

The activated fraction AF can be expressed as followed:

$$AF = 1 - \exp(-J \cdot A \cdot t_{nuc}) \quad (1)$$

Where t_{nuc} is the residence time, A the surface area and J the nucleation rate.

For a similar AF and residence time ($AF_1=AF_2$ and $t_{nuc1}=t_{nuc2}$):

$$A_1 J_1 = A_2 J_2 \quad (2)$$

The nucleation rate can be expressed as followed:

$$J = K \cdot \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G(T) \cdot f_{het}(\alpha)}{kT}\right) \quad (3)$$

where K is the kinetic factor, f_{het} the geometric compatibility factor. K is assumed to be constant for the range of RH_i where ice nucleation happened. The Gibbs free energy ΔG can be expressed as follow:

$$\Delta G(T, S_i) = \frac{16\pi}{3} \cdot \frac{\vartheta_{ice}^2(T) \cdot \sigma_{i/v}^3}{(kT \ln S_i)^2} \quad (4)$$

With $k=1.38 \cdot 10^{-23}$ J/K, ϑ_{ice} the volume of water molecules in an ice embryo, $\sigma_{i/v}$ the surface tension at the ice/vapour interface, S_i the saturation ratio with respect to ice, k the Boltzmann constant.

By combining equations (1), (2), (3) and (4), we can obtain the following expression:

$$\ln \frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{16\pi}{3} \cdot \frac{\vartheta_{ice}^2(T) \cdot \sigma_{i/v}^3}{k^3 T^3} \cdot f_{het} \cdot \frac{\ln S_{i,2}^2 - \ln S_{i,1}^2}{\ln S_{i,1}^2 \cdot \ln S_{i,2}^2} \quad (5)$$

Any combination of $A_1=\pi D_1^2$ and $A_2=\pi D_2^2$, $S_{i,1}$ and $S_{i,2}$ for a given temperature can lead to a similar AF with adjustment of f_{het} .

In our study, $D_1=130$ nm and $D_2=180$ nm, $S_{i,1}=1.58$ and $S_{i,2}=1.47$ and $T=238.15$ K

We derive f_{het} :

$$f_{het} = \frac{\ln \frac{A_1}{A_2}}{\frac{16\pi}{3} \cdot \frac{\vartheta_{ice}^2(T) \cdot \sigma_{i/v}^3}{k^3 T^3} \cdot \frac{\ln S_{i,2}^2 - \ln S_{i,1}^2}{\ln S_{i,1}^2 \cdot \ln S_{i,2}^2}} \quad (6)$$

$f_{het}=0.00057$ for our study.

We then derive the kinetic factor K from equation (3).

With the kinetic factor we can calculate the contact angles α_1 and α_2 with A_1 and A_2 their respective surface area:

$$f_{het_{1,2}} = -\ln\left(\frac{J_{1,2}}{K}\right) \cdot \frac{kT}{\Delta G(T)} \quad (7)$$

$$\alpha_{1,2} = \frac{180^\circ}{\pi} \arccos \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{-1 + 2f_{het_{1,2}} + 2\sqrt{-f_{het_{1,2}} + f_{het_{1,2}}^2}}} \right)$$

Which gives us: $\alpha_1=30.1^\circ$ and $\alpha_2=27.6^\circ$