Aerosol Size Distribution Properties Associated with Cold-Air Outbreaks in the Norwegian Arctic

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Abstract. The aerosol particles that provide cloud condensation and ice nuclei contribute to key cloud processes associated with cold-air outbreak (CAO) events but are poorly constrained in climate models due to sparse observations. Here we retrieve aerosol size distribution modes from measurements at Andenes, Norway during the Cold-Air Outbreaks in the Marine Boundary Layer Experiment (COMBLE) and at Zeppelin Observatory, approximately 1000 km upwind in Svalbard. During CAO events at Andenes, the sea spray mode number concentration is correlated to strong over-ocean winds with a mean of 8 ± 4 cm^{-3} that is 71% higher than during non-CAO conditions. Additionally during CAO events at Andenes, the mean Hoppel minimum diameter is 6 nm smaller than during non-CAO conditions though the estimated supersaturation is lower and the number concentration of particles that likely activated in-cloud is 109 ± 61 cm^{-3} (similar to non-CAO conditions). For CAO trajectories between Zeppelin Observatory and Andenes, the upwind-to-downwind change in number concentration is largest for the accumulation mode with a mean decrease of 93 ± 95 cm^{-3}, likely attributable primarily to precipitation scavenging. These characteristic properties of aerosol size distributions during CAO events provide guidance for evaluating CAO aerosol-cloud interaction processes in models.

1 Introduction

Marine cold-air outbreak (CAO) events are accompanied by unique microphysical processes and boundary layer cloud characteristics that climate and numerical weather prediction models struggle to accurately capture (Abel et al., 2017; Field et al., 2014). Such model limitations may partially arise from an insufficient representation of aerosol particles, which serve as ice and cloud condensation nuclei (IN and CCN) during cloud formation. For example, Tornow et al. (2021) found that mid-latitude CAO cloud transitions which resembled observations could only be simulated when the aerosol number concentration was allowed to evolve with time. Previous modeling of cold-air outbreaks have typically relied on sparse observational constraints

20 (e.g. Field et al. (2014); Abel et al. (2017); Tornow et al. (2021)), illustrating a need for observations of aerosol properties associated with CAO events in order to inform, constrain, and improve model simulations and forecasts.

Aerosol number concentrations in the Arctic are typically very low, with median concentrations consistently less than 400 cm^{-3} (Croft et al., 2016; Pernov et al., 2022; Freud et al., 2017; Tunved et al., 2012). The annual maximum in number concentration at the Zeppelin Observatory in Svalbard is during spring due to an increase in accumulation mode particles (termed

25 Arctic haze), with a maximum in Aitken mode particles during summer, and an annual minimum during fall (Croft et al., 2016; Pernov et al., 2022; Freud et al., 2017; Tunved et al., 2012). Aerosols in this region typically have chemical compositions that largely consist of sulfates, sea salt, and organic components (Willis et al., 2018; Moore et al., 2011; Adachi et al., 2022). The variability of aerosol properties is often associated with differences in the meteorological conditions and transport patterns the aerosol experienced, referred to as the air mass history (Schmale et al., 2022; Pernov et al., 2022; Freud et al., 2017; Tunved

30 et al., 2012). Since CAO events generally have air mass histories that are similar to each other, we could expect that their aerosol properties represent only a subset of properties observed in Arctic conditions. Previous studies have reported the accumulation mode number concentration of particles as approximately 100 cm^{-3} upwind and approximately 25 cm^{-3} downwind of the transition in cloud structure during CAO events (Abel et al., 2017; Lloyd et al., 2018; Sanchez et al., 2022). These results, however, are limited to only four case studies and provide no information on the aerosol size distribution associated with CAO

35 events.

CCN consist primarily of accumulation mode particles, with smaller particles serving as CCN when accumulation mode number concentrations are very low or supersaturations are high (Jung et al., 2018; Karlsson et al., 2022; Koike et al., 2019; Bulatovic et al., 2021). Known as cloud-processing, an addition of aerosol mass can result from the aqueous production of a component from the vapor phase, such as sulfate from SO$_2$ (Isokääntä et al., 2022), resulting in particles that are larger after

40 the cloud has evaporated than before it formed (Freud et al., 2017; Croft et al., 2016; Zheng et al., 2018). Precipitation acts as a primary sink for accumulation mode particles (Isokääntä et al., 2022; Croft et al., 2016; Zheng et al., 2018; Freud et al., 2017; Tunved et al., 2012) and this scavenging has been observed in association with CAO events, although limited to three case studies and aerosols of diameters between 0.1 and 3.0 μm (Abel et al., 2017; Lloyd et al., 2018). In mid-latitude clouds off the Eastern seaboard, dilution of accumulation mode particles via rapid boundary layer growth has also been shown to contribute

45 to lowering droplet number concentrations with increasing fetch off-shore (Tornow et al., 2022).

In order to better understand the interactions between aerosols and CAO events, we have studied aerosol size distributions measured in Andenes, Norway (69.30°N, 16.15°E) during the Cold-Air Outbreaks in the Marine Boundary Layer Experiment (COMBLE; Geerts et al. (2022)). We additionally examined aerosol measurements from the Zeppelin Observatory in Svalbard (78.90°N, 11.88°E), located approximately 1000 km upwind of Andenes (Fig. 1), during time periods when CAO air mass

