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Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions

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

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Abstract

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

1 Introduction

Aerosols represent the largest uncertainty in estimating radiative forcing, through strongly affecting the energy balance of the Earth by scattering and/or absorbing solar radiation (IPCC, 2007; Jacobson, 2001; Ramanathan and Carmichael, 2008), and cloud formation (Jacobson, 2006; Rosenfeld et al., 2008). They also strongly affect the visibility, causing severe haze problems in polluted regions (Wu et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2010). Submicron particles commonly make up the majority of total aerosol

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mass in polluted urban atmospheres (Tao et al., 2014; Shi et al., 2014), and contribute to majority of light scattering and absorption (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006; Bond and Bergstrom, 2006).

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

Efforts have been made to embed light scattering measurements to aerosol mass spectrometer in order to simultaneously retrieve as much information as possible for a single particle (Murphy et al., 2004; Moffet and Prather, 2005; Cross et al., 2007). For example, Moffet et al. (2008) have successfully retrieved the real part of the refractive indices (n) and effective densities (ρ_{eff}) for various particle types in the atmosphere of California and Mexico city, which are served as important parameters for optical properties in global climate models (Moffet and Prather, 2009; Ghan and Schwartz, 2007).

The relationship between the mixing state and optical properties of ambient aerosols in China is still not well understood. Previous studies in China typically performed model calculation, mostly based on the assumption of particle mixing state (Ma et al., 2012; Tao et al., 2014), and no direct measurement is available yet. Herein, we applied a real-time single particle aerosol mass spectrometer (SPAMS) with embedded light scattering measurements to explore the microphysical properties (i.e., n and ρ_{eff}) of individual particle types as a function of chemical compositions in Guangzhou, China. The n and

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ρ_{eff} of the particle types, assumed to be spherical and homogeneous mixed, could be retrieved from the best fitting between the measured light scattering signals and Mie theoretical modelling results.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Single particle measurements and data analysis

Single particle measurements were carried out at an urban site in Guangzhou (Bi et al., 2011) from 13 October to 29 November of 2012, using a SPAMS developed by Hexin Analytical Instrument Co., Ltd. (Guangzhou, China). Temporal profiles of local meteorological parameters, including solar radiation, temperature, relative humidity, wind direction and wind speed, and air quality parameters (i.e., NO_x, SO_2, O_3, PM_1) are shown in Fig. S1 in the Supplement. Prior to particle detection, aerosols were dried by a diffusion dryer (Topas GmbH, series 570), because water associated with aerosols may be evaporated in the aerodynamic lens in the SPAMS, leading to complex sizing and mass spectral characteristics (Zelenyuk et al., 2006). The particle detection method of SPAMS can be found elsewhere (Li et al., 2011). Briefly, ambient particle is introduced into SPAMS through a critical orifice, then focused and accelerated to a specific velocity in aerodynamic lens. The velocity is then determined by two continuous diode Nd:YAG laser beams (532 nm) in downstream sizing region. The experimental light scattering signals (LSS) at 532 nm with scattering angle ranging from 5.1 to 174.9° collected by an ellipsoidal reflector and measured by a photomultiplier tube. Since only a part of total scattered light is measured, the LSS is actually corresponding to the partial scattering cross section (PSCS). The determined velocity is used to trigger a pulsed laser (266 nm) to desorp/ionize the particle. The produced positive and negative fragments generated by the pulsed laser are also recorded with the velocity. The velocity is corresponded to vacuum aerodynamic diameters (d_{va}) using a calibration curve, created

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from the measured velocities of series of polystyrene latex spheres (PSL, Nanosphere Size Standards, Duke Scientific Corp., Palo Alto) with pre-defined sizes.

A total of approximately 3 500 000 single-particle mass spectra were characterized and statistically analyzed in the present study. The analysis mainly covered particles with d_{va} between 0.1 and 1.6 µm. An adaptive resonance theory based neural network algorithm (ART-2a) was applied to cluster individual particles based on the presence and intensities of ion peaks in single particle mass spectrum (Song et al., 1999), with a vigilance factor of 0.7, learning rate of 0.05, and 20 iterations. By manually merging similar clusters, 17 major particle types with distinct chemical patterns were obtained, representing ~ 95 % of the population of the detected particles.

