



Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

# Seasonal changes in Fe species and soluble Fe concentration in the atmosphere in the Northwest Pacific region based on the analysis of aerosols collected in Tsukuba, Japan

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Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Abstract

Atmospheric iron (Fe) can be a significant source of nutrition for phytoplankton inhabiting remote oceans, which in turn has a large influence on the Earth's climate. The bioavailability of Fe in aerosols depends mainly on the fraction of soluble Fe (=  $[Fe_{Sol}]/[Fe_{Total}]$ , where  $[Fe_{Sol}]$  and  $[Fe_{Total}]$  are the atmospheric concentrations of soluble and total Fe, respectively). However, the numerous factors affecting the soluble Fe fraction have not been fully understood. In this study, the Fe species, chemical composition, and soluble Fe concentrations in aerosols collected in Tsukuba, Japan were investigated over a year (nine samples from December 2002 to October 2003) to identify the factors affecting the amount of soluble Fe supplied into the ocean. The soluble Fe concentration in aerosols is correlated with those of sulfate and oxalate originated from anthropogenic sources, suggesting that soluble Fe is mainly derived from anthropogenic sources. Moreover, the soluble Fe concentration is also correlated with the enrichment factors of vanadium and nickel emitted by fossil fuel combustion. These results suggest that the degree of Fe dissolution is influenced by the magnitude of anthropogenic activity, such as fossil fuel combustion.

X-ray absorption fine structure (XAFS) spectroscopy was performed in this study to identify the Fe species in aerosols. The fitting of XAFS spectra coupled with micro X-ray fluorescence analysis (XRF) determined the main Fe species in aerosols in Tsukuba to be illite, ferrihydrite, hornblende, and Fe(III) sulfate. Moreover, the soluble Fe fraction in each sample measured by leaching experiments is closely correlated with the Fe(III) sulfate fraction determined by the XAFS spectrum fitting, suggesting that Fe(III) sulfate is the main soluble Fe in the ocean. Another possible factor that can control the amount of soluble Fe supplied into the ocean is the total Fe(III) concentration in the atmosphere, which was high in spring due to the high mineral dust concentrations during spring in East Asia. However, this factor does not contribute to the amount of soluble Fe to a larger degree than the effect of Fe speciation, or more strictly speaking the presence of Fe(III) sulfate. Therefore, based on these results, the most significant

ACPD

13, 7599–7641, 2013

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



factor influencing the amount of soluble Fe in the North Pacific region is the concentration of anthropogenic Fe species such as Fe(III) sulfate that can be emitted from megacities in Eastern Asia.

## 1 Introduction

Oceanic areas where phytoplankton growth is limited by iron (Fe) concentration are called “high nutrient, low chlorophyll (HNLC)” regions (Martin and Fitzwater, 1988), which account for 20 % to 30 % of the world’s oceans (Martin, 1990; Jickells et al., 2005; Boyd and Ellwood, 2010). The concentration of bioavailable Fe in the euphotic zone in the ocean can influence the photosynthesis of phytoplankton in the HNLC, which can consequently affect the carbon cycle on the Earth’s surface. Moreover, the amount of Fe in remote oceans can increase the production of dimethyl sulfide and/or organic carbon from microorganisms in the ocean, which in turn affects the radiative forcing in the atmosphere (Bishop et al., 2002; Boyd et al., 2007). Thus, understanding the processes of Fe supply and dissolution Fe from the atmosphere into the ocean is essential in estimating the impact of Fe on the Earth’s climate.

Previous studies have demonstrated that several sources of Fe, such as (1) atmospheric particles (Duce et al., 1991), (2) continental shelf (Lam and Bishop, 2008), (3) islands in the ocean (Martinez and Maamaatuaiahutapu, 2004), and (4) volcanic dust (Langmann et al., 2010), are suggested to be important for phytoplankton inhabiting remote oceans. Among these Fe sources, Fe in aerosols can be a significant source (Duce et al., 1991; Jickells and Spokes, 2001). Therefore, several previous studies have investigated the soluble Fe concentration in the atmosphere to understand the influence of airborne Fe on the Earth’s surface environment (e.g. Baker et al., 2006; Buck et al., 2010; Sedwick et al., 2007; Aguilar-Islas et al., 2010).

However, the factors controlling soluble Fe fraction in aerosols have not been understood fully because its mechanism involves various factors (Mahowald et al., 2005). Thus, the atmospheric concentrations of total Fe ( $[Fe_{Total}]$ ) and soluble Fe ( $[Fe_{Sol}]$ ),

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



both in  $\text{ng m}^{-3}$  need to be distinguished from soluble Fe fractions ( $f_{\text{sol}} = [\text{Fe}_{\text{Sol}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$ ) in the aerosols. For example, the soluble Fe fraction is influenced by aerosol sources (Sedwick et al., 2007; Aguilar-Islas et al., 2010; Paris et al., 2010), aerosol size (Baker and Jickells, 2006; Ooki et al., 2009), aerosol mineralogy (Journet et al., 2008), and heterogeneous reactions with acids in the atmosphere (Spokes and Jickells, 1996; Mackie et al., 2005; Shi et al., 2009).

The atmospheric concentration of soluble Fe ( $= [\text{Fe}_{\text{Sol}}]$ ), which is important in understanding the amount of bioavailable Fe to the ocean, is the product of  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  and the soluble Fe fraction ( $= f_{\text{sol}}$ ):  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Sol}}] = f_{\text{sol}} \times [\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$ . Here,  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  should be also important to consider  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Sol}}]$ , which can be increased during spring in the North Pacific region due to the supply of mineral dust from China. On the other hand, some reports have suggested that Fe from anthropogenic sources is highly soluble, which can be a significant source of bioavailable Fe dissolved in the ocean (Sedwick et al., 2007; Luo et al., 2008; Schroth et al., 2009; Sholkovitz et al., 2009; Kumar et al., 2010).

In this study, we used X-ray absorption fine structure (XAFS), which is a powerful analytical tool to identify chemical species of Fe and other elements in aerosols to speciate Fe in aerosols (Majestic et al., 2007; Schroth et al., 2009; Takahashi et al., 2011; Oakes et al., 2011; Furukawa and Takahashi, 2011). Identifying the Fe species in aerosol can improve understanding of the factors controlling  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Sol}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$ , because this ratio is strongly related to the Fe species. XAFS consists of X-ray absorption near edge structure (XANES) and extended X-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS) which can determine the chemical species of each element in aerosols. We also conducted leaching experiments with two leaching solutions to study the relationship between the  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Sol}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  ratio and Fe species. By combining atmospheric Fe concentration, XAFS analysis, and leaching experiments, we revealed important factors controlling the supply of soluble Fe into the ocean.

Aerosol samples used in this study were collected through one year (nine samples collected at different months from December 2002 to October 2003) in Tsukuba, 60 km northeast from Tokyo, Japan, at  $36.06^\circ \text{N}$ ,  $140.14^\circ \text{E}$ . Tsukuba is a site suitable for

characterizing aerosols that can be transported to the Northwest Pacific by westerlies. The various sources of aerosols in Tsukuba include (i) mineral dust from the continent, (ii) anthropogenic aerosols from megacities and industrial areas around Tokyo and from the continent, and (iii) marine aerosols from the Pacific Ocean. Considering that these three sources vary depending on the season, determining the seasonal variations in the contribution of each factor to the Fe speciation in aerosols related to the  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SoI}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  is important.

## 2 Materials and methods

### 2.1 Aerosol samples and characterization

The total suspended particles (TSP) in the atmosphere were determined in this study using a high-volume air sampler (Sibata, HV-1000F, Tokyo, Japan) at Tsukuba from December 2002 to October 2003 as part of the Japan–China joint project, “Asian Dust Experiment on Climate Impact” (Kanai et al., 2003; Table 1). The flow rate during sampling was maintained at  $1000 \text{ L min}^{-1}$ , and polyflon filters (25 cm × 20 cm; Advantec, PF40) were used for collecting aerosols. The filters were weighed before and after sampling with a reading precision of  $10 \mu\text{g}$  after stabilizing the weight under constant humidity in a desiccator. The filters with aerosols were preserved in a desiccator to prevent the chemical change of Fe in the aqueous phase at aerosol surfaces. Three-dimensional air mass back trajectories were calculated at a height of 1000 m using the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian-Integrated Trajectory model (Draxler and Rolph, 2003).

