

**Contribution by Prof. Frank Arnold:**

## Combustion Generated Aerosol Precursors

**Prof.Frank Arnold**

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Combustion processes produce trace gases and gaseous ions which have a potential to act as aerosol-preursors. Here emphasis will be placed upon aerosol-preursors formed by aircraft preferably at altitudes around 8-12 km. A particularly important aerosol-precursor is gaseous sulfuric acid (GSA) which is formed from aircraft-fuel sulfur. Due to its large hygroscopicity GSA undergoes binary-nucleation with water vapour which leads to the formation of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O aerosol particles. Ternary-nucleation involving also ammonia which is important in the lower atmospheric layers seems to be less important around 8-12 km due to very low ammonia abundances. Binary H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O nucleation may proceed via a homogeneous mechanism (HONU) or an ion-induced mechanism (INU). It seems that gaseous ions produced by chemi-ionization in aircraft gas turbine engines have a potentially important role in mediating H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O nucleation. The efficiency of ion-induced aerosol formation in aircraft engine exhaust depends critically on the GSA-concentration and on the nature and concentration of chemions. Around 8-12 km further growth of freshly formed and still very small aerosols is to a large part controlled by condensation of atmospheric condensable trace gases probably mostly H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The latter mostly does not stem from aircraft but rather stems from photochemical conversion of SO<sub>2</sub> emitted by ground-level combustion sources.

The present talk reports on mass spectrometric measurements of gaseous and ionic aerosol-preursors in the free troposphere, in the wakes of aircraft, and in the exhaust of aircraft gas turbine engines at ground-level. Furthermore the talk reports on laboratory investigations of ion-induced nucleation of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O. More information on our work on combustion-generated atmospheric aerosols can be found in the following reference list.

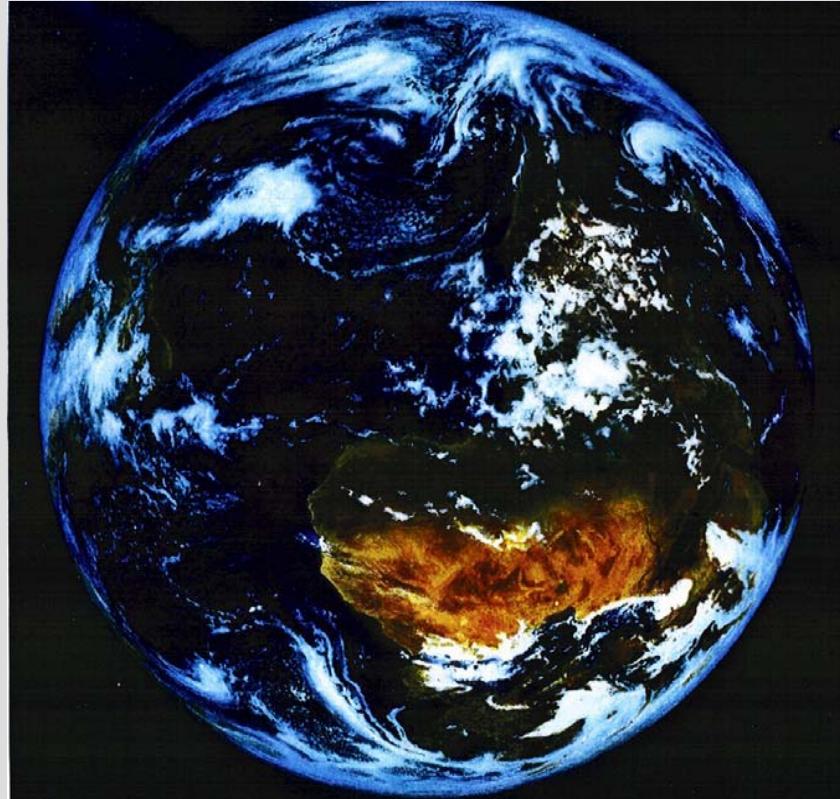
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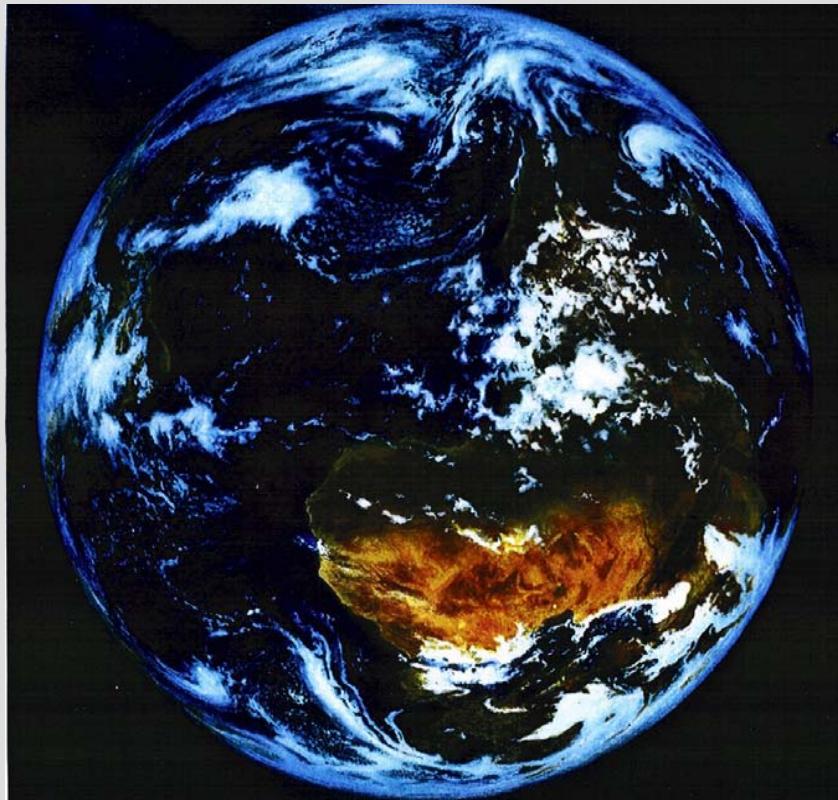
# Combustion Generated Aerosol Precursors



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# Combustion Generated Aerosol Precursors



Potential  
Influence  
on  
**CLOUDS**

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# Aerosol-Precursor Measurements

- GASES
- IONS

# Aerosol Precursor Measurements: Environments

- Free Atmosphere

# Aerosol Precursor Measurements: Environments

- Free Atmosphere
- Atmospheric Boundary Layer

# Aerosol Precursor Measurements: Environments

- Free Atmosphere
- Atmospheric Boundary Layer
- Air Craft Wakes (in flight)

# Aerosol Precursor Measurements: Environments

- Free Atmosphere
- Atmospheric Boundary Layer
- Air Craft Wakes (in flight)
- Air Craft Engine Exhaust (at ground level)

# Aerosol Precursor Measurements: Environments

- Free Atmosphere
- Atmospheric Boundary Layer
- Air Craft Wakes (in flight)
- Air Craft Engine Exhaust (at ground level)
- Ship Plumes

# Aerosol Precursor Measurements: Environments

- Free Atmosphere
- Atmospheric Boundary Layer
- Air Craft Wakes (in flight)
- Air Craft Engine Exhaust (at ground level)
- Ship Plumes
- Burner Exhaust (laboratory)

# Aerosol Precursor Measurements: Environments

- Free Atmosphere
- Atmospheric Boundary Layer
- Air Craft Wakes (in flight)
- Air Craft Engine Exhaust (at ground level)
- Ship Plumes
- Burner Exhaust (laboratory)
- Flow Reactor (laboratory)

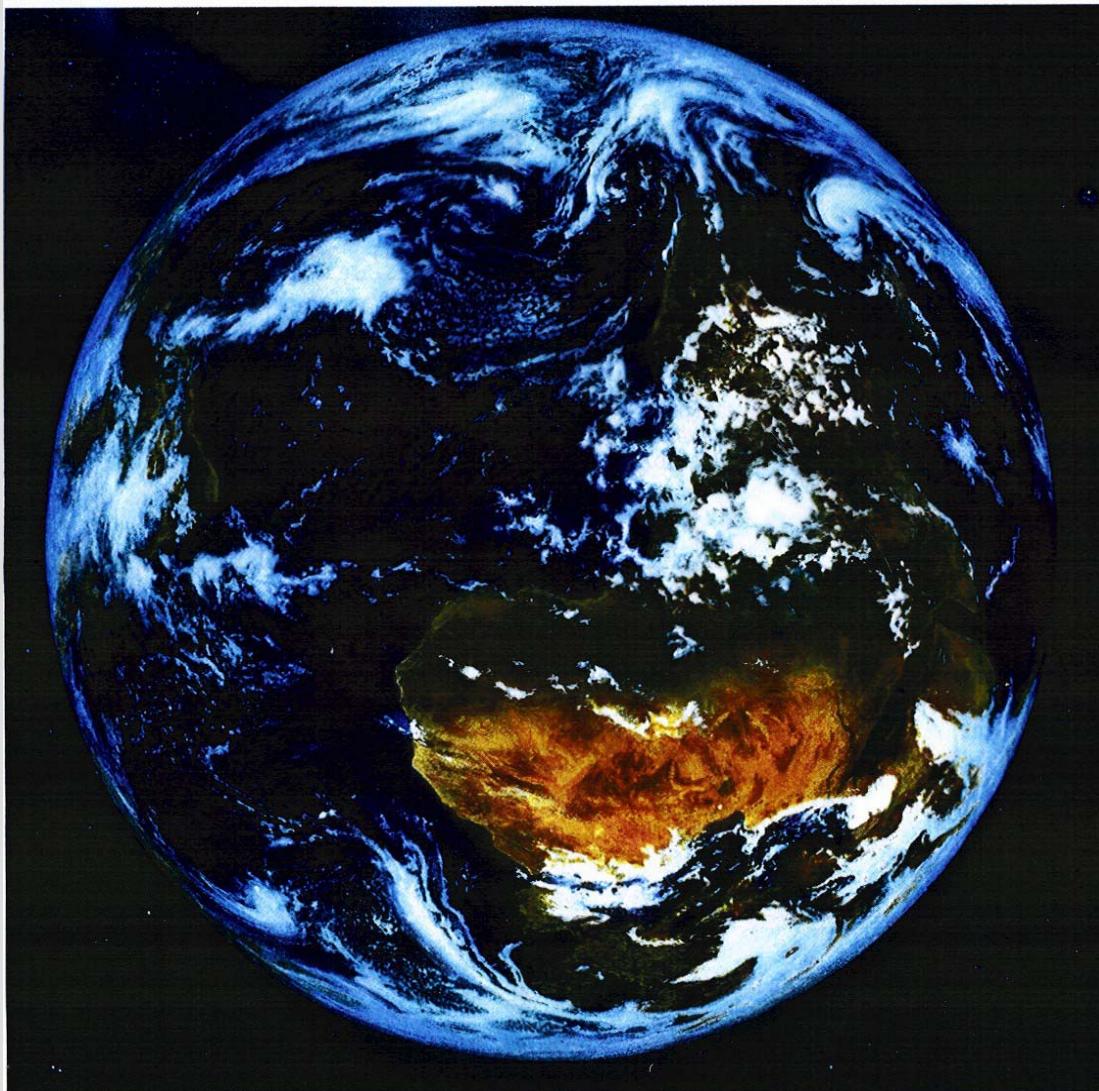
# Aerosol Precursor Measurements: Environments

- Free Atmosphere
- Atmospheric Boundary Layer
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- Burner Exhaust (laboratory)
- Flow Reactor (laboratory)

