Interactive comment on "Aerosol sources in the western Mediterranean during summertime: A modelbased approach"

by Mounir Chrit et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

This modeling study presents the aerosol results of the air-quality model Polyphemus applied to western Mediterranean in summer periods during the ChArMEx campaigns. In their previous publication (Chrit et al., 2017) the authors focused on organic aerosols simulated for the same periods. In this manuscript, modelled PM10, PM1, OM1 and inorganic aerosols were evaluated against measurements at the same site in Corsica as in the previous publication. In addition, sensitivity of model results to meteorological model, anthropogenic emission inventory and some model parameterization was analyzed. The air pollution over the Mediterranean is a significant topic and this manuscript might contribute to the research in this area. There are however, some critical issues to be clarified, addressed and revised before the manuscript can be considered for publication.

My main concern is about the anthropogenic emissions. According to the manuscript, emission inventory for 2010 was used for simulations of 2012, 2013 and 2014. There is no description in the manuscript how the 2010 emissions were adjusted to other years. This needs clarification and justification. If they were not somehow scaled, then it should be discussed in which emissions and sectors (traffic, ships, industry, etc.) differences between years are expected and how much this would affect the results.

Concerning anthropogenic emissions, EMEP gridded emissions are released every year. However, countries only report gridded emissions every 4 to 5 years (2010, 2015,..), and emissions for 2015 were only release recently, after this work was finished. Gridded emissions of 2012 and 2013 are therefore estimations, and we preferred to use the reported emissions for 2010, especially as the EDGAR-HTAP inventory is also only available in 2005 and 2010.

According to the official non-gridded emissions (http://www.ceip.at/ms/ceip_home1/ceip_home/data_viewers/official_tableau/), NOx and VOC emissions have decreased by 11% over France between 2010 and 2013. Although this 11% may appear high in terms of emissions, its impact on aerosol concentrations is lower, probably a few percents. Furthermore, this decrease is subject to a high level of uncertainties. A large fraction of NOx emissions is due to traffic, and traffic NOx emissions may be under-estimated according to Ntziachristos et al. (2016). Concerning PM emissions, they have also decreased by 8% over France between 2010 and 2013. This is not enough to affect consequently our results, since most of the particle compounds described in this article are secondary. The gridded estimated ship emissions for 2010 and 2013 are similar.

Another weak point in the manuscript is the airborne evaluation (section 4.4). The method for comparison of model results with measurements is poorly described. Meteorological

evaluation is missing for this period which seems to have different wind speed and direction than the other periods. The model performance for meteorology is very important for the interpretation of results. The method chosen to compare the model results with airborne measurements in Figs. 4 and 5 does not seem to be suitable and therefore the interpretation of various sensitivity simulations is difficult.

The method for comparison of model results with measurements is now better described, and a meteorological evaluation is added in Appendix F.

With this airborne to measurement comparison, we aim to assess the concentrations above the Mediterranean sea. Therefore, we averaged vertical profiles not at all locations, but only at locations above the sea, where the flight flew at low altitudes and where the boundary layer was high enough. This approach is similar to the one suggested by the reviewer: we extracted model data from the corresponding grid cells and layers along the flight path to do so, and we averaged only data for cells with similar characteristics (over the sea, high PBL height and low flight altitude).

For clarity, the sentences

"For the comparisons of inorganic concentrations to airborne measurements, the reference simulation S1 is run a few days during the summer 2014 and it is compared to the observed concentrations when the flight is below 800 m.a.s.l. and where the boundary layer is spatially uniform (above 1200 m). The transects where model to measurements are performed are indicated by purple crosses/lines in Figure 1."

Are replaced by

"For the comparisons of inorganic concentrations to airborne measurements, the reference simulation S1 is run a few days during the summer 2014. The simulated concentrations are extracted along the flight path from the corresponding grid cells and layers. For the model to measurement comparisons, only the cells were the plane was flying above the sea, at low altitudes (below 800 m.a.s.l.) with a spatially uniform boundary layer (above 1200 m) are considered."

General comments:

Although they might be published elsewhere, a brief description about the model and input parameters are needed to be given in this manuscript (in Sect. 2) as well (e.g. chemical mechanism, aerosol model, VBS?, particle size (modal or sectional?), boundary conditions, vertical resolution, model top height, which layer is compared with measurements?) Sensitivity simulations for inorganic aerosols should be described earlier in this section (not first in 4.4).

A brief description of the model and input parameters are added in the revised paper: "Vertically, 24 vertical levels are used in WRF and 14 levels are used in Polair3d/Polyphemus. The heights of the cell interfaces are 0, 30, 60, 100, 150, 200, 300, 500, 750, 1000, 1500, 2400, 3500, 6000 and 12 000 m.."

"The numerical algorithms used for transport and the parameterisations used for dry and wet depositions are detailed in Sartelet et al. (2007). Gas-phase chemistry is modelled with the carbon bond 05 mechanism (CB05) (Yarwood et al., 2005), to which reactions are added to model the formation of secondary organic aerosols (Kim et al., 2011; Chrit et al. 2017). The SIze REsolved Aerosol Model (SIREAM; Debry et al., 2007) is used for simulating the dynamics of the aerosol size distribution by coagulation and condensation/evaporation. SIREAM uses a sectional approach and the aerosol distribution is described here using 20 sections of bound diameters: 0.01, 0.0141, 0.0199, 0.0281, 0.0398, 0.0562, 0.0794, 0.1121, 0.1585, 0.2512, 0.3981, 0.6310, 1.0, 1.2589, 1.5849, 1.9953, 2.5119, 3.5481, 5.0119, 7.0795 and 10.0 µm. The condensation/evaporation of inorganic aerosols is determined using the thermodynamic model ISORROPIA (Nenes et al., 1998) with a bulk equilibrium approach in order to compute the partitioning between the gaseous and particle phases of aerosols. Because the concentrations and the partitioning between gaseous and particle phases of chloride, nitrate, ammonium is strongly affected bv condensation/evaporation and reactions with other pollutants, sensitivities of these concentrations to hypothesis used in the modeling (thermodynamic equilibrium, mixed sea-salt and anthropogenic aerosols) are also performed (section 4.4.2).

For organic aerosols, the gas-particle partitioning of the surrogates is computed using SOAP assuming bulk equilibrium (Couvidat and Sartelet, 2015), and bulk equilibrium is also assumed for SOA partitioning. The gas-particle partitioning of hydrophobic surrogates is modeled following Pankow (1994), with absorption by the organic phase (hydrophobic surrogates). The gas- particle partitioning of hydrophilic surrogates is computed using the Henry's law modified to extrapolate infinite dilution conditions to all conditions using an aqueous-phase partitioning coefficient, with absorption by the aqueous phase (hydrophilic organics, inorganics and water). Activity coefficients are computed with the thermodynamic model UNIFAC (UNIversal Functional group; Fredenslund et al., 1975). After condensation/evaporation, the moving diameter algorithm is used for mass redistribution among size bins. As detailed in Chrit et al. (2017), anthropogenic intermediate/semi-volatile organic compounds (I/S-VOC) emissions are emitted as three primary surrogates of different volatilities (characterized by their saturation concentrations C*: $\log(C^*) = -0.04$, 1.93, 3.5). The ageing of each primary surrogate is represented through a single oxidation step, without NOx dependence, to produce a secondary surrogate of lower volatility $(\log(C^*) = -2.4, -0.064, 1.5 \text{ respectively})$ but higher molecular weight. Gaseous I/S-VOC emissions are missing from emission inventories, they are estimated here as detailed in Zhu et al. (2016) by multiplying the primary organic emissions (POA) by 1.5, and by assigning them to species of different volatilities. A sensitivity study where I-S/VOC emissions are not taken into account is also performed."

"The boundary conditions for the European simulation are calculated from the global model MOZART4 (Horowitz et al., 2003) (https://www.acom.ucar.edu/wrf-chem/mozart.shtml), and those for the Mediterranean domain are obtained from the European simulation. Mineral dust emissions are not calculated in the model, but are provided from the boundaries, and their heterogeneous reactions to form nitrate and sulfate are not taken into account."

For clarity about the description of the sensitivity simulations, Section 2.1 is renamed "Simulation set-up and alternative parameterizations", and the following sentences are added:

"In order to simulate aerosol formation over the western Mediterranean, the Polair3d/Polyphemus air quality model is used, with the set-up described in Chrit et al. (2017) and summarized here. For

parameters/parameterizations that are particularly attached to uncertainties (anthropogenic emissions, meteorology, sea-salt emissions, modeling of condensation/evaporation), the alternative parameters/ parameterizations that are used in the sensitivity studies are also detailed for emissions and meteorology. For computational reasons, alternative parameterizations for the modeling of condensation/evaporation are only used in the comparisons to airborne measurements in section 4.4, where they are detailed. "

Please do not use SIA (Secondary Inorganic Aerosols) as sum of Cl, NO₃, NH₄.

SIA usually refers to ammonium nitrate and sulfate (SO₄, NO₃, NH₄).

SIA is replaced in the revised paper by chloride, nitrate and ammonium, or by the term VIA (Volatile Inorganic Aerosols)

Please avoid one-sentence paragraphs (e.g. page 9, lines 17-18).

In the revised paper, this sentence is moved to the beginning of the paragraph below this one.

Specific comments:

Title: Although the title is *"Aerosol sources ..."* there is no clear conclusion about the sources. It is more a sensitivity analysis of the model results.

The conclusion was rewritten to better describe the aerosol sources.

- Sulfate originates mostly from maritime traffic. Furthermore, maritime traffic leads to the formation of oxidants that in turn enhance the formation of biogenic aerosols, with the potential formation of organic nitrate and organo sulfate.

- Organics are mostly from a biogenic origins. Even if the contribution of sea-salt emissions to organic concentrations is low, organic concentrations are strongly influenced by sea-salt emissions, because they partition between the gas and the particle phases and they are hydrophilic. This underlines the need to better characterize the properties (affinity with water) of secondary organic aerosols.

- Secondary pollutants, such as nitrate, ammonium and chloride, as the particle-phase concentrations are strongly influenced by the gas/particle phase partitioning, because a high percentage of their concentration is in the gas phase. This underlines the need to develop aerosol models able to represent accurately this gas-phase partitioning.

- There is a high sensitivity of secondary pollutants (inorganics and organics) to meteorology, stressing the importance of accurate meteorological modeling and the potential strong influence of climate change on the concentrations of these secondary pollutants.

P2, L4: Please consider citing more recent studies.

Debevec et al. 2017, Doche et al., 2014, Menut et al., 2015, Nabat et al., 2013 and Safieddine et al., 2014 are added as references in the revised paper.

P2, L9: Di Biagio et al. (2015) This reference was corrected in the revised paper.

P2, L19-20: "Difficulties in modeling aerosol concentrations..", It is not clear what is meant here; all or only inorganic aerosols? Please revise it.

It is meant "all". This sentence was replaced in the revised paper by " Difficulties in modeling atmospheric particles, ..."

P4: Was ECMWF data in mother domain $(0.25^{\circ}x0.25^{\circ})$ used also for the nested domain with a finer horizontal resolution? If yes, please describe how they were adapted to the finer resolution.

In the reference simulation, ECMWF was used for both domains. ECMWF data were interpolated to the model grid. For clarity, the sentence "In the reference simulation, meteorological data are provided by the European Center for Medium-RangeWeather Forecasts (ECMWF) model (horizontal resolution: $0.25^{\circ} \times 0.25^{\circ}$)." is replaced by "In the reference simulation, meteorological data are provided by the European Center for

Medium-RangeWeather Forecasts (ECMWF) model (horizontal resolution: $0.25^{\circ} \times 0.25^{\circ}$), which are interpolated to the Europe and Mediterranean domains. "

P5, L12: Please add the version of MEGAN used in the simulations. Which meteorological data was used to calculate biogenic emissions? Were biogenic emissions re-calculated using different meteorological data for the sensitivity simulations? Please clarify it and add to the text.

The model uses the standard MEGAN LAIv database (MEGAN-L, Guenther et al. 2006) with the EFv2.1 dataset. Yes, the biogenic emissions were re-calculated using the different meteorological data for the sensitivity simulations.

The sentence "Biogenic emissions are estimated using Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) (Guenther et al., 2006)." was modified in the revised paper: "Biogenic emissions are estimated using Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) with the standard MEGAN LAIv database (MEGAN-L, Guenther et al., 2006) and the EFv2.1 dataset. For the different simulations, these emissions are recalculated with the meteorological data used for transport."

P5, L13-14: Using emissions of 2010 for simulations of 2012, 2013, 2014 needs some discussion. If 2010 data were used without any scaling for other years, it should be justified and it should also be discussed in which sectors (traffic, ships, industry, etc.) differences between years are expected and how much this would affect the results.

Concerning anthropogenic emissions, EMEP gridded emissions are released every year. However, countries only report gridded emissions every 4 to 5 years (2010, 2015,..), and emissions for 2015 were only release recently, after this work was finished. Gridded emissions of 2012 and 2013 are therefore estimations, and we preferred to use the reported emissions for 2010, especially as the EDGAR-HTAP inventory is also only available in 2005 and 2010. According to the official non-gridded emissions

According to the official non-gridded emissions (http://www.ceip.at/ms/ceip_home1/ceip_home/data_viewers/official_tableau/), NOx and VOC emissions have decreased by 11% over France between 2010 and 2013. Although this 11% may appear high in terms of emissions, its impact on aerosol concentrations is lower, probably a few percents. Furthermore, this decrease is subject to a high level of uncertainties. A large fraction of NOx emissions is due to traffic, and traffic NOx emissions may be under-estimated according to Ntziachristos et al. (2016). Concerning PM emissions, they have also decreased by 8% over France between 2010 and 2013. This is not enough to affect consequently our results, since most of the particle compounds described in this article are secondary.

