

**Dear Kostas Tsigaridis**

We hereby resubmit a revised version of Manuscript: acp-2019-130 now titled: “*Biogenic and anthropogenic sources of aerosols at the high Arctic site Villum Research Station.*”

We would like to thank the Referees for taking the time to read the manuscript and to provide us with such valuable comments which have improved the manuscript substantially.

The authors’ responses to Referee #1, #2 and #3 are interspersed with the Referees’ comments in the following response to the Referee. Finally, additional minor changes have been made, which are summarized on the final page.

Kind Regards  
Ingeborg Elbæk Nielsen

# Response to Referees

## Referee #1

**This paper represents a significant contribution to furthering our understanding of Arctic aerosol, and how its chemistry evolves over the transition from dark winter to light spring. This work reports on three months (February - May) of high time resolution measurements of PM1 aerosol composition at Villum Research Station, at Station Nord, Greenland. In particular, this paper provides some of the most chemically detailed measurements available of the evolution of organic aerosol chemistry in the High Arctic during the transition between winter and spring. These results are in line with, and add to, our current understanding of Arctic organic aerosol. In the specific comments I have made some suggestions for additional data analysis, and while these suggestions may improve the paper I do not consider them required for publication. The comments and suggestions below are meant to help further improve an already very interesting and thorough paper.**

### General Comments:

- 1. The large amount of data and time span of these measurements from winter to spring mean that a number of interesting conclusions and observations are presented in this paper. The paper may benefit from sharpening the focus on what the authors feel are the most valuable or interesting conclusions. The main findings are somewhat obscured in the abstract and conclusions in the current version of the paper. For example, the abstract begins by highlighting the importance of BC aerosol in the Arctic, but by the end of the conclusions it is fairly clear that results related to the evolution of organic aerosol may be a larger outcome of this work. I suggest the authors revise some information in the abstract and conclusions to best highlight the largest conclusions of this work.**

We agree with the Referee and has rewritten line 20-21: *“There are limited measurements of the chemical composition, abundance, and sources of atmospheric particles in the high Arctic.”*

In the Conclusion section, we have deleted the passage: *“OA and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> have the potential to condense on and coat black carbon, potentially impacting the CCN activity of and light absorption by BC. However, the chemical composition should be further studied in summer and autumn.”*

- 2. The title is currently very general, and does not highlight the main findings of the work. I suggest the authors revise toward a more declarative title that helps highlight their specific findings.**

We thank the Referee for this valuable comment, which was also suggested by Referee no. 2. To accommodate both Referees we have changed the title to: *“Biogenic and anthropogenic sources of aerosols at the high Arctic site Villum Research Station”*.

- 3. Throughout the paper the text appears to suggest that secondary organic aerosol and marine emissions are mutually exclusive (e.g., L37-38). If by marine emissions the authors mean only sea spray, then I suggest they state this clearly. Marine organic aerosol can arise from both primary and secondary processes, and it is extremely difficult to distinguish unambiguously between primary and secondary marine aerosol. With the evidence presented in this paper, the authors cannot reliably determine if the marine organic aerosol factor they measure at VRS is primary or secondary. I suggest that the authors can acknowledge these challenges while still highlighting the evidence that they do have for each mechanism (e.g., the presence of MSA in the MOA factor showing that secondary chemistry contributes to MOA).**

We agree with the Referee and recognize that marine POA and SOA could be perceived as mutually exclusive, though this was not our intension. We have corrected this, including in line 40-42: *“Our data supports current understanding that Arctic aerosols are highly influenced by secondary aerosol formation, and with an important contribution from marine emissions during Arctic spring in remote high Arctic areas.”*

### Specific Comments:

1. **L22-27 (and elsewhere): Given that the authors present novel measurements of aerosol chemistry over the period of transition from a dominance of long range transported Arctic Haze to a cleaner regime more dominated by inner-Arctic sources, it may not be particularly useful to quote average concentrations and mass fractions over the whole study period. One perspective is that the most important aspect of these measurements is that they cover this period of transition from anthropogenic to biogenic sources. Further, these mean values are likely dominated by the larger amount of data covering the Arctic haze period, and so are more reflective of the average composition in only on regime of the Arctic atmosphere.**

This is a very sound and valid comment and we thank the Referee for the suggestion. We have now removed the average concentrations from the abstract and rewritten some of the sentences to accommodate this comment (marked in bold): Line 23-39:

***“During this period, we observed the Arctic haze phenomenon with elevated  $PM_1$  concentration ranging from an average of 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in February, March and April to 1.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in May. Particulate sulfate ( $SO_4^{2-}$ ) accounted for 66% of the non-refractory  $PM_1$  with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May. The second most abundant species was organic aerosol (OA) (24%). Both OA and  $PM_1$ , estimated from the sum of all collected species, showed a marked decrease throughout May in accordance with the polar front moving North together with changes in aerosol removal processes. The highest refractory black carbon (rBC) concentrations were found in the first month of the campaign averaging 0.2  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ . In March and April, rBC averaged 0.1  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$  while decreasing to 0.02  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$  in May.***

*Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) of the OA mass spectra yielded three factors: (1) a Hydrocarbon-like Organic Aerosol (HOA) factor, which was dominated by primary aerosols and accounted for 12% of OA mass; (2) an Arctic haze Organic Aerosol (AOA) factor; and (3) a more oxygenated Marine Organic Aerosol (MOA) factor. **AOA dominated until mid-April (64%-81% of OA)**, while being nearly absent from the end of May and correlated significantly with  $SO_4^{2-}$ , suggesting the main part of that factor being secondary OA. The MOA emerged late at the end of March, where it increased with solar radiation and reduced sea ice extent, and dominated OA for the rest of the campaign until the end of May (24-74% of OA), while AOA was nearly absent.”*

In addition, we have gone through the entire manuscript and corrected/changed paragraphs where average campaign concentrations were presented. Changes are shown below (marked in bold):

- Line 294-296: We added ranges to *“The total measured  $PM_1$  concentration during the field study may seem relatively high, averaging 2.3  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  - **ranging from 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in February, March and April to 1.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in May.**”*
- Line 317-319: We deleted the average  $SO_4^{2-}$  concentration and changed it to: *“During the entire campaign,  $SO_4^{2-}$  is the dominant species that on average makes up almost 70% of the  $PM_1$  mass concentration **with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May (Figure 1b-c).**”*
- Line 342-343: We deleted the average OA concentration and changed it to: *“In this study, the OA fraction is the second largest contributor to  $PM_1$  **where weekly averages showed a clear decrease from mid-April relative to concentrations in February and March concentrations (Figure 1).**”*
- Line 349-350: We deleted the average concentration and changed it to: *“Particulate  $NH_4^+$  is found in much lower concentrations compared to OA and  $SO_4^{2-}$  **but with the same transition pattern as the two other species.**”*
- Line 361-362: We have kept the mentioning of the average concentration of  $NO_3^-$  and Cl due the comparison with the detection limit of the species.
- Line 374-375: We have deleted the campaign average for rBC and instead looked at concentration for the different months: *“The highest rBC loadings are found in the first month of the campaign (February) **averaging 0.2  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ . In March and April, the average is 0.1  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$  which then decreases to 0.02  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$  in May.**”*

- Line 440-442: We have added more information concerning the AOA development: “*AOA accounts for 64% of OA mass for the entire field study but ranges from 64%, 81% and 71% of OA in February, March and April to 20% in May (Figure 2b and 4).*”
- Line 517-519: We have added more information concerning the MOA development: “*MOA constitutes 22% of OA on average during our measurement period ranging from 2-3% of OA in February and March to 24% and 74% of OA in April and May, respectively (Figure 2b and 4).*”
- Line 550-554: We have added more information concerning the AOA and MOA development in the conclusion: “*The less oxidized AOA builds up during the Arctic haze period and dominates until early spring (64%-81% of OA), during which both the absolute and relative contribution to the OA burden decreases substantially. In contrast, the MOA is nearly non-existent until early spring but is then by far the dominating OA from the end of April and onwards (24-74% of OA).*”

Finally, we have changed the first paragraph of the conclusion to accommodate this comment (marked in bold): Line 532-541:

***“In the transition from polar night to polar day we observed elevated PM<sub>1</sub> concentration ranging from an average of 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March and April to 1.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in May. We concluded SO<sub>42-</sub> to be the most abundant species in sub-micrometer aerosols with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May. This is in accordance with previous findings from VRS, Alert (Norman et al., 1999) and Svalbard (Udisti et al., 2016) where SO<sub>42-</sub> has been apportioned to be 65% and 75% anthropogenic, respectively. While not previously quantified at VRS, OA was found to be the second largest contributor to PM<sub>1</sub> (24%). As for the other species, OA showed a decrease in concentration from mid-April relative to February and March. rBC concentration were found to be highest in the first month and then decreased throughout the campaign – average concentration of 0.2, 0.1, 0.1 and 0.02 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March, April and May, respectively.”***

2. **L26: “Arctic Haze leveling-off” may not reflect our current understanding of how source regions and removal changes over this period**

This is correct and we have changed the sentence to: Line 28-29: “*...marked decrease throughout May in accordance with the polar front moving North together with changes in aerosol removal processes.*”

3. **L63-64: While it is true that distinct layers of aerosol are often associated with Arctic Haze, it is also true that elevated levels of aerosol pervade through the depth of the troposphere, at least within the polar dome, during this time.**

We have changed the sentence to: Line 70-71: “*The Arctic haze peaks in early spring (Heidam et al., 1999; Law and Stohl, 2007; Stohl, 2006; Heidam et al., 2004; Abbatt et al., 2019).*”

4. **L89: What “this” is could be clarified**

To clarify the sentence, we have made the following changes: Line 94-97: “*Overall, the general seasonal cycle of BC in the Arctic is characterized by highest concentrations observed between January and April and lowest concentrations throughout the summer, but with periodic spikes in concentration throughout the summer.*”

5. **L94-95: Another reference that could be included here: Leaitch et al., ACP, 2018 <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-18-3269-2018>. The author’s work is an extremely useful follow on from the lower time resolution work on OA at Alert.**

Thank you for the suggestion and we have now added the reference: Line 100-102: “*...though few studies have characterized this component in detail (Barrett et al., 2015; Brock et al., 2011; Frossard et al., 2011; Kawamura et al., 2010; Quinn et al., 2002; Shaw et al., 2010; Leaitch et al., 2018; Chang et al., 2011; Willis et al., 2018).*”



6. **L103-104: Revise “marine aerosols is a source of inorganic and organic aerosols” for clarity**  
We have revised the sentence for clarity: Line 107-109: “*Marine and coastal marine locations constitute a large part of Arctic, and marine aerosols comprise both organic and inorganic constituents of primary and secondary origin.*”
7. **L105: Are the “other mechanisms” worth elaborating here?**  
We have chosen not to elaborate since we don't think it is within the scope of this work.
8. **L108: Other work about sea salt in Arctic regions (e.g., Huang 2017 <https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/17/3699/2017/>) may be worth including here**  
Based on another Referee's comment we have chosen to rewrite the sentence to: Line 112-113: “*Marine aerosols play an important role for the climate due to their optical properties and ability to alter cloud nucleation (Abbatt et al., 2019; Willis et al., 2018).*”
9. **L188-189: The NH<sub>4</sub> RIE can often differ significantly from 4, what value do the authors obtain when they calculate NH<sub>4</sub> RIE from their NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> calibrations?**  
We thank the Referee for addressing this and we have now determined the average RIE<sub>NH<sub>4</sub></sub> to 3.5. The relevant figures and numbers have been changed accordingly and the following sentence has been added: Line 97-98: “*A RIE of 3.5 was applied for NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>.*”
10. **L191-192: While I agree that the Cl family of peaks likely comes from non-refractory chloride, Ovadnevaite et al (<https://doi.org/10.1029/2011JD017379>) have shown that the signal for NaCl<sup>+</sup> can be used as an indication for the presence of sea salt. Do the authors observe significant NaCl<sup>+</sup> in their data set?**  
This is an interesting point but at the same time it is beyond the scope of this manuscript.
11. **L197-199: Why not constrain C1<sup>+</sup> to the expected ratio from Regal Black (or other material) and fit C2<sup>+</sup> through C5<sup>+</sup>?**  
We have used this method previously with success and have therefore found it to be a good solution for this manuscript as well – see Nielsen et al., 2017 ([doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.06.033](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.06.033)) and Martinsson et al., 2015 ([doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.5b03205](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.5b03205)).
12. **L229-232: The apparent RIE for rBC is a convolution of the true RIE and collection efficiency. Also, uncertainty in the MAC applied to the MAAP data could contribute to this discrepancy. While I don't dispute the choice the authors have made in scaling SP-AMS rBC data to the MAAP, we know that all these approaches to measuring BC carry uncertainty and the MAAP may not provide the most accurate measurement in the case of an aged, highly internally mixed black carbon containing aerosol. If available, a direct comparison between the SP-AMS and the MAAP during calibration with representative BC materials may be useful here.**  
We do agree with the Referee regarding this approach, however the suggested comparison is not available but we will take this into consideration for future work.
13. **L245: How much of an effect does scaling SP-AMS rBC to the MAAP have on the comparison between AMS total PM<sub>1</sub> and SMPS PM<sub>1</sub>?**  
This is an interesting point, which we have investigated further. Scaling of rBC to BC<sub>MAAP</sub> data have an effect of around 10% and can therefore not explain the difference between the two instruments.
14. **L247-250: During the beginning few days of the study the SMPS concentration is higher than the SP-AMS concentration, and this is the only period where this appears to be the case. SP-AMS chloride was elevated during this time; was any measurable signal for NaCl<sup>+</sup> present at that time?**  
The authors find the identification of NaCl interesting but at the same time beyond the scope of this manuscript, which is why this is not investigated any further.

- 15. L291-293: It may be worth clarifying this. Long range transport suggests to me sources far outside the Arctic, but the authors suggest that this is likely not the case after the transition to cleaner conditions. Or, do the authors suspect that the MOA was transported from more southerly marine regions? It may be useful to provide some general indication of the meteorological regime or air mass histories, for example, for before and after the Arctic Haze decreases substantially at Villum.**  
We agree that the transport issue appears somewhat unclear. The dominating wind direction is southwestern with an average wind speed of  $4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  as explained in section 2.1. In the introduction section we show that Eurasia is the dominating source region during winter, i.e. line 73-75: “Due to the expansion of the polar dome, a major part of the aerosol mass is long-range transported from source regions outside the Arctic where the primary source region has been identified as the northern part of Eurasia (Nguyen et al., 2013; Quinn et al., 2008; Heidam et al., 2004; Stohl et al., 2007; Christensen, 1997; Abbatt et al., 2019).”

Furthermore, we have rewritten the following sentence: Lines 303-309: “As expected no diurnal pattern is observed for any of the chemical species. These are mainly transported from long distances. For example, the source regions that contributed to ground-level  $\text{SO}_x$  at VRS were assigned to Western Europe (7%), Eastern Europe (9%), Asia (2%), North America (7%) and Russia being the main emitter by far (75%) (Heidam et al., 2004). During summer, the atmospheric circulation is confined within the Arctic region and is considered essentially local. Thus, marine biogenic sources that peak during spring and summer are expected to origin from within the region.”

- 16. L300-301: Long range transport from marine regions can mean that a portion of springtime Arctic sulphate is from DMS oxidation (<https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/17/8757/2017/>)**

We thank the Referee for this comment and we have rewritten the sentence and included the reference: Line 322-323: “Secondary  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  is formed by atmospheric oxidation of sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) and to some extent DMS ...” and line 333-335: “However, a recent study using both airplane measurements and modeling suggest that long-range transport of DMS is significant during spring (Ghahremaninezhad et al., 2017).”

- 17. L313: Is the contribution of MSA subtracted from reported organics and sulphate?**

We have not subtracted MSA from the reported organics or sulphate.

- 18. L315: Is this a statement based only on the measurement period presented in this study. Measurements of MSA at Alert would suggest that DMS peaks later in the summer (Leitch et al., Elementa, 2013: <https://www.elementascience.org/articles/10.12952/journal.elementa.000017/>)**

Unfortunately, a typo has sneaked in. We have replaced DMS with MSA and the sentence in line 339-340 now reads: “In this study, MSA emerges steadily and peaks the end of April (see Section 3.2).”

- 19. L331: Biomass burning may be a larger source to the Arctic than farms**

We thank the Referee for the comment and have correct the sentence: Line 353-356: “In contrast, ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) which is the precursor of  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , derives largely in winter and spring from long-range transport of emissions from biomass burning and agriculture (Fisher et al., 2011), whereas in summertime  $\text{NH}_3$  emission from seabird-colonies can play a significant role (Croft et al., 2016).”

- 20. L342: Current evidence suggests that frost flowers may not be an important source of aerosol (see for example, Huang 2017 <https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/17/3699/2017/> and references within)**

We thank the Referee for the comment and added this information to the text: Line 372-373: “Current research has suggested that blowing snow might be a much more dominant source of sea salt aerosols compared to frost flowers (Huang and Jaegle, 2017).”

- 21. L351-353: This type of information may belong more in the introduction, rather than the results and discussion**

This is correct and we have therefore deleted the sentence from this paragraph and added a small part of it in the following sentence: Line 380-383: *“These accumulation mode BC-containing particles can be transported over longer distances during the Arctic haze period and may serve as cloud seeds in the late spring, when precipitation begins to be important in the Arctic (Bond et al., 2013; AMAP, 2011; Massling et al., 2015; Garrett et al., 2011).”*

**22. L364-366: The authors need to screen the data based on wind direction, or another measured parameter, before reporting and interpreting R2 values here.**

These considerations are discussed in section 3.2, where we conclude that local contamination accounts for less than 1%.

**23. L385-395: A mean pToF size distribution for the Arctic Haze period and the more biogenically influenced period could help with this interpretation of mixing state (and would be very interesting!).**

We agree that this could be interesting but it is not possible to investigate any further with the current data set.

