 homogeneous freezing. A preponderance of ~120% RH observations in the cirrus
18 formation region suggest that heterogeneous nucleation regulates water vapor, whereas
19 observations at 150% and greater would suggest that heterogeneous nucleation is not
20 significant and that homogeneous nucleation is regionally dominant. This correlation of
21 out of cloud RH and freezing mechanism was suggested by Heymsfield et al. [1998] and
22 Haag et al. [2003]. Correlation of ice crystal presence and RH were made by Krämer et
23 al. [2009] and Luebke et al. [2012]. Although supersaturations higher than those required
24 for homogeneous freezing have been observed in the upper troposphere [Peter et al.,
25 2006] these are normally restricted to very low temperatures where RH measurement
26 errors are known to be greatest. Cziczo et al. [2013] show a correlation of IR composition
27 with near cloud RH measurements. In cases where IR composition was dominated by IN
28 such as mineral dust and metallic particles, near cloud RH is rarely in excess of that
29 required for heterogeneous freezing. Comparisons between near cloud RH and cirrus
30 properties are limited, however, by the strong gradients in aerosol properties, uplift
31 velocity, water vapor near cloud edge.

32 33 **5. Future studies**

34
35 One of the major limitations of in situ studies of cirrus IR and microphysical properties is
36 that sampling usually takes place well after the onset of nucleation; a visible cloud is
37 often a requirement to start sampling. This implies a time lag between nucleation and
38 measurement. For this reason the specific conditions required for nucleation are rarely, if
39 ever, measured in aircraft studies. An understanding of the nucleation onset conditions,
40 specifically temperature and ice saturation ratio, has prompted laboratory or separate field
41 studies under well controlled conditions. Cloud nucleation is simulated in the laboratory
42 using quasi-adiabatic expansions of multi-m³ volumes lasting 10's of minutes [Möhler et
43 al., 2005; Möhler et al., 2006], by creating supersaturated conditions in liter-size CFDCs
44 [Archuleta et al., 2005], and other techniques [Abbatt et al., 2006; Dymarska et al., 2006;
45 Knopf and Koop, 2006; Kanji and Abbatt, 2008; Welti et al., 2009; Baustian et al., 2012].
46 A recent review of these data was conducted by Hoose and Möhler [2012].

1 Several field studies have also used CFDCs to determine the nucleation temperature and
2 saturation ratio of atmospheric aerosols. When deployed in free tropospheric conditions,
3 for example at mountaintop sites [DeMott et al., 2003a; Chou et al., 2012], the aerosol is
4 assumed to be similar to those on which upper tropospheric cirrus form. Off-line analysis
5 using EM [Ebert et al., 2010] and in situ use of SPMS [DeMott et al., 2003a] have
6 characterized these IN. Chen et al. [1998] and DeMott et al. [2003b] used CFDCs from
7 aircraft to nucleate ice on free tropospheric aerosol followed by collection and off-line
8 EM analysis of the residual material.

9 The studies of Chen et al. and DeMott et al. represent a possible path forward in studies
10 of cirrus IR, whereby ice nucleation conditions can be determined in situ in cloud-free
11 air, avoiding crystal shatter artifacts, by collection and characterization of the ice-forming
12 aerosol. Ideally, this technique could be combined with SPMS for on-line analysis, as
13 was the case for the mountain-top study of DeMott et al. [2003].

14 The CVI and cloud probe measurement artifacts summarized here highlight the need for
15 characterization of IR composition at the single particle level. Abrasion of inlet material
16 by ice crystal impaction likely explains the high metallic fraction of IR reported before
17 SPMS was used [Heintzenberg et al., 1996; Petzold et al., 1998; Twohy and Gandrud,
18 1998]. When shatter of ice crystals occurs it is likely that multiple small particles, below
19 the detection limit of an SMPS or EM but within a CNC size limit, are formed after
20 sublimation of water. This may explain the high IR number density and low average size
21 shown by Ström and Heintzenberg [1994], Ström et al. [1997] and Seifert et al. [2003].
22 Gold-plated and titanium inlets are now in use which should create compositionally
23 distinct artifacts [Stith et al., 2011; Froyd et al., 2010]. Extreme care should also be taken
24 in clouds with ice crystal sizes far exceed the upper CVI cutpoint since impaction
25 artifacts will be maximized. Future airborne studies should consider use of lower velocity
26 platforms to reduce the speed of the ice crystal relative to the inlet.

27 From Table 2 it is noteworthy that very few flights characterizing cirrus IRs have been
28 conducted, and consequently, our knowledge of IR size and composition is limited. Of
29 these flights, the vast majority have occurred in the northern hemisphere, mainly over
30 continental Europe and the USA. Only 10 flights have taken place in the southern
31 hemisphere, all conducted during a single season during the INCA campaign aboard the
32 DLR Falcon. IR composition was not determined in these flights. Future airborne studies
33 of ice nucleation should target the southern hemisphere, where different aerosol
34 concentrations and compositions are likely to promote different cirrus nucleation
35 mechanisms.

36 37 **6. Concluding statements**

38
39 Residual particles from ice crystals in glaciated cirrus and orographic clouds have been
40 characterized during 115 flights during 13 studies. An additional 9 flights in contrails and
41 contrail cirrus have been reported. Only since 1992 has the composition of the residual
42 material within these ice crystals been characterized, initially using EM and later with
43 mass spectrometry on a single particle basis. The key findings of these studies are:

44 *1. CVI inlets, the technique of choice for separation of IRs from interstitial aerosol, are*
45 *prone to impaction artifacts and can only separate ice crystals smaller than ~75*
46 *micrometers diameter.*

1 Recent advances in cloud size distribution measurements show that most cirrus contain
2 ice crystals with a mode size of 75 micrometers and greater. This is above the upper
3 cutpoint of all modern CVI inlets and means that, to date, studies have only sampled a
4 fraction of the cirrus ice crystal size distribution. Since large ice crystals cannot be
5 stopped inside CVI inlets their impaction onto surfaces leads to artifacts. Artifact
6 generation is a strong function of crystal size, and thus, altitude. Cirrus below ~8 km
7 altitude are particularly susceptible to impaction and effectively cannot be sampled for IR
8 analysis in all but the most ideal conditions (e.g., during dissipation). CVI inlet design
9 and sampling can help mitigate artifact contamination. Compositionally distinct (i.e.
10 titanium and gold-plated) modern CVI inlets attempt to address impaction but studies
11 before ~2004 were subject to unknown artifacts. It is worth noting that even with an ideal
12 CVI configuration that employs pickoff sampling for IR analysis and with careful artifact
13 removal, the analyzed IR originate preferentially from ice crystals at the smallest end of
14 the size distribution, often well below the crystal mode size. If the most effective IN are
15 preferentially located within the largest crystals of a developing cirrus cloud, our current
16 knowledge of IR properties may be systematically skewed to exclude a particular class of
17 IN.