P6, L3-4: *"inorganic aerosols (chloride, nitrate, ammonium)"* Please remove *"inorganic aerosols"*, just write those species relevant for partitioning. *"Inorganic aerosols"* is removed from this sentence in the revised paper.

P8, L2: Please make it clear: results from which model layer were used for comparison with measurements, was any interpolation applied?

No interpolation was applied. For clarity, the sentence: "Simulated concentrations are compared to ground-based measurements performed at Ersa" is replaced by "Simulated concentrations in the first vertical level of the model are compared to ground-based measurements performed at Ersa"

P8, L10: '*The inorganic precursors HNO₃*, *HCl and SO₂ were measured*... " NH₃ is one of the most important precursors for inorganic aerosols. Were there any measurements of ammonia? Some information about ammonia emissions (temporal profiles, uncertainties) would be useful for discussion of SIA.

Unfortunately, due to instrumentation problem during the measurement campaign, the measurements of ammonia are not available. Uncertainties on the spatial distribution of ammonia emissions are partly taken into account in the differences between EDGAR-HTAP and EMEP emission inventories. We did not explore the effect of uncertainties in the temporal profiles, although we expect them to be lower than the uncertainties on gas/phase partitioning. Because, over the Mediterranean in summer, ammonia is expected to be mostly in the gas phase, the particle concentration is mostly dependent on the modeled gas/particle partitioning.

P 8, L30: "...*Appendix A of comparison*..." please replace "*of*" with "and" "of" was replaced by "and" in the revised paper.

P9, L1: Although the mean values over the whole period look satisfactory, Fig. B1 shows bias as high as about 5K in daily points. Deviation in hourly values might be even higher. Please consider the effect of T bias on especially nitrate discussions.

The deviation is now taken into account in the statistics MB, which is added to the paper. A discussion of the effect of T bias on nitrate formation is added to section 4.3.1.

P9, L6-7: An explanation is needed for why ECMWF performs better in spite of its coarser resolution than WRF.

It is added to the paper that WRF was forced here with NCEP meteorological fields for initial and boundary conditions. NCEP has a lower resolution than WRF (1°x1° grid spacing). On small computational domains, such as the ones used here, the performance of WRF is strongly linked to the performance of the meteorological model used for the forcing.

P9, L17-18: "*Tables 5*": should be "Table 5" "Tables 5" is replaced by "Tables 3, 4, 5, 6" in the revised paper.

P9, L19-22: Authors might consider using recommended statistical parameters for the discussion in meteorological-model evaluation (EPA 2007). Evaluation of meteorology for summer 2014 is not shown. Since wind direction seems to be different than other summers, it is necessary to know how the model performance is for discussion in Section 4.4.

A comparison with Emery et al. 2001 performance criteria is added in the revised paper: "As mentioned in EPA 2007 report, Emery et al. (2001) proposed benchmarks for temperature (mean bias (MB) within ± 0.5 K and gross error (GE) < 2.0 K), wind speed (MB within ± 0.5 m s⁻¹ and RMSE < 2ms⁻¹) and wind direction (MB within $\pm 10^{\circ}$ and GE < 30°). McNally (2009) suggested an alternative set of benchmarks for temperature (MB within ± 1.0 K and GE < 3.0 K)." The statistics are then discussed through the section on the model to measurements comparisons. The comparison of the modeled and measured meteorological data during the flight of 10 July 2014 is shown in Appendix F. P11, L22: "probably because of higher occurrence of transported desert dust in 2012" Please provide some evidence to support this hypothesis.

Nabat et al. 2015 showed during the ChArMEx/TRAQA (TRansport and Air QuAlity) campaign that focused on the characterization of the polluted air masses over the Mediterranean basin during the summer 2012 that a particularly intense dust event has been measured with different observation means (balloons, aircraft, surface and remote-sensing measurements).

This reference is added in the revised paper: "...probably because of higher occurrence of transported desert dust in 2012 (Nabat et al. 2015)"

P11, L23-24: ".. *PM1 concentration is slightly over-estimated during summer 2013.*" In Table 7 however, PM1 in 2013 seems to be under-estimated. Please check and revise the sentence.

The sentence ".. the mean PM_1 concentration is slightly overestimated during summer 2013.." is replaced in the revised paper by: " ... the mean PM_1 concentration is slightly under-estimated during summer 2013 ..."

P12, L1-13: In this section, it is not clear whether the discussion is about the measured or modeled composition (also in Fig. 3). Please revise it.

The composition discussed in Fig 3 and in this section are the simulated compositions. It is added in Fig 3 caption and in the text of the revised paper: "... above. Figure 3 shows the simulated composition of ..." and "... variability. According to simulation, inorganic aerosols account for a large part of the PM_{10} mass: during the summer campaign periods of 2012 and 2013..."

P12, L7: BC appears for the first time here. How was BC measured? The percentage mentioned here is the simulated percentage of BC. It is now easier to understand in the revised version, as "According to simulation" was added at the beginning of the description of the composition of PM₁₀.

P14, L6-9: Justification of underestimated ammonium (even more with EMEP emissions) based only on ship NOx emissions sounds not completely right. It might also be due to differences in NH₃ emissions between the two inventories.

The influence of the differences of NH3 emissions between the two inventories are very low over the sea (lower than 1%), because NH3 shipping emissions are very low over the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, we believe that the differences in NH3 emissions between the inventories are limited over the sea.

P14, L20-23: Please consider revising the sentence "For nitrate, the total nitrate (gas + particle phase) is under-estimated between 21 and 26 July 2013 (2.7 μ g m-3 in the measurements and 6.6 μ g m-3 simulated), and most of it is in the gas phase (only 0.4 μ g m-3 in the particle phase in the measurements and 0.2 simulated)"

If measurements are 2.7 and simulations are 6.6, total nitrate is not underestimated but overestimated. It would also be necessary to show these numbers somewhere.

Yes, indeed, this "underestimated" is replaced by "overestimated". We did not show these numbers in the Tables because measurements were only performs for a few days, and not over the whole measurement periods.

P15, L2-3: "By influencing biogenic emissions, meteorology affects the formation of organics and hence the formation of inorganics (because of formation of organic nitrate)." This sentence needs some justification and references (e.g. for organic nitrate formation Ng et al. 2017, for inorganic nitrate formation Aksoyoglu et al., 2017).

Meteorological parameters affecting biogenic emissions are mainly temperature and radiation. How much can be the difference in biogenic emissions due to using another meteorological model (due to differences in T and radiation) to cause such a significant change in inorganics shown in Table 10? If it is difficult to provide any data to support the role of meteorology via biogenic emissions, then please add some discussion using other published studies.

References and discussions are added to the revised paper: "By influencing biogenic emissions, meteorology affects the formation of organics (Sartelet et al. 2012), because they are mostly of biogenic origins in summer (Chrit et al. 2017). The influence of meteorology on biogenic emissions also affects the formation of inorganics because of the modification of oxidant concentrations (Aksoyoglu et al. 2017) and because of the formation of organic nitrate (Ng et al., 2017)."

P15, L5: *"hence the oxidants and the nitrate formation"* Please make it clear whether it is organic or inorganic nitrate.

This sentence is modified in the revised paper: "hence the oxidants and both organic and inorganic nitrate formation".

P15, L9-18: Evaluation of meteorological parameters for the period of 9-10 July 2014 when airborne measurements were performed is missing. How was the modelled wind speed and direction? Which model layer concentrations were compared to aircraft measurements?

For clarity about the model layers compared, the sentence "The meteorological fields during this flight are compared with measured data in Appendix F. For the comparisons of inorganic concentrations to airborne measurements, the reference simulation S1 is run a few days during the summer 2014 and it is compared to the observed concentrations when the flight is below 800 m.a.s.l." is replaced by "For the comparisons of inorganic concentrations to airborne measurements, the reference simulation S1 is run a few days during the summer 2014 and it is compared to the observed concentrations when the flight is below 800 m.a.s.l." is replaced by "For the comparisons of inorganic concentrations to airborne measurements, the reference simulation S1 is run a few days during the summer 2014 and the vertical distribution of concentrations is compared to the observed concentrations when the flight is below 800 m.a.s.l."

The comparison of temperature, wind speed and direction is added in Appendix F of the revised paper.

P15, L19-21: Please remove this information from here and give in the following corresponding sections.

The sentences are moved. At the beginning of the section 4.4.1 of the revised paper, we added: "Figure 4 shows the comparison of sulfate to the airborne measurements using different model configurations. Sulfate is the inorganic compound with the highest PM₁ concentrations (about 0.54 μ g m⁻³)" and we added at the beginning of the section 4.4.2: "Figure 5 shows the comparison of nitrate and ammonium concentrations in PM₁. The simulated means of ammonium and nitrate are about 0.32 μ g m⁻³ and about 0.14 μ g m⁻³ respectively."

P17, L1-2: Can the over estimation of sulfate be due to emissions? How were the emissions from ship stacks treated? If they were vertically distributed, to which model layer were they emitted?

Yes, ship stacks emissions were not vertically distributed but added in the first model level. The overestimation of sulfate emissions may be due to the overestimation of sulfate emissions, or to the treatment of ship emissions. This remark is added in the revised paper. The sentence "This is indicative of the overestimation of sulfate or sulfuric acid emissions, or to the treatment in the model of emissions from ship stacks." is added after the sentence "A comparison of PM_{10} sulfate concentrations for the two simulations show that this is also the case for PM_{10} sulfate concentrations."

P18, L2: "*ammonium and nitrate and chloride*.." please replace the first "and" with a comma.

The first "and" is replaced by a comma in the revised paper.

P18, L28-29: Please do not use SIA for chloride, nitrate and ammonium. The term SIA is removed from the whole revised paper, and it is replaced by chloride, nitrate and ammonium.

P18, L30- 31: "*OM1 concentrations are high nearby locations of high biogenic emissions*" Is there any evidence (high biogenic SOA) to support this sentence or any reference for high biogenic emissions in those regions?

A map of biogenic VOCs (terpenes + isoprene) emissions is added in Appendix E of the revised paper, and a reference to this Figure is added in the text of the revised paper.

P19, L9: This sentence suggests that biogenic emissions were recalculated using different meteorology so that impacts on biogenic emissions were taken into account. If it is the case, this should be described in the methods section.

This precision is added in the methods section: "Biogenic emissions are estimated using Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) with the standard MEGAN LAIv database (MEGAN-L, Guenther et al., 2006) and the EFv2.1 dataset. For the different simulations, these emissions are recalculated with the meteorological data used for transport."

P20, L5-8: It needs some discussion how sulfate (and other inorganic aerosols) is affected by sea-salt parameterization.

The marine sulfate is directly emitted by sea salt (sulfate is assumed to be 4% of the sea-salt emissions as detailed in the section describing the model). The sentence "Although sulfate is little influenced by sea-salt emissions at Ersa (the relative concentration difference is between 0% and 20%), the effect is stronger over the western part of the Mediterranean domain (with relative concentration differences between S3 and S1 between 20% and 60%), where SIA concentrations are also strongly influenced by sea-salt emissions. " is replaced by "As sulfate is assumed to make only 4% of sea-salt emissions (section 2.1), the influence of sea-salt emissions on sulfate concentrations at ERSA is low (the relative concentration difference is between 0% and 20%). The effect is stronger over the western part of the Mediterranean domain (with relative concentration differences between S3 and S1 between 20% and 60%), where sea-salt emissions are stronger. Chloride concentrations are also strongly influenced by sea-salt emissions). Nitrate and ammonium concentrations are also

strongly influenced by sea-salt emissions, because of thermodynamic exchanges between the gas and particle phases of chloride, nitrate and ammonium."

P20, L31: In addition to temperature, other parameters such as radiation (for photolysis) and humidity also affect the reactions and formation of secondary products.

In the revised paper, we added: "... the impact on temperature, humidity and radiation, influencing the secondary ..."

Table 10: Measured and modeled means of nitrate are similar (slight overestimation) while MFB is negative -24. Is this correct?

The simulated mean is slightly higher than the observed mean. This is due to the high peaks. However, the concentrations of NO_3 are overall underestimated. That is why the bias is negative bias even though the modeled mean is slightly higher than the observed mean.

Figures:

Fig. 1: Is it reasonable to have such a low PBLH at noon over the sea north of Corsica? Can it be validated?

As shown by Von Engeln et al. 2013, over the Mediterranean Sea, the summer season shows low PBL values (lower than 500 m) possibly due to less contrast between air and sea temperatures [this pattern is also found in Seidel et al. (2012)].

Fig. 3: Are these measured or modeled compositions? Please revise the caption. These are modeled compositions. It is added in the caption of Fig 3 in the revised paper.

Figs. 4-5: This is the first place where "model levels" are mentioned. This has to be described in the methods section.

In section 2.1 of the revised paper, we added a description of the vertical levels: "The heights of the cell interfaces are 0, 30, 60, 100, 150, 200, 300, 500, 750, 1000, 1500, 2400, 3500, 6000 and 12 000 m."

These figures are difficult to understand. Averaged vertical profiles do not give any information about the location. Looking at the purple lines in Fig 1, it seems to me that the location can be either close to the southern coast of France, over the sea in the middle between French coast and Corsica or close to the Corsican coast. In addition, profiles seem to have a wide range (lines at certain altitudes) which makes the average values very uncertain. It would be more useful to extract model data from the corresponding grid cells and layers along the flight path for comparison with measurements. Because of these uncertainties, discussion in whole section 4.4 about sensitivity simulations does not make much sense.

With this airborne to measurement comparison, we aim to assess the concentrations above the Mediterranean sea. Therefore, we averaged vertical profiles not at all locations, but only at locations above the sea, where the flight flew at low altitudes and where the boundary layer was high enough. This approach is similar to the one suggested by the reviewer: we extracted model data from the corresponding grid cells and layers along the flight path to do so, and we averaged only data for cells with similar characteristics (over the sea, high PBL height and low flight altitude).

