Calibration of the Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Laser (VCSEL) water vapor hydrometer

Minghui Diao

Department of Meteorology and Climate Science

San Jose State University

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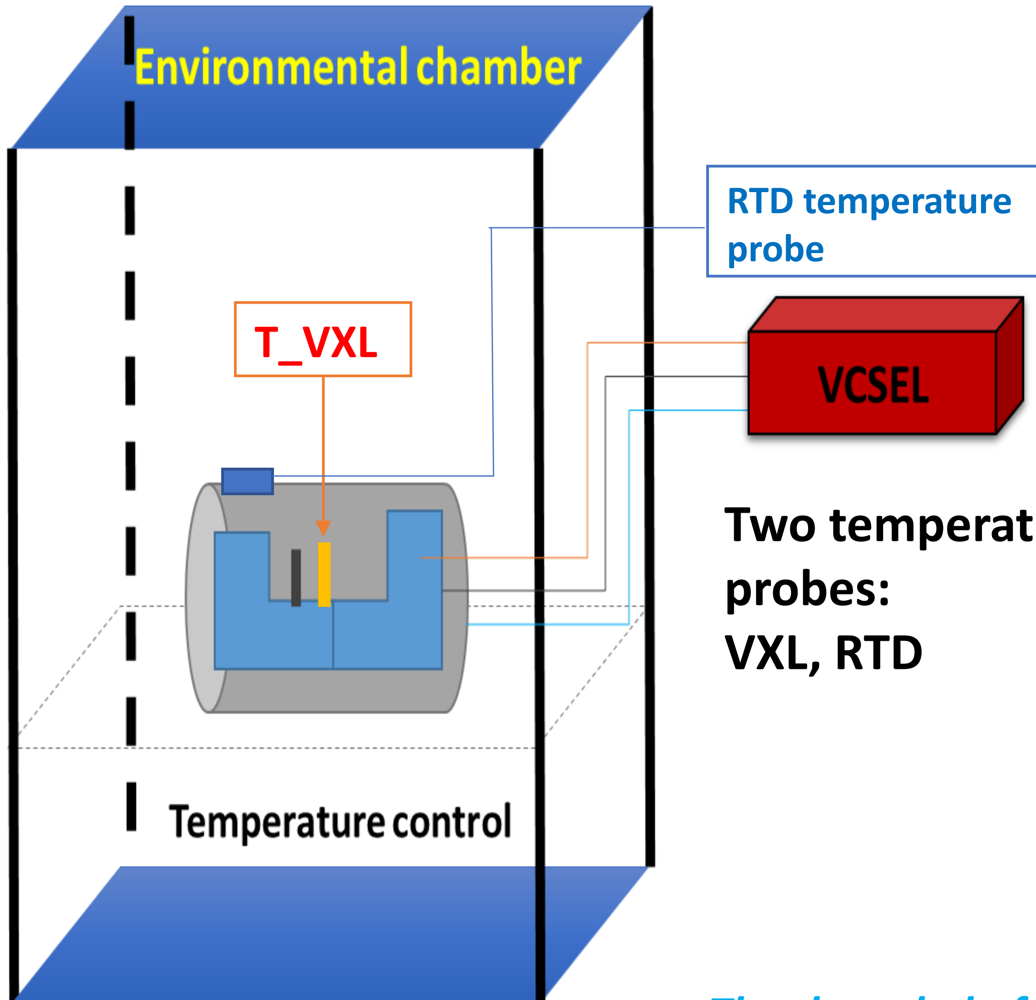
Outline

- 1. Laboratory calibration set-up
- 2. Calibration result
- 3. Application to the SOCRATES water vapor data
- 4. Relative humidity frequency distribution
- 5. Summary and future work

Laboratory experiment design



Two temperature probes: VXL, RTD

Fundamental physics:

Saturation vapor pressure (es) is determined by temperature only

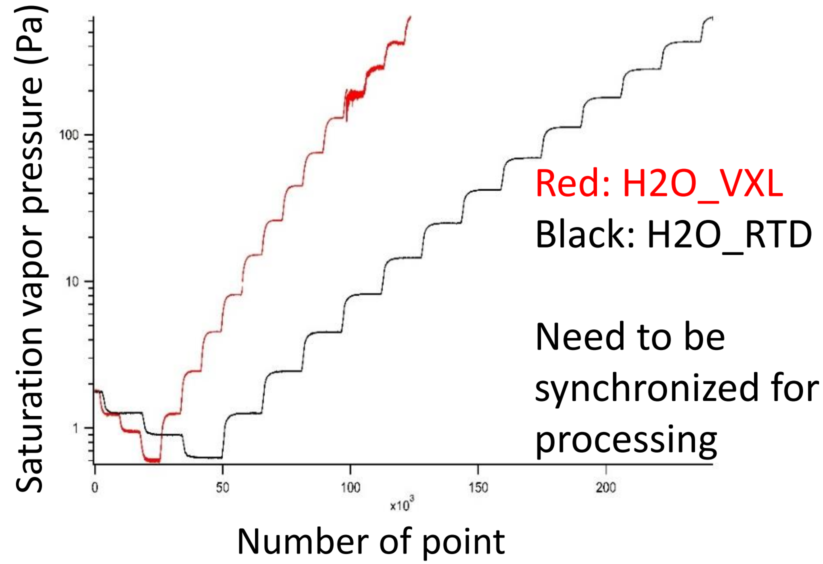
es_{ice} and es_{liq} are calculated based on Murphy and Koop (2005)

Thanks to help from Stuart Beaton, Laura Tudor and Hendrik Gilmer

Evaluation of the calibration system

1. Does temperature series vary when cooling down or warming up?

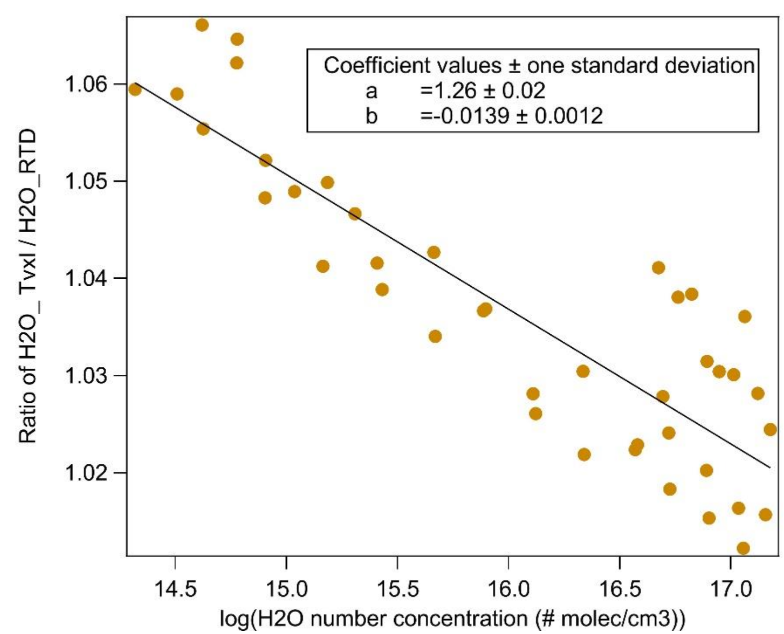
The differences are usually **less than 3%** when testing the same temperatures.



2. Does temperature reach equilibrium between the inner and outer walls of the calibration housing?

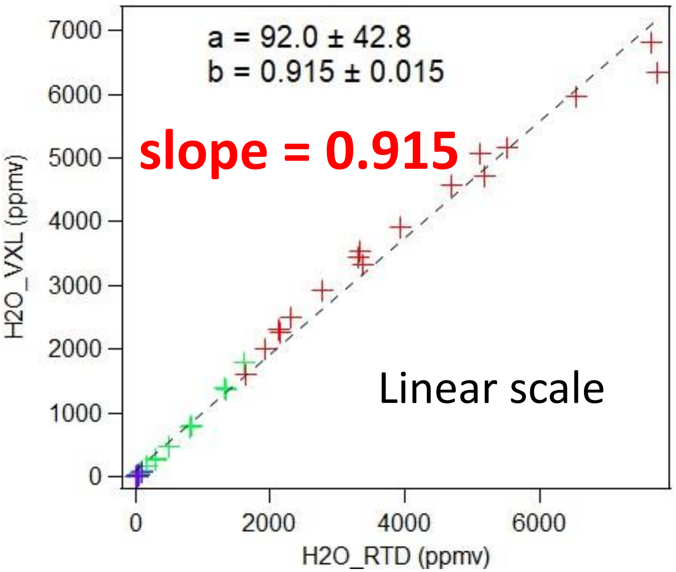
Uncertainties range from **1% - 6%**, when the number concentration of water vapor molecules range from 1.51e+17 to 2.09e+14 #molec/cm^3, respectively.

