

## Authors' response to the anonymous referee #2

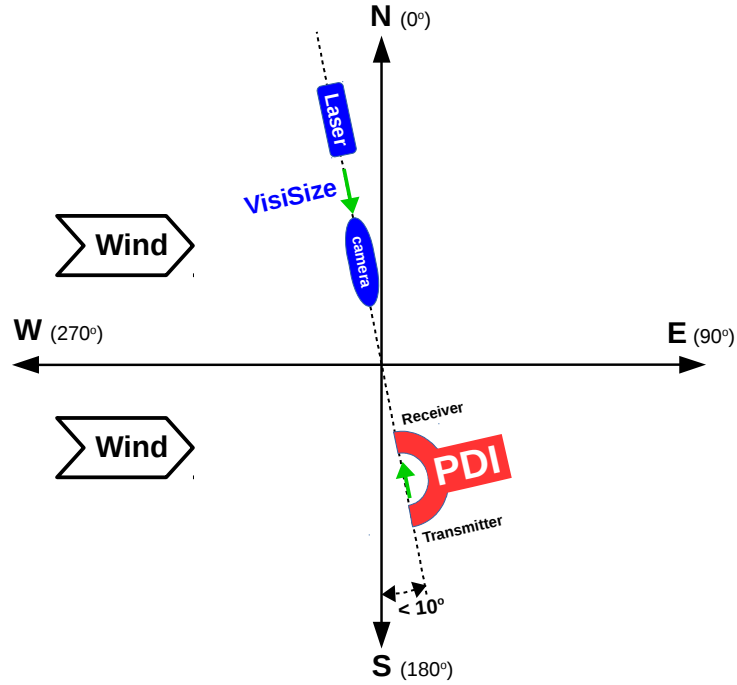
Moein Mohammadi, Jakub L. Nowak, Guus Bertens, Jan Moláček, Wojciech Kumala, and Szymon P. Malinowski

We are grateful to the referee for the insightful comments and suggestions on our manuscript. We respond to them in detail below. The original review is given in black, and our answers in blue. The responses mention also specific corrections which were applied to the manuscript.

1. Figures 3 and 4 and the associated text leave some confusion about the orientation of the instruments relative to the wind direction. On line 225 I understand that the instruments are facing in a direction that allow optimal sampling of wind coming from 320 degrees. This could be indicated in the last panel of Figure 4, or at least mentioned in the caption. If that understanding is correct, what does it imply about the measurements on 13-Jul, 14-Jul, and 13-Aug when the wind direction is close to 90 degrees? Is it expected that the measurements are heavily influenced by the instrument housings? That may cause problems with the sample volume estimation for the phase Doppler interferometer. This is relevant to the presented results, e.g., see line 263 where average wind direction is stated as 225 degrees. Please address this aspect of the study, and clarify the directions as needed.

Thanks to the referee's comment, we realised that the information in line 225 regarding the instrument orientation is misleading. Hence, in the revised manuscript we have modified that part. In fact, the main parts of the VisiSize (laser head and camera) as well as the PDI (transmitter and receiver) were aligned in almost north-south direction (with at most  $10^\circ$  deviation to the west) as shown in Fig. 1 below. This allows optimal sampling of clouds coming from a perpendicular direction (with westerly winds). A mountain ridge named "Schneefernerkopf" located in west of the UFS has a part eroded over 200 m long, known as "wind hole" which directs the westerly wind over the UFS like a funnel (Risius et al., 2015). As mentioned in the manuscript and shown in Fig. 4 there, the average wind direction over the course of measurements was  $\sim 225^\circ$  with most cases between  $180^\circ$  and  $270^\circ$ . Hence, thanks to the setup configuration schematically shown here in Fig. 1, we were able to optimally measure the clouds which in most cases were coming from the wind hole. Nevertheless, the above explanation has been also added to the revised manuscript in Section 3 to clear up the confusion over the orientation of the instruments.