For clarity, the sentences

"For the comparisons of inorganic concentrations to airborne measurements, the reference simulation S1 is run a few days during the summer 2014 and it is compared to the observed concentrations when the flight is below 800 m.a.s.l. and where the boundary layer is spatially uniform (above 1200 m). The transects where model to measurements are performed are indicated by purple crosses/lines in Figure 1."

Are replaced by

"For the comparisons of inorganic concentrations to airborne measurements, the reference simulation S1 is run a few days during the summer 2014. The simulated concentrations are extracted from the corresponding grid cells and layers along the flight path. For the model to measurement comparisons, only the cells were the plane was flying above the sea, at low altitudes (below 800 m.a.s.l.) with a spatially uniform boundary layer (above 1200 m) are considered."

Fig. B1: WRF Lambert OBSGRID is worst (bias 5K) in spite of nudging, why? Please replace "wind module" with "wind speed"

We did not assimilate WRF Lambert data with the observations at Ersa but using the NCEP global observations which are quite far from Ersa. That is why the effect of nudging may not provide improved model to measurement comparisons at ERSA. In the revised paper, "wind module" is replace by "wind speed".

Fig. B2: What is the reason of less variation in 2013 with respect to 2012?

The variations between the different models are similar between the 2 years. It looks like there is less variation in 2012 because 2012 is simulated for less than a month, whereas 2013 is simulated for 2 months. The variations in June 2012 and June 2013 are similar (about 5K in temperature for 2012 and 4K in 2013; about 11m/s in wind speed in 2012 and 7m/s in 2013).

Fig. C1. S1 cannot be seen in the OM1 figure. Are S1 and S5 overlapped? Scales in x-axes are different, i.e. PM10 July06-July31, PM1 June06-Aug05, OM1 Jun07-Aug05. It would be better if they were consistent, also with the meteorological figures (B1)

Yes, S1 and S5 are overlapped. Figure C1 is modified in the revised paper so that they are consistent with Fig B1.

Fig. C3: The modeled PM10 and PM1 NO₃ look exactly the same in all simulations, suggesting that coarse nitrate was not modeled. If this is the case, it should be mentioned in the methods section. Then there is no need to show the figure for PM10 NO₃ (same for NH₄ too).

The PM10 NO_3 and NH_4 are removed from Fig C3. Coarse nitrate is modelled, but the dust heterogeneous reactions to form nitrate and sulfate are not. The following sentence is added in the

method section "Dust heterogeneous reactions to form nitrate and sulfate are not taken into account".

Fig. D1: Please give the size fraction for the figures in the lower 2 panels. The size fraction for the two lower panels of Fig D1 is the coarse fraction. It is added in the caption of Figure D1 in the revised paper.

Map for Cl+NO₃+NH₄ (please do not call it SIA) shows high concentrations (up to 24 microg/m³). Please give some information which species is contributing more to this high level. Considering highly polluted Po Basin and high ammonia emissions in the region, high concentrations are very likely due to ammonium nitrate. It would make more sense to show maps of NO₃ and NH₄ separately and not to sum with Cl.

Maps of NO_3 and NH_4 are shown in Figure D5 of the revised paper. It shows that high concentrations of both inorganics are located over the same region stressing indeed the fact that they are due to the formation of ammonium nitrate.

Fig. D2. It would be useful to see also the absolute differences. Maps representing the absolute differences are shown in Figure D6 of the revised paper.

Fig. D3: please separate Cl from NO_3 and NH_4 . It is probably dominated by Cl. Yes, it is dominated by Cl. A map of NO3 + NH4 is shown in Appendix D7.

Please revise the following references: Chrit et al 2017, Cholakian et al. 2017 These references are corrected in the revised paper.

References added to the paper:

EPA, U.: Guidance on the use of models and other analyses for demonstrating attainment of air quality goals for ozone, PM2.5, and regional haze, US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 2007.

Aksoyoglu, S., Ciarelli, G., El-Haddad, I., Baltensperger, U., and Prévôt, A. S. H.: Secondary inorganic aerosols in Europe: sources and the significant influence of biogenic VOC emissions, especially on ammonium nitrate, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 17, 7757-7773, https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-17-7757-2017, 2017.

A. Von Engeln, J. Teixeira A planetary boundary layer height climatology derived from ECMWF reanalysis data. J. Clim., 26 (2013), pp. 6575-6590, 10.1175/JCLI-D-12-00385.1

Seidel, D., Y. Zhang, A. Beljaars, J.-C. Golaz, A. Jacobson, and B.Medeiros, 2012: Climatology of the planetary boundary layer over the continental United States and Europe. J. Geophys. Res., 117, D17106, doi:10.1029/2012JD018143.

Aksoyoglu, S., Baltensperger, U., and Prévôt, A. S. H. (2016). Contribution of ship emissions to the concentration and deposition of air 5 pollutants in Europe. Atmos. Chem. Phys., 16:1895–1906.

Ntziachristos, L. and G. Papadimitriou, N. Ligterink, S. Hausberger, (2016). Implications of diesel emissions control failures to emission factors and road transport NOx evolution, Atmospheric Environment, 141, pp 542-551.g

Interactive comment on "Aerosol sources in the western Mediterranean during summertime: A model-based approach"

by Mounir Chrit et al.

Anonymous Referee #3 Received and published: 30 January 2018

This study presents the sensitivity of aerosols and their chemical composition over the Eastern Mediterranean as calculated by different model simulations performed in the framework of their ChArMEx experiment. The manuscript is very well organized and easy to follow, with a good level of English language. The manuscript is suitable for publication in ACP provided that the below minor comments are addressed in a revised version.

Material and Methods

1) Is the WRF model configured with 1-way or 2-way nested?

The WRF model was configured with 1-way nesting method.

This sentence is added in the revised version ".... To simulate WRF meteorological fields over the Mediterranean domain, 1-way nested WRF simulations are conducted on two nested domains ..."

2) It would be good if more background is provided on how these different configurations for meteorology are designed.

The sentence:

"Before conducting the sensitivity study relative to meteorology (section 3) by using two different meteorological datasets, WRF is run with a number of different configurations, which are compared to measurements in section 3." is replaced by

"Before conducting the sensitivity study relative to meteorology (section 3) by using two different meteorological datasets, WRF is run with a number of different configurations, which are compared to measurements in section 3. In these configurations, the same physical parameterisations are used, but with different horizontal coordinates." Furthermore, the description of the WRF configuration is added in the revised version:

"The WRF configuration used for this study consists of the Single Moment-5 class microphysics scheme (Hong et al., 2004), the RRTM radiation scheme (Mlawer et al, 1997), the Monin-Obukhov surface layer scheme (Janjic, 2003), and the NOAA Land Surface Model scheme for land surface physics (Chen et al., 2001). Sea surface temperature update, surface grid nudging (Liu et al., 2012, Bowden et al., 2012) options are activated. In the first configuration (WRF-Lon-Lat), horizontal ..."

3) It is not clear from the text that both EMEP emissions and HTAP emissions are used in the simulations. Refer to Table 1.

The following sentence is added in the revised paper.

"... higher in HTAP emission inventory). HTAP emissions are used in the reference simulation and EMEP emissions for a sensitivity study as shown in Table 1.

Gaseous anthropogenic ..."

4) Give more information on how the aerosols and organics are calculated in the model. Is it VBS that is used? Is the aerosol module operating on modal or sectional bins?

The aerosol modeling in this study is not based on the VBS approach but on a surrogate approach, and the aerosol size distribution uses a sectional approach.

A description of aerosol modeling is added in the revised paper after the description of the sensitivity studies on meteorology and sea-salt emissions: "...sodium and 4.22% of sulfate.

The SIze REsolved Aerosol Model (SIREAM; Debry et al., 2007) is used for simulating the dynamics of the aerosol size distribution by coagulation and condensation/evaporation. SIREAM uses a sectional approach and the aerosol distribution is described here using 20 sections of bound diameters: 0.01, 0.0141, 0.0199, 0.0281, 0.0398, 0.0562, 0.0794, 0.1121, 0.1585, 0.2512, 0.3981, 0.6310, 1.0, 1.2589, 1.5849, 1.9953, 2.5119, 3.5481, 5.0119, 7.0795 and 10.0 μ m. The condensation/evaporation of inorganic aerosols is determined using the thermodynamic model ISORROPIA (Nenes et al., 1998) with a bulk equilibrium approach in order to compute the partitioning between the gaseous and particle phases of aerosols. Because the concentrations and the partitioning between gaseous and particle phases of inorganic aerosols (chloride, nitrate, ammonium) is strongly affected by condensation/evaporation and reactions with other pollutants, sensitivities of inorganic concentrations to hypothesis used in the modeling (thermodynamic equilibrium, mixed sea-salt and anthropogenic aerosols) are also performed (section 4.4.2)

For organic aerosols, the gas-particle partitioning of the surrogates is computed using SOAP assuming bulk equilibrium (Couvidat and Sartelet, 2015). The gas-particle partitioning of hydrophobic surrogates is modeled following Pankow (1994), with absorption by the organic phase (hydrophobic surrogates). The gas- particle partitioning of hydrophilic surrogates is computed using the Henry's law modified to extrapolate infinite dilution conditions to all conditions using an aqueous-phase partitioning coefficient, with absorption by the aqueous phase (hydrophilic organics, inorganics and water). Activity coefficients are computed with the thermodynamic model UNIFAC (UNIversal Functional group; Fredenslund et al., 1975). After condensation/evaporation, the moving diameter algorithm is used for mass redistribution among size bins. As detailed in Chrit et al. (2017), anthropogenic intermediate/semi-volatile organic compounds (I/S-VOC) emissions are emitted as three primary surrogates of different volatilities (characterized by their saturation concentrations C*: log(C*) = -0.04, 1.93, 3.5). The ageing of each primary surrogate is represented through a single oxidation step, without NOx dependence, to produce a secondary surrogate of lower volatility (log(C*) = -2.4, -0.064, 1.5 respectively) but higher molecular weight. Gaseous I/S-VOC emissions are missing from emission inventories, they are estimated here as detailed in Zhu et al. (2016) by multiplying the primary organic emissions (POA) by 1.5, and by assigning them to species of different volatilities. A sensitivity study where I-S/VOC emissions are not taken into account is also performed.

5) Make it clear that dust emissions are not calculated in the model but only provided from the boundaries. Also provide information on how the boundary conditions are calculated. It is only in the results section that MOZART model is mentioned.

The boundary conditions are calculated from the simulation over Europe. The boundary conditions for the European simulation are calculated from the global model MOZART4.

Details about dust emission and boundary conditions are added after the paragraph describing the parameterization used for sea-salt emissions. "The boundary conditions for the European simulation are calculated from the global model MOZART4 (Horowitz et al., 2003) (https://www.acom.ucar.edu/ wrf-chem/mozart.shtml),, and those for the Mediterranean domain are obtained from the European simulation. Mineral dust emissions are not calculated in the model, but are provided from the boundaries."

6) Give more details on the SSE calculations. Is the surf zone included, how, or is only the open sea emissions calculated?

The sea-salt parameterizations used in chemistry transport models are built on open sea measurements. However, the same parameterization is used independently of the zone. This remark is added in the revised paper: "Sea-salt emissions are parameterized using Jaeglé et al. (2011) in the reference simulation and using the commonly-used Monahan et al. (1986) for a sensitivity study. These two parameterizations are based on open-sea measurements, but they are different in terms of the source function, "

7) Table 1 and 2 should be explained in the text and provide the motivation and the reasons for these different scenarios more clearly.

The different parameters, which are particularly attached to uncertainties, are detailed in the introduction. The section 2.1 aims to describe not only the set up but also alternative parameters/parameterizations commonly used in modelling. To clarify this point, the following sentence is added at the beginning of section 2.

"In order to simulate aerosol formation over the western Mediterranean, the Polair3d/Polyphemus air quality model is used, with the set-up described in Chrit et al. (2017) and summarized here. For parameters/parameterizations that are particularly attached to uncertainties (anthropogenic emissions,

meteorology, sea-salt emissions, modelling of condensation/evaporation), the alternative parameters/ parameterizations that are used in the sensitivity studies are also detailed. " Section 2.1 is renamed "Simulation set-up and alternative parameterizations".

Results

8) Why the time series analyses for 2012 shown in the appendix? This would also show the extend of the dust break contribution to the levels.

All time series are shown in Appendix as specific pollution episodes are not studied. There was indeed a dust episode in 2012, but this episode is not discussed in details here, and a reference to the paper of Nabat et al. (2015) is added.

9) Explain Table 7 more clearly (in the caption maybe). What are the differences showing, period mean? What is the background of using normalized RMSE to show the sensitivity of the different inputs?

The periods used for the comparisons to measurements are now detailed in the caption of Table 7: "Comparisons of simulated PM_{10} , PM_1 and OM_1 daily concentrations to observations (concentrations and RMSE are in $\mu g m^{-3}$) during the summer campaign periods of 2012 (between 09 June and 03 July) and 2013 (between 07 June and 03 August)." We used a normalized RMSE rather than the RMSE to show the sensitivity of the different inputs in order to be able to compare the sensitivity of different pollutants which have different concentrations. For a pollutant with a relatively low concentrations. Normalizing the RMSE allows us to overcome this problem and to compare the sensitivity of the different pollutants.

10) As Table 7 shows, majority of the sensitivity simulation target 2013. Therefore, please also show the composition of PM in 2013 too to assist the discussions. In Figure 3, the compositions of PM_{10} and PM_1 for 2012 are replaced by the composition for 2013.

11) Add that these are observed composition in Figure 3 caption.

We added in the revised paper and in the text that Figure 3 shows the simulated compositions of PM₁₀ and PM₁.

" presented above. Figure 3 shows the simulated composition of ..." and in the caption of Figure 3.

