



Single-particle  
characterization of  
High Arctic aerosol

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# Single-particle characterization of the High Arctic summertime aerosol

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Received: 15 December 2013 – Accepted: 17 December 2013 – Published: 9 January 2014

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Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

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## Abstract

Single-particle mass spectrometric measurements were carried out in the High Arctic north of 80° during summer 2008. The campaign took place onboard the icebreaker *Oden* and was part of the Arctic Summer Cloud Ocean Study (ASCOS). The instrument deployed was an Aerosol Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (ATOFMS) that provides information on the chemical composition of individual particles and their mixing state in real-time. Aerosols were sampled in the marine boundary layer at stations in the open ocean, in the marginal ice zone, and in the pack ice region. The largest fraction of particles detected for subsequent analysis in the size range of the ATOFMS between approximately 200 nm to 3000 nm in diameter showed mass spectrometric patterns indicating an internal mixing state and a biomass burning and/or biofuel source. The majority of these particles were connected to an air mass layer of elevated particle concentration mixed into the surface mixed layer from the upper part of the marine boundary layer. The second largest fraction was represented by sea salt particles. The chemical analysis of the over-ice sea salt aerosol revealed tracer compounds that reflect chemical aging of the particles during their long-range advection from the marginal ice zone, or open waters south thereof prior to detection at the ship. From our findings we conclude that long-range transport of particles is one source of aerosols in the High Arctic. To assess the importance of long-range particle sources for aerosol–cloud interactions over the inner Arctic in comparison to local and regional biogenic primary aerosol sources, the chemical composition of the detected particles was analyzed for indicators of marine biological origin. Only a minor fraction showed chemical signatures of potentially ocean-derived primary particles of that kind. However, a chemical bias in the ATOFMS’s detection capabilities observed during ASCOS might suggest a presence of a particle type of unknown composition and source. In general, the study suffered from low counting statistics due to the overall small number of particles found in this pristine environment, the small sizes of the prevailing aerosol below the detection limit of the ATOFMS and its low hit rate. To our knowledge, this study reports on the

ACPD

14, 593–649, 2014

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first in-situ single-particle mass spectrometric measurements in the marine boundary layer of the High-Arctic pack-ice region.

## 1 Introduction

The Arctic pack ice region is undergoing dramatic changes due to global warming (e.g., IPCC, 2007; Jeffries and Richter-Menge, 2012). These changes not only affect the extent and thickness of the Arctic sea ice (Lindsay et al., 2009), but also the influence of physical and chemical processes of the aerosols on the regional climate (e.g., Curry et al., 2000; Prenni et al., 2007). Herein, radiative effects of aerosol particles and aerosol–cloud interactions play a substantial role: aerosols interact with solar radiation directly by scattering or absorbing sunlight. Also, certain aerosols have the ability to serve as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) and/or ice nuclei (IN), i.e. they activate to water droplets and/or ice crystals to form clouds. This process determines the microphysical structure and lifetime of clouds with possible consequences for the planetary albedo and the surface energy budget and thus for the melting and freezing of the perennial sea ice (Intrieri et al., 2002; Sedlar et al., 2011; Tjernström et al., 2005). Both, the radiative effects of aerosols and their role in cloud forming processes depend on the number, size, chemical properties, and mixing state of the particles. The latter parameters are determined by the source of the particles and atmospheric gas-phase and aerosol dynamical processes acting on the particles during their atmospheric lifetime. As a consequence, a better understanding of Arctic climate change involves, among others, the characterization of the Arctic aerosol. This includes measuring the particles' physico-chemical properties in-situ, and to elucidate their atmospheric history, i.e. to assign particle sources and to understand the processes shaping the aerosols during their residence time in the atmosphere.

Information on the chemical composition and sources of the aerosol in subarctic regions are plentiful; information on the chemical composition and sources of the High Arctic (> 80° N) aerosol over the pack ice area is, however, scarce. In the past, atten-

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tion has mainly been directed towards the investigation of aerosols playing their role in the phenomenon called “Arctic haze”: During winter and early spring, high concentrations of sulfate and black carbon (BC) containing particles from continental, anthropogenic sources are transported into the central Arctic leading to a substantial decrease in visibility and enhanced air pollution (Heintzenberg, 1980). During these periods, air masses from continental source regions located at lower latitudes influence the central Arctic which mainly explains the high atmospheric burden of anthropogenic aerosols in this remote area (Quinn et al., 2007). During summer, the central arctic region, however, is largely isolated from long-range transported air from lower latitudes (Stohl, 2006; Law and Stohl, 2007; Heintzenberg and Leck, 2004) causing local aerosol sources to become important.

A large portion of our knowledge of the in-situ measured properties of the summertime High-Arctic aerosol north of  $80^\circ$  stem from three research expeditions all carried out on the icebreaker *Oden* in 1991, 1996, 2001 (Leck et al., 1996, 2001, 2004; Tjernström et al., 2004), and from the most recent in 2008: Arctic Summer Cloud Ocean Study (ASCOS; Tjernström et al., 2013). The latter being in focus for this publication. The overriding aim of these expeditions was to improve our understanding of low-level stratiform cloud formation and evolution in summer over the High-Arctic pack ice area north of  $80^\circ$ , in order to clarify processes between the surface, cloud layers and free troposphere. In these studies, particle nucleation (e.g., Covert et al., 1996; Wiedensohler et al., 1996; Leck and Bigg, 1999; Karl et al., 2013), large-scale advection of aerosols from lower latitudes into the inner part of the pack ice area (e.g., Bigg, 1996; Heintzenberg and Leck, 2004; Shupe et al., 2013) and particles ejected from the open leads due to bubble bursting (e.g., Leck and Bigg, 2005a) have been identified to contribute to the atmospheric burden of particles during summertime. The high Arctic open leads can be described as ever-changing open water channels comprising 10–30 % of the ice pack ice area, ranging from a few meters up to a few kilometers in width. From ASCOS, measurements of open lead particle emissions and bubble size spectra within the near-surface waters of open leads were analyzed by Held et al. (2011) and Norris

et al. (2011), respectively, and further discussed in Tjernström et al. (2013). Nevertheless, the source strengths of the primary biogenic particles, their relative abundances and their physical and chemical properties are still unknown. The question if the source of aerosol particles for the omnipresent summer central Arctic low-level clouds (Curry and Ebert, 1992; Tjernström et al., 2005; Shupe et al., 2005, 2011) is local or if aerosols are imported by long-range transport from the free troposphere or by advection in the marine boundary layer from the marginal ice zone (MIZ), or south thereof, is critical for understanding Arctic climate and climate change processes. Since CCN and IN number concentrations in the central Arctic are very low, small changes can substantially alter the clouds and their impacts on the surface, that is, melting or freezing of the ice (Intrieri et al., 2002; Tjernström, 2005; Mauritsen et al., 2011).

In-situ measurements of the bulk chemical composition of the non-refractory, submicron High-Arctic aerosol during ASCOS was carried out by Chang et al. (2011) using an aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS). The particles collected in the marine boundary layer were mainly composed of organics and sulfate. A source-apportionment study based on the AMS data revealed the influence of predominantly marine biogenic and continental sources. A type of purely organic aerosol was detected which source could not be unambiguously identified. The authors suggest these particles originating from primary marine sources or biomass burning and oxidized continental sources. The observed high degree of oxygenation of the organic components was interpreted as an indication for the presence of atmospherically processed aerosol. Directly emitted, primary marine organic particles of similar oxidation state as proposed by Leck and Bigg (2005b), however, could also have explained this observation. The in Leck and Bigg (2005b) described primary organic particles refer to marine polymer gels or marine gels (Verdugo, 2012) produced by phytoplankton and sea ice algae biological secretions and were hypothesized to originate from the sea surface microlayer of the open leads (e.g., Bigg et al., 2004; Leck and Bigg, 2005b, 2010; Bigg and Leck, 2008). Orellana et al. (2011) verified the presence of airborne marine gels in aerosols, fog and cloud water, demonstrating their origin as being injected into the atmosphere by bubble

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bursting. The gels are water insoluble and show thermally stable (Decho, 1990), i.e. refractory properties which cannot be resolved by the AMS. Aerosol mass spectrometers employing a laser desorption ionization technique as the one used in this study, the so-called Aerosol-Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (ATOFMS; Gard et al., 1997), are capable of detecting refractory material; Utilizing an ATOFMS over the eastern Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, and the western Pacific Ocean, Gaston et al. (2011) detected a unique ocean-derived particle type in the marine atmosphere whose mass spectrometric pattern and correlation with sea salt aerosol showed a connection to the marine gels as described in Leck and Bigg (2005b).

Other monitoring or campaign data on the chemical composition of the Arctic aerosol were collected at lower latitudes, different seasons, or in the free troposphere and thus are not directly comparable to the marine boundary layer measurements performed on the icebreaker *Oden* during the summertime expeditions. Kuhn et al. (2010) report on AMS measurements performed during a summer study in 2006 at the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL) located in the Canadian High Arctic (80° N). Long-term measurement of the Arctic's aerosol chemical composition from several research sites (63° N to 82° N) are summarized in Quinn et al. (2007). These studies draw a conclusive picture on the seasonality of sulfate and biomass burning aerosol in the Arctic which is consistent with results from the ARCPAC (Aerosol, Radiation, and Cloud Processes affecting Arctic Climate) project of spring 2008 (Brock et al., 2011). Their findings concerning the influence of continental sources on the Arctic aerosol will be discussed in context with our findings from ASCOS. The listed studies, however, refer to data mainly collected south of 80° N and do not include the characterization of the aerosol sampled in the marine boundary layer over the pack ice area.

Recapitulating the measurements of the chemical composition of High-Arctic aerosol, the need for more in-situ data collected at locations north of 80° is obvious. Herein, we report on the first in-situ single particle mass spectrometric measurements in the marine boundary layer of the central Arctic pack ice region, performed during



the icebreaker was moored to an ice floe and drifted passively. The latter time period from 12 August to 2 September represents the longest sampling period of 22 days in total. A map of the route including the ice drift period is shown in Fig. 1.

