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Plume-based analysis of vehicle fleet air pollutant emissions and the contribution from high emitters

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Abstract

An automated identification and integration method has been developed to investigate in-use vehicle emissions under real-world conditions. This technique was applied to high time resolution air pollutant measurements of in-use vehicle emissions performed

- ⁵ under real-world conditions at a near-road monitoring station in Toronto, Canada during four seasons, through month-long campaigns in 2013–2014. Based on carbon dioxide measurements, over 100 000 vehicle-related plumes were automatically identified and fuel-based emission factors for nitrogen oxides; carbon monoxide; particle number, black carbon; benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX); and methanol
- ¹⁰ were determined for each plume. Thus the automated identification enabled the measurement of an unprecedented number of plumes and pollutants over an extended duration. Emission factors for volatile organic compounds were also measured road-side for the first time using a proton transfer reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer; this instrument provided the time resolution required for the plume capture technique.
- ¹⁵ Mean emission factors were characteristic of the light-duty gasoline dominated vehicle fleet present at the measurement site, with mean black carbon and particle number emission factors of 35 mg kg⁻¹ and 7.7 × 10¹⁴ kg⁻¹, respectively. The use of the plumeby-plume analysis enabled isolation of vehicle emissions, and the elucidation of coemitted pollutants from similar vehicle types, variability of emissions across the fleet,
- and the relative contribution from heavy emitters. It was found that a small proportion of the fleet (< 25 %) contributed significantly to total fleet emissions; 95, 93, 76, and 75 % for black carbon, carbon monoxide, BTEX, and particle number, respectively. Emission factors of a single pollutant may help classify a vehicle as a high emitter. However, regulatory strategies to more efficiently target multi-pollutants mixtures may be better developed by considering the co-omitted pollutants as well.
- ²⁵ developed by considering the co-emitted pollutants as well.



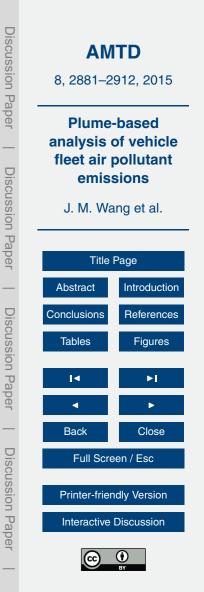
1 Introduction

On-road motor vehicles are one of the largest contributors to air pollution in urban environments (Franco et al., 2013) and thus may be a major source underlying the 3.7 million deaths per year related to air quality in 2012 worldwide (WHO, 2014). Further,

- ⁵ traffic-related air pollution is associated with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and lung cancer (Laden et al., 2006; Kampa and Castanas, 2008; HEI, 2010). Vehicle emissions contain a vast number of pollutants, some with toxicological relevance such as fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), ultrafine particles (UFPs, < 100 nm diameter), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including their accordance to proceed as the particulate matter.
- ¹⁰ including their secondary transformation to tropospheric ozone and particulate matter (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006; HEI, 2010). Other pollutants such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and black carbon (BC) have associated negative impacts on global climate (Sims et al., 2014). A major challenge in quantifying and modelling vehicle emissions is their highly variable and evolving nature, dependent on many factors including vehicle type, age,
- and operating conditions such as fuel type, engine lubricating oil, wear of parts and installed emission control technologies (HEI, 2010; Franco et al., 2013). In order to better assess the impact of vehicle emissions on local and global air quality, emissions must be more consistently and representatively quantified and characterized.

To date, many approaches have been employed to quantify vehicle emissions. Top-²⁰ down approaches such as emissions models (e.g., MOVES, MOBILE, EMFAC) are necessary to produce national inventories for vehicle emissions (EC, 2008; USEPA, 2013), but their accuracy and representativeness depend on emission factors (EFs) produced by bottom-up approaches such as engine dynamometer and real-world emissions studies (Gertler, 2005; Franco et al., 2013). Although engine dynamometer stud-

ies provide highly accurate measurements of tailpipe emissions in controlled laboratory conditions, they have two main limitations: (1) not being fully representative of real-world emissions (e.g., driving behaviour, ambient effects on emissions pre- and post-tailpipe, wear and age of vehicles in the in-use fleet) and (2) small vehicle sam-



ple size resulting from the restrictive cost and duration of experiments (Dallmann and Harley, 2010). Real-world measurement of in-use vehicle emissions presents a suitable method to bridge the gap between laboratory and ambient observations.

- Real-world studies can include on-road and tailpipe measurements that provide representative EFs for in-use vehicles. Similar to engine laboratory studies, these measurements typically sample a limited number of vehicles. In contrast, the measure of vehicle emissions at the roadside or near-road region, commonly known as remote sensing for EFs, provide a much larger vehicle sample size over a relatively short period of time and have been successfully applied to tunnel (Pierson and Brachaczek, 1982; Miguel et al., 1998; Rogak et al., 1998; Kirchstetter et al., 1999; Hwa et al.,
- 2002; Kristensson et al., 2004; Geller et al., 2005; Ban-Weiss et al., 2009; Ho et al., 2009; Dallmann et al., 2012; Mancilla and Mendoza, 2012; May et al., 2013), roadside (Bishop and Stedman, 1996; Sadler et al., 1996; Jimenez et al., 2000; Chan et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Phuleria et al., 2004; Ko and Cho, 2006; Cho, 20
- ¹⁵ 2007), and near-road environments (Nickel et al., 2013; Liggio et al., 2012; Imhof et al., 2005; Ning et al., 2008; Ježek et al., 2015; Janhall et al., 2012). Near-road measurements can be made long-term in a range of environments that are more representative of outdoor and street-level conditions typical of human exposure points. The former having further usefulness with the increasing need and implementation of near-road
- ²⁰ monitoring sites as part of regulatory action (Evans et al., 2011; Weinstock et al., 2013). Further these measurements incorporate short timescale changes that may occur between the tailpipe and near-road region for certain pollutants. However, near-road measurements have certain disadvantages as compared to tunnel and roadside measurements; higher dilution rates, increased influence from local meteorology, and
- ²⁵ less controlled conditions all affect the accuracy of the resulting EFs. Thus, it is important that near-road measurements be accompanied by site and measurement validation. Recent advancements in instrument technology, including higher time resolution and sensitivity measurements, have enabled improved interpretation and isolation of

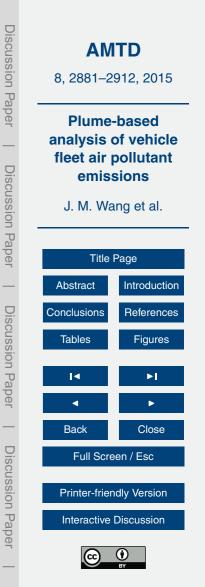


vehicle emissions from near-road measurements. However, such high time resolution measurements result in a much larger data set for processing.

