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Feldspar minerals as efficient deposition ice nuclei

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Mineral dusts are well known to be efficient ice nuclei, where the source of this efficiency has typically been attributed to the presence of clay minerals such as illite and kaolinite. However, the ice nucleating abilities of the more minor mineralogical components have not been as extensively examined. As a result, the deposition ice nucleation abilities of 24 atmospherically-relevant mineral samples have been studied, using a continuous flow diffusion chamber at $-40.0 \pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$. The same particle size (200 nm) and particle preparation procedure were used throughout. The ice nucleation behaviour of the pure minerals is compared to that of complex mixtures, such as Arizona Test Dust (ATD) and Mojave Desert Dust (MDD), and to lead iodide, which has been previously proposed for cloud seeding. Lead iodide was the most efficient ice nucleus (IN), requiring a critical relative humidity with respect to ice (RH_i) of $122.0 \pm 2.0\%$ to activate 0.1 % of the particles. MDD (RH_i $126.3 \pm 3.4\%$) and ATD (RH_i $129.5 \pm 5.1\%$) have lower but comparable activity. From a set of clay minerals (kaolinite, illite, montmorillonite), non-clay minerals (e.g. hematite, magnetite, calcite, cerussite, quartz), and feldspar minerals (orthoclase, plagioclase) present in the atmospheric dusts it was found that the feldspar minerals (particularly orthoclase), and not the clays, were the most efficient ice nuclei. Orthoclase and plagioclase were found to have critical RH_i values of $127.1 \pm 6.3\%$ and $136.2 \pm 1.3\%$, respectively. The presence of feldspars (specifically orthoclase) may play a significant role in the IN behaviour of mineral dusts despite their lower percentage in composition relative to clay minerals.

1 Introduction

Ice clouds have a significant impact on the Earth's energy budget and hydrological cycle, with their impact on climate representing one of the largest uncertainties in the forecasting of future climate (Baker and Peter, 2008; DeMott et al., 2010; Forster et al., 2007; Ramanathan et al., 2001). These clouds affect the radiative properties of the

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Earth by trapping its outgoing infrared radiation and reflecting incoming visible solar radiation, thus having both a warming and cooling effect on the Earth (Baker and Peter, 2008). The uncertainty in the impact of ice clouds on radiative forcing arises in part from an incomplete understanding of the formation processes of these clouds (Forster et al., 2007). Additionally, because a large portion of the total precipitation around the globe is initiated by ice formation within mixed phase clouds, the formation of glaciated clouds plays an important role in the exchange of water between the ocean and continents as well as between the planetary surface and the atmosphere (Lau and Wu, 2003; Lohmann and Diehl, 2006).

Ice crystals can form through both homogeneous and heterogeneous nucleation, with the former occurring at temperatures less than about -38°C (Pruppacher and Klett, 1997). Heterogeneous ice nucleation occurs via atmospheric aerosols that facilitate the formation of ice crystals by lowering the free energy barrier of the nucleation event (Pruppacher and Klett, 1997). A variety of heterogeneous ice nucleation mechanisms have been identified (Vali, 1985): (i) deposition nucleation, where water vapour deposits directly onto a solid as ice, (ii) condensation freezing, which occurs when liquid water condenses on ice nuclei (IN) to form a liquid droplet at temperatures where it then rapidly freezes, (iii) immersion freezing, where an ice nucleus becomes immersed in a liquid droplet within which ice formation eventually occurs, and (iv) contact freezing, in which ice nuclei collide with supercooled liquid droplets to cause ice nucleation.

Mineral dusts and their main components (clay minerals including kaolinite and illite) are commonly acknowledged to be efficient ice nuclei that can facilitate the formation of high altitude ice clouds (Hoose and Möhler, 2012; Pruppacher and Klett, 1997). The ice nucleation properties of these substances have been investigated through several methods including cloud chambers, cold stages, vacuum chambers, expansion chambers, continuous flow diffusion chambers, and the examination of snow crystal residues (e.g. Archuleta et al., 2005; Broadley et al., 2012; Kanji and Abbatt, 2006; Kumai, 1961; Möhler et al., 2006; Welti et al., 2009; Zuberi et al., 2002). Due to the use of widely differing experimental methods, previous studies have varied both in their sensitivity to

