

# Radar quantification of secondary ice occurrence at Utqiagvik and beyond

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# First-ever long-term statistics of secondary ice processes

Secondary ice (SI) process studies are historically based on

- Laboratory experiments
- Aircraft data
- Episodic remote sensing case studies

Paradigm shift using long-term ARM data

- Continuous SI process observations
- New remote sensing retrieval technique
- Statistical quantification of SI processes and uncertainties

Luke et al., 2021 PNAS

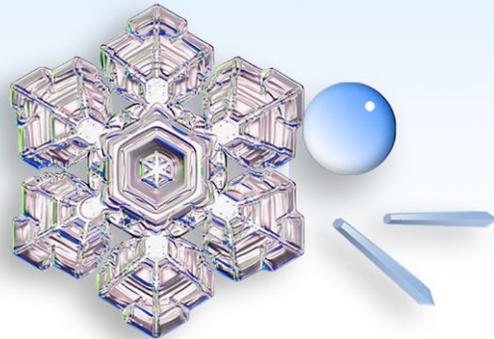


# Processes targeted

## Secondary ice production in slightly supercooled conditions (-10 to 0 C)

Process

Rime-  
splintering

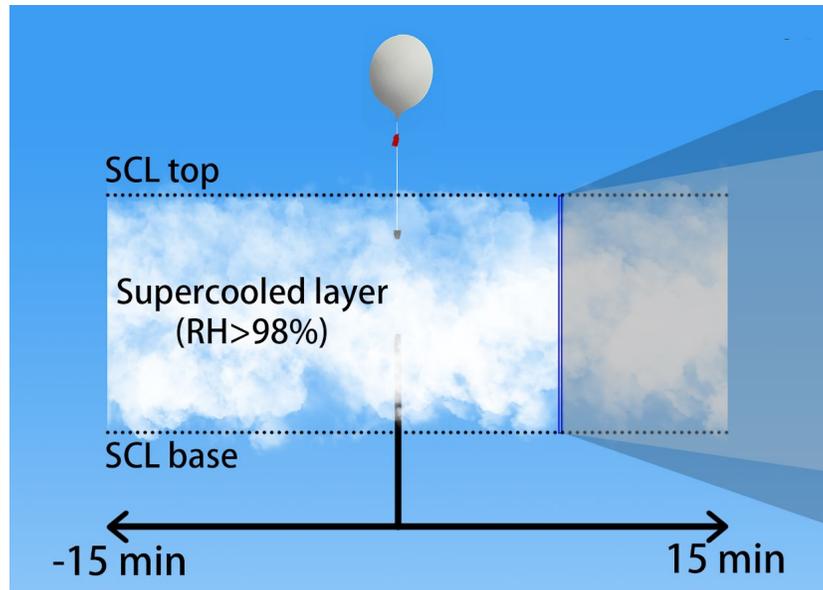


Freezing  
fragmentation

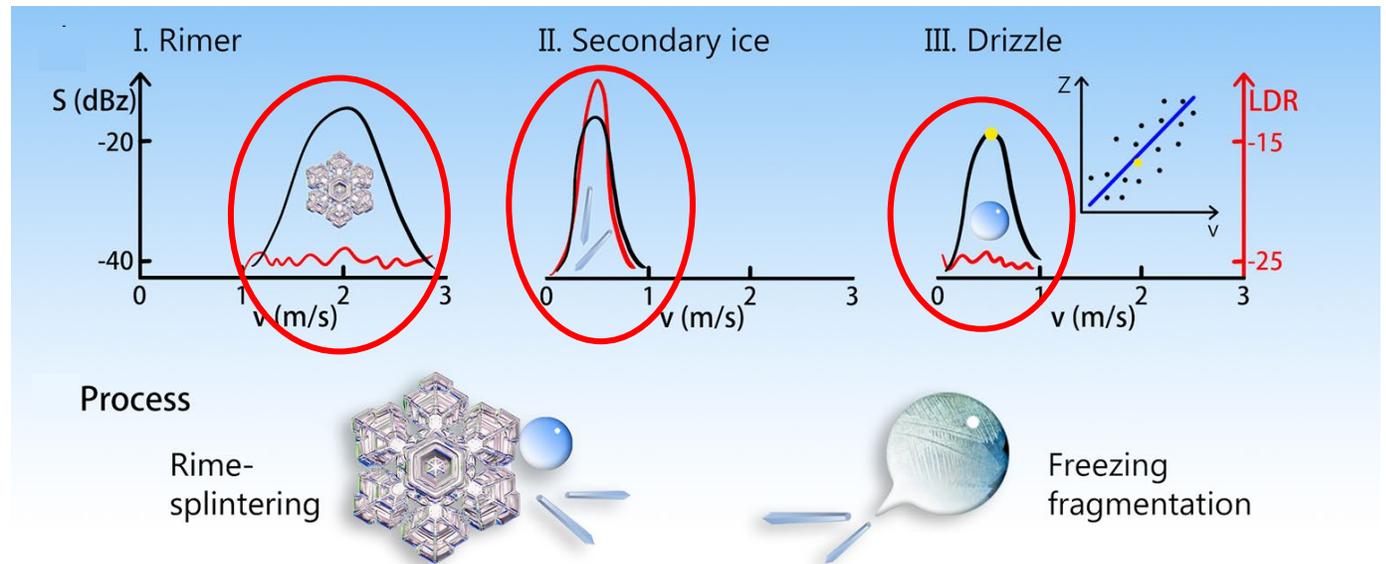


# Secondary ice retrieval approach

Analyze polarimetric radar Doppler spectra within the liquid layers (spanning 6 years)

