



*Supplement of*

## **Multiple pathways for the formation of secondary organic aerosol in the North China Plain in summer**

**Yifang Gu et al.**

*Correspondence to:* Ru-Jin Huang ([rujin.huang@ieecas.cn](mailto:rujin.huang@ieecas.cn))

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**Table S1.** Summary of Mass Concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> Species and OA Components ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ), Mixing Ratios of gas-phase pollutants, and meteorological parameters in the Summer Studies in Handan.

	Handan Summer			
	All	P1	P2	P3
Total	37.3±19.0	29.3±12.7	36.0±14.7	64.1±29.4
OA	19.6±5.5	15.4±3.2	19.8±4.7	25.0±6.2
HOA	2.4±2.1	2.2±1.5	2.6±2.5	1.7±1.1
COA	3.7±2.6	4.6±3.3	3.1±2.2	3.4±2.8
primary-related SOA	1.0±1.2	1.0±1.3	1.0±1.2	0.7±1.4
fresh SOA	3.5±2.5	3.5±1.3	4.0±2.3	5.5±2.7
O <sub>x</sub> -initiated SOA	6.1±3.3	6.1±1.9	7.3±3.1	5.4±2.4
aqSOA	3.9±3.5	2.9±2.2	1.8±2.0	8.3±6.3
Sulfate	7.2±4.9	5.9±5.8	7.1±4.0	11.8±6.2
Nitrate	4.3±6.3	3.5±2.9	3.0±4.4	14.9±11.3
Ammonium	2.7±2.5	2.2±1.9	2.4±1.7	6.5±4.1
Chloride	0.4±0.6	0.3±0.3	0.4±0.6	1.0±1.1
BC	3.1±2.0	2.0±1.2	3.3±1.9	4.9±2.4
CO(ppm)	0.8±0.7	0.6±0.6	0.8±0.8	1.3±0.5
NO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	14.4±9.9	11.8±5.3	15.6±11.7	15.9±5.4
SO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	4.0±4.6	2.4±2.5	5.2±5.5	2.2±1.5
O <sub>3</sub> (ppb)	54.0±22.8	24.0±14.5	49.5±29.1	32.2±24.6
WS(m/s)	1.5±1.0	1.7±1.1	1.6±1.0	1.0±0.6
WD(°)	187.1±121.8	223.1±126.6	168.2±111.5	201.9±124.4
T(°C)	25.0±4.3	22.3±2.8	26.4±4.0	23.1±2.6
RH(%)	66.3±19.4	79.4±13.0	57.7±17.5	83.7±12.5
ALWC	21.4±51.3	22.6±48.0	8.4±15.8	95.4±114.2

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25 **Table S2.** Concentrations of the main chemical components in PM<sub>1</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> during summer and  
26 winter observations in recent years.

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Sites	OA	SO <sub>4</sub>	NO <sub>3</sub>	NH <sub>4</sub>	Cl	BC	PM	PM <sub>1</sub>	NR-PM <sub>1</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
Our study	19.0	7.2	4.3	2.7	0.4	3.1				36.7
2013 Summer, Handan (Zhao et al., 2019)		16.1	16.5	7.3	3.3					95.6
2017 Summer, Handan (Zhao et al., 2019)		13.4	5.0	6.2	0.7					64.8
2015 winter, Handan (Li et al., 2017)	81.2	28.1	26.1	21.4	16.6	9.4		187.6	173.4	
2018 Summer, Beijing (Xu et al., 2019b)	12.7	6.5	7.4	4.3	0.2				31.1	
2018 Summer, Beijing (Chen et al., 2020)	12.2	3.9	2.5	2.2	0.1	3.2		24.1		
2019 Summer, Beijing (Chen et al., 2020)	9.3	4.5	2.8	2.5	0.2			19.3		
2019 Summer, Xian (Duan et al., 2020)	14.0	3.9	2.8	1.7	0.1					22.5

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54 **Table S3.** Elemental ratios and OM:OC ratios in OA obtained from field observations at urban  
 55 and rural/suburban sites. The ratios are corrected by the “improved-ambient” method  
 56 (Canagaratna et al., 2015).

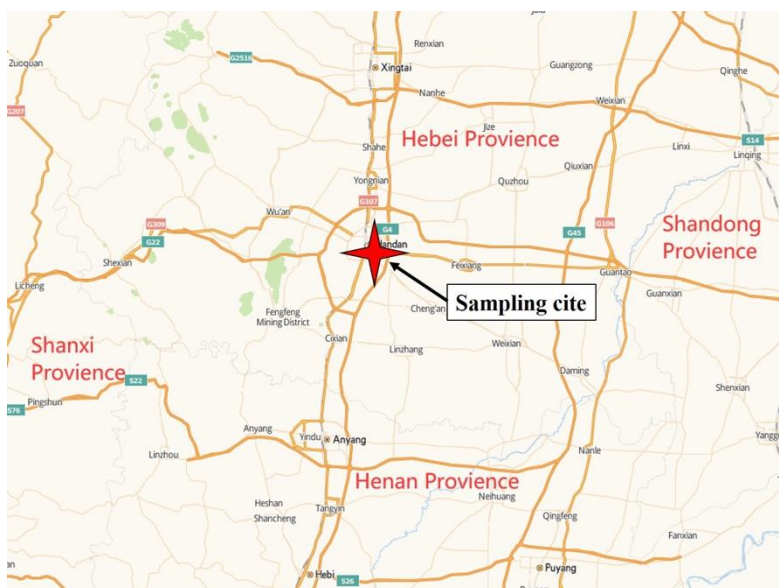
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sites	site types	seasons	H:C	O:C	OM:OC	ref	
our study	urban	summer 2019	1.58	0.75	2.17		
	suburban	summer 2018	1.67	0.54	1.89	Chen et al.2020b	
Beijing	urban	summer 2012	1.63	0.53	1.88	Hu et al.2017	
		winter 2013	1.52	0.47	1.79		
		summer 2011	1.61	0.56	1.91	Hu et al.2016a	
Xi'An	urban	winter 2010	1.65	0.32	1.58	Duan et al. 2020	
		summer 2019	1.64	0.58	1.96		
Hangzhou	urban	Before G20	1.78	0.39	1.69	Li et al., 2017	
		During G20	summer 2016	1.65	0.58		2.03
		After G20		1.69	0.51		1.84
Lanzhou	urban	winter 2014	1.55	0.28	1.51	Xu et al., 2016	
		summer 2012	1.49	0.33	1.58		
Guangzhou	suburban	winter 2014 Nov.	1.63	0.53	1.87	Qin et al., 2017	
		winter 2014 Dec.	1.65	0.53	1.87		
Kaiping	suburban	autumn 2008	1.64	0.6	1.94	Huang et al.,2011	
Heshan	suburban	autumn 2010	1.65	0.51	1.83	Gong et al., 2012	
Shenzhen	urban	winter 2009	1.83	0.39	1.71	He et al.,2011	
		summer 2011	1.74	0.45	1.81	Gong et al., 2012	
Shanghai	urban	summer 2010	1.92	0.4	1.69	Huang et al.,2012	
Ziyang	suburban	winter 2013	1.56	0.65	2.02	Hu et al.2016b	
Jiaxing	suburban	summer 2010	1.94	0.36	1.67	Huang et al.,2013	
		winter 2010	1.73	0.43	1.75		
HKUST	suburban	summer 2011	1.48	0.64	1.93	Li et al., 2015	
		winter 2012	1.53	0.53	1.8		
MongKoK	urban	summer 2013	1.83	0.26	1.5	lee et al., 2015	
Fresno,CA (US)	urban	winter 2010	1.75	0.35	1.63	Ge et al. (2012)	
Riverside,CA (US)	urban	summer 2005	1.71	0.44	1.73	Docherty et al. (2011)	
Korea	urban	winter 2019	1.79	0.37	1.67	Kim et al. 2017	
	No BB		1.48	0.84	2.26		
Oregon (US)	BB infl	summer 2013	1.49	0.77	2.16	Zhou et al., 2017	
	BB plm		1.53	0.69	2.06		