18 Furthermore, a comprehensive study of particle scavenging by cirrus is lacking. One
19 complicating factor is the differentiation of scavenged particles from impaction artifacts
20 since the two may have similar composition. Future work in this area is needed including
21 both theoretical and experimental studies.

22 *2. Mineral dust has typically been found as the most abundant IR in cirrus forming*
23 *regions. EC, biomass burning and biological particles are rare cirrus IR.*

24 This conclusion spans the study areas, although these are predominantly in the northern
25 hemisphere [Heintzenberg et al., 1996; Petzold et al., 1998; Cziczo et al., 2004a; Twohy
26 and Poellot, 2005; Targino et al., 2006; Cziczo et al., 2013]. Mineral dust mixed with
27 biological material acting as an IN was shown by Pratt et al. [2009] during a single
28 orographic cloud encounter with a small sample set. Although biological material may be
29 an important IN near the Earth's surface it is noteworthy that none of the other cirrus
30 flights reported biological material using either EM or SPMS. 'Black' or 'elemental
31 carbon' have been reported as a significant IR in contrail studies [Petzold et al., 1998;
32 Ström and Ohlsson, 1998; Twohy and Gandrud, 1998]. EC and biomass burning particles
33 were shown to be rare as cirrus IRs by Cziczo et al. [2004a], Twohy and Poellot [2005],
34 Targino et al. [2006], Pratt et al. [2009], Froyd et al. [2010] and Cziczo et al. [2013],
35 although Stith et al. [2011] found this to be the major category in glaciating clouds in the
36 Pacific. Sea salt appears as a significant fraction of the IRs when studies were conducted
37 over open ocean, especially when anvil (convective) cirrus were sampled [Cziczo et al.,
38 2004a; Twohy and Poellot, 2005; Targino et al., 2006].

39 *3. Subvisible cirrus are compositionally distinct.*

40 Froyd et al. [2010] showed that tropical tropopause subvisible cirrus in one location were
41 composed of low number densities of small ice crystals that formed on sulfate and
42 organic aerosol. Froyd et al. suggested that heterogeneous nucleation on glassy aerosol
43 [Murray et al., 2009] or anhydrous salts [Abbatt et al., 2006] were possible mechanisms.
44 Recent laboratory studies [Murray et al., 2010; Koop et al., 2011] have shown that glass
45 transition temperatures for organic aerosol species extend to typical mid-latitude cirrus
46 formation conditions. Conversely, Spichtinger and Krämer [2012] have suggested that

1 homogeneous freezing due to small scale fluctuations of vertical velocity, temperature
2 and RH could be responsible for homogeneous formation of subvisible cirrus.

3 *4. The composition of cirrus IRs are consistent with predominantly heterogeneous ice*
4 *formation.*

5 Stith et al. [2011] suggested significant ice nucleation at temperatures above -30° C and
6 Cziczo et al. [2013] showed IR composition consistent with homogeneous freezing in
7 only 2 flights out of 36 cloud encounters. These recent findings are inconsistent with
8 previous research that suggested homogeneous freezing was dominant (e.g. Heymsfield
9 et al. [1986] and Fridlind et al. [2003]), but it is noteworthy that the older studies are
10 based on data prior to ~2008 when cloud probes overcounted ice crystal number density
11 [Field et al., 2003; Korolev and Issac, 2005; McFarquhar et al., 2007; Jensen et al., 2009;
12 Korolev et al., 2011]. Recent data using redesigned cloud probes exhibit lower
13 concentrations of ice crystals, often <200 per liter [Jensen et al., 2012; Randel and
14 Jensen, 2013] and warrant reconsideration of these findings.

15 *5. Anthropogenic particles represent a significant fraction of cirrus IR.*

16 Since the utilization of compositionally distinct CVI inlets, metallic particles have been
17 shown to be a significant fraction of IR [Twohy and Poellot, 2005; Cziczo et al., 2013].
18 Previous studies which may have been impacted by artifacts should not be completely
19 discounted (e.g., Heintzenberg et al. [1996], Petzold et al. [1998] and Twohy and
20 Gandrud [1998]) but reports of metallic IR need to be carefully considered. As a whole,
21 these studies suggest a possible anthropogenic source of cirrus ice forming aerosol, an
22 indirect effect on cloud properties that has not been previously considered in studies of
23 climate change [Solomon, 2007].

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15 Switzerland, 1975.

1 **Table and Figure Captions**

2
3 Table 1. Mean and the range of cirrus cloud properties.

4
5 Table 2. Locations, timing, aircraft, number of flights and numbers of IRs analyzed for
6 published research on cirrus cloud residuals.

7
8 Figure 1. Cirrus cloud formation mechanisms. Traditional cirrus forms are (1) synoptic,
9 for example as warm air overrides cold, (2) anvil cirrus, as the outflow from convective
10 storms and (3) formed at the cold tropopause, often in the tropics. Orographic clouds,
11 formed from flow over terrain, are sometimes considered a type of cirrus although, unlike
12 the other types, they are directly coupled to the surface. Contrail cirrus are an
13 anthropogenic cloud formed by the injection of water vapor.

