



*Supplement of*

**Budget of nitrous acid (HONO) at an urban site in the fall season of  
Guangzhou, China**

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## The introduction of the custom-built LOPAP

20 The LOPAP instrument was first developed by Heland et al. (2001), which is based on wet chemical sampling and photometric detection. Ambient air is sampled into an external sampling unit consisting of two similar stripping coils in series. Almost all the HONO and a small fraction of interfering substances (PAN, HNO<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, etc.) are absorbed in solution in the first stripping coil, while in the second stripping coil only the interfering species are absorbed. To minimize the potential interferences, we assume the interferences absorbed in the first and the second coil are the same, so the real HONO concentration in the  
25 atmosphere is determined by subtracting the measured signal of the second coil from the measured signal of the first coil. The absorption solution R1 is a mixture reagent of 1 L hydrochloric acid (HCl) (37% volume fraction) and 100 g sulfanilamide dissolved in 9 L pure water. The dye solution R2, 2 g n-(1-naphthyl)-ethylenediamine-dihydronchloride (NEDA) dissolved in 10 L pure water, is then reacted with the absorption solution from two stripping coils pumped by a peristaltic pump to form colored azo dye. The light-absorbing colored azo dye is then pumped through a debubbler by the peristaltic pump and flows into the  
30 detection unit, which consists of two liquid waveguide capillary cells (World Precision Instrument, LWCC), one LED light source (Ocean Optics), two miniature spectrometers (Ocean Optics, Maya2000Pro) and several optical fibers. To correct for the small zero-drifts in the instrument's baseline, the zero measurements were conducted every 12 h by introducing zero air (highly pure nitrogen). During the instrument's operation, the instrument calibration was performed every week using the standard sodium nitrite (NaNO<sub>2</sub>) solution (with the concentrations of 1–20 ppb, corresponding to atmospheric HONO mixing  
35 ratios of 0.245–4.9 ppbv).

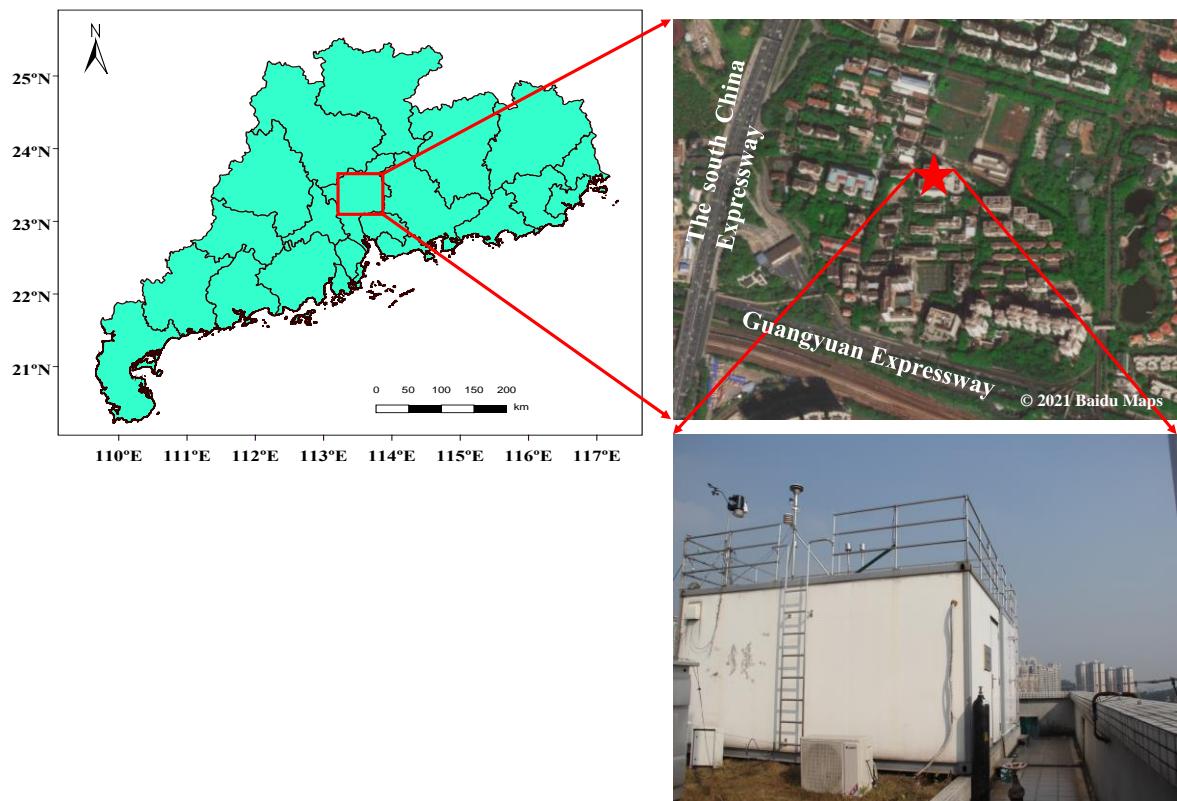
Detection limit is defined as  $3\sigma$  of HONO concentration measured in zero air. The detection limit of 5 pptv for this campaign was determined by zero air measurement. The precision ( $2\sigma$ ) of the custom-build LOPAP is defined in this work as the minimum detectable change of a measured signal (Villena et al., 2011) and amounts to approximately 1.0% of 10 ppb nitrite  
40 concentrations (median value of observed ambient HONO concentrations). Time response is defined as the time interval between HONO signal decreases from 90% of the signal when start zero air running to 10% higher than the zero signal. It also relates to the liquid flow. The determined time response during the campaign is about 4 min considering the air flow of 1 L min<sup>-1</sup> and liquid flow of 0.4 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Measurement error is the sum of statistic error and systematic error. Statistic error is defined as  $1\sigma$  of HONO signal in zero air measurement. Systematic error is coming from the uncertainties of air flow rate,  
45 liquid flow rate and calibration factor, and is about 8% of measured HONO by applying "Gaussian Error Propagation" method (Trebs et al., 2004). The instrument parameters are listed in Table S1.