## 2.2 Aerosol sampling

5 The largest part of the aerosol instrumentation was in a laboratory container located on the deck of *Oden*. The sample air was drawn in from about 25 m above the sea level into the laboratory container via pipes of a two masted gas and particle sampling manifold that extended at an angle of 45° to about 3 m above the roof of the container. Each mast was equipped with a horizontally oriented commercial PM<sub>1</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> inlet, respectively,  
10 whereas the PM<sub>1</sub> inlet mast also served as fixture for the gas-phase sampling lines. The ATOFMS and most of the other aerosol instrumentation were connected to the PM<sub>10</sub> inlet through the main pipe that had an inner diameter of 9 cm and was pumped with a total flow of approximately 1140 L min<sup>-1</sup>. Inside the container, aerosol samples were collected isokinetically from the main flow using forward pointing inlets located in  
15 the center of the main pipe. The ATOFMS was connected to the main pipe via a 3/8-inch tubing of 230 cm in length and a 6 mm conductive tubing (55 cm in length) that was branched of the steel tube. A Reynolds number of ~ 1700 in the distribution line ensured laminar flow conditions and short residence times of the particles before being analyzed. The ATOFMS sample flow was 0.1 L min<sup>-1</sup>. The RH of the sample flow was  
20 assumed to be less than 30 % based on the residence time of the air inside the flow system and the temperature difference between ambient and laboratory temperature. During one of the past expeditions the RH was measured to be 20 % in a similar setting to that of ASCOS.

25 The construction and location of the sampling manifold was designed to optimize the distance from the sea and from the ships superstructure. Direct contamination from the ship was excluded by using a pollution control mechanism based on a threshold signal from an ultrafine particle counter. The inlet system was already used onboard the *Oden* during the first of the icebreaker campaigns in 1991. Provided that the wind was within

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± ~70° of the direction of the bow and stronger than 2 ms<sup>-1</sup>, no pollution reached the sample inlets (Leck and Persson, 1996). To maximize the sampling time it was necessary to face the ship into the wind. For the ice drift this necessitated finding, or making, a “harbor” in the ice where the ship could be moored in several main orientations, and turned as the wind direction changed. More details of the set up for the sampling of aerosol particles are given in Leck et al. (2001) and in Tjernström et al. (2013).

### 2.3 Aerosol Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometry (ATOFMS)

The chemical composition of the individual particles was obtained in real-time using an Aerosol Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (ATOFMS model 3800; TSI Inc., St. Paul, MA, USA) which is described in detail elsewhere (Gard et al., 1997, 1998). Particles are drawn into the instrument through an aerodynamic lens working in the size range approximately between 200 nm to 3000 nm in diameter. Downstream of the lens the particles enter a differentially pumped vacuum stage where they are accelerated to their terminal velocity. They pass two continuous wave laser beams (532 nm) with a known fixed distance and are detected by their scattering pulses (in the following termed “sized” or “detected” particles). The vacuum aerodynamic diameter of each individual particle can now be determined from the transit time between the two lasers after calibrating the measured speed and the aerodynamic diameter using polystyrene latex spheres of known size and density. In the mass spectrometer source region, the sized particles are irradiated directly by a laser pulse of a 266 nm Nd:YAG laser with an energy of about 1 mJ to desorb sample-related ions. Positive and negative ions are then simultaneously detected in unit mass resolution using a dual-reflectron time-of-flight mass spectrometer (in the following termed “hit” or “chemically analyzed” particles). The mass calibration of the time-of-flight signal is obtained by analyzing particles of known composition.

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Zero-particle measurements were performed regularly during the cruise by installing a filter upstream of the ATOFMS to check for false particle counts or instrumental noise. No false particle counts were detected during these “blank” measurements.

During the traverse through the pack ice no data was collected as the mass spectrometer was turned off for safety reasons. Also, the ATOFMS was not operational most of the time from 15 to 18 August (more exact: Day of Year (DoY) 228.125 to 231.125 as used later on) and from 18 to 19 August (DoY 231.292 to 232.250) for instrument maintenance.

## 2.4 ATOFMS data processing and analysis

Basic mass spectra analysis, e.g. mass and size calibrations applied to the data sets, was done using the TSI firmware MS-Analyze. For cluster analysis, the single mass spectra generated by the ATOFMS were imported into the data mining program Environmental CHEMistry through IntelLigent Atmospheric Data Analysis (ENCHILADA; Gross, 2011). ENCHILADA clustered the aerosol particle data based on the mass spectral peaks and intensities through an ART-2a algorithm. The produced centers of the individual clusters represent an average of all the particles in that cluster, and each cluster represents a grouping of particles having mass spectral similarities. Thus, this particle classification method is indicative of particle chemistry and sources. Peak identification within the analysis corresponds to the most probable ions for a given  $m/z$  ratio.

The ATOFMS itself is a semi-quantitative instrument. This means that the peak intensities or peak areas of the diverse ions depicted in the mass spectrum do not reflect the actual mass fractions of the components of the respective particles. This is a consequence of several effects: particle transport inside the instrument, the influence of particle properties on the mass spectrometric detection (e.g. particle size, shape, and morphology), the used laser wavelength, and the laser desorption and ionization process (LDI). Typically, mass spectra of LDI instruments are dominated – if present – by ions with low ionization energy (Zelenyuk and Imre, 2005) such as alkali metals,

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and the ion intensities of components can vary depending on the chemical matrix of the particle itself (Reilly et al., 2000; Bhave et al., 2002). Additionally, particles can be partially ablated and ionized so that only information on the surface components is obtained (Ge et al., 1998). A clear size and composition bias of the detection efficiency for ultrafine particles using laser desorption mass spectrometry has also been described by Kane and Johnston (2000).

These features of the ATOFMS and the deployed LDI technique are partly reflected in the results presented below. If and how the detection sensitivity of the ATOFMS was biased by matrix effects, the inlet characteristics and the mass spectrometer operating condition will be discussed accordingly.

## 2.5 $^{222}\text{Rn}$ and $^{210}\text{Pb}$

During ASCOS, the radioactive tracers  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  and  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  were measured to identify continental air masses reaching the ship. Radon is an element in the decay chain of uranium, which is ubiquitous in the Earth's crust. Radon can be used as tracer for air masses that have been in contact with soil. For its detection, the radioactive, noble gas  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  is separated from the particle-laden air using a filter system. In the instrument, the  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  enters a delay chamber where the gas decays to its daughter nuclides that emit alpha-radiation. The alpha particles are then counted to infer the  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  concentration. A more detailed description can be found in Hutter et al. (1995). The instrument for Radon detection was run by the Finnish Meteorological Institute deploying a US Department of Homeland Security, Environmental Measurements Laboratory instrument (Paatero et al., 2009).

$^{210}\text{Pb}$  is a radioactive decay product of  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  and can be used to determine the travel time of the collected air mass after its last contact with land. The aerosol samples for the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  analyses were collected onto glass fiber filters (type Munktell MGA, Munktell Ahlstrom, Falun, Sweden) using a high-volume sampler. The exposed filters and the field blanks were analyzed in the laboratory 6 months after the campaign for  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  with an automatic alpha/beta analyzer (Mattsson et al., 1996) to determine the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  activity

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content. The  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  measurements and analyses were also performed by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (Paatero et al., 2009). The lead data is used in Sect. 3.2 to interpret the aerosol data, i.e. to identify particle source areas.

## 2.6 Aerosol Mass Spectrometry and PMF

5 A second Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS, Aerodyne Research, Billerica, MA, USA) deployed onboard *Oden* was a so-called Compact Time-of-Flight (C-ToF) MS. The AMS measured the submicron (100–500 nm in diameter) aerosol non-refractory chemical composition. The instrument was located in the aerosol container next to the ATOFMS sharing the same distribution line of ambient air. Similar to the ATOFMS, the particles enter the instrument through an aerodynamic lens that focusses the particles for subsequent aerodynamic sizing and chemical analysis. In contrast to the ATOFMS, the AMS uses flash vaporization and electron impact ionization to produce the gaseous ions that are detected. This allows a quantitative approach for the chemical mass analysis yet limits the detection to non-refractory material. Results are presented for the average bulk aerosol composition averaged over 5 min intervals. Details on the specific operation of the AMS during ASCOS can be found in Chang et al. (2011). The AMS was run by the University of Toronto, Canada.

Positive matrix factorization (PMF), a statistic-based analysis tool, was applied on the AMS data for source apportionment and process studies (Ulbrich et al., 2009). The outcome of the PMF analysis are so-called “factors” which describe the most robust mass spectra. These factors can then be assigned to a certain source based on the prevailing mass spectrometric peaks, i.e. chemical components. For instance, Chang et al. (2011) obtained four factors best describing the ambient aerosol during ASCOS: a marine biogenic factor, a continental factor, an organic factor, and an emission/contamination factor (cp. Sect. 3.2). Again, details on the specific application of the PMF method on the ASCOS data can be found in Chang et al. (2011).

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## 2.7 PCASP and aerosol volatility measurement

A PCASP (Passive Cavity Aerosol Spectrometer Probe) optical particle spectrometer combined with a programmable tube heater (Brooks et al., 2002, 2007) instrument was used to infer information on the chemical composition and mixing state of the bulk aerosol. The PCASP generates a continuous aerosol size spectrum in the nominal radius range from 0.05 to 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . A tube heater preceded the PCASP, and this heated the sampled air from ambient temperatures to 900  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . An increase in the heater temperature typically results in changes in either the size and/or the number of aerosol particles based on the volatility of the particles' constituents. Thus, the changes in size spectra with temperature provides information on chemical composition and mixing state. For the analysis herein, only the information on black carbon was used (referred to as "black" carbon since detected optically). To obtain the PCASP BC-particle concentration the number concentration of particles measured in the temperature interval between 620  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 650  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  were processed. For temperatures greater than 620  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  the only particulate matter left in the sample is BC, dust, sand, and polymer gels (Li et al., 2013), and for temperatures greater than 650  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  only dust and sand, and polymer gels remain. The change in spectral shape between these two temperatures is due to the loss of black carbon. The PCASP was located in the aerosol container and operated by the University of Leeds, UK.

