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# **Near real-time PM<sub>1</sub> chemical composition measurements at a French urban background and coastal site under industrial influence over more than a year: Temporal variability and assessment of sulfur-containing emissions**

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1 **Abstract**

2 Near real-time measurements of submicron particulate matter (PM<sub>1</sub>) were carried out at an  
3 industrial and coastal site in Dunkirk (Northern France) over a 14-month period (July 2013-  
4 September 2014). This site is surrounded by various industrial plants (metallurgy,  
5 petrochemistry, food processing, power plant, etc.) and is characterized by intense ship traffic  
6 (~700-800 per day along the English Channel) in harbour surroundings. The non-refractory  
7 (NR) submicron particles (organics, sulfate, nitrate, ammonium and chloride) and black  
8 carbon were measured by an Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ACSM) and an  
9 Aethalometer, respectively. Concomitant monitoring of CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and meteorological  
10 parameters was also performed. Both the seasonal (five seasons including two summers) and  
11 spatial (four identified sectors of emissions: marine, urban, industrial-urban and industrial)  
12 variabilities were investigated.

13 We present a descriptive analysis of the PM<sub>1</sub> composition, whose ambient concentrations  
14 ranged from less than 1 μg m<sup>-3</sup> up to approximately 100 μg m<sup>-3</sup> during a few pollution events.  
15 Gaseous SO<sub>2</sub> and particulate SO<sub>4</sub> were systematically observed at high concentrations (up to  
16 310 and 48.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup>, respectively) when industrial plumes reached the monitoring site. The  
17 conversion ratio of particulate (S<sub>p</sub>) to total (S<sub>tot</sub>) sulfur is relatively constant at 0.1 when RH  
18 ranges from 30-70% but reaches an average value of 0.3 at high RH (90-100%). This reflects  
19 an enhancement of SO<sub>2</sub>-to-SO<sub>4</sub> gas-particle conversion processes resulting in an increase of  
20 aerosol acidity as shown by a comparison between measured and predicted NH<sub>4</sub>  
21 concentrations. An impact of the vertical mixing on the SO<sub>2</sub>-to-SO<sub>4</sub> conversion was also  
22 observed using vertical turbulence (σ<sub>w</sub>) as a descriptive parameter. Indeed, the conversion  
23 ratio (S<sub>p</sub>/S<sub>tot</sub>) was found to be reduced under high turbulence conditions due to dilution  
24 effects.

25

26 **Keywords:** ACSM, Aethalometer, Submicron particulate matter, Industrial area

## 27 **1 Introduction**

28 Atmospheric aerosols from both natural and anthropogenic sources have been widely studied  
29 during the last decades to assess their influence on climate. Indeed, their optical properties  
30 (light scattering and absorption) and their ability to act as cloud condensation nuclei  
31 (Flossmann et al. 1985, Ghan and Schwartz 2007) can significantly impact the Earth's  
32 radiative balance. In addition, aerosols can strongly impair human health (Pope et al. 2002,  
33 Kelly and Fussell 2012, Leclercq et al. 2017) and the wellbeing of ecosystems (Bouwman et  
34 al. 2002, Niyogi et al. 2004). Based on their ability to deposit in the respiratory tract, aerosols  
35 are classified as PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>1</sub>, characterized by aerodynamic diameters lower than  
36 10, 2.5 and 1 micrometers, respectively. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates  
37 that PM<sub>2.5</sub> contributes to approximately 0.8 million deaths per year and ranked it as the 13<sup>th</sup>  
38 cause of global mortality (WHO 2002, Cohen et al. 2005, Elder et al. 2009). In the urban  
39 environment, PM<sub>1</sub> exhibits a stronger impact on human health than PM<sub>2.5</sub> since (i) they can  
40 penetrate further into the alveolar region, (ii) their chemical composition is dominated by  
41 anthropogenic sources and (iii) they lead to a more intense pro-inflammatory response (Pérez  
42 et al. 2008, Ramgolam et al. 2009, Kelly and Fussell 2012, Mazzearella et al. 2012).

43 Submicron non-refractory particulate matter (NR-PM<sub>1</sub>) can be characterized at a high time  
44 resolution using Aerosol Mass Spectrometers (AMS) during short field campaigns over a few  
45 weeks. Details about both the chemical composition (organics, nitrate, sulfate, ammonium and  
46 chloride) and the size distribution at temporal resolutions of a few minutes have been obtained  
47 worldwide (Jayne et al. 2000, DeCarlo et al. 2006, Canagaratna et al. 2007, Zhang et al. 2007,  
48 Jimenez et al. 2009). However, despite the unique qualities of an AMS to provide chemical  
49 information on PM<sub>1</sub>, this type of instruments exhibits several drawbacks for long-term  
50 monitoring, such as the need for frequent calibrations and highly skilled operators.

51 More recently, the Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ACSM) (Aerodyne Research, Inc.)  
52 was designed and proposed for long-term monitoring (Ng et al. 2011). In contrast to an AMS,  
53 ACSMs do not provide the particle size distribution and exhibit a lower mass resolution,  
54 which in turn leads to fewer details about the organic composition. However, ACSM  
55 instruments do not require frequent calibrations, are less expensive, and are easier to use  
56 during field measurements. It is interesting to note that AMS and ACSM instruments have  
57 been already compared several times. A 3-week campaign performed at Queens College (New  
58 York, USA) in 2010 showed good correlations ( $R^2$  of 0.81–0.91, slopes of 0.76–1.01)  
59 between the two techniques for all measured species (organics, nitrate, sulfate, ammonium  
60 and chloride) (Ng et al. 2011). A larger scale intercomparison exercise involving 13 Q-ACSM

61 and one HR-ToF-AMS in Paris (Crenn et al. 2015) showed good agreements between the  
62 different instruments with  $R^2$  values higher than 0.9, except for chloride, and slopes ranging  
63 from 0.62 to 1.43 depending on the species considered.

64 Industrial activities are important sources of anthropogenic Particulate Matter (PM) (Taiwo et  
65 al. 2014, Riffault et al. 2015). However, previous sampling sites where AMS and ACSM  
66 instruments have been deployed were usually located in urban, suburban or rural background  
67 regions and only a few were impacted by industrial emissions (El Haddad et al. 2013,  
68 Budisulistiorini et al. 2015). In Europe, industrial processes represent the third (9.1%) and  
69 second (28.6%) primary sources of  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_{10}$  (EEA 2015), respectively. In France itself,  
70 industrial sources accounted for 22% and 29% of  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_{10}$  in 2012, respectively  
71 (CGDD 2014). Of interest for the present study, the Hauts-de-France (HdF) region in France  
72 is still heavily industrialized, with industries contributing to 68 and 61% of  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_{10}$   
73 emissions, respectively, in the Dunkirk conurbation (AtmoHdF 2012).

74 Dunkirk, located in northern France, is impacted by industrial activities such as metallurgy,  
75 petrochemistry, food processing, power plant, etc., and is also the first energy platform in  
76 HdF. This industrial activity results in massive emissions of gaseous and particulate  
77 pollutants, including for the year 2011 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs; 1,556 tons),  
78 oxides of nitrogen ( $NO_x$ , 8,195 tons), sulfur dioxide ( $SO_2$ , 11,752 tons), and particulate matter  
79 (10 nm-100  $\mu m$ ; 3,246 tons) (DREAL 2012).

80 Previous studies focusing on particulate matter in Dunkirk have investigated concentrations in  
81 heavy metals (Alleman et al. 2010, Mbengue et al. 2014) and inorganic species (Rimetz-  
82 Planchon et al. 2008) in  $PM_{10}$ . The organic fraction has also been studied in  $PM_{2.5}$  using  
83 offline filter methods (Cazier et al. 2011, Crenn et al. 2017, Crenn et al. 2018) and in  $PM_{10}$   
84 using an Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS) (Crenn et al. 2017, Crenn et al. 2018, Setyan et  
85 al. 2019). PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) and sulfate in NR- $PM_{10}$  have been found  
86 almost exclusively in winter for air masses coming from the industrial zone. However, the  
87 filter methods required long sampling times (typically 24-72 hours), precluding any  
88 investigation of fast changes in aerosol composition and levels. The two campaigns  
89 employing an AMS were only performed for short periods (summer and winter,  
90 approximately 1 month each), with only a few wind occurrences from the industrial sector.

91 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), considered as potential precursors of organic aerosols,  
92 have also been investigated in Dunkirk (Badol et al. 2008, Badol et al. 2008, Roukos et al.  
93 2009). Badol et al. (2008) carried out a measurement campaign of about one year and  
94 identified 53 VOCs (Badol et al. 2008). Daily profiles, seasonal variations and pollution roses

95 observed for these compounds indicated strong impacts of traffic, solvent evaporation and  
96 industrial emissions on the measured concentrations. In addition, a Chemical Mass Balance  
97 (CMB) source-receptor model was applied to estimate the contributions of various emission  
98 sources, including 6 urban profiles and 7 industrial profiles (Badol et al. 2008). Roukos et al.  
99 (2009) carried out two measurement campaigns in summer and winter 2007 using passive  
100 sampling on adsorbent cartridges (Roukos et al. 2009). This study showed that pollution  
101 transported over long distances has a significant impact on VOC concentrations in the  
102 Dunkirk area during specific weather conditions. Xiang et al. (Xiang et al. 2012) reported a  
103 source apportionment study coupling a Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) analysis and  
104 micro-meteorology observations. This study highlighted that an increase of the turbulence  
105 could lead to a lower contribution of ground level sources and an enhanced contribution of  
106 elevated sources (such as plumes from chimneys).

107 The present study provides the first near real-time and long-term (> 1 year) monitoring of  
108 submicron aerosols at an urban background and coastal site strongly impacted by industrial  
109 activities (within a few km). This work aims at better understanding PM<sub>1</sub> temporal variability  
110 in terms of mass concentration and chemical composition, and their transformation in this  
111 complex environment. Organic PM<sub>1</sub> sources will be further investigated using PMF in a  
112 forthcoming paper. The database of PM<sub>1</sub> measurements is analyzed by seasons and wind  
113 sectors to investigate the origin of local emissions. Particular attention was paid to the impact  
114 of industrial sulfur emissions on the formation of sulfate particles.

115

## 116 **2 Experimental section**

### 117 **2.1 Campaign description**

118 The measurement site was located on the eastern side of the Dunkirk harbour (Port-Est, PE:  
119 51°3.12' N; 2°21.24' E; 1 m). This site is surrounded, within a few kilometers, by an  
120 intensive industrial zone at W-SW and by a residential zone at S-SE as shown in Figure 1.  
121 This geographical location allows classifying the origin of local air masses according to four  
122 wind sectors: marine (M; 271° -70°), urban (U; 71° - 140°), industrial-urban (IU; 141° -  
123 225°), and industrial (I; 226° - 270°). This site can sometimes be under the influence of  
124 remote sources from France, Belgium, England, and Germany within a few tens to hundreds  
125 of kilometers.

