
1 **The real part of the refractive indices and effective densities for**
2 **chemically segregated ambient aerosols in Guangzhou by a single**
3 **particle aerosol mass spectrometer**

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20 **ABSTRACT:** Microphysical properties of atmospheric aerosols are essential to better
21 evaluate their radiative forcing. This paper first presents an estimate of the real part of the
22 refractive indices (n) and effective densities (ρ_{eff}) of chemically segregated atmospheric
23 aerosols in China. Vacuum aerodynamic diameter, chemical compositions, and light scattering
24 intensities of individual particles were simultaneously measured by a single particle aerosol
25 mass spectrometer (SPAMS) during fall of 2012 in Guangzhou. On the basis of Mie theory, n
26 and ρ_{eff} at wavelength of 532 nm were estimated for 17 particle types in four categories:
27 organics (OC), elemental carbon (EC), internally mixed EC and OC (ECOC), and metal rich.
28 The results indicate the presence of spherical or nearly spherical shape for majority of particle
29 types, whose partial scattering cross section versus sizes were well fitted to Mie theoretical
30 modeling results. While sharing n in a narrow range (1.47–1.53), majority of particle types
31 exhibited a wide range of ρ_{eff} (0.87–1.51 g cm⁻³). OC group is associated with the lowest ρ_{eff}
32 (0.87–1.07 g cm⁻³), while metal rich group with the highest ones (1.29–1.51 g cm⁻³). It is
33 noteworthy that a specific EC type exhibits a complex scattering curve versus size due to the
34 presence of both compact and irregularly shape particles. Overall, the results on detailed
35 relationship between physical and chemical properties benefits future researches on the
36 impact of aerosols on visibility and climate.

37 **1 Introduction**

38 Aerosols represent the largest uncertainty in estimating radiative forcing, through
39 strongly affecting the energy balance of the Earth by scattering and/or absorbing solar
40 radiation (IPCC, 2007; Jacobson, 2001; Ramanathan and Carmichael, 2008), and cloud
41 formation (Jacobson, 2006; Rosenfeld et al., 2008). They also strongly affect the visibility,
42 causing severe haze problems in polluted regions (Wu et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2010).
43 Submicron particles commonly make up the majority of total aerosol mass in polluted urban
44 atmospheres (Tao et al., 2014; Shi et al., 2014), and contribute to majority of light scattering
45 and absorption (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006; Bond and Bergstrom, 2006).

46 Optical properties of atmospheric aerosols are sensitive to their physical (e.g., size,
47 density and morphology) and chemical properties (Moffet and Prather, 2009; Moffet et al.,
48 2008; Raut et al., 2009). Aerosols are generally internally mixed, composed of various
49 compounds, and therefore uncertainties are inevitable when modelling their effects based on the
50 assumption that they are composed of several individual species that are externally mixed
51 (Sullivan and Prather, 2005). Therefore, the direct link between aerosol optical properties and
52 mixing state is required to accurately predict their radiative forcing (Bauer et al., 2013).
53 However, the chemical composition, size, optical property, shape and density are generally
54 measured by independent analytical techniques, which may inevitably introduce uncertainties
55 when establishing their relationships.

56 Efforts have been made to embed light scattering measurements into aerosol mass
57 spectrometer in order to simultaneously retrieve as much information as possible for a single

58 particle (Murphy et al., 2004; Moffet and Prather, 2005; Cross et al., 2007). For example,
59 Moffet et al. (2008) have successfully retrieved the real part of the refractive indices (n) and
60 effective densities (ρ_{eff}) for various particle types in the atmosphere of California and Mexico
61 city, which have served as important parameters for optical properties in global climate models
62 (Moffet and Prather, 2009; Ghan and Schwartz, 2007).

63 The relationship between the mixing state and optical properties of ambient aerosols in
64 China is still not well understood. Previous studies in China typically performed model
65 calculation, mostly based on the assumption of particle mixing state (Ma et al., 2012; Tao et
66 al., 2014), and no direct measurement is available yet. Herein, we applied a real-time single
67 particle aerosol mass spectrometer (SPAMS) with embedded light scattering measurements to
68 explore the microphysical properties (i.e., n and ρ_{eff}) of individual particle types as a function
69 of chemical compositions in Guangzhou, China. The n and ρ_{eff} of the particle types, assumed
70 to be spherical and homogeneous mixed, could be retrieved from the best fitting between the
71 measured light scattering signals and Mie theoretical modelling results.

72

73 **2 Materials and Methods**

74 **2.1 Single Particle Measurements and Data Analysis.**

75 Single particle measurements were carried out at an urban site in Guangzhou (Bi et al.,
76 2011) from 13th October to 29th November of 2012, using a SPAMS developed by Hexin
77 Analytical Instrument Co., Ltd. (Guangzhou, China). Temporal profiles of local
78 meteorological parameters, including solar radiation, temperature, relative humidity, wind

79 direction and wind speed, and air quality parameters (i.e., NO_x, SO₂, O₃, PM₁) are shown in
80 Fig. S1 of Supporting Information. Prior to particle detection, aerosols were dried by a
81 diffusion dryer (Topas GmbH, series 570), because water associated with aerosols may be
82 evaporated in the aerodynamic lens in the SPAMS, leading to complex sizing and mass
83 spectral characteristics (Zelenyuk et al., 2006). The particle detection method of SPAMS can
84 be found elsewhere (Li et al., 2011). Briefly, ambient particle is introduced into SPAMS
85 through a critical orifice, then focused and accelerated to a specific velocity in aerodynamic
86 lens. The velocity is then determined by two continuous diode Nd:YAG laser beams (532 nm)
87 in downstream sizing region. The experimental light scattering signals (LSS) of the laser
88 beams at 532 nm with scattering angle ranging from 5.1° to 174.9° collected by an ellipsoidal
89 reflector are measured by a photomultiplier tube. Since only a part of total scattered light is
90 measured, the LSS is actually corresponding to the partial scattering cross section (PSCS).
91 The determined velocity is used to trigger a pulsed laser (266 nm) to desorp/ionize the particle.
92 The produced positive and negative fragments generated by the pulsed laser are also recorded
93 with the velocity. The velocity is related to vacuum aerodynamic diameters (d_{va}) using a
94 calibration curve, created from the measured velocities of series of polystyrene latex spheres
95 (PSL, Nanosphere Size Standards, Duke Scientific Corp., Palo Alto) with pre-defined sizes.