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nucleation events and in their experimental conditions. For instance, it has been established that the efficiency of a tested material can vary as a function of temperature, particle size, and the presence of soluble material that may be redistributed to enhance the hygroscopicity of insoluble particles (Fletcher, 1958; Koehler et al., 2007; Ladino and Abbatt, 2013; Lohmann and Diehl, 2006; Phebus et al., 2011; Wheeler and Bertram, 2012). In addition, the identification of ice formation onset is highly dependent on the sensitivity of the observation technique, with some experiments (such as those conducted on cold stages) often sensitive to a single nucleation event out of a large surface area sample, whereas diffusion chambers are less sensitive, referring to onset of a larger fraction of a smaller surface area sample. As a result of these experimental variations it is challenging and indeed, at times, unhelpful to attempt to compare the IN efficiencies of substances from different studies.

While the IN properties of the main components of mineral dusts have been examined before, the IN activities of the more minor mineralogical components have not been extensively studied in a controlled manner, with the exception of the recent work of Atkinson et al. (2013) which focussed on the immersion IN properties of feldspar minerals. As well, Zimmermann et al. (2008), have used environmental scanning electron microscopy to observe ice growth on a number of mineralogical components. For instance, in addition to clay minerals, mineral dusts from Asia, Africa, and Arizona can be composed of other minor minerals which include varying amounts of feldspars, quartz, hematite, and carbonates (e.g. Broadley et al., 2012; Jeong, 2008; Linke et al., 2006).

As a contrast to the naturally occurring minerals, an anthropogenic material, lead iodide, (PbI₂) has been predicted to be an efficient ice nucleus based on the similarity of its crystal lattice to that of ice. Not only do both substances exhibit hexagonal lattice systems, but lead iodide was found to possess lattice constants (4.54 Å, 8.86 Å) that were nearly equal to those of ice along the *a* axis (4.535 Å, 7.41 Å) (Barnes, 1929; Schaefer, 1954; Vonnegut, 1947). Due to this similarity, early studies were conducted to investigate the IN efficiency of lead iodide in the immersion/condensation and deposition regimes (Baklanov et al., 1991; Harris et al., 1963; Morgan and Allee, 1968;

ice nucleation may occur is also maximized. We refer the reader to Kanji and Abbatt (2009) for a full description of the UT-CFDC.

To remove soluble material that may be present, each sample was washed twice with Millipore water (18.2 M Ω cm) prior to experimentation. The Total Organic Carbon level of this water was less than 5 ppb as the water was exposed to an ultraviolet light source for purification. In particular, the samples were washed with 500 to 1000 mL of water, the particles were allowed to settle, and then the supernatant liquid was poured off. This procedure was then repeated before addition of more water prior to atomization. To monitor the effectiveness of this procedure the critical RH_i values of washed and unwashed TiO₂, orthoclase, Arizona Test Dust (ATD), and Mojave Desert Dust (MDD) samples were compared by measuring the conductivity, and therefore the amount of soluble material in each solution, using a conductivity meter (VWR 89094-958).

An aerosol generator (TSI 3076) was used to produce aerosol from a slurry, which was then dried with two silica gel drying tubes, size selected at a mobility diameter of 200 nm with a Differential Mobility Analyzer (DMA, TSI 3081), and then passed into both a condensation particle counter (CPC, TSI 3010) for number concentration measurements and the UT-CFDC. The slurries' concentrations were adjusted in order to produce number concentrations of 50–200 particles cm⁻³ as measured by the CPC. Although particle size selection was accomplished with the DMA at 200 nm, roughly 25 % of the total number of particles exiting the DMA were multiply charged particles larger than 200 nm.

All reported measurements are for a temperature of -40.0 ± 0.3 °C. To calculate the activated fraction (AF) the number of ice crystals recorded by the OPC was normalized by the total number of injected aerosol particles counted by the CPC, after accounting for dilution by the CFDC sheath flow. The relative humidity with respect to ice (RH_i) was calculated using Eq. (1) based on Murphy and Koop (2005).

$$RH_i = \frac{e}{e_s(T)} \cdot 100\%, \quad (1)$$

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where e is the partial pressure of water vapor (Pa) in the center of the chamber and e_s is the saturated vapour pressure over ice. The critical RH_i was defined in this work as the RH_i at which 0.1 % of the total number of injected aerosol particles had nucleated ice, i.e. formed 5 μm crystals. The uncertainty in RH_i is approximately $\pm 4\%$ (Kanji and Abbatt, 2009).

