



**In situ
characterization of
MPCs using the SID-3
and the PPD-2K**

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In situ characterization of mixed phase clouds using the Small Ice Detector and the Particle Phase Discriminator

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Abstract

Mixed phase clouds (MPCs) represent a great source of uncertainty for both climate predictions and weather forecasts. In particular, there is still a lack of understanding on how ice forms in these clouds. In this work we present a technique to analyze in situ measurements of MPCs performed with the latest instruments from the Small Ice Detector family. These instruments record high resolution scattering patterns of individual small cloud particles. For the analysis of the scattering patterns we developed an algorithm that can discriminate the phase of the cloud particles. In the case of a droplet, a Mie solution is fitted to the recorded pattern and the size of the corresponding particle is obtained, which allows for a size calibration of the instrument. In the case of an ice particle, its shape and roughness are deduced from the scattering pattern.

We apply our data analysis method to measurements from three distinct MPC types. The results from laboratory measurements demonstrate that our technique can discriminate between droplets and ice particles in the same optical size range. This ability was verified by measurements at a mountain top station where we found an alternation of liquid and ice dominated cloud regions. The analysis of results from aircraft based measurements illustrates the ice detection threshold of the technique.

1 Introduction

MPCs consist of both liquid water droplets and ice particles. Ice formation in MPCs is of great importance as it affects the cloud radiative properties and the clouds' development (e.g. Sun and Shine, 1994; Morrison et al., 2012). However, the processes which lead to ice in MPCs are still not well understood. In the mid latitudes, ice in MPCs is expected to form via heterogeneous nucleation and secondary processes like the Hallett-Mossop process (Cantrell and Heymsfield, 2005). In the presence of liquid water droplets, ice particles are expected to grow rapidly due to the Wegener-Bergeron-Findeisen process (Wegener, 1911; Bergeron, 1935; Findeisen, 1938). Therefore, the

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observation of small ice particles indicates recent ice formation either by droplet freezing or ice multiplication processes. In order to gain new insights into the ice formation processes in MPCs it is crucial to probe the smallest ice crystals with particle sizes below 50 μm . However, this is a challenging task as liquid droplets, in general, outnumber ice particles for particle sizes below 50 μm . An overview on different instruments for the in situ measurement of cloud particles is e.g. given by Wendisch and Brenguier (2013) chapter 5. To determine the phase of cloud particles well below 50 μm conventional imaging techniques (Abdelmonem et al., 2011; McFarquhar et al., 2013) as well as holography (Fugal and Shaw, 2009; Henneberger et al., 2013) are currently hardly applicable due to optical resolution limitations. Instruments that record solely the single particle light scattering intensity, like the cloud droplet probe are well established for counting and sizing of cloud particles but they do not allow for a phase discrimination (Baumgardner et al., 2011). A promising approach is to use polarized light to discriminate the phase of small cloud particles, as realized e.g. in the Cloud Particle Spectrometer with Polarization Detection (CPSPD) (Baumgardner et al., 2014). However, the polarization ratio measured by the CPSPD depends on the particle orientation and particle size. Furthermore droplets have a non-negligible polarization ratio.

In this work the detection and detailed analysis of small cloud particles is carried out by instruments developed by the University of Hertfordshire, UK, that record near forward scattering patterns of individual particles. The patterns depend on the size, shape, orientation, surface roughness, and internal structure of the cloud particles and provide detailed microphysical information even for sizes down to a few micrometers. The first version of the Small Ice Detector (SID-1) has six discrete photomultipliers (Hirst et al., 2001). The upgraded second version of SID-2 has 28 azimuthally oriented detectors to measure a rough spatial light scattering pattern (Cotton et al., 2010, 2013; Johnson et al., 2014). This work was conducted with the latest version, the SID-3 (identical to the instrument used by Ulanowski et al., 2012, 2014) as well as the lab version of this instrument called the Particle Phase Discriminator mark 2, Karlsruhe edition (PPD-2K) which is a slightly modified version of the instrument described in Kaye et al. (2008).

2.2.2 Electronic dead time

After a particle detection, the trigger electronics have a dead time of 8.00 μs (SID-3) and 8.25 μs (PPD-2K). Particles passing the instrument during this dead time period are not detected and according to Johnson et al. (2014) the volume actively sampled by the instrument is reduced. Meaning that we use a smaller volume in the calculation of the number concentration deduced from the instruments. Assuming cloud particle number concentrations of 20 to 300 cm^{-3} and a typical flow speed for the SID-3 of 100 m s^{-1} and a PPD-2K sampling flow of 5 L min^{-1} , one gets a reduction in sample volume of: 0.8 to 11.3 % (for the SID-3) and 1.4 to 20.6 % (for the PPD-2K). The presented data is corrected for the reduced sampling volume.

2.3 Analysis of scattering patterns

Figure 1 displays four selected high resolution scattering patterns recorded with the PPD-2K. The area between the inner green circle (at 7.4° relative to the forward scattering direction) and the outer green circle (at 25.6° relative to the forward scattering direction) is our region of interest (ROI). Using the LabVIEW (National Instruments, Inc., USA) software package we have developed an analysis routine for the SID-3 and PPD-2K forward scattering patterns. The idea for the analysis is to discriminate droplets and ice particles based on the azimuthal symmetry of their scattering patterns. The scattering pattern of a droplet is an Airy pattern with a perfect azimuthal symmetry. Scattering patterns of ice crystals have lower azimuthal symmetry. The final results of the analysis are: for droplets the particles' size based on Mie theory and for ice particles the shape and roughness. In detail the algorithm performs the following steps.

Initially a saturation ratio $q = N_s/N_a$ and a mean intensity $\bar{I} = (\sum_{i,j}^{N,M} I(i,j))/N_a$ for the ROI are calculated. Here N_s is the number of saturated pixels, N_a is the number of all pixels and $I(i,j)$ is the gray level intensity of pixel i,j in the ROI.

It is hard to give general threshold values for q and \bar{I} as the scattered intensity is a function of particle size and the gain of the camera is adjustable. However, a pattern

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is typically analyzed further if $q < 0.2$ and $\bar{l} > 3$ are fulfilled. These values are chosen in order to avoid the roughness analysis of patterns with too many saturated pixels as well as to avoid a significant contribution of background noise to the image in case of very low mean intensities.

In the next step, an unwrapped version of the ROI is generated which is equivalent to a change from Cartesian to polar coordinates and carried out by a bi-linear interpolation. From the ROI in polar coordinates we compute a polar integrated azimuthal profile displayed in Fig. 2. A measure for the variation of these profiles is the variance of the intensity along the azimuthal angle,

$$v_{\text{az}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2}{N - 1} \quad (2)$$

with N the number of discrete angles of the azimuthal profile, x_i the value of a certain element, and μ the mean value. Earlier instruments of the SID family do not record scattering patterns with a camera but have segmented trigger detectors instead. For the analysis of segmented trigger detector data, Hirst et al. (2001) introduced an asymmetry factor which is similar to v_{az} given in Eq. (2). Cotton et al. (2013) tested and used the asymmetry factor to distinguish between liquid droplets and ice particles in MPCs. In the present work, we use the v_{az} values of the scattering patterns to discriminate between droplets and ice particles. For each experiment a specific variance threshold value, $v_{\text{az}}^{\text{thr}}$, is defined which is in the range of 6×10^{-6} to 1×10^{-5} . Scattering patterns with v_{az} values in the vicinity of the threshold are manually crosschecked.

2.3.1 Droplet analysis

For $v_{\text{az}} < v_{\text{az}}^{\text{thr}}$, the algorithm assigns a scattering pattern to correspond to a cloud droplet. From the scattering pattern an azimuthal integrated polar profile is deduced. Subsequently, to the deduced profile an intensity profile of a spherical particle computed by Lorenz Mie theory (Mie, 1908) with the complex refractive index of super-

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adopted from Ulanowski et al. (2007) and Stopford et al. (2008) and is based on a discrete fast Fourier transform (DFT) of the polar integrated azimuthal intensity profile (Fig. 2). The DFT of an input sequence x_l of length M is defined as:

$$y_k = \sum_{l=0}^{M-1} x_l \exp^{-i2\pi kl/M} \quad (4)$$

y_k are called Fourier coefficients and constitute the transform output Y . For the classification we search for the maximum of Y excluding y_0 . When finding a maximum of Y above a threshold of 0.005 we distinguish between three classes of particles. A pattern corresponding to a columnar particle has maxima for y_2 or y_4 . In case we find a maximum for y_3 , y_6 or y_9 the particle is classified as a plate. In all other cases, including if no maximum was found, we assign the pattern to the irregular shape class. Representatives for the irregular (labeled with b), the column (labeled with c) and plate (labeled with d) classes as well as the corresponding intensity profiles are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. In order to link the observed scattering patterns to real shapes, a first comparison of SID-3 data and T Matrix calculations was published in Tricoli et al. (2015) and an extension to larger sizes is ongoing.

