

Reply to comments from Reviewer#2:

We would like to thank your helpful comments to improve our manuscript. All comments are responded and addressed in the current revise. Also, we added more careful analysis, for example aerosol lifetime and size distributions in air mass origins of BL and FT. Details are listed as follows.

***Comment from Referee:*** The literature review is very poor, most of the references are not cited in the reference list, there is no mention to many Antarctic papers referring to other chemical component driving new particle formation (Sipila et al 2015, Jokinen et al., 2018), as many others discussing NPF in other stations (some of the Dr Weller studies are cited but much more recent work is not discussed).

**Reply from Author:** We added more explanation and comparison between our data and previous studies including recent studies as suggested from you.

***Comment from Referee:*** Figure 10 seem to report a schematic presenting hypothesis. This seem to be related to the Ito et al., 1993 paper - but poor support is given by the data analyzed.

**Reply from Author:** Certainly, Ito (1993) provided schematic figure about likelihood of NPF in the Antarctic free troposphere. The most important issues on NPF in our hypothesis are NPF both in FT and BL, NPF enhanced by more UV radiation due to ozone hole, and their impact on aerosol population and clouds. These points were not included in Ito (1993). NPF in the Antarctic free troposphere was identified by previous works (Hara et al., 2011; Humphries et al., 2016; Lachlan-Cope et al., 2020). We added more careful analysis about aerosol lifetime in the Antarctic troposphere (section of 3.4 and Figure 8) in the revised manuscript. Vertical variations of aerosol lifetime (e-folding time) showed the e-folding time at upper troposphere (ca. 8.3 km, 300 hPa) was 3 – 4 times longer than that at surface. Consequently, we conclude that the e-folding time of 1 – 2 months might be available for aerosol particles with size of  $D_p > 20\text{-}30$  nm in the Antarctic free troposphere. The longer lifetime is realistic range enough to lead to relation among NPF in the periods with ozone hole, aerosol population and CCN ability in the summer.

***Comment from Referee:*** line 12 put year of measurements

**Reply from Author:** The year was added in the revised manuscript.

***Comment from Referee:*** line 16 put some %, at the moment paper is Very descriptive

**Reply from Author:** Abundance (percentage) was added in the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 24 not sure it is seen in the data

**Reply from Author:** Vertical profiles of UV amounts have never been measured in the Antarctic troposphere to our knowledge. However, vertical variations of light intensity including UV show greater intensity at higher altitudes because of atmospheric scattering and absorption. This is basic knowledge in textbook.

**Comment from Referee:** line 40-50 poor literature review and most of the papers are not in the ref list

**Reply from Author:** Recent works and more explanation including review about NPF and condensable vapors in the Antarctic troposphere were added in the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 55-70 other chemical components are mentioned and found in other papers (amines, iodine, organics, ect)

**Reply from Author:** More explanation (review) about chemistry of condensable vapors (e.g., amines, iodine species, NH<sub>3</sub>) in the Antarctic troposphere were added in the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 90-120 check equations with previous papers (Delmaso et al, and others)

**Reply from Author:** Dal Maso et al. (2002) was cited in the revised manuscript. Procedures to calculate coagulation sink were changed in the revised manuscript in accordance with Dal Maso et al. (2002).

**Comment from Referee:** line why 500 metres above ground? it is suggested to make a whole new analysis and a new calculation with multi ending point at ground level

**Reply from Author:** Considering uncertainty of the trajectory analysis in troposphere and high uncertainty at lower altitudes, we set initial height of 500m corresponding to upper boundary layer over Syowa, which were observed by the tethered balloon measurements in 2005 at Syowa Station (Hara et al., 2011a, 2013). We added some mention in the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 160 not sure if this is a valid classification, surely I am not familiar with these types of multifitting and not compared with other existing studies

(including polar aerosol size distributions and PMF and K means clustering).

**Reply from Author:** Multi-fitting by log-normal distribution is common way to compare aerosol size distributions. Some explanation and comparison with other works using multi-fitting in the Antarctic (e.g., Järvinen et al., 2013; Weller et al., 2015) were added into the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 155 not sure if the classification is valid. Additionally, the title reports a full analysis but in essence this paper only talks about nucleation (and poorly analyzed)

**Reply from Author:** More explanation about modal distribution other than tri- and quad-modal structures were added into the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 150-160 not sure these are nucleation events, not clear from only one size distributions. How many full events, what types, duration, growth rate, examples, case studies).

