Aerosol fluxes and particle growth above managed grassland


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Received: 13 October 2008 – Published in Biogeosciences Discuss.: 8 January 2009
Revised: 20 April 2009 – Accepted: 26 May 2009 – Published: 12 August 2009

Abstract. Particle deposition velocities (11–3000 nm diameter) measured above grassland by eddy covariance during the EU GRAMINAE experiment in June 2000 averaged 0.24 and 0.03 mm s−1 to long (0.75 m) and short (0.07 m) grass, respectively. After fertilisation with 108 kg N ha−1 particles of 7.04 nm hr−1 were derived for day and night-time conditions, respectively. This implies total NH4NO3 production rates of 1.11 and 0.44 µg m−3 h−1, respectively. The effect translates into a small error in measured ammonia fluxes (0.06% day, 0.56% night) and a large error in NH4+ and NO3− aerosol fluxes of 3.6% and 10%, respectively. By converting rapidly exchanged NH3 and HNO3 into slowly depositing NH4NO3, the reaction modifies the total N budget, though this effect is small (<1% for the 10 days following fertilization), as NH3 emission dominates the net flux. It is estimated that 3.8% of the fertilizer N was volatilised as NH3, of which 0.05% re-condensed to form NH4NO3 particles within the lowest 2 m of the surface layer. This surface induced process would at least scale up to a global NH4NO3 formation of ca. 0.21 kt N yr−1 from NH4NO3 fertilisers and potentially 45 kt N yr−1 from NH3 emissions in general.

1 Introduction

Aerosols make an important contribution to the Earth’s radiation budget (IPCC, 2007). An important constituent of aerosols in this respect are hygroscopic compounds formed from anthropogenic precursors, such as ammonium sulphates ((NH4)2SO4, NH4HSO4), ammonium nitrate (NH4NO3) and ammonium chloride (NH4Cl), which are formed by the neutralization of atmospheric ammonia (NH3) by sulphuric acid (H2SO4), nitric acid (HNO3) and hydrochloric acid (HCl), respectively. Adams et al. (2001) estimated present-day forcing potentials of sulphates and nitrates to be of the order of −0.95 and −0.19 W m−2, respectively. In Europe sulphur (S) emissions have been reduced dramatically, by 61% over the period 1990 to 1998 (Vestreng and Støren, 2000), with the UK figure being 57% (NEGTAP, 2001) and the German figure 84% (Umweltbundesamt, 2001). Similar trends are expected for other industrialised countries.

However, as with Germany, a decrease in sulphur emissions is not always mirrored by a decline in aerosol sulphate concentrations, which have been limited by NH3 emissions (Umweltbundesamt, 2001). European emissions of oxidized nitrogen (NOx) have declined very little and global NOx emissions are expected to increase. As a net result, for 2100 Adams et al. (2001) projected global sulphate forcing to decline to −0.85 W m−2, while an increasing amount of the NH3 will be neutralized by NOx, increasing the nitrate...
forcing to $-1.28 \text{ W m}^{-2}$. This prognosis is further supported by measurements that indicate that nitrates already dominate the light-scattering in the Netherlands, which are characterized by continental nitrate rich air masses and large NH$_3$ emissions from high livestock densities (ten Brink et al., 1996).

In addition to the climate effect, the incorporation of relatively fast depositing reactive gaseous pollutants into small particles, that are deposited relatively inefficiently, increases the atmospheric lifetime and thus the transport distance of these acidifying and eutrophying pollutants. This obviously has important consequences for both local and national budgets and trans-boundary air pollutant transport (Sutton et al., 2007).

A third important effect of changes in the gas/aerosol partitioning concerns the applicability of methods to measure surface/atmosphere exchange fluxes. Micrometeorological flux measurement techniques are formulated for chemically inert tracers and have to be modified if a compound experiences sources or sinks within the atmosphere (e.g., Kramm et al., 1991). Under these conditions, the flux of a reactive tracer may change considerably with height and the vertical transport derived for a measurement height deviate from the true exchange at the surface. Unexpected observations have been made in a number of studies. Since NH$_3$ exchange with vegetation is potentially bi-directional (e.g., Sutton et al., 1995, 2007), its a priori estimation is often uncertain. HNO$_3$ and HCl, however, are expected to deposit at the maximum deposition velocity permitted by turbulence ($V_{\text{max}}$), while particles deposit slowly to vegetation, at rates of typically $<1$ up to 5 mm s$^{-1}$. Departures from these rates have been observed and attributed to gas-to-particle conversion or the evaporation of NH$_4^+$ aerosols (Huebert et al., 1988; Nemitz et al., 1996, 2002, 2004; van Oss et al., 1998).

The potential for formation of NH$_4$NO$_3$ and NH$_4$Cl is most likely to be found near strong sources of either NH$_3$ or the acids. Ammonia originates particularly from agricultural point sources such as cattle, pig and poultry units. A large fraction also originates from diffuse surface sources, such as the spreading of manure, organic or mineral fertilizers. These may either cause direct evaporation or raise the nutrient status of the crop or grassland resulting in a raised emission potential, or stomatal compensation point (e.g. Farquhar et al., 1980).

In May/June 2000 a major European integrated experiment, with 12 participating institutes, was organized to investigate NH$_3$ exchange processes with managed agricultural grassland as part of the EU GRAMINAE project. The strategy of GRAMINAE has been described elsewhere, together with the set-up and overall results of this particular experiment (Sutton et al., 2001, 2008a, 2008b). During the campaign, the experimental grassland was cut, fertilised with 108 kg N ha$^{-1}$ as calcium ammonium nitrate and the course of grass regrowth followed. As part of this experiment, particle number flux measurements were made by eddy-covariance above long grassland (before the cut), above short grassland (between cut and fertilization) and above the fertilized grassland, to study the behaviour of the aerosol and its interaction with the ammonia exchange. In addition to the observation of slow mean aerosol deposition fluxes to the unfertilized grassland, consistent diurnal patterns of apparent emissions were observed during the first 10 days following fertilization. The particle counter used for these measurements had a lower cut-off of 11 nm and an upper cut-off of effectively 3 $\mu$m. The observation of upward fluxes of particles could either be caused by the formation of new particles, which grow quickly to a size of $>11$ nm, or by the condensation of vapours on the surface of existing particles, resulting in the growth of some particles across the 11 nm threshold.

In this paper we represent the particle flux measurements and interpret the results in the context of simultaneous measurements of (i) fluxes of NH$_3$, HNO$_3$, and selected biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs); (ii) concentrations of gaseous SO$_2$, HNO$_3$ and HCl, as well as aerosol NH$_4^+$, NO$_3^-$, Cl$^-$ and SO$_4^{2-}$; (iii) particle size spectra and (iv) meteorological parameters. A novel technique is developed to derive aerosol growth rates at the field scale from a combination of the particle number fluxes and aerosol size distributions. The overall objectives of this paper are:

(a) to quantify particle deposition velocities to (unfertilised) grassland;
(b) to identify the potential and mechanism of the particle production or growth following fertilisation;
(c) to quantify particle growth rates;
(d) to quantify the effect on the measurement of fluxes of NH$_3$ and total nitrogen;
(e) to indicate the importance of surface ammonia emissions from fertilizer application for particle production globally.

2 Methods and theory

2.1 Site description and overview of measurements

The measurements were made above a 12 ha experimental agricultural grassland of the Agricultural Research Station Voelkenrode near Braunschweig, Germany (52°18' N, 10°26' E; 79 m a.s.l.) during the period 21 May to 16 June 2000. The field was cut on 29 May (06:00–10:00 GMT) and fertilized on 5 June (06:00–07:00 GMT) with 108 kg N ha$^{-1}$ of calcium ammonium nitrate. The grass was mechanically turned in the morning of 30 May and lifted 31 May (06:00–10:00 GMT). Canopy height before the cut was $≈0.75$ m and
after the cut 0.07 m. The comprehensive set of instrumentation deployed has been summarized elsewhere (Sutton et al., 2008a; Nemitz et al., 2009a). We here focus on the description of those measurements related to the study of the gas/particle interaction.

