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# Optical Characterization of Atmospheric Aerosols in a Tabletop Chamber

**Presented by: Christian A. Pattyn\***

Jake Zenker, Jason Torchinsky, Pierce Warburton, Michael Schmidt, Peter Bosler, Andrew Glen, Andres L. Sanchez, Karl Westlake, Brian Z. Bentz, John D. van der Laan, Lyndsay Shand, Lekha Patel, and Jeremy B. Wright

Sandia National Laboratories, P.O. Box 5800, Albuquerque, United States

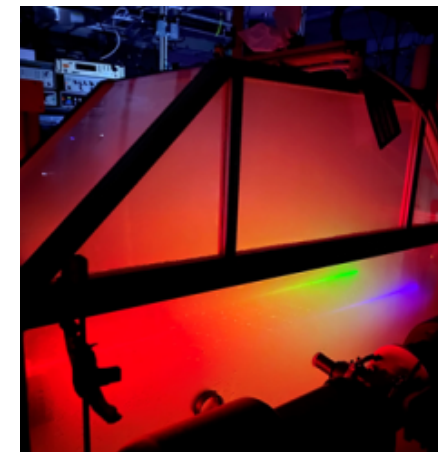
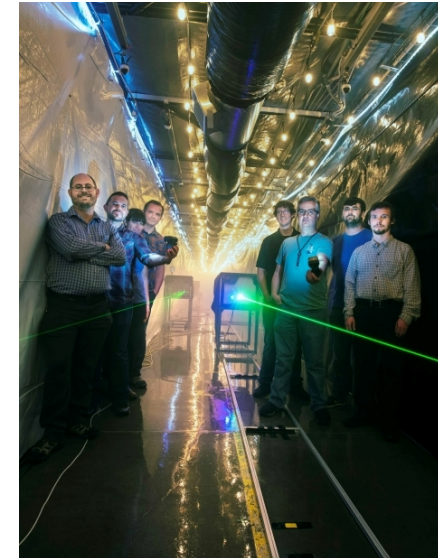
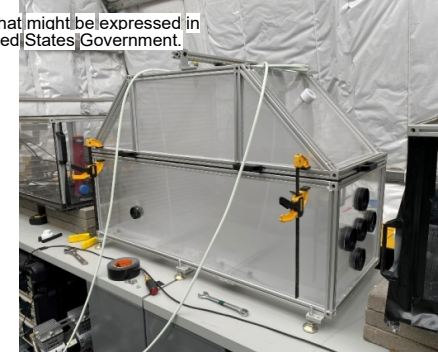
\*capatty@sandia.gov, fog@sandia.gov

AAAR Annual Conference 2022  
Raleigh, North Carolina, United States



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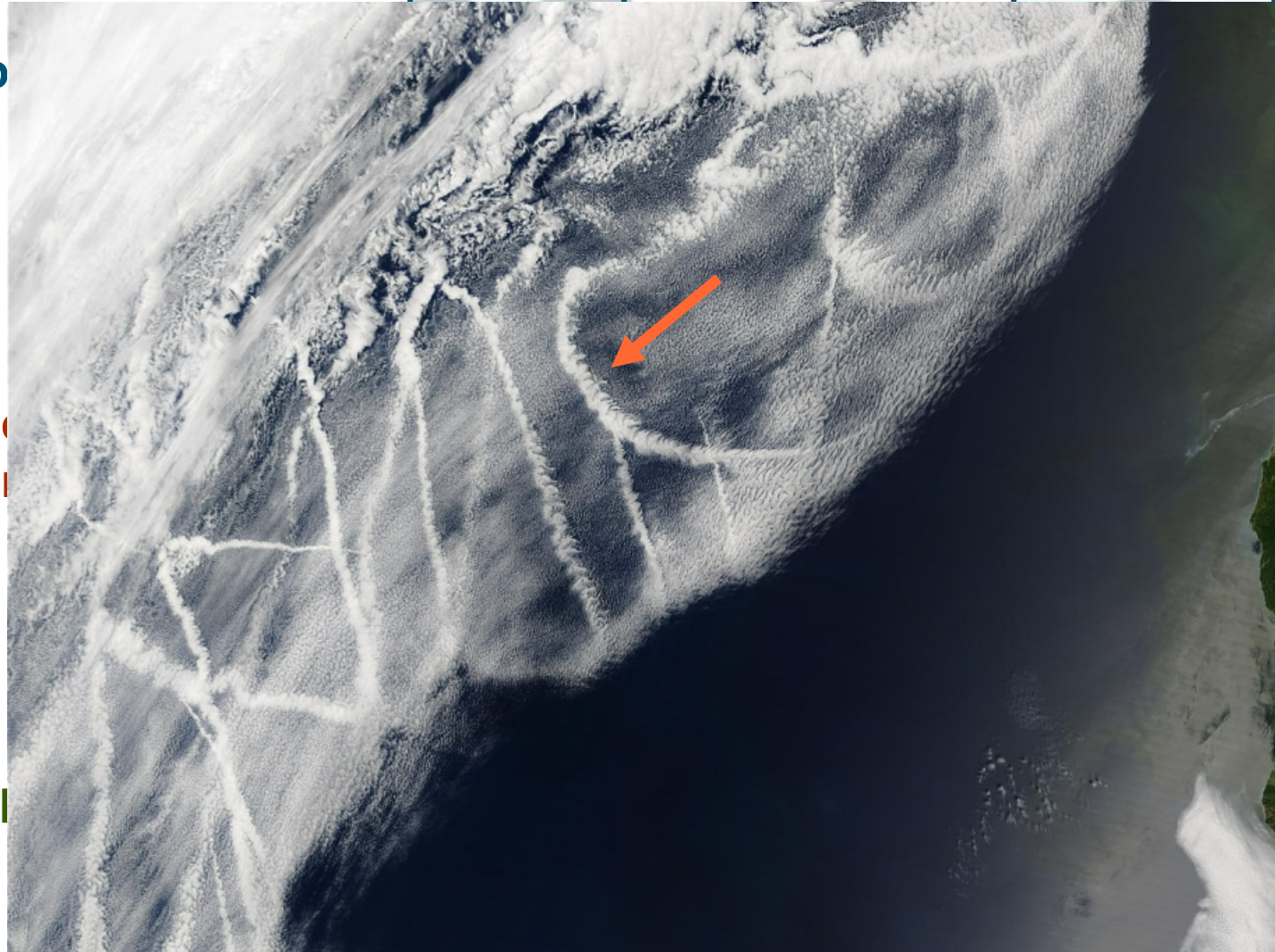


# Monterey Area Ship Track Experiment (MAST)

P. A. Durkee, K. J. Noone, and R. T. Bluth, doi: 10.1175/1520-0469

Shift in op

Atmospheric  
condensation



Jake Zenker,  
talk 7IM.3



[fog@sandia.gov](mailto:fog@sandia.gov) Schematic:

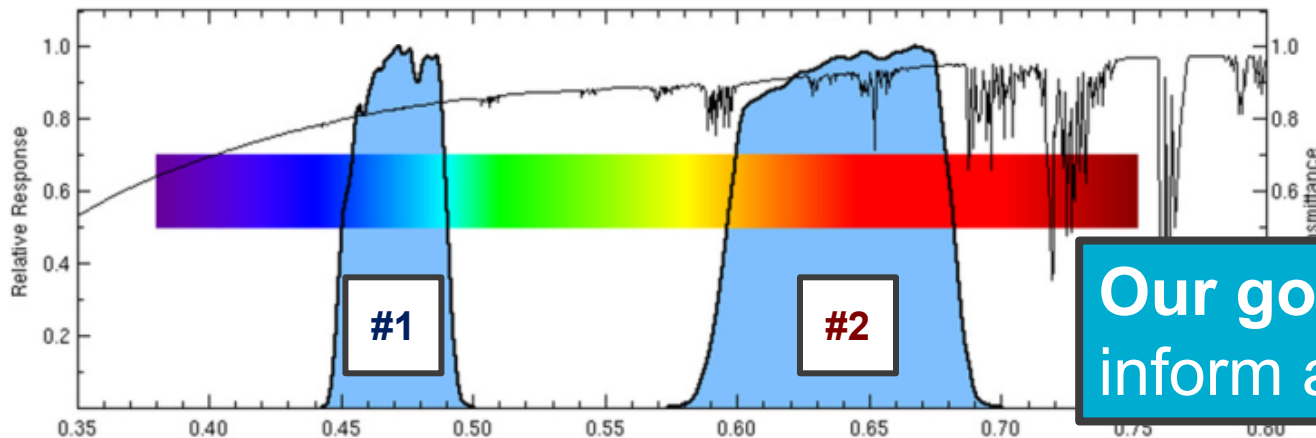
P. A. Durkee, K. J. Noone, and R. T. Bluth, "The Monterey Area Ship Track Experiment," Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, vol. 57, no. 16, pp. 2523-2541, 01 Aug. 2000, doi: 10.1175/1520-0469(2000)057<2523:Tmaste>2.0.Co;2.

# Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES)

- Began in 1975 as a joint program between NOAA and NASA

## 16 band imaging platform

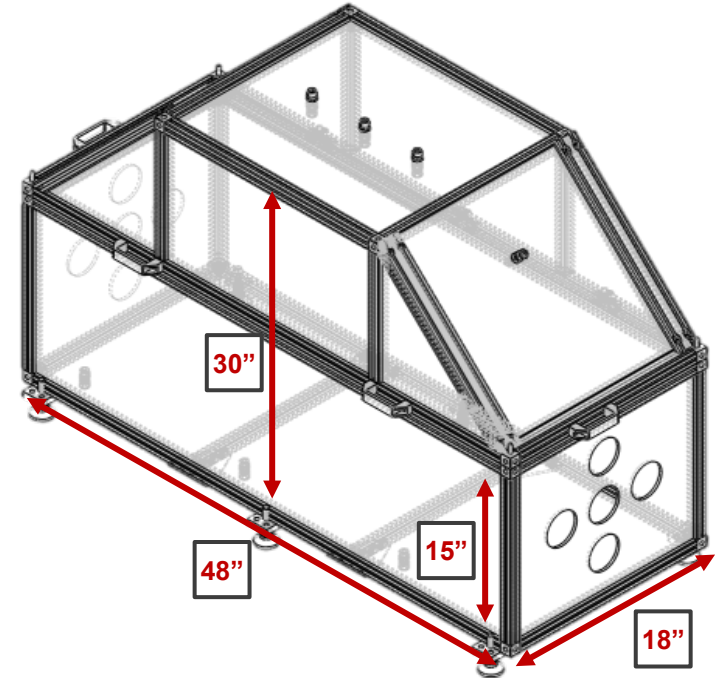
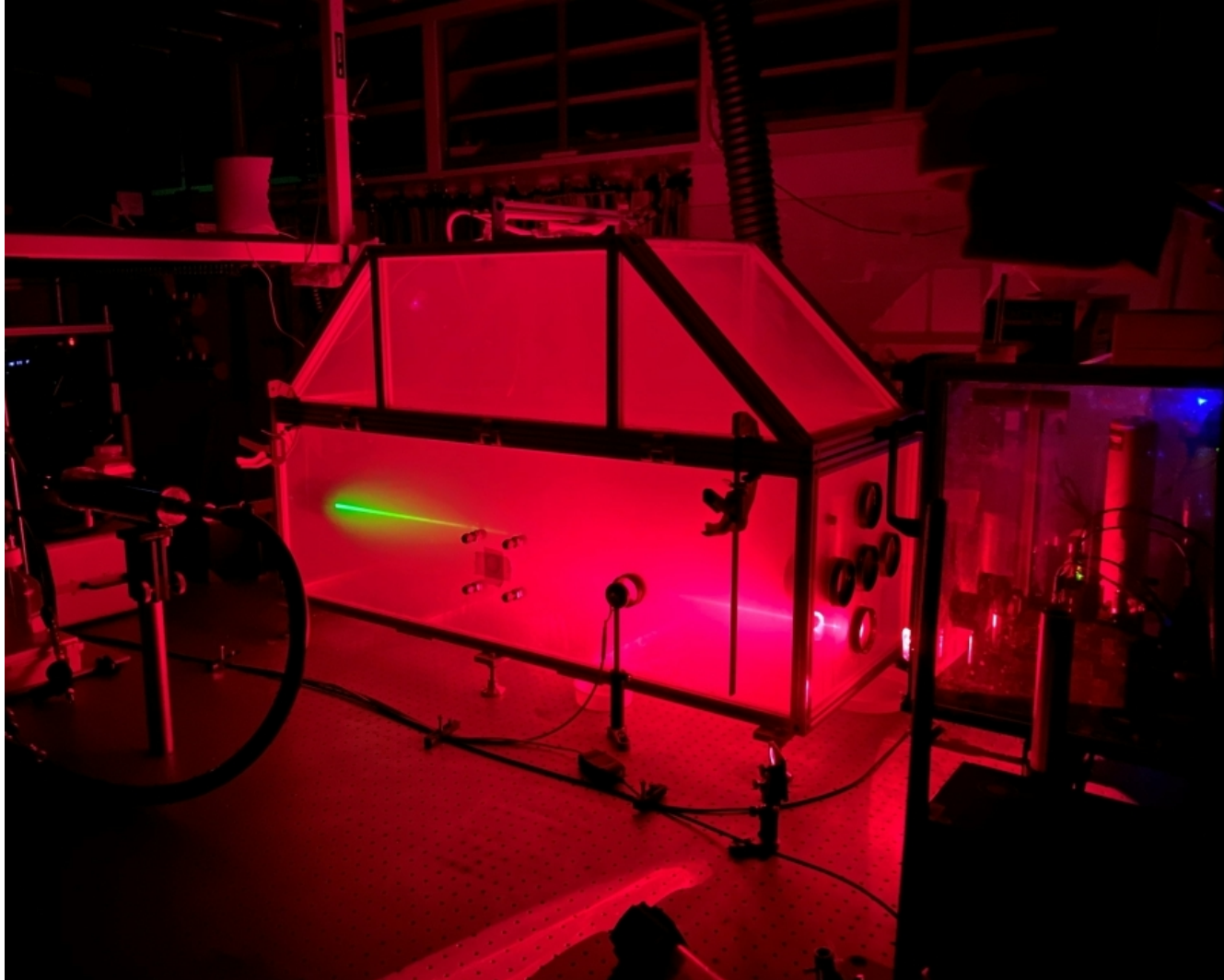
1. “Blue” band
2. “Red” band