2.3.4 Roughness analysis of ice particles

Particle roughness is a critical parameter which has a significant influence on the angular scattering properties of ice crystals (Ulanowski et al., 2006; Yang et al., 2008). In order to retrieve the roughness of ice crystals from their SID-3 scattering pattern we apply a grey-level co-occurrence matrix (GLCM) method (Haralick et al., 1973). This method was used in Lu et al. (2006) to retrieve the surface roughness from laser speckle images. Subsequently, the method was used by Ulanowski et al. (2014) to deduce qualitative ice particle surface roughness information from the SID-3 scattering patterns. Our LabVIEW program performs a GLCM analysis of the ROI of the scattering patterns. We calculate four individual features, namely contrast, correlation, energy and

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homogeneity, for nearest neighbor pixels (Haralick et al., 1973). Subsequently a combined roughness value according to Ulanowski et al. (2014) is calculated. An in depth study of the origin of ice particle surface roughness which is based on experiments at the AIDA cloud chamber will be given in an upcoming publication (Schnaiter et al., 2015).

2.4 Quantification of specific particle types

During cloud sampling typically $f_c^{\max} < f_s < f_t^{\max}$ holds (Sect. 2.1). Thus the group of imaged particles represents a subset of all cloud particles which passed through the instruments and were detected by the trigger detectors. From the numbers of observed certain scattering patterns we derive fractions of specific particle classes and subclasses (e.g. ice particles, columnar ice particles, rough ice particles, etc.). Multiplication of those number based fractions with the total number concentration yields specific particle number concentrations. In this work we focus on ice particles as a specific particle type, so that we can derive the ice particle fraction and droplet fraction in mixed-phase cloud situations. However, this method can be applied to any particle type that can be distinguished by analysis of the scattering patterns. In the following we consider the error due to the fact that the imaged particles are a subset of all sampled particles. The upper and lower errors, p_+ and p_- , of a specific particle type fraction, p (e.g. ice fraction), can be calculated from the “Clopper-Pearson confidence limits” (Barlow, 1989) as:

$$\sum_{r=x+1}^N B(r, p_+, N) = \frac{1+C}{2} \quad (5a)$$

$$\sum_{r=0}^{x-1} B(r, p_-, N) = \frac{1+C}{2} \quad (5b)$$

where $B(r, p, N)$ is the binomial probability distribution, x is the number of successes (e.g. number of detected ice patterns) and N is the total number of scattering pattern

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2.5 Measurement locations

In this work, we present measurements which were obtained from three different cloud types at three distinct locations. These are: artificial clouds generated in a cloud chamber facility at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany, natural orographically induced clouds which were probed at the mountain top research station Jungfraujoch, Switzerland, and natural arctic MPCs over the Beaufort sea, NWT, Canada, sampled from on board an aircraft.

2.5.1 The AIDA cloud chamber of KIT

The Aerosol Interaction and Dynamics in the Atmosphere (AIDA) cloud chamber of KIT is a 84 m³ stainless steel vessel and can be operated in the temperature range from –90 to 60 °C for atmospherically relevant humidity, trace gas, and aerosol conditions. Clouds are generated in the chamber by controlled expansion cooling experiments of the chamber gas at near constant wall temperatures. Further details of the chamber operation and instrumentation can be found in: Möhler et al. (2005); Wagner et al. (2011); Schnaiter et al. (2012); Skrotzki et al. (2013). In this work, data from the following instruments mounted at the AIDA are used:

- Thermocouples type k for measuring the gas and wall temperature.
- A Baratron[®] (MKS, Germany) pressure sensor.
- A tunable diode laser (TDL) setup which measures the water vapor partial pressure.
- A dew point hygrometer (Dew point mirror 373, MBW, Switzerland) with a heated inlet that determines the total (evaporated cloud particle and gas phase) water concentration.
- An optical particle counter (type WELAS2000, Palas, Germany) with a detection range of 2.3 to 107 μm. The WELAS instrument detects light scattered by the

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particles at 90° relative to the forward direction. The analysis of the WELAS results involves an optical size threshold to distinguish between droplets and ice.

- The scattering and depolarization instrument (SIMONE) which records light scattered by an ensemble of cloud particles inside the AIDA chamber (Schnaiter et al., 2012; Järvinen et al., 2014). The forward scattered light is detected at an angle of 2° and the backward scattered light at 178°. The backward scattered light is split into its vertically and horizontally polarized components to determine the depolarization ratio of the initially linearly polarized light.

In this work we present data obtained during the Rough ICE (RICE 03) campaign which took place in December 2014. The SID-3 and PPD-2K were mounted in custom made housings directly underneath the AIDA chamber. Each housing is equipped with a dedicated inlet that protrudes into the chamber volume for cloud particle sampling. The housings are connected to a flow control system that maintains constant mass flows through the instruments.

2.5.2 High altitude research station Jungfrauoch

The high altitude research station Jungfrauoch is situated at 3568 m a.s.l. on a mountain col in the Bernese alps, Switzerland. The station is frequently in clouds with an annual mean cloud frequency of 37 % (Baltensperger et al., 1998). During winter time ambient temperatures at the station can drop to −30°C and thus the station is well suited for MPC sampling. The measurements presented here were obtained in February 2013 as part of the cloud and aerosol characterization experiment (CLACE 2013) which was a joint campaign of ten international institutes (Kupiszewski et al., 2014; Worrigen et al., 2015; Schmidt et al., 2015). The SID-3 was mounted on a 2.3 m high platform which aligned itself to the wind direction. Furthermore the SID-3 was equipped with an aspiration unit in order to maintain a constant particle flow through the instrument. In addition, but not further elaborated here, we performed measurements with the PPD-2K as part of the novel Ice selective Inlet (ISI) which is presented in detail

in Kupiszewski et al. (2014). Meteorological parameters like wind speed, wind direction, ambient temperature, and relative humidity measurements at the Jungfraujoch site were measured by MeteoSwiss as part of the Global Atmosphere Watch monitoring program (Spiegel et al., 2012; Hammer et al., 2014).

2.5.3 Arctic mixed phase clouds over the Beaufort Sea

In April and May Arctic MPCs frequently develop over the Beaufort Sea and can persist for up to several days (Intrieri et al., 2002; Shupe et al., 2006; Mioche et al., 2015). In this article, we present measurements obtained during the VERTICAL Distribution of Ice in Arctic Clouds (VERDI) campaign which was a joint campaign of seven German research institutions and took place in April and May 2012 (Klingebiel et al., 2015). Measurements were carried out on board the Polar-5 research aircraft north of the Mackenzie River delta over the Beaufort Sea (around 70°N) north of Inuvik, NWT, Canada. During VERDI the SID-3 was mounted underneath the wing of the Polar-5 which is a Basler BT-67 operated by the Alfred Wegener Institut (AWI), Bremerhaven, Germany. The Polar-5 has a low mean cruising speed of 60 ms⁻¹ which enables for a relatively high spatial resolution of the SID-3 measurements in comparison with measurements from other aircraft platforms.

3 Results

3.1 AIDA cloud chamber measurements

The first experiment to be presented here is expansion run 27 conducted during the RICE 03 campaign at the AIDA cloud chamber. During this experiment a liquid dominated cloud was transformed via a mixed phase state into a pure ice cloud through homogeneous freezing. These measurements illustrate the instrument's response to a liquid, mixed phase and ice cloud. Figures 8 and 9 show the course of the experiment including measurements of the SID-3 and PPD-2K. Prior to the cloud expansion

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run, a mixture of sulfuric acid and Argentinian soil dust (ASD) aerosol was added to the chamber with an initial total number concentration of 100 cm^{-3} . The sulfuric acid to soil dust number ratio was about 50 : 1 at the start of the expansion run. The panels a and b of Fig. 8 display the thermodynamic state of the AIDA chamber. For negative time values the chamber is at near ice saturated conditions with a relative humidity with respect to ice of 90 % and a gas temperature of 243 K. The start of the expansion experiment ($t = 0\text{ s}$) is defined by the opening of a valve between the vessel and a pump which initiates a quasi-adiabatic expansion in the chamber. As the pressure and the gas temperature decrease, the relative humidity increases during the expansion cooling. When the relative humidity with respect to liquid water exceeded 100 % (at $t \approx 215\text{ s}$), the aerosol particles were activated to form cloud droplets. The difference between the MBW_{ice} and TDL_{ice} values shown in Fig. 8b is caused by condensed water on hydrometeors and thus indicates the presence of cloud particles. The presence of cloud droplets with $D_p < 15\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ is also indicated by the SID-3 measurements displayed in panels c, d and e of Fig. 8. The cloud droplet mode is most pronounced at $t \approx 300\text{ s}$ and visible by yellowish colors for the smallest D_p values in panel c, blueish colors in panel d and the peak of the droplet number concentration in panel e. The small number of ice particles detected in the early stages of the droplet formation must have been heterogeneously nucleated on the ASD either via condensation or immersion freezing. The expansion was continued until the gas temperature approached the onset temperature for homogeneous freezing of water droplets at around 237 K. At this point of the experiment a rapid and complete glaciation of the droplet cloud took place. The process of homogeneous ice formation in the AIDA cloud chamber is described in Benz et al. (2005). The onset of homogeneous ice nucleation is clearly detected by the SID-3 around 310 s as the ice number concentration increases in Fig. 8e. The homogeneous freezing can also be seen by the changing color in the smallest size bins in panel d. After about 410 s the SID-3 detected only ice particles, meaning that there was a MPC in the AIDA for about 100 s.

