**Atmospheric
Chemistry
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Relationships between particles, cloud condensation nuclei and cloud droplet activation during the third Pallas Cloud Experiment

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ACPD

12, 13691–13732, 2012

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Abstract

Concurrent measurement of aerosols, cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) and cloud droplet activation were carried out as a part of the third Pallas Cloud Experiment (PaCE-3) which took place at a ground based site located on northern Finland during the autumn of 2009. In this study, we investigate relationships between the aerosol properties, CCN and size resolved cloud droplet activation. During the investigated cloudy periods, the inferred number of cloud droplets (CDNC) varied typically between 50 and 150 cm^{-3} and displayed a linear correlation both with the number of particles having sizes over 100 nm and with the CCN concentrations at 0.4 % supersaturation. Furthermore, the diameter corresponding to the 50 % activation fraction, D_{50}, was generally in the range of 80 to 120 nm. The measured CCN concentrations were compared with predictions of a numerical model which used the measured size distribution and size resolved hygroscopicity as input. Assuming that the droplet surface tension is equal to that of water, the measured and predicted CCN concentrations were generally within 30 %. We also simulated size dependent cloud droplet activation with a previously developed air parcel model. By forcing the model to reproduce the experimental values of CDNC, adiabatic estimates for the updraft velocity and the maximum supersaturation reached in the clouds were derived. Performed sensitivity studies showed further that the observed variability in CDNC was driven mainly by changes in the particle size distribution while the variations in the updraft velocity and hygroscopicity contributed to a lesser extent. The results of the study corroborate conclusions of previous studies according to which the number of cloud droplets formed in clean air masses close to the Arctic is determined mainly by the number of available CCN.

1 Introduction

Representation of clouds in large scale models is a major source of uncertainty in climate change predictions (Forster et al., 2007). The uncertainty stems partly from the

fact that global climate models have coarse spatial resolution due to the limited computing resources available, and therefore such models cannot resolve the microphysical processes involved in the cloud formation explicitly. Droplets that make up liquid phase clouds in the atmosphere are formed on aerosol particles called as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) on air containing supersaturated water vapour. The size distribution and chemical composition of aerosols are the key properties that determine the number of CCN formed at a certain water vapour supersaturation (McFiggans et al., 2006). On the other hand, locally and temporally highly variable meteorological conditions influence the water vapour supersaturation levels reached in ambient clouds (Rogers and Yau, 1989). Several microphysical parameterizations have been developed, implemented and tested in global models (Penner et al., 2007; Ghan et al., 2011) to tackle the problem of describing cloud formation on physical basis in large scale models. Despite these developments, further empirical and process level model studies on the relationships between aerosols, CCN and cloud microphysics are needed to increase our understanding on the climatic effects of aerosols (Ghan and Schwartz, 2007).

Atmospheric in situ studies involving concurrent measurements of aerosols and warm cloud microphysics can be roughly classified into two categories: those involving CCN measurements at a known water vapour supersaturation s, and measurements performed in clouds where cloud droplet number concentrations (CDNC) are measured directly. In the first type of measurements, conditions are more constrained as s can be varied within the operational limits of the CCN measurement instrument which allows for determining the so called CCN spectrum, i.e. number of CCN as a function of s. Concurrent measurements of the aerosol chemical composition allow further for performing a CCN closure study where the CCN spectrum is calculated on the basis of the Koehler theory and compared with the measured spectrum (McFiggans et al., 2006). Such closure studies provide a test for our knowledge on the physics behind CCN activity of ambient particles and they also provide insight to the relative importance of the particle size and chemical composition (e.g. Dusek et al., 2006; Hudson et al., 2008; Quinn et al., 2008). On the other hand, as the water vapour supersaturation is

kept constant in such studies, the results do not contribute towards understanding the dynamics of cloud formation. Therefore aerosol-CCN closure studies do not provide information on the relative impacts of CCN spectrum and meteorological conditions in determining CDNC.

5   Compared to "static" CCN studies, in situ cloud measurements provide direct information on the relationship between aerosols and cloud droplets. These studies may also feature concurrent measurements of CCN concentrations, the particle chemical composition, the water vapour supersaturation levels and updraft velocities in the observed clouds. Such measurements allow for performing a kinetic closure study where
10   the observed CDNC are compared with those predicted either by a cloud droplet activation parameterization or by a box model that simulates cloud formation taking place under adiabatic conditions (Yum et al., 1998; Snider et al., 2003; Conant et al., 2004; Meskhidze et al., 2005; Fountoukis et al., 2007; Romakkaniemi et al., 2009). Compared to "static" CCN closure studies, kinetic closure studies involve more uncertain
15   variables, but they provide information on the meteorological conditions underlying the cloud formation. Kinetic closure studies can also be complimented with static CCN closure calculations to investigate aerosol-CCN and CCN-CDNC relationships (e.g. Yum et al., 1998; Snider et al., 2003; Conant et al., 2004).

While the aerosol-CDNC relationships are typically based on in-cloud measurements
20   performed with an aircraft, several ground-based studies focusing on aerosol-cloud relations have been carried out during the last two decades as well (Anttila et al., 2009 and references therein). These studies have shed light on the importance of the particle size, mixing state and chemical composition to the formation of warm clouds. On the other hand, investigating the impact of meteorology has been more difficult task in
25   ground-based studies (Verheggen et al., 2007) and concurrent CCN measurements have often been lacking.

In this study, we focus on concurrent measurements of aerosols, CCN and cloud droplet activation that were carried out as a part of the third Pallas Cloud Experiment (PaCE-3). The campaign took place at a Pallas Global Atmospheric Watch station lo-

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cated in northern Finland (Hatakka et al., 2003) between 11 September and 10 October 2009. The current study extends the work carried out during the first two PaCE campaigns (Lihavainen et al., 2008; Anttila et al., 2009; Kivekäs et al., 2009). In the work of Lihavainen et al. (2008), connections between observed aerosol number concentration and CDNC were investigated, while the study of Kivekäs et al. (2009) focused on the role of the particle chemical composition in the observed cloud droplet activation. Also, Anttila et al. (2009) presented a new theoretical framework which was applied to estimate the maximum supersaturation reached in clouds and to provide quantitative estimates for the importance of the particle hygroscopicity and mixing state to the observed cloud droplet activation.

The goals of the current study are the following: (1) investigate whether aerosol-CCN closure can be reached for the selected cloudy periods, (2) compare CDNC with various aerosol properties and CCN concentrations, (3) provide estimates for the maximum supersaturation and updraft velocity reached in the observed clouds, and 4) assess the relative importance of the vertical velocity, particle size distribution and hygroscopicity to CDNC. The analysis will be done using previously developed modeling tools (Anttila et al., 2009; Anttila, 2010).

2 Campaign overview

2.1 Experimental methods

The third Pallas Cloud Experiment (PaCE-3) was an intensive one-month measurement campaign for aerosol and cloud properties during September 11th to October 11th 2009. The measurements relevant to this study were conducted by the Finnish Meteorological Institute and by the University of Eastern Finland at the Pallas-Sodankylä Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) station (Hatakka et al. 2003).

The Pallas-Sodankylä GAW station is located inland near the northern edge of the boreal forest zone. The station consists of several measurement sites, of which only the

main Pallas site Sammaltunturi (67°58′ N, 24°07′ E, 560 m above sea level) is considered here. This site is located slightly above the tree line on a top of hill Sammaltunturi, which rises about 300 m above the surrounding area. Sammaltunturi is located at the half way of a north-south oriented chain of hills reaching some 500–800 m in altitude. The area to the east and west of the hills is mainly lowland covered with boreal forest and swamps. The station is located inside the uninhabited Pallas-Yllästunturi national park. Also, the area is very sparsely populated outside the park, and the only municipalities within 50 km radius from the Sammaltunturi site are Muonio and Kittilä with some 2500 and 6000 inhabitants, respectively.

