

1 **Retrieval of Cloud Condensation Nuclei Number Concentration Profiles from**  
2 **Lidar Extinction and Backscatter Data**

3  
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20 **Key Points:**

- 21
- 22 • An algorithm is proposed to retrieve vertical profiles of CCN from lidar measurements
  - 23 • The potential of the algorithm is demonstrated with numerical simulations and observations
  - 24 • CCN retrievals from lidar are in good agreement with in situ measurements

25 **Abstract**

26 The vertical distribution of aerosols and their capability of serving as cloud condensation nuclei  
27 (CCN) are important for improving our understanding of aerosol indirect effects. Although  
28 ground-based and airborne CCN measurements have been made, they are generally scarce,  
29 especially at cloud base where it is needed most. We have developed an algorithm for profiling  
30 CCN number concentrations using backscatter coefficients at 355, 532, and 1064 nm and  
31 extinction coefficients at 355 and 532 nm from multi-wavelength lidar systems. The algorithm  
32 considers three distinct types of aerosols (urban industrial, biomass burning, and dust) with  
33 bimodal size distributions. The algorithm uses look-up tables, which were developed based on the  
34 ranges of aerosol size distributions obtained from the Aerosol Robotic Network, to efficiently find  
35 optimal solutions. CCN number concentrations at five supersaturations (0.07–0.80%) are  
36 determined from the retrieved particle size distributions. Retrieval simulations were performed  
37 with different combinations of systematic and random errors in lidar-derived extinction and  
38 backscatter coefficients: systematic errors range from -20% to 20% and random errors are up to  
39 15%, which fall within the typical error ranges for most current lidar systems. The potential of this  
40 algorithm to retrieve CCN concentrations is further evaluated through comparisons with surface-  
41 based CCN measurements with near surface lidar retrievals. This retrieval algorithm would be  
42 valuable for aerosol-cloud interaction studies for which virtually none has employed CCN at cloud  
43 base because of the lack of such measurements.

## 44 **1. Introduction**

45 Atmospheric aerosol particles affect climate indirectly by acting as cloud condensation nuclei  
46 (CCN) [Carslaw *et al.*, 2010; Paasonen *et al.*, 2013]. CCN are those aerosol particles on which  
47 cloud droplets form when the supersaturation in a cloud is high enough for the particles to grow  
48 by water condensation until they reach a critical radius, beyond which condensational growth  
49 continues spontaneously unless the supersaturation decreases rapidly [Nenes *et al.* 2001b;  
50 Mamouri and Ansmann, 2016]. Anthropogenic emissions of aerosol particles are a major source  
51 of CCN, which influence cloud microphysical and radiative properties, and consequently climate  
52 change [Boucher *et al.*, 2013]. Therefore, an accurate knowledge of the spatial distribution of  
53 aerosols and their capability of serving as CCN is fundamental to understanding aerosol indirect  
54 effects. As emphasized by Fan *et al.* [2016], obtaining concurrent measurements of aerosol  
55 properties and cloud microphysical and dynamic properties over a range of temporal and spatial  
56 scales is critical to advance our understanding of aerosol-cloud interactions.

57 CCN can be measured in situ from the ground [Feingold and Grund, 1994; Roberts and Nenes,  
58 2005] and from aircraft [Rosenfeld *et al.*, 2008; Li *et al.*, 2015a, b], or inferred from satellite  
59 observations [Grandey and Stier, 2010; Gryspeerd *et al.*, 2014; Shinozuka *et al.*, 2015; Rosenfeld  
60 *et al.*, 2016]. Long-term monitoring of CCN properties at different observation sites has been  
61 chiefly made on the ground. Other than limited horizontal cover and many other issues  
62 [Paramonov *et al.*, 2013], near-surface CCN properties could be significantly different from CCN  
63 properties near the cloud base due to vertical aerosol inhomogeneities, especially air pollution  
64 under stable atmospheric boundary conditions. Except for Rosenfeld *et al.* [2016], satellite-based  
65 CCN estimations mainly use aerosol optical depth as a proxy for aerosol loading to take advantage  
66 of its global coverage. It is still challenging and highly uncertain [Andreae, 2009; Liu and Li, 2014]  
67 with many other limitations such as a lower temporal resolution, cloud contamination, and aerosol  
68 swelling in the moist environment near clouds [Koren *et al.*, 2007]. Airborne measurements can  
69 provide CCN measurements near cloud base, but are expensive to collect and are limited to a few  
70 field experiments [Feingold *et al.*, 1998; Li *et al.*, 2015a, b]. The capability of routinely measuring  
71 new CCN at cloud base to study aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions effectively is still lacking  
72 [Burkart *et al.*, 2011].

73 Vertically-resolved aerosol measurements offered by lidars provide the potential to measure  
74 CCN near cloud base. *Feingold et al.* [1998] developed an approach that used a combination of  
75 several remote sensing instruments, such as the Ka-band Doppler radar, the microwave radiometer,  
76 and the lidar, to derive the activation of CCN as a function of supersaturation level. However, this  
77 approach is based on the Junge power-law aerosol size distribution [*Junge, 1952*] that is only  
78 applicable for a clean troposphere and stratosphere. *Ghan and Collins* [2004] and *Ghan et al.* [2006]  
79 developed a technique to estimate CCN at cloud base based on the relationship between the aerosol  
80 extinction from lidar and CCN concentrations from near-surface measurements. However, their  
81 methods rely on the assumption that the aerosol composition and the shape of the aerosol size  
82 distribution at the surface are representative of the vertical column. Thus, their retrievals may have  
83 high uncertainties if the vertical profile of the shape of the aerosol size distribution differs  
84 markedly from that at the surface. In addition to their common use in profiling atmospheric  
85 temperature and humidity [*Wandinger, 2005*], multi-wavelength Raman lidars and High Spectral  
86 Resolution Lidars (HSRL) have been increasingly used in recent years to retrieve aerosol and CCN  
87 properties [*Müller et al., 1999; Chemyakin et al., 2014; Mamouri and Ansmann, 2016*]. This type  
88 of lidar allows for independent inferences of particle backscatter and extinction coefficients  
89 without the need for assuming any atmospheric parameters. Multi-wavelength Raman lidars can  
90 thus be used to quantify the main aerosol microphysical parameters and CCN properties with fewer  
91 a priori assumptions. The retrieval of aerosol microphysical properties is mainly based on the  
92 regularization algorithm [*Müller et al., 1999, 2000, 2014; Veselovskii et al., 2002, 2004, 2013;*  
93 *Chemyakin et al., 2014, 2016*]. Most of these early studies focused on aerosol size distribution and  
94 total aerosol concentration retrievals, and used the regularization technique, which lead to higher  
95 sensitivities with a 1-sigma value of 61.4–95.2% for different aerosol types [*Pérez-Ramírez et al.,*  
96 *2013*]. This is because total aerosol concentration is very sensitive to aerosols with diameters  
97 smaller than 50 nm and lidar observations offer almost no constraint for them. To our knowledge,  
98 limited attempts have been made to quantify CCN concentrations from multi-wavelength lidar  
99 measurements. *Feingold and Grund* [1994] explored the potential of using multi-wavelength lidar  
100 measurements, but they only performed a simulation by using the theoretical wavelengths of 289,  
101 532, 1064, 2020 and 11150 nm that some wavelengths are not available in real measurements.  
102 From the simulation, they only provided some relationships between multi-wavelength backscatter  
103 coefficients with the median radius and did not quantify any aerosol or CCN parameter.

104 In this paper, we propose a retrieval approach to estimate CCN number concentrations from  
 105 multi-wavelength lidar extinction and backscatter coefficients. The approach is implemented with  
 106 look-up tables (LUTs) to provide stable and efficient retrievals. CCN number concentrations at  
 107 five critical supersaturation ratios ( $S_{cs}$ , 0.07–0.80%) are determined from the retrieved aerosol size  
 108 distributions. The retrieval accuracies are evaluated using simulated lidar extinction and  
 109 backscatter coefficients with both random and systematic errors. Since CCN retrievals are less  
 110 sensitive to uncertainties in very small particles (nucleation-mode particles), it leads to much  
 111 smaller errors in the retrievals of CCN number concentration than those focusing on total aerosol  
 112 number concentrations as was done by most early studies due to little information on fine-mode  
 113 aerosols from available lidar measurements. In Section 2, the inversion methodology is described.  
 114 In Section 3, we present the numerical simulations. In Section 4, a real case study is presented.  
 115 Conclusions are given in Section 5.

## 116 2. Methodology

### 117 2.1 Aerosol size distributions

118 As demonstrated by *Baars et al.* [2016], aerosol types can be identified by combining their  
 119 Ångstrom exponent, lidar ratio, and depolarization ratio from multi-wavelength HSRL or Raman-  
 120 polarization lidar measurements [*Burton et al.*, 2012; *Groß et al.*, 2013]. Therefore, our study  
 121 assumes known aerosol types for CCN retrievals for the sake of tackling other more challenging  
 122 tasks in retrieving CCN profiles.

123 Initially, three common and distinct aerosol types are considered in this study: urban industrial  
 124 aerosols (Type 1), biomass-burning aerosols (Type 2), and dust aerosols (Type 3). Although  
 125 particle size distributions are not always bimodal in each measurement case, their size distributions  
 126 can be treated as a combination of fine and coarse modes with lognormal distributions, as widely  
 127 used in aerosol remote sensing studies [*Veselovskii et al.*, 2004; *Remer et al.*, 2005; *Schuster et al.*,  
 128 2006]. Multi-wavelength HSRL or Raman lidar measurements provide feasible constraints on  
 129 these size parameters:

$$130 \quad \frac{dn(r)}{d\ln(r)} = \sum_{i=f,c} \frac{N_{ti}}{(2\pi)^{1/2} \ln \sigma_i} \exp \left[ - \frac{(\ln r - \ln r^n)^2}{2(\ln \sigma_i)^2} \right], \quad (1)$$

131 where  $N_{ti}$  is the total particle number concentration of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  mode and  $r^n$  is the median radius for  
 132 the aerosol size distribution with  $n$  representing the number concentration distribution. The index

133  $i = f, c$  refers to the fine mode and coarse mode, respectively. The term  $\ln\sigma_i$  is the mode width of  
 134 the  $i^{\text{th}}$  mode. This general aerosol size distribution shape is adopted in this study to improve the  
 135 accuracy of the CCN retrieval. The sensitivity test regarding the response of CCN to the  
 136 assumption of bimodal size distributions is presented in Section 3.2.