96 A total of approximately 3 500 000 single-particle mass spectra were characterized and
97 statistically analyzed in the present study. The analysis mainly covered particles with d_{va}
98 between 0.1 and 1.6 μm. An adaptive resonance theory based neural network algorithm
99 (ART-2a) was applied to cluster individual particles based on the presence and intensities of

100 ion peaks in single particle mass spectrum (Song et al., 1999), with a vigilance factor of 0.7,
101 learning rate of 0.05, and 20 iterations. By manually merging similar clusters, 17 major
102 particle types with distinct chemical patterns were obtained, representing ~95% of the
103 population of the detected particles.

104 **2.2 Retrieving n and ρ_{eff} with Mie Fitting Model.**

105 A large data set, including size, chemical composition, and the light scattering signal of
106 each particle at wavelength of 532 nm, was collected by the SPAMS. Scattering by spherical
107 submicron particles can be well described by Mie theory (Bohren and Huffman, 1981). In Mie
108 theory, the refractive index is given by $m = n + i*k$ with n and k being real constants and $i =$
109 $-1^{1/2}$. However, only PSCS for particles were measured in the present study and thus only the
110 real part of the refractive index (i.e., n) is focused in the calculation. Based on the theory, n
111 and ρ_{eff} can be derived for chemically distinct particle types obtained from clustering analysis,
112 according to the methodology developed by Moffet and Prather (2005).

113 The methodology is briefly summarized herein. Firstly, theoretical response is firstly
114 compared with the response of scattered light measured by SPAMS from PSL particles with
115 sizes ranging from 150 to 2000 nm. Then a calibration curve is constructed to transform the
116 LSS (at the 90th percentiles, i.e., upper limit) measured by SPAMS to the PSCS, enabling a
117 quantitative comparison between the measured and theoretical PSCS. Before performing
118 scattering calculation, the detected particles were grouped into 17 particle types on the basis
119 of chemical compositions. Finally, a series of n and ρ_{eff} were used as input in Mie theoretical
120 calculation to find the best fit (i.e., a global minimum of the sum of squares due to error, SSE)

121 between the measured and theoretical PSCS with least square method, thus enabling the
122 estimation of n and ρ_{eff} . A detailed description of the methodology for the SPAMS and the
123 results of the test on the known aerosol samples (i.e., NaNO_3 and $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$) is available in
124 our previous publication (Zhang et al., 2015a). During the sizing detection, the particles
125 diverge from each other and thus a wide range of light scattering intensities from nearly zero
126 to some upper limit are obtained for similar particles. This is due to the uneven distribution of
127 laser beam energy, and also to the relative position of the laser beam and the pathway of
128 particles. In order to avoid the effect of high intensity outliers in our study, we used only LSS
129 that lie at the 90th percentiles of the collected data in 20 nm size bins, regarding the upper 10%
130 as outliers. Satisfied results were obtained for calibration on PSL and test on NaNO_3 and
131 $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$. Other percentile data (such as values lie at 95th and 99th percentiles) was also
132 tested, however, the PSL calibration cannot be improved, which is possibly attributed to much
133 more outliers lying at the upper 10% percentile of the collected data. Therefore, we use 90th
134 percentiles of LSS as their upper limit values in the following discussion.

135 The calibration curve is provided in Fig. S2 to show the relationship between the
136 experimental LSS and the theoretical PSCS (R_{theory}). The modelling uncertainties for the
137 retrieved n and ρ_{eff} of each particle type were estimated through a sensitivity analysis (Moffet
138 et al., 2008). The raw experimental LSS were transformed using the retrieved calibration
139 functions at the upper and lower 95% confidence bounds to obtain the absolute uncertainties
140 for the n and ρ_{eff} . The results show that the uncertainties were in the range of 2–5% and 9–20%
141 for the retrieved n and ρ_{eff} , respectively. The retrieved n in our case should be defined as

142 equivalent refractive index for spherical, homogeneously internally mixed particles with the
143 same bulk scattering properties as the actual particles. This assumption is similarly applied for
144 aerosol components when trying to obtain their optical properties and/or radiative forcing
145 (Moffet et al., 2008; Myhre et al., 1998).

146

147 **3 Results and Discussion**

148 The 17 particle types, resulted from ART-2a clustering, are in four categories of similar
149 chemical characteristics, namely: organics (OC), elemental carbon (EC), internally mixed
150 elemental carbon and organics (ECOC), and metal rich. Majority of the single particle types
151 and their mass spectra throughout the study were similar to those described in previous
152 publication (Zhang et al., 2015b). Their mass spectra are provided in Fig. S3 and also
153 described in detail in Supporting Information. It is pointed that assuming negligible
154 absorption for the internally mixed EC particle types (including EC and ECOC group) might
155 introduce uncertainties for the estimation of n . Using Mie theory core-shell modelling, the
156 scattering of the internally mixed EC particle types can be reasonably well described with the
157 coating (<100 nm) refractive index as an input (Moffet and Prather, 2009). Therefore, the
158 retrieved n for the internally mixed EC particle types in the present study could be used to
159 represent the coating refractive indices.

