

# Technical Note: A new approach to discriminate different Black Carbon sources by utilising Fullerene and metals in Positive Matrix Factorisation analysis of High-Resolution Soot Particle Aerosol Mass Spectrometer data

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**Abstract.** Atmospheric aerosol particles are known to have detrimental effects on human health and climate. Black carbon is an important constituent of atmospheric aerosol particulate matter (PM), emitted from incomplete combustion. Source apportionment of BC is very important, to evaluate the influence of different sources. The High-Resolution Soot Particle 50 Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (HR-SP-AMS) instrument uses a laser vaporiser, which allows the real-time detection and characterisation of refractory Black Carbon (rBC) and its internally mixed particles such as metals, coating species and rBC subcomponent in the form of HOA+Fullerene. In this case study, the soot data was collected by using HR-SP-AMS during Guy Fawkes Night on 5th November 2014. Positive matrix factorisation was applied to positively discriminate between different wood-burning and bonfire sources for the first time, which no existing black carbon source apportionment technique 55 is currently able to do. Along with this, the use of the fullerene signals in differentiating between soot sources and the use of metals as a tracer for fireworks has also been investigated, which did not significantly contribute to the rBC concentrations. The addition of fullerene signals and successful PMF application on HR-SP-AMS data apportioned rBC into more than two sources. These bonfire sources are HOA+Fullerene, Biomass Burning Organic Aerosol, More Oxidised Oxygenated Organic 60 Aerosol (MO-OOA) and non-bonfire sources such as Hydrocarbon-like OA and Domestic Burning. The result of correlation analysis between HR-SP-AMS data with previously published Aethalometer, MAAP and CIMS data provides an effective way of gaining insights into the relationships between the variables and provide a quantitative estimate of the source contributions to the BC budget during this period. This research study is an important demonstration of using HR-SP-AMS for the purpose of BC source apportionment.

## 1 Introduction

Aerosol particles in the atmosphere are known to have very harmful effects on the air quality, human health and climate (Highwood and Kinnersley, 2006). An important component of atmospheric aerosol particles is Black Carbon (BC), i.e. soot, which has extremely detrimental impacts on the human health and air quality (Janssen and Joint, 2012). BC's main emission source is through the incomplete combustion of fossil fuel and biomass. Sources include transportation, open biomass burning, power generation sources, and residential heating (Bond et al., 2011; Cooke et al., 1999; US EPA, 2012). In the atmosphere, BC can be mixed with organic and inorganic aerosol species, either at the point of emission or through gas-to-particle conversion processes in the atmosphere.

As well as harmful impacts on human health, BC can also absorb cancer-inducing pollutants such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) due to its carbonaceous nature and large surface area. As a result of its smaller size, it be deposited in weasands and lungs, leading to severe health problems (Cao et al., 2012; Dachs and Eisenreich, 2000). According to hypothesised mechanisms, the ultrafine BC is the cause of abnormal cardiovascular functions and endothelial senescence at the molecular level (Buchner et al, 2013). Along with being harmful on human health, it also affects the visibility, reduces agricultural productivity, harms ecosystems, and exacerbates global warming (Grahame and Schlesinger, 2010).

Most BC sources are of anthropogenic origin, but source apportionment is important to establish which specific sources are responsible. There are multiple measurement techniques available for this purpose but are subject to considerable uncertainties (Martinsson et al, 2014). One of the most widely used techniques is the multiwavelength Aethalometer, which was first described by Hansen et al, (1984). Later Sandradewi et al (2008) described how Aethalometer can be used to apportion different sources of light-absorbing aerosols such as wood-burning, which in contrast to traffic emissions, absorbs additional light in the UV region, over what would be expected in the near-infrared region. Another source apportionment method is to measure the radiocarbon (14C) content (Hellborg et al., 2003). This method has not been used as widely because it requires very specialist equipment (Barescut et al., 2005).

Positive Matrix Factorisation can in principle, identify multiple categories of soot; however, it needs a large data set and relevant chemical data of several species. A soot-specific instrument that may be able to provide such data is the Soot Particle Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (SP-AMS), (Onasch et al., 2012), which generates online mass spectra of refractory black carbon (rBC) and its coatings. Using this instrument, Onasch et al., 2015 distributed the carbon ions in the mass spectrum into small carbon clusters (C1-C5), larger carbon cluster ions (C6-29) and fullerene (>C30) ions. Other research studies, such as Rivellini et al., (2020) has also used the SP-AMS for the detection of rBC and its coatings along with trace metals in highly urbanised city of Singapore and result showed that 43% of total rBC was mainly originated from traffic emissions while the rest partially resolved fraction of rBC was emitted from various sources such as traffic (use of internal combustion engine), industrial and shipping emissions. Carbone et al, 2015 used SP-AMS to quantify and detect the trace metals linked with rBC particles and Wang et al. (2016) reported a fullerene time series in Eastern China.

155 The current study aims to develop the SP-AMS as a source apportionment tool, which will subsequently improve our  
156 understanding of the sources of atmospheric soot. For this purpose, Bonfire night 2014 in Manchester was taken as a case  
157 study because it is known that there were at least three sources of BC (traffic, domestic wood-burning, bonfires and potentially  
158 fireworks) and weather conditions that night favoured the high concentrations of primary emissions. This event has been  
159 described in previous studies (Liu et al, 2017; Priestley et al, 2018a; Reyes et al, 2018). In terms of air quality, it has been  
160 recognised that Bonfire night is one of the most polluted days in the UK. Every year, this event is celebrated on 5th November  
161 (or on a weekend day near this date) where open fires are lit and fireworks are set off at individual households, as well as large  
162 community events. These bonfire activities have a strong flaming segment which roughly start during the evening and lasts  
163 for up to 2 hours. The fires after flaming are not refuelled, therefore leading to an extended phase of smouldering as the fires  
164 are left to completely burn and die down (Dyke et al.,1997; Mari et al., 2010; Pongpiachan et al., 2015).

Different research case studies have previously been published about the Bonfire night around the UK. For example, Clark  
165 (1997) studied the PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations emitted during the Bonfire night event in different parts of UK. In Oxford, dioxins  
166 measurements in the ambient air were conducted by Dyke et al (1997). Colbeck and Chung (1996) targeted the particle size  
167 distribution. The polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were measured in Lancaster (Farrar et al., 2004), while in 2018,  
168 Reyes et al (2018), studied insights into nitrate chemistry during the bonfire night by applying the chemical ionisation mass  
169 spectrometry measurements and aerosol mass spectrometry simultaneously. Observations of the Nitro-compounds including  
170 nitrate, amide and isocyanate were studied during the bonfire night in Manchester (Priestley et al., 2018a). In previous studies,  
171 specifically during the bonfire event and general aerosol measurements, several different source apportionment techniques  
172 have been performed. Aethalometer AE31 model was performed to do the source apportionment analysis and successfully  
173 apportion the rBC into BC from wood-burning and BC from the traffic emissions (Reyes et. al., 2018). During the same study,  
174 Multilinear Engine-2 and PMF tools were also used over the AMS data through the source apportionment interface (SoFi  
175 version 4.8 as presented by (Canonaco et al., 2013) in order to find the organic aerosol sources according to proposed strategies  
by Reyes et al., (2016) and recommendations made by Crippa et al. (2014). Liu et al., (2019) also studied the BC sources from  
wood-burning and diesel traffic emissions using an SP2 to examine the BC particles' mixing state and optical properties.

In order to test the ability of HR-SP-AMS to apportion rBC (with multiple BC types) the data was collected during bonfire  
night from 29<sup>th</sup> Oct-11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014 at the University of Manchester. As a result of strong meteorological conditions, very high  
180 and mixed concentrations of pollutants were observed. Traditionally the PMF tool is applied to conventional AMS data (as  
with Reyes et al., 2018) but the objective of this study is to demonstrate a new way to source apportion black carbon based on  
highly time resolved mass spectrometric composition data of the population of particles that contain black carbon and uses  
information on the composition of black carbon and information on internally mixed Fullerene and condensed material.