**Our goal: leverage GOES data products to inform atmospheric dispersion models**



# How do we generate clouds in the desert?



## Tabletop “MiniFog” Fog Chamber

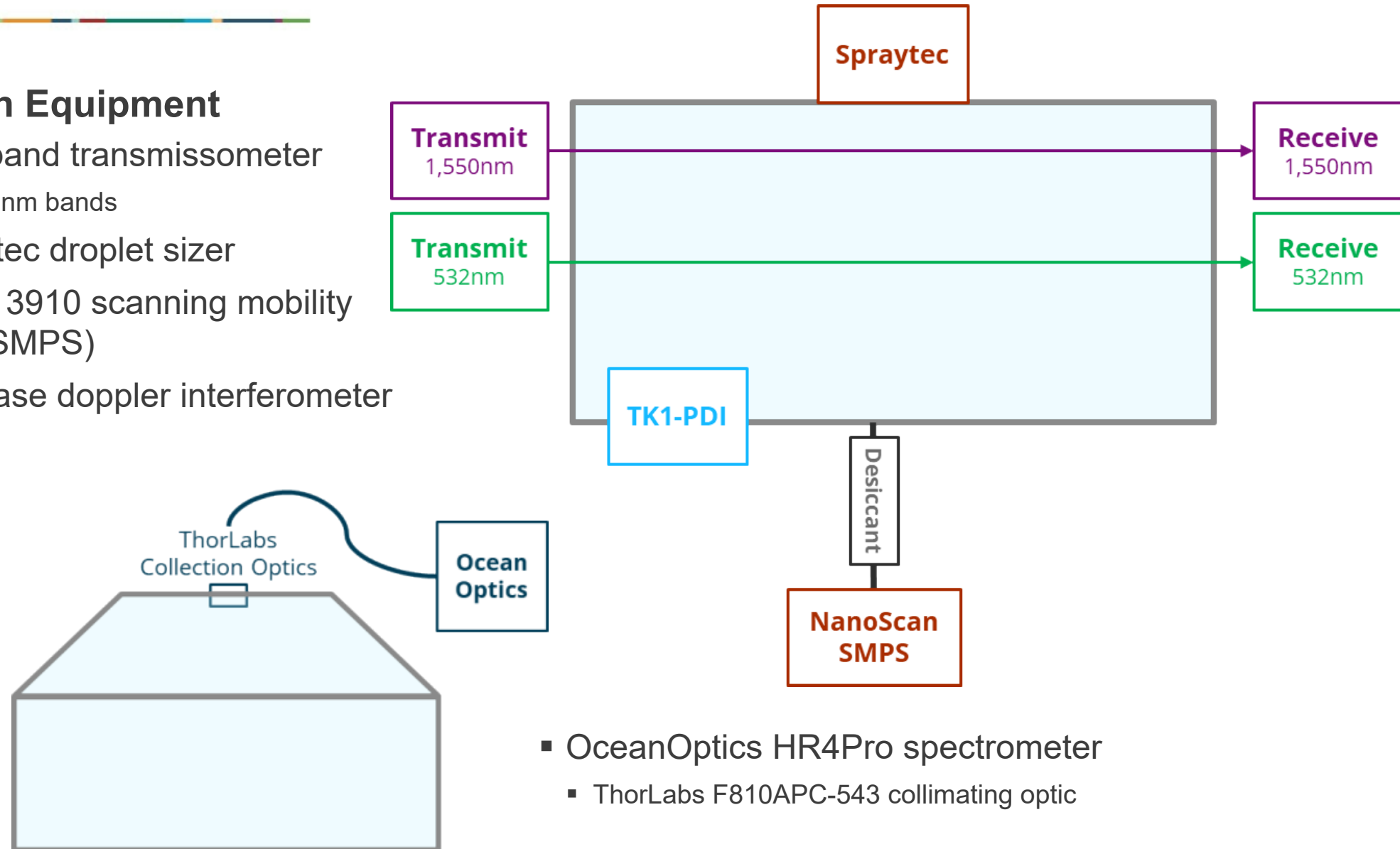
- Lightweight, 48” x 18” x 30” chamber
- Able to support a suite of characterization equipment



# How do we generate clouds in the desert?

## Characterization Equipment

- Custom multi-band transmissometer
  - 532nm and 1550nm bands
- Malvern Spraytec droplet sizer
- TSI NanoScan 3910 scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS)
- Artium TK1 phase doppler interferometer (PDI)



- OceanOptics HR4Pro spectrometer
  - ThorLabs F810APC-543 collimating optic



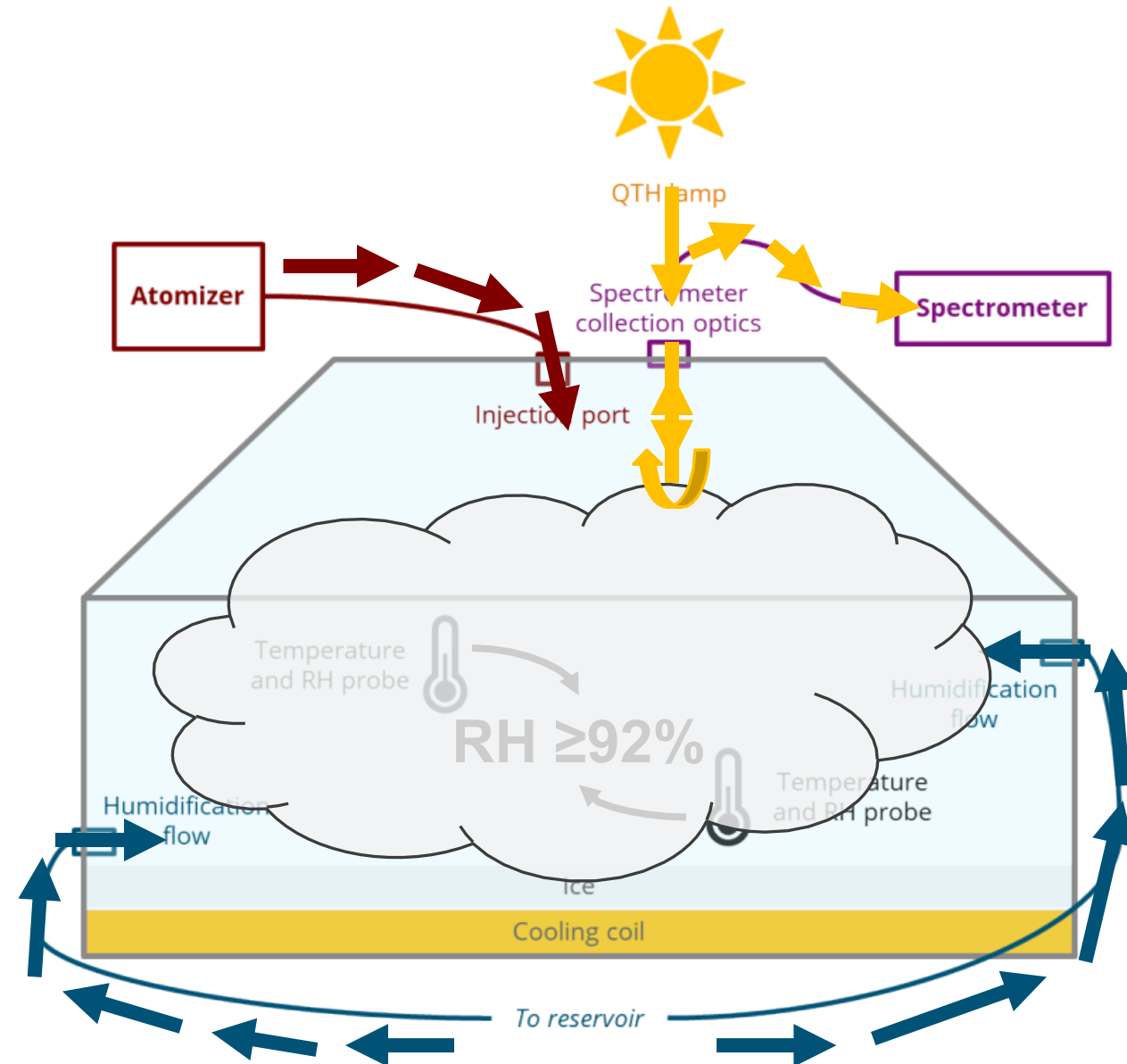
# How do we generate clouds in the desert?

