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# Sources and mixing state of size-resolved elemental carbon particles in a European megacity: Paris

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## Abstract

An Aerosol Time-Of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (ATOFMS) was deployed to investigate the size-resolved chemical composition of single particles at an urban background site in Paris, France, as part of the MEGAPOLI winter campaign in January/February 2010.

5 ATOFMS particle counts were scaled to match coincident Twin Differential Mobility Particle Sizer (TDMPs) data in order to generate hourly size-resolved mass concentrations for the single particle classes observed. The total scaled ATOFMS particle mass concentration in the size range 150–1067 nm was found to agree very well with the sum of concurrent High-Resolution Time-of-Flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS)  
10 and Multi-Angle Absorption Photometer (MAAP) mass concentration measurements of organic carbon (OC), inorganic ions and black carbon (BC) ( $R^2 = 0.91$ ). Clustering analysis of the ATOFMS single particle mass spectra allowed the separation of elemental carbon (EC) particles into four classes: (i) EC attributed to biomass burning (EC<sub>biomass</sub>), (ii) EC attributed to traffic (EC<sub>traffic</sub>), (iii) EC internally mixed with OC and ammonium sulfate (ECOC<sub>SO<sub>x</sub></sub>), and (iv) EC internally mixed with OC and ammonium nitrate (ECOC<sub>NO<sub>x</sub></sub>). Average hourly mass concentrations for EC-containing particles detected by the ATOFMS were found to agree reasonably well with semi-continuous quantitative thermal/optical EC and optical BC measurements ( $r^2 = 0.61$  and  $0.65$ – $0.68$ , respectively,  $n = 552$ ). The EC particle mass assigned to fossil fuel and biomass  
20 burning sources also agreed reasonably well with BC mass fractions assigned to the same sources using seven-wavelength aethalometer data ( $r^2 = 0.60$  and  $0.48$ , respectively,  $n = 568$ ). Agreement between the ATOFMS and other instrumentation improved noticeably when a period influenced by significantly aged, internally mixed EC particles was removed from the intercomparison. 88 % and 12 % of EC particle mass was  
25 apportioned to fossil fuel and biomass burning respectively using the ATOFMS data compared with 85 % and 15 % respectively for BC estimated from the aethalometer model. On average, the mass size distribution for EC particles is bimodal; the smaller mode is attributed to locally emitted, mostly externally mixed EC particles, while the

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larger mode is dominated by aged, internally mixed ECOCNO<sub>x</sub> particles associated with continental transport events. Periods of continental influence were identified using the Lagrangian Particle Dispersion Model (LPDM) “FLEXPART”. A consistent minimum between the two EC mass size modes was observed at approximately 400 nm for the measurement period. EC particles below this size are attributed to local emissions using chemical mixing state information and contribute 79 % of the scaled ATOFMS EC particle mass, while particles above this size are attributed to continental transport events and contribute 21 % of the EC particle mass. These results clearly demonstrate the potential benefit of monitoring size-resolved mass concentrations for the separation of local and continental EC emissions. Knowledge of the relative input of these emissions is essential for assessing the effectiveness of local abatement strategies.

## 1 Introduction

Airborne particulate matter (PM) impacts significantly upon air quality and climate. The surface area and oxidative potential of ultrafine particles (< 100 nm diameter) both play a role in inducing chronic pulmonary inflammation (Maier et al., 2008). Aerosol particles in the accumulation and coarse modes alter the radiative balance of the Earth-atmosphere system directly by absorbing and scattering incoming radiation and indirectly by altering the microphysical properties of clouds (IPCC, 2007). In urban environments, submicrometer aerosol is typically apportioned to primary sources including vehicular, biomass burning, and industrial emissions, although formation of secondary aerosol through atmospheric processing of primary emissions can be equally important. A recent study collating data from several urban sites around Europe estimates that between 3–24 % of the mass of particulate matter smaller than 10 µm in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) is composed of black carbon (BC) (Reche et al., 2011), the light absorbing form of carbonaceous material commonly referred to as soot (Horvath, 1993). BC causes positive radiative forcing (RF) through absorption, and is estimated to be the second most important contributor to global warming through direct forcing after CO<sub>2</sub> (Jacob-

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son, 2001). The positive RF of BC can be enhanced when BC is internally mixed with species that scatter light such as organic carbon (OC) and inorganic salts, the mixing state best described as a “core-shell” arrangement (Jacobson, 2001; Moffet and Prather, 2009). However, any increase in positive RF for aged BC, arising from enhanced scattering, is also offset by increased hygroscopicity and thus reduced atmospheric lifetime due to wet deposition in humid environments (Stier et al., 2006; Moffet and Prather, 2009).

Identifying the sources of BC in urban environments is important from an air quality perspective. Discrimination between fossil fuel and biomass burning BC as well as local and continental BC in these environments will be relevant for effective assessment of local abatement strategies such as the EU Low Emission Zones (<http://lowemissionzones.eu>). These zones are implemented to reduce local emissions of nitrogen oxides and BC associated with vehicular traffic. Thus knowledge of the relative impact of other sources, including domestic woodburning, will be essential for assessing their efficacy.

Air quality reduction arising from elevated aerosol mass concentrations is of particular concern in highly populated megacities such as Mexico City and Beijing (Querol et al., 2008; Yang et al., 2005), representing a significant health risk (Gurjar et al., 2010). Apart from London, Greater Paris is the only city in the European Union that qualifies as a megacity, with a population of approximately 10 million inhabitants. The urbanised Paris area is quite dense (approximately 20 km across), is surrounded by flat terrain and is also relatively far from other European cities. Two measurement campaigns were carried out in Paris in summer 2009 and winter 2010 as part of the collaborative project entitled Megacities: Emissions, urban, regional and Global Atmospheric POLLution and climate effects, and Integrated tools for assessment and mitigation (MEGAPOLI). Despite a high population density, detailed gas phase measurements, physical and chemical aerosol measurements and source apportionment for the Paris region are relatively sparse (Ruellan and Cachier, 2001; Gros et al., 2007; Favez et al., 2007, 2009; Sciare et al., 2010, 2011).

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A recent study by Sciare et al. (2010) highlighted the significant influence of air mass origin on particle mass concentrations in Paris. Interestingly, the highest PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass concentrations, up to 70 µg m<sup>-3</sup>, were observed when continental air masses passed over North-Western Europe before arriving in Paris. PM<sub>2.5</sub> composition during these periods was dominated by ammonium nitrate and ammonium sulfate, comprising approximately 75 % of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass. During periods influenced by clean marine air masses, PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass concentrations were typically lower than 15 µg m<sup>-3</sup>, and composition was dominated by carbonaceous material. These findings indicate that continental emissions can contribute to exceedences of the EU recommended limit value of 25 µg m<sup>-3</sup>, and impact upon air quality in Paris. Thus the effective separation of local and continental input will be necessary when considering abatement strategies to reduce ambient levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

Estimating the relative source inputs for individual PM components such as BC can be quite difficult, requiring advanced measurement techniques with high temporal resolution. The single-particle soot photometer (SP2) provides size-resolved information on single BC particles, and can determine whether these particles are coated or uncoated (Gao et al., 2007; Slowik et al., 2007). However, the chemical composition of the coatings cannot be directly measured. Seven-wavelength (7-λ) aethalometer measurements have recently been employed to tentatively separate the biomass burning and fossil fuel contributions to measured BC mass concentrations (Sandradewi et al., 2008a; Herich et al., 2010; Favez et al., 2010; Sciare et al., 2011), but local and transported contributions cannot be separated using this method alone. Ultimately, size-resolved BC mass concentration data with high temporal resolution coupled with internal mixing state information are required to effectively identify and separate BC particles of local and continental origin.

Single particle mass spectrometers, such as the aerosol time-of-flight mass spectrometer (ATOFMS) can provide information on the size-resolved chemical composition and internal mixing state of carbonaceous particles (Sullivan and Prather, 2005). However, because these instruments use mass spectrometry rather than light absorption

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as the method of detection, the refractory carbon detected is typically referred to as EC. EC-containing particles arising from different sources are often characterised by unique internal mixing states, and thus can be apportioned using single particle mass spectra coupled with meteorological data (Reinard et al., 2007; Moffet et al., 2008a; Snyder et al., 2009; Healy et al., 2010). Aerosol mass concentrations can also be reconstructed successfully when particle counts from single particle mass spectrometers are scaled to coincident data from co-located particle counting instruments (Wenzel et al., 2003; Qin et al., 2006). Despite associated matrix effects, advances have also been made in quantifying individual chemical species using single particle mass spectra either through multivariate analysis or by using intensities for specific ions (Ferguson et al., 2001; Pratt et al., 2009a; Froyd et al., 2010; Jeong et al., 2011).