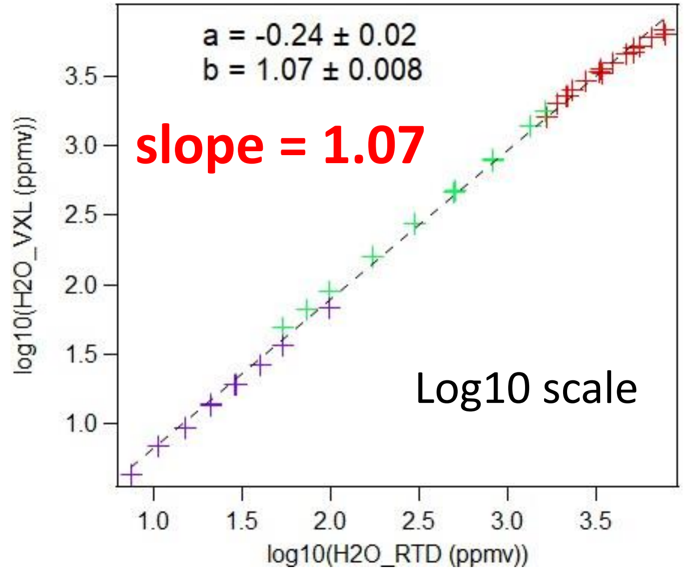
A **maximum ± 6%** uncertainty when using this system at **0 to -65°C**.



Comparison of H_2O from VCSEL and derived H_2O from RTD

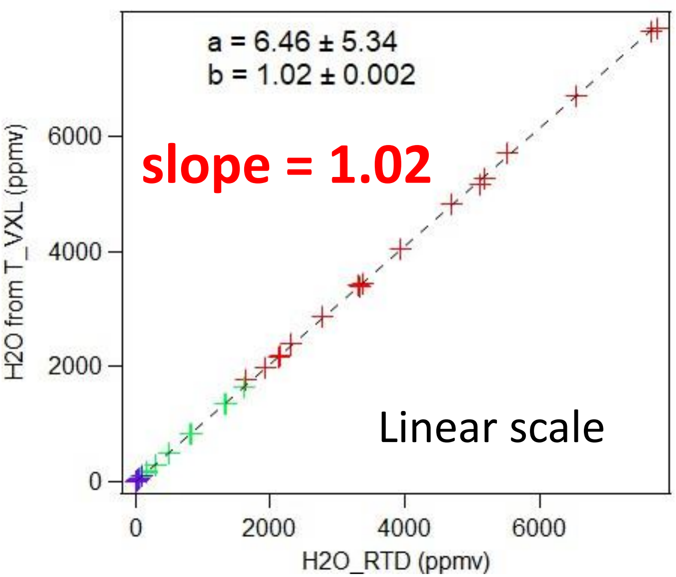
(1) H_2O_VXL (v.2013.Princeton) vs H_2O_RTD temperature probe

