

Volatility of organic aerosol and its components in the Megacity of Paris

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Abstract

Using a mass transfer model and the volatility basis set, we estimate the volatility distribution for the organic aerosol (OA) components during summer and winter in Paris, France as part of the collaborative project MEGAPOLI. The concentrations of the OA components as a function of temperature were measured combining data from a thermodenuder and an aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) with Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) analysis. The hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA) had similar volatility distributions for the summer and winter campaigns with half of the material in the saturation concentration bin of $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and another 35-40% consisting of low and extremely low volatility organic compounds (LVOCs with effective saturation concentrations C^* of 10^{-3} - $0.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and ELVOCs C^* less or equal than $10^{-4} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, respectively). The winter cooking OA (COA) was more than an order of magnitude less volatile than the summer COA. The low volatility oxygenated OA (LV-OOA) factor detected in the summer had the lowest volatility of all the derived factors and consisted almost exclusively of ELVOCs. The volatility for the semi-volatile oxygenated OA (SV-OOA) was significantly higher than that of the LV-OOA, containing both semi-volatile organic components (SVOCs with C^* in the 1 - $100 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ range) and LVOCs. The oxygenated OA (OOA) factor in winter consisted of SVOCs (45%), LVOCs (25%) and ELVOCs (30%). The volatility of marine OA (MOA) was higher than that of the other

35 factors containing around 60% SVOCs. The biomass burning OA (BBOA) factor
36 contained components with a wide range of volatilities with significant contributions
37 from both SVOCs (50%) and LVOCs (30%). Finally, combining the bulk average O:C
38 ratios and volatility distributions of the various factors, our results are placed into the
39 two-dimensional volatility basis set (2D-VBS) framework. The OA factors cover a broad
40 spectrum of volatilities with no direct link between the average volatility and average
41 O:C of the OA components.

42

43 **1. Introduction**

44 Atmospheric aerosols have adverse effects on human health (Caiazzo et al., 2013; Pope et
45 al., 2009) and contribute to climate change (IPCC, 2013). Over 50% of the submicron
46 particulate mass is often comprised of organic compounds (Zhang et al., 2007). OA
47 (organic aerosol) originates from many different natural and anthropogenic sources and
48 processes. It can be emitted directly, e.g., from fossil fuels and biomass combustion (so-
49 called primary organic aerosol, POA) or can be formed by atmospheric oxidation of
50 volatile, intermediate volatility and semi-volatile organic compounds (secondary organic
51 aerosol, SOA). Since the oxidation pathways of organic vapors are complex and the
52 corresponding reactions lead to hundreds or even thousands of oxygenated products for
53 each precursor, our understanding of OA formation mechanisms and the OA chemical
54 and physical properties remains incomplete. Furthermore, a lack of information regarding
55 the sources along with the physical and chemical properties, and lifetime of organic
56 aerosol (OA) has made predictions of OA concentrations by chemical transport models
57 uncertain.

58 The volatility of atmospheric OA is one of its most important physical properties. It
59 determines the partitioning of these organic compounds between the gas and particulate
60 phases, the OA concentration, and the atmospheric fate of the corresponding compounds.
61 Measurement of the OA volatility distribution has been recognized as one of the major
62 challenges in our efforts to quantify the rates of formation of secondary organic
63 particulate matter (Donahue et al., 2012). Thermodenuders (TD) have been developed to
64 measure the volatility of ambient aerosol (Burtscher et al., 2001; Wehner et al., 2002,
65 2004; Kalberer et al., 2004; An et al., 2007). Most TDs consist of two basic parts: a

66 heated tube where the more volatile particle components evaporate, leaving less volatile
67 species behind and the denuder tube, usually containing activated carbon where the
68 evaporated material is adsorbed thus avoiding potential re-condensation when the sample
69 is cooled to room temperature. The aerosol mass fraction remaining (MFR) at a given
70 temperature, after passing through the TD, is the most common way of reporting the TD
71 measurements. The MFR, though an indirect metric of volatility for a specific TD
72 operation, also depends on the aerosol concentration, size, enthalpy of vaporization,
73 potential resistances to mass transfer, etc (Riipinen et al., 2010).

74 The two-dimensional volatility basis set (2D-VBS) framework from Donahue et al.
75 (2012) has been used in order to describe atmospheric OA formation and evolution by
76 lumping all organic compounds (with the exception of VOCs) into surrogates along two
77 axes of volatility and the oxygen content (expressed as the O:C ratio or carbon oxidation
78 state). Using the 2D VBS requires the ability to measure the OA distribution as a function
79 of volatility and O:C ratio (or carbon oxidation state).

80 Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF), aims to deconvolve the bulk OA mass spectra
81 obtained by the aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) into individual “factors” that give
82 information about the sources or processing of organic aerosol (Lanz et al., 2007; Ulbrich
83 et al., 2009; Huffman et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011). Typical factors correspond to
84 either primary sources including HOA (hydrocarbon-like OA), BBOA (biomass burning
85 OA) and COA (cooking OA) or secondary OA like SV-OOA (semi-volatile oxygenated
86 OA) and LV-OOA (low volatility oxygenated OA). Although there have been numerous
87 studies that have identified PMF factors in ambient datasets, there have been few studies
88 that have attempted to estimate the corresponding factor volatility (Huffman et al., 2009;
89 Cappa and Jimenez, 2010). Huffman et al. (2009) characterized the volatility of PMF
90 factors derived for the MILAGRO campaign in Mexico City and for the SOAR-1
91 campaign in Riverside, CA. They concluded that BBOA was the most volatile and OOA
92 was the least volatile component. HOA was more volatile than OOA in almost all cases.
93 Cappa and Jimenez (2010), using a kinetic evaporation model, estimated the volatility
94 distributions for the various PMF OA factors for the MILAGRO campaign. Here we
95 extend this work focusing on another Megacity, Paris.

96 In this study, we estimate the volatility distributions of PMF factors derived from two
97 month-long summer and winter campaigns in a suburban background site in Paris. The
98 data analysis approach is first outlined and the corresponding challenges are discussed.
99 We use the mass transfer model of Riipinen et al. (2010), together with the approach
100 introduced by Karnezi et al. (2014) to estimate the volatility distributions for all PMF
101 factors. We finally synthesize the corresponding OA findings using the 2D-VBS
102 framework.

103 **2. Methods**

104 *2.1 Measurement Site and Sampling*

105 Two comprehensive field campaigns were performed during July of 2009 and
106 January/February of 2010 at an urban background sampling site, SIRTa (Site
107 Instrumental de Recherche par Teledetection Atmospherique) (Haefelin et al., 2005)
108 located about 20 km southwest of Paris' city center. The datasets were collected as part of
109 a collaborative project known as MEGAPOLI (Megacities: Emissions, urban, regional,
110 and Global Atmospheric POLution and climate effects, and Integrated tools for
111 assessment and mitigation) (Baklanov et al., 2008; Beekmann et al., 2015). A suite of
112 instruments were used including a high-resolution time-of-flight aerosol mass
113 spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS) from Aerodyne research, Inc. (DeCarlo et al., 2006) for
114 particle mass and composition, a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS) from TSI, Inc.
115 for particle size and number distributions and the Carnegie Mellon University
116 thermodenuder (TD) for volatility measurements.

