

**Parameterization of
black carbon aging in
the OsloCTM2**

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Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2 and implications for regional transport to the Arctic

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Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Abstract

A critical parameter for the atmospheric lifetime of black carbon (BC) aerosols, and hence for the range over which the particles can be transported, is the aging time, i.e. the time before the aerosols become available for removal by wet deposition. This study compares two different parameterizations of BC aging in the chemistry transport model OsloCTM2: (i) a bulk parameterization (BULK) where aging is represented by a constant transfer to hydrophilic mode and (ii) a microphysical module (M7) where aging occurs through particle interaction and where the particle size distribution is accounted for. We investigate the effect of including microphysics on the distribution of BC globally and in the Arctic. We also focus on the impact on estimated contributions to Arctic BC from selected emission source regions. With more detailed microphysics (M7) there are regional and seasonal variations in aging. The aging is slower during high-latitude winter, when the production of sulfate is lower, than in lower latitudes and during summer. High-latitude concentrations of BC are significantly increased during winter compared to BULK. Furthermore, M7 improves the model performance at high Arctic surface stations, especially the accumulation of BC during winter. A proper representation of vertical BC load is important because the climate effects of the aerosols depend on their altitude in the atmosphere. Comparisons with measured vertical profiles indicate that the model generally overestimates the BC load, particularly at higher altitudes, and this overestimation is exacerbated with M7 compared to BULK. Both parameterizations show that north of 65° N emissions in Europe contribute most to atmospheric BC concentration and to BC in snow and ice. M7 leads to a pronounced seasonal pattern in contributions and contributions from Europe and Russia increase strongly during winter compared to BULK. There is generally a small increase in the amount of BC in snow and ice with M7 compared to BULK, but concentrations are still underestimated relative to measurements.

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Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



1 Introduction

Black carbon (BC) aerosols have received increasing attention as a contributor to climate warming. BC can contribute to temperature change through several mechanisms; absorption of direct and reflected solar radiation (Haywood and Shine, 1997; Jacobson, 2002; Myhre et al., 2009; Schulz et al., 2006; Skeie et al., 2011), impacts on cloud cover and formation (Ackerman et al., 2000; Cook and Highwood, 2004; Johnson et al., 2004; Koch et al., 2011; Koren et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2009; Penner et al., 2009) and reduction of the surface albedo when deposited on snow and ice (Clarke and Noone, 1985; Flanner et al., 2009; Flanner et al., 2007; Hansen and Nazarenko, 2003; Jacobson, 2004; Rypdal et al., 2009b; Warren and Wiscombe, 1980)

The short atmospheric lifetime of BC means that emission reductions will have a rapid response and reduction of BC emissions may be an efficient way of slowing down global warming, especially at high latitudes (Bond, 2007; Bond and Sun, 2005; Hansen et al., 2000; Jacobson, 2002; Kopp and Mauzerall, 2010; Quinn et al., 2008). Such reductions would also have significant co-benefits for air pollution and health (Aunan et al., 2006; Jacobson, 2010; Rypdal et al., 2009a). The implementation of an efficient policy aimed at BC, which is currently not regulated under any global agreements, requires knowledge of where measures are economically and politically most feasible and where the effect on climate is most beneficial (Rypdal et al., 2009b). Studies have shown that the radiative forcing and the potential for long-range transport can depend on the location of emission (Berntsen et al., 2006; Koch et al., 2007; Reddy and Boucher, 2007; Shindell and Faluvegi, 2009; Shindell et al., 2008), especially for a short-lived and spatially heterogeneous component such as BC, due to regional differences in meteorological conditions, radiative properties and deposition pathways. Equal abatements can thus give greater reduction in global mean temperature change in some regions than in others. With a particular focus on abatements leading to reduced BC concentrations in snow and ice in the Arctic region it is important to quantify the regional and sectoral contributions to Arctic pollution (AMAP, 2011).

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



presented and discussed in Sect. 3. Section 4 gives conclusions and suggestions for further work.

2 Model and method

2.1 The OsloCTM2

5 The OsloCTM2 is a global 3-dimensional model with transport driven by meteorological data from the European Centre of Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) (Berglen et al., 2004; Berntsen et al., 2006; Myhre et al., 2009; Skeie et al., 2011). In this study, the horizontal resolution is $2.8^\circ \times 2.8^\circ$, with 40 vertical layers. The model is run for 18 months using year 2005/2006 meteorology and the first 6 months are discarded as spin-up. A number of simulations are performed. For both parameterizations, a reference simulation with all emissions and simulations for four separate emission source regions (Europe, China, North America and Russia including former USSR) are done. We focus on regional contributions of fossil fuel and biofuel BC. Emissions from open biomass burning sources are more difficult to regulate and the OC/BC ratio is higher (Bice et al., 2009; Novakov et al., 2005). To study the content of BC in snow and ice, a routine which models snow layers based on meteorological data for among others snow fall and melt and the following BC deposition is included (Rypdal et al., 2009b). Fossil fuel and biofuel BC emissions are from Bond et al. (2004) and open biomass burning emissions for year 2004 are from the Global Fire Emissions Database (GFEDv2) (van der Werf et al., 2006). Total global fossil fuel and biofuel emissions and open biomass burning emissions are 4.6 Tg yr^{-1} and 2.7 Tg yr^{-1} , respectively.

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

2.2 Black carbon in the OsloCTM2

2.2.1 Bulk parameterization

In the bulk parameterization (henceforth abbreviated BULK) BC aerosols are characterized by total mass only, with no size resolution and only a simple representation of mixing state. At the time of emission 20 % of the particles from fossil fuel and bio-fuel sources are assumed to be hydrophilic, while the remaining 80 % are hydrophobic. Emissions from open biomass burning are 50 % hydrophobic and 50 % hydrophilic. Hydrophobic particles are then transferred to hydrophilic mode, where they are assumed to be hygroscopic and available for wet removal, at a constant rate given by an exponential decay of 1.15 days based on Cooke et al. (1999). BC is a chemically inert species in the bulk parameterization and our regional simulations are performed by including emissions in one region at the time, setting all other BC emissions to zero.