126 The field campaign was conducted over 14 months from July 15, 2013 to September 10,  
127 2014. An ACSM and an Aethalometer (described below) were installed at the PE site,  
128 alongside an SO<sub>2</sub> analyzer (AF21M, Environnement SA) managed by the Atmo HdF regional

129 air quality monitoring network and a CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer (VS-3000, HORIBA). The SO<sub>2</sub> analyzer  
130 was operated continuously at a time resolution of 15 min and was calibrated once a month  
131 using a SO<sub>2</sub> gas standard at 200 ppb (Air Liquide). The CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer was calibrated 3 times  
132 during the campaign, using a CO<sub>2</sub> gas standard at 997 ppm (purity > 99.9%, Praxair). An  
133 ultrasonic anemometer (uSonic-3 Scientific, METEK) was deployed at a nearby site  
134 approximately 1 km away (Figure 1) for measuring horizontal and vertical wind speeds and  
135 direction, as well as temperature and turbulence parameters. Standard meteorological  
136 parameters such as temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, pressure, and solar radiation  
137 were also recorded on the rooftop of a research building of the Université du Littoral Côte  
138 d'Opale (51°2.14'N; 2°22.05'E), located at 2 km. From June 23, 2014 to September 10, 2014,  
139 an ambient particulate monitor (TEOM-FDMS 1405-F, Thermo Fischer Scientific) was  
140 additionally deployed to measure the total PM<sub>1</sub> mass concentration. Section A of the  
141 Supplementary Information reports the number of valid data (Table S1) as well as the  
142 temporal data coverage (Figure S1) for each instrument. Measurements were averaged over  
143 the ACSM time stamp using Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

144

## 145 **2.2 PM<sub>1</sub> chemical composition**

### 146 **2.2.1 Aerosol Chemical Speciation Monitor (ACSM)**

147 The ACSM (Aerodyne Research Inc.) provides measurements of particulate organics, nitrate,  
148 sulfate, ammonium and chloride in the non-refractory submicron particles (Ng et al. 2011).  
149 The aerodynamic lens inside the ACSM inlet sampled PM<sub>1</sub> at a flow rate of approximately 80  
150 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>, controlled by a 100 μm diameter critical aperture. Non-refractory components  
151 were vaporized at 600°C after impaction on an inverted-cone surface and then ionized by  
152 electron impact at 70 eV. A RGA (residual gas analyzer) quadrupole mass spectrometer was  
153 used to acquire mass spectra at a mass resolution of one unit and up to 148 amu. During  
154 acquisition, the ACSM was operated with a three-way automatic valve to switch between the  
155 filter mode (particle-free air) and the sample mode (ambient air). The difference between  
156 these two modes is considered as the signal generated by ambient aerosols. The scan speed  
157 was set to 200 ms amu<sup>-1</sup>. 28 scans were acquired for both the filter and the sample modes,  
158 resulting in a time resolution of approximately 30 min. The instrument was installed in an air-  
159 conditioned room (20°C) for continuous monitoring.

160 Ambient aerosols were sampled through a PM<sub>2.5</sub> cyclone (URG-2000-30EQ) at a flow rate of  
161 3 L min<sup>-1</sup> and a stainless-steel tube whose length and inner diameter were 2.1 m and 1.27 cm,  
162 respectively (residence time in the sampling tube was approximately 5 seconds). The particle

163 size-dependent loss due to the sampling setup was calculated using the Particle Loss  
 164 Calculator (PLC) (von der Weiden et al. 2009), and was found to be negligible (< 1%).  
 165 Sampled aerosols were dried using a Nafion dryer (PD-200T-12 MPS, Perma Pure) reaching a  
 166 relative humidity (RH) always lower than 30%, which is important to minimize the effect of  
 167 RH on the collection efficiency (CE) as discussed later in this section.  
 168 The mass spectra acquired by ACSM were analyzed using a fragmentation table (Allan et al.  
 169 2004, Canagaratna et al. 2007) to extract distinct chemical species or group of species. The  
 170 mass concentration of a species  $s$  ( $C_s$ ) is derived from the measured ion current  $IC_{s,i}$  (amperes)  
 171 using Equation (1):

$$172 \quad C_s = \frac{CE_s}{T_{m/z}} \times \frac{10^{12}}{RIE_s} \times \frac{Q_{cal} \times G_{cal}}{RF_{NO_3}} \times \frac{1}{Q \times G} \sum_{alli} IC_{s,i} \quad (1)$$

173 where  $\sum IC_{s,i}$  is the sum of the ensemble mass spectrum fragment  $i$  contributing to species  $s$ ;  
 174  $CE_s$  is the collection efficiency of a species  $s$ ;  $T_{m/z}$  the ion transmission efficiency;  $RF_{NO_3}$   
 175 (ions/molecule) the response factor for  $NO_3$ ; and  $RIE_s$  the relative ionization efficiency of a  
 176 species  $s$  compared to  $NO_3$ ;  $Q_{cal}$  and  $G_{cal}$  are the volumetric sample flow rate ( $cm^3 s^{-1}$ ) and  
 177 multiplier gain ( $\sim 20,000$ ) measured during calibrations of  $RF_{NO_3}$ , respectively. In general,  
 178 values of  $Q$  and  $G$  observed during ambient measurements are similar to the values measured  
 179 during calibration experiments ( $Q_{cal}$  and  $G_{cal}$ ) and these parameters cancel out in Eq. (1).

180 The instrument calibration protocols and signal optimization are based on existing procedures  
 181 (Ng et al. 2011) and are presented in more details in the Supplementary Information (section  
 182 B). The  $NO_3$  response factor ( $RF_{NO_3}$ ) and the relative ionization efficiency ( $RIE_s$ ) were  
 183 calibrated at the beginning and periodically during the campaign (once per month). Average  
 184 values of  $RF_{NO_3}$  ( $3.81 \times 10^{-11}$ ) and  $RIE_s$  ( $NH_4$ : 5.67;  $SO_4$ : 0.55;  $Cl$ : 2.26) were used for the  
 185 whole campaign. For organics, the default value of  $RIE(1.4)$  was used (Jimenez et al. 2003).  
 186 The  $RF_{NO_3}$  and  $RIE_{NH_4}$  values observed in the present study are close to the average value of  
 187 13 Q-ACSM used during the intercomparison exercise described by Crenn et al. (Crenn et al.  
 188 2015), i.e.  $3.55 \times 10^{-11}$  and 6.31, respectively. Most previous studies used the default values  
 189 of 1.2 for  $SO_4$  (Ng et al. 2011) and 1.3 for  $Cl$  (Alfarra et al. 2004) but  $RIE(SO_4)$  has been  
 190 found to vary from one instrument to another (Ng et al. 2011).

191 The CE of a species  $s$  is mainly influenced by particle humidity (for  $RH > 80\%$ ), acidity, and  
 192 the mass fraction of ammonium nitrate (Matthew et al. 2008). Humidity effects are ignored in  
 193 the present study because particles were dried at RH below 30%. However, both particle  
 194 acidity and the fraction of ammonium nitrate were taken into consideration for the calculation



195 of CE, using the method described by Middlebrook et al. (Middlebrook et al. 2011) and  
196 described in the Supplementary Information (section C) where the CE time series can be  
197 found (Figure S1). More than 57% of the CE values were at 0.45 and the rest ranged from  
198 0.45-0.9 during the campaign.

199 As the ACSM is equipped with a quadrupole mass spectrometer, the  $m/z$ -dependent ion  
200 transmission efficiency ( $T_{m/z}$ ) is assessed using an internal naphthalene standard whose parent  
201 ion is detected at  $m/z$  128 and several fragments are detected at lower  $m/z$ . Finally, a  
202 reference period was chosen when the signal of air beam ( $m/z = 28$ , corresponding to  $N_2^+$ ) is  
203 stable and as close as possible to  $10^{-7}$  A. This normalization takes into account the variation of  
204 air beam over time, as well as the changes in the detector sensitivity and flow rate.

205 ACSM data were acquired using ACSM\_DAQ\_v1438 at a time resolution of 30 min and  
206 processed using ACSM\_Local\_v1535 (ARI) with Igor Pro 6.36 (WaveMetrics, Inc., Oregon  
207 USA). A total of 15,231 valid observations was recorded, split as follows between the four  
208 wind sectors: M – 5,527 (36%), U – 1,257 (8%), IU – 6,590 (43%) and I – 1,857 (12%).

209

## 210 2.2.2 Aethalometer

211 Black carbon was measured with a two-wavelength aethalometer (AE42, Magee Scientific  
212 Inc.) at 880 nm. The aethalometer sampled ambient air at a flow rate of 5 liters per minute  
213 through a  $PM_{10}$  sampling head (SCC-1.197, BGI). Samples were collected at a time resolution  
214 of 5 min on a moving tape made of quartz fibers. The tape does not move forward until the  
215 spot reaches a certain density (set at 60% in this study). The principle of the aethalometer is to  
216 measure the optical attenuation of the collected aerosols and the BC concentration is  
217 calculated from the attenuation variation at a wavelength of 880 nm:

$$218 \quad BC_{raw} = \frac{A \times \Delta ATN}{\sigma_{ATN} \times Q \times \Delta t} \quad (2)$$

219 where  $A$  is the surface of the sampling area on the filter ( $1.67 \text{ cm}^2$ ),  $Q$  the volumetric flow rate  
220 and  $\Delta ATN$  the variation of the attenuation during the time interval  $\Delta t$ .  $\sigma_{ATN} (\text{m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1})$  is the  
221 specific attenuation coefficient for BC.

222 However, according to the literature (Virkkula et al. 2007, Park et al. 2010), the relationship  
223 between the change in attenuation and BC concentration is not always linear. BC  
224 concentrations have been corrected using a procedure proposed by Weingartner et al.  
225 (Weingartner et al. 2003) as shown in Eq. (3):

$$BC_{corr} = BC_{raw} \times \frac{1}{C_{ref} \times \left( \frac{1}{m(1 - \omega_0) + 1} - 1 \right) \times \frac{\ln(ATN) - \ln(10\%)}{\ln(50\%) - \ln(10\%)} + 1} \quad (3)$$

where  $BC_{raw}$  is the concentration measured by the aethalometer from Eq. (6).  $C_{ref}$  and  $m$  values of 2.14 and 0.87, respectively, were used in the present study (Petzold et al. 1997, Weingartner et al. 2003).  $\omega_0$ , the single scattering albedo (SSA) of the sampled aerosols, was taken from AERONET (AERosol RObotic NETwork, <http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov>) measurements in Dunkirk (N 51°2.1', E 02°22.07') and an average value of 0.9 was used.

### 2.2.3 Wind and trajectory analyses

The wind and trajectory analyses combine the observed concentrations with wind and air mass conditions, in order to understand the origin of some pollutants, as described in more details in (Boichu et al. 2019) and (Roig Rodelas et al. 2019). Briefly, these analyses were performed using the Zefir tool v.3.70 (Petit et al. 2017). We used (i) the non-parametric wind regression (NWR) model to study the regional vs. local origin of a given pollutant based on local wind speed and direction provided by the ultrasonic anemometer; and (ii) the Concentration-Weighted Trajectory (CWT) method to determine the regions of emissions for transported ammonium and nitrate and/or their precursors, using backtrajectories calculated with HYSPLIT 4 and meteorological data from the Global Data Assimilation System (GDAS) at 1°×1° spatial resolution (Stein et al. 2016). 3-day backward trajectories arriving at 500 m above ground level were calculated every 6 hours over the whole campaign.

