

In this work, Chrit et al. used the air quality model Polyphemus to describe the organic aerosol formation and properties (notably oxidation state) at a measurement site in Corsica during the winter campaign of 2014. The OA concentrations are well simulated by the model, however, their oxidation state is systematically underestimated compared to observations. They also stress the importance of an accurate characterization of emissions since they found that the volatility distribution at emissions is the prime factor that control the simulated OA concentration levels. Overall, the manuscript is well written and scientifically sound. I recommend this study for publication after taking the following comments into account.

Specific comments:

1. Page 1, lines 15-16: What is the difference between oxidation and oxygenation state of OA? If there is no difference please remove the term “oxygenation state” from this sentence

There is a difference between the oxidation and oxygenation represented by OM:OC and O:C ratios respectively. According to Gilardoni et al. 2009 and Kroll et al. 2011, the organic mass to organic carbon ratio (OM:OC) is an index of the contribution of hetero-atoms (O, H, S, N, ...) to the organic mass: chemically processed and aged particles are expected to have higher OM/OC ratio compared to freshly emitted and unprocessed aerosols. However, the oxygen to carbon ratio (O:C) indicates only the contribution of oxygen to organic molecules and the ability of carbon atoms to form bonds with oxygen. This difference is now detailed in the introduction (see reply to comment 6).

2. Page 1, lines 16-17: Why do you assume that only the multigenerational ageing of the residential heating OA can improve substantially the results? Is this the dominant sector in the area? What about the multigenerational ageing of OA from other sources?

We thought that multigenerational ageing applied to I/S-VOCs from the residential heating sector may be more efficient at producing oxidized SOA, because the primary aerosols are more oxidized than those of other sectors. However, as stressed by the reviewer, it is more accurate to stress that multigenerational ageing of all sectors does not improve the results, as shown by the simulations performed. Therefore, The sentence “The observed organic oxidation and oxygenation states are strongly under-estimated in all simulations, even when a recently developed parameterization for modeling the ageing of I/S-VOC from residential heating is used.” is replaced by “The observed organic oxidation and oxygenation states are strongly under-estimated in all simulations, even when multigenerational ageing of I/S-VOCs from all sectors is modeled.”

3. Page 2, line 7: Please replace OA with POA.
“OA” is replaced by “POA” in the revised paper.

4. Page 2, line 3: You can also add the work of Jathar et al. (2014) and Tsimpidi et al. (2017).
These works are added to this sentence in the revised paper.

5. Page 2, line 30: You can also add the work of van der Gon et al. (2015)
This work is added to the revised paper.

6. Page 4, line 4: What is the difference between highly oxidized and highly oxygenated OA?

As explained in the reply to comment 1, oxidized and oxygenated are different. The following sentences are added at the beginning of the paragraph 17, p4: “The oxidation state is represented by the organic mass to organic carbon ratio (OM:OC). According to Gilardoni et al. 2009 and Kroll et al. 2011, OM:OC is an index of the contribution of hetero-atoms (O, H, S, N, ...) to the organic mass: chemically processed and aged particles are expected to have higher OM/OC ratio compared to freshly emitted and unprocessed aerosols. The oxygenation state is represented by the oxygen to carbon ratio (O:C). It indicates the contribution of oxygen to organic molecules and the ability of carbon atoms to form bonds with oxygen.”

7. Page 4, line 8: These studies are not recent. Please add more recent studies, e.g. (Aiken et al., 2008; Tost and Pringle, 2012; Canagaratna et al., 2015; Tsimpidi et al., 2018)
These more recent studies are added to the revised paper.

8. Page 5, section 2.1: OA formation from alkanes, olefins, S/I-VOC from open biomass burning, and marine OA is missing from the model setup. Can you please add a comment on their potential importance in the examined area?

OA from alkanes and olefins are not accounted for in the model setup because their emissions are very low and highly uncertain (Roest and Shade, 2017, Hajbabaei et al. 2012). Long-chain alkanes may also be included in I/S-VOCs. I/S-VOCs from open biomass burning and fires are not accounted for in the model setup because we are dealing with the OA formation during winter, and their contribution may be low. Marine OA contribute up to only 2% of OA according to Chrit et al. 2017 in summer. Its contribution during winter time may therefore be negligible.

9. Page 5, line 13: Please change „inorganics and inorganics“ with „inorganics and organics“. “inorganics and inorganics” are replaced by “inorganics and organics” in the revised paper.

10. Page 5, line 14: Please add a reference for the algorithm.
The reference for this algorithm is added in the revised paper “... moving diameter algorithm (Jacobson, 1997)”.

11. Page 5, line 15: According to the presented results (e.g., Fig. 3), the simulation lasts until 2nd of April. “01 April” in this sentence is replaced by “02 April” in the revised paper.

12. Page 5, line 16: It would be convenient if you can state the spatial resolution used here.

The spatial resolution and the vertical resolution used here are added to the revised paper: “...in Chrit et al. (2017). The spatial resolutions used for the European and Mediterranean domains are 0.5°x0.5° and 0.125°x0.125° along longitude and latitude. 14 vertical levels are used in this study for both domains from the ground to 12 km. 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. Boundary conditions...”.

13. Page 5, lines 23-24: Please remove the sentence: “Other sea-salt.... not modelled”
This sentence is removed from the revised paper.

14. Page 5 line 34: How much is this constant factor (RRH)? And how much is the constant factor R stated later in the text?

Both R and RRH are equal to 1.5 in the reference simulation, and they vary in the sensitivity simulations, as summarized in Table 3. For clarity, P6, l6, the following sentence “Different approaches will also be used to represent the ageing of I/S-VOC, as described in section 3.” Is replaced by “Different estimations of R and R_RH will be used, as well as different approaches to represent the ageing of I/S-VOC (section 3).”

15. Page 6, section 2.2: PMF analysis results would be very useful for comparison with your model results. Are they available at the Ersa site? If so, please add this comparison.
Unfortunately, PMF analysis results are not available at Ersa.

16. Page 6, line 10: Are these coordinated the center of the model cell? Does the dimension of the model cell include the coordinates of the station mentioned above?

Yes, these are the coordinates of the center of the model cell. The dimension of the model cell does not include the coordinates of the station. Therefore, we compare the measured data at Ersa with the simulated ones at the center of the cell the closest to the station.

17. Page 6, line 10: Please define the abbreviation ACSM
ACSM abbreviation is defined in the introduction (page 2 line 23).

18. Page 6, line 12: Did you compare the measurements with the model results with size sections from 0.056 to 1.0 (as they appear in the previous page)? Please clarify.
The measurements are compared to model results between 0.01 and 1µm. This sentence is added to section 2.2.

19. Page 6, line 14: Please correct “he” with “the”
“he” is replaced by “the” in the revised paper.

20. Page 7, section 3: What about traditional VOCs? Are they subject to photochemical ageing?

The traditional VOCs considered are toluene and xylene. These VOCs are subject to photochemical ageing based on chamber measurements. They are modelled with a one-step oxidation scheme. Their contribution to OA is low as specified in the introduction p3. In the introduction p3, the sentence “In winter, when anthropogenic emissions impact the most air quality, anthropogenic emissions such as toluene and xylenes may also form SOA, although they may be less efficient than I/S-VOC (Couvidat et al., 2013a)” is replaced by “In winter, when anthropogenic emissions impact the most air quality, anthropogenic emissions such as toluene and xylenes may also form SOA, although they may be much less efficient than I/S-VOC (Couvidat et al., 2013a, Sartelet et al. 2018)”

21. Page 8, section 3.3: How do you treat OA from sources other than residential heating in this case? Do they follow the oxidation scheme described in section 3.2? In that case, can you justify why you use a different oxidation scheme especially for residential heating and not for other sources?

Please see section 3.5 where different sensitivity studies are performed using different oxidation scheme for I/SVOCs from residential heating but also for I/S-VOCs from other sources. The residential heating sector was studied separately because it makes a large part of I/S-VOCs emissions, but also because its emissions are more oxidized and oxygenated than the ones from other sources like traffic.

22. Page 8, line 11: The carbon number should decrease and oxygen number increases, please correct.

The sentence “... secondary surrogates increases and decreases respectively...” is replaced by “...secondary surrogates decreases and increases respectively ...” in the revised paper.

23. Page 8, Section 3.4: Can you provide the actual emission rates (e.g., in Tn yr⁻¹) of your OA precursor emissions (i.e., VOCs, NTVOCs, I/S – VOCs from different types of sources)?

A table of emission rates of OA precursors averaged over the Mediterranean domain and over the simulation period is added to section 3.4 of the revised paper.

OA precursor	Emission rate ($\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$)
VOCs from biogenic and anthropogenic sources	0.0314
NTVOCs	0.0062
I/S-VOCs from residential heating	0.0013
I/S-VOCs from other sources	0.0030

24. Page 9, Tables 1 and 2: Please improve the quality of the tables. For example, you should include names of surrogate species that you assign these numbers, names of sensitivity tests, and what these numbers express (i.e., emission factors, O:C, OM/OC should not be stated only in the caption but also inside the tables).

The name of primary surrogates are added between brackets to the table 1 according to their volatility coefficient and the definition of the numbers is also added to both tables 1 and 2 of the revised paper. Furthermore, a Table is added to section 3.5 to summarize the sensitivity tests.

Sensitivity study of:	Simulations to be compared
the impact of the volatility distribution of emissions	S1, S2
the impact of the ageing scheme	S3, S2
the impact of NTVOCs	S4, S2
the impact of the I/S-VOCs/POA ratio	S5, S2 and S6,S4

25. Page 10, line 11: This is not very clear. You apply a factor of 4 in the initial emission inventory, and then, on top of that you apply a factor of 4.75 to account for the NTVOOC (which are not part of your S/I-VOC). Can you please clarify and justify your hypothesis of such high additional emissions?

Yes, this is what we did, following the papers published by Ciarelli et al. (2016, 2017). In fact, it is a sensitivity test to investigate how the concentrations compare to measurements using these published emission factors.

26. Page 10, line 17: Please add in the sentence the average OM concentrations over these cities. Likewise, provide average concentrations for other mentioned areas (e.g., Ersa) later throughout the text.

The average OM concentration simulated using S4 over the mentioned cities is added to the revised paper.

27. Page 10, line 19: Why do you focus only in these two simulations?

We focus on these two simulations because they are the ones that simulate better the OM₁ concentrations.

28. Page 10, line 19: Do you mean in both simulations (instead of “in all simulations”)?

No, we mean all simulations, even though we do not show their composition.

29. Page 11, Figure 2: Please increase the font size of the fractions. Also, the fractions over the dark blue are not clear.

This figure is more readable in the revised paper.

30. Page 12, line 1: OA is already defined.

Organic aerosol is removed from this sentence in the revised paper.

31. Is this an assumption or did you actually check that you have a false rain episode in your model?

It is an assumption because we do not have rain observations at Ersa.

32. Page 15, line 5: OA is already defined.

Organic aerosol is removed from this sentence in the revised paper.

33. Page 15, Section 6: Can you comment on the importance of marine OA in your domain? Is this type of OA identified by measurements at Ersa site?

Chrit et al. 2017 examined the influence of marine OA during summer and found that the contribution of marine OA to OA concentrations over Ersa is lower than 2%. The contribution during the winter would be even lower.

34. Appendix A, table A1: The definitions are not clearly readable.

This table is more clearly readable in the revised paper.

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Comment on “Modeling organic aerosol concentrations and properties during winter 2014 in the northwestern Mediterranean region” by Chrit et al.

acp-2018-149

General Comments:

Chrit et al. have deployed the Polyphemus platform with expanded techniques for simulating organic aerosol formation and aging, particularly from residential heating sources, and applied it to the CharMEx campaign in winter 2014. The study design is generally sound and the sensitivity choices are informative. There is also adequate reporting of direct results. However, I found there to be a lack of further diagnosis or interpretation of results considering the amount of data the authors would have access to from the model. Considering this, I think the paper would be better suited in its current form for GMD, although I think it is of acceptable quality and scope for publication in ACP, given that the authors address specific concerns below.