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concentration. The detected total number concentration is decreased by the size detection threshold especially for ice particles as they scatter less light in near forward direction compared to droplets (McFarlane and Marchand, 2008). Neglecting the relatively low level of the PPD-2K values the curves of the number concentrations from the WELAS, SID-3 and PPD-2K agree well.

After the discussion of a liquid-glaciated transition experiment, which included a relatively short MPC period, we present another experiment, namely expansion run 46 of the RICE 03 campaign, depicted in Fig. 12. The subject of this experiment is a stable MPC at relatively high gas temperatures (253 K at $t = 0$ s). Prior to the expansion run Argentinian soil dust (ASD) aerosol, with a number concentration of 20 cm^{-3} , was present in the AIDA chamber. This cloud represents one of our best attempts to mimic natural MPCs in the AIDA chamber. In panel b of Fig. 12 the depolarization ratio measured by the SIMONE instrument during the course of the experiment is shown. The depolarization ratio increases at the beginning of the experiment as the glaciation starts, but reaches quickly a constant value of 0.1. The low depolarization ratio is an indication of a MPC, since higher depolarization values for an ensemble of ice particles with sizes of 5 to $100 \mu\text{m}$ are expected. Furthermore, in contrary to experiment 27, the depolarization ratio remains constant throughout the expansion, indicating that the MPC does not fully glaciate. The PPD-2K measurements show that droplets and ice particles coexisted for approximately 500 s and where in the same optical size range. In this case the PPD-2K data cannot simply be divided in ice and liquid by the introduction of a size threshold. Instead image analysis is necessary. Because of the used aerosol and the temperature range (243 to 253 K) expansion run 46 is comparable to natural MPCs. This experiment also illustrates the nucleation of ice particles at temperatures of 253 K. Unfortunately there is no SID-3 data available for this experiment.

In conclusion this AIDA cloud chamber experiment demonstrates that the presented technique enables the discrimination between liquid water droplets and cloud ice particles at the same optical sizes in a range of $5 \mu\text{m} < D_p < 50 \mu\text{m}$.

3.2 Measurements during CLACE 2013

The measurements presented in Fig. 13 were obtained on 24 February 2013. Panels a and b show the wind direction, wind speed, ambient temperature, and relative humidity recorded by Meteo Swiss at the Jungfraujoch station. The wind direction and relative humidity measurements indicate that the site was permanently in clouds which approached the station from the south. The wind speed had a maximum between 22:00 and 23:00 UTC and the temperature was constantly decreasing. Panels c, d and e show the SID-3 measurements and suggest that times of high total particle number concentrations (yellowish in panel c) are dominated by liquid droplets (blueish in panel d), while times of low total particle number concentrations (blueish in panel c) are dominated by ice particles (yellowish in panel d). Furthermore, one can deduce a temporal alternation between dense liquid and less dense glaciated cloud pockets.

A very interesting feature of these measurements is that the calculated small ($D_p < 20 \mu\text{m}$) ice particle number concentration correlates strongly with the wind speed whereas the calculated droplet number concentration does not (Figs. 13a and e and 14a and b). We propose two hypotheses for the correlation of wind speed and small ice particle number concentration.

The first hypothesis is linked to the fact that the wind direction at Jungfraujoch has a vertical component. If one thinks of the evolution history of the sampled cloud parcel, one notes that the higher the wind speed at the measurement site, the faster the cooling of the air parcel has happened (Hammer et al., 2014). A higher cooling rate leads to a higher ice production rate (Vali and Snider, 2015). The SID-3 probes the smallest ice particles which we expect to be freshly nucleated, thus the number concentration of small ice particles should be a measure for the ice nucleation rate. We expect small freshly nucleated ice particles to have irregular shapes.

The second hypothesis is that higher wind speeds could lead to more riming of cloud ice particles as well as more wind blown particles lofted from the ground. The argument of wind blown particles seems to contradict the observation that we did not detect wind

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blown particles under cloud free conditions. However when the station is in cloud, there can be a rapid rime build-up on all cloud exposed surfaces of the station. During this build-up process wind might easily transport small ice particles from these surfaces to our instrument. We expect rime break up particles to have columnar or plate like shapes.

Figure 14c and d display the result of a correlation analysis of small irregular and pristine ice particle number concentrations and the wind speed. Hereby pristine ice particles are columns as well as plates. Both number concentrations of specific small ice particles correlate with the wind speed. Thus neither of the above mentioned hypothesis can be ruled out based on the shape argument and there might have been several processes at work during the observational period. Further investigations for a wide range of wind speeds and with fast additional water vapor sensors are necessary to identify the processes behind these correlations.

In the left panel of Fig. 15 the v_{az} values are plotted against the particle size. Unfortunately, the clear separation seen in Fig. 10 is not reproduced in this plot. This is due to the presence of artifacts in the recorded droplet scattering patterns, as displayed in the right panel of Fig. 15. The artifacts might occur if the imaged particle was at the edge of the sensitive volume of the instrument or if two particles were involved in the image generation. As mentioned above in Sect. 2.2.1 the probability of coincident sampling is low, however artifacts can also be caused by a second particle being in the vicinity of the sensitive volume.

The scattering patterns of droplets with artifacts have relatively high v_{az} values. For the presented data 133 284 droplet patterns and 6116 ice patterns were identified. For $v_{az}^{thr} = 1 \times 10^{-5}$, 2460 droplet patterns with variance values above the threshold were manually reclassified. Thus the fraction of droplets with artifacts is rather low with 1.8 %. However, as the ice fraction is 4.6 % the contribution of the erroneously classified droplets by defining v_{az}^{thr} is significant (one third), especially for small ice particles. Unfortunately, the artifacts have a variable appearance which hinders an easy automated detection and thus makes a manual crosscheck currently necessary.

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In summary, the investigated case study from Jungfraujoch demonstrates that the SID-3 is capable of: discriminating liquid droplets and natural ice crystals in the same optical size range and detecting alternating liquid and glaciated cloud pockets during mountain top measurements which is in agreement to the findings of Choulaton et al. (2008).

3.3 Measurements during VERDI

Figure 16 depicts the flight path of the Polar-5 on 29 April 2012. The red colored part of the path depicts a straight flight leg over the Beaufort Sea during which the data displayed in Fig. 17 was obtained. During this period two vertical profiles through a typical Arctic mixed phase stratus were performed. The data is averaged for 15 s in order to get both a reasonable temporal resolution and sufficient statistics. Panel a of Fig. 17 displays the altitude of the aircraft and the ambient temperature measured by the Rosemount probe. The panel b displays both the number concentration of all particles and of the images recorded by the SID-3. The SID-3 measurements shown in panels b, c and d form the basis for the following cloud phase characterization: the aircraft descended through a dense purely liquid cloud (period A) into a less dense mixed phase region at the bottom of the cloud (period B). This was followed by an ascent through a dense liquid dominated mixed phase region (period C). The particle number size distribution, which is based on the trigger signal and displayed in panel c indicates that the mean droplet diameter decreases from the top to the bottom of the cloud. At the bottom or lowermost parts of the cloud no clear droplet mode is noticeable.

In order to investigate the issue of sub sampling, mentioned in Sect. 2.4, under real measurement conditions, the data from VERDI flight 7 is further analyzed in Fig. 18. Panel a displays the ice number concentration already shown in Fig. 17. For the results displayed in panel b and c of Fig. 18, it is assumed that the calculated mean ice concentration of period B is also present in periods A and C. Panel b displays the values of the Binomial probability distribution to detect no ice image, $B(x = 0, p, N)$, with an assumed ice fraction of $p = \bar{n}_{\text{ice, period B}}/n(t)$ for a temporal averaging time of $t_{\text{av}} = 15$ s.

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$\bar{n}_{\text{ice, period B}}$ is the calculated mean ice concentration during period B and $n(t)$ is the measured total number concentration per time step. The high probability to see no ice image during periods A and C is in agreement with the observation and it is not possible to state whether the constant ice concentration of period B was indeed present during periods A and C on the basis of an averaging time $t_{\text{av}} = 15\text{ s}$.

In Fig. 18c the data was averaged over the whole period A, lasting 550 s and period C, lasting 660 s. Thus, the assumed ice fraction is calculated as $p = \bar{n}_{\text{ice, period B}} / \bar{n}_{\text{Period A/C}}$ where $\bar{n}_{\text{Period A/C}}$ is the mean total number concentration for the entire periods A and C, respectively. For period A, the probability distribution shows a maximum of four ice patterns which is in contrast to the observation of no ice pattern. Thus one can conclude that the constant ice concentration of period B was not present during period A. For period C, however, the observation of four ice patterns is in rather good agreement with the displayed probability distribution for period C and its maximum at five ice patterns. This suggests the conclusion that an ice number concentration comparable to that found during period B was also present during period C.