14
15 Figure 2. Conceptual diagram of water nucleation. Liquid water droplets form on a
16 condensation nucleus. Ice nucleation can be divided into two broad categories:
17 homogeneous and heterogeneous. Homogeneous freezing occurs spontaneously within an
18 aqueous droplet which may or may not contain solutes. Heterogeneous freezing is further
19 subdivided into multiple modes. These include (1) immersion/condensation freezing by
20 an IN within a water capsule, (2) contact freezing when an IN makes contact with a
21 droplet, and (3) depositional freezing of water vapor directly onto the IN surface. Less
22 well understood modes, such as “inside out nucleation” are described in the text but not
23 pictured here.

24
25 Figure 3. Ice nucleation mechanisms within supersaturation versus temperature space.
26 Homogeneous freezing only occurs at low temperature and high supersaturation.
27 Conceptual atmospheric trajectories A and B (red and green lines, respectively) pass
28 through the various heterogeneous modes before the homogeneous freezing threshold is
29 encountered. Trajectory A is representative of a convective storm system, where aerosol
30 particles from the lower troposphere are subjected to water vapor near saturation levels
31 throughout vertical transport. Trajectory B is representative of upper tropospheric
32 particles that experience local increase in RH, for instance from a wave-induced
33 temperature perturbation or low velocity vertical transport. This type of phase diagram
34 has been presented previous authors, most recently by DeMott et al. [2013].

35
36 Figure 4. Ice crystal separation from interstitial aerosol using an idealized CVI inlet. In
37 this diagram the aircraft is flying from right to left with the counterflow in the same
38 direction. Aerosol particles (red circles) are unable to overcome the inertial barrier
39 generated by the counterflow whereas ice crystals (light blue hexagons) can. The velocity
40 of the crystals is reduced and the warm, dry counterflow, where red hatching denotes
41 heaters, sublimates the ice and releases an IR. The IR is removed for analysis and excess
42 flow is exhausted.

43
44 Figure 5. Stopping and sublimation distance as a function of ice crystal diameter
45 calculated using a coupled fluid flow and heat transfer model that assumes spherical ice
46 crystals. The super-100 micrometer diameter mode size of typical cirrus ice crystals

1 occupy the shaded region. CVI inlets are typically ~ 0.5 m in length, which corresponds
2 to a maximum ice crystal size of $< 30\text{-}50$ micrometers for realistic CVI flows (dashed
3 lines). Note that crystal sublimation is negligible prior to velocity reduction so that in
4 traditional CVIs, these distances are additive.

5
6 Figure 6. Representative ice crystal size distributions for subvisible and two anvil cirrus
7 clouds [Lawson et al., 2008; Davis et al., 2010]. The noted regions correspond to the size
8 ranges that can be separated by traditional and enhanced CVI inlets, respectively (see
9 Figure 5). Note that even with the CVI enhancements described in the text, only ice
10 crystals smaller than $\sim 60 - 70$ micrometers diameter can be sampled.

11
12 Figure 7. Ice crystal shatter on an idealized cloud probe and a CVI inlet. Shatter is a
13 function of aircraft speed, ice crystal size and morphology, and other properties. Crystal
14 impaction produces artifacts by abrading aircraft and inlet material. Upon removal of
15 condensed phase water, crystal fragments release the original IR and any scavenged gas-
16 or particle-phase material. Artifact generation mechanisms are discussed in the text.

17
18 Figure 8. Artifacts from ice crystal impaction identified in SPMS analysis of IR. Each
19 panel represents a different artifact generation mechanism. Altitude, temperature,
20 and aerodynamic diameter are shown. Identification was verified by laboratory
21 generation of particles from aircraft and inlet materials using a diamond coated tool.
22 Panel A: stainless steel particle from crystal impaction inside the CVI inlet. Panel B:
23 the coating from a thermistor located inside the CVI but downstream of the IR
24 sample pickoff, demonstrating upstream travel of crystal impaction debris. Panel C:
25 white aircraft paint from a shroud upstream of the CVI inlet, demonstrating that
26 crystal fragments acquire material from impaction sites and can retain sufficient
27 size to subsequently pass through the counterflow. Panel D: internal mixture of a
28 real mineral dust IR with a small amount of gold acquired by crystal impaction
29 inside a gold plated CVI. Panel E: sea salt particle previously adsorbed onto the CVI
30 internal surface that was resuspended by crystal impaction. The low intensity and
31 homogeneity of metallic signatures suggests that the adsorbed sea salt leached small
32 amounts of metals from the stainless steel inlet. Note that in the cases of Panels D
33 and E a signal sensitivity range of at least a factor of 200 is required to verify even
34 the most intense artifact signatures (red color text) with certainty.

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Property	Mean	Range
Altitude (km)	9.0	4.0 to 20.0
Thickness (km)	1.5	0.1 to 8.0
Concentration (L ⁻¹)*	30.0	10 ⁻⁴ to 10 ⁴
Ice Content (g m ⁻³)	0.025	10 ⁻⁴ to 1.2
Crystal Size (mm)	250	1 to 8000

Adapted from Cirrus [2000]