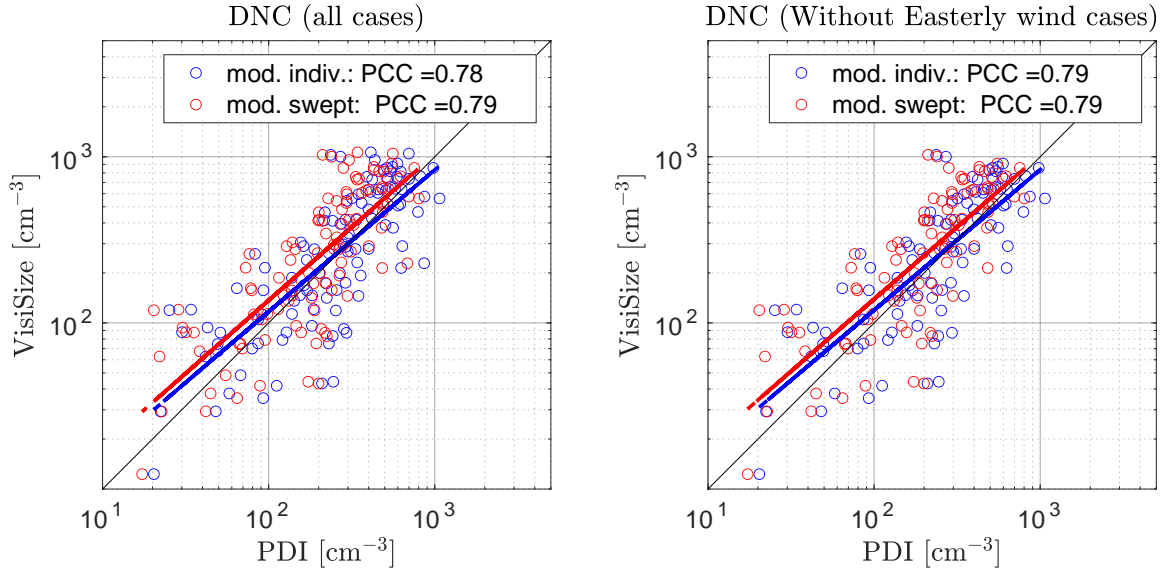
With respect to the three days with mostly easterly winds (with direction  $\sim 90^\circ$ ) that is mentioned in the referee's comment, the same data analyses as in Section 4 were repeated after excluding cases with easterly winds. However, the changes in the final results were negligible. For instance, Fig. 2 here shows the DNC comparison between the two instruments (same as the last panel of Fig. 9 in manuscript) with and without cases of wind from east. Comparing the PCC values and LSR lines slopes between the two plots shows almost the same results as mentioned above.



**Fig. 1** The schematic representation of the experimental setup orientation during the Zugspitze measurement campaign at the UFS. This configuration allows to optimally measure the clouds coming with the wind from the "wind hole" located on the Schneefernerkopf in west of the UFS.

In general, we did not expect that easterly wind would affect sizing or velocimetry measurements with the VisiSize since its laser head and camera housing are off-axis. However, the velocities measured with the PDI could be slightly affected in case of easterly winds due to the probe's shape. Nevertheless, we believe that those cases (with easterly wind) did not occur often, and then if occurred the wind speed was quite low ( $\sim 1 \text{ m.s}^{-1}$ ), which could explain why their exclusion from the analyses did not change the final results. When the wind speed is low, the wake area behind the body of the PDI is expected to be relatively small as well. Hence, the instrument's sample volume is rather weakly affected by the wake area. The observation of weaker easterly winds compared to westerly winds has been also mentioned by Risius et al. (2015) (Fig. 4 there).

The above mentioned point has been addressed within the revised manuscript at the end of Section 3.



**Fig. 2** Comparison of the DNC results between the VisiSize and the PDI probe with and without data collected during easterly wind events. The modified data after applying the coincidence filter to the PDI results as well as  $D_{\min}$  cutoff on both instruments are shown here.

2. In the presentation of results on droplet number concentration (e.g., Figure 9) please provide some information on the range of number of droplets sampled for the data points that are shown. That would allow Poisson uncertainty to be evaluated. I expect the numbers are large enough that Poisson sampling uncertainty is not a significant contribution, but please show or discuss this directly.

The information regarding the typical range of droplet counts as well as Poisson sampling uncertainty during the measurements has been included in the revised manuscript as follows:

"Typical range of droplet counts during the measurements was between 560–10463 with the VisiSize and between 6330–118330 with the PDI. Subsequently, the Poisson sampling uncertainties for the average (arithmetic mean) count with the VisiSize and the PDI are estimated to be  $\sim 1.3$  and  $\sim 0.4\%$  respectively".

