

## ***Interactive comment on “Brown carbon absorption in the red and near infrared spectral region” by A. Hoffer et al.***

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Thanks for finding our paper interesting. We will revise the paper to fully address the issues raised by this reviewer. However, there appears to be a lot of misunderstanding about our paper. First, we believe that tar balls are a member of brown carbon (BrC) aerosols. We stated this and did not deny this in the paper.

Looks like this reviewer believes that methanol extracts contain all the brown carbon material (i.e., all the brown color chromophores). This thinking is shared by many others, and is what we are challenging through our paper. There is no solid evidence in the literature that methanol can extract all the BrC aerosols or organic aerosols by dissolution, and so it is strange that so many people believe this (i.e., that methanol extracts contain all the brown carbon). If there is any evidence, please let us know.

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Like the reviewer doesn't believe, we don't believe either that methanol extracts absorb the far red and near-infrared spectrum. We are however presenting evidence that a) methanol can only extract a portion of brown color chromophores, and b) tar ball brown color chromosphere is not completely methanol soluble. We will improve the clarity during the revision.

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