

Characteristics of size distributions at urban and rural locations in New York

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Abstract. Paired nano- and long-tube Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer (SMPS) systems were operated for four different intensive field campaigns in New York State. Two of these campaigns were at Queens College in New York City, during the summer of 2001 and the winter of 2004. The other field campaigns were at rural sites in New York State.

The data with the computed diffusion loss corrections for the sampling lines and the SMPS instruments were examined and the combined SMPS data sets for each campaign were obtained. The diffusion corrections significantly affect total number concentrations, and in New York City, affect the mode structure of the size distributions. The relationship between merged and integrated SMPS total number concentrations with the diffusion loss corrections and the CPC number concentrations yield statistically significant increases (closer to 1) in the slope and correlation coefficient compared to the uncorrected values. The measurements are compared to PM2.5 mass concentrations and ion balance indications of aerosol acidity. Analysis of particle growth rate in comparison to other observations can classify the events and illustrate that urban and rural new particle formation and growth are the result of different causes. Periods of low observed PM2.5 mass, high number concentration, and low median diameter due to small fresh particles are associated with primary emissions for the urban sites; and with particle nucleation and growth for the rural sites. The observations of high PM_{2.5} mass, lower number concentrations, and higher median diameter are mainly due to an enhancement of photochemical reactions leading to condensation processes in relatively aged air. There are statistically different values for



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the condensation sink (CS) between urban and rural areas. While there is good association ($r^2 > 0.5$) between the condensation sink (CS) in the range of 8.35–283.9 nm and PM_{2.5} mass in the urban areas, there is no discernable association in the rural areas. The average values computed for the CS lie in the range $8.7 \times 10^{-3} - 3.5 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

1 Introduction

Atmospheric aerosols are ubiquitous in the Earth's atmosphere and affect our quality of life through many different processes (Hopke, 2009). As additional information comes to light concerning the role of nano particles in aerosol formation and growth, in manufacturing and nanotechnology, in human health effects, and in climate; the measurements of size distributions inclusive of particles in ultrafine (<100 nm) as well as accumulation (>100 nm) size range, while always important and of interest, have gained increasing attention (Buonanno et al., 2009; Chow et al., 2005; Kulmala et al., 2004a; McMurry, 2000; McMurry et al., 1996; Qian et al., 2007; Watson et al., 2006). Understanding potential hazards of nano particles will require the ability to determine not only their chemical nature but also their size, shape, and number. A standard dose metric for nano particles, whether surface area or particle number or some other quantity, would facilitate cross-comparisons between toxicity studies and exposure measurements (Su et al., 2008; Dall'Osto et al., 2008).

Nanotechnologies encompass broad interdisciplinary areas of research, development, and industrial activity that have been growing rapidly for the past decade. Disciplines include areas of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, and electronics. Measuring as particles these entities that consist of as few as 200-300 molecules is also a significant challenge, both in terms of detection sensitivity and in terms of sample handling (Hinds, 1982; Brockman, 2001; Wang et al., 2002). Diffusion losses are inevitable in any measurement system involving sample lines, and will generally have a greater impact on the measured concentrations than on the mean particle size, but can also cause the measured size distribution to shift towards larger diameters. Such diffusion losses in the SMPS have been observed in experiments conducted with polydisperse NaCl aerosol in laboratory conditions (Frank et al., 2008). Losses were shown to occur in various parts of the Electrostatic Classifier. Other investigators have also found significant diffusion losses occurring within the Differential Mobility Analyzer (DMA) portion of the SMPS (Reineking and Porstendörfer, 1986; Rodrigue et al., 2007; Jeong and Evans, 2009).

In the atmosphere, the mechanisms of nano particle formation/growth remain a research topic of great interest (Zhang et al., 2004). Observations of enhanced particle number concentrations (or particle bursts) may be due to either new particle growth and formation; or to the transport of the particles to the observation site. The formation of ultrafine particles detected at a few nm, and subsequent growth to >50 nm in days, has been observed frequently (Dal Maso et al., 2005; Jeong et al., 2004; Kulmala et al., 2004b; Stanier et al., 2004). Competing with the formation and growth of new detectable particles is the condensation of clusters and gases onto pre-existing particles. This process is parameterized by a derived quantity called the condensation sink, which is a useful concept in the evaluation of atmospheric aerosol dynamics (Lehtinen et al., 2003).

This work presents measurements of particle number concentrations and size distributions obtained using two SMPSs: one with a Nano Differential Mobility Analyzer (Nano SMPS) and another with a long-tube Differential Mobility Analyzer (LDMA SMPS). Measurements were conducted at the sites of Whiteface Mountain (WFM, Summer 2002) and Pinnacle State Park (PSP, Summer 2004) in rural areas of New York State and at the urban site of Queens College (QC) in New York City in Summer 2001 and Winter 2004. The size distribution measurements were complemented by the total number concentration measurements obtained using co-located Condensation Particle Counters (CPC). This study provides a comprehensive picture of the evolution of the urban/rural aerosol and examines the physical processes leading to changes in the number size distribution and in the condensation sink.

2 Experimental methods and data analysis

2.1 Measurement locations and periods

Measurements of particle number concentrations and size distributions during four intensive field studies were per-

formed using a stand-alone Condensation Particle Counter (CPC) and two Scanning Mobility Particle Sizers (SMPS). One of the SMPS instruments utilized a Nano Differential Mobility Analyzer (Nano SMPS) and with the other utilized a long-tube Differential Mobility Analyzer (LDMA SMPS). Table 1 summarizes operational parameters for the particle sizing and counting instruments. The Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS were operated at Queens College (QC) in New York City from 3 July to 5 August in 2001 and from 10 January to 5 February in 2004; at Whiteface Mountain (WFM) from 10 July to 7 August in 2002 and at Pinnacle State Park (PSP) from 13 July to 6 August in 2004. These campaigns will be referred to as QC01, QC04, WFM02, PSP04, respectively.