Aerosols on the filter were digested with a mineral acid mixture (30 % HCl + 68 % HNO<sub>3</sub> + 38 % HF) at 160 °C for 6 h, after which, the acids were evaporated to near dryness at 140 °C to determine the total chemical compositions. The residue was dissolved in 2 % HNO<sub>3</sub>, and the total concentrations of Na, Mg, Al, Ca, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn, and Pb in the aerosols were determined by inductively coupled plasma

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



atomic emission microscopy (ICP-AES; SII NanoTechnology, Inc., SPS3500, Chiba, Japan), and those of V, Cr, and Ni by ICP-MS (Agilent 7700, Tokyo, Japan). All of the analyses were repeated three times to estimate the precision of our experiments. All of the bottles or beakers used were acid-washed before use.

## 2.2 Water soluble components and leaching experiments

Bulk chemical analysis of the water-soluble components (WSCs) in the aerosol was conducted using the procedure described by Furukawa and Takahashi (2011). Part of the filter was soaked in a Teflon beaker containing 0.10 mL of ethanol and 10 mL of Milli-Q (MQ) water. WSCs were leached by subjecting the solution to an ultrasonic treatment for 30 min. The WSCs were then recovered as filtrate after filtration through a 0.20  $\mu\text{m}$  hydrophilic polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) filter. This extract was used to quantify major anions ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , and  $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ ) by ion chromatography (IC7000, Yokogawa, Tokyo, Japan) equipped with a Shima-pack IC-SA1/-SA1(G) column. The eluent composition was 14 mM  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , and the flow rate of the eluent was  $1.0 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$ . Part of the extracted solution was also used to determine the concentrations of water-soluble metal ions (Na, Mg, Al, Ca, Mn, Fe, and Zn) using the ICP-AES.

Furthermore, simulated seawater (0.70 M NaCl and pH 8 with 0.10 mM ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) as an analogue of ligands in seawater) was used to determine the fraction of Fe that can be dissolved into the ocean. Iron dissolved in the simulated seawater at a temperature of  $20^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h was determined by ICP-AES after filtration through a 0.20  $\mu\text{m}$  PTFE filter. The amount of Fe dissolved in MQ water was defined as MQ water-soluble Fe ( $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]$ ), whereas that in simulated seawater as seawater-soluble Fe ( $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]$ ). The use of different leaching solutions, i.e. MQ water and simulated seawater, to determine the Fe solubility is helpful in understanding Fe dissolution and in estimating practical  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]$  (Baker and Croot, 2010). Two results were determined to examine the fraction of soluble Fe:

$$[\text{Fe}_{\text{Sol}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}] = [\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}] \text{ or } [\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$$

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



where  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  was determined by the acid digestion shown above. All of the analyses were repeated three times. All of the bottles or beakers used for the analyses were acid-washed before the experiments.

## 2.3 XAFS measurements

Iron K-edge XAFS was performed at beamline12C at the Photon Factory (Tsukuba, Japan) and the procedures of XAFS analyses were described by Takahashi et al. (2011). XANES reflects the valence and symmetry of the element, whereas EXAFS yields the interatomic distance and coordination number. Combining the results of both XANES and EXAFS can make our speciation analysis more reliable (Furukawa and Takahashi, 2011). Transmission and fluorescence (FL) modes were employed to measure the Fe K-edge XANES and EXAFS data of the reference materials and samples, respectively. Aerosol samples were measured in the FL mode, where the sample was placed at a  $45^\circ$  angle from the incident beam. The fluorescent X-rays were measured using a 19-element Ge solid-state detector. The fitting of the spectra of natural samples was conducted by linear combination fitting (LCF) of reference materials using a least squares fitting method performed via the REX2000 software (Rigaku Co., Ltd., Japan). The goodness-of-fit for the XANES spectra was estimated by defining the  $R$  value in the energy region for the fitting as

$$R = \frac{\sum (I_s(E) - I_{\text{cal}}(E))^2}{\sum I_s(E)^2}$$

where  $E$  is energy and  $I_s$  and  $I_{\text{cal}}$  are the normalized absorption of the samples and calculated values, respectively. Energy calibration was performed by defining the pre-edge peak maximum of hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ) fixed at 7111 eV, and the energy range used for the fitting of the Fe K-edge XANES was from 7110 eV to 7150 eV. Similarly, the  $R$  value for EXAFS spectra was defined as:

$$R = \frac{\sum [k^3 \chi_s(k) - k^3 \chi_{\text{cal}}(k)]^2}{\sum [k^3 \chi_s(E)]^2}$$

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



The energy unit was transformed from eV to  $\text{\AA}^{-1}$  to produce the EXAFS function  $\chi(k)$ , where  $k$  is the photoelectron wave vector. The range of  $k$  for the fitting of the Fe K-edge EXAFS was from  $2.0 \text{\AA}^{-1}$  to  $7.0 \text{\AA}^{-1}$ . The precision of the relative ratios of each Fe species determined by the LCF was estimated to be better than 3%, obtained from three independent scans and fitting procedure for the same aerosol sample (Takahashi et al., 2011). Supplementary data were also obtained at beamline BL01B1 using SPring-8 (Hyogo, Japan), which obtained spectra identical to those measured at the Photon Factory. Standard materials used for fitting in this study were of analytical grade and were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Osaka, Japan) or the Kanto Chemical Co., Inc. (Tokyo, Japan). Clay minerals were obtained from the Clay Mineral Society (Chantilly, USA).

## 2.4 $\mu$ -XRF mapping and $\mu$ -XANES

The XRF mapping of aerosol samples using an X-ray microbeam ( $\sim 3 \mu\text{m}$ ) was conducted at beamline 10.3.2 at the Advanced Light Source (ALS) in Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The layout of beamline 10.3.2 at ALS was described by Marcus et al. (2004). The incident energy was fixed at 10 keV. The distributions of S, Cl, K, Ca, V, Mn, Fe, and Zn were measured by mapping at a pixel size of  $3 \times 3 \mu\text{m}^2$  and a dwell time of 150 ms. This mapping procedure showed us the ratios of the various elements in individual particle. These ratios are in turn related to the soluble Fe fraction ( $[\text{Fe}_{\text{sol}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}]$ ; Baker and Croot, 2010). Based on the mapping,  $\mu$ -XAFS analysis on selected particles was conducted with a beam size of  $3 \mu\text{m} \times 3 \mu\text{m}$ . The energy range for the  $\mu$ -XAFS measurement was from 7010 eV to 7500 eV, where the energy step was 1 eV. Other details of the analyses are similar to those reported by Manceau et al. (2002) and Marcus et al. (2004).

## 3 Results and discussion

### 3.1 Characterization of aerosols

#### 3.1.1 Backward trajectory analyses and concentration of aerosols

Backward trajectory analyses suggest that the air masses in Tsukuba reflected typical seasonal trends in Japan (Fig. 1). The winter (December and February) and spring (March) samples were affected by the air masses from Northeast China and megacities surrounding Tokyo, whereas spring (May) to summer (July to August) samples by the air masses from Pacific Ocean and the megacities and industrial areas around Tokyo. The sample in May is also affected by the air mass from Northeast China. Origins of air masses in September and October were variously from Northeast China, Pacific Ocean, and industrial areas around Tokyo.

The concentration of aerosols at Tsukuba was high in spring (February to May) and low in summer (August and September; Table 1). Considering aerosols in Tsukuba during spring are generally affected by Asian dust (Kanai et al., 2003), high aerosol concentration in spring possibly reflected the larger springtime contribution of Asian dust. Based on the backward trajectory analyses and concentration of aerosols, the following are suggested: (i) the air mass at Tsukuba was influenced by the anthropogenic activities around the sampling site throughout the year; and (ii) the ratio of anthropogenic aerosols relative to natural ones (Asian dust) is larger in summer.

#### 3.1.2 Chemical compositions of aerosols

The chemical composition of the aerosols also reflected their sources. The concentration of non-sea salt (nss) sulfates was calculated as (Uematsu et al., 2010)

$$[\text{nss-SO}_4^{2-}] = [\text{total SO}_4^{2-}]_{\text{aerosol}} - ([\text{SO}_4^{2-}]/[\text{Na}^+]_{\text{seawater}} \times [\text{Na}^+]_{\text{aerosol}})$$

ACPD

13, 7599–7641, 2013

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



where the ratio of  $([\text{SO}_4^{2-}]/[\text{Na}^+])_{\text{seawater}}$  by Bruland and Lohan (2003) was used. The results showed that more than 98% of sulfate in the aerosol samples is nss sulfate, suggesting that most of the sulfate is of anthropogenic origin.

