

1 **External and Internal Cloud Condensation Nuclei (CCN) Mixtures: Controlled Laboratory**
2 **Studies of Varying Mixing States.**

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18
19 **Abstract**

20
21 Changes in aerosol chemical mixtures modify cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) activity. Previous studies have
22 developed CCN models and validated changes in external and internal mixing state with ambient field data. Here,
23 we develop an experimental method to test and validate the CCN activation of known aerosol chemical composition
24 with multicomponent mixtures and varying mixing states. CCN activation curves consisting of one or more
25 activation points is presented. Specifically, simplified two component systems of varying hygroscopicity were
26 generated under internal, external, and transitional mixing conditions. κ -Köhler theory predictions were calculated

27 for different organic and inorganic mixtures and compared to experimentally derived kappa values and respective
28 mixing states. This work employs novel experimental methods to provide information on the shifts in CCN
29 activation data due to external to internal particle mixing from controlled laboratory sources. Results show that
30 activation curves consisting of single and double activation points are consistent with internal and external mixtures,
31 respectively. In addition, the height of the plateau at the activation points are reflective of the externally mixed
32 concentration in the mixture. The presence of a plateau indicates that CCN activation curves consisting of multiple
33 inflection points are externally mixed aerosols of varying water-uptake properties. The plateau disappears when
34 mixing is promoted in the flow tube. At the end of the flow tube experiment, the aerosol are internally mixed and the
35 CCN activated fraction data can be fit with a single sigmoidal curve. The technique to mimic external to internally
36 mixed aerosol is applied to non-hygroscopic carbonaceous aerosol with organic and inorganic components. To our
37 knowledge, this work is the first to show controlled CCN activation of mixed non-hygroscopic soot with
38 hygroscopic material as the aerosol population transitions from external to internally mixed in laboratory conditions.
39 Results confirm that CCN activation analysis methods used here and in ambient data sets are robust and may be used
40 to infer the mixing state of complex aerosol compositions of unknown origin.

41 **1. Introduction**

42 Atmospheric cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) are comprised of complex mixtures of organic and inorganic
43 compounds. The chemical and physical diversity present in complex mixtures can significantly complicate the
44 quantification of aerosol-cloud interactions, thereby making it difficult to predict CCN activity (e.g., Riemer et al.,
45 2019). In this work, we define mixtures and the aerosol mixing state as the chemical diversity across an aerosol
46 distribution. Knowledge of the mixing state and the chemical composition can greatly improve CCN predictions
47 and has been the focus of several studies (e.g., but not limited to (Bilde and Svenningsson 2004; Abbatt et al. 2005;
48 Henning et al. 2005; Svenningsson et al. 2006; King et al. 2007; Cubison et al. 2008; Kuwata and Kondo 2008;
49 Zaveri et al. 2010; Su et al. 2010; Wang et al. 2010; Spracklen et al. 2011; Ervens et al. 2010; Asa-Awuku et al.
50 2011; Lance et al. 2012; Liu et al. 2013; Jurányi et al. 2013; Paramonov et al. 2013; Padró et al. 2012; Moore et al.
51 2012; Meng et al. 2014; Bhattu and Tripathi 2015; Almeida et al. 2014; Schill et al. 2015; Crosbie et al. 2015; Che

52 et al. 2016; Ching et al. 2016; Mallet et al. 2017; Sánchez Gácita et al. 2017; Cai et al. 2018; Schmale et al. 2018;
53 Mahish et al. 2018; Kim et al. 2018; Chen et al. 2019; Stevens and Dastoor 2019)

54 It is well accepted that the water content and the point of activation is dependent on more factors than just the
55 supersaturation and dry diameter for CCN active aerosols (Dusek et al., 2006; Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007). The
56 droplet growth and activation of slightly soluble organics can be modified when internally mixed with inorganic
57 salts that readily deliquesce (Cruz et al., 1998; Padró et al., 2002; Svenningsson et al., 2006). Although inorganic
58 salts are well characterized, the quantification of CCN activity is complicated when they are internally mixed with a
59 complex organic. Consequently, simple mixing rules may no longer be appropriate. It has been observed that mixed
60 aerosols can activate at lower supersaturations than their bulk constituents and organic compounds that may not
61 traditionally be considered as water soluble may aid in the formation of a cloud droplet by acting as a surfactant,
62 depressing surface tension, or simply by contributing mass (Cruz et al., 1998; Padró et al., 2007; Svenningsson et al.,
63 2006). In addition, when there is a sufficiently large enough fraction of salt, the slightly soluble core can dissolve
64 before activation, thus lowering the required supersaturation (Sullivan et al., 2009). Thus, the mixing state and
65 extent of mixing can substantially influence CCN activity.

66 To help minimize the complexity in characterizing aerosol hygroscopic and CCN activation properties, CCN
67 data analysis has traditionally been simplified by assuming that *i*) the aerosols share a similar or uniform
68 hygroscopicity over a particle size distribution, *ii*) the CCN particle size can be described by the electrical mobility
69 diameter, *iii*) CCN consists of few multiply charged aerosols and *iv*) all CCN active aerosols readily dissolve at
70 activation. As a result, a singular sigmoidal fit is commonly applied over the entire CCN activation. However, this
71 method of analysis may not be fully representative of the heterogeneous mixing state occasionally present in the
72 aerosol sample. Thus a CCN mixture refers to the diversity of activated aerosols in the particle population (not the
73 property of an individual particle; i.e., Winkler, 1973; Riemer et al., 2019).

74 Previous studies have addressed aerosols with singular or internally mixed binary chemical species (e.g. but not
75 limited to, Bilde et al., 2004; Broekhuizen et al., 2004; Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007; Shulman et al., 1996;
76 Sullivan et al., 2009). However, ambient measurements indicate complex aerosol populations consisting of both
77 external and internal mixtures (e.g., but not limited to Ervens et al., 2007; Lance et al., 2012; Moore et al., 2012,
78 Padró et al., 2012). By accounting for the mixing states and extent of mixing in field data sets, CCN concentration
79 predictions can be greatly improved (e.g but not limited to Padró et al., 2012; Wex et al., 2010, Su et al., 2010,

80 Kuwata and Kondo, 2008). However, dynamic changes in particle mixing states have not been reproduced in the
81 laboratory and subsequent treatment of CCN measurement and analysis have not been readily studied in depth under
82 controlled laboratory conditions.

83 In this work, we seek to improve the experimental CCN activation analysis techniques of complex mixtures by
84 investigating the influence of mixing state on activation curves with known aerosol composition. Theoretical
85 postulations have already been developed and applied to ambient data sets (e.g., but not limited to, Su et al., 2010,
86 Padró et al., 2012; Bhattu et al., 2016;) but never before has a systematic laboratory experiment controlled and
87 validated the extent of particle heterogeneity for CCN activation. To understand the impact of mixing state on CCN
88 activation, simplified two component mixtures of known compounds with varying hygroscopicities are created
89 under internal, external, and in-between (transition) mixing conditions. In addition, black carbon containing particles
90 (BC) and BC mixing state data is presented. BC is renowned for its direct radiative effects yet little is known
91 experimentally about the contributions of BC mixtures to aerosol-cloud interactions at varied mixing states. Previous
92 work investigating the contribution of BC to aerosol-cloud interactions at various mixing states has been studied
93 (e.g., but not limited to Bond et al., 2013 and references therein, Lammel and Novakov 1995; Novakov and Corrigan
94 1996; Weingartner et al. 1997; Dusek et al. 2006; Kuwata and Kondo 2008; Koehler et al. 2009; McMeeking et al.
95 2011; Liu et al. 2013; Rojas et al. 2015). However, many of these have been limited more to ambient related field
96 studies and less under controlled laboratory settings. Here, the CCN activation and hygroscopic properties of soot
97 mixed with atmospherically relevant constituents of varying hygroscopicity are investigated under laboratory
98 controlled conditions. This work provides evidence on the differences between inorganic, slightly soluble, and
99 insoluble externally and internally mixed compositions for the uptake of water, and subsequent CCN activity.

