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# Identification and quantification of organic aerosol from cooking and other sources in Barcelona using aerosol mass spectrometer data

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## Abstract

PM<sub>1</sub> (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter <1 μm) non-refractory components and black carbon were measured continuously together with additional parameters at an urban background site in Barcelona, Spain, during March 2009 (campaign DAURE, Determination of the sources of atmospheric Aerosols in Urban and Rural Environments in the western Mediterranean). Positive matrix factorization (PMF) was conducted on the organic aerosol (OA) data matrix measured by an aerosol mass spectrometer, on both unit mass (UMR) and high resolution (HR) data. Five factors or sources could be identified: LV-OOA (low-volatility oxygenated OA), related to regional, aged secondary OA; SV-OOA (semi-volatile oxygenated OA), a fresher oxygenated OA; HOA (hydrocarbon-like OA, related to traffic emissions); BBOA (biomass burning OA) from domestic heating or agricultural biomass burning activities; and COA (cooking OA). LV-OOA contributed 28 % to OA, SV-OOA 27 %, COA 17 %, HOA 16 %, and BBOA 11%. The COA HR spectrum contained substantial signal from oxygenated ions (O/C: 0.21) whereas the HR HOA spectrum had almost exclusively contributions from chemically reduced ions (O/C: 0.03). If we assume that the carbon in HOA is fossil while that in COA and BBOA is modern, primary OA in Barcelona contains a surprisingly high fraction (59 %) of non-fossil carbon.

This paper presents a method for estimating cooking organic aerosol in ambient datasets based on the fractions of organic mass fragments at  $m/z$  55 and 57: their data points fall into a V-shape in a scatter plot, with strongly influenced HOA data aligned to the right arm and strongly influenced COA data points aligned to the left arm. HR data show that this differentiation is mainly driven by the oxygen-containing ions  $C_3H_3O^+$  and  $C_3H_5O^+$ , even though their contributions to  $m/z$  55 and 57 are low compared to the reduced ions  $C_4H_7^+$  and  $C_4H_9^+$ . A simple estimation method based on the organic mass fragments at  $m/z$  55, 57, and 44 is developed here and allows for a first-order-estimation of COA in urban air. This study emphasizes the importance of cooking activities for ambient air quality and confirms the importance of chemical composition measurements with a high mass and time resolution.

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## 1 Introduction

Atmospheric aerosols, liquid or solid particles suspended in air, are of interest due to their impact on climate (IPCC, 2007), visibility (Watson, 2002), ecosystems (Grantz et al., 2003), and human health (Nel, 2005). Numerous natural and anthropogenic sources directly emit particles into the air, or release gas-phase precursors whose oxidation products partition into the particle phase. Consequently, the chemical composition of ambient particulate matter (PM) varies considerably and consists of many different compounds (Tsigaridis et al., 2006). A major aerosol constituent is organic material (Murphy et al., 2006; Jiménez et al., 2009). However, knowledge about sources, fate and mutual interaction of gas-phase and aerosol organic compounds is still limited (Goldstein and Galbally, 2007). Therefore, the atmospheric evolution of organic aerosol (OA) is the focus of vast research activities (Jiménez et al., 2009).

The complexity of the atmospheric aerosol system places great demands on measurement techniques and instrumentation (Hallquist et al., 2009). Aerosol mass spectrometers (AMS) have become a widely applied tool (Baltensperger et al., 2010), because they allow chemical speciation, sizing and mass detection of submicron non-refractory PM at very high time resolution (Canagaratna et al., 2007). Zhang et al. (2005a) deconvolved and quantified the mass concentrations of hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA, a surrogate for primary OA, POA) and oxygenated OA (OOA, a surrogate for secondary OA, SOA) using organic mass spectra obtained with an AMS. Recently, AMS data have been combined with positive matrix factorization (PMF, Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Lanz et al., 2007; Ulbrich et al., 2009), a factor analytical model which outputs a number of constant source profiles (factors) and their varying contributions over time. This has led to new insights into sources contributing to OA and made the quantification of OA subtypes such as low-volatility and semi-volatile OOA (LV- and SV-OOA), HOA, and biomass burning OA (BBOA) possible (Lanz et al., 2007; Jiménez et al., 2009). With a growing number of measurements in very diverse environments (e.g. Aiken et al., 2009; Huang et al., 2010) and increasing resolution of the AMS (DeCarlo et al., 2006) more information on OA factors keeps being added.

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An OA factor recently reported in ambient air in several AMS studies is cooking organic aerosol (COA, Allan et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2011). Emissions from cooking activities had been identified as a potentially important source of PM much earlier (Gray, 1986). To a great extent an indoor air pollution problem (Fortmann et al., 2001), cooking aerosol can also contribute substantially to ambient PM concentrations: e.g. meat charbroiling and frying were estimated to account for about 16 % of fine organic carbon emissions or 6 % of total fine PM concentrations in the Los Angeles area (Hildemann et al., 1991; Schauer et al., 1996). Most studies focused on meat cooking emissions when investigating cooking aerosol; numerous compounds were identified in meat cooking OA, among which palmitic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, and cholesterol are the most prominent (Cass, 1998; Schauer et al., 1999). Charbroiling OA was also identified in ambient air by AMS-PMF analyses (Lanz et al., 2007; Slowik et al., 2010). Schauer et al. (2001) extended the research on cooking PM to emissions from cooking vegetables with seed oils; studies on Chinese food cooking emissions further broadened the range of emissions investigated (He et al., 2004; Zhao et al., 2006; He et al., 2010). Fatty acids are the dominant group of compounds emitted by all cooking types; they differ in fractions of saturated, unsaturated, and polyunsaturated fats depending on the type of oil or meat fat (Zhao et al., 2006). Mohr et al. (2009) characterized primary OA from cooking various types of meat with an AMS and found that the unit mass resolution (UMR) spectral signature is very similar to HOA. The differences in the high resolution (HR) spectra are larger due to the oxygen present in the fatty acids; however, the similarity of UMR spectra from HOA and COA might be one of the reasons for the relatively small number of locations where COA was detected with an AMS, despite its potential importance as a contributor to urban aerosol concentrations.