The sulfate and oxalate ion concentrations most likely originated from anthropogenic sources (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006; Furukawa and Takahashi, 2011) were high from March to July. The major ion concentrations in aerosol were normalized by TSP to estimate the magnitude of the anthropogenic activity. The peaks of the sulfate and oxalate ion values normalized by TSP concentration were shifted to August compared with those without normalization (Fig. 2). This result suggests that the contribution of the aerosols from anthropogenic origins was relatively high from July to August, though the absolute concentrations of the anthropogenic components were high from March to July. Thus, this finding and the results of backward trajectory analyses coincide.

The concentration of total Fe ( $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$ ) was high from March to June (approximately  $900 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ); intermediate in December, February, July, and October (ca.  $400 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$  to  $600 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ); and low in August and September (approximately  $200 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ; Fig. 3). Similar seasonal variations were also observed by Var et al. (2000). The high  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  from March to May was attributed to Asian dust coming from arid areas in Central China, such as the Gobi and Taklimakan deserts (Var et al., 2000; Kanai et al., 2003). The seasonal variation of Al was similar to that of  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  (Fig. 3). Aluminum comes mainly from crustal materials (Duce et al., 1980), implying that Fe in crust or soil is one of the main sources of the atmospheric Fe.

Some studies have suggested that Fe in road dust is one of the main sources of atmospheric Fe (e.g. Manoli et al., 2002). Pavements or asphalts in roads contain some minerals, such as quartz and hornblende, which can be released into the atmosphere as aerosol particles as pavements or asphalts wear (Kupiainen et al., 2003, 2005). Part of Fe in aerosols at Tsukuba possibly originated from road dust, such as pavement wear, as will be described in Sect. 3.2.

Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



### 3.1.3 Enrichment factor of each element

The value of enrichment factor (EF) relative to the crust of the earth is used to identify the source of each element. The EF of an element M is defined as

$$EF = (M/Al)_{\text{aerosol}} / (M/Al)_{\text{crust}}$$

where  $(M/Al)_{\text{crust}}$  is as described by Taylor (1964). The EFs of Zn, Cu, and Pb exceeded 10 for all the seasons (Fig. 4a), suggesting that these metals originated mainly from anthropogenic sources and that aerosols in Tsukuba were affected by anthropogenic activities throughout the year. In particular, EFs of Zn and Cu during summer (July and August) were higher than those for the other seasons (Fig. 4a). Thus, the influence of anthropogenic activities was relatively larger in this period. This result is consistent with backward trajectory analyses that showed the influence of air masses from industrial areas surrounding Tokyo during these months.

On the other hand, the EFs of other metals (Na, Mg, Ca, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, and Ni) were relatively lower (Fig. 4a). These elements are presumably suspended and transported from natural sources such as crust or soil. Sodium, which is abundant in sea-salt particles, has relatively higher EF values, suggesting that aerosols at Tsukuba contain some sea salt components (Furukawa and Takahashi, 2011).

EFs of V and Ni, which are trace elements in fossil fuel combustion, showed a definitive seasonal trend of peaking during summer (Fig. 4b). This seasonal trend indicated that atmospheric V and Ni are emitted by oil combustion, particularly during summer. Some studies (Sedwick et al., 2007; Sholkovitz et al., 2010) showed that  $[Fe_{\text{Sol}}]$  or  $[Fe_{\text{Sol}}]/[Fe_{\text{Total}}]$  in aerosols is related to oil combustion, details of which will be described in Sect. 3.3. In Japan, oil is mainly used for the generation of electricity, and some electric power plants using oil are located around Tokyo Bay, which is the pathway of air masses in Tsukuba during the summer (Fig. 1).

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

## 3.2 XAFS results

Iron K-edge XAFS measurements were performed to identify the chemical species in aerosols. Figure 5a shows the XANES spectra of aerosol samples with the fitting results, whereas the spectra of various reference materials of Fe are shown in Fig. S1a (Supplement). The fractions of Fe species determined by XANES are shown in Fig. 6. The XANES spectra of aerosol samples collected in various months are similar to one another. The Fe(III) fraction of the total Fe in aerosol as determined by the pre-edge position around 7110 keV (Wilke et al., 2001) was almost constant at approximately 70% throughout the year. However, a shift of the peak in the XANES region from 7128 eV to 7129.5 eV was observed for the sample collected, especially in June, July, and August. The difference can be also observed in the derivative XANES spectra (Fig. 5b), where positive (7133.8 eV and 7139.9 eV) and negative (7136.7 eV) peaks were clearly seen in the derivative spectra of June, July, and August (Fig. 5b). These results suggest that Fe species, or the relative ratios of various Fe species in June, July, and August are different from those of other months.

In the LCF analysis, the results with  $R$  values less than 0.02 can be assumed as good fitting (Léon et al., 2004; Shukla et al., 2004), suggesting that the end-members of Fe species employed in the fitting are reasonable. Based on our XANES results (Fig. 5), the main Fe species in aerosols at Tsukuba were found to be illite, ferrihydrite, hornblende, and Fe(III) sulfate [ $\text{Fe}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $n = 6$  to 9)]. The  $R$  value of each fitting result was less than 0.010. LCF of the XANES spectra for clay minerals such as chlorite and smectite or illite and magnetite cannot explain the sample spectra, considering the  $R$  values were relatively large (0.045 and 0.037, respectively) in the fitting (Fig. S1b, c), which reinforces our results that the Fe main species in the aerosols are illite, ferrihydrite, hornblende, and Fe(III) sulfate. Significant fractions of ferrihydrite and hornblende (> 20% of total Fe) were observed in all of the aerosol samples.

Additionally, the EXAFS fittings for all the aerosol samples were conducted with the same Fe species determined by XANES (Fig. 7), for which the EXAFS spectra of the

ACPD

13, 7599–7641, 2013

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



standard materials shown in Fig. S2 were employed. If we could obtain similar information on the Fe species by fitting both by XANES and EXAFS, the speciation data can be more reliable, because EXAFS spectra reflect different information from XANES, such as neighboring atoms, interatomic distances, and coordination number for the chemical species. The fitting results of EXAFS (Fig. 6) are very similar to those obtained with the XANES fitting, showing that the Fe species estimated in this study can be robust. We found that we can use four species to fit the spectra for all the samples examined, namely, illite, ferrihydrite, hornblende, and Fe(III) sulfate.

The validity of the number of end members can be confirmed by the principal component analysis (PCA; Beauchemin and Hesterberg, 2002; Seiter et al., 2008). For the PCA and target transformation analysis in the present study, SIXPack data analysis software ([http://home.comcast.net/~sam\\_webb/sixpack.html](http://home.comcast.net/~sam_webb/sixpack.html)) was used. PCA determines the minimum number of significant components required to fit the sample spectra. The results of the PCA analysis are shown in Fig. S3, in which the contributions of four components were sufficient to explain the spectrum of our samples, which also support the fitting results above.

### 3.3 Main Fe species in aerosols

#### 3.3.1 Fe(III) sulfate

Fe(III) sulfate is an important component in terms of its influence on marine primary production due to its high solubility (440 g/100 g water; David, 1994). Schroth et al. (2009) showed that Fe emitted from oil combustion, determined by XAFS, is Fe(III) sulfate (72 %) and ferrihydrite (28 %) and that Fe in oil fly ash is highly soluble. The presence of Fe(III) sulfate in industrial aerosols was also implied by Xie et al. (2005) by scanning electron microscopy.

Thus, the Fe(III) sulfate in our aerosol samples also possibly originated from oil combustion. Iron(III) sulfate was the main Fe species found from May to August. On the other hand, the air mass at Tsukuba during this period was strongly affected by

anthropogenic activities, as confirmed by (i) the backward trajectory analyses, (ii) high concentrations of anthropogenic ions (sulfate and oxalate), and (iii) large EFs of V and Ni which are indicators of fossil fuel combustion (Chen et al., 2004; Jang et al., 2007; Sholkovitz et al., 2009). Thus, Fe(III) sulfate is mainly found in aerosols during the peak of anthropogenic activities, especially oil combustion.