2.2 Retrieving n and ρ_{eff} with Mie fitting model

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

A detailed description of the methodology for the SPAMS and the results of the test on the known aerosol samples (i.e., $NaNO_3$ and $(NH_4)_2SO_4$) is available in our previous publication. During the sizing detection, the particles diverge from each other and thus a wide range of LSS from nearly zero to some upper limit are obtained for similar particles. This is due to the uneven distribution of laser beam energy, and also to the relative position of the laser beam and pathway of particles. In order to avoid the effect of high intensity outliers in our study, we used only data that lie at the 90th percentiles

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of the collected data in 20 nm size bins, regarding the upper 10 % as outliers. Satisfied results were obtained for calibration on PSL and test on $NaNO_3$ and $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ (Zhang et al., 2015a)). Other percentile data (such as values lie at 95th and 99th percentiles) was also tested, however, the PSL calibration cannot be improved, which is possibly attributed to much more outliers lying at the upper 10 % percentile of the collected data. The methodology is briefly summarized herein. Firstly, theoretical response is compared with the LSS measured by SPAMS from PSL particles with sizes ranging from 150 to 2000 nm. Then a calibration curve is constructed to transform the LSS (at the 90th percentiles) measured by SPAMS to the PSCS, enabling a quantitative comparison between the measured and theoretical PSCS. Before performing scattering calculation, the detected particles were grouped into 17 particle types on the basis of chemical compositions. Finally, a series of n and ρ_{eff} were used as input in Mie theoretical calculation to find the best fit (i.e., a global minimum of the sum of squares due to error, SSE) between the measured and theoretical PSCS with least square method, thus enabling the estimation of n and ρ_{eff}.

The calibration curve is provided in Fig. S2 in the Supplement to show the relationship between the experimental LSS and the theoretical PSCS (R_{theory}). The modelling uncertainties for the retrieved n and ρ_{eff} of each particle type were estimated through a sensitivity analysis (Moffet et al., 2008). The raw experimental LSS were transformed using the retrieved calibration functions at the upper and lower 95 % confidence bounds to obtain the absolute uncertainties for the n and ρ_{eff}. The results show that the uncertainties were in the range of 2–5 and 9–20 % for the retrieved n and ρ_{eff}, respectively. The retrieved n in our case should be defined as equivalent refractive index for spherical, homogeneously internally mixed particles with the same bulk scattering properties as the actual particles. This assumption is similarly applied for aerosol components when trying to obtain their optical properties and/or radiative forcing (Moffet et al., 2008; Myhre et al., 1998).

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3 Results and discussion

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

3.1 Retrieved n and ρ_{eff} for chemically segregated aerosols

To retrieve ρ_{eff} for the ambient aerosols, it is assumed that n falls between 1.3–1.7 ($\Delta n = 0.01$), and ρ_{eff} fell from < 1 to $\sim 2.5\,\text{g cm}^{-3}$ which roughly corresponds to the range from hydrocarbons ($< 1\,\text{g cm}^{-3}$) to inorganic salt (e.g., $2.17\,\text{g cm}^{-3}$ for NaCl), covering the range of n and particle densities observed for the majority of ambient aerosols, as summarized in Hand and Kreidenweis (2002).

3.1.1 OC group

The OC group was characterized by three organic rich particle types, including organics dominantly internally mixed with sulfate and limited nitrate (OC-S), organics internally mixed both sulfate and nitrate (OC-SN), and high mass OC (HMOC). Figure 1a exhibits the SSE between measured and theoretical PSCS varying with the two variables