Specific Comments

1. Section 3.4: I did not understand how profiles 1 and 2 are allocated to individual emissions. It should be made clearer why profiles 1 and 2 can be mismatched for volatility and O:C? Usually, I think of these as tied together by the molecular weight (i.e. carbon number) assumed for each model species of a given volatility. Are the assignments made using some feature from the emissions inputs, or are individual sectors assigned profile 1 or 2 based on some knowledge of their emissions (e.g. waste burning goes with profile 2, offroad diesel goes with profile number 1, etc)? If the latter, can the authors include a table that identifies these assignments? If the former, can the authors better describe what parameters and algorithm are used to make the assignments?

Profiles 1 and 2 are used to allocate emissions of I/S-VOCs into model surrogate species. This allocation depends on the emission sectors. In the profiles, volatility and O:C can mismatch for two reasons: the volatility range spans by one model species is quite large and the chemical compounds may have different functional groups. The profiles 1 and 2 are based on chamber measurements performed for different emission sectors: profile 2 for I/S-VOCs from residential heating sector and profile 1 for I/S-VOCs from traffic. For clarity, the beginning of section 3.4 was rewritten as follows:

“Emissions of I/S-VOCs are allocated into the surrogate compounds detailed in the above sections using emission distribution profiles, which are based on chamber measurements. The distribution of the emission profiles as a function of volatility (saturation concentration) is detailed in Table 1. Two emission profiles are used. The first one corresponds to the measurements of May et al. (2013a) for biomass burning, and it is similar to the emission profile used by Couvidat et al. (2012) for all sectors and by Ciarelli et al. (2017b) for residential heating. The second emission profile corresponds to an average of emission distributions from gasoline and diesel vehicles measured by May et al. (2013b, c), and it is used in Koo et al. (2014). Here, the volatility emission distributions are assigned to a profile number (equal to 1 or 2), depending on whether the volatility profile is similar to the profile from biomass burning emissions of May et al. (2013b) (profile number 2) or whether it is similar to the profile from vehicle emissions of May et al. (2013c) and May et al. (2013a) (profile number 1). As shown in Table 1, the emitted I/S-VOC are less volatile in the profile 1 than in the biomass-burning volatility distribution (profile 2).

Depending on the emission sector, the OM:OC and O:C ratios of the emitted surrogates may differ. For most sectors, such as traffic, the OM:OC and O:C ratios are assumed to be low (OM:OC is equal to 1.3 in Couvidat et al. 2012). However, for residential heating, the emissions may be more oxidized. The scheme of Ciarelli et al. (2017b) assumes higher OM:OC and O:C ratios, as described in Table 2. Here, the OM:OC and O:C ratios are assigned to a profile number (equal to 1 or 2), depending on whether the ratios are similar to the profile from biomass burning emissions of Ciarelli et al. (2017b) (profile number 2) or whether they are lower (profile number 1).”

In the simulation, the assignment to profile 1 or 2 is identified in Table 3.

2. After going back to Ciarelli et al. (2017b), I am not convinced they included additional IVOCs, consistent with those being added in this simulation, in their parameterizations. It seems from Table 1 in that paper, that the authors included NTVOCs and also evaporated the existing POA into SVOC and IVOC bins. But I do not think they considered an additional IVOC category. Given this, I am not surprised that simulations here which include additional IVOCs and NTVOCs (S4 and S6) tend to over predict measurements. I would suggest the authors perform at least one run with R_RH set to 0 for residential heating sources and NTVOC turned on. This will probably look a lot like S5 so if the authors want to adjust the explanation of their cases to avoid doing more simulations, I think that is okay, but some detailed explanation should be added (i.e. R_RH could be defined as

adding NTVOC). Note this approach would not be perfect, because the SOA yields for the IVOCs would differ from those Ciarelli et al. (2017b) derived for NTVOC.

In Ciarelli et al. (2017b), NTVOCs have a saturation concentration of $10^6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ falling with the IVOC saturation concentration range limit. These NTVOCs probably include some VOCs and some IVOCs. However, modelling IVOCs and SVOC emissions by multiplying POA by a factor accounts for the fact that in the emission inventory the gas-phase of I/S-VOCs is not given. We agree with the reviewer that some IVOCs are probably counted twice if NTVOCs are added to the emissions, as well as the factor to estimate I/S-VOCs from POA. Several changes are therefore made to the revised paper:

The sentence “but they are slightly over-estimated when the ageing of NTVOC is taken into account” is removed from the abstract.

On page 3, the sentence “Ciarelli et al. (2017b) modified the approach of Koo et al. (2014) by adding non traditional VOC (NTVOC) that have a limit saturation concentration between VOC and IVOC.” is replaced by “Ciarelli et al. (2017b) modified the approach of Koo et al. (2014) by considering non traditional VOC (NTVOC) that have a limit saturation concentration in the low range of IVOCs.”

On page 10, at the end of line 7, the following sentence is added: “Even though NTVOCs are added, emissions of I/S-VOCs as modeled by the factor R_{RH} are kept.”

On page 11, at the end of line 16, the following sentences are added: “Because I/S-VOC emissions as modeled by the factor R_{RH} are kept in those simulations, the IVOCs forming SOA may have been counted twice by adding NTVOCs, explaining the over-estimation.”

The sentences lines 18-20 on page 13 are removed.

On page 20, the words “ particularly those with NTVOC” are removed.

On page 20, the sentence “All the simulations tend to under-estimate the OA concentrations at Ersa, except for the two simulations where NTVOC are taken into account, which, however, over-estimate the OA concentrations.” is replaced by “All the simulations tend to under-estimate the OA concentrations at Ersa, except for the two simulations where NTVOC emissions are added to I/S-VOC emissions. These simulations over-estimate the OA concentrations, because some IVOC emissions are counted twice.”

3. Are the IVOCs from residential heating assumed to be the same composition (i.e. same SOA yields) as those from vehicle sources? If so, what is this based on?

In the one-step oxidation scheme, IVOCs from residential heating are assumed to have the same SOA yield as those from vehicle sources. This assumption is commonly made in 3D models (e.g. Couvidat et al. 2012). It is based on the work of Shrivastava et al. (2006), who show a very similar dilution curve behavior between diesel exhaust and wood smoke.

4. Do the authors have a sense for the variability of wood-burning fuels across the region and how well one volatility distribution would be at simulating their emissions? Are there varying practices for controlling emissions from chimneys or flues that would have an impact on the particle fraction from these sources?

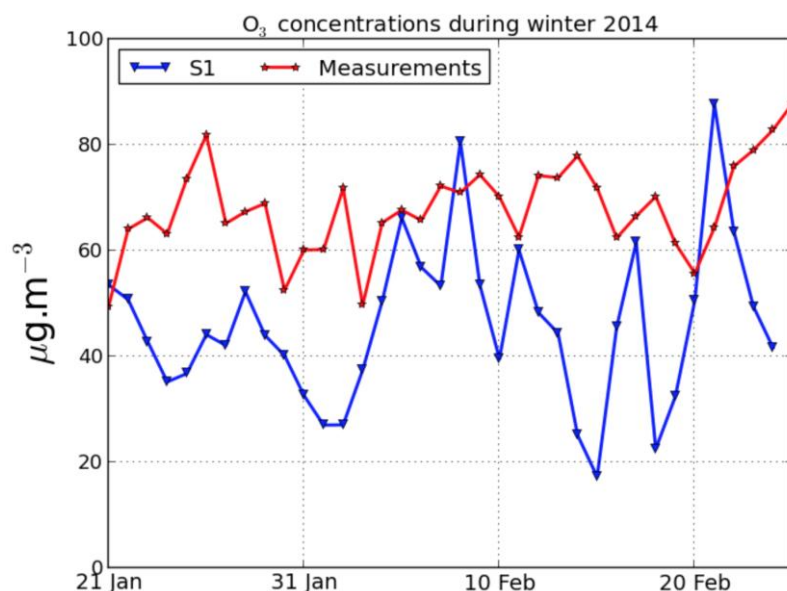
The volatility distribution of May et al. (2013) used for the wood burning emissions that is based on fitting data from thermodenuder measurements of the burning of 19 wood types. They found that the overall partitioning behavior of all the biomass fuel emissions considered in their study is similar enough to be represented in the model by one parameterization. Furthermore, we do not have data on the wood-burning fuels used across the region. Knowledge about wood-burning fuel may be complicated by the fact that the wood-burning fuel used may differ from official recommendations. The variability of wood-burning fuels may however be more important for very low-volatility emissions, which are difficult to measure. This point was added to the conclusion (see reply to comment 6).

5. The authors make the point that the winter time conditions are not favorable for oxidative aging of SOA or high formation of SOA from VOCs. However, the measurement data show relatively high O:C, out of reach of the model sensitivity cases. Can the authors demonstrate the model’s performance for relevant gas-phase oxidants to eliminate that as a factor?

Only ozone was measured at ERSAs. We do not have other oxidants’ measurements.

The comparison of modeled and measured concentrations of ozone between January 21 and February 24 is added to the revised paper. This figure shows that the model tends to underestimate ozone concentrations (the modeled and measured mean concentrations are 46.2 and 68.0 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). This suggests that the underestimation of the O:C ratio may be due to an underestimation of oxidants' concentrations and secondary aerosol formation. However, the O:C ratio is underestimated even during the days where ozone is well modeled.

These sentences are added to the revised paper in section 5, and the following sentences are added to the conclusion. : «... OM:OC and O:C ratios are underestimated at Ersä in all simulations. As ozone tends to be underestimated in the model compared to the measurements, the underestimation of the OM:OC and O:C ratios might partly be due to an underestimation of oxidants concentrations and secondary aerosol formation. »



6. I would urge the authors to consider adding more analysis of the relationship between model error and individual sources or chemical descriptions in the model. Are there correlations with other model species that would give some clues as to where the parameterizations are weak or better emissions data are needed (e.g. CO, POA, NO_x, etc)? What recommendations do the authors have for future work by experimentalists and other chemical transport model efforts? What pieces of the model description need the most work? One conclusion that comes out is that the results are more sensitive to the volatility distribution than the aging mechanism. I wonder if the authors could emphasize this point as an area in need of further research? Does more work need to be done on constraining the volatility, or on representing the diversity of wood burning fuels and conditions that exist?

Based on the paper of May et al. (2013), representing the diversity of wood-burning fuels does not seem to be influence the partitioning between gas and particle, although the emissions of low volatility compounds, which are not well characterized, may differ.

A paragraph emphasizing the future work and areas where the model needs more improvement is added at the beginning of the paragraph at line 23 in the conclusion of the discussion paper. “Because the volatility distribution at the emission is the parameter influencing the most the concentrations, further experimental research should therefore focus on characterizing it for the different sectors. The emissions and formation of very low-volatility compounds should also be further investigated to represent the aerosol characteristics observed.”

Minor Issues/Typos/Suggestions

1. Page 1, line 10: Suggest replacing “whatever the parameterizations” with “in all parameterizations tested”. “Whatever the parameterizations” is replaced by “in all parameterizations” in the revised paper.
2. Page 2, line 3: Suggest replacing “primary fraction originates” with “primary fraction originates mostly”. “primary fraction originates” is replaced by “primary fraction originates mostly” in the revised paper.

3. Page 2, line 5: evidences should be evidence
“evidences” is replaced by “evidence” in the revised paper.

4. Page 2, line 8: I think the generally acknowledged IVOC range includes 10^3 - 10^6 while SVOCs are 0.1- 10^3 .

Theses ranges are corrected in the revised paper. “... (IVOC) (with saturation concentration C^* in the range 10^4 - 10^6 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC) (with saturation concentration C^* in the range 0.1- 10^4 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), or low-volatility ...” is replaced by “... (IVOC) (with saturation concentration C^* in the range 10^3 - 10^6 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC) (with saturation concentration C^* in the range 0.1- 10^3 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), or low-volatility ...” in the revised paper.

5. Page 1, line 16: Add “precursors” to read “main anthropogenic VOC precursors”.

This expression is actually in page 2 line 16.

“... main anthropogenic VOC ...” is replaced by “... main anthropogenic VOC precursors ...” in the revised paper.

6. Page 3, lines 19-22: The 2D-VBS can also accommodate oligomerization pathways, although most transport models don't take it into account.

The sentence “ ...taking into account two competing processes: functionalization and fragmentation (Donahue et al., 2012). ...” is replaced in the revised paper by “taking into account three competing processes: functionalization, oligomerization and fragmentation (Donahue et al., 2012).”.

7. Page 3, line 23: suggest rewording to “scheme that accounts for multigenerational ageing, including functionalization and fragmentation, and that...”

