

University of Wyoming stratospheric aerosol measurements

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These data result from *in-situ* balloon-borne size resolved aerosol concentration measurements collected using University of Wyoming aerosol counters. The data files always include the total aerosol concentration, condensation nuclei (CN, $r > 0.01 \mu\text{m}$), and particles with radius $\sim 0.15\text{-}0.19 \mu\text{m}$. Measurement size channels range from 2 for the original Rosen counter (Dust), to 8-12 for the Wyoming white light optical particle counter (WOPC) to 8 for the Wyoming laser particle counter (WLPC). The continuation of this measurement record transitioned to LASP at the University of Colorado in 2019, where a new instrument has been developed by Lars Kalnajs: the LASP optical particle counter (LOPC), with upwards of 50 aerosol channels. Here is a summary table of the various instruments used.

Instrument	Years of operation	UWv1.0 radius	UWv2.0 radius	No. of sizes	Flow rate liters/min	Sample rate (Hz)	Light source	Scattering angle degrees	Solid angle steradians
Dust	1971-2013	0.15-0.25	0.175-0.28	2-4	~1	0.1	White light	25	0.15
WOPC	1989-2013	0.15-2/10	0.187-2.05/10	8-12	~10	0.1	White light	40	0.22
WLPC	2008-2020	0.075-4.5/15	0.092-4.5/16.6	8	~10	0.5	Laser 633 nm	90	3.63
LOPC	2019-	0.15-10	0.15-10	50+	~20	0.5	Laser 780 nm	90	3.63

Data for the 1971-1988 Dust measurements, PI Jim Rosen, can be found on the NDACC web site:

<https://ndacc.larc.nasa.gov/stations/laramie-wy-united-states>. Data for the 1989-2013 Dust, 1989-2013

WOPC, 2008-2020 WLPC, and 2019- LOPC can be found in the [Stratospheric Aerosol Collection of WyoScholar](#), hosted by UW Libraries.

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If these data are useful for your work and/or publication, please offer inclusion and/or proper referencing and acknowledgment for the source of these data.

The Wyoming *in situ* aerosol measurements have been revised following Deshler et al. [2019]. These files are in the subfolders .../Nr_Full_Profile/ and .../SizeDist_Stratosphere/ under each of the flight locations. This is considered the UWv2.0 data, although such a subfolder is not explicitly used. All data in the primary folders are UWv2.0. The earlier version of the data is maintained in the subfolders .../UWv1.0/ within each flight location folder.

The revision primarily affects the radii assigned to each channel of the instrument, increasing the size thresholds.

Thus the canonical 0.15/0.25 um channels, from the beginning of the measurements in 1971, cannot be maintained. In fact even these sizes from the earliest measurements should perhaps be increased somewhat for the early measurements, [Deshler et al., 2019]. The number concentrations have not changed between the UWv1.0 and UWv2.0 data. The new size distributions for the UWv2.0 data, while still lognormal are fit using a revised algorithm described in Deshler et al. [2019] which incorporates the counting efficiency of each aerosol channel in the fitting algorithm. In addition unimodal fits are provided for a subset of the data indicated in the folders ...\\Unimode. These were completed based upon requests. Due to the large number of aerosol channels for the LOPC, size distributions are not supplied for these measurements.

For the revised data there are, in addition to the ASCII data files for each flight, IDL.sav files for folders with a lot of measurements. The names of the IDL.sav files are indicative of the contents and the instrument included. When more than one instrument type (Dust, WOPC, WLPC) is used for a data set there are separate IDL.sav files for each instrument type. Thus, e.g., *_WOPC.sav includes only measurements from the Wyoming optical particle counter [Deshler et al., 2003], *_WLPC.sav includes only measurements from the Wyoming laser particle counter [Ward et al., 2014]. Each of the individual ASCII files contains a header containing 86(MM) - 94 (WY) lines. The header contains both general metadata for the whole data base, and specific metadata for each flight. IDL.sav files are available for the following folders: .../US_Laramie_41N_105W_1989-2020/, .../Ant_McMurdo_78S_167E_1989-2010/, .../SE_Kiruna_68N_21E_1990-2004/.

Primary references describing each of the three instrument types are:

Dust:

Development & first use: Rosen, J. M., The vertical distribution of dust to 30 km, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 69, 4673-4676, 1964.
Description & early measurements: Hofmann, D. J., J. M. Rosen, T. J. Pepin, and R. G. Pinnick [1975], stratospheric aerosol measurements, I, Time variations at nothern midlatitudes, *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 32, 1446-1456.
Measurements through 1990: Hofmann, D. J. [1990] Increase in the stratospheric background sulfuric acid aerosol mass in the past 10 years, *Science*, 248, 996-1000.

WOPC:

Development & early use: Hofmann, D. J. and T. Deshler [1991] Stratospheric cloud observations during formation of the Antarctic ozone hole in 1989, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 96, 2897-2912.
Description & uncertainties: Deshler, T., M. E. Hervig, D. J. Hofmann, J. M. Rosen, and J. B. Liley [2003], Thirty years of in situ stratospheric aerosol size distribution measurements from Laramie, Wyoming (41°N), using balloon-borne instruments, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D5), 4167, doi:10.1029/2002JD002514.
Particle evaporation and calibration error: Kovilakam, M., and T. Deshler [2015], On the accuracy of stratospheric aerosol extinction derived from in situ size distribution measurements and surface area density derived from remote SAGE II and HALOE extinction measurements, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 120, 8426-8447, doi:10.1002/2015JD023303.
Including counting efficiency in OPC data: Deshler, T., B. Luo, M. Kovilakam, T. Peter, L. E. Kalnajs [2019], Retrieval of aerosol size distributions from in situ particle counter measurements: instrument counting efficiency and comparisons with satellite measurements, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 124(9), 5058-5087. doi:10.1029/2018JD029558

WLPC:

Description & use for PSC measurements: Ward, S. M., T. Deshler, and A. Hertzog [2014], Quasi-Lagrangian measurements of nitric acid trihydrate formation over Antarctica, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 119, doi:10.1002/2013JD020326.

LOPC:

Description and early use: Kalnajs, L. E., & Deshler, T. (2022). A New Instrument for Balloon-Borne In Situ Aerosol Size Distribution Measurements, the Continuation of a 50 Year Record of Stratospheric Aerosols Measurements. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 127(24), e2022JD037485. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2022JD037485>

The Wyoming aerosol data from 1989 to the present, PI Terry Deshler, can be found in the following folders grouped by rough location: mid latitude, polar, and tropical. The folder name includes the country code, location name, latitude, longitude, and range of years for the data. A dash between the years indicates a continuous record spanning those years, an underscore indicates separate years of measurements. The data are available in the data repository at the University of Wyoming Libraries (Deshler & Kalnajs, 2022). With the reference for the data to be used in a bibliography:

Deshler, T., & Kalnajs, L. E. (2022). University of Wyoming stratospheric aerosol measurements | Mid latitude [Dataset]. <https://doi.org/10.15786/21534894>. For references to other datasets, e.g. polar just change the DOI.

The Wyoming aerosol data from 1971-1988, PI Jim Rosen, are found on the NDACC data base at
<https://ndacc.larc.nasa.gov/stations/laramie-wy-united-states>

Mid latitude: <https://doi.org/10.15786/21534894>

/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/US_Laramie_41N_105W_1989-2020/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/US_Boulder_40N_105W_2019-/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/FR_Gap_45N_6E_1996_1997/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/FR_AirLaDour_44N_0W_1995/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/AU_Mildura_34S_142E_1972-1980/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/NZ_Lauder_45S_170E_1991-2001/

Polar: <https://doi.org/10.15786/21534945>

/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/SE_Andoya_69N_16E_1996_1997/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/SE_Kiruna_68N_21E_1990-2004/
/Lagrangian measurements South of 60S_2010
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/Ant_McMurdo_78S_167E_1989-2010/