The aim of this study was to estimate the relative importance of fossil fuel and biomass burning sources on ambient concentrations of EC-containing particles in Paris using ATOFMS size-resolved chemical data. The methodology described here represents a relatively straightforward approach to EC particle mass reconstruction and source apportionment. Periods influenced by continental transport were confirmed using an advanced atmospheric transport model (FLEXPART) (Stohl et al., 2005). The reconstruction of EC particle mass concentrations from ATOFMS data, and the separation of relative contributions to EC from fossil fuel and biomass burning sources were validated using EC and BC mass concentrations obtained using a variety of other instruments.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Sampling site and instrumentation

Measurements were performed from 15 January–11 February 2010 at the Laboratoire d'Hygiène de la Ville de Paris (LHVP), Paris (48.75° N, 2.36° E); an urban background site, described in more detail elsewhere (Favez et al., 2007; Sciare et al., 2010). An

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ATOFMS (Gard et al., 1997) (TSI model 3800) fitted with an aerodynamic lens (TSI model AFL100) was used to measure the size-resolved chemical composition of single particles in the size range 100–3000 nm (vacuum aerodynamic diameter,  $d_{va}$ ). In brief, single particles are sampled through a critical orifice and focused into a tight beam in the aerodynamic lens before transmission to the sizing region. Here,  $d_{va}$  for each particle is calculated based on its time-of-flight between two orthogonally positioned continuous wave lasers (Nd:YAG, 532 nm). Particles then arrive at the mass spectrometry region of the instrument and are ionised using a Nd:YAG laser (266 nm). The resulting positive and negative ions are analysed using two collinear time-of-flight mass spectrometers. Dual ion mass spectra were subsequently clustered into classes as described in the next section. Particles were sampled through a stainless steel line at a height of approximately 4 m above ground level.

A suite of instrumentation for the characterization of the physico-chemical properties of particles was also located in a separate container adjacent to the ATOFMS. The instruments included a High Resolution Time-of-Flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS, Aerodyne Research Inc.) (DeCarlo et al., 2006), a Twin Differential Mobility Particle Sizer (TDMPS) (Birmili et al., 1999), a Multi-Angle Absorption Photometer (MAAP, Model 5012, Thermo Scientific) (Petzold and Schönlinner, 2004) and a three wavelength nephelometer (TSI Model 3563) (Heintzenberg et al., 2006). A collection efficiency of 0.4 was calculated for the HR-ToF-AMS based on comparison with concurrent TDMPS and particle-into-liquid sampler (PILS) data. All instruments were connected to the same sampling system consisting of a low flow PM<sub>10</sub> inlet located approximately 6 m above ground level directly followed by an automatic aerosol diffusion dryer system maintaining the relative humidity in the line below 30 % (Tuch et al., 2009).

PM<sub>2.5</sub> was also sampled on the roof of the LHVP building (14 m above ground level) and analysed using an OCEC field instrument (Sunset Laboratory, Forest Grove, OR) (Bae et al., 2004) and a 7- $\lambda$  aethalometer (Magee Scientific, model AE-31, discussed below). The OCEC analyser was operated at 8 l min<sup>-1</sup> and provides semi-continuous



hourly concentrations of OC and EC. A denuder was placed upstream in order to minimise VOC adsorption artefacts. Measurement uncertainty for this instrument is poorly described in the literature and thus an estimate of 20 % is assumed here (Peltier et al., 2007).

5 A Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM, R&P) fitted with a Sample Equilibration System (SES) and a Filter Dynamic Measurement System (FDMS, model 8500) was also located on the roof of the LHVP building and was used to measure mass concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Grover et al., 2005; Sciare et al., 2007). This system enables the measurement of semi-volatile material (SVM) in PM<sub>2.5</sub>, typically dominated  
 10 by ammonium nitrate in Paris during the winter months (Favez et al., 2007). A mean concentration of 21.1 µg m<sup>-3</sup> was calculated for the measurement period which is close to the yearly average of ~20 µg m<sup>-3</sup> for the Paris background atmosphere calculated from local air quality network data (AIRPARIF, <http://www.airparif.asso.fr/>).

15 Meteorological data were collected using a Campbell Scientific weather station. Additional meteorological data was also provided by Météo-France, collected at Parc Montsouris (48.82° N, 2.34° E, 75 m a.s.l.), approximately 1.5 km from LHVP.

## 2.2 ATOFMS data analysis and scaling procedures

The ATOFMS collected approximately 1.75 million single particle mass spectra from 15 January–11 February 2010. These spectra were imported into ENCHILADA, a  
 20 freeware data analysis software package (Gross et al., 2010), and clustered using the *K*-means algorithm as described in detail elsewhere (Healy et al., 2009, 2010). A *K* value of 80 was chosen to create the initial clusters, but these were merged (or clustered again if found to be inhomogeneous) to produce around 15 final particle classes, which are broadly similar to those regularly observed in other urban ATOFMS  
 25 field studies (Dall'Osto and Harrison, 2006; Moffet et al., 2008a; Shields et al., 2008; Eatough et al., 2008; Dall'Osto et al., 2009b; Healy et al., 2010; Jeong et al., 2011). Four of the classes were assigned as EC-containing particles.

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Due to size-dependent transmission efficiencies of particles through the aerodynamic lens and sizing region, limited light scattering for smaller particles, and instrument busy-time during data acquisition, quantitative ambient particle number concentrations are very difficult to achieve using the ATOFMS alone (Pratt et al., 2009b). In order to produce meaningful temporal trends for the ATOFMS classes, it is advisable to scale the total ATOFMS counts using a quantitative particle counting instrument, such as an optical particle counter (Allen et al., 2000), scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS) (Bein et al., 2006; Reinard et al., 2007) or aerodynamic particle sizer (APS) (Qin et al., 2006).

Size distributions from the TDMPMS have been used to scale the ATOFMS counts at a temporal resolution of 1 h. The ATOFMS counts represent particles that were both sized and successfully ionised to produce mass spectra. It is also assumed that all particles were ionised with the same efficiency. This may introduce error in the scaled counts for the different particle classes, as different ionisation efficiencies are observed for particles of differing composition (Kane et al., 2001; Wenzel et al., 2003; Gross et al., 2006). Non-spherical particles such as fractal soot are also more susceptible to divergence from the particle beam due to perpendicular drag forces, and thus may be detected less efficiently than spherical particle types (Moffet and Prather, 2009).

The TDMPMS system determines the number size distribution in the size range 3–800 nm (electrical mobility diameter,  $d_m$ ) while the ATOFMS measures  $d_{va}$  in the range 100–3000 nm. Here, when converting from particle number to volume, it has been assumed that all particles are spherical, no internal voids exist and  $d_m$  is thus equal to the particle volume equivalent diameter ( $d_{ve}$ ). A conversion of the ATOFMS  $d_{va}$  data to  $d_{ve}$  is necessary in order to compare particle counts. Assuming all particles are spherical,  $d_{va}$  can be related to  $d_{ve}$  as follows:

$$d_{va} = \frac{\rho_p}{\rho_0} \frac{d_{ve}}{\chi} \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho_p$  is the particle density,  $\rho_0$  is standard density ( $1 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ) and  $\chi$  is the dy-

namic shape factor (assumed to be 1). This is a highly simplified version of particle diameter, morphology and density relationships that are covered in much greater detail elsewhere (DeCarlo et al., 2004). Knowledge of the particle density is required for this conversion, and this was estimated based on the mass concentration measurements from the HR-ToF-AMS and the MAAP. An average estimated density of  $1.49 \pm 0.07 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  ( $1\sigma$ ) was observed for the entire sampling period. Thus, a single density value of  $1.5 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  was chosen to convert the ATOFMS  $d_{va}$  data to  $d_m$  before scaling the ATOFMS counts to the TDMPs number-size distributions. 8 size bins were used for the scaling procedure, created by merging adjacent pairs of TDMPs bins, covering a  $d_m$  size range of 100–712 nm (or 150–1067 nm,  $d_{va}$ ). Thus the ATOFMS results are focused on PM<sub>1</sub> and not PM<sub>2.5</sub>. ATOFMS mass concentrations were calculated from the scaled counts assuming particle sphericity (Reinard et al., 2007). A single density assumption is known to be incorrect due to differing particle compositions, and fresh soot particles can exhibit several size-dependent effective densities (Maricq and Xu, 2004; Spencer and Prather, 2006). Nevertheless, the use of a single density for ATOFMS scaling has previously resulted in satisfactory PM mass reconstruction when compared to MOUDI and beta attenuation monitor data (Qin et al., 2006). The size-dependent scaling factors are shown in Fig. S1, and described in more detail in the Supplement. The scaling factors are similar to those expected based on the shape of the particle transmission efficiency curve for the AFL-100 aerodynamic lens (Wang and McMurry, 2006; Jeong et al., 2011). A comparison of the total scaled hourly ATOFMS mass concentration and sum of the HR-ToF-AMS total non-refractory mass concentration (ammonium + nitrate + sulfate + non-sea salt chloride + organics) and MAAP BC mass concentration is given in Fig. S2. The level of agreement is very good ( $r^2 = 0.91$ , slope = 1.14) considering that the HR-ToF-AMS does not detect refractory material such as sea salt and dust. The agreement between the scaled ATOFMS mass concentration and coincident TEOM PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass concentration was also very good ( $r^2 = 0.95$ , slope = 1.62), although the slope is higher as expected considering the different size ranges (Fig. S2).