The sentence “... scheme that accounts for fragmentation, functionalization and multigenerational ageing, and that represents ...” is replaced in the revised paper by “scheme that accounts for multigenerational ageing, including functionalization, oligomerization and fragmentation, and that represents ...”

8. Page 3, line 35: Recommend the authors add more description of what the non-traditional VOCs are. In the past, the word nontraditional has been used to identify SOA from IVOCs and SVOC vapors. I was confused at first, but see from the sensitivity case descriptions that these NTVOCs are different compounds.

The following sentence is added to clarify the definition of NTVOCs in the revised paper. “... adding non traditional VOCs (NTVOCs). They are VOCs or IVOCs, not usually taken into account in CTMs, and with a saturation concentration in the low-range of IVOCs . Ciarelli et al. (2016) identified these NTVOCs as phenol, m-, o-, p-cresol, m-, 15 o-, p-benzenediol/2-methylfuraldehyde, dimethylphenols, guaiacol/methylbenzenediols, naphthalene, 2-methylnaphthalene/1- methylnaphthalene, acenaphthylene, syringol, biphenyl/acenaphthene and dimethylnaphthalene”.

9. Page 4, line 8: Are studies from 2001 and 2005 still recent? Obviously, this is the authors' call. Maybe everything after 2000 still 'feels' recent? It's certainly more recent than 1975.

The sentence “... , recent studies (Turpin and Lim, 2001; El-Zanan et al., 2005) show ...” is replaced by “..., numerous studies (Turpin and Lim, 2001; El-Zanan et al., 2005; Aiken et al., 2008, Couvidat et al., 2012, Tost and Pringle, 2012, Canagaratna et al., 2015, Tsimpidi et al., 2018) show ...”.

10. Page 5, line 11: Are the authors using ISORROPIA v1? Version 2 includes among other things interactions with crustal species. If the model includes version 1, a statement should be added explaining either the unimportance of dust sources during the campaign, and/or the unimportance of crustal cations on organic aerosol concentrations as they are modeled here. The output of ISORROPIA will affect things like water uptake and pH, but most OA models now probably aren't sensitive to parameters like these, at least first- or second-order. Is that true for this model as well?

The ISORROPIA version used in this study is ISORROPIA v1 (Nenes et al. 1998). Crustal cations are not taken into account in this work, although they may affect water uptake and pH. However, as a first approximation, I/S-

VOCs are assumed to be hydrophobic, and therefore their concentrations would not be influenced by crustal species.

11. Page 5, line 15-16: The authors reference Chrit et al. (2017) for their grid configuration details, but I think it would still be useful to put it here. What is the grid resolution and layer resolution of the nested and large domains?

The spatial resolution and the vertical resolution used here are added to the revised paper: "...in Chrit et al. (2017). The spatial resolutions used for the European and Mediterranean domains are 0.5°x0.5° and 0.125°x0.125° along longitude and latitude. 14 vertical levels are used in this study for both domains from the ground to 12 km. 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. Boundary conditions...".

12. Page 5, lines 28-30: Is the total [I/S-VOC + POA] equal to 2.5 or 1.5 times the original POA? Could the authors adjust the wording of this sentence to make this clearer?

The total [I/S-VOC + POA] is equal to 2.5 times the original POA. For clarity, the sentence "I/S-VOC gas-phase emissions are estimated from the POA emissions from residential heating by multiplying them by a constant factor assumed to be 1.5 in the default simulation." is replaced by "I/S-VOC gas-phase emissions are estimated from the POA emissions from residential heating by multiplying them by a constant factor assumed to be 1.5 in the default simulation. The total (gas + particle) I/S-VOCs is therefore equal to 2.5 the original POA."

13. Page 6, line 9: remove "the" to read "at the model cell closest to the station"
"the" is removed from that sentence.

14. Figure 1: Could the authors adjust the color scales so it's a bit easier to assess them in relation to each other? For example, 0.01 for the left and 0.05 for the right?
The color scale of this figure is adjusted in the revised paper.

15. Page 7, line 9: Suggest changing "different parameterizations are compared" to "different parameterizations, described in the following sections, are compared".

"different parameterizations are compared" is replaced by "different parameterizations, described in the following sections, are compared" in the revised paper.

16. Page 7, line 16: How are the saturation concentrations for the S/I-VOCs chosen? Are they from a previous study? Are they fit to something?

These saturation concentrations for the I/S-VOCs are chosen to fit the curve of dilution of POA from diesel exhaust of Robinson et al. (2007) with three molecules. This point is added in the revised paper: "... different volatilities chosen to fit the dilution curve of POA from diesel exhaust of Robinson et al. (2007) and characterized by their saturation concentrations (0.91, 86.21 and 3225.80 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ respectively) ...".

17. Table B1: Why is it that for the SOA vs. POA species, the enthalpies of vaporization are the same even though the molecular weights are higher, the saturation concentrations are somewhat lower and the O/C ratios are somewhat higher? I would guess the SOA species should have larger enthalpies of vaporization.

The enthalpies of vaporizations are assumed to be the same for SOA as for POA because of lack of experimental data. It is difficult to estimate what the enthalpy of vaporization of SOA should be. A recent study of Majdi et al. acpd, (2018) found that the sensitivity of AOS concentrations formed from fire emissions to variations in the modeled enthalpy of vaporization is low compared to other sensitivities, such as the ageing scheme.

18. Tables D1 and D2 look to be repeated?
Yes, the table D2 is removed from the revised paper.

19. Page 11, line 6: Should "SOA" be "POA"?
Yes, "... 31% of SOA from ..." is replaced by "... 31% of POA from ..." in the revised paper.

20. Table 5: What is the uncertainty reflective of? One standard deviation?

Yes, it is the standard deviation to the measurements.

21. Page 20, line 24: The authors have cited May et al. 2013a (biomass burning emissions) twice. The second A in the name of May is removed from that reference in the revised paper.

Modeling organic aerosol concentrations and properties during winter 2014 in the northwestern Mediterranean region

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Abstract. Organic aerosols are measured at a remote site (Ersa) on Corsica Cape in the northwestern Mediterranean basin during the Chemistry-Aerosol Mediterranean Experiment (CharMEx) winter campaign of 2014, when high organic concentrations from anthropogenic origin are observed. This work aims at representing the observed organic aerosol concentrations and properties (oxidation state) using the air-quality model Polyphemus with a surrogate approach for secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation. Because intermediate/semi-volatile organic compounds (I/S-VOC-S-VOCs) are the main precursors of SOA at Ersa during the winter 2014, different parameterizations to represent the emission and ageing of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs were implemented in the chemistry-transport model of ~~the air-quality platform~~ Polyphemus (different volatility distribution emissions, single-step oxidation vs multi-step oxidation within a Volatility Basis Set framework, inclusion of non-traditional volatile organic compounds ~~NTVOC~~NTVOCs). Simulations using the different parameterizations are compared to each other and to the measurements (concentration and oxidation state). The high observed organic concentrations are well reproduced ~~whatever in~~ all the parameterizations. They are slightly under-estimated with most parameterizations, ~~but they are slightly over-estimated when the ageing of NTVOC is taken into account~~. The volatility distribution at emissions influences more strongly the concentrations than the choice of the parameterization that may be used for ageing (single-step oxidation vs multi-step oxidation), stressing the importance of an accurate characterization of emissions. Assuming the volatility distribution of sectors other than residential heating to be the same as residential heating may lead to a strong under-estimation of organic concentrations. The observed organic oxidation and oxygenation states are strongly under-estimated in all simulations, even when ~~a recently developed parameterization for modeling the multigenerational~~ S-VOCs from all sectors is modeled ageing of I/S-VOC ~~from residential heating is used~~ S-VOCs emissions remain to be elucidated, with a potential role of ~~organic nitrate from anthropogenic precursors and~~ formation of organic nitrate and low-volatility highly oxygenated organic molecules.

1 Introduction

Organic aerosols (OA) are one of the main compound of submicron particulate matter (PM_{1}) (Jimenez et al., 2009). Their primary fraction originates mostly from combustion sources, such as traffic and residential heating. However, large uncertainties remain regarding their emissions (Jathar et al., 2014; Gentner et al., 2017; Shrivastava et al., 2017; Tsimpidi et al., 2017). POA has been considered as non-volatile in emissions inventories and chemistry-transport models (CTMs); however, recent studies have provided clear ~~evidences~~ evidence that a large portion of POA emissions partition between the gas and the particle phases (Robinson et al., 2007). Organic species that compose ~~OA~~ POA are often classified depending on their volatility: intermediate volatility organic compounds (~~I~~V~~O~~C~~I~~V~~O~~C~~s~~) (with saturation concentration C^* in the range $10^{4-6} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), semi-volatile organic compounds (~~S~~V~~O~~C~~S~~V~~O~~C~~s~~) (with saturation concentration C^* in the range $0.1-10^{4-3} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), or low-volatility organic compounds (~~L~~V~~O~~C~~L~~V~~O~~C~~s~~) (with saturation concentration C^* lower than $0.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) (Lipsky and Robinson, 2006; Grieshop et al., 2009; Huffman et al., 2009; Cappa and Jimenez, 2010; Fountoukis et al., 2014; Tsimpidi et al., 2010; Woody et al., 2016; Ciarelli et al., 2017a, b).

OA originates not only from the partitioning of POA between the gas and the particle phases, but also from secondary aerosol formation (SOA) through the gas-to-particle partitioning of the oxidation products of biogenic and anthropogenic volatile organic compounds (~~V~~O~~C~~V~~O~~C~~s~~) and intermediate and semi volatile organic compounds (~~I~~S~~-~~V~~O~~C~~S-~~V~~O~~C~~s~~). The main biogenic VOC precursors are terpenes (α -pinene, β -pinene, limonene, humulene) and isoprene (Shrivastava et al., 2017), while the main anthropogenic VOC precursors are aromatics (e.g. toluene, xylenes) (Dawson et al., 2016; Gentner et al., 2017).

Available measurements and modeling studies are useful to elucidate the composition and origin of OA in different seasons (Couvidat et al., 2012; Hayes et al., 2015; Canonaco et al., 2015; Chrit et al., 2017; Ciarelli et al., 2017b). Indeed, over the Mediterranean region, the oxidation of biogenic ~~V~~O~~C-~~V~~O~~C~~s~~ may dominate the formation of OA during the summer (El Haddad et al., 2013; Minguillón et al., 2016; Chrit et al., 2017). Chrit et al. (2017) found that I/S-VOC emissions do not influence much the concentrations of OA in summer over the Mediterranean region, but biogenic SOA prevail. Because biogenic emissions are low in winter, Canonaco et al. (2015) demonstrated a clear shift in the SOA origin between summer and winter during a measurement campaign from February 2012 to February 2013 conducted in Zürich using the Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ACSM, Ng et al. (2011)) measurements. This last study notably highlights the importance of biogenic VOC emissions and biogenic SOA production in summer, and the importance of residential heating in winter. Ciarelli et al. (2017a) performed a source apportionment study at the European scale and revealed that residential combustion (mainly related to wood burning) contributed ~~around~~ about 60-70% to SOA formation during the winter whereas non-residential combustion and road-transportation sector contributed about 30-40% to SOA formation. Moreover, residential heating can also be a source of POA, which may make up a large fraction (20% to 90%) of the submicron particulate matter in winter (Murphy et al., 2006; May et al., 2013a; Denier van der Gon et al., 2015b; Shrivastava et al., 2017).

Modeling OA concentrations in winter is challenging, because it involves mostly the characterization of I/S-VOC emissions and ageing. Standard gridded emission inventories, such as those of the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP, www.emep.int) over Europe, do not yet include I/S-VOC emissions, and their emissions are still highly uncertain. For

example, Denier van der Gon et al. (2015a) estimated that emissions from residential wood combustion were under-estimated by a factor 2-3 in the 2005 EUCAARI inventory. As an indirect method to account for the missing organic emissions in the absence of precise emission inventories, numerous modeling studies estimate the I/S-VOC emissions from POA emissions (Couvidat et al., 2012; Bergström et al., 2012; Koo et al., 2014; Zhu et al., 2016; Ciarelli et al., 2017a) or more recently from VOC emissions (Zhao et al., 2015, 2016; Ots et al., 2016; Murphy et al., 2017). A ratio of I/S-VOC/POA of 1.5 has been used in several air quality studies (Bergström et al., 2012; Koo et al., 2014; Zhu et al., 2016; Ciarelli et al., 2017a). For example, Zhu et al. (2016) simulated the particle composition over Greater Paris during the winter MEGAPOLI campaign and they found that simulated OA agreed well with observed OA when gas-phase I/S-VOC-S-VOCs emissions are estimated using a ratio I/S-VOC/POA of 1.5, as derived following the measurements at the tailpipe of vehicles representative of the french fleet (Kim et al., 2016). However, various ratios are used to better fit the measurements. For example, over Europe, Couvidat et al. (2012) used a ratio I/S-VOC/POA of 4 but also of 6 in a sensitivity simulation to better fit the observed OA concentrations in winter. Koo et al. (2014) used a ratio IVOC/POA of 1.5 but also of 3 in their high IVOC emission scenario.

