

Air quality monitoring in communities of the Canadian Arctic during the high shipping season with a focus on local and marine pollution

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Abstract

The Canadian Arctic has experienced decreasing sea ice extent and increasing shipping activity in the recent decades. While there are economic incentives to develop resources in the North, there are environmental concerns that increasing marine traffic will contribute to declining air quality in Northern communities. In an effort to characterize the relative impact of shipping on air quality in the North, two monitoring stations have been installed in Cape Dorset and Resolute, Nunavut, and have been operational since 1 June 2013. The impact of shipping and other sources of emissions on NO_x , O_3 , SO_2 , BC, and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ pollution have been characterized for the 2013 shipping season from 1 June to 1 November. In addition, a high resolution Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for both sites was computed. Shipping consistently increased O_3 mixing ratio and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration. The 90 % confidence interval for mean difference in O_3 mixing ratio between ship and no ship-influenced air masses were up to 4.6–4.7 ppb and 2.5–2.7 ppb for Cape Dorset and Resolute, respectively. The same intervals for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations were up to 1.8–1.9 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and 0.5–0.6 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Ship-influenced air masses consistently exhibited an increase of 0.1 to 0.3 in the high resolution AQHI compared to no ship-influenced air masses. Trajectory cluster analysis in combination with ship traffic tracking provided an estimated range for percent ship contribution to NO_x , O_3 , SO_2 , and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ that were 12.9–17.5 %, 16.2–18.1 %, 16.9–18.3 %, and 19.5–31.7 % for Cape Dorset and 1.0–7.2 %, 2.9–4.8 %, 5.5–10.0 %, and 6.5–7.2 % for Resolute during the 2013 shipping season. Additional measurements in Resolute suggested that percent ship contribution to black carbon was 4.3–9.8 % and that black carbon constituted 1.3–9.7 % of total $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass in ship plumes. Continued air quality monitoring in the above sites for future shipping seasons will improve the statistics in our analysis as well as characterize repeating seasonal patterns in air quality due to shipping, local pollution, and long-range transport.

1 Introduction

The Arctic is a highly uncertain environment on the planet in terms of climate change. The year-to-year and regional variability for most environmental indicators are linked to a persistent warming trend that began more than 30 years ago. Of such indicators, the Arctic sea ice extent annual minimum in September 2013 was almost 20% less than the 1981–2010 average (Jeffries et al., 2013). The warming trend and receding sea ice will potentially increase marine accessibility in the region. Climate model projections of future sea ice reductions in the Arctic and other considerations have been used to speculate significant increase in ship navigability by mid-century, to the extent that new optimal navigation routes, such as the Northwest Passage (NWP), the Northern Sea Route (NSR), and the Arctic Bridge, may be accessible to various classes of ice-strengthened ships during the months of July to September (Stephenson et al., 2011; Smith and Stephenson, 2013).

Arctic sea ice in Canada has also retreated in the recent decades with strong negative trends in Hudson and Baffin Bays (Tivy et al., 2011; Derksen et al., 2012). Vessel transit within the Vessel Traffic Reporting Arctic Canada Traffic Zone (NORDREG) has been observed since 1990. Statistically significant increases in traffic has been already observed within NORDREG on both monthly and annual time-scales, coincident with declines in sea ice area (for First Year Ice (FYI), Multi Year Ice (MYI), and total ice). For example, the monthly traffic increase was reported as high as 22 vessels per decade in July for all vessel classes combined (Pizzolato et al., 2014). The decreasing ice and increasing marine navigability will likely enhance resource development in the region. This has the potential to disturb the fragile ecosystem and hurt the aboriginal way of life. In addition, due to current low levels of shipping traffic in the Canadian Arctic, any increase in marine activity will represent a relatively significant change (Brigham et al., 2009). These considerations warrant the need for the close examination of the impact of shipping on air quality in the Canadian Arctic.

1.1 Long-range transport and large time scale variability of surface pollutants

Long-range transport, seasonal, and annual variability of surface pollutants in the Arctic have been studied in some detail. Black Carbon (BC) is of particular interest due to significant light absorption and reduction of surface albedo in the Arctic, particularly during the summer (Law and Stohl, 2007; Quinn et al., 2008). Sharma et al. (2006) reported that Equivalent Black Carbon (EBC) concentrations in Barrow and Alert were 40 % higher during the positive phase of North Atlantic Oscillation than during the negative phase. Trajectory analyses revealed source contributions with influence from Siberia/Europe for Alert and Siberia/Pacific Asia for Barrow. In addition, the 15 year period from 1989 to 2003 revealed a downward trend in EBC by as much as 54 % in Alert and 27 % in Barrow, likely due to reduced industrial activity in the former USSR. An inter-model assessment by Shindell et al. (2008) suggests that North America and Europe each contribute about 40 % of total BC deposition to Greenland, with about 20 % from East Asia. Elsewhere in the Arctic, the total BC deposition is dominated by European emissions. A word of caution is that model uncertainties in aerosol physical and chemical processes, particularly removal, remain high at the present time, so any model predictions of aerosol concentrations in the Arctic are questionable.

Trends in surface ozone mixing ratios in the Arctic are complicated due to a multitude of chemical and physical processes including long-range transport, titration, photochemistry, and halogen chemistry. However, regarding surface levels, models suggest that mixing ratios are expected to increase by influence from distance sources by less than 8 ppb from 2000 to 2100 (Granier et al., 2006). Canadian sites have shown a decrease in annual tropospheric ozone in the 1980s but an increase since the 1990s (Law and Stohl, 2007). Inter-model comparisons reveal that North America contributes the most to Arctic ozone pollution via a response most strongly linked to NO_x emissions (Shindell et al., 2008). Ground-based studies show that warming trends and NO_x precursors have led to enhanced photochemical ozone production in the Arctic (Law and Stohl, 2007). In addition to annual variations, recent measurements in Barrow, Alert, and Zeppelinfjellet indicated a seasonal trend with

ozone levels increasing from summer lows to spring highs (Helmig et al., 2007; Shindell et al., 2008).

Regarding other pollutants, measurements by Novelli et al. (1998) identified seasonal cycles for carbon monoxide (CO) with summer lows and spring highs. Inter-model comparisons suggest significant European contribution to CO pollution in the Arctic, accompanied by North America and East Asia (Shindell et al., 2008). Similar seasonal trends have been observed for sulphates in Alert (Sirois and Barrie, 1999). Shindell et al. (2008) also suggested a higher contribution of sulphates in the Arctic by European emissions. It is expected that long-term NO_x and SO₂ trends be closely linked to ozone and sulphate trends, respectively, because they are considered as precursors for these pollutants.

1.2 Local transport and short time scale variability of surface pollutants

A study by Stohl et al. (2013) suggested that chemistry transport or climate chemistry models have deficiencies to estimate surface BC in the Arctic, partly attributed to shortcomings in current emissions datasets for local residential combustion and flaring. In addition, as mentioned earlier, model deposition rates for aerosols in the Arctic are not accurate, which adds to uncertainties in surface BC concentrations. The ECLIPSE (Evaluating the CLimate and air quality ImPacts of Short-livEd pollutants) dataset estimated flaring to contribute less than 3% of global BC emissions, while in the Arctic it contributes 66%. Using the FLEX-PART Lagrangian particle dispersion model, Stohl et al. (2013) demonstrated that Arctic flaring contributes 42% to the annual mean BC surface concentrations. They demonstrated that accounting for daily and monthly variations in Arctic flaring and residential emissions, improves simulations for surface BC concentrations, in agreement with BC measurements in six Arctic stations. Aircraft and international shipping emissions have been ignored in their study. Browse et al. (2013) studied recently compiled Arctic shipping emission inventories for 2004 and 2050 (Corbett et al., 2010a) together with a global aerosol model (GLOMAP) to quantify the contribution of future Arctic shipping to high-latitude BC deposition. BC emissions from shipping were found to contribute 0.3% to the total BC mass deposited north of 60° N in 2004 and 0.7% in a 2050 high growth scenario. The shipping

impact was not uniform over the entire Arctic. For example, the deposition was 10–15 % in 2050 over Greenland. It was suggested that natural emissions variability from boreal wildfires and anthropogenic emissions in lower latitudes have the greatest influence on BC levels in the Arctic. As far as long term in-Arctic ship emissions inventory estimates are concerned, Corbett et al. (2010a) have suggested that BC emissions will increase by a factor of 3 to 5.3 by 2050 under business as usual and high growth scenarios. Observational campaigns by Eckhardt et al. (2013) have identified the impact of cruise ship emissions in the vicinity of Kongsfjord on surface EBC in Ny Ålesund and Zeppelin mountain in Svalbard, Norway. Over an analysis period from 2003 to 2011, it was estimated that EBC concentrations increased by 11 % when cruise ships with more than 50 passengers where in the area.

Granier et al. (2006) studied ozone pollution from future ship traffic in the Arctic northern passages using MOZART-4 (Model for OZone And Related chemical Tracers) and ECMWF (European Center for Medium-range Weather Forecasts). They assumed that 12.5 to 25 % of global shipping emissions will occur in the Arctic by 2050 and uniformly distributed the emissions factors along the northern passages. They suggested that summer surface ozone mixing ratios could be enhanced by up to 40 ppb in the decades ahead due to ship operations through the northern passages. Measurements by Eckhardt et al. (2013) suggested that on average ozone concentrations dropped by 5 % (2003–2011) due to immediate titration when there were ships in the vicinity of Svalbard, Norway although the authors admit that over larger distances and longer residence times, ozone could be enhanced in the ship plumes. Summer time surface ozone mixing ratios have yet to be better understood in the Arctic (Law and Stohl, 2007). As far as natural processes are concerned, Arctic Ozone Depletion Episodes (ODEs) are linked to conversion of inert halide salt ions (e.g. Br^-) into reactive halogen species such as Br atoms that deplete ozone in the boundary layer. ODEs last for hours to weeks at a time and occur mostly in the spring season, coinciding with the polar sunrise (Helmig et al., 2007; Seabrook et al., 2011), so their occurrence will mostly interfere with anthropogenic sources of pollution in the spring.

Regarding other pollutants, Granier et al. (2006) used the same methodology described earlier to predict an increase of up to 10 ppb in NO_x concentrations in the northern passages by 2050 due to shipping activity. Measurements by Eckhardt et al. (2013) suggested that on average SO₂ concentrations increased by 18 % (2003–2011) when there were ships in the vicinity of Svalbard, Norway. Corbett et al. (2010a) have provided in-Arctic ship emissions inventory estimates for NO_x, CO, SO_x, and PM by mid-century according to business as usual and high growth scenarios. The emissions for NO_x and CO are suggested to increase by factors of 2.2 to 3.8 and 2.9 to 5.2, while the inventories for SO_x and PM may decline by factors of 0.6 to 1.0 and 0.6 to 1.4 due to stringent regulations to limit sulphur content in ship fuels and other emissions reductions controls.

While long-range transport, seasonal, and annual variations in the Arctic air quality have been researched in considerable depth, there is still work to be done to characterize local sources and transport of pollutants (e.g. from ships in the Arctic) and short-term variability in air quality caused by anthropogenic sources. Particularly during the summer, the Arctic dome reduces continental transfer of pollutants to the region so that the relative contribution of local sources of emissions become higher (Law and Stohl, 2007).