117

118 The TD design was similar to that described in An et al. (2007), consisting of a heated
119 tube followed by a denuding section, which uses activated charcoal to prevent
120 recondensation of organic vapors. The TD was operated at temperatures ranging from
121 about 20°C to 200°C during both campaigns, yielding thermograms of the organic
122 aerosol mass remaining as a function of TD temperature. The TD scanned this
123 temperature range using different temperatures each day. A centerline residence time of
124 25 s at 298 K was used for all measurements (Lee et al., 2010). This corresponds to mean
125 residence time of approximately 50 s at 298 K.

126 Changes in composition, mass, and size as a result of aerosol evaporation were quantified
127 by both the SMPS and the HR-ToF-AMS by alternate sampling between the TD and the
128 ambient sample line, every 5 minutes. The SMPS was operated with a sheath flow of 5 L
129 min^{-1} and a sample flow rate of 0.5 L min^{-1} . The HR-ToF-AMS, which measures the
130 aerosol size-composition distribution of the submicron non-refractory material, was
131 operated in both the higher sensitivity mode (V-mode) and the higher resolution mode
132 (W-mode) (DeCarlo et al., 2006). The V-mode data are used in this study. The AMS
133 collection efficiency was estimated at 0.38 during the summer (Crippa et al., 2013a) and
134 0.5 during the winter (Crippa et al., 2013b).

135

136 *2.2 Data Analysis*

137 TD raw measurements need to be corrected for particle losses due to diffusion of small
138 particles, sedimentation of larger particles, and thermophoretic losses (Burtscher et al.,
139 2001). To account for these losses, which depend on particle size, TD temperature, and
140 sample flow rate, Lee (2010) has developed size and temperature dependent corrections
141 for this particular TD. The organic aerosol concentrations measured after the TD were
142 corrected for losses corresponding to the operating conditions during the campaign. The
143 OA mass fraction remaining (MFR) was calculated dividing the loss-corrected OA
144 concentration after the TD at time period i with that of the by-pass line at time period $i+1$.
145 The fact that the two measurements correspond to two different 5 min time intervals
146 introduces some uncertainty in the calculated MFR values because of the variability of
147 the atmospheric concentrations. Some of this variability is averaged out when average
148 MFR values are calculated for each temperature.

149 The preparation of these large datasets for analysis required careful examination of the
150 ambient OA variability in order to determine the appropriate averaging intervals. The OA
151 mass concentration data for the summer campaign is shown in Figure 1. Overall, the
152 particulate matter mass concentration was surprisingly low during this period in Paris,
153 with a campaign average PM_{10} OA for SIRTAs of only $0.83 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. As expected, there
154 were several periods during which the OA concentration was much higher than $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
155 reaching levels up to $6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. To evaluate whether the OA during these higher

156 concentration periods had different MFR values than the rest of the samples, we
157 separated the data in two groups using an OA concentration cutoff of $1.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Figure
158 S1 in the supplementary information shows the corresponding MFR measurements for
159 both low and high concentration periods. Given the experimental variability, there is no
160 discernable difference in evaporation between the higher and the lower concentration
161 periods and therefore, these were averaged together for the analysis. The similarity of the
162 average MFR values during these low and high concentration periods (the latter were
163 often characterized by higher OA variability) also suggests that our calculation of the
164 MFR using measurement pairs did not introduce significant bias in the average estimated
165 MFR.

166 We performed a similar analysis for the winter campaign. Paris during winter, unlike the
167 summer, was characterized by higher fine PM concentrations with an average PM_{10} OA
168 concentration of $3.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (Figure 2). The OA threshold concentration was chosen to be
169 $4.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and again there was no evidence of effects of concentration (in the observed
170 range) on volatility (Supplementary Information, Fig. S2) and the corresponding MFRs
171 were averaged together. Finally, the data points were averaged into temperature bins of
172 5°C . The calculation of one MFR value every 5°C is a compromise between the need to
173 average more data points at similar temperatures and maintaining the dynamic behavior
174 of the thermogram. Averaging over wider temperature ranges (e.g. 10°C) did not result in
175 any essential differences in our analysis and conclusions.

176 Along with the bulk organic measurements, additional information can be derived from
177 the HR-ToF-AMS V-mode mass spectra using the PMF analysis technique. The
178 deconvolved spectra yielded several organic aerosol “factors” for each campaign. A
179 complete discussion of the PMF analysis of the ambient measurements and the resulting
180 factors can be found in Crippa et al. (2013a; b). The PMF analysis was repeated,
181 combining both ambient and thermodenuded spectra with guidance from the original
182 analysis of the ambient-only data (e.g., the same number of factors was used). This
183 second analysis produced for all practical purposes the same results for the ambient data
184 set as that of the ambient measurements only and can be found in the corresponding
185 publications.

186 The low OA concentrations especially during the summer resulted in very low
187 concentrations of the corresponding factors and thus high MFR uncertainty. The MFRs of
188 the various factors were, as expected, extremely variable when the factor concentrations
189 were close to zero. Therefore, to minimize these problems, a minimum ambient mass
190 concentration was determined for each PMF factor, based on the concentration range for
191 which MFR measurements exceeded 1.5. The average ambient concentration and
192 threshold concentration with corresponding statistical information for each PMF factor is
193 shown in Table 1. The corresponding factor concentration thresholds during the summer
194 were in the 0.05-0.1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ range. MFR measurements of PMF factors with ambient
195 levels less than 0.1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ are clearly quite uncertain. All the corresponding MFR values
196 from these low factor concentration periods were excluded from the analysis. Few MFR
197 measurements were excluded during the winter period, while 20-50% of the
198 measurements for the various factors were excluded during the summer.

199

200 *2.3 Volatility Distribution Estimation*

201 To estimate the volatility distributions from the corrected thermograms we employed the
202 dynamic mass transfer model of Riipinen et al. (2010). The model simulates particle
203 evaporation using experimental inputs including TD temperature and residence time,
204 initial particle size, and ambient OA concentration. The volatility of these complex
205 mixtures is defined using the corresponding effective saturation concentration, C_i^* , at 298
206 K. Along with saturation concentration, two parameters that can affect the evaporation
207 rate and the corresponding volatility estimation are the enthalpy of vaporization and the
208 mass accommodation coefficient. Unfortunately, these values are currently unknown for
209 these complex multi-component systems. Often, a mass accommodation coefficient of
210 unity is assumed. However, mass transfer limitations to evaporation have been observed
211 in some experimental systems, leading to mass accommodation coefficient values of
212 much less than one (Saleh et al., 2013). Typical values of 100 kJ mol^{-1} and 1.0 are
213 assumed for the enthalpy of vaporization and accommodation coefficient, respectively.

