

# Exploring “No-Man’s Land”

An Examination of Water  
Between -44°F and -190°F

August 18, 2020

**Loni Kringle**

Post-Doctoral Research Associate

Pronouns: she/her



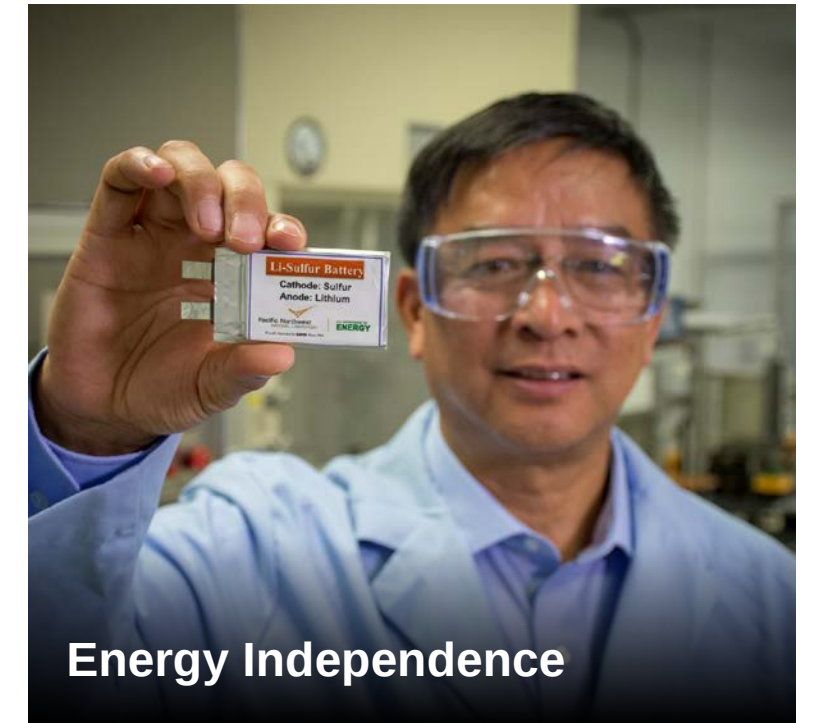
**We value your feedback!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNNL081820>

1 of 17  
U.S. DOE  
Labs



PNNL is  
Focused on  
**DOE's**  
**MISSIONS**  
and  
Addressing Critical  
**NATIONAL**  
**NEEDS**





# PNNL is an **ECONOMIC ENGINE**



**4,722**  
Employees



**265**  
Inventions



**\$1.46B**  
Total Economic Output



**\$1.01B**  
Annual Spending



**88**  
Patents



**7,180**  
Jobs Generated  
in Washington



**\$465M**  
Total Payroll



**34**  
Licenses



**193**  
Companies  
with PNNL Roots

50+ Years

# Developing Goodwill



Decades **\$28.5M**

FY19 **\$0.52M**

Philanthropic  
Investments

**347,000**

**30,000**

Team Battelle  
Volunteer Hours

**>120**

**56**

Community  
Organizations

# My Path to Pacific Northwest National Lab

Rice Lake, WI



Photo Credit: Dale Kringle

# My Path to Pacific Northwest National Lab

Rice Lake, WI

Waverly, IA

- Wartburg College
- B.A. Chemistry and Physics



Photo Credit: [www.wartburg.edu](http://www.wartburg.edu)

# My Path to Pacific Northwest National Lab

Rice Lake, WI

Waverly, IA

- Wartburg College
- B.A. Chemistry and Physics

Eugene, OR

- University of Oregon
- Ph.D. Physical Chemistry



Photo Credit: [www.eugenecascadescoast.org](http://www.eugenecascadescoast.org)

# My Path to Pacific Northwest National Lab

Rice Lake, WI

Waverly, IA

- Wartburg College
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Richland, WA

- Pacific Northwest National Lab
- Post. Doc. Chemical Physics
- Started January 2019
- STEM Ambassador



Photo Credit: Pacific Northwest National Lab

# Water is very important, and it is everywhere

At PNNL we study the fundamental properties of water under extreme conditions

- Supercooled
- Low pressure
- At interfaces



# The quest to understand water

“Enormous effort has been invested in experimental determinations of the properties of water... Despite the effort, our factual knowledge is meager and our understanding rudimentary.”

Narten, Venkatesh, and Rice, *J. Chem. Phys.* **64**, 1106 (1976).

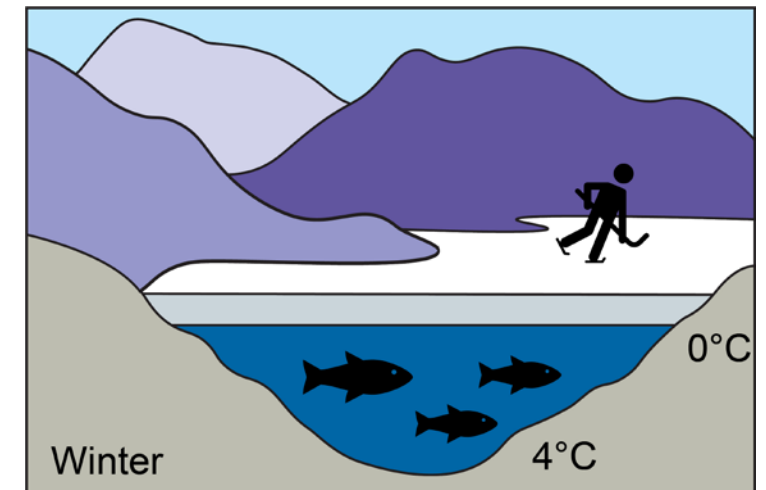
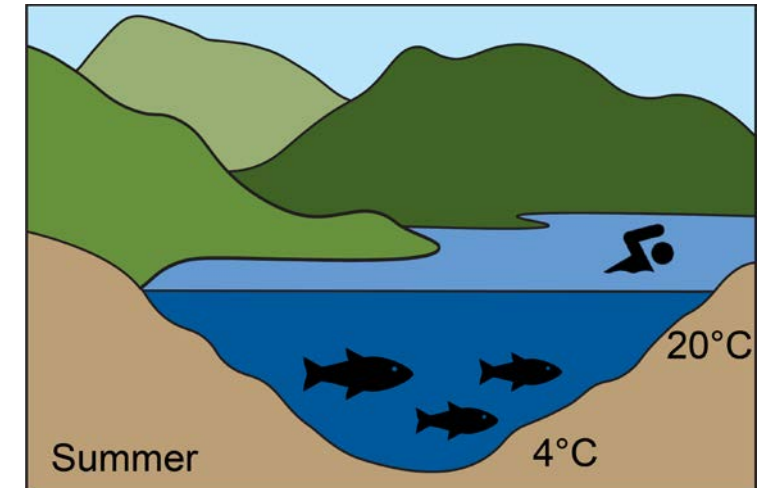
# We are familiar with water's anomalies, but we don't always recognize them as strange

## Solid ice floats in liquid water

- Density maximum at 4°C (39.2°F)