137 Table 1 lists the typical ranges of the bimodal distribution parameters of the three types of  
 138 aerosols derived using measurements from sun and sky-scanning ground-based automated  
 139 radiometers at 12 selected Aerosol Robotic Network (AERONET) sites from 1993 to 2000  
 140 [Dubovik *et al.*, 2002; Veselovskii *et al.*, 2004]. Parameters representing the volume concentration  
 141 can be transformed to parameters for the number concentration through the following relationships  
 142 [Horvath *et al.*, 1990]:

$$r_i^n = r_i^v / \exp\left[\frac{3(\ln\sigma_i)^2}{2}\right], \quad (2)$$

$$N_i = N \frac{4}{3} \pi (r_i^n)^3 \exp\left[\frac{9}{2}(\ln\sigma_i)^2\right]. \quad (3)$$

145 As shown in Table 1 and Fig. 1, the main difference between the three aerosol types is the ratio  
 146 of the volume concentration of the fine mode to the volume concentration of the coarse mode.  
 147 Both urban industrial and biomass-burning aerosols have a predominance of fine-mode fractions  
 148 while the coarse mode dominates for dust aerosols.

## 149 2.2 Inversion technique for aerosol size distribution parameters

150 The first step in estimating CCN concentrations is to retrieve aerosol size distributions from  
 151 backscatter coefficients at 355, 532, and 1064 nm ( $\beta_{355}, \beta_{532}, \beta_{1064}$ ) and extinction coefficients at  
 152 355 and 532 nm ( $\alpha_{355}, \alpha_{532}$ ). These can be retrieved from multi-wavelength Raman lidar [Ansmann  
 153 *et al.*, 1992] or HSRL measurements [Shipley *et al.*, 1983]. Aerosol type, which can be identified  
 154 from lidar measurements [Burton *et al.*, 2012; Groß *et al.*, 2013; Baars *et al.* 2016] provides the  
 155 mean complex refractive index (Table 1). Thus, retrieving six parameters ( $\sigma_f, N_{tf}, r_f, \sigma_c, N_{tc}, r_c$ ) for  
 156 a bimodal size distribution from five known quantities ( $\beta_{355}, \beta_{532}, \beta_{1064}, \alpha_{355}, \alpha_{532}$ ) is still an ill-  
 157 defined problem. Observations [Dubovik *et al.*, 2002] indicate that the variation of the mode width  
 158 of the coarse mode ( $\ln\sigma_c$ ) is small for a given aerosol type and that the contribution of the coarse  
 159 mode to the total aerosol number concentration is relatively low. Therefore, we assume that  $\ln\sigma_c$

160 is a known quantity (Table 1). The retrieval errors from this assumption are examined in Section  
 161 3.3.

162 The retrieval algorithm searches for the best combination of five values ( $\sigma_f, N_{if}, r_f, N_{ic}, r_c$ ) to  
 163 match inputs ( $\beta_{355}, \beta_{532}, \beta_{1064}, \alpha_{355}, \alpha_{532}$ ) by minimizing the following function:

$$164 \quad \rho^{sum} = \sum_i \left| \frac{g_i - g'_i}{g_i} \right|, \quad (i = 1, \dots, 5), \quad (4)$$

165 where  $g_i$  represents input optical data ( $\beta_{355}, \beta_{532}, \beta_{1064}, \alpha_{355}, \alpha_{532}$ ), and  $g'_i$  is optical data ( $\beta'_{355},$   
 166  $\beta'_{532}, \beta'_{1064}, \alpha'_{355}, \alpha'_{532}$ ) calculated from Mie theory and size distribution parameters. Note that  
 167 using the Mie theory for irregular-shaped dust aerosols can introduce potential systematic errors.  
 168 It is a simplification for this simulation study. For future real-case applications, an improved  
 169 optical database for dust aerosols will be developed following more advanced scattering  
 170 calculations [Nousiainen, 2009; Liu et al., 2015]. Additionally, including depolarization  
 171 measurements improves not only the ability to distinguish dust, but also overall dust retrievals  
 172 [Luo et al., 2015].

173 To search for the optimal solution, look-up tables (LUTs) for each type of aerosol are  
 174 constructed. To reduce the LUT size and its dimensions, each LUT consists of two parts. The size  
 175 distribution shown in Eq. (1) can be rewritten as

$$176 \quad \frac{dn(r)}{d \ln(r)} = \sum_{i=f,c} \left\{ \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{1/2} \ln \sigma_i} \exp \left[ -\frac{(\ln r - \ln r_i^n)^2}{2(\ln \sigma_i)^2} \right] \cdot N_{ii} \right\} = \sum_{i=f,c} B_i \cdot N_{ii}, \quad (5)$$

177 where  $B_f$  and  $B_c$  refer to the data bank pre-computed with  $(\sigma_f, r_f, r)$  and  $(\sigma_c, r_c, r)$ , respectively,  
 178 where the intervals of  $\sigma_f, r_f,$  and  $r_c$  are fixed at 0.01, 0.002, and 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively, and where  
 179  $\sigma_c$  is assumed known and taken from Table 1. The range of  $r$  in the calculations is limited to 0.01–  
 180 10  $\mu\text{m}$  with a fixed bin size of 0.002 defined on a logarithmic-equidistant scale. These intervals  
 181 are set as a compromise between accuracy and computation time.

182 Since the range of  $N_{if}$  is usually large, the successive approximation method [Kantorovitch,  
 183 1939] is adopted:

184 Step 1: Calculate the corresponding optical data ( $\beta'_{355}, \beta'_{532}, \beta'_{1064}, \alpha'_{355}, \alpha'_{532}$ ) from the data bank  
185 ( $B_f, B_c$ ) and  $N_{tf}, N_{tc}$  (the step widths of  $N_{tf}$  and  $N_{tc}$ : 100 and  $0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , respectively). Search for an  
186 approximate solution based on the criterion in Eq. (4).

187 Step 2: Determine a smaller solution space of  $N_{tf}$  based on the approximate solution obtained in  
188 Step 1. Repeat the procedure in Step 1 except use a smaller step width of  $10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  for  $N_{tf}$ . Search  
189 for the optimal solution of five parameters ( $\sigma_f, N_{tf}, r_f, N_{tc}, r_c$ ).

### 190 **2.3 CCN estimations**

191 The ability of aerosols to act as CCN is mainly determined by three factors: aerosol particle  
192 size distribution, chemical composition, and mixing state. Several studies have suggested that it is  
193 controlled more by the aerosol size distribution than the chemical composition [*Junge and*  
194 *McLaren, 1971; Fitzgerald, 1973; Dusek et al., 2006*], however, for some specific areas and  
195 meteorological conditions, both factors are important [*Mamouri and Ansmann, 2016*]. If no  
196 suitable chemical composition data are available, using mean chemical composition information  
197 for each aerosol type denoted by a single value of  $\kappa$  is feasible to estimate the CCN number  
198 concentration. In reality, the uncertainty of using the mean value of  $\kappa$  to estimate the CCN number  
199 concentration varies with atmospheric conditions. Most studies show that the uncertainty is within  
200 10% [*Jurányi et al., 2010; Deng et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2018*]. The hygroscopicity parameter  $\kappa$   
201 describes the relationship between the particle dry diameter and CCN activity when compositional  
202 data are not available [*Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007*]. *Wang et al., [2018]* found that the  
203 sensitivity of the estimated CCN concentration to  $\kappa$  depends strongly on the variability of the shape  
204 of the aerosol size distribution. The sensitivity of CCN concentration to  $\kappa$  becomes weaker with  
205 increasing supersaturations, suggesting that chemical composition becomes less important in CCN  
206 concentration estimates at larger supersaturations. In addition, this study also suggested that using  
207 the mean value of  $\kappa \approx 0.3$  can be a good proxy for urban industrial aerosol when estimating the  
208 CCN concentration. The  $\kappa$  is assumed to be 0.3 for Type 1 [*Liu et al., 2011*], 0.1 for Type 2 [*Petters*  
209 *et al., 2009*], and 0.03 for Type 3 [*Koehler et al., 2009*] aerosols in the simulations. For actual  
210 measurements, the mixing state of aerosols and the precise values of  $\kappa$  can be determined with the  
211 aid of other instruments, such as the aerosol particle mass analyzer (APM), and the hygroscopic  
212 tandem differential mobility analyzer (HTDMA) [*Malloy et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2014; Wang et*  
213 *al., 2017*]. For experiments without the HTDMA, a lidar can be used to roughly infer  $\kappa$  indirectly



214 by identifying aerosol types [Baars *et al.*, 2016]. However, the determination of  $\kappa$  is beyond the  
 215 scope of the current method.

216 We first determine the critical radius ( $r_c$ ) of CCN activation at five critical  $S_c$ s for activation  
 217 (0.07, 0.10, 0.20, 0.40, and 0.80%), which are often used for in CCN counters. The critical diameter  
 218  $D_c$  ( $r_c = D_c / 2$ ) and  $S_c$  for activation (where  $S_c = S - 1$ ) can be computed from the maximum of  $\kappa$ -  
 219 Köhler curve as suggested by *Petters and Kreidenweis* [2007]:

$$220 \quad S(D) = \frac{D^3 - D_d^3}{D^3 - D_d^3(1 - \kappa)} \exp\left[\frac{4\sigma_{s/a} M_w}{RT \rho_w D}\right], \quad (6)$$

221 where  $S$  is the water saturation ratio,  $D$  is the droplet diameter,  $D_d$  is the dry diameter,  $\sigma_{s/a} = 0.072$   
 222  $\text{J m}^{-2}$ ,  $M_w$  is the molecular weight of water,  $R$  is the universal gas constant,  $T$  is temperature and  
 223 equal to 298.15 K, and  $\rho_w$  is the density of water. Equation (6) describes the relationship between  
 224 the dry diameter and critical supersaturation for a selected hygroscopicity  $\kappa$ . Note that the Köhler  
 225 theory used for dust CCN activation is based on the assumptions that activation is solely controlled  
 226 by the amount of soluble salts in the dust aerosol and that it is not affected by water adsorption on  
 227 the dust surface.

