



1 **Atmospheric observations made at Oliktok Point, Alaska as part of the Profiling at Oliktok Point**
2 **to Enhance YOPP Experiments (POPEYE) campaign**

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22 **Abstract.** Between 1 July and 30 September 2018, small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS),,
23 tethered balloon systems (TBS), and additional radiosondes were deployed at Oliktok Point,
24 Alaska to measure the atmosphere in support of the second special observing period for the Year
25 of Polar Prediction (YOPP). These measurements, collected as part of the “Profiling at Oliktok
26 Point to Enhance YOPP Experiments” (POPEYE) campaign, targeted quantities related to
27 enhancing our understanding of boundary layer structure, cloud and aerosol properties and
28 surface-atmosphere exchange, and provide extra information for model evaluation and
29 improvement work. Over the three-month campaign, a total of 59 DataHawk2 sUAS flights, 52
30 TBS flights, and 238 total radiosonde launches were completed as part of POPEYE. The data from
31 these coordinated activities provide a comprehensive three-dimensional data set of the
32 atmospheric state (air temperature, humidity, pressure, and wind), surface skin temperature,
33 aerosol properties, and cloud microphysical information over Oliktok Point. These data sets have
34 been checked for quality and submitted to the US Department of Energy (DOE) Atmospheric
35 Radiation Measurement (ARM) program data archive (<http://www.archive.arm.gov/discovery/>)
36 and are accessible at no cost by all registered users. The primary dataset DOIs are
37 10.5439/1418259 (DataHawk2 measurements; Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program,
38 2016b), 10.5439/1426242 (TBS measurements; Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program,
39 2017) and 10.5439/1021460 (radiosonde measurements; Atmospheric Radiation Measurement
40 Program, 2013a).

41



42 1. Introduction

43 Recent decades have seen notable shifts in Arctic climate (Serreze et al., 2007; Screen and
44 Simmonds, 2010). Reductions in sea ice (Maslanik et al., 2011; Comiso et al., 2008), evident as an
45 integrator of a warming Arctic atmosphere (Dobricic et al., 2016; Graversen et al., 2008), and
46 evolving surface energy budget (Mayer et al., 2016; Hudson et al., 2013) act to enhance
47 absorption of solar radiation at the surface due to a dramatic shift in surface albedo (REFS),
48 potentially enhancing Arctic warming. Sea ice reductions also present opportunities for
49 commerce, including natural resource extraction, shipping, and fishing (Smith and Stephenson,
50 2013; Ho, 2010). Finally, these changes have direct implications on border security due to
51 reduced difficulties with navigation in Arctic waters.

52 In recognition of the importance of these changes and our need to be able to predict and
53 understand them, several nations have established Arctic atmospheric observatories. These
54 observatories measure atmospheric state, cloud properties, aerosols, winds, and surface
55 meteorology, providing critically needed datasets for assimilation into numerical weather
56 prediction models and to advance the physical understanding of the Arctic atmosphere. In
57 northern Alaska, the US Department of Energy (DOE) Atmospheric Radiation Measurement
58 (ARM) Program currently operates two such observatories. The first is the long-term North Slope
59 of Alaska (NSA) site located in Utqiagvik, which has operated since the late 1990s. Additionally,
60 since 2013, the DOE ARM program has operated its third ARM mobile facility (AMF-3) at Oliktok
61 Point, Alaska. Consortia such as the International Arctic Systems for Observing the Atmosphere
62 (IASOA, Uttal et al., 2016) have formed to support the efficient synthesis of measurements from
63 these and other observatories around the Arctic.

64 These observatories only represent a fraction of the work to improve our ability to predict the
65 Arctic environment. Groups such as the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) Polar
66 Prediction Project (PPP) have developed concentrated efforts to support such work. An example
67 of such an effort is the Year Of Polar Prediction (YOPP), taking place from mid-2017 through mid-
68 2019, which directly targets the improvement of prediction capabilities across a wide variety of
69 time scales, from hours to seasons, through coordinated and intensive observations and focused
70 modeling activities. During the “core phase” of the YOPP, two “special observing periods” (SOPs)
71 were conducted in 2018. This includes one SOP in spring (1 February 2018 to 31 March 2018)
72 and one in late summer (1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018). The “core phase” will be followed
73 by a three-year “consolidation phase”, during which a variety of experiments and analysis
74 projects will leverage the datasets collected during the core phase to evaluate and improve
75 models, conduct data denial experiments, and evaluate the state of polar prediction.

76 Based on the input of the global weather and climate modeling communities, YOPP has
77 established a set of detailed modelling priorities, including:

- 78 • *Boundary layer including mixed phase clouds*
- 79 • *Sea ice modelling*
- 80 • *Physics of coupling, including snow on sea ice*



- 81 • *High resolution modelling including ensembles*
- 82 • *Model validation and intercomparison*
- 83 • *Upper ocean processes*
- 84 • *The stratosphere*
- 85 • *Chemistry, including aerosols and ozone*

86 As part of the second SOP, the DOE ARM program supported efforts to enhance observational
87 coverage of the atmosphere at the AMF-3 in Oliktok Point, Alaska (Figure 1). This project, titled
88 “Profiling at Oliktok Point to Enhance YOPP Experiments” (POPEYE) included deployment of the
89 DataHawk2 unmanned aircraft system, tethered balloon systems, and one additional radiosonde
90 per day (three launches daily) to provide measurements needed to help meet the objectives
91 above. The lower-atmospheric thermodynamic observations offer a detailed look into the Arctic
92 summer time boundary layer providing insight into its structure and evolution, and a means of
93 validating retrieval algorithms from remote sensors. Such measurements support the stated
94 YOPP goal of pursuing an integrated modeling framework to connect cloud, boundary layer and
95 surface energy exchange schemes through Large Eddy Simulation (LES)-based development.
96 Additionally, POPEYE provides a detailed dataset that can be used for evaluation of model
97 performance across a variety of model products (e.g., reanalyses, weather forecast models,
98 coupled regional forecast models, global climate models), and more frequent radiosondes can
99 help assess the impact of data assimilation on operational models. This facilitates studies on the
100 impact of enhanced Arctic observations on predictions of lower latitude weather (e.g., Jung,
101 2014; Inoue et al. 2015). The measurements collected can also provide constraints on the initial
102 and boundary conditions for intercomparisons of single-column and large eddy simulation
103 models. The increased frequency of radiosonde launches provides an enhanced look into the
104 Arctic stratosphere, further supported by the launch of additional radiosondes at other
105 observatories during this SOP. Finally, POPEYE aerosol measurements provide information on the
106 vertical structure of key particle properties.