Queens College (QC), the urban site, is located in a high population density section of New York City and has two busy highways nearby – the Long Island Expressway (I-495) and the Van Wyck Expressway (I-678). Whiteface Mountain (WFM) lodge site is halfway up the mountain at an elevation of about 600 m above sea level (a.s.l.), is surrounded by forest and mountains and located in the Adirondack Park of northern New York State. Pinnacle State Park (PSP), the other rural site, is at an elevation of about 500 meters asl and is located in southwestern New York in the low population density rural village of Addison, surrounded by light residential neighborhoods, parklands, and forested areas. Detailed descriptions of site operations and locations can be found elsewhere (Schwab et al., 2004, 2006).

2.2 Condensation Particle Counter (CPC)

A stand-alone Condensation Particle Counter (CPC, TSI Model 3022) was used to measure the number concentrations of particles at the four sampling sites. Instrument specifications indicate a 50% detection efficiency for a particle diameter of 7 nm (D_{50}) and a 90% detection efficiency at particle diameter of 15 nm. 5-min averaged concentrations were recorded during the QC01, QC04 and PSP04 campaigns, and 10-s measurements were recorded during the WFM02 campaign (subsequently averaged to 5 min). The CPC counts were corrected for diffusion losses in the sample lines before being compared to the SMPSs

2.3 Scanning Mobility Particle Sizers (SMPSs)

The Nano SMPS components were an Electrostatic Classifier (TSI Model 3080), Nano DMA (TSI Model 3085) and a CPC (TSI Model 3025). The LDMA SMPS consisted of an Electrostatic Classifier (TSI Model 3080), Long-tube DMA (TSI Model 3081) and a CPC (TSI Model 3010 or CPC 3025). Operational details for these instruments during the four campaigns are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1.	Operation	parameters	for the	particle	sizing	and	counting	instruments.

QC 01	CPC 3022	Nano SMPS	Long-tube SMPS
Operator	ASRC ^a	DEC ^b	ASRC
Cycle length, min	5 min	2.5	5 (2 scans of 2.5 min)
Inlet sample flow, l/min	0.3, 1.5	0.3	0.3, 0.6, 1.0
Sheath flow, l/min	N/A	3	3.0, 6.0, 10.0
Neutralizer Strength	N/A	2 mCi	2 mCi
CPC Model	3022	3025	CPC3010, CPC3025
Diameter range, nm	50% at 7 nm 90% at 15 nm	4.7-160	Varied
Number of Bins	N/A	50	Varied
D (lower bound – upper bound)	N/A	4.53–165.57	Varied
WFM 02	CPC 3022	Nano SMPS	Long-tube SMPS
Operator	ASRC	ASRC	ASRC
Cycle length, min	10 seconds	5 (2 scans of 2.5 min)	5 (2 scans of 2.5 min)
Inlet sample flow, l/min	1.5	0.6 + 5.0 bypass	0.6
Sheath flow, l/min	N/A	6	6
CPC Model	3022	3025	3010
Neutralizer Strength	N/A	2 mCi	2 mCi
Diameter range, nm	50% at 7nm 90% at 15nm	3.28-104	10.4-407
Number of Bins	N/A	49	52
D (lower bound – upper bound)	N/A	3.16-107.52	10.03-423.07
QC 04	CPC 3022	Nano SMPS	Long-tube SMPS
Operator	ASRC	DEC	ASRC
Cycle length, min	5 min	2.5	5 (2 scans of 2.5 min)
Inlet sample flow, l/min	1.5	0.6	0.3
Sheath flow, l/min	N/A	6	3
CPC Model	3022	3025	3010
Neutralizer Strength	N/A	2 mCi	2 mCi
Diameter range, nm	50% at 7 nm 90% at 15 nm	3.28-104	16-626
Number of Bins	N/A	49	52
D (lower bound – upper bound)	N/A	3.16-107.52	15.43-650.87
PSP 04	CPC 3022	Nano SMPS	Long-tube SMPS
Operator	ASRC	ASRC	ASRC
Cycle length, min	5 min	5 (2 scans of 2.5 min)	5 (2 scans of 2.5 min)
Inlet sample flow, l/min	1.5	0.3	0.3
Sheath flow, l/min	N/A	3	3
CPC Model	3022	3025	3010
CPC Model		2 mCi	2 mCi
Neutralizer Strength	N/A	2 IIICI	2 mci
	N/A 50% at 7nm 90% at 15nm	4.7–149	16–626
Neutralizer Strength			

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2.3.1 Diffusion loss for the sampling lines

Sample line diffusion loss caused by particle deposition onto sample lines is expected. In order to estimate the diffusion losses in the sampling lines, an equation for circular tube penetration efficiency for aerosols was used (Hinds, 1982) and is discussed in more detail in the supplementary material (see http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/10/4521/2010/ acp-10-4521-2010-supplement.pdf).

2.3.2 Diffusion loss for the SMPS

The diffusion losses are characterized in terms of total penetration, which for the SPMS is the product of the penetration for five composite flow paths through the SMPS: impactor inlet, bi-polar neutralizer and the internal plumbing, the tubing to the DMA and CPC, the DMA itself, and the CPC. Particle losses due to diffusion are more pronounced at lower flow rates and for smaller particles (Frank et al., 2008). A diffusion loss correction, which has recently been incorporated into a software module for the TSI SMPS (Aerosol Instrument Manager, ver 8.0, TSI, 2006) and allows particle size distributions for existing SMPS data to be recalculated to account for diffusion losses in the instrument, is applied for the Nano and LDMA SMPS datasets. Additional discussion of this correction, and the size dependent magnitude of the effect is presented in the supplementary material (see http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/10/4521/2010/ acp-10-4521-2010-supplement.pdf).

2.4 Condensation Sink (CS)

The aerosol condensation sink (CS) is a measure of how rapidly molecules (and clusters) will condense onto preexisting aerosols (Dal Maso et al., 2002; Lehtinen et al., 2003; Pirjola et al., 1999).