228 Figure 2 shows the relationship between critical dry diameter and critical supersaturation for  
 229 each type of aerosol. Table 2 shows the critical radius ( $r_c$ ) at five critical  $S_c$ s calculated using Eq.  
 230 (6). The critical radius for each type of aerosol in Table 2 shows that CCN retrievals are mostly  
 231 sensitive to particles with radii greater than 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  under normal atmospheric conditions, which  
 232 indicates that neglecting nucleation-mode particles has a weaker impact on CCN determination  
 233 than on the total aerosol number concentration retrievals.

234 It is noted that, to simplify the simulation, the impact of aerosol hygroscopic growth on the size  
 235 distributions is not considered. However, in real atmosphere, the aerosol size distribution is  
 236 affected by aerosol hygroscopic properties, especially when it is under high relative humidity  
 237 conditions or near cloud base. In this case, the wet size distribution should be corrected to the dry  
 238 size distribution by using the hygroscopic enhancement factor that is defined as

$$239 \quad f(RH, r) = \frac{\xi(RH, r)}{\xi(RH_{ref}, r)} \quad (6)$$

240 where  $RH$  is the relative humidity,  $r$  is the dry radius,  $\xi(RH, r)$  refers to a  $RH$ -dependent aerosol  
 241 property at a certain  $r$ , the  $RH_{ref}$  is chosen as the lowest value of  $RH$  that represents the relative  
 242 dry environment in a case.  $f(RH, r)$  can be obtained from HTDMA or Raman lidar [Veselovskii  
 243 *et al.*, 2009; Lv *et al.* 2017]. For the determination of  $f(RH)$  from Raman lidar, it is based on the  
 244 assumption of well-mixed atmospheric conditions that may be identified as having the constant  
 245 profiles of potential temperature and water vapor simultaneously [Granados-Muñoz *et al.*, 2015].

246 Finally, the CCN concentration can be calculated as

$$247 \quad N_{ccn} = \int_{\ln r}^{\infty} \frac{dn(r)}{d \ln(r)} d \ln(r) . \quad (7)$$

### 248 3. Numerical simulations

249 Due to the lack of reliable collocated CCN and lidar measurements, evaluating the algorithm  
 250 is a challenging task. As the first step, the performance of the algorithm is evaluated using  
 251 simulated observations with different error characteristics.

#### 252 3.1 Inversion with error-free inputs

253 The first evaluation is performed under the assumption of error-free lidar measurements to  
 254 understand the inversion stability. For each type of aerosol, 1000 different sets of bimodal size  
 255 distributions are used to simulate lidar observations. The retrieval is repeated for each simulated  
 256 observation. The retrieved parameters ( $\sigma_f$ ,  $N_{lf}$ ,  $r_f$ ,  $N_{lc}$ ,  $r_c$ ) and assumed  $\sigma_c$  permit us to calculate the  
 257 errors in retrieved CCN number concentration ( $CCN_{retrieved}$ ) with respect to the initial inputs  
 258 ( $CCN_{initial}$ ), i.e.,  $[(CCN_{retrieved} - CCN_{initial}) / CCN_{initial}] * 100\%$ . Apart from the mean values, we  
 259 employ the standard deviations (SDs) of the CCN retrieval errors from the different bimodal size  
 260 distribution datasets to gauge the range of the retrieved CCN errors as well. As shown in Table 3,  
 261 initial CCN concentrations are well reproduced from the error-free inputs for each type of aerosol  
 262 size distribution. The mean errors in retrieved CCN number concentrations are close to zero, but  
 263 are not equal to zero due to striking an appropriate balance between the accuracy and processing  
 264 time of the LUTs as mentioned in section 2.2. The higher the accuracy of the LUTs, the more time  
 265 expensive are the calculations and the closer CCN errors approach zero. Moreover, the small SDs  
 266 ( $\leq \sim 0.3\%$ ) suggest that the variances of errors among the different aerosol size distributions are

267 also small. Overall, the retrieval results shown in Table 3 attest to the good accuracy and stability  
268 of the inversion algorithm for the three types of aerosols.

### 269 **3.2 Sensitivity test of the assumed bimodal size distribution with error-free inputs**

270 We test the sensitivity of the CCN retrieval to the assumption of the bimodal size distribution  
271 by exploring dust aerosol size distributions measured on 20 August 2006 during the NASA African  
272 Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (NAMMA) campaign [Chen et al., 2011]. NAMMA particle  
273 size distributions were measured simultaneously by an Ultra-High Sensitivity Aerosol  
274 Spectrometer (UHSAS) for the 0.07–1  $\mu\text{m}$  (geometric) diameter range [Cai et al., 2008] and a TSI  
275 model 3321 Aerodynamic Particle Sizer (APS) for the 0.7–5  $\mu\text{m}$  (aerodynamic) diameter range  
276 [Peters and Leith, 2003]. Fifty full particle size distributions were constructed using the size  
277 conversion factor, which is defined as the ratio of aerodynamic diameter to geometric diameter.  
278 These full aerosol size distributions can be well represented by the tri-modal lognormal  
279 distributions reported by Chen et al. [2011]. For the purpose of this study, we produce  
280 corresponding bimodal fits representative of the observed size distributions. Figure 3 shows an  
281 example of the observed aerosol size distribution and the corresponding bimodal fits. It suggests  
282 that the observed dust aerosol size distributions can be qualitatively well represented by bimodal  
283 lognormal size distributions. To quantify the errors arising from the bimodal lognormal fits, we  
284 calculate CCN concentrations based on the bimodal-fits and compare them with those from the 50  
285 observed size distributions. The  $\kappa$  of NAMMA dust aerosols is assumed to be 0.03 when  
286 calculating CCN concentrations at the five values of  $S_c$ s as described in Section 2.3. Table 4 shows  
287 the induced CCN errors from the bimodal fitting of 50 NAMMA aerosol size distributions. The  
288 absolute value of CCN retrieval errors is 4.2% with a SD of 3.3% when  $S_c = 0.20\%$ . Although  
289 errors from the bimodal assumption are not negligible, the results suggest that bimodal lognormal  
290 aerosol size distributions are adequate for retrieving CCN concentrations.

### 291 **3.3 Sensitivity test of the assumed $\ln\sigma_c$ with error-free inputs**

292 As described in section 2.2,  $\ln\sigma_c$  is assumed to be equal to 0.7, 0.7, and 0.65 in LUTs  
293 corresponding to the different aerosol types. However, the real  $\ln\sigma_c$  may vary within a small range.  
294 A sensitivity test of the effects of this assumption on the retrieval results is performed. In this  
295 sensitivity test, the fixed values of  $\ln\sigma_c$  are still used in the LUTs while the real values of  $\ln\sigma_c$  in  
296 simulations is selected randomly from within the ranges 0.6–0.8, 0.7–0.8, and 0.6–0.7 for urban

297 industrial, biomass-burning, and desert dust aerosols, respectively [Veselovskii *et al.*, 2004]. One  
298 thousand different sets of simulations are produced randomly with the other known parameters as  
299 input. The same inversion procedure described in Section 3.1 is repeated to retrieve CCN  
300 concentrations and to calculate the retrieval errors.

301 Table 5 shows CCN retrieval errors due to assuming a constant  $\ln\sigma_c$ . As expected, the  
302 assumption of a constant  $\ln\sigma_c$  introduces an additional CCN retrieval error. In general, CCN  
303 retrieval errors at higher  $S_{cs}$  are larger than those at lower  $S_{cs}$  for all types of aerosols due to the  
304 smaller critical radius, which makes CCN calculations more sensitive to fine-mode size  
305 distribution shapes. The maximum absolute value of CCN errors is 3.4% when  $S_{cs}$  are 0.07% and  
306 0.10%, and reaches 6.6% when the  $S_c$  is 0.80%. This suggests that assuming a constant  $\ln\sigma_c$  is  
307 reasonable although the errors resulting from the assumption are not negligible.

### 308 **3.4 Effect of systematic and random errors on the retrieval results**

#### 309 **3.4.1 The impact of systematic errors**

310 Extinction and backscatter coefficients retrieved from multi-wavelength lidar measurements  
311 contain systematic and random errors [Ansmann *et al.*, 1992]. Systematic errors can be induced by  
312 experiment conditions, techniques, and our understanding of physical interactions. Systematic  
313 errors ranging from -20% to 20% in intervals of 5% are considered for the extinction and  
314 backscatter coefficients. In actual measurements, the Raman lidar or HSRL allows for the  
315 independent calculation of extinction and backscatter coefficients by combining elastic and Raman  
316 backscatter signals [Ansmann *et al.*, 1992] and by taking advantage of the spectral distribution of  
317 the lidar return signal to discriminate aerosol and molecular signals [Shipley *et al.*, 1983]. The  
318 systematic errors are thus assumed independent for individual lidar measurements in the  
319 simulations. This error range is reasonable for most current lidar systems [Pérez-Ramírez *et al.*,  
320 2013]. To better understand the impacts of individual input parameters, a systematic error is  
321 applied to one input parameter at a time. We repeat the inversion to obtain a new set of aerosol  
322 size distribution and  $CCN_{\text{retrieved}}$  data. For each input parameter and error value, the procedure is  
323 repeated with 200 sets of randomly-generated size distributions for each aerosol type. The CCN  
324 percentage errors associated with systematic errors can be estimated by comparing retrieved and  
325 initial CCN number concentrations as defined above.

326 Figure 4 shows how individual systematic errors impact retrievals. The slope of the curve  
327 indicates the sensitivity of CCN errors to systematic errors in individual input parameters. A larger

328 slope implies a higher sensitivity of the CCN retrieval to the systematic error for a given input  
329 parameter. In general, retrievals are most sensitive to the errors in  $\alpha_{355}$  and  $\alpha_{532}$ , and are least  
330 sensitive to errors in  $\beta_{1064}$ , with  $\beta_{355}$  and  $\beta_{532}$  falling somewhere in the middle. It is also interesting  
331 to note that the results are less sensitive to  $\beta_{355}$ ,  $\beta_{532}$ , and  $\beta_{1064}$  at  $S_{cs} \leq 0.10\%$ , but are more sensitive  
332 to them at  $S_{cs} > 0.10\%$ . These results suggest that reducing uncertainties in the extinction  
333 coefficients at 355 and 532 nm can effectively improve the CCN retrieval accuracy, while reducing  
334 uncertainties in the backscatter coefficients benefits CCN retrievals at higher  $S_{cs}$ . Figure 4 also  
335 suggests that the retrieval results are sensitive to the position of the activation radius (denoted by  
336  $S_c$ ). This effect is the most obvious for Type 2 aerosols. Retrieval uncertainties due to systematic  
337 errors in  $\alpha_{532}$  are much lower at 0.10% than at other  $S_{cs}$ .

