

Interactive comment on “Simultaneous measurement of the relative humidity dependent aerosol light extinction, scattering, absorption and single-scattering albedo with a humidified cavity-enhanced albedometer” by Jiacheng Zhou et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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General comments: Zhou et al. present an instrument characterization of a humidified cavity-enhanced albedometer (H-CEA) for simultaneous measurements of light extinction and scattering up to 88% RH. The instrument's performance was evaluated with ammonium sulfate, sodium chloride, and nigrosin aerosol particles. The manuscript is well written and I recommend this manuscript to be published in AMT after the following issues to be addressed and modified.

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Minor comments:

I recommend adding a section comparing the versatility and accuracy of this setup with cell-reciprocal nephelometer (Mulholland and Choi, 1998; Mulholland and Bryner, 1994; Abu-Rahmah et al., 2006) and cavity ring-down techniques (Strawa et al., 2003) equipped with cosine sensor, which also allows simultaneous measurement light extinction and scattering in dry and humid conditions (Mikhailov et al., 2006).

Section 3.1.1 How particle losses were evaluated? Please specify in detail.

Section 3.1.3 A single DMA, in addition to selected particles, transmits large multiply charged particles. How was this taken into account in the uncertainty analysis?

Section 3.2.1 Since E-AIM is an accurate thermodynamic model and can be used as a reference standard, I recommend first compare the measured optical coefficients with these calculated from E-AIM-based values. The obtained difference should be discussed and indicated in Table 1.

Section 3.2.1, Fig.6 and Fig.7 As the RH measured with T/RH-sensor-2 is lower than actual RH by $\sim 2\%$ (Amm. sulfate measured DRH = 77-78% vs. 80%) the experimental $f(\text{RH})$ values must exceed the model coefficients especially at high RH, which contradicts the data presented in Fig.6 and partially given by Fig.7. What is the RH difference between T/RH sensor-2 (input) and T/RH sensor-3 (output)? Due to water vapor sorption on the huge setup surface, the RH difference will be time-dependent. I recommend checking out the RH difference vs. time at least at $\text{RH} > 85\%$. According to Fig. 2, a full measurement cycle was 20 min. If so, then it is likely that in this short time, the thermodynamic equilibrium was not reached, and real RH was lower than that measured by T/RH sensor-2. As a compromise, the average RH can be used for data plotting. Please consider the issue outlined above.

The data should be made available in a FAIR aligned repository. Making data "available upon request to the author" is inconsistent with the AMT data policy

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(https://www.atmospheric-measurement-techniques.net/about/data_policy.html).

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