We thank Reviewer 1 for his/her thoughtful comments. We reproduce the reviewer's comments in blue and our responses in black. Line numbers refer to the revised manuscript.

The paper reports on alteration of immersion freezing on microcline by several organic solutions. It is demonstrated that dissolution at the surface reduces the ice activity slowly and permanently, while complexation and adsorption reduce the ice activity rapidly and are reversible.

The paper is well written, experimental procedure and results are adequately rationalized. Suggestions for improvements are listed below. Once these are addressed the paper should be published in ACP.

Major comments:

1. By using the onset freezing temperature T_{het} the effects on the few, most ice active microcline particles are highlighted. Onset freezing temperatures might not be the most relevant ice nucleation characteristic of a substances (as you mention on line 95f). Consider using the mean freezing temperature or the temperature of e.g., 10% frozen fraction as indicator for the bulk surface reaction to the treatments. Would using the mean freezing temperature for the analysis change the conclusions?

    Indeed, freezing onsets alone are not capable to fully capture the effect solutes exert on the IN activity of INPs. This is why we combine F_{het} with T_{het} as key parameters of freezing as observed in DSC thermograms. We have applied the same concept of combining F_{het} with T_{het} to characterize freezing curves in Kumar et al. (2018; 2019a, 2019b). In addition, we provide the full DSC thermograms in the supplementary material. We add an explanation of the concept of combining F_{het} with T_{het} to characterize heterogeneous freezing in the revised manuscript by extending the text starting on line 198:

    "*Our key parameters to analyze the thermograms are the onset temperatures of these peaks, T_{het} and T_{hom}, together with the heterogeneously frozen fraction (F_{het}). We quantify F_{het} by taking the integral over the portion of the thermogram between T_{het} and T_{hom} as shown in Fig. 2. The heat released during freezing is approximately proportional to the volume of water that freezes in the sample with a minor deviation from this proportionality arising from the temperature dependence of the freezing enthalpy (Speedy, 1987; Johari et al., 1994). Table 2 provides a summary of the uncertainty in each parameter. We consider a decrease/increase in F_{het} as a loss/gain of IN active surface area. Assuming freezing on nucleation sites (Vali et al., 2015), this corresponds to the loss/generation of such sites. Conversely, a change in quality of the IN active surface area due to the deterioration/improvement of nucleation sites would lead to a decrease/increase in T_{het}. A concomitant decrease in F_{het} is expected if some sites deteriorated to an extent that they cannot compete with homogeneous ice nucleation anymore. Since T_{het} and F_{het} are not able to capture the exact form of the heterogeneous freezing curve, we provide all DSC thermograms in the supplementary material. To derive the water activity from the melting point depression, the melting temperature (T_{melt}) is evaluated at the maximum of the melting peak.*"

2. There are two reasons why the reported frozen fractions F_{het} change through the treatments. The number of freezing droplets changes and the range of freezing temperatures broadens to below the homogeneous freezing temperature. The first reason is due to the removal of activity, and the second due to a reduction of activity to various degree that leads to a broadening of the freezing temperature spectrum. Instead of discussing active sites (e.g., line 20ff), I propose to plot some, selected freezing temperature spectrum (frozen fraction as

We agree that there are these two reasons for a change in F_{het}. We mention these two reasons now in the revised manuscript (see our reply above).

The DSC thermograms cannot be transformed unambiguously to frozen fraction, because the DSC does not register freezing events but the heat flow associated with the heat release during freezing. The relationship between freezing events and heat flow has been demonstrated in Marcolli et al. (2007) and depends on the heat release per time, which again depends on the cooling rate. Moreover, droplets within an emulsion are not monodisperse but exhibit a size distribution with consequences for the heat release per freezing event. This can be considered as a drawback of emulsion freezing experiments; conversely, emulsion freezing allows to compare different treatments effectively as it is relatively fast and gives a good overview of the overall freezing behavior. We will refer more often to the full thermograms shown in the supplementary information in the revised manuscript.

3. Please discuss the implications of the observed sensitivity of microcline to solutes on microclines assumed great importance for immersion freezing in the atmosphere. Is it not justified, or will cloud droplet activation prior to immersion freezing reverse most of the organic alterations?

This is a good point. We add the following discussion at the end of Sect. 4 "General discussion and implications" starting from line 440:

"The high sensitivity to the presence of solutes gives rise to the question about the atmospheric relevance of microcline as an INP. Indeed, any investigated solute deteriorated the IN activity of microcline at water activities below 0.95. This is true for salts containing Na^+, K^+, and NH_4^+ as cations and NO_3^-, SO_4^{2-}, Cl^- as anions, and even more for acidic solutions (Kumar et al., 2018; Whale et al., 2018; Yun et al., 2020; 2021). Moreover, also amino acids and neutralized dicarboxylic acids deteriorated the IN activity as shown in this study. This has consequences for the relevance of coated microcline particles as INPs at cirrus conditions. Even if the coating inhibits ice nucleation reversibly, IN activity would only be restored at RH >95 %, which is well above the RH where homogeneous ice nucleation in solution droplets sets in. Therefore, only uncoated microcline would be relevant as an INP at cirrus conditions. Conversely, microcline particles might act as INPs in immersion mode even when they are coated, if the coating inhibited ice nucleation reversibly, which is the case for salts and amino acids, but not for acidic coatings or coatings with dicarboxylic acids. While mineral dusts are uncoated at the source, they may obtain a coating during transport (Usher et al., 2003; Kolb et al., 2010; Ma et al., 2012; He et al., 2014; Fitzgerald et al., 2015; Tang et al., 2016). Even before long-range transport, soil dusts contain organic material, which may inhibit ice nucleation of microcline if present as coatings on the particles. To establish the role of coatings on the IN activity of microcline, soil dust and aged airborne dust would need to be collected, analyzed with respect to its mineralogical composition and investigated in controlled ice nucleation experiments."

Specific comments:

1. The uncertainty in F_{het} that is shown in Figs. 3,4,7,8 seems to underrepresent the observed variation between experiments. Looking at the data in the supplement, the frozen fraction in

We follow the reviewer's suggestion and show the freezing range of all data points in the revised manuscript.

As we explain in Sect. 2.1, we used two microcline stones from the same location, which are similar but not identical in composition and specific surface area. They are also similar but not altogether the same with respect to F_{het} and T_{het} as explained in Sect. 3.1.1. The first stone, which was the one of the study by Kumar et al. (2018), exhibited a quite sudden loss of IN activity within only a few weeks. We therefore had to change to a new stone. We decided not to mix experiments performed with different stones within one concentration series. This allows us to always reference to the case of dust from either the first or the second stone suspended in pure water. Because the experiments labeled with black stars have been performed with the first stone, it is not possible to repeat these measurements.

The readjustment was required because the first rotor stator homogenizer broke at some point and we had to replace it including the dispersing aggregate. Although the replacement was the same model from the same company, the emulsions exhibited a slightly different size distribution and most importantly more large droplets leading to more spikes in the DSC thermograms. We therefore decided to readjust the preparation procedure of the emulsions. We add the following sentence on line 184 to motivate the readjustment of the procedure:

"This readjustment was required after the rotor stator had broken and was replaced by a new one of the same model (Polytron PT 1300D with a PT-DA 1307/2EC dispersing aggregate)."

We clarify in the revised manuscript on lines 191–192:

"Every experiment was repeated at least once with a freshly prepared suspension unless stated otherwise (see figures and figure captions)".

The experiments that were not repeated could not be repeated because the first stone lost most of its IN activity at some point as explained in response to specific comment #2.

We use the onset temperature T_{het} together with F_{het} to characterize the IN activity of the samples as explained in response to the major comment #1. We use the melting peak to determine the water activity of the solution by evaluating the melting point depression. For solutions, the melting peak is broadened due to eutectic melting and it is the maximum that represents the melting point depression. Therefore, it would be wrong to use the onset. We

mention now in the revised manuscript explicitly that we use the melting point to quantify the water activity (see response to major comment #1).

6. Line 243: The oxalic acid onset temperature data seem in disagreement to the results for neutralized oxalic acid shown in Fig. 4, which show a strong effect. The effects of the treatment could be shown clearer in a temperature spectrum of the frozen fraction.

The freezing onset of microcline in neutralized dilute oxalic acid solution is shifted to higher temperature because of the enhancing effect of ammonia. The same is the case for solutions with acetic and citric acid, as it is explained in the manuscript in Sect. 3.1.2. We do not see a disagreement. As explained before, conversion to frozen fraction is not possible.

7. Line 248: Instead of speculating about active sites, it could be stated that the treatment broadened the temperature range of droplet freezing and shifted it to lower temperatures. Both effects causing a larger fraction of droplets to freeze homogeneously.

We revise the text (lines 266–270) and refer to the form of the freezing curve:

"However, the heterogeneous freezing curve of all carboxylic acids broadens and the median freezing temperature shifts to lower temperature (see Figs. S1–S3), which is manifested in a decrease in F_{het} as shown in Fig. 3b and points to a loss of IN activity in acid solution (high H^+ concentration). The same was observed by Kumar et al. …."

8. Line 282f: Looking at the shift of the peak heat flow in Fig. 5a), a decrease in frozen fraction seems often accompanied by a decrease in the median freezing temperature similar to the 2K reported in Peckhaus et al. 2016. Please check if the shift in median temperature does occur and is only not present in the onset temperature.

This is a good point and we checked the median freezing temperature as suggested by the reviewer. Please note that there is also variability in curve shape between replicate measurements as can be seen in the supplementary material. Taking the average of the measured thermograms, the median heterogeneous freezing temperature indeed decreases by 1.4 K due to aging, independent of the aging time. We mention this in the revised manuscript (lines 302–304):

"Figure 5a shows no significant change in T_{het} and F_{het} over seven days when microcline is suspended in pure water, yet, inspection of the thermograms reveals a shift of the median freezing temperature by about 1.4 K to lower temperature for the aged samples."

9. Line 394ff: Can you propose a method to test your suggestion that reduced ice formation after heat or H_2O_2 treatment is due to removing ammonia? Heat sensitivity of samples from remote locations could be counterevidence to your suggestion.

A simple method to test this suggestion would be to perform TGA-MS analysis with the samples before heat or H_2O_2 treatment to determine the effective content of organics or ammonia. Whether loss of ammonia could be detected might also depend on the measurement protocol. If the samples are dried strongly before starting the heating ramp, ammonia might be lost. An additional test would be to perform again a TGA-MS with the H_2O_2 or heat-treated samples to quantify to what extent the organics have been removed.

10. Fig. 1d): Explain how dissolution reduces the ice formation activity. Does it come to a reprecipitation and coating of the microcline particles with a secondary mineral after dissolution?

We add an explanation of the effect dissolution has on the IN activity in the revised manuscript on lines 131–135:

"The effect of dissolution depends on the dissolution process, which again depends on the specific mineral. In case of microcline, dissolution is accompanied by the formation of an amorphous silica layer as explained in Kumar et al. (2019b). There is increasing evidence that ice nucleation does not occur on the whole mineral surface but on specific nucleation sites, which are often considered to be defects. Since defects are less stable than the regular mineral surface, we expect them to dissolve first, thus enhancing the effect of dissolution on IN activity."

Technical comments:

1. «Impact» shouldn't be capitalized in the title.

Thank you for pointing this out. We change it in the revised manuscript.

2. Line 124: redundant "(" in citation.

Corrected

3. Line 383: redundant ";" in citations.

Corrected

4. Line 405: redundant ")" after citations.

Corrected

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We thank Reviewer 2 for his/her positive feedback and the constructive comments. We reproduce reviewer's comments in blue and our responses in black.

Review of "the impact of (bio-) organic substances on the ice nucleation activity of the K-feldspar microcline in aqueous solutions" by Klumpp et al.

The authors used differential scanning calorimetry to investigate the ice-nucleating ability of K-feldspar in the presence of atmospherically relevant solutes, including carboxylic acids, amino acids, and polyols. Experiments were carried out as a function of solute concentration and exposure time. The effect of neutralization and washing of the K-feldspar after exposure was also studied to determine the importance of acid dissolution, anion binding, and adsorption. The results are convincing and the studies improve our understanding of the effect of solutes on ice nucleation by K-feldspar, an important atmospheric ice nucleus. The paper is well written, and as a result, I only have a few minor comments.

Minor comments:

- Section 2.3 the authors discuss experiments involving the neutralization of carboxylic acid solutions with ammonia. It was not clear at which stage the neutralization was carried out. Did they neutralize the acids before combining the acids with feldspar or after combining? Also, why did the authors neutralize with aqueous ammonia rather than use ammonium salts?

We chose neutralization with ammonia to adjust the pH as close to a value of seven as possible. Yet, given the achieved precision of adjustment, using the ammonium salts would have been a valid alternative.

- Page 9, line 280: "Figure 5a shows no significant change of T_{het} and F_{het} over seven days when microcline is suspended in pure water". I think it would be worth mentioning at this point that although T_{het} and F_{het} were not significantly different, there was a clear change in the shape of the thermograms with the maximum of the heterogeneous freezing peaks shifting to lower temperatures.

This is a good point and we checked the median freezing temperature as suggested by the reviewer. Please note that there is also variability in curve shape between replicate measurements as can be seen in the supplementary material. Taking the average of the measured thermograms, the median heterogeneous freezing temperature indeed decreases by 1.4 K due to aging, independent of the aging time. We mention this in the revised manuscript by adding (line 302–304):

 "*Figure 5a shows no significant change in T_{het} and F_{het} over seven days when microcline is suspended in pure water, yet, inspection of the thermograms reveals a shift of the median freezing temperature by about 1.4 K to lower temperature for the aged samples.*"

- Page 11, line 315. "the interaction of these molecules with the microcline surface must be very similar to the ones of water molecules, namely fast dynamic exchange of molecules at the microcline surface corresponding to the case shown in Fig. 1a." I think this statement would be more accurate if the authors replaced "microcline surface" with "ice-nucleating sites on the microcline surface" or something similar since their experiments are only sensitive to ice-nucleating sites, not the entire surface.

This is a valid point. We change the sentence to:

"…the interaction of these molecules with the ice-nucleating sites on the microcline surface must be very similar to the ones of water molecules, namely a fast dynamic exchange of molecules at the microcline surface corresponding to the case shown in Fig. 1a."

The Iimpact of (bio-)organic substances on the ice nucleation activity of the K-feldspar microcline in aqueous solutions

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Abstract

Potassium-feldspars (K-feldspars), such as microcline, are considered key dust minerals inciting ice nucleation in mixed phase clouds. Besides the high ice nucleation activity of microcline, recent studies also revealed a high sensitivity of microcline towards interaction with solutes on its surface. Here, we investigate the effect of organic and bio-organic substances on the ice nucleation activity of microcline, with the aim to better understand the underlying surface interactions. We performed immersion freezing experiments with microcline in solutions of three carboxylic acids, five amino acids and two polyols to represent these compound classes. By means of a differential scanning calorimeter we investigated the freezing of emulsified droplets of microcline suspended in various solutions. Depending on the type of solute, different effects were observed. In the case of carboxylic acids (acetic, oxalic and citric acid), the measured heterogeneous onset temperatures, T_{het}, showed no significant deviation from the behavior predicted by the water activity criterion, $T_{het}(a_w) = T_{melt}(a_w+\Delta a_w)$, which relates T_{het} with the melting point temperature T_{melt} via a constant water activity offset Δa_w. While this behavior could be interpreted as a lack of interaction of the solute molecules with the surface, the carboxylic acids caused the fraction of heterogeneously frozen water, $F_{het}(a_w)$, to decrease by up to 40% with increasing solute concentrations. In combination, unaltered $T_{het}(a_w)$ and reduced $F_{het}(a_w)$ suggest that active sites were largely deactivated by the acid molecules, but amongst those remaining active are also the best sites with the highest T_{het}. A deviation from this behavior is citric acid, which showed not only a decrease in F_{het}, but also a decrease in T_{het} of up to 4 K for water activities below 0.99, pointing to a depletion of the best active sites by interactions with the citrate ions. When neutralized solutions of the acids were used instead, the decrease in F_{het} became even more pronounced. The slope of $T_{het}(a_w)$ was different for each of the neutralized acid solutions. In the case of amino acid solutions, we found a decrease in T_{het} (up to 10 K), significantly below the Δa_w-criterion, as well as a reduction in F_{het} (up to 60%). Finally, in case of the investigated polyols, no significant deviation of T_{het} from the Δa_w-criterion was observed, and no significant deviation of F_{het} in comparison to a pure water suspension was found. Furthermore, we measured the effects of aging on the ice nucleation activity in experiments with microcline suspended in solutions for up to seven days, and tested the reversibility of the interaction with the solutes after aging for 10 days. For citric acid, an ongoing irreversible degradation of the ice nucleation activity was observed, whereas the amino acids showed completely reversible effects. In summary, our experiments demonstrate a remarkable sensitivity of microcline ice nucleation activity to surface interactions with various solutes, underscoring the importance of the history of such particles from source to frozen cloud droplet in the atmosphere.

