



Impact of
heterogeneous ice
nucleation by natural
dust

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Impact of heterogeneous ice nucleation
by natural dust and soot based on
a probability density function of contact
angle model with the Community
Atmospheric Model version 5

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Abstract

In order to investigate the impact of different treatments for the contact angle (α) in heterogeneous ice nucleating properties of natural dust and black carbon (BC) particles, we implement the classical-nucleation-theory-based parameterization of heterogeneous ice nucleation (Hoose et al., 2010) in the Community Atmospheric Model version 5 (CAM5), and then improve it by replacing the original single contact angle model with the probability density function of α (α -PDF) model to better represent the ice nucleation behavior of natural dust found in observations. We re-fit the classical nucleation theory (CNT) to constrain the uncertain parameters (i.e., onset α and activation energy in the single α model; mean contact angle and standard deviation in the α -PDF model) using recent observation datasets for Saharan natural dust and BC (soot). We investigate the impact of time-dependence of droplet freezing on mixed-phase clouds and climate in CAM5, and the roles of natural dust and soot by different nucleation mechanisms. Our results show that when comparing with observations, the potential ice nuclei (IN) calculated by the α -PDF model has a better agreement than that calculated by the single- α model at warm temperatures ($T > -20^\circ\text{C}$). Ice crystals can form at lower altitudes (with warmer temperatures) simulated by the α -PDF model compared with the single- α model in CAM5. All of these can be attributed to different ice nucleation efficiencies among aerosol particles with some particles having smaller contact angles (higher efficiencies) in the α -PDF model. In the sensitivity tests with the α -PDF model, we find that the change of mean contact angle has larger impact on the active fraction than that of standard deviation, even though the change of standard deviation can lead to the transition of freezing behavior. Both the single α and the α -PDF model indicates that the immersion freezing of natural dust plays a more important role in the heterogeneous nucleation than that of soot in mixed-phase clouds.

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1 Introduction

Ice microphysical processes in clouds are vital to cloud radiative properties and precipitation formation. They include the primary ice formation, vapor deposition on ice crystals, accretion of cloud droplets by ice crystals, ice aggregation and sedimentation, ice multiplication, sublimation, melting, and etc (Pruppacher and Klett, 1997; Morrison and Gettelman, 2008). Till now, ice formation mechanisms, especially by heterogeneous ice nucleation, have not been well understood. In mixed-phase clouds with temperatures between 0 and -38°C , primary ice formation can be via the heterogeneous ice nucleation with the aid of a fraction of aerosol particles called ice nuclei (IN) (DeMott et al., 2010). Various particles can act as IN, which includes mineral dust, soot, volcanic ash, and primary biological particles (Hoose and Möhler, 2012; Murray et al., 2012).

Mineral dust has been recognized as the most important/atmospherically relevant IN either from the laboratory measurements or field sample studies (Hoose and Möhler, 2012; Murray et al., 2012). Natural mineral dust particles are often internally mixtures of different minerals, quartz and other components (Murray et al., 2012). In order to reduce the complexity encountered in natural mineral dusts, laboratory studies have often used commercially available pure minerals (Hoose and Möhler, 2012; Hoose et al., 2008). The most abundant minerals in the clay size fraction of mineral dust are kaolinite, illite and montmorillonite. On the other hand, a lot of laboratory experiments used commercially available Arizona Test Dust (ATD) as a surrogate for desert dusts (e.g., Knopf and Koop, 2006; Marcolli et al., 2007; Kulkarni et al., 2012). However, ATD can be more active than natural desert dust, either due to its enhanced roughness resulting from the milling or due to its different mineralogical composition (Möhler et al., 2006). Another reason for lower activity of natural dust particles is related to their aging processes in the atmosphere, which may reduce their ice nucleation ability (Sullivan et al., 2010).

Heterogeneous ice nucleation occurs via several different mechanisms (Vali, 1985), called nucleation modes (e.g., immersion, deposition, condensation, and contact freez-

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aerosol particle and per time is referred to as the nucleation rate (J_{het}). This stochastic approach can be described by the classical nucleation theory (CNT) (Hoose et al., 2010; Niedermeier et al., 2011; Welti et al., 2012).

In CNT, J_{het} is proportional to the aerosol surface area and is the function of contact angle (α), which is the angle where ice germ/liquid or ice germ/vapor interface meets the aerosol surface, and can be understood as the surrogate of the nucleation ability of aerosol particles. The particle with the smaller contact angle (α) has higher ice nucleating efficiency. The contact angle is often derived from the fitting to the laboratory data, as done in Marcolli et al. (2007) for ATD, in Lüönd et al. (2010) for kaolinite, and in Wheeler and Bertram (2012) for kaolinite and illite. As noted in these studies, assuming that each particle has the same fixed contact angle often does not fit to the observation data well, especially when the observed ice nucleating fraction has weak time dependence. These authors suggested to use a probability density function of contact angles (α -PDF) instead of single values to better fit to the observed frozen fraction as a function of temperature (for immersion/condensation nucleation) or supersaturation (for deposition nucleation). In this α -PDF model, contact angles are distributed to every particle, which means that each particle has one value of the contact angle and that the particles with low contact angles are rapidly depleted when the temperature is held constant, thus leading to a slow-down of the freezing of the sample. The α -PDF model can be interpreted as an “intermediate” approach based on CNT between the two extremes of stochastic and singular hypotheses (Niedermeier et al., 2010).

Several heterogeneous ice nucleation parameterizations which are based on laboratory studies or in-situ measurements have been implemented in global climate models (GCMs). Liu et al. (2007) implemented Meyers et al. (1992) in CAM3 and in CAM5 (Gettelman et al., 2010) for the immersion/condensation/deposition mechanisms. Xie et al. (2013) evaluated the DeMott et al. (2010) parameterization in CAM5, in comparison with Meyers et al. (1992). Lohmann and Diehl (2006) implemented the Diehl and Wurzler (2004) parameterization in the global climate model of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology (ECHAM5) for the immersion freezing of cloud droplets. Hoose

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mersion freezing can be treated in the same general form based on the CNT. Following the suggestion of Chen et al. (2008), we calculate the contact freezing with the critical germ radius of immersion freezing and the homogeneous energy of germ formation of deposition freezing, according to “Cooper’s hypothesis” (Cooper, 1974).

We modify the original expression used in Hoose et al. (2010) about J_{het} , the rate of heterogeneous nucleation per aerosol particle and per second, with the form factor (f) raised to the $-1/2$ power instead of $1/2$ (see Eq. 1), due to the unphysical behavior of the original expression which implies that $J_{\text{het}} \rightarrow 0$ when $f \rightarrow 0$ (i.e., the ice nucleation rate will become smaller on more easily wettable materials) (Barahona, 2012; Määttänen et al., 2005).

$$J_{\text{het}} = \frac{A' r_N^2}{\sqrt{f}} \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta g^\# - f \Delta g_g^0}{kT}\right) \quad (1)$$

where A' is a prefactor, r_N is the aerosol particle radius, f is a form factor containing information about the aerosol’s ice nucleation ability, $\Delta g^\#$ is the activation energy, Δg_g^0 is the homogeneous energy of germ formation, k is the Boltzmann constant, and T is the temperature in K.