An expression for the condensation sink (CS), with unit of s^{-1} , describes the loss rate of molecules with diameter dp, diffusion coefficient D, onto a distribution $n(d_p)$ of Ni of existing aerosols. Thus, the CS can be calculated by integrating or summing over the size spectrum from SMPS data;

$$CS = 2\pi D \int_{0}^{\infty} dp \beta_M(dp) n(dp) ddp = 2\pi D \sum_i \beta_M i dp, iNi \quad (1)$$

In Eq. (1), the diffusion coefficient *D* is typically taken as that of H_2SO_4 in air (Hanson and Eisele, 2000), and the transitional correction factor β_M can be expressed as (Fuchs and Sutugin, 1971);

$$\beta_M = \frac{Kn+1}{0.377Kn+1 + \frac{4}{3}\partial^{-1}Kn^2 + \frac{4}{3}\partial^{-1}Kn}$$
(2)

In Eq. (2), $\partial = 1$ is the sticking coefficient (Paul et al., 2004), and the Knudsen number Kn can be expressed in terms of particle diameter and the mean free path of vapor molecules (λv) as (Pirjola et al., 1999);

$$Kn = \frac{2\lambda v}{dp} \tag{3}$$

The pressure and temperature dependent mean free path λv in Eq. (3) can be determined from the following formula from Willeke (1976).

$$\lambda v = \lambda r \left(\frac{101}{P}\right) \left(\frac{T}{293}\right) \left(\frac{1+110/293}{1+110/T}\right) \tag{4}$$

where *P* is in kPa and *T* in K. At 293 K and 1 atmospheric pressure, the mean free path λr is 0.039 µm for H₂SO₄. Using this reference value, λv can be determined for observed pressures and temperatures at the sampling sites. Using these values, and our measured size distributions, values for the condensation sink were computed for the four campaigns.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Relationship between Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS

Both the Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS data presented here have been recalculated to include both diffusion loss correction for the sampling lines and diffusion loss correction for the SMPS. Since we want to combine the two SMPS systems to provide a full size distribution of sub-micron particles after the diffusion corrections, the first task is identifying a legitimate merge size point between the Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS. Figure 1a shows how the merge size points were chosen. We calculated the coefficient of determination (r^2) value) and slope for plots of counts from Nano and LDMA SMPS size bins centered on a range of mobility diameters from less than 30 nm to more than 80 nm. For each campaign, the mean bin diameter corresponding to the largest r^2 value between the Nano and LDMA data sets was chosen as the merge point. A merge point of 62.6 nm was determined for the QC01, WFM02, and QC04 campaigns. A different merge point of 37.9 nm was determined for the PSP04 campaign by this method. We are not sure why a different merge point was determined for only one campaign, but there was for this campaign a noticeable discontinuity in mean value at 62.6 nm; namely, the Nano SMPS data yielded concentrations in the size bin about 30% lower than LDMA data. If we were to choose 62.6 nm as the merge point for PSP04 campaign the total integrated number concentration from the combined SMPS measurements would be about 5% lower.

As can be seen for Table 2, the size bins are basically identical in width and location for the Nano and LDMA systems in the overlap region. Figure 1b shows the relationships between hourly averaged LDMA SMPS [62.6 nm] and Nano SMPS [62.6 nm] number concentrations for the QC01, WFM02, and QC04 campaigns, and between hourly averaged LDMA SMPS [37.9 nm] and Nano SMPS [37.9 nm] number concentrations for the PSP04 campaign. The linear correlations between Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS yield good correlations (r^2 of >0.9) for all campaigns except QC01 (r^2 of 0.89). We attribute the lower correlation for the QC01 campaign to two factors: 1) the Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS inlets were approximately 10 m from each other and the inlet designs were different for these measurements; and 2) the LDMA SMPS flow conditions were varied numerous times during the campaign. The correlations between merge point bins Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS for QC01, WFM02, and PSP04 have slopes of 1.00, 0.96, and 0.97, respectively. The correlation for QC04 is significantly different from the other campaigns with a slope of 0.82. The Nano SMPS at the QC04 campaign yields higher values than the LDMA SMPS for sizes less than 100 nm. We do not clearly understand why the QC04 Nano and LDMA data show poorer agreement than the other three campaigns,

	Table 2.	Upper and	Lower Limit a	at the Merge Size Points.
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(Unit; nm)		QC 01 ^a	WFM 02 ^a	QC 04 ^a	PSP 04 ^b
Nano SMPS	Upper Limit	64.98	64.98	64.98	39.26
	Lower Limit	60.46	60.46	60.46	36.54
LDMA SMPS	Upper Limit	64.91	65.15	65.09	39.33
	Lower Limit	60.40	60.63	60.57	36.60

^a Merge size point: 62.6; ^b merge size point: 37.9.

but simply note that it was the only campaign that occurred during the winter.

3.2 Relationship between SMPS and CPC total concentrations

The hourly averaged SMPS (8.35–283.9 nm) with and without diffusion loss corrections and CPC data with diffusion loss correction were compared for all sampling periods. These pairwise correlations provide insight into the range of each measurement, allow comparisons between the instruments, and demonstrate the effect of recalculating the data to account for diffusion losses. Note that CPC data were corrected for the diffusion loss in the sampling lines as well, but since we have no size information from the CPC itself, we assumed the particles to have the same size distributions as Nano SMPS. Total averages of the diffusion losses for the CPC yield less than 4% losses for all four campaigns.

Figure 2 shows the pairwise correlation scatterplots for CPC and SMPS, and their corresponding average size distributions measured by the Nano SMPS for the (a) QC01, (b) WFM02, (c) QC04, and (d) PSP04 campaigns. One hour averages were calculated only for those hours for which 75% or more data were available.

