INVESTIGATING THE EFFECT OF HYGROSCOPICITY OF AEROSOLS ON OPTICAL PROFILES OF PBL OBSERVED BY DUAL-WAVELENGTH LIDAR

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ABSTRACT
The light scattering and radiation properties of aerosols are mainly dominated by hygroscopicity. In this study, the relationship between the wavelength dependent ratio of lidar scattering signals (color ratio) and relative humidity and the application of the color ratio to identify the cloud base is examined.

1. INTRODUCTION
Changes in aerosol scattering properties can highly influence the Earth’s climate by affecting the Earth’s radiation budget. The knowledge of the direct and indirect interaction of atmospheric aerosols on climate is still quite low compared to other atmospheric constituents, not only due to high spatial and temporal variability of aerosols but also due to hygroscopicity. In the ambient atmosphere, the aerosol particles may absorb moisture from the surrounding air and increase their size causing significant change in their size distribution and their associated optical and microphysical properties[1].

In previous studies we already noticed that the inter-relationship between the aerosol Ångström exponent and particle depolarization can reveal information on particle size and shape [2]. In that study, it was reported that the aerosol hygroscopicity might be the reason for the observed distortion in the linear correlation between Ångström exponent and particle depolarization. In this study, we try to combine Mie scattering theory and Köhler theory to study the effect of aerosol hygroscopicity on PBL profiles. We also try to use the lidar color ratio (CR) as indicator of particle size to investigate the inter-relationship between color ratio, hygroscopicity (κ), and relative humidity.

2. METHOD

2.1. Color Ratio

The particle size can be inferred from size-dependent light scattering properties such as the Ångström exponent and color ratio [2; 3; 4] (and references therein). The Ångström exponent had been wildly used to understand the particle size. However, the Ångström exponent might be highly uncertain or unavailable because the value of the Ångström exponent highly depends on the accuracy of lidar inversion. Therefore, the ratio of lidar backscatter at different wavelengths (color ratio) might be a simple indicator and more suitable than the Ångström exponent for Planetary Boundary Layer (PBL) studies.

In this study, vertical profiles of lidar backscatter measured by Research Centre for Environmental Changes / Academia Sinica and National Taiwan University (RCEC/ASNTU) Lidar installed in National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan is used for a case study. The RCEC/ASNTU Lidar is a dual wavelength depolarization lidar operated at 355 nm and 532 nm designed to measure aerosols and clouds up to 10 km during day and 20 km at night[2]. The particulate backscatter color ratio CR is defined as

\[ CR = \frac{P_{532}}{P_{355}} \]  

where \( P_{355} \) and \( P_{532} \) are particulate backscatter at 532 and 355 nm respectively.

2.2. Hygroscopicity

The saturation ratio of a liquid aerosol droplet in aerosol in its volume equivalent diameter, \( S_{eq} \) [5], over an aqueous solution droplet can be calculated from

\[ S_{eq} = a_w \times e^{A/D} \]  

\[ a_w = \frac{n_w}{n_w + i_n_a} \]  

\[ A = \frac{4\sigma_w M_w}{\rho_w R_u T} \]

where \( a_w \) is the activity of water in solution, \( \rho_w \) is the density of water, \( M_w \) is the molecular weight of water, \( \sigma_w \) is the surface tension of the solution/air interface, \( R_u \) is the universal gas constant, \( T \) is temperature, and \( D \) is the diameter of the droplet, \( D_3 \) is the dry diameter.