338 In addition, it is also clear that the impact of systematic errors in a given input parameter on  
339 CCN retrievals varies with  $S_c$  as illustrated by the different signs of the slopes (positive or negative).  
340 For example, for Type 3 aerosols, the slopes of  $\alpha_{355}$  and  $\beta_{355}$  are negative and positive, respectively,  
341 with magnitudes of 0.07% and 0.10%. When  $S_c$  exceeds 0.20%, the slopes reverse. These  
342 differences most likely result from the reduced sensitivity of the retrieval to the coarse mode of  
343 the aerosol size distribution.

344 Furthermore, there are significant differences among the three types of aerosols. Type 3  
345 aerosols have the largest absolute CCN errors and Type 1 aerosols have the smallest. These results  
346 are consistent with the weights of fine-mode aerosol particles for the three types of aerosols shown  
347 in Table 1. These results suggest that there are better constraints for fine-mode aerosols than for  
348 coarse-mode aerosols. Therefore, retrieval uncertainties for the coarse mode are higher which  
349 introduces larger CCN retrieval errors for aerosols with more weight in the coarse mode, such as  
350 Type 3 aerosols. Including additional lidar measurements at wavelengths longer than 1064 nm will  
351 reduce the retrieval errors for dust aerosols.

### 352 **3.4.2 The impact of random errors**

353 Thus far, only the influence of systematic errors on the inversion results has been considered  
354 which introduces mean biases in CCN retrievals. Random errors in observations produce random  
355 CCN retrieval errors. Random errors are generated by considering a Gaussian distribution centered  
356 at zero with a SD equal to 15% of a given input parameter. Random errors are applied to all input  
357 optical data simultaneously. For each type of aerosol, we repeat this simulation 5000 times. The  
358 statistical results are presented in Fig. 5 and Table 6.

359 At 0.07% and 0.10%, errors in retrieved CCN number concentrations also follow a Gaussian  
360 distribution for Type 1 and Type 2 aerosols. When  $S_c$  exceeds 0.20%, the Gaussian shape  
361 distributions disappear and the high frequencies shift to the edge of the distributions for all types  
362 of aerosols. Mean errors are relatively small and non-zero, which is mainly due to the different  
363 sensitivities of CCN retrievals to different optical data. These results also reveal that random errors  
364 in the input parameters may produce systematic errors in the CCN retrievals. At 0.07%, Type 3  
365 aerosols show the largest shift (-20.0%) while Type 2 aerosols have the smallest shift (-1.0% at  
366 0.10%). Among the three types of aerosols, the largest errors are found in Type 3 aerosols which  
367 contain larger particles. These results are consistent with the sensitivities to the systematic errors,  
368 which also have the largest errors for Type 3 aerosols. As discussed earlier, measurements  
369 considered in the current multi-wavelength lidar technique contain less information for larger  
370 particles. Including additional lidar measurements at longer wavelengths could improve Type 3  
371 aerosol retrievals. The maximum values of relative errors decrease with increasing  $S_c$ s for all  
372 aerosol types (Table 6).

### 373 **3.4.3 The impact of combined systematic and random errors**

374 In reality, systematic and random errors co-exist in optical input parameters, so their concurrent  
375 effects need to be tested. However, for real cases, the input optical data ( $\beta_{355}$ ,  $\beta_{532}$ ,  $\beta_{1064}$ ,  $\alpha_{355}$ ,  $\alpha_{532}$ )  
376 might be obtained simultaneously from different lidar systems like the Raman lidar or the HSRL  
377 with over- or under-estimation of systematic errors appearing in different combinations. For well  
378 -designed lidar systems with reliable data processing procedure, it is a good to assume independent  
379 systematic errors. However, there do have cases, which can result in dependent systematic errors.  
380 For example, near range overlap corrections could introduce dependent systematic errors between  
381 355nm extinction and backscattering and 532 nm extinction and backscattering. To simplify the  
382 simulation, we only evaluate the overall performance of the new method when systematic and  
383 random errors co-exist. The simulations are done by conducting additional simulations with both  
384 systematic and random errors occurring simultaneously. Systematic errors are randomly assigned  
385 a sign (over/underestimation) as was done by *Pérez-Ramírez et al.* [2013]. Systematic errors are  
386 difficult to reveal, whereas random errors can be revealed and reduced by repeating the  
387 measurements. Systematic errors of 0–20% with a step width of 5% are added to all optical input  
388 parameters ( $\beta_{355}$ ,  $\beta_{532}$ ,  $\beta_{1064}$ ,  $\alpha_{355}$ ,  $\alpha_{532}$ ) concurrently. As for random errors, they are generated by

389 considering a Gaussian distribution centered at zero with a SD equal to 5% of a given input  
390 parameter. For each type of aerosol, simulations were performed 500 times. The CCN retrieval  
391 results are presented in Fig. 6 and Table 7.

392 For Type 3 aerosols, the largest mean CCN error is 25.8% at  $S_c = 0.07\%$ . For Type 1 and Type  
393 2 aerosols, mean CCN errors in all cases are less than 10.3%. These retrieved CCN errors are much  
394 smaller than those obtained in Section 3.4.1 when only the systematic error was considered at each  
395 wavelength independently. Adding errors for multiple optical input parameters simultaneously  
396 might compensate each other and improve the CCN retrievals. However, the SDs are larger with  
397 maximum values reaching 20.5%, 26.7%, and 53.1% for Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 aerosols,  
398 respectively, due to the very large measurement errors created by the random combination of  
399 systematic and random errors.

#### 400 **4. A real case study**

401 The evaluation of CCN retrievals depends critically on how well lidar and in situ measurements  
402 are matched, as matching errors can become overwhelming. Due to a lack of collocated  
403 measurements of the required quantities, we have not yet seen any evaluation done using real-case  
404 data. It is done here by comparing CCN derived from lidar measurements and measured by a Cloud  
405 Condensation Nuclei counter (CCNc) on the ground on 16 August 2015 at the U.S. Department of  
406 Energy's Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Climate Research Facility Southern Great  
407 Plains (SGP) site.

408 Multi-wavelength lidar data were collected during the Combined HSRL and Raman lidar  
409 Measurement Study (CHARMS) intensive observation period (IOP) that occurred in August 2015  
410 at the SGP site [Ferrare *et al.*, 2017]. During the CHARMS IOP, aerosol backscatter profiles at  
411 532 and 1064 nm, and aerosol extinction profiles at 532 nm were acquired from the University of  
412 Wisconsin HSRL located at the SGP site. HSRL aerosol profiles, when combined with aerosol  
413 backscatter and extinction profiles at 355 nm collected by the SGP Raman lidar, provide a full set  
414 of three aerosol backscatter (355, 532, and 1064 nm) and two aerosol extinction (355 and 532 nm)  
415 profiles for CCN retrievals. CHARMS data were processed at temporal and vertical resolutions of  
416 10 minutes and 0.06 kilometers, respectively. To avoid the impact of the overlap function on  
417 extinction and backscattering retrievals, the lower limit of the height range where CCN properties  
418 are retrieved from optical data is 0.6 km above ground level. We also set the upper limit of the  
419 retrieval height range as 3 km due to the low aerosol loading in higher layers. For comparison

420 purposes, in situ CCN concentrations under different supersaturation conditions ( $S_s$ s ranging from  
421 0.1–0.75%) were measured on the ground by the CCNc at the same site.

422 Although the SGP site is located in a rural area surrounded by cattle pastures and agricultural  
423 fields, air masses transported from the south and southeast often arrive at this site in the summer  
424 [Mahish and Collins, 2017]. Based on an overview of aerosol-type-dependent properties from  
425 more than 10 years of lidar observations [Baars *et al.*, 2016] and Fig. 7, we can infer that aerosols  
426 in this case are not dust but urban or biomass burning aerosols by virtue of the lidar ratio (Fig. 7a),  
427 the depolarization ratio (Fig. 7b) and the Ångström exponent (Fig. 7c). The aerosol depolarization  
428 ratio was less than 0.1 on this day, which indicates that using the Mie theory for CCN retrievals is  
429 reasonable although potential systematic errors introduced by irregular-shaped aerosols are not  
430 negligible. To further distinguish between these two aerosol types, 48-h back trajectories  
431 calculated using the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory model [Draxler and  
432 Rolph, 2003] and active fire spots from Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)  
433 data [Giglio *et al.*, 2016] on 15 August 2015 are also used. Fig. 8a and Fig. 8b show that aerosols  
434 on 16 August 2015 originated from fire activities in the southeast and northeast of the SGP site.  
435 Therefore, the aerosol loading in this case was greatly influenced by biomass-burning aerosols  
436 transported to the SGP site. Based on the analysis of a multi-year record of hygroscopic  
437 measurements made at the SGP site [Mahish and Collins, 2017], a simplified hygroscopicity  
438 parameter  $\kappa$  equal to 0.2 is chosen for CCN retrievals here. This value falls within the reasonable  
439 range of  $\kappa$  for biomass-burning aerosols [Petters *et al.*, 2009].

440 Total particle number concentrations (condensation nuclei, CN) retrievals from the lidar are  
441 shown in Fig. 9. Fig. 9a shows the temporal evolution of the vertical profile of aerosol extinction  
442 at 355 nm in the 0.6–3 km height ranging from 0000 universal coordinated time (UTC) to 2400  
443 UTC on 16 August 2015. During that day, a distinct aerosol layer was observed near the ground  
444 with an extinction coefficient of up to  $0.25 \text{ km}^{-1}$ . From 1200–2400 UTC, the aerosol layer  
445 increased in altitude up to 2.2 km due to the enhancement of turbulent mixing in the atmosphere.  
446 Above that layer, several weak aerosol layers appeared and aerosols were distributed more  
447 uniformly with height. The CN number concentrations which is computed from the retrieved size  
448 distribution parameters are shown in Fig. 9b.

