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# AMS and LC/MS analyses of SOA from the photooxidation of benzene and 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene in the presence of $NO_x$ : effects of chemical structure on SOA aging

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# Abstract

Oxygenated organic aerosol (OOA) observed in remote areas is believed to comprise aged secondary organic aerosol (SOA); however, the reaction processes relevant to SOA aging have hitherto been unclear. We recently measured the mass spectra of SOA formed from the photooxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons using an Aerodyne aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS), and reported that SOA aging is slowed with increasing number of alkyl groups in the precursor molecule. In this study, we attempted to select benzene and 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (TMB) as precursors to analyze SOA formed from the photooxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons in the presence of NO<sub>x</sub> us-

- ing high-resolution time-of-flight AMS (H-ToF-AMS) and liquid chromatography/time-of-flight mass spectrometry (LC/TOF-MS). A van Krevelen diagram was studied using the O/C and H/C ratios obtained by H-ToF-AMS for organics present in SOA. The results showed these organics to be rich in carboxylic acids or hydroxycarbonyls, and the O/C ratio of SOA formed by the reaction of 1,3,5-TMB to be lower than that for ben-
- <sup>15</sup> zene. Analytical results from LC/TOF-MS showed the particulate products formed by the reaction of 1,3,5-TMB to be richer in ketocarboxylic acids than for benzene. These results indicate that SOA aging proceeds mainly by formation of carboxylic acids, and that the rate of SOA aging in laboratory chambers is limited by the oxidation of ketone groups. SOA formed in laboratory chamber experiments is less oxidized than
- for ambient OOA, not only because the experimental duration is insufficient. Laboratory chamber experiments are not able to simulate ketocarboxylic acid photochemical oxidation in the aqueous phase. Further, it was newly found that, unlike the reaction of benzene, only very small amounts of nitrophenols are produced by the reaction of 1,3,5-TMB.

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# 1 Introduction

Atmospheric organic aerosol is believed to affect human health, climate, and visibility (Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008; Hallquist et al., 2009). Field observations using an Aero-dyne aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) have revealed the organic aerosol observed
<sup>5</sup> in remote areas to be rich in oxygenated organic aerosol (OOA) (Zhang et al., 2007; Takami et al., 2007; Lun et al., 2009; Takegawa et al., 2009). Since secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formed in laboratory chamber experiments is less oxidized than ambient OOA, ambient OOA is assumed to be aged SOA (Bahreini et al., 2005; Alfarra et al., 2006; Chhabra et al., 2010, 2011). To understand the formation process of atmospheric OOA, the aging process of SOA is currently a focus of research interest in the field of atmospheric chemistry (Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008; Qi et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2011; Shiraiwa et al., 2011; Lambe et al., 2011; Loza et al., 2011).

If the chemical composition changes as SOA ages, the physical and chemical properties of aerosol particles such as the volatility, hygroscopicity, toxicity, and the optical

- properties will also change (e.g., Jimenez et al., 2009). Concerning its toxicity and optical properties, specific molecules will strongly influence the overall property of OOA particles. For example, quinones and organic peroxides present in SOA are known to induce oxidative stress (Baltensperger et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2011); and nitrophenols, which are also present in SOA, show optical absorption in the visible region
   (Nakayama et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2011). Understanding of SOA aging at the
- molecular level is necessary for better understanding of the impact of OOA.

Aromatic hydrocarbons are typical SOA precursors emitted into the atmosphere from anthropogenic emission sources (Calvert et al., 2002; Henze et al., 2008; Lane et al., 2008). The SOA yield (Izumi and Fukuyama, 1990; Odum et al., 1997; Hurley et al.,

<sup>25</sup> 2001; Takekawa et al., 2003; Sato et al., 2004; Song et al., 2005; Martin-Reviejo and Wirtz, 2005; Ng et al., 2007), the SOA chemical composition (Forstner et al., 1997; Jang and Kamens, 2001; Kalberer et al., 2004; Fisseha et al., 2004; Hamilton et al., 2005; Irei et al., 2006, 2011; Sato et al., 2007, 2010; Huang et al., 2007; Borrás et al.,



2012), and the reaction mechanism relevant to SOA formation (Stroud et al., 2004; Johnson et al., 2004, 2005; Bloss et al., 2005; Hu et al., 2007; Kelly et al., 2010) have been a focus of research into the atmospheric oxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons.