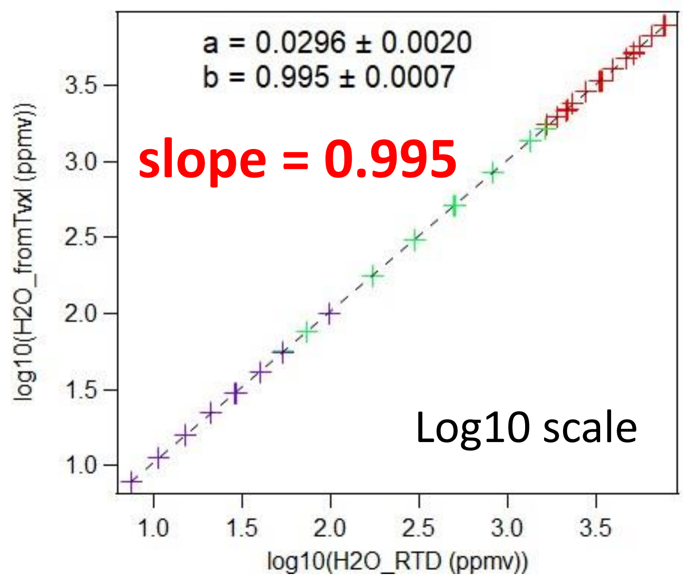




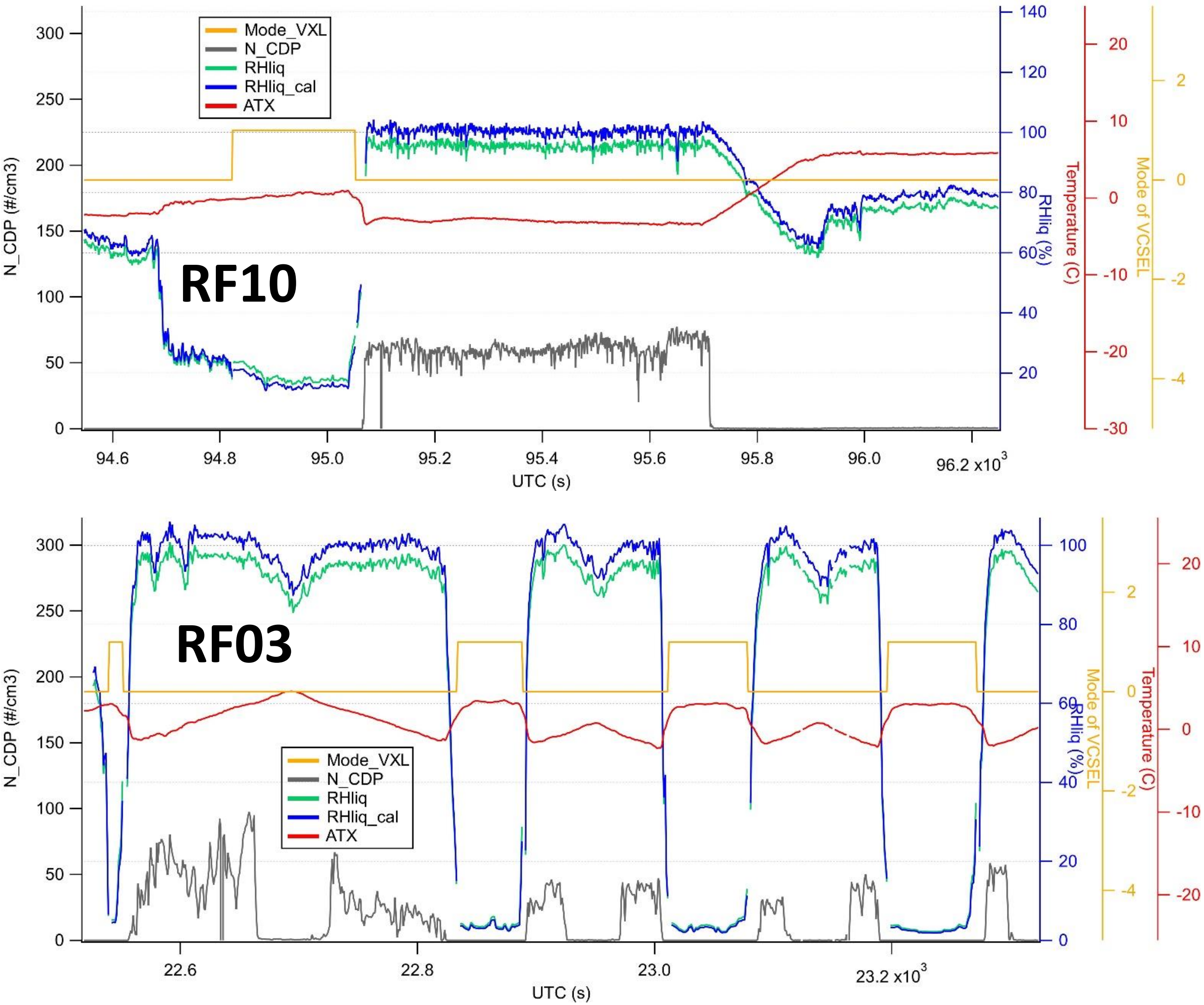
Red: weak mode
Green: direct mode
Purple: strong mode

(2) H_2O_Temp vxl vs H_2O_RTD temperature probe





Comparisons of the calibrated (v.2018.1.Diao) and current water vapor data (v.2013.Princeton)

