

Interactive comment on “Characterization and source apportionment of atmospheric organic and elemental carbon during fall and winter of 2003 in Xi’an, China” by J. J. Cao et al.

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the abnormally high OC/EC ratios could be more deeply commented or questioned - could there be any bias of the TOR/IMPROVE method in such environment (one of the most polluted cities in China, for particles)? - could it be a temperature effect more than a source fingerprint? If so results may point to the ability of coal-derived SVOC to be highly condensable

source apportionment based on OC and EC fraction fingerprint should be more prudent due to the matrix effect

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