Particle fluxes were made with an eddy-correlation system including a TSI condensation particle counter (TSI CPC 3760), with a sample flow rate of 11 min\(^{-1}\) and a size-range of 11 nm up to 3 \(\mu\)m, similar to the setups used by Dorsey et al. (2002) and Nemitz et al. (2002). A sonic anemometer (Model HS; Gill Instruments, UK) was mounted at a height of 2.02 m. A stainless steel inlet (1/8” OD) led from just below the anemometer to the condensation particle counter, housed in a box at the foot of the measurement mast. The pulse output of the CPC was recorded on a PC based logging system at 10 Hz, and fluxes were calculated according to standard eddy-covariance protocols (Dorsey et al., 2002).

In addition, size-segregated particle fluxes over the range 0.1 to 0.4 \(\mu\)m were measured at two different heights using optical particle counters, as presented elsewhere (Dorsey, 2002; Gallagher et al., 2002). The response time of the CPC is a little faster than 1 Hz. Dorsey (2002) investigated the average co-spectra of the flux measurements and did not observe any appreciable deviation from the expected frequency dependence in the inertial subrange. Based on similar measurements, we estimate that the flux loss is likely to be <30% for most conditions (Dorsey, 2002). No explicit correction is applied.

In addition, ammonia fluxes were measured by a total of four automated and continuous gradient systems (Milford et al., 2009) and four relaxed eddy accumulation systems (Hensen et al., 2008). Concentrations and gradients of gaseous HNO\(_2\), HCl, SO\(_2\) and aerosol NH\(_4\)\(^+\), NO\(_3\)\(^-\), Cl\(^-\) and SO\(_4\)\(^{2-}\) were measured above the grassland with a continuous sampling system combining wet annular denuders and steam jet aerosol collectors with online conductivity analysis for NH\(_4\)\(^+\) and anion chromatography. The system (SJAC/WAD) was a forerunner of the GRAEGOR instrument described by Thomas et al. (2009), and differed from the GRAEGOR in that it used peristaltic pumps rather than syringe pumps to control the liquid flows. In brief, the system consists of two sampling boxes (SB, at 0.7 m and 2.0 m) and a common detector box (DB). In each SB the gas phase is stripped from a 15 lpm air sample through a continuously flushed wet annular rotating denuder, while the water soluble aerosol components are collected by passing the sample through steam and collecting the solution in a cyclone. The four channels (gas phase and aerosol phase at two heights) are alternately analysed online in the DB for anions by ion chromatography and for NH\(_4\)\(^+\) with a selective ion membrane / conductivity detector. Continuous addition of an internal Br\(^-\) standard ensures high precision between measurements. Fluxes were calculated according to the aerodynamic gradient technique as described by Milford et al. (2009) and Thomas et al. (2009).

The instrument was operated without a size-segregating cut-off inlet.

In addition, a combination of a tandem differential mobility analyzer (DMPS; Williams, 1999) and an Aerodynamic Particle Sizer (APS 3320, TSI, Minnesota, USA) was deployed to measure the particle size distribution over the range 3 nm to 20 \(\mu\)m at a 10-min resolution. Additional information on the size distribution of the major ions was provided by MOUDI (Micro orifice uniform deposit impactor; MSP Corp., Minnesota, USA) runs, integrated over typically 3 days. In order to investigate the effect of the chemical interactions and deposition on concentrations of NH\(_3\) and acid gases, the background concentration of NH\(_3\), HNO\(_3\) and HCl were measured with an automated rotating wet batch denuder (RBD), providing 40-min batch samples in every hour (Keuken et al., 1988). This denuder was placed on the roof of a disused, 47 m tall building of the Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), about 1 km ENE of the field site (see map in Sutton et al., 2008a).

Daily concentrations of gases (NH\(_3\), HNO\(_3\), HCl, HNO\(_2\) and SO\(_2\)) and aerosol components (NH\(_4\)\(^+\), NO\(_3\)\(^-\), Cl\(^-\)) were also measured 250 m north of the grassland site, above wheat, using a KAPS (Kananaskis Air Pollutant Sampler) combination of 3-stage annular denuders and filter pack (PTFE, nylon) (e.g. Dämmgen, 2007). Throughflow was adjusted so that the cut-off point of KAPS is approx. 3 \(\mu\)m, and 24-h samples were taken between 00:00 and 24:00 h CET. Details of the experimental set-up, the sampling properties and quality parameters are described in Zimmerling et al. (1997). These samplers had shown to be reliable even under extreme weather conditions and yielded good results in sampler intercomparisons (e.g. Wiebe et al., 1990). Although the sampling height of 1.2 m was insufficient for concentrations to be fully unaffected by the atmosphere/surface exchange, these concentrations were not affected by the fertiliser application at the grassland site. Analysis was by liquid ion chromatography (IC) at FAL, Braunschweig for the KAPS samplers and at CEH Lancaster for the samples of MOUDI and RBD.

2.2 Concentration and flux measurements of selected biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs)

The rationale behind the BVOC flux measurements was twofold: firstly, BVOCs potentially provide an alternative biogenically controlled precursor gas for particle formation and, secondly, high emissions of leaf alcohols from grass cutting have been reported in the literature (Kirstine et al., 1998; Karl et al., 2001). VOCs were collected onto Tenax TA (200 mg) and Carbosieve (100 mg) packed in steel tubes (6.1 mm OD, 90 mm length, Perkin Elmer). In the relaxed eddy accumulation (REA) approach (e.g., Desjardins, 1977), fast switching valves are used to sample air from up- and down-moving eddies conditionally onto two separate collection tubes. The valves were controlled by the switching logic of the CEH/UMIST REA system for atmospheric NH\(_3\).
(Nemitz et al., 2001; Hensen et al., 2008), logging an ultra-
sonic anemometer (Solent R1012; Gill Instruments, Lyming-
ton, UK) at a rate of 20.83 Hz. The sample tubes were tied
directly onto the cage of the anemometer, operated at a height
of 2.1 m, to minimize flux losses, and mass flow controllers
ensured a flow rate of 0.51 min\(^{-1}\), resulting in a total sam-
ple volume of approximately 151 per channel. Field blanks
were taken by exposing a third tube at the same height, with-
out flow. After sampling, tubes were sealed with Swagelok\textsuperscript{®}
end caps and Teflon ferrules and stored at 4°C, under which
conditions the analytes are stable for at least one week.

For gas chromatography-flame ionization detection (GC-
FID) analysis, tubes were desorbed using a Perkin-Elmer
ATD-400 thermal desorption unit connected to a Hewlett
Packard (HP) 5860 series II GC-FID. Separation of the com-
pounds was achieved through the use of an Ultra-2 cross
linked 5% phenyl methyl silicone column. The detection
limit for the monoterpenes is about 0.05 ng for the column,
corresponding to 40 ppt in air for a 1 l sample, with a level of
analytical precision of better than ±5%.

For gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS)
analysis, a Perkin-Elmer ATD-400 thermal desorption unit
is connected via a heated transfer line held at 200°C to a HP
5890 GC and a HP 5970 mass selective detector. Desorption,
prefocussing and separation of the analytes is achieved using
the same column and conditions as with the FID system. This
system allows positive identification of a wide range of VOC
on the basis of peak retention times, mass spectra contained
in the library of the National Bureau of Standards and gen-
erated from authentic standards. Monoterpenes were quan-
tified by preparing liquid standards by dilution of the pure
compounds in methanol. Diluted standards (1–5 µl) were
directly injected onto sampling tubes and the methanol re-
moved by passage of ~0.3 l He. Chromatographic data were
handled with a VG Minichrom or HP system.

