



1 **Using Spectral Methods to Obtain Particle Size Information from Optical Data:**
2 **Applications to Measurements from CARES 2010**

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17

18 **Abstract**

19 Multi-wavelength aerosol extinction, absorption and scattering measurements made at two ground sites
20 during the 2010 Carbonaceous Aerosols and Radiative Effects Study (CARES) are analyzed using a
21 spectral deconvolution method that allows extraction of particle size-related information, including the
22 fraction of extinction produced by the fine mode particles and the effective radius of the fine mode. The
23 spectral deconvolution method is typically applied to analysis of remote sensing measurements.
24 Application to *in situ* measurements allows for comparison with more direct measurement methods and
25 validation of the retrieval approach. Here, the retrieved fine mode fraction and effective radius
26 generally compare well with other *in situ* measurements, including size distribution measurements and
27 scattering and absorption measurements made separately for PM₁ and PM₁₀, but some limitations are
28 also identified. These results indicate that for campaigns where size, composition, and multi-wavelength
29 optical property measurements are made, comparison of the results can result in closure or can identify
30 unusual circumstances. The comparison here also demonstrates that *in situ* multi-wavelength optical
31 property measurements can be used to determine information about particle size distributions in
32 situations where direct size distribution measurements are not available.

33



34 Introduction

35 Aerosols remain a substantial source of uncertainty in climate models, despite considerable progress in
36 scientific understanding of their chemical, physical and optical properties in the last few decades (IPCC,
37 2013). As greater understanding has developed in each of these areas, new complexity is also uncovered
38 and the interconnectedness of the various properties becomes even more evident. Light scattering by
39 atmospheric particles has a net cooling effect on climate that is one major offset to greenhouse gas
40 induced climate warming (Charlson et al., 2005; Bond et al., 2011). The efficiency with which the
41 atmospheric aerosol interacts with electromagnetic radiation (e.g. sunlight) is dependent upon the size,
42 composition, shape and morphology of the particles. These properties are not static in time, instead
43 evolving as particles are transported through the atmosphere as a result of chemical processing,
44 scavenging and changes in the environmental conditions (e.g. relative humidity and temperature)
45 (Doran et al., 2007; George and Abbatt, 2010; Lack and Cappa, 2010).

46 Characterization of the spatial distribution of aerosol particle concentrations and properties is important
47 to assessing their impact on the atmospheric radiation budget through direct aerosol-radiation and
48 indirect aerosol-cloud interactions. Aerosol optical properties can be measured directly in the laboratory
49 and in the field using both in situ methods (Andrews et al., 2004; Moosmuller et al., 2009; Coen et al.,
50 2013) and remote sensing instruments/platforms, such as sunphotometers and satellites (Holben et al.,
51 1998; Anderson et al., 2005). Alternatively, aerosol optical properties can be inferred from
52 measurements of particle composition, abundance and size distributions (Atkinson et al., 2015). One
53 particular advantage of the remote sensing instruments is that they allow for characterization of
54 column-average atmospheric particle burdens and properties over a large spatial scale and are free from
55 sampling biases as the particles are characterized as they exist in the atmosphere. However, they can
56 only reliably retrieve aerosol properties under cloud-free conditions, and determination of properties
57 beyond the aerosol optical depth (such as the single scatter albedo or the aerosol size distribution)
58 typically requires a data 'inversion' process that relies on an assessment of the wavelength-dependent
59 light attenuation and scattering (Dubovik and King, 2000). *In situ* methods can allow for more detailed
60 characterization of aerosols, including the relationships between size, composition and optical
61 properties, but typically at the expense of reduced spatial coverage and with long-term measurements
62 typically restricted to the surface (Andrews et al., 2004). Given the wide-spread use of aerosol remote
63 sensing and the extensive availability of the data (in particular from ground-based sunphotometer
64 networks such as AERONET and AEROCAN (Holben et al., 1998; Bokoye et al., 2001)), continued



65 assessment and validation of the inversion methods by comparison with measurements by *in situ*
66 methods is important.

67 Multi-wavelength optical measurements can yield information about the aerosol size distribution, a
68 principle that dates back to Ångström's observation that the wavelength-dependence of light
69 attenuation by particles was weaker for larger particles (diameters of hundreds of nanometers to
70 micrometers) than for smaller particles (Ångström, 1929). One of the simplest ways of characterizing the
71 wavelength-dependence of optical measurements (whether extinction, scattering or absorption) is
72 through the Angstrom exponent. For a pair of optical measurements at different wavelengths, α
73 $= -\log(b_{x,\lambda_1}/b_{x,\lambda_2})/\log(\lambda_1/\lambda_2)$, where $b_{x,\lambda}$ is the optical coefficient at one of the wavelengths λ ; for
74 scattering and extinction α typically increases as particle size decreases. The dependence of b_x on
75 wavelength can alternatively be obtained from a $\log(b_{x,\lambda})$ vs. $\log(\lambda)$ plot using two or more wavelengths;
76 if the dependence is linear, a regression would obtain the same value as the pair-wise treatment, but
77 non-linearity can be accommodated by using the continuous derivative $\alpha = -d\ln(b_{x,\lambda}) / d\ln(\lambda)$ at a
78 specified wavelength. (A list of the symbols and acronyms used in this work is provided in Appendix A.)
79 The former will be referred to here as the Ångström exponent and the latter as the spectral derivative.

80 Particle size classification schemes have been proposed (Clarke and Kapustin, 2010) and
81 supported/validated (Eck et al., 2008; Massoli et al., 2009; Cappa et al., 2016) based on the Ångström
82 exponent of extinction or scattering. When observations are made at more than two wavelengths
83 (ideally, widely spaced), further information regarding the nature of the particle size distribution can be
84 extracted. For example, an additional level of refinement of wavelength-dependent measurements of
85 aerosol optical depth (path integrated extinction) was introduced by O'Neill et al. (2005) to aid in the
86 interpretation of the data obtained by the ground-based sunphotometer networks AERONET and
87 AEROCAN. Specifically, O'Neill et al. (2003; 2005) showed that the fine mode fraction (FMF) of extinction
88 and the fine mode effective radius, $R_{eff,f}$ could be extracted directly from the multi-wavelength optical
89 depth or extinction measurements available from remote sensing. The FMF provides for an approximate
90 discrimination between what are typically naturally produced coarse mode particles (dust or sea spray)
91 and what are often anthropogenically associated fine mode particles. Thus, parameters such as the FMF
92 can provide a nominal indication of the relative contributions of natural versus anthropogenic particles
93 to the atmospheric AOD. Variations in $R_{eff,f}$ provide information on the sources of the fine mode particles
94 - as different sources yield fine mode particles with different size distributions - or the extent to which



95 particles have undergone atmospheric processing, which can change the size distribution (and chemical
96 composition) in systematic ways.

