Aerosol growth in a cold environment
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Yin-Chao Yen
**AEROSOL GROWTH IN A COLD ENVIRONMENT**

Yin-Chao Yen

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**SPECIAL NOTE**

An expression relating aerosol growth to cold environmental conditions was developed. This was accomplished by solving the diffusion equation with the method of Laplace transformation. The series solution was expressed in terms of the dimensionless parameters $K$ (ratio of vapor density over droplet surface to droplet density), $\omega$ (ratio of environmental vapor density at time zero to vapor density over droplet surface), and dimensionless time $\tau$ (ratio of product of diffusion coefficient $D$ and time $t$ to square of initial radius of condensation nucleus). To take into account the variation of the vapor density over the surface of an acidic condensation nucleus due to the continuous dilution of the droplet, the solution was obtained by assuming various levels of constant vapor concentration. The final expression...

\[ \frac{R}{R_0} - 1 = 2.4917 \times 10^{-18} \exp(0.0737\theta) \left( \frac{P_{\text{RH}}}{25} \right) \times (100 - P_{\text{RHS}})^{0.9890} \]

can be used to compute the value of \( R \) once the values of initial radius \( R_0 \), relative humidity \( P_{\text{RH}} \), percent of relative humidity at the droplet surface \( P_{\text{RHS}} \), and environmental temperature \( \theta \) are given.
PREFACE

This report was prepared by Dr. Yin-Chao Yen, Research Physical Scientist, of the Geotechnical Research Branch, Experimental Engineering Division, U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory. The work was funded under DA Project 4A161101A91D, In-House Laboratory Independent Research, Work Unit 350, Growth of Phosphorus Smoke in Winter.

Technical review of the report was performed by Dr. Yoshisuke Nakano and Dr. Virgil Lunardini of CRREL.
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NOMENCLATURE

$A_s$  Surface area of droplet  
$c_d$  Heat capacity  
$D$  Diffusion coefficient of water vapor in air  
$d$  Diameter  
$I$  Molar flux of vapor  
$I_a$  Molar flux of air  
$K$  Defined as $\rho_d/\rho_d$  
$k$  Thermal conductivity of air  
$L$  Latent heat of condensation  
$M_1$  Molecular weight of water  
$m$  Mass of droplet  
$n$  Molar concentration  
$P_d$  Vapor pressure over droplet  
$P_s$  Saturation vapor pressure, saturation humidity  
$P_{so}$  Equilibrium vapor pressure over plane water surface  
$P_{RH}$  Percent relative humidity  
$P_{RHS}$  Percent of $P_{RH}$ at droplet surface  
$r_0, r_1$  Defined in eq 25  
$\dot{r}_1, \dot{r}_2$  Time derivative of $r_1$ and $r_2$, respectively  
$\hat{r}_1, \hat{r}_2$  Laplace transform of $r_1$ and $r_2$, respectively  
$r$  Spatial coordinate  
$R$  Radius, gas law constant  
$S_d$  Ratio of $P_d/P_{so}$  
$t$  Time  
$t_c$  Characteristic time defined as $R^2_c/D$  
$T$  Temperature  
$u$  Transformation variable defined as $u = r \rho_{wa}$  
$\bar{u}$  Integration factor, defined in eq 21  
$V_1$  Molar volume of water  
$V_2$  Molar volume of air  
$x_1$  Mole fraction of water

Subscripts

$a$  Air  
$\infty$  Bulk  
$d$  Droplet  
$ds$  Droplet surface  
$wa$  Water vapor in air  
$RH$  Relative humidity  
$RHS$  Relative humidity at droplet surface  
$s$  Saturation, surface  
$0$  Initial (also superscript)  
$v$  Vapor
Greek letters

$\alpha$  Thermal diffusivity
$\beta$  Defined in eq 21
$\rho$  Density of vapor or droplet
$\rho'$  Density of solution droplet
$\omega$  Defined as $\rho_{wa}^0/\rho_{ds}$
$\tau$  Defined as $t/t_c$
$\theta$  Absolute temperature
$\sigma'$  Surface tension of solution droplet
AEROSOL GROWTH IN A COLD ENVIRONMENT

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GENERAL BACKGROUND

Aerosols are commonly formed either by the conversion of gases to particulate matter or by the disintegration of liquids or solids. Aerosols may also result from the resuspension of powdered material or the break-up of agglomerates. Formation from the gas phase tends to produce much finer particles than disintegration processes. Dust, smoke, fumes, haze and mist are all terms in common use, with somewhat different popular meanings. Dust usually refers to solid particles produced by disintegration processes, while smoke and fume particles are generally smaller and formed from the gas phase. Mists are composed of liquid droplets. Generally, the generic term aerosol is used to describe all such systems of small particles suspended in air or some other gaseous medium.

Atmospheric aerosols are usually composed of a mixture of particulate materials originating from various sources, including gas-to-particle conversion processes. The sources are a) the combustion of fuel oil in power plants and refineries, including sulfur dioxide and fuel oil flyash, and b) automobile exhaust, including particulate matter composed of lead bromochloride and tarry organic matter. The gas phase includes nitrogen oxides, organic vapors, and sulfur dioxide. A small percentage of these gases is converted to nitrates resulting from the oxidation of NO and NO₂, oxygenated organic compounds, and sulfates. This conversion process increases the total aerosol concentration and contributes to degradation of visibility significantly.

Soil dust that becomes airborne as a result of the wind and of surface activities associated with transportation, construction, and agriculture also contributes to the aerosol concentration. But because of its relatively larger size (> 1 μm) it tends to settle out, although it is continuously re-introduced by surface disturbance.