100 **2. Experimental Methods**

101 **2.1 Aerosol Composition and Sources**

102 The CCN activity of two component aerosol mixtures under internal, external, and combinations of mixing
103 states are explored in this study. The components include very hygroscopic (inorganics), hygroscopic (organic
104 acids), and non-hygroscopic (Black Carbon, BC). For known chemical compositions, a Collision-type atomizer

105 generated singular-component solutions of ammonium sulfate, $((\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, Acros 99.5%), sodium chloride, (NaCl,
106 Acros 99+%) and succinic acid ($\text{C}_4\text{H}_6\text{O}_4$, Acros 99%) and subsequent internal mixture combinations as described in
107 the sections Aerosol Mixing States and Modified Mixing States: External to Internal. Succinic acid, classified as a
108 slightly soluble dicarboxylic acid, (18) $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, and NaCl are all relevant model atmospheric compounds with
109 varying degrees of solubility and hygroscopicity. All atomized solutions were prepared using Millipore[®] DI water
110 (18 mΩ, TOC \leq 5 ppb). Atomized wet droplets were dried with silica gel diffusion dryer (as commonly practiced).
111 In addition, we employ a heated column before the diffusion dryer to facilitate the evaporation of water from the wet
112 particles. The implications of the use or absence of a heated column are discussed in the results below.

113 An AVL Particle Generator (APG), which houses a mini Combustion Aerosol STandard soot generator
114 (miniCAST 6203C, Jing Ltd.), was used to generate carbonaceous aerosols. The APG consists of a propane burner
115 followed by a volatile particle remover. The burner was operated at 400°C with a propane and air flow rate of 15 ml
116 per min and 1.0 l per min, respectively. The miniCAST utilized in the APG has been well characterized in previous
117 work (e.g., Pinho et al. 2008; Seong and Boehman 2012; Mamakos et al. 2013; Maricq and Matti Maricq 2014;
118 Durdina et al. 2016; Moore et al. 2014). The soot formed is a mixture of black and oxidized carbon (Moore et al.
119 2014). The aerosol structures generated by the APG likely consisted of fractal-like agglomerates of non-spherical
120 particles (Moore et al. 2014; Durdina et al., 2016). APG Combustion aerosols are mixed with inorganic and slightly
121 soluble succinic acid and CCN activity is subsequently measured at different supersaturations.

122 **2.2 Aerosol Mixing Methods**

123 Mixing compounds in solution can readily form internal mixtures of aerosol (Gibson et al., 2007; Hameri et
124 al., 2002). Solution mixtures of a highly hygroscopic compound, NaCl, and a slightly hygroscopic compound,
125 succinic acid, are shown. Five aqueous solutions of succinic acid and NaCl with molar ratios of 100:0, 87:13, 69:31,
126 43:57, 0:100 were aerosolized using a single atomizer, passed through a heated column, dried, and sampled directly
127 into a Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer (SMPS) and CCN Counter (CCNC). Instrument specifications are discussed
128 in section 2.3.

129 External mixtures were formed via two methods. The first and simplest method required two sufficiently dry
130 aerosol streams to mix. Two aerosol streams were joined via a Swagelok[®] Tee connector. External mixtures were
131 also formed in a flow tube mixing apparatus. As conditions (e.g., but not limited to, residence time, temperature,

132 pressure, relative humidity) change in a flow tube, it is assumed that the external mixture may transition into an
133 internally mixed aerosol system. A flow tube mixing apparatus was constructed to test this assumption and modify
134 the extent of mixing of multiple components (Fig. 1 & 2).

135

136

137 **Figure 1.** External and Internal Mixtures with gradual mixing in flow tube

138

139 This work shows changes in CCN experimental data and analysis as a result of changes in the extent of
140 mixing. Results of the CCN activation are presented in the Section: Modified Mixing: External to Internal Mixing in
141 the Aerosol Flow Tube. A brief description of the flow tube is provided here. The first aerosol stream is introduced
142 into the flow tube by a ¼ inch stainless steel (SS) tube. The second aerosol stream is also introduced by a ¼ inch SS
143 tube, but is expanded to an outer concentric ¾ inch SS tube using a SS Swagelok tee connection. The two aerosol
144 flows are initially mixed together at the exit of ¼ inch tube and aerosol mixes within the ¾ inch SS tube for an
145 additional 12 inches before entering the quartz tube where it continues to mix. In this study, the pressure and
146 temperature of the flow tube is maintained at ambient conditions. The extent of mixing in the flow tube mixer has
147 been modeled by Computational Fluid Dynamics simulation (CFD - Comsol) to test and improve the aerosol mixing
148 capabilities of the flow tube mixer (Fig. A1). The focus of this work is not the mixing apparatus but the CCN
149 behavior that results from changes in the extent of mixing. It is noted that particle losses likely occur within the
150 flow tube system but do not affect the intrinsic aerosol and CCN properties (activated fractions) presented here.

151

152 **Figure 2.** Example of charge corrected a) a single component activation curve b) a multiple activation curve from an
153 externally mixed/heterogeneous system. The asymptote, η , varies in height and length with the presence of mixed
154 components and their respective hygroscopicities.

155 2.3 CCN Activity and Chemical Composition: Measurements and Instrumentation

156 CCN activation is measured with particle sizing and counting instrumentation in parallel with CCN counting
157 instrumentation. This technique is widespread and has been used in numerous publications (Moore et al., 2010;

158 Padró et al., 2012). The development of a single continuous-flow thermal gradient diffusion column CCN Counter,
159 CCNC (Droplet Measurement Technologies, Inc.) has provided rapid (~1 Hz) and robust CCN data (Lance et al.,
160 2012; Roberts and Nenes, 2005). Aerosols with a S_c lower than the supersaturation in the column activate and form
161 droplets. These droplets are detected and counted using an optical particle counter at the exit of the column.

162 A TSI 3080 Electrostatic Classifier selects and measures aerosol size distributions. Polydisperse aerosol
163 streams are passed through a bi-polar krypton-85 charger and then through a differential mobility analyzer (DMA),
164 where the aerosols are sized according to electrical mobility with a sheath to aerosol flow ratio of 10:1. The
165 monodispersed flow is then split to a CPC and a CCN counter. CN concentrations were measured with a
166 condensation particle counter, CPC (TSI 3772, TSI 3776).