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n and ρ_{eff} for OC-S particle type. The minimum SSE for OC-S particles was obtained when n and ρ_{eff} were 1.53 and 1.07 g cm^{-3}, respectively (Table 1). The scattering curve and the raw scattering data measured for this particle type was compared to that predicted by Mie theory (Fig. 1b). Strong correlation and consistent trend between the measured and theoretical PSCS indicates the existence of spherical or nearly spherical OC-S particles. It is also noted that some particles exhibited negative PSCS, and it is attributed to the non-spherical particles that scattered less light, and also the higher uncertainty at smaller sizes associated with the calibration function (Fig. S2). A similar particle type OC-SN had similar n (1.51) and ρ_{eff} (1.03 g cm^{-3}) to that of OC-S (Fig. S4 in the Supplement). The retrieved ρ_{eff} is slightly lower than that for OC-S, probably attributed to slightly lower material density of nitrate compared to sulfate. Notably, HMOC had a lower ρ_{eff} at 0.87 g cm^{-3}, similarly observed in Mexico city (Moffet et al., 2008), indicative of a unique composition (Fig. 2). There were many peaks associated with higher mass-to-charge ratio in its mass spectra, rather than in those of OC-S and OC-SN. Low density OC was also observed in biomass burning aerosols (0.9 g cm^{-3}) (Schkolnik et al., 2007) and ambient aerosols (0.87–0.9 g cm^{-3}) (Spencer et al., 2007; Cross et al., 2009), attributed to a dominant proportion of aliphatic compounds in OC (Schkolnik et al., 2007). Overall, the retrieved ρ_{eff} (0.87–1.07 g cm^{-3}) for these OC particle types are lower than those (1.14–1.7 g cm^{-3}) in California and Mexico City (Moffet et al., 2008), which may reflect different mixing state for OC with sulfate and/or nitrate in these areas. The lower densities for OC particle types in the present study may also indicate that they were mainly composed of organics rather than other species (i.e., nitrate and sulfate) with higher densities ($\sim$ 1.7 g cm^{-3}), and/or reflect less oxidized organics.

3.1.2 EC group

The EC group contained three particle types, consisting of EC with more carbon clusters ions ($C_n^{\pm}$, $n > 6$) (LC-EC) (Fig. 3a) in the mass spectra, EC with less carbon clus-

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ters ions ($C_n^{\pm}$, $n < 6$) (SC-EC) (Fig. 3b), and EC accompanied with intense sodium and potassium ions peaks (NaK-EC, Fig. 3c). The mass spectra of these particle types are dominated by fragments from EC and associated with limited OC fraction. The scattering intensities plotted against d_{va} for them are shown in Fig. 3d–f. LC-EC exhibited a complex scattering curve vs. d_{va}, which can be explained by the presence of both compact (i.e., more spherical) and irregular particles resulted from differences in particle age (Moffet et al., 2008). This type exhibited a scattering curve strong deviating from the theoretical one in the size range of 0.1–0.5 µm, suggesting an irregular morphology. EC in this size range is typically observed to be of extremely low ρ_{eff} ($< 1.0\,g\,cm^{-3}$) due to their open and fractal morphology (Levy et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2008). However, the scattering curve for LC-EC of larger size is well fitted, implying the existence of a more spherical shape. This transformation from fractal to compact morphology could be explained by the mixing state with secondary species, such as sulfate, nitrate and ammonium (Zhang et al., 2008; Moffet and Prather, 2009). Although water may play a key role in the collapse of fractal morphology (Mikhailov et al., 2006), this issue cannot be addressed in the present study since the particles were dried before measurements. We have previously shown that EC-containing particles tend to internally mix with more amount of secondary species with increasing size in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region (Zhang et al., 2014). Differently, SC-EC particles were found to be internally mixed with much more amount of secondary species, which could make the collapse of fractal morphology (Zhang et al., 2008), and thus showed a better fitted scattering curve. An interesting observation is that although associated with limited secondary species (Fig. 3c), NaK-EC type was likely spherical over the detected size range, also showing a well fitted scattering curve. The retrieved n and ρ_{eff} are 1.49 and $1.35\,g\,cm^{-3}$ 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. The retrieved ρ_{eff} are lower than the material density of EC (1.7–$1.9\,g\,cm^{-3}$), due to the changing mixing state and shape factor (Bond and Bergstrom, 2006; Park et al., 2004). The retrieved n for EC are lower than those observed for freshly emitted EC particles (e.g., 1.8–2) (Schmid et al., 2009; Schkolnik et al., 2007),

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which is probably attributed to internally mixed secondary coatings (having n around 1.5) on the processed EC particle types (Moffet et al., 2008), as identified in their mass spectra (Fig. 3).