The second modification is about f itself. Due to the uncertainty of assuming a spherical substrate (or any other simple geometry) (Barahona, 2012), and the difference between a flat surface and a spherical surface can be ignored when the diameter of particle is larger than 100 nm, we calculate the compatibility parameter f with a flat surface instead of the convex surface. Thus f has the form as (Pruppacher and Klett, 1997)

$$f = \frac{1}{4}(2 + m)(1 - m)^2 \quad (2)$$

where $m \equiv \cos \alpha$, α is the contact angle.

Except for the above changes, detailed descriptions on the formulation of CNT for the immersion, deposition and contact freezing can be found in Hoose et al. (2010).

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We note that Hoose et al. (2010) used the activation fraction of aerosols, which is diagnosed from the droplet activation parameterization, to partition dust and soot number concentrations in each grid into the interstitial portion for the deposition and contact freezing and into the cloud borne portion for the immersion freezing. However, in CAM5 we can directly use the interstitial and cloud borne dust and soot number concentrations in the ice nucleation calculation, since CAM5 explicitly treats these two states of aerosols.

3.2 α -PDF model

We consider the α -PDF model for the immersion freezing by natural dust to replace the single- α model in Hoose et al. (2010). In the α -PDF model, we can take the heterogeneity of individual particles in the aerosol population into account. The particle surface is still uniform in the ice nucleation property for each particle but differs within an ensemble of particle population by a distribution of different contact angles, which are assumed to follow a log-normal probability density function (Marcolli et al., 2007; Lüönd et al., 2010).

The log-normal probability density function which represents the occurrence probability of one contact angle for one particle is given by

$$\rho(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\ln(\alpha) - \ln(\mu))^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \quad (3)$$

Where μ is the mean contact angle and σ is the standard deviation.

The frozen fraction for a given temperature can then be calculated as

$$f_{\text{act},\alpha\text{-pdf}} = 1 - \int_0^{\pi} \rho(\alpha) \cdot \exp(-J_{\text{imm}}(T, \alpha)\Delta t) d\alpha \quad (4)$$

Here J_{imm} is the immersion nucleation rate for one particle with one certain contact angle, and Δt is the model time step. It should be mentioned that in the global climate

model, the different time dependences of the frozen fraction in the single contact angle model and the α -PDF model are only treated within one time step. In a following time step additional (and unphysical) ice nucleation would also occur with the α -PDF model if temperature is constant. However, due to the long time step of the model, this is probably an acceptable, relatively small artifact (i.e., IN can be refilled during this time step due to the mixing and cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) activation of fresh particles into the cloud).

3.3 Fitting parameters for natural dust and soot

Fitting parameters in the CNT such as the single contact angle (α) and activation energy ($\Delta g^\#$) in the single- α model can be derived by minimizing the root mean square error (RMSE) of frozen fractions between observation data and model results. Thus the RMSE is calculated as:

$$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N [F_{\text{ice}} - F_{\text{ice}}^{\text{mod}}]^2} \quad (5)$$

where F_{ice} is the observed frozen fraction, $F_{\text{ice}}^{\text{mod}}$ is the frozen fraction calculated from the single- α model, and N is total number of observation data points.

The formula to derive uncertain parameters in the α -PDF approach is the same as Eq. (5) except that we calculate $F_{\text{ice}}^{\text{mod}}$ from the α -PDF model. In order to calculate $F_{\text{ice}}^{\text{mod}}$, its integral form of Eq. (4) was discretized into 2000 bins, and then the PDF distribution parameters, standard deviation (σ) and mean contact angle (μ) were iterated to find the best fit following Eq. (5).

The resulting fitting parameters for the immersion and deposition freezing based on the single- α model are listed in Table 1. Observation data for the immersion freezing of dust is obtained from the Colorado State University CFDC-HIAPER version I (CSU CFDC-IH) experiment, which is selected for the relative humidity with respect to water (RH_w) at 106 % (CSU106) (DeMott et al., 2011), and data for the deposition freezing

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on dust is from the Koehler et al. (2010)'s laboratory study. Both of the two studies used samples for Saharan dust. The immersion and deposition by soot are still based on the measurements (DeMott, 1990; Möhler et al., 2005) used in Hoose et al. (2010). However due to the modification of some formulas in Sect. 3.1, we refit to these data again.

For the α -PDF model, due to the fact that the activation energy is aerosol, nucleation mode and temperature dependent and is independent on the contact angle (Hoose et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2008; Zobrist et al., 2007), we use the same value for the activation energy as that in the single- α model. The resulting fit parameters from different experiments are listed in Table 2. For the comparison, fit parameters with the single- α model, including CSU106 listed in Table 1, are also given. The experiments were performed over a wide temperature range for Saharan dust sampled in the 2007 International Workshop on Comparing Ice Nucleation Measuring Systems ICIS-2007 (DeMott et al., 2011). These include two experiments of CSU CFDC-IH with 106 % and 108 % RH_w (CSU106 and CSU108, respectively), and three experiments conducted with the Zurich Ice Nuclei Chamber (ZINC) at RH_w of 106 %, 108 % and 110 % (ZINC106, ZINC108, and ZINC110, respectively). It can be seen that the RMSEs with the single- α model in all five experiments are larger than those with the α -PDF model. The reason about this result can be seen from the Fig. 1, which shows the observation data from CSU106 and ZINC106, and their fits with the single- α model and the α -PDF model. The α -PDF model reproduces the slow decrease of active fraction with the increase of temperature and makes a better agreement with observation data points at warm temperatures ($T > -20^\circ\text{C}$) while the single- α model leads to a steep decrease of active fraction with the increase of temperature and thus results in large errors at warm temperatures. Therefore, larger RMSEs with the single- α model are mainly from its fit at warm temperatures.

4 Results

A control experiment (CTL) with the default freezing parameterization in CAM5 (Meyers et al., 1992), an experiment based on the CNT in Hoose et al. (2010) (single- α), an experiment with the new α -PDF model as described above, and several sensitivity experiments with the α -PDF model have been carried out (see Table 3). The sensitivity experiments are designed to explore the sensitivities of model simulations to the mean contact angle and standard deviation in the α -PDF model. The mean contact angle is changed by $\pm 15^\circ$ (in order to include 61° , which is the fit result from the ZINC measurements), and standard deviation increased by 4 and 8 times in these sensitivity experiments.

All these simulations are run for 6 years with the model configuration of $1.9^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ and 30 levels, using prescribed sea surface temperatures (SST) and sea ice extent. The aerosol input uses the online aerosol model, MAM3. The last 5 year results are used in the analysis.

4.1 Particle number concentrations

The zonal and annual mean number concentrations of interstitial, cloud borne and total (interstitial plus cloud borne) mineral dust and soot particles are shown in Fig. 2. As is shown in Fig. 2, the magnitudes of interstitial dust and soot number concentrations are about one order of magnitude larger than those of cloud borne ones. In cloud borne aerosols, there are more dust particles than soot particles, which is an important point to explain the dominant role of dust in heterogeneous freezing compared to soot. The maximum number concentration of interstitial soot, internally mixed in the accumulation mode, is near the surface in the Northern Hemisphere (NH), exceeding 50 cm^{-3} in the zonal mean. Interstitial mineral dust particles in the accumulation and coarse mode, reach $10\text{--}50 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the sub-tropics and at the surface of NH ($\sim 30^\circ \text{ N}$). Interstitial mineral dust and soot are uplifted from their source regions to the middle and upper troposphere and transported to the Arctic in the upper troposphere (Liu et al., 2012b).