This example illustrates that sub sampling hinders statistically relevant statements for $t_{\text{av}} = 15\text{ s}$ (panel b of Fig. 18). For $t_{\text{av}} \approx 500\text{ s}$ one can draw statistically relevant conclusions, however on a spatial resolution of approximately 30 km. Such a resolution represents a limitation to resolve the spatial structure of MPCs with the SID-3. The critical variable in this context is the velocity at which the cloud passes the sampling volume of the instrument which was given by the true airspeed of the aircraft of approximately 60 m s^{-1} during VERDI.

4 Conclusions

In this work we presented a technique to analyze SID-3 and PPD-2K in situ measurements of MPCs. A crucial step for MPC analysis is to distinguish between patterns that correspond to liquid water droplets and ice particles. In the case of droplet patterns we

determine their size by fitting a Mie solution to the measured patterns. By doing so, the instruments are self calibrated with respect to particle size. From patterns corresponding to ice particles, the shape and roughness are deduced.

Within the analysis of AIDA laboratory measurements we demonstrated that the application of a size threshold to the PPD-2K data is not sufficient to distinguish between frozen (ice) and liquid (droplets) hydrometeors in a size range of $D_p \in [5\mu\text{m}, 50\mu\text{m}]$. Only by the analysis of high resolution scattering patterns a discrimination became possible. The deduced ice particle number concentrations of the SID-3 and PPD-2K compare well with those measured by the WELAS instrument permanently operated at the AIDA chamber. Furthermore, the cloud phase characterization of the SID-3 and PPD-2K on the one hand and of the SIMONE instrument on the other hand agree well.

Subsequently, we presented data obtained with the SID-3 by sampling natural MPCs. For a case study from the Jungfraujoch, the automated discrimination between ice and droplets needed a manual crosscheck due to artifacts in the scattering patterns. The results of this case study show an alternation in cloud characteristics from dense liquid to less dense glaciated, which is in agreement with earlier findings. Regarding the shape of the small ice particles they might originate from different ice formation processes (e.g. the two suggested mechanisms), taking place simultaneously.

The second case of natural clouds under investigation in this work are SID-3 measurements from the VERDI campaign performed in the Canadian Arctic. The analysis focused on the detection limit of the probe with regard to ice particles. The detection limit is reached in a situation of a high cloud particle sampling rate, due to the aircraft velocity and the total number concentration, and a low ice number concentration in the cloud. In order to draw statistically relevant conclusions the data needs to be spatially averaged in the range of kilometers.

Acknowledgements. We acknowledge support by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (SCHN 1140/2-1), the Open Access Publishing Fund of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, the Helmholtz Association and the Swiss National Science Foundation. We thank the AIDA team, the International Foundation High Altitude Research Stations Jungfraujoch and Gornergrat

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(HFSJG) and the VERDI team for their support and the opportunity to perform experiments. Furthermore we would like to thank P. Kaye, E. Hirst and J. Ulanowski from the University of Hertfordshire for fruitful discussions and technical support in operating the SID-3 and PPD-2K.

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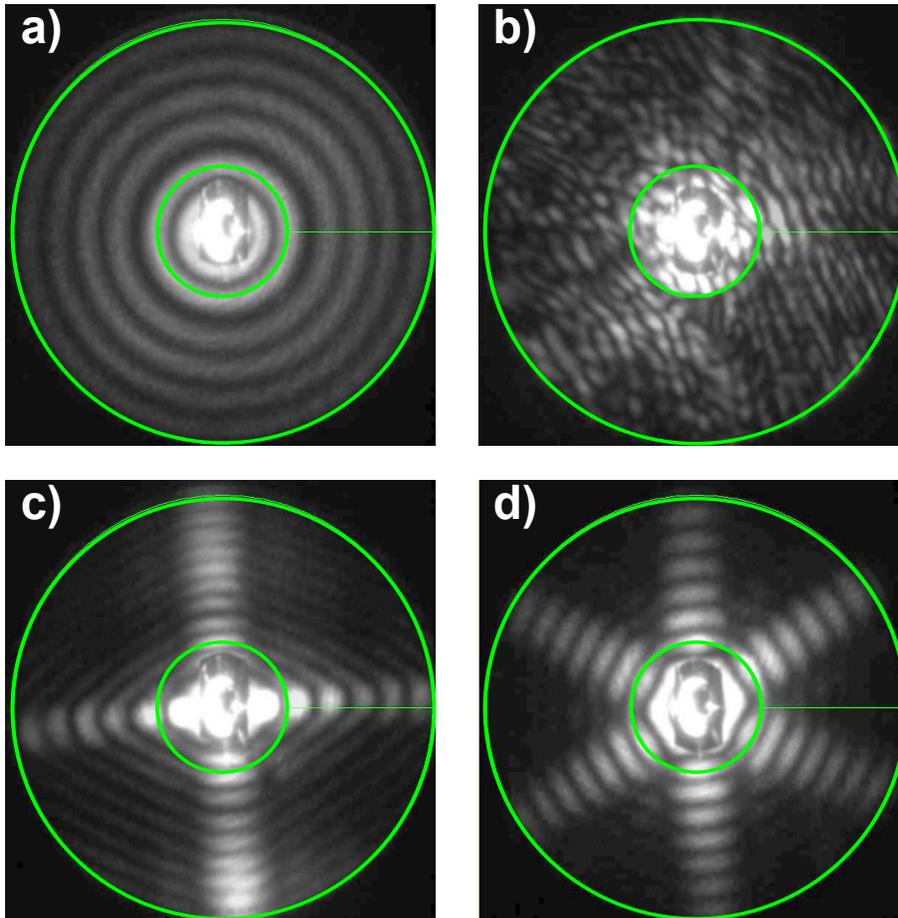


Figure 1. PPD-2K high resolution scattering patterns of a droplet **(a)**, an irregular ice particle **(b)**, a columnar ice particle **(c)**, and a plate like ice particle **(d)**. A gamma correction is applied to the images for visibility.

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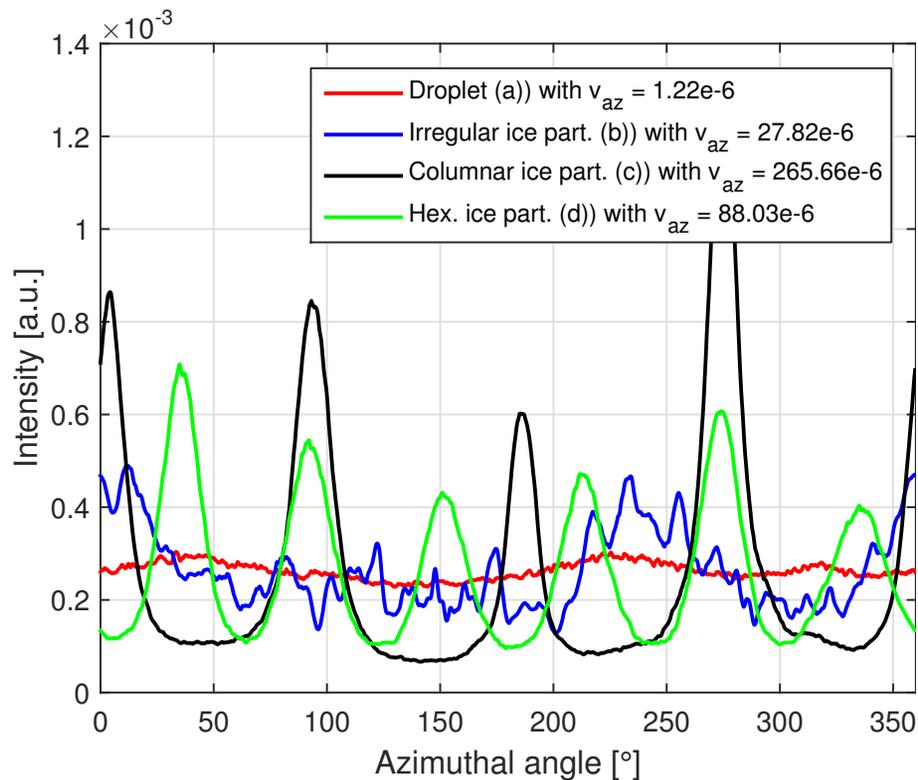
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**Figure 2.** Polar integrated azimuthal intensities of the particles displayed in Fig. 1.