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One aspect of the quantification approach used here is that it provides mass concentrations for single particle classes rather than individual chemical species. The total scaled ATOFMS EC particle mass reported below could be more accurately described as “EC-containing particle mass”, and will include contributions from any secondary species, such as organic carbon and inorganic ions, that are internally mixed with EC. Therefore the reconstructed ATOFMS EC particle mass is expected to be higher than the EC and BC mass concentrations provided by the other instruments, especially during periods influenced by aged, internally mixed EC particles. This is discussed in detail in Sect. 3.3.

## 2.3 Aethalometer instruments and model

Aerosol absorption coefficients ( $b_{\text{abs}}$ ) for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  were obtained every 5 min at seven different wavelengths (370, 470, 520, 590, 660, 880 and 950 nm) using a Magee Scientific aethalometer (model AE-31) fitted with a cyclone with a 50 % cut-off diameter at  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$  (R&P, Albany, NY). This instrument was operating at a flow rate of  $5 \text{ l min}^{-1}$  in an automated mode, under which the filter tape advances when the attenuation (ATN) at 370 nm reaches 100. For a 12 day period (5–17 February), a second identical 7- $\lambda$  aethalometer (model AE-31) was operated in parallel and equipped with a size selective inlet impactor (PCIS, SKC Inc.) removing particles with  $d_a$  larger than  $0.25 \mu\text{m}$  using a flow rate of  $9 \text{ l min}^{-1}$ . Thus quasi ultra-fine BC ( $d_a < 0.25 \mu\text{m}$ ) was obtained every 5 min for this period. Absorption coefficients directly obtained from these two instruments are affected by various sampling and analytical artefacts (multiple scattering and shadowing effects) which must be accounted for (Collaud Coen et al., 2010). The correction procedure introduced by Weingartner et al. (2003) was applied to the 2 datasets as follows:

$$b_{\text{abs},\lambda,t} = b_{\text{aeth},\lambda,t} / (2.14 \times R(\text{ATN})_{\lambda,t}) \quad (2)$$

Where, at a given time ( $t$ ) and a given wavelength ( $\lambda$ ),  $b_{\text{abs},\lambda,t}$  and  $b_{\text{aeth},\lambda,t}$  are the corrected absorption coefficient and the raw absorption coefficient, respectively. The

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constant (2.14) represents the multiple scattering of the light beam at the filter fibres in the unloaded filter. Finally,  $R(ATN)_{\lambda,t}$  describes the decrease of the latter artefact with gradual accumulation of particles on/in the filter, thus correcting for the shadowing effect.  $R(ATN)_{\lambda,t}$  was determined following the equation:

$$R(ATN)_{\lambda,t} = \left( \frac{1}{f_{\lambda}} - 1 \right) \times \frac{\ln(ATN_{\lambda,t}) - \ln(10)}{\ln(50) - \ln(10)} + 1 \quad (3)$$

where  $ATN_{\lambda,t}$  corresponds to the light attenuation measured by the aethalometer at a given time ( $t$ ) and a given wavelength ( $\lambda$ ), and  $f_{\lambda}$  allows for the correction of the instrumental error that occurs when the shadowing effect is disregarded. The latter parameter was determined by keeping the median ratio of absorption coefficients (before and after the change of each filter spot) closest to 1. The factors  $f_{\lambda}$  were found to range from 1.085 (at 950 nm) to 1.179 (at 370 nm). This factor values were compared with those obtained from a similar aethalometer instrument running at the suburban SIRTAsite during the MEGAPOLI campaign, exhibiting very good consistency (slope of 1.00:  $r^2 = 0.87$ ;  $N = 7$ ). The terms  $\ln(10)$  and  $\ln(50)$  use the filter loading corrections provided by Weingartner et al. (2003) of ATN of 10 % as a reference point (characteristic of unloaded filter spots). Note also that the  $b_{abs}$  corrections applied here (Weingartner et al., 2003) represent the best possible corrections in the absence of light scattering coefficient measurements (Collaud Coen et al., 2010).

In this study, equivalent black carbon (EBC) mass concentrations for  $PM_{2.5}$  were obtained from hourly  $b_{abs,950\text{ nm}}$  determined by the aethalometer and a specific mass absorption efficiency (MAE) determined using EC mass concentrations measured in parallel every hour by the OCEC Sunset field instrument. A specific mass absorption efficiency at 950 nm ( $MAE_{950\text{ nm}}$ ) of  $(5.08 \pm 0.03) \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  was then obtained from this linear regression ( $r^2 = 0.91$ ,  $n = 782$ ) and was used here to estimate BC concentrations ( $d_a < 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) every 5 min from the  $b_{abs,950\text{ nm}}$   $PM_{2.5}$  dataset. This  $MAE_{950\text{ nm}}$  value was also used to derive quasi ultra-fine ( $d_a < 0.25 \mu\text{m}$ ) BC concentrations every 5 min from the ultra-fine  $b_{abs,950\text{ nm}}$  dataset. An intercomparison between the 2 aethalometers for

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BC < 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  for the period 05–07 February 2010 (hourly averages) resulted in very good agreement ( $r^2 = 0.99$ ,  $n = 37$ ) with a slope close to one (0.99).

Recent studies have shown that information delivered by multi-wavelength aethalometers can be used in a more quantitative way, in conjunction with complementary carbon measurements, to provide source apportionment of domestic wood-burning aerosols because carbonaceous aerosols have both modern (biomass burning, domestic wood combustion) and fossil fuel origins (Sandradewi et al., 2008a; Favez et al., 2009, 2010; Sciare et al., 2011). The source apportionment performed by the aethalometer model (Sandradewi et al., 2008a) is based on the strong spectral dependence of light absorption properties of brown carbon aerosols (Hoffer et al., 2006) (and references therein), which are present in ambient biomass burning aerosols (Jeong et al., 2008; Sandradewi et al., 2008b; Yang et al., 2009). The model subsequently relies on the different Angström Absorption Exponents for fossil fuel and biomass burning to derive, at an hourly temporal resolution, concentrations of BC apportioned to fossil fuel (BC<sub>ff</sub>) and biomass burning (BC<sub>bb</sub>) derived using the following aethalometer model equations:

$$b_{\text{abs},\lambda} = b_{\text{abs,ff},\lambda} + b_{\text{abs,bb},\lambda} \quad (4)$$

$$(b_{\text{abs,ff},470\text{ nm}}/b_{\text{abs,ff},950\text{ nm}}) = (470/950)^{-\alpha_{\text{ff}}} \quad (5)$$

$$(b_{\text{abs,bb},470\text{ nm}}/b_{\text{abs,bb},950\text{ nm}}) = (470/950)^{-\alpha_{\text{bb}}} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{BC}_{\text{ff}} = b_{\text{abs,ff},950\text{ nm}}/\text{MAE}_{950\text{ nm}} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{BC} = \text{BC}_{\text{ff}} + \text{BC}_{\text{bb}} \quad (8)$$

where  $b_{\text{abs,ff},X\text{nm}}$  stands for the absorption coefficient of fossil fuel at Xnm (X=470, 950); and  $b_{\text{abs,bb},X\text{nm}}$  stands for the absorption coefficient of biomass burning at Xnm (X = 470, 950). In Eqs. (5) and (6),  $\alpha_{\text{ff}}$  and  $\alpha_{\text{bb}}$  represent the Angstrom absorption exponents of fossil fuel and wood burning, respectively. In this study, values of 1.0 and 2.0

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were used for  $\alpha_{ff}$  and  $\alpha_{bb}$ , respectively, based on values previously reported for fossil fuel and wood burning aerosols (Clarke et al., 2007; Lewis et al., 2008) and used by Sandradewi et al. (2008a) and Favez et al. (2010). This calculation was performed for both aethalometer datasets. Further details of the aethalometer model, and associated assumptions, can be found in Sciare et al. (2011).

## 2.4 Lagrangian Particle Dispersion Model retroplumes

The FLEXPART (version 8.2) backward-running Lagrangian Particle Dispersion Model (LPDM) (Stohl et al., 2005) was run using meteorological data from the ECMWF model ( $1 \times 1$  degree global resolution,  $0.18 \times 0.18$  degree nested resolution for Europe). FLEXPART allows an accurate assignment of air masses associated with aerosol transport events by accounting for turbulence and convection processes which are particularly important at low altitudes and ignored by trajectory models (Stohl et al., 2002). In brief, 60 000 theoretical particles are released from a small box at the receptor location and followed backward in time for 20 days. In this work an aerosol tracer is used, subject to washout and dry deposition processes using values appropriate for sulfate aerosol. The model is initialized every 3 h and particles are released at a uniform rate over a 3 h period. The ensemble of particles forms a so-called “retroplume” backwards in time. The model outputs a 3-dimensional potential emission sensitivity (PES) distribution at a 3 h resolution. These PES plots demonstrate the residence time of the particle ensemble in different geographical regions, and help to identify regions where the ensemble would be exposed to any theoretical ground level emissions. Most emissions occur at ground level and therefore high PES values in the lowest model layer are most important when considering transported aerosol input. Graphically, the output of this “footprint” PES is very useful as it describes the times when air masses are most susceptible to ground level emissions (units of  $\text{ns kg}^{-1}$ ). Thus, potential aerosol source regions can be identified, and their relative contributions can be estimated. Examples of this output are provided and discussed in Sect. 3.2.

