



SNOWFLAKE GROWTH

VARYING MICROENVIRONMENTS

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OBJECTIVE

- ▶ TO GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF FUNDAMENTAL FUNCTIONING OF THE VERY ENVIRONMENT WE LIVE IN, BY MEANS OF CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS.
- ▶ DELVING INTO THE APPLICATIVE RESEARCH ORIENTED PERSPECTIVE OF MATERIAL SCIENCES.

FUNDAMENTAL
PHYSICS

FUNDAMENTAL
CHEMIST.

FUNDAMENTAL
MATHS.

FUNDAMENTAL
METEO-
-ROLGY

PRACTICAL
APPLICATIONS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

THIS PROJECT DELVES INTO THE PHYSICAL DYNAMICS OF ICE CRYSTAL/SNOW FLAKE GROWTH.

THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY PHYSICAL EFFECTS THAT GOVERN ICE GROWTH RATES —

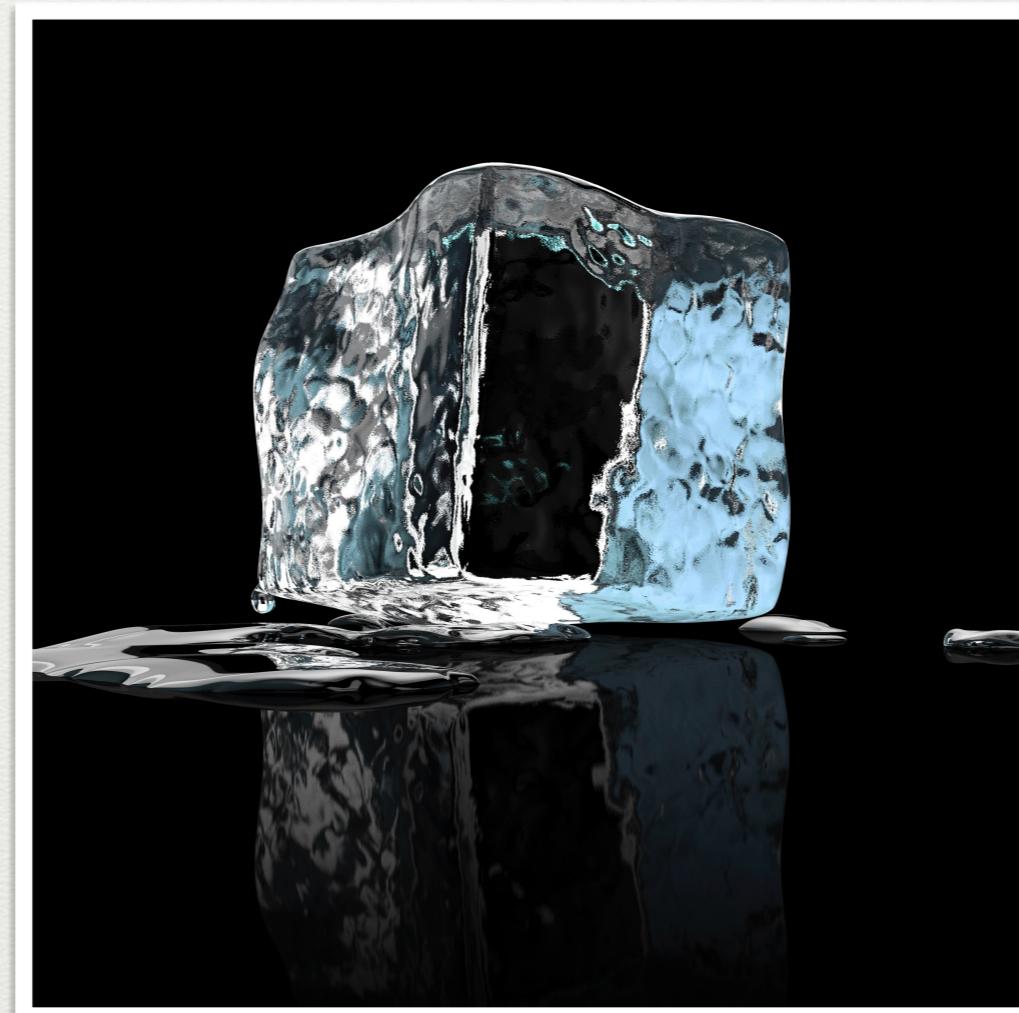
Surface Attachment