12) What does the 0.04 ± 0.03 show in the Table 8?

This was a mistake. 0.04 ± 0.03 is now removed from Table 8 in the revised version.

13) Page 15, Line 2. Normalized RMSE varies between 44 to 267%, not 48? Yes, therefore 44% is replaced by 48 % in the revised paper.

Conclusions

What is the general conclusion of the study?

Particles are made of different compounds. The particle sources and the parameters influencing the concentrations are different depending on the compounds. These sources and parameters are identified here through 4 main conclusions for the different compounds/parameters.

The following sentence is added at the beginning of the conclusion section to clarify the aim of the study: "This work presents a sensitivity study to different input data and model parameterizations to better understand aerosol sources over the Mediterranean and the parameters influencing the aerosol concentrations. Aerosol sources are different depending on the aerosol chemical compounds. Comparisons to observations are performed at the ERSA station to estimate how realistic are the concentrations simulated with the different parameters. "

The conclusion was also rewritten to clarify the sources and the parameters influencing the concentrations and to better show the 4 main conclusion points:

- Sulfate originates mostly from maritime traffic. Furthermore, maritime traffic leads to the formation of oxidants that in turn enhance the formation of biogenic aerosols, with the potential formation of organic nitrate and organo sulfate.

- Organics are mostly from a biogenic origins. Even if the contribution of sea-salt emissions to organic concentrations is low, organic concentrations are strongly influenced by sea-salt emissions, because they partition between the gas and the particle phases and they are hydrophilic. This underlines the need to better characterize the properties (affinity with water) of secondary organic aerosols.

Secondary pollutants, such as nitrate, ammonium and chloride, as the particle-phase concentrations are strongly influenced by the gas/particle phase partitioning, because a high percentage of their concentration is in the gas phase. This underlines the need to develop aerosol models able to represent accurately this gas-phase partitioning.
There is a high sensitivity of secondary pollutants (inorganics and organics) to meteorology, stressing the importance of accurate meteorological modeling and the potential strong influence of climate change on the concentrations of these secondary pollutants.

Aerosol sources in the western Mediterranean during summertime: A model-based approach

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Abstract.

In the framework of ChArMEx (the Chemistry-Aerosol Mediterranean Experiment), the air-quality model Polyphemus is used to understand the sources of inorganic and organic particles in the western Mediterranean and to evaluate the uncertainties linked to the model parameters (meteorological fields, anthropogenic and sea-salt emissions, hypotheses related to the

- 5 model representation of condensation/evaporation). The model is evaluated by comparisons to in-situ aerosol measurements performed during three consecutive summers (2012, 2013 and 2014). The model-to-measurement comparisons concern the concentrations of PM_{10} , PM_1 , Organic Matter in PM_1 (OM_{PM_1}) and inorganic aerosol concentrations monitored at a remote site (Ersa) in Corsica Island, as well as during airborne measurements performed above the western Mediterranean Sea. Organic particles are mostly from biogenic origin. The model parameterization of sea-salt emissions has shown to strongly influence
- 10 the concentrations of all particulate species (PM_{10} , PM_1 , $OM_{PM_1, 1}$ and inorganic concentrations). Although the emission of organic matter by the sea has shown to be low, organic concentrations are influenced by sea-salt emissions, because they provide a mass onto which gaseous hydrophilic organic compound can condense. PM_{10} , PM_1 , $OM_{PM_1, 1}$ are also very sensitive to meteorology, because it affects not only the transport of pollutants, but also natural emissions (biogenic and sea salt). To avoid large and unrealistic sea-salt concentrations, a parameterization with an adequate wind-speed power law is chosen. Sulfate is
- 15 shown to be strongly influenced by anthropogenic (ship) emissions. PM_{10} , PM_1 , OM_1 and sulfate concentrations are better described using the emission inventory with the best spatial description of ships emissions (EDGAR-HTAP). However, this is not true for nitrate, ammonium and chloride concentrations, which are very dependent on the hypotheses used in the model for condensation/evaporation. Model simulations show that sea-salt aerosols above the sea are not mixed with background transported aerosols. Taking into account the mixing state of particles with a dynamic approach of condensation/evaporation
- 20 may be necessary to accurately represent inorganic aerosol concentrations.

1 Introduction

Fine particulate matter (PM) in the atmosphere are of concern due to their effects on health, climate, ecosystems and biological cycles, and visibility. These effects are especially important in the Mediterranean region. The western Mediterranean basin experiences high gaseous pollution levels originating from Europe (Millán et al., 1997; Debevec et al., 2017; Doche et al.,

- 2014; Menut et al., 2015; Nabat et al., 2013; Safieddine et al., 2014) in particular during summer, when photochemical activity 5 is at its maximum. Furthermore, the western Mediterranean basin is impacted by various natural sources: Saharan dust, intense biogenic emissions in summer, oceanic emissions, and biomass burning, all of them being emitters of gases (e.g. volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NO_{τ})) and/or primary particles (Bossioli et al., 2016; Tyrlis and Lelieveld, 2012; Monks et al., 2009; Gerasopoulos et al., 2006). During the TRAOA 2012 and SAFMED 2013 measurement campaigns, Di Biagio
- et al. (2015) observed that aerosols in the western Mediterranean basin are strongly impacted by dust outflows and continental 10 pollution. A large part of this continental pollution is secondary, i.e. it is formed in the atmosphere by chemical reactions (e.g. Sartelet et al., 2012). These reactions involve compounds, which may be emitted from different sources (e.g. biogenic and anthropogenic). Using measurements and/or modelling modeling, several studies showed that as much as 70% to 80% of organic aerosol in summer in the western Mediterranean region is secondary and from contemporary origins (El Haddad et al.,

2011; Chrit et al., 2017). 15

> Air-quality models are powerful tools to simulate and predict the atmospheric chemical composition and the properties of aerosols at regional scales. In spite of the tremendous efforts deployed recently, the sources and the transformation mechanisms of atmospheric aerosols are not fully characterized nor fully understood. For organic aerosols, difficulties in the modeling partly lie in the representation of volatile and semi-volatile organic precursors in the models, which can only take into account a

- limited number of compounds or classes of compounds (Kim et al., 2011a; Chrit et al., 2017). Difficulties in modeling aerosol 20 concentrations atmospheric particles are strongly linked to uncertainties in meteorology and in emissions (Roustan et al., 2010). For example, the turbulent vertical mixing affects the dilution and chemical processing of aerosols and their precursors (Nilsson et al., 2001; Aan de Brugh et al., 2012), clouds affect aerosol chemistry and size distribution (Fahey and Pandis, 2001; Ervens et al., 2011), and photochemistry (Tang et al., 2003; Feng et al., 2004), and precipitation controls wet deposition processes
- 25 (Barth et al., 2007; Yang et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2013). Over the Mediterranean region, uncertainties due to meteorology and transport may strongly impact pollutant concentrations, because the basin is influenced by pollution transported from different regions, such as dust from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco as well as both biogenic and anthropogenic species from Europe - and (Chrit et al., 2017; Denjean et al., 2016). Chrit et al. (2017) and Cholakian et al. (2018) showed that although organic aerosol concentrations at a remote marine site of the western Mediterranean are mostly of biogenic origin, they are strongly influenced by air-masses transported from the continent and by maritime shipping emissions.
- 30

In addition to the meteorological uncertainties, uncertainties in emission inventories are also important. There are uncertainties in biogenic emissions (Sartelet et al., 2012), as well as in anthropogenic emission inventories. For anthropogenic emissions, uncertainties concern not only the emissions themselves, but also the pollutants that are to be considered in the inventory and the spatial and temporal distributions of the emissions. For example, intermediate and semi volatile organic compounds are missing from emission inventories, even though they may strongly affect the formation of organic aerosols (Couvidat et al., 2012; Denier van der Gon et al., 2015). The spatial distribution of ships and harbor traffic differs depending on emission inventories. However, over the Mediterranean Sea, ships and harbor traffic emissions may strongly affect the formation of particles. Becagli et al. (2017) found experimentally that the minimum ship emission contributions to PM_{10} is 11% at Lampedusa Island, and

- 5 8% at Capo Granitola on the southern coast of Sicily. Aksoyoglu et al. (2016) showed that ship emissions in the Mediterranean may contribute up to 60% of sulfate concentrations, as SO_2 is a major pollutant emitted from maritime transport. However, by comparison to on-road vehicles, ships emissions are still poorly characterized (Berg et al., 2012). Besides, the multiplicity of the Mediterranean sources of pollution and their interactions makes it difficult to quantify the ship contribution to aerosol concentrations.
- Seas and oceans are a significant source of sea-spray aerosols (SSA). They strongly affect the formation of cloud condensation nuclei and particle concentrations. However, according to Grythe et al. (2014), sea-spray aerosols (SSA) have one of the largest uncertainties among all emissions. The modeling of sea-salt emissions is based on empiric or semi-empiric formulas. There is a tremendous amount of parameterization of the SSA emission fluxes (Grythe et al., 2014). The SSA emission parameterization of Monahan et al. (1986) is commonly used to model sea-salt emissions of coarse particles (e.g. Sartelet et al., 2012;
- 15 Solazzo et al., 2017; Kim et al., 2017). However, the strong non-linearity of the source function versus wind speed (power law with an exponent of 3.41) may lead to an overestimation of emissions at high-speed regimes, as suggested by Guelle et al. (2001) and Witek et al. (2007). Many studies showed that wind speed has the dominant influence on the sea-salt emissions (Hoppel et al., 1989; Grythe et al., 2014). However, other parameterizations use different power laws with different exponents for the wind speed (e.g. 2.07 for Jaeglé et al. (2011)), and have introduced other parameters like sea-surface temperature
- 20 (Schwier et al., 2017; Jaeglé et al., 2011; Sofiev et al., 2011) and the water salinity (Grythe et al., 2014). Although the influence of marine emissions on primary organic aerosols is low for the Mediterranean (Chrit et al., 2017), their influence on inorganic aerosols is not (Claeys et al., 2017).

The aim of this work is to evaluate some of the processes that strongly affect inorganic and organic aerosol concentrations in the western Mediterranean in summer (transport and emissions), how do the data/parameterizations commonly used in air-quality models affect the concentrations. To that end, sensitivity studies relative to transport (meteorology) and emis-

sions (anthropogenic and sea salt) are performed with the air-quality model Polyphemus and are compared to measurements performed at the marine remote Ersa super-site (Cap Corsica, France) during the summer campaigns of 2012 and 2013, and to flight measurements performed above the Western Mediterranean Sea in summer (July) 2014.

25

This paper is structured as follows. The air-quality model Polyphemus set-up is first described for the different input data-30 sets/parameterizations used, as well as the measurements. Second, the meteorological fields used as input to the air-quality model are evaluated. Third, the model is evaluated by comparisons to the measurements and sensitivities studies to meteorology, sea-salt emission parameterizations and anthropogenic emissions are performed to determine the main aerosol sources and sensitivities.

2 Simulations set-up and measured data

In order to simulate aerosol formation over the western Mediterranean, the Polair3d/Polyphemus air quality model is used, with the set-up described in Chrit et al. (2017) and summarized here.

2.1 Simulations set-up and alternative parameterizations

5 Simulations are performed over the same domains and using the same input data as in

Chrit et al. (2017)

Two nested simulations are performed: one over Europe (nesting domain, horizontal resolution: $0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$) and one over a Mediterranean domain centered around Corsica (nested domain, horizontal resolution: $0.125^{\circ} \times 0.125^{\circ}$), centered around the Ersa surface super-site (red point in Figure [1]).



Figure 1. Mediterranean domain used for the simulations and planetary boundary layer (PBL) height on 10 July 2014 at noon, as obtained from the ECMWF meteorological fields (left panel). Ersa is located at the red point on northern tip of Corsica Island. The (black and purple) crosses indicate the trajectory of the flight of 10 July 2014 over the Mediterranean Sea. Altitudes during the flight (right panel). The portions conducted above the continent at the beginning and at the end of the flight from/to Avignon airport have been removed. For the model to measurement comparisons, only the transects indicated by purple crosses/lines are considered.

10 Simulations are performed during the summers of 2012, 2013 and 2014. The dates of simulations are chosen to match the periods of observations performed during ChArMEx (Chemistry-Aerosol Mediterranean Experiment). The Mediterranean simulations (nested domain) are performed from 6 June to 8 July 2012, from 6 June to 10 August 2013; and from 9 to 10 July 2014.

In the reference simulation, meteorological data are provided by the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) model (horizontal resolution: $0.25^{\circ} \times 0.25^{\circ}$), which are interpolated to the Europe and Mediterranean domains. The vertical diffusion is computed using the Troen and Mahrt (1986) parameterization. In the sensitivity study relative to meteorology, meteorological fields from the Weather Research and Forecasting model (WRF, Skamarock et al. (2008)) are used in the Mediterranean simulation. <u>WRF is forced with NCEP (National Centers for Environmental Prediction) meteorological</u> fields for initial and boundary conditions (1° horizontal grid spacing). To simulate WRF meteorological fields over the Mediter-

5 ranean domain, WRF simulations 1-way nested WRF simulations with 24 vertical levels are conducted on two nested domains: one over Europe and one over the Mediterranean. Before conducting the sensitivity study relative to meteorology (section 3) by using two different meteorological datasets, WRF is run with a number of different configurations, which are compared to measurements in section 3.