2.3 Chemical reactions, equilibrium constants and time
scales

Ammonia reacts reversibly with nitric acid and hydrochloric
acid to form the associated ammonium salts:

\[
\text{NH}_3 + \text{HNO}_3 \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3 \quad (\text{R1})
\]

\[
\text{NH}_3 + \text{HCl} \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_4\text{Cl} \quad (\text{R2})
\]

The dissociation constants \((K_{\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3}\) and \(K_{\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}}\) de-
scribe the equilibrium vapour concentration products \((K_e)\),
which are expected to form if enough time is provided for
aerosol and gas phase to equilibrate. Mozurkewich (1993)
and Pio and Harrison (1987) provided expressions for \(K_e\) as
a function of temperature \((T)\) and relative humidity \((h)\) for
pure \(\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3\) and \(\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}\), respectively. While this is gen-
erally applicable to solid aerosol, deliquescent aerosols re-
present mixed aqueous solutions, for which the equilibrium
vapour concentration is lowered compared with pure solu-
tions, especially by the presence of sulphates (e.g., Stelson
and Seinfeld, 1982). For ultrafine particles, partial pres-
ures may be elevated by the Kelvin effect. The effective
vapour concentrations in equilibrium with an externally
mixed aerosol consisting of different types and sizes is im-
possible to predict exactly. \(K_e\) is a good approximation
for humidities below the relative humidity of deliquescence
(about 80% for \((\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4\) and 60% for \(\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3\)). Whether
equilibrium is attained depends on the comparative time-
scales of attainment of equilibrium \((\tau_e)\) and the processes
perturbing equilibrium, including turbulent diffusive trans-
port \((\tau_t)\). Conversely, the Damköhler ratio \((D_e = \tau_t/\tau_e)\) is
also a measure of the degree to which chemical conversions
may affect surface / atmosphere exchange fluxes (Foken et
al., 1995). Expressions for \(\tau_e\) and \(\tau_t\) can be found elsewhere
(e.g., Wexler and Seinfeld, 1990, 1991), as summarized by
Nemitz et al. (2000).

2.4 A novel method for the calculation of growth rates
from particle flux measurements at the field scale

As shown in the Results Section below, the measured time-
series of particle fluxes changed from mainly small deposi-
tion prior to fertilization, to clear diurnal cycles with consis-
tent and significant apparent upward fluxes after fertilization.
As discussed below, this behaviour is attributed to particle
growth during deposition. Where particles grow during the
deposition process, e.g. due to uptake of secondary aerosol
products or due to water uptake, this particle growth implies
that some particles will grow across the lower cut-off of the
particle counter \((d_p=11 \text{ nm})\) as they deposit. As a result the
concentration of particles >11 nm may increase towards the
ground at the same time as the total number of particles de-
creases due to deposition. In this Section we show that this
growth can result in a situation where eddy-covariance may
derive an apparent upward flux of particles >11 nm. We
also develop the mathematical concepts to relate the apparent
emission flux to the growth rate of the particles.

The equation of mass conservation of a tracer \((\chi)\) is given by
(e.g. Fowler and Duyzer, 1989):

\[
\frac{\partial F_\chi}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial \chi}{\partial t} + \left( \frac{u}{\partial x} + \frac{w}{\partial z} \right) \frac{\partial \chi}{\partial x} + Q_\chi,
\]

where \(F_\chi\) is the vertical flux of the tracer, \(t\) is time, \(u\) and
\(w\) are the wind components along the stream-wise and ver-
tical co-ordinates \((x\) and \(z\), and \(Q_\chi\) represents in situ pro-
duction/destruction of the tracer. The right-hand-side (r.h.s.)
terms represent:

1. Storage is linked to the change in concentration with
time \((\partial \chi/\partial t)\), this change in concentration requires ma-
terial, which needs to be balanced by the other terms
of the equation. This term vanishes in stationary condi-
tions.
2. Horizontal advection is linked to the mean horizontal wind speed, coupled to a horizontal concentration gradient \( (\partial \chi / \partial x) \) and is usually minimized by selecting conditions where concentrations are horizontally homogeneous.

3. Vertical advection is linked to the mean vertical wind component, coupled to a vertical concentration gradient \( (\partial \chi / \partial z) \). Normally, eddy-covariance measurements are designed so that the vertical mean wind component is zero.

4. The additional source/sink term \( Q \chi \) describes externally driven changes to the mass budget. It often describes the production \( (Q \chi > 0) \) or destruction \( (Q \chi < 0) \) due to chemistry or emissions at the point of measurement.

Thus, under the assumptions of stationary and homogeneous conditions typical for micrometeorological flux measurements over large fields, the terms (i) to (iii) vanish. If we consider particle number concentration \( N \) within the size-range of the CPC as the tracer, the growth into or out of the size range represent an external source/sink term, which may be written as \( Q_N=\frac{dN}{dt} \). Despite the similarity to the storage term (i) of Eq. (1), this represents an external production rather than changes in concentration due to storage of particles within the size range. Thus, for particle number fluxes measured within the size bin of the CPC \( (11 \text{ nm} < d_p < 3 \mu \text{m}) \), \( Q_N \) is related to external effects that change the concentration within this size bin only:

\[
\frac{dF_N(11 \text{ nm} < d_p < 3 \mu \text{m})}{dz} = \frac{dN(11 \text{ nm} < d_p < 3 \mu \text{m})}{dt} \tag{2}
\]

This term describes effects due to the growth/shrinkage across the lower or upper size cuts, direct emissions of particles within the size range and, potentially, number reduction due to coagulation. We here assume that there are no emissions sources at the point of measurement and that coagulation is unimportant (see discussion below). Thus the change in \( N(11 \text{ nm} < d_p < 3 \mu \text{m}) \) is only affected by the growth into the size range over the lower size-cut and growth out of the size range across the upper size cut. After application of the chain rule for forming derivatives the vertical flux divergence can be expressed as:

\[
\frac{dF_N}{dz} = \frac{dN}{dt} \bigg|_{d_p=11 \text{ nm}} \times \frac{dd_p}{dt} \bigg|_{d_p=11 \text{ nm}} \left( -\frac{dN}{dt} \bigg|_{d_p=3 \mu \text{m}} \times \frac{dd_p}{dt} \bigg|_{d_p=3 \mu \text{m}} \right) \tag{3}
\]

Here \( F_N \) and \( N \) are particle number flux and number concentration in the size range \( 11 \text{ nm} \) to \( 3 \mu \text{m} \), respectively. The (non-logarithmic) particle size distribution function \( dN/dd_p \) at \( d_p=11 \text{ nm} \) and \( d_p=3 \mu \text{m} \) can be measured directly with appropriate instrumentation. Owing to the small number concentration of super-micron particles, the second r.h.s. term, i.e. the growth across the \( 3 \mu \text{m} \) threshold can be neglected. The growth rate \( (dd_p/dt) \) can be expressed as (Kulmala et al., 2001):

\[
\frac{dd_p}{dt} = \frac{4m_v \beta_m D \chi_v}{d_p \rho_p} \tag{4}
\]

where \( m_v \) and \( \chi_v \) are the molecular mass and effective concentration of the condensable vapour, respectively, and \( d_p \) is the particle density, while \( \beta_m \) is the correction factor for mass flux in the transition regime (Fuchs and Sutugin, 1971):

\[
\beta_m = \frac{K_n + 1}{0.337 K_n + 1 + 4/3 \alpha^{-1} K_n} \tag{5}
\]

Here \( K_n \) is the Knudsen number

\[
K_n = \frac{2 \lambda}{d_p} \tag{6}
\]

with \( \lambda \) being the mean molecular free path in air \((0.065 \mu \text{m}) \). Research suggests that the sticking coefficient \( (\alpha) \) for \( \text{NH}_3/\text{HNO}_3 \) is in the range 0.3 to 1 (Dassios and Pandis, 1999; Cruz et al., 2000; Rudolf et al., 2001); here \( \alpha=0.5 \) is used, which results in a value of \( \beta_m=0.031 \) for \( d_p=11 \text{ nm} \) and \( \beta_m=0.918 \) for \( d_p=3 \mu \text{m} \). \( D \) in Eq. (4) is the binary diffusion coefficient for vapour diffusion towards a particle (Reid et al., 1987):

\[
D = \frac{RT}{3\pi N_A \nu d_p} \tag{7}
\]

Here, \( R \) is the universal gas constant, \( T \) is temperature in K, \( N_A \) is the Avogadro constant and \( \nu \) is the gas dynamic viscosity.

