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Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions

Interactive comment on "The Pasadena Aerosol Characterization Observatory (PACO): chemical and physical analysis of the Western Los Angeles Basin aerosol" *by* S. P. Hersey et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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Hersey et al. report a suite of aerosol data sampled in Pasadena, CA over a five-month period in summer 2009. The measurements provide information on the aerosol size distribution, aerosol chemical composition and aerosol hygroscopic growth factors obtained at several relative humidities using the DASH-SP instrument. These data are analyzed using well-established techniques that are available in the literature and are presented in the meteorological context of the experiment.

The paper is generally well-written and the methodology of the data collection and analysis is sound. The data are of interest to the community and merit publication in Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics.

Minor comments:

The abstract is choppy and should be rewritten as a single paragraph

quintissential -> quintessential

“The dominant fraction of aerosol is organic” -> “the dominant fraction of the submicron nonrefractory aerosol is organic” (since the statement is based on AMS data).

Equation 3 contains the saturation ratio, not the supersaturation as indicated by the symbol “Sc” in the text.

soultion -> solution

Many of the figure labels are unreadable without magnification. These figures need to be properly redrafted for publication in print.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 11, 5867, 2011.