214 As described in Donahue et al. (2006), the volatility distribution is represented by
215 surrogate species with a saturation concentration of C_i^* . The C_i^* bins are logarithmically

216 spaced, allowing for extremely low and high volatility species to be compared in a single
217 framework. The analysis here was limited to a 6-consecutive C^* bin solution with a
218 variable mass fraction value for each bin. Different volatility ranges were tested and the
219 best range was selected for each factor. The “goodness of fit” was quantified using the
220 error analysis outlined in Karnezi et al. (2014). The standard error was calculated for all
221 C^* bin-mass fraction combinations. For a given 6-bin solution, the top 2% of mass
222 fraction combinations with the lowest error was used to find the average mass fraction in
223 each bin and the corresponding standard deviation.

224 The OA components are described as semi-volatile (SVOCs with C^* of 1, 10, and 100 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)
225 m^{-3}), low volatility (LVOCs with C^* of 10^{-3} , 10^{-2} , and 0.1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), and extremely low
226 volatility (ELVOCs with $C^* \leq 10^{-4} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in the rest of the paper (Murphy et al., 2014).

227

228 **3. Results and Discussion**

229 *3.1 Organic Aerosol Volatility*

230 The average loss-corrected OA thermograms for the two seasons are shown in Figure 3.
231 The two thermograms seem very similar while differences are mostly noticeable at the
232 high temperatures. In the winter thermogram an approximate 30% remained at 180°C
233 while in the summer thermogram less than 10% was present at the same temperature.
234 This might suggest more ELVOCs being present at winter. However, the summer
235 thermogram shows that nearly 50% of the mass evaporated at a thermodenuder
236 temperature of 83 °C (T_{50}). The winter measurements suggested a similar T_{50} value of 88
237 °C. This crude comparison of volatility through the corresponding thermograms suggests
238 that the OA in the two seasons could have similar average volatility distributions. It is
239 surprising that the seasonal differences in emissions are not reflected in the corresponding
240 thermograms. We will examine the reasons for this similarity in the subsequent section
241 by analyzing the volatility of the corresponding factors.

242

243 The volatility distributions for the total OA for the two seasons are depicted in Figure 4.
244 They are quite similar to each other especially considering the corresponding

245 uncertainties and they are characterized by higher concentrations of components with
246 $C^*=10^{-4}$ and $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

247

248 *3.2 Volatility of Organic Aerosol Components*

249 Five PMF factors were determined for the summer dataset by Crippa et al. (2013a).
250 Hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA) most closely resembles fresh vehicle emissions in that the
251 mass spectrum resembles that of transportation sources. Cooking OA (COA) was also
252 observed in the summer campaign, peaking during noon and evening meal times. Marine
253 OA (MOA) was identified based on relatively high levels of organic sulfur and a strong
254 correlation with methanesulfonic acid (MSA), which is a product of continued oxidation
255 of phytoplankton decomposition products. Two SOA factors were also reported: Semi-
256 volatile oxygenated OA (SV-OOA) and low volatility oxygenated OA (LV-OOA). These
257 two factors were differentiated based on their O:C ratio. The two secondary OA factors
258 made up 57% of the total OA mass. The remaining factors contributed fairly similar
259 average fractions of 18% for COA, 12% for HOA, and 13% for MOA. Detailed
260 discussion of the PMF factors along with verification analysis were provided by Crippa et
261 al. (2013a).

262

263 The PMF analysis for the winter campaign yielded four factors. The HOA and COA
264 factors were again present. There was also a single secondary OA factor which was
265 termed oxygenated OA (OOA). This factor could not be further separated into SV-OOA
266 and LV-OOA. The final factor reported was biomass burning OA (BBOA), correlating
267 with known molecular markers for residential wood burning (e.g., levoglucosan). The
268 OOA factor was found to dominate the organic aerosol mass, contributing nearly 65% on
269 average. The complete analysis and description of these factors can be found in Crippa et
270 al. (2013b).

271

272 Using the mass transfer model from Riipinen et al. (2010) and the approach of Karnezi et
273 al. (2014) we fitted the corresponding thermograms (Figure S3), using a C^* bin solution
274 with a variable mass fraction value for each bin. Specifically for each factor we used an
275 individual consecutive 6-bin solution (chosen as the 6-bin solution with the best fits)

276 resulting in the volatility distributions, shown in Figure 5. The modeled thermograms for
277 all factors from both summer and winter campaigns are shown in Figure 6. Finally, the
278 volatility distributions for each factor are summarized in Table S1 in the supplementary
279 information. The fitting of individual factor thermograms implicitly assumes that each
280 factor had the same size distribution as the total OA and that the factors were present as
281 an external mixture. To test the uncertainty introduced by this assumption we compared
282 the volatility distribution of the total OA with the composition weighted sum of the
283 volatility distributions of the individual OA factors for both summer and winter. The two
284 distributions (total and sum of factors) agreed within a few percent for both seasons
285 suggesting that the uncertainty is modest and within the uncertainty limits shown in the
286 corresponding figures.

287

288 The HOA factors for the summer and winter campaigns had very similar thermograms
289 and volatility distributions with half of the material in the $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ bin (Figure 5).
290 Roughly 40% of the HOA in both seasons consisted of LVOCs and ELVOCs. This
291 volatility similarity is consistent with the similarity in mass spectra derived by the PMF
292 analysis (Figure 7a). The angle θ between the corresponding vectors (treating the AMS
293 spectra as vectors according to Kostenidou et al. (2009)) was 14° suggesting similar
294 chemical fingerprints. This is not surprising for a Megacity where the transportation and
295 any industrial sources are expected to have chemically similar emissions in both summer
296 and winter. Similar were also the T_{50} for the HOA factors with values of 49°C and 54°C
297 for the summer and winter campaign, respectively. Cappa and Jimenez (2010) also
298 estimated that the HOA in Mexico City had a wide volatility distribution with
299 approximately 35% of its mass consisting of LVOCs and ELVOCs while the remaining
300 65% was SVOCs. Almost 40% of the HOA had $C^* \geq 10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ which compares very
301 well with the 50% estimated here.

302

303 The situation was quite different for the cooking OA factor. Here the seasonal differences
304 were more pronounced for the thermograms (Fig. 6), the estimated volatility distributions
305 (Fig. 5) and the corresponding mass spectra (Fig. 7b). The winter COA was substantially
306 less volatile than the summer COA, more than an order of magnitude based on average

307 $\log C^*$ values, weighted by the mass fraction of each bin (average $C^* = 10^{-2} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the
308 summer campaign and average $C^* = 4 \times 10^{-4} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the winter campaign). The COA
309 factor during the winter campaign did not contain semi-volatile components while 37%
310 of the summer COA was semi-volatile. The COA winter factor consisted of ELVOCs
311 (37%) and LVOCs (63%). The COA mass spectra in Figure 7b show that the winter COA
312 was characterized by a higher fraction of molecular fragments at higher mass-to-charge
313 (m/z) ratio. This is consistent with organic components of longer carbon chain which, for
314 the same level of oxidation, are expected to have lower volatility. The angle θ between
315 the COA spectra was 26° , suggesting a significant chemical difference. One explanation
316 is that the cooking habits are different in the two seasons with outdoor cooking (e.g.,
317 barbecue) dominating in the summer and indoor cooking relying more on oil and butter,
318 being more significant in the winter. We also cannot rule out some imperfect unmixing of
319 OA sources and components. The T_{50} for the COA factors were different as well, with
320 values of 91°C and 148°C for the summer and winter campaign, respectively.