The measurements were conducted from 11 September to 11 October 2009. This time period of the year was chosen to maximize the chances of the station being inside cloud, even though the fraction of time when the station was inside cloud (visibility below 1000 m) turned out to be only 6 % of the time. During the first half of the campaign the air masses arriving to Pallas came from Northern Atlantic. The second half of the campaign was characterized by air masses of Arctic origin, even though sometimes the air had spent several days above land in Northern Scandinavia. The ambient temperature at the 570 m altitude was on average 1.8 °C and varied (5 % to 95 % values) from −4.8 °C to +9.2 °C during the campaign period. The temperature was below 0 °C for 42 % of the time. The winds were mostly western with average (5 % to 95 % values) wind speed of 6.1 m s^{-1} (2.7 m s^{-1} to 12.0 m s^{-1}).

Two differential mobility particle sizers (DMPS) were used to measure the aerosol number size distribution. Both instruments were operated as described by Komppula et al. (2005). One DMPS was attached to a so-called total air inlet, which lets in all particles including cloud droplets (but not rain drops). The cloud droplets were then evaporated, and the dry cloud condensing nuclei were measured among the non-activated particles. The other DMPS was attached to a PM 2.5 µm inlet which prevented the cloud droplets from entering the system and therefore this DMPS measured only the non-activated particles. Each of the DMPS instruments measured the dry diameter

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range 7–500 nm in 30 discrete size fractions. The whole size range was scanned in approximately five minutes by each DMPS, and the data was saved after each cycle.

Particle hygroscopicity was measured with a HTDMA (Hygroscopicity Tandem Differential Mobility Analyzer). The HTDMA has been constructed at the Finnish Meteorological Institute, and consists of four main parts: (1) "Dry" DMA for selecting the dry sizes; (2) aerosol humidifier, which humidifies the sample air to wanted RH; (3) "Wet" DMA, where the humidified aerosol is size-segregated; and (4) a condensation particle counter (TSI CPC 3772), where humidified and size-segregated aerosol concentrations are measured. The HTDMA is constructed to meet the EUSAAR standards for continuous measurements of the aerosol hygroscopicity at a fixed RH (Duplissy et al., 2009). The sample air flow rate in the HTDMA is 1 LPM. Both DMA's work in a closed loop sheath air arrangement, with the "Dry" DMA's sheath flow set at 9 LPM and the "Wet" DMA's sheath flow set at 6 LPM. The aerosol is humidified solely in the sample air, using a heated Gore-Tex humidifier, to RH = 90 %. The RH is measured in the "Wet" DMA, located in an insulated housing with the temperature kept ~3 °C cooler than the lab temperature. The "Wet" DMA's voltages are operated in a scanning mode. This enables the HTDMA to measure 8 dry sizes from 15 nm to 265 nm with one full cycle taking about one hour. The proper operation with the HTDMA is verified with dry calibrations (by-passing the humidifier) and ammonium sulfate calibrations. Finally, the HTDMA data is analysed by using the data-inversion toolkit provided by Martin Gysel, Paul Scherrer Institute. The data inversion is described in detail by Gysel et al. (2009).

The Cloud Condensation Nuclei Counter (CCNC, DMT model CCN-100, described by Roberts and Nenes, 2005) was operated at a total flow rate of 0.5 lpm and at five different supersaturations (0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 and 1.0 %), each set for 15 min. Data processing included skipping the first five minutes of data after changing the supersaturation to ensure that the CCNC column was operating at stable conditions. The total aerosol number concentration (CN) was measured by a condensation particle counter (CPC, TSI model 3772) connected to the same sampling line as the CCNC.

2.2 Observed cloud events

Presence of clouds on the measurement site was assessed with the approach taken in the previous study of Komppula et al. (2005). Briefly, a cloud event was judged to have taken place when the following conditions were met at least for an hour: relative humidity stayed around 100 % and visibility was below 1000 m. For the day time periods, photos taken by a web camera located on the site was used for further verification. By these criteria, the measurement site was inside clouds for around 60 h during the experiment. For further screening of the data we calculated the size distribution of activated particles (cloud residual particles) during the cloud events as described in Anttila et al. (2009). This allows for inferring the fraction of particles that activated into cloud droplets for each DMPS channel. The size-resolved uncertainties in the activated fractions were estimated as described in Komppula et al. (2005). Further analysis of size-resolved differences between DMPS:s can be found in Wiedensohler et al. (2012).

The acquired data set was further screened according to the following criteria: no rainfall took place during the period and the fraction of activated particles was >80 % at the diameter range >400 nm. These criteria were applied for the reasons discussed in our previous cloud campaign study (Anttila et al., 2009, Sect. 4.1). As a final criterion in the selection of the cloud cases it was required that the H-TDMA instrument was running during the cloud event to constrain the particle hygroscopicity in model calculations. The measurement data for the chosen cloud events was averaged using an interval of 105 min. A rather long averaging interval was chosen to ensure that size resolved H-TDMA data and CCN data are available for each time interval. As a result, the data set analyzed here consists of around 33 h of measurements with five prominent cloud events.

3 Modeling approach

We performed CCN closure calculations and model simulations with an air parcel model. Both of these approaches require extrapolation of the measured hygroscopic growth factors to cover the particle size range scanned by the DMPS instrumentation. Therefore the extrapolation method will be described first (Sect. 3.1), followed by a description of the performed CCN calculations (Sect. 3.2) and cloud model simulations (Sect. 3.3).

3.1 Treatment of the particle hygroscopicity

A log-normal function was fitted to each humidified particle size distribution to parameterize the particle hygroscopic properties. The performance of the fit was evaluated and it was concluded that the data can be adequately described by a single log normal function. In other words, only a single hygroscopic mode was generally present which indicates a low degree of external mixing among the sampled particles. For each measured distribution, a mean hygroscopic growth factor (HGm) and general standard deviation (GSD), indicative of the width of the distribution, was thereby obtained for each time interval and each dry particle size measured by H-TDMA. Here we follow the approach of our previous study where it was assumed that distribution of hygroscopic growth factors can be described by a log normal function across the particle size spectrum (Anttila et al., 2009). Accordingly the experimentally determined hygroscopic parameters HGm and GSD were fitted with a function of the form $f(x) = ax^b$, where x is the particle dry diameter, and a and b are the fitting parameters. To verify the accuracy of the fitting process, the experimental values of these parameters were compared to those given by the corresponding fit function for each dry size measured with the H-TDMA instrument. The average error in the mean HG factor varied between one and five percent and was one percent at maximum in the case of GSD. This demonstrates that the fit could be performed successfully with the chosen form of the function. Also, the extrapolated values stayed within a physically reasonable range

for the considered dry size interval (50–400 nm). Here we do not illustrate the fitting procedure with figures, but we refer to our previous work where similar procedure was applied (Anttila et al., 2009; Anttila, 2010).

3.2 CCN closure calculations

The CCN concentration at a supersaturation s, $CCN_{tot}(s)$, was calculated using the following equation (Eq. (7) in Anttila et al., 2009):

$$CCN_{tot}(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} AF_i(s)CN_{tot,i}. \tag{1}$$

Here the summation is taken over DMPS size channels and thus N is the number of the channels. Also, $AF_i(s)$ is the fraction of particles, having a dry size corresponding to channel i, that are predicted to be activated at the supersaturation s, and $CN_{tot,i}$ is the total particle number concentration in the channel i. The functions AF_i are calculated according to Eq. (5) in Anttila et al. (2009). To summarize the process, hygroscopic distributions for each size class i (obtained by the fitting procedure described in the previous section) are converted to the corresponding distributions of particle critical supersaturations through the use of the Koehler theory. For the details regarding the Koehler theory, a good overview is given in the review article of McFiggans et al. (2006). Underlying assumption behind the approach is that the width of the measured HG factor distribution for a given particle dry size reflects the variance in chemical composition (hygroscopicity) of the sampled aerosols. This assumption can be considered as reasonable as argued in Anttila et al. (2009) (Sect. 4.2). What comes to the other inputs for Eq. (1), the values of $CN_{tot,i}$ are taken from the DMPS total inlet measurements, and the particle surface tension was assumed to be that of water. It should be noted that the current approach accounts for the particle mixing state and size dependence of the particle hygroscopicity. More details of the method can be found in Sect. 2.1 in Anttila et al. (2009).

