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Aerosol dynamics within and above forest in relation to turbulent transport and dry deposition

Ü. Rannik¹, L. Zhou¹, P. Zhou¹, R. Gierens¹, I. Mammarella¹, A. Sogachev², and M. Boy¹

¹Department of Physics, P.O. Box 48, University of Helsinki, 00014 Helsinki, Finland

²Department of Wind Energy, Technical University of Denmark, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark

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Correspondence to: Ü. Rannik (ullar.rannik@heuristica.ee)

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Abstract

One dimensional atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) model coupled with detailed atmospheric chemistry and aerosol dynamical model, the model SOSAA, was used to predict the ABL and detailed aerosol population (characterized by the number size distribution) time evolution. The model was applied over a period of ten days in May 2013 for a pine forest site in southern Finland. The period was characterized by frequent new particle formation events and simultaneous intensive aerosol transformation. Throughout this study we refer to nucleation, condensational growth and coagulation as aerosol dynamical processes, i.e. the processes that govern the particle size distribution evolution. The aim of the study was to analyze and quantify the role of aerosol and ABL dynamics in vertical transport of aerosols. It was of particular interest to what extent the fluxes above canopy deviate due to above mentioned processes from the particle dry deposition on the canopy foliage. The model simulations revealed that the particle concentration change due to aerosol dynamics can frequently exceed the effect of particle deposition even an order of magnitude or more. The impact is however strongly dependent on particle size and time. In spite of the fact that the time scale of turbulent transfer inside canopy is much smaller than the time scales of aerosol dynamics and dry deposition, letting to assume well mixed properties of air, the fluxes at the canopy top frequently deviate from deposition inside forest. This is due to transformation of aerosol concentration throughout the ABL and resulting complicated pattern of vertical transport. Therefore we argue that the comparison of time scales of aerosol dynamics and deposition defined for the processes below the flux measurement level do not unambiguously describe the importance of aerosol dynamics for vertical transport within canopy. We conclude that under dynamical conditions the micrometeorological particle flux measurements such as performed by the eddy covariance technique do not generally represent the dry deposition. The deviation can be systematic for certain size ranges so that the conclusion applies also to time averaged particle fluxes.

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1 Introduction

Turbulent fluxes of scalars are commonly measured by the eddy covariance (EC) technique above forests. From flux measurements the exchange of scalars between the ecosystem and the atmosphere is inferred by making simplifying assumptions, mainly horizontally homogeneous and stationary conditions, considering usually transport of passive scalars. From aerosol particle flux measurements deposition to ecosystem is inferred by neglecting all additional terms including the storage term. However, there are several mechanisms affecting the particle concentration, namely new particle formation, coagulation and source or sink term for a particular size resulting from condensational growth. The significance of aerosol dynamical terms in comparison to dry deposition has been evaluated by comparing the respective time scales. The time scale for dry deposition for measurement level z has been estimated according to $\tau_{\text{dep}}(z) = \frac{z}{V_d}$, where $V_d = -\frac{F(z)}{C(z)}$ denotes the bulk deposition velocity defined as the ratio of the total flux divided by the concentration at the same level (Pryor and Binkowski, 2004; Pryor et al., 2013). Such a definition of the time scale of dry deposition implies that frequently the aerosol dynamical terms have similar time scales to dry deposition and therefore affect the conservation of aerosol particles concentration during the transport pathway between the EC measurement level and the collecting surfaces. Depending on the prevailing conditions i.e. the nucleation rate, the availability of condensing vapors determining the condensational growth, and the shape of the particle size spectrum, the aerosol dynamical terms can vary significantly depending on the particle size. The time scale of aerosol dynamical processes varies typically between 10^3 to 10^5 s (Pryor and Binkowski, 2004; Pryor et al., 2013), i.e. being on the hourly time scale and more. This is a sufficient time to allow well-mixed conditions to establish within the unstable day-time ABL, where the mixing time scale is estimated to be around 10 min (e.g. Stull, 1988). Under near-neutral and stable conditions such efficient mixing throughout atmospheric column cannot be assumed. Instead the characteristic time scales of turbulent transfer within and above forests have been estimated by

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different approaches (e.g. Zelger et al., 1997; Rinne et al., 2000, 2012; Rannik et al., 2009b). Such time scales of turbulent transfer depend on the observation conditions but typically remain in the order from a few tens of seconds to a few hundreds of seconds. In spite of different definitions used and large variation range of the time scales characterizing the scalar transport between the observation level and the collecting surfaces within forest, the turbulent transfer can be expected to occur much faster than the aerosol dynamical processes.

The aerosol particle dry deposition is strongly size-dependent as different mechanisms operate at different particle sizes. Respectively, the time scale of dry deposition depends on particle size and exhibits its maximum at around 100 nm. For small particles with few nm in diameter this dry deposition time scale can be orders of magnitudes smaller due to efficient removal mechanism by Brownian diffusion. At particle sizes larger than 100 nm the particle collection is again enhanced due to interception and inertial impaction mechanisms (Petroff et al., 2008) and the respective time scale of dry deposition is smaller. In general, the dry deposition time scale has been frequently estimated to be in the same order of magnitude as the time scale for aerosol dynamics, leading to a conclusion that flux divergence may occur during transport due to aerosol dynamics (Pryor and Binkowski, 2004; Pryor et al., 2013).

The time scales of turbulent transfer and the time scale of dry deposition embed essentially different definitions and can lead also to different conclusions about the significance of aerosol dynamical terms during the transport between the underlying surfaces and the measurement level. The time scale of turbulent transfer is the estimate of the transfer time within turbulent air layer. Dry deposition includes in addition the transport pathway within the laminar air layer surrounding the collecting surfaces. In the resistances framework (e.g. Monteith and Unsworth, 1990), the dry deposition includes the aerodynamic (corresponding to turbulent transport) as well as the leaf laminar sublayer resistances and under most conditions the dry deposition is limited by the laminar boundary layer transfer (e.g. Petroff and Zhang, 2010). Therefore comparison of the time scales of turbulent transport and dry deposition with that of aerosol dynam-

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ics leads us to the assumptions that (i) turbulent transport within and above forest is relatively fast and no significant transformation of aerosol population occurs within the respective time scale, and (ii) depending on particle size the removal of aerosols via dry deposition occurs at the comparable time scale with aerosol dynamics and therefore the aerosol population is modified. Such modification occurs on hourly time scale and therefore is expected to occur throughout the ABL, where aerosol dynamical processes can depend strongly on height within the ABL via vertical profiles of condensing vapors.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the magnitude of different terms in the particle number conservation equation and to evaluate the time scales of particle turbulent transfer, aerosol dynamical processes and dry deposition over wide range of particle sizes. Further, we evaluate the effect of these terms on inferring particle deposition velocities from flux measurements by micrometeorological techniques, in particular the influence on estimation of functional dependencies as well as systematic biasing effects. Non-stationary conditions will be considered by simulating detailed ABL and aerosol dynamics inside and above forest canopy during a period of 10 days, which includes highly dynamical conditions with new particle formation.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Conservation equation for aerosol size distribution

In horizontally homogeneous conditions, neglecting molecular diffusivity and applying the first order closure to turbulent flux

$$\overline{w'n'} = -D_t \frac{\partial \bar{n}}{\partial z}, \quad (1)$$

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the conservation equation for time-averaged particle number density $\bar{n} = \frac{d\bar{N}}{d\log_{10}D_p}$ inside the canopy can be written as

$$\frac{\partial \bar{n}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(-D_t(z) \frac{\partial \bar{n}}{\partial z} - w_s \bar{n} \right) = -a(z) v_c \bar{n} + S_{ad}, \quad (2)$$

where \bar{N} is the average particle number concentration, D_p the particle diameter, D_t the particle turbulent diffusivity, w_s the settling velocity, v_c the particle collection velocity by vegetation, and a denotes the all-sided leaf area density. The source/sink term S_{ad} incorporates all aerosol dynamical terms, consisting of nucleation S_{nucl} , condensational growth S_{cond} and coagulation S_{coag} terms. If the condensational growth rate is considered as $I_{cond}(\log_{10}D_p) = \frac{d\log_{10}D_p}{dt}$, then the respective source/sink term in Eq. (2) is expressed as $S_{cond} = \left[\frac{\partial \bar{n}}{\partial t} \right]_{cond} = -\frac{\partial (I_{cond} \bar{n})}{\partial \log_{10}D_p}$. For particle size range up to a few micrometers D_t can be assumed to be equal to the eddy viscosity of the flow. The settling velocity w_s is given as

$$w_s = \frac{C_c g \rho_p D_p^2}{18 \eta}, \quad (3)$$

where g is the acceleration due to the gravity, η the dynamic viscosity of air, ρ_p the particle density, and C_c the Cunningham slip correction factor (e.g. Hinds, 1982).