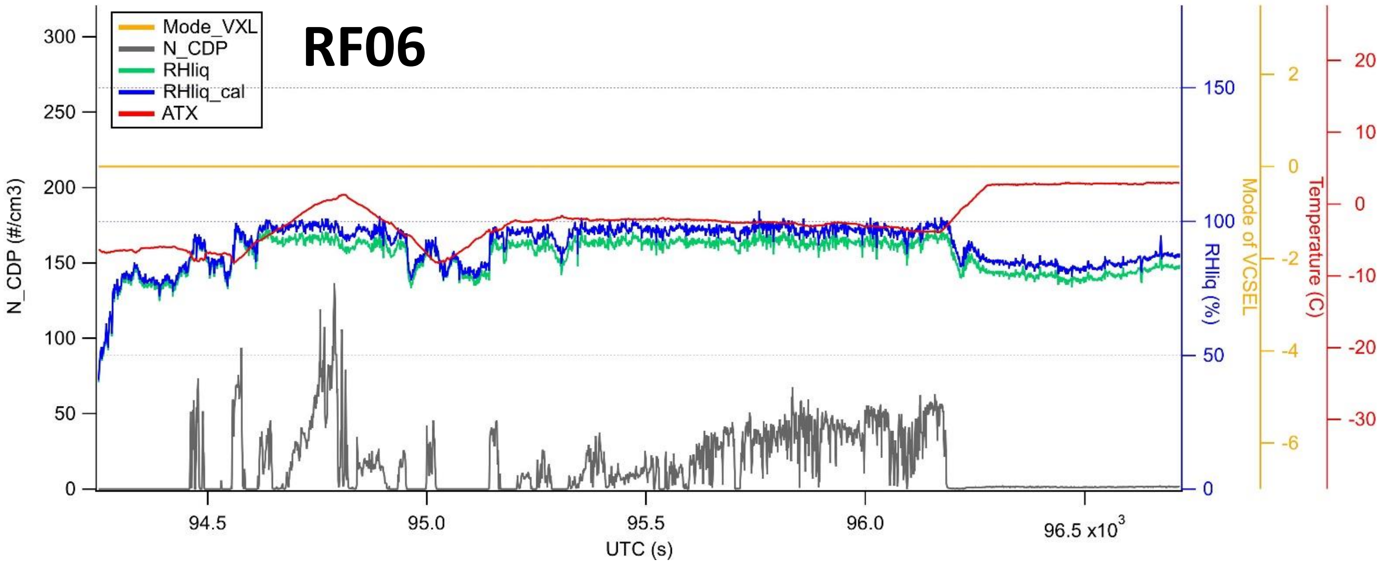


1. Water vapor data are generally adjusted to be **higher** at warmer temperatures

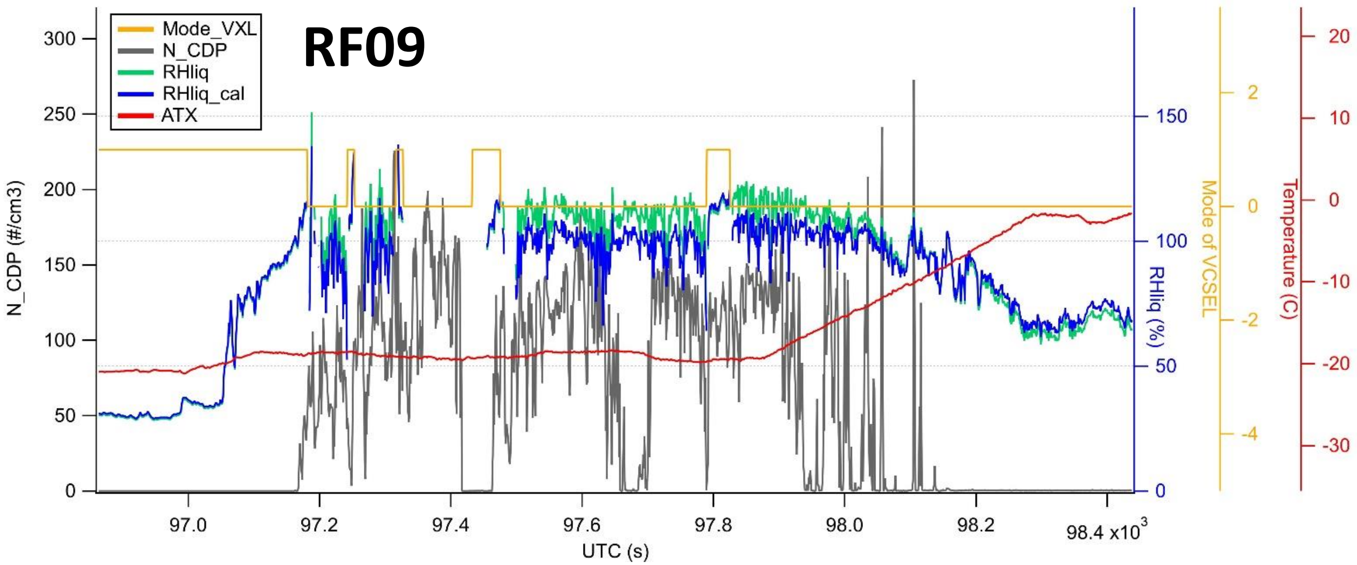
2. Most of the in-cloud conditions at warmer T show **liquid saturation** with v.2018.1.Diao