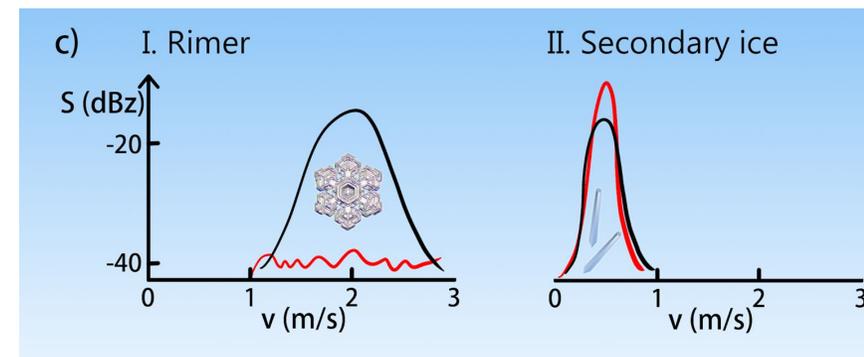
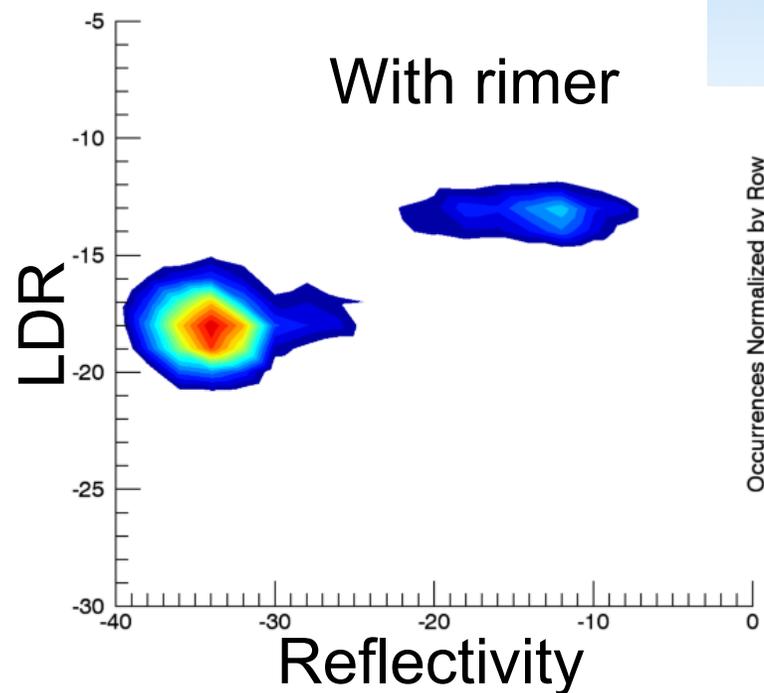
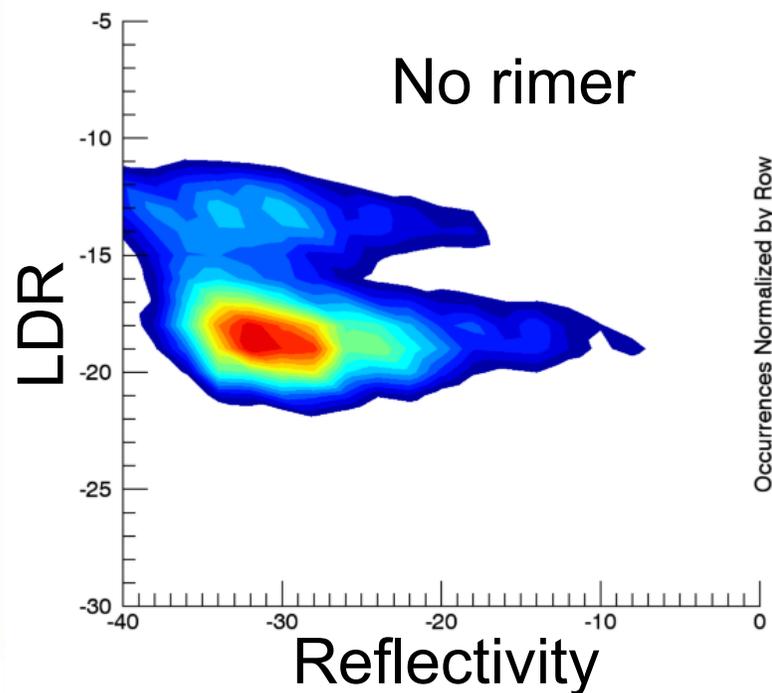


Radiosonde locates supercooled liquid layers (over 4500 launches)



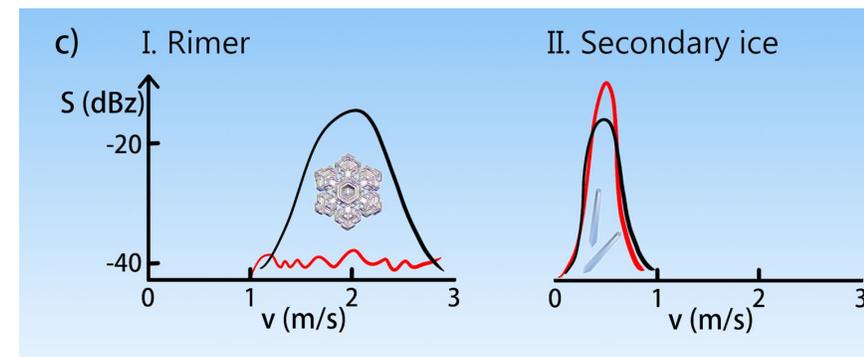
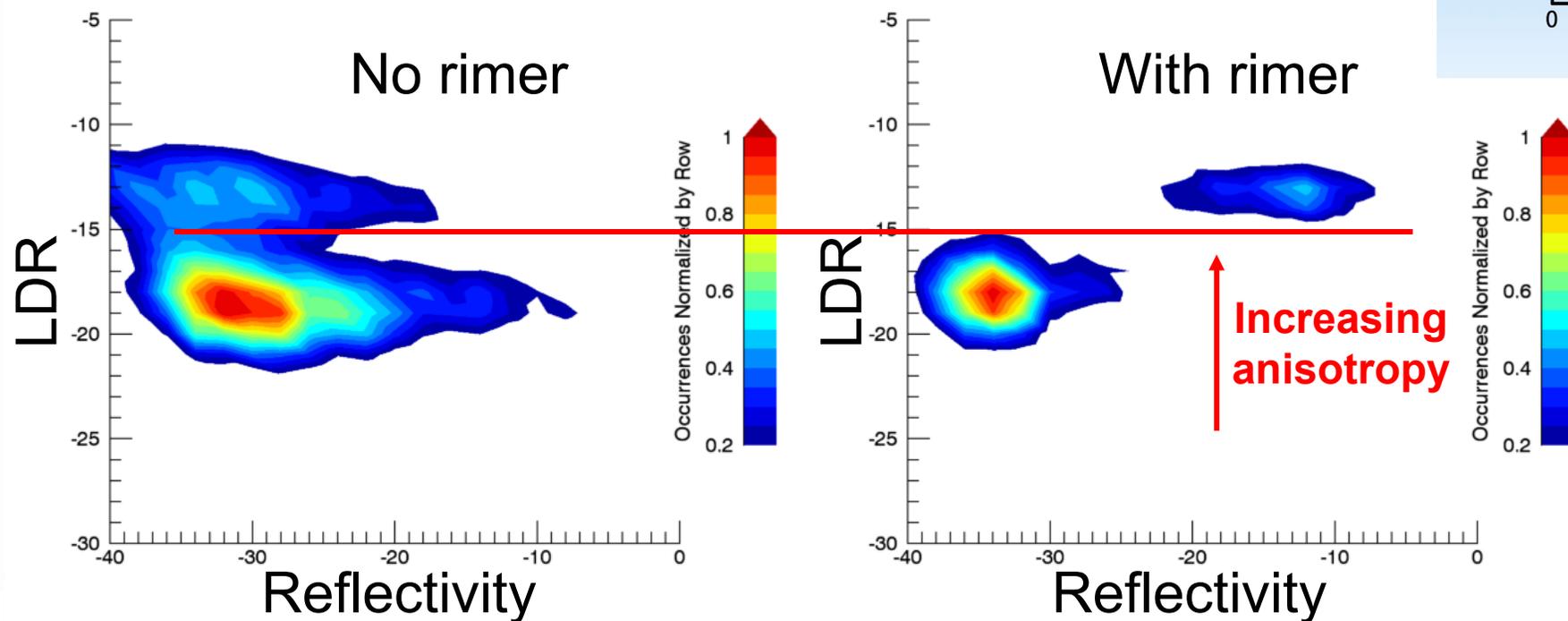
# Determining SI radar threshold