For the comparison of the significance of different terms of the conservation equation, the Eq. (2) was re-written so that the sum of all terms equaled zero, and the transport due to settling was merged with the particle collection by vegetation as

$$\left[-\frac{\partial \bar{n}}{\partial t} \right] + \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_t(z) \frac{\partial \bar{n}}{\partial z} \right) \right] + \left[-a(z) v_c \bar{n} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w_s \bar{n}) \right] + [S_{ad}] = 0, \quad (4)$$

where the terms were called consequently as the storage, the (vertical) transport, the particle deposition and the aerosol dynamical terms. Further, integration of Eq. (4) from

the forest floor surface up to the canopy top h was used to define the change velocities in analogy to deposition velocity. The change velocity due to particle deposition was defined as

$$V_{\text{dep}} = \frac{1}{\bar{n}(h)} \int_0^h \left[-a(z) v_c \bar{n} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w_s \bar{n}) \right] dz \quad (5)$$

5 and the change velocity due to aerosol dynamics as

$$V_{\text{ad}} = \frac{1}{\bar{n}(h)} \int_0^h S_{\text{ad}} dz. \quad (6)$$

In particular, for the transport term the respective change velocity was defined as

$$V_{\text{transp}} = \frac{1}{\bar{n}(h)} \int_0^h \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(-\overline{w'n'} \right) dz = -\frac{\overline{w'n'}(h) - \overline{w'n'}(0)}{\bar{n}(h)}. \quad (7)$$

10 Note that in the modelling approach the vertical flux at the canopy top was obtained from the gradient diffusion approximation (1) and the flux at the surface was defined by the ground deposition parameterization, which was applied as the sink term in the lowest model layer. Therefore in our model calculations $\overline{w'n'}(0) = 0$ and the transport velocity equaled to the exchange velocity defined at the canopy top by

$$V_e = -\frac{F(h)}{\bar{n}(h)}. \quad (8)$$

15 The time scales of the processes affecting the particle concentration inside canopy were defined by

$$\tau = \frac{h}{V}, \quad (9)$$

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with the change velocities V_{dep} , V_{ad} and V_{e} defining the time scales for deposition τ_{dep} , aerosol dynamics τ_{ad} and exchange τ_{e} , respectively. These time scales were calculated based on the numerical modelling results by SOSAA.

2.2 Simulation of aerosol transport and dynamics by model SOSAA

The model to Simulate the concentration of Organic vapours, Sulphuric Acid and Aerosols (SOSAA) is a 1.5 order RANS (Raynolds Averaged Navier Stokes) model SCADIS (SCAlar DIStribution, 1D version, Sogachev et al., 2002, 2012) coupled with detailed biogenic emissions, chemistry and aerosol dynamics. SCADIS describes the exchange between the vegetative canopy and atmosphere by considering the vegetation as a multi-layer medium and implementing parameterizations for radiation transfer, drag forces on leaves, and stomatal conductance. The particle deposition processes in SOSAA are treated in the same manner as in the study by Lauros et al. (2011) based on the parameterization by Petroff et al. (2008). The parameterization considers Brownian diffusion and takes into account the influence of leaves on particle interception, impaction and settling. The model has been applied extensively in different forest sites for various studies concerning biogenic emissions, chemistry and aerosol formation (e.g. Kürten et al., 2011; Boy et al., 2013; Smolander et al., 2014; Mogensen et al., 2015; Zhou et al., 2015). Detailed model description is presented by Boy et al. (2011) and Zhou et al. (2014).

The model set-up in this study was the same as in the study by Zhou et al. (2014) except that only kinetic nucleation mechanism was employed in aerosol dynamics simulation (Weber et al., 1997). Zhou et al. (2014) presented the ability of SOSAA to reconstruct new particle formation events at Hyytiälä, which was the same site as in this study. The model was initialised with vertical profiles describing the initial atmospheric state and aerosol size spectrum observed at the surface, and run for 10 days time period similarly to Lauros et al. (2011). The aerosol size distribution was initialised each day at 00:00 LT (UTC + 2 h) based on the measurements at 2 m height. The first day the concentration profile was assumed constant up to determined night time Stable

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Boundary Layer (SBL) height (320 m) and 10 % of the concentration values within the SBL above this level. During the next days the concentration profile was taken constant up to the maximum ABL height occurring during the previous day and 10 % above. The initialisation during the first day corresponded to the conditions of horizontal advection with very different properties of the air above the SBL, whereas during the other days the night time residual layer was assumed to retain the same properties as the SBL. The implications of these two contrasting assumptions for ABL mixing and vertical transport of aerosols will be discussed in Sect. 3.4. For meteorology simulations 10 s time step was used along with the explicit forward in time integration method. The aerosol dynamics was simulated with 60 s time step.

2.3 Lagrangian estimation of turbulent transfer time

The Lagrangian stochastic (LS) simulations were used to estimate the turbulent transfer time. The conventional approach of using a LS model is to release particles at the surface point source and track their trajectories towards the point of interest forward in time (e.g., Wilson and Sawford, 1996). In case of horizontally homogeneous and stationary turbulence, the mean Lagrangian turbulent transfer time at the canopy top due to a sustained source located at height z_0 (near forest floor) can be described as

$$\tau_L(z) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \tau_i, \quad (10)$$

where τ_i denotes the travel time of trajectory i at the moment of intersection with observation height. For LS modelling the turbulence statistics such as the turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) and the vertical eddy diffusivity obtained from SOSAA were used to define the turbulent profiles of the dissipation rate of TKE and variances of the wind speed components.

3 Results

The selected time period consisted of 10 days in May 2013, day of year (DOY) 121 (01 May) to 130 (10 May). On several days clear particle formation patterns were observed at the smallest particle sizes around mid-day, with subsequent growth to larger particle sizes (Fig. 1). In all days significant aerosol dynamics was taking place in terms of particle growth. The model simulations reproduced the observed particle size distributions qualitatively, however being not able to reproduce the exact particle size distribution patterns. In particular, during days with new particle formation the observed nucleation modes were not as clear; also the particle growth was overestimated, which can be observed clearly during the second half of the period. However, the fact that the model is not able to reproduce the fine details of the particle formation events does not affect the generality of our results.

The ABL height varied between about 600 (DOY 130) and 1400 m (DOY 123) as the peak height during different days (Fig. 2a). The heat fluxes were the primary drivers of the ABL growth and buoyancy driven TKE. The simulated latent and sensible heat fluxes corresponded well to those measured at the site (Fig. 2b and c). The selected ten days period showed significant variability in terms of aerosol and ABL dynamics and was therefore selected as the study case.

