

# Chemical characterization and source apportionment of size-resolved particles in Hong Kong sub-urban area

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## Abstract

Size-resolved particulate matter (PM) samples were collected with a 10-stage Micro-Orifice Uniform Deposit Impactor (MOUDI) at a sub-urban site (Tung Chung) in Hong Kong for four non-consecutive months representing four seasons from 2011 to 2012. Major chemical components were water-soluble anions (i.e.,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ), cations (i.e.,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ , and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ), organic and elemental carbon and elements. Both chemical mass closure and positive matrix factorization (PMF) were employed to understand the chemical composition, resolve particle size modes, and evaluate the PM sources. Tri-modal size distributions were found for PM mass and major chemical components (e.g.,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , and OC). Mass median aerodynamic diameters (MMADs) with similar standard deviations ( $1.32 < \sigma < 1.42$ ) were 0.4, 0.7 and 3.8  $\mu\text{m}$ , consistent with condensation, droplet and coarse modes. A bi-modal distribution peaking at condensation and droplet modes was found for EC, with a single mode peaking at 3.8  $\mu\text{m}$  for  $\text{Cl}^-$ . Besides secondary  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , carbonaceous aerosol dominated the condensation mode with 27% by engine exhaust and 18-19% each by residual oil combustion (shipping) and coal/biomass burning. Secondary  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  is also the most dominant component in the droplet mode, accounting for 23% of PM mass, followed by an industrial source (19%). Engine exhaust, secondary  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and sea salt each accounted for 13-15% of PM mass. Sea salt and soil are the dominated sources in the coarse mode, accounting for ~80% of coarse mass.

**Keywords:** Aerosol size distribution, inorganic ions, carbonaceous aerosol, MOUDI, PMF

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Airborne particulate matter (PMs) scatters and absorbs sunlight, causing direct and indirect effects on Earth's radiation balance, visibility impairment, climate change, and human health (Penttinen et al., 2001; Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006; Watson, 2002). These effects are related to particle sizes and chemical compositions (Huang and Yu, 2008; Malm and Pitchford, 1997; Milford and Davidson, 1987; Sloane et al., 1991). Based on size-resolved measurements from a Micro-Orifice Uniform Deposition Impactor (MOUDI), Sloane (1983) and others quantified scattering efficiencies based on Mie theory (Sloane et al., 1991; Sloane and Wolff, 1985). Major chemical components (e.g., sulfate [ $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ], nitrate [ $\text{NO}_3^-$ ], and organics) have been used to understand the particle growth mechanisms as well as the physical and chemical characteristics (Howell and Huebert, 1998; Huang et al., 2006a; John et al., 1990; Kim et al., 2003; Plaza et al., 2011; Tang, 1996; Tsai et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2013).

Past studies in Hong Kong have showed high concentration for  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , organic matter (OM), and elemental carbon (EC) in the submicron-mode, greatly influence local visual range and human health (Gao et al., 2015; Yao et al., 2002; Yao et al., 2003b; Zhuang et al., 1999b), similar to observations from other countries (John et al., 1990; Kim et al., 2003; Plaza et al., 2011). Chow et al. (2008) observed a  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  size distribution that was multi-modal and wider at an urban site than the uni-modal distribution found at a rural site in central California. Bian et al (2014) found significant size distribution changes over the past 20 year periods when compared the three inorganic compounds (i.e.,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) at the same site.  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  or

PM<sub>10</sub> source apportionment studies have been conducted in Hong Kong via different receptor models (Fung and Wong, 1995; Guo et al., 2009; Lee et al., 1999), e.g. Multivariate regression analysis, Principal Component Analysis with Absolute Principal Component Scores technique (PCA-APCS), Chemical Mass Balance (CMB), and Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF), finding contributions from engine exhaust, secondary aerosols, residual oil combustion, fresh and aged sea salt, soil, coal combustion and biomass burning. Only few source apportionment studies investigated have examined contribution to different size ranges (Contini et al., 2014; Han et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2003), but not in Hong Kong.

The Tung Chung (TC) site is a newly developed sub-urban area in Hong Kong, located in the centerline of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. It is a gate way to Macau and mainland China, with ~ 78,400 inhabitants (*2011Census*) and increasing industrial and commercial activities, such as coal-fired power plants, airports, seaports, and local traffic (Wang et al., 2005; Zhou et al., 2014). Therefore, it is essential to understand the air pollution in this area.

The objectives of this study are to: 1) investigate the particle size distribution of water-soluble ions and carbon; and 2) determine resolved size mode and source apportionment by the Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) receptor model applied to MOUDI (Model 110, MSP Corp. Minnesota, U.S.A.) data.



## 2. METHODS

### *2.1 Sampling site and sampling periods*

The TC site (22.17 °N, 113.56 °E) is on the northern coast of Lantau Island and southwest of Hong Kong (Fig. 1). It is a new town area, ~3 km from the Hong Kong International Airport. MOUDI samplers were placed on a three storey building which was established by Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department (HKEPD). Sampling was conducted for 27 days cover four periods: August/September (2011), November/December (2011), February/March (2012), and May (2012), representing summer, fall, winter, and spring seasons, respectively. Sample duration was 24 hours, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. the next day local standard time (LST). Table 1 details the sampling dates and daily meteorological conditions.

### *2.2 Size-resolved particle measurements*

The ten-stage MOUDI includes the following aerodynamic particle diameter ranges with 30 L/min flow rate: 0.056-0.1, 0.1-0.18, 0.18-0.32, 0.32-0.56, 0.56-1.0, 1.0-1.8, 1.8-3.2, 3.2-5.6, 5.6-10, and 10-18 µm. One MOUDI contained 47 mm Teflon-membranes Filters (Pall Sciences, New York, U.S.A.) and another contained 47 mm quartz-fiber filters (QMA, Whatman, Maidstone, England) as substrates. Backup filters were 37 mm. The spacer (0.05 inch in thickness) provided by MSP Corp. (MN, U.S.A.) was placed between adjacent stages to compensate for the lower jet-to-plate distance caused by the filter thickness (Huang et al., 2006b; Bian et al., 2014). Fujitani et al., (2006) reported that quartz-fiber filter artifacts are minimal

compared with aluminum foils or Teflon-membrane filter for PM concentrations of  $\sim 42 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

Ions and carbon were analyzed on quartz-fiber filters with mass and elements analyzed on Teflon-membrane filters. During the sampling periods, the effect of particle bounce should be negligible since the relative humidity (RH) was high,  $\sim 60\%$  to  $80\%$  (Chow et al., 2005; Huang et al., 2004; Milford and Davidson, 1987).

Before sampling, quartz-fiber filters were pre-fired at  $900^\circ\text{C}$  for three hours to minimize organic artifacts (Chow et al., 2010a; Ho et al., 2006; Watson et al., 2009). Both the Teflon-membrane and quartz-fiber filters were weighed before and after sampling, using a microbalance (Model MC5, Satorius, Goettingen, Germany) with a sensitivity of  $\pm 1 \mu\text{g}$  in the  $0\text{--}250 \text{ mg}$  range. Before weighing, filters were equilibrated in a desiccator for 24 hours at temperature ( $25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ ) and RH ( $35 \pm 10\%$ ) controlled environment. After weighing, filters were stored air-tight in a refrigerator ( $< 4^\circ\text{C}$ ) to minimize evaporation of volatile components. Sample flow rates within  $\pm 10\%$  of the specification were verified at the beginning and end of each sampling period.

### ***2.3 Chemical Analysis***

After gravimetric analyses, Teflon-membrane filters were analyzed for 51 elements (from Na to U) at the Institute of Earth and Environment, Chinese Academy of Science, China, by energy-dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyses (Epsilon 5 ED-XRF, PANalytical B. V., the Netherlands, Watson et al., 1999). The quartz-fiber filters were analyzed for carbon fractions and water-soluble ions at the Air Laboratory

of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU). A punch from each quartz-fiber filter ( $0.526 \text{ cm}^2$ ) was used for organic and elemental carbon (OC and EC) analysis using a DRI Model 2001 Thermal/Optical Carbon Analyzer (Atmoslytic Inc, Calabasas, CA, USA), following the IMPROVE\_A-thermal/optical reflectance (TOR) protocol (Chow et al., 2011; Chow et al., 2007). For ion analysis, half of each quartz-fiber filter was extracted in 10 ml of ultra-pure deionized distilled water (specific resistance  $\geq 18.1 \text{ M}\Omega$ , Millipore). Extraction solutions were filtered and stored in plastic vials in a refrigerator ( $< 4^\circ \text{C}$ ) until analysis. Water soluble ions including chloride ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ), nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ), sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ), sodium ( $\text{Na}^+$ ), potassium ( $\text{K}^+$ ), calcium ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ), and ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) were analyzed by ion chromatography (ICS3000, DIONEX, Sunnyvale, C.A., U.S.A.) (Chow and Watson, 1999).