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## 3 Results and discussion

### 3.1 ATOFMS EC classes

4 of the 15 ATOFMS classes identified were assigned as EC-containing. One class is assigned to biomass burning (ECbiomass), and three classes are assigned to fossil fuel combustion (ECtraffic, ECOC $\text{SO}_x$  and ECOC $\text{NO}_x$ ). Average mass spectra, box-plots of diurnal trends, and average mass size distributions for the four EC particle classes are shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

#### 3.1.1 EC attributed to biomass burning (ECbiomass)

ECbiomass particles are characterised by an intense signal for potassium  $[\text{K}]^+$  and a relatively smaller signal for sodium  $[\text{Na}]^+$  in the positive ion mass spectra, and elemental carbon fragments  $[\text{C}_n]^-$  in the negative ion mass spectra (Fig. 1). A relatively low signal is also observed for nitrate  $[\text{NO}_2]^-$ ,  $[\text{NO}_3]^-$  suggesting the presence of some condensed ammonium nitrate. ECbiomass particles consistently peak in the evening, typically around 20:00 LT, suggesting a local domestic wood-burning source (Fig. 2). Very similar mass spectra have been assigned to fresh domestic solid fuel burning emissions in Cork Harbour, Ireland (Healy et al., 2010). Potassium-rich elemental carbon single particle mass spectra have been previously observed in several urban field studies and assigned to a biomass burning source, for example (Moffet et al., 2008a; Bi et al., 2011). However, a more confident assignment can be made for Paris through comparison with the aethalometer model as described in Sect. 3.3. These particles exhibit a dominant small mass mode at 280 nm and a less pronounced, broader mass mode at 750 nm (Fig. 3).

#### 3.1.2 EC attributed to traffic (ECtraffic)

ECtraffic mass spectra are characterised by signals for sodium  $[\text{Na}]^+$  and calcium  $[\text{Ca}]^+$  possibly arising from lubricating oil in the positive ion mass spectra (Shields et al.,

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2007), and elemental carbon fragment ions  $[C_n]^-$  in the negative ion mass spectra. Similar single particle mass spectra have been observed in ATOFMS dynamometer studies of light and heavy duty vehicle emissions (Spencer et al., 2006; Shields et al., 2007; Toner et al., 2006) and in several urban field studies (Shields et al., 2008; Mof-  
 5 fet et al., 2008a; Healy et al., 2010), although combustion sources other than traffic cannot be completely ruled out. 2 separate classes were originally observed, differing only in the relative intensities for sodium and calcium. However, these 2 classes exhibited identical size distributions and temporal trends and were thus merged into a single class. The average mass spectrum for this final class is shown in Fig. 1. ECtraffic  
 10 particles peaked during the morning and evening rush hours, as expected for a local vehicular source (Fig. 2), and exhibit a single mass mode at 215 nm, suggesting relatively fresh emission. It can be seen in Fig. 3 that the mass size distribution continues below the lower sizing limit of the ATOFMS (150 nm), and thus a fraction of the mass remains unaccounted for. The “missing” mass fraction below 150 nm is expected to be  
 15 comparatively smaller for the other EC classes. An extrapolation of a lognormal fit of the average particle mass size mode for the smaller EC particles (150–400 nm) to sizes below 150 nm is given in Fig. S3. The average contribution to total EC particle mass below this size range is estimated to be relatively low ( $\sim 9\%$ ), and because no mass spectral information is available to confirm the mixing state of smaller particles, only the  
 20 size range 150–1067 nm is used here for source apportionment and reconstruction of EC particle mass. This undetected fraction could be minimised if an Ultrafine Aerosol Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (UF-ATOFMS) is employed with a lower sizing limit of approximately 50 nm (Su et al., 2003; Shields et al., 2008). Coupling a hygroscopic growth tube to the UF-ATOFMS, to swell even smaller EC particles to a detectable size,  
 25 would also help (Zauscher et al., 2011).

### 3.1.3 EC internally mixed with OC and ammonium sulfate ( $ECOC SO_x$ )

$ECOC SO_x$  particles exhibit signals for ammonium  $[NH_3]^+$ ,  $[NH_4]^+$ , organic carbon  $[C_2H_3O]^+$ , and a small signal for sodium  $[Na]^+$  in the positive ion mass spectra, along

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with elemental carbon fragment ions  $[C_n]^-$  and a relatively high signal for sulfate in the negative ion spectra  $[HSO_4]^-$  ( $m/z = -97$ ) (Fig. 1). The  $m/z = -97$  ion can also be assigned to phosphate  $[H_2OPO_3]^-$  for single particle mass spectra collected in fresh heavy duty vehicle exhaust (Toner et al., 2006), although a corresponding fragment ion at  $m/z = -79$   $[PO_3]^-$  is not observed here, suggesting that sulfate is the correct assignment in this case. ECOC $SO_x$  particles do not exhibit a strong diurnal trend, although an apparent enhancement from 09:00 to 13:00 LT suggests that these particles may arise from processing of locally emitted ECtraffic particles. Diurnal photochemical processing of fresh fractal soot particles emitted in the early morning hours to form spherical aged soot particles in the afternoon has been directly observed by ATOFMS in Mexico City (Moffet et al., 2008a; Moffet and Prather, 2009). Those particles contained internally mixed OC, ammonium, sulfate and nitrate. Sulfate was observed even in fresh particles, suggesting rapid condensation in the combustion plume. A dominant mass mode at 215 nm for ECOC $SO_x$  particles, similar to that of ECtraffic, also supports a fossil fuel combustion source, but suggests that significant growth of local EC particles to larger sizes through accumulation of sulfate does not consistently occur throughout the measurement period. The highest concentrations of these particles were observed during a low wind speed fog event, as described in detail in Sect. 3.2, indicating that ECOC $SO_x$  particles are at least partly formed through heterogeneous processing of locally emitted ECtraffic particles. Coated BC particles detected in Tokyo using a soot photometer, were also found to contain internally mixed sulfate and OC, although this finding was inferred from concurrent measurements using an AMS (Shiraiwa et al., 2007).

### 3.1.4 EC internally mixed with OC and ammonium nitrate (ECOCNO $_x$ )

These particles are characterised by very similar positive ion mass spectra to ECOC $SO_x$ , but exhibit relatively lower signals for sulfate and an additional intense signal for nitrate in the negative ion spectra  $[NO_2]^-$ ,  $[NO_3]^-$  (Fig. 1). ECOCNO $_x$  particles do not have any apparent diurnal trend, indicating a regional/long-range transport ori-

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gin, and are on average the largest EC-containing particles observed, with a dominant mass mode at 580 nm. This is in direct contrast to the other 3 EC classes, each characterised by a dominant smaller mass mode < 300 nm. ECOC particles with various intensities for nitrate and sulfate are often detected in urban ATOFMS field studies (Dall'Osto and Harrison, 2006; Moffet et al., 2008a; Ault et al., 2009). BC particles with coatings containing nitrate have also been observed in Tokyo, but this was a minor contributor to coating composition relative to sulfate and OC (Shiraiwa et al., 2007). Ammonium nitrate will condense on particle surfaces during atmospheric transport if sulfate is fully neutralised and excess ammonia is available (Riemer et al., 2004). It appears that uptake of sulfate on EC surfaces occurs rapidly at a local level in Paris, while ammonium nitrate condensation occurs continuously over longer timescales during transport. This is borne out by the much larger size of ECOCNO<sub>x</sub> particles. Evidence for uptake of nitrate with increasing EC particle age, observed during a low-wind speed event, is also given in Sect. 3.2. The absence of a strong signal for potassium in the ECtraffic, ECOC SO<sub>x</sub> and ECOCNO<sub>x</sub> mass spectra suggests that biomass burning does not contribute to these classes. Confirmation of the assignment of these three classes to fossil fuel combustion by comparison with the seven-wavelength (7-λ) aethalometer modelled BC data is provided in Sect. 3.3.

## 3.2 Identification of aerosol transport events

A combination of temporal trends and mass size distributions for the ATOFMS EC classes (Figs. 4, 5 and 6) and LPDM FLEXPART retroplumes (Fig. 5) were employed to split the measurement campaign into 4 periods. The air masses observed were broadly similar to those influencing air quality in Paris in Spring 2007 (Sciare et al., 2010). As shown in Fig. 5, although the EC mass size distribution for Paris is bimodal, the relative importance of the second, larger mode is completely dependent upon air mass origin. Period I (15 January 2010 00:00–25 January 2010 12:00 LT) was influenced by marine air masses originating in the Atlantic Ocean with little influence from sources outside Paris. During this period, EC particles below 400 nm diameter dominate the mass size

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distribution and are attributed to local domestic wood burning and traffic emissions (Figs. 5 and 6). A low wind speed fog event was observed on 18 January 2010, during which growth of local EC particles to larger sizes was observed, and is described in more detail below.