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The total number concentrations of these two species are mainly from their interstitial particles. As noted above, cloud borne aerosols are used as an input for the immersion freezing, while interstitial aerosols (only the uncoated portion showed in Fig. 3) are used as an input for deposition and contact freezing. Compared to Hoose et al. (2010), the total number concentration of soot is one order of magnitude lower in CAM5, which can be attributed to the different size distributions used for soot in two models (CAM5 and CAM3-Oslo). In the CAM3-Oslo model, soot is emitted into both the nucleation (initial diameter: 0.024 μm), the Aitken (initial diameter: 0.08 μm) and accumulation (initial diameter: 0.2 μm) modes (Seland et al., 2008). Its number concentration is dominated by uncoated nucleation and Aitken mode particles, which contribute to the higher number concentration, while in CAM5 soot is emitted in the accumulation mode with a larger emission size (0.08 μm in diameter). Dust number concentrations in CAM5 are mainly from the accumulation mode with the diameter range of 0.1–1.0 μm , while coarse mode number concentration is one order of magnitude lower (Liu et al., 2012a). A similar ratio between accumulation and coarse mode dust is also found in CAM3-Oslo.

The interstitial mineral dust and soot particles are further divided into two categories: coated and uncoated particles. The number concentrations of them are derived from the coated fraction f_{coated} , which is calculated by distributing the soluble mass (sulfate and organic) over the soot and dust cores in the internally mixed modes, requiring a minimum coverage of one monolayer. Suppression of heterogeneous ice nucleation is dependent on coating thickness or the fractional soluble mass coverage. Generally we assume that if a potential IN is covered by more than one monolayer, its heterogeneous nucleation behavior in the deposition and contact modes will be suppressed completely due to a shift to the higher onset relative humidity with respect to ice, RH_i , and to the colder onset temperature (Hoose et al., 2010; Möhler et al., 2008). Therefore, only those uncoated particles will participate in ice nucleation. The number concentrations of coated and uncoated interstitial aerosol particles are shown in Fig. 3. It can be seen that the uncoated dust number concentration is several orders of magnitude lower than that of coated dust particles, with the criteria of one monolayer coating by

soluble aerosol species. Compared to dust, nearly all the soot particles are coated (the concentration of the uncoated soot particles is smaller than 10^{-6} cm^{-3}). This is because soot cores have the smaller sizes than dust cores and soot is directly emitted into the accumulation mode in MAM3. If soot is directly emitted into the primary carbon mode (e.g., MAM4 or MAM7), which is the insoluble mode, there should be much more uncoated soot particles, especially with slow aging of the primary carbon mode (not shown in this paper). However, as compared to dust, soot is a much less efficient IN and immersion freezing is the dominant process (see Sect. 4.2), it won't have large effects on the total nucleated ice number concentrations even using MAM4 or MAM7.

4.2 Ice nucleation rates

The zonal and annual mean rates of immersion, deposition, and contact freezing ($\Delta N_i / \Delta t$, here ΔN_i is the ice crystal number concentration change over one model time step Δt (30 min); note that it is different from J_{het}) by dust and soot in the PDF simulation are shown in Fig. 4. It can be seen that the immersion freezing by dust is the dominant ice nucleation mechanism, which is consistent with Hoose et al. (2010), followed by soot immersion, dust deposition, and dust contact freezing. Recent observations (de Boer et al., 2011) also indicated that immersion freezing may be the dominant freezing mechanism in mixed-phase clouds, compared to other freezing modes (deposition freezing and contact freezing). This was concluded from the observation that liquid droplets occurred prior to the ice formation in mixed-phase clouds, which was also detected by Ansmann et al. (2008). A recent laboratory study by Bunker et al. (2012) found that hundreds of collisions of mineral dust particles with a super-cooled droplet are needed to initiate the contact freezing. Thus the contact freezing might not be a dominant ice formation pathway in mixed-phase clouds. The other two nucleation modes by soot (i.e., soot deposition and soot contact) are nearly negligible, because the number concentration of uncoated interstitial soot particles is very small (see Fig. 3). In general, the ice nucleation rates peak over the regions where dust and soot particles are emitted. It should be noted here that freezing rates appear larger

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rapid increase of the active fraction does not become broader, indicating that changes of the mean contact angle don't have impact on the temperature dependence of the active fraction. Instead in Fig. 9b, the temperature dependence of the active fraction changes with the change of the standard deviation. Increasing the standard deviation, which makes larger heterogeneity among the particle population, enlarges the temperature range of the rapid increase of active fraction, leading to the stronger temperature dependence and thus weaker time dependence (Niedermeier et al., 2011; Welti et al., 2012). Though the magnitude of changes of active fraction due to the change of the standard deviation is much smaller than that due to the mean contact angle, it results in the transition of the freezing behavior, from the stochastic behavior to the singular behavior (Niedermeier et al., 2011, 2013). Some variances of cloud properties with the changes of these uncertain parameters in the α -PDF model will be shown in Sect. 4.6.

4.5 Comparison of IN concentrations with observations

Currently the mostly used instrument for detecting IN concentrations in the atmosphere is the continuous-flow diffusion chamber (CFDC) (Rogers et al., 2001), which allows interstitial aerosol particles to enter through an inlet and to expose a specific temperature and/or humidity in the chamber. Then the number concentration of ice crystals nucleated in the chamber after a residence time of 5–20 s is counted. We calculate modeled IN concentrations and compare them with CFDC observations. The calculation uses modeled interstitial aerosol concentrations which are sampled at the same locations and pressures as observations and with the same processing temperatures as operated in the CFDC. We note that when comparing to observations we only consider the immersion and deposition freezing because the residence time in CFDC is short and thus its technique can not directly assess whether aerosols particles are active as contact freezing nuclei (DeMott et al., 2010).

Both the single- α and α -PDF models are time dependent, and CFDC has a residence time of approximate 10 s, so we define the modeled IN number concentration (hereafter termed “model IN(10 s)”) as a 10 s integral over the freezing rate ($\Delta N_i / \Delta t$),

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following Hoose et al. (2010). Figure 10 shows the model IN(10 s) concentrations in two simulations (CNT and PDF), which are sampled at the grid boxes including the CFDC measurement locations and at the same pressure level as field observations. The magnitude of model IN(10 s) concentrations simulated by CNT and PDF are similar as observations except for Barrow, Alaska (some data points which are clearly below the acceptable minimum detection limit of CFDC are removed). At warmer temperatures ($T > -20^{\circ}\text{C}$) model IN(10 s) concentrations simulated by the PDF simulation at Colorado region from winter icing in storms project in 1994 (WISP94) in February and at Storm Peak in April/May agree with observations better than those by CNT in which the simulated IN(10 s) concentrations are several orders of magnitude smaller than observations. The modeled weak temperature dependence at $T > -20^{\circ}\text{C}$ in Colorado region in the PDF simulation is confirmed by observations, where there is an indication for trend to be flatter (the observation data in Lüönd et al. (2010) also has this trend at warm temperatures). Conversely, when the temperature is warmer than -20°C , the IN(10 s) concentrations simulated by the CNT simulation reduce rapidly, resulting in several orders of magnitude discrepancy with observations (see Fig. 10a and c). Due to the rapid decrease of the IN(10 s) concentrations in the CNT simulation, the magnitude of the IN(10 s) concentrations becomes smaller than the y-axis min value, which causes CNT data not to be shown in the Fig. 10a. The temperature variation of model IN(10 s) concentrations in the CNT and PDF simulations become flat at $T < -25^{\circ}\text{C}$ at Storm Peak, which is consistent with the observations. The model IN(10 s) concentrations at Barrow, Alaska in the CNT and PDF simulations are both one or two orders of magnitude smaller than observations. This may be due to the fact that the simulated number concentrations of aerosol particles (e.g., soot) in Arctic are one or two orders of magnitude smaller than observations (Liu et al., 2012a; Wang et al., 2011).