The samples studied and their sources are listed in Table 1. Most of the samples were obtained commercially with the exception of K-feldspar (herein referred to as orthoclase), Ca/Na-feldspar (herein referred to plagioclase), and calcium carbonate (herein referred to as calcite), which were obtained as individual mineral crystals from the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto. These samples originated from the Bancroft area of Ontario, Canada, and were ground into sufficiently fine particles using a mortar and pestle.

3 Results and discussion

As examples, three activated fraction curves are shown in Fig. 2, plotted as a function of RH_i . It can be seen that more inactive species (e.g. ZnS) have a better defined critical relative humidity which is close to water saturation, whereas the better IN (e.g. kaolinite and illite) have an activation spectrum spread across a wider range of RH_i , reflecting a range of active sites on the particles that have differing ice nucleating efficiencies. Note that the activation curves typically plateau at activated fractions close to 0.1, which is a common occurrence in CFDCs. Incomplete activation of all particles is attributed to the depletion of water vapor within the chamber when many ice crystals have formed, as well as possibly to the depositional settling of ice crystals.

Indicated in Table 1 are the IN efficiencies of the tested samples, which fall into nine categories: anthropogenic substances, mineral dusts, feldspar minerals, clay minerals, metal carbonates, metal oxides, metal sulfates, metal sulfides, and pure metals. While the discussion will focus primarily on the mineral components of MDD and ATD, several

other pure minerals were included in Table 1 to make a more complete comparison of minerals that may be present in other types of mineral dusts.

3.1 IN properties of pure compounds

The most efficient classes of pure atmospheric substances were the clay and feldspar minerals, whereas the least efficient were metal oxides, carbonates, sulfates, sulfides, and the pure metal. Clay minerals including kaolinite and illite have been presented as the most important components of mineral dusts when considering their IN properties (Hoose and Möhler, 2012; Pruppacher and Klett, 1997). In accordance with this, the results of this study showed that these minerals were efficient IN relative to many of the other pure compounds that were investigated. Indeed it is striking how many of the non-clays nucleate ice near water saturation, i.e. 146.2% RH_i at -40 °C. There is clearly a distinction to be made between the feldspars and clays on the one hand, and the other compounds.

Kaolinite is a 1 : 1 clay mineral in which one layer consists of an octahedral alumina sheet and a tetrahedral silica sheet that share a plane of oxygen atoms (Bear, 1964). The layers are held together by hydrogen bonds, and the surface consists of an alumina/hydroxyl sheet (Bear, 1964; Frost, 1998). As a result, the surface hydroxyl groups may be able to form hydrogen bonds with water molecules, thus causing kaolinite to be an efficient ice nucleus. The critical RH_i of 136.4 ± 1.9% was greater than that reported by Salam et al. (2006), which was 118% at -40 °C, where the critical RH_i was the value at which ice crystals were first detected. This low value may be attributed to injection of 1–2 μm particles as ice nucleation efficiency increases as a function of particle size (Archuleta et al., 2005; Kanji and Abbatt, 2006; Welti et al., 2009; Wheeler and Bertram, 2012). Welti et al. (2009) reported an onset RH_i of 115% at -40 °C when using 200 nm particles produced by a fluidized bed aerosol generator. As the investigated particles were not washed this low value may be due to the presence of IN-facilitating soluble material. An older study used a cold stage method to report that an RH_i of 120% was necessary for a first ice nucleation event to occur at temperatures lower than -19 °C

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study and the inconclusiveness of past work we can only make a general conclusion that the electrostatic interactions between the charged clay surfaces, counterions, and the dipole moment of water may be influencing the IN properties of clays.