50 trajectories passed near the Zeppelin Observatory before arriving at Andenes. This allowed for an evaluation of the consistencies and variability of the cloud-processed aerosol size distribution during CAO events versus non-CAO conditions at Andenes and between upwind (Zeppelin Observatory) and downwind (Andenes) conditions for certain CAO events. We investigate the aerosol properties associated with CAO events, including the sea spray aerosol concentration (Sect. 3), the fraction of particles that can activate to cloud drops (Sect. 4), and the variation of modal number concentration with precipitation (Sect. 5).
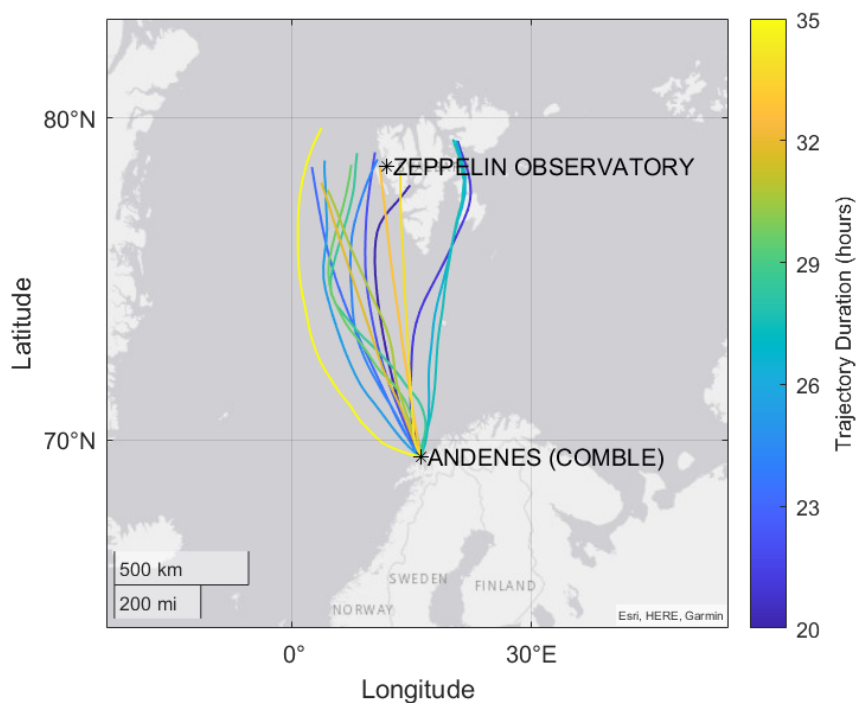
Figure 1. Map illustrating the locations (black asterisks) of Andenes in Norway and the Zeppelin Observatory in Svalbard. Overlaid are 15 trajectories that occur during 8 CAO events at Andenes (Table S1). Trajectories are colored by the amount of time between closest passage by Zeppelin Observatory and arrival at Andenes.

2 Methods

Section 2.1 describes the selection of CAO air masses that passed in close proximity to Zeppelin Observatory in Svalbard and traversed ~ 1000 km downwind to Andenes, Norway. Section 2.2 discusses the retrieval of the aerosol mode properties associated with the measured size distributions at Andenes and Zeppelin Observatory. Lastly, Section 2.3 describes the measurements of the trace gases and meteorological properties used in this work.

2.1 CAO events

Identified in Geerts et al. (2022), 49 CAO events occur at Andenes during COMBLE between 01 December 2019 and 31 May 2020. The 49 CAO events account for 18.6% of the entire COMBLE duration, and the remaining 81.4% is referred to as non-CAO conditions. Sect. 3 and 4 utilize these CAO and non-CAO time periods. We additionally calculate 120-hour back-trajectories every 3 hours between 01 December 2019 and 31 May 2020 initiating at Andenes (surface level; 2 meters above mean sea level; 69.30°N, 16.15°E) using the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT; Stein et al. (2015)) with the fifth generation European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) atmospheric reanalysis

(ERA5; Hersbach et al. (2020)) at 1 degree and 1-hour spatial and temporal resolutions. 23 (47%) of the CAO events during COMBLE have trajectories that pass within 200 km of Zeppelin Observatory in Svalbard (78.90°N, 11.88°E). In Sect. 5, we focus on 8 (16%) of the CAO events during COMBLE that have complete aerosol size distribution measurements available at 70   both Zeppelin Observatory and Andenes. Together these 8 CAO events include 15 of the calculated 3-hourly back-trajectories shown in Fig. 1.

2.2   In-situ aerosol measurements

Aerosol properties were measured during COMBLE by the Aerosol Observing System (AOS) as described in Uin et al. (2019). Size distributions were provided by an Ultra High Sensitivity Aerosol Spectrometer (UHSAS; Droplet Measurement Technolo- 75   gies Inc.; Uin (2016a)) and a Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer (SMPS; TSI Inc., Model 3936; Kuang (2016a)). The UHSAS utilizes optical-scattering to size particles between 60 and 1000 nm every 10 seconds while the SMPS uses electrical mobility to size particles between 10 and 500 nm every 5 minutes. A condensation particle counter (CPC; TSI Inc., Model 3772; (Kuang, 2016b)) recorded the total number concentration of submicron particles greater than 10 nm in diameter.

At Zeppelin Observatory, size distributions in the mobility diameter range of 5 - 809 nm were collected approximately every 80   15 min by a custom closed-loop differential mobility particle sizer (Platt et al., 2022; Karlsson et al., 2021; Tunved et al., 2012). An optical particle size spectrometer (OPSS, FIDAS 200 S, Palas GmbH, Germany) measured the size distribution of larger particles in the optical diameter range of 0.2 - 18 µm every 3 min under dry conditions. The COMBLE campaign coincided with the Ny-Ålesund Aerosol Cloud Experiment 2019-2020 (NASCENT) campaign at Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard (Pasquier et al., 2022). More details on the long-term measurements and the general set-up at Zeppelin Observatory can be found in Platt et al. 85   (2022).