107 This paper describes the dataset collected during POPEYE. Section two includes information on
108 the systems and sensors used, sampling strategies employed, limitations related to weather and
109 other factors, and a general overview of the dataset as collected. Section three provides
110 background on the data processing and quality control measures applied to the datasets
111 collected during POPEYE, and information on the different levels of data resulting from this effort.
112 Section four provides information on the availability of the data, including a link for where the
113 datasets can be downloaded. Finally, section five provides a summary of the POPEYE campaign.

114 **2. Description of Measurements and Sampling Strategy**

115 POPEYE featured a focused deployment of three observational tools during the second northern
116 hemispheric YOPP SOP. These measurements were designed to complement measurements
117 from the instruments integrated into the AMF-3, which run continuously and are therefore not
118 described in detail in this paper. The reader is referred to comprehensive information available
119 through the ARM web page (www.arm.gov). The three datasets described here are those that
120 were specifically deployed as a part of POPEYE, including the DataHawk2 small unmanned aircraft



121 system (sUAS), two tethered balloon systems (TBSs) and extra radiosondes. All systems were
122 deployed by DOE ARM operators, and the Datahawk2 and TBS systems have been deployed
123 regularly at Oliktok Point over the past few years (de Boer et al., 2018). Here we provide
124 information on these systems and the sensors operated on each.

125 **2.1. Tethered Balloon Systems**

126 TBSs mainly consisted of two different balloons, a 35 m³ helikite constructed by Allsopp Helikites
127 and a 79 m³ aerostat constructed by SkyDoc™. The helikite is a balloon/kite hybrid that uses
128 lighter-than-air principles to obtain its initial lift, and a kite to achieve stability and dynamic lift,
129 while the larger aerostat uses a skirt instead of a kite to achieve stability in flight. Lift of both a
130 helikite and an aerostat increase with increasing wind speed, so a relatively stable float altitude
131 can be achieved even in elevated wind speeds. For POPEYE operations, both systems were
132 operated using an electric winch integrated into a dedicated balloon trailer by Sandia National
133 Laboratories. The payload and operating guidelines for the TBSs vary significantly with location
134 and environmental conditions. Generally, the aerostat is operated for total payload weights of 8
135 – 27 kg, and the helikite is operated for total payload weights < 27 kg. The helikite is not typically
136 operated above 600 m AGL, because beyond this altitude the weight of the tether and payload
137 exceed the maximum lifting force of the helikite. The aerostat can be operated at higher
138 altitudes, but due to its larger size is not launched in sustained surface wind speeds > 7 m s⁻¹. The
139 helikite is not launched in sustained surface wind speeds > 11 m s⁻¹. Operation of either platform
140 is suspended, and the balloon is immediately retrieved if sustained wind speeds at the altitude
141 of the balloon exceed 15 m s⁻¹. In general, the strength of the wind is the main limiting factor
142 governing the launch and final altitude of the TBSs, with rime accretion on the tether,
143 instruments and balloon also contributing to altitude limitations.

144

145 POPEYE TBS operations involved a variety of sensors and payloads. To measure the
146 thermodynamic properties of the atmosphere, the TBS team operated multiple different sensor
147 packages from interMet. This includes the interMet iMet-1-RSB radiosonde package as well as
148 the interMet XQ2 sensor packages developed for use on UAS. Additionally, a Silixa XT distributed
149 temperature sensing (DTS) system was flown. This system, which includes a long fiberoptic cable
150 suspended along the tether, provides a high resolution, continuous measurement of air
151 temperature based on Raman scattering (Keller et al. 2011; DeJong et al. 2015). Using this
152 system, the temperature is typically measured along the length of the optical fiber every 30 to
153 60 seconds at 0.65 cm spatial resolution. To provide information on the winds aloft, vane cup
154 anemometers from APRS World were operated at specified intervals along the tether. It is
155 important to note that while wind speed from these sensors appears to be relatively accurate
156 when compared with Doppler lidar measurements, a variety of factors including the high latitude
157 location make the directional measurement inaccurate. Information on the aerosol particle
158 population was provided using a combination of two Handix Scientific Printed Optical Particle
159 Spectrometers (POPS) and a TSI Condensation Particle Counter (CPC) 3007. The two POPS
160 provide information on the aerosol size distribution for particles between 140-3000 nm while the
161 CPC provides information on the total number of particles between 10-1000 nm. Additionally,
162 vibrating wire sensors from Anasphere and the University of Reading provide information on the



163 amount of supercooled liquid water in cloud. These sensors were collectively referred to as
164 “Supercooled Liquid Water Content” (SLWC) sensors. Further details on all of these sensors and
165 the expected level of accuracy (where available) are included in Table 1.

166
167 The main role of the TBS in POPEYE was to collect detailed information on the vertical structure
168 of the lower atmosphere over the AMF-3. This provides information on stratification and the
169 temporal evolution of the lower atmospheric structure. Additionally, the TBS is unique in that it
170 is able to fly in and above cloud for extended time periods, providing an opportunity to collect
171 in-situ measurements of thermodynamic, aerosol and cloud microphysical properties on low-
172 altitude Arctic clouds. To accomplish this, the TBS was flown as high as weather conditions would
173 permit, conducting repeated profiles with sensors distributed along the tether. While the exact
174 placement of the sensors would change from flight to flight to adapt to the present conditions,
175 in general the system was operated with a cluster of sensors including a POPS, CPC, iMet and
176 SLWC near the top of the tether under the balloon, a DTS fiber along the entire length of the
177 tether, and subsequent iMet sensors and anemometers below the main package as most
178 desirable based on the meteorological conditions. When flying the aerostat, a second POPS
179 would also be flown to get more detailed measurements of evolution of the aerosol profile in
180 time. A schematic outlining this strategy is included in Figure 2.

181

182 **2.2. DataHawk2 sUAS**

183 Another instrument platform used during POPEYE was the Datahawk2 sUAS, developed at the
184 University of Colorado Boulder (description of the first version of the DataHawk can be found in
185 Lawrence and Balsley, 2013). The DataHawk2 sUAS is a small (1.2 m wingspan, <1 kg take-off
186 weight), robotic, pusher-prop aircraft designed to operate in a variety of conditions as a flexible
187 and inexpensive measurement platform (see Table 2 for the specifications of the DataHawk2
188 UAS). The DataHawk2 has been used for a variety of purposes, including the study of turbulence
189 (e.g. Kantha et al., 2017; Balsley et al., 2018) and high latitude (e.g. de Boer et al., 2016; 2018)
190 deployments. The relatively slow flight speed (14 m/s, burst up to 22 m/s) allows the platform
191 to obtain measurements at high spatial resolution when compared to other aerial vehicles.
192 Despite this relatively slow speed, the DataHawk2 has been operated in winds up to 12 m/s,
193 making it a robust research platform for the harsh Arctic environment. DataHawk2 flights
194 completed under POPEYE were generally autopilot guided except for during take-off and landing,
195 when they were under the control of a local pilot through real-time telemetry. All flights were
196 completed within radio communication range and within sight of the ground operators and were
197 conducted within restricted airspace (R-2204, see Figure 1, de Boer et al., 2016) controlled by the
198 US DOE. This allowed operators to adjust the flight plan in real time to meet the needs of the
199 science objectives and adapt to the changing environment. The ground controller and UAS
200 communicate via 2.4 GHz radio with a range of approximately 10 km. Regulations limit
201 DataHawk2 flight to within visual line of sight, meaning that it is not allowed to fly into clouds
202 and follow VFR weather minimums for operation (14 CFR 91.155). Additionally, winds hamper
203 the operation of the DataHawk2, with DOE ARM guidelines restricting flight when winds top 7 m
204 s⁻¹.



