

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Key Points:

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

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Retrieval of Cloud Condensation Nuclei Number Concentration Profiles From Lidar Extinction and Backscatter Data

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Abstract The vertical distribution of aerosols and their capability of serving as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) are important for improving our understanding of aerosol indirect effects. Although ground-based and airborne CCN measurements have been made, they are generally scarce, especially at cloud base where it is needed most. We have developed an algorithm for profiling CCN number concentrations using backscatter coefficients at 355, 532, and 1,064 nm and extinction coefficients at 355 and 532 nm from multiwavelength lidar systems. The algorithm considers three distinct types of aerosols (urban industrial, biomass burning, and dust) with bimodal size distributions. The algorithm uses look-up tables, which were developed based on the ranges of aerosol size distributions obtained from the Aerosol Robotic Network, to efficiently find optimal solutions. CCN number concentrations at five supersaturations (0.07–0.80%) are determined from the retrieved particle size distributions. Retrieval simulations were performed with different combinations of systematic and random errors in lidar-derived extinction and backscatter coefficients: systematic errors range from –20% to 20% and random errors are up to 15%, which fall within the typical error ranges for most current lidar systems. The potential of this algorithm to retrieve CCN concentrations is further evaluated through comparisons with surface-based CCN measurements with near-surface lidar retrievals. This retrieval algorithm would be valuable for aerosol-cloud interaction studies for which virtually none has employed CCN at cloud base because of the lack of such measurements.

1. Introduction

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

CCN can be measured in situ from the ground (Feingold & Grund, 1994; Roberts & Nenes, 2005) and from aircraft (Li, Liu, et al., 2015; Li, Yin, et al., 2015; Rosenfeld et al., 2008) or inferred from satellite observations (Grandey & Stier, 2010; Gryspeerdt et al., 2014; Rosenfeld et al., 2016; Shinozuka et al., 2015). Long-term monitoring of CCN properties at different observation sites has been chiefly made on the ground. Other than limited horizontal cover and many other issues (Paramonov et al., 2013), near-surface CCN properties could be significantly different from CCN properties near the cloud base due to vertical aerosol inhomogeneities, especially air pollution under stable atmospheric boundary conditions. Except for Rosenfeld et al. (2016), satellite-based CCN estimations mainly use aerosol optical depth as a proxy for aerosol loading to take

advantage of its global coverage. It is still challenging and highly uncertain (Andreae, 2009; Liu & Li, 2014) with many other limitations such as a lower temporal resolution, cloud contamination, and aerosol swelling in the moist environment near clouds (Koren et al., 2007). Airborne measurements can provide CCN measurements near cloud base, but are expensive to collect and are limited to a few field experiments (Feingold et al., 1998; Li, Liu, et al., 2015; Li, Yin, et al., 2015). The capability of routinely measuring new CCN at cloud base to study aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions effectively is still lacking (Burkart et al., 2011).

Vertically resolved aerosol measurements offered by lidars provide the potential to measure CCN near cloud base. Feingold et al. (1998) developed an approach that used a combination of several remote sensing instruments, such as the Ka-band Doppler radar, the microwave radiometer, and the lidar, to derive the activation of CCN as a function of supersaturation level. However, this approach is based on the Junge power law aerosol size distribution (Junge, 1952) that is only applicable for a clean troposphere and stratosphere. Ghan and Collins (2004) and Ghan et al. (2006) developed a technique to estimate CCN at cloud base based on the relationship between the aerosol extinction from lidar and CCN concentrations from near-surface measurements. However, their methods rely on the assumption that the aerosol composition and the shape of the aerosol size distribution at the surface are representative of the vertical column. Thus, their retrievals may have high uncertainties if the vertical profile of the shape of the aerosol size distribution differs markedly from that at the surface. In addition to their common use in profiling atmospheric temperature and humidity (Wandinger, 2005), multiwavelength Raman lidars and High Spectral Resolution Lidars (HSRL) have been increasingly used in recent years to retrieve aerosol and CCN properties (Chemyakin et al., 2014; Mamouri & Ansmann, 2016; Müller et al., 1999). This type of lidar allows for independent inferences of particle backscatter and extinction coefficients without the need for assuming any atmospheric parameters. Multiwavelength Raman lidars can thus be used to quantify the main aerosol microphysical parameters and CCN properties with fewer a priori assumptions. The retrieval of aerosol microphysical properties is mainly based on the regularization algorithm (Chemyakin et al., 2014, 2016; Müller et al., 1999, 2000, 2014; Veselovskii et al., 2002, 2004, 2013). Most of these early studies focused on aerosol size distribution and total aerosol concentration retrievals and used the regularization technique, which lead to higher sensitivities with a 1-sigma value of 61.4–95.2% for different aerosol types (Pérez-Ramírez et al., 2013). This is because total aerosol concentration is very sensitive to aerosols with diameters smaller than 50 nm and lidar observations offer almost no constraint for them. To our knowledge, limited attempts have been made to quantify CCN concentrations from multiwavelength lidar measurements. Feingold and Grund (1994) explored the potential of using multiwavelength lidar measurements, but they only performed a simulation by using the theoretical wavelengths of 289, 532, 1,064, 2,020 and 11,150 nm that some wavelengths are not available in real measurements. From the simulation, they only provided some relationships between multiwavelength backscatter coefficients with the median radius and did not quantify any aerosol or CCN parameter.

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

2. Methodology

2.1. Aerosol Size Distributions

As demonstrated by Baars et al. (2016), aerosol types can be identified by combining their Ångström exponent, lidar ratio, and depolarization ratio from multiwavelength HSRL or Raman-polarization lidar measurements (Burton et al., 2012; Groß et al., 2013). Therefore, our study assumes known aerosol types for CCN retrievals for the sake of tackling other more challenging tasks in retrieving CCN profiles.

Table 1
Typical Parameter Ranges for the Three Aerosol Bimodal Distributions

Aerosol parameter	Urban industrial	Biomass burning	Dust
r_f^n (μm)	0.075–0.095	0.072–0.082	0.062–0.082
r_c^n (μm)	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_{tf}/V_{tc}	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

Note. V_{tf}/V_{tc} is the ratio of the volume concentration of the fine mode to the coarse mode. m_R and m_I represent the mean values of real and imaginary parts of the complex refractive index (Dubovik et al., 2002; Veselovskii et al., 2004).

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

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

where N_{ti} is the total particle number concentration of the i th mode and r_i^n is the median radius for the aerosol size distribution with n representing the number concentration distribution. The index $i = f, c$ refers to the fine mode and coarse mode, respectively. The term $\ln \sigma_i$ is the mode width of the i th mode. This general aerosol size distribution shape is adopted in this study to improve the accuracy of the CCN retrieval. The sensitivity test regarding the response of CCN to the assumption of bimodal size distributions is presented in section 3.2.