## Raise the humidity

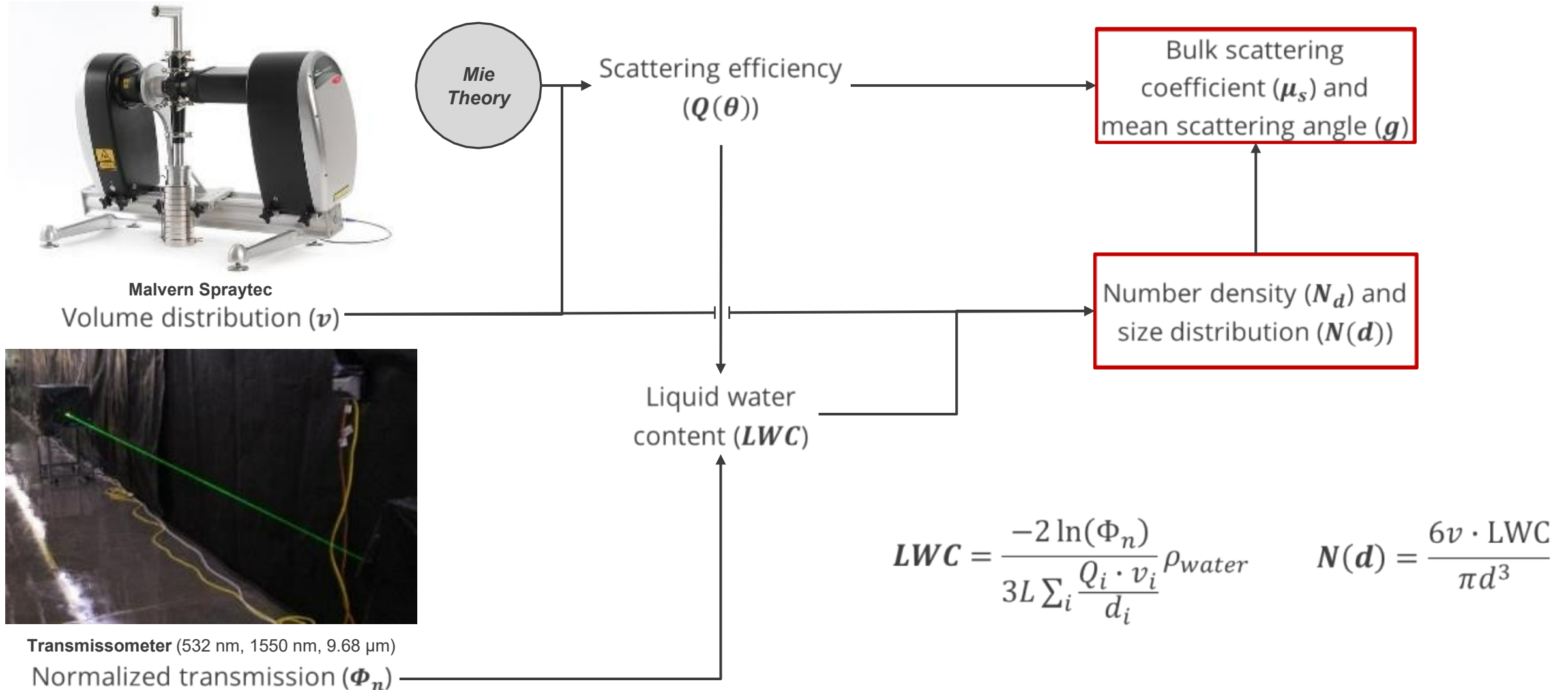
- Humidified flow generated using a bubbler in a heated reservoir of distilled water
- Flow pumped into the MiniFog until chamber relative humidity (RH)  $\geq 92\%$

## Inject a dry aerosol

- Different volumes of dry particulate were injected over a 50-second period
  - **High:**  $\sim 7.5 \times 10^9$  NaCl particles
  - **Medium:**  $\sim 4.4 \times 10^8$  NaCl particles
  - **Low:**  $\sim 1.5 \times 10^8$  NaCl particles
- Chamber was allowed to restabilize before another injection occurred