205 The DataHawk2 carries a variety of sensors to make measurements of the atmospheric and
206 surface states. Custom instrumentation includes a fine wire sensor employing two cold- and one
207 hot-wire. These provide high-frequency (800 Hz) information on temperature and fine scale
208 turbulence. High bandwidth is enabled by small surface-area-to-volume ratios of very thin (5 μm
209 diameter) wires. In addition, the DataHawk2 carries a custom configuration that includes
210 integrated-circuit slow response sensors (Sensiron SHT) for measurement of temperature
211 through a calibrated semiconductor, and relative humidity using a capacitive sensor. For
212 information on surface and sky temperatures, DataHawk2s are equipped with up- and
213 downward-looking thermopile sensors. These sensors undergo a calibration using targets of a
214 known temperature. Finally, DataHawk2s have also carried the commercially-available iMet1
215 radiosonde package, providing comparative information on position (GPS), temperature (bead
216 thermistor), pressure (piezoresistive) and relative humidity (capacitive).

217 The main objective for the DataHawk2 was to obtain as many profiles as possible of the lower
218 atmosphere during daytime hours. To do this, the aircraft was programmed to climb from the
219 surface to the maximum obtainable altitude. This maximum altitude was constrained by the
220 pilot's ability to maintain visual contact with the aircraft (1000 m AGL) or by the cloud ceiling.
221 Because the endurance of the aircraft is approximately 50 minutes in Arctic operating conditions,
222 the aircraft could generally complete between one and two full profiles before needing to land
223 to change batteries. Because of the substantial interest in the interplay between thermodynamic
224 and dynamic properties near cloud base, during cloudy conditions, the operators were requested
225 to hold altitude around cloud base for 10-15 minutes to collect statistics of that environment
226 before descending back towards the surface. Figure 3 provides an illustration outlining this flight
227 pattern.

228

229 **2.3. Radiosondes**

230 The DOE ARM program launched Vaisala RS-92 radiosondes on a regular schedule under POPEYE.
231 Due to concerns about operator safety and fatigue, the number of radiosondes launched was
232 scheduled at three per day, with requested launch times of 05:30, 17:30 and 23:30 UTC (21:30,
233 09:30, 15:30 AKDT) to match the 06:00, 18:00 and 00:00 UTC synoptic times. Radiosonde
234 launches were at times suspended due to dangerous conditions, including the presence of bears
235 on site, or high winds ($>13.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ sustained and gusting $>18 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) which could result in damage
236 to the sensor package if the balloon does not achieve enough vertical lift due to the strong cross
237 wind. Radiosondes are lifted using 350g balloons with an average ascent rate target of 5.5 m s^{-1} .
238 Radiosonde data from the campaign are available through the ARM data archive (Atmospheric
239 Radiation Measurement program, 2013a).

240

241 **2.4. Overview of meteorological conditions sampled**

242 The presence of the ARM AMF-3, allows us to put the measurements from the radiosondes, TBS
243 and UAS in broader context. Figure 4 shows measurements from the AMF-3 surface
244 meteorological instrumentation (Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program, 2013b) over the
245 three-month POPEYE period. Synoptically, this period featured several driving features. For
246 much of the campaign, there was a stationary area of high pressure positioned over the Gulf of
247 Alaska, and Oliktok Point sat on the gradient between this area of high pressure and transient



248 low pressure systems moving through the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. This generally resulted in
249 west-northwesterly winds during this time period. Some of these cyclones passed closer to
250 shore, thereby directly impacting the Oliktok Point area and creating precipitation events and
251 shifting wind regimes (e.g. July 7-10; August 13; August 16-17; August 29-31). In late August
252 there was a general shift in the pattern with high pressure beginning to set up over northern
253 Alaska and eventually over the Beaufort Sea to the north. This resulted in a general shift towards
254 easterly winds at the surface. The end of the POPEYE campaign featured a dominant area of high
255 pressure over the area, resulting in weak easterly winds.

256
257 Considering the vertical structure of the lower atmosphere, the observations included
258 measurements from a variety of stability regimes. While the presence of the sun in summer
259 months generally results in more adiabatic lower atmospheric states than during other times of
260 year in the Arctic, the data collected indicates sampling of both well-mixed and stratified
261 conditions. This includes several stable boundary layer cases. Additionally, many of the
262 completed flights were flown with some level of cloud cover in place. While the UAS did not
263 sample through the cloud, the TBS was able to do so, providing insight into the thermodynamic
264 and microphysical structure in and around these clouds. Based on ceilometer data from the AMF-
265 3 (Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program 2013c), a cloud base was detected during 76%
266 of the campaign period. Of the times when clouds were detected, 73% of the cloud bases
267 occurred below 1 km altitude, 21% occurred between 1-4 km altitude, and 6% were found above
268 4 km.

269
270 In general, it is relevant and important to note that to some extent all of the POPEYE platforms
271 were weather-limited in terms of their operations. Therefore, there is an element of selective
272 sampling to consider when using the collected datasets. Most directly, the TBS and UAS systems
273 were generally not operated during high winds. The UAS additionally had limitations related to
274 visibility. The radiosondes were least impacted, though high winds did also prevent some
275 launches.

276

277 **2.5. Overview of completed flights and radiosonde launches**

278 Over the three-month period, there were limited data outages and challenges related to the
279 issues discussed in the previous sections. Figure 5 illustrates the operations completed under
280 POPEYE. The most significant challenge to continuous operations was the electromagnetic
281 interference (EMI) caused by a US Air Force radar station at Oliktok Point. Modifications made
282 to this radar during the POPEYE time window unfortunately resulted in the grounding of the
283 DataHawk2s for their planned second and third deployments. Additionally, this EMI resulted in
284 some resets of the TBS instrumentation, and errors in the TBS GPS readings. In addition, there
285 were some challenges associated with the Arctic weather. Despite it being summer, winds were
286 a challenge to both TBS and UAS flights at times, and also resulted in the cancellation of some
287 radiosonde launches. Wildlife also posed challenges, as the site is visited by both brown and
288 polar bears during the summer months. The local presence of these large creatures generally
289 required that operators ceased outdoor operations, impacting all three measurement platforms.
290 Despite these challenges, the campaign totaled 238 radiosondes launched, 52 TBS flights (134.3



291 flight hours), and 59 DataHawk2 flights (64.6 flight hours). Figure 6 illustrates the completed
292 flights in time-height space.