Fullerenes are a class of exclusively high molecular weight carbon clusters (C<sub>60</sub> and C<sub>70</sub> etc.) having a unique hollow cage-  
185 like structure. which were discovered by Kroto et al., (1985) for the first time. They were identified as ionised particles in low-  
pressure fuel rich flat premixed acetylene and benzene–oxygen flames by molecular-beam sampling combined with mass

spectrometer analysis (Gerhardt, Loffler and Homann, 1988). These have been reported previously in HR-SP-AMS data but whether they are formed in the flame or during the vaporisation process is not clear (Fortner et al., 2012).

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Sampling site overview

230 Measurements were conducted at the South Campus University of Manchester (53.467°N, 2.232°W) before, during and after the bonfire night event on 5th November as described in the previous publications (Liu et al., 2017; Reyes et al., 2018). Different instruments were set up for the online measurement of ambient aerosols and gases. A Compact Time-of-Flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (cTOF-AMS) was used to measure all PM<sub>1</sub> components as described by Reyes et al. (2018). A Time-of-Flight Chemical Ionisation Mass Spectrometer (ToF-CIMS) using iodide as a reagent was used to measure the gas phase concentrations of aerosols (Priestley et al., 2018b). BC source apportionment was performed by using an Aethalometer 235 model AE31 which measured the absorption of light at seven different wavelengths (Reyes et al., 2018) while a MAAP was used to measure the concentrations of BC emitted during the bonfire event and inform the corrections needed to process the AE31 data (Collaud Cohen et al, 2010).

### 2.2 Instrument Overview-HR-SP-AMS:

240 In this case study, the High-Resolution Soot Particle Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (HR-SP-AMS) was used, which is a combination of Single Particle Soot Photometer (SP2) laser and High-Resolution Time-of-Flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS). The laser vaporiser is an intracavity Nd: YAG (1064 nm) that heats up and vaporises black carbon containing particles along with metal nanoparticles (Onasch et al., 2012; Carbone et al., 2015). While the instrument is sometimes operated 245 with the standard AMS tungsten vaporiser present, in this instance it was removed. Ionisation is performed using the same 70 eV electron source as the standard AMS and like the AMS, the separation of the vaporisation and ionisation stages ensures quantitatively. A catalytic stripper was also attached to the aerosol sampling lines, which switched between catalytic stripper and direct measurements after every 30 minutes (Liu et al., 2017). In our case, the results have been analysed by using the direct measurements only.

250 During the experiment, a measurement of the relative ionisation efficiency (RIE) was not obtained owing to technical difficulties associated with generating a suitable test aerosol, however, this only affects absolute quantification and not the ability of the instrument to apportion fractions of the signal, which is the subject of investigation here. The RIE, as defined by Allan et al. (2004, doi: 10.1016/j.jaerosci.2004.02.007), is a constant factor applied to the signals as part of the conversion from a signal in the mass spectrometer to an ambient mass concentration. Because this is a purely multiplicative operation, this will affect all data and associated errors equally and therefore the factors derived in the PMF model described by Ulbrich et al. (2009) will simply be multiplied by the exact same amount. So, when PMF factors are derived using data that has not

had an RIE applied (and corollary to this, other multiplicative factors such as ionisation efficiency, collection efficiency and inlet flow rate), the relative contributions of the different factors as a function of time will be the same as if data that had had this applied. The only difference is that the absolute units of the factors are as an arbitrary mass spectral response (in s-1) rather than an ambient mass concentration (in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ). The only potential difference is in the relative signal strengths of organic and elemental carbon, which will likely have different RIE values (Onasch et al., 2012). This is explored in more detail in section 4.2 the relative contributions of the different factors to the HR-SP-AMS signal and the BC mass fraction is explained.

The HR-SP-AMS data were analysed using the data analysis toolkit TOF-AMS HR Analysis 1.20O (DeCarlo et al., 2006). The high-resolution PIKA feature of toolkit allows the direct separation of most ions from the organic and inorganic species at the same nominal mass by charge ratio and grouping into families such as  $\text{CxHy}$ ,  $\text{CxHyOz}$ ,  $\text{CxHyOzNp}$  (Aiken et al., 2007). This high-resolution analysis on SP-AMS data also detected various metal pollutants such as Iron (Fe), Titanium (Ti), Strontium (Sr) and Caesium (Cs). The instrument alternated between three mass spectrometer configurations, spending 3 minutes on each: The standard 'V' mode, high-resolution 'W' mode (DeCarlo et al., 2006) and an alternative 'V' mode whereby the orthogonal extractor was pulsed every 95 instead of 34  $\mu\text{s}$ . This lower frequency delivered data up to  $\text{m/z}=3200$  rather than 380, with the intention of characterising the fullerene signals described by Onasch et al. (2012) at the expense of overall signal-to-noise. The data presented in this paper are a combination of the standard 'V' mode for the lower  $\text{m/z}$  peaks, processed using the PIKA high resolution analysis tool, and the long pulser period 'V' mode for the fullerene peaks, processed using unit mass resolution (UMR) method. The reason for using UMR method instead of HR was that the peaks in this  $\text{m/z}$  regime were not sufficiently resolved, due to the  $\text{m}/\Delta\text{m}$  limit of the mass spectrometer. Instead, the UMR method integrates all the available signals without needing to discriminate discrete peaks. The 'W' mode data was deemed not to have a sufficient signal-to-noise ratio to contribute to this work.

### 2.3 Positive Matrix Factorisation

Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) is an advanced factor-analysis technique developed by Paatero and Tapper (1994). In the previous research, PMF has been used extensively to apportion organics with the standard AMS data but not so often to apportion BC from SP-AMS data (Crippa et al., 2012; Saarikoski et al., 2014). In this research study Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) was applied on HR-SP-AMS data to apportion BC in to more than two sources. PMF assumes that a matrix of data can be explained by a linear combination of "factors" with characteristic profiles and varying temporal contributions (Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Ulbrich et al., 2009). The analysis was conducted using the PMF Evaluation Tool (Ulbrich et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011).

As with all PMF analysis, error estimates have to be provided but because of the lower signals and the combination of different data retrieval method used for the fullerene signals (UMR rather than HR), greater emphasis had to be placed on these signals.

Corbin et al. (2015) presented a very detailed error model for HR data employing a Monte Carlo method to explore multiple sources of error. But because UMR was used in this instance, we were unable to apply this method, so we took an empirical

