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# Characterizing the influence of riming on the spatial variability of ice water content in mixed-phase clouds using airborne data

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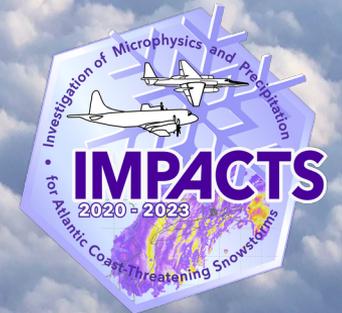
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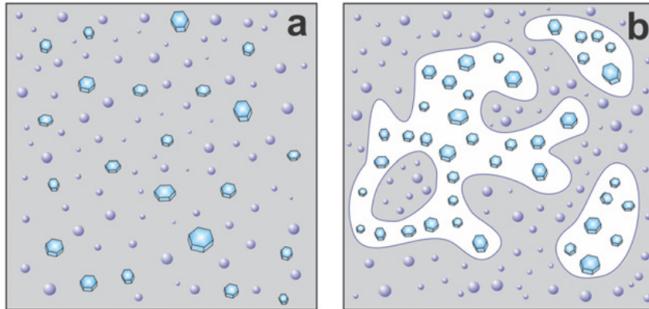
Abstract  
& slides:



## Ice water content (IWC) clustering in mixed-phase clouds (MPC)



- Liquid droplets and ice particles often mixed heterogeneously → **hydrometeor clusters**

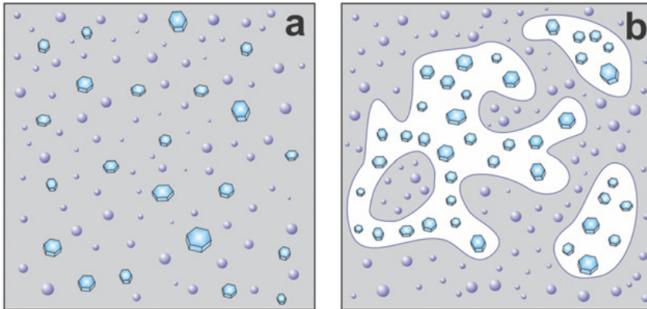


*Adapted from Korolev et al. (2017)*

## Ice water content (IWC) clustering in mixed-phase clouds (MPC)

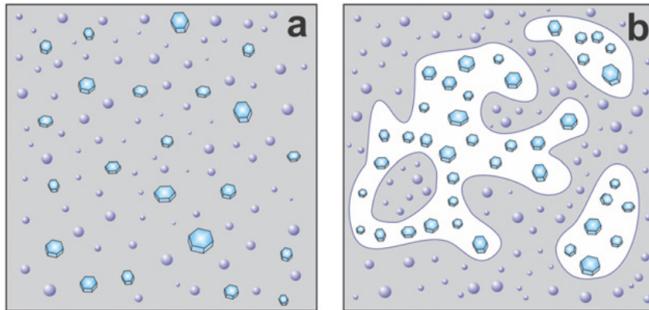


- Liquid droplets and ice particles often mixed heterogeneously → **hydrometeor clusters**
  - Larger scales (few km)
    - Dominate ice inhomogeneity [1]
    - Due to ice formation and growth processes



*Adapted from Korolev et al. (2017)*

## Ice water content (IWC) clustering in mixed-phase clouds (MPC)

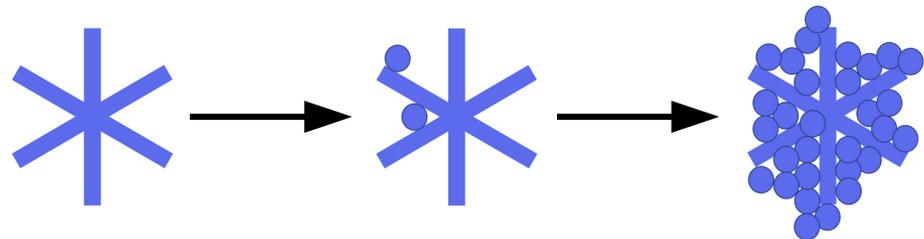


Adapted from Korolev et al. (2017)

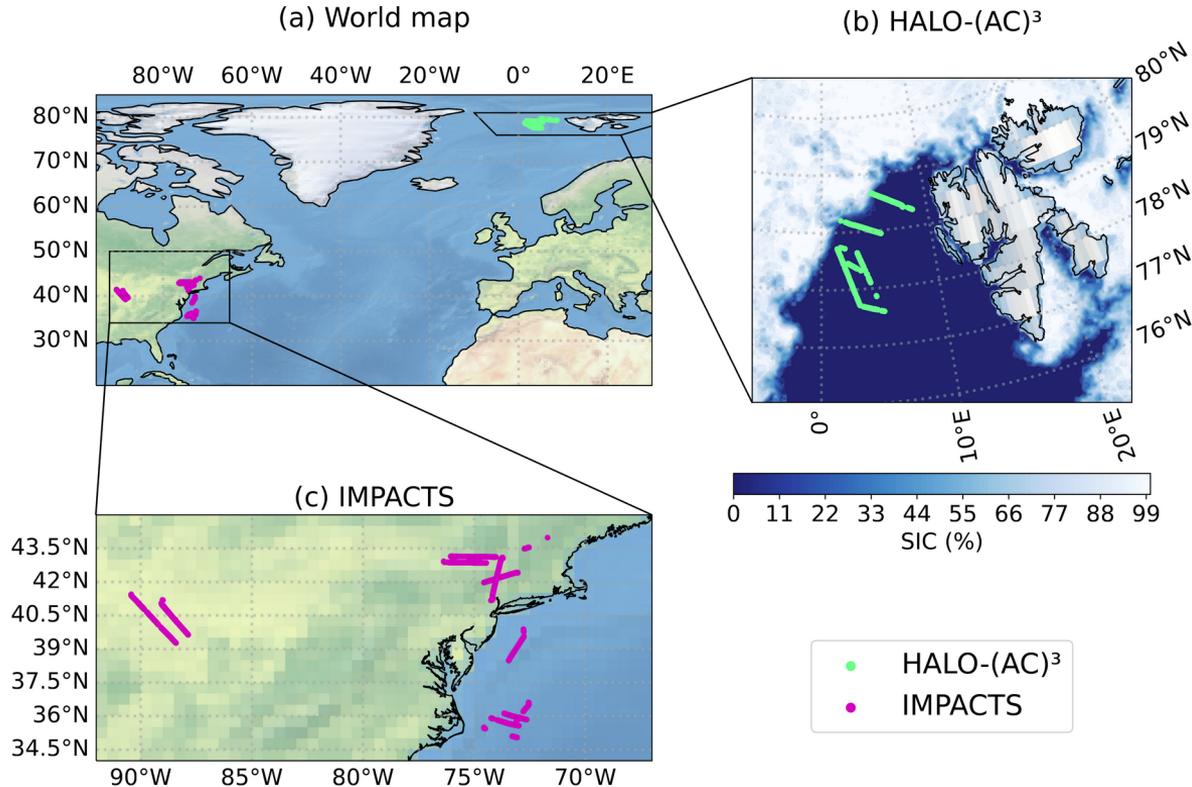
- Liquid droplets and ice particles often mixed heterogeneously → **hydrometeor clusters**
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Research question:

- What is the influence of **riming** on spatial variability of ice in MPC?



