INSTITUTE FOR ATMOSPHERIC AND CLIMATE SCIENCE

Pore condensation and freezing: Close up on how porous particles nucleate ice

Claudia Marcolli

ETH Zürich

Pore condensation and freezing (PCF)



Time in arbitrary units

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Fukuta, JAS, 1966: PCF used to explain pre-activation

Activation of Atmospheric Particles as Ice Nuclei in Cold and Dry Air ABSTRACT

Ice nucleation and subsequent phase equilibrium in water held in the micro-capillaries of atmospheric particles are examined. It is found that ice formed in the micro-capillaries of certain particles may exist in equilibrium with a dry atmosphere, where particles preactivated by Fournier's effect are expected to lose their activity. A possible mechanism of activation of the particles as ice nuclei in a cold dry atmosphere is suggested.

- 2. Condensation of water vapor in a micro-capillary
- 3. Nulceation of ice in capillary-held water
- 4. Freezing and melting of ice in capillary-held water
- 5. Sublimation and deposition of ice in a capillary system
- 6. Effect of a soluble impurity on the melting point of capillary ice
- 7. Experimental evidence of phase changes of capillary-held water



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- 7. Experimental evidence of phase changes of capillary-held water

«Thus, the results of various observations of phase change in capillary-held water and the present theoretical study support the possibility of phase transition of sorbed water in the capillaries of an atmospheric particle which will later be the center of ice crystal growth.»

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What evidence is required for PCF

- Increase in activated fraction when temperature falls below the homogeneous ice nucleation threshold
- Presence of pores in ice-nucleating particles
- Pore condensation occurring well below water saturation
- Ability of ice to nucleate within very small water volumes
- Ability of ice to grow out of the pores from the vapor phase

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Freezing onsets of kaolinite particles



We2009: SA, D: 100 nm, af: 1%

- We2009: SA, D: 200 nm, af: 1%
- We2009: SA, D: 400 nm, af: 1%
- We2009: SA, D: 800 nm, af: 1%
- × Ku2012: SA, D: 400 nm, af: 1%
- X To2012: SA, D: 300 nm, af: 1%
- + To2012: SA, D: 700 nm, af: 1%
- * Sa2006: CC, D: 1 µm md, af:first crystal
- + Sa2006: CC, D: 1 μm md, af: >15%
- A Sch1979: af: 1.3%
- Bu2008, FINCH, D: supermicron?
- Bu2008, FRIDGE, D: supermicron?
- Ro1968: -, D: 0.5-3 µm md, af: 0.1-1%
- Δ Dy2006: SA, D: 1-20 µm, af: ?
- □ Ea2008: SA, D: 1-20 μm, af: 0.1-1%
- Zi2008: CMS, D: 1-10 µm, af: 1-3%
- Kn2010: SA, D: 4.1-5 μm, af: 0.02-0.8%
- Δ Ch2010: SA, D: 7.7 μm md, af: 0.1-1%
- Wa2011: SA, D: 2.3-4.3 μm, af: 0.01-0.3%
- + Ba2002: D: 5-10 μm, af: 0.1%
- Zi2007: CMS, D: 1-10 μm, af: 1-3 %

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Kaolinite: From deposition nucleation to condensation freezing

Zurich Ice Nucleation Chamber ZINC



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Activated fraction of kaolinite particles: contour diagrams



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Modeling of experimental results using CNT and assuming a deposition nucleation process

One constant contact angle

Probability density function of contact angles



« Abstract: ... The observed increase in the activated fraction below water saturation and temperatures below 235 K corroborate the assumption that an appreciable amount of adsorbed or capillary condensed water is present on kaolinite particles, which favors ice nucleation.»

Kaolinite

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Clay mineral (Al₄[(OH)₈|Si₄O₁₀]

Stacking of lamellae leads to platy particles with pores resulting from the interleaving of the plates. Typical pore diameters: 20 – 50 nm



Kaolinite (Fluka) SEM images (Welti et al., 2009):







Immersion freezing

Differential scanning calorimetry



Pinti et al., 2012 ¹²

Mesoporous silica materials

MCM-41 Cylindrical pores: 2 – 5 nm



SBA-15 Cylindrical pores: 4 – 20 nm





SBA-16 Cages: 6 – 11 nm



- (a) external bulk-like water
- (b) water in main pores
- (c) boundary water
- (d) water in the inter-connecting cylindrical pores
- (e) water in the micropores or coronas.