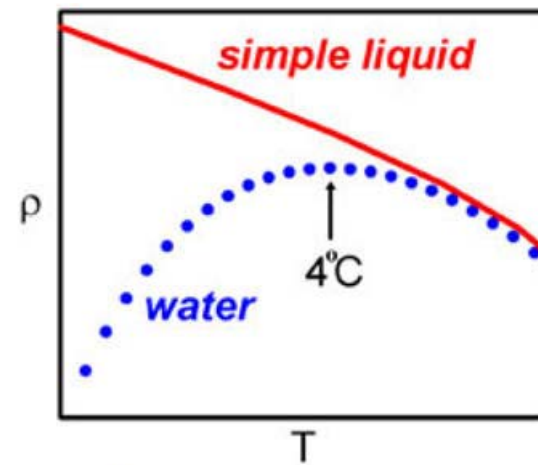
## Water expands when freezing to ice

- Increase in volume with decrease in entropy

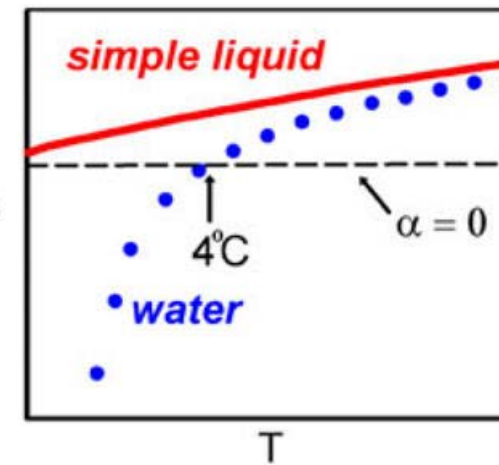


# Water's anomalies become more pronounced at low temperatures

Density

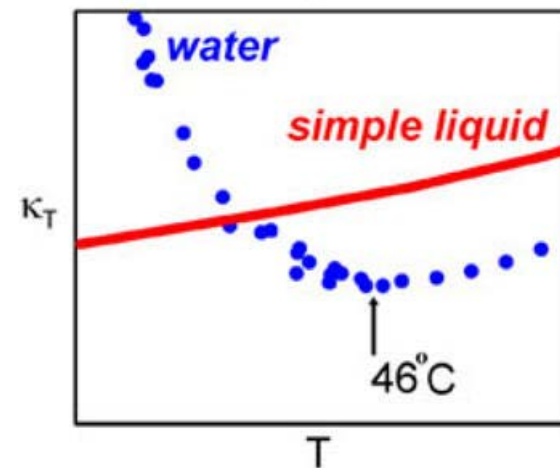


$\alpha$

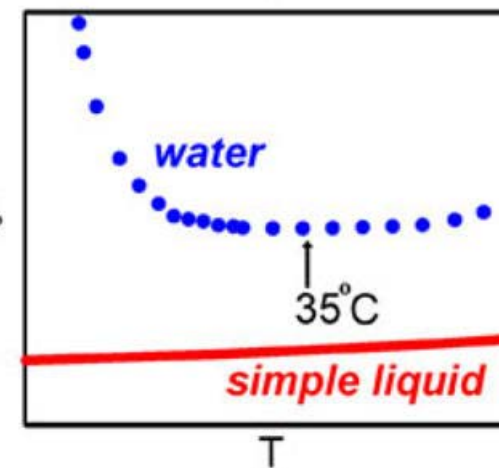


Thermal Expansion

Isothermal Compressibility



$c_p$



Isobaric Heat Capacity

# Why should we care about water in extreme environments?



## Materials Science

- Catalysis
- Energy capture and storage



## Biology and Biophysics

- Pharmaceuticals
- Protein folding and DNA replication



## Meteorology

- Cloud formation



## Astrochemistry

- Interstellar dust and comet composition

# The states of matter



## Gas

Conforms to the  
shape of its  
container  
Expands to fill  
container



## Liquid

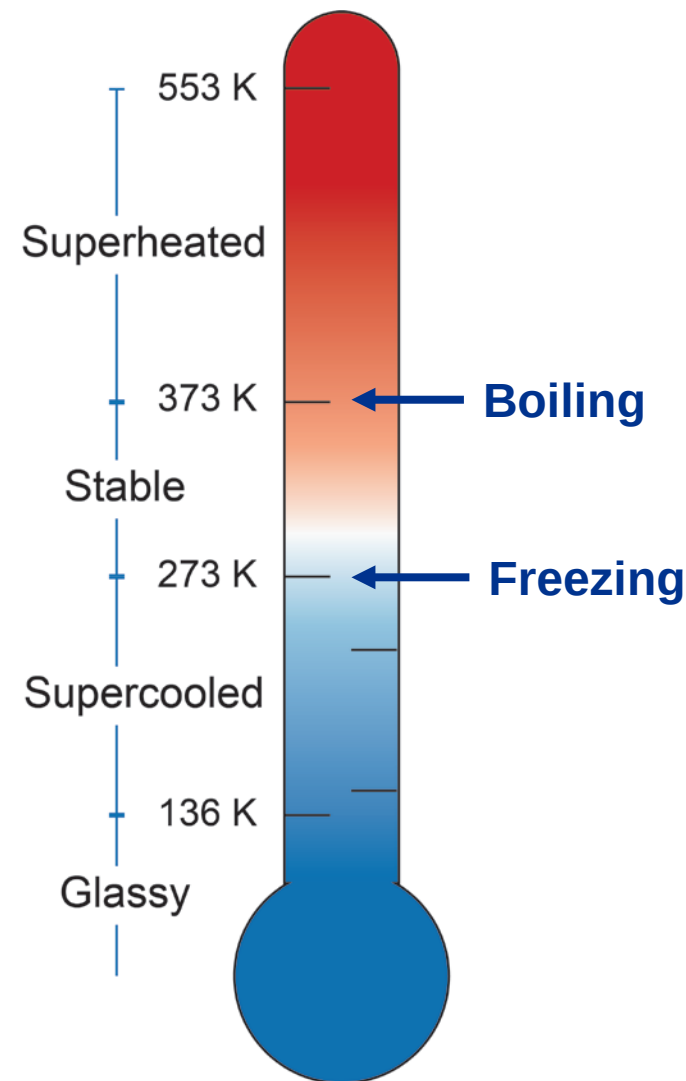
Conforms to the  
shape of its  
container  
Constant volume



## Solid

Definite Shape  
Definite Volume  
Crystalline Solids

# Temperature regimes for liquid water



## Stable

- Liquid water between the boiling and freezing points

## Supercooled

- Liquid water cooled below the freezing point, without it becoming solid

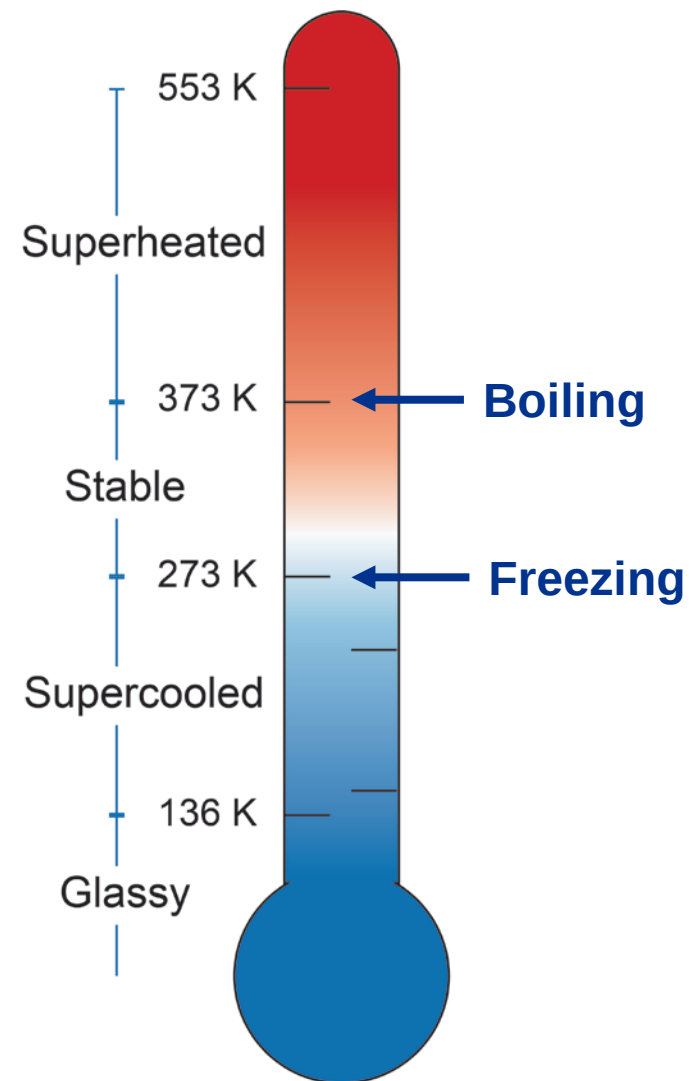
## Glassy

- Mechanical properties of a solid but the molecular structure of a liquid – no long-range order

$$^{\circ}\text{C} = \text{K} - 273.15$$

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = (\text{K} - 273.15) \times 9/5 + 32$$

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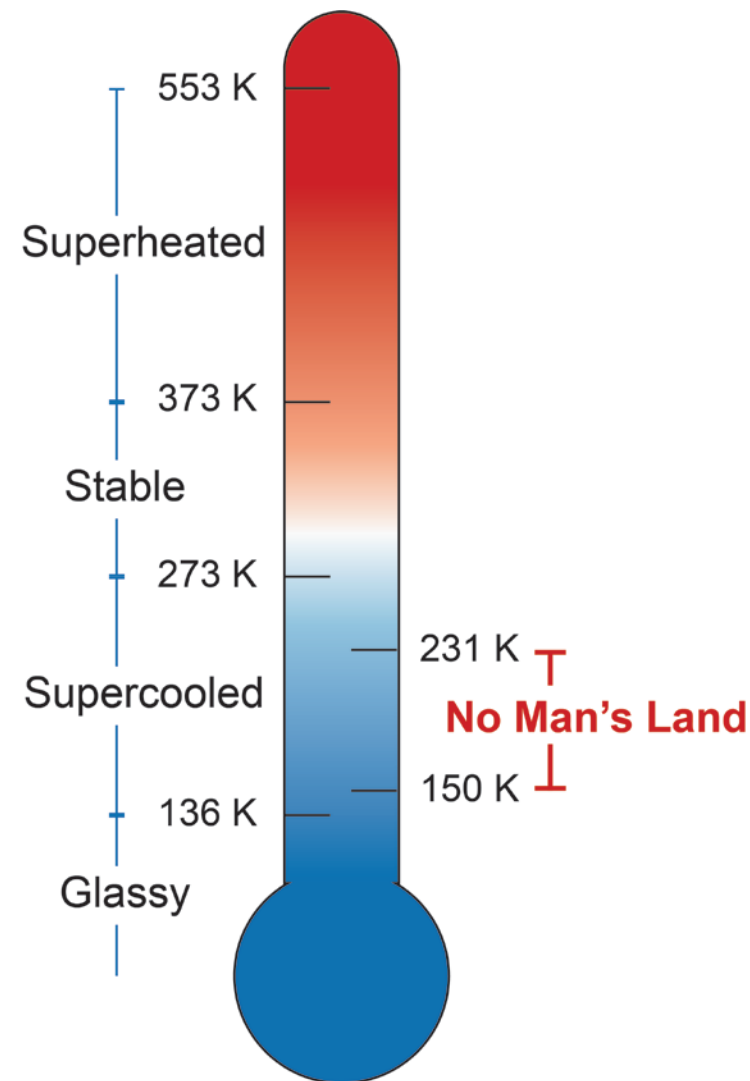


Glass Like



Crystalline Like

# Water's "No Man's Land"



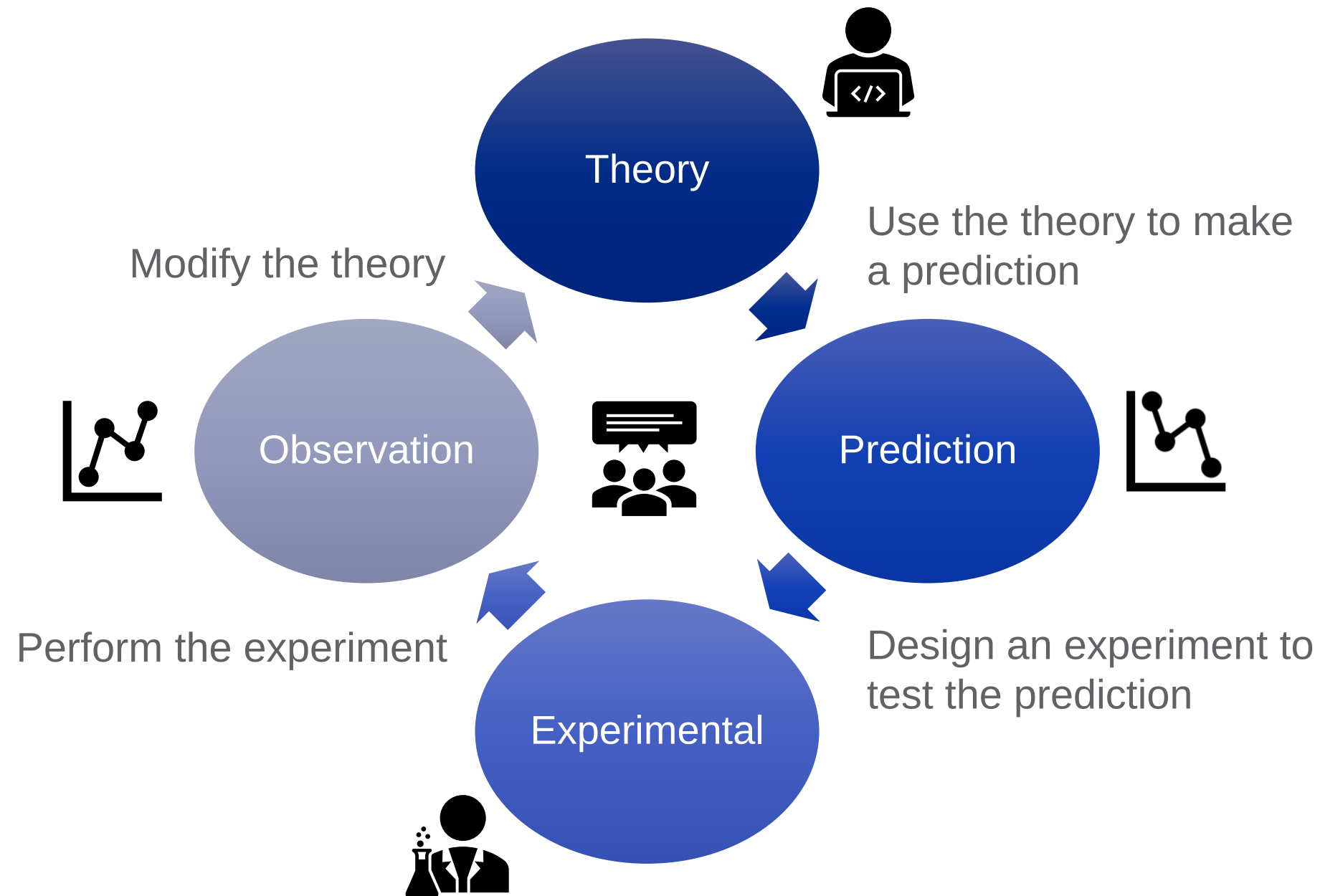
$$^{\circ}\text{C} = \text{K} - 273.15$$