3. For cumulus sampling, **good synchronization** between RHliq and CDP number concentration

Other examples of improvements with the calibration

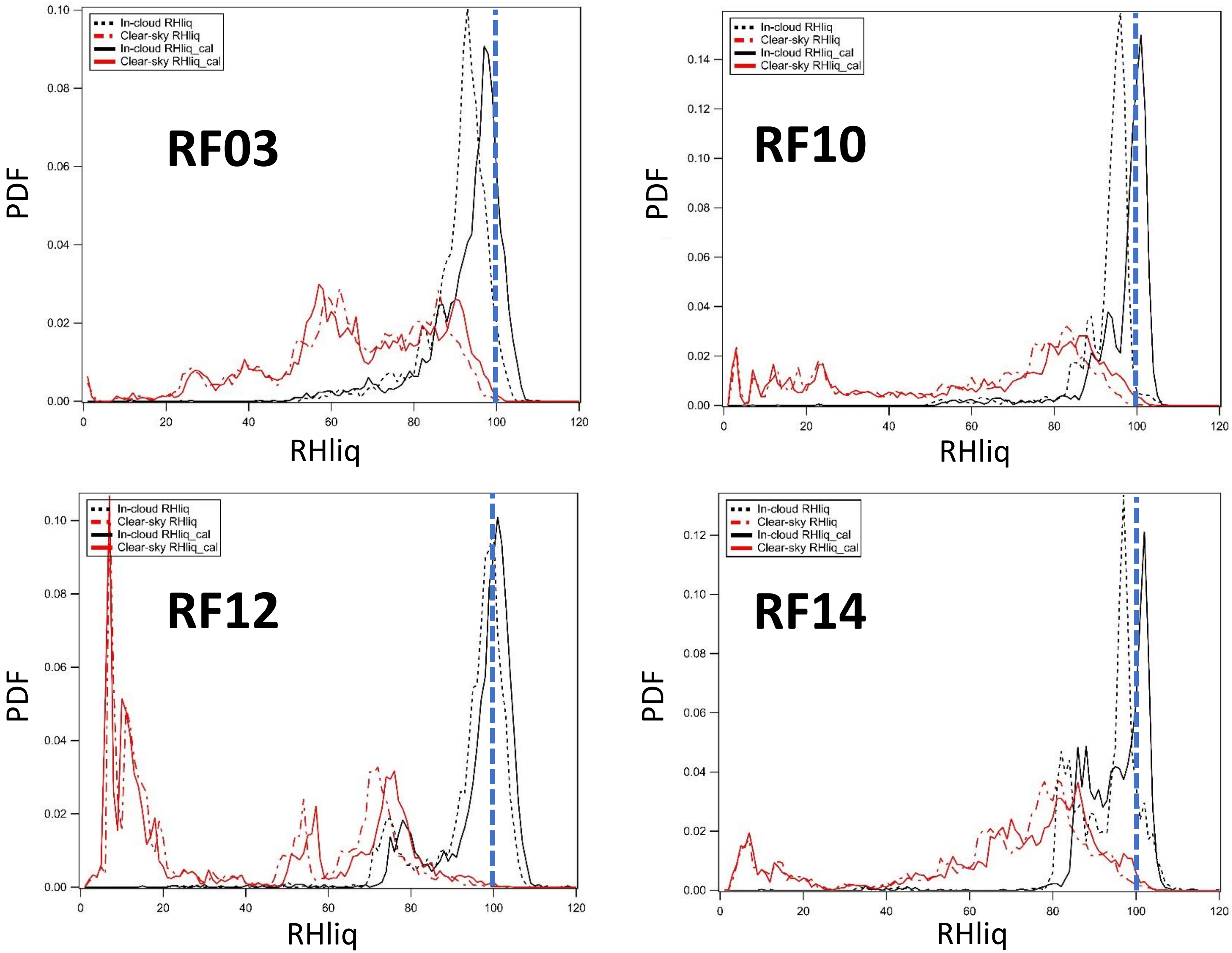


RF06: in-cloud leg around -5°C is adjusted to be higher, reaching liquid saturation after calibration