3.1 Aerosol dynamics and transport inside and above forest

The particle conservation terms were evaluated inside forest at 07 May (DOY 127), 12:00 and 21:00 LT. At noon the particle size spectrum was bi-modal, with nucleation and larger particle modes, by evening the nucleation mode had grown and almost merged into a single mode with the maximum particle amount at around 200 nm (Fig. 3a). The rate of change by each term (as defined by the terms in Eq. 4) showed large particle sink due to deposition, which was compensated by the transport term at noon (Fig. 3b). The aerosol dynamical term was dominated by the condensational growth term, except at sizes smaller than a few tens of nm where coagulation was

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also important and at smallest sizes were particles due to nucleation appeared. The aerosol dynamics reduced the particle number of small particles less than about 10 nm in diameter, adding respectively particle counts at larger sizes. The aerosol dynamical terms were reflected in relatively similar pattern in particle storage change (defined by the first term of Eq. 4). The positive value of the storage term implies decrease of particle concentration and negative increase, respectively. In the evening at 21:00 LT the change rates of small particles (less than 20 nm) were small due to low particle counts in this part of the size spectrum (Fig. 3a). The similarity (in magnitude, but opposite in sign) of aerosol deposition vs. transport and aerosol dynamical vs. storage change terms held also in the evening, letting to conclude that particle loss due to deposition was mainly compensated by vertical transport and aerosol dynamical processes modified the concentration in time.

The aerosol concentration inside and above forest was homogeneous at noon and small vertical concentration gradients could not be observed from color presentation in Fig. 4a. The deposition pattern (dependence on particle size and height) was again similar to transport patterns (Fig. 4d and c). Aerosol dynamics affected the number concentration similarly throughout the column as presented in Fig. 4e and b. The same qualitative conclusions held also for the evening time 21:00 LT (not shown).

When integrating the terms of the conservation equation (Eq. 4) from the surface up to the canopy top and normalizing with the concentration at the canopy top, one obtains change velocities as defined in Sect. 2.1. Such change velocities are comparable with the deposition velocity or the exchange velocity, which can be experimentally obtained from the flux measurements above canopy. In terms of change velocities the deposition velocity (defined by Eq. 5) and the transport velocity (defined by Eq. 7 and being equivalent to the exchange velocity in Eq. 8) appeared near symmetric for all particle sizes at noon (Fig. 5a). However, the correspondence was not exact, meaning that the flux defined at the canopy top did not correspond exactly to particle deposition. Much larger differences in the respective patterns were observed in the evening at 21:00 LT, especially at small particle sizes (Fig. 5b). This implied a more complex re-

relationship between particle source sink/terms (deposition and aerosol dynamics) and vertical mixing.

The vertical profiles of the aerosol dynamical term (normalized to local concentration, defining the local change rates) and the particle vertical fluxes (normalized with local concentration, defining the local exchange velocity) differed significantly for particle sizes and time of day (12:00 LT compared to 21:00 LT 07 May), Fig. 6 upper and lower panels. The respective ABL heights were approximately 710 and 510 m according to the model results. At noon the particle deposition and aerosol dynamics led to vertical particle transport that depended on particle size and height. In the lower part of the ABL the small particles (3 and 10 nm) were transported downward to compensate for deposition sink inside forest and particle loss through aerosol dynamics. The 100 nm particles were transported downward throughout the atmospheric column. For particles of 30 and 300 nm size it was predominantly the aerosol dynamics that drove the vertical transport, leading mostly to upward particle flux at heights above forest. The particle concentration gradients (Fig. 6a/u) were consistent with the exchange velocities. In the evening, when the vertical transport was more limited due to moderately stable conditions (the Obukhov length defined by the fluxes at the canopy top being $L = +130$ m), the vertical profiles showed even more complex pattern (Fig. 6 lower panels). Particles with 3 and 10 nm in diameter were transported downward up to about 50 to 100 m height (to compensate for the loss inside canopy), whereas above these heights up to about 500 m upward flux occurred to compensate for aerosol dynamical loss in the higher part of the atmospheric column. Note however that the concentration of small particles was very low in the evening (Fig. 6a/l). The larger particle sizes (300 nm) were little affected by the aerosol dynamics in the evening and downward transport occurred (in contrast to noon). Figure 6 illustrates complex dynamics between the aerosol sources and sinks and transport in the atmospheric column, leading to aerosol dynamical term and vertical exchange that can differ in sign as a function of height for a certain particle size (for example for 10 nm particles at 12:00 and 21:00 LT).

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3.2 Time scales of processes

The importance of aerosol dynamics on particle exchange measurements has been frequently assessed by comparing the time scales of aerosol dynamical and transport processes. Figure 7 presents the time scales defined in Sect. 2.1 and compares those with the Lagrangian turbulent transfer time scale determined according to Sect. 2.3. The time of turbulent transfer within forest (simulated as the time for an air parcel to travel between the surface and the forest height) was mostly much shorter than the time scales of deposition and aerosol dynamics. Only at smallest particle sizes and stable conditions the turbulent time scale became comparable to the time scales of particle deposition and aerosol dynamics (Fig. 7b). The transport time scale, defined by Eqs. (9) and (7), accounts also for the effect of sources and sinks inside canopy and is therefore very different from the turbulent transfer time scale τ_L . The transport time scale was determined mainly by deposition and modified by the impact of aerosol dynamics, reflecting the fact that particle vertical transport is mostly controlled by the sources and sinks and being not limited by turbulent transfer speed.

The time scale of particle deposition strongly depended on particle size (resulting of respective dependence of particle collection on particle size), whereas the time scale of aerosol dynamics was occasionally shorter than the deposition time scale (even an order of magnitude, depending on particle size). Even though the turbulent transfer time scale τ_L was much shorter than the other time scales, the flux at the canopy top deviated from the deposition to vegetation elements (can be inferred from the comparison of the deposition and the transport time scales). Note that even the sign of the flux at canopy top differed for particles of about 100 to 300 nm in diameter, see the sign of the transport time scale in Fig. 7a. Although very short turbulent transfer time would allow to expect fast and efficient mixing (and therefore correspondence of flux to deposition), the difference can be explained by the importance of the aerosol dynamics which affects the concentrations throughout the atmospheric column and therefore drives the vertical redistribution of particles via vertical transport.

3.3 Time evolution and statistics of particle exchange

The idea behind micrometeorological particle flux measurements is to determine the particle dry deposition fluxes or equivalently the deposition velocities. Thus it is assumed that the fluxes observed above forest represent the deposition fluxes. Figure 8 compares the change velocities defined in 2.1 to the respective deposition change velocities during the first day of the simulations 01 May (DOY 121) and a following nucleation day 02 May 2013 (DOY 122). These two days differ in terms of initialization of vertical aerosol profiles at midnight (see Sect. 2.2). During the first day the aerosol dynamics affected little the particle concentrations inside forest, but 100 and 300 nm sizes were affected strongly by vertical transport occurring during the mixed layer (ML) growth period prior to noon. The initial concentration profile during this day corresponded to the conditions of horizontal advection. During the second day the aerosol dynamical term exceeded the deposition term several times (Fig. 8c). Respectively, the storage change varied approximately in the same limits, being opposite in phase (Fig. 8b). The variation of the exchange velocity with respect to deposition was smaller (Fig. 8d), consistently with the analysis of Fig. 3 where the vertical transport was the main mechanism compensating for aerosol loss due to deposition. Nevertheless, also the magnitude of the exchange velocity can differ several times compared to that of deposition. During the new particle formation and ABL growth period of the second day the vertical particle exchange showed downward transport of small particles (3, 10 and 30 nm) and upward transport of 100 nm particles. In particular during the first day (DOY 121), the upward particle transport was synchronous with the storage change i.e. the concentration decrease (Fig. 8b) referring to the dilution of concentration within canopy. Downward transport of 10 nm particles during the second day in turn exceeded significantly the particle deposition. This particle size range was affected then by changing (from negative to positive) aerosol dynamical term during the morning hours due to particle growth (Fig. 8c), which was due to the fact that 10 nm size was on the lower edge of the dominant mode of the particle size spectrum (Fig. 8a). Note also

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that the storage change of 10 nm particles was similar to the aerosol dynamical term (opposite in sign) and not to the exchange velocity. Therefore the relatively large downward flux during the second day (DOY 122) was mainly driven by the aerosol dynamics occurring at night, whereas the growth of the ML initiated strong vertical mixing.