Reference	Study	Location	Season, Year	Aircraft	Ice Cloud Flights	IR Particles Analyzed	Notes	Shatter considered?
Noone et al. [1992]	ICE	Northern Europe	Fall, 1989	DLR Falcon	4 cirrostratus	IR number and size	First CVI use in cirrus.	No
Ström et al. [1994]	ICE	Northern Europe	Fall, 1989	DLR Falcon	4 cirrostratus	IR number and size	Additional discussion of bimodal IR in ICE.	No
Ström and Heintzenberg [1994]		Germany, Austria	Winter, 1992	DLR Falcon	2 glaciated	IR number only	>3000 IR/L common.	No
Heintzenberg et al. [1996]		Germany, Austria	Winter, 1992	DLR Falcon	1 glaciated	EM: 84 IRs	Mineral dust and metals.	No
Ströhm et al. [1997]		Germany, Austria	Winter, 1994	DLR Falcon	1 cirrus	IR number and size	>2500 IR/L common.	No
Petzold et al. [1998]	AEROCONTRAIL	Germany, Austria	Fall, 1996	DLR Falcon	2 contrails, 2 cirrus	EM: 380 contrail, 197 cirrus IRs	BC, metals and mineral dust.	No
Ström and Ohlsson [1998]	AEROCONTRAIL	Germany	Fall, 1996	DLR Falcon	5 contrails/cirrus	Absorbing aerosol via PSAP	Absorbing aerosol common in IR.	No
Twohy and Gandrud [1998]	SUCCESS	South, West USA	Spring, 1996	NASA DC-8	2 contrails	EM: 111 contrail	BC, metals and mineral dust.	No
Seifert et al. [2003]	INCA	Scotland, Chile	Spring, Fall, 2000	DLR Falcon	19 glaciated	IR number and size	Bimodal IR distribution.	No
Seifert et al. [2004]	INCA	Scotland, Chile	Spring, Fall, 2000	DLR Falcon	19 glaciated	IR volatility	Non-volatile IR common.	No
Cziczo et al. [2004a]	CRYSTAL-FACE	Florida, USA	Summer, 2002	NASA WB-57	12 anvil and synoptic cirrus	SPMS: 238	Mineral dust, sea salt, 1 sulfate dominated cloud.	Yes
Cziczo et al. [2004a]	CRYSTAL-FACE	Florida, USA	Summer, 2002	NASA WB-57	1 cirrus	SPMS: 127	Additional discussion of organic aerosol.	Yes
Twohy and Poellot [2005]	CRYSTAL-FACE	Florida, USA	Summer, 2002	ND Citation	14 anvil cirrus	EM: 1115	Sea salt, mineral, metals, soot.	Partial
Targino et al. [2006]	INTACC	Scandinavia	Fall, 1999	Met Office C-130	5 orographic	EM: 609	Mineral dust, sea salt, organic, metal.	Yes
Pratt et al. [2009]	ICE-L	Wyoming, USA	Fall, 2007	NCAR C-130	1 orographic	SPMS: 46	Mineral dust, mineral dust+biological.	Unknown
Froyd et al. [2010]	CRAVE	Costa Rica	Winter, 2006	NASA WB-57	4 tropopause cirrus	SPMS: 127	Sulfate, organic; inferred glasses and anhydrous salts.	Yes
Stith et al. [2011]	PACDEX	Pacific	Spring, 2007	NCAR GV	14 glaciating	EM: 4108	Combined residuals and scavenged. Biomass burning.	Yes
Baumgardner et al. [2008]	PACDEX	Pacific	Spring, 2007	NCAR GV	7 glaciated cirrus	SP2	Only black carbon measured from both IR and scavenged.	No
Cziczo et al. [2013]	CRAVE	Costa Rica	Winter, 2006	NASA WB-57	4 anvil cirrus	SPMS: 467	Mineral dust, metallic.	Yes
	TC4	Costa Rica	Summer, 2007	NASA DC-8	13 anvil and synoptic cirrus	SPMS: 438	Mineral dust, metallic, sea salt.	Yes
	MACPEX	Houston, TX	Spring, 2010	NASA WB-57	14 anvil and synoptic cirrus	EM: 433; SMPS: 330	Mineral dust, metallic, sea salt, 1 sulfate dominated cloud.	Yes

Table 2.

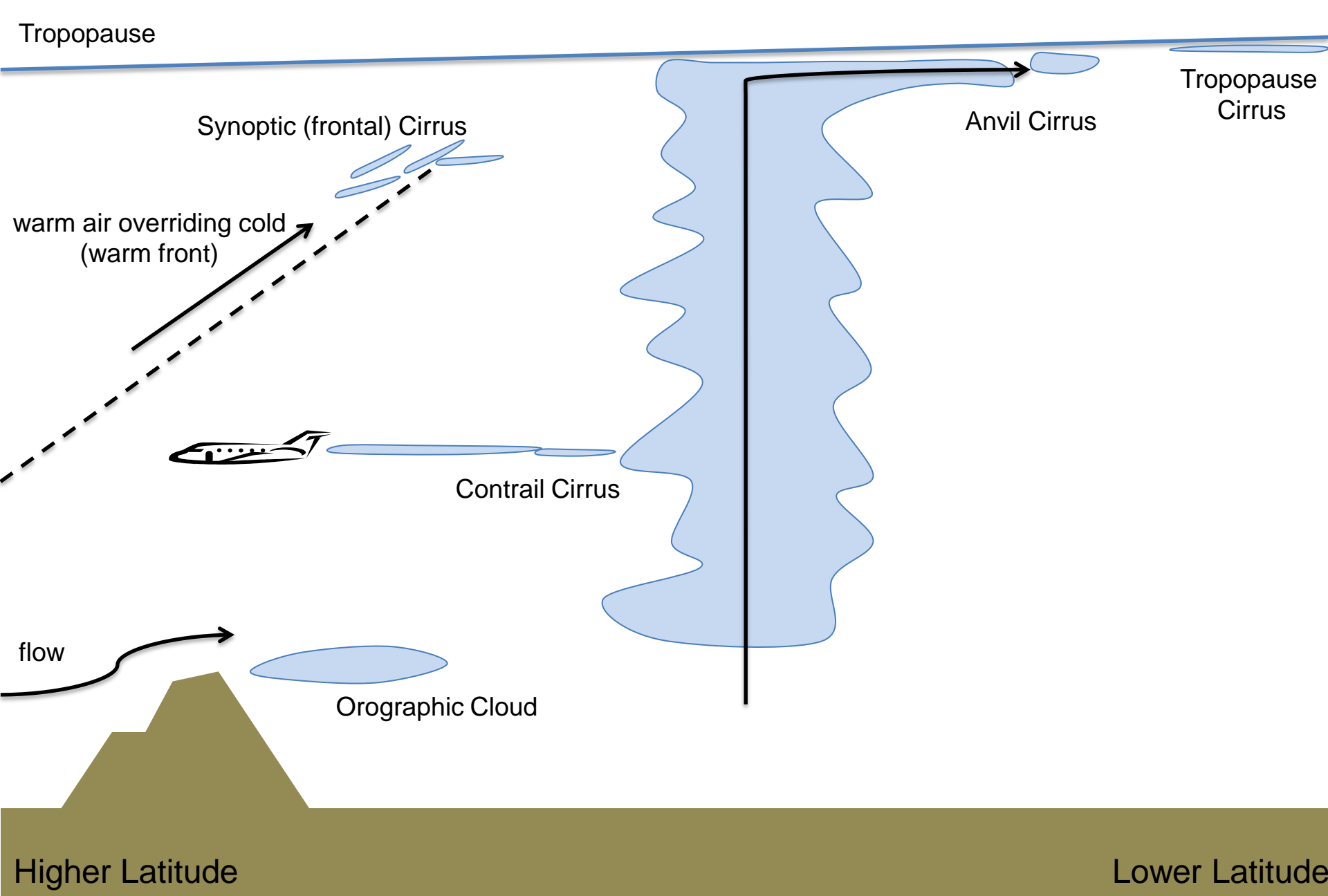


Figure 1.

