

Supporting Material

Diurnal and day-to-day characteristics of ambient particle mass size distributions from HR-ToF-AMS measurements at an urban site and a suburban site in Hong Kong

Berto P. Lee¹, Hao Wang², and Chak K. Chan^{1,2*}

¹School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

²Division of Environment, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China

Correspondence to: Chak K. Chan (chak.k.chan@cityu.edu.hk)

A. Particle size characterization by HR-AMS

The working principle of the AMS has been described extensively in the literature [Canagaratna *et al.*, 2007; DeCarlo *et al.*, 2006; Drewnick *et al.*, 2005; Jimenez *et al.*, 2003; Jimenez *et al.*, 2007]. The particle size acquisition mode (*PToF mode*) relies on aerodynamic sizing as the measurement of particle flight time between two fixed points in space in near vacuum conditions. The incident particle beam passes a rotating double-slitted disk, which permits pulses of particles to enter the flight chamber. The chopper operates at a fixed frequency (150 Hz) and has a duty cycle of 2-4% depending on individual instruments. The acceleration of a particle into the vacuum interior of the AMS is a function of its size [Jimenez *et al.*, 2003] and thus particles of different size in the pulse ensemble travel at different velocities which are determined from particle flight times over a fixed flight path (i.e. the length of the chamber). Ions arriving at the detector are counted as a function of time between two subsequent particle packages passing through the particle chopper slit. Averaging over several chopper cycles yields a distribution of ions with respect to particle size and enables the measurement of mass concentrations of specific ions as a function of particle size, or of specific bulk species (Organics, SO₄, NO₃, NH₄, Chl) by employing the fragmentation table as in the unit mass resolution acquisition mode (*V-mode*). In contrast to *V-mode*, where particle contributions to measured ion mass are inferred from the difference of blocked and unblocked particle beam spectra, the baseline for integration in the *PToF mode* is established by the averaging of two defined time regions (*DC markers*) at the very beginning and the very end of a chopper cycle which correspond to velocities of particle sizes beyond the transmission capability of the aerodynamic lens inlet assembly and can thus represent signal background contributions. The primary logged information in *PToF mode* is the particle flight time from which velocity is inferred due to the fixed length of the flight path. Each velocity can be associated with a particle of certain vacuum aerodynamic diameter by calibration with a set of particles of known size. The relationship between geometric (D_p) and vacuum-aerodynamic diameter (D_{va}) is as follows [Jayne *et al.*, 2000]:

$$D_{va} = D_p \times \delta_p \times S \quad \text{Eq. A1}$$

where δ_p is the particle density and S a particle shape factor for particles that are non-spherical or have internal voids. S has been experimentally determined for nitrate (S=0.8). For most other particles, especially particle mixtures, S is commonly ignored, i.e. particles are assumed spherical with S=1. A more fundamental discussion of the relationships of different particle diameters and their relation to particle density has been provided elsewhere [DeCarlo *et al.*, 2004; Slowik *et al.*, 2004]. For the particle size calibration, a set of monodisperse polystyrene latex particles (PSL, Duke Scientific, CA) in the range of 80nm to 800nm was used in this study. As PSL does not vaporize fast enough at 600°C, the vaporizer temperature is temporarily increased to 800°C. To compensate for the slow evaporation of larger sized PSL particles with relatively broad time-of-flight peaks, the sum of leading edge flight time and one half of the chopper width ($0.5 \cdot \text{duty cycle} / \text{chopper frequency}$) is chosen to approximate PSL particle flight time. Particle velocity is determined from the chamber flight length (0.295m for the HR-AMS) and the flight time as measured using the above procedure. D_{va} in nm and particle velocity v in m/s are related empirically by the following equation [Jayne *et al.*, 2000]:

$$v = v_l + \frac{v_g - v_l}{1 + \left(\frac{D_{va}}{D^*}\right)^b} \quad \text{Eq. A2}$$

where v_l is the gas velocity inside the aerodynamic lens, v_g the velocity of the gas as it leaves the lens, D_{va} the vacuum aerodynamic diameter calculated from the PSL particle diameter and the PSL density of 1.05 g/cm³ and a shape factor of 1. D^* and b are empirical parameters without concrete physical meaning. As per calibration only particle velocity v and vacuum aerodynamic diameter D_{va} are known. The remaining parameters are determined by a non-linear curve fit of v against D_{va} using the above relationship.

B. Lognormal peak fitting

Lognormal peaks were fitted to the original AMS mass size distributions employing the *Multipeak Fit V2* algorithm in *Igor Pro (Wavemetrics)* using a simple vertical offset as the baseline and initial guesses on peak position, height, and width based on visual inspection of the raw size distribution. The peak fitting algorithm iteratively adjusts the initial fit with the objective of minimizing fit residuals (*i.e. the difference of original and reconstructed distributions*) in the final solution. In cases where excessive deviations from the initial guesses were evident, e.g. greatly shifted peak locations and large changes in peak shape (especially large fluctuations in peak width), fitting parameters from immediately adjacent size distributions (*i.e. the previous and next distribution in sequence*) were used to adjust the fitting process by fixing either the location (*primary*) or the width of the peak (*secondary*) to the average value of the adjacent fitted distributions. To evaluate longer term trends in size distributions, the raw 10min size distributions were averaged to yield 24h size distributions (covering the time period from 00:00 to 23:59 each day), enabling the evaluation of progressive changes in particle size distributions in each season. To examine regular reoccurring trends, diurnal variations in size distributions were evaluated. For this purpose, size distributions acquired within the same hour of day were grouped for each continuous sampling season at both measurement sites. Establishing diurnal trends generally involves the averaging of measurement data from vastly different concentration regimes within each

Figure D12. Scatter plot of Aitken and accumulation mode mass concentrations and total species concentrations in NR-PM₁ (V-mode at the HKUST supersite (a-d) and the Mong Kok urban site (e-f)

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