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

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

$$V_{ti} = N_{ti} \frac{4}{3} \pi (r_i^n)^3 \exp \left[\frac{9}{2} (\ln \sigma)^2 \right]. \quad (3)$$

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

2.2. Inversion Technique for Aerosol Size Distribution Parameters

The first step in estimating CCN concentrations is to retrieve aerosol size distributions from backscatter coefficients at 355, 532, and 1,064 nm (β_{355} , β_{532} , and β_{1064}) and extinction coefficients at 355 and 532 nm (α_{355} and α_{532}). These can be retrieved from multiwavelength Raman lidar (Ansmann et al., 1992) or HSRL measurements (Shiple et al., 1983). Aerosol type, which can be identified from lidar measurements (Baars et al., 2016; Burton et al., 2012; Groß et al., 2013), provides the mean complex refractive index (Table 1). Thus, retrieving six parameters (σ_f , N_{tf} , r_f , σ_c , N_{tc} , and r_c) for a bimodal size distribution from five known quantities (β_{355} , β_{532} , β_{1064} , α_{355} , and α_{532}) is still an ill-defined problem. Observations (Dubovik et al., 2002) indicate that the variation of the mode width of the coarse mode ($\ln \sigma_c$) is small for a given aerosol type and that the contribution of the coarse mode to the total aerosol number concentration is relatively low. Therefore, we assume that $\ln \sigma_c$ is a known quantity (Table 1). The retrieval errors from this assumption are examined in section 3.3.

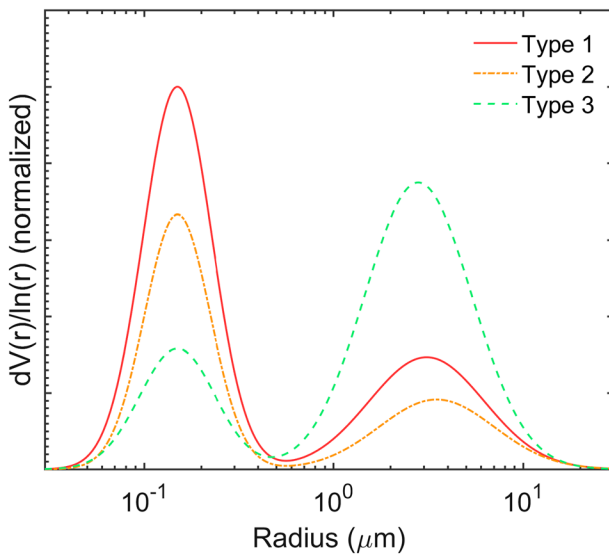


Figure 1. Normalized size distributions representing the three types of aerosols considered in this study. Types 1–3 represent urban industrial, biomass burning, and dust aerosols, respectively.

The retrieval algorithm searches for the best combination of five values (σ_f , N_{tf} , r_f , N_{tc} , and r_c) to match inputs (β_{355} , β_{532} , β_{1064} , α_{355} , α_{532}) by minimizing the following function:

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

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

To search for the optimal solution, LUTs for each type of aerosol are constructed. To reduce the LUT size and its dimensions, each LUT consists of two parts. The size distribution shown in equation (1) can be rewritten as

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

where B_f and B_c refer to the data bank precomputed with (σ_f , r_f , and r) and (σ_c , r_c , and r), respectively, where the intervals of σ_f , r_f , and r_c are fixed at 0.01, 0.002, and 0.01 μm , respectively, and where σ_c is assumed known and taken from Table 1. The range of r in the calculations is limited to 0.01–10 μm with a fixed bin size of 0.002 defined on a logarithmic-equidistant scale. These intervals are set as a compromise between accuracy and computation time.

Since the range of N_{tf} is usually large, the successive approximation method (Kantorovitch, 1939) is adopted:

Step 1: Calculate the corresponding optical data (β'_{355} , β'_{532} , β'_{1064} , α'_{355} , α'_{532}) from the data bank (B_f and B_c) and N_{tf} and N_{tc} (the step widths of N_{tf} and N_{tc} : 100 and 0.1 cm^{-3} , respectively). Search for an approximate solution based on the criterion in equation (4).

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

2.3. CCN Estimations

The ability of aerosols to act as CCN is mainly determined by three factors: aerosol particle size distribution, chemical composition, and mixing state. Several studies have suggested that it is controlled more by the aerosol size distribution than the chemical composition (Dusek et al., 2006; Fitzgerald, 1973; Junge & McLaren, 1971); however, for some specific areas and meteorological conditions, both factors are important (Mamouri & Ansmann, 2016). If no suitable chemical composition data are available, using mean chemical composition information for each aerosol type denoted by a single value of κ is feasible to estimate the CCN number concentration. In reality, the uncertainty of using the mean value of κ to estimate the CCN number concentration varies with atmospheric conditions. Most studies show that the uncertainty is within 10% (Deng et al., 2011; Jurányi et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2018). The hygroscopicity parameter κ describes the relationship between the particle dry diameter and CCN activity when compositional data are not available (Petters & Kreidenweis, 2007). Wang et al. (2018) found that the sensitivity of the estimated CCN concentration to κ depends strongly on the variability of the shape of the aerosol size distribution. The sensitivity of CCN concentration to κ becomes weaker with increasing supersaturations, suggesting that chemical composition becomes less important in CCN concentration estimates at larger supersaturations. In addition, this study also suggested that using the mean value of $\kappa \approx 0.3$ can be a good proxy for urban industrial aerosol when estimating the CCN concentration. The κ is assumed to be 0.3 for Type 1 (Liu et al., 2011), 0.1 for Type 2 (Petters et al., 2009), and 0.03 for Type 3 (Koehler et al., 2009)

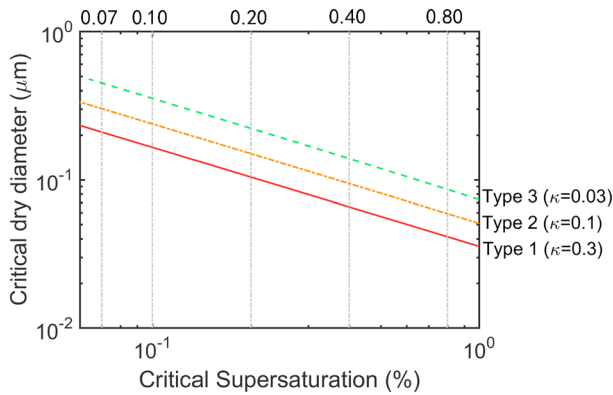


Figure 2. The relationship between particle critical dry diameter and critical supersaturation ratio for Type 1 ($\kappa = 0.3$), Type 2 ($\kappa = 0.1$), and Type 3 ($\kappa = 0.03$) aerosols. The parameter κ is the hygroscopicity parameter. Gray dashed lines denote the five critical $S_{c,s}$ for activation (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%).

aerosols in the simulations. For actual measurements, the mixing state of aerosols and the precise values of κ can be determined with the aid of other instruments, such as the aerosol particle mass analyzer, and the hygroscopic tandem differential mobility analyzer (HTDMA) (Malloy et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2014). For experiments without the HTDMA, a lidar can be used to roughly infer κ indirectly by identifying aerosol types (Baars et al., 2016). However, the determination of κ is beyond the scope of the current method.

