Observations of relative humidity effects on aerosol light scattering in the Yangtze River Delta of China

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Abstract

Scattering of solar radiation by aerosol particles is highly dependent on relative humidity (RH) as hygroscopic particles take up water with increasing RH. To achieve a better understanding of the effect of aerosol hygroscopic growth on light scattering properties and radiative forcing, the aerosol scattering coefficients at RH in the range of 40 to ~90% were measured using a humidified nephelometer system in the Yangtze River Delta of China in March 2013. In addition, the aerosol size distribution and chemical composition were measured. During the observation period, the mean and standard deviation (SD) of enhancement factors at RH=85% for the scattering coefficient (f(85%)), backscattering coefficient (f_b(85%)) and hemispheric backscatter fraction (f_β(85%)) were 1.58±0.12, 1.25±0.07 and 0.79±0.04, respectively, i.e. aerosol scattering coefficient and backscattering coefficient increased by 58 and 25% as the

RH increased from 40 to 85%. Meanwhile, the aerosol hemispheric backscatter fraction decreased by 21%. The relative amount of organic matter (OM) or inorganics in PM_1 was found to be a main factor determining the magnitude of f(RH). The highest values of f(RH) corresponded to the aerosols with a small fraction of OM, and vice versa. The relative amount of NO_3^- in fine particles was strongly correlated with f(85%), which suggests that NO_3^- played a vital role in aerosol hygroscopic growth during this study. The mass fraction of nitrate also had a close relation to the curvature of the humidograms; higher mass fractions of nitrate were associated with humidograms that had the least curvature.. Aerosol hygroscopic growth caused a 47% increase in the calculated aerosol direct radiative forcing at 85% RH, compared to the forcing at 40% RH.

1 Introduction

Hygroscopic aerosols take up water as humidity increases (Engelhart et al., 2011;Pilinis et al., 1989;Hänel, 1976;Covert et al., 1972). Aerosol water matters since water can affect both the size and refractive indices of atmospheric aerosols, thereby influencing the mass concentration, size distribution, and corresponding optical properties (e.g., scattering coefficient, backscattering coefficient, single scattering albedo, and asymmetry parameter) (Cheng et al., 2008;Randles et al., 2004;Malm et al., 2003;Carrico et al., 2003). In particular, understanding the effect of relative humidity on aerosol light scattering is important to better estimate the radiative forcing and evaluate visibility impairment (Ackerman et al., 2004;Tang, 1996;Charlson et al., 1992;Covert et al., 1972). Besides, most of the ground-based aerosol measurements are conducted in dry conditions to provide consistency within and among networks. These measurements can differ significantly from the ambient ones. Thus, the determination of enhancement factors for various optical variables are of crucial importance for climate forcing calculations (Quinn et al., 1995;Pilinis et al., 1995) and the comparison between remote sensing and ground based measurements (Zhang et al., 2012;Wang and Martin, 2007;Zieger et al., 2012).

The Yangtze River Delta, one of the most populated and fastest growing regions

in China, has experienced extraordinary economic growth during the last two decades. Amounting to 2.1% of the land area of China, this region contains ~11% of the country's population and produces ~20% of China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2013 (Wang et al., 2013). Concurrent with population increase and economic growth are the increasing energy consumption and number of automobiles, causing the Yangtze River Delta to become a significant source of gas and particulate pollutants and secondary aerosol production. A 5-week field campaign was carried out in the early winter of 1999 at LinAn, a background station in the Yangtze River Delta (Xu et al., 2002). However, since then the physical and chemical properties of gas and particulate pollutants have changed dramatically with the rapidly developing economy and fast growing population, e.g. from 1999 to 2013, the sulfate mass concentration decreased from 21.2±11.5 to 8.1±4.1 (mean ± SD) (Qi et al., 2012;Xu et al., 2008;ZEPB, 1999;ZEPB, 2013). In order to better understand the aerosol light scattering properties and their dependency on relative humidity in the Yangtze River Delta, both the scattering and backscattering coefficients under dry (RH<40%) conditions and controlled, elevated relative humidity were measured, along with the chemical composition and particle number size distribution.

The enhancement factors discussed in this work include scattering enhancement factor f(RH,λ), enhancement factor for backscattering coefficient f_b(RH,λ) and enhancement factor for hemispheric backscatter fraction f_β(RH,λ). The impact of relative humidity on the aerosol light scattering coefficient is called the scattering enhancement factor f(RH,λ), defined as

$$f(\mathrm{RH},\lambda) = \sigma_{sp}(\mathrm{RH},\lambda)/\sigma_{sp}(\mathrm{dry},\lambda) \quad (1)$$

where σ_{sp}(dry,λ) and σ_{sp}(RH,λ) represent scattering coefficients at wavelength λ in dry conditions and at a defined higher relative humidity, respectively.

Likewise, the impact of relative humidity on aerosol backscattering coefficient can be described as the enhancement factor for backscattering coefficient f_b(RH,λ):

$$f_b(\mathrm{RH},\lambda) = \sigma_{bsp}(\mathrm{RH},\lambda)/\sigma_{bsp}(\mathrm{dry},\lambda) \quad (2)$$

where σ_{bsp}(dry,λ) and σ_{bsp}(RH,λ) represent backscattering coefficients at wavelength λ

in dry conditions and at a defined relative humidity, respectively. $f(RH,\lambda)$ and $f_b(RH,\lambda)$ are always greater than 1 if no significant restructuring is taken place after water uptake (Weingartner et al., 1995).

Hemispheric backscatter fraction ($b=\sigma_{bsp}/\sigma_{sp}$) is closely related to the upscatter fraction ($\bar{\beta}$), the fraction of incident solar radiation scattered into space (Wiscombe and Grams, 1976). The impact of relative humidity on aerosol hemispheric backscatter fraction can be defined as the enhancement factor for hemispheric backscatter fraction $f_\beta(RH,\lambda)$:

$$f_\beta(RH,\lambda) = b(RH,\lambda)/b(dry,\lambda) \quad (3)$$

where $b(dry,\lambda)$ and $b(RH,\lambda)$ represent hemispheric backscatter fraction at wavelength λ in dry conditions and at the defined relative humidity. Thus, $f_\beta(RH,\lambda)$ can be rewritten as: $f_\beta(RH,\lambda)=f_b(RH,\lambda)/f(RH,\lambda)$.

The wavelength dependence of scattering enhancement factor $f(RH,\lambda)$ varies with generalized aerosol types. Kotchenruther and Hobbs (1998) and Zieger et al. (2010; 2011) found no pronounced wavelength dependence of $f(RH,\lambda)$ for biomass burning aerosols and arctic aerosols, respectively; Zieger et al. (2013) found small variations (<5%) of $f(RH,\lambda)$ at 450, 550 and 700 nm for several European sites; Kotchenruther et al. (1999) and Magi and Hobbs (2003) reported significant wavelength dependence of $f(RH,\lambda)$ for urban/industrial aerosols off the east coast of the United States. In this study, the wavelength dependence of enhancement factors was also investigated. Except when specially mentioned, all the parameters discussed in this study are based on the measurements at 550 nm wavelength only.

2 Experimental sites and instrumentation

2.1 Site description

This study was carried out during an intensive field sampling period from 1 to 31 March 2013 at LinAn Regional Atmosphere background station, which is a WMO GAW regional station (30.3°N, 119.73°E, 138 m a.s.l.) located in the center of the Yangtze River Delta, China (Fang et al., 2013) (as shown in Fig. 1). It is

approximately 11 km north of the city of LinAn, with a population of 1.5 million. The site is ~50 km west of Hangzhou (capital of Zhejiang Province with a population of ~8.8 million) and ~210 km southwest of Shanghai (a mega-city with a population of ~20 million). LinAn station is on the top of a small hill, in an area primarily covered by bamboo forests and paddy rice fields, and represents the background conditions of the Yangtze River Delta. North of the station is a small village with ~200 inhabitants. In addition, there is an activated charcoal factory ~1.4 km north of LinAn station that uses bamboo wood as its source material (Qi et al., 2012). During the observation period, the prevailing winds were northeasterly (NE) and southwesterly (SW) with an average wind speed of ~2.5 $m \cdot s^{-1}$ (SD 1.4 $m \cdot s^{-1}$). 72-hour back trajectories showed two contrasting air mass origins: (1) air masses from Northern China through long-distance transport and (2) air masses from southerly/southwesterly directions with a much shorter transport distance.

2.2 Measurement system and data processing

The scattering enhancement factor f(RH) is defined as the ratio of aerosol scattering coefficient at a given, elevated RH to that at a low RH (usually <40%). Correspondingly, the humidification system, called a humidograph, included two nephelometers operating in series with a humidifier between them. Sample air entered the first nephelometer (reference nephelometer or DryNeph) through an aerosol dryer (Shen et al., 2011;Tuch et al., 2009) to ensure the aerosol was at dry conditions (RH inside DryNeph was 12.2±3.4% (mean±SD) for the whole field campaign), then passed through the humidifier, where the sample RH was regulated to a higher RH that was ramped from ~40 to 90%, and finally entered the second nephelometer (humidified nephelometer or WetNeph) where the scattering coefficient of humidified aerosols was measured.

Aerosol total scattering (between 7 and 170 degrees) and backscattering coefficients (between 90 and 170 degrees) were measured with an integrating nephelometer (TSI Inc., Model 3563) at three wavelengths: blue (450 nm), green (550 nm) and red (700 nm). Data were recorded as 1-minute averages and a zero check was performed automatically once per hour. The detailed characteristics of this instrument

has been described in many previous studies (Anderson and Ogren, 1998;Charlson et al., 1969;Anderson et al., 1996).

The humidifier was built by the aerosol group in Global Monitoring Division, Earth System Research Laboratory, National Ocean & Atmospheric Administration, USA (NOAA/GMD), based on the design described in Carrico et al. (1998). It consisted of 2 concentric tubes with a heater and insulation around the outer tube. Sample air flowed through the inner tube, while water circulated between the inner and outer tubes. The inner tube was made of porous extruded PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) membrane, whose pore size is large enough for water molecules, but too small for larger molecules such as oxygen to cross. The flux of water vapor through the membrane was controlled by regulating the electric current to the humidifier heater until the desired RH was attained. The humidity scan was a one-hour cycle; RH was ramped from ~40 to 90% during the first half hour and in the reverse direction during the last half hour.