For a multicomponent system (multiple solutes + water) at equilibrium, Eq. 2 yields the equation defining the Köhler theory

\[ S_{eq}(D) = \frac{D^3 - D_d^3}{D^3 - D_3^3 (1 - \kappa)} \times \exp \left( \frac{4\sigma_w M_w}{\rho_w R_u T D} \right) \]

Where \( \kappa \) can then be understood as expressing the volume (or mass or moles, with appropriate unit conversions) of water that is associated with a unit volume of...
The overall value for $\kappa$ is given by the simple mixing rule

$$\kappa = \sum_i \varepsilon_i \kappa_i$$

The wavelength dependent backscattering coefficient of grown particles can be calculated using

$$\beta(\lambda) = \frac{\pi D^2}{4} N_d Q_{\text{back}}(\lambda)$$

(6)

where $N_d$ is volume number density of particle and $Q_{\text{back}}$ is the backscattering efficiency calculated from Mie theory with complex refractive index. In this study, $m = 1.44 + 0.043i$ is used for most of the simulation.

In general, the value of $\kappa$ for soluble inorganic aerosols is in the range 0.4-1.4; for organic aerosols it is in the range of 0.01-0.5 and for black carbon is less than 0.01.

Our previous studies found $\kappa$ is around 0.2 for aerosols in Taipei City and 0.1-0.2 for aerosols in Kaohsiung City [6].

3. RESULTS

3.1. Hygroscopic Growth

Figure 1 shows the typical particle size distribution (solid black) observed in Taipei. The hygroscopic growth size distributions from dry to RH=98% for aerosols with $\kappa=0.2$ (solid blue) and 0.61 (dashed black) are shown for comparison. Particles with $\kappa=0.61$ are about two times larger than particle with $\kappa=0.2$ when RH=98%.

The corresponding backscattering coefficient as a function of $RH$ for aerosols with $\kappa=0.2$ is shown in Fig. 2. The complex refractive index of aerosol is set to $m = 1.44 + 0.043i$. Here the Particle Backscatter Coefficient (PBC) or $\beta_{\text{par}}$ increases slowly with increase in $RH$ up to RH<80%. After $RH$ is higher than 80%, the $\beta_{\text{par}}$ increases rapidly with increase in $RH$. At $RH \approx 98\%$ the backscatter is about 10 times larger than the backscatter at RH=40%.

3.2. Color Ratio vs. RH

The calculated color ratio CR for different $RH$ is shown in Fig. 3. It can be noticed here that the color ratio shows opposite tendency at lower and higher $RH$s, respectively. In general, the value of the color ratio is about 0.5 for dry particles. The color ratio slightly decreases with increase in $RH$ from “dry” condition to a critical $RH_T$ about 50% ($\kappa=0.2$), 60% ($\kappa=0.4$), or 75% ($\kappa=0.61$). If $RH$ is larger than $RH_T$, the color ratio turns to increase rapidly with increase in $RH$ and reaches a maximum $CR$ of $\sim 0.7-0.8$ at $RH=95\%$. This result implies a $\kappa$-dependent turning point $RH_T$ might be useful as an indicator of $\kappa$.

3.3. Case Study

A case observed on 13 January 2009 is selected to simulate and investigate the impact of hygroscopic growth. Fig. 4 shows the time-height evolution of range corrected signal ($P \times z^2$) for 532 nm observed by RCEC/ASNTU lidar. The height of boundary layer is about 1.5 km throughout the day. The height of mixed layer was determined using gradient algorithm [7] and is around 1 km from 00Z - 06Z and decreased to 700m - 500m after 06Z.

A radiosonde was launched on 13 January 2009 at 00Z to measure the vertical profile of atmospheric parameters. The profile of measured $RH$ is shown in Fig. 5. Based on this $RH$ profile, the relative backscattering coefficients for 355 nm and 532 nm are calculated and shown in Fig. 6. Aerosols are assumed being well mixed and hygroscopic growth follow the $\kappa$-Köhler theory. The initial size distribution is shown in Fig. 1. The complex refractive index of dry aerosol is set to $m = 1.44 + 0.043i$ and $\kappa$ is 0.2 (the typical value of $\kappa$ observed in Taipei [6]).
In general, the value of \( \beta \) or \( \kappa \) is used for most of the simulation. Here the Particle Backscatter Coefficient \( \beta \) is set to \( \kappa = 0.2 \) (the typical value of dry aerosol) when \( \text{RH} = 98\% \). The overall value for \( \kappa \) is comparable. Particles with \( \kappa = 0.2 \) is shown in Fig. 2.

