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Stacking disorder in ice I

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1 **Abstract**

2 Traditionally, ice I was considered to exist in two well-defined crystalline forms at ambient pressure: stable
3 hexagonal ice (ice I_h) and metastable cubic ice (ice I_c). However, it is becoming increasingly evident that
4 what has been called cubic ice in the past does not have a structure consistent with the cubic crystal system.
5 Instead, it is a stacking-disordered material containing cubic sequences interlaced with hexagonal sequences,
6 which is termed stacking-disordered ice (ice I_{sd}). In this article, we summarise previous work on ice with
7 stacking disorder including ice that was called cubic ice in the past. We also present new experimental data
8 which shows that ice which crystallises after heterogeneous nucleation in water droplets containing solid
9 inclusions also contains stacking disorder even at freezing temperatures of around -15°C . This supports the
10 results from molecular simulations, that the structure of ice that crystallises initially from supercooled water
11 is always stacking-disordered and that this metastable ice can transform to the stable hexagonal phase
12 subject to the kinetics of recrystallization. We also show that stacking disorder in ice which forms from
13 water droplets is quantitatively distinct from ice made *via* other routes. The emerging picture of ice I is that
14 of a very complex material which frequently contains stacking disorder and this stacking disorder can vary
15 in complexity depending on the route of formation and thermal history.

1 Introduction

2 In many cases when a crystalline material forms from a liquid, gas or solution, or when an unstable material
3 recrystallizes, the initial phase to form is metastable. This metastable phase may then transform to the
4 thermodynamically stable phase if the kinetics are favourable.¹ This is thought to be true for the nucleation
5 and crystallisation of ice I, a material of fundamental importance in a range of sciences and technologies;
6 from cryopreservation^{2, 3} to ice formation in aviation fuel,^{4, 5} and not least the atmosphere where metastable
7 ice may be a dominant phase in our planet's coldest clouds.⁶⁻⁸

8
9 Metastable forms of ice I can be made through various routes,⁹ including by re-crystallisation from high-
10 pressure phases;¹⁰⁻¹⁴ freezing of confined water in mesopores;¹⁵⁻¹⁷ heating of low-density amorphous ice;<sup>18-
11 21</sup>; heating of glassy aqueous solutions;^{22, 23} deposition of water vapour;^{9, 24} freezing of water and aqueous
12 solutions;^{6, 25-31} freezing of nanometre scaled water clusters;³²⁻³⁴ and by decomposition of gas hydrates.^{9, 35}
13 Despite more than seven decades of research, our understanding of the nature and crystal structure of this
14 commonly encountered metastable ice I is still rapidly evolving.

15
16 In the past, metastable ice I had been identified as having a cubic crystal structure with space group $Fd\bar{3}m$,
17 whereas the stable structure of ice I is hexagonal with space group $P6_3/mmc$.³⁶ Both of these forms of ice I
18 are made up of layers composed of six-membered puckered rings of hydrogen-bonded water molecules and
19 only differ in the way the layers are stacked on top of each other (see Figure 1). In ice I_h , each layer is a
20 mirror image of the previous layer; whereas in ice I_c each successive layer is shifted a distance equal to half
21 the diameter of a six-membered ring.^{36, 37} However, it is becoming increasingly clear that the ice I phase
22 which forms in many experiments does not fit either of these two well-defined crystal structures. Instead,
23 metastable ice I is typically made up of a combination of both cubic and hexagonal stacking sequences
24 which together do not poses cubic nor hexagonal symmetry (Figure 2) and has the trigonal space group
25 $P3m1$.^{9, 12, 13} In order to emphasise the fact that metastable ice I is neither cubic nor hexagonal, and not a
26 simple mixture of the two, Malkin *et al.*³⁰ recommended calling this material stacking disordered ice I (ice
27 I_{sd}). We use the term stacking disordered ice I or ice I_{sd} in this paper for metastable ice I which contains

1 stacking disorder and reserve the term cubic ice (ice I_c) for the hypothetical form of ice I with a cubic
2 structure as envisaged by König²⁴ more than 70 years ago.

3
4 In the mid 1980s Kuhs *et al.*¹⁴ were the first to appreciate that their samples of ice I, which they referred to
5 as ice I_c, contained appreciable amounts of stacking faults. Specifically, they suggested that features in their
6 neutron diffraction patterns were due to a small probability of finding hexagonal sequences in a structure
7 dominated by cubic sequences. These hexagonal sequences were thought of as stacking faults in a cubic
8 structure, but this early study lacked any quantitative analysis of the density of these stacking faults. At the
9 time, Elarby-Aouizerat *et al.*³⁸ suggested that while stacking faults could account for some non-cubic
10 features, they could not account for the all non-cubic features in the diffraction patterns. With the
11 development of a detailed stacking fault model of ice, Hansen *et al.*^{12, 13} were able to quantitatively show
12 that all the non-cubic features in ice I formed from ice V and ice IX could be accounted for with stacking
13 disorder. They also showed that correlations between stacking faults was different dependent on the route of
14 formation. Morishige and Uematsu¹⁶ also showed through modelling diffraction patterns that ice in
15 mesopores contained significant stacking disorder. After posing the question of ‘is it cubic?’, Moore and
16 Molinero³⁹ arrived at the conclusion that metastable ice I contains comparable fractions of cubic and
17 hexagonal layers. Subsequently, Malkin *et al.*³⁰ showed that ice resulting from the homogeneous freezing
18 of water droplets at around -40°C was made up of a fully randomised mixture of 50 % cubic and hexagonal
19 sequences. More recently, Kuhs, *et al.*⁹ showed that ices generated in multiple ways, including through
20 vapour deposition and recrystallization of gas hydrates, all contains stacking disorder to varying degrees and
21 possesses a trigonal, rather than cubic, space group. In summary, there is compelling evidence that ice I has
22 a propensity to be stacking disordered.

23
24 In this perspectives article we initially review the diffraction data in the literature, which shows that the non-
25 cubic features of the diffraction patterns associated with stacking disorder are ubiquitous to all metastable
26 ice I that we are aware of. The data also suggests that there are strong differences in the nature of the
27 stacking disorder observed depending on method of generation. We discuss computational studies of

1 formation of stacking disorder during the nucleation and growth of ice, including recent results on stacking
2 disorder in ice nucleated heterogeneously.^{30, 39-58} We present new experimental data for ice formed from
3 water droplets in which freezing was initiated heterogeneously. In order to do this we built on our
4 knowledge of heterogeneous ice nucleation,⁵⁹⁻⁶³ in order to select materials which nucleate ice over a range
5 of temperatures between 237 and 263 K. These results are unique in that they allow us to systematically
6 probe the evolution of ice structure as a function of ice nucleation temperature. In addition we also present
7 new data for ice I_{sd} formed *via* the recrystallization of ice II. We then model this diffraction data to quantify
8 the number density and nature of cubic and hexagonal stacking sequences, and summarise this information
9 on a so-called “stackogram”. This new type of plot helps to visualise the differences in the nature of stacking
10 disorder in ice I_{sd} made through different routes.

12 **The ubiquity of stacking disorder: evidence from diffraction patterns**

13 Diffraction patterns provide information on long range order (and disorder) in crystal structures. A
14 diffraction pattern of a well-defined crystalline material contains sharp Bragg peaks, the position of which
15 can be related to distance between adjacent planes in a crystal structure known as d -spacings. The Bragg
16 condition is met in an ordered crystal where the long range order leads to constructive interference satisfying
17 Bragg’s law and giving rise to sharp diffraction peaks. If for some reason, such as the introduction of
18 stacking disorder, the long range order in a crystal is interrupted this influences the resulting diffraction
19 pattern.

20
21 The calculated diffraction patterns of well-defined ice I_h and ice I_c are shown in Figure 3 for both neutron
22 and X-ray diffraction. Together with these patterns we also plot literature diffraction patterns for ice I which
23 was formed in a variety of ways. Table 1 summarises the experimental conditions and routes through which
24 this ice was formed. These patterns clearly do not correspond to hexagonal ice and in the past it has been
25 generally concluded that this ice is therefore cubic. However, comparison with the perfect cubic pattern also
26 reveals a poor match. The literature patterns clearly contain a peak at a d -spacing of 3.86 Å which is in the
27 same position as the most intense peak in the hexagonal ice pattern. These experimental patterns of

1 metastable ice I also have a region of raised intensity in the region between 3.43 and 3.86 Å d -spacing and in
2 addition the relative ratio of the peak intensities does not match the calculated patterns. Inspection of high
3 resolution patterns also reveals other less obvious inconsistencies.^{12, 30} To varying degrees the experimental
4 patterns in Figure 3 all contain features inconsistent with the cubic crystal system and to the best of our
5 knowledge there is no diffraction pattern of ice which is a good match to that expected for well-defined
6 cubic ice. Instead, metastable ice I always contains features associated with stacking disorder.

8 **Stacking disorder in ice from a computational perspective**

9 The propensity of ice I to grow with stacking-disorder has been observed in a large number of molecular
10 dynamic and Monte Carlo simulations.^{30, 39-42, 44-58, 64-66} Molecular simulations explore spatial and temporal
11 regimes complementary to those accessible through experiments, providing microscopic insights on the
12 evolution of cubic and hexagonal ice sequences in the ice embryos,^{39-46, 48, 50, 52, 58} the development and
13 evolution of stacking disorder as the ice crystallites grow and consolidate,^{30, 39, 44, 47} as well as on the extent
14 and mechanisms of formation of stacking faults upon growth of well-defined faces of ice I_h and ice I_c at
15 various degrees of supercooling.^{51, 53, 55-57}

16
17 The study of the structure of ice during nucleation and growth through molecular simulations faces three
18 main challenges. First, the accuracy of the water models in describing the ice-liquid equilibrium temperature
19 for ice I, and the relative stability of the cubic and hexagonal ice polymorphs. Of the most popular fully
20 atomistic models of water, only those in the TIP4P family (TIP4P,⁶⁷ TIP4P-Ew,⁶⁸ TIP4P/2005,⁶⁹
21 TIP4P/ice⁷⁰) predict that ice I is the most stable crystal at ambient pressure.^{70, 71} Of these, only TIP4P/ice
22 predicts a melting temperature for ice I_h close to the experimental value, 272.2 vs 273.15 K; the others
23 underestimate T_m by at least 20 K.⁶⁹⁻⁷¹ To our knowledge, the relative stability of hexagonal (I_h) and cubic
24 (I_c) ice I polymorphs has not been established for any of these models. A significant issue related to the use
25 of fully atomistic models is their computational cost, which limits the sampling time and simulation systems
26 that can be modelled. The coarse-grained monatomic water model mW was developed to alleviate the costs
27 of simulations of water and ice, while keeping an accurate description of the structures and phase transitions

1 between them.⁷² mW models water as a single particle that interacts through short-range two-body and
2 three-body interactions; the latter encourage tetrahedral configurations that mimics the effect of hydrogen
3 bonds at less than 1% of the computational cost of atomistic models.⁷² Hexagonal ice is the most stable
4 crystal phase of mW water at ambient pressures, with a melting temperature of 274 K.⁷² Cubic ice is
5 marginally less stable than hexagonal ice for the mW model.^{65, 72, 73}. The second significant challenge arises
6 from the rare nature of ice nucleation events, which calls for very long simulation trajectories or the use of
7 advanced simulation methods. Ice nucleation by long brute force simulations has been achieved for mW
8 water under a broad range of supercooled conditions^{49, 52, 73-83} and for TIP4P water supercooled at negative
9 pressures.⁸⁴ Among the advanced methods to sample rare events, umbrella sampling,^{85, 86} metadynamics⁸⁷⁻⁸⁹
10 and forward flux sampling⁹⁰⁻⁹³ have been successfully used to nucleate ice at various degrees of
11 supercooling and with several water models.^{50, 94-104} The ice polymorphs obtained using different sampling
12 methods are not always identical, even when the model and simulation conditions are the same.^{95, 96}
13 Differences in outcomes may have two origins: first, some are equilibrium sampling methods (e.g. umbrella
14 sampling and metadynamics), while others are intrinsically non-equilibrium (e.g. forward flux sampling);
15 second these methods have been implemented with different order parameters used to bias or identify the
16 formation of ice. This leads to the important challenge for the study of the structure of ice formed in
17 molecular simulations: the need for methods to identify water molecules as liquid, cubic ice and hexagonal
18 ice. Several algorithms have been proposed for this purpose. Brukhno and co-workers introduced the first set
19 of order parameters that distinguished cubic and hexagonal ice, however these were not rotationally
20 invariant hence they cannot be used to identify arbitrarily oriented crystallites.⁵⁰ Moore and co-workers then
21 introduced CHILL, a rotationally invariant algorithm based on the correlation of bond-order parameters^{105,}
22 ¹⁰⁶, which distinguishes cubic ice, hexagonal ice and liquid water from the number of staggered and eclipsed
23 O---O bonds.⁷³ Variants of the latter approach using bond-order parameters were also introduced by Li et
24 al.,⁹⁷ and Sanz et al.¹⁰⁷