Particles are removed by wet and dry deposition. Dry deposition is calculated with a deposition velocity of 0.025 cm s^{-1} over land and 0.2 cm s^{-1} over ocean for hydrophilic aerosols, while 0.025 cm s^{-1} is applied for all surfaces for hydrophobic particles. Hydrophilic aerosols are assumed to be 100 % absorbed in the cloud droplets and are removed according to the fraction of the liquid plus ice water content of a cloud that is removed by precipitation (Berntsen et al., 2006). It is thus assumed 100 % scavenging by both water and ice clouds in large-scale precipitation and in convective precipitation.

2.2.2 Microphysical parameterization

Important aerosol characteristics such as settling velocity, optical properties and wet removal are dependent on particle size and mixing state, and studies have found the RF and climate impact to be stronger for internally than for externally mixed BC particles (Bauer et al., 2010; Bond et al., 2006; Chung and Seinfeld, 2002, 2005). A realistic representation of an aerosol population should therefore include not only total mass of different species, but also a size distribution and the mixing state. The microphysical

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



aerosol module M7 represents these characteristics and is described in detail in Vignati et al. (2004). M7 includes the main aerosol species; sea salt, mineral dust, sulfate and organic carbon, in addition to BC. The particles are separated into seven classes or modes. A lognormal distribution function is used to represent the size distribution and each mode is represented by the total particle number and mass, from which the average particle radius is calculated. Particles are allowed to interact, leading to aging and growth, and the aerosols are moved between modes. BC aerosols are separated into soluble (mixed) and insoluble particles, and they can exist in four modes: Aitken insoluble, Aitken soluble, accumulation and coarse. In the simulations with M7 all emissions of BC are assumed to be 100 % hydrophobic and in the Aitken mode. Aging then occurs due to condensation of sulfuric acid produced in the gas-phase reaction $\text{OH} + \text{SO}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ or coagulation with sulfate particles. M7 is coupled to the sulfur/oxidant chemistry in the CTM2 (Berglen et al., 2004), i.e. the production of sulfate is explicitly calculated and is dependent on the SO_2 emissions and oxidant levels and thus variable in time and space. The parameterization of dry deposition in M7 differs from that in BULK, with deposition velocities for all aerosols now depending on particle size and density, turbulence close to surface and the resistance of the laminar sub layer (Grini, 2007).

Since the fate of the BC particles now is dependent on the amount of available sulfate, the regional simulations must be set up differently than with BULK. Regional simulations with M7 are performed by reducing fossil fuel and biofuel emissions by 20 % in each of the regions separately. Regional contributions are then calculated as the difference from the reference simulation and scaled to a 100 % reduction. Due to non-linearities this might not be entirely equal to a 100 % reduction.

3 Results and discussion

This section presents results from the experiments, first for atmospheric concentrations and then for BC in snow and ice. For both, we present first results for total, global emissions and then for regional simulations.

32505

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



3.1 Atmospheric BC

3.1.1 Global concentrations

The annual mean surface concentration of total BC (fossil fuel, biofuel and biomass burning) is shown in Fig. 1. Maximum concentrations of a few $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ are found close to major source regions and the concentration decreases rapidly with distance, reflecting the short atmospheric lifetime of BC. Results are similar to those modelled by Koch et al. (2007). We find that over most continental regions the ratio M7/BULK is 2 or lower, while the ratio increases with distance from main emission source regions. With M7 there is a significant increase in concentrations at high latitudes, especially in the Northern hemisphere. With transport, meteorology and wet removal processes unchanged in both aerosol parameterizations, this increase can be attributed mainly to the change in lifetime due to the different treatment of aging. M7 also involves changes to the dry deposition scheme for aerosols. However, wet removal is the dominating loss mechanism for BC (although dry deposition could play a more important role during high-latitude winter; Spackman et al., 2010), so we expect the impact on surface concentration of these changes to be smaller than the impact of changes in lifetime. Annual mean zonally averaged burden reveals increased BC at all latitudes with M7, with the highest relative change, up to 90%, at the highest latitudes. The global mean lifetime of BC (calculated as the ratio of burden to total emissions of BC) is 5.8 days and 7.4 days with BULK and M7 respectively, while the global burden is 0.12 and 0.16 Tg. This increase in lifetime and burden is similar to results in Vignati et al. (2010), who found global burdens of 0.11 and 0.14 Tg (corresponding to lifetimes of 4.7 and 6.2 days) using a bulk parameterization and the M7 respectively. Results are also similar to Liu et al. (2011) who found an increase in lifetime from 6.9 to 9.5 days with an improved parameterization of BC accounting for regional and seasonal variations in aging instead of a bulk configuration. Previous studies report BC lifetimes ranging from 4 to 15 days (Schulz et al., 2006; Vignati et al., 2010). Examination of the surface concentration in different seasons reveals that the high-latitude increase

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



is strongest in fall and winter. During these months the production of sulfate is lower due to lack of solar radiation and this reduces the coating of the BC particles, and thus results in a slower aging. Hence, M7 reveals significant seasonal and regional variations in BC aging time. Berglen et al. (2004) found that the OsloCTM2 tends to overestimate SO_2 and underestimate sulfate during Northern hemisphere winter. If sulfate concentrations were higher it would have implications for the M7, leading to a faster aging.

Figure 2a and b shows vertical profiles of total BC concentrations globally averaged and north of 65°N in January and July with BULK and M7. Both parameterizations show a general decrease in globally averaged concentration up to approximately 7 km. Above this the concentration is relatively constant with height, i.e. the mixing ratio increases with height indicating convection or long-range isentropic transport. There is an increase with M7 compared to BULK. North of 65°N this difference between parameterizations is largest below 10 km in January. During winter north of 65°N the maximum concentration with BULK is found above 10 km and the concentration with M7 varies little with altitude, consistent with high-altitude isentropic transport to this region (Stohl, 2006). As will be shown in Sect. 3.1.2, emissions in China, which have the potential to be lifted to higher altitudes due to convection and be transported northwards at this height, give a large contribution to high altitude BC north of 65°N .