We recently measured SOA formed from the photooxidation of aromatic hydrocar-

<sup>5</sup> bons using AMS, and reported that SOA aging is slowed by increasing the number of alkyl groups in the precursor aromatic molecule (Sato et al., 2010). Very recently, a triangle plot technique for analysis of organic aerosol aging (Ng et al., 2010) and new numerical or graphical analysis methods using the elemental analysis data obtained by high-resolution time-of-flight AMS (H-ToF-AMS) (Chhabra et al., 2010, 2011; Kroll
 10 et al., 2011; Ng et al., 2011) have been developed.

In this study, we selected benzene and 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (TMB) as SOA precursors for analysis of SOA formed in photooxidation chamber experiments in the presence of  $NO_x$  using high-resolution time-of-flight AMS (H-ToF-AMS) and liquid chromatography/time-of-flight mass spectrometry (LC/TOF-MS). Newly-developed

<sup>15</sup> AMS data analysis methods were used to obtain a better understanding of the relationship between the chemical structure of the reactant and SOA aging. LC/TOF-MS analysis yielded molecular-level information. The aims of this study were to elucidate the major reaction processes relevant to SOA aging and to study possible factors that limit the rate of SOA aging.

#### 20 2 Experimental section

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#### 2.1 Experimental procedure

The details of the experimental procedure are explained elsewhere (Sato et al., 2004, 2007, 2010). All experiments were conducted using a  $6 \text{-m}^3$  evacuable Teflon-coated stainless steel chamber (Akimoto et al., 1979). Hydrocarbons, NO<sub>x</sub>, methyl nitrite, and purified air were mixed in the chamber (Table 1). Methyl nitrite was added as the OH radical source. The temperature of the gaseous mixture was maintained at 298±1 K.



The relative humidity of the purified air was ~ 1 ppm. No seed particles were added. The gaseous mixture was irradiated by light from 19 Xe arc lamps (1 kW each) through Pyrex filters for 4–11 h. The rate constant of the NO<sub>2</sub> photolysis was 0.29 min<sup>-1</sup>.

- Gaseous compounds in the chamber (hydrocarbon, methyl nitrite, NO,  $NO_2$ , and  $O_3$ )
- <sup>5</sup> were monitored using an FT-IR spectrometer (Thermo-Fisher Nexus 670, 1 cm<sup>-1</sup> resolution) with an optical length of 221.5 m. The size distribution and the volume concentration of particles were measured using a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS, TSI, model 3934). The chemical composition of the particles was analyzed using an AMS (Aerodyne Research, H-ToF-AMS) driven in V mode (Drewnick et al., 2005). Particles
- collected through an aerodynamic lens were heated at 873 K to evaporate particulate compounds; vaporized compounds were then ionized by electron ionization and analyzed using a ToF-MS instrument with a mass resolution of ~ 2700. Data obtained by H-ToF-AMS were numerically analyzed using ToF-AMS Analysis Toolkit program Version 1.48 combined with ToF-AMS HR Analysis Program Version 1.07. Measurements
   of FT-IR, SMPS, and H-ToF-AMS were carried out every 6–10 min.

Off-line SOA analytical samples were collected on a Teflon membrane filter (Sumitomo Electric, Fluoropore, 47 mm diameter, pore size 1  $\mu$ m). The sampling flow rate was 16.71 min<sup>-1</sup>. The sampling duration was ~ 1 h per filter. One or two samples were collected in each experiment.