449 Based on an investigation of the spatio-temporal distributions of  $RH$  at SGP during that day,  
450 the maximum  $RH$  is lower than 70% at each height and lower than 60% at 0.6 km, which didn't



451 reach the deliquescence  $RH$  of biomass burning aerosols [Lei *et al.*, 2014; Kuang *et al.*, 2016].  
452 Thus the aerosol size distributions used for estimating CCN number concentrations are little  
453 influenced by aerosol hygroscopic growth on that day. For a comparison with surface in-situ  
454 measurements, retrieved CCN number concentrations are calculated using Eq. (7) with time-  
455 dependent supersaturations set for the in situ CCNc. Figure 10 shows the spatio-temporal  
456 distributions of CCN number concentrations (Fig. 10a), the time series of lidar-retrieved and  
457 surface-measured CCN concentrations (Fig. 10b) and a scatterplot of surface-measured CCN  
458 concentrations as a function of lidar-retrieved CCN concentration (Fig. 10c) respectively. Lidar  
459 retrievals shown in Fig. 10b and Fig. 10c are within a height range of 0.6 km. Figure 10a shows  
460 that the retrieved CCN number concentrations are roughly constant with height in the boundary  
461 layer except for the CCN number concentrations around 15:00 (UTC) that is likely due to the  
462 atmospheric transportation. The time series shows that both instruments generally captured the  
463 temporal evolution of CCN concentration on that day at the SGP site (Fig. 10b). However, periods  
464 with substantially different CCN concentrations were also observed. For example, higher CCN  
465 concentrations at ground level than at 0.6 km in the evening and overnight (0000–1000 UTC) are  
466 seen, most likely due to the vertically inhomogeneous distribution of aerosols. Figure 10c shows  
467 that CCN concentrations derived from measurements made by both instruments were well  
468 correlated. The correlation coefficient is 0.57 and the regression slope is 1.06 with most points  
469 lying close to the 1:1 line. Other than the vertical inhomogeneity of the atmosphere, most of the  
470 remaining differences could be due to the different observation methods and the extinction and  
471 backscattering retrieval uncertainties from the two lidar systems. Although a detailed uncertainty  
472 analysis is still needed and will be done in a future study, this comparison demonstrates the  
473 potential of using multi-wavelength Raman lidar measurements to profile aerosol and CCN  
474 properties.

## 475 **5. Conclusions**

476 We have investigated the feasibility of retrieving CCN number concentrations using multi-  
477 wavelength HSRL and Raman lidar measurements. Three representative types of aerosols with  
478 bimodal size distributions retrieved from AERONET observations were considered, namely, urban  
479 industrial (Type 1), biomass burning (Type 2), and dust (Type 3). The aerosol types are assumed  
480 known and provide the mean complex refractive index. This leaves six size parameters to retrieve.  
481 To avoid the ill-posed inversion problem, the mode width of the coarse mode is assumed.

482 Sensitivity tests suggest that this assumption only introduces a small error in the retrieval results.  
483 The retrieval is implemented based on LUTs generated from Mie scattering calculations. A  
484 successive approximation method in two steps is utilized as a tradeoff between the accuracy and  
485 computation time of the inversion. Once the parameters of the aerosol size distribution are obtained  
486 through the LUT, CCN number concentrations can be estimated.

487 Numerical simulations were performed to evaluate the algorithm performance with and  
488 without errors in the extinction and backscatter coefficients. For error-free input, CCN  
489 concentrations for the three types of aerosols were well reproduced with good accuracy and  
490 stability. Simulations with systematic errors show that the uncertainties of extinction coefficients  
491 at 355 and 532 nm have a higher impact on the retrieval results, and that retrievals are more  
492 dependent on the uncertainties in backscatter coefficients at higher  $S_{cs}$  than at lower  $S_{cs}$ . There are  
493 significant differences in retrieval uncertainties among the three types of aerosols due to the  
494 different weights of fine- and coarse-mode aerosol particles among them. The differences can be  
495 explained by the weaker constraint of the algorithm for the coarse mode of aerosol particles than  
496 for the fine mode of particles. Tests where 15% random errors were considered were done next.  
497 CCN number concentrations had Gaussian distributions at lower  $S_{cs}$  (0.07%, 0.10%) for all types  
498 of aerosols except for Type 3. This distribution shape disappeared at higher  $S_{cs}$ . Simulations with  
499 both random and systematic errors, which represent more realistic cases, show that both errors  
500 together improved mean CCN retrievals because random and systematic errors often offset each  
501 other. Simulations showed that if the input optical data had a 15% systematic error and a 5%  
502 random error simultaneously, CCN number concentrations were retrieved with an accuracy of -  
503  $3.3 \pm 18.7\%$  for urban industrial aerosols,  $-7.6 \pm 15.3\%$  for biomass burning aerosols, and  $-24.9 \pm$   
504  $48.3\%$  for dust aerosols at  $S_c = 0.07\%$ .

505 The focus of the numerical simulations is to explore the sensitivity of CCN retrievals to errors  
506 in the measurements of extinction and backscatter coefficients. The influences of aerosol hydration  
507 and dynamic mixing on the refractive index are not considered in the simulations. When processing  
508 observational data, the impact of relative humidity needs to be accounted for since the lidars  
509 retrieve the wet size distributions while the CCN calculations require the dry size distribution.  
510 From Raman lidar measurements, temperature and water vapor below clouds can be determined  
511 to provide the vertical profile of relative humidity [Ferrare, 2000; Behrendt et al., 2002; Reichardt  
512 et al., 2012]. Aerosol-type-dependent hygroscopic growth may thus be needed to estimate the dry

513 size distribution from the wet size distribution and  $RH$  for CCN calculations. Furthermore, relative  
514 humidity information can be used to adjust the mean reflective index for the LUT. The impacts of  
515 humidity and the non-spherical dust shape will be studied and implemented, if warranted, in future  
516 algorithm development.

517 The algorithm was applied to observational data from the ARM Climate Research Facility SGP  
518 site to illustrate the potential of the algorithm. For the first time, lidar-retrieved CCN  
519 concentrations were compared with simultaneous measurements from an in situ CCNc.  
520 Considering the vertical aerosol inhomogeneity between the surface and 0.6 km above ground  
521 level, CCN concentrations from in situ measurements and lidar retrievals agree well.

522 The study demonstrates the potential of using multi-wavelength Raman lidar measurements to  
523 profile aerosol and CCN properties. The height-dependent information of aerosols and CCN are  
524 important for investigating the aerosol indirect effect in climate models. To ensure retrieval  
525 accuracy, 355 and 532 nm extinction coefficients need to be reliably derived. It is also important  
526 to consider including measurements made at longer wavelengths to improve CCN retrievals for  
527 dust aerosols.

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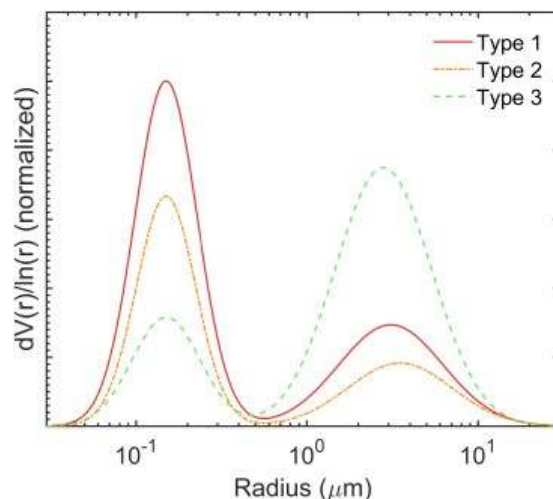
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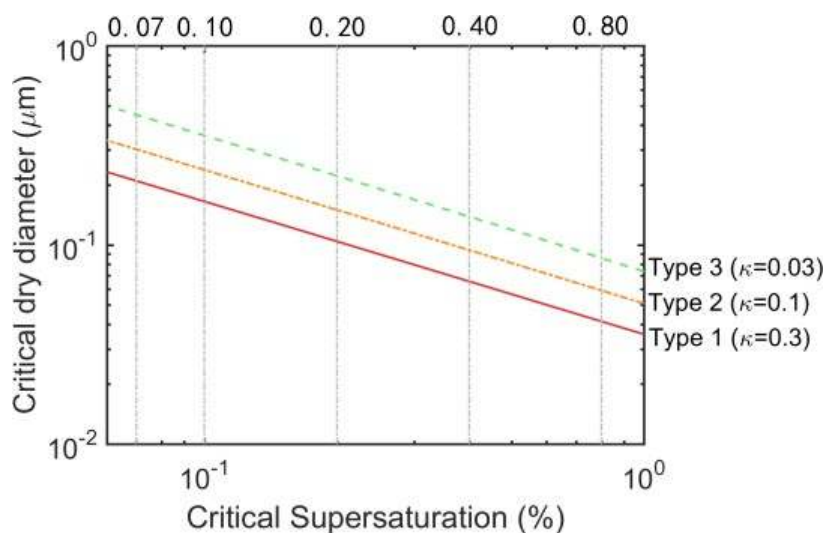
784 **Figures**



785

786 **Figure 1.** Normalized size distributions representing the three types of aerosols considered in this  
787 study. Types 1–3 represent urban industrial, biomass burning, and dust aerosols, respectively.