321 The LV-OOA factor detected in the summer had the lowest volatility (Fig. 5) of all the
322 derived factors. There was no sign of evaporation until the TD temperature reached
323 nearly 150°C (Fig. 6). We estimate that this factor consisted almost exclusively of OA
324 with effective saturation concentrations equal to or lower than $10^{-3} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, which are
325 almost exclusively ELVOCs. The average ambient concentration of this factor during the
326 summer was $0.12 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and its average C^* was equal to $5 \times 10^{-6} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Very low
327 volatilities (practically all the OA had $C^* \leq 10^{-3} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) were also estimated for LV-
328 OOA by Cappa and Jimenez (2010) in Mexico City during the MILAGRO campaign.

329 The estimated volatility for the SV-OOA factor is consistent with its naming by Crippa et
330 al. (2013a) as it was significantly higher than that of the LV-OOA (Fig. 5). We estimated
331 that roughly half of the SV-OOA was SVOCs while it contained also LVOCs (42%) and
332 a small amount of ELVOCs (6%). Its T_{50} was 61°C and its average C^* was roughly $0.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.
333 These values are once more generally consistent with the estimates of Cappa and
334 Jimenez (2010) showing that SVOCs dominated the SV-OOA during MILAGRO
335 (approximately 40%) with LVOCs contributing another 35%.

336 The OOA factor determined in the winter had a volatility distribution (Fig. 5), containing
337 SVOCs (45%), LVOCs (25%) and ELVOCs (30%). The winter OOA and the summer
338 SV-OOA spectra had a θ angle of 34° , while there was an even larger discrepancy
339 between the winter OOA and the summer LV-OOA with an angle of 37° . The T_{50} was
340 equal to 85°C . These differences in mass spectra and T_{50} are consistent with the
341 differences in volatility. The average volatility of OOA was much higher than LVOOA in
342 summer but lower than SVOOA.

343 The marine OA (MOA) factor was only detected during the summer campaign at an
344 average concentration of $0.17 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Its volatility was relatively high (Fig. 6), and
345 almost all the MOA had evaporated at 100°C . The MOA factor consisted mainly of
346 SVOCs (61%) and some LVOCs (36%). Its T_{50} was equal to 58°C and its average C^* was
347 approximately $0.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

348 The BBOA factor was present in the winter dataset with an average ambient
349 concentration of $0.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The corresponding estimated volatility distribution (Fig. 5)
350 shows that half of the BBOA factor consisted of SVOCs (with most material in the $10 \mu\text{g}$
351 m^{-3} bin) and the other half of LVOCs and ELVOCs. A similar bimodal distribution was
352 also found by May et al. (2013) with a peak at 0.01 and one at $100 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for controlled
353 biomass burning in the laboratory. The difference in the location of the high volatility
354 peak can potentially be explained by the wider range of concentrations in the experiments
355 analyzed by May et al. (2013) compared to the limited range in the ambient Paris
356 measurements. The more volatile BBOA components were never in the particulate phase
357 in our dataset so their abundance cannot be determined. The BBOA T_{50} was 70°C , higher
358 than that of HOA and less than those of COA and OOA. Finally, its average C^* was
359 approximately $0.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The BBOA in Mexico City was approximately half LVOCs
360 and half SVOCs (Cappa and Jimenez, 2010) and had a much lower ELVOC fraction than
361 the wintertime Paris BBOA in the present study.

362

363 **4. Synthesis of Results in the 2D-VBS**

364 We employed the 2-D VBS framework in order to synthesize the above results,
365 combining the bulk average O:C ratio and volatility distributions of the various factors.

366 Each of the different factors had a distribution of O:C values, but this distribution cannot
367 be determined from the AMS measurements. The HOA, BBOA, and COA factors all had
368 relatively low O:C values but they covered a wide range of average volatilities (Fig. 8).
369 The MOA and secondary OA factors for both seasons had much higher O:C values but
370 they also covered a wide range of volatilities, with LV-OOA having the lowest one. The
371 HOA during summer had higher O:C than HOA during winter, suggesting incomplete
372 separation from aged HOA or difference in the sources, while their volatility distribution
373 was similar, as discussed earlier. The COA factor during the summer campaign, had
374 slightly higher O:C and a higher volatility than the COA from the winter campaign. The
375 OOA during the winter had the highest O:C ratio but compared to the less oxidized
376 SVOOA, it had lower average volatility and higher volatility compared to LVOOA.
377 These results indicate that there was not a direct link between the average volatility and
378 the bulk average O:C for these OA components. This is actually the reason for the
379 introduction of the 2D-VBS: the second dimension is needed to capture at least some of
380 the chemical complexity of the multitude of organic compounds in atmospheric
381 particulate matter.

382

383 The broad spectrum of volatilities and extent of oxidation are not surprising. Donahue et
384 al. (2012) extrapolated from the few available ambient measurements to provide rough
385 estimates of the factor locations on the 2D-VBS. Superimposition of our factors and those
386 estimated by Donahue et al. (2012) (Fig S4) indicates that the factor locations agree
387 surprisingly well. This is quite encouraging both for our results and our current
388 understanding of the evolution of atmospheric OA.

389 **5. Conclusions**

390 Two month-long field campaigns were conducted at an urban background sampling site,
391 SIRTA in Paris, France as part of the collaborative project MEGAPOLI. The particulate
392 matter mass concentration was surprisingly low during summer in Paris, with a campaign
393 average PM₁ OA for SIRTA of only 0.83 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, while during winter it was characterized
394 by higher fine PM concentrations, with an average PM₁ OA concentration of 3.1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

395 The volatility distributions of PMF factors derived during both campaigns were
396 estimated. Five factors were determined for the summer dataset. Hydrocarbon-like OA
397 (HOA), cooking OA (COA), marine OA (MOA) and two Secondary OA (SOA) factors
398 were also identified: Semi-volatile oxygenated OA (SV-OOA) and low volatility
399 oxygenated OA (LV-OOA). The PMF analysis for the winter campaign determined four
400 factors. The HOA and COA factors were again identified. There was also a single
401 secondary OA factor that was termed oxygenated OA (OOA). The final factor observed
402 was biomass burning OA (BBOA).

403 The HOA factors for both campaigns had similar volatility distributions with half
404 material in the $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ bin. Both factors contained also LVOCs and ELVOCs with a
405 total contribution of around 40% to the HOA mass. This similarity was consistent with
406 the corresponding mass spectra derived by the PMF analysis.