This study presents an automated method for the identification, isolation, and integration of vehicle plumes from near-road pollutant measurements in an urban street canyon. Vehicle emissions quantification and characterization are presented as realworld EFs calculated from high time resolution measurements. Emissions were automatically identified using an algorithm developed to identify passing vehicle plumes based on changes in the measured CO₂ mixing ratio. This approach is different from previous near-road EF studies which have used up- and downwind measurements to isolate the traffic signal or have used lower time resolution measurements, integrating the traffic signal to calculate an overall EF for the fleet. Some studies have taken advantage of 0.5–1 Hz time resolution to isolate individual exhaust plumes from vehicles (Dallmann et al., 2012; Ban-Weiss et al., 2009; Bishop et al., 2011; Ježek et al., 2015).

A novelty of automating the plume identification technique, which is based on CO₂ from passing vehicles, is that a large number of plumes can be identified and captured. By maximizing the sampling size, more vehicles can be represented by the measurements, which is useful when assessing the heterogeneity of emissions and calculating the fleet EFs. Although method validation for site specific conditions requires initial testing, data processing can be completed in the order of minutes removing the time limitation of processing large data sets. In this study, the technique was validated for

- differences in manual vs. automated identification and integration: dilution effects; and repeatability and accuracy of the calculated EFs. Comparison with previous study EF values is used to evaluate this methodology as well as potential differences in fleet EFs. This study also presents high time resolution measurements of VOCs using a proton
- transfer reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-TOF-MS). While the PTR-TOF-MS has been deployed in the near-road environment (DeWitt et al., 2014), a novelty in this study is the application of this instrument to individual plume EF measurements. Three applications of the automated plume-by-plume approach are examined: (1) separation of individual plumes based on co-emitted pollutants, (2) estimation of the rel-



ative contributions of higher emitting vehicles to the overall emissions detected at the site, and (3) evaluation of local emissions regulation program.

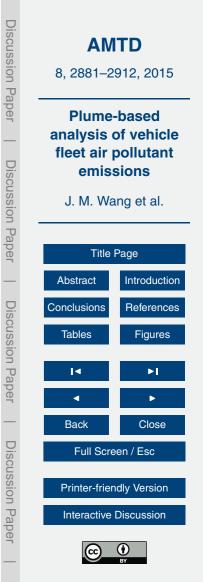
2 Experimental methods

2.1 Measurement site

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- ⁵ Continuous measurements were made over four campaigns, each lasting at least four weeks; 7 November–7 December 2013 (fall); 14 February–25 March 2014 (winter); 20 April–27 May 2014 (spring); 22 July–8 September 2014 (summer) at the Southern Ontario Centre for Atmospheric Aerosol Research (SOCAAR) Field Measurement Facility in downtown Toronto, Canada (Fig. 1). The sampling site (43°39'32" N, 79°23'43" W) is located north of a four-lane major arterial roadway that experiences traffic volumes ranging from 16 000 to 25 000 vehicles per day with vehicle speeds up to 50 km h⁻¹. Located west of the sampling site is a set of traffic lights, which results in various driving states such as cruising, braking, idling, and acceleration. Stop-andgo traffic dominates during rush hour periods, while free flowing traffic is more typical
 ¹⁵ outside of these hours, especially overnight. Given the downtown location and the absence of on-road parking, there is expected to be little, if any, influence of cold start emissions. The site is a quasi-street canyon with two four-story buildings on either side of the readway and has been used provised to part in urban air quality at udies (Japan et al.)
- of the roadway and has been used previously in urban air quality studies (Jeong et al., 2011; Rehbein et al., 2011; Sabaliauskas et al., 2012). During the measurement peri-
- ods, the average hourly ambient temperature and relative humidity ranged from -18 to +31 °C and 18 to 94 %, respectively.

From the 2009 Canadian Vehicle Survey conducted by Statistics Canada, the age breakdown averaged across all on-road vehicle types in Ontario is 45 % below 5 years, 35 % between 5–11 years, 14 % between 12–18 years, and 6 % older than 19 years, with a mean fleet age of around 7 years (StatsCan, 2010). Based on vehicle weight class, vehicles less than 4500 kg (i.e., cars, station wagons, vans, pickup trucks, small



trucks) make up 97 % of the vehicle fleet, with the remaining 3 % being trucks heavier than 4500 kg (i.e., large pickup trucks, larger trucks, tractor trailers). A similar fleet makeup observation is observed at the measurement site between vehicle classes (Fig. 1b and c) with roughly 3–4 % of the passing vehicles identified as trucks. Of the style="text-align: center;">style="text-align: center;">style="text-align: center;">style="text-align: center;">style="text-align: center;">trucks, makeup 057 % of the vehicle fleet, with the remaining 3 % being trucks heavier than 4500 kg (i.e., large pickup trucks, larger trucks, tractor trailers). A similar fleet makeup observation is observed at the measurement site between vehicle classes (Fig. 1b and c) with roughly 3–4 % of the passing vehicles identified as trucks. Of the style="text-align: center;"/style="text-align: center;"/>style="text-al

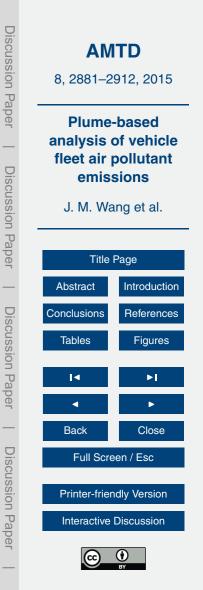
2.2 Measurement techniques

Ambient air was continuously drawn through inlets located 15 m from the roadway and 3 m above the ground. Gaseous pollutants were drawn through approximately 2 m of 0.953 cm Teflon fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) tubing with a six port glass manifold for flow distribution to gas analyzers. Measurements were made using two identical chemiluminescence analyzers, one for NO and one for NO_x , a gas filter correlation infrared analyzer for CO, and a non-dispersive infrared analyzer for CO₂ (42i, 48C, and

¹⁵ 410i, respectively; Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA) (Table 1). The time resolution for NO, NO_x , and CO_2 measurements was 1 s, and for CO measurements was 10 s.