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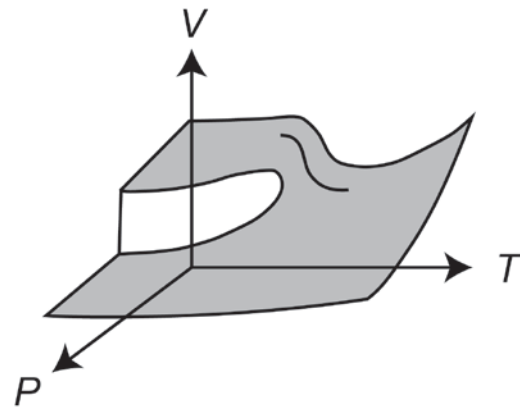
## Rapid crystallization limits experimental investigation

- Not an absolute limit but a technological one
- Experimental observation time needs to be faster than the crystallization time
  - Very fast steps
  - Delay crystallization

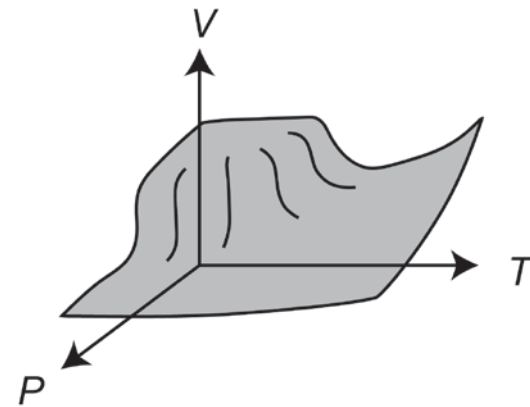
# Theories explain and predict experimental observations



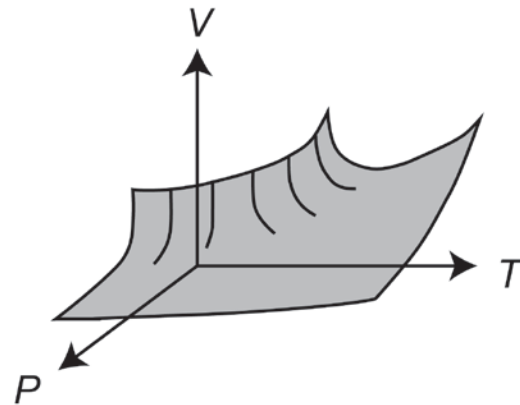
# Different theories of water in “No Man’s Land”



Liquid-Liquid  
Phase-Transition  
Hypothesis

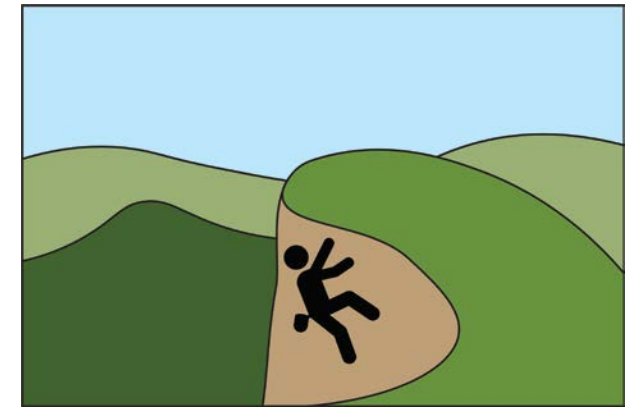
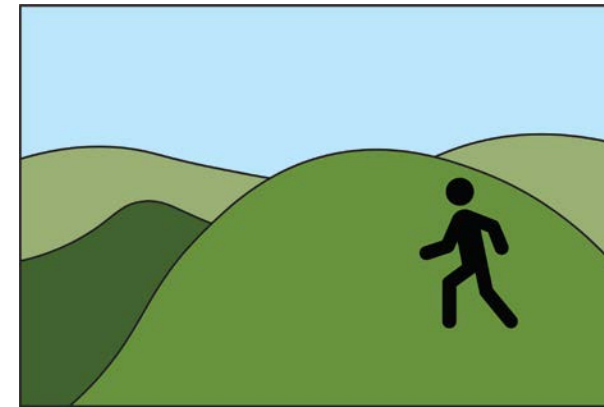


Singularity-Free  
Hypothesis



Stability Limit  
Hypothesis

Is there a hill or is there a cliff?



# Two “Species” of Water; High-Density Liquid and Low-Density Liquid

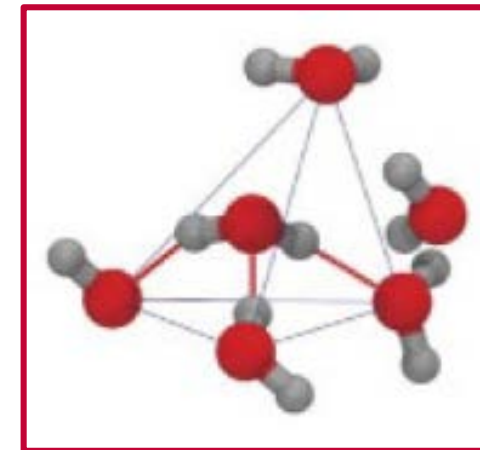
## Low-Density Liquid Water (LDL)

- Tetrahedral arrangement
- 4 nearest neighbors in the 1<sup>st</sup> shell

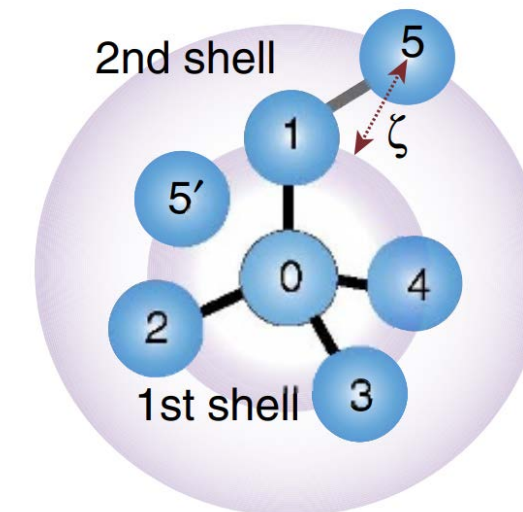
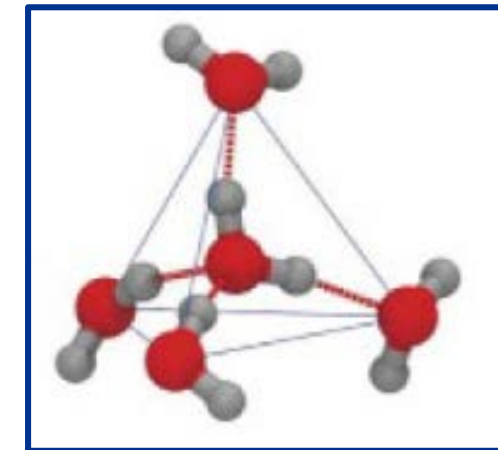
## High-Density Liquid Water (HDL)

- Closely packed non-nearest neighbor
- “Collapsed” second shell

HDL



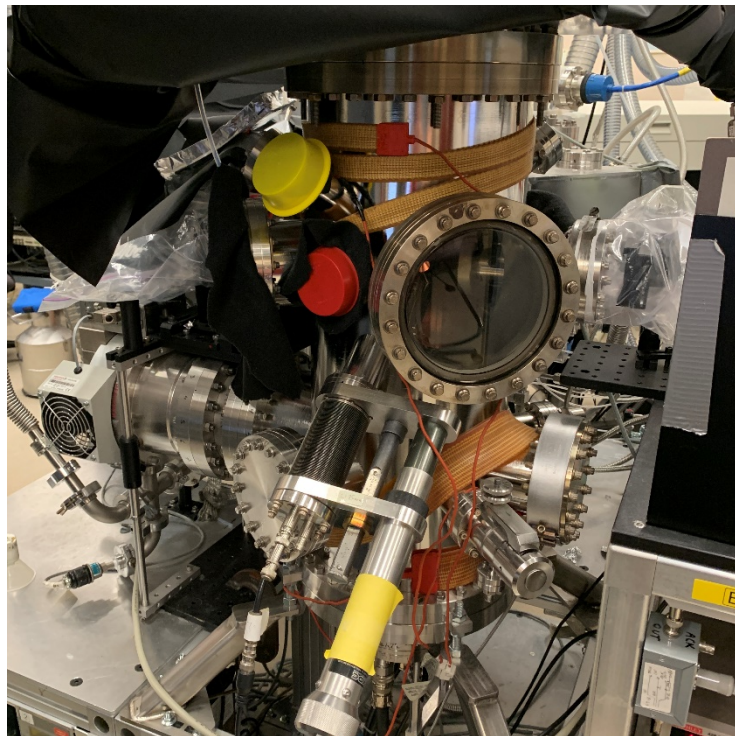
LDL



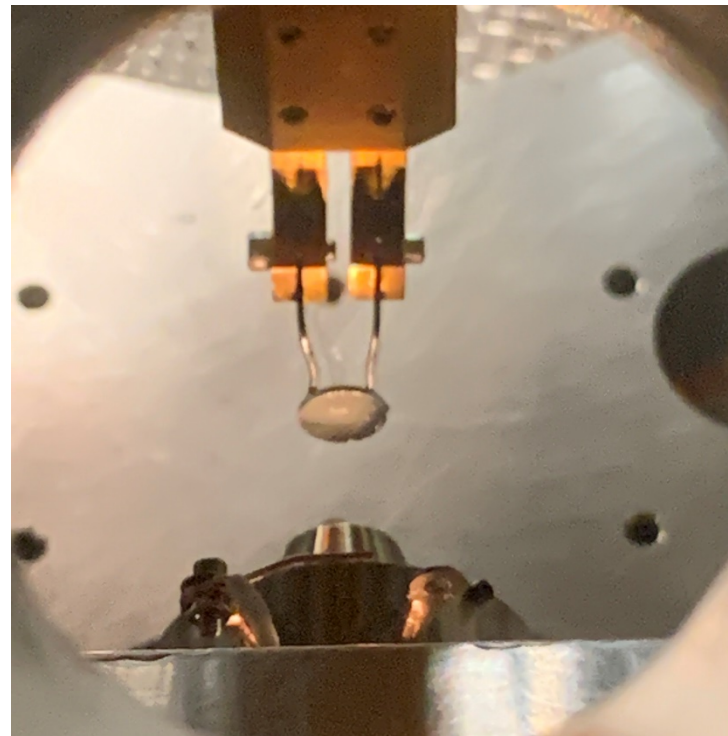
Shi, Russo, & Tanaka *PNAS* **115**:9444 (2018).  
Russo, & Tanaka *Nat. Commun.* **5**:3556 (2014).