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

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

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

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

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

$$f(\text{RH}, r) = \frac{\zeta(\text{RH}, r)}{\zeta(\text{RH}_{\text{ref}}, r)} \quad (7)$$

where RH is the relative humidity, r is the dry radius, $\zeta(\text{RH}, r)$ refers to a RH -dependent aerosol property at a certain r , the RH_{ref} is chosen as the lowest value of RH that represents the relative dry environment in a case.

$f(\text{RH}, r)$ can be obtained from HTDMA or Raman lidar (Lv et al., 2017; Veselovskii et al., 2009). For the determination of $f(\text{RH})$ from Raman lidar, it is based on the assumption of well-mixed atmospheric conditions that may be identified as having the constant profiles of potential temperature and water vapor simultaneously (Granados-Muñoz et al., 2015).

Finally, the CCN concentration can be calculated as

$$N_{\text{ccn}} = \int_{\ln r_c}^{\infty} \frac{dn(r)}{d \ln(r)} d \ln(r). \quad (8)$$

Table 2
Critical Radius at Five Critical Supersaturation Ratios for Each Type of Aerosol

	Critical radius (r_c , μm)				
	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

Table 3
CCN Errors at Different S_{cS} (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) Retrieved From Error-Free Inputs for the Three Aerosol Types

		CCN error (%)				
		0.07%	0.10%	0.20%	0.40%	0.80%
Mean \pm SD (%)	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
	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

Note. CCN = cloud condensation nuclei.

3. Numerical Simulations

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

3.1. Inversion With Error-Free Inputs

The first evaluation is performed under the assumption of error-free lidar measurements to understand the inversion stability. For each type of aerosol, 1,000 different sets of bimodal size distributions are used to simulate lidar observations. The retrieval is repeated for each simulated observation. The retrieved parameters (σ_f , N_{fr} , r_f , N_{tc} , and r_c) and assumed σ_c permit us to calculate the errors in retrieved CCN number concentration ($CCN_{retrieved}$) with respect to the initial inputs ($CCN_{initial}$), that is, $[(CCN_{retrieved} - CCN_{initial}) / CCN_{initial}] \times 100\%$. Apart from the mean values, we employ the standard deviations (SDs) of the CCN retrieval errors from the different bimodal size distribution data sets to gauge the range of the retrieved CCN errors as well. As shown in Table 3, initial CCN concentrations are well reproduced from the error-free inputs for each type of aerosol size distribution. The mean errors in retrieved CCN number concentrations are close to zero but are not equal to zero due to striking an appropriate balance between the accuracy and processing time of the LUTs as mentioned in section 2.2. The higher the accuracy of the LUTs, the more time expensive are the calculations and the closer CCN errors approach zero. Moreover, the small

SDs ($\leq \sim 0.3\%$) suggest that the variances of errors among the different aerosol size distributions are also small. Overall, the retrieval results shown in Table 3 attest to the good accuracy and stability of the inversion algorithm for the three types of aerosols.

3.2. Sensitivity Test of the Assumed Bimodal Size Distribution With Error-Free Inputs

We test the sensitivity of the CCN retrieval to the assumption of the bimodal size distribution by exploring dust aerosol size distributions measured on 20 August 2006 during the National Aeronautics and Space Administration African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (NAMMA) campaign (Chen et al., 2011). NAMMA particle size distributions were measured simultaneously by an Ultra-High Sensitivity Aerosol Spectrometer for the 0.07- to 1- μm (geometric) diameter range (Cai et al., 2008) and a TSI model 3321 Aerodynamic Particle Sizer for the 0.7- to 5- μm (aerodynamic) diameter range (Peters & Leith, 2003). Fifty full particle size distributions were constructed using the size conversion factor, which is defined as the ratio of aerodynamic diameter to geometric diameter. These full aerosol size distributions can be well represented by the trimodal lognormal distributions reported by Chen et al. (2011). For the purpose of this study, we produce corresponding bimodal fits representative of the observed size distributions. Figure 3 shows an example of the observed aerosol size distribution and the

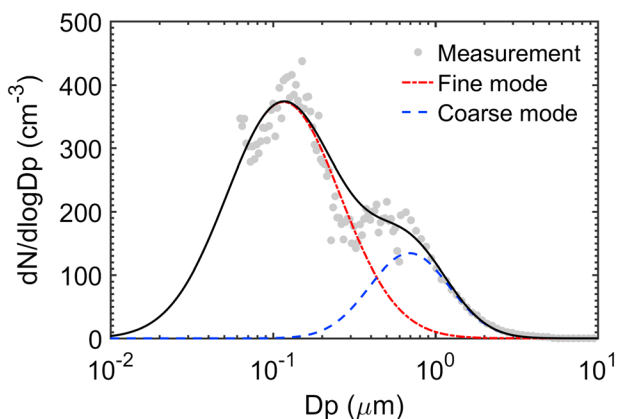


Figure 3. Observed particle number size distribution measured on 20 August 2006 during the National Aeronautics and Space Administration African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis field campaign. Particle size is represented by the geometric diameter. Solid dots denote integrated Ultra-High Sensitivity Aerosol Spectrometer and Aerodynamic Particle Sizer measurements. Curves are bimodal lognormal fits for the size distributions of the fine mode (red dash-dotted line), the coarse mode (blue dashed line), and the full mode (black solid line).