The WRF configuration used for this study consists of the Single Moment-5 class microphysics scheme (Hong et al., 2004),

10 the RRTM radiation scheme (Mlawer et al., 1997), the Monin-Obukhov surface layer scheme (Janjic, 2003), and the NOAA Land Surface Model scheme for land surface physics (Chen and Dudhia, 2001). Sea surface temperature update, surface grid nudging (Liu et al., 2012; Bowden et al., 2012)

In the first configuration (WRF-Lon-Lat), horizontal resolutions of $0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$ and $0.125^{\circ} \times 0.125^{\circ}$ are used for the nesting and nested domains respectively with a longitude-latitude projection. In the second configuration (WRF-Lambert), a Lambert

- 15 (conic conform) projection is used with horizontal resolutions of 55.65 km × 55.65 km and 13.9 km × 13.9 km for the nesting and nested domains respectively. The third configuration (WRF-Lambert-OBSGRID) also uses a Lambert projection, but the meteorological fields are improved by nudging global observations of temperature, humidity and wind from surface and radiosonde measurements (NCEP (National Centers for Environmental Prediction) operational global surface and upper-air observation subsets, as archived by the Data Support Section (DSS) at NCAR (National Center for Atmospheric Research)).
- 20 Biogenic emissions are estimated using Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) with the standard MEGAN LAIV database (MEGAN-L, Guenther et al. (2006)) and the EFv2.1 dataset. For the different simulations, these emissions are recalculated with the meteorological data used for transport. In the reference simulation, yearly anthropogenic emissions are generated using the EDGAR-HTAP_V2 inventory for 2010 (http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/htap_v2/). EDGAR-HTAP V2 inventory uses total national emissions from the European Monitoring and Evaluation Program (EMEP) emission
- inventory that are re-allocated spatially using EDGAR4.1 proxy subset (Janssens-Maenhout et al., 2012). The differences between the two inventories do not lie only in the spatial allocation of emissions, but also in the spatial resolution. EMEP provides a resolution of $0.5^{\circ} \ge 0.5^{\circ}$ while the resolution of EDGAR-HTAP_V2 is $0.1^{\circ} \ge 0.1^{\circ}$. To illustrate the differences between the two inventories, NO_x emissions from the EMEP emission inventory, as well as absolute differences of NO_x emissions between the HTAP and EMEP inventories are shown in Figure 2. The highest discrepencies discrepancies between
- 30 the two inventories mostly concern the shipping emissions (very low in EMEP emission inventory (< $0.2 \ \mu g \ m^{-2} \ s^{-1}$) whereas they can be as high as 2.8 $\ \mu g \ m^{-2} \ s^{-1}$ over the sea in HTAP emission inventory), as well as emissions over large cities, mostly Genoa, Marseille and Rome (with emissions as high as 2.5 $\ \mu g.m^{-2}.s^{-1}$ higher in HTAP emission inventory).

Gaseous anthropogenic intermediate/semi-volatile organic compounds (I/S-VOC) emissions are missing from emission inventories, they are estimated here as detailed in by multiplying the primary organic emissions (POA) by 1.5, and by assigning

35 them to species of different volatilities. A sensitivity study where I-S/VOC emissions are not taken into account is also

performedHTAP emissions are used in the reference simulation and EMEP emissions for a sensitivity study as shown in Table 1.

Sea-salt emissions are parameterized using Jaeglé et al. (2011) in the reference simulation and using the commonly-used Monahan et al. (1986) for a sensitivity study. These two parameterizations are

- 5 These two parameterizations are different in terms of the source function, which is defined as the total mass of sea-salt aerosol (SSA) released by area and time units. In fact, the source functions of these two parameterizations have a different dependency on the wind speed. In terms of emitted sea-salt mass, the largest differences are located over the sea in the south of France (with differences as high as 1400%), where the shear stress exerted by the wind on the sea surface is the highest. Following Schwier et al. (2015), the emitted dry sea-salt mass is assumed to be made of 25.40% of chloride, 30.61% of sodium
- 10 and 4.22% of sulfate.

The boundary conditions for the European simulation are calculated from the global model MOZART4 (Horowitz et al., 2003)

The numerical algorithms used for transport and the parameterizations used for dry and wet depositions are detailed in (Sartelet et al., 2007). Gas-phase chemistry is modeled with the carbon bond 05 mechanism (CB05) (Yarwood et al., 2005), to

- 15 which reactions are added to model the formation of secondary organic aerosols (Kim et al., 2011b; Chrit et al., 2017) The SIze REsolved Aerosol Model (SIREAM; Debry et al. (2007)) is used for simulating the dynamics of the aerosol size distribution by coagulation and condensation/evaporation. SIREAM uses a sectional approach and the aerosol distribution is described here using 20 sections of bound diameters: 0.01, 0.0141, 0.0199, 0.0281, 0.0398, 0.0562, 0.0794, 0.1121, 0.1585, 0.2512, 0.3981, 0.6310, 1.0, 1.2589, 1.5849, 1.9953, 2.5119, 3.5481, 5.0119, 7.0795 and 10.0 µm. The condensation/evaporation
- 20 of inorganic aerosols is determined using the thermodynamic model ISORROPIA (Nenes et al., 1998) with a bulk equilibrium approach in order to compute the partitioning between the gaseous and particle phases of aerosols. Because the concentrations and the partitioning between gaseous and particle phases of inorganic aerosols (chloride, nitrate, ammonium) is and ammonium are strongly affected by condensation/evaporation and reactions with other pollutants, sensitivities of inorganic these concentrations to hypothesis used in the modeling (thermodynamic equilibrium, mixed sea-salt and anthro-
- 25 pogenic aerosols) are also performed (section 4.4.2). For organic aerosols, the gas-particle partitioning of the surrogates is computed using SOAP assuming bulk equilibrium (Couvidat and Sartelet, 2015). The gas-particle partitioning of hydrophobic surrogates is modeled following Pankow (1994), with absorption by the organic phase (hydrophobic surrogates). The gasparticle partitioning of hydrophilic surrogates is computed using the Henry's law modified to extrapolate infinite dilution conditions to all conditions using an aqueous-phase partitioning coefficient, with absorption by the aqueous phase (hydrophilic
- 30 organics, inorganics and water). Activity coefficients are computed with the thermodynamic model UNIFAC (UNIversal Functional group; (Fredenslund et al., 1975). After condensation/evaporation, the moving diameter algorithm is used for mass redistribution among size bins. As detailed in (Chrit et al., 2017), anthropogenic intermediate/semi-volatile organic compounds (I/S-VOC) emissions are emitted as three primary surrogates of different volatilities (characterized by their saturation concentrations C*: log(C*) = -0.04, 1.93, 3.5). The ageing of each primary surrogate is represented through a single oxidation step, without
- 35 NOx dependence, to produce a secondary surrogate of lower volatility ($log(C^*) = -2.4, -0.064, 1.5$ respectively) but higher

Table 1. Summary of the different simulations and their input data. S1, S2, S3, S4 and S5 represent the simulation number.

Nomanclatura	Anthropogenic emission	Meteorological	Sea-salt emission	
Nomenciature	inventory	model	parameterization	1/3-VOC/FOA
S1	НТАР	ECMWF	Jaeglé et al. (2011)	1.5
S2	НТАР	WRF Lon-Lat	Jaeglé et al. (2011)	1.5
S3	НТАР	ECMWF	Monahan et al. (1986)	1.5
S4	EMEP	ECMWF	Jaeglé et al. (2011)	1.5
S5	НТАР	ECMWF	Jaeglé et al. (2011)	0.0

molecular weight. Gaseous I/S-VOC emissions are missing from emission inventories, they are estimated here as detailed in (Zhu et al., 2016)



Figure 2. Average NO_x emissions over the summer campaign 2013 from the EMEP emission inventory (left panel) and absolute differences $(\mu g m^{-2} s^{-1})$ of NO_x emissions between HTAP and EMEP inventories. The horizontal and vertical axes show longitude and latitude in degrees respectively.

Sensitivity studies to meteorology fields, anthropogenic emission inventory, I/S-VOC emissions and sea-salt emissions are outlined in section 4. These studies are performed using two different inputs for the parameter of concern in the sensitivity

test and fixing the others. Table 1 summarizes the performed simulations as well as the different input data used. Table 2 5 summarizes the different simulation comparisons, as performed in the conducted sensitivity studies.

Table 2. Summary of the different sensitivity simulations for the ground-based evaluation.

Sensitivity study to	Compared simulations	Discussed concentrations	Period
Meteorology	S1 and S2	Inorganics - PM ₁₀ - PM ₁ - OM ₁	Summer 2013
Anthropogenic emission inventory	S1 and S4	Inorganics - PM ₁₀ - PM ₁ - OM ₁	Summers 2012 and 2013
Marine emissions	S1 and S3	Inorganics - PM ₁₀ - PM ₁ - OM ₁	Summer 2013
I/S-VOC/POA	S1 and S5	OM_1	Summer 2013

2.2 Measured data

5

The model results are compared against observational data performed in the framework of several ChArMEx campaigns. Simulated concentrations in the first vertical level of the model are compared to ground-based measurements performed at Ersa (43°00'N, 9°21.5'E), which is located at the northern edge of Corsica Island, at a height of about 530 m above sea level (Figure 1). A Campbell meteorological station was used to measure air temperature and wind velocityspeed. Continuous measurements of PM_{10} and PM_1 were performed using TEOM (THERMO, model 1400) and TEOM-FDMS (THERMO, model 1405) instruments respectively. For the composition of particles, nitrate, sulfate, ammonium and organic concentrations in PM_1 were characterized using an ACSM (Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor), and in PM_{10} they were characterized using a PILS-IC (Particle Into Liquid Sampler coupled with Ion Chromatography), which also allows an estimation of chloride

10 and sodium concentrations (see Michoud et al. (2017) for more details). The inorganic precursors HNO₃, HCl and SO₂ were measured using a WAD-IC (Wet-Annular Denuder coupled with Ion Chromatography).

Airborne measurements based in Avignon, France were preformed aboard the ATR-42, run by SAFIRE (French aircraft service for environmental research, http://safire.fr). Full details of the aerosol measurements aboard the aircraft as well as the fligt-flight details are provided in Freney et al. (2018). On 10 July 2014, a flight was dedicated to measure concentrations

- 15 above the sea under Mistral regime (northern and northwestern high-speed winds). This flight was approximately 3 hours in duration and the aircraft flew over the south of France and the Mediterranean Sea at altitudes varying from 100 to 3000 m above sea level (m.a.s.l). Comparisons between model and measurements are not performed during transit, but only above sea, at altitudes below 800 m.a.s.l. and in the boundary layer. A horizontal projection of the aircraft path during this flight is presented in Figure 1. The purple crosses indicate the locations where model and measurement comparisons are performed.
- 20 Measurements of the non-refractory submicron aerosol chemical properties were performed using a compact aerosol time of flight mass spectrometer (C-ToF-AMS) providing mass concentrations on organic sulfate, ammonia and chloride particles with a time resolution of less than 5 minutes.

Table 3. Temperature (observed and simulated means) from the observations and the four meteorological models at Ersa during the summer campaigns 2012 and 2013 and statistics of comparison of model results to observations (correlation, mean fractional biasand, mean fractional error, mean bias and gross error). The temperature means and the RMSE are in Kelvin. \overline{o} refers to the measured mean.

	Meteorological models		ECMWF	WRF-Lon-Lat	WRF-Lambert	WRF-Lambert-OBSGRID
9	6	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm RMSE$	295.09 ± 1.50	294.05 ± 2.79	294.86 ± 3.02	294.17 ± 3.45
012	94.6	Correlation (%)	96.3	77.1	66.7	54.8
5(i = 2	MFB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0	MFE	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
		MB	0.43	-0.61	0.20	-0.49
		GE	1.33	2.38	2.56	2.93
	4	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	295.82 ± 3.23	294.42 ± 2.42	295.31 ± 2.66	295.10 ± 2.60
)13	94.0	Correlation (%)	70.0	78.2	79.0	78.3
5(i = 2	MFB	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0	MFE	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
		MB	<u>1.79</u>	0.38	1.27	1.06
		GE	2.69	2.01	2.17	2.14

3 Meteorological evaluation

Aerosol phenomenology in Cape-Corsica is influenced by diverse meteorological situations as well as transport of pollution from a number of sources. It is therefore crucial to estimate, as accurately as possible, the input meteorological data used in the air quality model. The four meteorological datasets (ECMWF, WRF-Lon-Lat, WRF-Lambert, WRF-Lambert-Obsgrid) are

5 compared to observations of air temperature and wind at Ersa in Figure B1 for the summer campaign periods of 2012 and Figure B2 for the summer 2013 (Appendix B).

The observed and simulated temperature, wind speed, wind direction and relative humidity at Ersa during these summers, and the statistical scores defined in Table [A1] of Appendix A of and comparison of the four model results to measurements (hourly time series) are shown in Tables 3 to 6 respectively.

10 As mentioned in EPA 2007 report, Emery et al. (2001) proposed benchmarks for temperature (mean bias (MB) within ± 0.5 K and gross error (GE) 2.0 K), wind speed (MB within ± 0.5 m.s⁻¹ and RMSE < 2 m.s⁻¹) and wind direction (MB within $\pm 10^{\circ}$ and GE < 30°). McNally (2009)

The four meteorological simulations reproduce well the ground temperature measured at Ersa. <u>Although only the ECMWF</u> temperature in 2012 verifies the US EPA criteria, all simulations verify the criterion of McNally (2009) for the GE. Statistically,

15 the correlation to temperature measurements is high: between about 54% and 96% for all models, and the root-mean-squareerror (RMSE) is low (below 3.4 K). The best model differs depending on the year: the correlation of ECMWF to measurements is the highest (96%) and the RMSE the lowest (1.5 K) in 2012, but in 2013, the correlation of ECMWF is the lowest (70%)

Table 4. Wind <u>velocity speed</u> statistics for the four meteorological models at Ersa during the summer campaigns of 2012 and 2013. The wind <u>velocity speed</u> means and the RMSE are in m.s⁻¹. \overline{o} refers to the measured mean.

