

Atmospheric Sampling of Aerosols and Cloud Droplets

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Caltech

Science questions

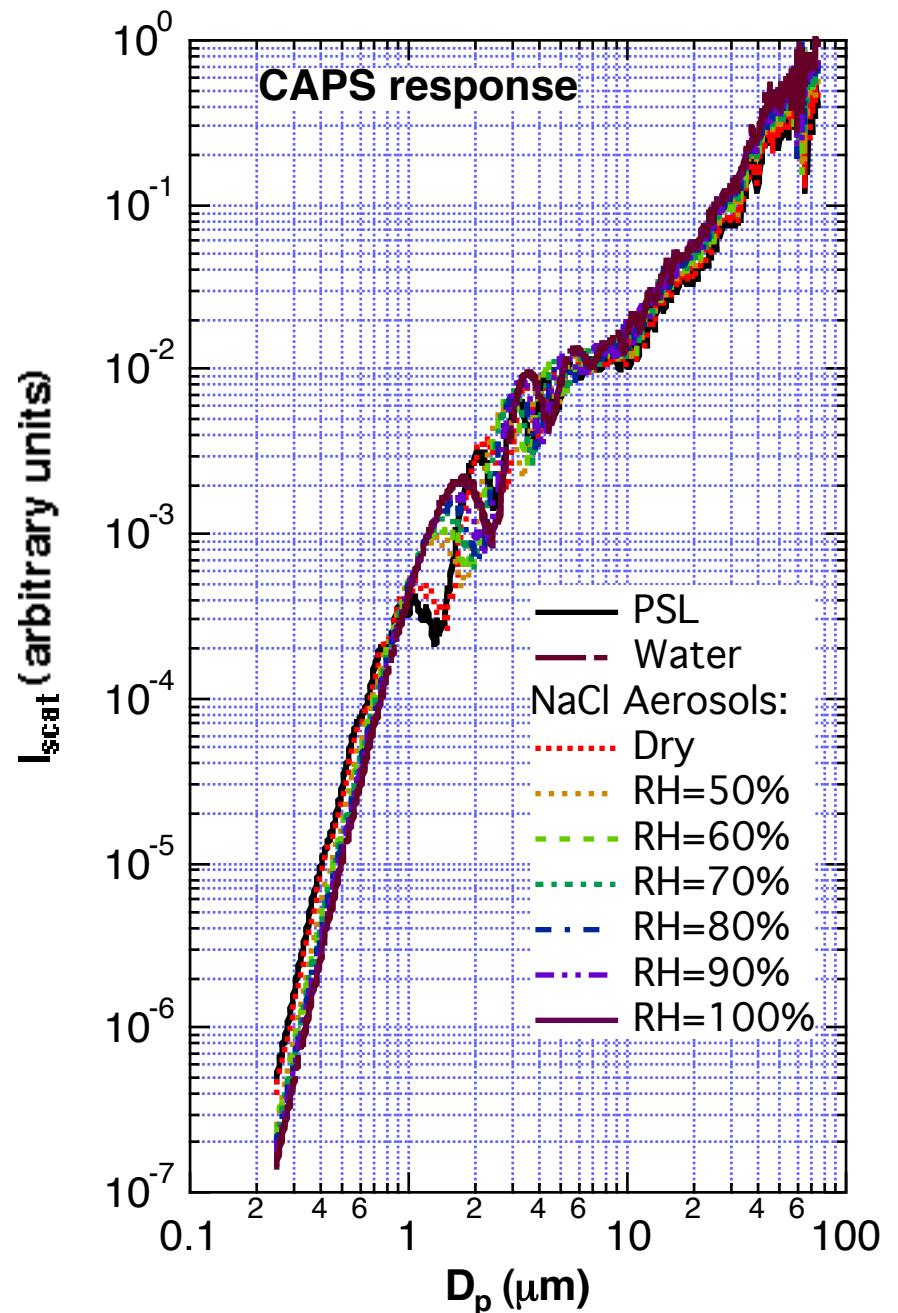
- What is Titan's climate?
- What governs the hydrologic cycle on Titan
- What is the nature of the hydrologic cycle and what are the material fluxes?
- What controls the energy budget to different regions of the atmosphere?
- Microphysics
 - Nucleate aerosols
 - Growth by condensation and reaction
 - Activation to form cloud droplets/particles
 - Multiple condensate materials --- multiple types of clouds
 - Mixed solution clouds
 - Complex phase behavior
 - Relevant particle sizes may differ substantially from water clouds on earth
 - Terminal settling velocity
 - Activation behavior – Kohler model for cloud droplet activation of organic vapors
 - Optical properties

Focus on microphysical characterization

- Aerosols
 - Size distribution
 - Number concentration
 - Activation behavior
- Cloud microphysics