167 The CCNC is operated at 0.5 lpm with a sheath to aerosol flow ratio of 10:1 and is calibrated with $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ to
168 determine the instrument supersaturation (Rose et al., 2008). Operating the CCN in parallel with the CPC allows for
169 the simultaneous measurements of the total CN and CCN of the monodispersed aerosols. By operating the DMA in
170 scanning voltage mode and maintaining a constant column supersaturation, the CCN/CN, or activation ratio, as a
171 function of dry diameter can be obtained for a given supersaturation. These size resolved CCN distributions obtained
172 through scanning mobility CCN analysis (SMCA) are produce CCN activation curves, CCN/CN ratio as a function
173 of particle mobility diameter (Moore et al., 2010). SMCA produces high resolution CCN activation data near the
174 50% efficiency critical diameter every ~ 2 minutes.

175 An Aerodyne high-resolution time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS) measured the non-
176 refractory bulk composition (DeCarlo et al., 2006). The HR-ToF-AMS was operated in V-mode to track the
177 concentration and vacuum aerodynamic diameter as the aerosol fractions were modified.

178 **3. CCN Analytical Method**

179 CCN data analysis of single component aerosols, such as AS, are well characterized. The activation of a single
180 known component yields a simple sigmoidal activation curve and is often used for instrument calibration (Fig. 2a).
181 However ambient aerosols generally exist as complex mixtures of organic and inorganic species. CCN data sets
182 from ambient and chamber studies, which consist of these aerosol mixtures, may not show a single sigmoidal

183 activation curve but instead can exhibit multiple activation curves not associated with doubly charged particles (Fig.
 184 2b).

185

186 Sigmoidal fits are applied to the CCN/CN as a function of dry activation diameters for the multicomponent
 187 aerosols. Externally mixed aerosol fractions in activation curves have been previously observed in ambient studies
 188 by Lance et al. (2013), Moore et al. (2012), and Bougiatioti et al. (2011). For those studies, E was defined as the
 189 hygroscopic fraction, and $1-E$ the non-hygroscopic mixed fraction. For this study the first curve is similarly defined
 190 as the hygroscopic externally mixed fraction (EMF) with an asymptote, or plateau of η . The dependence of η varies
 191 with the presence of mixed components and their respective hygroscopicities. Thus we evaluate η for controlled
 192 compositions and compare how representative they are of the known fractions of mixtures.

193 A sigmoidal fit through the EMF determines the particle dry diameter of the more hygroscopic species. A
 194 second sigmoidal fit is applied to the second activation curve. An example is shown in Fig. 2b for an external
 195 mixture of AS and SA. A sigmoid is fit for the more hygroscopic species, AS, and then a second for the less
 196 hygroscopic species, SA. The activation diameters are consistent with those expected for the two compounds and
 197 agree with Köhler predicted activation values for AS and SA. Doubly charge aerosols are indicated in Figure 2 and
 198 are a negligible contribution to the activation curves.

199 The supersaturation and critical dry diameter are related via with the single parameter hygroscopicity, κ , to
 200 describe the CCN activity and to determine the effect of mixing states of multiple components on the supersaturated
 201 hygroscopic properties of aerosols. Using the generalized κ -Köhler equations presented by Petters and Kreidenweis
 202 (2007 and 2008), droplet growth in the supersaturated regimes for a selected dry diameter can be modeled for an
 203 aerosol where the entire particle diameter dissolves at activation.

$$\ln S_c = \left(\frac{4A^3 \rho_w M_s}{27 \nu \rho_s M_w D_d^3} \right)^{1/2}, \quad \text{where } A = \frac{4\sigma_{s/a} M_w}{RT \rho_w} \quad (1)$$

$$\kappa = \frac{4A^3}{27 D_d^3 \ln^2 S_c} \quad (2)$$

204 $\sigma_{s/a}$ is the surface tension, M_w is the molecular weight of water, R the universal gas constant, T is the temperature at
 205 activation, and ρ_w is the density of water. Surface tension and density of water were calculated according to
 206 temperature dependent parameterizations presented by Seinfeld and Pandis (1998) and Pruppacher and Klett (1997).

207 The surface tension of the solution is assumed to be that of pure water. Traditional Köhler theory is known to work
208 reasonably well for inorganic salts and slightly-soluble and hygroscopic organics like succinic acid.
209

210 **4. Results and Discussion**

211 **4.1 Internal Mixtures**

212 Aerosolized internally mixed solutions exhibit single CCN activation curves for all five compositions of
213 succinic acid and NaCl solutions (Fig. 3a). The activation curve is similar to that of ammonium sulfate in Figure 2a.
214 Multiply charged particles contribute less than 10% to the activated fraction and are assumed to be negligible. One
215 sigmoid that plateaus near one can be applied to describe the CCN activation. As the internal mixture salt fraction
216 increased at a given supersaturation, the single curve was maintained and shifted towards a lower activation
217 diameter, indicative of and consistent with more hygroscopic aerosol. Using the simple mixing rule, a
218 multicomponent hygroscopicity parameter can be theoretically derived based on the expected kappa values for each
219 individual component hygroscopicity (κ_i), and the volume fraction of each component (ε_i) (Petters and Kreidenweis
220 (2007)).

$$\kappa = \sum_i \varepsilon_i \kappa_i \quad (3)$$

221 Equation (3) was applied for each mixture. κ was calculated and compared to the experimental values (Fig. 3b).
222 These internal mixtures do not strongly follow the simple mixing rule for every mixture and is consistent with the
223 previous work of Shulman et al. (1996) and Padró et al. (2007) who showed that slightly soluble compounds
224 internally mixed with salts resulted in surface tension depression and thus a lower required critical supersaturation.
225 As previously published, accounting for organic surface tension depression could improve kappa-hygroscopicity
226 calculations for internal mixtures. Regardless of prediction, the single sigmoidal experimental data set is indicative
227 of a single component or homogeneous internally mixed aerosol population.

228
229
230 **Figure 3. a)** Activation curves for two component internal mixtures of NaCl and succinic acid (SA) at SS 0.72%.
231 Doubly charged aerosols are present but are all below 0.1 and negligible. **b)** Internally mixed aerosols.
232 Multicomponent hygroscopicity parameter predictions vs. experimentally derived kappa values. Dashed lines
233 indicate 20% uncertainty.

234 4.2 External to Internal Aerosol Mixing Results

235 Individual single component aqueous solutions of ammonium sulfate (AS), $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, and succinic acid
236 (SA) were aerosolized, dried with an active heated column and silica gel diffusion dryer to produce external
237 mixtures. Data sets yielding multiple activation curves consistent with external mixing were successfully created by
238 *i)* mixing aerosol streams and *ii)* injecting SA and AS-compounds in the flow tube. For this manuscript, we show
239 externally mixed data generated from the use of the mixing flow tube. The direct mixing produces the same external
240 mixed CCN results (not shown). By using aerosols consisting of compounds of significantly different
241 hygroscopicities, and thus different activation diameters, distinct double plateaus for CCN activation can be
242 observed for external mixtures (Fig. 2b). At particle mobility diameters between ~35 and 45 nm there is an
243 asymptote, $\eta \sim 0.6$ (Fig. 4a., 4b., and 4c). The activation curves were characteristic of AS and SA, and the measured
244 activation diameters agreed well with Köhler Theory and the single parameter (κ) thermodynamic predictions of
245 droplet activation (Fig. 4a). The external mixture was maintained for an hour as indicated by the separate and stable
246 activation diameters derived from multiple sigmoid analysis.