# How do we characterize our aerosol?

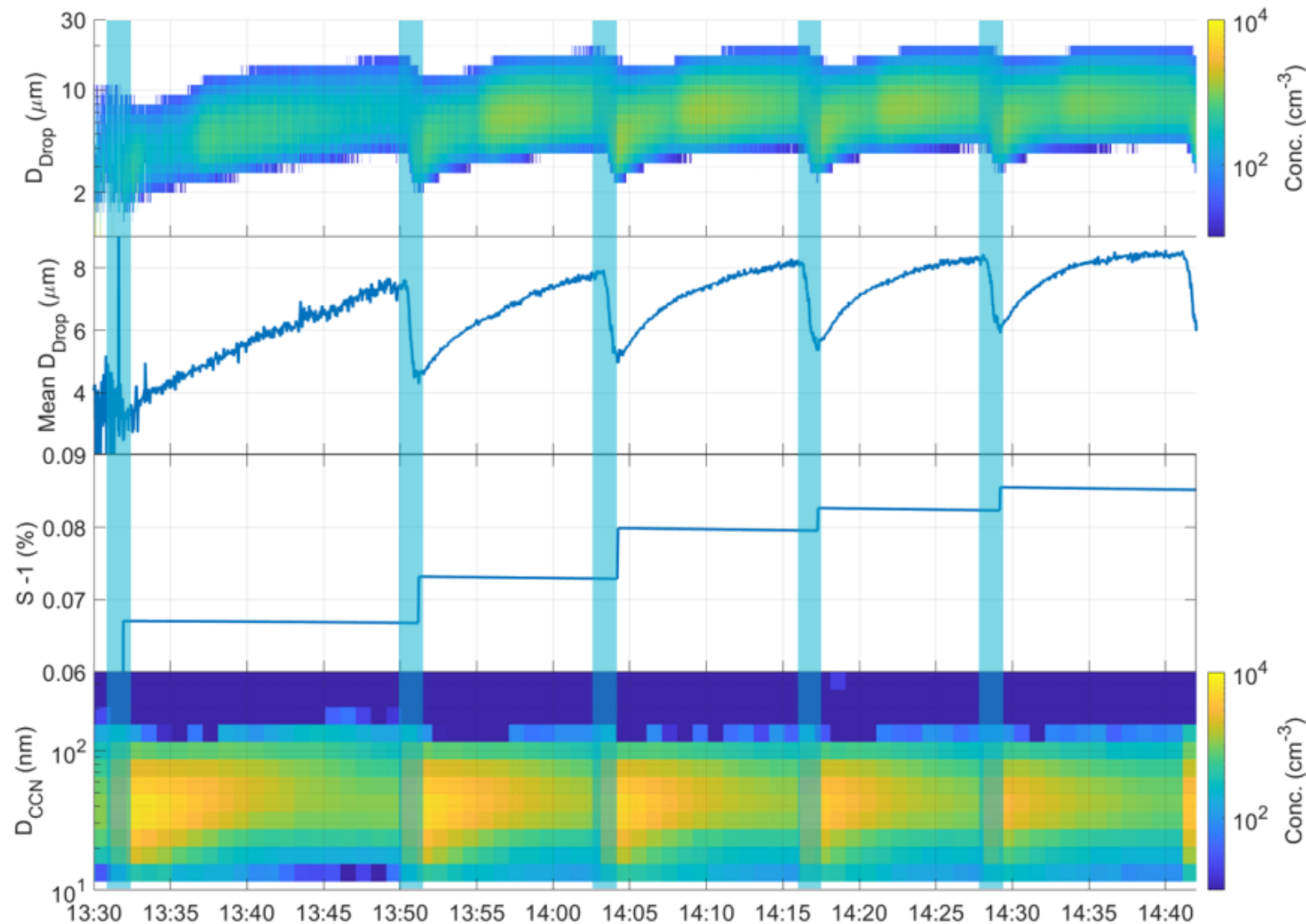


# A Cost-Effective Tabletop Chamber to Evaluate Cloud Microphysical and Optical Properties

Jake Zenker,  
talk 7IM.3

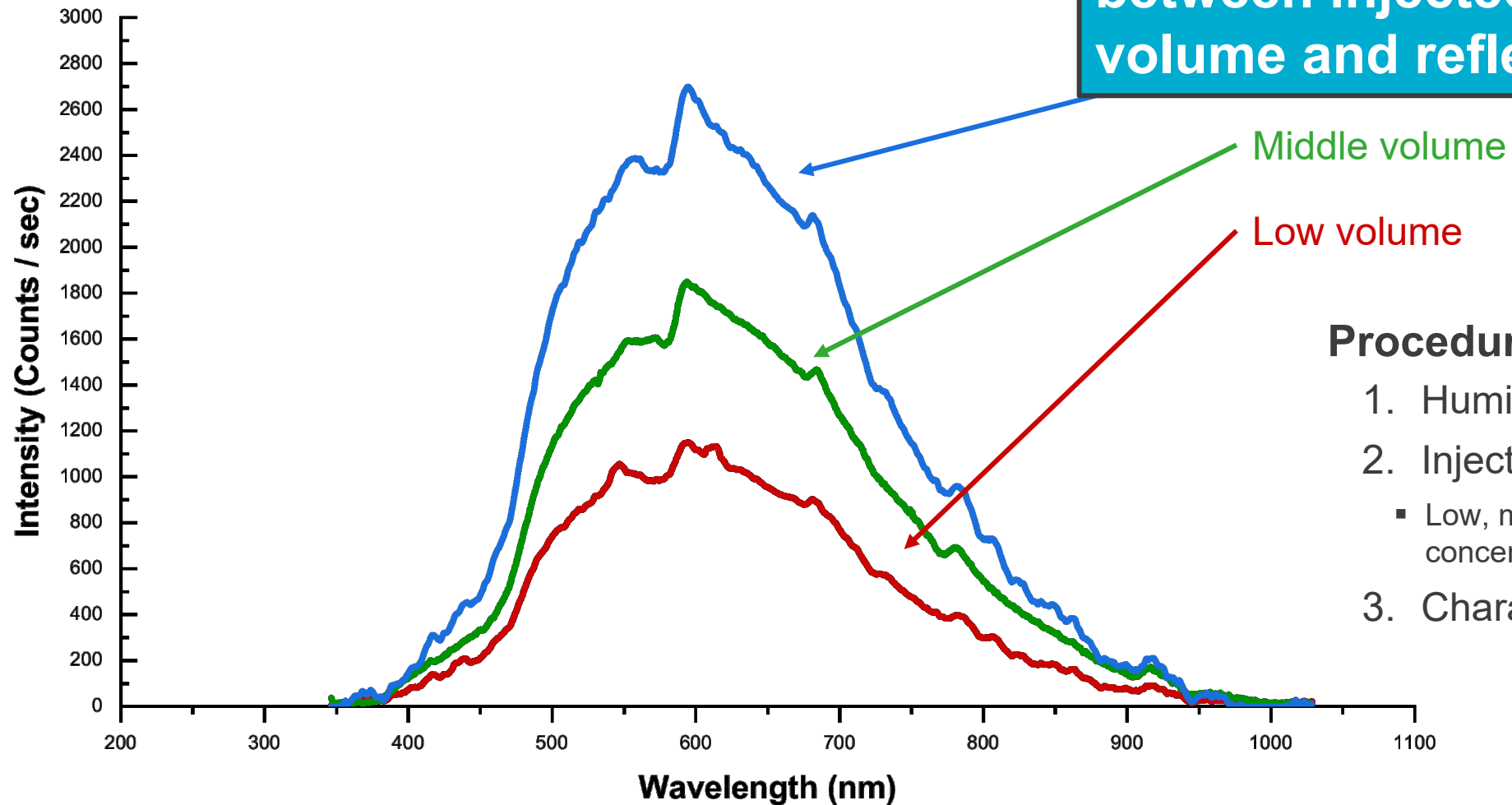
## Cloud microphysics

- Multiple injections of varying length at each concentration
- System residence time
- Mean vertical velocity
- Characterization of droplet supersaturation by adapting the approach from Krueger, 2020
  - [doi.org/10.5194/acp-20-7895-2020](https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-20-7895-2020)



# Preliminary data seems to confirm MAST hypothesis

Clear direct correlation  
between injected dry aerosol  
volume and reflectivity