The SMPS number concentrations (diffusion loss corrections both for the sampling lines and the SMPS, 8.35-283.9 nm) and the CPC (diffusion loss correction for the sampling lines) number concentrations agree well for the four campaigns with linear regression slopes of 0.76–1.13 (forced to zero) and r^2 of 0.59–0.97. The correlation values for the QC01 campaign are lower than those for the other campaigns due to varying sampling conditions as discussed previously. As seen in the Fig. 2, when the diffusion loss corrections are applied to the data, all four campaigns yield statistically significant (greater than 95% confidence level) increases (closer to 1) in the slope and correlation coefficient (r^2). This is a strong indication that applying the diffusion loss corrections produced a better representation of the true ambient particle concentrations.

(a)

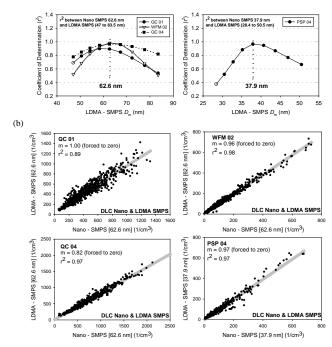


Fig. 1. Comparison of (**a**) coefficient of determination between Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS at the QC01, WFM02, QC04, and PSP04 campaigns, (**b**) hourly averaged LDMA SMPS [62.6 nm] and Nano SMPS [62.6 nm] at the QC01, WFM02, and QC04 campaigns, respectively, hourly averaged LDMA SMPS [37.9 nm] and Nano SMPS [37.9 nm] at the PSP04 campaigns.

3.3 Nano particle size distributions at urban and rural locations in New York

The right panels of Fig. 2 shows the average Nano SMPS size distributions measured by the Nano SMPS for the QC01, WFM02, QC04, and PSP04 campaigns. There are markedly different size distribution shapes (both before and after diffusion loss corrections) between the urban and rural locations. For the WFM02 campaign, the average number size distribution has a broad peak at about 50 nm; while the PSP04 campaign distribution shows a gradual increase (and no clear mode in Nano SMPS). These features at the rural sites are the same both with and without diffusion loss corrections.

Fig. 2. Pairwise correlation scatterplots between hourly averaged diffusion loss corrected-DLC CPC and hourly averaged SMPS (8.35–283.9 nm) with number concentrations (l/cm^3) corrected for diffusion loss and not corrected for diffusion loss, and Nano SMPS average size distributions [$dN/d\log D_m$] (l/cm^3) corrected for diffusion loss (solid circles) and not corrected for diffusion loss (open circles) for the QC01, WFM02, QC04, and PSP04 campaigns (note: CPC is assumed to have the same size distribution as Nano SMPS for diffusion loss correction).

However, for both the QC01 and QC04 campaigns, the average number size distribution has a clear mode at approximately 13 nm when corrected for diffusion loss. This is a significantly lower mode diameter than appears in the distribution prior to diffusion loss corrections, and is consistent with high primary emissions of particles at the QC site.

In general, for ambient aerosols at rural sites (WFM02 and PSP04), the diffusion loss corrections affect the absolute values of the particle concentrations but not the mode diameter or basic shape of the size distribution. For ambient aerosols at our urban campaigns (QC01 & 04), the diffusion loss corrections affect both the absolute values of the particle concentrations and the basic shape of the size distribution. We believe these results show that diffusion loss corrections are always necessary for SMPS data gathered from urban as well as rural locations.

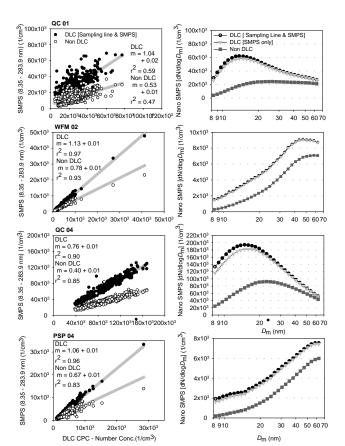
3.4 Statistical characteristics of the measurements

Figure 3 and Table 3 show the measurement locations and the statistical characteristics of hourly averaged number concentrations measured by CPC and diffusion loss corrected SMPS at the four sampling sites. The hourly average of CPC and SMPS number concentrations, rounded to three significant figures, are $22\,100\pm10\,700\,1/cm^3$ (average±standard deviation) and $24\,100\pm10\,700\,1/cm^3$ respectively for the QC01, and $87\,600\pm26\,900\,1/cm^3$ and $66\,800\pm22\,600\,1/cm^3$ respectively for QC04. Winter particle concentrations at QC are approximately four times higher than those from summer. Possible reasons for this seasonal difference include changes in vehicular emissions caused by cold starts during cooler parts of the year or increased residential heating and burning, and/or lower atmospheric boundary layer during the winter.

For the rural locations, the hourly averages of CPC concentrations are $3690\pm 26301/cm^3$ (max: 41200; min: $977 \, \text{l/cm}^3$) and $3880 \pm 2200 \, \text{l/cm}^3$ (max: 28470; min: 10501/cm³) for WFM02 and PSP04, respectively. The largest particle number concentrations occur mainly in the ultrafine particle sizes and are associated with occasional daytime particle growth events (Zhang, et al., 2005). The binned size distributions shown in the inset Fig. 3 for each site show that the highest fraction of the total number concentration measured at the OC site is in the smallest size bin (8.35-19.8 nm), while the WFM and PSP aerosol size distributions are characterized by maxima in the largest size bin (67.3-283.9 nm). This difference can be attributed to occurrence of small fresh particles from primary emission for the QC campaigns and an enhancement of photochemical oxidation and condensational growth processes in aged air for the WFM02 and PSP04 campaigns.