A dedicated separate 0.635 m Teflon FEP line was used for VOC sampling. A proton transfer reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-TOF-MS, model 8000, IONI-CON Analytik, Innsbruck, Austria) was connected to the line upstream of a pump pro-

- ²⁰ viding additional flow to reduce residence time in the sampling line. The PTR-TOF-MS was operated similarly to Jordan et al. with H_3O^+ as the reagent ion, a mass range up to m/z 452, and at 2 s time resolution (Jordan et al., 2009). Individual VOCs were calibrated using two standard mixtures made by the National Air Pollution Surveillance Network at Environment Canada based on United States Environmental Protection
- Agency (US EPA) TO15 for 159 non-polar VOC and 40 independently chosen polar VOCs. Data was processed using PTR-MS Viewer 3.1.0.20 and converted from counts per second to mass concentration using the corresponding 6-level calibration curve. In this study, the focus was the VOCs with the most distinct signal from vehicle



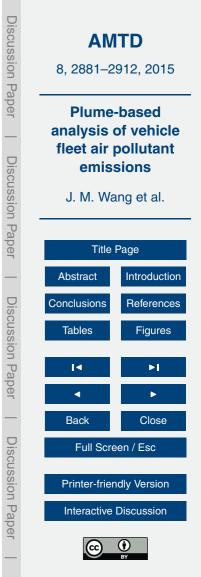
plumes, including methanol (CH₃OH), benzene (C₆H₆), toluene (C₇H₈), and ethylbenzene + xylenes (C₈H₁₀). Measurements by PTR-TOF-MS were verified with coincident 24 h integrated sampling in Summa stainless steel canisters analyzed using a cryogenic preconcentration gas chromatography-mass spectrometry method as described 5 in Wang et al. (2005).

For the particle-phase pollutant measurements, a 10 cm stainless steel tube inlet with a 2.5 μm cut-off was used to draw ambient air at 170 L min⁻¹ with minimal particle losses in the ultrafine size range. Measurements were made using a photoacoustic soot spectrometer for particle absorption at 781 nm (PASS-3, Droplet Measurement Techniques, Boulder, CO) and a condensation particle counter for total particle number (PN) concentration (CPC, model 651, Teledyne Advanced Pollution Instrumentation, San Diego, CA) (Table 1). Particle absorption measurements were converted to mass concentration by linear correlation with coincident 2 h integrated measurements made with a thermal-optical organic carbon-elemental carbon analyzer (Sunset Lab OC-EC, Sunset Laboratories, Inc., Tigard, OR) (Jeong et al., 2004). The calculated

¹⁵ OC-EC, Sunset Laboratories, Inc., figard, OA) (being et al., 2004). The calculated conversion factor from absorption (Mm⁻¹) to mass concentration (μgm⁻³) was 0.31, 0.27, 0.26, and 0.27 for fall, winter, spring, and summer, respectively, and is specific to the study conditions and instrumentation. The PASS-3 and CPC were run at a 2 s time resolution. Further information on the instrumental calibration, quality assurance, and
 ²⁰ measurement techniques is provided in the Supplement.

2.3 Data analysis

Measurement data were processed and analyzed using Igor Pro 6.34. An algorithm was written to automatically identify vehicle exhaust plumes based on the inflection points before and after a plume calculated from the slope of the CO₂ signal averaged over 10 data points (Fig. 2). Measured plumes shorter than 10 s or with an average response over the integration period below an effective detection limit of 5 ppmv CO₂ ($\sim 2 \text{ mg Cm}^{-3}$) were considered erroneous or uncaptured. The capture of vehicle plumes was visually verified for selected periods over the measurement campaign for quality



control of the automated identification algorithm and the defined effective detection limit for the CO_2 signal. A fuel-based carbon balance method was used to calculate EFs (Eq. 1), similar to previous studies (Hansen and Rosen, 1990; Kirchstetter et al., 1999; Ban-Weiss et al., 2010; Dallmann et al., 2012),

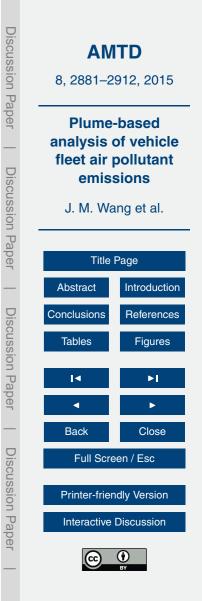
$${}_{5} \quad \mathsf{EF}_{P} = \left(\frac{\Delta[P]}{\Delta[\mathsf{CO}_{2}] + \Delta[\mathsf{CO}]}\right) w_{\mathsf{C}}$$

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where EF_P is the fuel-based emission factor of pollutant *P* (in g or particle number) per kg of fuel burned assuming ambient conditions (i.e. 25 °C, 101.325 kPa) represented by the background-subtracted integrated amount of carbon combustion products ΔCO_2 and ΔCO (in kg C m⁻³), and $w_{\text{C}} = 0.86$ the carbon weight fraction for a gasoline dominated fleet (Ban-Weiss et al., 2010). This background level is determined as the minimum level at the beginning or end of the plume period.

Effective sensitivity for each instrument was determined based on the "noise" in the background calculated as the difference between the maximum and minimum signal during multiple non-vehicle influenced stable ambient periods verified by video footage.

- ¹⁵ An EF detection limit (EF_{DL}) was set for each pollutant based on the instrument sensitivities (Table 1). Emission factors calculated from captured plumes, those that had detectable CO₂, but pollutant signals lower than the instrument sensitivity were classified as below detection limit (BDL) EFs. In order to calculate the fleet mean EF for a given pollutant, the BDL EFs were included in calculating the mean and were either
- (1) set as zero or (2) calculated assuming the experimentally established EF detection limit. This constrained the possible fleet mean by giving a lower and upper limit based on the sensitivity of the instrumentation. Further information on the data analysis techniques and validation are provided in the Supplement.