The atmospheric evolution (also known as ageing) of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs as well as their impacts on atmospheric OA concentrations remain poorly characterized (Murphy et al., 2006) and deserve a better understanding. A widely used approach to model the ageing of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs in CTMs is the volatility basis set (VBS) approach (Donahue et al., 2006). I/S-VOC-S-VOCs are divided into several classes of volatility where each class is represented by a surrogate. When oxidized by the hydroxyl radical, it leads to the formation of surrogates of lower volatility classes. This approach tends to lead to an overestimation of simulated organic concentrations (Cholakian et al., 2017) if fragmentation is not considered (formation of high volatility surrogates during the oxidation). Although the one-dimensional basis set 1-D VBS accounts for the volatility of the surrogates, it does not allow the representation of varying oxidation levels of OA. The more powerful prognostic tool to date, bi-dimensional VBS approach (2D-VBS), although it is computationally burdensome, describes the ageing of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs using not only the volatility property (C^*) but also the oxidation level (the oxygen-to-carbon ratio O:C), taking into account ~~two~~ three competing processes: functionalization, oligomerization and fragmentation (Donahue et al., 2012). Koo et al. (2014) developed a 1.5-D ageing VBS-type scheme that accounts for ~~fragmentation, functionalization and~~ multigenerational ageing, including functionalization, oligomerization and fragmentation and that represents both the volatility and the oxidation properties of the surrogates. When oxidized by a hydroxyl radical, each surrogate leads to the formation of more oxidized and less volatile surrogates with a reduced carbon number. Functionalization and fragmentation are implicitly taken into account in this approach, because of the increase of the oxygen number and the decrease of the carbon number of the surrogates formed. The 1.5-D VBS module is implemented within two widely used CTMs namely CAMx (ENVIRON, 2011) and CMAQ (Byun and Ching, 1999). Couvidat et al. (2012, 2013b, 2017) and Zhu et al. (2016) used a simplified ageing scheme with 3 volatility bins. When oxidized by the hydroxyl radical, each surrogate forms a less volatile and more oxidized surrogate, that does not undergo multigenerational ageing. This simplified ageing scheme is implemented in the two widely used CTMs Polyphemus (Chrit et al., 2017) and Chimere (Couvidat et al., 2017).

In winter, when anthropogenic emissions impact the most air quality, anthropogenic emissions such as toluene and xylenes may also form SOA, although they may be much less efficient than I/S-VOC-S-VOCs (Couvidat et al., 2013a; Sartelet

et al., 2018). To take into account emissions and ageing of anthropogenic ~~VOC-VOCs~~ that are usually not considered in CTMs (phenol, naphthalene, m-,o-,p- cresol, etc.), Ciarelli et al. (2017b) modified the approach of Koo et al. (2014) by ~~adding non-traditional VOC (NTVOC) that have a limit saturation concentration between VOC and IVOC~~ considering non-traditional VOCs (NTVOCs). They are VOCs or IVOCs, not usually taken into account in CTMs, and with a saturation
5 concentration in the low-range of IVOCs . Ciarelli et al. (2016) identified these NTVOCs as phenol, m-, o-, p-cresol, m-, 15
o-, p-benzenediol/2-methylfuraldehyde, dimethylphenols, guaiacol/methylbenzenediols, naphthalene, 2-methylnaphthalene/1-
methylnaphthalene, acenaphthylene, syringol, biphenyl/acenaphthene and dimethylnaphthalene.

The oxidation level of OA is important, because it is indicative of the degree of hygroscopicity, surface tension (Jimenez et al., 2009), and radiative property of the OA in addition to its ability to act as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) over the
10 Mediterranean (Jimenez et al., 2009; Duplissy et al., 2011; Wong et al., 2011). Chrit et al. (2017) showed that, in summer in the western Mediterranean region, OA is highly oxidized and oxygenated. The CTM Polyphemus/Polair3d used in their study does represent this high oxidation level of OA after adding to the model formation processes of highly oxidized species (autoxidation) and organic nitrate formation.

The particle oxidation state is represented by the organic mass to organic carbon ratio (OM:OC). According to Gilardoni
15 et al. (2009) and Kroll et al. (2011), OM:OC is an index of the contribution of hetero-atoms (O, H, S, N, ...) to the organic
mass: chemically processed and aged particles are expected to have higher OM:OC ratio compared to freshly emitted and
unprocessed aerosols. The oxygenation state is represented by the oxygen to carbon ratio (O:C). It indicates the contribution
of oxygen to organic molecules and the ability of carbon atoms to form bonds with oxygen.

Although the organic matter to organic carbon ratio (OM:OC) was first believed to lie between 1.2 and 1.4 (Grosjean and
20 Friedlander, 1975), ~~recent studies~~ numerous studies (Turpin and Lim, 2001; El-Zanan et al., 2005; Aiken et al., 2008; Couvidat
et al., 2012; Tost and Pringle, 2012; Canagaratna et al., 2015; Tsimpidi et al., 2018) show that OM:OC is rather close to
1.6 for urban aerosols and 2.1 for non urban aerosols. Zhang et al. (2005a) developed an algorithm to deconvolve the mass
spectra of OA obtained with an AerodyneTM Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS) in order to estimate the mass concentrations
25 of hydrocarbon-like and oxygenated organic aerosols (HOA and OOA). The mass of HOA represents primary sources, with
a OM:OC ratio close to 1.2 and O:C ratio close to 0.1, while the mass of OOA represents secondary sources (aged and
oxygenated) with a OM:OC ratio close to 2.2 and O:C ratio close to 1 (Aiken et al., 2008). Using this technique, Zhang
et al. (2005b) found an average OM:OC ratio of 1.8 in Pittsburgh in September. Over Europe, Crippa et al. (2014) found that
secondary OA is dominant in the OA fraction, with primary sources contributing to less than 30% to the total mass fraction.
Xing et al. (2013) measured a ratio OM:OC ratio over 14 cities throughout China and found that in summer, OM:OC is nearly
30 1.75 ± 0.13 , while the ratio is lower in winter (1.59 ± 0.18). The OM:OC ratio is lower during winter due to the slow oxidation
process owing to the low temperatures in addition the low biogenic contribution to OA mass during winter. At Ersa, over the
Mediterranean during the summer, Chrit et al. (2017) found high OM:OC and O:C ratios (2.5 and 1 respectively). They are
due to aged biogenic OA, which Chrit et al. (2017) were able to represent by adding the formation of extremely low-volatility
species and organic nitrate to the model and by considering the formation of organosulfate.

Quantifying the effect of I/S-VOC emissions and their impact on the atmospheric organic budget as well as the OA oxidation/oxygenation levels during different seasons is challenging in spite of the recent advances concerning the description of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs (Stockwell et al., 2015; Ciarelli et al., 2017b). This work aims at evaluating how commonly used parameterizations and assumptions of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs emissions and ageing perform to model the OA concentrations and properties in the western Mediterranean region in winter. To that end, the CTM from the air quality platform Polyphemus is used with different parameterizations of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs emissions and ageing.

This paper is structured as follows: section 2 presents the setup of the air-quality model used and reference measurements. Section 3 presents the different emissions and ageing mechanisms used to describe the evolution of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs as well as the comparison method. Section 4 compares the simulated concentrations, compositions of OA for the simulations using the different parameterizations. Finally, section 5 compares the measured and simulated OM:OC and O:C ratios.

2 Model and measurement set-up

The period of interest of this study is January-March 2014, hereafter referred to as the winter 2014 campaign.

2.1 General model setup

The Polyphemus/Polair3d air-quality model is used, with a similar setup as Chrit et al. (2017).

~~Transport and both~~ Transport, dry and wet deposition are modeled following Sartelet et al. (2007). The Carbon Bond 05 model is used for gas-phase chemistry. Semi-volatile organic compounds formation mechanisms from five SOA gaseous precursors namely isoprene, monoterpene, sesquiterpene, aromatic compounds and intermediate and semi-volatile organic compounds from anthropogenic emissions (Kim et al., 2011; Couvidat et al., 2012) are added to CB05 model. These five precursors are modeled with a few surrogates as proxies to represent all the species. The aerosol dynamics (coagulation and condensation/evaporation) are modeled using the SIZe REsolved Aerosol Model (SIREAM) (Debry et al., 2007) based on a sectional approach with an aerosol distribution of 24 sections of bound diameters: 0.01, 0.0141, 0.0199, 0.0281, 0.0398, 0.0562, 0.0794, 0.1121, 0.1585, 0.199, 0.25, 0.316, 0.4, 0.5, 0.63, 0.79, 1.0, 1.2589, 1.5849, 1.9953, 2.5119, 3.5481, 5.0119, 7.0795 and 10.0 μm .

The thermodynamic model used for condensation/evaporation of inorganic aerosol is ISORROPIA v1 (Nenes et al., 1998) and the gas/particle partitioning of SOA is computed with SOAP (Couvidat and Sartelet, 2015). In order to compute the gas/particle partitioning of both inorganics and ~~inorganics~~ organics, a bulk equilibrium approach is adopted. After condensation/evaporation, the mass is redistributed among size bins using the moving diameter algorithm (Jacobson, 1997).

The simulations are run between 01 January and ~~01-02~~ April 2014 for both the nesting (Europe) and the nested (Mediterranean) domains. The simulation domains (Europe and Mediterranean) and the spatial resolution used in the present study are the same as the ones used in Chrit et al. (2017). The spatial resolutions used for the European and Mediterranean domains are $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ and $0.125^\circ \times 0.125^\circ$ along longitude and latitude. 14 vertical levels are used for both domains from the ground to

12 km. 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.

Boundary conditions for the European domain are obtained from the global chemistry-transport model MOZART v4.0 (Horowitz et al., 2003) (<https://www.acom.ucar.edu/wrf-chem/mozart.shtml>). The European simulation provides initial and
5 boundary conditions to the Mediterranean one.

The European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) model provides the meteorological fields. The Troen and Mahrt parameterization (Troen and Mahrt, 1986) is used to compute the vertical diffusion. The land cover is modeled using the Global Land Cover 2000 (GLC-2000; <http://www.gvm.jrc.it/glc2000/>) data set. Sea-salt emissions are parameterized following Jaegle et al. (2011) and are assumed to be composed of sodium, chloride and sulfate (Schwier et al., 2015). ~~Other~~
10 ~~sea-salt compounds, such as calcium, are not modelled.~~ Biogenic emissions are estimated with the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN, Guenther et al. (2006)). Anthropogenic emissions are generated using the EDGAR-HTAP_V2 inventory for 2010 (http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/htap_v2/). The monthly and daily temporal distribution for the different activity sectors are obtained from GENEMIS (1994), and the hourly temporal distribution from Sartelet et al. (2012). NO_x , SO_x and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ emissions are speciated as described in Chrit et al. (2017). I/S-VOC gas-phase emissions are estimated
15 from the POA emissions from residential heating by multiplying them by a constant factor assumed to be 1.5 in the default simulation. The total (gas + particle) I/S-VOC is therefore equal to 2.5 the original POA.