**24. L406: Secondary or highly aged primary organic aerosol, it is difficult to interpret a mechanism based solely on CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> contribution alone. I suggest the authors elaborate on how they reached this conclusion**

We thank the Referee for the comment and we acknowledge that this needs further clarification. Lines 434: *“The CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ion ...likely secondary in origin”* has been deleted. A new paragraph was inserted instead: Line 431-439: *“Oxygenated aerosols from numerous field campaigns on the northern hemisphere are deconvolved into HOA and OOA. OOA has been shown to account for a large fraction of OA and to be a good surrogate for secondary organic aerosols (SOA) in multiple studies (Ng et al., 2010, Zhang et al., 2007, Zhang et al., 2011). Oxygen containing functional groups produce m/z 43 (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>) and m/z 44 (CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>) fragments, which are prominent peaks in OOA mass spectra (Ng et al., 2010), including those of MOA and AOA found in this study. These factors are highly OOA factors with O/C ratios of 0.63 and 0.95, respectively. According to Jimenez et al. (2009) these factors would be classified as low volatility OOA (LV-OOA). There is strong evidence that OOA is secondary in nature and several studies of aging indicate that OA converges towards LV-OOA following numerous steps of atmospheric oxidation (Jimenez et al., 2009).”*

Furthermore, the following sentence has been changed to: Line 424-434: *“The dominating OA appears to origin from long-range transport into the region during winter/spring.”*

**25. L412: It might be useful to indicate the significance of these correlations in Table 2 in some way (e.g., bold R2 values)**

We thank the Referee for the suggestion, however the great amount of data can be problematic in a t-test and can lead to misleading conclusions if it is not described any further in the manuscript. We therefore prefer to describe the significance of the correlations (where it is relevant) in the text and not in Table 2.

**26. L441-442: It is really difficult to attribute primary or secondary sources from the mass spectrum alone. Marine OA observed at Mace Head is likely a combination of primary and secondary OA. Ovadnevaite et al., GRL 2011 (<https://doi.org/10.1029/2010GL046083>) state (paragraph 9): “The relatively high amount of oxygenated organics typically indicates a chemical aging of the aerosol [Jimenez et al., 2009] with possible contributions from both oxidation of primary aerosol organics and SOA (secondary organic aerosol) formation.”**

We completely agree with the Referee and have tried to make the sentence clearer so that it describes exactly this: Line 477-480: *“The resemblance of MOA from this study with the mass spectrum from Mace Head and the high O/C ratio of 0.95 indicate, that MOA is composed of chemically aged aerosols from both oxidation of primary aerosols and secondary organic aerosols (Ovadnevaite et al., 2011; Fu et al., 2015).”*

- 27. L 454-455: “In April, the highest OA concentrations is observed where AOA accounts for around 70% of OA (Figure 4). In May, MOA becomes the dominating OA while AOA nearly disappears.” This seems to be an important point of the paper, which could be further highlighted in the abstract/conclusions and results & discussion sections.**

We have tried to make it more evident in the abstract: Line 37-39: “*The MOA emerged late at the end of March, where it increased with solar radiation and reduced sea ice extent, and dominated OA for the rest of the campaign until the end of May (24-74% of OA), while AOA was nearly absent.*”

- 28. L456-457: While comparing to this Alert study is valuable, Narukawa use a very different method and their data represent measurements from 15 years prior to this study. A direct comparison is difficult to make, but I agree it is interesting despite these differences.**

We thank the Referee for this valuable comment and we have added more information to the sentences: Line 494-497: “*This is significantly higher than observed at Alert by Narukawa et al. (2008) where marine organic matter contributed 45% to aerosol total carbon in late spring (26 April – 6 May 200). However, direct comparison is difficult due to different methods and time periods (Narukawa et al., 2008).*”

- 29. L461-462: Some additional references related to DMS would be useful here. The marginal ice zone is also important for DMS**

A paragraph has been added in line 502-506: “*This can be visualized from the strong coupling between DMS concentration and chlorophyll-a from DMS producing phytoplankton (Park et al, 2013). Moreover, Becagli et al (2016) concluded that oceanic primary production was related to melting of sea ice and extension of marginal sea ice areas based on satellite derived chlorophyll-a and measurements of MSA (Becagli et al., 2016).*”

- 30. L465-471: Some more detailed information about the source regions impacting Villum during winter and spring might help this discussion and interpretation.**

We hope that the information provided in comment no. 15 serves as background information for the sentence, which this comment refers to.

- 31. L473-474: Why speculate about the emergence of a continental factor?**

We agree that this is unnecessary and have deleted this part of the sentence (line 517).

- 32. L474: Reporting an overall average MOA fraction here is a bit confusing, since the previous discussion demonstrates its much higher contribution once the AOA decreases.**

This is a very good point and we have therefore added the changing mass fraction of MOA over the measurement period: Line 518-519: “*...ranging from 2-3% of OA in February and March to 24% and 74% of OA in April and May, respectively (Figure 2b and 4).*”

- 33. L475-477: In addition, and perhaps more importantly MOA dominates the organic aerosol mass when the overall concentrations are very low, particle numbers are low, and so cloud condensation nuclei concentrations can be low.**

We thank the Referee for this valuable comment and have therefore changed the sentence to accommodate the suggestions: Line 517-522: “*MOA constitutes 22% of OA on average during our measurement period ranging from 2-3% of OA in February and March to 24% and 74% of OA in April and May, respectively (Figure 2b and 4). Thus, MOA is by far the most abundant OA from end of April and onwards. MOA dominates the OA mass after polar sunrise and persists during polar daytime so the aerosol’s optical impact might be substantial. At the same time, MOA dominates when the overall PM<sub>1</sub> concentration is very low, particle numbers are low and hence CCN concentrations can be low.*”

- 34. L480-481: Oxidation of DMS and other VOCs would be considered secondary. The wording of this sentence is a bit confusing**

We thank the Referee for finding this mistake and we have now corrected the sentence: Line 524-527: “MOA may contain oxidation products of DMS and other VOCs from oceanic origin, as well as a variety of primary components including sacharides such as mannitol in addition to insoluble gels (Croft et al., 2018; Fu et al., 2013, Leck and Bigg, 2005; Orellana et al., 2011; Ovadnevaite et al., 2011).”

- 35. L482-483: In Croft ACP 2019, secondary OA accounted for up to half of the summer-time OA, and primary marine OA also contributed. The authors may want to be more clear in their usage of marine OA, primary OA and secondary OA. Marine OA can come from both primary and secondary processes.**

A paragraph has been inserted: Line 480-481: “Aerosol growth has been correlated with the presence of MSA, and other organic species (Willis et al., 2016).”

Also, the last paragraph in the result section have been modified: Line 524-528: “MOA may contain oxidation products of DMS and other VOCs from oceanic origin, as well as a variety of primary components including sacharides such as mannitol in addition to insoluble gels (Croft et al., 2018; Fu et al., 2013, Leck and Bigg, 2005; Orellana et al., 2011; Ovadnevaite et al., 2011). In line with our findings, modelling at several sites in the Canadian Arctic suggested that marine OA other than MSA may account for more than half of the summertime OA (Croft et al., 2018).”

- 36. L484-487: This introductory information may fit better within the introduction.**

We have modified and moved this part to the introduction where it fits better: Line 114-117: “Biogenic marine aerosols can scatter solar radiation, which will result in a negative radiative forcing. Biogenic marine aerosols can also coat soot particles, which may be transported from wild fires (AMAP, 2015), which could impact the CCN activity and absorption by the soot particles (Lange et al., 2018).”

- 37. L493-495: Comparing to Alert may also be warranted, given its proximity to VRS**

A sentence has been added to section 3.1: Lines 313-316: “Sulfate is dominated by anthropogenic sources accounting for 65% at Alert (Norman et al., 1999) and 75% Svalbard (Udisti et al., 2016) as annual averages. On the contrary, biogenic sources accounted for 63% of sulfate in size fraction smaller than 490 nm at Alert during summer (Ghahremaninezhad et al., 2016).”

Furthermore, in the conclusion we have added the following: Line 535-537: “This is in accordance with previous findings from VRS, Alert (Norman et al., 1999) and Svalbard (Udisti et al., 2016) where  $SO_4^{2-}$  has been apportioned to be 65% and 75% anthropogenic, respectively.”

- 38. L495-500: The authors’ clear observations of changing OA character and sources over the winter to spring to late spring transition may be a more important conclusion that that these organic species can be mixed with rBC.**

We agree with Referee and have removed the sentence from the conclusion (line 541).

- 39. L506-507: The observations presented here cannot unambiguously determine whether AOA and MOA is primary or secondary in origin. The mass spectrum similar to Ovadnevaite 2011, only suggests that the aerosol is marine in origin. More information would be needed to suggest a dominant formation process. While the correlation of AOA with sulphate may suggest secondary processes, this aerosol is also transported over very long distances and so aerosol from somewhat different formation processes may co-vary in time at such a remote location.**

This is true. Please also refer to comment no. 24 and 26. We have rephrased the sentence: Line 547-548: “AOA and MOA showed evidence of SOA. Furthermore, the resemblance of MOA with a previously published marine organic plume where indicative of MOA having a primary organic component.”

- 40. L512-514: I agree in general with this statement, but some more information about source regions impacting Villum would go a long way in this interpretation. Further, do the authors have access to CO data that could potentially help to demonstrate the increase in deposition mentioned here? (e.g., see Garrett et al., GRL, 2011 doi:10.1029/2011GL048221)**

We acknowledge this comment, which is very much in line with comments no. 15 and 30. In line 555-556, we inserted a sentence: *“This is supported by the confined atmospheric circulation within the Arctic region during summer (Heidam et al., 2004).”* Unfortunately no CO data is available for campaign period.

- 41. Figure 3: That the authors observe a distinct HOA factor in Arctic haze that co-varies in time more closely with rBC than with AOA or sulphate is interesting. Intuitively I would expect Arctic haze aerosol to be overall extremely oxidized, though the prevalence of HOA in the dark winter suggests not. Do the authors have specific evidence to show that the HOA was not more regionally sourced than the AOA? Do polar plots of wind direction/speed and PNF factor intensity shed any light on differences in source regions?**

We thank the Referee for the comment but we do not have specific evidence to show whether the HOA factor is more regionally sourced than the AOA factor. However, the less oxidized state of HOA does suggest that HOA could be more regionally sourced than for example AOA.

- 42. Figure 4: Does the MSA-to-sulphate ratio, and organic-to-sulphate ratio, increase in a similar manner to MOA on a monthly basis?**

Yes, the MSA-to-SO<sub>4</sub> ratio does increase in a very similar pattern to MOA on a monthly basis. The OA-to-SO<sub>4</sub> ratio is relatively constant from February to May, which is also evident from Figure S6 (line S120).

## Referee #2

The study reports on SP-HR-AMS measurements conducted at Villum Research Station in the north of Greenland from February to May 2015. The authors investigate the concentrations and evolution of refractory black carbon (rBC), particulate sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>) and organic aerosol (OA). The first half of the manuscript focuses on rBC, the second on OA that was further investigated by conducting positive matrix factorization (PMF). Three factors were identified: hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA) with the smallest contribution, Arctic haze OA (AOA) with the largest contribution and marine OA (MOA).

Detailed measurements of rBC and OA in the high Arctic are rare, especially outside of the summer season. The real strength of this study are the real-time observations during the transition period from winter to spring when sunlight returns and Arctic haze conditions fade. While the authors make this point, they also “dilute” their message by putting emphasis on reporting average concentrations for the entire study period, which do not address the environmental change. Generally, this study provides valuable insights into the aerosol chemical composition in the high Arctic and should be published with major revisions as suggested below. General and specific comments are mentioned below, all other comments are highlighted in the attachment.

### General comments:

A shortcoming of the study is that it underexplores the HR-AMS data. There is no reporting of heteroatoms such as nitrogen or sulfur in the OA. The contribution of those as a function of time could reveal more details about the sources of MOA in particular. At the moment only O:C ratios are provided. I suggest exploring also the N- and S-containing contributions to OA. In particular the contribution of MSA should be quantified. MSA is discussed in the manuscript (l. 437ff), but rather superficially. See also respective comment in the manuscript.

We thank the Referee for the comment and we have indeed scanned the data for amines and did not find anything interesting.

The authors mention often the average concentrations of the constituents during the campaign. As mentioned above the real strength of the observations lies in having captured the transition periods and the transition cannot be described by campaign average but should rather be discussed as gradients are differences. How long does the transition take, which markers change first, which ones later, or all simultaneously? I suggest changing the emphasis to transition characterization throughout the whole manuscript. For example: l. 345: here an average BC concentration is mentioned; l. 367: a slope or gradient for the SO<sub>4</sub> concentration would make more sense here;

This is a very sound and valid comment and we thank the Referee for the suggestion. Referee no. 1 had similar comments and we have therefore now removed the average concentrations from the abstract and rewritten some of the manuscript to accommodate these comments: Line 23-39:

*“During this period, we observed the Arctic haze phenomenon with elevated PM<sub>1</sub> concentration ranging from an average of 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March and April to 1.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in May. Particulate sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) accounted for 66% of the non-refractory PM<sub>1</sub> with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May. The second most abundant species was organic aerosol (OA) (24%). Both OA and PM<sub>1</sub>, estimated from the sum of all collected species, showed a marked decrease throughout May in accordance with the polar front moving North together with changes in aerosol removal processes. The highest refractory black carbon (rBC) concentrations were found in the first month of the campaign averaging 0.2 μg/m<sup>3</sup>. In March and April, rBC averaged 0.1 μg/m<sup>3</sup> while decreasing to 0.02 μg/m<sup>3</sup> in May.*

*Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) of the OA mass spectra yielded three factors: (1) a Hydrocarbon-like Organic Aerosol (HOA) factor, which was dominated by primary aerosols and accounted for 12% of OA mass; (2) an Arctic haze Organic Aerosol (AOA) factor; and (3) a more oxygenated Marine Organic Aerosol (MOA) factor. AOA dominated until mid-April (64%-81% of OA), while being nearly absent from the end of May and correlated significantly with SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, suggesting the main part of that factor being secondary OA. The MOA emerged late at the end of March, where it increased with solar radiation and reduced sea ice extent, and*

*dominated OA for the rest of the campaign until the end of May (24-74% of OA), while AOA was nearly absent.*”

In addition, we have gone through the entire manuscript and corrected/changed paragraphs where average campaign concentrations were presented. Changes are shown below:

- Line 294-296: We added ranges to *“The total measured PM<sub>1</sub> concentration during the field study may seem relatively high, averaging 2.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> - ranging from 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March and April to 1.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in May.”*
- Line 317-319: We deleted the average SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> concentration and changed it to: *“During the entire campaign, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> is the dominant species that on average makes up almost 70% of the PM<sub>1</sub> mass concentration with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May (Figure 1b-c).”*
- Line 342-343: We deleted the average OA concentration and changed it to: *“In this study, the OA fraction is the second largest contributor to PM<sub>1</sub> where weekly averages showed a clear decrease from mid-April relative to concentrations in February and March concentrations (Figure 1).”*
- Line 349-350: We deleted the average concentration and changed it to: *“Particulate NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> is found in much lower concentrations compared to OA and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> but with the same transition pattern as the two other species.”*
- Line 361-362: We have kept the mentioning of the average concentration of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and Cl due the comparison with the detection limit of the species.
- Line 374-375: We have deleted the campaign average for rBC and instead looked at concentration for the different months: *“The highest rBC loadings are found in the first month of the campaign (February) averaging 0.2 μg/m<sup>3</sup>. In March and April, the average is 0.1 μg/m<sup>3</sup> which then decreases to 0.02 μg/m<sup>3</sup> in May.”*
- Line 440-442: We have added more information concerning the AOA development: *“AOA accounts for 64% of OA mass for the entire field study but ranges from 64%, 81% and 71% of OA in February, March and April to 20% in May (Figure 2b and 4).”*
- Line 517-519: We have added more information concerning the MOA development: *“MOA constitutes 22% of OA on average during our measurement period ranging from 2-3% of OA in February and March to 24% and 74% of OA in April and May, respectively (Figure 2b and 4).”*
- Line 550-554: We have added more information concerning the AOA and MOA development in the conclusion: *“The less oxidized AOA builds up during the Arctic haze period and dominates until early spring (64%-81% of OA), during which both the absolute and relative contribution to the OA burden decreases substantially. In contrast, the MOA is nearly non-existent until early spring but is then by far the dominating OA from the end of April and onwards (24-74% of OA).”*
- In regard to line 367 (now line 394-395) we acknowledge the Referee’s opinion but we believe the two ways of presenting this are equivalent. We have therefore kept the original sentence and not used a slope or gradient as suggested by the Referee.

Finally, we have changed the first paragraph of the conclusion to accommodate this comment (marked in bold):  
Line 532-541:

*“In the transition from polar night to polar day we observed elevated PM<sub>1</sub> concentration ranging from an average of 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March and April to 1.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in May. We concluded SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> to be the most abundant species in sub-micrometer aerosols with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May. This is in accordance with previous findings from VRS, Alert (Norman et al., 1999) and Svalbard (Udisti et al., 2016) where SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> has been apportioned to be 65% and 75% anthropogenic, respectively. While not previously quantified at VRS, OA was found to be the second largest contributor to PM<sub>1</sub> (24%). As for the other species, OA showed a decrease in concentration from mid-April relative to February and March. rBC concentration were found to be highest in the first month and then decreased throughout the campaign – average concentration of 0.2, 0.1, 0.1 and 0.02 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March, April and May, respectively.”*



**I suggest renaming the title to “Biogenic and Anthropogenic sources of Arctic Aerosols at Villum Research Station”. “Arctic Aerosols” alone is misleading, because the measurements reflect the unique environment of VRS in northern Greenland. That is very different from the Canadian archipelago or Svalbard as the authors write themselves.**

We thank the Referee for this valuable comment, which was also suggested by Referee no. 1. To accommodate both Referees we have changed the title to: “*Biogenic and anthropogenic sources of aerosols at the high Arctic site Villum Research Station*”.