293

294 A map indicating the horizontal extent of the TBS flights is shown in Figure 7 (top). The horizontal
295 distances covered are governed by the positioning of the winch trailer for the system, the wind
296 speed, and the amount of tether extended. The points drifting over the ocean surface are the
297 result of erroneous GPS data, likely linked to EMI from the USAF radar system. The distribution
298 balloon altitudes (the highest sampling height for any given TBS operation) is shown in Figure 7
299 (bottom) and demonstrates that the balloon typically sampled the lowest 1 km of the
300 atmosphere. Because the balloon can hover at a given altitude for extended time periods, there
301 are multiple peaks in the altitude distribution, notably at around 150 m, 300 m, 700 m and 1000
302 m. These altitudes correspond to altitudes chosen for extended sampling during the campaign.
303 Also, a comparison of TBS altitudes with ceilometer-based cloud base measurements indicates
304 that the TBS was operating at or above the lowest detected cloud base altitude 32% of the time.

305

306 A map of the horizontal extent of the DataHawk2 flights is shown in Figure 8 (top). All flights
307 were conducted in close proximity to the AMF-3 instrumentation, within the restricted airspace
308 outlined under R-2204. The flight patterns consisted of profiling of the lowest 1 km of the
309 atmosphere, as indicated by the probability distribution of altitudes sampled in the lower panel.
310 This distribution is binned by 20 m increments and based on this it becomes clear that most
311 common altitude was between 20-40 m above ground level (AGL). From this altitude, the
312 frequency of visiting higher altitudes generally decreases slowly, resulting from limitations
313 imparted by visibility and winds.

314

315 Figure 9 provides insight into the statistics of the radiosonde measurements. The right panel
316 indicates the distance away from Oliktok Point that radiosondes traveled over the length of the
317 POPEYE campaign. Within the troposphere (<10 km altitude), radiosondes generally remained
318 within 20 km of the Oliktok Point facility. However, a few balloons traveled as far as 100 km away
319 once in the stratosphere, with most staying within 50 km of the site all the way to the top of the
320 profile. The temperature-height histogram (figure 6, left panel) reveals a general cooling of the
321 air with height through the depth of the troposphere, with most profiles cooling from
322 temperatures of 0-10 C near the surface to around -50 C at the tropopause. Additionally, there
323 are indicators of frequent low-level inversions in the lowest 1-2 km. There appear to be two
324 modes of temperatures observed in the stratosphere, with a dominant mode between -40 and -
325 50 C, and a secondary mode at around -55 C. Finally, a two-dimensional histogram of the winds
326 with height (Figure 6, middle panel) illustrates a broad range of measurements near the surface
327 (0-20 m s⁻¹), with winds generally increasing with height through the troposphere to values
328 ranging between 5-50 m s⁻¹. Winds in the stratosphere again decrease to less than 10 m s⁻¹.
329 Figure 10 illustrates time-height cross sections of radiosonde measurements of temperature,
330 relative humidity and wind speed for the duration of POPEYE.

331

332 **3. Data processing and quality control**

333 The US DOE ARM program handles all data collection, quality control, and processing for field
334 campaigns. In general, several different levels of ARM data are made available, ranging from raw



335 data as recorded by the sensors (a-level), to quality-controlled data (b-level) and data products
336 (c-level). This section provides an overview of the processing and quality control applied to the
337 data streams coming from the platforms deployed during POPEYE.

338

339 For the DataHawk, current processing techniques provide both raw and processed datafiles.
340 Aircraft performance and sensor data are gathered and stored in a binary format on the onboard
341 SD card. This binary format data is the raw data that is archived by ARM (a0 level). Typically, this
342 raw data is invisible to the community user, but can be requested through the ARM data
343 discovery tool if desired. In addition, the data on the SD card is unpacked, downsampled to 10
344 Hz, and assigned to a relevant array of variable names, and then exported to NetCDF format as a
345 processed raw data file (a1 level). This data file includes data gathered by onboard sensors during
346 flight, aircraft performance data, telemetry data and GPS data. The next file that is produced is a
347 10 Hz quality-controlled file that includes some initial conversions (b1 level). For example, raw
348 sensor data from the cold wire sensor and onboard temperature sensors are used to convert the
349 voltage reported by the cold wire into a temperature value. Additionally, relative humidity and
350 infrared temperature values measured are calibrated and converted from the engineering to
351 relevant physical units. Wind components are reconstructed using corrected pitot airspeed data,
352 GPS data, and the aircraft principle axis data to produce wind speed and direction and the three
353 wind components. Finally, a quality control step is applied to remove any significant spikes in the
354 dataset. This quality-controlled dataset is the current final ARM data product for DataHawk2. An
355 additional higher frequency data product is under development for future release, which will
356 provide the turbulence parameters as a value added product (VAP).

357

358 Most of the TBS measurements undergo a similar processing and quality control procedure. In
359 particular, several quality control measures are implemented on the POPS instrument. Included
360 in this processing is a size correction that is determined through routine size checks and
361 calibration. For the size check, 500 nm polystyrene latex (PSL) particles are generated to evaluate
362 the signal response from the POPS instrument and confirm that the instrument performance is
363 steady over the course of the campaign. For the calibration, eight different PSL particle sizes are
364 used to determine the relationship between the optical response signal and particle size. In
365 addition, a flow correction is applied, which is based on routine checks using a flow meter.

366

367 Radiosonde data are processed as quality-controlled measurements, with quality control being
368 completed proprietary Vaisala software that corrects for sensor response time and solar
369 radiation exposure.

370

371 **4. Data Availability**

372 The data files from POPEYE observations are available for public download through the US DOE
373 ARM Program Data Archive (<http://www.archive.arm.gov/discovery/>). ARM uses NetCDF as the
374 standard data file format, with self-describing metadata provided to the user inside the NetCDF
375 file. The data are posted as individual datastreams on the archive, which is searchable by site (in
376 this case OLI for Oliktok Point) and instrument (in this case “TBS” for the tethered balloons,
377 “aafdatahawk” for the DataHawk2, and “sonde” for the radiosondes). Each instrument may have
378 several different levels of data available.