3.5 Time series size distributions, particle concentrations, and PM_{2.5} mass

Figure 4 through 7 present complete time series traces for SMPS size distributions, CPC number concentrations, and PM_{2.5} mass concentrations by the Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM) (Schwab et al., 2006) during the four measurement campaigns (summertime for the QC01 campaign, wintertime for the QC04 campaign, summertime for the WFM02 campaign, and summertime for the PSP04 campaign). These time series plots provide insights into the range in particle size distributions, number concentrations, and PM_{2.5} mass concentrations (colored by approximate ion balance). The amounts of data available for each measurement allow initial validations. Data was flagged and removed from the analysis if any of the following conditions was known to apply: 1) when less than 75% of the data is available for an hour; 2) when an instrument was malfunctioning; or 3) when the data is an outlier based on statistical analysis such as extremely high values or zero values compared to before and after scans. Data completeness is about



SITE	Statistical Value	CPC	8.35–283.9 nm	8.35–19.8	21.3-37.9	40.7–62.6	67.3–283.9
QC 01	Valid (h)	759	773	773	773	773	773
	Mean	22 1 24	24 122	10871	6030	3355	3867
	Median	19 845	22 0 22	9633	4928	3002	3643
	Std. Deviation	10701	10668	5998	4036	1897	1819
	Minimum	4,524	5,185	2,058	635	460	778
	Maximum	77 056	69 324	42 149	29 358	12 550	9543
WFM 02	Valid	568	659	659	659	659	659
	Mean	3691	4106	603	916	956	1631
	Median	3122	3237	225	542	608	1490
	Std. Deviation	2626	3231	1879	1186	909	981
	Minimum	977	978	4	42	65	143
	Maximum	41 218	47 685	39 281	9659	5522	5385
QC 04	Valid	650	431	431	431	431	431
	Mean	87 574	66 760	35 932	19516	7654	3,658
	Median	84 612	63 0 58	32 015	18 021	6843	3120
	Std. Deviation	26875	22 579	14 464	7526	3500	1985
	Minimum	38 290	27 085	12 282	6813	1534	777
	Maximum	269 160	163 164	89 978	49 972	20 993	12 898
PSP 04	Valid	587	564	564	564	564	564
	Mean	3881	4052	520	690	980	1862
	Median	3269	3450	277	422	726	1657
	Std. Deviation	2201	2619	1078	983	813	1089
	Minimum	1053	858	4	35	131	93
	Maximum	28471	33 380	17 489	13 472	5522	5881

Table 3. Statistical characteristics of hourly averaged number concentrations measured by CPC and SMPS with diffusion loss corrections.

95%, 97%, 66%, 95% measured by SMPS (8.35–283.9 nm combined by Nano SMPS and LDMA SMPS) for the QC01, WFM02, QC04, and PSP04 campaigns, respectively. Lower data completeness for the QC04 campaign is mainly due to malfunctioning of the LDMA SMPS in the early part of the sampling period (10–14 January) and malfunction of Nano SMPS in the middle of the sampling period (24–26 January).

3.6 Particle size distributions in the urban area

The contour plots in Figs. 4 and 5 provide an overview of the evolution of the temporal particle size distributions and the time series line graphs show particle concentrations measured by the CPC and SMPS (summed over the size range of 8.35-283.9 nm). The upper time series line graph is PM_{2.5} mass concentrations, colored by the major ion charge balance for the QC01 and QC04 campaigns. As seen from the graph panel showing binned number concentrations from SMPS, the majority of the measured particles reside in the "ultrafine mode" (D_m =10–100 nm) for the urban locations.

The contour plots from Figs. 4 and 5 show the concentration of particles in each size bin (in $dN/d\log D_m$ (l/cm³)). The logarithmic vertical axis is the particle diameter (D_m), and horizontal axis is the time during a sampling period. The

particle number concentrations are shown by the color with highest concentrations being the hottest color. The characteristic feature of both QC01 and QC04 data sets is a daily diurnal pattern in a form of a gradual increase from the early morning and a decrease in late morning, consistent with vehicle emissions particle sources. The high particle concentration events are consistently associated with the morning traffic. The mean particle size during these events is between 8.35 to 19.8 nm for the QC01 and the QC04 campaign. The size range of 8.35–19.8 nm accounts for about 45% of the total number concentration measured by the SMPS [8.35-283.9 nm] for the QC01 campaign and about 54% for the QC04 campaign. Particularly for the wintertime QC04 campaign, the morning rush hour traffic occurs prior to the lifting of the nighttime inversion and fresh emissions remain near the boundary layer sampled by these measurements. The evening rush hour is not readily discernable, due at least in part to the expanded boundary layer later in the day. The Figs. 4 and 5 show that there is no discernable difference in measured size distributions between weekdays (Monday to Friday) and weekends (Saturday to Sunday) for the QC01 and QC04 campaigns.

Figures 4 and 5 also show time series traces for the hourly number concentration (l/cm^3) measured by the CPC.

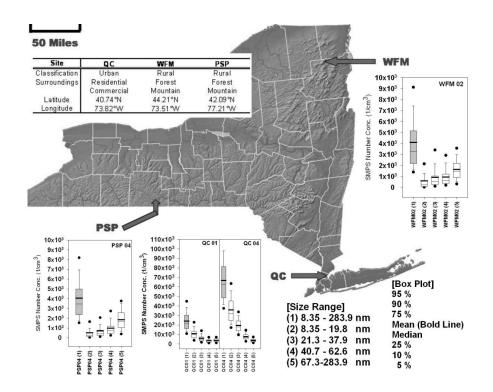


Fig. 3. Location of sampling sites and number concentrations by SMPS from Pinnacle State Park (PSP), Whiteface Mountain (WFM) and Queens College (QC) in New York (the bold line inside the box is the mean value; the boundary of the box closest to zero is the 25th percentile; the thin line inside the box is the median and the boundary of the box farthest from zero is the 75th percentile. Whiskers correspond to the 10th and 90th percentiles. Upper and lower closed dots correspond to the 5th and 95th percentiles).