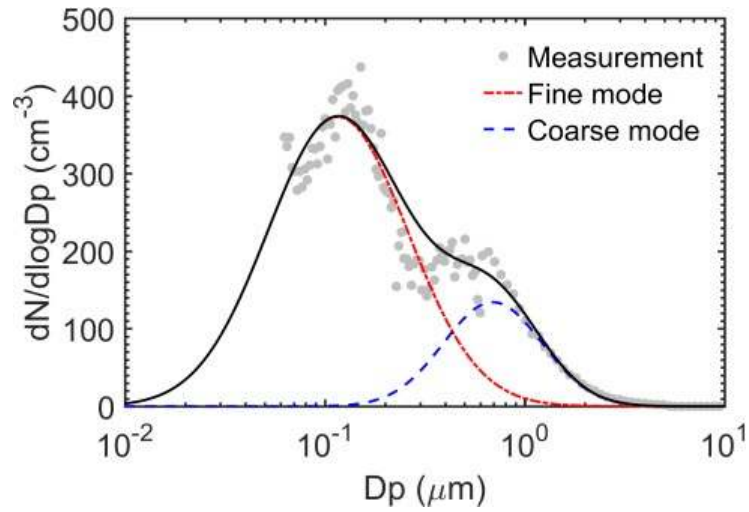
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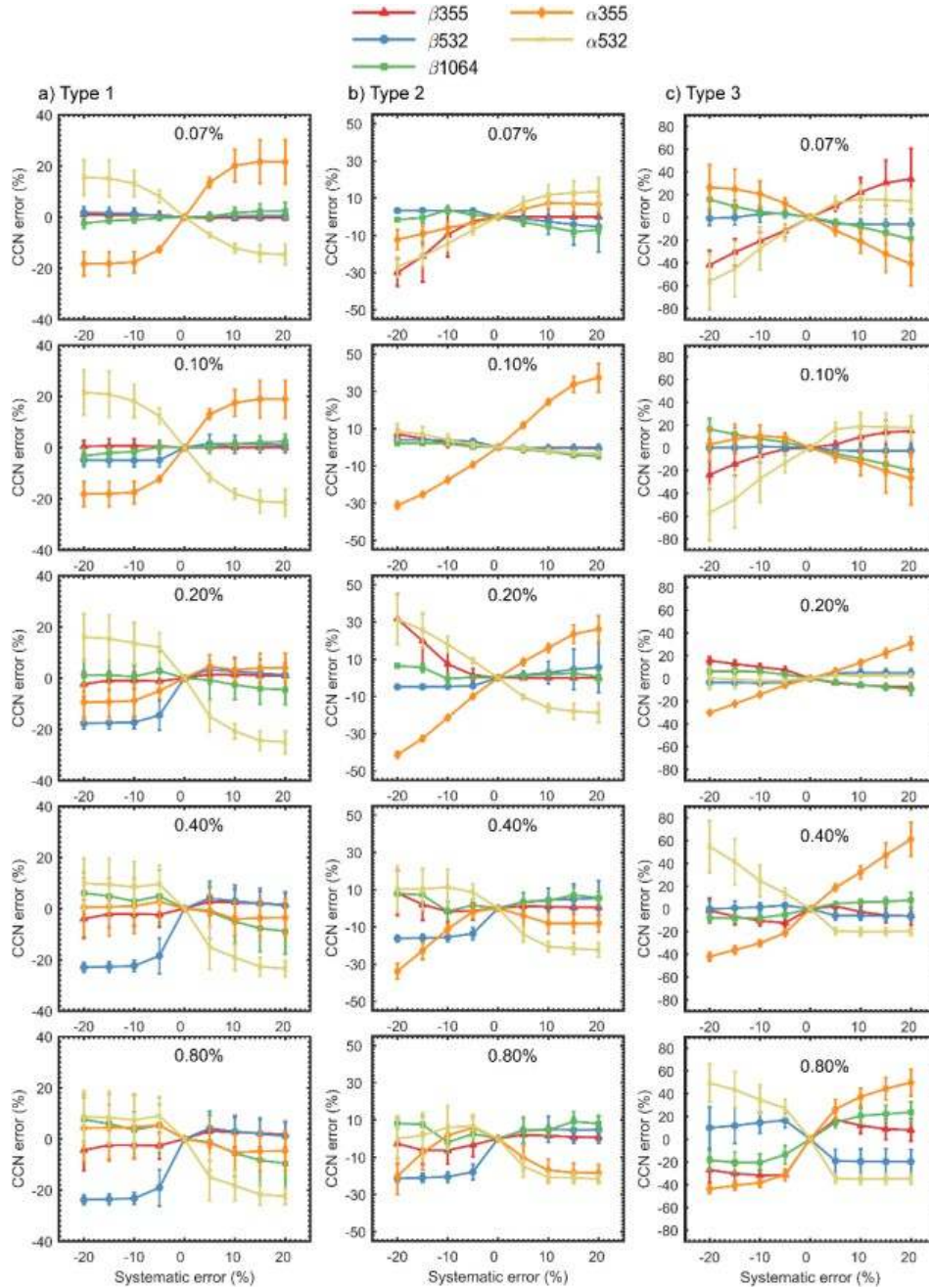
790 **Figure 2.** The relationship between particle critical dry diameter and critical supersaturation ratio  
791 for Type 1 ( $\kappa = 0.3$ ), Type 2 ( $\kappa = 0.1$ ), and Type 3 ( $\kappa = 0.01$ ) aerosols. The parameter  $\kappa$  is the  
792 hygroscopicity parameter. Gray dashed lines denote the five critical  $S_{cs}$  for activation (0.07, 0.10,  
793 0.20, 0.40, and 0.80%).

794



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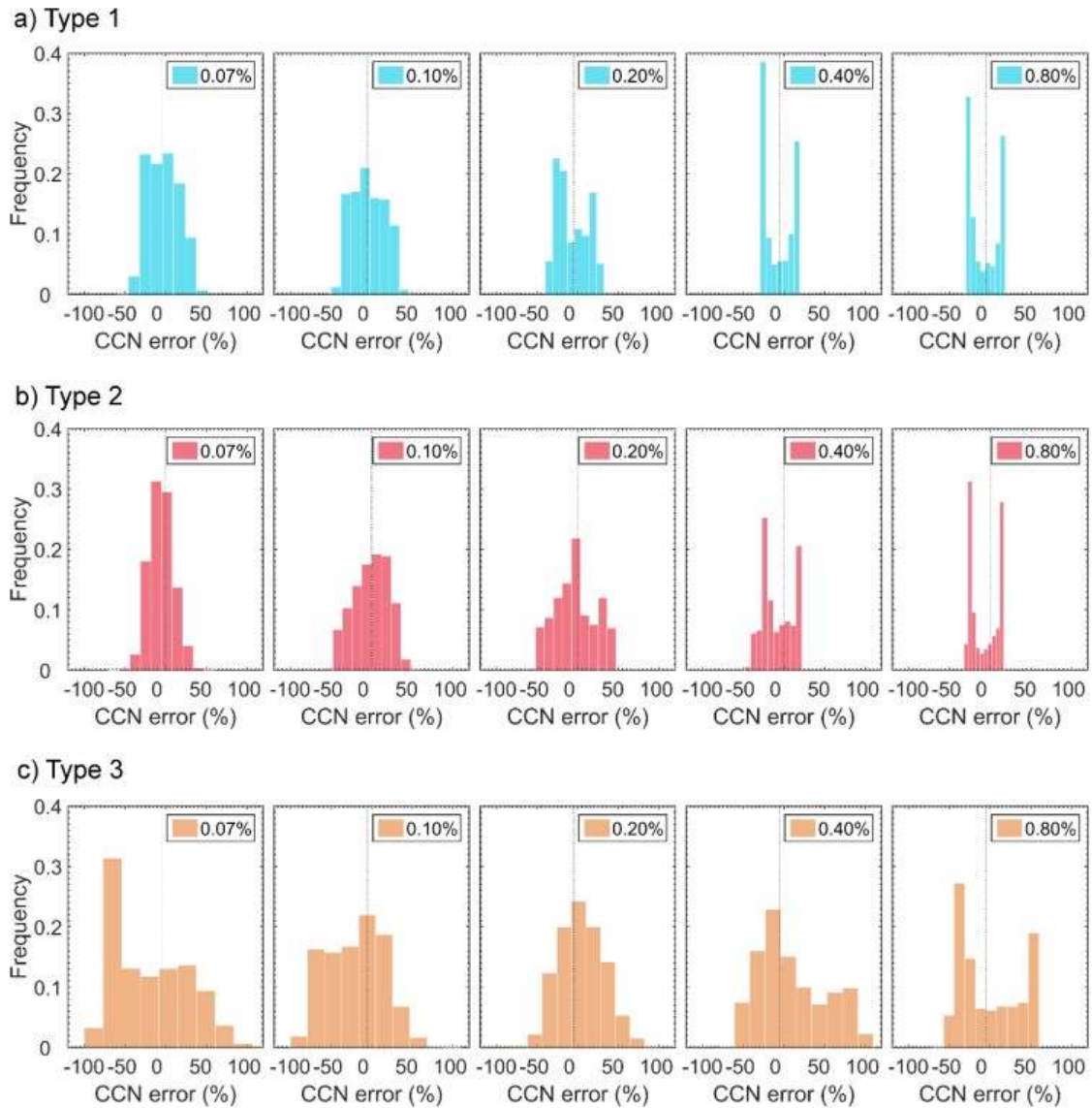
796 **Figure 3.** Observed particle number size distribution measured on 20 August 2006 during the  
797 NAMMA field campaign. Particle size is represented by the geometric diameter. Solid dots denote  
798 integrated UHSAS and APS measurements. Curves are bimodal lognormal fits for the size  
799 distributions of the fine mode (red dash-dotted line), the coarse mode (blue dashed line) and the  
800 full mode (black solid line).



801

802 **Figure 4.** Errors in retrieved CCN number concentrations at different supersaturation ratios  
 803 (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) as a function of systematic errors in the input optical  
 804 data. Error bars denote the standard deviations for (a) Type 1, (b) Type 2, and (c) Type 3 aerosols.

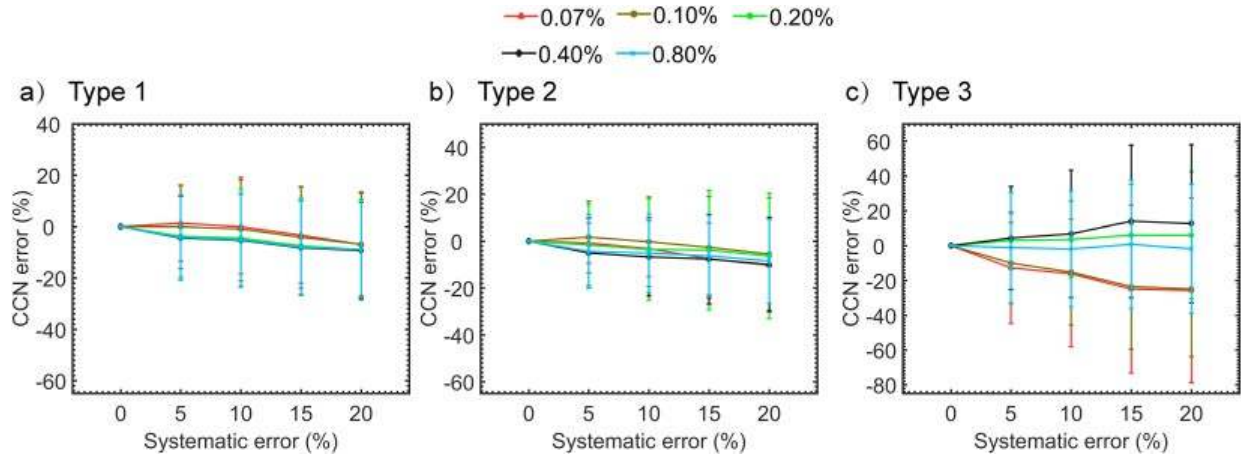
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806

807 **Figure 5.** Frequency distributions of CCN errors for (a) Type 1, (b) Type 2, and (c) Type 3 aerosols  
 808 at different supersaturation ratios (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) and with 15%  
 809 random errors for all input optical data.