This paper presents a new method for identifying and estimating cooking contributions to organic aerosol. These techniques are demonstrated within the framework of the DAURE (Determination of the sources of atmospheric Aerosols in Urban and Rural Environments in the western Mediterranean) campaign in Barcelona, Spain. The

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intense and varied sources of primary emissions in this region provide an ideal test case for the feasibility of identifying cooking emissions and determining their importance relative to other OA sources.

## 2 Method

### 2.1 DAURE campaign, Barcelona (Spain)

Data for this study were acquired during the intensive field campaign DAURE in Barcelona, Spain, from 25 February to 26 March 2009. The DAURE campaign was set up to study the aerosol formation processes during the winter anticyclonic episodes, when the highest PM<sub>1</sub> levels are recorded both at urban and regional scale in the Western Mediterranean (Pey et al., 2010). Thus, the aerosol sampled during this period is characterized by higher ambient concentrations, specially of nitrate and carbonaceous components, when compared with the urban background mean annual average in Barcelona (Pérez et al., 2008b). A detailed overview of the campaign, its objectives, the groups involved, the measurements performed, and a summary of the results are presented in Pandolfi et al. (2011).

The city of Barcelona is situated on the shore of the western Mediterranean basin, wedged in between the sea and the Catalan coastal ranges running parallel to the coastline NE-SW. The Besos and the Llobregat river valleys perpendicular to the coast limit the city area to the NE and SW. The warm and dry Mediterranean climate, intense solar radiation and low dispersive conditions favor high levels of regional aerosol (Pérez et al., 2008a); additionally, high anthropogenic emissions lead to intense pollution episodes. Barcelona is one of the cities in Europe with the highest number of cars per km<sup>2</sup> (Ajuntament de Barcelona, 2007). Emissions from the Barcelona harbor, an expanded industrial zone in the river valley and the densely populated pre-coastal depression behind the coastal range all add additional PM to the Barcelona area aerosol concentrations (Querol et al., 2001). Outbreaks of Saharan dust events can affect the

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within the *European integrated project on aerosol cloud climate air quality interactions* (EUCAARI) and the *European monitoring and evaluation programme* (EMEP) all over Europe (Nemitz et al., 2011). DAURE data were included in that collection of data sets. A very similar dependence of CE on  $f_{\text{NO}_3}$  was recently reported by Middlebrook et al. (2011) for studies in the US. The time series of the estimated CE can be found in Fig. S1.

Positive matrix factorization (PMF, Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Lanz et al., 2007) was applied to both unit mass resolution (UMR) and high resolution (HR) organic spectra measured by AMS to investigate factors or sources contributing to the organic mass loadings. The UMR input matrices were prepared according to the protocol outlined in Ulbrich et al. (2009) and comprised  $m/z$ 's 12–300. The HR data and error matrices were generated as outlined in DeCarlo et al. (2010). Ions from  $m/z$ 's 12–115 were included in the data matrix; isotopes whose signal was constrained by the peak area of their parent ion were removed. Elemental analysis of the HR data and PMF factors was done using the software APES v1.05 within Igor Pro 6.22A. SMPS data were analyzed and corrected for multiply charged particles using the PSI inversion routine (Wiedensohler et al., 2011).

$b_{\text{ATN}}$  measured at 880 nm by the aethalometer was corrected for multiple scattering of the light beam within the unloaded filter matrix ( $C = 2.81$ , Collaud Coen et al., 2010) and for the “shadowing” caused by the deposited particles ( $f = 1.2$ ) following the procedure by Weingartner et al. (2003), yielding the aerosol absorption coefficient  $b_{\text{abs}}$ .  $b_{\text{abs}}$  and an absorption cross-section  $\sigma_{\text{abs}} = \sigma_{\text{ATN}}/C$  of  $5.91 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  ( $\sigma_{\text{ATN}} = 16.6 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  delivered by the aethalometer data software) were then used to calculate the BC mass concentration at 880 nm. All data are reported at local pressure and temperature conditions in local standard time (UTC+1).