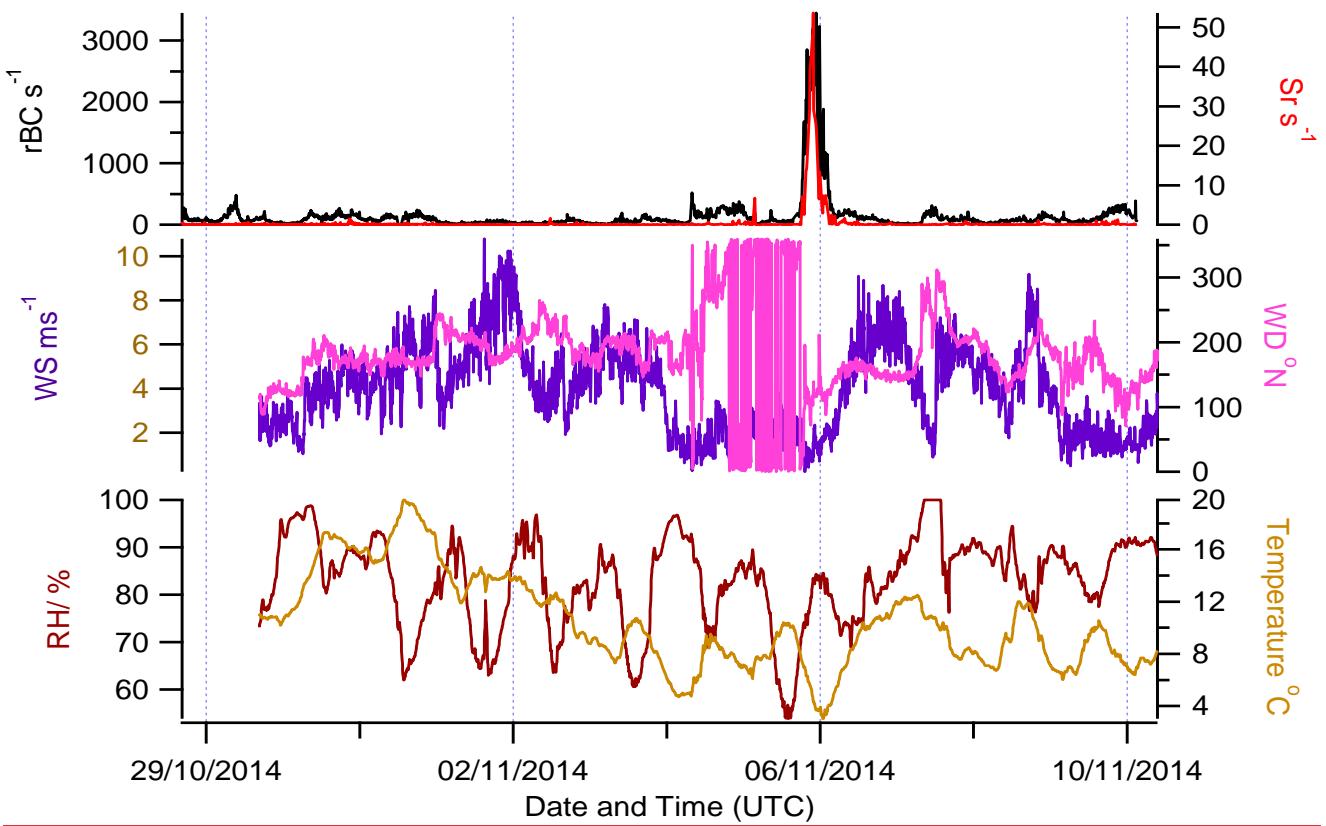
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approach. This was done by applying an additional ‘model error’ to the error matrix, i.e., an error term proportional to the signal intensity in addition to its square root, as per the standard AMS error model (Ulbrich et al., 2009; Comero et al, 2009). The model error value was increased from 0 to 0.10 to down weight the larger signals and place more of an emphasis on the fullerene signals. According to Corbin et al., 2015, the peak width ‘w’ is predicted during the peak fit integration from an empirical fit to the data. This ‘w’ prediction has a linked proportional uncertainty  $\sigma_w = w$ . In that data set,  $\sigma_w = w$  was 2.5%, which was independently treated as 2 or 3% uncertainty in the isolated peaks heights, so these two can be combined in quadrature. And for the isolated peaks the value for the total percentage uncertainty is about 5% which is conceptually equivalent to 0.05 model error. This is comparable to the 0.1 model error  $u_w = w$  used here. Along with placing greater emphasis on the smaller fullerene signals, the application of this model error also increased the number of “weak” variables, defined as having SNR below 2 (Paatero and Hopke, 2003; Ulbrich et al., 2009), which were down weighted by a factor of two. No variables were “bad” in the sense of having SNR < 0.2 (Paatero and Hopke, 2003). Additional details about Model error value modification are available in the supplementary material (S3a, S3b, S4a, S4b, S5a, S5b).

### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Weather measurements and overview of highly polluted time-period:

The weather data is as presented by Reyes et al, (2018), and results showed quiet stagnant conditions with a low temperature of 4°C, high relative humidity of 85% alongside the wind speed of 1.5 m s<sup>-1</sup> and varying wind directions. This type of weather condition promotes the accumulation of pollution in the atmosphere. During the stagnant conditions, the very high concentrations of BC and Sr was also observed with the signal of 3400 s<sup>-1</sup> and 53 s<sup>-1</sup> respectively, during the bonfire event at 10:20 pm and 9:50 pm, as compared to (BC concentrations of 100 s<sup>-1</sup> – 500 s<sup>-1</sup> before Bonfire and 250 s<sup>-1</sup> - 300 s<sup>-1</sup> after bonfire night) and (Sr concentrations of 5 s<sup>-1</sup> and 1 s<sup>-1</sup> before and after bonfire night) fig 1. The time-period of the bonfire night when the pollutants were very high is called as high pollutant concentration time-period.



**Figure 1: Meteorological measurements Relative humidity (RH), Temperature, Wind direction (WD) and Wind speed (WS) along with the time series of BC and Strontium (Sr), a firework tracer emitted during the bonfire night.**

### 3.2 Time Series of different variables concentrations observed during the BF event:

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#### 3.2.1 Firework burning tracer:

To attempt to identify a unique tracer for fireworks, the HR-SP-AMS data was analysed for metals. Reyes et al., (2018) concluded that fireworks were not a major factor in the overall mass concentrations but could not conclusively prove this assertion with the data available. Fireworks release several pollutants such as manganese, cadmium, strontium, aluminium, and other suspended particles, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide. (Lemieux et al., 2004; Shi et al., 2011).

360

The metal compounds are in the form of metal salts such as potassium chlorates, perchlorates, strontium nitrates, potassium nitrates, barium nitrates, sodium oxalate, manganese, sulphur, iron, and aluminium. These metals are mainly used to give different bright colours; for example, Sr can be used for giving red colour to the fireworks (McLain, 1980). During the analysis, different metal peaks, such as Iron (Fe), Strontium (Sr), Caesium (Cs) and Titanium (Ti), that could be associated with the fireworks were detected (fig 2a). The Sr was most unambiguously associated with the fireworks due to the fact that there is no other signal present in the atmosphere outside of Bonfire night. Other metals may have other sources, such as mineral or

brake dust in the case of iron, may be receiving signal interference from other mass spectral peaks. The highest peak of Sr concentrations i.e.,  $53.6 \text{ s}^{-1}$  was detected as compared to the concentrations of Sr, before and after Bonfire event ( $1.6 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $0.9 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ).