Reconstructed mass equation by chemical mass closure method, including soil, inorganic ions (i.e.,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), a biomass burning marker ( $\text{K}^+$ ), EC, OM, trace element oxides (TEO) and sea salt (Chow et al., 2015; Chow et al., 2010b; Kong et al., 2014; Kumar et al., 2008; Malm et al., 1994; Sisler et al., 1996; Zhang et al., 2013) as follows:

$$\text{Soil} = 2.2 \times \text{Al} + 2.49 \times \text{Si} + 1.63 \times \text{Ca} + 2.42 \times \text{Fe} + 1.94 \times \text{Ti} \quad (\text{Malm et al., 1994}) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Particulate Organic matters (POM)} = 1.8 \times \text{OC} \quad (\text{Hand et al., 2011}) \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Trace element oxide (TEO)} = & 1.3 \times [0.5 \times (\text{Sr} + \text{Ba} + \text{Mn} + \text{Co} + \text{Rb} + \text{Ni} + \text{V}) + 1.0 \times \\ & (\text{Cu} + \text{Zn} + \text{Mo} + \text{Cd} + \text{Sn} + \text{Sb} + \text{Tl} + \text{Pb} + \text{As} + \text{Se} + \text{Ge} + \text{Cs} + \text{Ga})] \quad (\text{Zhang et al.,} \\ & 2013) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Sea salt} = 1.47 \times \text{Na}^+ + \text{Cl}^- \text{ (Kong et al., 2014)} \quad (4)$$

## 2.4 PMF model

Positive matrix factorization (PMF) model version 3.0 was used to resolve different size modes and identify potential sources. Many previous studies have successfully applied this factor analysis method to resolve the overlapping peaks (Guo et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2006c; Kim et al., 2003). MOUDI size distribution data was viewed to be data matrix  $X$  of sample  $i$  by  $j$  dimensions:

$$X_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^p g_{ik} f_{kj} + e_{ij} \quad (5)$$

where  $i$  is the number of the samples, and  $j$  is the MOUDI stages (or chemical species). Total factors  $p$  would be the resolved modes,  $g_{ik}$  is mass contribution of each factor  $k$  to the individual sample  $i$ ,  $f_{kj}$  is the species profile  $j$  of each source factor  $k$ , and  $e_{ij}$  is the residual for each sample  $i$  or species  $j$ .

The measured chemical species concentration and their equation-based uncertainties files should input into the model for further analysis. Detailed calculation method for chemical species uncertainties are explained in the PMF user's manual and by Tan et al., (2014; 2016). When a species concentration is below detection limits for more than 50% of the samples, that species is excluded (Yau et al., 2013). Chemical species were categorized as "strong", "weak", and "bad" (Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Watson et al., 2015). S/N ratios  $> 2$  were categorized as "strong"



and ratios between 0.2 and 2 were categorized as “weak”. S/N ratios  $< 0.2$  were assigned to the “bad” category and were excluded in the PMF analysis.

The number of factors should represent the actual sources situation, although there are sources mixing within factors. The Q value used to determine how well the factors and contributions reproduce the input, which should approximately equal the number of freedom degree or approximately equal to the data points in the data group (Polissar et al., 1998; Yau et al., 2013; Tan et al., 2014).

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *3.1 Particle mass and major chemical compositions*

Temporal variations of PM mass concentrations in Fig. 2, show large day-to-day variations with higher concentration found during fall and winter. The droplet mode (0.56 -1.8  $\mu\text{m}$ ) shows the largest contribution, accounting for 27-59% of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  mass, followed by the condensation mode (0.1 - 0.56  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and coarse modes (1.8 - 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in the range of 10-42% and 10-34% of  $\text{PM}_{10}$ , respectively. Table 2 summarizes daily average  $\text{PM}_{1.8}$  and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  concentrations for the four seasons. Seasonal average  $\text{PM}_{1.8}$  and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  varied from 26 and 39  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in spring to 37 and 53  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in fall, respectively. The highest average concentration ( $80 \pm 13 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) was found during summer hazy days, with a  $\text{PM}_{1.8}/\text{PM}_{10}$  ratio of  $0.78 \pm 0.04$ . As shown in Table 2, both  $\text{PM}_{1.8}$  and  $\text{PM}_{10}$  concentrations increased by 3-4 fold during pollution episodes, but the ratio of  $\text{PM}_{1.8}$  to  $\text{PM}_{10}$  decreased from  $0.83 \pm 0.02$  (clean days) to  $0.78 \pm 0.04$  (episode days), indicating increasing particle sizes for the polluted days.



Approximately 39% of samples exceeded the 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standard/guideline of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Europe and WHO. PM<sub>1.8</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations were ~20 - 60% lower than those at urban sites in Hong Kong (Chow et al., 2010b; Ho et al., 2006; Louie et al., 2005). Comparable PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations were found at the Tai'O (41 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and Tung Chung (37 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) sites (Cheung et al., 2005), with fine particle to PM<sub>10</sub> ratios averaging  $0.72 \pm 0.09$ , and ranging from 0.46 to 0.88.

The reconstructed PM<sub>10</sub> mass for each season in Fig. 3 shows a high correlation ( $R = 0.8\sim0.97$ ) with gravimetric PM<sub>10</sub> mass. SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> is the most abundant species, accounting for 26 - 37% of PM<sub>10</sub> mass. POM is the second largest component, constituting 8 - 10% of PM<sub>10</sub> during spring and winter to 24 - 29% during fall and summer. NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> accounts for 14-16% of PM<sub>10</sub> in fall and winter, reduced to ~8% in spring and ~3% in summer. Some NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> maybe volatilized during warm seasons. Sea salt contributed its largest fraction in spring (~31%) and was lowest in winter (11%). Sea salt fractions of PM<sub>10</sub> during summer and fall were ~ 14%. Soil contribution ranged from 5% in spring to 10 - 11% in summer and fall. There are no apparent seasonal variations for NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> (2 - 5%), EC (5%), TEO (1 - 2%), and K<sup>+</sup> (0 - 1%). Differences between reconstructed and measured PM<sub>10</sub> (i.e., others) were higher in winter and spring (9-18%), which could be attributed to sampling and analysis uncertainties (Chow et al 2015).

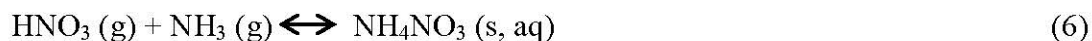
### 3.2 Resolved particle size distribution modes

PMF has been used to resolve particle size distributions by Garrido Frenich et al., (2000), Huang et al., (2006a; 2006c), Kim et al., (2003) and Yu et al., (2010). The nucleation, condensation, droplet, and coarse modes, indicate PM origins and aging. Droplet mode particles form through aqueous reaction in clouds and fogs (Hering and Friedlander, 1982; Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). A total of 161 samples (23 sets  $\times$  7 species (i.e., ions and carbon) and their equation-based uncertainties were used in PMF 3.0 software, with typical results shown in Fig. 4. Mass median aerodynamic diameter (MMAD) and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) were 0.4  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $\sigma=1.42$ ), 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $\sigma=1.32$ ), and 3.8  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $\sigma=1.38$ ), respectively. The standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) illustrates the width of distribution; a lower  $\sigma$  value indicates narrower distribution. Similar MMADs and  $\sigma$  for condensation ( $0.34 \pm 1.39 \mu\text{m}$ ) and droplet ( $0.84 \pm 1.39 \mu\text{m}$ ) modes were observed in urban Shenzhen and Beijing, but the coarse mode MMADs were higher than those at TC,  $5.4 \pm 1.56 \mu\text{m}$  and  $5.7 \pm 1.39 \mu\text{m}$ , respectively (Guo et al., 2010; Lan et al., 2011).