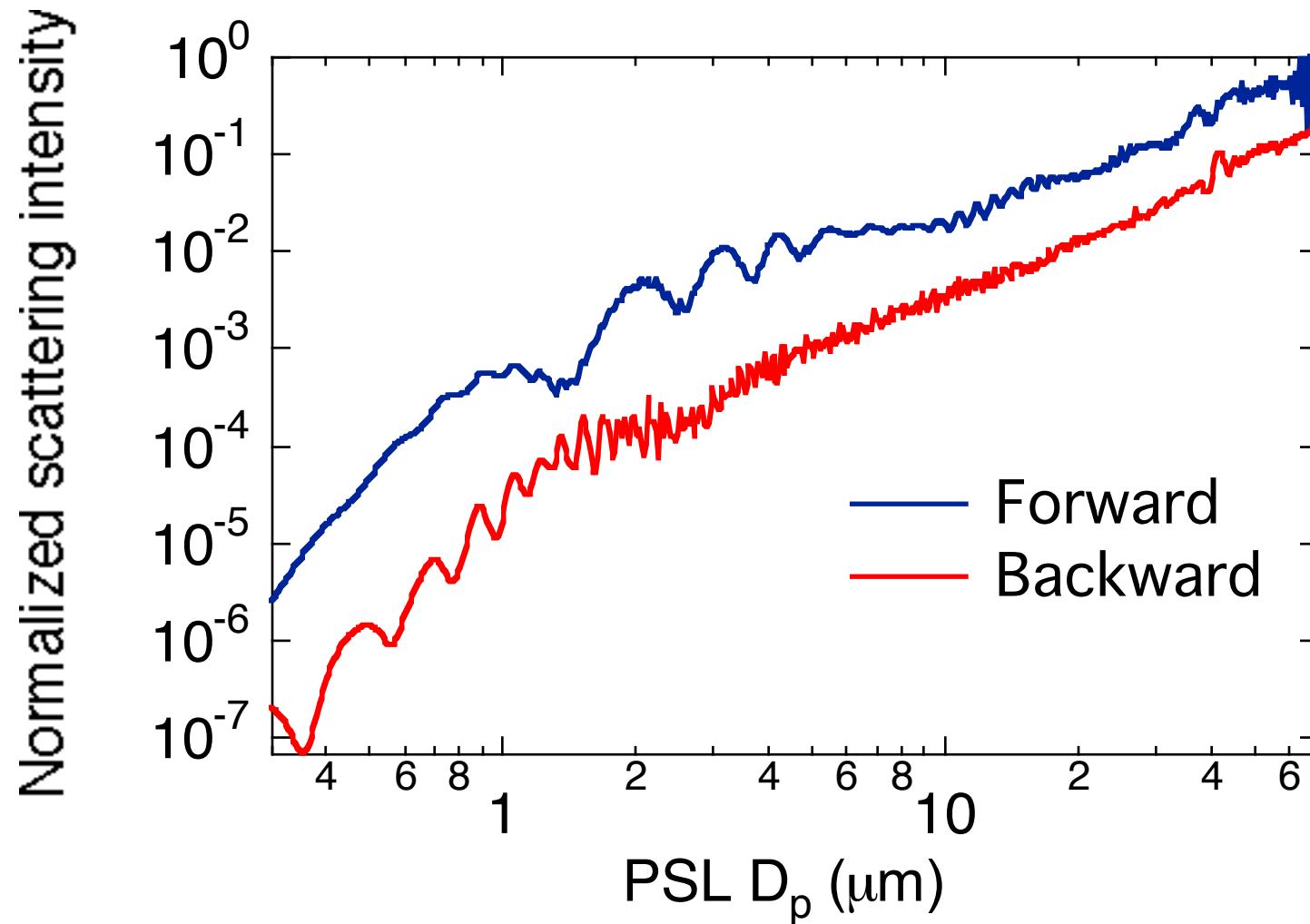
Single particle light scattering for determination of particle size

- Measure scattered light from individual particles
- Strong influence of refractive index
- Strong influence of particles morphology