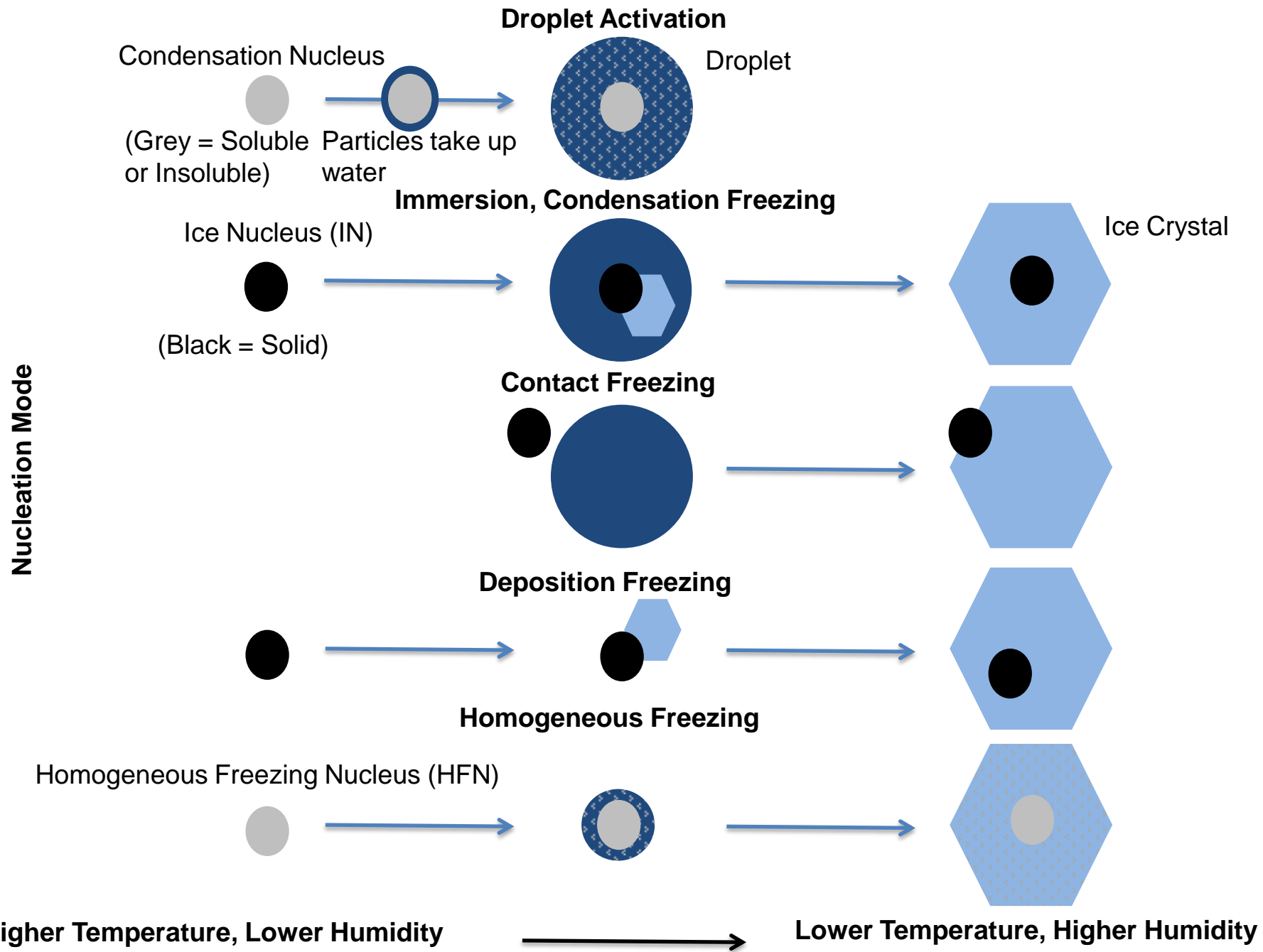


Figure 2.