Fig. 5 shows resolved size distributions for 7 species (i.e.,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ , OC, and EC). Tri-modal size distributions were found for  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , with one dominated peak in the droplet mode (0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $\sigma=1.2$ ), and small peaks for the condensation and coarse modes (Fig. 5a). The  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  size distribution is consistent with: 1) a condensation mode formed by gas-to-particle conversion (e.g., photochemical oxidation of sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) (Lan et al., 2011; Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006); 2) a droplet mode formed by aqueous  $\text{SO}_2$  oxidation (John et al., 1990;

Kerminen and Wexler, 1995; Zhuang et al., 1999b); and 3) a coarse mode formed by reactions with sea salt or soil (Zhuang et al., 1999a). The resolved  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  size distribution is similar to previous studies in Hong Kong and mainland China (Guo et al., 2010; Lan et al., 2011; Yao et al., 2003a; Zhuang et al., 1999b), attributing ~60% of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  to in-cloud process, ~25% to gas-phase chemistry, and ~15% to reactions with soil and sea salt ( $R = 0.8$ , between  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , in summer and fall).

In-cloud process and condensation onto pre-existing particles are also the potential pathways to form droplet and condensation  $\text{NO}_3^-$ . Thermodynamic equilibrium state is the dominant factor that affect  $\text{NO}_3^-$  size distribution (John et al., 1990; Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006), where:



When the gaseous ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) and nitric acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ ) is larger than the equilibrium constant, the ammonium nitrate ( $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ ) will be presented (Zhuang et al., 1999b). Fig. 5b shows abundant coarse mode (~67% of  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ), followed by droplet mode (~33%). Coarse mode  $\text{NO}_3^-$  results from the reaction of nitric acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ ) with alkaline sea salt and soil. Fine particle  $\text{NO}_3^-$  is semi-volatile and changes between gas and particle phases depending on ambient temperature and RH (Chow et al., 2008). This may explain why only a few condensation mode peaks were observed in this study.

$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  contribution can be elucidated by the sulfur oxidation ratio (SOR)

and the nitrogen oxidation ratio (NOR):

$$\text{SOR} = \frac{[\text{SO}_4^{2-}]}{[\text{SO}_4^{2-} + \text{SO}_2]} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{NOR} = \frac{[\text{NO}_3^-]}{[\text{NO}_3^- + \text{NO}_2]} \quad (8)$$

where  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ),  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and nitrogen dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) are molar concentrations in units of  $\text{mol/m}^3$ . Higher SOR and NOR values indicate that larger amounts of secondary  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  particles were formed by photochemical oxidation of precursor gases (Kadowaki, 1986; Khoder, 2002). Fig. 6 shows the SORs and NORs for three size modes. The NORs are lower than SORs in spring and summer and higher in fall and winter, implying different  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  formation and removal mechanisms. The seasonal pattern for SORs were opposite that for NORs. Higher temperatures in summer and spring (23 - 29 °C) favor the formation of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  by photochemical oxidation, but these enhance the volatilization of  $\text{NO}_3^-$ . Correlations between SOR and temperature increase as particle size decreases. SOR is the highest for the droplet mode, ~60% higher than for the condensation and coarse modes. NOR is most abundant in the coarse mode as compared to condensation and droplet modes, suggesting the sea salt or soil formation of coarse particle  $\text{NO}_3^-$  (e.g., sodium nitrate and calcium nitrate). Reasonable correlation ( $R = 0.6$ ) was found between RH and NOR, suggesting aqueous phase reactions under high RHs.

$\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$  are mostly in the droplet mode (Figs. 5c and 5d). The molar ratio of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  to  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in fine mode was 1.0, indicating incomplete neutralization of

ammonium bisulfate and sulfuric acid (Liu et al., 2008). A similar  $K^+$  size distribution was found in Shenzhen and PRD region (Andreae, 1983; Huang et al., 2006a; Lan et al., 2011; Novakov and Corrigan, 1996). Small peak of  $K^+$  in coarse mode may due to coagulation process of biomass burning emissions from small particles and sea salt (Bian et al., 2014). A single coarse mode was found for  $Cl^-$  (Fig. 5e), indicative of the presence of sea salt, similar to that found by Yao et al., (2003b).

EC in the condensation ( $0.28\ \mu m$ ) and droplet ( $0.8\ \mu m$ ) modes contributed 0.5 and  $0.6\ \mu g/m^3$ , respectively, consistent with fresh and slightly aged engine exhaust, similar to those found in Shenzhen (Huang and Yu, 2008). Dominated droplet mode in EC suggests aged EC which nucleated and condensed from fresh EC emissions. Some correlation was found between EC and  $SO_4^{2-}$  ( $R = 0.72$ ), may be related to fuel sulfur contents, especially from heavy oils used in ocean-going vessels. Previous studies in PRD region suggested internal mixed of EC and  $SO_4^{2-}$  and aqueous processes (Cheng et al., 2006; Huang and Yu, 2008). Abundance of droplet mode was also apparent for OC, followed by condensation mode. OC concentrations in the condensation, droplet, and coarse modes are 1.9, 2.0 and  $0.4\ \mu g/m^3$ , respectively. The OC/EC ratios are  $> 2$  in the droplet and condensation modes.

### ***3.3 Pollution episodes***

There was one polluted episode occurred during summer, including one clean day, on August 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> and two polluted days representing the beginning (August 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>) and ending (August 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>) of the pollution episode (Fig. 7a). The ratio of



each particle size mode to  $PM_{10}$  changes significantly from clean day to the end of pollution episode day. On the polluted days, particles in the condensation mode decreased from ~31% to ~18%, with concurrent increases in the droplet mode from ~42% to 52%, and a partial increase (~19% to 24%) in the coarse mode. Chemical mass closure also showed major chemical components have significant differences.  $PM_{10}$  fraction of POM and EC for clean and episode ending days, reduced from 36% to 24%, suggesting a larger regional-scale contribution. The abundance of  $SO_4^{2-}$  in  $PM_{10}$  increased from 16% to 40%, showing secondary aerosol formation process dominated the episode period. Back trajectories were used to identify the origin of the sources during the clean and episode days. As shown in Fig. 7a, the clean day air mass originated from the ocean, bringing uncontaminated air to the TC. During the episode, polluted and stagnant air masses come from the PRD region.

The mass ratio of non seasalt- $SO_4^{2-}$  (i.e.,  $SO_4^{2-} - 0.253 \times Na^+$ ) and  $NO_3^-$  can be used to indicate contribution acidity (Kong et al., 2014). The ratios of NSS- $SO_4^{2-}$  and  $NO_3^-$  were increased significantly, from 2.3, 19, to 36 for clean, episode starting and episode ending days, respectively. Particle acidity during this episode period is more effected by  $SO_4^{2-}$  than  $NO_3^-$  (Kong et al., 2014). Fig. 7b shows a remarkable high SOR value in the droplet mode during the polluted days. Due to high temperature in summer, the NOR did not exhibit much change.

### 3.4 Source factors in condensation, droplet, and coarse modes

Source apportionment by PMF3.0 software was conducted for the three size modes (i.e., condensation, droplet and coarse modes). Total of 69 (23 sets  $\times$  3 stages) filter samples with their measured chemical species concentrations and associated uncertainties were input into the model (Huang et al., 2006b). Table 3 and Fig. 8 summarize the nine source factors and their identifies markers (Choi et al., 2001; Han et al., 2006; Senaratne and Shooter, 2004; Tan et al., 2014; Tan et al., 2016; Yau et al., 2013). Similar to mass size distribution pattern in Fig.4, eight source factors were found for the droplet mode, four source factors for the condensation mode, and three for the coarse mode, as shown in Fig. 9. Sea salt and soil factors contributed > 80% of the coarse mass. Anthropogenic sources contributed to the droplet mode, with 24% from the secondary  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  factor, 19% from the industrial emissions factor and 13-15% each from the engine exhaust, secondary  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and sea salt factors. Other source factors contributed 10% of the droplet mode particle mass concentrations. The condensation mode had 37% contribution from the secondary  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  factor, 27% from the engine exhaust factor, and 18-19% each from the residual oil combustion and coal/biomass burning factors.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Size-segregated samples were collected by 10-stage Micro-Orifice Uniform Deposit Impactor (MOUDI) for the four seasons: summer (August/September, 2011), fall (November/December, 2011), winter (February/March, 2012), and summer (May,

2012). In addition to gravimetric mass, water-soluble ions, organic/elemental carbon, and elemental species were analyzed. The major chemical components were examined using chemical mass closure method. The size distribution of major chemical species and source apportionment on size-resolved modes were investigated using positive matrix factorization (PMF) model.