25

26 Unbiased simulations of homogeneous ice nucleation with the coarse-grained mW water model^{52, 108, 109}
27 reveal that the ice embryos already have cubic and hexagonal ice sequences.^{39, 40, 42-45} The same was found

1 in the nucleation of ice using the atomistic TIP4P/2005 and TIP4P water models combined with advanced
2 sampling methods that do not bias the structure of the nucleus.^{30, 46, 50} Ice embryos need to have at least ~200
3 water molecules for stacking to be discernible, but they contain mixed cubic and hexagonal ice sequences
4 from their inception (Figure 4).³⁹ The fraction of cubic stacking sequences (cubicity) of the crystallites
5 nucleated from deeply supercooled water increases with their size, plateauing at about 60%.^{39, 43} The ratio of
6 cubic to hexagonal sequences is similar for ice nucleated from bulk water, solutions with salt, and water
7 confined in nanopores and in nanoparticles.^{39, 40, 42-44, 47, 49} The stacks of cubic and hexagonal sequences in
8 the ice nucleated and grown from deeply supercooled water are very short and their order seems to be
9 random.^{30, 39, 50} These stacks reorganize as the crystallites consolidate in the process of growth.³⁹ The
10 evolution of the stacking disordered structures into hexagonal ice is outside of the time scale accessible to
11 brute-force molecular simulations.

12
13 The free energy of the stacking disordered and hexagonal ices has been reported to be within ~100 J/mol,^{18,}
14 ^{25, 39, 40, 51, 52, 108, 110-112} and calculations indicate that the free energy barrier for the creation of a critical
15 nucleus that is purely cubic or purely hexagonal is lower than for the creation of a stacking-disordered
16 nucleus.⁴⁵ However, unbiased simulations of nucleation and growth of ice result in stacking disordered
17 structures with comparable amount of cubic and hexagonal layers.^{30, 39-44, 47, 49-51, 55-57} It is possible to grow
18 ice I_h from a hexagonal ice seed and ice I_c from a cubic seed using Umbrella Sampling simulations that very
19 slowly bias the size of the nucleus, sampling equilibrium configurations for each nucleus size.⁴⁵ These
20 results suggest that stacking disorder has a kinetic origin: it is controlled by the non-equilibrium process of
21 ice growth. A recent study, however, suggests that stacking disorder is thermodynamically favored.⁶⁵

22
23 Hexagonal or cubic ice exposing the basal or [111] planes, respectively, have been reported to grow stacking
24 disordered in simulations, irrespective of the water model used and the degree of supercooling.^{51, 53, 55-57} A
25 configuration of a large-scale molecular dynamics simulation of ice grown at 270 K is shown in Figure 5.
26 The simulation started with a slab of hexagonal ice exposing the basal planes to the supercooled liquid; 41
27 out of the 81 new layers formed have cubic order. Interestingly, the cubicity of the ice grown at 270 K is

1 lower than for ice grown at higher supercooling.^{51, 57} A recent study of the equilibrium interface between ice
2 and liquid in TIP4P/2005 water shows extensive reconstruction of the interface of the originally hexagonal
3 ice slab, resulting in a stacking disordered ice interface with 60% cubic ice and 40% hexagonal ice in
4 contact with liquid water.⁶⁶ A systematic study of ice growth at different temperatures and a characterization
5 of the relative stabilities of cubic and hexagonal ice for the water models employed would be needed to
6 assess the temperature dependence of the cubicity of ice grown in simulations.

7
8 Ice tends to grow in a layer by layer fashion in the direction perpendicular to the stacking plane, (111) of ice
9 I_c or (0001) of ice I_h .^{51, 55, 57} Recent studies⁵⁷ reveal that hexagonal and cubic arrangements, which only
10 differ by a small displacement of the molecules with respect to the underlying layer (Figure 1), occur with
11 similar probability on the basal surface of ice, and their competitive formation and dissolution slows down
12 the growth rate of ice in the direction perpendicular to the basal plane.⁵⁷ This in-layer competition does not
13 occur in the prismatic and secondary prismatic planes.^{51, 55-57, 113, 114} which only produced stacking faults in
14 simulations only at very high supercooling.⁵³

15
16 Formation of stacking disordered ice can be considered a case of extensive cross-nucleation¹¹⁵⁻¹¹⁷ between
17 ice polymorphs. Cross-nucleation involves the nucleation of one crystal structure (polymorph) on the face of
18 another, and usually favours the faster growing polymorph, irrespective of whether it is the most stable
19 crystal.^{117, 118} Cross-nucleation between polymorphs that have a common plane, as is the case for (111) of
20 ice I_c and (0001) of ice I_h , is very facile as it does not require the nucleation of an interfacial nucleation layer
21 to seamlessly connect the two polymorphs.^{118, 119} Clathrate hydrates provide examples of cross-nucleation
22 between water crystal polymorphs.^{118, 119} The main differences between cross-nucleation in ice and in
23 clathrates is that not only the stability of ice I_h and the hypothetical ice I_c polymorphs is almost identical, but
24 that they apparently also have similar rates of growth.

25
26 Although cubic and hexagonal ice layers can stack seamlessly, in-layer competition between hexagonal and
27 cubic order can result in the formation of defects when domains with distinct order propagate in the same

1 layer.⁵⁷ Large-scale simulations of ice growth revealed the presence of lines of defects, coupled 5- and 8-
2 membered water rings, in the boundary between domains of cubic and hexagonal order coexisting within a
3 single layer.⁵³ It has been proposed that these defects facilitate the nucleation of stacking faults.⁵³ A recent
4 study, however, suggests that the 5 – 8 defects are not the origin but the result of in-layer competition
5 between cubic and hexagonal order in the newly formed layer of ice.⁵⁷ The density of these defects should
6 increase with supercooling as the rate of nucleation of new layers on the growing ice surface becomes faster.
7 The role that these defects and their annealing play on the long-term decrease of stacking disorder in ice is
8 an open question that warrants further investigation.

9
10 Heterogeneous nucleation of ice has been only recently achieved in molecular simulations.^{48, 58 120} The two
11 surfaces studied, graphitic carbon and kaolinite, produce distinct preferential orientation of the critical ice
12 nuclei on the surface. Ice nuclei expose the basal plane to the graphite surfaces, resulting in the growth of
13 stacking disordered ice with the stacking plane parallel to the surface.⁴⁸ Kaolinite, on the other hand, favours
14 the formation of hexagonal ice nuclei that expose the prismatic plane to the mineral surface.⁵⁸ These nuclei,
15 however, are finite in size and expose all faces to the liquid water. This implies that, upon growth, they can
16 develop stacking faults. The experimental results in the next section show that ice nucleated by kaolinite
17 presents significant stacking disorder, supporting the evidences from molecular simulations that the non-
18 equilibrium growth process plays an important role in the development of stacking disorder in ice.

20 **Heterogeneous freezing of water droplets**

21 In the past, the structure of ice crystallised after homogeneous nucleation of pure water droplets at
22 around -40°C ,^{27, 30} and solution droplets below -40°C ,^{6, 27-29, 31, 121} have been investigated. However, to date
23 the structure of ice which crystallises following heterogeneous nucleation in water droplets has only been
24 investigated through molecular simulations,^{48, 58} and has not been subject to laboratory experiments. In this
25 section, we present experiments with the aim was to quantify the degree of stacking disorder in ice which
26 crystallises in droplets where nucleation was induced by well characterised heterogeneous ice nuclei. This

1 builds on our previous research on the quantification of the efficiencies with which various solid materials
2 nucleate ice when immersed in water droplets.^{59-62, 122}

3

4 These experiments involved cooling water droplets containing solid nucleating agents at a controlled rate,
5 measuring the freezing temperature and subsequently recording a diffraction pattern of the ice which
6 crystallised. The technique is similar to that described previously,^{26, 27, 30, 31} but with the exception that we
7 now work with droplets containing nucleants. Fine powders of a variety of minerals and other solids were
8 suspended in ultra-pure water (18.2 M Ω). The aqueous suspensions were mixed with paraffin oil (Fisher
9 Scientific) and lanolin (Aldrich Chemical Company) in order to create water-in-oil emulsions with droplets
10 of a volume median diameter, d_{vm} , of $17 \pm 3 \mu\text{m}$. This was significantly larger than the $0.9 \mu\text{m}$ used by
11 Malkin *et al.*³⁰ and ensured that each droplet contained a representative number of sub-micron particles. The
12 droplets sizes were then determined using an optical transmission microscope with a 10x objective. The X-
13 ray diffractometer (Bruker D8 Advance, Cu K α) used in these experiments was configured in standard 2θ
14 reflection geometry and was equipped with an Anton Paar TTK450 temperature control stage.

15

16 In order to determine the temperatures at which the water droplets froze, the diffraction angle ($2\theta = \sim 40^\circ$) of
17 a strong reflection associated with all types of ice I was continually monitored upon cooling at 30 K min^{-1} .
18 This peak is insensitive to the phase of ice, only varying in intensity by 1.9% between ice well-defined I_h
19 and ice I_c and being no larger for ice I_{sd} (according to our calculated patterns, which is consistent with our
20 measurements) and therefore provides a useful proxy for the amount of ice crystallised. The cooling rate of
21 30 K min^{-1} was chosen on the basis that we wanted to quantify stacking-disorder in ice which initially
22 crystallised, and slower cooling rates allow more time for recrystallization of stacking-disorder. The area
23 under the peak at $\sim 40^\circ$ was normalised to the peak area at 173 K where all the droplets were frozen and the
24 peak area was at its maximum. Plots of the fraction of pure water droplets (0.9 and $17 \mu\text{m}$) and droplets
25 containing kaolinite ($\sim 17 \mu\text{m}$) frozen, as a function of temperature during cooling, are shown in Figure 6A.

26

1 It is clear from Figure 6A that the addition of kaolinite particles induces freezing at higher temperatures than
2 droplets containing no particles (the median freezing temperature increases by 1 to 5 K depending on the
3 weight fraction of kaolinite). This means that the mode of nucleation shifts from homogeneous to
4 heterogeneous. In addition, the solid lines in Figure 6A are the freezing curves predicted on the basis of
5 literature parameterisations;^{60, 122} the excellent agreement indicates that the presence of the oil and surfactant
6 did not influence nucleation. The fraction frozen curves for droplets containing a range of other ice nuclei
7 that triggered heterogeneous nucleation with median freezing temperatures as high as 257 K are shown in
8 Figure 6B.

9
10 Diffraction patterns of the sample between $2\theta = 20 - 70^\circ$ were recorded at 173 K, a temperature at which
11 stacking-disorder was assumed to not change on the timescale of the diffraction measurement. The range of
12 2θ covers all of the strong ice I_c and ice I_h reflections, and the diffraction pattern for frozen droplets
13 containing 0.1 wt% kaolinite is compared with the diffraction pattern for ice resulting from homogeneous
14 freezing (for 0.9 μm droplets³⁰) in Figure 7. Also shown are the calculated ice I_h and ice I_c patterns. Despite
15 ice nucleating heterogeneously on kaolinite, the ice I_{sd} produced is almost indistinguishable to that seen after
16 homogeneous nucleation, which was previously shown by Malkin *et al.*³⁰ to have fully random stacking.
17 Utilising molecular simulations, Cox *et al.*⁵⁸ found that the prismatic face of hexagonal ice nucleates on
18 kaolinite. Our results suggest that even if nucleation of one phase or another is preferred, the growth of
19 stacking disordered ice subsequent to nucleation is controlled by kinetic factors during crystal growth.