97 In the spectral curvature approach of O'Neill et al. (2003), the fine mode spectral derivatives (α_f = first
98 derivative and α'_f = second) and the FMF are first extracted from multi-wavelength extinction data using
99 a process described as Spectral Deconvolution (η was used for FMF in *ibid.*) The fine mode spectral
100 derivatives are then used to obtain the effective radius for the fine mode, defined by Hansen and Travis
101 (1974) as:

$$102 \quad R_{eff,f} = \frac{\int_0^{\infty} R \pi R^2 \frac{dN}{d \ln R} d \ln R}{\int_0^{\infty} \pi R^2 \frac{dN}{d \ln R} d \ln R} \quad (1)$$

103 where R is the particle geometrical radius and $dN/d \ln R$ is a number weighted size distribution for which
104 $R_{eff,f}$ is the first moment (average radius) of the surface-area weighted size distribution. $R_{eff,f}$ is an
105 effective radius that characterizes, approximately, the average size of particles in the fine mode that
106 scatter solar radiation. In this work, we compare the optically obtained $R_{eff,f}$ retrievals to those
107 calculated from the observed size distributions (produced by scanning mobility particle sizers) by
108 numerically evaluating the integrals of Equation 1 to produce comparator values. A single log-
109 translatable particle size distribution (i.e., a PSD that can be translated along the log-transformed
110 particle size axis without changing the form of the distribution function) is, in many cases, a reasonable
111 representation of the size distribution of observed aerosol fine modes (O'Neill et al., 2005). In these
112 cases, the fine mode can be characterized by the single parameter $R_{eff,f}$ facilitating comparisons and
113 examination of trends in sources and/or atmospheric processing.

114 Methods such as those developed by O'Neill et al. (2003) for remote sensing measurements can also be
115 applied to *in situ* extinction measurements. Beyond adding to the utility of the *in situ* optical
116 measurements, this provides an opportunity to test the methods against other, complementary
117 measures of particle size and size-dependent scattering and extinction. For example, Atkinson et al.
118 (2010) used the approach of O'Neill et al. (2003) to analyze *in situ*, three-wavelength aerosol extinction
119 measurements made during the 2006 TexAQS II campaign near Houston, TX. More recently, Kaku et al.
120 (2014) showed, for a range of marine atmospheres, that the application of this spectral approach to
121 obtain FMF from three-wavelength scattering coefficient measurements was largely coherent with the
122 sub-micron fraction of scattering (SMF), obtained from scattering coefficient measurements of the fine
123 and coarse mode components using impactor-based separation of the aerosol. These studies, and
124 others, provide a useful basis for understanding the accuracy and applicability of the parameters



125 retrieved from remote sensing data. However, further assessment in a wide range of environments is
126 necessary given that networks employing such spectral remote sensing algorithms (AERONET and some
127 surface based sites) represent locations impacted by particles from diverse sources.

128 In this work, measurements of aerosol optical properties (extinction, scattering and absorption
129 coefficients) made at multiple wavelengths during the 2010 Carbonaceous Aerosols and Radiative
130 Effects Study (Fast et al., 2012; Zaveri et al., 2012) are reported and analyzed using the O'Neill et al.
131 (2003) and the O'Neill et al. (2008b) methods. The measurements were made at two locations near
132 Sacramento: a more urban site in Granite Bay, CA (T0) and a more rural site in Cool, CA (T1) that were
133 often linked by direct atmospheric transport. The multi-wavelength measurements were made using
134 three types of optical instruments (specifically seven separate instruments at the two locations). The
135 multi-wavelength measurements of the extinction coefficients (either measured directly or produced
136 from the sum of scattering and absorption coefficients) are used to retrieve the fine mode fraction of
137 extinction and fine mode effective radius. These results from the retrieval, described in more detail in
138 the next section, are compared to other, complementary *in situ* measurements. Scattering and
139 absorption coefficients were measured after aerodynamic separation into the PM₁ and PM₁₀ fractions,
140 which allowed the sub-micron fraction (SMF) of extinction to be directly determined. The *in situ* SMF can
141 be compared with the FMF from the spectral retrieval method. (In this work, sub-micron particles are
142 those with nominal aerodynamic diameters ($d_{p,a}$) smaller than 1 μm , likely resulting in geometric
143 diameters below 800 nm.) Also, size distribution measurements allowed for determination of the fine-
144 mode effective radii (via Eqn. 1), which are compared with that obtained from the spectral retrieval.

145 **Theoretical Approach**

146 *The Spectral Deconvolution Algorithm with Fine Mode Curvature (SDA-FMC) Approach*

147 This section provides a qualitative description of the fine and coarse mode AOD (or extinction)
148 deconvolution (SDA) algorithm and fine mode optical sizing (FMC or fine mode curvature) method
149 developed by O'Neill. The details of the derivation and application of the SDA are provided in previous
150 publications (O'Neill et al., 2005; Atkinson et al., 2010; Kaku et al., 2014). The MATLAB code that
151 implements the approach is available from O'Neill upon request. Application of both approaches
152 requires a robust set of measurements of aerosol optical extinction or scattering (or optical depth) at a
153 minimum of three wavelengths that should be widely spread across the optical region of the spectrum
154 (near UV through the visible to the near IR; see, for example, O'Neill et al. (2008a)).



155 The fundamental assumption of the SDA approach is that most ambient aerosol size distributions are
156 composed of two optically-relevant modes: a fine mode having an effective radius (and to a lesser
157 extent, geometric standard deviation) that is a function of atmospheric processing, and a separate
158 coarse mode, largely in the supermicron ($d_{p,a} > 1 \mu\text{m}$) size range. A common assumption is that the fine
159 mode is more closely associated with anthropogenic activities and the coarse mode with natural
160 sources, although this can be somewhat confounded by smoke from biomass burning (Hamill et al.,
161 2016). The FMC (Fine Mode Curvature) algorithm employs the fine mode optical parameters retrieved
162 using the SDA to estimate both a fundamental indicator of optical particle size (the fine mode van de
163 Hulst parameter) and from this, an indicator of microphysical particle size (the fine mode effective
164 radius); these are both defined below.

165 *Spectral deconvolution of the fine and coarse mode extinction and derivation of the fine mode*
166 *spectral derivatives (SDA)*

167 The spectral deconvolution algorithm begins by isolating the fraction of total extinction due to particles
168 in the fine mode, based on the stronger dependence of the extinction (scattering)¹ on wavelength for
169 smaller particles. Current applications of the method start by fitting $\ln(b_{\text{ext}})$ (or $\ln(b_{\text{scat}})$ or $\ln(\text{AOD})$)
170 versus $\ln(\lambda)$ to a second order polynomial, where b_{ext} is the measured wavelength-dependent extinction
171 coefficient (see Atkinson et al. (2010) and Kaku et al. (2014) for scattering and extinction coefficient
172 applications, Saha et al. (2010) for a sunphotometry AOD application and Baibakov et al. (2015) for a
173 starphotometry AOD application). The extinction and its first and second derivatives at a reference
174 wavelength of 500 nm are determined from the fit. The first derivative (i.e. slope) is denoted α in
175 analogy to the Ångström exponent, but in this non-linear, second order approach it is a function of
176 wavelength. The second derivative α' (i.e. spectral curvature) may, in principle, be wavelength
177 dependent over the observed range, but using a second order polynomial fit yields a wavelength-
178 invariant version. Values of α and α' associated with the fine mode and the coarse mode are indicated
179 using subscript f or c, respectively. In this work, only a second order fit is possible because only three
180 measurements are used to define the wavelength dependence. In the SDA-FMC approach, the observed
181 spectral derivative (α) is combined with the spectral derivative of the fine modes (α_f) to produce the fine

¹ We will stop inserting “(scattering)” at this point although all references below should be understood to apply to both scattering and extinction.