PM<sub>10</sub> chemical composition varies by seasons. The highest PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations are found in the fall with the lowest concentration in the spring. Secondary sulfate and organic matters (1.8×OC) were the two largest PM<sub>10</sub> components, accounting for 26-37% and 8-30% of PM mass.

Tri-modal size distributions are found for SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and OC, with mass median aerodynamic diameters (MMADs) of 0.4, 0.7, and 3.8 μm for the condensation, droplet and coarse modes, and a similar widths (i.e., standard deviation, σ, ranging 1.32 - 1.42). The droplet mode is most prominent for SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, OC, and EC. NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is more prominent in the coarse mode, whereas a single coarse mode is found for Cl<sup>-</sup>.

The condensation mode mass is explained of 36% secondary SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> factor, 26% engine exhaust factor, along with 18-19% each for residual oil combustion and coal/biomass burning factors. Eight source factors contribution were in the droplet mode, with from 23% SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> factor, 19% from industrial emissions factor, and 14-16% each for engine exhaust, secondary NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, and sea salt factor. Approximately, 80% of coarse mode mass is attributed to sea salt and soil factors.

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647 Table 1. Meteorological characteristics during each sampling dates

Seasons	Sampling date	Prevail wind <sup>a</sup>	Wind speed (m/s)	Temperature (°C)	Relative humidity %
<i>August/September (summer), 2011</i>	August 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	SW	11.40	32	69
	August 22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2011	SW	11.20	32	71
	August 24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	NE	11.20	32	72
	August 29 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	NW	16.20	34	64
	September 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	SE	12.70	32	71
	September 8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2011 (blank)	SE	6.38	30	76
<i>November/December (fall), 2011</i>	November 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	NE	6.04	28	68
	November 8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	NE	10.63	22	80
	November 14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	NE	8.85	25	68
	November 21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2011	NE	10.04	22	60
	November 25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	NE	10.6	22	60
	December 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2011	N	9.56	16	57
<i>February/March (winter), 2012</i>	December 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2011 (blank)	N	7.74	18	80
	February 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	NE	8.89	16	70
	February 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	E	8.92	14	79
	February 15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	NE	5.08	20	85
	February 20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2012	NE	10.01	18	66
	February 27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	NE	7.97	10	80
<i>May (spring), 2012</i>	March 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	NE	5.16	22	83
	March 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 (blank)	NE	6.36	18	89
	May 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	SW	7.83	30	74
	May 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	SW	6.86	31	69
	May 14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	SE	3.11	30	75
	May 21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2012	SE	11.52	27	67
	May 24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	E	8.33	28	75
	May 30 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2012	E	6.08	29	75
	June 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2012 (blank)	SE	10.36	27	82

648 <sup>a</sup> refer to prevail wind direction, N-North, NE-Northeast, E-East, SE-Southeast, S-South,  
649 SW-Southwest, W-West, NW-Northwest.

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**Table 2.** Seasonal PM<sub>1.8</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations in Tung Chung, Hong Kong

Seasons (N=23)	PM <sub>1.8</sub> μg/m <sup>3</sup>	PM <sub>10</sub> μg/m <sup>3</sup>	PM <sub>1.8</sub> /PM <sub>10</sub>
<i>August/September (summer), 2011</i>			
Clean day	19 ± 8	23 ± 7	0.83 ± 0.02
Episode day	62 ± 8	80 ± 13	0.78 ± 0.04
average	38 ± 20	47 ± 27	0.81 ± 0.06
<i>November/December (fall), 2011</i>			
average	37 ± 13	53 ± 17	0.70 ± 0.09
<i>February/March (winter), 2012</i>			
average	34 ± 11	48 ± 11	0.71 ± 0.08
<i>May (spring), 2012</i>			
average	26 ± 7	39 ± 11	0.66 ± 0.03

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659 **Table 3.** Fraction of PM source factors in each size mode

Sources	Source makers	Condensation mode (0.1 – 0.56 $\mu\text{m}$ )	Droplet mode (0.56 – 1.8 $\mu\text{m}$ )	Coarse mode (1.8 – 10 $\mu\text{m}$ )
Residual oil combustion	V	21%	N.A.	N.A.
Engine exhaust	EC, OC	26%	14%	N.A.
Coal/Biomass burning	As, Pb, K <sup>+</sup>	16%	2%	N.A.
Secondary sulfate	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	37%	24%	N.A.
Secondary nitrate	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , K <sup>+</sup>	N.A.	13%	N.A.
Incineration	Cu, Zn, OC	N.A.	6%	N.A.
Industry	Mn, Cs	N.A.	19%	19%
Sea salt	Cl, Na, Mg	N.A.	15%	52%
Soil	Si, Al, Fe, Ti, Ca, Fe	N.A.	7%	29%

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## Figure Captions

**Fig. 1.** Location of sampling site, at the Tung Chung monitoring station (TC), Hong Kong

**Fig. 2.** Time series of PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations (Particle size modes are defined as: 0.056-0.1 µm for nucleation mode, 0.1-0.56 µm for condensation mode, 0.56-1.8 µm for droplet mode, and 1.8-10 µm coarse mode)

**Fig. 3.** Reconstructed PM<sub>10</sub> mass for: a) summer, b) fall, c) winter and d) spring. The components include, sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, Particulate organic matters ( $POM = 1.8 \times OC$ ), EC, water-soluble potassium, trace element oxides ( $TEO = 1.3 \times [0.5 \times (Sr + Ba + Mn + Co + Rb + Ni + V) + 1.0 \times (Cu + Zn + Mo + Cd + Sn + Sb + Tl + Pb + As + Se + Ge + Cs + Ga)]$ ), sea salt ( $sea\ salt = 1.47 \times Na^+ + Cl^-$ ), soil ( $soil = 2.20 \times Al + 2.49 \times Si + 1.63 \times Ca + 2.42 \times Fe + 1.94 \times Ti$ )

**Fig. 4.** Resolved particle mass size distributions for: a) condensation mode, b) droplet mode, and c) coarse mode in PMF

**Fig. 5.** Average size distributions for: a) sulfate, b) nitrate, c) ammonium, d) water-soluble potassium, e) chloride, f) EC, and g) OC

**Fig. 6.** Size-fractionated: a) sulfur oxidation ratio (SOR); and b) nitrogen oxidation ratio (NOR) in four seasons

**Fig. 7.** a) Reconstructed PM mass clean (20.98 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) on August 20<sup>th</sup>, starting episode (71.96 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) on August 24<sup>th</sup>, and ending episode (88.63 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) on August 29<sup>th</sup>; Abundances of each particle size modes in PM<sub>10</sub> and air trajectory patterns are also shown; and b) Size-fractionated SOR value in clean and episode days

**Fig. 8.** Source factors for: a) condensation, b) droplet, and c) coarse mode; Chemical species in condensation mode for PMF are NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, OC, EC, Na, Mg, Al, Cl, Ca, V, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn, As, Br, Cs, Ba and Pb. The chemical species in droplet mode contains NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, OC, EC, Na, Mg, Al, Si, Cl, Ca, Ti, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn, As, Br, Cs, Ba and Pb. In addition, chemical species in coarse mode are NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, OC, EC, Na, Mg, Al, Si, Cl, Ca, Ti, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn, Cs, Ba and Pb.

