



Received: 10-08-2022
Accepted: 20-09-2022

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Research and Studies

ISSN: 2583-049X

Boiling Point Elevation and AgI Cloud-Seeding

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Abstract

Jennings, in 2020, proposed an equation for rise in superheat by adding electrolyte. Expanding that equation (letting the limiting slope be the true slope) produces one which is quadratic in T_0 , the limit of superheat. The temperature of the solution is T and $T - T_0$ is small and positive. The surface tension be taken as constant because ΔT is so small, thus the quadratic is solved for T_0 . All of the variables are found and a simple formula, $T_0 = T - 3 \epsilon T^2$ emerges using

the binomial theorem where T is set at 288.2K, a typical temperature for a cloud producing rain. The meaning of this simple formula is unclear, but it echoes boiling point elevation in that $3 \epsilon T^2$ is roughly 2 millidegrees. This relates to cloud-seeding, putting w_2 at approximately 2 nanograms/cc, according to Standler and Vonnegut's estimate. A 2021 paper by Jennings provides the rationale for linking this all to rainfall.

Keywords: Boiling Point, Cloud-Seeding, Electrolyte

1. Introduction

The formula for rise in superheat by adding electrolyte is:

$$\lim_{c \rightarrow 0} (dT/dc)_{s, \text{electrolyte}} = (3 k T_0^2 M W_0 i) / (\rho_0 \sigma_0 a_0 M W^2(e)) \tag{1}$$

Then,

$$\lim_{c \rightarrow 0} (dT/dw_2) = (3 k T_0^2 M W_0 i) ((dc/dw_2) / (\rho_0)) / (\sigma_0 a_0 M W^2(e)) \tag{2}$$

From Jennings, 2020, we have

$$dc/dw_2 = m_0/v \text{ and } \rho_0 = m_0/v \tag{3}$$

So, using (3) and expanding in w_2 , we further have. This assumes the slope can be treated the same way as in Jennings 2014: the limiting slope is the true slope.

$$T - T_0 = (3 k T_0^2 M W_0 i w_2) / (\sigma_0 a_0 M W^2(e)) \tag{4}$$

(4) is quadratic in T_0 , the Dew Point, and w_2 is got from Standler/Vonnegut's estimate for silver in snow from seeded clouds. Because it turns out that $T - T_0$ is about 2 millidegrees, then the surface tension, σ_0 , can be taken as a constant to allow the following.

Expanding it out to power of 3 we have, from the binomial expansion.

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + x)^{1/2} &= 1 + (1/2) x - (1/8) x^2 + (1/16) x^3 \\ &= 1 + (1/2) 12 \epsilon T - (1/8) (12 \epsilon T)^2 + (1/16)(12 \epsilon T)^3 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Notice $12 \epsilon T = 3.5 \times 10^{-5}$ so the term in power 3 is negligible
Now we have to examine ϵ which is a collection of terms

w₂ and σ_o are hard to determine, especially w₂.

$$\epsilon = (k M W_o i w_2) / (\sigma_o a_o M W_2(e)) \tag{6}$$

The resulting equation is still $T_o = T - 3 \epsilon T^2$ so maybe the equation could be used to adjust the AgI cloud-seeding agent weight fraction w₂ to the proper value.

If T_o and T are actually as close as this indicates, the surface tension of the water, σ_o, will be taken as constant.

I boiled it down to (solution of quadratic equation).

$$T_o = (-1 + (1 + 12 \epsilon T)^{1/2}) / (6 \epsilon) \tag{7}$$

Then I found out I could neglect the higher cubic term because x is minuscule. $x = 3.5 \times 10^{-5}$

$$(1 + x)^{1/2} = 1 + (1/2)x - (1/8)x^2 + (1/16)x^3 \tag{8}$$

$\epsilon = 1.00 \times 10^{-8} \text{ deg}^{-1}$ $T = 288.2\text{K}$ $x = 12 \epsilon T$ cubic term negligible

And then, with some algebra

$$T_o = (-1 + 1 + (1/2) 12 \epsilon T - (1/8) (12 \epsilon T)^2) / (6 \epsilon) \tag{9}$$

$$T_o = (6 \epsilon T - (144/8) (\epsilon T)^2) / (6 \epsilon)$$

$$T_o = T - (18) (\epsilon T)^2 / 6 \epsilon$$

$$\text{Finally, } T_o = T - 3 \epsilon T^2. \tag{10}$$

T - T_o is minuscule, so I don't know what that means.

We are taking 288.2K as the temperature of the raincloud and $w_2 = \text{gm/cc (AgI)} / \text{gm/cc (air)}$.

$\text{gm/cc (AgI)} = 2 \text{ nanograms/cc}$ and $\text{gm/cc (air)} = 0.00123 \text{ gm/cc}$. So, $w_2 = 0.00163$. This is from Standler and Vonnegut p. 1389 and the Internet.

2. Discussion

The Nomenclature section has a full outlay of the data used to get $\epsilon = 1.00 \times 10^{-8} \text{ deg}^{-1}$. It is interesting to note that this harks back to boiling point elevation in that BPE is also measured in millidegrees.

$$T - T_o = 3 \epsilon T^2 = 0.002492 \text{ degrees Centigrade} \tag{11}$$

This is an exploratory study and the author doesn't know the scientific meaning of (9). Possibly this sheds light on how much AgI to use during cloud-seeding. Solving the quadratic and making the approximation gives (11).

3. Conclusion

What the author has presented here is an odd new equation he is linking to creation of rainfall. Cloud-seeding by silver iodide appears to be most common, so conceivably there is value in this paper.

4. Acknowledgments

Let me specifically mention Michelle Lau from NEWMAN HALL, Berkeley CA who encouraged me when hope was not found. Mark Jones was helpful in reading manuscripts with comments.

Table 1: Nomenclature

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ag | silver |
| a _o | Surface area of H ₂ O molecule |
| c | Concentration of AgI in cloud |
| I | Iodine |
| i | Van't Hoff factor = 2 |
| k | Boltzmann constant = 1.3805 x 10 ⁻¹⁶ erg/deg |
| m _o | Mass of water |
| MW _o | Molecular weight of water |
| MW ₂ | Molecular weight of AgI |
| (e) | |
| T | Temperature of cloud |
| T _o | Temperature at onset of raincloud |
| v | Characteristic volume |
| w ₂ | Weight fraction AgI in cloud vapor after cloud-seeding (in text) |
| x | Unknown |
| ε | Variable |
| ρ _o | Density of water at T _o |
| σ _o | Surface tension of water at 15 degrees Centigrade = 74 erg/cm |

5. References

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