407 The summer COA was significantly more volatile than the winter COA. The weighted-
408 average COA C^* during the summer was more than order of magnitude higher than that
409 in the winter. The winter COA did not contain any semi-volatile organic components
410 (SVOCs) whereas 37% of the summer COA was semi-volatile. LVOCs were significant
411 components of the COA, representing 37% of the COA in the summer and 63% in the
412 winter. These differences in volatility were consistent with the differences in AMS
413 spectra and could be due to different seasonal cooking habits. Also, imperfect separation
414 of the OA components by PMF cannot be excluded.

415 The LV-OOA factor detected in the summer had the lowest volatility of all the derived
416 factors. There was no sign of LV-OOA evaporation until the TD temperature reached 150
417 °C. The LV-OOA factor consisted nearly exclusively of ELVOCs (97%). Roughly half of
418 the SV-OOA mass consisted of SVOCs while the rest was mainly LVOCs (42%). The
419 OOA factor determined in the winter had a volatility distribution containing SVOCs
420 (45%), ELVOCs (30%) and LVOCs (25%).

421 The marine OA (MOA) factor, only detected during the summer campaign, was relatively
422 volatile with an average C^* of approximately $0.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The MOA factor consisted
423 mainly of SVOCs (61%) and LVOCs (36%).

424 The BBOA factor was present in winter with an average ambient concentration of $0.6 \mu\text{g}$
425 m^{-3} . Half of the BBOA consisted of SVOCs and the other half of extremely low volatile
426 and low volatile organic components. The BBOA was less volatile than the HOA factors
427 but more volatile than COA and OOA.

428 Finally, combining the O:C ratio and volatility distributions of the various factors, we
429 integrated our results into the 2D-VBS synthesizing the corresponding OA findings. The
430 factor locations agreed well with the location of factors proposed by Donahue et al.
431 (2012). The HOA, BBOA, and COA factors had all relatively low O:C but their average
432 volatilities were different by orders of magnitude. The MOA for summer and secondary
433 OA factors for both seasons had much higher O:C with a wide variety of volatilities,
434 where MOA had the highest one and LV-OOA had the lowest one. The results suggest
435 that the average O:C factor was not directly linked to its average volatility, underlining
436 the importance of measuring both properties, and that all factors include compounds with
437 a wide range of volatilities.

438 The estimated volatility distributions by the use of just TD measurements are
439 characterized by considerable uncertainties (Karnezi et al., 2014). However, the relative
440 volatilities of the various factors discussed above should be more robust. The absolute
441 volatility distributions do depend on the assumed enthalpy of vaporization and
442 accommodation coefficient (parameterization of mass transfer resistances). They also
443 depend on the assumptions of similar size distributions and external mixing of the OA
444 components corresponding to each factor.

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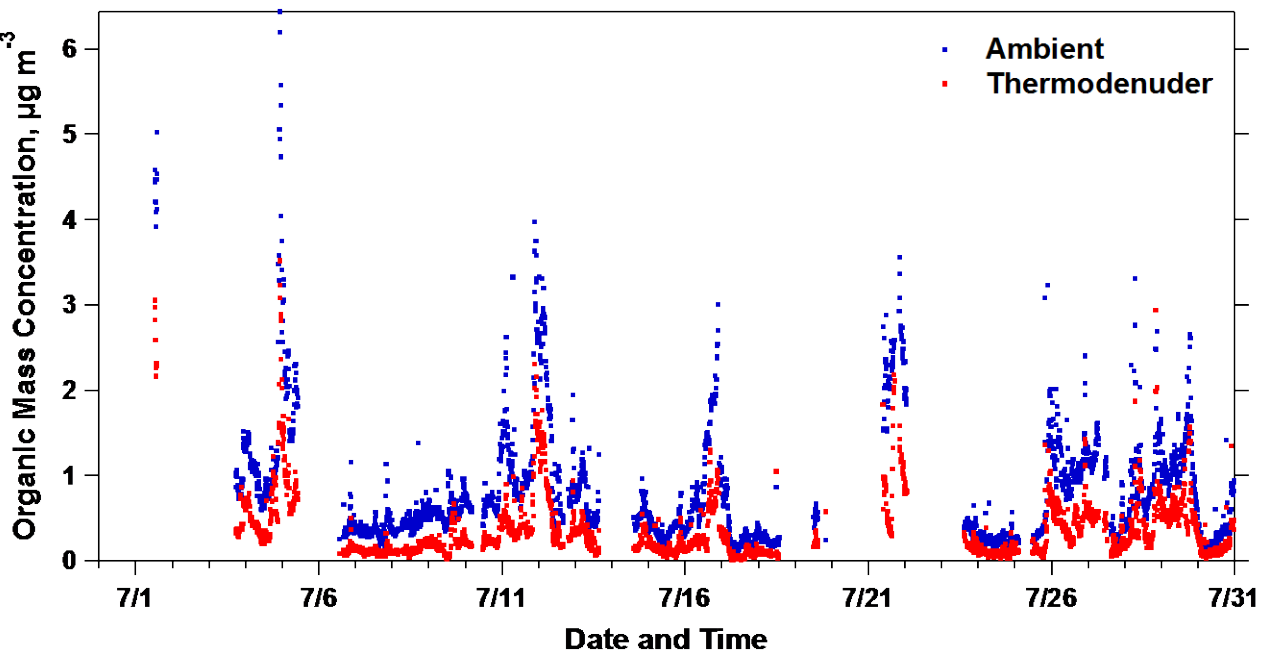
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Table 1. Average and threshold ambient concentrations for each PMF factor.

PMF Factor	Season	Average Mass Concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	Threshold Concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	Percentage of Measurements above Threshold
HOA	Summer	0.16	0.08	53
COA		0.25	0.05	69
MOA		0.17	0.10	73
SV-OOA		0.65	0.10	82
LV-OOA		0.12	0.08	69
HOA	Winter	0.95	0.20	95
COA		0.48	0.08	92
BBOA		0.60	0.07	90
OOA		3.78	0.40	99

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639 **Figure 1.** Ambient (blue dots) and thermodenuder (red dots) organic mass concentration
640 measurements for Paris during summer 2009.