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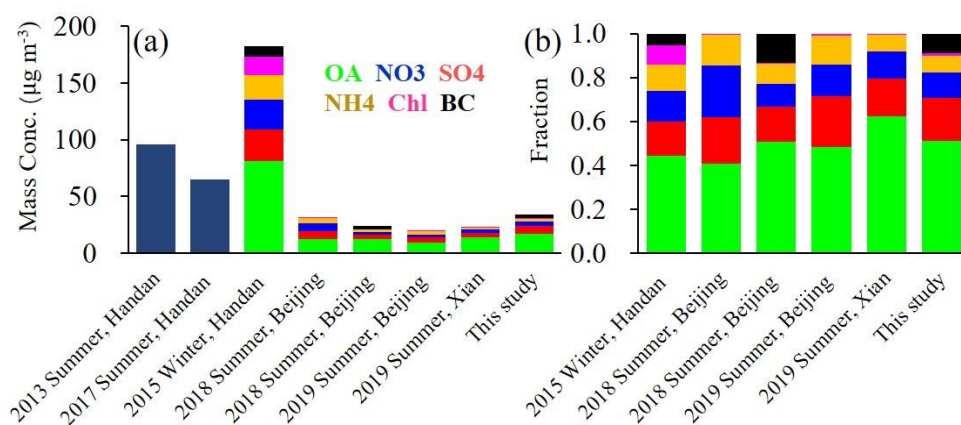
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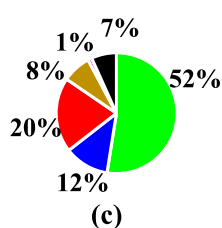


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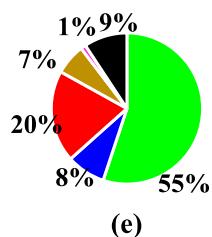
**Fig. S1** Location of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> sampling site in Handan (the red star). The base map image was derived from AutoNavi Maps (Image © 2022 AutoNavi-GS).



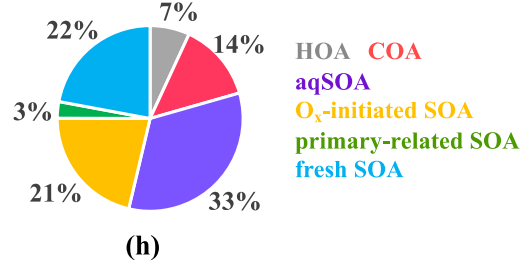
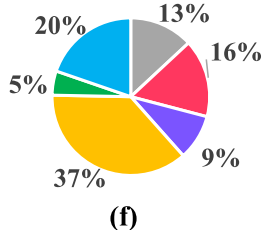
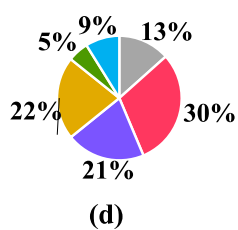
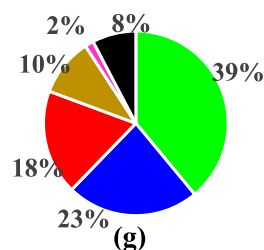
**P1: 29.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$**