# Does Air Traffic Influence the ATMOSPHERE ?

- TRACE GASES
- AEROSOL
- CLOUDS
- CLIMATE

# Does Air Traffic influence Clouds ?

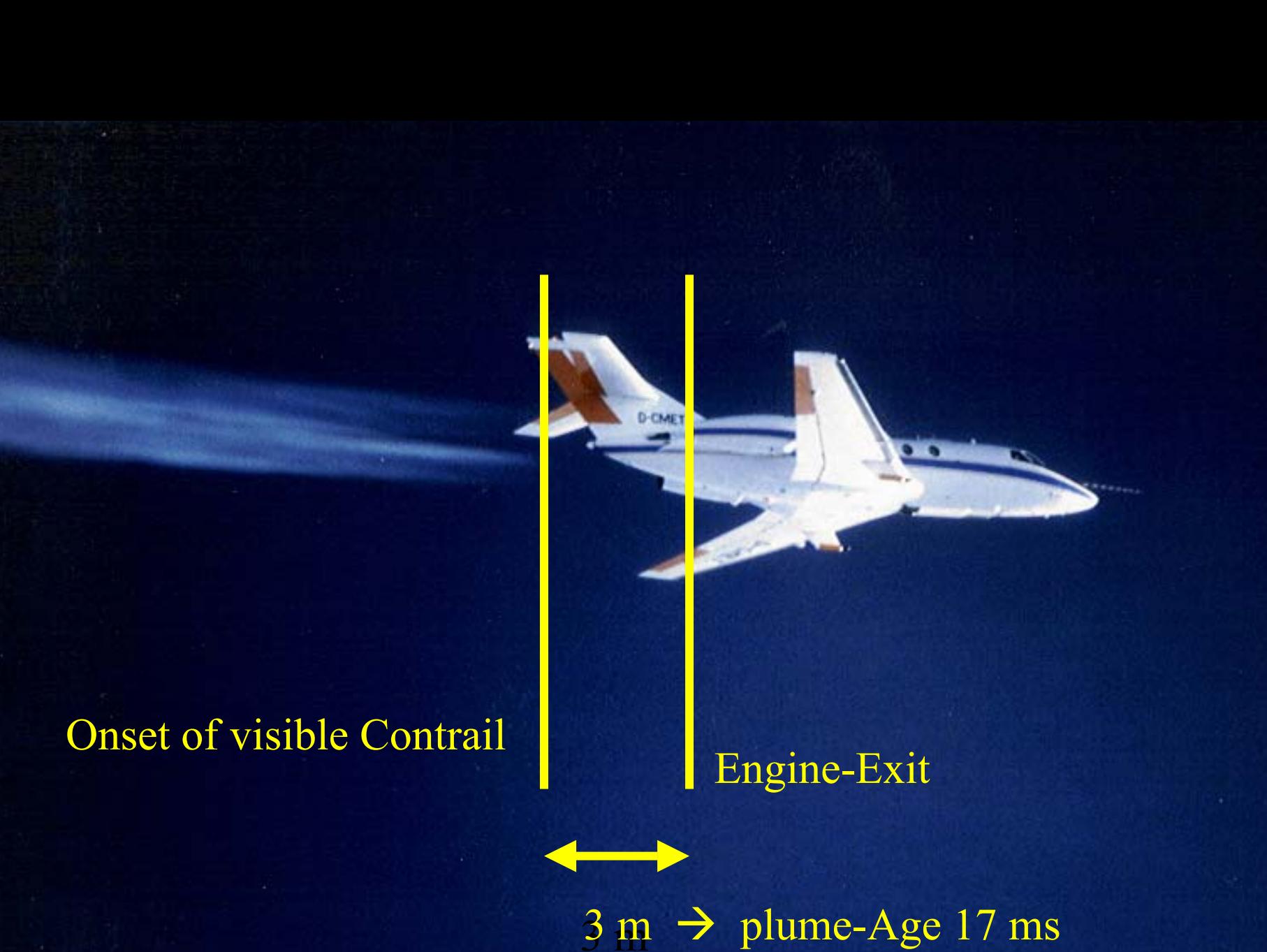


# CONDENSATION TRAIL

Most striking **Manifestation** of an  
Air Traffic Influence on  
Atmospheric Clouds



