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# Atmospheric Sea Spray Modeling in the North-East Atlantic Ocean using Tunnel-Derived Generation Functions and the SUMOS Cruise Data set

William Bruch, C Yohia, Pierre Tulet, A Limoges, Peter Sutherland, a M J van Eijk, T Missamou, J Piazzola

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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

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### Key Points:

- With comparable wave-slope variance behavior in laboratory and field conditions we use laboratory-derived sea spray generation functions in the field
- Parameterized with laboratory generation functions and validated using field measurements, Meso-NH yields accurate sea spray concentrations
- By populating the atmosphere beyond 2.5 km altitude and 100 km inland, sea spray can intervene in a range of weather and climate processes

### Correspondence to:

J. Piazzola,  
jacques.piazzola@univ-tln.fr

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### Author Contributions:

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**Project Administration:** W. Bruch, J. Piazzola  
**Resources:** P. Sutherland, T. Missamou  
**Software:** C. Yohia, P. Tulet, A. Limoges, T. Missamou  
**Supervision:** J. Piazzola  
**Validation:** W. Bruch, A. Limoges  
**Writing – review & editing:** W. Bruch, P. Tulet, P. Sutherland, A. M. J. van Eijk

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# Atmospheric Sea Spray Modeling in the North-East Atlantic Ocean Using Tunnel-Derived Generation Functions and the SUMOS Cruise Data Set

W. Bruch<sup>1,2</sup> , C. Yohia<sup>3</sup>, P. Tulet<sup>4</sup>, A. Limoges<sup>1</sup>, P. Sutherland<sup>5</sup> , A. M. J. van Eijk<sup>2,6</sup>, T. Missamou<sup>1</sup>, and J. Piazzola<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO-UMR 7294), Université de Toulon, Toulon, France, <sup>2</sup>Nantes Université, Ecole Centrale Nantes, CNRS, LHEEA, UMR 6598, Nantes, France, <sup>3</sup>OSU-Pytheas, Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille, France, <sup>4</sup>LAERO, Université de Toulouse, CNRS, UT3, IRD, Toulouse, France, <sup>5</sup>Ifremer, University Brest, CNRS, IRD, Laboratoire d'Océanographie Physique et Spatiale (LOPS), IUEM, Brest, France, <sup>6</sup>TNO, The Hague, The Netherlands

**Abstract** This study contributes to the communal effort to improve understanding of sea spray generation and transport. For the first time, laboratory-derived sea spray generation functions (SSGFs) are parameterized in the Meso-NH mesoscale atmospheric model and are field tested. Formulated from the MATE19 laboratory experiments (Bruch et al., 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10546-021-00636-y>) the two SSGFs are driven by the upwind component of the wave-slope variance  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  (herein B21A), or both  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  and the wind friction velocity cubed  $u_*^3$  (herein B21B). In this first attempt to incorporate the SSGFs in Meso-NH, the simulations are run without a wave model, and the wave-wind SSGFs are assumed wind-dependent. Model evaluation is achieved with a new set of sea spray and meteorological measurements acquired over the 0.1–22.75  $\mu\text{m}$  radius range and  $U_{10}$  1–20  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  wind speeds onboard R/V Atalante during the 25 day SUMOS field campaign in the Bay of Biscay. The B21B SSGF offers particularly good sensitivity to a wide range of environmental conditions over the size range, with an average overestimation by a factor 1.5 compared with measurements, well below the deviations reported elsewhere. B21A also performs well for larger droplets at wind speeds above 15  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ . Associated with airflow separation and wave breaking, wave-slope variance allows to represent multiple wave scales and to scale sea spray generation in the laboratory and the field. Using Meso-NH simulations we find that sea spray may be transported inland and to altitudes well above the marine atmospheric boundary layer.

**Plain Language Summary** The effects of sea spray on weather and climate remain poorly understood as a result of sparse measurements and large uncertainties in the generation flux. With the aim of improving sea spray transport in atmospheric models, two sea spray generation functions derived from the MATE19 laboratory campaign are parameterized in the Meso-NH mesoscale atmospheric model. The simulations are run over the Bay of Biscay in February–March 2021, and are compared with super-micron sea spray concentrations measured during the SUMOS field campaign. Results show that the laboratory-derived generation functions allow accurate predictions of sea spray concentrations. Furthermore, simulations show that sea spray droplets can be transported far over land, and high into the atmosphere, highlighting their availability to contribute to a wide range of atmospheric processes.

## 1. Introduction

Marine aerosols, generated from and above the ocean surface, represent a major component of the natural aerosol mass (Jaenicke, 1984; Yoon et al., 2007), and can dominate over the open ocean and the often densely populated coastal regions (Katoshevski et al., 1999; Sroka & Emanuel, 2021). Primary aerosols include aqueous-phase sea spray droplets (E. Monahan et al., 1982; Troitskaya et al., 2018) and sea salt particles. Emitted into the marine atmospheric boundary layer (MABL) from the ocean surface, film and jet droplets are associated with bubble bursting, generating particles that dominate the 1–15  $\mu\text{m}$  radius range for winds above 4  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  at the  $U_{10}$  height reference, 10 m above the mean water level (herein MWL). At larger radii, spume droplets ejected from the wave crests are thought to dominate concentrations as well as the overall volume flux at wind speeds greater than 12  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ .

Air-droplet dynamic and thermodynamic processes occur as sea spray is transported, mixed, and diffused in the highly turbulent atmospheric boundary layer. Sometimes referred to as a sandwich layer, sea spray can form a

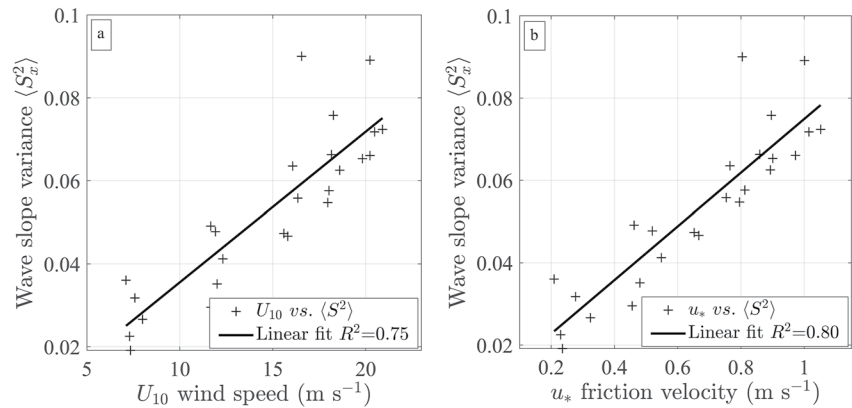
denser diphasic layer, damping the wave-wind momentum flux and saturating the surface drag (Andreas, 2004; Fairall et al., 2009; Lighthill, 1999; Rastigejev et al., 2011; Soloviev & Lukas, 2010). Sea spray is also thought to modify air-sea enthalpy fluxes through droplet evaporation and temperature changes (Fairall et al., 1994; Rastigejev & Suslov, 2019; Richter & Sullivan, 2014), earning the name of evaporation layer. The range of feedbacks are of increasing interest for the understanding of extreme weather events, such as tropical cyclones, typhoons (Andreas, 1992; Andreas & Emanuel, 2001; Bao et al., 2011; B. Zhao et al., 2017), and heavy rainfall events (Ramanathan et al., 2001). Marine aerosols also constitute an important source of cloud condensation nuclei, which have been shown to play an important role in tropical cyclone development (Hoarau et al., 2018; Sroka & Emanuel, 2021; Wang et al., 2014) and to affect Earth's radiative budget (Boucher et al., 2013; Jacobson, 2001).

The environmental conditions required for the generation of spume droplets and the resulting consequences on the characteristics of the MABL remain poorly understood (Bianco et al., 2011; Lenain & Melville, 2017; Rogowski et al., 2021; Veron, 2015; Veron et al., 2012). Significant predictive uncertainties for sea spray remain, with large deviations observed between commonly used emission schemes (de Leeuw et al., 2011; Veron, 2015), and between measurements and numerical simulations (Barthel et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2016; Grythe et al., 2014; Neumann et al., 2016; Saliba et al., 2019; Tsyro et al., 2011). As a result, weather and climate effects of sea spray remain elusive. To better understand their role in weather and climate, sea spray generation and transport in atmospheric numerical models must be improved.

Over the past three decades, sea spray generation functions (SSGFs) have gained in complexity. Often associated with wind speed alone (E. Monahan et al., 1986; Smith et al., 1993), sea spray generation has also been shown to depend on ocean waves (Fairall et al., 2009; Iida et al., 1992; Laussac et al., 2018; Ovadnevaite et al., 2014; D. Zhao et al., 2006) and sea water characteristics (e.g., Forestieri et al., 2018; Mårtensson et al., 2003; Mehta et al., 2019; Sellegrì et al., 2006). The vast majority of wave-dependent SSGFs rely on peak wave parameters such as significant wave height (Ovadnevaite et al., 2014), wave age (Laussac et al., 2018), and wave steepness (Xu et al., 2021). Nevertheless, some studies suggest that the often overlooked higher frequency end of the gravity wave spectrum represents a non-negligible and different contribution to the momentum, heat, gas and particle fluxes at the air-sea interface (Jähne & Riemer, 1990; Munk, 2009). The importance of considering different wave scales and complex surface geometry is illustrated in the laboratory study by Bruch et al. (2021) where the sea spray generation flux scales best with two formulations, one depending totally, and the other partially, on the upwind component of the multiscale wave-slope variance.

The omnidirectional wave-slope variance  $\langle S_{x,y}^2 \rangle$  is the sum of upwind ( $x$  direction) and crosswind ( $y$  direction) components so that  $\langle S_{x,y}^2 \rangle = \langle S_x^2 \rangle + \langle S_y^2 \rangle$ . Long-studied in the remote sensing community for the estimation of the near-surface wind speed,  $\langle S_{x,y}^2 \rangle$  was found to be highly dependent on the local wind speed with which it is thought to have a linear (Bréon & Henriot, 2006; Cox & Munk, 1954) or a power law (Hauser et al., 2008; Wu, 1972) relationship. The stage of development of wave components has also been shown to modulate wave-slope variance (Elfouhaily et al., 1997; Glazman & Pilorz, 1990). Considering the effect of wave slope on wave breaking (e.g., Stokes, 1880) as well as the importance of wave slope on airflow separation at high Reynolds numbers, the wave-slope variance has been used for a range of applications such as to scale the form drag (Plant, 1982) and air-sea gas transfer velocities (Bock et al., 1999; Glover et al., 2007). Despite the different scales between the laboratory and the field, the SSGFs proposed by Bruch et al. (2021) depend on the non-dimensional wave-slope variance, and may therefore also be valid in real world conditions.

Present-day regional atmospheric models allow the transport of aerosols, but significant uncertainties on the generation flux remain. Considering the difficulty to measure the jet and spume droplet generation flux in the field, our solution is to use both SSGFs formulated by Bruch et al. (2021) in real world conditions. To this end, we integrate the laboratory SSGFs in the mesoscale Meso-NH atmospheric model, and evaluate model performance using a new extensive and original data set constructed during the SUMOS field campaign in the Bay of Biscay. The study is divided in three parts. Section 2 investigates the validity of laboratory upwind wave-slope variance  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  in the field, and therefore of the laboratory SSGFs. Section 3 presents meteorological and sea spray measurements made during the SUMOS field campaign. Section 4 presents sea spray transport results using Meso-NH and the laboratory-derived SSGFs. Study results are discussed in Section 5. In the following, we demonstrate the potential of laboratory measurements by improving the accuracy of sea spray prediction in regional numerical models for jet and spume droplets. The Meso-NH model is then used to study the transport of these droplets over land and sea.



**Figure 1.** Wave-slope variance as a function of (a) wind speed  $U_{10}$  and (b) friction velocity  $u_*$  during MATE19. Laboratory data is represented by “+” signs.  $R^2$  values correspond to the linear regression functions represented by black solid lines.

## 2. Using Laboratory $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$ in the Field

### 2.1. First Order Linearity of $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$ With Wind Speed

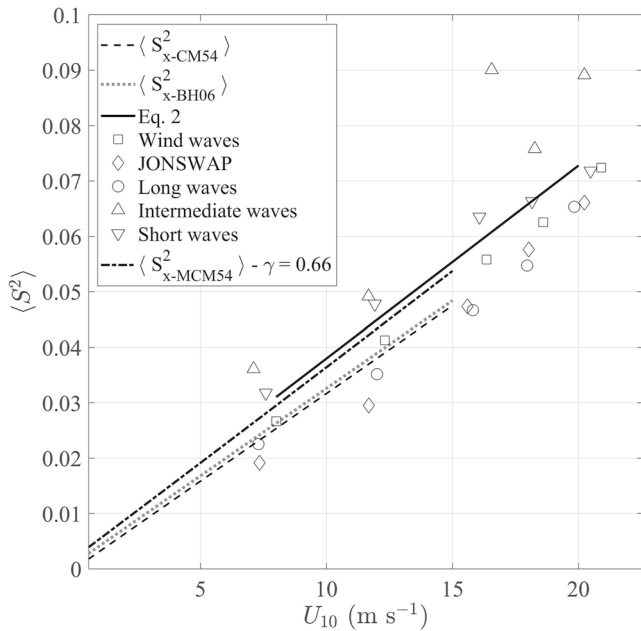
Bruch et al. (2021) reported sea spray fluxes derived from measurements conducted at the Sciences de l’Univers (OSU) Pytheas Institute large wave-wind interaction facility in Luminy (Marseille, France) during the MATE19 campaign. Two SSGFs were proposed. Both SSGFs, spanning 3 modes (cf. Appendix B), have a 3–35  $\mu\text{m}$  radius and 12–20  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  wind speed validity range. They depend on two different non-dimensional numbers that describe wave-wind interaction, and inherently, the characteristics of the airflow in the MABL. In this paper, we reserve the name B21A for the laboratory SSGF that depends on the upwind wave-slope variance component (denoted  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$ ) alone, and better describes the generation of the larger spume droplets. The second SSGF, herein denoted B21B, depends on a non-dimensional number  $P_S$ , and better describes the generation of the smaller film and jet droplets.  $P_S$  is written as a function of  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  and the friction velocity cubed  $u_*^3$ :

$$P_S = \frac{u_*^3}{\nu_a g} \langle S_x^2 \rangle, \quad (1)$$

where  $\nu_a$  is the viscosity of the ambient air, and  $g$  is the acceleration of gravity. This new nomenclature allows to better distinguish between the two SSGFs presented by Bruch et al. (2021).

We reuse the MATE19 (Bruch et al., 2021) wind and wave data, collected for five wind speeds ranging 8–20  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  ( $U_{10}$ ), and four wave-types: one pure wind-wave case, and three monochromatic wave cases generated with a mechanical wavemaker, which we refer to as the short, intermediate and long waves in order of increasing wave periods and amplitudes. During MATE19, the wave-slope variance was obtained from differences in the water surface elevation measured with an array of three wave gauges positioned 10 mm from each other and aligned with the general wind and wave direction, with a 256 Hz sampling frequency. This resulted in a cut-off wavelength of 20 mm. The laboratory  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  thus encapsulates the gravity wave spectrum. Because of the orientation of the wave gauges, wave-slopes were only measured in the upwind direction, and crosswind components were therefore omitted. We also use data from a fifth wave type that was studied during the MATE19 campaign. This fifth wave type consists of a JONSWAP (Hasselmann et al., 1973) wave configuration, generated by the wave-maker ( $f_p = 0.9$  Hz for  $U_{10} = 0$   $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ), and exposed to the same  $U_{10}$  8–20  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  range as the other four wave types. These data were not included in Bruch et al. (2021) because the more complex wave type required longer meteorological, hydrodynamic and aerosol sampling durations, thus preventing to accurately estimate the vertical sea spray flux.

Historically (Cox & Munk, 1954) and in more recent studies (Bréon & Henriot, 2006; Lenain et al., 2019), authors generally consider a linear relationship between wind speed and the wave-slope variance. Figure 1 represents  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  as a function of the  $U_{10}$  wind speed (cf. Figure 1a) and the friction velocity  $u_*$  (cf. Figure 1b), for the 5 wave types. The linear functions (solid black lines) fit the laboratory measurements (black plus signs) well, with  $R^2 = 0.75$  against  $U_{10}$ , and  $R^2 = 0.80$  against  $u_*$ . At first order we confirm the linear relationship between  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  and local



**Figure 2.** Wave-slope variance as a function of  $U_{10}$  wind speed for the upwind laboratory data (black open symbols and black solid line), and the upwind components of CM54 (dashed line) and BH06 (dotted line). MCM54 (dashed-dotted) represents the modified total CM54 wave-slope variance with  $\gamma = 0.66$ .

wind speeds reported in the literature. The linear regression function representing  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  as a function of  $U_{10}$  (cf. Figure 1a) is given by:

$$10^3 \langle S_x^2 \rangle = 3.48 \times U_{10} + 3.18 \pm c, \quad (2)$$

where  $c = 9.8$ , the root mean square error (RMSE) of the linear fitting function shown in Figure 1a.

## 2.2. Comparing Laboratory $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$ With Real World Observations

The validity of both laboratory SSGFs in real world conditions heavily relies on whether the laboratory  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$ , denoted  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  in the following, is representative of that observed in the field. One way of verifying this is to compare the overall linear relationship described by Equation 2 (Section 2.1), with the formulations reported by Cox and Munk (1954) (denoted CM54) and Bréon and Henriot (2006) (denoted BH06) derived from airborne sun-glitter and satellite observations, respectively. The upwind CM54 and BH06  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  relationships with  $U_{10}$ , denoted  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$  and  $\langle S_{x-BH06}^2 \rangle$  respectively, are presented in Figure 2 (dashed and dotted lines, respectively). The solid line in Figure 2 represents Equation 2, that is, the linear relationship derived from the MATE19 data. Both CM54 and BH06 assume linear relationships between  $\langle S_{x,y}^2 \rangle$  and wind speed, and present very similar relationships. The slopes of the laboratory and remotely sensed  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  relationships with  $U_{10}$  are also very similar, but a bias exists. Compared with  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$ ,  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  values are 14% higher (0.0044 deviation) at 8  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ , and 12.5% higher (0.007 deviation) at 16  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ . This comparison yields similar results to other studies, with a 12% deviation reported between the wave model proposed by

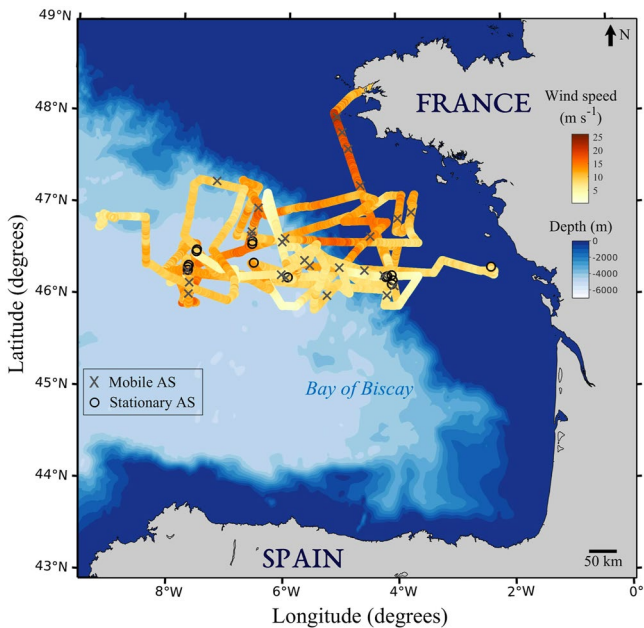
Elfouhaily et al. (1997), and  $\langle S_{x,y-CM54}^2 \rangle$  (Hauser et al., 2008). Considering the  $10^{-3}$  offset between  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  and  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$  at  $U_{10} = 0$ , we can write:

$$\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle \approx 1.1 \times \langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle + 10^{-3}. \quad (3)$$

In addition to the first-order linear relationship between  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  and  $U_{10}$ , we observe a higher-order dependence of  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  on the wave type. In Figure 2, markers indicate the different wave types; wind waves (“□” symbols), JONSWAP spectra (“◇” symbols), long waves (“○” symbols), intermediate waves (“△” symbols) and short waves (“▽” symbols). At each wind speed, the spread between the  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  values is consistently dependent on the different wave conditions tested during MATE19 (Bruch et al., 2021). The intermediate waves consistently lead to the highest  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  values and deviations from  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$ , followed by the short waves.  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  values gradually decrease from the wind waves to the long waves, and ultimately the JONSWAP wave type. With the exception of the intermediate waves, the deviations between the different wave conditions tend to decrease for wind speeds approaching 20  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ . This dependence on wave type shows the importance of considering the stage of development of the different wave components (Elfouhaily et al., 1997; Glazman & Pilorz, 1990).

Good agreement is found between  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  and  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$  for laboratory wind waves (cf. Figure 2, “□” symbol) despite the narrower wave spectra in the laboratory compared with the field. Earlier comparison between Cox and Munk (1954) and laboratory slope spectra was made by Plant (1982), who suggested that shorter fetch laboratory waves present higher slope densities and a higher dominant wave-slope for a limited frequency range, compared to the field. The higher laboratory slope density can therefore compensate for the narrowness of the slope spectrum. This is supported by the good resemblance between  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$  and the wind wave condition in the present study (cf. Figure 2), as well as comparable laboratory and field  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  ranges reported by Plant (1982) despite very different laboratory and field spectral peak frequencies.

We now consider the relatively large deviation between  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  and  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$  for short and intermediate waves. The wave-slope variance timeseries (with moving windows a few seconds wide—not shown here) show  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  peaks at the wave crests, with higher values found for the most asymmetric and strongly breaking (Bruch et al., 2021) short and intermediate wave types. In contrast, the remote sensing techniques underlying



**Figure 3.** The mobile (mobile aerosol stations) and stationary (stationary aerosol stations) aerosol stations during SUMOS are represented by the “X” and “o” symbols, respectively. The colored dots show the averaged true wind speeds measured at the top of the foremast each minute at each vessel location. The colored background represents the bathymetry using the ETOPO1 (Amante & Eakins, 2009) product, and shows the extent of the continental plateau at  $\approx 200$  m depth or less.

the CM54 and NH06 formulations do not consider breaking events. In fact, Cox and Munk (1954) removed the wave breaking contribution to  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  for analysis. Therefore, the higher  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  values in Figure 2 found for  $\langle S_{x-MATE19}^2 \rangle$  as compared to  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$  and  $\langle S_{x-NH06}^2 \rangle$  may well be attributed to the contribution of breaking.

Alternatively, the overall 14% difference between MATE19 and CM54 may be partly caused by wave directionality. By nature, ocean waves show anisotropic behavior. Wave-slope variance anisotropy is described by the ratio between the upwind and crosswind components  $\gamma = \frac{\langle S_y^2 \rangle}{\langle S_x^2 \rangle}$ .  $\gamma$  values reported by (Cox & Munk, 1954) in clean (no oil slick) water conditions approached 0.75 on average, reflecting relatively low anisotropy. More recent studies have suggested higher anisotropy in the field, with  $\gamma = 0.6-0.7$  estimated by the omnidirectional wave model proposed by (Elfouhaily et al., 1997). It is not unlikely that the anisotropy in the Luminy tunnel (where the MATE19 data was collected) was even higher. However, if we recalculate the upwind  $\langle S_{x-CM54}^2 \rangle$  from the total omnidirection CM54 formulation with  $\gamma = 0.66$ , we obtain a surprisingly good fit with Equation 2., as evidenced by the black dashed-dotted line labeled  $\langle S_{x-MCM54}^2 \rangle$  in Figure 2. Whilst this remains speculative, the general lack of comparable laboratory and *in situ* measurements of wave-slope variance in the literature hinders any deeper analysis.

In summary, MATE19 laboratory measurements yield a first order linear relationship between the upwind wave-slope variance  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  and the horizontal wind speed  $U_{10}$  that is comparable to the field. We assume that  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  is solely wind-driven, and consider Equation 2 to be applicable in the field. This constitutes a first step by the authors toward the understanding of wave-wind interaction at different scales, including between the laboratory and the field.

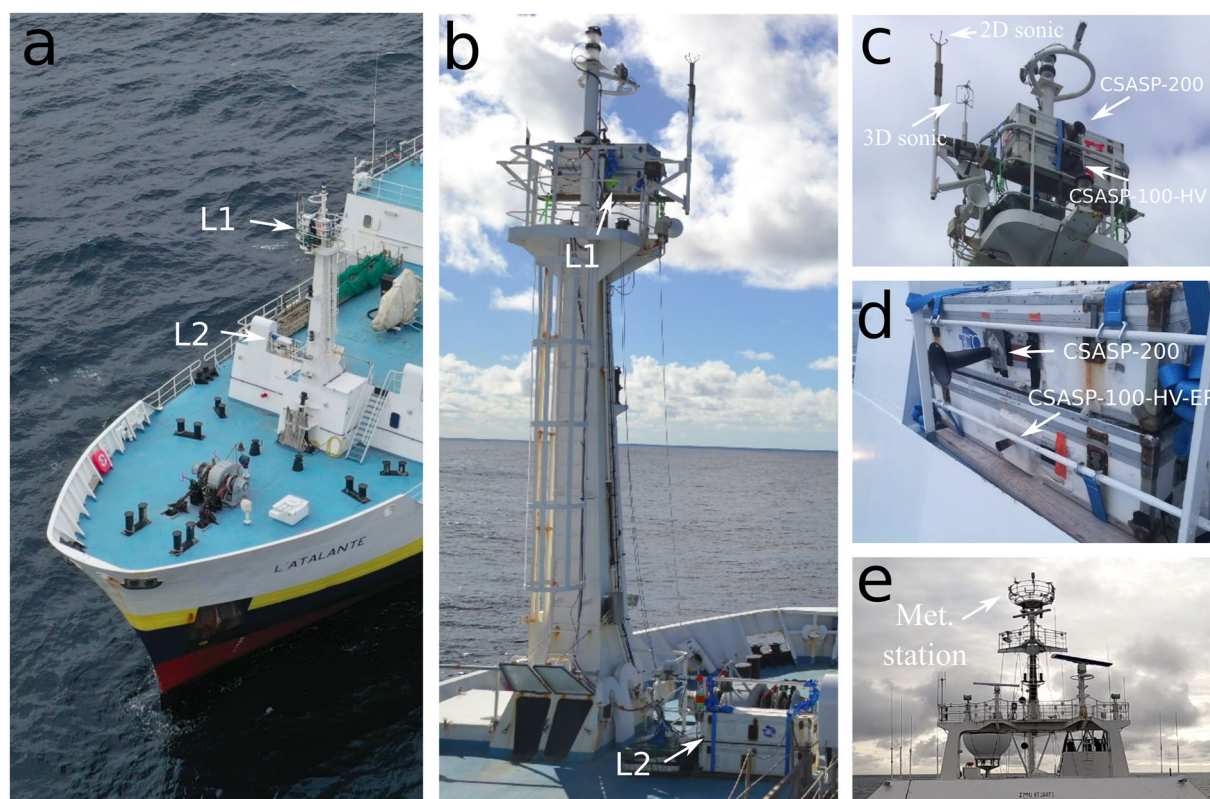
Several explanations to the comparable field and laboratory relationships are presented, such as possible compensation by higher laboratory wave-slope densities (Plant, 1982), the integrated contribution of wave breaking to  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  in the MATE19, and possibly different wave-slope directionality.

### 3. The SUMOS Field Campaign

#### 3.1. General Presentation

The SUMOS research cruise, funded by the Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales (CNES), took place in the Bay of Biscay onboard the R/V Atalante over 25 days between the 11 February and the 7 March 2021 (cf. Figure 3). The campaign was led by the Laboratoire d’Océanographie Physique et Spatiale (LOPS), with the contribution of the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography for aerosol and complementary meteorological measurements. The primary goal of the deployment was to validate and calibrate CFOSAT SWIM and SCAT instruments dedicated to the measurement of surface wave and wind fields. In this contribution, however, we focus on the aerosol and meteorological measurements.

Marine aerosol and meteorological measurements achieved using classical scattering aerosol spectrometer probes (CSASP) were continuous during the campaign, except for occasional maintenance. Along the vessel’s path presented in Figure 3, a total of 41 aerosol stations were identified (shown by “o” and “X” symbols) from the campaign data set by selecting segments that meet a number of requirements. These are the stationarity of measured variables over the duration of each station, as well as the sufficiently long time on station to allow good particle count statistics for all measured particle sizes (0.1–47.5  $\mu\text{m}$  range) (cf. Section 3.2.1). A further requirement is the maximum  $45^\circ$  angle between the CSASP inlet direction (aligned with the ship bow) and the true wind direction is required for aerosol probe sampling to be optimal, and to limit possible flow distortions around the bow (Bourras et al., 2009; Dupuis et al., 2003). The aerosol stations are separated into two categories: 1) stationary aerosol stations (SAS) corresponding to measurements made when the ship was stationary (black “o” symbol in Figure 1) with a speed below 3 knots, and (b) mobile aerosol stations (MAS) corresponding to segments during which measurements were acquired whilst the ship was on the move (dark gray “X” symbol in



**Figure 4.** An aerial drone view of the (a) front and (b) back of R/V Atalante's foremast. Front-views are shown of the two classical scattering aerosol spectrometer probes sensor couples in their protective cases at sample locations L1 (c) (courtesy of Emma Bent—LOPS) and L2 (d). (e) Photograph of the main mast and the meteorological station.

Figure 1) at speeds above 3 knots, reaching up to 11 knots. This distinction is a precautionary measure relative to the marine aerosol measurements. The apparent wind speed resulting from the combination of true wind speed with ship motions may reach values capable of altering the flow rate in the CSASP probes, despite the isokinetic (flow regulating) nature of the probe inlets. Furthermore, elevated ship speeds would sometimes lead to strong impacts of waves against the bow, capable of ejecting sea water droplets into the air. Some rare and very short peaks in concentrations were noted during the processing of the data, but were not removed as they represented minimal significance relative to the average concentrations.

### 3.1.1. Instrumentation

The meteorological and aerosol experimental setup is presented in Figure 4. The two-dimensional wind field ( $u$  and  $v$  horizontal components) is measured at the foremast and the main mast with WindObserver II 1390-PK-006/10M (Gill Instruments Limited, Hampshire, UK) ultrasonic anemometers (Figures 4c and 4e). On the basis of waterline measurements made at the beginning and the end of the campaign, the height of the foremast anemometer above the MWL is 17 m. The MeteoFrance weather station located on the main mast measures atmospheric variables such as Relative humidity (RH), air temperature (HMP35DE sensor—VAISALA, Vantaa, Finland) and water temperature (PT100-type sensor) at 1 Hz, approximately 28 m above the MWL (cf. Figure 4e).

For the measurement of aerosol concentrations, four CSASP (Particle Metrics Inc., Boulder, Colorado) were positioned at the front of the ship (cf. Figures 4a and 4b), and split into two sample locations, denoted L1 and L2. The CSASP-200 probes measure concentrations over 31 particle size bins of widths ranging 0.01–1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  radius, whilst the CSASP-100-HV and CSASP-100-HV-ER measure concentrations for a total of 60 particle size bins (rotating over one of four sets of 15 bins every 2 min) with bin widths ranging 0.25–1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  radius and 0.5–3  $\mu\text{m}$  radius, respectively. All four probes provided outputs at a frequency of 1 Hz.

A CSASP-200 (0.1–9.25  $\mu\text{m}$  radius) and a CSASP-100-HV (0.5–22.75  $\mu\text{m}$  radius) were placed high in the foremast (Figures 4b and 4c) for the measurements of size-dependent concentrations over the 0.1–22.75  $\mu\text{m}$  radius

range. This location is referred to as L1. The mean height of the foremast platform above the MWL during the campaign is estimated at 15.4 m. Positioned above one another, and raised approximately 50 cm above the foremast platform to further reduce possible perturbations caused by a nearby ship navigation light, L1 CSASP-100-HV and CSASP-200 inlets were approximately 16 and 16.2 m above the MWL, respectively. The L1 station is considered the most reliable, as this location is thought to be less impacted by air flow distortion induced by the vessel structure (Bourras et al., 2009; Dupuis et al., 2003), as well as bow splashing. L1 is therefore the main focus of the following study.

At the foot of the foremast, where larger particles are expected to be more frequent, a CSASP-100-HV-ER and a CSASP-200 allow to cover the 0.1–47.5  $\mu\text{m}$  radius range. At this second sample location, L2, the CSASP-100-HV-ER and CSASP-200 inlets were respectively located 8.95 and 9.15 m above the MWL. Though the L2 probes are positioned above the bow, it is likely that the airflow is more perturbed by splash droplets and the ship's structure, especially for smaller particles that have a higher response to turbulence. L2 data is not used in this study.

### 3.1.2. Environmental Conditions

More than 9 days with wind speeds greater than 10  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  were recorded at the foremast. These conditions accompanied with wave breaking were favorable for sea spray generation. Spume droplet ejection from breaking wave crests was observed above the 12  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  threshold (E. Monahan et al., 1986; Andreas et al., 2010) and captured on photographs (not shown here). The expedition set out from the port of Brest (France) on 11 February with low atmospheric temperatures nearing zero degrees Celsius, and strong North-Easterly winds exceeding 20  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ . Within 24 hr, the vessel reached the study area and was met with warmer atmospheric conditions. Other than during the initial cold spell, air and water temperatures were similar on average, with respective overall average temperatures of  $\approx 11.5^\circ\text{C}$  and  $12.0^\circ\text{C}$ . A persistent anticyclone positioned over the European continent prevented Westerly depressions originating off the North-American coast from reaching the study area during most of the campaign duration. This mostly led to Southerly and North-Easterly winds in the study area (cf. Figure 5b), which regularly resulted in fetch-limited conditions with proximity to Spanish and French coastlines, sometimes accompanied by South-Westerly swell. A hazy layer close to the sea surface was also observed in these high wind conditions, and was most likely associated to sea spray generation.

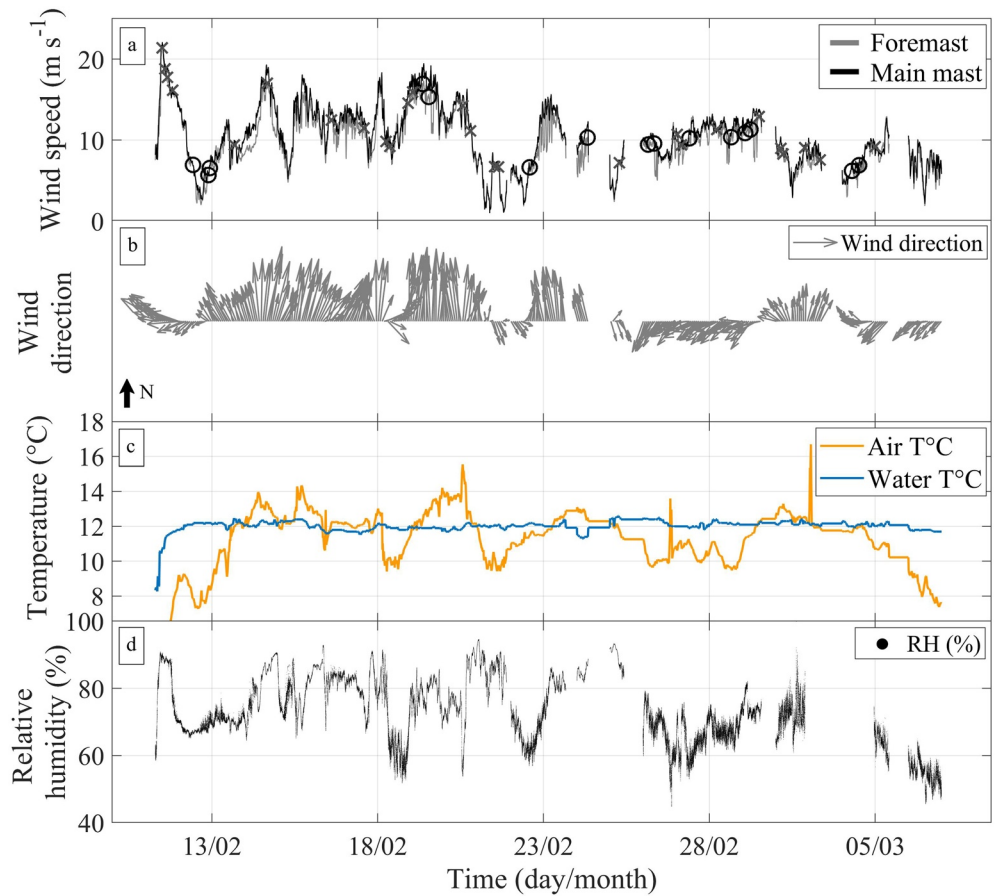
The timeseries of key meteorological measurements are presented in Figure 5. The true wind speed and direction at the main mast and foremast were calculated from the vessel course, apparent wind speed and direction. As shown in Figure 5a, a wide range of conditions were met, with foremast (gray line) and main mast (black line) wind speeds spanning 1–20  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ . Gaps in the data correspond to when the aerosol probes were not operating. The air (solid yellow curve) and the water (blue solid curve) temperature are represented in Figure 5c. As a result of the small average air-sea temperature gradients, weak air-sea heat fluxes and neutral atmospheric conditions are assumed. Relative humidity was measured continuously during the campaign, though issues with the main sensor resulted in some data gaps toward the end of the campaign. At 28 m above the MWL, the average *RH* over the entire campaign was equal to 73%. Following classical humidity profiles at sea, the average *RH* at the heights of L1 and L2 can be expected to be closer to 80%. Another humidity sensor placed at the foot of the foremast adjacent to L2 became saturated very early and throughout the campaign, most likely as a result of sea spray. This highlights the challenge of performing measurements in high wind speed conditions in which the air near the surface is heavily loaded with sea spray droplets.

## 3.2. Marine Aerosol Measurements

### 3.2.1. Sampling Correction Methods and Stationarity

Prior to the field campaign, the four CSASP probes were tested in the laboratory. In the absence of wind, all probes were set to measure the same background noise. The L2 probe concentrations were adjusted to the two reference L1 probes, calibrated with latex particles of known sizes prior to the experiment. After correction, L1 and L2 probes perform well against each other, with  $R^2 = 0.99$  and  $R^2 = 0.96$  respectively. Prior to the SUMOS deployment, the flow speed in the probes was monitored as a function of the incident wind speed. Probe output airflows were measured in the Pytheas Institute tunnel over the entire 0–15  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  wind speed range of the facility. Results reveal that the CSASP-100 probes show little sensitivity to the incident wind speed, unlike the CSASP-200 sensors that show a 25% increase in flow speed relative to factory settings at 15  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  (cf. Appendix A). It is possible to correct CSASP-200 concentrations as a function of the wind speed measured near the probe inlet, up to the 15  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  limit allowed at the laboratory for the elaboration of the correction function. Beyond this limit, the behavior of the probe is not well known.



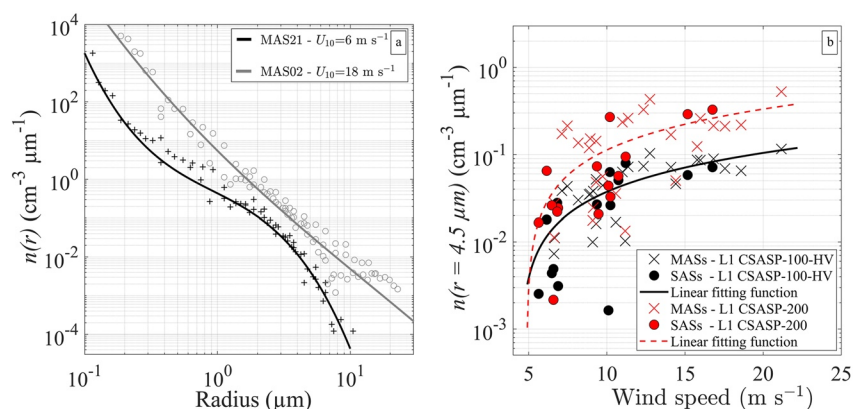


**Figure 5.** Meteorological data collected onboard R/V Atalante. (a) The timeseries of the true wind speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) measured at the main mast (black solid line) and the foremast (gray solid line). “x” and “o” symbols indicate the mobile aerosol stations and stationary aerosol stations. (b) The true wind direction represented by gray arrows (up is North), the lengths of which are proportional to the wind speed. (c) shows the air (orange solid line) and water temperature (blue solid line), in degrees Celsius. (d) shows the relative humidity (%).

The physical variables measured at each sample station (cf. Section 3.1.2) must be stationary over the duration of the considered segment, which has to be as long as possible to ensure maximum aerosol count statistics. Here, stationarity pertains to winds and waves, as these two quantities determine sea spray generation and transport. In the present study, station durations range from 40 to 220 min, and cover 90 min on average. For wind velocities measured at the foremast, stationarity is first verified with normal-like probability density functions (PDFs) obtained at each individual station. Generally, strong symmetricity can be observed for sample durations above 15 min, all the way up to the maximum station lengths. The stationarity of sea spray concentration measurements is also investigated for each individual particle size bin. For the rarer and larger particles, longer sampling durations sometimes exceeding 1 hr are required, lest the PDF peak be incomplete or truncated. The convergence of sea spray concentration averages was also verified. Following these tests, we set 5 particles per size bin as the lowermost number of droplets that need to be counted over the average station duration. Considering the CSASP probe sample rate of approximately  $12 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and the average station duration, concentrations below  $6.15 \times 10^{-5} (\text{cm}^{-3} \mu\text{m}^{-1})$  are discarded. This led to particles exceeding  $20 \mu\text{m}$  radius not to be considered. Such constraints highlight the significant challenge of measuring spume droplets in the field, and the very limited knowledge we have of them. The authors discuss measurement alternatives later in the article (cf. Section 5.2).

### 3.2.2. Sea Spray Measurement Results

The dependence of sea spray distributions on wind speed during SUMOS is investigated. The 11–12 February peak in wind speed leads to the highest measured concentrations for radii greater than  $5 \mu\text{m}$  (cf. timeseries presented in Section 4.2.2, Figures 8c and 8d), with almost 3,300 and 400 hourly counts made by the L1 CSASP-100-HV probe



**Figure 6.** (a) Aerosol distribution spectra showing number concentrations obtained with the L1 CSASP-100-HV as a function of particle radius. Mobile station data are presented with respective  $U_{10}$  wind speeds of 6 (gray solid line and circles) and 18  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  (black solid line and plus signs). In (b) the L1 CSASP-100-HV (black symbols and line) and CSASP-200 (red symbols and line) number concentrations at 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$  radius are shown as a function of the foremost true wind speed. Linear functions fit to the 41 stations show the overall relationships for the individual probes.

for particles of 10 and 20  $\mu\text{m}$  radius, respectively. The two solid lines shown in Figure 6a are polynomial functions fit to the averaged sea spray distribution spectra computed from L1 CSASP-100-HV measurements at two stations. At the MAS21 station,  $U_{10} = 6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (black solid line and “+” symbols) concentrations rapidly decrease with increasing droplet radius ( $r \gtrsim 5 \mu\text{m}$ ), as the wind speed is too low for the activation of spume droplet generation. The hump likely represents the jet droplet mode, which is known to be activated for winds above 4  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  (Blanchard, 1963; Spiel, 1994). At the MAS02 station,  $U_{10} = 18 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , concentrations (gray solid line and “o” symbols) are higher over the entire size range, especially above 10  $\mu\text{m}$  radius, with the contribution of a possible spume droplet mode extending the distribution to the maximum measurable droplet radius of 22.75  $\mu\text{m}$ . Aerosol number concentrations are generally found to be highest for the highest wind speeds, as shown in Figure 6b for droplets of 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$  radius. The increase in concentration with wind speed seems to tend toward a plateau, similar to that reported for whitecap coverage by (de Leeuw et al., 2011) or the surface drag (Edson et al., 2013), among others.

As an alternative for the linear fits shown in Figure 6b, power laws can be used. Power laws have been used to relate ocean surface characteristics to wind speed in a wide range of studies, such as to scale whitecap coverage (e.g., de Leeuw et al., 2011; E. C. Monahan and Muircheartaigh, 1980). They are found to be a better choice to describe the relationship between concentrations and wind speed for particles near or larger than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . For example,  $R^2 = 0.57$  at 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and  $R^2 = 0.72$  at 18  $\mu\text{m}$  (not graphically shown here). The weakening of the relationship for smaller droplets, which incidentally tends to become linear (cf. Figure 6b), illustrates how they may be less related to the local sea spray generation flux. We must also consider that sea state characteristics may not be correlated with the local wind speed. The notable deviations in the relationship between concentrations and wind speed (cf. Figure 6b) suggest that wind speed alone is not sufficient for the scaling of concentration measurements, and better results may be achieved with sea state information (e.g., Lenain & Melville, 2017).

Following previously evoked questions on the ability for CSASP probes to regulate inlet flow (cf. Sect. 3.2.1), we investigate the effects of ship velocity on the aerosol probes. Across the 41 stations, relative wind speeds at MAS are on average 4  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  higher than at SAS. The relationships between concentration and wind speed are compared for the L1 CSASP-100-HV (cf. Figure 6b, black) and CSASP-200 (cf. Figure 6b, red) probes, for mobile (MASs, “x” symbols) and stationary (SASs, “•” symbols) stations. The sample volumes of the CSASP-200 probe have been corrected according to the relationship presented in Appendix A. When inspecting the relationships between concentration and wind speed, we note an increasing overestimation by the CSASP-200 relative to the CSASP-100-HV for increasing wind speeds. Furthermore, though not graphically highlighted in Figure 6b, we find no significant difference between stationary and mobile stations for the CSASP-100-HV, but concentrations measured by the CSASP-200 were consistently higher at mobile stations, by a factor of 2.5 for true wind speeds lower than 13  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ , despite the correction applied to CSASP-200 sample volumes (cf. Section 3.2.1 and Appendix A). The discrepancy may still be caused by distortions by the CSASP-200 inlet, and the fact that the airflow used for the sample volume correction was not directly measured in front of the inlet during SUMOS. As a precautionary measure, the data collected by the CSASP-100-HV is used for the remainder of the study.

## 4. Modeling Sea Spray Transport With the Meso-NH Model

With the urgent need for more accurate sea spray models, the wide range of environmental conditions offered by the SUMOS data set provides a unique opportunity to validate wind speeds and sea spray modeled by Meso-NH using B21A and B21B SSGFs. Comparison between measurements and numerical simulations is made over 31 SUMOS sample stations encapsulated in the 23 day long Meso-NH simulation period, beginning on 10 February, and ending on 2 March 2021.

### 4.1. Configuring the Meso-NH Numerical Model

#### 4.1.1. Meso-NH Model Description

We use version 5.4 of the Meso-NH model (Lac et al., 2018). The model solves the conservation equations of momentum, mass, humidity, scalar variables, as well as the thermodynamic equation derived from the conservation of entropy under the anelastic approximation. The Runge-Kutta methods are applied for the momentum transport, and forward-in-time integration is applied for the rest of the model.

Meso-NH is coupled with the SurfEX module, which allows to simulate the atmosphere-surface exchanges (Masson et al., 2013), and in which our sea spray emission parameterizations are introduced. The module contains the SEAFLUX and the ISBA schemes, which allow to resolve the aerosol, heat, moisture and momentum fluxes at the air-sea interface. Above the surface, the ORILAM aerosol scheme (Tulet et al., 2005, 2010) handles aerosol transport by advection, sedimentation and turbulence, as well as dry and wet deposition (Seinfeld & Pandis, 1997). In the model, three sets of distributions represent the anthropogenic aerosols (which interact with the atmospheric chemistry in Meso-NH) (Tulet et al., 2003), the coarser deserts dusts (Grini et al., 2006), and marine aerosols (Hoarau et al., 2018). In ORILAM, size distributions are defined by lognormal functions (Tulet et al., 2005). A two-moment scheme is used, allowing the total concentration and the median radius of the different lognormally distributed aerosol modes to change. The standard deviation of the lognormal shapes is kept constant through-out the numerical domain. Though not activated in the present study, aerosols in Meso-NH can serve as cloud condensation nuclei using the coupling between the ORILAM aerosol scheme and the LIMA 2-moment microphysics scheme (Hoarau et al., 2018; Vié et al., 2016).

#### 4.1.2. Numerical Domain

The model domain is centered on the Bay of Biscay where the SUMOS campaign took place (cf. Figure 3). The westward and northward extent of the model domain (cf. Figure 10, Section 4.2.3) is adapted to the trajectory of the vessel and the dominant easterly and southerly winds observed during the campaign, thus limiting possible boundary effects on the simulated concentrations. The model initial and forcing fields are provided by the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF, <https://www.ecmwf.int/>) model every 3 hr. At each interval, predictive modeling with Meso-NH allows hourly model outputs. Along the horizontal axis, our North-East Atlantic study area is composed of a  $300 \times 300$  grid of regularly spaced cells, with a 2 km resolution. Along the vertical axis, the atmosphere is composed of 48 layers, ranging from the MWL to 24 km altitude, with an irregular spacing ranging from 5 m near the surface, to 4,000 m at the top of the domain. An odd-order WENO advection scheme is employed. Considering the 2 km horizontal resolution, numerical stability is ensured by setting the model timestep close to 40 s.

#### 4.1.3. Model Sea Spray Parameterization

The choice of sea spray functions parameterized in Meso-NH and presented in this study resides on a prior investigation by Bruch (2021) using the MACMod model (Tedeschi & Piazzola, 2011). These preliminary results indicate that the wind and wave-forced OVA14, B21A, and B21B SSGFs perform well when compared with concentrations measured in the field during the Mediterranean MIRAMER campaign (2008). OVA14 (Ovadnevaite et al., 2014) is a wind and wave dependent SSGF for smaller aerosols, that is, the  $0.015\text{--}3\ \mu\text{m}$  size range (cf. Table 1), formulated as a function of significant wave height  $H_s$ , friction velocity  $u_{*s}$ , and water viscosity  $\nu_w$ . Using OVA14 and both B21 SSGFs allows to reproduce the measurement size range during the SUMOS campaign. These source functions, presented in Table 1, are used for the present study numerical simulations.

Several modifications are necessary before introducing the SSGFs in the Meso-NH model. The B21A and B21B SSGFs need to be adapted (cf. Appendix B) because the model transports moments of the aerosol size distribution with lognormal functions (Seinfeld & Pandis, 1997). Furthermore, the impact of air temperature on sea spray generation is neglected by fixing the air kinematic viscosity to its value at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . This corresponds to the

**Table 1**  
*Sea Spray Generation Functions Parameterized in Meso-NH for the Present Study*

Parameterization	Size range ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Scaling parameter	$U_{10}$ ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )
OVA14	0.015–3 ( $r_D$ )	$u_s H_s / \nu_w$	3–18
B21A	3–35 ( $r_{80}$ )	$\langle S_x^2 \rangle$	12–20
B21B	3–35 ( $r_{80}$ )	$P_S = R_B \langle S_x^2 \rangle \frac{c_p}{u_s}^{-1}$	12–20

conditions for which B21B was developed on the basis of the MATE19 data. For ambient air temperature of  $10^\circ\text{C}$  or lower, it is estimated that changes in air kinematic viscosity could induce a 5% change in the scaling parameter  $P_S$  (cf. Table 1). The significant wave height required to force OVA14 (cf. Table 1) was provided by the  $0.1^\circ$  resolution ocean-wave WAM model (ECMWF-IFS), based on the work by Komen et al. (1996). Though no validation of the WAM model is performed in this study, this same model was used by Ovadnevaite et al. (2014) for the formulation of OVA14.

Meso-NH also requires specification of the droplet density. When using B21A and B21B, the density of the saline sea spray droplets is set to  $1,172 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ,

which corresponds to droplets that have reached their equilibrium radius at 80% ambient humidity. As discussed in Section 3.1.2, this approximately corresponds to the average humidity at the height of the aerosol probes. Not considering these evaporation effects would result in setting the droplet density to  $1,027 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ , that is, the droplet density of a freshly produced saline droplet at the surface. Test runs demonstrated that this would lead to 17%–19% higher droplet concentrations 15 m above the MWL, compared to simulations run assuming evaporation effects and an ambient 80% RH. For OVA14, we set the particle density to  $2,200 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ , corresponding to dry salt particles.

## 4.2. Meso-NH Modeling Results

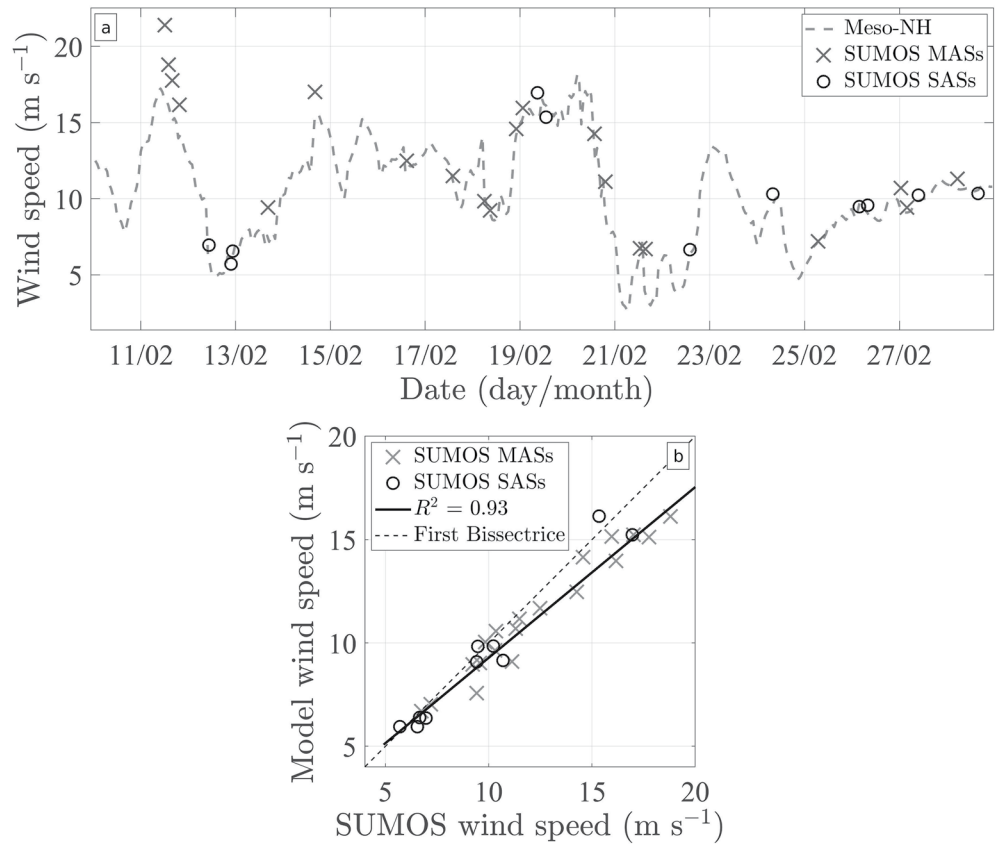
### 4.2.1. Modeling Wind Speed

Meso-NH wind speeds and concentrations predicted 15 m above the MWL are compared with SUMOS measurements made at a similar height. A nearest neighbor method is used to find the Meso-NH grid point closest in space and time to the average location of the R/V Atalante during each station. For graphical reasons (cf. Figures 7 and 8), the model data nearest to the last known vessel location is used when no match to an existing SUMOS station is found. The model successfully reproduces the wind speed variations, with  $R^2 = 0.93$ , as shown by the timeseries and regression plot in Figures 7a and 7b. Over the study period, mean observed and modeled  $U_{15}$  wind speeds are  $11.61$  and  $10.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , respectively. The model underestimates the wind speed by  $\approx 9\%$  relative to observations, with a RMSE of 0.98. Upon close inspection, Meso-NH progressively underestimates the experimental observations for increasing wind speed. An example is the failure of the model to successfully reproduce the peak of  $21.4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  measured on 11–12 February. The second highest 19–20 February peak, with observed wind speeds reaching  $16.9 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , is well represented. The good overall model performance for wind speed provides the right conditions to validate SSGFs, such as the presently wind-forced B21A and B21B SSGFs.

### 4.2.2. Modeling Sea Spray Concentrations

In this section we compare the modeled and measured aerosol number concentrations for super-micron particles. While this has been done for a large number of radii over the measured size spectrum, this section focuses on droplets of 2, 5, 10, and  $20 \mu\text{m}$  radius. Concentrations simulated 15 m above the MWL are compared with the foremost measurements. The corresponding statistics using the 31 stations are presented in Table 2, that is, the deviation factor, defined as the ratio of the mean measured  $\bar{n}_{obs}$  and modeled  $\bar{n}_{mod}$  concentrations. Model and measurement standard deviations  $STD_{mod}$  and  $STD_{obs}$ , root mean square errors  $RMSE$ , and coefficients of determination  $R^2$ , are also shown. Figure 8 presents modeled number concentrations obtained with B21B (solid orange line), B21A (solid blue line), and OVA14 (solid black line) SSGFs, alongside SUMOS concentration measurements (“o” and “x” symbols) for four radii, that is, 2 (Figures 8a), 5 (Figures 8b), 10 (Figure 8c), and  $20 \mu\text{m}$  (Figure 8d). The number of experimental datapoints decreases for larger particle sizes as a result of the threshold that was imposed for statistically reliable sampling (cf. Sect. 3.2.1.). As previously determined in Sect. 3.2.1, concentrations lower than  $6.15 \times 10^{-5}$  are discarded (cf. Figure 8d). OVA14 performance is not shown for particles greater than  $2 \mu\text{m}$  radius, considering the  $3 \mu\text{m}$  upper validity limit of the SSGF (cf. Table 1).

Although below the lower validity limit of B21A and B21B, we first compare number concentrations at  $2 \mu\text{m}$  radius using the three SSGFs. The OVA14 SSGF yields concentrations 2.12 times lower than measurements and very low  $R^2$  values of 0.035 (cf. Table 2), therefore providing modest results compared with B21 SSGFs. From Figures 7 and 8a it is clear that OVA14 performance is best at low to moderate wind speeds, as is the case after the 25 February (cf. Figures 7a and 8a). At higher wind speeds, the deviation factor can reach values as high as 7. In contrast, the model overestimates the measured aerosol concentrations for smaller radii, for example, for

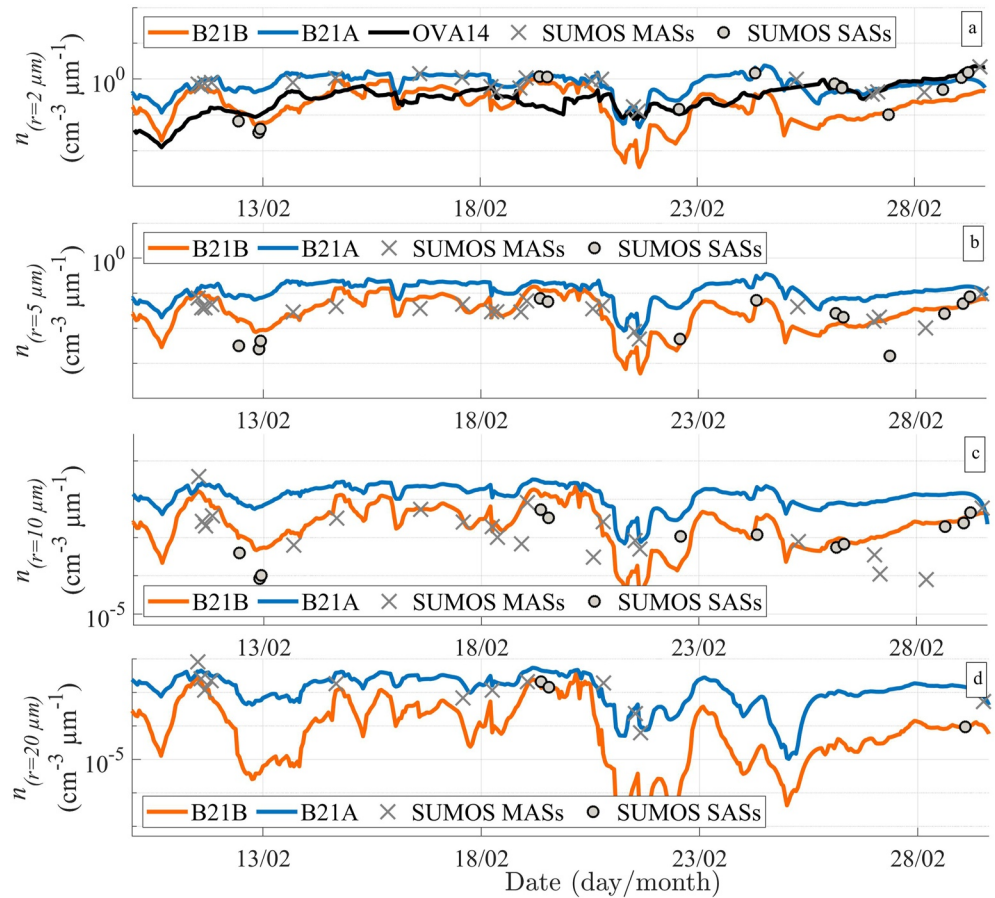


**Figure 7.** (a) Timeseries of SUMOS forecast wind speed measurements at mobile (“x” symbols) and stationary (“o” symbols) aerosol stations, and Meso-NH modeled wind speeds. (b) Regression plot comparing measured (horizontal axis) and modeled (vertical axis) wind speeds at the various stations, and the corresponding  $R^2$  value.

particles of  $0.1 \mu\text{m}$  (the smallest radii measured by our probes on the R/V Atalante) OVA14 yields deviation factors reaching 4 orders of magnitude. These large discrepancies may point to the absence of efficient deposition mechanisms in Meso-NH for very small particles, which will be investigated in the future.

We now turn our attention to the differences between B21A and B21B. For all radii depicted in Figure 8, the B21B SSGF demonstrates a particularly good sensitivity to the different conditions by better reproducing concentrations in higher (e.g., 11–12 February) and lower wind conditions (e.g., 13 February) compared with B21A. This is evidenced by better statistics ( $R^2$ ,  $RMSE$  and  $STD$ ) and deviation factors closer to 1. Over the  $3\text{--}20 \mu\text{m}$  radius range, the deviation factor  $\frac{n_{obs}}{n_{mod}}$  varies from 0.36 at  $3.5 \mu\text{m}$ , to 1.1 at  $20 \mu\text{m}$ , with an overall average of 0.7. In terms of concentrations, this corresponds to an overestimation by a factor of 1.5, which we consider a good result in view of typically higher deviations reported in literature (Chen et al., 2016; Saliba et al., 2019). In contrast, the B21A SSGF generally overestimates concentrations at low to moderate wind speeds, with highest deviations from measurements on the 13 February, reaching 1 and 2 orders of magnitude at 5 and  $10 \mu\text{m}$ , respectively (cf. Figures 8b and 8c). At high wind speeds, B21A seems to perform well, including over the lower spume droplet range ( $15\text{--}20 \mu\text{m}$ ). The results corroborate the conclusions by Bruch et al. (2021) who found in the MATE19 laboratory experiment that B21B is sensitive to a wide range of conditions, whereas B21A seems adapted to the spume droplet range at high wind speeds.

Although the comparison height of 15 m above MWL is relatively close to the surface, we can already see some impact of radius-dependent transport. The (experimental and numerical) concentrations of larger ( $10$  or  $15 \mu\text{m}$ ) particles scale quite well with wind speed, indicating that a stronger local production is immediately reflected in concentrations at 15 m. On the contrary, the concentration of  $2 \mu\text{m}$  droplets is less clearly related to the local wind speed, as shown by the example of higher concentrations observed over the 14–18 February period, marked by lower wind speeds. This corroborates the stronger relationship between the local wind speed and sea spray concentrations for the larger droplets, previously reported from measurements (cf. Section 3.2.2).



**Figure 8.** Modeled and observed sea spray concentrations for selected radii (a) 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , (b) 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , (c) 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , and (d) 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . Field observations, namely SASs and MASs, are respectively represented by “o” and “x” symbols. Simulations using B21A (solid blue line), B21B (solid orange line) and OVA14 (solid black line) are also represented.

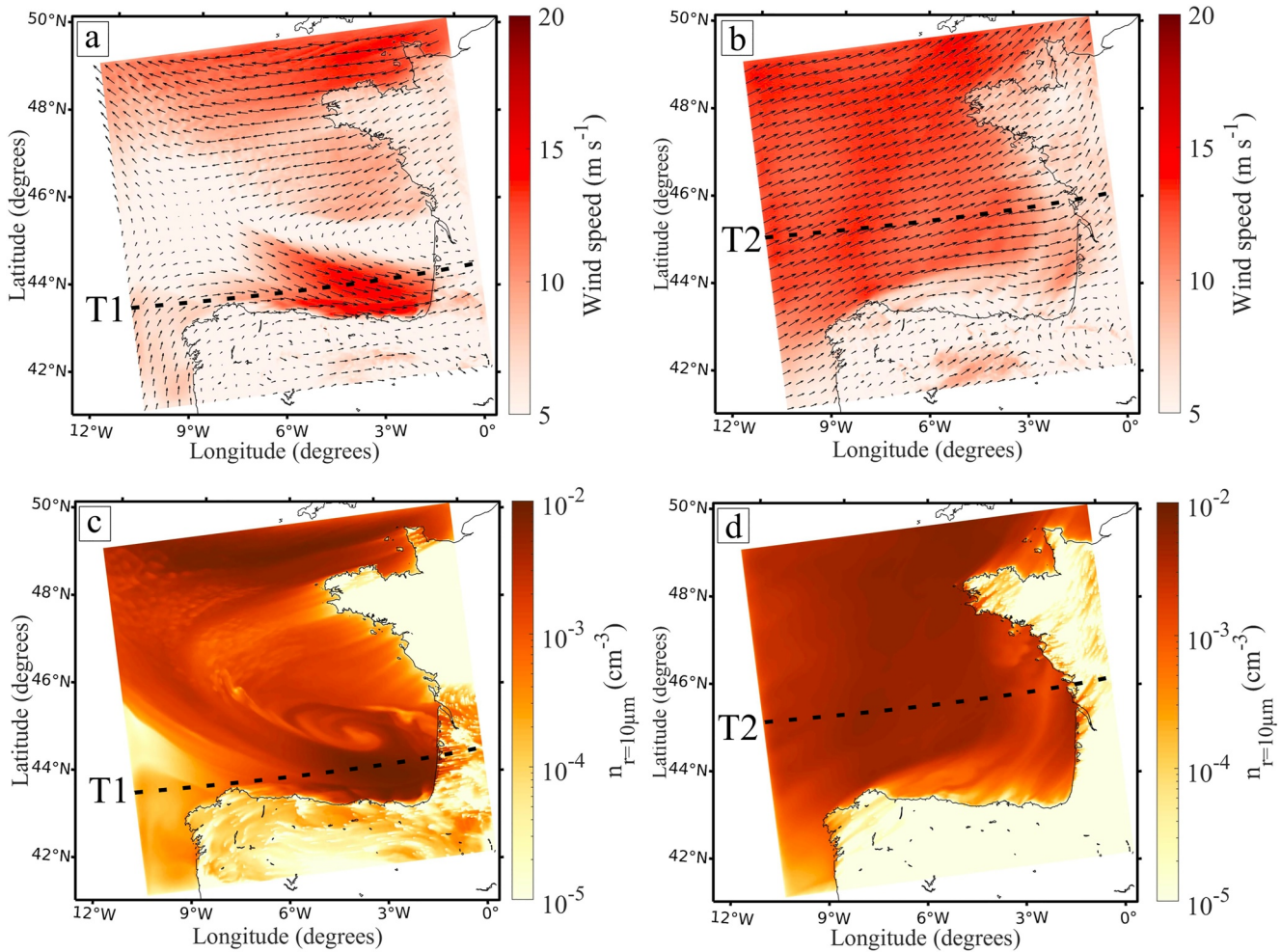
#### 4.2.3. Sea Spray Transport Beyond the Mixing Layer and Over Land

Our Meso-NH simulations using the B21B SSGF are used for the qualitative investigation of sea spray transport in and above the atmospheric boundary layer over land and sea. In the following we will consider two events. The first event took place on 10 February, when an East-bound North Atlantic depression with strong winds reaching 20  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  was located in the South of the Bay of Biscay. This event resulted in strong updrafts allowing for efficient

**Table 2**  
Measurement and Model Comparative Number Concentration ( $\text{cm}^{-3} \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ ) Statistics for B21A, B21B, and OVA14 Sea Spray Generation Functions at the 31 Stations Shared Between SUMOS Measurements and Meso-NH Simulations

	2 $\mu\text{m}$			5 $\mu\text{m}$		10 $\mu\text{m}$		20 $\mu\text{m}$	
	B21A	B21B	OVA14	B21A	B21B	B21A	B21B	B21A	B21B
$\frac{\bar{n}_{obs}}{\bar{n}_{mod}}$	0.65	1.67	2.12	0.235	0.62	0.21	0.69	0.46	1.1
$R^2$	0.65	0.47	0.035	0.34	0.60	0.24	0.47	0.16	0.42
RMSE	0.18	0.22	0.54	0.02	0.015	$5.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.3 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-3}$
STD	0.45	0.27	0.37	0.07	0.042	$8.5 \times 10^{-3}$	$5 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-3}$
$STD_{obs}$	0.33			0.024		$5.2 \times 10^{-3}$		$1.6 \times 10^{-3}$	

Note. Statistical measures include model standard deviation  $STD_{mod}$ , the  $\frac{\bar{n}_{obs}}{\bar{n}_{mod}}$  deviation factor, the coefficient of determination  $R^2$  and the root mean square error RMSE obtained relative to field observations. The standard deviation values of measured sea spray concentrations,  $STD_{obs}$ , are also shown. Results are presented for sea spray particles of radii 2, 5, 10, and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

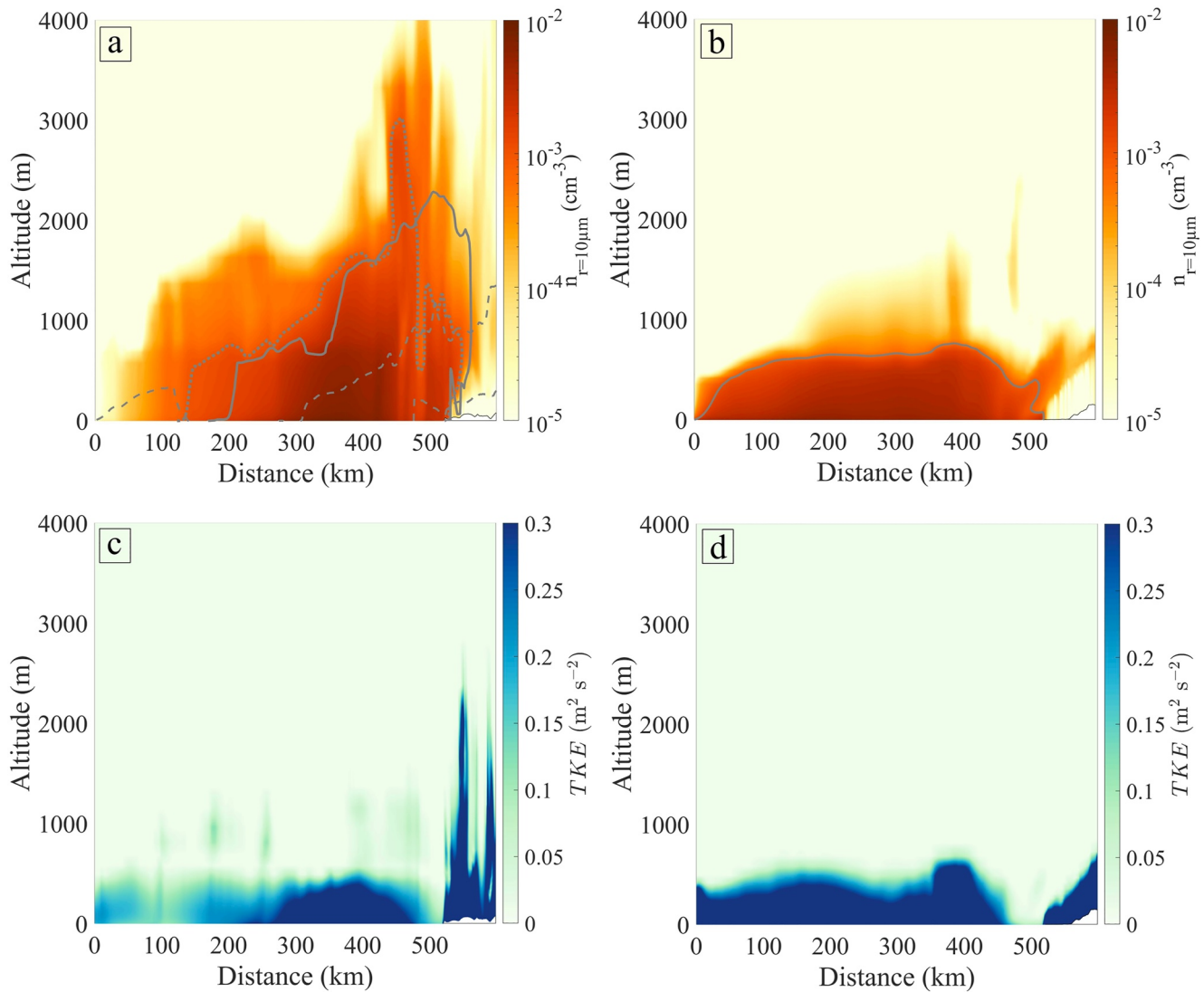


**Figure 9.** Meso-NH outputs using the B21B sea spray generation function on (a and c) 10 February 2021 at 12 a.m. UTC, (b and d) 16 February 2021 at 11 a.m. UTC, at 15 m elevation. Top panels show wind speed and direction. Bottom panels show concentrations for droplets of 10 μm radius. Marine atmospheric boundary layer characteristics along the vertical plane are later presented for each event along transects T1 and T2 (cf. Figure 10).

vertical transport of sea spray. The second event took place on 16 February when a persistent westerly flow with winds around 15 m s<sup>-1</sup> was present over the Bay of Biscay, resulting in a rather classical boundary layer with long fetch lengths and neutral conditions, favorable for the transport of sea spray over France. Figures 9 and 10 present on the left and right panels the first and second event, respectively. Figure 9 shows the horizontal wind field (cf. Figures 9a and 9c) and concentrations of 10 μm sea spray droplets (cf. Figures 9b and 9d). Figure 10 shows the vertical distribution of 10 μm droplet concentrations (cf. Figures 10a and 10c), as well as the turbulent kinetic energy *TKE* (cf. Figures 10b and 10d), as a function of the distance along the T1 and T2 transects starting from the western boundary of the numerical domain. Contour lines indicate the 10<sup>-3</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup> μm<sup>-1</sup> threshold at different times, above which we consider concentrations to be significant.

For the first event, Figures 9a and 9c shows a snapshot taken on 10 February at 12 UTC when wind speeds were decreasing as the low pressure system had started to subside and made landfall. Figure 10a shows the concentration data and the contour line (solid line) extracted along T1 for that same timestamp. Showing the temporal evolution of concentrations, dotted and dashed contour lines represent snapshots on 10 at 9 UTC and 24 UTC, respectively. For the second event, Figures 9b and 9d and 10c present a snapshot for 16 February at 11 UTC, when steady westerly winds and rather neutral conditions (cf. Figure 5c) resulted in a well-developed shear-driven MABL.

On 16 February, with fetch lengths of approximately 400 km, sea spray droplets reach an equilibrium height in the whereabouts of the 350 km mark along T2 (cf. Figure 10b). At the 350 km mark, the model suggests that the



**Figure 10.** Vertical cross-sections of  $10\ \mu\text{m}$  radius concentrations and  $TKE$  along transects T1 on 10 February at 12 UTC (a and c), and T2 on 16 February at 11 UTC (b and d), shown in Figure 9. Gray contours show the extent of the concentration threshold at Time + 0 hr (solid line) (a and b). In panel (a) contours are added at 9 UTC (dotted line) and 24 UTC (dashed line).

$10^{-3}\ \text{cm}^{-3}\ \mu\text{m}^{-1}$  concentration threshold for droplets of radius 3.5, 10, 15, and  $20\ \mu\text{m}$  reaches heights above the MWL of 950, 684, 40, and 10 m, respectively. This can be verified for  $10\ \mu\text{m}$  droplets in Figure 10b. The height of the mixing layer, usually spanning from several meters above the MWL to the top of the MABL, is highly related to the  $TKE$  (cf. Figure 10d) which is associated with the vertical aerosol transport through turbulent diffusion (e.g., Fairall & Davidson, 1986). At this same 350 km mark,  $TKE$  values are of  $0.5\ \text{m}^2\ \text{s}^{-2}$  at 500 m altitude, with a sharp decrease around 700 m. This sharp decrease marks the top of the MABL, above which we observe near-constant  $TKE$  values and near-homogenous concentrations as a function of height as we enter the mixed layer. Between the 400 and 500 km mark, lower wind speeds and turbulence result in a decrease in the vertical extent of sea spray concentrations and of the MABL (cf. Figure 10b), corresponding with a relatively low vertical sea spray transport flux and dominant gravitational settling.

For both events, marine airmasses are transported toward the Western coast of France. At the intersection between land and sea, such as between the 500 and 600 km mark in both T1 and T2 (cf. Figures 10c and 10d), high  $TKE$  values are observed as the surface topography, and inherently the surface roughness, are radically changed. This signals the formation of a turbulent coastal internal boundary layer (herein CIBL), which is generated as a result of roughness and possible thermal effects over land. The marine airmass, rich in sea spray, experiences an updraft



as required by continuity (Bradley, 1968; Garratt, 1990), is lifted above the CIBL by approximately 200 m as shown in Figure 10a (e.g., dashed contour lines) and Figure 10b (color scale). This rise of the sea spray plume can explain the low concentrations observed in this internal sublayer. Another possible explanation is the high turbulent dispersion of the portion of the aerosols that do enter the CIBL, marked by high *TKE* (cf. Figures 10c and 10d). As the air mass moves further inland and away from the sea spray source, the concentration gradient of the aerosols becomes negative as gravitational settling becomes more prominent. The larger particles are more rapidly deposited through gravitational settling. The smaller 3.5  $\mu\text{m}$  particles can travel further, and are still present in sizeable concentrations at the very eastern part of the numerical domain ( $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-3}$   $\text{cm}^{-3} \mu\text{m}^{-1}$  as compared to the lower  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $5 \times 10^{-4}$   $\text{cm}^{-3} \mu\text{m}^{-1}$  concentration range for 10  $\mu\text{m}$  droplets, cf. Figure 10d).

Figures 9 and 10 reveal additional responses of sea spray transport to environmental conditions. Whereas the previous discussion focused on aerosol dispersion in the MABL and their horizontal transport over sea and land, we will now discuss vertical transport to altitudes well above the MABL. To this end, we will return to the first case (10 February 12 a.m. (UTC), cf. Figures 9a and 9c and 10a and 10c). As the depression moves across the Bay of Biscay, filament-like patches of higher and lower concentration air masses alternate, reminiscent of gyre and eddy surface signatures (cf. Figure 9a). Using our model, this frontal depression characterized with cold air and warmer sea surface temperature (cf. Figure 5c) is predicted to drive convection and significant cloud formation in the air column over the 400 km mark. Amid convective cumulonimbus formation occurring on 10 around 8 UTC (not shown here), and high *TKE* values of approximately  $0.5 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$  at 2 km altitude (cf. Figure 10c), numerical simulations reveal the remarkable vertical extent of sea spray plumes reaching beyond the MABL and up to 3,300 m altitude in the case of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  particles in the air column over the 450 km mark, as shown by Figure 10a. For the same event and for 3.5 and 15  $\mu\text{m}$  droplets, concentrations above the threshold value reach up to 5,000 and 5400 m altitude, respectively (not shown here). These results highlight the importance of convective transport observed in the first case (10 February). Sea spray do not intervene in cloud physics in the present study simulations, but our results show that droplets can be transported to altitudes where they can contribute to cloud processes. This is especially the case for the smaller film and jet droplets, as the larger spume droplets are less efficiently transported vertically. Analogous to the second case, the sea spray transported by the wind reaches land, and an CIBL is formed. Sea spray plume reach higher altitudes of up to 1.2 km over land on 11 February at 0 UTC (UTC, cf. Figure 10a, dashed contourline). This reserve of sea spray ejected into the higher layers of the atmosphere progressively deposits to the surface, as the wind speed decreases and the CIBL collapses in the early hours of the 11 February. This sea spray deposition over land as the CIBL subsides corroborates the known relationship between size-dependent dry deposition and the predominance of laminar or turbulent regimes in and around a surface boundary layer (e.g., Carruthers & Choulaton, 1986; Fairall & Davidson, 1986; W. Slinn et al., 1978).

The three-dimensional study of sea spray dynamics in Meso-NH show that the size range represented by the laboratory SSGFs is transportable in the atmosphere. Sea spray is present over the continental with significant concentrations reaching 100 km inland all the way to the model's East boundary. In cases of strong sea spray generation during a frontal convective event, sea spray droplets are ejected more than 2,500 m above the sea level. Sea spray over the smaller film and jet range are therefore available to contribute to a range of atmospheric processes such as cloud microphysics and radiative forcing. Spume droplets are less efficiently transported over the study size range, but successfully transit through the evaporation layer, thus contributing to air-sea fluxes such as that of latent and sensible heat.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. On Using Laboratory $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$ in the Field

The necessity to consider the integral part of the gravity wave spectrum for a complete multiscale representation of the free surface geometry motivated the study of laboratory  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  by Bruch et al. (2021). In the present study, whilst the multiscale  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  drives sea spray generation, the assumed unique dependence on wind speed (cf. Section 2) reduces SSGF sensitivity to environmental characteristics such as sea state. The influence of wave type is shown from MATE19 laboratory data (cf. Figure 2, Section 2), but further study is required to understand the effects of non-linear wave-wave interactions on wave-slope variance, as the different wave scales between the laboratory and the field may change how they interact. As suggested by Plant (1982) and Donelan (2001), wave-wave non-linear interactions may modulate the contribution of different wave components to  $\langle S_{x,y}^2 \rangle$ . Furthermore, the similar relationship between laboratory (Bruch et al., 2021), airborne (Cox & Munk, 1954) and satellite-derived

formulations (Bréon & Henriot, 2006) raises a number of questions on  $\langle S_{x,y}^2 \rangle$  dependence on wave state, wave spectrum density (Plant, 1982) and directionality (Hauser et al., 2008; Romero & Lubana, 2022). As a possible answer, we suggest developing an analytical approach to scaling according to a wave-scale-dependent reference height, in a vein similar to a wave height-dependent effective height described by Iida et al. (1992) or Chalikov and Rainchik (2011) among others. Future improvement to this work should include the dependence of the multiscale  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  on both the longer swell-type wave components and near-surface wind characteristics in the field.

Beyond such open ocean studies, the study of sea spray generation extends to a range of environments such as lakes (Harb & Foroutan, 2022) and coastal areas (van Eijk et al., 2011), where the sea state is expected to be different. The increasing understanding of complex wave processes, as well as improvements in wind-wave-ocean models, promise greater sensitivity of simulations to mesoscale and sub-mesoscale processes such as wave-current (Marechal & de Marez, 2022; Romero et al., 2017) and wave-bottom interactions (Ancil & Donelan, 1996; Taylor & Yelland, 2001).

## 5.2. On Sea Spray Sampling

Despite average sampling durations of 90 min at each station, SUMOS aerosol measurements suffered from poor count statistics for particles larger than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . This is a common issue as spume droplets are not as efficiently transported in the airflow as smaller aerosols, and remain within the first few meters above the MWL (Section 4.2.3). Generally, aerosol probes are located at some distance from the source, for example, along the coastline (e.g., Piazzola et al., 2009; Smith et al., 1993), at deck height on a vessel (Laussac et al., 2018), or airborne (Fairall et al., 2014; Lenain & Melville, 2017). The difficulty to sample large enough numbers of large spume droplets highlights the need for metrological alternatives. Recent studies have also proposed the use of remote sensing techniques (Xu et al., 2021). Another promising alternative is the deployment of instruments onboard autonomous surface vehicles (e.g., Grare et al., 2021). Rare attempts have been made to compare field and laboratory aerosol concentrations (Iida et al., 1992) and generation fluxes (Nilsson et al., 2021). To our knowledge, this has never been achieved over the jet and spume droplet dominance ranges, as a result of the absence of a reliable experimental approach for the estimation of the generation flux in the field. Regardless of the preferred metrology, environmental conditions such as high wind speeds may affect performance such as by reducing sampling efficiency (cf. Section 3.1.1 and Figure 6b). Wave-wind laboratories offer solutions to test instruments and to detect possible instrument artifacts.