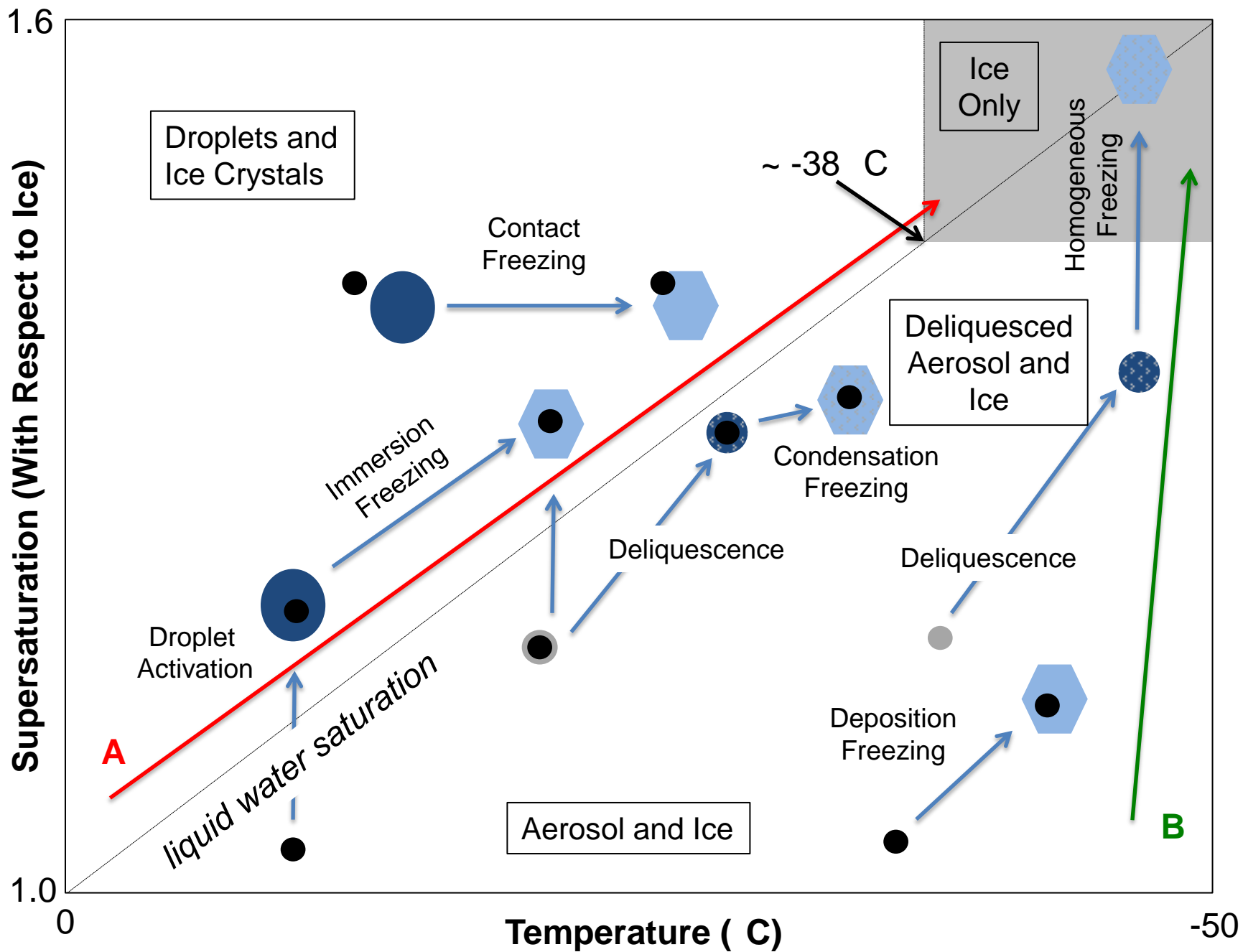


Figure 3.

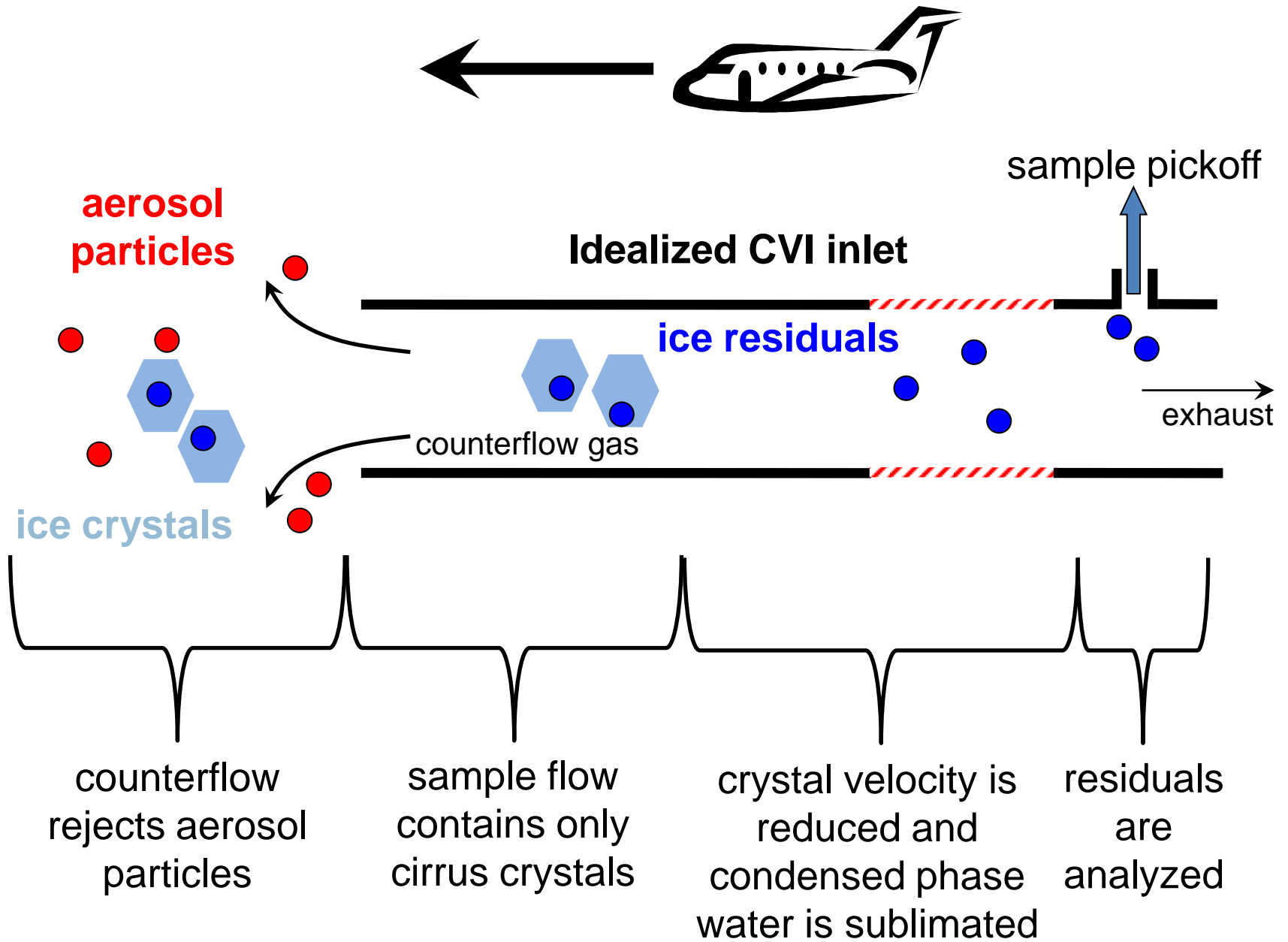


Figure 4.