## LDR vs Reflectivity @ $-5 \pm 1$ °C

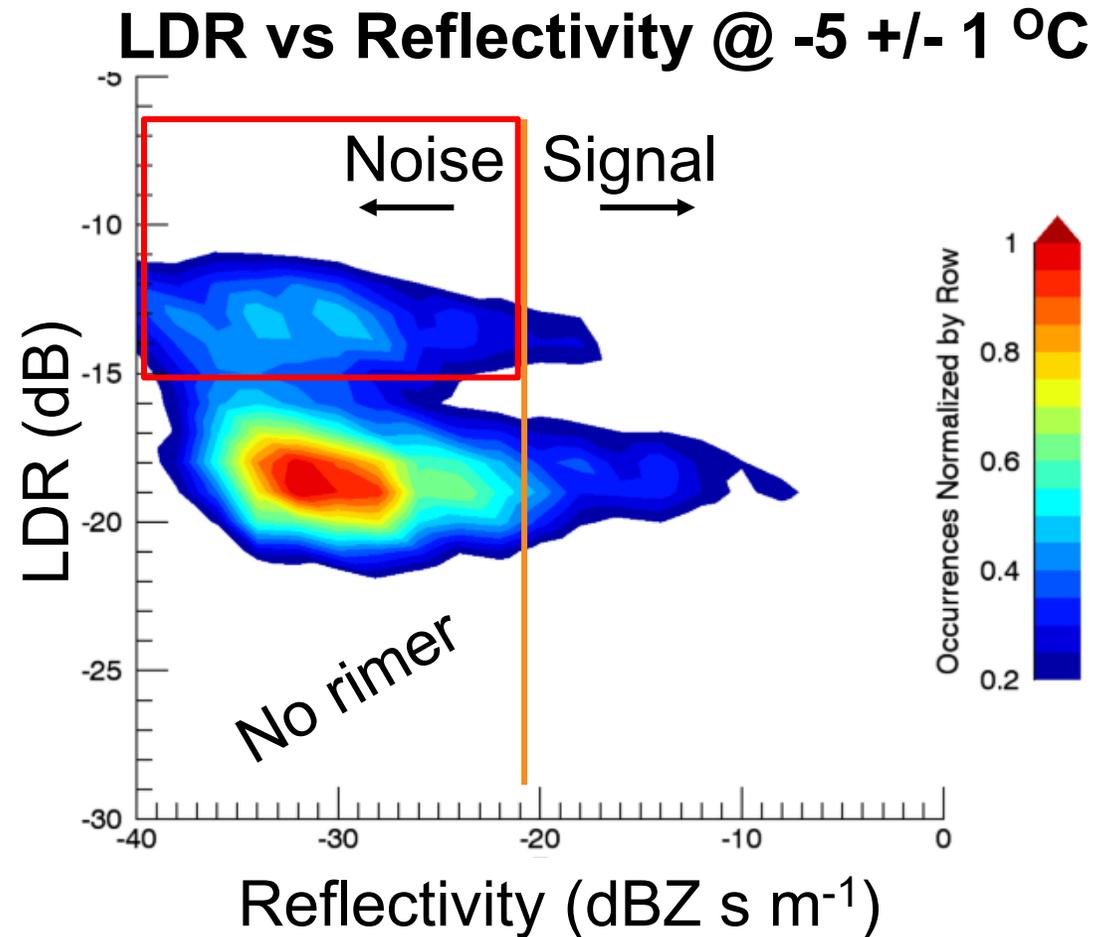


# Determining SI radar threshold

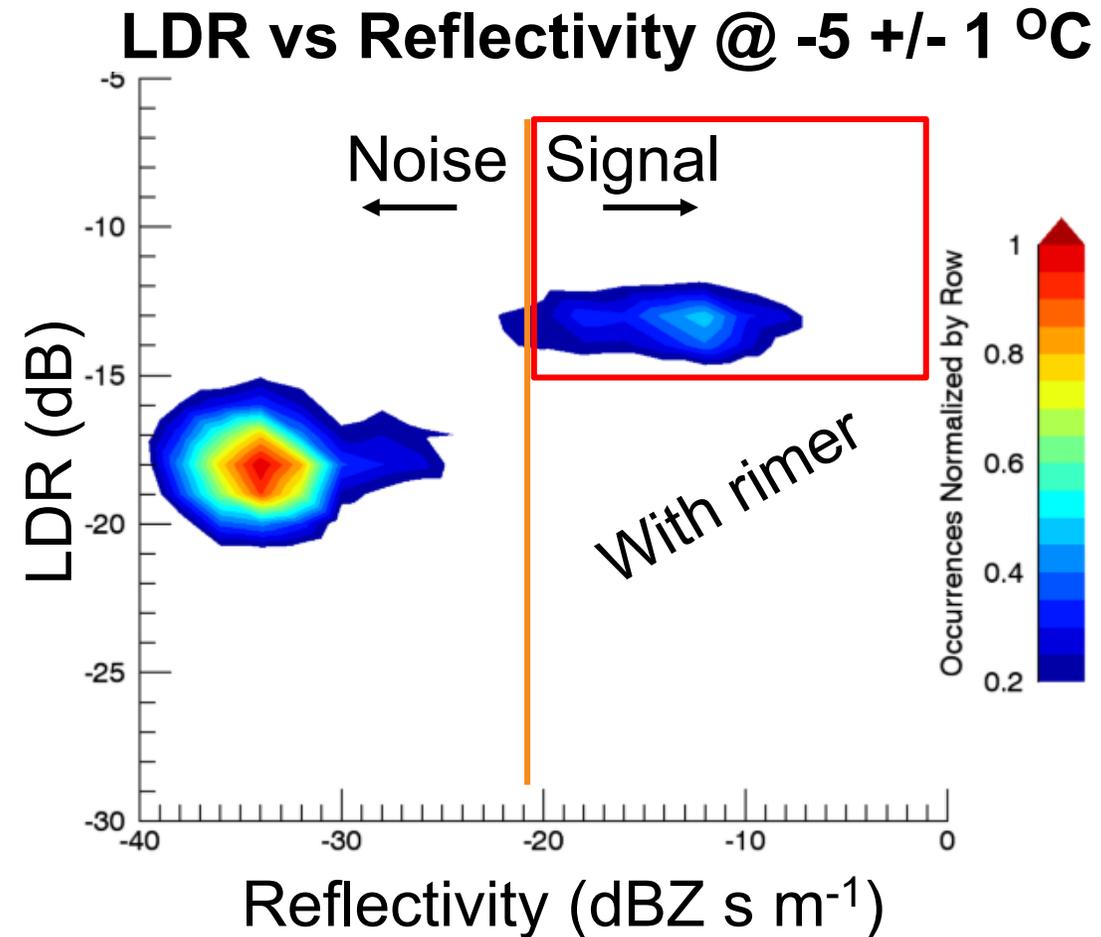
## LDR vs Reflectivity @ $-5 \pm 1$ °C



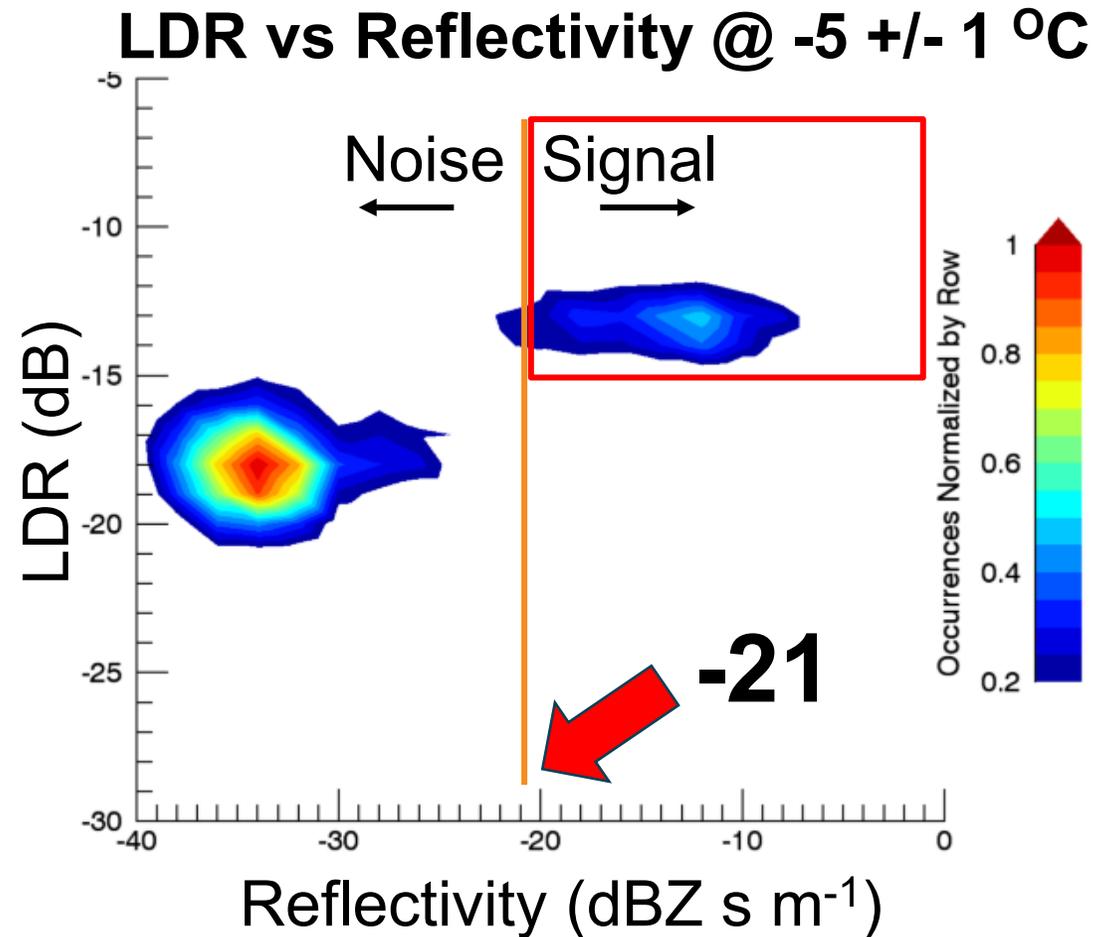