Usually, the equation for the vertical flux divergence (Eq. 1) is used to derive the surface flux by correcting the flux measured at some height for the processes described by the right-hand-side terms. The absolute difference between measured and surface flux is obtained by integration of Eq. (1) between surface and measurement height. Here we invert this process to estimate the vertical flux divergence from the difference between the expected flux at the surface and the measured flux at the measurement height. The surface flux may be estimated as

\[
F_s = -V_d(z_m) \chi_N(z_m), \tag{8}
\]

where \( \chi_N(z_m) \) is the number concentration in the CPC size range at the measurement height \( (z_m) \) and \( V_d(z_m) \) is the deposition velocity expected in the absence of chemical reactions. Here \( V_d \) was parameterised using an average deposition velocity \( (V_d=-F_N/\chi_N) \) of 0.24 mm s\(^{-1} \) derived from the CPC flux measurements before fertilization, when there was no evidence for particle growth affecting the flux measurement (cf. Sect. 3.1 below). The average flux divergence between
Fig. 1. Time-series of the particle number concentration and fluxes of particles (condensation nuclei, CN) measured with the CPC flux system (11 nm to \( \approx 3 \mu \text{m} \)).

Table 1. Summary of the statistics of the concentrations and fluxes measured with the CPC system before the cut and after fertilisation (based on 30-min flux values).

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<td>([-10 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-11 \times 10^3])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( V_t )</td>
<td>([-4.2 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-4.9 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-10 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-11 \times 10^3])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( N )</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F_N )</td>
<td>([-4.2 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-4.9 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-10 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-11 \times 10^3])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( V_t )</td>
<td>([-4.2 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-4.9 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-10 \times 10^3])</td>
<td>([-11 \times 10^3])</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The measured particle number unfiltered flux is shown in Fig. 1.

3 Results

3.1 Particle number flux measurements before and after fertilisation

The measured particle number unfiltered flux is shown in Fig. 1. Spikes are primarily due to emissions associated with the operations of agricultural machinery in the field (e.g. cutting on 29 May, turning of the cut grass 30 May and removal of the cut grass on 1 June). Otherwise, the measurement show small fluxes, dominated by deposition before the fertilisation,
and a diurnal pattern of apparent emission fluxes after fertilisation, which slowly subsided.

The statistics of the concentrations and fluxes before and after fertilisation are summarised in Table 1, after management periods had been removed and data filtered for suitable wind directions. Mean air concentrations were similar during the four periods, ranging from 7190 to 8628 cm\(^{-3}\). Both emission and deposition fluxes were measured during all four periods, but were least frequent (occurring 31% of the time) before the cut and most frequent (occurring 60% of the time) during the first week after fertilisation. The average apparent emission flux after fertilization was larger than the deposition fluxes to the short vegetation. The average (median) deposition velocities were 0.24 (0.24) mm s\(^{-1}\) before the cut (Period 1), 0.03 (0.06) mm s\(^{-1}\) between cut and fertilization (Period 2) and 0.06 (0.05) mm s\(^{-1}\) 7–10 days after fertilization (Period 4), qualitatively consistent with the known dependence of deposition velocities on surface roughness (e.g., Gallagher et al., 2002). The different measurement periods were very similar in terms of \(u_a\) and sensible heat fluxes (\(H\)), with slightly reduced values of \(H\) during Period (1) reflecting lower solar radiation.

### 3.2 Atmospheric concentrations, equilibrium considerations and potential for NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) formation

The time-series of the concentration in air of NH\(_3\), HNO\(_3\) and HCl at 1 m and 47 m are presented in Fig. 2, clearly showing the effect of fertilisation on the concentration of NH\(_3\). The average NH\(_3\) concentration at the notional canopy height (\(z_0^\prime\)) can be estimated from the additional knowledge of the NH\(_3\) flux \(F_{NH_3}\) (Fig. 2c) (Sutton et al., 1993; Milford et al., 2008), under the simplifying assumption that the flux is unaffected by the chemical conversion:

\[
\chi_{NH_3}(z_0^\prime) = \chi_{NH_3}(1 \text{ m}) + F_{NH_3}[R_a(1 \text{ m}) + R_b]
\]

Here \(R_a\) and \(R_b\) are the aerodynamic sub-layer resistance describing the transport through the turbulent and the quasi-laminar part of the atmosphere, respectively. This concentration is also shown in Fig. 2b for comparison. All concentrations undergo a clear diurnal cycle, with daytime maxima. Both acids are depleted over the first two days after fertiliser application on the morning of 5 June. However, this change is also reflected in the background gas measurements (Fig. 2; both by RBD and KAPS). This indicates that this decrease is not due to a mechanism that is confined to the fertilized field, e.g. the depletion by reaction with NH\(_3\) from fertilizer emissions. Instead, the decrease in HNO\(_3\) appears to reflect changes in air masses or regional chemistry.

\[
\chi_{NH_3}(z_0^\prime)
\]

exhibits the behaviour expected for a gas concentration that is governed by equilibrium with dry or aqueous NH\(_4^+\), with the diurnal pattern reflecting the temperature control and the long-term decrease in soil and plant NH\(_4^+\) after fertilization (cf. Milford et al., 2001; Sutton et al., 2008b). On an equivalent basis, NH\(_4^+\) aerosol concentrations exceeded the NO\(_3^-\) concentrations by a factor of two (Fig. 3), the rest of the NH\(_4^+\) being neutralized by SO\(_4^-\) (not shown). The measurements indicated that NO\(_3^-\) concentrations appeared to be increased at the grassland site, compared with the control site 400 m to the north. However, this observation was also made prior to fertilization and may at least be partially due to a larger cut-off diameter of the SJAC capturing additional coarse NO\(_3^-\) compared with the KAPS.

The comparison of measured \(K_m\) with theoretical equilibrium \(K_e\) vapour concentration products of NH\(_3\) with the acids shows \(K_m < K_e\) prior to fertilizer application (Fig. 4). Since the NH\(_3\) concentration above the grassland increased on 5 June, measured products [NH\(_3\)] \times [HCl] increased also, but were still much smaller than \(K_e\). Measured products of [NH\(_3\)] \times [HNO\(_3\)] were close to their theoretical equilibrium values during 5 to 11 June with exceedences during most nights.

### 3.3 Concentrations and fluxes of VOCs

Out of the 27 hourly VOC REA runs performed, at total of 14 runs were selected for analysis for a limited suite of oxygenated compounds and terpenoids (benzaldehyde, nonanal, \(\alpha\)-pinene, 1-\(\beta\)-pinene and d-3-carene). Grass cutting has been found to increase emissions of some BVOCS by a factor of 180 (Kirstine et al., 1998; Karl et al., 2001), but the leaf alcohols, the primary BVOCs released, are not very efficient particle precursors until they are processed to form less volatile compounds. By contrast, biogenic alkenes have been found to be efficient aerosol precursors (e.g., Hoffmann et al., 1997). The suite of VOCs was selected to provide information on the magnitude of emissions allowing the estimation of their potential for particle formation/particle growth. Averaged concentrations and fluxes after the cut and before fertilization are contrasted with the measurements after fertilization in Table 2. The flux measurements should be interpreted with caution. However, neither concentrations nor fluxes show significant changes before and after fertilization. Irrespective of fertilization, benzaldehyde showed a clear diurnal cycle with daytime maxima of 8 \(\mu g\) m\(^{-3}\) and night-time minima of 2 \(\mu g\) m\(^{-3}\) (not shown).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Concentration [ng m(^{-3})] before fertilization</th>
<th>Flux [ng m(^{-2}) s(^{-1})] before fertilization</th>
<th>Concentration [ng m(^{-3})] after fertilization</th>
<th>Flux [ng m(^{-2}) s(^{-1})] after fertilization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benzaldehyde</td>
<td>4900 (±220)</td>
<td>5700 (±430)</td>
<td>140 (±69)</td>
<td>250 (±61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonanal</td>
<td>590 (±22)</td>
<td>650 (±73)</td>
<td>14 (±8.0)</td>
<td>7.6 (±16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\alpha)-Pinene</td>
<td>84 (±9.8)</td>
<td>47 (±4.6)</td>
<td>1.9 (±0.6)</td>
<td>1.4 (±1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-(\beta)-Pinene</td>
<td>75 (±2.6)</td>
<td>97 (±26)</td>
<td>-0.33 (±1.0)</td>
<td>14 (±16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d-3-Carene</td>
<td>290 (±7.4)</td>
<td>300 (±28)</td>
<td>-4.3 (±3.6)</td>
<td>8.6 (±8.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 2. Evolution of the gas concentrations of (a) HCl and HNO₃ and (b) NH₃ 1 m and 47 m above the grassland, compared with the NH₃ concentration extrapolated to the canopy (NH₃(z₀')). (c) Flux of NH₃. The fertilizer was applied on 5 June 08:00 to 10:00 GMT. The concentrations and fluxes of NH₃ are based on the best estimate χ₉ and F₉ provided by Milford et al. (2008). See text for details.