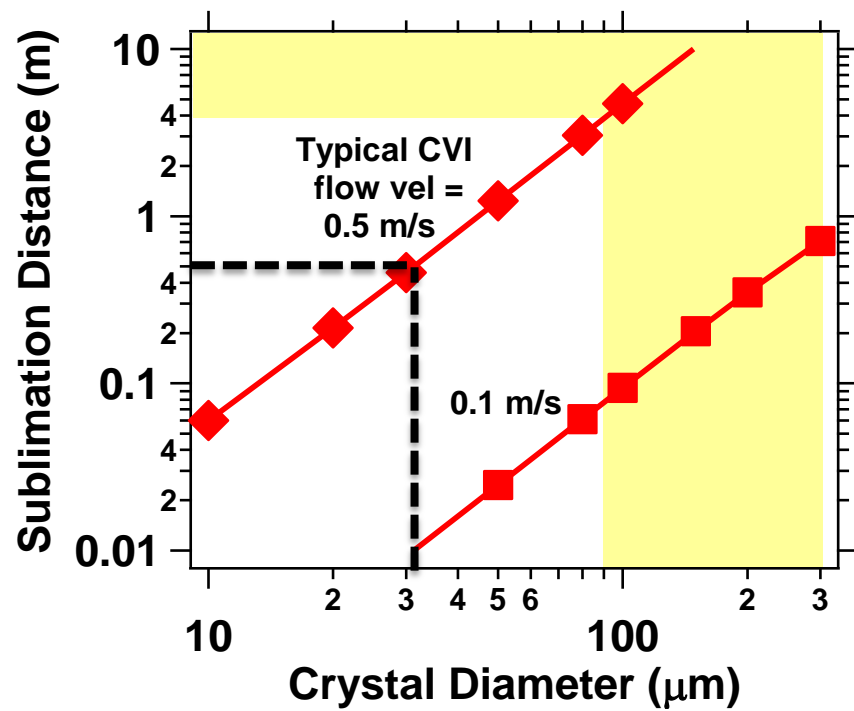
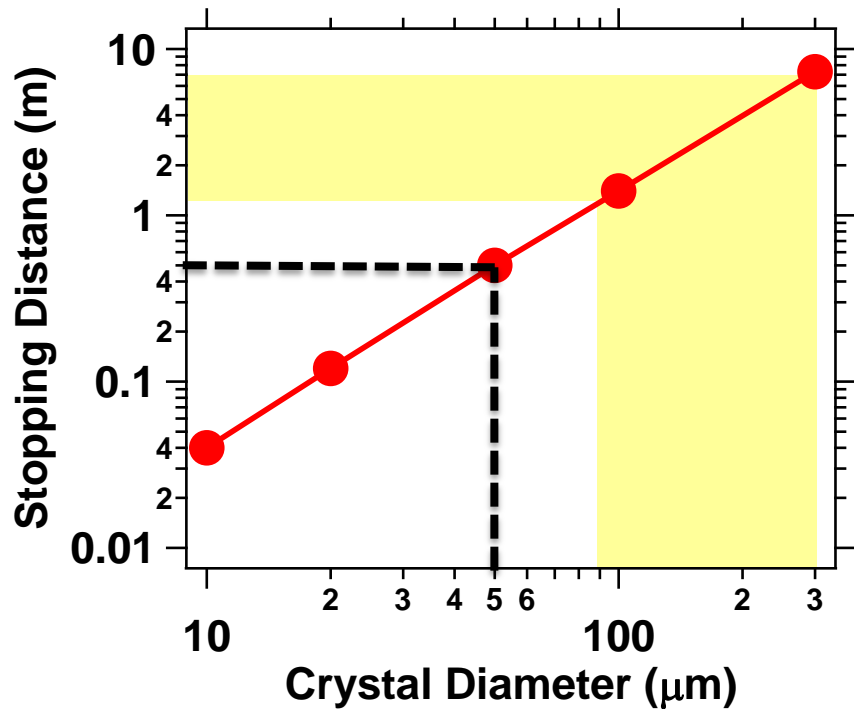


Figure 5.