## 5.3. Toward a Complete Marine Aerosol Spectrum in Meso-NH

In the present study, the proximity of the probes to the water surface, the distance of the vessel from land, and our focus on super-micron particles, allow us to assume that the majority of measured aerosols are of marine origin. However, different aerosol types can coexist, such as in coastal zones. In future studies, numerical simulations should also include other aerosol species. This partly motivated the use of the OVA14 SSGF (Ovadnevaite et al., 2014) in Meso-NH to extend the study to submicronic marine aerosols. Unfortunately, using OVA14 led to an overestimate of the concentrations of smaller particles in the model when compared with SUMOS measurements. We list some reasons that may explain this. This discrepancy may point to the lack of efficient aerosol sinks in the model, for example, scavenging by rain (W. G. N. Slinn, 1983) and dry deposition. Alternatively, OVA14 may be overoptimistic about the actual production, or the measured concentrations may be underestimated because of issues with the CSASP-200 probe. It would be worthwhile to run Meso-NH with other SSGFs than OVA14, B21A, and B21B but this could not be achieved in the present study due to funding constraints.

Effects such as evaporation, and the contribution of sea state, are neglected in the simulations. Future efforts should include such effects, as droplets are expected to encounter strong humidity and temperature gradients as they transit in the MABL and beyond. Though previously led by computationally intensive Lagrangian modeling efforts (Veron, 2015), advances have led to the proposal of Eulerian models for the study of droplet-driven evaporation (Veron & Mieussens, 2020) and momentum transport (Rastigejev & Suslov, 2022).

## 6. Conclusion

The importance of considering the contribution of the shorter wave components and the geometric surface complexity to air-sea interaction has been highlighted by a number of authors (Bock et al., 1999; Glazman & Pilorz, 1990; Jähne & Riemer, 1990; Kudryavtsev et al., 1999; Munk, 2009; Plant, 1982). Indeed, peak wave parameters may not suffice to understand all the intricacies of the dependencies of the air-sea momentum flux on the sea state (Edson et al., 2013). The wave-slope variance offers a multiscale description of the sea surface, and was used in previous work (Bruch et al., 2021) to scale the laboratory sea spray generation flux. Considering that the nondimensional slope of roughness elements such as waves strongly contribute to wave breaking and airflow separation, the laboratory SSGFs proposed by Bruch et al. (2021) encapsulate key mechanisms that drive sea spray generation.

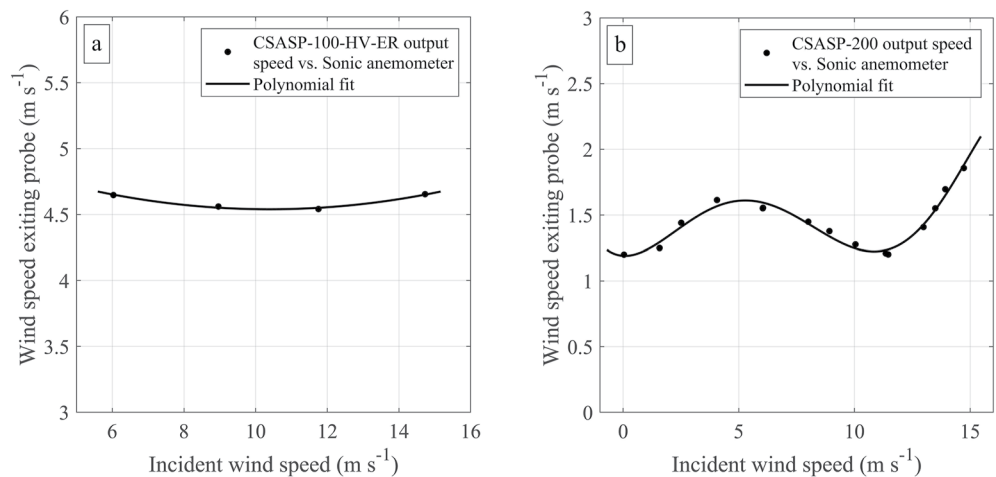
As part of our bottom-up approach, the real world validity of laboratory-derived SSGFs is tested using the Meso-NH atmospheric model for the generation and transport of super-micron particles (cf. Section 4). With remaining questions on wave-slope variance predictability (e.g., Hauser et al., 2008; Romero & Lubana, 2022), and the absence of wave-slope variance measurements in this study, the sea spray generation flux is calculated from the wind speeds predicted by Meso-NH and validated by the wind measurements made during the SUMOS research cruise. For the calculation of the  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$ , we therefore use Equation 2 (cf. Section 2.1) describing its laboratory relationship with  $U_{10}$  (Equation 2, Section 2.1). This is similar to previously proposed relations between  $\langle S_x^2 \rangle$  and  $U_{10}$  in the field (Bréon & Henriot, 2006; Cox & Munk, 1954), assuming a negligible modulation by the longer swell-type wave components.

The numerical wind speed (Section 4.2.1) and sea spray concentrations (Section 4.2.2) are validated over a wide range of environmental conditions using experimental data acquired during the North-Atlantic SUMOS campaign. Meso-NH succeeds in predicting wind speed over the study period when compared with SUMOS measurements (with  $R^2 = 0.93$ ) (cf. Section 4.2.1, Figure 7), which implies that the model provides correct input parameters to the SSGFs B21A and B21B. The numerical concentrations correspond best to the observations when using the B21B SSGF, which also offers the highest sensitivity to the wide range of environmental conditions. This corroborates with previous results by Bruch et al. (2021) when testing B21A and B21B in a laboratory environment. Overall, the difference between the concentrations predicted with B21B and B21A and those measured in the field was less than the order of magnitude commonly reported in the literature (Chen et al., 2016; Saliba et al., 2019). These differences are thought to result from significant uncertainties in previously reported SSGFs (Andreas, 1998; de Leeuw et al., 2011; Veron, 2015). Our results therefore show that the Meso-NH B21B model configuration can be a valuable tool for future studies of sea spray dynamics in the atmosphere. Considering the scarcity of sea spray measurements in the field, the SUMOS campaign offers a very rare and valuable data set for the study of sea spray in the MABL, and should help constrain weather and climate models (Boucher et al., 2013; Regayre et al., 2020).

Using the Meso-NH B21B model configuration, we perform a preliminary study to illustrate the possible horizontal and vertical extent of sea spray in the atmosphere. As discussed in Sect. 4.2.3., the model predicts that significant sea spray concentrations can be found over the continent, up to 100 km inland. As the maritime air flows over land, high *TKE* values are observed as the surface roughness is radically changed, and a new and turbulent internal sublayer is generated, lifting the sea spray higher in the air column. Low concentrations in the internal sublayer are explained by (a) the rise in the sea spray plume, and (b) the high turbulent dispersion of aerosols in the newly formed coastal boundary layer and the land boundary layers further downwind. During another event, convective conditions are shown to raise sea spray droplets more than 2,500 m above the sea surface. These two events allow to illustrate the effects of shear (cf. Figure 10a) and atmospheric stability (Figure 10b) on the vertical and horizontal transport of sea spray. Transport is also shown to be strongly dependent on droplet radius. Over the size range considered for this study, sea spray over the film and jet droplet size range are shown to be transportable, and can therefore contribute to a range of processes, such as cloud physics (e.g., Hoarau et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2022), radiative forcing (e.g., Jacobson, 2001; Regayre et al., 2020) and air quality in the often densely populated coastal area (Johansson et al., 2019; Piazzola et al., 2021). The larger spume droplets are less efficiently transported, and are concentrated closer to their source. By reaching the evaporation layer, the smaller spume droplets are therefore in a better position to contribute to air-sea heat fluxes. In cases of significant convective activity, the enhanced vertical mixing is likely to exacerbate the heat flux from the ocean to the atmosphere, including that induced by sea spray. The effects of sea spray modulated heat fluxes were not considered in the present simulations, and will be considered in future work.

### Appendix A: Studying CSASP Probe Flow Rates

Classical scattering aerosol spectrometer probes systems have been used in a variety of conditions and have been shown to be reliable (Frick & Hoppel, 2000; Petelski et al., 2014; Savelyev et al., 2014). An isokinetic inlet and a fan maintain a constant flow rate, and are essential components for the rerouting of the sampled particles with a limited perturbation by the probes. During the MATE19 deployment at the Luminy facility this was verified for the CSASP-100-HV-ER and CSASP-200 probes, in wind speeds ranging from 0 to 15 m s<sup>-1</sup>. A hot film wind sensor (E + E Elektronik, Langwiesen, Austria) was inserted through the side of a tube, printed to match the exact size of the probe outlets. The output flow rate of the probes was calculated from the probe outlet wind speeds (cf. Figure A1). Figures A1a and A1b present the velocities measured out of the CSASP-100-HV-ER and CSASP-200 outlets as a function of the wind speed measured next to the probe inlets.



**Figure A1.** Measurements of wind velocities exiting probes as a function of incident wind speed.

As shown in Figure A1a, the wind had little influence on the CSASP-100-HV-ER. Values were found to match factory settings. The CSASP-200 showed a non-linear response to the incident wind. The current hypothesis is that, despite its isokinetic inlet, the CSAPS-200 is subject to flow distortion in high winds due to accumulated static pressure. This is consistent with the higher sensitivity of the flow-regulating fan system in the CSASP-200 to static pressure fluctuations, as indicated by the manufacturer. This result highlights some of the many intricacies of aerosol measurements, and the good characterization of the volume of air sampled by the probe.

### Appendix B: Lognormal Expressions for the Laboratory SSGFs

In previous work (Bruch et al., 2021), sea spray droplets size distributions are described by a normal shape. Some authors formulate size distributions as the sum of lognormal distributions. Such lognormal distributions can be written for a number of modes  $m$

$$\frac{dF}{d\ln(r)} = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{F_i \tau^{-1}}{\sqrt{2\pi \ln \sigma_i}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\ln^2 \frac{r}{r_i}}{\ln^2 \sigma_i}\right) \quad (\text{B1})$$

where  $r_g$ ,  $\sigma_g$ , and  $F_i$  are the median radius, standard deviation and the size-dependent generation flux for a given mode  $i$ .  $r$  is the radius increment. In addition,  $\tau$  is the whitecap decay rate, and is given a value of 3.53 s (E. Monahan et al., 1986).

**Table B1**  
Lognormal Parameters for the Two Laboratory SSGFs

i	$\sigma_i$	$\mu_i$	B21A	B21B
			$F_i(\langle S^2 \rangle)$	$F_i\left(\frac{u_*^3}{v_{a,g}} \langle S^2 \rangle\right)$
1	1.55	2.5	$1.9 \times 10^7 \times (\langle S^2 \rangle)^{2.45}$	$1.68 \times 10^2 \times \left(\frac{u_*^3}{v_{a,g}} \langle S^2 \rangle\right)^{0.92}$
2	1.8	7	$6.85 \times 10^6 \times (\langle S^2 \rangle)^{2.3}$	$5.96 \times \left(\frac{u_*^3}{v_{a,g}} \langle S^2 \rangle\right)^{1.41}$
3	2.1	25	$4.62 \times 10^5 \times (\langle S^2 \rangle)^{2.39}$	$1.59 \times \left(\frac{u_*^3}{v_{a,g}} \langle S^2 \rangle\right)^{1.11}$

In the present study, for conformity with the Meso-NH aerosol module, B21A and B21B SSGFs are re-formulated as lognormal distributions. Upon comparison, no significant difference is observed between the resulting normal and lognormal shapes. The corresponding parameters are given in Table B1.

### Data Availability Statement

The databases used for the present study are made available (Bruch, Christophe, et al., 2023; Bruch, Peter, et al., 2023). The corresponding links to the data are <https://www.odatis-ocean.fr/en/data-and-services/data-access/> (SUMOS-SA aerosol field measurements) and <https://doi.org/10.34930/4bd472f3-683a-4b0c-ba9c-c9c1f20bff8a> (SUMOSModSpray23 Meso-NH simulation outputs). A video supplement showing horizontal distributions of sea spray concentrations simulated using Meso-NH and the B21B SSGF is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRrRdmYcfDY>.

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