In addition, Fe species before and after the water extraction treatment for the July sample were examined by XANES fitting to confirm the presence of Fe(III) sulfate (Fig. S4). The main Fe species in aerosol before extraction were Fe(III) sulfate (23%), ferrihydrite (48%), and hornblende (29%) ( $R = 0.009$ ), whereas those after the extraction were ferrihydrite (70%) and hornblende (30%) ( $R = 0.009$ ). This change in the main Fe species with the addition of water supports the presence of Fe(III) sulfate in aerosols, which is readily dissolved into water. Figure S4 shows the comparison of the XANES derivative spectra for the July sample before and after the water extraction. The derivative spectrum after water extraction was slightly changed because of the selective dissolution of Fe(III) sulfate into the solution. The spectrum after water extraction was more similar to that of ferrihydrite, whereas that before extraction was similar to Fe(III) sulfate. These facts also support the presence of Fe(III) sulfate in our July sample.

We measured the XANES spectra of the standard material mixed with different mole ratios to confirm the accuracy of the fraction of Fe(III) sulfate determined by XANES fitting. Mole ratio of Fe(III) sulfate and ferrihydrite was adjusted to 1 : 9 (A), 2 : 8 (B), and 3 : 7 (C), as shown in Fig. S5a. The results showed that XANES fitting is reliable in obtaining the fraction of Fe(III) sulfate within a 2% error if it is in such a binary system. The variation in derivative spectra for mixed standard materials with different Fe(III) sulfate/ferrihydrite ratios was also measured (Fig. S5b). This variation is similar to what we observed in the natural samples using water extraction in Fig. S4.

A  $\mu$ -XANES result for a spot with high signals of Fe, S, and V with a relatively low signal of K (Fig. 8) indicated the presence of Fe(III) sulfate and ferrihydrite and the absence of clay minerals in the spot. The high V count implies that the particle originated

Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



from oil combustion, which also supports that Fe(III) sulfate can be of the same origin (Sedwick et al., 2007; Schroth et al., 2009). Iron sulfides such as pyrite, pyrrhotite, or mackinawite also consist of Fe and S, but the XANES spectra of Fe sulfides should have the absorption edge at a lower energy, which are quite different from the observed spectrum (Figs. S1a and 8). Thus, the Fe species in the particle containing Fe and S shown in Fig. 8 is not Fe sulfide but Fe(III) sulfate, coexistent with ferrihydrite.

### 3.3.2 Ferrihydrite

Ferrihydrite is one of the main Fe hydroxides in soil (Jambor and Dutrizac, 1998). The source of atmospheric ferrihydrite can be the soil around the sampling site. Some ferrihydrite in aerosols can also be formed by acid processing in the atmosphere (e.g. Shi et al., 2009; Takahashi et al., 2011) especially during dust storm season (spring in East Asia). However, whether ferrihydrite in our aerosol samples was formed by the precipitation of ferrihydrite in aerosols resulting from acid processing or not was unclear in this study. Most of the ferrihydrite possibly originated from soil, because ferrihydrite was found in our samples for all seasons.

Some reports using XAFS indicated that the main Fe hydroxide species in aerosol are goethite, magnetite, or hematite (Oakes et al., 2011). However, Fe oxide in our samples was suggested to be mainly ferrihydrite, though a small amounts of goethite, magnetite, and hematite lower than the detection limit of XAFS can coexist in our samples. Considering that the shape of the XANES spectrum of ferrihydrite is similar to that of goethite or hematite to some degree, identifying the Fe oxide in aerosol, whether as ferrihydrite or other Fe hydroxide species, is difficult by XANES fitting. Consequently, EXAFS was also employed in this study to identify the Fe hydroxide species. Ferrihydrite is less crystalline than the other Fe oxides (Jambor and Dutrizac, 1998), the degree of which is shown in the EXAFS spectra of each species (Fig. 7b). Thus, the amplitude of the EXAFS oscillations of ferrihydrite is lower than that of, for instance, goethite. The oscillations of the EXAFS spectra of the aerosol samples (Fig. 7a) were also small as we found for ferrihydrite, suggesting that the Fe hydroxide in aerosol can

be mainly ferrihydrite (Jambor and Dutrizac, 1998). Similar results were also reported in Schroth et al. (2009) and Takahashi et al. (2011).

### 3.3.3 Hornblende and illite

Hornblende is present in asphalt (Kupiainen et al., 2003, 2005). Hornblende suspended from road dust may be present in the aerosols collected in Tsukuba. Fe species in road dust collected in a tunnel in Hiroshima Prefecture (Japan) were identified by XAFS fitting to demonstrate the presence of hornblende in aerosols. Figure 9 shows the results of XAFS analysis for the road dust aerosol samples. The result of XANES fitting (Fig. 9a) suggest that the main Fe species in the road dust were hornblende (35 %) and ferrihydrite (65 %;  $R = 0.009$ ). Similar results (hornblende : ferrihydrite = 37 : 63) were also obtained by EXAFS analysis (Fig. 9b). The spectra of road dust cannot be fitted by the LCF of other end members such as ferrihydrite and illite ( $R = 0.057$ ), ferrihydrite and chlorite ( $R = 0.023$ ), or ferrihydrite and magnetite ( $R = 0.019$ ) as shown in Fig. 9c. These results revealed that hornblende can be one of the main Fe species in road dust, supporting the suggestion above that hornblende from pavement wear is possibly one of the Fe species found in aerosols. Additionally, Fe pre-edge analyses showed that the fraction of ferrous to total Fe was approximately 30 %, which is attributed to the presence of hornblende, considering hornblende contains ferrous ions in crystalline form (Schroth et al., 2009).

As for the fourth Fe species suggested in this study, Fe in illite is expected, given that illite is a common clay mineral in soils or desert dust and often found in atmospheric aerosols from natural sources (Claquin et al., 1999; Takahashi et al., 2011). Thus, illite was likely present in our aerosol samples, as suggested by the XANES and EXAFS analysis (Figs. 5–7). In terms of the Fe content of the ocean, the amount of clay minerals such as illite in aerosols is a critical factor controlling Fe solubility (Journet et al., 2008). However, this factor may not be important at least for our samples, as will be described in the next section.

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Consequently, the spectra of Fe in our aerosol samples can be well fitted by the linear combination of illite, ferrihydrite, hornblende, and Fe(III) sulfate, which were also employed to fit the EXAFS of our samples. The relative contributions of the four species determined by the EXAFS fitting (Figs. 6b and 7) are similar to those obtained by XANES, showing the validity of our XANES and EXAFS interpretation, as indicated above.

### 3.4 Atmospheric concentrations of soluble Fe and fraction of soluble Fe

In this study, we aimed to understand the dependence of the fraction of soluble Fe on the Fe species as determined by XAFS analysis. The atmospheric concentrations,  $[Fe_{MQ}]$  and  $[Fe_{SW}]$ , obtained through leaching experiments were determined in this study, which showed clear seasonal variations. The former varied from  $7 \text{ ngm}^{-3}$  to  $95 \text{ ngm}^{-3}$ , and the latter from  $52 \text{ ngm}^{-3}$  to  $201 \text{ ngm}^{-3}$  (Fig. 10a). The soluble Fe concentrations in both solutions were high from May to July. These results confirmed the presence of Fe that is readily soluble even in MQ water. Furthermore, this seasonal variation was correlated with those of concentrations of anthropogenic components such as sulfate or oxalate (Fig. 11), for which the correlation coefficients ( $r^2$ ) of the concentrations of sulfate and oxalate with that of  $Fe_{MQ}$  were 0.853 and 0.905, respectively. This result suggests that the fraction of soluble Fe is supplied mainly by anthropogenic sources.

The fraction of soluble Fe obtained by MQ water leaching ( $= [Fe_{MQ}]/[Fe_{Total}]$ ) and SW leaching ( $= [Fe_{SW}]/[Fe_{Total}]$ ) were 1.4 % to 17 % and 11 % to 34 %, respectively, for the aerosol samples in Tsukuba, which also showed seasonal variations (Fig. 10b). The fraction of soluble Fe is high from May to August (especially in July and August), and relatively lower in the other months. The aerosol with a high soluble Fe fraction in this period is possibly related to the influence of anthropogenic activities on the chemical characteristics of the aerosols (Figs. 1–4). As a result, the seasonal variation of the soluble Fe fraction is strongly correlated with Fe species, as determined by XAFS fitting. In fact, the fraction shown in Fig. 10b is similar to the ratio of Fe(III) sulfate to

total Fe (Fig. 6), suggesting that the presence of Fe(III) sulfate can increase the fraction of soluble Fe. Thus, the Fe(III) sulfate concentration is an important factor controlling the extent of Fe dissolution in seawater.