182 mode fraction of extinction while the fine mode slope and curvature are both used in determining the
183 fine mode effective radius.

184 One reason for choosing a mid-visible reference wavelength of 500 nm for assessing curvature and
185 slopes is that the variation of the extinction for coarse mode aerosols is minimal in this spectral region
186 (O'Neill et al., 2001). The algorithm assumes constant values of the spectral slope and curvature for all
187 coarse mode aerosols at this wavelength (500 nm), specifically $\alpha_c = -0.15$ and $\alpha'_c = 0.0$ (with an assumed
188 uncertainty, as per O'Neill et al. (2003), of ± 0.15 and ± 0.15 respectively). An assumption of aerosol
189 bimodality (at least as far as measurements in the visible and near-IR are concerned) yields a series of
190 three succinct equations if the approximation level relative to a theoretical Mie representation (O'Neill
191 et al., 2001) is limited to second order in $\ln \lambda$ space. These three equations express the relationships
192 between the observed parameters (AOD or extinction coefficient, α , α') and their fine and coarse mode
193 analogues (O'Neill et al., 2001). A set of three equations can be then inverted to yield the fine mode
194 spectral derivative, the fine mode curvature (α'_f) and the fine and coarse mode AOD or b_{ext} values. The
195 observationally determined total and fine mode spectral derivative and proscribed coarse mode spectral
196 derivative are then used to calculate the fine mode fraction of extinction at the reference wavelength
197 as:

$$198 \quad FMF = \frac{\alpha - \alpha_c}{\alpha_f + \alpha_c} \quad (2)$$

199

200 *Estimation of the Fine Mode Effective Radius – the Fine Mode Curvature (FMC) approach*

201 Using the spectral derivatives for the fine mode obtained from the SDA portion of the approach, an
202 estimate of the fine mode effective radius is obtained. The basis for this approach is a parameterization
203 of a strong relationship between the effective van de Hulst phase shift parameter for fine mode
204 aerosols and a polar angle representation of α'_f vs. α_f (O'Neill et al., 2005). The fundamental van de Hulst
205 parameter for the fine mode, $\rho_{\text{eff},f}$, is given by:

206

$$207 \quad \rho_{\text{eff},f} = 2 * \frac{2\pi R_{\text{eff},f}}{\lambda} |m - 1| \quad (3)$$

208



209 where λ is the reference wavelength and m is the complex refractive index at that wavelength (ibid.) An
210 estimate of this purely optical parameter derived from the α_f' vs. α_f polar relationship allows extraction
211 of an effective radius for the fine mode from the SDA-obtained slope and curvature, if the refractive
212 index of the particles is known. Since the refractive index is generally unknown for the situations we
213 consider here, the information provided by this approach is actually a combination of size and
214 composition. In many cases, an average, constant value for the real portion of the refractive index can
215 be assumed and the imaginary part neglected to provide an estimate of the effective radius; this is, in
216 part, because the imaginary component is typically much smaller than the real component of the
217 refractive index, and thus the $\rho_{\text{eff},f}$ value is relatively insensitive to variations in the imaginary
218 component. This treatment is questionable if strong changes in the average composition that lead to
219 changes in m are suspected, for example if the composition shifted from pure sulfate aerosol ($m = 1.53 +$
220 $0i$) to a brown carbon organic ($m = 1.4 + 0.03i$) this would introduce a 33% shift in the derived radius
221 with no change in actual size; the majority of this shift in the derived radius would result from the
222 change in the real component of the refractive index.

223 The FMC method has been less rigorously validated than the SDA portion and is expected to be more
224 susceptible to problems related to measurement errors and a decreasing sensitivity with decreasing fine
225 mode fraction of extinction. The polar-coordinate system relationship is a strong, near monotonic fit
226 based on Mie simulations over a variety of aerosol types and sizes (O'Neill et al., 2005; O'Neill et al.,
227 2008a); its validation is largely confined to comparisons with the more comprehensive AERONET
228 inversions of (Dubovik and King, 2000). These inversions, which require the combination of AOD and sky
229 radiance data, are of a significantly lower frequency than simple AOD measurements (nominally once
230 per hour versus once every 3 minutes respectively). The comparisons (for the limited data set of O'Neill
231 et al. (2005) and confirmed by more recently unpublished AERONET-wide comparisons) show averaged
232 AERONET-SDA differences of $10\% \pm 30\%$ for large FMF values > 0.5 .

233 **Application of the SDA-FMC method to in situ extinction measurements**

234 This paper seeks to address the following two key questions pertaining to the use of the SDA-FMC
235 algorithm with extinction measurements, especially those produced by the cavity ring-down
236 instruments, to extract information about aerosol size, both the partitioning of the extinction between
237 the fine and coarse modes and the extraction of a single parameter size characterization of the fine
238 mode.



239 1.) Can the approach be used reliably to extract the fine and coarse mode fractions of the
240 extinction in situations where only a single optical instrument is used?

241 and,

242 2.) In situations where complementary measurements (mobility-based sizers, parallel or switching
243 nephelometers, etc.) are available, what information can be determined from the comparison of
244 the products of the SDA-FMC approach to comparable information obtained in other ways?

245 It has been suggested that a single multi-wavelength optical measurement of the fine mode fraction
246 could be less expensive than derivation of the sub-micron fraction of scattering using parallel
247 nephelometers (Kaku et al., 2014). The use of two size-selected inlets (e.g., 1 and 10 μm cyclones) and
248 parallel nephelometers is not prohibitively expensive, but the typical concerns regarding calibration
249 maintenance and careful and consistent application of correction factors for truncation angle and non-
250 Lambertian illumination can be magnified when measurements are combined (either as differences or
251 ratios) since systematic errors may not undergo partial cancellation like random errors.