**Along the same line is the inaccuracy with which the authors cite literature in the introduction:**

- 1. L. 37: How do the authors define the “Arctic summer aerosols”? Do they mean the high Arctic, so basically the Arctic Ocean? Or do they include terrestrial parts of the Arctic. This makes a fundamental difference for the composition and other properties of aerosols.**

We thank the Referee for the comment and have changed the sentence to: Line 40-42: “*Our data supports current understanding that Arctic aerosols are highly influenced by secondary aerosol formation, and with an important contribution from marine emissions during Arctic spring in remote high Arctic areas.*”

- 2. L. 79: This information is incomplete. The paper also states that SO<sub>4</sub> decreased significantly in Alert and Zeppelin and that the lack of a trend at Barrow is likely due to the limited data coverage. This information needs to be added.**

We thank the Referee for this important comment. We have deleted the original sentence and changed the following sentence to include Barrow and a new reference: Line 83-84: “*Since then, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and BC during winter-spring have declined at Alert, Mount Zeppelin, Barrow and VRS (Heidam et al., 1999; Hirdman et al., 2010; AMAP, 2015).*”

- 3. L. 86: This article is focused on the Canadian Arctic mostly. Use literature that is more relevant to the entire Arctic. Furthermore, the article has been published in 2019 in ACP.**

We have updated the sentence and references therein: Line 92-93: “*Transport reaches a minimum in late spring where wet deposition becomes an important removal process (Abbatt et al., 2019; AMAP, 2015).*”

- 4. L. 112 “DMS emissions in the Arctic have increased by 30 %...” Is this true for the entire Arctic or the Canadian sector? It is important to provide a differentiated picture of what is happening, otherwise false impressions are created.**

Based on Abbatt et al., 2019, the increase is valid for Arctic and based on a new satellite-based model. To clarify this, we have revised the sentence: Line 121-122: “*A new satellite-based model suggests that DMS emissions in the Arctic have increased by 30% per decade the last two decades due to both increased temperatures and decreased ice cover (Abbatt et al., 2019).*”

- 5. L. 114: “demonstrated” is an overstatement, the paper infers. The authors show the relationship but do not provide an explanation.**

We have changed the sentence accordingly: Line 123-124: “*A relationship between MSA and the frequency of new particle formation has also been inferred based on long-term observations (Dall'Osto et al., 2017).*”

- 6. L. 115: MSA does not nucleate or form new particles, it rather condenses and grows particles.**

To make this clearer we have revised the sentence: Line 123-125: “*A relationship between MSA and the frequency of new particle formation has also been inferred based on long-term observations (Dall'Osto et al., 2017) although MSA cannot be the nucleating part.*”

- 7. L. 116: It is not only believed that ammonia comes from sea bird colonies, this has been shown multiple times. There are global inventories for ammonia seabird emissions even.**

This is correct and we have changed the sentence to: Line 125-127: *“Another important natural source of Arctic aerosols is ammonia, which among other things is believed to originate from migrating sea bird colonies (Croft et al., 2016).”*

**Specific comments:**

**8. L. 23: unclear whether the particulate sulfate or PM<sub>1</sub> amounted to 2.3 ug / m<sup>3</sup>**

In order to accommodate the Referee’s comment concerning the use of average concentrations we have changed this sentence completely. At the same time, we have made it clearer in regard to sulfate and PM<sub>1</sub>: Line 23-26: *“During this period, we observed the Arctic haze phenomenon with elevated PM<sub>1</sub> concentration ranging from an average of 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March and April to 1.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in May. Particulate sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) accounted for 66% of the non-refractory PM<sub>1</sub> with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May.”*

**9. l. 40: Why is it urgently needed to elucidate the chemical components? The authors probably mean that modeling the future of the Arctic requires process understanding. Just because climate is changing doesn’t mean we need highly time resolved aerosol data.**

We thank the Referee for the comment and we have changed the sentence to: Line 42-44: *“In view of a changing Arctic climate with changing sea-ice extent, biogenic processes, and corresponding source strengths, highly time-resolved data are needed in order to elucidate the components dominating aerosol concentrations to enhance the understanding of the processes taking place.”*

**10. l. 45: consider referring to the special IPCC report on 1.5 C and the AMAP 2015 report on BC and ozone in the Arctic.**

We thank the Referee for the suggestion and have now changed the references to IPCC, 2018 and AMAP, 2015 and revised the sentences: Line 47-49: *“Climate change driven by anthropogenic emission of greenhouse gases seriously impacts the Arctic, which has experienced average temperature increases of twice the global mean during the last 100 years (AMAP, 2015; IPCC, 2018).”*

**11. l. 52: ice does not condense onto particles**

We have changed the sentence accordingly: Line 56: *“...by serving as cloud-condensation and ice nuclei”*.

**12. l. 63: Is it truly "visible"? Strong haze events might be visible by eye, but the typical Arctic Haze is still orders of magnitude lower in mass concentrations as the visible urban air pollution, as is somehow inferred by this sentence.**

We have changed the sentence to: Line 70-71: *“The Arctic haze peaks in early spring (Heidam et al., 1999; Law and Stohl, 2007; Stohl, 2006; Heidam et al., 2004; Abbatt et al., 2019).”*

**13. l. 67: As it is written it contradicts above statement that says that Arctic Haze sources are located within in the polar dome. This needs some clarification or more exact formulation.**

To make the formulation clear we have changed the sentence to: Line 73-75: *“Due to the expansion of the polar dome, a major part of the aerosol mass is long-range transported from source regions outside the Arctic where the primary source region has been identified as the northern part of Eurasia.”*

**14. l. 87: why should vegetation fires not be considerable? It’s a question of whether their emissions are transported to the high Arctic.**

To make it more precise we have removed “still” from the sentence: Line 73-74: *“Natural emissions from vegetation fires can be considerable in spring and early summer (Mahmood et al., 2016).”*

**15. l. 93: Consider referring also to Chang et al., 2011, ACP doi:10.5194/acp-11-10619- 2011 They characterize PM<sub>1</sub> aerosol measured with an AMS and PMF in the central Arctic during the ASCOS campaign. Also Willis et al., 2018, 10.1029/2018RG000602 provide an overview of what we know about Arctic aerosol and it’s detailed composition.**

Thank you for the suggestion and we have now added the reference: Line 100-102: “...*though few studies have characterized this component in detail (Barrett et al., 2015; Brock et al., 2011; Frossard et al., 2011; Kawamura et al., 2010; Quinn et al., 2002; Shaw et al., 2010; Leaitch et al., 2018; Chang et al., 2011; Willis et al., 2018).*”

- 16. l. 98 ff: This seems to be more a concluding statement which should be placed later. It is a bit awkward after the OA discussion.**

We thank the Referee for the input, and we have moved the sentence to another paragraph (line 56-59) where it fits better.

- 17. l. 108: the explanation why the role is important is missing.**

We have revised the sentence: Line 113-114: “*Marine aerosols play an important role for the climate due to their optical properties and ability to alter cloud nucleation (Abbatt et al., 2019; Willis et al., 2018).*”

- 18. l. 110: Unclear where MSA is increasing.**

Correct and after re-reading the references we have revised the sentence: Line 119-120: “*MSA levels have been associated with marginal sea ice moving North.*”

- 19. l. 123: revise the sentence, it is grammatically incorrect and does not list the two disadvantages.**

We have revised the sentence: Line 133-134: “*Beside the low time resolution, a disadvantage of these types of measurements can be evaporate loss or adsorption of semi-volatile compounds.*”

- 20. l. 126: delete “and trends”. Trends are longer term changes.**

We have deleted “and trends” (Line 136).

- 21. l. 139: PMF cannot reveal source regions just source types.**

We have now corrected the sentence: Line 148: “*...and to allocate potential sources and source types.*”

- 22. l. 153: Where is the HVS data used? This is not evident in the manuscript. If they are used that needs to be stated and then more information like flowrate, sample duration etc. needs to be added, or a reference to the supplement needs to be given.**

The HVS data is used to collect filter samples of EC and OC and the information on flow rate and sample duration is already presented in the supplement. To make this clear we have added the following sentence in the manuscript: Line 162-163: “*More information concerning the supplementary instruments can be found in Supporting Information.*”

- 23. l. 176: “inspected” sounds like the flow rate was measured once. I hope it was checked several times during the campaign.**

We have rephrased the sentence: Line 184-185: “*The flow rate was controlled regularly with a Gilian Gilibrator... .*”

- 24. l. 176 if the size calibration was conducted with ammonium nitrate, a DMA must have been operated as well to select a range of sizes. This information is missing entirely.**

We have deleted this part of the sentence since this is not relevant for this manuscript (line 185).

- 25. l. 179: Why was there no determination of the relative ionization efficiency of sulfate with ammonium sulfate?**

In an ideal campaign we should have carried out ammonium sulfate calibration as well. Thus, the Referee’s comment has been noted for future campaigns.

- 26. l. 191: The AMS also sees NaCl, see Ovadnevaite et al., 2012, doi:10.1029/2011JD017379. and other publications. The influence of NaCl needs to be considered as well.**

This is an interesting point but at the same time it is beyond the scope of this manuscript which it focusing on the organics. We have added the reference to Line 363-366: *“However, the SP-AMS does not typically measure refractory chloride at normal vaporizer temperatures, such as NaCl (Canagaratna et al., 2007). Although, Ovadnevaite et al. (2012) has demonstrated how the AMS could be calibrated to measure NaCl in high-time resolution.”*

**27. I. 214: add manufacturer and model number of the SMPS.**

We have addressed this comment by adding the following sentence: Line 225-226: *“The SMPS is custom-built with a Vienna-type medium column and more information can be found in Lange et al. (2018).”*

**28. I. 224: “majority”. Can the authors be more specific and provide the quantiles?**

We have added percentage to the sentence: Line 234: *“The time dependent CE varied with the majority (> 97%) of values between 0.8 and 1...”*

**29. I. 253: the sentence is confusing.**

We agree and have re-written the sentence: Line 263-265: *“PMF analysis (Paatero, 1997; Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Lanz et al., 2007; Ulbrich et al., 2009) was conducted on the time dependent organic mass spectra to determine OA factors and potential sources of OA.”*

**30. I. 273: “chemical composition” instead of “chemistry”**

As requested, we have replaced “chemistry” with “chemical composition” (line 283).

**31. I. 285: A comparison to other studies is missing that would reveal why the concentration can be perceived as relatively high.**

The sentence has been modified to: Line 294-296: *“The total measured PM<sub>1</sub> concentration during the field study may seem relatively high, averaging 2.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> - ranging from 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March and April to 1.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in May.”*

Furthermore, a paragraph has been added: Line 309-316: *“Arctic sites show similar increases in key particulate pollutants in winter and early spring, where maximum sulfate concentrations may reach 3 μg m<sup>-3</sup> as compared to average summer concentrations of 0.1 μg m<sup>-3</sup> (Quinn et al., 2007). For example, typical PM<sub>1</sub> concentrations were 0.1 - 0.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup> in August to September during the ASCOS expedition (Chang et al., 2011). Sulfate is dominated by anthropogenic sources accounting for 65% at Alert (Norman et al., 1999) and 75% Svalbard (Udisti et al., 2016) as annual averages. On the contrary, biogenic sources accounted for 63% of sulfate in size fraction smaller than 490 nm at Alert during summer (Ghahremaninezhad et al., 2016).”*

**32. I. 302: What is the role of light here?**

Although OH can be formed in dark reactions, photolysis of O<sub>3</sub> and subsequently reaction with H<sub>2</sub>O is the dominating source of OH.

**33. I. 303: “at its source region” This should rather read: “in the vicinity of the source region, “SO<sub>2</sub> oxidation does not happen immediately and normally SO<sub>2</sub> has already been transported away some distance from the source before it is oxidized to SO<sub>4</sub> 2-**

We agree and have changed the sentence to: Line 324-325: *“Secondary long-range transported SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> depends on atmospheric oxidation of SO<sub>2</sub> at the vicinity of the source regions....”*

**34. I. 305: Figure 3 is mentioned before Figure 2.**

We have corrected this and there is now a mention of Figure 2 before Figure 3 in line 278.

**35. I. 308: “originating from Siberia” Is this not a contradiction to the main wind direction from the south-west? How representative is the wind direction of the general atmospheric circulation around VRS?**

This is a very important point because the wind rose presented in Figure S1 is only representative for the wind direction at ground level at the measurement site. This information is primarily used in the manuscript in regard to identifying local pollution from the military station located 3 km from the measurement site. Hence, it cannot be used for interpreting anything general regarding transport direction or emission areas. For this, air mass back-trajectories should be applied as is the case in Nguyen et al., 2013, which shows change in wind directions and source areas at different altitudes.

**36. I. 319: How do you define spring season? In my understanding mid-April and later is spring. So the sentence does not make sense to me.**

Thank you for the valuable comment – we have corrected the sentence so that it makes more sense: Line 342-343: *“Weekly averages showed a clear decrease from mid-April relative to concentrations in February and March (Figure 1).”*

**37. I. 323: Would the pollution from the military not result in a separate PMF factor? Or is the HOA that is long-range transported so similar to the fresh HOA?**

We estimated the contribution from the local military camp to be 1% of OA as discussed in section 3.2, lines 424-430: *“It is not trivial to distinguish local events and in this case, the possible local contamination was investigated by comparing high HOA peaks ( $> 0.45 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) with size distribution measurements from the SMPS (Lange et al., 2018). Periods which were attributed to local contamination accounted for less than 1% of OA concentration. Therefore, essentially the entire HOA concentration is assigned to long-range transportation, possibly sources with different ratios of HOA and rBC which would explain the moderate correlation between HOA and rBC.”* In general, PMF is not the optimal tool for handling factors of abundances smaller than a few percent.

**38. I. 331: Is this also true for winter? Are there birds all year around? I. 335: Add a reference for the longer lifetime.**

We thank the Referee for the comment and have correct the sentence: Line 353-356: *“In contrast, ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) which is the precursor of  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , derives largely in winter and spring from long-range transport of emissions from biomass burning and agriculture (Fisher et al., 2011), whereas in summertime  $\text{NH}_3$  emission from seabird-colonies can play a significant role (Croft et al., 2016).”*

We have also added a reference for the longer lifetime of particle bound ammonium: Line 359-360: *“Particle bound  $\text{NH}_4^+$  has a much longer lifetime than  $\text{NH}_3$  (Baek and Aneja, 2004) and therefore it is transported as  $\text{NH}_4^+$  even to the high Arctic.”*

**39. I. 336: Please correct Cl to Cl- throughout the manuscript.**

This has been corrected throughout the manuscript (e.g. line 361).

**40. I. 339: should be chloride and not chlorine**

This has now been corrected and more information has been added: Line 363-366: *“However, the SP-AMS does not typically measure refractory chloride at normal vaporizer temperatures, such as NaCl (Canagaratna et al., 2007). Although, Ovadnevaite et al. (2012) has demonstrated how the AMS could be calibrated to measure NaCl in high-time resolution.”*

**41. I. 361: Is this true that the sources are the same for the entire Arctic, for all seasons or the Haze period where you have long lifetimes and hence rather well mixed conditions?**

This is a good point and the sentence describes the fact that similar correlation slopes have been observed at different Arctic sites, which suggest similar source regions and not necessarily same sources. We have modified the sentence to make it clear that this is other studies suggestions rather than certain facts: Line 387-389: *“Furthermore, comparable correlation slopes were found for the different Arctic locations, which suggest that source regions of BC and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  could be similar throughout the Arctic.”*

The sources of particles are not the same in the entire Arctic. This has been demonstrated several times latest in; Dall'Osto, M. Beddows, D.C.S. Tunved, P. Harrison, R. M. Lupi, A. Vitale, V. Becagli, S.

Traversi, R. Park, K.T. Yoon, Y.J. Massling, A. Skov, H. Stroam, J. and Krejci, R. (2019). Apportioning aerosol natural and anthropogenic sources thorough simultaneous aerosol size distributions and chemical composition in the European high Arctic. *ACP* 19, 7377–7395, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2018-447>.

- 42. I. 364 – 366: To me it doesn't make sense to include local contamination periods for a general conclusion on rBC and SO<sub>4</sub> correlation. I suggest removing the local influence first and then redoing the correlation analysis.**

This is a valid suggestion; however, we have tried to remove the local influences before doing the correlation analysis and it doesn't change the result. We prefer not to leave out any data when correlating rBC and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> since doing so could result in false security thinking local pollution is completely left out of the correlation. This cannot be guaranteed since we with the current dataset cannot be sure if we have “caught” all the local pollution.

- 43. I. 407: “AOA is abundant during February to mid-April...” this is redundant. The sentences before that say the same.**

We thank the Referee for this comment and have deleted the repetition (line 443).

- 44. I. 421: I cannot follow the argument. What is the contribution quantitatively and what would be expected from the literature? Is the literature appropriate for a comparison?**

The marker ions for BBOA are not specific. SOA also contributes. The argument is that the measured concentration of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> was similar to the amount which is expected from SOA. The argument is rephrased to: Line 455-457: “However, SOA also contributed to the abundance of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> (Aiken et al., 2008; Aiken et al., 2009; Cubison et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2010; Saarnio et al., 2013). Quantitatively, the expected abundance of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> from SOA did not exceed the measured concentration in this study.”

- 45. I. 433: Please be more specific in how far it resembles the Mace Head spectrum.**

We thank the Referee for the comment and the paragraph has been extended: Line 468-475: “The MOA spectrum resembles a marine organic plume previously published from Mace Head, in the North East Atlantic Ocean showing evidence of both primary and secondary organic aerosols of marine origin (Ovadnevaite et al., 2011). Most abundant peaks in this spectrum were oxygenated fragments at m/z 28 and 44. Also prominent were m/z 27, 39 and 41 from the CH family, and m/z 43 and 55 from the CHO family, which are also found in the MOA spectrum. The two spectra differ in terms of abundances of CH-like organic matter, but they are different from the marine organic aerosol factor published during the ASCOS expedition in the Central Arctic Ocean (Chang et al., 2011), which shows a closer resemblance with the mass spectrum of pure MSA, i.e. dominating peaks at m/z 15, 48, 64 and 79.”

- 46. I. 443: How does the MOA factor resemble HR-AMS spectra from the Southern Ocean? doi:10.5194/acp-13-8669-2013 Can the authors discuss whether the MOA factor is more universal, i.e. VRS, Mace Head, other oceans?**

We find MOA to resemble the marine bloom at Mace Head in the north east Atlantic Ocean, which is interesting since the two marine environments are located not too far away from each other. Comparisons with Southern Oceans may be somewhat out of scope.

- 47. I. 456: What is the lowest concentration of OA?**

The lowest concentration of OA during May where MOA is dominant is 0.01 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is now added to the sentence: Line 493-494: “At the same time, we observe the lowest concentration of OA (0.01 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) consisting of 75% MOA (Figure 4).”

- 48. I. 456: What does “this” refer to? The concentration of OA or the 75 % MOA in the OA?**

We have corrected the sentence so that is clearer: Line 494-497: “This is significantly higher than observed at Alert by Narukawa et al. (2008) where marine organic matter contributed 45% to aerosol total carbon in late spring (26 April – 6 May 2000). However, direct comparison is difficult due to different methods and time periods (Narukawa et al., 2008).”