The soluble Fe fraction was simulated in synthetic seawater to confirm the effect of sulfate. The simulation was based on the assumption that soluble Fe fractions in the simulated seawater employed in this study for each Fe species were 2.6 % for ferrihydrite (Takahashi et al., 2011), 0.6 % for illite (Takahashi et al., 2011), 100 % for Fe(III) sulfate (assumption made in this study), and 0 % for hornblende (assumption made in this study). As a result, the trend of the simulation curve for  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  shown in Fig. 10b is similar to that of the experimental value of  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$ , although the absolute values of the two systems differed to some degree. The discrepancy can be due to the different particle sizes of the soluble Fe species between the aerosol samples and minerals (ferrihydrite and illite) employed in the leaching experiments. However, the similarity of the calculated and experimental curves also indicated that the soluble fraction is strongly affected by the Fe(III) sulfate fraction in the aerosols (Fig. 6).

The difference between  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  and  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  (8 % to 17 %) was observed in every sample (Fig. 10a). The ligand (EDTA) in simulated seawater contributed to the increase in the amount of soluble Fe, because ferrihydrite can be dissolved into water containing ligands that stabilize Fe in the aqueous phase (Kramer, 2004; Takahashi et al., 2011). Thus, the increase of the solubility was possibly caused by the dissolution of ferrihydrite, which was also pointed out by Aguilar-Islas et al. (2010). The presence of ferrihydrite is also important due to the reactivity of ferrihydrite with organic ligands (siderophore) in the ocean (Takahashi et al., 2011) to consider the effect of uptake of Fe by phytoplankton. Here, we employed EDTA to simulate the process in seawater, since the stability constants of Fe-siderophores (Witter et al., 2000; Hasegawa et al., 2004) and Fe-humic substance complexes (Takahashi et al., 1997) are similar to that of Fe(III)-EDTA.

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Oxalate in leaching solutions that originated from aerosol chemical composition can also contribute to the increase in  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]$  (Paris et al., 2011). If oxalate can contribute to the increase in  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]$ , the molar ratio of oxalate to  $\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}$  should be constant, considering molar concentrations of total Fe in aerosol were higher than that of oxalate in all of the months except for August (Fig. S6). However, these molar ratios were not constant throughout the year (Fig. S6), indicating that the speciation of Fe is a more important controlling factor of the  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]$  compared with the effect of oxalate as the ligand in the aqueous phase.

Anthropogenic effects on the amount of soluble Fe fraction found in this study were also observed in other studies (Majestic et al., 2007; Sholkovitz et al., 2009; Kumar et al., 2010). However, the details of the Fe speciation in aerosols were unclear in these studies. The soluble Fe fraction determined in this study coupled with the Fe speciation information allows us to prove that the relative amount of Fe(III) sulfate is responsible for the variation in the soluble fraction of Fe in the aerosols.

The EFs of V and Ni were highest from July to August, when soluble Fe amount was large (Fig. 4b) and where the  $r^2$  values between  $\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}$  and V or Ni were respectively high (Fig. 12). This result is reasonable because Fe(III) sulfate can originate from oil combustion (Schroth et al., 2009), and V and Ni also originate from oil combustion (Sholkovitz et al., 2009). Sholkovitz et al. (2009) also showed that the soluble Fe fraction is correlated with the V/Al ratio and that Fe from fossil fuel combustion can leach into open ocean. Our results also support the hypothesis that Fe(III) sulfate originating from oil combustion, which can govern the dissolution of Fe into seawater, is the main component of soluble Fe in the aerosols.

### 3.5 Comparison of atmospheric concentrations of soluble Fe and soluble Fe fraction

The period with large atmospheric concentrations of soluble Fe (either  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]$  or  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]$ ) does not correspond exactly with that showing high soluble Fe fractions ( $([\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}])$  or  $([\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}])$ ) because the times at which total Fe was largest

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



were not those when the soluble fraction was at maximum. In particular, total Fe was large during the dust storm season in East Asia, which does not contribute much to the pool of soluble Fe. Thus, although the largest  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  was observed in March, the soluble Fe concentration at Tsukuba was high in May, June, and July because Fe(III) sulfate was observed in these months. From a different viewpoint, the results showed that the soluble Fe fraction ( $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  or  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$ ) increased with the decrease in the relative amount of mineral dusts due to the low solubility of Fe in the mineral dusts (Baker and Croot et al., 2010; Kumar et al., 2010).

Journet et al. (2008) suggested that clay minerals in aerosols are a critical factor in the degree of Fe dissolution. Iron in clay minerals is definitely more soluble than Fe oxide (hematite or goethite) at low pH (Journet et al., 2008). However, Fe(III) sulfate is more soluble than Fe in clay minerals. Actually, clay minerals such as chlorite and illite cannot be a controlling factor of the amount of soluble Fe fraction in our aerosol samples, because the amount of clay minerals did not affect the  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{SW}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  or  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  ratios for each solution (Figs. 10 and 11).

These results are well illustrated in Figs. 13 and 14. Figure 13a shows that the contribution of  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}$  in each month to the total amount of Fe for all the months is relatively larger in February, March, and May. However, similar values for  $\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}$  in these months to the total amount (Fig. 13b) were smaller than those found for  $\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}$ . Instead, the importance of June and July in terms of the supply of soluble Fe, which can be strongly affected by the presence of Fe(III) sulfate in these two months, was clear in Fig. 13b.

This situation is also distinctive in Figs. 14a and 14b. Figure 14a shows the contribution of each Fe species found in the aerosols samples to the total Fe for all the months, whereas Fig. 14b reflects the contribution of each Fe species to the total soluble Fe. Although ferrihydrite is the most abundant mineral in terms of the total Fe in Fig. 14a, the source of soluble Fe is mainly Fe(III) sulfate, as shown in Fig. 14b. This result, again, emphasizes the importance of Fe(III) sulfate as a source of soluble Fe in seawater.

## 4 Conclusions and implications

The soluble Fe concentrations in the ocean can be primarily related to the total Fe concentrations in the atmosphere ( $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$ ) and the soluble Fe fraction in the aerosol ( $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Sol}}]/[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$ ). In this study, we revealed that the fraction of Fe(III) sulfate determined by XAFS was up to approximately 20 % of the total Fe species in summer and that this fraction is correlated with the soluble Fe fraction determined in the leaching experiment. Thus, the amount of Fe(III) sulfate in aerosol can control the amount of soluble Fe in the sample. In terms of the concentration of soluble Fe in the ocean, Fe(III) sulfate can significantly influence marine primary production because of its high solubility.

In addition, the concentration of soluble Fe was found to be correlated with those of anthropogenic ions such as sulfate and oxalate and the EFs of V and Ni, which are employed as the tracer elements of oil combustion. From these results, anthropogenic Fe, especially Fe(III) sulfate emitted during oil combustion, is a critical factor in estimating the amount of soluble Fe in aerosols. Generally speaking, anthropogenic aerosol is rich in fine particles, thus, anthropogenic Fe(III) sulfate can be transported over relatively long distances and can have a great impact on phytoplankton activity in the open ocean. Fe in mineral dusts, especially in the dust storm season, is possibly an important Fe source in the North Pacific, but the contribution of Fe(III) sulfate from megacities in Eastern Asia must not be disregarded.

**Supplementary material related to this article is available online at:**  
<http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/13/7599/2013/acpd-13-7599-2013-supplement.pdf>.