## 3 Results and discussion

### 3.1 Meteorology

Time series of meteorological parameters are displayed in Figure 2 and their seasonal variability is reported in Table 1. The maximum solar radiation varied roughly from 300 (winter) to 800  $W m^{-2}$  (summer). The seasonal ratio of maximum to mean radiation indicates the impact of cloud coverage. Cloud coverage is on average similar in spring-summer and autumn-winter periods, but the ratio increases by about 50% in autumn and wintertime. Over the whole campaign, pressure and temperature time series are also displayed, with average values of 1013 hPa and 14°C, varying from 978 to 1037 hPa and from 1.4 to 32.2 °C, respectively. The average wind speed was 4.9  $m s^{-1}$ , with higher values during fall (5.3  $m s^{-1}$ ) and winter (5.9  $m s^{-1}$ ), and lower values during spring (4.7  $m s^{-1}$ ) and summer

257 (4.2 m s<sup>-1</sup>). Seasonal mean and maximum pressures indicate clearly an increase of the  
 258 frequency of low pressure systems in autumn and winter, corresponding to south-  
 259 southwesterly winds from the North Atlantic Ocean.

260 The winter season was mild in 2013-2014, with no frost, but high wind speed events  
 261 (>14 m s<sup>-1</sup>) were observed during 12 days from October to February, including 5 remarkable  
 262 storms (Christian, Godehard, Xaver, Dirk and Qumara). The summer was also mild with  
 263 moderate temperatures (20-25°C) due to the proximity of the North Sea, and the development  
 264 of 18 sea-breeze events. During low wind speed periods, 14 fog events occurred. Rain (> 1  
 265 mm/hour) was observed on 51 days, enhancing wet deposition mechanisms of particles.

266 Figure S3 (section D of the SI) shows the seasonal variation of the distribution (normalized to  
 267 100%) of sectorial winds according to previously defined ranges of wind directions. The  
 268 marine sector exhibited the strongest seasonal variation, with a contribution to the wind  
 269 distribution during summers 2013 and 2014 higher than 50% but reduced to ~20% during  
 270 winter. The urban sector exhibited a small contribution of ~10% during the whole campaign.  
 271 However, even with such a small contribution, air masses originating from this sector can  
 272 bring high PM concentrations to the measurement site (see next section). The industrial sector  
 273 also exhibited a constant contribution of approximately 10%, independent of the season. The  
 274 industrial-urban sector exhibited a larger contribution ranging from 30 to 70% all along the  
 275 campaign, especially in winter when southern winds were observed. It is important to note  
 276 that the seasonal variability of the wind distribution will be one of the main parameters  
 277 driving PM<sub>1</sub> mass and composition variations.

278

279 Table 1. Mean, maximum and minimum values of the main parameters and chemical species  
 280 for each season during the entire campaign

		Summer 2013	Autumn 2013	Winter 2013-2014	Spring 2014	Summer 2014
<b>Wind speed</b> (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	mean±σ	4.2 ± 2.0	5.3 ± 2.5	5.9 ± 2.5	4.7 ± 2.3	4.2 ± 2.0
	max	12.8	19.1	17.6	12.6	13.7
<b>Radiation*</b> (W m <sup>-2</sup> )	mean;	296;	132;	149;	306;	291;
	max	968	629	706	982	912
<b>Pressure</b> (hPa)	mean±σ	1018 ± 7	1016 ± 11	1006 ± 12	1015 ± 8	1013 ± 5
	min-max	993 - 1032	980 - 1037	978 - 1032	999 - 1036	995 - 1023
<b>RH</b> (%)	mean±σ	79 ± 11	83 ± 7	83 ± 8	78 ± 11	79 ± 11
	min-max	36 - 96	55 - 98	34 - 100	35 - 97	29 - 96
<b>T</b> (°C)	mean±σ	18.4 ± 2.5	11.8 ± 3.8	9.8 ± 2.4	13.7 ± 3.1	18.4 ± 2.2
	min-max	11.3 - 32.2	1.4 - 21.2	2.6 - 19.2	4.5 - 25.1	11.9 - 32.1
<b>Precip.</b> (mm/hour)	mean±σ	0.01 ± 0.14	0.03 ± 0.15	0.03 ± 0.13	0.01 ± 0.11	0.02 ± 0.27
	max	5	3.4	2.6	4.8	16
<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	mean±σ	11 ± 26	8 ± 19	11 ± 22	12 ± 20	10 ± 20

( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	max	310	218	206	206	220
CO <sub>2</sub>	mean $\pm\sigma$	430 $\pm$ 15	428 $\pm$ 16	414 $\pm$ 11	416 $\pm$ 14	415 $\pm$ 12
(ppm)	min-max	391 - 557	364 - 555	367 - 548	370 - 537	388 - 549
BC**	mean $\pm\sigma$	0.7 $\pm$ 0.8	/	0.8 $\pm$ 0.8	0.6 $\pm$ 0.9	0.5 $\pm$ 0.6
( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	max	15.3	/	27.7	28.3	21.7
Org	mean $\pm\sigma$	2.0 $\pm$ 1.8	3.8 $\pm$ 5.1	3.3 $\pm$ 3.2	3.1 $\pm$ 3.0	2.4 $\pm$ 2.1
( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	max	11.8	51.9	70.0	25.2	45.8
SO <sub>4</sub>	mean $\pm\sigma$	2.9 $\pm$ 3.1	2.2 $\pm$ 2.8	1.8 $\pm$ 3.6	2.5 $\pm$ 2.8	2.5 $\pm$ 2.5
( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	max	28.4	23.9	48.2	21.7	31.6
NO <sub>3</sub>	mean $\pm\sigma$	1.3 $\pm$ 2.4	2.7 $\pm$ 4.0	2.5 $\pm$ 3.7	4.1 $\pm$ 4.7	1.6 $\pm$ 2.6
( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	max	15.0	23.0	27.3	21.5	16.2
NH <sub>4</sub>	mean $\pm\sigma$	1.1 $\pm$ 1.1	1.4 $\pm$ 1.7	1.2 $\pm$ 1.7	1.9 $\pm$ 1.6	1.1 $\pm$ 1.1
( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	max	6.1	10.0	21.4	8.0	8.0
Cl	mean $\pm\sigma$	0.03 $\pm$ 0.07	0.09 $\pm$ 0.16	0.06 $\pm$ 0.10	0.06 $\pm$ 0.12	0.02 $\pm$ 0.04
( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )	max	1.5	3.2	2.3	2.0	0.7

281 \* Radiation represents daytime values computed using only data after sunrise and before sunset.

282 \*\* BC values are not available in autumn.

283

### 284 3.2 PM<sub>1</sub> mass concentration and chemical speciation

285 To check the aerosol measurements quality, the total mass concentration of PM<sub>1</sub> measured by  
286 the ACSM (NR-PM<sub>1</sub>) and the aethalometer (BC) was compared to TEOM-FDMS  
287 measurements from June 23 to September 10, 2014 (Figure 3). Figure 3 displays time series  
288 of PM<sub>1</sub> from both (i) the ACSM and aethalometer and (ii) the TEOM-FDMS. This figure  
289 shows that PM<sub>1</sub> concentrations ranged from less than 1  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  to approximately 50  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$   
290 during the 2.5 months of the comparison period, with both traces showing similar temporal  
291 variations. A scatter plot of the ACSM + aethalometer and TEOM-FDMS measurements is  
292 shown in Figure 3b. This figure also displays 24-hour averaged values for both measurements,  
293 which indicate an excellent agreement (slope: 0.94;  $r^2 = 0.94$ ), suggesting that (i) most of the  
294 PM<sub>1</sub> mass ( $7.9 \pm 7.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  measured by the TEOM-FDMS) is captured by the combination  
295 of ACSM and aethalometer ( $8.1 \pm 6.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ); (ii) the RF/RIE calibrations and the CE  
296 correction applied for the ACSM data analysis are correct within measurement uncertainties.  
297 Time series of Cl, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, Organics and SO<sub>4</sub> measured by ACSM, and black carbon  
298 measured with the aethalometer, are displayed in Figure 4. Each species exhibits different  
299 temporal variations and concentration levels. Chloride is a minor fraction of PM<sub>1</sub> and its  
300 concentration is lower than 3  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  over the entire observation period. NH<sub>4</sub> is relatively  
301 constant throughout the whole year at levels lower than 5  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , with the exception of spring  
302 2014 (March-May) where levels up to 15  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  were observed. NO<sub>3</sub>, Organics, SO<sub>4</sub> and BC  
303 are much more time-dependent, with concentrations rising to 30-50  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ .  
304 Some PM<sub>1</sub> species seem to exhibit significant seasonal variations (Figure S4, section D of the  
305 SI; and Table 1). Average seasonal chloride concentrations were very low ( $< 0.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ).

306 Sulfates did not exhibit seasonal variations due to its industrial origin and showed similar  
307 contributions from this sector (wind occurrences) for all seasons. Nevertheless, the NWR plot  
308 (section E of the SI, Figure S5a) for sulfate shows a strong contribution from local sources,  
309 highlighting the industrial sector, and a minor one from the marine sector, which could be the  
310 result of ship emissions. This pattern is even more pronounced for its precursor SO<sub>2</sub> (Figure  
311 S5b) whose high concentrations are clearly pointing at the industrial area. For the other  
312 species, PM<sub>1</sub> measured during both summers 2013 and 2014 exhibit similar chemical  
313 compositions due to similar wind patterns, which in turn likely imply the impact of similar  
314 sources on the measurement site. However, the relative contribution of NO<sub>3</sub> is higher during  
315 cold seasons (autumn, winter and spring) compared to the two warmer summers (Table 1).  
316 Especially in spring 2014, NO<sub>3</sub> exhibits the highest average concentration (4 µg m<sup>-3</sup>) and  
317 contribution (33%) when NH<sub>3</sub> emissions – required for the formation of ammonium nitrate –  
318 start to peak in North-Western Europe due to fertilizer spreading. Besides, whereas 96% of  
319 NH<sub>3</sub> emissions is attributed to the agricultural sector when considering the entire Hauts-de-  
320 France region, it decreases down to 50% in the Dunkirk area, where local emissions from the  
321 “manufacturing industries, waste treatment and construction” account for half according to  
322 the latest available inventory (AtmoHdF 2012). The levels of ammonium and nitrate could  
323 indeed be related to both a local and regional origin through their NWR plots (section E of the  
324 SI, Figure S5c and d). The regional influence was further investigated through Concentration-  
325 Weighted Trajectory (CWT) maps (section E of the SI, Figure S6), and pointed out a  
326 significant contribution from medium- to long-range transport of aged ammonium nitrate  
327 aerosols or their precursors from Central Europe (Germany, Poland, and Austria) (Figure S5).  
328 Organics concentrations and contributions are also higher during cold seasons (autumn and  
329 winter), which seems due to both local and regional sources (Figure S5e) coming from the  
330 industrial-urban sector (55-63% of wind occurrences), such as emissions from urban sources  
331 such as residential heating and traffic, while an additional contribution from industrial  
332 emissions in this direction (storage facility of petrochemical products and food processing  
333 industries) cannot be excluded. BC represents 5 to 9% of PM<sub>1</sub> mass but no clear observation  
334 is found for its seasonal variation.