1 Introduction

The formation of ice has various implications on key characteristics of clouds. The presence of ice significantly influences cloud lifetime, the formation of precipitation, cloud chemistry and radiative properties (Lohmann, 2006; Field and Heymsfield, 2015; Mülmenstädt et al., 2015; IPCC, 2013). Numerous aspects of ice formation within clouds are still unclear, necessitating further research to elucidate the different ice nucleation mechanisms.

Ice formation takes place via homogenous or heterogeneous ice nucleation in supercooled cloud droplets. Homogeneous nucleation occurs spontaneously as a stochastic process when micrometer-sized pure liquid water droplets supercool to 235–238 K (Sassen and Dodd, 1987; Heymsfield and Sabin, 1989) and can be described by classical nucleation theory (e.g. Lohmann et al., 2016; Ickes et al., 2015). In aqueous solutions, the thermodynamic formulation by Koop et al. (2000) describes the homogeneous freezing point curve as a function of water activity, a_w of the solution, i.e. the ratio between the water vapor pressure of the solution and of pure water under the same conditions:

$$T_{\mathrm{hom}}(a_w) = T_{\mathrm{melt}}\big(a_w + \Delta a_{w,\mathrm{hom}}\big) \qquad\qquad (1)$$

This relationship is termed the "water-activity criterion" or "Δa_w-criterion for homogeneous ice nucleation", which states that, owing to the thermodynamic properties of water and irrespective of the nature of the solute, the homogeneous freezing point curve can be constructed from the melting point curve, T_{melt}, by a constant water activity shift $\Delta a_{w,\mathrm{hom}}$ (Koop and Zobrist, 2009). This approach has a broad empirical basis and theoretical underpinning (Baker and Baker, 2004). In contrast, heterogeneous ice nucleation is induced by solid particles present in the water or solution, so called ice nucleating particles (INPs). More specifically the nucleation takes place on active sites, which are preferred locations for ice nucleation (IN) with areas of 10-50 nm^2 based on estimates from classical nucleation theory (Vali, 2014; Vali et al., 2015; Kaufmann et al., 2017; Holden et al., 2019). Depending on the circumstances of ice nucleation, different modes of IN are possible: (i) Immersion freezing describes the freezing process when an INP is immersed in a supercooled droplet. (ii) Condensation freezing is assumed to occur when IN coincides with cloud droplet activation (Vali et al., 2015; Kanji et al., 2017). (iii) Contact freezing may occur when nucleation is initiated by an INP that penetrates the droplet surface, e.g. through a collision (Durant and Shaw, 2005; Shaw et al., 2005; Nagare et al., 2016). (iv) Finally, deposition nucleation is the term for a freezing process happening without the liquid water phase involved and therefore assuming a direct transition of gaseous water to ice on an INP surface. The latter is currently questioned by Marcolli (2014), who suggested water vapor condensation in pores with subsequent pore water freezing (termed pore condensation and freezing, PCF) to be the dominant nucleation process at water subsaturated atmospheric conditions.

Since the introduction of the Δa_w-criterion by Koop et al. (2000) for homogeneous freezing, numerous studies found that Δa_w = const. might under certain circumstances also be applicable to heterogeneous nucleation in immersion freezing mode occurring in the presence of solutes (Zobrist et al., 2008a; Knopf and Alpert, 2013; Koop and Zobrist, 2009; Rigg et al., 2013), albeit

with $\Delta a_{w,\text{het}} < \Delta a_{w,\text{hom}}$. The relation $\Delta a_{w,\text{het}} = $ const. suggests that the freezing point depression is merely determined by the influence of the solute on a_w, whereas specific interactions between the solutes and the INP surface are absent.

Among the particles that are considered important as atmospheric INPs, mineral dust particles are the best-established particle type. The ability of mineral dust particles to nucleate ice depends on their mineralogical composition. Among the minerals present in transported dusts (Reid et al., 2003; Murray et al., 2012; Boose et al., 2016), quartz, feldspars, and clay minerals such as kaolinite, montmorillonite and illite have been found to be IN active (Hoose and Möhler, 2012; Pinti et al., 2012; Hiranuma et al., 2015a; Kumar et al., 2019a; 2019b; Harrison et al., 2019), while other frequent minerals like calcite, dolomite, and micas exhibit negligible IN activity (Kaufmann et al., 2016; Kumar et al., 2019b). Atkinson et al. (2013) emphasized the exceptionally high IN efficiency of K-feldspars compared to other minerals. Indeed, several studies confirmed that K-feldspars nucleate ice at higher temperatures with higher activated fractions than (Na-Ca)-feldspars (Peckhaus et al., 2016: Kumar et al., 2018; Kaufmann et al., 2016; Harrison et al., 2016). But also within the group of K-feldspars, IN activities differ, with microcline being IN active at higher temperatures than orthoclase, adularia, and sanidine (Kaufmann et al., 2016; Welti et al., 2019). Despite the high proportion of feldspars in the Earth's crust, they make up only 13 % of the airborne dust aerosol by mass (Murray et al., 2012). However, considering that particles above 1 µm in diameter are typically aggregates of different minerals, even minor contributions of microcline can determine the IN characteristics of a particle.

Yet, ice nucleation by mineral dusts, which mostly nucleate ice below 255 K (Murray et al., 2012; Atkinson et al., 2013; Kaufmann et al., 2016; Boose et al., 2016), fails to explain the occurrence of ice in clouds at even higher temperatures. Therefore, in recent years, biological particles gained attention as INPs, because of their ability to nucleate ice well above 255 K (Hoose et al., 2010; DeMott and Prenni, 2010; Conen et al., 2011; Pummer et al., 2012; O'Sullivan et al., 2014, 2015; Twohy et al., 2016; Stopelli et al., 2017; Cascajo-Castresana et al.,2020; Huang et al., 2021). Biological particles are of very diverse nature and include bacteria, pollen, spores, and fragments of plants and animals (Murray et al., 2012; Morris et al., 2013; Després et al. 2012; Kanji et al., 2017). The IN active entities can be traced back to macromolecules that include polysaccharides (Steinke et al., 2020) and cellulose (Hiranuma et al., 2015b; 2019), lignin (Bogler and Borduas-Dedekind, 2020; Steinke et al., 2020), humic or fulvic substances (Fornea et al., 2009; Wang and Knopf, 2011; Borduas-Dedekind et al., 2019) and proteinaceous material (Huang et al., 2021). Among these macromolecules, IN activity strongly varies. The ice-active proteins expressed by *Pseudomonas Syringae* may nucleate ice up to 271 K, but only when they are arranged on the outer cell membrane of the intact cell (Maki et al., 1974; Schnell and Vali, 1976; Govindarajan and Lindow, 1988). Freezing at similarly high temperatures has also been observed for related bacterial species and some fungi, most probably also originating from proteinaceous nucleation sites (Lindow et al., 1978; Kim et al., 1987). Yet, even proteins that are not expressed for the purpose to nucleate ice, such as the iron-storing protein apoferritin, proved ice-active up to 269 K when clustered together in aggregates (Cascajo-Castresana et al., 2020). Peat soil, fulvic acids, and aquatic dissolved organic matter showed average freezing temperatures between 260–265 K (Fornea et al., 2009; Borduas-Dedekind et al., 2019). Ice nucleation by cellulose only becomes

relevant at 252 K (Hiranuma et al., 2015b; 2019), although freezing onsets may reach as high as 269 K. For lignin, freezing onsets were observed below 263 K with 50 % frozen fraction reached only at 254 K (Bogler and Borduas-Dedekind, 2020).

Biogenic material is inferred to increase the ice nucleation ability of soil dust compared with desert dust ~~since~~ based on various studies ~~showed~~ showing that the IN activity of collected soil dust samples decreases when the samples are treated with heat or

100   hydrogen peroxide to remove (bio-)organic residues from the dust samples (Conen et al., 2011; Tobo et al., 2014; O'Sullivan et al., 2018; Paramonov et al., 2018). Similarly, glacial outwash sediments exhibited high IN activity, most probably stemming from the presence of small amounts of biogenic material, since treatment with hydrogen peroxide reduced the ice nucleation active site densities to values found for illite NX (Tobo et al., 2019), often taken as a proxy for mineral dust (Hiranuma et al., 2015a). However, the treatment of bulk samples with heat or hydrogen peroxide does not provide insights whether synergistic

105   effects between (bio-)organic substances and mineral dust particles are involved in the high IN activity of soil dusts. Such effects have been suggested by O'Sullivan et al. (2014) as their soil dust samples froze at higher temperatures than either Humic-Like Substances (HULIS) or mineral dust references by themselves. Only a few studies have investigated the mixing state of mineral dust and biogenic material and its relevance for the IN activity. Pratt et al. (2009) found external mixtures of mineral dust and biological particles using aircraft aerosol time-of-flight spectrometry applied to cloud ice-crystal residues,

110   yet, they were IN active only at quite low temperatures (239–242 K). Conversely, single particle analysis of agricultural harvesting emissions revealed besides pure dust and biological particles also a considerable fraction of dust particles mixed with organic or biological material (Suski et al., 2018). Finally, O'Sullivan et al. (2016) found that ice-nucleating proteins from *Fusarium avenaceum*, a common soil-borne fungus, preferentially bind to kaolinite and impart their ice-nucleating properties to it.

115   Instead of already adhering to mineral dust particles before entering the atmosphere, organic and biological material may attach to the mineral particle surface also during cotransport in the atmosphere by coagulation with organic particles or condensation of semivolatile organic molecules. The influence of such coatings may depend on various factors such as the thickness and chemical composition of the coating, affecting the nature of the interaction. Recent investigations showed that mineral dust surfaces are sensitive to exposure to inorganic solutes leading to deviation from $\Delta a_{w,\text{het}} = $ const. Whether the solutes enhance

120   or deteriorate the IN activity compared with $\Delta a_{w,\text{het}} = $ const. depends on the mineralogy of the particles, the nature and concentration of the solutes, and the freezing temperature range. Figure 1 provides a schematic overview of the different interactions between solutes and the mineral dust surface in aqueous solutions, which include ion exchange, adsorption, and dissolution of the mineral surface. Panel (a) depicts the case with no specific interactions between the solute and the mineral surface such that $\Delta a_{w,\text{het}} = $ const. is fulfilled. Cation exchange, as depicted in panel (b) may occur for minerals with exchangeable cations

125   and has been shown to decrease the IN activity of feldspars in general (Kumar et al. (2018, 2019b; Whale et al., 2018; Perkins et al., 2020; Yun et al., 2020). Ammonia and ammonium salts proved to generally increase the IN activity of aluminosilicates, which includes feldspars and clay minerals, most probably through both, ion exchange (panel b) and adsorption (panel c). In case of quartz, enhancing and deteriorating interactions of the solutes with the surface seem to compete as the presence of

ammonia decreased the freezing onset temperatures due to dissolution (panel d) of the mineral surface in basic solution, while
130   the presence of ammonium sulfate has a slight enhancing effect probably due to adsorption (Kumar et al., 2019a; Whale et al., 2018). The effect of dissolution depends on the dissolution process, which again depends on the specific mineral. In case of microcline, dissolution is accompanied by the formation of an amorphous silica layer as explained in Kumar et al. (2019b). There is increasing evidence that ice nucleation does not occur on the whole mineral surface but on specific nucleation sites, which are often considered to be defects. Since defects are less stable than the regular mineral surface, we expect them to
135   dissolve first, thus enhancing the effect of dissolution on IN activity.

To extend these findings, we aim to gain insight into possible interactions between mineral surfaces and (bio-)organic solutes. We chose microcline to provide the mineral surface as this feldspar showed on one hand, a high ~~ice nucleation~~IN activity, while on the other hand, it proved to be highly sensitive to the presence of solutes. The organic solutes were selected to represent typical functional groups present in organic and proteinaceous materials. The hydroxyl groups of polyols feature the
140   prevailing functional group of polysaccharides and cellulose and are also frequent in lignin, fulvic, and humic acids. We chose glycerol and heptane-1,7-diol to represent these types of organics. To represent the carboxyl groups of fulvic, and humic acids, we chose a monovalent (acetic acid), a bivalent (oxalic acid) and a trivalent organic acid (citric acid). The number of carboxyl groups in an organic acid influences the complexation of Al^{3+} present in feldspars, in turn modulating the ability of the organic acid to interact with the mineral surface. Moreover, as the strongest carboxylic acid, oxalic acid is supposed to have the most
145   pronounced effect on feldspar dissolution because of its acidity, which was shown to deteriorate the IN activity of microcline in the presence of H_2SO_4 (Kumar et al., 2018). Finally, with amino acids, we test how interactions between the microcline surface and the building blocks of proteins influence the IN activity. In solution, amino acids are present as zwitterions with $-COO^-$ carrying the negative and $-NH_3^+$ the positive charge (see Fig. A1 in the appendix). Both groups have the potential to interact with the microcline surface. The similarity of $-NH_3^+$ with NH_4^+ and NH_3 raises the question whether such interactions
150   may enhance the IN activity of feldspars. We chose glycine, l-alanine, l-serine, l-lysine, and l-glutamine to cover relevant functionalities found in proteins (see Table 1 for structures and properties). Glycine as the simplest amino acid provides the basic case of no additional functionalities in the side chain. L-alanine possesses an aliphatic tail as the side chain providing the case without the possibility for polar interactions. With a hydroxyl side chain, serine is capable of additional polar interactions. L-lysine and l-glutamine possess longer side chains with additional amino and amide functional groups, respectively, that may
155   interact with the microcline surface. With the amino group, l-lysine has an additional basic group increasing the pH of the solution to the basic range. Furthermore, all selected amino acids are sufficiently water soluble to potentially modify the microcline surface distinctly. Besides representing functionalities found in biogenic material, the investigated organic acids are oxidation products of a lot of organic substances, polyols are intermediate products before further oxidation yields carboxylic acids, and amino acids were detected in the atmosphere in various locations (Barbaro et al. 2011; 2015).

160   Using a DSC setup, we will present results from immersion freezing experiments of microcline suspensions dispersed as emulsified solution droplets.