Period II (25 January 2010 12:00–28 January 2010 00:00 LT) was characterised by a continental air mass originating in Eastern Europe. The retroplumes suggest that this air mass was sensitive to ground level emissions for up to 4 days before arriving in Paris. This is supported by the second, larger EC mass size mode peaking at 950 nm (Fig. 5). These particles are significantly aged, and are the largest EC particles observed for the entire measurement period. A significant fraction of this larger mode is comprised of transported ECtraffic and ECbiomass particles (Figs. 5 and 6) that do not exhibit sufficiently different mass spectra to be separated from their smaller local analogues during the clustering procedure.

Period III (28 January 2010 00:00–07 February 2010 00:00 LT) was similar to period I, but dominated by polar as well as marine air masses with very little sensitivity to ground level aerosol emissions. This was the cleanest period with respect to  $\text{ECOCNO}_x$  and  $\text{ECOCNO}_x$  particle mass concentrations (Fig. 4) and persisted for 10 days. It is also clear that fresh ECbiomass and ECtraffic particles  $< 400$  nm are unaffected by air mass origin, confirming their assignment to local traffic and domestic wood combustion sources (Figs. 4, 5 and 6).

Period IV (07 February 2010 00:00–11 February 2010 17:00 LT) was influenced by a continental air mass sensitive to emissions in North Eastern Europe and the Benelux countries (Fig. 5). The second, larger EC mass size mode is smaller than that observed for period II (580 nm), indicating that less aging has occurred. This assumption is borne out by the corresponding retroplumes, suggesting significant sensitivity to ground level aerosol emissions of up to 3 days (Fig. 5); a value lower than the sensitivity duration observed for period II (4 days). The EC mass size distribution observed for period IV is strongly dominated by large  $\text{ECOCNO}_x$  particles. Significant enhancement of particle phase light-scattering inorganic ammonium salt concentrations were also observed

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when similar air masses influenced air quality in Paris in 2007 (Sciare et al., 2010). In fact, the majority of particle phase ammonium sulfate and ammonium nitrate in Paris was assigned to continental transport in that case.

5 A distinct fog event was identified during Period I. As shown in Fig. 4, denoted by a red asterisk, a significant increase in mass concentration is observed for  $\text{ECOC SO}_x$  on 18 January 2010. This cannot be attributed to a continental transport source using corresponding retroplumes, which show no difference in air mass origin from 17 January 2010–18 January 2010 (Fig. S4). Instead, this day was characterised by the lowest average wind speed of the campaign, coupled with high relative humidity (Fig. S5).  
10 The low wind speed, and corresponding increase in  $\text{ECOC SO}_x$  mass concentration, suggests that these particles arise from processing of local EC. In fact, the highest mass concentrations of  $\text{ECOC SO}_x$  particles for the entire measurement period are observed during this event. The presence of thick fog is evident in a photograph taken on 18 January 2010 (Fig. S6). As shown in Fig. 6,  $\text{ECOC SO}_x$  and  $\text{EC}_{\text{traffic}}$  particles < 400 nm dominate this period. However, a small mass contribution from larger  $\text{ECOC SO}_x$  and  $\text{ECOC NO}_x$  particles (> 400 nm) is also observed. It is likely that the larger particles arise from growth of local EC through heterogeneous processing. Hydroxymethanesulfonate ( $m/z = -111$ ) has previously been used as a tracer for aqueous processing of ambient particles in ATOFMS field studies (Whiteaker and Prather, 2003; Dall'Osto et al., 2009a). The formation of this species through aqueous complexa-  
20 tion of sulfite and formaldehyde is highly dependent upon relative humidity (Whiteaker and Prather, 2003). Difference mass spectra for  $\text{ECOC SO}_x$  and  $\text{ECOC NO}_x$  particles smaller and larger than 400 nm detected on 18 January 2010 are given in Fig. S7. For  $\text{ECOC SO}_x$ , the larger particles are characterised by enhanced signals for ammonium  $[\text{NH}_3]^+$ ,  $[\text{NH}_4]^+$ , OC  $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}]^+$ , sulfite  $[\text{SO}_3]^-$ ,  $[\text{HSO}_3]^-$  and hydroxymethanesulfonate  $[\text{HOCH}_2\text{SO}_3]^-$ . The largest enhancement, however, is observed for nitrate  $[\text{NO}_3]^-$ . The difference mass spectra for  $\text{ECOC NO}_x$  particles show that larger particles are also characterised by enhanced signals for ammonium, OC and sulfite. Again, however, the largest enhancement is observed for nitrate. Thus, it appears that while both particle  
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types undergo at least some fog processing, the increase in size results predominantly from uptake of ammonium nitrate and OC. A similar dependence of particulate phase ammonium nitrate enhancement upon high relative humidity has been previously observed in Paris (Sciare et al., 2010). Humidity-dependent processing of EC particles, involving uptake of ammonium nitrate, liquid water and OC has also been directly observed by ATOFMS in Riverside, CA in the autumn (Moffet et al., 2008b). The density of the majority of particles detected during that study was found to be  $\sim 1.5 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ , the single value used for the scaling procedures here.

### 3.3 Intercomparison of EC and BC measurements

A comparison of the ATOFMS EC particle mass, Sunset EC, MAAP BC and aethalometer BC mass concentrations, and corresponding correlation plots are given in Figs. S8–13. The average mass concentrations reported by the 4 instruments for the entire measurement period are: ATOFMS EC particle mass ( $2.02 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ), MAAP BC ( $1.95 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ), Sunset EC ( $1.70 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ), aethalometer BC ( $1.66 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ). These values are broadly in line with average BC mass concentrations observed at other European urban background sites in Barcelona, Lugano and London ( $1.7$ ,  $1.8$  and  $1.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , respectively) (Reche et al., 2011). Unsurprisingly, the ATOFMS reports the highest mass values due to contributions from non-EC secondary species in the volume calculations, although this value remains within 20 % of the average BC and Sunset EC mass concentrations. Agreement is also very good between the MAAP, aethalometer and Sunset instruments ( $r^2 = 0.86$ – $0.94$ , Figs. S8–10). Differences between the aethalometer and MAAP BC datasets are expected to be mostly due to differences in the corrections used to account for scattering effects (Petzold and Schönlinner, 2004). The MAAP absorption data is internally corrected for particle and filter scattering, and thus an established  $\text{MAE}_{637 \text{ nm}}$  value of  $6.60 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  is used (Müller et al., 2011). The aethalometer absorption data is not internally corrected for scattering and thus a  $\text{MAE}_{950 \text{ nm}}$  value was derived from comparison with the thermal/optical EC data ( $5.08 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ). Differences between MAAP BC and thermal/optical EC mass concentrations have been previously

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reported in winter intercomparisons influenced by biomass burning, and may be partly due to the presence of light-absorbing brown carbon (Reisinger et al., 2008). Another possibility is that the thermal (NIOSH) program implemented in the OCEC instrument may be inappropriate for the analysis of wood-burning aerosols, leading to an under-estimation of EC from this source (Sciare et al., 2003, 2008).

A comparison of the hourly scaled ATOFMS EC mass concentrations and the hourly averaged Sunset thermal/optical EC data is given in Figs. 7 and S13. The agreement observed is reasonably good ( $r^2 = 0.61$ , slope = 0.79) considering the possible sources of error in the ATOFMS scaling procedures discussed earlier. The largest, most sustained discrepancy is the overestimation of the ATOFMS EC particle mass relative to the Sunset EC during period IV (Fig. 5), which is also characterised by a much lower  $r^2$  value of 0.30. A significant fraction of the ATOFMS EC-containing particle volume for this period is expected to be ammonium nitrate and OC (Fig. S7), thus the ATOFMS EC particle mass is significantly higher than the Sunset EC mass. If period IV is removed, the agreement between the ATOFMS EC particle mass and the Sunset EC mass noticeably improves ( $r^2 = 0.71$ , slope = 0.88). Good agreement was also observed between ATOFMS EC particle mass and aethalometer BC and MAAP BC mass for the entire measurement period ( $r^2 = 0.65$  and 0.68, respectively).

The relative abundance of internally mixed EC and OC in soot particles has been previously determined from relative ion intensities in single particle mass spectra, collected both in laboratory studies and in the field, and validated with OCEC thermal/optical measurements (Ferge et al., 2006; Spencer and Prather, 2006). Specific ion relative intensities in single particle mass spectra have also been used to estimate their respective particle volume fractions and thus mass concentrations (Jeong et al., 2011). That approach resulted in effective mass reconstruction for inorganic ions but proved less satisfactory for EC and OC, probably due to matrix effects during ionization of particle phase species (Reinard and Johnston, 2008). The EC volume fraction of soot particles detected by ATOFMS in Mexico City and Riverside, California has previously been estimated using Mie theory (Moffet and Prather, 2005, 2009). The intensity of scattered

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light detected by the photomultiplier tubes in the sizing region of the instrument was used to estimate the EC “core” diameter. Scattered light was not recorded in this study, but a similar core volume estimation approach is expected to improve agreement between the ATOFMS and other EC and BC instruments if employed in future studies.