# Determining SI radar threshold



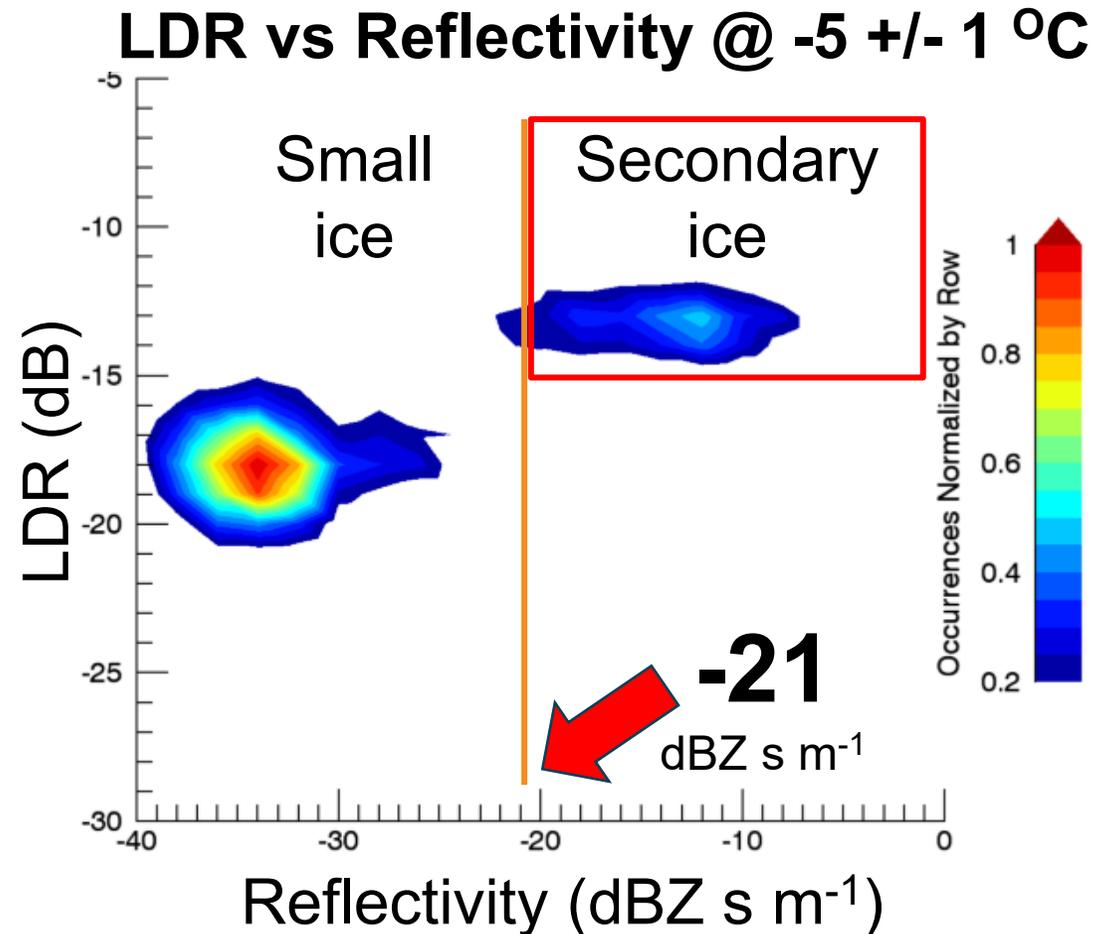
# Determining SI radar threshold



# Secondary ice threshold is $-21 \text{ dBZ s m}^{-1}$

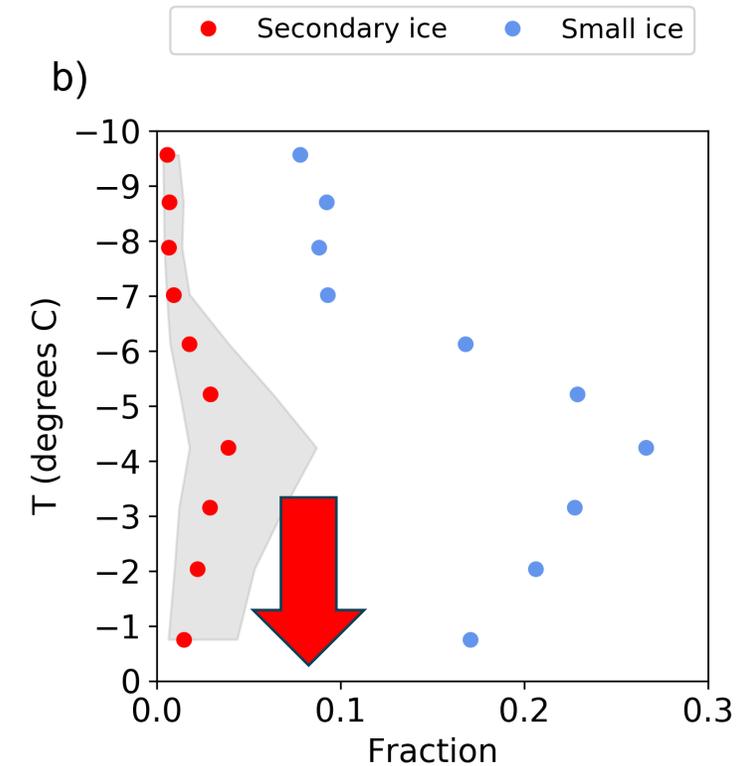
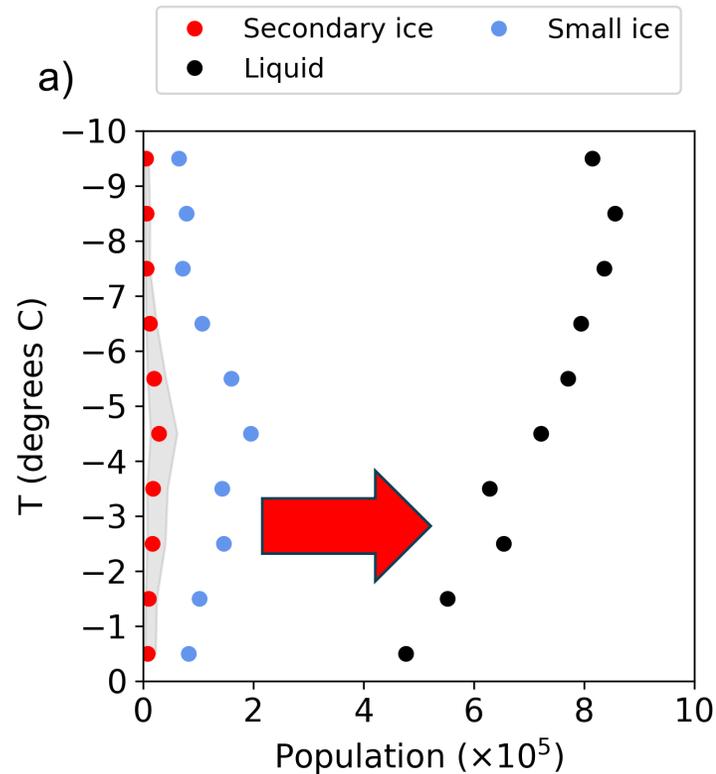