1.3 Controls and regulations for shipping emissions

It has been reported that 3.3% of global CO₂ emissions, 5 to 8% of global anthropogenic SO₂ emissions, and 2% of global BC emissions are produced by shipping (Lack and Corbett, 2012). The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) sets the limits for air pollutants released by ships. The regulations are sometimes annexed by more stringent limits for Emissions Control Areas (ECAs) such as the one in North America (NA-ECA). NA-ECA came into force on August 2012 (Bulletin, 2013). There is currently no ECA for Canadian waters north of 60° latitude. In Canada, the domestic regulations on marine emissions are “Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations”, “Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)”, and “Clean Air Regulatory Agenda (CARA)”, all of which ensure compliance with NA-ECA and IMO regulations.

Sulphur emissions by ships are of particular interest since, in addition to SO₂, they give rise to primary and secondary particulate matter pollution (Lack and Corbett, 2012; Jalkanen et al., 2012). It has been suggested that lower sulphur content in ship fuels reduces particulate matter and BC emission factors (Petzold et al., 2011; Lack et al., 2011). It has also been suggested that lower sulphur fuels reduce formation of Cloud Condensation Nuclei (CCN) (Petzold et al., 2010) and particulate matter size (Lack et al., 2011) in the ship plumes. Sulphur content in ship fuels has been required by MARPOL to reduce to 3.50 % in 2012 and 0.5 % in 2020 globally and to 1.00 % in 2011 and 0.1 % in 2015 within NA-ECA (IMO, 2009; Bulletin, 2013). NO_x emissions have also been regulated by IMO based on ship engine speed, age, and size. Strict controls on NO_x emissions within NA-ECA place a release limit of 2.0 to 17.0 g kWh⁻¹ based on classifications (Bulletin, 2013). CO₂ emissions are to be reduced through the first mandatory global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) regulation by IMO. Development of international regulatory measures in place to manage BC emissions from ship engines are hot topics at the present (Corbett et al., 2010b).

Various control measures have also been suggested on-board. Ship speed and engine load are important contributors to ship emissions factors. It has been observed that speed reduction results in better fuel economy, and, hence, lower CO₂ emissions, due to reduced drag on the ship hulls (Jalkanen et al., 2012; Lack and Corbett, 2012). It has also been observed that lower speeds reduce particulate matter, BC, NO_x emissions factors as well as reducing particulate matter size (Cappa et al., 2014). On the other hand, reduced engine loads do not necessarily result in reduced emissions factors for all species. For example, Organic Carbon (OC) and Carbon Monoxide (CO) actually increase with reduced loads (Jalkanen et al., 2012). Other technologies such as slide valves, water-in-fuel emulsion, diesel particulate filters, emulsified fuel, and sea water scrubbing have been proposed to reduce emissions factors for various pollutants (Corbett et al., 2010b; Lack and Corbett, 2012). It is essential to realize that no technology reduces all emissions factors simultaneously. Many remedies result in reduced fuel economy (higher CO₂ emissions) due to running auxiliary pumps and other equipment, while others reduce some emissions factors

at the expense of increasing the others (Corbett et al., 2010b). The detailed discussions are beyond the scope of this study.

1.4 Research objectives

5 Increasing shipping traffic in the Canadian Arctic necessitates the understanding of its impacts on air quality, particularly relative to other local sources. This is vital to properly regulate marine traffic in the Canadian Arctic for future decades. Most recent works in this area remain speculative in nature, solely relying on models or bulk inventory emissions analyses. While there has been some observational success in characterizing emissions factors at the “source” (i.e. ship stacks or ship plume interception campaigns) (Jalkanen et al., 2009, 10 2012; Petzold et al., 2008, 2010; Lack et al., 2011; Cappa et al., 2014), the authors have only found limited studies (Eckhardt et al., 2013; Zhan et al., 2014) attempting to measure Arctic air pollution due to ship emissions at “receptor” sites, which is an alternative indicator of shipping emissions impact on air quality. These studies are confined in time duration or spatial extend over which shipping in the Arctic must be assessed as a whole.

15 To measure pollution from shipping vs. other local sources in the Canadian Arctic, two monitoring stations were set up as receptors for NO, NO₂, NO_x, O₃, SO₂, and PM_{2.5}. The first monitoring station resides in Cape Dorset, Nunavut (64.22998° N 76.53031° W) and faces the Arctic Bridge near Hudson Strait; the second monitoring station resides in Resolute, Nunavut (74.70634° N 94.96883° W) and faces the Northwest Passage (NWP) near 20 Barrow Strait (Fig. 1). Both monitoring stations have been operational since 1 June 2013 and provide pollutant levels at a 1 min time resolution. The Resolute site is also equipped with particle size distribution and black carbon measurement equipment. Shipping traffic and air mass trajectories in the Canadian Arctic have been studied in detail for a period of 5 months (1 June 2013–1 November 2013), covering the complete 2013 shipping season. 25 An analysis is performed to apportion air pollution into shipping and other local sources of emissions.

2 Methods

2.1 Vessel traffic dataset

Vessel traffic information was acquired from the Canadian Coast Guard, available for Canadian government agencies and research institutions at www.innav.gc.ca. The dataset is one of the most comprehensive of its kind and provides vessel type, name, flag, call sign, and Lloyds registration numbers. In addition, the repository provides GPS position and activity reports. It is not mandatory for Vessels entering NORDREG to report their activity and location; however, there is more than 98 % compliance in reporting due to advantages accompanied with participation such as icebreaker support (Rompkey and Cochrane, 2008). Participating ships are required to communicate at least daily while in NORDREG although actual reporting is more frequent.

Alternative to the Canadian Coast Guard dataset, the Automatic Identification System (AIS) could have been used in ship traffic tracking with greater temporal and spatial resolution but possibly fewer ships identified. This technology has been successfully used over the European Arctic in tracking ships (Winther et al., 2014). For the purpose of our analysis, however, we believe that the Canadian Coast Guard dataset is sufficient since, given the low resolution and accuracy associated with air mass trajectory models, these datasets are not expected to give different results.

It is common to encounter location entries in the database that are harbor or community names, instead of latitude and longitude coordinates. A look-up table has been developed and appended to convert location names into coordinates accordingly. Vessel reporting frequency is neither uniform in time nor homogeneous in space. Ships communicate with a range of time resolutions from minutes to hours. They also over-report activity in strategic locations such as the Barrow strait while under-report in non-critical locations (e.g. middle of Hudson Bay). To reconstruct high resolution, uniform, and homogeneous vessel coordinates, the positions were interpolated, subject to spatial and temporal filters, a concept successfully implemented in previous studies (Jalkanen et al., 2009, 2012). The temporal filter only allowed interpolation for time gaps less than 48 h, and the spatial filter only al-

lowed interpolation for locations physically possible to travel by ships, given a maximum ship speed. A novel algorithm was developed to move interpolated points from land to the closest location on the sea by a displacement perpendicular to the interpolation line. This resulted in shortest reroutes for ships that were also consistent with established traffic routes.

A total of 27 921 ship reports were processed to create the vessel traffic dataset with a 1 min time resolution for the entire analysis period. In total, 109 ships (with Lloyd registration numbers) were active in the Canadian Arctic during the 2013 shipping season. These ships were merchant, passenger, cargo, fishing, tug, cruise, coast guard icebreaker, and other types ranging from ~2000 HP tugs to ~30,000 HP coast guard icebreakers.

2.2 Air quality measurements

2.2.1 Gaseous pollution and PM_{2.5} measurements

The monitoring stations in both locations consist of a commercially available integrated air quality package (airpointer, manufactured by recordum Messtechnik GmbH in Austria, hardware v. 2., software v. 1.9.7.). The assembly includes PM_{2.5}, O₃, NO_x, and SO₂ analyzers, a weather station to measure wind direction/speed, temperature, relative humidity, pressure, and an on-board computer system for remote control and data logging. The PM_{2.5} analyzer (SHARP 5030) operates based on light-scattering nephelometry and beta absorption. The O₃, NO_x, and SO₂ analyzers operate based on UV photometry, Chemiluminescence, and UV Fluorescence light-scattering respectively. The wind sensor is a 2-D sonic anemometer manufactured by Vaisala (WXT520).

There are about 45 airpointers deployed in Canada today that operate for the federal government (e.g. Environment Canada and Health Canada), the provincial governments, the cities, the universities and the industry. The airpointer was approved by TÜV Rheinland IMMISSIONSSCHUTZ UND ENERGIESYSTEME GmbH (Germany) in January 2009 as compliant to DIN EN 14211, DIN EN 14212, DIN EN 14625 and DIN EN 14626 Standards (TÜV, 2009).

As per specification sheets, the Lower Detection Limits (LDLs) for PM_{2.5}, O₃, NO_x, and SO₂ analyzers are < 1 μg m⁻³, 0.5 ppb, 0.4 ppb, and 0.4 ppb respectively, for 1 min integration times. The monitoring stations are set up with the capability of internal calibration for zero and span for the gas analyzers on a daily basis. We performed an in-house calibration of the gas analyzers against NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) secondary standards in April 2013. The daily internal calibration and our own in-house calibration were assimilated in data processing to correct for instrument drift and span variation for the entire analysis period. The focus of the calibration was to reduce “accuracy” errors in the measurements. The calibration involved a two step process: first, smooth fits to daily zero and span concentrations were determined, and the data was corrected accordingly; second, the data was further corrected by in-house calibration coefficients to ensure the final dataset was calibrated against the NIST standards. Our calibration procedure resulted in good “relative” accuracies for gas analyzers since the measurements were corrected for drift on a daily basis. The drift for the PM_{2.5} analyzer was also checked on a regular basis. Table 1 shows the “precision” (SD) of the daily measurements at zero calibration. Subsequent tabulated measurements of concentration differences are indicated with bold face if they are above the instrument precision.

Some limitations of the airpointer are worth mentioning. First, the airpointer is suited for air quality assessment near cities, towns, villages, mines, industrial processes as well as monitoring moderate background level variations. However, it is not intended to provide absolute measurements for trace level pollutants in the parts per trillion (ppt) range, so care must be taken not to report absolute trace levels with high certainty. Our methodology relies on clustering (grouping) of air samples and showing statistically significant differences in their concentration distributions. Second, the measurement of NO_x, which consists of NO and NO₂, is achieved through a switching process using a Molybdenum converter. The sampled air is diverted through a converter every 8 s to convert all of NO₂ in the sample to NO, where it can be subsequently detected by chemiluminescence. However, the NO₂ conversion efficiency may vary according to other nitrogen compounds in the sample gas.

As a result, while NO measurements should be accurate, NO₂ and NO_x measurements may be over-estimated, particularly when actual NO₂ levels are low.

2.2.2 Particle size distribution and black carbon measurements

In Resolute only, particle size and black carbon measurements were also performed. These measurements were conducted inside a hut located on the Environment Canada's Upper Air Building premises, about 100 m away from the airpointer location. A Stainless Steel tubing (3/4") was used as an inlet, where the air was drawn at a rate of 27 slpm to achieve a size-cut of 1 µm diameter by using a URL cyclone. Out of 27, 1 slpm was used by each of the two instruments: a Continuous Light Absorption Photometer (CLAP) and a Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer (SMPS).

The SMPS (TSI 3034) was used to measure particle size distributions in the 15 to 600 nm diameter range. The distributions were analyzed with TSI software based on Wang and Flagan (1990) and corrected for mean free path, diffusion losses and multiple charging. The sizing of the SMPS has been compared with 20 nm and 350 nm Polystyrene Latex Particles (PSL) on site and found to be within 10 % of the nominal PSL values. A spectrum of particle size distribution was generated every 9 min. The spectra were also averaged corresponding to other simultaneous measurements at the site.