Aerosol mass was collected at Zeppelin Observatory using a three-stage filter pack (with a teflon Zefluor 2 µm pore, 47mm diameter filter and a cellulose Whatman 40 filter) every 24 hr (Lee et al., 2020; Platt et al., 2022). Due to the absence of a cyclone or impactor in front of the filter pack, there was no calibrated upper size cutoff (Lee et al., 2020; Ahn et al., 2021), although contributions from supermicron particles were likely small. Following collection, filters were analyzed in the laboratory using 90   ion chromatography to determine the mass of SO_4^{2-}, NO_3^-, Cl^-, NH_4^+, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, K^+, and Na^+ (Platt et al., 2022; Lee et al., 2020; Ahn et al., 2021). The mass concentration of sea salt was calculated as $[Na^+] + 1.46[Cl^-]$.

During COMBLE, a Humidified Tandem Differential Mobility Analyzer (HTDMA; Brechtel Manufacturing Inc. Model 3002; Uin (2016b)) recorded size distributions of humidified particles at five different initial dry (RH < 2%) sizes at 10 min intervals, from which the growth factors (GF; ratio of wet to dry diameter) for each of the five initial dry diameters were 95   calculated. Corresponding values of the hygroscopicity parameter (κ) were calculated from the median GF of each distribution using the equation of Petters and Kreidenweis (2007). Additionally, a cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) counter (Droplet Measurement Technologies Model CCN-200; Uin (2016c)) provided measurements of CCN number concentration at 0.4% supersaturation every 15 minutes throughout the campaign.

Size distribution measurements were averaged to 1- and 2-hour intervals and merged from the UHSAS and SMPS during 100   COMBLE and the DMPS and OPSS at Zeppelin Observatory following the methods of A. Khlystov and Pandis (2004) and
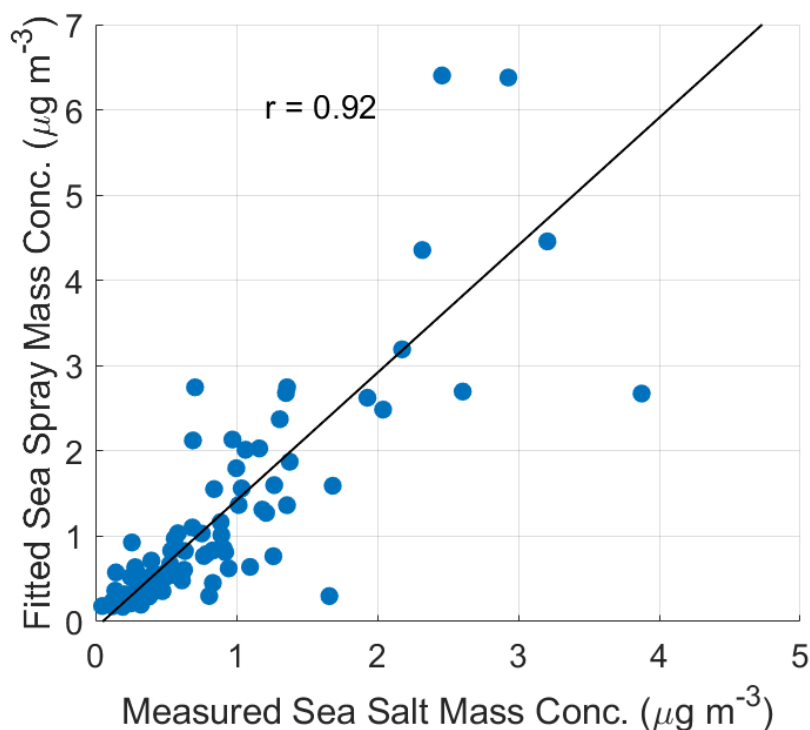
Figure 2. Scatter plot of the mass concentration of the fitted sea spray mode against the measured sea salt mass concentration at Zeppelin Observatory. The linear regression line is shown in solid black.

Modini et al. (2015), as in Dedrick et al. (2022a). Three lognormal modes were then fit to the merged size distributions at both sites using an automated algorithm that calculates the modal number concentration (N), geometric mean diameter (D_g), and geometric standard deviation (σ_g) as parameters of the fitted distribution Dedrick et al. (2022a); Modini et al. (2015); Saliba et al. (2019). The fitting algorithm, as described in Dedrick et al. (2022a), is informed and constrained by supermicron

105 scattering measurements taken by a three-wavelength integrating nephelometer during COMBLE (Uin, 2016d). A chi-square test was utilized to evaluate the quality of the calculated mode fits. Fits with a chi-square value that exceed the chi-square critical value at the 95% confidence interval were manually fit following visual inspection or excluded. The choice of three lognormal modes has also been used in prior studies in this region (e.g. Freud et al. (2017); Tunved et al. (2012)). We designate the three modes as the Aitken mode ($D_g < 0.01\mu$m), accumulation mode ($0.01~\mu$m $< D_g < 0.03\mu$m), and sea spray mode

110 ($D_g > 0.03\mu$m). The sea spray mode often appears as a "shoulder" in the distribution (Zheng et al., 2018; Dedrick et al., 2022a; Modini et al., 2015) and is termed sea spray since the Pearson correlation coefficient, r, indicates a strong correlation (r = 0.92) of this mode mass with measured sea salt mass concentration (Fig. 2).

2.3 Ancillary variables

Carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations were measured at Andenes during COMBLE with a Los Gatos Research CO analyzer at
115 1-second resolution (Springston, 2015), and at Zeppelin Observatory with a Picarro G2401 cavity ring-down spectroscope at 1-minute resolution (Platt et al., 2022). Wind direction and speed were measured every 1 second by a Vaisala weather transmitter (WXT 520) mounted on the aerosol inlet at Andenes during COMBLE (Kyrouac, 2019). For direct comparison with aerosol measurements, wind and CO measurements were averaged to 1- and 2-hour intervals.