160 **3.1 Retrieved n and ρ_{eff} for Chemically Segregated Aerosols**

161 To retrieve ρ_{eff} for the ambient aerosols, it is assumed that n falls between 1.3–1.7 ($\Delta n =$
162 0.01), and ρ_{eff} fell from < 1 to $\sim 2.5 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ which roughly corresponds to the range from

163 hydrocarbons ($< 1 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$) to inorganic salt (e.g., 2.17 g cm^{-3} for NaCl), covering the range of
164 n and particle densities observed for the majority of ambient aerosols, as summarized in Hand
165 and Kreidenweis (Hand and Kreidenweis, 2002).

166 **3.1.1 OC Group**

167 The OC group was characterized by three organic rich particle types, including organics
168 dominantly internally mixed with sulfate and limited nitrate (OC-S), organics internally
169 mixed both sulfate and nitrate (OC-SN), and high mass OC (HMOC). Fig. 1a exhibits the SSE
170 between measured and theoretical PSCS varying with the two variables n and ρ_{eff} for OC-S
171 particle type. The minimum SSE for OC-S particles was obtained when n and ρ_{eff} were 1.53
172 and 1.07 g cm^{-3} , respectively (Table 1). The scattering curve and the raw scattering data
173 measured for this particle type was compared to that predicted by Mie theory (Fig. 1b). Strong
174 correlation and consistent trend between the measured and theoretical PSCS indicates the
175 existence of spherical or nearly spherical OC-S particles. It is also noted that some particles
176 exhibited negative PSCS, and it is attributed to the non-spherical particles that scattered less
177 light, and also the higher uncertainty at smaller sizes associated with the calibration function
178 (Fig. S2). A similar particle type OC-SN had similar n (1.51) and ρ_{eff} (1.03 g cm^{-3}) to that of
179 OC-S (Fig. S4). The retrieved ρ_{eff} is slightly lower than that for OC-S, probably attributed to
180 slightly lower material density of nitrate compared to sulfate. Notably, HMOC had a lower ρ_{eff}
181 at 0.87 g cm^{-3} , similarly observed in Mexico city (Moffet et al., 2008), indicative of a unique
182 composition (Fig. 2). There were many peaks associated with higher mass-to-charge ratio in its
183 mass spectra, rather than in those of OC-S and OC-SN. Low density OC was also observed in

184 biomass burning aerosols (0.9 g cm^{-3}) (Schkolnik et al., 2007) and ambient aerosols ($0.87\text{--}0.9$
185 g cm^{-3}) (Spencer et al., 2007; Cross et al., 2009), attributed to a dominant proportion of
186 aliphatic compounds in OC (Schkolnik et al., 2007). Overall, the retrieved ρ_{eff} ($0.87\text{--}1.07 \text{ g}$
187 cm^{-3}) for these OC particle types are lower than those ($1.14\text{--}1.7 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$) in California and
188 Mexico City (Moffet et al., 2008), which may reflect different mixing state for OC with sulfate
189 and/or nitrate in these areas. The lower densities for OC particle types in the present study may
190 also indicate that they were mainly composed of organics rather than other species (i.e.,
191 nitrate and sulfate) with higher densities ($\sim 1.7 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$), and/or reflect less oxidized organics.

192 **3.1.2 EC Group**

193 The EC group contained three particle types, consisting of EC with more carbon clusters
194 ions ($\text{C}_n^{+/-}$, $n > 6$) (LC-EC) (Fig. 3a) in the mass spectra, EC with less carbon clusters ions
195 ($\text{C}_n^{+/-}$, $n < 6$) (SC-EC) (Fig. 3b), and EC accompanied with intense sodium and potassium ions
196 peaks (NaK-EC, Fig. 3c). The mass spectra of these particle types are dominated by fragments
197 from EC and associated with limited OC fraction. The scattering intensities plotted against d_{va}
198 for them are shown in Figs. 3d-f. LC-EC exhibited a complex scattering curve versus d_{va} ,
199 which can be explained by the presence of both compact (i.e., more spherical) and irregular
200 particles resulted from differences in particle age (Moffet et al., 2008). This type exhibited a
201 scattering curve strong deviating from the theoretical one in the size range of $0.1\text{--}0.5 \mu\text{m}$,
202 suggesting an irregular morphology. EC in this size range is typically observed to be of
203 extremely low ρ_{eff} ($< 1.0 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$) due to their open and fractal morphology (Levy et al., 2013;
204 Zhang et al., 2008). However, the scattering curve for LC-EC of larger size is well fitted,

205 implying the existence of a more spherical shape. This transformation from fractal to compact
206 morphology could be explained by the mixing state with secondary species, such as sulfate,
207 nitrate and ammonium (Zhang et al., 2008; Moffet and Prather, 2009). Although water may
208 play a key role in the collapse of fractal morphology (Mikhailov et al., 2006), this issue
209 cannot be addressed in the present study since the particles were dried before measurements.
210 Pagels et al. (2009) had illustrated that fresh soot is with a highly irregular structure, while
211 coated soot with a considerable compaction. They also showed that considerable compaction
212 of the particles had occurred when they were heated or dried. We have previously shown that
213 EC-containing particles tend to internally mix with more amount of secondary species with
214 increasing size in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region (Zhang et al., 2014). Differently, SC-EC
215 particles were found to be internally mixed with much more amount of secondary species,
216 which could make the collapse of fractal morphology (Zhang et al., 2008), and thus showed a
217 better fitted scattering curve. An interesting observation is that although associated with
218 limited secondary species (Fig. 3c), NaK-EC type was likely spherical over the detected size
219 range, also showing a well fitted scattering curve. The retrieved n and ρ_{eff} are 1.49 and 1.35 g
220 cm^{-3} for LC-EC, 1.47 and 1.27 g cm^{-3} for SC-EC, and 1.53 and 1.37 g cm^{-3} for NaK-EC type.
221 The retrieved ρ_{eff} are lower than the material density of EC (1.7–1.9 g cm^{-3}), due to the
222 changing mixing state and shape factor (Bond and Bergstrom, 2006; Park et al., 2004). The
223 retrieved n for EC are lower than those observed for freshly emitted EC particles (e.g., 1.8–2)
224 (Schmid et al., 2009; Schkolnik et al., 2007), which is probably attributed to internally mixed
225 secondary coatings (having n around 1.5) on the processed EC particle types (Moffet et al.,

226 2008), as identified in their mass spectra (Fig. 3).