Kinetics

Diffusion of
Heat

**SNOWFLAKE
DYNAMICS**

BASIC TERMINOLOGIES

SNOWFLAKE GROWTH



ICE SOLIDIFICATION

BASIC TERMINOLOGIES

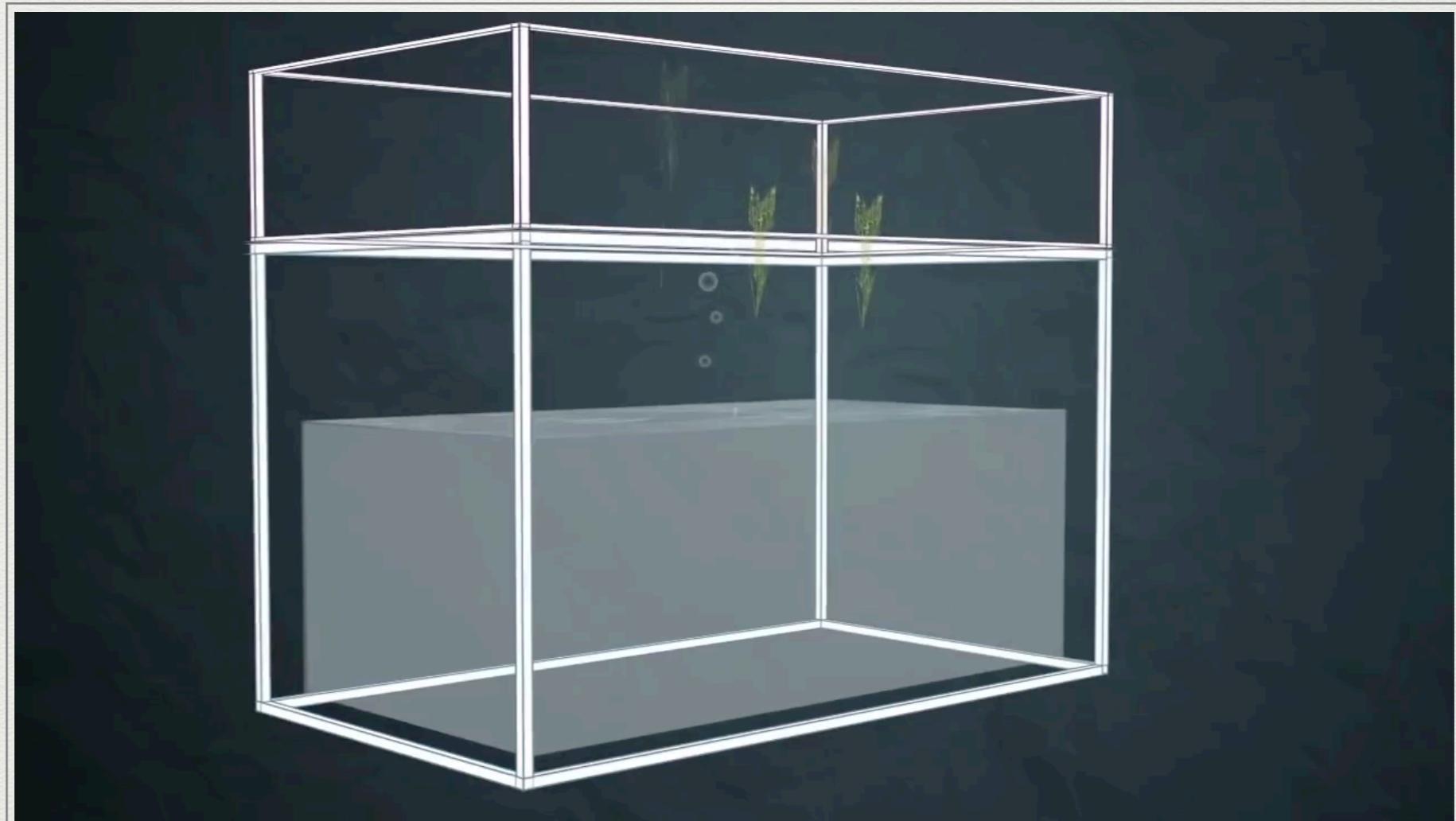
SNOWFLAKE GROWTH



SUPERCOOLING

BASIC TERMINOLOGIES

SNOWFLAKE GROWTH



WATER VAPOR
SUPERSATURATION

BASIC TERMINOLOGIES

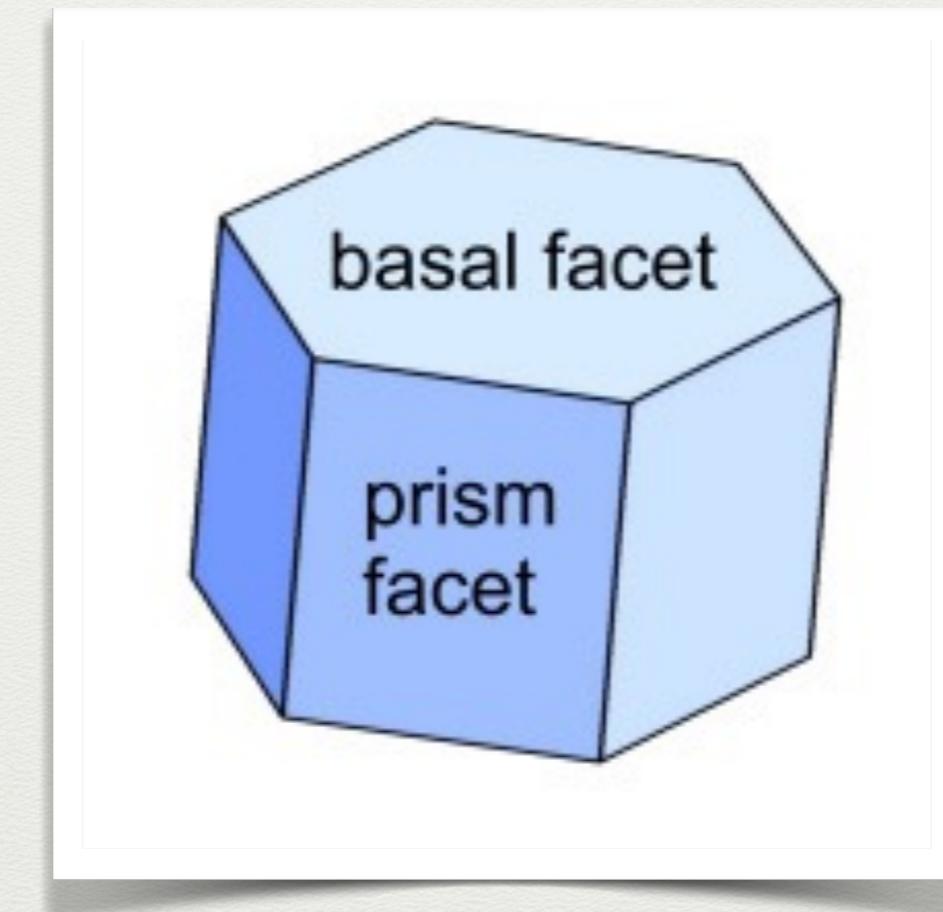
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TRIPLE POINT