**P2 : 35.9  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$**

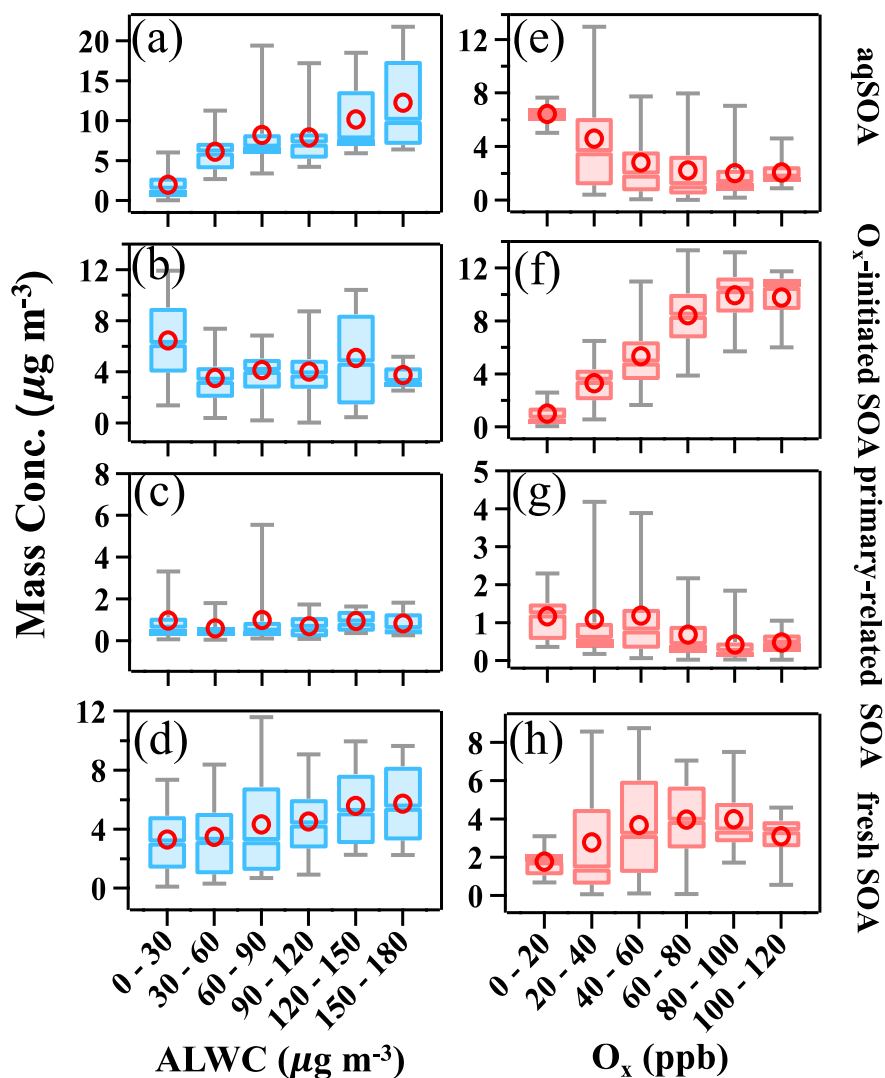


**P3 : 63.7  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$**



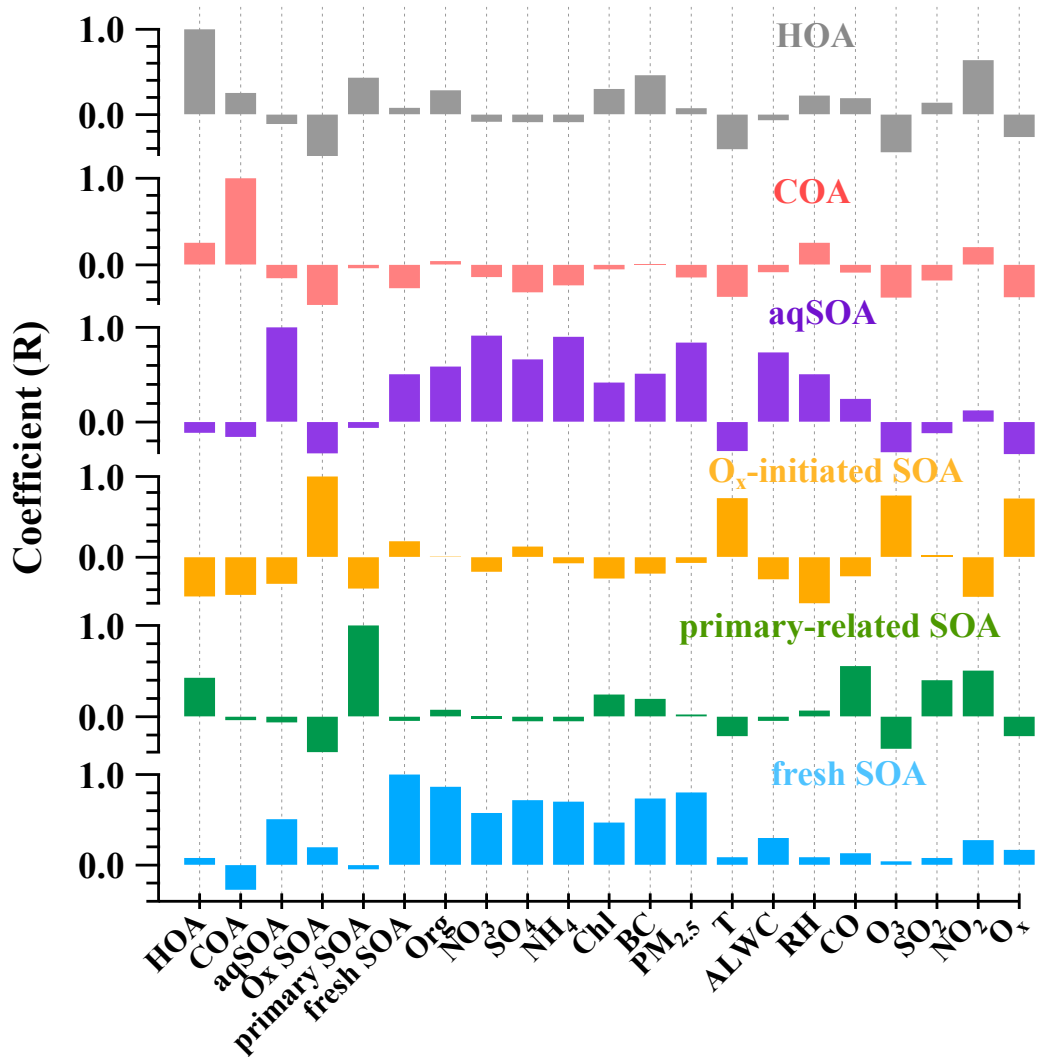
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66 **Fig. S2** Concentrations (a) and fractions (b) of main chemical components in PM<sub>1</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> during  
 67 summer and winter observations in the NCP in recent years. The data and references are  
 68 available in Table S2 of the Supplement. Fractions of main chemical components of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and  
 69 OA in reference events (P1: c & d), high O<sub>x</sub> period (P2: e & f) and high RH period (P3: g & h).



70  
 71 **Fig. S3** Variations of the mass concentrations of aqSOA, O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA, primary-related  
 72 SOA and fresh SOA as functions of ALWC (a~d) and O<sub>x</sub> (e~h). The data were binned according  
 73 to the ALWC (30 μg m<sup>-3</sup> increment) or O<sub>x</sub> concentration (10 ppb increment), and mean (circle),  
 74 median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentiles (lower and upper box), and 10th and 90th  
 75 percentiles (lower and upper whiskers) are showed for each bin.

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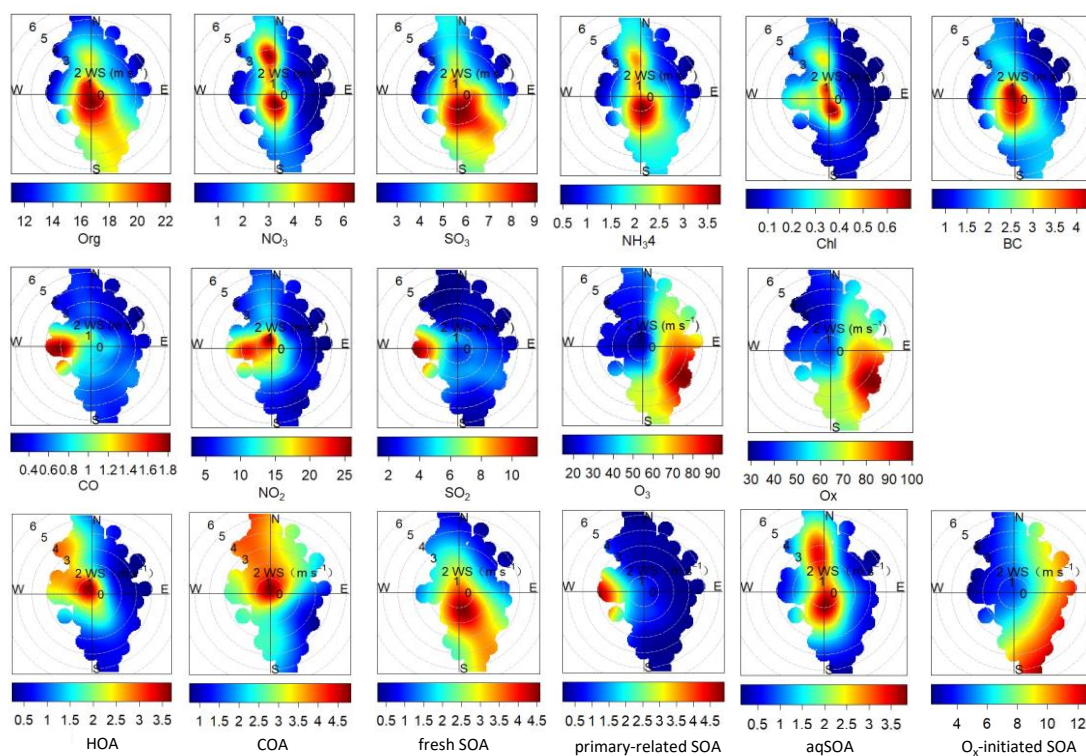


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84 **Fig. S4** Correlation between the resolved OA factors and other chemical components in

85 PM<sub>2.5</sub>, gas-phase pollutants, and meteorological parameters.

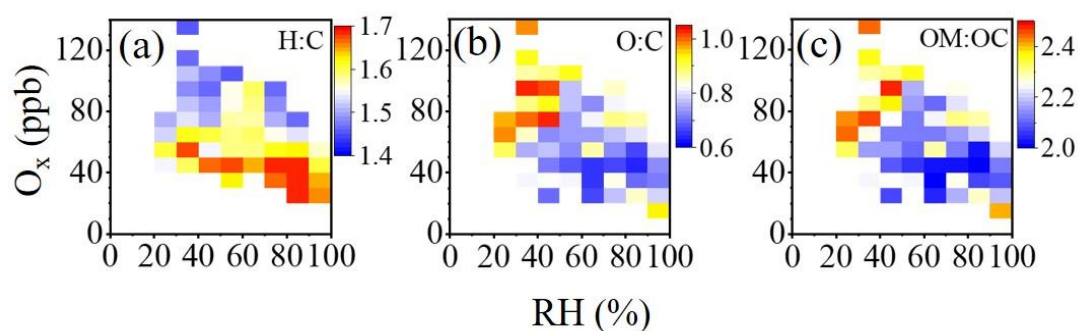


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88 **Fig. S5** Polar plots that illustrate the variations of the hourly averaged concentrations of gases  
 89 pollutants, PM<sub>2.5</sub> species and OA sources as a function of wind speed ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ ) and wind direction  
 90 ( $^{\circ}$ ).