227 **3.1.3 ECOC Group**

228 The ECOC group contained both OC and EC ions signature in the mass spectra,
229 including potassium rich particles internally mixed with sulfate/nitrate (K-S for dominantly
230 with sulfate, K-N for dominantly with nitrate, and K-SN for both sulfate and nitrate), ECOC
231 internally mixed with sulfate/nitrate (ECOC-S and ECOC-SN). The retrieved n is 1.47–1.49
232 for this particle group. From the well fit scattering curves (Fig. S5), the retrieved ρ_{eff} for K-N
233 is 1.43 g cm^{-3} , while the remaining particle types have a much lower densities in a range of
234 $1.21\text{--}1.27 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$. This particle group containing some amount of EC and OC, internally
235 mixing with secondary species exhibit densities that represent a complex of densities for these
236 chemical compositions (Bond and Bergstrom, 2006; Schkolnik et al., 2007; Nakao et al.,
237 2013). Much higher ρ_{eff} for K-N particles might be explained by more spherical shape, with
238 lower dynamic shape factor, since it is believed to be more aged than the other particle types,
239 consistent with that observed in Mexico city (Moffet et al., 2008).

240 **3.1.4 Metal rich Group**

241 The Metal rich group, including Na-rich, Na-K, Fe-rich, Pb-rich, Cu-rich, and internally
242 mixed Fe-Cu-Pb types, also exhibits scattering curves that are indicative of the existence of
243 nearly spherical morphology (Fig. 4 and Fig. S5). The retrieved n is 1.47–1.51 for this particle
244 group, except for Na-rich (1.41). As expected, higher ρ_{eff} ($1.29\text{--}1.51 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$) were retrieved
245 for these particle types (Table 1). The Na-rich type typically represents sea salt aerosols
246 (Moffet et al., 2008). The retrieved n and ρ_{eff} is 1.41 and 1.41 g cm^{-3} for Na-rich type. It is

247 noted that the detected Na-rich had experienced atmospheric ageing during transport,
248 evidenced by their mass spectra that associated with high amount of nitrate rather than
249 chloride (Gard et al., 1998). The retrieved n for Na-rich particle type is slightly lower than
250 that of a similar particle type (sea salt type, n at 1.43–1.5) observed in California (Moffet et al.,
251 2008). The Fe-rich, Pb-rich, Cu-rich and Cu-Pb-Fe types were previously found to be
252 externally mixed with carbonaceous species and mainly attributed to the emission from
253 local/regional industries (Zhang et al., 2015b). In addition, it is noted that these metal rich
254 types are mainly distributed in aerosols of larger size (i.e., $> 0.5 \mu\text{m}$), and thus the retrieved n
255 and ρ_{eff} only represent such fraction rather than that in smaller size, which may only
256 accounted for a negligible fraction (from less than 0.01 to 3.4% from this study) (Fig. 5).

257

258 **3.2 Comparison to previous studies and atmospheric implications**

259 The results show that the scattering curves for majority of particle types can be well
260 modelled (with R^2 greater than 0.95), suggesting the existence of spherical or nearly spherical
261 shape. The majority of the particle types in the present study have n around 1.5 (Table 1),
262 consistent with those of the most abundant species (i.e., ammonium sulfate and organics),
263 observed in the atmosphere of Guangzhou (Andreae et al., 2008). From combined raman lidar
264 and sun photometer observations, Muller et al. (2006) retrieved n at 1.57 ± 0.11 for the haze
265 layer at the similar region. Moffet et al. (2008) showed that majority of particle types in
266 California exhibited very similar n around 1.5, and concluded that the optical properties of
267 these particle types are controlled by the condensation of secondary species. In contrast, the

268 retrieved ρ_{eff} distributes in a wide range of 0.87–1.51 g cm⁻³ in this study, indicative of a
269 diverse distribution of aerosol population in the atmosphere of Guangzhou. Highly diverse
270 rather than homogeneous in chemical compositions of atmosphere aerosols has also been
271 highlighted in regions of worldwide (e.g., California and Mexico city), and it is most likely
272 related to the diversity of sources and differences in aging of the particles (Spencer et al.,
273 2007; Roger et al., 2009; Pitz et al., 2008; Levy et al., 2013; Moffet et al., 2008). ρ_{eff} was
274 observed to be in a wide range (1.1–3.4 g cm⁻³) in Mexico city, Mexico (Moffet et al., 2008);
275 (1.05–2.36 g cm⁻³) in urban Augsburg, Germany (Pitz et al., 2008); and from lower than 1.0 g
276 cm⁻³ due to freshly emitted EC aerosols to as high as 1.8 g cm⁻³ in Texas, USA (Levy et al.,
277 2013). In addition, size-resolved ρ_{eff} is calculated based on the fractional contribution of each
278 particle type as a function of d_{va} (Fig. 5). The trend of the estimated ρ_{eff} is mainly attributed to
279 the chemical diversity as a function of particle sizes (Barone et al., 2011; Hu et al., 2012).