 \rightarrow amorphous pore walls \rightarrow Si-O-Si backbone

ZINC (Zurich Ice Nucleation Chamber) with mesoporous silica particles









David et al., 2020



Calcined particles Pore diameter: 3.8 nm

PCF: Homogeneous ice nucleation within pores



Homogeneous condensation freezing



No ice nucleation above the homogeneous ice nucleation threshold

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What evidence is required for PCF

- Increase in activated fraction when temperature falls below the homogeneous ice nucleation threshold
- Presence of pores in ice-nucleating particles \checkmark
- Pore condensation occurring well below water saturation
- Ability of ice to nucleate within very small water volumes
- Ability of ice to grow out of the pores from the vapor phase

Pore condensation and freezing (PCF): capillary condensation



Time in arbitrary units

Water condensation in pores



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Radius of curvature

$$r_c = \frac{-D_p}{2}$$

Kelvin equation

$$\frac{p}{p_w} = exp\left(\frac{-4\gamma_{vw}v_w}{D_pkT}\right)$$

p: water vapor pressure above concave surface p_w : water vapor pressure over flat water surface γ_{vw} : surface tension of water v_w : molecular volume of water D_p : pore diameter k: Boltzmann constant T: absolute temperature.

Water sorption isotherms of mesoporous silica materials



Pore diameter
8.69 nm
4.19 nm
3.60 nm
3.11 nm
2.83 nm
2.38 nm
2.10 nm

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Onset of capillary condensation from water sorption isotherms



Data from:

- Kittaka et al., 2006 (measured gravimetrically at 25°C)
- Jähnert et al., 2008 (DVS (dynamic vapor sorption) at 20°C)
- Findenegg et al., 2008 (measurements at 20°C)
- Deschamps et al., 2010 (DVS
- Kittaka et al., 2011 (measured gravimetrically)
- The black solid line indicates the onset of capillary condensation predicted by the Kelvin equation (for T = 298 K).

Kelvin equation:

$$\frac{p}{p_{w}} = exp\left(\frac{-4\gamma_{vw}v_{w}}{D_{p}kT}\right)$$

Water condensation in pores



by:

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Radius of curvature:

$$r_c = \frac{-D_p}{2\cos\theta_{ws}}$$

Kelvin equation

$$\frac{p}{p_{w}} = exp\left(\frac{-4\gamma_{vw}v_{w}\cos\theta_{ws}}{D_{p}kT}\right)$$

p: water vapor pressure above concave surface p_w : water vapor pressure over flat water surface γ_{vw} : surface tension of water v_w : molecular volume of water D_p : pore diameter k: Boltzmann constant T: absolute temperature

 θ_{ws} : contact angle between water and pore surface

Dependence of freezing onsets on contact angle



Water condensation in conical and wedge-shaped pores



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Radius of curvature:

$$r_c = \frac{-D_p}{2\cos(\theta_{ws} + \delta)}$$

Kelvin equation

$$\frac{p}{p_{w}} = exp\left(\frac{-4\gamma_{vw}v_{w}\cos(\theta_{ws}+\delta)}{D_{p}kT}\right)$$



Radii of curvature:

$$r_{c1} = \frac{-D_1}{2\cos(\theta_{ws} + \delta)} \qquad r_{c2} = \infty$$

Kelvin equation:

$$\frac{p}{p_{w}} = exp\left(\frac{\gamma_{vw}v_{w}\left(\frac{1}{r_{c1}} + \frac{1}{r_{c2}}\right)}{D_{1}kT}\right)$$

$$\frac{p}{p_{w}} = exp\left(\frac{-2\gamma_{vw} v_{w}\cos(\theta_{ws} + \delta)}{D_{1}kT}\right)$$

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Effect of contact angle and opening angle on pore filling



→ The contact angle θ_{ws} and the pore opening angle δ have the same effect on $\frac{p}{p_w}$

Pore condensation and freezing (PCF): ice nucleation



Time in arbitrary units

Pore condensation and freezing (PCF): ice nucleation



Time in arbitrary units

Number of pores	Pore diameter	liquid layer thickness	Pore length	Volume	Nucleation rate required
1	3 nm	0.38 nm	3 nm	16 nm ³	$6 \cdot 10^{19} \text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$
1	3 nm	0.38 nm	500 nm	2696 nm ³	$4 \cdot 10^{17} \text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$
100	3 nm	0.38 nm	500 nm	269564 nm ³	$4 \cdot 10^{15} \text{cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$