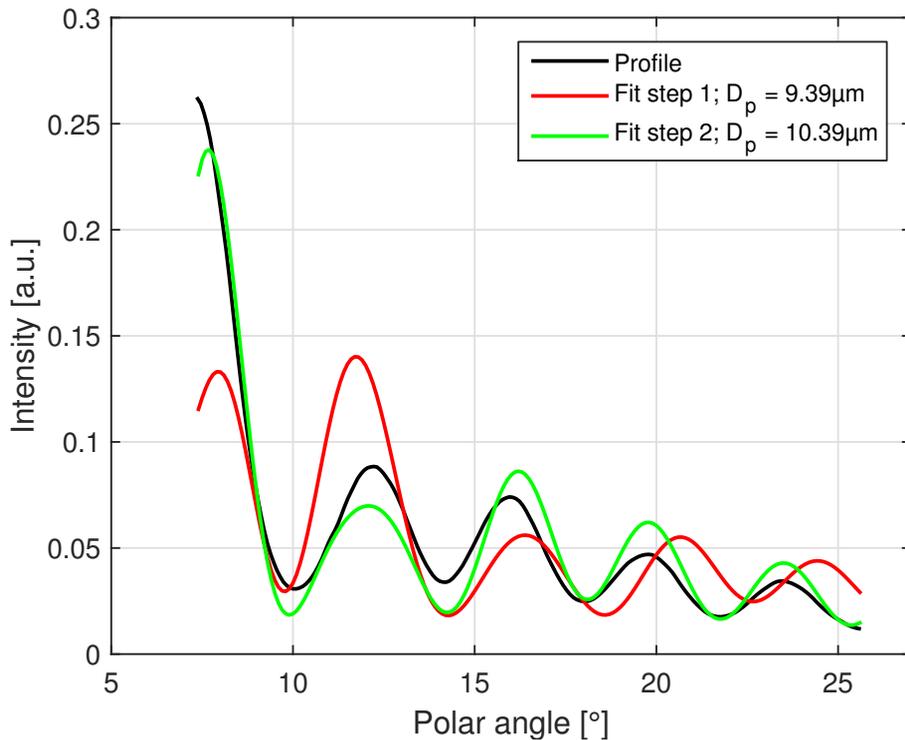


Figure 3. Azimuthal integrated polar intensity of the cloud droplet displayed in Fig. 1a. The two computations of Mie solutions given by the fit routines are displayed as well.

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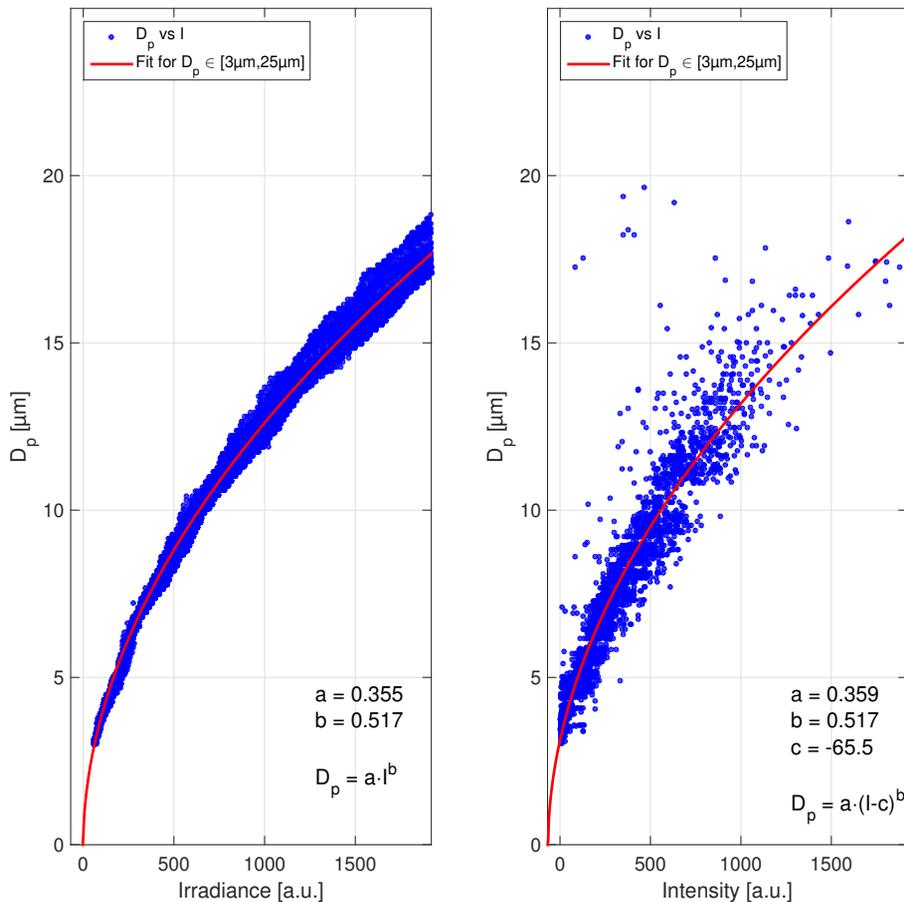


Figure 4. Size calibration of the SID-3 trigger detector. Left panel: scattered irradiances for a circular aperture with a half angle of 9.25 at 50° relative to the forward direction calculated by Lorenz Mie theory for water droplets. Right panel: analysis result obtained from the measurement of a dense droplet cloud during RICE 01 at the AIDA chamber.

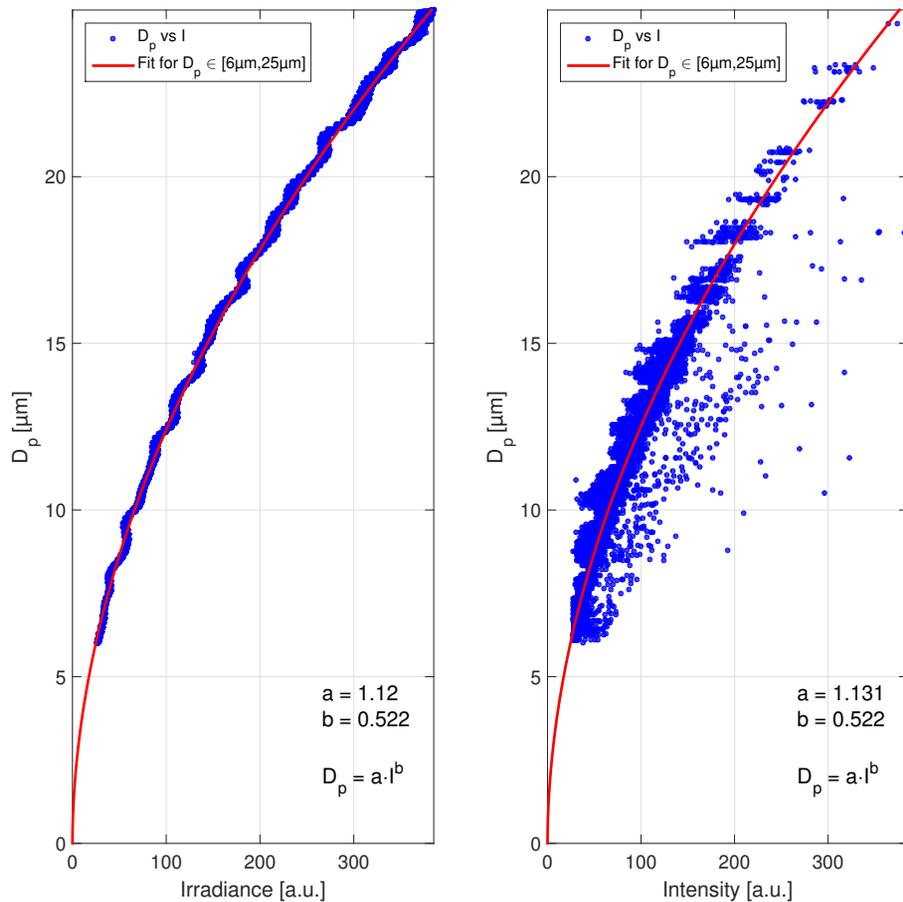


Figure 5. Size calibration of the PPD-2K trigger detector. Left panel: scattered irradiances in 7.4 to 25.6° forward direction calculated by Lorenz Mie theory for water droplets. Right panel: analysis result obtained from the measurement of a dense droplet cloud during RICE 01 at the AIDA chamber.

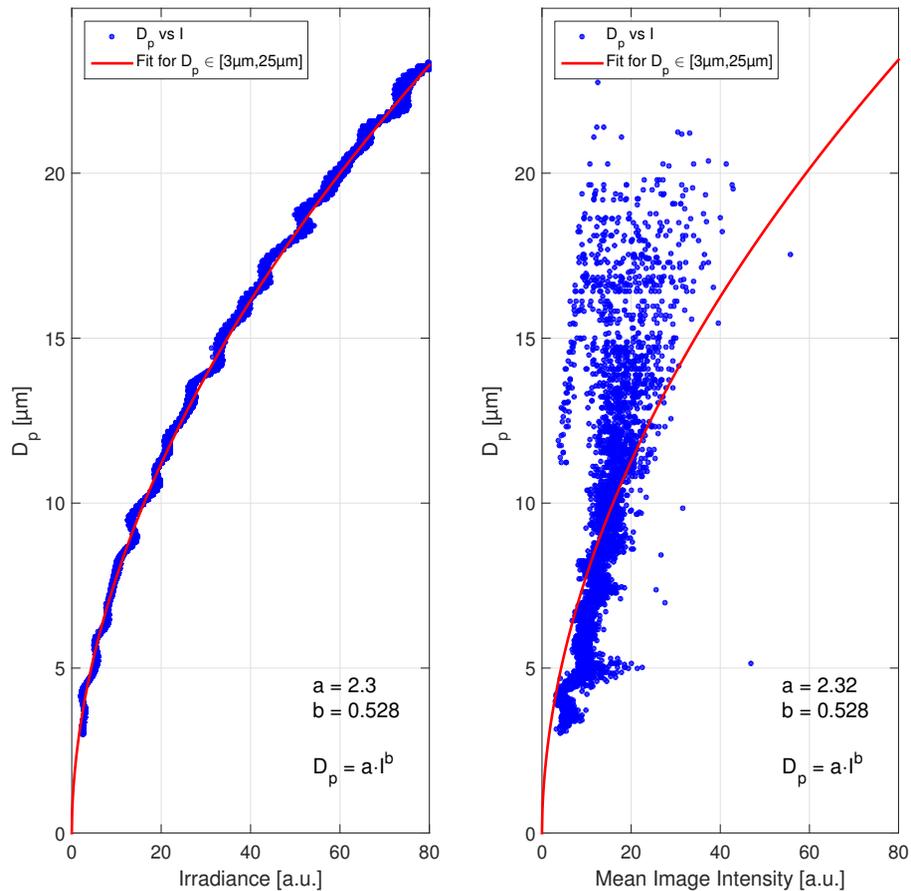


Figure 6. Size calibration of the SID-3 mean image intensity. Left panel: scattered irradiances in 7.0 to 23.5° forward direction calculated by Lorenz Mie theory for water droplets. Right panel: analysis result obtained from the measurement of a dense droplet cloud during RICE 01 at the AIDA chamber.