20
21 A fully random stacking sequence is consistent with a two-dimensional nucleation (or layer-by-layer
22 growth) mechanism,¹²³ where each successive layer nucleates independently and can either stack in a cubic
23 or hexagonal fashion. Our result indicates that the probability of nucleating a cubic or hexagonal sequence is
24 equal. This also implies that the crystal structure of the macroscopic frozen droplet is independent of the
25 structure of the initial critical cluster that nucleates. This is important, because it is often assumed that
26 nucleation of one particular phase will define or serve as a template for the resulting crystal growth.¹ This

1 has important implications for the interpretation of the analysis of nucleation data using classical nucleation
2 theory (CNT).

3
4 Several authors used experimentally determined nucleation rates to establish ice-water interfacial energies
5 on the basis that ice I_c nucleates^{32, 122, 124, 125}. Murray *et al.*¹²² justified this assumption on the basis of X-ray
6 diffraction data reported in a separate study,²⁷ which clearly contain features consistent with stacking-
7 disorder. Huang and Bartell³² used electron diffraction data to identify their nanometre sized ice particles as
8 ice I_c , but also note that there were ‘imperfections in the longer-range internal order’, which may also be
9 consistent with stacking-disorder. In order to employ classical nucleation theory to derive the ice-water
10 interfacial energy, these authors used the best available estimate of the thermodynamic properties of ice I_c .^{32,}
11^{122, 124, 125} Given the intrinsic quantitative inaccuracies of CNT, the additional assumption that the critical
12 cluster has the same structure as the final macroscopic crystal is in question, these interfacial energies should
13 be taken with some caution.

14
15 Previous studies have shown that ice I_{sd} transforms to ice I_h increasingly rapidly as temperature is elevated.^{8,}
16^{13, 27} For droplets suspended in an oil emulsion, where the only recrystallization mechanism is a solid-to-
17 solid transformation, as opposed to a vapour or solvent mediated route,³¹ the time required for
18 recrystallization increases rapidly below about 238 K.²⁷ Hence, during cooling at 30 K min⁻¹ droplets which
19 froze below this temperature did not have the opportunity to transform to the stable ice I_h , locking the ice in
20 the metastable structure in which it initially crystallised. We hypothesise that ice which initially forms at
21 higher temperatures is also stacking-disordered, but freezing at higher temperatures may provide an
22 opportunity for the ice to anneal. In order to explore this hypothesis, solid particles of different types with
23 the capacity to nucleate ice at different temperatures were introduced into the droplets. The resulting
24 diffraction patterns after complete crystallization are shown in Figure 8B. The patterns are arranged in order
25 of lowest freezing temperature at the top and a pattern of fully annealed ice I_h at the bottom for comparison.
26 It is evident from the observations that on increasing freezing temperature the peaks unique to ice I_h at 26,
27 33 and 44° all increase in intensity, the broad feature between 22 and 27° disappears, all peaks become

1 increasingly sharp and the relative intensities of the peaks generally approaches that of ice I_h . This evolution
2 of the diffraction patterns is consistent with higher freezing temperatures allowing the initially stacking-
3 disordered ice to anneal leading to ice which is structurally closer to ice I_h .

5 **Modelling of Stacking Disorder in Ice I**

6 In order to quantitatively characterize the stacking disorder in ice I, we employed the DIFFaX (Diffracted
7 Intensities from Faulted Xrystals, v1.813) computer program for calculating powder diffraction patterns of
8 crystals containing stacking disorder.¹²⁶ DIFFaX uses a general recursion algorithm and requires information
9 about the structure of the layer, the stacking probabilities and the symmetry relationships between the
10 stacked layers. The calculated pattern is convolved with a profile function in order to account for finite
11 crystallite size and instrument broadening effects. DIFFaX can be configured to take into account varying
12 complexities in stacking disorder. The simplest form of stacking disorder in ice is where cubic and
13 hexagonal sequences are randomly arranged. For example, Malkin *et al.*³⁰ showed that ice resulting from
14 homogeneous nucleation in pure water droplets was fully random with 50% cubic and 50% hexagonal
15 stacking. More complex stacking can also be possible where there is correlation or memory in the stacking
16 sequence. For example, once in a hexagonal stacking sequence the probability of transitioning back to cubic
17 may be small, but when it does there may also be a low probability of transitioning back again. This would
18 result in extended cluster of cubic and hexagonal sequences. In this example, the correlations are between
19 nearest neighbour layers (1st order memory effects; Kuhs *et al.*⁹ define this as an interaction range, s , of 3),
20 but there can also be correlations between sequences further apart (2nd, 3rd, *etc.* order memory effects; $s = 4$,
21 5 *etc.*). Kuhs *et al.*⁹ and Hansen *et al.*^{12, 13} found that the ice they made through a variety of routes contained
22 2nd order ($s = 4$) memory effects. In what follows, we explore the possibility of complex memory effects.

23
24 Stacking disordered ice with no memory effects ($s = 2$) can be described in DIFFaX using a single stacking
25 probability, Φ_c , which indicates the likelihood of cubic stacking. The probability of hexagonal stacking, Φ_h ,
26 is simply $100 - \Phi_c$. To model 1st order ($s = 3$) memory effects, it is necessary to use two independent
27 stacking probabilities, Φ_{cc} and Φ_{hc} which define the probabilities of cubic stacking after a previous cubic or

1 hexagonal stacking events, respectively. The two hexagonal stacking probabilities, Φ_{ch} and Φ_{hh} , are obtained
2 from $100 - \Phi_{cc}$ and $100 - \Phi_{hc}$. In this paper we have modified the original terminology used by Malkin *et*
3 *al.*³⁰ so that we can describe higher order memory effects (the relationship between the different notations
4 for stacking probabilities is summarised in Table 2).

5
6 Since both, Φ_{cc} and Φ_{hc} , can vary independently between 0 and 100% there are a wide range of possible ice
7 I_{sd} structures. The relationship between ice structure, and Φ_{cc} and Φ_{hc} is illustrated in the “stackogram”
8 shown in Figure 9. If the two stacking probabilities Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} are equal then there is no 1st order memory
9 in the stacking sequences of the ice structure and we refer to this as random stacking (red line in Figure 9)
10 which can be described with Φ_c only. The top right of the stackogram (Figure 9) represents perfect ice I_c ,
11 while the bottom left describes perfect ice I_h . In the case where Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} are not equal then there is a
12 memory in the stacking sequences and there are a number of distinct regimes which can be defined.
13 Anywhere to the right of the random line is a regime with the same close-packed planes tending towards the
14 strictly alternating stacking sequence in the third dimension (polytype) at the bottom right of the stackogram
15 (hexagonal, cubic, hexagonal, cubic *etc.*). As will be seen later no known ice sample falls in this half of the
16 stackogram. The region above the random line is characterised by extended sequences of either cubic or
17 hexagonal stacking, or extended regions of both. The top left of the diagram is for a sample consisting of a
18 50% mixture of bulk cubic and bulk hexagonal crystallites.

19
20 In order to illustrate the sensitivity of the diffraction pattern to stacking disorder and 1st order memory
21 effects we have plotted an array of calculated diffraction patterns in Figure 9. We focus on the region around
22 the 111 peak of cubic ice where the pattern is particularly sensitive to stacking disorder. The red dotted line
23 indicates a combination of stacking probabilities that produces random stacking ($\Phi_{hc} = \Phi_{cc}$). Above this line
24 $\Phi_{hc} < \Phi_{cc}$ whereas, below $\Phi_{hc} > \Phi_{cc}$. One striking feature of this plot is the strong sensitivity of the
25 diffraction pattern to the values of Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} , which means that finding a unique fit to the diffraction
26 pattern is highly likely. This is illustrated in Figure 10 where the 1st order memory model was used to
27 produce patterns for many combinations of Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} , and the goodness of the fit is expressed as χ^2 . There

1 is a clear single minimum and no local minima. Malkin *et al.*³⁰ allowed Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} to vary independently,
2 hence they made no *a priori* assumption about which type of stacking was present in their ice (*i.e.* random or
3 1st order memory effects). They found that for ice which nucleated homogeneously from pure water there
4 was no memory effect and the resulting ice was fully stacking disordered (*i.e.* Φ_{hc} and $\Phi_{cc} = 50\%$).

5
6 The diffraction pattern is remarkably sensitive to even small degrees of stacking disorder. This is illustrated
7 in Figure 11 where droplets containing silver iodide froze around 257 K and the peaks associated with
8 hexagonal character are clearly present. However, the pattern is clearly inconsistent with well-defined
9 hexagonal ice and instead we find, $\Phi_{hc} = 1\%$ and $\Phi_{cc} = 10\%$. Note that the fitted diffraction pattern from ice
10 annealed at just below 0°C has a Φ_{hc} and $\Phi_{cc} = 0\%$ as expected for ice I_h. This indicates that we can detect
11 stacking fault probabilities on the order of only 1% in ice I_h.

12
13 Kuhs *et al.*⁹ concluded that the ice they made *via* decomposition from gas hydrates and vapour deposition
14 contained 2nd order memory effects ($s = 4$). Hence, it is prudent to analyse the new data with a DIFFaX
15 model capable of resolving second order memory interactions. In order to resolve 2nd order memory effects
16 ($s = 4$), a model with four independent stacking probabilities (Φ_{ccc} , Φ_{hcc} , Φ_{hch} and Φ_{hhc}) is required in
17 DIFFaX. The relationships between these stacking probabilities and the parameters defined by Hansen and
18 co-workers,^{9, 12} are given in Table 2.

19
20 In the model employed by Hansen *et al.*^{12, 13} and Kuhs *et al.*⁹ the best fit to their diffraction data was found
21 using a least-square minimisation approach. To obtain the best possible fit to our diffraction data we have
22 written a new computer programme (MCDIFFaX) which embeds DIFFaX in a least-square environment and
23 uses a Monte Carlo algorithm to search for the best values of the various stacking probabilities, lattice
24 constants, peak profile parameters and zero shift.¹²⁷ Our fitting strategy is to start off with $\Phi_c = 0.5$ and no
25 memory effects. Once the χ^2 has converged, first and second order memory effects are introduced
26 successively as the programme runs to see if this is required to improve the quality of the fit to the data.

1 In addition to the least-square approach we have used a grid sampling approach where the four stacking
2 probabilities in the 2nd order memory model were systematically varied independently across their entire
3 ranges from 0 to 100%. This test allowed us to verify the approximate location of the global minimum. This
4 was initially done in large steps, for example 10%. Once a rough indication of the best values was obtained,
5 a higher resolution run (*e.g.* steps of 1%) was performed over a smaller range of numbers to improve the
6 accuracy of the result. The resultant structure file is compared to the observed structural results and scored
7 using a delayed cross correlation function. The cross correlation function allows the identification of all
8 possible stacking ratio fits. The maximum value of the cross correlation is used as a score of how similar the
9 results are, where $\text{Score} = 1 - \text{Maximum Correlation}$. This produces a 4D array of scores between 0 and 1.
10 The dimensions of the array are determined by the number of steps in (Φ_{ccc} , Φ_{hcc} , Φ_{hch} and Φ_{hhc}). The first
11 minimum found in this 4D array is the lowest score present. An algorithm was developed to locate all of the
12 minima. The current minimum value is initially set to the lowest minimum score and the cell (set of
13 parameters, Φ_{ccc} , Φ_{hcc} , Φ_{hch} and Φ_{hhc}) where the lowest minimum score occurs is marked as having been
14 visited. All not yet visited cells are then searched to see if they contain a score between the current minimum
15 value and a small positive increment to it. Any cells found that are within two neighbouring cells in any
16 direction of an already visited cell are assumed to belong to that minimum peak. If a cell is found that is
17 further away and not touching any neighbouring cells is considered to be another (second) minimum peak
18 and is recorded and marked as visited. The current minimum value is then incremented by the small positive
19 increment and the process repeated until the current minimum value exceeds 1. Fitting all the diffraction
20 patterns using this technique showed that there was a single minimum in the parameter space and confirmed
21 the result of the least squared routine.