Mean surface precipitation rates with a resolution of 4 min at Andenes were obtained from the *precip_mean* variable of
120 the KAZRARSCL (Active Remote Sensing of CLouds Product Using Ka-band ARM Zenith Radars; Johnson et al. (2023)) value-added product (VAP) produced by the Department of Energy (DOE) Atmospheric Radiation Measurement User Facility (ARM). This variable is informed by measurements of the tipping bucket rain gauge that is part of the surface meteorological instrumentation (MET; Ritsche (2011)). Based on the mean precipitation rate, the amount of precipitation (the liquid-equivalent of all hydrometeors) accumulated at Andenes within the previous 24-hours at 1- and 2-hour intervals were calculated during
125 COMBLE.

3 Greater sea spray particle number concentration

The median aerosol size distribution at Andenes is described by three lognormal modes (Aitken, accumulation, and sea spray) centered at approximately 0.035, 0.14, and 0.45 μm (Fig. 3a). The mean Aitken mode number concentration is 52 ± 54 cm^{-3} during CAO events, which is 14% lower than during non-CAO conditions. Conversely, the mean accumulation mode number
130 concentration is 109 ± 75 cm^{-3}, with 10% higher concentrations during CAO events compared to non-CAO conditions. These differences, however, are not statistically significant (hereafter statistically significant implies p<0.05 by two-sample t-test) and suggest that the number concentration of the two modes are controlled by independent factors rather than the aerosol co-varying with CAO events.

In contrast, the sea spray mode has a statistically-significant 71% higher mean number concentration of 8 ± 4 cm^{-3} during
135 CAO events compared to non-CAO conditions. This is likely associated with stronger over-ocean winds that are typical of CAO events (Kolstad, 2017). During COMBLE, CAO trajectories generally have spent the most recent 15-40 hours over the open ocean and arrive at Andenes with sustained winds from the northwest (250º-30º defined in Geerts et al. (2022); Fig. 4b,d). Such CAO winds are from nearly the opposite direction of winds typical during non-CAO conditions, which come from over Scandinavia to the south and southeast (100º-230º) approximately 70% of the time (Fig. 4c). Binning the sea spray mode
140 number concentration by wind direction (w_{dir}) as either marine (250º>w_{dir}>30º) or continental (100º>w_{dir}>230º) reveals a mean number concentration of 5 ± 2 cm^{-3} for continental wind directions and 8 ± 4 cm^{-3} for marine wind directions. This statistically significant difference associated with wind direction suggests that the observed 71% increase in sea spray mode number concentration during CAO events is associated with the north-to-westerly direction of the winds.

More specifically, the higher sea spray mode number concentration is likely related to the wind speed, as sea spray mode
145 mass concentration has previously been correlated to wind speed (Monahan, 1968; Russell et al., 2023). Hourly mean wind
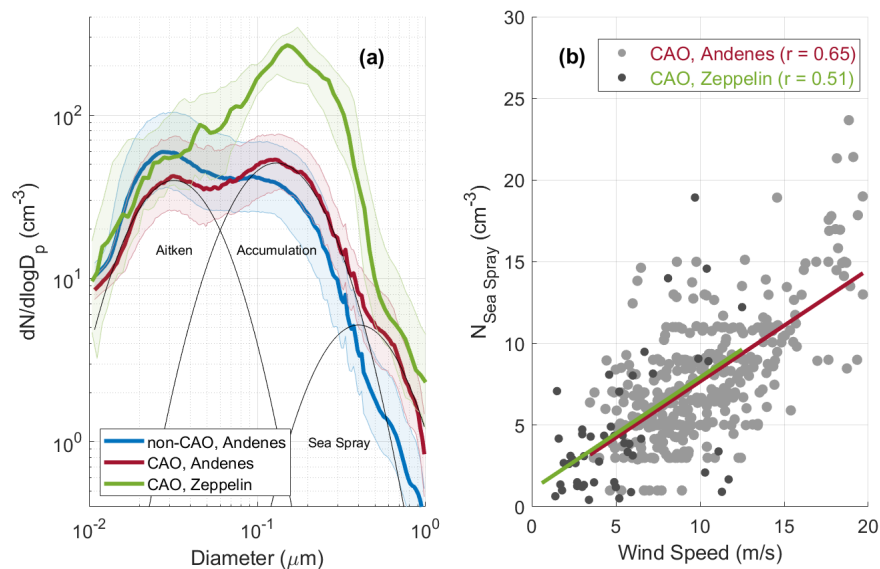
Figure 3. (a) Median size distributions (thick solid lines) with 25th and 75th percentiles (shaded regions) for non-CAO conditions at Andenes (blue), CAO events at Andenes (red), and CAO event backtrajectories at Zeppelin Observatory (green). The median CAO distribution at Andenes is overlaid with the Aitken, accumulation, and sea spray modes (thin black lines). (b) Scatter plots of sea spray mode number concentration against measured wind speed. Points are 2-hr means during CAO events at Andenes (light gray points) or when CAO event backtrajectories pass near Zeppelin Observatory (dark gray points) and are overlaid with the corresponding regression line for Andenes and Zeppelin Observatory (red and green lines, respectively).

speed exceeds 10 ms^{-1} for more than 45% of the time during CAO events, compared to only 7% during non-CAO periods (Fig. 4c-d). For CAO events, sea spray number concentration is positively correlated to local wind speed at Andenes (Pearson correlation coefficient (r) = 0.65, p<0.05) and at Zeppelin Observatory (r=0.51, p<0.05; Fig. 3b). The mass concentration of the sea spray mode is also correlated to wind speed at Andenes and at Zeppelin Observatory (r=0.62 and r=0.50, respectively; not shown). For non-CAO conditions, the correlations between sea spray number concentration and wind speed and between sea spray mass concentration and wind speed are weaker than during CAO events (r = 0.38 and r = 0.24, respectively; not shown). These relationships show that the higher sea spray mode concentration during CAO events co-varies with the higher over-ocean wind speed associated with CAO events.