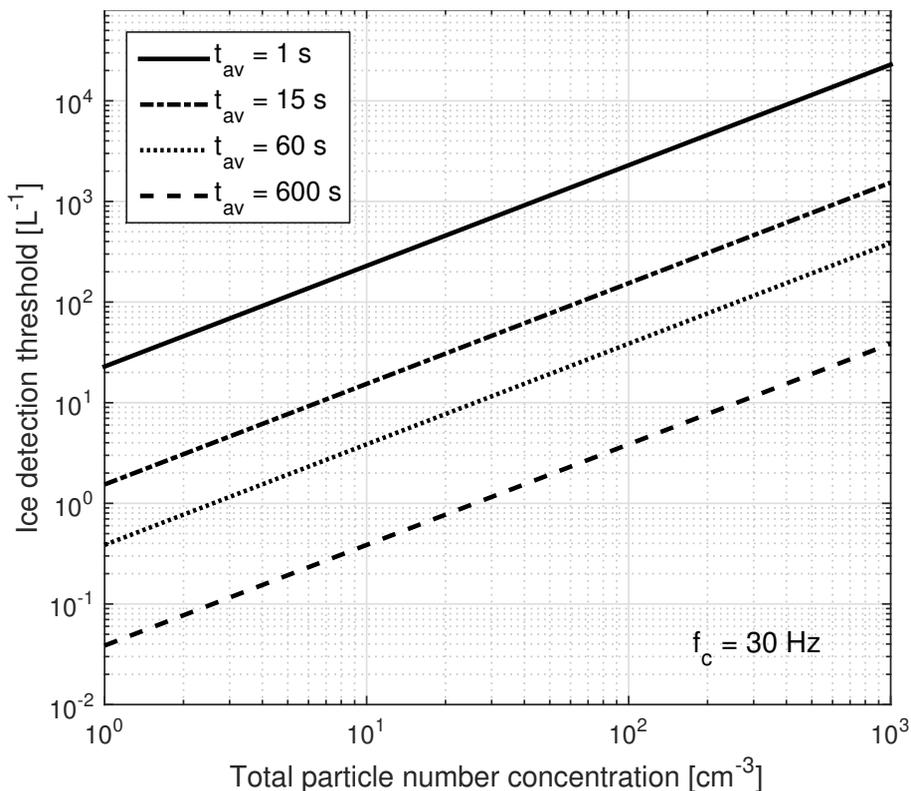


Figure 7. The SID-3 and PPD-2K ice detection threshold as a function of the total particle number concentration. The concept of the detection threshold can be generalized from ice particles to all specific particle types distinguishable by means of SID-3/PPD-2K scattering patterns.

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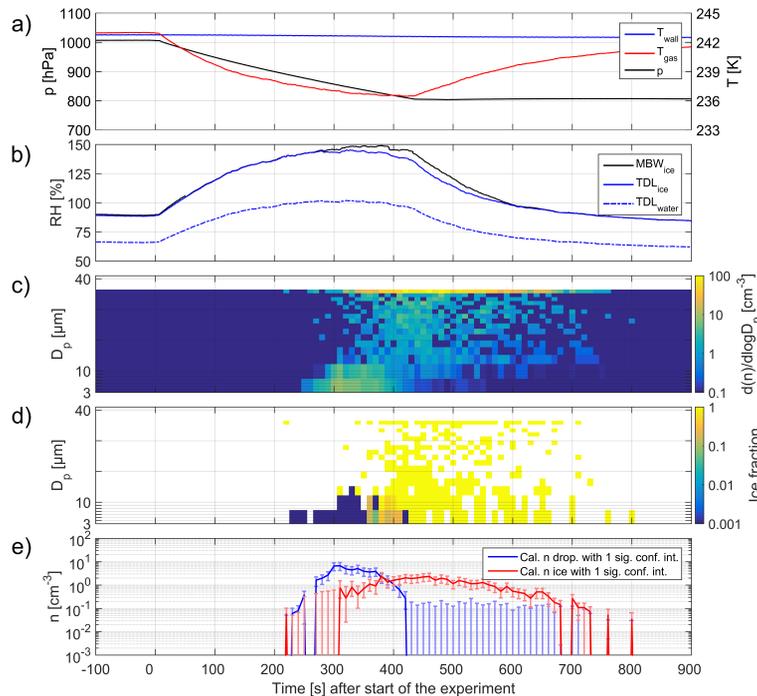


Figure 8. SID-3 measurement, with $t_{\text{av}} = 10$ s, at the AIDA cloud chamber during the RICE 03 campaign expansion run 27. In panel (a) the pressure and temperature in the AIDA vessel during the course of the experiment are displayed. At $t = 0$ s, the experiment is started by lowering the pressure which initiates a quasi-adiabatic expansion of the air in the chamber. Panel (b) displays the relative humidity in the chamber where the difference between the MBW_{ice} and TDL_{ice} values indicates the presence of cloud particles. Panel (c) shows the particle number size distribution measured by the SID-3. Panel (d) displays the size resolved ice fraction over the course of the experiment. The ice fraction is calculated from the numbers of observed ice and droplet patterns. In panel (e), the calculated droplet and ice particle number concentrations are displayed.

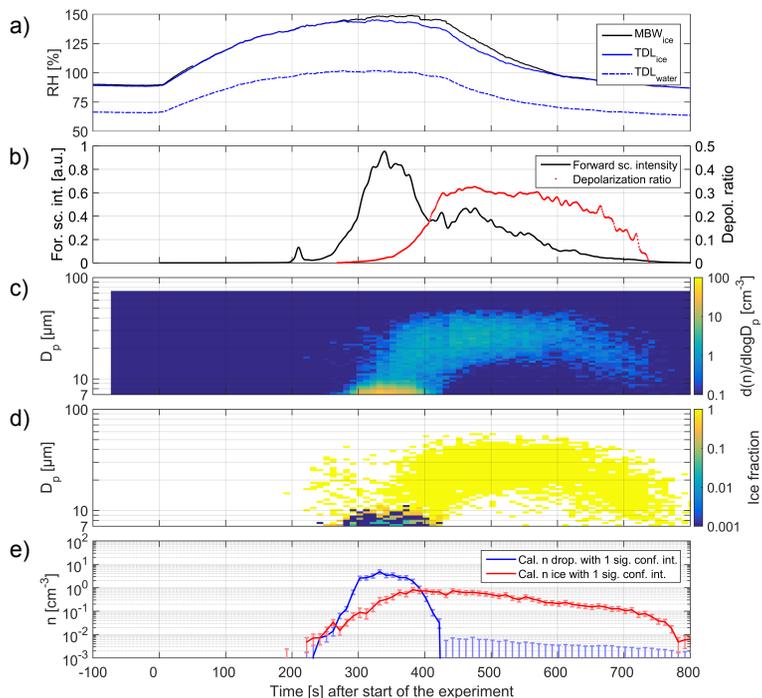


Figure 9. PPD-2K measurement, with $t_{av} = 10$ s, at the AIDA cloud chamber during RICE 03 campaign expansion run 27. In panel (a), the relative humidity measurements from Fig. 8b are displayed. Panel (b) shows a plot of the SIMONE measurements during this expansion run. The forward scattered intensity indicates the presence of cloud particles in the chamber. The depolarization ratio depends on the phase of the particles. Panel (c) displays the number size distribution of cloud particles measured by the PPD-2K. Panel (d) shows the size resolved ice fraction over the course of the experiment. The ice fraction is calculated from the numbers of observed ice and droplet patterns. In panel (e), the calculated droplet and ice particle number concentrations are displayed.