The CLAP (Ogren et al., 2013) was used to measure the light absorption derived Equivalent Black Carbon (EBC). The particles were collected on a filter and light transmission through the filter with respect to a clean spot was monitored continuously in the CLAP. It has eight sample spots and two clean reference spots. Solenoids are used to switch to the next sample spot once the filter transmittance reaches the desired limit (typically 0.7). The methodologies of Bond et al. (1999) and Ogren (2010) are applied to the data. The CLAP comes with a small built-in heater that is controlled to a set temperature of, typically, 39 °C to minimize RH effects during sampling. A Mass Absorption Efficiency (MAE) of 10 m² g⁻¹ was used to convert the aerosol light absorption to black carbon mass. There is some uncertainty associated in using this value of MAE which could be as large as a factor of 2 as

found for Particle Soot Absorption Photometer (PSAP) (Sharma et al., 2004). The LDL for CLAP was 5 ng m^{-3} .

2.3 Site selection

Figure 2 shows the positioning of the monitoring stations relative to the town facilities. For both sites, a location near the airport runway was selected to provide accessibility to power, communication, and service. This also provided a “window” to sample air masses coming from the ocean traffic with minimal contamination from local pollution. When winds are not coming from the ocean, local waste burn, the town emissions, and occasionally the airport contribute to pollution measurements. We observed that the winds have preferential directions for both sites, with consequences that will be discussed in the following sections.

A major concern in the applicability of our results to past or future years was whether the weather conditions in the sites for 2013 shipping season were representative of the recent Arctic climate, particularly for wind patterns, temperatures, and precipitation. Wind patterns govern transport of air pollution; temperature is a key player in atmospheric chemistry and also marine navigability; and precipitation affects wet deposition (removal) of aerosols. We studied the airport climatology of Cape Dorset and Resolute from NAV Canada (Hudson et al., 2001) and compared the wind patterns to our own measurements. Based on frequency plots of wind directions at 22.5° resolution, NAV Canada reports dominant winds from W, E, and WSW for Cape Dorset, and NW, and SE for Resolute. The wind rose plots for 2013 in Fig. 2 are consistent with the reported airport climatology.

Monthly average temperatures for each site were obtained from Canada’s Historical Climate Data for 1995, 2000, and 2005 (Climate, 2014). Monthly temperatures for this time period from June to October were 2.6 ± 1.7 , 7.6 ± 2.0 , 7.2 ± 1.1 , 1.6 ± 1.2 , $-2.5 \pm 1.2^\circ\text{C}$ for Cape Dorset and 0.8 ± 0.9 , 4.2 ± 0.3 , 2.1 ± 1.5 , -4.7 ± 1.7 , $-14.5 \pm 2.5^\circ\text{C}$ for Resolute. Our corresponding average temperature measurements for 2013 were 3.0, 6.5, 6.1, 0.8, and -2.0°C for Cape Dorset and -1.3 , 3.2, 0.9, -4.7 , -11.1°C for Resolute. While all measured temperatures in Cape Dorset fall within SD of the 1995–2005 data, Resolute was colder in some months of 2013.

Monthly average precipitation for each site was also obtained for 1995, 2000, and 2005 (Climate, 2014). The total precipitation from June to October were 26.4 ± 17.9 , 37.5 ± 16.2 , 53.4 ± 24.5 , 43.7 ± 17.6 , 55.3 ± 3.5 mm for Cape Dorset and 7.1 ± 8.2 , 19.4 ± 8.1 , 41.7 ± 14.3 , 22.6 ± 7.3 , 16.8 ± 9.6 mm for Resolute. The average precipitation values for 2013 were 5.1, 42.2, 37.3, 65.6, and 26.5 mm for Cape Dorset and 14.8, 5.6, 14.4, 1.4, and 12.8 mm for Resolute. The natural variability of monthly precipitation is high, yet 2013 precipitation does not seem to be consistently above or below 1995–2005 decade averages.

With consideration of wind direction patterns, temperature, and precipitation trends for the 1995–2005 period, we have some confidence that our 2013 results are representative of a typical Arctic year.

2.4 Air mass trajectory dataset

Accurate source apportionment of surface pollutants in our study required state-of-the-art air mass back trajectory analysis. This was needed to investigate origins of different air masses that arrived at the monitoring stations (55 and 57 m above seal level for Cape Dorset and Resolute respectively). HYSPLIT 4 from NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) was used for back trajectory calculations. The available meteorology for HYSPLIT in the Arctic were the "gdas" 1° spatial and 6 h time resolution data files (Draxler and Hess, 2010). For each site, the HYSPLIT model produced 3696 trajectories at 1 h resolution going back in time for 5 days. These trajectories were further interpolated to provide 1 min resolution, in synchronization with air quality and vessel traffic datasets. The model trajectories were compared against field wind direction measurements to provide confidence in the accuracy of the trajectory dataset. The model trajectories were also compared against Canadian Meteorological Center (CMC) trajectory model (version 1.6.1). These trajectories were clustered (grouped) in further analysis to identify geographical or ship influence on the chemical signature of the air masses that arrived at the monitoring stations. More sophisticated plume trajectory models, such as provided by HYSPLIT or FLEXPART, are computationally intensive, requiring immense storage space, and do not fit within the scope

of this analysis. Such models are more suitable to study specific pollution episodes corresponding to single ship plume measurements.

2.5 Emissions inventory dataset

To understand the relative magnitude of shipping emissions, it was necessary to have an estimate of the entire emissions inventory in the Canadian Arctic. There is limited information on the most current emissions inventories in the Canadian Arctic. We have used the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), available from Environment Canada, for an initial estimate of major sources of emissions from latitudes above 60° N (NPRI, 2011). NPRI lists pollutants as generated by sources under two categories: (i) facilities alone, and (ii) summaries reported by facilities combined with estimates for other emissions sources such as motor vehicles, residential heating, forest fires, and agricultural activities.

The only facilities reported for Cape Dorset and Resolute are the municipal fossil-fuel electric power generators. In 2012, Cape Dorset generator emitted 96.111 and 1.439 t of NO_x and PM_{2.5}, while Resolute generator emitted 67.582 and 1.012 t of NO_x and PM_{2.5} respectively. Figure 3 shows a map of reported facility emissions for latitudes above 60° N. NO_x and PM_{2.5} sources are scattered in Nunavut, Northwest Territory (NWT), Yukon, and Northern Quebec although there are intensified sources in NWT (Diamond mining) and Northern Quebec (Nickel-Copper ore mining). SO₂ emissions primarily come from the Yukon and NWT (conventional oil and gas extraction).

Table 2 shows the emissions summary for Cape Dorset and Resolute in 2011. Only the territorial emissions summary was available, so it was assumed that Nunavut has identical emissions per capita in all regions, and the territorial emissions were scaled using populations of Cape Dorset (1363), Resolute (214), and Nunavut (31 906), to arrive at a site specific emissions summary (City-Data, 2011). As expected by population scaling, emissions in Cape Dorset are higher than Resolute by a factor of 6.4. Most of the activities contribute to PM_{2.5} pollution. However, air, marine, off-road diesel, and tire wear and brake lining are the only major contributors to SO_x pollution. For NO_x pollution, the transportation

sector, off-road use of gasoline/LPG/CNG, and waste burning are major contributors. Power plant emissions are significant, compared to other sources for each site.

2.6 Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a numeric scale used to quantify air pollution at a given point in time and its health significance. Most AQIs used around the world are calculated by comparing each pollutant in the index to its standard, and reporting the index as the number corresponding to the pollutant that is highest relative to its standard. On the contrary, the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) used in Canada considers the additive effects of multiple pollutants. AQHI assumes a linear relationship between air pollution and mortality, which is consistent with other no-threshold and dose–response relationships proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO). AQHI has been developed by examining all possible combinations of 2 to 5 common pollutants and various averaging times to determine the best and simplest index that statistically correlates with mortality rates. The current version in use considers a trailing 3 h average of O₃ [ppb], NO₂ [ppb], and PM_{2.5} [μg m⁻³] concentrations (Stieb et al., 2008),

$$\text{AQHI} = \frac{1000}{10.4} (\exp(0.000871[\text{NO}_2]) + \exp(0.000537[\text{O}_3]) + \exp(0.000487[\text{PM}_{2.5}]) - 3) \quad (1)$$

to produce an index indicative of acute health effects of air pollution. Operationally, AQHI is rounded to the closest integer with an arbitrary minimum value of 1. AQHI in ranges 1 to 3, 4 to 6, 7 to 10, and > 10 correspond to low risk, moderate risk, high risk, and very high risk, respectively. For the purpose of this study, AQHI is calculated, but not rounded, to provide a measure of air quality at each site with high resolution.

AQHI is used as a simple tool to put our results in context. Assumptions pertaining to threshold or no-threshold formulations, effect of long term background pollutants, smoking habits, and other various factors have long been debated in the formulation and output of air

quality health models. If a more detailed and accurate health impact assessment of shipping pollution in Arctic communities is desired, a more advanced and statistical health model, such as the Air Quality Benefits Assessment Tool (AQBAT), should be used. Such a model enables the definition of various specific scenario models from the flexibility of combining and linking of pollutants, health endpoints, geographic areas, and scenario years (Judek et al., 2012).

2.7 Statistical analysis

Clustering of air masses based on trajectories resulted in a few samples identifying pollutant concentrations or AQHIs associated with each group of trajectories. A statistical estimator was used to construct a confidence interval for the difference in true means between selected sample pairs. Suppose X_1 is sample 1, and X_2 is the sample 2. Then the interval for difference between their true means $\mu_1 - \mu_2$ can be estimated by $\overline{X_1} - \overline{X_2}$, with $(1 - \alpha) \times 100$ confidence, as (Walpole et al., 2002),

$$\mu_1 - \mu_2 \sim \overline{X_1} - \overline{X_2} \pm t_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}} \quad (2)$$

where s_1 and s_2 are sample SDs, n_1 and n_2 are sample sizes, and $t_{\alpha/2}$ is the t value with degrees of freedom ν given by,

$$\nu = \frac{(s_1^2/n_1 + s_2^2/n_2)^2}{\frac{(s_1^2/n_1)^2}{n_1-1} + \frac{(s_2^2/n_2)^2}{n_2-1}} \quad (3)$$

All intervals for mean differences in this study are constructed with 90 % confidence and are represented as $a - b$ or $a...b$ with a and b showing the lower and upper ends.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Vessel traffic patterns

Figure 4 shows the shipping traffic map in the Canadian Arctic from 1 June 2013 to 1 November 2013. The noticeable densities of trips in the Arctic Bridge and the Northwest Passage (NWP) are evident. To understand ship traffic behavior near each site, the number of ships within a radius of 205 km from the stations are also counted as a function of date. This distance is the largest width of the ship channels to the south of each station. Traffic near Cape Dorset begins in mid-June and continues toward the end of October, while active traffic near Resolute is limited between late July and early October due to ice conditions and marine navigability. Traffic near Resolute, however, appears denser compared to Cape Dorset. We have observed a maximum of 5 ships at a time (total of 22) within the vicinity of Resolute, compared to only 3 ships at a time (total of 39) for Cape Dorset (not shown). This can be explained by the difference between the average widths of Barrow strait (narrower) and Hudson straits (wider) as well as limited navigability time near Resolute.

3.2 Air mass trajectories

The HYSPLIT 5 day trajectory frequency plots are provided in Fig. 5. The frequency plots are computed by counting the number of trajectory intersections over each grid point and dividing by the total number of trajectories. A trajectory may intersect a grid point multiple times, in which case it is theoretically possible to have a frequency greater than 100% (Draxler et al., 2013). These trajectories cover the Canadian Arctic, but extend the origin of air masses beyond the region to include parts of Greenland, Northern Asia and lower latitudes of North America as well. Since the focus of this study is air pollution originating from the Canadian Arctic, we will consider trajectories backward in time for a maximum of 3 days.