2 Methods

2.1 Particle size distribution and surface area of the microcline powder sample

165 For the herein described experiments, two stones of microcline were used, both from North Macedonia provided by the Institute of Geochemistry and Petrology of ETH Zurich. Both stones were milled with a tungsten carbide disc mill resulting in a fine powder. The first stone is identical to the one used by Kumar et al. (2018). The second stone was milled in October 2019 following the same protocol as for the first stone. X-ray diffraction followed by Rietveld analysis of powder samples yielded the following composition: (86.33 ± 1.7) % microcline, (6.18 ± 0.72) % orthoclase and (7.49 ± 0.48) % albite for the first

170 sample and (91.9 ± 0.8) % microcline and (8.9 ± 0.4) % albite for the second sample. The number size distributions of the mineral dust particles suspended in water were measured using laser diffraction analysis (see supplementary material).

The specific surface area was determined using dynamic vapor sorption (DVS) analysis yielding a value of 1.6 m²/g for the first and 3.1 m²/g for the second sample.

2.2 Immersion freezing experiments of emulsified microcline suspensions in water and aqueous solutions

175 Immersion freezing experiments were conducted with a Differential Scanning Calorimeter DSC Q10 from TA instruments (see Zobrist et al., 2008a, for more details). Suspensions of microcline (2 wt%) in aqueous (molecular bioreagent water, Sigma Aldrich) solutions containing different organic acids, amino acids and polyols as detailed in Table 1 were prepared. In order to prevent particle aggregation, all samples were sonicated 5 to 10 minutes before experiments were started. After sonication the suspensions were combined with a mixture of mineral oil (95%) and lanolin (5%) (both Sigma Aldrich) at a ratio of 1:4

180 and emulsified with a rotor stator homogenizer (Polytron PT 1300D with a PT-DA 1307/2EC dispersing aggregate) for 40 s at 7000 rpm for the measurements including the organic acids~~and,~~ the neutralized organic acids and the polyols (section 3.1.1, ~~and~~ 3.1.2, and 3.3). For all other measurements the procedure was readjusted to 40 s dispersing at 10000 rpm, using a lanolin content of 7 % to obtain a droplet size distribution that peaks between 2–3 µm with respect to number and between 4–12 µm with respect to volume (for more details see Marcolli et al., 2007; Pinti et al., 2012; and Kaufmann et. al., 2016). This read-

185 justment was required after the rotor stator had broken and was replaced by a new one of the same model (Polytron PT 1300D with a PT-DA 1307/2EC dispersing aggregate). Occasionally, single large droplets may form, which appear as spikes in the thermogram upon freezing. These spikes were neglected in the evaluation. 5 to 10 mg of the emulsion were placed in an aluminum pan, hermetically sealed, placed in the DSC, and measured at cooling and heating rates of 1 K/min. To test the stability of the emulsion, some samples were subjected to three freezing cycles following the procedure introduced by Marcolli

190 et al. (2007) with a first and third cycle performed with a cooling rate of 10 K/min as control cycles. Emulsions were freshly prepared before each experiment. Every experiment was repeated at least once with a freshly prepared suspension unless stated otherwise (see figures and figure captions). For evaluation of the freezing onset temperatures (T_{het} and T_{hom}), the heterogeneously frozen fraction (F_{het}) and the melting temperature T_{melt}, freezing and cooling cycles run at 1 K/min were used.

Figure 2 shows a typical DSC thermogram of an aqueous microcline emulsion. Depicted is the heat flow of the sample as a function of temperature. Freezing events are accompanied with a release of latent heat resulting in a peak in the thermogram. The first peak at higher temperatures arises from heterogeneous freezing caused by microcline in the emulsion droplets. The second peak is due to the homogeneous freezing of the remaining droplets, which either contain no microcline particles or whose microcline particles lack active sites. ~~Our key parameters to analyze the thermograms are the onset temperatures of these peaks, T_{het} and T_{hom}. Conversely, for the melting temperature (T_{melt}) the maximum of the melting peak is used. The heat released during the experiment is approximately proportional to the volume of water that froze in the sample with a minor deviation from this proportionality arising from the temperature dependence of the freezing enthalpy (Speedy, 1987; Johari et al., 1994). We quantify the heat release by taking the integral over the thermogram and refer to the proportion of the heterogeneous peak integral as the heterogeneously frozen fraction (F_{het}).~~ Our key parameters to analyze the thermograms are the onset temperatures of these peaks, T_{het} and T_{hom}, together with the heterogeneously frozen fraction (F_{het}). We quantify F_{het} by taking the integral over the portion of the thermogram between T_{het} and T_{hom} as shown in Fig. 2. The heat released during freezing is approximately proportional to the volume of water that freezes in the sample with a minor deviation from this proportionality arising from the temperature dependence of the freezing enthalpy (Speedy, 1987; Johari et 195 al., 1994). Table 2 provides a summary of the uncertainty in each parameter. We consider a decrease/increase in F_{het} as a loss/gain of IN active surface area. Assuming freezing on nucleation sites (Vali et al., 2015), this corresponds to the loss/generation of such sites. Conversely, a change in quality of the IN active surface area due to the deterioration/improvement of nucleation sites would lead to a decrease/increase in T_{het}. A concomitant decrease in F_{het} is expected if some sites deteriorated to an extent that they cannot compete with homogeneous ice nucleation anymore. Since T_{het} and F_{het} are not able to capture the exact form of the heterogeneous freezing curve, we provide all DSC thermograms in the supplementary material. To derive the water activity from the melting point depression, the melting temperature (T_{melt}) is evaluated at the maximum of the melting peak. See Fig. 2 for a detailed description of the evaluation of T_{het}, T_{hom} and F_{het}~~, and Table 2 for a summary of the uncertainty for each parameter~~.

2.3 Neutralization of carboxylic acid solutions with ammonia

In order to discriminate between the influence of the carboxylate anion and the cation (H^+ providing acidity to the solution) of the dissociated carboxylic acids on microcline, suspensions were prepared with neutralized solutions of acetic acid, oxalic acid and citric acid. Acid solutions were neutralized by adding aqueous ammonia (25% (aq), Merck) solution until a pH of 6–8 was reached (tested by pH test strips, Machery-Nagel). For neutralization we deliberately chose ammonia solution and no other alkaline substance, because the influence of ammonia on microcline has been well characterized by Kumar et al. (2018).

2.4 Immersion freezing experiments as a function of aging

Microcline suspensions in citric acid (1 wt%), l-alanine (1 wt%) and l-lysine (0.05 wt%) solutions were prepared (see Table 1 for information on supplier and purity) and investigated by DSC over the course of seven days to test the long-term influence of the solutes on the microcline surface. Measurements were performed directly after preparation and on the first, fourth and

seventh day after preparation. The suspensions were sonicated 5 min prior to each measurement in order to re-suspend settled particles and to decrease particle aggregation.

2.5 Reversibility of interactions between microcline and solutes tested in immersion freezing experiments

Microcline suspensions in citric acid (10 wt%), l-alanine (10 wt%) and l-lysine (2 wt%) solutions were prepared and aged in
230   a sealed glass vial at room temperature for 10 days. After aging, all suspensions were centrifuged (3 min at 600 rpm), the supernatant was removed and the remaining sample washed with water. This procedure was repeated 5 times. The washed particles were re-suspended in water. Finally, immersion freezing experiments were conducted with these suspensions to compare the freezing properties of the aged microcline dust with freshly prepared suspensions in water.

235   **3 Results and Discussion**

3.1 Carboxylic acids

3.1.1 Freshly prepared carboxylic acid samples

Figure 3 shows the melting temperatures (T_{melt}) and homogeneous and heterogeneous freezing onset temperatures (T_{hom} and T_{het}) as a function of water activity (a_w) for microcline (2 wt%) in aqueous acetic, oxalic, and citric acid solutions. Analogous
240   to the procedure described in Kumar et al. (2018), water activities were determined from the melting temperatures obtained from the DSC thermograms using the parameterization introduced in Koop et al. (2000). Therefore, the plotted melting temperatures perfectly align on the ice melting curve (dash-dotted line). Furthermore, we assume the water activities at the freezing temperatures to be identical to those determined at the melting temperature. This approximation may lead to errors, since water activities show a dependence on temperature, which may explain some of the deviations of the measured homogeneous freez-
245   ing points from the homogeneous freezing curve (dotted line). Note that these temperature dependencies differ depending on the solute and are often small (Zobrist et al., 2008b; Ganbavale et al., 2014). The homogeneous as well as the heterogeneous freezing curves (black solid and dotted lines, respectively) were obtained by constant shifts in water activity, $\Delta a_{w,hom}$ and $\Delta a_{w,het}$, applied to the ice melting curve (Koop et al., 2000; Zobrist et al., 2008a). Both, $\Delta a_{w,hom}$ and $\Delta a_{w,het}$ were calculated to match the average onset temperatures of all measurements performed with the two pure microcline samples (2 wt%) at a water
250   activity of $a_w = 1$, which yielded $\Delta a_{w,hom} = 0.295$ and a heterogeneous offset $\Delta a_{w,het} = 0.191$. Note that $\Delta a_{w,hom}$ is slightly lower than the values 0.305 and 0.313 determined by Koop et al. (2000) and Koop and Zobrist (2009), respectively, in order to take the characteristics of our DSC experiment (droplet size distribution and uncertainty in temperature calibration) into account. The solid black curve represents the heterogeneous freezing onset temperature expected in the absence of specific interactions between the ice nucleation active surface and the solute, i.e. $T_{het}(a_w) = T_{melt}(a_w + \Delta a_{w,het})$, assuming that T_{het} is given solely by
255   the freezing point depression due to the decreased water activity as is depicted in Fig. 1a.

For the experiments with the freshly prepared carboxylic acids and the neutralized acid suspensions the first sample was used. For this sample, T_{het} and F_{het} of 2 wt% microcline in pure water are 251.7 K and 0.69, respectively, while it was 251.4 K and 0.81 for the second sample, which was used for the aging and recovery experiments and the measurements with the amino acids. The values measured for pure microcline sample 1 in this study are slightly lower than those found by Kumar et al.

260 (2018; T_{het} = 251.9 K/ F_{het} = 0.75), while the second sample yields slightly higher values in F_{het} and slightly lower values in T_{het}.

Figure 3a shows that the heterogeneous freezing temperatures of microcline in aqueous acetic and oxalic acid solutions fulfil $T_{het}(a_w) = T_{melt}(a_w + \Delta a_{w,het})$ at all measured concentrations within experimental uncertainty. Citric acid shows a deviation towards lower temperatures of up to 4 K for $a_w < 0.99$, i.e. $\Delta a_{w,het} \neq$ const. The carboxylic acids investigated here show neither

265 the clear enhancement of ammonia containing solutes nor the clear decrease of inorganic "non-ammonia" solutes, which were found by Kumar et al. (2018). ~~However, there is a clear decrease in the heterogeneously frozen fraction for all carboxylic acids as shown in Fig. 3b, pointing to a loss of ice active sites in acid solutions (high H⁺ concentration), as it was observed by Kumar et al.,~~ However, the heterogeneous freezing curve of all carboxylic acids broadens and the median freezing temperature shifts to lower temperature (see Figs. S1–S3), which is manifested in a decrease in F_{het} as shown in Fig. 3b and points to a loss of IN activity in acid solution (high H⁺ concentration). The same was observed by Kumar et al. (2018) for microcline in sulfuric acid

270 solutions and by Yun et al. (2021) in carboxylic and inorganic acid (HNO₃ and HCl) solutions with a trend of decreasing IN activity with decreasing pH (Yun et al. (2021). For acetic acid, as the weakest acid, the decrease in F_{het} is indeed the least and levels off after a first decline.

3.1.2 Neutralized carboxylic acid samples

275 To test the hypothesis that high concentrations of H⁺ (low pH) cause the loss of microcline IN activity, we neutralized the carboxylic acid solutions with ammonia to a pH of 6 to 8. We chose ammonia as the neutralizing base, as Kumar et al. (2018) have shown that ammonia does not deteriorate the ice nucleation activity of microcline. On the contrary, it can even enhance it.

Figure 4 shows the results of these experiments, i.e. the melting (T_{melt}) and freezing onset temperatures (T_{het}, T_{hom}) of microcline

280 in all three aqueous dicarboxylic acid solutions neutralized to pH 6-8 with ammonia. Similarly to the ammoniated solutions investigated by Kumar et al. (2018), an increase in T_{het} is observed for water activities close to 1 and a decrease for lower water activities. For citric and oxalic acid, the enhancement is restricted to a very narrow concentration range ($1 > a_w > 0.99$) and reverts to a clear decline for higher concentrations that exceeds the one observed in the respective pure acid solutions shown in Fig. 3. None of the neutralized carboxylic acids satisfies the Δa_w-criterion, i.e. $T_{het}(a_w) \neq T_{melt}(a_w + \Delta a_{w,het})$, and all of them

285 behave differently from one another. Similarly to the pure acids and in clear contrast to ammonia, the neutralized acid solutions show a strong decrease in F_{het} towards lower water activities, which is the strongest for oxalic acid, followed by citric acid,

and the least for acetic acid. This dependence on the specific neutralized acid suggests the presence of interactions between the carboxylic acid or the carboxylate anions and the microcline surface.

The differences between the tested carboxylates can be explained by the complexation of Al^{3+} with the deprotonated carboxylic acids. Indeed, bidental and tridental carboxylic anions have the potential to complex aluminum, while the ability of monodental carboxylates was found to be negligible (Stoessell and Pittman, 1990). Several studies have shown the ability of oxalate to complex Al^{3+} (Bevan and Savage, 1989; Stoessell and Pittman, 1990; Min et al. 2015). With three acid groups, citric acid might be a similar or even stronger complexing agent. Conversely, adsorption of acetic acid is weaker, as it carries only one carboxylic acid group. This explains why the trend of T_{het} (see Fig. 4a) for microcline in neutralized ammonium acetate solutions (blue squares) is similar to the one for ammonia solutions (cyan diamonds), since ammonia or the ammonium ion dominate surface interactions with respect to acetate. Yet, based on experiments with freshly prepared microcline suspensions, it remains unclear whether carboxylate complexation leads to enhanced dissolution of microcline or whether it blocks IN active sites of microcline through adsorption of the carboxylic anions on the mineral surface.

3.1.3 Aging experiments

In order to detect changes occurring during aging within atmospherically relevant timescales, we performed experiments where microcline (2 wt%) was immersed in the solutions over the course of seven days (Fig. 5) with measurements on days 1, 4 and 7. Figure 5a shows no significant change of T_{het} and F_{het} over seven days when microcline is suspended in pure water, yet, inspection of the thermograms reveals a shift of the median freezing temperature by about 1.4 K to lower temperature for ~~all~~the aged samples. For the same type of experiment, yet with a different microcline sample, Kumar et al. (2018) observed a decrease in F_{het} by one third after one day but no drop in T_{het}. Conversely, Peckhaus et al. (2016) found a decrease of 2 K in the median freezing temperature after five months for their microcline sample. These differences in IN activity after aging highlight differences between microcline samples which may be explained by minor contributions from other minerals that differ from sample to sample and differences in microtexture (Whale et al., 2017).

Figure 5b shows the DSC thermograms of microcline ~~suspended~~ aged in citric acid solution (1 wt%, $a_w \approx 0.995$). The~~y aging measurements in Fig. 5b show~~evidence a further decrease in F_{het} and T_{het} ~~evident from the measurements~~starting on day 4. There is also a visible change in the shape of the thermogram (the maximum of the heterogeneous freezing peak shifts to lower temperatures). This shows that surface modifications are ongoing leading to progressive loss of IN activity over time. Figure 6 (light green curve) shows the thermogram after 10 days of aging in 10 wt% citric acid solution ($a_w \approx 0.984$) and subsequent washing with pure water. The heterogeneous freezing peak of microcline after this procedure has almost completely disappeared. This illustrates the irreversibility of the surface modification induced through citric acid after 10 days.