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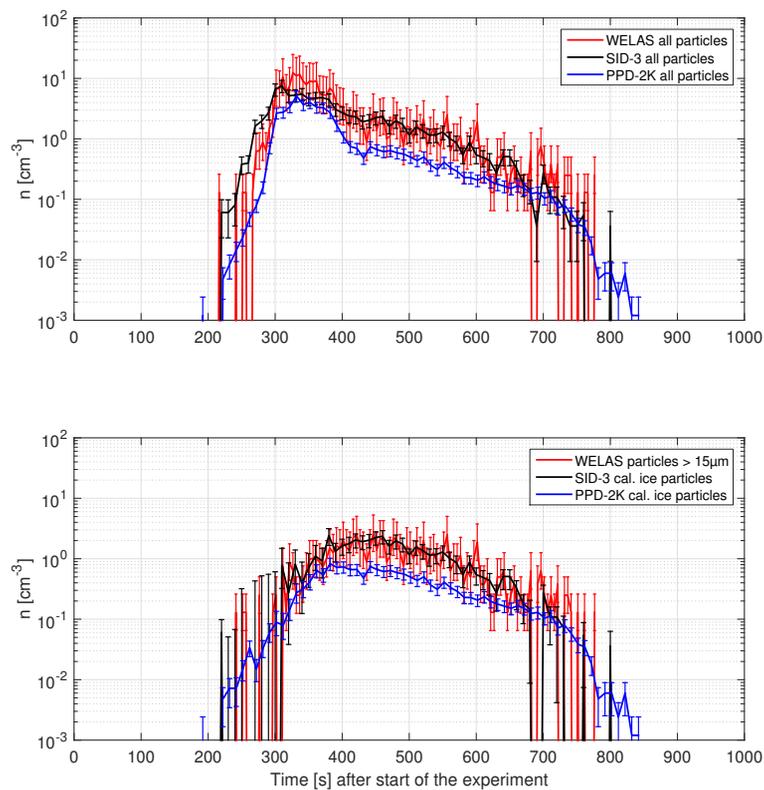


Figure 11. Comparison of number concentrations measured during AIDA RICE 03 expansion run 27. Upper panel: total number concentrations of the WELAS, the SID-3 and the PPD-2K. Lower panel: respective ice particle number concentrations.

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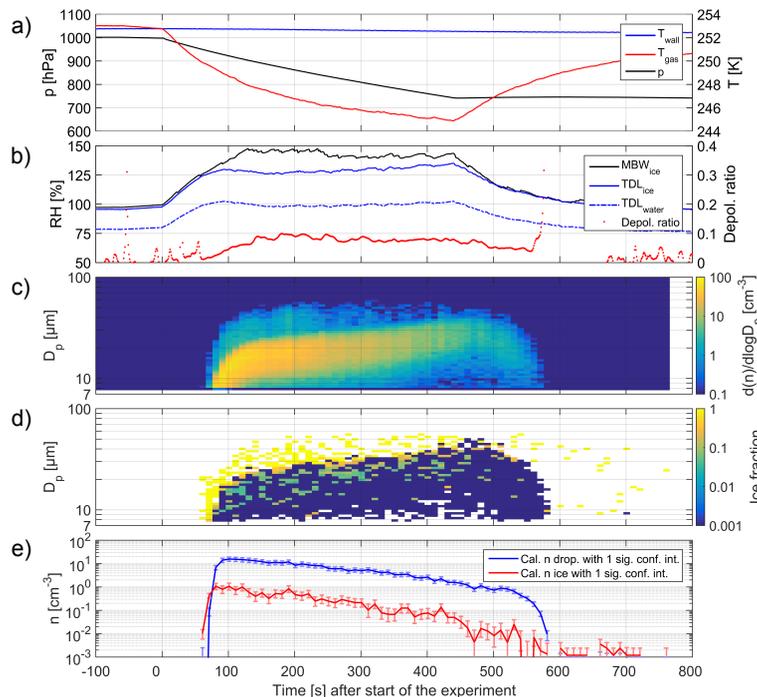


Figure 12. PPD-2K measurement, with $t_{\text{av}} = 10$ s, at the AIDA cloud chamber during RICE 03 campaign expansion run 46. Panel (a) displays the pressure and the temperature in the AIDA vessel during the experiment. Panel (b) is a plot of the relative humidity in the chamber as well as the depolarization ratio measured by the SIMONE instrument. Panel (c) shows the number size distribution as measured by the PPD-2K. Panel (d) displays a size resolved ice fraction over the course of the experiment. The ice fraction is calculated from the numbers of observed ice and droplet patterns. In panel (e) the calculated droplet and ice number concentrations are displayed.

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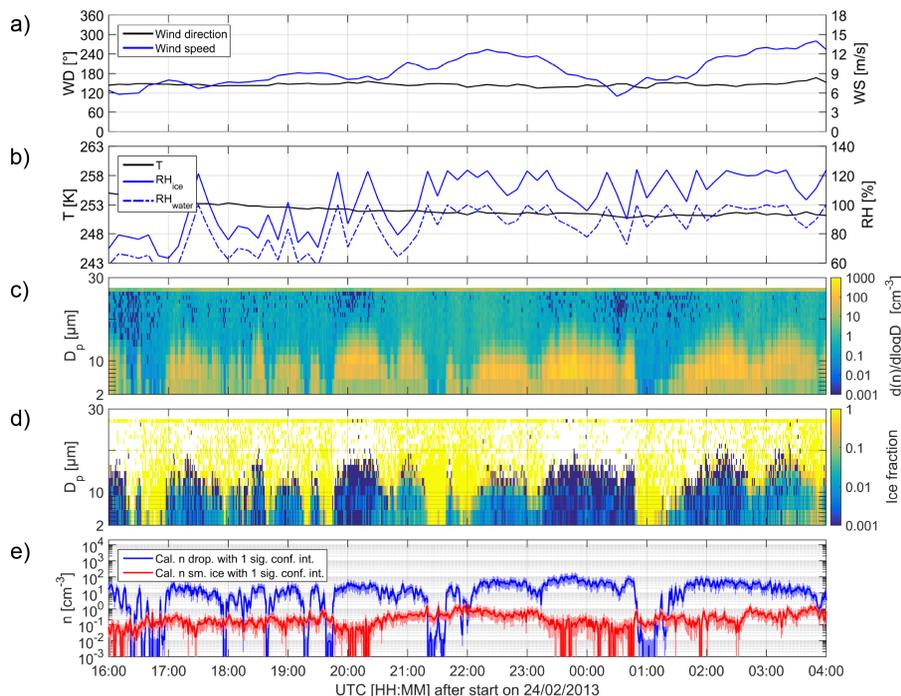


Figure 13. SID-3 measurements, with $t_{\text{av}} = 60$ s, taken during CLACE 2013 on the Jungfrau-joch. Panels **(a, b)**: wind direction, wind speed, temperature, and relative humidity recorded by MeteoSwiss on the Jungfrau-joch. Panel **(c)** shows the number size distribution of cloud particles measured by the SID-3. Panel **(d)** displays the size resolved ice fraction over the measurement period. The ice fraction is calculated from the numbers of observed ice and droplet patterns. In panel **(e)** the calculated droplet and small ice ($D_p < 20 \mu\text{m}$) number concentrations are displayed.

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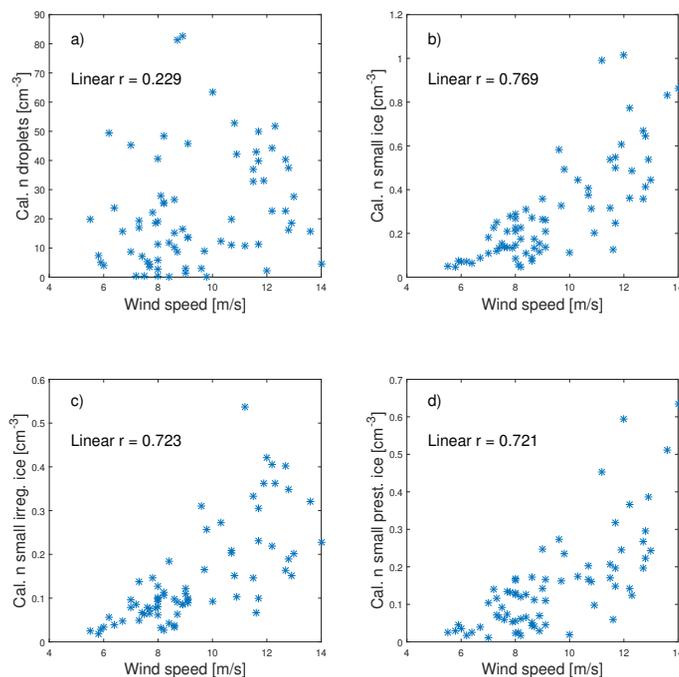


Figure 14. Correlation analysis of droplets as well as small ice particles ($D_p < 20 \mu\text{m}$) and the wind speed for the period displayed in Fig. 13. The figure shows as a function of the wind speed: the calculated droplet number concentration **(a)**, the calculated small ice number concentration **(b)**, the calculated small irregular ice number concentration **(c)** and the calculated small pristine ice (columns and plates) number concentration **(d)**. In each plot the correlation coefficient, r , assuming a linear dependence is given.