252 In principle, the use of two parallel CRD extinction measurements could mitigate some of the possible
253 errors with parallel nephelometers. Cavity ring-down measurements do not (in principle) need to be
254 calibrated and have very small truncation errors (Smith and Atkinson, 2001; Brown, 2003). In practice,
255 two types of “calibrations” are applied to CRD measurements: a zeroing procedure that is usually a
256 measurement of filtered air for aerosol measurements and a cavity path length correction because the
257 complete mirror-to-mirror distance of the optical cavity is typically not filled with aerosols (to keep the
258 mirrors clean) (Langridge et al., 2011). The former (zeroing) limits instrument precision and sometimes
259 accuracy while the latter (path length) limits instrument accuracy. In general these procedures are
260 identical for the two parallel instruments and are very stable in time, so they would only be expected to
261 produce a small and consistent bias. To our knowledge, currently no single-package, multi-wavelength
262 direct extinction (cavity-enhanced) instruments are commercially available. Multiple single-wavelength
263 instruments operating at different wavelengths could be deployed, but might be prohibitively expensive.

264 For detailed knowledge of the fine mode size distribution, the use of scanning mobility analyzer-based
265 sizing instruments is preferable since the full mobility size distribution is obtained, as opposed to only
266 the effective radius provided by the FMC procedure. However, scanning mobility sizer instruments
267 typically have maximum diameters of only 700 to 800 nm, and both scanning and multi-channel variants
268 are of comparable expense and complexity as CRD instruments. In order to obtain additional



269 information about the coarse mode size distribution and contribution to the optical effects, an aerosol
270 particle spectrometer (APS) is generally added to the measurement suite.

271 The purely spectrally-based mode separation inherent in the SDA obviates the need for a physical cut
272 point selection, such as that required to measure the PM₁ scattering product used in this work. This can
273 be advantageous, since selection and maintenance of a size cut-point is a possible source of differences
274 between some measurements (and variability of all measurements using physical separation) of the sub-
275 micron fraction (SMF) of scattering, absorption or extinction. The SMF is fundamentally different from
276 the FMF, although both provide an indication of the fractional optical contribution of smaller particles.
277 In fact, there are fundamental differences between many of the SMF or FMF data products that are
278 currently available. For example, the Dubovik and King (2000) SMF data product tries to locate the
279 separation radius (called the inflection point) at a minimum of the particle size distribution obtained
280 from the inversion procedure. This results in a variable cut point that can be interpreted as assigning a
281 portion of the coarse mode to the fine mode (O'Neill et al., 2003). The aerodynamic diameter selected
282 for the physical separation used in the SMF presented in this work might result in some mis-assignment
283 of fine mode extinction to the coarse mode, since (i) the aerodynamic separation results in a cut point
284 that is less than 1 μm geometric diameter and (ii) the cut point might not correspond to a local
285 minimum of the size distribution. These definitional differences should be kept in mind when comparing
286 fine mode apportionments (SMF or FMF) from different measurements/data treatments. And all of
287 these data products will usually differ significantly from the optical properties of the PM_{2.5} fraction used
288 to define the fine mode for air quality regulations and to exclude larger particles in the CRD instruments
289 at T0. The latter allowed a significant fraction, but not all of the optically coarse particles into the
290 instruments, as shown in the Results section. For the comparisons presented in this work, in cases
291 where there is significant penetration of one of the modes into the size regime defined by the physical
292 cut-point as the other mode (or significant overlap of two or more size modes) there are noticeable
293 differences between the physically-defined SMF and the FMF produced by the SDA.

294 **Experimental**

295 The instrument suites used, sampling conditions and methodology and goals of the CARES study have
296 been summarized by (Zaveri et al., 2012). A summary of the instrumentation used to make the light
297 extinction, scattering and absorption measurements is provided in Table 1. Extinction was measured
298 either directly (using cavity ringdown spectroscopy) or as the sum of scattering and absorption. A brief
299 description of the key instruments used in the current analyses is given below.



300

301 **Table 1: Summary of optical instruments used at the T0 and T1 sites**

Property	Instrument	Wavelength	Size Cut*
<i>T0</i>			
Extinction	UCD CRD	405, 532 nm	2.5 μm
	PSU CRD	1064 nm	2.5 μm
Scattering	PNNL Nephelometer	450, 550, 700 nm	1 μm , 10 μm
Absorption	PNNL PSAP	470, 522, 660 nm	1 μm , 10 μm
<i>T1</i>			
Extinction	PSU CRD	355, 532, 1064 nm	None applied
Scattering	PNNL Nephelometer	450, 550, 700 nm	1 μm , 10 μm
Absorption	PNNL PSAP	470, 522, 660 nm	1 μm , 10 μm

*For the entries with two size cuts listed, the sampling system switched between the two on a 6 minute cycle

302

303 *Instruments used at the T0 site (American River College, Granite Bay, CA USA)*

304 Cavity Ring-down Extinction: The b_{ext} measurements at 405 nm and 532 nm were made using the UC
305 Davis two-wavelength Cavity Ring Down-Photoacoustic Spectrometer (CRD-PAS) instrument (Langridge
306 et al., 2011; Lack et al., 2012). Full details of these measurements are available in Cappa et al. (2016) and
307 Atkinson et al. (2015). These measurements were only made for a subset of the CARES campaign, from
308 20:00 PDT on 16 June through 09:00 PDT on 29 June. At 532 nm, b_{ext} was measured at low ($\sim 25\%$), mid
309 ($\sim 75\%$) and high ($\sim 85\%$) relative humidity. At 405 nm only low RH measurements were made, and so
310 only the low RH 532 nm measurements are used in this study. The CRD-PAS sampled behind a $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
311 (aerodynamic diameter $< 2.5 \mu\text{m}$) URG Teflon-coated aluminum cyclone. A separate CRD instrument
312 deployed by the PSU group at T0 used a single optical cavity to measure the sub- $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ (sampled
313 through a similar URG cyclone) aerosol extinction coefficient at 532 and 1064 nm simultaneously
314 (Radney et al., 2009). This instrument did not incorporate intentional RH control, but efforts were made
315 to maintain nearly ambient conditions, resulting in low RH (25 - 40 %) throughout most of the campaign,
316 as measured by an integrated RH/T sensor (Vaisala HMP70). Daytime ambient RH was similar to the low
317 RH value during the CARES campaign (Fast et al., 2012).

318 To obtain three-wavelength b_{ext} measurements for use in the SDA-FMC analysis, we combined the
319 measurements from the two CRD instruments. First, the 532 nm time series data were overlaid and
320 examined for differences: temporal correspondence between the data was demonstrated (except for a
321 clear difference in precision, the UCD CRD having approximately 3 times better precision than the PSU



322 instrument at comparable integration times). A scatterplot (Figure S1) between the two data sets
323 showed good correlation with a best fit line having a slope = 0.87 and an intercept that was statistically
324 indistinguishable from zero. With this assurance that the two instruments were measuring the same
325 aerosol with comparable measurement quality, the PSU 1064 nm data are used with the UCD 532 nm
326 and 405 nm low RH data for the SDA-FMC analysis.