The decrease in F_{het} with decreasing a_w, the continuous activity loss over time and the irreversibility suggests that there is a permanent destruction of active sites, which was also shown by Kumar et al. (2018) for sulfuric acid acting on microcline. As

carboxylic and sulfuric acid both release H^+ to the solution, we conclude that high H^+ concentrations (low pH) lead to the irreversible loss of ice-active sites of microcline through dissolution as depicted in Fig. 1d.

320   Figure 5c shows DSC thermograms of microcline suspended in neutralized citric acid solution (1 wt%; $a_w \approx 0.993$). At this concentration, the IN activity of freshly prepared microcline even exceeds the curve of $\Delta a_{w,het} = const.$, which we ascribe to the presence of ammonia. Contrary to the aging in a citric acid solution the IN activity remained stable over the observed time period, supporting the hypothesis that high H^+ concentrations are the cause for the permanent loss of ice-active surface sites through dissolution. This is reinforced by Fig. 6 (dark green curve), which shows that even if aged in higher concentration of

325   neutralized citric acid (10 wt%; $a_w \approx 0.975$), the IN activity is restored after washing and resuspension of the sample in pure water. This reversibility indicates that the strong decrease in IN activity during exposure (Fig. 4; $T_{het} = 235.9$ K and $F_{het} = 0.16$) to neutralized acid solutions is caused by blocking of IN active sites through surface complexation rather than loss of active sites through dissolution (adsorption mechanism in Fig. 1c). The blocking scenario is in agreement with findings by Bevan and Savage (1989) who showed that suspending K-feldspars in neutralized oxalate solutions increases surface dissolution only

330   weakly compared with strongly increased dissolution rates induced by high H^+ concentration. The heterogeneous freezing onset temperature of microcline in neutralized citric acid solution is even higher than in pure water most likely caused by small amounts of ammonia that are still present in the sample, since ammonia has an enhancing effect on IN activity of microcline already at very low concentrations (Kumar et al., 2018).

3.3 Polyols

335   Figure 7 shows melting (T_{melt}) and freezing onset temperatures (T_{het}, T_{hom}) of microcline in aqueous glycerol and 1,7-heptane-diol solutions. Over the whole measured concentration range, both solutes show full compliance with $T_{het}(a_w) = T_{melt}(a_w + \Delta a_{w,het})$. Similarly, no significant deviation of F_{het} compared to the pure microcline sample was observed. This suggests that the interaction of these molecules with the ice nucleating sites on the microcline surface must be very similar to the ones of water molecules, namely a fast dynamic exchange of molecules at the microcline surface corresponding to the case shown in

340   Fig. 1a. As a result, neither an enrichment nor a depletion of the polyol molecules occurs on the microcline surface. In consequence, these molecules affect the IN activity only via the reduction of the water activity to the extent predicted by the Δa_w-criterion. These findings are in accordance with Yun et al. (2021), who found no significant effect of polyols on the median freezing temperature of potassium-rich feldspar.

3.4 Amino acids

3.4.1 freshly prepared amino acid samples

Figure 8 shows melting (T_{melt}) and onset freezing temperatures (T_{het}, T_{hom}) of microcline in aqueous solutions of glycine, L-alanine, L-serine, L-lysine and L-glutamine. All five tested amino acids show a clear and relatively uniform decrease in $T_{het}(a_w)$

of up to 9.1 K below $T_{melt}(a_w + \Delta a_{w,het})$. Similarly to the carboxylic acids and the neutralized carboxylic acids, F_{het} strongly decreases with decreasing water activity for L-lysine, while the other amino acids show only a moderate decrease in F_{het}.

3.4.2 Aging experiments

Figure 9 shows the DSC thermograms of microcline suspended in solutions of l-alanine (1 wt%; $a_w \approx 0.994$) and l-lysine (0.05 wt%; $a_w \approx 0.9985$) over the course of seven days, measured on days 1, 4 and 7. We chose l-lysine, because it showed the strongest decrease in the fresh measurements and l-alanine as a representative of the other amino acids. The amino acid containing suspensions show more variability in F_{het} and T_{het} over the course of seven days compared to the pure microcline sample, but no clear tendency during the observed timespan. Furthermore, Fig. 10 (magenta and orange curves) shows that after the procedure of 10 days aging in more concentrated solutions (l-alanine 10 wt%, $a_w \approx 0.977$; l-lysine 2 wt%; $a_w \approx 0.993$) and subsequent washing, the thermograms show no significant difference from the pure microcline sample after the same procedure. Despite the strong response observed in the freezing experiments in freshly prepared suspensions, the aging experiments show that ice nucleation is directly affected by the presence of the amino acids with no additional aging effect. This indicates that the interaction of the amino acids with the microcline surface is reversible once the solutions are removed or highly diluted. This fits to an adsorption mechanism depicted in Fig. 1c. Due to the zwitterionic properties of the amino acids (Fig. A1) the positively charged $-NH_3^+$ functional groups can establish very stable interactions with the negatively charged microcline surface, which explains the strong response of T_{het}. This may also explain the relatively strong reaction of l-lysine (also in F_{het}), because with its additional amino group, it is able to form an additional positively charged $-NH_3^+$ functional group, by receiving H^+ from the surrounding water. Contrary to the case of ammonia, this strong adsorption goes along with a decrease in IN activity, since the amino acids – in contrast to ammonia – do not exhibit positively polarized H-atoms ready for hydrogen bonding to the water oxygen.

4 General discussion and implications

Depending on the solute, different influences on the freezing onset temperatures and the heterogeneously frozen fraction were observable. Overall, these investigations confirm the high sensitivity of the IN activity of microcline towards solutes as was already shown for inorganic salts (Kumar et al., 2018; Whale et al. 2018; Yun et al., 2020) and sulfuric acid (Kumar et al., 2018).

The here investigated carboxylic acids and the sulfuric acid investigated by Kumar et al. (2018) show similar effects on the IN activity of microcline, namely: T_{het} following Δa_w-criterion; F_{het} decreasing with increasing concentration together with irreversibility of the decrease. This supports the conclusion that the effect of acids originates primarily from the surface interaction with H^+ leading to dissolution and only secondarily from interactions with the anions. The influence of anions becomes visible in experiments under neutral pH, evidencing the complexation of Al^{3+} in the surface layers of the mineral. Bidentate complexes

of oxalate (and dicarboxylic acids in general) with Al^{3+} have been reported to accelerate the dissolution of the feldspar anor-
thite, which is the Ca^{2+} endmember of the plagioclase series (Min et al., 2015). Yet, because the higher
Si : Al ratio of microcline (3:1) compared with anorthite (1:1) leads to a higher number of Si–O–Al compared with Al–O–Al
bonds (Oelkers and Schott, 1995; Oelkers et al., 2009), dissolution is much lower in microcline because the aluminum ions
are more tightly bound within the crystal lattice through Si-O-Al bonds compared with Al-O-Al bonds. A slight effect of
carboxylic anions on the dissolution of feldspars has been shown by Bevan and Savage (1989) who independently varied pH
and oxalic acid concentrations in K-feldspar suspensions and found strongly enhanced surface dissolution when pH was de-
creased compared with only a small increase of dissolution when the oxalate concentration was increased. We therefore con-
clude that, on the timescales of our experiments, bidentate and tridentate carboxylates decrease the IN activity by blocking
active sites through surface adsorption rather than by dissolving them. Surface complexation is smaller for acetic acid since as
a monocarboxylic acid, it cannot form bidentate complexes with Al^{3+}. We also speculate that complexation with carboxylic
acids would decrease the IN activity of microcline irreversibly on longer timescales. We assume that in the case of feldspars
with lower Si to Al ratio, surface complexation would immediately promote dissolution. Under strongly acidic conditions (pH
1), Bevan and Savage (1989) found decreased dissolution rates of K-feldspar in the presence of oxalic acid. This indicates that
H^+ catalyzed dissolution can even be inhibited instead of promoted by oxalate complexation. Yet, at such high H^+ concentra-
tions, dissolution dominates complexation by far leading to a net loss of active sites within the timescale of our experiments.

The investigated amino acids show a decrease in T_{het} and F_{het}, which is strongest in the case of L-lysine. Due to the zwitterionic
nature of amino acids a strong polar interaction with the hydroxyl groups on the mineral surface is possible. Periodic density
functional theory calculations have shown that glycine, the simplest amino acid, can interact with up to three surface silanol
groups of microcline (Hu et al., 2020). The resulting adsorption of the molecules alters the surface properties and therefore
influences the IN activity. In the case of L-lysine the additional, positively charged $-NH_3^+$ group is expected to additionally
enhance the adsorption on the negatively charged surface of microcline ($pH_{PZC} < 2$; Vidyadhar and Hanumantha Rao, 2007),
resulting in even lower F_{het}. Hedges and Hare (1987) showed in experiments that basic (positively charged) amino acids
adsorbed much better on clay mineral surfaces than neutral and acidic amino acids, confirming a dependence of surface ad-
sorption on the surface charge of the mineral.

A reversible decrease of IN activity has also been observed by Zolles et al. (2015) after treating a microcline sample with
papain and pronase E enzymes. The IN activity was restored after heating the enzyme-treated sample to 773 K. As enzymes
consist of folded amino acid chains, the reduced IN activity of microcline in the presence of these proteins might be traced
back to the blocking of nucleation sites through surface-adsorbed enzymes.

The effect of polyols on IN activity aligns with the Δa_w-criterion, which is in accordance with Yun et al. (2021) and findings
from numerous studies, which investigated the impact of organic coatings on various mineral dusts (Tobo et al., 2012; Wex et
al., 2014 (kaolinite + levoglucosan); Zobrist et al., 2008a; Koop and Zobrist, 2009 (ATD + polyethylene glycol);). Kanji et al.
(2019) investigated collected dust particles from the Sahara and Asia coated with secondary organic aerosol from dark ozo-
nolysis of α-pinene. The particles were coated and subsequently the ice nucleation properties were observed in continuous

flow diffusion chambers. Even though the SOA coating contained also carboxylic acid functional groups, no decrease in the IN activity of the dust was found in this study. However, as the share of microcline in the samples was not stated, the presence of other IN active mineral components that do not respond as sensitive to organic acids as microcline may offer an alternative explanation for this finding. Apart from that, the H^+ concentration and the competition of H^+ with other complexing agents present in SOA also play a role for how accessible the mineral surface is for H^+ ions of coated particles.

None of the here presented (bio-)organic substances enhanced the IN activity of microcline, which rules them out as a cause for enhanced IN activity of soil dusts. Furthermore, interactions between the mineral surface and the most prevalent organic functional groups of the organic aerosol fraction leave the IN activity unchanged or even decrease it. These findings cast doubt on the conception that molecular interactions of organic molecules with the mineral surface may explain the enhanced IN activity of soil dusts, and leaves ammonia and ammonium as the only identified agents that are able to increase the IN activity of mineral particles. Actually, ammonia is an omnipresent fertilizer of soils that indeed might have a share in increasing the IN activity of soil dusts. In addition, ammonia will be removed by heating or H_2O_2 treatment, which are often used to infer the presence of (bio-)organic components (Du et al., 2017; O'Sullivan et al., 2014; Hill et al., 2016), which makes it an interfering agent in those tests.

Alternatively, or additionally, mineral particles may act as a substrate to order macromolecules such as humic acids, proteins or fragments of even larger systems, thus enhancing their IN activity. In this case, the macromolecules would provide the active sites, which may be ordered to form larger IN active structures on the mineral surface that are able to nucleate ice at higher temperatures. Such an effect due to aggregation on a substrate has been observed in the case of *Pseudomonas syringae,* where the intact outer cell membrane provides a substrate for ordering the IN active proteins into larger aggregates, thus raising the freezing temperatures by about 5 K (Polen et al., 2016; Zachariassen and Kristiansen, 2000). Findings of O'Sullivan et al. (2016) have shown that the IN activity of ice-nucleating proteins released from *Fusarium avenaceum* is conferrable to kaolinite dust particles when the protein encounters the mineral, yet, without enhancing its IN activity. Thus, it remains an open question whether synergistic effects between (bio-)organic substances and mineral surfaces are able to enhance the IN activity of either component. Alternatively, biogenic macromolecules like proteins exhibit high freezing temperatures by themselves and their presence alone may explain the increased IN activity of soil dusts compared with bare mineral dusts. This hypothesis gains relevance considering that also proteins that are not expressed for the purpose to nucleate ice can act as INPs (Cascajo-Castresana et al., 2020), at high temperatures (up to 269 K).

The high sensitivity to the presence of solutes gives rise to the question about the atmospheric relevance of microcline as an INP. Indeed, any investigated solute deteriorated the IN activity of microcline at water activities below 0.95. This is true for salts containing Na^+, K^+, and NH_4^+ as cations and NO_3^-, SO_4^{2-}, Cl^- as anions, and even more for acidic solutions (Kumar et al., 2018; Whale et al., 2018; Yun et al., 2020; 2021). Moreover, also amino acids and neutralized dicarboxylic acids deteriorated the IN activity as shown in this study. This has consequences for the relevance of coated microcline particles as INPs at cirrus conditions. Even if the coating inhibits ice nucleation reversibly, IN activity would only be restored at RH >95 %, which is well above the RH where homogeneous ice nucleation in solution droplets sets in. Therefore, only uncoated microcline would

be relevant as an INP at cirrus conditions. Conversely, microcline particles might act as INPs in immersion mode even ~~if~~when they are coated, ~~when~~if the coating inhibited~~s~~ ice nucleation reversibly, which is the case for salts and amino acids, but not for acidic coatings or coatings with dicarboxylic acids. While mineral dusts are uncoated at the source, they may obtain a coating during transport (Usher et al., 2003; Kolb et al., 2010; Ma et al., 2012; He et al., 2014; Fitzgerald et al., 2015; Tang et al., 2016). Even before long-range transport, soil dusts contain organic material, which may inhibit ice nucleation of microcline if present as coatings on the particles. To establish the role of coatings on the IN activity of microcline, soil dust and aged airborne dust would need to be collected, analyzed with respect to its mineralogical composition and investigated in controlled ice nucleation experiments.

5 Conclusions and summary

Immersion freezing experiments of suspended microcline particles in different carboxylic acid, amino acid and polyol solutions showed diverse effects on the IN activity of microcline attributable to their different surface interaction. The two investigated polyols showed agreement (within uncertainty) with the Δa_w-criterion and no significant change in the heterogeneously frozen fraction F_{het}. The three examined carboxylic acids were also in agreement with the Δa_w-criterion, except for citric acid concentrations that correspond to $a_w < 0.99$. Yet, all three carboxylic acids cause a significant decrease in F_{het}. When the acids were neutralized with ammonia, the decrease in F_{het} was even more pronounced and the three acids yielded trends in T_{het} different from one another and from the Δa_w-criterion. The five amino acids showed decreased onset temperatures by up to 10 K below the Δa_w-criterion as well as decreased F_{het} values. Furthermore, aging experiments showed that citric acid led to irreversible loss of ice-active sites while aging in neutralized citric acid, l-lysine and l-alanine solutions was completely reversible. This illustrates the different interactions of these solutes with the microcline surface. While acid solutions lead to irreversible loss of IN activity through dissolution of the microcline surface, the effect of all other investigated species is reversible and can be explained by adsorption leading only to temporary loss of IN activity of microcline. Our investigations show that the IN activity of microcline is highly sensitive to bio-organic solutes in agreement with other studies that showed a generally high sensitivity of microcline with respect to solutes. These findings highlight the need to investigate not only the IN activity of pure minerals but to extend these studies to investigations in the presence of species the minerals are in contact with throughout their emission and transport in the atmosphere. Furthermore, we cannot explain elevated IN activity of soil dusts based on surface interaction of microcline with the here presented bio-organics.

