Estimating contributions of black and brown carbon to solar absorption from skyradiometer measurements

<u>Sang-Woo Kim¹</u>, Chaeyoon Cho¹, Meehye Lee², Wenzheng Fang³, Örjan Gustafsson⁴, August Andersson⁴, and Patrick J. Sheridan⁵

¹School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Seoul National University
²Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Korea University
³School of Geographic Sciences, Faculty of Earth Sciences, East China Normal University
⁴Department of Environmental Science and Analytical Chemistry, Stockholm University
⁵Earth System Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Topics in this talk

- Estimating Mass Absorption Cross-Section (MAC) of BC and BrC from field measurements in East Asia
- 2. Determine the contributions of BC and BrC to aerosol light absorption coefficient from surface in-situ measurements
- Determine the contributions of BC and BrC to Absoprtion AOD (AAOD) from skyradiometer measurements

Black Carbon (BC) and Brown Carbon (BrC)



Sources of BC in East Asia





Direct Radiative Forcing of BC and BrC





Direct Radiative Forcing of BC and BrC

Atmospheric Aging Process



Absorption Coefficient [m⁻¹] = Mass [g m⁻³] x Mass absorption cross-section [m² g⁻¹]

- MAC of 7.5 ± 1.2 m² g⁻¹ for fresh BC [Bond and Bergstrom, 2006] is adapted to most global aerosol models.
- Some models have also used a broad range of MAC_{BC} ranging from 2.3 to 18 m² g⁻¹ to account for the de-coating or coatingenhancement of ambient BC absorption.

Mass Absorption Cross-Section [MAC] of BC



Coating-enhancement of BC absorption

[Peng et al., PNAS, 2016]

MAC_{BC} increases with coatings: Airborne SP-2



Mass Absorption Cross-Section [MAC] of BrC



China BrC photo-bleaching Gosan (Background site)

BrC underwent photo-bleaching process during ٠ transportation, resulting in decreased MAC_{Brc} at Gosan.





Fig. 5. Bounding the light absorption of WS-BrC in the South Asian outflow.

Water-extracted BrC (MAC_{BrC}^{WSOC})

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Contribution of BC and BrC to Light Absorption

ר "Absorption Ångström Exponent (AÅE) method" ר



Aerosol absorption Coefficient (565nm) (In-situ observations at Gosan, Jeju)





Partitioning CA between BC and BrC

1) Removal of dust absorption was done using the wavelength dependence of absorption of dust particles, since aerosol optical depth (AOD) for dust is nearly wavelength independent, while aerosol absorption optical depth (AAOD) increases steeply at shorter wavelengths compared with carbonaceous aerosols (Russell et al., 2010; Bahadur et al., 2012; Chung et al., 2012b).

2) The AAOD, calculated as "AAOD=(1-SSA)×AOD", was separated into BC (AAOD_{BC}) and BrC (AAOD_{BrC}), to account for their individual contribution, using their spectral dependence on absorption, normally represented by the absorption Ångström exponent (AÅE; the so-called "AÅE approach"; Bahadur et al., 2012; Chung et al., 2012b).



3) The AAOD for BC ($AAOD_{BC}$) and BrC ($AAOD_{BrC}$) were finally converted into the AOD for BC (AOD_{BC}) and BrC (AOD_{BrC}), respectively, by using the SSA for BC and BrC suggested by Magi et al. (2009) and Chung et al. (2012).

Contribution of BC and BrC to AAOD



Contribution of BC and BrC to AAOD



• The contribution of BC to AAOD was larger in polluted areas, whereas BrC contribution increased in background sites in East Asia.

Comparison of BC and BrC absorption in Kathmandu



• In contrast to East Asia, BrC contribution was higher in the polluted site, whereas BC contribution was higher in the background site in South Asia.

Summary and Discussion



- BrC contribution to surface aerosol absorption coefficient (σ_{ap}) at 370 nm at Gosan was approximately 5% higher than that at 350–450 nm in polluted Chinese urban sites due to primary BrC transported from China and the formation of secondary BrC during long-range transport.
- In columnar atmosphere, the contribution of BC to AAOD was larger in polluted sites (mean: 92.1±3.5%; range: 90.1–93.2%), whereas BrC contribution increased in background sites (10.4–15.6%).

Kankyour!