	Meteorological models		ECMWF	WRF-Lon-Lat	WRF-Lambert	WRF-Lambert-OBSGRID
		Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm RMSE$	4.86 ± 2.36	6.96 ± 3.93	5.60 ± 3.94	5.06 ± 3.89
12	4.53	Correlation (%)	69.3	60.3	-26.0	-34.3
2(<u>0</u> =	MFB	0.14	0.46	0.34	0.26
		MFE	0.47	0.64	0.74	0.74
		MB	0.33	2.40	1.07	0.52
		GE	1.89	3.28	3.45	3.34
		Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	3.44 ± 1.32	3.98 ± 2.12	5.14 ± 3.64	4.86 ± 3.44
)13	3.21	Correlation (%)	87.3	65.5	-6.6	-2.1
2(<u>o</u> =	MFB	0.01	0.10	0.38	0.30
		MFE	0.33	0.47	0.73	0.71
		MB	-0.35	<u>0.19</u>	1.36	1.07
		GE	1.01	1.59	3.06	2.88

Table 5. Wind direction statistics for the four meteorological models at Ersa during the summer campaigns 2012 and 2013. The wind direction means and the RMSE are in degrees. \overline{o} refers to the measured mean.

	Meteorological models		ECMWF	WRF-Lon-Lat	WRF-Lambert	WRF-Lambert-OBSGRID
	6	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	195.73 ± 91.64	200.48 ± 58.94	107.07 ± 120.47	101.30 ± 119.53
12	01.8	Correlation (%)	27.6	54.1	7.2	12.0
20	i = 2	MFB	-0.14	-0.02	-0.62	-0.66
	0	MFE	0.40	0.22	0.68	0.69
		MB	-6.16	-1.41	-94.82	-100.59
		GE	62.09	39.74	104.00	104.43
	8	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	206.67 ± 107.84	231.03 ±117.91	101.57 ± 120.47	111.46 ± 122.76
)13	86.2	Correlation (%)	33.2	21.6	3.6	1.7
2(=	MFB	-0.02	0.13	-0.50	-0.48
	10	MFE	0.48	0.46	0.67	0.68
		MB	20.38	44.74	-84.71	-74.83
		GE	73.96	<u>.81.34</u>	100.13	101.88

Meteorological models **ECMWF** WRF-Lon-Lat WRF-Lambert WRF-Lambert-OBSGRID Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm RMSE$ 0.74 ± 0.24 0.72 ± 0.22 0.70 ± 0.25 0.77 ± 0.25 $\bar{o} = 0.65$ 2012 Correlation (%) 14.3 34.5 7.9 14.0 MFB 31 18 15 11 MFE 32 28 32 31 MB 0.09 0.07 0.05 0.12 GE 0.20 0.18 0.20 0.20 Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm RMSE$ 0.73 ± 0.20 0.78 ± 0.21 0.70 ± 0.20 0.69 ± 0.21 $\overline{o} = 0.70$ 2013 9.7 23.3 23.0 21.8 Correlation (%) MFB 8 14 3 1 MFE 26 25 25 25 MB 0.17 0.17 0.17 0.17 GE -0.01 0.03 0.08 0.00

Table 6. Relative humidity statistics for the four meteorological models at Ersa during the summers 2012 and 2013. The relative humidity means and the RMSE are dimensionless. \overline{o} refers to the measured mean.

and its RMSE the highest (3.2 K). The mean fractional biases and errors (MFB and MBE) of the simulated temperatures are almost null.

For wind speed, ECMWF systematically leads to better statistics than WRF, despite the fine horizontal resolution of WRF $(0.125^{\circ} \times 0.125^{\circ})$. ECMWF agrees best with the measurements, with the highest correlation (between 69% and 87%) and

5 the lowest errors (MFE is between 33% and 47%). It also verifies the US EPA criteria for both the summers 2012 and 2013. WRF-Lon-Lat also performs well with correlations between 60% and 65% and MFE between 47% and 64%. WRF-Lambert and WRF-Lambert-Obsgrid have poorer statistics with negative correlations and MFE between 71% and 74%.

The averaged wind direction is quite similar for summers 2012 and 2013 (202° and 186° respectively). The mean wind direction is well-best represented by ECMWF for the summers 2012 and 2013, and WRF-Lon-Lat for the summer 2012.

- However, the modeled wind speed does not respect the US EPA criteria. Errors are higher with the two models using Lambert projection which tend to under-estimate the wind direction angle. For relative humidity, the observed mean relative humidity is 0.65 in 2012 and 0.70 in 2013. It is relatively well reproduced by the models (between 0.70 and 0.77 in 2012 and between 0.69 and 0.78 in 2013). All models perform well with MFE below 32% and MFB below 18%. WRF-Lon-Lat leads to the best statistics in 2012 and WRF-Lambert-Obsgrid leads to the best statistics in 2013.
- 15 As ECMWF and WRF-Lon-Lat are shown to perform overall better than the two other models (Tables 3, 4, 6, 5), they will be used for the meteorological sensitivity study.

The model performances presented above compare well to other studies (Kim et al., 2013; Cholakian et al., 2018). In this study, for ECMWF and WRF-Lon-Lat during the summers of 2012 and 2013, RMSE ranges between 1.5 K and 3.2 K for temperature, between 1.3 m s⁻¹ and 3.9 m s⁻¹ for wind speed, and between 58° and 118° for wind direction. At Ersa, for

the summer 2013 (not exactly exactly the same period), Cholakian et al. (2018) found RMSE between 1.5 K and 2.3 K for temperature, between 1.6 m s⁻¹ and 1.9 m s⁻¹ for wind speed, and between 92° and 117° for wind direction at ERSA from 10 July to 5 August 2013 using the mesoscale WRF model. Moreover, Kim et al. (2013) reported RMSE ranging between 1 K and 4 K for temperature, and 0.6 m s⁻¹ to 3.0 m s⁻¹ for wind speed over Greater Paris during May 2005 using WRF model with a longitude-latitude map projection.

4 Evaluation and sensitivities

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This section focuses on the evaluation of the reference simulation (S1) against aerosol measurements (PM₁₀, PM₁, OM_{PM₁} and inorganic aerosols (IA) species), and on the factors controlling simulated aerosol concentrations (meteorology, sea-salt and anthropogenic emissions). This evaluation is performed against ground-based measurements during the summers 2012 and 2013, and against airborne measurements during the flight of 10 July 2014. The criteria of Boylan and Russell (2006) are used to evaluate the model-to-measurement comparisons. The performance criterion is verified if $|MFB| \le 60\%$ and $MFE \le 75\%$ (MFB and MFE stand respectively for the mean fractional bias and the mean fractional error and are defined in Table [A1] of

Appendix A), while the goal criterion is verified if $|MFB| \le 30\%$ and $MFE \le 50\%$. To evaluate the sensitivity of the modelled modeled concentrations to input data, the different simulations summarized in Table 1 are compared to the reference simulation

15 S1 by computing the normalized root-mean-square-error (RMSE of the concentration differences between a simulation and S1, divided by the mean concentration of S1).

4.1 PM₁₀ and **PM**₁

The statistical scores of the simulated PM_1 and PM_{10} are shown in Table 7 for the summer campaigns of 2012 and 2013. The time series of measured and simulated PM_{10} and PM_1 during the summer 2013 are presented in Figure C1 of Appendix C.

²⁰ PM_{10} and PM_1 are well modeled during both the summer campaigns of 2012 and 2013, and the performance and goal criteria are always met. The measured mean concentration of PM_1 is very similar in 2012 and 2013 (7.6 and 7.0 μ g m⁻³ respectively). However, the mean PM_{10} concentration is double in 2012 compared to 2013 (22.4 and 11.5 μ g m⁻³ respectively), probably because of higher occurrence of transported desert dust in 2012...2012 (Nabat et al., 2015)

Although the mean PM_1 and PM_{10} concentrations are well modeled in 2013, the mean PM_1 concentration is slightly 25 over-estimated under-estimated during summer 2013 and the mean PM_{10} concentration is slightly under-estimated in 2012. This under-estimation of PM_{10} may be due to difficulties in accurately representing the transported dust episodes, which are frequent in summer in the western Mediterranean (Moulin et al., 1998) and are represented in the Mediterranean simulation by dust boundary conditions from the global model MOZART4.

The comparisons of the different simulations at Ersa in Table 7 shows that both PM_{10} and PM_1 concentrations are strongly 30 influenced by sea-salt emissions (S3, with a normalized RMSE of 65% and 40% respectively), especially as the emissions of the two parameterizations differ by as much as 1400% over the sea in Southern France (section 2.1). PM_{10} and PM_1 concen-

Table 7. Comparisons of simulated PM₁₀, PM₁ and OM₁ daily concentrations to observations (concentrations and RMSE are in μ g m⁻³) during the summer campaign periods of 2012 (between 09 June and 2013, 03 July) and 2013 (between 07 June and 03 August). \bar{s} stands for simulated mean, and \bar{o} for observed mean. Simulation details are given in table 1

		PM ₁₀ (2012)	PM ₁ (2012)	OM ₁ (2012)	PM ₁₀ (2013)	PM ₁ (2013)	OM ₁ (2013)
М	easured mean \overline{o}	22.38	7.57	3.89	11.46	7.02	2.88
	$\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	16.44 ± 7.55	9.40 ± 2.72	3.39 ± 0.78	9.69 ± 3.17	6.98 ± 1.77	2.56 ±1.07
5	Correlation (%)	76.8	78.9	95.2	70.9	67.5	81
01	MFB	-30	18	-20	-19	-1	-17
	MFE	30	27	23	26	20	35
\$2	$\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$		_	_	7.49 ± 4.75	6.42 ± 1.91	1.61 ± 1.62
01	Diff. with S1 (%)		_	_	-23	-8	-37
	Norm. RMSE (%)		_	_	33	21	49
33	$\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$			_	14.94 ± 5.02	9.45 ± 2.95	3.26 ± 1.03
01	Diff. with S1 (%)		_	_	54	35	27
	Norm. RMSE (%)	_	_	_	65	40	29
4	$\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	13.87 ± 10.95	7.66 ± 1.56	2.37 ± 1.64	8.48 ± 4.02	6.86 ± 2.03	1.98 ± 1.29
01	Diff. with S1 (%)	-16	-19	-30	-12	-2	-23
	Norm. RMSE (%)	23	2	43	17	10	32
35	$\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	_	_	_	_		2.54 ± 1.07
•1	Diff. with S1 (%)		_	_		_	-1
	Norm. RMSE (%)		_	_		_	1

trations are also very sensitive to meteorology (S2, with a normalized RMSE of 33% and 21% respectively) and anthropogenic emissions (S4, with a normalized RMSE of 17% and 10% respectively).

Knowing the chemical composition of PM_{10} and PM_1 provides important information to understand the different sources of aerosol particles arriving at Ersa, and to understand the sensitivities presented above. Figure **??** shows the <u>3</u> shows the simulated composition of PM_{10} and PM_1 and the percentage contribution of each compound to PM in <u>2012-2013</u> and the associated variability.

5

Inorganic According to simulation, inorganic aerosols account for a large part of the PM_{10} mass: during the summer campaign periods of 2012 and 2013, the inorganic fraction in PM_{10} is 31% and 39% respectively. Among inorganics, sulfate, largely originating from anthropogenic sources, occupies a large portion of PM_{10} (18% in 2012 and 19% in 2013). The organic

10 mass (OM) also largely contributes to PM_{10} (30% in 2012 and 33% in 2013). Black carbon (originating from traffic and shipping emissions and industrial activities in big cities in the south of France and the north of Italy) contributes to a small portion of PM_{10} (5% in 2012 and 7% in 2013). Saharan dust can be transported by air-masses to the Mediterranean atmosphere via medium-range transport and is an important component of the PM_{10} with contributions of 34% and 21% during the summer campaigns of 2012 and 2013, respectively.



Figure 3. PM₁₀ (left panel) and PM₁ (right panel) average relative simulated composition during the summer 2012-2013 campaign period

The PM₁ mass is dominated by organic matter (41% in 2012 and 38% in 2013) and sulfate (30% in 2012 and 24% in 2013). The percentage of sodium (from sea salt) is significant in PM₁₀ (4% in 2012 and 10% in 2013), but it is negligible in the PM₁ mass (less than 1%).

4.2 $OM_{PM_{1}}$

- 5 The statistical evaluation of OM_{PM_1} during the summer campaigns of 2012 and 2013 is available in Table 7. As discussed in Chrit et al. (2017), the performance and goal criteria are both satisfied, due to the addition in the model of highly oxidized species (extremely low volatility organic compounds, organic nitrate and the carboxylic acid MBTCA (3-methyl-1,2,3butanetricarboxylic acid) as a second generation oxidation product of α -pinene). Adding these species to the model was also required to correctly model OM properties (oxidation state and affinity to water). The time series of measured and simulated
- 10 $OM_{PM_1,1}$ concentrations during the summer 2013 campaign are presented in Figure C1 of Appendix C. The comparison of the different simulations at Ersa in Table 7 shows that $OM_{PM_1,1}$ is particularly influenced by meteorology (S2 with a normalized RMSE of 49%), because meteorology influences biogenic emissions, but also by inorganic sea-salt emissions (S3 with a normalized RMSE of 29%), which provides mass onto which hydrophilic SOA can condense especially sulfate, and anthropogenic emissions (S4 with a normalized RMSE of 32%), as they affect the formation of oxidants through photochemistry and emit

anthropogenic precursors. The sensitivity to anthropogenic I/S-VOC emissions is low (S5, with a normalized RMSE of only 1%).

4.3 Inorganic species

4.3.1 Ground-based evaluation

5 The statistical scores of the simulated inorganic concentrations are shown in Table 8 for PM_1 concentrations during the summer 2012 campaign and in Table 9 and Table 10 for PM_{10} and PM_1 inorganic concentrations respectively during the summer 2013 campaign. The time series of measured and simulated inorganic concentrations during the summer 2013 campaign are presented in Figures C2 and C3 of Appendix C.