### 3.2.2 HR Time series of BC and its coating species

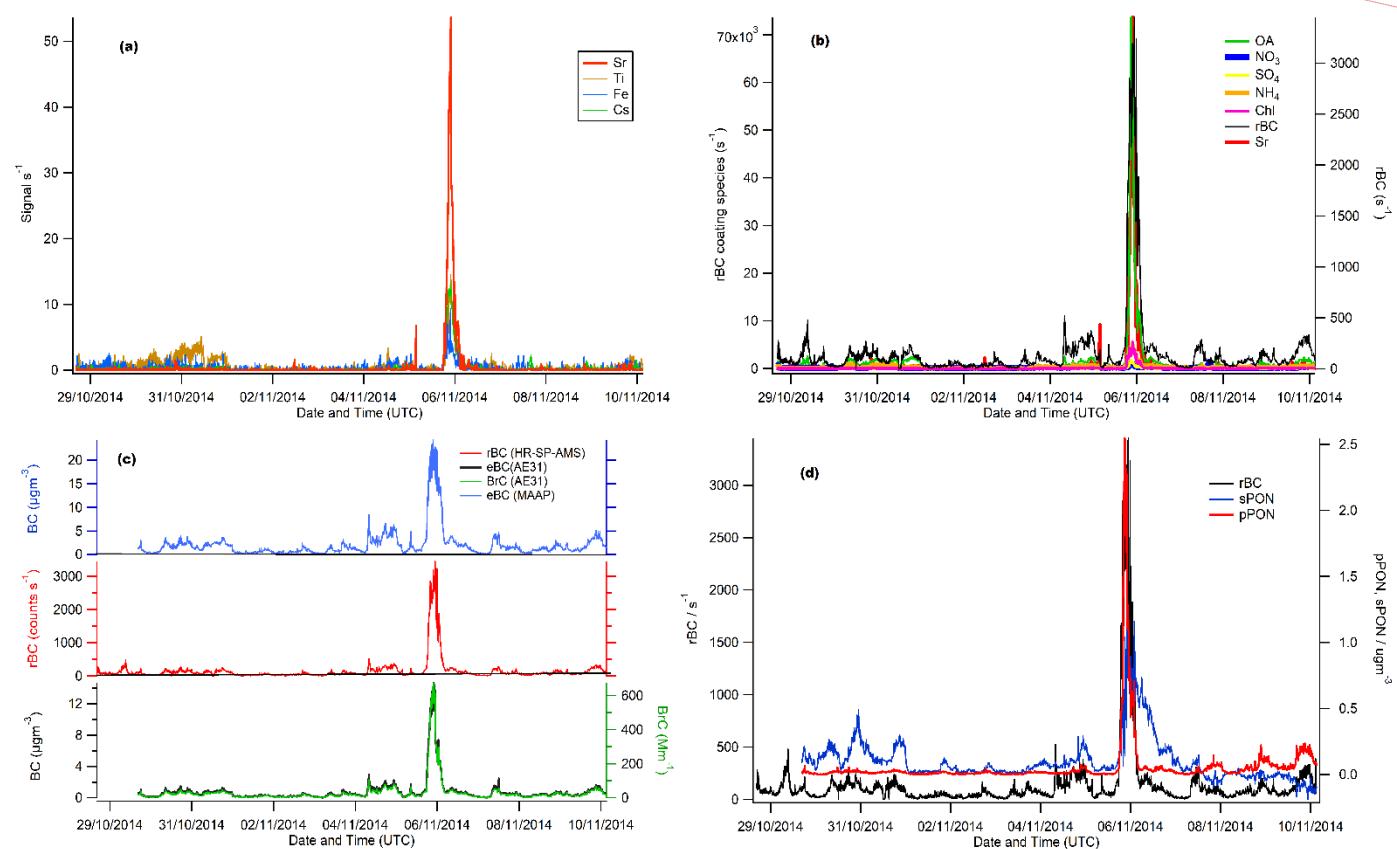
Figure 2b shows that the signals associated with refractory BC (rBC) and its coating species (Org,  $\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{NO}_3$ , Chl and  $\text{NH}_4$ ) were particularly very high during the bonfire night. The HR-time-series of the whole sampling time-period shows that the majority of non-refractory  $\text{PM}_{\text{BC}}$  signal was mainly organic matter, having very high concentrations, followed by Chl,  $\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{NH}_4$  and  $\text{NO}_3$ . It is worth mentioning that the signals of these aerosols were very high during the bonfire night as compared to before and after time period except the  $\text{NO}_3$  signal which was  $0.8 \text{ s}^{-1}$  before bonfire event on 30<sup>th</sup> October at 8:30 am and  $1.8 \text{ s}^{-1}$  after bonfire night on 7th November at 4:15 pm. The high Chl peak was strongly related with Bonfire night, expected because wood burning is an important source of chloride in the atmosphere (Lobert et al, 1999). Fireworks can also be a source of Chl because chlorates and perchlorates can provide oxygen for the combustion of fireworks. Also, the high peak of nitrate can be linked with the combustion sources such as wood burning and biomass burning emissions (Reyes et al. 2018). The peak signals for rBC and organic aerosols were at different times such as the concentrations of rBC started increasing first at 07:54 pm followed by organic aerosol concentrations increasing at 8:30 pm to 9:00 pm (highest).

### 3.2.3 Correlation analysis of rBC with other pollutants

The HR-SP-AMS data was compared against those of other instruments such as AE31, CIMS, MAAP and AMS presented in the previous studies (Reyes et al, 2018; Priestley et al., 2018a) and a statistically significant correlation (see table S2, S3, S4 in supplementary information) was found between the black carbon measured by three different instruments, i.e., rBC from HR-SP-AMS, eBC from MAAP and eBC and BrC from AE31. The BC measured by AE31 and MAAP was named as eBC (equivalent BC) according to (Petzold et al., 2013) recommendations. Reyes et al., 2018 measured eBCwb (equivalent Black carbon emissions from wood-burning) and eBCtr (eBC<sub>tr</sub> (equivalent Black Carbon emission from traffic)) at 470 nm and 950 nm with the mass absorption cross-section (MAC) of  $31.1 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  and  $15.4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  while eBC from MAAP was measured at 630 nm with MAC of  $6.67 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ . A very high concentration of rBC and eBC was measured from all instruments that could detect these. The peak of Brown Carbon (BrC) measured by AE31 was also very high during the event night and indicates a wood-burning source (details found at Reyes et al., 2018).

Reyes et al., (2018) used AMS to estimate the concentrations of Particulate Organic Oxides of Nitrogen (PONs), i.e.,  $2.8 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  Particulate organic oxides of nitrogen (PONs) were estimated using the m/z 46: 30 ratios from aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) measurements, according to previously published methods. The study also identified two PON factors into primary PON and secondary PON by applying ME-2 source apportionment on organic aerosol concentrations from different sources after modification of fragmentation table. Figure 2d shows the time-series of rBC, Primary Particulate organic oxide of nitrogen

(pPON) and Secondary Particulate organic oxide of nitrogen (sPON). The result in fig 2d showed that the concentration of up to  $2.8 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  for PON was detected which was over the detection range as reported by Bruns et al. (2010). Moreover, BC was also detected with very high signals of  $3400 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The reason behind this high correlation is that rBC is a primary pollutant, so it is well correlated with the primary PON as both are directly emitted from the bonfire event. While the correlation of rBC with the sPON is not very good, i.e.,  $r^2 = 0.35$ , because the secondary pollutants appeared later.



**Figure 2. Timeseries of different variables observed during bonfire event. (a) Time series of various metal pollutant concentrations, (b). Time series of High Resolution rBC concentrations and its coating species (Organics and Inorganics), (c) Time series of Black Carbon measured by different instruments i.e HR SP-AMS (rBC), AE31 (eBC and BrC) and MAAP (eBC), (d) Time series of rBC, primary (pPON) and secondary (sPON) organic nitrate.**

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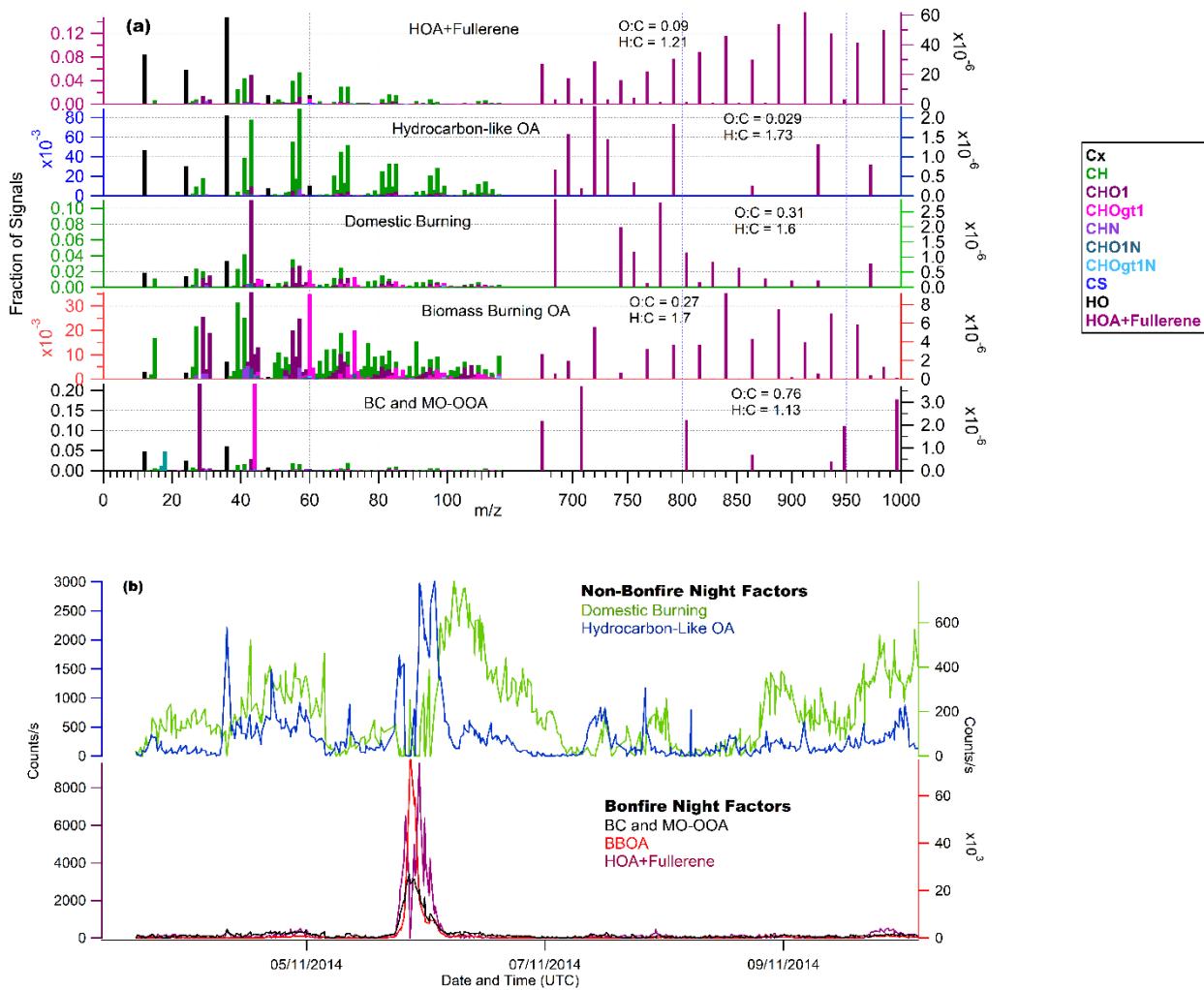
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### 3.3 BC Source apportionment analysis

