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*Supplement of*

## **Technical note: Comparison and interconversion of pH based on different standard states for aerosol acidity characterization**

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**Table S1. Summary of reported aerosol pH calculated by thermodynamic models**

#	Location	Year	Particle size	Model	F/ R <sup>a</sup>	S/ MS <sup>b</sup>	Particulate species	Gases	pH	References
<b><u>Molality based pH</u></b>										
1	Beijing, China	2014	PM2.5	E-AIM-IV	F&R	S	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> (K <sup>+</sup> taken as Na <sup>+</sup> )	NH <sub>3</sub> , HNO <sub>3</sub>	3.5 to 5.3 for forward mode and -2 to 10 for reverse mode.	(Song et al., 2018)
				ISORROPIA-II	F&R	S&MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>			
2	Guangzhou, China	2013	PM2.5	E-AIM-III	F	S	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>3</sub> , HCl	2.4 ± 0.3	(Jia et al., 2018)
3	Southeastern US	2013	PM1 and PM2.5	AIOMFAC	R	MS	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , organic compounds <sup>c</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	1.4±1.2 (EQLB) 1.3±1.2 (CLLPS)	(Pye et al., 2018)
				AIOMFAC	R	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> , organic compounds <sup>c</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	1.5±2.0 (EQLB) 1.3±2.1 (CLLPS)	
				ISORROPIA-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	0.7±2.5	
				ISORROPIA-II	F	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub>	1.1±0.7	

#	Location	Year	Particle size	Model	F/ R <sup>a</sup>	S/ MS <sup>b</sup>	Particulate species	Gases	pH	References
4	Beijing, China	2015& 2016	PM2.5	ISORROPIA	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> <sup>d</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>3</sub> , HCl	4.2 ± 0.5	(Liu et al., 2017)
5	Baltimore & Chicago, US	2011 to 2015	PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub>	~1.0 to 2.7 <sup>e</sup>	(Battaglia et al., 2017)
6	Southeastern US	2010	PM1 & PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>3</sub> , HCl	1.9±0.5 for PM1 and 2.7±0.3 for PM2.5	(Guo et al., 2017a)
7	Beijing & Xi'an, China	2013	PM1 & PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub>	4.5 for Beijing and 5 for Xi'an	(Guo et al., 2017b)
8	Atlanta, US	2016	<18 μm <sup>f</sup>	ISORROPIA-II	F	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>3</sub> , HCl <sup>h</sup>	1 to 2 for fine particle; ~6 to ~7 for coarse particle <sup>e</sup>	(Fang et al., 2017)
9	Finokalia, Greece	2012	PM1 and PM10	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> <sup>d</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>i</sup>	0.5 to 2.8	(Bougiatioti et al., 2016)
10	Northeastern US	2015	PM1	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>h</sup>	0.77 ± 0.96	(Guo et al., 2016)
11	Southeastern US	2012& 2013	PM1 and PM 2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> <sup>d</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub>	0.94 ± 0.59	(Guo et al., 2015)
12	Southeastern US	2013	PM1	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub>	0-2	(Xu et al., 2015)

#	Location	Year	Particle size	Model	F/ R <sup>a</sup>	S/ MS <sup>b</sup>	Particulate species	Gases	pH	References
<b><u>Molarity based pH</u></b>										
13	Beijing, China	2013	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	E-AIM-IV	R	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	1.1	(Tian et al., 2018)
14	Chengdu, China	2011	0.18 to 1.8 μm	E-AIM-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	-1.11	(Cheng et al., 2015)
15	Singapore	2011	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	E-AIM-III	R	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	0.48 & 0.72 (day & night)	(Behera et al., 2013)
16	Jinan, China	2006 & 2007	PM <sub>1</sub>	E-AIM-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	-1	(Cheng et al., 2011)
17	Hong Kong	2008 & 2009	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	E-AIM-III	R	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	-0.45 to 0.59	(Xue et al., 2011)
18	Beijing, China	2005	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	AIM-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	-0.52±0.62	(Pathak et al., 2009)
	Shanghai, China	2005			R	- <sup>g</sup>		-0.77±0.67		
	Lanzhou, China	2006,			R	- <sup>g</sup>		-0.38±0.64		
	Guangzhou, China	2004			R	- <sup>g</sup>		- <sup>g</sup>	0.61±0.71	
19	Hong Kong	2001	PM <sub>10</sub>	AIM-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	0.25	(Pathak et al., 2004)

#	Location	Year	Particle size	Model	F/ R <sup>a</sup>	S/ MS <sup>b</sup>	Particulate species	Gases	pH	References
<b><u>Male fraction based pH</u></b>										
20	Southeastern US	1999 to 2014	PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>i</sup>	0-2	(Weber et al., 2016)
21	Mexico City, US	2006	PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	R	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	1.98	(Hennigan et al., 2015)
				E-AIM-II and IV	R	S	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , and Cl <sup>-</sup> for AIM-IV and NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> and NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> for AIM-II	- <sup>g</sup>	2.36	
				ISORROPIA-II,	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , HNO <sub>3</sub>	3.31	
				E-AIM-II and IV	F	S	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> for AIM-IV and NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> for AIM-II	NH <sub>3</sub> and HNO <sub>3</sub>	3.24	
22	Po Valley, Italy	2009	PM2.5	E-AIM-IV	R	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl	- <sup>g</sup>	2.7 to 3.8	(Squizzato et al., 2013)
23	Beijing, China	2005& 2006	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	E-AIM-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> and NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	1.2 ±1.1	(He et al., 2012)
24	Pittsburgh, US	2002	PM1	E-AIM-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	~0.5 to 5 <sup>f</sup>	(Zhang et al., 2007)