Inorganic concentrations of PM_1 aerosol were measured in 2012, and in both PM_1 and PM_{10} in 2013. Some of the inorganic 10 gaseous precursors (SO₂, HNO₃ and HCl) were also measured only for a few days in 2013 (between 21 July and 26 July 2013).

For the 2012 reference simulation (S1), for the PM_1 , sulfate and nitrate concentrations satisfy both the performance and goal criteria. Ammonium concentrations are however under-estimated, despite the performance criterion being satisfied in terms of MFE. This under-estimation of ammonium increases if EMEP emission inventory with lower ship emissions over the Mediterranean Sea is used, suggesting that ammonium nitrate formation is strongly dependent on the ship NO_x emissions

15 (because they lead to the formation of the gaseous precursors HNO₃ of ammonium nitrate).

For the 2013 reference simulation (S1), in PM_{10} , sulfate and ammonium satisfy the performance and goal criteria, while sodium satisfies only the performance criterion. The mean concentrations of <u>modelled modeled</u> chloride and nitrate are both under-estimated. This under-estimation is probably due to uncertainties on the measurements. In fact, nitrate and chloride are difficult to measure, there can be some negative artefacts (volatilization of the aerosol phase during sampling) or

- 20 positive artefacts artefact's (condensation of gaseous phase onto the particles or filters during sampling), depending on the sampling conditions. Moreover, this underestimation may be also due to <u>uncertainties on the modeled temperature (with bias as high as about 5 K in daily points)</u>, and due to difficulties in representing the partitioning between the gas and the particle phases. For chloride, as shown in Figure C2 of Appendix C, although the mean concentration is under-estimated, the peaks are over-estimated. For example, between 21 and 26 July 2013, the particle-phase chloride concentration is $0.34 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}$
- in the simulation, but only 0.05 μ g m⁻³ in the measurements. The total chloride (gas + particle phase) is well modeled (1.2 μ g m⁻³ in the measurements and 1 μ g m⁻³ simulated), but the gas/particle ratio is much higher in the measurements (18.4) than in the model (2.4). For nitrate, the total nitrate (gas + particle phase) is <u>under-estimated over-estimated</u> between 21 and 26 July 2013 (2.7 μ g m⁻³ in the measurements and 6.6 μ g m⁻³ simulated), and most of it is in the gas phase (only 0.4 μ g m⁻³ in the particle phase in the measurements and 0.2 simulated). Contrary to chloride, the gas/particle ratio is much
- 30 higher in the model (28.2) than in the measurements (5.4). The reason for these difficulties to represent the gas/particle ratios of chloride is that the measured PILS chloride concentrations include only non-refractory chloride. The reason of the difference of nitrate ratio is likely related to the internal-mixing hypothesis and the bulk-equilibrium assumption in the modeling of condensation/evaporation. They are investigated in the following section, during the comparison to airborne measurements.

Table 8. Comparisons of simulated PM₁ inorganic daily concentrations to observations (concentrations are in μ g m⁻³) using S1 and S4 during the summer 2012.

Inorganics		Nitrate	Sulfate	Ammonium	
	Measured mean \overline{o}	0.41	2.06	1.39	
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	0.51 ±0.28	2.53 ± 1.13	0.68 ± 0.85	0.04 ± 0.03
21	Correlation (%)	20.1	71.4	47.8	
•1	MFB	15	31	-72	
	MFE	50	39	72	
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	0.53 ± 0.36	$1.71{\pm}~1.28$	0.50 ± 1.04	
S 4	Diff. with S1 (%)	+4%	-32%	-26%	
.	Norm. RMSE (%)	45	46	32	

For the 2013 reference simulation (S1), in PM_1 , as in PM_{10} , sulfate and ammonium satisfy the performance criterion, which is also almost satisfied for nitrate. The measured and simulated PM_1 and PM_{10} concentrations are relatively similar for sulfate and ammonium, suggesting that most of the mass is in PM_1 .

- The comparisons of the different simulations at Ersa in Tables 9 and 10 show that inorganics in PM₁₀ and PM₁ have 5 similar sensitivities, because of the bulk equilibrium assumption made in the modeling of condensation/evaporation. Sulfate is more sensitive to anthropogenic (ship) emissions (with a normalized RMSE of 44% in PM₁₀) than meteorology (with a normalized RMSE of 22%) and sea-salt emissions (with a normalized RMSE of 22%). Nitrate, chloride and sodium, and ammonium to a lower extent, are highly sensitive to sea-salt emissions with normalized RMSEs between 62% and 933% (Jaeglé et al. (2011) parameterization has a lower dependance to wind speed than Monahan et al. (1986) parameterization).
- 10 They are also strongly affected by meteorology (with normalized RMSEs between 43% and 130%), because meteorology affects the natural emissions (sea salt and biogenic), as discussed in section 5. By influencing biogenic emissions, meteorology affects the formation of organics and hence (Sartelet et al., 2012), because they are mostly of biogenic origins in summer (Chrit et al., 2017). The influence of meteorology on biogenic emissions also affects the formation of inorganics (because of the modification of oxidant concentrations (Aksoyoglu et al., 2017) and because of the temperature bias that can be as high as
- 15 <u>5K and the</u> formation of organic nitrate)(Ng et al., 2017). Inorganic concentrations are also strongly affected by anthropogenic emissions (with normalized RMSEs between 4844% and 267%), because anthropogenic emissions affect the NO_x emissions, and hence the oxidants and the both organic and inorganic nitrate formation. Because nitrate, ammonium and chloride partition between the gas and the particle phases, their uncertainties are linked and they are strongly affected by assumptions in the modeling of condensation/evaporation, as detailed in the section 4.4.

20 4.4 Airborne evaluation

The considered flight (10 July 2014, 10:21-14:09 UTC) was conducted by the French aircraft ATR42 deployed by SAFIRE in the south of France above the Mediterranean Sea. The purpose was to study aerosol formation, evolution and properties in

Table 9. Comparisons of simulated PM_{10} inorganic daily concentrations to observations (concentrations are in $\mu g m^{-3}$) using S1, S2, S3 and S4 during the summer 2013.

	Inorganics	Nitrate	Sulfate	Ammonium	Chloride	Sodium
	Measured mean \overline{o}	0.42	1.52	0.76	0.18	0.53
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	0.33 ± 0.42	2.05 ± 0.84	0.58 ± 0.39	0.12 ± 0.45	0.70 ± 0.54
21	Correlation (%)	5.7	69.7	47.6	-11.4	55.5
•	MFB	-43	32	-20	-67	30
	MFE	86	40	43	105	70
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	0.19 ± 0.46	2.10 ± 0.82	0.49 ± 0.44	0.13 ± 0.44	0.77 ± 0.57
5	Diff. with S1 (%)	-42%	+2 %	-16%	+8%	+10%
•1	Norm. RMSE (%)	130	22	52	100	43
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	0.88 ± 1.27	2.14 ± 0.97	0.31 ± 0.60	0.59 ± 1.14	1.77 ± 2.34
33	Diff with S1 (%)	+167%	+4%	-47%	+392%	+153%
U,	Norm. RMSE (%)	376	22	62	933	291
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	0.24 ± 0.41	1.33 ± 0.67	0.34 ± 0.56	0.27 ± 0.64	0.98 ± 0.77
4	Diff. with S1 (%)	-27%	-35%	-41%	+125%	+40%
•1	Norm. RMSE (%)	66	44	48	267	50

Table 10. Comparisons of simulated PM₁ inorganic daily concentrations to observations (concentrations are in μ g m⁻³) using S1, S2, S3 and S4 during the summer 2013.

	Inorganics	Nitrate	Sulfate	Ammonium
	Measured mean \overline{o}	0.30	1.47	0.65
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm RMSE$	0.32 ± 0.31	1.86 ± 0.94	0.58 ± 0.38
51	Correlation (%)	22.9	28.9	32
•1	MFB	-24	27	-6
	MFE	77	55	55
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm RMSE$	0.18 ± 0.28	1.72 ± 0.66	0.50 ± 0.52
32	Diff. with S1 (%)	-44%	-8%	-14%
•1	Norm. RMSE (%)	134	19	44
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	0.87 ± 1.20	1.89 ± 0.81	0.31 ± 0.50
33	Diff. with S1 (%)	+172%	+2%	-47%
•1	Norm. RMSE (%)	384	29	62
	Simulated mean $\overline{s} \pm RMSE$	0.23 ± 0.25	1.08 ± 0.71	0.34 ± 0.48
4	Diff. with S1 (%)	-28%	-42%	-41%
•1	Norm. RMSE (%)	69	34	47

marine conditions, under Mistral regime (north/north-west winds coming from the Rhône Valley characterized by high wind speeds). Altitudes and a horizontal projection of the trajectory of the aircraft during this flight are presented in Figure 1. The aircraft flew at low altitudes (under 800 m.a.s.l.) over the Mediterranean Sea for about 2 hours, allowing us to evaluate the modeling of sea-salt aerosols. As shown in Figure 1, the planetary boundary layer height, as modelled modeled by ECMWF meteorological fields, exhibit strong spatial variations.

5 meteorological fields, exhibit strong spatial variations.

For the comparisons of inorganic concentrations to airborne measurements, the reference simulation S1 is run a few days during the summer 2014 and it is compared to the observed concentrations when the flight is 2014. The simulated concentrations are extracted along the flight path from the corresponding grid cells and layers. For the model to measurement comparisons, only the cells were the plane was flying above the sea, at low altitudes (below 800 m.a.s.l.and where the boundary layer is

10 spatially uniform) with a spatially uniform boundary layer (above 1200 -m)-m) are considered. The transects where model to measurements are performed are indicated by purple crosses/lines in Figure 1.

4.4.1 Sulfate

Figure 4 shows the comparison of sulfate to the airborne measurements using different model configurations, and Figure 5 shows the comparison of nitrate and ammonium concentrations in PM_T. Sulfate is the inorganic compound with the highest PM_{T-1} concentrations (about 0.54 μ g m⁻³), followed by ammonium (about 0.32 μ g m⁻³), and nitrate (about 0.14 μ g m⁻³).

4.4.2 Sulfate

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As shown in Figure 4, the PM₁ sulfate concentration is over-estimated in the simulation with a mean concentration of about $0.55 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}$ against 0.47 $\ \mu g \ m^{-3}$ in the measurements. To understand the reasons of this over-estimation, different sensitivity simulations are performed. The first sensitivity simulation (referred to as "S1-without-SO₄ in SSE", where SSE stands for sea-salt emissions) differs from S1 simulation by the fact that sulfate is only emitted from anthropogenic sources and marine sulfate is not taken into account. The second sensitivity simulation (referred to as "S1-H₂SO₄-0%") differs from S1 by the fact that SO_x emissions are split into 100% of SO₂ and 0% of H₂SO₄, instead of 98% of SO₂ and 2% of H₂SO₄ in S1. The measurement-to-model comparison of the vertical profile of the PM₁ sulfate concentrations using the three simulations is shown in Figure 4. The influence of marine sulfate is negligible: the simulated means using S1 with and without the emissions

- of marine sulfate are nearly equal ($\approx 0.55 \ \mu g.m^{-3}$) indicating that the PM₁ sulfate concentration is almost totally from anthropogenic sources. A comparison of PM₁₀ sulfate concentrations for the two simulations show that this is also the case for PM₁₀ sulfate concentrations. This is indicative of the overestimation of sulfate or sulfuric acid emissions, or to the treatment in the model of emissions from ship stacks. However, PM₁ sulfate concentrations are strongly influenced by anthropogenic emissions. For example, PM₁ sulfate concentrations are lower if the fraction of H₂SO₄ in the SO_x emissions is lower than in the
- 30 reference simulation (the simulated mean concentrations with and without H_2SO_4 in SO_x emissions are 0.55 and 0.52 μ g.m⁻³ respectively), because of the rapid condensation of H_2SO_4 (which saturation vapor pressure is almost zero) onto particles.



Figure 4. Measurements are averaged at four model levels from airborne observations below 800 m.a.g.l along the flight path shown in Figure 1 on July 10, 2014. The concentrations of the S1 simulations (standard and with options, see text for details) are also averaged in time along the flight path. Results from S1 and from S1-without-SO4 in SSE (sea-salt emissions) are quite similar.

4.4.2 Ammonium and nitrate

Figure 5 shows the comparison of nitrate and ammonium concentrations in PM1. The simulated means of ammonium and nitrate are about 0.32 μ g.m⁻³ and about 0.14 μ g.m⁻³ respectively. In the reference simulation S1, ammonium and nitrate are under-estimated compared to the measurements.

Figure 5 shows the comparison of nitrate and ammonium concentrations in PM₁ to the airborne measurements using different model configurations. Because ammoniumand, nitrate and chloride are semi-volatile inorganic species, their concentrations may depend on the assumptions made in the modeling of condensation/evaporation. In the reference simulation, bulk thermo-dynamic equilibrium is assumed between the gas and particle phases for all inorganic species. In the first sensitivity simulation (referred to as "S1-Dynamic"), the condensation/evaporation is computed dynamically rather than assuming thermodynamic
equilibrium. In the second sensitivity simulation (referred to as "S1-IA-externally-mixed"), sea-salt (chloride and sodium) emissions are assumed not to be mixed with the other aerosols. In S1-IA-externally-mixed, bulk equilibrium is assumed for

Under the thermodynamic equilibrium approach (S1), nitrate is underestimated (the measured and simulated means are 0.10 and 0.05 μ g.m⁻³ respectively), probably because the sulfate is overestimated as detailed in section 4.4.1, but also because the

ammonium, nitrate and sulfate, while chloride and sodium do not interact with the other inorganic species.