3.3 Air quality measurements and emission sources at the vicinity of each site

3.3.1 Pollution as a function of site wind direction

In a first step toward understanding air pollution, rose plots for pollution concentrations as a function of site wind direction are presented in Fig. 6. The data densities are clearly affected by wind patterns provided earlier in Fig. 2. For both Cape Dorset and Resolute, waste burn, the town (vehicle traffic, residential combustion, power generators, etc...), and the airport substantially contribute to NO_x and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ pollution, while only airport and ships at anchoring position contribute to SO_2 pollution, albeit at low concentrations.

Higher SO_2 concentrations from the airport and ships at anchoring position are consistent with the most recent government reports concerning sulphur content in liquid fuels produced in or imported to Canada. In 2009, the national average of sulphur concentration in motor gasoline, aviation gasoline, and ultra-low sulphur diesel was 5–17 mg kg^{-1} , while it was 192–469 mg kg^{-1} for low-sulphur diesel and aviation turbo fuel (Sulphur, 2012). The latter group of fuels are more widely used by aircrafts and ships, suggesting why SO_2 pollution is higher due to air and marine traffic near the sites relative to local traffic.

3.3.2 Pollution and AQHI time series

The only noticeable seasonal trend in pollution measurements is the increase in O_3 mixing ratio from mid-June to mid-October for both sites (not shown). This is consistent with findings of Helmig et al. (2007) and Shindell et al. (2008) described earlier. Figure 7 shows the 1 min resolution AQHI time series. The seasonal trend is governed by O_3 mixing ratio with AQHI showing an increasing, although very low, from early June to late October. The AQHI in Cape Dorset is higher than Resolute, possibly associated with higher O_3 influence from southern sources in North America.

3.4 Air quality measurements, air mass trajectories, and shipping traffic

To identify the effect of shipping traffic on air pollution beyond each site, air mass trajectories and shipping traffic in the Arctic needed to be considered simultaneously. Clustering is the process of grouping air mass trajectories into classes of similar objects. Many algorithms are reported such as TSV, k means, BIRCH, DBSCAN, OPTICS, and STING that consider the end point or shape of trajectories in as many subgroups as are statistically significantly different (Lee et al., 2007; Draxler et al., 2013). However, we employed only two simple clustering approaches dubbed static and dynamic.

Static clustering was purely geographical and separated the trajectories based on the place of origin into four sectors: A, B, C, and D, specific to each site. These sectors were identified with the aid of wind direction analysis (Fig. 6) and are shown in Fig. 8. Sectors A and C are associated with wind sectors weakly contaminated by local pollution (clear sectors), while it is the otherwise for sectors B and D. A sensitivity analysis confirmed that the redefinition of each sector boundary within $\pm 5^\circ$ would not affect the results of this analysis significantly.

Dynamic clustering, on the other hand, separated the trajectories in two groups, based on whether or not each trajectory crossed a ship at an elevation less than 100 m a.s.l. and within a lateral distance equal to 20 % of the trajectory length. This threshold is the best estimate for the horizontal error prescribed for trajectories by Stohl (1998). In addition, this approach allows for detection of expanded ship plumes at larger distances from the measurement sites. We used a time resolution of 10 min to track each trajectory backward in time. The success of dynamic clustering of trajectories in detecting ship pollution depends on the accuracies of ship GPS time series as well as the trajectories themselves.

3.4.1 Examples of ship pollution episodes illustrated using selected time series

Before cluster statistics are discussed, four ship pollution episodes are illustrated using 1 min resolution time series in Fig. 9. Air masses influenced by ships are indicated by the corresponding plume age near the top of each graph. Ship pollution events are frequently

characterized by low/wide peaks in $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations, O_3 mixing ratios, and AQHI, concurrent with ship-influenced air masses. A ship-induced EBC event, concurrent with a $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 event, has also been characterized in Resolute. NO_x enhancement by ships occurs less frequently, only for younger plumes. Occasionally, local pollution events are superimposed on top of ship pollution events. These events are characterized by high/narrow peaks (NO_x , SO_2 , $PM_{2.5}$) or valleys (O_3 titration).

3.4.2 Static clustering of air mass trajectories based on geographical origin

As a first step in static clustering of trajectories, the radius distances of trajectories in each cluster to the monitoring stations were computed as a function of trajectory backward time. A backward time selection of 16 h ensured trajectory coverage over Barrow and Hudson straights. This corresponded to median of trajectory radii in sector C to exceed 200 km. The analysis was found to be insensitive to ± 8 h for this backward time selection. The number of trajectories in each sector are reported in Table 3. Figure 10 shows the box and whisker plots for pollution concentration levels. The statistical estimator, defined earlier, is used to build 90 % confidence intervals for mean differences between concentrations for all pairs of air mass samples. The results are shown in Table 4.

The significant effect of local pollution can be observed comparing NO_x concentrations in sector D with other sectors in both sites. The 10, 25, 50, 75, and 90 percentiles are all higher in sector D than the others. The interval for mean difference is up to 3.6–3.8 ppb higher for Cape Dorset and up to 1.6–1.7 ppb higher for Resolute. Highest concentrations in both sites are likely caused by the town emissions and waste burn.

Ozone variations are complicated due to a multitude of chemical processes and interactions. The two key chemical processes involved are titration and photochemistry (Sillman, 1999; Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). Titration results in a drop of O_3 mixing ratios due to reaction with NO that is typical in the vicinity of emission sources rich in NO , often 90 % or more of the total NO_x . Titration time scales are very fast, in the order of 200 s (Sillman, 1999). On the other hand, photochemical ozone formation occurs as a result of cyclic reactions that produce ozone (photolysis of NO_2 at wavelengths < 424 nm and ozone generation in

the presence of other prerequisite radicals) and those that consume ozone (reaction with NO). This chain of reactions come to equilibrium to yield a higher ozone mixing ratio than in the absence of sunlight. Using the *photo-stationary state relation* as a rough estimate, the steady state ozone mixing ratio should be proportional to $[\text{NO}_2]/[\text{NO}]$ (Sillman, 1999; Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006), a concept that facilitates interpretation of our results. The time scale for photochemical ozone formation is much longer, especially in cold climate, and is estimated to be greater than 1 h in our case, preventing ozone formation for long distances downwind of the emission source.

Ozone mixing ratios in sector D for Cape Dorset are down to 5.0–5.1 ppb lower than other sectors, suggesting a reduction in levels due to local titration by town emissions. The mixing ratios from sector C are comparable to sectors A and B. For Resolute, sectors C and D mixing ratios are down to 6.4–6.5 ppb lower than sectors A and B. This suggests that air masses from the nearby “upper town” (NW) and the airport are ozone titrated while those coming from the distant “lower town” (SE) and ships are ozone enhanced. This argument is supported by examining the ratio $[\text{NO}_2]/[\text{NO}]$ for both sites. Resolute exhibits a higher ratio 0.95–1.1 compared to Cape Dorset 0.56–0.76, indicating that the effect of photochemical ozone formation should be stronger in Resolute. In addition, the monitoring station is about 3 km from the “lower town” in Resolute, as opposed to near vicinity in Cape Dorset (< 1 km), leaving enough time for air masses to age and photochemistry to be triggered.

There is no statistically significant difference among SO_2 levels associated with sectors A, B, C, and D. SO_2 pollution events are very rare and episodic, so that they do not reflect any change in the box and whisker plots either.

$\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration in air masses arriving at Cape Dorset from sector C is up to 1.4–1.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ higher than other sectors, and so are the 25, 50, 75, and 90 percentiles. This may be attributed to shipping activity and other sources from the south (e.g. nickel mining in Northern Quebec). In Resolute, concentrations in sector D are down to 1.0–1.2 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ lower than other sectors. This sector faces the frozen ocean with minimal shipping activity for extended periods.

3.4.3 Dynamic clustering of air mass trajectories based on ship presence upstream

Dynamic clustering of air mass trajectories was performed based on grouping air masses into clear (A + C) and all (A + B + C + D) wind sectors and then subgrouping based on ship influence (s for ship-influenced and ns for no ship-influenced). Ship plume ages up to 24 h and 72 h were considered and the number of trajectories in each group/subgroup are reported in Table 3. Figures 11–13 show the box and whisker plots for pollution concentration levels and AQHI. The statistical estimator for mean differences are shown in Tables 5 and 6.

For NO_x , the comparison of clear and all wind sectors, again, reveals that the effect of local pollution is significant. Considering the clear wind sectors only, there is no statistically significant difference in NO_x concentrations as a result of ship influence. However, considering all wind sectors, NO_x concentrations by local pollution are higher than concentrations in ship-influenced air masses by 0.7–0.9 ppb in Cape Dorset and 1.0–1.1 ppb in Resolute. Box and whisker plots also show a substantial increase in 75 and 90 percentiles. Air masses contaminated by high sporadic local pollution are not necessarily coincident with ship-influenced air masses, so our approach of grouping identifies them under “no ship-influenced” condition, explaining why no ship-influenced air masses exhibit higher concentrations.

For O_3 , comparison of clear and all wind sectors in Cape Dorset reveals that local emissions reduce ozone levels due to immediate titration. We have frequently observed a pronounced anti-correlation between local NO_x and O_3 levels (see Fig. 9). Median ozone levels for ship-influenced air masses are greater than the overall median ozone for both clear and all wind sectors in both sites. Under clear wind sectors in Cape Dorset, air masses contaminated by ship plumes up to 24 h of age show a decrease in mixing ratios by 1.6–2.0 ppb but an increase by 2.1–2.4 ppb for plumes up to 72 h old. Under all wind sectors in Cape Dorset, shipping enhances mixing ratios by 2.7–2.9 ppb and 4.6–4.7 ppb for plumes up to 24 h and 72 h of age, respectively. In Resolute, we see an increase of mixing ratios due to

shipping by 2.7–3.1 ppb and 4.3–4.5 ppb under clear and all wind sectors for plumes up to 24 h of age and by 1.6–1.8 ppb and 2.5–2.7 ppb under the same sectors for plumes up to 72 h of age. For both sites, Ozone pollution appears to be long-lived and persistent in ship plumes by at least 72 h. Our results suggest that photochemical ozone enhancement in ship plumes crossing Resolute is triggered more effectively than Cape Dorset, in agreement with the hypothesis of *photo-stationary state relation* mentioned earlier.

The influence of shipping emissions on PM_{2.5} concentrations is significant under clear and all wind sectors for both sites for plumes up to 24 h of age. The 25, 50, 75, and 90 percentiles for PM_{2.5} levels are consistently greater for ship-influenced air masses than the rest. Statistical mean differences are higher for Cape Dorset by 1.8–1.9 µg m⁻³ under clear wind sectors and for Resolute by 0.5–0.6 µg m⁻³ under all wind sectors. Unlike ozone, however, the PM_{2.5} influence is not persistent from older ship plumes (up to 72 h) so that the statistical mean differences drop and the degree of overlap in box and whisker plots increases.

In Resolute, the influence of shipping emissions on EBC concentrations is significant only under clear wind sectors for plumes up to 24 h of age. The 50, 75, and 90 percentiles for EBC levels are greater for ship-influenced air masses, and the statistical mean difference is higher by 0.4–10.1 ng m⁻³. Under all wind sectors, the sporadic nature of local pollution results in higher EBC concentrations. Similar to PM_{2.5}, the influence of EBC from older ship plumes (up to 72 h) is less persistent, likely due to particle deposition.