As described in section 3.5, different values will be used and compared for I/S-VOC gas-phase emissions from residential heating and from other sectors. The ~~I/S-VOC~~ S-VOCs emissions from residential heating are assumed to be those of the sector "htap_6_residential" of the EDGAR-HTAP_V2 inventory. The emissions from this sector (shown in Figure 1) concern the
20 emissions from heating/cooling and equipment/lightening of buildings as well as waste treatment. The I/S-VOC emissions from residential heating are obtained from the POA emissions of sector 6 by multiplying them by a constant factor noted $R_{RH} = \text{I/S-VOC}/\text{POA}$. These emissions over the Mediterranean domain are located over big cities (Marseille, Milan, Rome, etc). I/S-VOC emissions from the six other anthropogenic sources (shown in Figure 1) are estimated from the POA emissions by multiplying them by a constant factor noted $R = \text{I/S-VOC}/\text{POA}$. These emissions are located over big cities and along the
25 main traffic routes, as well as the shipping routes linking Marseille to Ajaccio and Bastia. Different ~~approaches will also be used~~ estimations of R and R_{RH} will be used, as well as different approaches to represent the ageing of ~~I/S-VOC~~, as described in section ??S-VOCs (section 3).

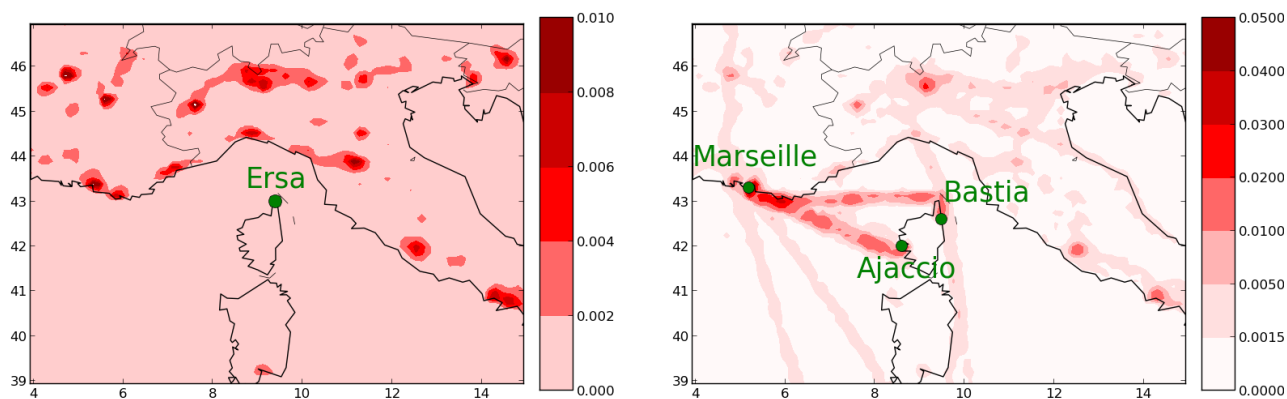


Figure 1. Surface emissions of POA from the residential heating sector (left panel) and from the other six anthropogenic sectors (right panel) during the winter 2014. The emissions are in $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$

2.2 Measurement setup

The ground-based measurements were performed in the framework of ChArMEx (The Chemistry-Aerosol Mediterranean Experiment) at Ersa (42°58'N, 9°21.8'E) on a ridge at the northern tip of Corsica Island at an altitude of about 530 m.a.s.l.. The ground-based comparisons are performed by comparing the measured and modeled concentrations at the model cell the closest to the station (42°52'N, 9°22'30"E, 494 m.a.s.l.), as detailed in Chrit et al. (2017). An AerodyneTM ACSM was used in order to measure the near real-time mass concentration and chemical composition of aerosols with aerodynamic diameters between 70 and 1000 nm with a time resolution of 30-min (Ng et al., 2011). This instrument has been continuously running at Ersa between June 2012 and July 2014 (Nicolas, 2013), with an on-site set-up similar to the one presented in Michoud et al. (2017). A recent intercomparison exercise, which he in which the ACSM used in this study has successfully taken part in, report, reports an expanded uncertainty of 19% for OM (Crenn et al., 2015). OM:OC and O:C ratios are estimated using these measurements following the methodology provided in Kroll et al. (2011). Although Crenn et al. (2015) and Fröhlich et al. (2015) have shown consistent results (eg e.g. satisfactorily Z-scores) in terms of fragmentation pattern, higher discrepancies were observed for f_{44} (mass fraction of $m/z44$), which is an essential variable in the calculation of these elemental ratios. In this respect, results are presented with an uncertainty which can be estimated as being twice the one of PM (i.e. around 40%).

The measurements are compared to concentrations and properties of particles of diameters between 0.01 and 1 μm .

2.3 Model/measurements comparison method

To evaluate the performance of the model, we compare model simulation results to measurements at the Ersa site using a variety of performance statistical indicators. These indicators are: the simulated mean (\bar{s}), the root mean square error (RMSE),

the correlation coefficient (corr), the mean fractional bias (MFB) and the mean fractional error (MFE). Table A1 of Appendix A lists the key statistical indicators definitions used in the model-to-data intercomparison. Furthermore, the criteria of Boylan and Russell (2006) (detailed in Table A2 of Appendix A) is used to assess the performance of the simulations.

3 Modeling of I/S-VOC emissions and ageing

5 In order to understand the behavior of the different parameterizations commonly used in CTMs to represent emissions and ageing of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs in the western Mediterranean region, several simulations using different parameterizations, described in the following sections, are compared. These parameterizations are those described in Couvidat et al. (2012), Koo et al. (2014) and Ciarelli et al. (2017b). The differences concern the emission ratios used to estimate I/S-VOC-S-VOCs from POA (R and R_{RH}), the ageing scheme (one step or multi-generational), the modeling of NTVOC-NTVOCs, as well as the ratio OM:OC
10 and volatility distribution at emissions.

3.1 One-step oxidation scheme

The one-step oxidation mechanism of Couvidat et al. (2012) is based on the fitting of the curve of dilution of POA from diesel exhaust of Robinson et al. (2007). I/S-VOC-S-VOCs are modeled with three surrogate species POAIP, POAmP and POAhP of different volatilities chosen to fit the dilution curve of POA from diesel exhaust of Robinson et al. (2007) and
15 characterized by their saturation concentrations (0.91, 86.21 and 3225.80 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ respectively). The properties of the primary and aged I/S-VOC-S-VOCs are shown in Table B1 of Appendix B. The ageing of each of these primary surrogates is modeled by a one-step OH-oxidation reaction in the gas phase (Appendix B), leading to the formation of secondary surrogates SOAIP, SOAmP and SOAhP. Once formed, these secondary surrogates do not undergo further oxidations. Compared to the primary surrogates, the volatility of the secondary surrogates is reduced by a factor of 100 and their molecular weight is increased by
20 40% (Grieshop et al., 2009; Couvidat et al., 2012) to represent functionalization and fragmentation.

3.2 Multi-generational step oxidation scheme

In sensitivity simulations, for anthropogenic I/S-VOC emissions, the oxidation mechanism is based on the hybrid volatility basis set (1.5-D VBS) approach developed by Koo et al. (2014). This mechanism combines the simplicity of the 1-dimensional (1-D) VBS with the ability to describe evolution of OA in the 2-dimensional space of oxidation state and volatility. This
25 basis set uses five volatility surrogates, characterized by saturation concentrations varying between 0.1 and 1000 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The surrogates VAP0, VAP1, VAP2, VAP3 and VAP4 refer to the primary surrogates and VAS0, VAS1, VAS2, VAS3 and VAS4 refer to the secondary ones. Table ??-C1 of Appendix C lists their properties.

In the scheme developed by Koo et al. (2014), the OH-oxidation of the primary surrogates leads to a mixture of primary and secondary surrogates of lower volatility. The carbon (oxygen respectively) number of the lower volatility surrogate decreases
30 (increases respectively) indicating that functionalization and fragmentation are implicitly accounted for. This mechanism is detailed in Appendix C.

3.3 Multi-generational step oxidation scheme for residential heating

In sensitivity simulations, for anthropogenic I/S-VOC emissions from residential heating, the VBS model developed by Ciarelli et al. (2017b) is also used. As in the previously detailed multi-step oxidation scheme, five surrogates with volatilities characterized by saturation concentrations extending from 0.1 to 1000 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ are used. The primary surrogates (BBPOA1, BBPOA2, BBPOA3, BBPOA4, BBPOA5) react with OH to form secondary surrogates (BBSOA0, BBSOA1, BBSOA2, BBSOA3, BBSOA4), whose volatility is one order of magnitude lower than the primary surrogate. In opposition to the one-step and multi-step oxidation schemes detailed above, here the secondary surrogates may also undergo OH-oxidation forming the secondary surrogate of lower volatility. As in the other schemes, functionalization and fragmentation are taken into account as the carbon and oxygen numbers of the secondary surrogates ~~increases and decreases~~ decreases and increases respectively. The properties of the VBS surrogates are shown in Table D1 of Appendix D, where reactions are also detailed.

Data from recent wood combustion and ageing experiments performed in smog chamber by Ciarelli et al. (2017b) show significant contribution of SOA from non-traditional volatile organic compounds (~~NTVOC~~ NTVOCs: phenol, m-, o-, p-cresol, m-, o-, p-benzenediol/2-methylfuraldehyde, dimethylphenols, guaiacol/methylbenzenediols, naphthalene, 2-methylnaphthalene/1-methylnaphthalene, acenaphthylene, syringol, biphenyl/acenaphthene, dimethylnaphthalene) to OA mass. These ~~NTVOC~~ NTVOCs are usually not accounted as SOA precursors in CTMs. The NTVOC mixture saturation concentration is estimated to be $\sim 10^6$ $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ falling with the IVOC saturation concentrations range limit (Koo et al., 2014; Donahue et al., 2012). ~~NTVOC~~ NTVOCs emissions are estimated using a ratio of NTVOC/SVOC of 4.75 (Ciarelli et al., 2017b) and their OH-oxidation produces four secondary surrogates of different volatilities. These four surrogates may undergo OH-oxidation leading to the less volatile and more oxidized secondary surrogate, similarly to the multi-step oxidation described in section 3.3. This mechanism is detailed in Appendix D and the surrogates properties are listed in Table ~~??~~ D1 of Appendix D.

3.4 Volatility distribution and properties of primary emissions

~~In the one-step oxidation scheme of, the emission distribution is based on the fitting of the curve of dilution of diesel exhaust from and is shown~~ Table 1 shows emission rates of OA precursors averaged over the Mediterranean domain and over the simulation period.

<u>OA precursor</u>	<u>Emission rate ($\mu\text{g.m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$)</u>
<u>VOCs from biogenic and anthropogenic sources</u>	<u>0.0314</u>
<u>NTVOCs</u>	<u>0.0062</u>
<u>I/S-VOCs from residential heating</u>	<u>0.0013</u>
<u>I/S-VOCs from other sources</u>	<u>0.0030</u>

Table 1. Emission rates of OA precursors averaged temporally and over the Mediterranean domain.

Profil N°	1		2			1		2	
Reference	May et al. (2013c, d)		Couvidat et al. (2012)			May et al. (2013c, d)		May et al. (2013b)	
Saturation Conc.	0.9	0.35 [POAIP]	0.25 [BBPOAIP]		Saturation Conc.	0.1	0.15 [VAP0]	0.20 [BBPOA0]	
						1	0.20 [VAP1]	0.10 [BBPOA1]	
	86.2	0.51 [POAmP]	0.32 [BBPOAmP]		10	0.31 [VAP2]	0.10 [BBPOA2]		
					100	0.20 [VAP3]	0.20 [BBPOA3]		
3225.8	0.14 [POAhP]	0.43 [BBPOAhP]		1000	0.14 [VAP4]	0.4 [BBPOA4]			

Table 2. Summary of the volatility distributions of the primary I/S-VOC surrogates. Saturation concentrations are expressed in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. For each saturation concentration and volatility coefficient, the name of the associated primary surrogate is between two square brackets.