While the clay minerals were identified as efficient IN as predicted, the surprising results are the very high efficiencies of the feldspars, a mineral class found commonly in igneous rocks that makes up a large fraction of the Earth's crust (Carlson, 1920). Members of the feldspar mineral family consist of silica tetrahedra with varying degrees of Al–Si substitution that results in surface charges and the presence of counterions within the crystal lattice (Papike and Cameron, 1976). While the counterion found in orthoclase is typically K^+ , those associated with the members of the plagioclase family are Na^+ and Ca^{2+} (Colville and Ribbe, 1968; Fitz Gerald et al., 1986; Phillips et al., 1971; Wenk et al., 1980). It has been reported that the outermost K^+ ions of orthoclase are removed upon contact with deionized water, and dangling Si atoms become attached to O or OH (Fenter et al., 2000). As a result, the surface would be prone to interact with water molecules through hydrogen bonding as is the case for kaolinite, which was the more active clay mineral. In addition, as plagioclase minerals have a similar crystal structure to orthoclase it may be that they also have the ability to form hydrogen bonds with water molecules. Incidentally, the critical RH_i values of plagioclase and kaolinite were very similar, which implies that their interaction with water molecules may be similar. Additionally, the charged crystal lattice of feldspars may also allow electrostatic interactions to occur between their surfaces and the dipole moment of water, as is the case for illite. The differing activities of the two feldspar samples may be due to different degrees of hydrogen bonding and electrostatic interactions that are exhibited by each sample.

In contrast with the clay minerals, the feldspar mineral class has been poorly studied by the ice nucleation community, with reports being for feldspar-containing soil and illite samples, as well as pure feldspar samples, that acted as IN in the deposition, contact, and immersion modes (Broadley et al., 2012; Roberts and Hallett, 1967; Rosinski and Nagamoto, 1976a,b; Rosinski et al., 1971, 1974; Zimmermann et al., 2008). Ad-

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ditionally, some older reports investigated the IN properties of pure feldspar samples in unknown modes (Isono and Ikebe, 1960; Mason and Maybank, 1958). Some of the older studies used a cold chamber to report that 72.4 % of 40–60 μm soil particles containing 5 % feldspar nucleate ice in the immersion mode at temperatures below -20°C (Rosinski and Nagamoto, 1976b). In a second paper it was reported, using the same instrument and soil samples, that about 40 % of one of the samples having diameters of 5–20 μm functioned as IN in the contact mode at about -16°C (Rosinski and Nagamoto, 1976a). More recently, a study by Broadley et al. (2012) examined the IN activity of illite rich powder (NX illite), containing about 8 % feldspar, using a cold stage. Immersion freezing was found to occur primarily below the median freezing temperature of -27°C . While all three of these studies identified the feldspar-containing particles as being fairly efficient IN in various modes, none of them identified the feldspar component as the source of the IN activities. In addition, because the methods, soil particle sizes, definition of activity, IN modes, and feldspar-containing samples themselves differed from those used in this study a comparison with this past work is very challenging. In addition, Zimmermann et al. (2008) investigated the IN properties of two types of feldspars (albite and microcline) in the deposition mode with the use of a cold stage. At -25°C 1–10 μm albite and microcline particles were found to nucleate ice at critical RH_i values of about 114 % and 118 %, respectively. Critical RH_i values corresponded to 1–3 % activation. The difference between these critical RH_i values and those reported here is to be expected because of the difference in experimental conditions. However, it should be noted that of the nine minerals examined by Zimmermann et al. (2008), the feldspars were found to be among the more active minerals, which supports the conclusions of this study. Most recently, a concurrent study by Atkinson et al. (2013) found that while clay minerals dominate the composition of mineral dusts, it is the feldspar minerals that dominate their immersion IN properties. This work is very much in agreement with our conclusions, with respect to the excellent deposition IN abilities of feldspars.

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TiO₂, orthoclase, ATD, and MDD samples. With the exception of TiO₂, which was unaffected by the washings, subjecting the samples to the washing procedure appears to alter their IN efficiencies to some degree. However, it does not alter the general conclusions about whether a particle is a good IN or not. These effects may be due to the removal of soluble material that would otherwise affect their IN properties, either by promoting ice nucleation through additional electrostatic interactions or inhibiting it by blocking active sites. In contrast with orthoclase, ATD, and MDD, TiO₂ is an example of a synthetically manufactured pure chemical compound having greater than 99 % purity, and consequently, a relatively small amount of soluble material was present regardless of the number of washings. Indeed, based on the electrical conductivity measurements of the supernatant water after washing, we estimate that there are fewer than 5×10^3 soluble ions per particle present. To do this calculation, we use the measured conductivity of the atomizer slurry ($1.35 \mu\text{S}$) to estimate its ion content, assuming the constituents are NaCl, and then calculated the number of ions in each atomized droplet, assuming these to be $1.2 \mu\text{m}$ in size. Upon drying, these ions then will become part of the dried 200 nm particle. It is not surprising that such a low level of constituents has no effect on the IN abilities of the particles.