07 May 2013 (DOY 127) was a day with different meteorological conditions compared to 01 and 02 May (DOY 121 and 121). During the night turbulence was suppressed resulting in very low ABL during the preceding night (Fig. 2a). During this day the night-time aerosol size spectrum peaked at larger sizes (Fig. 9a) compared to 02 May (Fig. 8a). Respectively, the 30 nm particle size was affected strongest by the aerosol dynamics (Fig. 9c) and the size experienced very large downward transport velocity (Fig. 9d), exceeding deposition more than ten times. It is only at 9 a.m. when the dilution of concentration was observed systematically for 300 nm sizes (Fig. 9b) presumably occurring due to ABL growth occurring later in this day, coinciding with upward particle transport (Fig. 9d). The effect was however relatively weak due to the assumption of missing horizontal advection above the SBL at night. During the following night (preceding to DOY 128) the aerosol dynamical processes were less effective, whereas the next night (preceding to DOY 129) the aerosol dynamical processes affected the aerosol population very strongly at all sizes except 3 nm. DOY 127 and 129 were the days with preceding low SBL heights and correspondingly limited vertical mixing in contrast to DOY 128, referring to the enhanced role of aerosol dynamics at stable nights. Figures 8 and 9 illustrate that both the aerosol dynamics and ABL growth can strongly affect the vertical transport of aerosols and the fluxes above canopy can deviate significantly from the deposition occurring within canopy.

Due to instrumental limitations or by intention (frequently to obtain statistically significant particle counts in order to reduce particle flux random errors) a certain size interval of particles is measured. Figure 10 presents the simulated vertical exchange velocities size integrated to represent the nucleation (3–30 nm), Aitken (30–100 nm) and accumulation (100–1000 nm) mode particles. During the first day with assumed conditions of horizontal advection the size-integrated particle fluxes showed clear up-

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ward transport during the morning hours for 30–100 and 100–1000 nm size ranges. The same has been also observed from the measurements and interpreted as the upward transport due to ABL growth and resulting dilution of relatively particle-rich air within forest with the particle-poor air transported down from aloft (e.g. Nilsson et al., 2001). The days with very large (both positive and negative) values of the exchange velocities compared to deposition velocities corresponded to the days with preceding very low ABL heights at nights (DOY 127, 129, 130). Therefore the ABL development can be identified as one of the main reasons for the large variation in vertical transport of particles. In case of experimental flux measurements the statistical uncertainty as well as natural variation originating from spatial heterogeneity and horizontal advection can additionally contribute to the variance of the calculated fluxes, leading to flux patterns with large variation, being often difficult to interpret.

Table 1 presents the statistics of the fluxes at the canopy top (relative to deposition) for different particle sizes. Whereas for smaller particles 3, 10 and 30 nm the time-average particle flux statistics converge to particle deposition within forest, for larger particles the fluxes (if measured by the micrometeorological technique) would be biased in representing the particle deposition even on the average.

3.4 Discussion of results

3.4.1 Aerosol dynamics and deposition

We have observed that aerosol dynamics can have significant impact on aerosol population depending on particle sizes. It is mainly the condensational growth that can increase or decrease the particle numbers at certain sizes depending on the shape of the particle size spectrum. The aerosol dynamical impact on particle concentration at certain sizes can be equal to or even significantly exceed in magnitude the particle loss due to deposition within canopy. This is in particular true for particle sizes at which deposition rate is minimal. Consistently with our result, Pryor and Binkowski (2004) and Pryor et al. (2013) have found that frequently the time scales corresponding to

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particle deposition and aerosol dynamical processes are in the same order of magnitude and therefore induce the concentration change with comparable magnitude. Pryor et al. (2013) evaluated these time scales to be in the order of 1 to 10 h during the day-time in summer over a pine forest. In the current study we presented that the aerosol dynamical time scale can be from approximately half an hour to tens of hours.

The time scales of turbulent transfer and vertical transport were determined to be essentially different. The vertical transport of aerosols was limited by the deposition and aerosol dynamical processes and only at stable conditions the turbulent transfer could become limiting to vertical transport of particles. The turbulent transfer time scales estimated in the current study by using the LS trajectory simulations were in the order of minutes during the day-time and could be up to a few tens of minutes under SBL conditions. Some other definitions of the time scales have been used in the analysis of the significance of chemical transformation of reactive scalars during transport pathway between the measurement level and sources or sinks located primarily at leaf surface. Rinne et al. (2000, 2012) used the ratio of the observation height to the friction velocity as the estimate for the mixing time scale. Zelger et al. (1997) used the definitions of Eulerian and Lagrangian turbulent time scales to characterize the turbulent transfer within and above forest. Holzinger et al. (2005) instead used the estimate of the residence time and obtained the value about 1.5 min for day-time conditions. The Lagrangian turbulent transfer times obtained in this study were consistent with the previous studies including the time scales obtained by the same approach by Rannik et al. (2009b).

3.4.2 Dynamics within ABL

The times scales of aerosol deposition and dynamics are much longer than the turbulent transfer times within the forest canopy. Therefore, one would expect a minor impact of aerosol dynamics on particle population during the vertical transfer within forest under most of the observation conditions and a relatively good vertical mixing of aerosols within and above forest. Nevertheless, we have seen in the current study that the vertical fluxes at the canopy top can deviate significantly from what would be

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expected from dry deposition only. From current model simulations we have seen that the aerosol dynamics is an important mechanism of aerosol transformation throughout the ABL, whereas the aerosol deposition occurs only inside the forest canopy. In addition, the impact of aerosol dynamics is height dependent. At levels close to canopy the emissions of the precursor gases for particle condensational growth (the volatile organic compounds) occur. The dominant condensing compounds, OH oxidation products of monoterpenes, resemble a similar profile as monoterpenes and model simulates strongest growth of nucleation mode particles at the same height. The concentrations of the condensing compounds are larger within and immediately above canopy and decrease with height. Such height dependence of the condensational growth of particles can lead to modification of concentration gradient and vertical flux profile. Even though the atmospheric mixing is fast compared to above discussed processes, we believe it is the extensive source-sink term by aerosol dynamics that operates throughout the atmospheric column (compared to the impact of deposition inside canopy only) and can thus create significant vertical flux divergence and even upward particle transport.

The concentration time change, when summed up from the surface up to the measurement level, is called the storage term and commonly accounted for in estimation of the net ecosystem exchange of carbon dioxide from the EC flux measurements. Such approach inherently assumes that the storage change results from the source/sink activity below the observation level. Rannik et al. (2009a) studied the relevance of the storage term in estimation of the dry deposition from particle flux measurements. They concluded that in case of aerosol particles the relevance of the storage term could not be established because of the different physical reasons for the concentration change during different phases of diurnal development of the ABL. This study supports the conclusion with the observation that the particle concentration change is primarily in correlation with the aerosol dynamics and the change occurs throughout the ABL. Therefore the particle storage change (which corresponds to accumulation or depletion) is not in general the sole component of the particle conservation equation that could help to

improve particle deposition estimation from the flux measurements carried out above forest.