The climate effects of BC particles depend on their altitude in the atmosphere (Ban-Weiss et al., 2011; Hansen et al., 2005; Johnson et al., 2004; Koch and Del Genio, 2010; Samset and Myhre, 2011) and it is important to properly measure and model the vertical distribution. BC aerosols at high altitudes are more likely to be above clouds and thus have a stronger direct effect due to cloud reflection from below (Haywood et al., 1997; Satheesh, 2002). On the other hand, heating due to BC in one layer inhibits convection from the layer below and increases cloud cover in the lower layer (Hansen et al., 2005). Koch and Del Genio (2010) provide a review of the impact of absorbing aerosols on cloud cover (semi-direct effect). Absorbing aerosols can either decrease or increase cloud cover, depending among other on altitude of the aerosols relative to

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

the cloud and the cloud type. Ban-Weiss et al. (2011) investigate the radiative forcing (direct and semi-direct effects) of BC at different altitudes using a general circulation model with prescribed aerosol concentrations, and find a strong dependence of climate response to the altitude of the aerosols.

5 Figure 2c to f shows modelled vertical profiles of total BC from the OsloCTM2 with BULK and M7 compared to measurements from flights during the HIAPER Pole-to-Pole Observation campaign (HIPPO1) (Schwarz et al., 2010b). The measurement campaign was carried out in the period 9–23 January 2009 over the Pacific Ocean; modelled values are monthly averages for January 2006. The model generally over-estimates concentrations compared to measurements, especially at higher altitudes
10 in tropical and northern mid-latitudes. For some regions measurements also show a stronger vertical gradient than modelled. Furthermore, M7 leads to an increase in concentrations relative to BULK, and hence does not lead to any improvements compared to the measurements. These findings are in line with results from Koch et al. (2009) and Schwarz et al. (2010b) who compare observed vertical profiles to an ensemble of models, including the OsloCTM2 with the bulk parameterization, and find a tendency of the models to overestimate the BC load. Results are also similar to a comparison of OsloCTM2 results with measurements by Skeie et al. (2011). Skeie et al. (2011) perform multi-year simulations using emission estimates from Bond et al. (2007), with up-
15 dated emissions for the Asian region (REAS) which capture the rapid economic growth since year 2000. A modified bulk parameterization is used, where the exponential decay is defined for separate latitude bands and seasons based on the M7 simulations in this study. This modified parameterization reduces the required computer resources, while still capturing most of the seasonal and regional variation in aging apparent when
20 the full M7 module is applied.

25 Schwarz et al. (2010b) investigate the size distribution of the BC particles, finding more of the larger particles in Arctic pollution than in remote atmosphere or in fresh pollution. The SP2 detection range for refractory carbon is ~100–600 nm volume-equivalent diameter (VED) (Schwarz et al., 2008); Schwarz et al. (2010a) found a

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



**Parameterization of
black carbon aging in
the OsloCTM2**M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

conservative lower limit for detection of 90 nm VED. The SP2 is thus suitable for measurements of accumulation mode particles (Schwarz et al., 2008). Using the M7 allows us to investigate possible regional differences in how much of the BC that exist in the different modes by looking at the vertical profiles of each mode separately (not shown here). In the region 60 to 80° N, we find that in January most of the BC particles are in the insoluble Aitken mode (0.005–0.05 μm radius interval). In this region, the transfer to soluble modes and subsequent growth is slow during winter with less sunlight and hence less production of sulfate. These particles are smaller than the detection range of the SP2. In the latitude bands between 20 to 60° N and 20° S to 20° N most particles in the lowest kilometers are in the accumulation mode both in January and July. The concentration of these particles decrease with height and at higher altitudes the insoluble Aitken mode still dominates.

Vertical profiles of BC from flight campaigns in August and February over Central America and in April in Alaska are presented in Spackman et al. (2011, 2010). Averaged over the approximate region of the flight campaign in the Central American region (75 to 85° W and 1 to 12° N) the vertical gradient in the modelled profiles is less steep than in the measurements, resulting again in too high concentrations at higher altitudes with both parameterizations. The measured BC mass loadings in Alaska show an increase with altitude to 5 km, reaching 150–250 ng kg^{-1} . The air mass sampled during several of the flights was strongly influenced of biomass burning emissions; episodic biomass burning plumes are not captured by the CTM2. Modelled BC in the approximate region of the Alaskan flight (125 to 170° W and 63 to 77° N) shows an increase with height using BULK, but values are lower than 1 ng kg^{-1} below 5 km. With M7 values are relatively constant at around 16 ng kg^{-1} up to 5 km.

Liu et al. (2011) compare vertical BC profiles with their original and improved aerosol parameterizations to measurements from the Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) flight campaign. They find significant increases in BC load with the improved parameterization compared to their original bulk configuration and improved vertical profiles compared to measurements.

Averaged over the same regions we also find strong increases in BC concentrations with M7 compared to BULK and vertical profiles with M7 are in reasonable agreement with the improved vertical profiles in Liu et al. (2011).

Modelled annual mean (2005/2006) surface concentrations of total BC are compared with measurements in Europe and the US from the EMEP 2002/2003 campaign (Yttri et al., 2007) and the IMPROVE database (<http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/IMPROVE/>, year 2005, 28 stations selected). For China we compare with measurements from Zhang et al. (2008). Model results are also compared to various measurements summarized in Jacobson (2002). Figure 3 shows scatterplots of surface air measurements versus model results for Europe, US and China. At the majority of stations in Europe and China the model underestimates concentrations compared to measurements. Averaged over all stations measured concentrations are approximately 35 %, 20 % and 84 % higher than modelled in Europe, North America and China respectively. The large discrepancy between modelled and measured concentrations in China is not unexpected; China has experienced rapid economic growth since year 2000 and more recent inventories show significantly higher emissions than used in this study (Ohara et al., 2007; Skeie et al., 2011). Measurements summarized in Jacobson (2002) are separated into marine, rural and urban. The agreement between modelled and measured concentration is on average best for rural locations (not shown here). Concentrations are generally slightly higher with M7, but few of the stations are located at a distance from the emission sources where the increase in concentration between the parameterizations is most significant (i.e. high northern or southern latitudes). Modelled values are all from the lowest model layer. The coarse grid in the OsloCTM2, as well as the different timing of measurements and model emission inventory, complicates the comparison due to the high temporal and spatial variability of BC concentrations.