**Fig. 9.** Source contribution estimates for condensation, droplet, and coarse modes



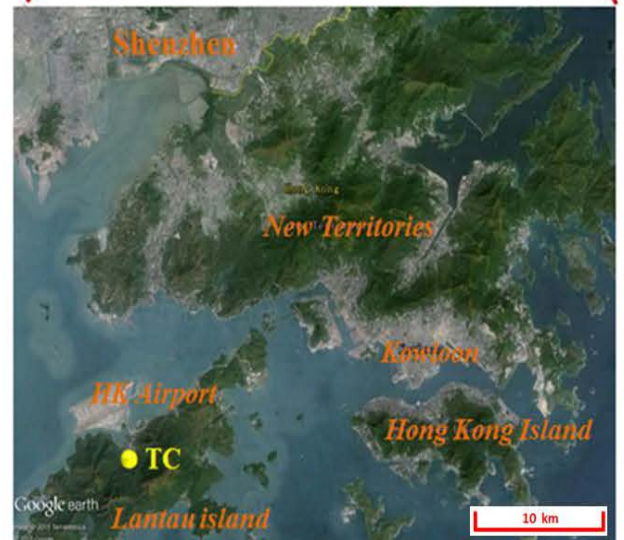
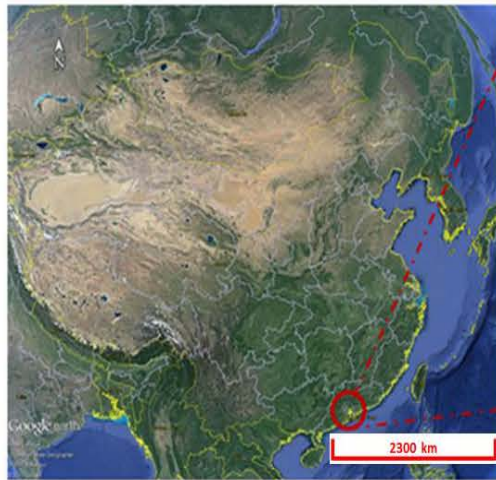


Fig. 1

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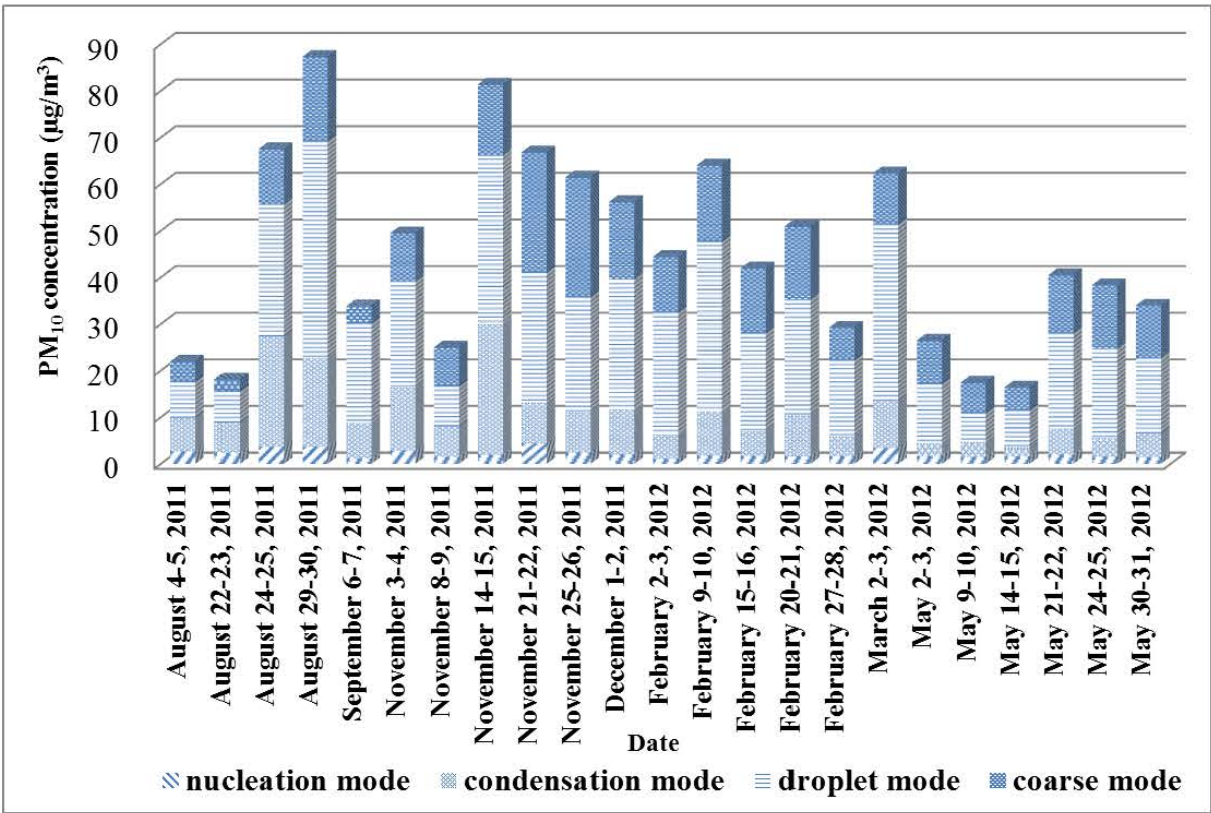
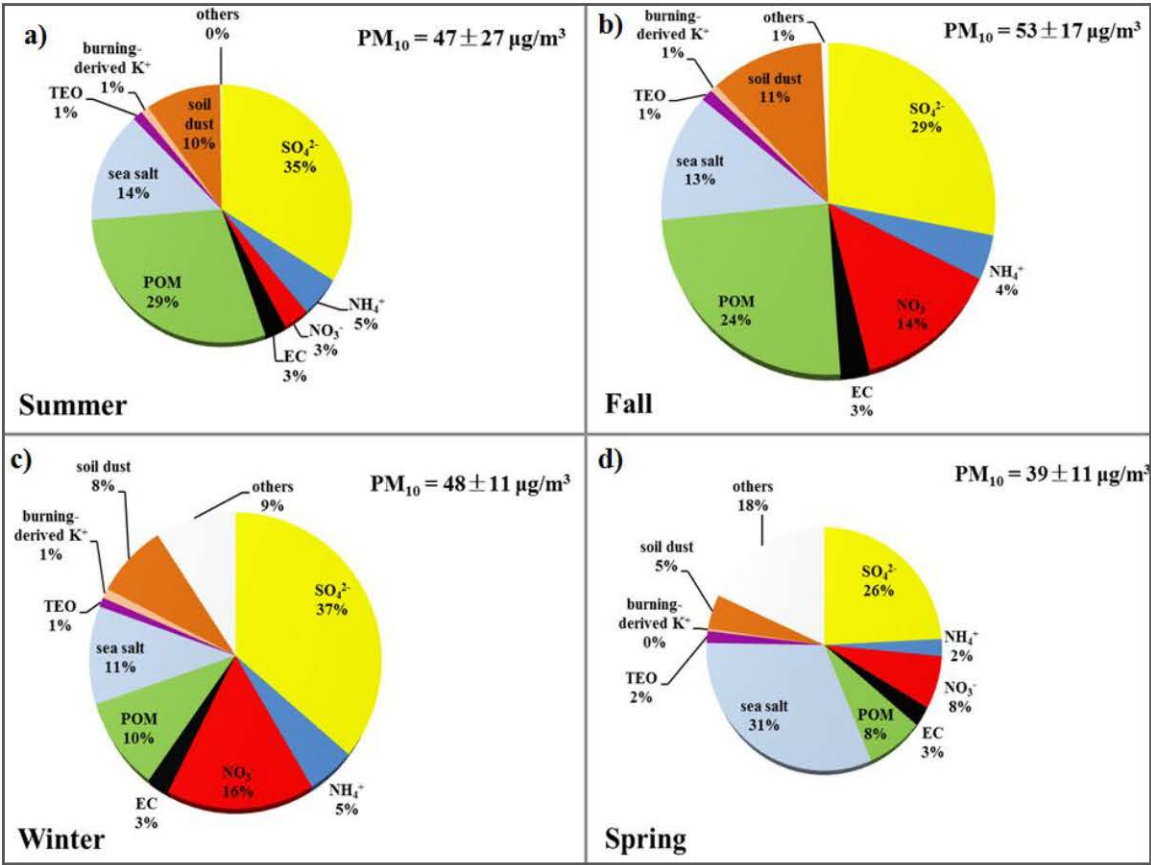


