I thank the referee for carefully reading the manuscript and for the constructive comments that help improving the paper. The comments are listed in full below (in black font), while the replies are given in blue font; text that has been added to the manuscript is shown in red font.

Andreas Kürten presents the extension of his previous model for sulfuric acid – dimethylamine nucleation. The model is extended to include evaporation intended for modelling sulfuric acid - ammonia nucleation. The main goal of the work is to derive new thermochemical parameters from CLOUD data. Understanding the mechanisms of sulfuric acid nucleation is of general interest and the presented model provides a great addition to the toolbox.

The manuscript is well written and structured and I can recommend publication in Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics and the following minor comments have been addressed.

(1) Line 161: How computationally heavy are these simulations? It would be beneficial to indicate the runtime that a typical simulation takes.

The simulation using one set of thermodynamic parameters for calculating the error from equation (3) (for 125 CLOUD experiments) takes ~10 seconds on a desktop personal computer (3.4 GHz i7 processor). For the Markov chain 500,000 steps were performed (100,000 per chain); this amounts to a total calculation time of ~60 days. However, as mentioned, a single simulation of a new particle formation event only takes ~0.1 s (10 s / 125) on average.

The following information was added to the end of the first paragraph of Section 2.2:

"Compared with the earlier study by Kürten et al. (2018) the number of bins is reduced in order to reduce computation time; the simulation of one new particle formation event (several hours of nucleation) takes ~0.1 s on a personal computer with a 3.4 GHz processor."

(2) Line 167-169: The maximum amount of ammonia molecules in the simulations are not allowed to exceed the number of acid molecules. How well is this assumption justified? Based on quantum chemical data (Olenius et al 2013, Elm et al 2017) on sulfuric acid - ammonia clusters this assumption seems somewhat reasonable, but it might be worth at least checking that the omission of clusters with one more base molecule than acid molecule present is not a large source of errors.

The dominating evaporation channel of a cluster $A_xB_{y=x+1}$ should be the loss of an ammonia (B) molecule. Further, the evaporation rate of B from $A_xB_{y=x+1}$ should be faster compared with the loss of B from A_xB_x. Therefore, the growth of clusters along the acid axis should occur via A_xB_x rather than $A_xB_{y=x+1}$ (because the concentration of $A_xB_{y=x+1}$ should be lower). From these arguments the error from the omission of $A_xB_{y=x+1}$ clusters should be relatively small. Testing this reasoning with further simulations would require a far-reaching update of the model (further differential equations, see SI Text S1 as well as 8 free parameters more, etc.) which would require significantly more computation time. Most likely the result would be that the effect of the $A_xB_{y=x+1}$ addition is small.

Supporting arguments that the concentrations of $A_xB_{y=x+1}$ clusters are small compared with those of $A_xB_{y\leq x}$ can be found from mass spectrometric measurements. In the study by Kirkby et al. (2011) and Schobesberger et al. (2015) no clusters were identified for the sulfuric acid-ammonia system where more base than acid was detected by a high resolution mass spectrometer, i.e., the measured ion clusters were all of the sort $HSO_4^-(H_2SO_4)_a(NH_3)_{b\leq a-1}$. The observation that they always contained one less ammonia than neutral sulfuric acid can be explained by the fact these were not electrical neutral clusters but ion clusters with one bisulfate ion. This HSO_4^- acts as an electron donor (= Lewis base) and therefore the clusters with equal ammonia and acid seem not to be stable. Of course, these observations apply for charged clusters but qualitatively their chemistry supports the fast evaporation rates for clusters with more B than A found by the quantum chemical calculations.

Further information concerning the justification for the chosen nucleation scheme was added to Section 2.2 (second paragraph):

"The assumption that no clusters are allowed that contain more base than acid is based on fast evaporation rates that have been found for such clusters from quantum chemical calculations (Schobesberger et al., 2015; Elm et al 2017; Yu et al., 2018); the assumption is further supported by mass spectrometric measurements that could not identify such clusters (Kirkby et al., 2011; Schobesberger et al., 2015)."

The reference to Schobesberger et al. (2015) was added to the reference list.

(3) Line 170-172: In the pentamer and larger clusters there is not differentiated regarding the amount of bases. How large a source of errors does this assumption lead to? Surely, the 5 sulfuric acid cluster without any bases or only 1-2 ammonia molecules present are not very stable.

I agree that the pentamers with a low base content are likely not very stable. That is the reason why the binary nucleation is not well represented at elevated temperature and also the ternary nucleation at high temperature and low ammonia concentration (see Figure 5). However, even for relatively low ammonia concentrations nucleation seems to proceed mainly via the tetramer with three ammonia molecules (Figure R1 below). The found d*G* value for this cluster is -16.5 kcal mol^{-1} at 278 K. Therefore, the larger clusters with low ammonia content probably do not play a significant role. For most atmospheric situations where nucleation at warm temperature involves sulfuric acid and ammonia, the ammonia concentration is probably higher than the sulfuric acid concentration. Therefore, for each arriving acid also at least one ammonia molecule can be added. This is supported by an observed ~1:1 ratio between acid and base in clusters (Kirkby et al., 2011; Kürten et al., 2014). For very low ammonia concentrations and high temperatures SANTIAGO should not be used for exactly that reason. The clusters with low ammonia content become more relevant and their negligence beyond the tetramer causes inaccuracies (Figure 5); however, for the stated ranges the truncation error is probably small.

A quantitative analysis of this effect would be very interesting; however, same as for comment (2) a lot of effort would be necessary to perform such a study. The effect of truncation is further discussed in Section 4.2.

