Interactive comment on “Ternary homogeneous nucleation of H$_2$SO$_4$, NH$_3$, and H$_2$O under conditions relevant to the lower troposphere” by D. Benson et al.

K. Neitola
kimmo.neitola@fmi.fi

Received and published: 26 November 2010

What was the cut-off size of the used CPC? Introducing large quantities of ammonia will cause the particles to grow and if the size range of the freshly nucleated particles is close to the the cut-off size, adding ammonia causes the particles grow increasing the apparent nucleation rate due to the detection efficiency of the particle counter. Also finding that the unit nucleation rate was accomplished with the same concentration of H2SO4 implies that ammonia is taking part on the growth, not in the forming of critical cluster.

Other question is that was the sulfuric acid measured again from the side of the tube.
as previously? This might cause some error if the wall loss factor (WLF) is being mini-
mized. This might explain the very low H2SO4 concentration for nucleation compared
to other studies.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 10, 22395, 2010.