Fig. 2

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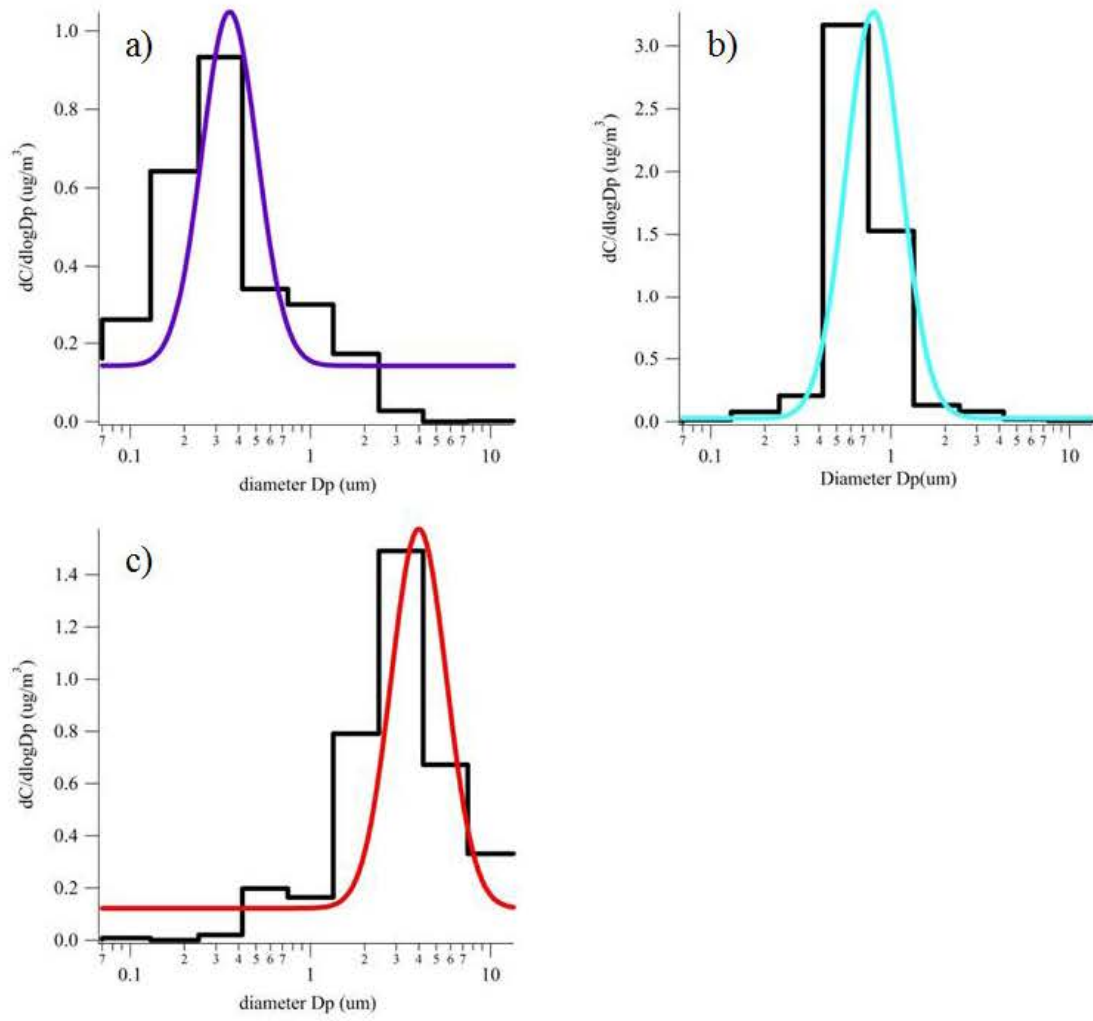
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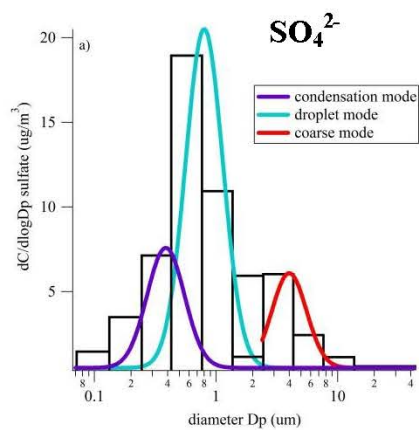
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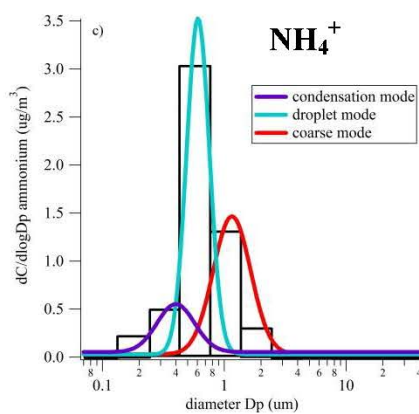
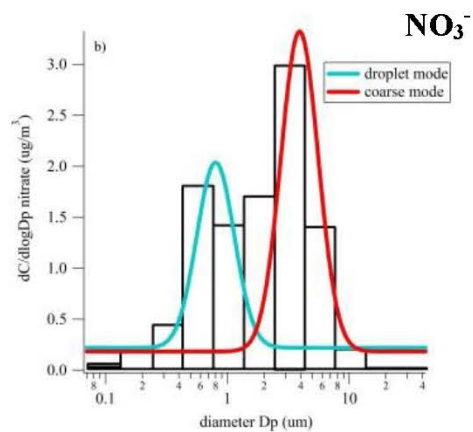
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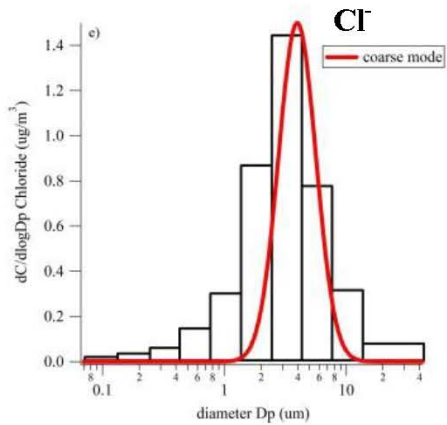
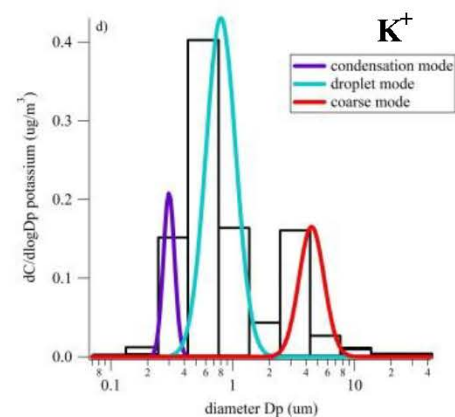
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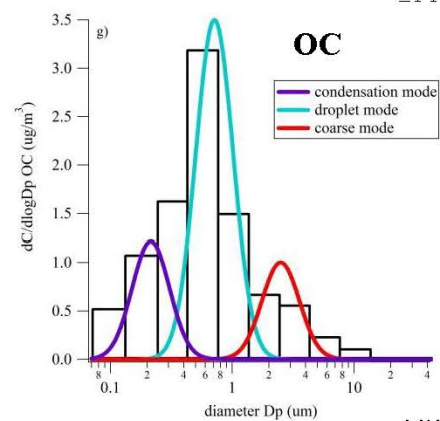
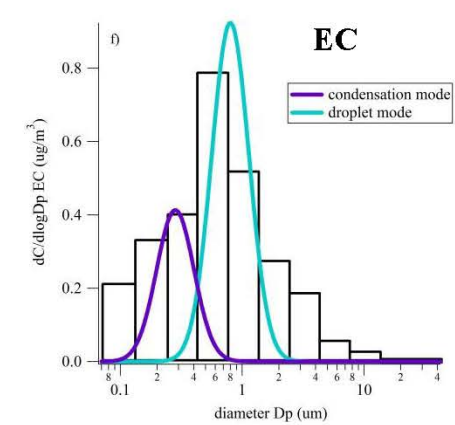
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Fig. 5