4 Activation of particles to cloud drops

In regions where the aerosol size distribution has been processed by low clouds, the Hoppel minimum diameter (D_{HM}; local minimum in concentration located between the peaks of the Aitken and accumulation modes) provides an indicator of the size of the smallest particles that were activated to and grown by processing as cloud droplets (Hoppel et al. (1986); Krüger et al. (2014); this interpretation of D_{HM} as the minimum diameter activated does not account for cloud processing that is too
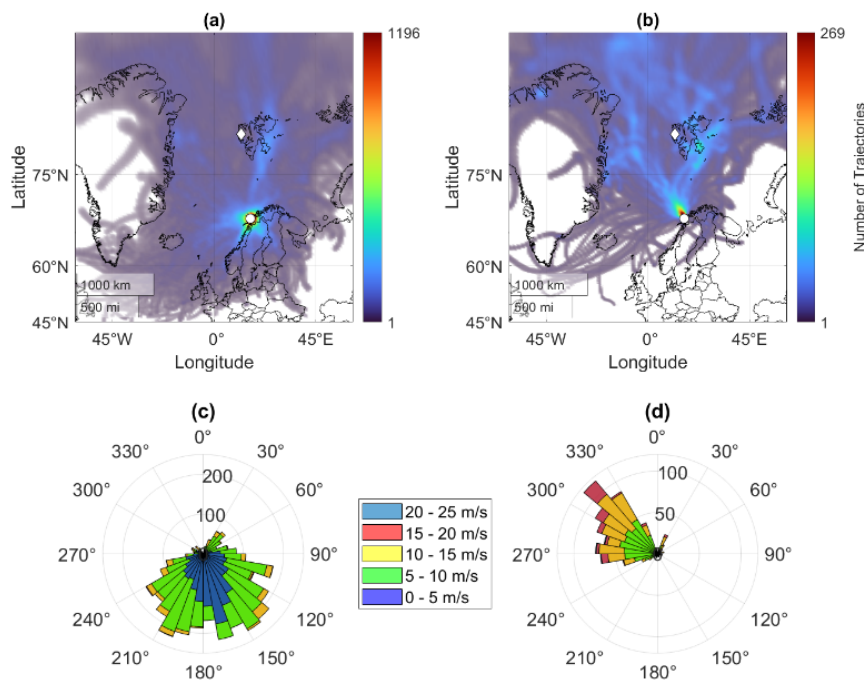
Figure 4. (a-b) Density plots of backtrajectories in 1 degree latitude and longitude bins originating at Andenes, Norway during (a) non-CAO conditions and (b) CAO events. Andenes is marked with a white circle, Zeppelin Observatory is marked with a white diamond. (c-d) Rose histogram plots of wind direction in 10° bins with stacked 5 m/s bins of wind speed during (c) non-CAO conditions and (d) CAO events.

short to result in particle growth from the Aitken mode). We calculate D_{HM} by retrieving the diameter with the lowest number

160 concentration above the Aitken mode D_g and below the accumulation mode D_g in the merged size distributions. Median D_{HM} during non-CAO conditions is 59 nm (Fig. 5), which falls within the reported range of approximately 50-80 nm for Arctic and marine-influenced aerosol size distributions (Hoppel et al., 1986; Pernov et al., 2022; Freud et al., 2017; Tunved et al., 2012). During CAO events, the median D_{HM} is 53 nm which is 6 nm smaller than during non-CAO conditions. This difference is statistically significant and may be attributed to differences in supersaturation driven by meteorological or aerosol properties

165 (Reutter et al. (2009); Ghan et al. (1998); Chen et al. (2016); Text S1).

The median hygroscopicity parameter (κ) at particle diameters between 100 and 250 nm is 0.11 ± 0.02 higher during CAO events compared to non-CAO conditions (Fig. 5). At 50 nm, however, the median κ is 0.2 higher during CAO events with a value of 0.4. A diameter of 50 nm falls at the 43rd percentile of D_{HM} during CAO events and at the 31st percentile of D_{HM} during non-CAO conditions, implying that more particles at 50 nm may be cloud-processed during CAO events. The enhanced

170 hygroscopicity at this diameter could indicate a contribution from sulfate ($\kappa = 0.84$, Sanchez et al. (2018)) added to activated particles during cloud processing (Crumeyrolle et al., 2008) or from differences in particle sources and transport patterns.
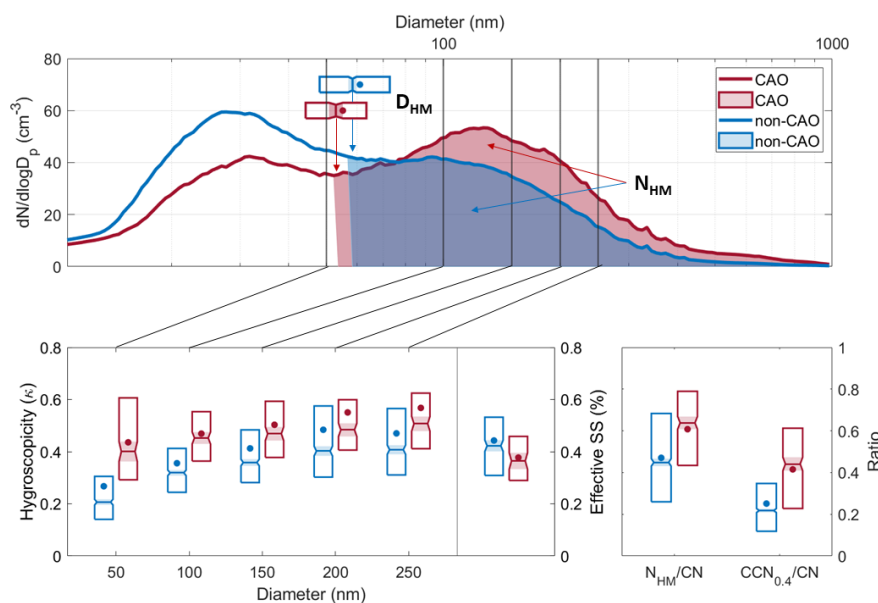
Figure 5. (top) The median number size distributions for non-CAO conditions (blue) and CAO events (red) with shaded regions indicating the integrated number concentration above the Hoppel minimum (N_{HM}), with horizontal boxplots of Hoppel minimum diameter, D_{HM}. Overlaid is (bottom left) boxplots of HTDMA-derived kappa at dry particle diameters of 50, 100, 150, 200, 250 nm and effective supersaturation calculated from D_{HM} and HTDMA-derived kappa and (bottom right) boxplots of the ratio of N_{HM} to CN and $CCN_{0.4}$ to CN. For all boxplots, notched center line is the median, left and right edges extend to the 75th and 25th percentiles, and circle marker is the mean.