RF09: in-cloud leg around -20°C is adjusted to be lower, closer to liquid saturation after calibration

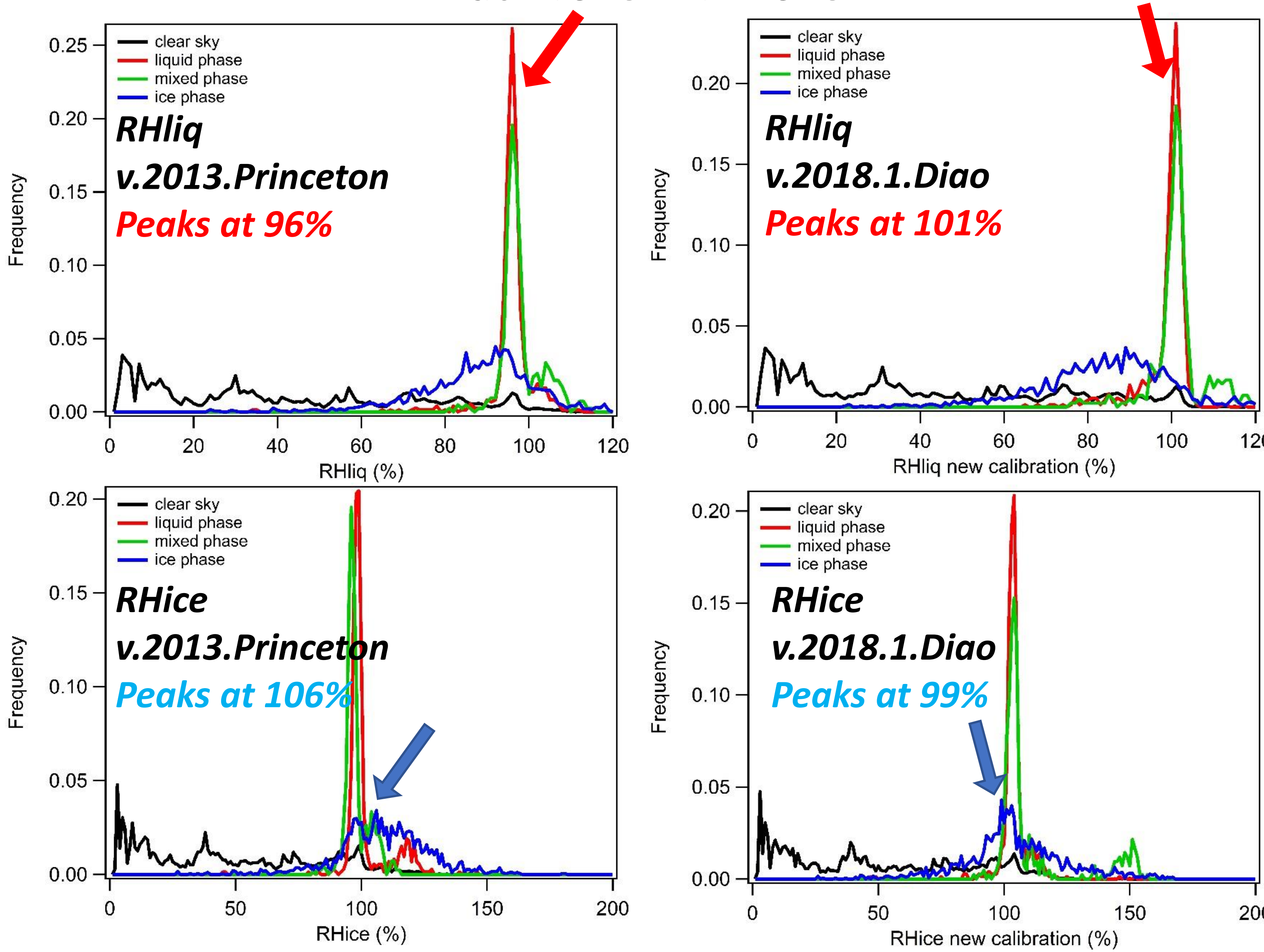
Relative humidity frequency distribution for in-cloud conditions at temperature > -15°C