Besides the scattering measurement, particle number size distribution and aerosol chemistry were also measured at the station. Particle number size distributions from 3 nm to 10 μm were measured with a twin differential mobility particle sizer (TDMPS) (Birmili et al., 1999) and an aerodynamic particle sizer (APS, model 3321, TSI Inc.). The mass concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, organic matter (OM) and chloride (aerodynamic diameter less than 1 μm) were measured with an aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS, Aerodyne Inc.). The equivalent mass concentration of black carbon (EBC) was measured with a multi angle absorption photometer (MAAP, model 5012, Thermo Scientific Inc.) at 637 nm wavelength (Müller et al., 2011); the assumed mass absorption cross-section was 6.6 $m^{2}\cdot g^{-1}$. Visibility was measured using a near-forward scattering sensor (FD12, Vaisala). Meteorological data were provided by the LinAn Regional Atmosphere Background Station.

All the instruments were housed in a measurement laboratory where room temperature was controlled at ~25 ℃. All data were reported in Beijing Time (BJT=UTC+8 h) and all the scattering data were referenced at T=0 ℃ and P=1013.25 hPa. The truncation error correction described by Anderson and Ogren (1998) was

applied to retrieve the final scattering and backscattering coefficients. The Ångström exponent å, defined as å=-log[$\sigma_{sp}(\lambda_1)/\sigma_{sp}(\lambda_2)$]/log[$\lambda_1/\lambda_2$], represents the wavelength dependence of light scattering assuming a power law relationship of σ_{sp} and σ_{bsp} with wavelength. In this study, scattering coefficients at 450 nm and 700 nm were used to derive å. Normalization of f(RH) (Day and Malm, 2001) has been carried out to get the final f(RH) scan values, i.e. f(40%) (the lowest RH in one cycle) is set to 1 and used to normalize other f(RH) values in this cycle. It's worth mentioning that the normalization of f(RH) (see Sect. 2.2) may underestimate f(RH) to some extent, since some organics (e.g. humic acid sodium) take up water even when RH <40% (Sjogren et al., 2007;Dick et al., 2000). To evaluate its impact, we calculated the raw f(40%) value without the normalization. The average and standard deviation were 1.03 and 0.03 with a maximum of 1.08, which means this normalization may cause an underestimate of 5% (an error of 3% was caused by the inconsistency of DryNeph and WetNeph, see Sect. 2.4) at most. Figure 2c shows the un-normalized f(RH) value; the lowest value of each cycle was around 1.03, which represents the inconsistency of DryNeph and WetNeph.

2.3 Inlet system

An automatic regenerating adsorption aerosol dryer (Tuch et al., 2009) was used to provide low RH sample air to DryNeph, TDMPS, APS, AMS and MAAP to ensure comparability of measurements. The aerosol dryer was housed in a separate shelter that was located on the rooftop (~ 5 m a.g.l.) of the measurement laboratory. Sample air entered the shelter through a commercially available PM_{10} impactor (PM_{10} inlet, URG Corporation) and then passed through the adsorption aerosol dryer (Tuch et al., 2009) to reduce the RH to less than 30%. The dried sample passed through a 3/4-inch diameter stainless tube to a manifold, which split the sample into 1/4 or 3/8-inch diameter tubes that connected to the different instruments. The total sample flow through the PM_{10} impactor was kept at 16.7 lpm to ensure a 50% collection efficiency at 10 μm aerodynamic diameter (Berner et al., 1979).

2.4 Quality control

Accurate performance of nephelometers and RH sensors is crucial to retrieve

reliable enhancement factors ($f(RH,\lambda)$, $f_b(RH,\lambda)$ and $f_\beta(RH,\lambda)$), since they are defined as the ratio of aerosol scattering coefficient/ backscattering coefficient/ hemispheric backscatter fraction at a higher RH to those at a low RH (usually <40%). In addition, the RH control in the WetNeph sensing volume is also critical to f(RH) measurement. Therefore, several comparisons and calibrations have been carried out before and during the experiment. Three external RH sensors (Vaisala, model HMP60) were calibrated in the RH range of 11% to 80% using a Vaisala Humidity Calibrator (HMK15) with four saturated salt solutions (LiCl, K_2CO_3, NaCl, $(NH_4)_2SO_4$), and a humidity/temperature transmitter (Vaisala, model HMT333), which was calibrated by the National Center for Meteorological Metrology, China. The two internal nephelometer RH sensors were calibrated to the external RH sensors with an uncertainty of ≤2%. A good agreement of these RH sensors was achieved with a discrepancy of <3%. Both nephelometers were calibrated with CO_2 (purity 99.999%) and filtered air. Filtered air measurements were made automatically every hour to track the instrument background. Comparison of scattering and backscattering coefficients of the two nephelometers at low RH (9.6±3.2%) was performed during 1 to 3 March, 2013. The total scattering coefficient and backscattering coefficient measured by WetNeph were constantly 3% ($y=1.03x+1.60$, $R^2=1.000$) and 4% ($y=1.04x+0.09$, $R^2=0.997$) higher than those obtained by DryNeph at 550 nm (similarly for other wavelengths); the high consistency demonstrates that the two nephelometers were operating quite steadily and the scattering/backscattering coefficients measured by DryNeph can be corrected in order to make them comparable to the measurements of WetNeph. The uncertainty of nephelometer measurements is ~10% (Anderson et al, 1996), which, when combined with the uncertainty of the measurements of the internal RH sensors, yields an uncertainty for f(85%) of ~20%. This overall uncertainty could be lower for less hygroscopic particles or lower RHs.

The RH at the outlet of WetNeph was regulated via a feedback system using the Vaisala RH signal, a PID controller and a heater. The humidifier set point was stepped from low to high RH and back to low RH every hour with the set point changing

every one or two minutes. Figure 2 is an example of our data showing the RH control and corresponding scattering measurements. As can be seen from Fig. 2, good RH control was achieved regardless of the magnitude of the scattering coefficient.

During the drying and humidifying process, thermophoresis, coagulation, evaporation, and irreversible chemical reactions can alter the particles from the original ones. A variety of measures were taken to minimize changes to the particles: the transport path was made as short and straight as possible, particle-free air was diluted to the aerosol stream to reduce coagulation, and higher heater temperatures were avoided to reduce evaporation of semi-volatile compounds like weak organic acids and nitrates. The nephelometers were operated at a constant flow of 20 lpm, comprised of 9 lpm sample air and 11 lpm particle-free air (dilution flow). The total flowrate through the nephelometer was controlled by a mass flow controller. The dilution flow was regulated by a needle valve and measured with a mass flowmeter. The sample and dilution flow have been calibrated with a Gilibrator bubble flowmeter before the experiment. Filtered air tests were also conducted to make sure that all the instruments were in good condition and that there were no leaks in the system.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Overview

Figure 3 shows the time series of the measured and derived aerosol variables during March 2013, as well as the ambient RH and visibility. The scattering enhancement factor f(85%) ranged from 1.29 to 1.86 (Fig. 3a) with an average of 1.58 (Table 1) for the whole campaign. During 4-9 March, when LinAn was dominated by air masses from the south under clear sky, f(85%) stayed at a low value of 1.42 (±0.05). In March, the hourly averaged aerosol scattering coefficient, measured under dry conditions (Fig. 3c), varied from 21 to 1067 Mm^{-1}, and the maximum occurred on 16 March, when a severe haze occurred. The mean value and standard deviation of the hourly averaged aerosol scattering coefficient was 223 Mm^{-1} (140 Mm^{-1}). Visibility (Fig. 3b) varied from 0.1 km to 23.7 km at ambient conditions with a mean value of 6.2 km. The lowest visibilities were observed on 23 and 24 March, when the station

was in clouds. From 15 to 16 March, visibility declined to 4.4 km with the accumulation of pollutants in the atmosphere, which was a severe haze episode (as mentioned above). An air mass from Northwest China with high dust levels arrived at LinAn on 10 March, with an abrupt increase of the aerosol scattering coefficient (Fig. 3c) and a sharp decline of Ångström exponent (Fig. 3d).

Based on nephelometer measurements, the enhancement factors for scattering coefficient f(RH), backscattering coefficient f_b(RH) and hemispheric backscatter fraction f_β(RH) were determined using Eq. (1), (2) and (3), respectively. Their values at different RHs (50, 60, 70, 80 and 85%) were obtained using linear interpolation from the half-hourly humidogram data (Table 1). The enhancement factors f(RH) and f_b(RH) increased as the RH increased, but f_b(RH) increased much more slowly than f(RH). The f(85%) and f_b(85%) were 1.58 and 1.25, respectively, suggesting that the scattering coefficient and backscattering coefficient at 85% RH were 58 and 25% higher than those in dry conditions due to aerosol water uptake. The f_β(RH) decreased with increasing RH, i.e. hemispheric backscatter fraction becomes smaller with the increase of RH and the fraction of radiation that would be backscattered into space was reduced. The f_β(RH) decreased ~21% as the RH increased from 40 to 85%. All these parameters are of crucial importance in evaluating the aerosol radiative forcing.

Generally, the scattering enhancement factor (f(80%)=1.44) is much lower than the result (f(80%)=1.7-2.1) obtained by Xu et al. (2002) for LinAn in 1999. This value is also lower than the results obtained by Carrico during ACE-1 (Carrico et al., 1998) and ACE-Asia (Carrico et al., 2003), the values obtained by Zieger et al. (2013) in several European sites and the Arctic, as well as the values reported at several sites in the U.S. (Malm et al., 2005;Malm et al., 2003;Malm and Day, 2001;Day and Malm, 2001;Malm and Day, 2000). However, the difference between measured f(RH) in this study and previous studies performed in China (Yan et al., 2009;Pan et al., 2009;Liu et al., 2009;Cheng et al., 2008) are much smaller. The enhancement factors for backscattering coefficient and hemispheric backscatter fraction (f_b(85%) and f_β(85%)) were 1.25(0.07) and 0.79(0.04), respectively, similar to the results (f_b(82%)=1.22±0.06 and f_β(82%) =0.83) obtained by Carrico at Sagres, Portugal

during ACE-2 (Carrico et al., 2000) and the results (f_b(82%)=1.27 and f_β(82%) =0.75) obtained by Carrico et al. (2003) during the dust-dominant period in ACE-Asia.