Emissions of I/S-VOCs are allocated into the surrogate compounds detailed in the above sections using emission distribution profiles, which are based on chamber measurements. The distribution of the emission profiles as a function of volatility (saturation concentration) is detailed in Table 2. ~~This emission distribution is approximately similar to the one measured by~~ Two emission profiles are used. The first one corresponds to the measurements of May et al. (2013b) for biomass burning, and ~~used in the multi-step oxidation scheme it is similar to the emission profile used by~~ Couvidat et al. (2012) for all sectors and by Ciarelli et al. (2017b) for residential heating of. ~~In the multi-step oxidation scheme of for anthropogenic emissions, the emission distribution is obtained from averaging the~~. The second emission profile corresponds to an average of emission distributions from gasoline and diesel vehicles measured by May et al. (2013c, d). ~~As shown in Table 2, the emitted I/S-VOC are less volatile than in the biomass-burning volatility distribution of, and it is used in~~ Koo et al. (2014). Here, the volatility emission distributions are assigned to a profile number (equal to 1 or 2), depending on whether the volatility profile is similar to the profile from biomass burning emissions of May et al. (2013c) (profile number 2) or whether it is similar to the profile from vehicle emissions of May et al. (2013d) and May et al. (2013b) (profile number 1). ~~As shown in Table 2, the emitted I/S-VOCs are less volatile in the profile 1 than in the biomass-burning volatility distribution (profile 2). Depending on the emission sector, the OM:OC and O:C ratios of the emitted surrogates may differ. For most sectors, such as traffic, the OM:OC and O:C ratios are assumed to be low (OM:OC is equal to 1.3 in~~ Couvidat et al. (2012). ~~However, for residential heating, the emissions may be more oxidized. The scheme of~~ Ciarelli et al. (2017b) assumes higher OM:OC and O:C ratios, as described in Table 3. Here, the OM:OC and O:C ratios are assigned to a profile number (equal to 1 or 2), depending on whether the ratios are similar to the profile from biomass burning emissions of Ciarelli et al. (2017b) (profile number 2) or whether they are lower (profile number 1).

~~The one-step and multi-step oxidation schemes also differ in the OM:OC and O:C ratios of the emitted surrogates. In the one-step oxidation scheme of, the OM:OC and O:C ratios are assumed to be constant (1.3) and close to the average OM:OC and O:C ratios of. However, for residential heating, the multi-oxidation scheme of assumes higher OM:OC and O:C ratios, as described in Table 3. Here, the OM:OC and O:C ratios are assigned to a profile number (equal to 1 or 2), depending on~~

Profil N°		1	2		1	2	
Reference		Couvidat et al. (2012)			Koo et al. (2014)	Ciarelli et al. (2017b)	
Saturation Conc.	0.9	1.3 (0.15) [POAIP]	1.7 (0.55) [BBPOAIP]	Saturation Conc.	0.1	1.36 (0.16) [VAP0]	1.64 (0.37) [BBPOA0]
					1	1.31 (0.12) [VAP1]	1.53 (0.29) [BBPOA1]
	86.2	1.3 (0.15) [POAmP]	1.7 (0.55) [BBPOAmP]	10	1.26 (0.07) [VAP2]	1.44 (0.22) [BBPOA2]	
				100	1.21 (0.03) [VAP3]	1.36 (0.15) [BBPOA3]	
3225.8	1.3 (0.15) [POAhP]	1.7 (0.55) [BBPOAhP]	1000	1.17 (0) [VAP4]	1.28 (0.09) [BBPOA4]		

Table 3. Summary of the OM:OC (and O:C) ratio of the primary I/S-VOC surrogates. Saturation concentrations are expressed in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

For each saturation concentration and OM:OC ratio, the name of the associated primary surrogate is between two square brackets.

~~whether the ratios are similar to the profile from biomass burning emissions of (profile number 2) or whether they are lower (profile number 1).~~

3.5 Sensitivity simulations

The setup of the different simulations is summarized in Table 4. The simulation S1 uses the setup commonly used in air-quality simulations with the Polyphemus platform: the one-step ageing scheme of Couvidat et al. (2012) is used for both residential heating and other anthropogenic sectors.

The links between the compared simulations and the sensitivity parameters studied are summarized in Table 5. The simulation S2 is conducted to evaluate the impact of the volatility distribution of emissions. Instead of using a volatility distribution specific of biomass burning for all sectors as in S1, the volatility distribution specific of car emissions is used for anthropogenic sectors other than residential heating.

The simulation S3 is conducted to evaluate the impact of the ageing scheme. The volatility distributions are similar as S2, but multi-generational schemes are used rather than a single-oxidation step for all anthropogenic sectors.

The simulation S4 is evaluated to estimate the impact of ~~NTVOC~~NTVOCs. It has the same setup as S2 with multi-generational ageing, but ~~NTVOC~~NTVOCs are taken into account. Even though NTVOCs are added, emissions of I/S-VOCs as modeled by the factor R_{RH} are kept.

The simulations S5 and S6 are conducted to assess the impact of the I/S-VOC/POA ratio used for residential heating (R_{RH}). The simulation S5 has the same setup as the simulation S2 (single-step oxidation), but it differs in the ratio R_{RH} , which is assumed to be equal to 4 rather than 1.5. The simulation S6 has the same setup as the simulation S4 (multi-step oxidation and ~~NTVOC~~NTVOCs), but it differs in the ratio R_{RH} , which is assumed to be equal to 4 rather than 1.5.

In terms of the OM:OC ratio, the ratio specific of car emissions is used for emissions from anthropogenic sectors other than residential heating. For residential heating, higher OM:OC ratios are used in all simulations, except in S1, where the ratio specific of car emissions is used for all sectors.

Simulation	Residential heating					Other anthropogenic sectors			
	Ageing	Volatility profile	R_{RH}	OM:OC profile	NTVOCs	Ageing	Volatility profile	R	OM:OC profile
S1	one-step (Couvidat)	2	1.5	1	No	one-step (Couvidat)	2	1.5	1
S2	one-step (Couvidat)	2	1.5	2	No	one-step (Couvidat)	1	1.5	1
S3	multi-step (Ciarelli)	2	1.5	2	No	multi-step (Koo)	1	1.5	1
S4	multi-step (Ciarelli)	2	1.5	2	Yes	multi-step (Koo)	1	1.5	1
S5	one-step (Couvidat)	2	4.0	2	No	one-step (Couvidat)	1	1.5	1
S6	multi-step (Ciarelli)	2	4.0	2	Yes	multi-step (Koo)	1	1.5	1

Table 4. Summary of the parameters used in the different simulations performed.

<u>Sensitivity study of the impact of</u>	<u>Simulations to be compared</u>
<u>the volatility distribution of emissions</u>	<u>S1, S2</u>
<u>the ageing scheme</u>	<u>S3, S2</u>
<u>NTVOCs</u>	<u>S4, S2</u>
<u>the I/S-VOC/POA ratio</u>	<u>S5, S2 and S6, S4</u>

Table 5. Links between the compared simulations and the sensitivity parameters studied.

4 Organic concentrations

The spatial distribution of OM_1 concentrations averaged over the first 3 months of 2014 (Figure E1 of Appendix E) shows that high OM_1 concentrations are mostly located over big cities like Marseille, ~~Genoa, Turin, Milan, Rome and Naples~~ ($2.0 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$), ~~Genoa~~ ($1.6 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$), ~~Turin~~ ($4.3 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$), ~~Milan~~ ($4.4 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$), ~~Rome~~ ($2.4 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$) and ~~Naples~~ ($2.1 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$) and along maritime traffic routes, stressing that organics during wintertime are likely to be mostly of anthropogenic origins.

The simulated composition of OM_1 at Ersa is shown in Figure 2 for the simulations S4 and S5. In all simulations, primary and secondary organic aerosols (POA and SOA) from anthropogenic ~~I/S-VOC-S-VOCs~~ are the main components of the organic mass (between 60% and 84%). POA tends to account for almost the same fraction of the organic mass than SOA (between 46% and 62%). Similarly, in the U.S., Koo et al. (2014) found that the SOA account for less than half of the modeled OA mass in winter 2005 due to the slow chemical ageing during the cold season. Over Europe, in March 2009, Ciarelli et al. (2017a) simulated that POA accounts between 12 and 68% of the OA, with an average value of 38%. The emission sector 6 (residential heating) has a large contribution to OA (between 31% and 33%). This is also in line with Ciarelli et al. (2017a) who found that over Europe in March 2009, the contribution of the residential sector to OA varies between 20% and 45% with an average value of 38%. Furthermore, this sector contributes more to SOA (between 42% and 52% of SOA from ~~I/S-VOCs-VOCs~~) than to POA (between 17% and 31% of ~~SOA-POA~~ from ~~I/S-VOCs-VOCs~~), because their I/S-VOC emissions are more volatile. The contribution from aromatic ~~VOC-VOCs~~ is low (lower than 3%), and when ~~NTVOC-NTVOCs~~ are considered, they represent

between 18% and 21% of the organic mass. The model simulations performed revealed that, for the winter of 2014, the biogenic OA fraction is low (15-18%). Ciarelli et al. (2017a) also estimated the biogenic contribution to the organic budget to be between 5 and 20% over Europe.

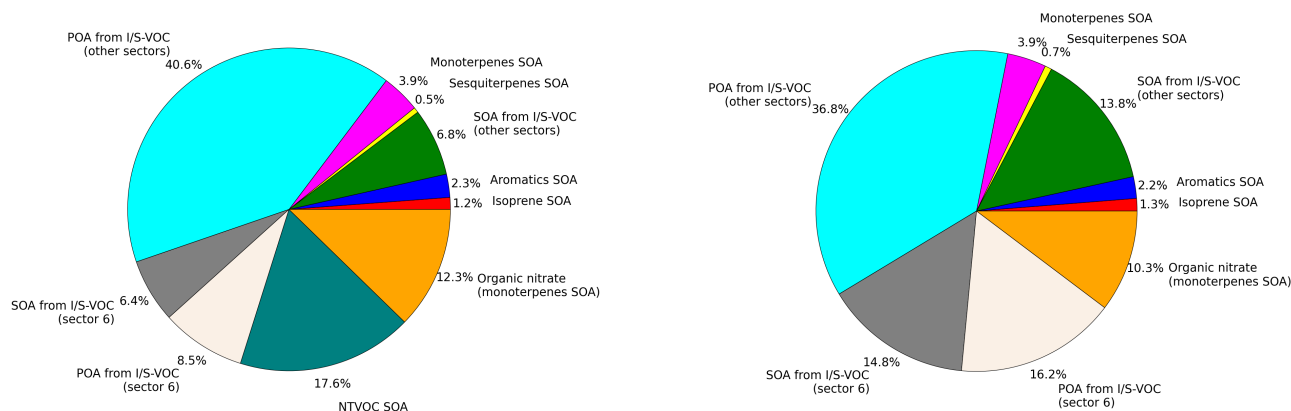


Figure 2. Simulated composition of OM₁ during the winter campaign of 2014 for two simulations: S4 (left panel) and S5 (right panel).

The statistical evaluation of the simulations is shown in Table 6. The model-to-measurement correlation is high for all simulations (between 76 and 83%). The performance criterion is satisfied for all simulations and the goal criterion is satisfied for S2, S3, S4 and S5. The goal criterion is not satisfied for the simulation S1, which uses single-step oxidation with a biomass-burning type volatility distribution for all anthropogenic sectors, and for the simulation S6, which uses multi-step oxidation with NTVOC-NTVOCs and a high R_{RH} ratio. The simulation S1 strongly under-estimates the OM₁ concentration at Ersa, whereas the simulation S6 strongly over-estimates it.

All the simulations tend to under-estimate the OM₁ concentrations at Ersa, except for the two simulations where NTVOC-NTVOCs are taken into account (S4 and S6), which over-estimate the OM₁ concentrations at Ersa.

The model-to-measurement correlation is high for all simulations (between 76 and 83) Because I/S-VOC emissions as modeled by the factor R_{RH} are kept in those simulations, the IVOCs forming SOA may have been counted twice by adding NTVOCs, explaining the over-estimation.

Other CTMs showed the same under-estimation of OM₁ concentrations during winter over Europe, even when I/S-VOC emissions are taken into account (Couvidat et al., 2012; Denier van der Gon et al., 2015a). The CTM CAMX-CAMx (Comprehensive Air Quality Model with extensions) also under-estimated the organic concentrations over Europe during February and March 2009 (Ciarelli et al., 2017a), but considerable improvement was found for the modeled organic aerosol (OA)-OA mass with the MFB decreasing from -61 to -29 %, when the parameterization of with-NTVOC Ciarelli et al. (2017b) with NTVOCs was added.

The model-to-measurement comparison during the first 3-months-three months of 2014 in terms of the daily concentrations of OM₁ at Ersa is shown in Figure 3.

Simulations	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
$\bar{s} \pm \text{RMSE}$	0.75 ± 1.14	1.06 ± 0.91	1.20 ± 0.85	1.65 ± 0.79	1.25 ± 0.80	2.06 ± 1.08
Correlation (%)	78.3	76.7	76.2	82.4	78.8	82.7
MFB (%)	-55	-23	-11	17	-7	38
MFE (%)	59	40	37	39	35	48

Table 6. Statistics of model to measurements comparisons for daily OM_1 concentrations during the winter campaign of 2014 at Ersä. \bar{o} refers to the observed mean. Other statistical indicators are defined in Table A1 of Appendix A.