# Secondary ice threshold is $-21 \text{ dBZ s m}^{-1}$

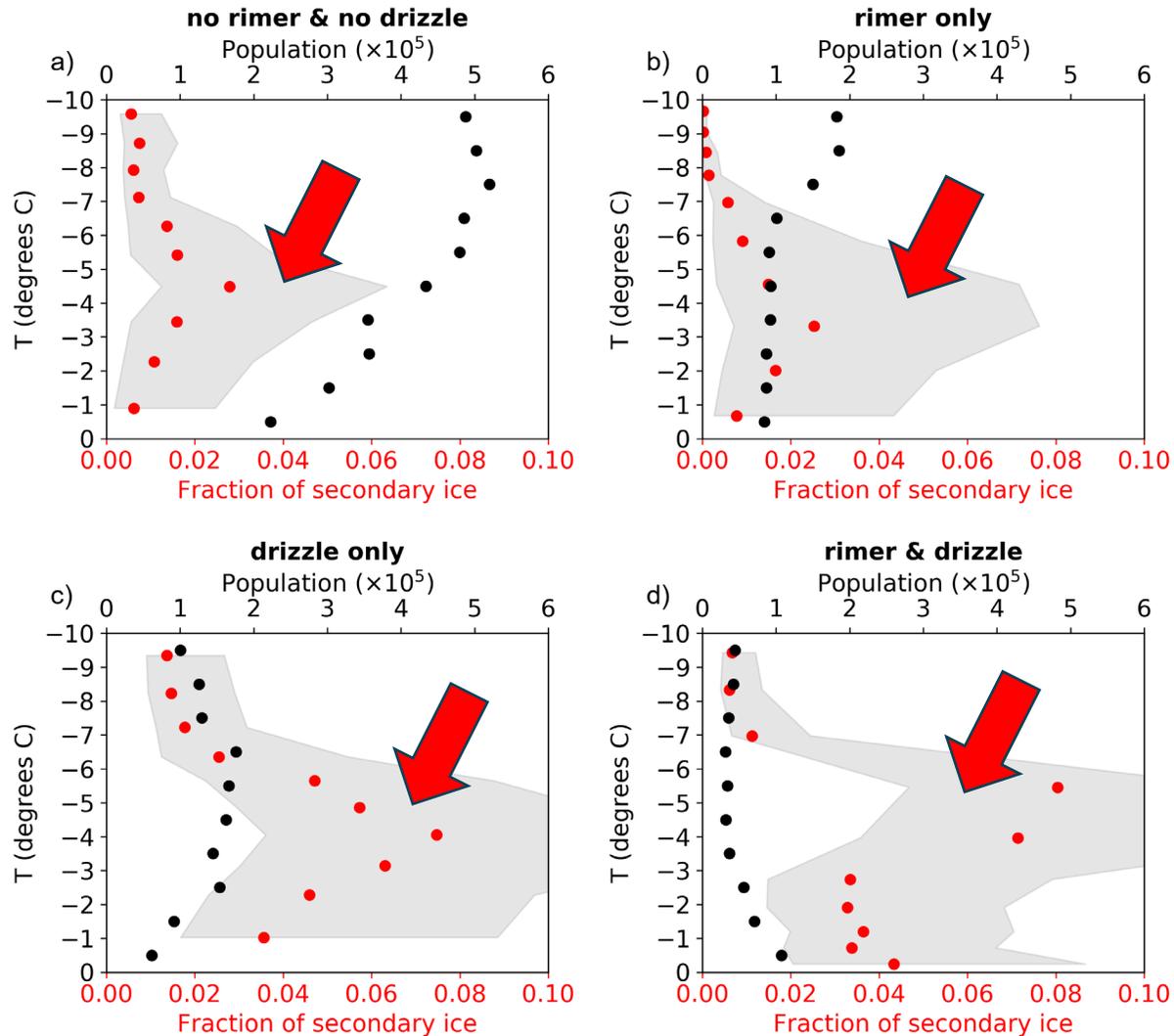


# Secondary ice frequency of occurrence

- Supercooled liquid most frequent at colder temperatures
- Small ice most frequent at  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Secondary ice occurs less than 10% of the time