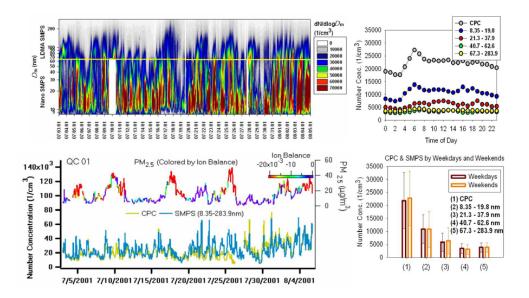


Fig. 4. Evolution of particle size distributions and particle concentrations $[dN/dlogD_m]$ (l/cm³), time series traces for the hourly number concentration (l/cm³) measured by the CPC (dark yellow line) and SMPS [8.35–283.9 nm] (dark blue line), as well as PM_{2.5} mass concentrations (colored by the ion charge balance), hour-of-day series by CPC (gray) and SMPS (8.35–19.8 nm: blue, 21.3–37.9: red, 40.7–62.6: green, 67.3–283.9: yellow) and weekdays (brown) and weekends (orange) in number concentrations for the QC01.

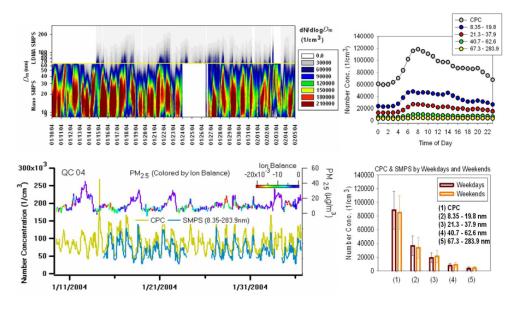


Fig. 5. Evolution of particle size distributions and particle concentrations $[dN/dlogD_m]$ (l/cm³), time series traces for the hourly number concentration (l/cm³) measured by the CPC (dark yellow line) and SMPS [8.35–283.9 nm] (dark blue line), as well as PM_{2.5} mass concentrations (colored by the ion charge balance), hour-of-day series by CPC (gray) and SMPS (8.35–19.8 nm: blue, 21.3–37.9: red, 40.7–62.6: green, 67.3–283.9: yellow) and weekdays (brown) and weekends (orange) in number concentrations for the QC04.

The number concentrations of "combined SMPS" [8.35–283.9 nm] and the CPC track each other well during periods of low concentrations and during traffic activities. Linear regression slopes for the above between these two parameters result in correlations slopes of 0.76 and 1.04 (forced to zero) and r^2 values of 0.59 and 0.90 as previously shown in Fig. 2.

3.7 Particle size distributions in the rural areas

Figures 6 and 7 show an overview of the evolution of the temporal particle size distributions, and particle concentrations and PM_{2.5} mass concentrations for the WFM02 and PSP04 campaigns. The binned particle concentrations from the SMPS for the WFM02 and PSP04 campaigns show very different distributions than observed in New York City. While the particles are in all size ranges ("nucleation mode" $(D_m = <10 \text{ nm})$, "ultrafine mode" $(D_m = 10-100 \text{ nm})$ and "accumulation mode" $(D_m = >100 \text{ nm})$), the largest fraction of particles in the rural campaigns was found in the size range of 67.3–283.9 nm (about 40% of the total number concentrations for the WFM02 campaign and about 46% for the PSP04 campaign).

Evident in the color contour plots of Figs. 6 and 7 for both sites is one or more particle growth events, with high particle concentrations down to the lowest particle diameters. The two strongest growth events occurred on 24 July (Wednesday) for the WFM02 campaign and, same date but different year, on 24 July (Saturday) for the PSP04 campaign, in each case beginning in the early to mid-morning time and extending through the afternoon and evening into the next day.

These strong particle growth events will be discussed in the next section.

Excluding these particle growth days, no distinguishable daily diurnal pattern has been observed in the signals from either rural area. In addition, there is no discernable difference in measured size distributions between weekdays and weekends for the WFM02 and PSP04 campaigns without the particle growth days. The number concentrations between the combined SMPS [8.35-283.9 nm] and the CPC track each other well during periods of low concentrations as well as particle growth events with linear regression slopes of 1.13-1.06 (forced to zero) and r^2 of 0.96-0.97 (Fig. 2).

3.8 Particle growth events at the rural site

A number of groups have observed particle formation and growth events in a variety of locations including rural and urban areas (Jeong, et al., 2006; Watson, et al., 2006; Zhang, et al., 2005). In these events there is a "burst" of nanoparticles (<10 nm) in ambient air that grow quickly into ultrafine (10 to 100 nm) and accumulation (100 to 1000 nm) modes, then persist for several days (Kulmala, et al., 2004).

During the measurement periods at the rural sites, one very strong particle formation and growth event with very high concentrations down to the lowest reported diameter of 8 nm was observed for each site. We have analyzed these events in some detail and present a summary of the observations here; additional details are presented in the supplementary material. Just before the event we observed low particle concentration and PM_{2.5} mass, and particles that were largely

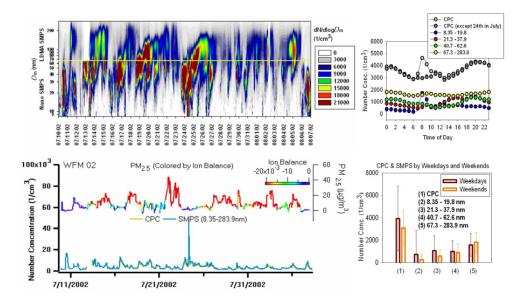


Fig. 6. Evolution of particle size distributions and particle concentrations $[dN/d\log D_m]$ (l/cm³) and time series traces for the hourly number concentration (l/cm³) measured by the CPC (dark yellow line) and SMPS [8.35–283.9 nm] (dark blue line), as well as PM_{2.5} mass concentrations (colored by the ion charge balance), hour-of-day series by CPC (gray) and SMPS (8.35–19.8 nm: blue, 21.3–37.9: red, 40.7–62.6: green, 67.3–283.9: yellow) and weekdays (brown) and weekends (orange) in number concentrations for the WFM02.