3.4.3 Upward particle fluxes

Particle fluxes determined by the micrometeorological techniques show typically large variability in magnitude as well as in sign. Occurrence of upward particle fluxes has been frequently reported in the literature (Pryor et al., 2007, 2013; Grönholm et al., 2007; Whitehead et al., 2010). Even after careful classification of observations according to wind direction in order to remove the cases possibly affected by anthropogenic emissions, flux observation analyses by Pryor et al. (2008) revealed significant fraction of observations indicating emission. The upward particle flux values can be the result of large random uncertainty or caused by upward particle transport due to physical processes. Random flux errors of particle fluxes are due to stochastic nature of turbulence, instrumental noise, and (limited) counting statistics of aerosol particles. The major source of the random uncertainty of particle flux estimates is the non-stationarity of particle concentration as well as its flux (for flux random uncertainties see Fairall, 1984). The particle fluxes have typically large statistical uncertainty, in the order of 100 % and more (Pryor et al., 2008; Rannik et al., 2003), therefore it is frequently difficult to determine whether the calculated upward particle occurrence reflects the true transport or was obtained by chance. Pryor et al. (2008) investigated thoroughly the distribution and significance of upward fluxes as well as the relevance to several physical mechanisms causing them by taking into account also the error estimates of fluxes. They came to the conclusion of several possible physical mechanisms responsible for upward particle transport including the entrainment of particle-free air from above during the intensive ABL growth periods. Whitehead et al. (2010) observed similar systematic pattern over a tropical rain forest in case of supermicron particles. Upward particle fluxes were also observed on seasonal average diurnal patterns by Rannik et al. (2009a) in the statistical analysis of long-term particle flux measurements over a pine forest, confirming that the phenomenon is common over a long period of time.

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Nilsson et al. (2001) also associated the occurrence of upward particle fluxes to the solar radiation increase and boundary layer development. In addition, they studied the evolution of the Aitken and Accumulation mode particle concentrations in the ML during the ABL growth and inferred the particle concentrations being entrained by using a simple ML growth model based on thermodynamical considerations. The model explained well the ML height as well as the particle concentration evolution. The entrained particle concentrations were determined to be virtually from 0 to 40 % of the close-to-surface values, indicating that night-time horizontal advection was a dominating process at the site affecting the vertical profiles of aerosols above the SBL. The initialization of the aerosol concentration profiles during the first day of simulations in the current study represent such advective conditions and resulted in strong upward particle transport during the early morning ML growth. Whereas the night-time advection can be typical to SMEAR II site, it is certainly a site specific phenomenon and therefore for the rest of the period we intended to use the initialization of profiles with uniform particle concentration up to the residual layer height. Therefore our simulation results for the first day represent the conditions characteristic to strong horizontal advection and are during the rest of the days expected to underestimate the vertical transport due to ML growth.

Gordon et al. (2011) observed major fraction (60 %) of upward particle fluxes for size interval 18 to 450 nm above a mixed forest in Ontario, Canada, by the EC technique. The upward particle flux rate was highest for 75 nm particles. One of the mechanisms for upward fluxes was the entrainment of clean air from aloft as discussed previously. As additional mechanism, the authors proposed the slowest growth rate of this particle size, suggesting that the authors referred to the aerosol dynamics as one of the reasons.

Pryor et al. (2013) also suggested the depletion mechanism as the most common cause of the upward fluxes above a sparse pine forest during the morning hours. Later in the day the authors attributed the upward fluxes of sub-30-nm particles to the growth of the newly formed particles by condensation of the BVOCs. All the mechanisms as the reasons for upward particles fluxes discussed here appear to be the plausible reasons

according to our model simulations and can dominate depending on location, emission rates of BVOSs, time of day, particle size and possibly some other factors. The results of the current study identified the aerosol dynamics as one of the main mechanisms causing upward transport of particles with 30 nm in diameter and larger.

3.4.4 Fluxes of above 100 nm particles

We observed that the aerosol and ABL dynamics can introduce significant systematic deviation of the exchange velocities above the canopy from dry deposition on the average. For around 100 nm particles the fluxes above canopy exceeded the dry deposition sink and for larger than 100 nm the deposition was very poorly characterized by the fluxes above canopy (strongly under estimated, see Table 1). The range of the flux to deposition ratio varied from negative to positive values, being especially large for about 100 nm particles, which coincides with the minimum of the particle deposition rate at this size. We note that the results based on model simulations were free of statistical uncertainty introduced by random errors to experimentally determined fluxes. Rannik et al. (2003) used a semi-empirical model to explain the size-integrated particle flux measurements performed at the same site with our model simulations. The model appeared to explain well the flux observation with particle population mainly consisting of below 100 nm particles. Deposition velocities for above 100 nm sizes were very uncertain. The authors proposed several reasons why the model was not able to explain the observations: presence of a mechanism controlling deposition of above 100 nm particles not described by the semi-empirical model as well as several other reasons such as temporary pollution sources in the measurement source area. The possible reasons of meteorological origin were suggested to be horizontal advection of particle concentration, boundary layer growth and concentration dilution, and roll circulation in the ABL (e.g., Buzorius et al., 2001). This study has shown that such apparent uncertainty in deposition pattern of above 100 nm particles could be the case even in horizontally homogeneous conditions due to aerosol dynamical and ABL development processes.

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We have observed that the aerosol dynamics is strongly size-dependent but a significant source-sink term to aerosol concentration throughout the atmospheric column. Whereas the vertical transport is mostly compensating for particle loss inside canopy due to deposition, the aerosol dynamics leads to concentration changes in the whole ABL. However, during the periods of intensive aerosol dynamics when new particle formation frequently occurs, the particle deposition and aerosol dynamics together with ABL development leads to complicated vertical transport pattern. For small particles (up to a few tens of nm) the deposition sink is relatively strong (compared to the aerosol dynamics) and downward fluxes were predicted in the lower ABL. However, for some particle size ranges, depending on aerosol dynamical processes, the stronger aerosol dynamical source inside and above forest (compared to higher ABL) leads to upward particle transport such that the vertical fluxes above canopy are not coherent with deposition and therefore do not represent the particle dry deposition. We have also observed that the ABL dynamics occasionally leads to upward particle transport which can be interpreted as the transport due to dilution of relatively particle-rich air within forest with the particle-poor air transported down from aloft during the active ABL growth phase.

The simulated turbulent transfer time scales inside forest were much shorter than the time scales of deposition and aerosol dynamics for all sizes except the smallest at around 3 nm. In spite of efficient mixing inside canopy, the particle fluxes at the canopy top frequently deviate from deposition rates inside forest. This is due to transformation of aerosol concentration throughout the atmospheric column resulting in complicated pattern of particle vertical transport. Therefore, the within canopy deposition and transformation processes do not determine solely the particle vertical transport within canopy and the respective time scales are not sufficient to determine, if the aerosol dynamics can cause significant particle flux divergence below the measurement level.

We conclude that the micrometeorological particle flux measurements conducted above forest canopy can be biased (at least in dynamical conditions studied here) in

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representing the particle dry deposition inside the forest. The deviation can be systematic for some particle sizes so that the conclusion applies also to the time averaged particle flux measurements.

Acknowledgements. This work was supported by the Academy of Finland (project No. 118780 and 127456). ICOS (271878), ICOS-Finland (281255) and ICOS-ERIC (281250), and Nordic Center of Excellence, CRAICC, are gratefully acknowledged for funding this work. This work was also supported by institutional research funding (IUT20-11) of the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. We further thank Helsinki University Centre for Environment (HENVI) and the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence program (project no. 1118615). The CSC-IT center, Finland, is acknowledged for providing the computing service.