**49. I. 475ff: This sentence is confusing. I do not understand the main message.**

We thank the Referee for this valuable comment and have therefore changed the sentence to accommodate the suggestions: Line 517-522: “*MOA constitutes 22% of OA on average during our measurement period ranging from 2-3% of OA in February and March to 24% and 74% of OA in April and May, respectively (Figure 2b and 4). Thus, MOA is by far the most abundant OA from end of April and onwards. MOA dominates the OA mass after polar sunrise and persists during polar daytime so the aerosol’s optical impact might be substantial. At the same time, MOA dominates when the overall PM<sub>1</sub> concentration is very low, particle numbers are low and hence CCN concentrations can be low.*”

**50. I. 480: “oxidation products of DMS and other VOCs” These are also secondary. The argument does not make sense like this.**

We thank the Referee for finding this mistake and we have now corrected the sentence: Line 524- 527: “*MOA may contain oxidation products of DMS and other VOCs from oceanic origin, as well as a variety of primary components including sacharides such as mannitol in addition to insoluble gels (Croft et al., 2018; Leck and Bigg, 2005; Orellana et al., 2011; Fu et al., 2013; Ovadnevaite et al., 2011).*”

**51. I. 481: “And primary components including colloidal gels...” As far as I read the sentence MOA is the specific factor found by the authors using the HR-AMS. So the question is whether the primary compounds like gels would actually be seen in the MOA factor? To my knowledge they evaporate at temperatures higher than 600 C. This means that generally marine organic aerosol can contain these compounds, but the MOA factor likely doesn’t due to instrumental limitations.**

The sentence has been rewritten: Line 524-527: “*MOA may contain oxidation products of DMS and other VOCs from oceanic origin, as well as a variety of primary components including sacharides such as mannitol in addition to insoluble gels (Croft et al., 2018; Leck and Bigg, 2005; Orellana et al., 2011; Fu et al., 2013; Ovadnevaite et al., 2011).*”

**52. I. 487: enhancement through the lensing effect?**

We have modified and moved this part to the introduction where it fits better: Line 114-117: “*Biogenic marine aerosols can scatter solar radiation, which will result in a negative radiative forcing. Biogenic marine aerosols can also coat soot particles, which may be transported from wild fires (AMAP, 2015), which could impact the CCN activity and absorption by the soot particles (Lange et al., 2018).*”

**53. I. 494f: 75+3+12+12is>100%.**

After checking the reference (Udisti et al., 2016) we have changed the sentence to: Line 536-538: “*This is in accordance with previous findings from VRS, Alert (Norman et al., 1999) and Svalbard (Udisti et al., 2016) where SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> has been apportioned to be 65% and 75% anthropogenic, respectively.*”

**54. I. 503 What does "reduced" mean? The least amount of oxygen?**

Yes, and we have hence corrected the sentence: Line 545: “*HOA, being the least oxidized factor, made up 12% of OA...*”

**55. Figure 2: I suggest to either make the axis logarithmic or put them off at 0.05 (with indicating the true extent of the big peaks) to make the pattern visible. The AOA and MOA spectra are not informative like they are now because on cannot see anything.**

We have split the y-axis for AOA and MOA in order to make the pattern more visible as requested (line 1049).

**56. Figure 3: I suggest to move the rBC trace up. It’s not visible like this and hence not useful.**

This is a valid point and we have changed the y-axis for rBC from [0;3] to [-1;3], which makes rBC visible (line 1053).

**57. Figures S3: the figures have very low resolution. Figure S2: The y-axis could start at 0.5.**

We have improved the resolution in Figure S3 (line S56) and changed the y-axis on Figure S2 so that it starts at 0.5 instead of 0 (Line S53).

**58. L.437-440: This discussion does not reveal to me in how far the spectrum at VRS contains MSA tracers. Please clarify.**

We thank the Referee for the comment and have now added that we observe MSA in our MOA factor:  
Line 474-475: “... which shows a closer resemblance with the mass spectrum of pure MSA, i.e. dominating peaks at  $m/z$  15, 48, 64 and 79.”

**Please also note the supplement to this comment: <https://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/acp-2019-130/acp-2019-130-RC3-supplement.pdf>**

We have gone through the additional comments provided in supplement from the Referee. We have incorporated the suggested changes, which are summarized shortly below. One comment in this supplement we found too substantial so we have added it under specific comments as no. 59 (see above).

1. We have changed “*To address this, we report 93 days of Soot Particle Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (SP-AMS) data collected in the high Arctic. The period spans from February 20<sup>th</sup> until May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at Villum Research Station (VRS) in Northern Greenland (81°36' N)*” to “*To address this, we report 93 days of Soot Particle Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (SP-AMS) data collected from February 20<sup>th</sup> until May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at Villum Research Station (VRS) in Northern Greenland (81°36' N)*” (line 21-23).
2. We have deleted “*Important differences are observed among the factors, including the*” and “*= the marine related factor*” (line 39).
3. We have deleted “*the*” (line 62).
4. We have deleted “*exchange*” (line 68).
5. We have deleted “*, which amounted*” (line 82).
6. We have modified the sentence from: “*BC is deposited on snow and ice-covered surfaces it changes the albedo, leading to increased absorption of solar radiation and direct heating of the surface*” to “*BC deposited on snow and ice-covered surfaces changes the albedo, leading to increased absorption of solar radiation and direct heating of the surface*” (line 88-89).
7. We have deleted “*formation*” (line 125).
8. We have deleted “*and particle size distribution, respectively*” (line 184).
9. We have changed “*span*” to “*range*” (line 255).
10. We have deleted “*a*” (line 266).
11. We have deleted “*from the SP-AMS*” (line 293).
12. We have deleted “*measured by the SP-AMS*” (line 318).
13. We have deleted “*aerosols*” (line 321).
14. We have deleted “*dominated by*” (line 322).
15. We have deleted “*in*” (line 339).
16. We have deleted “*ratio*” (line 467).
17. We have changed “*illustrates*” to “*illustrate*” (line 482).
18. We have deleted “*, only, above the mountains at the horizon*” (line 484).
19. We have decided to keep “*Northern Hemisphere*” even though the Referee suggests to delete it (line 489).
20. We have decided to keep “*Northern Hemisphere*” even though the Referee suggests to delete it (line 498).
21. We have changed “*sea-ice*” to “*sea ice*” (line 500).
22. We have changed the sentence to: “*This contrasts with the situation around VRS, which is ice covered most of the year*” (line 514-515).



## Referee #3

1. **Lines 24 – 25: Do “organic matter” and “organic aerosol” both refer to organic aerosol concentrations as ug C/m<sup>3</sup> or as total particulate organic matter including H and O?**

We refer to organic aerosol concentration as total particulate organic matter and we have therefore changed the sentence to: Line 26-27: *“The second most abundant species was organic aerosol (OA) (24%).”*

2. **Lines 78 – 79: Decreasing trends in nss SO<sub>4</sub> and BC have been documented for Barrow. Please see Chapter 9 of the 2015 AMAP report on Black Carbon and ozone as Arctic climate forcers ([www.amap.no](http://www.amap.no)).**

We thank the Referee for this important comment. We have deleted the original sentence and changed the following sentence to include Barrow and a new reference: Line 83-85: *“Since then, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and BC during winter-spring have declined at Alert, Mount Zeppelin, Barrow and VRS (Heidam et al., 1999; Hirdman et al., 2010; AMAP, 2015).”*

3. **Line 214: Applying a uniform specific absorption coefficient for BC could affect temporal variability if the nature of the BC (source, aging processes, etc.) lead to varying specific absorption coefficients.**

We thank the Referee for this important point and have corrected the sentence: Line 222-223: *“Uncertainty in the conversion factor likely impacts the reported absolute concentrations, and potentially the temporal variability.”*

4. **Lines 248 – 249 and SI lines 85 – 98: It is not clear from the main text that periods where differences between PM<sub>1</sub> determined from the SP-AMS and the SMPS were at least 2 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (late March/early April and mid-April) were excluded from the data analysis. It states in the SI that data from Feb 21 – 26 and Mar 29 – Apr 2 were excluded. Please clarify this in the main text. Also – what is the impact of not including sea salt in the SP-AMS derived PM<sub>1</sub> since it will be included in the SMPS PM<sub>1</sub>? The modal number diameter of the sea salt mode is ←200 to 300 nm so should be detected by the SMPS.**

No data has been excluded based on the data comparison with SMPS. The text in SI states that the data was not excluded despite the poor correlation with the SMPS: Line S101-103: *“No explanation could be found for the relatively poor correlation in the beginning of the campaign (21-26 February) and in the end of March (29 March – 2 April), which is why data has not been excluded.”*

The question concerning sea salt and the instrument comparison is interesting but currently we have no data available regarding sea salt during the campaign and therefore it is unfortunately not within the scope of the work.

5. **Lines 312 - 315: What is the MSA to SO<sub>4</sub> ratio during periods when MSA was detected? Can the ratio be used to assess the importance of biogenic vs. anthropogenic sources of SO<sub>4</sub>?**

This is an interesting question. In Nguyen et al. (2013), we apportioned 7-9% of SO<sub>x</sub> to the marine source as an annual average using PMF and COPREM and inorganic species (PM<sub>10</sub>). In this study, we will most likely always have an unknown anthropogenic sulfate contribution in the summer like the 35% anthropogenic sulfate identified by Ghahremaninezhad et al. (2017) during summer at Alert. That is, the pure MSA/SO<sub>4</sub> (marine) will likely not be possible to identify.

6. **Line 340 – 342: Is the attribution of Cl and NO<sub>3</sub> to frost flowers (i.e., a local source) due to their presence in the supermicron size range? Please clarify in the main text.**

We thank the Referee for the comment and have clarified the text: Line 368-370: *“Based on the size of the particles and air mass back-trajectories Fenger et al. (2013) suggested that the particles originate from local/regional sources (frost flowers and refreezing leads).”*

## Additional changes

Additional minor changes were made to the manuscript after reading through it:

1. Deleted line 144: *“in Northern Greenland”*
2. Deleted line 146: *“This study presents three months of data using an SP-AMS in the high Arctic.”*
3. Changed line 148: *“The latter was investigated through positive matrix factorization (PMF) of the organic aerosol mass spectra from the SP-AMS.”* To *“...by use of positive matrix factorization (PMF).”*
4. Added to line 165: *“...(Leipzig, Germany).”*
5. Changed line 165-167: *“Sampling took place during a CRAICC (Cryosphere-Atmosphere Interactions in a Changing Arctic Climate) field campaign from 20 February until 23 May 2015.”*
6. Added to line 176: *“..of aerosols components...”*
7. Changed line 204: *“...is discussed in Section 2.4”*
8. Changed line 226: *“A description of the validation can be found in Supporting Information.”*
9. Changed line 443-444: *“...was nearly absent.”*
10. Changed line 465-466: *“The MOA factor has a mass spectrum dominated by m/z 28 and 44 (CO<sup>+</sup> and CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>), of which the latter is probably a fragment from e.g. organic acids and acid derived species, such as esters.”*
11. Changed line 467: *“An O/C of 0.95 reveals that the factor is highly oxidized and most likely photochemically aged.”*
12. Deleted line 543: *“The OA was overall highly oxidized.”*
13. Changed line 553-554: *“In contrast, MOA emerges only after early spring but is then by far the dominating OA from the end of April and onwards.”*

# Biogenic and anthropogenic sources of aerosols at the high Arctic site Villum Research Station

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20 **Abstract.** There are limited measurements of the chemical composition, abundance, and sources of atmospheric particles in the high Arctic. To address this, we report 93 days of Soot Particle Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (SP-AMS) data collected from February 20<sup>th</sup> until May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at Villum Research Station (VRS) in Northern Greenland (81°36' N).<sup>2</sup> During this period, we observed the Arctic haze phenomenon with elevated PM<sub>1</sub> concentration ranging from an average of 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in  
25 February, March and April to 1.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in May. Particulate sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) accounted for 66% of the non-refractory PM<sub>1</sub> with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May. The second most abundant species was organic aerosol (OA) (24%). Both OA and PM<sub>1</sub>, estimated from the sum of all collected species, showed a marked decrease throughout May in accordance with the polar front moving North together with changes in aerosol removal processes. The highest refractory black carbon  
30 (rBC) concentrations were found in the first month of the campaign averaging 0.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ . In March and April, rBC averaged 0.1  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  while decreasing to 0.02  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in May.

Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) of the OA mass spectra yielded three factors: (1) a Hydrocarbon-like Organic Aerosol (HOA) factor, which was dominated by primary aerosols and accounted for 12% of OA mass; (2) an Arctic haze Organic Aerosol (AOA) factor; and (3) a more oxygenated Marine  
35 Organic Aerosol (MOA) factor. AOA dominated until mid-April (64%-81% of OA), while being nearly absent from the end of May and correlated significantly with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , suggesting the main part of that factor being secondary OA. The MOA emerged late at the end of March, where it increased with solar radiation and reduced sea ice extent, and dominated OA for the rest of the campaign until the end of May (24-74% of OA), while AOA was nearly absent. The highest O/C ratio (0.95) and S/C ratio (0.011) was found for  
40 MOA. Our data supports current understanding that Arctic aerosols are highly influenced by secondary

aerosol formation, and with an important contribution from marine emissions during Arctic spring in remote high Arctic areas. In view of a changing Arctic climate with changing sea-ice extent, biogenic processes, and corresponding source strengths, highly time-resolved data are needed in order to elucidate the components dominating aerosol concentrations to enhance the understanding of the processes taking place.

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## 1 Introduction

Climate change driven by anthropogenic emission of greenhouse gases seriously impacts the Arctic, which has experienced average temperature increases of twice the global mean during the last 100 years (AMAP, 2015; IPCC, 2018). Warming has led to destabilization of permafrost (AMAP, 2017) and a longer melting season resulting in a critical decrease in the sea-ice extent (Stroeve et al., 2007). The latter changes the Earth's albedo and results in positive sea-ice and snow-albedo feedbacks causing further warming (Lenton, 2012). In addition to long-lived greenhouse gases such as CO<sub>2</sub>, atmospheric aerosols also have an impact on the radiation balance of the Earth. Aerosols affect the radiative balance in various ways. They can absorb and scatter solar radiation, causing either warming or cooling of the atmosphere, respectively. Aerosols can also impact the properties of clouds, for example affecting cloud reflectivity, by serving as cloud-condensation and ice nuclei (Twomey, 1977). Due to aerosols' climatic importance it is crucial to expand the knowledge regarding their chemical and physical properties in the Arctic to reduce the current uncertainty (IPCC, 2013) with respect to the overall effect of aerosols on Earth's energy budget.

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It is well established that the aerosol concentration in the Arctic atmosphere is seasonally varying resulting in higher loadings during winter and spring, compared to summer and fall, often referred to as "Arctic haze" (Heidam et al., 2004; Tunved et al., 2013; Heidam et al., 1999; Quinn et al., 2007; Barrie et al., 1981; Heidam, 1984). This is explained by a greater accessibility to the lower troposphere in the Arctic from anthropogenic source regions outside the Arctic due to an expansion of the polar dome (AMAP, 2011) in winter and spring. In addition, during the Arctic winter strong temperature inversions create stable stratification where aerosol removal processes are strongly reduced prolonging their atmospheric lifetime (Stohl, 2006; Sodemann et al., 2011; AMAP, 2011). The air masses inside the wintertime dome are extremely dry, limiting aerosol wet deposition, while low turbulence caused by the stratification and slow vertical exchange reduces the dry deposition of aerosols (Sodemann et al., 2011; Stohl, 2006; Abbatt et al., 2019). The Arctic haze peaks in early spring (Heidam et al., 1999; Law and Stohl, 2007; Stohl, 2006; Heidam et al., 2004; Abbatt et al., 2019). Arctic haze particles effectively scatter light (Andrews et al., 2011; Schmeisser et al., 2018), and act as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) (Earle et al., 2011; Komppula et al., 2005). Due to the expansion of the polar dome, a major part of the aerosol mass is long-range transported from source regions outside the Arctic where the primary source region has been identified as the northern part of Eurasia (Nguyen et al., 2013; Quinn et al., 2008; Heidam et al., 2004; Stohl et al., 2007; Christensen, 1997; Abbatt et al., 2019). Studies have shown that main constituents of Arctic aerosols are sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) and organics mixed with a minor fraction of nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>), black carbon (BC) and heavy metals (Quinn et al., 2007; Fenger et al., 2013;

Nguyen et al., 2013; Frossard et al., 2011; Barrie et al., 1981). This is also the case at the high Arctic station, Villum Research Station (VRS) at Station Nord in North Greenland, where this study was conducted. Rahn and Heidam (1981) have previously estimated the average chemical composition of Arctic sub-micrometer aerosols during winter-spring to  $2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3} \text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  organic aerosol (OA),  $0.3\text{-}0.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  BC and a few hundred  $\text{ng m}^{-3}$  of other compounds. Since then,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and BC during winter-spring have declined at Alert, Mount Zeppelin, Barrow and VRS (Heidam et al., 1999; Hirdman et al., 2010; AMAP, 2015). However, the total Arctic column burden may have increased (Sharma et al., 2013).

BC is the most important aerosol at absorbing solar radiation in the atmosphere. Of particular concern for the Arctic, BC deposited on snow and ice-covered surfaces changes the albedo, leading to increased absorption of solar radiation and direct heating of the surface (Bond et al., 2013). Consequently, melting accelerates giving BC an important role especially in an Arctic context (Bond et al., 2013; Quinn et al., 2008; AMAP, 2011). Long-range transport of BC to the Arctic is very effective in mid-winter, when removal processes are slowest. Transport reaches a minimum in late spring where wet deposition becomes an important removal process (Abbatt et al., 2019; AMAP, 2015). Natural emissions from vegetation fires can be considerable in spring and early summer (Mahmood et al., 2016). Overall, the general seasonal cycle of BC in the Arctic is characterized by highest concentrations observed between January and April and lowest concentrations throughout the summer, but with periodic spikes in concentration throughout the summer (Sharma et al., 2006). OA is also an important component of Arctic aerosols and is composed of many different molecules derived from either primary emissions or from secondary production. Consequently, there are often many distinct sources of OA. OA can typically contribute up to one third of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  in the Arctic though few studies have characterized this component in detail (Barrett et al., 2015; Brock et al., 2011; Frossard et al., 2011; Kawamura et al., 2010; Quinn et al., 2002; Shaw et al., 2010; Leaitch et al., 2018; Chang et al., 2011; Willis et al., 2018). Total OA is relatively constant or decreasing with time in late winter. However, during spring it increases suggesting that there is photochemical production of OA (Willis et al., 2018). There is a need for more detailed measurements of OA composition in the Arctic to better understand the key sources and how these vary with time (Willis et al., 2018).