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248
249 **Figure 4. External to internal mixtures of a slightly soluble organic aerosol, succinic acid (SA) and inorganic**
250 **ammonium sulfate (AS) aerosol.** The CCNC was operated at a single S_c of 0.8%. Closed symbols are externally
251 mixed. Open symbols are internally mixed. a) The apparent kappa values derived from externally mixed multiple-
252 sigmoid activation data before active heating is turned off at approximately 3:30 pm and after 3:30pm where single
253 sigmoid activation curves are observed. The two dotted lines indicate the theoretically derived kappa values for
254 succinic acid, $\kappa=0.23$, and ammonium sulfate, $\kappa=0.61$. b) CCN activation curves exhibit external (with active

255 heating before 3:30 pm) and then transitioning external to internal mixing (after 3:30pm) c) CCN/CN vs. Dry
256 mobility diameter data as a function of time. The asymptote, η , disappears at the by the end of the experiment.

257
258 One hour after initial injection into the flow tube, the active heating column was turned off. It should be
259 noted that atomized aerosol continued to be dried through the silica gel diffusion dryers, as is commonly done. The
260 relative humidity after the dryer in both cases is small ($< 20\%$) and thus the activation diameters of very hygroscopic
261 AS calibration aerosol are not affected with or without active heating (Fig. A2). However, as soon as active heating
262 was turned off, particles in the mixing flow tube became more mixed (Figure 4). Thus, it is likely that minute
263 amounts of aerosol water promoted internal mixing and shifted aerosol mixing from external to internal in the
264 mixing flow tube system.

265 CCN activation curves for the two compounds remained distinct and separate until internal mixing
266 conditions dominated and the multiple CCN activation curves converged into a single curve (Fig. 4b and 4c).
267 Results suggest aerosol water plays a significant factor in mixing and CCN activation. This is consistent with
268 previous work that indicates that the presence of water led to lowered aerosol viscosity and increased diffusivity (Ye
269 et al., 2016). The wetted aerosols can come in contact through diffusion and coalesce to form an internally mixed
270 aerosol. The apparent kappa values from fitting the two individual activation curves for the external part of the
271 mixing experiment and subsequent internal mixing are shown in Fig. 4a.

272 To help track the change in organic/inorganic fractions during the transition from external to internal, the
273 mixed aerosols were analyzed with a high-resolution time of flight mass spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS) to provide
274 mass fraction information. The mass size distribution was integrated and normalized for each compound per scan
275 according to the total mass that was measured. The mass size distribution was then converted to number size
276 distribution and the diameters were converted from aerodynamic diameter to electrical mobility diameter. Then for
277 each superstation and fraction, the EMF was calculated between the two respective activation diameters and
278 correlated to the EMF that was determined from SMCA to determine the plateau height (η).

279 AS fractions measured by the AMS are consistent with the changes SMCA derived η where increases in
280 AS mass fraction increase η . However, the AMS derived AS fraction are slightly lower compared to SMCA (Fig.
281 5), indicating potential influence on η from other factors. Previous work has shown the presence of highly soluble
282 materials (like AS) can promote CCN activity of organic dominated systems (Asa-Awuku et al., 2011; Fofie et al.,

283 2017). A second flow tube experiment was conducted to test the effect of differing concentrations on plateau
284 heights. The detection efficiency for particles with smaller sizes in the AMS (<50nm) can effect the AS fraction.
285 Thus, the CCNC supersaturation was modified from 0.2 to 1.2% to test the effect of activation diameter on closure
286 (Fig. 6.). Results show good agreement and are within 20% of predictions. Results utilizing CCN activation data for
287 aerosols <50nm may be a good substitute for estimating aerosol chemical fractions when other instruments with
288 lower size resolution are not readily available.

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290

291 **Figure 5.** Plateau heights derived from AMS data vs. SMCA. Single CCNC Supersaturation

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294 **Figure 6.** Modifying activation diameters. Plateau heights derived from AMS data vs. SMCA for CCNC
295 Supersaturation from 0.2 to 1.2%

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298 **4.3 External and Internal Mixtures of Combustion Aerosol**

299 Combustion aerosol or soot can form external and internal complex aerosol mixtures. Soot is considered
300 insoluble but wettable (e.g., but not limited to Lammel and Novakov 1995; Moore et al. 2014) and the contributions
301 of Black Carbon containing particles to aerosol-cloud interactions at varied mixing states is not well known or
302 understood (Lammel and Novakov 1995; Novakov and Corrigan 1996; Weingartner et al. 1997; Dusek et al. 2006;
303 Kuwata and Kondo 2008; Koehler et al. 2009; Bond et al. 2013; McMeeking et al. 2011; Liu et al. 2013; Rojas et al.
304 2015). Thus, the ability of black carbon to mix with inorganic and organic compounds and to observe the extent of
305 mixing as they activate as CCN is of great interest.

306 Prior to investigating the impact of mixing fresh combustion emissions with inorganic and organic aerosols, the
307 CCN activation spectra of soot was measured using combustion aerosol generated from the APG. The aerosol is
308 likely composed of black carbon and oxidized carbonaceous material (Moore et al. 2014; Durdina et al. 2016). Thus
309 we also refer to carbonaceous aerosol as black carbon mixtures (simply, BC mixtures). The CCN activated fraction
310 data from soot was fit to a singular sigmoidal curve (Fig. 7). There are no plateaus in the activation curve and the

311 single sigmoid fit indicates that the aerosol generated is a homogenous internal mixture. Combustion aerosol
312 activated at a mobility diameter of 133 nm at 2.2% supersaturation. The apparent hygroscopicity of combustion
313 aerosol was $\kappa=0.001$, and is consistent with the order of magnitude and kappa values reported for fresh combustion
314 aerosol from diesel engine sources (Fig. 7) (Vu et al., 2015; Moore et al. 2014). It is noted that the apparent
315 hygroscopicity is defined by the electrical mobility diameter that assumes particles are spherical.

316

317

318 **Figure 7.** Combustion aerosol activation curve (SS 2.2%, $d_{p,50}=133\text{nm}$, $\kappa=0.001$)

319 Next, the influence of modifying externally mixed hygroscopic aerosol fractions with non-hygroscopic BC
320 mixtures was observed. Soot was externally mixed with various concentrations of AS and NaCl in two separate
321 experiments. For each BC mixture, combustion aerosol was introduced to the flow tube and atomized inorganic and
322 organic aerosol (dried with a heated column and silica gel diffusion dryers) was injected. The concentration of
323 inorganic in the flow tube was slowly increased to modify the contribution of soluble material. The CCN counter
324 supersaturation was decreased to 1.1% to observe the impact of the more hygroscopic compounds in the BC
325 mixture.