#### 3.3.1 PMF factorisation result

430 To provide a baseline result and explore the effect of adding fullerene signals, the factorisation was first performed in a standard configuration without the inclusion of fullerene signals in the data matrix. The f-peak parameter was varied between -2.0 and +2.0 with fpeak interval of 0.2 and model error of 0.10. The result shown in the supplement is the five-factors solution (fig S1a and S1b), shown for the purposes of comparison with the solution presented below. The factors are identified as BC and MO-OOA, SV-OOA, BBOA, Hydrocarbon-like OA and domestic burning. In that case, only two unambiguously bonfire night  
435 sources of BC were identified, with a degree of ‘mixing’ or between the bonfire night factor and traffic noted in the HOA factor, which manifests as common features in the time series and profiles. Also, the SV-OOA and domestic burning factors also exhibit mixing in their timeseries as well. While 5 factors could be resolved, the factorisation without fullerene signals was judged to be poor.

440 Next, PMF was performed with the inclusion of Fullerene data and for the selection of optimum number of factors, a stepwise approach was used, beginning with a 2-factor model and successively adding factors up to a maximum of six. In our case, five-factors gave the best solution based on the criteria of  $Q/Q_{\text{exp}}$  near 1, the squares of scaled residuals’ total sum and all the matrix points fitted within their expected error (Paatero et al., 2002). The rotational ambiguity of the five-factors solution was explored by varying the f-peak between -2.0 and +2.0 with fpeak interval of 0.2. The changes in the fractional contributions of the PMF factors was very small for all the factors, indicating a low amount of rotational freedom. The solution for fpeak=0  
445 was used for all subsequent work, as also recommended by Paatero et al. (2002). In order to test whether any of the factors could be associated with fireworks, PMF analysis was also performed to force the inclusion of Sr in the factorisation. For this purpose, the Sr concentrations were upweighted by multiplying the total concentrations of Sr (but not the associated error) by 10, 100 and 1000, but despite this, a factor containing Sr was not found. This implies that none of the HR-SP-AMS factors could be associated with fireworks.



**Figure 3, PMF solution (a) Five factors source profile (BC and MO-OOA, BBOA, Domestic burning OA, Hydrocarbon-Like OA and HOA+Fullerene) (b). The time series of non-bonfire and bonfire night factors obtained.**

465 Fig 3(a) shows the signals concentrations and mass spectra of five different factors. Two of them (HOA+Fullerene and BBOA) are directly linked with the bonfire event. The factors identified as domestic burning and Hydrocarbon-like OA show activity outside of this period and are referred to as non-bonfire night sources. The remaining factor, BC and MO-OOA, is mainly associated with the bonfire but also shows activity outside of this, indicating it has multiple sources.

470 The factor identified as 'BC and MO-OOA' (more oxidised oxygenated organic aerosol) is associated with bonfire and non-bonfire sources and identified as such due to its similarity to previously reported profiles, in particular the prominent signal at m/z 44 (CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>). MO-OOA is often associated with heavily aged secondary organic aerosol (Lanz et al., 2008; Zhu et

al., 2018), but the highly oxygenated material that gives rise to the m/z 44 peak can also be present in biomass burning (Lin et al., 2010). Because of the extensive pyrolysis of these organic aerosol types, the AMS is not capable of distinguishing these, 475 so BC and MO-OOA is associated with both bonfire source and SOA outside of the burning period.

Another bonfire factor is the Biomass burning OA (BBOA), which had strong signals at m/z 60 and m/z 73 corresponding to levoglucosan and related anhydrous sugars (fig 3a), associated with wood-burning organic aerosols (Alfarra et al., 2007). The time series of BBOA also shows very high signals of  $75 \times 10^3$  during the biomass burning at bonfire night only (3b).

480 ‘HOA+Fullerene’ is also one of the bonfire sources and is heavily weighted by HOA and Fullerene showing a peak at m/z 720 ( $C_{60}^+$ ), possibly due to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons can transform into soot containing HOA+Fullerene during combustion (Wang et al., 2015, Wang et al., 2016; Reilly et al., 2000). The time series of HOA+Fullerene also show the very high concentration of 8000 Counts/s only during the bonfire event, so it is identified as one of the bonfire sources (3b).

485 The non-bonfire factor ‘Hydrocarbon like organic aerosols (HOA)’ is related to the traffic emissions (fossil fuel combustion), presenting the high signals at m/z 55 and m/z 57, associated with aliphatic hydrocarbons (Canagaratna et al., 2004). Diesel exhaust is typically dominated by re-condensed engine lubricating oil and consists mainly of n-alkanes, branched alkanes, cycloalkanes, and aromatics (Canagaratna et al., 2004; Chirico et al., 2010), leading to high signal at the ion series  $C_nH_{2n+1}^+$  and  $C_nH_{2n-1}^+$ . In particular, m/z 57 is a major mass fragment and often used as a tracer for HOA (Zhang et al., 2005). 490 The next factor had high signals at m/z 43, m/z 55, m/z 57 and m/z 60, which is concordant with hydrocarbon-like OA from traffic emission and BBOA from biomass burning, but was observed outside of the bonfire event, so this factor was associated with domestic wood-burning (Allan et al., 2010).

495 When inspecting the HOA+fullerene component of the mass spectral, it is found that it varies between different factors, with the maximum signal contributions of the various factors being: HOA =  $2.5 \times 10^{-6}$ , domestic burning =  $2.5 \times 10^{-6}$ , BBOA =  $8 \times 10^{-6}$  and BC and MO-OOA =  $3.0 \times 10^{-6}$ , HOA+Fullerene =  $60 \times 10^{-6}$ . Onasch et al. (2015) reported that the variations within the mass spectral region of fullerene signal were negligible, which is contrary to the results presented here. But in our case, all the factors except ‘HOA+Fullerene’ factor have very low signals contributions, so it is difficult to conclude with confidence that these variations represent anything physical.

500 In previous AMS studies, cooking could be one of the important sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Sun et al., 2013), but in this study cooking was not identified by PMF because it is not co-emitted with rBC and so is not vaporised by the HR-SP-AMS.

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Correlation between different pollutants

Correlation analysis gives an effective way of quickly gaining an idea of how variables are related with one another. The data analysis software ‘openair’ was used to generate the hierarchical cluster analysis chart (Carslaw and Ropkins, 2012) using the 505 ‘corplot’ function on the bonfire night data only. Hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) provides an effective way of

understanding of the order how different variables appear due to their similarity in one another. [Variables from this and previous publications](#). A dendrogram was plotted to provide additional information to help visualising how groups of variables are related to one another. The explanation of all these time series names and how they [were](#) measured is given in table 1.