Fig. 3. Time-series of NH₄⁺ and NO₃⁻ aerosol concentration measured above and upwind of the grassland in both mass concentration and equivalent concentration.
Fig. 4. Comparison of measured concentration products at 1 m height of (a) NH$_3$ with HNO$_3$ and (b) NH$_3$ with HCl, compared with concentration products in equilibrium with pure NH$_4$NO$_3$ and NH$_4$Cl aerosol, respectively.

Fig. 5. Time-series of the growth rate of 11 nm particles ($d\rho/dt$) as derived from CPC flux measurements and DMPS measurements, using Eqs. (3), (4) and (5).

3.4 Calculation of particle growth rates

Growth rates of 11 nm, total gas-to-particle conversion mass transfer fluxes, estimated vapour concentration and the effect of vapour condensation on the NH$_3$ flux are presented in Fig. 5 and summarized in Table 3 as typical values for 12 h day and night-time periods following fertilizer application. They are compared with measurements of vapour concentrations and estimated total particle surface area.

3.5 Effects on the measurements of ammonia flux

Even if there is potential for the formation or evaporation of aerosol, the time-scale of this process may be too slow for surface exchange fluxes to be altered significantly. The chemical time-scale ($\tau_c$) (Wexler and Seinfeld, 1990) depends strongly on the surface area of the aerosol, while the turbulent time-scale ($\tau_t$) depends on the turbulence as characterised by the friction velocity ($u_*$). Chemistry is thought to alter fluxes for Damköhler ratios ($D_r = \tau_t/\tau_c$) greater than 0.1 (Foken et al., 1995). Figure 6 demonstrates that this critical ratio is exceeded regularly, but only during night, when turbulent diffusive time scales are long, and the aerosol concentration (and hence surface area) is enhanced.

According to this time-scale analysis, major effects on the NH$_3$ flux would be unlikely, at least during daytime. However, the observations presented here indicate that particle...
Table 3. Summary of typical particle growth parameters for various 12 h periods.

| Period       | Day/Night | $F_N$ [cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$] | $A_p$ [µm$^2$ m$^{-3}$] | $dd_p/dt|_{d_p=11}$ [nm hr$^{-1}$] | $J_{NH_3NO_3^*}$ [µg m$^{-3}$ hr$^{-1}$] | $\Delta F_{NH_3}$ [ng m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$] | $F_{NH_3}$ [ng m$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$] |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5-June       | Day       | 1789                     | 293                     | 4.36                              | 0.95                                   | 0.112                                  | 597                                   |
| 5/6-June     | Night     | 178                       | 320                     | 2.84                              | 0.34                                   | 0.040                                  | 1262                                  |
| 6-June       | Day       | 1102                     | 115                     | 11.46                             | 0.79                                   | 0.094                                  | 887                                   |
| 6/7-June     | Night     | 54                        | 266                     | 1.01                              | 0.17                                   | 0.020                                  | 1001                                  |
| 7-June       | Day       | 900                      | 245                     | 5.50                              | 1.14                                   | 0.135                                  | 443                                   |
| 7/8-June     | Night     | 230                      | 297                     | 2.46                              | 0.47                                   | 0.055                                  | 1311                                  |
| 8-June       | Day       | 1388                     | 253                     | 34.49                             | 5.33                                   | 0.629                                  | 549                                   |
| 8/9-June     | Night     | 293                      | 245                     | 1.10                              | 0.26                                   | 0.031                                  | 193                                   |
| 9-June       | Day       | 285                      | 240                     | 2.18                              | 0.67                                   | 0.079                                  | 378                                   |
| 9/10-June    | Night     | 149                      | 401                     | 1.42                              | 0.46                                   | 0.054                                  | 862                                   |
| 10-June      | Day       | 212                      | 298                     | 3.83                              | 0.86                                   | 0.102                                  | 495                                   |
| 10/11-June   | Night     | −30                      | 556                     | −0.04                             | −0.08                                  | −0.009                                 | 160                                   |
| 11-June      | Day       | 99                       | 294                     | 4.26                              | 0.54                                   | 0.064                                  | 175                                   |
| 11/12-June   | Night     | 114                      | 327                     | 6.26                              | 2.01                                   | 0.237                                  | 168                                   |
| 12-June      | Day       | −116                     | 194                     | −1.53                             | −0.15                                  | −0.018                                 | 202                                   |
| 12/13-June   | Night     | −6                       | 320                     | 1.18                              | 0.43                                   | 0.051                                  | 98                                    |
| 13-June      | Day       | 39                       | 240                     | −1.14                             | −0.14                                  | −0.016                                 | 118                                   |
| 13/14-June   | Night     | −129                     | 333                     | −0.24                             | −0.10                                  | −0.012                                 | 99                                    |
| Average      | Day       | 633                      | 241                     | 7.04                              | 1.11                                   | 0.131                                  | 427                                   |
| Average      | Night     | 95                       | 341                     | 1.78                              | 0.44                                   | 0.052                                  | 573                                   |

$F_N$: measured particle number flux; $A_p$: aerosol surface area per unit volume of air; $dd_p/dt|_{d_p=11}$: growth rate of 11 nm particles; $J_{NH_3NO_3^*}$: estimated NH$_3$NO$_3$ production rate; $\Delta F_{NH_3}$: error on the NH$_3$ flux measurement due to gas-particle reactions; $F_{NH_3}$: measured NH$_3$ flux.

4 Discussion

4.1 Deposition velocities to unfertilised grassland

Dry deposition velocities of particles to vegetation have recently been reviewed by Pryor et al. (2008) and Petroff et al. (2008). At Braunschweig, particle number size distributions were dominated by particles in the size range 10 to 200 nm (Fig. 7) and thus the total particle number flux measurements were also dominated by this Aitken mode.