327 Size-selected absorption and scattering (Nephelometer and PSAP): The low RH scattering and absorption
328 coefficients were alternately measured for PM₁₀ and PM₁ aerodynamic size selected aerosol using the
329 PNNL Aerosol Monitoring System, a clone of NOAA/CMDL's Aerosol Monitoring System (detailed
330 description at <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/aero/instrumentation/instrum.html> and in Zaveri et al.
331 (2012)). The relevant measurements are: light absorption coefficients at three-wavelengths (Radiance
332 Research Particle Soot Absorption Photometer [PSAP]) and total scattering coefficients (three-
333 wavelength nephelometer, TSI 3563). The absorption coefficients were adjusted to the nephelometer
334 wavelengths using an inverse wavelength dependence. The absorption and scattering coefficients for
335 PM₁ or PM₁₀ are then summed after averaging to one-hour intervals and using the mean of the 450 and
336 550 nm values to obtain $b_{ext}(500\text{ nm})$. The extinction fraction of the PM₁ (herein, the SMF) at the visible
337 wavelength (500 nm) is then calculated from their ratio

$$338 \quad SMF_{ext} = \frac{b_{ext,PM1}}{b_{ext,PM10}} \quad (4)$$

339 Particle size control was effected by 2 impactors (1 μm and 10 μm) upstream of the PSAP and
340 Nephelometer. The 10- μm impactor was always present in the sampling line, and the flow was switched
341 to run through the 1- μm impactor on 6-min intervals, yielding alternating 6-min measurements of
342 submicron and coarse (< 10 μm) particle modes.

343 Fine particle size distribution: The submicron dry particle mobility diameter ($d_{p,m}$) size distribution (12
344 nm to 737 nm) was measured using a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS) comprised of a charge
345 neutralizer, differential mobility analyzer and condensation particle counter (TSI 3081 DMA column and
346 model 3775 CPC). The SMPS data were corrected for multiply-charged particles and diffusional losses.
347 These size distribution measurements are used to calculate $R_{eff,f}$ values from Eqn. 1, which will be
348 referred to as $R_{eff,f,size}$. It should be noted that a mobility diameter of 737 nm corresponds to an
349 aerodynamic diameter of 919 nm (assuming a density of 1.5 g cm⁻³, a reasonable value for the campaign
350 based on the observed particle composition (Atkinson et al., 2015)).

351



352 *Instruments used at the T1 site (Evergreen School, Cool, CA USA)*

353 Cavity Ring-down Extinction: The PSU group deployed a custom CRD instrument that used separate
354 optical cavities to measure b_{ext} at 355 nm, 532 nm, and 1064 nm simultaneously in each of four separate
355 flow systems that were intended to measure total and submicron aerosol and submicron aerosol that
356 had been conditioned to have elevated and suppressed RH. Only the total aerosol flow results are used
357 here as this prototype system suffered from signal to noise problems and RH/temperature control
358 issues. As with the T0 PSU instrument, the total aerosol system attempts to measure particle extinction
359 at nearly ambient conditions, resulting in low RH (25 – 40 %) throughout most of the campaign, as
360 measured by an integrated RH/T sensor (Vaisala HMP70). No intentional size cut was applied to these
361 measurements, although the system was not optimized for transmission of coarse mode particles.

362 Size-selected absorption and scattering (Nephelometer and PSAP): An identical instrument suite to that
363 used at T0 was deployed and the same data analysis was conducted.

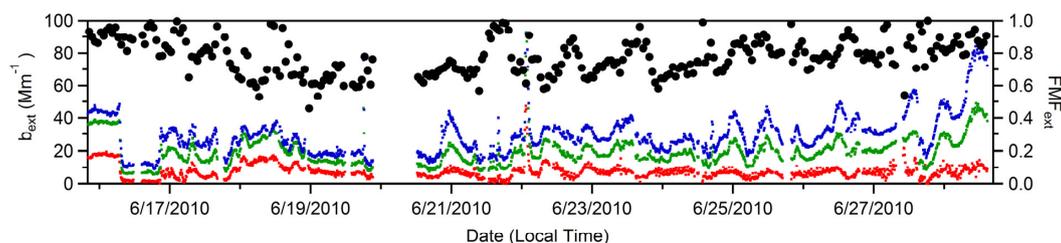
364 Fine particle size distribution: The SMPS used at T1 is a similar design described in (Setyan et al., 2012)
365 and it measured low RH particle sizes from 10 nm to 858 nm. The SMPS data were corrected to take into
366 account the DMA transfer function, the bipolar charge distribution, the CPC efficiency and the internal
367 diffusion losses. (Setyan et al., 2014)

368 **Results and Discussion**

369 *Fine mode fraction of extinction*

370 The CRD-based extinction measurements were used to derive the FMF_{ext} using the SDA. This will be
371 referred to as the $FMF_{ext,CRD}$. For the T0 site, the $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ is for $PM_{2.5}$ while at T1 no physical cut point
372 was introduced, so PM_{10} is a reasonable expectation. The time series of the CRD-based b_{ext} values and of
373 the derived $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ at the T0 site are shown in Figure 1 (all times in PDT – local time during the study).
374 The $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ varies from 0.55 to 1, with a mean of 0.78 ± 0.1 (1 σ).

375

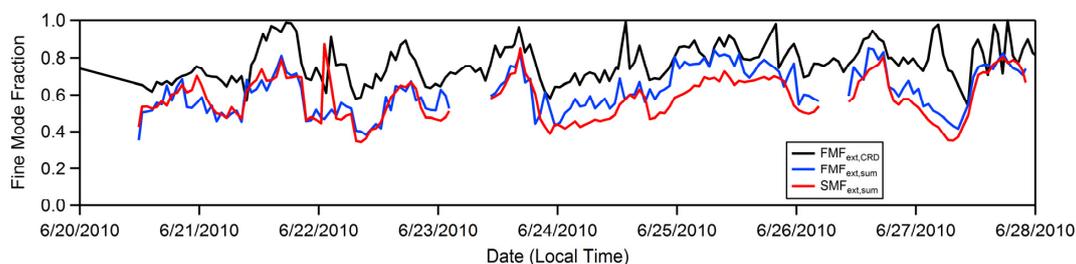


376

377 **Figure 1** – Time series of CRD extinction coefficient observations (left axis) and the derived
 378 $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ (right axis) at T0 during the time period analyzed in this work. The blue, green and red
 379 traces are the 405 nm, 532 nm and 1064 nm b_{ext} (respectively) and the black points show the 1 h
 380 average $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ from the SDA analysis. A $PM_{2.5}$ size cut was applied during the sampling.