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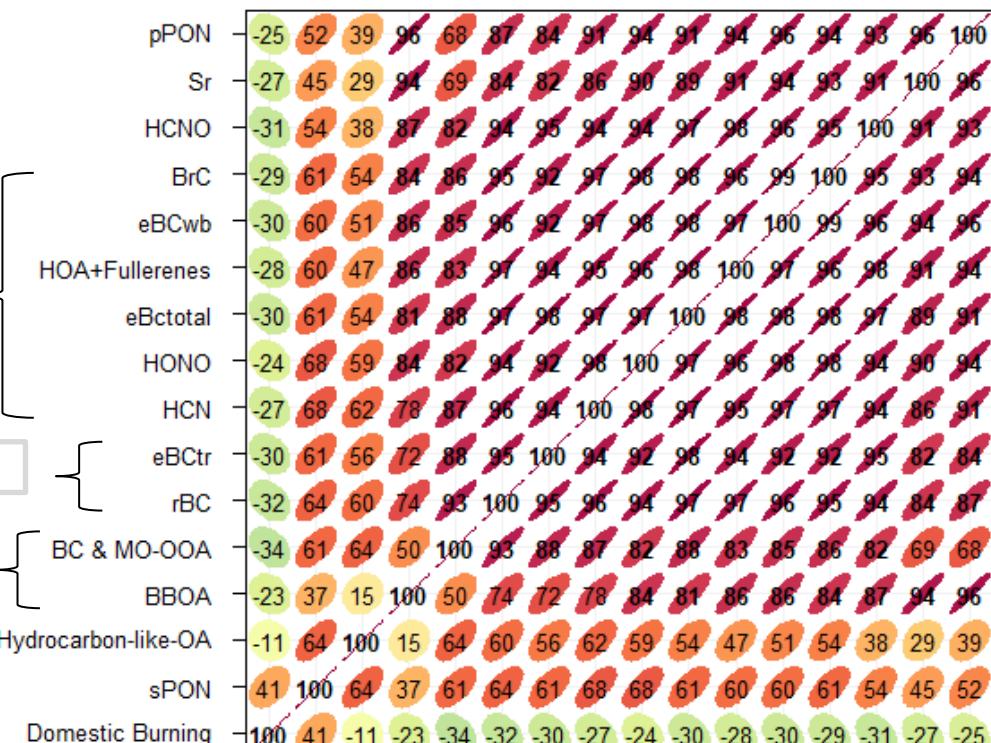
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**Bonfire  
Factors**

**Bonfire Factors**

**Bonfire and Non-  
Bonfire Factors**



Domestic Burning   sPON   Hydrocarbon-like-OA   BBOA   BC & MO-OOA   rBC   eBCtr   HCN   HONO   eBctotal   HOA+Fullerenes   eBCwb   BrC   HCNO   Sr   pPON

**Figure 4: The similarity between different pollutant time series through hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA)**

In fig 4, a significant correlation was observed between HOA+Fullerene, eBC<sub>total</sub>, HONO, HCN, rBC. The reason is that all of these are primary pollutants and directly released from the bonfire emissions. HCN and HONO are nitrogen containing gases that were released during the bonfire night from the wood fires (Le Breton et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2016). eBC<sub>tr</sub> has also

585 shown a strong correlation with the rBC because it is also contributed to by primary pollutants and is also influenced by the bonfires. MO-OOA and BBOA have a very close relationship, which indicates that both are bonfire factors, but on the other hand MO-OOA also has relationship with the secondary sources as discussed previously. Hydrocarbon-like OA and sPON have a close similarity because just like sPON, the peak of Hydrocarbon-like OA has been observed before and after the event night. The firework tracer Sr has shown some correlation with pPON and BBOA, but their peaks occurred at slightly different

590 times. So, in spite, of the high correlation, this implies that they are not identical, and 'Sr' is behaving as a separate factor when subject to PMF analysis. It could be that if the firework display occurred at the beginning of the bonfire event their emissions maybe coincident with the pyrolysis emissions on bonfire begin to be lit, as distinct from the smouldering emissions later (Haslett et al., 2017). But without specific knowledge of the timings of the events that contribute to these emissions, it is difficult to reach firm conclusions. This, coupled with the fact that Sr could not be associated with any of the factors in this 595 study, would be consistent with Reyes et al. (2018) in concluding that fireworks are not a significant source of the material observed.

A correlation was seen between BrC and eBC<sub>wb</sub>, which is expected, as BrC is normally associated with wood-burning. And the last factor i.e. domestic burning is behaving as a separate factor and showing no or very less correlation with any sources.

600 Based on HCA plot, a time series graph was also plotted to investigate the timings of all pollutants having strong relationship among one another (fig 5). The second group which showed the strong correlation was HCNO and (HOA+Fullerene with the  $r^2$  value of 0.96. Isocyanic acid (HNCO) is another highly toxic, long-lived gas (lifetime of days to decades; (Borduas et al., 2016) emitted from biomass burning (BB) with similar anthropogenic and biogenic sources as HCN. Alternative urban sources of HNCO are attributed to primary activity such as automotive emission (Jathar et al., 2017), residential heating (BB) (Woodward-Massey et al., 2014), and industrial processes (Sarkar et al., 2016), although is clearly related to the bonfire event

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here. A reason for the close but not perfect relationship between the groups could be due to their same emission sources but at different stages of the burn during the bonfire night, or possibly different bonfires in the region whose plumes arrived at the site at different times.

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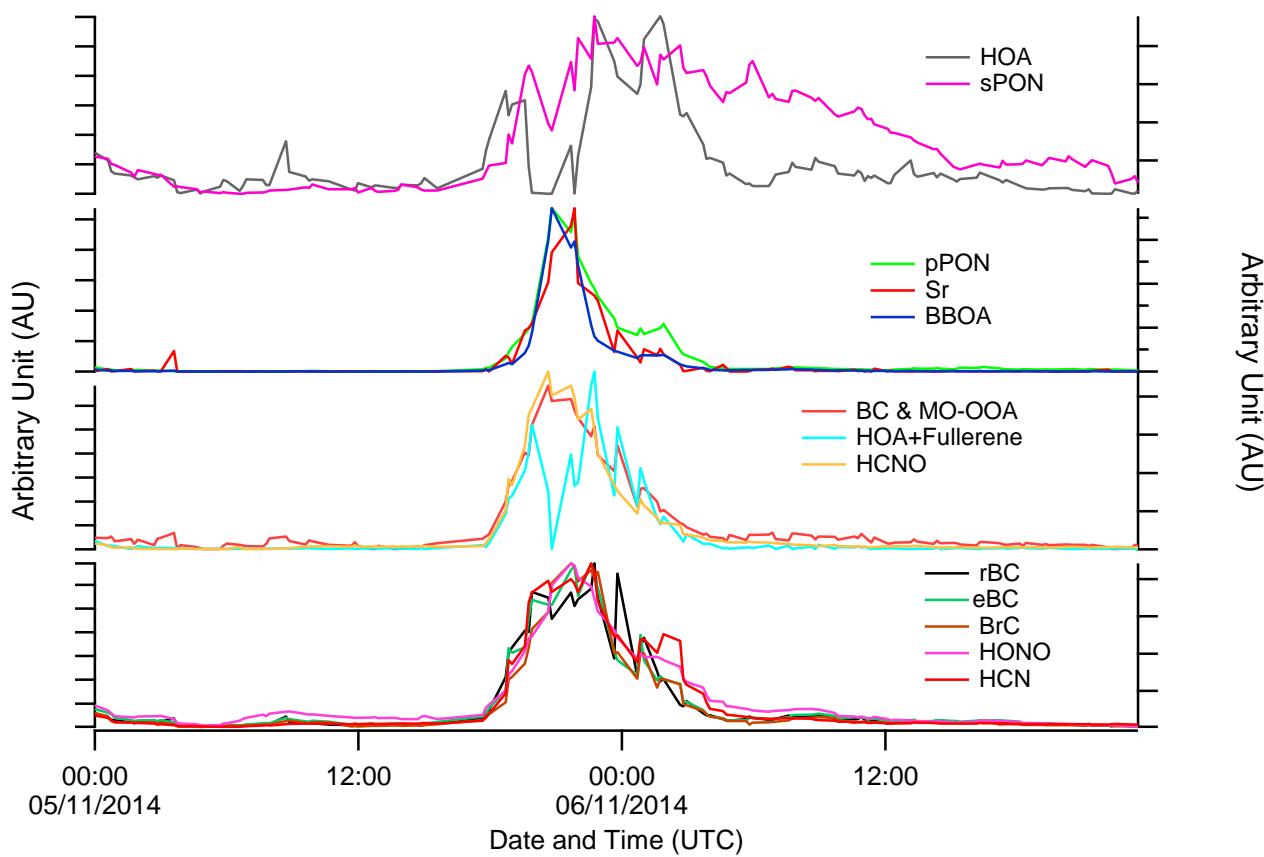


Figure 5: Time series of the pollutants, grouped according to the Hierarchical Cluster Analysis in figure 9.