# SI from splintering vs fragmentation

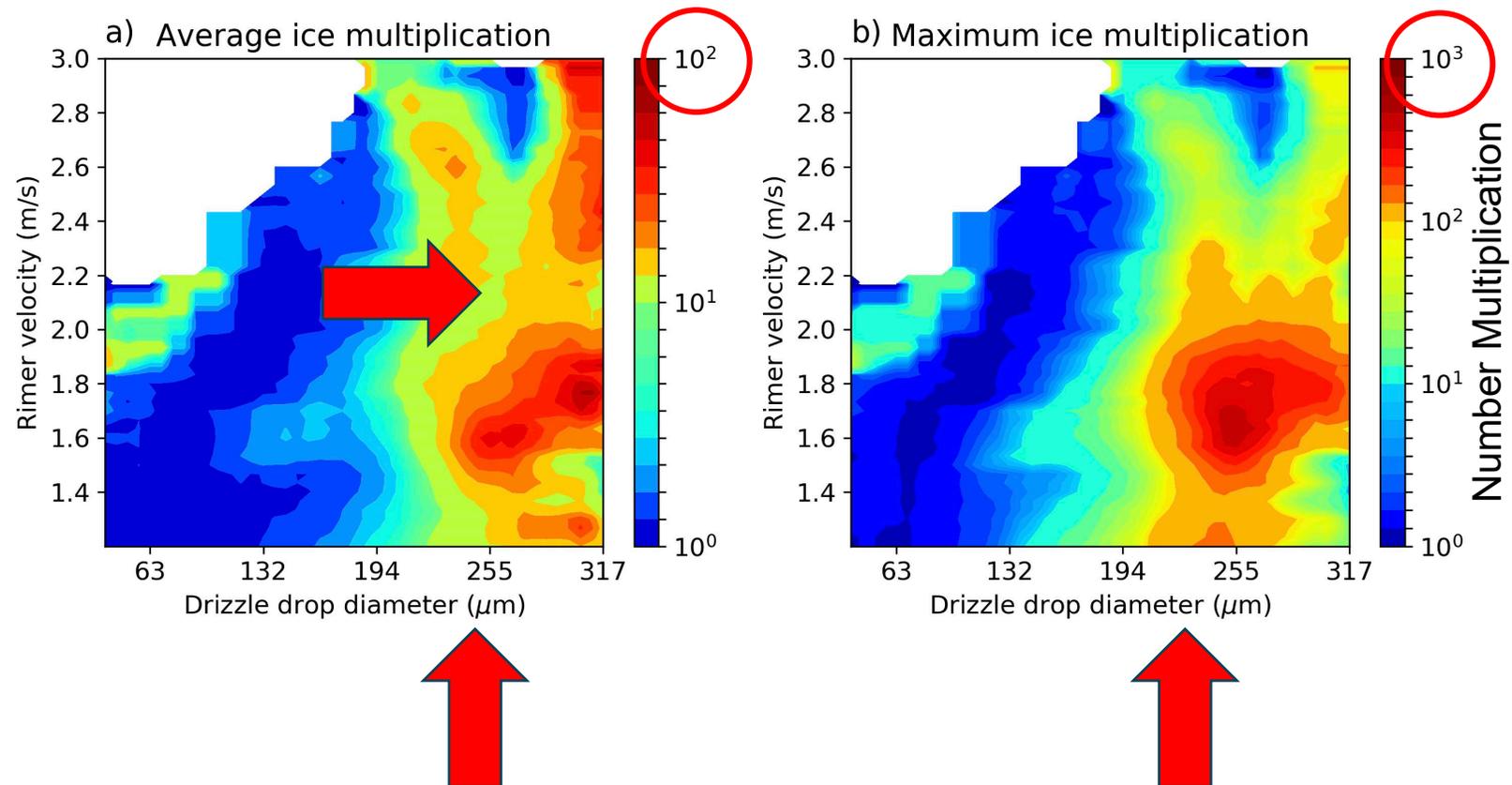


- Rimer alone has weakest association with secondary ice
- Drizzle alone has a significantly higher SI fraction
- Rimer and drizzle together have the highest SI fraction
- Freezing fragmentation more important than rime splintering

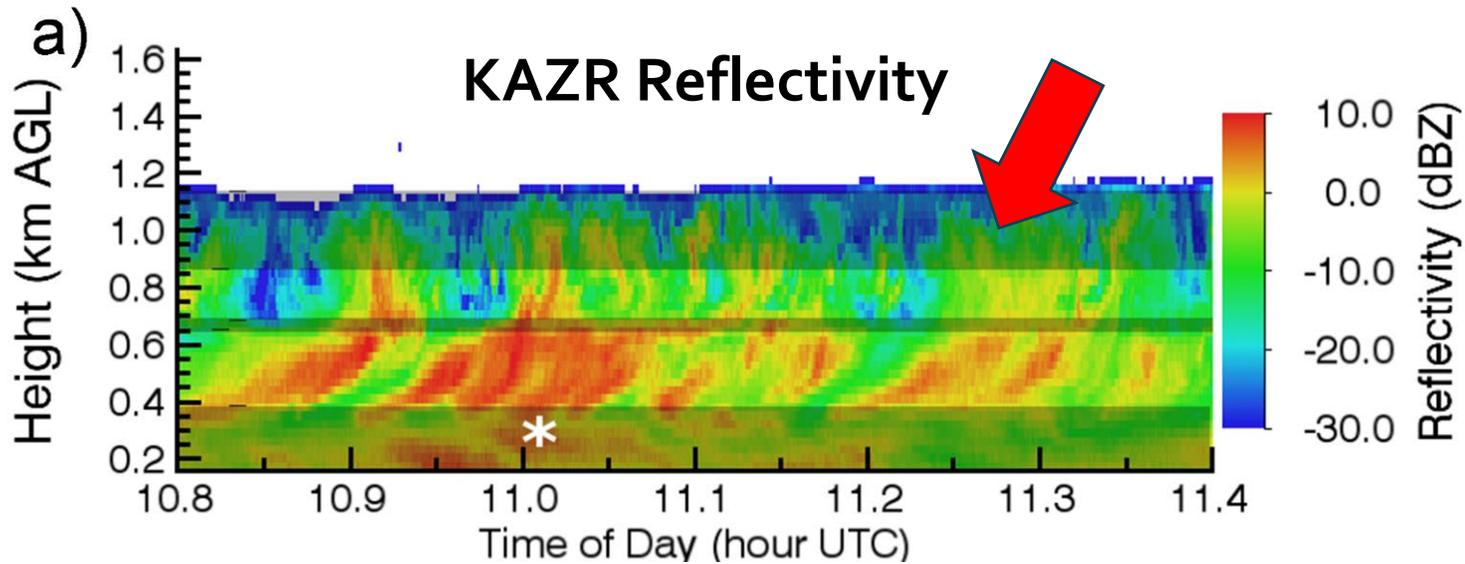
# Rime-splintering, freezing fragmentation joint distribution

- Ice multiplication peaks for drizzle drops larger than **250  $\mu\text{m}$** .
- Ice multiplication is **bimodal** with rimer speed
- Average ice multiplication can reach **100x**, while peak occurrences can reach **1000x**.