Table 4
Sensitivity of CCN Retrievals to the Bimodal Fits at Different Supersaturation Ratios (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) From the 50 NAMMA Aerosol Size Distributions

	CCN error (%)				
	0.07%	0.10%	0.20%	0.40%	0.80%
Mean ± SD (%)	3.9 ± 2.8	3.1 ± 2.9	4.2 ± 3.3	2.2 ± 1.8	1.9 ± 1.6

Note. The CCN error is calculated as an absolute value. CCN = cloud condensation nuclei; NAMMA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis; SD = standard deviation.

corresponding bimodal fits. It suggests that the observed dust aerosol size distributions can be qualitatively well represented by bimodal log-normal size distributions. To quantify the errors arising from the bimodal lognormal fits, we calculate CCN concentrations based on the bimodal fits and compare them with those from the 50 observed size distributions. The κ of NAMMA dust aerosols is assumed to be 0.03 when calculating CCN concentrations at the five values of S_{cS} as described in section 2.3. Table 4 shows the induced CCN errors from the bimodal fitting of 50 NAMMA aerosol size distributions. The absolute value of CCN retrieval errors is 4.2% with a SD of 3.3% when $S_c = 0.20\%$. Although errors from the bimodal assumption are not negligible, the results suggest that bimodal lognormal aerosol size distributions are adequate for retrieving CCN concentrations.

3.3. Sensitivity Test of the Assumed $\ln\sigma_c$ With Error-Free Inputs

As described in section 2.2, $\ln\sigma_c$ is assumed to be equal to 0.7, 0.7, and 0.65 in LUTs corresponding to the different aerosol types. However, the real $\ln\sigma_c$ may vary within a small range. A sensitivity test of the effects of this assumption on the retrieval results is performed. In this sensitivity test, the fixed values of $\ln\sigma_c$ are still used in the LUTs while the real values of $\ln\sigma_c$ in simulations is selected randomly from within the ranges 0.6–0.8, 0.7–0.8, and 0.6–0.7 for urban industrial, biomass burning, and desert dust aerosols, respectively (Veselovskii et al., 2004). One thousand different sets of simulations are produced randomly with the other known parameters as input. The same inversion procedure described in section 3.1 is repeated to retrieve CCN concentrations and to calculate the retrieval errors.

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

3.4. Effect of Systematic and Random Errors on the Retrieval Results

3.4.1. The Impact of Systematic Errors

Extinction and backscatter coefficients retrieved from multiwavelength lidar measurements contain systematic and random errors (Ansmann et al., 1992). Systematic errors can be induced by experiment conditions, techniques, and our understanding of physical interactions. Systematic errors ranging from –20% to 20% in intervals of 5% are considered for the extinction and backscatter coefficients. In actual measurements, the Raman lidar or HSRL allows for the independent calculation of extinction and backscatter coefficients by combining elastic and Raman backscatter signals (Ansmann et al., 1992) and by taking advantage of the spectral distribution of the lidar return signal to discriminate aerosol and molecular signals (Shipley et al., 1983). The systematic errors are thus assumed independent for individual lidar measurements in the simulations. This error range is reasonable for most current lidar systems

Table 5
Effects of the Assumed $\ln\sigma_c$ on the Retrieved CCN Errors at Different Supersaturation Ratios (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) for the Three Aerosol Types

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

Note. Error-free inputs were used. CCN = cloud condensation nuclei; SD = standard deviation.

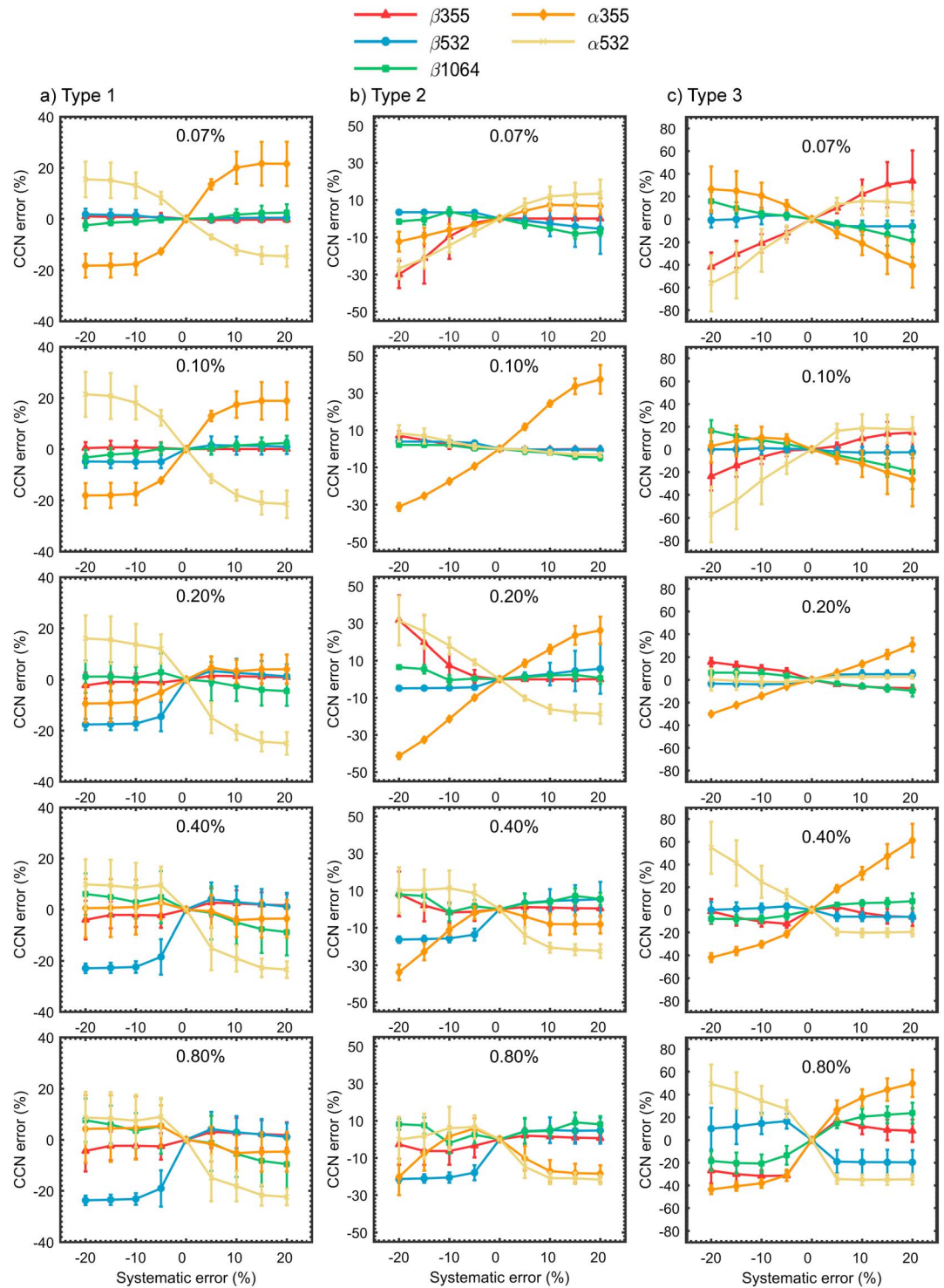


Figure 4. Errors in retrieved cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) number concentrations at different supersaturation ratios (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) as a function of systematic errors in the input optical data. Error bars denote the standard deviations for (a) Type 1, (b) Type 2, and (c) Type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