3.2 Aerosol chemical properties

The submicron mass concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, chloride and organic matter (OM) measured by AMS, plus EBC in PM_{10} measured by MAAP, are summarized in Table 2. The mass concentration of OM is the largest, while the mass concentration of chloride is the smallest, in accord with previous studies in LinAn (Meng et al., 2012;Yan et al., 2005). The mean mass concentrations of nitrate and sulfate were 9.8±12.1 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$ and 8.1±4.1 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$ in this study, similar to the values (9.4±7.1 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$ for nitrate and 8.6±3.7 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$ for sulfate in $PM_{2.5}$) at LinAn in summer, 2010 (Meng et al., 2012).

Aerosol acidity is a key parameter affecting aerosol hygroscopic growth. It is usually examined by comparing the NH_4^+ mass concentration and the amount needed to fully neutralize sulfate, nitrate and chloride ions ($NH_{4\,\mathrm{predicted}}^+$) (Sun et al., 2010):

$$NH_{4\,\mathrm{predicted}}^+ = 18 \times (2 * SO_4^{2-}/96 + NO_3^-/62 + Cl^-/35.5) \qquad (4)$$

Figure 4 illustrates the relationship of measured NH_4^+ and predicted NH_4^+. As shown in Fig. 4, the regression slope is close to 1, which implies that there was sufficient NH_3 in the atmosphere to neutralize H_2SO_4, HNO_3 and HCl, and that the PM_1 aerosol at LinAn was bulk neutralized during the measurement period. Therefore, the dominant chemical form of sulfate aerosol is ammonium sulfate (AS) rather than acidic sulfate (H_2SO_4 or NH_4HSO_4) and the nitrate existed in the form of NH_4NO_3 (AN). By calculating Pearson's correlation coefficient among 5 different chemical species, it was found that NH_4^+ and NO_3^- are strongly correlated with r=0.93; NH_4^+ and SO_4^{2-}, Cl^- are highly related with r equal to 0.77 and 0.74 respectively, which also implies the main form of inorganics would be NH_4NO_3, $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ and NH_4Cl. However, the average mass concentration of chloride was very low (see Table 2) at LinAn, and NH_4NO_3 and $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ were the dominant water-soluble ionic species, consistent with previous results at LinAn based on filter chemical measurements (Meng et al., 2012).

3.3 Wavelength dependence of the scattering enhancement factor f(85%)

The wavelength dependence of the scattering enhancement factor is needed to estimate the aerosol radiative forcing since solar radiation at Earth's surface depends on wavelength. The histogram for f(85%,550 nm) is shown in Fig. 5. Overlaid on the histogram for f(85%,550 nm) (Fig. 5) are Gaussian curves based on the statistics for f(85%) at each wavelength. No apparent shift of mean f(85%) is seen for the 550 nm and 700 nm wavelength pair (see Fig. 5); while the mean f(85%,450 nm) is ~6% lower than that at 550 nm with a smaller standard deviation (see Fig. 5). For higher values (90th and 70th percentile values in Table 3), a slight wavelength dependence of f(RH) can be observed, i.e. the f(RH) increases with the increase of wavelength. However, the differences are mostly under 10% and therefore the discussion is focused on 550 nm wavelength in this study. Similar results were obtained by Zieger at a regional continental research site at Melpitz, Germany (Zieger et al., 2014).

3.4 Classification of various observation episodes

Based on wind direction, back trajectory analysis and weather phenomena, the observation period can be classified into three main sectors: a northerly-polluted period (influenced by long-distance transport from northern China), a locally-polluted period, and a dust-influenced episode. Air mass back trajectories over 72 hours at 300m a.g.l. arrival height were calculated using the Trajectory Statistics (TrajStat) model (Wang et al., 2009) with 6-hourly archived meteorological data provided by the US National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). The characteristics of these three periods are as follows:

1. Periods when the wind direction is between 120 and 270° are labelled as "locally-polluted periods". During these periods, pollutants mostly came from Anhui province, Jiangxi province and the southern region of Zhejiang province as well as LinAn (green line in Fig. 6). Economy in these areas is mainly made up of manufacturing, tourism and agriculture.
2. Periods when the wind direction was greater than 270 or less than 120° are described as "northerly-polluted periods". Back trajectories indicate that most of the air masses came from northern China and passed over heavily polluted areas

such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan economic region and the Yangtze River Delta during long-distance transport (red line in Fig. 6).

3. A heavy dust event occurred at LinAn on 10 March (approximately from 02:00 BJT) according to satellite information (https://earthdata.nasa.gov/labs/worldview/) and meteorology information (provided by China Meteorological Administration, CMA). The 72 h back trajectory shows the air masses tracked from Mongolia and passed over Inner Mongolia (blue line in Fig. 6).

3.4.1 Locally-polluted periods

During the periods of 4-9, 15-20 and 26-30 March, 2013, aerosols were mainly from local pollution sources in Zhejiang and/or nearby provinces. The mean f(80%) and f(85%) were 1.36 and 1.52 (as shown in Table 4), ~10 and 8% lower than those in northerly-polluted periods.

The enhancement factor for scattering and backscattering coefficients at 80% during locally-polluted periods was 1.36 and 1.15, respectively, similar to the values (f(82.5%)=1.4-1.5) and (f_β(82.5%)=1.1-1.2) obtained by Koloutsou-Vakakis et al. (2001) at a continental U.S. site (Bondville, Illinois, US). The measured dry scattering coefficient was 217 Mm^{-1}, ~15% lower than that of the northerly-polluted period (251 Mm^{-1}). The averaged mass percentages of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, OM, chloride and EBC were 17.6, 16.1, 13.0, 42.2, 1.5 and 9.6%, respectively (Fig. 6a); for this and subsequent calculations of mass percentages, the denominator is the sum of the mass concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, OM, chloride and EBC. Compared to the northerly-polluted period, the mass percentage of OM was ~27% higher during the locally-polluted period, while the mass percentage of nitrate was ~33% lower. Although the OM/(OM+ SO_4^{2-}) ratios during locally-polluted (~0.70) and northerly-polluted periods (~0.67) were similar, the OM/(OM+NO_3^-+SO_4^{2-}) ratio during the locally-polluted periods (~0.56) was 24% higher than that during the northerly-polluted periods (~0.45), which may partly explain the lower f(RH) during locally-polluted episodes (as discussed later in Sect. 3.5).

3.4.2 Northerly-polluted periods

The air masses reaching LinAn during the periods March 1-3, 11-15, 20-26 and

30-31 (dust episode excluded) mainly came from northern China through long-distance transport. The mean f(80%) and f(85%) were 1.50 and 1.64, respectively (as shown in Table 4).

The value (f(80%)=1.50) is similar to the previous results (f(80%)=1.48) obtained by Yan et al. (2009) for periods influenced by the urban plume from Beijing, (f(80%)=1.46±0.10) reported by Carrico et al. (2000) for anthropogenic aerosols in Europe during the 2nd Aerosol Characterization Experiment (ACE-2) campaign, and (f(80%)=1.55-1.59) indicated by Pan et al. (2009) for a rural site (Xin'an) near Beijing city during pollution periods. However, the measured f(80%) was much lower than (f(80%)=2.0-2.43) during a pollution episode reported by Kim et al. (2006) at the Gosan regional background site, 720 km northeast of LinAn and results (f(82%)=2.24±0.20) obtained by Carrico et al. (2003) in ACE-Asia for polluted air masses measured over the ocean. The f(RH) of continental air masses transported over the ocean was higher than that over the continent, and the possible mechanisms for that increase might include coagulation with sea-salt particles and the oxidation of SO_2 and VOCs (volatile organic compounds) leading to an increase in aerosol hygroscopicity.

3.4.3 Dust-influenced episode

During a severe cold air outbreak, a strong dust event struck northern China on 8 and 9 March, 2013. The affected area covered about 2.8 million square kilometers, about 10% of which suffered from dust storms or strong sandstorms. This event was considered to be the largest and strongest dust event to hit China in 2013. During this event, suspended dust appeared in most of northwestern China, northern China, north and west Huanghuai region and west Liaoning province, while west-central Inner Mongolia, west Gansu, northern Shanxi, and several parts of Xinjiang experienced a sandstorm. Along with the extreme dust event, there was a dramatic increase in PM_{10}, for example, the PM_{10} in Yulin, Shanxi even reached 10,000 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$ (Wang et al., 2013;Zhang and Sun, 2013).