## Ice multiplication as a function of rimer velocity and drizzle drop diameter

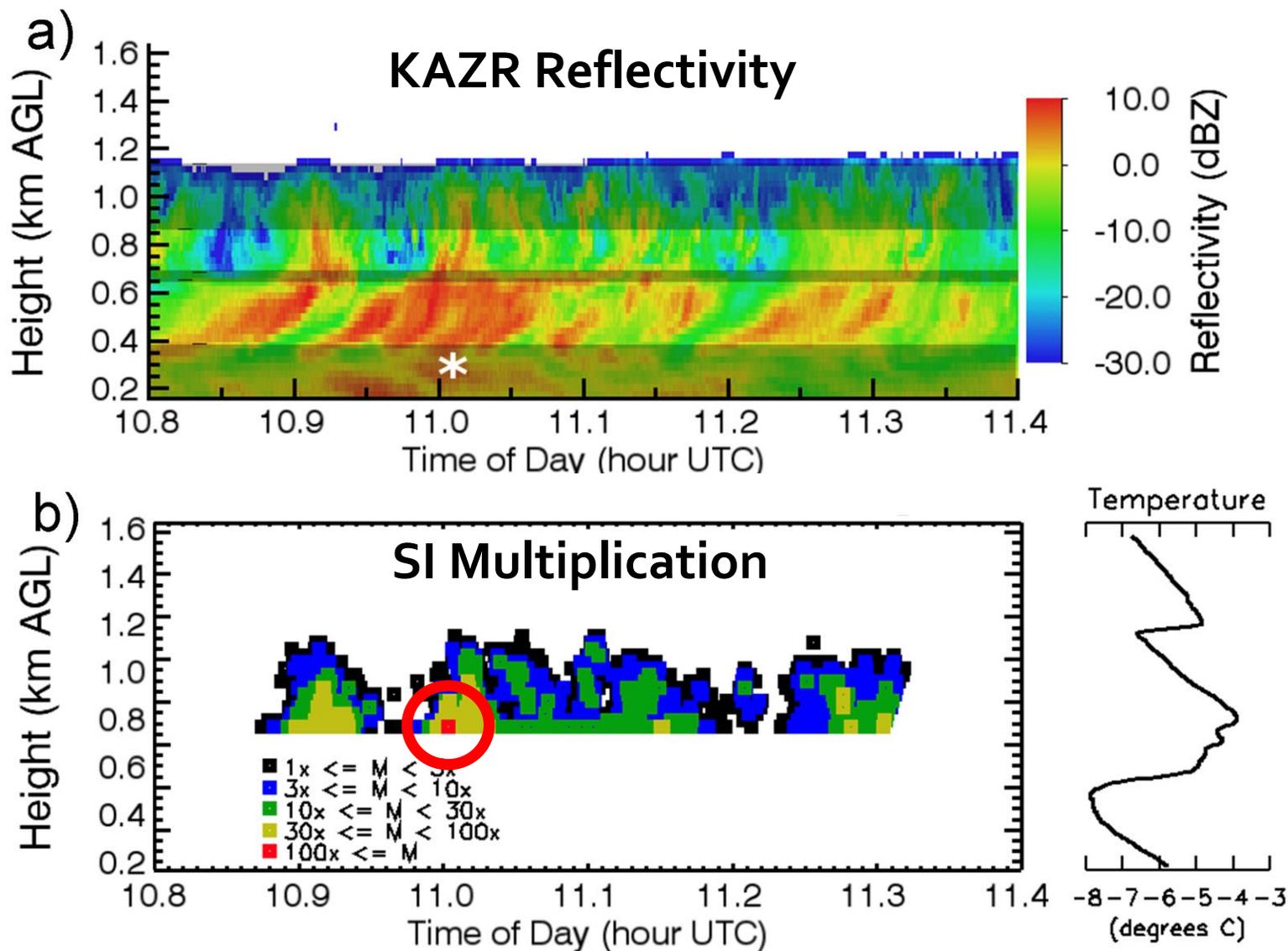


# An example case



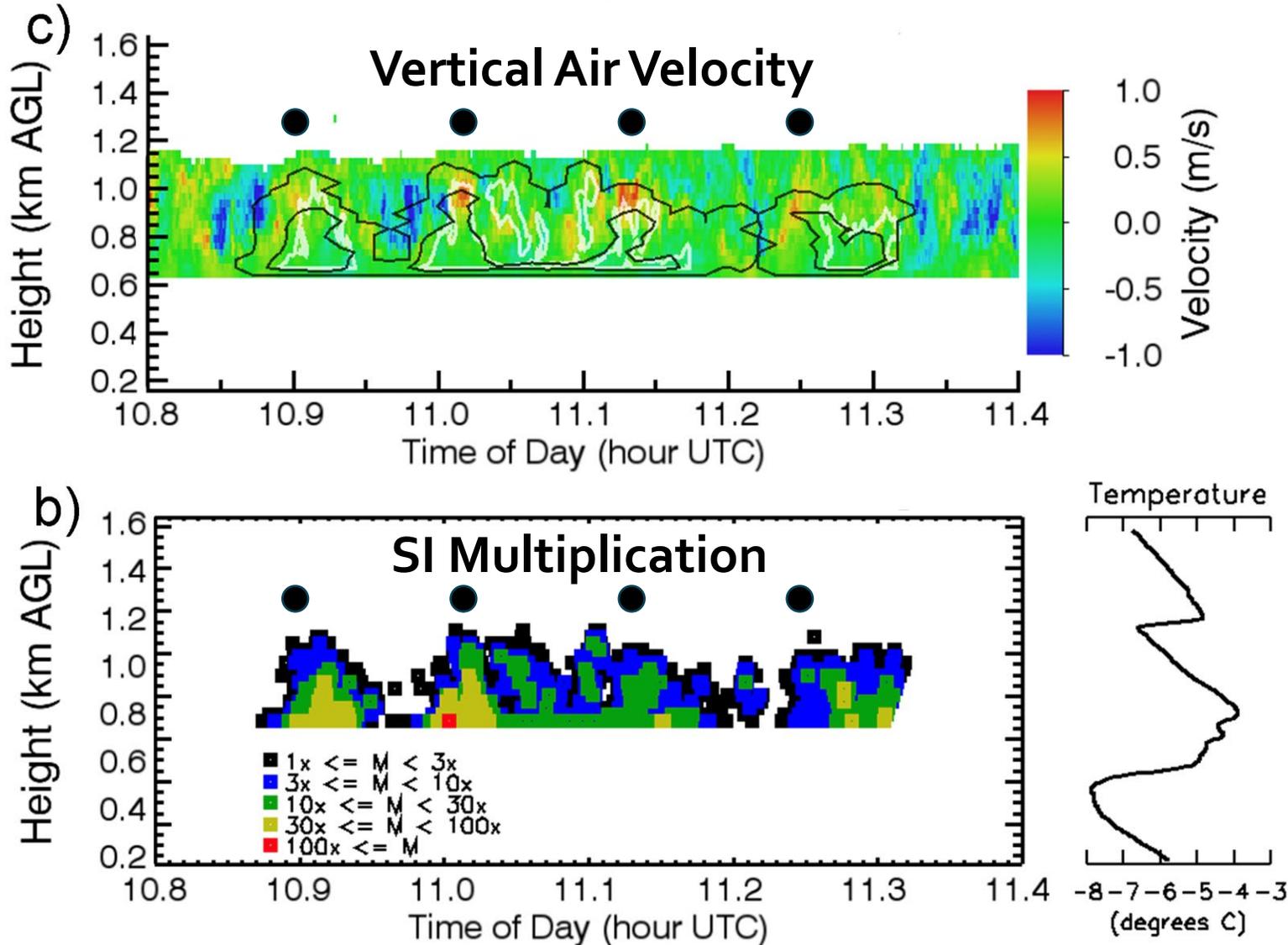
- SI production in shallow stratiform cloud

# Ice multiplication up to 100x observed



- SI production in shallow stratiform cloud
- Multiplication reaches 100x

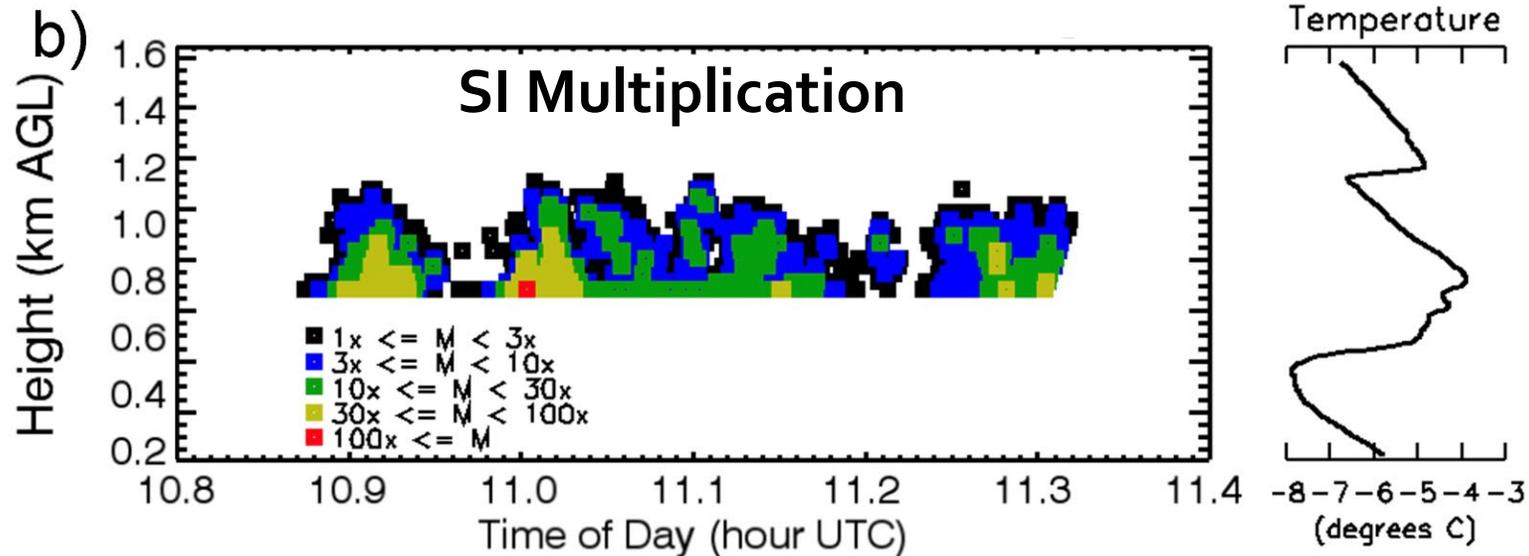
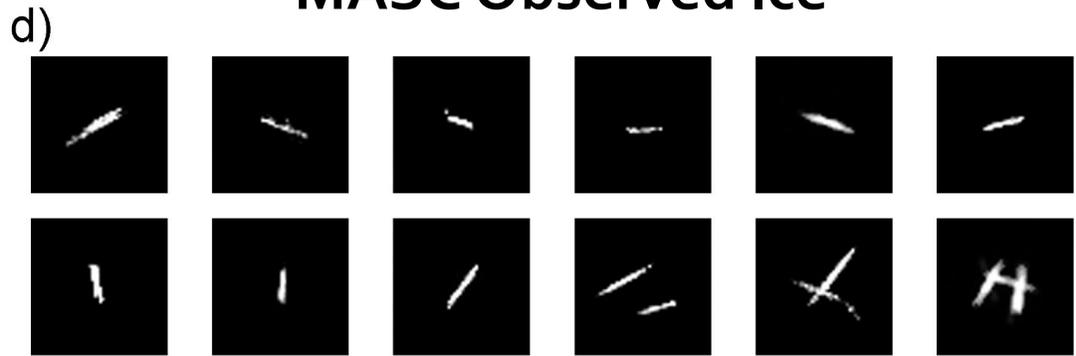
# SI correlates with updrafts