Globally, the temporal variations of the simulated concentrations are well reproduced by the model. The simulation S1, which uses single-step oxidation with a biomass-burning type volatility distribution for all anthropogenic sectors, under-estimates the peaks. However, the peaks are well reproduced by the simulations S2, S3 and S5. The simulations S4 and S6, which take into account NTVOC-NTVOCs over-estimate the peaks. All simulations under-estimate the beginning of the peak between 9 and 15 March, probably due to uncertainties in meteorology especially rain episodes, and changes in the origin of air masses.

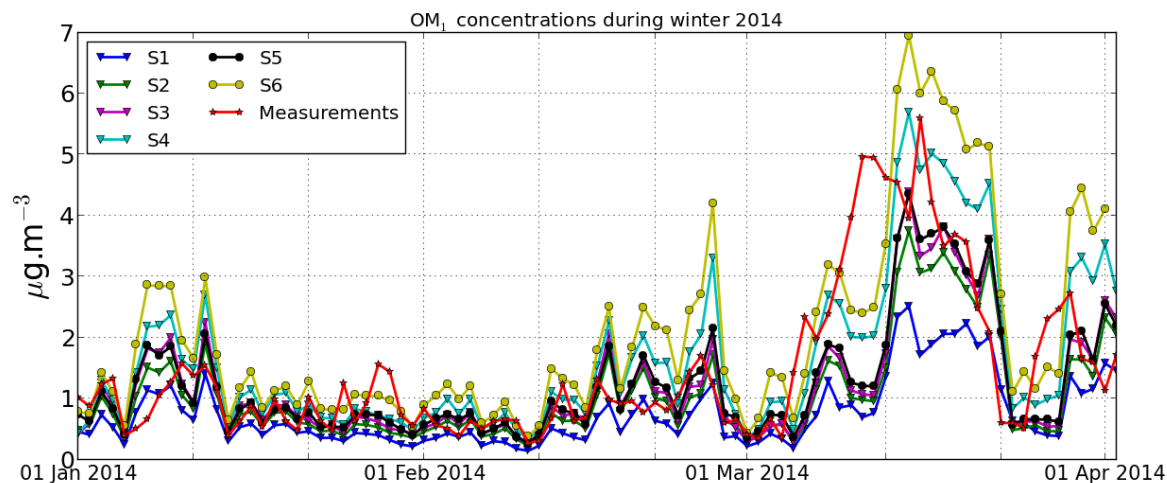


Figure 3. Daily evolution of measured and simulated OM_1 concentrations at Ersä from 1 January to 2 April.

As detailed in section 3.5, the $\text{difference-differences}$ between the simulations S2 and S1 $\text{originates-originate}$ in differences in the volatility distribution of emissions from anthropogenic sectors other than residential heating. In the simulation S2, a less volatile distribution is used than in the simulation S1, leading to larger OA concentrations in the particle phase. This difference in the volatility distribution makes a large difference in the OA concentrations, removing the strong under-estimation simulated in simulation S1 (the MFB is -55% in S1 and only -23% in S2).

Considering multi-step ageing for all anthropogenic sectors also leads to an increase of OA concentrations (the MBF of the simulation S3 is -11%, which is lower in absolute value than the simulation S2). However, the influence of the multi-step ageing

(difference between S2 and S3 shown in Figure E1 of Appendix E) is lower than the influence of the volatility distribution (difference between S1 and S2 shown in Figure E1 of Appendix E). This larger influence of the volatility distribution than the multi-step ageing is true not only at Ersar, but also over the whole Mediterranean domain, where the average RMSE between the simulations S1 and S2 is $0.01 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (impact of volatility), against $0.005 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the RMSE between the simulations
5 S2 and S3 (impact of multi-step ageing).

At Ersar, increasing the ratio R_{RH} from 1.5 to 4 (difference between simulation S3 and S2 shown in Figure E1 of Appendix E) has almost the same impact as considering the multi-step ageing (difference between simulations S5 and S2 shown in Figure E1 of Appendix E), although the statistics are slightly better when the ratio R_{RH} is increased from 1.5 to 4 than when multi-step ageing is considered. However, this is not true over the whole Mediterranean domain, where the impact of increasing the ratio
10 R_{RH} from 1.5 to 4 is large over cities, whereas the impact of multi-step ageing stays low (see Figure E1 of Appendix E). Over the whole Mediterranean domain, the average RMSE between the simulations S2 and S5 is $0.014 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (impact of increasing the ratio R_{RH} from 1.5 to 4), against $0.005 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the RMSE between the simulations S2 and S3 (impact of multi-step ageing).

~~Although considering NTVOC leads to a slight increase in correlation, it also leads to an over-estimation of OA concentrations at Ersar. Over the whole Mediterranean domain, the impact of NTVOC is high with an average RMSE between the simulations
15 S4 and S3 of $0.0211 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.~~

Finally, the best statistics, in terms of MFE and MFB are obtained for the simulation S5, with a one-step ageing scheme, a volatility distribution typical of biomass burning for the residential sector with a ratio R_{RH} of 4, and a volatility distribution typical of car emissions for other sectors with a ratio R of 1.5.

20 **5 Oxidation and oxygenation of organics**

The oxidation state is quantified using two metrics: OM:OC and O:C calculated as detailed in Chrit et al. (2017). Figure 4 shows the daily variations of the measured and simulated ratios for the different simulations.

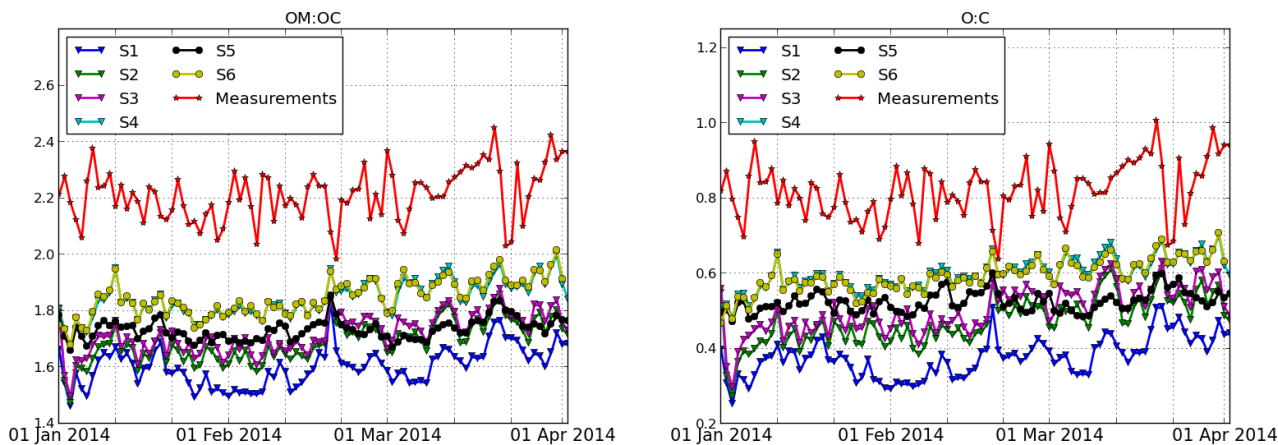


Figure 4. Daily evolution of the ratios OM:OC (left panel) and O:C (right panel) from 01 January to 02 April 2014 at Ersa.

The measurements at Ersa show highly oxidized and oxygenated organics: the measured OM:OC and O:C ratios at Ersa are respectively 2.21 ± 0.09 and 0.82 ± 0.07 . These values are lower than the index measured during the summer 2013 by Chrit et al. (2017) (2.43 ± 0.07 and 0.99 ± 0.06 for the measured OM:OC and O:C ratios at Ersa respectively), due to the slower oxidation process owing to the lower temperatures during winter. The average simulated OM:OC and O:C ratios are shown in Table 7. Both index are strongly underestimated by all simulations, due to the high contribution of POA to the OM₁ concentrations (POA is less volatile and oxygenated than SOA). The simulations using multi-step ageing schemes for I/S-VOC emissions have higher OM:OC and O:C ratios, although the differences are very low (the OM:OC ratio is 1.69 ± 0.53 in S2 (single-step) and 1.72 ± 0.50 in S3 (multi-step)). Organics in the simulations where the strength of I/S-VOC emission from residential heating was increased (simulations S5 and S6) have higher OM:OC and O:C ratios because POA and SOA from I/S-VOC-S-VOCs from residential heating are more oxidized and oxygenated than POA and SOA from other anthropogenic sources. Similarly, organics in the simulations where NTVOC-NTVOCs are taken into account have higher OM:OC and O:C ratios, because in the model, NTVOC-NTVOCs lead to very oxidized and oxygenated OA. However, the simulated ratios OM:OC and O:C stay under-estimated (1.85 ± 0.38 and 0.60 ± 0.24 at most, against 2.21 ± 0.09 and 0.82 ± 0.07 in the measurements).

Simulations	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Measurements
OM:OC	1.60 ± 0.62	1.69 ± 0.53	1.72 ± 0.50	1.85 ± 0.38	1.74 ± 0.49	1.85 ± 0.38	2.21 ± 0.09
O:C	0.38 ± 0.45	0.47 ± 0.36	0.50 ± 0.33	0.60 ± 0.23	0.53 ± 0.31	0.59 ± 0.24	0.82 ± 0.07

Table 7. Daily averages of OM:OC and O:C ratios at Ersa during winter 2014 for the different simulations. The average measured OM:OC ratio is 2.21 and the average measured O:C ratio is 0.82.

The underestimation of the O:C ratio may be due to an underestimation of oxidants' concentrations and secondary aerosol formation. Figure 5 shows that the model tends to underestimate ozone concentrations (the modeled and measured average concentrations between 21 January and 24 February 2014 are 46.2 and 68.0 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$). However, the O:C ratio stays underestimated even during the days where ozone is well modeled.

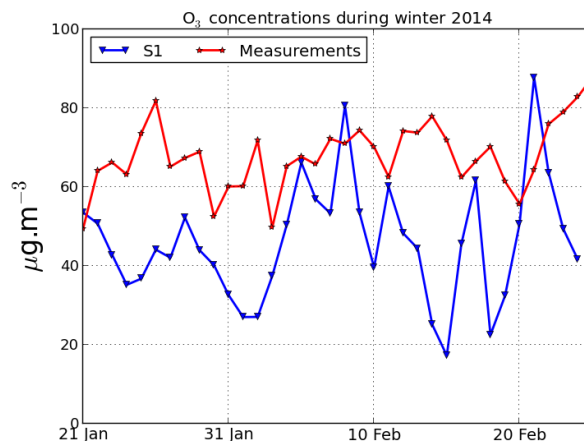


Figure 5. Daily evolution of ozone concentrations from 21 January to 24 February 2014 at Ersa.

5 6 Conclusion

This study shows a ground-based comparison of both modeled organic concentrations and properties to measurements performed at Ersa (Cape Corsica, France) during the winter 2014. This work aims at evaluating how commonly used parameterizations and assumptions of intermediate/semi-volatile organic compound (I/S-VOC) emissions and ageing perform in modeling the organic aerosol (OA) concentrations and properties in the western Mediterranean region in winter. To that end, the chemistry-transport model from the air quality platform Polyphemus is used with different parameterizations of I/S-VOC emissions and ageing (different volatility distribution emissions, single-step oxidation vs multi-step oxidation within a Volatility Basis Set framework, including non-traditional volatile organic compounds NTVOCs). Winter (JFM) 2014 simulations are performed and compared to measurements obtained with an ACSM at the background station of Ersa in the North of Corsica Island. In all simulations, OA at Ersa is mainly from anthropogenic sources (only 15 to 18% of OA is from biogenic sources). The emission sector 6 (residential heating) has a large contribution to OA (between 31 and 33%). The contribution from aromatic VOCs is low (lower than 3%). NTVOCs, as modeled with the parameterization of Ciarelli et al. (2017b) represent between 18% and 21% of the organic mass. For most simulations, the concentrations of OA compare well to the measurements. All the simulations tend to under-estimate the OA concentrations at Ersa, except for the two simulations where NTVOC are taken into account, which, however, over-estimate the OA concentrations.