The bulk version of the OsloCTM2 was part of the multi-model evaluation study by Koch et al. (2009) with similar results as in this study. However in Koch et al. (2009) the OsloCTM2 was found to overestimate surface concentrations of BC compared to measurements in Europe, the opposite of results in this study. The CTM2 simulations

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

in Koch et al. (2009) used fossil and biofuel BC emissions from Cooke et al. (1999). These estimates are higher than the Bond et al. (2004) estimates which are currently used.

Surface concentration and vertical load of BC revealed a strong increase in concentrations north of 65° N during winter with M7 compared to BULK and comparison with measured vertical profiles suggests that this is an improvement. Here we investigate this further by comparing modelled and measured surface concentrations at three Arctic locations. Shindell et al. (2008) showed that models generally produce lower surface concentrations of BC than measured at high latitude stations, especially during winter. This is also the case for the OsloCTM2. Figure 4 shows monthly mean measured and modelled surface concentrations at Alert, Barrow and Zeppelin. Measurements from Barrow and Zeppelin are from www.esrl.noaa.gov and <http://ebas.nilu.no/Default.aspx>. Measurements from Alert were provided by Sangeeta Sharma at Environment Canada. The concentrations with BULK are generally very low compared to measurements. Using the M7 leads to higher concentrations and improvements in the seasonal cycle; particularly the wintertime accumulation of BC (i.e. the Arctic Haze) is improved compared to results with BULK. The model still underestimates the magnitude of concentrations during winter and spring. Similarly, Koch (2001) and Liu et al. (2011) also find a significant improvement in both magnitude and seasonal cycle of modelled BC in the Arctic when assuming that the solubility of BC depends on exposure to sulfate compared to using a fixed aging rate. At Barrow the model shows high concentrations in summer, associated with plumes of biomass burning emissions. These high values are not seen in the 2005 surface measurements (measurements for summer 2006 has several missing values). However, measurements of aerosol light absorption and scattering from the NOAA/ESRL/GMD database show occasional small peaks also during summer. The low surface values show little downward transport, indicative of a stable boundary layer. The vertical mixing in the model might be too efficient or the height of biomass burning emissions too low, resulting in too high concentrations of aerosols at the surface. In addition to modelling uncertainties, uncertainties are also related to emission

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



inventories (Bond et al., 2004; van der Werf et al., 2006) and measurements (Bond et al., 1999; Massoli et al., 2009; Schwarz et al., 2010b). Bond et al. (2004) estimate a factor 2 uncertainty in the global BC emission inventory. Uncertainties in open biomass burning emissions can also be large and are mainly related to uncertainty in burned area, fuel load and combustion completeness (van der Werf et al., 2006). Furthermore, there is significant inter-annual variability in agricultural and forest fires. For instance, agricultural burning in Eastern Europe caused record high air pollution episodes in the European Arctic in spring 2006 (Stohl et al., 2007) as can be seen in from the Zeppelin measurements in Fig. 4.

3.1.2 Regional contributions to Arctic BC

Figure 5a and b shows monthly mean absolute contribution of fossil fuel and biofuel BC from the four emission source regions to total BC burden north of 65° N. Using BULK (left), emissions in Europe give the highest contributions to the BC burden. Contributions from China, Russia and North America are of similar magnitude. Annually averaged, fossil fuel and biofuel BC from Europe and North America contributes 22 and 5% respectively to total BC burden north of 65° N. Russia and China give equal contributions of 8%. The remaining fraction consists of both biomass burning emissions in the emission source regions considered here and BC emissions from the rest of the world. Investigation of the vertical distribution of BC, shown in Fig 5c and d, reveals that European and Russian emissions are most important near the surface and in the lower troposphere, while at higher altitudes BC from China dominates. This is consistent with previous studies (Shindell et al., 2008; Stohl, 2006). When M7 is used, the contributions from all regions display a much clearer seasonal pattern with maxima during late fall and winter, and low contributions during summer. This seasonal variation is especially evident for emissions in Europe and Russia, which are located at high latitudes, and less pronounced for emissions in China. The contributions from Europe and Russia increase strongly below 5 km in January compared to BULK. Annual average percentage contributions change only by a few percentage points, to 18% for

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Europe and 13% for Russia. There is no change in the contribution from China. The contribution from Russia increases to 13% with M7. Calculations reveal that the aging time (calculated for each regional simulation as burden of insoluble Atiken mode particles to total emissions of fossil fuel and biofuel BC in that region) for fossil fuel and biofuel BC emissions in Russia vary from approximately 3 days in July to almost 8 days in January. For emissions in Europe there is a similar seasonal variation. For emissions in China the aging time remains approximately one day throughout the year, which is reasonable considering the high emissions of SO₂ and less seasonal variation in solar radiation.

Recent studies using single-particle soot photometer (SP2) measurements (Moteki et al., 2007; Shiraiwa et al., 2007) suggest that the short aging time for emissions in China calculated in this study is reasonable. However, to our knowledge such measurements have not been conducted at higher latitudes. Furthermore, Riemer et al. (2010) calculate BC aging time-scales in an idealised urban plume (with temperature, mixing height and relative humidity representative of the Los Angeles Basin at 34° N; Riemer et al., 2009) between ~0.01 and 11 h during the day and 6 and 54 h during night. These studies indicate that also water-soluble organic carbon and nitrate can be important for the coating of BC particles. Currently, neither of these species contributes to the coating of BC in the M7 module.