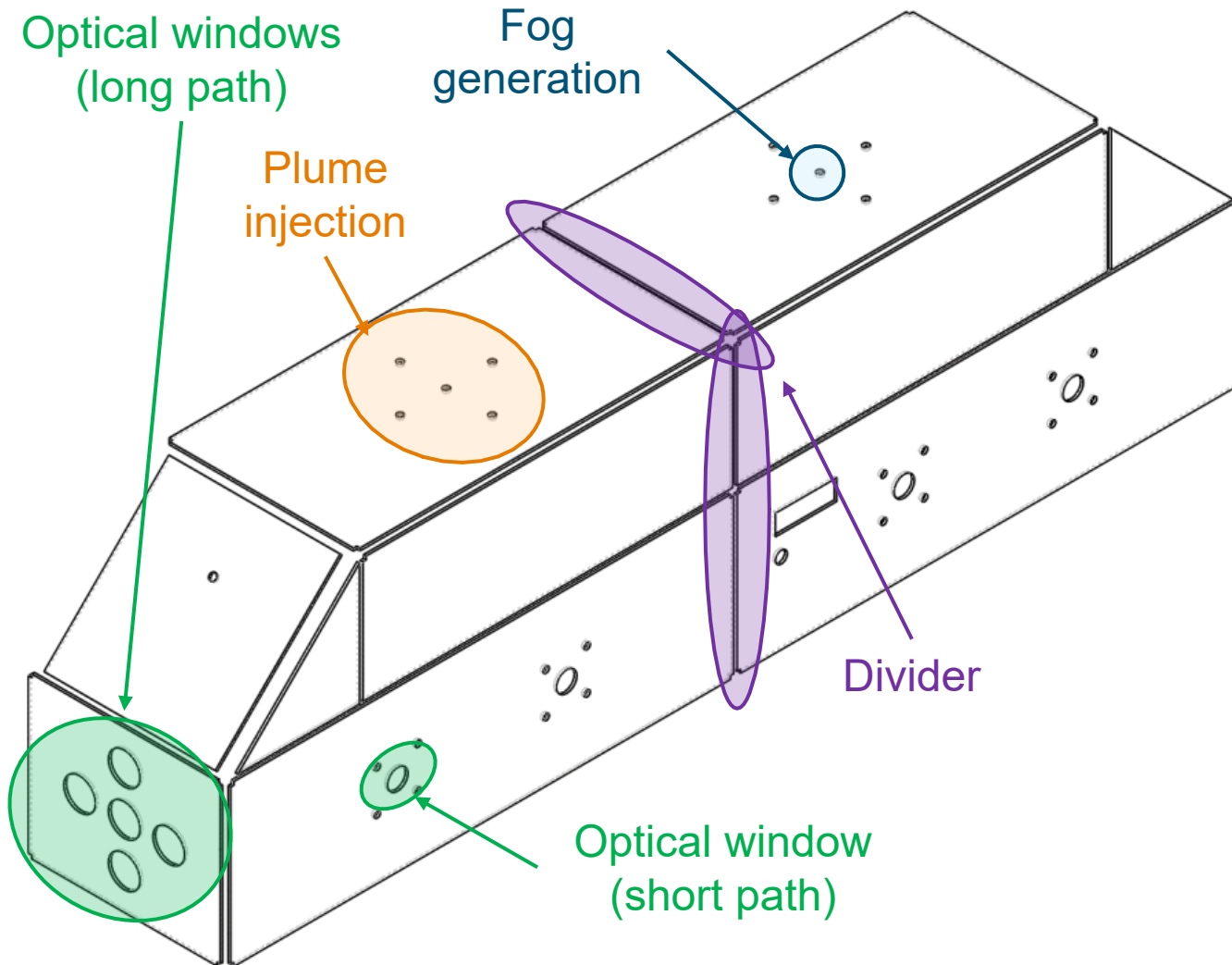


## Procedure

1. Humidify chamber
2. Inject dry aerosol
  - Low, middle, and high concentration plumes
3. Characterize stable cloud



# Next Steps: Mid-scale Diffusion Study



## Pollutants in the atmosphere

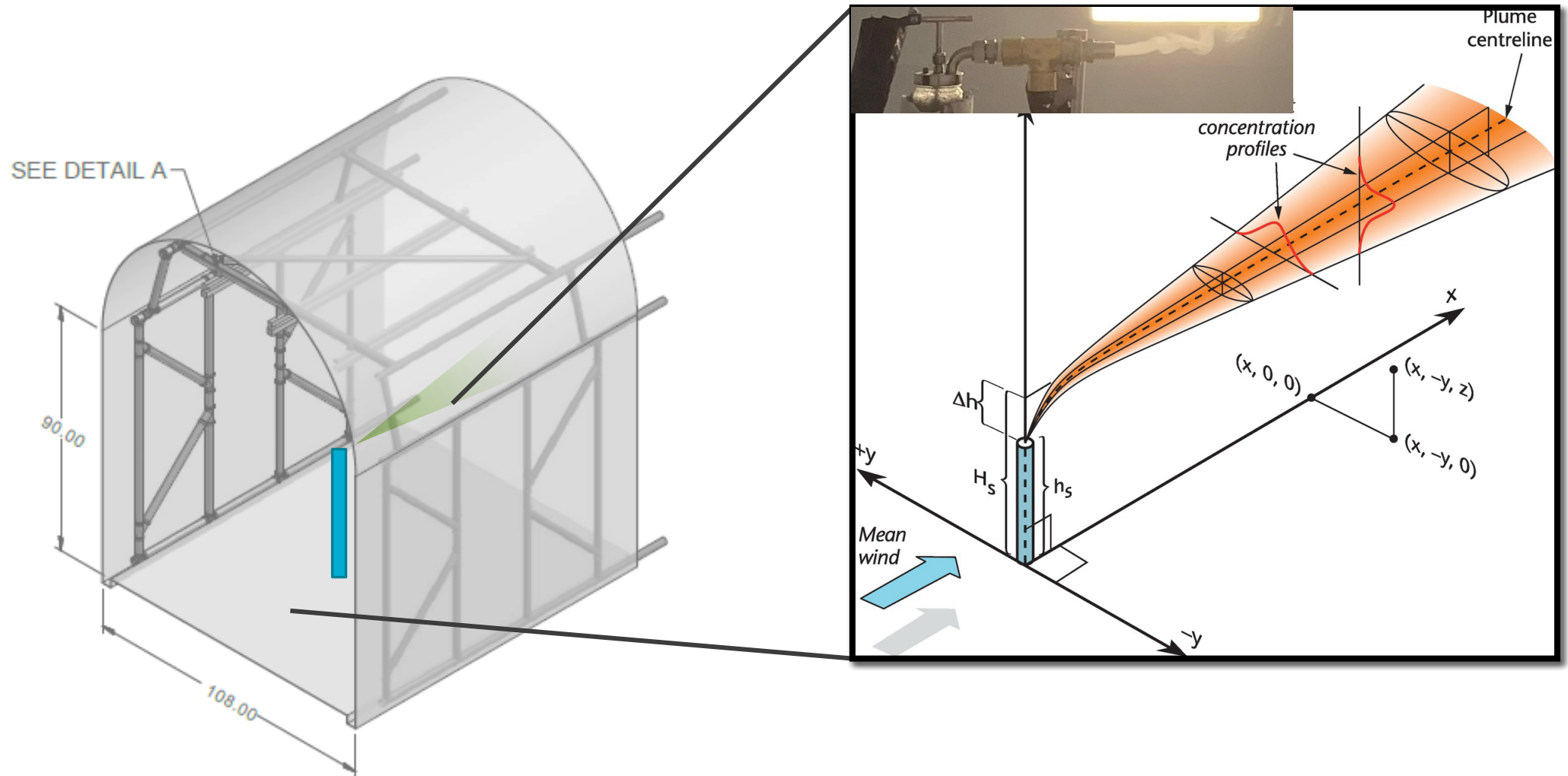
- Mimic mixing of chemical plumes with atmospheric aerosols (clouds, fogs, etc.)
- Inform stand-off analysis