Aerosols may affect human health, visibility and climate. Particle size, concentration, and chemical composition are usually the most significant factors determining such effects. Light scattering by small particles is also a sensitive function of size. The maximum scattering efficiency corresponds to particle size of the same order as the wavelength of the incident light. Processes leading to the accumulation of particles in that size range produce the most severe visibility degradation. Such processes depend on the chemical composition of the system, which also determines the refractive index, another factor in light scattering and absorption. The nucleating efficiency of small particles, i.e. the ability to form clouds, is expressed in terms of the rate of condensation per unit mass of aerosol. Particles smaller than the critical size determined by the Kelvin effect (because of increased vapor pressure over a small particle) do not grow. Large particles have a relatively small amount of surface area per unit mass, which accounts for their reduced nucleating efficiency.
A complete treatise of the fundamentals of aerosol behavior, i.e. aerosol characterization, transport properties, deposition by convective diffusion, internal deposition, light scattering and visibility, experimental techniques, processes of collision and coagulation, gas-to-particle conversion, and thermodynamic properties, can be found in the book by Friedlander (1977). This book is aimed at enhancing the understanding of the science of particulate pollution and applying it to practical problems, such as: How are aerosols formed at pollution sources? How can particles be removed from gaseous emissions to prevent them from becoming an air pollution problem? And how can air quality be related to emission sources to devise effective pollution control strategies?

A comprehensive review on cloud droplet growth was presented by Carstens and Carter (1974). Briefly, the process of growth involves the transport of mass (vapor) toward the drop, release of latent heat at the drop surface, subsequent heating of the drop, and, as a consequence, thermal energy transport away from it. The continuity of water vapor concentration, \( n \) (mole/volume), outside the drop is

\[ \nabla \cdot I = - \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} \]  

where \( I \) is the molar flux of vapor, given by

\[ I = \frac{-(n + n_a)D}{1 - x} \left[ \nabla x + \alpha' (x) \nabla \ln T \right] + \frac{x}{1 - x} I_a \]  

where

- \( x \) = mole fraction of vapor
- \( n \) = molar concentration of vapor
- \( D \) = diffusion coefficient of water vapor in air
- \( T \) = temperature field
- \( I_a \) and \( n_a \) = molar flux and concentration of air
- \( \alpha' (x) \) = thermal diffusion factor.

Under normal atmospheric conditions, further simplifications can be made and the flux and the corresponding heat conduction become

\[ D \nabla^2 \rho = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \]  

and

\[ \alpha \nabla^2 T = \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} \]

with three of the boundary conditions as

\[ \rho (\infty, t) = \rho_{\infty} (t) \]  

\[ T (\infty, t) = T_{\infty} (t) \]

and

\[ 4\pi R^2 \left[ k \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + LD \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial r} \right]_{r=R} = c_a \frac{dT_a}{dt} \]

where

- \( \rho \) = vapor density
- \( D \) and \( \alpha \) = diffusion coefficient of water vapor in air and thermal diffusivity of air-water vapor mixture, or simply that of air.
\( \rho_m \) and \( T_m \) = bulk values of vapor density and temperature (which can be functions of time)

\( R \) = drop radius

\( k \) = thermal conductivity of gas

\( L \) = latent heat of condensation

\( c_d \) = heat capacity of drop.

With the assumption that the transients appropriate to the diffusion problems are small enough so that the steady-state profiles “follow” the outward motion of the drop surface, the flux equations reduce to

\[ \nabla^2 \rho = 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (8)

and

\[ \nabla^2 T = 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (9)

Boundary conditions 5 and 6 remain the same, but condition 7 reduces to

\[ k \frac{dT}{dr} \bigg|_{r=R} + LD \frac{dp}{dr} \bigg|_{r=R} = 0 \]  \hspace{1cm} (10)

Based on the material balance on the drop surface the outward deep growth rate is

\[ \frac{dR}{dt} = \frac{D}{\rho_d} \frac{dp}{dr} \bigg|_{r=R} \]  \hspace{1cm} (11)

where \( \rho_d \) is the liquid density.

In general, two somewhat different growth treatments, both based on the above assumptions, exist in the meteorological literature. The most common approach assumes that the transport is entirely controlled by the diffusion of mass and conduction of heat, while the alternate approach posits the possibility of additional control exerted at the liquid/vapor interface. In what is perhaps the most common treatment of drop growth, it is assumed that, to a good approximation, thermal equilibrium between vapor density and temperature exists at the drop surface. Furthermore, the dependence of thermal equilibrium on both drop curvature and dissolved salts must also be taken into account. The alternative approach is that the drop growth is controlled by diffusion and surface kinetics. The vapor molecules do not always stick to the surface upon striking (or are inhibited from evaporation), and consideration of coefficients of condensation, evaporation and thermal accommodation is necessary. The thermal equilibrium conditions used in diffusion-controlled growth are replaced by mass and heat fluxes. This is commonly accomplished by equating the molecular and energy fluxes (at the drop surface) determined from uniform gas kinetics to those calculated directly from Fick’s and Fourier’s laws.

Most of the works reviewed and summarized by Carstens and Carter (1974) are concerned with theories of drop growth in naturally occurring aerosols aimed at meteorological applications. Little work has been reported on man-made chemical or nonchemical aerosols. These aerosols are rather short-lived in nature and can serve as a means for camouflage or as an obstacle to target recognition.

Rubel (1978) seems to be the only investigator to have conducted a detailed analysis of phosphorus smoke. In his work, the equilibrium vapor pressure over the surface of a droplet containing an aqueous solution of volatile solvent and nonvolatile solute was uniquely determined by Kelvin and solute effects. Expressions for the saturation ratio over the surface of a phosphoric acid droplet as a function of droplet diameter and moles of acid are presented as

3
\[ \ln \frac{P_d}{P_{so}} = \frac{4 \sigma' M_1}{RTd \rho'} - \ln \left[ 1 + \frac{12 n_2 V_1}{\pi d^3 - 6n_2 (V_2 + V_1)} \right] , \quad 1 > x_1 > 0.577 \] (12)

and

\[ \ln \frac{P_d}{P_{so}} = \frac{4 \sigma' M_1}{RTd \rho'} - \ln \left[ 4.55 + \frac{27.3 n_2 V_1}{\pi d^3 - 6n_2 V_2} \right] , \quad 0.577 > x_1 > 0 \] (13)

where

\[ P_d = \text{vapor pressure over droplet} \]
\[ P_{so} = \text{equilibrium vapor pressure over plane surface of pure water} \]
\[ \sigma' \text{ and } \rho' = \text{surface tension and density of solution droplet} \]
\[ M_1 = \text{molecular weight of water} \]
\[ R = \text{universal gas constant} \]
\[ T = \text{temperature of system} \]
\[ n_2 = \text{moles of acid} \]
\[ V_1 \text{ and } V_2 = \text{molar volume of water and acid} \]
\[ x_1 = \text{mole fraction of water in acid solution.} \]

Equations 12 and 13 relate the saturation ratio, i.e. \( S_d = P_d/P_{so} \), over a phosphoric acid droplet to its fundamental properties, its diameter, and the number of moles of acid \( n_2 \) contained in it. In both expressions, the first term on the right represents a vapor pressure increase due to the Kelvin effect and the second term represents a vapor pressure reduction due to the solute effect. Rubel (1978) reported further that for droplets containing dilute solutions, eq 12 can be simplified as

\[ \ln \frac{P_d}{P_{so}} = \frac{4 \sigma' M_1}{RTd \rho'} - \frac{12 n_2 V_1}{\pi d^3} \] (14)

Though this equation is not applicable to highly concentrated solution droplets, it nevertheless clearly reveals the Kelvin effect (first term on the right) and the solute effect (second term on the right) as functions of droplet diameter. For small diameters, the solute effect dominates the Kelvin effect, resulting in the saturation ratio \( S_d = P_d/P_{so} \), being less than 1. As the diameter increases and the solution becomes dilute, the two effects become equal (i.e. \( S_d = 1 \)), and thereafter the Kelvin effect dominates, resulting in \( S_d > 1 \). As the droplet diameter \( d \) increases to infinity, both effects become negligible, and the system thus physically represents a plane surface of pure liquid with \( S_d = 1 \).

To establish a relationship between the relative humidity \( RH \) and the droplet diameter, Rubel (1978) further assumed that diffusional equilibrium exists between the surface of the droplet and the environment, and obtained predictive relationships between \( RH \) and droplet diameter \( d \) by replacing \( S_d = P_d/P_{so} \) by \( RH \) in eq 12 and 13. He computed the droplet diameter as a function of \( RH \) and found that the relative increase in droplet diameter is independent of the initial condensation nucleus diameter \( d_c \), and that the ratio \( d_{RH}/d_c \) (where \( d_{RH} \) is the droplet diameter at that specific relative humidity) is only dependent on \( RH \). The relative increase in this ratio takes on values of 1.5, 2.0 and 3.0 for \( RH \)'s of 70, 90 and 98%, respectively, irrespective of condensation nucleus variations from 0.30 to 2.40 \( \mu m \). The results clearly demonstrated that the solute effect dominates the Kelvin effect, and since the ratio \( d_{RH}/d_c \) remains nearly constant for specific \( RH \) values, all droplets achieve the same degree of dilution and experience the same relative increase in diameter, irrespective of initial condensation nucleus size. Assuming diffusional growth equilibrium between the environment and the droplet surface, Rubel (1978) concluded that the solution effect governs the properties of a phosphoric acid droplet in phosphorus smoke, and that the greatest proportion of growth occurs in the region defined by relative humidity greater than 80%. 


Rubel also considered this problem from the kinetics point of view in order to verify the development of the relationship between relative humidity and droplet diameter, i.e., the adoption of diffusional equilibrium between the environment and the H_3PO_4 droplet. He reported that the relaxation times (characteristic times for approach to equilibrium) are extremely low for relative humidity from 10 to 98%—in the range from 10^{-3} to 0.90 second. In other words, for the case of an unsaturated environment, acid drops attain equilibrium with the environment almost instantaneously, and the assertion of diffusional equilibrium under tactical conditions is proved to be valid.

Rubel's phosphorus smoke work can be represented by the following sequence of reactions:

\[ \text{P}_4(\text{s}) + s \text{O}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{P}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{v})\text{(s)} \]

\[ \text{P}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{v})\text{(s)} + 6 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{v}) \rightarrow 4 \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(\text{g}) \]

\[ \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(\text{g}) + n \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{v}) \rightarrow \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4\text{(solution)} \]

Cragin (1982) conducted some snow sample chemical analyses during CRREL's SNOW-ONE field experiment at the Camp Ethan Allen Training Center, Burlington, Vermont, in connection with smoke tests to evaluate the effectiveness of instrumentation used to measure transmissivity and other optical properties. The concentration of the smoke material deposited on the snow downwind can be expressed, in general, by an exponential decay function, i.e., \( C = A \exp(-Bx) \). The constants \( A \) and \( B \) are found to be dependent on the nature of the chemical smoke as well as the wind velocity. Since the scale of the test was very limited, the results reported by Cragin can not be considered conclusive; they can only indicate the trend of the smoke particle disposition process.

Since chemical smoke growth rate has not been exclusively studied under a variety of conditions, this research is aimed at deriving an expression approximately representing smoke aerosol growth as a function of time and humidity at subfreezing temperatures. To accomplish this, assumptions will be made to circumvent the difficulty arising from the continuous dilution of the condensation nuclei by the process of chemisorption.

**THE PROBLEM**

The analysis presented here concerns the rate of growth following the instantaneous formation of condensation nuclei. A mass balance at the drop surface results in

\[
\frac{dm}{dt} = DA_s \left. \frac{\partial \rho_{wa}}{\partial r} \right|_{r=R}
\]

where
- \( m \) = mass of droplet
- \( D \) = water vapor diffusion coefficient
- \( A_s \) = spherical drop surface
- \( \rho_{wa} \) = water vapor density in air
- \( t \) and \( r \) = respectively time and spatial coordinate.

Equation 15 can be rewritten in terms of droplet radius as

\[
\rho_d \frac{dR}{dt} = D \left. \frac{\partial \rho_{wa}}{\partial r} \right|_{r=R}
\]
with an initial condition of
\[ R = R_0 \quad \text{at } t = 0. \]

Considering spherical symmetry, the diffusion of water vapor through the air mass to the enlarging aerosol can be written as
\begin{equation}
\frac{\partial \rho_{wa}}{\partial t} = D \left( \frac{\partial^2 \rho_{wa}}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\gamma}{r} \frac{\partial \rho_{wa}}{\partial r} \right) \tag{17}
\end{equation}

with boundary conditions of
\begin{align*}
\rho_{wa} &= \rho_{ds} \quad \text{at } r = R \tag{18a} \\
\rho_{wa} &= \rho_{wa}^0 \quad \text{at } t = 0 \tag{18b}
\end{align*}

where \( \rho_{ds} \) is the water vapor density at the drop surface and \( \rho_{wa}^0 \) is the water vapor density at time zero.

With the substitution of \( u = r \rho_{wa} \), eq 17 and 18 can be replaced as
\begin{equation}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} \tag{19}
\end{equation}

and
\begin{align*}
u &= \rho_{ds} R \quad \text{at } r = R \tag{20a} \\
u &= r \rho_{wa}^0 \quad \text{at } t = 0. \tag{20b}
\end{align*}

**METHOD OF SOLUTION**

Multiplying both sides by the factor \( \exp(-\beta r) \) and integrating with respect to \( r \) over the range from \( R \) to \( \infty \), and with the introduction of
\[ \tilde{u} = \int_{R}^{\infty} u \exp(-\beta r) \, dr \tag{21} \]
eq 19 after some simplification becomes
\begin{equation}
\exp(D \beta^2 t) \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \exp(-D\beta^2 t) \tilde{u} \right] = -\left( D \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + D\beta \tilde{u} + u \frac{dR}{dt} \right) \bigg|_{r=R} \exp(-\beta R). \tag{22}
\end{equation}

Multiplying eq 22 by the factor \( \exp(-D\beta^2 t) \), integrating from 0 to \( \infty \), and using the definition of \( u, \tilde{u} = r \rho_{wa} \) and eq 16, eq 22 can be transformed into
\begin{equation}
\frac{\rho_{wa}^0}{\beta^2} (1 + \beta R_0) \exp(-\beta R_0) \int_{0}^{\infty} \left( D \rho_{ds} + D \rho_{ds} \beta R + \rho_{d} R \frac{dR}{dt} + R \rho_{ds} \frac{dR}{dt} \right) \exp(-\beta R) \exp(-D\beta^2 t) \, dt. \tag{23}
\end{equation}
For large, pure water drops, the value of \( \rho_{ds} \) will be equivalent to the saturation vapor density over a plane water surface. However, for small water droplets containing dissolved salts, the value of \( \rho_{ds} \) will be dependent on the curvature of the droplet and the solute concentration. To alleviate these complications, a study of the effect of \( \rho_{ds} \) on the aerosol growth rate was carried out, with the assumption of constant relative humidity maintained over the droplet surface.

Defining the dimensionless parameters \( K \) and \( \omega \) as

\[
K = \frac{\rho_{ds}}{\rho_d}
\]

and

\[
\omega = \frac{\rho_{wa}}{\rho_{ds}}
\]

and noting the fact that the value of \( K \) (for the case of water) is in the range of \( 10^{-8} \) to \( 10^{-7} \), and with the introduction of \( s = D \beta^2 \), eq 23 becomes

\[
\omega K \left[ \frac{D}{s} + \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} R_0 \right] \exp \left[ - \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} R_0 \right] = \int_{0}^{\infty} \left[ DK + R \frac{dR}{dt} + \sqrt{Ds} RK + RK \frac{dR}{dt} \right] \exp (-\alpha R) \exp (-st) dt.
\]

A series solution in terms of the small dimensionless parameter \( K \) can be expressed as

\[
R = r_0 + Kr_1 + K^2 r_2 + K^3 r_3 + K^4 r_4 + ... .
\]

The detailed calculations in the expression of \( r_n \) (\( n = 0, 1, 2, ... \)) are given in the Appendix. Defining a characteristic time \( t_c = R_0^2/D \) and a dimensionless time \( \tau = t/t_c \), the expression for aerosol radius up to \( K^4 \) as functions of \( \omega \) and \( \tau \) can be represented by

\[
\left( \frac{R}{R_0} - 1 \right) = K (\omega - 1) (1.1284 \tau^{1/2} + \tau) + K^2 (\omega - 1)^2 (0.7184 \tau^{1/2} + 0.8634 \tau - 0.3716 \tau^{3/2} - 0.5 \tau^2) + K^3 (\omega - 1)^3 (0.5555 \tau^{1/2} - 0.3451 \tau + 1.2628 \tau^{3/2} - 0.6265 \tau^2 - 1.2412 \tau^{5/2} + 0.5 \tau^3)
\]

\[
+ K^4 (\omega - 1)^4 (-0.8165 \tau^{1/2} - 3.2035 \tau + 0.2394 \tau^{3/2} + 0.0131 \tau^2 + 0.0376 \tau^{5/2} - 0.1667 \tau^3) + (\omega - 1)^5 (-0.5507 \tau^{1/2} - 3.9272 \tau + 5.2030 \tau^{3/2} - 1.6403 \tau^2 - 0.5600 \tau^{5/2} + 0.8910 \tau^3 - 1.1660 \tau^{7/2} - 0.5 \tau^4) .
\]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To evaluate droplet growth rate under subfreezing conditions, environmental temperatures of 0°, -5° and -10°C were considered. At each temperature, four levels of water vapor saturation (i.e. relative humidity \( P_{RH} = 25, 50, 75 \) and 100% \( P_s \)) were used. To account for the effect of
Table 1. Values of $K$ and $\omega$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$P_{RH}$ (mm Hg)</th>
<th>$P_{RHS} = 20% P_{RH}$</th>
<th>$P_{RHS} = 40% P_{RH}$</th>
<th>$P_{RHS} = 60% P_{RH}$</th>
<th>$P_{RHS} = 80% P_{RH}$</th>
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<td>$K \times 10^8$</td>
<td>$\omega$</td>
<td>$K \times 10^8$</td>
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<td>$75$</td>
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<td>$P_{RHS} = 20% P_{RH}$</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$P_{RH}$ (mm Hg)</td>
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dissolved salt in lowering the vapor density on the droplet surface, once again four levels of vapor saturation at the droplet surface at each $P_{RH}$ (i.e. $P_{RHS} = 20, 40, 60$ and $80\%$ of $P_{RH}$) were investigated. For a given value of $P_{RHS}$, the corresponding values of $K$ and $\omega$ were computed from $K = \rho_d/\rho_d$ and $\omega = \rho_w/\rho_d$ respectively and are shown in Table 1. Once the values of $K$ and $\omega$ are known the quantity $(R/R_o - 1)$ can be computed from eq 26.

Figures 1-3 show the effect of the environmental air temperature and relative humidity on the aerosol growth rate. It is evident that the growth rate increases with a decrease in $P_{RHS}$ and with an increase in $7$ for $7$ up to a value of $10^6$. It is also clearly demonstrated that the growth rate increases with the relative humidity. Since the log $(R/R_o - 1)$ vs log $(7)$ plots are approximately linear with $7$ for $7$ greater than $10$, cross plots of $(R/R_o - 1)$ vs $P_{RHS}$ with $P_{RH}$ as parameter are shown in Figure 4 for $T_a = 0^\circ, -5^\circ$ and $-10^\circ$ and at a $7$ value of $10^4$. For each temperature, an identical relationship can be formulated and expressed as

$$\left(\frac{R}{R_o} - 1\right) = a_{25} \left(\frac{a_n}{a_{25}}\right) \left(100 \cdot P_{RHS}\right)$$

(27)

where $a_{25}$ is the slope of $(R/R_o - 1)$ vs $P_{RHS}$ at $P_{RH} = 25\% P_s$, and $a_n$ is at any $P_{RH}$ greater than $25\% P_s$. Table 2 summarizes the $a_n$ values at three levels of temperature and at $P_{RH}$ equal to $25, 50, 75$ and $100\% P_s$.

From these tabulated values of $a_n$, it can be seen that the ratio of $a_n/a_{25}$ can be expressed in terms of $P_{RH}$ (percent of $P_s$)/25 for all the temperatures. A plot of $a_n$ vs $\theta$ (temperature in Kelvins) using $P_{RH}$ as parameter is shown in Figure 5. It can be seen that the dependence of $a_n$ on temperature is identical for all the values of $P_{RH}$ covered in this study. The variation of $a_n$ with temperature can be represented by

$$a_n = 2.2883 \times 10^{-14} \exp(0.07368 \theta) .$$

(28)

Replacing $a_{25}$ by eq 28 and the ratio of $a_n/a_{25}$ by $P_{RH}/25$ and plotting

$$\left(\frac{R}{R_o} - 1\right) = 2.2883 \times 10^{-14} \exp(0.07368 \theta) \left(\frac{P_{RH}}{25}\right) \left(100 - P_{RHS}\right)$$

vs $\tau$, all the computed values of $(R/R_o - 1)$ shown in Figures 1-3 can be brought to a single line, and the values of $(R/R_o - 1)$ can be well represented by

$$\left(\frac{R}{R_o} - 1\right) = 2.4917 \times 10^{-18} \exp(0.0737 \theta) \left(\frac{P_{RH}}{25}\right) \left(100 - P_{RHS}\right) (\tau)^{0.9890} .$$

(29)

Once the size of the condensation nuclei, i.e. $R_o$, the environmental temperature, the value $P_{RH}$, and the assumed value of $P_{RHS}$ are given, eq 29 can be used to compute the aerosol growth rate. It can be seen that for the same $\tau$, the radius of the aerosol increases with temperature exponentially and is directly proportional to the factors of $P_{RH}$ and $(100 - P_{RHS})$.

From the definition of $\tau = Dt/R_o^2$, for an initial value of $R_o = 0.15 \mu$m, a diffusion coefficient of water vapor through air $D = 0.26$ cm$^2$/s, $\theta = 273K$, $P_{RH} = 50\% P_s$, and an average value of $P_{RHS} = 50\% P_{RH}$, it takes $\tau = 0.01$ s to obtain a value of $R/R_o - 1 = 0.3343$. However, based on calculations given by Rubel (1978) for a hygroscopic phosphoric acid droplet of initial nucleus radius $0.15 \mu$m, it took only about $10^{-4}$ s to reach an equilibrium size of $R = 0.195 \mu$m in a $50\%$ relative humidity environment. It is about 100 times faster than the case of a pure water droplet (or ice). The discrepancy may be attributed to the fact that the rate of aerosol growth depends on the availability of water moisture in the air (i.e. absolute humidity). In the present analysis, a subfreezing environment is considered, and thus there is a much lower absolute humidity than
Figure 1. Variation of $(R/R_0 - 1)$ with $\tau$ at $P_{RHS} = 20, 40, 60$ and $80\% P_{RH}$ at $T_a = 0^\circ C$ and $P_s = 4.579$ mm Hg.

a. $P_{RH} = 25\% P_s$

b. $P_{RH} = 50\% P_s$

c. $P_{RH} = 75\% P_s$

d. $P_{RH} = 100\% P_s$
Figure 2. Variation of $(R/R_0 - 1)$ with $\tau$ at $P_{RHS} = 20, 40, 60$ and $80\% P_{RH}$ at $T_a = -5^\circ C$ and $P_s = 3.163$ mm Hg.

a. $P_{RH} = 25\% P_s$.

b. $P_{RH} = 50\% P_s$.

c. $P_{RH} = 75\% P_s$.

d. $P_{RH} = 100\% P_s$. 
Figure 3. Variation of \((R/R_0 - 1)\) with \(\tau\) at \(P_{RH} = 20\), 40, 60 and 80\% \(P_{RH}\) at \(T_a = -10^\circ C\) and \(P_s = 2.149\) mm Hg.
a. $T_a = 0^\circ C$, $P_s = 4.579$ mm Hg.

b. $T_a = -5^\circ C$, $P_s = 3.163$ mm Hg.

c. $T_a = -10^\circ C$, $P_s = 2.149$ mm Hg.

Figure 4. Variation of $(R/R_0 - 1)$ with $P_{RHS}$ at $\tau = 10^4$ and $P_{RH}$ at 25, 50, 75 and 100% $P_s$. 
in the case of the experimental work conducted by Rubel. Furthermore, the processes of chemisorption of water vapor by the hygroscopic nucleus and subsequently the dissolution of the acid nucleus may have greatly enhanced the processes of transporting water vapor to the surface of the enlarging aerosols.

CONCLUSIONS

An equation for transporting water vapor through an air mass to an enlarging water droplet has been established and solved with the method of Laplace transformation. The series solution is expressed in terms of a small dimensionless parameter $\tilde{K}$ (as shown in eq 25). Droplet radius variation with $\tilde{K}$ up to $\tilde{K}^4$ has been computed. The results covered three temperatures and four levels of relative humidity (25, 50, 75 and 100% of the saturation value). A simple expression relating the instantaneous droplet radius to its original radius, environmental temperature, relative humidity, percent of relative humidity on the droplet surface, and a dimensionless time $\tau$ was developed.
LITERATURE CITED


APPENDIX: EVALUATION OF $r_n$'s IN EQUATION 25.

Equation 25 is

$$R_0 = r_0 + Kr_1 + K^2r_2 + K^3r_3 + K^4r_4 + ...$$  \hspace{1cm} (25)

with initial conditions of

$$r_0 \big|_{t=0} = R_0, r_n \big|_{t=0} = 0, \quad (n = 1, 2, 3 ...).$$ \hspace{1cm} (A1)

Substituting eq 25 into eq 24 with $r_0 = R_0$, expanding the exponential term $\exp (-\sqrt{s/D}R)$ into a series, and retaining the terms up to $K^4$, we have

$$\int_0^\infty \left\{ DK + \left( R_0 + Kr_1 + K^2r_2 + K^3r_3 + K^4r_4 + ... \right) \left( \frac{d(R_0 + Kr_1 + K^2r_2 + K^3r_3 + K^4r_4 + ...)}{dt} \right) \right\} \left\{ 1 - \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K_0 + \frac{sK^2r_1^2}{2D} - \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K^3r_2 \right\}$$

$$+ \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K_0 \left( R_0 + Kr_1 + K^2r_2 + K^3r_3 + K^4r_4 + ... \right) + K_0 \left( R_0 + Kr_1 + K^2r_2 + K^3r_3 + K^4r_4 + ... \right)$$

$$\times \frac{d \left( R_0 + Kr_1 + K^2r_2 + K^3r_3 + K^4r_4 + ... \right)}{dt} \right\} \left\{ 1 - \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K_0 + \frac{sK^2r_1^2}{2D} - \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K^3r_2 \right\}$$

$$+ \frac{s}{D}K^3r_1r_2 - \frac{s}{D} \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K^3r_1^3 - \frac{s}{D} \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K^3r_3 + \frac{s}{D} \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K^4r_1r_3 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{s}{D} \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}K^4r_1^2$$

$$+ \left( \frac{s}{D} \right)^2 \frac{K^4r_1^4}{24} - \cdots \right\} \exp \left( -\sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}R_0 \right) = \omega \left( \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}}R_0 + \frac{D}{s} \right) \exp \left( -\sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}R_0 \right).$$ \hspace{1cm} (A2)

Designating $\dot{r}_1, \dot{r}_2, \dot{r}_3$ and $\dot{r}_4$ as $dr_1/dt, dr_2/dt, dr_3/dt$ and $dr_4/dt$ respectively, collecting terms containing the same power of $K$, and rearranging, we have

$$\int_0^\infty \left( D + R_0\dot{r}_1 + \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}}R_0 \right) \exp \left( -\text{st} \right) dt = \omega \left( R_0 \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} + \frac{D}{s} \right)$$ \hspace{1cm} (A3)

for $K$ and

$$\int_0^\infty R_0 \dot{r}_2 \exp \left( -\text{st} \right) dt = \int_0^\infty \left( R_0 \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} \dot{r}_1 - \dot{r}_2 \dot{r}_1 - R_0 \dot{r}_1 + SR\dot{r}_1 \right) \exp \left( -\text{st} \right) dt$$ \hspace{1cm} (A4)

for $K^2$ and

$$\int_0^\infty R_0 \dot{r}_3 \exp \left( -\text{st} \right) dt$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \left\{ \left( \sqrt{\frac{s}{2}} - \frac{s}{2} \right) \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} R_0 - \frac{R_0 \sqrt{s}}{2D} \dot{r}_1 + \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} \dot{r}_1 \right\} \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} \dot{r}_1 \right\}$$

$$- \left( 1 - R_0 \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} \right) \left( \dot{r}_1 \dot{r}_2 + r_2 \dot{r}_1 \right) - \left( 1 - R_0 \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} \right) \left( \dot{r}_1 \dot{r}_2 - R_0 \dot{r}_1 \right) \exp \left( -\text{st} \right) dt$$ \hspace{1cm} (A5)
for \( K^3 \), and

\[
\int_0^\infty R_0 r'_4 \exp(-st) \, dt = \int_0^\infty \left\{ -s \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} r_1 r_2 - \frac{s}{3} \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} r_1^3 + s r_1 r_2 \\
- \frac{R_0 s}{D} r_2 r'_1 r_1 + 2 \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} r_2 r'_1 r_1 - \frac{s}{2D} r_1^3 r'_1 - \frac{R_0 s}{2D} r_1^2 r'_1 \\
+ \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} r_1^2 r'_2 - r_3 r'_1 + R_0 \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} r_2 r'_1 - R_0 \frac{s}{2D} r_1^2 r'_2 \\
+ \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} r_1^2 r'_2 + R_0 \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} r_2 r'_2 - r_1 r'_2 + \left( R_0 \sqrt{\frac{s}{D}} - 1 \right) r_1 r'_3 \right\} \exp(-st) \, dt
\]

(A6)

for \( K^4 \).

Similarly, this process can be continued to collect terms containing \( K^5 \) and higher. But it can be seen from eq A2-A5 that the content, or the complexity for determining \( r_1, r_2, \ldots \), increases considerably. As indicated in eq A6, in order to evaluate \( r_4 \), terms of products of \( r_1 r_2, r'_1 r_2, r_1 r'_2, r'_1 r'_2, r_1 r'_3, r'_1 r'_3, r_1 r'_4, r'_1 r'_4, r_1 r'_3, r'_1 r'_3 \) and \( r_2 r'_2 \) have to be determined, and their Laplace transforms containing 49 and 112 terms with coefficients \((\omega - 1)^3\) and \((\omega - 1)^4\) respectively. The final Laplace transforms of \( r_1, r_2, r_3 \) and \( r_4 \) are

\[
\bar{r}_1 = (\omega - 1) \left( \frac{1}{s} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} + \frac{D}{R_0 s^2} \right)
\]

(A7)

\[
\bar{r}_2 = (\omega - 1)^2 \left[ \frac{2}{n^2} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} + \left( \frac{3D}{2R_0} - \frac{2D}{\pi R_0} \right) \frac{1}{s^2} - \frac{D}{2R_0^2 s^3} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} - \frac{D^2}{R_0^3 s^3} \right]
\]

(A8)

\[
\bar{r}_3 = (\omega - 1)^3 \left[ \frac{1}{n^3} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} \left( \frac{8}{\pi^2} - 1 \right) - \frac{D}{R_0} \left( \frac{3}{\pi^2} + \frac{8}{\pi^2} - \frac{3}{4\pi} - \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{\pi} \right) \right.
\]

\[
- \left( \frac{1}{8} - \frac{17}{3\pi} \right) \frac{D}{R_0^2 s^2} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} - \left( \frac{27}{8} - \frac{8}{3\pi} - \frac{4}{\pi} \right) \frac{D^2}{R_0^3 s^3} + \frac{35D^2}{8R_0^4 s^4} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} + \frac{3D^2}{R_0^5 s^5} \right]
\]

(A9)

and

\[
\bar{r}_4 = (\omega - 1)^3 \left[ \left( -\frac{4}{\pi^2} - \frac{1}{\pi} \right) \frac{1}{s} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} - \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{21}{8\pi} + \frac{4}{\pi^2} - \frac{4}{\pi^2} \right) \frac{D}{R_0^5 s^5} \right.
\]

\[
+ \left( \frac{1}{\pi} \right) \frac{D}{R_0^3 s^3} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} + \left( \frac{7}{8} - \frac{8}{3\pi} \right) \frac{D^2}{R_0^3 s^3} + \frac{D^2}{8R_0^4 s^4} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}}
\]

\[
- \frac{D^3}{R_0^5 s^5} \right) + (\omega - 1)^4 \left[ \left( \frac{8}{\pi^3} + \frac{10}{\pi^3} \right) \frac{1}{s} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}} - \left( \frac{85}{4\pi} + \frac{8}{\pi^2} \right)
\]

\[
- \left( \frac{7}{2} + \frac{16}{\pi^3} \right) \frac{D}{R_0^2 s^2} + \left( \frac{19}{8\pi} - \frac{33}{8} + \frac{80}{3\pi^2} \right) \frac{D}{R_0^2 s^2} \sqrt{\frac{D}{s}}
\]

\[
+ \left( \frac{946}{24\pi} - \frac{100}{8} - \frac{18}{\pi} + \frac{280}{9\pi^2} - \frac{3}{4} \right) \frac{D^2}{R_0^3 s^3}
\]
The inversions of $r_1, r_2, r_3$ and $r_4$ are, respectively,

\[
r_1 = (\omega - 1) \left( 2 \sqrt{\frac{D}{\pi}} + \frac{D_0}{R_0} \right) \tag{A11}
\]

\[
r_2 = (\omega - 1)^2 \left[ 4 \sqrt{\frac{D}{\pi}} + 2 \left( \frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{\pi} \right) \frac{D_0}{R_0} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{D_t}{R_0^{3/2}} \right] \tag{A12}
\]

\[
r_3 = (\omega - 1)^3 \left[ \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{8}{\pi^2} - \frac{3}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{D}{\pi}} - \left( \frac{13}{4\pi} + \frac{8}{\pi^2} - \frac{3}{2} \right) \frac{D_t}{R_0} \right] \tag{A13}
\]

and

\[
r_4 = (\omega - 1)^4 \left[ \left( -\frac{8}{\pi^2} - \frac{2}{\pi} \right) \sqrt{\frac{D}{\pi}} - \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{21}{8\pi} + \frac{4}{\pi} - \frac{4}{\pi^2} \right) \frac{D_t}{R_0} \right]
\]

\[
+ \frac{4}{3\pi} \frac{D_t}{R_0^2} \sqrt{\frac{D}{\pi}} + \left( \frac{7}{8} - \frac{3}{2\pi} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{2R_0^3} + \frac{D^2 t^2}{15R_0^4} \sqrt{\frac{D}{\pi}} - \left( -\frac{85}{4\pi} + \frac{28}{3\pi^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right)
\]

\[
+ \frac{16}{\pi^3} \frac{D_t}{R_0} + \left( \frac{76}{24\pi} - \frac{44}{8} + \frac{320}{9\pi} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{2R_0^3} \sqrt{\frac{D}{\pi}} - \left( -\frac{946}{48\pi} - \frac{100}{16} - \frac{9}{\pi} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8} \frac{D^3 t^3}{R_0^3}
\]

\[
+ \left( \frac{946}{48\pi} - \frac{100}{16} - \frac{9}{\pi} + \frac{280}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{R_0^3} + \left( \frac{946}{48\pi} - \frac{100}{16} - \frac{9}{\pi} + \frac{280}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8} \frac{D^3 t^3}{R_0^3}
\]

\[
+ \frac{16}{\pi^3} \frac{D_t}{R_0} + \left( \frac{76}{24\pi} - \frac{44}{8} + \frac{320}{9\pi} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{2R_0^3} \sqrt{\frac{D}{\pi}} - \left( -\frac{946}{48\pi} - \frac{100}{16} - \frac{9}{\pi} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8} \frac{D^3 t^3}{R_0^3}
\]

\[
+ \left( \frac{946}{48\pi} - \frac{100}{16} - \frac{9}{\pi} + \frac{280}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{R_0^3} + \left( \frac{946}{48\pi} - \frac{100}{16} - \frac{9}{\pi} + \frac{280}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8} \right) \frac{D^2 t^2}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8} \frac{D^3 t^3}{R_0^3}
\]

Replacing $t$ in terms of a dimensionless time $\tau$ by $t = R_0^2 \tau / D$, and substituting $r_1, r_2, r_3$ and $r_4$ into eq 25, it follows
\[
\left(\frac{R}{R_0} - 1\right) = K (\omega - 1) \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \tau^{3/2} + \tau\right) + K^2 (\omega - 1)^2 \left[\frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}} \tau^{3/2} + \left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{2}{\pi}\right) \tau\right]
\]

\[
- \frac{2}{3\sqrt{\pi}} \tau^{3/2} - \frac{1}{2} \tau^2 \right) + K^3 (\omega - 1)^3 \left[\frac{8}{\pi\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{8}{\pi} - 1\right) \tau^{3/2}\right]
\]

\[
\left(\frac{13}{4\pi} + \frac{8}{\pi^2} - \frac{3}{2}\right) \tau - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{6}{6} - \frac{68}{9\pi}\right) \tau^{3/2} - \left(\frac{27}{16} - \frac{20}{6\pi}\right) \tau^2
\]

\[
- \frac{33}{15\sqrt{\pi}} \tau^{5/2} + \frac{1}{2} \tau^3 \right) + K^4 \left\{ (\omega - 1)^4 \left[\left(\frac{8}{\pi^4\sqrt{\pi}} - \frac{2}{\pi^4\sqrt{\pi}}\right) \tau^{3/2}\right]
\]

\[
- \left(\frac{3}{2} + \frac{21}{8\pi} + \frac{4}{\pi^2} - \frac{4}{\pi^2}\right) \tau + \frac{4}{3\pi\sqrt{\pi}} \tau^{3/2} + \left(\frac{7}{16} - \frac{8}{6\pi}\right) \tau^2
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{15\sqrt{\pi}} \tau^{5/2} - \frac{1}{6} \tau^3 \right) + (\omega - 1)^4 \left[\left(\frac{20}{\pi^3\sqrt{\pi}} - \frac{16}{\pi^3\sqrt{\pi}}\right) \tau^{3/2}\right]
\]

\[
- \frac{28}{3\pi^2} - \frac{85}{45} - \frac{7}{2} + \frac{16}{\pi^3}\right) \tau + \left(\frac{76}{24\pi\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{11}{2\sqrt{\pi}} - \frac{320}{9\pi\sqrt{\pi}}\right) \tau^{3/2}
\]

\[
+ \left(\frac{946}{48\pi} - \frac{100}{16} - \frac{9}{\pi} + \frac{280}{18\pi^2} - \frac{3}{8}\right) \tau^2
\]

\[
+ \left(\frac{488}{240\sqrt{\pi}} - \frac{218}{15\pi\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{8}{5\sqrt{\pi}}\right) \tau^{5/2} + \left(\frac{165}{48} - \frac{144}{18\pi}\right) \tau^3
\]

\[
- \frac{217}{105\sqrt{\pi}} \tau^{7/2} - \frac{1}{2} \tau^4 \right)\right]\]. \tag{A15}
\]

Equation A15 can be further simplified to contain only one variable \(\tau\) and parameters \(K\) and \(\omega\) as follows:

\[
\left(\frac{R}{R_0} - 1\right) = K (\omega - 1) \left(1.1284 \tau^{3/2} + \tau\right) + K^2 (\omega - 1)^2 \left(0.7184 \tau^{3/2}\right)
\]

\[
+ 0.8634 \tau - 0.3761 \tau^{3/2} - 0.5 \tau^2 \right) + K^3 (\omega - 1)^3
\]

\[
(0.5555 \tau^{3/2} - 0.3451 \tau + 1.2628 \tau^{3/2} - 0.6265 \tau^2 - 1.2412 \tau^{5/2} + 0.5 \tau^3)
\]

\[
+ K^4 \left\{ (\omega - 1)^4 \left(-0.8165 \tau^{3/2} - 3.2035 \tau + 0.2394 \tau^2 + 0.0131 \tau^2 + 0.0376 \tau^{5/2}\right)
\]

\[
- 0.1667 \tau^2 \right) + (\omega - 1)^4 \left(-0.5507 \tau^{3/2} + 3.9272 \tau + 5.2030 \tau^{3/2} - 1.6403 \tau^2
\]

\[
- 0.5600 \tau^{5/2} + 0.8910 \tau^3 - 1.1660 \tau^{7/2} - 0.5 \tau^4 \right)\right]\]. \tag{A16}
\]

For large \(\tau\)'s eq A16 becomes