At 2 a.m. on March 10, the wind direction changed abruptly to northerly (see Fig. 8d) and the scattering coefficient increased abruptly from ~200 Mm^{-1} to > 600 Mm^{-1}

(Fig. 7b). PM_{10} mass concentrations at LinAn increased rapidly from 100 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$ to 637 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$, while the $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentration was only 190 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$, accounting for 30% of PM_{10}. The Ångström exponent decreased from 1.2 to 0.8 (see Fig. 7c). All these phenomena implied the arrival of cold front from northern China enriched in coarse mode particles. The mass percentage of nitrate increased significantly and reached its peak (~26%) at 3 a.m.; meanwhile, the mass percentage of OM decreased sharply from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. (see Fig. 7e). Correspondingly, the scattering enhancement factor f(85%) reached 1.52 at 3 a.m. (see Fig. 7a), an increase of ~16% compared with that before the dust arrival. The most dust-dominated period, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., when the Ångström exponent was below 0.5 (Fig. 7c) and scattering coefficients at 450 nm, 550 nm and 700 nm (Fig. 7b) were nearly equal, the scattering enhancement factor f(85%) was ~1.46. This value is much higher than the results (f(80%)=1.20) reported by Pan et al. (2009) in rural Beijing, (f(82.5%)=1.18) obtained by Carrico et al. (2003) in East Asia (ACE-Asia) during a dust episode, (f(80%)=1.20) reported by Fierz-Schmidhauser et al. (2010) at a high alpine site (Jungfraujoch, 3580m a.s.l.) in Switzerland during a strong Saharan dust event, and (f(80%)=1.0-1.1) measured by Li-Jones et al. (1998) in South America during an investigation of long-range transported Saharan dust. Meanwhile it is much lower than the value (f(85%)=1.73-2.20) obtained by Kim et al. (2006) in Gosan (South Korea) during a dust-dominated period. According to Tobo et al. (2010), Ca-rich particles can react with gaseous HNO_3 to form $Ca(NO_3)_2$, thus the liquid cloud-nucleating ability would be enhanced. Similar results have also reported that aerosol hygroscopicity would be largely enhanced if coarse mode Ca-rich particles combined with nitrate (Shi et al., 2008;Sullivan et al., 2009). Thus, it is speculated that the relatively high f(RH) may have resulted from the reactions of coarse mode particles with inorganics (very likely to be nitrate) during long-range transport.

3.5 The relationship of scattering enhancement factor with chemical composition

Scattering enhancement factor f(85%) versus organic mass fraction and inorganic mass fraction are shown in Fig. 8. The total mass concentration was calculated as the sum of mass concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, chloride and organic

measured by AMS and EBC measured by MAAP. The organic and inorganic mass fractions were calculated by dividing the mass concentration of organics (measured by AMS) and inorganics (the sum of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium and chloride measured by AMS) by the total mass concentration, respectively. The bivariate linear regression was applied with the uncertainty of f(85%, 550nm) which was discussed in Sect. 2.4 and the standard deviation of chemical compositions. The bivariate linear regressions (Fig. 8) clearly show anti-correlation of f(85%, 550nm) with the organic fraction and strong positive correlation of f(85%, 550nm) to the inorganic fraction. This implies that chemical composition plays a vital role in aerosol hygroscopic properties. The absolute values of both slopes (1.2 for f(85%) vs. organic mass fraction and 0.96 for f(85%) vs. inorganic mass fraction) were much lower than those (3.1 and 2.2, respectively) measured at Melpitz, Germany (Zieger et al., 2014). This may partly be due to the higher organic (or lower inorganic) content at LinAn. Comparing Fig. 8 (a)(b) with (c)(d), a stronger association of increasing nitrate with increasing f(85%) was observed. The role nitrate plays in aerosol hygroscopic properties will be discussed in the following paragraph.

f(RH) in Fig. 9 was expressed in terms of γ so as to be applied to a broader RH range (Doherty et al., 2005;Quinn et al., 2005): $\gamma=\ln f(RH)/\ln((100-RH_{ref})/(100-RH))$. Here γ was based on RH_{ref}=40% and RH=85%. The relative amount of OM and inorganics can be expressed as $Fo=Cc/(Cc+C_i)$, where Cc and C_i are the mass concentrations of OM and inorganics, respectively. Figure 9 shows γ versus Fo where C_i was the mass concentrations of SO_4^{2-}, NO_3^- and NO_3^-+SO_4^{2-} in Fig. 9a, Fig. 9b and Fig. 9c, respectively. For all three scatter plots, there is a trend of decreasing γ with increasing Fo. However, unlike the results of Quinn et al. (2005), Malm et al. (2005), Pan et al. (2009) and Yan et al. (2009), γ and Fo (OM/(OM+SO_4^{2-})) (Fig. 9a) were uncorrelated (R^2=0.14), while γ and Fo (OM/(OM+NO_3^-)) (Fig. 9b) and γ and Fo (OM/(OM+SO_4^{2-}+NO_3^-)) (Fig. 9c) were more strongly correlated (R^2 of 0.56 and 0.68, respectively). This result implies that NO_3^- played a stronger role in determining aerosol hygroscopic growth than SO_4^{2-} during this study. This increasing importance of nitrate corresponds to many recent studies in Shanghai (a mega city in Yangtze

River Delta) (Shi et al., 2014) and Beijing (Sun et al., 2012). This may partly result from increasing availability of NH_3 to form NH_4NO_3 (Morgan et al., 2010) due to the decrease of SO_2. The Chinese government has put an emphasis on the control of SO_2 emissions in recent years, and desulfurization technology has been installed at coal-fired power units as well as certain steel and cement production facilities. As a result, the annual average concentration of SO_2 decreased significantly from 56 to 19 $\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$ at LinAn from 2006 to 2012 (ZEPB, 2012; 2006).

The molar ratio of particulate SO_4^{2-} to total sulfur (SO_4^{2-}+gas phase SO_2) was used as an indicator of the relative age of aerosols (Quinn et al., 2005). For relatively younger aerosols, there is insufficient time for the conversion of SO_2 to SO_4^{2-} via gas and aqueous phase oxidation process and therefore the $SO_4^{2-}/(SO_4^{2-}+SO_2)$ molar ratio is low. As aerosol ages, more SO_2 is converted to SO_4^{2-} and thus the ratio increases. To illustrate the effects of this ratio and scattering coefficient on γ, Fig. 10 shows γ versus Fo=OM/(OM+SO_4^{2-}+NO_3^-) colored by the $SO_4^{2-}/(SO_4^{2-}+SO_2)$ molar ratio (Fig. 10a) and $\log_{10}(\sigma_{sp})$ (Fig. 10b). The highest values of γ (or f(RH)) corresponded to more aged aerosols with a low OM content, while the lowest values corresponded to younger aerosols with a higher OM content, consistent with the result of Quinn et al. (2005). For aerosols with relatively low scattering coefficients, the value of f(RH) was usually low with a large variation (dots with cooler colors in Fig. 10b), while aerosols with high scattering coefficients had values of f(RH) that were relatively high with a small variation (dots with warm colors in Fig. 10b).

3.6 Parameterization of scattering enhancement factor f(RH)

The scattering enhancement factor f(RH) can be parameterized with empirical equations (Kotchenruther and Hobbs, 1998; Kotchenruther et al., 1999; Gassó et al., 2000; Carrico et al., 2003; Liu et al., 2008; Pan et al., 2009; Zieger et al., 2010; Zieger et al., 2014). Humidograms from LinAn were fitted with two empirical equations and the fitting results are shown below.

3.6.1 Parameterization with equation $f(RH)=c\cdot(1-RH)^{-g}$

Kasten (1969) proposed an empirical equation $f(RH)=c\cdot(1-RH)^{-g}$ to describe how f(RH) varies with RH, which has been used in previous reports e.g. by Kotchenruther

and Hobbs (1998), Gassó et al. (2000), Carrico et al. (2003) and Zieger et al. (2010, 2014). Table 5 shows the fitting results from the current work and previous studies. Larger f(RH) values are associated with larger values of "c" and "g". In this work, "g" was much lower than that in most of the other studies, although it was similar to the result of Gassó et al. (2000) during a dust episode. The similarity results from the low scattering enhancement factor (e.g. f(80%)=1.44±0.12) at LinAn, which was similar to the value (f(80%)=1.33±0.07) obtained by Gassó et al. (2000) for a dust event. The f(RH) in other studies was much higher than that at LinAn, ranging from 2.04 (polluted marine aerosols in Gassó et al. (2000)) to 3.77 (arctic aerosols in Zieger et al. (2010)), therefore their parameter "g" was much higher.

3.6.2 Parameterization with equation $f(RH)=1+a \cdot RH^b$

The f(RH) obtained at LinAn station can also be well described by the following equation, which was proposed by Kotchenruther and Hobbs (1998):

$$f(RH)=1+a \cdot RH^b \quad (5)$$

where "a" is positive and "b" is greater than 1. This function is convex, and has been used in many previous studies (Pan et al., 2009;Carrico et al., 2003;Kotchenruther et al., 1999;Kotchenruther and Hobbs, 1998) to describe monotonic growth. Theoretically, parameter "a" determines the largest value f(100%) can reach, and parameter "b" dominates the curvature of the function. The smaller "b" is, the smaller the curvature of humidogram will be; if "b" equals to 1, then f(RH)=1+a·RH. The parameters "a" and "b" from our study and previous results for different aerosol types are listed in Table 6. Taking the locally-polluted episode as an example, although parameter "a" is slightly larger (~3%) than in the northerly-polluted episode, parameter "b" is ~40% larger; as a result the f(85%) during locally-polluted periods is smaller. Parameter "b" is greatest in the locally-polluted episode and smallest in the northerly-polluted period, i.e. the curvature of RH-f(RH) line is largest during the locally-polluted episode, then is the dust episode, and the northerly-polluted period shows the least curvature. These variations in curvature are associated with the mass percentages of nitrate, as will be discussed later (c.f. Fig. 6).

3.6.3 Steepness of humidograms

For all the humidograms measured at LinAn, f(RH) increases continuously and monotonically. However, the curvatures of the humidograms can be different (Fig. 11); some increase with a nearly constant rate and the humidogram curve is almost straight, while some increase slowly at first and then increase more steeply at relatively higher RH, thus the curvature of the humidogram is larger. In order to describe the growth pattern quantitatively, a steepness index η is defined based on the fitting curve:

$$\eta = f'(80\%)/f'(60\%) - 1 = (4/3)^{b-1} - 1 \quad (6)$$

where f'(60%) and f'(80%) represent the derivatives of the fitting curve at 60% and 80% RH, respectively. η is a nonnegative number. Zieger et al. (2010) has defined an index describing the magnitude of deliquescence transitions based on fitting equation $f(RH)=(1-RH)^{-g}$ (see Sect. 3.6.1), while the steepness index η proposed in this study provided a way of quantitatively describing the steepness of humidograms that are well described by the equation $f(RH)=1+a \cdot RH^{b}$. The larger η is, the greater the curvature. As is shown in Fig. 11a, for a large η, the f'(60%) is very small, meaning that aerosol scattering coefficient barely increases (f(RH)≈1) under low RH (usually <70%). Once reaching larger RH (~70%), f(RH) begins to increase. However, for a small η (Fig. 11b), the difference of the derivatives at 60% and 80% RH was small, meaning the curvature of humidogram is much smaller.