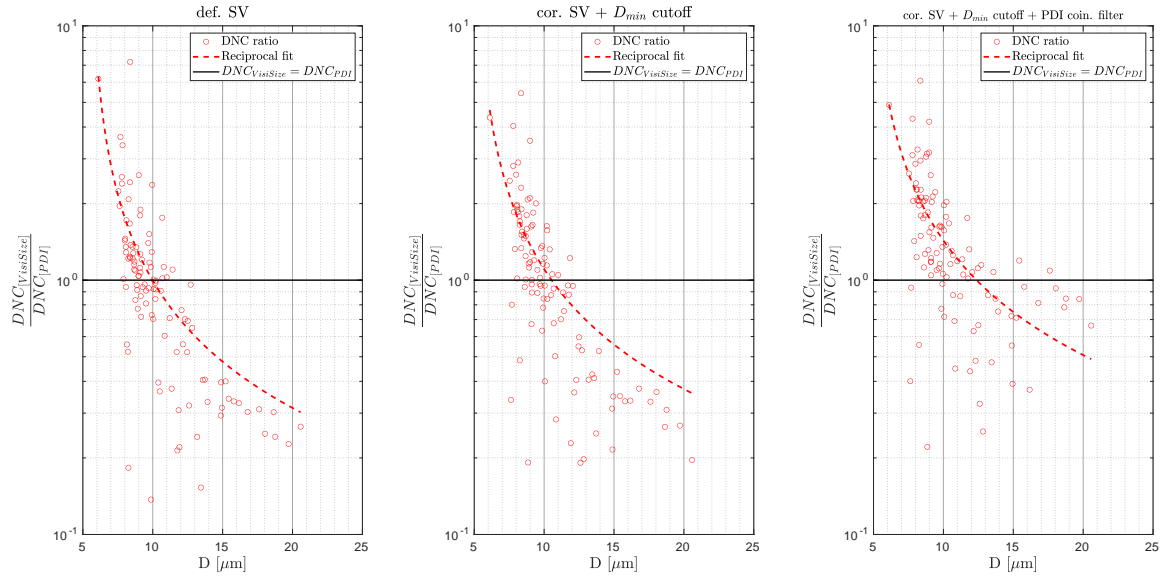
3. In several of the plots I believe more insight could be obtained by showing results on logarithmic axes. For example, log-log coordinates might help in the interpretation of the droplet number concentration results. But for sure it would be helpful in the presentation and interpretation of the LWC results in Figure 13. This would allow a broader range of LWC to be observed, rather than results being compressed near the origin because of a relatively small number of outlier points. I expect the least-square fits will be significantly different in log-log coordinates as well.

The authors entirely concur with the referee's comment. Therefore, all plots in the last two subsections (4.4 and 4.5), including the results of the DNC and LWC analyses, have been transformed into log-log coordinates. Subsequently,

the least square regression (LSR) lines and values of Pearson correlation coefficients (PCC) have been also updated. Moreover, the explanation regarding each figure within the manuscript has been modified accordingly, if needed. Indeed, using the logarithmic scale improved the quality of the resulting presentation.

4. Another comment on data presentation: in Figure 10 it would make sense to show the y-axis in log scale so that the full variability can be observed. The polynomial fit seems rather arbitrary. Is there any justification for this form? Perhaps log-scale will suggest something else.

Following the referee's suggestion in the previous comment, the vertical axes in Fig. 10 have been shown in logarithmic scale (see Fig. 3 here). The polynomial fit was selected first as one of the most simple functions merely to show the downward trend of the DNC ratio as the mean droplet size increases. Subsequently, after transforming the y coordinate into logarithmic scale, we changed the fit curve into reciprocal ( $y = \frac{a}{x+b}$ ) which performs better for this purpose in logarithmic scale.