3.3 Cloud model simulations

Cloud model simulations were performed in order to investigate the relative importance of the meteorology, particle physical properties and hygroscopicity on the observed cloud droplet concentrations. Here we have applied a previously developed model described in detail in Anttila (2010). Briefly, the model simulates the time development of an aerosol/droplet population in a homogeneous air parcel that ascends with a constant velocity V. The aerosols are divided into sections according to both their size and hygroscopicity. The model was initialized using the aerosol distributions measured through the total inlet and hygroscopic growth parameters were determined according to the method described in Sect. 3.1. In particular, the particle size range was discretized into classes so that the dry diameters matched the nominal diameters of the DMPS channels. As in the case of CCN calculations, the droplet surface tension was assumed to be equal to that of water, and the mass accommodation coefficient of water vapour was set equal to unity.

Due to the nature of the campaign set up, it is not possible to determine exactly the meteorological conditions under which the observed clouds were formed. For this reason, the temperature at the cloud base was simply assumed to be the same as the average measured temperature at the site for each cloud period. This is rather unimportant assumption because the preliminary calculations showed that the results are only weakly sensitive to the initial temperature compared to the assumed value of the updraft velocity. Because of uncertainties regarding the formation history of the observed clouds, the updraft velocity was treated as a free parameter. Hence we cannot perform such a strict closure study as in the case of aerosol-CCN relationships. Instead, we use the model as a diagnostic tool for evaluating the relative roles of different factors played in the cloud formation. This will be discussed in more detail in Sect. 6.

The model simulations were run with a time step of a second and the output was recorded at the instant when the water vapour supersaturation reached its maximum in the air parcel. The main outputs of the model are the total number of cloud droplets

formed, the activated fraction of particles for each size class and the maximum supersaturation of water vapour. In particular, the diameters corresponding to the 50 % activation efficiency, D_{50}, were interpolated from the results to establish comparison with the experimental values of D_{50}.

4   Observed features of the cloud events

4.1   Relationships between aerosol properties and cloud activation characteristics

Table 1 summarizes the key features of the considered cloud events which consist of around 33 h of measurement data. Here we have denoted the events with Latin alphabets from A to E. The shortest event in duration, case B, covered only a single averaging interval while the longest case E lasted for around 11 h and 45 min. The average total particle concentrations, CN_{tot}, varied from 385 to 1518 cm^{-3} between the events. Compared to longer data series analyzed in Tunved et al. (2003), this value range can be considered as typical for the site. Table 1 shows further that particles with dry diameters above 100 nm, CN(>100 nm), made only a small contribution to the total number concentrations: the ratio between CN_{tot} and CN(>100 nm) varied in the range 0.07 to 0.25, implying that Aitken mode sized particles dominated the total particle number concentrations. The average number of cloud droplets inferred from the dual-DMPS setup, CDNC, varied between 49 and 99 cm^{-3}. Such numbers are somewhat smaller than the average numbers obtained from an analysis of a longer data set from the site (Komppula et al., 2005) and are also generally smaller than observed in the previous campaign, PaCE-2 (Anttila et al., 2009).

The average value of the diameter at which 50 % of the particles are activated into cloud droplets, D_{50}, varied in the range 80 to 102 nm between the cases. These numbers are slightly lower than observed in the previous campaign (Anttila et al., 2009) but compare well to those reported by Komppula et al. (2005). Figure 1 shows the

correlation between D_{50} and CN_{tot} as well as between D_{50} and CN(>100 nm). No visible correlation can be seen which suggests that the observed variation in D_{50} was not driven by the aerosol number concentrations.

Overall, comparing the corresponding values of CN(>100 nm), CDNC and D_{50}, it can be concluded that Aitken mode particles made only a small contribution to the number of activated cloud droplets. This is further illustrated Figs. 2 and 3: Fig. 2 shows the correlation between CDNC and CN(>100 nm) while Fig. 3 illustrates the average and overall variation of these quantities for each cloud event. Conversely, CN_{tot} and CDNC do not show any visible correlation (Fig. 1) which further emphasizes the dominant role of accumulation mode particles played in the observed variation in CDNC. This finding is consistent with the previous cloud observations done at the site (Komppula et al., 2005). As also seen from Fig. 2, the relationship between CDNC and CN(>100 nm) is approximately linear. This is in contrast with many other empirical data sets where sublinear correlation between CDNC and accumulation mode sized particles is found (see e.g. Fig. 5 in Lihavainen et al., 2008, and Fig. 10 in Kleinman et al., 2012). As noted above, CDNC varied over a relatively small interval in the cloud cases considered here while the data sets displayed in the aforementioned studies cover a larger range of conditions. Also, the air masses sampled here were relatively clean while the "suppression effect", i.e. nonproportional increase in CDNC as a response to increasing aerosol concentrations, is more characteristic to polluted air masses (e.g. Reutter et al., 2009).

4.2 Particle hygroscopicity measurements

Table 1 shows the interpolated particle hygroscopic growth factors of particles with a dry diameter of 100 nm, Gf(100nm). These values were calculated using the method described in Sect. 2. We report interpolated values to provide a compact characterization of particle hygroscopicity at a diameter close to typical values of D_{50}. As seen, the average values Gf (100 nm) for each cloud cases varied between 1.14 and 1.26.

These values are comparable to the results of the previous campaign, PaCE-2 (Table 3 in Kivekäs et al., 2009).

Petters and Kreidenweis (2007) introduced a dimensionless parameter κ to characterize the particle hygroscopicity and CCN activity. This has become a widely used parameter in the field and to facilitate comparisons with other studies, we converted Gf (100 nm) to the corresponding values of κ, κ (100 nm). The case-averaged values of κ (100 nm) varied between 0.05–0.11 (Table 1). For comparison, Kammermann et al. (2010) reported an average value of 0.16 for κ for particles with a dry size of 110 nm in a campaign that took place in a subarctic site in northern Sweden. Also, Andreae and Rosenfeld (2008) concluded that a κ value range of 0.2–0.4 is a good approximation for the hygroscopicity of continental aerosols, while the value of κ for continental aerosols varied mainly in the range of 0.1–0.4 in the global modeling study of Pringle et al. (2010). These comparisons show that the aerosols observed during the current campaign were notably less hygroscopic than what has been typically observed for continental background aerosols. In fact, such low values of κ are consistent with the notion that the observed aerosols were mainly comprised of organic compounds (Levin et al., 2012). The particle chemical composition was measured with an aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS, DeCarlo et al., 2006) instrument during the campaign, and the results will be presented in a separate publication (Jaatinen et al., 2012, in preparation). Here it suffices to note that the AMS instrument was running only during the cloud events C and D, and the average mass fractions of sulphate were 10 % and 9 % during these events, respectively, while the rest of the particulate matter was composed mainly of organic compounds or some other compounds that were not detected by AMS. These results support the notion that large organic mass fraction explains the low particle hygroscopicity observed during the events.

4.3 Relationships between CCN and cloud activation characteristics

Measured CCN concentrations are shown in Table 1 for each supersaturation applied in the CCN counter. For the cases A and E, the CCN measurement instrument was

not operating during the cloud event and hence no numbers are given for these cases. We compared our observations with those reported by Kammermann et al. (2010) who performed CCN measurements at a subarctic site in northern Sweden. For the supersaturations of 0.20 and 0.4 % which overlap with the supersaturations applied in our study, Kammermann reported average CCN concentrations of 212 and 312 cm^{-3}, respectively (see Table 1 of the aforementioned study). As seen from Table 1 of the present study, these numbers are clearly higher than measured in our campaign. We speculate that the difference is mainly due to two factors: we observed generally lower particle number concentrations and less hygroscopic particles (see Sect. 1.2 above and Table 1 in Kammermann et al., 2010). We do not pursue the topic further here, however, as the CCN measurements will be presented in more detail in a separate paper (Jaatinen et al., 2012). Instead, we focus here on comparing the CCN and cloud activation measurements.