# Studying water in the lab – the sample

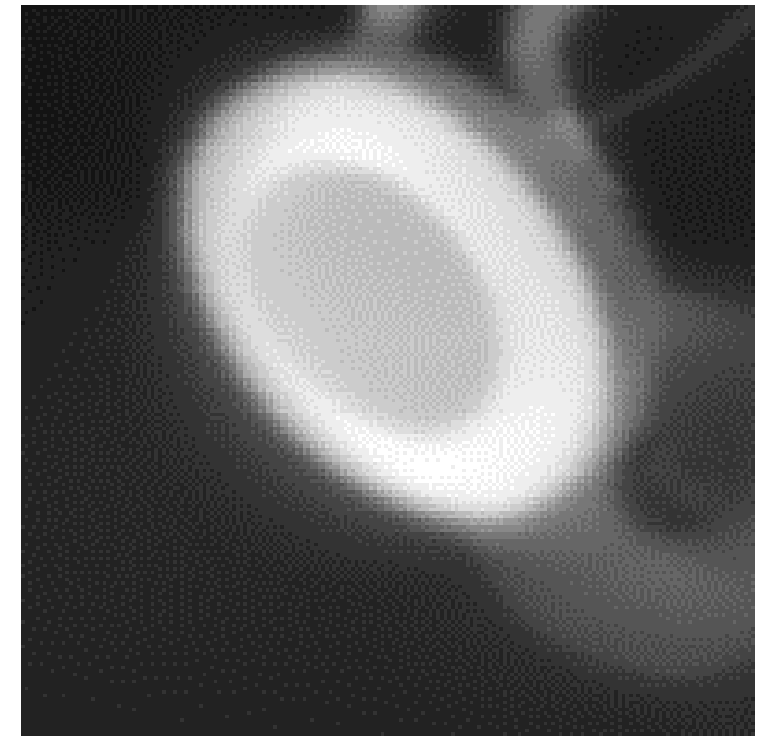
The Vacuum Chamber



Sample Holder

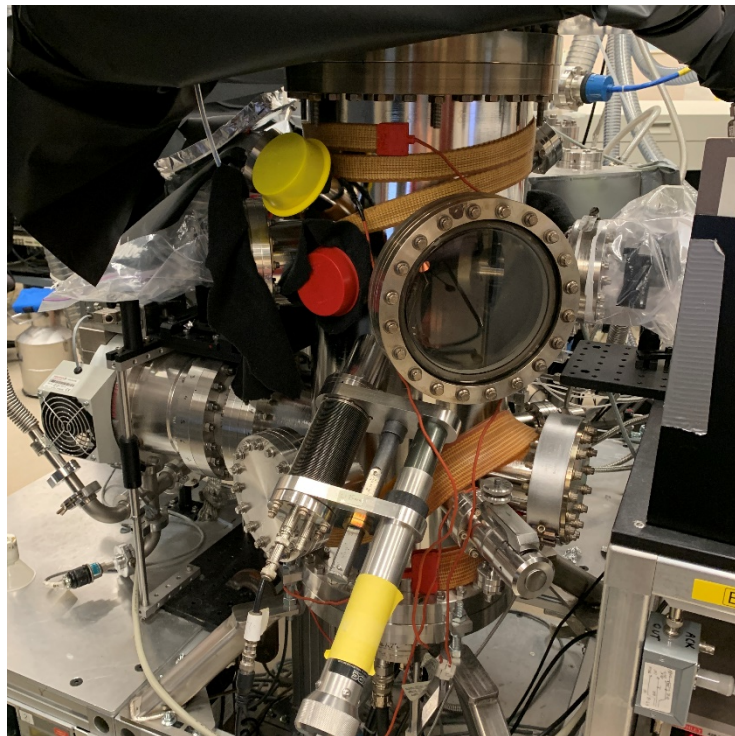


Adsorbed Water Sample

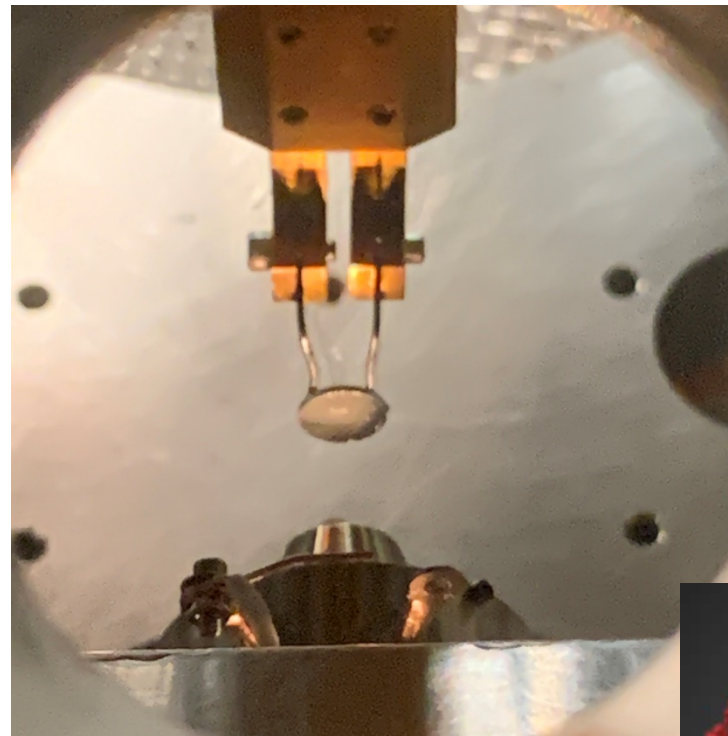


# Studying water in the lab – the sample

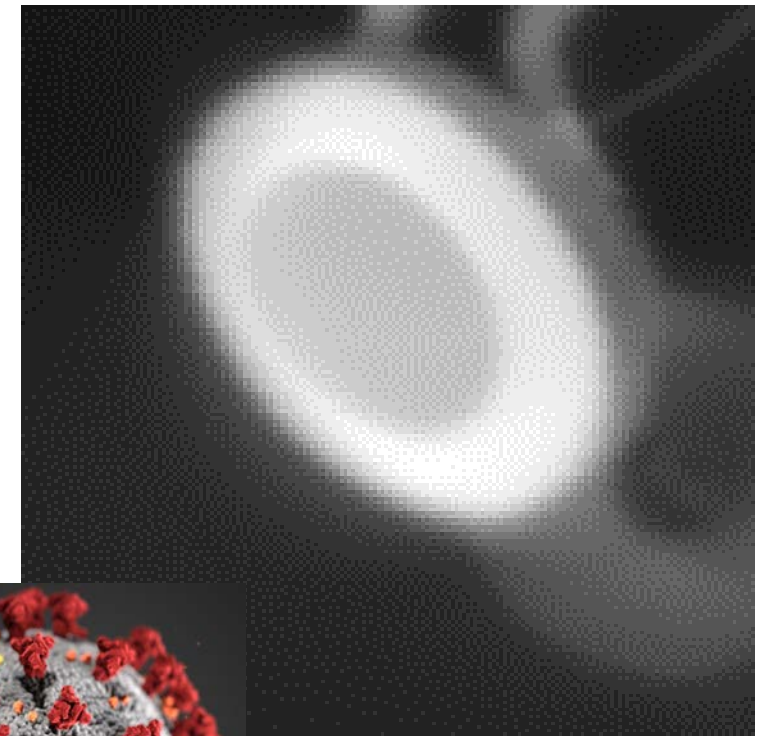
The Vacuum Chamber



Sample Holder

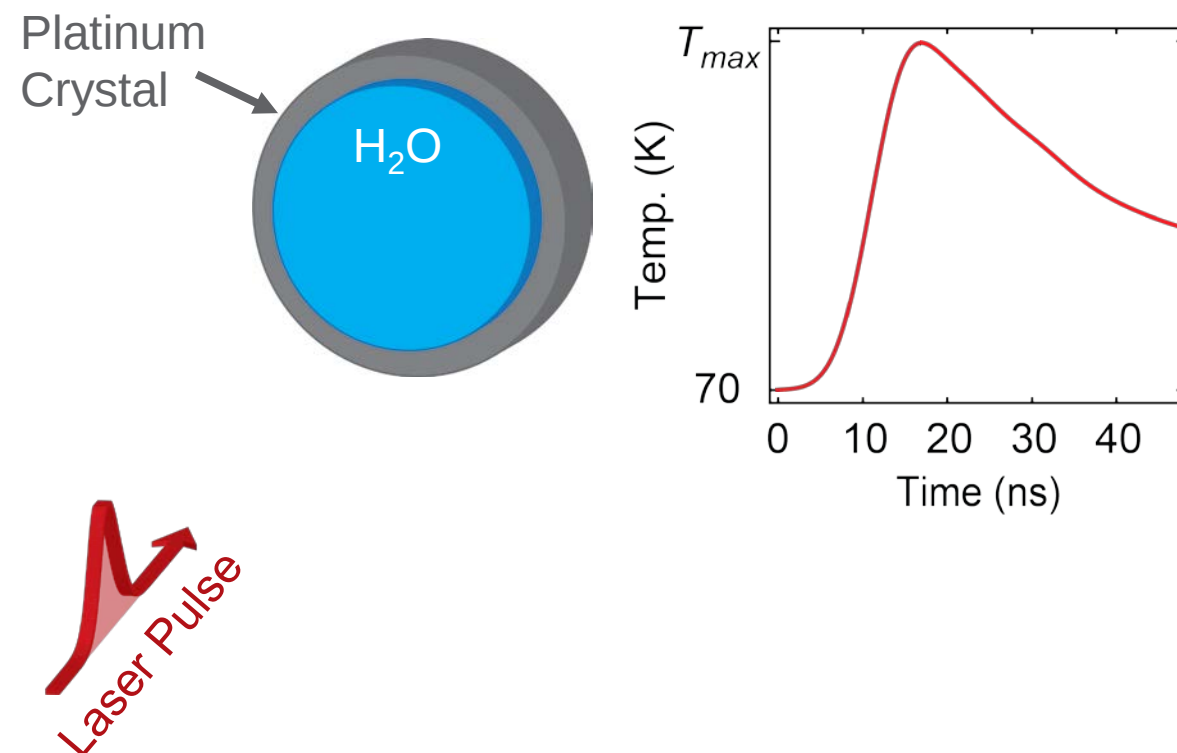


Adsorbed Water Sample



For scale:  
Length coronavirus  
spike (red) is ~10 nm

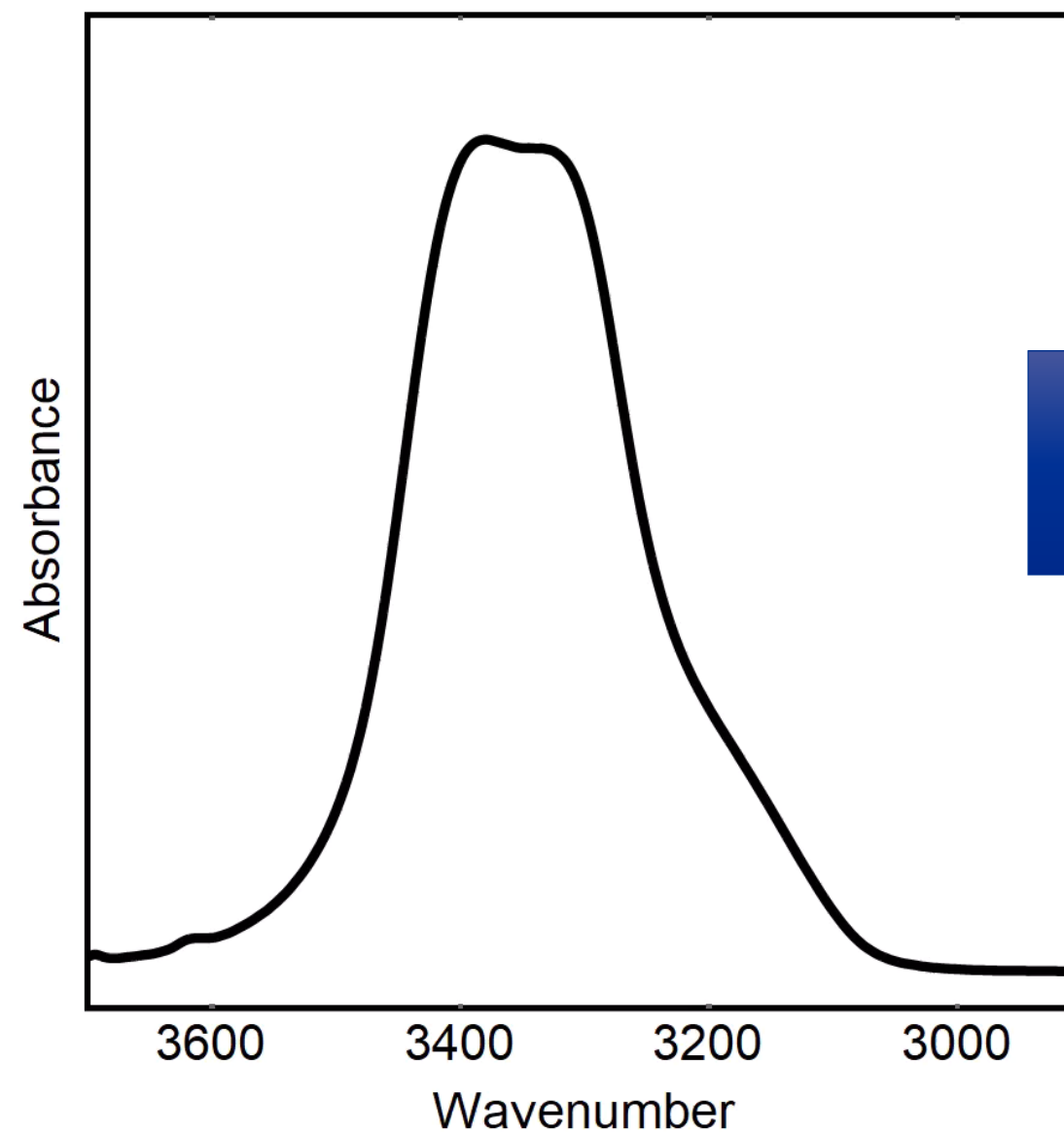
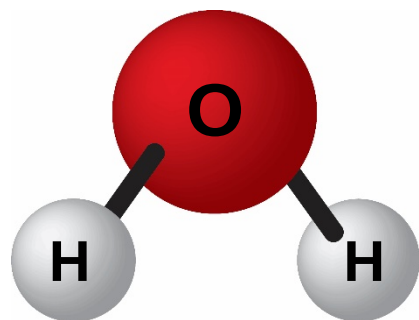
# Studying water in the lab – pulsed laser heating



## Technical Specs

- Maximum temperature ( $T_{max}$ ) between 170 and 300 K (-154 and 80°F)
- Heating rate  $\sim 1 \times 10^{10}$  K/s
- Cooling rate  $\sim 5 \times 10^9$  K/s
- Collect IR spectra after a set number of pulses  $N_p$
- All spectra are taken at 70 K

# “Stop-motion” movie of chemical processes



Monitor structural changes,  
in nanosecond time steps,  
using infrared spectroscopy

Previously, the group used pulsed heating to study the crystallization process

THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS **144**, 164201 (2016)

## A nanosecond pulsed laser heating system for studying liquid and supercooled liquid films in ultrahigh vacuum

Yuntao Xu,<sup>a)</sup> Collin J. Dibble,<sup>a)</sup> Nikolay G. Petrik, R. Scott Smith, Alan G. Joly, Russell G. Tonkyn, Bruce D. Kay,<sup>b)</sup> and Greg A. Kimmel<sup>b)</sup>  
*Physical Sciences Division, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, P.O. Box 999, Richland, Washington 99352, USA*