A scatter plot of η and the mass percentage of nitrate is shown in Fig. 12, colored by the mass percentage of sulfate. As can be seen, η is negatively correlated with the mass percentage of nitrate. When the mass percentage of nitrate is below ~18%, η decreases strongly as nitrate percentages increase, which means that the humidogram line becomes straighter and the difference of the derivatives at lower and higher RHs becomes smaller. For a mass percentage of nitrate higher than 18% (correspondingly, a lower sulfate mass percentage), η is ~1.1, meaning the humidogram line is almost straight (as shown in Fig. 11b) and aerosol scattering coefficient experiences a continuous and smooth growth at almost the same rate with RH.

3.7 Sensitivity of the direct radiative forcing of different aerosols to f(RH)

Direct radiative forcing of aerosols is quite sensitive to changes of relative humidity. The impact of relative humidity on globally-averaged, direct radiative

forcing can be obtained by the following expression (Chylek and Wong, 1995):

$$\Delta F_R(RH) = -[S_0/4][T_a^2(1-A_c)][2(1-R_s)^2\bar{\beta}(RH)M\alpha_s f(RH) - 4R_s M\alpha_a] \quad (7)$$

where S_0 is the solar constant, T_a is the transmittance of the atmosphere above the aerosol layer, A_c is the fractional cloud amount, R_s is the albedo of the underlying surface, $\bar{\beta}(RH)$ is the solar radiation scattered back to space at defined RH, f(RH) is the scattering enhancement factor, M is the column burden of aerosol (in $g \cdot m^{-2}$), α_s is the mass scattering efficiency, and α_a is the mass absorption efficiency.

In order to estimate the sensitivity of the forcing to RH for various aerosol types at LinAn (locally-polluted, northerly-polluted and dust-influenced aerosols), the ratio of direct aerosol radiative forcing ΔF_R at a defined RH to that at dry condition was calculated:

$$\frac{\Delta F_R(RH)}{\Delta F_R(dry)} = \frac{(1-R_s)^2\bar{\beta}(RH)\alpha_s f(RH) - 2R_s\alpha_\alpha}{(1-R_s)^2\bar{\beta}(dry)\alpha_s f(dry) - 2R_s\alpha_\alpha} \quad (8)$$

Parameters used in Eq. (8) were R_s=0.15, and α_a=0.3 $m^{2} \cdot g^{-1}$ (Wang et al., 2012;Hand and Malm, 2007). The mass scattering efficiency α_s is 2.76 $m^{2} \cdot g^{-1}$, which is derived from the slope of a linear regression of the measured scattering coefficients and the calculated PM_{10} mass concentrations based on TDMPS and APS measurement (Fig. 13); the high mass scattering efficiency is explained by the high ratio of PM_1 to PM_{10} mass at this site (average 0.81). The average upscatter fraction $\bar{\beta}$ was calculated as $\bar{\beta}$=0.0817+1.8495b-2.9682b^2 (Delene and Ogren, 2002). The sensitivity of direct radiative forcing to RH for various aerosol types is shown in Fig. 14. As is shown in the figure, the variation of $\Delta F_R(RH)/\Delta F_R(dry)$ with RH corresponds to the variation of humidograms. The f(RH) values were the largest during the northerly-polluted period, correspondingly, the effect of RH on aerosol radiative forcing during this period was the largest. The same was true for the locally-polluted period and the dust-influenced period. Since b decreases with increasing RH, this correspondence also demonstrates the vital role f(RH) plays in direct forcing enhancement. At 85% RH, the average ratio was 1.47, i.e. the direct radiative forcing increased by 47% owing to the aerosol hygroscopicity.

Table 7 shows the mean influence of aerosol hygroscopicity on direct radiative

forcing in March at LinAn. The ratios $\Delta F_R(RH_{amb})/\Delta F_R(dry)$ for locally-polluted, northerly-polluted and dust-influenced aerosols were calculated using the ambient average RH (RH_{amb}=67%) in March at LinAn. The variables $f(RH_{amb})$, $b(RH_{amb})$, $\bar{\beta}(RH_{amb})$ and $\Delta F_R(RH_{amb})/\Delta F_R(dry)$ were the averages of the linear interpolation results of f(RH), b(RH), $\bar{\beta}$ (RH) and $\Delta F_R(RH)/\Delta F_R(dry)$ to 67% RH. The $\Delta F_R(RH_{amb})/\Delta F_R(dry)$ ratios were 1.118, 1.195 and 1.105, respectively (see Table 7). That is to say, on average, the direct radiative forcing of locally-polluted, northerly-polluted and dust-influenced aerosols increased by 11.8, 19.5 and 10.5% in March at LinAn.

4 Conclusions

The influence of aerosol water uptake on aerosol light scattering properties and direct radiative forcing have been investigated at LinAn, a regional atmospheric background station in the Yangtze River Delta, China, using a scattering enhancement factor measurement system, together with chemical composition and size distribution information. The average enhancement factors and mean standard deviations at 85% RH for scattering coefficient, backscattering coefficient and hemispheric backscatter fraction (f(85%), f_b(85%) and f_β(85%)) were 1.58(0.12), 1.25(0.07) and 0.79(0.04), respectively. A slight wavelength dependence of f(85%) was observed at higher f(RH) values. Generally, the highest values of f(RH) corresponded to aged aerosols with a small fraction of OM, while the lowest values corresponded to younger aerosols with a larger fraction of OM. f(RH) of aerosols with relatively low scattering coefficients was usually low with a large variation; while f(RH) of aerosols with high scattering coefficients was relatively high with a small variation. Nitrate was found to play an important role in determining the magnitude of f(RH) at LinAn.

Humidograms measured at LinAn can be well described by two equations: $f(RH)=c\cdot(1-RH)^{-d}$ and $f(RH)=1+a\cdot RH^{b}$. Further investigation shows the shape of the humidogram is closely related to the mass percentage of nitrate. A steepness index η has been defined to quantitatively determine the steepness of the humidograms. The least curvature of the humidograms (smallest η) was associated with the highest

nitrate mass fractions (and lowest sulfate fractions). In March, the average relative humidity (RH_{amb}) was 67%. Consequently, the direct radiative forcing of locally-polluted, northerly-polluted and dust-influenced aerosols increased by 11.8, 19.5 and 10.5%, respectively due to aerosol uptake water in March at LinAn. At 85% RH, the direct radiative forcing increased by as much as 47% due to aerosol hygroscopicity. In conclusion, water plays an important role in aerosol scattering properties as well as the radiative forcing, and careful attention to humidity effects is required when comparing remote sensing and in-situ measurements or calculating the climate forcing.

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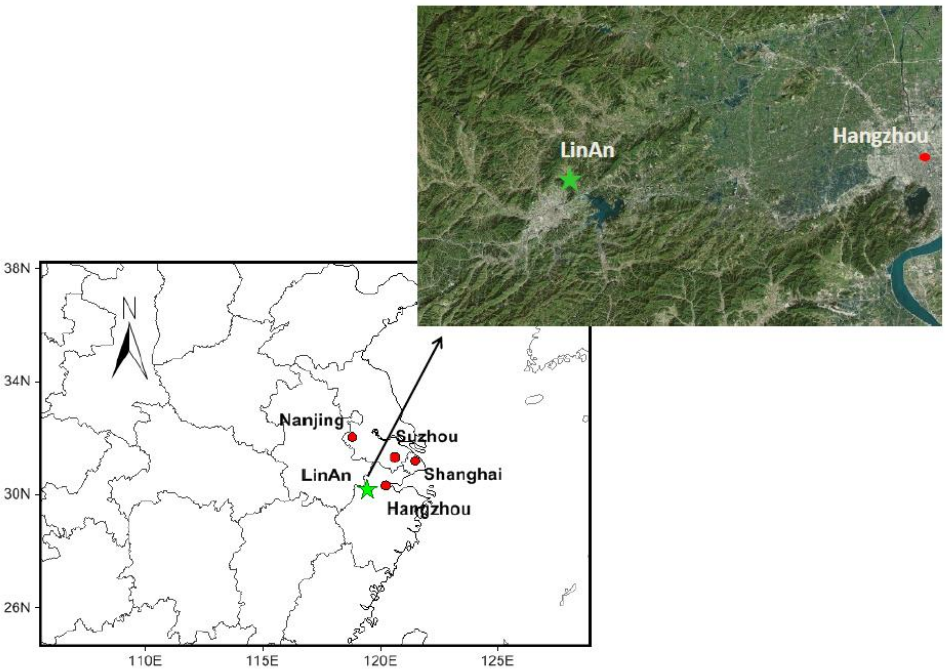

Fig. 1 Location of LinAn station (green star) and the main cities in the Yangtze River Delta (red dots) in the lower left panel. The upper right panel shows the topography of the surrounding area.

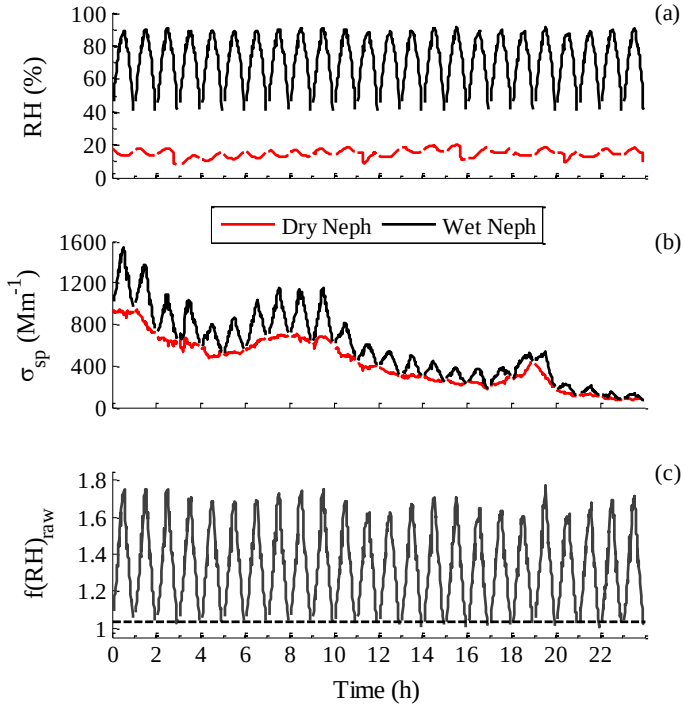

Fig. 2 Example of measured data on 17 March 2013 (a) Relative humidity inside DryNeph (red line) and WetNeph (black line); (b) Aerosol scattering coefficients measured by DryNeph (red line) and WetNeph (black line) at 550nm wavelength; (c) Raw scattering enhancement factor $f(RH, 550nm)_{raw}$ without normalization, the black dashed line is at $f(RH)_{raw}$=1.03.