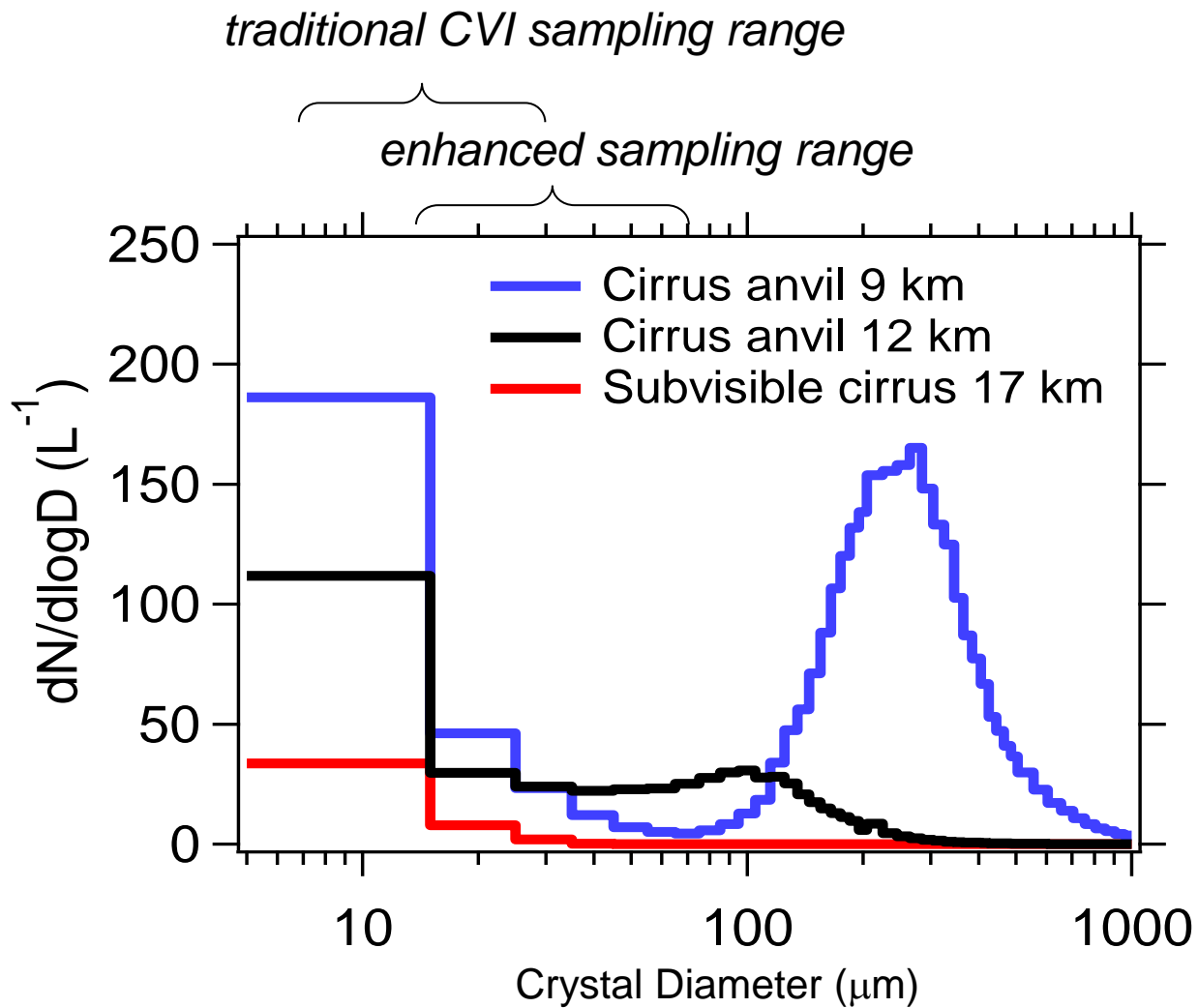
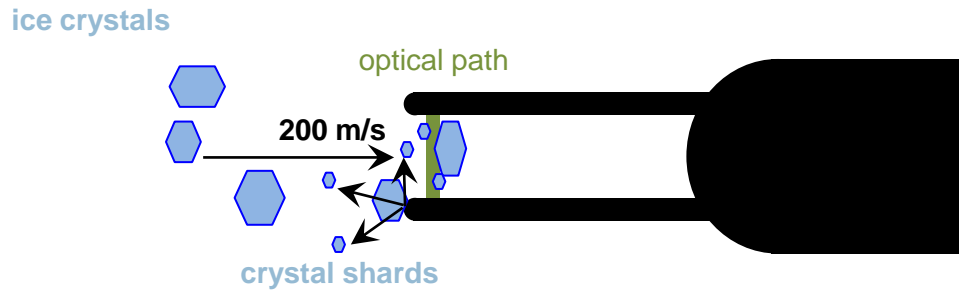
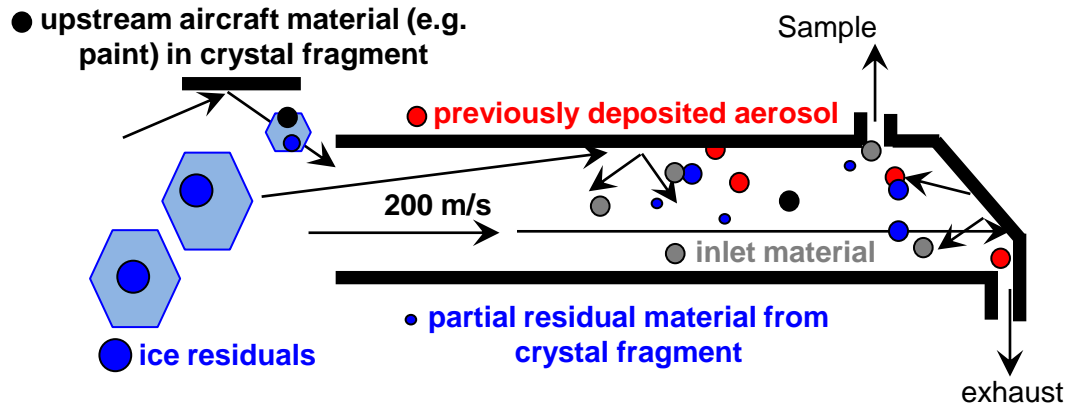


Figure 6.



Idealized Cloud Probe



Idealized CVI Inlet

Figure 7.

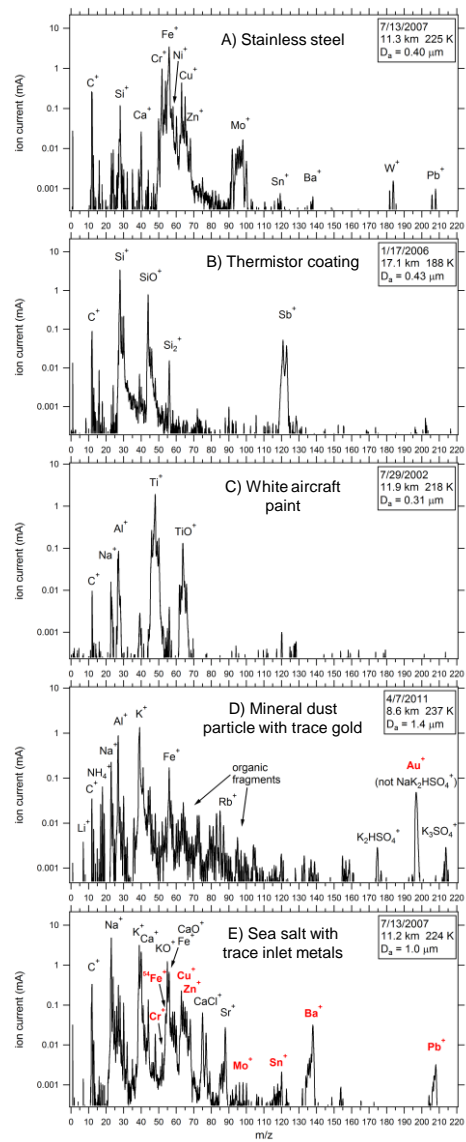


Figure 8.