5 In the absence of EC volume fraction estimates, the EC particle mass reported here includes contributions from internally mixed secondary components. Despite this, the relatively high correlations observed indicate that single particle mass spectrometers can be used to estimate EC mass concentrations at high temporal resolution in urban environments dominated by fresh EC emissions, even without volume fraction estimates.  
10

### 3.4 Source apportionment of EC and BC

The aethalometer data provides an opportunity for validating the source assignment of the ATOFMS particle types. Modelled aethalometer mass concentrations for the fossil fuel fraction ( $BC_{ff}$ ) and biomass burning fraction ( $BC_{bb}$ ) of BC are compared with the sum of ATOFMS EC classes expected to arise from fossil fuel combustion (EC-traffic +  $ECOC SO_x$  +  $ECOC NO_x$ ) and the ATOFMS ECbiomass class in Fig. 8. Agreement is reasonable ( $r^2 = 0.60$  and  $0.48$  for fossil fuel and biomass burning, respectively), although the aethalometer values are consistently lower. This is expected as the aethalometer also reports the lowest BC concentrations overall, however the more pronounced overestimation of the ATOFMS for fossil fuel EC, most dramatic during period IV, is due to internally mixed OC and inorganic ions. Again, if period IV is removed, the correlation improves ( $r^2 = 0.72$  and  $0.53$  for fossil fuel and biomass burning, respectively). The average EC particle mass assigned to fossil fuel and biomass burning for Paris using the ATOFMS data is 88 % and 12 %, respectively, while the modelled BC fractions from the aethalometer data are 85 % and 15 %, respectively. Internally mixed secondary species contribute to the higher fossil fuel fraction observed for ATOFMS EC particle mass, because the larger transported particles arise predominantly from fossil fuel combustion (Fig. 5). The aethalometer model has been previously compared  
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with carbon isotope ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ) measurements to identify suitable Absorption Exponents for wood-burning and traffic aerosol, and subsequent intercomparisons of aethalometer-modelled wood-burning organic aerosol with the chemical mass balance and AMS factor analysis approaches resulted in good agreement ( $r^2 = 0.84$  and  $0.85$ , respectively) (Srandewi et al., 2008a; Favez et al., 2010; Sciare et al., 2011). The agreement observed with the ATOFMS classes is encouraging, suggesting that effective separation of biomass burning and fossil fuel contributions to EC particle mass can be achieved using single particle mass spectrometry. The value reported here for the fraction of BC apportioned to biomass burning (15 %) is lower than those obtained in winter months for an urban site in Zürich, and a rural Alpine village in Switzerland (25 % and 51 %, respectively) using carbon isotope and aethalometer model approaches (Szidat et al., 2006; Herich et al., 2010; Srandewi et al., 2008a). The value of 15 % is close to those observed for urban sites in Göteborg, Sweden and Birmingham, UK in winter months as determined by carbon isotope analysis (12 % and  $\sim 10$  %, respectively) (Szidat et al., 2009; Heal et al., 2011). The average mass concentration of biomass burning BC in this work ( $0.25 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) is very close to the average mass concentration measured at a suburban site in Paris in the winter months ( $0.22 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) using the same aethalometer model (Sciare et al., 2011). Despite a relatively low contribution compared to traffic, biomass burning does represent a significant source of BC in Paris and should be accounted for when considering PM abatement strategies. Furthermore, the contribution of biomass burning to organic matter is much higher than that observed for BC (Sciare et al., 2011). Methodologies that can separate the relative contribution of fossil fuel BC and biomass burning BC plumes will also be relevant for climate studies, as the former exhibits approximately 100 % greater warming through absorption per unit mass than the latter (Ramana et al., 2010). Biomass burning particles have also been observed to induce oxidative stress and DNA damage in human lung epithelial cells (Danielsen et al., 2011).

Additional aethalometer data for BC mass < 250 nm ( $d_a$ ) for the period 05 February 2010–17 February 2010 demonstrate the different temporalities observed for BC particles of differing size in Paris. Subtraction of these values from the corresponding aethalometer BC mass < 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  dataset provides values for BC > 250 nm. The 2 BC size fractions are compared with each other and with ATOFMS EC particle mass in the size range 150–244 nm ( $d_{va}$ ) and ATOFMS EC particle mass > 244 nm ( $d_{va}$ ) in Fig. 9. Agreement between BC < 250 nm and ATOFMS EC particle mass in the size range 150–244 nm is reasonable ( $r^2 = 0.50$ ). Poor agreement is observed between BC mass > 250 nm and ATOFMS EC particle mass > 244 nm ( $r^2 = 0.10$ ). This is expected as the intercomparison was performed during period IV, which is characterised by an influx of large ECOCNO<sub>x</sub> particles with significant internally mixed secondary mass (Figs. 5 and 6). If the ECOCNO<sub>x</sub> particle mass > 400 nm is subtracted from the total ATOFMS EC particle mass > 244 nm, much better agreement with the BC > 250 nm is observed ( $r^2 = 0.43$ ), suggesting that a significant fraction of EC-containing particle mass detected by the ATOFMS during this period does arise from secondary OC and ammonium nitrate.

While the aethalometer measurements demonstrate different temporalities for BC of different sizes, 250 nm does not necessarily represent the best size cut-off for future studies attempting to estimate the relative importance of local and continental BC in Paris, at least during the winter months. Examination of the size-resolved mass concentrations of the summed ATOFMS EC classes enables the identification of a consistent minimum at 400 nm ( $d_{va}$ ) between the 2 EC mass size modes (Figs. 5 and 10). The temporal trends for ATOFMS EC mass concentrations below and above 400 nm are shown in Fig. 11. The smaller mode follows a clear diurnal trend, irrespective of air mass origin, while the larger mode is associated with continental transport events (periods II and IV). The highest PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass concentrations observed in Paris in Spring 2007 were also associated with continental transport events (Sciare et al., 2010). The data obtained in periods I and III show that the contribution of locally emitted EC particles to the larger mass size mode is in general very low. One exception is the fog event on

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18 January 2010, when local EC particles grew to sizes larger than 400 nm, although the mass contribution > 400 nm for this day is a factor of approximately 20 lower than the continental transport input for the rest of the measurement period. Growth of local EC particles to larger sizes through chemical processing has been observed to be more dramatic in Mexico City due to relatively high photochemical activity (Moffet and Prather, 2009). Using a cut-off of 400 nm, local emissions and transport events are estimated to contribute on average 1.60 and 0.42  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , respectively, to EC particle mass in Paris for the measurement period. However, the latter value must be considered as an upper limit for EC mass, as a significant fraction of the ATOFMS EC particle mass in that size range is comprised of secondary OC and ammonium nitrate. 90 % and 10 % of the local EC particle mass (< 400 nm) is apportioned to fossil fuel combustion and biomass burning, respectively from the ATOFMS data, compared to 82 % and 18 %, respectively for transported EC particle mass (> 400 nm). A higher contribution from fossil fuel EC is expected for local emissions considering the significant vehicular traffic source in Paris.

## 4 Conclusions

ATOFMS particle counts have been scaled to coincident TDMPs data in order to estimate mass concentrations of EC particles in Paris (France) during the MEGAPOLI winter measurement campaign. The results are in good agreement with the mass concentration of EC measured with a thermal/optical OCEC analyser and BC measured with a MAAP and 7- $\lambda$  aethalometer. Four distinct EC single particle classes were identified and quantified using the ATOFMS data: EC<sub>traffic</sub>, EC<sub>biomass</sub>, ECOC<sub>SO<sub>x</sub></sub> and ECOC<sub>NO<sub>x</sub></sub>, with fossil fuel and biomass burning contributions to EC particle mass estimated to be 88 % and 12 %, respectively (compared to 85 % and 15 %, respectively using aethalometer data). The results indicate that single particle mass spectrometry is suitable for source apportionment of EC, particularly in urban environments. On average, the EC particle mass size distribution in Paris is bimodal; a persistent smaller

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mode is dominated by locally emitted externally mixed EC particles, and a larger mode associated with continental transport events is dominated by aged, internally mixed ECOCNO<sub>x</sub> particles. The bimodal mass size distributions observed for EC particle mass exhibits a clear minimum at 400 nm, allowing the relative local and continental transport mass input to be estimated at 79 % and 21 %, respectively, although the latter must be considered as an upper limit for EC mass. The size-resolved ATOFMS EC data reported here should also prove useful for modelling studies attempting to bridge the gap between estimated transported BC concentrations derived from emissions inventories and those measured in Paris. A simple size cut-off point of 400 nm could be used to estimate local and continental emissions of BC for future aethalometer measurements in Paris, and a similar approach may be suitable for other urban environments, although transported BC must be sufficiently aged to reside in a well separated mass size mode.