## (Collocated) Flights during IMPACTS & HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup>

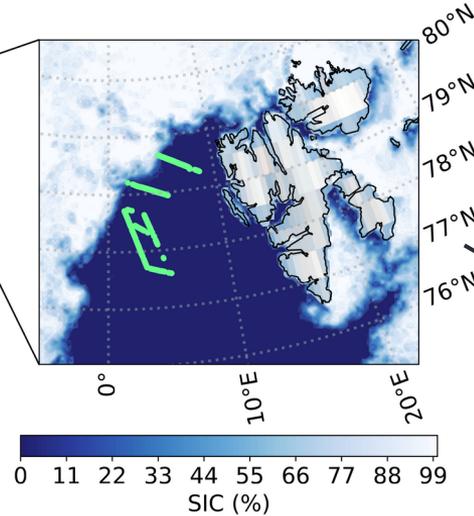
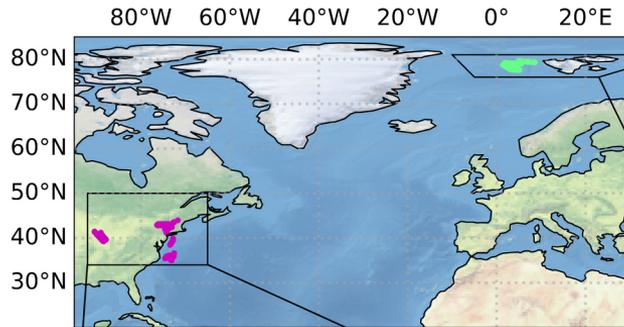


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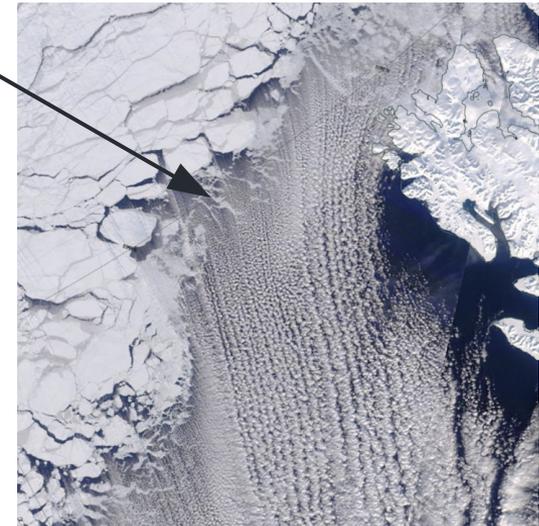


(a) World map

(b) HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup>

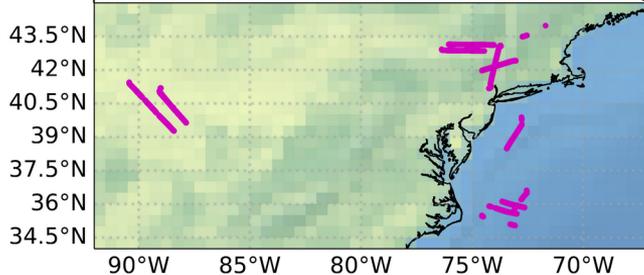


Cloud streets during HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup>



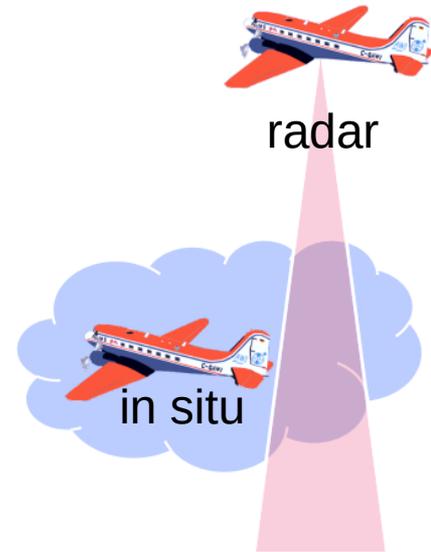
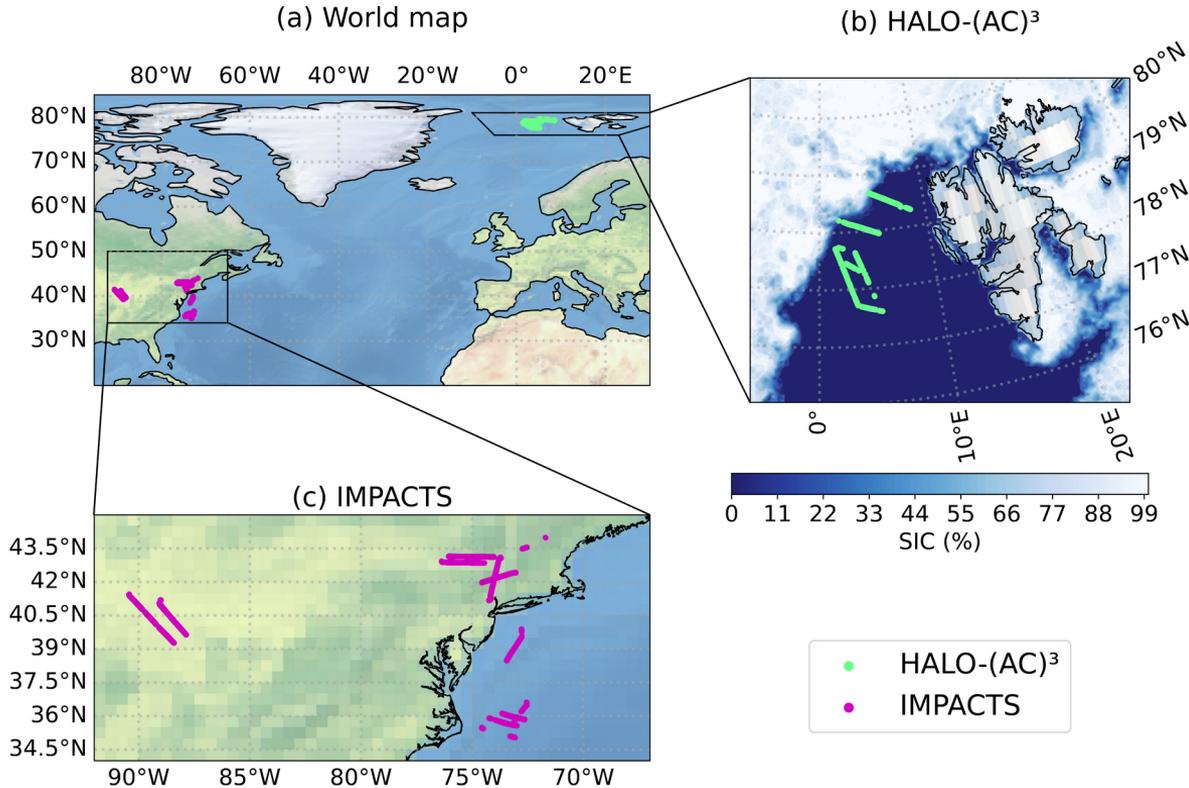
<https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/>

(c) IMPACTS



- HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup>
- IMPACTS

## (Collocated) Flights during IMPACTS & HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup>



Research question: What is the influence of **riming** on spatial variability of ice in MPC?



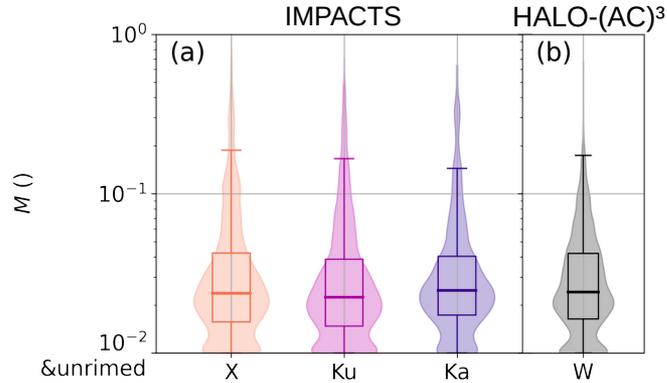
Research question: What is the influence of **riming** on spatial variability of ice in MPC?