The calculated color ratio \( \kappa \) is larger about 50\% at ground level. \( \beta \) gradually increased with height and reached \( \text{RH}=98\% \) at height \( z \approx 1.25 \) km. A small inversion in \( \beta \) was found at \( z \approx 0.8 \) km, which has been smooth (dashed green) for hygroscopic simulation. The simulated lidar backscattering coefficients for two wave lengths are shown Fig. 6. Backscattering coefficients for 355 nm (\( \beta_{355} \)) and 532 nm (\( \beta_{532} \)) at ground level (\( z=0 \)) are about 0.005 and 0.003 \( \text{m}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1} \), respectively. \( \beta_{355} \) and \( \beta_{532} \) slightly increase with height up to \( z \approx 1 \) km or \( \text{RH} \approx 90\% \). \( \beta_{355} \) and \( \beta_{532} \) turn to rapidly increase to 0.04 \( \text{m}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1} \) when \( \text{RH} \approx 98\% \). Beyond \( \text{RH} = 98\% \), aerosols are activated as cloud droplets and the corresponding \( \beta_{355} \) and \( \beta_{532} \) increase to 55 at \( z \approx 1.4 \) km, which are about 1000 times higher than \( \beta_{355} \) and \( \beta_{532} \) at surface level.

The height distribution of observed (solid red) and calculated (solid blue) color ratios are shown in Fig. 7. The observed \( \beta \) decreases from 0.6 to 0.4 with height increasing from surface level to 1.3 km. \( \beta \) turns to rapidly increases from 0.4 to 1.4 with height (or RH) increasing from 1.3 km to 1.4 km. The calculated \( \beta \) slightly increases from 0.42 to 0.6 with height increasing from surface level to 1.2 km. The calculated \( \beta \) turns rapidly increases from 0.6 to 1 with height increasing from 1.2 km to 1.3 km.

As shown in Fig. 5, \( \beta \) was about 55\% at ground level. \( \kappa \) gradually increased with height and reached \( \kappa = 0.2 \) (black), 0.4 (red), 0.61 (blue) and complex reflectivity \( m = 1.44 + 0.043i \).

The vertical structures of observed and calculated \( \beta \) are much different between 1.3 km and 1.5 km. This discrepancies might be owing to incorrect \( \kappa \) value or RH. Fig. 8 shows the calculated \( \beta \) profiles based on the RH profile (dashed blue) modified from radiosonde measurement (solid green) to match the observed \( \beta \). This result shows, a small uncertainty would cause large difference from reality. Another implication from Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 is \( \kappa \) might be over estimated. It can be noticed that the
simulated CR profile with $\kappa=0.1$ is more closer to lidar observation.

Figure 7: Observed (red) and simulated (green) vertical profile of Color Ratio (CR) with $\kappa=0.2$ and RH profile (blue) observed by radiosonde.

Figure 8: Same as Fig. 7 but with various $\kappa$ and modified RH profile (blue).

4. SUMMARY

- In general, CR of “dry” particle slightly decreases with increase in RH from 0% to a critical RH$_T$ about 60% ($\kappa=0.2$), 70% ($\kappa=0.4$), or 80% ($\kappa=0.61$). Color ratio turns to increase rapidly with increase in RH when RH is larger than RH$_T$.

- The discrepancies might be owing to incorrect $\kappa$ value or RH. Measured RH is found highly uncertain when RH higher than 95%.

- Considering the value of $\kappa$ about 0.1 can make the simulation and observation more closer but it is lower than typical value of $\kappa$ observed by CCN counter. More study is needed to reveal the possible reasons. Full investigation will be presented in the conference.

REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study was supported by Taiwan National Science Council (105-2119-M-001-025 and 103-2923-M-001-003-MY3). We also thank Academia Sinica, Taiwan for providing Post-doctoral fellowship funded by National Science Council, Taiwan.