In-cloud:
CDP > 1 cm^{-3}
or, Fast-2DC > 0 L^{-1}

SOCRATES RF10: RH distribution in different cloud phases at -40°C < T ≤ 0°C

Diao and Yang (SJSU)



Cloud phase id method: D'Alessandro, J., M. Diao, C. Wu,, X. Liu, B. Stephens, and J.B. Jensen, "Cloud phase and relative humidity distribution over the Southern Ocean based on in-situ observations and global climate model simulations", *Journal of Climate, in revision.*

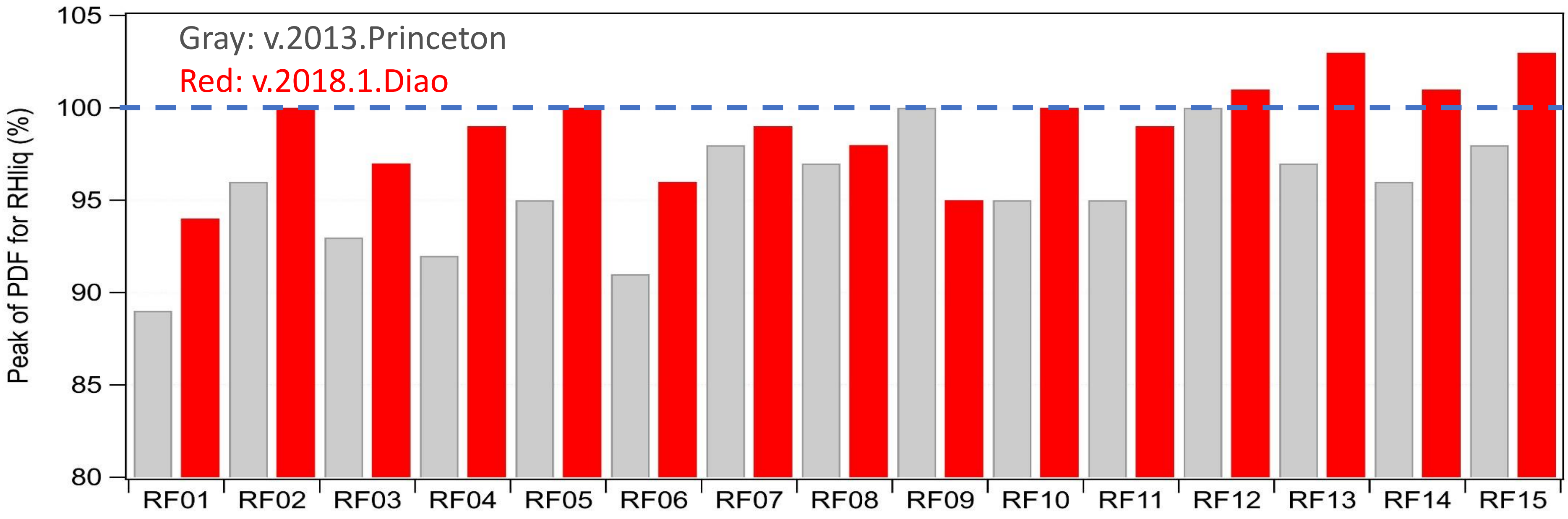
Summary of new calibration (v.2018.1.Diao)

1. Only temperature is considered as the factor; Overall, the calibration ***improves*** the statistical distributions of RHliq

2. Calibrated water vapor data (v.2018.1.Diao)

- increase H_2O mixing ratio at T > 265 K
- decrease H_2O mixing ratio at 255 K < T ≤ 265 K
- Increase H_2O mixing ratio at 225 K < T ≤ 255 K
- Increase H_2O mixing ratio at 210 K < T ≤ 225 K

3. Table of individual peaks of in-cloud RHliq PDF (temperature > -15°C)



Future work

- **Factors that remain to be addressed**
  - pressure
  - water vapor (sub-saturated conditions)
  - laser intensity
- **Use a different calibration system** – test the Princeton calibration chamber
- **Use additional water vapor source** - add a dewpoint generator for even warmer temperatures (> 0°C)
- **Hysteresis when switching modes** – more time series focusing on transitions

Acknowledgement

1. NCAR Advanced Study Program Faculty Fellowship 2018 and 2016
2. NSF Office of Polar Program grant #1744965
3. Thanks to EOL and RAF scientists for hosting my group in the summer of 2018 and 2016.
4. Many thanks **to Stuart Beaton** and **Laura Tudor** for setting up the laboratory experiments