22
23 The 2nd order memory MCDIFFaX fits to the diffraction patterns are shown in Figure 8. We also fitted a 1st
24 order memory model to the same data and the resulting stacking probabilities are shown together with those
25 for the 2nd order memory model in Table 3. The correlations between the various stacking probabilities in
26 Table 3 are illustrated in Figure 12. In the case where 2nd order memory effects were not deemed important
27 there should be no dependence on the structure of the sequence two stacking events away, *i.e.* $\Phi_{\text{hcc}} = \Phi_{\text{chc}}$

1 and $\Phi_{\text{hcc}} = \Phi_{\text{ccc}}$. Hence, it is clear from Figure 12A that there is no substantial 2nd order memory effect. The
2 only pattern in which there may be a minor 2nd order memory effect is for droplets containing microcline
3 which froze around 259 K and for which we found $\Phi_{\text{hcc}} = 20\%$ and $\Phi_{\text{ccc}} = 24\%$. The DIFFaX fit to the
4 experimental homogeneous nucleation diffraction pattern in ³⁰ showed no indication of 1st order memory
5 effect, this has been corroborated by re-analyzing the data with MCDIFFaX. In contrast, Kuhs *et al.*⁹ and
6 Hansen *et al.*¹² found strong differences between their equivalent parameters indicating complex stacking
7 patterns in ice made in a variety of different ways. Given, that Kuhs *et al.*⁹ and Hansen *et al.*¹² show strong
8 2nd order memory effects in the ices recrystallized from high pressure phases, the possibility of even higher
9 order memory effects should not be discounted.

11 Since there is no significant 2nd order memory in ice nucleated homogeneously or heterogeneously from
12 pure water the 4-layer model and the corresponding variables Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} are therefore adequate to describe
13 this ice. This is demonstrated in Figure 12B, where the Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} from the 1st order memory fitting
14 procedure and the same values derived from the 2nd order memory model are compared (the stacking
15 probabilities from the 2nd order memory model are converted to 1st order equivalents using the relationships
16 set out in Table 2). Hence, the remaining discussion of stacking in ice from water droplets is based around
17 the 1st order memory model, and the Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} parameters.

19 At median freezing temperatures below ~237 K, the ice is fully stacking-disordered (Φ_{hc} and $\Phi_{\text{cc}} \approx 50\%$) and
20 indistinguishable from ice resulting from homogeneous nucleation in 0.9 μm sized droplets (see Figure 7
21 and Figure 8). Figure 13 shows that as the freezing temperature increases, Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} decrease and the
22 proportion of cubic sequences decreases. One striking result from this study is that there is still detectable
23 stacking disorder even at the highest studied median freezing temperature of 257 K. In this instance $\Phi_{\text{hc}} =$
24 1% and $\Phi_{\text{cc}} = 10\%$. This corresponds to approximately one cubic sequence (or stacking fault) in 100 layers
25 of what is dominantly ice I_h.

1 At freezing temperatures above 249 K, the stacking probabilities Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} are no longer equivalent,
2 indicating that the stacking disorder is no longer random ($s = 3$). This is illustrated in the stackogram in
3 Figure 14 where the points corresponding to freezing temperatures higher than 249 K fall above the random
4 stacking line. This suggests that domains of hexagonal ice form with higher freezing temperatures, together
5 with smaller domains of stacking disordered ice. The monotonic decrease in the fraction of cubic sequences
6 with increasing freezing temperature is consistent with the hypothesis that the initial ice to crystallize is ice
7 I_{sd} which anneals to stable ice I_h if the experimental conditions allow. Hence, the structure of the resulting
8 ice is a function of the temperature at which nucleation occurred, and the time available for re-
9 crystallization, rather than the mode or nature of the nucleation event. Slower cooling rates had a similar
10 effect to warmer freezing temperatures, with slower cooling rates leading to fewer cubic sequences (Figure
11 13). The lack of dependence of stacking-disorder on nucleation mechanism suggests that whenever ice
12 grows from supercooled water in nature or technological applications it initially grows as ice I_{sd} with
13 randomly arranged 50% hexagonal and 50% cubic stacking sequences. Though, in many situations latent
14 heat release may rapidly elevate the temperature to a regime in which stacking-disorder will anneal. These
15 results offer detailed insights into the crystallization process of water, a process important in many fields,¹²⁸
16 and suggest that stacking-disorder plays an important transient role in the crystallization of ice from water in
17 general.

19 Stacking disorder in ice I made via routes other than from liquid water

20 The equivalent 1st order memory stacking probabilities Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} for ice I made *via* the recrystallization of
21 ice V and IX,^{12, 13} the decomposition of CO₂ hydrates⁹ and via vapour deposition⁹ are illustrated in Figure
22 14. As discussed above, both Kuhs *et al.*⁹ and Hansen *et al.*^{12, 13} report 2nd order memory effects, information
23 which is not possible to plot on a 2D plot, hence the stacking probabilities reported by those authors have
24 been converted to Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} . The details of the translation the parameters given by Hansen and co-workers
25 to Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} can be found in Table 2. Additionally, we plot the stacking probabilities for ice from liquid
26 water and new data for ice recrystallized from ice II.

1 It is striking that all of the data in the stackogram (Figure 14) is above of, or on, the random line (*i.e.* where
2 $\Phi_{\text{hc}} \leq \Phi_{\text{cc}}$). This is perhaps consistent with the fact that stacking disorder in ice is a result of kinetic
3 limitations in the growth of ice I and the stacking sequences never tend towards more ordered sequences
4 which would be to the right ($\Phi_{\text{hc}} > \Phi_{\text{cc}}$) of the random line. In general, ice which forms at higher
5 temperatures tends to contain larger domains of hexagonal sequences. It is also evident that ice made in
6 different ways seems to occupy different parts of the stackogram. Ice from liquid water is either at the
7 random line for ice which nucleates at the lowest temperatures or just above the random line for ice which
8 nucleated at warmer temperatures where domains of hexagonal sequences form. Whereas, ice formed from
9 re-crystallisation of high pressure phases and gas hydrates has Φ_{cc} greater than 50%. More work is required
10 to understand what causes the variation in ice I_{sd} generated through different pathways.

11
12 The results in Figure 14 for ice I recrystallized from ice II were performed for this study. The ice II sample
13 was prepared by freezing 1 mL of H_2O in an indium gasket inside a Specac press die precooled to 77 K,
14 followed by heating of the sample to 233 K at 0.4 GPa. The sample was then rapidly quenched to 77 K,
15 recovered under liquid nitrogen and transferred onto an XRD sample holder under liquid nitrogen. This was
16 subsequently mounted on a cold stage at 98 K of our X-ray diffractometer as described above. Quantitative
17 Rietveld refinement showed that the ice II sample was contaminated with only 2 – 5% ice V. We then
18 followed the recrystallisation of the ice II as the samples were warmed at rates of between 0.1 to 30 K min^{-1}
19 in separate experiments. The samples were heated from from 98 – 148 K (in 5 K increments) and then to
20 168 (in 2 K increments) at the defined rate. In order to record diffraction patterns of the ice at each
21 increment without further transformation of the ice during the period of the measurement, the samples were
22 cooled back to 110 K at each increment. Recrystallization to ice I_{sd} was observed between 150 and 165 K.
23 A selection of the resulting diffraction patterns for ice I_{sd} , immediately after recrystallization, are shown in
24 Figure 15 together with the MCDIFFaX fits. The resulting Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} values are listed in Figure 14 and
25 Table 4. This ice falls well above the random line in a similar region to ice recrystallized from ice V and
26 IX. Intriguingly, ice I_{sd} from ice II is the closest to well-defined cubic ice of all the ices summarised in
27 Figure 14.

1

2 It is apparent from Table 4 and Figure 14 that the stacking ratio of Ice I_{sd} recrystallized from Ice II is
3 dependent on the heating rate. There is a monotonic decrease in the fraction of cubic sequences with
4 increasing heating rates, suggesting that increasing the rate of heating promotes the recrystallization of ice II
5 to ice I_h or the transformation of cubic sequences to hexagonal sequences. Thus, cubic stacking seems to be
6 favoured kinetically.

7

8 The resulting stacking ratios from the 2nd order memory model, in Table 4, identify that there is a 2nd order
9 memory effect since $\Phi_{hhc} \neq \Phi_{chc}$ and $\Phi_{hcc} \neq \Phi_{ccc}$. The probability of appearance of a particular type of
10 stacking sequence is affected by the next-nearest stacking sequences. The 2nd order memory grid sampling
11 programme also identified multiple minima. However, upon further investigation and comparison of the
12 numerically calculated fits with the experimental data the lowest scoring minima was the only reasonable fit;
13 the best fits can be seen in Figure 15. The ice II to ice I transition is endothermic and therefore there is no
14 associated release of latent heat¹²⁹. This is perhaps why the sample forms ice which is furthest of any from
15 the stable hexagonal structure and closest to perfect ice I_c .

16

17 **Symmetry of ice I_{sd}**

18 The six-fold rotational symmetry in crystals of ice I_h is related to the six-fold screw axis in its crystal
19 structure. Introduction of cubic sequences into a hexagonal structure disrupts the six-fold screw axis, but
20 does not affect the three-fold rotational symmetry on the same axis. Hansen *et al.*¹³ recognised this and
21 identified the space group $P3m1$ for ice I containing stacking disorder. This space group is in the trigonal
22 crystal system, a subgroup of the hexagonal crystal family. This was also recognised in the past by Hallet *et*
23 *al.*¹³⁰ who also showed numerous images of atmospheric ice crystals with three-fold rotational symmetry. A
24 review of atmospheric trigonal ice crystals reveals that trigonal ice crystals occur over a wide range of
25 atmospheric conditions and have been observed in clouds all around the globe both in the troposphere and
26 stratosphere.¹³¹

27

1 Conclusion

2 The emerging picture of ice I is of a highly variable and much more complex material than was typically
3 thought in the past. All diffraction patterns for what was identified as cubic ice in the past contains features
4 consistent with a substantial degree of stacking disorder and there exists no pattern indicative of well-
5 defined cubic ice (to the best of our knowledge). We argue that the name stacking disordered ice, ice I_{sd} , is
6 the most appropriate name for this material. This name has now been used in the literature for several
7 years,^{4, 30, 58, 62, 124, 125, 132-135} and we recommend it is used in place of the term cubic ice where the ice is
8 stacking disordered. The term cubic ice should be reserved for well-defined ice I with cubic space group
9 $Fd\bar{3}m$.

10
11 One striking feature of ice I_{sd} is the fact that it is highly variable with the memory within the structure of ice
12 I_{sd} being strongly dependent on the route through which the ice was formed. Ice which forms
13 homogeneously from pure water is fully stacking disordered, whereas ice recrystallized from high pressure
14 crystal phases, for example, has a more complex structure in which there are correlations between nearest
15 and next-nearest layers. The varying degrees and nature of stacking disorder raises important questions
16 about the validity and applicability of the physical data for metastable ice I. Much of this data was collected
17 without a record of the nature of the stacking disorder. Revisiting data such as the latent heat of
18 transformation of ice I_{sd} to ice I_h with well characterised ice I_{sd} may resolve the substantial discrepancies in
19 the reported values (23 to 160 J mol⁻¹).^{8, 18, 20, 21, 25, 110, 136-138} It is possible that the broad range of enthalpies
20 of transformation reported in these studies are in part related to the variability in stacking disorder in ice I_{sd}
21 ¹¹, although it may also reflect variability in other structural defects. In addition, it was very recently found
22 that there are signatures in the Raman spectrum of stacking disorder and that the spectral features depend on
23 the nature of the stacking disorder in ice.¹³⁵ As a community, we should also consider revisiting
24 measurements of thermodynamic quantities, (*e.g.* heat capacity and vapour pressure) as well as interfacial
25 energies, optical constants and spectroscopic properties using well-characterized ice in order to understand
26 the relationship between stacking disorder and the physical properties of ice I_{sd} .

1 The new results presented in this work reveal increasingly recognising that stacking disorder can be
2 important in ice crystallized at much higher temperatures than previously thought. We showed that resulting
3 ice heterogeneously nucleated at 257 K contains measurable stacking disorder. At these warm temperatures
4 stacking disorder is likely to be transient, but nevertheless it appears to be an intermediate in the
5 crystallisation of water to ice under conditions pertinent to much of the Earth's atmosphere. At below ~200
6 K, which is relevant for stratospheric clouds, equatorial cirrus clouds and mesospheric clouds, stacking
7 disorder will likely persist for extended periods of time and these clouds may even be made of ice I_{sd} .^{6, 8, 139}
8 This is consistent with the appearance of ice crystals in very cold cirrus with three-fold symmetry,¹⁴⁰ since
9 ice I_{sd} has a trigonal space group. Intriguingly, ice crystals with three-fold symmetry are also observed in
10 much warmer clouds (see Murray *et al.*¹³¹).