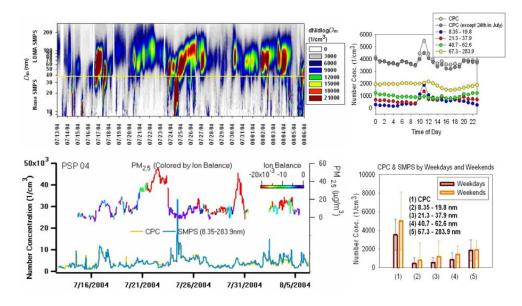


Fig. 7. Evolution of particle size distributions and particle concentrations $[dN/d\log D_m]$ (l/cm³) and time series traces for the hourly number concentration (l/cm³) measured by the CPC (dark yellow line) and SMPS [8.35–283.9 nm] (dark blue line), as well as PM_{2.5} mass concentrations (colored by the ion charge balance), hour-of-day series by CPC (gray) and SMPS (8.35–19.8 nm: blue, 21.3–37.9: red, 40.7–62.6: green, 67.3–283.9: yellow) and weekdays (brown) and weekends (orange) in number concentrations for the PSP04.

neutralized. The onset coincides with an increase in SO_2 , but not in CO, NO, or NO₂. The particle size distribution shifts to large concentrations of very small particles, and shifts over the next hours to fewer, larger particles. These observations are all similar to those seen by other groups (Jeong et al., 2006; Watson et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2005). The combined effects of clean, cool air combined with elevated SO_2 and sunlight to drive sulfuric acid formation, and possibly including some mixing from aloft of condensable species seem to be common characteristics of summer time growth events. Note that these events are not common during the middle of the summer at these locations, but relatively infrequent. This

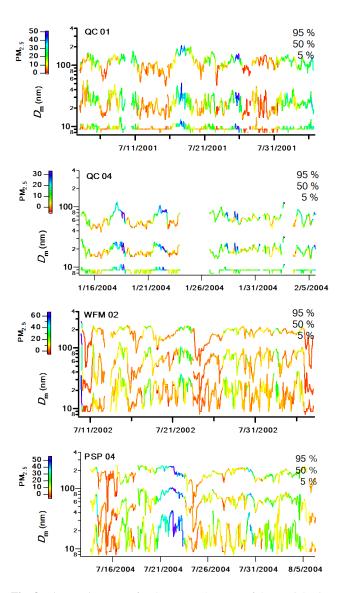


Fig. 8. Time series traces for the 95%, 50%, 5% of the particle size diameter (nm) measured by the SMPS [8.35-283.9 nm] colored by PM_{2.5} mass concentrations (μ g/m³) for the QC01, QC04, WFM02, and PSP04 campaigns.

observation is consistent with the observations in Kulmala et al. (2004b), but different from the conclusions of Zhang et al. (2005) and Stanier et al. (2004). We also calculated the growth rates of the mode diameter of the particles for these two events. These events are clearly visible in Fig. 8 as periods when there is first a sharp drop in particle diameter, followed by a sharp rise in diameter. The growth rates computed as $\Delta D_{\text{mode}}/\Delta t$ (where D_{mode} is the mode particle diameter) over a roughly 36 h period yielded 2.8 nm/hour for the strong WFM02 event and 2.4 nm/hour for the strong PSP04 event.

3.9 Periods of high particle concentrations at the urban site

As noted in Sect. 3.6, the urban measurements show a consistent burst of small particles daily without the clear periods of extended growth seen at the rural sites. The mean diameters during the urban high concentration periods are 15–25 nm during the winter, and 20–30 nm during the summer. There is a consistent morning peak, as noted before, and a much less pronounced evening enhancement. Nucleation will occur at the urban site, but strong primary sources – leading to a larger condensation sink (see below) render this process to a much smaller role than at the rural sites.

3.10 Relationship between PM_{2.5} mass and particle size diameter

Figure 8 presents time series of the median particle size diameter (nm), and the 5th and 95th percentile diameters colored as a function of the PM2.5 mass concentrations. The higher mass concentrations were measured simultaneously with the higher particle diameters; and as we have seen, mass concentrations are generally anti-correlated with number concentrations. These observations can be explained by considering two limiting cases. The low mass loading limiting case is generally accompanied by observations of low PM2.5 mass, high number concentration, and small mean diameter caused by the occurrence of "small fresh particles" associated with two possible processes; 1) recent primary emission (as observed for the OC01 and OC04 campaigns) associated with Black Carbon (BC) or hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA), or 2) particle nucleation and growth associated with sulfuric acid by sulfur dioxide and sulfate (Jung et al., 2006) (as observed for the WFM02 and PSP04 campaigns). The high mass loading limiting case is accompanied by observation of high PM2.5 mass, lower number concentration, and larger mean diameter. These episodes are mainly due to an enhancement of oxidation and condensation processes in relatively "aged air". These observations have also important implications, from a technical point of view, for urban/rural air quality monitoring. Specifically, number concentrations and PM_{2.5} mass exhibit some properties which are complementary for monitoring the urban/rural air quality. Number concentration is highly sensitive to the fresh vehicle exhaust emissions of ultrafine particles, whereas PM2.5 mass is highly influenced by the aged aerosol linked to the urban background mostly occurring in the accumulation mode due to the atmospheric processing of vehicle emissions and other sources as shown in Figs. 4-7.

