In situ observations of volcanic emissions for sub-orbital calibration and validation

David Pieri
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA

Jorge Andres Diaz
University of Costa Rica, San Jose

Geoffrey Bland
NASA Wallops Flight Facility/Goddard SFC, Wallops Island, VA

Matthew Fladeland
NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, CA

Puyehue-Cordon Caulle Volcano, Chile
04 June 2011
Courtesy Agence France-Presse

2011 HyspIRI Science Workshop, 23-25 August 2011, Washington, DC
Outline

1. The problem:
   How can we conveniently, accurately, responsively, and relatively cheaply, sample volcanic ash and gas emissions in situ?

2. One solution: Use small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
Volcano Hazards

- Prevailing wind
- Eruption cloud
- Tephra (ash) fall
- Acid rain
- Bombs
- Dome
- Dome collapse
- Pyroclastic flow
- Lahar (debris flow)
- Magma flow
- Magma conduit
- Ground water
- Crack
- Magma reservoir
- Eruption column
- Debris avalanche (landslide)
- Pyroclastic flow
- Fumaroles

Eruption column processes

Momentum overshoot in excess of NBH

Neutral Buoyancy Height (NBH)

Entrainment and heating of air generates buoyancy and turbulence

10-30 km

2-3 km

Dense, very hot (1000K) fast-rising jet (100-300 m/s) of ash and gas

volcano
Importance of In Situ Sampling of Volcanic Plumes?

- **Basic science**
  
  Better knowledge of instrument response
  
  How well are detection, mass-loading, and trajectory prediction models doing in characterizing volcanic airborne emissions, both gases and aerosols?

- **Applied Science (Emphasis of this talk)**
  
  🕷 Understand the physical properties of airborne volcanogenic emissions in the context of airborne hazards to aviation.
Ash is a serious regional to global threat to aircraft

“...the 2010 eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland have highlighted the frailties of global aviation...”

“...today it is recognized that one of the more serious direct threats of airborne ash clouds is to aircraft in flight...”

“...the threat of volcanic ash clouds to aviation is significant in thinking about the multidimensional hazards of large eruptions in the future...”

The collision between volcanic eruptions and aviation: stimulus and response

- **The Stimulus: Airborne Hazards**
  - Eruption effects— injection of large amounts of volcanic gas, particulate ash, water vapor, and ice into the troposphere and stratosphere.
  - Volcanic plumes and clouds—drifting over major sections of the globe, disruptive, dangerous.
  - Effects on Aircraft—obvious prompt and more subtle delayed engine and airframe problems.

- **The Operational Response—Airlines, VAACs, First responders**
  - Where is the stuff? Where’s it going?
  - Aviation—go around! OK for North America, parts of Asia, and maybe Australia/New Zealand but can’t easily do it in Europe or Central/South America, for instance.
  - What concentration levels are safe to fly through and for how long?
The collision between volcanic eruptions and aviation: stimulus and response

• The Observational Response—National weather and science agencies
  – Remote sensing—get data!
  – Mainly satellite observations—from LEO and GEO. (HyspIRI will vastly help).
  – How do we interpret our data?
  – How much is there?
  – Could we have seen it coming--precursors? (HyspIRI will vastly help here, too.)

• The Critique (the role of in situ observations—focus of this talk)
  – How good are our remote sensing data?
  – What do our data mean in terms of “tangible” physical properties of volcanic clouds?
  – How well can we validate our results and how can we improve them?
Emergent Airborne Ash Issues
2009 and now
Rapidly dispersing ash clouds present an aviation threat that 
widens minute by minute during and after an eruption.

First, at local scale—then rapidly becomes regional, and large 
eruptions can become continental to global in effect.

**Physical characteristics of the eruption clouds are inferred from 
remote sensing data with few validation measurements.**

**Ash concentration, trajectory, altitude, and lateral extent 
estimates are highly dependent on**
- Dispersion models
- Radiative transfer models
- Remote sensing data reduction models
“...there are no standard data products specifically designed for volcanic ash and volcanic gases...” (Prata et al., IEEE, 2009)

“...There are also no internationally agreed satellite-based volcanic product standards and no protocols or procedures in place to permit specification of safe limits for aviation encountering airborne volcanic substances. Part of this problem lies with the lack of sufficient information regarding what constitutes safe operating limits when flying near to volcanic clouds. Part of the solution lies in being able to provide quantitative satellite information and some means for validation.” (Prata et al., IEEE, 2009)

