# **Mixed phase clouds:** recent progress in theoretical analysis and in-situ observations

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# **Outline:**

- 1. In-situ observations of mixed phase clouds
- 2. Theoretical consideration of mixed phase





Mixed-phase clouds -40<T<0C

- 1. Mixed phase clouds is a three-phase system consisting of water vapour, liquid droplets and ice particles
- 2. Mixed phase clouds are fundamentally unstable
- 3. Important for precipitation formation, radiation budget
- 4. Aviation safety
- 5. Notoriously difficult for simulations in cloud and weather prediction and climate models

$$E_{water} > E_{ice}$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \qquad Wegener, 1917$$
Bergeron, 1938
Findeizen, 1938
$$\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \qquad Findeizen, 1938$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \qquad Findeizen, 1938$$

## Early aircraft observations of mixed phase clouds:

#### Zak (1937), Peppler (1940), Weickmann (1945)



*Ns*, H=900m; T=-5C

As, H=3060m; T=-19C

*As*, H=4300m; T=-27C **Borovokov, 1951** 

# What is a mixed phase cloud?



## **Definition of mixed phase clouds**

$$\mu_{n} = \frac{\sum_{j} \alpha_{ice j} N_{ice j} D_{ice j}^{n}}{\sum_{j} \alpha_{ice j} N_{ice j} D_{ice j}^{n} + \sum_{i} \alpha_{liq j} N_{liquid i} D_{liquid i}^{n}} = \frac{\alpha_{ice} N_{ice} \overline{D_{ice}^{n}}}{\alpha_{ice} N_{ice} \overline{D_{ice}^{n}} + \alpha_{liq} N_{liquid} \overline{D_{liquid}^{n}}}$$

#### **Concentration (0<sup>th</sup> moment)**

$$\mu_0 = \frac{N_{ice}}{N_{ice} + N_{liquid}}$$

#### Water content (3<sup>rd</sup> moment)



**Extinction coefficient (2<sup>nd</sup> moment)** 

$$\mu_2 = \frac{\beta_{ice}}{\beta_{ice} + \beta_{liquid}}$$

**Radar reflectivity (6th moment)** 

$$\mu_6 = \frac{Z_{ice}}{Z_{ice} + Z_{liquid}}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{\mathrm{range} \ of \ changes} \\ all \ liquid \quad 0 {<} \mu {<} 1 \quad all \ ice \end{array}$$

Korolev, 1998

# **Definition of ice, liquid and mixed phase**

## clouds in this study

TWC	>0.01g/m <sup>3</sup>
Liquid cloud	IWC/TWC=<0.1
Mixed phase	0.1 <iwc td="" twc<0.9<=""></iwc>
Ice cloud	IWC/TWC>=0.9
Spatial resolution	100m

Type of clouds	St, Sc, Ns, As, Ac, Ci associated with frontal systems
Total cloud length	61,770 km
<u>Temperature</u>	-40 < T < 0C
<u>Height</u>	0 < H < 7km
Projects:	BASE, CFDE1, CFDE3, FIRE.ACE, AIRS1, AIRS1.5, AIRS2

#### **Convair 580** National Research Council of Canada

ac CNRC





## <u>Frequency of occurrence of ice fraction in</u> <u>midlatitude stratiform clouds at $\Delta$ L=100m</u>



The probability density function of ice mass fraction in stratiform clouds has U-shape at –35C<T<0C

Korolev et al., 2003, QJRMS

## Frequency of occurrence of mixed phase clouds



Cloud length L = 61,770 km

TWC threshold=0.01kg/m<sup>3</sup>

Spatial resolution ∆L=100m

#### Average LWC, IWC, TWC in stratiform midlatitude clouds (TWC>0.01g/m<sup>3</sup>)







## Occurrence of lengths of liquid, mixed phase and ice cloud zones

TWC threshold=0.01kg/m<sup>3</sup>

Spatial resolution  $\Delta L=100m$ 



The average length of continuous liquid zones stays constant with temperature :  $L_w \sim 500$ m

The continuous length of mixed phase zones decreases with decrease of T: 100m< L<sub>m</sub><500m

The continuous length of ice zones increases with the decrease of T : 4km<L<sub>i</sub><40km

## Effect of averaging on the mixed phase measurements

liq ice

∆L~0

∆L=L/8



∆L=L/32



 $\Delta L = L/4$  saturation scale

∆L=L/16



 $\Delta L=L/2$ 





Spatial and mass fractions of ice in liquid containing clouds at different averaging scales △L

Cloud length L = 61,770 km TWC threshold=0.01kg/m<sup>3</sup>

Saturation spatial scale  $\Delta L_s \sim 70 \div 200 \text{km}$ 

Cold clouds (-40<T<0C) at the averaging scale L > $\Delta$ L<sub>s</sub> are always mixed phase

## **Relative Humidity in Mixed Clouds**

#### (averaging scale 100m)



Relative humidity in mixed phase clouds is close to saturation over water at all  $\textbf{\textit{T}}$  and  $\mu\textbf{.}$ 

## **Relative Humidity in Ice Clouds (** $\Delta x = 100m$ **)**



 $RH_{ice} = 0.0191T^2 + 0.2093T + 99$ 

Korolev and Isaac, 2006, JAS

## **Theoretical considerations**

- 1. Theoretical framework
- 2. Characteristic time scales of the phase transformation
- 3. Humidity in mixed phase clouds
- 4. Glaciation of mixed phase clouds
- 5. Conditions for maintenance of mixed phase

## **Basic assumptions:**

- 1. adiabatic parcel
- 2. ice particles and droplets are uniformly mixed
- 3. ice concentration
- 4. droplet concentration
- 5. temperature
- 6. water vapor

 $N_{droplets}(t) = const$ T(x,y,z)=const

E(x,y,z)=const

 $N_{ice}(t) = const$ 

 $\tau_{turb} \ll \tau_{diff}; K_{turb} \gg K_{diff} \implies$  => regular condensation

## Mixed-phase cloud parcel



#### Equation for supersaturation in mixed phase cloud

 $S_{w} = \frac{e - E_{w}}{E_{w}}$  supersaturation over liquid water (definition)  $\frac{dS_{w}}{dt} = \frac{1}{E_{w}} \frac{de}{dt} - \frac{e}{E_{w}^{2}} \frac{dE_{w}}{dt} \Rightarrow$ 

$$\frac{1}{S_{w}+1}\frac{dS_{w}}{dt} = a_{0}u_{z} - a_{2}N_{i}\sqrt{r_{i0}^{2} + 2cA_{i}\int_{0}^{t}(\xi S_{w}(t') + \xi - 1)dt'} - \left(a_{1}B_{w}N_{w}\sqrt{r_{w0}^{2} + 2A_{w}\int_{0}^{t}S_{w}(t')dt'} + a_{2}B_{i}N_{i}\sqrt{r_{i0}^{2} + 2cA_{i}\int_{0}^{t}(\xi S_{w}(t') + \xi - 1)dt'}\right)S_{w}$$

Features:

- 1. Single variable equation
- 2. No analytical solution
- 3. Easy to integrate into numerical models
- 4. Gives accurate solution for -1km< $\Delta$ Z<1km

- $E_w$  saturation vapor pressure over water
- $r_{w}$ ,  $r_{i}$  radii of droplets and ice particles

 $N_{w}, N_{i}$  concentration of droplets and ice particles  $u_{z}$  vertical velocity

a, b, B coefficients dependent on P, T

#### Equation for supersaturation in mixed phase cloud

$$\frac{1}{S_w + 1} \frac{dS_w}{dt} = a_0 u_z - a_2 B_i^* N_i \overline{r}_i - (a_1 B_w N_w \overline{r}_w + a_2 B_i N_i \overline{r}_i) S_w$$

quasi-steady approximation

Equation for supersaturation in mixed-phase clouds (Korolev and Mazin, 2003, JAS)



 $N_i \overline{r_i}$  integral radius of ice particles  $N_w \overline{r_w}$  integral radius of droplets

 $u_z$  vertical velocity

a, b, B coefficients dependent of P, T

$$S_{qsw} = \frac{a_0 u_z - b_i^* N_i \overline{r}_i}{b_w N_w \overline{r}_w + b_i N_i \overline{r}_i}$$

 $S_{w} = \frac{S_{qs w} - C_{0} \exp(-t/\tau_{p})}{1 + C_{0} \exp(-t/\tau_{p})}$ 

 $\overline{r}_i = const$ 

 $\overline{r}_{w} = const$ 

quasi-steady supersaturation

$$\tau_p = \frac{1}{a_0 u_z + b_w N_w \overline{r}_w + (b_i + b_i^*) N_i \overline{r}_i}$$

time of phase relaxation

Korolev and Mazin, 2003, JAS







$$\lim_{t \to \infty} S_{qs}(t) = S(t)$$

$$S_{qs\ w} = \frac{a_0 u_z - b_i^* N_i \overline{r_i}}{b_w N_w \overline{r_w} + b_i N_i \overline{r_i}}$$

$$\tau_p = \frac{1}{a_0 u_z + b_w N_w \overline{r}_w + (b_i + b_i^*) N_i \overline{r}_i}$$

#### Supersaturation and time of phase relaxation in mixed phase clouds

$$S_{qs\ w} = \frac{a_0 u_z - b_i^* N_i \overline{r}_i}{b_w N_w \overline{r}_w + b_i N_i \overline{r}_i}$$

$$\overline{r}_p = \frac{1}{a_0 u_z + b_w N_w \overline{r}_w + (b_i + b_i^*) N_i \overline{r}_i}$$



Korolev and Mazin, 2003, JAS

## **Relative Humidity in Mixed Clouds**

#### (averaging scale 100m)



Relative humidity in mixed phase clouds is close to saturation over water at all  $\textbf{\textit{T}}$  and  $\mu\textbf{.}$ 

#### **Rates of phase transformation in mixed-phase clouds**

**liquid droplets**   $\frac{dq_{w}}{dt} = B_{w}S_{w}N_{w}\bar{r}_{w}$  **ice particles**   $\frac{dq_{i}}{dt} = B_{i0}S_{i}N_{i}\bar{r}_{i}c$  **water vapor**  $\frac{dq_{v}}{dt} = -\frac{dq_{w}}{dt} - \frac{dq_{i}}{dt}$ 

 $S_{i} = \xi S_{w} + \xi - 1$  $S_{qsw} = \frac{a_{0}u_{z} - b_{i}^{*}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}{b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w} + b_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}$ 

$$\dot{q}_{w} = \frac{\left(a_{0}u_{z} - b_{i}^{*}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}\right)B_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w}}{b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w} + b_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}$$

$$\dot{q}_{i} = \frac{\left(a_{0}u_{z} - \frac{1 - \xi}{\xi}b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w}\right)B_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}{b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w} + b_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}$$

$$\dot{q}_{v} = \frac{B_{w}B_{i}^{*}(a_{1} - a_{2})N_{w}\overline{r}_{w}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i} - a_{0}u_{z}(B_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w} + B_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i})}{b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w} + b_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}$$

- $q_w$  mixing ratio of liquid
- $q_i$  mixing ratio of ice
- $q_v$  mixing ratio of water vapor

#### **Three equilibrium points of phase transformation in mixed-phase clouds**

**Liquid water equilibrium:**  $\dot{q}_w = 0$ 

$$\dot{q}_{w} = \frac{\left(a_{0}u_{z} - b_{i}^{*}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}\right)B_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w}}{b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w} + b_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}$$

threshold velocity for liquid water equilibrium

$$u_z^* = \frac{E_w - E_i}{E_i} \eta N_i \overline{r_i}$$
$$10^{-2} < u_z^* < 10^0 \, m/s$$

**Ice equilibrium:**  $\dot{q}_i = 0$ 

$$\dot{q}_{i} = \frac{\left(a_{0}u_{z} - \frac{1-\xi}{\xi}b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w}\right)B_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}{b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w} + b_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}}$$

threshold velocity for ice equilibrium

$$u_z^o = \frac{E_i - E_w}{E_w} \chi N_w \overline{r}_w$$
$$-10^3 < u_z^o < -10^0 m / s$$

Water vapor equilibrium:  $\dot{q}_v = 0$ 

$$\dot{q}_{v} = \frac{B_{w}B_{i}^{*}(a_{1}-a_{2})N_{w}\overline{r}_{w}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}-a_{0}u_{z}(B_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w}+B_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i})}{b_{w}N_{w}\overline{r}_{w}+b_{i}N_{i}\overline{r}_{i}} \Longrightarrow$$

threshold velocity for water vapor equilibrium

$$u_z^+ = \frac{(\xi - 1)(B_w b_i - b_w B_i)N_w \overline{r}_w N_i \overline{r}_i}{a_0 \xi (B_w N_w \overline{r}_w + B_i N_i \overline{r}_i)}$$

 $10^{-4} < u_z^+ < 10^{-2} \, m \, / \, s \sim 0 m \, / \, s$ 

## Wegener, 1911: Thermodynamik der Atmosphäre

"<u>The vapour tension will adjust itself to a value in between the</u> <u>saturation values over ice and over water</u>. The effect of this must then be, that condensation continuously will take place on the ice, whereas at the same time liquid water evaporates, and this process must go on until the liquid phase is entirely consumed"

#### The Glossary of Meteorology (2000)

#### "Bergeron-Findeisen process":

"... The basis of this theory is in fact that the equilibrium water vapour pressure with respect to ice is less than that with respect to liquid at the same subfreezing temperature. Thus within an admixture of these (ice and liquid) particles, and provided that the total water content were sufficiently high, <u>the ice crystals would</u> <u>gain mass by vapour deposition at the expense of the liquid</u> <u>drops that would lose their mass by evaporation</u>".

 $E_i < e < E_w$  $\dot{q}_w < 0$  $\dot{q}_i > 0$ 

## **Four scenarios of mixed phase evolution**

$$u_z^o < u_z^+ < u_z^*$$

always true  
for any 
$$N_i r_i$$
,  $N_w r_y$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  four possible inequalities for  $\mathcal{U}_{Z}$ 

ice vapor liquid

u <sub>z</sub>	е	liquid	vapour	ice	
$u_z < u_z^o$	$e < E_i$	evaporate	increase	evaporate	not WBF
$u_z^o < u_z < u_z^+$	$E_i < e < E_v$	evaporate	increase	grow	WBF
$u_z^+ < u_z < u_z^*$	$E_v < e < E_w$	evaporate	decrease	grow	WBF
$u_z > u_z^*$	$e > E_w$	grow	decrease	grow	not WBF





#### condition for Wegener-Bergeron-Findeisen mechanism

droplets evaporate and ice particles grow droplets enhance the ice growth

 $u_z^+ < u_z < u_z^*$  $E_i < e < E_v$ 







## Limited range of conditions for the WBF process





Korolev, 2008, QJRMS

#### WBF process versus "Both-Grow" process in mixed phase



In shallow stratiform mixed phase clouds the WBF process is enabled in approximately 50% of time

Fan et al., 2011, JGR



In convective cores in cumulus clouds the WBF process is disabled even during a moderate ascent

Korolev, 2007, JAS



In mixed phase clouds the growth rate of liquid droplets is more sensitive to the vertical velocity in comparisons to that of ice particles

Korolev, 2008, QJRMS



#### Two competing processes: glaciating and mixing



The condition for the existence of isolated single-phase liquid and ice zones with the characteristic scale L in clouds with isotropic turbulence



$$\tau_t = \left(\frac{L^2}{\varepsilon}\right)^{1/3} \qquad \tau_{gl} = k \left(\frac{W_{LWC}}{N_{ice}}\right)^{2/3}$$
$$\tau_{gl} \sim 10^2 - 10^3 \text{s};$$

 $\mathcal{E} \sim 10^{-3} - 10^{-4} \,\mathrm{m^{2}/s^{3}}$ 

characteristic spatial scale of the

The characteristic spatial scale of the single phase zones in mixed phase clouds

$$L_{ph} \sim k\varepsilon^{1/2} \frac{W_{LWC}}{N_{ice}} \sim 10^1 - 10^3 m$$

Sustained single phase zones may exist at the spatial scales  $L < L_{ph}$ 



## Occurrence of lengths of liquid, mixed phase and ice cloud zones

TWC threshold=0.01kg/m<sup>3</sup>



The average length of continuous liquid zones stays constant with temperature  $L_w \sim 500m$ 

The continuous length of mixed phase zones decreases with decrease of T 100m< L<sub>m</sub><500m

The continuous length of ice zones increases with the decrease of T 4km<Li<40km

#### <u>The documentation of long-living mixed phase stratiform layers</u> <u>at temperatures as low as -30C</u>

Rauber, R.M. and A. Tokay, 1991: J. Atmos. Sci., Pinto, J.O., 1998: J. Atmos. Sci.



Shupe et al. 2008, BAMS.

mixed

ice

In stratiform clouds  $U_z \sim 0$ , therefore they are expected to glaciate within about one hour.

**Observation of long-living clouds conflicts with the theoretical estimation of glaciation time** 







#### **Dynamic forcing of mixed phase in preexisting ice cloud:** <u>formulation of the necessary and sufficient conditions for the</u> <u>activation of liquid in ice clouds</u>



<u>1st Necessary Condition</u>: The vertical velocity of an ice cloud parcel must exceed a threshold velocity to activate liquid water.

$$u_z > u_z^* = \frac{b_i^* N_i \overline{r_i}}{a_{0w}}$$

<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Necessary Condition</u>: The activation of liquid water within an ice cloud parcel, below water saturation, requires a vertical ascent ( $\Delta Z$ ) above some threshold altitude ( $\Delta Z^*$ ) to bring the vapor pressure of the parcel to water saturation:

 $\Delta Z > \Delta Z^*$ 



1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> conditions give a set of <u>necessary and sufficient</u> conditions of activation of liquid in ice cloud



## Lower sun pillar, subsun

## UNIFORM ASCENT

#### (necessary and sufficient conditions)



Necessary and sufficient condition for the activation of liquid water in ice clouds for *uniform ascent*.

$$u_z > u_z^*$$
$$\Delta Z > \Delta Z^*$$

$$u_{Z\min}^*(N_i,r_{i0},T_0)$$

$$\Delta Z^*_{\max}(N_i,r_{i0},T_0)$$

$$\Delta Z_C(T_0)$$

#### Maintenance of mixed phase clouds during vertical fluctuations of $U_z$





Necessary and sufficient conditions for the indefinitely long maintenance of mixed phase during *harmonic oscillations*.

### **HARMONIC OSCILLATIONS**

modeling of the activation of liquid water in ice cloud during vertical harmonic oscillations.  $N_{ice}$ =50/-1,  $r_{i0}$ =20µm,  $S_{i0}$ =1.01,  $T_0$ =-10C,  $\Delta Z_C$ =153m. (a)  $\Delta Z$ =125m,  $u_0$ =0.5m/s,  $u_0^*$ =0.08m/s;  $\Delta Z_c$ =153m (c)  $\Delta Z$ =250m,  $u_0$ =1m/s,  $u_0^*$ = 0.10m/s;  $\Delta Z_c$ =153m (b)  $\Delta Z$ =400m,  $u_0$ =0.05m/s,  $u_0^*$ = 0.12m/s;  $\Delta Z_c$ =153m (d)  $\Delta Z$ =400m,  $u_0$ =1m/s;  $u_0^*$ = 0.12m/s  $\Delta Z_c$ =153m 1400 1400F **C**  $\Delta Z_C < \Delta Z < 2\Delta Z_{\text{find addis}}$ **a**  $\Delta Z < 2\Delta Z_C$  $u_0 > u_z^*$ (m) 1300 Height (m) 1200 1100  $u_0 > u_z^*$ 1300 1200 1100 1000 1000 0.05 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 0 0 1400 1400 b  $\Delta Z > 2\Delta Z$  $\Delta Z > 2\Delta Z$  $u_0 < u_{*}^*$ Height (m) 1200 1100 1300  $u_0 > u_{z}$ 1200  $\mathbf{q}_{\mathsf{ice}}$ 1100  $q_{iiq} + q_{ice}$ **q**<sub>liq ad</sub> 1000 1000 d **q**<sub>ice ad</sub> 0.2 0.3 0 0.1 0.4 0 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 (g/kg) q (g/kg) q

#### **HARMONIC OSCILLATIONS**

Comparison of the theoretical and modeled threshold velocity  $U_0^*$  $T_0$ =-10C, 340m< $\Delta Z$ <800m; 0.05m/s< $u_0$ <6m/s; 20 $\mu$ m< $r_{i0}$ <200 $\mu$ m; 50l<sup>-1</sup> < $N_i$ < 5000l<sup>-1</sup>







# Effect of dynamics on the formation of stratiform mixed phase clouds

#### **Static concept**



#### **Dynamic concept**



#### Stochastic approach to dynamic forcing of mixed phase



 $\frac{1}{S_i+1}\frac{dS_i}{dt} = a_i u_z - b_i B_0 M_1 S_i$ 

Differential equation for supersaturation in a Largangian parcel

$$\frac{dS_i}{dt} = a_i \sigma_u(t) - b_i B_0 M_1 S_i + \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{L^2}\right)^{1/3} \left(S_E - S_i\right)$$

Stochastic differential equation for supersaturation averaged over an ensemble of parcels

$$S_{i}(t) = \exp(-(B+C)t) \left[ S_{0} + S_{E} \frac{C}{B+C} (1 - \exp(-(B+C)t)) + \int_{0}^{t} \exp(-(B+C)(t-r))\xi dr \right]$$

Field et al. 2013 QJRMS (in press)



#### **Theoretical and experimental problems in mixed phase physics:**

- 1. Absence of physically based definition of mixed phase
- 2. Assumption of regular condensation in the description of mixed phase does not have theoretical or experimental justification  $(K_t \rightarrow \infty; \tau_{mix} \rightarrow 0)$
- 3. Poor understanding of diffusional ice growth under varying environmental conditions (*RH, T, P*)
- 4. Characteristic spatial scales of mixed and single phase clouds at L<100m

# **Instead of conclusion**





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