3.1.3 ECOC group

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

3.1.4 Metal rich group

The Metal rich group, including Na-rich, Na-K, Fe-rich, Pb-rich, Cu-rich, and internally mixed Fe–Cu–Pb types, also exhibits scattering curves that are indicative of the existence of nearly spherical morphology (Figs. 4 and S5). The retrieved n is 1.47–1.51 for this particle group, except for Na-rich (1.41). As expected, higher ρ_{eff} (1.29–1.51 g cm^{-3}) were retrieved for these particle types (Table 1). The Na-rich type typically represents sea salt aerosols (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 noted that the detected Na-rich had experienced atmospheric ageing during transport, evidenced by their mass spectra that associated

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with high amount of nitrate rather than chloride (Gard et al., 1998). The retrieved n for Na-rich particle type is slightly lower than that of a similar particle type (sea salt type, n at 1.43–1.5) observed in California (Moffet et al., 2008). The Fe-rich, Pb-rich, Cu-rich and Cu–Pb–Fe types were previously found to be externally mixed with carbonaceous species and mainly attributed to the emission from local/regional industries (Zhang et al., 2015b). In addition, it is noted that these metal rich types mainly distributed in aerosols of larger size (i.e., > 0.5 µm), and thus the retrieved n and ρ_{eff} only represent such fraction rather than that in smaller size, which may only accounted for a negligible fraction (from less than 0.01 to 3.4 % from this study) (Fig. 5).

3.2 Comparison to previous studies and atmospheric implications

The results show that the scattering curves for majority of particle types can be well modelled (with R^2 greater than 0.95), suggesting the existence of spherical or nearly spherical shape. The majority of the particle types in the present study have n around 1.5 (Table 1), consistent with those of the most abundant species (i.e., ammonium sulfate and organics), observed in the atmosphere of Guangzhou (Andreae et al., 2008). From combined raman lidar and sun photometer observations, Muller et al. (2006) retrieved n at 1.57 ± 0.11 for the haze layer at the similar region. Moffet et al. (2008) showed that majority of particle types in California exhibited very similar n around 1.5, and concluded that the optical properties of these particle types are controlled by the condensation of secondary species. In contrast, the retrieved ρ_{eff} distributes in a wide range of 0.87–1.51 g cm^{-3} in this study, indicative of a diverse distribution of aerosol population in the atmosphere of Guangzhou. Highly diverse rather than homogeneous in chemical compositions of atmosphere aerosols has also been highlighted in regions of worldwide (e.g., California and Mexico city), and it is most likely related to the diversity of sources and differences in age of the particles (Spencer et al., 2007; Roger et al., 2009; Pitz et al., 2008; Levy et al., 2013; Moffet et al., 2008). ρ_{eff} was observed to be in a wide range (1.1–3.4 g cm^{-3}) in Mexico city, Mexico (Moffet et al.,

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2008); (1.05–2.36 g cm^{-3}) in urban Augsburg, Germany (Pitz et al., 2008); and from lower than 1.0 g cm^{-3} due to freshly emitted EC aerosols to as high as 1.8 g cm^{-3} in Texas, USA (Levy et al., 2013). In addition, size-resolved ρ_{eff} is calculated based on the fractional contribution of each particle type as a function of d_{va} (Fig. 5). The trend of the estimated ρ_{eff} is mainly attributed to the chemical diversity as a function of particle sizes (Barone et al., 2011; Hu et al., 2012).

For models that predict the radiative impact of aerosols, it is important to be able to constrain the n and ρ_{eff} of various aerosol components. While the n of pure compositions are fairly well constrained, significant uncertainties exist regarding n for the internally mixed aerosols (e.g., Bond and Bergstrom, 2006; Freedman et al., 2009). When an internal aerosol mixing state is incorporated into a global climate model, the most common way to determine optical properties is to volume-weight the refractive indices of aerosol constituents (Lesins et al., 2002; Ghan and Zaveri, 2007). Freedman et al. (2009) have noted that if species-specific refractive index is used, rather than a volume-weighted average refractive index, then the deviation from the average value could cause a significant difference in radiative forcing. Our results by direct observation on single particle types provide a reference of particle type specific n and ρ_{eff} for further studies on light extinction, or the radiative forcing of atmospheric aerosol in the PRD region. It needs to be noted that the limitation for our study mainly relates to the derivation of the scattering curve from the upper limit of a specific particle type, which represents the ideal case of interaction between spherical particles and the laser beam of SPAMS. As a result, the remaining particles, including irregular shape particles, were not well characterized, although shape is regarded as a potentially important variable in radiative forcing (Adachi et al., 2010). Another limitation may be associated with the assumption that the ρ_{eff} for each particle type was identical in all the sizes in the estimation of size-resolved ρ_{eff}, since ρ_{eff} is not only depend on chemical compositions, but also particle morphology (Hu et al., 2012). Additionally, ambient aerosols were first dried before any measurements in the present study, and thus possible differences may exist for refractive indices when water is counted in (Eichler et al., 2008;