For a more detailed comparison at warm temperature regions, spatial distributions of model IN(10 s) concentrations from the simulation PDF are shown in Fig. 11 with some field measurements of IN concentrations around the globe (DeMott et al. (2010), Central USA, $239\text{K} < T < 246\text{K}$ and $241\text{K} < T < 258\text{K}$; Rosinski et al. (1987), Cen-

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ported dust (Zender et al., 2003). Dust number concentration in the coarse mode is calculated from the predicted total number concentration in the coarse mode weighted by the mass fraction of dust in this mode. Then we use these two dust number concentration as the Na_{500} . We neglect the contribution of soot and sea salt to Na_{500} , due to its smaller size. In Fig. 12a and b, for both the CNT and PDF simulations, almost all dots locate in-between the two power-law fits by DeMott et al. (2006) and Georgii and Kleinjung (1967). Compared to the CNT simulation, the model IN(10s) concentrations simulated from the PDF simulation shift a little upwards. In order to compare with DeMott et al. (2014), we convert modeled Na_{500} and IN(10s) to those at standard temperature and pressure conditions and the results are shown in Fig. 12c and d. Both in the CNT and PDF simulations, the magnitude of the model IN(10s) concentrations are at and around the DeMott et al. (2014) proposed parameterization (solid red line), thus yielding excellent agreement. The DeMott et al. (2014) parameterization, developed from the DeMott et al. (2010) parameterization to account for additional aerosol compositional dependencies, is for the dust ice nuclei exclusively. For atmospheric application, an additional correction factor is introduced to account for the underestimate of the immersion freezing fraction of mineral dust particles for CFDC data. Their parameterization reflects the mineral dust data from the Saharan or Asian regions very well and indicates they can be parameterized as a common particle type for global modeling. Therefore, the atmospheric application of our parameterization based on Saharan dust is successfully confirmed by DeMott et al. (2014).

4.6 Aerosol indirect forcing

Table 4 lists the global and annual mean cloud and radiative properties for the present-day simulations and differences of these variables between the present-day and preindustrial simulations. As for the present-day experiments, with the implementation of two stochastic heterogeneous ice nucleation parameterizations, the global mean ice water path (IWP) decreases for the CNT and all the PDF simulations compared to the CTL simulation due to fewer nucleated ice crystals in the CNT and PDF simulations. This

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model, the α -PDF model has a better agreement with observations at warmer temperatures by enhancing the IN number concentrations and further results in weaker temperature and time dependence of IN number concentration. Therefore, ice crystals can form at lower altitudes (with warmer temperatures) from the α -PDF model than the single- α model. On the other hand, the α -PDF model alleviates the conflict with observations, especially for the assumption in the single- α model that the freezing rate is constant with time.

From the sensitivity experiments with the α -PDF model, we find that the change of mean contact angle has a larger impact on the active fraction than that of standard deviation, which is consistent with the cloud-resolving model results by Kulkarni et al. (2012). When increasing (reducing) the mean contact angle, the active fraction will decrease (increase). Meanwhile, the increase of standard deviation will lead to a transition of the nucleation behavior: from stochastic behavior to singular behavior. Once approaching to the singular behavior, further effects of the increase of standard deviation on the freezing rate may be depressed. Immersion freezing by natural dust in both single- α and α -PDF models is the dominant nucleation mechanism in mixed-phase clouds, consistent with Hoose et al. (2010).

More studies are needed to further investigate the transition between the stochastic behavior and the deterministic behavior of heterogeneous ice nucleation in global models in the future. As the model time step (30 min) is large for the stochastic ice nucleation behavior and the nucleation rate should not be constant in a model time step, we may need to set sub-time steps and take ice-borne aerosols (i.e., the nucleation scavenging of the IN during one sub-time step) into account to further investigate the time dependence in the global model. Other stochastic models like the active site model and the soccer ball model (Niedermeier et al., 2013) should be implemented and their behaviors explored in global models.

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Table 1. Parameters for the ice nucleation parameterization in single contact angle (α) model. In the table, DeMott et al. (2011) and Koehler et al. (2010) are Saharan Dust. $\Delta g^\#$ is the activation energy; $f_{i,\max,x}$ is the maximum ice nucleating fraction.

Aerosol	Reference	Nucleation mode	α (°)	$\Delta g^\#$ (10^{-20} J)	$f_{i,\max,x}$
Soot	DeMott (1990)	Immersion	48.0	14.15	0.01
Dust	DeMott et al. (2011)	Immersion	46.0	14.75	1
Soot	Möhler et al. (2005)	Deposition	28.0	-20	0.01
Dust	Koehler et al. (2010)	Deposition	20.0	-0.81	1

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Table 2. Fit parameters obtained for the two models for the immersion freezing by dust. The root mean square errors (RMSE) between the fit curves and the data are given. In the table, μ is the mean contact angle; σ is the standard deviation.

Model	Parameter/RMSE	CSU106	CSU108	ZINC106	ZINC108	ZINC110
Single- α	α ($^{\circ}$)	46.0	47.0	61.0	61.0	59.0
	$\Delta g^{\#}$ (10^{-20} J)	14.75	14.4	13.5	13.45	13.65
	RMSE	0.029	0.236	0.087	0.0983	0.147
α -PDF	μ ($^{\circ}$)	46.0	47.0	62.0	61.0	59.0
	σ	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.02
	RMSE	0.01	0.225	0.08	0.07	0.08

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Table 3. Simulation descriptions.

Simulation	Description
CTL	CAM5 with the default heterogeneous ice nucleation parameterization (Meyers et al., 1992)
CNT	As in CTL, but with the classical nucleation theory based on Hoose et al. (2010), using new fitting parameters in Table 1 (e.g., for immersion freezing on dust: $\alpha = 46^\circ$, $\Delta g^\# (10^{-20} \text{ J}) = 14.75$)
PDF	As in CTL, but with the improved CNT by introducing α -PDF model in immersion freezing on dust ($\mu = 46^\circ$, $\sigma = 0.01$)
MU1	As in PDF, but with $\mu = 31^\circ$, $\sigma = 0.01$
MU2	As in PDF, but with $\mu = 61^\circ$, $\sigma = 0.01$
SD1	As in PDF but with $\mu = 46^\circ$, $\sigma = 0.04 (4\sigma)$
SD2	As in PDF but with $\mu = 46^\circ$, $\sigma = 0.08 (8\sigma)$

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Table 4. Global annual mean fields for the present-day simulations and differences of these variables between present-day and preindustrial simulations. Variables listed in the table are: total cloud cover (TCC, %), low cloud cover (LCC, %), liquid water path (LWP, g m^{-2}), ice water path (IWP, g m^{-2}), shortwave cloud forcing (SWCF, W m^{-2}), longwave cloud forcing (LWCF, W m^{-2}) and integrated column ice number concentration in mixed-phase clouds (ICNUM, 10^3 cm^{-2}).