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### 3 Results

#### 3.1 PM<sub>1</sub> time series and bulk chemical composition

Figure 1 shows the time series of the cumulative mass of organics (Org), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>), chloride (Cl), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>), sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>), and BC for the duration of the DAURE campaign. Charges are omitted for AMS nominally inorganic species, because non-ionic organosulfates and organonitrates also contribute to their concentrations (Farmer et al., 2010). The beginning of the campaign (25 February 2009–4 March 2009) and the second part (8–25 March 2009) were influenced by typical winter anti-cyclonic conditions in the Western Mediterranean Basin (WMB) which favor the accumulation of pollutants within the planetary boundary layer (PBL). Peak PM<sub>1</sub> concentrations of more than  $60 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  were measured. The land/sea breeze cycle strongly influenced the daily evolution of pollutant concentrations during these episodes. The period from 4–8 March 2009 was characterized by Atlantic advection, with strong winds and precipitation on 5 March 2009. Clean air masses coming from the Atlantic renewed the polluted PBL and lowered concentrations ( $5\text{--}15 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  of PM<sub>1</sub>). The meteorological diurnal cycle was less distinct. Further details on meteorological and dispersion conditions during DAURE can be found in Jorba et al. (2011) and Pandolfi et al. (2011). Since the SMPS was used to estimate the AMS CE, Grimm PM<sub>1</sub> data were added for comparison purposes. The campaign average concentration value of  $18.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  of PM<sub>1</sub> compares well to  $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  of PM<sub>1</sub> measured by combined AMS and aethalometer data. The coefficients of a least orthogonal distance fit shown in Fig. S2 ( $a = -3.60$ ,  $b = 0.99$ ) confirm the good agreement of AMS plus aethalometer vs. Grimm data.

The campaign average chemical composition of PM<sub>1</sub> is shown in the pie chart inset in Fig. 1. The organic fraction makes up the largest part with 43%, followed by nitrate (18%), sulfate (16%), BC (12%), and ammonium (9%). Molar ratios of the inorganic species indicate a neutralized aerosol throughout the campaign and low mass fractions of organosulfate and organonitrates compared to the inorganic forms, consistent with

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due to substantial contributions from the non-oxygen-containing ions at e.g.  $m/z$  29, 43, and 55. The substantial signal at the ion series  $C_nH_{2n+1}^+$  ( $m/z$  29, 43, 57, 71,...) from saturated alkanes and  $C_nH_{2n-1}^+$  ( $m/z$  41, 55, 69,...) from alkenes and cycloalkanes and the diurnal cycle exhibiting the typical rush-hour peaks around 09:00 and 22:00 LT (further increased later due to the decrease in boundary layer height) indicate an influence from vehicle emissions. The highest concentrations are measured around 11:00, linked to rapid SOA formation from primary emissions (Reche et al., 2011b). A small peak in the late afternoon, when the photochemical activity is very high, corresponds to the daily maximum of  $O_3$  concentrations (Pandolfi et al., 2011). The time series of SV-OOA shows a similar trend as the time series of the semi-volatile nitrate (see Fig. 3,  $R^2 = 0.22$ ) also seen in other locations (Lanz et al., 2007; DeCarlo et al., 2010); the diurnal patterns of both SV-OOA and  $NO_3$  (not shown) indicate that the temporal evolution of both components is rather driven by similar processes such as primary emissions, rapid chemical formation, and the diurnal cycles of land/sea breeze and boundary layer height than gas-to-particle partitioning based on volatility characteristics. SV-OOA can thus be described as of more local origin, less processed than LV-OOA.

The HOA factor is related to fossil fuel combustion. Diesel exhaust is typically dominated by recondensed engine lubricating oil and consists mainly of n-alkanes, branched alkanes, cycloalkanes, and aromatics (Canagaratna et al., 2004; Chirico et al., 2010), leading to high signal at the ion series  $C_nH_{2n+1}^+$  and  $C_nH_{2n-1}^+$ . Especially  $m/z$  57 is a major mass fragment and often used as a tracer for HOA (Zhang et al., 2005a). Given the high number of diesel cars in Barcelona (>45% of the vehicle fleet, Reche et al., 2011b) and proximity to the harbor, both vehicle and ship traffic could contribute to HOA (Murphy et al., 2009). However, the two distinct peaks in the morning and evening hours of the HOA diurnal cycle (Fig. 4) suggest traffic emissions as the main source; the sea breeze during the afternoon hours and the increase in boundary layer height have a diluting effect on the primary emissions. BC, particle number, toluene, benzene, and  $NO_x$  peak at the same time of the day (Pandolfi et al., 2011).

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Correlation of the HOA factor found here with the standard HOA mass spectral profile from Ng et al. (2011) yields an  $R^2$  value of 0.94. Consistent with the dominance of the reduced hydrocarbon ions ( $C_xH_y$ ), the O:C ratio is very low (0.03), comparable to Mexico City (0.06, DeCarlo et al., 2010). The H:C elemental ratio (1.96) is the highest among the PMF factors. The HOA time series (Fig. 3) correlates with benzene (measured by a proton transfer reaction-mass spectrometer PTR-MS, Ionicon Analytik), a natural constituent of gasoline and also formed by combustion ( $R^2 = 0.66$ ), supporting the identification of traffic as a major HOA source. The fraction of black carbon from traffic emissions was approximated by calculating  $b_{abs}$  at 880 nm of PM from vehicle exhaust ( $b_{abs}(880\text{ nm})_{traffic}$ ) using the model developed by Sandradewi et al. (2008), with an Ångström exponent  $\alpha_{traffic} = 0.9$  (Herich et al., 2011). The time series  $b_{abs}(880\text{ nm})_{traffic}$  and the HOA time series show a similar trend. However, the  $R^2$  value of 0.17 is too low to confirm correlation. There are spikes in the HOA time series not caught by the aethalometer model. This can be due to a lower time resolution of the aethalometer compared to the AMS or peaks in the organics time series assigned to HOA without or with lower concurrent BC emissions (i.e. possible variations in HOA/BC emission ratios of various vehicles or other fossil sources in the area). Removing 18 data points from spikes in the HOA times series (see Fig. S24) increases the  $R^2$  value to 0.52.