(Pérez-Ramírez et al., 2013). To better understand the impacts of individual input parameters, a systematic error is applied to one input parameter at a time. We repeat the inversion to obtain a new set of aerosol size distribution and $CCN_{\text{retrieved}}$ data. For each input parameter and error value, the procedure is repeated with 200 sets of randomly generated size distributions for each aerosol type. The CCN

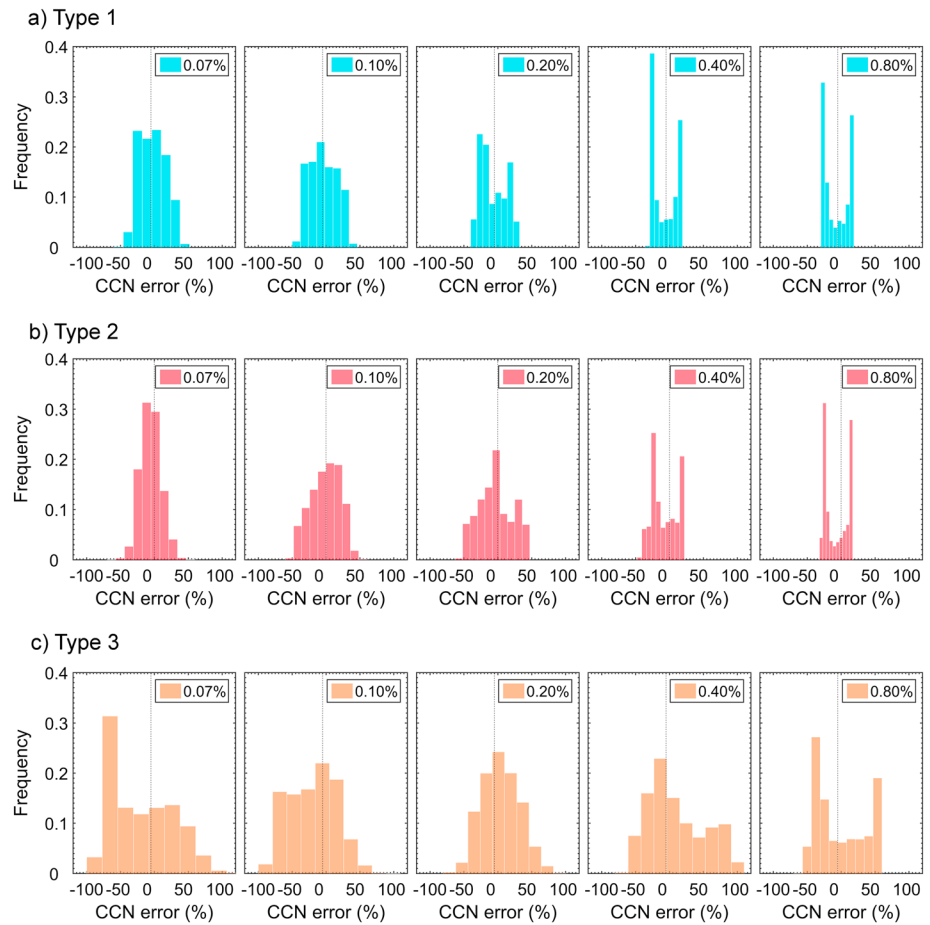


Figure 5. Frequency distributions of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) errors for (a) Type 1, (b) Type 2, and (c) Type 3 aerosols at different supersaturation ratios (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) and with 15% random errors for all input optical data.

percentage errors associated with systematic errors can be estimated by comparing retrieved and initial CCN number concentrations as defined above.

Figure 4 shows how individual systematic errors impact retrievals. The slope of the curve indicates the sensitivity of CCN errors to systematic errors in individual input parameters. A larger slope implies a higher sensitivity of the CCN retrieval to the systematic error for a given input parameter. In general, retrievals are most sensitive to the errors in α_{355} and α_{532} and are least sensitive to errors in β_{1064} , with β_{355} and β_{532} falling somewhere in the middle. It is also interesting to note that the results are less sensitive to them at $S_c \leq 0.10\%$ but are more sensitive to them at $S_c > 0.10\%$. These results suggest that reducing uncertainties in the extinction coefficients at 355 and 532 nm can effectively improve the CCN retrieval accuracy, while reducing uncertainties in the backscatter coefficients benefits CCN retrievals at higher S_c . Figure 4 also suggests that the retrieval results are sensitive to the position of the activation radius (denoted by S_c). This effect is the most obvious for Type 2 aerosols. Retrieval uncertainties due to systematic errors in α_{532} are much lower at 0.10% than at other S_c .

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

Table 6
Range, Mean, and Standard Deviations of Retrieved CCN Number Concentration Errors at Different Supersaturation Ratios (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%)

		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 ± SD (%)	−2.5 ± 18.7	−3.6 ± 20.3	−7.0 ± 19.0	−7.6 ± 18.2	−7.3 ± 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 ± SD (%)	−5.4 ± 14.6	−1.0 ± 21.4	−3.3 ± 24.9	−7.7 ± 18.9	−6.5 ± 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 ± SD (%)	−20.0 ± 46.1	−19.4 ± 34.1	4.4 ± 27.5	10.2 ± 41.4	−0.8 ± 36.2

Note. Input optical data included 15% random errors. CCN = cloud condensation nuclei; SD = standard deviation.

Furthermore, there are significant differences among the three types of aerosols. Type 3 aerosols have the largest absolute CCN errors and Type 1 aerosols have the smallest. These results are consistent with the weights of fine-mode aerosol particles for the three types of aerosols shown in Table 1. These results suggest that there are better constraints for fine-mode aerosols than for coarse-mode aerosols. Therefore, retrieval uncertainties for the coarse mode are higher which introduces larger CCN retrieval errors for aerosols with more weight in the coarse mode, such as Type 3 aerosols. Including additional lidar measurements at wavelengths longer than 1,064 nm will reduce the retrieval errors for dust aerosols.