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Dick et al., 2007). The amount of water taken up by the water soluble particle matters changes the particle size distributions and their refractive index, and hence also plays an important role in both visibility impairment and aerosol radiative forcing.

4 Conclusions

The size, mass spectra information, and light scattering signals were simultaneously obtained for chemically segregated ambient aerosols in the atmosphere of Guangzhou, China. Based on comparison between experimental light scattering measurements obtained by a SPAMS and Mie theoretical calculation results, n and ρ_{eff} of 17 particle types in four particle categories, including OC, EC, ECOC, and metal rich groups were retrieved. Majority of the particle types could be well modelled under the assumption that particles are homogeneous internally mixed, existing a spherical or nearly spherical shape. The retrieved n for majority of particle types range from 1.47 to 1.53. However, ρ_{eff} were observed in a wide range of (0.87–1.51 g cm^{-3}), suggesting a chemical diversity aerosol population. Interestingly, EC types of different mixing state showed different microphysical characteristics, which indicates that more detailed observations and simulations are needed for particle types of different age to constrain the assumptions of their n and ρ_{eff} in radiative impact modeling. This work improves the understanding on microphysical properties of individual particles in the urban atmosphere in China, and also provides a reference in the assumptions of n and ρ_{eff} for various aerosol components.

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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}	Nf [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.

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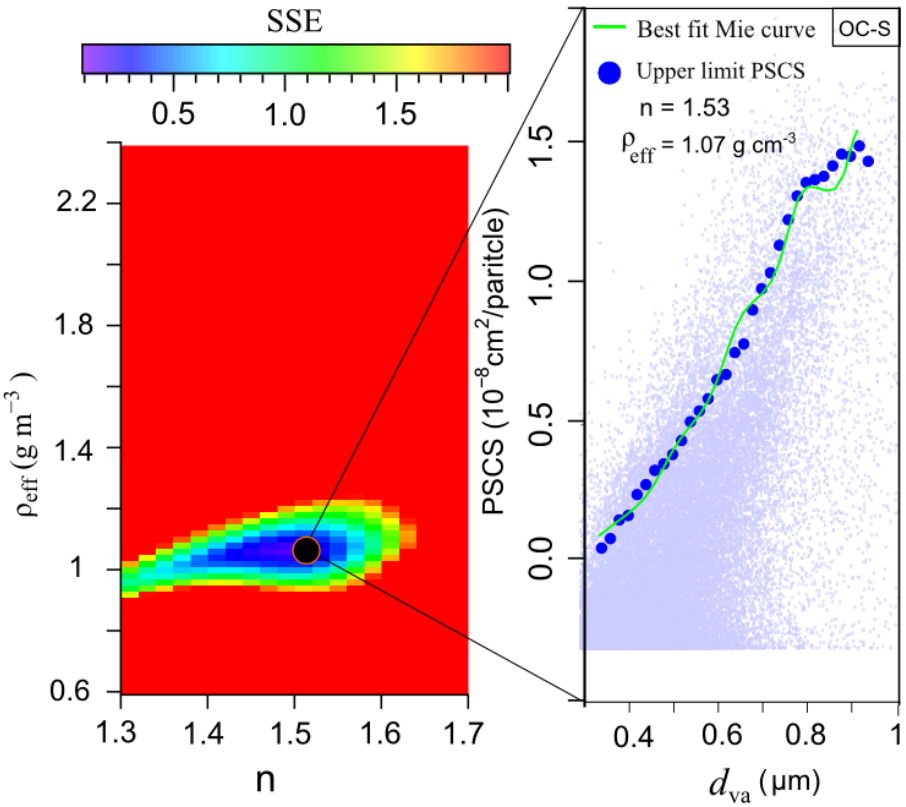

Figure 1. SSE distribution of fitting between measured and theoretical PSCS as a function of n and ρ_{eff} (left), and measured and best fit theoretical PSCS as a function of d_{va} (right) for OC-S. The transformed raw scattering data was displayed with light purple dots.