“...Currently, there is no objective means for determining the injection height of a volcanic eruption, and usually multiple dispersion simulations must be run and matched “by eye” to current or prior satellite imagery.” (Prata et al., IEEE, 2009)

“...We emphasize here that neither of these SEVIRI retrieval schemes have been properly validated against independent measurements. Based on an error budget for the TOVS/HIRS SO\textsubscript{2} retrieval scheme [Prata et al., 2003], a conservative error for SEVIRI is ±10 D.U. on a single pixel basis. This gives a mass loading retrieval error of approximately ±0.01 Tg(S), for the SO\textsubscript{2} clouds discussed here. (Prata and Kerkmann, GRL, 2007)
**Questions:**

- How crucial are the validations of models and data reduction techniques? *Is just knowing the ash is there “enough” to manage safety concerns?*

- What are the consequences of establishing better confidence on knowledge of ash concentrations? *Will this propagate to smaller safety margins as air carriers make more finely tuned risk-benefit analyses? “Don’t ask, don’t tell?”*

- ***How strongly are we willing to advocate for possibly heroic or expensive efforts to collect high altitude in situ validation data?***

- **Ad hoc Airborne In Situ Sampling Working Group** was to start in 2011 at Melbourne IAVCEI Congress—now planned for 2012 in Costa Rica
Eruption column processes

Growth of the 1947 Hekla Plume
(after Thorarinsson, 1954)
Ash & SO₂ transport

Courtesy of Dr. Dave Schneider, USGS
Ash effects on aircraft
The effect of volcanic ash on aircraft -- Exterior

Manilla Intl. Airport, After 1991 Mt. Pinatubo Eruption
PILOT KLM B-747 – “KLM 867 HEAVY IS REACHING {FLIGHT} LEVEL 250  HEADING 140”

ANCHORAGE CENTER – “OKAY, DO YOU HAVE GOOD SIGHT ON THE ASH PLUME AT THIS TIME?”

PILOT KLM B-747 – “YEA, IT’S JUST CLOUDY IT COULD BE ASHES. IT’S JUST A LITTLE BROWNER THAN THE NORMAL CLOUD.”

PILOT KLM B-747 – “WE HAVE TO GO LEFT NOW... IT’S SMOKY IN THE COCKPIT AT THE MOMENT SIR.”

ANCHORAGE CENTER – “KLM 867 HEAVY, ROGER, LEFT AT YOUR DISCRETION,”

PILOT KLM B-747 – “CLIMBING TO {FLIGHT} LEVEL 390, WE’RE IN A BLACK CLOUD, HEADING 130.”

PILOT KLM B-747 – “KLM 867 WE HAVE FLAME OUT ALL ENGINES AND WE ARE DESCENDING NOW!”

ANCHORAGE CENTER – “KLM 867 HEAVY ANCHORAGE?”

PILOT KLM B747 – “KLM 867 HEAVY WE ARE DESCENDING NOW ... WE ARE IN A FALL!”

PILOT KLM B-747 – “KLM 867 WE NEED ALL THE ASSISTANCE YOU HAVE SIR. GIVE US RADAR VECTORS PLEASE!”

An Inciting incident
Redoubt Volcano, Dec 1989
NASA DC-8 Research Aircraft Engine Parts after disassembly upon return from the SOLVE experiment (Courtesy NASA Dryden FRC)
The effect of volcanic ash on aircraft - Windscreens

Boeing 747-400
Copilot’s Side
After encounter with Redoubt ash
15 Dec 1989
Properties of Volcanic Clouds
What do we know about ash particles?

High silicate content
Particle size (radius) ranges from 0.01–500 µm (typically)
Irregular shape
Melting point ~1100 ºC (800–1200 ºC).
Comparison of Mt. Spurr ‘92 (polar dry) plume detection with La Soufriere (Montserrat) ‘96 (tropical wet) –

- Band 4 (10 µm) minus 5 (12 µm) “subtraction technique” or “split window technique.”