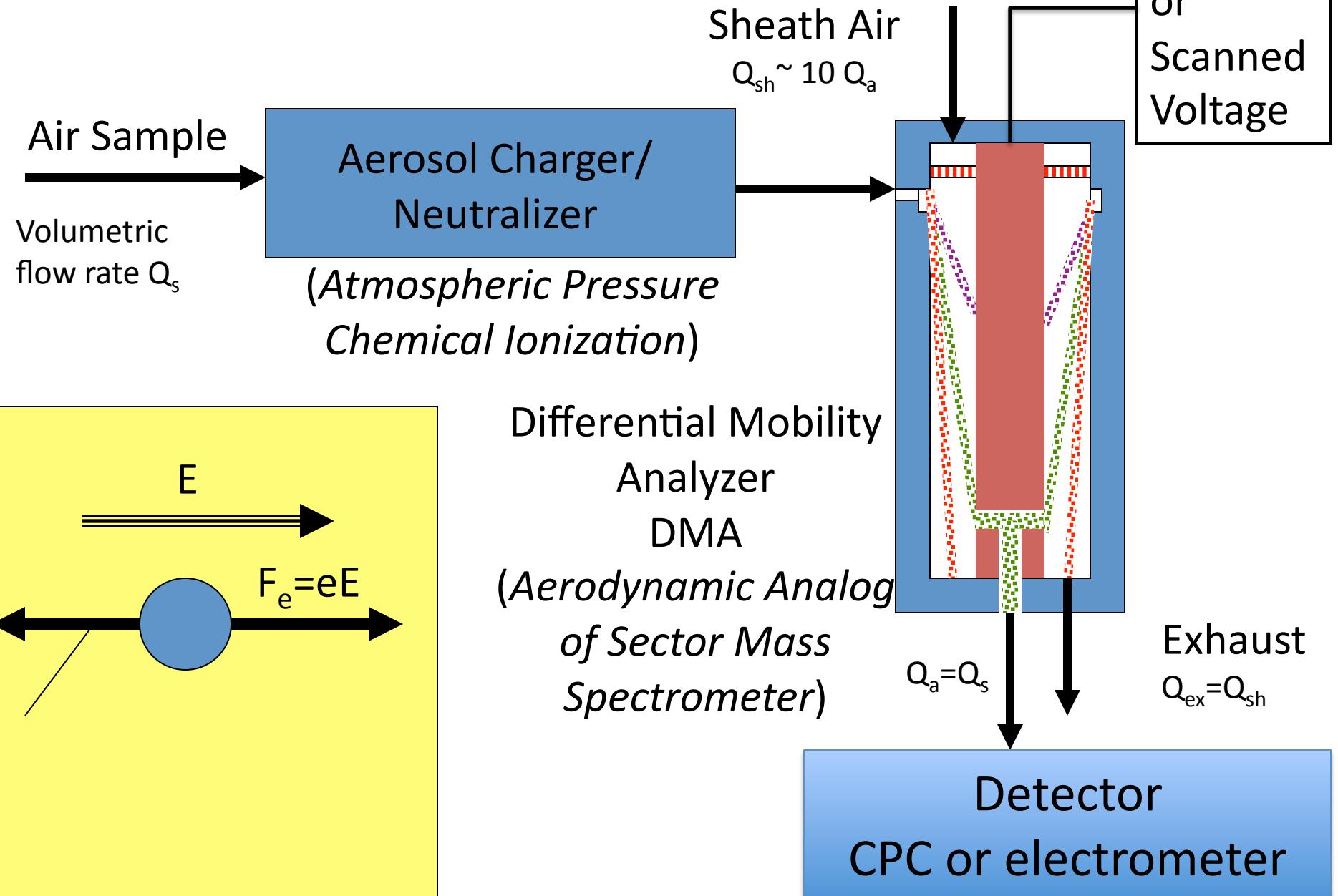


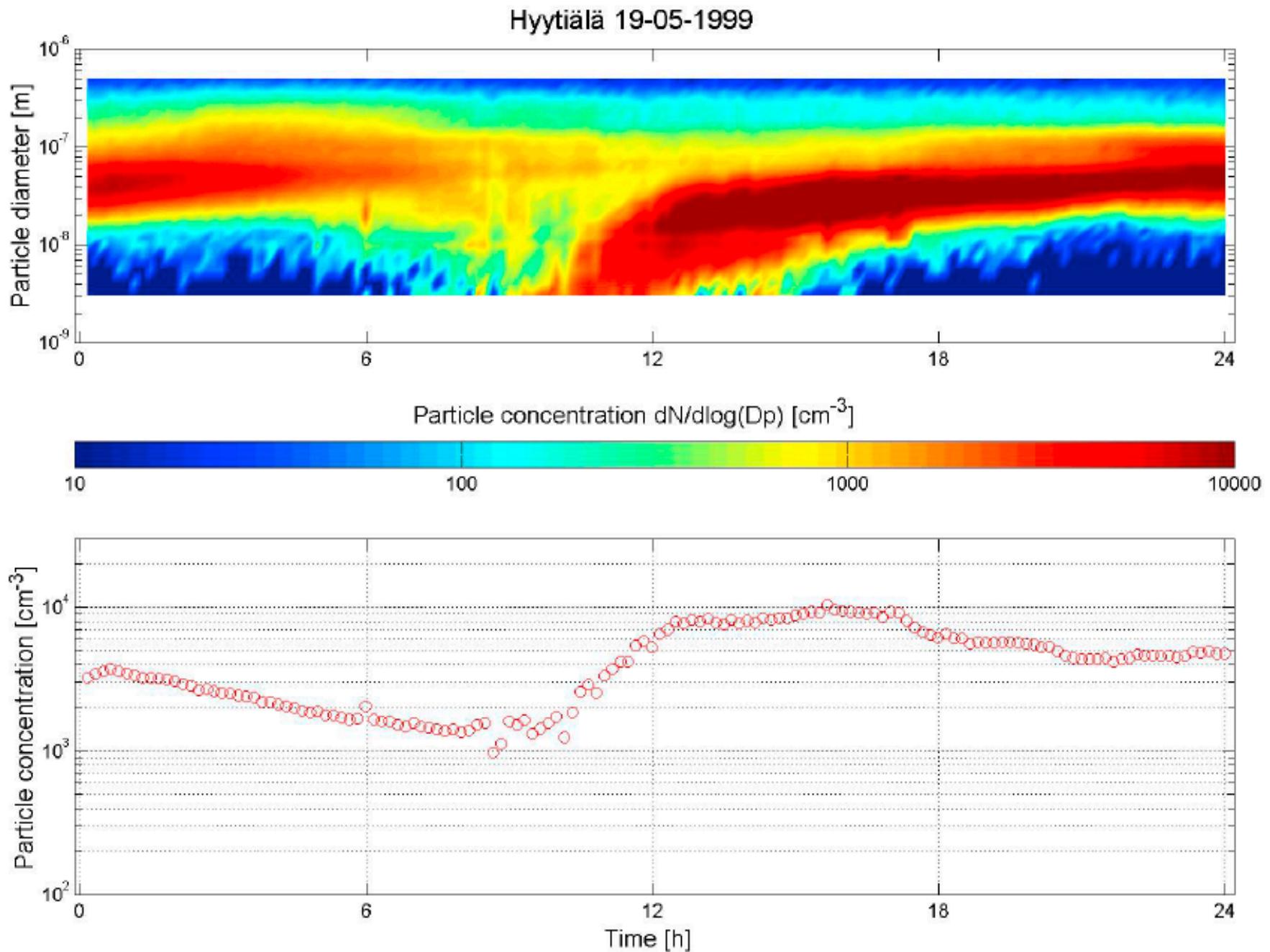
CAPS

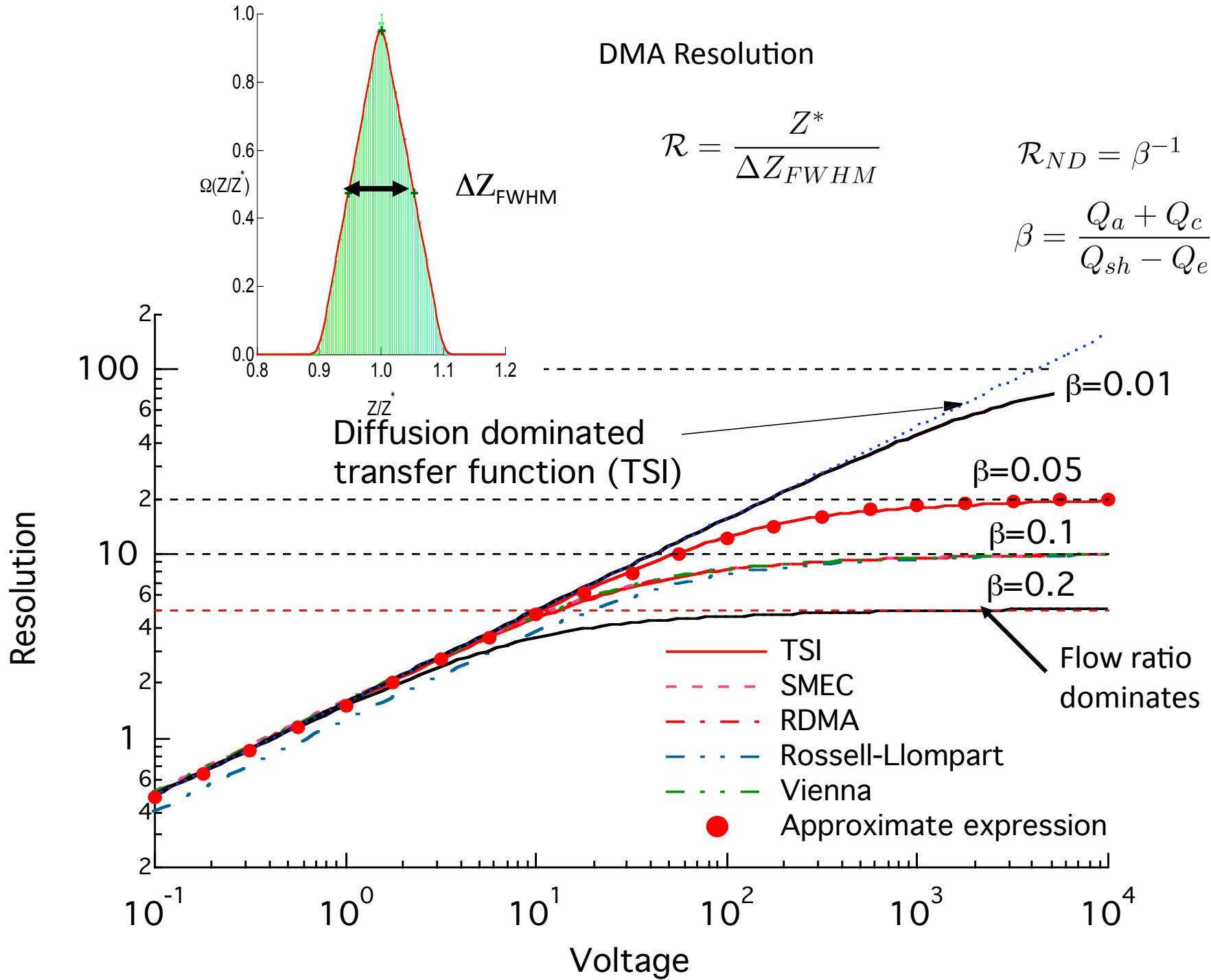
Intensity based estimation of particle size