The CCN concentrations for the smallest two applied supersaturations, CCN(0.2 %) and CCN(0.4 %), are compared with the inferred cloud droplet concentrations in Fig. 2 for each cloud case during which the CCN counter was operating. As can be seen, CDNC values fell generally between the CCN(0.2 %) and CCN(0.4 %) so that CCN (0.4 %) often approximates nicely the corresponding value of CDNC. The good degree of correlation between CDNC and CCN(0.4 %) is further illustrated in Fig. 2. These findings suggest that that the "effective" maximum supersaturation, s_{max}, in the observed clouds was around 0.4 % in most of the cases. In comparison, inferred values of s_{max} varied between 0.18 and 0.26 % during the previous cloud campaign on the site (Anttila et al., 2009). Also a supersaturation level of 0.4 % is considerably larger than those reported in previous ground based particle activation studies (Sveningsson et al., 1994, 1997; Martinsson et al, 1999; Mertes et al., 2005). Unfortunately, the CCN instrument was not operating during the cloud events A and E, but we will present model based estimates for s_{max} for all the considered cloud events in Sect. 6.

The correlations of CCN(0.2 %) and CCN(0.4 %) with D_{50} are shown in Fig. 1. As seen, CCN(0.4 %) correlates well with D_{50}, the coefficient of determination being 0.78,

while no clear correlation can be found between CCN(0.2 %) and D_{50}. It should be noted that correlation between D_{50} and CCN(0.4 %) is positive. This can be feasibly interpreted so that larger numbers of CCN led to decreased activation efficiency due to competition between particles for water vapour during the cloud formation. Interestingly, only weak correlation was found between D_{50} and CN(>100 nm) while CDNC and CN(>100 nm) were correlated to a significant degree (Sect. 4.1). When limiting the comparison between D_{50} and CN(>100 nm) for the time periods during which the CCN measurements are available, however, a positive correlation with the coefficient of determination being 0.78 is seen (not illustrated here).

5   CCN closure for the cloud periods

A first phase of the modeling work was to find out if the observed CCN concentrations can be predicted on the basis of the Koehler theory using the observed size distributions and extrapolated hygroscopic growth properties as input. The motivation for this is to test our understanding on the factors determining the particle CCN activation efficiency and also to pave way for the simulations made with the air parcel model.

The CCN concentrations were calculated as described in Sect. 3.2 for each supersaturation applied in the measurements and for each time interval for which CCN data were available. The results are summarized in Fig. 4. As seen, the overall correlation is rather good, the average absolute relative errors being 30, 18, 12, 16 and 20 % for the supersaturations 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 and 1.0 %, respectively. The corresponding relative bias were 18, −18, −11, −13 and −20 % for the supersaturations 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 and 1.0 %, respectively, implying that the CCN concentrations are underpredicted for supersaturations above 0.2 %. While the errors remain quite small, it could be speculated that the trend is due to the presence of slightly soluble compounds in particles that increase the hygroscopicity by dissolving at higher RHs when particles contain more water. Because the CCN calculations are partially based on extrapolating hygroscopic measurements done at 90 % RH, possible presence of slightly soluble

compounds dissolving at higher RHs can not be accounted for. Another explanation is that the degree of non-ideality of the particle aqueous phase decreased with increasing supersaturaturation (due to increased dilution) so that the CCN activation ability of particles was enhanced at higher supersaturations. While this remains speculation as the exact identity of the compounds making up the sampled particles remains largely unknown, recent laboratory studies support the notion that the hygroscopicity of particles consisting of atmospherically relevant compounds may vary with varying RH (Wex et al., 2008; Ruehl et al., 2010).

6   Cloud model simulations

An open question related to the clouds observed on the measurement site is their formation history: where and under which conditions the clouds were formed and how important were these meteorological conditions in determining the cloud microphysical properties? Towards answering these questions, we did model calculations to see if it is possible to reproduce the observed size dependent activation profiles with an adiabatic air parcel model (Sect. 6.1) and further performed a sensitivity study to investigate the relative importance of meteorology and aerosol properties to the cloud formation (Sect. 6.2). The model uses also the Koehler theory which was found to explain the CCN activity of the observed particle quite accurately (Sect. 5). However, as discussed in Sect. 3.3, the updraft velocity was kept as a free parameter due to the lack of relevant measurements. It should be noted that the subsequent results are based on the assumption that the observed clouds were formed under adiabatic conditions even though there is no direct empirical proof of this. Hence the estimated updraft velocities are interpreted here as a measure for the convective activity in the observed clouds rather than a strict estimate for the updraft velocities reached during the cloud formation.

6.1 Base case simulations

The updraft velocity was estimated for each averaging time interval in the analyzed data set as follows. For each case, a set of simulations was performed with varying values of updraft velocities so that the velocity range 0.1–1.0 m s^{-1} was covered with an interval of 0.05 m s^{-1}. The "representative" updraft velocity was then estimated by choosing the value which minimizes the difference between experimental and modeled cloud droplet number concentrations. As can be seen from Fig. 5, the cloud droplet number concentrations could be reproduced accurately in this manner. Also, Table 2 shows the average values of modeled CDNC for each cloud event which are seen to compare well with the corresponding experimental values displayed in Table 1.

The performance of the model was evaluated by comparing the measured and calculated size resolved activation profiles (Fig. 6) and the D_{50} diameters (Fig. 7). From Fig. 6 it can be seen that the predicted and experimental activated fractions were generally within the measurement uncertainties, the agreement being especially good for cases D and E. However, for the rest of the cases, the activated fractions were generally underpredicted at the size range below ∼120 nm, while the trend was opposite at the larger sizes. These results seem to suggest that the model tends to overestimate D_{50} as compared to experimental results, and this is confirmed by taking a look at the whole data set (Fig. 7). On average, the values of D_{50} were overpredicted by around 5 % by the model. Closer comparison of the experimental and modeling results showed that the model underestimates the activated fractions by around 18 % on average in the diameter range 75–125 nm while overpredicting the activation fractions by around 8 % on average at the size range >125 nm (not illustrated here). This translates to corresponding biases in the size resolved CDNC so that the total CDNC values were reproduced despite these errors. A possible reason for the biases could be corresponding biases in the estimated particle hygroscopicity but this is excluded as no such biases were found when comparing the fitted and experimental hygroscopic growth factors (Sect. 3.1). While the reason for the biases remains uncertain, these

errors are comparable to the uncertainties in the experimental activated fractions of which average values varied in the range of 5 to 15 % between the cloud events.

Estimated updraft velocities V and the corresponding maximum supersaturations s_{max} are displayed in Table 2 and in Fig. 8. Average values of V varied in the range of 0.20–0.60 m s^{-1} between the cloud events while average value of s_{max} varied between 0.27 and 0.63 %. In comparison, the estimated values for s_{max} were generally lower, being in the range of 0.18 to 0.26 %, for the cloud cases observed during the previous campaign, PaCE-2 (Anttila et al., 2009) but are comparable to the results from the first PaCE campaign where s_{max} was estimated to vary in the range of 0.2 and 0.5 % (Lihavainen e a., 2008). The values for s_{max} were consistently higher than 0.4 % for the cases B, C and D. Such high supersaturations are typically observed for cumulus clouds and in marine stratus clouds formed in clean air masses (Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998; Hudson et al., 2010). The lowest values of s_{max} were estimated for the case A where s_{max} varied between 0.22 and 0.29 %, and such range is comparable to the values estimated in our previous campaign study (see above). To conclude, large differences in the estimated s_{max} and V values between the cloud events suggest that there was large variability in meteorological conditions behind the formation of the observed clouds. This also implies that CCN concentrations at a fixed supersaturation do not provide an accurate proxy for CDNC when considering the whole data set. Unfortunately there were no CCN measurements during the cloud events A and E so this notion can not be fully tested against experiments.

From Fig. 8 it can also be seen that the values of s_{max} are closely linked to those of V. A further comparison showed that s_{max} and V are positively correlated, the degree of correlation being 0.79 (not illustrated here). A physical explanation for this is that higher updraft velocities lead to higher levels of water vapour supersaturation through increased rate of cooling of the air parcel. On the other hand, s_{max} is expected to depend on the number of CCN active particles as they act as a sink of water vapour during the cloud formation. To see if we can detect such suppression effect, we compared the values of s_{max} and CCN(0.4 %). The comparison showed that s_{max} is negatively corre-

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lated with CCN(0.4 %) with the degree of correlation being 0.63 (not shown). Hence the modeling results suggest that the maximum supersaturations reached in the observed clouds are influenced both by meteorological conditions and the number of CCN active particles.