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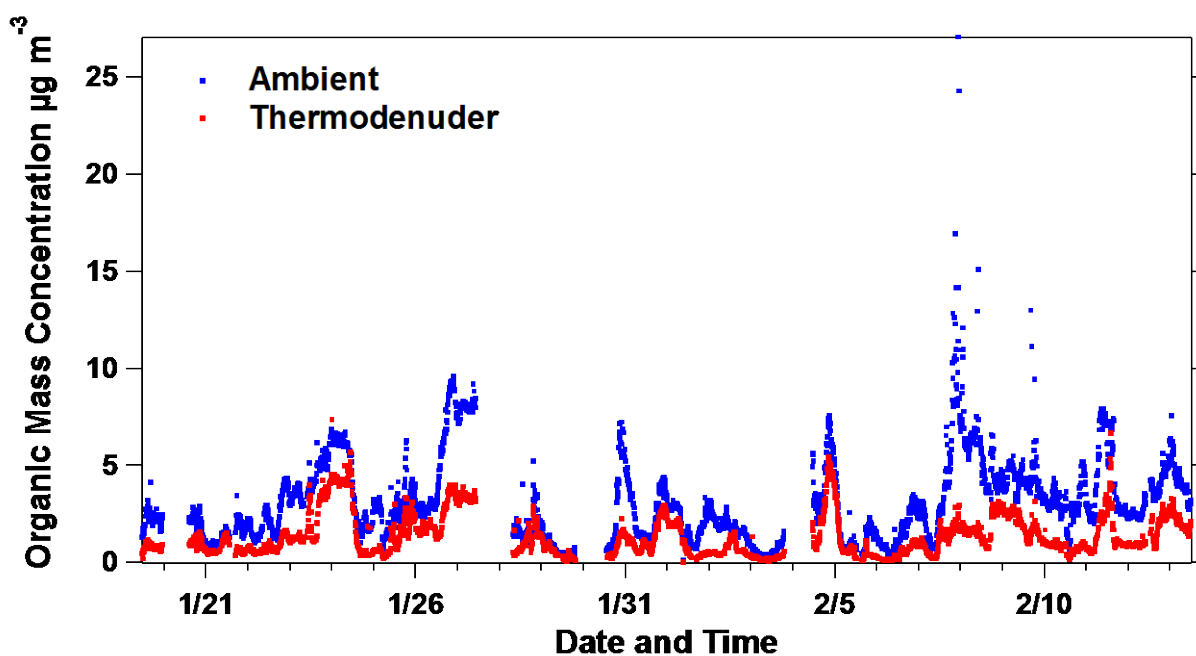
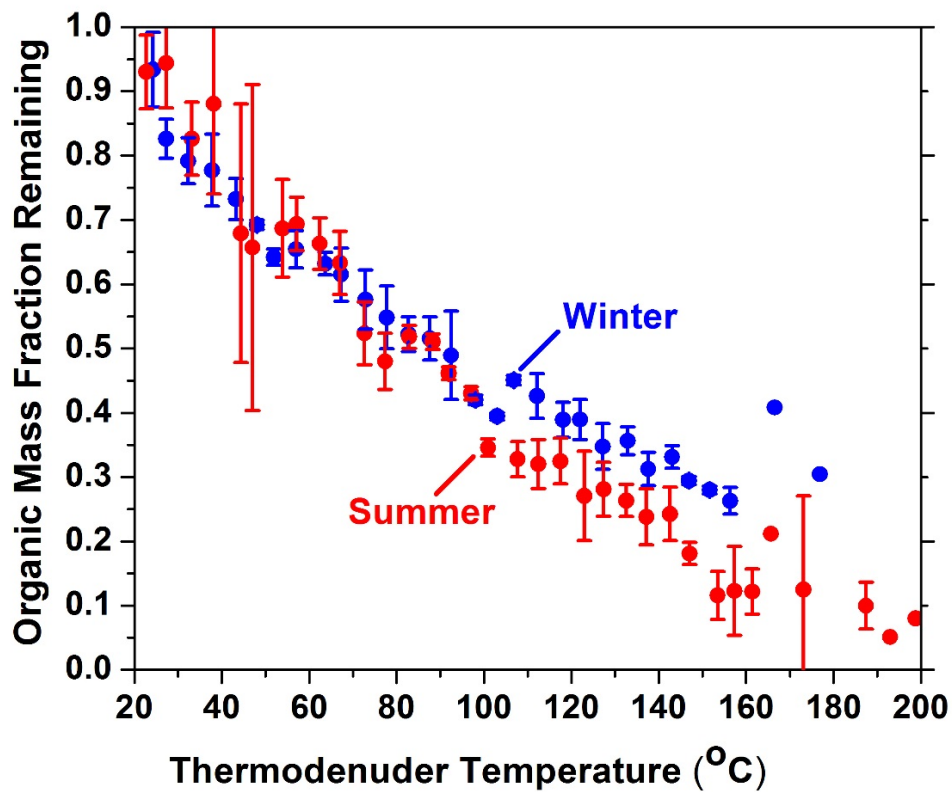


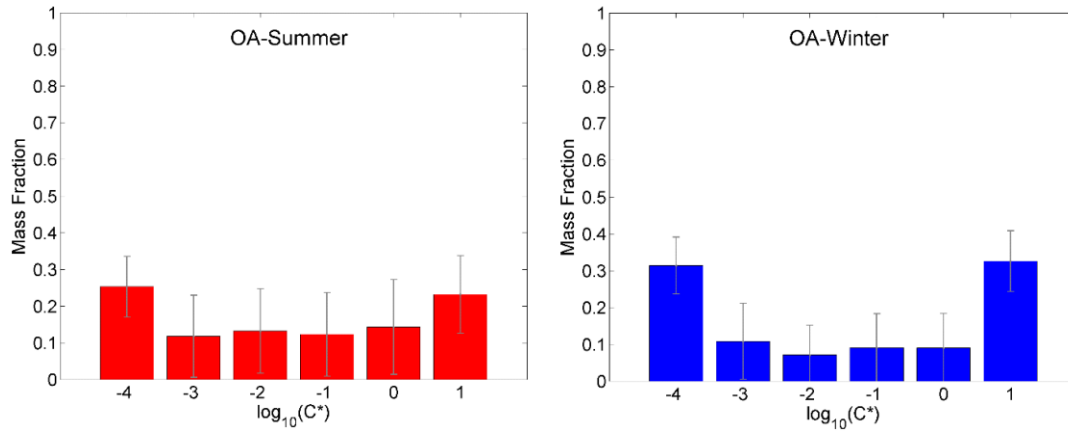
Figure 2. Ambient (blue dots) and thermodenuder (red dots) OA mass time series for the winter 2010 campaign.



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Figure 3. Loss-corrected average OA thermograms for summer (red circles) and winter (blue squares) campaigns. The error bars correspond to plus/minus 2 standard deviations of the mean. Points with no error bars correspond to a single measurement.