3.4.2. The Impact of Random Errors

Thus far, only the influence of systematic errors on the inversion results has been considered which introduces mean biases in CCN retrievals. Random errors in observations produce random CCN retrieval errors. Random errors are generated by considering a Gaussian distribution centered at zero with a SD equal to 15% of a given input parameter. Random errors are applied to all input optical data simultaneously. For each type of aerosol, we repeat this simulation 5,000 times. The statistical results are presented in Figure 5 and Table 6.

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

3.4.3. The Impact of Combined Systematic and Random Errors

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

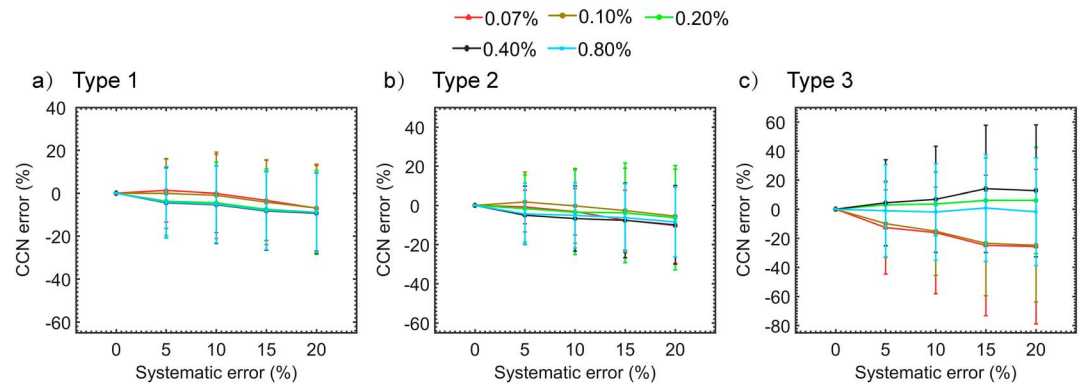


Figure 6. Errors in retrieved cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) number concentrations at different supersaturation ratios (0.07%, 0.10%, 0.20%, 0.40%, and 0.80%) that arise from accounting for both systematic and random errors for (a) Type 1, (b) Type 2, and (c) Type 3 aerosols. Error bars denote the standard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

α_{355} , and α_{532}) concurrently. As for random errors, they are generated by considering a Gaussian distribution centered at zero with a SD equal to 5% of a given input parameter. For each type of aerosol, simulations were performed 500 times. The CCN retrieval results are presented in Figure 6 and Table 7.

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

4. A Real Case Study

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

Table 7

Mean and Standard Deviations of CCN Retrieval Errors at Different Supersaturation Ratios (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 ± SD (%)	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
		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 ± SD (%)	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
		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 ± SD (%)	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
		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

Note. CCN = cloud condensation nuclei; SD = standard deviation.

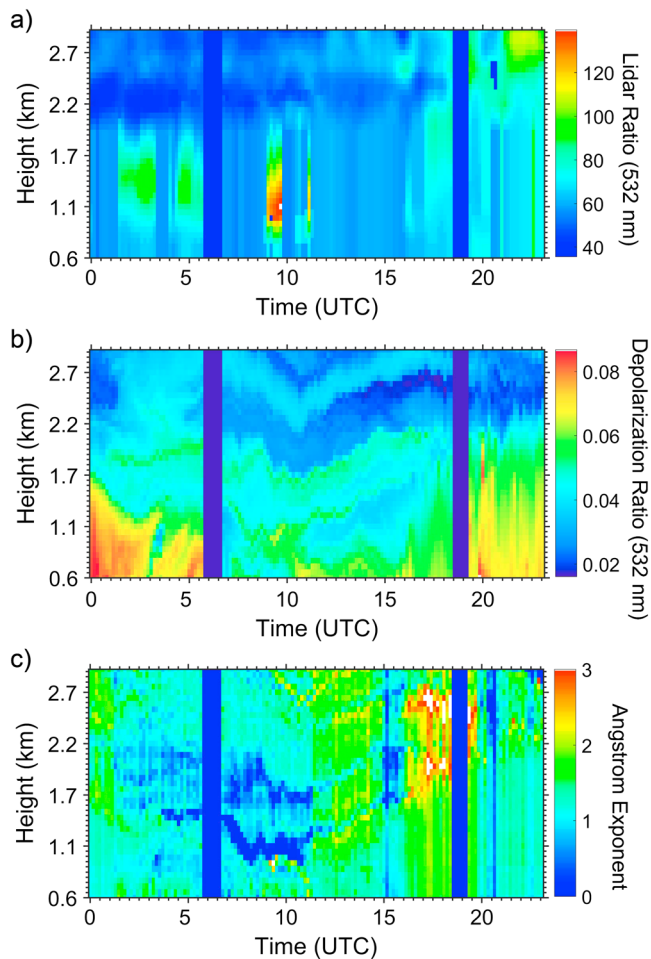


Figure 7. Spatiotemporal distributions of (a) the lidar ratio at 532 nm, and (b) the aerosol depolarization ratio at 532 nm calculated from the Raman nitrogen signal, and (c) the Ångström exponent retrieved from lidar measurements on 16 August 2015 at the SGP site. The heights are kilometers above ground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

Multiwavelength lidar data were collected during the Combined HSRL and Raman lidar Measurement Study (CHARMS) intensive observation period that occurred in August 2015 at the SGP site (Ferrare, 2017). During the CHARMS intensive observation period, aerosol backscatter profiles at 532 and 1064 nm, and aerosol extinction profiles at 532 nm were acquired from the University of Wisconsin HSRL located at the SGP site. HSRL aerosol profiles, when combined with aerosol backscatter and extinction profiles at 355 nm collected by the SGP Raman lidar, provide a full set of three aerosol backscatter (355, 532, and 1064 nm) and two aerosol extinction (355 and 532 nm) profiles for CCN retrievals. CHARMS data were processed at temporal and vertical resolutions of 10 min and 0.06 km, respectively. To avoid the impact of the overlap function on extinction and backscattering retrievals, the lower limit of the height range where CCN properties are retrieved from optical data is 0.6 km above ground level. We also set the upper limit of the retrieval height range as 3 km due to the low aerosol loading in higher layers. For comparison purposes, in situ CCN concentrations under different supersaturation conditions (S_s ranging from 0.1% to 0.75%) were measured on the ground by the CCNc at the same site.