11
12 Given what we have learnt about stacking disorder in ice, does true well-defined cubic ice exist? We are not
13 aware of any diffraction evidence for well-defined cubic ice. However, there are scattered reports which
14 suggest that well-defined cubic ice may exist. A rare halo at 28° to the sun, called Scheiner's Halo, has been
15 observed and is consistent with octahedral crystals of cubic ice.^{141, 142} Others have suggested that angles
16 between crystallites in snow crystals are consistent with growth off the faces of an initial crystal of cubic ice
17 with an octahedral shape.¹⁴³ Crystals sampled in the polar stratosphere sometimes have what appears to be
18 4-fold rotational symmetry consistent with crystals of cubic ice with a cubic habit,¹⁴⁴ and crystals grown
19 from vapour deposition around 200 K in the laboratory have been observed with an apparent cubic
20 morphology.¹⁴⁵ Whilst we cannot rule out the existence or possibility of creating true cubic ice, there is an
21 increasing realisation that there is strong propensity for ice I to grow with stacking disorder.

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Table 1. Experimental details for literature diffraction data shown in Figure 3.

Plot		Reference
A1	Hexagonal Ice	Numerically Simulated
A2	Cubic Ice	Numerically Simulated
A3	Ice II. Annealed from 100 – 165 K at 0.1 K min ⁻¹	This Study
A4	Pure Water droplets $d_{vm} \approx 1 \mu\text{m}$; $T_f = 231.7 \text{ K}$	Malkin <i>et al.</i> ³⁰
A5	32.4 wt% citric acid solution droplets; $T_f = 219 \text{ K}$.	Murray ²⁶
A6	36.2 wt%, (NH ₄) ₃ H(SO ₄) ₂ droplets; $T_f = 178 \text{ K}$	Murray and Bertram ³¹
A7	43 wt% (NH ₄) ₃ H(SO ₄) ₂ solution droplets; $T_f = 188 \text{ K}$	Murray <i>et al.</i> ⁶
A8	Formed in a 19 nm mesopores of silica at 220 K.	Morishinge and Uematsu ¹⁶
A9	Deposition at 90 K. Annealed to 180 K at 5 K min ⁻¹	Shilling <i>et al.</i> ¹⁸
A10	D ₂ O ice IV. Annealed from 90 - 151K at 5 K min ⁻¹	Salzmann <i>et al.</i> ¹¹
A11	H ₂ O droplets quenched at 170 K. Measured at 113 K	Kohl <i>et al.</i> ²⁰
A12	Water droplets quenched at 190K	Mayer and Hallbrucker ²⁵
A13	Recrystallized from D ₂ O Ice IX at 160 K	Bertie and Jacobs ¹⁴⁶
A14	Recrystallized from Ice IX held at 160 K	Bertie and Jacobs ¹⁴⁶
A15	Vitreous (condensed H ₂ O vapour <133 K) to Ice I	Dowell and Rinfret ¹⁹
B1	Hexagonal Ice	Numerically Simulated
B2	Cubic Ice	Numerically Simulated
B3	Decomposed deuterated CO ₂ hydrates at 175 K	Kuhs <i>et al.</i> ⁹
B4	Condensed D ₂ O vapour at 175 K	Kuhs <i>et al.</i> ⁹
B5	Recrystallized from Ice V at 175 K	Hansen <i>et al.</i> ^{12, 13}
B6	Recrystallized from Ice IX at 175 K	Hansen <i>et al.</i> ^{12, 13}
B7	Recrystallized from Ice II at 78 K	Kuhs <i>et al.</i> ¹⁴

Table 2. Notation conversion.

Old 1 st order Notation Malkin <i>et al.</i> ³⁰	New 1 st order Notation	2 nd order Notation	Kuhs <i>et al.</i> ⁹
Φ_c	Φ_{hc}	$100 \times \left(\frac{\Phi_{hhc}}{\Phi_{hhc} + (100 - \Phi_{chc})} \right)$	$100 \times \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha + 1 - \gamma} \right)$
Φ_h	Φ_{ch}	$100 \times \left(\frac{100 - \Phi_{ccc}}{(100 - \Phi_{ccc}) + \Phi_{hcc}} \right)$	$100 \times \left(\frac{1 - \delta}{1 - \delta + \beta} \right)$
	Φ_{hh}	$100 \times \left(\frac{100 - \Phi_{hhc}}{(100 - \Phi_{hhc}) + \Phi_{chc}} \right)$	$100 \times \left(\frac{(1 - \alpha)}{1 - \alpha + \gamma} \right)$
	Φ_{cc}	$100 \times \left(\frac{\Phi_{ccc}}{\Phi_{ccc} + (100 - \Phi_{hcc})} \right)$	$100 \times \left(\frac{\delta}{\delta + 1 - \beta} \right)$
		Φ_{hhc}	$100 \times (\alpha)$
		Φ_{hcc}	$100 \times (\beta)$
		Φ_{ccc}	$100 \times (\delta)$
		Φ_{chc}	$100 \times (\gamma)$

Table 3. The average stacking ratio and corresponding goodness of fit (χ^2) or score for each set of at least four heterogeneous nucleation experiments with a cooling rate of 30 K min⁻¹ and a d_{vm} of ~17 μ m. T_{onset} is the temperature ice was first identified and T_f is the median freezing temperature.

Symbol (Figure 6)	Material ⁱ	$T_{onset} \pm 1.0$ / K	$T_f \pm 1.0$ / K	1 st order Model			2 nd order Model						Cubicity ^{iv}	
				Φ_{hc}	Φ_{cc}	χ^2_{red} ⁱⁱ	Φ_{ccc}	Φ_{hcc}	Φ_{chc}	Φ_{hhc}	Score ⁱⁱⁱ	Φ_{hc}		Φ_{cc}
■	Corundum 0.1 wt%	237.0	235.3	52%	52%	1.05	52%	52%	52%	52%	0.02	52%	52%	52%
◆	Montmorillonite 0.1 wt%	238.0	235.8	52%	52%	1.09	51%	53%	52%	52%	0.04	52%	52%	52%
★	Kaolinite 0.05 wt%	239.0	236.2	50%	50%	1.07	51%	50%	52%	51%	0.03	52%	50%	51%
◆	Kaolinite 0.1 wt%	241.0	236.9	50%	50%	1.08	51%	50%	48%	51%	0.04	50%	50%	50%
▶	Illite 0.1 wt%	245.0	238.7	45%	45%	1.07	43%	47%	44%	47%	0.03	45%	45%	45%
◀	Kaolinite 1.0 wt%	244.0	239.9	40%	40%	1.04	39%	41%	39%	43%	0.02	41%	40%	41%
◆	Quartz 1.0 wt%	244.0	244.7	40%	40%	1.06	39%	41%	39%	43%	0.02	41%	40%	41%
▼	Microcline 0.8 wt%	252.0	249.0	30%	35%	1.07	35%	36%	29%	31%	0.03	30%	35%	32%
▲	Albite 0.2 wt%	256.0	250.0	20%	30%	1.08	30%	31%	21%	19%	0.04	21%	30%	23%
●	Microcline 1.0 wt%	259.0	253.0	10%	22%	1.09	24%	20%	10%	11%	0.04	10%	21%	11%
■	Silver Iodide 0.05 wt%	263.0	257.2	1%	10%	1.04	10%	10%	1%	1%	0.02	1%	10%	1%
	Annealed ice I _h			0%	0%	1.03	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.01	0%	0%	0%

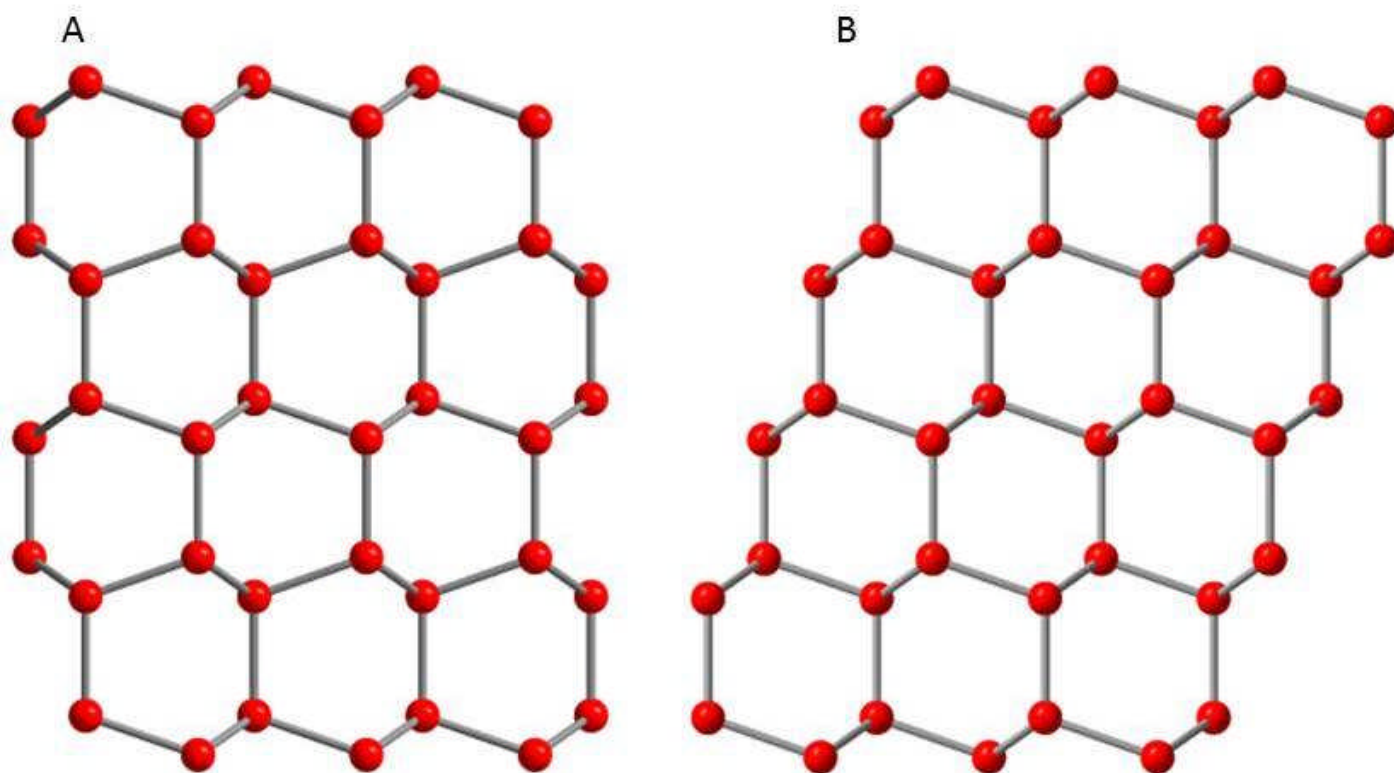
ⁱKaolinite (KGa-1b) and montmorillonite (STx-1) (Clay Mineral Society, West Lafayette, USA); NX-illite (B+M Nottenkamper, Munich, Germany); Quartz, Microcline and Albite (Ward's Natural Science Establishment Inc., New York, USA); Silver iodide (> 99.99%) and Corundum (> 99.9%) from Sigma-Aldrich. ⁱⁱThe reduced chi-squared (χ^2_{red}) is defined as the sum of the squared difference between model and experimental pattern at each point in 2 θ divided by the number of degrees of freedom. ⁱⁱⁱScore using a delayed cross correlation function: Score = 1 – Maximum Correlation (<http://paulbourke.net/miscellaneous/correlate>). Notation conversion and calculating Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} from MCDIFFaX model ratio can be found in Table 2.