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Particle type definitions

ATOFMS data were collected at the OW, MIZ, and IF station. The total number of particles detected and analyzed by the ATOFMS were OW: 85; MIZ: 864, and IF: 1762, respectively. The low number of hit and chemically analyzed particles compared to other field studies deploying the ATOFMS will be discussed in Sect. 3.4 in more detail.

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Using ENCHILADA and ART-2a, the cluster algorithm yielded 20, 21 and 22 particle clusters for the OW, MIZ, and IF station, respectively. After screening and resorting the individual cluster types, the number of clusters was reduced to ten overall. This number was considered meaningful by taking similarities of the chemical composition and peak intensities into account. Certain clusters were merged because of an instrumental issue: During periods, the correlation between ion masses and ion time-of-flight was unstable from particle-to-particle measurement, i.e. the  $m/z$  values “jumped” irregularly from spectrum to spectrum by approximately one atomic mass. As a consequence, cluster types were redundant after applying the algorithm. As an example, the most prominent negative peak at  $m/z$  –97 appeared sometimes at  $m/z$  –96 or at –98 in three different clusters with all other ion masses shifted accordingly. This behavior was most obvious in the negative spectra of the the carbonaceous types with equidistant elemental carbon ions. Other, little or singly populated clusters were partly resorted and combined based on the mass spectrometric pattern. A similar method was used for the “outliers”, i.e. particles that were not sorted into a cluster by ENCHILADA. Finally, the number of particles in each type was obtained from the clustering process, evaluating these clusters, and adding single particle mass spectra manually when necessary. The procedure was possible due to the overall low numbers of particles analyzed, so that mass spectra could be screened and sorted individually. The obtained particle types are listed in Table 1 and described in the following.

### Inorganic carbonaceous types

Here, four particle types 1a to 1d obtained from the clustering procedure are presented. They all show similar mass spectrometric pattern but can still be distinguished by some minor peaks and different peak intensities. Pronounced peaks of these four types include elemental carbon (EC), potassium, sulfate, ions of minor intensities representing organic carbon (OC) mass fragments, nitrate, multiple PAHs found at large mass-to-charge ratios ( $m/z > 100$ ), and metal elements. The mass spectra of three carbona-

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ceous particle types/clusters are shown in Fig. 2. The upper panel depicts the most prominent particle type detected, in the following termed *ECOC-K-sulfate* type. The positive center of the cluster contains a dominant potassium peak at  $m/z$  +39 ( $^{39}\text{K}^+$  or  $^{39/41}\text{K}^+$  when including its isotope). Moreover, this type is characterized by carbon clusters ions at  $^{12n}\text{C}_n^+$  (e.g.,  $^{12}\text{C}^+$ ,  $^{24}\text{C}_2^+$ ,  $^{36}\text{C}_3^+$  etc.), hydrocarbons such as  $^{12n}\text{C}_n\text{H}^+$ , and  $^{27}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3^+$ ,  $^{29}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5^+$ , and a peak at  $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ , a marker for oxidized organics. Hydrocarbons and the oxidized organic ion are used as tracers for OC (Silva and Prather, 2000; Pastor et al., 2003). The negative center is dominated by sulfate ions at  $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ ,  $^{195}\text{H}(\text{HSO}_4^{2-})$ ,  $^{80}\text{SO}_3^-$ , and  $^{96}\text{SO}_4^-$ . The characteristic pattern of EC-fragments  $^{12n}\text{C}_n^-$  are displayed in the negative as well. Particle type 1b, *ECOC-K-sulfate-CN*, can be distinguished from type 1a by more pronounced peaks at  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$  and  $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$  but of minor intensity compared to the *K-CN-S* type as discussed below. Particle type 1c (not shown) is characterized by repetitive peaks from hydrocarbons/OC, oxygenated high molecular mass compounds, indicators of strong aromatic signatures ( $^{51}\text{C}_4\text{H}_3^+$ ,  $^{63}\text{C}_5\text{H}_3^+$ ,  $^{77}\text{C}_6\text{H}_5^+$ ; McLafferty and Turecek, 1993) and PAHs found at higher atomic masses (Gross et al., 2000; Silva and Prather, 2000; Dall'Osto and Harrison, 2012, termed *ECOC-PAHs*). Type 1d, in contrast, shows similar inorganic ECOC pattern compared to type 1a, 1b but contains additional metal ions mainly detected at  $^7\text{Li}^+$ , and/or  $^{27}\text{Al}^+/\text{C}_2\text{H}_3^+$ , and/or  $^{51}\text{Va}^+$  and its oxide  $^{67}\text{VaO}^+$ , and/or  $^{54/56}\text{Fe}^+$ , and/or Mo (cluster around  $m/z$  +98), and/or  $^{107/109}\text{Ag}^+$ , and/or  $^{138}\text{Ba}^+$ . This type is termed *ECOC-K-sulfate-metals*.

### 3.1.1 Sea salt types

The sea salt clusters are grouped into three different particle types. 2a: *Pure sea salt*,  $\text{Na}_x\text{Cl}_y$ , where almost all of the peaks are attributable to sodium chloride. The positive cluster centers show  $^{23}\text{Na}^+$ ,  $^{39}\text{K}^+$ ,  $^{46}\text{Na}_2^+$ ,  $^{81/83}\text{Na}_2\text{Cl}^+$ , and  $^{139/141}\text{Na}_3\text{Cl}_2^+$ . In the negative, peaks are present for  $^{35/37}\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $^{58/60}\text{NaCl}^-$ ,  $^{93/95/97}\text{NaCl}_2^-$ , and  $^{151/153/155}\text{Na}_2\text{Cl}_3^-$  (see, e.g., Pastor et al., 2003; Dall'Osto et al., 2004). Chemical aging changes the

composition of atmospheric sea salt aerosols as it can react with acidic gases such as  $\text{HNO}_{3(g)}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_{4(g)}$  to form nitrate and sulfate and release hydrogen chloride to the gas phase (Harrison et al., 1994; Pakkanen et al., 1996; Gard et al., 1998). Cluster 2b represents such a *mixed sea salt* type,  $\text{Na}_x\text{Cl}_y$ -nitrate-sulfate, that, in addition to the sodium chloride peaks, contains peaks from nitrate, sulfur and sulfate (e.g.,  $^{46}\text{NO}_2^-$ ,  $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $^{80}\text{SO}_3^-$ ,  $^{96}\text{SO}_4^-$ ), and  $(\text{NaCl})\text{NO}_x$ -clusters. Further aging replaces the Cl-molecules in the latter compounds with nitrate, resulting in  $\text{Na}_x\text{NO}_y$ -combinations at  $m/z +108$ ,  $-131$ ,  $-141$  (Gard et al., 1998; Dall'Osto et al., 2004). These ions were present in cluster type 2c: *Aged sea salt*,  $\text{Na}_x\text{Cl}_y$ -nitrate- $\text{Na}_x\text{NO}_y$ -sulfate.

### 3.1.2 K-CN-sulfate type

Cluster type 3 represents a particle type with a dominant peak at  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$  (sometimes accompanied with  $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$ ), including a pronounced peak at  $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$  and less significant peaks at the sulfur markers  $m/z -48$ ,  $-64$ ,  $-80$ , and  $-96$ . No additional nitrate is present in the form of  $^{46}\text{NO}_x^-$ . The only peak in the positive spectrum is  $^{39}\text{K}^+$  with the possibility of  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$  being masked (see below). None or only minor fragments of EC and OC are present in the negative spectrum.

### 3.1.3 Metal type

Cluster type 4 represents a particle type with multiple pronounced metal peaks much more dominant than found in type 1d. The metal ions represent the elements Li, Al, Va, Fe, Mo, Ag, and Ba. Al and AlO at  $m/z +27$  and  $+43$  interfered with the OC markers  $^{27}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3^+$  and  $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  and can not be unambiguously identified.

### 3.1.4 Soil dust type

Cluster type 5 represents a particle type containing pronounced peaks at  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$ ,  $^{56}\text{CaO}^+$ ,  $^{57}\text{CaOH}^+$  along with traces of sodium, magnesium, aluminum, and nitrates.

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Ca-dominated dust particles could be distinguished from Al-Si-dominated dust particles, however, they were not sorted exclusively into different subgroups because of the small number of particles detected. Most of the mass spectra also contained potential markers for biological material, i.e. ion peaks representing  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$ ,  $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$ , and  $^{79}\text{PO}_4^-$  (Creamean et al., 2013).

## Unidentified particles

Particles that were not clustered into any of the types listed above remained in this group. A large fraction of these particles are characterized by mass spectra only showing a positive ion signal.

### 3.2 Particle types, their relative abundance and potential sources

In this section we discuss the abundance of the particle types detected during ASCOS and described in the chapter above. Emphasis will be placed on the results from the ice floe station as this measurement period represents the longest of the three stations with the highest number of analyzed particles. Moreover, the measurements at the ice floe station are novel.

The pie-chart in Fig. 3 shows the abundance of the different particle types sorted after the three measurement stations, i.e. ice floe, marginal ice zone, and open water station. The percentage given represents the number-based fraction of the respective particle type and relates to the total number of “hit” particles at each station (IF: 1762, MIZ: 864, OW: 85). A fraction of less than 1 % is not labeled in the figure for clarity.

#### 3.2.1 Ice floe station

The dominant particle type measured at the ice floe was the *ECOC-K-sulfate* type (1a) with a fraction of 47 % of all particles analyzed in the size range covered by the ATOFMS. The sum of the fractions of all inorganic carbonaceous types (1a–1d) is about

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80%. Besides the carbonaceous aerosol types, sea salt particles made up a fraction of approximately 16%. Almost all of the sea salt particles acquired secondary compounds such as nitrate ( $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ ) and sulfate ( $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ ) in place of chloride indicating an atmospheric aging process of the particles prior to reaching the ship (9% type 2b and 6% type 2c, respectively; see Sect. 3.1). Only a fraction of less than 2% showed the signature of “fresh” or “pure” sea salt. Less than 1% of the analyzed particles was metal-containing. About 2% remained unidentified. Particles of type 1c (*ECOC-PAHs*) show similar pattern as particles sampled and analyzed from the *Oden's* ship exhaust and occurred during a short and confined time interval. Therefore we assume that type 1c contains pollution particles from our own ship that have not been screened out correctly. These particles will not be discussed any further.

Generally it has to be noted that the majority of the particles in the marine boundary layer during ASCOS were too small to be detected by the ATOFMS. Figure 4 depicts the median number size distribution of the 2008 data collected within the central pack ice (Heintzenberg and Leck, 2012). Shown are the percentiles of the total number concentration that are less than 25%, between 25% and 75%, and larger than 75%. The approximate size-range of the ATOFMS is marked by the grey shaded area (not accounting for the upper size limit). The lower size-threshold is derived from converting the lower cut-off diameter of  $\sim 200$  nm into its mobility equivalent (for more details see Sect. 3.4). Based on this graph, the ATOFMS would only have detected the tail of the accumulation mode particles (80–1000 nm diameter size range with a maximum at  $\sim 150$  nm) and none of the smaller, Aitken-mode particles.

The similarities of the basic mass spectrometric pattern of type 1a, 1b and 1d concerning their inorganic sulfate, potassium and EC/OC-related peaks generally point to a common source of the particles. The differences in peak intensities of the EC and OC markers between the clusters probably stem from a combination of real differences in the masses of the particle constituents combined with matrix effects resulting from the laser ablation/ionization process as outlined above. The variable ratios in the spectral peaks of the particles within one cluster indicate an internal mixture of these compo-

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nents. Based on the characteristic ion signals of the carbonaceous particle type 1, its source likely is biomass or biofuel burning, either of anthropogenic or natural origin. Combustion processes are the major source of primary elemental carbon particles in the atmosphere. The elemental carbon series are apparent in the inorganic ECOC type spectra in peaks at  $^{12n}\text{C}_n^-$  and  $^{12n}\text{C}_n^+$ , with  $n$  up to 6, and often more pronounced with  $n$  up to 12 (mainly type 1b). The difference in the intensities of the elemental carbon core signatures could be an indication for variable coatings thicknesses by secondary material, thus different atmospheric aging times. The organic carbon content is either primary, or secondary due to internal mixing with OC-particles or organic gas phase components condensed on the preexisting particles during atmospheric processing. The peak at  $m/z$  +43 is commonly used as marker ion  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  representing aged organics (Qin and Prather, 2006; Qin et al., 2012), however, it can also be due to  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7^+$  or  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{N}^+$ . Another tracer for highly oxidized organics, oxalate ( $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4\text{H}_2^-$  at  $m/z$  -89) is periodically present in the spectra as well. The potassium peak is a typical marker for biomass burning aerosol and/or wood smoke (Silva et al., 1999; Qin and Prather, 2006; Friedman et al., 2009), and can be found in either of the particle clusters of type 1a, b, and d. Marker peaks for levoglucosan, another biomass burning indicator and typically represented by the characteristic ions for formate  $^{45}\text{CHO}_2^-$  and acetate  $^{59}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2^-$  (Silva et al., 1999; Qin and Prather, 2006) were, however, not present.

The particles referred to as biomass burning aerosol contained sulfur as indicated by the presence of sulfate ions at  $m/z$  -64, -80, -96, -97, and -195 ( $\text{SO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{HSO}_4^-$ , and  $\text{H}_3(\text{SO}_4)_2^-$ , respectively). These particles either exhibited atmospheric aging and/or coagulation and agglomeration with sulfur-containing particles at the point of combustion, or the sulfur stems from the burned biomass itself. Potassium sulfate has been detected as a typical constituent of emission from wood combustion (Pagels et al., 2003, 2013). Another indicator for atmospheric aging is the presence of a minor peak at  $m/z$  +213 that corresponds to  $\text{K}_3\text{SO}_4^+$ . For combustion related particles, Gaudichet et al. (1995) reports an evolution from KCl to  $\text{K}_3\text{SO}_4^+$  with increasing distance from the emission source, whereas the presence of chlorine and sulfate depends on the



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The measurement points of the ATOFMS data depict the 12 h sum of type 1a, 1b, and 1d particle counts. The ATOFMS time series shows an elevated number of type 1 cluster counts after DoY 238. Due to the generally low number of counts and the applied large averaging time of 12 h, only a tendency of increasing particle counts from the beginning of the IF measurement period to the end can be stated. This includes four peak periods around DoY 238.5, 240.5, 241.5, and 242.5. Periods of low counts are between DoY 227–228, 234–234.5, and 243.5–244. The  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ -measurements show a period of an elevated concentration between DoY 239–243, slightly increasing from DoY 233. In general, the progressions of both curves are comparable. The peak period of the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  activity concentration around DoY 241 correlates with the period of increased ATOFMS cluster type 1 counts starting from DoY 238.5. The minimum ATOFMS count number at the beginning of the shown time period is reflected by a low  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ -activity concentration.

The times series of the AMS PMF continental factor shows a high signal between DoY 239.2 and 243.5, with a significant peak around DoY 242.5–243.5. This period of high signal correlates more closely with the ATOFMS period of increased type 1 count number from DoY 238.5–243, and the maximum occurs in both time series at the end of the high signal period around DoY 243. The similarities between the ATOFMS type 1 particles time series and that of the continental factor supports the assumption that the type 1 cluster particles stem from biomass burning/biofuel burning sources of continental origin.

Additionally, BC-particle concentrations were deduced from PCASP measurements that were performed on the same inlet system. Since the ATOFMS type 1 cluster particles include a clear signature of EC, the BC particle concentration measured by the PCASP is ideal for intercomparison. The BC particle concentration was deduced from the PCASP data as described in Sect. 2.7. Note, that the periods in Fig. 5 with no PCASP data does not necessarily indicate that the instrument was not operating – it was operating but the aerosol composition was such that there no BC signal (the detection limit of the PCASP BC-core size corresponds to a particle size of approximately

100 nm) was detected. The PCASP, however, was not operational during the high signal period seen in the ATOFMS, the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ , and the AMS data (DoY > 242.7), and also not during the time window DoY 239.25–241 (B. Brooks, personal communication, 2013). The only period of PCASP data available during the period of elevated ATOFMS counts between DoY 239–243 covers a period around DoY 241 with observed BC particle concentrations of up to  $5 \text{ mL}^{-1}$ . This value is significantly larger than those of the periods with minimal concentrations  $< 1 \text{ mL}^{-1}$  (e.g. DoY 233–236). The maximum BC concentration was observed on DoY 226 ( $\sim 250 \text{ mL}^{-1}$ ). This period, however, neither correlates with a maximum in the AMS continental factor nor with the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  data and is due to pollution from the ship as confirmed by the pollution record (B. Brooks, personal communication, 2013). In contrast, a second maximum on DoY 228 ( $\sim 10 \text{ mL}^{-1}$ ) correlates with a peak in the AMS continental factor. Unfortunately, the ATOFMS did not measure during the latter peak periods of the PCASP's BC particle concentrations due to instrumental problems. Nevertheless, low BC concentrations observed by the PCASP are reflected in low numbers of ATOFMS type 1 particle counts.

## Origin of particles

Summarizing the analysis of the particle type 1a, b, d presented herein (mass spectrometric pattern, elevated occurrence during the time period DoY 239.5–243 (26 August 2008–30 August 2008), elevated signals in the AMS continental factor and the  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  activity concentration) suggests that the air originates from continental sources. Also  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  observations support this interpretation. Between DoY 241 22:00 UTC and DoY 242 10:00 UTC the  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  activity concentration doubled from a background level of about  $0.1 \text{ Bq m}^{-3}$  and reached a maximum value of  $0.32 \text{ Bq m}^{-3}$ . A detailed analysis of the meteorological conditions during DoY 240 to DoY 243 by Shupe et al. (2013) and Kupiszewski et al. (2013) further supports this interpretation. Both authors report on the co-concurrent presence of continentally sourced air of elevated particle concentration in the upper boundary layer (400–700 m altitude; Kupiszewski et al., 2013)

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and meteorological conditions allowing this air to be mixed down to the surface. During DoY 242 (29 August) our sampling coincided with the re-coupling and turbulent mixing between a shallow ( $\sim 150$  m deep) surface-based mixed-layer in the lower part of the boundary layer with a separate mixed layer located in the upper part of the boundary layer – the upper half of which contained stratocumulus clouds. Back trajectories analyzed by the authors using the Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory Model (HYSPLIT; Draxler and Rolph, 2011) suggests that the air in the upper boundary layer had come from the Canadian archipelago while that in the lowest 100 m had been over the ice for at least 10 days. In this way, air probably containing biomass-burning aerosols became entrained into the top of the clouds and mixed into the surface mixed layer, enable it to be observed at the ship. A meteorological setting that resulted in such a “pollution event” was observed only once during the entire ice-drift period.

Only limited support for an enhanced influence of continental aerosol during that time period is given by backward simulations of the Lagrangian particle dispersion model FLEXPART (Stohl et al., 1998; Stohl, 2006; Law and Stohl, 2007) analyzed herein. One FLEXPART product, the “footprint potential emission sensitivity”, accounts for the air parcel’s origin and its source strength averaged over the lowest 100 m above the surface, including aerosol-like removal by dry and wet deposition. Therefore, this product gives a good indication where anthropogenic particle emissions may have accumulated in an air mass and transported to the ship because these emissions are mainly emitted in the surface layer of continents. Figures 6 and 7 depict the footprint potential emission sensitivity for two different situations: The first shows a simulation ending on DoY 227.5 (14 August) with low or no influences of air from land masses. The second, in comparison, shows a simulation ending on DoY 241.92 (28 August 21:52:01 UTC), i.e. a day that falls into the above discussed period of elevated type 1 cluster particles. The footprint depicted on the simulation for DoY 241 is larger on the continents but includes only small parts of Greenland, northernmost Canada, Alaska and Russia as possible source regions for the observed carbonaceous aerosol type.

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In summary, aerosol particles or their precursors in upper air layers could potentially be advected over long distances and later be entrained into the surface mixed layer of the boundary layer through the cloud top by cloud-induced mixing (e.g., Shupe et al., 2013). If present, such a process could help explain “residual” particles of inorganic carbonaceous type 1 particles detected before DoY 239. Kupiszewski et al. (2013) summarized the results from aerosol profiling using the helicopter for a number of episodes during ASCOS. For instance, one episode involved an elevated plume aloft in the free troposphere with high concentrations of accumulation mode particles that they suggest to have been caused by Siberian forest fires and subsequent long-range transport. The authors, however, conclude that these long-range transported plumes are unlikely to be mixed down to the boundary layer.

Furthermore, aged sea salt particles were detected during the ice-drift station which is in agreement with results from the previous icebreaker expeditions (Leck et al., 2002). Sea salt particles are generated at the sea–air interface by bubble bursting mechanisms (Blanchard and Woodcock, 1957) typically in the upper accumulation and lower super-micrometer range. Addressing the possibility of advection of aged aerosols from more distant sources, such as the MIZ, Heintzenberg and Leck (2012) used statistics of modal aerosol number concentrations from all four *Oden*-based expeditions. The scavenging of aerosol particles in fog and low clouds in low-level air entering the pack ice from the MIZ in summer are discussed. Herein, the MIZ as sink region for particles in the sub-micrometer size range, within < 2 days of travel time from the ice edge (Nilsson and Leck, 2002), was confirmed. For ASCOS in general, the cumulative probability distribution of the travel time of air over ice since its last contact with the open sea suggests that 50 % of the air traveled longer than three days (Heintzenberg and Leck, 2012). The conversion time of fresh sea salt to aged sea salt, establishing itself by chloride-displacement, depends among others on the concentration of trace gases such as  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_{5(g)}$ ,  $\text{HNO}_{3(g)}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_{4(g)}$ . This conversion was observed via single particle mass spectrometry to take place in less than one day in a polluted atmosphere (Gard et al., 1998). Song and Carmichael (1999) modeled a substantial decrease in

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chloride levels of sea salt particles in less than 48 h for the East Asian yellow sea. However, the pollution levels from both studies cannot be applied to the atmospheric situation during ASCOS, and a detailed analysis of the chloride displacement is difficult due to the semi-quantitative ATOFMS data output and the deficient statistics of analyzed sea salt particles. As a consequence, quantitative relationships between the time of advection/aging times and the chloride ion intensities measured with the ATOFMS were not established.

Besides sea salt and inorganic ECOC particles, minor fractions of metal-dominated and mineral dust-like particles were detected (type 4 and 5, respectively). The metal-containing particles showed distinct traces of Li, Pb, Ba, Va, Mo, Ag, and Al in various combinations. A detailed source characterization study for the small numbers of particles analyzed is beyond the scope of this paper. In general, particles with dominant metal peaks are an indication for fuel combustion (e.g. Va as marker for ship emissions), industrial emissions, particles from incinerators, fly ash, or mineral dusts (e.g., Moffet et al., 2008; Spencer et al., 2008; Qin et al., 2012; Dall'Osto et al., 2013). The more dust-like compositions including traces of  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$ ,  $^{28}\text{Si}^+$ ,  $^{27}\text{Al}^+$  and their oxides clearly separate particles of type 4 from those of type 5. Since some of the mineral-dust like particles show distinct ion peaks at  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$ ,  $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$ , and/or contained phosphate, an assignment to soil dust particles is plausible. The occurrence of peaks assigned to metal compounds in the *ECOC-K-sulfate-metals* type 1d are either a consequence of coagulation processes between particles of type 1a and 1b at the time of combustion with metal-containing particles (type 4) or are related to primary, metal-containing sources of the particles. Particles of type 3 will be discussed in Sect. 3.3.

Besides those from ASCOS and the previous *Oden*-based expeditions, no chemical composition measurements of the summertime Arctic aerosol exist from a location as remote as the ice floe station. Information on the particles' composition is restricted to aerosols collected at different locations and south of  $82^\circ\text{N}$ , thus its comparability to the ASCOS data set is very limited. The only mass spectrometric data stem from a ground-based study carried out at the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research lab-

oratory (PEARL; 80° N 86° W, 610 m.a.s.l. in the free troposphere) in summer 2006 (Kuhn et al., 2010). Another publication by Quinn et al. (2007) reports on long-term measurements of the Arctic aerosol and uses data from several Arctic research sites (63° N to 82° N) and of all seasons of the year (1980s to 2004). Both studies have in common that particles of anthropogenic origin and/or biomass burning were observed in the Arctic boundary layer during summertime conditions. However, forest fires had much less impact on the Arctic surface sites in summertime than in winter or spring (Quinn et al. (2007). Our observations are consistent with both of these studies, in that we have observed elevated biomass burning/biofuel particle numbers at a remote arctic location outside of the “arctic haze” period. Also, their findings help explain the presence of residual particles from biomass burning/biofuel plumes at very low concentrations throughout the entire ATOFMS measurement period of ASCOS.

### 3.2.2 Marginal ice station

The dominant particle type detected at the MIZ station was the *ECOC-K-sulfate-CN* type (1b) with a fraction of 53 % from all particles analyzed in the size range covered by the ATOFMS. Here, the sum of the fractions of all inorganic ECOC types (1a–1d) is 55 %. Besides the inorganic carbonaceous aerosol types, sea salt particles made up a fraction of approximately 38 %. Almost 80 % of all the sea salt particles contained nitrates and sulfates of the form that indicates atmospheric aging of the particles prior to reaching the ship. Only a fraction (less than 3 %) of all particles showed a signature of “fresh” or “pure” sea salt. Less than 1 % of the particles was metal-containing, and about 6 % remained unidentified.

### 3.2.3 Open water station

At the open water station, the total number of particles analyzed was only 85 during the 12 h measurement period. Here, the dominant particle type was the *ECOC-K-sulfate-metals* type 1d with metal ions representing Va, Ba, and Mo. The sum of the fractions of

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all inorganic carbonaceous types was more than 80 %. The combination of metal ions like Va with inorganic components, mainly sulfate and EC/OC fragments is typically found in particles stemming from fossil fuel combustion. Ship exhaust is a possible source for these particles (Ault et al., 2009, 2010). The presence of Ba could point to incineration and refuse burning (Moffet et al., 2008). Mo was observed via ATOFMS in individual particles from automobile emissions (Silva et al., 1999). In nature, Mo can be found in various oxidation states in minerals but also in enzymes of living organisms. The combination of the trace elements observed during the OW station suggest diverse particle sources of anthropogenic origin. The particles arrived at the ship internally mixed, suggesting a coagulation of the particles at the location of combustion.

The fraction of sea salt particles was relatively low compared to the two other stations. As the generation rate of sea salt aerosol has a shown positive wind speed dependence (Lewis and Schwartz, 2004; de Leeuw et al., 2011), this finding is consistent with a lower wind speed of  $2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  averaged over the 12 h measurement period for the OW station compared to  $6 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  averaged over 24 h for the MIZ station. The sea salt particles were either mixed or aged, again suggesting an aged marine air mass encountered during the OW station.

### 3.3 K-CN-Sulfate type particles – proxies of ocean-derived biological particles?

As outlined in the introduction, the abundance, chemical properties, and the potential of ocean-derived particles of biogenic origin (polymer gels) to act as CCN and/or IN was one of the main research questions of the ASCOS project. The identification of a unique particle type in the marine environment by Gaston et al. (2011) during periods of elevated DMS and/or phytoplankton biomass revealed the interaction of ocean chemistry and the marine atmosphere based on single particle mass spectrometry data. This particle type was found during several field campaigns to be enriched in organic carbon with additional intense peaks representing  $^{24}\text{Mg}^+$ ,  $^{39}\text{K}^+$ , and  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$ . Dall'Osto et al. (2005) report on a similar finding from the North Atlantic Marine Boundary Layer Experiment (NAMBLEX) where marine,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ -rich particles detected

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via ATOFMS correlated with high organic mass concentrations detected via AMS. As sources of Mg-rich particles, viruses, bacteria, cell debris, organics released from lysed cells, or marine polymer gels are suggested. These polymer gels are polysaccharides molecules inter-bridged with divalent ions ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ), to which other organic compounds, such as proteins and lipids, are readily bound (Verdugo, 2012, gives a review). Also, a most recent study on laboratory-generated, “realistic” sea spray aerosol reports on ATOFMS-detected, primary biological-containing particles with fractions possibly linked to microgel-formation (Prather et al., 2013). The in-situ detection of primary, ocean-derived particles in an bio-active marine atmosphere as presented in Gaston et al. (2011) supports the findings of Orellana et al. (2011); Leck and Bigg (2005a); Leck et al. (2013) who observed polymer gels in atmospheric samples and cloud water collected over the High Arctic pack ice area.

When using the ATOFMS or similar LDI-based mass spectrometric techniques, ion peaks of potassium, sodium, calcium, organic fragments, nitrate (a combination of both is often reflected in peaks at  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$  and  $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$ ) and phosphate are typically used as tracers for airborne continental/marine biological material such as bacteria, fungal spores or pollen. As a large fraction of these elements can also be found in mineral dust (e.g., Gallavardin et al., 2008) the absence of dust markers such as silicon, aluminum, and iron is used to distinguish between both (Pratt et al., 2009; Pratt and Prather, 2010; Cahill et al., 2012; Cziczo et al., 2013). Ca, K, Na and N are well known to be essential elements for living cells, and phosphates occur in endospore nucleic acids, adenosine di- and triphosphates, and cell membranes as shown by Fergenson et al. (2004). Nevertheless, the clear identification of airborne biological material by the ATOFMS is still a challenge due to spectral similarities to other, non-biological particle types (Cziczo et al., 2013; Pratt et al., 2009; Creamean et al., 2013). Other single particle mass spectrometric methods can in that sense be more specific due to the application of different or modified ionization methods (e.g., Fergenson et al., 2004; Frank et al., 2011; Kleefsman et al., 2007). These methods show, however, consistent signatures in the elemental composition with the ATOFMS.

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The ATOFMS data collected during the ASCOS cruise was screened for particle candidates of biological origin. Based on the ENCHILADA results, only two clusters (a sum of 36 particles altogether) were detected during the IF station which show slight similarities to the above described mass spectrometric features. The most prominent cluster of the observed *K-CN-sulfate* type is shown in Fig. 8 and depicts an intense and single peak of  $^{39}\text{K}^+$  in the positive mode and a dominant  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$  peak in the negative (see cluster type description above). A sulfate peak of smaller intensity can be found in the negative mode as well. The second cluster (not shown) has indications for carbonaceous material.

In accordance to the findings of Orellana et al. (2011); Leck et al. (2013) and the unique sea spray particle type observed via ATOFMS (Gaston et al., 2011), we would expect to detect Mg- and/or Ca- and/or K-rich particles characterizing the local aerosol sources in the Arctic pack ice region. In the pack ice, the particles of interest, i.e. the above-mentioned polymer gels, are assumed to stem from organic material in the surface micro layer of open leads and to be released into the atmosphere due to bubble bursting. Our chemical results, however, are ambiguous in this regard since  $^{39}\text{K}^+$  is clearly present in the particle type presented here but the most specific peak  $^{23}\text{Mg}^+$  is absent. Instead, a high intensity of  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$  is evident which has been neither observed by Gaston et al. (2011) nor by Dall'Osto et al. (2005) but was named as indicator for biological aerosols in other studies (Fergenson et al., 2004; Pratt et al., 2009; Creamean et al., 2013). Pronounced ion peaks at  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$  and  $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$  have also been found in particle type 1b which could indicate an internal mixing of the inorganic carbonaceous and biological particles.

It has to be noted that for this cluster type the intensity of the  $\text{K}^+$  cation current was extremely high so that the signal from it routinely saturated the detector and/or the dynamic range of the data acquisition system. As a consequence, the peak area extends over the unit mass resolution of the mass spectra. When using ENCHILADA, the enlarged peak area resulted in an attribution of the  $^{39}\text{K}^+$  ion peak to an  $m/z$  value



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The low ATOFMS hit rate during ASCOS is demonstrated in Fig. 9. Herein, the aerodynamic size distribution of sized and hit particles merged for the entire IF period is presented. The hit rate was on average  $< 1\%$  for the entire cruise with decreasing hit rates from the OW to the IF station. Typically, hit rates of the ATOFMS are on the order of ten to several ten percent in the size-range below  $1\ \mu\text{m}$ . Thus, the low hit rate might give us an indication on the properties of the missed fraction of particles; known factors to reduce the hit rate of the ATOFMS are (i) particles composed of material that does not absorb the 266 nm radiation of the ionization laser (e.g., pure ammonium sulfate particles; Spencer et al., 2008; Wenzel et al., 2003) (ii) particles that still contain water as wet particles divert the energy that would go to ionizing the molecules into evaporating the water, thus suppressing ionization; (iii) particles whose flight path is affected by their shape and/or morphology so that the calculated “hit position” for the ionization laser deviates from the actual one, and (iv) charged particles that deviate from the ATOFMS source region due to the applied voltages at the source plates (Shields, 2008).

Unfortunately, the reason for the low hit rates observed during ASCOS cannot be clearly attributed to one of the above mentioned factors. General instrumental problems cannot be ruled out completely although the instrument hit rates observed during the regular ATOFMS mass and size-calibration measurements were in the expected range of operation. As the relative humidity was not measured directly upstream of the ATOFMS inlet, and no additional, active drying of the ATOFMS sample flow was performed, the possibility that the particles still contained water is given as well. Although the RH was assumed to be  $< 30\%$  at the exit of the inlet system as noted above, the short residence time of the particles within the flow system of approximately 4–5 s might have been insufficient for complete efflorescence. The mass spectra did not contain a signal at  $m/z +19$  ( $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ ) which is an indication for the absence of wet particles. Another indicator for wet particles is the deficiency of negative ion spectra (Neubauer et al., 1997, 1998) which has only been observed on occasion ( $< 2\%$  at IF). No neutralizer to minimize charge-effects was employed upstream of the ATOFMS's in-

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let during the ambient measurements. Consequently, a combination of particle losses due to charge-effects and a chemical bias are the most prominent factors to take into consideration herein. In terms of a chemical bias one could speculate that particles of biological origin as proposed by Leck and Bigg (2005a) and ATOFMS-measured by Gaston et al. (2011) make up the fraction of sized, but non-chemically analyzed particles since they are partly composed of mono/polysaccharides. We not expect pure sugars to absorb well as their monosaccharide subunits not have any aromaticity (which is usually required for organic chemicals to absorb at 266 nm). Also, Gaston et al. (2011) observed the ATOFMS hit-rate plummeted in bio-active marine regions where the discussed Mg-type particles were present. This finding supports the idea of a chemical bias. However, as we have no information on the 266 nm absorbance properties of the marine gel particles, but ocean-derived particles from a potentially similar gel source as discussed herein have been detected by Gaston et al. (2011) using an ATOFMS, no clear conclusion from the low hit rate can be drawn.

## 4 Conclusions

Data is presented from the ASCOS field campaign carried out on the icebreaker *Oden* in the High-Arctic pack ice area north of 80° through the seasonal transition from sea-ice melt to freeze-up in the summer 2008. The chemical composition of individual aerosol particles in the size range between approximately 200 nm and 3 μm in diameter was measured in the marine boundary layer with a single particle mass spectrometer at three different stations: at an open water station, at a marginal ice station, and at an ice floe station in the pack ice region. In that size range, the dominant fraction of the ATOFMS-detected aerosol showed a common elemental and organic carbon pattern along with pronounced ion traces of potassium and sulfate that indicate the presence of particles originating from biomass or biofuel burning. The inorganic carbonaceous particles were internally mixed with oxidized organics and partly with metals which suggests long-distance transport of the particles from lower latitudes into the High Arctic.

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The majority of these particles most likely stem from continental sources, undergoing atmospheric aging and mixing on their way into the Arctic. At the ice floe station, the highest frequency of detection of this particle type occurred during a meteorological period of a cloud-driven mixed layer in the upper part of the boundary layer coupled to the mixed layer at the surface that allowed upper-level aerosol particles to reach the surface. Trajectory analysis of this period (Shupe et al., 2013; Leck et al., 2013) suggests that the air in the upper boundary layer had come from the Canadian archipelago while that in the lowest 100 m had been over the ice for at least 10 days. Several studies from ASCOS support this finding and indicate the presence of a continental-sourced air in the boundary layer during the same time period (Paatero et al., 2009; Chang et al., 2011; Leck et al., 2013; Kupiszewski et al., 2013). However, particles of the biomass/biofuel burning type were also observed outside the described above period suggesting that residuals of such continental air represent a fraction of the aerosol detected by the ATOFMS at the location of the ship, with its significance still to be determined. Sea salt particles made up the second largest fraction of classified particles with variable contributions at the three different measurement locations. Certain tracer compounds found in the sea salt particles support the interpretation of atmospherically aged particles. A comparison to mass spectrometric data of the bulk aerosol measured using an Aerosol Mass Spectrometer AMS revealed somewhat contrasting results. Chang et al. (2011) observed a large mass fraction of 31 % attributed to almost purely organic which has not been observed by the ATOFMS. However, the authors also report on a continental factor deduced from their source-apportionment study that correlates in time with the inorganic carbonaceous particle type measured by the ATOFMS (note that the AMS and ATOFMS have different particle size ranges with the AMS starting already at 100 nm in diameter aerodynamic size).

An interesting feature observed in the ASCOS data set concerns the low number of analyzed particles. The so-called “hit rate” of the ATOFMS, i.e. the percentage of particles (per time interval) that were hit by the ionization laser, desorbed its energy and produced a mass spectrum was exceptionally low during the entire cruise. Only



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sources into the marine boundary layer compared to advection of air over the pack-ice. During ASCOS, pollution or biomass burning plumes, which we did see aloft in the free troposphere on occasion (Kupiszewski et al., 2013) was detected at the ship only once: about a few days out of the 7 weeks of the expedition indicate a continental source within the boundary layer. To gain more knowledge on such occasions, to assess their importance for aerosol–cloud interactions in the Arctic in comparison to local biogenic primary aerosol sources or advected aerosols from the marginal ice zone or open sea south thereof, and how they influence the chemical composition, the mixing state, the sources and the abundances of the High-Arctic aerosol, more comprehensive in-situ data have to be collected north of 80°.

*Acknowledgements.* This work is part of ASCOS (the Arctic Summer Cloud Ocean Study) and was funded by ETH grants. ASCOS was made possible by funding from the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation and the DAMOCLES European Union 6th Framework Program Integrated Research Project. The Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS) provided access to the icebreaker *Oden* and logistical support. We are grateful to the Chief Scientists Caroline Leck and Michael Tjernström for planning and coordination of ASCOS, to the SPRS logistical staff and to *Oden*'s Captain Mattias Peterson and his crew. ASCOS is an IPY project under the AICIA-IPY umbrella and an endorsed SOLAS project. The authors would like to thank B. Brooks and J. Heintzenberg for providing data, A. Stohl and J. Burkhardt for the provision of the FLEXPART model. The latter were supported by the Norwegian Research Council as part of the CLIMSLIP project.

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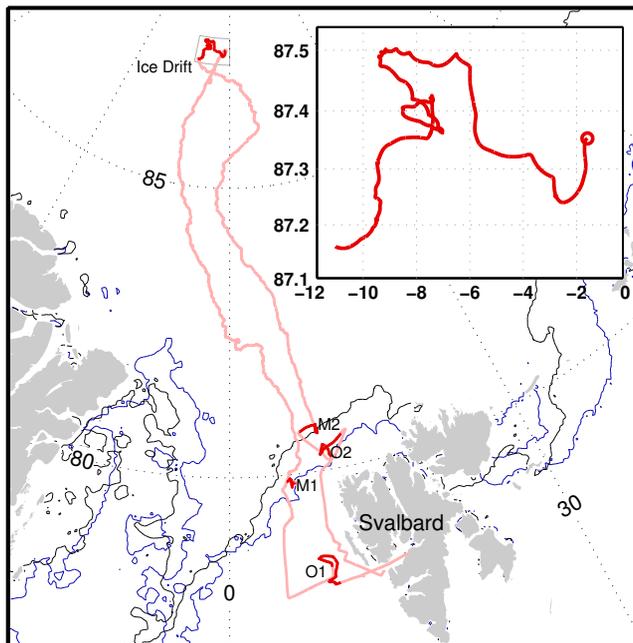
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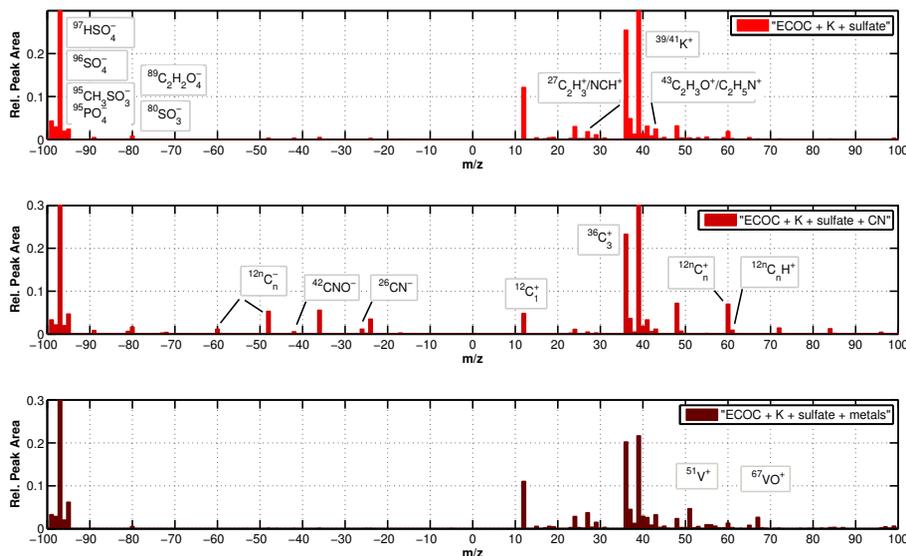


**Fig. 1.** Map of the ASCOS route. O1 represents the Open Water station (named OW station in this paper), M1 the Marginal Ice Zone station (named MIZ station in this paper), and the “ice drift” (named Ice Floe (IF) station in this paper). The blue and black lines describe the extend of the ice at the time of entry and exit. The inset shows details of the ice drift period. The ATOFMS was not measuring during the traverse between the MIZ and IF station, and during the return cruise for instrument safety reasons.

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**Fig. 2.** Mass spectra of the inorganic carbonaceous particles types obtained using the cluster algorithm ENCHILADA. The upper panel depicts the most prominent *ECOC-K-sulfate* type 1a. The middle one depicts the *ECOC-K-sulfate-CN* type 1b subject to more pronounced peaks at  $^{12n}\text{C}_n^+$ ,  $^{12n}\text{C}_n^-$ ,  $^{26}\text{CN}^-$ , and  $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$ . The lower panel shows type 1d with similar mass spectrometric pattern including traces of metals. The relative peak areas of the  $\text{HSO}_4^-$  ion is 0.83 (upper panel), 0.63 (middle panel), and 0.79 (lower panel), that of  $\text{K}^+$  0.31 (upper panel), 0.37 (middle panel). A peak at  $m/z -195$  assigned to  $\text{H}_3(\text{SO}_4)_2^-$  appears in all three spectra but is not shown for clarity.

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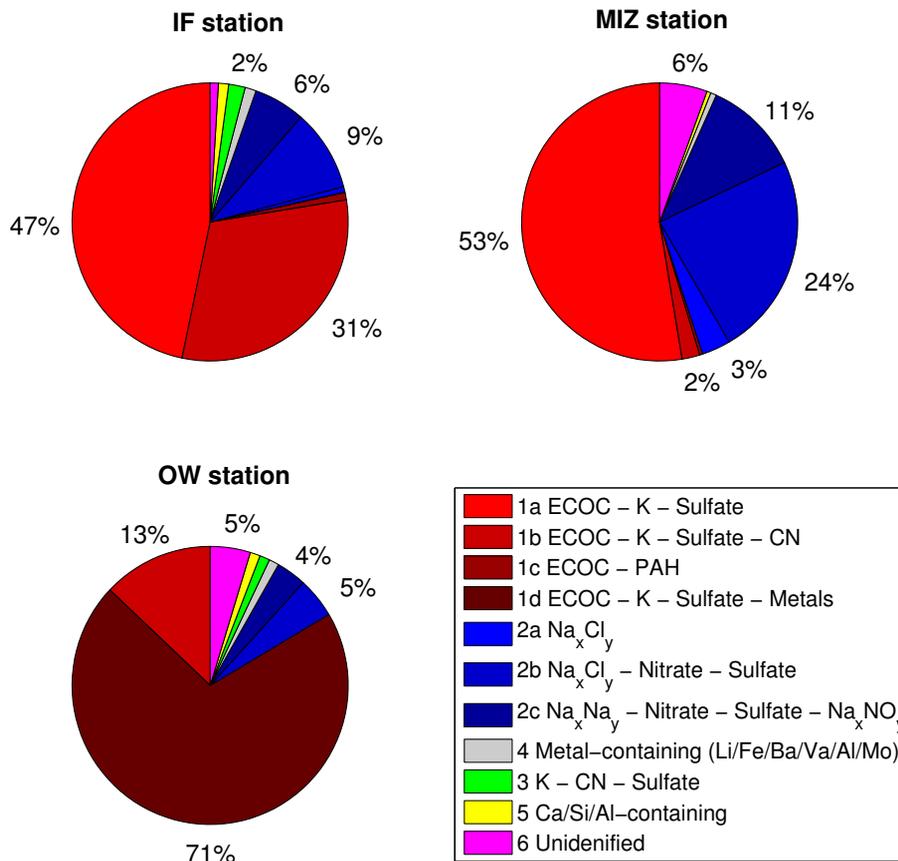
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**Fig. 3.** Number-based pie-chart of the aerosol clusters for the IF, MIZ and OW station. A fraction of less than 1 % is not labeled in the figure for clarity.

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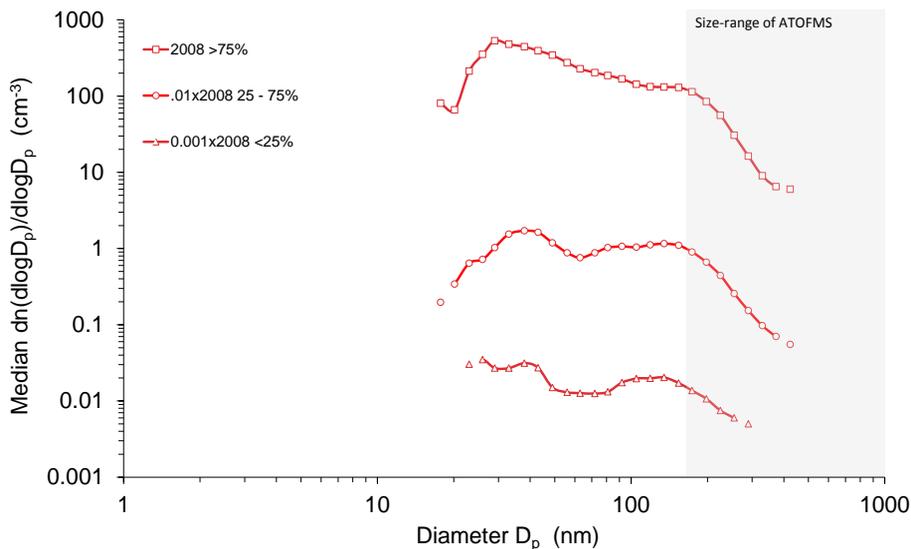
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**Fig. 4.** Mean number size distributions in three sub-population of hourly averaged ASCOS 2008 in-ice data. Plotted is the less than 25 % percentile, between 25 and 75 % percentile, and larger than 75 % percentile of the total number concentration. The latter two sub-populations have been multiplied by a factor of 0.01 and 0.001 for clarity. Image courtesy J. Heintzenberg; data taken from Heintzenberg and Leck (2012).

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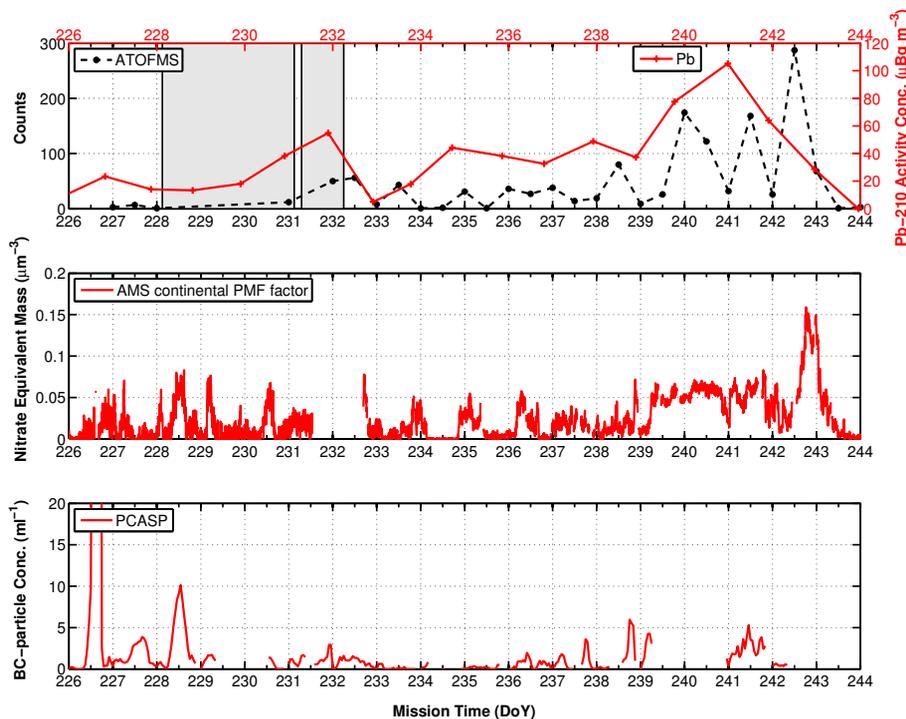
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**Fig. 5.** Time line of 12 h-averaged ATOFMS type 1 particle counts and Pb-210 activity concentration (upper panel), AMS derived continental PMF factor (middle panel), and PCASP BC-particle concentration (lower panel). Time periods when the ATOFMS was not or only partially operational are depicted as grey shaded boxes in the upper panel.

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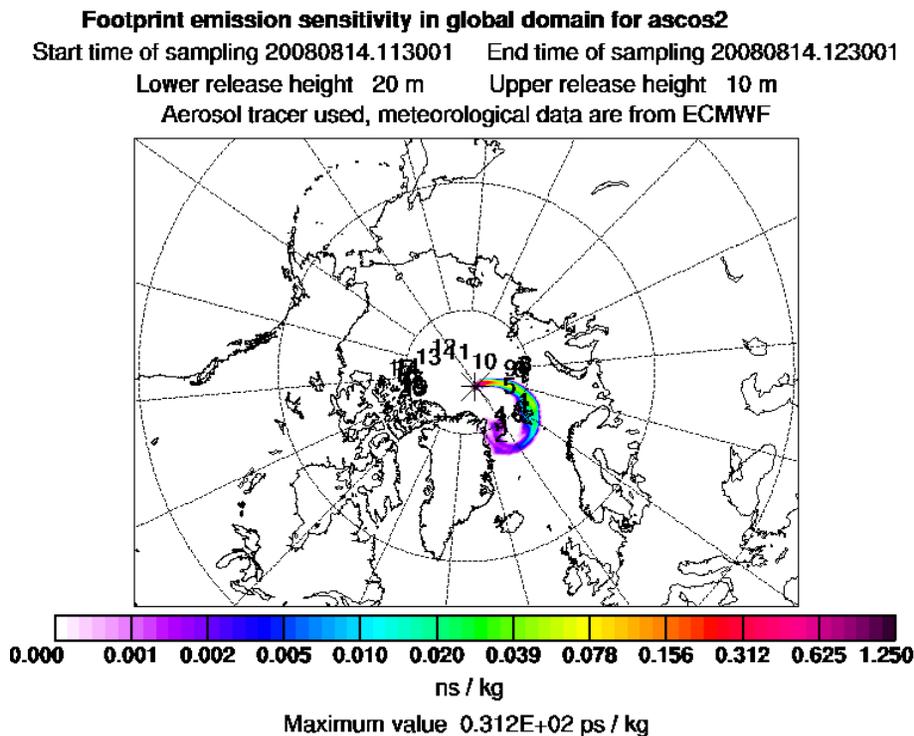
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**Fig. 6.** Footprint potential emission sensitivity for 14 August 2008 (DoY 227) obtained from FLEXPART. The receptor, i.e. *Oden*, is marked with an asterisk. The numbers (in days backward) plotted on top of the map represents a daily retroplume product that roughly indicate the transport speed. The emission sensitivity (in units of  $\text{s kg}^{-1}$ ) is proportional to the particle residence time in a grid-cell of the “footprint-layer” and measures the simulated mixing ratio at the receptor that a source of unit strength ( $1 \text{ kg s}^{-1}$ ) in the cell would produce.

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### Footprint emission sensitivity in global domain for ascos3

Start time of sampling 20080828.205200 End time of sampling 20080828.215201

Lower release height 20 m Upper release height 10 m

Aerosol tracer used, meteorological data are from ECMWF

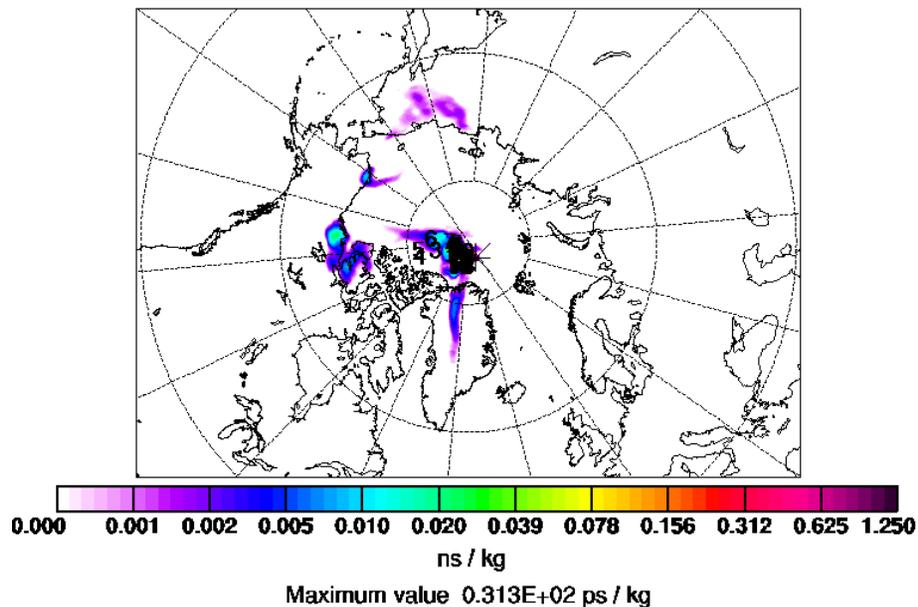
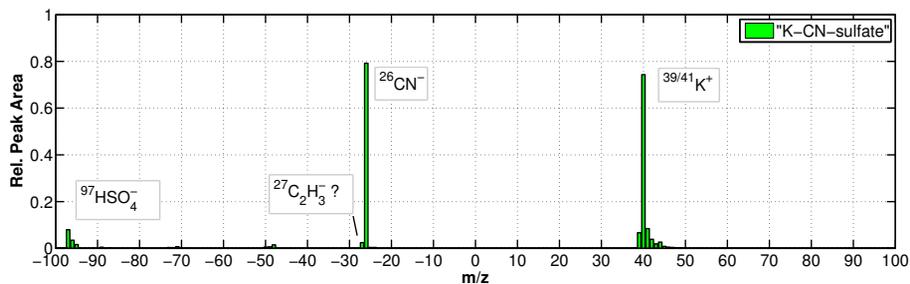


Fig. 7. Footprint emission sensitivity for 28 August 2008 (DoY 241) obtained from FLEXPART.

Single-particle  
characterization of  
High Arctic aerosol

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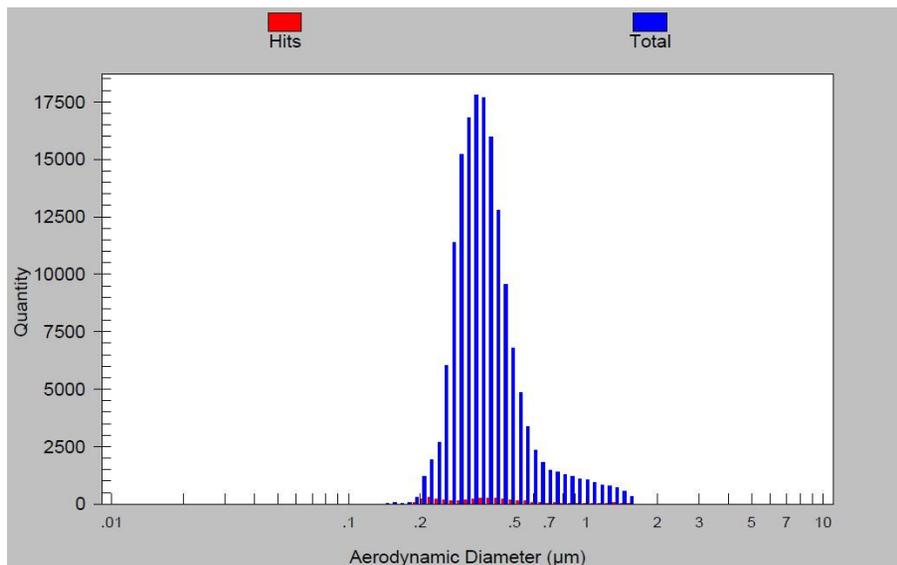


**Fig. 8.** Mass spectra of particle type 3, *K-CN-sulfate*. This particle type represents a possible candidate for an ocean-derived, biological aerosol. Note that due to a software feature the peak at  $m/z +40$  actually belongs to  $^{39}\text{K}^+$  (please refer to the text for a more detailed explanation).

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## Single-particle characterization of High Arctic aerosol

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**Fig. 9.** ATOFMS-measured aerodynamic size distribution of particles that were “sized” (blue colored bars) and subsequently “hit” (red colored bars) by the ionization laser, i.e. particles that produced a mass spectrum and were chemically analyzed. All particles measured at the IF station are combined.

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