A commercial LOPAP (QUMA, Germany) operated by the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry Chinese Academy of Sciences (GIGCAS) also measured HONO during the observation. Unfortunately, only less than 10 days data were obtained  
50 by the commercial LOPAP due to malfunction. Our custom-built LOPAP was validated against the commercial LOPAP instrument with good agreement ( $R^2 = 0.910$ ) (see Fig. S2), which further demonstrated the reliability of our instrument.

## **The evaluation of the interferences caused by other NOy species on NO<sub>2</sub> measurement using molybdenum converter**

Our site is a typical urban site with heavy traffic emissions, as indicated by high concentrations of NO and NOx. Meanwhile,

55 the average concentration of HONO, gaseous HNO<sub>3</sub> and particulate nitrate during the campaign were  $0.74 \pm 0.70$  ppbv,  $2.1 \pm 2.0$  ppbv and  $4.2 \pm 5.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , respectively. PAN was not measured and is estimated around 0.84 ppbv based on earlier data at Guangzhou (Wang et al., 2015a) and the other NOy species can be ignored. Based on these, we roughly estimate the relative interferences of NOz (NOy-NOx) to NO<sub>2</sub> to be around 10%.



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**Figure S1. Schematic map of the measurement site in Guangzhou. The red star represents specimen building of the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (GIGCAS).**