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Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



**Seasonal changes in  
Fe species**

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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**Seasonal changes in  
Fe species**

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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**Seasonal changes in  
Fe species**

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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**Seasonal changes in  
Fe species**

Y. Takahashi et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

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## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

**Table 1.** Periods for the collection of the TSP samples used in this study.

	start	stop	concentration ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )
Dec	17 Dec 2002	8 Jan 2003	29.25
Feb	13 Feb 2003	24 Feb 2003	42.55
Mar	14 Mar 2003	25 Mar 2003	41.41
May	1 May 2003	12 May 2003	54.26
Jun	11 Jun 2003	20 Jun 2003	36.55
Jul	11 Jul 2003	22 Jul 2003	29.39
Aug	12 Aug 2003	21 Aug 2003	14.54
Sep	22 Sep 2003	30 Sep 2003	20.84
Oct	10 Oct 2003	21 Oct 2003	28.17

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

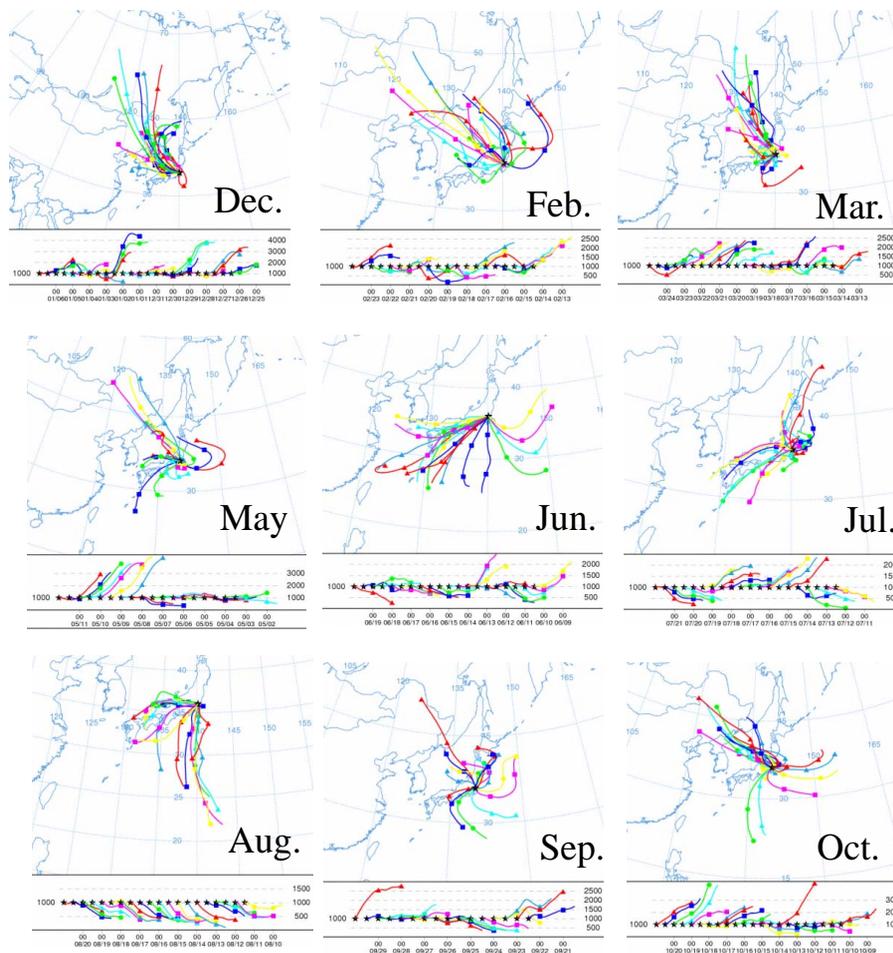
Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Seasonal changes in Fe species

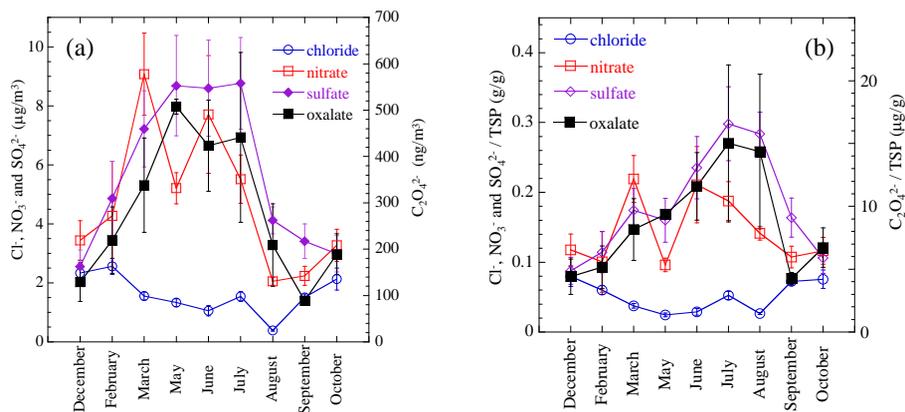
Y. Takahashi et al.



**Fig. 1.** Backward trajectory analyses at Tsukuba during the sampling for this study.

Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.



**Fig. 2.** (a) Concentrations of major anions in aerosol collected at Tsukuba; (b) concentrations of major anions at Tsukuba normalized by TSP concentration. The values are tabulated in Table S1 in supporting information. Error bars are standard deviations obtained by three independent experiments.

Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

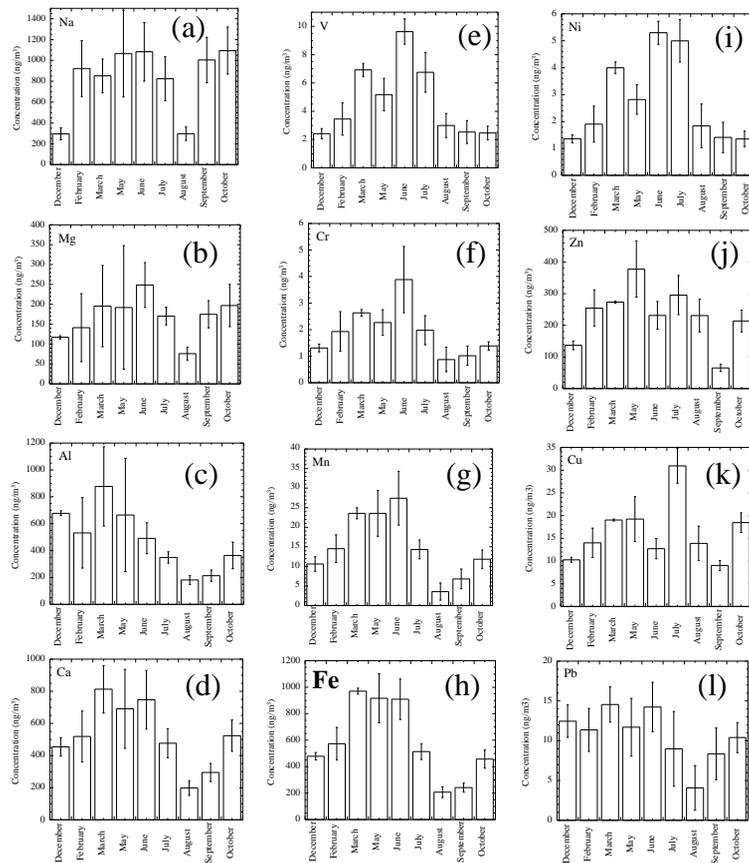
Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

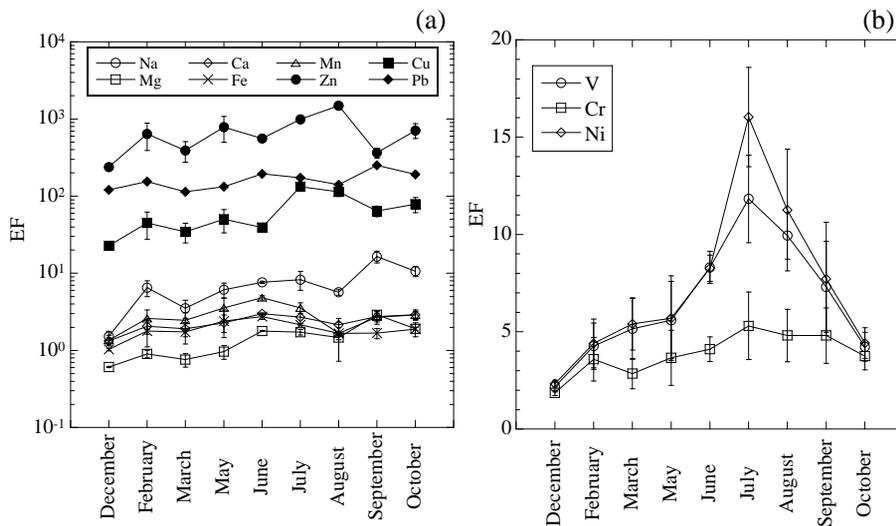
Interactive Discussion



**Fig. 3.** Concentration of various metal ions in aerosol collected at Tsukuba. **(a)** sodium (Na), **(b)** magnesium (Mg), **(c)** aluminum (Al), **(d)** calcium (Ca), **(e)** vanadium (V), **(f)** chromium (Cr), **(g)** manganese (Mg), **(h)** iron (Fe), **(i)** nickel (Ni), **(j)** zinc (Zn), **(k)** copper (Cu), and **(l)** lead (Pb). Error bars are standard deviations obtained by three independent experiments.