The other three washed samples contained a greater amount of soluble material ($6 \times 10^4 - 2 \times 10^5$ soluble ions particle⁻¹), which was less than a monolayer of ions (5×10^5 soluble ions particle⁻¹, assuming that a monolayer coverage is 5×10^{14} soluble ions cm⁻²). The unwashed MDD, ATD, and orthoclase samples all contained a greater amount of soluble material than their washed counterparts, which may have contributed to the differing IN activities of the washed and unwashed forms of each sample. This sensitivity to the degree of washing may have contributed to some of the variability in the IN efficiencies of the washed orthoclase and ATD samples.

Although it is beyond the scope of this paper, it is well known that clay minerals undergo exchange between soluble cations and hydronium ions in solution, which may then affect their surface compositions, and hence IN activity. This potential effect is of importance given that most particles, especially those that participate in ice formation in

to show deposition IN abilities, provided that the temperature is below their eutectic (Abbatt et al., 2006; Wise et al., 2012).

The most striking example of this effect in this study is demonstrated by orthoclase (i.e. K-feldspar), which was identified as the most active component of both of the mineral dusts. This conclusion has now been made by this study in the deposition mode, which nicely matches the findings from the concurrent study of Atkinson et al. (2013) for the immersion mode. Together, plagioclase and orthoclase feldspars have been reported to represent 5 % to 16 % of African and Asian dust particles that reach the atmosphere (Awadh, 2012; Jeong, 2008; Shi, 2005). In comparison, 48 % of Asian dust particles have been identified as clay aggregates (Jeong, 2008). Although the presence of feldspars in dust particles is less than that of clay minerals, their effect may still be substantial as some may be significantly more active as IN in the deposition mode. For this reason it is important that these feldspar-containing particles be further investigated in order for their effects to be appropriately incorporated into global climate models.

Another conclusion from this work is that many species, such as metal oxides and carbonates, are poor deposition IN. Given that many metal oxides are formed by mining and smelting activities, it seems unlikely that there is an anthropogenic effect on ice nucleation through the release of such species to the atmosphere. On the other hand, if cloud seeding were to proceed under deposition mode conditions, for example in the seeding of cirrus clouds, it appears that feldspar minerals would be a good option; there would be no need to turn to an anthropogenic compound such as lead iodide.

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Table 1. Tested substances in order of increasing critical RH_i for deposition activation of 0.1 % of 200 nm particles at -40°C .