379 The main TBS datastream for measurements from the iMet instruments and basic information
380 on aerosol instrumentation is *olibtbsimetM1.a1* (DOI: 10.5439/1246367). ARM is currently
381 working to produce a quality-controlled b1 product. Data from the DTS system has been
382 collected by the ARM Data Management Facility (DMF), and can be requested by email to
383 armarchive@ornl.gov, with the appropriate DTS datastreams for POPEYE being *tbsdtssxforjch1*,
384 *tbsdtssxforjch2*, *tbsdtssxch1*, *tbsdtssxch2*. SLW sensor data is available through the ARM archive
385 under the *tbsslwc.b0* datastream, while the TBS aerosol instrumentation can also be downloaded
386 through the archive as *tbscpcM1.00*, *tbspopdryM1.00*, *tbspopwetM1.00*. All of these datasets
387 are currently provided at 1 Hz. TBS ground station data, including temperature, humidity,
388 pressure and winds at the surface, are available as b-level files on the archive under the file prefix
389 “olibtbsgroundM1” as 10-minute average values.

390

391 Quality-controlled DataHawk data can be downloaded as *oliaafdatahawkm1U1.b1* (DOI:
392 10.5439/1426242). Finally, the POPEYE radiosonde dataset is available as a QC'd b1 dataset, with
393 the filenames being of the general form *olisondewnpnM1.b1* (DOI: 10.5439/1021460), where
394 *wnpn* refers to the mode of the sonde data collection. Here, “w”=winds, “p”=PTU (pressure,
395 temperature, humidity), and “n”=nominal indicates a normal flight with data collection during
396 ascent only.

397

398 To make it possible for scientists to cite DOE ARM program data in their publications, ARM
399 recognizes the value of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). Such DOIs are generally being generated
400 at the ARM data product level. Data products produced from the a-level data may have their
401 own DOI -- for example, separate DOIs are assigned to each of the available output datastreams
402 and any value-added products (VAP) from the radiosonde measurements obtained by ARM. This
403 means that it is possible that POPEYE measurements could be spread across a variety of DOIs,
404 and that additional DOIs could be created that include POPEYE data as additional data products
405 are developed.

406 5. Summary

407 Between 1 July and 30 September 2018, the POPEYE measurement team collected detailed
408 measurements of the lower Arctic atmosphere at Oliktok Point, Alaska using tethered balloons,
409 unmanned aircraft and radiosondes. This activity resulted in the completion of 134.3 TBS flight
410 hours, 64.6 sUAS flight hours, and 238 radiosonde launches. The primary focus of POPEYE was
411 to provide detailed measurements of the lower atmosphere, including thermodynamic state,
412 aerosol properties, cloud microphysical properties, winds, and surface temperature. UAS flights
413 covered the atmosphere between the surface and 1 km altitude but were unfortunately called-
414 off early due to EMI from the nearby long-range surveillance radar system operated by the US
415 Air Force. Tethered balloon measurements went as high as 1396 m using two different balloons.
416 Radiosondes were launched at a frequency of three times daily, except when environmental
417 conditions (winds, bears) prevented balloon launches. These datasets provide a detailed look
418 into processes in the lower atmosphere and set the stage for detailed evaluation of numerical
419 models and, together with ongoing, continuous measurements from the AMF-3, support the



420 development of modeling case studies for process understanding and evaluation of
421 parameterization performance.

422 Quality-controlled versions of the data collected as a part of POPEYE are available on the US DOE
423 ARM data archive. This archive is publicly accessible and allows users to download data from
424 these platforms and all other ARM-operated instrumentation, including measurements from the
425 AMF-3 deployment at Oliktok Point.

426

427 **Author Contributions**

428 GdB designed the field campaign, acted as principal investigator for POPEYE, conducted field
429 work as part of POPEYE, and led the development of the manuscript. DD, CL and MA were the
430 primary TBS operators during POPEYE, contributed to the processing of TBS data, and contributed
431 to the writing and review of the manuscript. JH, PC, and LG were the primary DataHawk2
432 operators during POPEYE and contributed to the processing of DataHawk2 data and the writing
433 and review of the manuscript. DO, JL, MC and NB are site operators at Oliktok Point and
434 conducted the radiosonde launches, contributed to site operations during POPEYE and assisted
435 the DataHawk2 and TBS teams while in the field. FM is the instrument mentor for TBS aerosol
436 instrumentation as well as for the DataHawk2 and contributed to data preparation and
437 processing for POPEYE as well as manuscript writing and review. MS, AS, and JI are POPEYE Co-
438 Pls and contributed to campaign planning, field work, and oversight as well as the writing and
439 review of this manuscript. DL is the primary DataHawk2 developer and contributed to the
440 development and review of the DataHawk2 dataset. AD helped with the derivation of wind
441 estimates from the DataHawk2. DH is the ARM instrument mentor for the radiosondes and
442 contributed to the processing of the radiosonde dataset as well as the writing and review of this
443 manuscript. Finally, MI and BS manage the teams responsible for operation of the TBS and
444 DataHawk2. Additionally, MI is the primary site manager at the AMF-3. They both oversaw and
445 supported campaign activities and additionally contributed to the review of this manuscript.

446

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453 Nikaitchuq Operations Center, and ConocoPhillips who housed team members at the Kuparuk
454 camp. Finally, POPEYE is an officially-endorsed contribution to the Year of Polar Prediction
455 (YOPP), a flagship activity of the Polar Prediction Project (PPP), initiated by the World Weather
456 Research Programme (WWRP) of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). We
457 acknowledge the WMO WWRP for its role in coordinating this international research activity.

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543 **Tables**

544

	Resolution	Accuracy	Range	Response Time
iMet-1-RSB				
Pressure (hPa)	< 0.01	+/- 0.5	2 - 1070	< 1 s
T (°C)	< 0.01	+/- 0.2	-95 to 50	2 s
RH (%)	< 0.1	+/- 5	0 - 100	2 s @ 25 °C
GPS Altitude (m)		+/- 15	0 – 30+ km	
GPS Wind Speed (m/s)		+/- 1		
GPS Position (m)		+/- 10		
iMet XQ2				
Pressure (hPa)	0.01	+/- 1.5	10 - 1200	10 ms
T (°C)	0.01	+/- 0.3	-90 to 50	1 s @ 5 m/s flow
RH (%)	0.1	+/- 5	0 - 100	5.2 s @ 5 °C
GPS (m)		+/- 12 vertically		
APRS World Wind Vane				
Wind Speed (m/s)	0.1	+/- 0.1 or 5% (whichever is greater)	1 - 59	
Wind Direction* (°)	1	+/- 2	0 - 360	
POPS				
Particles Conc. (cm ⁻³)		+/- 10 % < 1000 cm ⁻³ at 0.1 LPM	0-1250 cm ⁻³	
CPC				
Particles Conc. (cm ⁻³)		+/- 2.5-3%	0-1E ⁴ cm ⁻³	
TBS Ground Station				
T (°C)	0.01	+/- 0.3	-95 to 50	< 1 s
RH (%)	0.1	+/- 2 @ 20 °C, < 90% RH, +/- 3 @ 20 °C, >= 90% RH	0.8 - 100	15 s @ 20 °C