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Freezing of micrometer-sized droplets



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Freezing of nanodroplets from supersonic nozzle experiments



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Classical Nucleation Theory (CNT)

$$\Delta G = 4\pi \gamma_{iw}(T) r^2 - \frac{4\pi r^3}{3v_i} kT ln\left(\frac{p_w}{p_i}\right)$$



 $\gamma_{iw}(T)$: interfacial tension ice/water $\frac{p_w}{d}$: supersaturation p_i

Critical nucleus shape in an MD simulation

Cubic ice cluster (~4000 molecules) inserted in supercooled water (TIP4P/Ice). The inserted cluster exposes the (100), (010), and (001) planes to the fluid.



Equilibration of the interface for 0.2 ns at 200 K

Let cluster evolve at 255 K (temperature at which a cluster of this size should be critical)

→ cluster turns spherical to minimize interfacial free energy.

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Classical Nucleation Theory (CNT)

$$\Delta G = 4\pi \gamma_{iw}(T) r^2 - \frac{4\pi r^3}{3v_i} kT ln\left(\frac{p_w}{p_i}\right)$$

Determine ΔG_{crit} i.e. maximum of ΔG :

$$\frac{\Delta G}{dr} = 8\pi \gamma_{iw}(T)r - \frac{4\pi r^2}{v_i}kTln\left(\frac{p_w}{p_i}\right) = 0$$

 $r_{crit} = \frac{2\gamma_{iw}(T)v_i}{kT\ln\frac{p_w}{n_i}}$ \rightarrow Critical radius

$$\Rightarrow \text{ Energy barrier } \Delta G_{crit} = \frac{16\pi\gamma_{iw}(T)^3 v_i^2}{3k^2 T^2 \left(ln\left(\frac{p_w}{p_i}\right) \right)^2}$$



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→ Critical radius $r_{crit} = \frac{2\gamma_{iw}(T)v_i}{kTln\frac{p_w}{p_i}}$

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 $\gamma_{iw}(T)$: interfacial tension ice/water $\frac{p_w}{p_i}$: saturation ratio ΔF_{diff} : diffusional energy barrier

Homogeneous
ice nucleation rate:
$$J_{hom} = \frac{kT}{h} exp\left(\frac{\Delta F_{diff}}{kT}\right) n_v exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_{hom}}{kT}\right)$$

Interfacial tension ice/water



Zobrist et al., 2007: hexagonal ice, fit to ice nucleation rates

Ickes et al., 2015: hexagonal ice, linear extrapolation

Koop and Murray, 2016:

Stacking disordered ice; temperature dependence of interfacial tension is scaled to the temperature dependence of the enthalpy of melting, based on Turnbull correlation:

 $\gamma_{iw}(T_{hom}) \propto \Delta H_m(T_m)$

Murray et al., 2010:

Stacking disordered ice

$$\gamma_{iw}(T) = \gamma_{iw}(T_0) \left(\frac{T}{T_0}\right)^n$$

 T_0 : homogeneous ice nucleation temperature

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Parameterizations of ice nucleation rates

Zobrist et al., 2007 Murray et al., 2010, n = 0.97 Murray et al., 2010, n = 0.3 Ickes et al., 2015 Koop and Murray, 2016



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Critical nucleus size





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Homogeneous freezing temperature in solution and under pressure



Koop et al., Nature, 2000

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Homogeneous ice nucleation as a function of pressure

Melting curve
$$\mu_i(T, P) = \mu_w(T, P)$$

 $(P - P_0)v_i(T, P_0) + kTln(p_i(T, P_0)) = (P - P_0)\frac{v_w(T, P) + v_w(T, P_0)}{2} + kTln(p_w(T, P_0))$



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Homogeneous bubble nucleation described by CNT