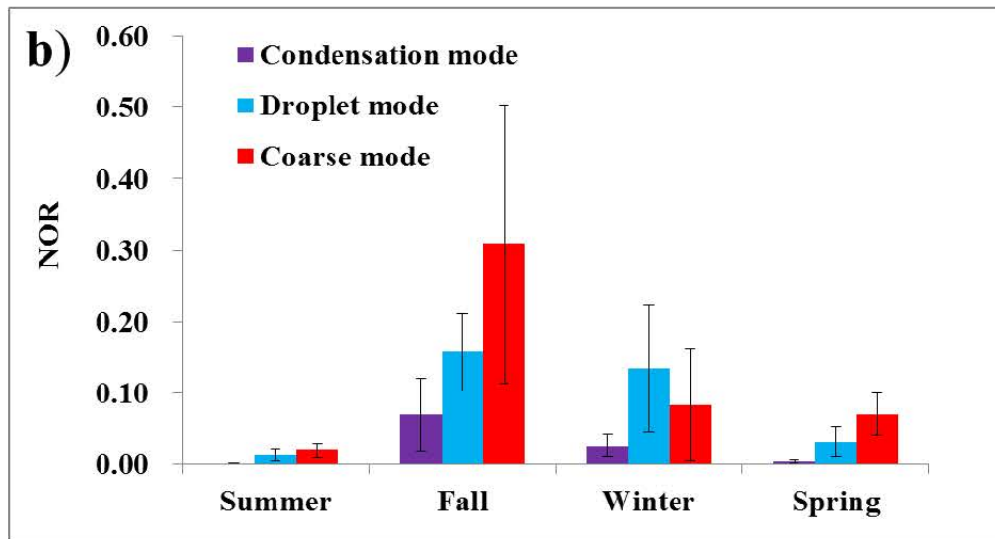
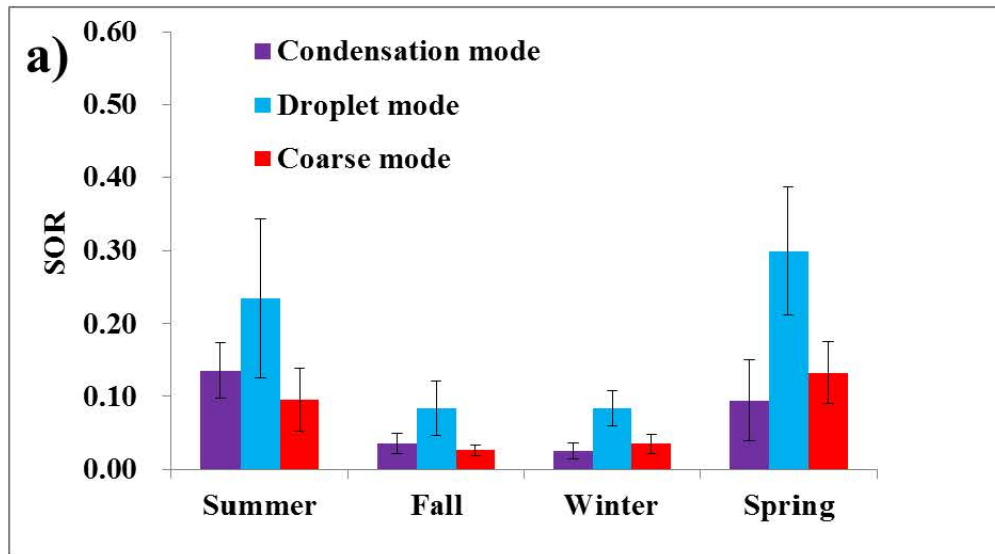
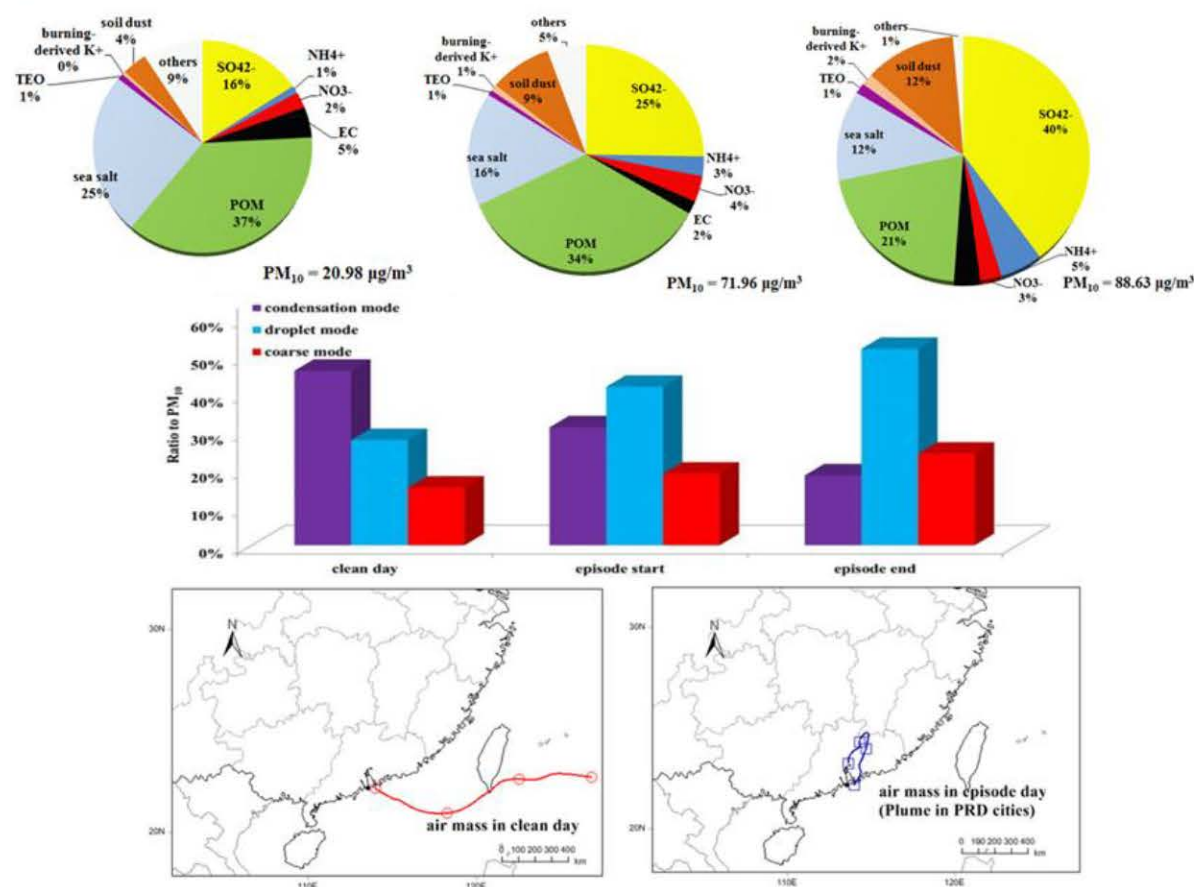


Fig. 6



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a)

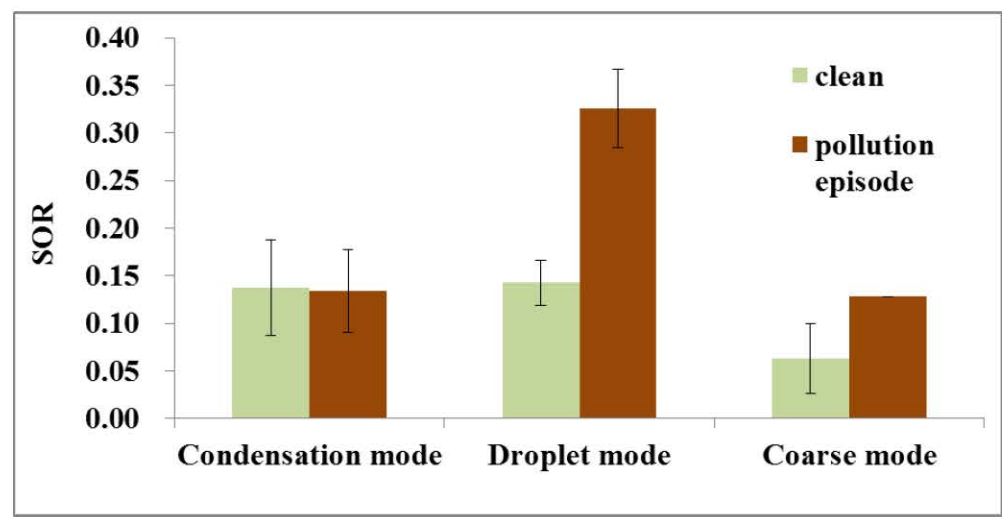


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b)

