

Thermodynamic and Dynamic Aspects of Ice Nucleation

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Immersion Ice Nucleation



Soluble and Insoluble Aerosol Ice Nuclei (INP) Mostly dust, soot, and biological material







Immersion Freezing

Ice crystal population

- INP completely immersed
- Thermodynamic equilibrium
- Could happen at RH<100%
- Determines phase partitioning in mixed-phase stratus and convective clouds
- Plays a very important role in the evolution of Arctic clouds
- May affect climate sensitivity (Tan et al. 2016).





Water-Particle Interactions

- Vicinal water may exist in a ordered state (Ice-Like) near the solid-liquid interface. Ordered structures may propagate over hundreds to thousands of molecular diameters (Drost-Hansen, 1969, Zheng et al., 2006). Found in biological (Snyder et al., 2014), metallic (Michot et al., 2002) and clay (Yu et al., 2001) interfaces. Also supported by MD simulations (Cox et al., 2015).
- Strong evidence of ice formation several molecular diameters away from the claywater interface: "ice formation does not require an ice germ attached to the substrate" (Anderson, 1967).
- The viscosity of interfacial water regulates the ice nucleation activity (Li et al., 2014). The work of nucleation and the enhancement of the viscosity of the vicinal water are tightly linked.





Nucleation within a Dense Liquid



C Low density water (ice precursor)





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Low density water (ice precursor)

Goal: To describe immersion freezing as determined by the effect of the particle on the vicinal water

- Steps:
 - 1. Model the properties of vicinal water
 - 2. Relate vicinal water thermodynamics to the work of ice nucleation
 - 3. Describe of the effect of the particle on the interfacial flux, hence on the nucleation rate





1-Thermodynamics of Vicinal Water



Two state model: Vicinal water as a regular solution of Liquid-Like (LL) and Ice-Like (IL) regions, in equilibrium with the bulk liquid and the particle.

ζ = Fraction of Ice-Like regions in the vicinal water (Templating Factor). Material –specifc.

For homogeneous nucleation $\zeta = 0$





1-Thermodynamics of Vicinal Water



Direct relation between the water activity in the bulk and in the LL regions

Two state model: Vicinal water as a regular solution of Liquid-Like (LL) and Ice-Like (IL) regions, in equilibrium with the bulk liquid and the particle.

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$$\mu_{\rm w} = \mu_{\rm LL} + \zeta \Delta \mu_s - \frac{2k_{\rm B}T_c}{N}\zeta(1-\zeta).$$

 $\Delta \mu_s$: Free energy of fusion Tc, N = Critical parameters

Heterogeneous Ice Nucleation can be modeled as occurring *Homogeneously* in the LL regions

$$\Delta G_{\rm het}(a_{\rm w}) = \Delta G_{\rm hom}(a_{\rm w, \, eff}).$$

 $\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{eff}} = \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{w}}$ in the LL regions





Homogeneous Ice Nucleation

- Neg-entropic Nucleation Framework, NNF:
 - Emphasizes entropic changes across the interface.
 - The interfacial energy and the activation energy are explicit functions of a_w and T.
 - Accounts for *dissipation* effects during ice germ formation







Work of nucleation: Spinodal Regime







Work of nucleation: Spinodal Regime







3-Dynamics Of Ice Germ Growth



$$D \propto \exp\left(-\frac{A}{TS_c}\right)$$

Adam and Gibbs, 1965

The presence of the particle decreases the diffusivity of interfacial water by reducing the configurational entropy: Only water in LL regions can diffuse

INP that efficiently reduce the work of nucleation ($\zeta > 0.7$) also tend to decrease the molecular flux to the ice germ





Nucleation rate: Dynamic and Thermodynamic Factors



Classical regime (ζ <0.6): High Δ G, and high J₀. Limited effect of the particle on vicinal water. Steep dJ/dT.





Nucleation rate: Dynamic and Thermodynamic Factors



Classical regime: Overlap with CNT predictions. The contact angle and ζ carry similar information





Nucleation rate: Dynamic and Thermodynamic Factors



Shallow dJ/dT





Application: Immersion Freezing by Humic INP



Markers: Data from Rigg et al (2013). $\Delta a_{w,het} =$ 0.2466 ± 0.025

Shaded area: Model predictions for $a_w = 0.86$, 0.91, and 1.0.

ζ~ 0.05. Classical germ forming regime.

Reasonable agreement in J_{het} but dJ_{het}/dT seems off.

Thermodynamic correspondence between ζ and $\Delta a_{w,het}$





Spinodal Ice Nucleation



Find ζ fitted in a region corresponding to spinodal ice nucleation to ($\zeta \sim 0.955$).

Markers: Data from Rigg et al (2013). $\Delta a_{w,het} =$ 0.2466 ± 0.025

Shaded area: Model predictions for $a_w = 0.86$, 0.91, and 1.0.

Better agreement in dJ_{het}/dT.

Dynamical effects may play a significant role in this case.





Spinodal Ice Nucleation may be Common



Blue Lines: Classical regime Red Lines: Spinodal regime Markers: Derived and measured ice nucleation rates





Conclusions

- Current immersion freezing theory relies on a view that mimics ice formation from the vapor, neglecting several **interactions unique to the liquid.** A comprehensive approach is developed to account for such interactions.
- Instead of being purely driven by thermodynamics, heterogeneous ice nucleation in the liquid phase is a process determined by the competition between thermodynamic and kinetic constraints to the formation and propagation of ice.
- Accounting for the effect on the particle of the vicinal water suggests the **existence of a spinodal regime where dynamics controls the ice nucleation rate.** Preliminary data suggest that it may be common in nature.
- Paper under discussion: "On the Thermodynamic and Dynamic Aspects of Immersion Ice Nucleation". ACPD.





THANKS!



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Classical Nucleation Theory



- CNT provides the basis for the semi-empirical modeling of ice nucleation in clouds models
- Key assumptions:
 - Active site = adsorption site
 - Water has uniform properties up to the dividing line
 - Ice germ is implicitly considered denser than the liquid
 - IN activity depends only on the surface properties







Nucleation modeled as occurring *Homogeneously* in the LL regions

 $\Delta G_{\text{het}}(a_{\text{w}}) = \Delta G_{\text{hom}}(a_{\text{w, eff}}).$





Water Activity Criterion



Direct correspondence between ζ and $\Delta a_{w,het}$





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Homogeneous Ice Nucleation





 Δh_f : Enthalpy of fusion a_w : Water activity Γ_w : Interface thickess (1.46) s: Lattice geometry (1.105)

- Neg-entropic Nucleation Framework, NNF:
 - Emphasizes entropic changes across the interface.
 - Obviates the explicit parameterization of the interfacial energy and the activation energy.
 - Accounts for *dissipation* effects during ice germ formation

$$\Delta G_{\rm nuc} = \frac{4}{27} \frac{\left[\Gamma_{\rm w} s \left(\Delta h_{\rm f} - \Gamma_{\rm w} k_{\rm B} T \ln a_{\rm w}\right)\right]^3}{\left[k_{\rm B} T \ln\left(\frac{a_{\rm w}^2}{a_{\rm w,eq}}\right)\right]^2}.$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{act}} = k_{\text{B}}T \left[\frac{E}{(T - T_0)} + n_{\text{t}} \ln \left(\frac{a_{\text{w}}}{a_{\text{w,eq}}} \right) \right].$$