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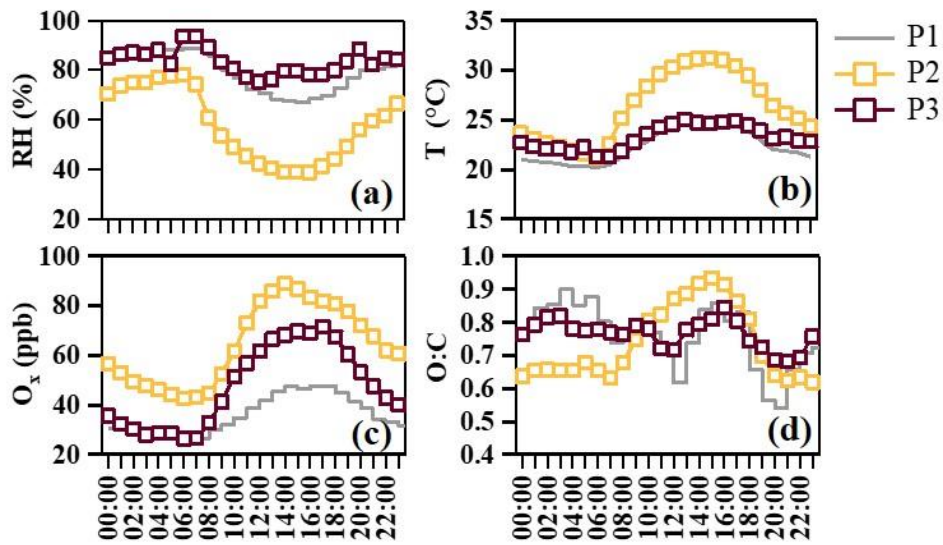
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95 **Fig. S6** RH- and  $\text{O}_x$ -dependent distributions of (a) H:C, (b) O:C and (c) OM:OC ratios. Grids  
 96 with the number of points less than five were excluded.

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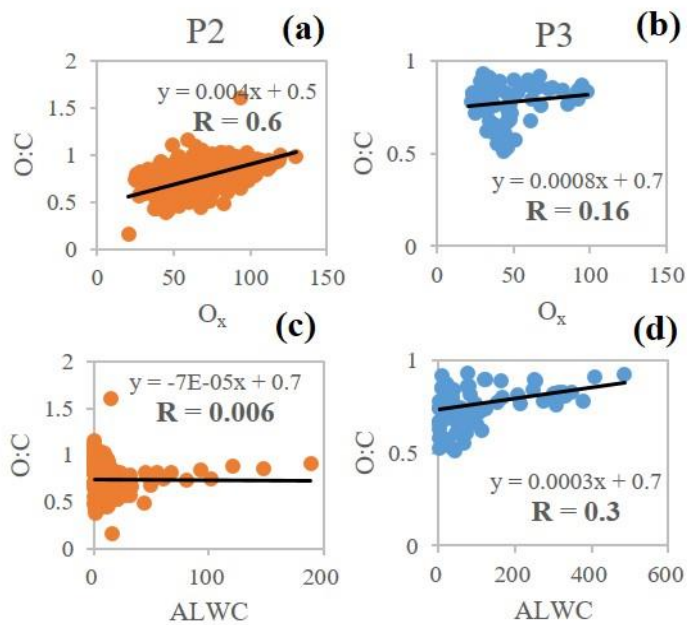




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99 **Fig. S7** Diurnal patterns of (a) RH, (b) temperature, (c) O<sub>x</sub> and (d) O:C ratios in reference events  
 100 (P1), high O<sub>x</sub> period (P2) and high RH period (P3).

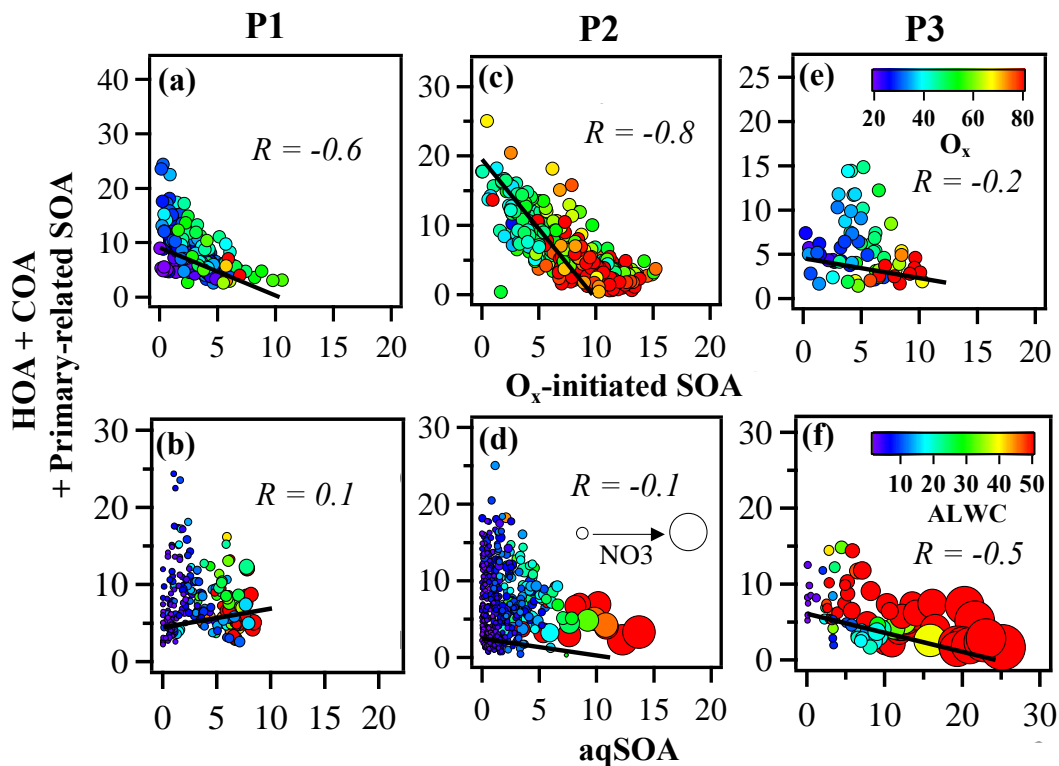
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103 **Fig. S8** Relationship between O:C ratios and O<sub>x</sub>/ALWC in high O<sub>x</sub> period (P2: a & c) and high  
 104 RH period (P3: b & d) during this campaign.