Run	CTL	CNT	PDF	MU1	MU2	SD1	SD2
TCC	64.	64.	63.9	64.	64.	64.	63.9
Δ TCC	0.14	0.47	0.36	0.42	0.45	0.57	0.39
LCC	43.6	43.1	43.	43.1	43.1	43.1	43.1
Δ LCC	0.32	0.69	0.62	0.68	0.59	0.76	0.65
LWP	44.59	46.82	46.02	46.06	46.49	46.52	46.47
Δ LWP	3.26	4.05	3.61	3.72	3.83	3.90	3.64
IWP	17.78	16.21	16.31	16.35	16.25	16.16	16.17
Δ IWP	0.14	0.33	0.40	0.39	0.42	0.37	0.29
SWCF	-52.00	-52.27	-51.99	-52.08	-52.23	-52.23	-52.20
Δ SWCF	-1.64	-2.02	-1.86	-1.96	-2.02	-2.07	-1.88
LWCF	24.04	23.65	23.61	23.64	23.66	23.66	23.63
Δ LWCF	0.50	0.82	0.81	0.84	0.83	0.88	0.75
CF	-27.96	-28.62	-28.38	-28.45	-28.58	-28.57	-28.57
Δ CF	-1.14	-1.20	-1.05	-1.12	-1.19	-1.19	-1.13
ICNUM	2.863	2.388	2.417	2.419	2.394	2.364	2.387
Δ ICNUM	0.036	0.076	0.086	0.063	0.071	0.052	0.054

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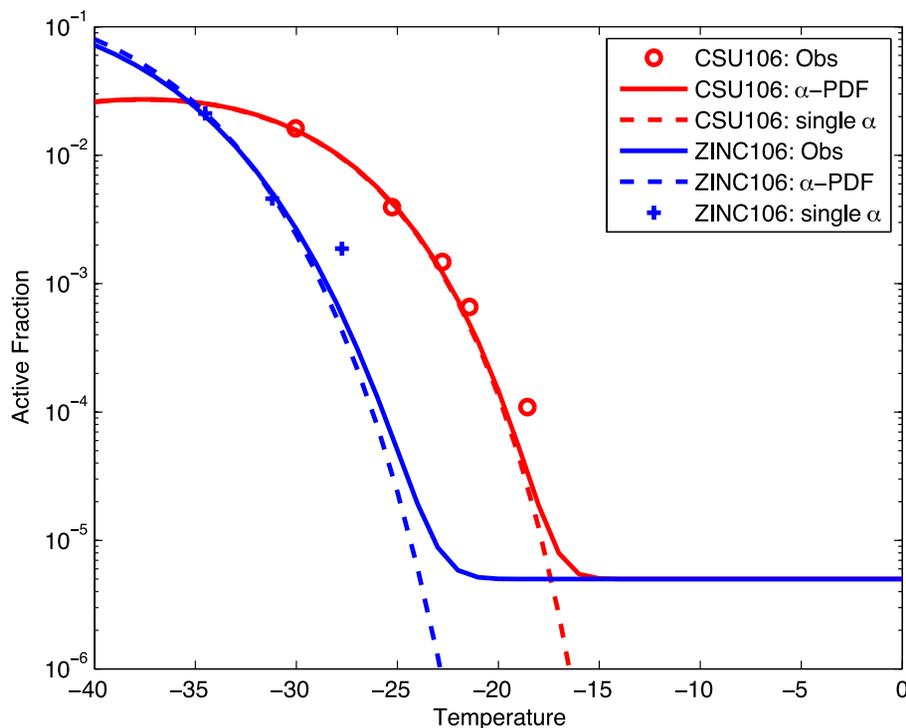


Fig. 1. Active fractions determined with CSU106 and ZINC106 respectively (DeMott et al., 2011) are presented as a function of temperature T (indicated by the different symbols). The different lines represent the single- α model and the α -PDF model results fitting the experimentally determined active fractions (parameters in two models are given in the Table 2).

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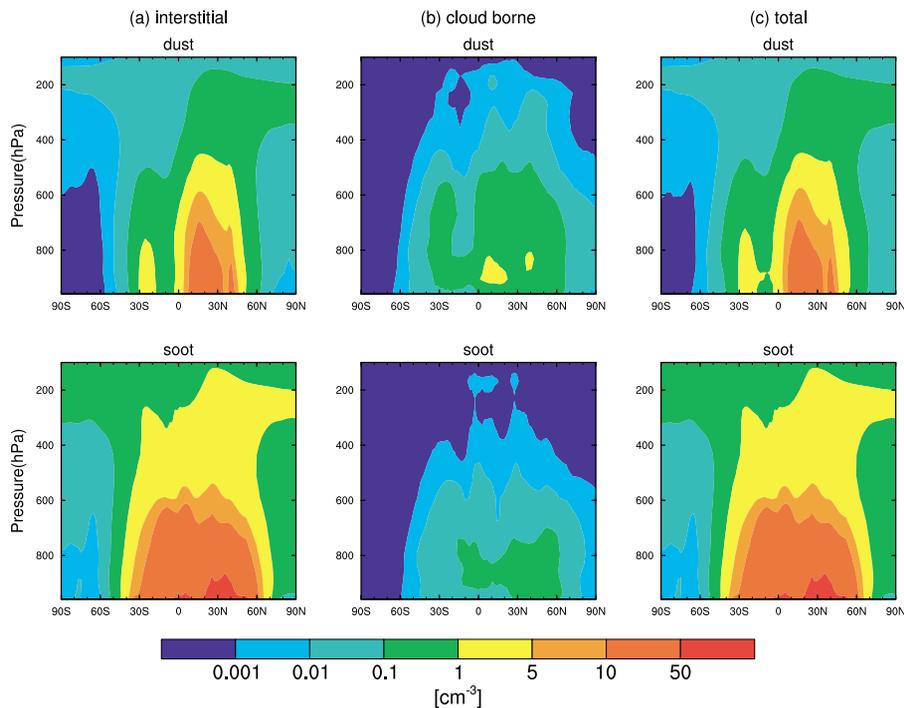


Fig. 2. Zonal annual mean number concentrations (cm^{-3}) of **(a)** interstitial, **(b)** cloud borne and **(c)** total mineral dust (upper) and soot particles (lower).