There is a persistent increase in AQHI for ship-influenced air masses in both sites for plumes up to 24 and 72 h of age. The mean difference in AQHI between ship and no ship-influenced air masses varies from 0.1 to 0.3, in a statistically significant way, with current traffic levels.

3.4.4 Particle size distributions

The fate of particles in ship plumes was studied, to a limited extent and by speculation, using particle size number fractions in Resolute. Figure 14 shows particle size number fraction as a function of ship plume age for the entire dataset. Also, the particle size number fraction

change for a single ship pollution episode (same as in Fig. 9) is shown. For ship plume aging analysis, the dynamic cluster containing ship-influenced air masses was further sub-grouped by plume age from 0 to 72 h in 6 h time intervals. The distributions corresponding to ship polluted air masses are averaged over large sample clusters or time periods to reduce the effect of local pollution on size distribution, which cannot be totally eliminated with the current methodology. Local pollution is predominantly short-lived with narrow peaks in pollution time series in comparison to the long-lived ship pollution with wide peaks in the time series (see Fig. 9). With this strategy the study of size distribution dynamics as a function of ship plume age becomes easier. Using genetic optimization, a 4-modal log-normal function was fitted to each subgroup sample,

$$\begin{aligned}
 N_f(\log D_p(j)) &\simeq \frac{dN_f(\log D_p(j))}{d \log D_p} \Delta \log D_p \\
 &\simeq \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{N_{f,i} \Delta \log D_p}{\sqrt{2\pi} \log \sigma_i} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\log D_p(j) - \log D_{m,i}}{\log \sigma_i} \right]^2 \right)
 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $N_f(\log D_p(j))$ is particle number fraction for particle diameters in the j th bin of the instrument ($\log D_p(j)$) in [nm], and $\Delta \log D_p$ is the average bin width in [nm] for all channels. The other parameters are mode dependent: $N_{f,i}$ is total particle number fraction, $D_{m,i}$ is particle median diameter, and σ_i is a measure of spread for mode i . The combination $\frac{N_{f,i} \Delta \log D_p}{\sqrt{2\pi} \log \sigma_i}$ may be interpreted as the amplitude for mode i .

Figure 14 and Table 7 show selected particle size number fractions and the associated parameters for the 4-modal log-normal fits. These results do not resolve variability in engine type, engine load, and fuel type due to the limited scope of the analysis and the limited number of samples available for each ship plume encountered. However, information on individual engine types, sizes, and fuels are available from classification societies such as IHS Fairplay, DNV GL Exchange, American Bureau of Shipping, Korean Register, Russian ship register, ClassNK, Bureau Veritas. Nevertheless, a number of interesting anthropogenic and biogenic processes can be identified using the particle size number fractions.

The unpolluted number fraction (background), with long residence time over marine boundary layer and nearby islands, exhibits two strong modes in Aitken (28–37 nm) and accumulation (105–115 nm) regimes, in agreement with findings of Petzold et al. (2008). The fresh plumes (0–6 h) exhibit a weak nucleation mode at 13 nm, an accentuated combustion (Aitken) mode at 27 nm, and a weaker combustion mode at 85 nm. These findings are in agreement with plume intercept and test-rig studies of Petzold et al. (2008, 2010, 2011) who report nucleation and combustion modes in ranges of 5–15 nm, and 25–90 nm respectively. It is speculated that lower and higher combustion modes are associated with primary and agglomerated black carbon particles (Petzold et al., 2011). A plume intercept study by Lack et al. (2011) found that the median particle size associated with strongest combustion mode decreased concurrent with the decrease of sulphate (SO_4^{2-}) emissions, from 60 nm to 36 nm. Another plume intercept study by Cappa et al. (2014) shows the same mode shifting concurrent with lower engine speeds (loads) from 69 nm at 12 knots to 30 nm at 2.9 knots. Thus, it is likely that the detected combustion modes in our analysis are affected by variability in both vessel speeds and sulphur content in their fuels.

The particle size number fraction exhibits complex dynamics as the plumes age beyond 6 h. The major combustion mode particle size increases due to particle coagulation and growth from 27 nm (0–6 h) to 44 nm (60–66 h), but eventually attenuates in number fraction. Meanwhile, the accumulation mode appears at 101 nm (12–18 h) and intensifies until it approaches the background mode at 112 nm (66–72 h). For ocean-originated air masses, a nucleation mode appears at 14 nm (60–66 h) and persists at 15 nm (66–72 h). We suggest that this mode is linked to biogenic sulphur emissions from the ocean in the summer Arctic. Dimethyl Sulphide (DMS) emissions play an important role in influencing aerosols in the Arctic ocean (Sharma et al., 1999) and have long atmospheric lifetimes (8 days) compared to lower latitudes (0.8 days) (Sharma et al., 2012). DMS is produced in the ocean, especially the ice edge (Sharma et al., 2012), and exchanged to the atmosphere, where it reacts/oxidizes with other radicals to produce compounds that further condense on existing particles or nucleate into new particles (Yin and Seinfeld, 1990; Capaldo and Pandis, 1997).

The accumulation mode may also be influenced by ocean-originated sea salt, as suggested by O'Dowd et al. (1997).

Our plume aging analysis suggests that particle processing in the Arctic is very slow, requiring up to 72 h until background conditions in particle size number fractions are reached.

- 5 The hourly particle size number fraction change in the single ship plume episode demonstrates the transformation of the background distribution to a distribution dominated by combustion mode particles in the 20 to 30 nm diameter range in the ship plume, giving confidence in our hypotheses for the particle size distribution behavior for the entire dataset.

3.4.5 Contribution of shipping and other sources to cumulative pollution

- 10 To estimate the contribution of shipping to cumulative pollution, a measure of local exposure, the surface level concentrations are integrated over time. It can be argued that the clear wind sectors (A + C) provide a lower bound estimate for cumulative ship pollution, since those air masses are weakly affected by local pollution, while all wind sectors (A + B + C + D) provide an upper bound estimate, because those air masses are contaminated by more ships and significant local pollution. These bounds are represented by $a - b$
- 15 or $a...b$ with a and b showing lower and upper bounds, respectively. For NO_x , SO_2 , $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, and EBC, the cumulative concentration can be defined by,

$$S_{j,k} = \sum (C_{j,k} - C_{10\%}) \quad (5)$$

- where $S_{j,k}$ is the cumulative concentration for a species of interest in cluster j (s for ships upstream and ns for no ships upstream), and k is the sub cluster (cws for clear wind sectors (lower bound) and aws for all wind sectors (upper bound)), $C_{j,k}$ is concentration, and $C_{10\%}$ is the lowest 10 % (decile D_1) concentration for the entire dataset. The decile D_1 is a proxy for background concentration.
- 20

- Since there are seasonal variations in O_3 , a suitable proxy for background mixing ratio is the daily median mixing ratio. There are many ways to define cumulative pollution by ozone. One approach is to consider pollution as any perturbation from the median,
- 25

$$S_{j,k} = \sum |C_{j,k} - C_{50\%}| \quad (6)$$

with similar notation, except for $C_{50\%}$ representing the daily median mixing ratio for all wind sectors. Note that with this definition, ozone reduction due to titration is also viewed as a perturbation. Thus, the percent contribution of shipping to total pollution can be calculated by,

$$F_k = 100 \times \frac{S_{s,k}}{S_{ns,k} + S_{s,k}} \quad (7)$$

Alternatively, cumulative pollution by ozone can be separated to pollution due to titration ($ST_{j,k}$), for when the mixing ratios are below daily median, and enhancement ($SE_{j,k}$), for when the mixing ratios are above daily median. These can be defined by,

$$ST_{j,k} = \sum (C_{50\%} - C_{j,k}) \quad (8)$$

$$SE_{j,k} = \sum (C_{j,k} - C_{50\%}) \quad (9)$$

Thus, the percent contribution of shipping to ozone titration or enhancement can be calculated accordingly,

$$FT_k = 100 \times \frac{ST_{s,k}}{ST_{ns,k} + ST_{s,k}} \quad (10)$$

$$FE_k = 100 \times \frac{SE_{s,k}}{SE_{ns,k} + SE_{s,k}} \quad (11)$$

Figure 15 and Tables 8 and 9 show the results of the cumulative pollution analysis graphically and numerically. The sample size for each air mass cluster is provided in Table 3. The cumulative concentrations indicate that the impact of other sources of pollution is about one order of magnitude higher than that of shipping. The cumulative shipping pollution for all species are higher in Cape Dorset than Resolute.

In our analysis for black carbon in Resolute, we find that EBC constitutes 1.3–9.7 % of total $PM_{2.5}$ mass. Some airborne plume intercept studies report this fraction for ships (burning heavy fuel oil operating at 100 % engine loading) as 21.4 % (Petzold et al., 2008), 23.3 % (Lack et al., 2009), and 5.8 % (Lack et al., 2011). Some frequent vessels in the Canadian Arctic, such as the Amundsen coast guard icebreaker, burn distillate fuels as opposed to heavy fuel oil. In addition, we suggest that after aerosol processing over many hours (our case), hydrophilic components of total particulate emissions grow, acquiring more mass, but the EBC components (mainly hydrophobic) do not. These facts justify our slightly lower mass fractions of EBC at the site.

Cumulative percent ship contribution to pollution for all species is greater in Cape Dorset, justified by a longer shipping season and a shorter distance between ships, particularly at anchoring position, and the monitoring station. We estimate the percent ship contribution (F) to NO_x , O_3 , SO_2 , and $PM_{2.5}$ as 12.9–17.5 %, 16.2–18.1 %, 16.9–18.3 %, and 19.5–31.7 % for Cape Dorset. Similar estimates for NO_x , O_3 , SO_2 , $PM_{2.5}$, and EBC are 1.0–7.2 %, 2.9–4.8 %, 5.5–10.0 %, 6.6–7.2 %, and 4.3–9.8 % in Resolute.

4 Conclusions and future work

In an effort to characterize air quality in two communities of the Canadian Arctic during the high shipping season, we have measured surface concentrations of NO_x , O_3 , SO_2 , and $PM_{2.5}$ in Cape Dorset and Resolute, Nunavut, for the complete 2013 shipping season. A particular focus of the study was the relative impact of pollution due to shipping vs. other sources, near high shipping traffic zones adjacent to the Arctic Bridge and the Northwest Passage (NWP).

For both sites, higher NO_x concentrations were dominated by local emissions. The 90 % confidence interval for mean difference between no ship and ship-influenced air masses showed higher NO_x concentrations up to 0.7–0.9 ppb in Cape Dorset and 1.0–1.1 ppb in Resolute. In Cape Dorset, local emissions were responsible for O_3 titration, but in Resolute, both titration and photochemical enhancement governed ozone levels. Overall, the influence of shipping on O_3 mixing ratios was that of enhancement by up to 4.6–4.7 ppb in Cape Dorset and 2.5–2.7 ppb in Resolute, persistent for ship plumes up to 72 h of age. $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations were consistently higher for ship-influenced air masses by up to 1.8–1.9 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in Cape Dorset and 0.5–0.6 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in Resolute. Unlike ozone, high $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations in ship plumes were persistent only up to 24 h, with deposition reducing the concentrations in older plumes. High concentration SO_2 pollution events were rare and episodic so that no statistically significant statement could be made regarding the effect of shipping on high SO_2 concentrations. In addition, our instrument had a lower detection limit for SO_2 that was above the current background level.

The high resolution Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) primarily followed seasonal O_3 levels and was higher for Cape Dorset than Resolute. Ship-influenced air masses consistently exhibited an increase of 0.1–0.3 in AQHI compared to no ship-influenced air masses. This difference is small with existing low levels of shipping traffic in the Arctic, but it can be expected to intensify with increasing traffic.