Particle deposition velocities are known to increase with increasing surface roughness, increasing $u_e$ and under unstable conditions (e.g. Wesley et al., 1985; Nemitz et al., 2004). The measurement periods were insufficient long to derive robust relationships of $V_d$ on these parameters from our measurements. However, values of $u_e$ were very similar between the different measurement periods and $H$ was similar during the later periods, but slightly reduced during the measurements above the long grass canopy, reflecting lower solar input (Table 1). In summary, the differences in deposition velocities are more likely linked to changes in surface roughness than meteorological differences. The mean $V_d$ of 0.03 mm s$^{-1}$ to cut ($h_c=0.07$ m), 0.06 mm s$^{-1}$ to partly regrown ($h_c=0.12$ m) and 0.26 mm s$^{-1}$ to tall ($h_c=0.75$ m) grassland measured at the Braunschweig field site appears to be at the low end of measurements reported in the literature, but only few studies have measured total number fluxes over short vegetation. Nemitz et al. (2002) reported a mean deposition velocity of 0.3 mm s$^{-1}$ to Scottish moorland vegetation ($h_c=0.06$ m), measured with a similar setup; the difference is only partly explained by higher wind speeds during the UK measurements with an average $u_e$ of 0.25 m s$^{-1}$ compared with 0.18 m s$^{-1}$ during the present study. L*a*maud et al. (1994) measured average $V_d$ of 0.7 mm s$^{-1}$ to semi arid savannah, using an instrument that measured total particle flux, but weighted by surface area. Thus, their measurement is biased towards larger particle than the measurements made here.
Other studies above short vegetation have focused on accumulation mode particles (0.1–0.5 \( \mu \text{m} \)) that can be sized with optical techniques (Nemitz et al., 2002; Vong et al., 2004) or mass fluxes, also dominated by the accumulation mode (Wesely et al., 1985): Vong et al. (2004) derived particle deposition velocities to grassland (0.75 m < \( h_c < 1 \text{ m} \)) as a function of particle size and stability. Values of \( V_d \) for the smallest size (\( d_p = 0.34 \mu \text{m} \)) ranged from 2 during stable to 6 mm s\(^{-1} \) during unstable conditions, while values of \( V_d \) for larger particles (\( d_p = 0.84 \mu \text{m} \)) increased from 2 to 7 mm s\(^{-1} \). At the Scottish moorland site, \( V_d \) of accumulation mode particles ranged from 0.3 mm s\(^{-1} \) (\( d_p = 0.1 \mu \text{m} \)), over 2 mm s\(^{-1} \) (0.5 \( \mu \text{m} \)) to >10 mm s\(^{-1} \) (3 \( \mu \text{m} \)). Similarly, Wesely et al. (1985) derived an average \( V_d \) of 2.2 mm s\(^{-1} \) for \( \text{SO}_4^{2-} \) deposition to grassland, with a likely mass median diameter of 0.4 \( \mu \text{m} \).

Dorsey (2002) and Gallagher et al. (2002) also presented measurements of size-segregated particle fluxes made at the Braunschweig field site, deriving average \( V_d \) for particles with 0.1 \( \mu \text{m} < d_p < 0.2 \mu \text{m} \) of 0.87 mm s\(^{-1} \) for the cut and 1.13 mm s\(^{-1} \) for the long grass. It is thus likely that the relative low deposition velocity of total particle flux is strongly biased by inefficient deposition of particles <0.1 \( \mu \text{m} \). While the deposition velocities presented here are therefore representative for primary organic aerosol components much of which are found in the Aitken mode, they are probably underestimations for the average deposition of secondary aerosol constituents, which occupies the accumulation mode (e.g., Allan et al., 2003).

No correction was made here for frequency losses due to the limitation of the CPC. From co-spectral analysis it was estimated that the average flux (and thus \( V_d \)) may be underestimated by up to 30% (Dorsey, 2002).

4.2 Assessment of alternative mechanism causing apparent particle emission fluxes following fertilisation

The analysis presented so far has implied that the particle emission fluxes were due to combined \( \text{NH}_3 \) and \( \text{HNO}_3 \) condensation. We here consider alternative mechanisms.

Biogenic VOC emissions of leaf alcohols and breakdown products, but also of effective precursor gases such as alkenes, have been reported to increase dramatically immediately after grass cutting (Kirstine et al., 1998; Karl et al.,
Although some particle emissions were observed at the GRAMINA E experiment after grass cutting, these can be related to agricultural activities on the field (e.g., turning), while persistent apparent particle emissions occurred only after fertilization. The limited number of measurements of BVOC concentrations and, though less certain, their fluxes do not indicate that fertilization had an influence on VOCs. Non-zero water vapour fluxes can also cause artifacts for size-dependent particle flux measurements (Kowalski, 2001), but this effect would also have been similar before and after fertilization: the average latent heat flux during the week before fertilization of 49 W m\(^{-2}\) was very similar to the average latent heat flux during the first five days after fertilization (52 W m\(^{-2}\)) (Nemitz et al., 2009a).

The only major change induced by the fertilization was a greatly increased emission of NH\(_3\) (Fig. 2c), resulting in enhanced concentrations both at the canopy height (\(z_0\)) and the average measurement height of 1 m (Fig. 2b), indicating that the change in NH\(_3\) is almost certainly the cause for the observed apparent particle emissions. Having established the role of NH\(_3\) as a precursor, the particle emission fluxes may still be linked to one of three processes: (i) ternary nucleation of the H\(_2\)O-H\(_2\)SO\(_4\)-NH\(_3\) system, followed by growth across the 11 nm threshold, (ii) nucleation of new NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) or NH\(_4\)Cl particles, followed by growth across the 11 nm threshold and (iii) particle growth due to the combined condensation of NH\(_3\) and HNO\(_3\) or NH\(_3\) and HCl on the surface of existing particles. It is highly improbable, however, that particle nucleation, i.e. processes (i) or (ii), played a role in the observed apparent emission fluxes, for several reasons:

(a) Binary nucleation of volatile compounds such as NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) and NH\(_4\)Cl is inefficient under ambient conditions (e.g., Korhonen et al., 1997).

(b) Ternary nucleation of the H\(_2\)O-H\(_2\)SO\(_4\)-NH\(_3\) system can be important, where H\(_2\)SO\(_4\) concentrations are large and competing condensational sinks are small (due to low aerosol loading). However, only small NH\(_3\) concentrations in the ng m\(^{-3}\) range, virtually always present in agricultural areas, are necessary to promote ternary nucleation of the H\(_2\)O-H\(_2\)SO\(_4\)-NH\(_3\) system significantly, while the nucleation rate is insensitive to further increases in NH\(_3\) concentrations beyond 100 ppt (~76 ng m\(^{-3}\)) (e.g. Napari et al., 2002). Therefore, the enhanced NH\(_3\) emission after fertilization would not have greatly changed the efficiency of this particle production mechanism.

(c) Although individual nucleation events were observed at the measurement site (Sutton et al., 2008a), there was no difference in the average size distribution of the DMPS measurements before and after fertilisation, and average size distributions did not show a clear nucleation mode (Fig. 7). This suggests that the observed nucleation events were regional in nature and independent of local NH\(_3\) emissions.

(d) To estimate whether growth of newly nucleated particles, at a diameter of typically 2 nm, would have been sufficiently quick to be detected by the CPC, Eq. (6) can be used to simulate the growth of 2 nm particles at different vapour concentrations. The results (Fig. 8) demonstrate that it takes almost an hour for a 2 nm particle to become detectable, even at \(\chi_v=50 \mu g m^{-3}\). For comparison, at typical wind speeds of 4 m s\(^{-1}\) and an extent of the grassland of between 150 and 500 m, depending on wind direction, the residence time above the field is of the order of 1 to 5 min.

In summary, it is highly unlikely that particle nucleation was involved in causing the observed upward fluxes. Instead, the observation of emission fluxes was almost certainly due to condensation particle growth of particles across the 11 nm cut-off size of the CPC.

4.3 Proposed mechanism leading to apparent particle emission fluxes

After fertilization, close agreement was found between measured concentration products of [NH\(_3\)]×[HNO\(_3\)] at 1 m and those predicted to be in equilibrium with NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\). For NH\(_4\)Cl \(K_m<<K_e\) was always observed, eliminating HCl and supporting HNO\(_3\) as a potential associated precursor. According to the process understanding emerging from the Braunschweig experiment work, direct NH\(_3\) evaporation of fertilizer pellets would have dominated the measured emissions (Fig. 2c) directly after fertilizer application, until there was a significant amount of precipitation (Sutton et al., 2008b). Precipitation of 2.6 mm was recorded for the evening of 5 June and 1.3 mm during the late morning of the 7th.
Deposition velocities [mm s\(^{-1}\)]

Raw concentrations [\(\mu g m^{-3}\)]

From 6 or 7 June NH\(_3\) emission was probably dominated by the enhanced NH\(_4^+\) concentration in soil solution and leaf litter, evident in the measurements, and the gradually increasing emission potential of the plants (Riedo et al., 2002; Sutton et al., 2009b). Small night-time emissions suggest that non-stomatal emissions, such as soil emissions, still contributed to the flux even 5 days after fertilization. Leaf-litter on the soil surface represents additional NH\(_3\) source which would have been re-captured in the tall canopy, but is able to escape the canopy after the cut (David et al., 2008; Sutton et al., 2009b).