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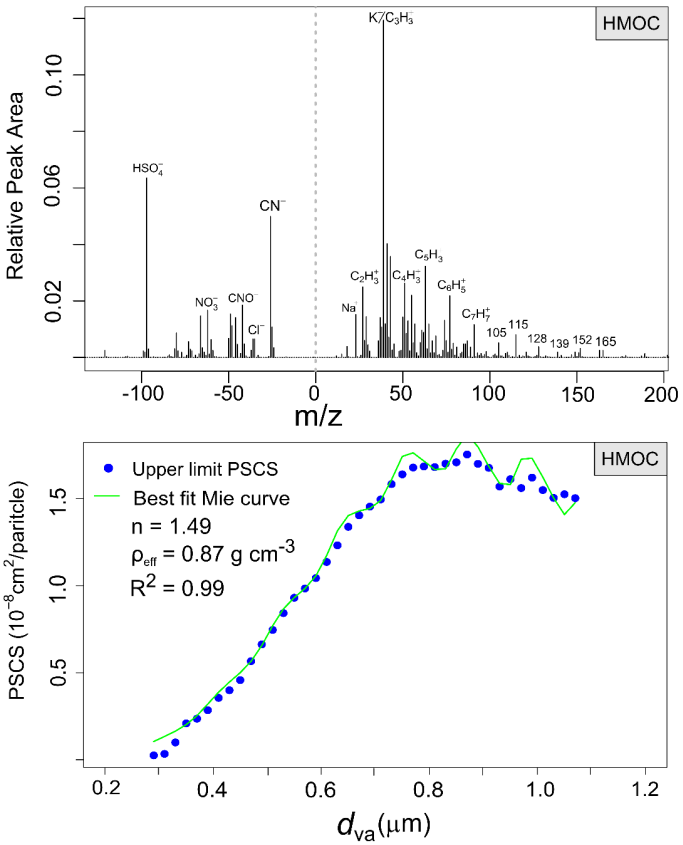

Figure 2. (upper) Mass spectra, and (bottom) measured and best fit theoretical PSCS for HMOC.

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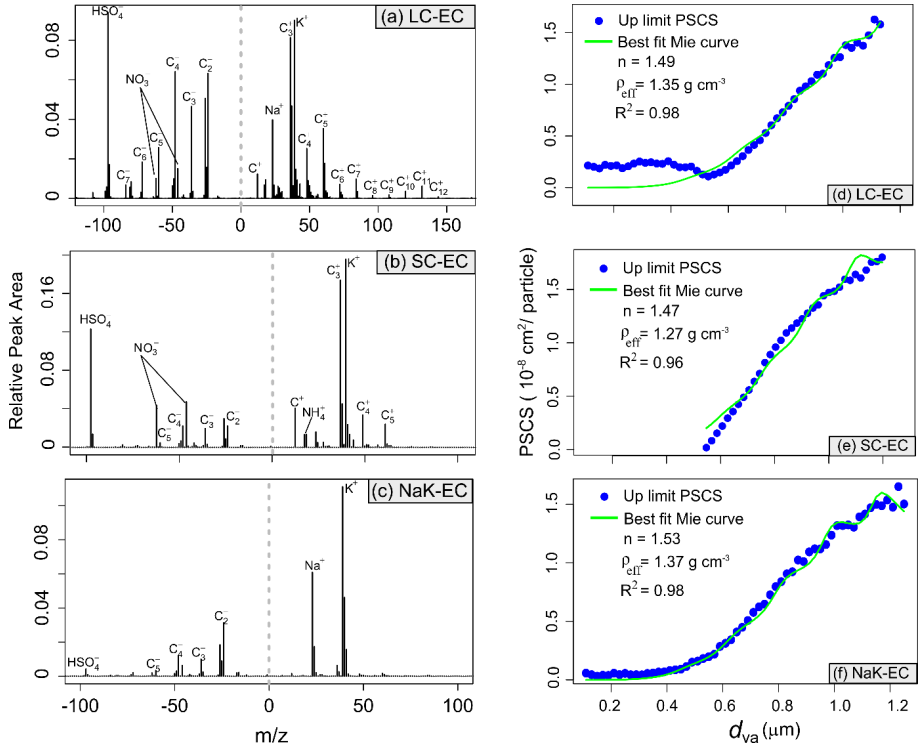