280 For models that predict the radiative impact of aerosols, it is important to be able to
281 constrain the n and ρ_{eff} of various aerosol components. While the n of pure compositions are
282 fairly well constrained, significant uncertainties exist regarding n for the internally mixed
283 aerosols (e.g., Bond and Bergstrom, 2006; Freedman et al., 2009). When an internal aerosol
284 mixing state is incorporated into a global climate model, the most common way to determine
285 optical properties is to volume-weight the refractive indices of aerosol constituents (Lesins et
286 al., 2002; Ghan and Zaveri, 2007). Freedman et al. (2009) have noted that if species-specific
287 refractive index is used, rather than a volume-weighted average refractive index, then the
288 deviation from the average value could cause a significant difference in radiative forcing. Our

289 results by direct observation on single particle types provide a reference of particle type
290 specific n and ρ_{eff} for further studies on light extinction, or the radiative forcing of
291 atmospheric aerosol in the PRD region. It needs to be noted that the limitation for our study
292 mainly relates to the derivation of the scattering curve from the upper limit of a specific
293 particle type, which represents the ideal case of interaction between spherical particles and the
294 laser beam of SPAMS. As a result, the remaining particles, including irregular shape particles,
295 were not well characterized, although shape is regarded as a potentially important variable in
296 radiative forcing (Adachi et al., 2010). Another limitation may be associated with the
297 assumption that the ρ_{eff} for each particle type was identical in all the sizes in the estimation of
298 size-resolved ρ_{eff} , since ρ_{eff} is not only depend on chemical compositions, but also particle
299 morphology (Hu et al., 2012). Additionally, ambient aerosols were first dried before any
300 measurements in the present study, and thus possible differences may exist for refractive
301 indices when water is counted in (Eichler et al., 2008; Dick et al., 2007). The amount of water
302 taken up by the water soluble particle matters changes the particle size distributions and their
303 refractive index, and hence also plays an important role in both visibility impairment and
304 aerosol radiative forcing.

305

306 **4 Conclusions**

307 The size, mass spectra information, and light scattering signals were simultaneously
308 obtained for chemically segregated ambient aerosols in the atmosphere of Guangzhou, China.
309 Based on comparison between experimental light scattering measurements obtained by a

310 SPAMS and Mie theoretical calculation results, n and ρ_{eff} of 17 particle types in four particle
311 categories, including OC, EC, ECOC, and metal rich groups were retrieved. Majority of the
312 particle types could be well modelled under the assumption that particles are homogeneous
313 internally mixed, existing a spherical or nearly spherical shape. The retrieved n for majority of
314 particle types range from 1.47 to 1.53. However, ρ_{eff} were observed in a wide range of (0.87–
315 1.51 g cm⁻³), suggesting a chemical diversity aerosol population. Interestingly, EC types of
316 different mixing state showed different microphysical characteristics, which indicates that
317 more detailed observations and simulations are needed for particle types of different age to
318 constrain the assumptions of their n and ρ_{eff} in radiative impact modeling. This work improves
319 the understanding on microphysical properties of individual particles in the urban atmosphere
320 in China, and also provides a reference in the assumptions of n and ρ_{eff} for various aerosol
321 components.

322

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510

Table 1. Retrieved n and ρ_{eff} , and the fractional contribution of seventeen particle types detected during the sampling period.

Particle categories	Particle types	n	ρ_{eff}	N_f^{b} (%)	R^2 ^c
ECOC	K-S	1.49 (3% ^a)	1.25 (17%)	10.2	0.97
	K-SN	1.49 (4%)	1.21 (17%)	21.0	0.97
	K-N	1.49 (1%)	1.43 (14%)	3.1	0.95
	ECOC-S	1.49 (2%)	1.27 (16%)	7.0	0.93
	ECOC-SN	1.47 (3%)	1.25 (17%)	6.1	0.96
OC	OC-S	1.53 (3%)	1.07 (18%)	1.0	0.97
	OC-SN	1.51 (5%)	1.03 (18%)	9.9	0.94
	HMOC	1.49 (5%)	0.87 (17%)	1.2	0.99
EC	LC-EC	1.49 (3%)	1.35 (11%)	2.3	0.98
	SC-EC	1.47 (3%)	1.27 (16%)	10.6	0.96
	NaK-EC	1.53 (4%)	1.37 (20%)	6.6	0.98
Metal-rich	Na-K	1.51 (4%)	1.39 (18%)	7.2	0.97
	Na-rich	1.41 (2%)	1.41 (11%)	1.0	0.97
	Cu-rich	1.51 (2%)	1.39 (11%)	0.9	0.91
	Pb-rich	1.51 (2%)	1.49 (14%)	1.6	0.96
	Fe-rich	1.49 (3%)	1.29 (17%)	3.8	0.96
	Cu-Pb-Fe	1.47 (5%)	1.51 (9%)	1.2	0.96

^a The uncertainties for the retrieved n and ρ_{eff} estimated through the sensitivity analysis.

^b Percentage of a particle type detected relative to all the characterized particles.

^c Correlation coefficient between measured and best fitting PSCS.

512 **Figure Captions**

513 **Figure 1.** SSE distribution of fitting between measured and theoretical PSCS as a function of
514 n and ρ_{eff} (left), and measured and best fit theoretical PSCS as a function of d_{va} (right) for
515 OC-S. The transformed raw scattering data was displayed with light purple dots.

516

517 **Figure 2.** (upper) Mass spectra, and (bottom) measured and best fit theoretical PSCS for
518 HMOC.