(1)

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Plume capture and validation

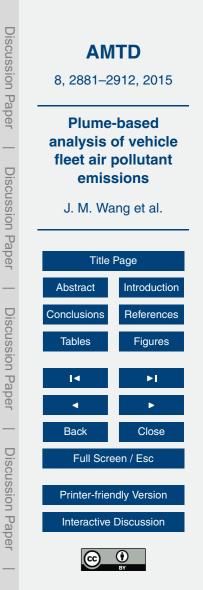
After quality assurance measures, 103000 plumes were considered to be captured, based on the measured CO_2 , out of 153000 automatically identified plumes (67% cap-

- tured). These plumes represented emissions from a single or at times multiple vehicles due to the large volume of vehicles on the roadway. An important difference between the EFs calculated from measurements made in this quasi-street canyon compared to controlled laboratory conditions is the potential chemical or physical changes that occur for certain pollutants between emission at the tailpipe and measurement at the site
- (i.e., NO, NO₂, VOCs, UFPs). This is a caveat of ambient near-road measurements that are more representative of real-world conditions. A major assumption made using this technique is that dilution and transport is similar for CO₂ and all the pollutants between emission and measurement, or between the pollutants themselves when pollutant ratios are considered. Site and measurement validation was conducted by two
 methods: (1) coincident measurements at different distances to calculate EFs and (2)

use of a test vehicle to drive by the measurement site multiple times.

To test the effects of dilution and transport on the pollutants prior to detection, coincident measurements were made for PN and CO_2 at 3 m (roadside) and 15 m (measurement inlet) distances from the roadside. Emission factors were calculated on four

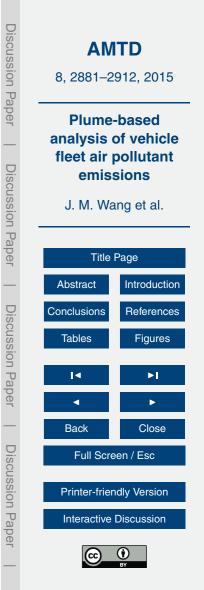
- different days based on 287 plumes from passing vehicles. The mean PN EFs differed between the independent measurements at 3 m and 15 m on average by only 6 % (Supplement). Thus on average, EFs for these pollutants do not vary significantly due to transport in this near-road region. However, this caveat may still become important for other pollutants or plumes from specific vehicle types. In order to test the
- ²⁵ capture efficiency and accuracy of the measurements, a 2013 Ford Focus gasoline direct injection passenger vehicle was driven past the site. This test vehicle was chosen for its easily identifiable emissions profile, high particle number emissions and low CO₂ emissions, to test the lower limit of the measurement technique (Myung and Park,



2012). Real-world PN EFs from the test vehicle compared well to those reported from an engine dynamometer study using a similar engine (Zimmerman et al., 2015), with mean values differing by only 14%.

From the test vehicle passes, the capture efficiency based on CO₂ was higher at the roadside than at the measurement inlet, averaging 70 and 46 %, respectively. Additionally, idling in line with the measurement inlet resulted in a slightly higher capture efficiency of 52 % compared to cruise, accelerating, and braking (44 %). To investigate whether wind direction affected the capture efficiency, successful plume captures from the four measurement campaigns were plotted against wind direction measured at the

- time of the plume pass (Fig. 1e). The relatively even distribution of captured plumes indicated that there was not a significant influence from incident wind direction on the plume capture efficiency. Plume capture is likely more dependent on turbulent conditions in the street canyon and the resulting increase in dilution during transport from the tailpipe to the inlet.
- Individual plumes that had elevated pollutant concentrations were selected from the measurement campaign in order to link individual plumes to specific vehicles, and visually identify information on the vehicle type. These plumes were not necessarily always from a high or heavy emitter, as dilution also played a critical role in determining the measured concentrations at the inlet. These individual plumes were then classified as
- having no truck influence (cars only) or having at least one truck (trucks with or without cars) using video recordings of the passing vehicles. Of the 152 plumes examined, 88 had an influence from trucks, but surprisingly 62 were from cars only, indicating that cars were also among the higher emitting vehicles. Truck-influenced periods had higher NO_x, BC, and PN EFs on average, whereas car plumes had higher CO and BTEX EFs
- ²⁵ (Fig. 3). As there was no detectable CO or BTEX emissions in the drive-by tests with the 2013 gasoline Ford Focus and in the plume captures from many other passing cars, the cars from this individual analysis were clearly higher emitters relative to more typical newer well-tuned cars. The co-emission of these pollutant sets from similar vehicleand fuel-types corresponds to previous studies, for example, May et al. (2014).



To further test the automated identification and EF calculation algorithm, a subset of these plumes were manually identified and integrated. On average, the mean percent difference between manual and automatic methods was 8 % (Supplement) and within acceptable limits given the differences in identification, background subtraction, and ⁵ integration techniques employed between the two methods. The largest deviations in EF values between the two methods were the result of noisier measurement signals that affected the background determination, especially for BC. Although both methods were consistent in the identified start of a plume, differences in the identified plume length resulted in small deviations in EF values.

10 3.2 Mean emission factors

The mean pollutant EFs for the entire fleet were calculated from the total number of captured plumes including BDL plumes (Table 2). The fleet mean EF is presented with a range to include the calculation using (i) zero values and (ii) the operational detection limit for BDL EFs, which yielded similar values. Thus, the fleet mean was relatively well

- ¹⁵ constrained despite the inability to measure every pollutant in every plume. In other words, the cumulative contribution of all the clean vehicles with BDL EFs was very small as compared to the rest of the fleet; these vehicles make up 26 to 67% of the fleet, depending on the pollutant. In comparison with previous studies that used fuel-based EFs (Table 2), the fleet mean EFs from this study were in the lower range for certain pollutants (e.g., NO_x, PN, BC) characteristic of the gasoline light-duty vehicle
 - (LDV) dominated fleet observed at the measurement site.