381

382 The fine mode fraction of extinction at T0 was alternatively determined from the PM_{10} b_{ext}
 383 measurements from the nephelometer and PSAP, referred to as $FMF_{ext,sum}$. The SDA-derived $FMF_{ext,CRD}$
 384 and $FMF_{ext,sum}$ values are compared with the sub-micron fraction of extinction determined from the
 385 combined PM_1 and PM_{10} nephelometer and PSAP measurements (from the latter part of the campaign)
 386 at T0 (Fig. 2). The $FMF_{ext,CRD}$, $FMF_{ext,sum}$ and $SMF_{ext,sum}$ all exhibit the same general temporal dependence.
 387 In general, the $FMF_{ext,CRD} > FMF_{ext,sum} \sim SMF_{ext,sum}$ although the specific relationships vary with time. For
 388 example, there are periods when the $FMF_{ext,sum}$ and $SMF_{ext,sum}$ are nearly identical (e.g. 20 June – 23
 389 June) and periods when the $SMF_{ext,sum}$ is somewhat lower than the $FMF_{ext,sum}$ (e.g. 24 June – 25 June).



390

391 **Figure 2** – Time series of the fine mode fractions and sub-micron fraction of extinction at T0. The
 392 red trace is the $SMF_{ext,sum}$ determined from the $b_{ext}(PM_1) / b_{ext}(PM_{10})$ ratio. The black and blue
 393 traces are the FMF_{ext} from the SDA analysis of the CRD extinction (black) and nephelometer +
 394 PSAP extinction (blue). The $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ values are the same as those of Fig. 1 for the latter half of
 395 the campaign.

396

397 The $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ was determined for $PM_{2.5}$ while the $FMF_{ext,sum}$ was determined for PM_{10} . If a substantial
 398 fraction of the scattering was contributed by particles with diameters $>2.5 \mu m$, then the $FMF_{ext,CRD}$



399 should be larger than the $FMF_{ext,sum}$, as was observed. Kassianov et al. (2012) used measured particle size
400 distributions from CARES to show that supermicron particles contributed significantly to the total
401 scattering, consistent with the observation that $FMF_{ext,CRD} > FMF_{ext,sum}$. Variability in the difference
402 between the $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ and $FMF_{ext,sum}$ likely reflects variability in the contribution of these larger particles
403 to the total scattering.

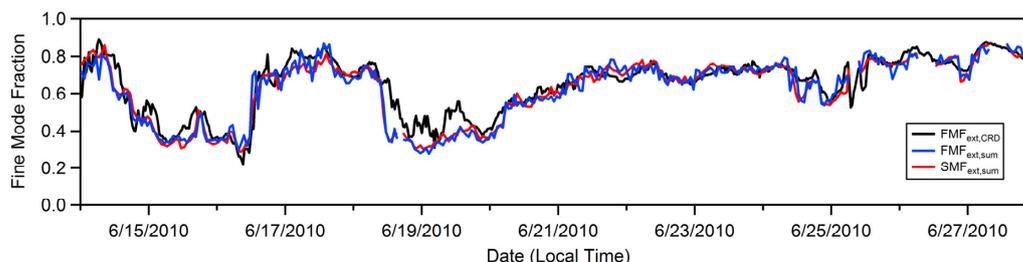
404 The $FMF_{ext,CRD}$, $FMF_{ext,sum}$ and $SMF_{ext,sum}$ were similarly determined from the measurements at the T1 site
405 (Figure 3). For T1, the CRD measurements were made for particles without any intentional size cut
406 applied, as opposed to the $PM_{2.5}$ size cut used for the T0 measurements. At this downwind site the
407 $SMF_{ext,sum}$, $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ and $FMF_{ext,sum}$ were all very similar, both in terms of the absolute magnitude and
408 the temporal variability. The $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ ranged from 0.3 to 0.85, with a mean of 0.66 ± 0.19 . That the
409 $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ and $FMF_{ext,sum}$ are very similar in absolute magnitude for T1 but differ at T0 (while still
410 exhibiting similar temporal variability) is likely related to the application of an intentional size cut for the
411 CRD measurements at T0 but not at T1. The observations suggest that the T1 CRD without the size cut
412 samples coarse-mode particles with a similar efficiency as the nephelometer and PSAP having the PM_{10}
413 size cut.

414 Overall, these results indicate that the use of the spectral deconvolution algorithm on optical data can
415 robustly provide information on the fine mode fraction of extinction. Moreover, since the FMF_{ext} results
416 at T1 are similar for the two types of extinction measurements, it seems that the narrower wavelength
417 range of the nephelometer (450, 550, 700 nm) and PSAP (470, 522, 660 nm) compared to the CRD
418 instruments used here is still adequate to define the spectral dependence of extinction for extraction of
419 the slope and curvature parameters. However, the differences observed at both sites highlight the fact
420 that there is not a precise definition of “fine” and “coarse” in terms of a specific size cut in the optical
421 method. The effective size cut is dependent on the shapes of the size distributions in the “fine” and
422 “coarse” size regimes and the extent of overlap between them, which is dependent on the size range of
423 particles sampled (e.g. $PM_{2.5}$ versus PM_{10}). Nonetheless, since the major sources of fine and coarse
424 mode particles are likely to be reasonably distinct in many environments, the $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ can provide a
425 characterization of the variability in the contributions of such sources to the total scattering.

426

427

428



429

430 **Figure 3** – the fine mode fraction of extinction (SMF and FMF_{ext}) for the latter half of the
431 campaign at T1. Here, the $FMF_{ext,CRD}$ is determined for particles sampled without a size cut
432 applied.

433

434 *Effective fine mode radius product of SDA-FMC*

435 The SDA-FMC analysis also allows for derivation of the fine mode effective radius, $R_{eff,f}$, via Eq. 3.

436 Determination of $R_{eff,f}$ requires knowledge of the real and imaginary parts of the refractive index. Here,
437 an average value of $m_r = 1.55$ is used, based on Atkinson et al. (2015), and absorption is assumed to be

438 negligible. The latter is a reasonable assumption given the relatively high single scatter albedo values at
439 the two sites (Cappa et al., 2016), and because assuming the particles to be slightly absorbing has

440 minimal influence on the results. Values of $R_{eff,f}$ are determined using both the CRD-measured b_{ext} and
441 the PM_{10} b_{ext} from the nephelometer + PSAP measurements for both T0 and T1 (Figure 4). $R_{eff,f}$ values