Although the SGP site is located in a rural area surrounded by cattle pastures and agricultural fields, air masses transported from the south and southeast often arrive at this site in the summer (Mahish & Collins, 2017). Based on an overview of aerosol-type-dependent properties from more than 10 years of lidar observations (Baars et al., 2016) and Figure 7, we can infer that aerosols in this case are not dust but urban or biomass burning aerosols by virtue of the lidar ratio (Figure 7a), the depolarization ratio (Figure 7b), and the Ångström exponent (Figure 7c). The aerosol depolarization ratio was less than 0.1 on this day, which indicates that using the Mie theory for CCN retrievals is reasonable although potential systematic errors introduced by irregular-shaped aerosols are not negligible. To further distinguish between these two aerosol types, 48-hr back trajectories calculated using the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory model (Draxler & Rolph, 2003) and active fire spots from Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer data (Giglio et al., 2016) on 15 August 2015 are also used. Figures 8a and 8b show that aerosols on 16 August 2015 originated from fire activities

in the southeast and northeast of the SGP site. Therefore, the aerosol loading in this case was greatly influenced by biomass burning aerosols transported to the SGP site. Based on the analysis of a multi-year record of hygroscopic measurements made at the SGP site (Mahish & Collins, 2017), a simplified hygroscopicity parameter κ equal to 0.2 is chosen for CCN retrievals here. This value falls within the reasonable range of κ for biomass burning aerosols (Petters et al., 2009).

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

Based on an investigation of the spatiotemporal distributions of RH at SGP during that day, the maximum RH is lower than 70% at each height and lower than 60% at 0.6 km, which did not reach the deliquescence RH of biomass burning aerosols (Kuang et al., 2016; Lei et al., 2014). Thus, the aerosol size distributions used for

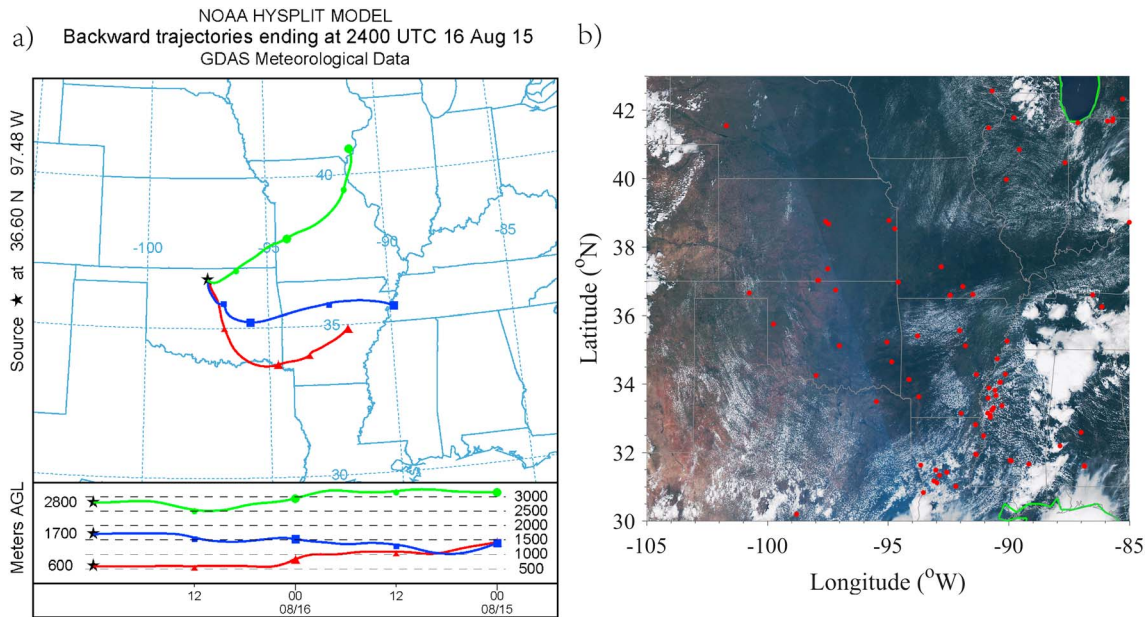


Figure 8. (a) The 48-hr back trajectories ending at 2400 UTC 16 August 2015 at the Southern Great Plains site within the 600- to 2,800-m layer; (b) Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer true red-green-blue image along with fire spots (red dots) from Aqua and Terra on 15 August 2015. The heights are meters above ground level. NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; HYSPLIT = Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory; GDAS = Global Data Assimilation System; AGL = above ground level.

estimating CCN number concentrations are little influenced by aerosol hygroscopic growth on that day. For a comparison with surface in situ measurements, retrieved CCN number concentrations are calculated using equation (8) with time-dependent supersaturations set for the in situ CCNc. Figure 10 shows the spatiotemporal distributions of CCN number concentrations (Figure 10a), the time series of lidar-

retrieved and surface-measured CCN concentrations (Figure 10b), and a scatterplot of surface-measured CCN concentrations as a function of lidar-retrieved CCN concentration (Figure 10c). Lidar retrievals shown in Figures 10b and 10c are within a height range of 0.6 km. Figure 10a shows that the retrieved CCN number concentrations are roughly constant with height in the boundary layer except for the CCN number concentrations around 15:00 (UTC) that is likely due to the atmospheric transportation. The time series shows that both instruments generally captured the temporal evolution of CCN concentration on that day at the SGP site (Figure 10b). However, periods with substantially different CCN concentrations were also observed. For example, higher CCN concentrations at ground level than at 0.6 km in the evening and overnight (0000–1000 UTC) are seen, most likely due to the vertically inhomogeneous distribution of aerosols. Figure 10c shows that CCN concentrations derived from measurements made by both instruments were well correlated. The correlation coefficient is 0.57, and the regression slope is 1.06 with most points lying close to the 1:1 line. Other than the vertical inhomogeneity of the atmosphere, most of the remaining differences could be due to the different observation methods and the extinction and backscattering retrieval uncertainties from the two lidar systems. Although a detailed uncertainty analysis is still needed and will be done in a future study, this comparison demonstrates the potential of using multiwavelength Raman lidar measurements to profile aerosol and CCN properties.

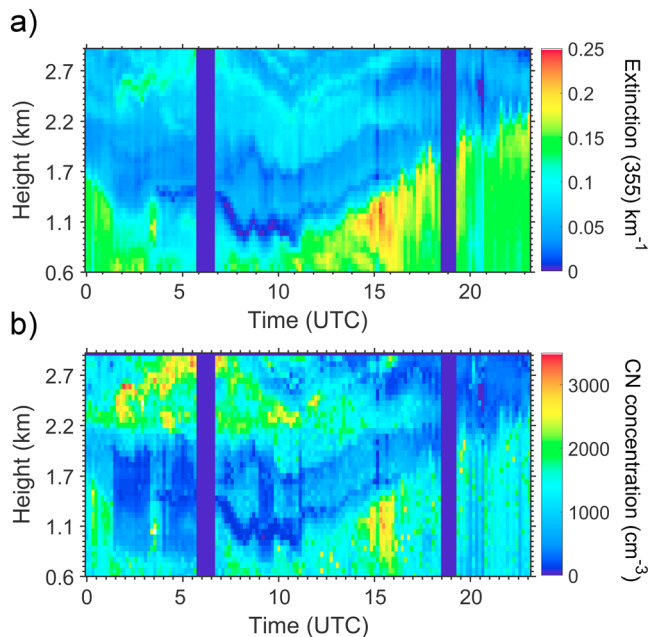


Figure 9. Spatio-temporal distributions of (a) aerosol extinction at 355 nm and (b) CN concentration retrieved from lidar measurements made on 16 August 2015 at the SGP site. The heights are kilometers above ground level.