## Building fog diffusion chamber

- Longer path length for longer equivalent distances
- Divided into two sections for diffusion studies
- **Direct chemical injection of hazardous plumes**



# Long term goals: Large-scale Diffusion Study

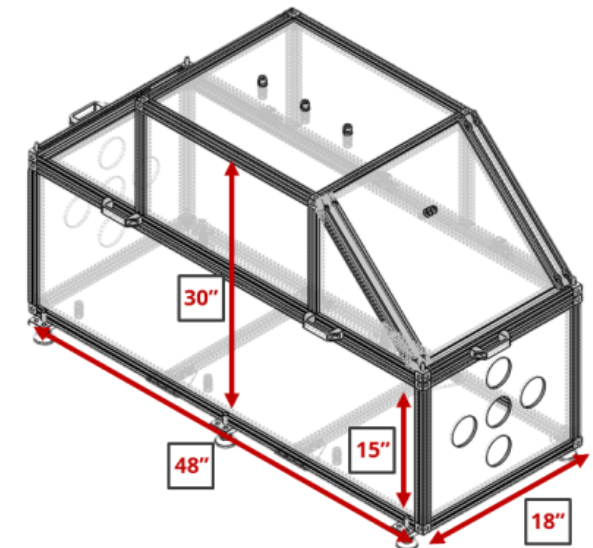
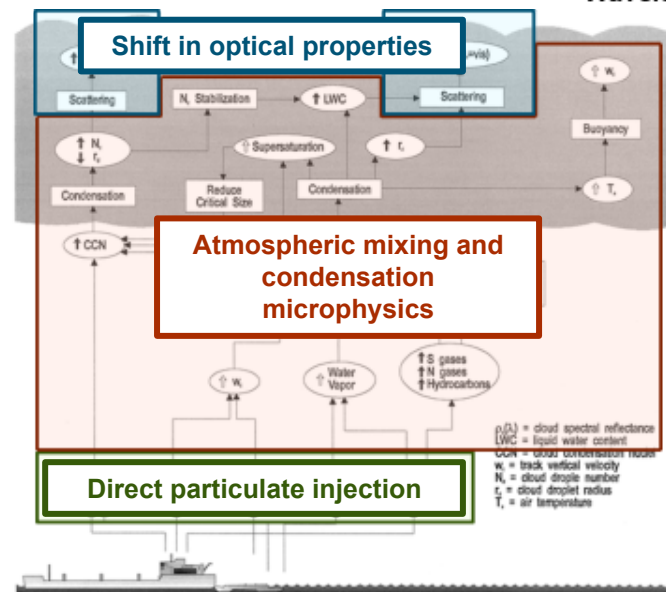
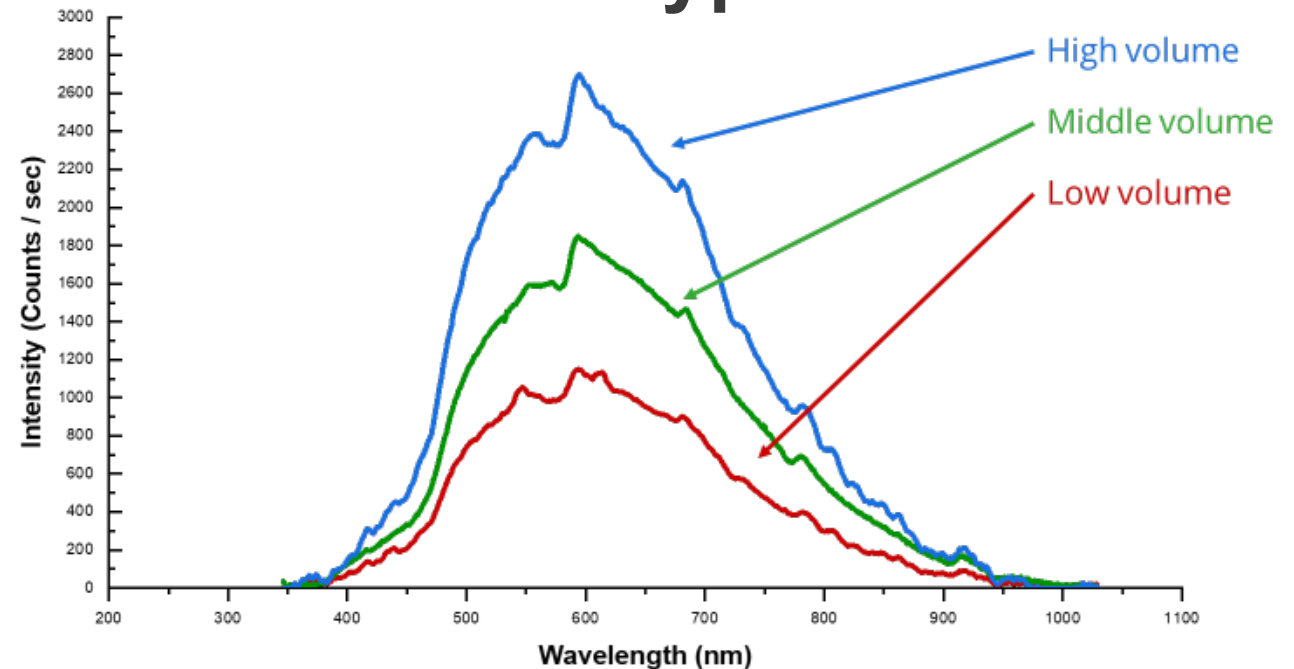


# Initial experimental verification of MAST hypothesis

An increase in injected particulate leads to an increase in overall reflectivity

## Moving forwards

- Use these findings and future work to inform optical data from GOES
- Use resultant analysis to better understand and analyze atmospheric dispersion





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# Thank you.

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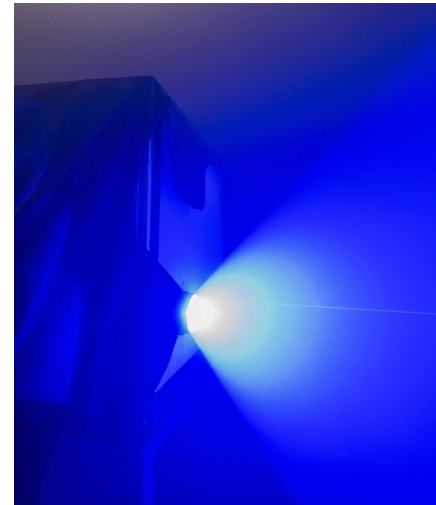


**Supported by:**

*Sandia Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD)*  
*NASA ARMD Transformational Tools and Technologies Project*  
*Sandia Academic Alliance (SAA)*