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

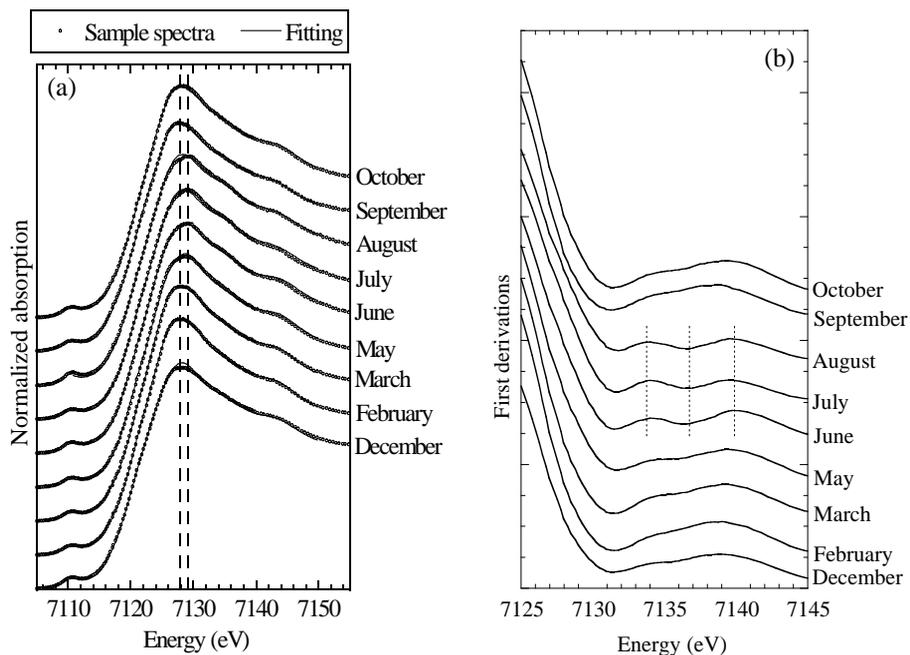
Y. Takahashi et al.



**Fig. 4.** Enrichment factor (EF) of each element in aerosol at Tsukuba for **(a)** Na, Mg, Ca, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu, and Pb; **(b)** EFs of V, Cr, and Ni. Error bars are standard deviations obtained by three independent experiments.

Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.



**Fig. 5.** (a) Fitting of Fe K-edge XANES spectra for aerosols collected at various months and (b) their first derivative spectra.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

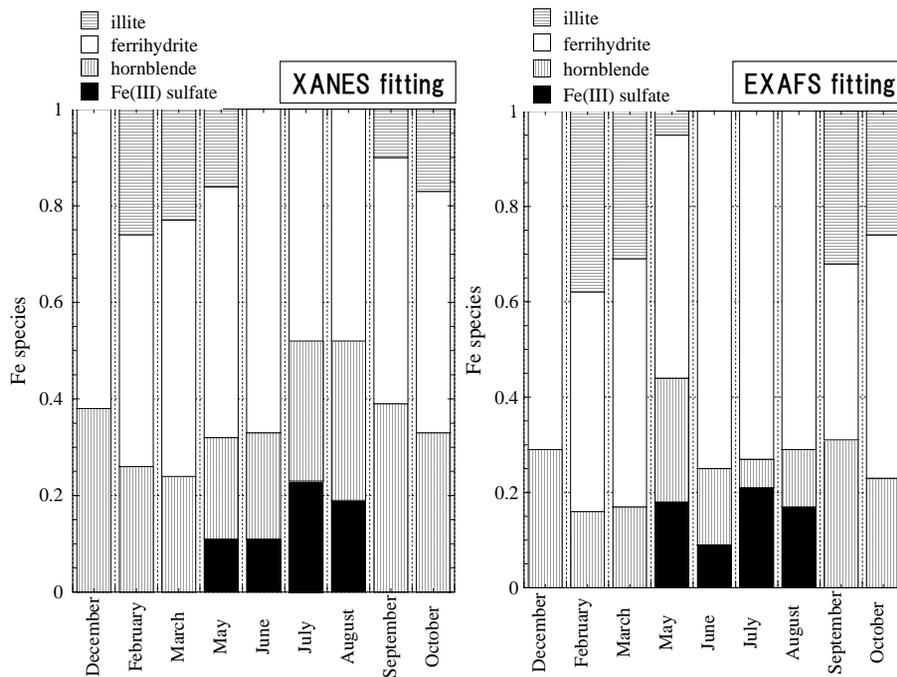
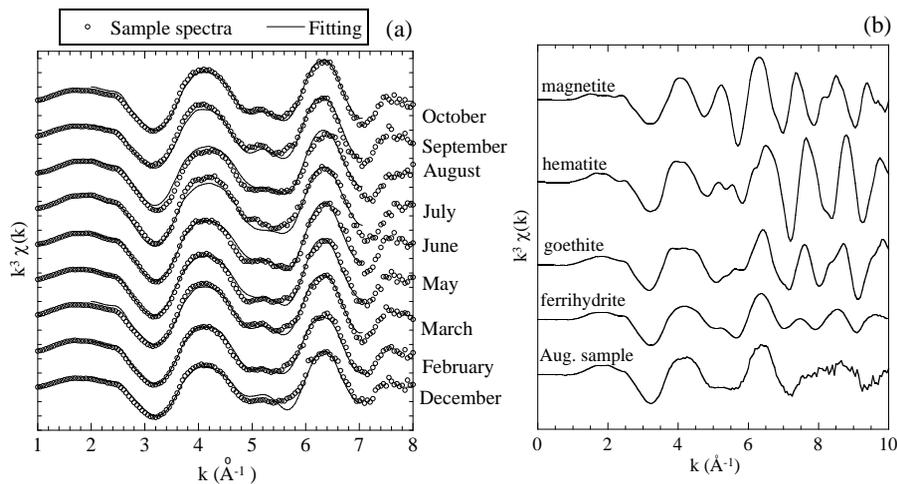


Fig. 6. Iron species in aerosols estimated by (a) XANES fitting and (b) EXAFS fitting.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.

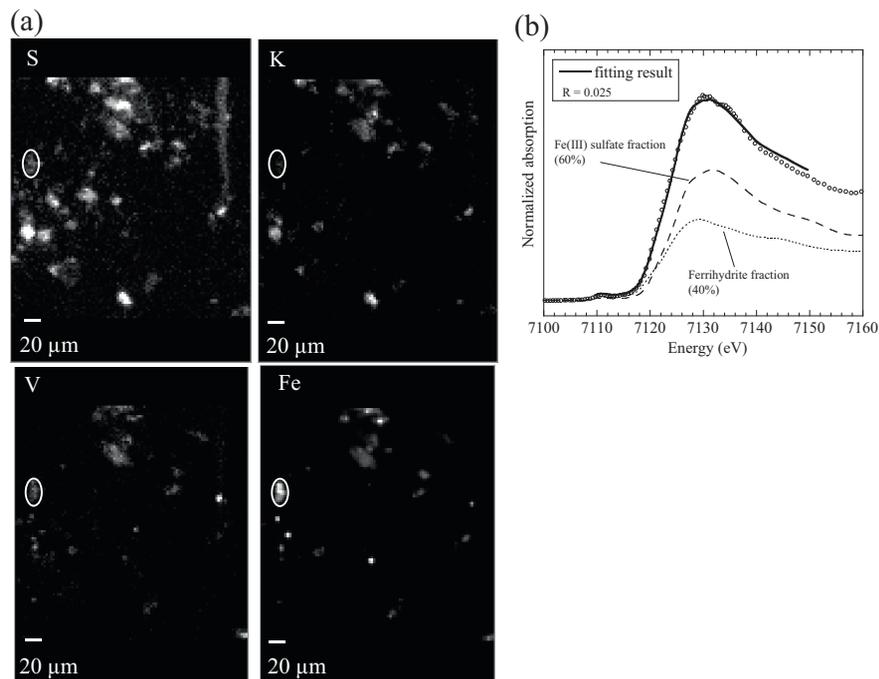


**Fig. 7.** (a) Fitting of Fe K-edge EXAFS spectra in  $k$  space for aerosols collected at various months with (b) the reference spectra for various Fe oxide species.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