The fleet mean NO_x EF was similar to those reported for LDVs in previous studies and significantly lower than those reported for heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) (Hudda et al., 2013; Dallmann et al., 2012, 2013; Hu et al., 2012; Bishop et al., 2011; Park

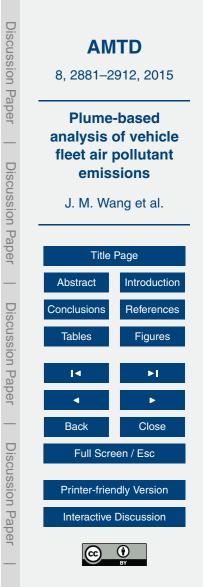
et al., 2011). For the CO EFs, a large portion of the fleet (67 %) did not have detectable CO emissions. Inclusion of those low-emitting vehicles resulted in a fleet mean CO EF at the lower end, and presumably more representative, as compared to those previously reported for LDVs, although within the range of values, and higher than typical



HDV values (Dallmann et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2009; Park et al., 2011; Dallmann et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2012; Bishop et al., 2011). The fleet mean EFs estimated by the US EPA are a good comparison for emission model results, which for NO_x are 3.4 and 7.1 gkg⁻¹, and for CO are 46 and 2 gkg⁻¹ for LDVs and HDVs, respectively (USEPA, 2008a, b). In comparison with US EPA LDV CO EFs, the fleet mean CO EF in this study was lower by a factor of 2.7. This implies that large discrepancies may arise between models that use the US EPA CO EFs as compared to "full fleet" real-world values, such as those determined for the fleet in this study. In contrast, the US EPA fleet mean NO_x EF for LDVs is quite comparable to the fleet mean EF calculated from this study with only a 23 % difference.

The fleet mean PN EF in this study is closer to the range of EFs reported for LDVs than for HDVs; however, there is large inter-study variability for PN EFs depending on many factors such as site, drive conditions, and measurement technique (Kalafut-Pettibone et al., 2011; Hudda et al., 2013; Park et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2010; Geller

- et al., 2005). The fleet mean BC EF is at the lower end of the range reported in other studies for LDVs and well below those for HDVs (Geller et al., 2005; Westerdahl et al., 2009; Park et al., 2011; Hudda et al., 2013; Dallmann et al., 2013; Liggio et al., 2012). Similar to PN EFs reported from previous studies, there is considerable inter-study variability in previously reported BC EFs, which in part may be due to the assumed
- ²⁰ mass absorption cross-section values used to convert optical to mass measurements. The BTEX mean EFs were at the lower end of those previously reported (Gentner et al., 2013; Kristensson et al., 2004; Araizaga et al., 2013; Hwa et al., 2002; Ho et al., 2009), but are comparable to BTEX EFs reported by Gentner et al. (2013) and Araizaga et al. (2013). Unfortunately, there are no nationwide US or Canadian fleet mean EFs for
- PN, BC, or speciated BTEX available for comparison; thus the EF values reported here arguably represent the most up-to-date comprehensive reference point for emission of these pollutants, at least for the Canadian vehicle fleet.

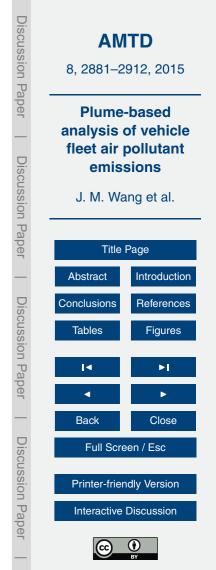


3.3 Distribution of emission factors

The EFs from the measureable fleet are highly skewed and follow a lognormal distribution. This has been observed previously in vehicle emissions measurements (Stephens, 1994; Lawson et al., 1990; Bishop et al., 1996; Jimenez et al., 2000; Barth
⁵ et al., 1999; Wenzel et al., 2000; Schwartz, 2000) and more recently in real-world EF studies (Kuhns et al., 2004; Bishop et al., 2011; Dallmann et al., 2012; Hudda et al., 2013). This arises because the majority of the fleet is characterised by relatively low emissions while the small portion of older poorly tuned vehicles have disproportion-ately high emissions. The associations between specific vehicle model year and type with this distribution have been extensively studied in the past, however, this study aims to directly quantify this skewed distribution from measurements of the passing vehicle fleet.

3.3.1 Total emissions associated with the top emitters

Although it is known that the lognormal distribution of vehicle emissions is typically the result of a small number of older poorly tuned vehicles that emit disproportion-15 ately compared to the fleet, it is important to quantify this effect within the local vehicle fleet. The percent contribution of emissions categorized from the top 5, 10, and 25% of emitters was calculated for each pollutant (Fig. 4). For CO, BC, CH_3OH , and C_7H_8 , the top 5% of emitters contributed more than 40% of the emissions and were the most disproportionately emitted of all the measured pollutants. In contrast, NO_x, and 20 C_6H_6 exhibited a lower contribution from the top emitters, although over 50% of the emissions still came from 25% of the vehicles. Specifically, for CO, BC, and CH₃OH, 25% of vehicles produced greater than 90% of the emissions while for BTEX and PN. 25% of vehicles produced greater than 70%. The number of vehicles that contributed to a single detectable plume varied, thus strictly speaking Fig. 4 represents a sum-25 mary of detectable exhaust plumes rather than individual vehicles. Furthermore, the



might arguably have inflated the calculated contribution from high emitters. This effect was explored by using the operational detection limit to calculate the BDL EFs rather than using a zero value, which yielded similar distributions for all pollutants with the exception of BC (Supplement).

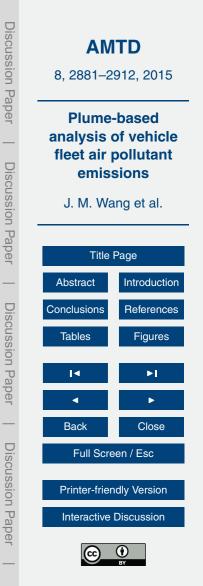
5 3.3.2 Evaluation of local emissions regulations

Vehicle emissions in southern Ontario are regulated by the provincial government through "Drive Clean", an emissions testing program that targets in-use light-duty vehicles whose emissions exceed US EPA Tier 1 limits (McCarter, 2012; MoE, 2010). The objective of the Drive Clean program is to remove high-emitting vehicles; however, it

- is not indicative of vehicle fleet emissions as vehicles manufactured post-2007 meet US EPA Tier 2 emission standards. Emissions testing is required every two years on vehicles manufactured after 1988 and older than 7 years. Further information on the emissions testing program can be found in the Supplement. A rough conversion of the maximum emissions allowed by Drive Clean for a mid-sized passenger vehicle to
- ¹⁵ fuel-based EFs gives 6.5 and 44 gkg⁻¹ for NO_x and CO, respectively (MoE, 2010), and can be used as a reference point for evaluating the overall compliance of the fleet with the emissions testing program. From the plume-by-plume analysis, EFs from higher emitters and their contribution to the total emissions were determined.