## Growth rate of crystalline ice and the diffusivity of supercooled water from 126 to 262 K

Yuntao Xu<sup>a</sup>, Nikolay G. Petrik<sup>a</sup>, R. Scott Smith<sup>a</sup>, Bruce D. Kay<sup>a,1</sup>, and Greg A. Kimmel<sup>a,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Chemical Physics & Analysis, Physical Sciences Division, Physical & Computational Sciences Directorate, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA 99352

The Journal  
of Chemical Physics

ARTICLE

scitation.org/journal/jcp

## Homogeneous ice nucleation rates and crystallization kinetics in transiently-heated, supercooled water films from 188 K to 230 K

Cite as: J. Chem. Phys. **150**, 204509 (2019); doi: [10.1063/1.5100147](https://doi.org/10.1063/1.5100147)

Submitted: 15 April 2019 • Accepted: 9 May 2019 •

Published Online: 31 May 2019



View Online



Export Citation

Greg A. Kimmel,<sup>a)</sup> Yuntao Xu,<sup>b)</sup> Alexandra Brumberg,<sup>c)</sup> Nikolay G. Petrik,<sup>d)</sup> R. Scott Smith,<sup>e)</sup> and Bruce D. Kay<sup>a)</sup>

THE JOURNAL OF  
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY  
*Letters*

Cite This: J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 2017, 8, 5736-5743

Letter

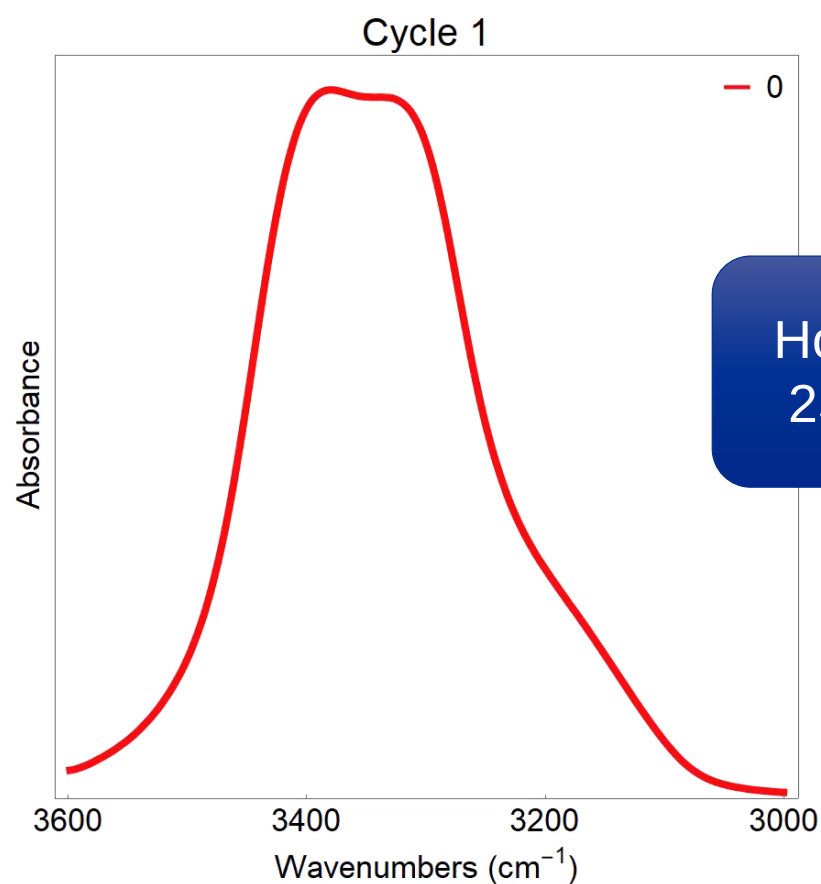
[pubs.acs.org/JPCLE](https://pubs.acs.org/JPCLE)

## Homogeneous Nucleation of Ice in Transiently-Heated, Supercooled Liquid Water Films

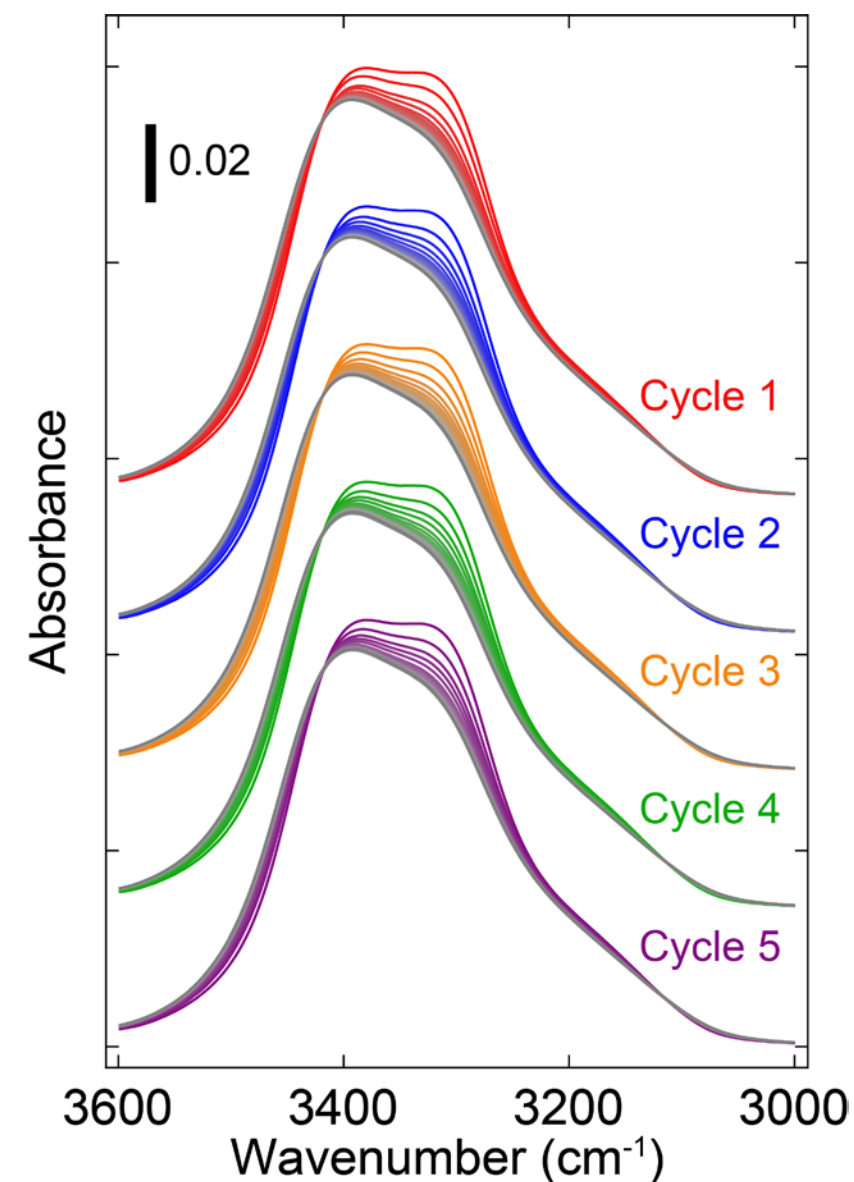
Yuntao Xu,<sup>†</sup> Nikolay G. Petrik,<sup>•</sup> R. Scott Smith,<sup>•</sup> Bruce D. Kay,<sup>\*•</sup> and Greg A. Kimmel<sup>\*•</sup>