I. Riming occurrence

II. IWC variability

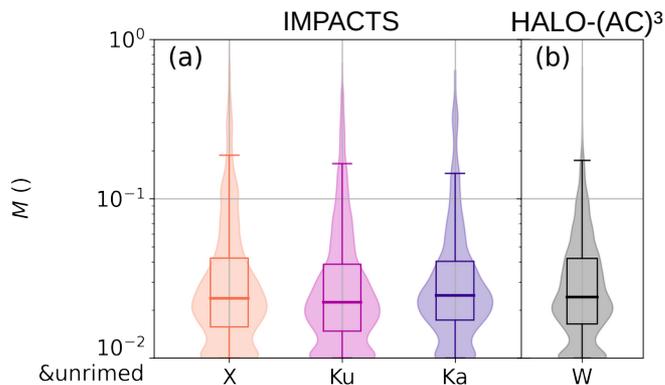


## How much riming occurred?



- Similar amount of riming during both campaigns:
  - Lots of lightly rimed particles
  - Few heavily rimed particles
- $M$  ... normalized rime mass [2]

## How much riming occurred? What is the impact on IWC?

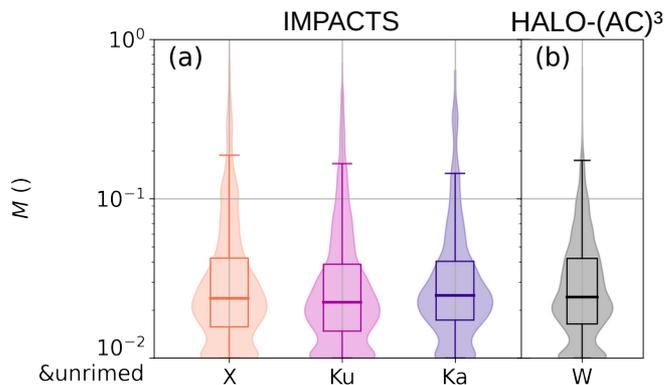


- Similar amount of riming during both campaigns:
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- **IWC** calculated by integrating the product of **ice particle mass** and **number**
  - Accounting for riming → mass parameterization for rimed particles
  - Neglecting riming → mass parameterization for unrimed particles

} [3]

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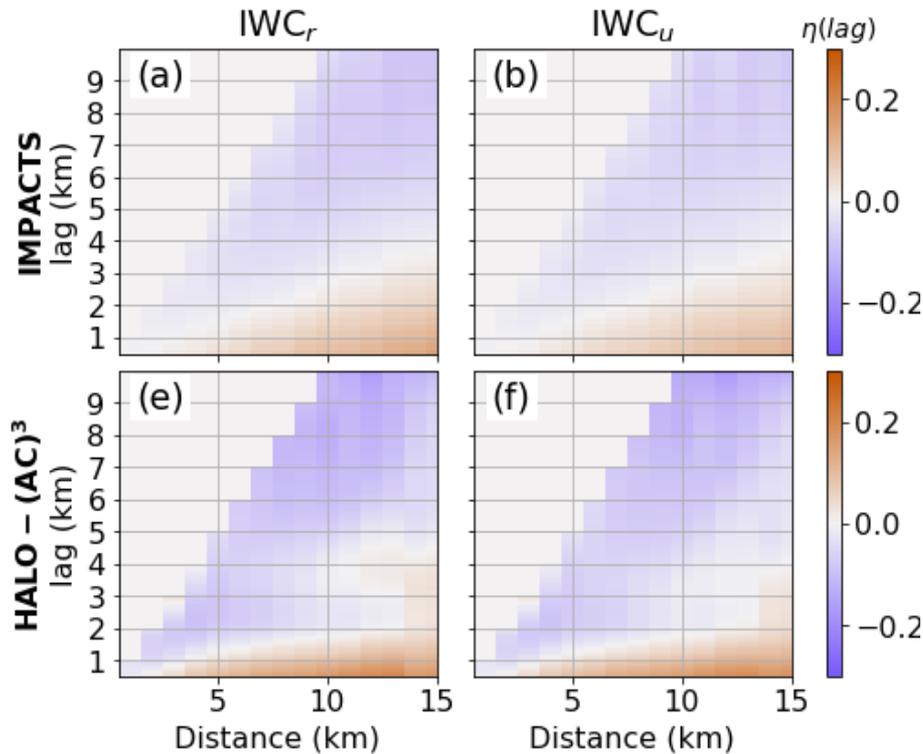
- **66 %** and **63 % of IWC due to riming** during IMPACTS and HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup>, respectively

Research question: What is the influence of **riming** on spatial variability of ice in MPC?

- I. Riming occurrence
- II. IWC variability**

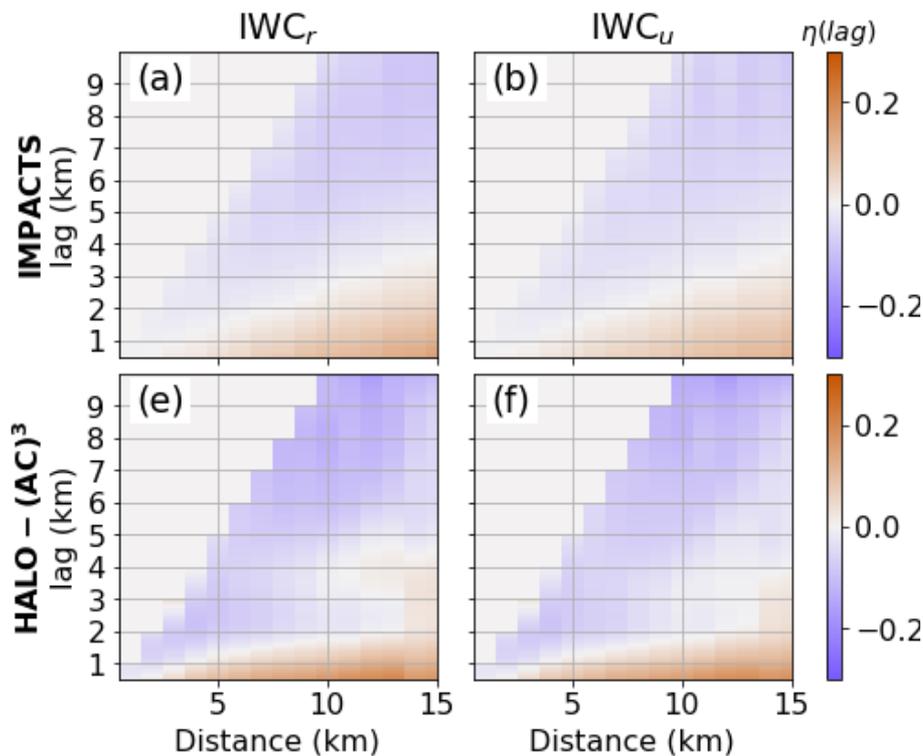


## Ice cluster spatial scales



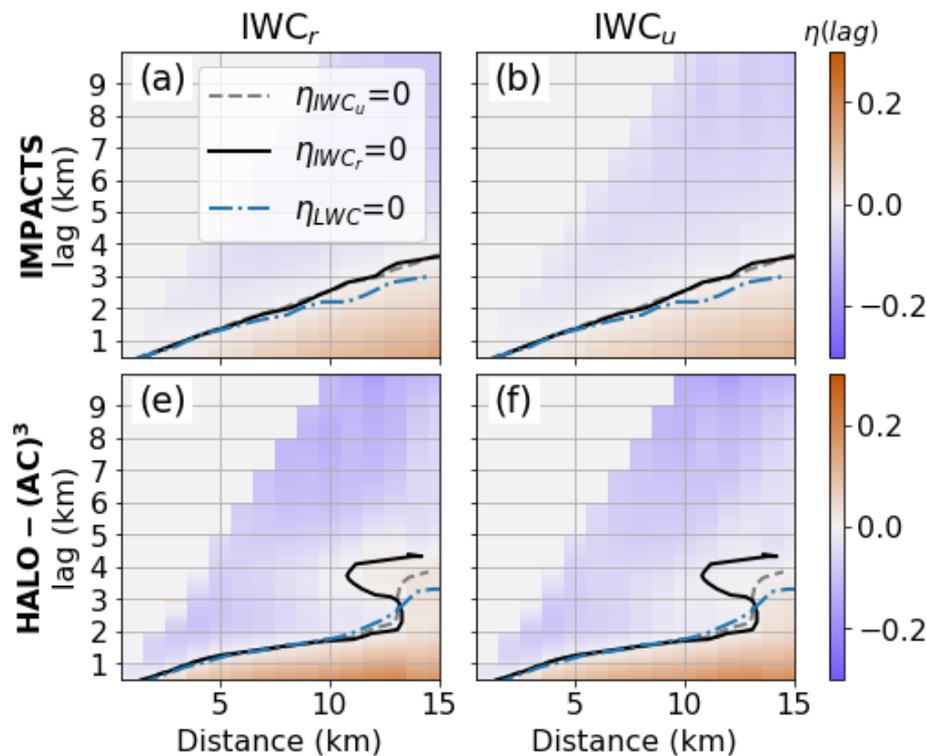
- Pair correlation function  $\eta$ 
  - IWC cluster probability