3.11 Relationship between PM_{2.5} mass and Condensation Sink (CS)

In order to understand the dynamic effects of aerosol growth for the QC 01, WFM02, QC 04 and PSP04 campaigns, the

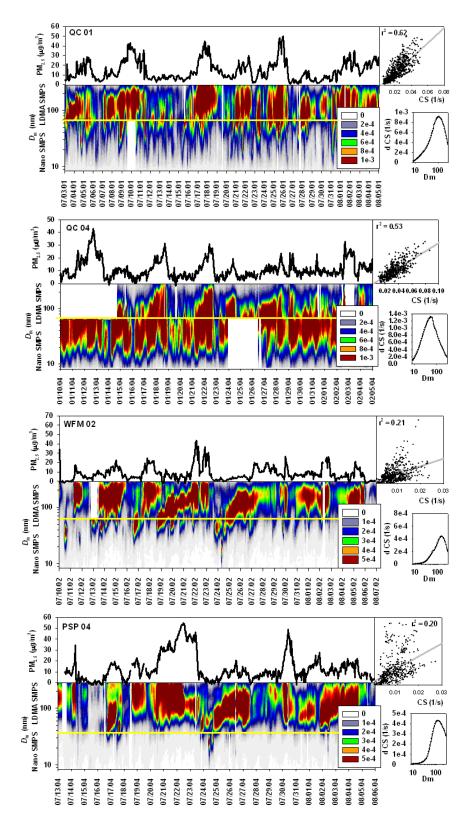


Fig. 9. Evolution of size dependent contributions to the condensation sink (1/s), time series traces for the hourly $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentration (μ g/cm³), and pairwise correlation scatterplots between $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentration and condensation sink for the QC 01, QC 04, WFM 02 and PSP 04.

condensation sink (CS) was calculated as described earlier. Dal Maso et al. (2002) observed values for the CS of $4-7\times10^{-3}$ s⁻¹ in the rural (forest) area and 2×10^{-3} s⁻¹ under coastal conditions. Kulmala et al. (2005) observed values of the CS between 1.3×10^{-2} and 0.6×10^{-4} s⁻¹ in a variety of locations. The CS was usually higher in more polluted areas ($5-7\times10^{-2}$ s⁻¹) encountered in New Delhi, while Athens and Marseille CS in the European cities was 5-10 times lower. Leskinen et al. (2008) also showed values of $1.4-13\times10^{-3}$ s⁻¹ in a smog chamber study.

The averages (\pm standard deviation) of the CS (8.35–283.9 nm) yielded 2.3 (\pm 0.9)×10⁻², 8.7 (\pm 4.4)×10⁻³, 3.5 (\pm 1.3)×10⁻², and 9.2 (\pm 4.7)×10⁻³ (l/s) for the QC 01, WFM02, QC 04 and PSP04 campaigns, respectively. The CS in the urban areas is roughly two to three times higher than rural areas due to differences in number concentrations and size distributions.

Figure 9 presents evolutions of the size dependent contributions to the CS (l/s) and the time series of the hourly $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentrations (µg/cm³). The top right panels of Fig. 9 show the pairwise correlation scatterplots between PM2.5 mass and CS for the four campaigns. There are markedly different relationships between the urban and rural locations. While there is a good relationship $(r^2 > 0.5)$ between PM_{2.5} mass and CS in the urban areas, there is a less clear association with low r^2 of 0.21 and 0.20 for the WFM02 and PSP04 campaigns, respectively. The stronger relationship between PM2.5 mass and CS in the urban areas can be explained by the large contribution to PM_{2.5} mass by dynamic condensation processes from primary emissions for the urban site. For the rural areas, the scatterplots indicate a more complicated picture. The two strongest growth events produce relatively high CS values without large PM_{2.5} mass, but other data periods show poor association between CS and PM_{2.5} mass. The lower right panels in Fig. 9 show the average contribution to the CS for the SMPS size bins. The peak contribution to the CS for all three summer campaigns occurs near 100 nm, while for the winter campaign, with higher particle concentrations and smaller diameters, the peak contribution to the CS occurs closer to 60 nm.

4 Summary and conclusions

This study presents measurements of particle number concentrations and size distributions using combined data from a Nano SMPS and an LDMA SMPS. Measurements were conducted at the sites of Whiteface Mountain (WFM, Summer 2002) and Pinnacle State Park (PSP, Summer 2004) in rural areas of New York State and at the urban site of Queens College (QC) in New York City in Summer 2001 and Winter 2004.

We have analyzed the size distributions with and without corrections for the diffusion losses of particles, both in the inlet sampling lines, and in the SMPS systems. We showed that inclusion of these corrections is important for nano particle concentration and size distribution measurements. The diffusion correction uncovers a nano particle mode between 10 and 15 nm mobility diameter which is not present in the uncorrected data for the measurements in New York City. Slopes of scatterplots between the total number concentrations measured by a stand alone CPC and the integrated total number concentration from the combined SMPS measurements range from 0.76 to 1.13, and r^2 values for three of the four campaigns are 0.90 or above (the r^2 value for the QC01 campaign is 0.59).

The New York City measurements show a daily pattern of high total number concentrations in the morning hours associated with the morning rush hour and traffic emissions. Winter concentrations average about four times greater than summer concentrations at the Queens site. The rural sites have average summer concentrations that are about a factor of 5–6 lower than the Queens summer concentrations. The rural summer size distributions have much larger mode diameters, with largest concentrations in the accumulation mode. Analysis of the characteristics of particle growth in comparison to other observations allow classification of the events and illustrate that particle growth contains different physical behavior related to different compounds.

Low PM_{2.5} mass quite often is associated with high number concentration and small particle diameter in our observations. These associations are caused by the occurrence of small fresh particles associated with primary emission (for the QC01 and QC04 campaigns), or by fresh particle nucleation and growth (for the WFM02 and PSP04 campaigns). In contrast, the observations of high PM_{2.5} mass, is often associated with lower number concentration and larger diameter, which we believe indicate an enhancement of condensation processes in photochemically aged air. There are markedly different values for the calculated condensation sink between the urban and rural locations, with campaign averages between 8.7×10^{-3} - 9.2×10^{-3} s⁻¹ for the rural sites, and $2.3 \times 10^{-2} - 3.5 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for the urban site. The condensation sink has a strong association with PM_{2.5} mass for the New York City site, but a much weaker relation with PM_{2.5} mass at the rural sites.

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