- SI production in shallow stratiform cloud
- Multiplication reaches 100x
- Updrafts are favorable to SI production

# In-situ needle observations at surface

## MASC Observed Ice



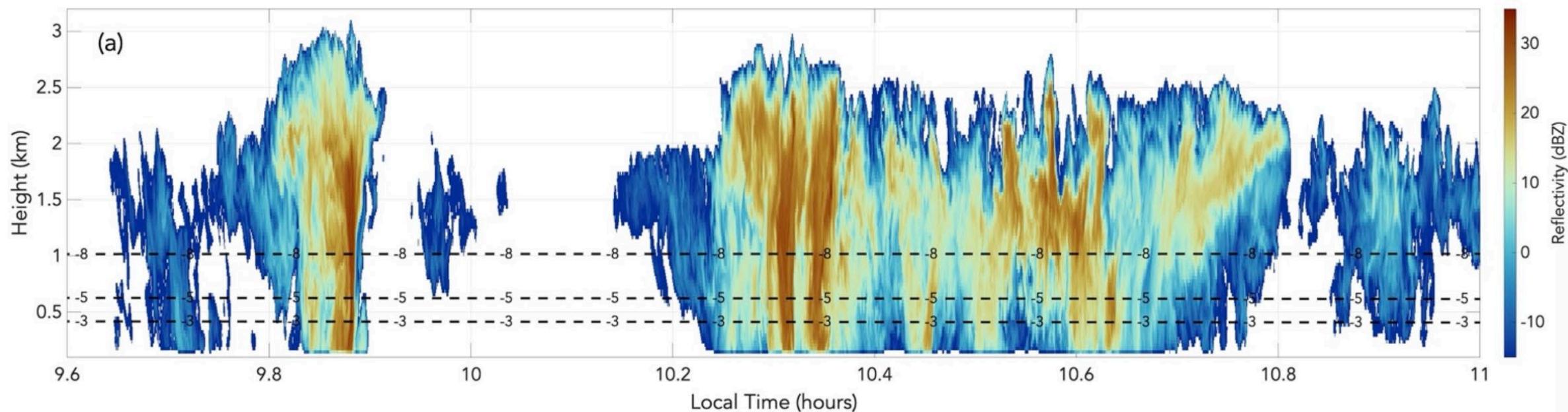
- SI production in shallow stratiform cloud
- Multiplication reaches 100x
- Updrafts are favorable to SI production
- MASC confirms needle precipitation

# MASC needle observations video

MASC Observations during  
Detected Secondary Ice Event

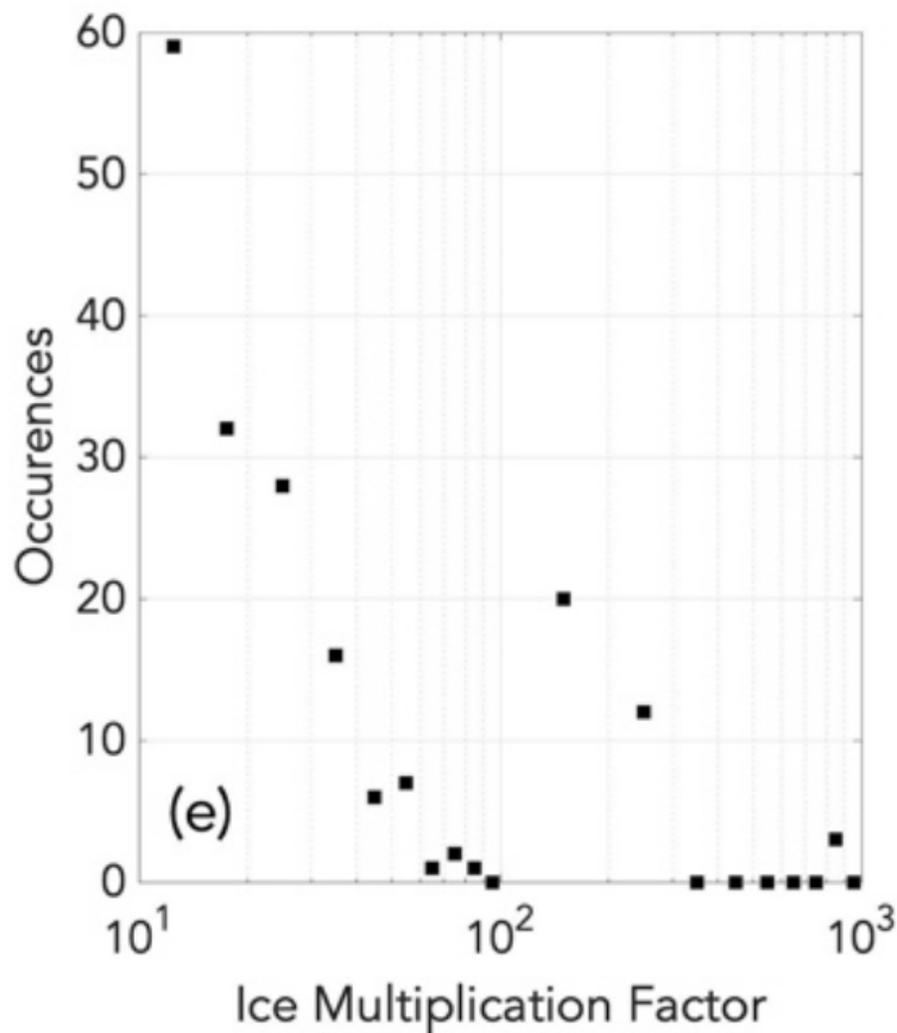


# Apply retrieval at COMBLE



Mages et al., in review, ACP

# COMBLE: Ice multiplication up to 1000x



Mages et al., in review, ACP

# Conclusions & Recommendations

- Up to **10x** ice multiplication from **rimer** alone
- Drizzle **enhances** ice multiplication by up to an additional **100x**
- Ice multiplication peaks at rimer speeds of 1.6 to 1.8 m/s and largest drizzle drop size
- Although **overall** frequency of SI is  $< 10\%$ , it can have dramatic **local** impacts
- Operate cloud radars in **dual-polarization** for high latitude deployments
- Consider **extra sonde launches** during conditions favoring secondary ice

# References

Luke, E. P., Yang, F., Kollias, P., Vogelmann, A. M., and Maahn, M. New insights into ice multiplication using remote-sensing observations of slightly supercooled mixed-phase clouds in the Arctic. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **118**, e2021387118, doi:10.1073/pnas.2021387118 (2021)

Mages, Z., Kollias, P., Zhu, Z., and Luke, E. P.: Surface-based observations of cold-air outbreak clouds during the COMBLE field campaign, *Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.* [preprint], <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2022-546>, in review, 2022

# Maximum needles at -5 C