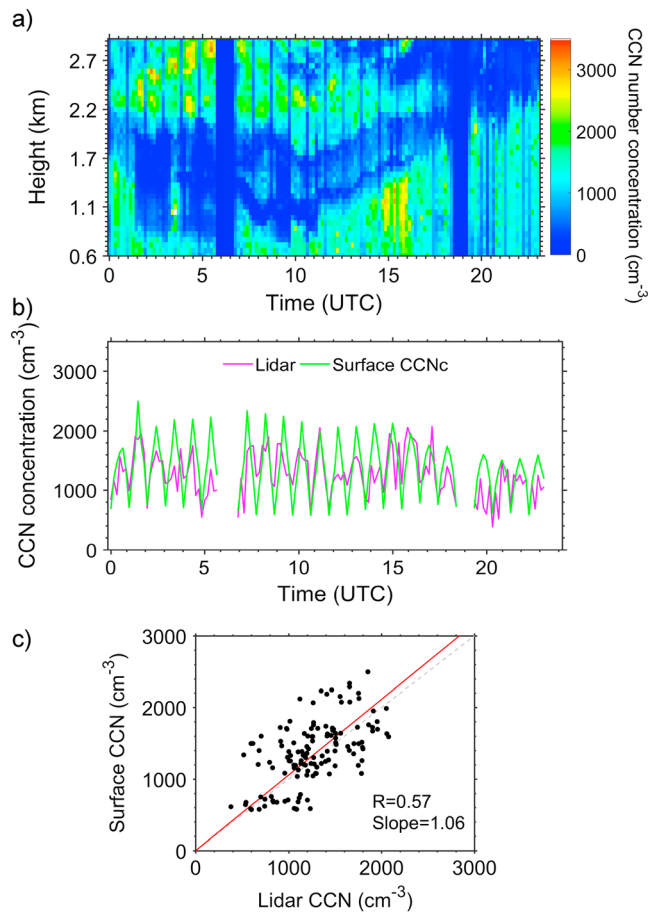


Figure 10. (a) Spatiotemporal distributions of retrieved cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) number concentrations. (b) Time series of CCN concentration measured by the lidar (at 0.6 km, magenta line) and the surface CCNc (green line). (c) Surface CCN concentration as a function of lidar CCN concentration (black dots) on 16 August 2015 at the SGP site. The correlation coefficient (R) and the slope of the linear best fit line (red line) are given in the lower right corner of (c). The 1:1 line is also shown (gray dashed line).

error and a 5% random error simultaneously, CCN number concentrations were retrieved with an accuracy of $-3.3 \pm 18.7\%$ for urban industrial aerosols, $-7.6 \pm 15.3\%$ for biomass burning aerosols, and $-24.9 \pm 48.3\%$ for dust aerosols at $S_c = 0.07\%$.

The focus of the numerical simulations is to explore the sensitivity of CCN retrievals to errors in the measurements of extinction and backscatter coefficients. The influences of aerosol hydration and dynamic mixing on the refractive index are not considered in the simulations. When processing observational data, the impact of relative humidity needs to be accounted for since the lidars retrieve the wet size distributions while the CCN calculations require the dry size distribution. From Raman lidar measurements, temperature and water vapor below clouds can be determined to provide the vertical profile of relative humidity (Behrendt et al., 2002; Ferrare, 2000; Reichardt et al., 2012). Aerosol-type-dependent hygroscopic growth may thus be needed to estimate the dry size distribution from the wet size distribution and RH for CCN calculations. Furthermore, relative humidity information can be used to adjust the mean reflective index for the LUT. The impacts of humidity and the non-spherical dust shape will be studied and implemented, if warranted, in future algorithm development.

The algorithm was applied to observational data from the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Climate Research Facility SGP site to illustrate the potential of the algorithm. For the first time, lidar-retrieved CCN

5. Conclusions

We have investigated the feasibility of retrieving CCN number concentrations using multiwavelength HSRL and Raman lidar measurements. Three representative types of aerosols with bimodal size distributions retrieved from Aerosol Robotic Network observations were considered, namely, urban industrial (Type 1), biomass burning (Type 2), and dust (Type 3). The aerosol types are assumed known and provide the mean complex refractive index. This leaves six size parameters to retrieve. To avoid the ill-posed inversion problem, the mode width of the coarse mode is assumed. Sensitivity tests suggest that this assumption only introduces a small error in the retrieval results. The retrieval is implemented based on LUTs generated from Mie scattering calculations. A successive approximation method in two steps is utilized as a tradeoff between the accuracy and computation time of the inversion. Once the parameters of the aerosol size distribution are obtained through the LUT, CCN number concentrations can be estimated.

Numerical simulations were performed to evaluate the algorithm performance with and without errors in the extinction and backscatter coefficients. For error-free input, CCN concentrations for the three types of aerosols were well reproduced with good accuracy and stability. Simulations with systematic errors show that the uncertainties of extinction coefficients at 355 and 532 nm have a higher impact on the retrieval results and that retrievals are more dependent on the uncertainties in backscatter coefficients at higher S_c s than at lower S_c s. There are significant differences in retrieval uncertainties among the three types of aerosols due to the different weights of fine- and coarse-mode aerosol particles among them. The differences can be explained by the weaker constraint of the algorithm for the coarse mode of aerosol particles than for the fine mode of particles. Tests where 15% random errors were considered were done next. CCN number concentrations had Gaussian distributions at lower S_c s (0.07%, 0.10%) for all types of aerosols except for Type 3. This distribution shape disappeared at higher S_c s. Simulations with both random and systematic errors, which represent more realistic cases, show that both errors together improved mean CCN retrievals because random and systematic errors often offset each other. Simulations showed that if the input optical data had a 15% systematic

concentrations were compared with simultaneous measurements from an in situ CCNc. Considering the vertical aerosol inhomogeneity between the surface and 0.6 km above ground level, CCN concentrations from in situ measurements and lidar retrievals agree well.

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

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