Data availability. The data presented in this publication will be submitted to the ETHZ data repository soon.

Author contributions. KK conducted the experiments. KK, CM, and TP contributed to the planning and interpretation of the experiments. KK prepared the manuscript with contributions from CM and TP.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements. We acknowledge the Swiss National Foundation for financial support (project numbers: 200021_175716).
480 We thank Michael Plötze, Anette Röthlisberger, and Marion Rothaupt for XRD and BET measurements; Philippe Grönquist and Christoper Dreimol providing us with DVS measurements; Marco Griepentrog for milling; Peter Brack for providing the microcline samples; Ulrich Krieger, Uwe Weers, Nikou Hamzepour, and Marco Vecellio for support in the laboratory (all ETH). We also thank Silvan von Arx from the Institute of Mechanical Engineering and Energy Technology (Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture, Lucerne) for providing size distribution measurements (Laser diffraction particle sizer).

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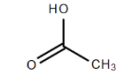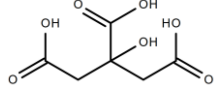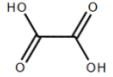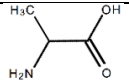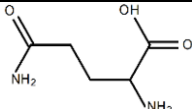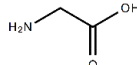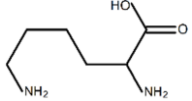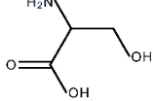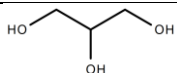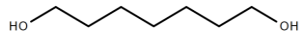
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Table 1. Summary of all solutes used. Stated are the supplier of the substance, purity and the concentration range that was used in the experiments.

Substance	Supplier	Purity	Concentration range	Structure	pKa
Carboxylic acids					
Acetic acid	Fluka	$\geq 99.5\%$	0.01 – 15 wt% pH: 3.8 – 2.2[1]		pKa = 4.756
Citric acid	Sigma Aldrich, Fluka (monohydrate)	$\geq 99.5\%$	0.01 – 20 wt% pH: 3.4 – 1.6[2]		pKa$_1$ = 3.13 pKa$_2$ = 4.76 pKa$_3$ = 6.39
Oxalic acid	Sigma Aldrich	$\geq 99.5\%$	0.01 – 4 wt% pH: 3.0 – 0.9[2]		pKa$_1$ = 1.25 pKa$_2$ = 4.14
Amino acids					
L-Alanine	Merck	$\geq 98\%$	0.01 – 10 wt%		pKa$_{COOH}$ = 1.25 pKa$_{NH_3^+}$ = 9.87
L-Glutamine	Merck	$\geq 99\%$	0.01 – 2 wt%		pKa$_{COOH}$ = 2.17 pKa$_{NH_3^+}$ = 9.13
Glycine	Sigma Aldrich	$\geq 99\%$	0.1 – 5 wt%		pKa$_{COOH}$ = 2.21 pKa$_{NH_3^+}$ = 9.15
L-lysine	Sigma Aldrich	$\geq 98\%$	0.001 – 10 wt% pH: 10.4 – 11.5		pKa$_{COOH}$ = 2.20 pKa$_{NH_3^+}$ = 8.90 pKa$_{NH_2}$ = 10.28
L-serine	Sigma Aldrich	$\geq 99\%$	0.02 – 20 wt%		pKa$_{COOH}$ = 2.21 pKa$_{NH_3^+}$ = 9.15
Polyols					
Glycerol	Honeywell	$\geq 99\%$	0.5 – 15 wt%		
1,7-Heptanediol	Sigma Aldrich	$\geq 95\%$	0.1 – 10 wt%		

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[1] Calculated using the weak acid approximation $pH = 0.5 * (pKa - \log_{10}(c_{acid}))$ (c_{acid} in mol/l)

[2] Calculated using the semi strong approximation and consideration of the first 2 acidic protons (c_{acid} in mol/l)

$$pH = -\log_{10}\left(\frac{K_a}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{K_a^2}{4} + K_a * c_{acid}}\right)$$

Table 2. Summary of statistical uncertainties of measurement parameters. Stated are the average standard deviation of T_{het}, T_{hom}, T_{melt}, and F_{het} determined as the average of the standard deviations from all measurement points shown in Figs. 3, 4, 7, 8 and the maximum standard deviation observed for each measurement parameter.

Parameter	Average deviation	Maximum deviation
T_{het}	0.25 K	1.29 K
T_{hom}	0.07 K	0.57 K
T_{melt}	0.06 K	0.41 K
F_{het}	0.05	0.14

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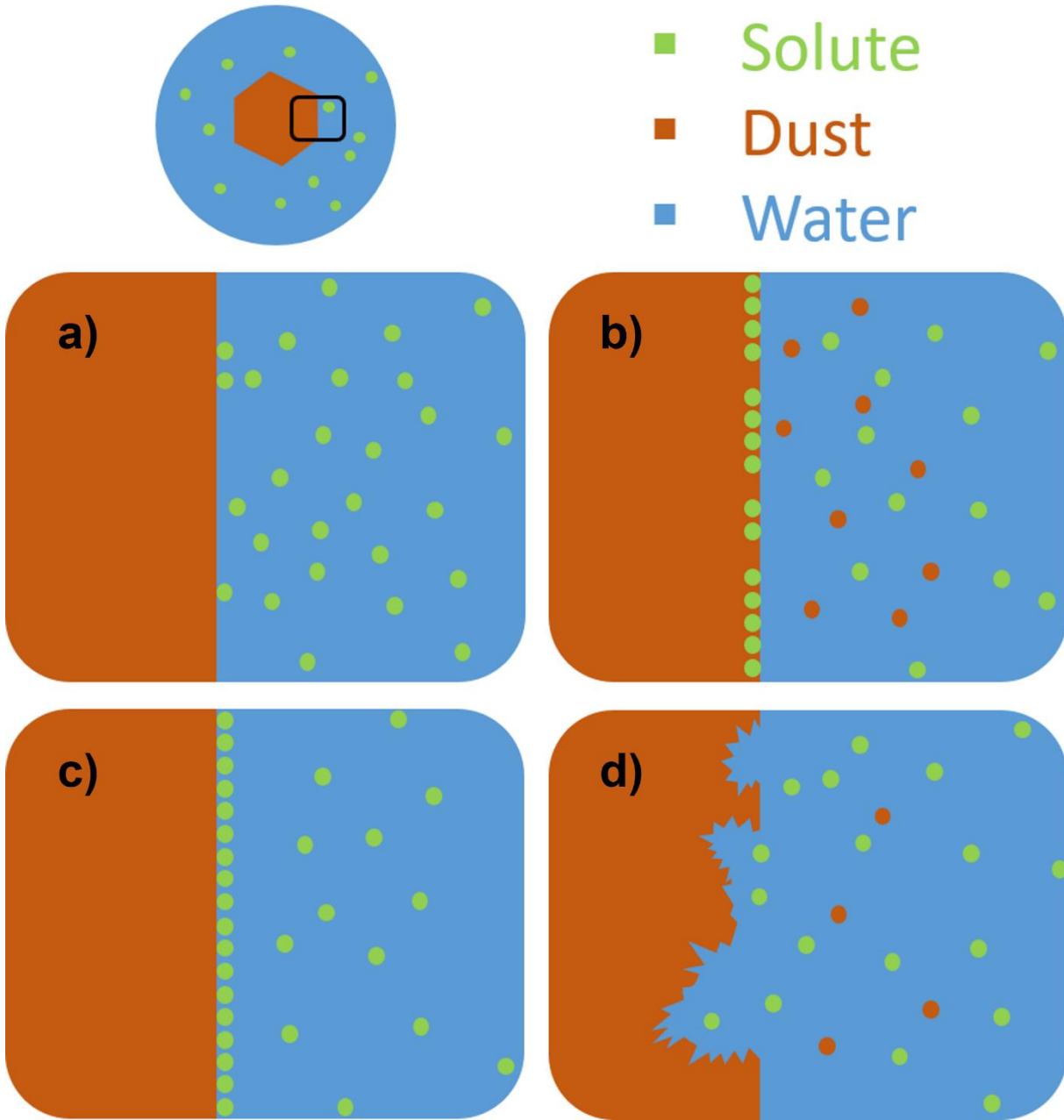
Figure 1. Schematic visualization of a mineral dust particle fully immersed in an aqueous solution droplet. Panels (a) to (d) depict different interactions of solutes on the mineral dust surface. (a) no specific interaction of the solute with the surface, which results in neither enrichment nor depletion of solute on the surface, and thus $T_{het}(a_w) = T_{melt}(a_w + \Delta a_{w,het})$ with $\Delta a_{w,het}$ = const; (b) in the case of ionic solutes, cations located in the surface layer of the mineral can be exchanged with cations of the surrounding solution; (c) the solute adsorbs to the surface leading to a surface enrichment and possibly coverage and blocking of IN active sites; (d) dissolution of the surface layer through reactive solutes (e.g. acids). Interactions depicted in panels (b) to (d) are characterized by $\Delta a_{w,het} \neq$ const, and ~~typically~~ $T_{het}(a_w)$ ~~is~~ typically lower than expected from the Δa_w-criterion, i.e. a worsening of ice nucleation ability with increasing solute concentration, i.e. decreasing a_w.

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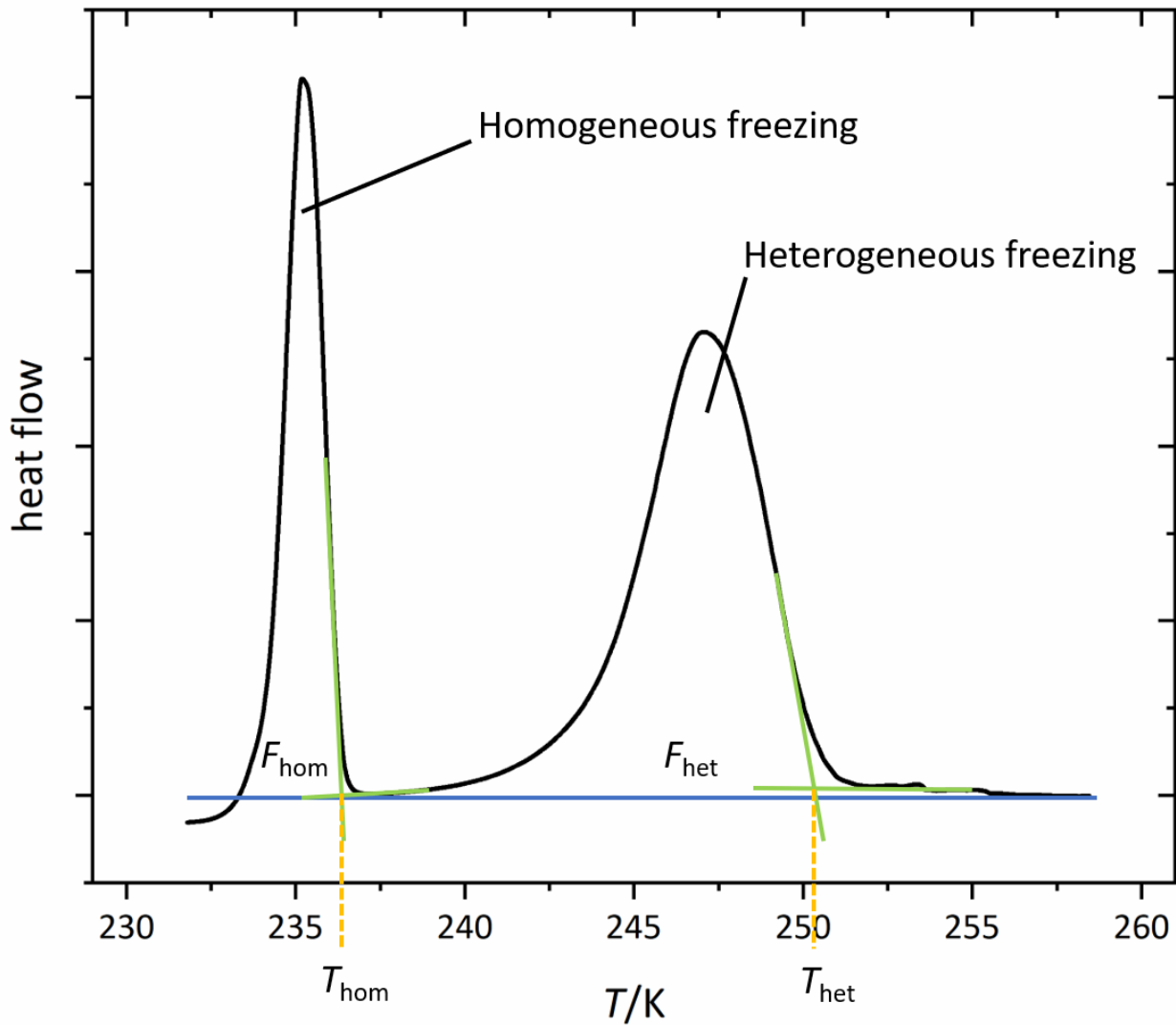
Figure 2: A typical DSC thermogram, showing freezing onset temperatures T_{hom} and T_{het} constructed with the asymptotes of the homogeneous and the heterogeneous freezing peaks, respectively, and the frozen fractions F_{hom} and F_{het} resulting from the integral between the DSC curve and the blue horizontal line, as the base line. The area underneath the curve corresponds to the frozen water volume (if the temperature
770   dependence of the enthalpy of freezing is neglected; Speedy, 1987; Johari et al., 1994). All depicted DSC thermograms in this study are normalized with respect to their total integral i.e. $F_{het} + F_{hom} = 1$. The homogeneous onset temperature is taken as the separator between the two peak areas. Note that integrals are determined in the time domain (heat flow vs. time) and not in the temperature domain, which is shown here.