Physical Sciences Division, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, P.O. Box 999, Richland, Washington 99352, United States

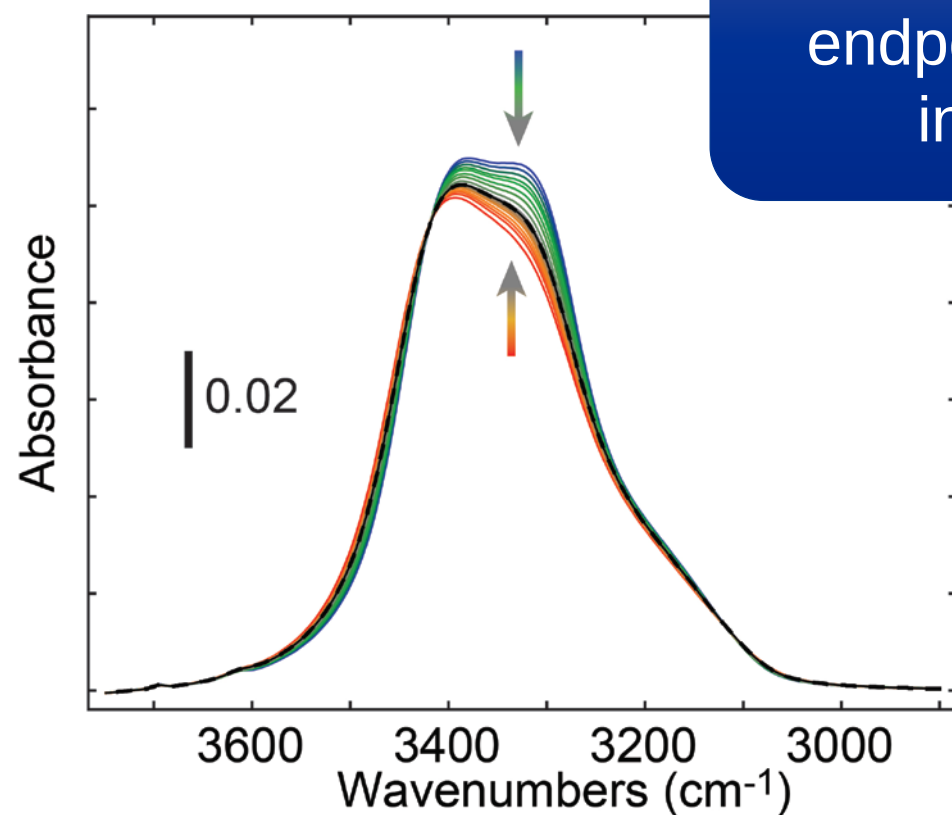
# Reversible transformations between a high and a low temperature structure



Hold at 135 K (-215°F) then  
25 pulses at 241 K (-26°F)

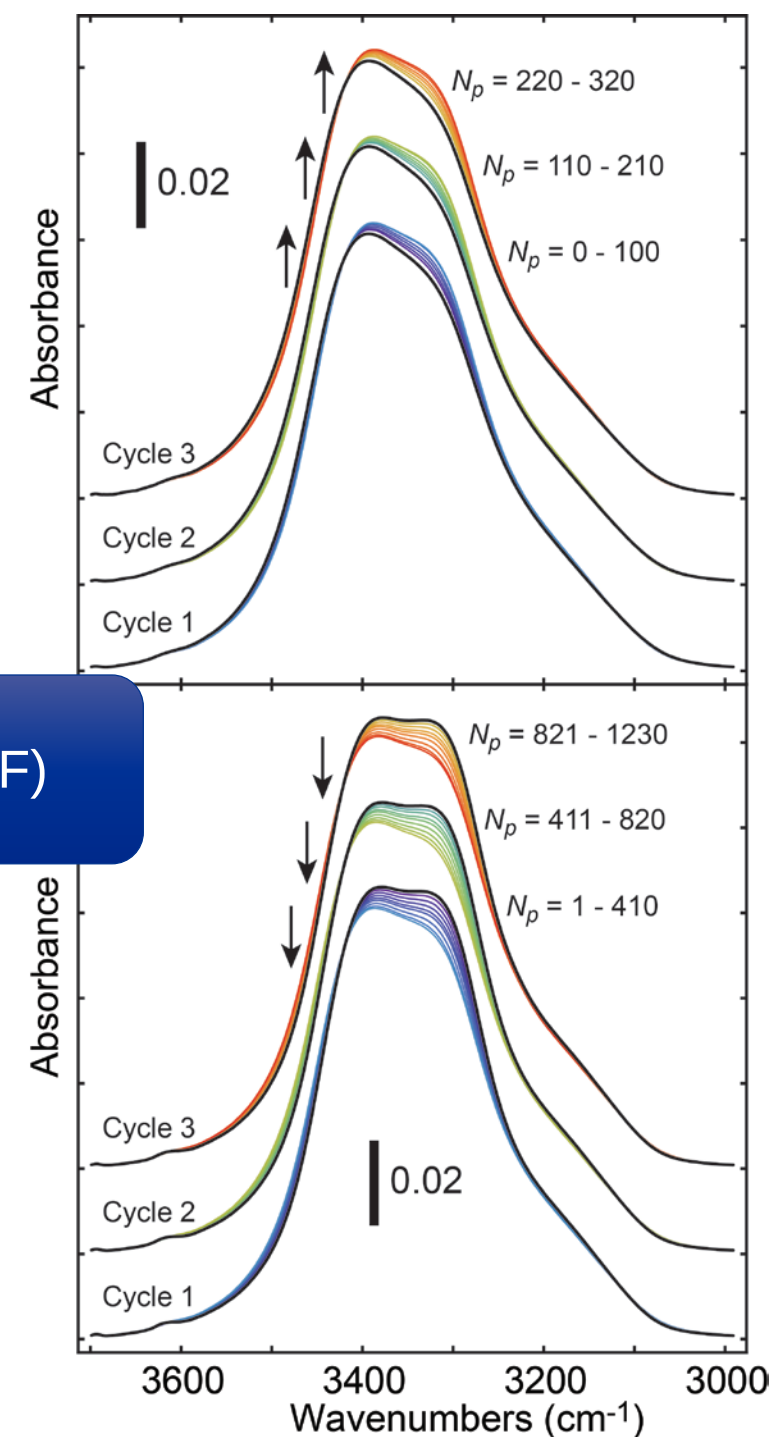


# Reversibility at temperatures in “No Man’s Land”

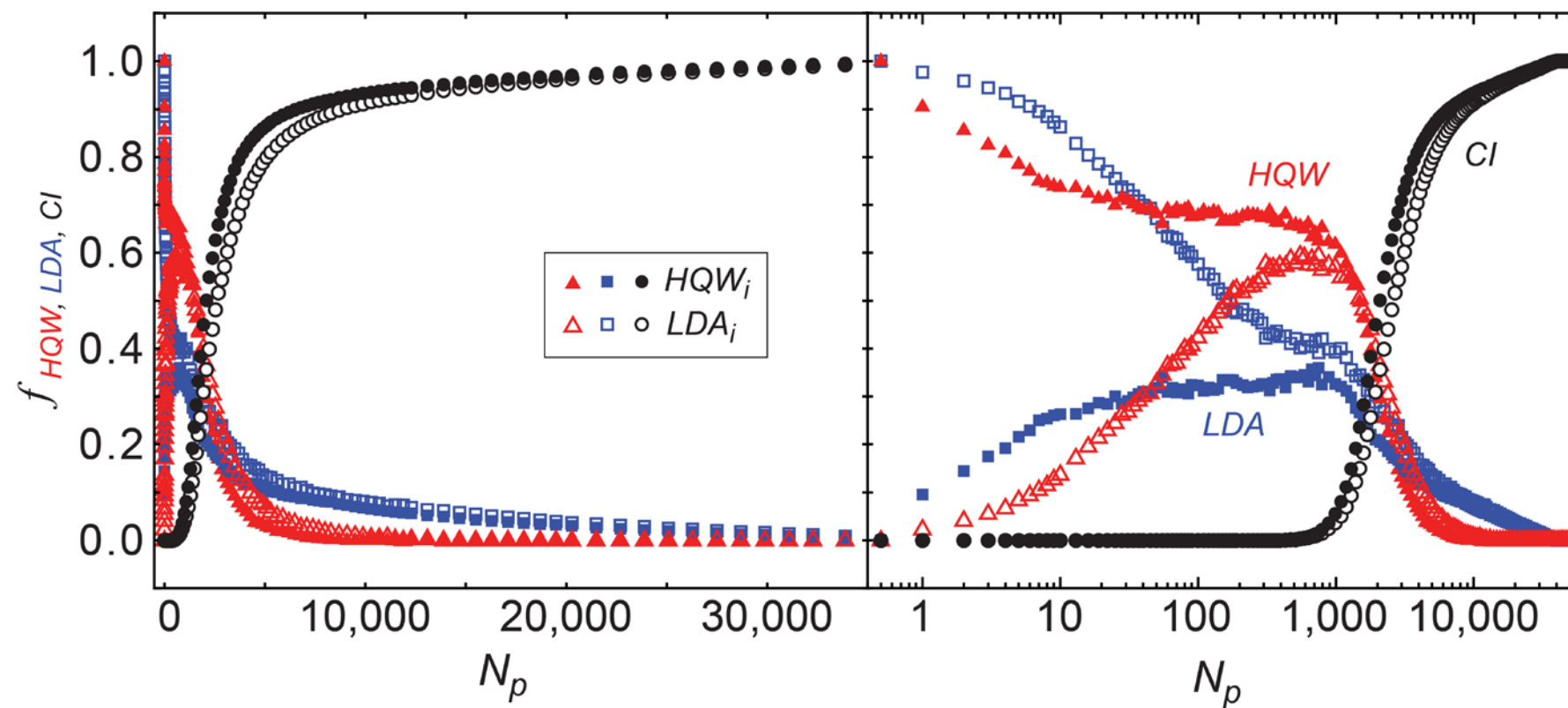
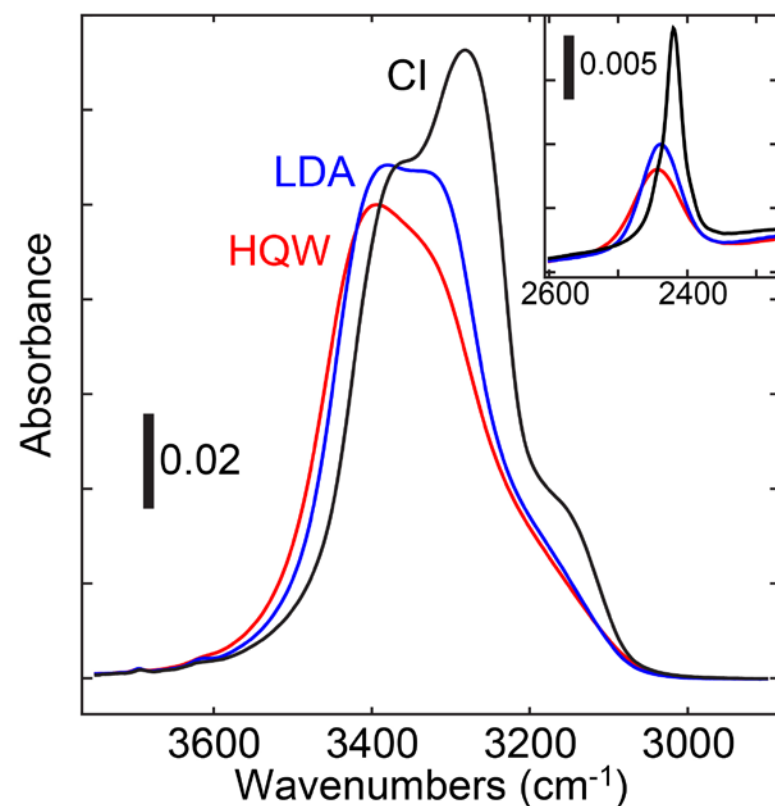