BBOA in the Barcelona region can be emitted by regional agricultural open fires or due to long-range transported pollutants from forest or agricultural fires, and possibly also from wood-combustion heating systems in suburban and rural areas (Reche et al., 2011a). Characteristic mass fragments of BBOA spectra are  $m/z$  60 and 73, attributed to  $C_2H_4O_2^+$  and  $C_3H_5O_2^+$ , respectively. The ions are fragments of anhydrosugars such as levoglucosan, which are produced during cellulose pyrolysis (Alfarra et al., 2007). The BBOA time series closely follows the time series of the organic mass fragment 60 (Fig. 3). Contributions from  $m/z$  29, 43, and 44 exceed the signals at  $m/z$  60 and 73 – however, as they are abundant in almost all PMF spectra, they cannot be used as tracer mass fragments for BBOA (Alfarra et al., 2007). Comparison of the BBOA

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factor found here with the standard BBOA spectrum from Ng et al. (2011) yields an  $R^2$  value of 0.8. BBOA contains high contributions from the oxygen-containing ion families. The O:C ratio of 0.24 is also higher than for the other primary sources, in accordance with findings by e.g. Alfarra et al. (2007) and Aiken et al. (2010). The time series of BBOA shows a similar trend as the  $b_{\text{abs}}(880\text{ nm})$  from wood burning ( $b_{\text{abs}}(880\text{ nm})_{\text{wb}}$ ), a surrogate for the BC fraction from biomass burning determined with the same method as  $b_{\text{abs}}(880\text{ nm})_{\text{traffic}}$  and using  $\alpha_{\text{wb}} = 1.9$  (Herich et al., 2011; Sandradewi et al., 2008). As the BBOA time series exhibits less spiky data than the HOA time series, the  $R^2$  value (0.31) is higher than for  $b_{\text{abs}}(880\text{ nm})_{\text{traffic}}$  and HOA without removing the spikes from the fit. The low contribution of wood burning to BC measured in Barcelona ( $\sim 10\%$  according to the aethalometer model) and related to this the uncertainties of ( $b_{\text{abs}}(880\text{ nm})_{\text{wb}}$ ) as a function of  $\alpha_{\text{wb}}$  probably lead to the weak correlation. BBOA exhibits a much smoother diurnal cycle than the other primary sources with no big peaks, which suggests that its sources are mainly outside of the city. As observed by Reche et al. (2011a), concentrations during the night are slightly elevated due to smoke from open agricultural burning and heating systems in the surrounding valleys brought into the city by the land and downslope breezes.

COA has recently been identified as a major contributor to OA in several environments (Allan et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2010; Crippa et al., 2011). The COA spectrum exhibits signal from the same hydrocarbon ion series as the HOA spectrum; however, the oxygen-containing ions substantially contribute to e.g.  $m/z$ 's 43, 55, and 57, consistent with the high degree of oxygenation of fatty acids, which are a major constituent of COA (Mohr et al., 2009; He et al., 2010). Consequently the elemental O:C ratio is higher (0.21) and the H:C ratio lower (1.57) than for HOA. An important mass fragment of COA UMR spectra is  $m/z$  55 (Lanz et al., 2007; Mohr et al., 2009; Allan et al., 2010). This is also shown by the similarity of the time series of COA and  $m/z$  55 (Fig. 3). However, while the regression analysis of the UMR COA and  $m/z$  55 yields an  $R^2$  of 0.59, the  $R^2$  of 0.13 for HR COA and Org 55 is too low to confirm correlation due to the varying ratios of HR COA to Org 55. During the first part of the campaign (until

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2 March 2009), HR COA is lower relative to Org 55, after 15 March 2009 it is higher. Comparison of the COA factor found here with the COA factor from Manchester (Allan et al., 2010) results in an  $R^2$  of 0.88. The diurnal cycle (Fig. 4) shows that COA concentrations already start to rise during the late morning hours and peak around 15:00 (shortly after Spanish lunch times), when the sea breeze is at a maximum and transports the COA from downtown to the measurement site, and later in the evening around 22:00, shortly after Spanish dinner time, due to the lower nocturnal boundary layer height. The COA diurnal cycle is consistent with those reported in previous studies (Allan et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2011), with peaks during midday (depending on lunch times of the different countries) and in the later evening.

The right panel in Fig. 3 shows the mass of OA explained by the PMF factors. LV-OOA makes up 28 % of OA. SV-OOA contributes 27 % to OA. Together, the secondary fraction accounts for 55 % of OA. This dominance of OOA is consistent with previous findings for various locations in Northern hemisphere midlatitudes and in central Europe (Jiménez et al., 2009; Lanz et al., 2010). From the primary components, COA makes up 17 %, HOA 16 %, and BBOA 11 %.