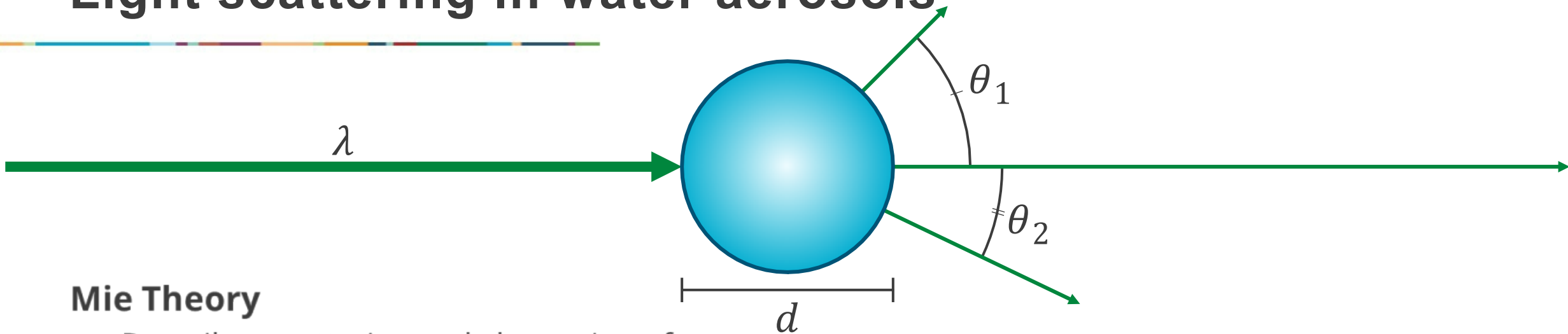
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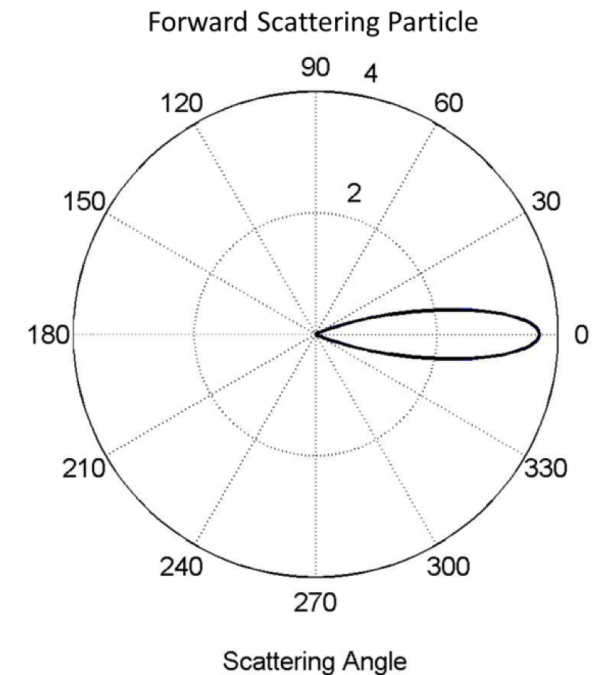
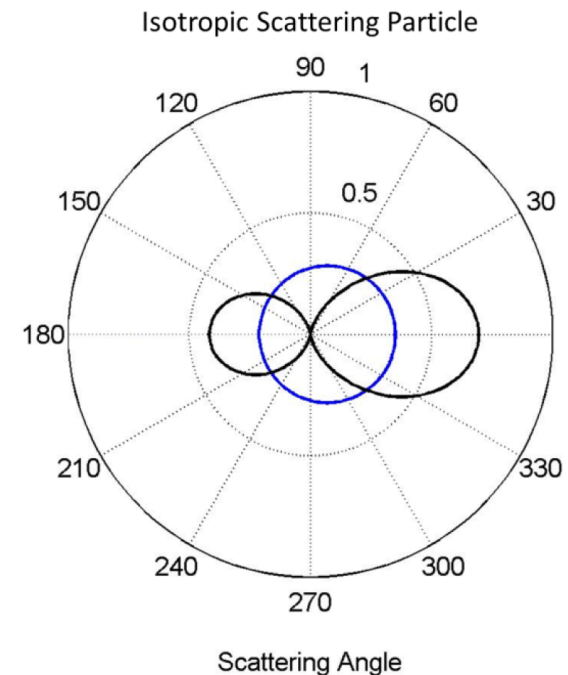
# Extra Slides

# Light scattering in water aerosols



## Mie Theory

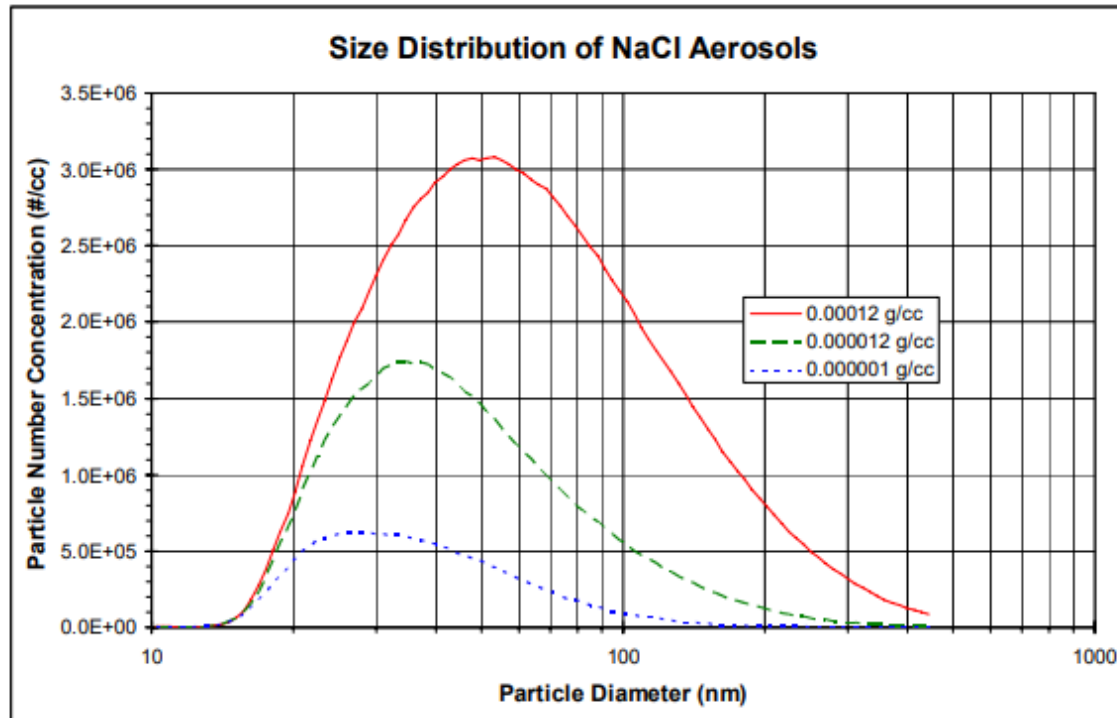
- Describes scattering and absorption of light by spherical droplets
- Input
  - Droplet diameter ( $d$ )
  - Wavelength of light ( $\lambda$ )
  - Droplet refractive index
- Output
  - Bulk scattering coefficient ( $\mu_s$ )
  - Bulk absorption coefficient ( $\mu_a$ )
  - Scattering angle ( $\theta$ )



# Dry particulate generation

## TSI 3076 Atomizer

- Operating pressure: 35 psig
- Nominal flow rate: ~50 cc/sec



## Injection information:

- High:
  - Mean diameter: 50 nm
  - Rate:  $1.5 \times 10^8$  particles / second
- Medium:
  - Mean diameter: 35 nm
  - Rate:  $8.8 \times 10^7$  particles / second
- Low:
  - Mean diameter: 28 nm
  - Rate:  $3.0 \times 10^7$  particles / second