The evolution of the free energy during bubble formation is given by

$$\Delta G_{bw} = 4\pi r_b^2 \gamma_{bw} - \frac{4\pi r_b^3}{3\nu_l} (\mu_l - \mu_b).$$

the difference in chemical potential can be expressed as the ratio of vapor pressures and making use of the Laplace-Kelvin equation:

$$\mu_l - \mu_b = kT ln \frac{p_l}{p_b} = v_l (p_l - P_{ex})$$

Yielding the critical radius and the energy barrier:

$$r_{b,cr} = \frac{2\gamma_{bw}}{(p_l - P_{ex})} \qquad \Delta G_{bw,cr} = \frac{16\pi\gamma_{bw}^3}{3(p_l - P_{ex})^2}$$

and the rate per volume and time:

$$j_{bw,hom} = n_{v} \left(\frac{2\sigma_{bw}}{\pi mB}\right)^{1/2} exp\left(\frac{-\Delta G_{bw,cr}}{kT}\right)$$

Symbols:

*r*_b: radius of the evolving bubble

 γ_{bw} : surface tension of water

 μ_b : chemical potential of water molecules in the bubble

 μ_i : chemical potential of the molecules in liquid water at normal pressure

 v_l : molecular volume of liquid water

*p*_{*l*}: vapor pressures of liquid water

 p_b : vapor pressure in the bubble

 P_{ex} : pressure applied to the liquid

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Homogeneous ice nucleation as a function of pressure

Melting curve
$$\mu_i(T,P) = \mu_w(T,P)$$

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Parameterization of pressure dependent ice nucleation rates



 $J_{hom} = C_{prefac} \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_c(T, P)}{kT}\right) \exp\left(\frac{\Delta F_{diff}(T, P)}{kT}\right)$

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Parameterizations of ice nucleation rates

Murray et al., 2010, n = 0.97 Murray et al., 2010, n = 0.3 Ickes et al., 2015

- • − -50 MPa
- —— 0.1 MPa
- ––– 50 MPa



Parameterizations of ice nucleation rates

Young-Laplace equation

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Melting points



Freezing points



$$t$$

$$D_p = 2r_{crit} + 2t$$

$$r_{crit} = \frac{2\gamma_{iw}(T)v_i}{kT ln \frac{p_w}{p_i}}$$

Critical pore size to avoid ice melting in pores





Critical radius from classical nucleation theory:

$$r_{crit} = \frac{2\gamma_{iw}(T)v_i}{kTln\frac{p_w}{p_i}}$$

For r_{crit} = 1.095 nm, pore ice remains critical.

For r = 1.1 nm, ice becomes stable at a pore length of 300 nm.

For r = 1.2 nm, ice becomes stable at a pore length of 8 nm.

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Ice-liquid oscillations in nanoconfined water

mW water confined between two nanoscopic disks: coexistence in time because of nonnegligible cost of the water-ice interface



Oscillations between liquid water and ice: free energy profile has two minima, one for all liquid and one for all ice.

Number of confined water molecules in the ice phase as a function of time at 278.75 K

Influence of tension (negative pressure) within the pore

The tension exerted on pore water depends on the radius of curvature as given by the Young-Laplace equation

The radius of curvature depends on the water saturation ratio as given by Kelvin equation

Radius of critical embryo depends on pressure

$$r_{crit} = \frac{2\gamma_{wi}(T)v_i(T,P_0)}{kTln\frac{p_w}{p_i} - (P - P_0)v_i + (P - P_0)\frac{v_w(T,P) + v_w(T,P_0)}{2}}$$

 $\Delta P = P - P_0 = \frac{2\gamma_{vw}(T)}{r_c}$ $r_c = \frac{2\gamma_{vw}(T)v_w}{kT\ln\frac{p}{n}}$





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Nucleation rates as a function of pressure and temperature







David et al., 2020

Pore condensation and freezing (PCF): ice growth



Time in arbitrary units

Pore diameter required for growth of ice out of pores



- **1.** Growth of ice in height *h* as spherical cap up to a contact angle θ_{is}
- 2. Growth of the cap base (increase in x)

Assumption: water wets particle surface $\theta_{is} = \theta_{iw} \approx 55^{\circ}$

$$\cos\theta_{iw}(T) = \frac{\gamma_{vw}(T) - \gamma_{iw}(T, P_0)}{\gamma_{vi}(T)}$$

Conical pore
$$D_p = \frac{4\gamma_{vi}v_isin\theta_{iw}}{kTln\frac{p}{p_{ih}}}$$

Wedge-shaped pore $D_1 = \frac{2\gamma_{vi}v_isin\theta_{iw}}{kTln\frac{p}{p_{ih}}}$
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David et al., 2020

MD simulations of ice growth out of pores

Molecular dynamics simulations with the mW model:

- Dimensions of the periodic simulation cells are 8 nm × 8 nm × 10 nm
- The pore and outer surface represent silica properties (grey).
- 3 nm diameter pores are filled with hexagonal ice exposing the primary prismatic face to vapor.
- Liquid water (red) and ice (blue) are identified using the CHILL+ algorithm.
- The vapor uptake is performed at -81° C with $RH_{i} = 250 \%$.