It is crucial to understand natural sources in addition to anthropogenic sources of Arctic aerosols. Marine and coastal marine locations constitute a large part of Arctic, and marine aerosols comprise both organic and inorganic constituents of primary and secondary origin. Production of primary marine aerosols is known to correlate with wind speed and possibly also other mechanisms (Willis et al., 2018). Primary marine organic aerosols in Arctic regions are believed to consist of water soluble or surface-active organic compounds present in the surface water, or water insoluble microgels (Willis et al., 2018; Leck and Bigg, 2005; Orellana et al., 2011). Marine aerosols play an important role for the climate due to their optical properties and ability to alter cloud nucleation (Abbatt et al., 2019; Willis et al., 2018). Biogenic marine aerosols can scatter solar radiation, which will result in a negative radiative forcing. Biogenic marine aerosols can also coat soot particles, which may be transported from wild fires (AMAP, 2015), which could impact the CCN activity and absorption by the soot particles (Lange et al., 2018). Methane

sulfonic acid (MSA), an oxidation product of dimethyl sulfide (DMS) is abundant in spring and summer (Abbatt et al., 2019) and is a key indicator of secondary marine aerosols. MSA levels have been associated with marginal sea ice moving North (Laing et al., 2013; Quinn et al., 2009; Sharma et al., 2012). A new satellite-based model suggests that DMS emissions in the Arctic have increased by 30% per decade the last two decades due to both increased temperatures and decreased ice cover (Abbatt et al., 2019). A relationship between MSA and the frequency of new particle formation has also been inferred based on long-term observations (Dall'Osto et al., 2017) although MSA cannot be the nucleating part. This suggest that DMS is important for summertime particles. Another important natural source of Arctic aerosols is ammonia, which among other things is believed to originate from migrating sea bird colonies (Croft et al., 2016). Modeling studies have been shown to better capture particle burst and growth when an ammonia source from sea birds were included (Croft et al., 2018; Croft et al., 2016). Additionally, ammonia can also be transported from boreal wildfires from lower latitudes.

Many previous Arctic studies have been based on off-line analysis and filter measurements of ambient aerosols with a relatively low time resolution of hours up to a week (Heidam et al., 1999; Heidam et al., 2004; Skov et al., 2006; Quinn et al., 2007; Massling et al., 2015; Leaitch et al., 2018; Sharma et al., 2012; Quinn et al., 2009). Beside the low time resolution, a disadvantage of these types of measurements can be evaporate loss or adsorption of semi-volatile compounds (Lee et al., 2013; Dillner et al., 2009). Highly time-resolved in-situ measurements can reduce these artifacts while also enabling the possibility to observe the variations of different chemical species on a much shorter time-scale. In this way, it is possible to look into the processes behind the observed levels. In the last decade, Aerosol Mass Spectrometry (AMS) (Canagaratna et al., 2007; DeCarlo et al., 2006; Jimenez et al., 2003; Drewnick et al., 2005; Jayne et al., 2000) has been widely used as an on-line method for quantitative analysis of chemical composition of atmospheric particles. With the addition of a laser vaporizer (Onasch et al., 2012), its application has been extended to include refractory aerosol components, including refractory black carbon (rBC).

In this study, the time dependent concentrations of sub-micrometer particle composition including OA,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , chloride ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ) and rBC are reported at the high Arctic site VRS. The measurements were conducted by application of a soot particle aerosol mass spectrometer (SP-AMS) and auxiliary measurements during the Arctic spring 2015, when concentrations are expected to peak. The objectives are to gain better insight into the processes influencing the chemical composition of high Arctic aerosols and to allocate potential sources and source types by use of positive matrix factorization (PMF).

## 2 Experimental

### 2.1 Sampling site

The atmospheric measurements were carried out at VRS located at the Danish military station, Station Nord in North Greenland (Figure S1,  $81^\circ 36' \text{N}$ ,  $16^\circ 40' \text{W}$ , 24 m above mean sea level). VRS is situated in a region with a dry and cold climate where the annual precipitation is 188 mm and the annual mean temperature is  $-21^\circ \text{C}$ . The dominating wind direction is southwestern with an average wind speed of 4

155 m s<sup>-1</sup> as apparent from Figure S1 (Rasch et al., 2016; Nguyen et al., 2013). The SP-AMS data were  
sampled in an atmospheric observatory containing two laboratories whereas data from a multi-angle  
absorption photometer (MAAP) and a filter pack sampler was collected in a smaller co-located hut  
(Flygers hut) - both equipped with particle and gas inlets. The two measurement sites are located 2.5 km  
southeast of the military station and are only 300 meters apart. Given the close proximity of the two  
160 laboratories and the lack of hyper-local sources, we expect both to sample largely the same air mass. A  
high-volume sampler (HVS) provided filter samples for off-line analysis. The HVS was located at the  
outskirts of the military station, hence 2.5 km from the main sampling site. **More information concerning  
the supplementary instruments can be found in Supporting Information.** All particulate measurements in  
the Atmospheric Observatory were conducted by drawing air through a slightly heated (absolute 5 °C)  
165 particle inlet custom-built by TROPOS (Leipzig, Germany). **Sampling took place during a CRAICC  
(Cryosphere-Atmosphere Interactions in a Changing Arctic Climate) field campaign from 20 February  
until 23 May 2015.**

## 2.2 The soot-particle aerosol mass spectrometer

An SP-AMS (Aerodyne Research Inc.) was deployed at VRS for measuring mass concentration and  
170 chemical composition of sub-micrometer aerosols with a time resolution of two minutes. The SP-AMS  
is described in detail elsewhere (Onasch et al., 2012). In brief, the instrument samples aerosols into a  
vacuum chamber through an aerodynamic particle lens, which creates a narrow particle beam. In the  
vacuum chamber, the aerosols accelerate to a velocity depending on their vacuum aerodynamic diameter  
enabling analysis of the aerosol size distribution. Subsequently, the aerosols undergo vaporization,  
175 ionization with 70 eV electron impact, and detection with time-of-flight mass spectrometry. The  
vaporization **of aerosols components** in the SP-AMS can occur in two ways: (1) impaction on a tungsten  
surface at a temperature of 600 °C, or (2) intersection with the beam of a continuous-wave 1064 nm  
intracavity Nd:YAG laser. The laser extends the application of the AMS to include refractory particulate  
matter (R-PM) since it enables vaporization of strongly infrared light absorbing particles, such as  
180 refractory BC (Onasch et al., 2012). In this study, high-resolution (HR) mass concentrations of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>,  
NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, organics, **Cl** and rBC are obtained from the SP-AMS.

The SP-AMS was operated in two minutes laser off and two minutes laser on in V-mode and alternated  
between the mass spectrum mode and the particle time-of-flight (pToF) to obtain sub-micrometer  
particles (PM<sub>1</sub>). Non-refractory species are reported for time periods where the laser was off. The flow  
185 rate was **controlled regularly** with a Gilian Gilibrator (Sensidyne). During the first part of the campaign,  
ionization efficiency (IE) calibrations with ammonium nitrate particles were conducted on a weekly basis  
and during the last part every second week. To establish the detection limit and to enable adjustments of  
the fragmentation tables a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter was applied on a daily basis for a  
period of 30 to 60 minutes with a time resolution of 2 minutes. The lower detection limit of the different  
190 species was determined as three times the standard deviation of the mass concentration during the HEPA  
filter periods (Table 1). The data were analyzed with the standard AMS Igor Pro-based (version 6.35  
Wavemetrics, Inc) software tools SQUIRREL (version 1.57G) and PIKA (version 1.16H), available at



http://cires1.colorado.edu/jimenez-group/ToFAMSResources/ToFSoftware/index.html. The analysis followed the principles described in DeCarlo et al. (2006), Jimenez et al. (2003); Allan et al. (2004) and Onasch et al. (2012).

The default relative ionization efficiency (RIE) values for OA,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  of 1.4, 1.2, 1.1 and 1.3, respectively, were applied, which are based on Canagaratna et al. (2007). A RIE of 3.5 was applied for  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . It should be noted that chloride reported in the current study is measured with laser off and is thus non-refractory chloride and largely excludes refractory species such as chloride in sea salt aerosols.

Thus, reported  $\text{Cl}^-$  in this study is most likely primarily a sum of organic  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  due to the acidic environment at VRS. However, the partitioning of chloride between different species has not been investigated further, since it is not within the scope of this study. A RIE for rBC of 0.46 was found from calibrations with Regal Black (a commercial carbon black). The appropriateness of this RIE for ambient Arctic rBC is discussed in Section 2.4. Calibrations with Regal Black and ammonium nitrate were done with the same frequency. Fragment ions from organic species can overlap with some of the marker ions for rBC. To minimize the organic contribution to the nominal rBC signal (especially at  $\text{C}_1^+$  an organic contribution was evident),  $\text{C}_3^+$  was used to quantify rBC. Thus, the  $\text{C}_3^+$  signal was scaled with a factor of 1/0.55 to match the fraction in the Regal Black mass spectra (Martinsson et al., 2015). The applied collection efficiency (CE) for non-refractory PM and rBC will be discussed in more detail in a subsequent section.

### 2.3 Auxiliary equipment

The aerosol light absorption was measured using a MAAP (Model 5012 Thermo Scientific) operated at a flow rate of  $1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ hour}^{-1}$  with an inlet without a size cut-off. Aerosols were sampled on a filter in which the light absorption at 670 nm was measured by a photometer. Detailed information about the instrument can be found in Petzold and Schonlinner (2004) and previous MAAP measurements from VRS are published in Massling et al. (2015). The BC concentration is determined from the relationship between the aerosol light absorption coefficient and a specific aerosol absorption coefficient (Petzold and Schonlinner, 2004). The specific absorption coefficient describes BCs ability to absorb solar radiation at a specific wavelength, which depends on the age of the aerosol (Petzold et al., 1997; Sharma et al., 2002) and is often determined based on correlations with thermal-optical measurements of elemental carbon (EC) (Sharma et al., 2004). In this study, the MAAP's default value of  $6.6 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  has been applied based on Massling et al. (2015). Uncertainty in the conversion factor likely impacts the reported absolute concentrations, and potentially the temporal variability. In addition, a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS) measured the particle number size distribution, which was used for validating the SP-AMS results. The SMPS is custom-built with a Vienna-type medium column and more information can be found in Lange et al. (2018). A description of the validation can be found in Supporting Information.

### 2.4 Comparison between instruments

A collection efficiency (CE) adjustment is normally applied to AMS data, which accounts for particle loss in the instrument caused by the inlet and the aerodynamic lens, beam divergence, and particle bounce



230 effects (Canagaratna et al., 2007; Onasch et al., 2012). In this study, the parameterization developed by Middlebrook et al. (2012) has been used where a time dependent CE is determined based on the aerosols chemical composition. Previous studies have shown an increasing CE with particle acidity, the content of nitrate, and relative humidity (Quinn et al., 2006; Jayne et al., 2000; Matthew et al., 2008). The time dependent CE varied with the majority (> 97%) of values between 0.8 and 1 (Figure S2). In this study, 235 the high CE was due to acidic aerosols. This is also evident from Figure S3.a showing that the theoretical predicted  $\text{NH}_4^+$  concentration necessary for neutralizing the mass concentration of inorganic anions is much larger than the actual  $\text{NH}_4^+$  concentration measured by the SP-AMS (slope = 0.14). The acidity is explained by the high amount of sulfuric acid.

Applying the RIE for rBC of 0.46 determined from Regal Black calibrations, a good correlation between 240 rBC and  $\text{BC}_{\text{MAAP}}$  is found (Figure S3.b). While there is a strong linear relationship between the two ( $R^2 = 0.83$ ), the  $\text{BC}_{\text{MAAP}}$  was about three times larger than the SP-AMS rBC (slope =  $0.33 \pm 0.02$ ). This indicates that the actual RIE for rBC was lower than the value of 0.46 determined during laboratory calibrations. A lower RIE can be explained by different particle size and a more complex morphology of the Arctic soot compared to the Regal Black used for calibration. An effective RIE is determined for rBC 245 by forcing the SP-AMS measurements to match the MAAP measurements. For rBC an effective RIE of 0.15 (=  $0.33 * 0.46$ ) is hence applied in this study.

Comparison of the total  $\text{PM}_{10}$  mass concentration (sum of OA,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , Cl and rBC) with the calculated total volume from the SMPS assuming spherical particles was carried out to validate the SP-AMS results. The SMPS was operated to characterize particles having mobility diameters between 9 and 250 870 nm. This corresponds to a larger size range than sampled by the SP-AMS, which has 100 % transmission efficiency within aerodynamic diameters between 70 and 600 nm, and adjustment from aerodynamic diameter to mobility diameter further brings the SP-AMS into the SMPS range (DeCarlo et al., 2006; Allan et al., 2003). However, previous studies (Nguyen et al., 2016; Lange et al., 2018) have shown that the dominant particle size range at VRS during winter and spring months is within detection 255 range of the SP-AMS. Thus, the number of particles from the SMPS exceeding the size range measured by the SP-AMS should be relatively small and thereby not influence the results, since particles in the lower end of the size distribution do not significantly contribute to volume. There was a generally reasonable temporal correspondence between the two measurements. Although there were some periods where they differed notably it were within the expected range given the accuracy of the two instruments. 260 A more detailed discussion about the comparison between the two instruments is presented in Supporting Information (Figure S5).

## 2.5 Positive Matrix Factorization

PMF analysis (Paatero, 1997; Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Lanz et al., 2007; Ulbrich et al., 2009) was 265 conducted on the time dependent organic mass spectra to determine OA factors and potential sources of OA. The analysis was carried out with the PMF Evaluation Tool Software (PET, v2.08D; available online at [http://cires1.colorado.edu/jimenez-group/wiki/index.php/PMF-AMS\\_Analysis\\_Guide](http://cires1.colorado.edu/jimenez-group/wiki/index.php/PMF-AMS_Analysis_Guide)) on mass spectra consisting of HR ions with  $m/z$  values from 12 to 100. The detailed procedure is described

elsewhere (Ulbrich et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011). The input HR mass spectra and error matrix with the appropriate ion fragments were generated in PIKA, where the error matrix was calculated as the sum of the quadrature of the electronic noise and Poisson counting for each ion (Allan et al., 2003). Isotopes were removed from both the data and error matrix since they would give additional weight to the parent ion in the PMF analysis.

As described in Ulbrich et al. (2009) “weak” ions with a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) between 0.2 and 2 were down-weighted by a factor of 2 whereas “bad” ions with a SNR below 0.2 were removed from the data and error matrix. The PMF was executed in exploration mode with a range of factors (between 1 and 5). The robustness of the solutions was tested by setting different random starting points (SEED: 0 to 10, steps = 1) (Zhang et al., 2011). The detailed procedures for choosing the best solution were based on Zhang et al. (2011). A solution with three factors (Figure 2) was identified after evaluating  $Q/Q_{exp}$  and residuals, interpreting the mass spectra and investigating the temporal correlation between the factor time series and potential tracer species (Ulbrich et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011). FPEAK and seed values were changed to test the stability of the three-factor solution and based on the diagnostic plots a three-factor solution was selected with a FPEAK and seed value of zero (Figure S7). A 4-factor solution was scientifically not meaningful with respect to the chemical composition and returned an O/C ratio  $\gg 1$  for one of the factors. Hence, we do not observe a fourth “continental” factor, which has been previously observed during the ASCOS cruise track in the summer/autumn season around Svalbard (Chang et al., 2011). If present, the continental factor is most likely of negligible abundance for which reason the PMF-analysis cannot differentiate it from other oxygenated organic aerosol (OOA). Detailed information regarding the factor combination can be found in Supporting Information.

### 3 Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Time series

Time dependent OA,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $NH_4^+$ , Cl<sup>-</sup> and rBC concentrations [ $\mu g m^{-3}$ ] measured by the SP-AMS are presented in Figure 1 together with temperature [ $^{\circ}C$ ], mean wind speed [m/s], and wind direction [ $^{\circ}$ ] for the time period 21 February to 23 May 2015. Weekly average concentrations can be found in Figure S6. Figure 1c shows the time dependent mass fraction of the different species. The total measured  $PM_{10}$  concentration during the field study may seem relatively high, averaging  $2.3 \mu g m^{-3}$  - ranging from 2.3, 2.3 and  $3.3 \mu g m^{-3}$  in February, March and April to  $1.2 \mu g m^{-3}$  in May. It should be emphasized that this average does not consider particulate water, NaCl, and elements such as K, Ca, Si, Al and Fe. These elements may additionally contribute  $0.1 - 0.2 \mu g m^{-3}$  to  $PM_{10}$  (Nguyen et al., 2013; Heidam et al., 2004). The measurement period covers the Arctic late winter and spring where high aerosol loadings are expected due to the favorable conditions for long-range transport of aerosols from mid-latitudes and slow particle removal rates. With regard to  $PM_{10}$  concentration we hence observe the typical Arctic haze phenomenon. Generally, the area around VRS is dominated by winds from southwest (Nguyen et al., 2013), which is also evident during this campaign (Figure S1). As expected no diurnal pattern is observed for any of the chemical species. These are mainly transported from long distances. For example, the

305 source regions that contributed to ground-level SO<sub>x</sub> at VRS were assigned to Western Europe (7%),  
Eastern Europe (9%), Asia (2%), North America (7%) and Russia being the main emitter by far (75%)  
(Heidam et al., 2004). During summer, the atmospheric circulation is confined within the Arctic region  
and is considered essentially local. Thus, marine biogenic sources that peak during spring and summer  
are expected to origin from within the region. Arctic sites show similar increases in key particulate  
310 pollutants in winter and early spring, where maximum sulfate concentrations may reach 3 µg m<sup>-3</sup> as  
compared to average summer concentrations of 0.1 µg m<sup>-3</sup> (Quinn et al., 2007). For example, typical  
PM<sub>1</sub> concentrations were 0.1 - 0.2 µg m<sup>-3</sup> in August to September during the ASCOS expedition (Chang  
et al., 2011). Sulfate is dominated by anthropogenic sources accounting for 65% at Alert (Norman et al.,  
1999) and 75% Svalbard (Udisti et al., 2016) as annual averages. On the contrary, biogenic sources  
315 accounted for 63% of sulfate in size fraction smaller than 490 nm at Alert during summer  
(Ghahremaninezhad et al., 2016).