545 **Table 1:** Known performance characteristics for TBS instruments. The asterisk with wind
546 direction denotes that these stated specifications have not been met in the Arctic environment
547 at Oliktok Point.
548



549 **Table 2:** Known performance characteristics for DataHawk2 instruments. The asterisk with wind
550 direction denotes that these stated specifications have not been met in the Arctic environment
551 at Oliktok Point.
552

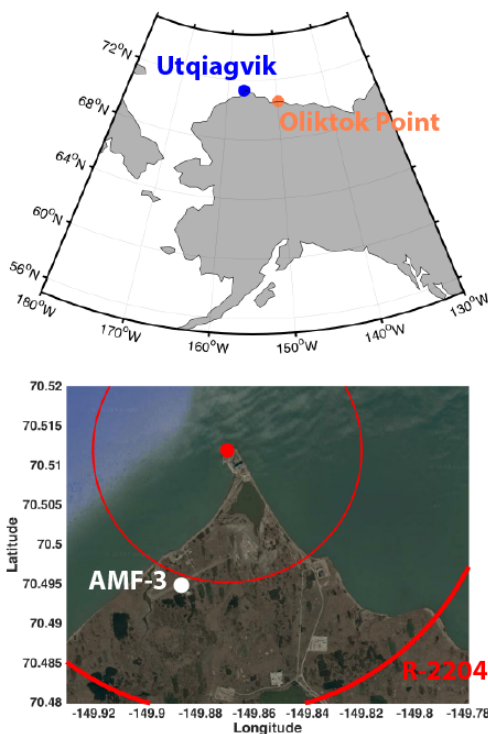
Data Type	Resolution	Accuracy	Range	Response Time
GPS latitude [degrees]	0.010	10m	-40 to 80	1s
GPS longitude [degrees]	0.010	10m	-180 to 180	1s
GPS altitude [m, MSL]	0.010	10m	-100 to 15000	1s
Baro pressure [mbar]	0.01	2.5	500 to 1030	0.022 s
Rel. humidity [%]	0.01	+/- 3	0 to 105	8 s
Slow temp. [°C]	0.015	+/- 2	-40 to 80	2 s
Coldwire Voltage [V]	0.0000078 [~0.025°C]	Unknown	-40 to +80 °C	0.5 ms @ 15 m/s
Airspeed [m/s]	0.01	0.2	0 to 30	0.3 ms
iMet, EE03, Temp [°C]	0.01	+/- 0.3 deg	-40 to + 85 deg C	1s
iMet, EE03, RH [%]	0.01	+/- 3%	0-95%	1s
wind_u [m/s]	0.01	Unknown	-50 to 50	0.1s
wind_v [m/s]	0.01	Unknown	-50 to 50	0.1s
wind_w [m/s]	0.01	Unknown	-50 to 50	0.1s

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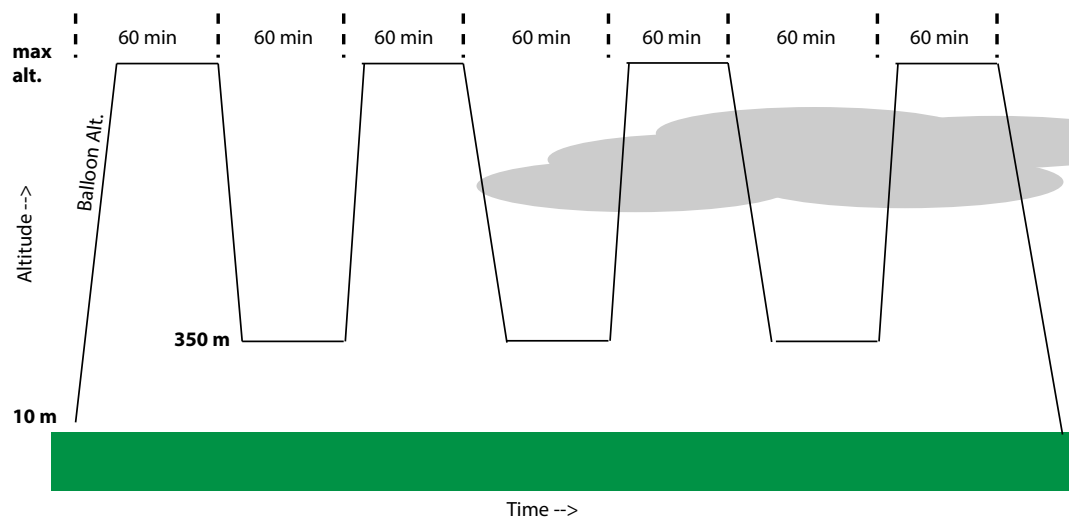
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555 **Figures**
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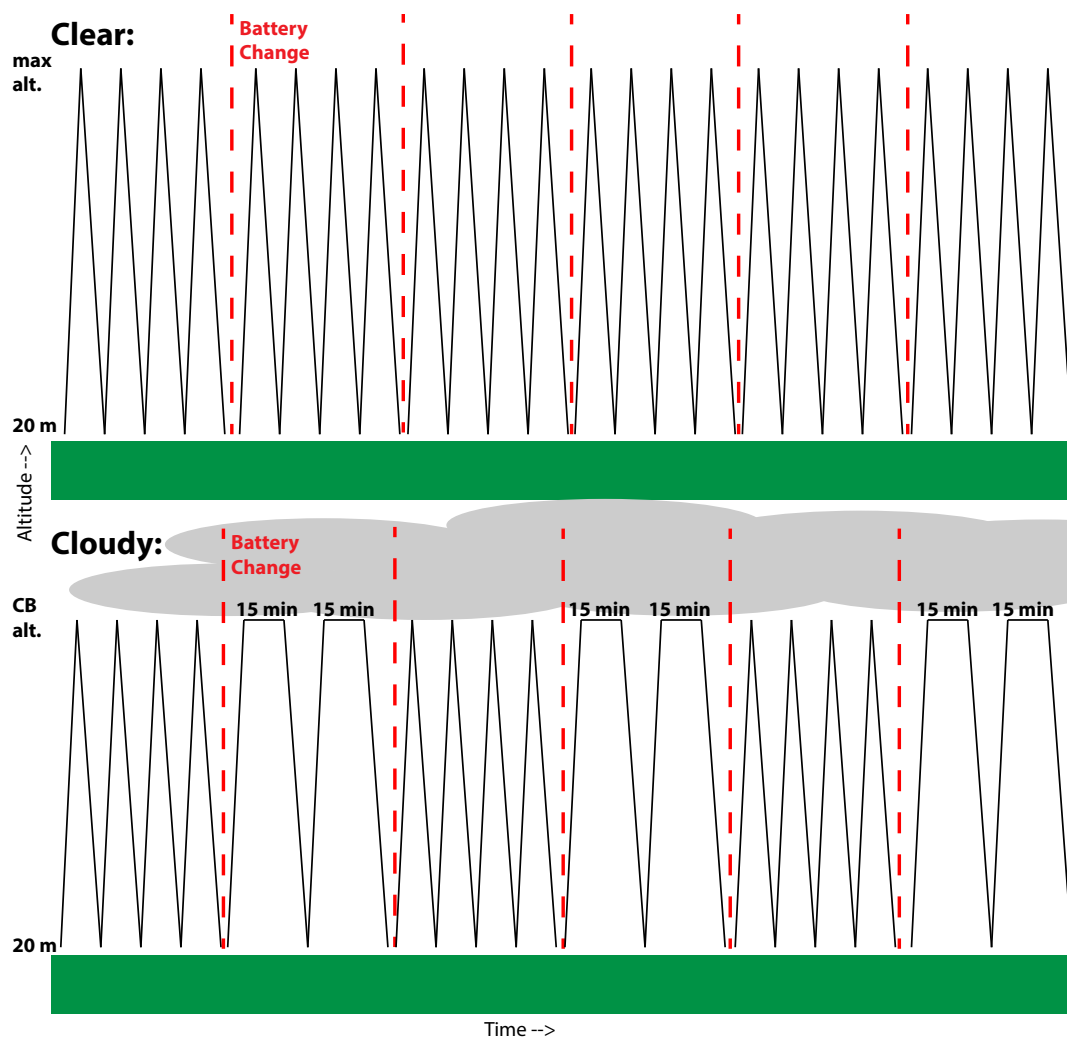