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**Fig. S9** (a) Relationship between aqSOA and the sum of POA and primary-related SOA

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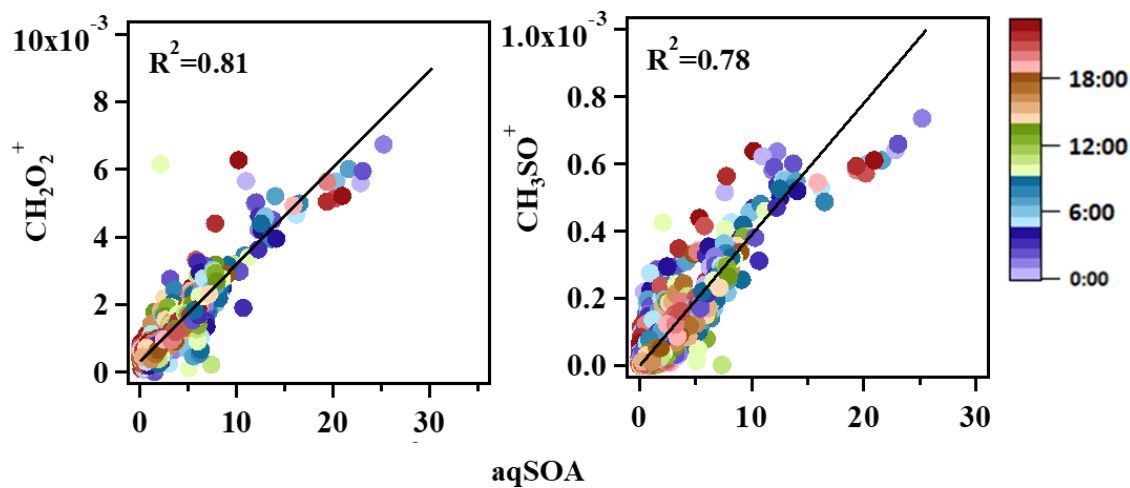
colored by ALWC ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) and sized by  $\text{NO}_3$  ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ); (b) Relationship between  $\text{O}_x$ -initiated

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SOA and the sum of POA and primary-related SOA colored by  $\text{O}_x$  (ppb) in reference period

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(P1: a&b), high  $\text{O}_x$  period (P2: c&d) and high RH period (P3: e&f) during this campaign.



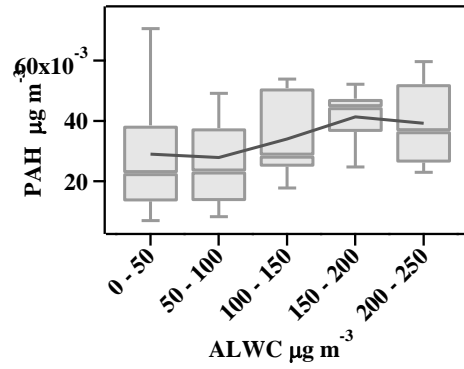
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**Fig. S10** Correlation between aqSOA ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) with  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}_2^+$  at  $m/z$  46 and  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}^+$  at  $m/z$  63

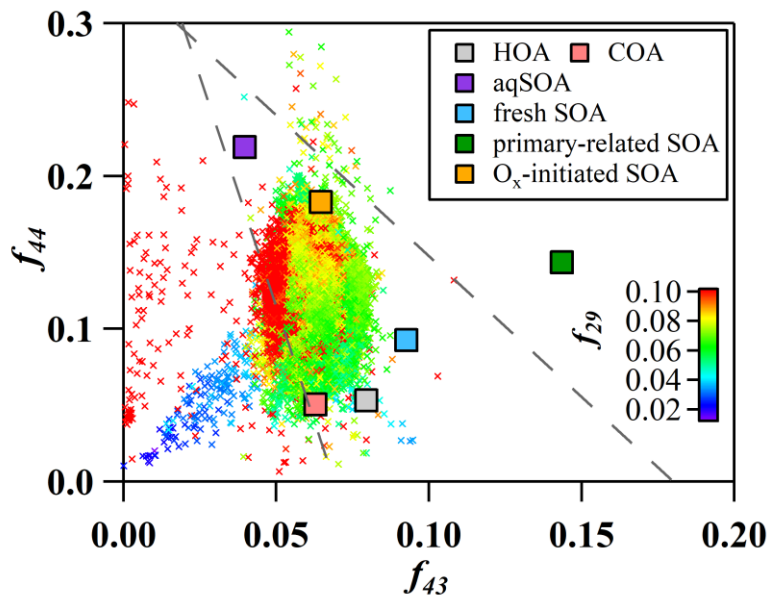
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( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ).



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115 **Fig. S11** Mass concentration of PAHs ions as a function of ALWC.



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117 **Fig. S12** Triangle plots of  $f_{44}$  versus  $f_{43}$ , the dash lines were adopted from Ng et al. (2010). All  
 118 the data and related references can be found in Table S3.

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## 128 **Supplementary information**

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### 130 **1.1**

131 In the studied time period, POA ( $6.1 \pm 3.61 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) contributed 30.6% to the bulk OA, including  
132 the hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA, 12.2%) and cooking OA (COA, 19.1%) in summer of Handan.  
133 The results are consistent with the results in summer 2017 and 2018 from Beijing (Xu et al  
134 2019b).

### 135 **HOA**

136 The spectrum of HOA is substantially contributed by alkyl fragments ( $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}^+$  and  $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n-1}^+$ ,  
137 Fig. 1), major ions include  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7^+$ ,  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9^+$ , and  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}^+$  (Zhao et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2019a; Sun  
138 et al., 2016; Elser et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2014; Ng et al., 2011), which is consistent with the  
139 previous studies (Canagaratna et al., 2004; Ng et al., 2010). HOA had a relative low O:C ratio  
140 of 0.14 and high H:C ratio of 1.77. On average, it accounted for 12.2% of total OA (Fig. S2a)  
141 in Handan, with the absolute concentration of  $2.4 \pm 2.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , which was two times lower than  
142 that in Beijing (35%) at the same time period of 2018 (Chen et al., 2020a). The low HOA  
143 fraction was consistent with previous study, which revealed that transportation was a minor  
144 source of atmospheric particles in Handan compared to Beijing (Wang et al., 2014).

145 High correlations were also observed between the time series of HOA with BC ( $R=0.5$ ) and  
146  $\text{NO}_2$  ( $R=0.6$ , Fig. S4), supporting the vehicle emission related origins of HOA reported in the  
147 previous studies (Lanz et al., 2007; Docherty et al., 2011). The polar plots (Fig. S5)  
148 demonstrated higher concentrations of HOA under relatively low WS ( $< 2.0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ), which was  
149 very similar with BC, supporting the fact that HOA is a freshly locally-emitted vehicle OA.  
150 HOA exhibited slightly enhanced peaks in the morning (6:00-7:00 local time, LT) and  
151 prominent peaks during nighttime (19:00-22:00 LT) when the traffic jam happened (Fig. 6).  
152 However, these kinds of variations were less pronounced in P1 and P3 (Fig. 6), which might  
153 because the high WS and RH had influence to such local sources. Hence the stagnant  
154 meteorological conditions would result in accumulation of local sources during this  
155 measurement period. It should be noted that the fraction of HOA is lower during P3 (7%)  
156 compared with P1 and P2, this may be attributed to the large fraction of SOA (Fig. S2). The  
157 average HOA/BC ratio was 0.8, close to other cities in China e.g., Xianghe (0.91) (Sun et al.,  
158 2016), which was between those for diesel trucks (0.5) (Ban-Weiss et al., 2008) and light-duty  
159 vehicles (1.4).