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Table 1. Statistics of the ratio of the flux at the canopy top to deposition sink integrated over the canopy over 10 days period in May 2013. The average statistics $\langle V_e \rangle$ and $\langle |V_{\text{dep}}| \rangle$ were averaged over the simulation period first and then the ratio was found, whereas the percentile statistics apply for the ratios $\frac{V_e}{|V_{\text{dep}}|}$ obtained from model simulations for each 10 min period.

Particle size (nm)	3	10	30	100	300	850	3–30	30–100	100–1000
$\frac{\langle V_e \rangle}{\langle V_{\text{dep}} \rangle}$	1.05	0.98	1.14	1.73	0.03	0.67	1.08	1.17	0.61
Q5	-0.241	-0.18	-0.32	0.15	-1.30	0.20	0.33	0.69	-0.74
Q25	0.771	0.87	0.93	0.82	0.32	0.73	0.96	0.94	0.56
Median	0.97	1.00	1.06	0.94	0.85	0.92	1.06	1.04	0.86
Q75	1.15	1.09	1.31	1.34	0.92	0.96	1.20	1.55	0.92
Q95	1.81	1.70	3.36	9.59	1.01	1.00	2.11	10.47	0.98

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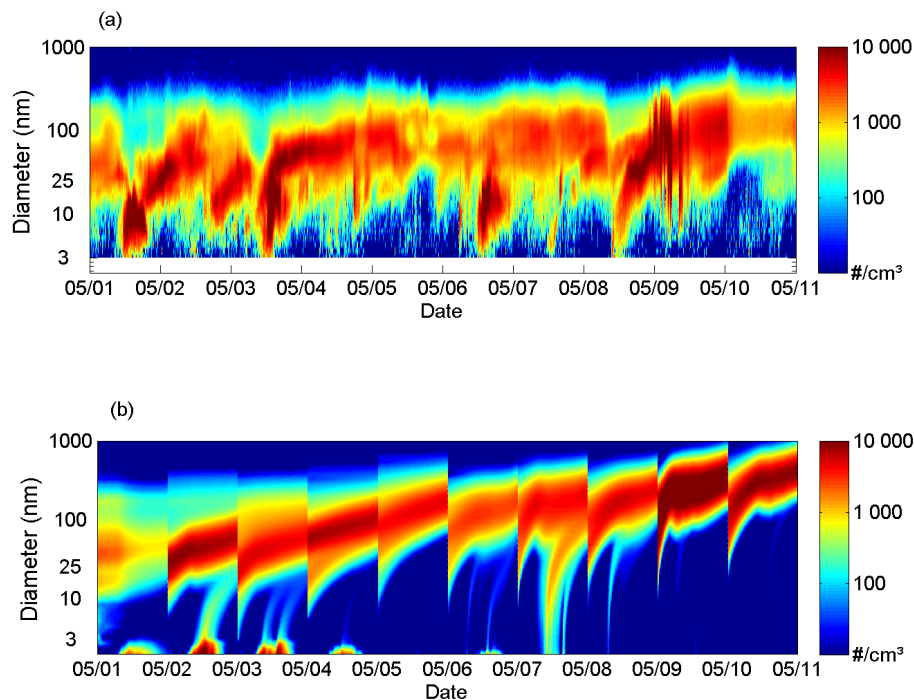


Figure 1. Aerosol size distribution at 2 m height during 10 days period in May 2013 as **(a)** measured by the DMPS system and **(b)** predicted by the model SOSAA.

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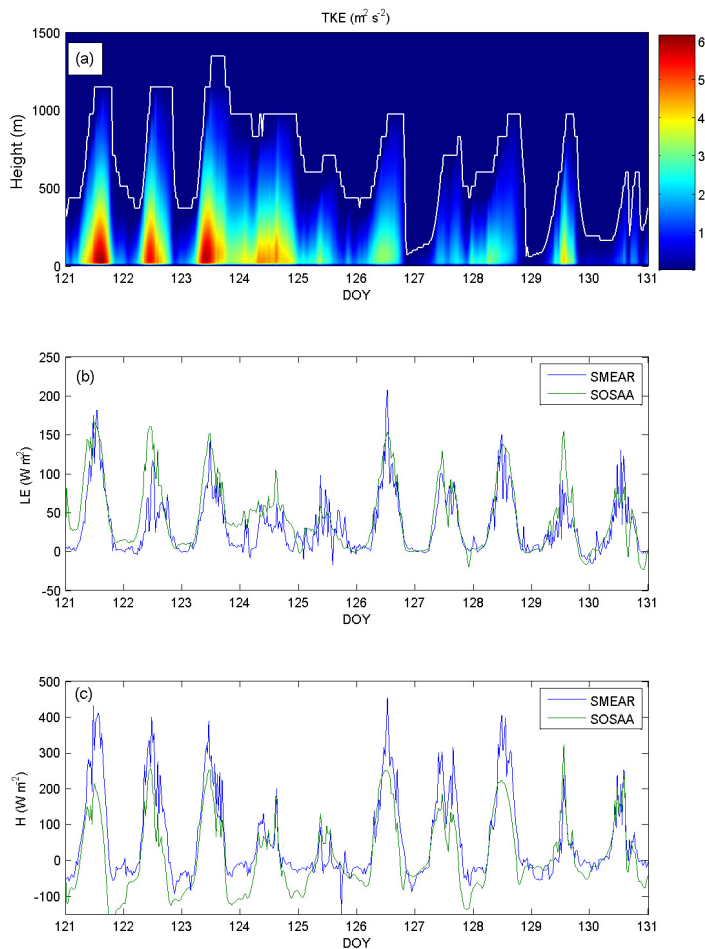


Figure 2. General meteorology: **(a)** TKE and ABL height, **(b)** latent heat flux LE and **(c)** sensible heat flux H during 10 days period in May 2013.

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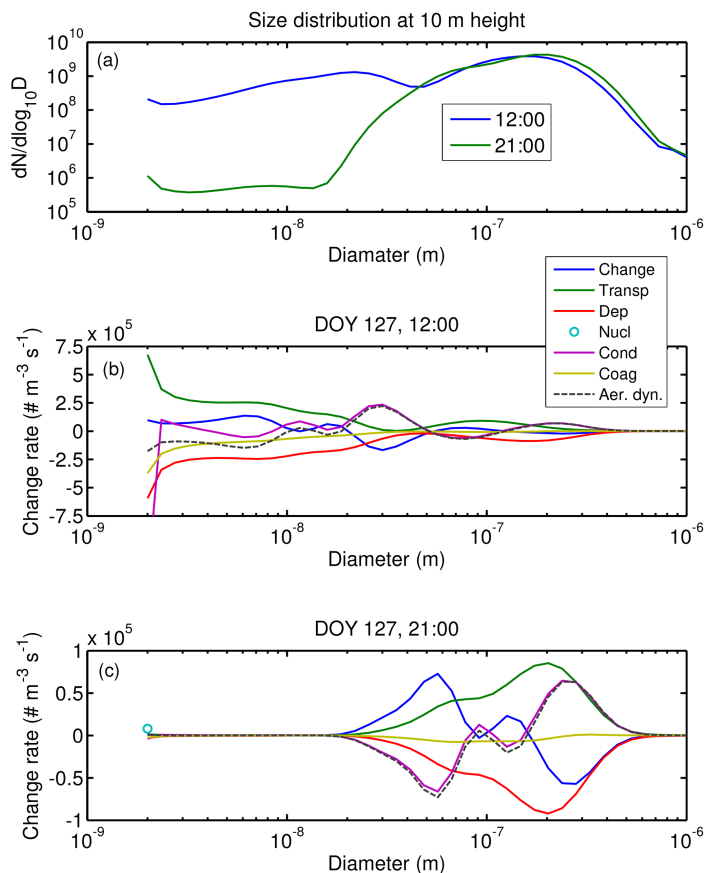


Figure 3. (a) Aerosol size distributions and the conservation terms at (b) 12:00 LT (the values for nucleation and condensation terms at 2 nm are out of scale, being in absolute values about $1.3 \times 10^6 \# m^3 s^{-1}$ but opposite in sign) and (c) 21:00 LT as a function of particle size at 10 m height 07 May.