The diameter of the smallest particle activated is determined by the highest critical supersaturation for a given aerosol composition, making D_{HM} an indicator of the effective supersaturation in clouds that persisted long enough for processing to cause growth. We estimate the effective supersaturation for cloud processing using D_{HM} and κ interpolated to diameters

175 between 50 nm and 250 nm (Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007). If the aerosol chemical composition and by consequence its hygroscopicity, represented by κ, were the same between CAO events and non-CAO conditions, then the smaller D_{HM} during CAO events would imply a higher effective supersaturation during CAO events (Fig. 6). However, if D_{HM} was the same between CAO events and non-CAO conditions, then the lower κ during CAO events would imply a lower effective supersaturation during CAO events. Interestingly, hygroscopicity (κ) has a larger effect on supersaturation than does size (D_{HM}), making the

180 effective supersaturation lower for CAO events than non-CAO conditions. There is a statistically-significant lower median effective supersaturation of 0.37% during CAO events compared to a median of 0.41% during non-CAO conditions (Fig. 5).

The mean number of particles that were activated and processed by clouds, represented by the integrated number concentration above D_{HM} (designated as N_{HM}), is 109 ± 61 cm^{-3} during CAO events with no statistically significant difference from its mean during non-CAO conditions. There is a strong and significant positive correlation (r = 0.83; p < 0.05) between N_{HM}

185 and CCN at 0.4% supersaturation ($CCN_{0.4}$) during COMBLE (Fig. 7a). This is in agreement with the calculated effective supersaturation mean of 0.42% during COMBLE. The effective supersaturation is correlated (r = 0.6) to N_{HM} -$CCN_{0.4}$, where
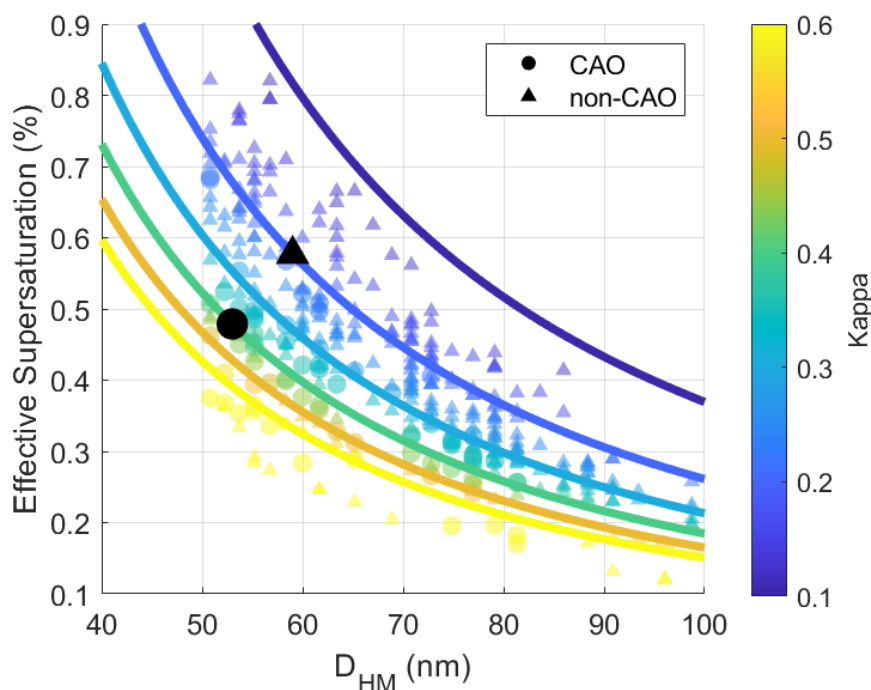
Figure 6. Scatter plot of effective supersaturation against D_{HM} colored by hygroscopicity (κ). Measurements during CAO events are represented by circles and during non-CAO conditions are represented by triangles. Overlaid are lines of constant hygroscopicity (κ) at intervals of 0.1 between 0.1 and 0.6. In black are the points corresponding to the median D_{HM} and median hygroscopicity (κ) at 50 nm for CAO events and non-CAO conditions. Measurements for $D_{HM} < 50$ nm are omitted because κ was not measured.

positive values of N_{HM} - $CCN_{0.4}$ represent effective supersaturations above 0.4% and negative values represent effective supersaturations below 0.4% (Fig. 7b). The mean $CCN_{0.4}$ is 90 ± 50 cm^{-3} during CAO events, which is within the reported range of approximately 35-176 cm^{-3} for mean CCN concentrations measured in the Arctic at 0.3-0.5% supersaturation (Table S2; Jung 190 et al. (2018); Paramonov et al. (2015); Moore et al. (2011); Dall´osto et al.; Herenz et al. (2018); Lathem et al. (2013); Zábori et al. (2015); Martin et al. (2011)).