Over the whole western Mediterranean domain, the volatility distribution at the emission influences more strongly the concentrations than the choice of the parameterization that may be used for ageing (single-step oxidation vs multi-step oxidation). Modifying the volatility distribution of sectors other than residential heating leads to a decrease of 29% in OA concentrations at Ersa, while using the multi-step oxidation parameterization rather than the single-step one leads to an increase of 13%.

5 The best statistics are obtained using two configurations: the first one is a one-step ageing scheme, a volatility distribution typical of biomass burning for the residential sector with a ratio I/S-VOC/POA at emission of 4, and the second one is a multi-generational ageing scheme, a volatility distribution typical of car emissions for other sectors with a ratio R I/S-VOC/POA at emission of 1.5.

Both the OM:OC and O:C ratios are underestimated at Ersa in all simulations. As ozone tends to be underestimated in the model compared to the measurements, the underestimation of the OM:OC and O:C ratios might partly be due to an underestimation of oxidants' concentrations and secondary aerosol formation. The largest simulated OM:OC ratio is equal to 1.85 ± 0.83 , against 2.21 ± 0.09 in the measurements. For the summer campaign, Chrit et al. (2017) improved the simulated OM:OC ratio by adding the formation mechanisms of both extremely-low volatile organic compounds and organic nitrate from monoterpene oxidation. Similarly, the formation of organic nitrate and highly oxygenated organic molecules (Molteni et al., 2018) from aromatic precursors should be added in order to better reproduce the observed OA oxidation/oxygenation levels. However, adding these new OA formation pathways may lead to an increase in OA concentrations, suggesting that the actual parameterizations ~~, particularly those with NTVOC~~ may need to be revisited, for example by better characterizing their deposition. Because the volatility distribution at the emission is the parameter influencing the most the concentrations, further experimental research should therefore focus on characterizing it for the different sectors. The emissions and formation of very low-volatility compounds should also be further investigated to represent the aerosol characteristics observed.

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Appendix A: Statistical indicators and criteria

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)	$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{ c_i - o_i }{(c_i + o_i)/2}$

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

Criteria	Performance criterion	Goal criterion
MFB	$\leq 60\%$	$\leq 30\%$
MFE	$\leq 75\%$	$\leq 50\%$

Table A2. Boylan and Russel criteria

Appendix B: Single-step ageing of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs (Couvidat et al., 2012)



with $k = 2.0 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{molecule}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$.

Surrogate	Emission fraction	Molecular weight	$\log_{10}(C^*)$ at 298K	ΔH_{vap}	OM/OC	O/C
POAIP	0.25	280	-0.04	106.0	1.3	0.15
POAmP	0.32	280	1.94	91.0	1.3	0.15
POAhP	0.43	280	3.51	79.0	1.3	0.15
SOAIP	—	392	-2.04	106.0	1.82	0.56
SOAmP	—	392	-0.06	91.0	1.82	0.56
SOAhP	—	392	1.51	79.0	1.82	0.56

Table B1. Properties of the primary and secondary anthropogenic I/S-VOC-S-VOCs. The molecular weights are in $\text{g} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$. ΔH_{vap} is the enthalpy of vaporisation in $\text{KJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$, which describes the temperature dependance of the saturation pressure C^* .

Appendix C: Multi-step ageing of I/S-VOC-S-VOCs (Koo et al., 2014)

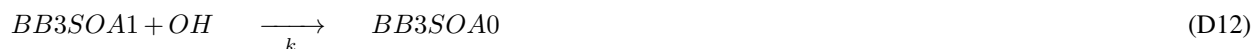
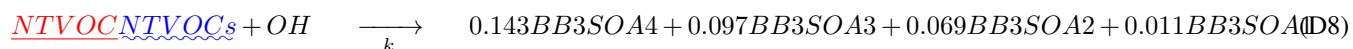
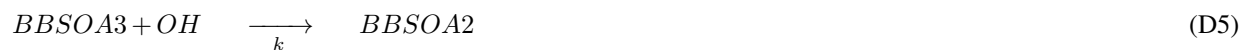
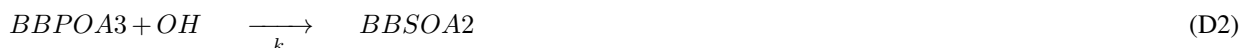


with $k = 4.0 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{molecule}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$.

Surrogate	Emission fraction	Molecular weight	$\log_{10}(C^*)$ at 298K	ΔH_{vap}	OM/OC	O/C
VAP0	0.15	278	-1	96.0	1.36	0.16
VAP1	0.20	275	0	85.0	1.31	0.12
VAP2	0.31	272	1	74.0	1.26	0.07
VAP3	0.20	268	2	63.0	1.21	0.03
VAP4	0.14	266	3	55.0	1.17	0.00
VAS0	—	172	-1	35	2.05	0.70
VAS1	—	167	0	35	1.92	0.60
VAS2	—	163	1	35	1.81	0.51
VAS3	—	158	2	35	1.70	0.43
VAS4	—	153	3	35	1.59	0.34

Table C1. Properties of the VBS species (the primary and secondary anthropogenic **SVOC****SVOCs**). The molecular weights are in $\text{g}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$. ΔH_{vap} is the enthalpy of vaporisation in $\text{KJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$, which describes the temperature dependence of the saturation pressure C^* .

Appendix D: Multi-step ageing of **I/S-VOC****S-VOCs** from residential heating (Ciarelli et al., 2017b)



15 with $k = 4.0 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{molecule}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$.

Surrogate	Emission fraction	Molecular weight	$\log_{10}(C^*)$ at 298K	ΔH_{vap}	OM/OC	O/C
NTVOC-NTVOCs	4.75	113	6	—	—	—
BBPOA0	0.20	216	-1	85.0	1.64	0.37
BBPOA1	0.10	216	0	77.5	1.53	0.29
BBPOA2	0.10	216	1	70.0	1.44	0.22
BBPOA3	0.20	216	2	62.5	1.36	0.15
BBPOA4	0.40	215	3	55.0	1.28	0.09
BBSOA0	—	194	-1	35.0	1.80	0.50
BBSOA1	—	189	0	35.0	1.70	0.43
BBSOA2	—	184	1	35.0	1.61	0.36
BBSOA3	—	179	2	35.0	1.53	0.29
BB3SOA0	—	149	-1	35.0	2.48	1.05
BB3SOA1	—	144	0	35.0	2.29	0.90
BB3SOA2	—	140	1	35.0	2.12	0.76
BB3SOA3	—	135	2	35.0	1.96	0.63
BB3SOA4	—	131	3	35.0	1.82	0.52

Table D1. Properties of the VBS species (the ~~NTVOC-NTVOCs~~ and primary and secondary RH-I/S-~~VOCS-VOCS~~). The molecular weights are in $\text{g}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$. ΔH_{vap} is the enthalpy of vaporisation in $\text{KJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$, which describes the temperature dependence of the saturation pressure C^* .

~~Emission fraction Molecular weight $\log_{10}(C^*)$ at 298K ΔH_{vap} OM/OC O/C~~

~~NTVOC 4.75 113 6 — — — BBPOA0 0.20 216 -1 85.0 1.64 0.37 BBPOA1 0.10 216 0 77.5 1.53 0.29 BBPOA2 0.10 216 1 70.0 1.44 0.22 BBPOA3 0.20 216 2 62.5 1.36 0.15 BBPOA4 0.40 215 3 55.0 1.28 0.09 BBSOA0 — 194 -1 35.0 1.80 0.50 BBSOA1 — 189 0 35.0 1.70 0.43 BBSOA2 — 184 1 35.0 1.61 0.36 BBSOA3 — 179 2 35.0 1.53 0.29 BB3SOA0 — 149 -1 35.0 2.48 1.05 BB3SOA1 — 144 0 35.0 2.29 0.90 BB3SOA2 — 140 1 35.0 2.12 0.76 BB3SOA3 — 135 2 35.0 1.96 0.63 BB3SOA4 — 131 3 35.0 1.82 0.52~~

~~Properties of the NTVOC and their oxidation products). The molecular weights are in $\text{g}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$. ΔH_{vap} is the enthalpy of vaporisation in $\text{KJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$, which describes the temperature dependence of the saturation pressure C^* .~~

Appendix E: Maps of OM_1 concentrations and differences between simulations.

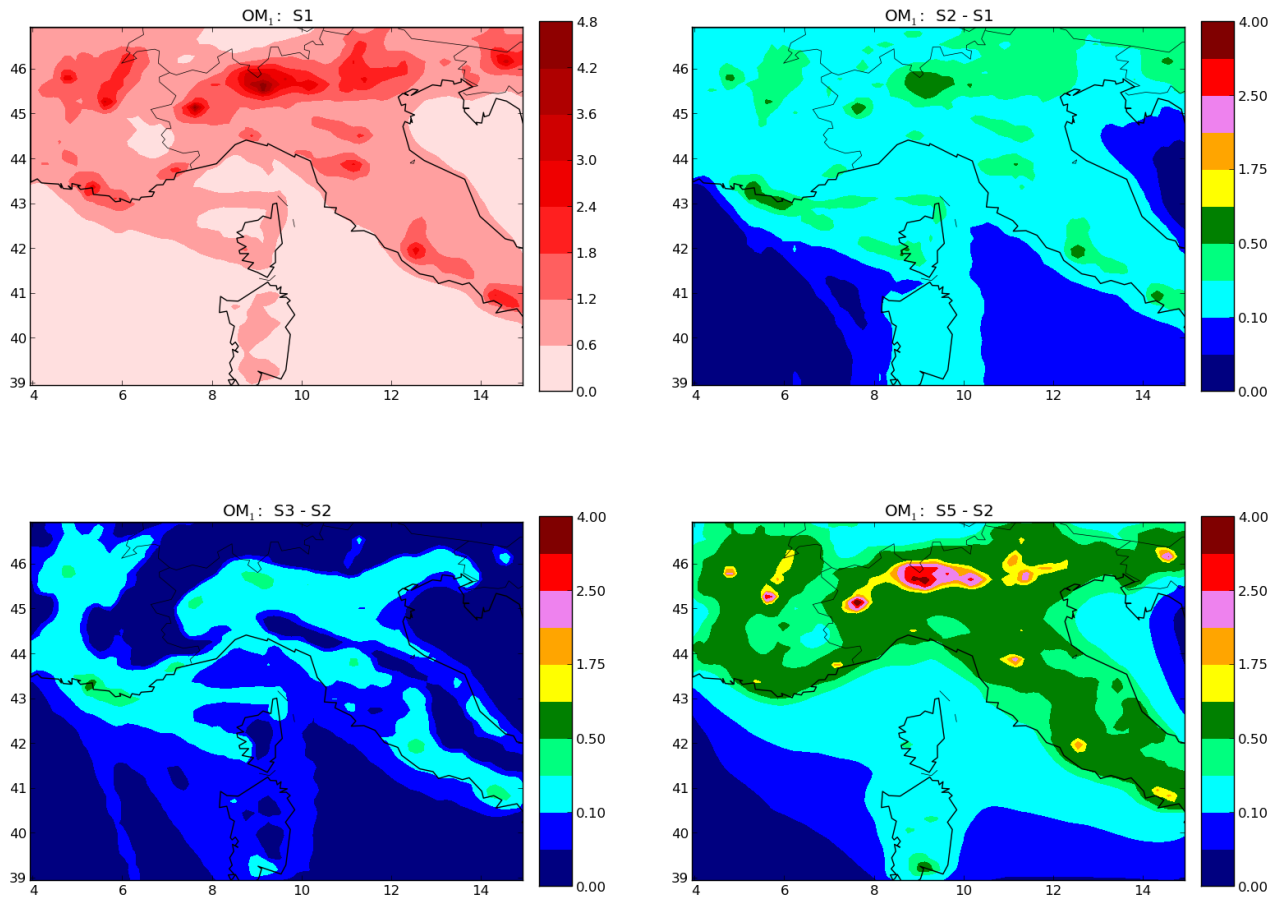


Figure E1. Maps of the concentrations of OM₁ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) averaged over January to March 2014 using S1 (upper left panel) and the absolute difference of OM₁ concentrations between S2 and S1 (upper right panel, impact of volatility), S3 and S2 (lower left panel, impact of multi-step ageing), and S5 and S2 (lower right panel, impact of increasing R_{RH} from 1.5 to 4).