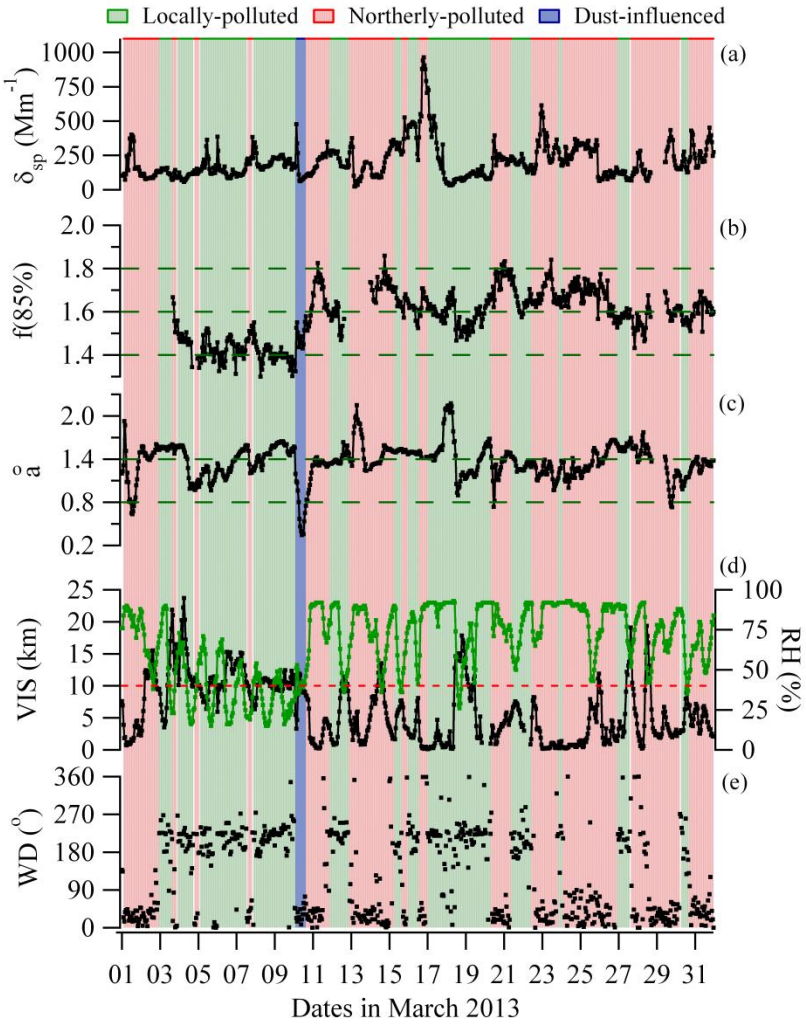

Fig. 3 Time series of measured and derived aerosol variables, as well as the ambient RH and visibility. (a) Aerosol scattering coefficient of DryNeph at 550 nm wavelength; (b) scattering enhancement factor f(85%) at 550 nm wavelength; (c) Ångström exponent å; (d) visibility (VIS) and relative humidity (RH) at ambient conditions, the red dashed line represents VIS=10 km; (e) wind direction (WD), indicating that prevailing wind directions during the observation period were mainly northeasterly (NE) and southwesterly (SW).

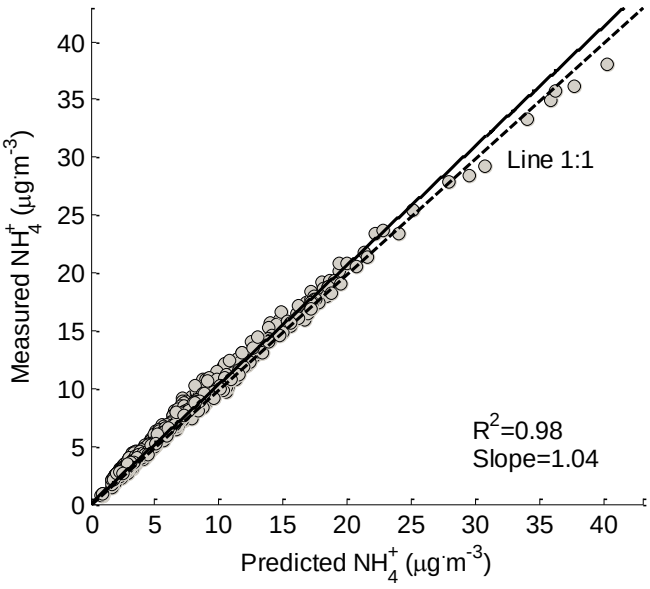

Fig. 4 Measured and predicted mass concentration of ammonium. The predicted mass concentration of ammonium ($NH_{4\ \mathrm{predicted}}^{+}$) is calculated by Eq. (4). The solid black line represents the linear least square regression.

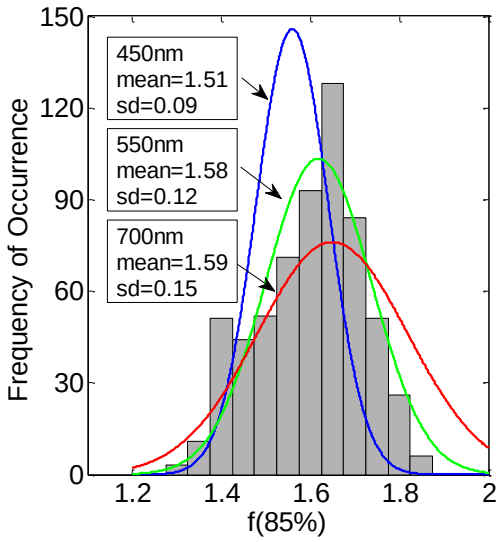

Fig. 5 Histogram of f(85%,550 nm) overlaid with the Gaussian curves based on the statistics for f(85%,450 nm), f(85%,550 nm) and f(85%,700 nm).

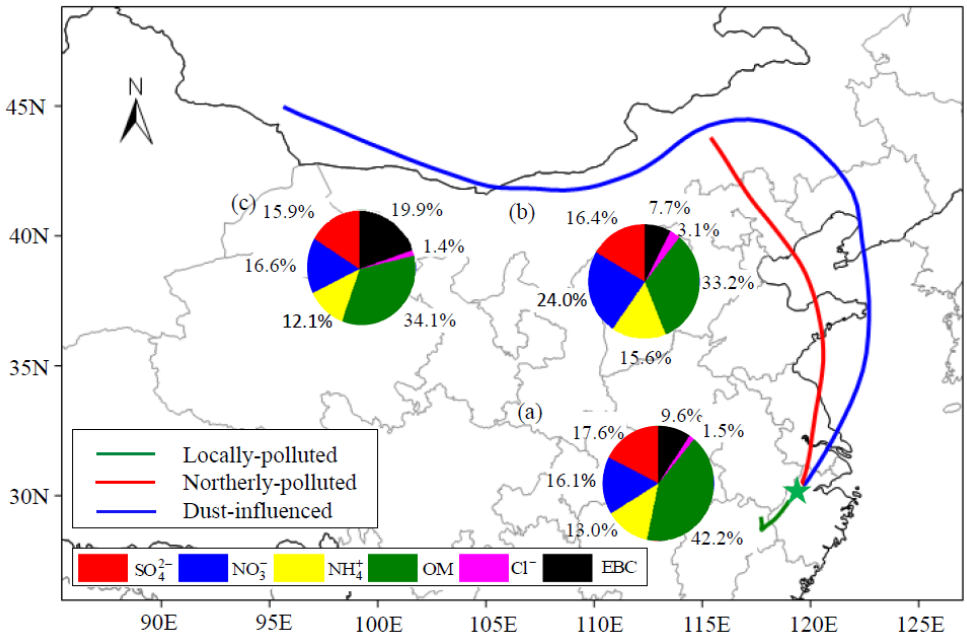

Fig. 6 72h back trajectories of locally-polluted periods, northerly-polluted periods and dust-influenced period, together with the mean mass fractions of submicron chemical species (SO_4^{2-}, NO_3^-, NH_4^+, OM and Cl^-) measured by AMS and EBC in PM_{10} measured by MAAP. The pie charts (a), (b) and (c) were for locally-polluted, northerly-polluted and dust-influenced periods, respectively.