D-CMET



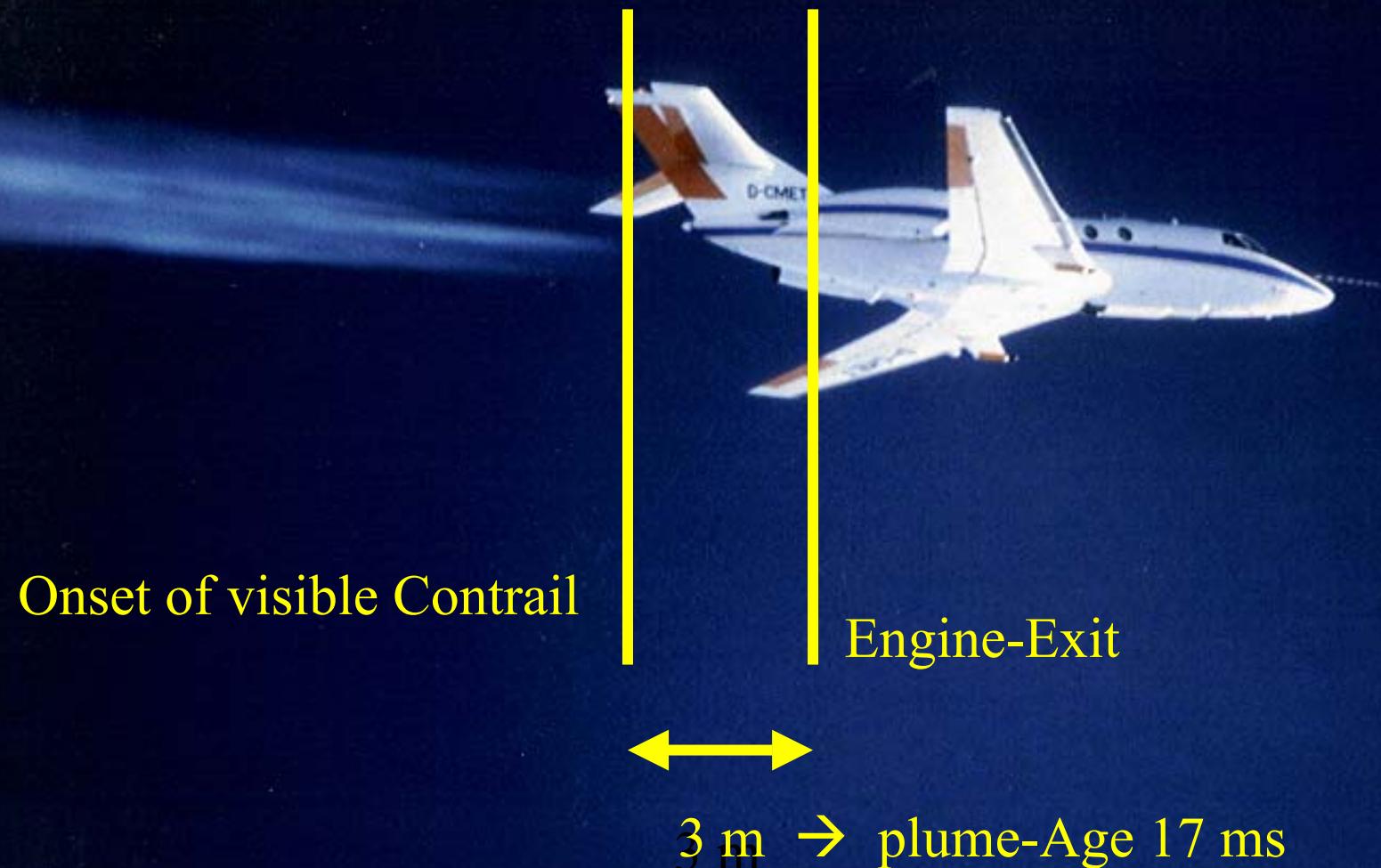
Onset of visible Contrail

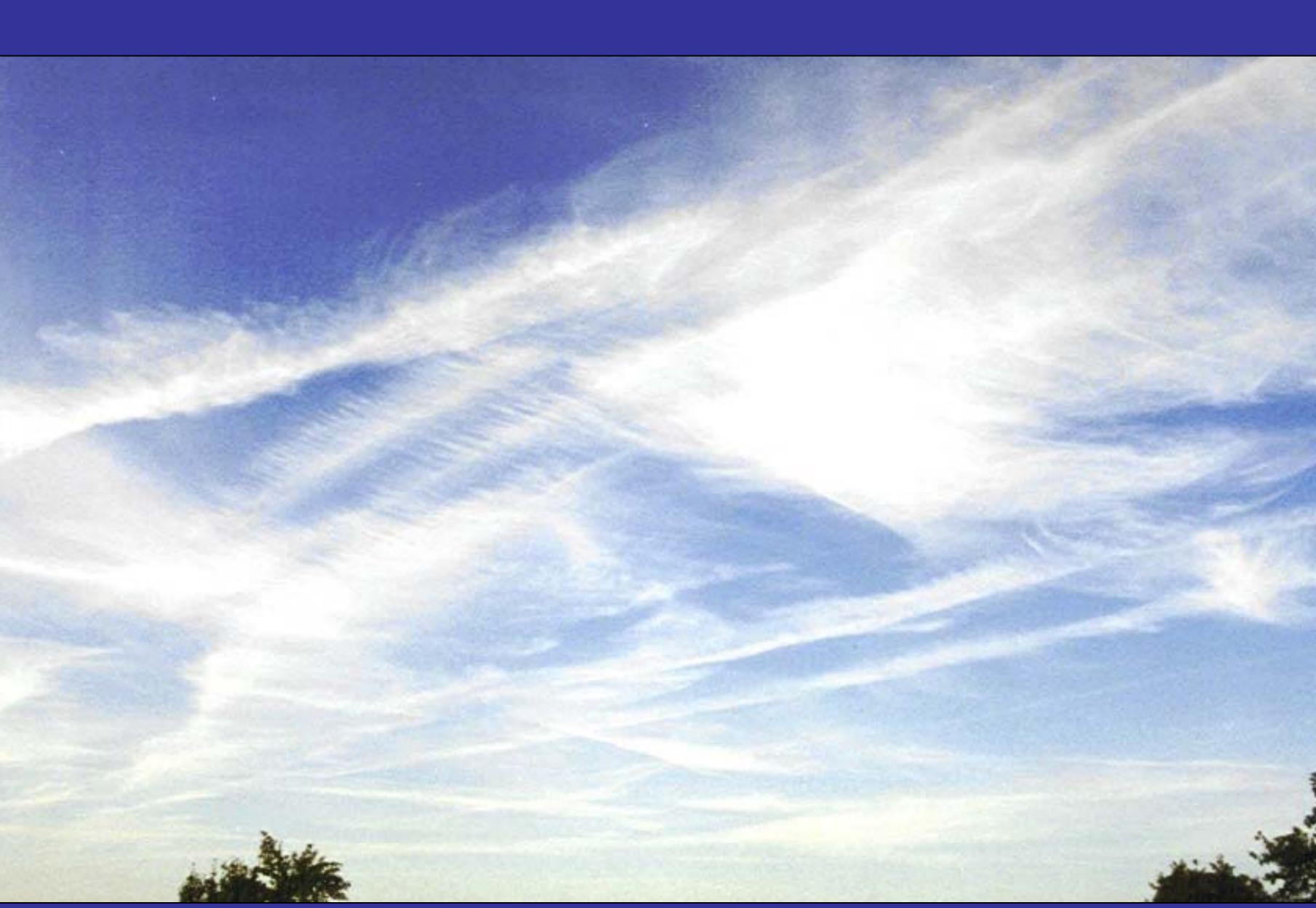
Engine-Exit

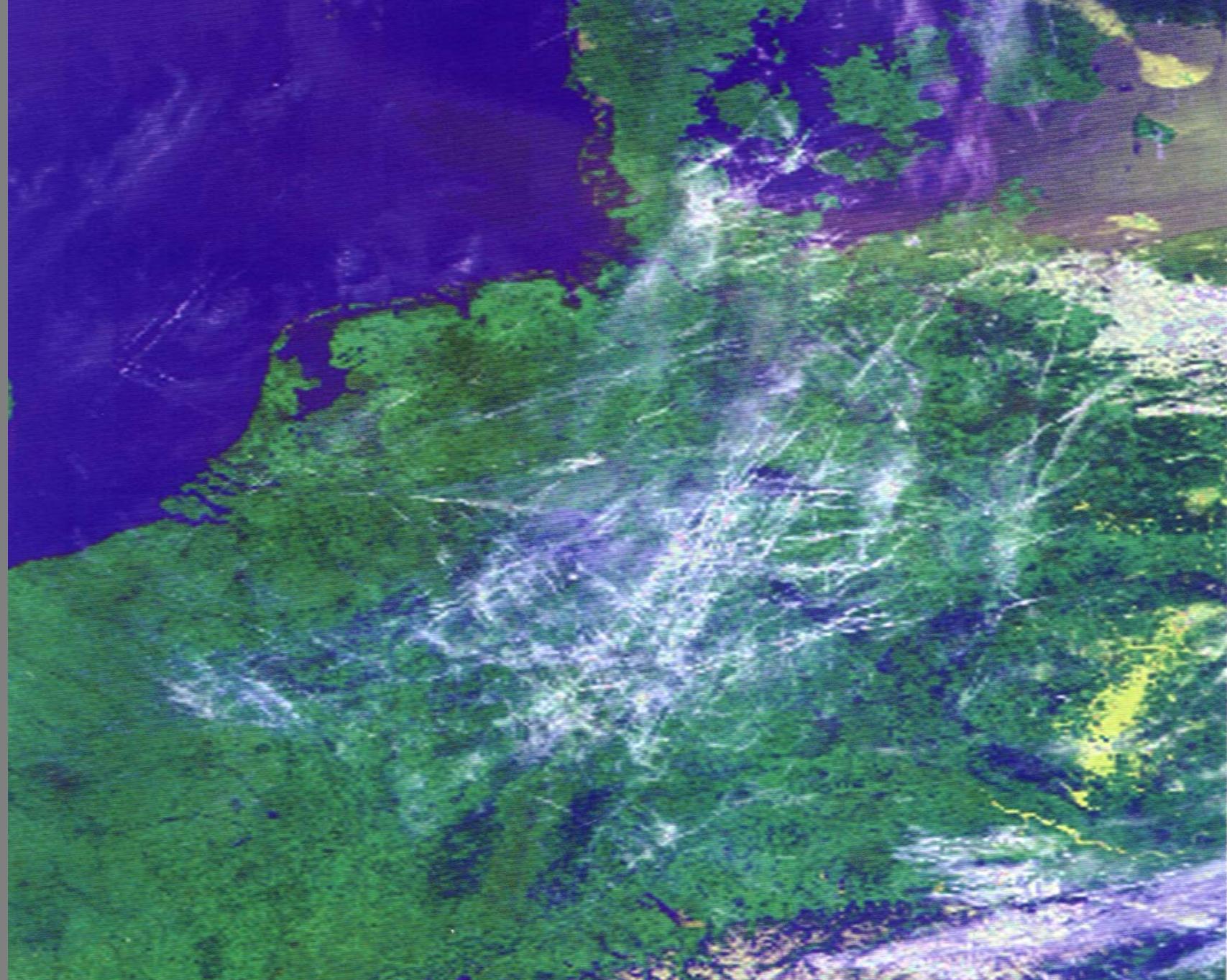


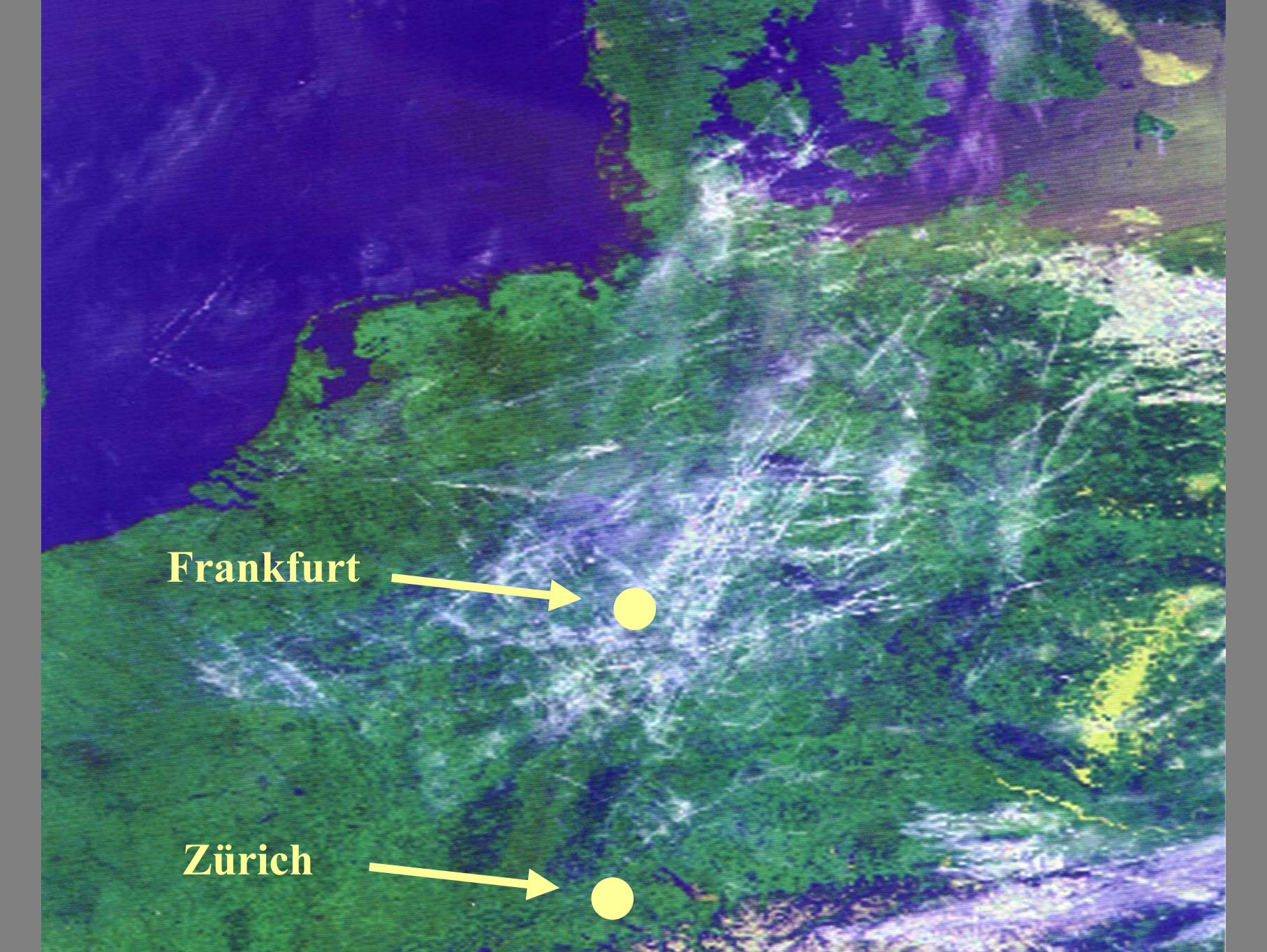
3 m → plume-Age 17 ms

# Water Vapour + Nuclei $\rightarrow$ Water Droplets







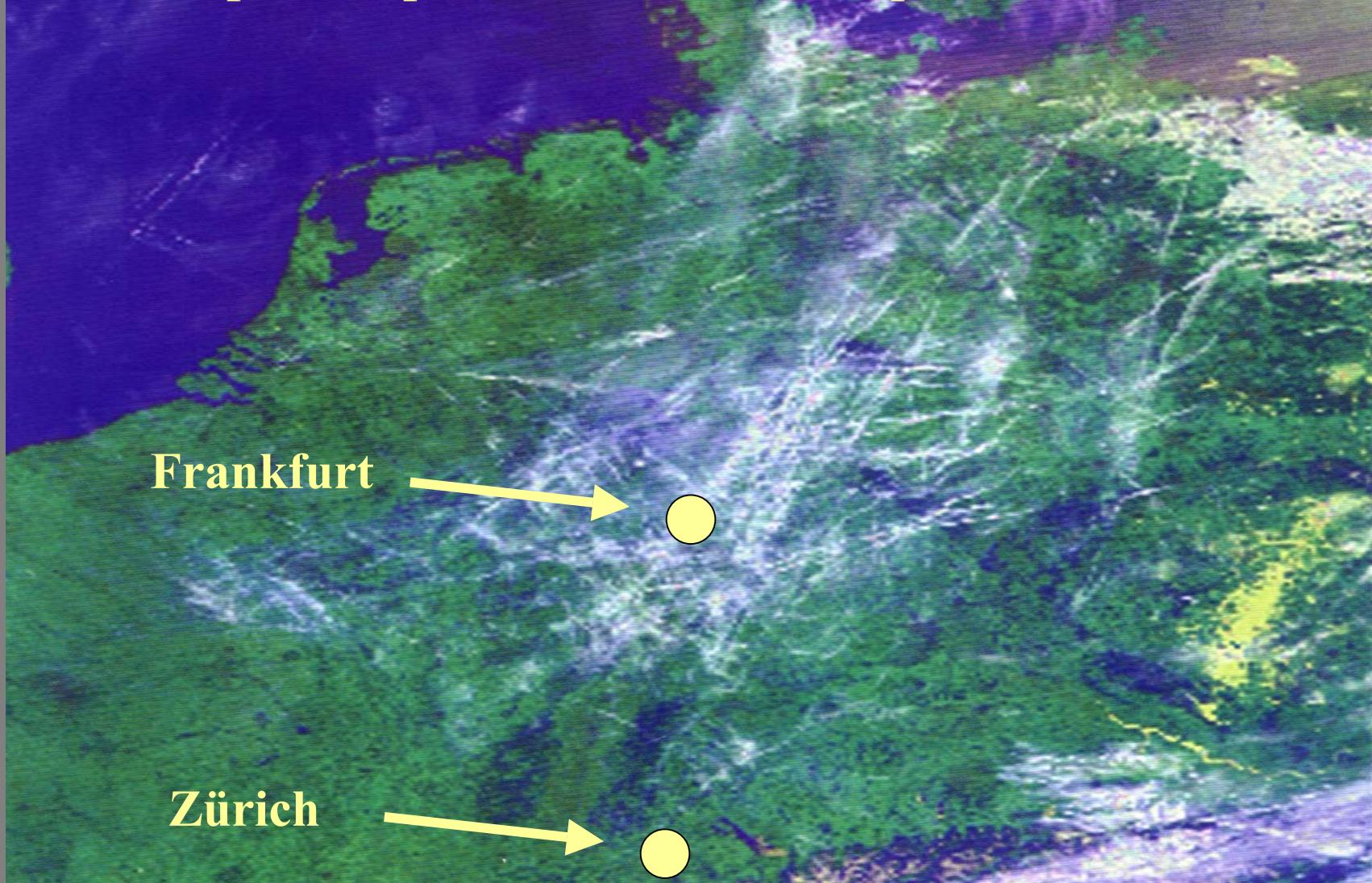


A satellite map of Europe showing landmasses in green and blue oceans. Two yellow arrows point from the text labels to specific locations: one arrow points from "Frankfurt" to a yellow dot near the Rhine River, and another arrow points from "Zürich" to a yellow dot near Lake Zurich.

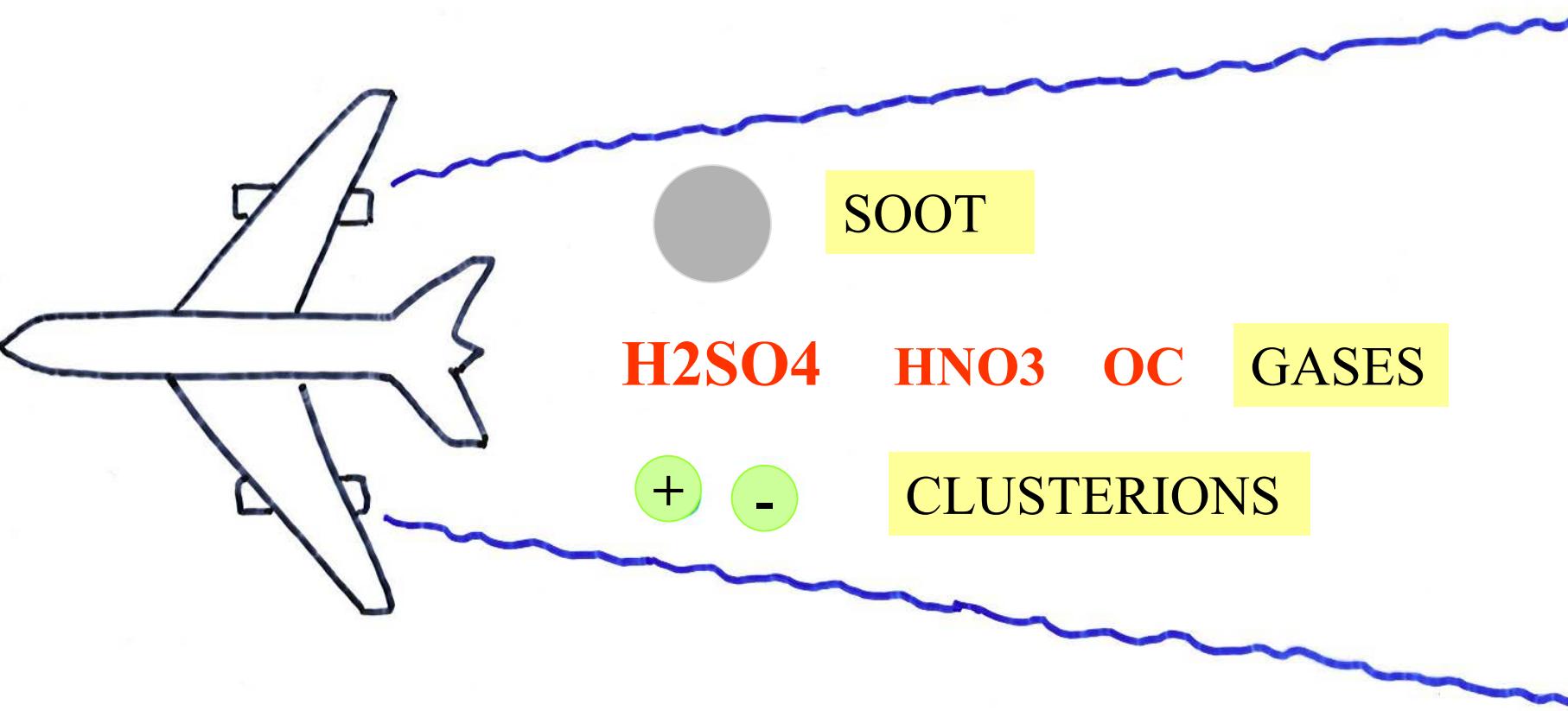
Frankfurt

Zürich

# Long-lived Contrails require Atmospheric Water Vapour Supersaturation with respect to Ice !



# Aerosol-Precursors and Primary Aerosol in the Early Aircraft-Wake



# SULFURIC ACID MOLECULE

## H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

- Most important property : large **GA**
  - proton transfer to other molecule with large **PA**  
( example **H<sub>2</sub>O** ) → strong **H-Bond**
  - Gas-Phase Hydrates **H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>**