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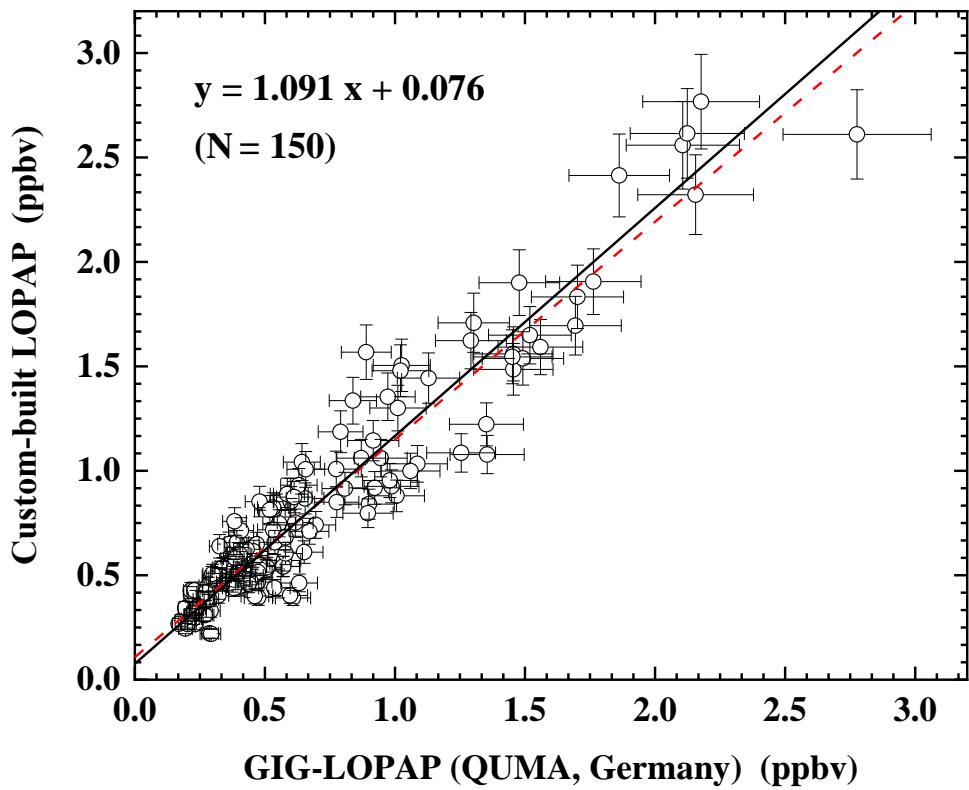


Figure S2. Intercomparison between the custom-built LOPAP with the commercial LOPAP (QUMA, Germany). The solid line denotes the linear fitting results with the "bivariate" method (slope:  $1.091 \pm 0.026$ , intercept:  $0.076 \pm 0.030$ ), while the dashed line denotes that with the "standard" method (slope:  $1.042 \pm 0.027$ , intercept:  $0.108 \pm 0.022$ ,  $R^2 = 0.910$ ). The error bars represent the uncertainties of the custom-built LOPAP (8% + 5 pptv) and commercial LOPAP data (QUMA, Germany) (10% + 7 pptv). The HONO data from October 15–18 and November 1–6, 2018 was used for comparison.

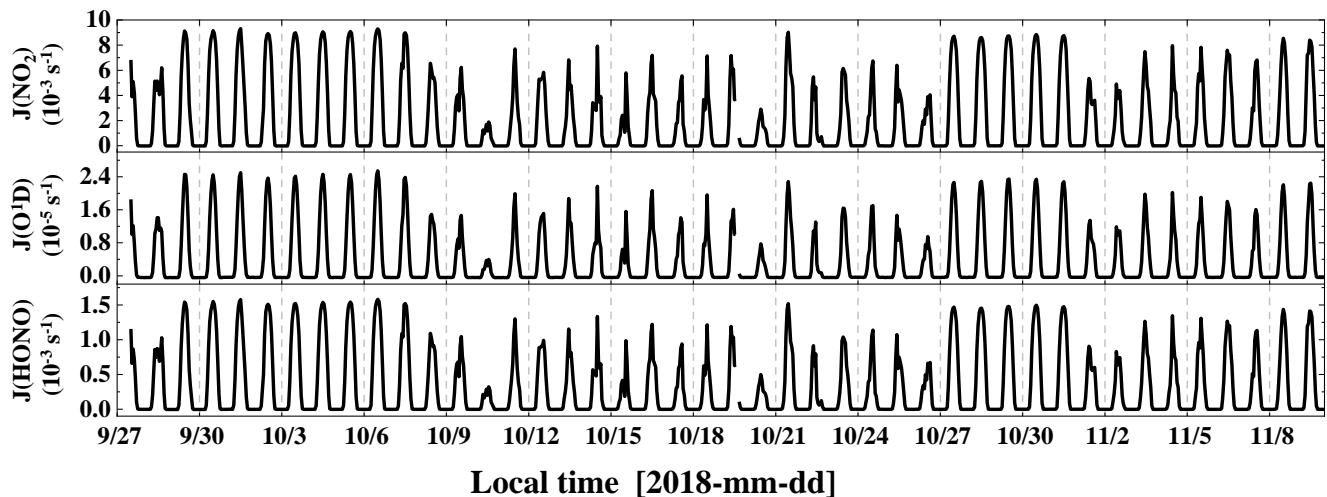


Figure S3. Temporal variations of photolysis rates  $J(\text{HONO})$ ,  $J(\text{O}^1\text{D})$  and  $J(\text{NO}_2)$  during the observation period.