15 assumption of thermodynamic equilibrium between the gas and particle phases is not verified. Nitrate concentrations are closer to measurements if condensation/evaporation is computed dynamically, especially between 400 m and 600 m altitude, where the mean concentrations are 0.07 μ g.m⁻³ in the measurements, 0.02 μ g.m⁻³ with S1 and 0.07 μ g.m⁻³ with S1-Dynamic). If sea-salt aerosols are externally mixed, than nitrate is even more under-estimated than in S1. This is because nitrate tends to replace chloride in sea salt if thermodynamic consideration is taken into account.

For ammonium, the comparisons to the measurements are best if sea-salt particles are assumed not to be mixed (the measured and simulated means are 0.27 and 0.26 μ g.m⁻³ respectively). The differences of the vertical profiles between the dynamic and the equilibrium approaches indicates that the assumption of the thermodynamic equilibrium is not verified (the condensation/evaporation process is not instantaneous). For instance, the simulated mean of ammonium using the equilibrium and dynamic approaches is 0.20 and 0.13 μ g.m⁻³ respectively.

Because both the mixing-state of particles and the dynamic of condensation/evaporation strongly influence PM_1 inorganic concentrations over the Mediterranean Sea, a model capable of representing the mixing state of particles with the dynamic of

10 condensation/evaporation (e.g. Zhu et al., 2015) may allow a better representation of inorganic concentrations.

5 Sensitivity studies over the western Mediterranean region

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Section 4 was dedicated to explain how the simulated concentrations of particles at Ersa are influenced by the different input data used (meteorology, sea salt, anthropogenic emissions) and modeling hypotheses. This section generalizes the sensitivity study of section 4 by investigating over the Mediterranean domain how the concentrations are influenced by the input data.

- Figure D1 of Appendix D shows maps over the Mediterranean domain of the concentrations of PM_{10} , OM_1 , sulfate and other secondary inorganic aerosols (SIA: nitrate, ammonium and chloride) from the simulation S1 during the summer 2013. The highest PM_{10} concentrations correspond to high OM_1 , sulfate or SIA ammonium, nitrate, chloride concentrations. OM_1 concentrations are high nearby locations of high biogenic emissions (such as over such as Italy and Corsica (Figure E1 of Appendix E). Sulfate concentrations are particularly high over the Mediterranean Sea, nearby the main ship routes (Figure 2).
- 20 SIA Ammonium nitrate concentrations are high in places of high anthropogenic emissions, such as North of Italy, as well as in main cities.

Figure D2 of Appendix D shows maps of the relative difference of the concentrations of PM_{10} , OM_1 , sulfate and <u>SIA-VIA</u> between S2 and S1 (sensitivity to meteorology). <u>SIA-VIA</u> concentrations show the highest sensitivity to meteorology, with relative concentration differences between S2 and S1 reaching between -90% and -60% locally over Italy. Sulfate shows the lowest sensitivity with relative concentration differences mostly between -20% and 20%. The larger influence of meteorology on <u>SIA-VIA</u> than on sulfate concentrations is partly explained by the influence of the temperature on the partitioning of

- SIA-VIA between the gas and particle phases, as SIA-VIA is highly semi volatile. OM_1 concentrations are quite sensitive to meteorology over the whole Mediterranean domain, with relative concentration differences mostly between -60% and 20%, especially nearby regions where the biogenic emissions are the highest. The places of the highest OM_1 concentrations
- 30 also correspond to the places where SIA-VIA concentrations are the most sensitive to meteorology. By influencing biogenic emissions, meteorology influences the formation of organics (OM₁) and hence the formation of SIA-VIA by the formation of organic nitrate for example. The influence of meteorology on sulfate concentrations is limited in this study, because the formation of organo-sulfate is not modeled in our simulations.



Figure 5. Vertical profile averaged at four model levels of NO₃ (left panel) and NH₄ (right panel). Measurements are averaged at the same four model levels from airborne observations below 800 m.a.g.l along the flight shown in Figure 1 on July 10, 2014 (around noon)

Figure D3 of Appendix D shows maps of the relative difference of the concentrations of PM_{10} , OM_1 , sulfate and <u>SIA-VIA</u> between S3 and S1 (sensitivity to sea-salt emissions).

Although sulfate is little influenced by-

As sulfate is assumed to make only 4% of sea-salt emissions (section 2.1), the influence of sea-salt emissions at Ersa 5 on sulfate concentrations at Ersa is low (the relative concentration difference is between 0% and 20%), the. The effect is stronger over the western part of the Mediterranean domain (with relative concentration differences between S3 and S1 between 20% and 60%), where SIA sea-salt emissions are stronger. Chloride concentrations are also strongly influenced by sea-salt emissions., as it is directly emitted (it is assumed to make 25%)

The influence of sea-salt emissions on OM_1 concentrations is also important, but it is less important than <u>SIA-VIA</u> (the relative concentration differences of <u>SIA-VIA</u> are between 90% and 180%) over the western Mediterranean part of the domain, compared to between 20% and 60% for OM_1 and between 40% and 60% for sulfate. The increase of OM_1 concentrations when sea-salt emissions are high is due to the hydrophilic organic compounds in OM_1 , which are absorbed onto inorganic concentrations. The organic concentrations originating from sea-salt emissions are very low, as discussed in Chrit et al. (2017),

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and they are not taken into account here.

Figure D4 of Appendix D shows maps of the relative difference of the concentrations of PM_{10} , OM_1 , sulfate and <u>SIA</u> <u>VIA</u> between S4 and S1 (sensitivity to anthropogenic emissions). Sensitivities to sulfate and <u>SIA-VIA</u> concentrations are more spatially localized than sensitivities to OM_1 concentrations, and they are higher, with relative concentration differences

10 between S4 and S1 between -40% and 20% for OM_1 and between -40% and 60% for SIAVIA. Sulfate concentrations are strongly sensitive to anthropogenic emissions nearby the main ship routes, with negative (S4-S1) concentrations between -60% and -40%, as ship routes are not well represented in the EMEP emission inventory (simulation S4). For SIA-VIA concentrations, the influence of anthropogenic emissions can either be negative or positive (increase or decrease of concentrations), because of the different spatial distributions of the two emission inventories, which affect directly the nitrate formation.

15 6 Conclusions

This paper presents the evaluation of the air-quality model Polyphemus at Ersa and over the Mediterranean Sea, as well as work presents a sensitivity study of the simulated concentrations to to different input data and model parameters parameterizations to better understand aerosol sources over the Mediterranean and the parameters influencing the aerosol concentrations. Aerosol sources are different depending on the aerosol chemical compounds. Comparisons to observations are performed at the Ersa

- 20 station to estimate how realistic the concentrations simulated with the different parameters are (meteorological fields, anthropogenic and marine emissions, intermediate/semi-volatile organic compounds (I/S-VOC) emissions, different options in condensation/evaporation modeling). For most pollutants, the best model performance is obtained when the meteorological fields that represent the best wind direction are used together with the emission inventory with the most accurate spatial description of ships emissions (EDGAR-HTAP).
- 25 Using ECMWF and WRF to model the meteorological fields, there is a high sensitivity of secondary pollutants (inorganics and organics) to meteorology, stressing showing the importance of accurate meteorological modeling -

This influence of meteorology on concentrations is due to the impact on sea salt and biogenic emissions, influencing directly the formation of SIA-ammonium, nitrate, chloride and OM, as well as the impact on temperaturestemperature, humidity and radiation, influencing the secondary aerosol formation. Sulfate is less sensitive to meteorology than SIA-volatile inorganic

30 <u>aerosols (VIA)</u>, because it is not volatile. However, this low sensitivity may change if the formation of organo-sulfate is modeled (not done here). Both inorganic and organic concentrations are highly sensitive to sea-salt emissions, as great discrepancies exist between different published parameterizations. The commonly used Monahan parameterization of sea-salt emissions leads to an over-estimation of all particulate concentrations, especially of sodium concentrations. A parameterization with a lower exponent in the wind-speed power law is chosen to model sea-salt emissions (Jaeglé et al., 2011) and leads to better model performance. The overestimation of the modeled sea-salt concentrations using Monahan parameterization has an incidence on the overestimation of the modeled concentrations of inorganic compounds, such as nitrate, which replaces chloride in the particles when the thermodynamic equilibrium approach is used to model condensation/evaporation. This assumption (the

- thermodynamic equilibrium approach) was shown not to be accurate both at Ersa and over the Mediterranean Sea. At Ersa, 5 the gas/particle ratio is too high for nitrate and too low for chloride if the thermodynamic equilibrium approach is used, as the exchange between the gas and particle phases is not instantaneous, but it is dynamic. This dynamic exchange is strongly influenced by the particle composition, and comparisons to measurements over the Mediterranean Sea suggest that sea-salt particles are not mixed with background (transported) particles. The modeling-
- 10 Sulfate originates mostly from maritime traffic. The shipping emissions lead to the formation of oxidants that in turn enhance the formation of biogenic aerosols, with the potential formation of organic nitrate and organo-sulfate. Organics are mostly from a biogenic origins during summer. Even if the contribution of sea-salt emissions influences not only inorganic concentrations, but also organics (OM₁), as hydrophylic organic species condense onto the inorganic mass. Sulfate to organic concentrations is low, organic concentrations are strongly influenced by ship emissions and show distinct maxima over the Mediterranean
- seasea-salt emissions, because they partition between the gas and particle phases and they are hydrophilic. This underlines the 15 need to better characterize the properties (affinity with water) of secondary organic aerosols. The emissions of I/S-VOC play a limited role in the OM_1 concentrations during the summer 2013, suggesting that the influence of ship emissions on OM_1 is mostly due to anthropogenic VOC precursors (aromatics) and NO_x emissions, which lead to the formation of oxidants that may oxidize biogenic aerosol precursors (and form organic nitrate for example).
- 20 Acknowledgements. This research has received funding from the French National Research Agency (ANR) projects SAF-MED (grant ANR-12-BS06-0013). This work is part of the ChArMEx project supported by ADEME, CEA, CNRS-INSU and Météo-France through the multidisciplinary programme program MISTRALS (Mediterranean Integrated Studies aT Regional And Local Scales). The station at Ersa was partly supported by the CORSiCA project funded by the Collectivité Territoriale de Corse through the Fonds Européen de Développement Régional of the European Operational Program 2007-2013 and the Contrat de Plan Etat-Région. Eric Hamounou is acknowledged for
- 25 his great help in organizing the campaigns at Ersa. CEREA is a member of Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace (IPSL).

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Appendix A: Statistical indicators

Statistic indicator	Definition
Root mean square error (RMSE)	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(c_i-o_i)^2}$
Correlation (Corr)	$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (c_i - \bar{c}) (o_i - \bar{o})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (c_i - \bar{c})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (o_i - \bar{o})^2}}$
Mean fractional bias (MFB)	$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{c_i - o_i}{(c_i + o_i)/2}$
Mean fractional error (MFE)	$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{ c_i - o_i }{(c_i + o_i)/2}$
Mean bias (MB)	$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}c_{i}-o_{i}$ $\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}c_{i}-o_{i}$
Gross error (GE)	n l'annail

Table A1. Definitions of the statistics used in this work. $(o_i)_i$ and $(c_i)_i$ are the observed and the simulated concentrations at time and location i, respectively. n is the number of data



Figure B1. Ground Temperature (left panel) and wind velocity speed (right panel) at Ersa during the summer 2012.



Figure B2. Ground Temperature (left panel) and wind velocity speed (right panel) at Ersa during the summer 2013.



Figure C1. Comparisons of PM_{10} (upper left panel), PM_1 (upper right panel), OM_{PM_1} (lower panel) concentrations simulated and observed at Ersa during the summer 2013.



Figure C2. Comparisons of simulated and observed PM_{10} sulfate (upper left panel), PM_1 sulfate (upper right panel), PM_{10} chloride (lower left panel) and PM_{10} sodium (lower right panel) concentrations at Ersa during the summer 2013.



Figure C3. Comparisons of simulated and observed PM_{10} nitrate (upper left panel), PM_1 nitrate (upper right panel), PM_{10} ammonium (lower left panel) and PM_1 ammonium (lower right panel) concentrations at Ersa during the summer 2013.



Figure D1. Maps of the concentrations of PM_{10} (upper left panel), OM_1 (upper right panel), $\underline{PM_{10}}$ sulfate (lower left panel) and other $\underline{PM_{10}}$ inorganics (nitrate , + ammonium and + chloride) (lower right panel) during the summer 2013 in μ g m⁻³.



Figure D2. Maps of the relative differences of the concentrations of PM_{10} (upper left panel), OM_1 (upper right panel), sulfate (lower left panel) and other inorganics (nitrate, ammonium and chloride) (lower right panel) in % between S1 and S2 (right panel) during the summer 2013.



Figure D3. Maps of the relative differences of the concentrations of PM_{10} (upper left panel), OM_1 (upper right panel), sulfate (lower left panel) and other inorganics (nitrate, ammonium and chloride) (lower right panel) in % between S1 and S3 (right panel) during the summer 2013.



Figure D4. Maps of the relative differences of the concentrations of PM_{10} (upper left panel), OM_1 (upper right panel), sulfate (lower left panel) and other inorganics (nitrate, ammonium and chloride) (lower right panel) in % between S1 and S4 (right panel) during the summer 2013.



Figure D5. Maps of the concentrations of NH₄ (left panel) and NO₃ (right panel) in PM₁₀ during the summer 2013.



Figure D6. Maps of the absolute differences of the concentrations of PM_{10} (upper left panel), OM_1 (upper right panel), sulfate (lower left panel) and other inorganics (nitrate, ammonium and chloride) (lower right panel) in % between S1 and S2 (right panel) during the summer 2013.



Figure D7. Map of the concentrations of $NH_4 + NO_3$ in PM_{10} during the summer 2013.



Figure E1. Maps of the emission rates of biogenic VOCs (isoprene and terpene) during the summer 2013 in $\mu g m^{-2} s^{-1}$.



Figure F1. Comparison of temperature (upper right panel), wind speed (upper left panel) and wind direction (lower panel) during the flight of 10 July 2014