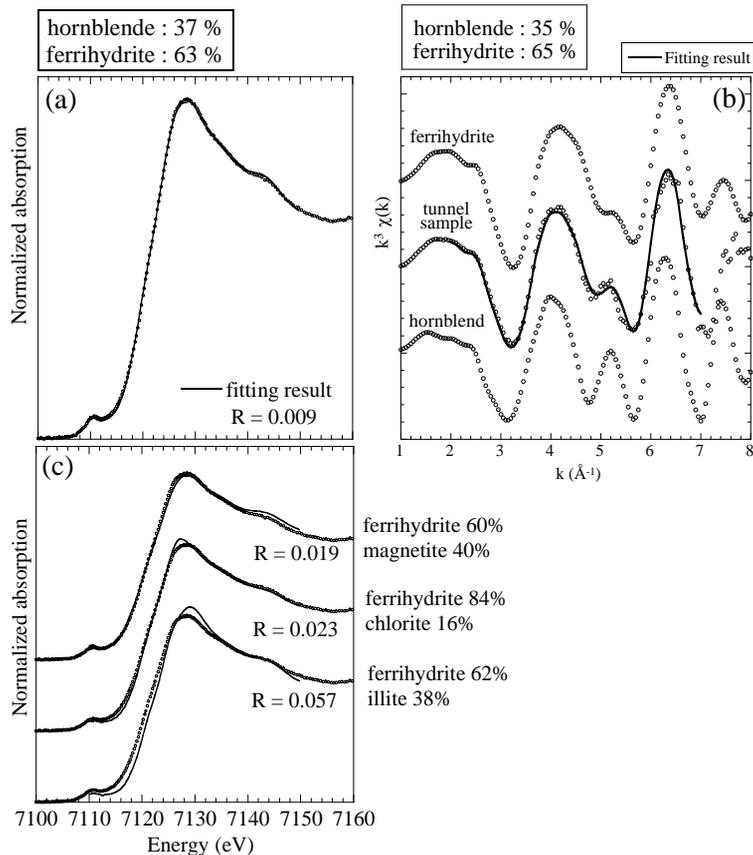
Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.



**Fig. 8.** (a) Micro-XRF mapping of S, K, V, and Fe for aerosol samples dispersed in a Kapton filter for the sample collected in July and (b) Fe K-edge XANES for the spot indicated with a circle in (a).

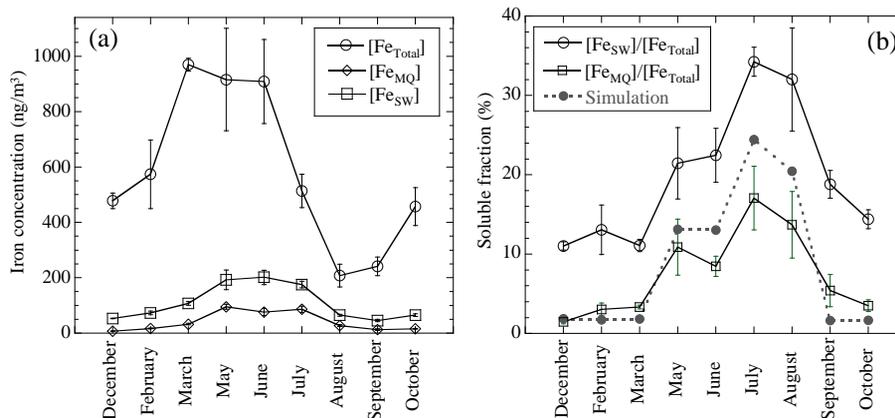
[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)



**Fig. 9.** (a) Iron K-edge XANES and (b) EXAFS for the sample collected in Yasumiyama Tunnel fitted by the spectra of hornblende and ferrihydrite. Examples of fitting by other Fe species are shown in (c).

## Seasonal changes in Fe species

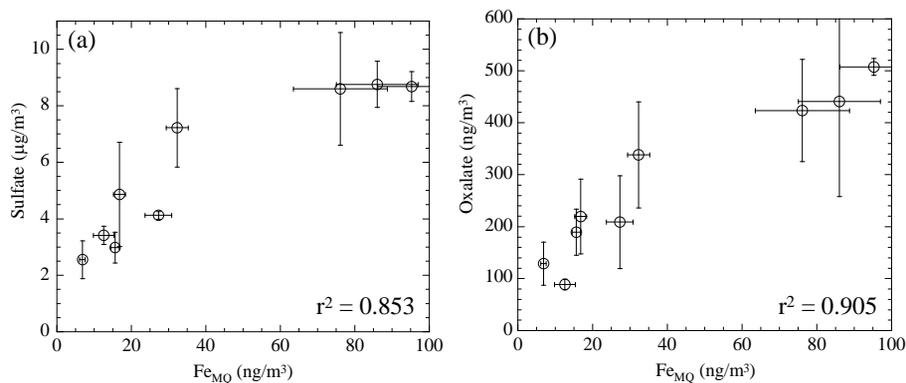
Y. Takahashi et al.



**Fig. 10.** (a) Concentrations of total Fe and Fe soluble in Milli-Q (MQ) water and simulated seawater (SW) noted as  $[Fe_{Total}]$  and  $[Fe_{SW}]$ , respectively. (b) Soluble Fe fractions determined using the MQwater and SW extractions, noted as  $[Fe_{MQ}]/[Fe_{Total}]$  and  $[Fe_{SW}]/[Fe_{Total}]$ , respectively. Simulated results for  $[Fe_{SW}]/[Fe_{Total}]$  assuming the apparent solubilities of ferrihydrite, illite, Fe(III) sulfate, and hornblende were also included. Error bars are standard deviations obtained by three independent experiments.

Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.



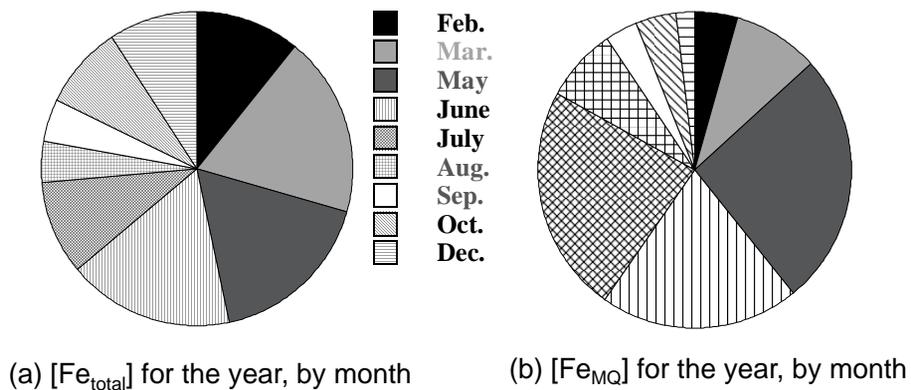
**Fig. 11.** Relationships of sulfate and oxalate concentrations with atmospheric soluble Fe ( $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]$ ). Error bars are standard deviations obtained by three independent experiments. Error bars are standard deviations obtained by three independent experiments.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)



## Seasonal changes in Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.



**Fig. 13.** Contributions of Fe in each month relative to total Fe in all the months examined for **(a)**  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  and **(b)**  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]$ .

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

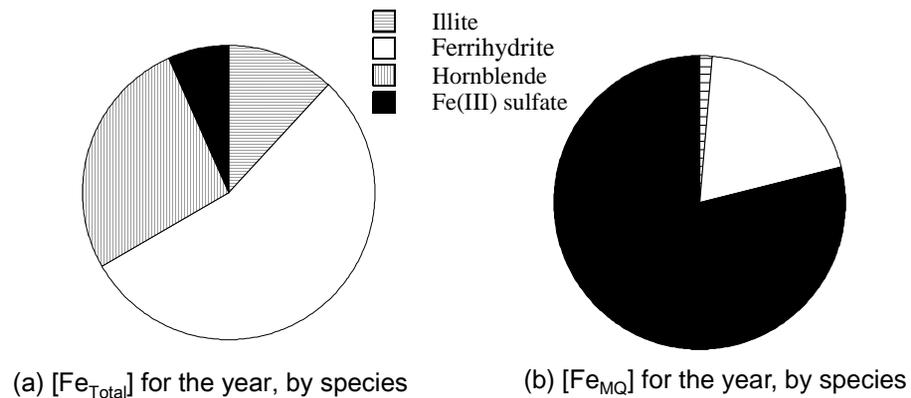
Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Seasonal changes in  
Fe species

Y. Takahashi et al.



**Fig. 14.** Contribution of each Fe species to **(a)** total  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}]$  and **(b)** total  $[\text{Fe}_{\text{MQ}}]$  for all the months.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[I◀](#)[▶I](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)