Sample	Critical RH_i (%)	Category	Source
PbI ₂	122.8 ± 2.0	Anthropogenic	Sigma Aldrich, 99 %
MDD	126.3 ± 3.4	Mineral dust	Peters et al. (2008)
Orthoclase (K-feldspar)	127.1 ± 6.3	Feldspar mineral	Department of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto
MDD unwashed	125.4 ± 1.8	Mineral dust	Peters et al. (2008)
ATD unwashed	132.9 ± 0.5	Mineral dust	Powder Technology Inc., 0–5 μm
ATD	129.5 ± 5.1	Mineral dust	Powder Technology Inc., 0–5 μm
Orthoclase (K-feldspar) unwashed	135.0 ± 3.6	Feldspar mineral	Department of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto
Plagioclase (Na,Ca-feldspar)	136.2 ± 1.3	Feldspar mineral	Department of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto
Kaolinite	136.4 ± 1.9	Clay mineral	KGa-1b, Clay Minerals Society, Source Clays Repository
Montmorillonite	139.3 ± 1.0	Clay mineral	K10, Sigma Aldrich
Illite	142.5 ± 2.3	Clay mineral	IMt-1, Clay Minerals Society, Source Clays Repository
Pyrite (FeS)	142.9 ± 0.8	Metal sulfide	Sigma Aldrich, technical grade
Corundum (Al ₂ O ₃)	143.2 ± 3.2	Metal oxide	Sigma Aldrich, ≥ 98 %
Calcite (CaCO ₃)	144.3 ± 0.9	Metal carbonate	Department of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto
Magnetite (Fe ₃ O ₄)	144.4 ± 2.2	Metal oxide	Sigma Aldrich, < 5 μm, 95 %
Quartz (SiO ₂)	144.7 ± 1.5	Metal oxide	Alfa Aesar, 99.9 %
Gypsum (CaSO ₄ • 2H ₂ O)	144.8 ± 1.2	Metal sulfate	Sigma Aldrich, ≥ 99 %
Galena (PbS)	145.0 ± 1.0	Metal sulfide	Sigma Aldrich, 99.9 % trace metal basis
Anglesite (PbSO ₄)	145.1 ± 1.3	Metal sulfate	Sigma Aldrich, 98 %
Zn	145.4 ± 0.6	Pure metal	Atlantic Equipment Engineers, 99.8 %
Massicot (PbO)	145.5 ± 1.3	Metal oxide	Sigma Aldrich, ≥ 99.0 %
Calcite (CaCO ₃)	145.8 ± 1.4	Metal carbonate	Sigma Aldrich, ≥ 99.0 %
Rutile (TiO ₂) unwashed	146.3 ± 1.0	Metal oxide	Sigma Aldrich, 99–100.5 %
Bunsenite (NiO)	146.5 ± 0.8	Metal oxide	Sigma Aldrich, 99 %
Cerussite (PbCO ₃)	146.7 ± 0.6	Metal carbonate	Sigma Aldrich, ACS reagent grade
Rutile (TiO ₂)	147.4 ± 0.4	Metal oxide	Sigma Aldrich, 99–100.5 %
ZnS	147.7 ± 1.5	Metal sulfide	Sigma Aldrich, ≥ 97.0 %
Zincite (ZnO)	148.6 ± 0.2	Metal oxide	Sigma Aldrich, ≥ 99.0 %
Hematite (Fe ₂ O ₃)	148.8 ± 1.0	Metal oxide	Sigma-Aldrich, < 5 μm, 99+ %

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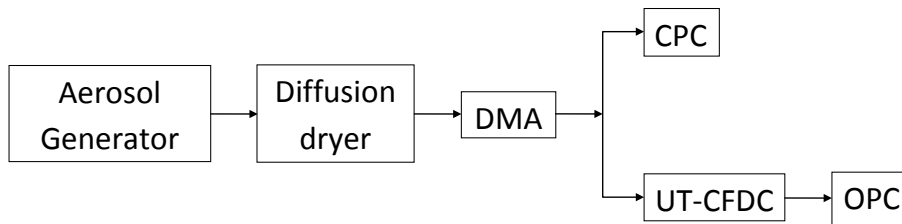


Fig. 1. Schematic of the main components of the experimental setup.

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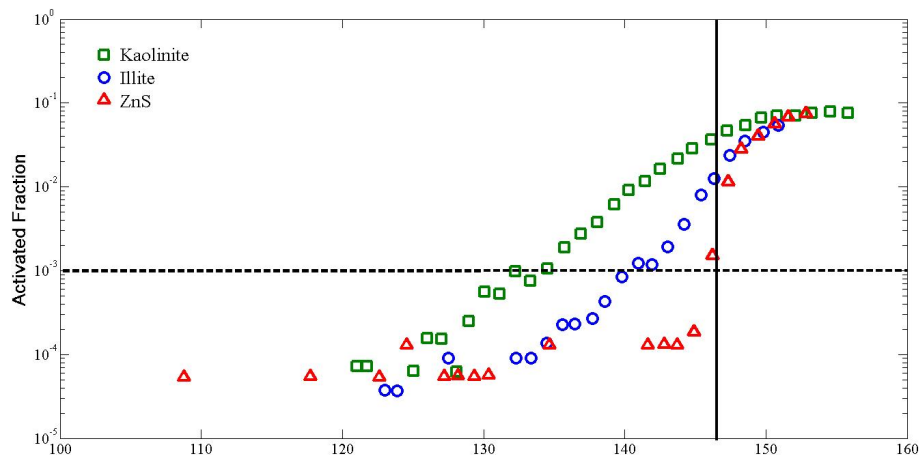


Fig. 2. Activated fraction as a function of RH_i for ZnS (red triangle), illite (green square), and kaolinite (blue circle). The dashed black line represents an activated fraction of 0.001 and the solid black line represents water saturation.