#	Location	Year	Particle size	Model	F/ R <sup>a</sup>	S/ MS <sup>b</sup>	Particulate species	Gases	pH	References
<b>pH not specified</b>										
25	Beijing, China	2014& 2015	PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	S	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>j</sup>	7.6 ± 0.1	(He et al., 2018)
26	Beijing, China	2014	PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	4.1	(Tan et al., 2018)
27	Tianjin, China	2014& 2015	PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub>	4.9±0.4	(Shi et al., 2017)
28	Beijing, China	2015	PM1	ISORROPIA-II	F	S <sup>k</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub>	7.6 ± 0.0	(Wang et al., 2016)
	Xi'an, China	2012	PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	S <sup>k</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>		7.0 ± 1.3	
29	Beijing, China	2013	PM2.5	ISORROPIA-II	F	MS	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-c</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>j</sup>	4.4 ± 0.6	(Cheng et al., 2016)
						MS			5.4	
30	São Paulo, Brazil	2012	<18 μm <sup>f</sup>	E-AIM	R	- <sup>g</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	6.2	(Vieira-Filho et al., 2016)
					R	- <sup>g</sup>			4.1 to 5.4 <sup>e</sup>	
31	Hong Kong	1996 to 1998	PM1	AIM-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	-2.5 to 1.5	(Yao et al., 2007)

#	Location	Year	Particle size	Model	F/ R <sup>a</sup>	S/ MS <sup>b</sup>	Particulate species	Gases	pH	References
32	Hong Kong	2000	PM2.5	AIM-II	R	- <sup>g</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	- <sup>g</sup>	-0.4	(Yao et al., 2006)
				SCAPE2	F	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>3</sub> , HCl	2.3	
				ISORROPIA-I	F	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>3</sub> , HCl	3.9	
				SCAPE2	F	- <sup>g</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>3</sub> , HCl	1.9	

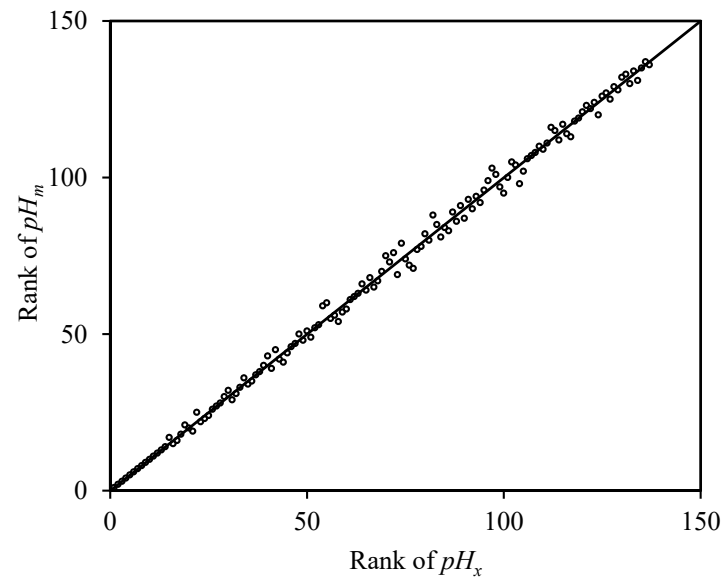
Note: <sup>a</sup> *F* means forward and *R* means reverse. <sup>b</sup> *S* means stable and *MS* means metastable. <sup>c</sup> Organic compounds were considered either in complete liquid–liquid phase separation (CLLPS) or equilibrium (EQLB) mode; Ca<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> were taken as Na<sup>+</sup>. <sup>d</sup> Aerosol water content associated with organic compounds considered; <sup>e</sup> Data extracted from figure; <sup>f</sup> Size segregated samples; <sup>g</sup> - means not specified; <sup>h</sup> Assuming NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> (total) = NH<sub>3</sub> (gas phase) +NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> (particle phase); <sup>i</sup> Estimated based on iteration; <sup>j</sup> NH<sub>3</sub> estimated based on empirical equation; <sup>k</sup> Obtained from Song et al. (2018).

**Table S2. A summary of estimation methods of parameters for pH calculation based on different standard states.**

Parameter	E-AIM-IV	ISORROPIA-II	AIOMFAC
<u>Molar fraction</u>			
$x_H$	output	Eq. (7)	output
$f_H$	output	1 <sup>a</sup>	Eq. (4)
<u>Molality</u>			
$m_H$	output	output	output
$\gamma_H$	Eq. (4)	1 <sup>a</sup>	output
<u>Molarity</u>			
$c_H$	Eq. (8) <sup>b</sup>	Eq. (8) <sup>b</sup>	Eq. (8) <sup>b</sup>
$y_H$	Eq. (6)	1 <sup>a</sup>	Eq. (6)

Note: <sup>a</sup> Activity coefficient is assumed to be 1; <sup>b</sup> the density of aerosol solution is based on the result from E-AIM-IV.





**Figure S1.** Comparison of the rank of  $pH_x$  and  $pH_m$

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