Lower and upper bounds in cumulative pollution were estimated by grouping air masses that arrived at the sites from clear wind sectors, dominantly influenced by ship pollution, and all wind sectors, influenced by ship and local pollution. We estimate the percent ship contribution to NO_x , O_3 , SO_2 , and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ as 12.9–17.5%, 16.2–18.1%, 16.9–18.3%, and 19.5–31.7% for Cape Dorset and 1.0–7.2%, 2.9–4.8%, 5.5–10.0%, and 4.3–9.8% for Resolute during the 2013 shipping season. Additional measurements in Resolute suggested that percent ship contribution to black carbon was 4.3–9.8% and that black carbon constituted 1.3–9.7% of total $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass in ship plumes.

One limitation in these estimates is the use of trajectories, as opposed to plume dispersion modeling. Plume dispersion modeling for our purposes was virtually impractical since

it would have required plume dispersion simulations for each ship at short time intervals for the entire shipping season, which was an immense computational calculation and beyond the scope of our analysis. Nevertheless, the order of magnitude and the comparative results between the two sites are relevant and informative to this field of research.

Continued air quality monitoring in the above sites during future shipping seasons would improve the statistics in our analysis as well as characterize repeating seasonal patterns in air quality due to shipping, local pollution, and long-range transport.

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Table 1. Precision for gas pollutant measurements at lower detection limit; based on daily internal zero calibration.

Site	NO _x [ppb] precision	O ₃ [ppb] precision	SO ₂ [ppb] precision
Cape Dorset	±0.327	±0.808	±0.104
Resolute	±0.120	±0.178	±0.107

Table 2. Air pollutant emission summaries for Cape Dorset and Resolute in 2011; listing only categories with emissions of PM_{2.5}, SO₂, and NO_x; scaled using populations of each site and Nunavut (City-Data, 2011; NPRI, 2011).

Activity	Cape Dorset PM _{2.5} [tonnes]	Resolute PM _{2.5} [tonnes]	Cape Dorset SO _x [tonnes]	Resolute SO _x [tonnes]	Cape Dorset NO _x [tonnes]	Resolute NO _x [tonnes]
Cement and Concrete Industry	0.256	0.040	–	–	–	–
Mining and Rock Quarrying	0.043	0.007	–	–	–	–
Air transportation	0.085	0.013	0.684	0.107	5.938	0.932
Heavy-duty diesel vehicles	0.043	0.007	–	–	1.922	0.302
Heavy-duty gasoline trucks	–	–	–	–	0.085	0.013
Light-duty diesel trucks	–	–	–	–	0.085	0.013
Light-duty gasoline trucks	–	–	–	–	2.093	0.329
Light-duty gasoline vehicles	–	–	–	–	0.684	0.107
Marine Transportation	–	–	0.043	0.007	0.256	0.040
Off-road use of diesel	1.922	0.302	0.043	0.007	26.529	4.165
Off-road use of gasoline/LPG/CNG	1.111	0.174	–	–	4.699	0.738
Tire wear & brake lining	0.043	0.007	0.043	0.007	–	–
Cigarette Smoking	0.043	0.007	–	–	–	–
Cooking	0.342	0.054	–	–	–	–
Construction operations	8.715	1.368	–	–	–	–
Dust from unpaved roads	7.390	1.16	–	–	–	–
Waste	0.256	0.040	–	–	0.085	0.013
Mine tailings	0.513	0.080	–	–	–	–
Miscellaneous	0.384	0.060	–	–	–	–

Table 3. Static cluster sample sizes n_k for wind sector k (A, B, C, or D); dynamic cluster sample sizes $n_{j,k}$ for ship influence j (s for ships upstream and ns for no ships upstream), and wind sector k (cws for clear wind sectors, A + C, and aws for all wind sectors, A + B + C + D).

Site	Cape Dorset	Cape Dorset	Cape Dorset	Cape Dorset	Resolute	Resolute	Resolute	Resolute
Size	n_A	n_B	n_C	n_D	n_A	n_B	n_C	n_D
Trajectory grouping based on a 16 h backward time								
Static	31 804	16 883	35 401	123 117	16 494	21 655	38 550	122 929
Size	$n_{s, aws}$	$n_{ns, aws}$	$n_{s, cws}$	$n_{ns, cws}$	$n_{s, aws}$	$n_{ns, aws}$	$n_{s, cws}$	$n_{ns, cws}$
Ship plume age up to 24 h								
Dynamic	32 355	174 446	8058	40 356	9984	189 164	4608	46 271
Ship plume age up to 72 h								
Dynamic	89 582	114 491	21 862	26 548	19 288	177 132	8115	41 699

Table 4. Estimator for differences in true means between concentrations ([ppb] for gases and [ng m⁻³] for PM_{2.5}) associated with static air mass clusters in Cape Dorset and Resolute; trajectories grouped based on a 16 h backward time; $\overline{C_{\text{row}} - C_{\text{col}}}$ (e.g. $\overline{C_B - C_A}$ for entry in row B and column A) estimator for concentration difference; lower and upper limits with 90% confidence interval; intervals above instrument precision in bold face.

Site	Cape Dorset	Cape Dorset	Cape Dorset	Resolute	Resolute	Resolute
NO _x	A	B	C	A	B	C
B	-1.5...-1.3			-0.2...-0.2		
C	-0.1...0.0	1.3...1.4		0.0...0.0	0.0...0.0	
D	2.3...2.4	3.6...3.8	2.3...2.4	0.1...0.2	1.6...1.7	1.5...1.5
O ₃	A	B	C	A	B	C
B	-1.2...-1.0			1.3...1.5		
C	-0.3...-0.1	0.9...1.1		-3.9...-3.8	-5.3...-5.2	
D	-5.1...-5.0	-4.0...-3.8	-4.9...-4.8	-5.1...-4.9	-6.5...-6.4	-1.2...-1.1
PM _{2.5}	A	B	C	A	B	C
B	0.0...0.0			-0.7...-0.5		
C	2.1...2.2	2.2...2.2		-0.6...-0.4	0.1...0.1	
D	1.4...1.4	1.4...1.5	-0.8...-0.7	-1.2...-1.0	-0.5...-0.4	-0.6...-0.5

Table 5. Estimator for differences in true means between concentrations ([ppb] for gases and [$\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$] $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, and [ng m^{-3}] for EBC) associated with dynamic air mass clusters in Cape Dorset and Resolute; $\overline{C_{s, \text{aws}} - C_{\text{ns}, \text{aws}}}$ and $\overline{C_{s, \text{cws}} - C_{\text{ns}, \text{cws}}}$ estimator for concentration difference; subscripts definitions as in caption of Table 3; lower and upper limits with 90% confidence interval; intervals above instrument precision in bold face.

Site	Cape Dorset	Cape Dorset	Resolute	Resolute
Estimator	$\overline{C_{s, \text{aws}} - C_{\text{ns}, \text{aws}}}$	$\overline{C_{s, \text{cws}} - C_{\text{ns}, \text{cws}}}$	$\overline{C_{s, \text{aws}} - C_{\text{ns}, \text{aws}}}$	$\overline{C_{s, \text{cws}} - C_{\text{ns}, \text{cws}}}$
Ship plume age up to 24 h				
NO_x	-0.9...-0.7	0.0...0.3	-1.1...-1.0	-0.1...0.0
O_3	2.7...2.9	-2.0...-1.6	4.3...4.5	2.7...3.1
$\text{PM}_{2.5}$	0.6...0.6	1.8...1.9	0.5...0.6	0.0...0.1
EBC			-29.8...6.7	0.4...10.1
Ship plume age up to 72 h				
NO_x	0.0...0.1	0.2...0.4	-1.1...-1.1	-0.1...0.0
O_3	4.6...4.7	2.1...2.4	2.5...2.7	1.6...1.8
$\text{PM}_{2.5}$	0.0...0.1	0.4...0.5	0.4...0.5	0.1...0.2
EBC			-26.9...-7.8	-0.3...4.5

Table 6. Estimator for differences in true means between AQHI associated with dynamic air mass clusters in Cape Dorset and Resolute; $\overline{I_{s,aws}} - \overline{I_{ns,aws}}$ and $\overline{I_{s,cws}} - \overline{I_{ns,cws}}$ estimator for index difference; subscripts definitions as in caption of Table 3; lower and upper limits with 90 % confidence interval.

Site	Cape Dorset	Cape Dorset	Resolute	Resolute
Estimator	$\overline{I_{s,aws}} - \overline{I_{ns,aws}}$	$\overline{I_{s,cws}} - \overline{I_{ns,cws}}$	$\overline{I_{s,aws}} - \overline{I_{ns,aws}}$	$\overline{I_{s,cws}} - \overline{I_{ns,cws}}$
	Ship plume age up to 24 h			
AQHI	0.2...0.2	0.1...0.1	0.2...0.2	0.1...0.1
	Ship plume age up to 72 h			
AQHI	0.2...0.3	0.2...0.2	0.1...0.1	0.1...0.1

Table 7. Parameters for the 4-modal log-normal fits to the particle size number fractions as a function of ship plume age in Resolute; Nucleation (Nuc), Aitken (Ait), and Accumulation (Acc) modes annotated in the table.

Ship Plume Age [h]	Unpolluted	0–6	12–18	54–60	60–66	66–72
# of samples	–	323	87	218	214	62
$\frac{N_{f,1}\Delta \log D_p}{\sqrt{2\pi} \log \sigma_1}$	0.018	0.002	0.013	0.003	0.007	0.006
$D_{m,1}$ [nm]	28 ^{Ait}	3	25 ^{Ait}	23 ^{Ait}	14 ^{Nuc}	15 ^{Nuc}
σ_1 [nm]	2	7	3	3	1	1
$\frac{N_{f,2}\Delta \log D_p}{\sqrt{2\pi} \log \sigma_2}$	0.009	0.009	0.031	0.026	0.022	0.020
$D_{m,2}$ [nm]	37 ^{Ait}	13 ^{Nuc}	31 ^{Ait}	27 ^{Ait}	28 ^{Ait}	28 ^{Ait}
σ_2 [nm]	2	3	1	2	3	2
$\frac{N_{f,3}\Delta \log D_p}{\sqrt{2\pi} \log \sigma_3}$	0.004	0.034	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.003
$D_{m,3}$ [nm]	105 ^{Acc}	27 ^{Ait}	101 ^{Acc}	41 ^{Ait}	44 ^{Ait}	56 ^{Ait}
σ_3 [nm]	2	1	1	1	1	3
$\frac{N_{f,4}\Delta \log D_p}{\sqrt{2\pi} \log \sigma_4}$	0.015	0.009	0.004	0.007	0.009	0.016
$D_{m,4}$ [nm]	115 ^{Acc}	85 ^{Ait}	208 ^{Acc}	144 ^{Acc}	138 ^{Acc}	112 ^{Acc}
σ_4 [nm]	1	2	2	1	1	2

Table 8. Percent contribution of shipping to total pollution (F_k); defined for wind sector k (cws for clear wind sectors, upper bound, and aws for all wind sectors, lower bound).

Site	Estimate	NO _x [%]	O ₃ [%]	SO ₂ [%]	PM _{2.5} [%]	EBC [%]
Cape Dorset	(F_{aws}, F_{cws})	12.9...17.5	16.2...18.1	16.9...18.3	19.5...31.7	
Resolute	(F_{aws}, F_{cws})	1.0...7.2	2.9...4.8	5.5...10.0	6.5...7.2	4.3...9.8

Table 9. Percent contribution of shipping to total ozone titration (FT_k) and ozone enhancement (FE_k); subscripts as in caption of Table 8.