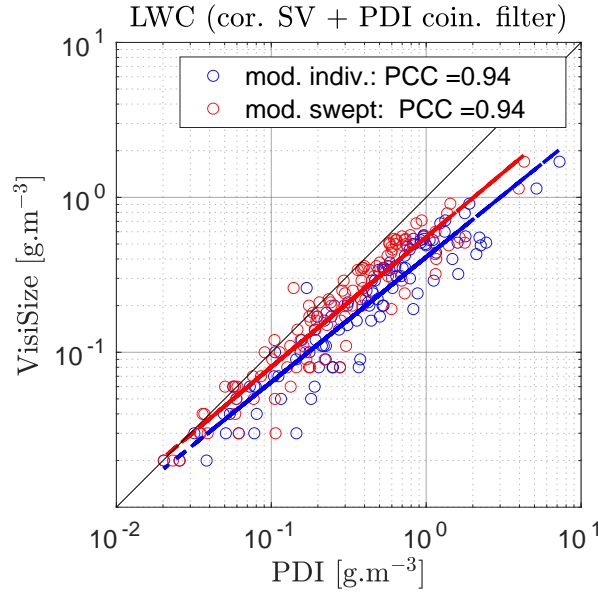


**Fig. 3** The DNC ratio of the VisiSize to the PVC-PDI as a function of the arithmetic mean diameter size. Panels from left to right show the raw data (using the default sample volume for the VisiSize), the results after the SV correction and the  $D_{\min}$  cutoff, and the results after additionally applying the coincidence filter to the PDI data. Each circle represents a single measurement of  $\sim 15$  min long. The reciprocal fit curves ( $y = \frac{a}{x+b}$ ) and the 1:1 ratio are shown with the dashed and black horizontal lines, respectively.

5. Another comment related to Figure 10: At large mean diameter there was a strong undercounting of the shadowgraph method or overcounting of the PDI method. If you use the polynomial fit to 'adjust' for this bias, how much improvement would result in the LWC results in Figure 13? This would be one way to further disentangle the number concentration

and  $D^3$  contributions. It seems possible that the PDI instrument is overestimating number concentration when the mean size is large, and that this is leading to the unreasonably high values of LWC.

Following the referee's suggestion, we used the fitted values from Fig.10 in order to adjust the DNC from the PDI which is used in the LWC calculation shown in Fig. 13. Consequently, the comparison between the PDI and the VisiSize liquid water content after applying modifications and filters on data is shown in Fig. 4 below.



**Fig. 4** Comparison of the LWC results between the VisiSize and the PDI probe after adjusting the DNC data of the PDI with a reciprocal fit to the DNCs resulted from the VisiSize data. The scatter plot is shown after correction of the SV, applying the coincidence filter to the PDI results, and  $D_{\min}$  cutoff to both instruments' data.

Comparing this plot with the last panel of Fig. 13 in the manuscript, one can see the improvement in the correlation between the data from the two instruments. The PCC values increased by 12% (from 0.84 to 0.94) after adjusting the DNC values from the PDI, using reciprocal fit in Fig. 10. Moreover, the LSR lines are also a little closer to 1:1 line here than in Fig. 13, which is expected as the PDI data were adjusted according to the VisiSize data. However, the LWC is related to both the DNC and the volume mean diameter ( $LWC \propto DNC \cdot D_3^3$ ). Therefore, due to the difference in  $D_3$  measured by the two instruments, there is still discrepancy in the LWC results.

The Fig. 4 has been added to the revised manuscript along with the above explanation.

6. The approach of the study is an instrument intercomparison, but without a known reference or standard. Generally, the authors point out differences without suggesting that any specific technique is correct or incorrect, and I agree with that cautious approach. (Note that one exception is on line 311, which should be reworded, or evidence shown that

one method is indeed overestimating size.) In some places, however, it may be possible to argue that one instrument is more closer to reality, such as in Figure 13 where the PDI is showing significant numbers of data points with liquid water contents above  $1 \text{ g.m}^{-3}$ . Based on other measurements at the UFS and similar mountain stations, I expect these values are much too high. More importantly, the paper is missing a discussion in the Conclusions section about how the investigation could be taken to the next level. Is there a way to perform an absolute calibration or provide additional instruments in future studies, so that the discrepancies can be understood and resolved? In the end, the community needs to know which of these instruments can be considered reliable, in what range of conditions.

The line 311 has been reworded to be more clear. The argument regarding the LWC results has been also added to the revised manuscript with reference to Siebert et al. (2015) and Spiegel et al. (2012). In these studies, the LWC has been measured with PMV-100A (Gerber et al., 1994) during series of ground-based measurements on Alps (and in case of Siebert et al. (2015) at the UFS). The typical values measured for the LWC in both studies were below  $1 \text{ g.m}^{-3}$ , which suggests that the PDI in our measurements overestimated the LWC, especially in case of clouds with larger mean droplet sizes.

To conduct further investigations, laboratory tests with standard glass beads or monodisperse droplet generator can be useful to compare the sizing accuracy between the instruments. Moreover, the instruments can be compared with a particle tracking experiment in the laboratory, which would be mostly beneficial for evaluating the DNC results. However, it should be noted that even under laboratory conditions, simultaneously controlling size, velocity, and number concentration of samples would be challenging. In conclusion, we believe it is essential to work on improving the sensors in order to remove the sizing bias and to enhance the sample volume estimation accuracy.

The above explanations have been also added to the conclusion section of the revised manuscript.

## References

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