^{iv} Cubicity is calculated by: $\frac{\Phi_c}{\Phi_c + \Phi_h}$

Table 4. The average stacking ratio and corresponding score for Ice I_{sd} recrystallized from Ice II at different heating rates

Heating Rate K min ⁻¹	2 nd order Model					Cubicity ⁱ		
	Φ_{ccc}	Φ_{hcc}	Φ_{chc}	Φ_{hhc}	χ^2	Φ_{hc}	Φ_{cc}	
0.1	84.5%	59.2%	49.8%	66.1%	0.07	56.8%	67.4%	73.3%
0.5	83.6 %	57.2%	48.1%	64.0%	0.13	55.2%	66.2%	71.4%
1	83.1%	49.7%	45.8%	57.9%	0.16	47.8%	62.3%	67.0%
10	81.0%	49.8%	41.3%	57.9%	0.06	47.7%	61.7%	63.3%
30	77.6%	47.6%	40.6%	57.9%	0.12	45.7%	59.7%	58.8%

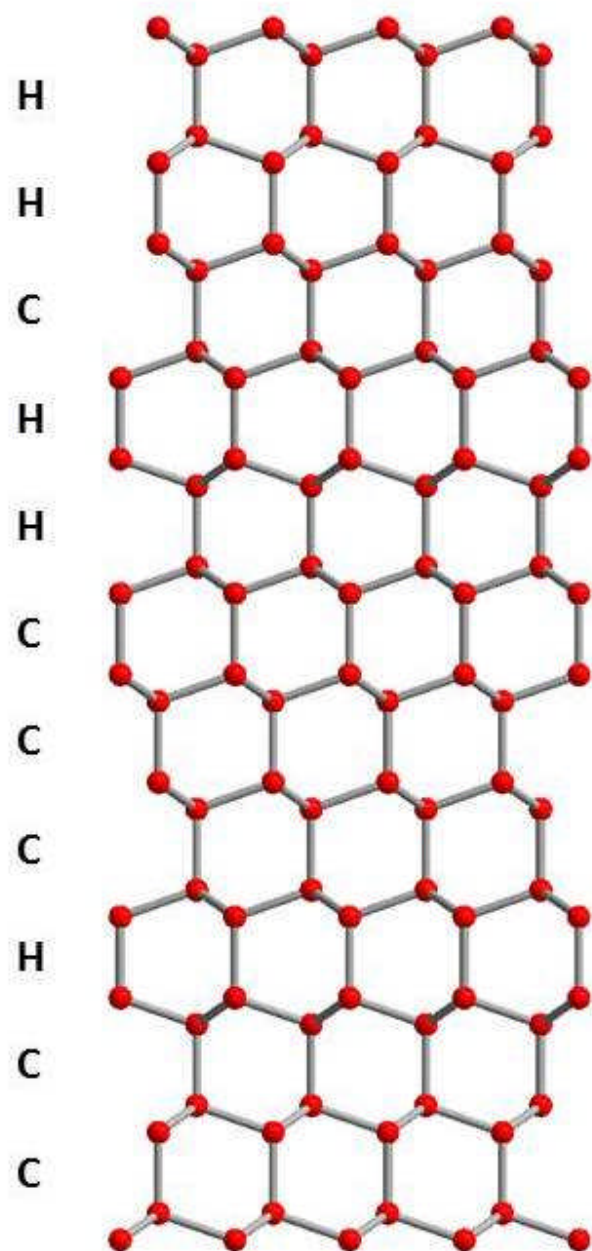
ⁱCubicity is calculated by: $\frac{\Phi_c}{\Phi_c + \Phi_h}$



1

2 Figure 1. Stacking of layers in hexagonal (A) and cubic (B) ice. The vertical is normal to the (0001) basal
3 surface of hexagonal ice, and the (111) surface of cubic ice. Only oxygen atoms are shown, connected by
4 hydrogen bonds.

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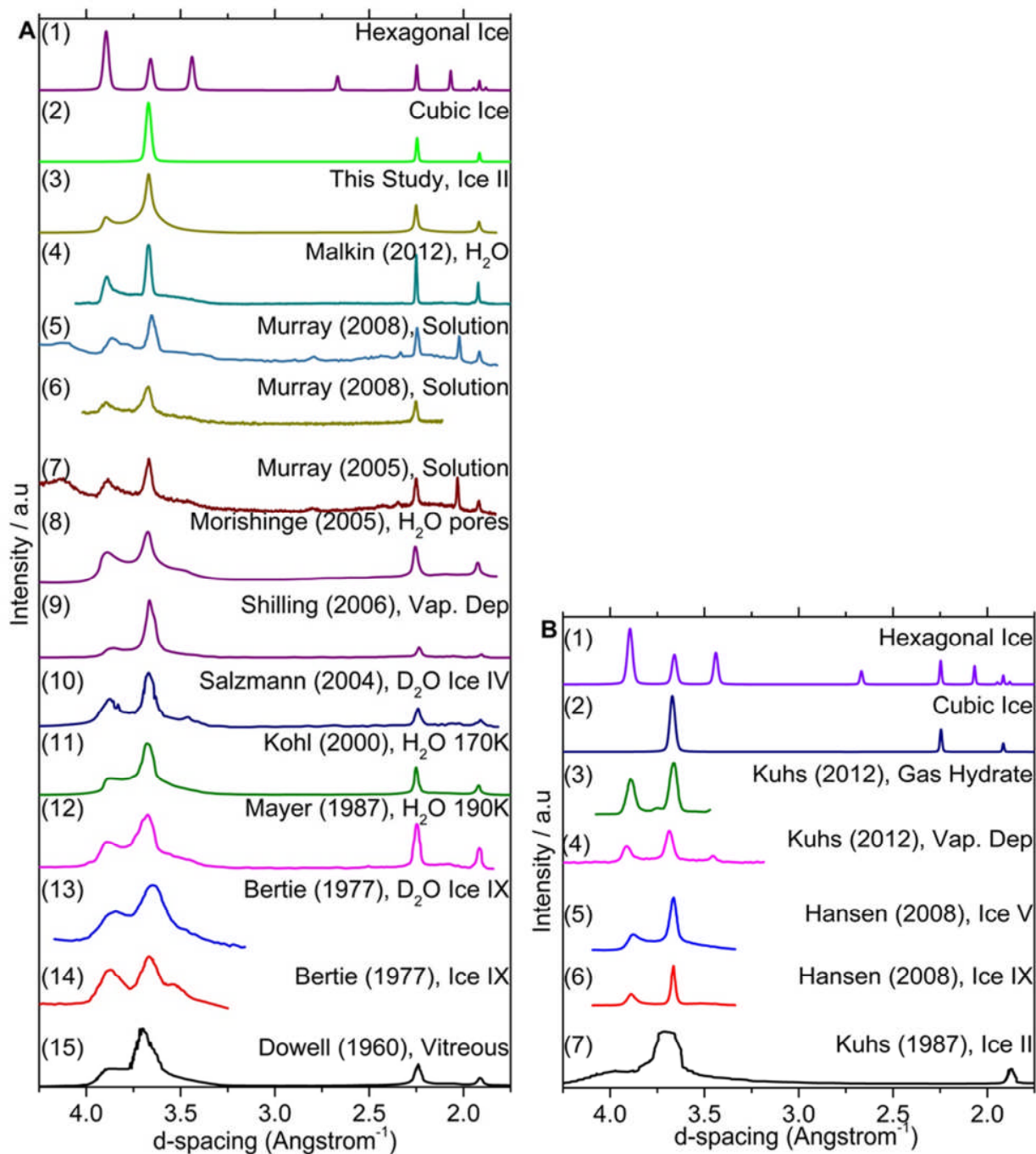


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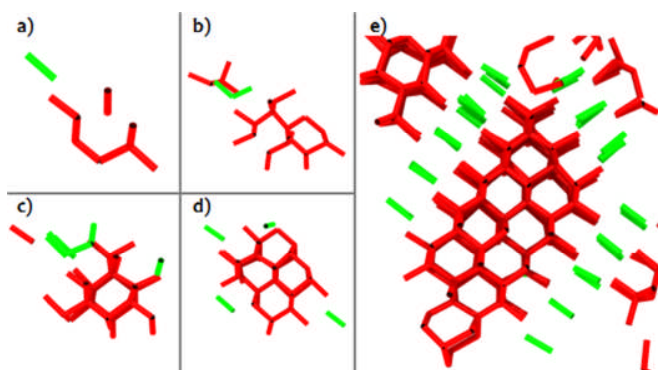
2 Figure 2. Possible stacking sequence in stacking disordered ice (Ice I_{sd}). Only oxygen atoms are shown which
3 are connected by hydrogen bonds.

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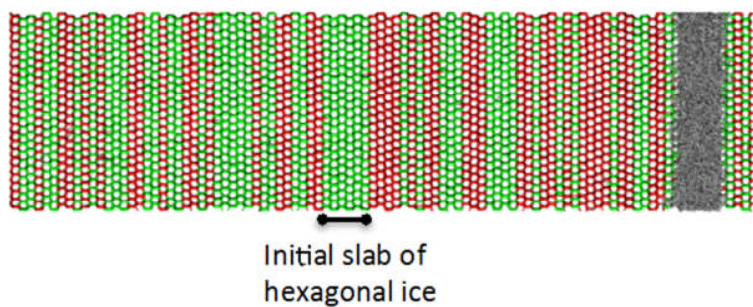
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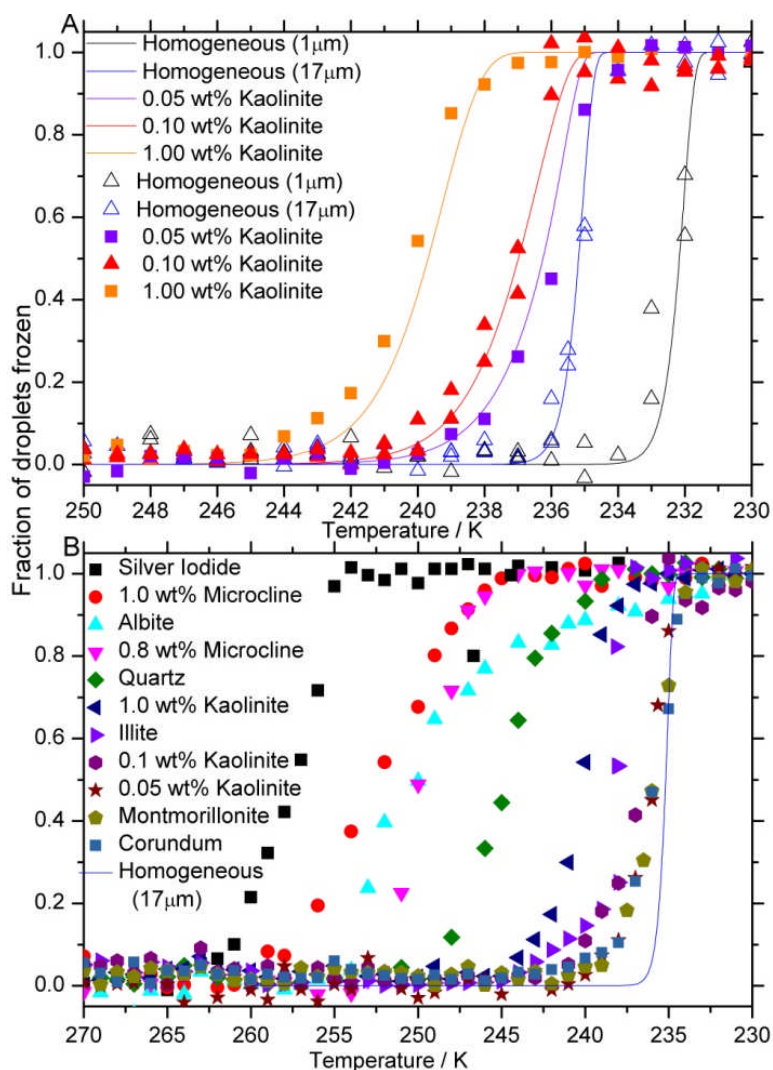
1
 2 Figure 3. A selection of (A) X-ray and (B) neutron diffraction patterns of metastable ice I from the literature.
 3 Many of these patterns were digitised from the printed plots in the respective papers, and the quality of some of
 4 the older reproductions is relatively poor. Nevertheless, signatures of stacking disorder are apparent in all of
 5 these patterns, many of which were presented as ice I_c. The most obvious signatures of stacking disorder are the
 6 region between ~ 4 and 3.25 \AA and the peak at $\sim 3.8 \text{ \AA}$. See details of each experiment and references in Table 1.