Site	Estimate	O ₃ [%]
Cape Dorset	(FT_{aws}, FT_{cws})	15.7...20.1
Cape Dorset	(FE_{aws}, FE_{cws})	15.8...18.5
Resolute	(FT_{aws}, FT_{cws})	3.7...7.1
Resolute	(FE_{aws}, FE_{cws})	2.1...3.5

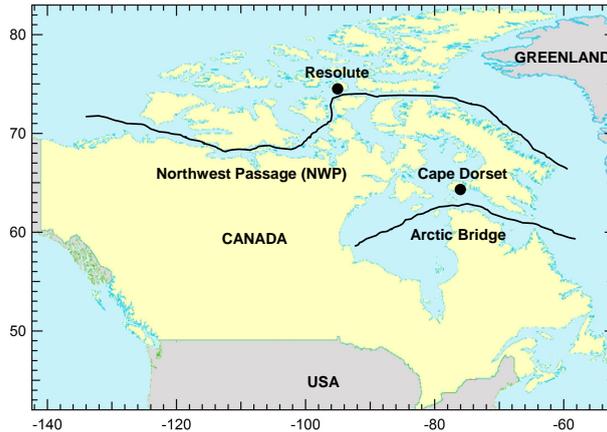


Figure 1. Site locations for air quality monitoring stations in the Canadian Arctic; monitoring station in Cape Dorset facing the Arctic Bridge near Hudson Strait; monitoring station in Resolute facing the Northwest Passage (NWP) near Barrow Strait.



Figure 2. Maps of Cape Dorset and Resolute with monitoring stations; wind roses for 22.5° sectors with length of each sector indicating frequency [%] and the color scale indicating wind speed [m s^{-1}], annotations superimposed on Google maps.

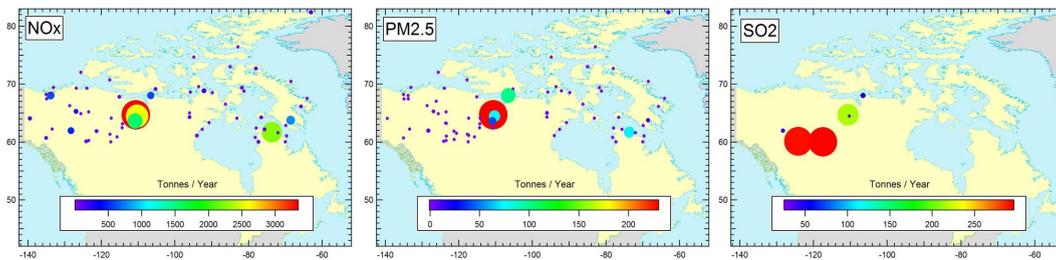


Figure 3. Emissions inventories [tonnes yr⁻¹] for Canadian facilities above 60° N in 2011 for NO_x (NO₂ equivalent), PM_{2.5}, and SO₂ (NPRI, 2011).

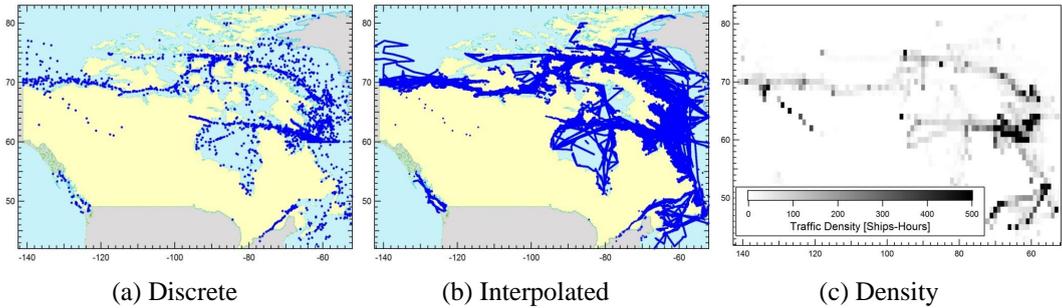


Figure 4. Shipping traffic maps in the Canadian Arctic from 1 June 2013 to 1 November 2013; shipping activity in Mackenzie River (Northwest Territories) not considered; shipping traffic density plot produced with 1° resolution by integrating number of ships over time in a particular grid box.

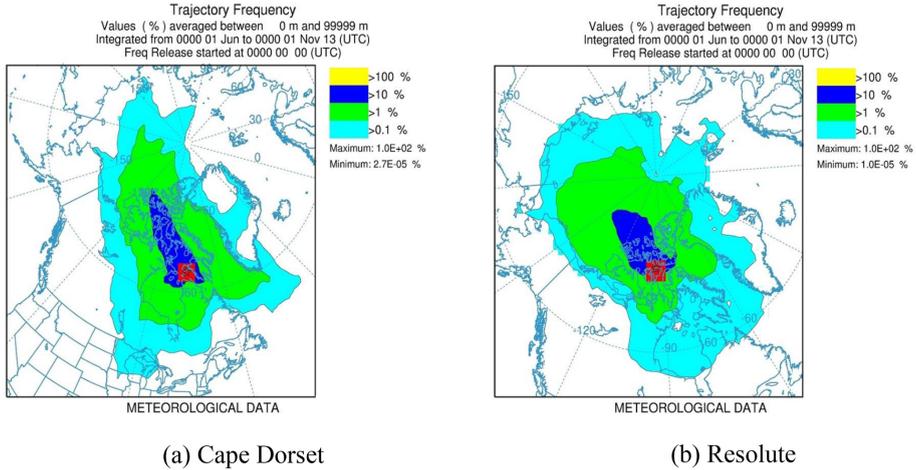


Figure 5. HYSPLIT trajectory frequency plots from 1 June 2013 to 1 November 2013.

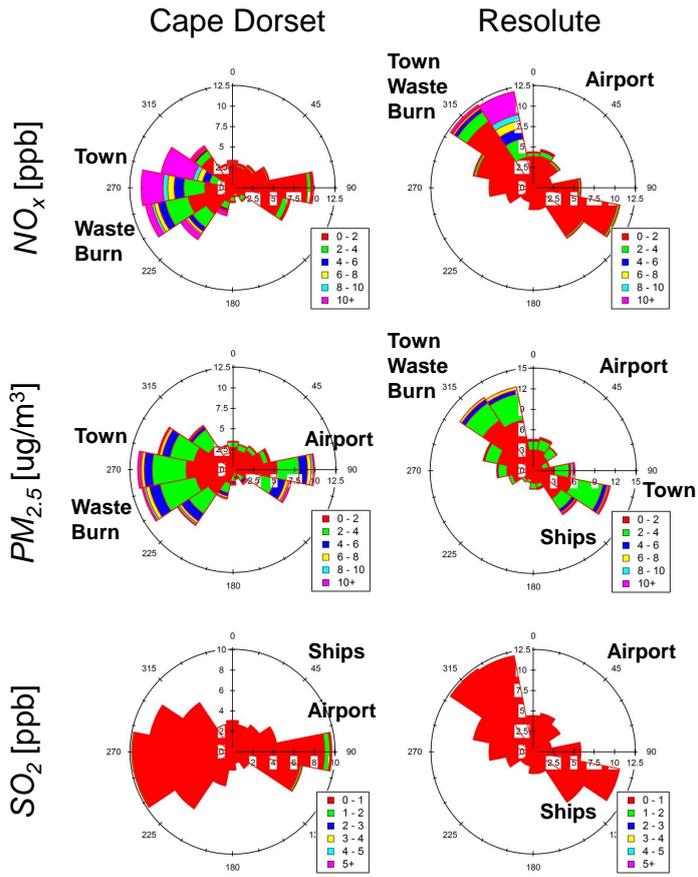


Figure 6. Rose plots for pollution as a function of site wind direction from 1 June 2013 to 1 November 2013; wind roses for 22.5° sectors with length of each sector indicating frequency [%] and the color scale indicating concentration.

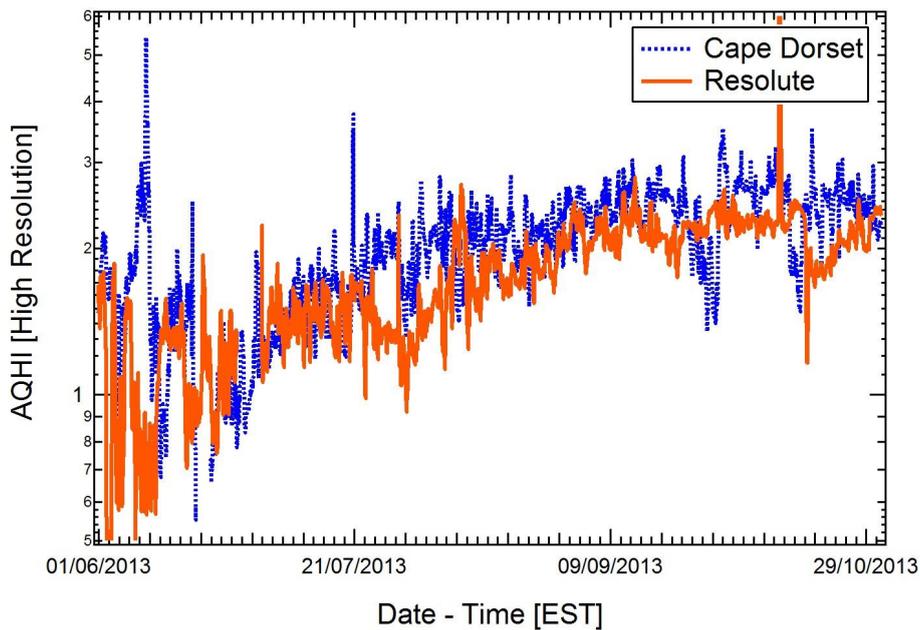


Figure 7. 1 min resolution Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), without rounding.

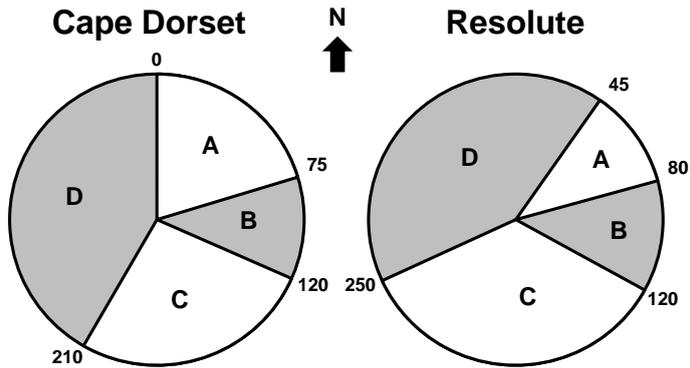
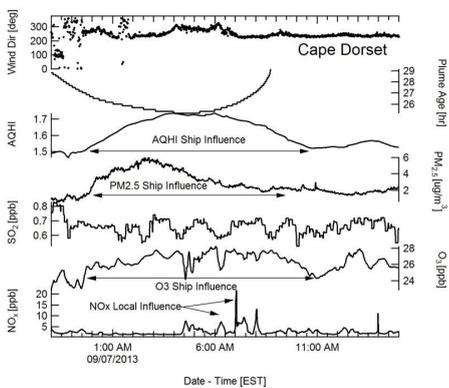
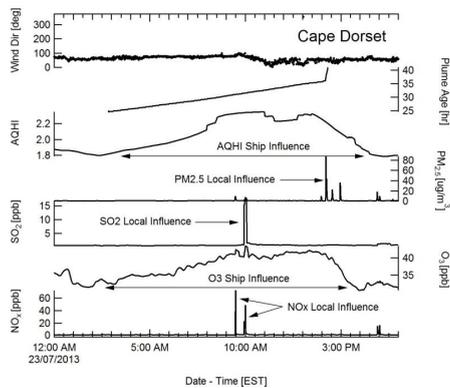


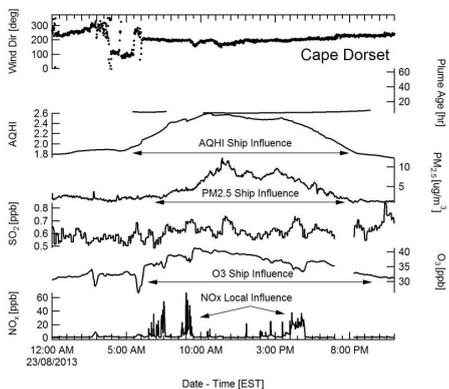
Figure 8. Sectors used for grouping air mass trajectories; trajectories in sectors A and C weakly affected by local pollution; trajectories in sectors B and D strongly affected by local pollution.