3.2 BC in snow and ice

3.2.1 Global results

Figure 6 shows concentration of total BC in snow and ice in April (averaged over all days and over the top three modelled snow layers) in the Northern Hemisphere with BULK and the absolute difference between M7 and BULK. The highest concentrations are found close to source regions in Asia and Europe. Concentrations on the order of 20–40 ng g⁻¹ are found over parts of Central Asia, Siberia and North America. North of 65° N concentrations are mostly small, but with some occasional areas with high

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



values. At high latitudes there is an increase in the BC concentration in snow and ice in the simulation with M7, however the increase is for the most part quite small and the relative change is much smaller than the change in the atmospheric concentration. This is due to the large fraction of insoluble BC particles with the M7 and thus less wet deposition. Close to some source regions the general increase in BC lifetime in M7 leads to reduced concentration in snow since particles can now be transported over larger distances.

Modelled BC concentrations in snow are compared to measurements from Doherty et al. (2010), as well as older measurements summarized in Jacobson et al. (2004) and Flanner et al. (2007). Modelled concentrations from the grid box closest to each measurement location is averaged over the top three modelled snow layers and averaged over the time period of the measurement campaign. Ratios of modelled and measured concentrations (from Doherty et al., 2010) are given in Table 1. Generally, the model underestimates the concentrations compared to measurements. The agreement is particularly poor for samples from Russian locations where the ratio of modelled and measured values, averaged over all samples, is 0.05. The correlation between measured and modelled concentrations is approximately 0.5 for both BULK and M7. The model performs better on average for Canadian and Alaskan locations and in Greenland, but the correlation is poorer. This underestimation might be caused by too inefficient scavenging by snow in the model; in the OsloCTM2 only soluble particles are removed by precipitation, while a large fraction of the particles north of 65° N are found to be in the insoluble Aitken mode. Studies have shown that insoluble particles can act as ice nuclei through immersion and contact freezing (Hoose et al., 2010) and thus be scavenged. However, increased wet scavenging would lead to lower atmospheric concentrations, while results in previous sections showed that M7 in fact leads to improved representation of atmospheric BC concentrations in the Arctic. Thus, in addition to wet scavenging, the underestimation can also be a result of too inefficient transport of BC to high latitudes in the model and/or too low emissions. Hegg et al. (2009, 2010) found indications of contributions from biomass sources to the BC in Arctic snow, which are

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

not apparent in the model results. Missing or underestimated emission sources such as domestic wood burning and waste burning at high latitudes could therefore partly explain the underestimation.

3.2.2 Regional contributions

5 Finally, we investigate the regional contribution of fossil fuel and biofuel BC to total BC concentration in snow and ice north of 65° N as shown in Fig. 7. The figure shows monthly mean absolute contributions through one snow season, from September to June. The absolute contribution is largest for European emissions throughout the year, followed by North America and Russia. The most significant change with M7 compared
10 to BULK is a strong increase in the contribution from emissions in Russia, which now becomes more important than North America. As for contributions to atmospheric BC burden in Sect. 3.1.2, fossil fuel and biofuel BC from Europe gives the highest percentage contribution to total BC in snow and ice north of 65° N in both parameterizations, approximately 30 % on annual average. For the remaining regions the percentage
15 contributions and ranking differ somewhat from the contributions to atmospheric BC burden. With both BULK and M7 emissions in China contribute only 3 % to BC in snow and ice, compared to 8 % to the atmospheric burden. The contribution from China to BC in snow and ice is thus less than both Russia and North America, which contribute 10 and 16 % respectively with BULK. Again, the contribution from Russia is most affected
20 when M7 is used instead and increases to 19 %, making Russia the second largest contributor now. With M7 the contribution from North America decreases to 11 %, while there is little change in contributions from Europe. The relative importance of emissions in different regions in terms of BC in the Arctic thus depends both on the chosen parameterization and on whether we look at atmospheric BC or at the burden in
25 snow/ice. However, the dominating contribution from emissions in Europe is consistent across both parameterizations.

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



4 Conclusions

Two parameterizations of black carbon (BC) aging in the chemistry transport model OsloCTM2 are compared and the effect of including aerosol microphysics on distribution, lifetime and transport of BC is investigated. In addition we focus on the impact on regional contributions from selected emission source regions to BC in the Arctic atmosphere and snow/ice. Using a bulk parameterization (BULK) with constant transfer from hydrophobic to hydrophilic mode, despite giving reasonable results globally, does not capture possible geographical and temporal variations in aging time. Using a microphysical module (M7), which includes a representation of mixing state and size distribution and allows for aging through particle interaction, reveals a significant regional and seasonal variation in aging. This is especially apparent at high latitudes where lack of solar radiation during winter leads to a slower production of sulfate and thus to a slower aging and longer lifetime of BC.

In general, near-surface atmospheric concentrations increase with M7 compared to BULK, especially at high latitudes during winter. Inclusion of the seasonally and regionally varying BC aging improves the model performance at Arctic stations like Barrow, Alert and Zeppelin compared to the observations. In particular the representation of BC accumulation during winter, where it contributes to the Arctic Haze phenomenon, is improved. These results agree well with other studies (Liu et al., 2011; Vignati et al., 2010). Since the climate impact of BC aerosols depends on their vertical location, it is important to both measure and model the vertical distribution of BC properly (Ban-Weiss et al., 2011; Koch and Del Genio, 2010). Comparison with vertical profiles shows that the model generally overestimates the BC concentration, especially at higher altitudes. Using M7 increases concentrations compared to BULK and hence does not lead to significant improvements in the comparison with measurements. One exception is measurements at high northern latitudes.

The concentration of BC in snow and ice increases slightly with M7, with some exceptions close to source regions. With both parameterizations, the model significantly

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

underestimates BC in snow and ice compared to measurements, particularly for samples from Russia. Discrepancies can arise from uncertainties in measurements and the emission inventory and from the coarse resolution of the model. Additionally, the treatment of removal of particles by snow in the model and transport of BC to high latitudes can be part of the explanation. A large fraction of the atmospheric increase in BC concentration consists of particles in the insoluble mode. These are currently not removed by precipitation, but studies indicate that insoluble particles can act as freezing nuclei and be scavenged by snow.