Intermediate temperature  
endpoint is independent of  
initial configuration

Cycles to 215 K (-73°F)

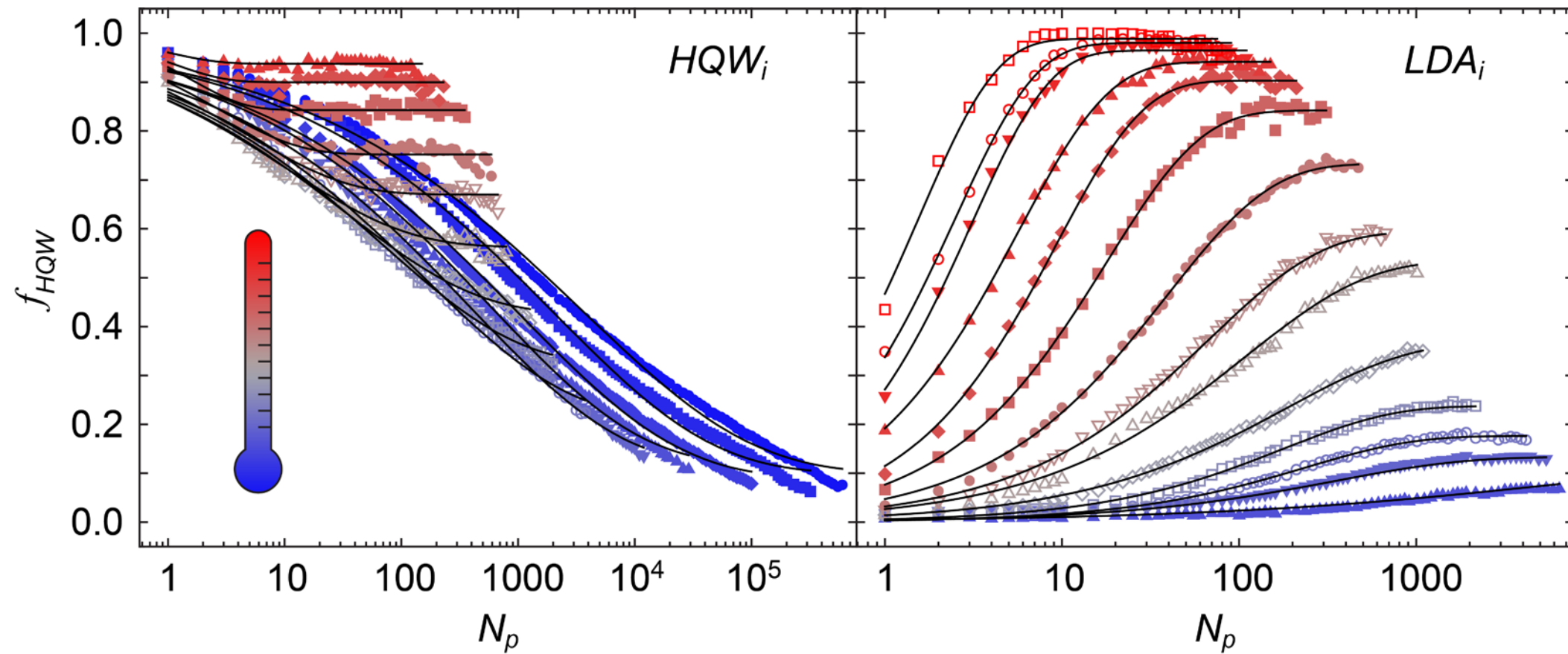


# Analyze the data as a combination of high-temperature, low-temperature, and crystalline

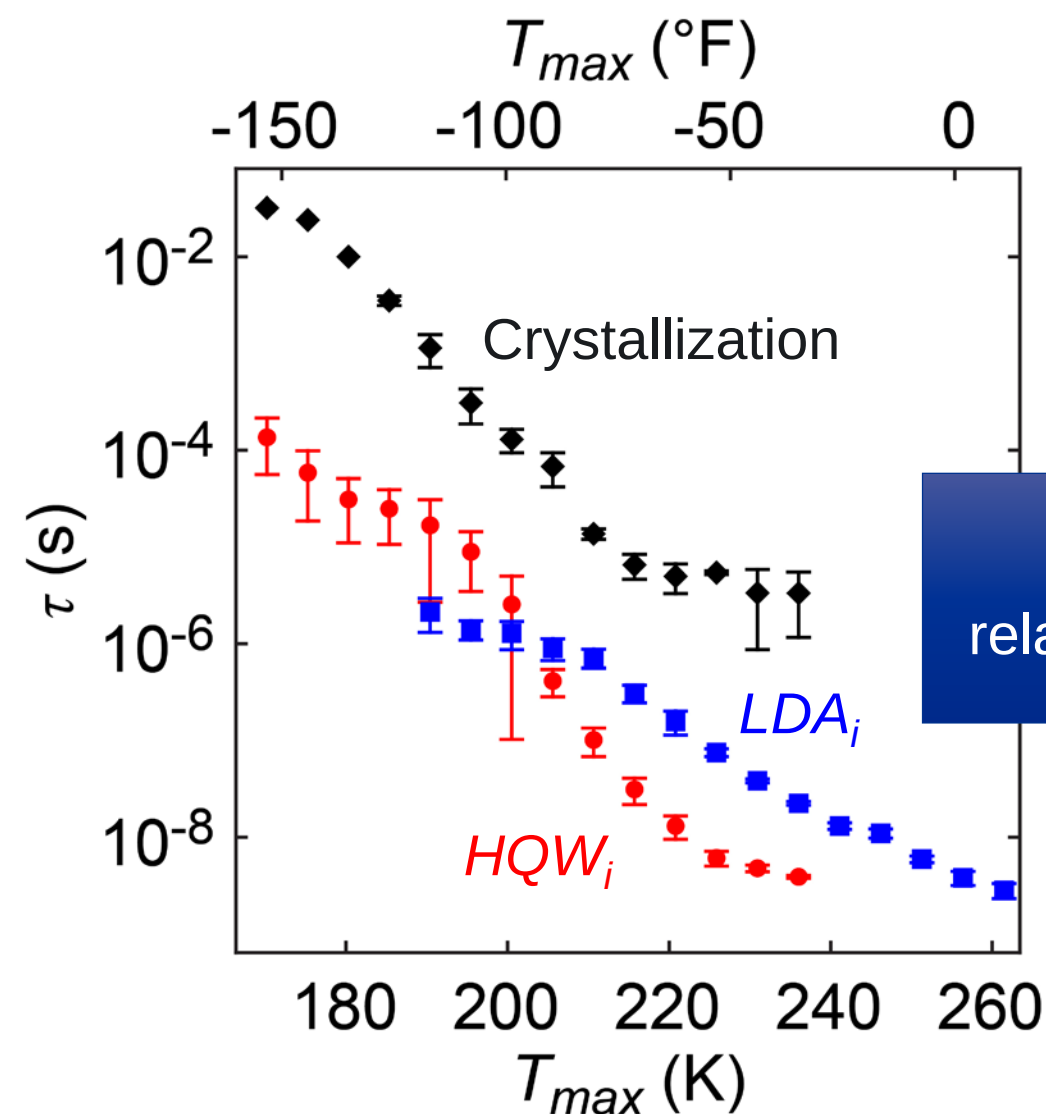
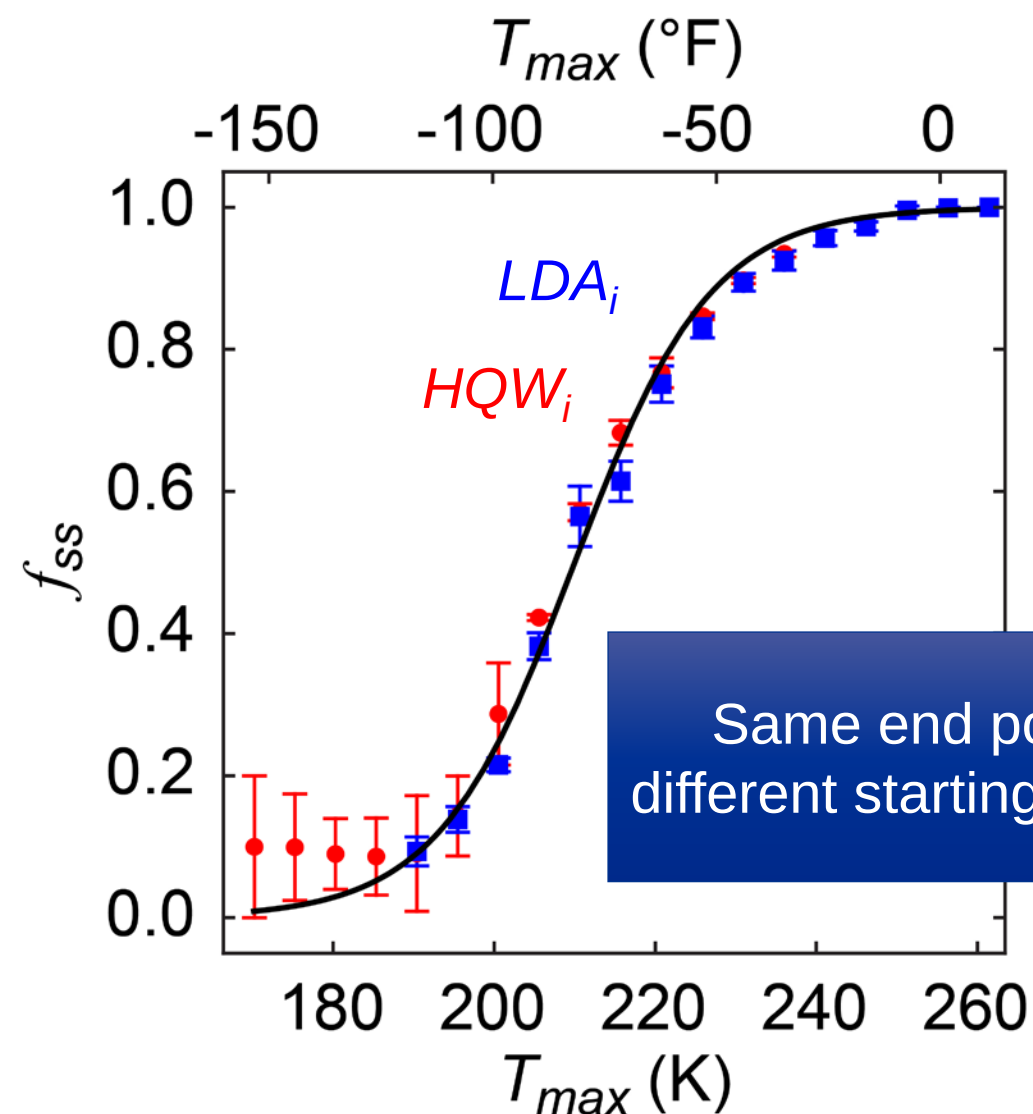


