

Interactive comment on “Chemical characterization and source apportionment of submicron aerosols measured in Senegal during the 2015 SHADOW campaign” by Laura-Hélène Rivellini et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 3 April 2017

Manuscript is a well-written and organized and it offers important information about the aerosols and their sources in West-Africa, Senegal. I recommend it for publishing in ACP after addressing some comments below.

1. Aerosol acidity approach (Chapter 3.1.3, equation 11?) is valid if the influence of metal ions, as well as organic acids and bases on NH_4^+ concentration is negligible (Zhang et al., 2007). When the sulfate to NH_4^+ ratio is high, the amount of atmospheric ammonium is not sufficient to neutralize all SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- and Cl^- anions. In such a case at least a fraction of NO_3^- and Cl^- anions must be associated with cations other

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than NH₄⁺ and Eq. (11) is no longer valid. This should be discussed and clarified in the revised manuscript.

2. Recently, it has been demonstrated that some inorganic salts (e.g. (NH₄)₂SO₄) have a positive bias on the CO₂₊-signal through reaction on the aerosol mass spectrometer vaporizer (Pieber et al., 2016). This interference is highly variable between instruments and with measurement history. How big is this interference value for your ACSM and possible impacts on data analyses including PMF.
3. How can authors explain high NO₃-concentrations in air masses from South-West? The air mass history can be investigated e.g. using backtrajectories calculated with the HYbrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPPLIT).
4. What are the following steps for aerosol research in this region of the world? Are these results valuable for policy makers to guide cleanup and decision making for future industry? Please, improve discussion.

References

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Zhang, Q., Jimenez, J. L., Worsnop, D. R., and Canagaratna, M.: A case study of urban particle acidity and its influence on secondary organic aerosol, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 41, 3213–3219, 2007.

Interactive comment on *Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.*, doi:10.5194/acp-2016-1127, 2017.