Because of their solubility in water, the acid gases HNO\(_3\) and HCl are conventionally expected to deposit at the maximum rate permitted by turbulence (\(V_{\text{max}}\)).

\[
V_{\text{max}} = \left( R_d(z - d) + R_h \right)^{-1},
\]

where \(R_d(z - d)\) is the aerodynamic resistance which is a function of height \(z\) above zero-plane displacement height \(d\), and \(R_h\) is the quasi-laminar sublayer resistance, which is dependent on the molecular diffusivity of the gas under investigation. Both resistances can be calculated from measured micrometeorological parameters (Nemitz et al., 2009a). A reduction in the deposition velocity of acid gases indicates sources or non-zero equilibrium concentrations at or near the ground. Nemitz et al. (2004) showed that reduced HNO\(_3\) deposition at a Dutch heathland was consistent with evaporation of airborne NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) due to small precursor gas concentration products near the ground. Nemitz et al. (2000) reported emissions of HCl and Neftel et al. (1996) reported upward gradients of HNO\(_3\), both of which they explained by leaf surface chemistry.

Although not without uncertainty, the HNO\(_3\) gradient measurements at Braunschweig showed reduced deposition velocities (\(V_d < V_{\text{max}}\)) during the afternoons of some of the days after fertilisation (e.g. 9 June) (Fig. 9). The reduced deposition velocities of HNO\(_3\) suggest that at least some of the HNO\(_3\) is also surface-derived, with fertiliser pellets and high soil NO\(_3^-\) concentrations resulting in a non-zero gas-phase concentration at the ground, at least during warm afternoons. HNO\(_3\) concentrations exhibited a clear diurnal cycle with the maximum concentrations during the day (Figs. 2a and 8), which would be consistent with either its production from NO\(_x\), or the cycle in the equilibrium constant of NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) (Fig. 4).

In general, \(K_m\) and \(K_e\) change with height, in response to gradients of vapour concentrations, \(T\) and \(h\): the increase of NH\(_3\) and \(h\) towards the ground increase \(K_m\) relative to \(K_e\), while the decrease in HNO\(_3\) and increase of \(T\) would have the opposite effect. Unexpected particle fluxes have been attributed to the formation or evaporation of NH\(_4\)\(_3\)NO\(_3\) before: van Oss et al. (1998) simulated over-rapid deposition of NO\(_3^-\) aerosol to forest to aerosol evaporation. Nemitz et al. (2004) reported fast deposition of NH\(_4^+\) by gradient technique to a Dutch heathland, while eddy-correlation particle fluxes appeared to detect deposition of particles >0.2 \(\mu m\) at the same time as emission of smaller particles. In a modelling study, Nemitz and Sutton (2004) demonstrated that both observations are consistent with the evaporation of NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) during the deposition process, caused by the depletion of NH\(_3\) and HNO\(_3\) close to the ground.
In summary, the following picture emerges: a combination of NH$_4^+$ enriched soil, litter and leaf solutions combined with initial losses directly from the fertilizer pellets leads to emission of NH$_3$ which partly re-condenses on the surface of atmospheric aerosol particles above the ground, where, at least during the day, temperatures are lower. This condensation of NH$_3$ is likely to be associated with simultaneous condensation of HNO$_3$, which may be partly derived from the atmosphere or from fertilizer volatilization. It is likely that atmospheric HNO$_3$ was the main source during night, when the potential for HNO$_3$ emission from the ground was lower. This condensation results in the particles growing during the deposition process (Fig. 10), causing a deposition gradient in the total particle number, but an apparent increase of particles with $d_p > 11$ nm, which is detected as an apparent particle emission flux.

### 4.4 Time-scales of particle growth

Particle nucleation and growth due to condensation are ubiquitous across the world, with the exception of the tropics, with typical growth rates in the region of 1–20 nm hr$^{-1}$ (Kulmala et al., 2004; Holmes, 2007) and can be attributed to a range of precursors. For example, Verheggen et al. (2000) derived growth rates due to H$_2$SO$_4$ condensation of 3 to 7 nm hr$^{-1}$ from size-distribution measurements. Growth rates of 2 to 11 nm hr$^{-1}$ were observed following nucleation events during the BIOFOR campaigns above Finish forests, attributed to the condensation of BVOCs, while faster growth rates of 15 to 180 nm hr$^{-1}$ have been derived in the maritime environment during PARFORCE, possibly due to the uptake of biogenic methylated iodine species (Dal Maso et al., 2002). Growth rates linked to the emission of agricultural precursors do not appear to have been presented in the literature. A likely reason is that, until now, most growth rates have been derived by analysis of the time-evolution of size-distributions, typically following nucleation events or emission plumes – an approach, which requires these processes to occur at the regional scale. By contrast, agricultural activity such as fertilisation happens at the field scale. Here we have developed and applied a new approach to derive growth rates at the field scale, through a combination of measurements of particle flux and aerosol size distribution.

The growth rates derived in this study for combined NH$_3$-HNO$_3$ uptake (Table 3) are in the range of these previous studies, with 11 nm particles growing at about 7.04 nm hr$^{-1}$ during the day and 1.78 nm hr$^{-1}$ at night, with maxima of 40 to 60 nm hr$^{-1}$ (Fig. 5). In order to compare growth rates between studies, it is important to note that the growth rate is size-dependent. For large particles, condensation increases with the surface area ($\propto d_p^2$), while the growth decreases with volume ($\propto d_p^{-3}$), resulting in an overall $d_p^{-1}$ proportionality. For particles in the transition regime, mass transfer limitations further reduce the growth rate. Growth rates adjusted for $d_p=200$ nm averaged 0.35 nm hr$^{-1}$ during the day and 0.09 nm hr$^{-1}$ during night (Table 2).

It should be noted that other particle dynamic processes, in particular coagulation, are not considered in the approach presented here (Eq. 5). Since no particular nucleation mode was observed during this study, new particle formation is not considered to be and important process here. This is in contrast to studies were growth rates are derived from the evolution of size-distributions following nucleation events. At the Braunschweig field site, size-distributions were similar before and after fertilization (Fig. 7) and thus coagulation would also have affected fluxes similarly. Furthermore there is no reason to believe that coagulation would have acted differently above and below the measurement height. Thus, in the interpretation of CPC flux measurements, coagulation is not normally considered. It would indeed be interesting to estimate the effect of coagulation on particle fluxes, which

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**Table 4.** Effects of gas-to-particle conversion on flux measurements and budget estimates of reactive nitrogen (excluding NO$_x$). Fluxes are in kg N ha$^{-1}$ for the period 5 to 15 June 2000; negative values represent deposition fluxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Measurements, and parameterisations not corrected for chemistry</th>
<th>Corrected best estimate for surface</th>
<th>No chemistry scenario</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NH$_3$ gas</td>
<td>−0.043</td>
<td>−0.011</td>
<td>−0.033 $^b$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNO$_3$ gas</td>
<td>−0.028</td>
<td>−0.083</td>
<td>−0.027 $^b$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH$_4^+$ aerosol</td>
<td>−0.010</td>
<td>−0.065</td>
<td>−0.007 $^b$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO$_3^-$ aerosol</td>
<td>−0.010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net N flux</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>&lt;3.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Emission would be reduced due to larger air concentration (cf text). (b) Estimated from KAPS filter/denuder measurements over adjacent field.
does not appear to have been done before, but which is beyond this study.