557 **Figure 1:** A map illustrating the location of Oliktok Point, Alaska (top). The lower panel is a
558 satellite image of the Oliktok Point area, including information on the boundaries of the R-2204
559 restricted airspace (bold red line), and the location of the DOE AMF-3 (white dot).
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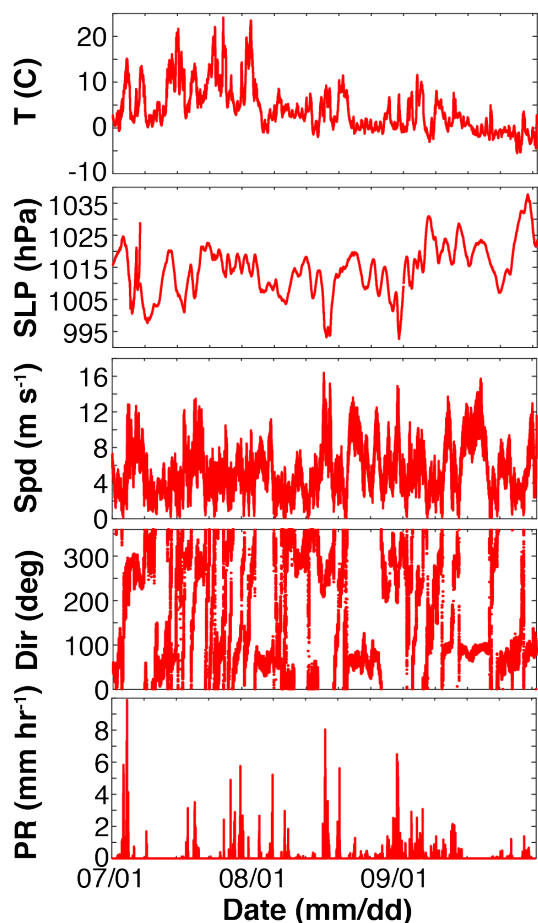
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Figure 2: An illustration of the proposed TBS flight pattern for clear or cloudy conditions. The black lines are the proposed flight pattern, with time on the horizontal axis.

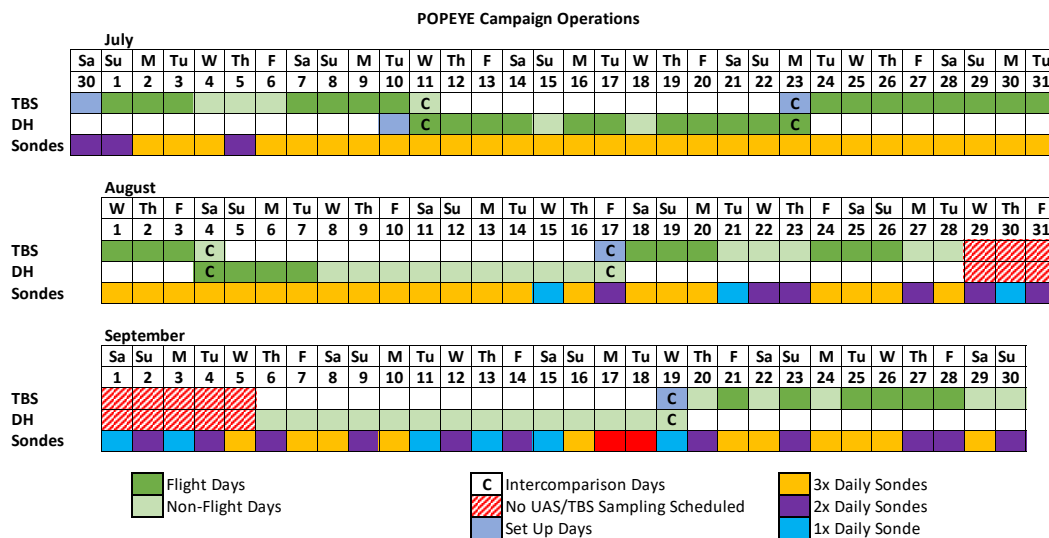


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Figure 3: An illustration of the proposed DataHawk2 flight pattern for clear (top) and cloudy (bottom) conditions. The black lines are the proposed flight pattern on a time axis, while the red lines indicate battery changes in between flights.