Recent studies with single-particle soot photometer (SP2) measurements have shown that water soluble organic carbon and nitrate can contribute to coating of BC particles through condensation (Moteki et al., 2007; Oshima et al., 2009; Shiraiwa et al., 2007). The M7 currently only includes coating by sulfate and accounting for other species might affect the aging and should be considered in future work. Using the M7 significantly increases the computer time. One possible compromise is to use constant exponential transfer within given latitude bands based on simulations with M7. This is useful for studies where many and/or long model runs are required, such as for comparisons of sources, sectors and regions (e.g. AMAP, 2011) or for calculating time series (e.g. Skeie et al., 2011). More sophisticated schemes like M7 does not necessarily improve the model performance, but allow for more realistic variability and understanding of physical processes.

The regional contributions to BC in the Arctic are affected by the inclusion of seasonally and regionally varying BC aging and the ranking of the regions also differ depending on whether we focus on atmospheric BC or the burden in snow/ice. However, a consistent feature is that of the regions considered here fossil fuel and biofuel emissions in Europe contributes most to the total BC load north of 65° N, with annual average contributions of approximately 20 % to total atmospheric BC and 30 % to total BC in snow/ice. North America gives the smallest annual average contribution to atmospheric BC, while China contributes least to BC in snow/ice. Contributions to BC in snow/ice from emissions in Russia increase from 10 % with BULK to 19 % with M7,

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



making it more important than North America which was the second most important region with BULK. European and Russian emissions are most important in the lower troposphere, while emissions from China dominate at higher altitudes. With M7, the absolute contributions from all regions display a much clearer seasonal pattern with maxima during late fall and winter and low contributions during summer, and particularly for Russia there is a significant increase during winter compared to BULK. One implication is that the timing of emission reductions in individual regions and sectors can affect the resulting reduction in Arctic BC. These changes show that it is important to consider the representation of aerosol microphysics to identify the most efficient emission reductions.

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Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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**Parameterization of
black carbon aging in
the OsloCTM2**M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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**Parameterization of
black carbon aging in
the OsloCTM2**M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

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ACPD

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Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



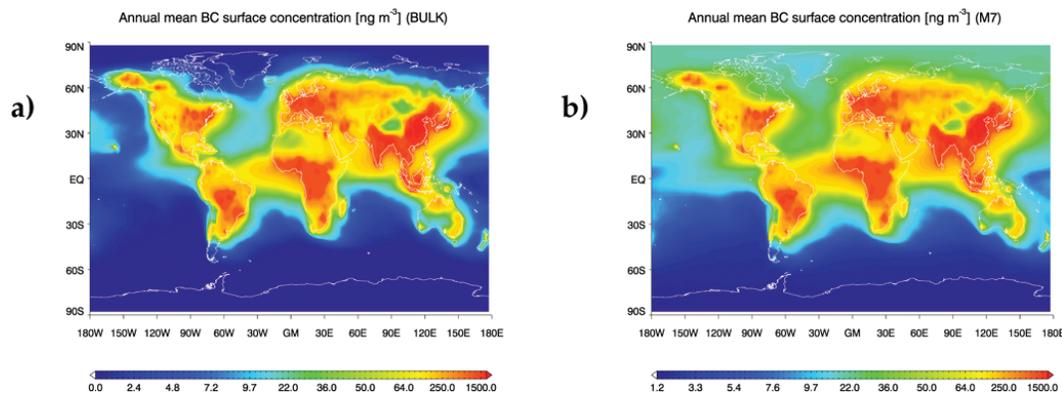
**Parameterization of
black carbon aging in
the OsloCTM2**M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Fig. 1. Annual mean surface concentration of BC (ng m^{-3}) using (a) BULK and (b) M7.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

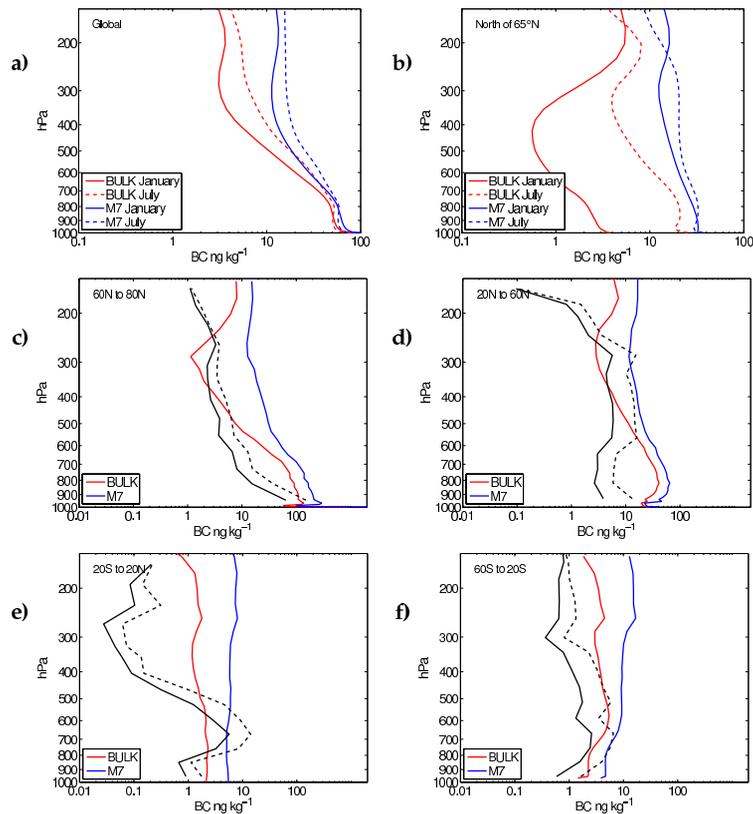


Fig. 2. Vertical distribution of BC (ng kg^{-1}) **(a)** globally averaged and **(b)** north of 65°N with BULK (red) and M7 (blue) in January (solid) and July (dashed). Panels **(c)** to **(f)** show modelled vertical distribution in January compared to measurements (solid black line, dashed line gives $+1$ SD) over the Pacific Ocean from Schwarz et al. (2010).