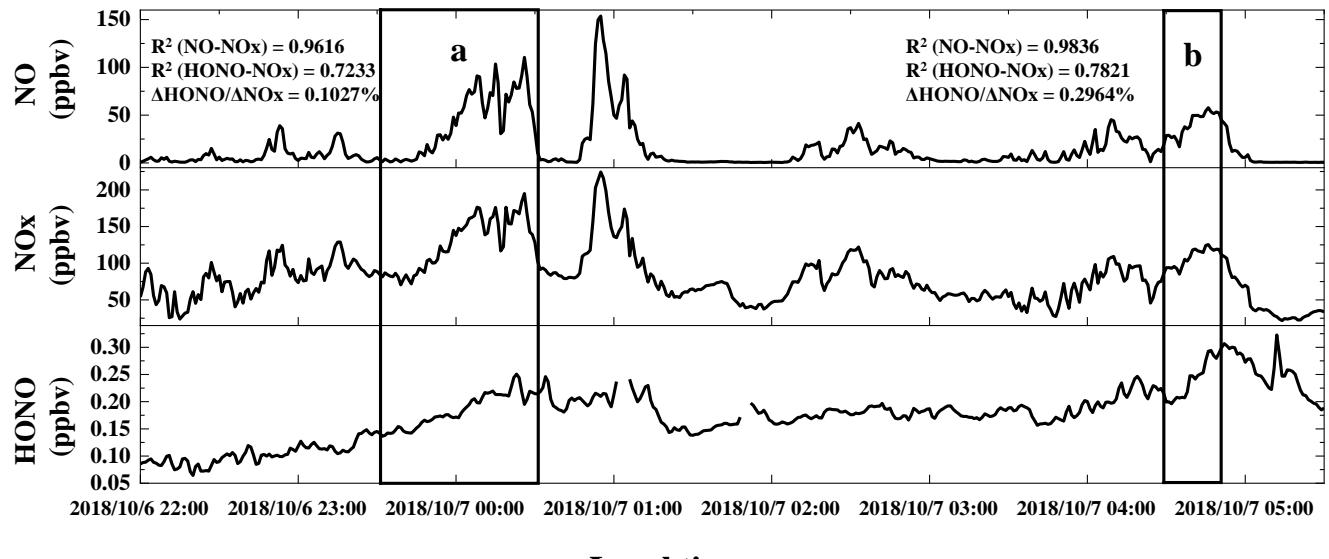
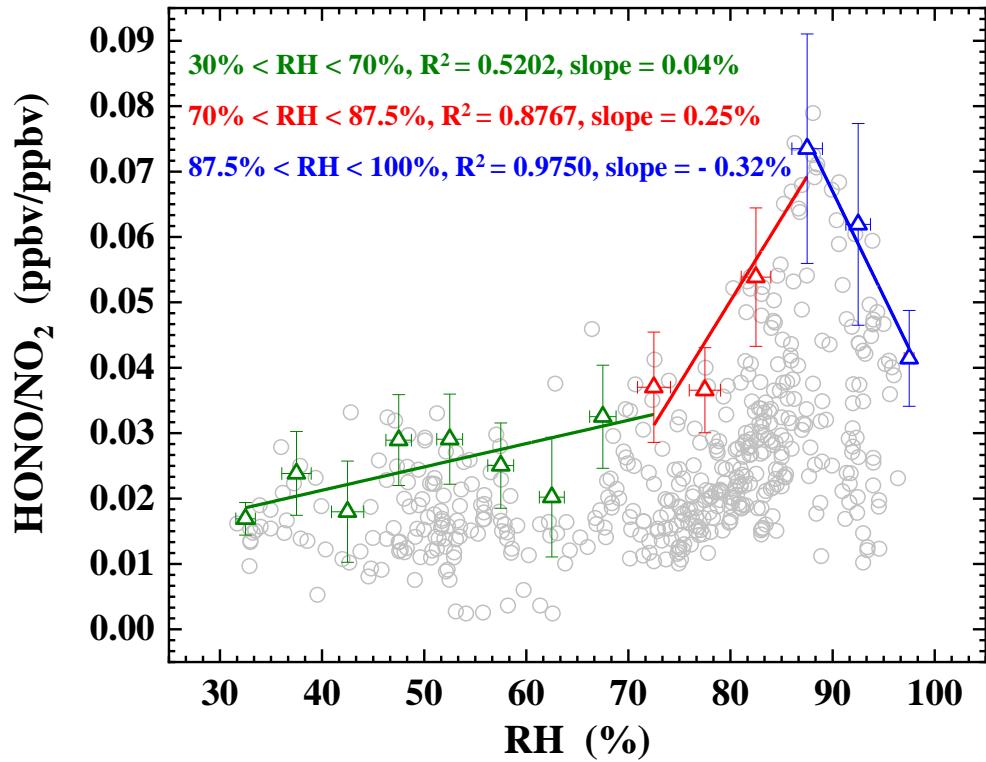