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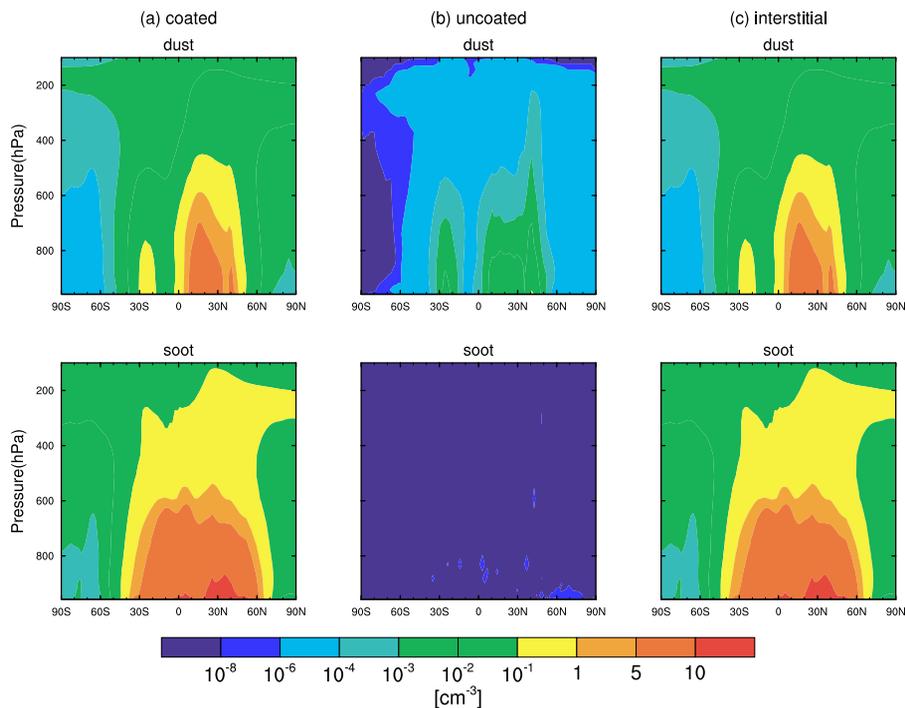


Fig. 3. Zonal annual mean number concentrations of **(a)** interstitial coated, **(b)** interstitial uncoated and **(c)** total interstitial mineral dust (upper) and soot particles (lower).

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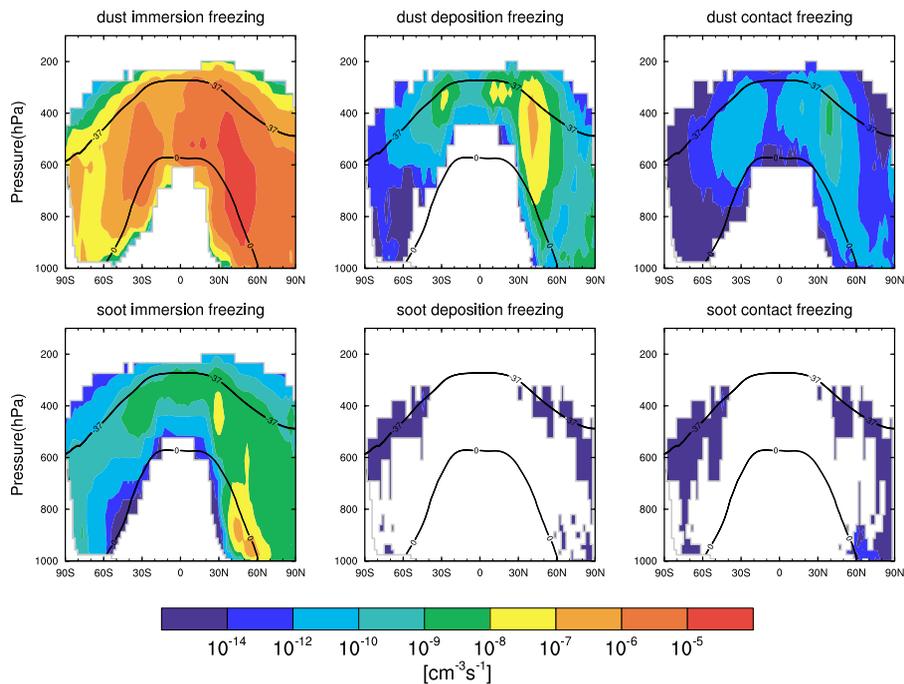


Fig. 4. Zonal and annual mean immersion, deposition, and contact freezing rates in the PDF simulation. Isotherms of 0°C and -37°C are plotted.

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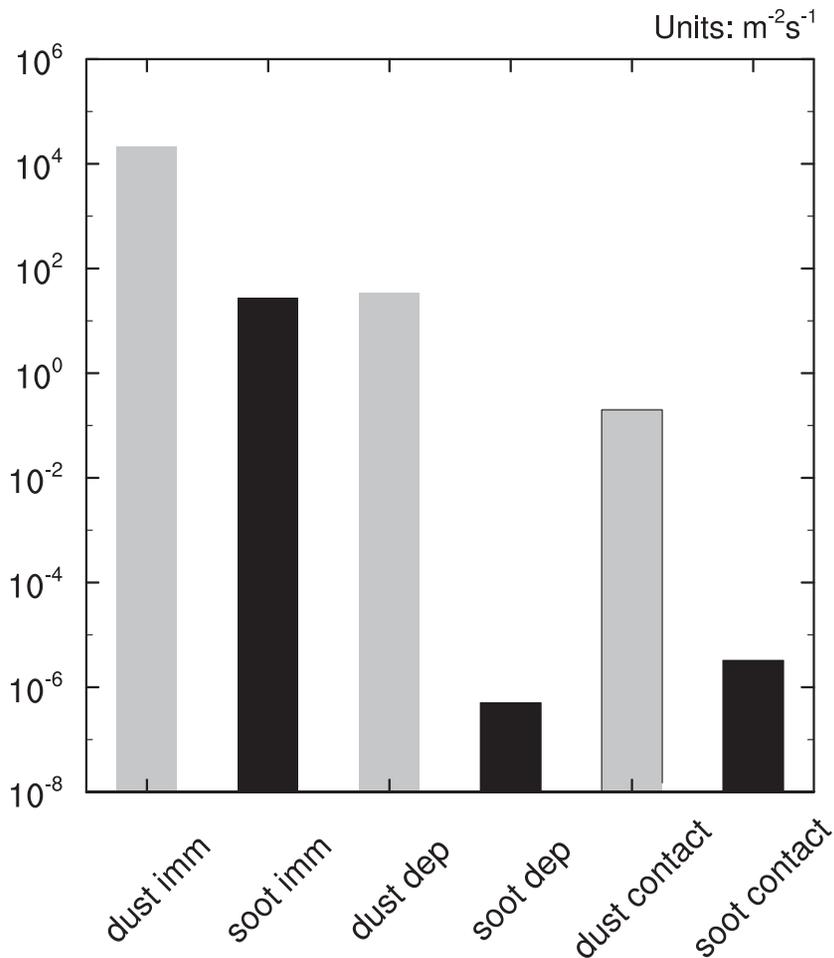


Fig. 5. Global and annual mean vertically integrated nucleation rates in the PDF simulation.

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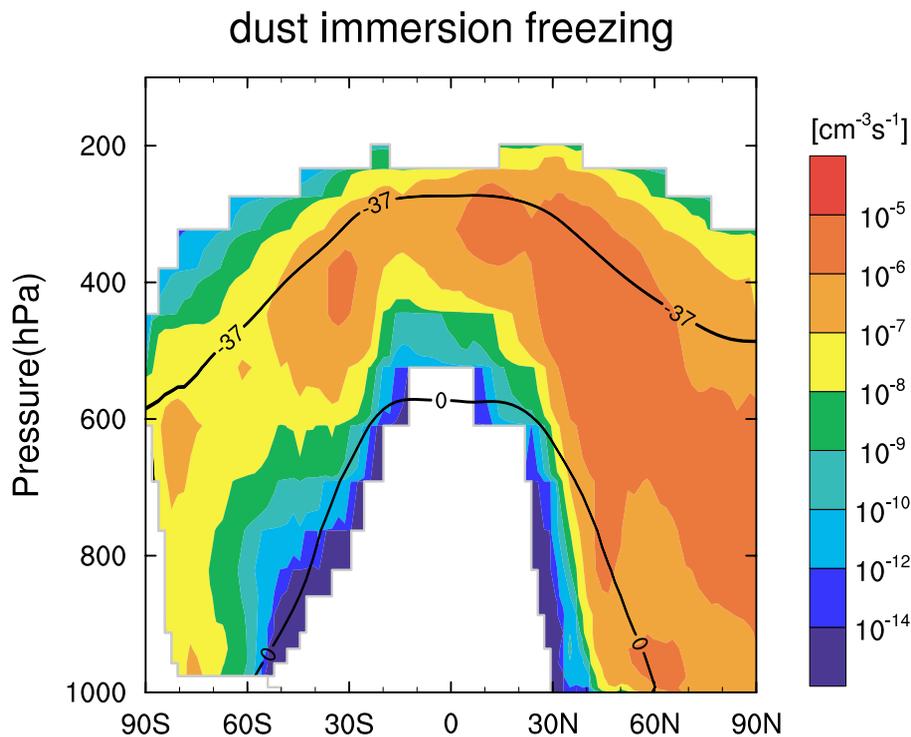