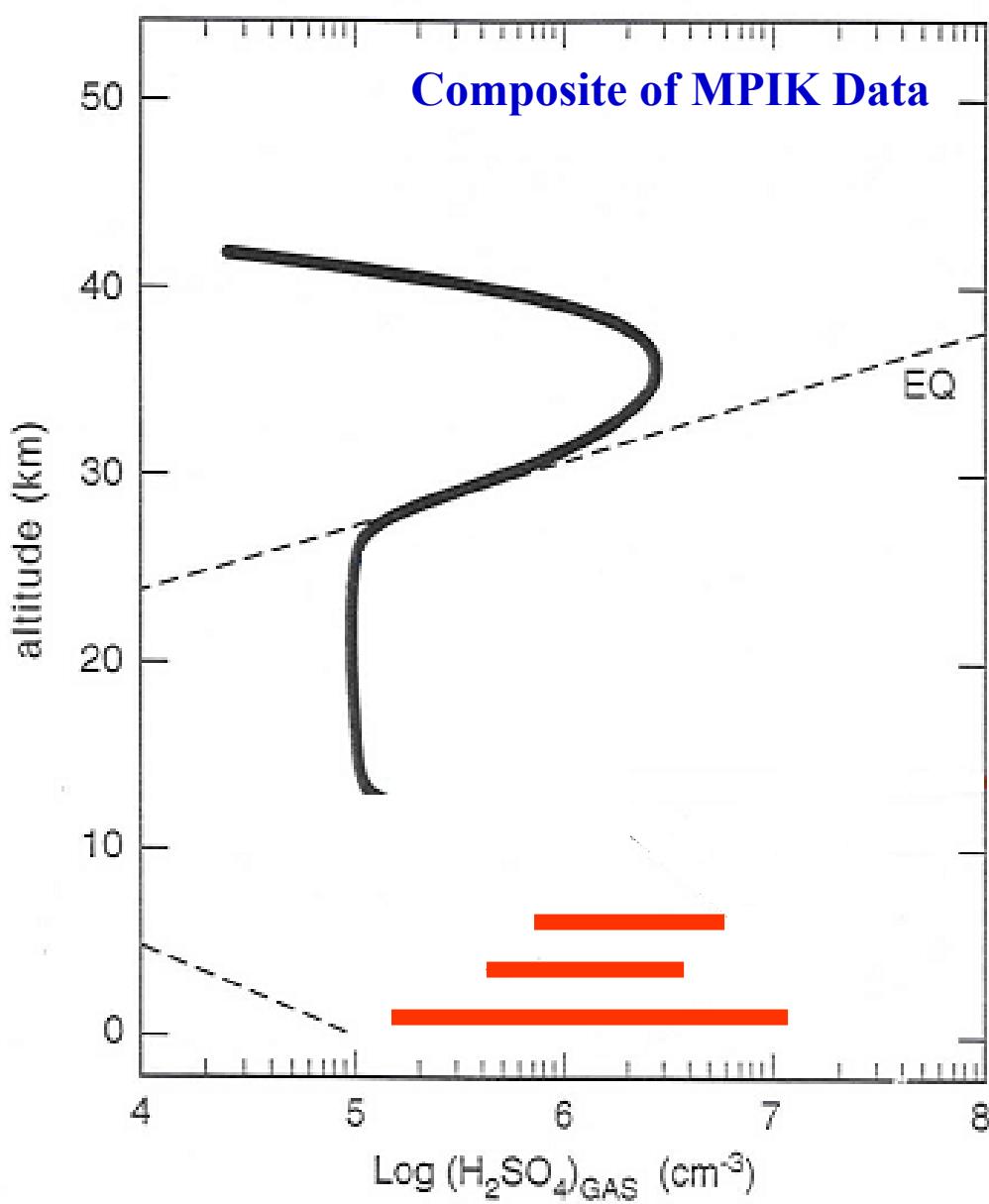
# SULFURIC ACID MOLECULE

## H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

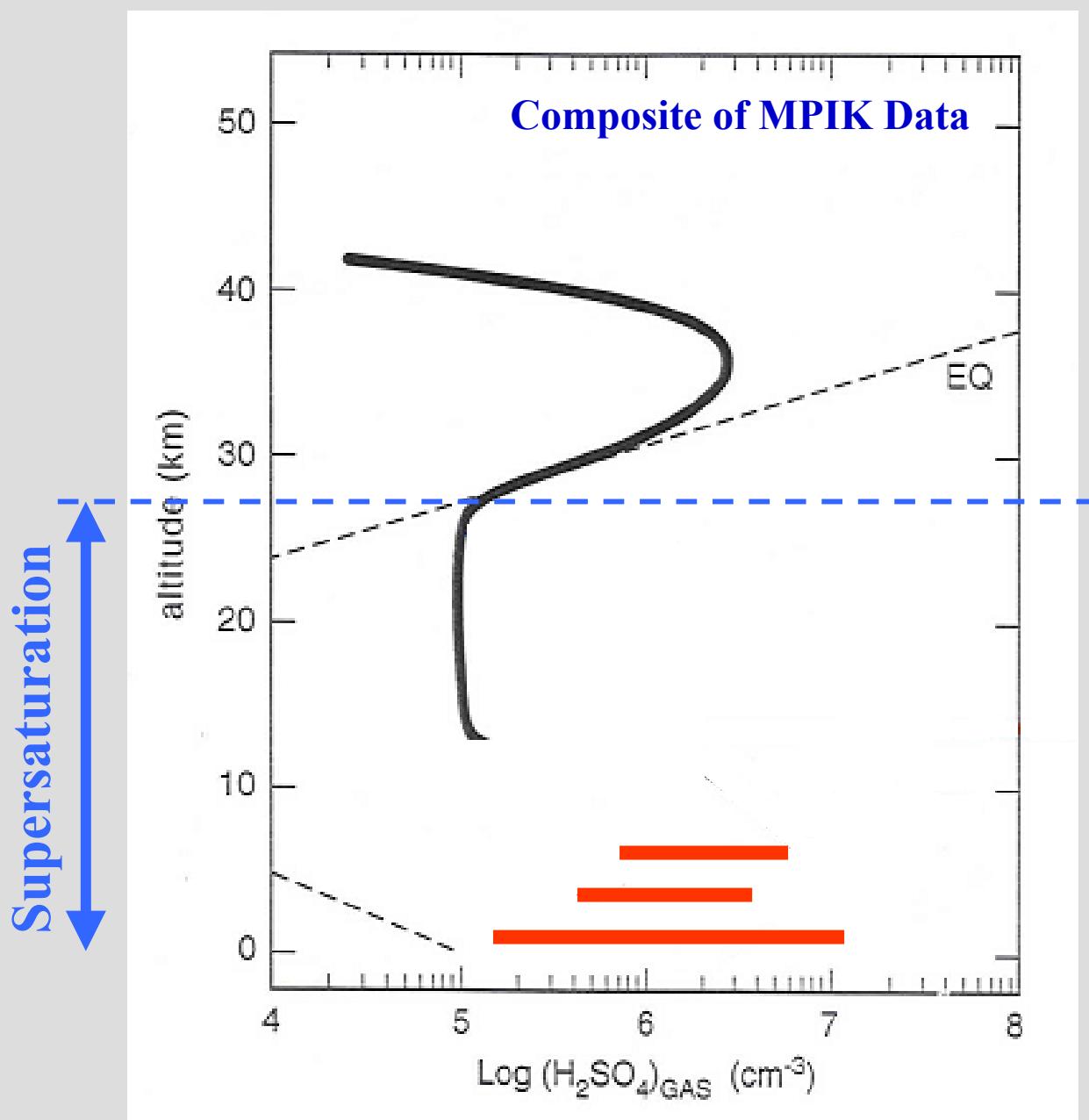
- Most important property : large **GA**
  - proton transfer to other molecule with large **PA**  
( example **H<sub>2</sub>O** ) → strong **H-Bond**  
→ Gas-Phase Hydrates **H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>**
- Atmosphere :  
**Primary H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>** released from combustion  
**Secondary H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>** formed in Atmosphere from **SO<sub>2</sub>**  
→ Supersaturation → **H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O Condensation**

# Gaseous Sulfuric Acid in the Atmosphere

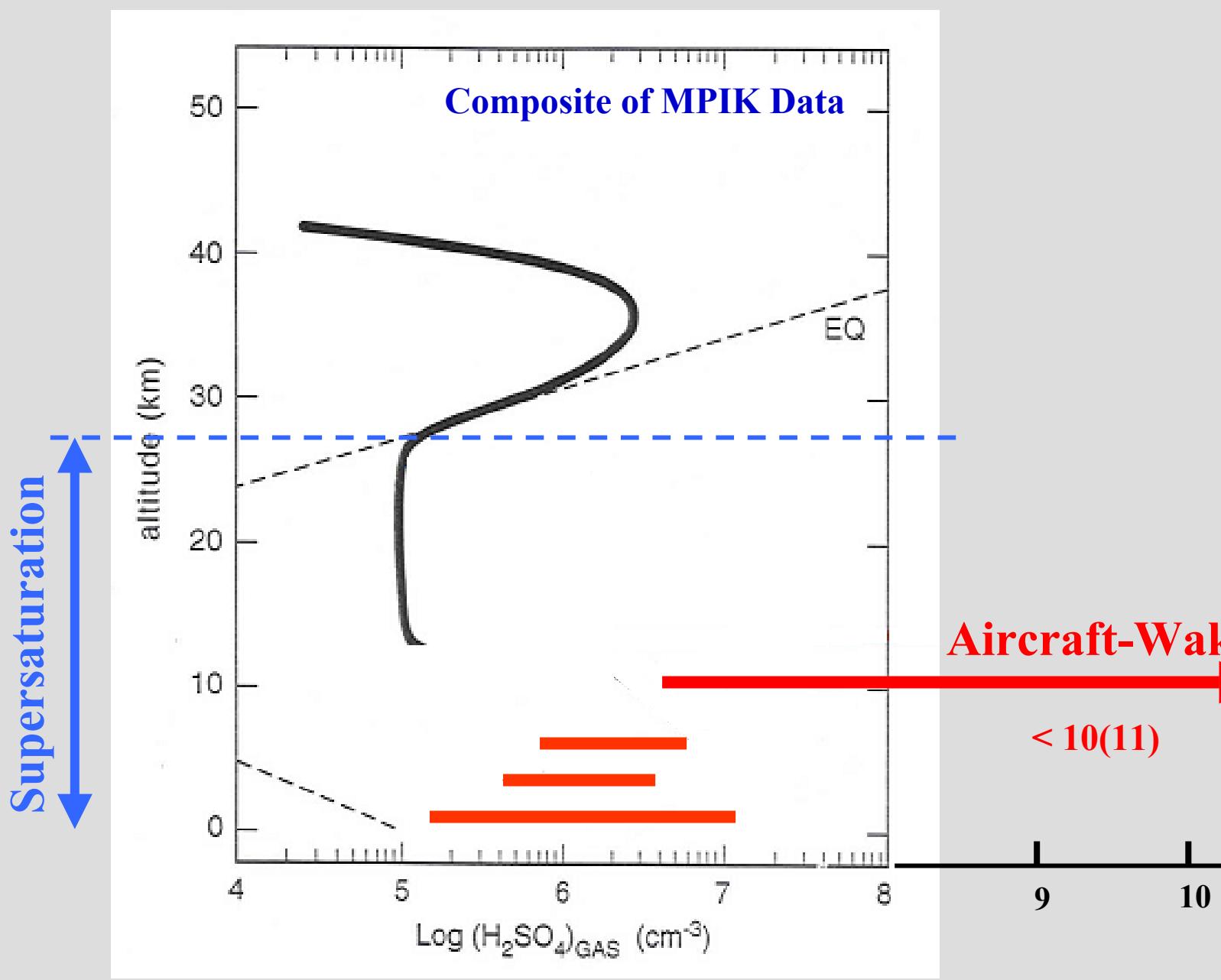
# ATMOSPHERIC GASEOUS SULFURIC ACID



# ATMOSPHERIC GASEOUS SULFURIC ACID



# ATMOSPHERIC GASEOUS SULFURIC ACID



# Aircraft Engine Exhaust

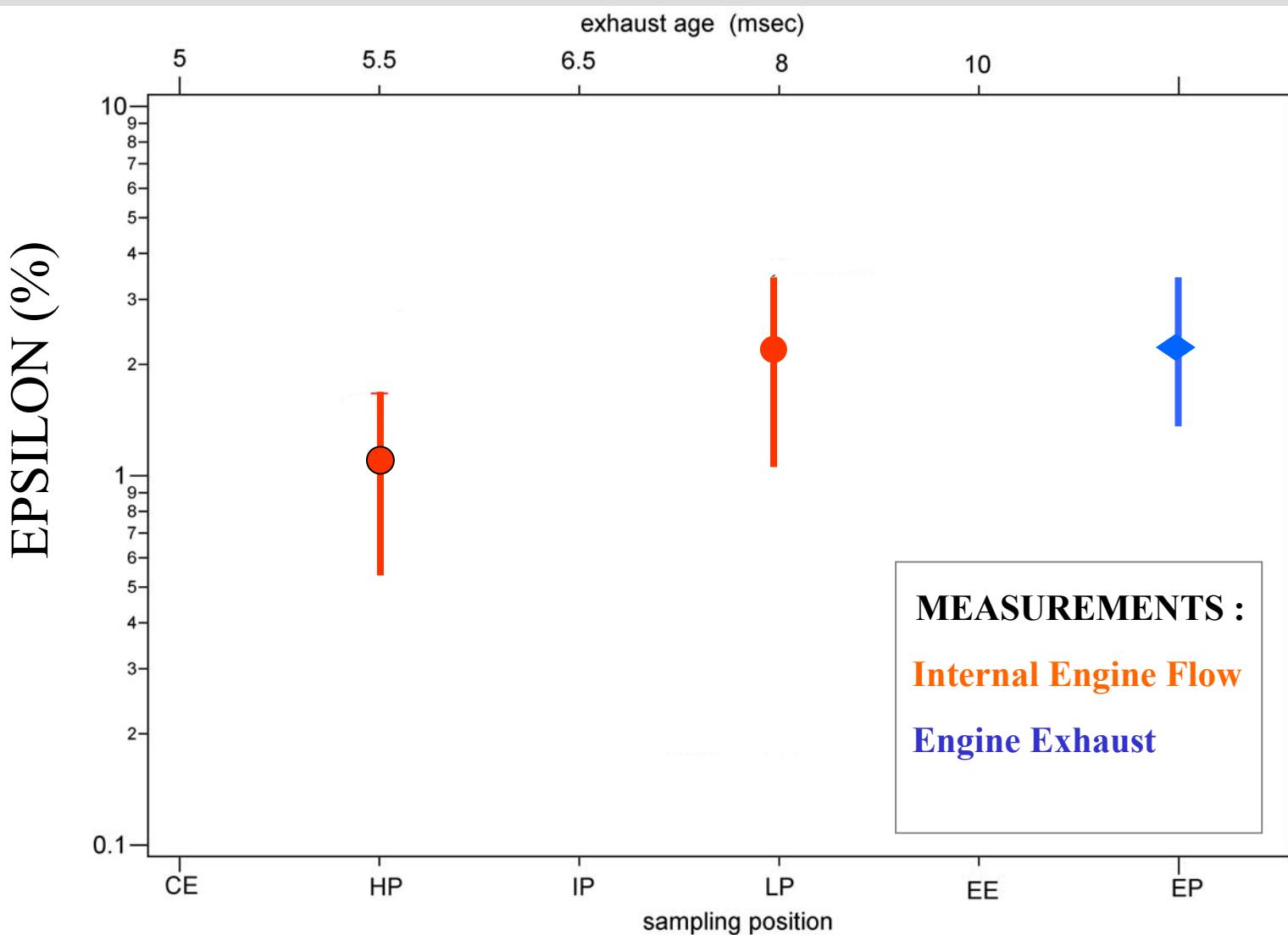
**Gaseous Sulfuric Acid**  
Measurements at Ground-Level