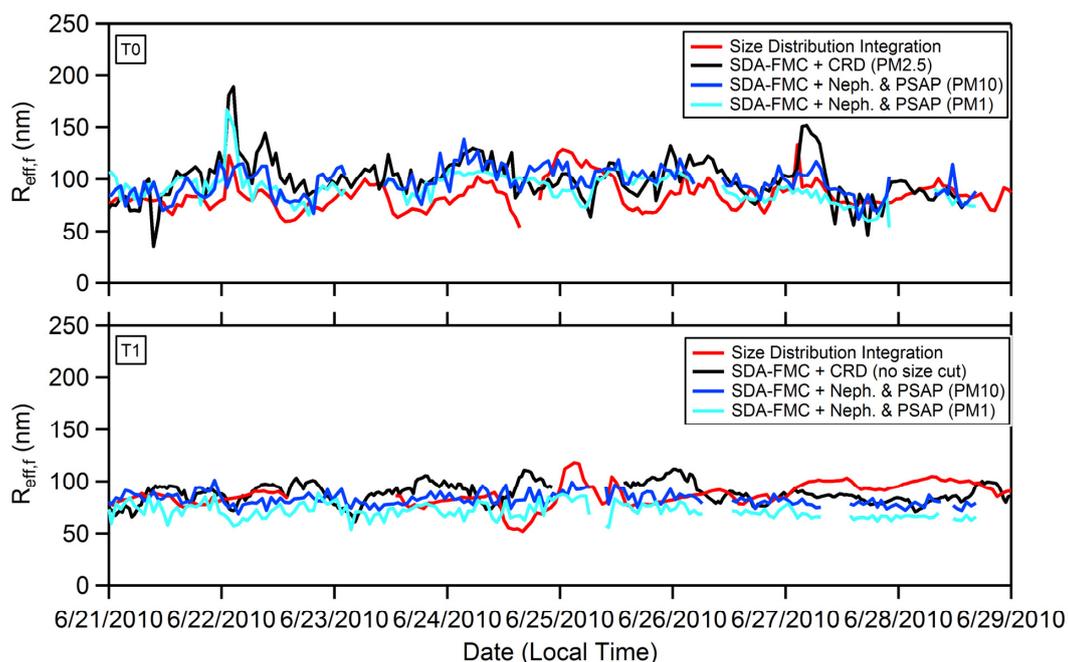
442 are also determined from the PM_1 nephelometer + PSAP measurements at both sites. Comparison of the
443 $R_{eff,f}$ values between the PM_{10} and PM_1 measurements provides a test of the robustness of the overall

444 retrieval method. The $R_{eff,f}$ from the CRD measurements will be referred to as $R_{eff,f,CRD}$ and from the

445 nephelometer + PSAP as $R_{eff,f,sum}$. Comparator values of $R_{eff,f}$ were also calculated from the observed

446 mobility size distributions using Eqn. 1, and are referred to as $R_{eff,f,size}$.

447



448

449 **Figure 4** – Time series of the effective fine mode radii, $R_{\text{eff},f}$, produced by the SDA-FMC analysis of the
450 CRD data (black) and the nephelometer + PSAP data (blue) from T0 (top) and T1 (bottom). For the
451 nephelometer + PSAP observations, separate results are shown using either the PM₁₀ (dark blue) or
452 PM₁ (light blue) observations. The $R_{\text{eff},f}$ values determined from the size distribution measurements (i.e.
453 from Eqn. 1) are shown in red.

454

455 The SDA-FMC-derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$ values from the CRD and from the nephelometer + PSAP exhibit reasonably
456 good agreement in terms of the absolute values and the temporal variability at both the T0 and T1 sites
457 (Table 2, Fig. 4). Notably, there is good agreement between the $R_{\text{eff},f,\text{sum}}$ values obtained from the PM₁₀
458 and PM₁ measurements. This provides an important validation of the SDA-FMC procedure, since the
459 coarse mode contribution to the PM₁₀ extinction is substantial and highly variable (Figure 2 and Figure
460 3).

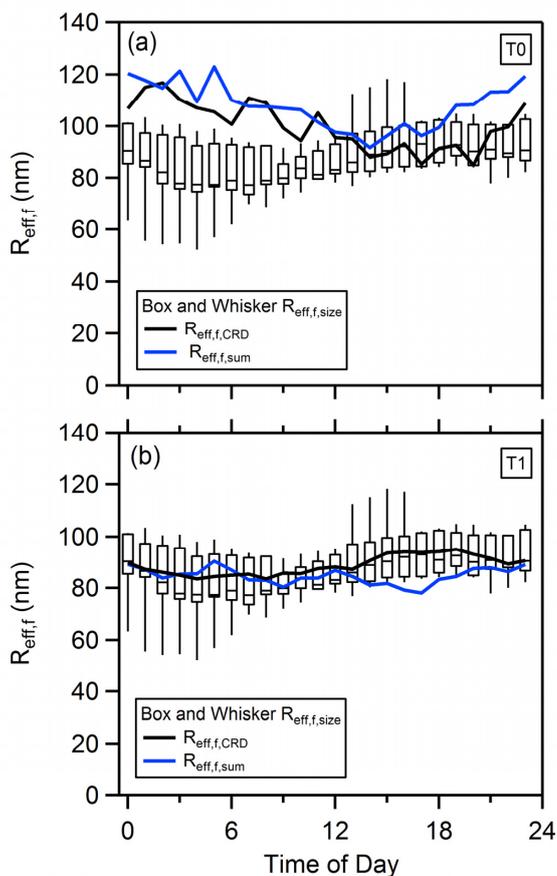
461 At T0, the derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$ values range from approximately 70 nm to 140 nm (Table 2), with a few short-
462 duration periods when $R_{\text{eff},f}$ is outside this range, reflecting short-duration variability in the particle
463 sources. At T1 the derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$ are generally less variable, ranging from approximately 65 nm to 110 nm,
464 with fewer particularly low or high periods. The mean $R_{\text{eff},f}$ values between the two sites are similar
465 (Table 2). At T0, there is a fair degree of temporal coherence of the SDA-FMC results and those obtained



466 from integration of the size distributions. The generally good temporal agreement between the
467 optically- and size-derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$ values are even observed during periods where the changes in radius
468 happened rapidly, for example near midnight between June 21-22. On that night there is some evidence
469 that paving operations near the T0 site produced a strong local source of asphalt particles in the coarse
470 mode with a long tail into the sub-micron regime (Zaveri et al., 2012; Cappa et al., 2016). This short-
471 duration source of large particles pushed the $R_{\text{eff},f}$ temporarily towards larger values. (The $R_{\text{eff},f}$ changes
472 from the nephelometer + PSAP at this time were smaller than from the CRD or size distribution
473 observations. Most likely this reflects the alternating 6-min sampling of the nephelometer and the very
474 short duration of the event leading to discrepancies in the 1 h average.)

475 Despite the generally good correspondence between $R_{\text{eff},f,\text{size}}$ and the optically derived values, the $R_{\text{eff},f,\text{size}}$
476 values were often (but not always) smaller (Table 2). This is most clearly seen when comparing the
477 average diurnal profiles of the $R_{\text{eff},f}$ values from the different methods, as shown in Figure 5. All three
478 $R_{\text{eff},f}$ estimates exhibit similar diurnal behavior at T0, even though the $R_{\text{eff},f}$ from the SDA-FMC method
479 are larger than $R_{\text{eff},f,\text{size}}$. The diurnal variability in the $R_{\text{eff},f}$ is more pronounced at T0 than at T1. The
480 diurnal trend in the effective radius of the fine mode at T0 from all methods exhibits a minimum at
481 around mid-day and then an increase to a maximum right near daybreak. Particle number and sizes at
482 both sites were influenced by frequent regional new particle formation and growth events during CARES
483 (see Figure S2). The events tended to start in the morning with a sharp increase of 10 - 20 nm particles
484 followed by growth of these particles to 50 – 100 nm in the afternoon as discussed in Setyan et al.
485 (2014). The next day the cycle repeats (on average) with the introduction of the new small particles
486 which has the effect of decreasing the average particle radius (Setyan et al., 2014). Although observed at
487 both sites, the new particle formation events had a greater impact on the size distributions at T0,
488 especially in terms of surface area-weighted size distributions that determine $R_{\text{eff},f}$. In part, this is likely
489 because of continued growth of the new particle mode as it transits from T0 to T1.