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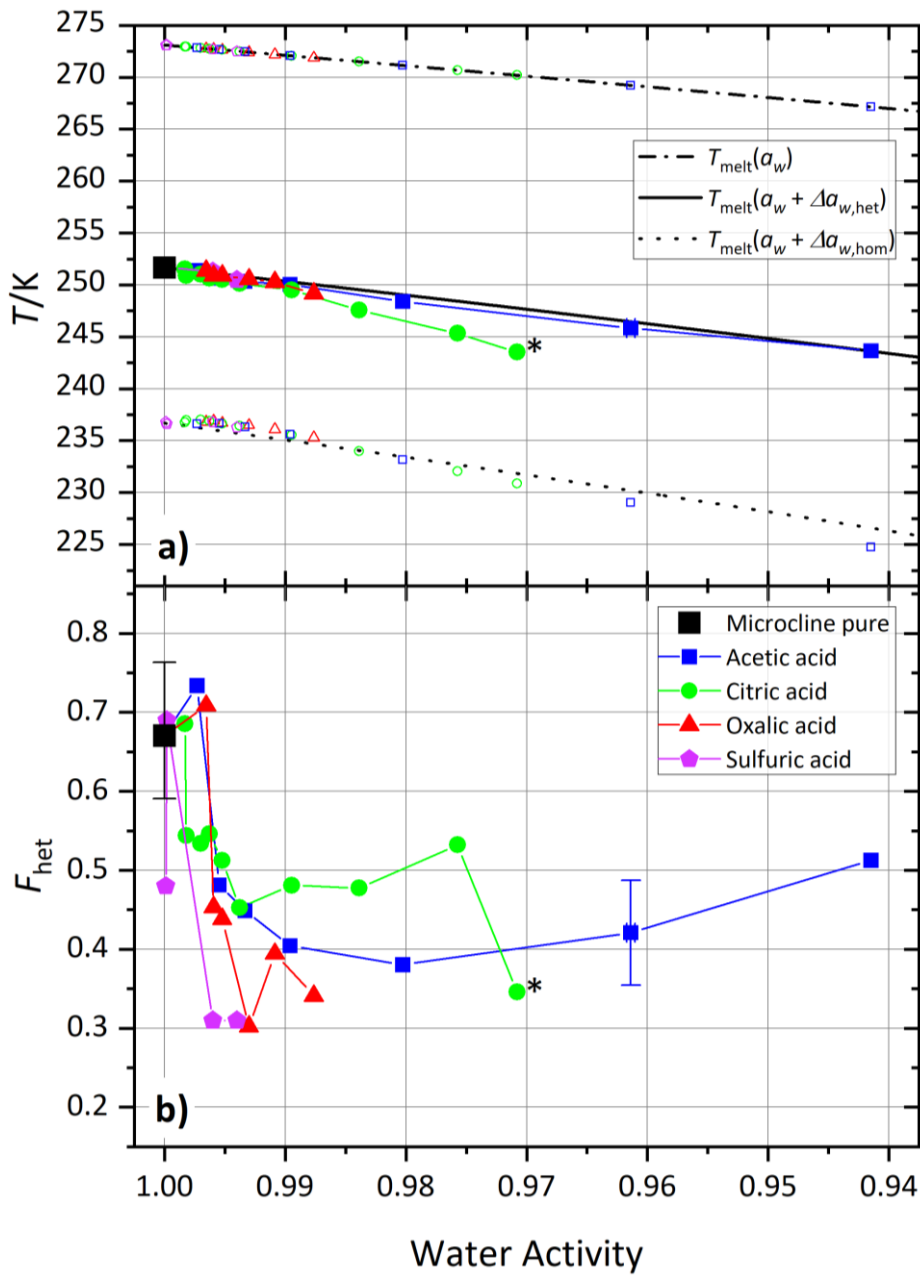
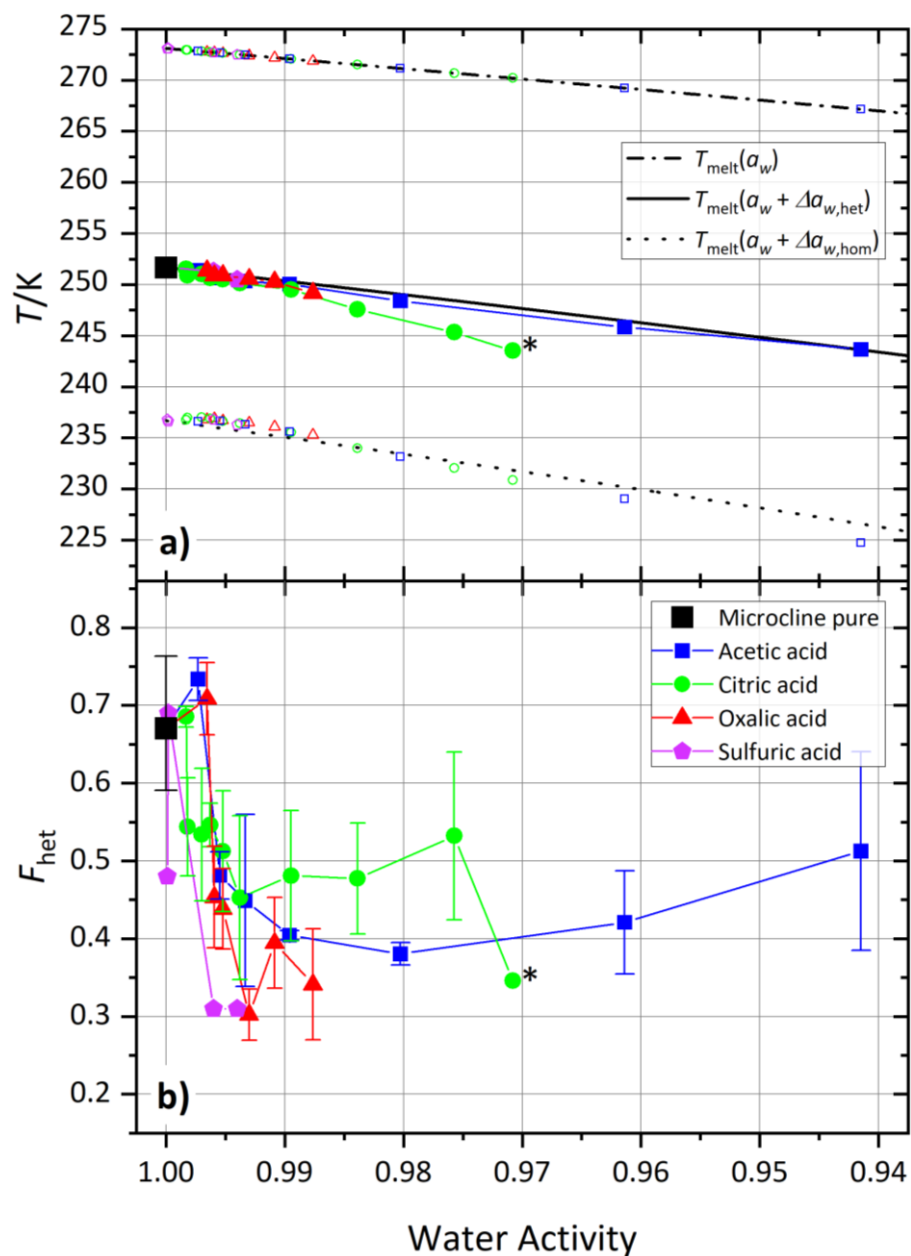


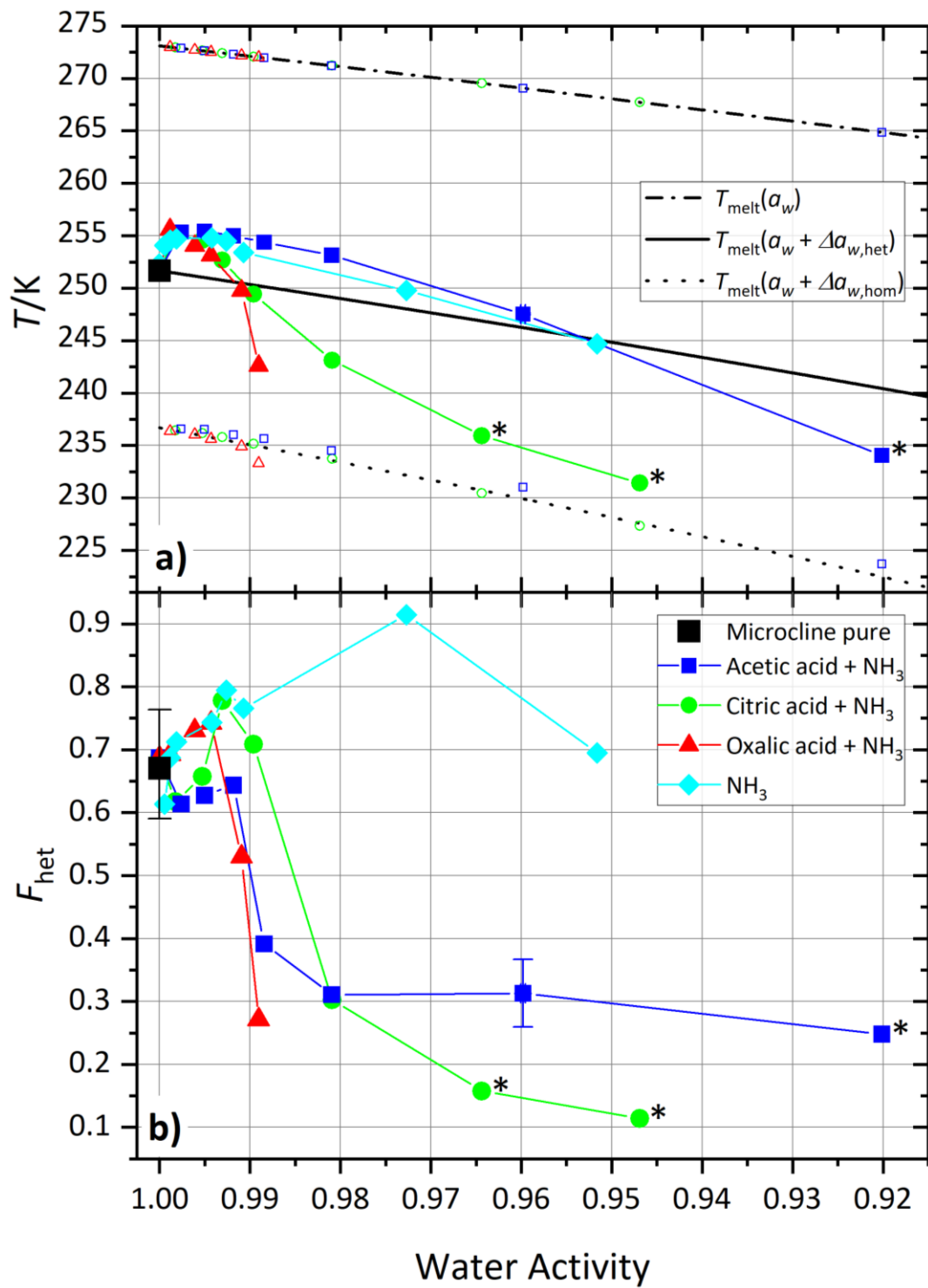
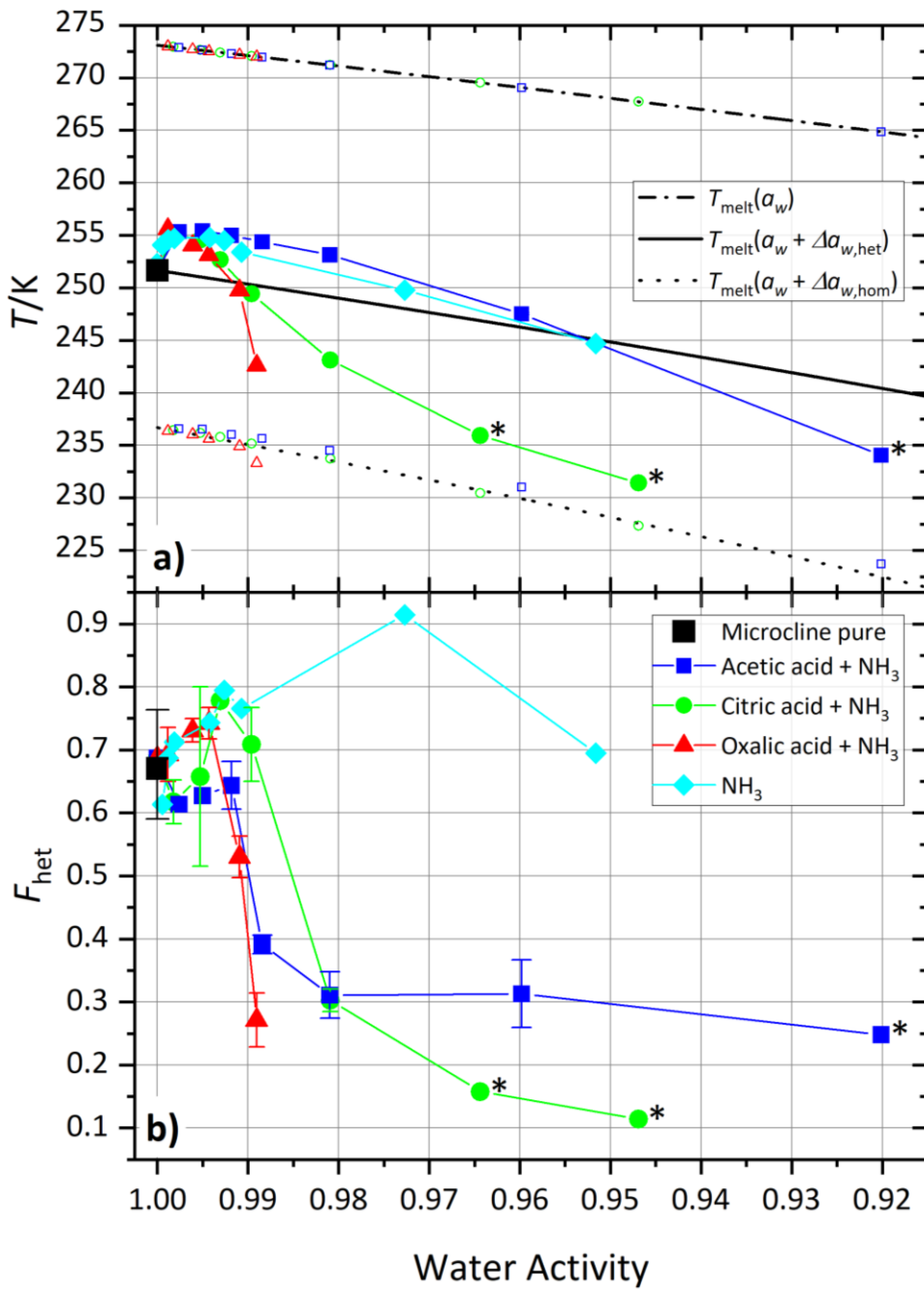
Figure 3: Freezing experiments with microcline (2 wt%) in aqueous carboxylic acid solutions as a function of water activity. For comparison, microcline 2 wt% in sulfuric acid ~~data~~ data from Kumar et al. (2018) ~~data~~ are shown as magenta pentagons. (a) Melting temperatures, T_{melt} (open symbols between 265 K and 275 K), heterogeneous freezing onset temperatures (filled symbols) and homogeneous freezing onset temperatures (open symbols between 220 K and 240 K) as a function of water activity, a_w. Dash-dotted black line: ice melting point curve; solid black line: heterogeneous freezing curve, $T_{het}(a_w)$; dotted black line: homogeneous freezing curve, $T_{hom}(a_w)$. All points are the average of at least two separate emulsion freezing experiments. Measurements without a repetition are marked with a black star label (see supplemental information for individual DSC curves). (b): Heterogeneously frozen fraction, F_{het}, as a function of water activity, a_w. Measurement uncertainties in F_{het} are shown ~~for one exemplary data point and for the microcline pure measurement~~ as the spread from minimum to maximum measured values. ~~The uncertainty for a_w is shown for one exemplary data point and~~ for all F_{het} values from this study measure~~ments~~d with a repetition.

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Figure 4: Compiled freezing experiment results of microcline (2 wt%) in neutralized aqueous carboxylic acid solutions of varying concentration. Cyan diamonds for NH₃-solutions are from Kumar et al. (2018). Data points and curves are as explained in Fig. 3.

a) Pure H₂O

day 7
T_{het}: (251.0 ± 0.1) K
F_{het}: 0.85 ± 0.03

day 4
T_{het}: (250.8 ± 0.1) K
F_{het}: 0.68 ± 0.12

day 1
T_{het}: (251.2 ± 0.3) K
F_{het}: 0.78 ± 0.03

fresh
T_{het}: (251.4 ± 0.2) K
F_{het}: 0.81 ± 0.05

b) citric acid (a_w ≈ 0.995)

day 7
T_{het}: (248.9 ± 0.4) K
F_{het}: 0.59 ± 0.06

day 4
T_{het}: (249 ± 1) K
F_{het}: 0.57 ± 0.01

day 1
T_{het}: (250.8 ± 0.9) K
F_{het}: 0.77 ± 0.02

fresh
T_{het}: (250.0 ± 0.5) K
F_{het}: 0.81 ± 0.06

c) Neutralized citric acid (a_w ≈ 0.993)

day 7
T_{het}: (252.10 ± 0.03) K
F_{het}: 0.81 ± 0.01

day 4
T_{het}: (252.4 ± 0.2) K
F_{het}: 0.82 ± 0.05

day 1
T_{het}: (252.91 ± 0*) K
F_{het}: 0.78 ± 0.01

fresh
T_{het}: (253.15 ± 0.06) K
F_{het}: 0.73 ± 0.06

heat flow

T/K

Figure 5: DSC thermograms of microcline (2 wt%) in (a) water (b) 1 wt% citric acid (a_w ≈ 0.995) and (c) 1 wt% citric acid neutralized with NH₃ (a_w ≈ 0.993) measured directly after the preparation (fresh) and on the displayed days (day 1, 4, 7). Black squares mark the heterogeneous freezing onset temperatures. The thermograms are normalized with respect to their total integral. The displayed T_{het} and F_{het} values and the black squares are the average of two measurements. The corresponding uncertainties are the standard deviation (black star label: both measurements yielded the same T_{het}).