The number of cloud droplets inferred from measurements, CDNC, was observed to be strongly correlated with the number of available CCN (Sect. 4.3). In order to estimate the impact of meteorological conditions to the number of cloud droplets formed, we compared CDNC with the corresponding updraft values (Fig. 9). These two quantities are seen to correlate poorly which suggests together with the previously presented results that the number of available CCN was the main factor in determining CDNC during the analyzed cloud cases. This result is consistent with the results from experimental studies of Gillani et al. (1995) and Snider and Brenguier (2000) who concluded that cloud droplet concentrations depend weakly on the updraft velocity for clouds formed in clean air masses (which is the case here). On the other hand, experimental values of D_{50} correlate with the updraft velocity to some extent, the degree of correlation (R^2) being 0.64 (Fig. 10). A plausible interpretation for this correlation is that large updraft velocities led to large values of s_{max} which allowed for smaller particles to activate into cloud droplets. Hence the updraft velocity did impact the overall activation efficiency of particles (as quantified by D_{50}) to some degree while the number of cloud droplets formed was mainly determined by the CCN spectra.

It is also of interest to compare the modeled values of CDNC together with V and s_{max} (Table 2) with the number of CCN at supersaturation 0.4 % (Table 1). The comparison shows that the values of CCN(0.4 %) are higher than the corresponding values of CDNC for cloud events B and C despite the fact that the values of s_{max} were above 0.4 % in these cases. For the case D, the average values of CDNC and s_{max} were 49 cm^{-3} and 0.63 %, respectively, while the average value of CCN(0.4 %) was 52 cm^{-3}. This comparison shows that the measured CCN activity of particles is higher than the modeled activation efficiency. In principle, kinetic limitations in the cloud droplet formation could explain the discrepancy (Nenes et al., 2001). However, for the cloud air

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masses observed during this study, the resulting differences in the number of cloud droplets and CCN concentrations at s_{max} are expected to remain below 10 % (Nenes et al., 2001) which is not sufficient to explain the discrepancy. More likely reason is that the CCN activity of particles is underestimated by the Koehler theory which the cloud model uses to calculate the equilibrium vapor pressure of water above the droplet surface. This notion is supported by the CCN closure study presented in previous section (Fig. 4). In order to evaluate the extent to which this discrepancy affects the estimated values of s_{max} and V, we repeated the calculations while increasing the particles hygroscopic growth factors by 5 %. The degree of increase in hygroscopicity was chosen by minimizing the difference between the predicted and measured CCN concentrations at supersaturation of 0.4 %. On average, the values of V and s_{max} decreased by 27 and 14 %, respectively, compared to the base case results and the corresponding standard deviations were 5 and 3 %, respectively. Hence, a small fractional change in the particle hygroscopicity led to notable changes in the estimated values of V and s_{max}. This is due to the Koehler theory according to which small changes in the particle hygroscopicity leads to large changes in the particle critical supersaturation when the particle soluble fraction is small (Bilde and Svennignsson, 2004). The main impact of changing the hygroscopicity was to scale down the estimated values of V and s_{max}, however, and the conclusions presented above are robust with respect the estimated degree of uncertainty in the CCN activity of the particles.

6.2 Sensitivity studies

The results described in Sect. 6.1 suggest that the number of cloud droplets formed, CDNC, was closely tied to the particle CCN spectrum whereas meteorology played a secondary role. The CCN spectrum is determined in turn by the particle size distribution and chemical composition (Andreae and Rosenfeld, 2008). In order to further elucidate the relative importance of these factors to the observed variability of CDNC, we repeated the calculations presented in the last section by keeping one of the following model inputs constant: the particle size distribution, the particle hygroscopicity or

the updraft velocity. The values of the other input parameters were the same as in the corresponding base case simulations. The resulting values of CDNC were then compared to the corresponding base case results to assess the relative importance of the considered factors. In the first sensitivity study (termed as "constant size distribution"),

5 the simulations were repeated by using the time-averaged size distribution as an input. Here the averaging was done over the cloudy time periods considered. In the second study (termed as "constant hygroscopicity"), we calculated first time-averaged distribution of hygroscopic growth factors and then performed the fitting process described in Sect. 3.1 to find the corresponding values of the hygroscopic parameters. The averag-

10 ing was done over the considered cloudy periods, and the simulations were repeated by using the obtained hygroscopic properties as input. Finally, in the third case (termed as "constant updraft velocity"), we calculated the time-averaged value of the updraft velocity V, which was around $0.39\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$, and then repeated the simulations using the average updraft velocity as input while the other inputs were the same as in the base

15 case calculations.

The absolute values of the fractional changes in CDNC relative to the respective base case simulations, ΔCDNC, are presented in Table 3 for each set of sensitivity calculations. As seen, the largest changes in CDNC took place on average when the aerosol size distribution was kept constant while the hygroscopicity and updraft velocity

20 were much less important factors. For the cloud events B and C, however, the modeled values of CDNC showed largest sensitivity to the particle hygroscopicity while the size distribution was the most important factor for the events A, D and E. Taken together, the results strengthen our conclusion that the particle size distribution was the dominating factor in the variation of observed CDNC.

25 It was noted in the previous section that the modeled CCN activity of particles is smaller than the CCN measurements done at 0.4 % supersaturation suggest. Moreover, this discrepancy could be minimized by increasing the hygroscopic growth factors by 5 %. To investigate if these uncertainties in the modeled CCN activity could impact the conclusions drawn from the sensitivity studies we repeated the sensitivity stud-

ies while increasing the particle hygroscopicity by 5 %. To summarize, the average values of ΔCDNC were 33, 8 and 15 % in the cases "constant size distribution", "constant hygroscopicity" and "constant updraft velocity", respectively. The importance of the particle hygroscopicity was thus somewhat decreased compared to the base case simulations, as can be seen from the last column of Table 3, but the overall differences were small.

7   Summary and conclusions

Concurrent measurement of aerosols, cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) concentrations and cloud droplet activation were carried out as a part of the third Pallas Cloud Experiment (PaCE-3) which took place at a ground based site located on northern Finland during the autumn of 2009. Here we have focused on selected cloudy periods to investigate relationships between the aerosol properties, CCN and size resolved cloud droplet activation.

The estimated number concentration of cloud droplets (CDNC) varied typically between 50 and 150 cm^{-3} and displayed correlation both with the number of particles having sizes over 100 nm, CN(>100 nm), and with the CCN concentrations at 0.4 % supersaturation, CCN(0.4 %). On the other hand, the activated fraction of particles varied strongly between the cloud events, implying that CDNC can not be estimated on the basis of the total particle number concentrations. Furthermore, the diameter corresponding to the 50 % activation fraction, D_{50}, was generally in the range of 80 to 120 nm.

The measured CCN concentrations were compared with the predictions based on an application of the Koehler theory where the measured size distribution and size resolved hygroscopicity were used as input. Assuming that the droplet surface tension is equal to that of water, the measured and predicted CCN concentrations were generally within 30 %. It was also noted that the model tends to underpredict the observed CCN activity at supersaturations 0.4 % and above. The second part of the part of the

modeling work consisted of simulating size dependent cloud droplet activation with a previously developed air parcel model. By forcing the model to reproduce the experimental values of CDNC, adiabatic estimates for the updraft velocity, V, and for the maximum supersaturation reached in the clouds, s_{max}, were derived. Despite some biases, the calculated and measured size resolved activated fractions generally matched each other within experimental uncertainties. The experimental and modeling results together suggest that CDNC was mainly determined by the CCN spectrum (i.e. the particle size and chemical composition) rather than the meteorological conditions as characterized by V. However, the estimated updraft velocities displayed a negative correlation with D_{50} which indicates that meteorology did have an impact on the overall particle activation efficiency. Performed sensitivity studies showed further that the observed variability in CDNC was driven mainly by changes in the particle size distribution while the variations in the updraft velocity and hygroscopicity contributed to a lesser extent.

