



## Supplement of

## Features in air ions measured by an air ion spectrometer (AIS) at Dome C

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Table S1. Coefficients for the fittings  $(y = a \cdot e^{b \cdot x})$  shown in Figs. 9 and S4.  $R^2$  is the coefficient of determination measuring the goodness of fit, which denotes the fraction of the total variation in the data can be explained by the fit. For Dome C data shown in Fig. 9, fits 1 and 2 are obtained based on all data below or above the wind speed threshold (7 m/s), respectively. The grey data points in Fig. 9 are used in determining the fitting coefficients for fits 3 and 4. For Aboa data shown in Fig. S4, a wind speed threshold of 17 m/s is used.

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	Cluster (0,0,1,0,nm) ion concentrations vs. wind speeds					
	Cluster (0.9-1.9 mil) fon concentrations vs. wind speeds					
DOME C (Figs. 9 & S4)	Fits	а	b	95% conference interval for $a$	95% conference interval for $b$	$R^2$
	1	0.69	26.34	[0.65 0.73]	[21.62 32.10]	0.24
	2	0.51	68.64	[0.41 0.60]	[29.88 157.67]	0.12
	3	0.73	21.83	[0.69 0.77]	[18.02 26.44]	0.28
	4	0.44	327	[0.40 0.47]	[244.95 436.53]	0.52
	1.9-10 nm ion concentrations vs. wind speeds					
	Fits	а	b	95% conference interval for $a$	95% conference interval for $b$	$R^2$
	1	1.14	0.07	[1.08 1.2]	[0.05 0.09]	0.29
	2	0.61	2.1	[0.71 0.88]	[0.88 5.01]	0.15
	3	1.19	0.05	[1.25 0.04]	[0.04 0.07]	0.31
	4	0.54	9.87	[0.58 7.18]	[7.18 13.58]	0.58
ABOA (Fig. S4)	0.9-2.2 nm ion concentrations vs. wind speeds					
	Fits	а	b	95% conference interval for $a$	95% conference interval for $b$	$R^2$
	6	0.17	14.98	[0.15 0.19]	[9.02 24 88]	0.66
	2.2-9.5 nm ion concentrations vs. wind speeds					
	Fits	а	b	95% conference interval for $a$	95% conference interval for $b$	$R^2$
	5	0.24	1.45	[0.22 0.26]	[1.26 1.68]	0.35
	6	0.06	63.24	[0.04 0.09]	[34.72 115.18]	0.17



Figure S1. AIS spectra on Feb. 8, 2011. The negative polarity shown in the upper panel and the positive 5 in the lower panel.





Figure S2. Seasonality in the median cluster ion (0.8-1.7 nm) concentration at SMEAR II station in southern Finland. Tops and bottoms of the boxes are the 75<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> percentiles of the median daily cluster ion concentrations in 10 min time resolution, with bars in the middle showing the 50<sup>th</sup> percentiles. Whiskers represent spans of the interquartile ranges multiplied by 1.5. Cluster ion concentrations on

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Whiskers represent spans of the interquartile ranges multiplied by 1.5. Cluster ion concentrations on new particle formation (NPF) days shown in red and on non-event days in black. The event classification was based on the method described by Dal Maso et al. (2005).



Figure S3. Left column: a) & b) Lidar observation on 20 January 2011 at Dome C. Right column: c) & d) zoom into the lowest heights (0-100 m) between 10:00 and 24:00 UTC. The lowest part of c) & d) (0-30 m) is a non-linear part in the LIDAR signal, and electrically induced noise bands are evident in d). The height information is also possibly subject to an uncertainty of  $\pm 5$  m.



Figure S4. Ion concentrations as a function of wind speeds. a) Ion concentration in the cluster size range: 0.9-1.9 nm for Dome C (black circles) and 0.9-2.2 nm for Aboa (grey circles, from Virkkula et al. (2007)). b) Ion concentration in the size range of 1.9-10 nm for Dome C (black circles) and in the intermediate size range of 2.2-9.5 nm for Aboa (grey circles, from Virkkula et al. (2007)). The Aboa ion data were reported in mass diameters. The size ranges referred here are reconverted from the measured

data were reported in mass diameters. The size ranges referred here are reconverted from the measured electrical mobility channels in mobility diameters. The solid lines are linear fits to the logarithm of the ion concentration data. The fitting parameters are given in Table S1. A wind speed threshold of 17 m/s is used for characterising the 2-step linear feature at Aboa and 7 m/s for that at Dome C.

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