Fig. 6. Zonal annual mean immersion freezing rates in the CNT simulation. Isotherms of 0°C and -37°C are plotted.

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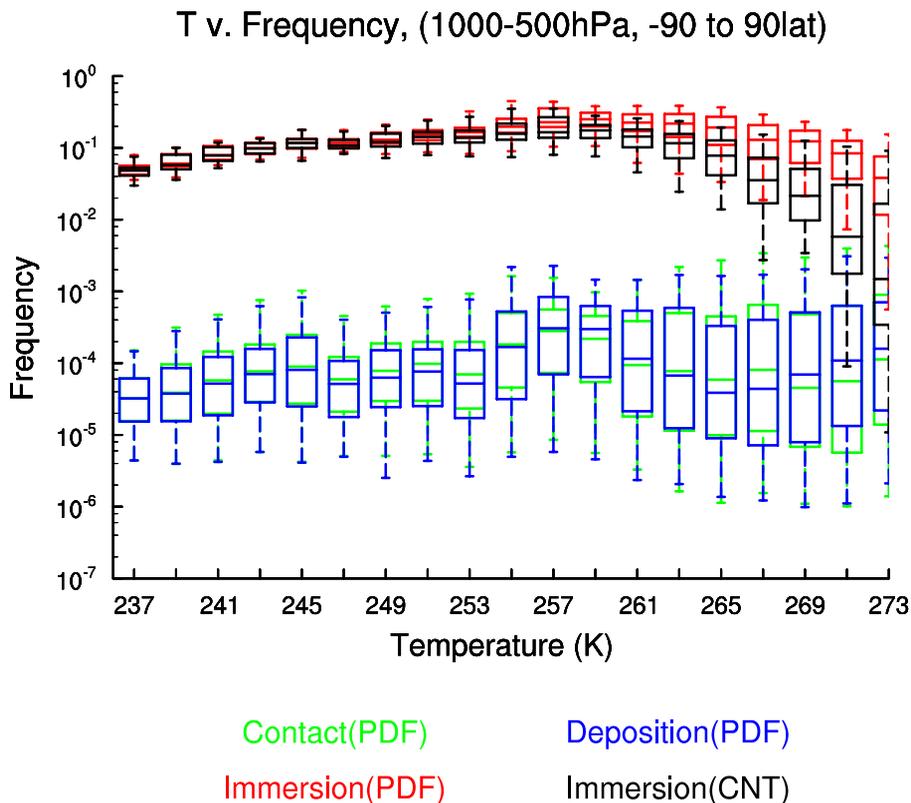


Fig. 7. Annual mean simulated frequency of immersion freezing (red), deposition nucleation (blue) and contact nucleation (green) in the PDF simulation, and immersion freezing (black) in the CNT simulation as a function of temperature. The whiskers represent the 5th and 95th percentiles, and the boxes represent the 25th and 75th percentiles and the median.

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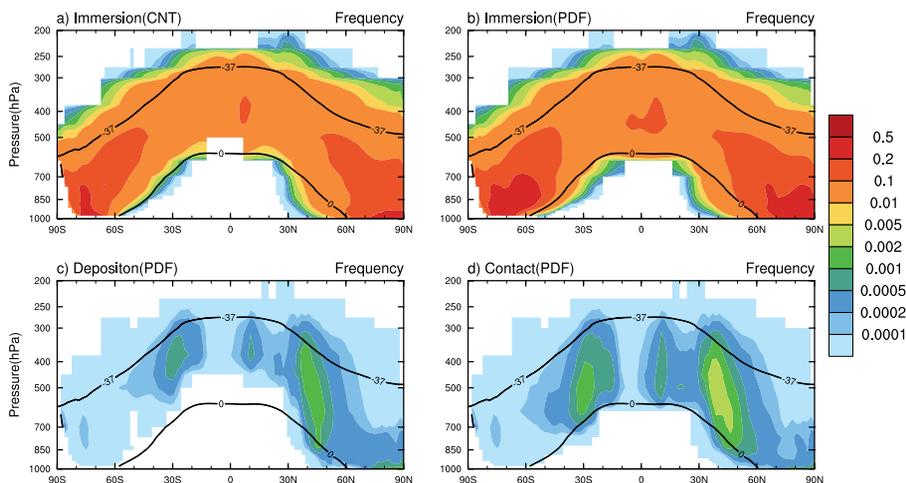


Fig. 8. Zonal and annual mean distribution of occurrence frequency of (a) immersion mode in the CNT simulation, and of (b) immersion, (c) deposition, and (d) contact freezing modes in the PDF simulation. Isotherms of 0°C and -37°C are plotted.

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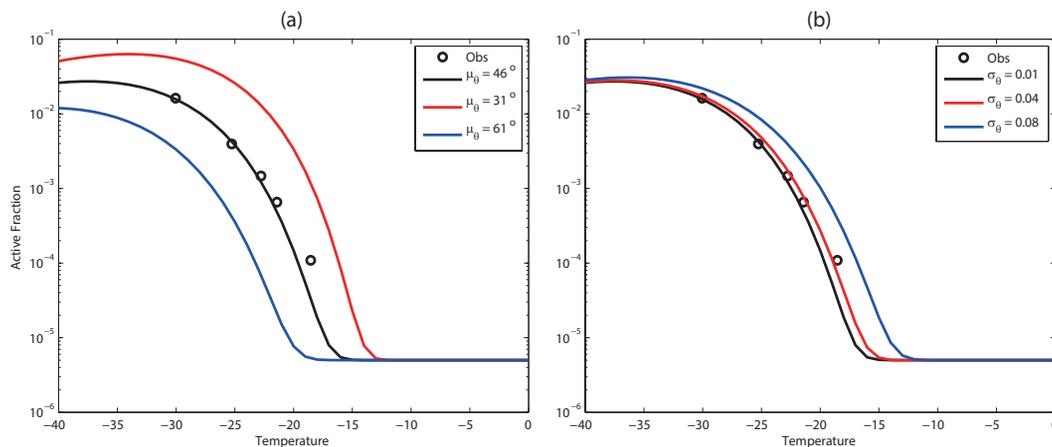


Fig. 9. Active fraction as a function of temperature for given the α -PDF model settings. Observation data is from CSU106 and the black solid line is its fit curve. The red and blue solid lines are sensitivity tests to **(a)** mean contact angle, and **(b)** standard deviation.