Figure S4. Temporal variations of nocturnal HONO, NOx and NO on October 6–7, 2018. The HONO emission factors were obtained according to the data in the black frames a and b.



**Figure S5.** Scatter plot of HONO/NO<sub>2</sub> ratio against RH during nighttime from 18:00 to 6:00. Triangles are the average of top-5 HONO/NO<sub>2</sub> values in each 5% RH interval.

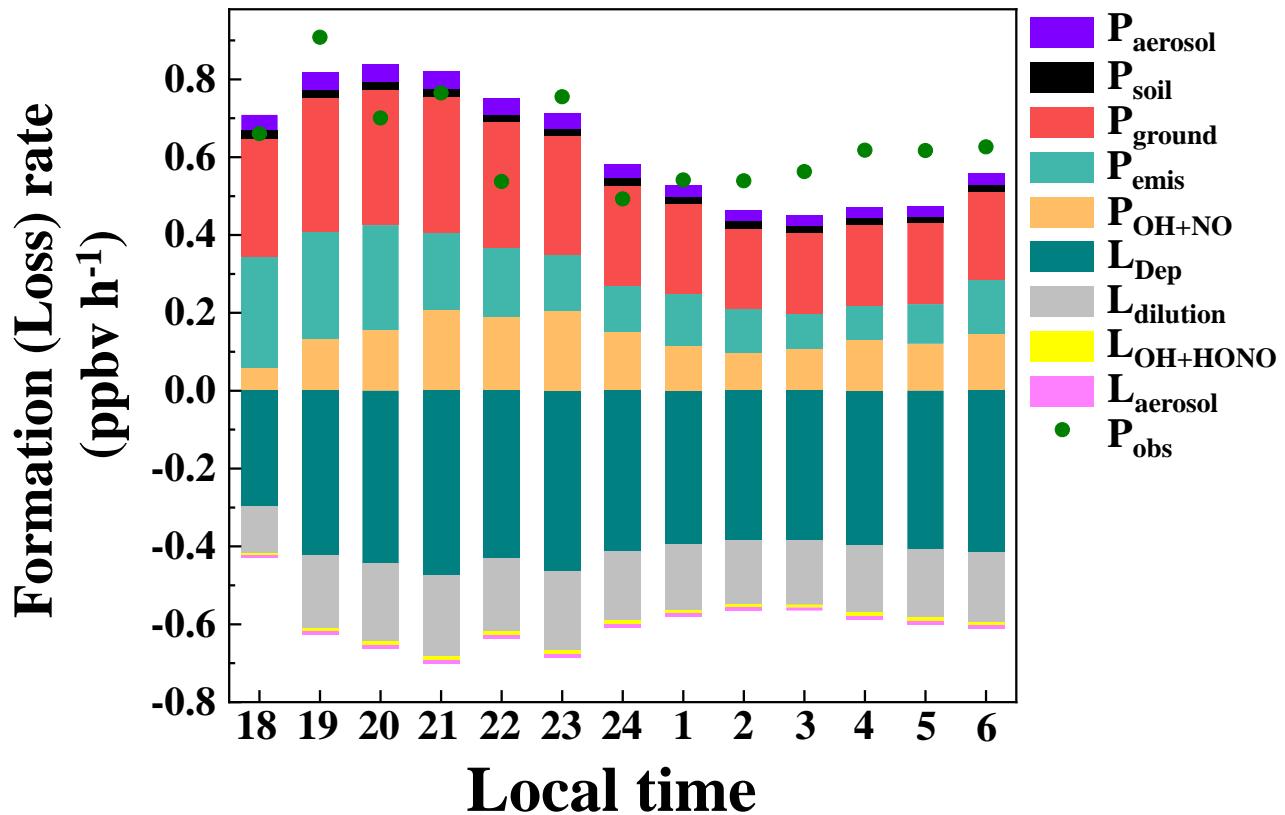


Figure S6. Nighttime HONO budget in Guangzhou during the observation period.

**Table S1.** The parameters of the custom-built LOPAP.

Parameters	Values
Air flow	1 L min <sup>-1</sup>
Liquid flow	0.4 mL min <sup>-1</sup>
Length of LWCC	100 cm
Detection limit	5 pptv
Detection range	5 pptv–10 ppbv
Time response	4 min
Uncertainty	8%

**Table S2. Emission factors ( $\Delta\text{HONO}/\Delta\text{NOx}$ ) and other information in 11 fresh plumes.**

Starting time	Duration (min)	R <sup>2</sup> (NO-NOx)	R <sup>2</sup> (HONO-NOx)	$\Delta\text{NO}/\Delta\text{NOx}$	HONO/NOx	$\Delta\text{HONO}/\Delta\text{NOx}$
2018/10/6 23:29	62	0.9616	0.7233	0.90	0.002	0.001
2018/10/7 4:29	22	0.9836	0.7821	0.97	0.002	0.003
2018/10/7 20:44	34	0.9559	0.7054	0.88	0.011	0.010
2018/10/7 22:49	22	0.9904	0.8051	1.05	0.013	0.008
2018/10/20 0:33	24	0.9621	0.7826	0.96	0.020	0.007