1
2 Figure 4. Development of stacking disorder within an ice nucleus in mW water crystallized at 180 K. Adapted
3 from ref. ³⁹. Panels a) to e) display the evolution of the cubic (red) and hexagonal (green) ice features within a
4 growing nucleus. The lines connect pairs of molecules with cubic or hexagonal order, which only differ by a
5 small displacement of the molecules with respect to the underlying layer, see Figure 1. Pairs of molecules with
6 cubic and hexagonal ice order are distinguished by the number of eclipsed and staggered intermolecular bonds
7 within the pair, identified with the CHILL algorithm:⁴⁰ Molecules in hexagonal ice have three staggered and
8 one eclipsed bond, and molecules in cubic ice have four staggered bonds. Well-defined stacks are not observed
9 in nuclei with less than ~200 molecules.

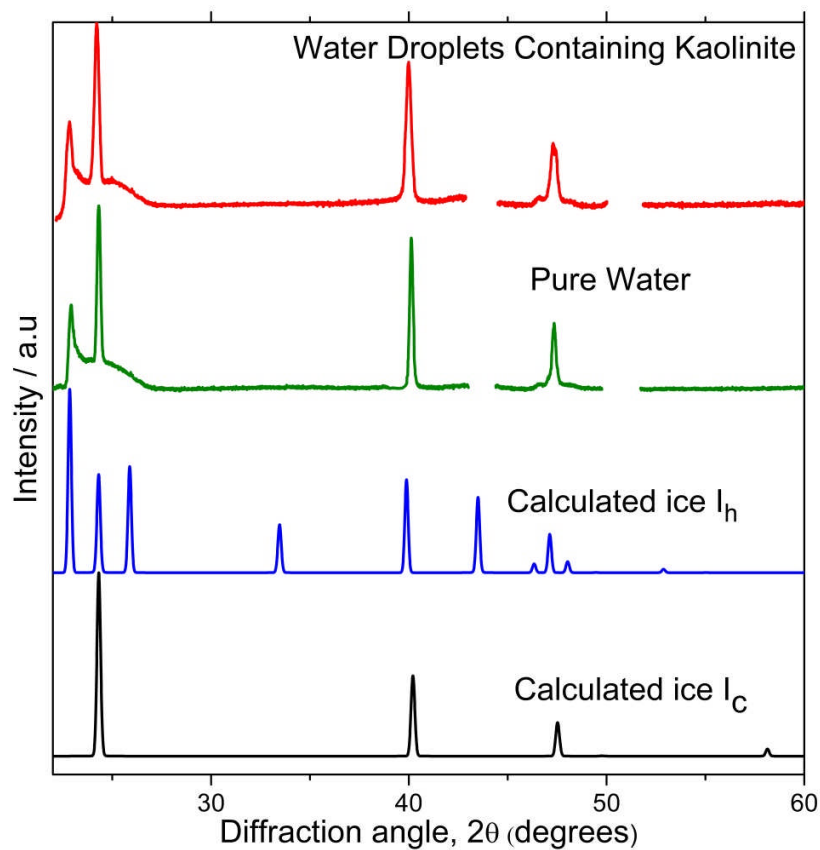


1
2 Figure 5. Stacking disordered ice grown at 270 K. Water molecules are shown in green if they belong to a
3 hexagonal sequence, red if they belong to a cubic sequence and in gray if they belong to the liquid. The
4 simulation started with a slab of six layers of hexagonal ice (indicated by a black line below the picture)
5 exposing the basal faces to the supercooled liquid. The simulations were performed with a periodic simulation
6 cell containing 110,592 molecules modeled with the mW water model,¹⁰⁸ which has a melting temperature of
7 274 K.¹⁰⁸ The CHILL algorithm⁴⁰ was used to identify cubic and hexagonal ice. Cubic layers represent 40 out of
8 the 81 new layers grown.
9

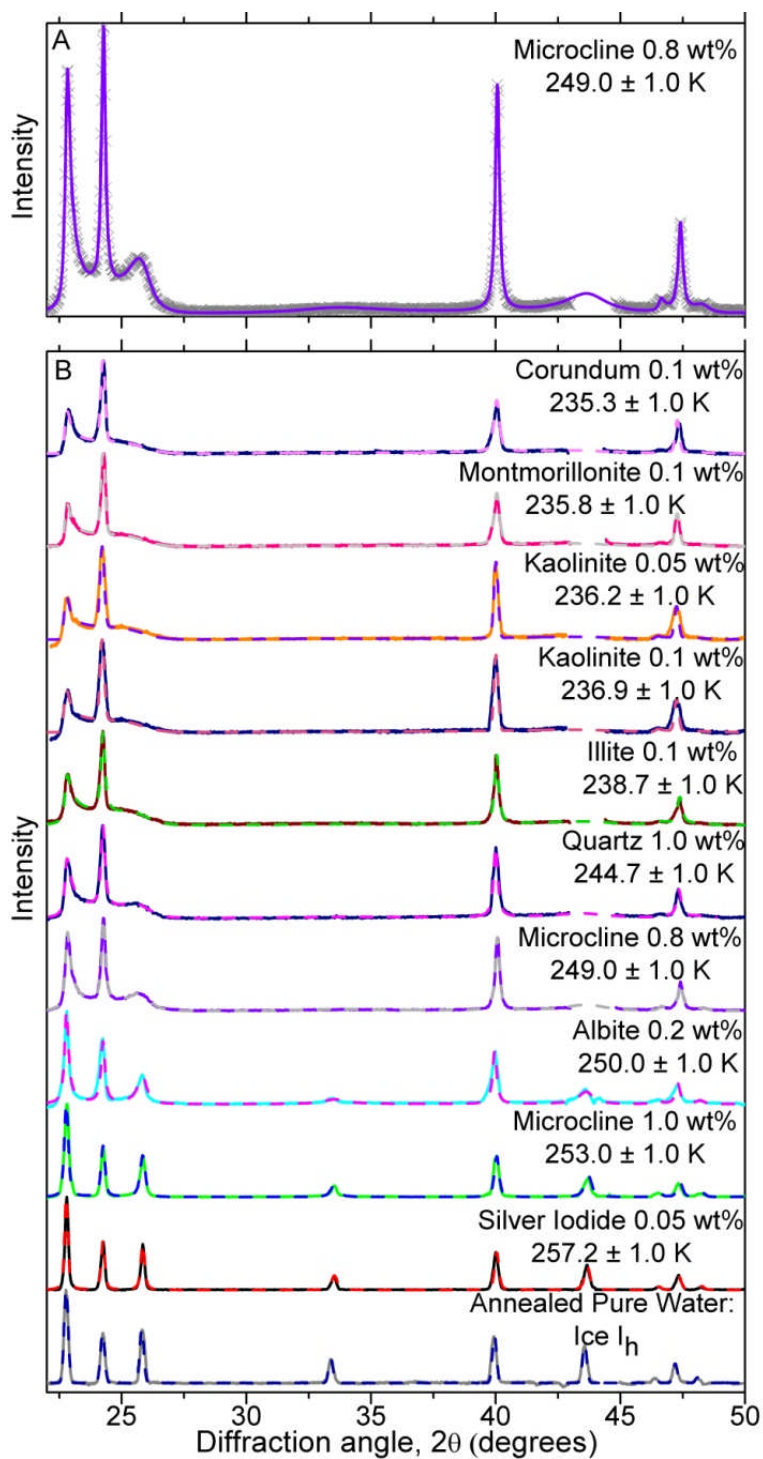


1

2 Figure 6. Fraction of droplets frozen as a function of temperature. **A:** shows curves for droplets of pure water
 3 and droplets containing various weight fractions of kaolinite cooled at 30 K min^{-1} . Median droplet size was held
 4 almost constant in these experiments. The solid lines are based on time-dependent parameterisations of
 5 homogeneous freezing of pure water¹²² and heterogeneous freezing by kaolinite⁶⁰. **B:** shows curves for a range
 6 of solid nucleating agents. Error bars are omitted as they are comparable to symbol size.



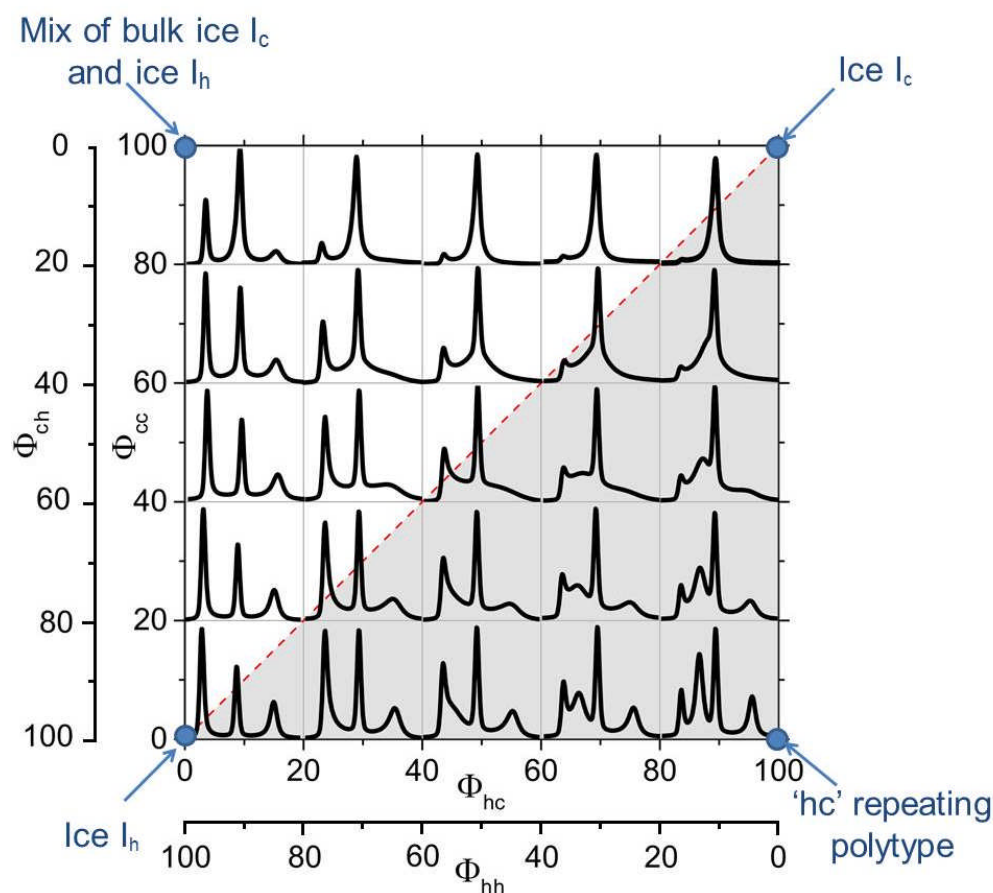
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2
3 Figure 7. Experimental diffraction patterns for water droplets containing 0.1 wt% of kaolinite, cooled at a rate
4 of 30 K min^{-1} compared with frozen pure water droplets of $0.9 \mu\text{m}$ from Malkin *et al.*³⁰. Simulated diffraction
5 patterns using DIFFaX of fully ordered ice I_h and ice I_c are also shown. The gaps in the experimental pattern are
6 where diffraction peaks from the sample support are observed.
7



1
 2 Figure 8. Experimental and model best fit X-ray diffraction patterns for frozen droplets containing a variety of
 3 solid inclusions ($d_{vm} \sim 17 \mu\text{m}$), which froze over a range of median freezing temperatures (T_f). **A:** is an example
 4 of experimental data (crosses) and MCDIFFaX fit (solid line) for droplets containing Microcline. **B:** contains
 5 experimental (solid line) and MCDIFFaX fit (dashed line) diffraction patterns for droplets containing a range of

- 1 ice nuclei. The data was normalized to the largest peak. The fitted stacking probabilities are listed in Table 3.
- 2 The MCDIFFaX fits here included 2nd order memory effects. The results were indistinguishable from the 1st
- 3 order model indicating 2nd order memory effects were not significant.