- Split Window technique only works after plume has become translucent to upwelling TIR radiation.
- Water vapor is confounding.
- Use of shorter TIR bands (e.g., 7-9 µm) could improve things.
- HyspIRI may improve this
Statistics for Mt. Spurr Ash Plume

(from Simpson et al., 2000)
Statistics for Monserrrat Ash Plume

(from Simpson et al., 2000)
SO$_2$ Detection and Tracking
Passive emission precursors:
*HyspIRI Targets*

Airborne Detection from NASA C130 in over PuuOo Vent, Kilauea (left)

Orbital Detection of Tropospheric SO$_2$
ASTER over Hawaii (below) and Mt. Etna, Italy (above)

*Courtesy Vince Realmuto, JPL*
An ash encounter with a very dilute ash plume—fine grained (<1-10µm diameter solid aerosols), ice-coated ash particles.
A minimum “economic damage” encounter.
Significant because of “silent damage”
Onboard solid aerosol collection data from the NASA DC-8 Research Aircraft engaged in the Kiruna SOLVE experiment
(Courtesy NASA Langley RC)
Caltech Scanning Electron Microscope imaging of the Keddeg Air Conditioning Filters from NASA DC-8 Research Aircraft (from Pieri et al., 2002; GRL)
Recirculation Filter

SEM & EDX results from easyJet filters, Eyjafjallajokull 2010

Courtesy: Ian Davies
Small UAV approach to sampling volcanic plumes:

1. Relatively cheap and less complicated
2. Quick response to dynamic events
3. Risk-appropriate tools for hazardous missions
4. Humble start (troposphere), aiming to evolve to larger (tropopause & stratosphere)
Project Scope: In-Situ + remote sensing integration of active volcanic plumes data for CAL/VAL of satellite remote sensing information

Approach:
- Simultaneous fixed-wing, blimp, and tethered aerostats UAS airborne observations, integrated with in-situ instrumentation with simultaneous orbital and ground-based remote sensing
- Operate in airspace too dangerous for manned aircraft—over and around actively erupting volcanoes.

Measurements:
- In situ ash, SO2, H2S, CO2, He, and other gas concentration;
- Temperature + pressure + humidity;
- GPS location and altitude;
- Particle count by size
- Solid aerosol (ash) sampling for post-flight SEM analysis

Instruments:
- Electro-chem MEMS based SO2, CO2, H2S sensors; radiometers; particle drum-impactors, laser diode/optical particle counters, size-frequency analyzer, samplers; mini-mass spectrometer

Where: Turrialba and Arenal Volcanoes
CR ACTIVE VOLCANOES

- Arenal Volcano
- Rincon de la Vieja Volcano
- Turrialaba Volcano

Why Costa Rica

- Natural Laboratory for Calibration and Validation of Satellite Remote Sensing Observations

- Active and stable volcanic plume conditions visible from space
- Easy access and logistics to sites
- UAV friendly environment
- Local scientific collaborators
- National Airborne Research Hangar
In situ Compact Airborne Mass Spectrometer in Costa Rica--NASA WB-57 and Cessna 206 (CARTA I & II)

Sampling at Turrialba fumarole in main crater

From Griffin et al., 2008 & Arkin, et al., 2009
3-D Concentration Mapping with Portable Mass Spectrometer Systems in Costa Rica—airborne and ground

Courtesy of Andres Diaz, UCR
In Situ Gas Sampling
Turrialba Volcano—Costa Rica

ICAMS Flight—Cessna 206, October 2009

Tethered Balloon Flight—August 2010
Electro-chemical mini-SO2 sensor

Courtesy Dr. Andres Diaz, University of Costa Rica
Turrialba Volcano, Costa Rica
Hard working UCR graduate student, January 2011
SATELLITE AND BALLOON-BASED MEASUREMENTS OF TURRIALBA VOLCANO, COSTA RICA—2010 & 2011

In situ SO$_2$ concentration depicted in 3D and horizontal track projections

PPBV

- 4180 - 5130
- 2560 - 4180
- 1290 - 2560
- 450 - 1290
- 0 - 450

Balloon + Probe at launch site
SO\textsubscript{2} Concentration vs Altitude (Sensor POD)

Turrialba Volcano, Costa Rica. 20 Aug 2010

SO\textsubscript{2} Concentration (ppb\textsubscript{v})