CAO events are associated with cleaner condensation nuclei (CN) concentrations with a mean of 218 ± 134 cm^{-3}, which is lower with statistical significance than the mean of 311 ± 234 cm^{-3} during non-CAO conditions. As a consequence of the lower CN concentrations, the mean ratio N_{HM}/CN is 0.61 ± 0.25 during CAO events, which is greater with statistical significance than 195 the mean of 0.47 ± 0.26 during non-CAO conditions (Fig. 5). Given the assumption that all N_{HM} activated to cloud drops, an approximately 15% higher fraction of ambient CN activate during CAO conditions. The range of N_{HM}/CN shown in Figure 5 falls within reported ratios of N_{CCN}/N_{CN}, which varied between approximately 0.1 and 0.9 for CCN at 0.3-0.5% supersaturation at high-latitudes (Jung et al., 2018; Moore et al., 2011; Paramonov et al., 2015; Zábori et al., 2015; Lathem et al., 2013).
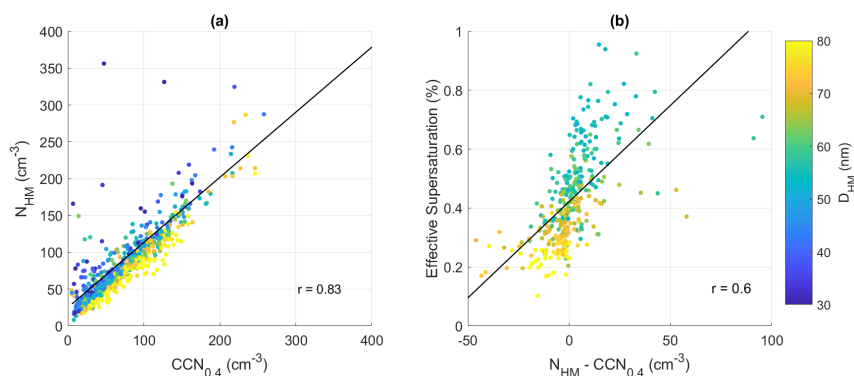
Figure 7. (a) Scatter plot of N_{HM} against $CCN_{0.4}$. (b) Scatter plot of effective supersaturation (calculated with D_{HM} and HTDMA-derived kappa for points with $D_{HM} > 50$ nm) against the difference between N_{HM} and CCN at 0.4% supersaturation and colored by D_{HM}. For both plots, the corresponding linear regression lines are shown in solid black.

5 Scavenging by precipitation

To characterize aerosol changes along CAO trajectories, we compared pairs of size distributions measured upwind at Zeppelin Observatory and downwind at Andenes for 15 CAO trajectories that pass within 200 km of Zeppelin Observatory during 8 CAO events at Andenes (Fig. 1; Table S1). The mean and standard deviation of the size-resolved change in number concentration from upwind to downwind sites is summarized in Figure 8. The largest change in number concentration occurs within the accumulation mode, with a mean decrease of 203 cm^{-3} at a diameter of 142 nm. For the entire fitted accumulation mode, there is a mean decrease of 93 ± 95 cm^{-3}, which is larger than the similarly observed decreases in three previous CAO cases (Abel et al., 2017; Lloyd et al., 2018; Sanchez et al., 2022).

We attribute the majority of the observed decrease in our CAO events to precipitation scavenging, since carbon monoxide (CO) concentration along trajectories decreased by only 7.3% at the 75th percentile compared to an accumulation number decrease of 71.8% at the 75th percentile. The larger decrease in accumulation mode particles than in CO concentrations supports the attribution of losses in aerosol number to precipitation since CO is typically conserved during precipitation (e.g.Garrett et al. (2010); Dadashazar et al. (2021)). However, boundary layer growth in CAO cases can introduce uncertainty in this accounting. Of the 15 CAO trajectories identified here, one case shows an increase in accumulation mode number, similar to the second case of Lloyd et al. (2018), which could result from higher concentrations entrained from aloft, from changes in wind direction, or differences in upwind sources.

Since the removal of aerosol particles has been linked to precipitation that occurs locally at a specific site in addition to along a calculated trajectory (Khadir et al., 2023; Tunved et al., 2012), we also examined the relationship of aerosol number concentration to local precipitation accumulated within the previous 24 hours at Andenes (Fig. 8b-d). Mean accumulation mode number concentration during CAO events is 117 ± 70 for accumulated precipitation above 10 mm, which is 46% lower than the mean of 216 ± 23 for accumulated precipitation below 1 mm. This decreasing trend with precipitation is consistent
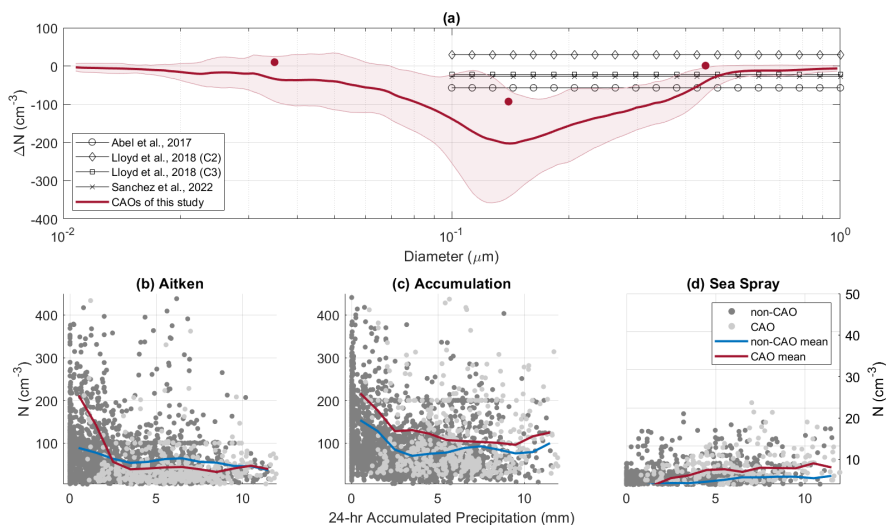
Figure 8. (a) The change in aerosol particle number concentration along CAO trajectories of air masses traveling from the Zeppelin Observatory to Andenes as a function of particle diameter for the 15 trajectories of this study (Fig. S1, Table S1). Solid line represents the mean, shaded region represents the standard deviation. Red dots show the mean change in number concentration for each fitted mode, the Aitken, accumulation, and sea spray from left to right. Overlaid are the results from the case of Abel et al. (2017), cases two and three of Lloyd et al. (2018) and the closed- to open-cell case of Sanchez et al. (2022). (b-d) Scatter plots of Aitken, accumulation, and sea spray mode number concentration against precipitation accumulated within the previous 24-hours at Andenes (with values above 12 mm/hr, representing 1% of measurements, not shown). The mean number concentration in 1 mm precipitation bins is overlaid for both non-CAO (blue) and CAO (red) periods. (b-c) are plotted on the left axis scale and (d) is plotted on the right axis scale.