2018/10/21 6:28	40	0.9959	0.9403	0.89	0.021	0.014
2018/10/25 6:55	20	0.9615	0.7291	1.04	0.024	0.014
2018/11/4 19:04	22	0.9761	0.8148	1.05	0.022	0.011
2018/11/4 22:01	78	0.9892	0.7684	1.02	0.016	0.007
2018/11/6 7:31	29	0.9835	0.7902	1.03	0.029	0.009
2018/11/7 4:56	30	0.9750	0.7007	0.93	0.027	0.015

**Table S3. The overview of percentage of nighttime primary emissions of HONO from urban sites in China.**

Location	Date	Nighttime NOx (ppbv)	[HONO] <sub>emis</sub> /[HONO] (%)	Emission ratio HONO/NOx (%)	Reference
Guangzhou	Oct 2015	57.9	15.1	0.65	1
Guangzhou	Sep–Nov 2018	47.7	47	0.9	2
Shanghai	May 2016	–	12.5	0.65	3
Changzhou	Apr 2017	–	31.4	0.69	4
		41	17 <sup>a</sup>		
Zhengzhou	Jan 2019	68.7	16 <sup>b</sup>	0.65	5
		107.3	16 <sup>c</sup>		
Ji'nan	Nov 2013–Jan 2014	–	42	0.58	6
	Sep–Nov 2015	38	18		
Ji'nan	Dec 2015–Feb 2016	78.5	21	0.53	7
	Mar–May 2016	47.3	12		
	Jun–Aug 2016	29.1	15		
Beijing	Jan–Feb 2007	–	20.59	0.65	8
	Aug 2007	–	11.68		
Beijing	Oct–Nov 2014	94.5	39.6	0.65	9
Beijing	Dec 2015	–	48.8	0.8	10
Beijing	Dec 2015	–	52 <sup>b</sup>	1.3	11
Beijing	Dec 2015	–	40 <sup>c</sup>		
Beijing	Dec 2016	–	29.3	0.78	12
Beijing	Aug–Sep 2018	–	17.6	0.8	13
Beijing	May–Jul 2018	–	14.21	0.78	14
Beijing	Nov 2018–Jan 2019	–	30.79		