The comparatively small fraction of HOA for Barcelona is surprising given its high traffic density. However, this finding is supported by Minguillón et al. (2011), who showed that for this specific winter period, 40 % of the organic carbon (OC) of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  was fossil and 60 % non-fossil. Considering the three primary-dominated components and their OM:OC ratios displayed in Fig. 2, we can estimate that 59 % of the carbon in POA in Barcelona is non-fossil while 41 % is fossil. The dominance of non-fossil carbon in urban POA is important for the interpretation of modern carbon measurements. Interestingly, the OM:OC ratios of the PMF spectra presented here and the results from Minguillón et al. (2011) also suggest a modern carbon fraction of 60 % for all oxygenated OC (LV and SV). The COA fraction is roughly the same as HOA; cooking emissions, for which no control strategies have been implemented so far, appear to play a very important role for air quality under current conditions. Similar results were reported by Allan et al. (2010) and Crippa et al. (2011), who presented even higher COA

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fractions in two UK cities and Paris, respectively. The BBOA fraction found here (absolute mean value  $0.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for the whole campaign) is slightly lower than the biomass burning OM estimated from non-fossil EC and typical EC/OC ratios for biomass burning sources (Minguillón et al., 2011) or the Multilinear Engine (ME) receptor model applied on filter measurements (Reche et al., 2011a) and slightly above the BBOA concentration determined by levoglucosan measurements (Minguillón et al., 2011). However, compared to the Mexico City region during the dry season when frequent forest fires contribute significantly to  $\text{PM}_{10}$  (mean value  $2.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for March 2006, Aiken et al., 2009) or Swiss Zurich winters when wood is burned for domestic heating purposes ( $\text{PM}_{10}$  BBOA 2.4 and  $3.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , Mohr et al., 2011; Lanz et al., 2008), biomass burning is a less important source of OA in Barcelona during winter time.

### 3.2.2 Size distributions

Figure 5 shows the mean mass size distributions of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  components for all periods when the percentage of total organics of either LV-OOA, SV-OOA, COA, HOA or BBOA was above its upper 95%-percentile and, at the same time, all other PMF factors' fractions of total organics were below their upper 75%-percentile. The number of points used in the average and the organic mass fractions of the corresponding factors during those periods are included in Fig. 5. Total AMS mass and SMPS data of the same time periods were added for comparison. The SMPS mass was calculated using an average particle density based on the chemical composition determined by the AMS. The following densities  $\rho$  ( $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ ) were used (Duplissy et al., 2011): for Org,  $\rho = 1.27$ ; for  $\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\rho = 1.78$ ; for  $\text{NO}_3$ ,  $\rho = 1.72$ ; for  $\text{NH}_4$ ,  $\rho = 1.75$ ; and for Chl,  $\rho = 1.4$ . The SMPS mobility diameter was converted to the vacuum aerodynamic diameter ( $d_{va}$ ) (DeCarlo et al., 2004) using these densities and assuming spherical particles.

Periods with a larger impact of LV-OOA show a single-mode distribution peaking at 400 nm  $d_{va}$  (accumulation mode), consistent with its identification as aged, regionally influenced aerosol (Zhang et al., 2005b). The total AMS and SMPS mass size distributions show very good agreement, indicating negligible concentrations of BC during high LV-OOA periods and sphericity of particles (DeCarlo et al., 2004; Slowik et al., 2004).

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During high SV-OOA episodes, the size distribution exhibits both a strong accumulation mode and a smaller mode with  $d_{va} < 100$  nm. This is most likely due to condensation of fresh secondary OA (Zhang et al., 2005b). Compared to the AMS total mass, the SMPS mass distribution is much broader with a lower accumulation mode peak height, indicating the potential role of non-spherical particles at higher sizes. Potential evaporative losses of semi-volatile species such as ammonium nitrate and SV-OOA in the DMA-CPC system (Gysel et al., 2007) could also lead to this underestimation (the ammonium nitrate fraction is larger during SV-OOA dominated periods than when LV-OOA concentrations are high). The AMS size distribution during high HOA episodes features a bimodal distribution with contributions from particles with  $d_{va} < 100$  nm, comparable to the HOA size distribution found by 3-D-factorization of mass spectra from Mexico City (Ulbrich et al., 2011) or based on tracer  $m/z$  (Nemitz et al., 2008). The discrepancy between AMS and SMPS size distributions at small particle sizes is characteristic of fractal particles (Slowik et al., 2004; DeCarlo et al., 2004), which are produced by combustion sources such as traffic emissions. Different sizing of fractal particles by the SMPS leads to an overestimation of the mass of these particles (DeCarlo et al., 2004). The size distribution during high COA periods resembles more the size distribution of particles during periods dominated by secondary OA, peaking at  $\sim 350$  nm  $d_{va}$ . A similar single-mode distribution was previously observed by Hildemann et al. (1991) for meat cooking aerosol, with the peak center at around 200 nm mobility diameter. Rogge et al. (1991) explained the formation of PM from (meat) cooking activities by nucleation and growth of evaporated grease, which most likely yields spherical particles. For periods when BBOA dominates the organic composition, also ammonium nitrate concentrations are rather high. As shown in Fig. 4, BBOA is slightly increased during nighttime, when lower temperatures favor partitioning of semi-volatile species such as nitrate into the particle phase. Consequently, the difference between SMPS and total AMS mass size distribution is especially distinct for BBOA episodes. The AMS size distribution peaks at  $\sim 500$  nm, contributions from particles with a  $d_{va}$  of  $\sim 200$  nm can be observed as well.



from LV-OOA and BBOA to  $m/z$  55. Although SV-OOA contributions are larger, SV-OOA is readily distinguished by high  $m/z$  44 allowing the SV-OOA contribution to  $m/z$  55 to be subtracted as done above. HOA has significant signal at  $m/z$  55, however, as discussed above, HOA and COA can be distinguished by the oxygen-containing organic ions of  $m/z$  55 and 57. This is shown in Fig. 7b and c:  $C_3H_3O^+$  shows lower signal than  $C_4H_7^+$ , but that signal is dominated by COA emissions and is thus a more useful tracer.