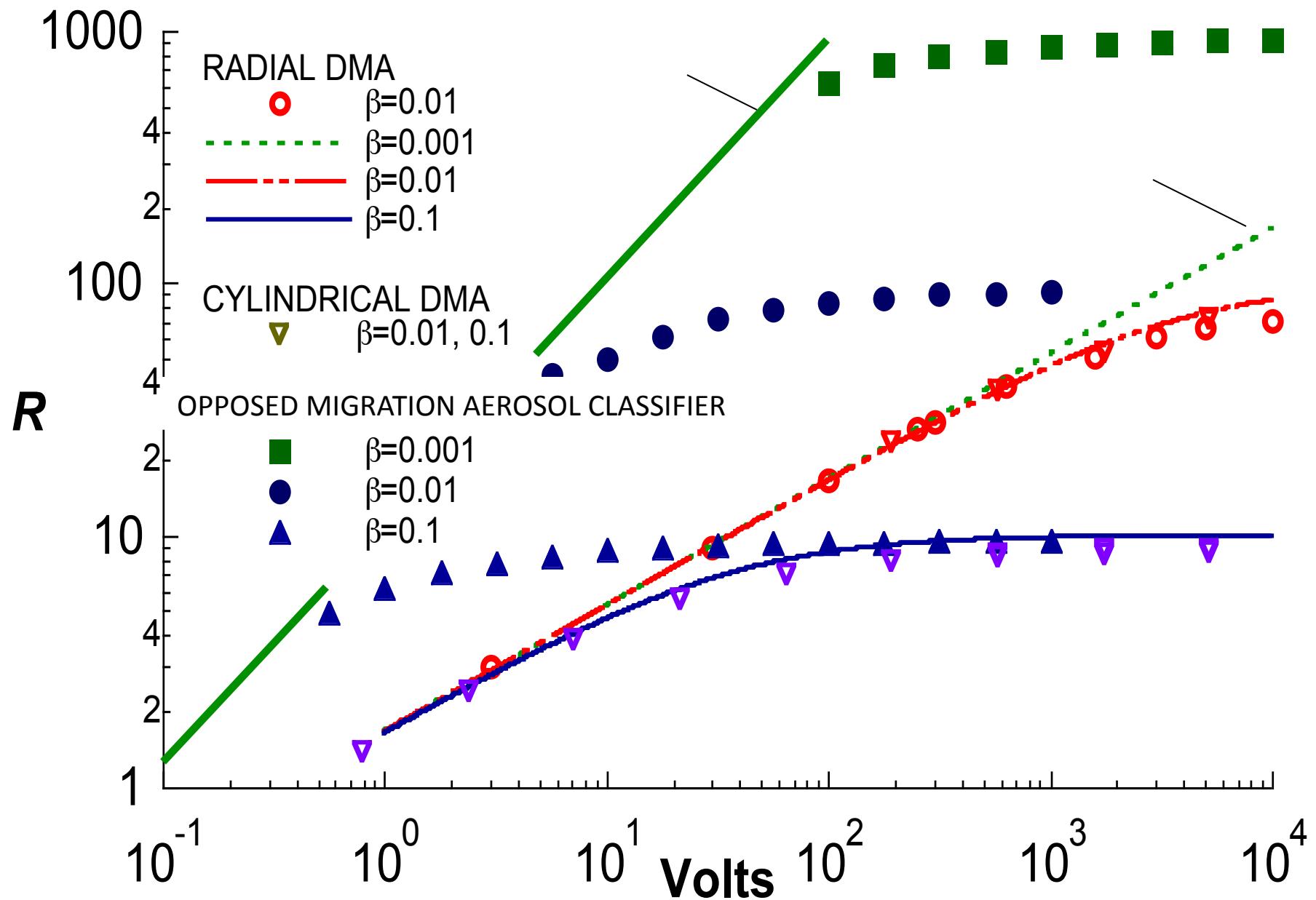


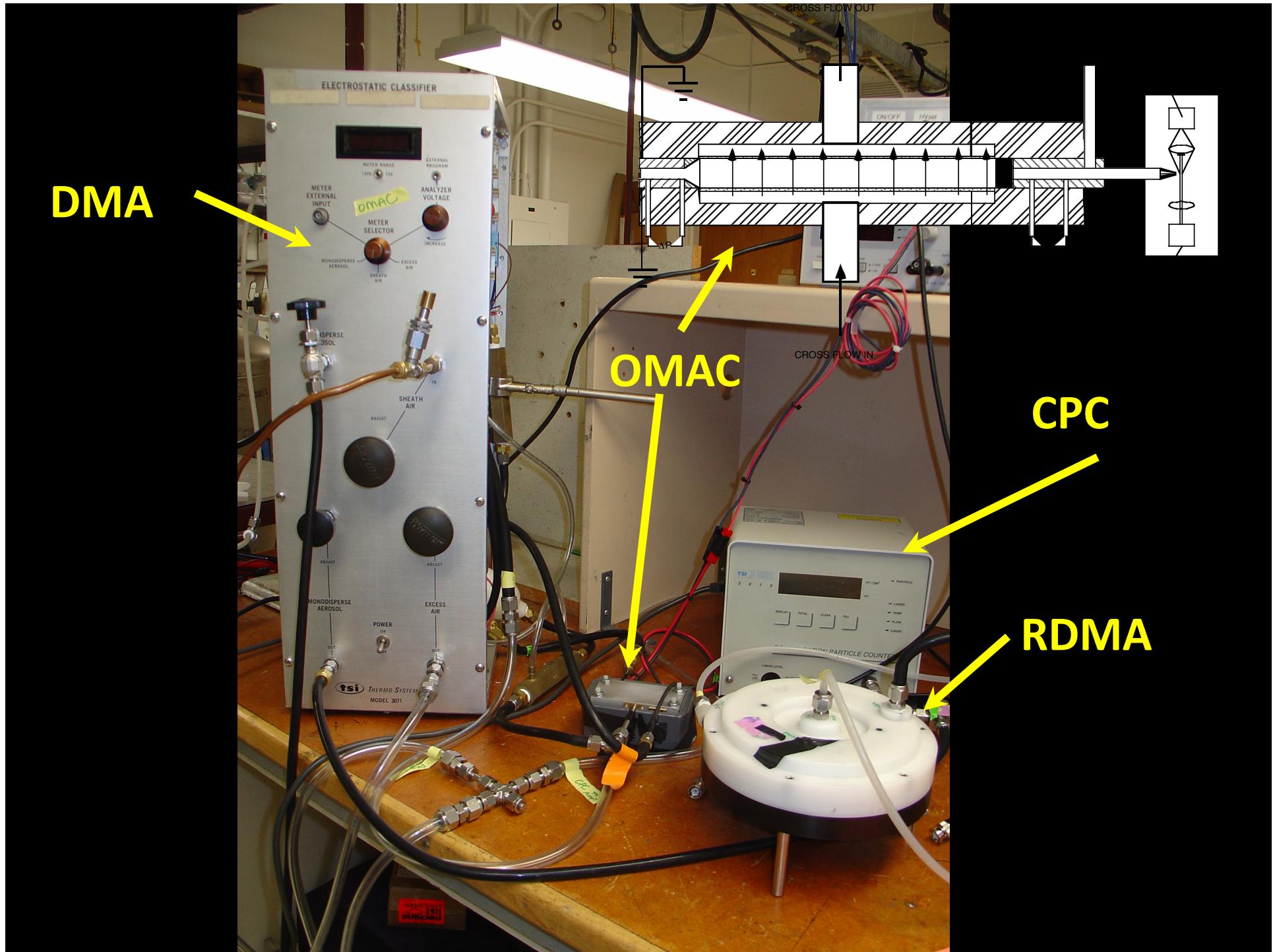
Differential Mobility Analysis





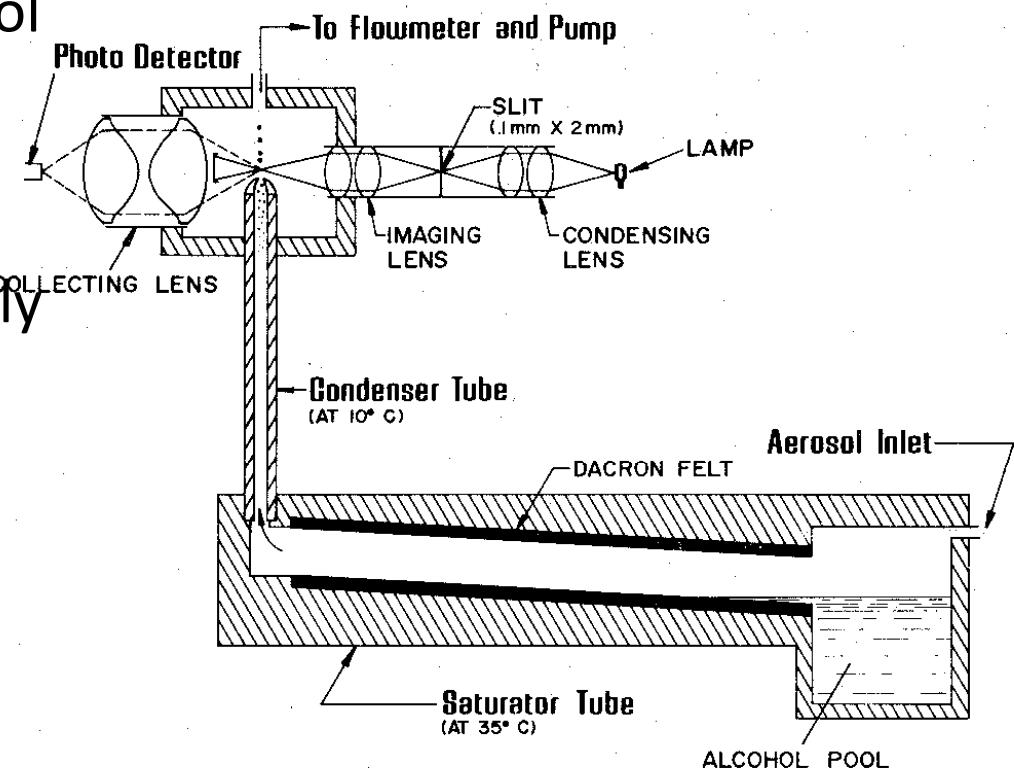






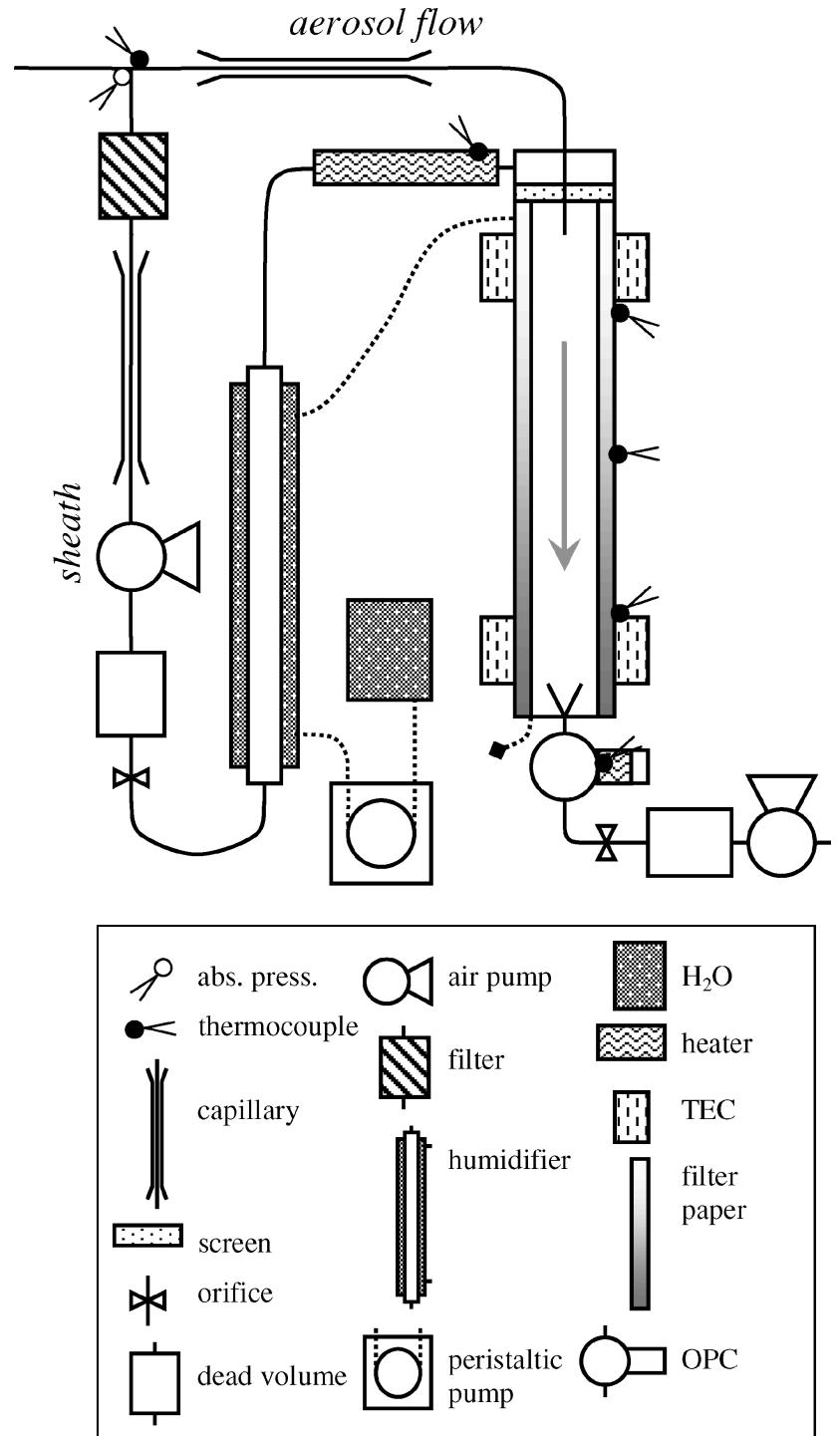