326 Figure 8 shows the CCN activation of external mixtures of BC with AS and NaCl at $S_c = 1.1\%$. The initial
327 combustion size distribution at the start of the experiment and the modified CCN activation fractions of the aerosol
328 mixtures are presented. The shape of the activation curve provides insight about the sizes of very hygroscopic and
329 non-hygroscopic species. At $S_c = 1.1\%$ BC particles, with $\kappa = 0.001$, will not theoretically activate below 250 nm
330 and the contribution of externally mixed BC in the size range shown does not contribute much (if any) CCN. The
331 normalized size distribution data show that there are few BC-like particles at small sizes (<50 nm), the majority of
332 particles in this range are inorganic. Thus for both the AS and NaCl external mixtures, the activation diameters
333 derived from a singular fit were consistent with the expected $d_{p50} < 50$ nm of the respective inorganic salts. At the
334 larger sizes (> inorganic d_{p50}), the BC mixture concentration increased and the CCN/CN was depressed. The
335 combustion aerosol alone is not CCN active at this S_c or size and the depressions are reflective of the non-
336 hygroscopic combustion aerosol fraction in the aerosol sample. Notably, plateaus are dynamic. As the concentration
337 of inorganic salts increase, the increased activated fraction is reflected in the CCN spectra; the plateau heights
338 increase with increasing hygroscopic concentrations. In these particular externally mixed experiments, the initial

339 CCN/CN plateau can be as large as one, subsequently decrease, and then will likely increase to one after the BC
340 critical diameters are reached. BC externally mixed with very hygroscopic material is more CCN active than the
341 soot alone.

342

343

344 **Figure 8.** Combustion aerosols externally mixed with inorganics a) NaCl externally mixed with concentrations
345 modified from 51% to 85% over the course of 60 min b) AS externally mixed with concentrations from 41% to 86%
346 over a course of 75 min. Cross symbols represent the initial size distribution of the combustion aerosol.

347

348 Succinic acid (SA) was mixed with combustion aerosol to investigate the external to internal mixing and transition
349 of slightly hygroscopic organic with non-hygroscopic insoluble but wettable aerosols. The laboratory system mimics
350 observed increases in SOA mass fractions on combustion aerosols during atmospheric aging. The SA was
351 introduced to the flow tube at various concentrations, followed by the combustion aerosol from the APG, under dry
352 externally mixed conditions and bimodal size distribution peaks were observed (Figure 9).

353

354 The normalized size distributions of the aerosol leaving the flow tube are presented. The initial soot size distribution
355 is similar to those presented in Figure 8. Assuming the first of the two peaks is SA, and the second is a mixture of
356 the combustion aerosol and SA, the initial point of activation agrees with that of succinic acid where SA aerosols all
357 activate. After a mobility diameter, $dp > 50$ nm, the concentration of combustion aerosol in the mixture increases
358 and the CCN/CN ratio is < 0.2 , indicative of a lower SA concentration relative to the non-activated BC
359 concentration.

360

361 To induce internal mixing, active heating was again turned off for the atomized aerosol source. Again, internal
362 mixing was promoted and the multiple activation curves converge into a single sigmoid for the BC and SA system.
363 This is consistent with the AS/SA experiment and previous work that showed a strong influence of insoluble
364 compounds on activation when internally mixed with a more soluble compound. (9) With continued mixing, a shift
365 to larger activation diameters was observed towards the end of the experiment (scan 93) and there was a slight
366 depression in the plateau of the CCN spectra.

367
368 The data suggests that only a small amount of soluble inorganic and organic material is required to make the soot
369 more active than that observed alone, especially as the aerosol becomes more internally mixed.

370
371
372 **Figure 9.** a) Time series of CCN/CN activated fractions of Succinic Acid (SA) and combustion aerosol (BC)
373 mixture in flow tube. b) Succinic Acid and Combustion Aerosol mixtures for Scans 24, 45, 54, 73, and 94. Aerosol
374 water is introduced at ~ scan 70 to promote internal mixing.

375

376 5. Conclusion

377 Results confirm that the experimental CCN activation curves of aerosol provide insight into to the type of
378 mixing (e.g. internal vs. external) and the various levels of hygroscopicities that are chemically representative.
379 Modifications in the concentrations of externally mixed non-hygroscopic aerosols are reflective of the CCN
380 activated concentrations. This is consistent with CCN spectra observed in ambient studies, which have attributed
381 increases in plateau height to the extent of internal mixing of hygroscopic materials on externally mixed inactivated
382 aerosols. This work adds to the existing body of CCN literature and demonstrates that the transition from external to
383 internal mixtures can be mimicked in controlled laboratory experiments and observed in CCN data. If one accounts
384 for multiple-sigmoid analysis in experimental CCN activation data, the CCN behavior of known hygroscopic
385 compound mixtures (e.g., ammonium sulfate, sodium chloride, succinic acid) agrees well with traditional Köhler
386 theory. However, more work is needed to explore mixtures of hygroscopic material with wettable and non-
387 hygroscopic aerosol. Here, as the non-hygroscopic combustion aerosol becomes internally mixed with the inorganic
388 and organic material, the CCN activity of the combustion aerosol is modified. The data here, with recent
389 publications (Altaf et al., 2018; Ye at al., 2016), suggest that aerosol water is a significant factor in promoting
390 mixing and can be used to modify mixing states. The aerosols maintained an external mixture under dry conditions;
391 CCN activation curves plateaued and remained constant. However, turning off the heater promoted internal mixing
392 and the activation curves were observed to converge. These experiments with known compounds validate that the

393 aerosol mixing state can be observed in CCN activation data and can thus be revisited in complex aerosol data sets
394 to understand the extent of mixing. The results confirm that CCN counters and CCN analysis should be used in
395 future studies to quantify the extent of mixing of ambient particles. The results are critical to understanding other
396 factors important to the direct and indirect radiative contributions of atmospheric particles.

397

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408

409 **Appendix**

410

411 **Figure A1.** Fluid dynamics simulation results of the flow stream transporting behaviors in the flow tube mixer

412

413 **Figure A2.** Atomized AS CCN calibrations. In both cases the aerosol is atomized and passed through a silica gel
414 diffusion dryer. The aerosol passes through a heated column before the drier in Dp_Heater on data and does no in
415 Dp_Heater off. The critical activation mobility diameters (μm) for heated-dried vs. non-heated dried atomized
416 sample streams agree. The two-tailed P-value is 0.87.

417

418

419 **References**

420

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Figures for:

External and Internal CCN Mixtures: Controlled Laboratory Studies of Varying Mixing States

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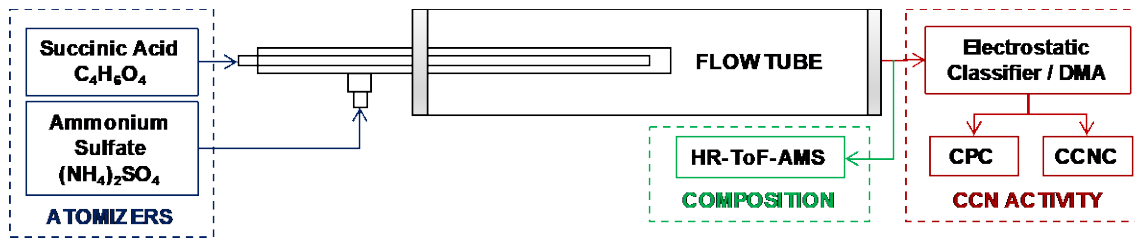