Tropical: <https://doi.org/10.15786/21534951>

/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/In_Hyderabad_17N_79E_2015/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/NI_Niamey_13N_2E_2006_2008/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/BR_Teresina_5S_43W_2008/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/AU_Darwin_13S_132E_2005_2014/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/BR_Bauru_22S_49W_1997/
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/AU_Longreach_23S_144E_1972_1973/, UWv1.0 only
/Aerosol_InSitu_Meas/AU_AliceSprings_24S_134E_2017/, UWv1.0 only

Within each of these directories are the following subdirectories:

/Nr_Full_Profile/ - ASCII Sounding files for aerosol size and number concentration. The file name, e.g. 20080622_WY_WOPC_ATA6m.ASC, indicates the date (yyyymmdd) and location, e.g. MM=McMurdo, WY=Laramie, the instrument name (e.g. WOPC_ATA6m). The file extension indicates the vertical resolution, .ASC, implies full data , or an average, e.g. .500m for a 500 m average. These differences in the vertical averaging are separated into separate subfolders. The files include measurements from the surface to balloon burst. All files include general and specific metadata. In the Laramie folder, where more than one instrument was used, there are separate subfolders for each instrument type.

/SizeDist_Stratosphere/ - ASCII lognormal size distributions (either unimodal or bimodal) at the vertical resolution indicated in the file name. The file names are somewhat long and include the name of the source file for the measurements, including the vertical resolution, the altitude at which the size distributions begin (typically the tropopause), and "_Srs_ce" which indicates the fit was completed with the new fitting algorithm which accounts for the instrument counting efficiency at each channel size. All files include general and specific metadata. In the Laramie folder, where more than one instrument was used, there are separate subfolders for each instrument type. Because of the large number of channels for the instruments used in Boulder, size distributions are not provided.

The minimum concentration measurable with these instruments is given by S / F . for sample frequency, $S=0.1$ Hz, and flow rate, F . For example, the minimum concentration detectable is $5.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ for $F = 167 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$, and $5.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ for $F = 16.7 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$. When the aerosol concentration is below the detection threshold of the instrument the concentration is arbitrarily assigned a value of 1.01E-39. The first channel at which this occurs is arbitrarily assigned a value of 1.01 E-06 and is used to fix the large particle tail of the size distribution.

Poisson statistics define the fractional uncertainty of a counting measurement as its inverse square root, $C^{-0.5}$ for C counts in one sample, becoming important at low concentrations. The aerosol concentration, $N = C S / F$. Thus the

Poisson error fraction, in terms of concentration, is $(N F / S)^{-0.5}$. For these instruments: $S = 0.1 \text{ Hz}$, $F = 16.7 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for a two channel counter and CN counter, and $F = 167 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for a counter with more than two channels. In the stratosphere these flow rates are reduced to about 80% of these values by temperature differences between outside air and pump. This leads to uncertainties of 85, 25, and 8% for concentrations of 0.01, 0.1, and 1.0 cm^{-3} at the low flow rate and concentrations of $0.001, 0.01, 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at the high flow rate. This error dominates at concentrations below $0.1 (0.01) \text{ cm}^{-3}$ for the low (high) flow rate instrument. At concentrations higher than these a concentration error of +/-10% reflects comparisons of concentration measurements from two instruments using identical aerosol in the laboratory.

A bibliography, 1990 - 2022, of the literature in which Wyoming Aerosol counters played a role in the analysis of mid latitude, polar, and tropical aerosol measurements follows here:

Mid Latitude Measurements

- Kalnajs, L. E., & Deshler, T. (2022). A New Instrument for Balloon-Borne In Situ Aerosol Size Distribution Measurements, the Continuation of a 50 Year Record of Stratospheric Aerosols Measurements. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 127(24), e2022JD037485. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2022JD037485>
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