**Supplementary material related to this article is available online at:**  
**<http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/11/30333/2011/acpd-11-30333-2011-supplement.pdf>.**

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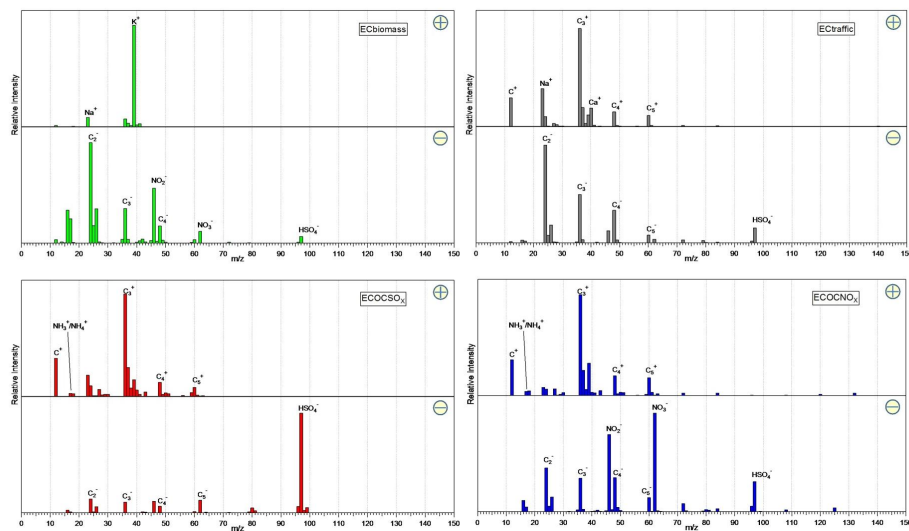
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**Fig. 1.** Average dual ion mass spectra for the ATOFMS EC classes.

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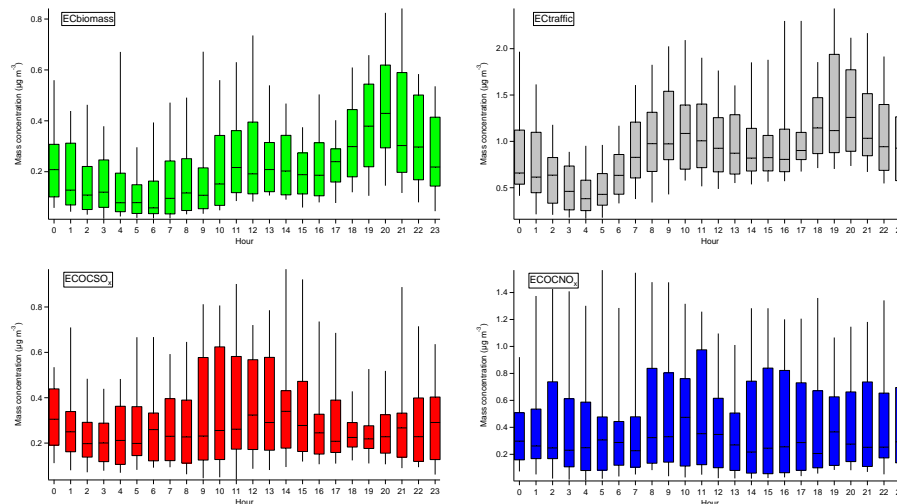
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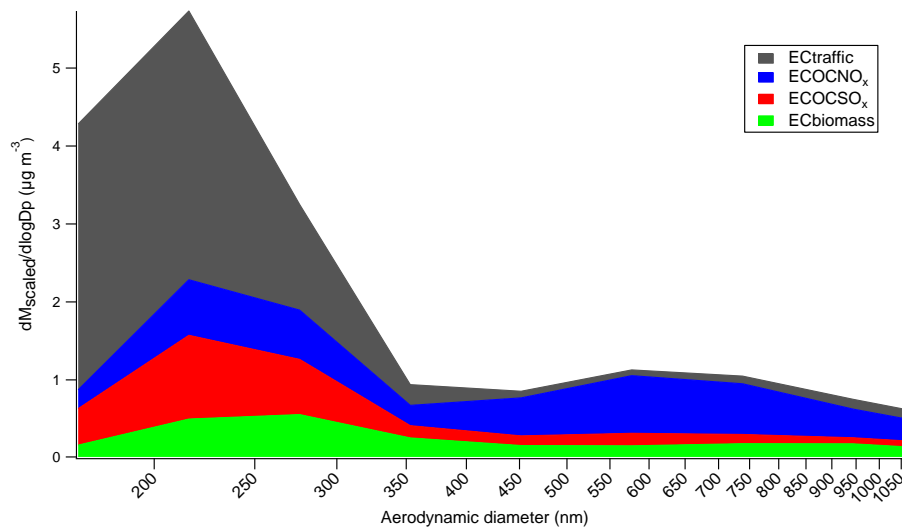
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**Fig. 2.** Box plots of diurnal trends (LT) of scaled mass concentration for the 4 ATOFMS EC classes ( $n = 27$ ). Median, 75th percentile and 90th percentile are denoted by the solid line, box and whisker, respectively.

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**Fig. 3.** Average scaled mass size distributions (stacked) for the 4 ATOFMS EC classes for the entire measurement period. The total corresponds to the average size-resolved scaled EC mass concentration.

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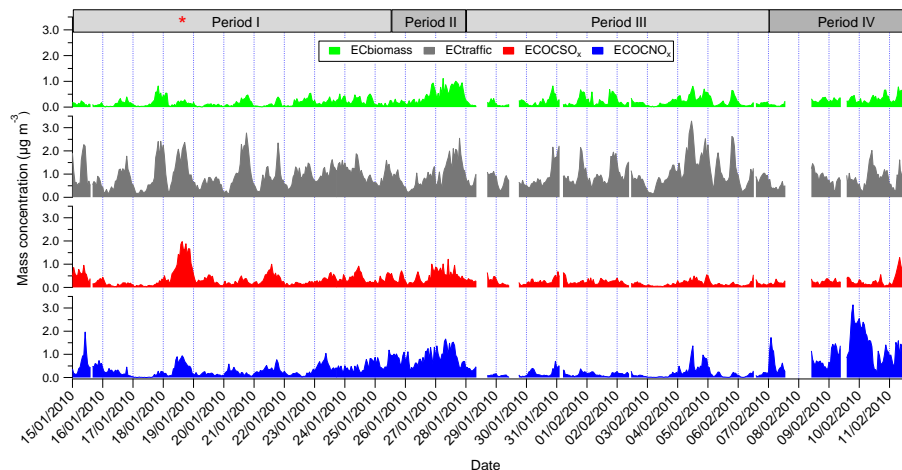
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**Fig. 4.** Temporal trends of hourly scaled mass concentrations for the 4 ATOFMS EC classes. The measurement period is split into 4 parts as described in Sect. 3.2. The red asterisk denotes the fog event.

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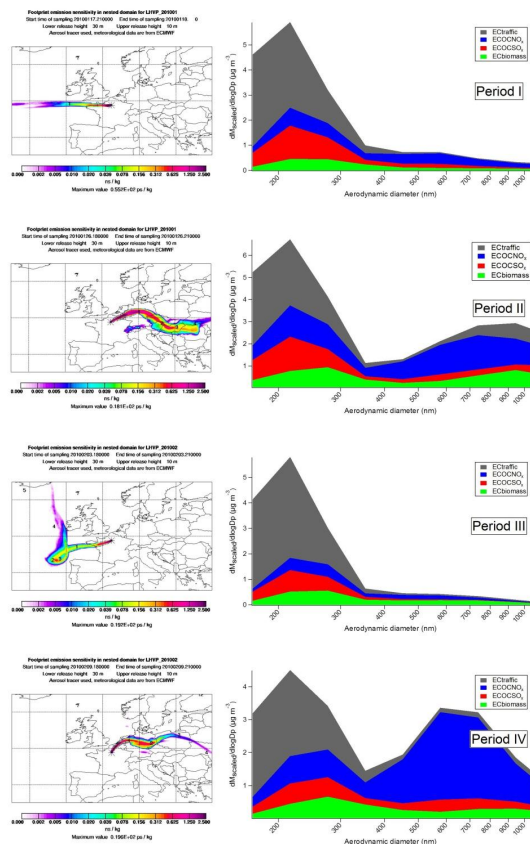
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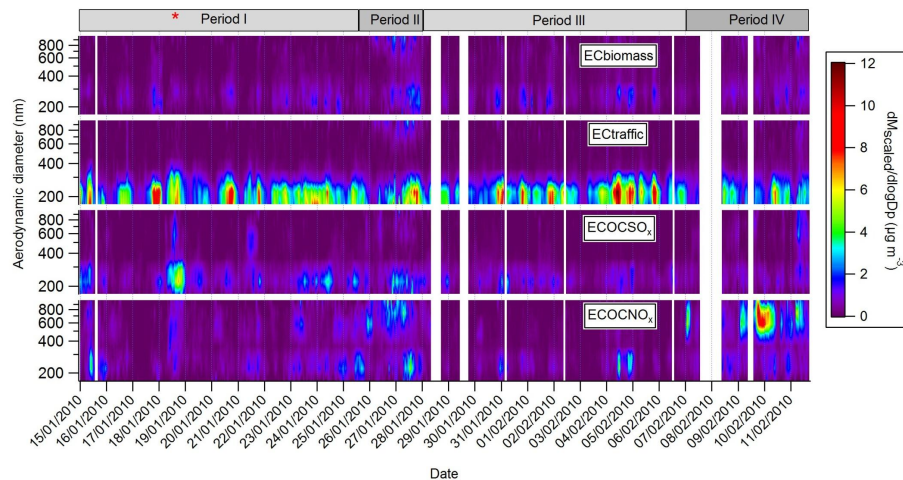
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**Fig. 5.** Characteristic potential emission sensitivities (left) and average scaled mass size distributions for the 4 ATOFMS EC classes (right, stacked) for the 4 periods defined in Sect. 3.2. The numbers on the potential emission sensitivity plots correspond to the air mass age in days, and are positioned on the centroid of the retroplume position at that time.