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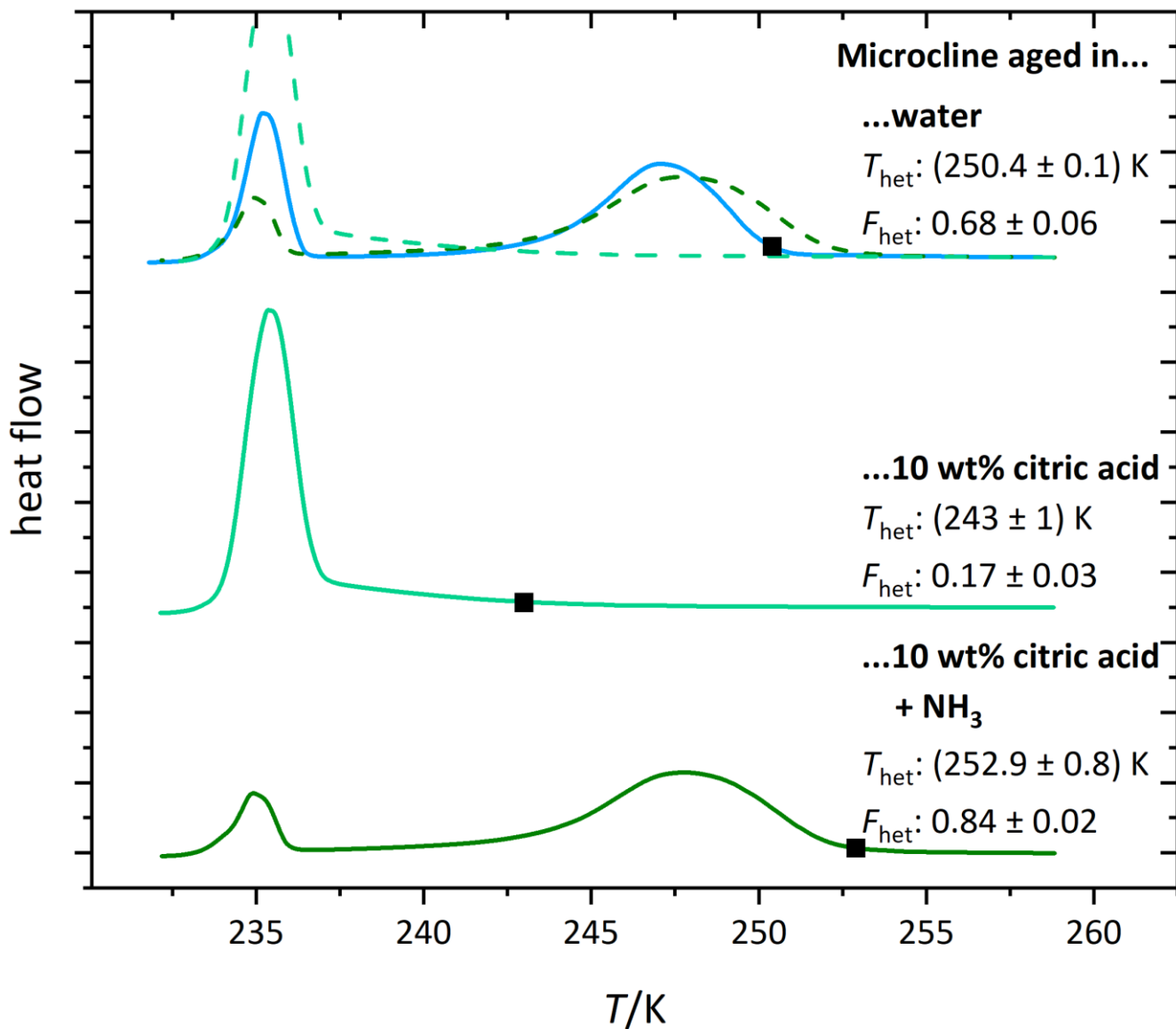


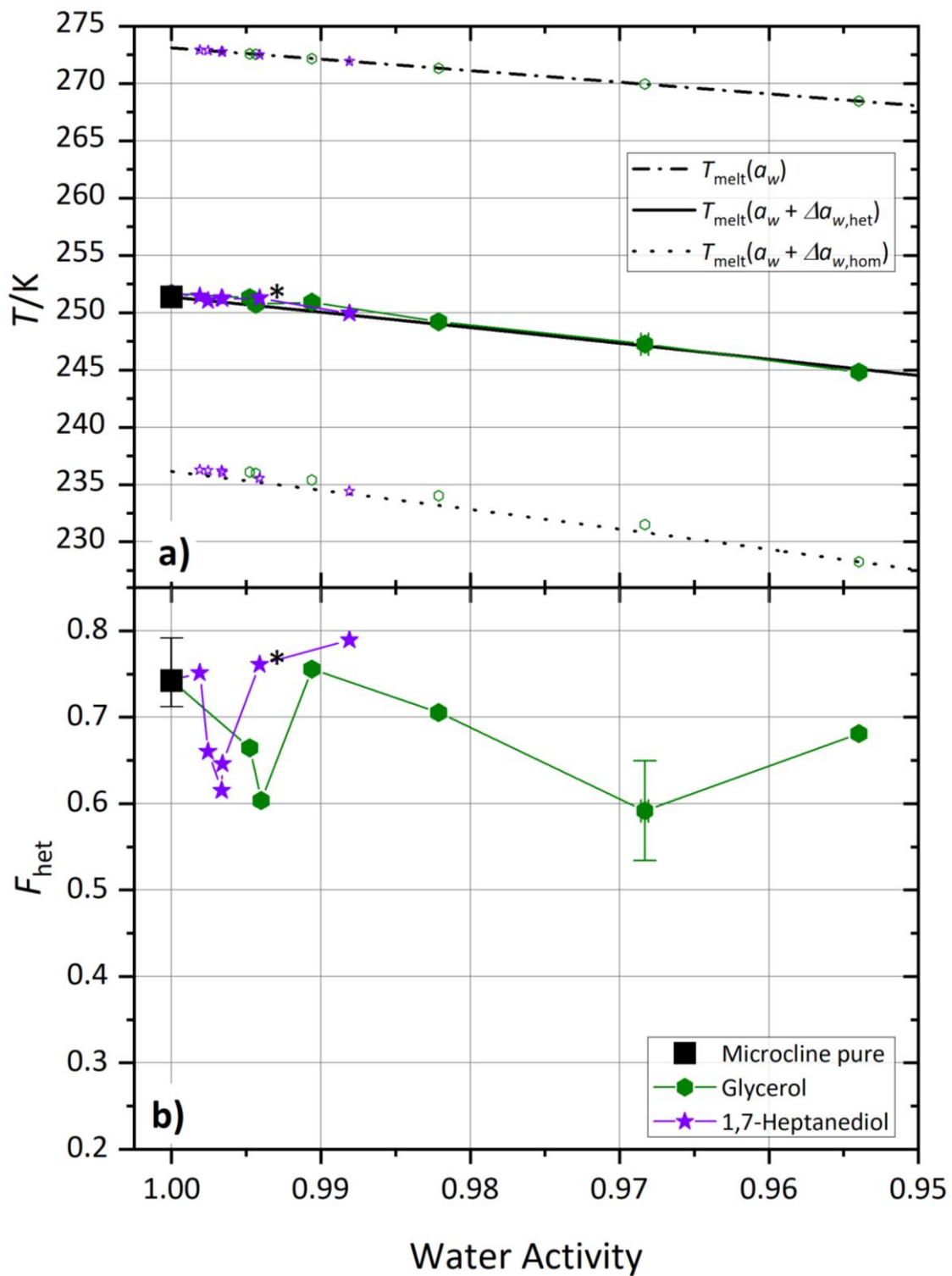
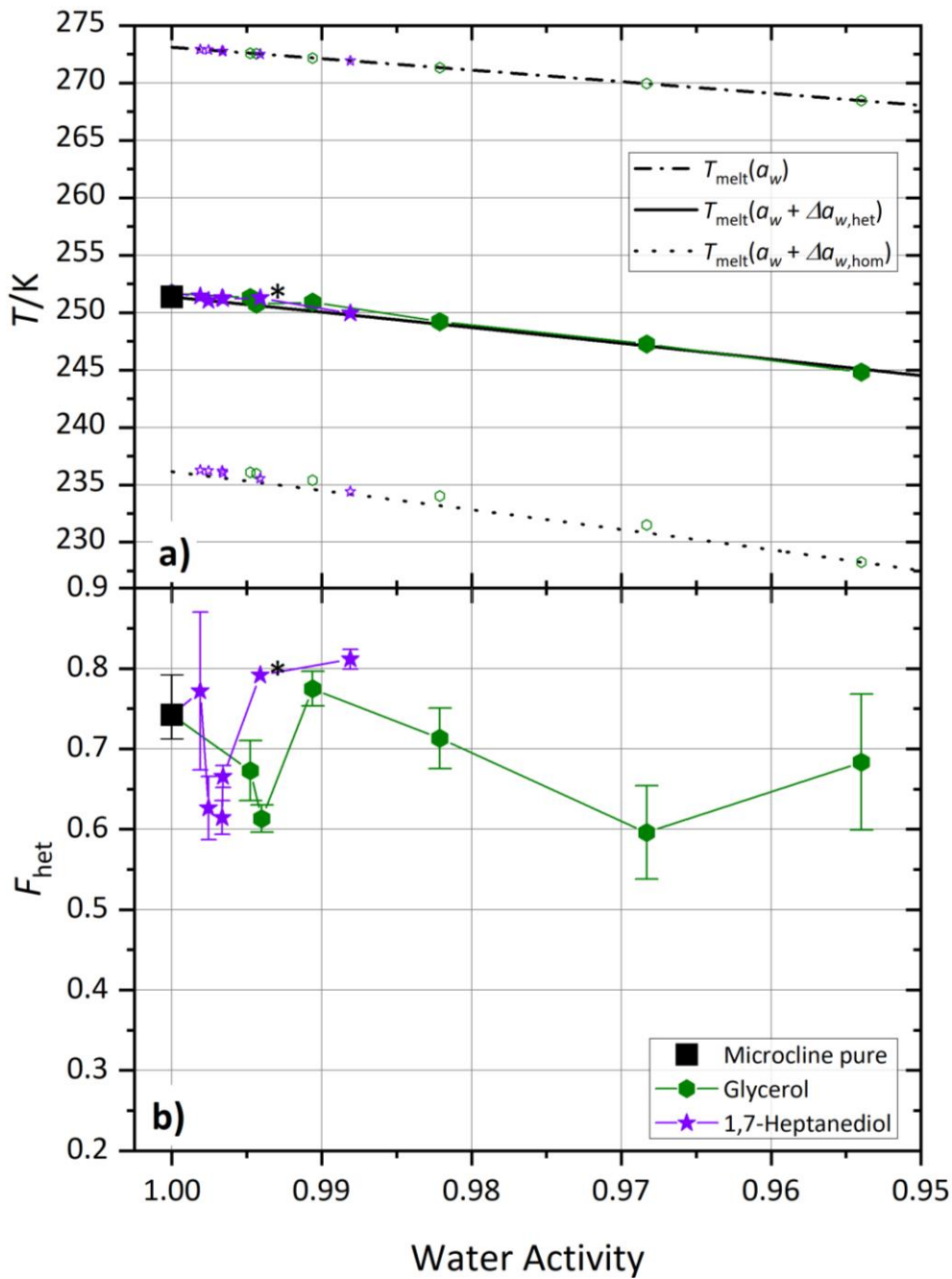
Figure 6: DSC thermograms of microcline (2 wt%) after 10 days of aging in the respective solutions (citric acid: 10 wt%, $a_w \approx 0.984$; neutralized citric acid: 10 wt%, $a_w \approx 0.975$) and subsequent washing. The thermograms are normalized with respect to their total integral. The average freezing onset temperatures are marked by black squares. For easier comparison the thermograms of the solutions are overlayed as dashed lines above the first thermogram. The displayed T_{het} and F_{het} values are the average of two measurements. The corresponding uncertainties are the standard deviation.

