

# AS3.12-5899

# **PSC Detection and Composition Classification**

- PSCs detected as statistical outliers from background aerosol using nighttime 532-nm scattering ratio (R<sub>532</sub>) and perpendicular backscatter ( $\beta_{\perp}$ )
- Composition classification based on comparison of CALIOP particle depolarization ratio  $\delta_{P}$  and inverse scattering ratio 1/R<sub>532</sub> observations with theoretical optical calculations (Pitts et al., 2007-2013)
- Five composition classes in second generation algorithm:
  - $\rightarrow$  STS = supercooled ternary (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O-HNO<sub>3</sub>) solution
  - $\rightarrow$  Mix 1, Mix 2, Mix 2-enh(anced) = external mixtures of liquid (binary H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aerosol or STS) droplets and nitric acid trihydrate (NAT) particles (in increasing number density)
  - $\rightarrow$  Ice, wave ice = H<sub>2</sub>O ice (synoptic, mountain-wave-induced)
- When measurement noise is taken into account, there is significant overlap between the Mix 1 and Mix 2 classes. Therefore, in our most recent algorithm we have combined these into one class: Mix1+Mix2



#### Antarctic PSC Areas: 2006-2014



# **CALIPSO Polar Stratospheric Cloud Observations from 2006-2015** Michael C. Pitts<sup>1</sup> and Lamont R. Poole<sup>2</sup>

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# 2006-2014 Antarctic Vortex-Average PSC Area

- General evolution of PSC season is similar from year-to-year
- $\rightarrow$  Multi-year average is fairly representative



# 2006-2014 Antarctic Vortex-Average PSC Area by Composition



# Arctic PSC Areas: 2006-07 to 2014-15



• Arctic PSC occurrence varies dramatically from year to year and is significantly lower overall than in the Antarctic: Multi-year average is not representative

#### Antarctic PSCs for July at 20 km Altitude (2006-2014)





We have developed an approach to calculate PSC optical depth from the CALIOP 532-nm attenuated backscatter measurements using a composition-dependent extinction-to-backscatter ratio. The lower panel shows the retrieved PSC optical depth along a single CALIOP orbit. The dashed lines in the lower panel indicate optical depth values of 0.01 and 0.04 which were used in earlier studies (e.g. Kinne and Toon, 1990; Hicke and Tuck, 2001) as representative of Type 1 (STS and NAT) and Type 2 (ice) PSCs, respectively.

# Multi-year Monthly Antarctic PSC Optical Depth Composites



Monthly composites of PSC optical depth based on nine years (2006-2014) of CALIOP Antarctic observations. Large areas of monthly-mean PSC optical depths exceeding 0.04 are present in each month. During July and August monthly means exceed 0.1 in areas near the Antarctic Peninsula, a climatologically favored region for ice PSCs.

- Interesting spatial patterns observed in Antarctic PSC composition
  - $\rightarrow$  [Mix 1 + Mix 2] predominant at lowest altitudes
  - $\rightarrow$  STS predominant early and late in season
  - $\rightarrow$  Frequent maximum in ice PSCs over Antarctic Peninsula
- $\rightarrow$  optical depth dominated by ice clouds



## Monthly Average Spatial Distributions

Arctic PSCs for January at 20 km Altitude (2006-2015)

### Summary

• With measurement uncertainties, there is significant overlap between Mix 1 and Mix2 composition classes → Therefore, revised composition classification combines Mix1 and Mix2 into a single class called Mix1+Mix2

• Multi-year averages fairly representative of PSC evolution in Antarctic, but each Arctic winter is unique

• PSC optical depth retrieved using composition-dependent extinction-to-backscatter ratio