**Fig. 6.** Hourly scaled mass size distributions for the 4 ATOFMS EC classes.

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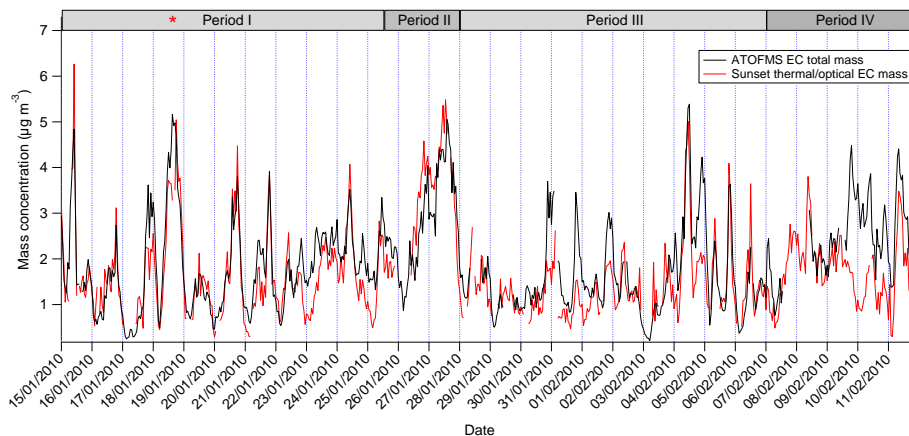
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**Fig. 7.** Comparison of total scaled hourly ATOFMS EC particle mass concentration and hourly average Sunset thermal/optical EC mass concentration.

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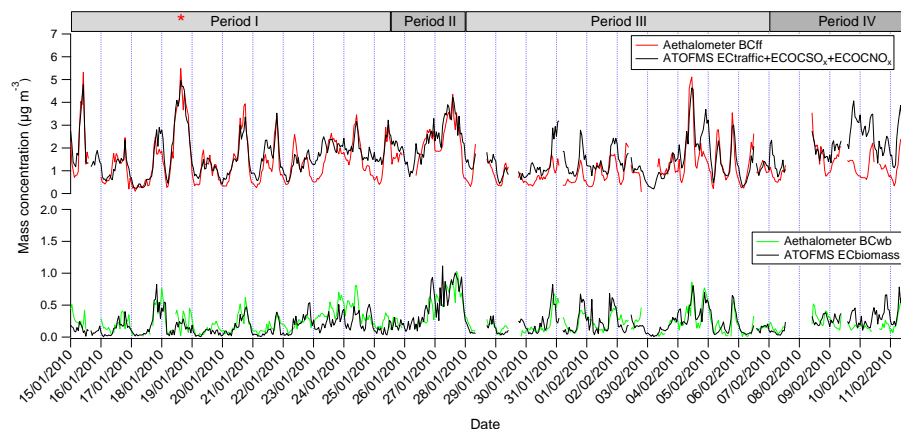
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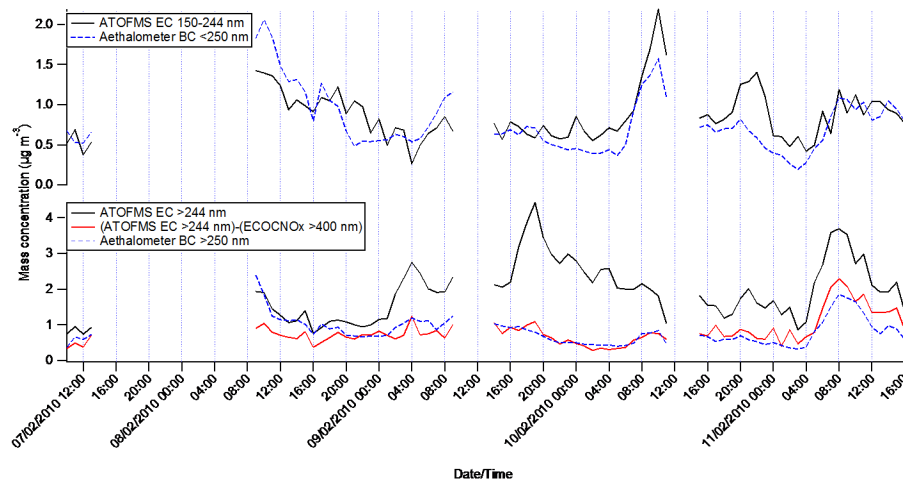


**Fig. 8.** Top: Scaled ATOFMS mass concentration for the sum of EC<sub>traffic</sub>, ECOC<sub>SO<sub>x</sub></sub> and ECOC<sub>NO<sub>x</sub></sub> compared with hourly average modelled aethalometer BC<sub>ff</sub> mass concentration. Bottom: scaled ATOFMS mass concentration for EC<sub>biomass</sub> compared with hourly average modelled aethalometer BC<sub>bb</sub> mass concentration.

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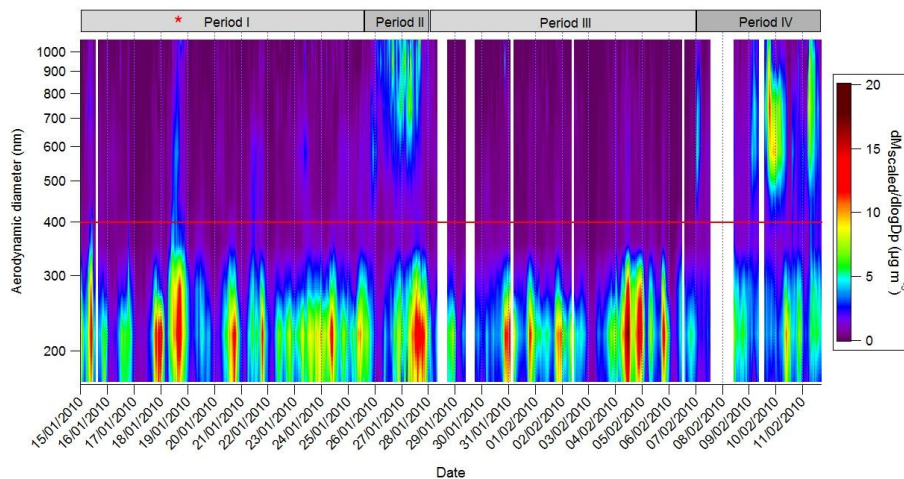


**Fig. 9.** Top: Scaled ATOFMS EC particle mass concentration in the size range 150–244 nm and mass concentration of BC < 250 nm measured with the aethalometer. Bottom: Scaled ATOFMS EC particle mass concentration > 244 nm, scaled ATOFMS EC particle mass concentration > 244 nm minus ATOFMS ECOCNO<sub>x</sub> > 400 nm, and aethalometer BC > 250 nm mass concentration estimated by comparing the two aethalometer datasets.

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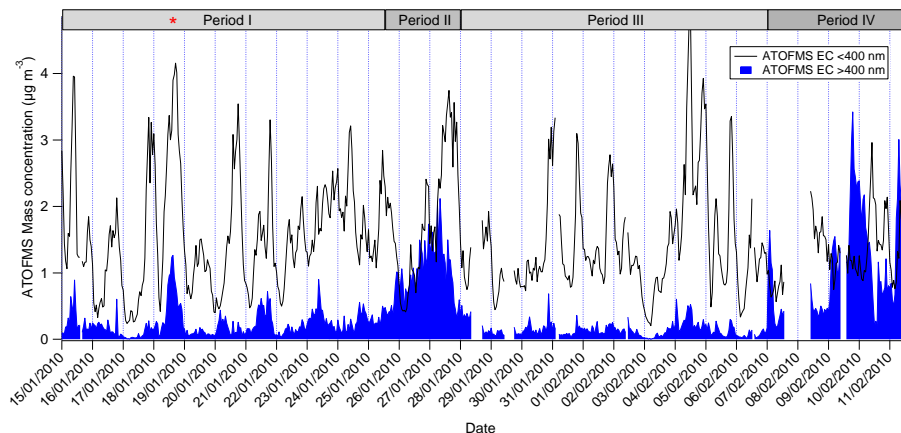


**Fig. 10.** Hourly total size-resolved ATOFMS scaled EC particle mass concentration. The minimum in the average bimodal EC particle mass size distribution at 400 nm is represented by the red line.

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**Fig. 11.** Hourly scaled ATOFMS EC particle mass concentration for particles less than and greater than 400 nm in diameter.

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