**Reply from Author:** Because of lower aerosol number concentrations during winter – early spring, hourly-mean aerosol size distributions were obtained hardly through the year to identify NPF and to analyze growth rate after NPF. Thus, daily mean aerosol size distribution was analyzed and discussed in the present study. Details of respective NPF events during the periods with higher aerosol concentrations will be discussed elsewhere.

**Comment from Referee:** Again, there is not a % or any number, very qualitative

**Reply from Author:** Abundance (percentage) was added in the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 180-190 Blowing snow and sea spray, many studies are available in the literature in Antarctic regions and not described and compared here.

**Reply from Author:** We added more explanation and the specific references about sea-salt aerosols originated from the snow surface in the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 184. "and so on" seem a very poor way of reporting scientific pathways.

**Reply from Author:** We modified the sentence ("and so on" was removed in the revised manuscript).

**Comment from Referee:** line 210 the Na is not measured and not sure it is a valid method

to report. It is calculated and not sure valid.

**Reply from Author:** The concentrations of  $\text{Na}^+$  were determined simultaneously with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3^-$  using ion chromatograph in this study (e.g., Hara et al., 2018). The procedures were listed in section of 2.1.

**Comment from Referee:** line 280-330 discussion and conclusions are more of a speculation section, not sure the data are showing this, and it is difficult to see SMPS data given the analysis carried out is poor.

**Reply from Author:** We believe that the most important issue of this point is which aerosol particles derived from NPF in the Antarctic free troposphere can be survived to be grown to the critical diameter for CCN activation, or not. Furthermore, Williams et al. (2002) presented clearly that lifetime of aerosol particles with size of  $D_p < 60$  nm in free troposphere was controlled by coagulation loss. In the revised manuscript, therefore, we focused on the aerosol lifetime by coagulation loss in troposphere. To our knowledge, number size distributions of aerosol particles with size with  $D_p < 100$  nm are still unknown in the Antarctic free troposphere through the year. Therefore, we assumed that aerosol mixing ratios (i.e., number in respective size bins) in the free troposphere were as same as those at surface. Then, aerosol lifetime (e-folding time) was estimated using coagulation sink in each size. Vertical variations of the e-folding time showed clearly vertical gradient with longer lifetime at higher altitudes in all sizes ( $D_p = 1 - 50$  nm). The e-folding time at upper troposphere (ca. 8.3 km, 300 hPa) was 3 – 4 times longer than that at surface. Under the conditions with the assumption above (same mixing ratios), the e-folding time of aerosol particles larger than 30 nm exceed 30 days in middle free troposphere. Although size distributions of aerosol particles with size of  $D_p < 100$  nm are still unknown in the Antarctic free troposphere, size distribution of aerosol particles with size larger than 300 nm was available over Syowa (1 – 2 order lower in free troposphere than at surface; Kizu et al., 2010). If vertical gradient of aerosol number concentrations and size distributions of aerosol particles smaller than 100 nm was similar to that of aerosols with  $D_p > 300$  nm under the background conditions, the longer e-folding time in the free troposphere is expected. Consequently, we conclude that the e-folding time of 1 – 2 months might be available for aerosol particles with size of  $D_p > 30$  nm in the Antarctic free troposphere, with vertical gradient of the number concentrations of pre-existing particles. This discussion was added into the revised manuscript.

**Comment from Referee:** line 525 figure 10 is very speculative and does not take into

account any paper published since the Ito et al 1993 paper. It also speculate that only FT NPF can make CCN whereas the BL NPF cannot make CCN.

**Reply from Author:** As stated above, vertical variations of e-folding time showed clear vertical gradient with longer lifetime at higher altitudes in all sizes ( $D_p = 1 - 50$  nm). The e-folding time in the upper troposphere was 3 – 4 times longer than that in boundary layer. The shorter lifetime in BL implies strongly that aerosol particles from NPF in BL were removed efficiently by coagulation except large growth rate and that aerosol particles from NPF were survived for longer time (1 – 2 months) in the free troposphere. This discussion was added into the revised manuscript. Knowledge obtained by other works since Ito (1993) was added into the schematic figure.