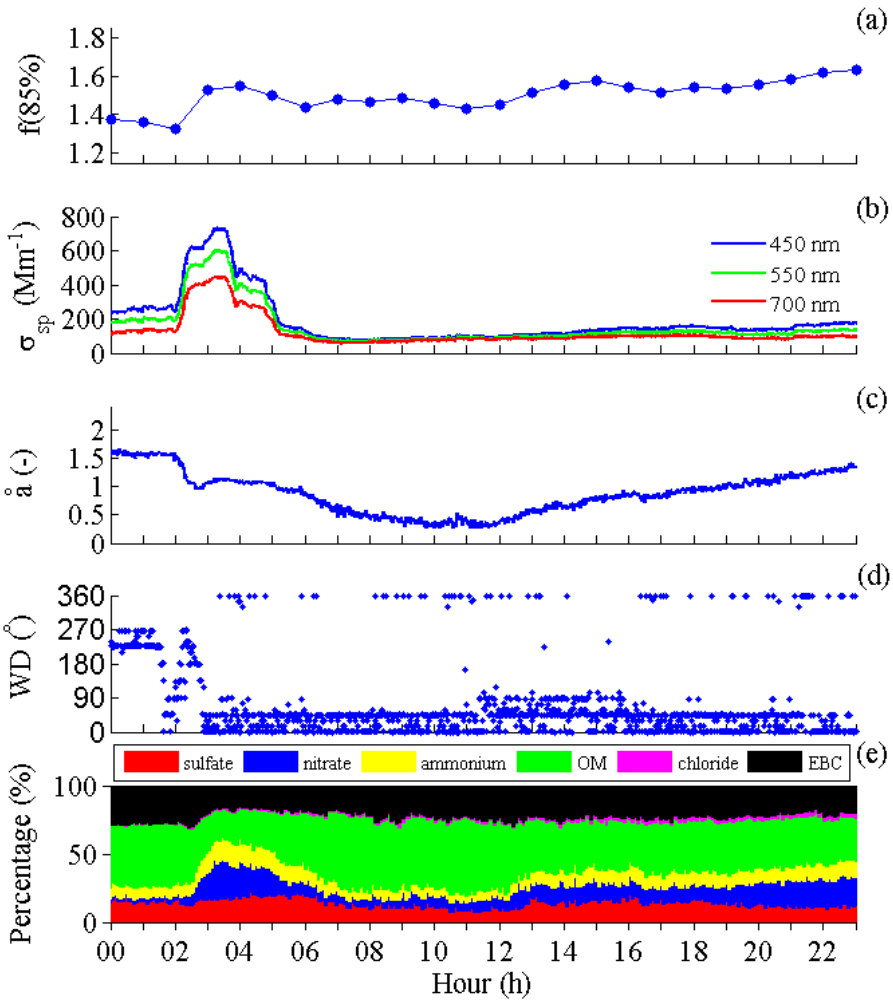

Fig. 7 Parameters in episode influenced by dust on 10 March 2013 at LinAn (a) scattering enhancement factor f(85%) at 550nm wavelength; (b) scattering coefficients at 450nm, 550nm and 700nm wavelengths; (c) Ångström exponent å; (d) wind direction; (e) mass percentages of chemical species measured by AMS and MAAP.

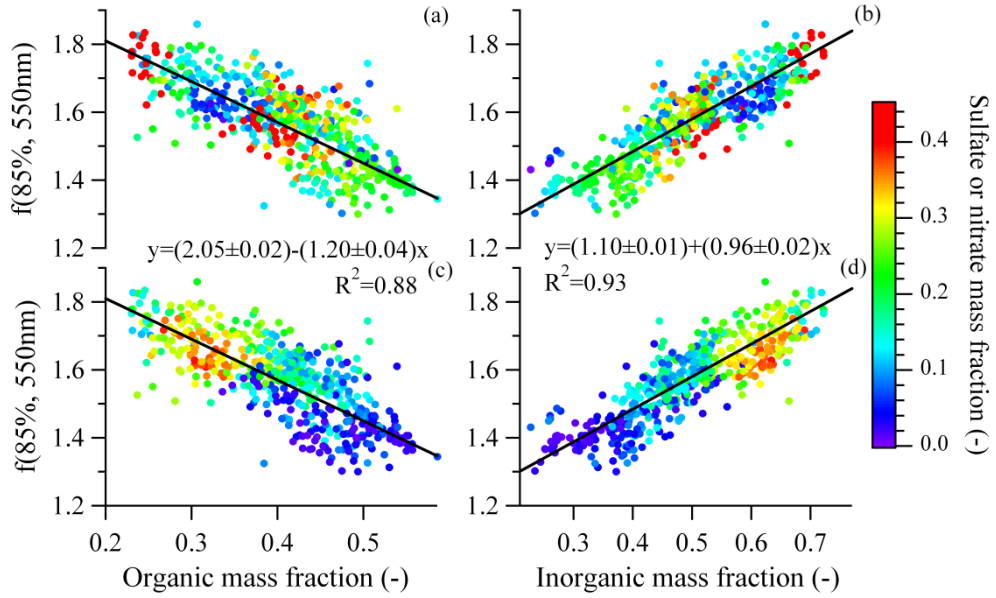

Fig. 8 Scattering enhancement factor f(85%, 550nm) vs. organic mass fraction and inorganic mass fraction determined from AMS and MAAP: (a) (b) f(85%, 550nm) vs. organic mass and inorganic mass fraction colored by sulfate mass fraction; (c) (d) f(85%, 550nm) vs. organic mass fraction and inorganic mass fraction colored by nitrate mass fraction. The solid black line represent a bivariate linear regression including the uncertainty of f(85%, 550nm) and the standard deviation of chemical compositions.

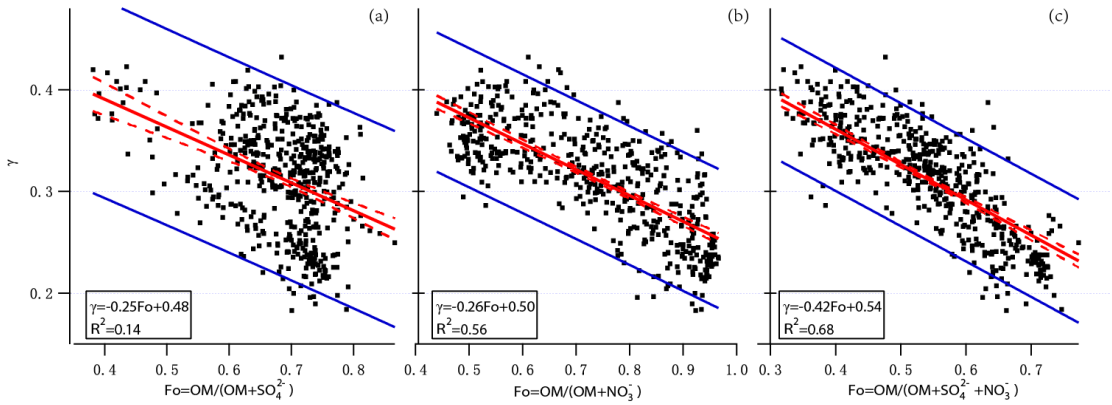

Fig. 9 scatter plots of γ versus Fo (a) Fo=OM/(OM+SO_4^{2-}), (b) Fo=OM/(OM+NO_3^-) and (c) Fo=OM/(OM+SO_4^{2-}+NO_3^-). Solid red lines represent the linear fit, dashed red lines show the 95% confidence level for the fit, and solid blue lines show the 95% prediction bands.

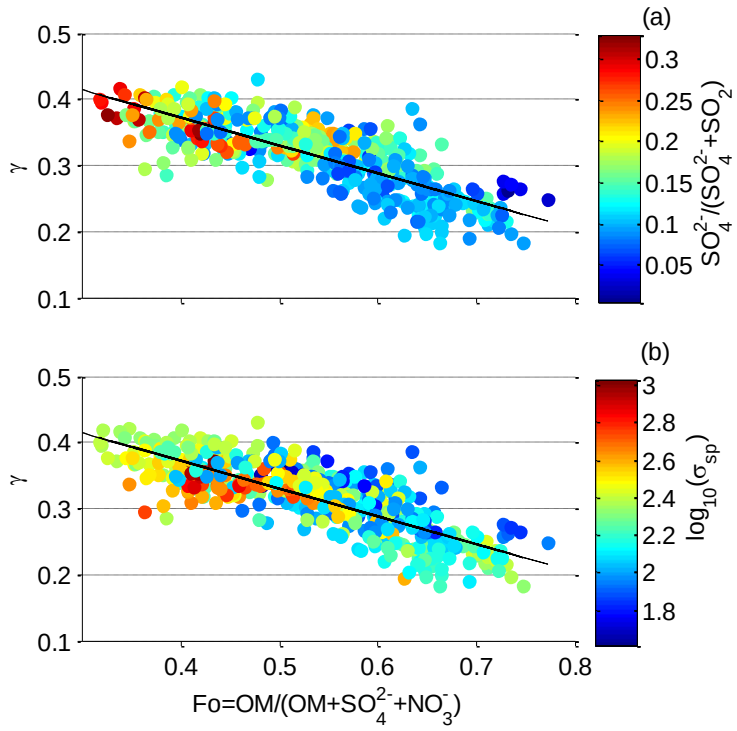

Fig. 10 γ versus $Fo=OM/(OM+SO_4^{2-}+NO_3^-)$ colored by (a) $SO_4^{2-}/(SO_4^{2-}+SO_2)$ molar ratio and (b) $\log_{10}(\sigma_{sp})$.

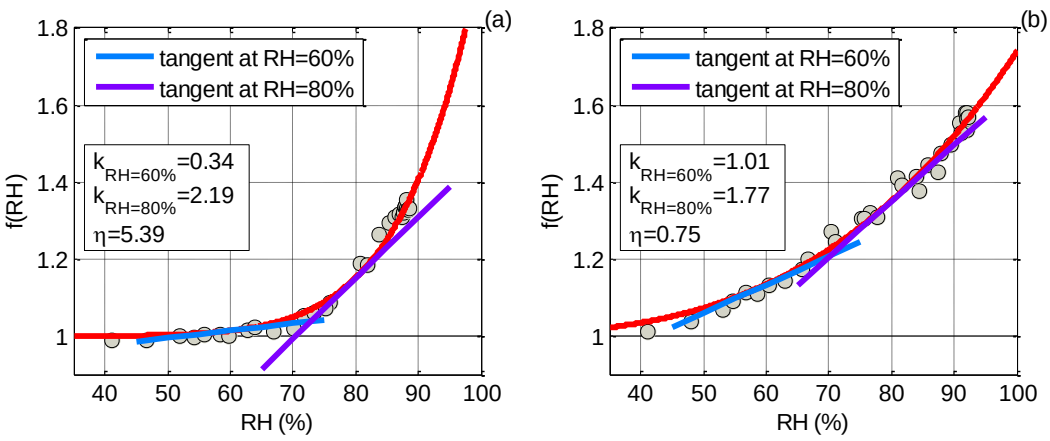

Fig. 11 Two distinct examples showing different growth patterns and the corresponding η (a) 2013.03.08 18h f(RH) increased slowly at low RH (usually <70%) and then increase more steeply, thus η is big; (b) 2013.03.10 21h f(RH) increased at a nearly constant rate and η is small. $k_{RH=60\%}$ and $k_{RH=80\%}$ represent the derivatives at 60% and 80% RH, respectively. f(RH) given at 550nm wavelength.