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709 **Figure 4.** Estimated volatility distributions for summer (left panel) and winter total OA
710 (right panel). The error bars correspond to the fitting uncertainties according to the
711 algorithm of Karnezi et al. (2014).
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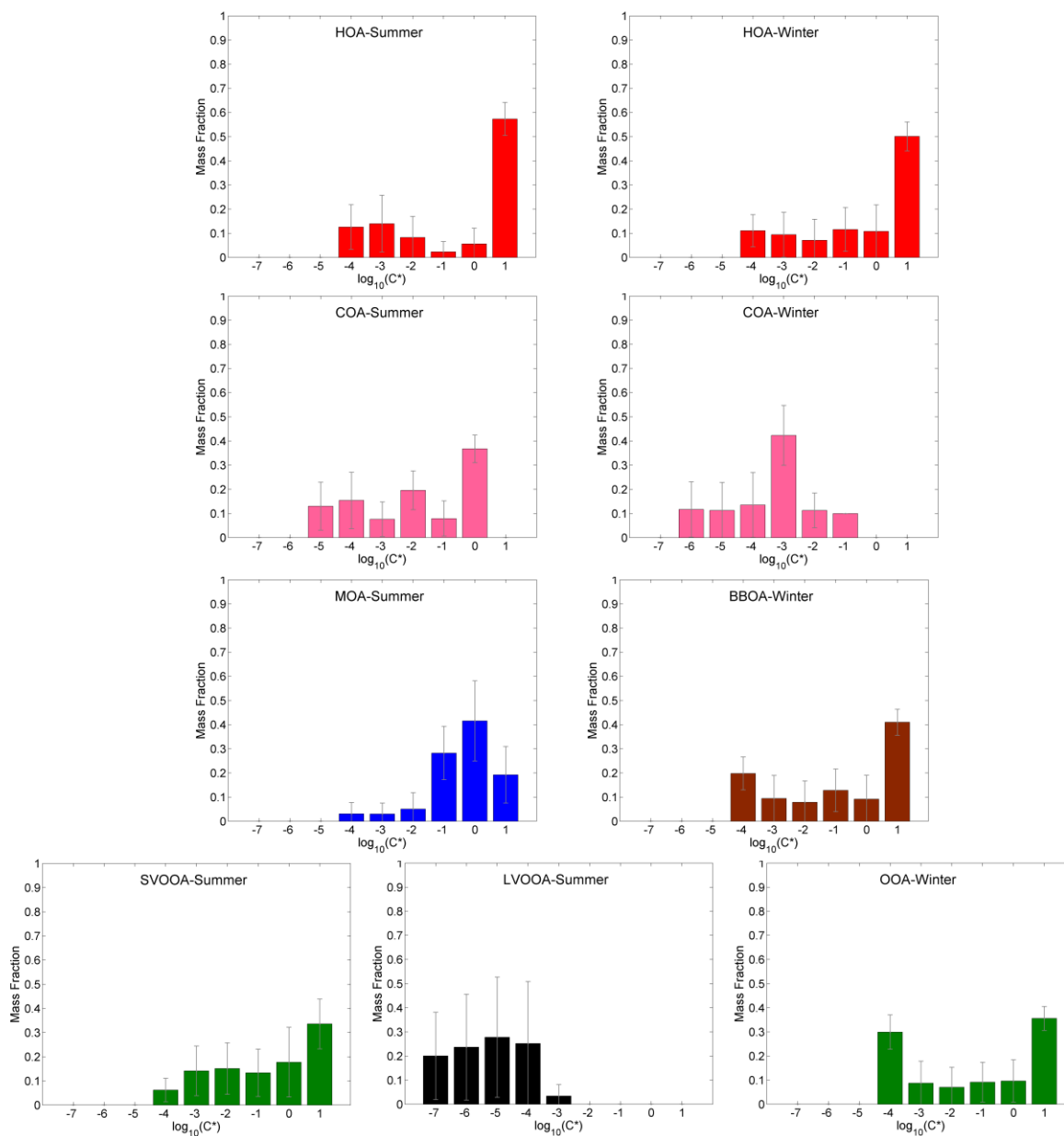


Figure 5. Estimated volatility distributions for summer PMF factors (left panel) and winter PMF factors (right panel). The error bars correspond to the fitting uncertainties according to the algorithm of Karnezis et al. (2014).

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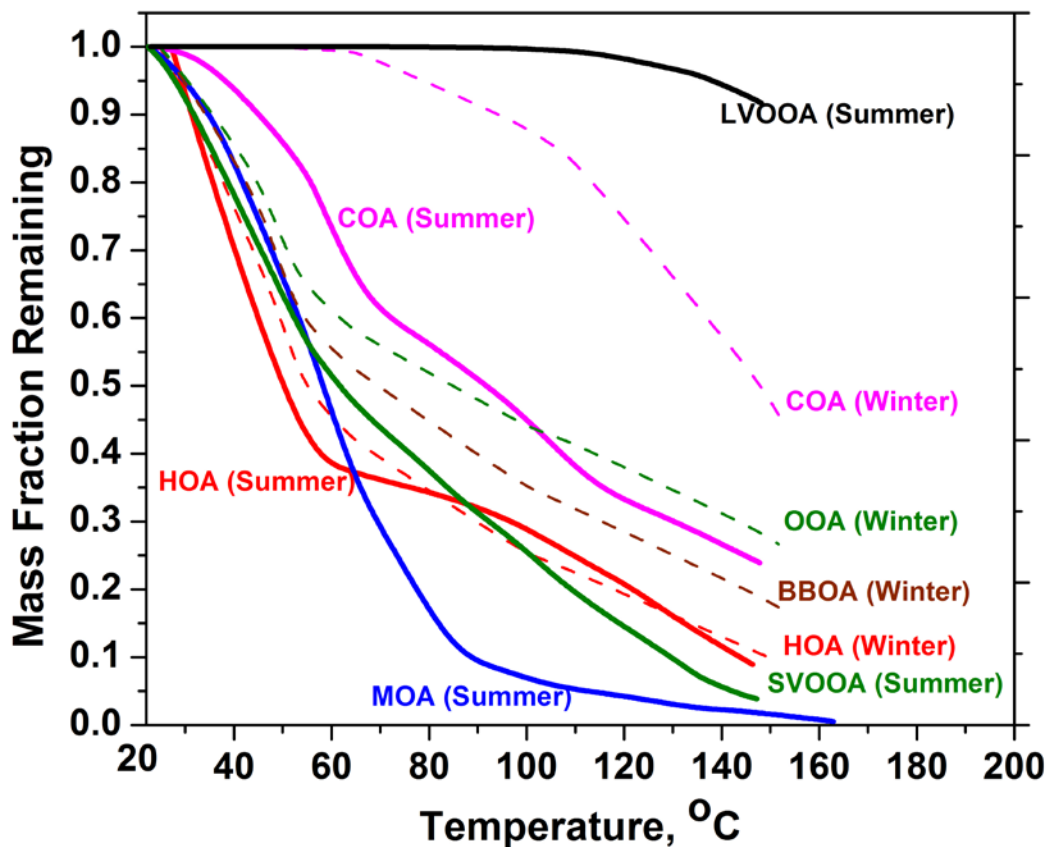


Figure 6. Estimated best-fit thermograms for all PMF factors. The solid lines represent the thermograms for the summer campaign and the dashed lines the thermograms for the winter campaign.