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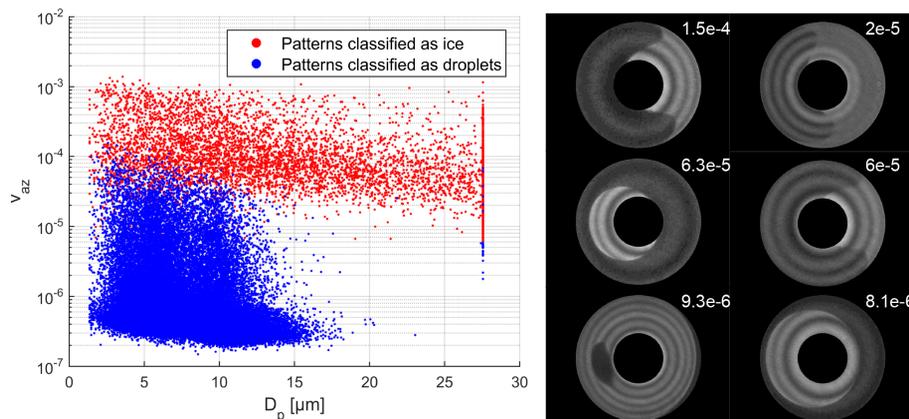


Figure 15. Image analysis for the period displayed in Fig. 13. Left panel: the variance of the polar integrated azimuthal profile as a function of the optical sphere equivalent diameter deduced from the trigger intensity for scattering patterns. For the automated classification a variance threshold was applied. Subsequently, patterns with $v_{az} > 2 \times 10^{-6}$ were manually crosschecked. Right panel: a selection of manually reclassified droplet patterns with artifacts. The v_{az} values are displayed with the patterns.

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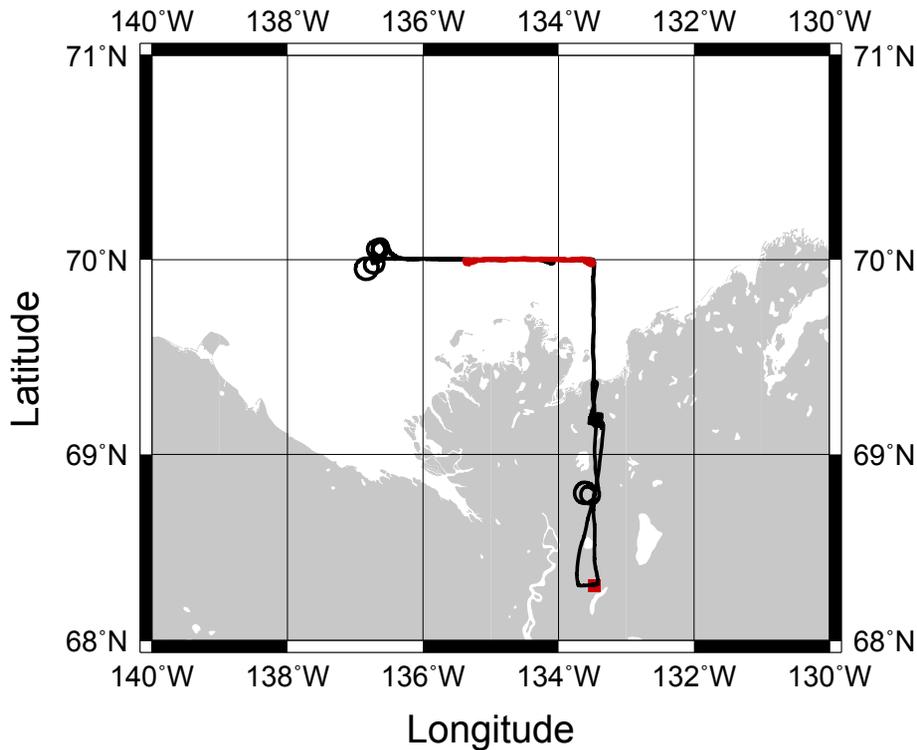


Figure 16. Track of VERDI Flight 7 from 29 April 2012. The red square marks the Mike Zubko Airport of Inuvik, NWT, Canada. The red colored line marks the flight track of the cloud profiling over the Beaufort Sea which is investigated further in this work.

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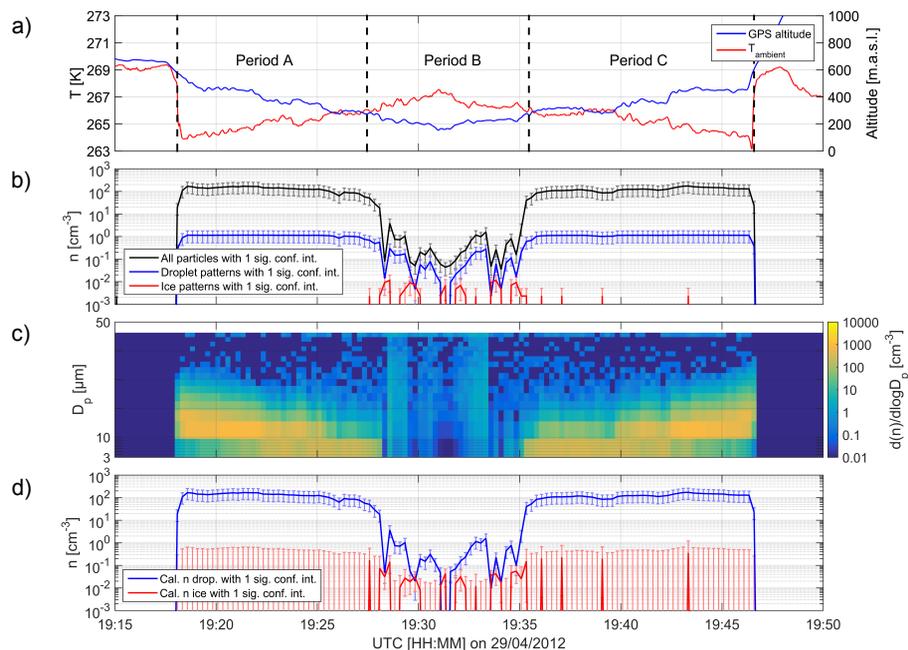


Figure 17. SID-3 measurements, with $t_{\text{av}} = 15$ s, from VERDI flight 7. In panel (a) the ambient temperature and altitude of the aircraft are displayed. Period A and C mark a step-wise descent and ascent of the aircraft. During period B the altitude was relatively constant. Panel (b) displays the particle and pattern number concentrations recorded by the SID-3. Panel (c) shows the particle number size distribution. In panel (d) the calculated droplet and ice number concentrations are displayed.

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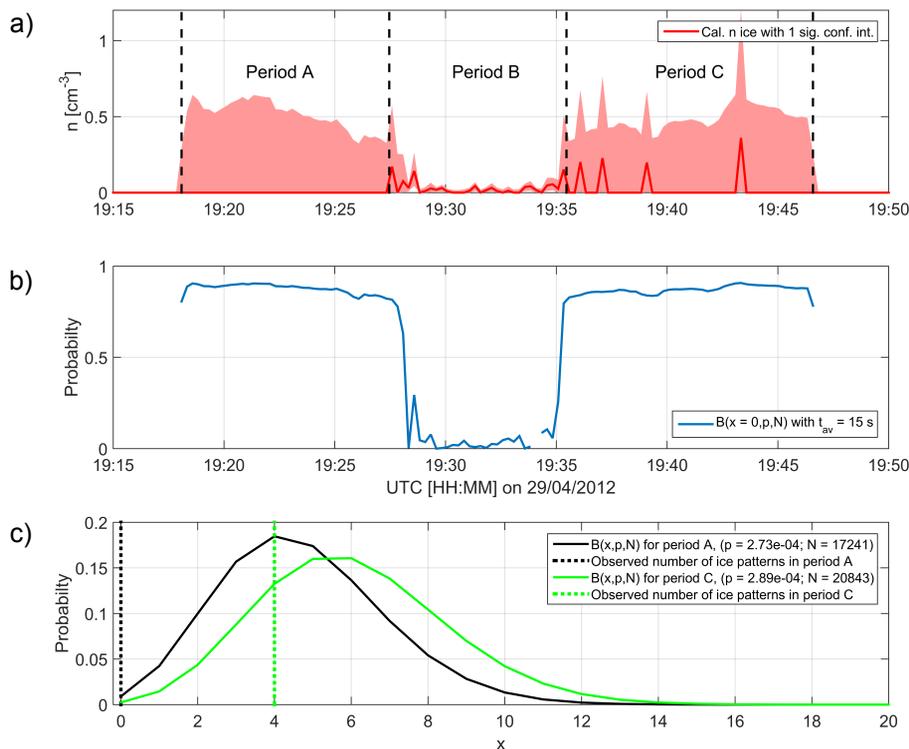


Figure 18. Panel (a): deduced ice number concentrations during VERDI flight 7 already shown in Fig. 17d. Panel (b): assuming the mean ice concentration of period B to be present in periods A and C. The probability to find no ice $B(x=0, p, N)$ with $t_{av} = 15$ s for the course of the measurement. Panel (c): assuming the mean ice concentration of period B to be present in periods A and C. Binomial probability distributions for the occurrence of ice patterns for the entire periods A and C, respectively.