Detection

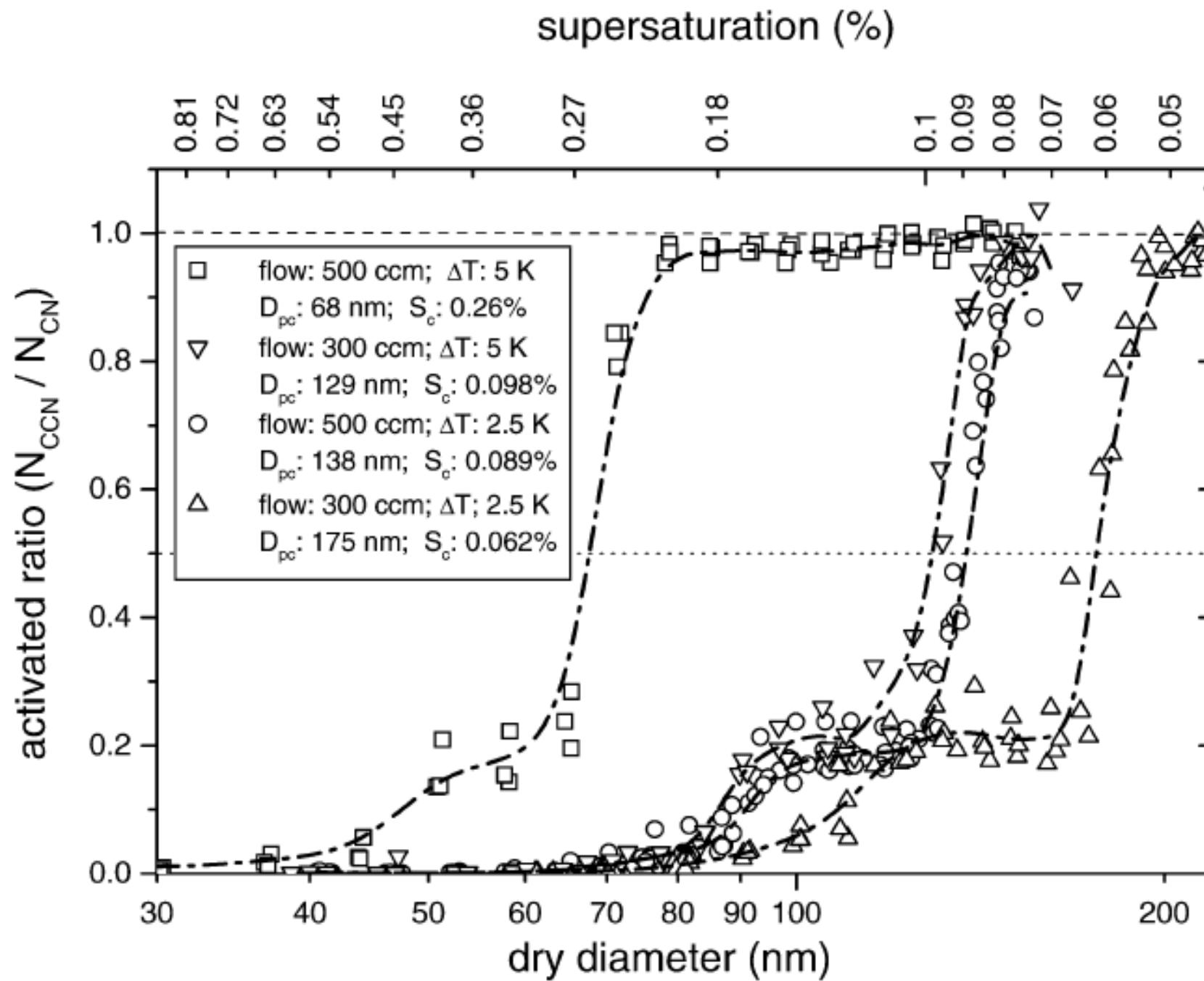
- Electrometer
 - Femtoamp to attoamp sensitivity required without use of electron multipliers
- Condensation particle counter
 - Introduce vapor into aerosol sample to produce supersaturation
 - Condense vapor onto particles to grow to optically detectable size ($>1\mu\text{m}$)
 - Count optically
 - Commercial detectors see particles with $D_p > 2.5\mu\text{m}$