### 3.3.2 Estimation of COA from Org 55

In this section a simple approximation to estimate the COA concentration based on the time series of the organic mass fragments 55, 57, and 44 is provided. Similar methods to estimate HOA, BBOA, and OOA concentrations have been given by Aiken et al. (2009). As described in the previous section,  $m/z$  55 can be used as a tracer for COA, even though its signal also has contributions from the other factors, mostly HOA and OOA (Eq. 2). BBOA can contribute as well to  $m/z$  55; however, due to the high variability wood burning spectra (Weimer et al., 2008) and the low BBOA concentrations in Barcelona it was not considered in the estimation.

$$m/z\ 55 = m/z\ 55(\text{COA}) + m/z\ 55(\text{HOA}) + m/z\ 55(\text{OOA}) \quad (3)$$

Consequently, the contributions from the other factors have to be subtracted and the remaining  $m/z$  55(COA) has to be scaled up by a factor  $q$  to yield the estimated COA concentration  $COA_{\text{est}}$ ,

$$COA_{\text{est}} = q \cdot m/z\ 55(\text{COA}) \quad (4)$$

The contribution from OOA to  $m/z$  55 is linear with  $m/z$  44,

$$m/z\ 55(\text{OOA}) = b \cdot m/z\ 44 \quad (5)$$

where

$$b = \frac{F_{55,\text{OOA}}}{F_{44,\text{OOA}}} \quad (6)$$

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$F_{55,\text{OOA}}$  denotes the signal at  $m/z$  55 in the OOA mass spectrum normalized to the sum of the spectrum.

The contribution from HOA to  $m/z$  55 is linear with  $m/z$  57,

$$m/z\ 55(\text{HOA}) = a \cdot m/z\ 57(\text{HOA}) \quad (7)$$

5 where

$$a = \frac{F_{55,\text{HOA}}}{F_{57,\text{HOA}}} \quad (8)$$

$m/z$  57 can have contributions not only from HOA, but also from COA and OOA; thus:

$$m/z\ 57(\text{HOA}) = m/z\ 57 - m/z\ 57(\text{COA}) - m/z\ 57(\text{OOA}) \quad (9)$$

The last term in Eq. (8) is again linear with  $m/z$  44, with the coefficient

$$c = \frac{F_{57,\text{OOA}}}{F_{44,\text{OOA}}} \quad (10)$$

With

$$m/z\ 57(\text{COA}) = \frac{1}{d} \cdot m/z\ 55(\text{COA}) \quad (11)$$

$$d = \frac{F_{55,\text{COA}}}{F_{57,\text{COA}}} \quad (12)$$

Equation (3) can be solved as

$$COA_{\text{est}} = q \cdot \left[ \frac{\frac{1}{a} m/z\ 55 - m/z\ 57 + (c - \frac{b}{a}) m/z\ 44}{\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{d}} \right] \quad (13)$$

with

$$q = \frac{1}{F_{55,\text{COA}}} \quad (14)$$

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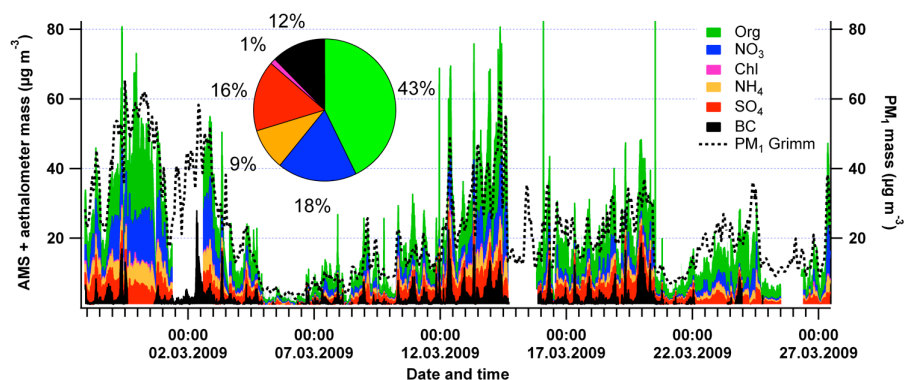
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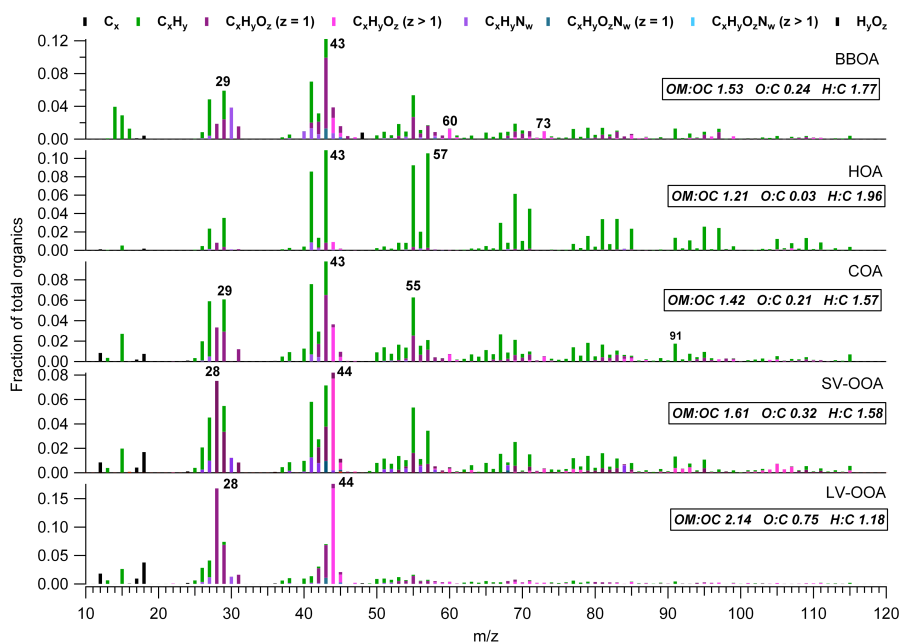
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**Fig. 1.** Stacked time series of AMS species (Org, NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Chl), BC measured by the aethalometer. PM<sub>1</sub> data from the Grimm laser-spectrometer (corrected using PM<sub>1</sub> samples collected on filters) are plotted on the right axis. The pie chart shows the campaign average relative contributions of AMS species and BC to PM<sub>1</sub>.