### 160 **COA**

161 The COA mass spectrum was characterized by higher ratio than HOA between  $f_{55}$   
162 ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_7^+ + \text{C}_3\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ ) and  $f_{57}$  ( $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9^+ + \text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}^+$ ) (Mohr et al., 2012), and the spectral pattern was

163 relatively constant among different years. The O:C and H:C ratios of COA were 0.18 and 1.57,  
164 respectively, suggesting their primary feature (Xu et al., 2016). On average, the mass  
165 contribution of COA to OA was 19.1% (Fig. S2a), which was close to that in the summer of  
166 2018 (15%) in Beijing (Xu et al., 2019b).

167 The most pronounced feature of COA (Fig. 6) is its clearly enhanced diurnal peaks around  
168 morning (6:00–7:00 LT), noon (12:00–13:00 LT) and late evening (19:00–20:00 LT),  
169 corresponding to the common meal hours which was consistent with previous studies of other  
170 regions of NCP (Sun et al., 2016; Sun et al., 2018;. During these meal hours, COA account for  
171 over 20% ~ 30% of total OA (Fig. S2d), signifying the importance of cooking sources in aerosol  
172 mass concentrations in urban areas of China.

173 Note that during the different periods, this mass fractions of COA to total OA present stable  
174 trend (14~16%) during P2 and P3, indicating that cooking styles remained consistent and local  
175 accumulation was not the major haze source during the measurement period (Fig. S2). While  
176 during the clean periods of P1 with wind, it increased to 30%, which was the largest contributor  
177 to OA. Moreover, the diurnal pattern of COA show very similar variations from three periods  
178 (Fig. 6) with the highest mass concentration during P1. This significant increase of COA is  
179 probably associated with the wind from southwestern where more residential areas with  
180 enhanced domestic cooking activities.

## 181 **1.2**

### 182 **Characteristics of SOA sources**

183 SOA accounted for 68.7% to total OA, four SOA factors were resolved depending on the  
184 oxidation state, which correspond to aged SOA and fresh SOA respectively (Jimenez et al.,  
185 2009). One factor is attributed to aqueous-phase chemistry (aqSOA) and the other to photo-  
186 oxidation chemistry ( $O_x$ -initiated SOA), while fresher factor is produced by fresh-source (fresh  
187 SOA), and the other considered as oxidized primary sources denoted as primary-related SOA.  
188 Although all of the SOA factors were characterized by higher  $m/z$  44 ( $CO_2^+$ ) and  $m/z$  28 ( $CO^+$ )  
189 signal, their mass spectrum and temporal trends were noticeably distinguishable, corresponding  
190 to different formation mechanism, which will be discussed in the following section.

#### 191 **aqSOA**

192 The aqSOA was identified as it increased with ALWC but decreased with  $O_x$  (Fig. S3), which  
193 might be produced in the aqueous-phase events and influenced by aqueous-phase chemistry.  
194 The aqSOA exhibits the highest O:C ratios of all factors (0.7) and a higher  $f_{CO_2^+}$  to the total  
195 signal of 21.7%, but a low H:C ratio of 1.24 (Fig. 1). On average, the mass concentration of  
196 aqSOA consisted 15.2% of the total OA and 22.1% of the SOA (Fig. S2a, b). Good correlations

197 were found between aqSOA and nitrate ( $R=0.9$ ), as well as ammonium ( $R=0.9$ , Fig. S4) (Zhang  
198 et al., 2007; Aiken et al., 2009 and Huang et al., 2010). The high correlation with nitrate may  
199 be attributed to their similar precursors and formation pathways. It is also clear that their polar  
200 plot patterns are similar (Fig. S5) with two originations of nitrate and aqSOA were observed in  
201 our study. Results showed that the local origination associated with low wind speed ( $<1.0\text{ m s}^{-1}$ )  
202 had a high concentration up to  $4\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , and the regional origination was associated with  
203 relatively high wind speed ( $>2.5\text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) derived from the northern regions (Fig. S5), suggesting  
204 that there were mixing regional and local sources for nitrate and aqSOA. This supports the  
205 aqSOA is relatively aged in ambient air and influenced by the combination of local formation  
206 and regional transport (Lanz et al., 2007; Hayes et al., 2013; Chen et al., 2021).

207 The aqSOA contributed a major fraction of 33.3 % to the total OA during P3 (peak  
208 concentration:  $25.2\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ; peak fraction: 65.3%), pointing the faster SOA production through  
209 aqueous-phase chemistry during this specific haze event compared to P1 (20.5%) and P2 (9.4%).  
210 In addition, the ALWC and aqSOA were strongly correlated ( $R=0.7$ , Fig. S4), and both were  
211 shown dramatically enhancement during P3 event. This indicates that aqSOA was either formed  
212 via aqueous phase reactions or absorbed/dissolved into aerosol liquid water. Previous studies  
213 also showed that high RH in summer facilitated the transformation of  $\text{HNO}_3$  into aqueous-phase  
214 and increased nitrate concentrations substantially (Sun et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2015). Due to the  
215 high  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration and high RH in this period, particulate nitrate was produced during this  
216 regional transport homogeneously and heterogeneously, resulting in water uptake and high  
217 LWC in the aerosol phase. The high ALWC in turn facilitated further heterogeneous formation  
218 of nitrate. This positive feedback provided favorable conditions for efficient aqueous chemistry  
219 and thus production of aqSOA (Kuang et al., 2020). Note that the strong correlation between  
220 aqSOA and ALWC was not driven solely by P3 event, rather, the two time series were  
221 remarkably well correlated throughout the entire campaign. This further supported the  
222 interpretation of aqSOA as characteristic of aqueous SOA production throughout the campaign,  
223 rather than being characteristic of only a single event.

#### 224 **$\text{O}_x$ -initiated SOA**

225 The  $\text{O}_x$ -initiated SOA presented an opposite trend with significant increase as  $\text{O}_x$  but decrease  
226 as ALWC (Fig. S3).  $\text{O}_x$  has been shown to be a conserved tracer to represent photo-oxidation  
227 chemistry (Xu et al., 2017). The relationship between  $\text{O}_x$  and photochemical SOA can offer  
228 insight into the formation mechanism of SOA associated with ozone production chemistry  
229 (Herndon et al., 2008). Therefore, when the mass concentration of  $\text{O}_x$ -initiated SOA showed a  
230 substantial increase as a function of  $\text{O}_x$ , it could be likely due to the enhanced secondary  
231 transformation went from less oxidized to more aged with the progression of atmospheric

232 photochemical aging, which were supported by the large O<sub>3</sub> fractions in O<sub>x</sub> in summertime  
233 (Zhang et al., 2019). Such conclusions were further supported by tightly tracked time series of  
234 O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA with O<sub>3</sub> ( $R = 0.8$ ) and O<sub>x</sub> ( $R = 0.7$ ) (Fig. S4). Considering O<sub>3</sub> has become the  
235 primary air pollutant in summertime in the NCP and had caused the enhancement of  
236 atmospheric oxidation capacity (Chen et al., 2020b), the photochemical processing driven by  
237 O<sub>3</sub> might play an important role in the formation of O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA.