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**Table 1: Explanation of the time series used in figure 4 and 5.**

<b>Family</b>	<b>Cx (rBC<sup>1</sup>)</b>	Refractory Black Carbon	Measured from HR-SP-AMS
<b>eBC</b> <sup>2</sup>	Black Carbon	Measured from MAAP	
<b>BrC<sup>2</sup></b>	Brown Carbon	Measured from Aethalometer AE31	
<b>BC<sub>total</sub></b>	Total BC from AE31 (eBC <sub>tr</sub> +eBC <sub>wb</sub> )		
<b>eBC<sub>tr</sub></b>	Black Carbon (traffic emissions)	Measured from Aethalometer AE31	
<b>eBC<sub>wb</sub></b>	Black Carbon (Wood-Burning)	Measured from Aethalometer AE31	
<b>HONO<sup>3</sup></b>	Nitrous Acid	Measured from ToF-CIMS	
<b>HCN<sup>3</sup></b>	Hydrogen Cyanide	Measured from ToF-CIMS	
<b>HCNO<sup>3</sup></b>	Isocyanic Acid	Measured from ToF-CIMS	
<b>HOA+Fullerene<sup>1</sup></b>	Hydrocarbon-like Organic Aerosol+Fullerene	Measured from HR-SP-AMS from HR-SP-AMS	
<b>BC and MO-OOA<sup>1</sup></b>	More Oxidised Oxygenated Organic Aerosol	Measured from HR-SP-AMS from HR-SP-AMS	
<b>pPON<sup>2</sup></b>	Primary Particulate Organic Nitrate	Measured by Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS) by using 46:30 ratio (Reyes et al, 2018)	
<b>sPON<sup>2</sup></b>	Secondary Particulate Organic Nitrate	Measured by Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS) by using 46:30 ratio.	
<b>HOA<sup>1</sup></b>	Hydrocarbon-like Organic Aerosol	Factor derived by PMF analysis from HR-SP-AMS	
<b>BBOA<sup>1</sup></b>	Biomass Burning Organic Aerosol	Factor derived by PMF analysis from HR-SP-AMS	
<b>Sr<sup>1</sup></b>	Strontium Metal	Measured from HR-SP-AMS	
<b>Domestic Burning<sup>1</sup></b>	Domestic burning	Factor derived by PMF analysis from HR-SP-AMS	

<sup>1</sup>rBC, Sr, HOA+Fullerene, Hydrocarbon-like OA, Domestic burning, BBOA, BC and MO-OOA (Current study) derived by PMF from HR-SP-AMS

<sup>2</sup>pPON, sPON, eBC and BrC, (AE31), eBC (MAAP) (Reyes et al, 2018)

<sup>3</sup>HCN, HCNO, HONO (Priestley et al, 2018a)

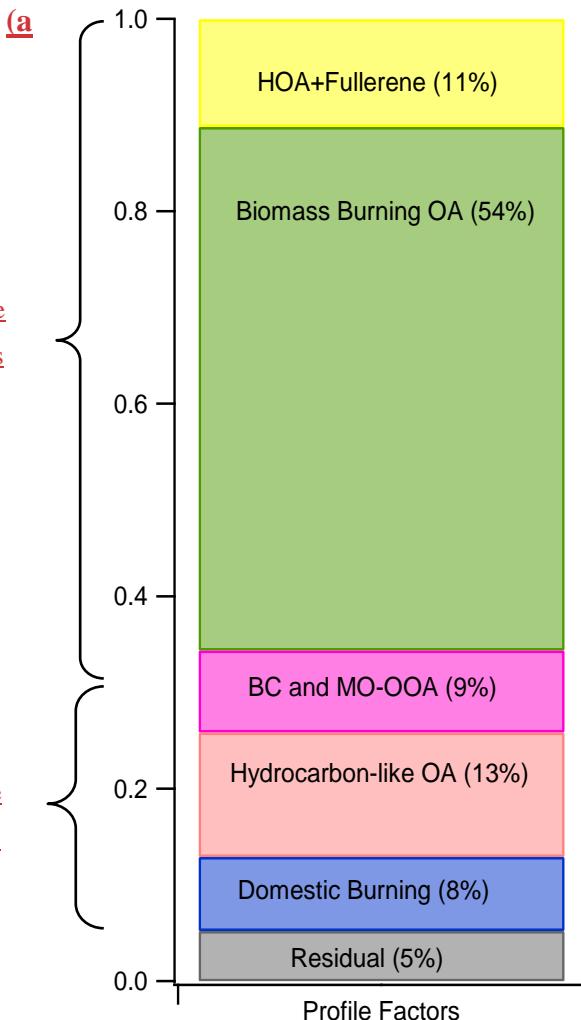
Another close correlation was BC and MO-OOA factor with an  $r^2$  of 0.82 with HOA $\pm$ Fullerene. The reason for this high correlation is because of the very high concentration released during the bonfire event. In terms of sPON and Hydrocarbon-Like OA (traffic emissions), both are showing moderate correlation i.e.,  $r^2 = 0.64$ . The  $r^2$  in this case is much lower than the other grouping because traffic emissions are the primary source, not a secondary source, so their relationship is likely coincidental, maybe modulated by the boundary layer. The last group of pollutants having close correlation included pPON, Sr and BBOA. In a previous research study (Reyes et al., 2018), ME-2 analysis indicated the presence of two different types of PON, in which particularly pPON are primarily emitted along with BBOA concentrations. According to Zhang et al., (2016), PON are related mainly to the primary sources of combustion.

#### 695 **4.2 Relative contributions of the different factors to the HR-SP-AMS signal and the BC budget:**

700 These results can be used to estimate the relative contributions of the different sources to the overall signal and the black carbon assuming that the divergence of the aerosol in the beam is the same for all particle types and hence the efficiency is same for all particle types. Fig 6(a) illustrates the total signal fraction of BC accounted by each BC sources released during the Bonfire event. The total signal fraction was obtained directly by the PMF analysis. The five factors have been divided into two different categories i.e., Bonfire factors and non-Bonfire factors. The Bonfire factors are HOA $\pm$ Fullerene and BBOA, while Hydrocarbon-like OA and domestic burning are the non-bonfire sources and BC & MO-OOA having contributions from both. The biggest contribution from the event was BBOA, contributing 54% out of total signal fraction followed by traffic emissions (13%), HOA $\pm$ Fullerene (11%), BC & MO-OOA (9%) and domestic burning (8%). Fig 6(b) shows the mass fraction of only rBC (C<sub>n</sub> peaks) from each PMF factor profile. The BC only mass fraction was calculated by multiplying the total signal fraction with the fraction of rBC in each factor and then renormalising to 1. According to analysis, HOA $\pm$ Fullerene contributed the highest fraction i.e., 42% followed by the non-bonfire factor HOA (traffic emissions) with 27% contribution. The BC & MO-OOA and BBOA have 13% and 10% contribution respectively while domestic burning has the least part with 7% only. Therefore, it has been clearly found that the two major sources of rBC are HOA $\pm$ Fullerene and traffic emissions. While in fig 7 shows the quantitative data of BC signals in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  after scaling them to the AE31 eBC<sub>950</sub> data. This time series was generated by following the same procedure for BC signal fraction out of total signal fraction and normalising to the total BC signal. According to the time series, rBC from HOA $\pm$ Fullerene and BBOA showed the highest signals during the bonfire night-time period followed by BC & MO-OOA, domestic burning and traffic emissions.