Following loosely the classification presented by Reutter et al. (2009), the results suggest that the observed clouds were formed on the "aerosol-limited regime" where the number of CCN active particles largely determines CDNC. This is consistent with previous studies on the microphysics of clouds formed in clean air masses (e.g. Twohy et al., 2005). It should be noted, however, that the current study is based on a rather short intensive campaign where the range of atmospheric conditions encountered was limited. Therefore long term simultaneous measurements of aerosols, CCN and cloud droplet activation are desirable to investigate how the results obtained here compare to larger data sets containing results from different seasons and air mass types.

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Table 1. Observed features of the analyzed cloud events. For each event, an average value of the quantity is shown followed by the value range during the event in parenthesis. Here CN_{tot} is the total particle number concentration, CN(>100 nm) is the concentration of particles with dry sizes above 100 nm, CDNC is the inferred number of cloud droplets and D_{50} is the diameter corresponding to the 50 % activation efficiency. Moreover, estimated hygroscopic growth factors of particles having a dry size of 100 nm, Gf(100 nm), are shown along with the corresponding values of the hygroscopicity parameter κ (calculated according to Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007), κ(100 nm). Finally, measured CCN concentrations, if available, are shown.

Case	A	B	C	D	E
Time period	09/09 08:00–13:45	22/09 06:45–08:15	22–23/09 22:30–08:30	25–26/09 23:30–04:15	04/10 01:30–12:15
CN_{tot} (cm^{-3})	531 (389 -532)	1518	449 (325 -768)	385 (339-434)	499 (321-1141)
CN(>100 nm)(cm^{-3})	127 (56 - 242)	131	100 (82–125)	29 (14-46)	119 (74–226)
CDNC (cm^{-3})	93 (43–168)	97	89 (72–105)	49 (41–56)	99 (79-125)
D_{50} (nm)	101 (98–106)	98	92 (86–97)	80 (78–81)	102 (79–125)
Activated fraction	0.17 (0.09-0.22)	0.06	0.22 (0.09-0.29)	0.13 (0.11-0.17)	0.23 (0.13-0.37)
Temperature (˚C)	9.1	2.4	4.9	5.0	−3.2
Visibility(m)	149	207	138	142	120
Gf(100 nm)	1.24 (1.21–1.26)	1.14	1.15 (1.14–1.18)	1.17 (1.14–1.21)	1.26 (1.17–1.31)
κ (100 nm)	0.10 (0.08–0.11)	0.05	0.06 (0.05–0.07)	0.07 (0.05–0.08)	0.11 (0.06–0.14)
CCN(0.2 %) (cm^{-3})	n/a	35	28 (21–37)	28 (23–35)	n/a
CCN(0.4 %) (cm^{-3})	n/a	153	103 (78–126)	52 (39–67)	n/a
CCN(0.6 %) (cm^{-3})	n/a	275	131 (99–161)	63 (52–76)	n/a
CCN(0.8 %) (cm^{-3})	n/a	451	181 (143–257)	75 (61–97)	n/a
CCN(1.0 %) (cm^{-3})	n/a	684	229 (182–318)	118 (99–147)	n/a

Table 2. Summary of the modeling results for each cloud case. Numbers shown represent average values.

	Cloud event				
	A	B	C	D	E
CDNC (cm^{-3})	93	98	88	49	98
D_{50} (nm)	115	105	98	80	102
V (m s^{-1})	0.20	0.45	0.51	0.60	0.34
s_{max} (%)	0.27	0.43	0.47	0.63	0.33

Table 3. The absolute values of the fractional changes in the modeled cloud droplet concentrations, ΔCDNC, in the three sensitivity cases described in Sect. 6.2. The values are given in percents. Also, the average values are given for each cloud event, and the last column indicates the values of ΔCDNC averaged over the whole data set.