335 For the sake of comparison with other studies, Figure 5 displays 17 field campaigns  
336 performed worldwide to investigate the composition of ambient aerosols. These studies  
337 employed ACSM instruments in different environments classified as urban (5 sites), suburban  
338 (2 sites), industrial-urban (2 sites) and rural (8 sites). For similar types of sites the studies are  
339 sorted by decreasing NR-PM<sub>1</sub> mass concentrations. The durations of these campaigns are

340 highly variable and range from 3 weeks to 7 years. Campaigns performed on a timescale of  
341 years can provide seasonal and even annual variations of submicron aerosols. The averaged  
342 mass concentration varies from approximately 2-6  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for background sites (Hyttiälä,  
343 Montsec, Look Rock) (Budisulistiorini et al. 2015, Minguillón et al. 2015, Heikkinen et al.  
344 2020) up to 30-50  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for polluted cities (Santiago, Beijing) (Sun et al. 2012, Carbone et  
345 al. 2013). Our study indicates an annual concentration of 9.0  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , which is similar to that  
346 observed for another industrial-urban site in Atlanta (9.5  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) (Budisulistiorini et al.  
347 2015), whose duration was one year.

348 The contribution of each species to NR-PM<sub>1</sub> is shown in the bottom panel of Figure 5.  
349 Organics dominate (> 50%) for most of the sites and the contribution can reach up to 70% as  
350 seen in Atlanta. In our study, organics account for 32% on average, which is within the lowest  
351 contributions observed worldwide and similar to that found at the SIRTA suburban site near  
352 Paris (39%) (Petit et al. 2015). Ammonium exhibits a relatively constant fraction at all  
353 locations, with an average value of approximately 12%. The sulfate component contributes  
354 from 8 to 35% of NR-PM<sub>1</sub>, with higher contributions found for rural sites without (Tibetan  
355 Plateau: 30%; South Africa: 32%) (Tiitta et al. 2014, Du et al. 2015) or with urban influence  
356 (Senegal: 35%) (Rivellini et al. 2017). Interestingly, industrial sites do not exhibit the highest  
357 levels of sulfate, whose contribution to the chemical composition does not seem to depend on  
358 the nature of the site. Nitrate varies from 6% to 28%, with the highest values observed for  
359 Paris (28%) (Petit et al. 2015), Dunkirk (26%) (this work) and Beijing (25%) (Sun et al.  
360 2012). Higher levels of NO<sub>x</sub> (NO and NO<sub>2</sub>) in urban areas are likely the cause for higher  
361 nitrate levels in PM<sub>1</sub> since NO<sub>x</sub> are oxidized to nitric acid in the atmosphere, which in turn  
362 forms secondary nitrate particles (Matsumoto and Tanaka 1996). Chloride is always a minor  
363 fraction and represents less than 3% at all sites.

364 Figure 6 shows PM<sub>1</sub> mass concentrations and chemical compositions averaged over the entire  
365 campaign for the four wind sectors defined above (marine, urban, industrial and industrial-  
366 urban). The average concentration for all sectors is  $9.4 \pm 9.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  with significantly higher  
367 concentrations for the industrial ( $11.7 \pm 8.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and urban ( $15.6 \pm 9.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) sectors, and  
368 a lower concentration for the marine sector ( $8.0 \pm 8.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ). The organic fraction  
369 contributes from 28% up to 38% of the PM<sub>1</sub>, with the exception of the industrial sector for  
370 which the aerosol composition is enriched in sulfate (only 14% organics). As mentioned  
371 before, a higher organic fraction for the industrial-urban sector could be due to a storage  
372 facility of petrochemical products or food processing industries in this area. For inorganic  
373 species, the ammonium contribution is similar between all sectors ( $\approx 14\%$ ) and non-refractory

374 chloride (therefore non-marine) represents less than 1% of the mass concentration. For  
375 chloride, the small but significantly higher contribution from the industrial sector reflects the  
376 presence of sources already identified in other campaigns in this area or similar ones (Hleis et  
377 al. 2013, Taiwo et al. 2014, Crenn et al. 2017, Setyan et al. 2019), e.g. the formation of KCl in  
378 the steelwork sintering process. Nitrate and sulfate contributions are more variable between  
379 the different sectors, with contributions ranging from 8-35% for NO<sub>3</sub> and 13-58% for SO<sub>4</sub>.  
380 The urban and industrial sectors stand out by exhibiting the highest contributions for nitrate  
381 (about 35%) and sulfates (about 58%), respectively. As mentioned previously, these higher  
382 contributions may be due to higher NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the urban and industrial sectors,  
383 respectively. BC contributes about 5% for the marine and industrial sectors, while it reaches 8  
384 to 9% for the urban and industrial-urban sectors where traffic and wood burning may be  
385 significant sources.

386

### 387 **3.3 Aerosol ion balance**

388 To investigate the ion balance of the sampled aerosols, a predicted concentration of NH<sub>4</sub> was  
389 calculated from the sum of chloride, nitrate and sulfate ion concentrations using Eq. (2).  
390 These ions are assumed to be bound to ammonium in a neutral aerosol to form NH<sub>4</sub>Cl,  
391 NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> and (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, respectively. The calculated value (NH<sub>4,predicted</sub>) is then compared to  
392 the measured NH<sub>4</sub> concentration. If the two values are similar, the particles are fully  
393 neutralized. Although an ion balance cannot be used as a direct measurement of pH in  
394 aerosols, it can still be used to distinguish qualitatively between an “acidic” (negative balance;  
395 below the 1:1 line) and an “alkaline” (positive balance; above the 1:1 line) aerosol (Zhang et  
396 al. 2007, Guo et al. 2015).

397 Particles are considered “more acidic” if the measured concentration is lower than the  
398 predicted value, since the imbalance indicates that acidic compounds such as H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub> or  
399 HCl are likely present in the aerosol. Note that as Cl being a minor fraction (<1%) of NR-  
400 PM<sub>1</sub>, the contribution of HCl to the aerosol ion balance – if present – is negligible.

401 Figure 7 displays the correlation between measured and predicted NH<sub>4</sub> with a color coding  
402 based on SO<sub>4</sub> concentrations. All SO<sub>4</sub> concentrations higher than 25 μg m<sup>-3</sup> are included in the  
403 red color. When the symbols are scattered around the 1:1 line, the measured and predicted  
404 concentrations are in good agreement, indicating that particulate ammonium is fully  
405 neutralized. When the symbols are significantly below the 1:1 line, there is an overestimation  
406 of the predicted concentrations. As mentioned above, this overestimation may be due to either

407 a lack of ammonium (thus of  $\text{NH}_3$ ) or the presence of acidic species in the particles, which  
408 may be characteristic of "fresh" emissions.

409 Aerosols appear not neutralized or "acidic" (below the 1:1 line) with high sulfate  
410 concentrations (Figure 7a) but not with high nitrate concentrations (Figure S7, section F of the  
411 SI). This observation suggests that aerosol ion balance is driven by acidic sulfate compounds.  
412 The same analysis is displayed for the four wind sectors in Figure 7b-e. For the marine and  
413 urban sectors, the aerosols are well neutralized and  $\text{SO}_4$  concentrations are low ( $4\text{-}5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  on  
414 average).  $\text{NH}_4$  is therefore mainly bound to  $\text{NO}_3$ . The industrial sector shows strong  
415 deviations from the 1:1 line, with higher acidity levels correlated to elevated  $\text{SO}_4$   
416 concentrations (Figure 7e), which suggests that acidic aerosols are due to "fresh" industrial  
417 emissions of sulfur compounds. It is interesting to note that the industrial-urban sector shows  
418 a mixed behavior between industrial and urban sectors.

419 In order to investigate the influence of acidity on the NR- $\text{PM}_1$  composition, the measured-to-  
420 predicted  $\text{NH}_4$  ratio was plotted as box plots for the entire campaign and the four sectors in  
421 Figure 8a. The aerosol composition for acidic and non-acidic particles is displayed in Figure  
422 8b. Figure 8a clearly shows that the industrial sector exhibits the lowest  $\text{NH}_{4,\text{measured-to-}}$   
423  $\text{NH}_{4,\text{predicted}}$  ratio (0.64 on average), corresponding to the most acidic particles (ratio threshold  
424 of 0.75). This ratio can be seen as a rough indicator of an equal number of moles of  
425  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{HSO}_4$  (Zhang et al. 2005). The neutralized particles were defined for a  
426 ratio ranging from the mean value of 0.85 to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile (1.07). The "most acidic" and  
427 "neutralized" periods account for 22% and 41% of the total sampling time, respectively. The  
428 rest of the observations falls into a mildly acidic regime and are not analyzed separately.  
429 Figure 8b displays the average composition of "neutralized" and "most acidic" particles,  
430 respectively. Compared to those considered as neutralized, the "most acidic" particles  
431 represent only half the mass. However, they contain more  $\text{SO}_4$  (58% compared to 17%),  
432 which is consistent with the above discussion. The acidic particles contain less nitrate (7%  
433 compared to 34%), probably due to the displacement of  $\text{HNO}_3$  by  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  in the competition  
434 for  $\text{NH}_3$  (West et al. 1999).

435

### 436 **3.4 $\text{SO}_2$ -to- $\text{SO}_4$ conversion**

437 In the absence of direct measurements of industrial emissions, it is likely that some of the  
438 particulate sulfate is directly produced during industrial processes, in particular as by-products  
439 of the coke oven used to feed the three blast furnaces of the main steelworks in the area.  
440 Furthermore,  $\text{NH}_4\text{HSO}_4$  could be formed at the exit of the chimneys through the direct



441 reaction of  $\text{SO}_3$  with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{NH}_3$  in the presence of additional molecules (Chen et al. 2018).  
442 Then  $\text{NH}_4\text{HSO}_4$  can quickly react with  $\text{NH}_3$  and form ammonium sulfate. However, a rapid  
443 conversion of gaseous  $\text{SO}_2$  into particulate sulfate could also contribute to the large sulfate  
444 concentrations observed at the measurement site when the wind originates from the industrial  
445 sector. The conversion can take place both in the gas phase (Stockwell and Calvert 1983,  
446 Atkinson and Lloyd 1984) through an oxidation of  $\text{SO}_2$  initiated by OH radicals, and in the  
447 aqueous phase through reactions involving  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{O}_3$  (Jacob and Hoffmann 1983,  
448 Schwartz 1987). The sulfuric acid thus generated has a strong ability to nucleate in the  
449 presence of water molecules and to form new particles by condensation of other low volatility  
450 species (Kulmala et al. 2000, Weber et al. 2001). However, the oxidation of  $\text{SO}_2$  in aqueous  
451 phase is faster than in the gas-phase (Khoder 2002). Eatough et al. (1994) found that the gas-  
452 phase oxidation rate can vary from <1% to 10% of ambient  $\text{SO}_2$  per hour at high temperature  
453 and relative humidity. Meanwhile, in the aqueous-phase the rate can reach 100% of  $\text{SO}_2$   
454 converted in less than an hour under optimum conditions (Eatough et al. 1994). Other  
455 pathways such as the heterogeneous oxidation of S(IV) catalyzed by Fe(III) or Mn(II) (Jacob  
456 and Hoffmann 1983) can occur, especially in this area where heavy metals have been  
457 evidenced as important tracers of industrial emissions (Alleman et al. 2010, Setyan et al.  
458 2019): When sulfuric acid is formed within or transferred to the aerosol, it reacts easily with  
459 gaseous ammonia to form ammonium sulfate at the particle surface (Matsumoto and Tanaka  
460 1996).

