

Interactive comment on “PM speciation and sources in Mexico during the MILAGRO-2006 Campaign” by X. Querol et al.

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I find this work original only from the point of view that the authors use different analytical methods to those used in previous papers, and other sampling sites. In this regard, it surprises me that the authors do not mention at all the works carried out by other groups that have spent more than a decade analyzing trace element contents in the atmosphere of Mexico City, v. gr., Aldape et al., Miranda et al., and Mugica et al. My personal opinion is that the inclusion of these results as a reference frame for their discussions might be very helpful. Finally, I would like to say that, although the authors claim that their PCA is used only qualitatively, Henry et al. (Atmospheric Environment 18 (1984) 1507-1515), clearly explain that, in order of having statistically significant results with PCA, it is necessary to have at least a number of samples larger than 30 +

$(V+3)/2$, where V is the number of elements or compounds used. This way, in this work N should be at least 45, as the authors seem to use 27 elements and compounds. I would suggest revising the corresponding results. Unfortunately, I have read several papers published without this consideration.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 7, 10589, 2007.

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