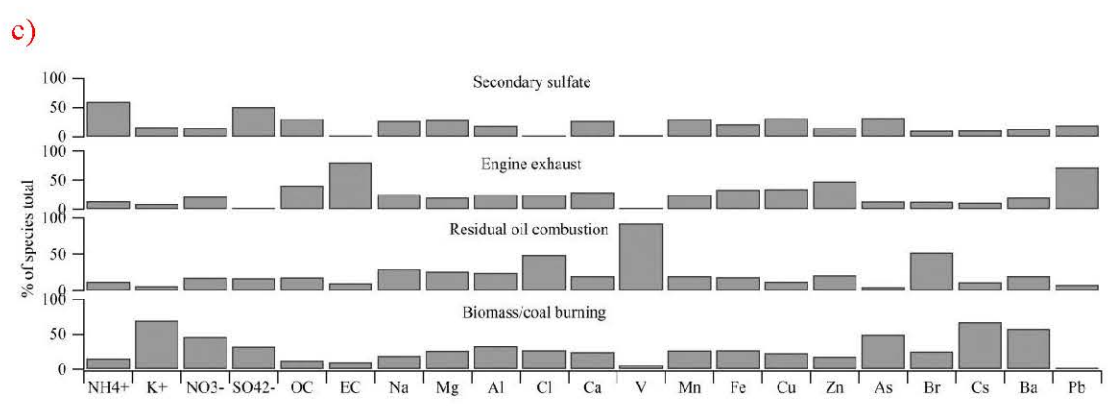
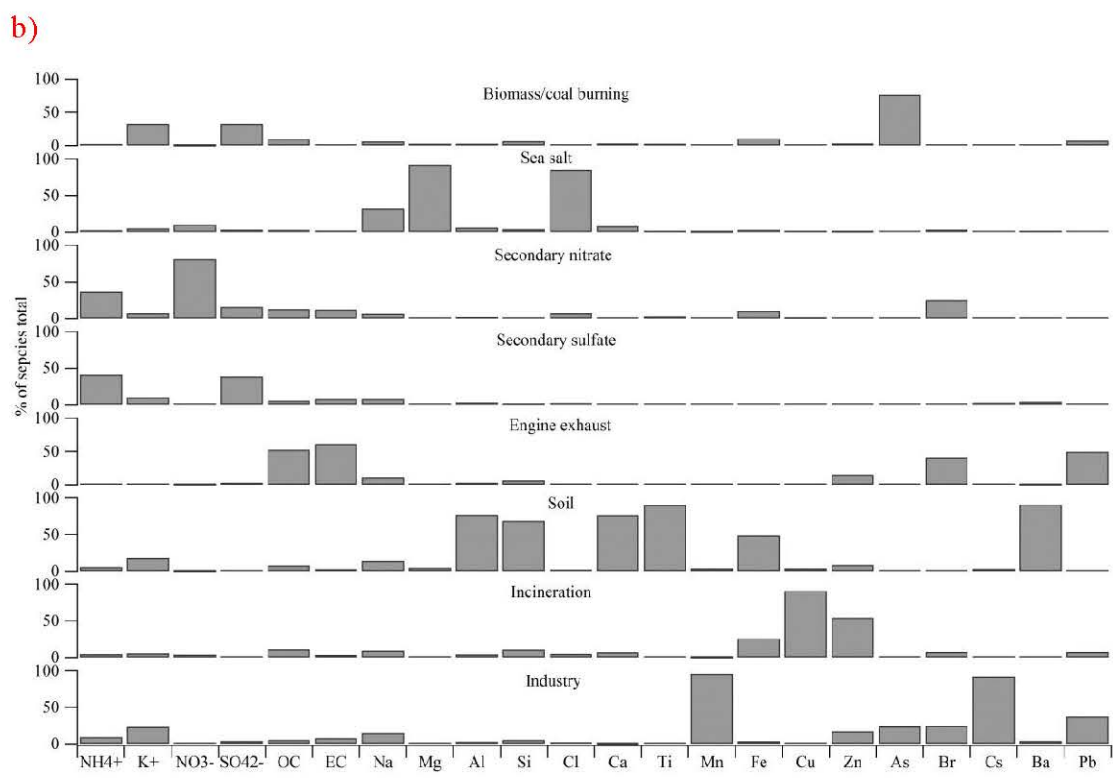
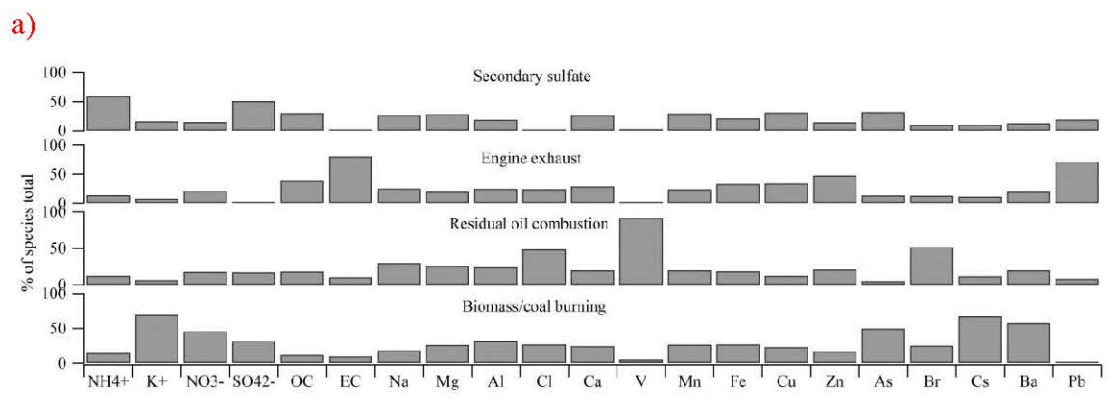


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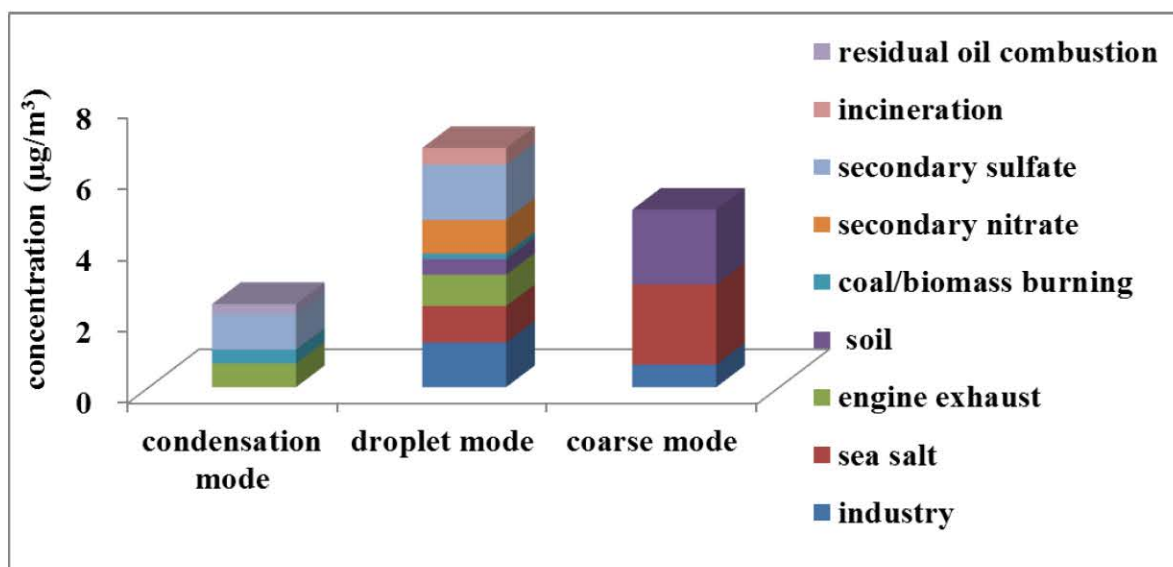
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Fig. 7



**Fig. 8**



**Fig. 9**