## Ice cluster spatial scales



- Pair correlation function  $\eta$ 
  - IWC cluster probability
- IWC calculated:
  - Accounting for riming **IWC<sub>r</sub>**
  - Neglecting riming **IWC<sub>u</sub>**
- Flight segments with fixed **distance x km**
- Calculate **average  $\eta$**  as function of **lag y km**

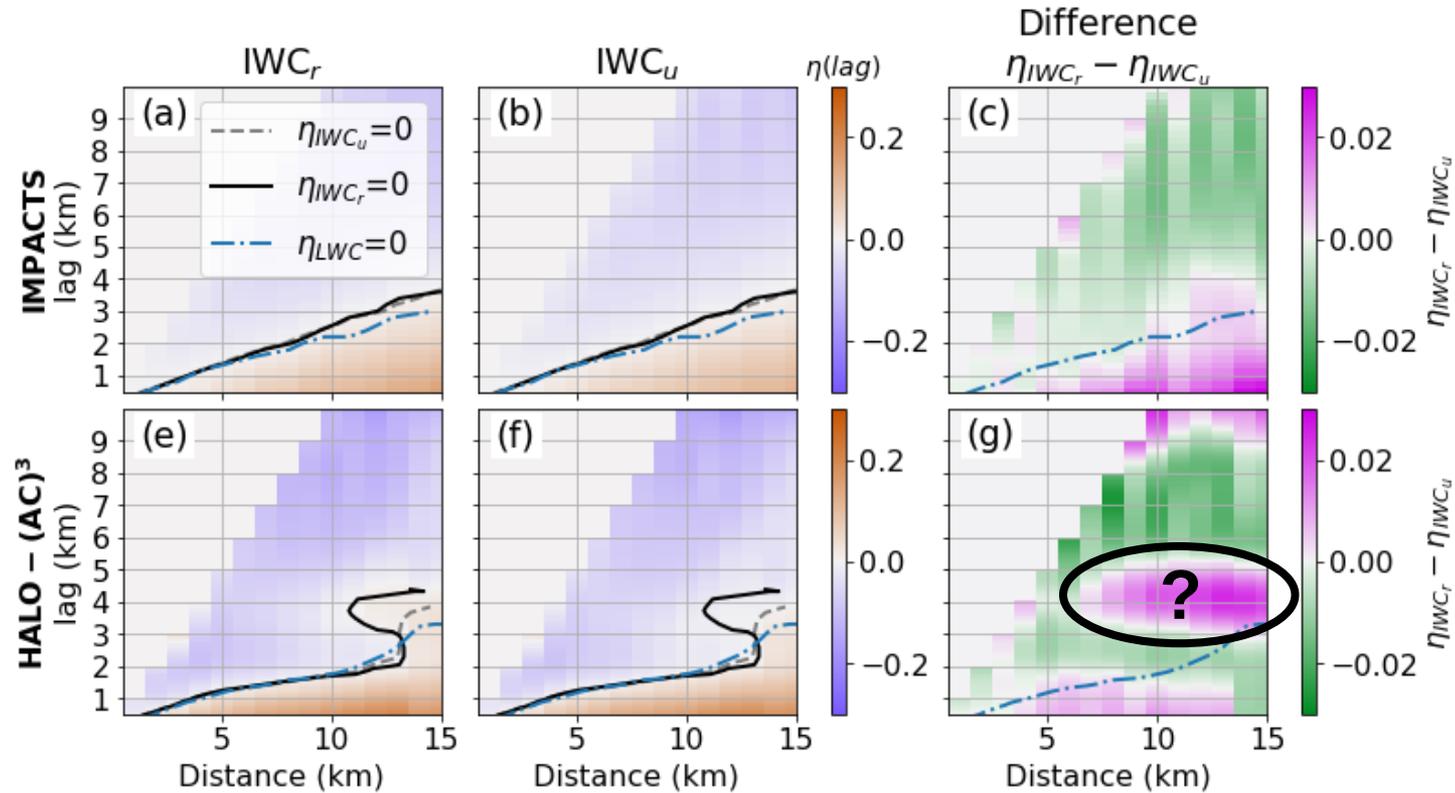
## Ice cluster spatial scales



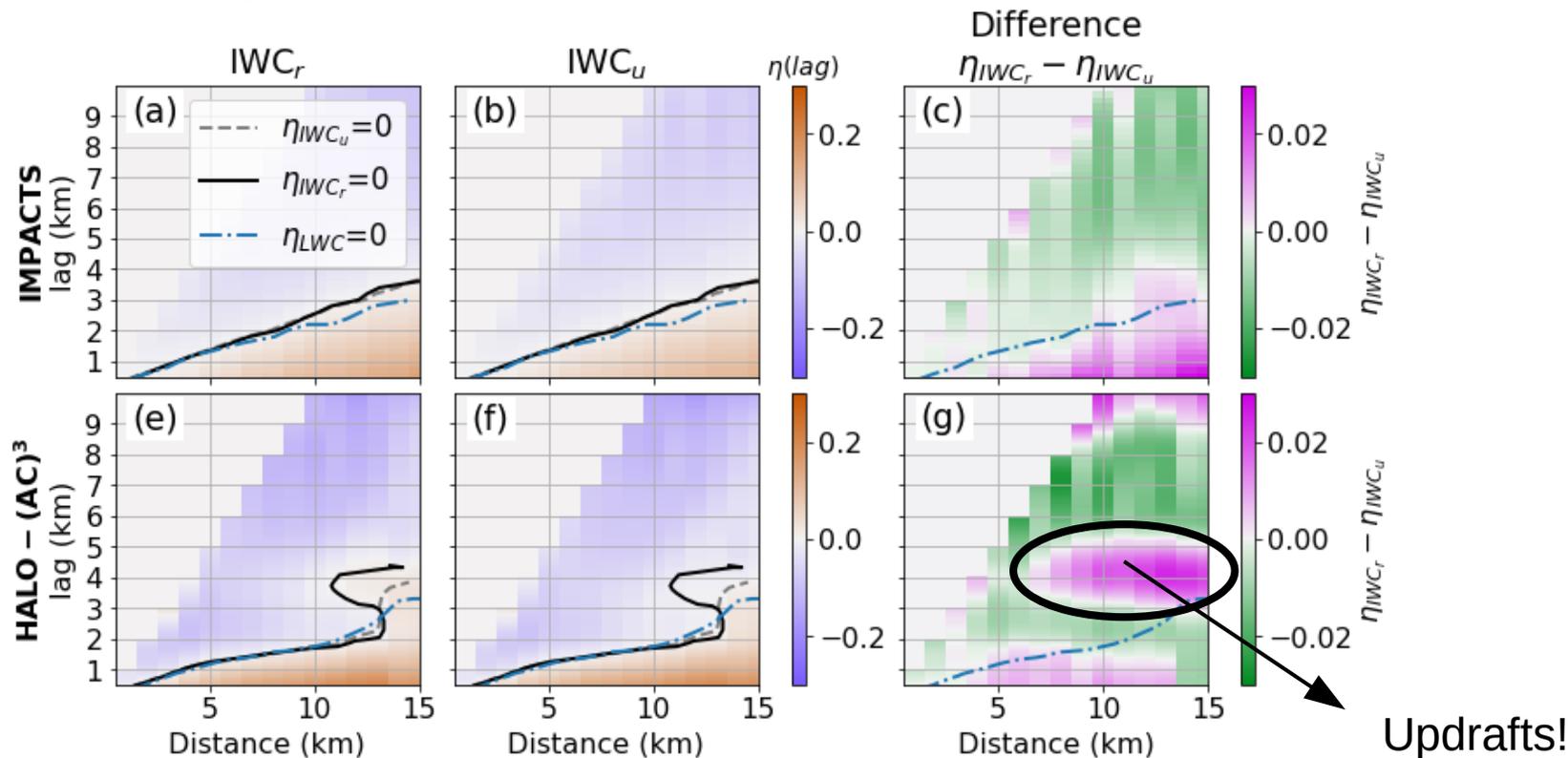
- Pair correlation function  $\eta$ 
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# Ice cluster spatial scales