During the entire campaign, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> is the dominant species that on average makes up almost 70% of the  
PM<sub>1</sub> mass concentration with highest concentration until the end of April and decreasing in May (Figure  
1b-c). This is in accordance with previous findings for SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> at VRS based on measurements with lower  
320 time-resolution (Nguyen et al., 2013; Fenger et al., 2013; Heidam et al., 2004). Atmospheric SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> is  
mainly formed as secondary inorganic and only a minor fraction is from primary emissions (Massling et  
al., 2015). Secondary SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> is formed by atmospheric oxidation of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and to some  
extent DMS (as the long-range transport is occurring over sea ice), and is dependent on the oxidative  
capacity of the atmosphere e.g. the concentration of hydroxyl radicals (OH). Secondary long-range  
325 transported SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> depends on atmospheric oxidation of SO<sub>2</sub> at the vicinity of the source regions, whereas  
local transformation (close to VRS) of SO<sub>2</sub> leads to higher concentration of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> from March, where  
solar radiation is sufficient with peak radiation exceeding 100 W/m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 3). This is consistent with  
results reported from other Arctic sites (Quinn et al., 2007; Gong et al., 2010; Heidam et al., 2004; Skov  
et al., 2017). Previous studies suggest that the main source of SO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> at VRS is long-range  
330 transport of anthropogenic emissions mainly originating from Siberia (Heidam et al., 2004; Nguyen et  
al., 2013). In winter and early spring, direct emissions of sea-salt sulfate and photo-oxidation of oceanic  
emissions of DMS were expected to play a minor role since the ocean surrounding VRS is frozen at that  
time of year (Heidam et al., 2004). However, a recent study using both airplane measurements and  
modeling suggest that long-range transport of DMS is significant during spring (Ghahremaninezhad et  
335 al., 2017). From the beginning of April, the sea ice extent of the Northern Hemisphere is markedly  
reduced, and at the same time solar radiation increases (Figure 3). In this period, we observe MSA as an  
ion in the SP-AMS at *m/z* 78.9854. MSA is formed by atmospheric oxidation of DMS, which results  
from bacterial breakdown of dimethylsulfoniopropionate produced by marine phytoplankton and  
microalgae (Carpenter et al., 2012). In this study, MSA emerges steadily and peaks the end of April (see  
340 Section 3.2). Oxidation of DMS may involve the hydroxyl radical, ozone, and halogen radicals such as  
Cl<sup>•</sup> and BrO (Barnes et al., 2006; Hoffmann et al., 2016).

In this study, the OA fraction is the second largest contributor to PM<sub>1</sub> where weekly averages showed a  
clear decrease from mid-April relative to concentrations in February and March (Figure 1). The OA time

345 dependent concentration shows relatively large peaks during shorter time periods, which in some cases can be attributed to a change in wind direction from Southwesterly to Northerly winds (around 10°, Figure S1). While these wind directions were registered on a few occasions they potentially provided local pollution from the military station located three kilometers away from the measurement site. These peaks have not been discarded and the impacts of local pollution will be discussed further in Section 3.2.

350 Particulate  $\text{NH}_4^+$  is found in much lower concentrations compared to OA and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  but with the same transition pattern as the two other species. For the campaign, a significant correlation is found between  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . However, it is known that  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NH}_4^+$  do not originate from the same sources.  $\text{SO}_2$ , a key precursor to  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , originates from combustion of fossil fuel and is oxidized to  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in the atmosphere. In contrast, ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) which is the precursor of  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , derives largely in winter and spring from long-range transport of emissions from biomass burning and agriculture (Fisher et al., 2011), whereas in summertime  $\text{NH}_3$  emission from seabird-colonies can play a significant role (Croft et al., 2016). The strong correlation between  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ( $R^2 = 0.70$ ) suggests that the acidity of the particles is reasonably constant with time. This is furthermore in agreement with the general assumption that  $\text{NH}_4^+$  is bound irreversibly to  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  (e.g. Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998), in this case as ammonium bisulfate. Particle bound  $\text{NH}_4^+$  has a much longer lifetime than  $\text{NH}_3$  (Baek and Aneja, 2004) and therefore it is transported as  $\text{NH}_4^+$  even to the high Arctic.

360 The average concentration of  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  are 0.03 and 0.02  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , respectively, which is close to the detection limits. These concentration levels are lower compared to what has previously been observed at VRS (Fenger et al., 2013; Heidam et al., 2004). However, the SP-AMS does not typically measure refractory chloride at normal vaporizer temperatures, such as NaCl (Canagaratna et al., 2007). Although, Ovadnevaite et al. (2012) has demonstrated how the AMS could be calibrated to measure NaCl in high-time resolution. Moreover, Fenger et al. (2013) found that the overall size distribution of chloride and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  differed from  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , with  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  mainly found in supermicrometer particles ( $> 1 \mu\text{m}$ ) not detectable by SP-AMS. Based on the size of the particles and air mass back-trajectories Fenger et al. (2013) suggested that the particles originate from local/regional sources (frost flowers and refreezing leads). Only during certain periods with specific wind directions  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  were found in accumulation mode particles, which were ascribed to long-range transported particles (Fenger et al., 2013). Current research has suggested that blowing snow might be a much more dominant source of sea salt aerosols compared to frost flowers (Huang and Jaegle, 2017).

375 The highest rBC loadings are found in the first month of the campaign (February) averaging 0.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ . In March and April, the average is 0.1  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  which then decreases to 0.02  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in May. As with OA, some of the spikes in the rBC time series are related to a change in wind direction and likely the result of local pollution from the military station. All data are included here and missing time periods of rBC (during April and May) are due to technical problems with the SP-AMS laser. BC is primarily emitted from both anthropogenic and natural combustion sources (Bond et al., 2013). Upon emission, aerosols containing BC grow by condensation and coagulation into the accumulation mode. These accumulation mode BC-containing particles can be transported over longer distances during the Arctic haze period and may serve as cloud seeds in the late spring, when precipitation begins to be important in the Arctic (Bond

et al., 2013; AMAP, 2011; Massling et al., 2015; Garrett et al., 2011). Further, condensational growth of the BC-containing particles may increase the absorption by these particles (Cappa et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2015). Previous studies have found a correlation between BC and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  at different Arctic stations (Massling et al., 2015; Eckhardt et al., 2015; Hirdman et al., 2010). These studies suggest that the two species are internally mixed and possibly undergo similar transport patterns. Furthermore, comparable correlation slopes were found for the different Arctic locations, which suggest that source regions of BC and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  could be similar throughout the Arctic. An even more recent study suggests that only a minor part of ambient aerosols contained rBC inclusions (Kodros et al., 2018). We find a significant correlation between the two species (students t-test, level of significance 99.995), consistent with previous studies. However, we also find that the  $R^2$  value is relatively low (0.18). The reason for this is that there are periods with particularly high rBC concentrations, likely originating from local emission sources (e.g. the military base), which will be investigated further in the following section. Additionally, in April and May  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  from DMS oxidation will make up a larger fraction of total  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , and thereby reduce the ratio between rBC and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , which is also evident from Figure S4.

### 3.2 Source Apportionment

The PMF analysis was conducted for the HR OA mass spectra with one to five PMF factors and a three-factor solution was chosen (more details can be found in Supporting Information). Figure 2 shows the mass spectral profiles of the three different factors for the entire campaign period. Figure 3 illustrates time series for the factors and Table 2 shows the correlation of each factor with tracer species, respectively. Figure 4 illustrates the average mass concentration ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and the mass fraction of the factors in February, March, April and May. The PMF analysis yielded three factors: 1) a hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol factor (HOA), 2) an oxygenated Arctic haze organic aerosol factor (AOA) dominating winter and early spring, and 3) a more oxygenated marine organic aerosol factor (MOA) which builds up in late spring and becomes the dominating OA throughout late spring. The identification of these factors is discussed below.

The HOA factor is characterized by hydrocarbon fragments especially at  $m/z$  41, 43, 55, 57, 67, 69 and 71 ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_5^+$ ,  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7^+$ ,  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_7^+$ ,  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9^+$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_7^+$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_9^+$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}^+$ , respectively) from chemically reduced organic emissions. The O/C ratio of 0.11, high signal at  $m/z$  57 and the absence of  $\text{CO}_2^+$  is a characteristic of primary combustion sources of fossil origin, which is similar to other HOA factors found in previous studies (Zhang et al., 2005; Aiken et al., 2009) and at other Arctic locations (Frossard et al., 2011). The very small contribution from the  $\text{CO}_2^+$  at  $m/z$  = 44 and the very small abundances of typical biomass burning OA (BBOA) marker ions at  $m/z$  60 ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2^+$ ) and  $m/z$  73 ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}_2^+$ ) in the HOA factor spectrum suggests that the HOA factor is not mixed with BBOA. This finding is consistent with previous results that indicate BBOA levels are typically very low, based on measurements of levoglucosan in the Arctic, (Zangrando et al., 2013). The time series of HOA and rBC showed a moderate correlation ( $R^2 = 0.35$ ), which is consistent with the HOA factor being of primary origin. The relatively low  $R^2$  value (Table 2) can be partly explained by rBC being internally mixed with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and transported with the AOA factor. The HOA time series is generally higher in concentration at the beginning of the measurement period

(Figure 4). The time series of HOA reveals a number of shorter periods with high mass loading, which could be caused by local pollution from the military station 2 km north of the measurement site due to a change in wind direction, or exhaust plumes from snow scooters and heavy-duty vehicles occasionally clearing the road nearby the measurement station for snow (see windrose, Figure S1). It is not trivial to distinguish local events and, in this case, the possible local contamination was investigated by comparing high HOA peaks ( $> 0.45 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) with size distribution measurements from the SMPS (Lange et al., 2018). Periods which were attributed to local contamination accounted for less than 1% of OA concentration. Therefore, essentially the entire HOA concentration is assigned to long-range transportation, possibly sources with different ratios of HOA and rBC which would explain the moderate correlation between HOA and rBC.

Oxygenated aerosols from numerous field campaigns on the northern hemisphere are deconvolved into HOA and OOA. OOA has been shown to account for a large fraction of OA and to be a good surrogate for secondary organic aerosols (SOA) in multiple studies (Ng et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2011). Oxygen containing functional groups produce  $m/z$  43 ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ ) and  $m/z$  44 ( $\text{CO}_2^+$ ) fragments, which are prominent peaks in OOA mass spectra (Ng et al., 2010), including those of MOA and AOA found in this study. These factors are highly OOA factors with O/C ratios of 0.63 and 0.95, respectively. According to Jimenez et al. (2009) these factors would be classified as low volatility OOA (LV-OOA). There is strong evidence that OOA is secondary in nature and several studies of aging indicate that OA converges towards LV-OOA following numerous steps of atmospheric oxidation (Jimenez et al., 2009). The AOA is the most abundant factor from the beginning of the campaign through mid-April. AOA accounts for 64% of OA mass for the entire field study but ranges from 64%, 81% and 71% of OA in February, March and April to 20% in May (Figure 2b and 4). The dominating OA appears to origin from long-range transport into the region during winter/spring. At the end of April and onwards the factor was nearly absent, which is in agreement with increasing wet deposition in the spring and a contracting polar dome impairing long-range transport into North Greenland (Abbatt et al., 2019). Generally, an OOA factor mainly consists of SOA but can also include oxygenated organic species from primary emissions (Zhang et al., 2005). In this case the AOA factor correlates significantly (level 99.995) with  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , which is mainly formed by atmospheric oxidation of  $\text{SO}_2$  suggesting the main part of the factor being SOA. The correlation is especially good until mid-April after which  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  begins to correlate with MOA. The O/C ratio of 0.63 also indicates a less oxidized and fresher SOA factor, or an SOA formed from generally larger precursor volatile organic compounds (VOCs), similar to what has been found in previous studies (O/C between 0.52 – 0.64, (Aiken et al., 2008)). The AOA mass spectrum also included mass spectral peaks at  $m/z$  60.021 ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2^+$ ) and 73.029 ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}_2^+$ ). These fragments are often taken as being indicative of anhydrous sugar such as levoglucosan, and thereby suggest that biomass burning makes some contribution to Arctic OA. However, SOA also contributed to the abundance of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2^+$  (Aiken et al., 2008; Aiken et al., 2009; Cubison et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2010; Saarnio et al., 2013). Quantitatively, the expected abundance of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2^+$  from SOA did not exceed the measured concentration in this study. Biomass burning is generally assumed to play a significant role in the context of the composition of the Arctic aerosol (Stohl et al., 2013) where recent publication using isotopes of carbon reports biomass



460 burning or biofuel use to account for up to 57% of EC at the Arctic station Zeppelin at Svalbard during high pollution events in winter (Winiger et al., 2015). However, levoglucosan is prone to atmospheric oxidation by hydroxide radicals (OH) (Hennigan et al., 2010; Hoffmann et al., 2010), which could degrade the markers during transport to North Greenland. This can explain the low abundance of levoglucosan markers measured in this study.

465 The MOA factor has a mass spectrum dominated by  $m/z$  28 and 44 ( $\text{CO}^+$  and  $\text{CO}_2^+$ ), of which the latter is probably a fragment from e.g. organic acids and acid derived species, such as esters (Duplissy et al., 2011). An O/C of 0.95 reveals that the factor is highly oxidized and most likely photochemically aged. The MOA spectrum resembles a marine organic plume previously published from Mace Head, in the North East Atlantic Ocean showing evidence of both primary and secondary organic aerosols of marine  
470 origin (Ovadnevaite et al., 2011). Most abundant peaks in this spectrum were oxygenated fragments at  $m/z$  28 and 44. Also prominent were  $m/z$  27, 39 and 41 from the CH family, and  $m/z$  43 and 55 from the CHO family, which are also found in the MOA spectrum. The two spectra differ in terms of abundances of CH-like organic matter, but they are different from the marine organic aerosol factor published during the ASCOS expedition in the Central Arctic Ocean (Chang et al., 2011), which shows a closer  
475 resemblance with the mass spectrum of pure MSA, i.e. dominating peaks at  $m/z$  15, 48, 64 and 79. The distinct peak at  $m/z$  78.9854 is specific for MSA (Huang et al., 2017), and reveals that MOA has a secondary biogenic source (Becagli et al., 2013). The resemblance of MOA from this study with the mass spectrum from Mace Head and the high O/C ratio of 0.95 indicate, that MOA is composed of chemically aged aerosols from both oxidation of primary aerosols and secondary organic aerosols (Ovadnevaite et al., 2011; Fu et al., 2015). Aerosol growth has been correlated with the presence of MSA, and other  
480 organic species (Willis et al., 2016).

Figure 3 and 4 illustrate HOA and AOA decreasing around mid-April, while MOA builds up from the end of March. In 2015, Arctic sunrise onset at February 28<sup>th</sup> at VRS, where the sun became visible for a few minutes. Polar daytime initiates photochemistry and hence the production of OH radicals (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006) and reactive halogen radicals (Hoffmann et al., 2016; Barnes et al., 2006). From mid-  
485 April, the sun is above the horizon all day until the beginning of September. Still solar radiation varies over the day and hence the OH production. In contrast, the concentration of OH during buildup of Arctic haze is correspondingly low with ozone being the major oxidant during the dark winter. In Figure 3, the daily averaged solar radiation ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) and sea ice extent ( $\text{km}^2$ ) on the Northern Hemisphere are shown together with the time series of MOA. While MOA is less abundant during February and March, this  
490 factor greatly increases in April, when radiation exceeds approximately  $100 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ . In April, the highest OA concentrations is observed where AOA accounts for around 70% of OA (Figure 4). In May, MOA becomes the dominating OA while AOA nearly disappears. At the same time, we observe the lowest concentration of OA ( $0.01 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) consisting of 75% MOA (Figure 4). This is significantly higher than  
495 observed at Alert by Narukawa et al. (2008) where marine organic matter contributed 45% to aerosol total carbon in late spring (26 April – 6 May 2000). However, direct comparison is difficult due to different methods and time periods (Narukawa et al., 2008). Until the beginning of April, the sea ice extent is constant at around 14.5 million  $\text{km}^2$  on the Northern Hemisphere (Figure 3). Hereafter, about a

month after the onset of polar daytime, the sea ice surface area starts to decline. After 6 weeks starting  
500 from a constant sea ice extent in mid-May, it is reduced by 2 million km<sup>2</sup> corresponding to a 14% loss of  
ice-covered surface area. Consequently, more open waters allow for higher DMS emissions (Abbatt et  
al., 2019) and atmospheric oxidation of DMS to MSA involving OH. This can be visualized from the  
strong coupling between DMS concentration and chlorophyll-a from DMS producing phytoplankton  
(Park et al., 2013). Moreover, Becagli et al. (2016) concluded that oceanic primary production was  
505 related to melting of sea ice and extension of marginal sea ice areas based on satellite derived chlorophyll-  
a and measurements of MSA (Becagli et al., 2016). Also open leads and marginal ice zones provide  
primary marine aerosols (Willis et al., 2018). Indeed, previous findings suggest that biogenic productivity  
in open oceans and sea ice zones and the emission of DMS are responsible for increased new particle  
formation, as sea ice pack extent retreats (Dall'Osto et al., 2017). Quinn and co-workers reported  
510 increased concentrations of MSA at Barrow from 2000 to 2009 associated with the northward migration  
of the marginal ice zone (Quinn et al., 2009; Sharma et al., 2012; Laing et al., 2013). Of the four  
northernmost year-round manned observatories at Alert, Mount Zeppelin, VRS and Barrow, the highest  
MSA concentrations are measured at Mount Zeppelin, likely due to its proximity to open waters around  
Svalbard, which are a significant source of DMS from May to August (e.g. Lana et al. (2011)). This  
515 contrasts with the situation around VRS, which is ice covered most of the year.

Considering the stronger oxidizing environment starting in April, we expect MOA to be abundant until  
autumn (Chang et al., 2011). MOA constitutes 22% of OA on average during our measurement period  
ranging from 2-3% of OA in February and March to 24% and 74% of OA in April and May, respectively  
(Figure 2b and 4). Thus, MOA is by far the most abundant OA from end of April and onwards. MOA  
520 dominates the OA mass after polar sunrise and persists during polar daytime so the aerosol's optical  
impact might be substantial. At the same time, MOA dominates when the overall PM<sub>1</sub> concentration is  
very low, particle numbers are low and hence CCN concentrations can be low. The observed transition  
between AOA and MOA is in agreement with Narukawa et al. (2008), who observed a transition between  
fossil fuel influenced OA to marine OA. MOA may contain oxidation products of DMS and other VOCs  
525 from oceanic origin, as well as a variety of primary components including sacharides such as mannitol  
in addition to insoluble gels (Croft et al., 2018; Leck and Bigg, 2005; Orellana et al., 2011; Fu et al.,  
2013; Ovadnevaite et al., 2011). In line with our findings, modelling at several sites in the Canadian  
Arctic suggested that marine OA other than MSA may account for more than half of the summertime  
OA (Croft et al., 2018). These findings encourage further studies of optical properties and chemical  
530 composition and physico-chemical parameters as CCN ability or hygroscopicity of aerosols prevailing  
during polar daytime.

#### 4 Conclusion

In the transition from polar night to polar day we observed elevated PM<sub>1</sub> concentration ranging from an  
average of 2.3, 2.3 and 3.3 µg m<sup>-3</sup> in February, March and April to 1.2 µg m<sup>-3</sup> in May. We concluded  
535 SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> to be the most abundant species in sub-micrometer aerosols with highest concentration until the  
end of April and decreasing in May. This is in accordance with previous findings from VRS, Alert



(Norman et al., 1999) and Svalbard (Udisti et al., 2016) where  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  has been apportioned to be 65% and 75% anthropogenic, respectively. While not previously quantified at VRS, OA was found to be the second largest contributor to  $\text{PM}_{10}$  (24%). As for the other species, OA showed a decrease in concentration from mid-April relative to February and March. rBC concentration were found to be highest in the first month and then decreased throughout the campaign – average concentration of 0.2, 0.1, 0.1 and 0.02  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in February, March, April and May, respectively.

