Introduction

The Cambustion Centrifugal Particle Mass Analyzer (CPMA, Olfert and Collings, 2005) is an aerosol classifier which selects particles according to their mass:charge ratio. It produces a monodisperse aerosol based on a mass metric, compared with a DMA which uses an electrical mobility metric.

The CPMA uses opposing electrical and centrifugal force fields to classify aerosol particles, a concept first developed by Ehara et al. (J. Aerosol Sci. 1996) as the Aerosol Particle Mass Analyzer (APM).

However, the CPMA’s unique design ensures that the classification field is stable across the classification zone, thereby ensuring a high throughput of particles at the selected mass:charge ratio, even at high resolution.

Commercially available since 2012, the CPMA is well established in aerosol research and metrology labs around the world.

Operating Principle

The CPMA’s classifier consists of two concentric rotating cylinders, with a variable potential difference between them. Particles which have a higher mass:charge ratio than that selected precipitate on the outer cylinder. Particles which have a lower mass:charge ratio than that selected precipitate on the inner cylinder. Particles which have the selected mass:charge ratio follow a trajectory through the classifier.

Crucially and uniquely to the CPMA, the cylinders are rotated at slightly different speeds. If the cylinders rotated at the same speed, only particles of the correct mass which also enter along the central trajectory would emerge.

The difference in rotation speed sets up a stable centrifugal/electric field across the classification region. A particle of the correct mass:charge ratio will therefore transit the classifier if it enters at any point along the annular radius. This reduces particle losses in the CPMA, even at high resolution.
The CPMA is a fundamental standard for particle mass — provided particles are singly charged, the mass setpoint depends on just the set speed and voltage, and the physical dimensions of the classifier (optional traceable gauging certificate available).

Unlike a DMA, the setpoint does not depend upon the gas properties (such as viscosity and mean free path) or ambient conditions (temperature and pressure), and furthermore is not affected by particle morphology.

**Applications**

*Monodisperse aerosol selection*

With the addition of a neutralizer (or charger), the CPMA may be used as an alternative to a DMA to select a monodisperse aerosol — with high resolution.

*Mass spectral density scan*

Add a particle counter (e.g. a CPC or aerosol electrometer), and the mass spectral density may be step-scanned (offline multiple charge correction is required).

Densities and morphology determination

In conjunction with a DMA, it may be used to determine the relationship between size and mass for an aerosol (fractal dimension), thus giving information about particle morphology [e.g., Olfert, Symonds & Collings, 2006]:

As a calibration standard

The CPMA may be used as a calibration standard for other instruments such as aerosol mass spectrometers or black carbon detectors [e.g., Cross et al., 2010]. In combination with a unipolar charger (e.g., Cambustion UDAC) and an aerosol electrometer, it may be used as a suspended mass standard [Symonds et al., 2013]:

Using this arrangement, a source of particles of accurately known mass concentration can be generated for instrument calibration. The screen can directly give a mg/m³ output when combined with an electrometer:

**Software**

The CPMA is a self-contained bench-top instrument with touchscreen interface:

### Force balance

**Particle trajectories through classifier**

**Transfer function**

**Output Fn**

3.71E-1 mg/m³
As with most commercial DMAs, the user can directly enter the desired setpoint (in mass or size metrics) and resolution, and the instrument is automatically controlled to give those settings. If a density is supplied, it is simple to switch between mass and size metrics.

Step-scanning can be performed directly from the instrument, with data being saved to a (supplied) USB flash memory drive:

The CPMA can scan the voltage alone, or both voltage and speed simultaneously which maintains a constant resolution over the scan. The sophisticated motor controller allows both fast acceleration and deceleration of the classifier.

The CPMA is also supplied with PC software including a remote control application, Excel tools for plotting data, and an Application Programming Interface library which allows control of the CPMA from your own programs. An example Excel/VBA project is included to allow automated mass-mobility exponent determination by controlling the CPMA, and a DMA (via an analogue output of the CPMA), with the data automatically scanned into an Excel workbook. The CPMA front panel interface can also be viewed and controlled via a web browser on a device connected to the same network. A remote file access facility allows data files to be accessed via a web browser.