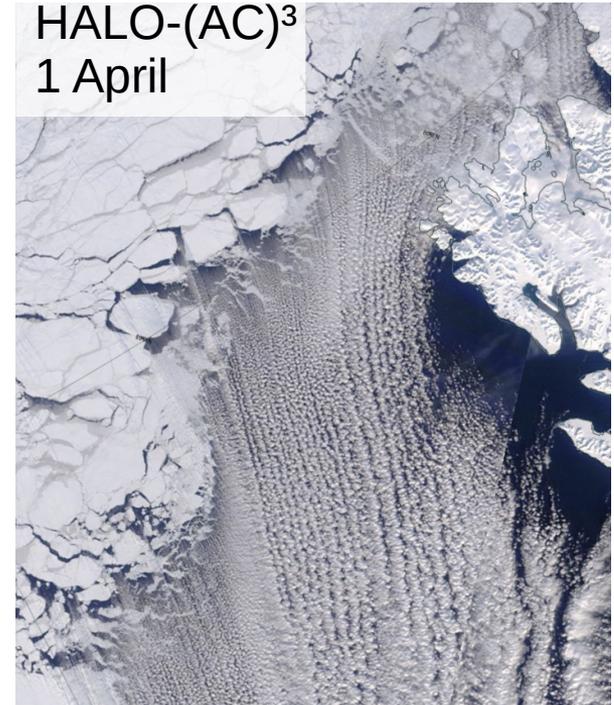
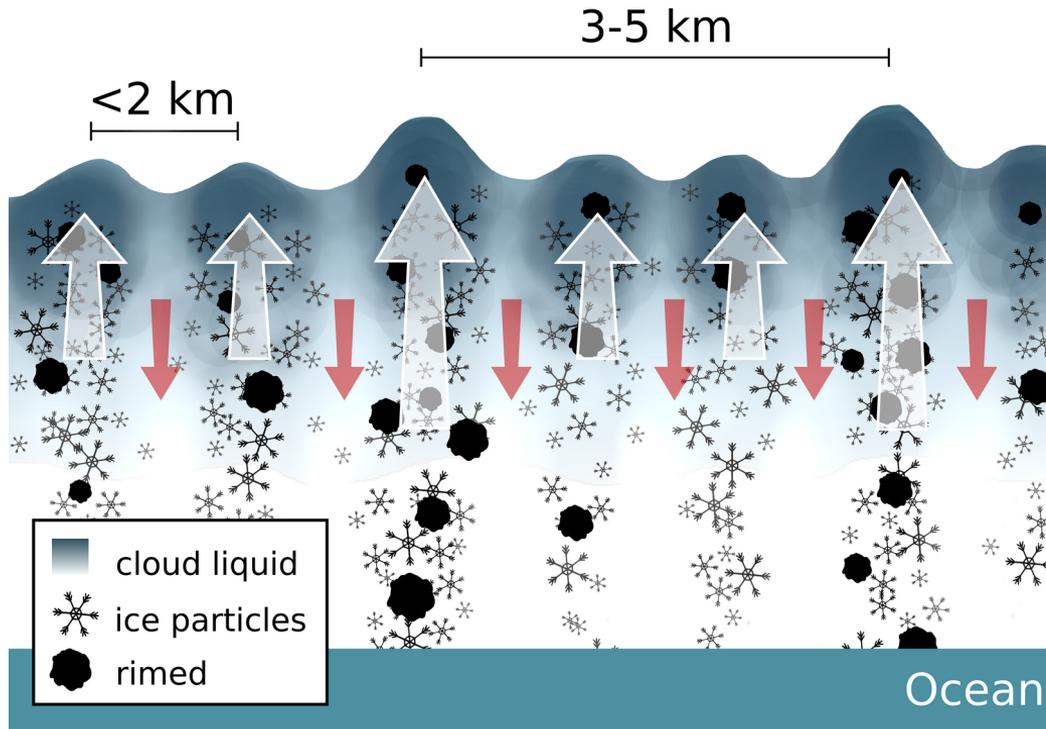


# Ice cluster spatial scales



# IWC variability & riming

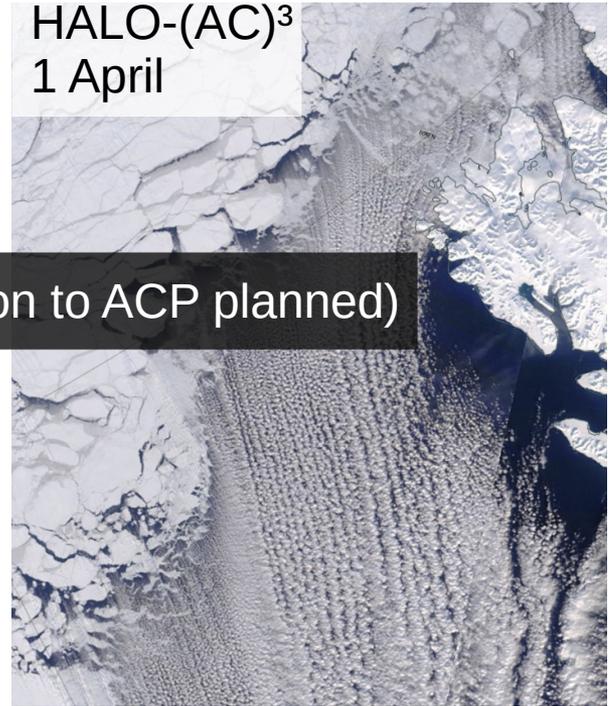
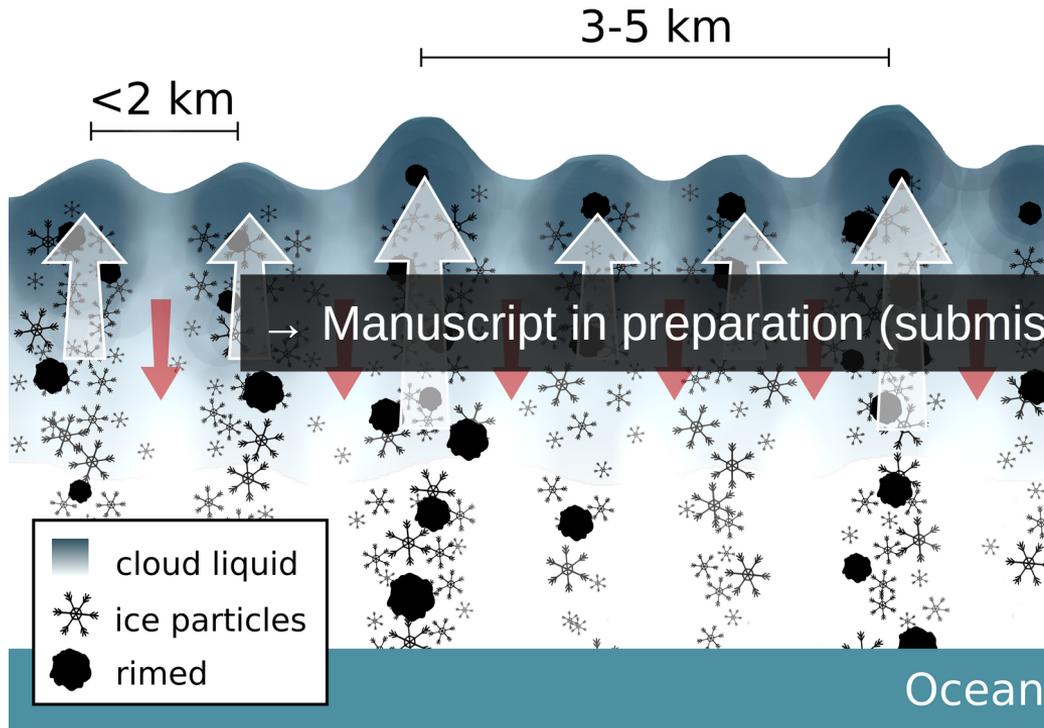
Updrafts → enhanced riming → additional ice clustering