Case	Average ΔCDNC (%) for cloud event					Average ΔCDNC (%)
	A	B	C	D	E	
Constant size distribution	33	25	13	102	26	34
Constant hygroscopicity	5	29	14	13	14	13
Constant updraft velocity	30	0	8	11	16	15
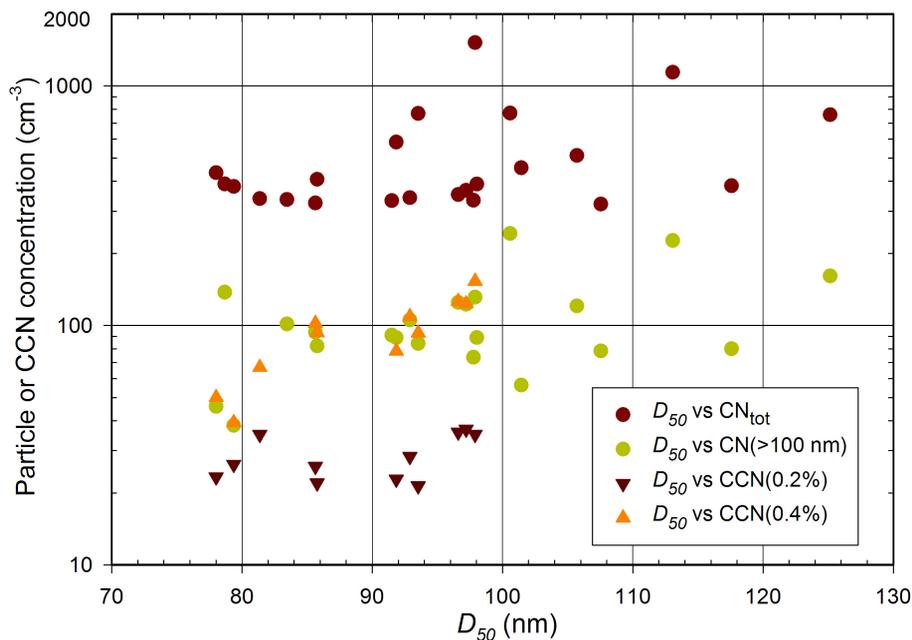
Fig. 1. The diameter corresponding to 50 % activation efficiency (D_{50}) versus particle and CCN concentrations (indicated in the legend).
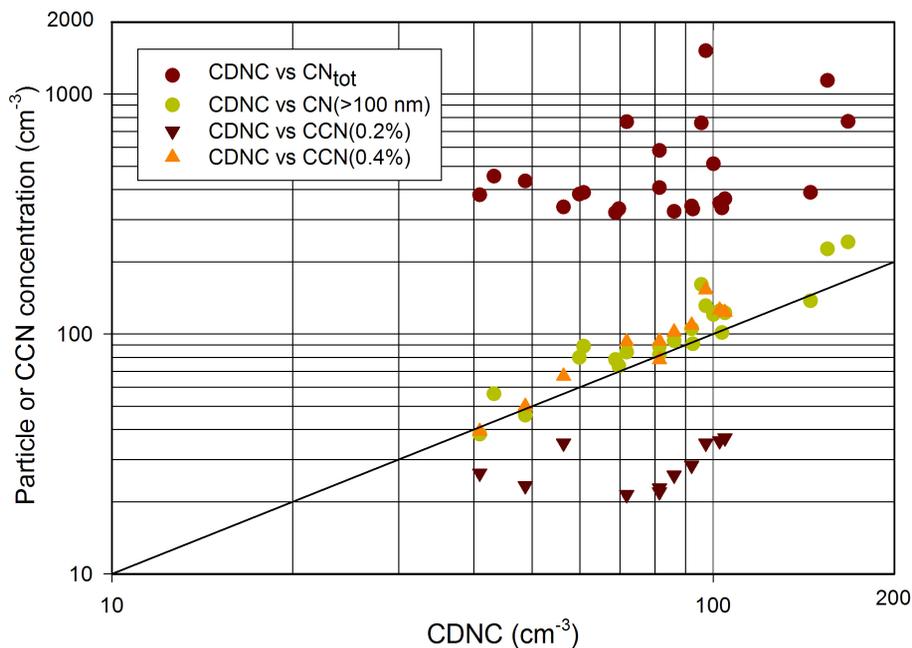
Fig. 2. Cloud droplet concentration (CDNC) versus particle and CCN concentrations (indicated in the legend). A 1:1 line is included as a guide to the eye.
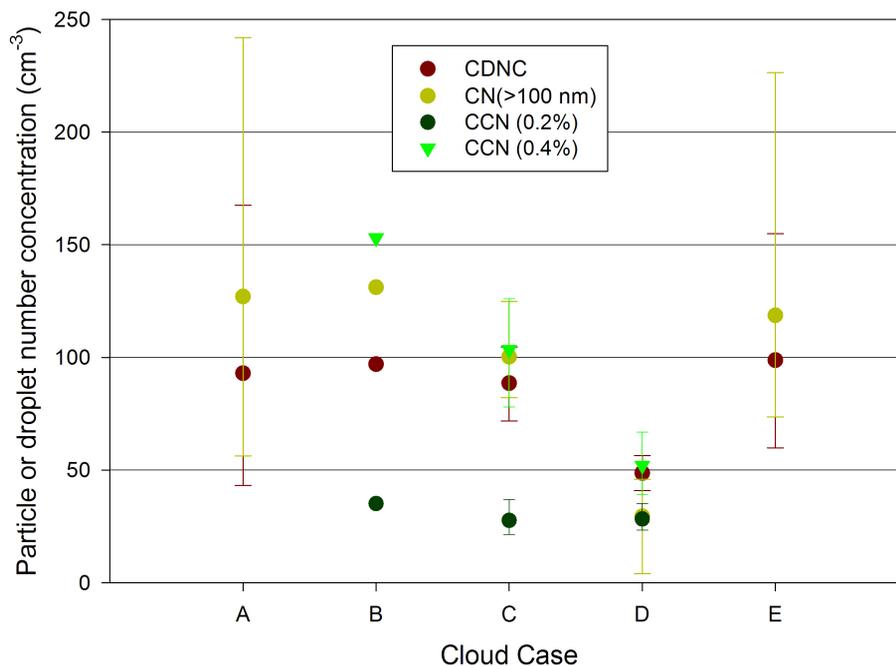
Fig. 3. The comparison of the cloud droplet concentrations (CDNC), the number concentrations of particles with dry diameter above 100 nm, CN(>100 nm), and CCN concentrations at supersaturations 0.2 and 0.4 % for each cloud case. Here the symbols represent average values and the bars indicate the range over which the quantity varied during the event.
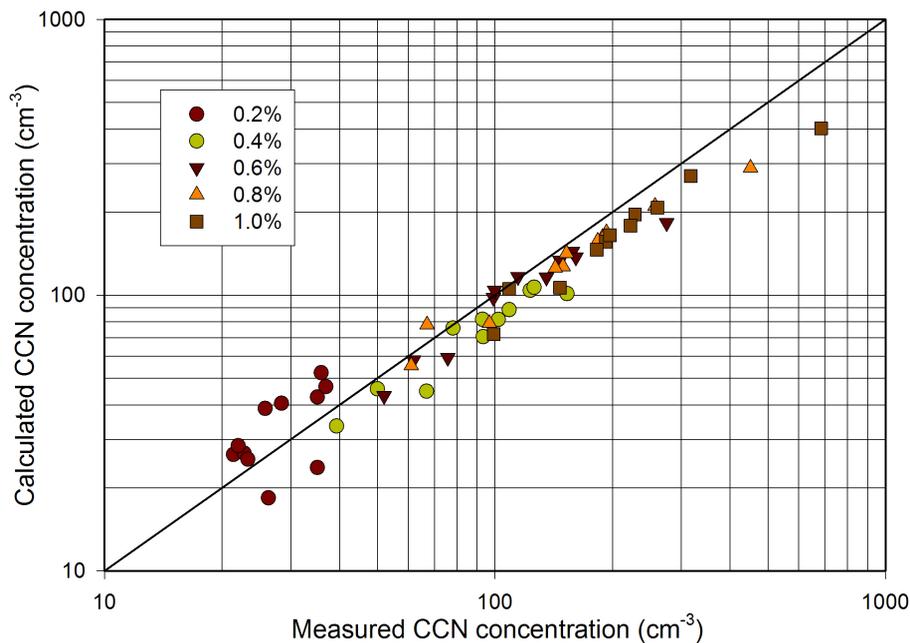
Fig. 4. Measured versus calculated CCN concentrations. A 1:1 line is added as a guide to the eye.
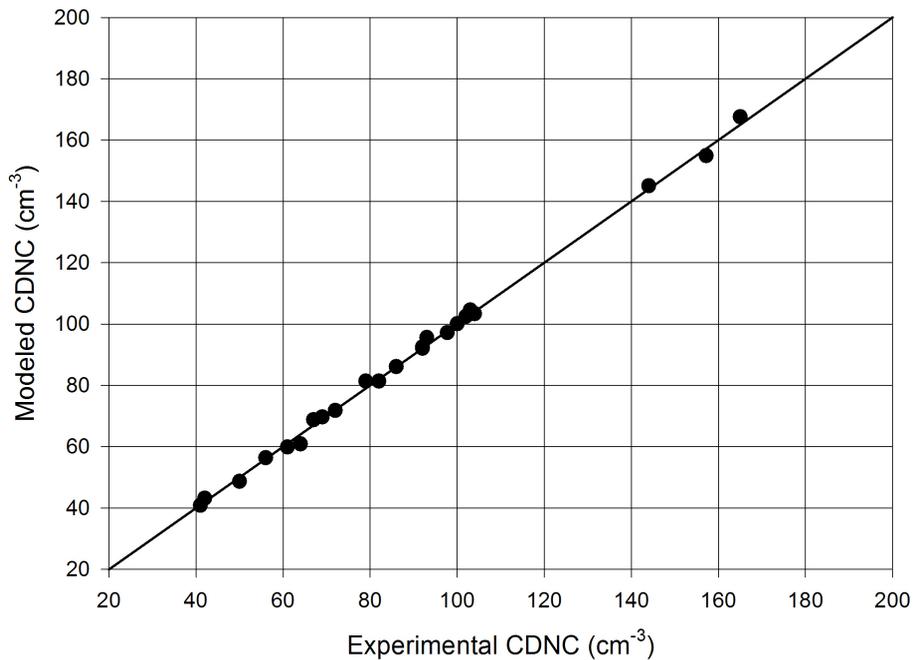
Fig. 5. Comparison of experimental and modeled cloud droplet concentrations. A 1:1 line is added as a guide the eye.

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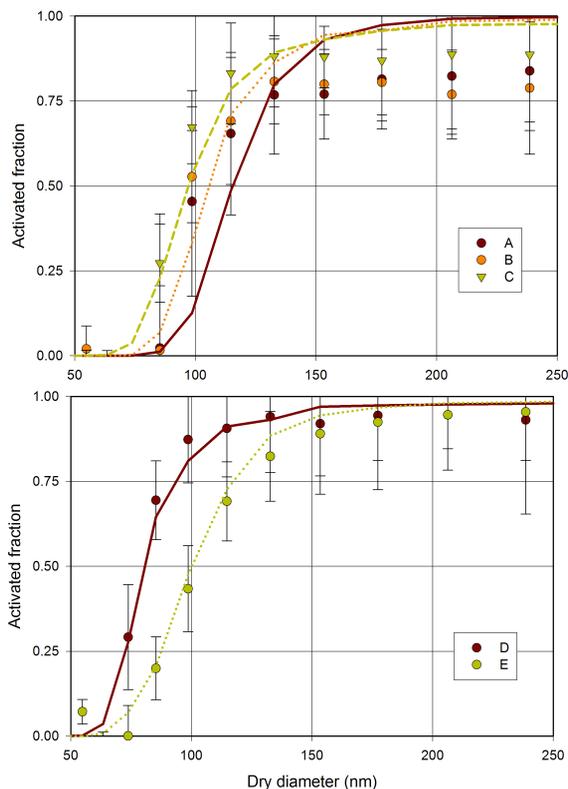
Fig. 6. The measured (symbols) and calculated (lines) activated fractions of aerosols as a function of the particle dry diameter for each cloud event (indicated in the legend). To ease the presentation, the events A–C and D–E are shown in separate plots.
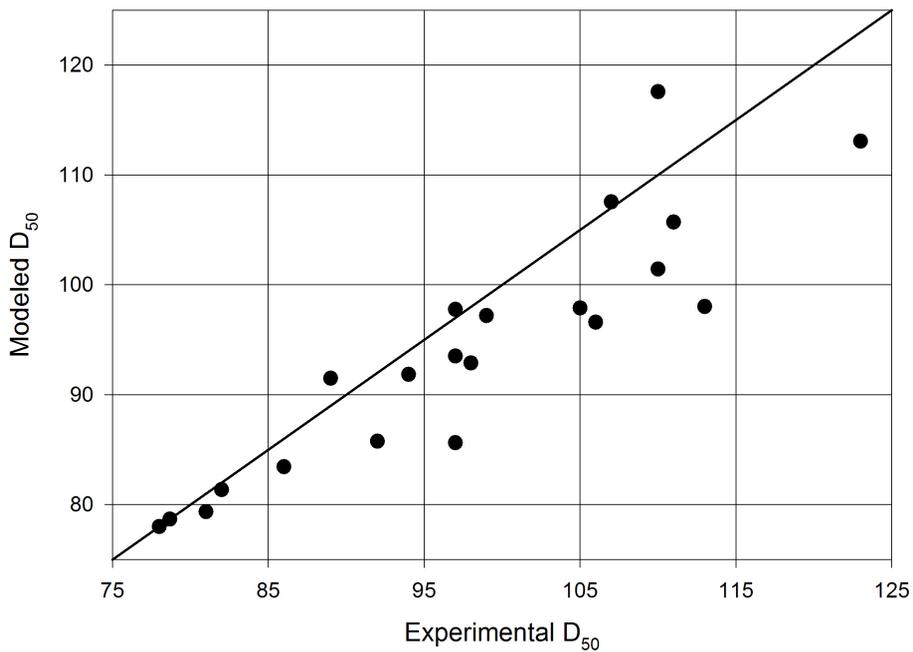
Fig. 7. Same as Fig. 5 but for the diameter D_{50}.