238 The O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA had the highest average mass concentration of  $6.1 \pm 3.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  among  
239 the OA factors, with the highest contribution to total OA (31%) and the SOA (45%) during  
240 observation time, suggesting the predominate role of this factor (Fig. S2). The O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA  
241 was oxidized with an O:C ratio of 0.67 and H:C ratio of 1.18, and it also had high CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>  
242 contribution of 17.9 %, which further suggested that the atmospheric oxidation capacity during  
243 summer was strong. Similar to aqSOA, O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA also showed large variations during  
244 different periods. It accounted the most of 36.9% to OA during P2, compared to other two  
245 periods (21.5% in P1 and 21.3% in P3, respectively), indicating that the enhancement of O<sub>x</sub>-  
246 initiated SOA can leads to the development of SOA formation. The O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA also had  
247 the similar spatial pattern with O<sub>3</sub> and O<sub>x</sub> from the polar plots (Fig. S5), where high  
248 concentration associated with southeast wind originated from Shandong with relatively high  
249 wind speed of over  $4 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , suggesting the typical feature of regional transport pollutants.

### 250 **primary-related SOA**

251 In terms of two fresh SOA factors, they were defined as less oxidized OOA by relative lower  
252 O:C, stronger intensity of  $m/z$  43 (mainly C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>) and  $m/z$  44 (mainly CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>).

253 The primary-related SOA constituted the lowest contribution of 5% among all factors of the  
254 total OA and 7% of the SOA, however, it is still of particular interest in this study. It is  
255 characterized by both lower H:C (1.09) and O:C (0.54) ratios with CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> comprising 14.3%,  
256 which are higher than other POA factors, indicating a typical nature of less oxidized SOA.  
257 However, at  $m/z > 120$ , clear polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) fragments are evident  
258 in mass spectrum of primary-related SOA (Fig. 1), as indicated by the presence of similar  
259 patterns of PAH-like ions in their mass spectra at  $m/z$  152, 165, 178, 189, 202, 216, 226 + 228,  
260 240 + 242, 250 + 252, 264 + 266, 276 + 278 and 288 + 290 (Dzepina et al., 2007). Previous  
261 AMS studies have observed pronounced peaks of PAHs ions in POA spectrum, such as CCOA  
262 (coal combustion) and BBOA (biomass burning) (Hu et al., 2016a; Zhao et al., 2019), but rarely  
263 in SOA. This observation implies that primary-related SOA may be link to the POA origin from  
264 domestic coal combustion (Xu et al., 2006). Through laboratory combustion studies using  
265 online aerosol mass spectrometry, they examined substantial ion signal at  $m/z > 100$ , which  
266 potentially link to the fragments of high molecular weight (HMW) species, was pronounced in

267 both oxidized POA (OPOA) and POA, indicating that POA can be oxidized by multiphase  
268 reactions forming OPOA and the degradation of HMW species from the oxidation process  
269 (Budisulistiorini et al., 2021). In our study, the similar signatures of PAH-like ions was also  
270 found in aqSOA at  $m/z > 150$ , but less pronounced in aqSOA compared to primary-related SOA,  
271 consistent with previous study in Beijing (Wang et al., 2021). The observation of PAH-like  
272 ions in both primary-related SOA and aqSOA further indicated they might both originated from  
273 coal combustion or transformation by oxidized POA, and the oxidation of PAHs being involved  
274 in the conversion of primary-related SOA to aqSOA.

275 As it is shown in Fig. S4, primary-related SOA exhibited relative better correlations with some  
276 gaseous pollutants, such as CO ( $R = 0.6$ ), NO<sub>2</sub> ( $R = 0.5$ ), and was also consistent with the  
277 temporal pattern of HOA ( $R = 0.4$ ), suggesting primary-related SOA might be transformed from  
278 locally primary emissions. In addition, primary-related SOA, had no significant increase trend  
279 with both ALWC and O<sub>x</sub> (Fig. S3), but its pollution pattern was similar as some primary  
280 precursors such as CO, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>, where higher concentrations appeared with weak west  
281 wind (Fig. S5). Therefore, the major pathway of this primary-related SOA formation might be  
282 related to primary emission or the its transformation, which also supported by similar results  
283 obtained by Rivellini et al., (2020), who found the oxygenated part of combustion particles  
284 which was co-emitted with HOA and/or produced by oxidation of HOA rapidly could be  
285 oxygenated-HOA (O-HOA) or oxygenated-CCOA. Moreover, some SOA factors were defined  
286 as “urban-lifestyle SOAs” because it could derived from some POA exhaust such as vehicle  
287 and cooking through laboratory experiments (Zhang et al., 2021).

## 288 **fresh SOA**

289 The fresh SOA showed increase substantially as ALWC increasing, similar to aqSOA. Whereas  
290 it also showed slight increase trend following O<sub>x</sub> when O<sub>x</sub> < 100 ppb (Fig. S3). Therefore, both  
291 aqueous-phase chemistry and photochemical processing were thought to have positive impacts  
292 synchronously on formation of fresh SOA. In this study, CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> comprised at least in fresh SOA  
293 of 8.3%, corresponding with the lowest atomic O:C ratio of 0.41 and a highest atomic H:C ratio  
294 of 1.41 among the four SOA factors. These characteristics consistent with the global average  
295 of LO-OOA of  $0.35 \pm 0.14$ , Ng et al., 2010), demonstrating the it is more fresh SOA. Besides,  
296 Fig. S2 showed that fresh SOA consisted 18% of the total OA and 26% of the SOA. Note that  
297 the concentration of fresh SOA increased in every event following with OA increased no matter  
298 the aqueous-phase event and photochemical event under the stagnant conditions. Meanwhile,  
299 it was well correlated with total OA ( $R = 0.9$ ), PM<sub>2.5</sub> ( $R = 0.8$ ) and BC ( $R = 0.7$ , Fig. S4), as  
300 well as sulfate ( $R = 0.7$ ). The sustained contribution from fresh SOA and covariations between  
301 fresh SOA with these species suggest that it was probably a mixed source which not just



302 dominantly driven by only one formation mechanism. Nevertheless, different pathways among  
303 P1, P2 and P3 lead to the progressive fractions of fresh SOA to total OA. Compared with P1,  
304 photochemical processing (P2) and aqueous-phase reactions (P3) strengthen to produce fresh  
305 SOA individually, but the influence driven by aqueous-phase reactions is much greater than  
306 photochemical processing.

### 307 **1.3 Evolution of OA**

308 The mass spectra of these four factors for PM<sub>2.5</sub> are dominated by  $m/z$  44 (mainly CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>) (Fig.  
309 1). However, their concentrations show very different temporal variations. The concentration  
310 of aqSOA correlates with NO<sub>3</sub> ( $R= 0.9$ ) and ALWC ( $R= 0.7$ ), showing a steady increase as a  
311 function of ALWC (Fig. S4 and Fig. S3) which might indicate aqueous-phase chemistry. The  
312 aqSOA exhibits the highest O:C ratio of all factors (0.7) and more aged oxidation state, while  
313 the O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA remains high (0.67) but slightly lower compared to aqSOA.  
314 The O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA presents an opposite trend with significant increase as function of O<sub>x</sub> but  
315 decrease as function of ALWC (Fig. S3), suggesting the photochemical formation and further  
316 supported by tightly tracked time series of O<sub>x</sub>-initiated SOA with O<sub>3</sub> ( $R = 0.8$ ) and O<sub>x</sub> ( $R = 0.7$ )  
317 (Fig. S4). The mass spectrum of the fresh SOA shows a high peak at  $m/z$  43 (mainly C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>)  
318 (Fig. 1), corresponding to the lowest atomic O:C ratio of 0.41 and a highest atomic H:C ratio  
319 of 1.41 among SOA factors, which indicate its feature of fresher SOA. Note that the  
320 concentration of fresh SOA increased in every period with OA increase, and was well correlated  
321 with total OA ( $R = 0.9$ ), PM<sub>2.5</sub> ( $R = 0.8$ ) and BC ( $R = 0.7$ ), as well as SO<sub>4</sub> ( $R = 0.7$ ) (Fig. S4),  
322 indicating that they were freshly emitted and less oxidized. The primary-related SOA in this  
323 study was of particular interest. It has relatively low O:C (0.54) and H:C (1.09) ratios, indicating  
324 a typical nature of less oxidized SOA. However, as shown in Fig. S4, primary-related SOA  
325 exhibits relative better correlations with some gaseous pollutants, such as CO ( $R = 0.6$ ), NO<sub>2</sub>  
326 ( $R = 0.5$ ), and was also consistent with the temporal pattern of HOA ( $R = 0.4$ ), suggesting  
327 primary-related SOA might be transformed from locally primary emissions.