### 20 2.2 LC/TOF-MS analysis

A filter sample was sonicated in 5 ml of methanol for 30 min to extract the collected organic compounds. The extract was concentrated to near dryness and then dissolved in 1 ml of formic acid-methanol-water solution (v/v/v = 1/2000/1999) for use as the analytical sample. Sample vials were stored in a freezer until analysis was performed.

<sup>25</sup> Off-line SOA samples were analyzed by LC/TOF-MS (Agilent Technology, 6200 Series Accurate-Mass Time-of-Flight LC/MS). The mobile phases used for LC were 0.05 % formic acid aqueous solution and methanol. The total flow rate of the mobile phases was 0.4 ml min<sup>-1</sup>. The methanol concentration was maintained at 50 % during



the flow injection analysis (in which no column is used). On the other hand, for the column injection analysis, the chromatographic gradient started at 5% methanol and progressed linearly to 90% in 30 min. An octadecyl silica gel column (GL Science, ODS-3V, 0.46 mm diameter ×150 mm long, particle size  $0.5 \,\mu$ m) was used to separate the analytes. The temperature of the column was maintained at 298 K. The analytes

<sup>5</sup> the analytes. The temperature of the column was maintained at 298 K. The analytes were ionized by electrospray ionization (ESI) in negative polarity mode and were then analyzed using a ToF-MS instrument with a mass resolution of ~ 3 ppm.

# 2.3 Iodometric spectrophotometry

The total amount of organic peroxide (ROOR + ROOH) present in SOA was quantified following a method established by Docherty et al. (2005). A filter sample was sonicated in 1.5 ml ethyl acetate for 10 min to extract any organic peroxides. The extract was mixed with 2.25 ml of formic acid-chloroform-water solution (v/v/v = 53/27/20). A 3-ml aliquot of the mixture solution was then placed in a 5-ml glass vial and dry nitrogen was bubbled gently through to remove any dissolved oxygen. The mixture solution was then added with 36 mg of potassium iodide.

One hour after the addition of potassium iodide, the absorbance of the mixture solution was measured using an ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, BioSpec-

mini). The molar concentration of triiodide ions (formed from the titration reaction of organic peroxides with excess iodide ions) was determined from the absorbance at 470 nm. The molar absorption coefficient of triiodide ion used for the calculations was

470 nm. The molar absorption coefficient of trilodide ion used for the calculations was measured by titration with benzoyl peroxide solution at a known concentration. The molar concentration was converted to the mass concentration in a manner similar to that described by Docherty et al. (2005).



# 3 SOA yield

The SOA yield was determined from the SOA volume concentration and the concentration of reacted hydrocarbon (Table 1). Not all hydrocarbons were consumed in the reactions taking place during photoirradiation (Fig. S1). The concentration of reacted

- <sup>5</sup> hydrocarbons was determined from the difference between the initial concentration and the concentration at a specific time and was then used in calculations of the SOA yield. No corrections to account for wall deposition loss of particles were performed. The volume concentration was converted to the mass concentration assuming the density of SOA to be  $1.4 \,\mathrm{g \, cm^{-3}}$ .
- <sup>10</sup> The SOA yield increased on increasing the SOA mass loading, primarily because the gas/particle absorption of semivolatile compounds (SVOCs) increases as a result (Odum et al., 1997). The SOA mass loading increased on increasing the initial hydrocarbon or methyl nitrite concentration. Under high-concentration conditions, the yield of SVOCs will increase because the total concentration of peroxy radicals ( $RO_2 + HO_2$ )
- <sup>15</sup> increases (Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008). The increase in the peroxy radical concentration will also affect the increase in the SOA yield.