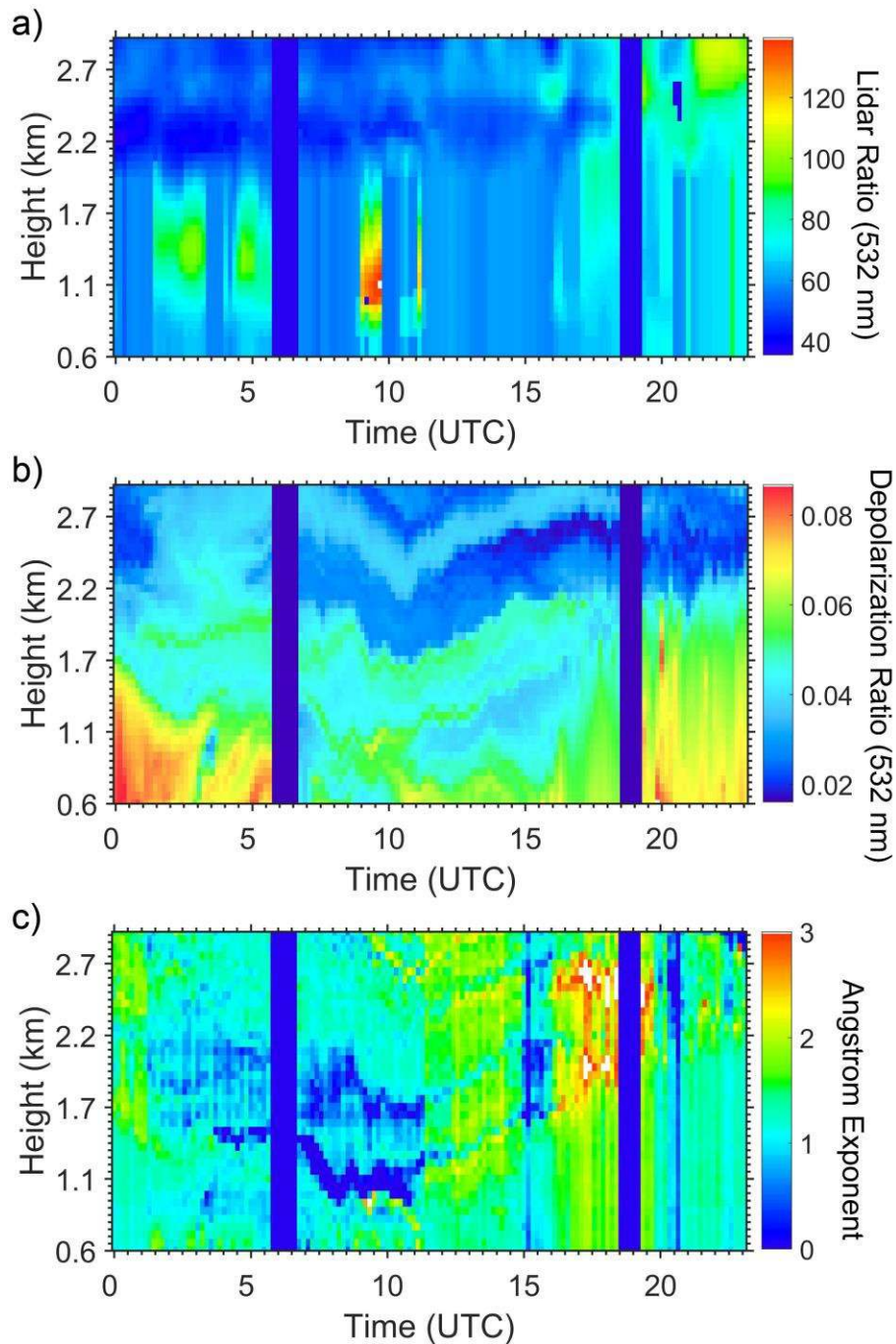
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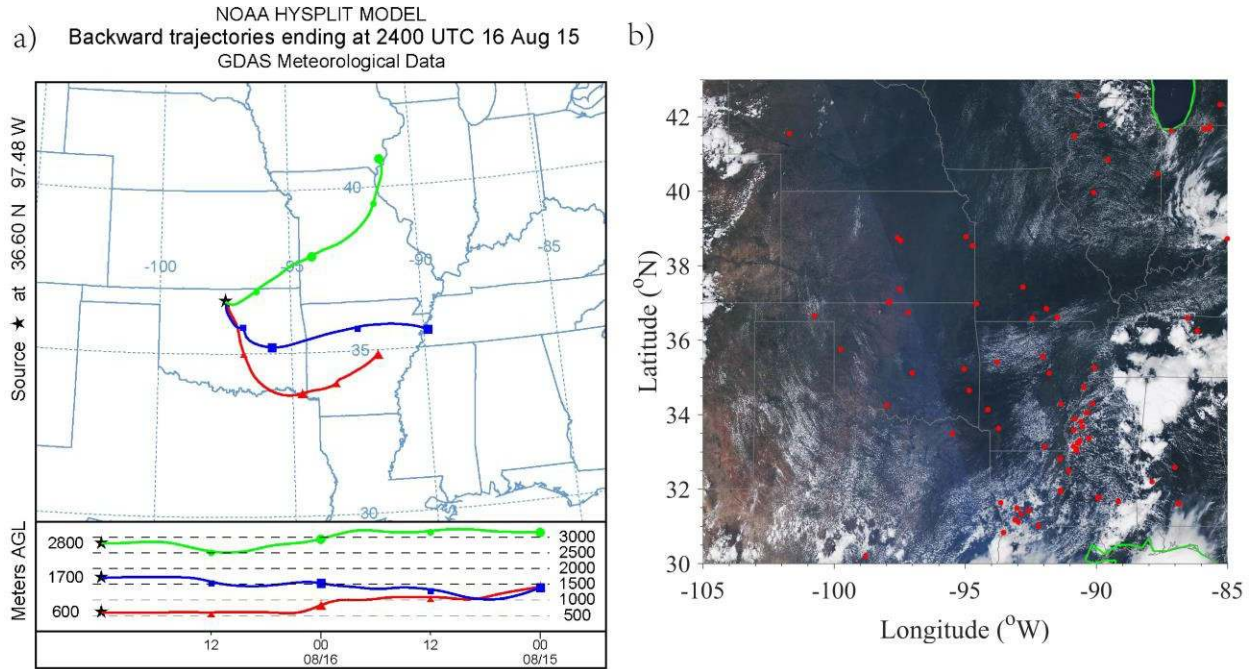
812 **Figure 6.** Errors in retrieved CCN number concentrations at different supersaturation ratios  
 813 (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) that arise from accounting for both systematic and  
 814 random errors for (a) Type 1, (b) Type 2, and (3) Type 3 aerosols. Error bars denote the standard  
 815 deviations.