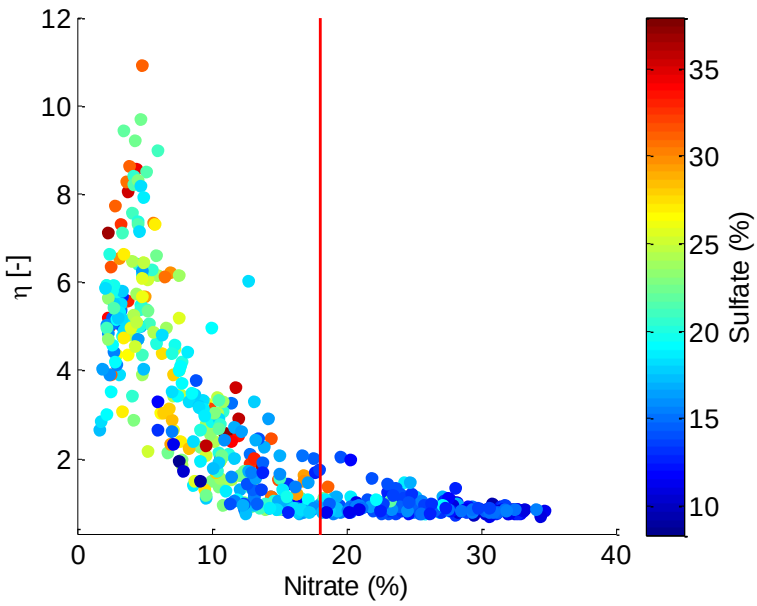

Fig. 12 Scatter plot of η and the mass percentage of nitrate, colored by the mass percentage of sulfate.

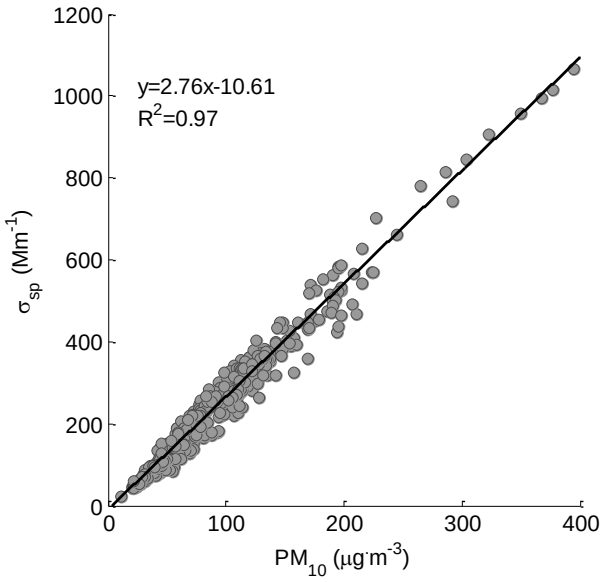

Fig. 13 Linear regression of scattering coefficients (σ_{sp}) at 550nm wavelength and PM_{10} mass concentration.

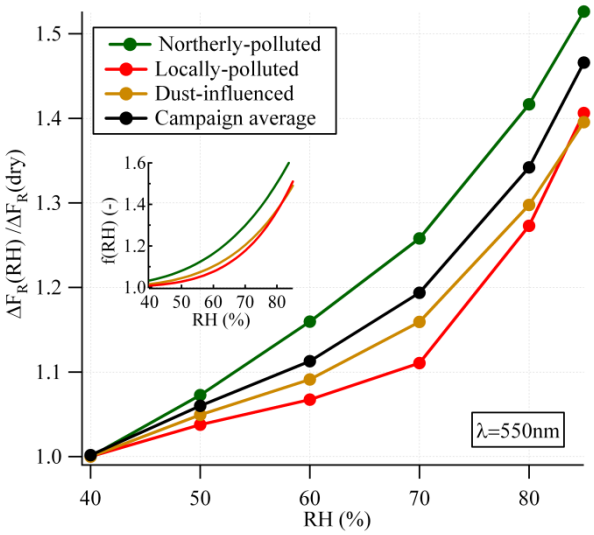

Fig. 14 Influence of relative humidity (RH) on direct radiative forcing for the entire campaign (black line), as well as for the northerly-polluted, locally-polluted and dust-polluted periods, measured by the ratio of radiative forcing at a certain RH to that at dry conditions. The small inlay shows the fitting curves of f(RH) for northerly-polluted, locally-polluted and dust-polluted periods, respectively, using fitting parameters in Table 6. All the parameters were measured at 550nm wavelength.

Table 1 Averaged enhancement factors and mean standard deviations for scattering coefficient, backscattering coefficient and hemispheric backscatter fraction at different RHs (550nm wavelength).

RH(%)	f(RH)	f_b(RH)	f_β(RH)
50	1.07(0.04)	1.04(0.02)	0.96(0.02)
60	1.14(0.08)	1.06(0.04)	0.93(0.04)
70	1.24(0.11)	1.10(0.05)	0.89(0.05)
80	1.43(0.12)	1.18(0.07)	0.83(0.05)
85	1.58(0.12)	1.25(0.07)	0.79(0.04)

Table 2 Summary of mass concentrations ($\mu g \cdot m^{-3}$) of aerosol species measured by AMS as well as MAAP(*) (SD: standard deviation)

	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum

Sulfate	8.1	4.1	0.1	26.1
Nitrate	9.8	12.1	0.2	79.2
Ammonium	6.9	5.5	0.5	42.8
Chloride	1.1	2.0	0.002	22.9
OM	17.7	11.1	2.8	93.9
EBC*	4.1	2.8	0.7	25.3

* EBC was measured by MAAP in PM_{10}.

Table 3 Statistical values of f(85%) at 450 nm, 550 nm and 700 nm wavelengths (SD: standard deviation; prctl: percentile)

λ	mean	SD	90th prctl.	75th prctl.	median	25th prctl.	10th prctl.
450 nm	1.51	0.09	1.63	1.58	1.53	1.47	1.39
550 nm	1.58	0.12	1.72	1.65	1.59	1.49	1.40
700 nm	1.59	0.15	1.77	1.70	1.62	1.46	1.36

Table 4 Average enhancement factors and mean standard deviations for scattering coefficient, backscattering coefficient and hemispheric backscatter fraction in various observation episodes (550nm wavelength).

	Locally-polluted	Northerly-polluted	Dust-influenced
f(80%)	1.36(0.11)	1.50(0.09)	1.37(0.05)
f_b(80%)	1.15(0.06)	1.21(0.06)	1.15(0.03)
f_β(80%)	0.85(0.04)	0.81(0.03)	0.84(0.03)
f(85%)	1.52(0.10)	1.64(0.09)	1.48(0.05)
f_b(85%)	1.21(0.06)	1.28(0.06)	1.19(0.04)
f_β(85%)	0.80(0.02)	0.78(0.02)	0.81(0.03)
N	295	303	14

Table 5 Curve-fitting parameters of f(RH) at 550nm wavelength for various aerosol types using equation $f(RH)=c\ (1-RH)^{-g}$.

	c	g	Reference

Locally-polluted	0.85±0.08	0.29±0.04	
Northerly-polluted	0.93±0.07	0.28±0.03	This work
Dust-influenced	0.87±0.05	0.27±0.02	
Continental	0.9	0.59	Zieger et al. (2014)
Arctic [a]	1	0.58±0.09	Zieger et al. (2010)
Marine	0.99	0.54	
Polluted	0.59	0.77	Carrico et al. (2003)
Dust	0.60	0.61	
Polluted Marine	1	0.57±0.06	
Dust	1	0.23±0.05	Gassó et al. (2000)
Clean Marine1[b]	1	0.69±0.06	
Clean Marine2[c]	1	0.73±0.07	

a fitting results for aerosol samples with RH>75%

b fitting results for aerosol samples with RH>60%

c fitting results for aerosol samples with RH>80%

Table 6 Curve-fitting parameters of f(RH) at 550nm wavelength for various aerosol types in terms of Eq. (5).

	a	b	Reference
Locally-polluted	1.24±0.29	5.46±1.90	
Northerly-polluted	1.20±0.21	3.90±1.27	This work
Dust-influenced	1.02±0.19	4.51±0.80	
Clean	1.20±0.06	6.07±0.27	
Polluted	2.30±0.03	6.27±0.10	Pan et al. (2009)
Dust	0.64±0.04	5.17±0.40	
Urban	2.06	3.60	
Mixed	3.26	3.85	Liu et al. (2007)
Marine	4.92	5.04	

Table 7 Estimated effects of aerosol hygroscopic growth on direct radiative forcing by locally-polluted, northerly-polluted and dust-influenced aerosols at LinAn, measured by the ratio ($\Delta F_R(RH_{amb})/\Delta F_R(dry)$) of direct aerosol radiative forcing at the ambient average relative humidity (RH_{amb}=67%) for the entire campaign to that in dry condition. All the parameters were measured at 550nm wavelength.

	$f(RH_{amb})$	b(dry)	$\bar{\beta}$(dry)	$b(RH_{amb})$	$\bar{\beta}(RH_{amb})$	$\Delta F_R(RH_{amb})/\Delta F_R(dry)$
Entire campaign	1.21	0.126	0.268	0.115	0.255	1.157
Locally-polluted	1.17	0.131	0.274	0.123	0.263	1.118
Northerly-polluted	1.26	0.121	0.262	0.106	0.243	1.195
Dust-influenced	1.15	0.146	0.289	0.132	0.274	1.105