1

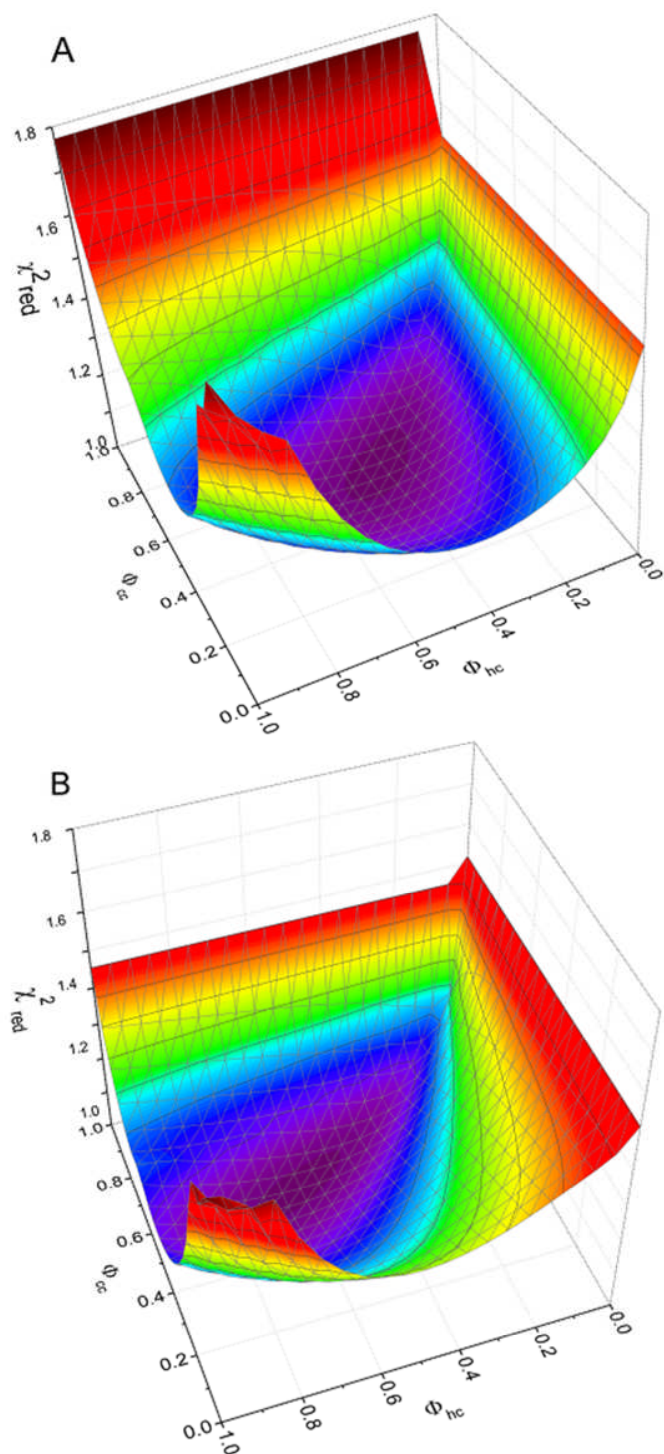


2

3 Figure 9. A “stackogram” containing an array of calculated diffraction patterns (d -spacing = 3.40 – 3.85 Å) for
 4 various values of Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} . The pattern is for the values of Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} at the centre of each box. The red
 5 dotted line is where Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} are equivalent, which represents the random stacking line. Deviations from this
 6 line represent stacking with 1st order memory. The nature of ice at each of the corners of the diagram is
 7 indicated.

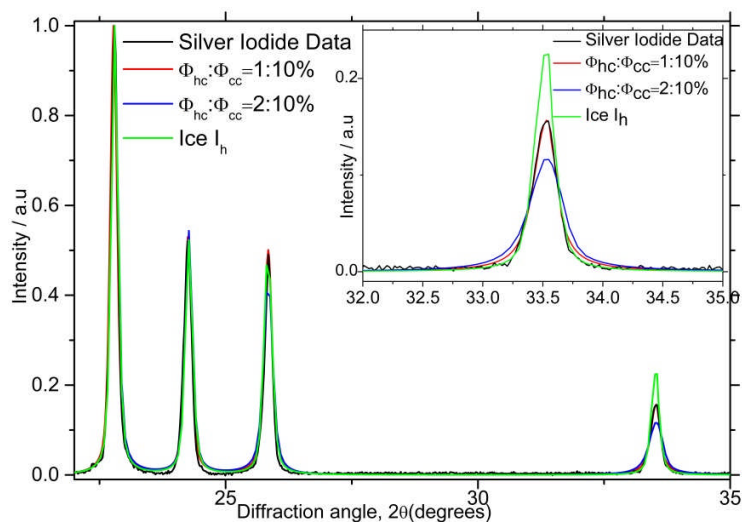
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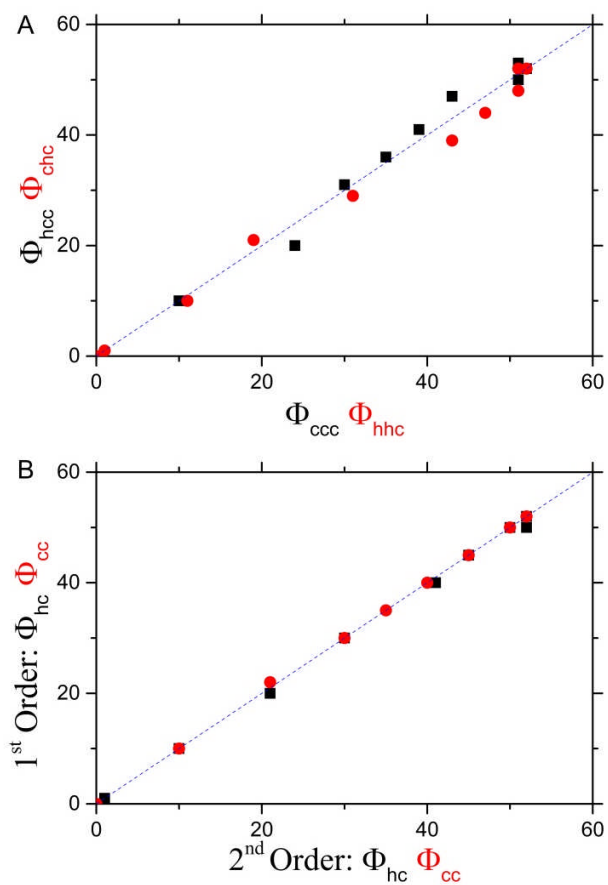


1
2 Figure 10. Chi-squared (χ^2) maps of DIFFaX fits to the experimental data as a function of Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} using a
3 1st order model, for droplets containing: (A) Kaolinite 0.05 wt% and (B) Microcline 0.8 wt. Both plots show a
4 clear and unique minimum in χ^2 .

5



1
2 Figure 11 Comparison of the experimental X-ray diffraction patterns of frozen water droplets containing silver
3 iodide and a DIFFaX prediction for stacking probabilities of $\Phi_{hc} = 1$ or 2% , $\Phi_{cc} = 10\%$ and ice I_h . Inset is a
4 characteristic ice I_h peak at $\sim 33.5^\circ$ which is sensitive to the stacking ratio.
5
6



1
2 Figure 12. Correlation plots between stacking probabilities for ice resulting from heterogeneous nucleation in
3 water droplets. (A) shows that there are negligible second order memory effects. (B) shows that the 2nd order
4 model produces the same Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} as the 1st order model. The blue dashed line is the 1:1 line.
5

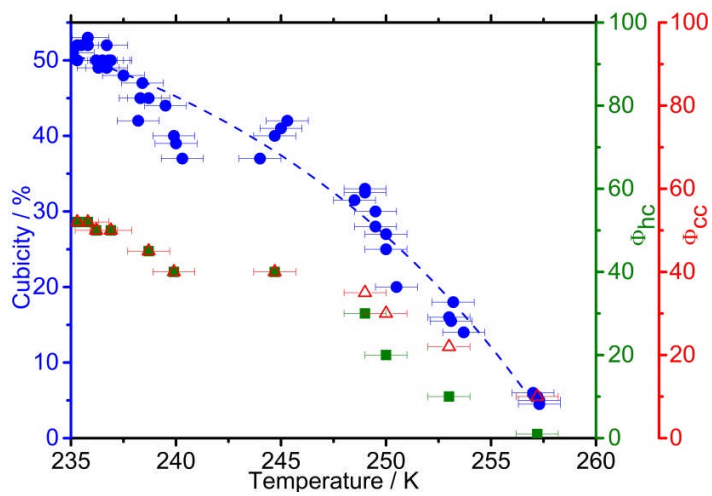


Figure 13. Cubicity, Φ_{cc} and Φ_{hc} as a function of T_f for droplets containing a range of heterogeneous ice nuclei; the diffraction patterns and DIFFaX fits are shown in Fig. 8. The fit through the cubicity data is for illustrative purposes only.

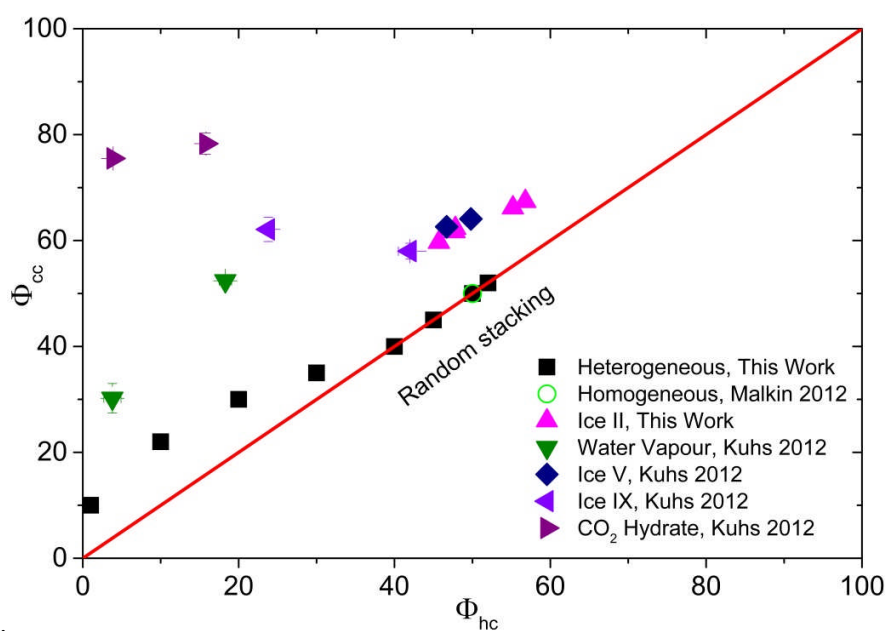


Figure 14. A stackogram illustrating the stacking probabilities (Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc}) of ice I resulting from heterogeneous nucleation in water droplets from this study as well as those from: Malkin *et al.*³⁰ for homogeneous nucleation in water; Kuhs *et al.*⁹ who report stacking probabilities in ice I made from CO₂ hydrates and vapour deposition onto a cold substrate; and Hansen *et al.*^{12, 13} who made ice from ice V and IX. Φ_{hc} and Φ_{cc} would both equal 100 for hypothetical perfect cubic ice I_c.

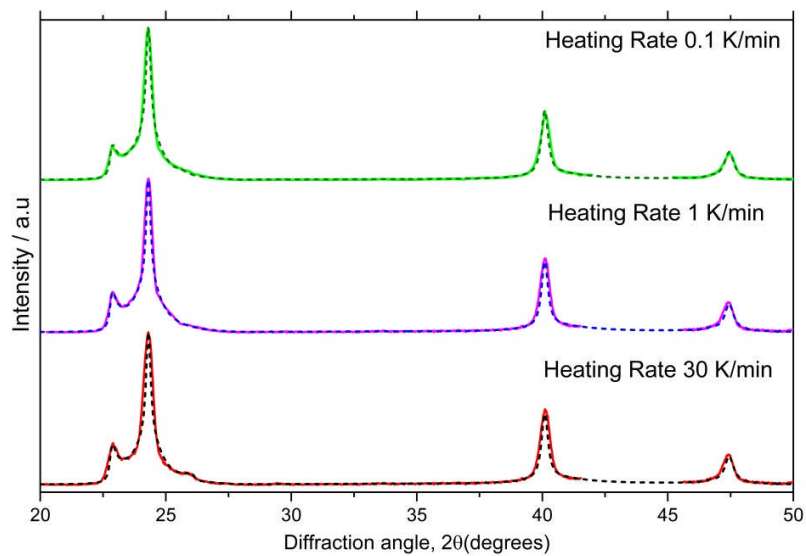


Figure 15. X-ray diffraction patterns of ice I_{sd} recrystallized from ice II (solid lines) together with MCDIFFaX fits including 2nd order memory effects (dashed lines).

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