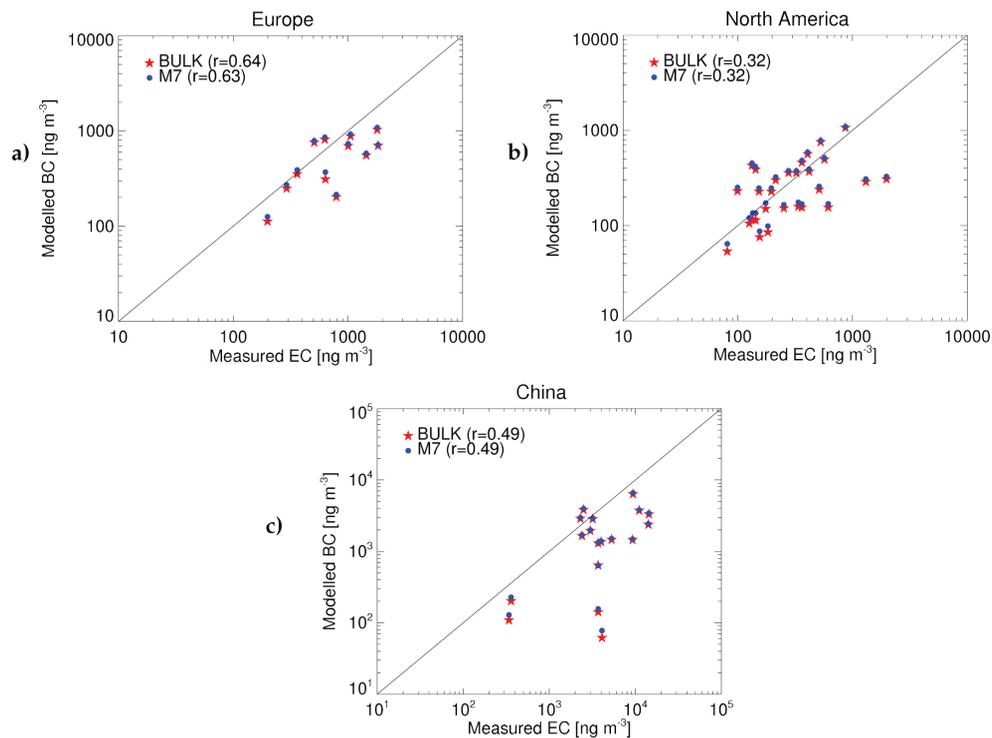
**Parameterization of
black carbon aging in
the OsloCTM2**M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Fig. 3. Annual mean modelled (2005/2006) surface concentrations of BC (ng m⁻³) with BULK and M7 versus measurements in Europe (EMEP 2002/2003 campaign), North America (IMPROVE) and China (Zhang et al., 2008).

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

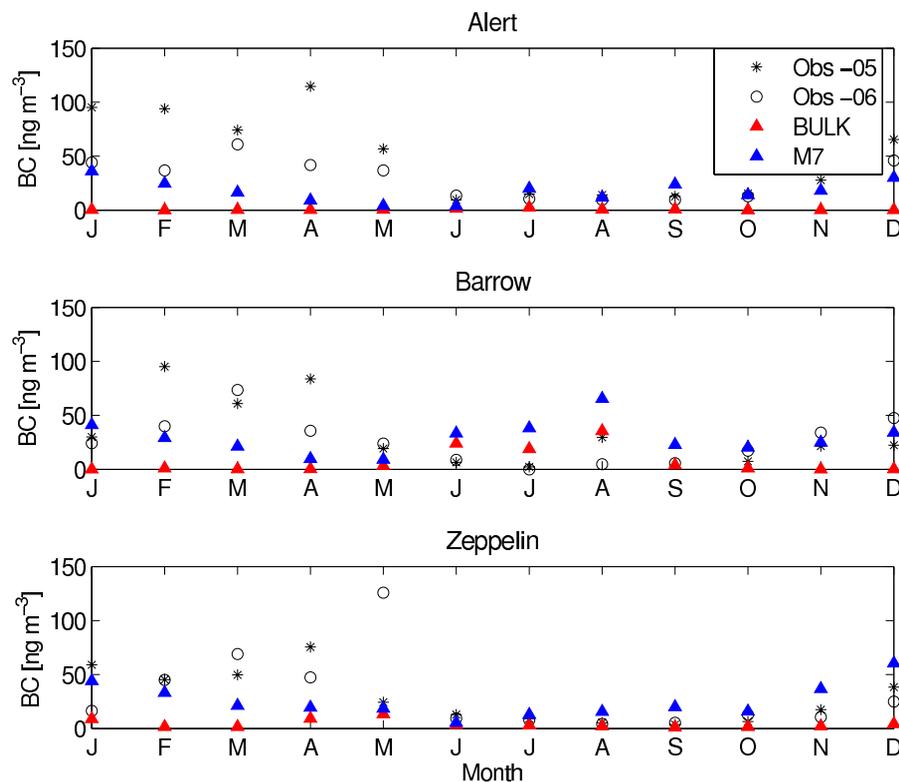


Fig. 4. Monthly mean modelled (year 2005/2006) BC surface concentrations (ng m^{-3}) with BULK and M7 and measured (year 2005 and 2006) BC concentration at Alert, Barrow and Zeppelin.