Advantages

- Reduced particle loss at high resolution due to unique cylinder speed differential
- Stand-alone bench-top instrument with fully integrated touch screen interface, and built-in scan facility
- Simultaneous scanning of speed and voltage for maintenance of a fixed resolution over a scan (or fixed speed scan for increased scan speed)
- Direct entry of mass and resolution; automatic calculation of required speed and voltage
- Sophisticated remote control options, including integration with Excel and user programs; powerful Application Programming Interface
- Highly configurable analogue inputs and outputs
- A direct interface with particle detectors (serial and analogue interfaces); preset for many common CPCs & electrometers
- High particle flow possible for use with electrometer and for particle supply to other analyzers
- Auto-switching dual-range voltage source

Integration with other aerosol equipment (not supplied)

Particle Charger or Neutralizer

Bipolar or unipolar (depending on application); radioactive, X-Ray or corona.

Particle Detector(s) (e.g. CPC or electrometer)

The CPMA can interface with any detector with an analogue output connection, or to most detectors with an RS232 interface. Current serial communications presets include: Aerosol Devices MAGIC, Airmodus A20 CPCs, Brechtel 1720, Grimm CPCs, Palas UF CPCs, TSI 30xx and 37xx series CPCs (inc. water based CPCs), Keithley 651x electrometers and TSI 3068B aerosol electrometers.

Differential Mobility Analyzer (for density measurements)

The CPMA can set the voltage of many DMAs via analogue
control (if supported by the DMA). It is also possible to use the CPMA with the Cambustion DMS500 fast particle sizer.

**Aerosol Flowmeter Accessory**

Cambustion produces an optional aerosol flowmeter accessory for the CPMA for measuring the sample flow using an orifice plate, to maintain a constant resolution under dynamic conditions. The accessory interfaces directly with (and is powered by) the CPMA, and is fully integrated with the software.

**Specifications**

The absolute limits on the operation range of the CPMA are within the bounds on the diamond shaped areas below, depending on the sample flow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detector input (e.g. for CPC — detector not supplied)</th>
<th>RS232† (+1) or analogue (+2)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>See above for list of detectors which are known to be digitally compatible.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Remote external PC interface</th>
<th>Ethernet or RS232‡ or USB (with supplied adapter)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Control via Java web interface, text commands (terminal) or via PC remote application (or user software via API). Remote file access.</td>
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| Analogue inputs | × 3; ±10V, 20kΩ, single ended, configurable for control of any parameter, detector input or data logging |
| Analogue outputs | × 3; ±10V, 50Ω, single ended, output of any parameter, control of DMA voltage |

| Mass accuracy | 5% or better (across the whole size range) |
| Ambient sensors | Temperature and Pressure |
| Ambient conditions | 5 – 40°C non-condensing humidity |
| Data storage | USB flash drive (supplied) |
| Motor controller | 4-quadrant type with active braking |
| Auxiliary power port | 24 VDC, 0.6 A max |
| Software supplied | Integrated touchscreen interface |
|                   | Remote control application |
|                   | API dll for user programs |
|                   | Excel Utility and VBA API |
| Overall Dimensions & Weight | 520 mm w × 460 d × 380 h (inc. feet / handles). 50 kg |
| Power requirements | 90 – 240 VAC, 50/60Hz, 1,000 W maximum |
| Safety features | Guards, full interlocks, overcurrent / short circuit detection & imbalance detection, to BS EN 61010-020:2006 |

*Note that, as with all particle instrumentation, at smaller particle sizes some diffusion loss is inevitable.

†RS232 port can be used for either detector connection or remote control.

**Reference list**

A full list of publications which make use of the CPMA can be found at: [www.cambustion.com/publications/cpma](http://www.cambustion.com/publications/cpma)

- Soot Particle Studies - Instrument Inter-Comparison-Project Overview. E.S. Cross et al., Aerosol Science and Technology 44 pp 592–611 (2010)

For more information, a quotation or to see an animation of the CPMA, please visit or contact:
sales@cambustion.com           tel: +44 1223 210250
www.cambustion.com/cpma           fax: +44 1223 210190

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| Mass range | 0.2 ag* – 1,050 fg (depending on sample flow and desired resolution) |
| Equivalent diameter range at unit density | 7 nm* – 1.3 μm (depending on sample flow and desired resolution) |
| Rotational speed | 500 – 12,000 rpm |
| Voltage range | 0.1 – 1,000 V (auto-switching dual range: 0.1 – ~ 10 V ~10 – 1,000 V) |
| Classifier dimensions | 200 mm × 120 mm (1 mm gap) optional traceable gauging certificate available |
| Sample flow | Recommended 1.5 lpm (down to ~0.3 lpm with increased diffusion loss, up to ~8 lpm with decreased resolution) |