BASIC TERMINOLOGIES

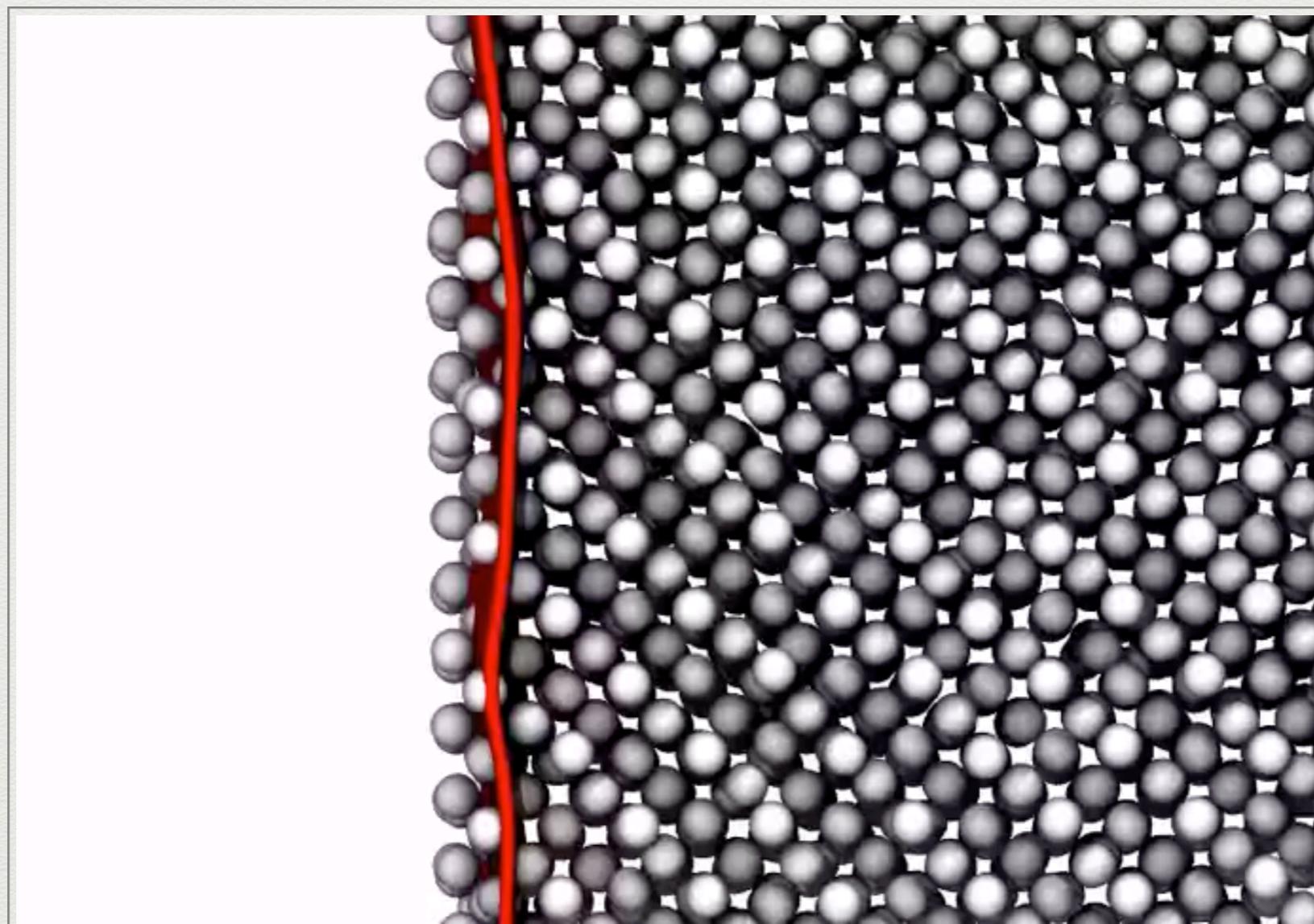
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BASAL FACETING

BASIC TERMINOLOGIES

SNOWFLAKE GROWTH



SURFACE PRE-MELTING

Surface Attachment Kinetics

NUCLEATION THEORY

- For a simple monomolecular solid surface, crystal growth is driven by a chemical potential jump at the interface, such as a nonzero supercooling or supersaturation.
- A general polynuclear growth model gives the normal growth velocity,

$$v_n \approx A\Delta\mu \exp(-S\beta^2 a^2 / \Delta\mu kT_{\text{surf}})$$

where *v_n is Normal Growth Velocity*
S ≈ 1 is a geometrical factor
β is the step free energy at the crystal interface
a = c^{-1/3} ≈ 0.32 nm is the molecular size
Δμ is the chemical potential jump at the interface
k is the Boltzmann factor
T_{surf} is the interface temperature.

FORMATION IN REVIEW



GROWTH MORPHOLOGIES

ICE GROWTH FROM LIQUID WATER

- A key variable describing the solidification of ice from liquid water is the degree of supercooling,

$$T_{surf} = T_m - T_{surf},$$

where $T_m \approx 0^\circ C$

- Now, growth velocity v_n (normal to the surface) , may be defined as

$$v_n (T_{surf}) = K_T T_{surf}$$

- This automatically gives the equilibrium condition $v_n = 0$ when $T_{surf} = 0$, although in general K_T is also temperature dependent.
- Other parameters affecting might be surface orientation relative to the crystal axes, solute concentrations, overall crystal morphology, the presence of container walls or other foreign materials, or simply the initial conditions and/or boundary conditions describing a particular system.