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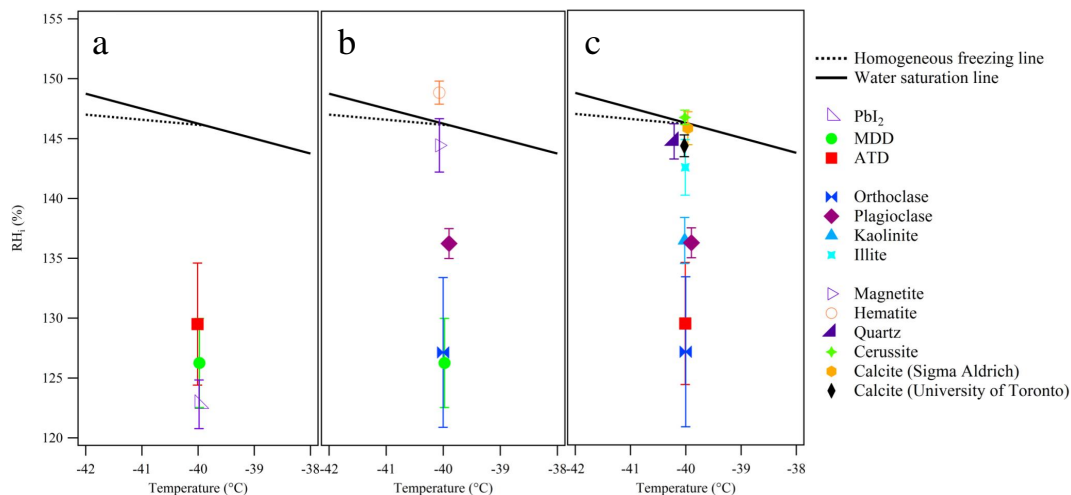


Fig. 3. Critical RH_i at which 0.1 % of particles were activated at a temperature of -40.0 ± 0.3 °C. The solid black line represents the water saturation line and the dotted black line represents the homogeneous freezing line (Koop et al., 2000; Murphy and Koop, 2005). The three panels are as follows: **(a)** ATD, MDD, and PbI_2 ; **(b)** MDD and its mineral components (orthoclase, plagioclase, magnetite, hematite); **(c)** ATD and its mineral components (orthoclase, plagioclase, kaolinite, illite, quartz, and carbonates such as calcite and cerussite). The error bars represent the standard deviation of the critical RH_i measured in individual experiments, which each point is the average of at least three scans.

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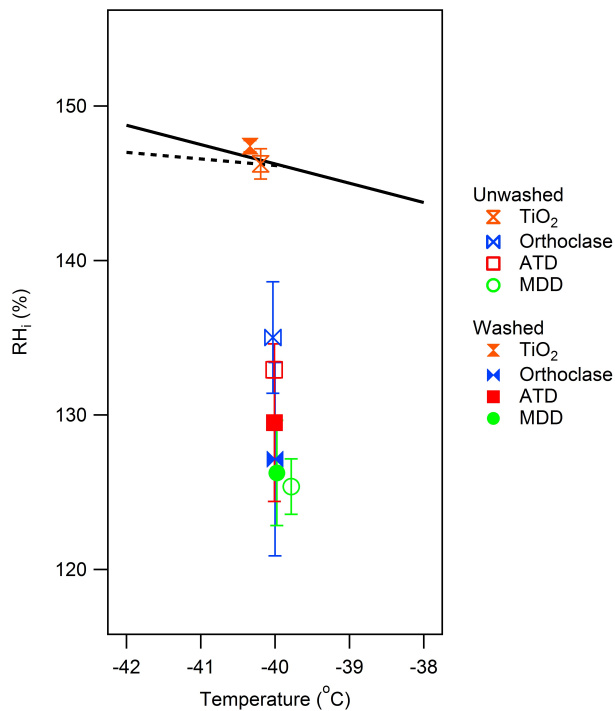


Fig. 4. Critical RH_i at which 0.1 % of particles were activated at a temperature of -40.0 ± 0.3 °C. The solid black line represents the water saturation line and the dotted black line represents the homogeneous freezing line (Koop et al., 2000; Murphy and Koop, 2005). The solid markers indicate washed samples while the empty markers indicate unwashed samples of TiO_2 , orthoclase, ATD, and MDD. The error bars represent the standard deviation of the critical RH_i , each of which is the average of at least three scans.

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