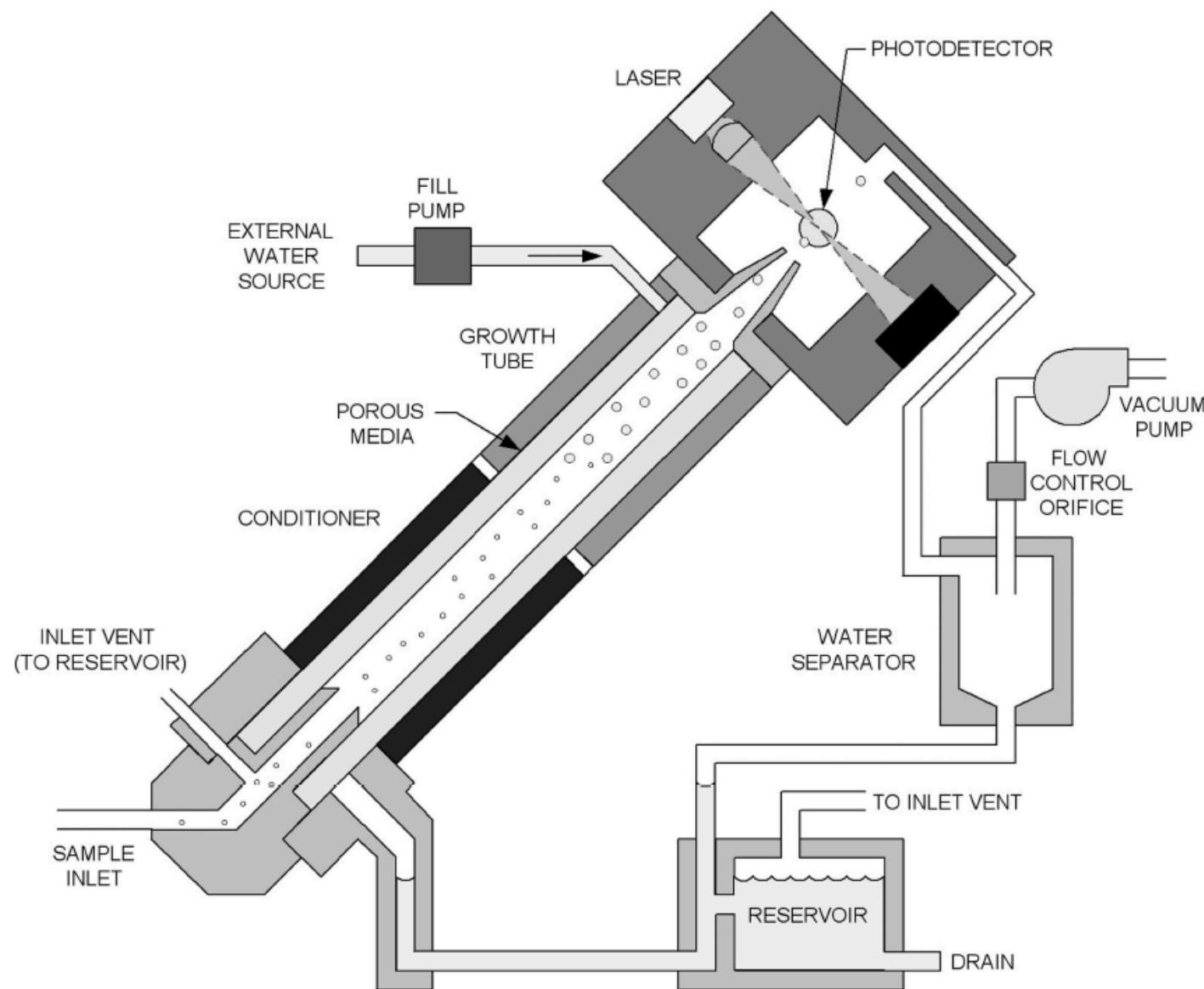


Streamwise gradient cloud condensation nucleus counter/spectrometer

- Water vapor diffuses faster in air than heat
- Wet wall condenser with temperature increasing along length produces supersaturation
- Same approach should work for methane
- Extract working fluid from atmosphere