Martin-Reviejo and Wirtz (2006) reported the SOA yield from benzene to be 11– 14% at an SOA mass concentration of 56–94  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup> (Fig. S2). This is close to the SOA yield measured in Run 2 (8% at the mass concentration of 49  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>). The SOA

- <sup>20</sup> yield reported by Ng et al. (2007) is 28 % at a mass concentration of  $35 \,\mu g \,m^{-3}$ , slightly higher than the present result. The SOA yields from 1,3,5-TMB were reported to be 3.1 % at a mass concentration of  $31 \,\mu g \,m^{-3}$  (Odum et al., 1997) and 3.6 % at a mass concentration of  $18 \,\mu g \,m^{-3}$  (Kleindienst et al., 1999). Both the previous results are close to the SOA yield measured in Run 4 (2.5 % at a mass concentration of  $54 \,\mu g \,m^{-3}$ ).
- <sup>25</sup> The present and previous results showed the SOA yield from benzene to be higher than that from 1,3,5-TMB.



# 4 The formation and aging of organics

# 4.1 Triangle plot

Strong ion signals appeared at m/z 43 and 44 in the mass spectra measured by H-TOF-AMS for SOA. The ion signals of m/z 43 and 44 originate chiefly from carbonyls and carboxylic acids, respectively (Ng et al., 2010, 2011). The ion signal of m/z 44 was higher than m/z 43 when SOA from benzene was measured, whereas the ion signal of m/z 43 was higher than m/z 44 when SOA from 1,3,5-TMB was measured (Fig. S3). These results confirm the findings previously reported by Sato et al. (2010).

The ratio of m/z 44 to total organic aerosol (*f* 44) was plotted as a function of *f* 43 to study the triangle plot proposed by Ng et al. (2010) (Fig. 1). According to Ng et al. (2010), the data for ambient organic aerosol appear in the triangle region shown in the Figure. The *f* 44 value increases as aging proceeds, and peaks at 0.3. The data obtained for SOA in this study also migrated, with elapse of time, toward the top of the triangle.

In the experiments with benzene, the value of f44 was 0.16–0.17 (Run 1) and 0.07– 0.13 (Runs 2 and 3). In the experiments with 1,3,5-TMB, the value of f44 was 0.06– 0.09 (Run 4) and 0.03–0.06 (Runs 5 and 6). The f44 value tended to increase on decreasing the SOA mass loading. This tendency parallels a previous result for SOA from  $\alpha$ -pinene ozonolysis by Shilling et al. (2009). Particles are rich in high-volatility SVOCs at high mass loading. The present and previous results indicate that ions with

m/z 44 are efficiently formed from the ionization of low-volatility SVOCs.

Previous data measured by Sato et al. (2010) for SOA from aromatic hydrocarbons other than benzene and 1,3,5-TMB are also plotted in Fig. 1. These data were reanalyzed using a new fragment table. The data migration due to the change in the

reactant chemical structure was greater than that due to the change in the SOA mass loading, indicating that the rate of SOA aging is strongly affected by the chemical structure of the precursor. The *f* 44 value of SOA decreased on increasing the number of alkyl groups of the reactant aromatic hydrocarbon. Similar results have been reported



by Sato et al. (2010) and Chhabra et al. (2011), and indicate that SOA from benzene is rich in carboxylic acids. A trade-off relationship was evident between the decrease in the f43 value and the increase in the f44 value, indicating that carboxylic acids are formed from the oxidation of carbonyls.

Not all data obtained in the present and previous studies appeared in the triangular region shown in Fig. 1. However, this is not unusual, since OOA observed in the ambient atmosphere is a mixture of oxidation products from various organic compounds. The *f* 44 value of SOA from benzene, the highest among the plotted data, was lower than the *f* 44 value at the top of the triangle region. The present results support pre vious findings that SOA formed from VOC oxidation in laboratory chambers is less oxidized than with ambient OOA (Bahreini et al., 2005; Alfarra et al., 2006; Chhabra et al., 2010).