The approach developed here, to derive growth rates at the field scale from the combined measurement of particle flux and size distribution is sufficiently sensitive to detect growth rates of a few nm hr\(^{-1}\). The main uncertainty relates to the estimate of the dry deposition flux at the surface and thus to the variability in the dry deposition velocity, which is here assumed to be constant with time (0.06 mm s\(^{-1}\)). Under the conditions encountered here, an increase of \(V_d\) to 1 mm s\(^{-1}\) translates into an increase in the estimated growth rate by about 3 nm hr\(^{-1}\). From the range of results found in the other studies cited above, it appears that the potential range of deposition velocities lies within the range 0 to 2 mm s\(^{-1}\) for the size-range 11 to 200 nm, which dominated the number size-distribution that would have been detected during the experiment presented here. It follows that the error range in the growth rate lies between −0.18 to +6 mm hr\(^{-1}\). In addition, the potential underestimation of the flux due to the limited frequency response of the particle counter, would have resulted in under-estimation of both the \(V_d\) to the unfertilized grassland and apparent emission fluxes above the fertilized grassland. Thus, the growth rates derived here appear to be conservative and are more likely an under- than an overestimate.

The time-scale analysis (Fig. 6) indicates that chemistry should only be relevant during night-time conditions, while apparent emission fluxes were also observed during day-time. This highlights the limitations of the time-scale analysis based on Damköhler ratios. The analysis here is based on the above-canopy turbulent time-scale. Although chemistry may not be efficient well above the canopy, in the region for which the turbulence time-scale \(\tau_t\) was estimated, obviously a region exists where \(\tau_t\) becomes comparable to \(\tau_c\). Indeed, radon tracer measurements showed that the time-scale for diffusion out of the grass canopy is long (Nemitz et al., 2009b). Thus all relevant time-scales need to be considered when assessing the overall potential for chemistry to modify fluxes between the point of emission and measurement.

4.5 Implications for flux measurements and local budgets of nitrogen

There are three ways in which gas-particle conversion affects fluxes and local budgets, which are assessed in this section.

(a) Error for flux measurement. As the vertical gradient is modified by the chemistry, the aerodynamic gradient technique (AGM) may need to be modified to derive the correct flux. Similarly, the flux measured by micrometeorological techniques that operate at a single measurement height (\(z_m\)), such as EC and REA, differs from the true surface exchange.

(b) Error for inferential estimates and deposition modelling. Deposition and emission are often derived from the air concentration in an inferential approach, using resistance models of a range of complexity. This approach does not usually consider chemical conversion within the resistance analogue. In addition, changes in the gas/particle partitioning modify air concentrations compared with the simulation of an atmospheric transport model that ignores chemical reactions. For example, the NH\(_3\) air concentration is lowered by transfer to the particle phase, further stimulating stomatal emission, which is governed by the difference between stomatal compensation point and atmospheric concentration.

(c) Modification of the local N budget. A fraction of the emitted NH\(_3\) is converted into slowly depositing NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) aerosol, “increasing” the potential for deposition. Similarly, fast depositing HNO\(_3\) is converted into slowly depositing NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) aerosol, “decreasing” this deposition. The net effect of gas-to-particle conversion on the local N budget will depend on the relative magnitudes of the different compounds involved.

The average NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) production rate below the measurement height of the CPC fluxes was estimated to be 1.11 and 0.44 µg m\(^{-2}\) h\(^{-1}\) for day- and night-time, respectively. If it is assumed (a) that production above this measurement height is negligible as ammonia concentrations decline with increasing height and (b) that the particle production would have lasted for 14 days after fertilisation, then this would equate to a production rate of 5.2 g NH\(_4\)NO\(_3\) ha\(^{-1}\) or 0.0017% of the fertilizer N applied. By comparison, 3.2 % of the fertilizer N were estimated to be emitted as NH\(_3\), either by direct volatilisation or, later on, by raising the stomatal compensation point within the first 10 days of fertilisation (Milford et al., 2008), i.e., around 0.05% of the emitted ammonia was converted to ammonium aerosol within the first 2 m above the ground.

Table 4 compares three estimates of the fluxes of the different reactive nitrogen species. The first one is based on the measurements above the field itself. The second estimate summarises the best estimate of the true surface exchange, correcting for the chemical interaction. The final estimate represents the fluxes that would be expected with an inferential modelling approach, if atmospheric concentrations were not influenced by the chemistry above the field. This is based on the concentrations measured at the background field. The NH\(_3\) emission from the field would be expected to be somewhat suppressed in this scenario as the NH\(_3\) concentration above the field would be slightly larger, but the exact NH\(_3\) emission under these modified conditions is difficult to estimate. Because at this site the total N flux is very much dominated by NH\(_3\), and the relative effect on the NH\(_3\) flux is small, the difference for the total N flux is small above this particular field. However, the flux on the other forms of N...
is considerable and even can lead to flux reversal, suggesting that in other circumstances these interactions could have larger relative effects on local nitrogen budgets.

4.6 Implication for global budgets and climate forcing

From fertiliser consumption statistics it is estimated that 4.5 Mt of NH$_4$NO$_3$-N are used in Europe every year and 12.3 Mt globally (Matthews, 1994). Extrapolation of our measurements to the globe implies global NH$_4$NO$_3$-N formation/emissions following fertilizer application of 0.21 kt. Again this estimate is based on the assumption that NH$_4$NO$_3$ formation is confined to the bottom 2 m, above which precursor gas concentrations are estimated to be sufficiently diluted for continued aerosol formation. Volatilisation of NH$_4$NO$_3$ fertiliser contributes only 0.46% to the global NH$_3$ emissions (Bouwman et al., 1997), with the main part of the emissions arising from animal wastes and organic fertilizers; and hence the overall NH$_4$NO$_3$-N formation following NH$_3$ emissions could easily be as large as 45 kt NH$_4$NO$_3$-N. This reaction will depend on background concentrations of HNO$_3$, competition with reaction with sulphur and meteorology. It should also be noted that, unlike with ammonium sulphates, any NH$_4$NO$_3$ formed has the potential to re-evaporate if the gas phase concentrations of NH$_3$ and HNO$_3$ drop below the equilibrium values. For comparison, the global ammonium sulphate formation is estimated to be in the order of 57 Mt S yr$^{-1}$ (IPCC, 2001).

5 Conclusions

Average deposition velocities to (unfertilised) cut, partially regrown and tall grassland were 0.03, 0.06 and 0.24 mm s$^{-1}$, respectively. This is at the lower end of values reported for short vegetation, but consistent with the normal flux being dominated by Aitken mode particles. The values are therefore applicable, e.g., to derive deposition of combustion derived primary aerosol. Analysis of sustained apparent emission fluxes after fertilisation, in relation to potential pre-cursor gases shows that these are consistent with condensation of NH$_3$ and HNO$_3$ and associated growth across the 11 nm diameter cut-off of the particle counter used for the flux measurements.

We have here developed a novel technique to derive particle growth rates from flux measurements using instruments with well-defined cut-off diameters, together with measurements of the size-distribution. Former estimates of growth rates have usually relied on the presence of a clear nucleation mode, whose size evolution could easily be monitored. By contrast our new approach is universally applicable to derive particle growth rates over homogeneous surfaces at the field scale and could, for example, be used to derive aerosol growth rates due to biogenic secondary organic aerosol formation in natural environments, where bi-directional particle number fluxes are observed, even if this growth happens over a limited area.

Above the fertilized field growth rates of 11 nm particles of 7.0 nm hr$^{-1}$ during the day and 1.78 nm hr$^{-1}$ at night are similar to those reported in the literature for the uptake of organic vapours and H$_2$SO$_4$, and illustrate the efficiency of NH$_3$ as an aerosol precursor. While the chemical interactions significantly change the local flux of gaseous HNO$_3$ and NH$_4$NO$_3$ aerosol, the effect on the total nitrogen flux is small, as this is dominated by the large NH$_3$ emission during this period for which the relative effect is small.

Acknowledgements. Access to the roof of the 47 m tower was granted by Mr. Deventer from the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt. L. Thomason provided assistance with the chemical analysis of the VOC tubes at Lancaster University, while K. Gilke, R. Schmelzer, U. Tambor and M. Zerbian from the FAL Braunschweig helped with the analysis of the daily dry denuder/filter pack combinations. This work was funded by the EU projects GRAMINAE and NitroEurope IP.

Edited by: K. Pilegaard

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