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Figure 7: Freezing experiments with microcline (2 wt%) in aqueous polyol solutions as a function of water activity. Data points and curves are as explained in Fig. 3.
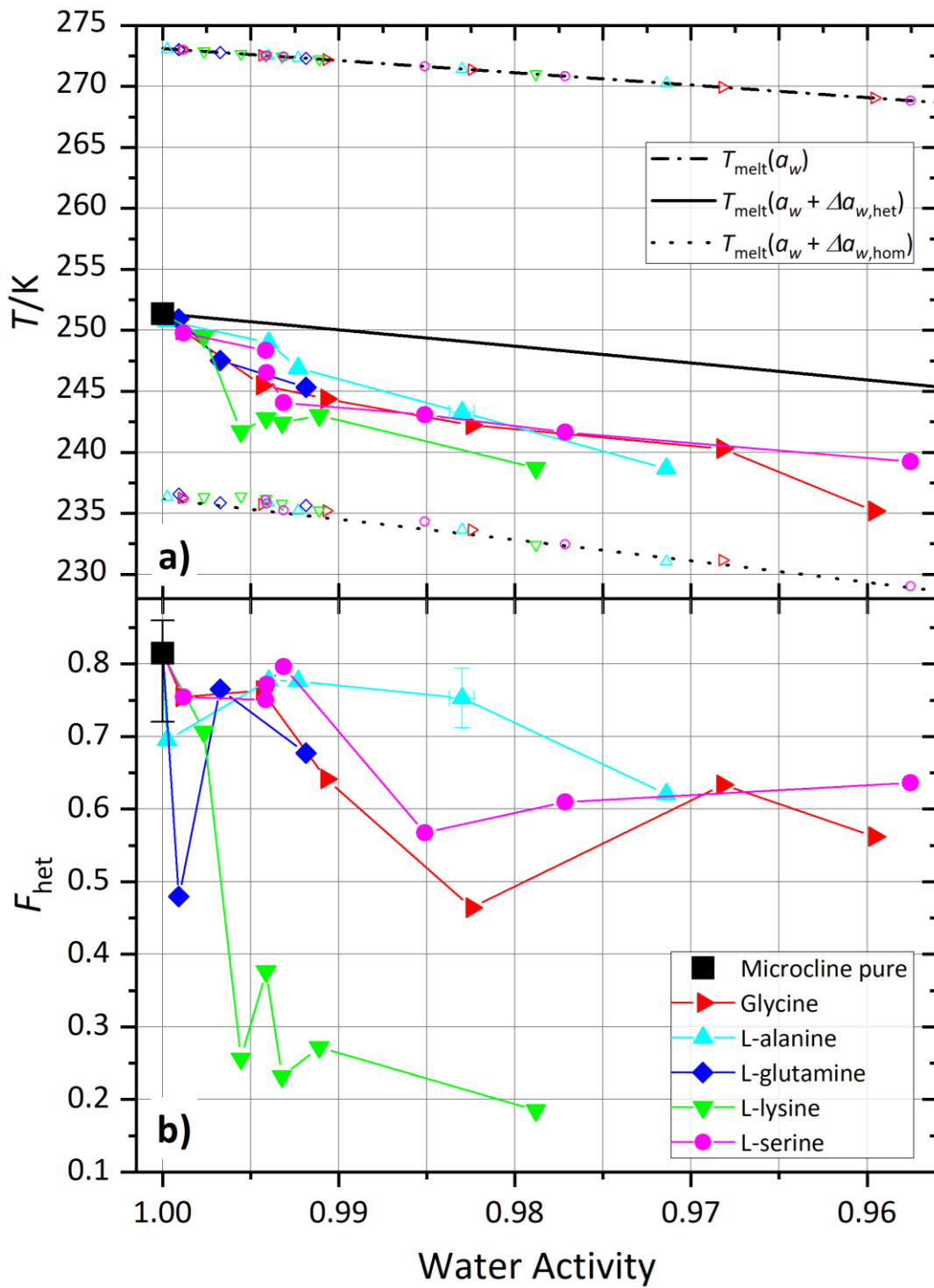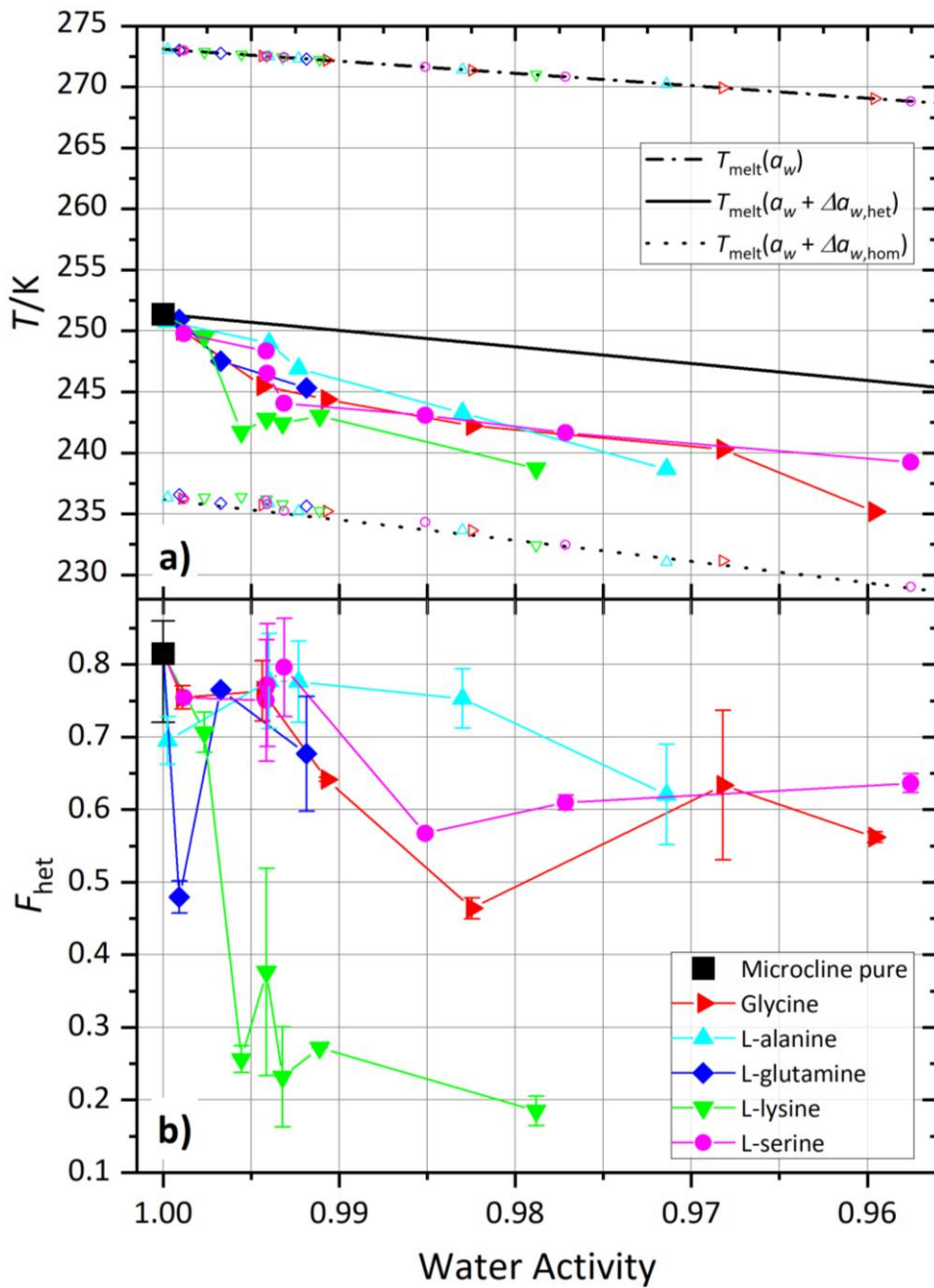
Figure 8: Freezing experiments with microcline (2 wt%) in aqueous amino acid solutions as a function of water activity. Data points and curves are as explained in Fig. 3.
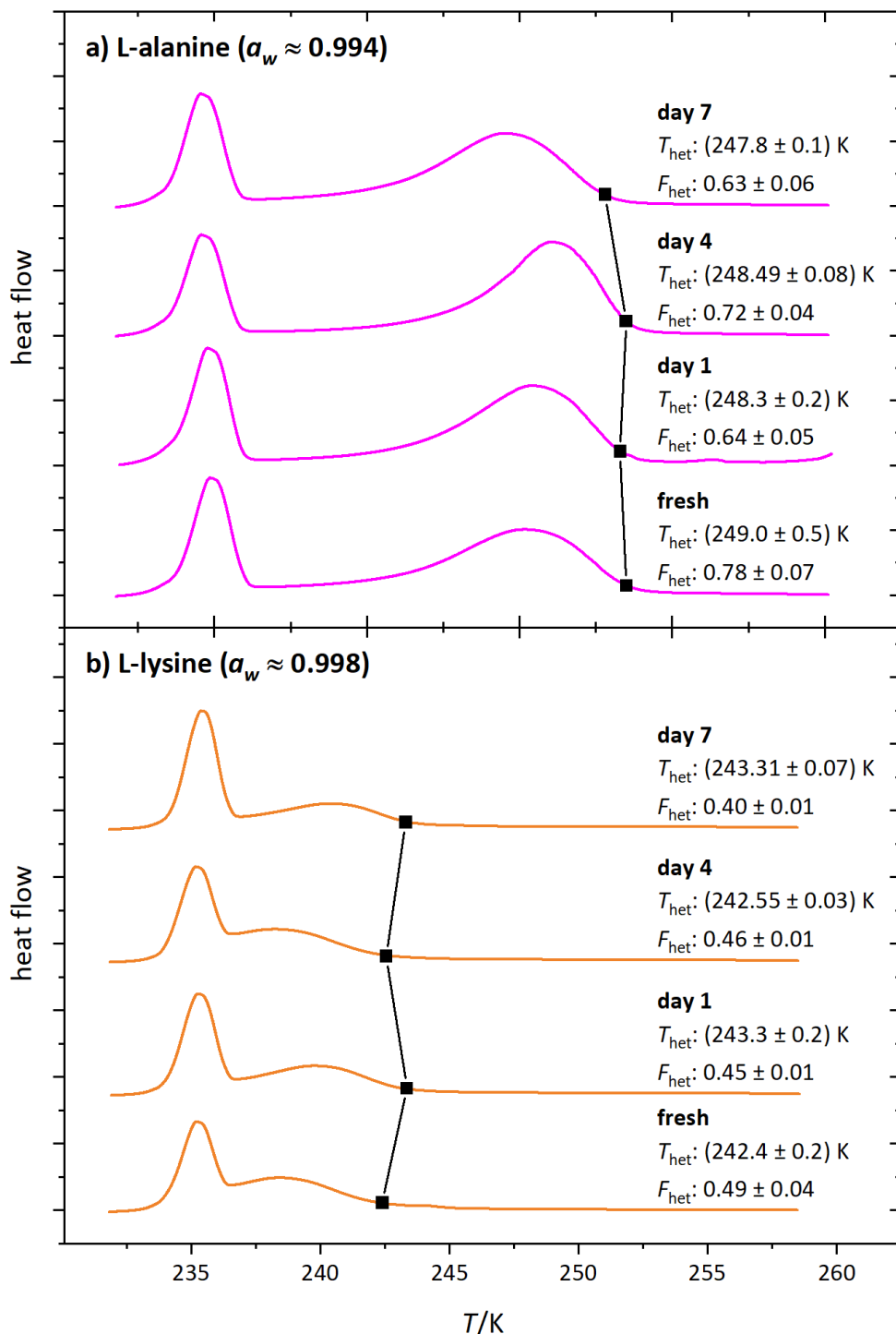
Figure 9: DSC thermograms of microcline (2 wt%) in aqueous l-alanine solutions (1 wt%; $a_w \approx 0.994$) and b) aqueous l-lysine solutions (0.1 wt%; $a_w \approx 0.998$) measured directly after the preparation (fresh) and on the displayed days (day 1, 4, 7). Black squares mark the heterogeneous freezing onset temperatures. The thermograms are normalized with respect to their total integral. The displayed T_{het} and F_{het} values are the average of two measurements. The corresponding uncertainties are the standard deviation.
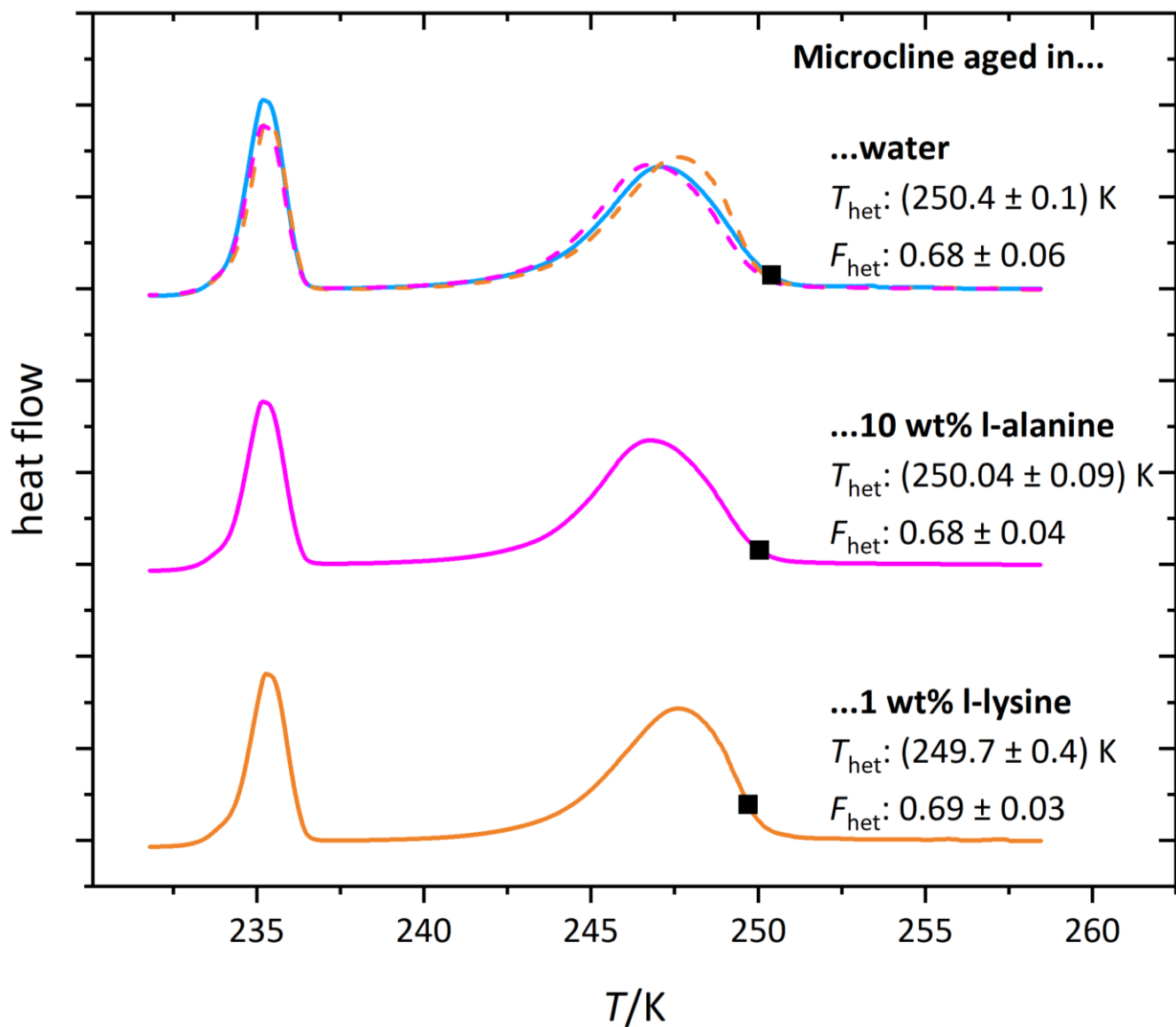
Figure 10: DSC thermograms of microcline (2 wt%) after 10 days of aging in the respective solutions (l-alanine: 10 wt%, $a_w \approx 0.977$; l-lysine: 1 wt%, $a_w \approx 0.994$) and subsequent washing. The thermograms are normalized with respect to their total integral. The average freezing onset temperatures are marked by black squares. For easier comparison the thermograms of the solutions are overlayed as dashed lines above the ~~first~~ thermogram of the pure water case. The displayed T_{het} and F_{het} values are the average of two measurements. The corresponding uncertainties are the standard deviation.

Appendix
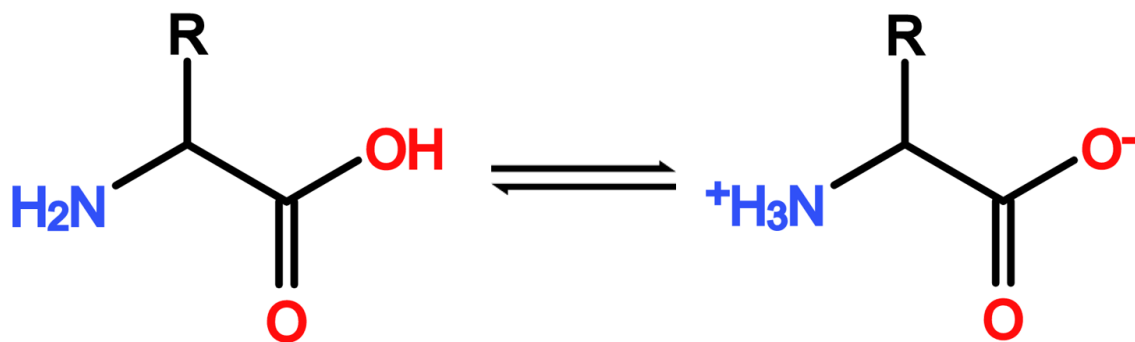
Figure A1: General reaction scheme of a zwitterionic equilibrium reaction of amino acids. In aqueous solution the H$^+$ of the carboxyl function can be released and absorbed by the amino function of the same molecule leading to the formation of a so-called zwitterion. This 835 enables amino acids to strong polar interactions based on electrostatic forces.