fig01

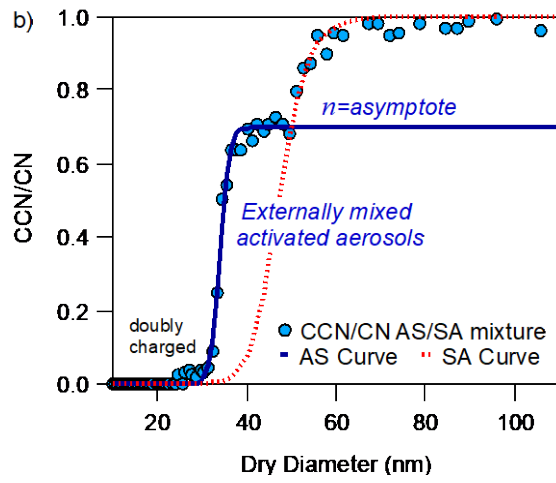
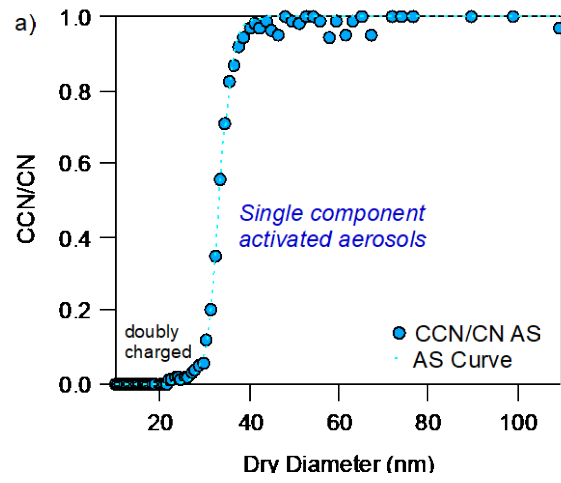


fig02

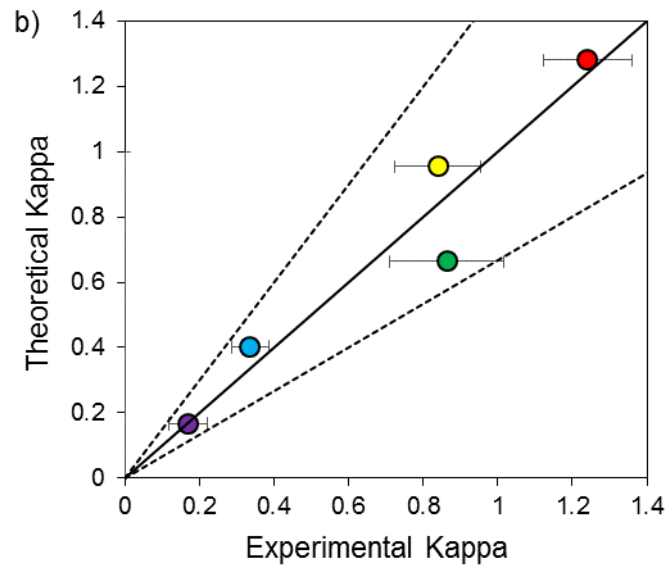
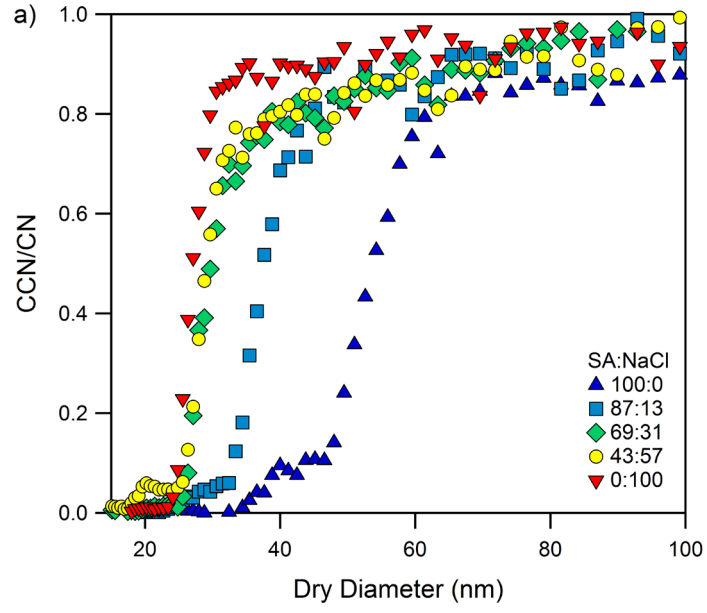
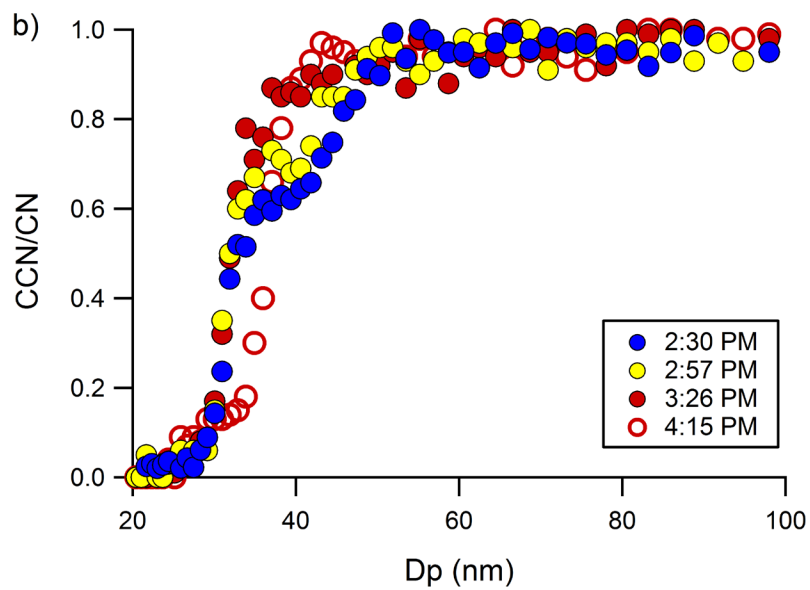
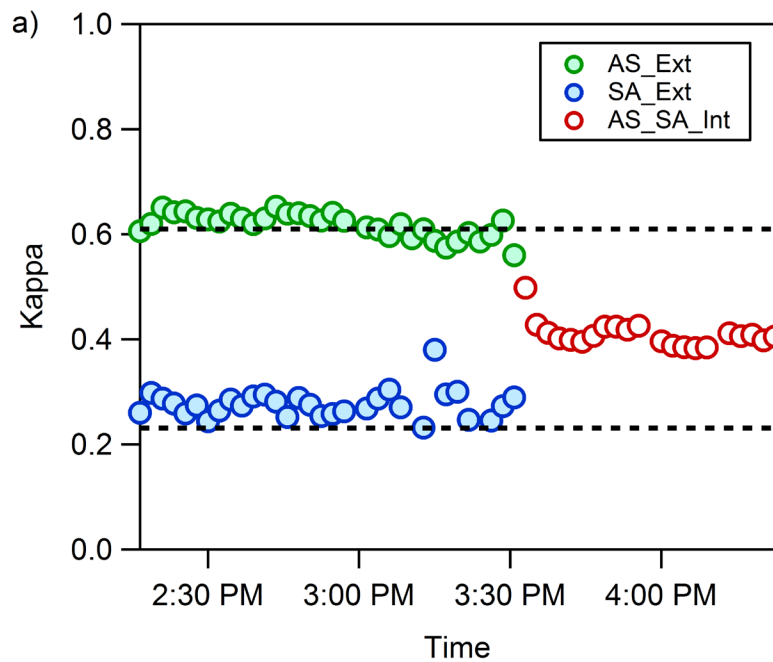