Figure 3. Mass spectra, and measured and best fit theoretical PSCS for LC-EC, SC-EC and NaK-EC.

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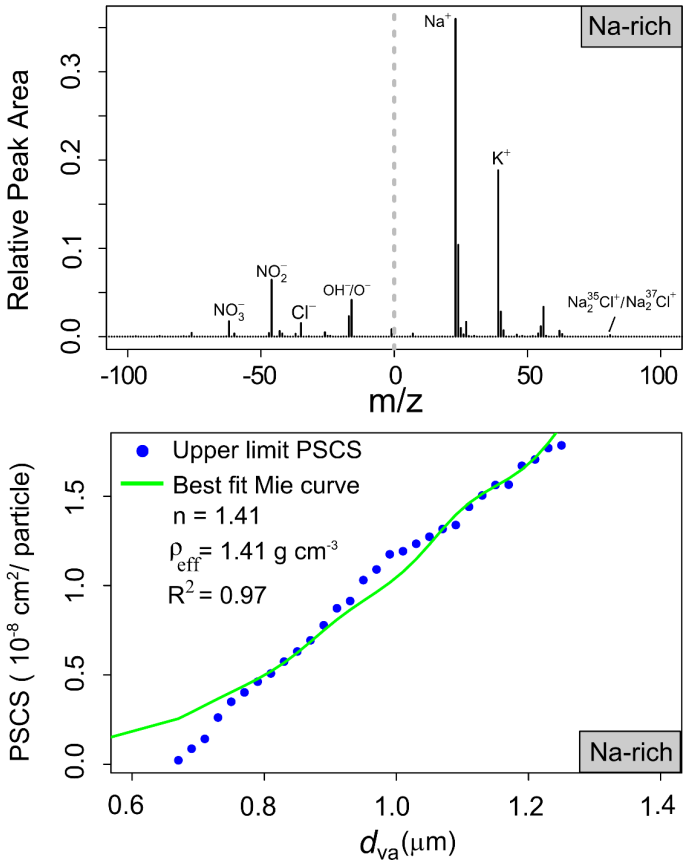

Figure 4. (upper) Mass spectra, and (bottom) measured and best fit theoretical PSCS for Na-rich.

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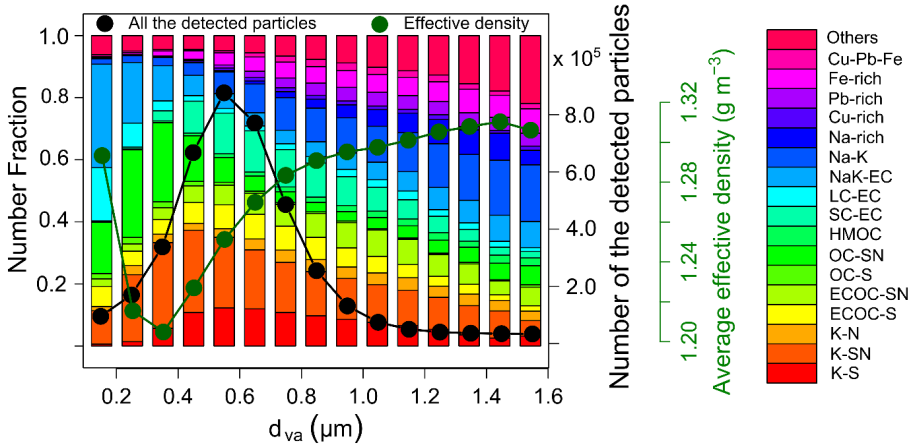

Figure 5. Number fraction, number of all the detected particles, and the estimated average ρ_{eff} of each particle type as a function of d_{va}.

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