Eventually it will crystallize

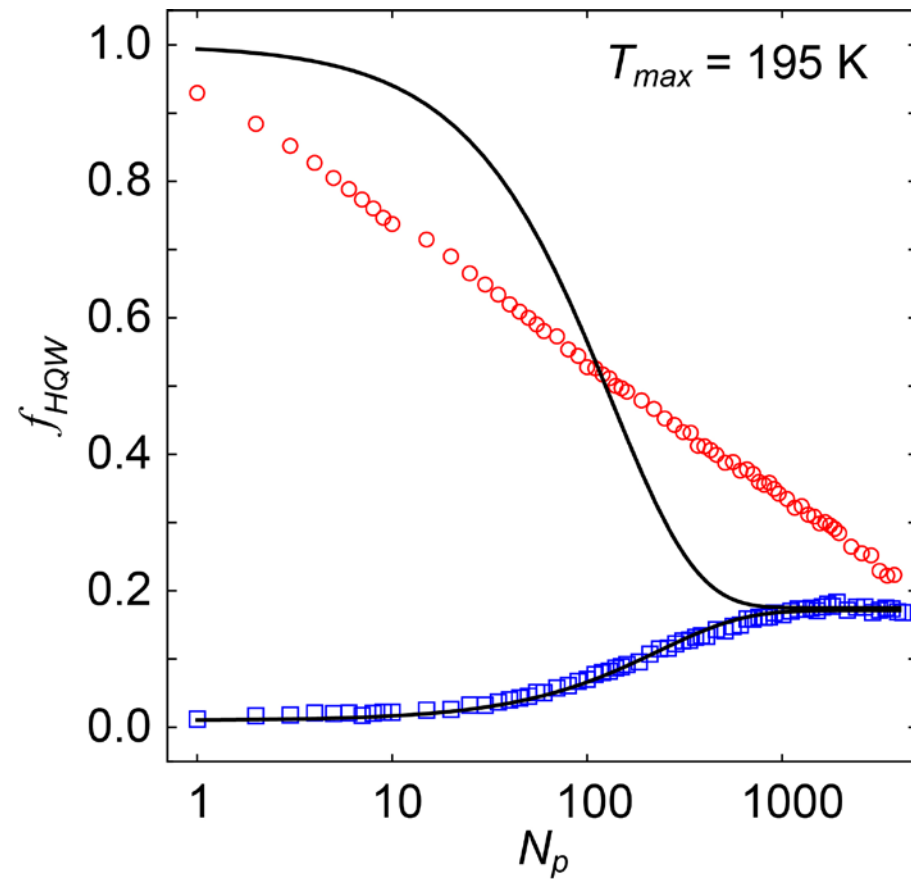
# We measured water relaxation across “No Man’s Land”



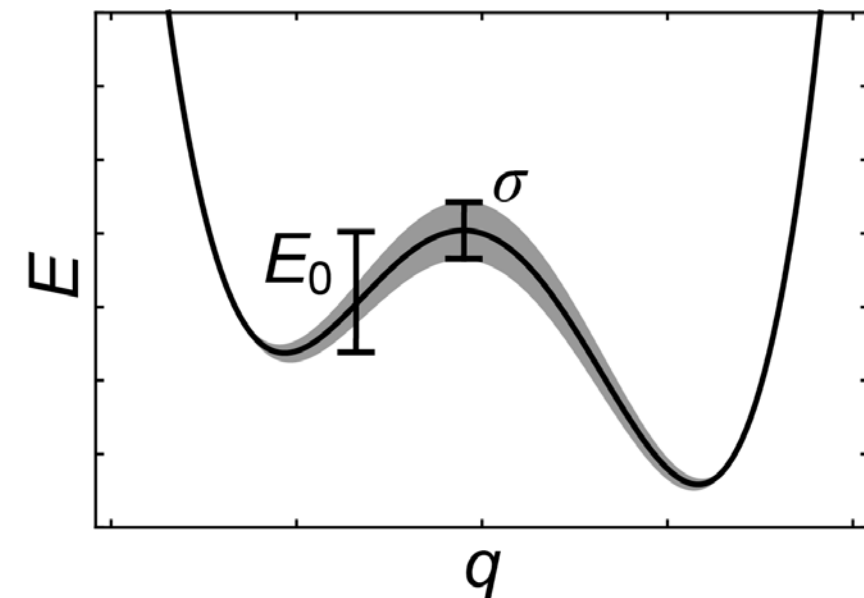
# Relaxation to a metastable state occurs before crystallization



# Exploring a (potential energy) landscape



Two states and a distribution of activation energies



# Conclusions

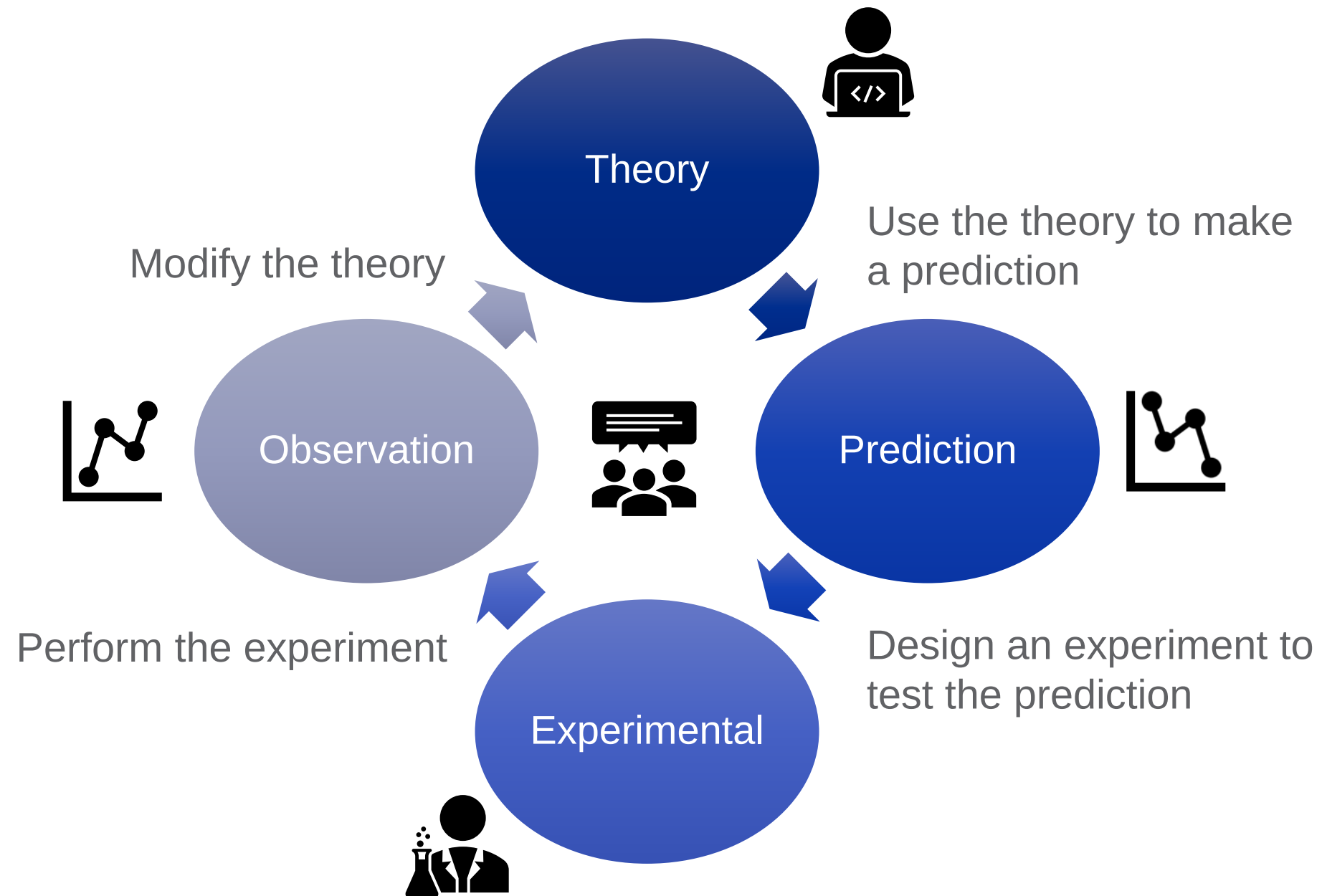
Experimental examination of “No Man’s Land”

Observed reversible structural transitions

The supercooled liquid can be described by two structures

Water reaches a metastable state before crystallization

# What do these findings mean for the scientific community?



# Acknowledgements

- Wyatt Thornley
- Greg Kimmel
- Bruce Kay
- Scott Smith
- Nick Petrik
- Mike Tylinski



# Thank you



# We value your feedback!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNNL081820>