fig03



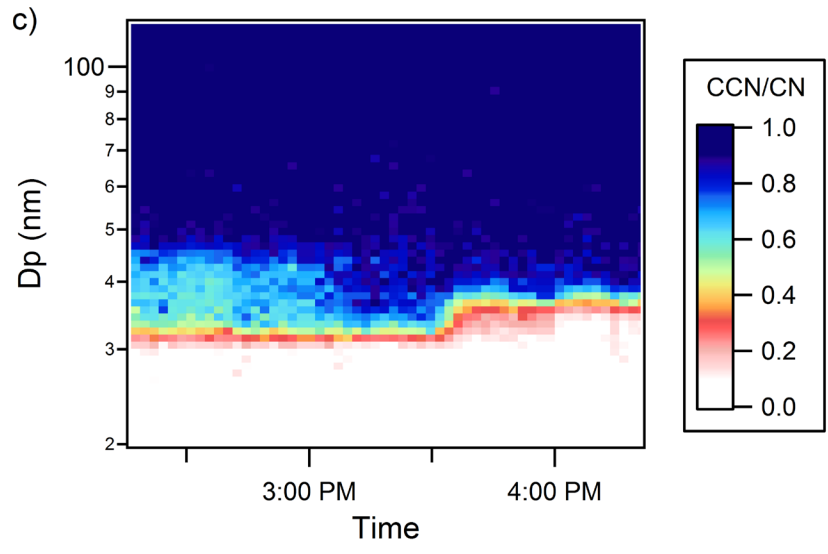


fig04

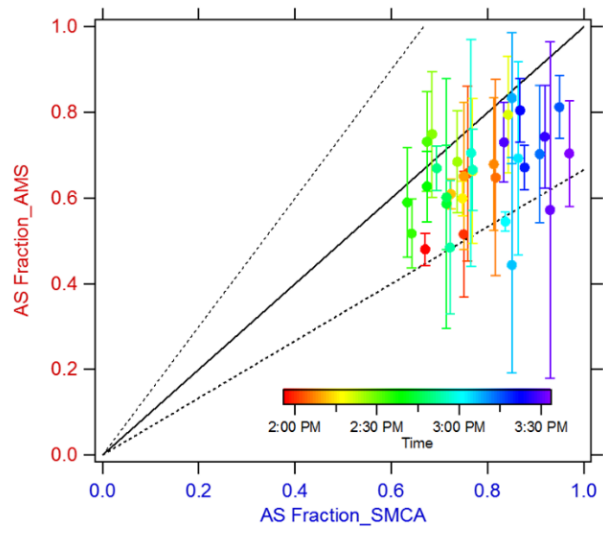


Fig05

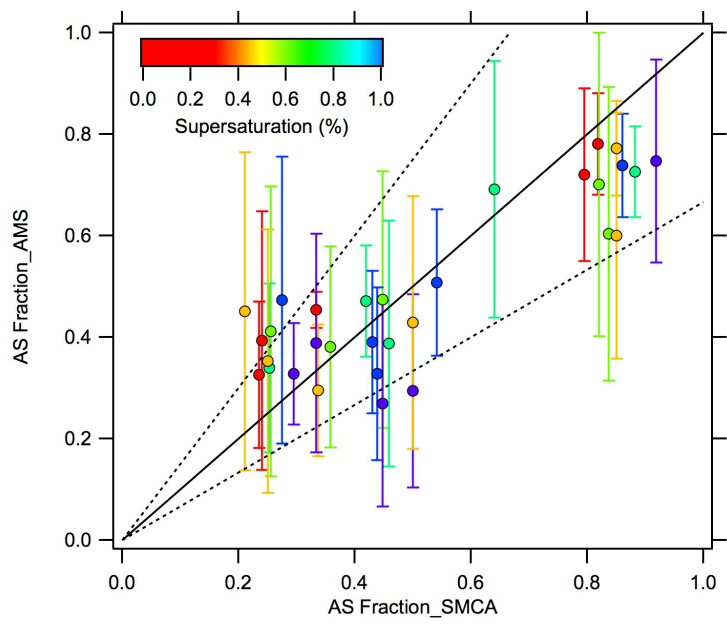


fig06

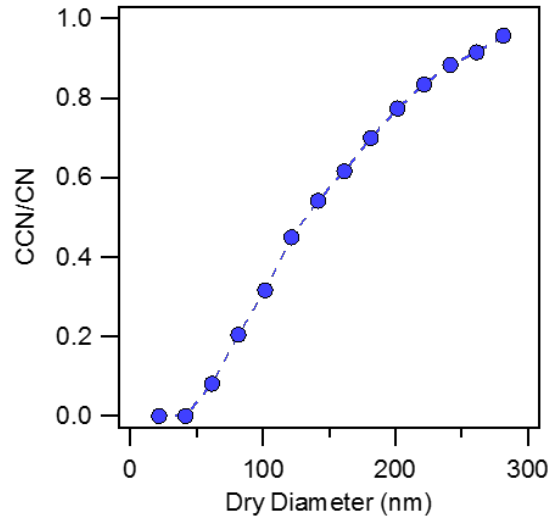


fig07

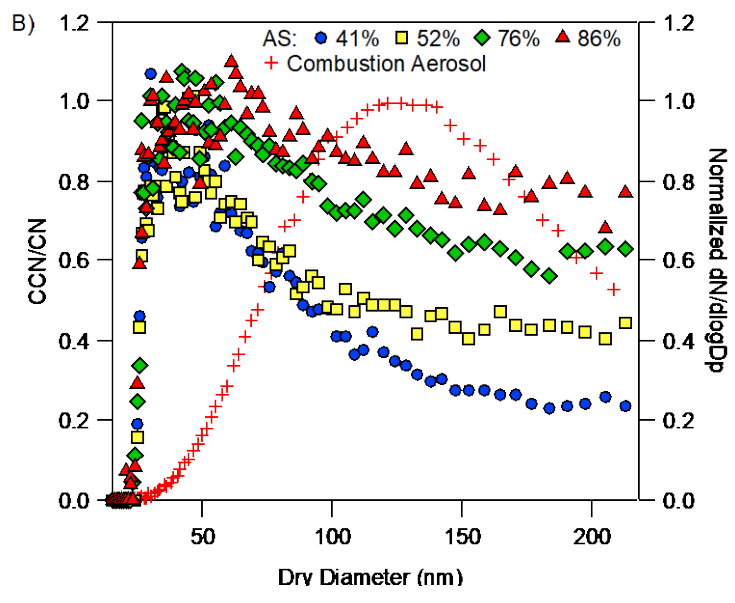