Source apportionment analysis yielded three factors, identified as a Hydrocarbon-like Organic Aerosol (HOA), Arctic haze Organic Aerosol (AOA) and Marine Organic Aerosol (MOA) with O/C ratios of 0.11, 0.63 and 0.95, respectively. HOA, being the least oxidized factor, made up 12% of OA of which 1% of OA was demonstrated to be contamination from the nearby military camp. AOA and MOA made up 86% of OA averaged across the campaign, with AOA averaging 64% and MOA 22% (2% residuals). AOA and MOA showed evidence of SOA. Furthermore, the resemblance of MOA with a previously published marine organic plume where indicative of MOA having a primary organic component. The sum of long-range transported HOA and AOA make-up the vast majority of OA during the Arctic haze period. AOA and MOA exhibit distinct temporal variability. The less oxidized AOA builds up during the Arctic haze period and dominates until early spring (64%-81% of OA), during which both the absolute and relative contribution to the OA burden decreases substantially. In contrast, MOA emerges only after early spring but is then by far the dominating OA from the end of April and onwards (24-74% of OA). The fact that MOA emerges at a time where long-range transport is impaired by increased deposition and a contracting polar dome indicates that the sources to this factor are more Arctic regional in nature. This is supported by the confined atmospheric circulation within the Arctic region during summer (Heidam et al., 2004). This demonstrates the importance of biogenic sources in the Arctic, especially in the spring. In view of changing biogenic processes and corresponding source strengths of aerosol precursors in a changing Arctic climate with changing sea-ice extent, additional high time resolution measurements are urgently needed in order to elucidate the organic components dominating aerosol summer mass and number concentrations.

### Supporting information

Supporting information describes site information, supplementary instruments, collection efficiency, validation of SP-AMS data, and key diagnostics for the PMF solution.

### Author contribution

Ingeborg E. Nielsen and Jacob K. Nøjgaard carried out the field measurements, and Ingeborg did the analysis of the SP-AMS data. Jacob and Ingeborg carried out the PMF analysis and took lead in writing the manuscript. Henrik Skov supervised the project and provided critical feedback, participated in the field campaign and helped shape the research and manuscript. Heikki Junninen and Nina Sarnela helped monitor the SP-AMS during the field campaign and commented on the manuscript. Sonya Collier, Qi Zhang and Christopher D. Cappa helped interpret the SP-AMS data set and provided critical feedback

on the manuscript. Andreas Massling and Robert Lange participated in the field campaign and discussed the analysis and commented on the manuscript. Axel C. Eriksson and Manuel Dall'Osto discussed the analysis and results and commented on the manuscript.

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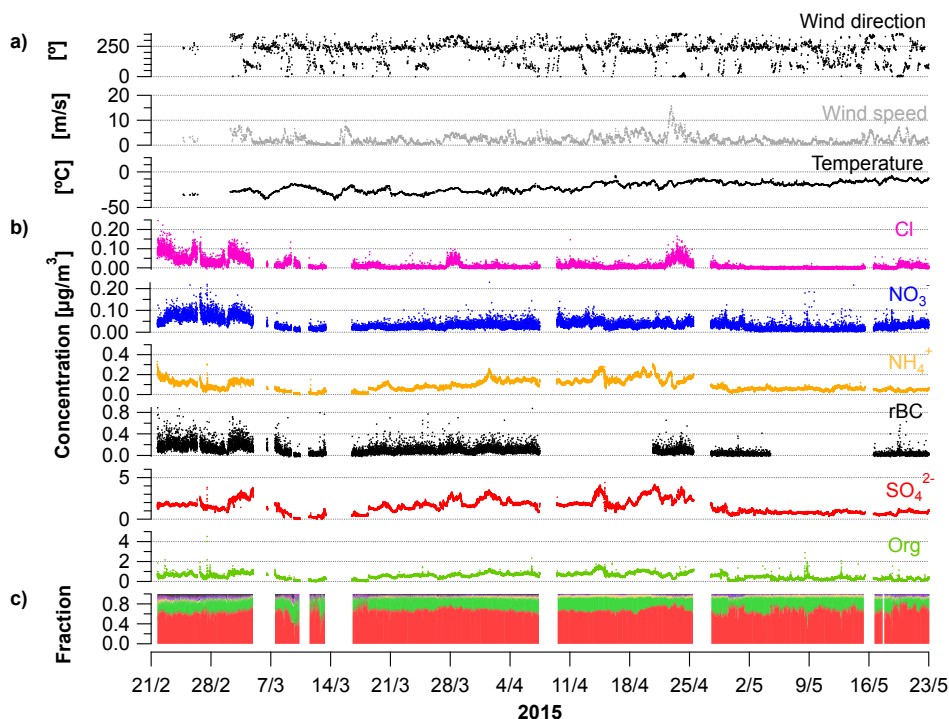
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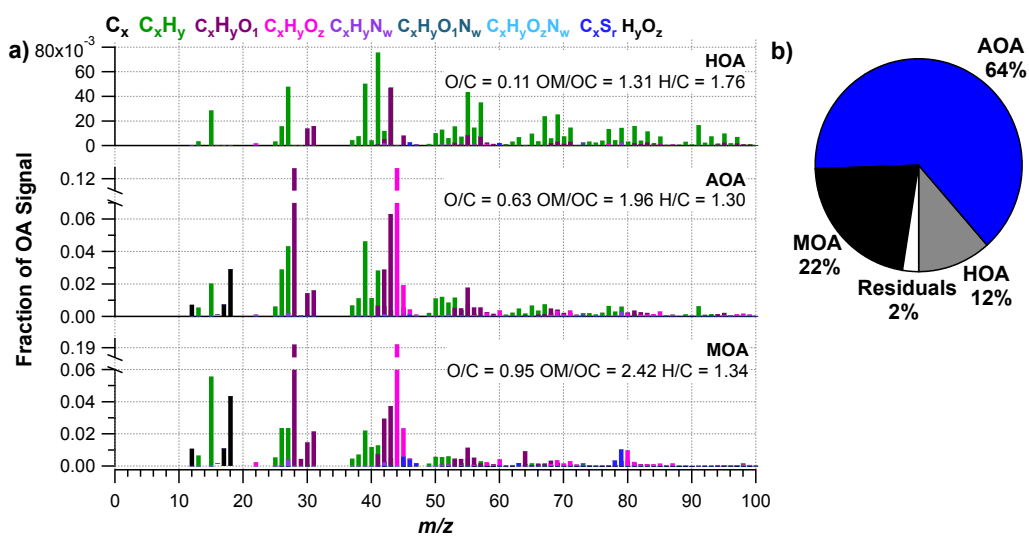


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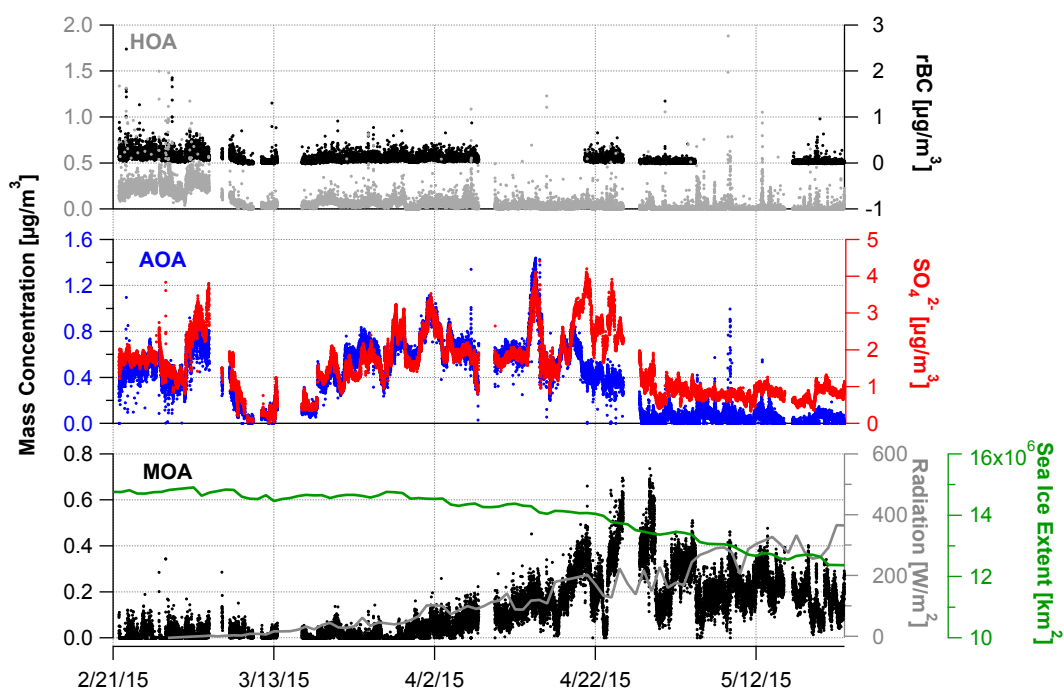


**Figure 1** Time series from 21 February to 23 May 2015 showing a) wind direction [°], mean wind speed [m/s] and temperature [°C], b) concentrations of Cl<sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, rBC, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and OA from the SP-AMS [µg/m<sup>3</sup>], and c) fraction of the aerosol species to the total PM<sub>1</sub>.

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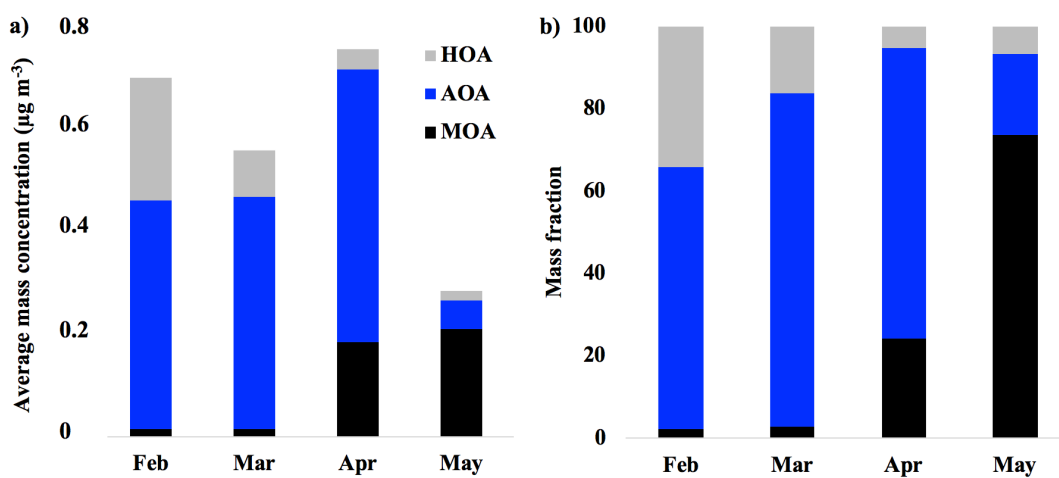


**Figure 2** a) High-resolution mass spectra of PMF factors hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA), Arctic haze organic aerosol (AOA) and marine organic aerosol (MOA), and b) factor share of ambient mass concentration. O/C, OM/OC and H/C ratio are presented for each factor.



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**Figure 3** Time series for hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA), Arctic haze organic aerosol (AOA), marine organic aerosol (MOA) and tracers (rBC,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ). Sea ice extension on the Northern hemisphere and short-wave radiation (daily average) are included in the time series for MOA (see text).



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**Figure 4** a) average mass concentration ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) of hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA), Arctic haze organic aerosol (AOA) and marine organic aerosol (MOA) in February, March, April and May. b) mass fraction of HOA, AOA and MOA in February, March, April and May.

**Table 1** Detection limits. The detection limits for the SP-AMS is calculated from periods sampling through HEPA filters with a time resolution of 2 minutes (average from eight hepafilter periods of 30 to 60 minutes over the entire campaign). The detection limit for the MAAP is from Massling et al. (2015).

Instruments	Species	Lower Detection Limit
AMS	HR Org	0.131 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
	HR $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$	0.024 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
	HR $\text{NO}_3^-$	0.021 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
	HR $\text{NH}_4^+$	0.007 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
	HR Cl	0.014 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
	HR rBC	0.010 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
MAAP	BC	< 0.006 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$

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**Table 2**  $R^2$  correlations between PMF factors and tracers (rBC, MSA,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ).

	HOA	AOA	MOA	rBC	MSA	$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$	$\text{NH}_4^+$
HOA	-	0.08	0.11	0.35	0.13	0.08	0.04
AOA	-	-	0.14	0.21	0.27	<b>0.67</b>	0.49
MOA	-	-	-	0.07	0.68	0.00	0.03
rBC	-	-	-	-	0.08	0.18	0.15
MSA	-	-	-	-	-	0.02	0.00
$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.70
$\text{NH}_4^+$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Supporting Information:

### Biogenic and anthropogenic sources of aerosols at the high Arctic site Villum Research Station

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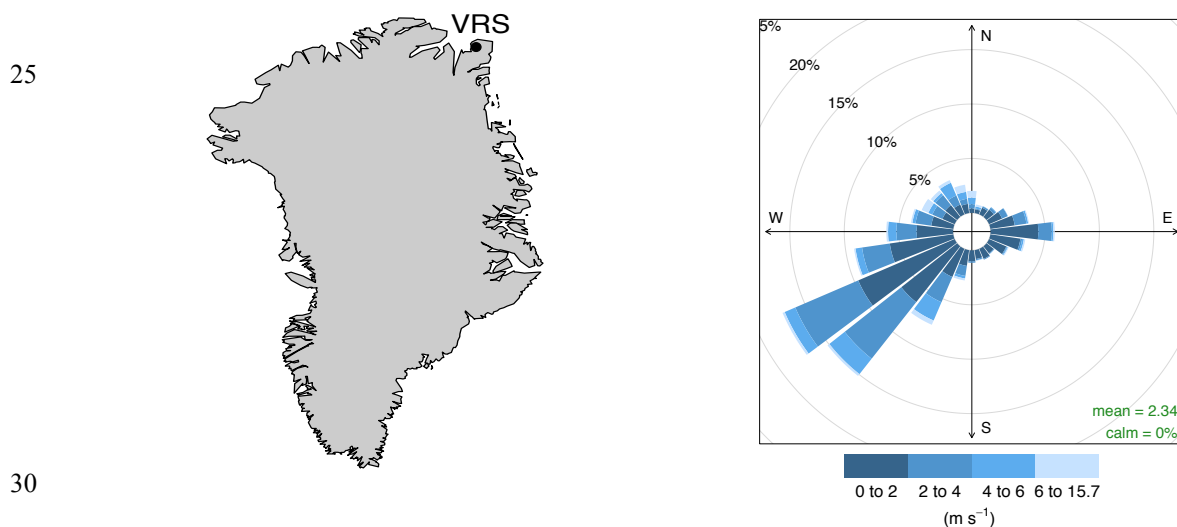
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## 1 Site Information



**Figure S1.** Site information showing a) Map of Greenland including Villum Research Station (VRS), and b) Wind rose with frequency of counts of wind speed [m/s] by wind direction [°] at VRS from 21 February to 23 May 2015.

## 35 2 Supplementary Instruments

In addition to the soot particle aerosol mass spectrometer (SP-AMS) and multi-angle absorption photometer (MAAP), continuous weekly filter measurements were sampled with a flow rate of 40 L/min on a custom-built filter-pack sampler (FPS) located next to the MAAP. The FPS consists of eight filter packs in series, where one filter pack is used every week, and an extra filter pack used as a field blank.

40 Each filter pack contains three milipore membrane filters – one for collection of particles and the other two for collection of gases (mainly SO<sub>2</sub>). The filters were subsequently extracted and analyzed for inorganic aerosols using Ion Chromatography (IC). A more detailed description of the FPS and the IC analysis can be found in Heidam et al. (2004) and Skov et al. (2006). Uncertainty and detection limits are presented in Table S1. Concentrations of elemental (EC) and organic carbon (OC) were determined

45 based on weekly filter samples from a Digital DHA 80 high-volume sampler (HVS, Digital/Riemer Messtechnik, Germany). The instrument collected PM<sub>10</sub> particles on prebaked quartz filters (Advantec, Japan) at a flow rate of 500 L/min, which was subsequently analyzed for EC and OC on a thermal-optical OC/EC instrument from Sunset Laboratory Inc. (Tigard, OR, USA). The analysis followed the EUSAAR-2 protocol (Cavalli et al., 2010) and the detection limits are shown in Table S1.

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**Table S1** Detection limit and uncertainty for the FPS and HVS data.

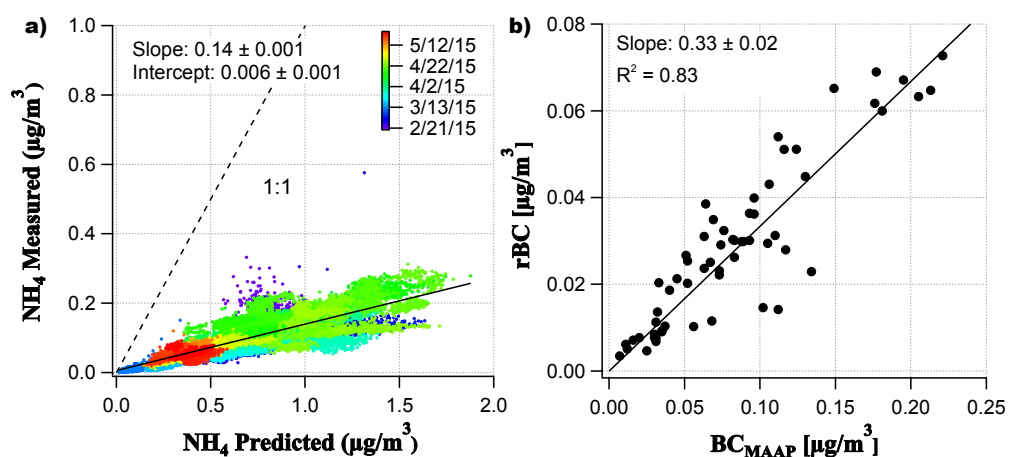
Instruments	Species	Lower Detection Limit	Uncertainty	Reference
FPS, IC	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.0015 µg S/m <sup>3</sup>	20 %	(Massling et al., 2015)
	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	0.008 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	20 %	(Heidam et al., 2004)
	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	0.011 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	20 %	(Heidam et al., 2004)
HVS, OC/EC analyzer	EC, OC	0.0045 C µg/m <sup>3</sup>	-	(Birch and Cary, 1996)

### 3 Collection Efficiency and Correlation Plots

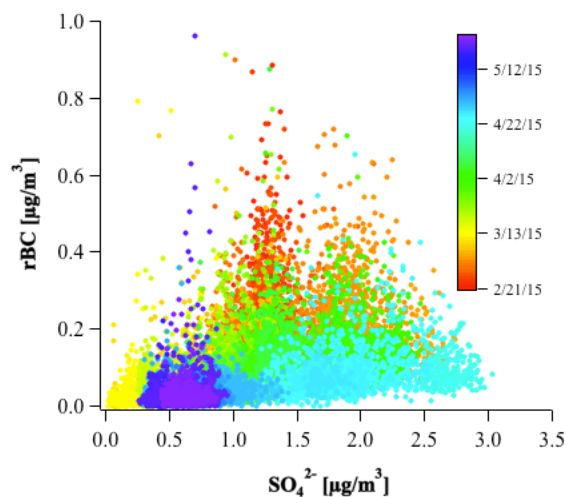


**Figure S2** The calculated composition dependent collection efficiency (CE) based on Middlebrook et al. (2012).

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**Figure S3** a) Measured versus predicted concentration of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> from 21 February to 23 May 2015. A 1:1 line is indicated by the dotted line, and b) Correlation between daily average black carbon from the AMS (rBC) and the MAAP (BC<sub>MAAP</sub>) in µg/m<sup>3</sup> from 21 February to 23 May 2015.