95 <sup>a</sup>: clean; <sup>b</sup>: polluted; <sup>c</sup>: severely polluted. Reference: 1: Tian et al. (2018); 2: This work; 3: Cui et al. (2018); 4: Shi et al. (2020); 5: Hao et al. (2020); 6: Wang et al. (2015b); 7: Li et al. (2018); 8: Spataro et al. (2013); 9: Tong et al. (2015); 10: Tong et al. (2016); 11: Zhang et al. (2019); 12: Meng et al. (2020); 13: Jia et al. (2020); 14: Liu et al. (2021).

100 **Table S4. The OH concentration is assumed of  $0.5 \times 10^6$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ . The integrated  $P_{\text{OH+NO}}^{\text{net}}$  of homogeneous reaction of NO + OH from 18:00 to 6:00.**

OH/molecules $\text{cm}^{-3}$	Integrated $P_{\text{OH+NO}}^{\text{net}}$ /ppbv	Measured HONO/ppbv
$1 \times 10^5$	0.32	
$5 \times 10^5$	1.62	0.26
$1 \times 10^6$	3.24	

**Table S5. Parameterisations of HONO production and loss mechanisms.**

Mechanism	Parameterisation				Reference
	HONO formation/loss reactions	Median	Lower	Upper	
Primary emission		$P_{\text{emis}} = 0.16 \text{ ppbv h}^{-1}$	Emission source inventory 1	Emission source inventory 2	1
NO + OH	$\text{NO} + \text{OH} \rightarrow \text{HONO}$	$\text{OH} = 0.5 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$	$1.0 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$	$1.0 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$	2
NO <sub>2</sub> on aerosol	$\text{NO}_2 + \text{aerosol} \rightarrow \text{HONO}$	$\gamma_{\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{aerosol}} = 4 \times 10^{-6}$	$2 \times 10^{-7}$	$1 \times 10^{-5}$	3, 4, 5
NO <sub>2</sub> on ground	$\text{NO}_2 + \text{ground} \rightarrow \text{HONO}$	$\gamma_{\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{ground}} = 4 \times 10^{-6}$	$2 \times 10^{-7}$	$1 \times 10^{-5}$	3, 4, 5
Soil emission		water content: 35%–45%	45%–55%	25%–35%	6, 7, 8
Deposition		$V_d = 2.5 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$	$0.077 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$	$3 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$	9, 10, 11, 12
Vertical transport		$k_{(\text{dilution})} = 0.23 \text{ h}^{-1}$	$0.1 \text{ h}^{-1}$	$0.44 \text{ h}^{-1}$	13, 14, 15
HONO on aerosol		$\gamma_{\text{HONO} \rightarrow \text{aerosol}} = 4 \times 10^{-5}$	$3 \times 10^{-7}$	$5 \times 10^{-4}$	16, 17, 18
HONO + OH	$\text{HONO} + \text{OH} \rightarrow \text{NO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{OH} = 0.5 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$	$1.0 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$	$1.0 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$	2

Emission source inventory 1 denotes the 2017 NOx emission source inventory of Guangzhou city; Emission source inventory 2 denotes the 2017 NOx emission source inventory of the 3 km × 3 km grid cell centred on the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry. Reference: 1: Huang et al. (2021); 2: Tan et al. (2019); 3: Li et al. (2018); 4: Liu et al. (2019); 5: Zhang et al. (2021); 6: Oswald et al. (2013); 7: Liu et al. (2020a); 8: Liu et al. (2020b); 9: Stutz et al. (2002); 10: Harrison and Kitto (1994); 11: Harrison et al. (1996); 12: Spindler et al. (1999); 13: Dillon et al. (2002); 14: Lin et al. (1996); 15: Kalthoff et al. (2000); 16: El Zein et al. (2013); 17: El Zein and Bedjanian (2012); 18: Romanias et al. (2012).

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