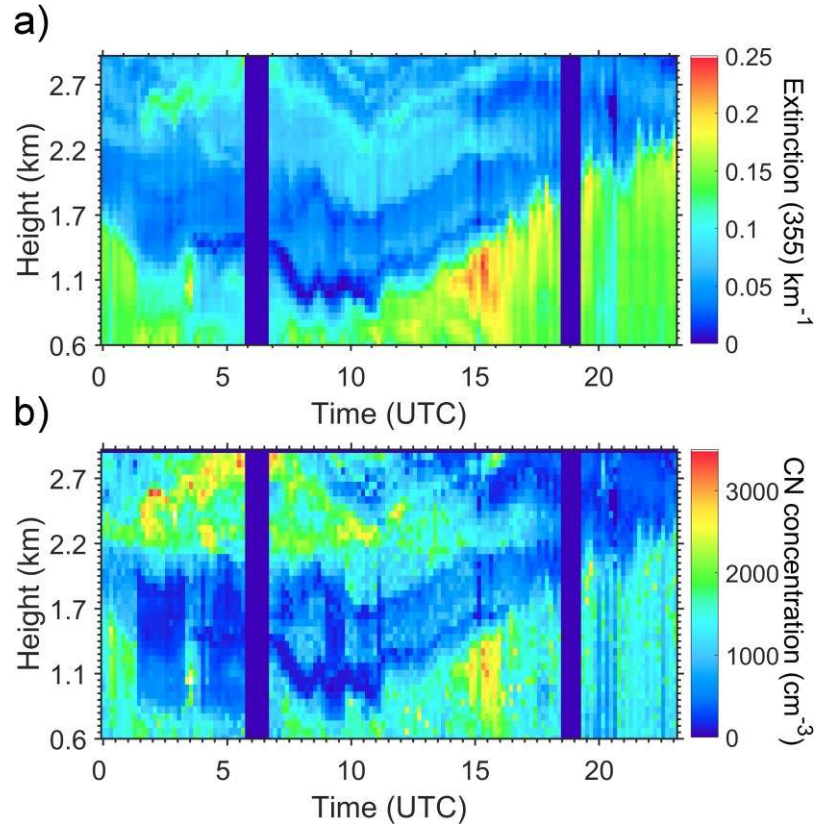


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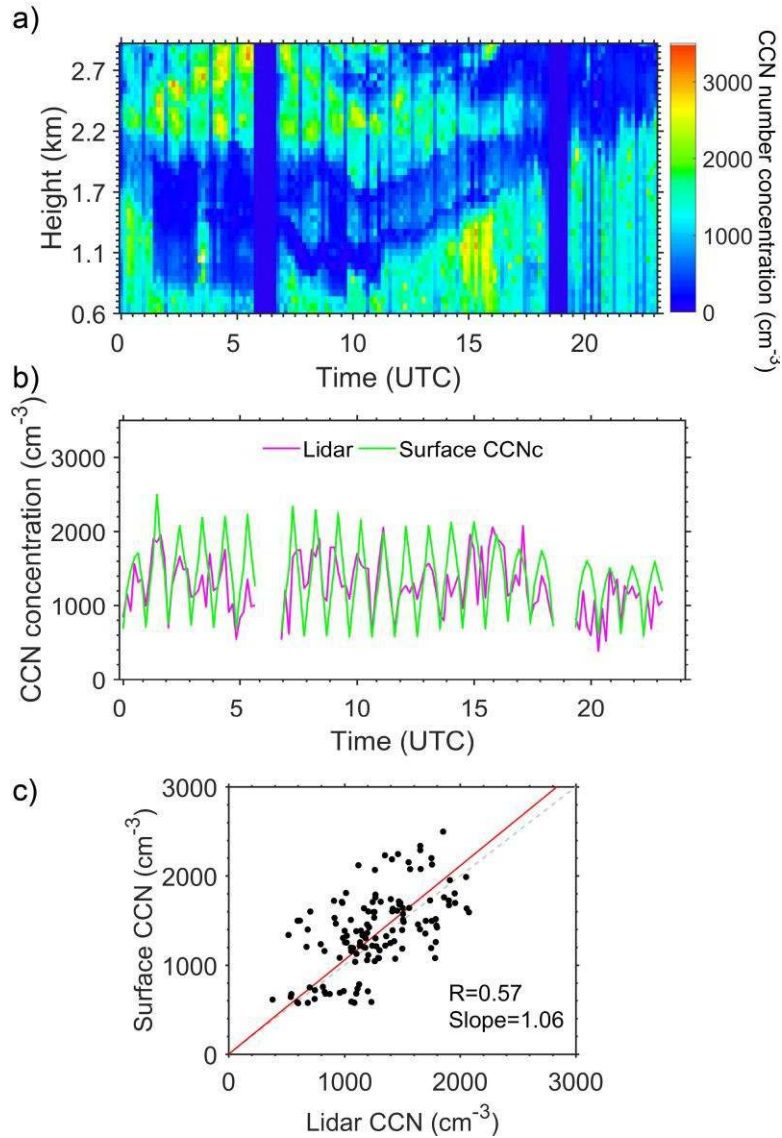
817 **Figure 7.** Spatio-temporal distributions of (a) the lidar ratio at 532 nm, and (b) the aerosol  
 818 depolarization ratio at 532 nm calculated from the Raman nitrogen signal, and (c) the Ångström  
 819 exponent retrieved from lidar measurements on 16 August 2015 at the SGP site. The heights are  
 820 kilometers above ground level.



822 **Figure 8.** (a) 48-h back trajectories ending at 2400 UTC 16 August 2015 at the SGP site within  
 823 the 600–2800 m layer, (b) MODIS true RGB image along with fire spots (red dots) from Aqua and  
 824 Terra on 15 August 2015. The heights are meters above ground level.



825  
 826 **Figure 9.** Spatio-temporal distributions of (a) aerosol extinction at 355 nm and (b) CN  
 827 concentration retrieved from lidar measurements made on 16 August 2015 at the SGP site. The  
 828 heights are kilometers above ground level.



829

830 **Figure 10.** (a) Spatio-temporal distributions of retrieved CCN number concentrations. (b) Time  
 831 series of CCN concentration measured by the lidar (at 0.6 km, magenta line) and the surface CCNc  
 832 (green line). (c) Surface CCN concentration as a function of lidar CCN concentration (black dots)  
 833 on 16 August 2015 at the SGP site. The correlation coefficient (R) and the slope of the linear best-  
 834 fit line (red line) are given in the lower right corner of (c). The 1:1 line is also shown (grey dashed  
 835 line).

836

837 **Tables**

838 **Table 1.** Typical parameter ranges for the three aerosol bimodal distributions.  $V_{if} / V_{ic}$  is the ratio  
 839 of the volume concentration of the fine mode to the coarse mode.  $m_R$  and  $m_I$  represent the mean  
 840 values of real and imaginary parts of the complex refractive index [Dubovik *et al.*, 2002;  
 841 Veselovskii *et al.*, 2004].

Aerosol Parameter	Urban Industrial	Biomass Burning	Dust
$r_f^n$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	0.075–0.095	0.072–0.082	0.062–0.082
$r_c^n$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	0.60–0.71	0.75–0.80	0.59–0.64
$\ln \sigma_f$	0.38–0.46	0.4–0.47	0.4–0.53
$\ln \sigma_c$	0.70	0.70	0.65
$V_{if} / V_{ic}$	0.8–2.0	1.3–2.5	0.1–0.5
$m_R, m_I$	1.45, 0.01	1.5, 0.015	1.55, 0.002

842

843 **Table 2.** Critical radius at five critical supersaturation ratios for each type of aerosol.

	Critical Radius ( $r_c$ , $\mu\text{m}$ )				
	0.07%	0.10%	0.20%	0.40%	0.80%
Type 1 ( $\kappa = 0.3$ )	0.105	0.083	0.052	0.033	0.021
Type 2 ( $\kappa = 0.1$ )	0.151	0.119	0.075	0.047	0.029
Type 3 ( $\kappa = 0.03$ )	0.224	0.177	0.111	0.069	0.043

844

845 **Table 3.** CCN errors at different  $S_{cs}$  (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) retrieved from  
 846 error-free inputs for the three aerosol types.

		CCN Error (%)				
		0.07%	0.10%	0.20%	0.40%	0.80%
Mean	Type 1	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.24	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.24	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.24	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.24	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.24
$\pm$ SD	Type 2	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.18	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.18	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.18	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.18	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.18
(%)	Type 3	-0.00 $\pm$ 0.21	-0.00 $\pm$ 0.25	-0.00 $\pm$ 0.27	-0.00 $\pm$ 0.28	0.00 $\pm$ 0.28

847

848

849 **Table 4.** Sensitivity of CCN retrievals to the bimodal fits at different supersaturation ratios (0.07%,  
 850 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) from the 50 NAMMA aerosol size distributions. The CCN error  
 851 is calculated as an absolute value.

CCN Error (%)					
	0.07%	0.10%	0.20%	0.40%	0.80%
Mean $\pm$ SD (%)	3.9 $\pm$ 2.8	3.1 $\pm$ 2.9	4.2 $\pm$ 3.3	2.2 $\pm$ 1.8	1.9 $\pm$ 1.6

852

853 **Table 5.** Effects of the assumed  $\ln\sigma_c$  on the retrieved CCN errors at different supersaturation ratios  
 854 (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) for the three aerosol types. Error-free inputs were used.

CCN Error (%)						
		0.07%	0.10%	0.20%	0.40%	0.80%
Mean	Type 1	0.01 $\pm$ 0.7	-0.03 $\pm$ 1.2	-0.03 $\pm$ 3.8	0.02 $\pm$ 5.2	0.04 $\pm$ 5.5
$\pm$ SD	Type 2	0.8 $\pm$ 1.6	0.6 $\pm$ 1.0	-0.2 $\pm$ 1.2	-1.0 $\pm$ 3.0	-1.3 $\pm$ 3.9
(%)	Type 3	-0.05 $\pm$ 2.7	0.07 $\pm$ 3.3	0.3 $\pm$ 1.2	-0.2 $\pm$ 2.4	-0.8 $\pm$ 5.8

855

856 **Table 6.** Range, mean, and standard deviations of retrieved CCN number concentration errors at  
 857 different supersaturation ratios (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%). Input optical data  
 858 included 15% random errors.

		0.07%	0.10%	0.20%	0.40%	0.80%
Type 1	Range (%)	[-53.4, 47.2]	[-49.4, 44.1]	[-37.9, 26.8]	[-30.0, 19.1]	[-27.5, 18.2]
	Mean $\pm$ SD (%)	-2.5 $\pm$ 18.7	-3.6 $\pm$ 20.3	-7.0 $\pm$ 19.0	-7.6 $\pm$ 18.2	-7.3 $\pm$ 18.2
Type 2	Range (%)	[-61.7, 50.4]	[-53.0, 51.6]	[-55.1, 44.7]	[-43.8, 21.9]	[-31.2, 16.9]
	Mean $\pm$ SD (%)	-5.4 $\pm$ 14.6	-1.0 $\pm$ 21.4	-3.3 $\pm$ 24.9	-7.7 $\pm$ 18.9	-6.5 $\pm$ 17.5
Type 3	Range (%)	[-82.7, 122.6]	[-92.0, 103.4]	[-79.4, 98.1]	[-75.4, 103.5]	[-64, 57.7]
	Mean $\pm$ SD (%)	-20.0 $\pm$ 46.1	-19.4 $\pm$ 34.1	4.4 $\pm$ 27.5	10.2 $\pm$ 41.4	-0.8 $\pm$ 36.2

859

860

861

862 **Table 7.** Mean and standard deviations of CCN retrieval errors at different supersaturation ratios  
 863 (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) with both systematic and random errors included.

		Systematic error (%)	0.07%	0.10%	0.20%	0.40%	0.80%
Type 1	Mean ±	5	1.3 ± 14.7	-0.1 ± 16.3	-3.7 ± 15.9	-4.5 ± 16.3	-4.2 ± 16.6
		10	-0.1 ± 18.3	-0.9 ± 20.2	-4.5 ± 18.9	-5.3 ± 18.1	-5.1 ± 18.0
	SD (%)	15	-3.3 ± 18.7	-4.1 ± 19.7	-7.5 ± 18.8	-8.2 ± 18.3	-8.0 ± 18.4
		20	-6.9 ± 19.9	-6.9 ± 20.5	-8.9 ± 19.6	-9.3 ± 18.8	-9.0 ± 18.7
Type 2	Mean ±	5	-0.8 ± 8.5	1.7 ± 15.2	-1.6 ± 17.2	-5.1 ± 14.8	-4.4 ± 15.7
		10	-3.2 ± 11.8	-0.3 ± 19.1	-3.5 ± 21.6	-6.7 ± 16.6	-5.1 ± 16.6
	SD (%)	15	-7.6 ± 15.3	-2.7 ± 21.6	-3.8 ± 25.5	-7.6 ± 19.0	-6.3 ± 17.3
		20	-10.3 ± 19.6	-5.5 ± 24.0	-6.3 ± 26.7	-10.0 ± 20.1	-8.5 ± 17.9
Type 3	Mean ±	5	-12.7 ± 32.0	-10.0 ± 23.2	3.0 ± 15.3	4.4 ± 29.5	-1.1 ± 31.7
		10	-16.2 ± 41.9	-15.2 ± 30.4	3.5 ± 21.8	6.8 ± 36.5	-1.9 ± 33.3
	SD (%)	15	-24.9 ± 48.3	-23.5 ± 36.0	6.1 ± 29.2	14.0 ± 43.9	-0.8 ± 36.8
		20	-25.8 ± 53.1	-24.9 ± 38.8	6.0 ± 36.6	12.7 ± 45.4	-1.8 ± 37.0