# CIMS

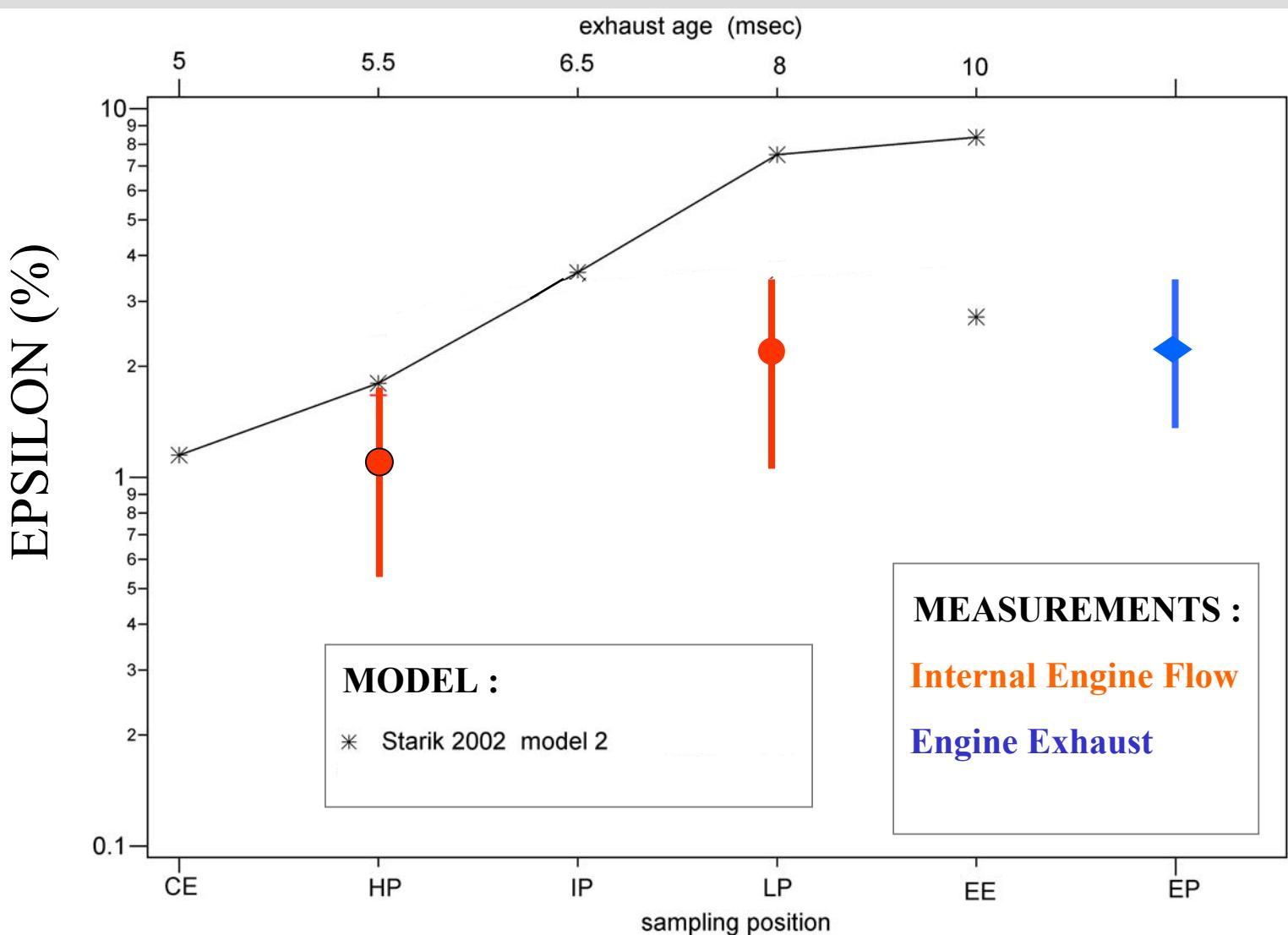
(Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometry)

CIMS-Apparatus equipped with  
Quadrupole Ion Trap Mass Spectrometer  
→ Improved Species Identification

$$\text{EPSILON} = (\text{SO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) / \text{S}$$

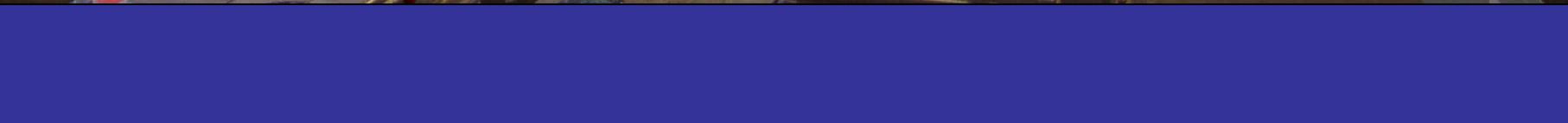


$$\text{EPSILON} = (\text{SO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) / \text{S}$$