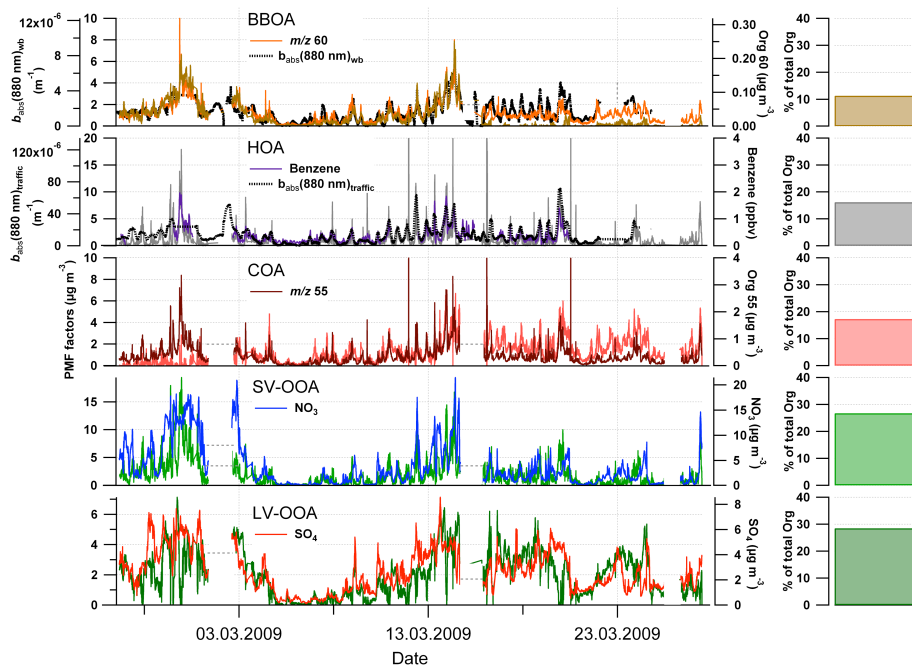
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**Fig. 2.** Mass spectra of the 5-factor-PMF solution. The elemental ratios of the different factors are shown in boxes.

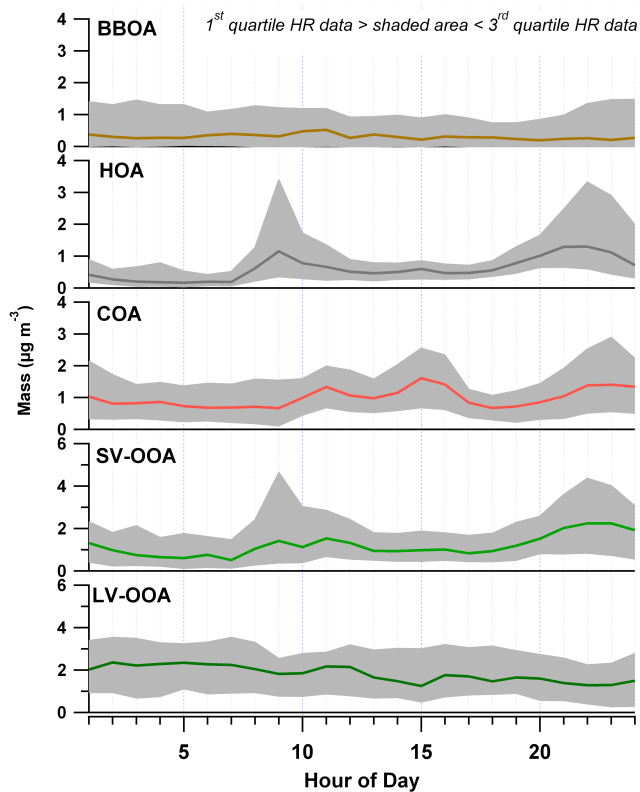
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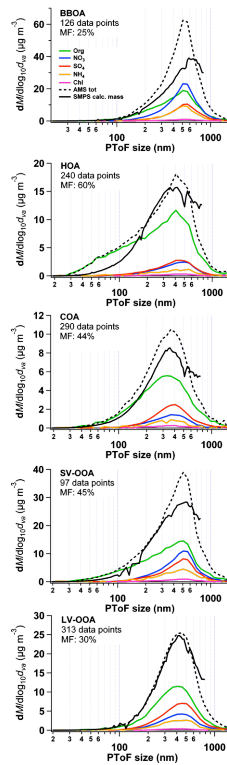
**Fig. 3.** Time series of the 5-factor-PMF solution and ancillary data. The right panels show the relative contributions of the respective factors to OA.