<https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/>

# IWC variability & riming

Updrafts → enhanced riming → additional ice clustering



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# THANK YOU

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research group **drOPS**

cloud and pRecipitation Observations for  
Process Studies

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[Youtube.com/@cloudyclimate](https://www.youtube.com/@cloudyclimate)



Abstract & slides:

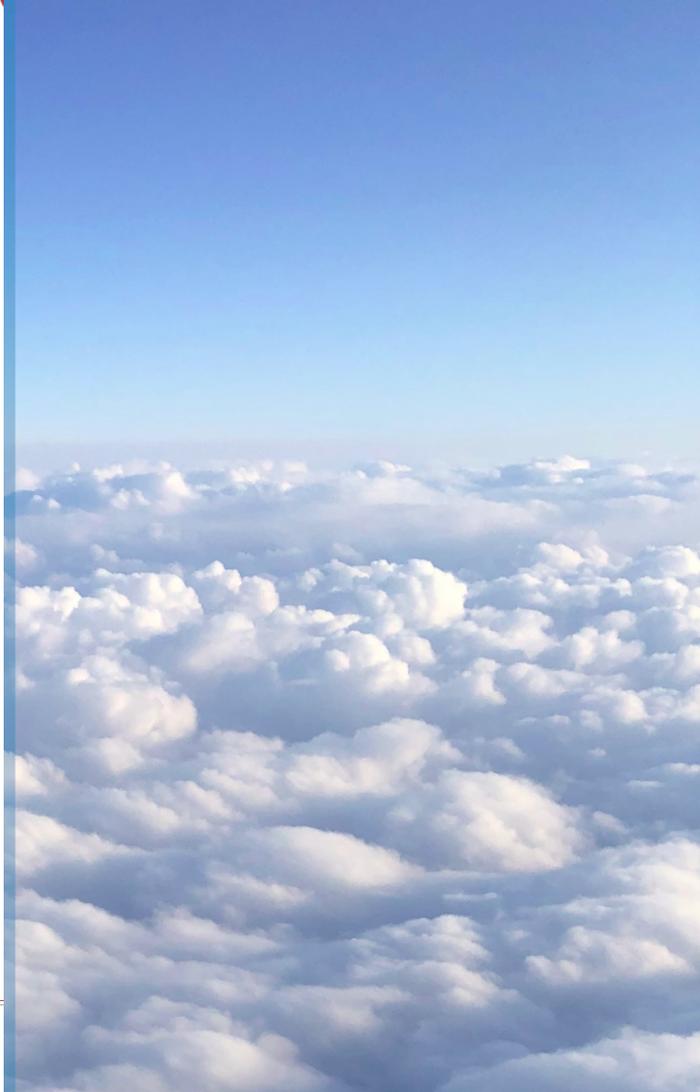


# REFERENCES

- [1] Deng, Y., Yang, J., Yin, Y., Cui, S., Zhang, B., Bao, X., Chen, B., Li, J., Gao, W., and Jing, X.: Quantifying the Spatial Inhomogeneity of Ice Concentration in Mixed-Phase Stratiform Cloud Using Airborne Observation, *Atmospheric Research*, 298, 107–153, ISSN 0169-8095, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosres.2023.107153> , 2024.
- [2] Seifert, A., Leinonen, J., Siewert, C., and Kneifel, S.: The geometry of rimed aggregate snowflakes: A modeling study, *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, 11, 712–731, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2018MS001519>, 2019.
- [3] **Maherndl, N.**, Maahn, M., Tridon, F., Leinonen, J., Ori, D. and Kneifel, S.: A riming-dependent parameterization of scattering by snowflakes using the self-similar Rayleigh–Gans approximation, *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*, 149(757), 3562–3581, <https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.4573>, 2023.
- [4] **Maherndl, N.**, Moser, M., Lucke, J., Mech, M., Risse, N., Schirmacher, I., and Maahn, M.: Quantifying riming from airborne data during the HALO-(AC)3 campaign, *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques*, 17, 1475–1495, <https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-17-1475-2024> , 2024.

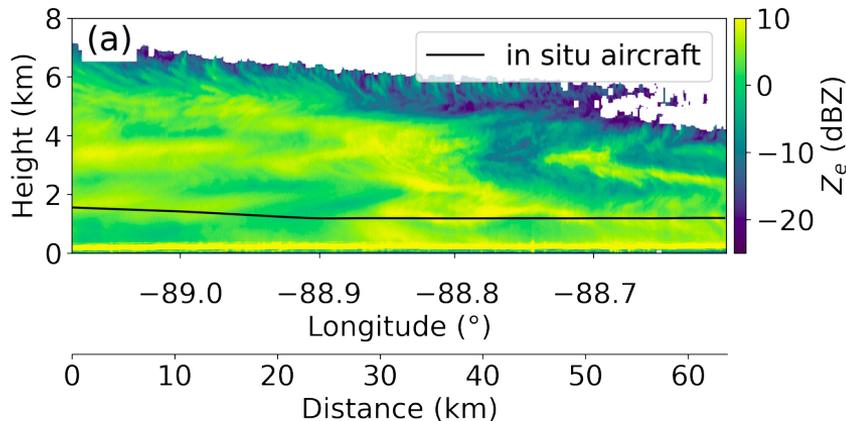


# APPENDIX



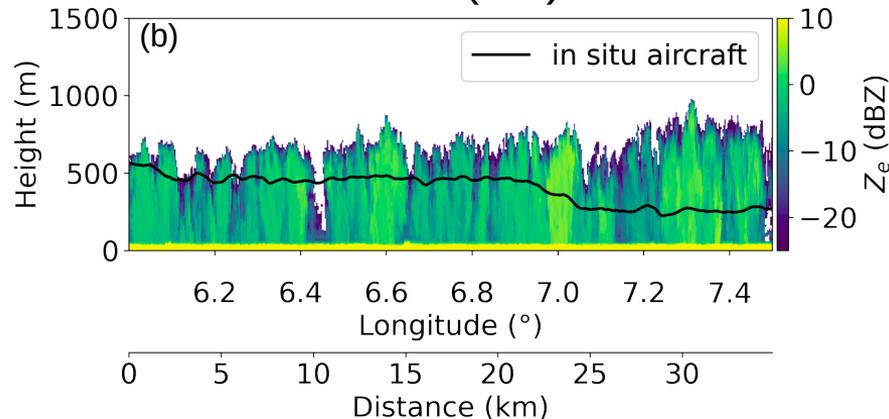
„Typical“ clouds during:

## IMPACTS



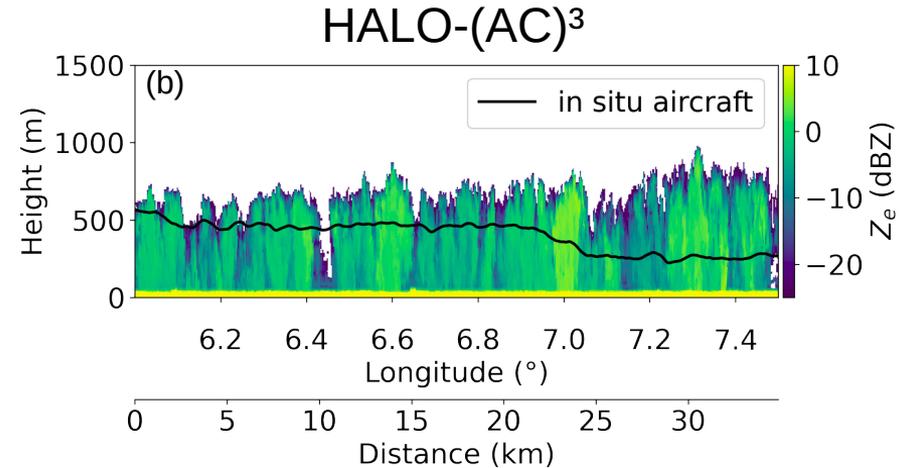
- Deep mid-latitude winter storms
- Cloud tops 6-8 km

## HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup>



- Shallow Arctic cold air outbreak roll clouds
- Cloud tops often below 1 km

„Typical“ clouds during:



- Shallow Arctic cold air outbreak roll clouds
- Cloud tops often below 1 km

## Riming in arctic mixed-phase clouds (MPC)

- Supercooled **liquid** droplets freeze onto **ice** crystals
- Research mainly qualitative
- In this study:
  - **Normalized rime mass M** (Seifert et al., 2019)

$$M = \frac{m_{rime}}{m_g}$$

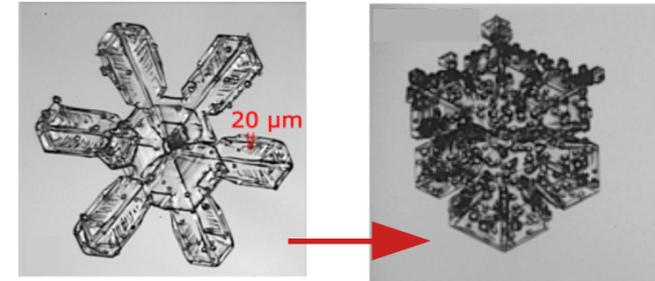
$$m_g = \frac{\pi}{6} \rho_{rime} D_{max}^3$$

$D_{max}$  ... maximum dimension (m)

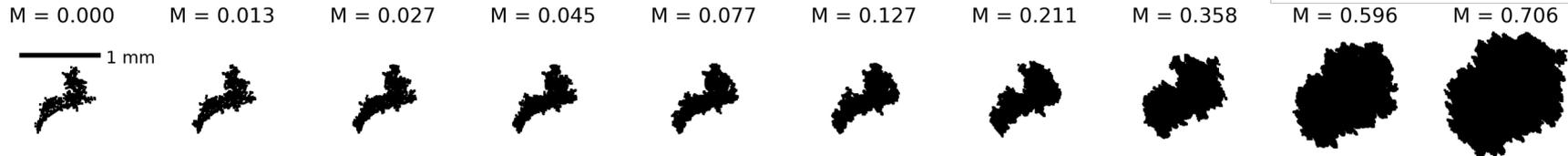
$m_{rime}$  ... rime mass (kg)

$m_g$  ... mass of  $D_{max}$  equivalent graupel (kg)

$\rho_{rime}$  ... rime density (700 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)



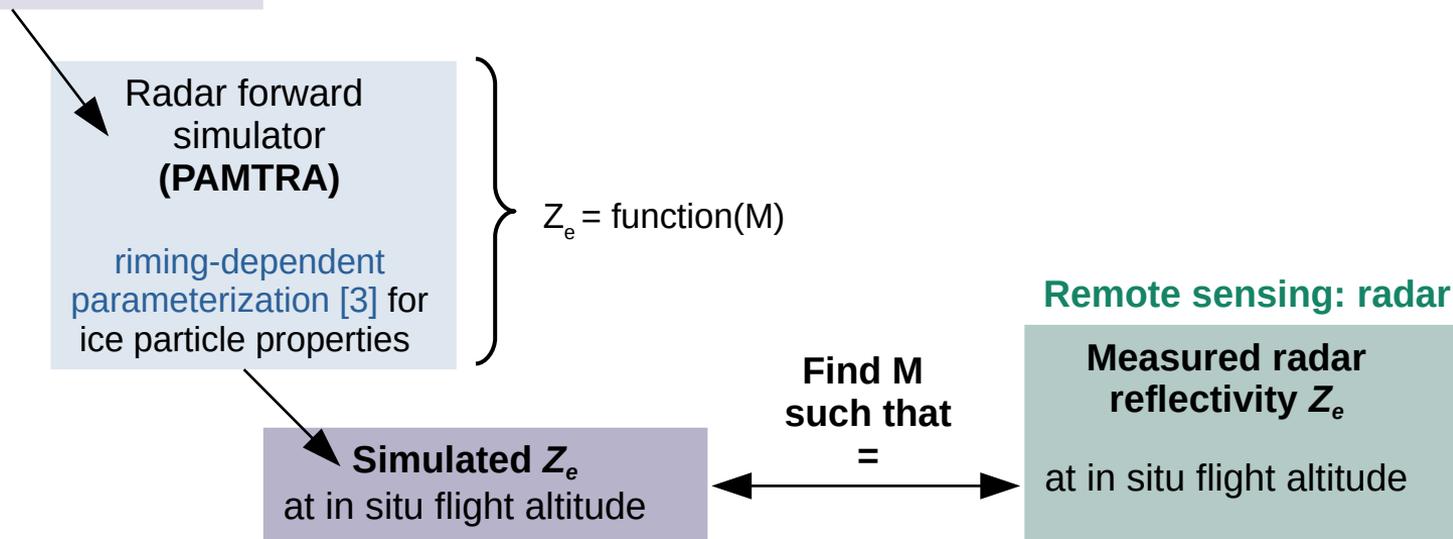
Adapted from Waitz et al. (2022)



## Collocated radar and in situ data:

### In situ: cloud probes

Particle size distributions



► combined method [4]