# Aircraft Wake

Gaseous Sulfuric Acid  
Measurements



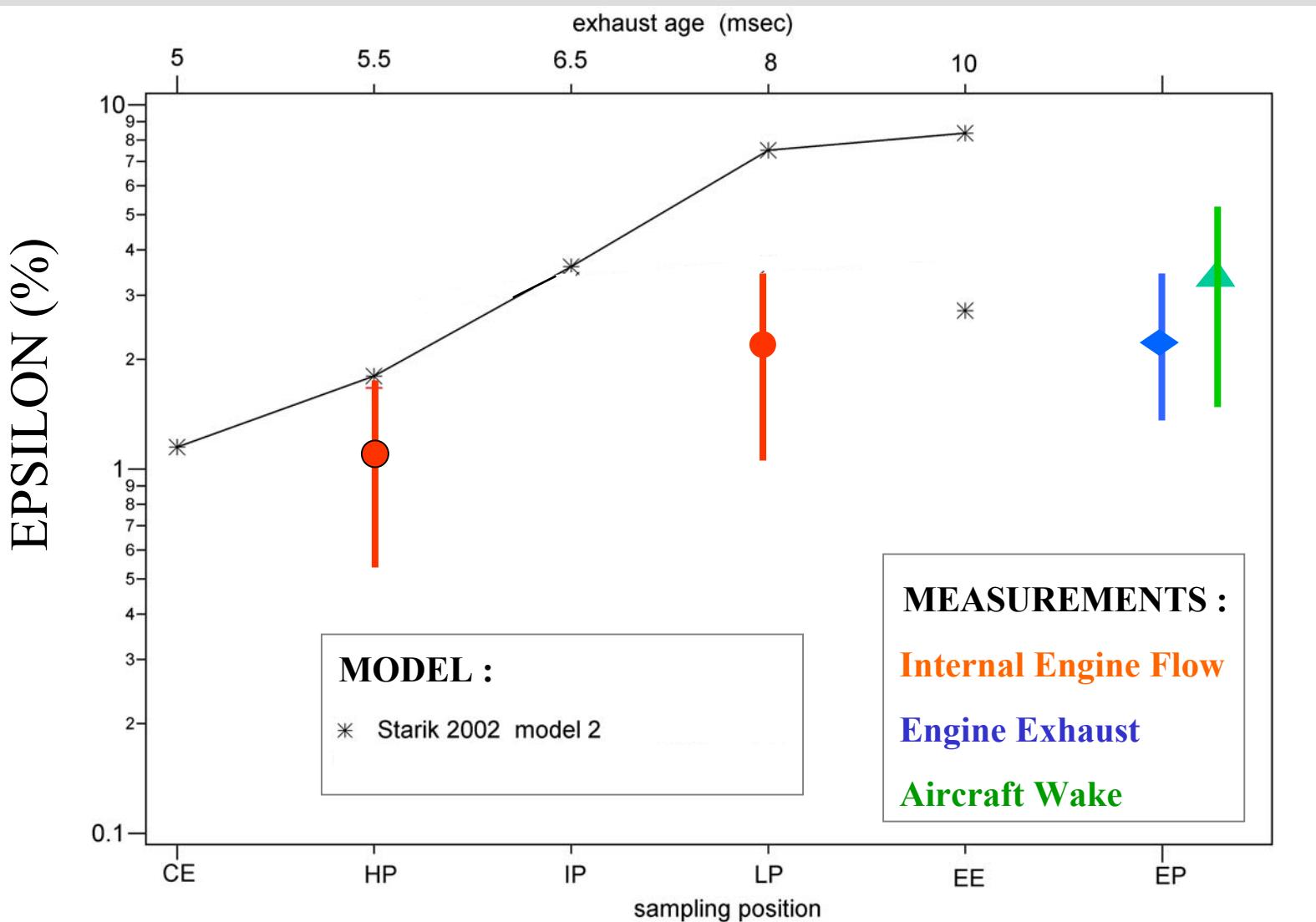


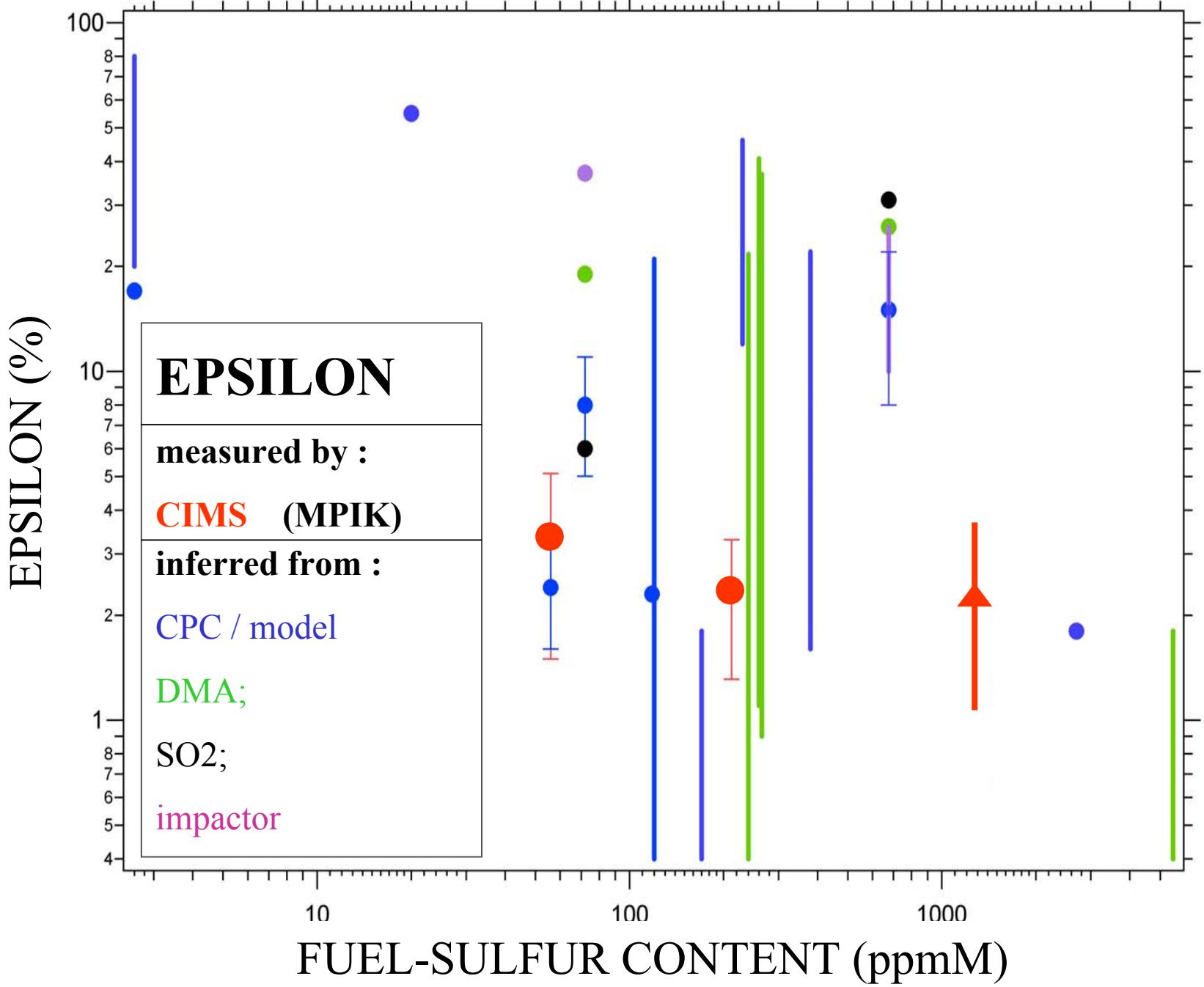


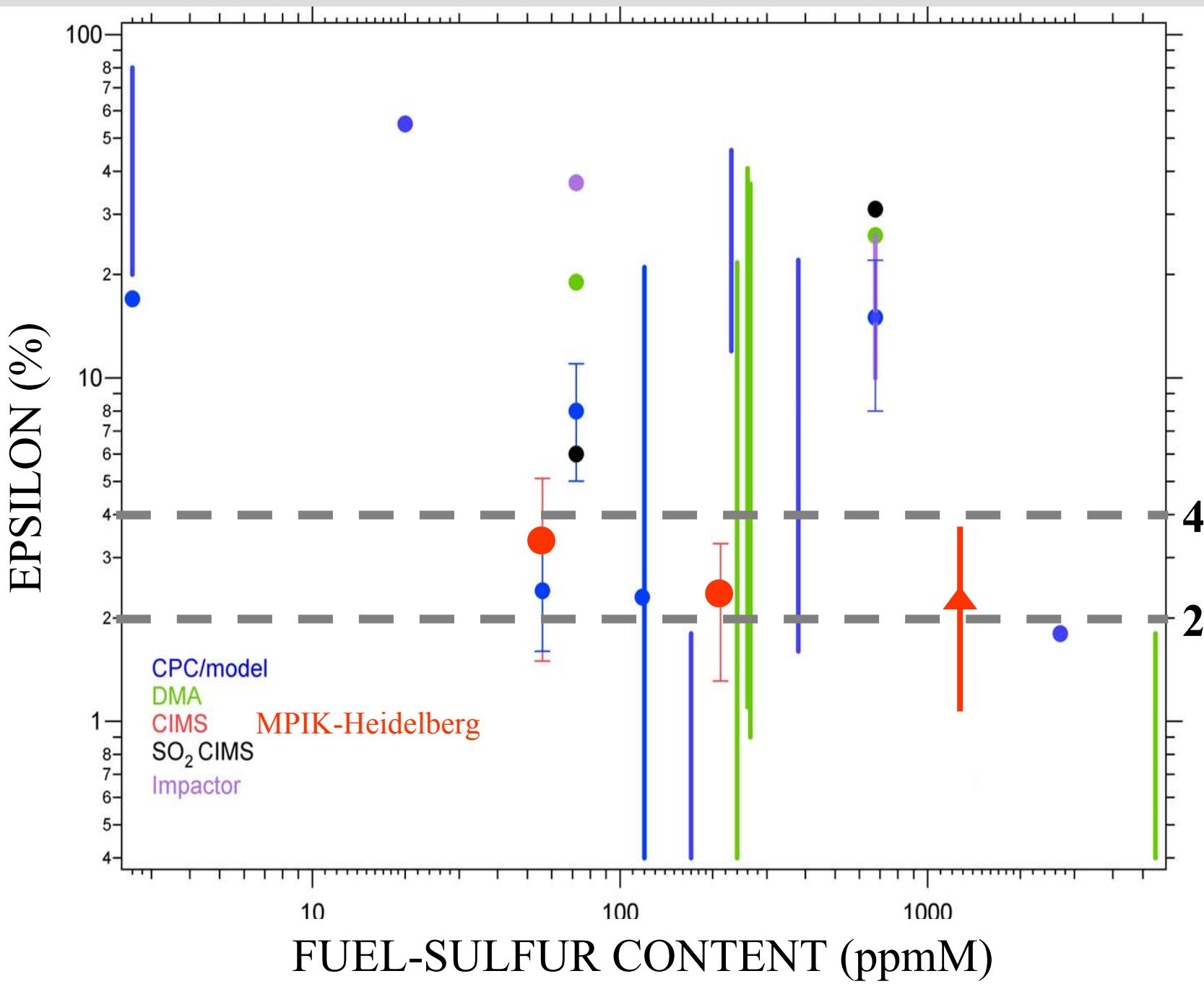




$$\text{EPSILON} = (\text{SO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) / \text{S}$$







# EMISSION INDEX ( mg / kg )

For modern engine and FSC=400 (100-3000) ppmM

H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> - CONDENSATE

73 (18-550)

SOOT

10

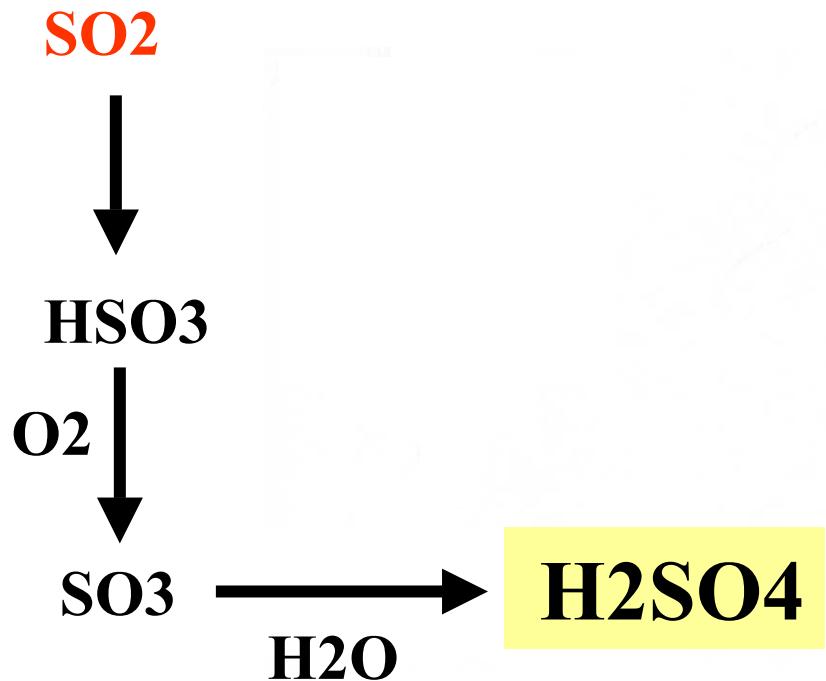
COND. HC.

10

# Gaseous Sulfuric Acid

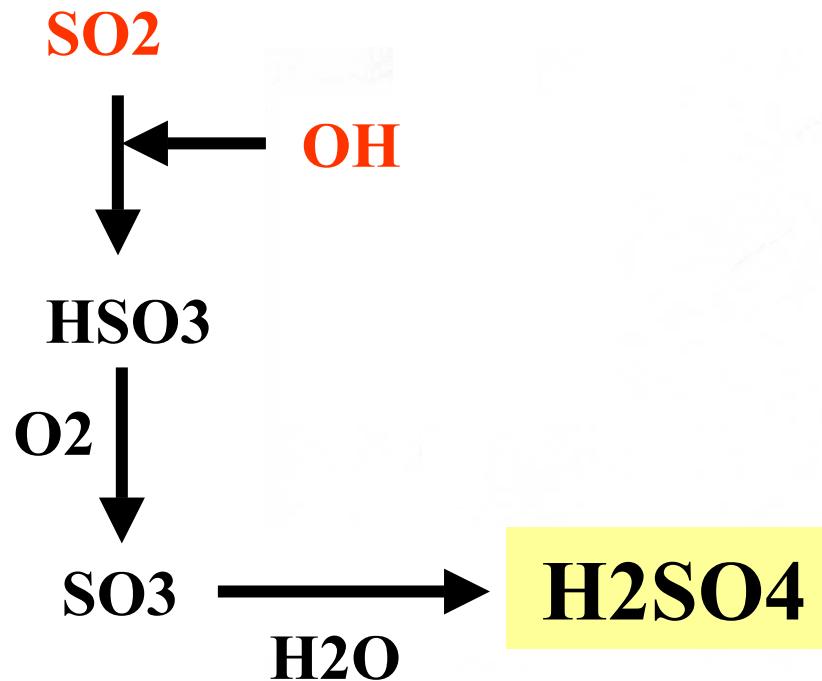
Processes in  
Aircraft Wake

# Gaseous Sulfuric Acid Formation and Loss in Aircraft Engine Exhaust



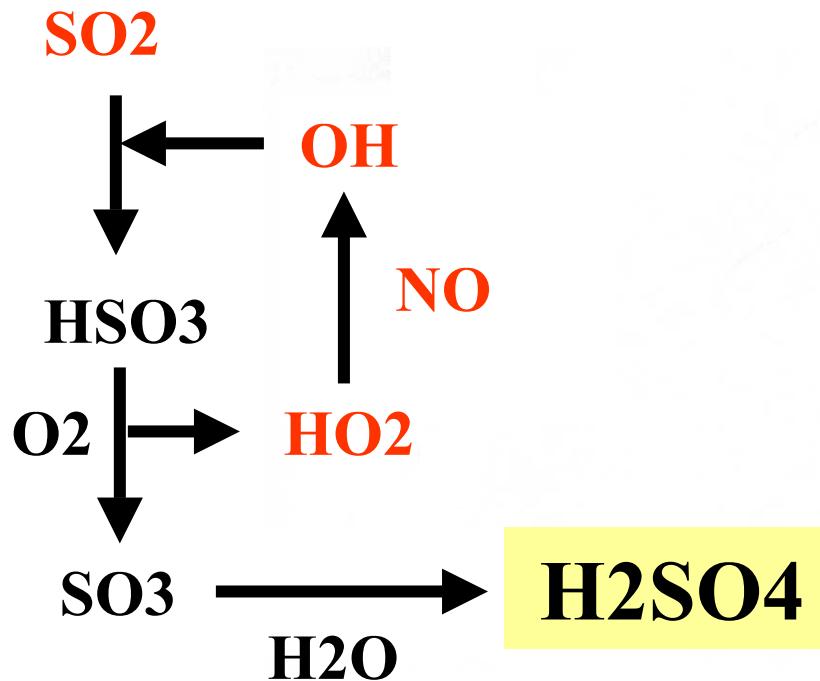
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COMBUSTOR

# Gaseous Sulfuric Acid Formation and Loss in Aircraft Engine Exhaust



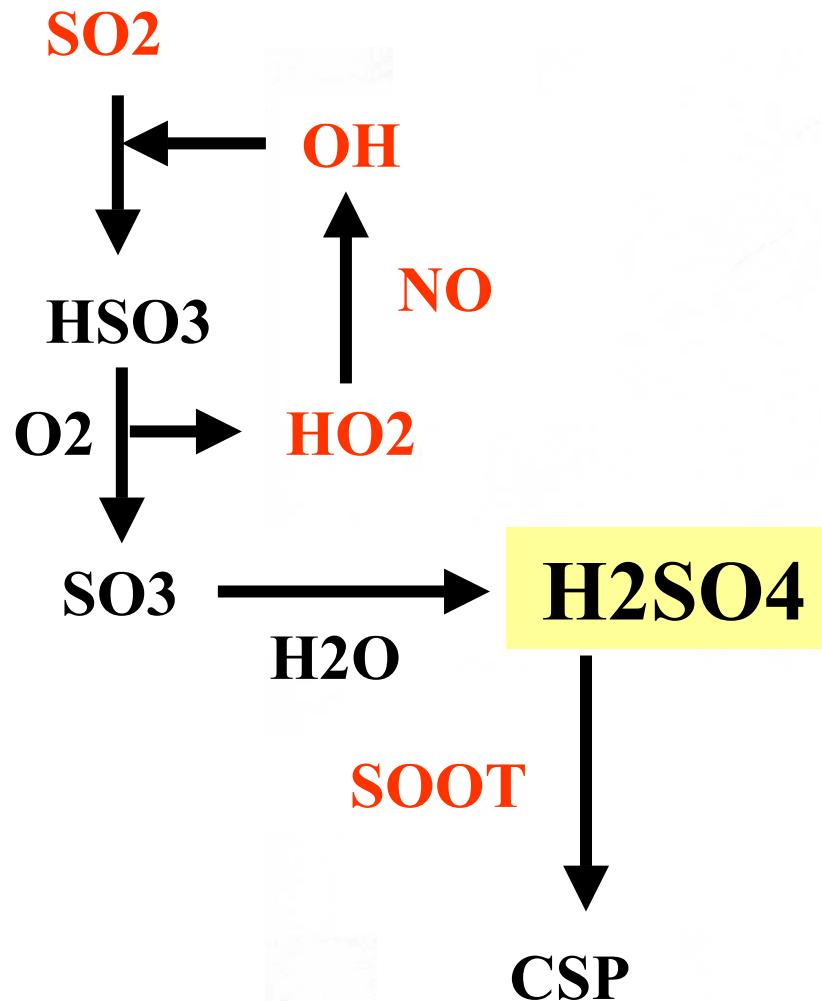
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# Gaseous Sulfuric Acid Formation and Loss in Aircraft Engine Exhaust