Focusing on regulated gaseous pollutants, fleet mean EF values for NO_x and CO

- (Table 2) were substantially lower than the limits set by Drive Clean, with only 6 and 10% of the EFs exceeding the limits, respectively. Thus, by far the majority of the vehicles complied with this emission standard. However, this small proportion of the fleet contributed 26% for NO_x and 60% for CO of the total fleet emissions based on EF product distributions (Fig. 5). Therefore, a disproportionately small number of vehicles contribute significantly to fleet emissions for NO_x and CO in Toronto. This disproportionately significantly to fleet emissions for NO_x and CO in Toronto.
- ²⁵ contribute significantly to fleet emissions for NO_x and CO in Toronto. This disproportionality is further illustrated by the percentage of BDL EF plumes of each pollutant (Table 2), where much of the CO, BC, and BTEX are emitted by a small proportion of the fleet. By querying for those plumes that are characterized by the highest NO_x

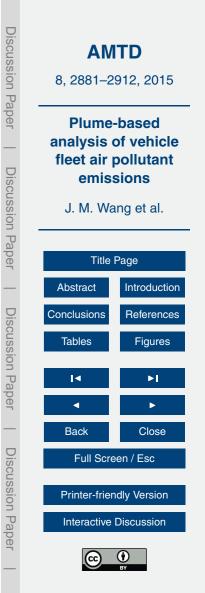


emission factors, the magnitude of emissions of other pollutant species for the same vehicles can also be determined. This contribution for other pollutants can then be matched for those vehicles that exceeded the NO_x and CO limits. For example, the 6 % of high NO_x EF plumes that exceeded the Drive Clean limit also contribute 20 % of PN,

⁵ 16 % of BC, and 8 % of CO and BTEX emissions respectively (Fig. 5a). In contrast, the highest 10 % of CO EF plumes exceeding the Drive Clean limit had higher contributions of BTEX (21 %) and relatively lower contributions for PN (13 %) and BC (14 %) (Fig. 5b). This reiterates the findings from the individual plume analysis, indicating that more stringent enforcing of CO limits may also help decrease BTEX, whereas targeting
 high NO_x emitting vehicles may also decrease PN and BC significantly.

A disproportionate contribution of NO_x and CO emission from a small number of vehicle plumes indicates the effectiveness of local emissions regulation as well as good infiltration of new well-tuned vehicles into the vehicle fleet; however, there is room for improvement in terms of removal of the higher emitters. Previous studies have ben-

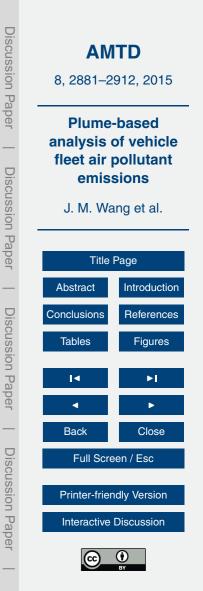
- efited greatly from single vehicle information, and have shown trends in EFs with increasing model year (Jimenez et al., 2000; Kuhns et al., 2004; Bishop et al., 2011; Wenzel et al., 2000). Although this study only had limited visual information for identifying individual vehicles, capturing a high sample size of plumes allowed both for the quantification of the fleet distribution of emissions and the investigation of relationships
- ²⁰ between pollutants. It is important to note that this comparison with the Drive Clean limits is approximate as it includes HDVs, which follow different standards, and various drive states including stop-and-go and acceleration that may result in higher emissions of pollutants (Barth et al., 1999; Kuhns et al., 2004; Bishop and Stedman, 2008; Kean et al., 2003). The impact of stop-and-go traffic on real-world emissions are increased
- in urban environments where traffic lights and high density traffic dominate, therefore it is important to include variable drive conditions in real-world analyses. Additionally, some of these "higher emitting" vehicles may not be high emitters under cruise conditions and as Drive Clean only tests at steady-state cruise speeds, these vehicles may potentially pass emissions testing.



4 Summary and conclusions

In this study an automated plume identification algorithm and emission factor calculation was validated and applied to near-road measurements in Toronto, Ontario. The analysis includes four months of measurements over a wide range of environmental

- ⁵ conditions, and provides an updated snapshot of emissions from the local vehicle fleet. With a growing number of near-road monitoring networks being implemented, similar methods can be employed with pre-existing sites and instrumentation allowing for long term measurements to isolate and quantify vehicle emissions. The automation of the plume identification coupled with high time resolution measurements greatly improves
- the sample size and quality of the EF data in this study. Despite not capturing every passing vehicle, the high number of plumes sampled allowed for an in-depth analysis and characterisation of emissions from a representative variety of vehicles. This complex information would otherwise be difficult to separate from time integrated measurements of fleet emissions. The approach also allows for the direct quantification of
- the distribution of fleet emissions, and a broad evaluation of the effectiveness of local emissions regulations on the in-use fleet in real-world operation. An advantage of the plume-by-plume approach is the time resolution it provides, where samples time integrated over hours would likely result in mean EFs much lower than those of the high emitters, and not allow estimation of the impact of these high emitters. This informa-
- tion can also be combined, on a plume-by-plume basis, to determine the contribution from a subset of higher emitting vehicles to unregulated pollutants (e.g., BC and PN) in relation to current emissions standards. Given the large data set from the four measurement campaigns, temporal and seasonal analyses of the EFs will be conducted in a future publication. Additionally, this study presents PTR-TOF-MS measurements
- of BTEX and CH₃OH from vehicle exhaust in the near-road environment, representing a novel application of this technique. These compounds were included as marker of VOCs from vehicle exhaust for the method validation; however, mass spectral data has



been retained for each plume and will be used in future much more detailed analyses to characterize volatile organics from various vehicle types.

The Supplement related to this article is available online at doi:10.5194/amtd-8-2881-2015-supplement.