519

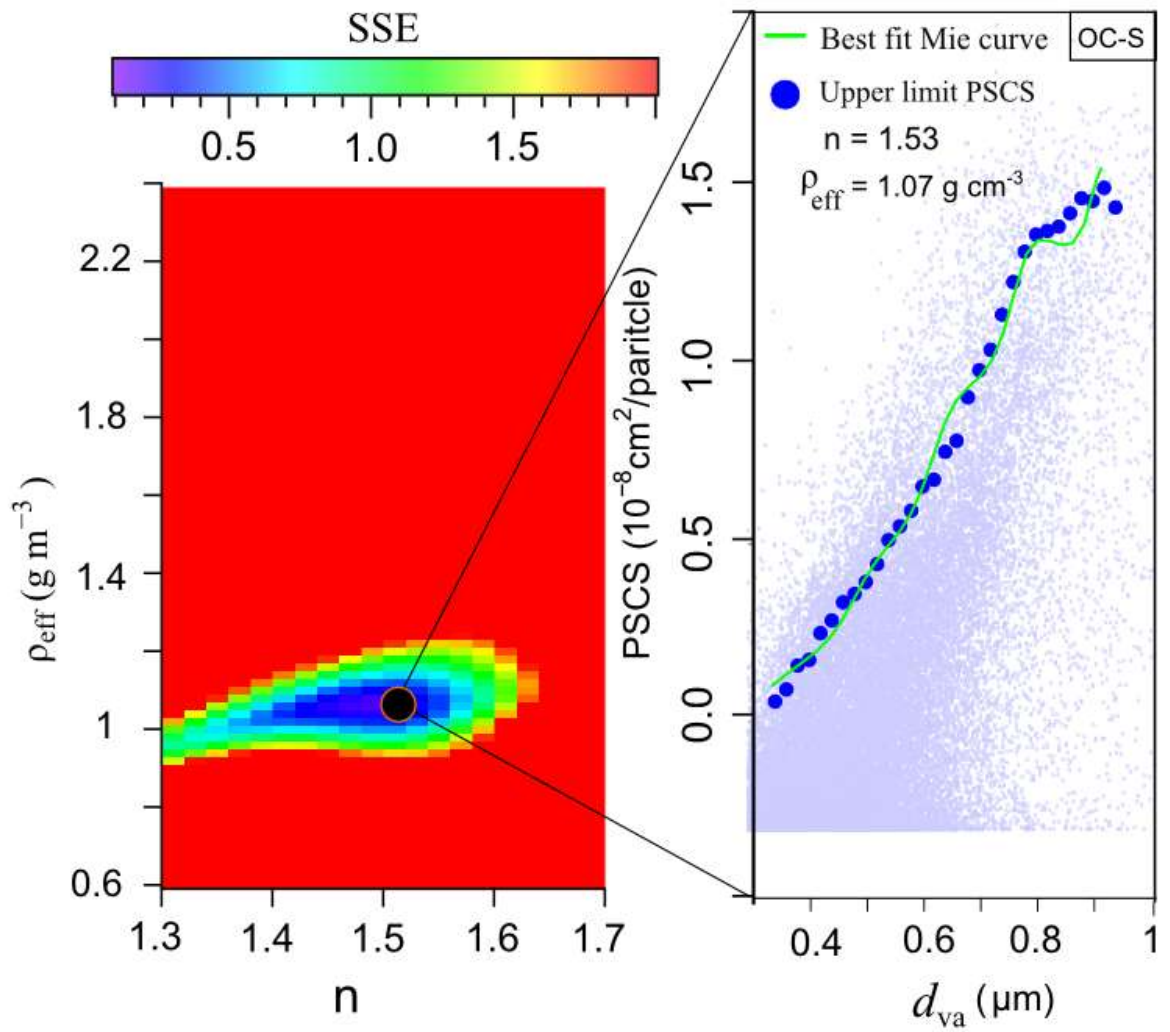
520 **Figure 3.** Mass spectra, and measured and best fit theoretical PSCS for LC-EC, SC-EC and
521 NaK-EC.

522

523 **Figure 4.** (upper) Mass spectra, and (bottom) measured and best fit theoretical PSCS for
524 Na-rich.