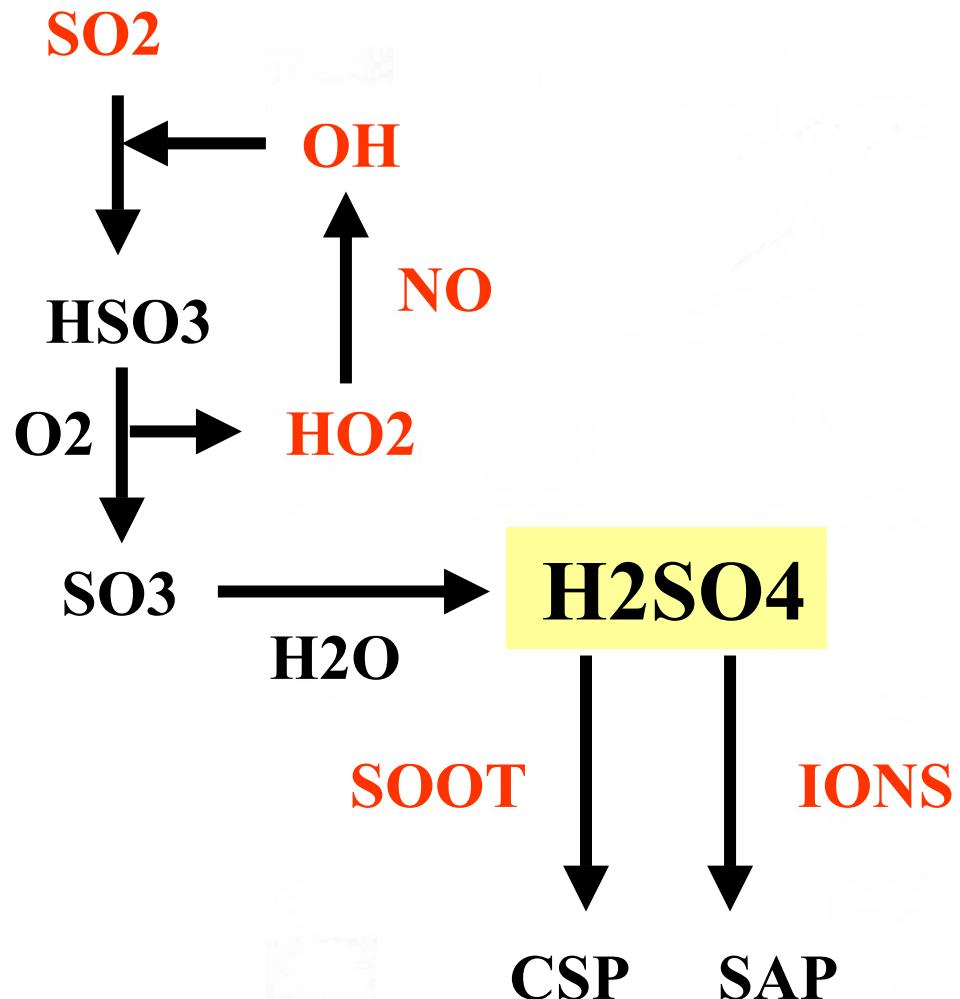


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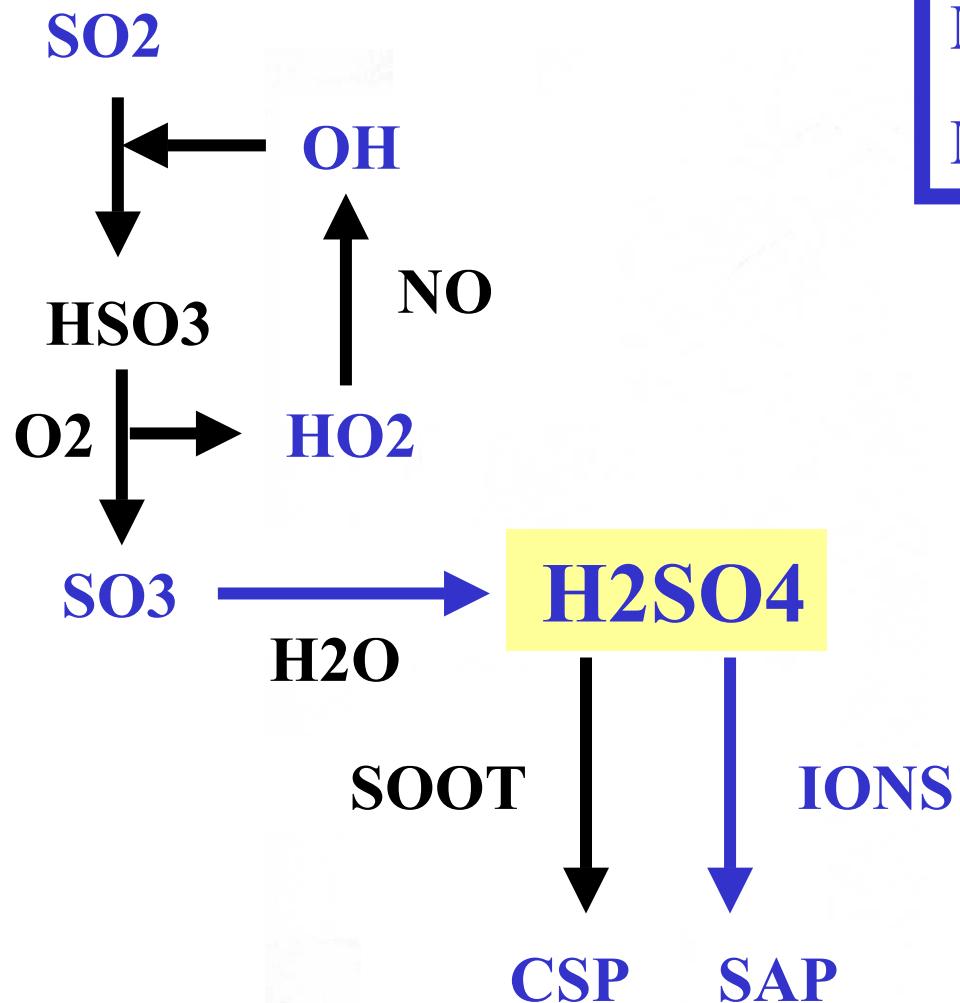


# Gaseous Sulfuric Acid Formation and Loss in Aircraft Engine Exhaust



From  
COMBUSTOR

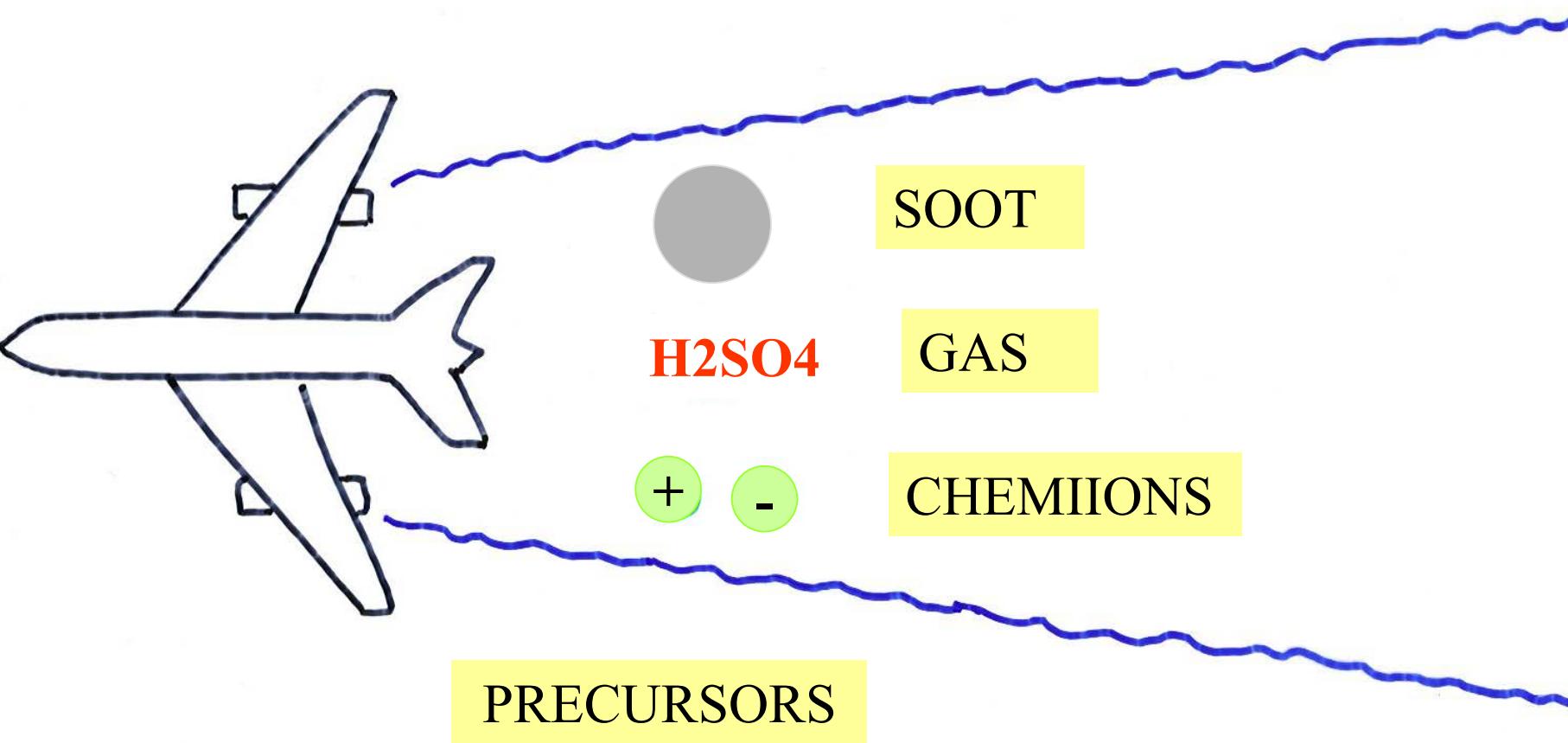
# Gaseous Sulfuric Acid Formation and Loss in Aircraft Engine Exhaust



