

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. We re-measured twenty samples with high carbon contents, the results from different analysis protocols show similar trends. So the high ratios may reflect the variations of primary emission sources. Source appointment of eight carbon fractions present a preliminary result for understanding

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the relative contribution of major sources. Certainly, the accurate result is needed in the further study.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 5, 3561, 2005.

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