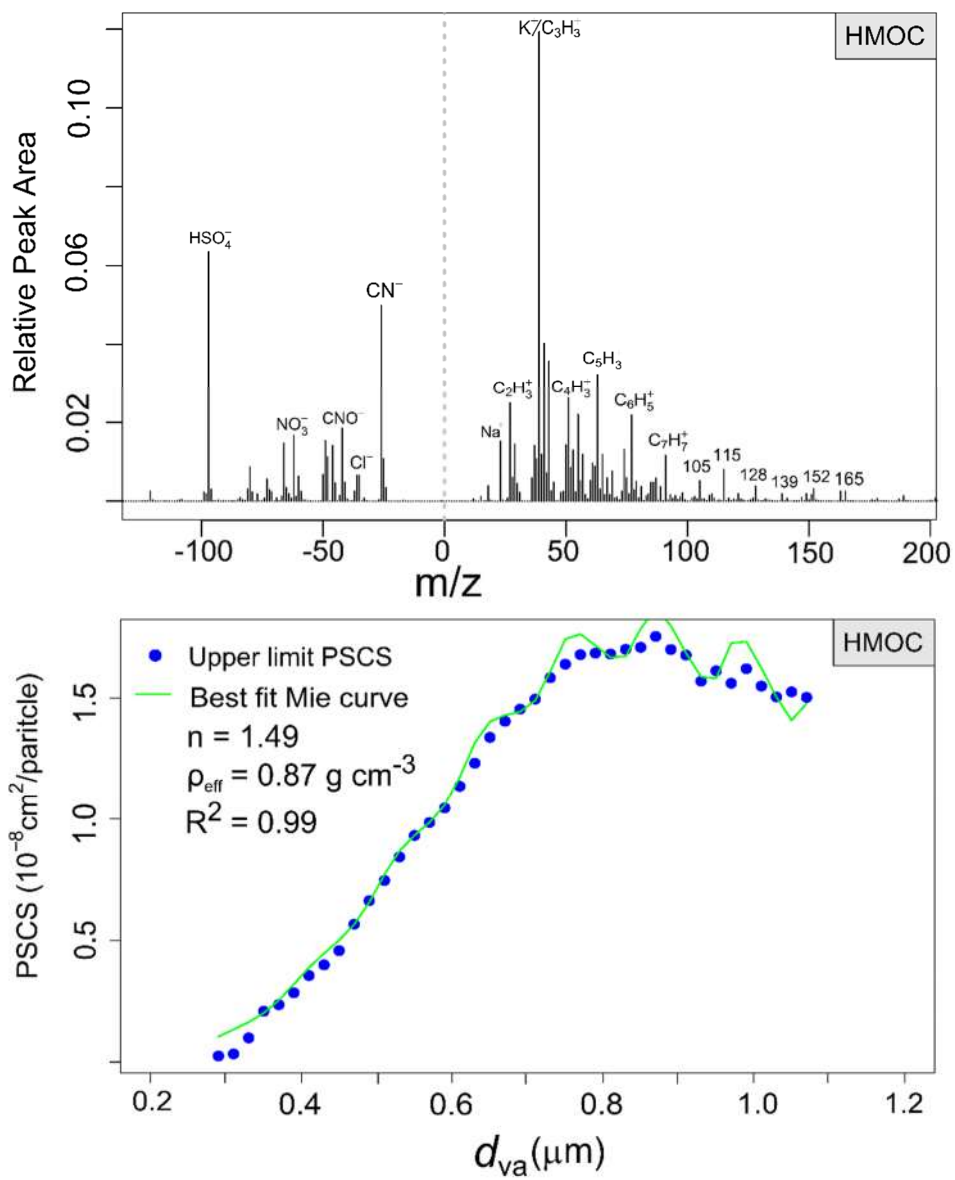
525

526 **Figure 5.** Number fraction, number of all the detected particles, and the estimated average ρ_{eff}
527 of each particle type as a function of d_{va} .



528

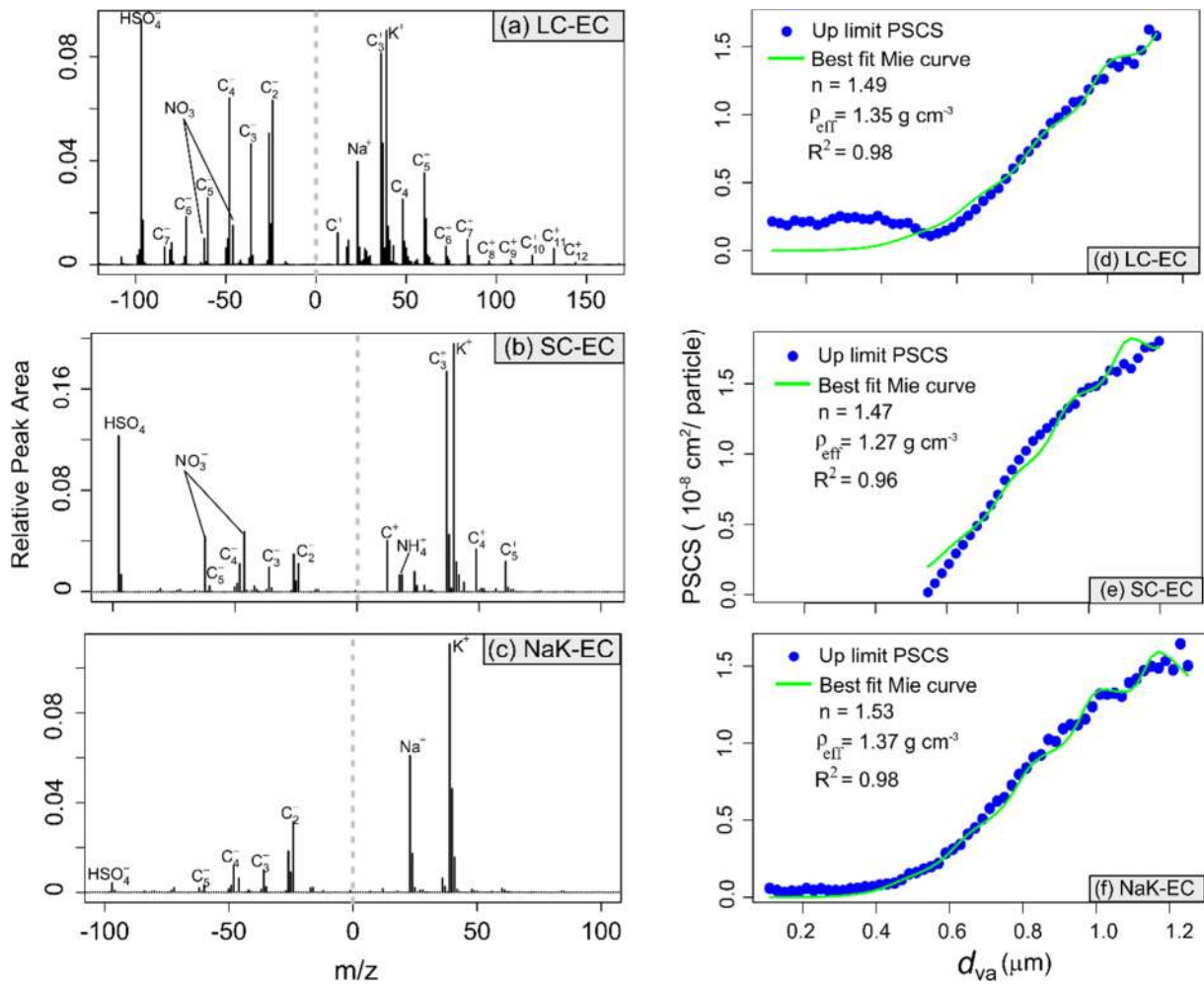
529 Figure 1.