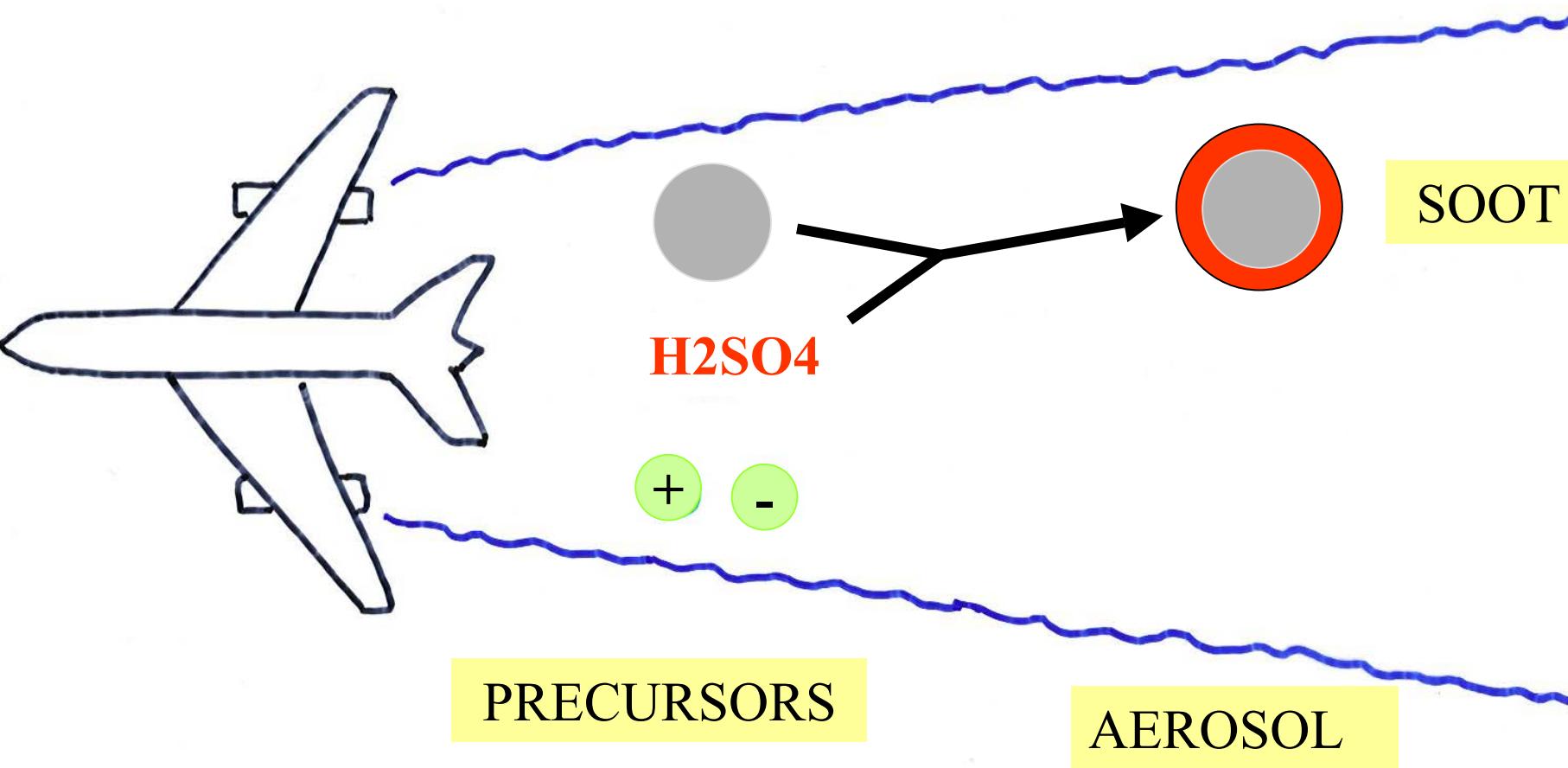
Measured by  
MPIK-Heidelberg

# CONLUSIONS

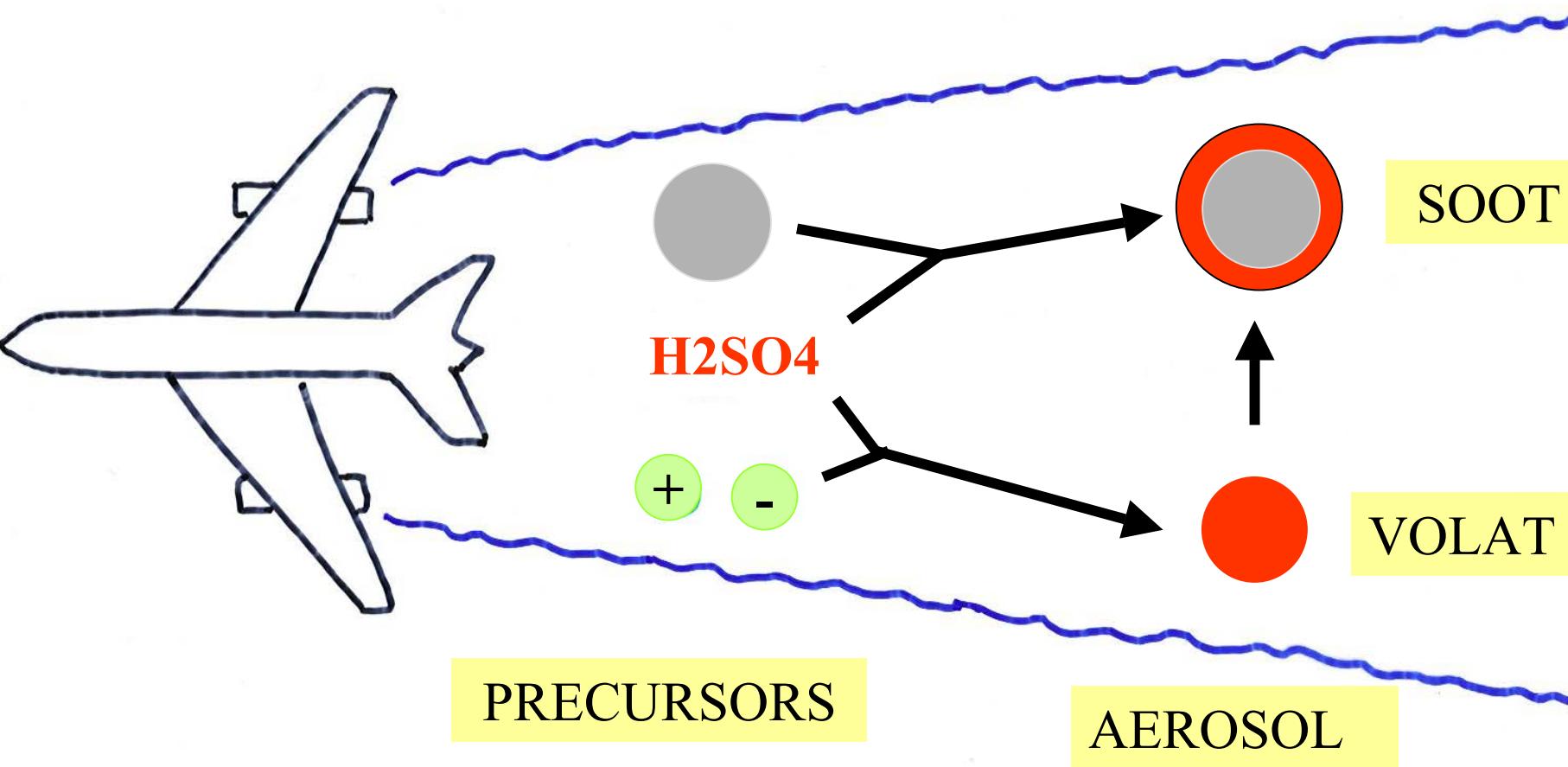
# SULFURIC ACID AEROSOL PARTICLES FROM AIRCRAFT



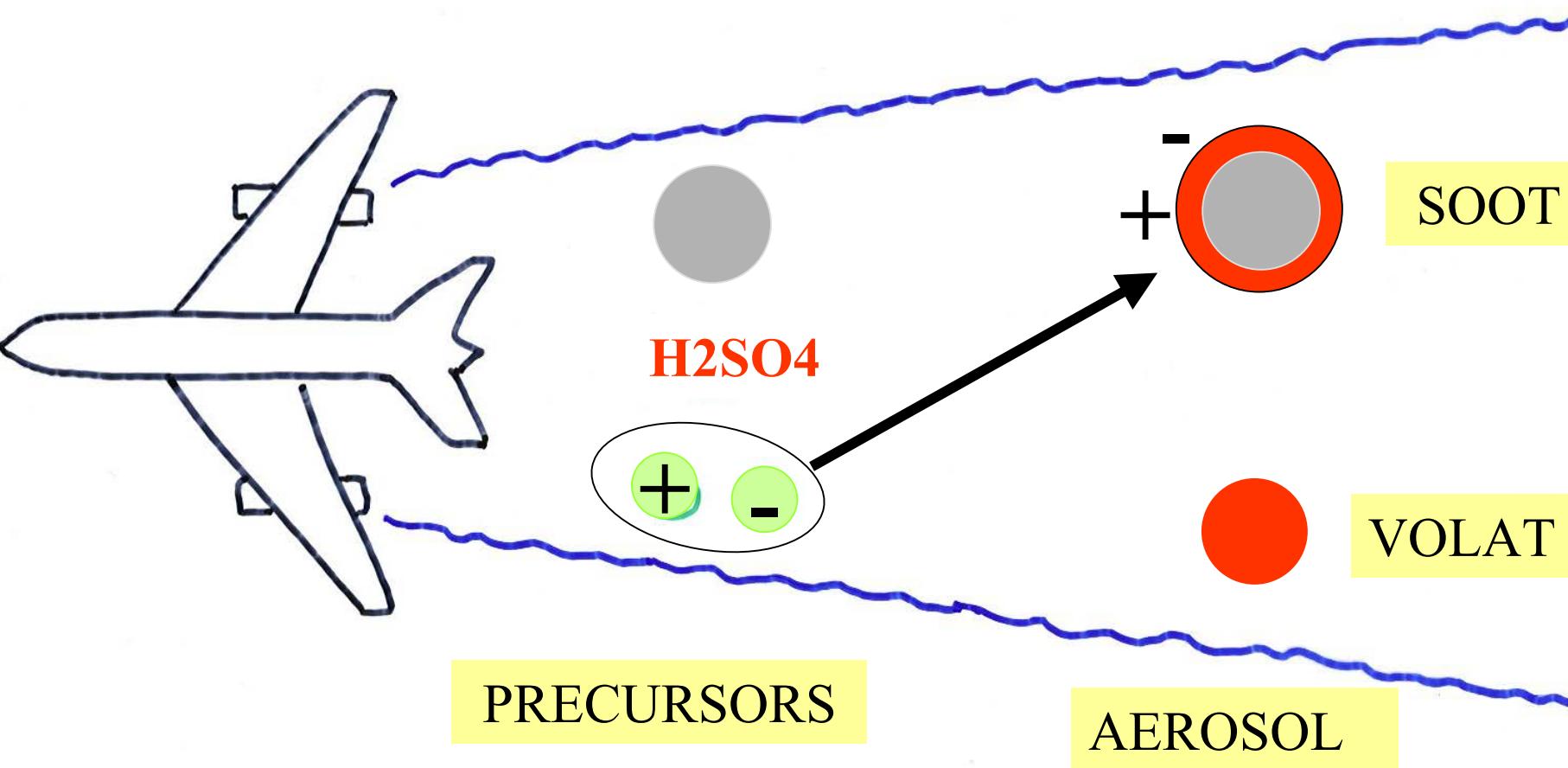
# SULFURIC ACID AEROSOL PARTICLES FROM AIRCRAFT



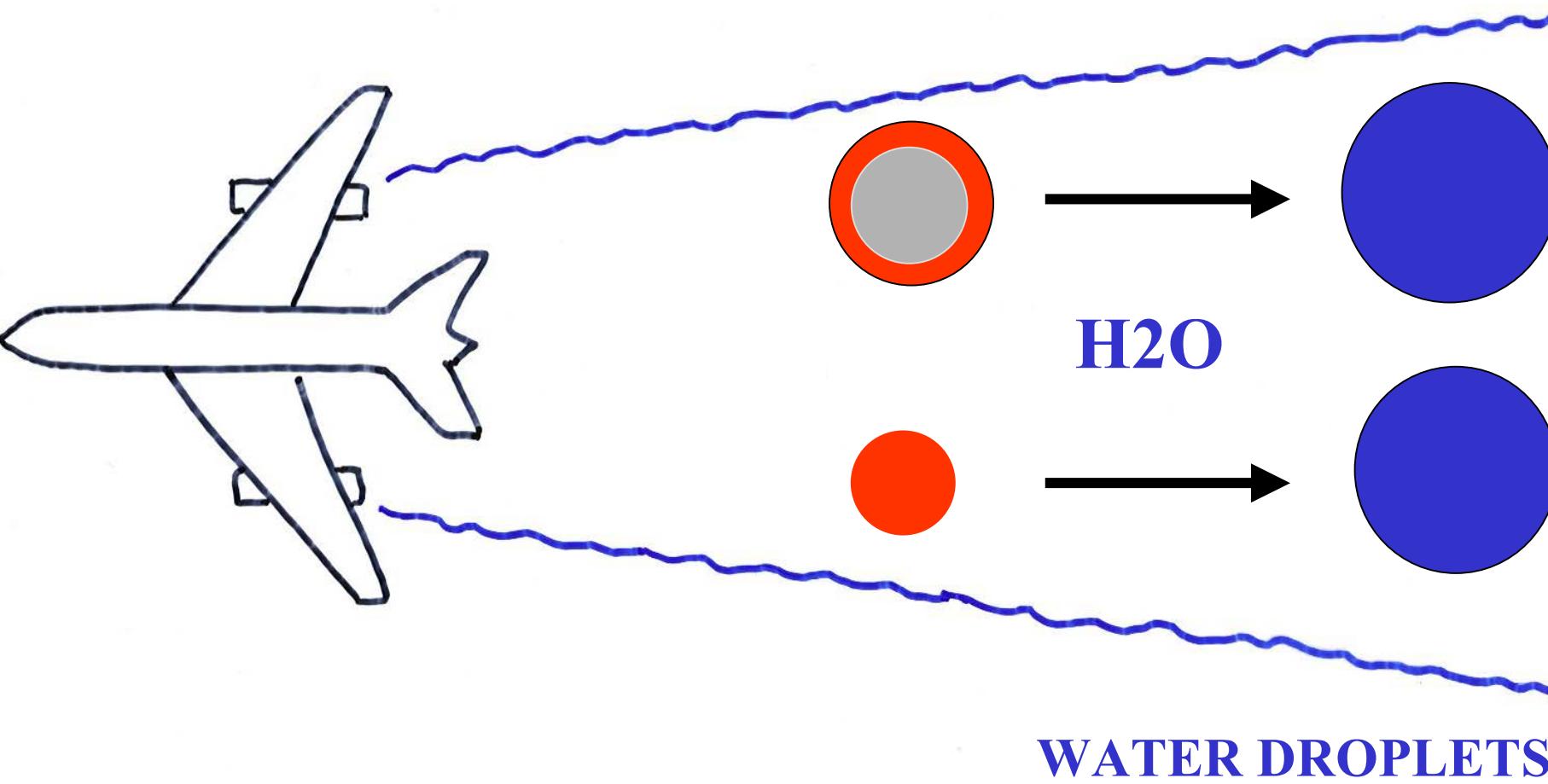
# SULFURIC ACID AEROSOL PARTICLES FROM AIRCRAFT



# SULFURIC ACID AEROSOL PARTICLES FROM AIRCRAFT



Sulfuric Acid Aerosols act as **Water Vapour Condensation Nuclei**



# Aircraft Generated Sulfuric Acid

- May promote **Contrail** Formation
- May promote Atmospheric **CCN** Formation

# Acknowledgement

## Contributions by our GROUP MEMBERS

( 2000-2004 , **2004 only** )

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