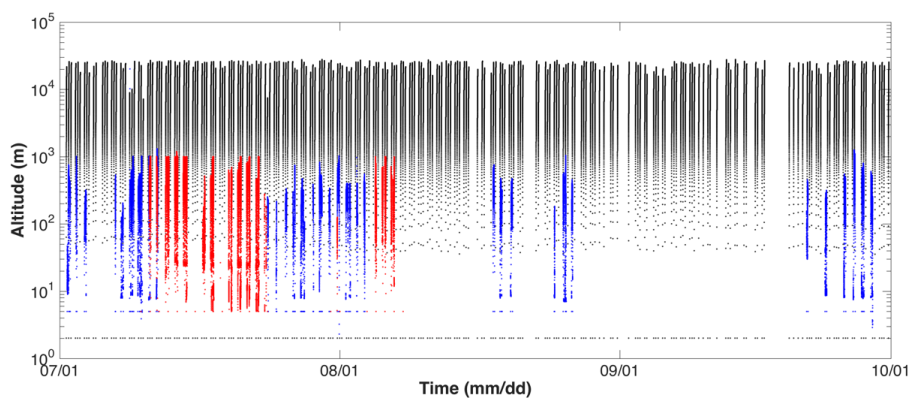


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572 **Figure 4:** Surface meteorological conditions, as measured by instrumentation associated with
573 the Oliktok Point AMF3 during POPEYE. From top to bottom are: 2-meter air temperature, sea
574 level pressure, 10-meter wind speed, 10-meter wind direction and surface precipitation rate.
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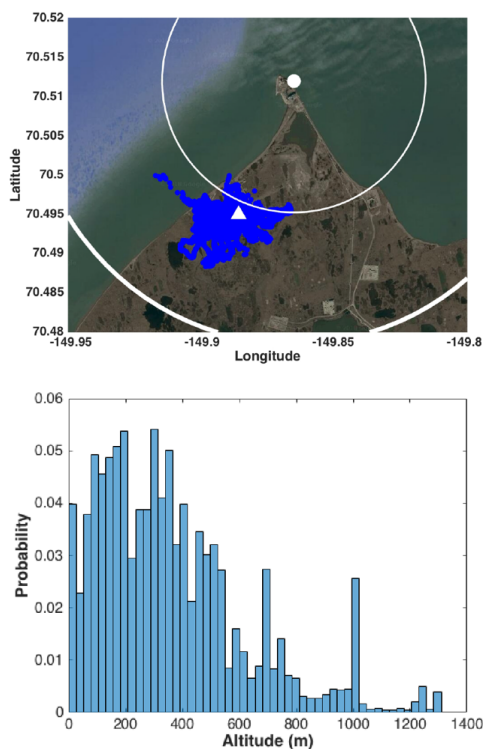
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Figure 5: A graphical representation of actual UAS, TBS and radiosonde operations during POPEYE.

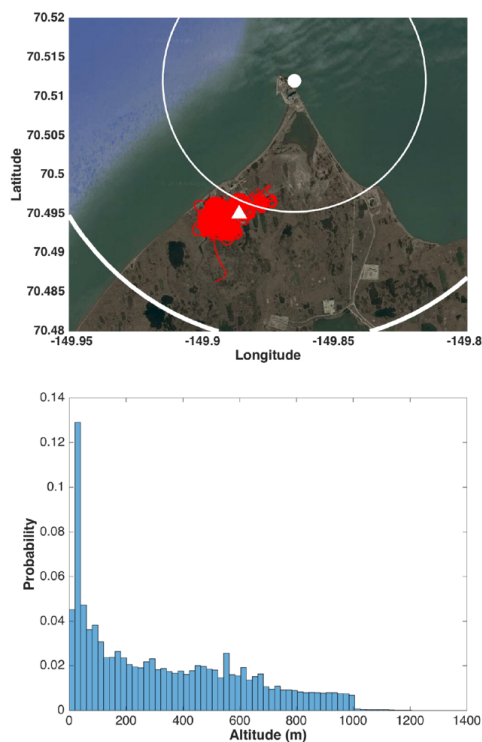


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Figure 6: A time-height cross-section illustrating all of the POPEYE radiosonde launches (black dots), DataHawk2 flights (red dots) and tethered balloon flights (blue dots).



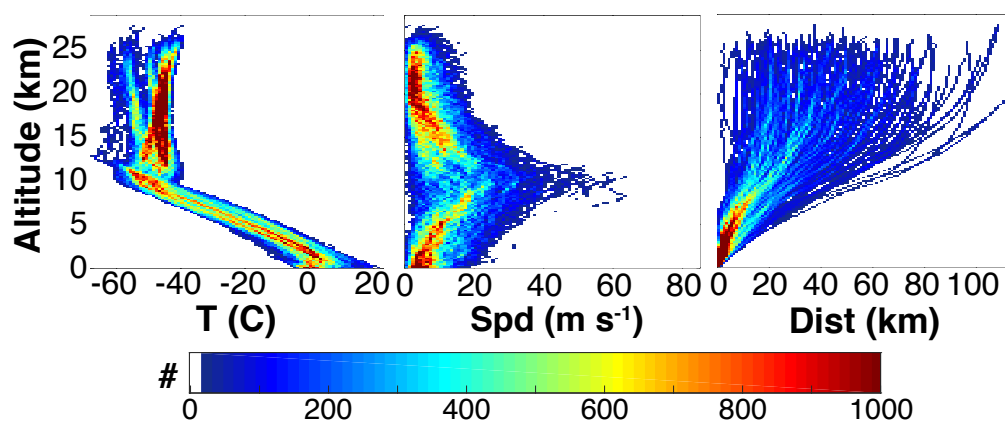
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585 **Figure 7:** POPEYE tethered balloon flight locations (top), including white range rings at one and
586 two nautical miles demonstrating the extent of R-2204 and the location of the AMF-3 (white
587 triangle). The bottom panel is a relative frequency distribution of the altitudes sampled by the
588 TBS during POPEYE.
589
590



591
592 **Figure 8:** POPEYE DataHawk2 flight locations (top), including white range rings at one and two
593 nautical miles demonstrating the extent of R-2204 and the location of the AMF-3 (white triangle).
594 The bottom panel is a relative frequency distribution of the altitudes sampled by the DataHawks
595 during POPEYE.
596

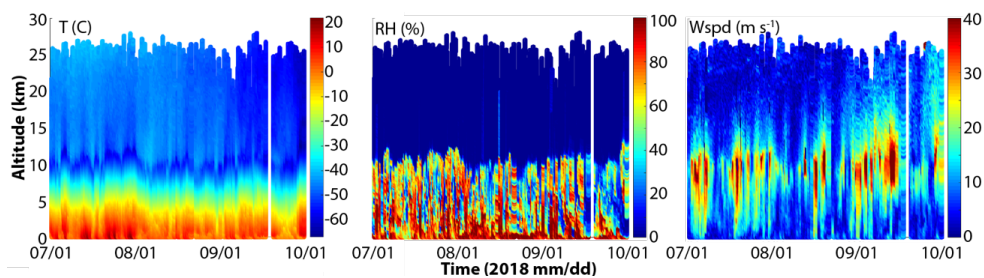


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Figure 9: Two-dimensional histograms of radiosonde temperature (left), wind speed (middle), and distance from Oliktok Point (right), with altitude during POPEYE.



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Figure 10: POPEYE radiosonde data, including time-height cross sections of (left to right) temperature, relative humidity and wind speed as observed during the second YOPP Special Observing Period.