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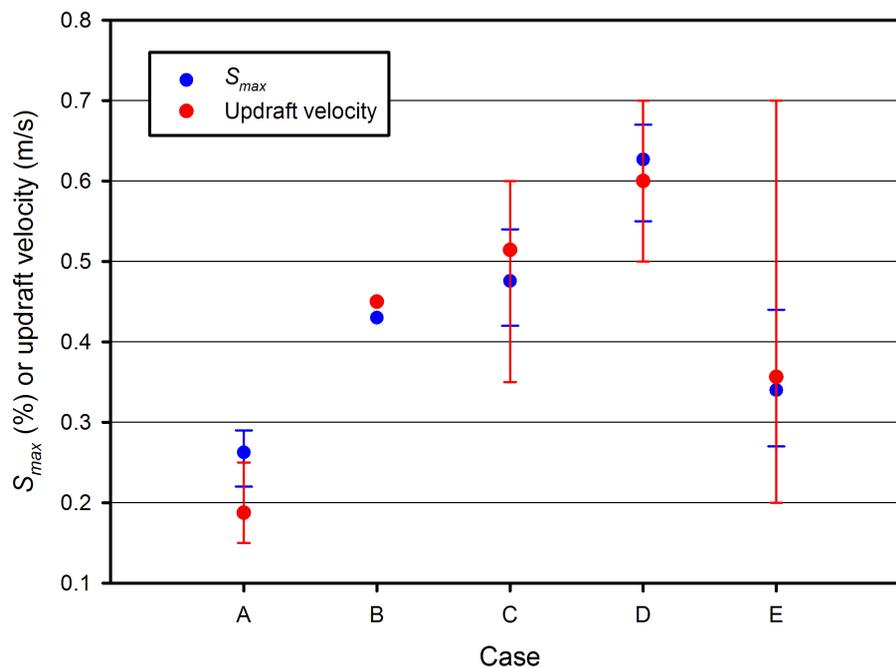
Fig. 8. Calculated maximum supersaturation and the estimated updraft velocity for each cloud event. The symbols represent average values and the bars indicate the minimum and maximum values of the quantity during the event.
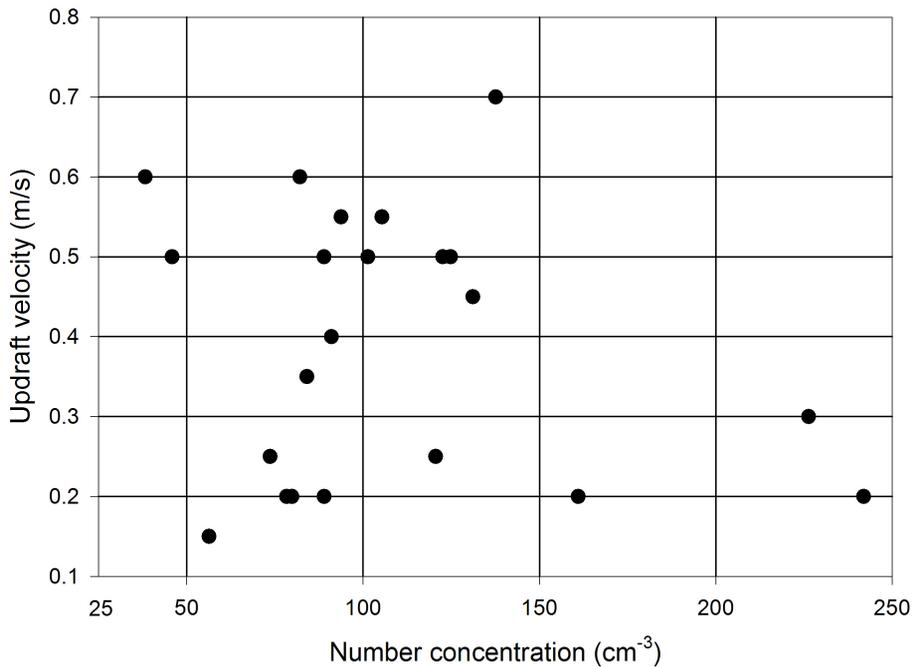
Fig. 9. Cloud droplet number concentrations versus the model based estimates for the updraft velocity.
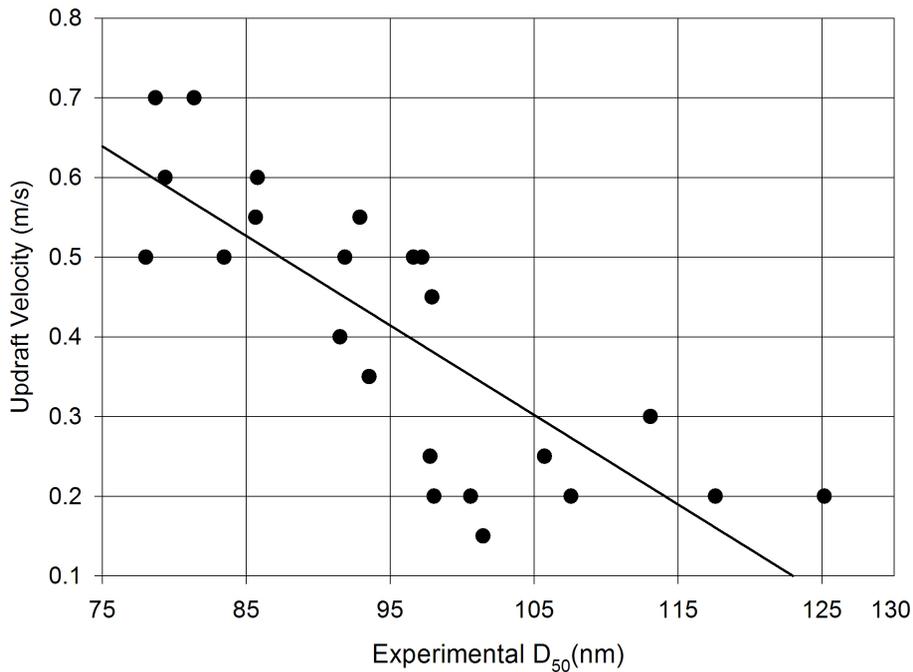
Fig. 10. The diameter corresponding to 50 % activation efficiency (D_{50}) versus the updraft velocity. The optimal linear fit to the data is also displayed.

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