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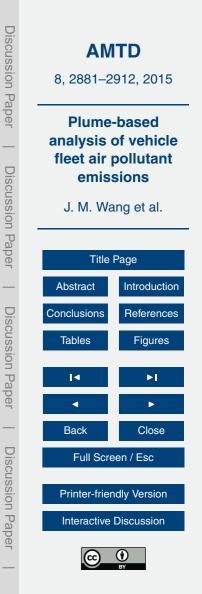
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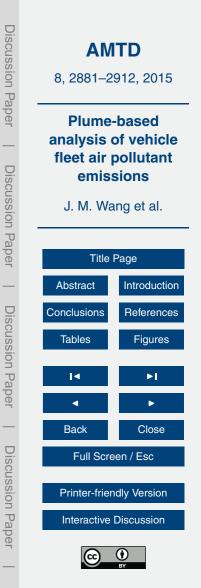


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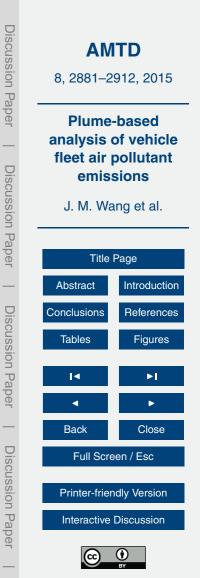
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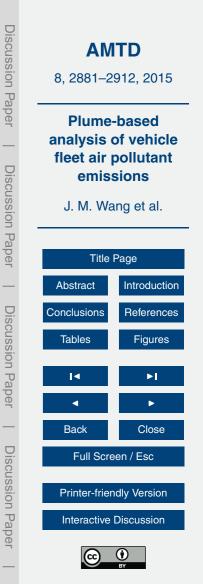
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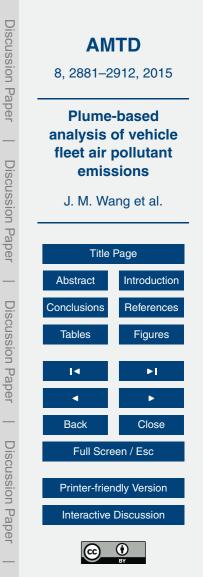
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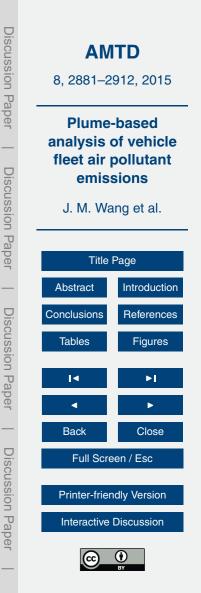


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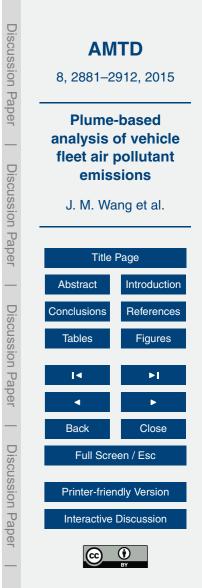
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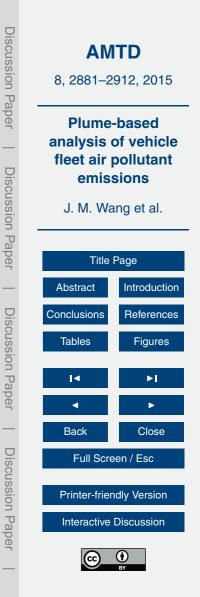


Table 1. Summary of measurement site instrumentation and the corresponding s range, precision and time resolution.	ensitivity,

Parameter	Instrument Type	Model	Effective Sensitivity	Range (Precision)	Time Resolution (s)
CO ₂	Non-dispersive infrared gas analyzer	410i	5 ppmv	0–1000 ppmv (±1 %)	1
CO	Filter correlation infrared gas analyzer	48C	150 ppbv	0–10 ppmv (±0.1 ppmv)	10
NO NO _x	Chemiluminescence analyzer	42i	3 ppbv	0–500 ppbv (±0.4 ppbv)	1
Particle Number	Condensation Particle Counter ^a	651	1500# cm^{-3}	0–10 ⁶ # cm ⁻³ (±10 %)	2
Particle Absorption	Photoacoustic Soot Spectrometer	PASS-3	$8\mathrm{Mm}^{-1}$	$0-100000\text{Mm}^{-1}$ (±3.0 Mm ⁻¹)	2
VOCs	PTR-TOF-MS	8000	0.2–1 ppbv ^b	10 pptv–1 ppmv	2

^a Particle size range of 7–2500 nm.

^b Effective sensitivity range for BTEX.

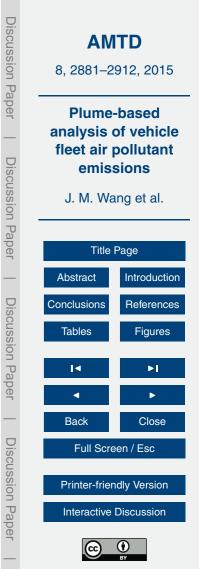


Table 2. Fleet Mean EFs from this study, including percentage of BDL EFs, compared with the range of LDV, HDV and fleet EFs reported from other real-world fuel-based EF studies.

Pollutant	This study	Other studies				
	Fleet Mean EFs ^a ±95 % CI	BDL EFs ^b (%)	LDV EFs	HDV EFs	Units	Studies
NO _x	2.27-2.32 ± 0.02	28%	1.9–3.8	8.9–33.4	g kg ⁻¹	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
CO	13.6–14.2 ± 0.5	67 %	14.3–55.1	7.7–10.9	g kg ⁻¹	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9
PN ^c	$0.77-0.77^{\circ} \pm 0.01$	26%	0.4–1.8	2.3–11	10 ¹⁵ kg ⁻¹	2, 5, 6, 10, 11
BC ^d	$0.048 - 0.061 \pm 0.001$	65 %	0.01–0.15	0.35–0.78	g kg ⁻¹	2, 3, 12, 13, 14
VOCs						
CH ₃ OH	1.65–1.67 ± 0.09	52 %	N/A		g kg ⁻¹	15, 16, 17, 18, 19
C ₆ H ₆	$0.052 - 0.054 \pm 0.0005$	47 %	0.023-0.85		g kg ⁻¹	
C ₇ H ₈	$0.159 - 0.162 \pm 0.006$	46 %	0.039-1.58		g kg ⁻¹	
C ₈ H ₁₀	$0.151 - 0.155 \pm 0.002$	47 %	0.058-1.59		g kg ⁻¹	