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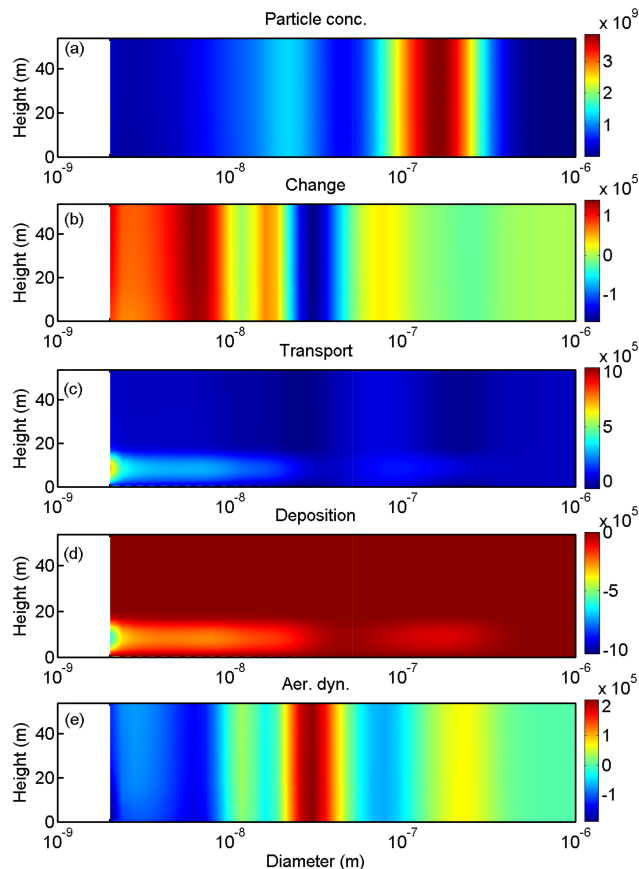


Figure 4. Vertical profiles of aerosol **(a)** number concentration ($\# \text{m}^{-3}$) and conservation terms: **(b)** storage change ($\# \text{m}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$), **(c)** transport (in $\# \text{m}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$), **(d)** deposition (in $\# \text{m}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$), **(e)** aerosol dynamical (in $\# \text{m}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$) on 07 May at 12:00 LT for particle size range from 2 nm to 1 μm .

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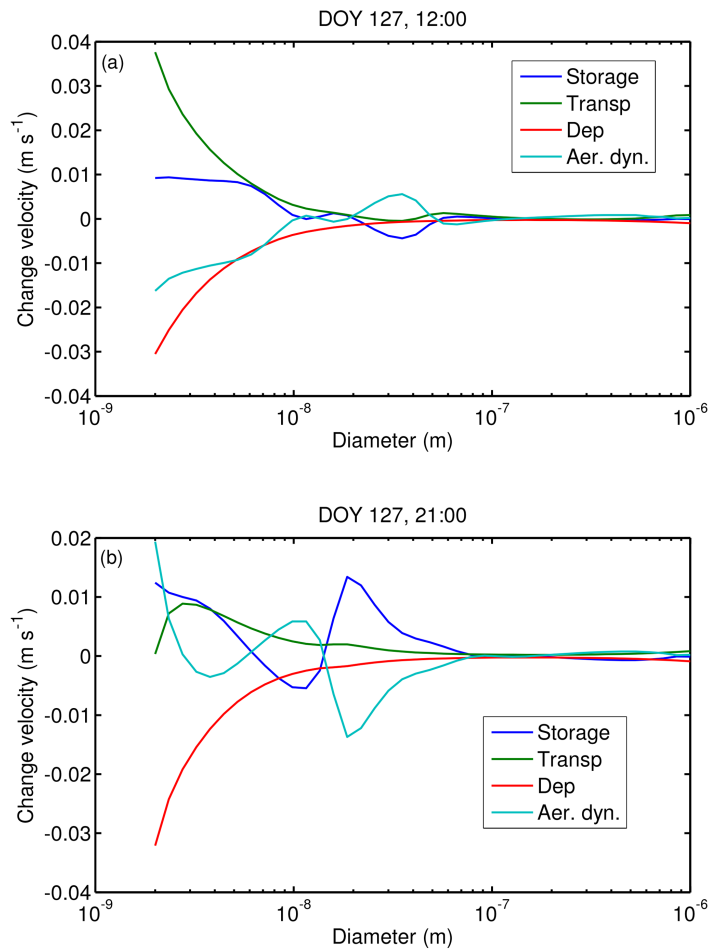


Figure 5. Integrated up to the canopy top conservation equation (Eq. 4) terms for the same periods as in Fig. 3a and b, normalised with the concentration at the canopy top.

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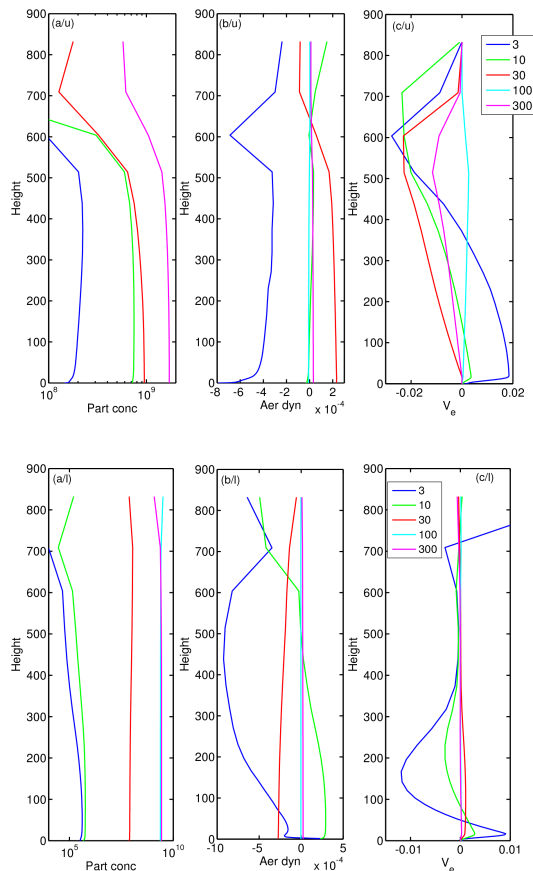


Figure 6. Vertical profiles of **(a)** the particle concentration ($\# \text{m}^{-3}$), **(b)** change rate due to aerosol dynamics (s^{-1}), and **(c)** the vertical exchange velocity (m s^{-1}) for selected particle sizes 07 May at 12:00 LT (upper panels denoted by /u) and 21:00 LT (lower panels denoted by /l). For **(b)** and **(c)** normalisation with local concentrations was used.

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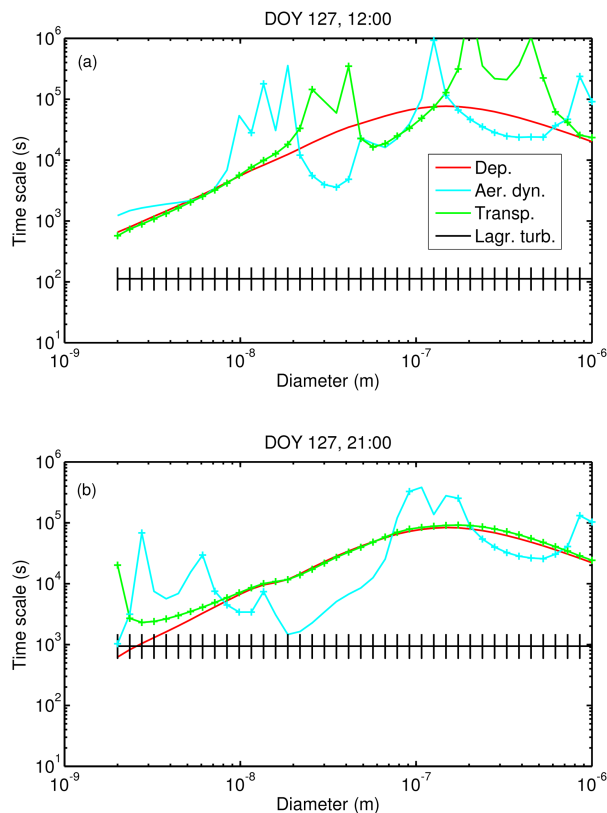


Figure 7. The time scales of deposition, aerosol dynamics and transport (equivalent to vertical exchange) as defined by Eq. (9) together with Eqs. (5)–(7). In addition the Lagrangian time scale for turbulent transfer (corresponding to aerodynamic resistance only) as simulated according to Eq. (10), being presented as the median air parcel travel time between the forest floor and the canopy top with upper and lower quartiles. The “+” sign reflects the positive sign of the respective term (the source), whereas no such sign infers the negative (sink) term.

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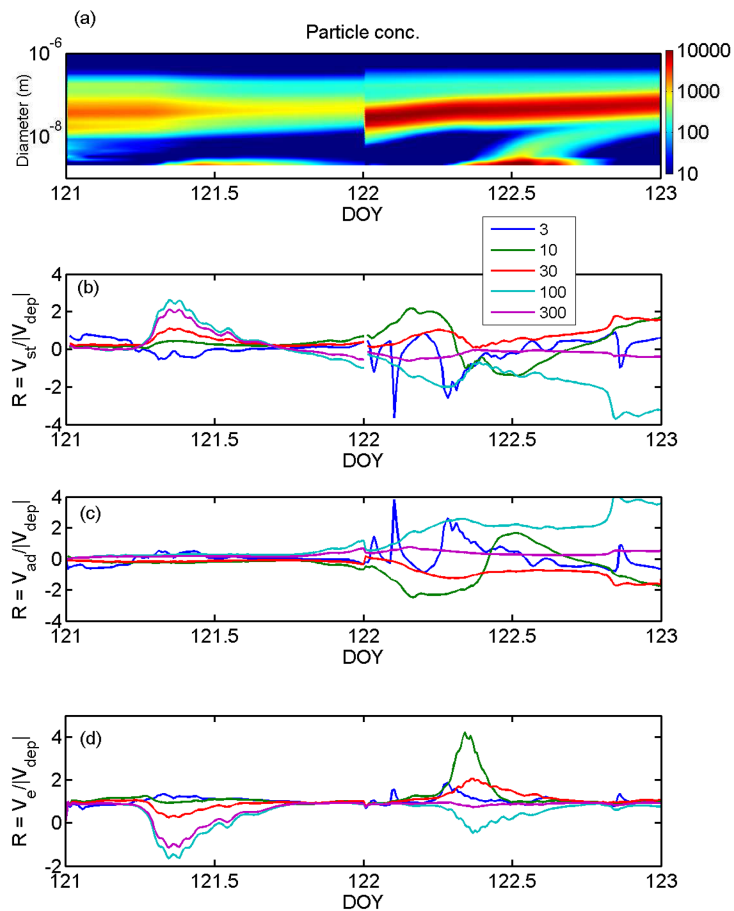


Figure 8. (a) Particle size spectrum, and the change velocities (presented as the ratios to the absolute value of the deposition term) for selected particle sizes for (b) storage, (c) aerosol dynamics and (d) vertical exchange during 01 and 02 May (DOY 121 and 122) 2013.

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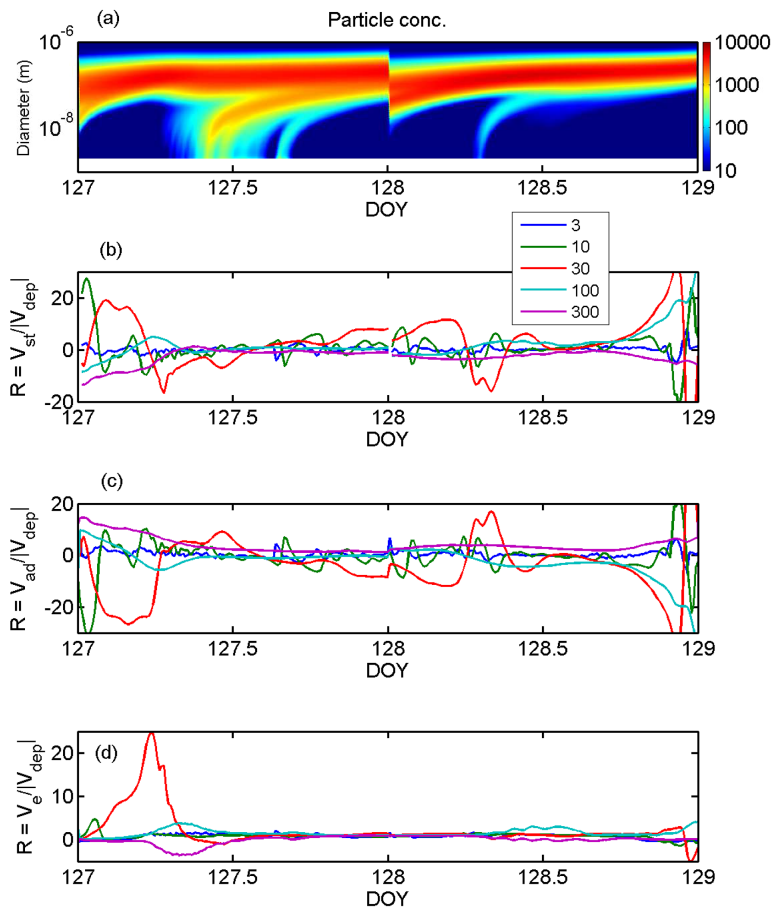


Figure 9. (a) Particle size spectrum, and the change velocities (presented as the ratios to the absolute value of the deposition term) for selected particle sizes for (b) storage, (c) aerosol dynamics and (d) vertical exchange during 07 and 08 May (DOY 127 and 128) 2013.

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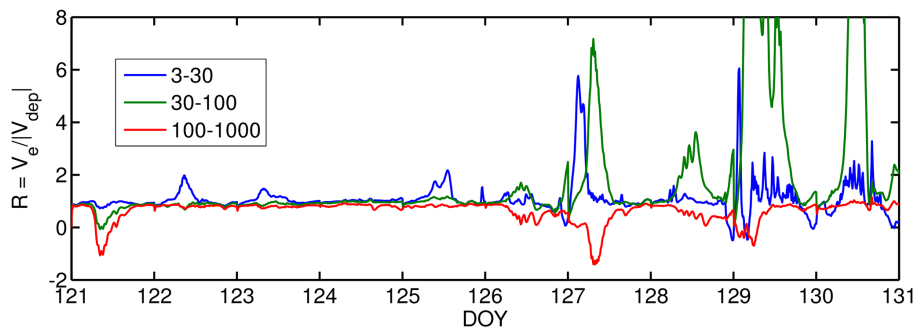


Figure 10. The exchange velocity V_e at the canopy top for selected particle size intervals during 10 days period in May 2013 normalised with the absolute value of the deposition velocity $|V_{\text{dep}}|$. Peak values for the size range 30–100 nm at DOY 129 and 130 were about 30–35.

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