### 328 **1.4 VK Diagram**

329 During this campaign, the H:C and O:C ratios in this study showed little variation, with average  
330 values of  $0.75 \pm 0.09$  and  $1.58 \pm 0.28$ , respectively (Fig. 8a). The H:C ratio in Handan was  
331 slightly higher than that in Hong Kong (1.48) and Lanzhou (1.49) but lower than those at urban  
332 sites in Shenzhen (1.83), MongKok (1.83), Shanghai (1.92) and Jiaxing (1.94) (He et al., 2011;  
333 Huang et al., 2012, 2013; Li et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2016). Also, a general  
334 consistency was observed for the O:C ratio which was higher than mostly other sites, except  
335 the site in Oregon (US) influenced by wildfire. Overall, this relatively low H:C ratio, high O:C  
336 ratios suggested that OA in summer of Handan had higher degree of oxygenation than those at

337 urban sites due to the progress of atmospheric photochemical aging, and also indicated the  
338 secondary portion having a substantial contribution to the bulk OA. Figure S6 shows a  
339 synergistically impact of RH and  $O_x$  to elemental ratios. For example, H:C increased with the  
340 decrease of  $O_x$  concentration and with the increase of RH, which indicated that photochemical  
341 process had a positive effect but aqueous-phase process had an opposite effect on the H:C of  
342 atmospheric O. As for O:C, higher O:C ratio was mainly observed with high concentration of  
343  $O_x$ , highlighting the importance of photochemical process in aerosol oxidation during summer.  
344 Meanwhile, slightly higher O:C also occurred at high RH levels even though the low  
345 concentration of  $O_x$ . Previous studies have demonstrated that aqueous-phase reactions of low-  
346 volatility high-molecular weight species detected in the atmosphere, such as glyoxal (Waxman  
347 et al., 2013), methyglyoxal (Lim et al., 2013), glycolaldehyde (Schöne and Herrmann, 2014),  
348 pyruvic acid (Altieri et al., 2006), and methacrolein (Liu et al., 2012), were the important  
349 formation pathway of OA (Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008; Hallquist et al., 2009; Sun et al., 2010;  
350 Chen et al., 2018). The products, such as highly oxygenated organic molecules (HOMs), from  
351 these aqueous-phase reactions would be conducive to elevating O:C (Molteni et al., 2018;  
352 Bianchi et al., 2019). On the other hand, the Fig. S7 showed that, the O:C ratio generally  
353 increased and the H:C ratio decreased during the day of 8:00–16:00 local time (LT), suggesting  
354 that SOA formation like photochemical process or mixing with more aged aerosols from  
355 regional sources was dominant during the day and outweighed the emissions POA (Sun et al.,  
356 2013).

357 To further investigate the pathways of OA factors, ions in the HR mass spectra were used to  
358 calculate the elemental ratios using the improved-ambient method (Canagaratna et al., 2015).  
359 The ratios were represented by the VK diagram in Fig. 8a (Heald et al., 2010) to show the OA  
360 evolution in the summertime of Handan. Based on our data, we found that HOA and COA  
361 factors (POA) are both located at the left-top corner with high H:C, low O:C and OSc below  
362  $-1$ . Then, these POAs evolve toward the right bottom during the formation of SOA (Zhao et  
363 al., 2019). Functional groups are further added in Fig. 8a: only oxygen atoms to a carbon  
364 backbone results in a slope equal 0, while the replacement of a hydrogen atom with a carboxylic  
365 acid group ( $-\text{COOH}$ ) results in a slope of  $-1$  without fragmentation (Heald et al., 2010; Ng et  
366 al., 2011). As organic compounds are oxidized, a relatively flat slope of  $-0.19$  for H:C versus  
367 O:C in this study suggests the importance of the addition of alcohol and/or peroxide (slope = 0)  
368 in OA aging with additional processes adding carboxylic acid and/or carboxyl groups. For SOA  
369 factors, fresh SOA factors are located in upper left region with high H:C and low O:C values  
370 compared with the other SOA factors. Although the primary-related SOA has the lower O:C  
371 than other SOAs, it still located closely to these two SOAs, which further indicates they might

372 have similar formation, compositions or transformation between these factors, which is  
373 consistent with the results from above section.

374 Table S3 present the comparison of average O:C ( $0.77 \pm 0.1$ ) and H:C ( $1.58 \pm 0.1$ ) for bulk OA  
375 in this study (three periods in Handan) with studies from China and other campaigns (four  
376 seasons in urban/suburban sites) based on the updated IA calibrations in Canagaratna et al.  
377 (2015). Briefly, OA in this study are at the higher end of O:C ranges reported in urban areas of  
378 China, and are comparable to the O:C ratios at the suburban sites, suggesting the OA was fairly  
379 oxidized in summer in the urban Handan.

### 380 **1.5 $f_{43}$ Versus $f_{44}$**

381 Since the ion fragment with  $m/z = 44$  and  $43$  are usually originated from different functional  
382 groups and the ratio changes as a function of atmospheric aging, researchers usually use the  
383 triangle plot of  $f_{44}$  versus  $f_{43}$  to characterize OA evolutions in the atmosphere. As shown in Fig.  
384 S12, POA and SOA factors fell into similar regions of  $f_{44}$  versus  $f_{43}$ , suggesting that OA factors  
385 identified by PMF were fairly similar in the summertime of Handan. The bottom region of the  
386 triangle was dominated by POA factors (including HOA and COA) with low  $f_{44}$  (about 0.05)  
387 and  $f_{43}$  of 0.06 to 0.08, indicating that they were freshly emitted and less oxidized.  
388 Comparatively, SOA factors are located in different regions: (1) the fresh SOA region with low  
389  $f_{44}$  ( $<0.10$ ), indicating they were relatively less oxidized compared to other SOA factors. (2) the  
390 region with high  $f_{44}$  ( $>0.17$ ) than other OA factors, consistent with the fact that sqSOA and  $O_x$ -  
391 initiated SOA were surrogates of highly oxidized or regionally transported SOAs (Zhao et al.,  
392 2019); and (3) primary-related SOA region, showing freshly oxidized properties ( $f_{44}$  around  
393 0.15). From the color plot of  $f_{29}$  (mainly  $f_{CHO^+}$ ),  $f_{CHO^+}$  was observed highly correlated with  
394 formation of aged SOA factors.

395

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