461 The observation of industrial plumes arriving at our ground sampling site requires that two  
462 simultaneous conditions are met: (i) wind blowing from the southwest (industrial direction);  
463 (ii) unstable atmospheric conditions favoring the dispersion of the plume. The Non-parametric  
464 Wind Regression (NWR) plots of gaseous  $\text{SO}_2$  and particulate  $\text{SO}_4$  (Figure S6, a and b)  
465 confirm that high concentrations observed at the receptor site are mainly originating from the  
466 industrial sector ( $226^\circ$ -  $270^\circ$ ). Similar results were observed by a recent study near steel  
467 plants in China, which showed important increases in sulfate, ammonium, CO and  $\text{SO}_2$  when  
468 industrial plumes reached the sampling site (Lei et al. 2020).

469 To assess whether the conversion of  $\text{SO}_2$  into  $\text{SO}_4$  was of importance during this study, the  
470 influence of several microphysical and meteorological parameters on  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{SO}_4$  and the  
471 particulate sulfur fraction has been investigated. These parameters included atmospheric  
472 vertical turbulences via the standard deviation  $\sigma_w$  of vertical wind speed  $w$ , horizontal wind  
473 speed, relative humidity and temperature.

474 We defined the particulate sulfur fraction as the ratio of particulate sulfur to total sulfur  
475 ( $S_p/S_{tot}$ ), which is calculated as:

$$476 \quad \frac{S_p}{S_{tot}} = \frac{[SO_4] \times \frac{32}{96}}{[SO_2] \times \frac{32}{64} + [SO_4] \times \frac{32}{96}} \quad (4)$$

477  $S_p/S_{tot}$  only takes into account the sulfur content and is not influenced by the oxygen content.

478 Two key parameters (RH and vertical turbulence) were found to significantly influence the  
479 gas-particle partitioning of sulfur as shown in Figure 9 (left and right, respectively).  $SO_2$  and  
480  $SO_4$  concentrations, as well as  $S_p/S_{tot}$  ratios, shown in this figure are only considered within  
481 the industrial sector to focus on the  $SO_2$ -to- $SO_4$  conversion that occurs on a short timescale  
482 (4-30 min) during the transport of fresh industrial emissions of sulfur compounds to the  
483 sampling site. This data was binned accordingly to the descriptive parameter (RH,  $\sigma_w$ ) with  
484 the number of observations for each bin shown at the top of the first panel.

485 Figure 9a shows that  $SO_2$  increases linearly with relative humidity until 70-80%. This  
486 concomitant increase in RH and  $SO_2$  could be due to industrial plumes passing over the  
487 measurement site since these plumes are likely emitted with large concentrations of both  
488 water and  $SO_2$ . Interestingly, the  $SO_2$  concentration starts decreasing when RH is higher than  
489 80%, but an opposite trend is observed for  $SO_4$  (Figure 9b). Indeed,  $SO_4$  also increases with  
490 RH until 80% but does not decrease for higher humidity levels. This behavior could be related  
491 to a higher rate of  $SO_2$  conversion at high humidity. In Figure 9c, the  $S_p/S_{tot}$  ratio clearly  
492 shows that the particulate sulfur fraction is almost constant (approximately 0.1 with a low  
493 level of dispersion in the values) for low RH conditions (RH < 70%). However, the sulfur  
494 content is shifted from the gaseous to the particulate phase when RH is higher than 70-80%  
495 ( $S_p/S_{tot}$  increases to 0.3 at 90-100% RH). This is likely due to the gas-particle conversion that  
496 is favored under high RH conditions when the fast aqueous phase oxidation dominates. Sun et  
497 al. reported a similar impact of RH on sulfate aerosols in Beijing for the winter season (Sun et  
498 al. 2013). The authors showed that the average  $SO_4$ -to-total sulfur ratio is less than 0.05 at low  
499 RH (< 40%), indicating a very low sulfur oxidation ratio. This ratio quickly increases and  
500 reaches 0.23 at high RH (80-90%). Recently, Zhao et al. studied the conversion of  $SO_2$  into  
501 sulfates on soot surfaces and found that water promotes sulfate formation for RH ranging  
502 from 6%–70%, while RH > 80% inhibits it (Zhao et al. 2017). This trend was not observed  
503 here because BC is only a minor contributor (~7%) of  $PM_{10}$ .

504 The atmospheric vertical turbulence can be characterized by the standard deviation  $\sigma_w$  of the  
505 vertical wind speed  $w$ . This metric represents the fluctuation of vertical wind speed in units of  
506  $m s^{-1}$  and quantifies the vertical mixing of air masses within the surface layer. Trends in  $SO_2$ ,

507 SO<sub>4</sub> and S<sub>p</sub>/S<sub>tot</sub> on this parameter are shown in Figure 9 (right). For both SO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>4</sub>, higher  
508  $\sigma_w$  values lead to higher concentrations (Figure 9a-b). As previously discussed, this can be  
509 explained by elevated emission sources such as plumes from industrial chimneys, which can  
510 reach the ground surface after dispersion only with strong enough vertical mixing. This  
511 behavior had already been observed for some VOCs at the same site (Xiang et al. 2012). In  
512 contrast, S<sub>p</sub>/S<sub>tot</sub> decreases with  $\sigma_w$  (Figure 9c), which suggests that the SO<sub>2</sub>-to-SO<sub>4</sub> conversion  
513 is less favored under highly turbulent conditions.

514 To better understand the multi-influence of humidity and vertical turbulence ( $\sigma_w$ ) on the  
515 conversion process, the examination of the RH dependence of the S<sub>p</sub>/S<sub>tot</sub> ratio was carried out  
516 using four bins of  $\sigma_w$  (0-0.5, 0.5-1, 1-1.5 and  $\geq 1.5$  m s<sup>-1</sup>) (Figure S7). This shows that the  
517 S<sub>p</sub>/S<sub>tot</sub> ratio increases significantly with RH for each  $\sigma_w$  bin, except for the last one ( $\sigma_w \geq 1.5$   
518 m s<sup>-1</sup>) where the change is unclear. Interestingly, higher conversion ratios seem to be observed  
519 for low values of  $\sigma_w$ , which may be due to lower wind speed values, and as a consequence,  
520 longer conversion times between the emission source and the measurement site. These results  
521 indicate that high RH (> 70%) and relatively low  $\sigma_w$  values (< 1 m s<sup>-1</sup>) are the best conditions  
522 for an efficient SO<sub>2</sub>-to-SO<sub>4</sub> conversion at this site.

523

#### 524 **4 Conclusions**

525 The first long-term and near real-time measurements of the chemical composition of  
526 submicron aerosols at an urban background and coastal site impacted by industrial emissions  
527 showed a unique chemical signature compared to previous datasets existing in the literature.  
528 The aerosol evolution and processing are tightly linked with meteorology and even  
529 micrometeorology due to the complex dynamics of coastal areas, and the industrial emissions  
530 at various stack heights. The complete dataset has been analyzed according to the season and  
531 four different wind sectors. The aerosol ion balance based on measured and predicted NH<sub>4</sub>  
532 suggests that the majority of the particles are neutralized in the marine and urban sectors,  
533 whereas in the industrial sector, “more acidic” particles generally contain significantly higher  
534 concentrations of sulfate (~60%). Gas-phase SO<sub>2</sub> is strongly emitted in the nearby industrial  
535 area and quickly processed to form secondary SO<sub>4</sub> particles on a timescale shorter than 30  
536 min. Both SO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>4</sub> were mostly emitted by chimneys and therefore influenced by  
537 atmospheric vertical mixing. High RH (>70%) and relatively low  $\sigma_w$  values (< 1 m s<sup>-1</sup>)  
538 provided the best conditions for an efficient SO<sub>2</sub>-to-SO<sub>4</sub> conversion rate.

539

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552

## 553 **References**

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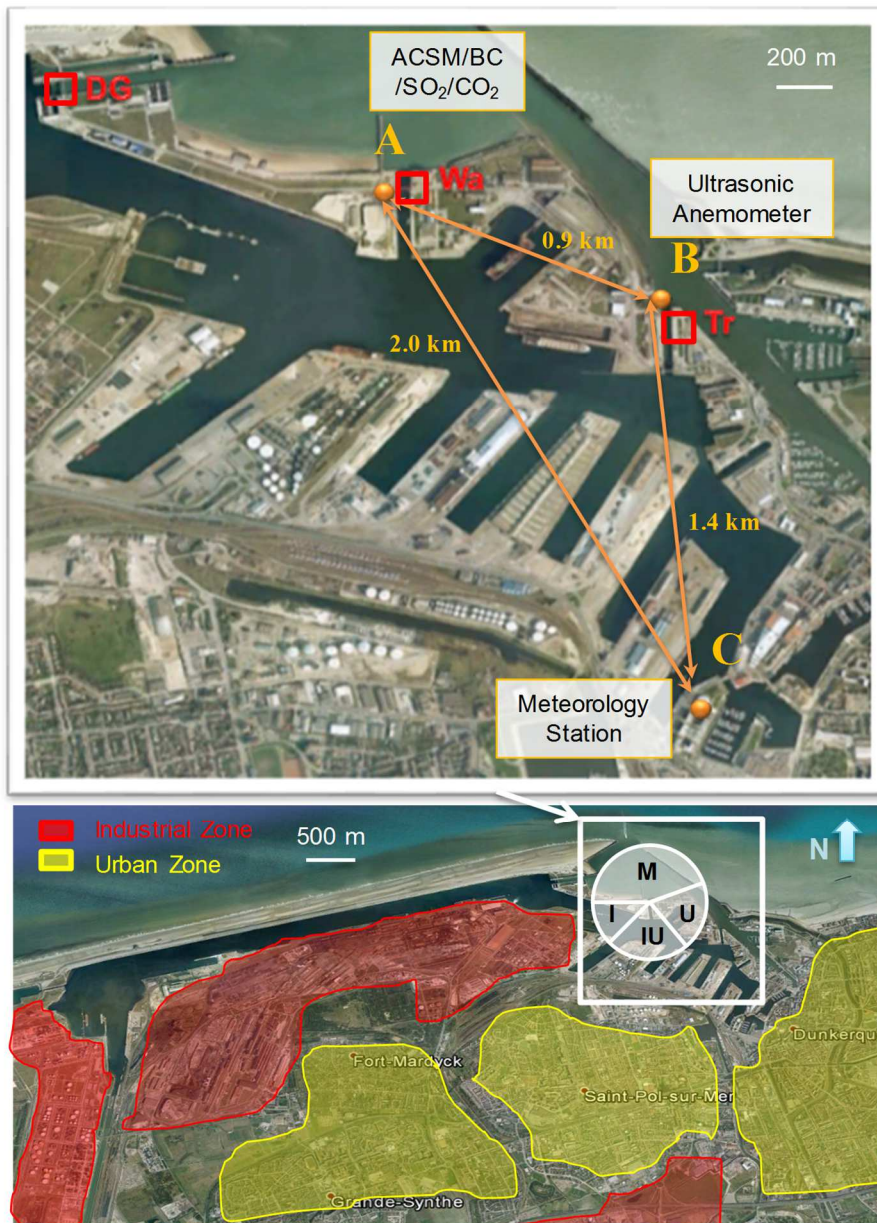
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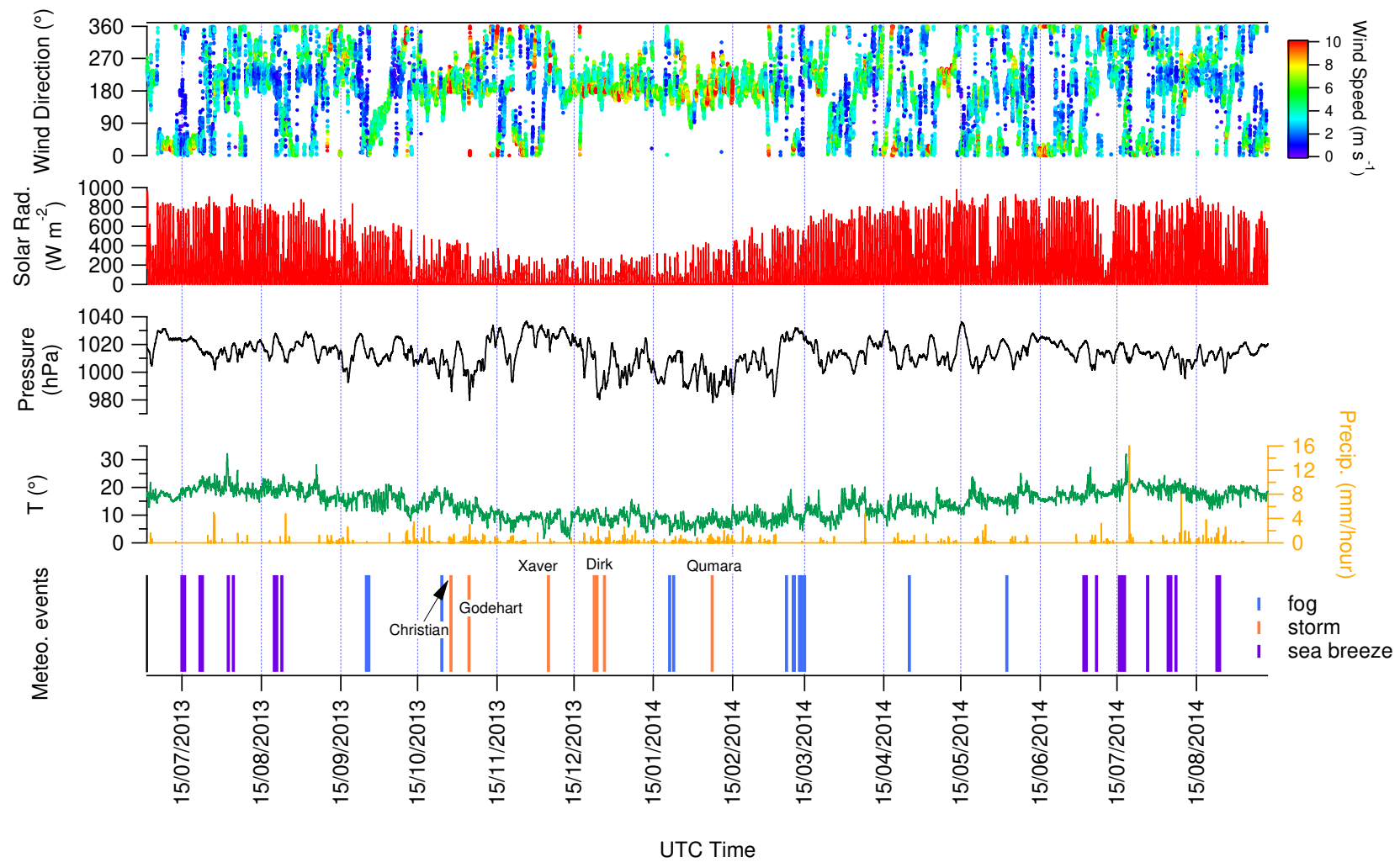
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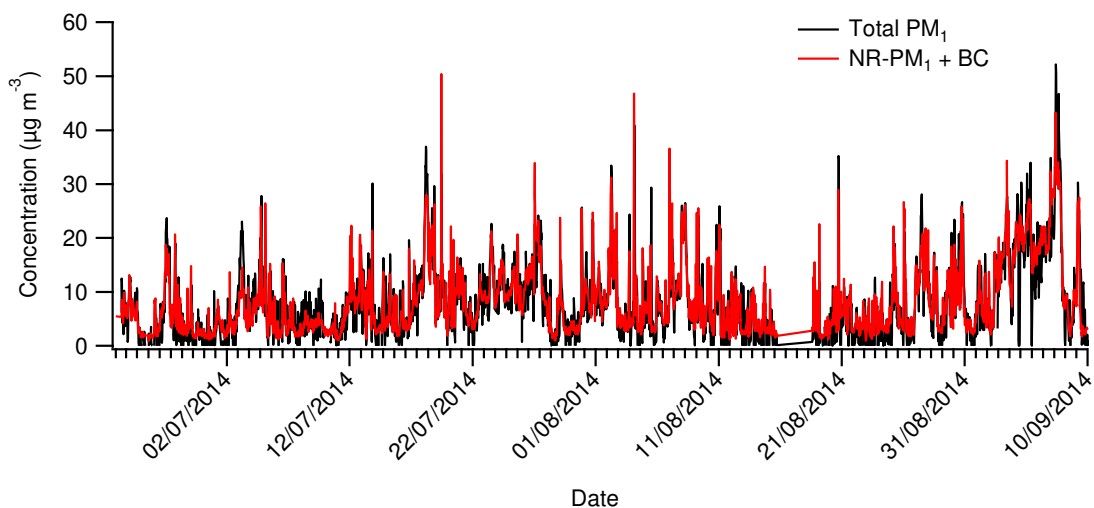


861  
 862 Figure 1. (Bottom) Maps of the urban-industrial area of Dunkirk (M: marine, U: urban, IU:  
 863 industrial-urban, I: industrial wind sectors); Top Locations of the measurements: (A) Port-Est:  
 864 ACSM and other chemical measurements; (B) Ultrasonic anemometer; (C) Meteorology  
 865 station. Locks indicated in red (DG: De Gaulle; Wa: Watier; Tr: Trystram) (adapted from  
 866 Google Maps)

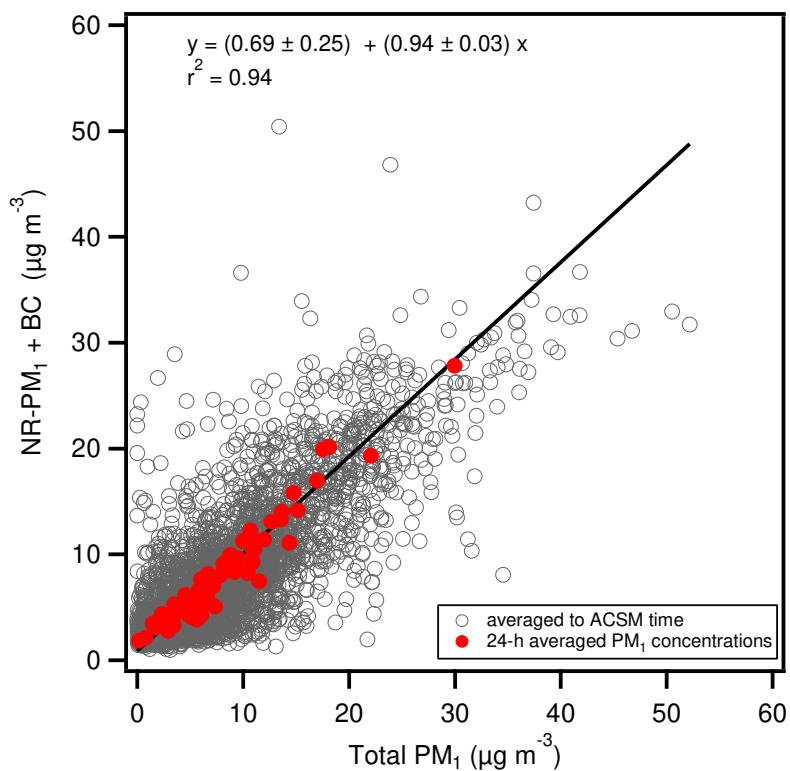


867

868 Figure 2. From top to bottom: wind direction colored by wind speed, solar radiation, pressure, temperature and precipitation, and identified  
 869 meteorological events (fog, storm and sea breeze).

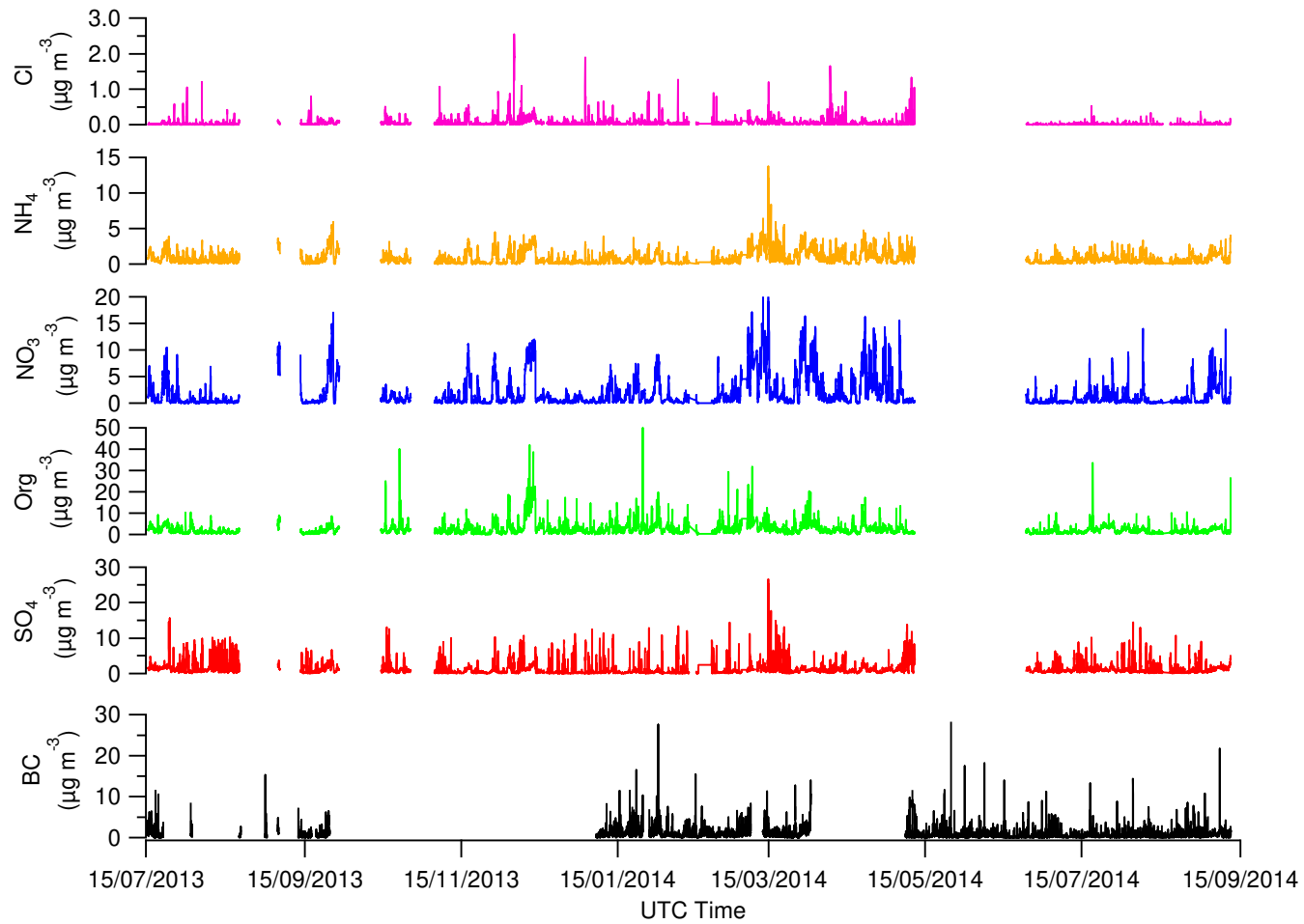


870 (a)



871 (b)

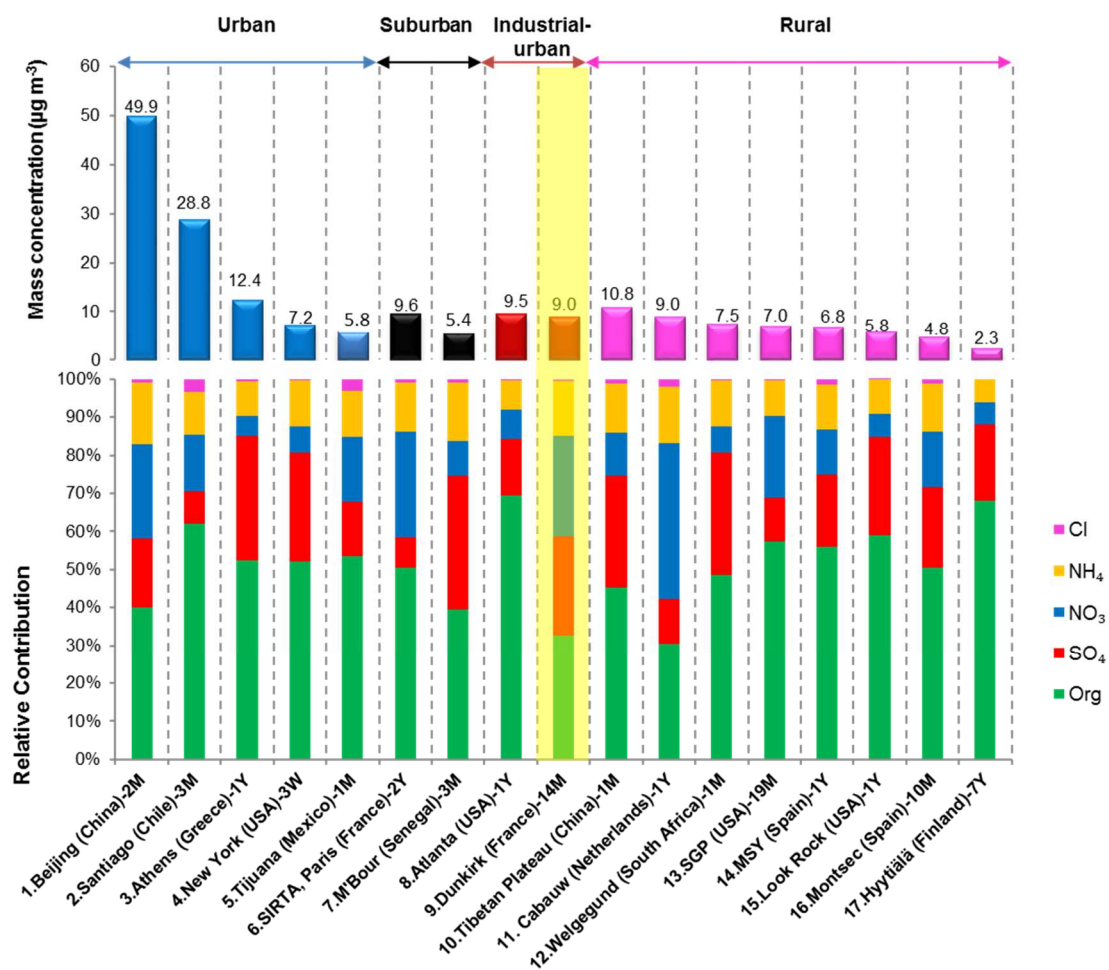
872 Figure 3. (a) Time series of NR-PM<sub>1</sub>+BC measured by ACSM+aethalometer vs. Total PM<sub>1</sub>  
 873 measured by TEOM-FDMS; (b) Scatter plot of PM<sub>1</sub> concentrations (NR-PM<sub>1</sub>+BC vs. Total  
 874 PM<sub>1</sub>): averaged to ACSM time (grey) and 24-h averaged concentration (red). Linear fit  
 875 performed on 24-h averaged values.



876

877 Figure 4. Time series of the chemical composition of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> measured by ACSM (Cl, SO<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, and Org), and Black carbon measured

878 by aethalometer.

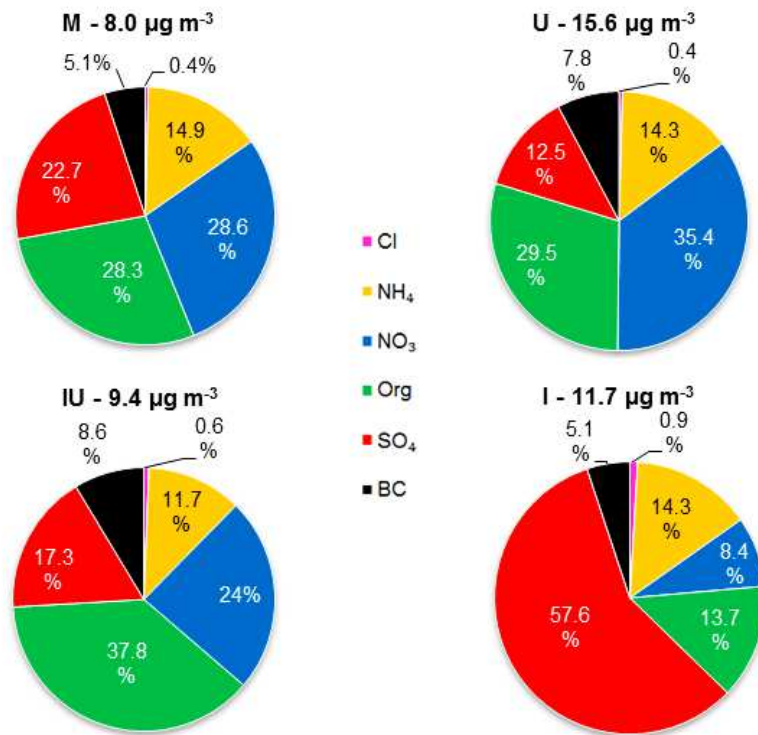


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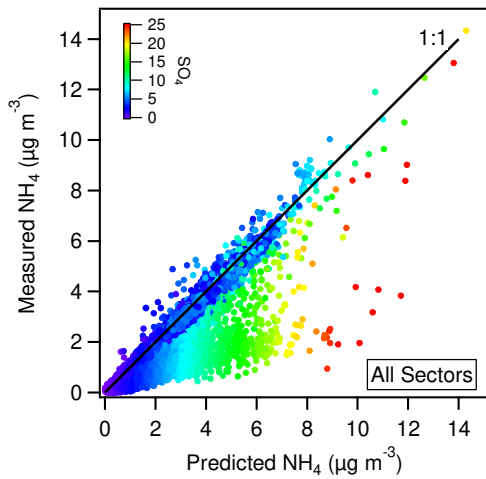
880 Figure 5. Comparison of averaged concentrations and chemical compositions of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> for  
 881 this study and other ACSM field campaigns. Details on the location and duration of each  
 882 campaign are given on the horizontal axis (M: months; W: weeks; Y: year). SGP: Southern  
 883 Great Plains, MSY: Montseny.

884 1. Beijing (China) (Sun et al. 2012); 2. Santiago (Chile) (Carbone et al. 2013); 3. Athens (Greece) (Stavroulas et  
 885 al. 2019); 4. New York (USA) (Ng et al. 2011); 5. Tijuana (Mexico) (Takahama et al. 2013); 6. SIRT, Paris  
 886 (France) (Petit et al. 2015); 7. M'Bour (Senegal) (Rivellini et al. 2017); 8. & 15. Atlanta (USA) and Look Rock  
 887 (USA) (Budisulistiorini et al. 2015); 9. This study; 10. Tibetan Plateau (China) (Du et al. 2015); 11. Cabauw  
 888 (Netherlands) (Schlag et al. 2015); 12. Welgegund (South Africa) (Tiitta et al. 2014); 13. SGP (USA) (Parworth et  
 889 al. 2015); 14. SMY (Spain) (Minguillón et al. 2015); 16. Montsec (Spain) (Ripoll et al. 2015). 17. Hyytiälä  
 890 (Finland) (Heikkinen et al. 2020)

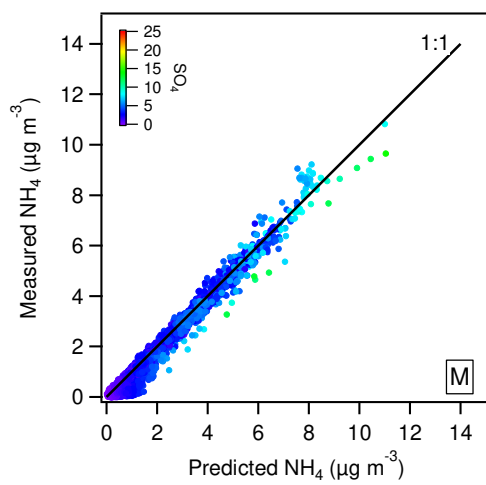




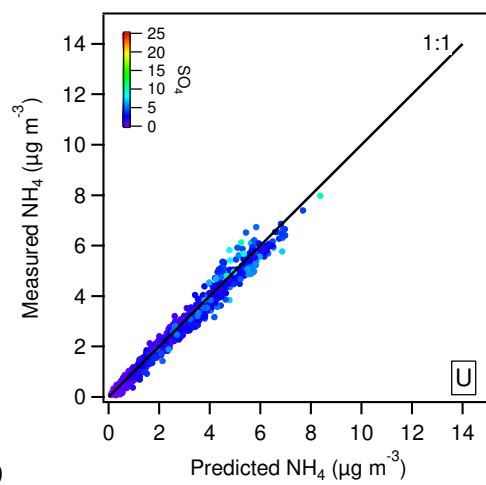
891 Figure 6. Chemical speciation of PM<sub>1</sub> for the four wind sectors (M: marine, U: urban, IU:  
 892 industrial-urban, I: industrial).



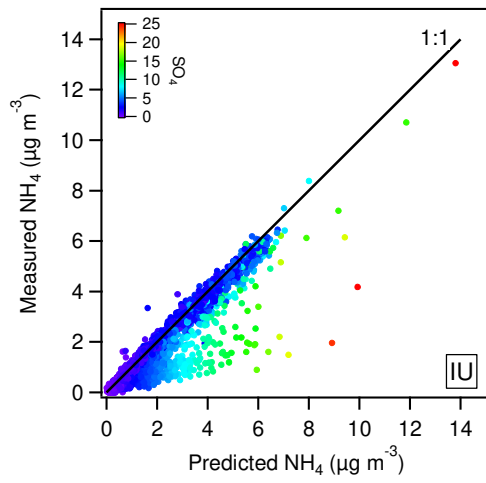
893 (a)



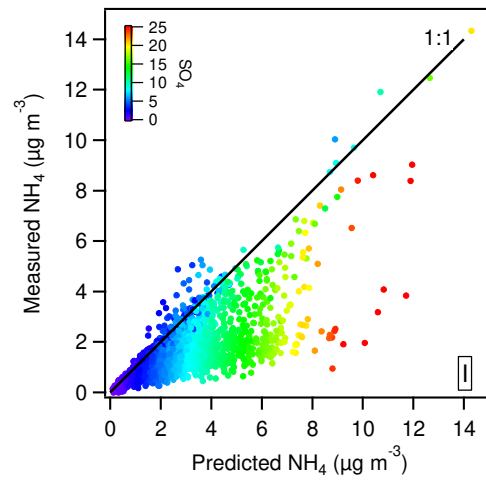
894 (b)



(c)

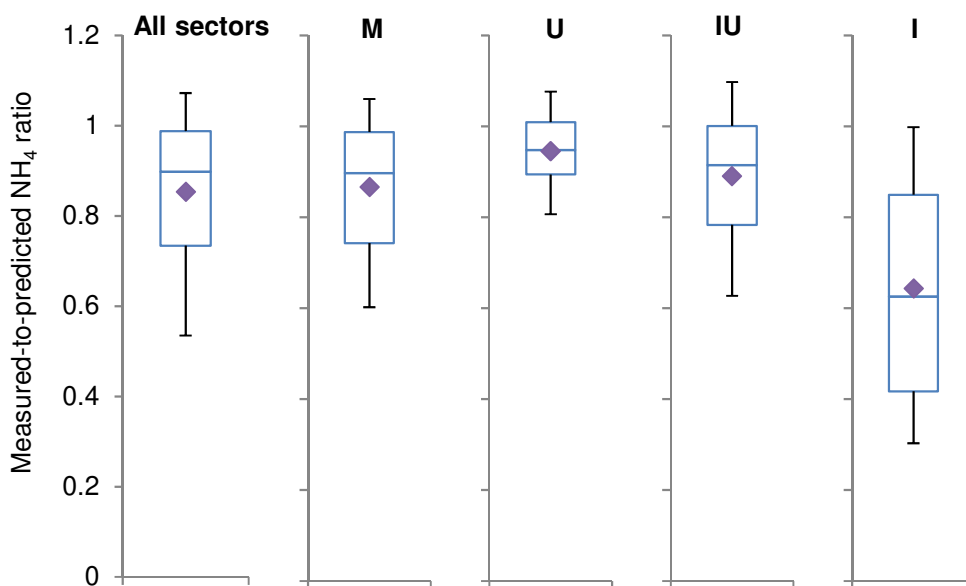


895 (d)

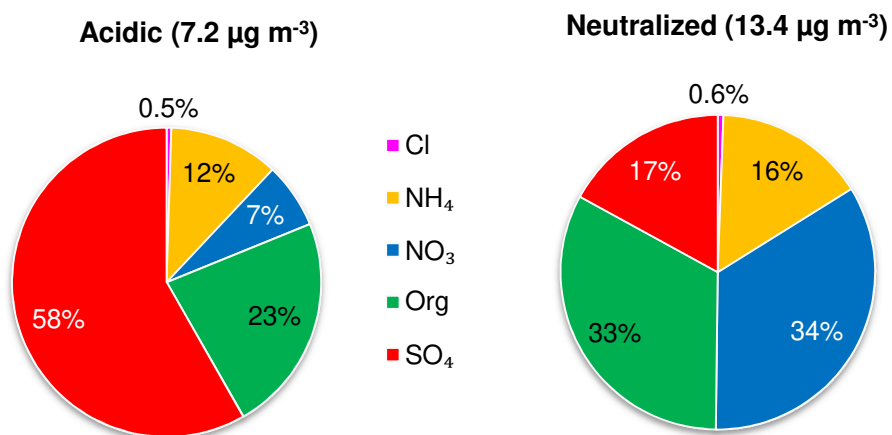


(e)

896 Figure 7. Correlation between measured and predicted  $\text{NH}_4$  color coded by the sulfate  
 897 concentration ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) (a) for the entire study and (b) – (e) for marine (M), urban (U),  
 898 industrial-urban (IU) and industrial (I) wind sectors, respectively. The black line represents  
 899 the 1:1 line.

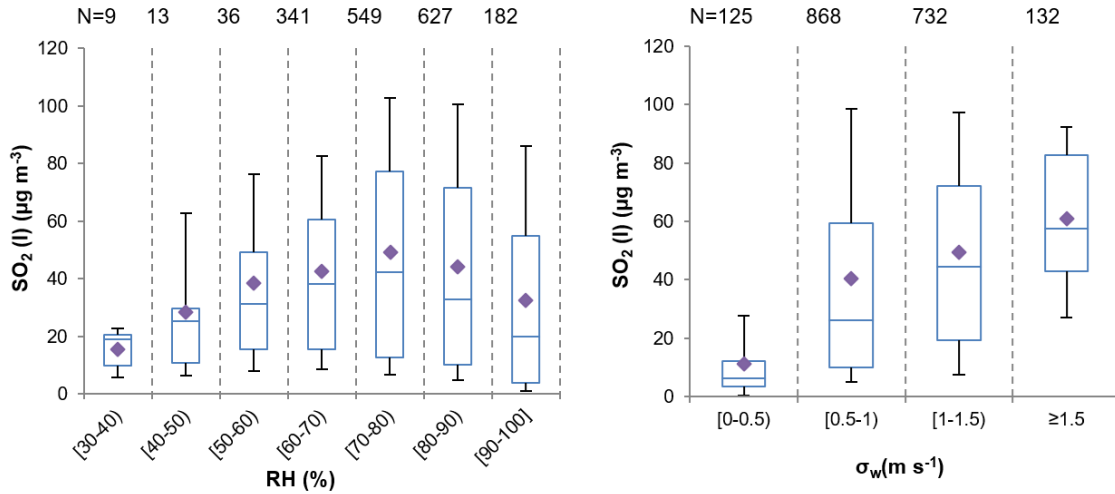


900 (a)

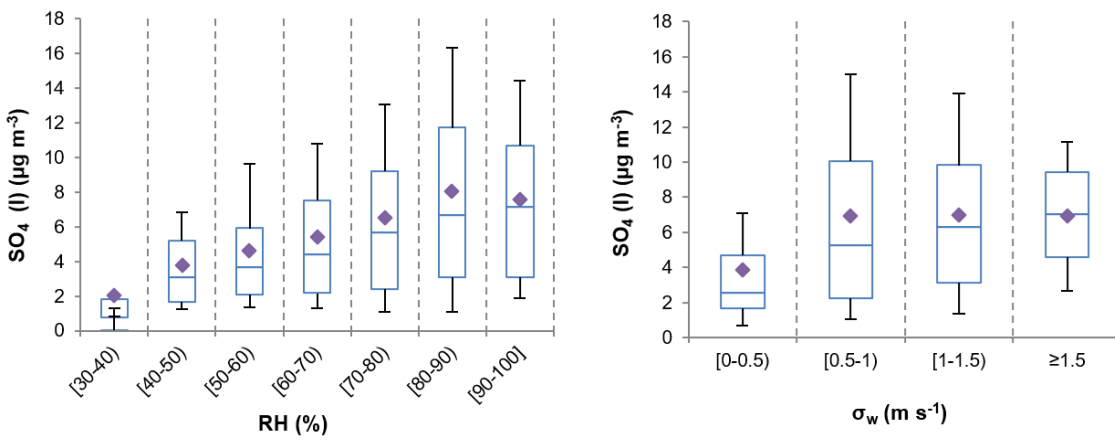


901 (b)

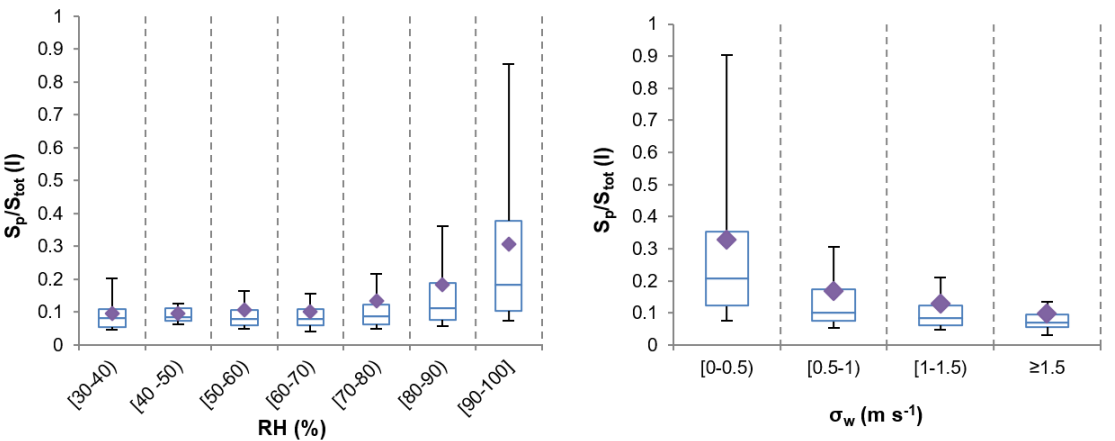
902 Figure 8. (a) Box plots of the measured-to-predicted  $\text{NH}_4$  ratio for the entire study and the  
 903 four wind sectors. The data correspond to the mean (diamond), median (horizontal line), 25<sup>th</sup>  
 904 and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles (lower and upper boxes), and 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles (lower and upper  
 905 whiskers). (b) Chemical speciation of NR- $\text{PM}_{10}$  species for (left) acidic particles (measured-to-  
 906 predicted ratio less than 0.75) and (right) neutralized particles (ratio between 0.85 – mean  
 907 value – and 1.07 – 90<sup>th</sup> percentile).



908 (a)



909 (b)



910 (c)

911 Figure 9. Dependences on relative humidity (left) and  $\sigma_w$  (right) of (a)  $\text{SO}_2$ , (b)  $\text{SO}_4$  and (c)  
 912 the particulate-to-total sulfur ratio within the industrial (I) wind sector. The data correspond to  
 913 the mean (diamond), median (horizontal line), 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles (lower and upper  
 914 boxes), and 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles (lower and upper whiskers).