## IWC variability & riming

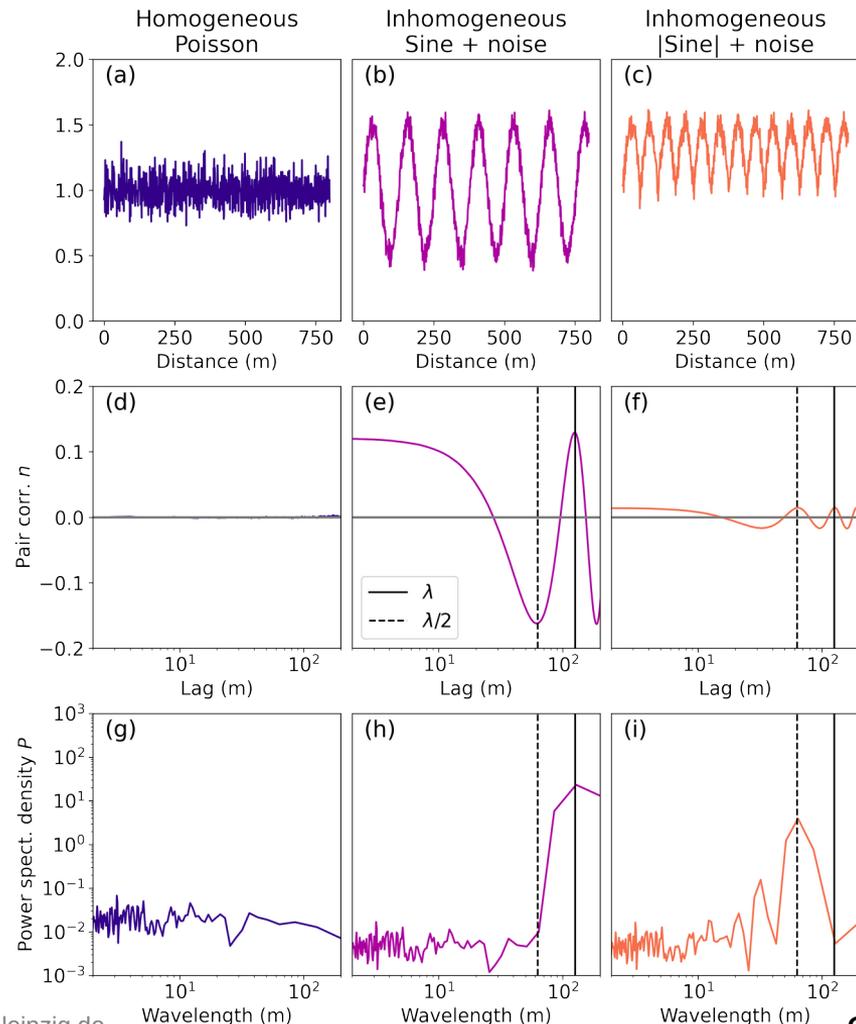
How to quantify spatial variability?  
→ **Pair Correlation Function (PCF)**

- Defined as:

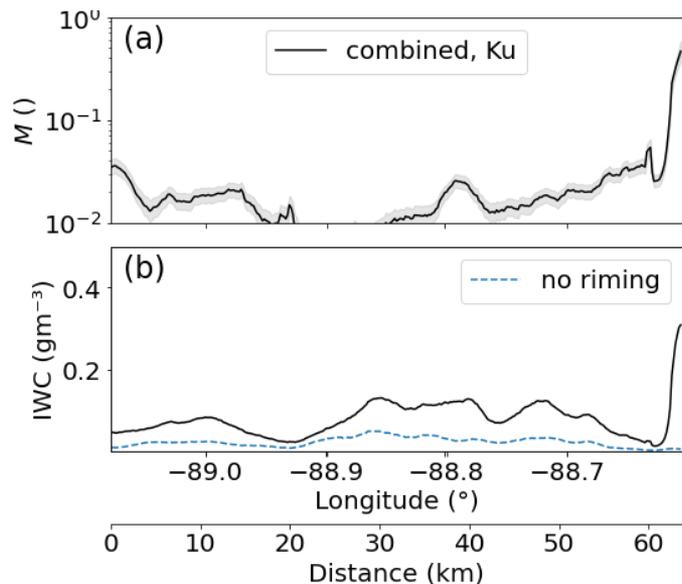
$$\eta(r) = \frac{\overline{P(0)P(r)}}{(\overline{P})^2} - 1,$$

where  $P(0)$  is the parameter at a given point,  $P(r)$  the parameter at the lag  $r$  from that point and  $\overline{P}$  the average.

- $\overline{P}$  ... number of ice particles  $N_i$  or IWC
- $\eta > 0$  → occurrence of clustering
- $\eta = 0$  → homogeneous Poisson



### Ice cluster spatial scales: example flight segment



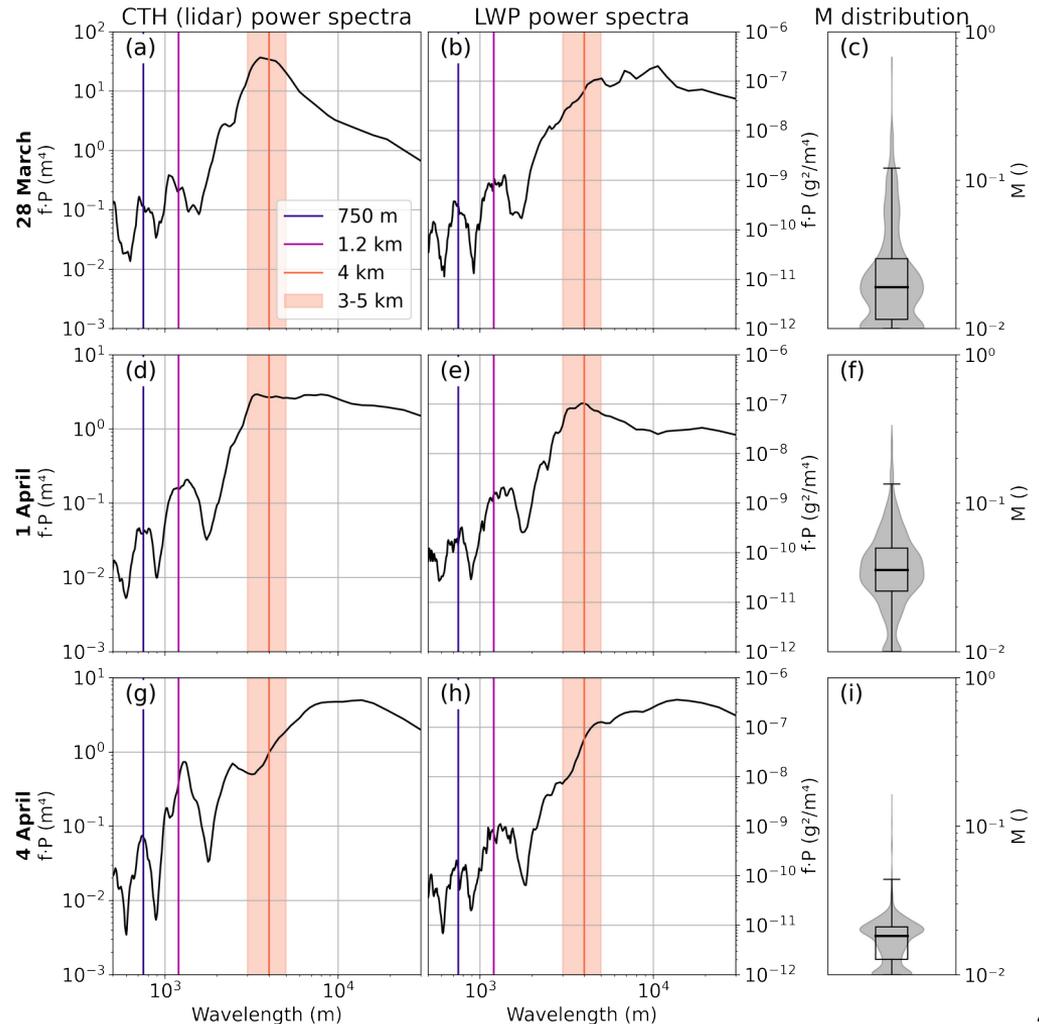
e.g., 10 km segments

- IWC calculated from PSD and mass-size relation
  - Accounting for riming  $IWC_r$
  - Neglecting riming  $IWC_u$
- Flight segments → random subsegments with **distance x** km
  - Calculate pair correlation as function of **lag y** km

## IWC variability & riming

Why does riming enhance ice clustering at 3-5 km scales during HALO-(AC)<sup>3</sup>?

- CTH as proxy for updraft regions
- On days with more riming → updrafts at 3-5 km
- Not necessarily higher LWP



## Detailed summary and outlook

What is the influence of **riming** on spatial variability of ice in MPC?

- 1) Increases probability of ice clusters
  - Mid-latitude & Arctic: regions with liquid and ice → riming → increase in ice mass
  - Arctic: updraft regions of cloud streets
- 2) Arctic cloud streets: additional ice clusters at 3-5 km scales ← enhanced riming in mesoscale updraft regions

*Manuscript in preparation (submission to ACP planned)*