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Bonfire  
Factors



Bonfire  
Factors

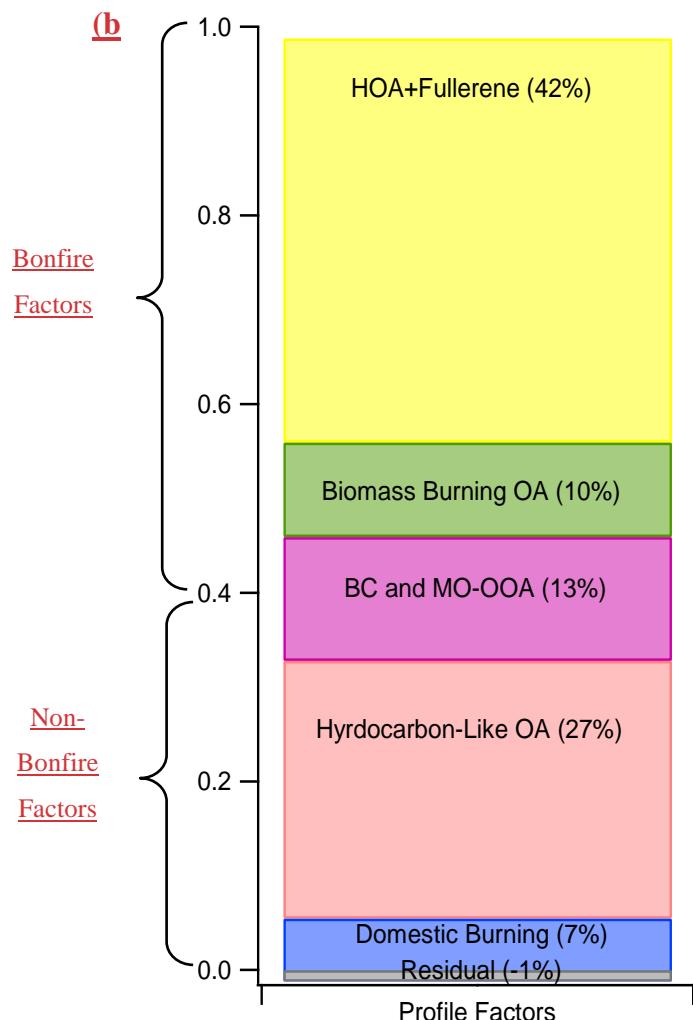
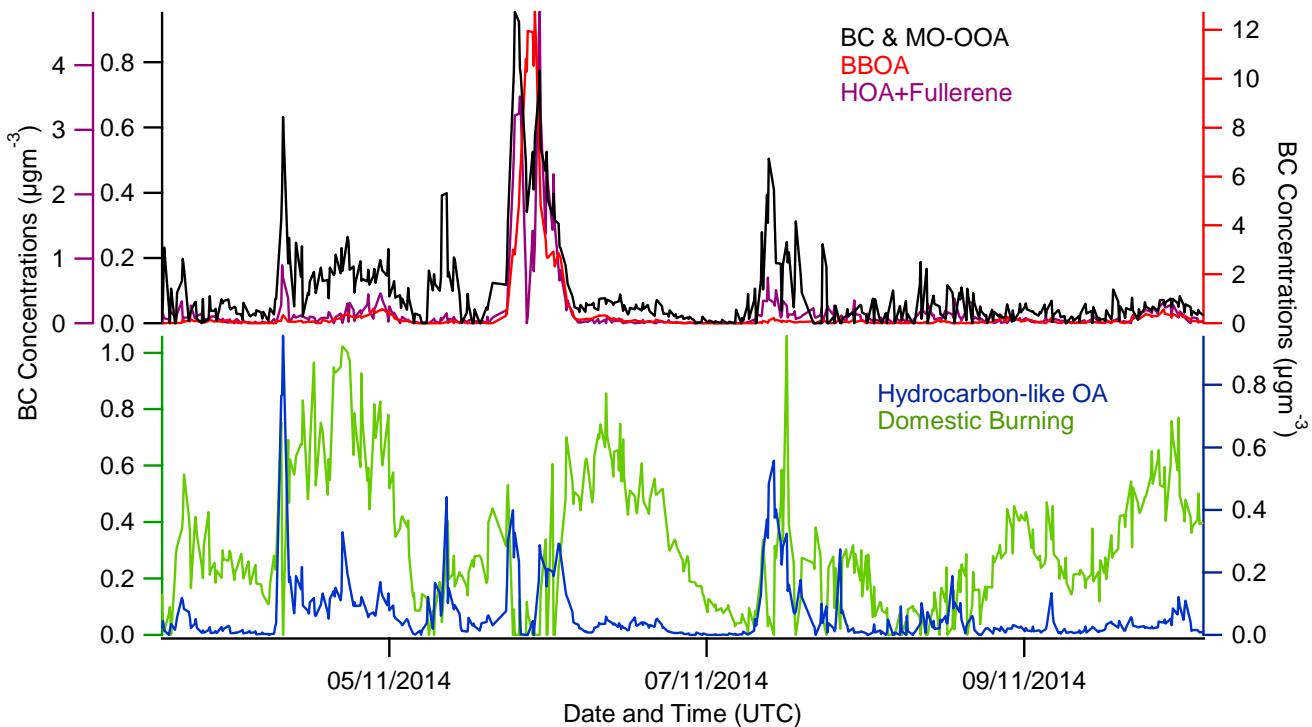


Figure 6. (a) shows the relative contributions of total mass fraction to HR-SP-AMS signal and 6(b) shows rBC mass fraction accounted for by each PMF factors.



795 Figure 7: The contributions of BC signals in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  after normalising it to the concentrations of eBC<sub>950</sub> from aethalometer (AE31) (Reyes et al, 2018).

## 5 Conclusion

This study has shown that for the first time, the inclusion of fullerene data in PMF applied to HR-SP-AMS data can be used to apportion soot into five factors during an event that superimposes emissions from a bonfire event over urban pollution. The

five soot sources can be divided into bonfire night factors (HOA<sub>+</sub>Fullerene, BBOA) and non-bonfire night factors (i.e. domestic wood-burning, hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol) with one factor exhibiting a contribution from both (BC and MO-OOA). Metals were also observed at the time of fireworks display such as Fe, Ti and Cs and Sr. But Sr was most unambiguously associated with the fireworks, due to the fact that there is no other Sr signal present outside of bonfire night. The addition of 805 fullerene signals and a model error value of 0.10 was found to provide the best factorisation results. The fullerene data was successfully incorporated into rBC signals and linked with the bonfire emissions directly while Sr metal signals did not incorporate into rBC or any other factors, implying fireworks were not contributing significantly to the signal. Also, the 810 inspection of the fullerene signals also helped to differentiate between different factors. The results correlate well with the other BC and soot proxies provided by other instruments presented in previous papers and can be used to estimate the relative contributions of the different sources to total BC. This technique will be useful in the future studies to better differentiate between the different soot sources in complex polluted environments.

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## 7 Authors Contribution

Zainab Bibi performed the data analysis and wrote the paper. James D. Allan and Paul I. Williams designed the experiment and operated the SP-AMS. Ernesto Reyes Villegas, Michael Priestley and Carl Percival provided measurements and data from other instruments. Zainab Bibi was supervised by James D. Allan and Hugh Coe, with Ernesto Reyes Villegas and James Brooks assisting with PMF analysis.

## 8 Data Availability

Data is archived at the University of Manchester and available on [request](#).

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