GROWTH MORPHOLOGIES

ICE GROWTH FROM LIQUID WATER

- Another commonly used measure of supercooling is $T_{\text{bath}} = T_m - T_\infty$, where T_∞ is the temperature of the supercooled water surrounding the crystal, far from the growing interface.
- Generally $T_{\text{surf}} > T_\infty$
- For a small supercooling with $T_{\text{bath}} < 1^\circ\text{C}$, a microscopic seed crystal tends to grow into the form of a simple, circular disk.



Variation In Temperature

CIRCULAR TO DENDRITIC PLATES



$$\Delta T_{\text{bath}} < 2^{\circ}\text{C}$$

Variation In Temperature

DENDRITIC PLATES TO UNBRANCHED NEEDLE



$$T_{\text{bath}} \approx 4^{\circ}\text{C}$$

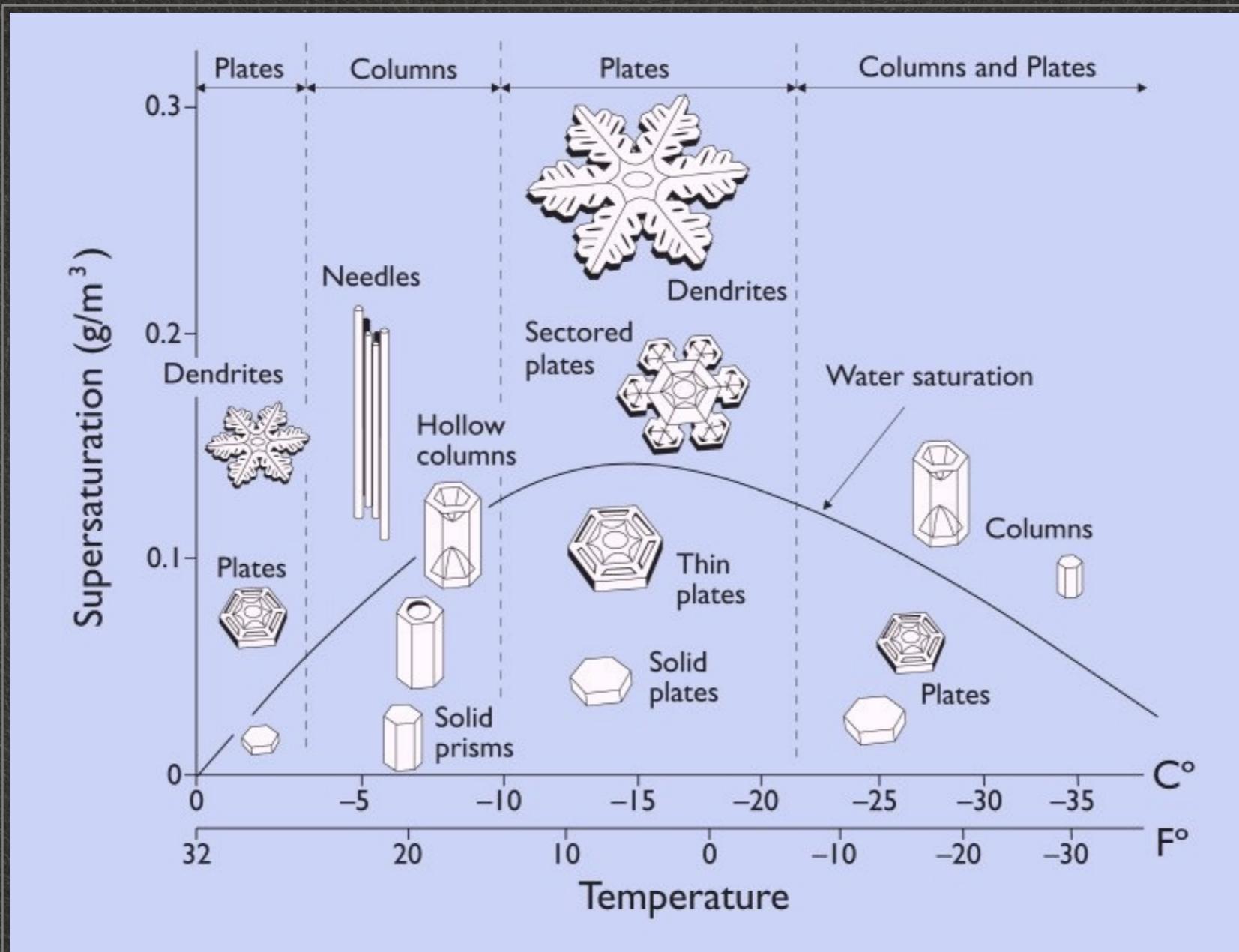
Variation In Temperature

UNBRANCHED NEEDLES TO PLATELETS



ΔT_{bath} is in the range $10 - 30^\circ\text{C}$

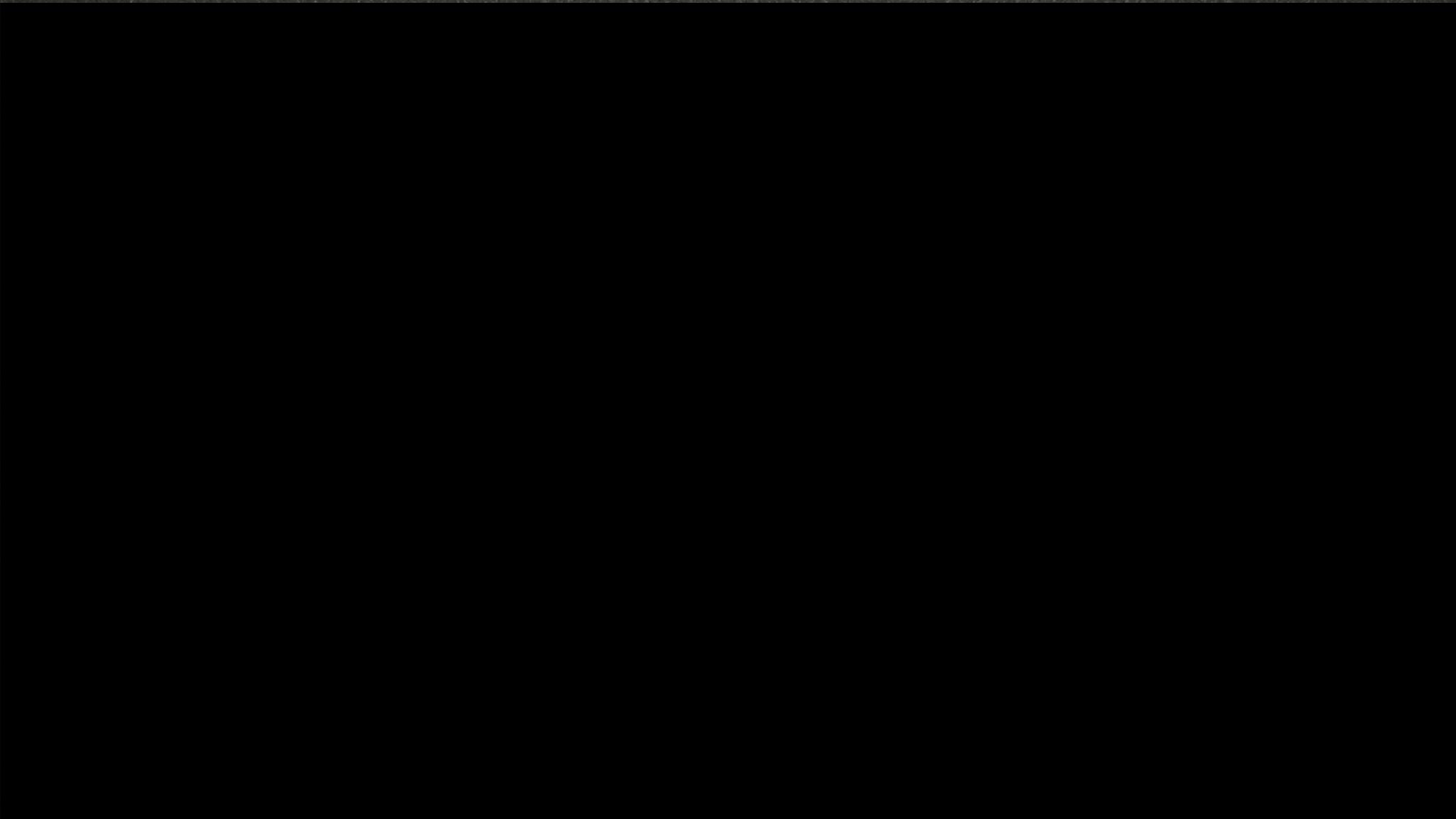
MORPHOLOGY DIAGRAM



Ukichiro Nakaya in the 1930's

APPLICATIONS

PREDICTING AVALANCHES



SIMULATION

THE END