530

531

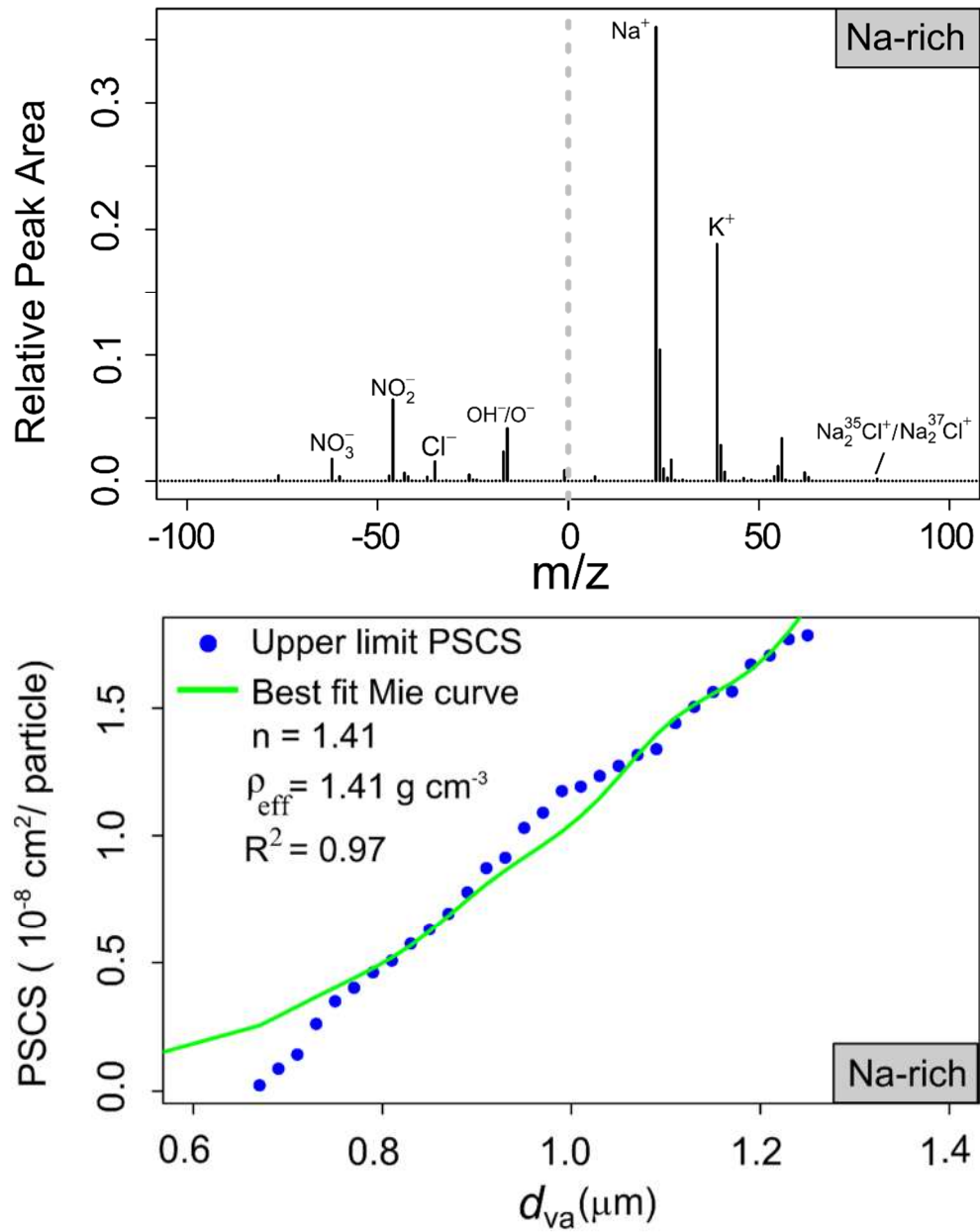
532 Figure 2.



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534

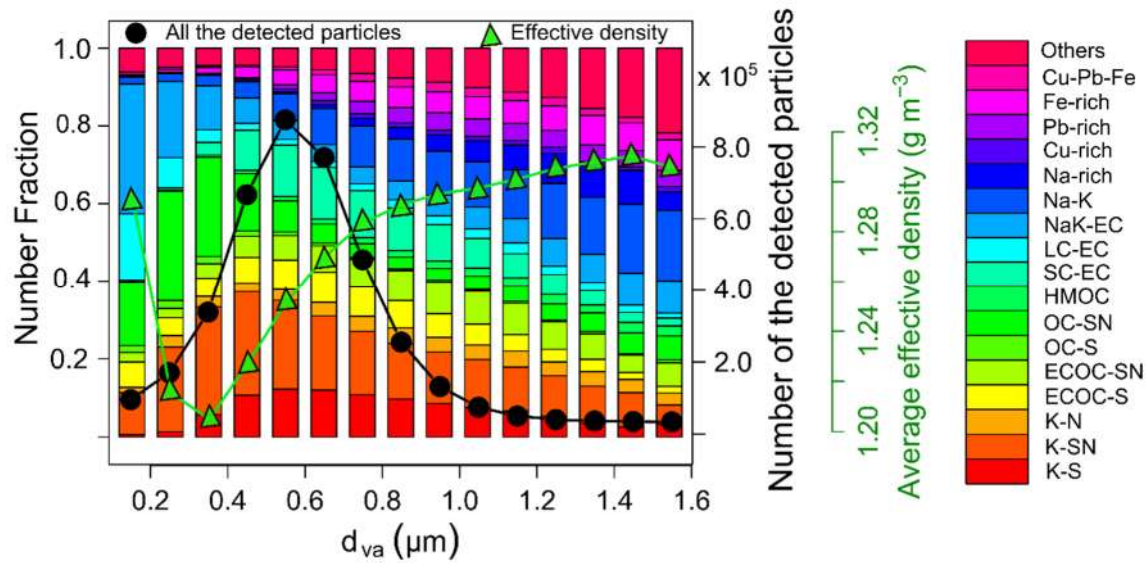
535 Figure 3.



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538 Figure 4.



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Figure 5.