220 with the decrease in number concentration seen along trajectories, although it cannot account for potential influences from precipitation phase, intensity, duration, or spatial heterogeneity.

The mean number change along trajectories for particle sizes within the Aitken mode is relatively small (10 ± 26 cm^{-3}), with the standard deviation indicating cases of both increases and decreases in number concentration (Fig 8a). At Andenes, mean Aitken-mode number concentration during CAO events is 211 ± 93 cm^{-3} for accumulated precipitation below 1 mm and

225 43 ± 29 cm^{-3} for accumulated precipitation above 10 mm (Fig. 8b). Prior studies have observed both an increase and decrease in the number concentration of Aitken-mode particles with precipitation accumulated along air mass trajectories (Khadir et al., 2023; Tunved et al., 2012). During rapid boundary layer growth under CAO conditions, entrainment is also likely to play a role (Tornow et al., 2022).

For the sea spray mode, there is a small mean number increase of 1 ± 6 cm^{-3} along CAO trajectories (Fig. 8a). At Andenes,

230 mean sea spray mode number concentration during CAO events is 3 ± 2 cm^{-3} for accumulated precipitation below 1 mm and 8 ± 3 cm^{-3} for accumulated precipitation above 10 mm (Fig. 8d). Such observed increases, both locally and along trajectories, likely result from the co-occurrence of higher winds and higher probability of precipitation, leading to the counteracting effects

of sea spray particle production from over-ocean winds and their removal by precipitation. Local wind speed at Andenes is positively correlated with 24-hour accumulated precipitation (r=0.37, p<0.05; not shown) supporting the explanation that time periods with greater accumulated precipitation are associated with higher wind speeds and thus higher sea spray aerosol production.

6   Conclusions

The findings of this study show distinct aerosol size distribution properties associated with CAO events in the Norwegian Arctic based on observations at Andenes, Norway, for 49 local CAO events and at the Zeppelin Observatory in Svalbard for 15 CAO air mass trajectories. During CAO events, the aerosol size distribution is characterized by three modes and has a statistically significant 71% higher sea spray mode number concentration that is strongly correlated to the occurrence of higher over-ocean wind speeds. The mean Hoppel minimum diameter (D_{HM}) is 6 nm smaller during CAO events, but the higher hygroscopicity implies a lower supersaturation than during non-CAO conditions. While the integrated particle number concentration above the Hoppel minimum (N_{HM}) and CCN are similar between CAO events and non-CAO conditions, the ratio of N_{HM}/CN is approximately 15% higher with a mean of 0.61 ± 0.25 during CAO events due to lower CN concentrations. Along CAO trajectories, particles in the accumulation mode experience the largest change in number concentration with a mean decrease of 93 ± 95 cm^{-3}, likely associated with precipitation scavenging.

Observations of Arctic aerosol associated with CAO events are extremely limited (e.g. Abel et al. (2017); Lloyd et al. (2018); Sanchez et al. (2022)). The analysis presented here demonstrates clear differences in the aerosol properties associated with CAO events compared to non-CAO conditions and adds eight CAO events for which upwind and downwind size-resolved aerosol concentrations have been evaluated to the four previously reported (Abel et al., 2017; Lloyd et al., 2018; Sanchez et al., 2022). These results provide modeling studies with representative aerosol properties that are relevant for prescribing cloud droplet number concentrations in models, to which CAO simulations are particularly sensitive (de Roode et al., 2019). Incorporating the observation-based aerosol properties of this study into future modeling work (e.g. Tornow et al. (2021)) provides an important step towards simulating CAO processes more accurately.

Code and data availability. COMBLE measurements are publicly available from the ARM data discovery at https://www.arm.gov/data/ (last access: February 2024) and Zeppelin Observatory measurements are publicly available from the EBAS data portal at https://ebas.nilu.no/ (last access: February 2024). Codes for the lognormal mode and hoppel minima retrievals used here are available from the UCSD digital archives (Dedrick et al., 2023, 2022b).

Author contributions. ASW performed the formal analysis and wrote the original draft of the manuscript. JLD, FT, IS, BS, PD, PZ, and RK contributed to the data collection, processing, and/or analysis. LMR and AF developed the conceptualization of this work in addition to providing supervision and funding acquisition. All authors contributed to the review and editing of the manuscript.

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