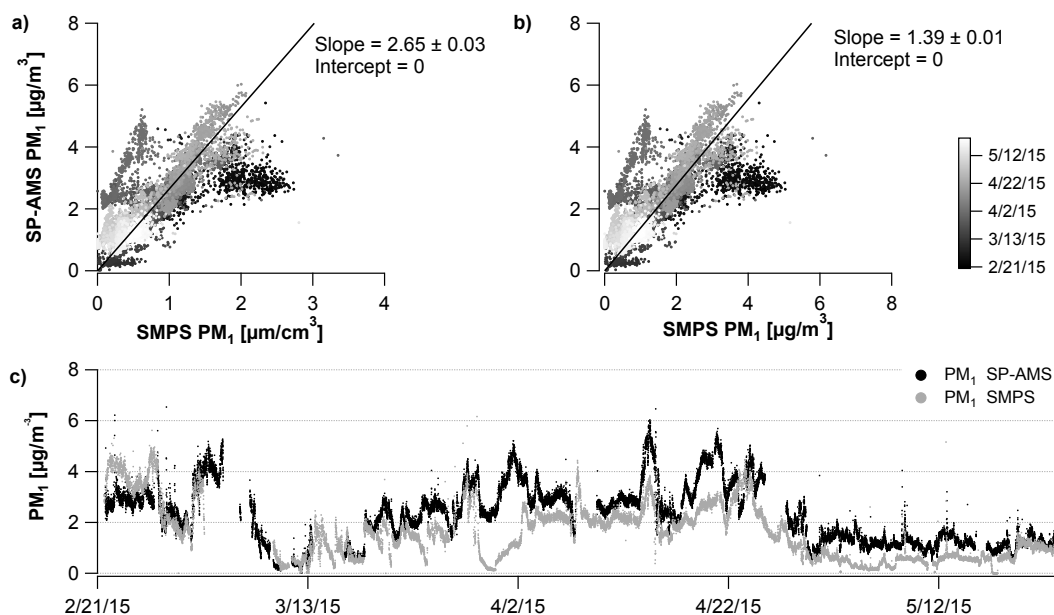
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**Figure S4** Correlation between rBC and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations measured by the SP-AMS from 21 February to 23 May 2015.

#### 4. Validating SP-AMS data

In order to validate the SP-AMS results, the total particle mass concentration ( $\text{PM}_{10}$ , as estimated by the sum of OA,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$  and rBC) was compared with data from the scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS). The results are presented in Figure S5 as a) a correlation plot between SMPS volume distribution [ $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{cm}^3$ ] and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  [ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ], b) a correlation plot between SMPS mass concentration assuming an average density of  $1.84 \text{ g}/\text{cm}^3$  vs.  $\text{PM}_{10}$  [ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ], and c) time series of mass concentration of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  from SP-AMS and SMPS (average density of  $1.84 \text{ g}/\text{cm}^3$ ). The correlation between  $\text{PM}_{10}$  derived from the SP-AMS and volume distribution from the SMPS results in a slope of  $2.65 \pm 0.03$  (orthogonal regression, forced through origin, Figure S5.a). The slope is a simple measure of the average  $\text{PM}_{10}$  particle density, which in this case should be  $2.65 \text{ g}/\text{cm}^3$ . However, this density exceeds the expected value, which in theory would be a weighted average of the density for OA,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$  and rBC. Since  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  on average makes up almost 70 % of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  (Figure 1) it is reasonable to assume an average density of  $1.84 \text{ g}/\text{cm}^3$ , which is the density of sulfuric acid. Applying this density for the SMPS data results in a correlation slope of  $1.39 \pm 0.01$  (orthogonal regression, forced through origin, Figure S5.b). The SP-AMS is hence 39 % higher compared to SMPS results even though the assumed density of  $1.84 \text{ g}/\text{cm}^3$  for sulfuric acid can be considered a relatively high estimate. Including the densities of organic compounds,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  (around 25 % of  $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) would lower the average  $\text{PM}_{10}$  density resulting in a larger difference between the two instruments.

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**Figure S5** a) Correlation between PM<sub>1</sub> mass concentration (sum of OA, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup> and rBC) from the SP-AMS and volume distribution from the SMPS, b) correlation between PM<sub>1</sub> SP-AMS and SMPS mass concentration applying an average density of 1.84 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for SMPS measurements, c) time series of PM<sub>1</sub> concentration from the SP-AMS and SMPS.

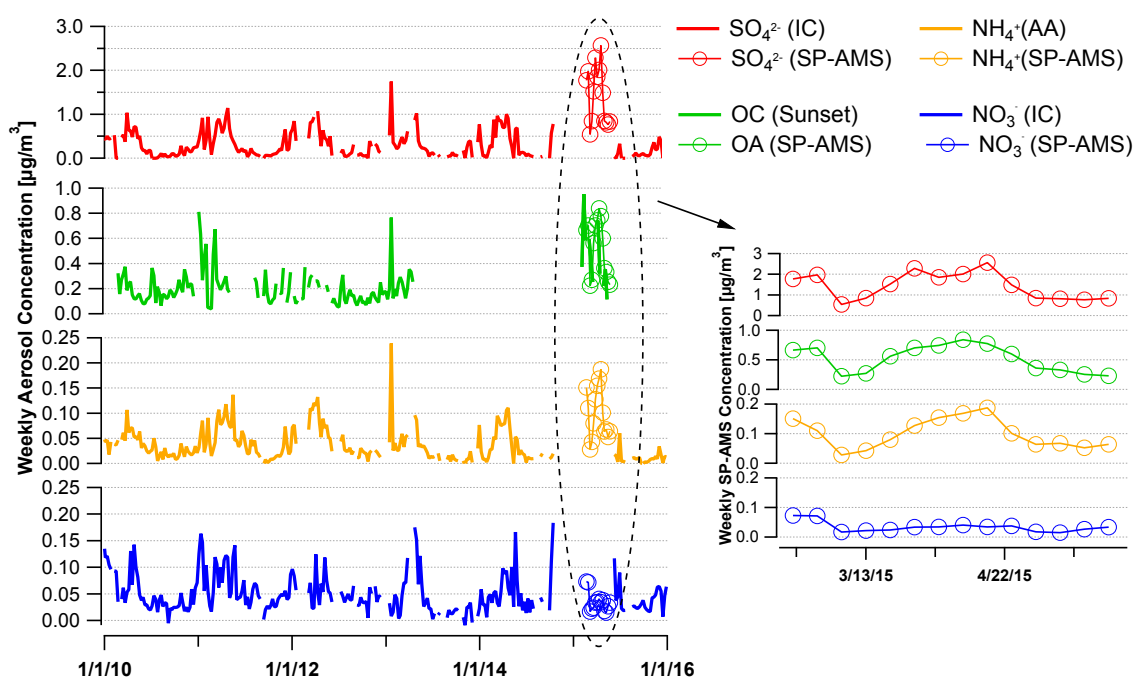
The reason for the discrepancies between the two instruments could be due to a range of factors including the different particle size range and location of the two instruments, CE or particle shape. Nguyen et al. (2016) have shown that the dominant size of particles at VRS in winter and spring are in the detection range of the SP-AMS. Therefore, particles exceeding the size of the SP-AMS should not influence the results substantially. The number of particles below the detection range of the SP-AMS ( $d_{va} < 70$  nm) were investigated from the SMPS but were found too minor to have an impact. The instruments are located approximately 300 meters apart in two different measurement huts. However, this shouldn't have an effect on the concentration level since both sites are affected by the same air masses. As previously mentioned the CE was determined based on the time-dependent chemical composition (Middlebrook et al., 2012) with values ranging between 0.7 and 1 (Figure S2). As sulphuric acid is dominating PM<sub>1</sub> it is reasonable to assume more liquid particles resulting in CE values close to 1. Hence the time-dependent CE found in this study is a good approximation (Figure S2). The particles are assumed to be spherical, which should be a reasonable assumption for a remote location since the majority of the particles are long range transported and hence highly processed.

Despite the quantification discrepancies between the two instruments the timely pattern is similar and supports the qualitative results of both instruments (Figure S5.c). No explanation could be found for the relatively poor correlation in the beginning of the campaign (21-26 February) and in the end of March (29 March – 2 April), which is why data has not been excluded. It is normal procedure to use an overall instrument uncertainty for the SMPS and SP-AMS of 10 % (for number concentration and higher for volume concentration) (Wiedensohler et al., 2018) and 40 % (Bahreini et al., 2009), respectively. Thus, the differences in concentration range observed between the two instruments are within their uncertainty



range. Furthermore, it is important to keep in mind that the two instruments are measuring aerosol concentration with different methods and complete agreement would not be expected.

110 Comparison of the SP-AMS results with those of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{NH}_4^+$  from filter analysis could indicate which instrument measures correctly. However, due to instrumental problems with the FPS this was unfortunately not possible. Instead we have compared the SP-AMS results with the previous five years of weekly data for  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  from IC,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  from an auto-analyzer (AA) and OC from a thermal-optical OC/EC instrument from Sunset Laboratory Inc. (Sunset) (Figure S6). The figure shows that the SP-AMS results corresponds relatively well with the weekly concentration level found the previous five years. The largest discrepancies are found for  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , which could be explained by the average  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentration being close to the detection limit or the fact that the particle size of  $\text{NO}_3^-$  might exceed the measurement range of the SP-AMS (Fenger et al., 2013). Hence, based on the comparison with the SMPS and knowledge about the general aerosol concentration levels at VRS from previous years we trust the SP-AMS data.



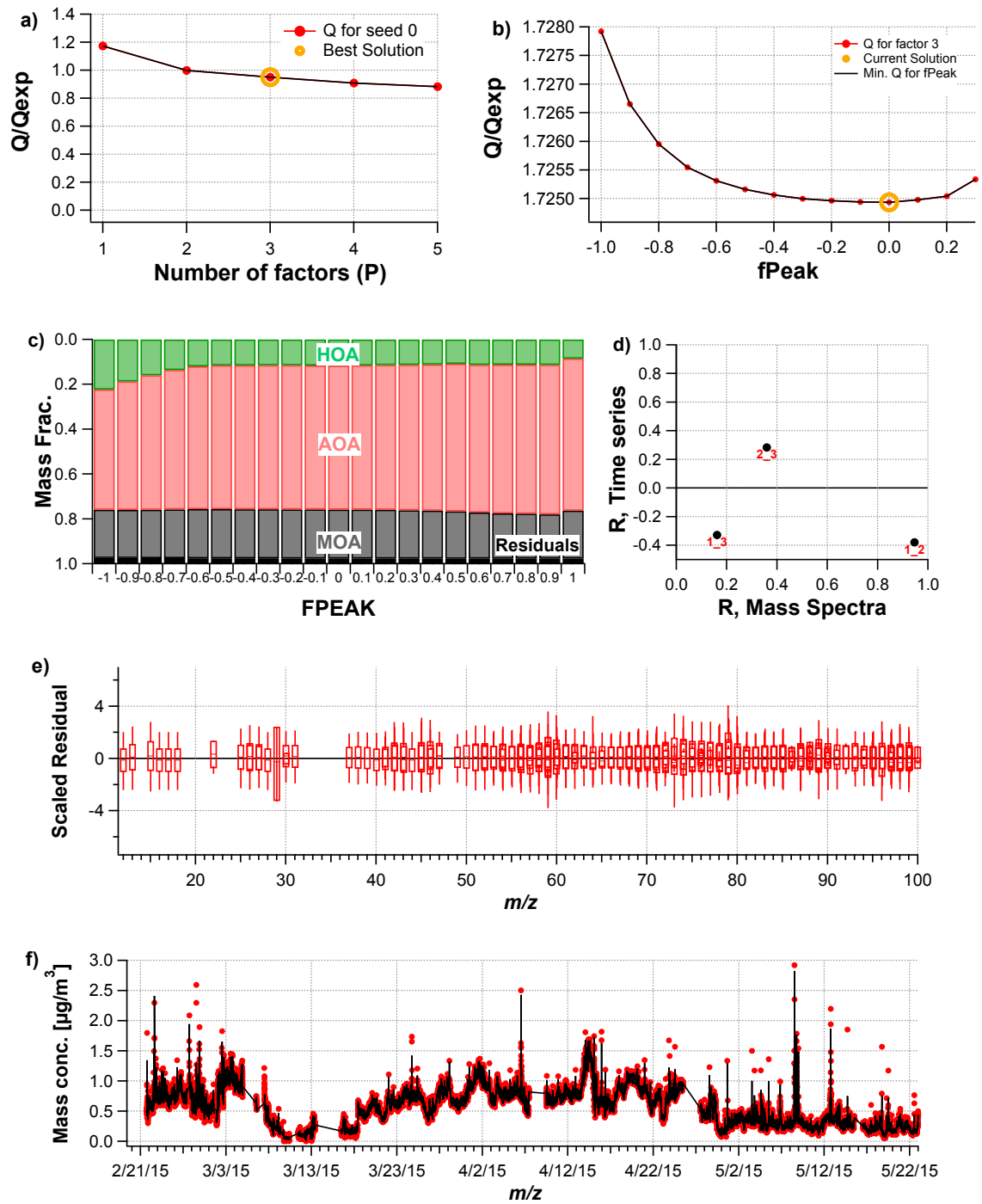
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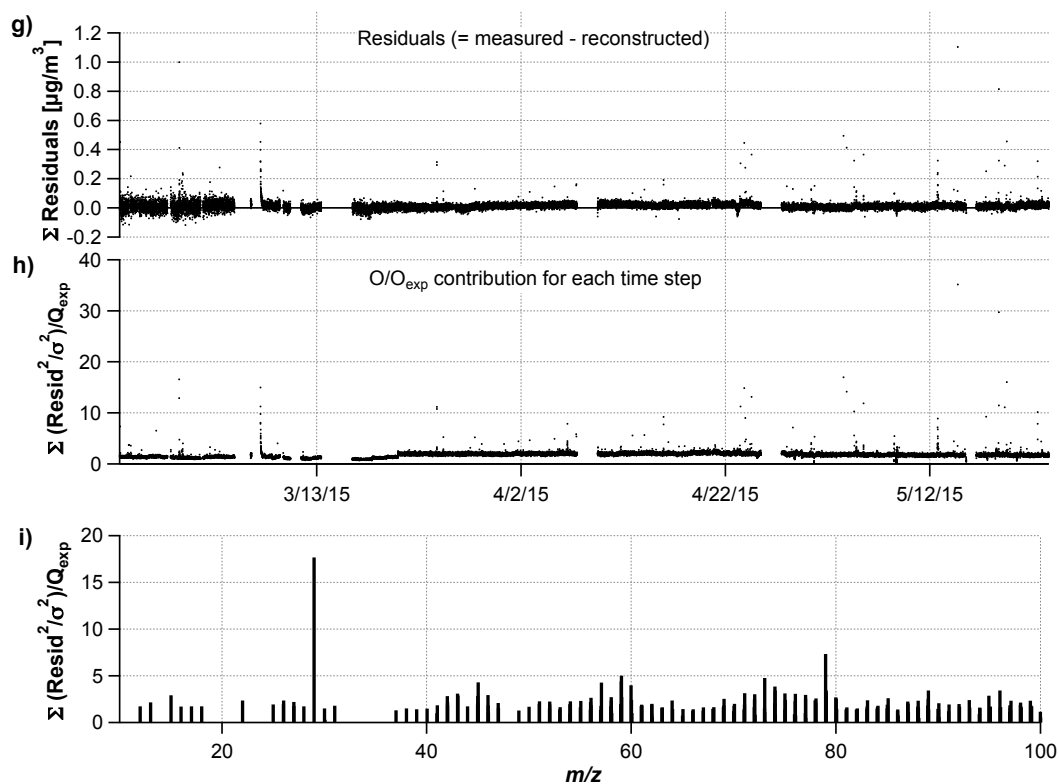
**Figure S6** Time series of weekly filter measurements of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and OC for 1 January 2010 to 1 January 2016 together with weekly average concentrations from the SP-AMS of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and OA for 20 February to 23 May 2015.

### 5. Key diagnostic plot for the PMF solution

125 The PMF analysis was conducted on the HR OA mass spectra with 1 to 5 factors.  $Q/Q_{\text{expected}}$  decreased markedly from 1 to 2 factors, and less from 2 to 3 factors, and 3 to 4 factors. A three-factor solution with a seed value of 0 was chosen and tested for FPEAK values ranging from -1 to 1 in steps of 0.1 Figure S7 presents a summary of the key diagnostics used for evaluating the PMF results. The best solution was chosen based on  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  and residuals for the different factors, interpretation of the mass spectra, and

130 correlation with potential tracer species. A FPEAK value of 0 is chosen since  $Q/Q_{exp}$  is at its minimum in the FPEAK range -1 to 0.3 (Figure S7.b).





**Figure S7** Summary of key diagnostic plots of the PMF results: a)  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  as a function of the number of factors tested in this study. For the selected three-factor solution with a seed value of 0: b)  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  as a function of FPEAK, c) the mass fraction of factors vs. FPEAK, d) correlation between factor 1 to 3, e) box and whiskers plot of scaled residual for each  $m/z$ , f) times series of the measured and reconstructed organic mass, g) time series of the residuals (measured – reconstructed) of the fit, h) time series of  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$ , and i)  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  vs.  $m/z$ .

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