MD simulations of ice growth out of pores

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Pore ice bridging allows growth of ice out of pores:

Water condenses between emerging pore ice and freezes leading to an ice surface for further growth.

Pore diameter required for growth of ice out of pores



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Ice nucleation data for soot



Characteristics for PCF:

- No ice nucleation below water saturation above the homogeneous ice nucleation temperature
- Ice nucleation below water saturation below the homogneous ice nucleation temperature

What is the pore geometry?

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Morphology of atmospheric soot particles



Liati et al., 2019

Pores within soot aggregates







Three-membered ring pore

Concave octahedron









Four-membered ring pore

B А r_{o,cu} Ε G Н

Concave cube

Spherical primary particles with typical diameters $D_{pp} =$ 10–30 nm Overlap $C_{ov} = \frac{D_{pp} - D_{ij}}{D_{pp}} = 0.01 - 0.2$

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Ring pore sizes for primary particle diameters from 10 to 30 nm

Three-membered ring pore







Soot-PCF: primary particle diameter: 20 nm, C_{ov} = 0.05



Soot-PCF: primary particle diameter: 20 nm, C_{ov} = 0.05





Soot-PCF: primary particle diameter: 20 nm, C_{ov} = 0.1

Soot-PCF: primary particle diameter: 20 nm, C_{ov} = 0.1

Parameterization of activated fraction (AF) realized by ring pores $\binom{(N_n - n_m)^{D_f}}{2}$

- $AF = 1 \left(1 P_{\mathrm{N}}(RH)\right)^{\left(\left(N_{\mathrm{p}} n_{\mathrm{m}}\right)^{D_{\mathrm{f}}}\right)}$
- $P_{N}(RH)$: probability of a primary particle to be part of a ring pore activating at RH. Depends on primary particle size, overlap, and contact angle
- $n_{\rm m}$: accounts of minimum number of primary particles required for a ring pore
- $D_{\rm f}$: fractal dimension accounting for the number of neighbours of a primary particle.
- $N_{\rm p}$: number of primary particles in an aggregate: $N_{\rm p} = k_0 \left(\frac{2R_{\rm g}}{D_{\rm pp}}\right)^{D_{\rm f}}$
- k_0 : scaling pre-factor ($k_0 = 1.3 \pm 0.2$)

$$R_{\rm g}$$
: radius of gyration ($2R_{\rm g} = \frac{D_{\rm m}}{\beta}$)

- *D*_m: mobility diameter
- β : in the single particle limit: $\beta = 1.29$

Activated fraction of processed miniCAST black (HINC2)

400 nm diameter

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Activated fraction of processed miniCAST black

400 nm diameter

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Size dependence

AF parameterization of miniCAST black

AF = 1 - (1 -	$P_{\rm N}(RH)$	$\left(\left(N_{\rm p} - 2 \right)^{1.86} \right)$
$P_{\rm N}(RH_{\rm w})=10$	$\left(\frac{1}{0.3374-0}\right)$	$\frac{1}{0.006091RH_{\rm W}}\Big)$

D _m	N p
400 nm	94
300 nm	55
200 nm	26
100 nm	7
80 nm	5
60 nm	3

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What evidence is required for PCF

- Increase in activated fraction when temperature falls below the homogeneous ice nucleation threshold
- Presence of pores in ice-nucleating particles
- Pore condensation occurring well below water saturation \checkmark
- Ability of ice to nucleate within very small water volumes
- Ability of ice to grow out of the pores from the vapor phase \checkmark

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- Ability of ice to grow out of the pores from the vapor phase \checkmark

What evidence is required for deposition nucleation

- Continuous development of activated fraction with temperature ?
- Absence of pores in ice-nucleating particles
- Active sites that can template ice from the vapor phase ?
- Active sites that are large enough for ice to grow from the vapor phase on top of them
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?