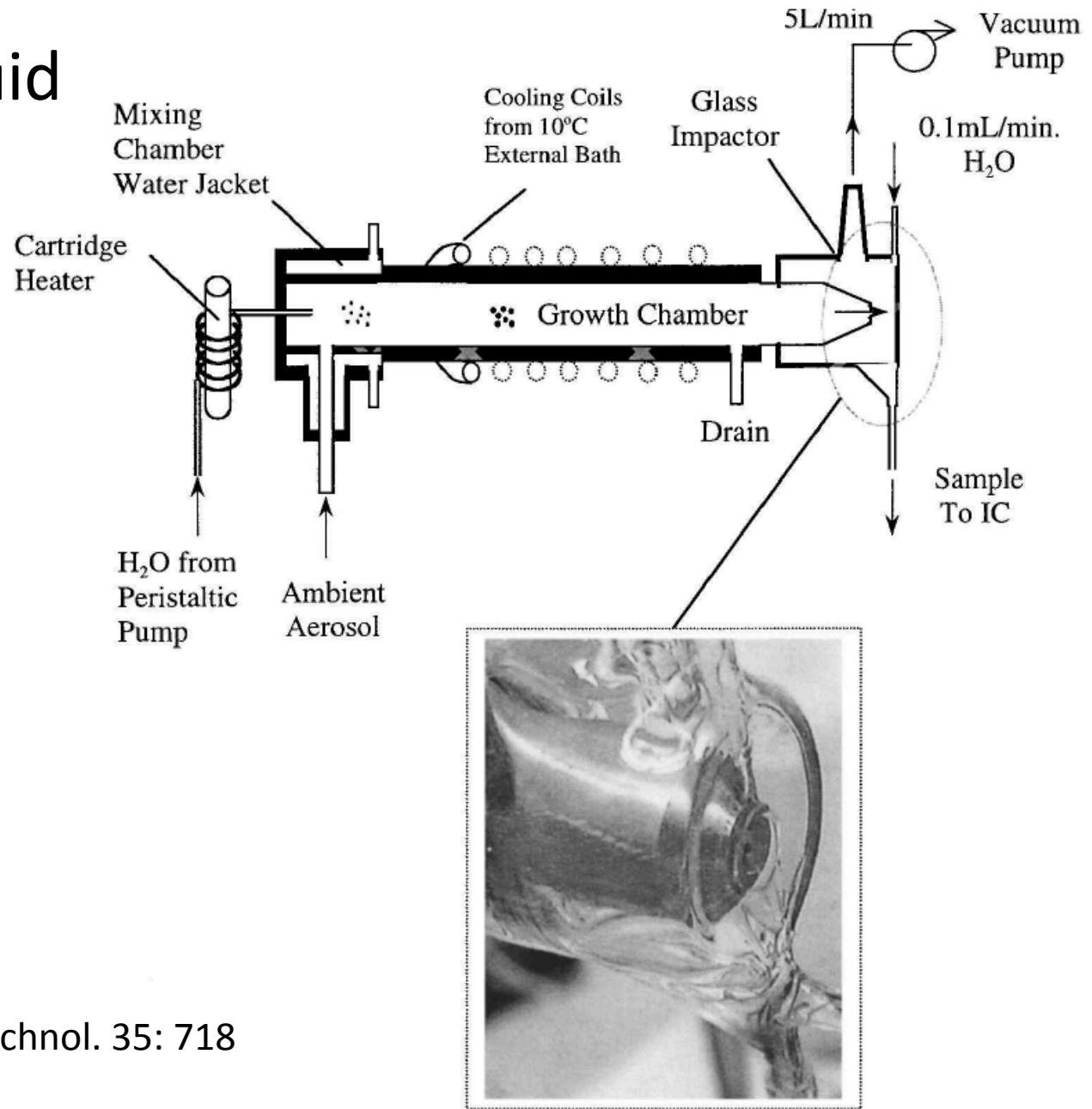






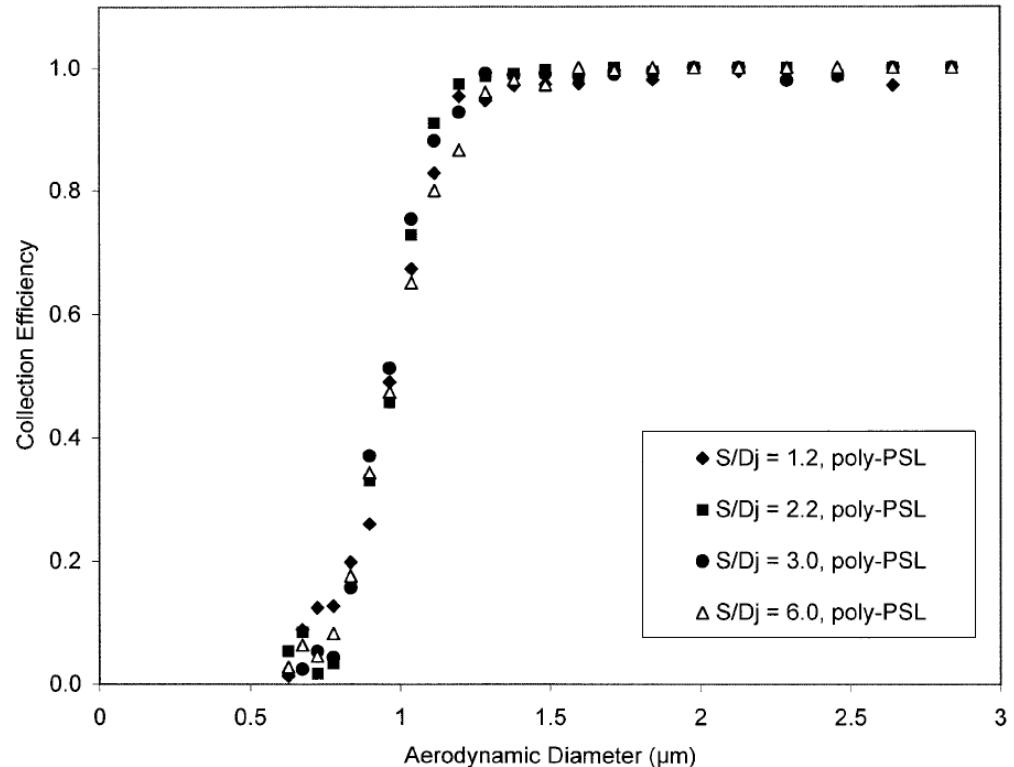
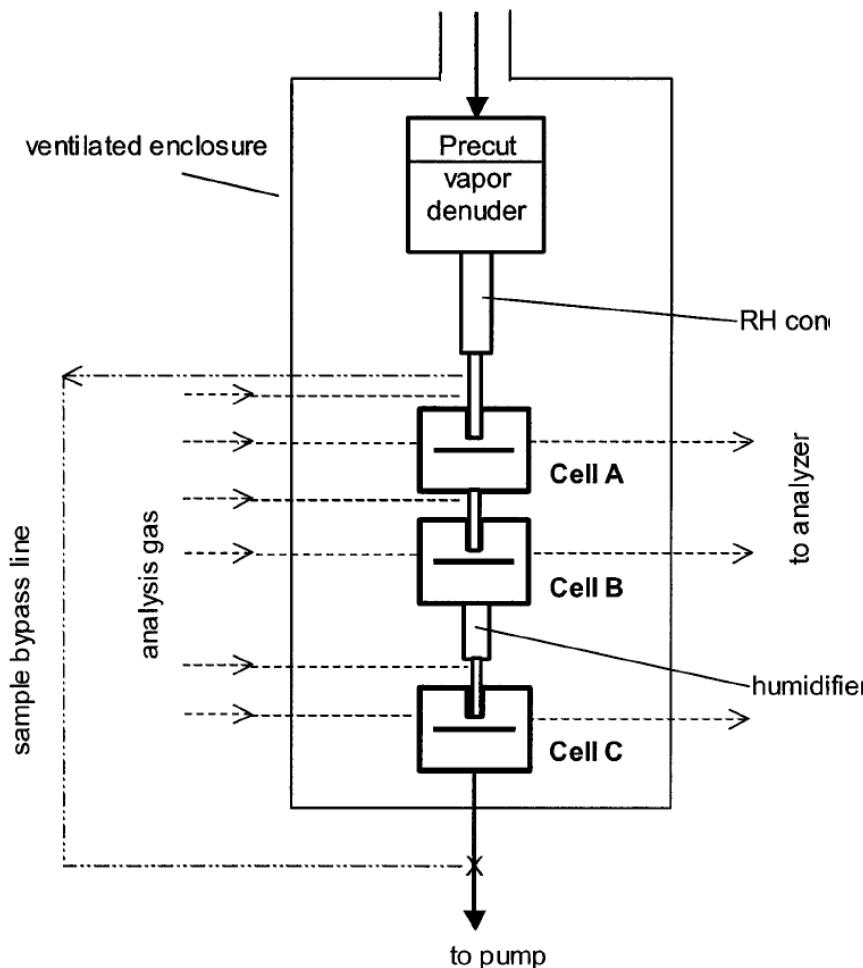
Particle into liquid sampler (PILS)

- Condense vapor onto particles to grow to inertially collectable size



Condensation Activation for On-Line Size-Resolved Analysis

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- Dry collection of aerodynamically sized large particles
- Thermal desorption for on-line analysis
- Grow smallest particles by condensation to facilitate collection and analysis