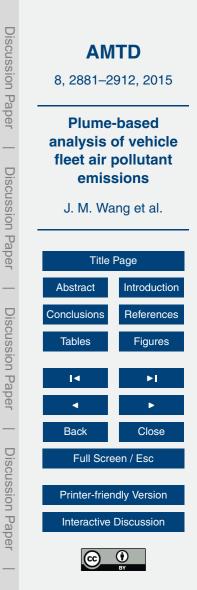
¹ Dallmann et al. (2012), ² Park et al. (2011), ³ Hudda et al. (2013), ⁴ Dallmann et al. (2013), ⁵ Hu et al. (2012), ⁶ Wang et al. (2010), ⁷ Wang et al. (2009), ⁸ Dallmann et al. (2013), ⁹ Bishop et al. (2011), ¹⁰ Kalafut-Pettibone et al. (2011), ¹¹ USEPA (2008b), ¹² Geller et al. (2005), ¹³ Westerdahl et al. (2009), ¹⁴ Liggio et al. (2012), ¹⁵ Kristensson et al. (2004), ¹⁶ Gentner et al. (2013), ¹⁷ Araizaga et al. (2013), ¹⁸ Hwa et al. (2002), ¹⁹ Ho et al. (2009)

The range in the mean EFs for all identified plumes with the lower value based on BDL EFs as zero and upper value calculated with the operational detection limit.

^b Percentage of EFs treated as BDL and given a zero value.

^c Range for fleet mean PN EFs is negligible due to the low operational detection limit of the CPC.

^d BC EFs from the PASS-3 only had 75 % data coverage temporally due to automatic zeroing of the instrument.



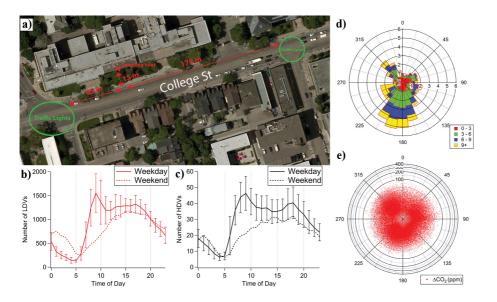


Figure 1. Aerial view of measurement site including distances between sampling inlet, roadway, and nearby traffic lights **(a)**; diurnal trends of number of light-duty vehicles (LDVs) **(b)** and heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) **(c)** with error bars indicating SD; wind rose plot from measurements over all four campaigns **(d)**; and captured plumes (red dots) as magnitude of ΔCO_2 (ppm) plotted in terms of wind direction **(e)**. Satellite and aerial imagery is courtesy of Bing Maps.



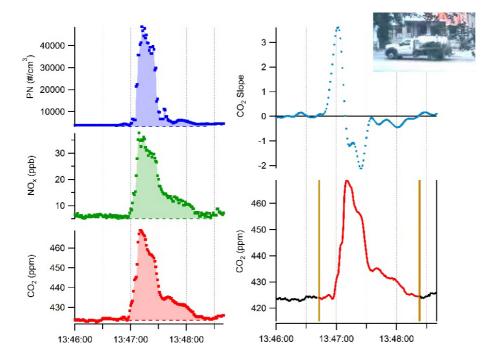


Figure 2. Time series of CO_2 , NO_x , and particle number concentration from a vehicle plume (left). The slope of CO_2 and the automated identification of the plume (right) with vertical lines marking the beginning and end of the plume period. Video footage (top right) of a utility truck was associated with the identified plume.



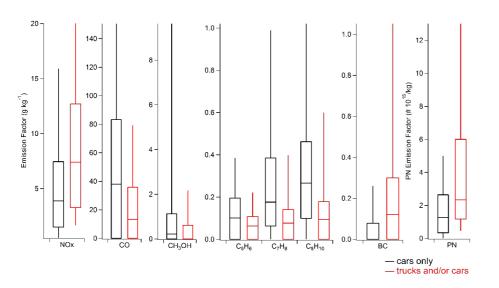
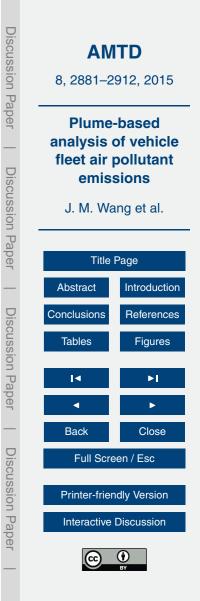


Figure 3. Box and whisker plot of the emission factors for individual plume analysis separated between periods with no influence from trucks (red) and periods with at least one passing truck (black). Horizontal lines represent the median values, boxes represent the 75th percentile and whiskers represent the 90th percentile.



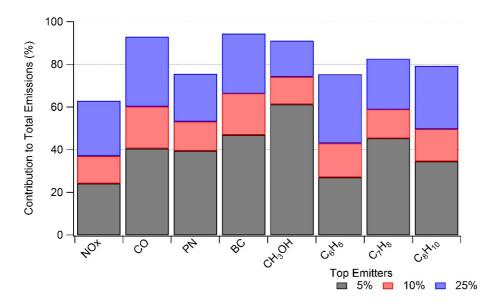


Figure 4. Stacked bar plot showing the contribution of the top 5, 10, and 25 % heaviest emitters to the total emissions captured through the plume analysis.



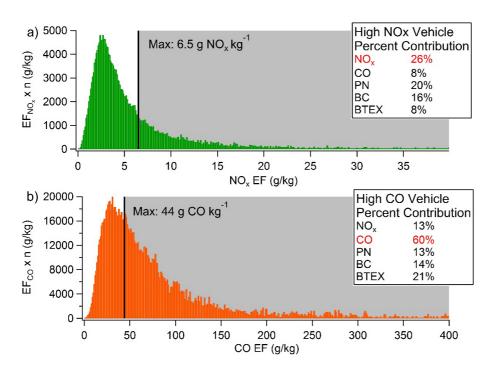


Figure 5. Product distribution histograms of NO_x (a) and CO (b) EFs of captured plumes from the detectable fleet with the maximum allowable emissions indicated by the black line. The plumes that exceed this limit (gray area) with corresponding percent contributions of other pollutants (text box). Not shown are 28 and 67 % of BDL EF plumes for NO_x and CO respectively.