[Title Page](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Conclusions](#)
[References](#)
[Tables](#)
[Figures](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[Back](#)
[Close](#)
[Full Screen / Esc](#)
[Printer-friendly Version](#)
[Interactive Discussion](#)

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

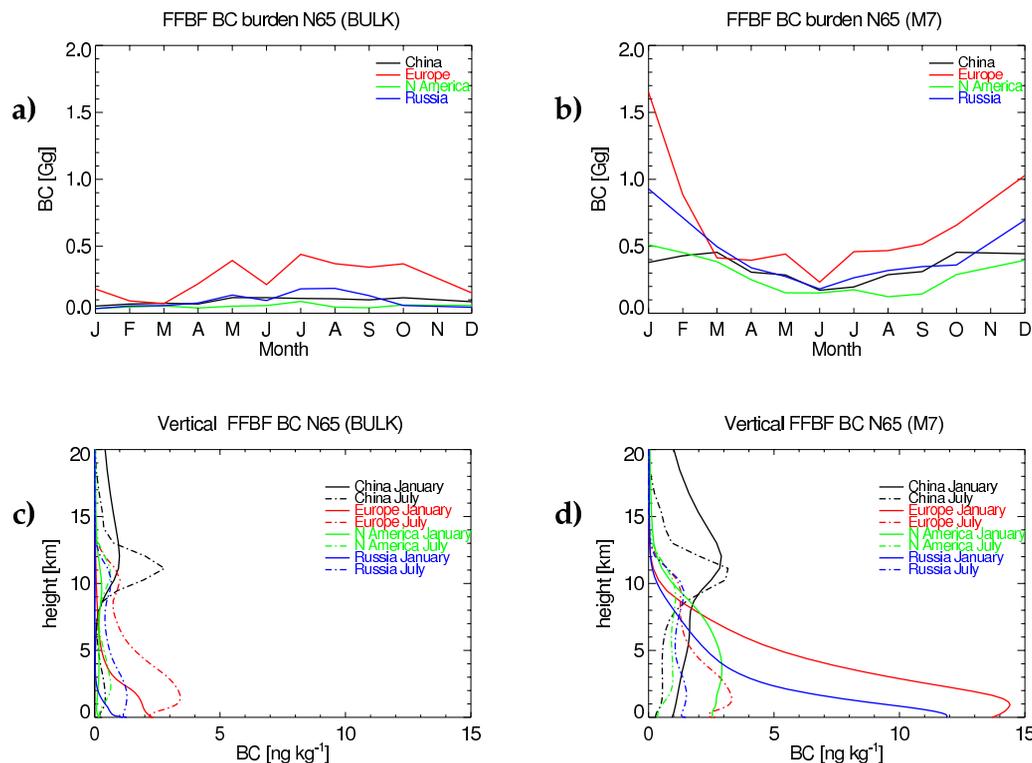


Fig. 5. Regional contribution from Europe, Russia, China and North America to monthly mean fossil and biofuel (FFBF) BC burden [kg] in the atmosphere north 65° N with **(a)** BULK and **(b)** M7, and to vertical distribution (ng kg^{-1}) of fossil and biofuel BC in January (solid) and July (dashed) with **(c)** BULK and **(d)** M7.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

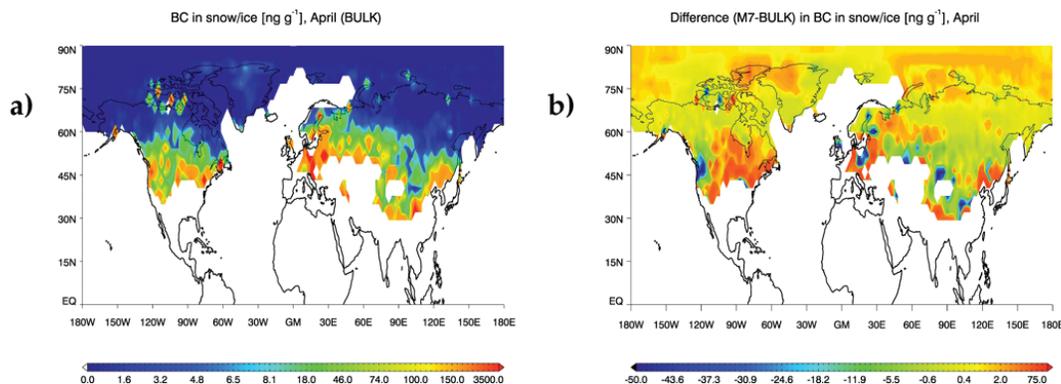
**Parameterization of
black carbon aging in
the OsloCTM2**M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

Fig. 6. BC concentration (ng g^{-1}) in snow and ice in April in the Northern hemisphere (averaged over the top three modelled snow layers) (a) using BULK and (b) difference between M7 and BULK.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Parameterization of black carbon aging in the OsloCTM2

M. T. Lund and
T. Berntsen

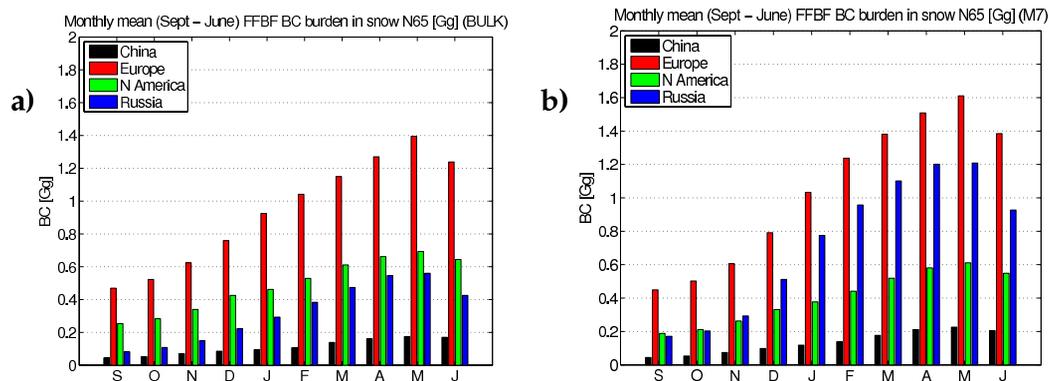


Fig. 7. Regional contribution from Europe, Russia, China and North America to monthly mean (September to June) fossil and biofuel (FFBF) BC burden (kg) in snow and ice north of 65° N using **(a)** BULK and **(b)** M7.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion