A Possible Role for Immersion Freezing in Mixed-phase Stratus Clouds

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Introduction



HSRL/MMCR combination

- Barrow (8/04-11/04) M-PACE (Verlinde, 2007)
- Eureka (8/06-Present) SEARCH

Introduction

Lidar backscatter cross section (Masked values shown in black and white)



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Introduction



So, where does the ice come from?

- Primary Ice Formation (Pruppacher and Klett, 1997)

- Homogeneous nucleation



So, where does the ice come from?

- Secondary Ice Formation (Pruppacher and Klett, 1997)

- Multiplication mechanisms
 - Drop shattering:



- Ice-Ice Collisions:



- Splinter ejection during riming (Hallett-Mossop, 1974)

Ice concentrations often significantly exceed IN concentrations (Mossop, 1970; Beard, 1992)



So, where does the ice come from?



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What about immersion freezing?



Image courtesy of J-P Blanchet

Some Observational Evidence

- Bigg (1980) observed sulfuric acid coating on aerosol particles during winter

- Reduced IN activity with coating confirmed by Bertram and Girard in laboratory

- Blanchet (2007) hypothesizes that sulfur coating is a result of sulfur emissions from Siberia, and that resulting particles in Arctic have reduced ice nucleating ability.

What about immersion freezing?



Some Observational Evidence

From ground-based sensors:

- Large increases in IWC in updrafts
- Decrease in Liquid Fraction in updrafts Figure courtesy of M. Shupe (NOAA)

From in-situ measurements:

- Ice crystal concentrations strongly proportional to concentration of drops larger than 20 μ m. (Rangno & Hobbs, 2001)

Conceptual Model:



Initialization

Conceptual Model:



Conceptual Model:



Conceptual Model:



Simulation



Summary

- Nucleation of ice appears to control amount of liquid in mixed-phase stratus

- In-Situ and remotely-sensed observations provide evidence for possibility of immersion freezing

- Simulations reveal early hints at possibility of controlled nucleation through immersion freezing

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