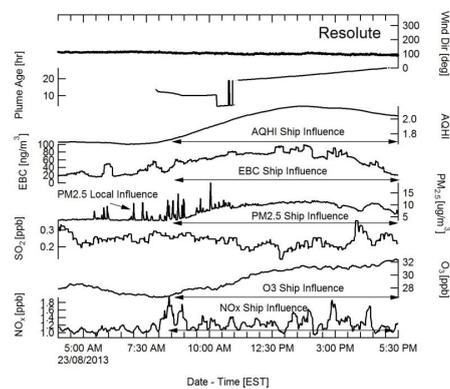
(a) Cape Dorset



(b) Cape Dorset



(c) Cape Dorset



(d) Resolute

Figure 9. Ship pollution episode analysis using time series during selected days; annotated pollution events influenced by ships (wide and low peaks) and local events (narrow and high peaks or valleys).

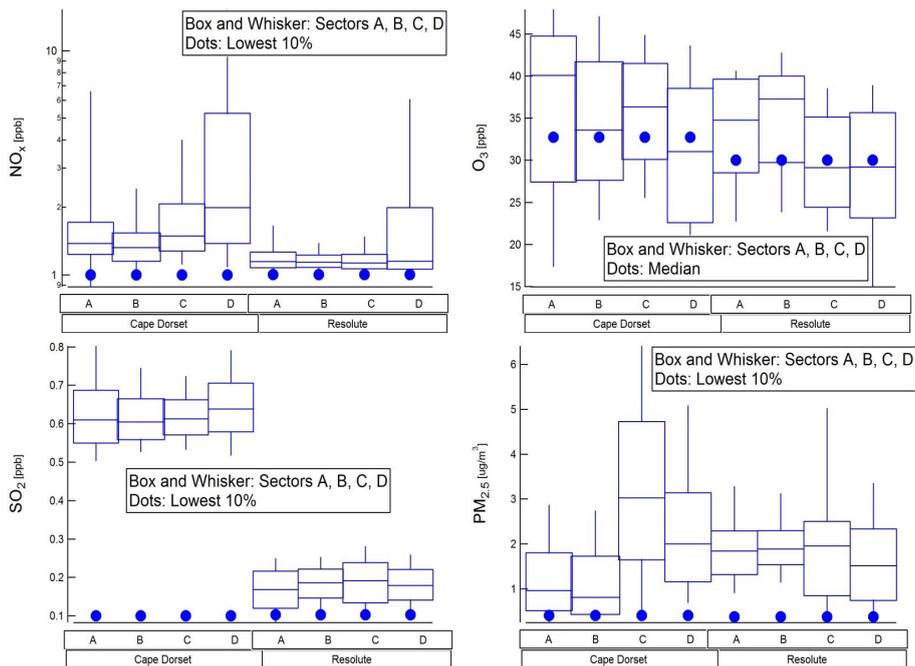
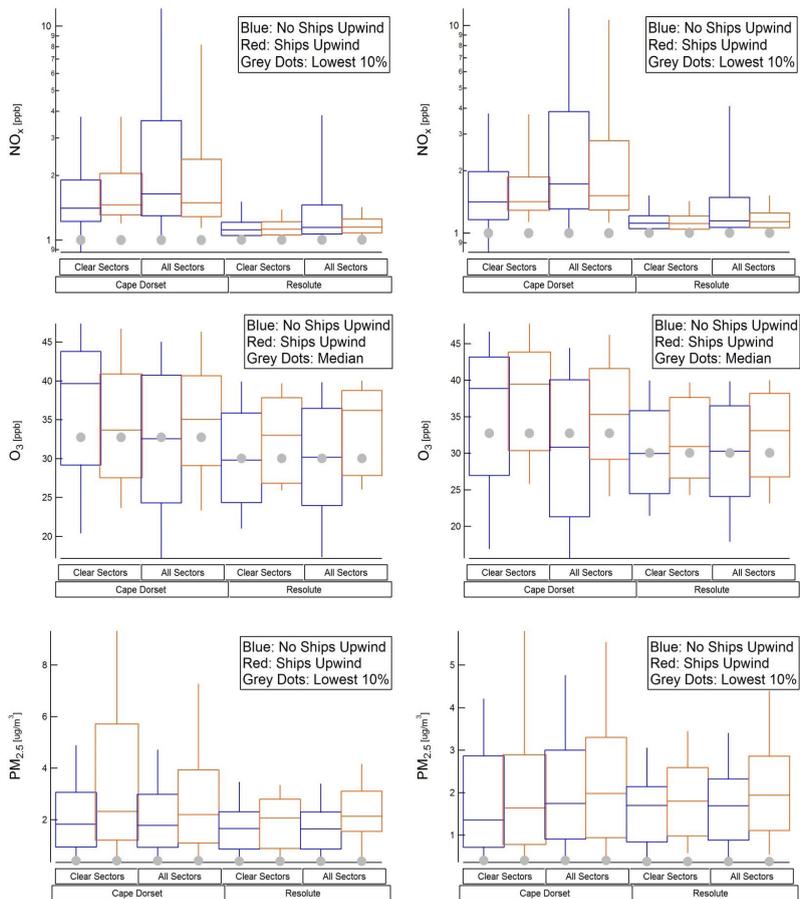


Figure 10. Pollution concentrations based on static clustering of air mass trajectories for Cape Dorset and Resolute; trajectories grouped based on a 16 h backward time.



(a) Ship plume age up to 24hr

(b) Ship plume age up to 72hr

Figure 11. Pollution concentrations based on dynamic clustering of air mass trajectories.

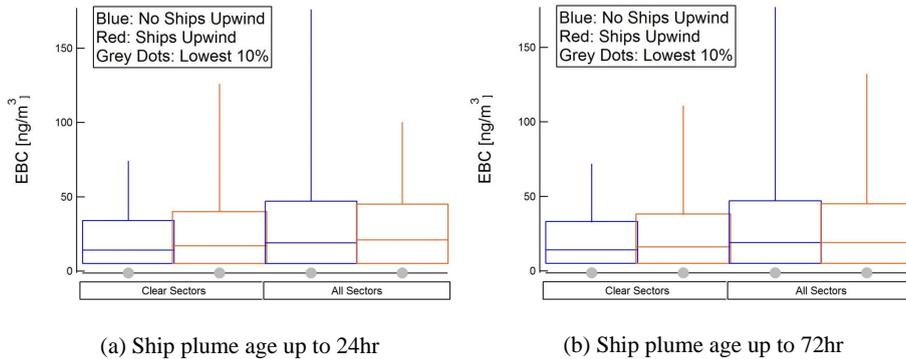


Figure 12. Equivalent Black Carbon (EBC) based on dynamic clustering of air mass trajectories in Resolute.

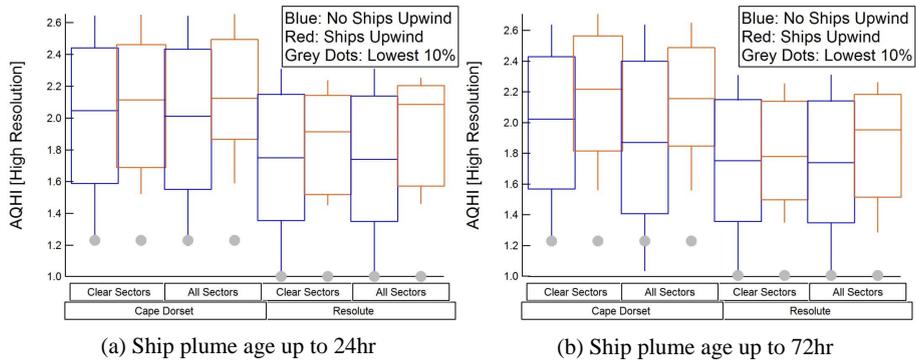
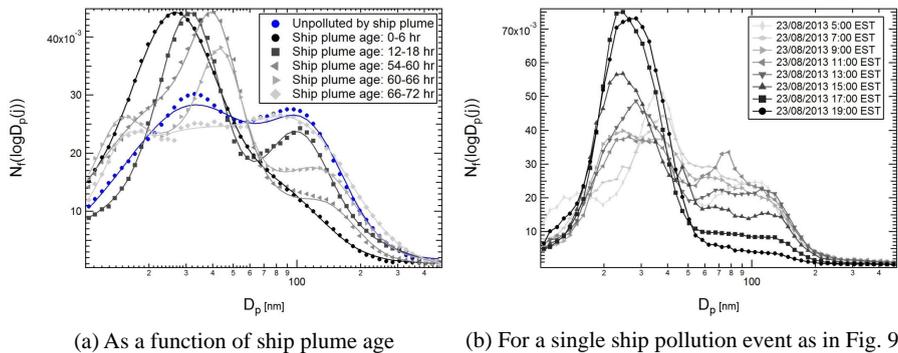


Figure 13. AQHI based on dynamic clustering of air mass trajectories.



(a) As a function of ship plume age

(b) For a single ship pollution event as in Fig. 9

Figure 14. Particle size number fraction in Resolute.

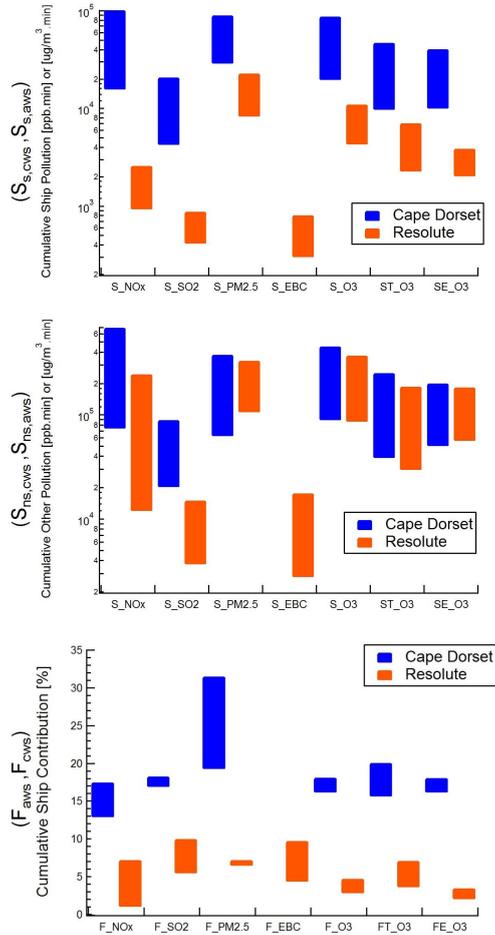


Figure 15. Contribution of shipping and other sources to cumulative pollution; lower and upper bounds based on clear and all wind sectors.