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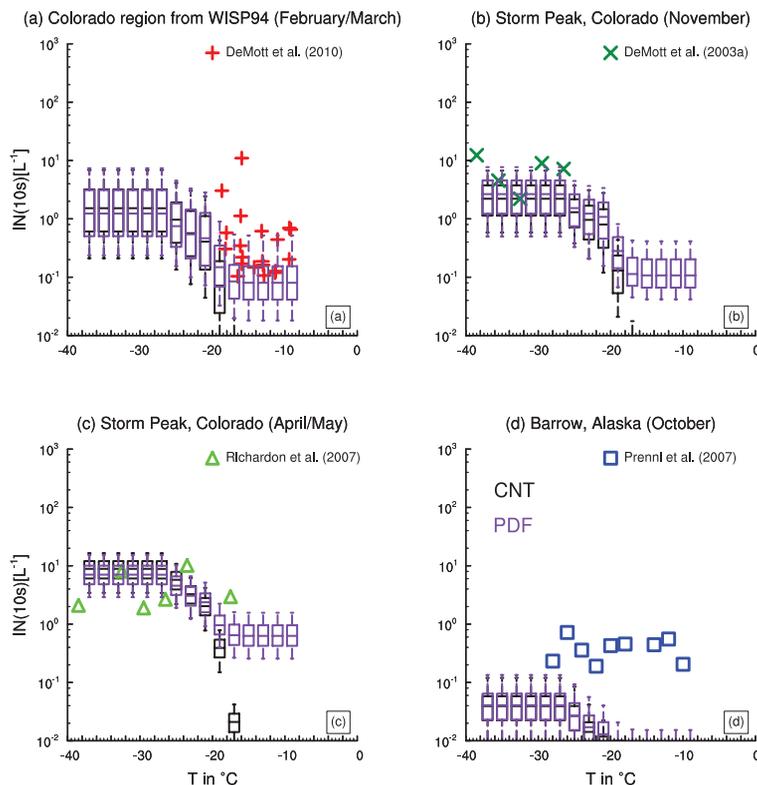


Fig. 10. $IN(10s)$ concentrations for specified temperature, selected at the grid points including the measurement locations and at the same pressure level as field observations in the CNT simulation (black boxes and whiskers) and in the PDF simulation (blueviolet boxes and whiskers). The whiskers represent the 5th and 95th percentiles, and the boxes represent the 25th and 75th percentiles and the median. The colored symbols indicate CFDC IN measurements.

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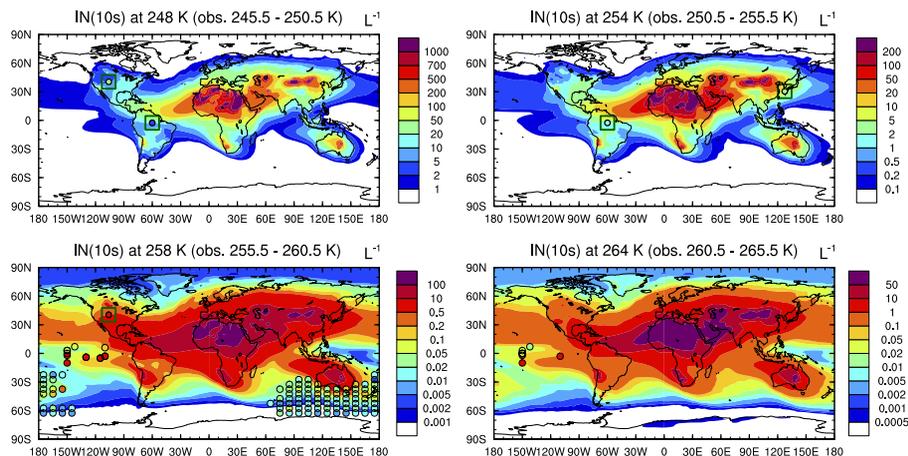


Fig. 11. Spatial comparison of IN(10s) concentration with field data. IN(10s) concentrations are sampled for four specific temperatures which fall into the same range of observed temperatures as chosen for measurements on the surface. The field IN measurements are indicated by colored circles (DeMott et al., 2010, in Central USA; Rosinski et al., 1987, in Central Pacific; Rosinski et al., 1995, in East China Sea; Bigg et al., 1973, in South of Australia). Especially, field IN measurements at East China Sea, Brazil and Central USA are highlighted by darkgreen rectangles to see clearly.

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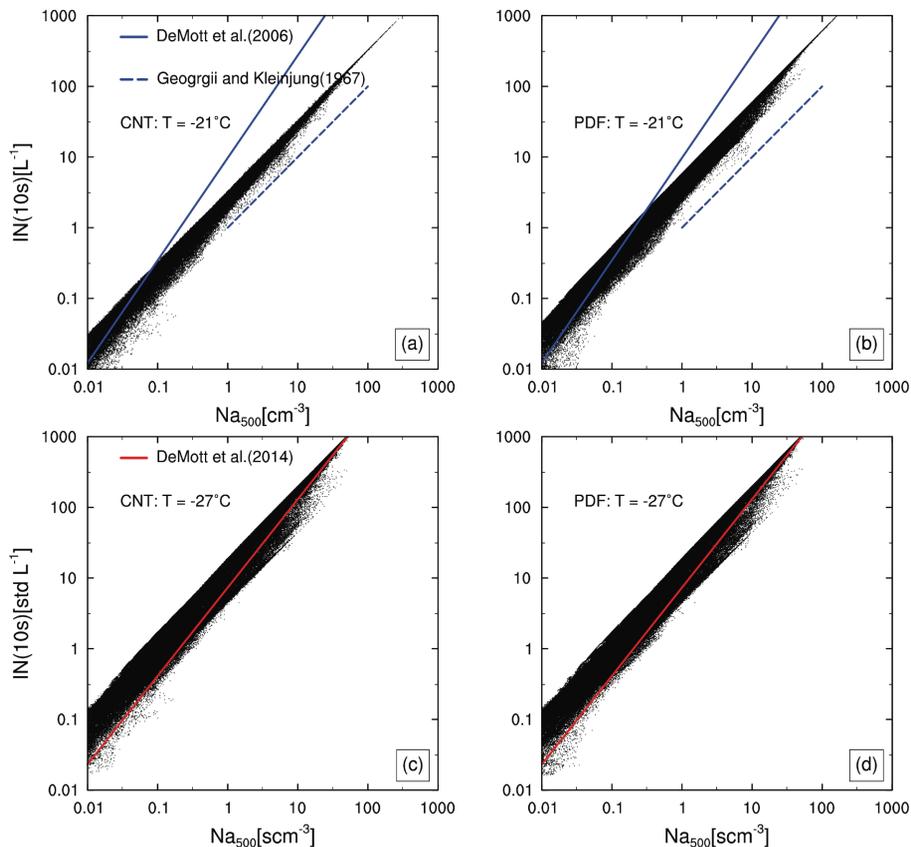


Fig. 12. IN(10s) concentrations in the CNT and PDF simulations, displayed as a function of the number concentrations of aerosol particles with $d > 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ at (a and b) $T = -21^\circ\text{C}$ which is the observed temperature used in the power-law fit to observations (DeMott et al., 2006, (blue solid line); Georgii and Kleinjung, 1967 (blue dash line)) and at (c and d) $T = -27^\circ\text{C}$ which is used for the DeMott et al. (2014) proposed parameterization (solid red line).