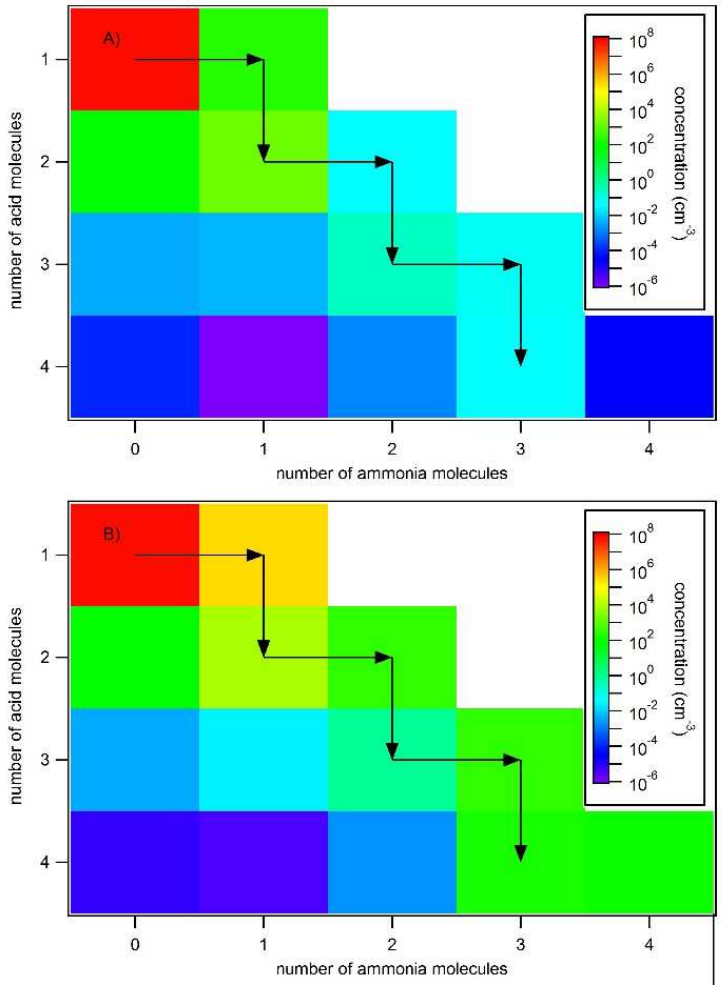

Figure R1: *Cluster concentrations (number of acid molecules on the y-axis and number of ammonia molecules on the x-axis) for two different scenarios. A) Ammonia concentration of 2.5×10^{7} cm^{-3} and B) ammonia concentration of 2.5×10^{10} cm^{-3}. The sulfuric acid concentration is 6.5×10^{7} cm^{-3} and temperature is 278 K for both simulations.*

(4) Line 182-185: While the results would most likely not be drastically different, the simplification of the evaporation rates, put a very strict constrain on the nucleation mechanism. Can it be quantified how much this simplification influences the results?

I agree that it would be good to compare the results with further model calculations that include all possible evaporation channels. As mentioned in the manuscript this would increase the number of free parameters drastically (from 22 to 40) and due to the non-linearity of the problem the computation time by a big factor. Therefore, this simplification can at the moment not be evaluated quantitatively.

In the manuscript some discussion regarding the simplification is included at the end of Section 4.2.

(5) Line 188-193: It seems like an odd choice to take some of the cluster thermodynamics from a different study and not fitting them like the remaining. Why was this choice made?

This choice was made based on two reasons:

i) The number of free parameters should be as small as possible in order to keep the computation time reasonably small. At the moment 22 free parameters are being used, including the pure acid dimer and trimer would increase this number to 26.

ii) The cluster evaporation rates of the pure acid dimer and trimer were explicitly measured by Hanson and Lovejoy (2006) and it was shown, e.g., by Ehrhart et al. (2016) that they can be used to predict the new particle formation rates in the binary system accurately. In fact, Ehrhart et al. (2016) used a subset of the CLOUD new particle formation rates from the present study (based on the Dunne et al., 2016 and Kürten et al., 2016 data) to test the SAWNUC (Sulfuric Acid Water NUCleation) model for sulfuric acid-water binary nucleation. In my opinion, additional uncertainty would therefore be introduced by fitting/optimizing these evaporation rates in the present study as it can be accepted that they describe the binary nucleation channel quite accurately.

In order to justify the choice made the following was added to Section 2.2 (4th paragraph):

"The thermodynamic parameters for the two smallest pure acid clusters (A_2 and A_3) are taken from a study where the parameters were derived from flow tube measurements (Hanson and Lovejoy, 2006). Ehrhart et al. (2016) showed that a numeric model for sulfuric acid-water binary nucleation using those data can well replicate new particle formation rates measured at CLOUD."

(6) Line 408-411: It should be mentioned that coagulation can also be the cause of the curvature in the line.

I agree, this comment was also made by Reviewer 1 (comment (3)); the relevant sentence was changed to:

"The curvature is due to the fact that the survival probability of subcritical clusters (i.e., clusters below the nonamer) can be strongly affected by wall loss or pre-existing particles (Ehrhart and Curtius, 2013)."

(7) Line 481-482: Looking at Table 1 it appears that the quantum chemical values taken from Ortega et al 2012, fits quite well with the estimated values using the optimization method. This is also evident from comparing Figure 2 with Figure S1. Perhaps it should be further emphasized that the optimization of the values is more or less redundant and that quantum chemically obtained entropy values are quite accurate.

I agree that this comment should be considered. The revised manuscript now includes the following statement in the last sentence of the first paragraph in Section 4.1.1:

"However, no large differences can be found between the initialized and optimized values, which can be interpreted such that the quantum chemical calculations yield accurate results for dS."

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