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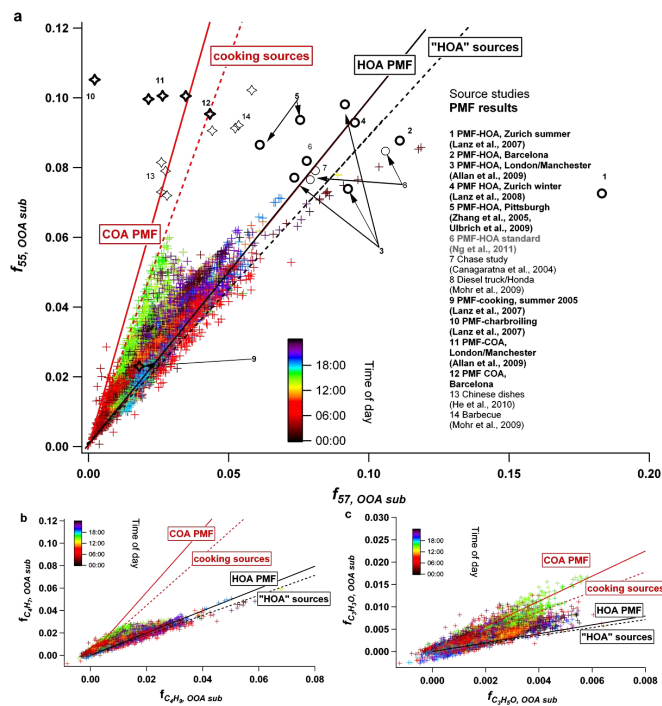
**Fig. 4.** Diurnal cycles of the 5-factor-PMF solution. The colored lines represent the median per hour of day, and the shaded area the range between the 1st and the 3rd quartile of the data.

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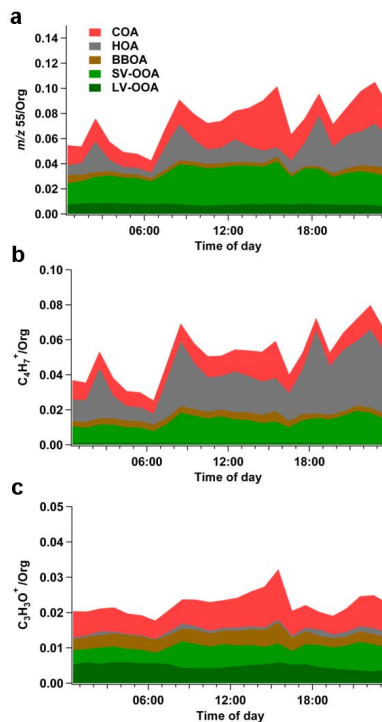
**Fig. 5.** Size distributions of PM<sub>1</sub> components for periods with high LV-OOA, SV-OOA, COA, HOA or BBOA. The number of data points averaged and the organic mass fraction (MF) of the respective factor during those data points are given. Total AMS mass and SMPS data of the same time periods were added for comparison.

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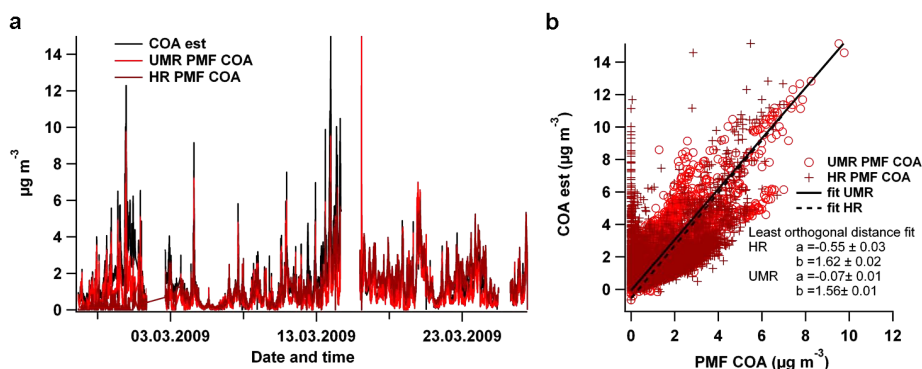
**Fig. 6.**  $f_{55,OOAsub}$  (see text) plotted against  $f_{57,OOAsub}$  (a),  $f_{C_4H_7^+,OOAsub}$  plotted against  $f_{C_4H_7^+,OOAsub}$  and  $f_{C_3H_5O^+,OOAsub}$  against  $f_{C_3H_5O^+,OOAsub}$  (c) for the whole Barcelona dataset. Data points are colored according to time of day. Included in (a) are  $F_{55}$  and  $F_{57}$  extracted from various PMF HOA and COA factors (bold symbols), as well as from cooking and traffic source emission studies (thin symbols), the lines represent the linear fits applied to each group. Note that axes are scaled differently for clarity reasons.

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**Fig. 7.** Stacked diurnal cycle of the time series of the fractions of  $m/z$  55 (**a**),  $C_4H_7^+$  (**b**), and  $C_3H_3O^+$  (**c**) of LV-OOA, SV-OOA, HOA, COA, and BBOA, respectively, normalized to total organics.

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**Fig. 8.** Comparison of PMF COA and COA estimated using organic mass fragments 55, 57, and 44 (COA est), time series (**a**) and scatterplot of time series (**b**).

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