490



491

492 **Figure 5** – The diurnal dependence of $R_{\text{eff},f}$ for the period shown in Fig. 4 for the (a) T0 and (b) T1
493 sites. The box and whisker plot (bottom and top of box are 5% and 95% of data range, bar is
494 mean, and whiskers extend to full range) shows the results from the direct size distribution
495 measurement ($R_{\text{eff},f,\text{size}}$), while the lines show the mean diurnal dependence of the optically
496 derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$, using the CRD (black) and nephelometer + PSAP (blue) measurements.

497

498 One possible explanation for the differences between the optically and size-derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$, in particular at
499 T0, may be inaccurate specification of the refractive index. Temporal variations in or an overall offset of
500 the real refractive index used here from the true value would lead to errors in the optically derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$.
501 The refractive index is used to convert the derived van de Hulst parameter to $R_{\text{eff},f}$ (Eqn. 3). Given the
502 form of the relationship, an absolute error in the real RI of 0.1—likely an upper limit—corresponds to an
503 error in the derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$ of 20%, with larger values of the real RI leading to smaller derived $R_{\text{eff},f}$. The
504 imaginary component was assumed zero. The effective imaginary RI is likely ≤ 0.01 , given the range of



505 single scatter albedo values observed (Cappa et al., 2016). Thus, the assumption of zero for the
506 imaginary RI introduces negligible error. The actual real RI depends on the particle composition since
507 different chemical components (e.g. sulfate, organics, dust) have different RI values. Here, the RI values
508 used were determined based only on measurements of the non-refractory PM composition and only an
509 average value was used (Atkinson et al., 2015). To the extent that refractory components, in particular
510 dust or sea salt, contributed to the fine mode scattering, their influence on the real RI would not be
511 accounted for. However, dust and sea salt contributions are most likely confined primarily to the coarse
512 mode. Thus, the fine mode real refractive index is unlikely to be strongly affected by their presence and
513 the real RI can probably be constrained to a fairly narrow range around 1.5. The relative uncertainty of
514 the $R_{\text{eff},f}$ derived from the SDA-FMC method has been estimated as ranging from 40% to 70%. This range
515 of values was computed from a quadrature combination of the estimated errors (20-50%) in the SDA-
516 FMC retrieval (O'Neill et al., 2003), the CRD measurements (< 5% for the UCD and T0 PSU instrument
517 and 20% for the T1 PSU instrument) and the refractive index term above (estimated maximum of 20%).
518 In this context, the agreement shown in Fig. 4 is acceptable and may suggest that the above error
519 estimates are overly conservative.

520 **Table 2:** Summary statistics for $R_{\text{eff},f}$ values (nm)

Site	Method	Maximum (nm)	Minimum (nm)	Mean (nm)	Standard Deviation (nm)
T0	SDA-FMC + CRD (PM _{2.5})	189	35	100	21
T0	SDA-FMC + Neph. & PSAP (PM ₁₀)	139	62	97	14
T0	Size Distribution Integration	133	54	85	14
T1	SDA-FMC + CRD (no size cut)	160	42	93	18
T1	SDA-FMC + Neph. & PSAP (PM ₁₀)	101	69	83	6
T1	Size Distribution Integration	118	52	88	11

521 Conclusions

522 This work demonstrates that the use of a non-size-selected, three wavelength CRD measurement in
523 continuous field monitoring, coupled with the SDA-FMC analysis, can provide information about the
524 relative contribution of the fine mode to the observed total particle extinction. The retrieved value of
525 the fine mode fraction of extinction is dependent upon the size range of particles sampled and the
526 overall nature of the particle size distribution. The relationship between the FMF_{ext} and the SMF_{ext} ,
527 determined from near-coincident measurement of extinction by PM₁ and PM₁₀, provides insights into
528 the effective FMF_{ext} split size. For one of the sites considered here the split point size is around 1 μm
529 while for the other it is somewhat larger than 1 μm and perhaps more variable. In many environments,



530 variability in aerosol properties on short (<10 min) timescales is relatively minimal. In such cases, a single
531 instrument can be used to sequentially sample PM_{10} and PM_{10} , allowing for *in situ* measurement of both
532 the FMF_{ext} and SMF_{ext} . However, remote sensing measurements characterize only the FMF_{ext} , (or at best,
533 an optically influenced size cut as is done in the AERONET retrievals of Dubovik & King, 2000). Thus,
534 further consideration of *in situ* measurement results, such as those investigated in this study, can
535 provide insights into the interpretation of the FMF_{ext} determined from remote sensing in different
536 environments.

537 The SDA-FMC approach also allows for determination of the effective fine mode radius. The $R_{eff,f}$
538 characterizes the surface-area weighted size of the particles within the fine mode distribution. The
539 similarity of the results in Figure 4 for application of the SDA-FMC to both size-selected and non-size-
540 selected aerosol as well as the comparison with results derived from the PSD measurements verify that
541 “whole air” measurements (i.e., no imposed size-selection) can provide reliable fine mode radii at least
542 for large FMF values.

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549 solely those of the authors and the funding agencies do not endorse any products or commercial
550 services mentioned in this publication.



551 **Appendix A – Glossary of Symbols and Acronyms used**

552	Å	Ångström exponent (from wavelength pair)
553	α	Spectral derivative of optical property
554	α'	Curvature (second derivative of optical property in log-log space)
555	α_f or α'_f	Fine mode version of properties (also coarse mode properties α_c)
556	AOD	Aerosol optical depth
557	b_{ext} , b_{scat} , b_{abs}	Optical coefficient for extinction, scattering, absorption (inverse length units)
558	CRD	Cavity ring down
559	$R_{\text{eff},s}$	Effective radius for fine mode
560	FMF (aka η)	Fine mode fraction of an optical property, usually extinction
561	SMF	Sub-micron fraction (particle mode with radius or diameter smaller than 1 μm)
562	ρ_f	fine mode van de Hulst parameter (product of refractive index and effective radius)
563	SDA	Spectral Deconvolution Algorithm
564	FMC	Fine Mode Curvature approach
565	PM_1	Particulate matter with diameter (or radius) smaller than 1 μm (also $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, PM_{10})
566	PSAP	Particle soot absorption photometer instrument
567		



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