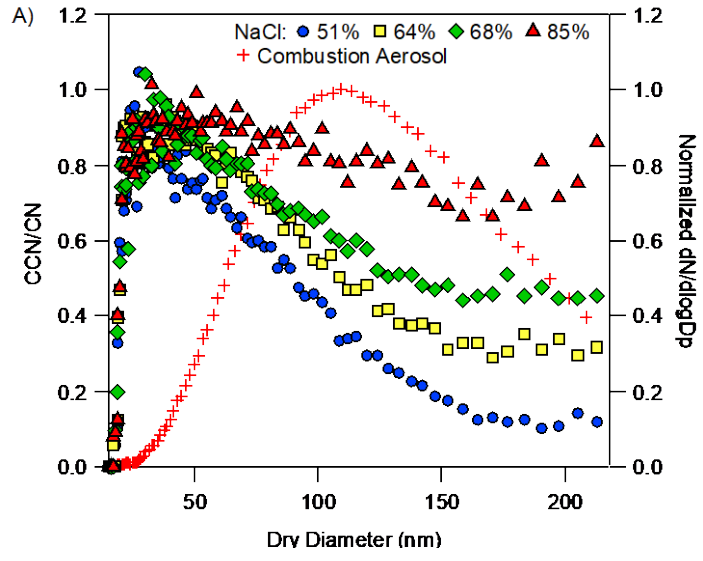
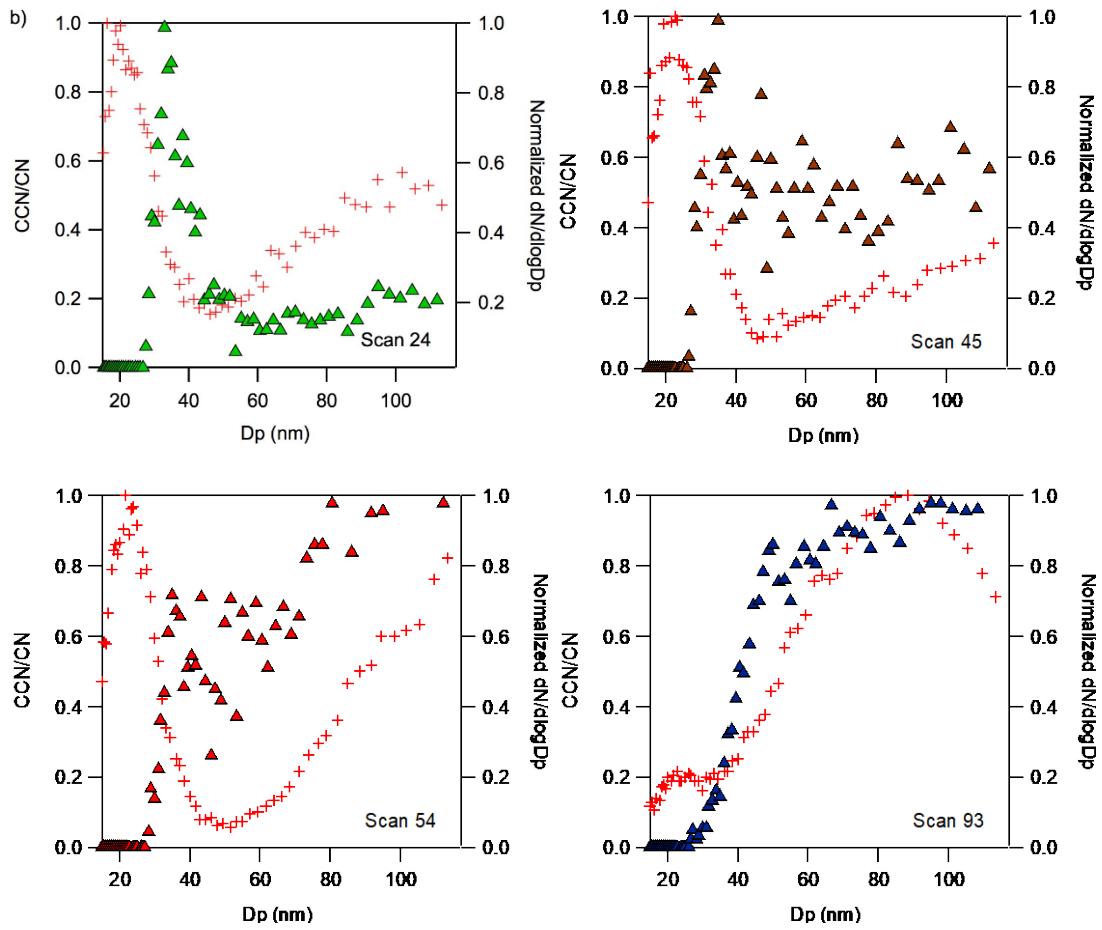
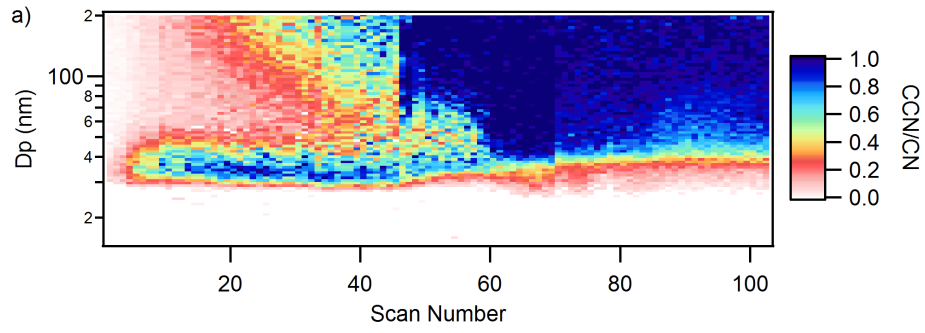


fig08



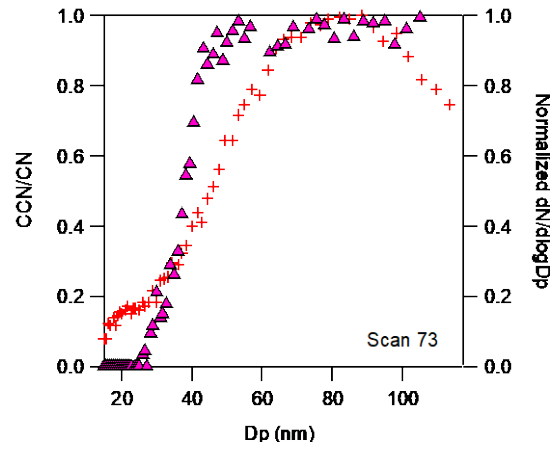


Fig09

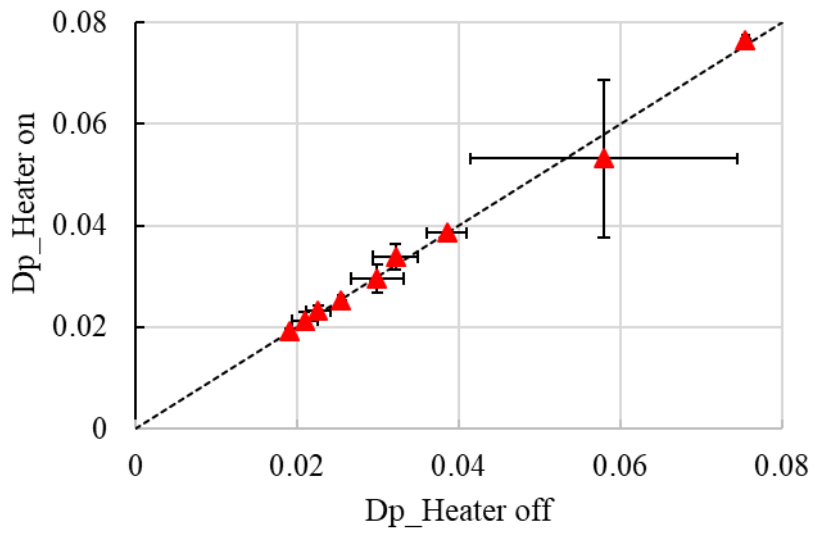


Fig0A2