Descent

Ascent

5ppm Max
Turrialba Volcano, Costa Rica
Intrepid International Field Team
January 2011
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UAS</th>
<th>TYPE (FW-Fixed Wing)</th>
<th>LOAD (KG)</th>
<th>INSTRUMENTS</th>
<th>RADIUS &amp; ENDURANCE (KM)&amp;(HRS)</th>
<th>EACH UAS HAS A UNIQUE MISSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIERRA</td>
<td>Gas, FW</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>ULISSES; Ames Particle Suite; T,P,%H₂O,SO₂, Aerosol size-freq., sampler; drum sampler.</td>
<td>100 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Accurately define plume physical vs. photometric edges (e.g., in ASTER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScanEagle</td>
<td>Gas/Elec, FW Wing</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Drum sampler, T,P,%H₂O,SO₂, Aerosol size-freq., sampler.</td>
<td>100 &amp; 20+</td>
<td>Fast longitudinal, lateral and vertical profiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN/FQM-117B</td>
<td>Elec, FW</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>T,P,%H₂O,SO₂, Aerosol size-freq., sampler.</td>
<td>10 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Penetrate the eruption column—risky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Mules</td>
<td>Elec FW</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Digital stereo cameras (1 on ea.)</td>
<td>2 &amp; 0.5</td>
<td>Plume topography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MiniZepp</td>
<td>Gas, Blimp</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>T,P,%H₂O,SO₂, Aerosol size-freq., sampler; real-time video</td>
<td>5 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Slow Lagrangian temporal samples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerostats</td>
<td>Tethered Balloon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>T,P,%H₂O,SO₂, Aerosol size-frequency, sampler.</td>
<td>2km vert &amp; indef.</td>
<td>Static temporal sampling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notional diagram of the CARTA deployment strategy at Arenal Volcano:

* **Vent Zone**: Data Mules circle above eruption column, while F117B flies through it;
* **Transitional Zone**: ScanEagle profiles through it and Aerostats monitor within plume;
* **Distal Zone**: MiniZepp drifts with an air parcel—SIERRA prowls plume edges.
Wing Span 20 ft.
Length 11.8 ft.
Height 4.6 ft.
Wing Area 42.4 sq. ft.
Empty Weight 215 lbs.
Gross Weight 445 lbs.
Max Speed 79 kts.
Cruise Speed 55 kts.
Stall Speed 30 kts. (clean)
Aspect ratio 9.43
Rate of Climb 545 ft./min.
Rate of Climb 29-32% Chord
CG Position ~100 lbs
Payload weight 28V DC
Payload power 8-10 hours
Duration 8-10 hours

CAD model of ULISSES mini-mass spec gas analyzer integrated into the SIERRA nosecone
Maryland Aerospace Wing-100 UAV, University of Costa Rica
Small UAV Instrument and Platform Development under the NASA Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program
ICE-WATER-ASH DISCRIMINATION

Laser probing wavelengths:

- 1310 nm
- 1550 nm
- 1430 nm (Phase 2)

Reflectivity relationships for discrimination:

- @ 1310 nm: Ice ≈ Water ≈ SiO2
- @ 1430 nm: Water < Ice < SiO2
- @ 1550 nm: Ice < Water < SiO2

Ash reflectivity approximately the same for all wavelengths

Courtesy of Joe Gerardi
PROTOTYPE NEPHELOMETER

- Prototype dual wavelength active IR sensor used for tests at the NASA Glenn Icing Research Tunnel as well as tests in IDI’s cloud chamber
- Plastic embodiment – light weight

Courtesy of Joe Gerardi
IDI CLOUD CHAMBER

**Sonaer nozzles for water generation:**
- three calibrated water particle sizes
- range of flow rates

**Vibrating sifter for ash generation:**
- calibrated size and mass

**Liquid nitrogen for ice crystal generation:**
- insulated, double walled
- can cool chamber to below -40°C

**Long path length:**
- 16ft long fall distance
- high signal return
- averaging over many particles

*Courtesy of Joe Gerardi*
Vanilla Aircraft VA02-experimental, Fort Pickett, VA; 26 Jul 2011; SBIR Phase I

First powered flight

Courtesy of Jeremy Novara
Vanilla Aircraft VA02-experimental—pre-launch.

Courtesy of Jeremy Novara
Vanilla Aircraft VA02-experimental—launch!

Courtesy of Jeremy Novara
Conclusions

• Validation and calibration of models of volcanogenic cloud transport and composition are important for basic volcanological science and application to air safety issues in the context of volcanic hazards.

• Low-cost field deployable airborne platforms and miniaturized instrumentation to sample and analyze volcanic ash and gas emissions, both during eruptions and as eruption precursors, can provide important correlative data to support other airborne and orbital observations.

• In situ observations can materially enhance the utility and applicability of HyspIRI observations for the detection and monitoring of volcanic phenomena.

• It is important to carry out proof-of-concept activities at relatively benign, low altitude active volcanoes, such as is the current situation in Costa Rica, in order to minimize risk to equipment and researchers.

• Such preliminary confidence-building and risk-reduction activities are part of a strategy to develop economical, quick-reaction high altitude in situ measurement capabilities in response to large explosive eruptions.
Attainable? Perhaps.