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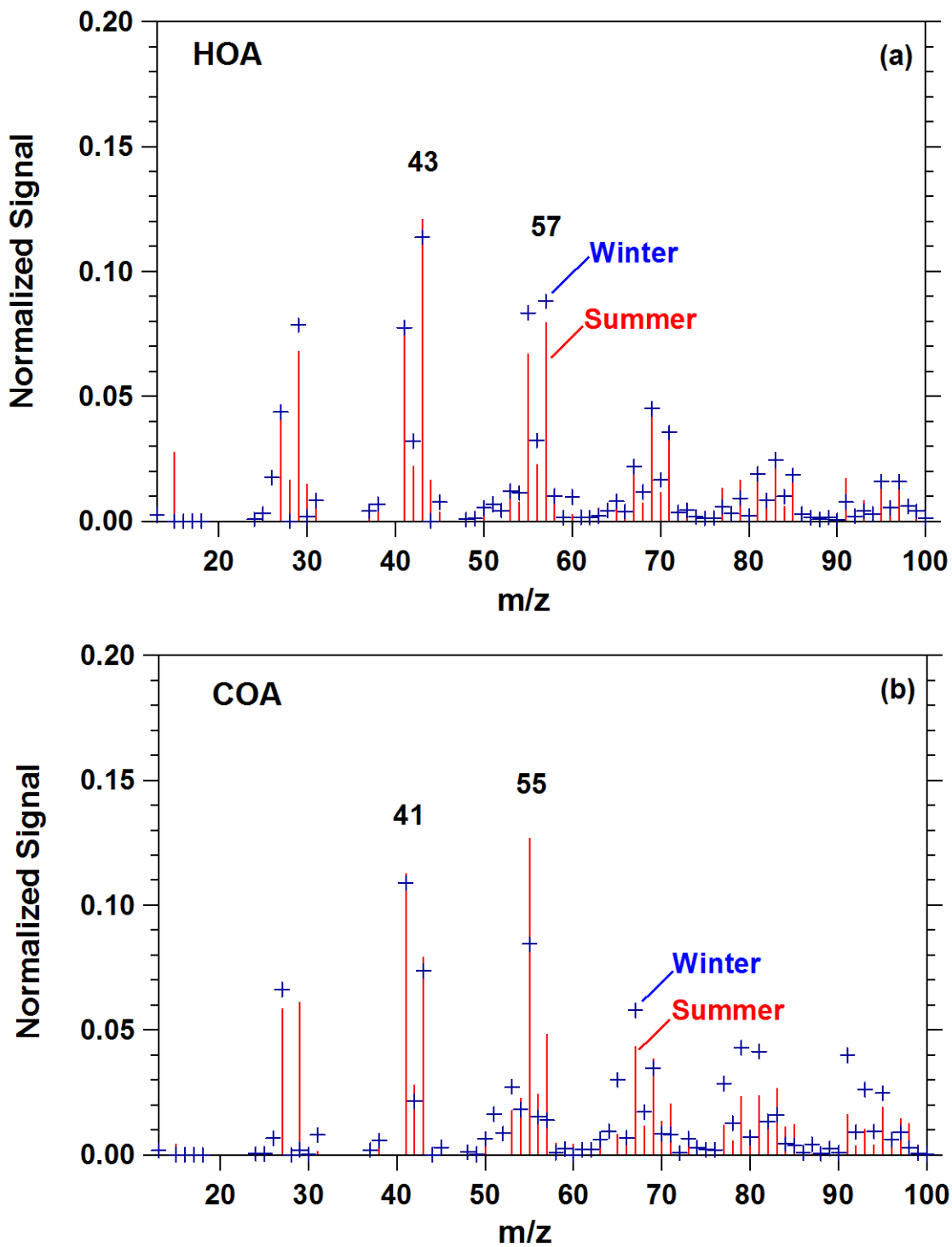


Figure 7. Seasonal mass spectra comparison for (a) HOA and (b) COA in Paris. Red lines correspond to the summer measurements while blue symbols correspond to the winter data.

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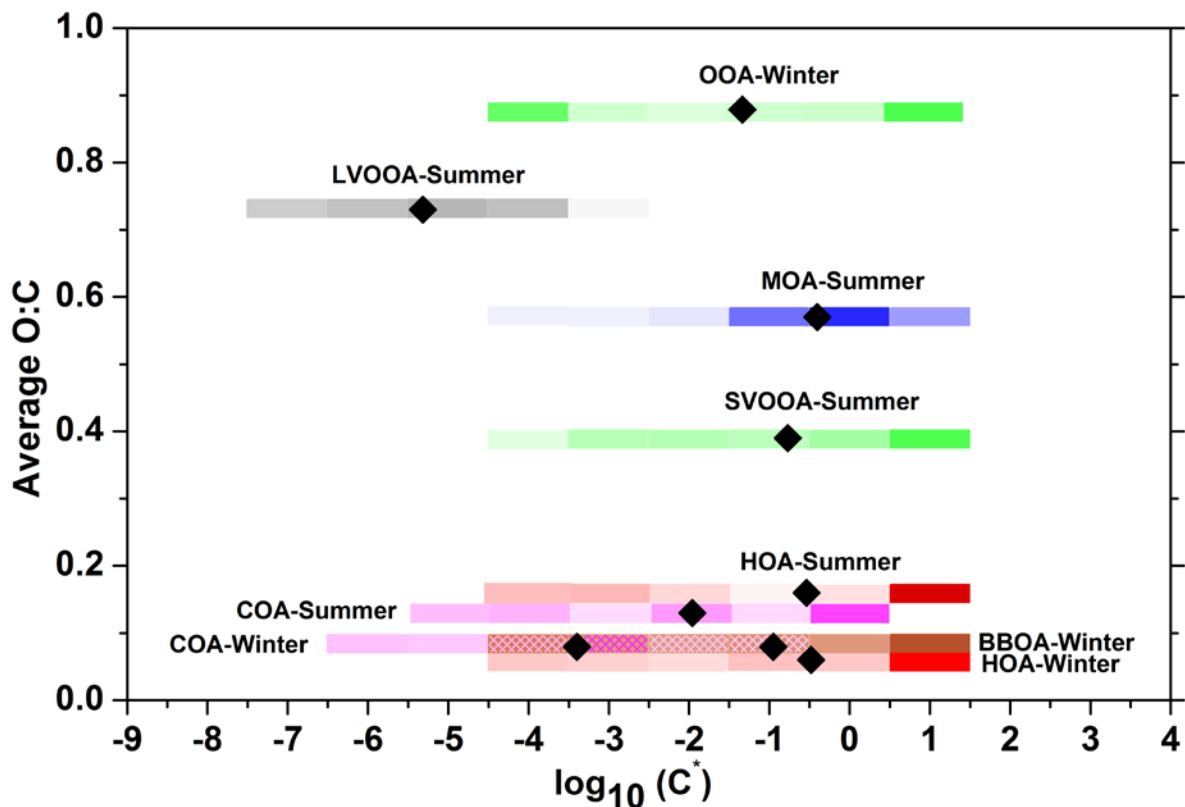


Figure 8. 2-D VBS representation of the PMF factors for the summer and winter campaigns. With the red color of the bars we represent the HOA factors, with the pink color the COA factors, the green the SVOOA and OOA, the blue is for the MOA factor, the brown for the BBOA factor and the black for the LVOOA factor. The darker shading of the colored bars denotes a larger mass fraction for a given C^* bin. The diamond represents the average $\log_{10}(C^*)$ value for a given PMF factor.