#### 4.2 Van Krevelen diagram

Particulate organics and nitrates were detected when SOA was observed by H-ToF-

- AMS. The O/C ratio of organics increased with time, whereas the H/C ratio decreased with time (Fig. S1). A van Krevelen diagram was studied using the measured O/C and H/C ratios (Fig. 2). The oxidation state (OS<sub>c</sub> (Kroll et al., 2011)) evaluated for SOA from benzene increased from -0.13 to 0.60 as SOA aged. The oxidation state of SOA from 1,3,5-TMB was -1.22 to -0.53. SOA from 1,3,5-TMB was less oxidized than with benzene. The maximum oxidation state of ambient OOA is predicted to be 1.3 (Ng
- et al., 2011). This value was higher than the maximum of the oxidation state of SOA from benzene (0.60).

In Fig. 2, the straight line with a slope of 0 represents alcohols or peroxides; the straight line with a slope of -0.5, carboxylic acids produced by fragmentation; that with a slope of -1, carboxylic acids or hydroxy carbonyls; and that with a slope of -2, ketones or aldehydes (Ng et al., 2011). The present data was clustered near the straight line with a slope of -1. As SOA ages, the data point migrates along this straight line, suggesting that organics present in SOA are rich in carboxylic acids or



hydroxycarbonyls, and the functionalization with a carboxylic group or that with hydroxy + carbonyl groups on different carbons proceeds during SOA aging. In the experiments with 1,3,5-TMB under high mass loading conditions (Runs 5 and 6), the data appeared in the region between the straight line with a slope of -1 and that with a slope of -0.5,
showing that increased contributions from alcohols, peroxides, and/or carboxylic acids formed as a result of fragmentation.

The van Krevelen diagram of SOA from various aromatic hydrocarbons was studied using the data of Sato et al. (2010). All the data was clustered close to the straight line with a slope of -1 (Fig. 4S). Chhabra et al. (2011) reported similar results for SOA from toluene and *m*-xylene. These previous results also suggest that SOA from aromatic hydrocarbons is rich in carboxylic acids or hydroxycarbonyls.

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The H/C ratio of SOA from benzene (1.35–1.42) was lower than for 1,3,5-TMB (1.68– 1.72); this is because the H/C ratio of precursor benzene is higher than that of 1,3,5-TMB. The H/C ratio of SOA was higher than that of its precursor. However, the H/C ratios of dicarbonyl and dicarboxylic acid formed by the ring-opening reaction of an aromatic hydrocarbon are the same as that of the precursor (e.g., muconaldehyde  $(C_6H_6O_2)$ , Calvert et al., 2002, and muconic acid  $(C_6H_6O_4)$ , Borrás et al., 2012, from benzene  $(C_6H_6)$ ). In SOA particles, not only ring-opened carboxylic acids but also ringopened carbonyl hydrates (e.g., muconaldehyde hydrate  $(C_6H_{10}O_4)$ ) or ring-opened alcohols (e.g., 2,4-hexadiene-1,6-diol  $(C_6H_{10}O_2)$ , Borrás et al., 2012) will be present. Further, the H/C ratio will also increase if the double bond of ring-opened products is converted to a saturated structure (e.g., succinic anhydride from toluene, Forstner et al., 1997).

The O/C ratio of SOA from benzene (0.62–0.71) was higher than that of 1,3,5-TMB

(0.25–0.47). This is because very few of the methyl groups of 1,3,5-TMB are oxidized. In other words, the reactions relevant to SOA formation and aging proceed through the reactions of the aromatic ring.



# 4.3 LC/TOF-MS analysis

The results of LC/TOF-MS analysis of SOA collected in the experiment with benzene are shown in Table 2. To determine the ion formula, the error between the predicted m/z and the measured m/z was evaluated for probable candidates. The ion formula

- <sup>5</sup> was identified to be the candidate with the minimum error. High-polarity products from aromatic hydrocarbons such as carboxylic acids and phenols are only detected by LC/MS in negative polarity mode (Sato et al., 2007). The chemical structure was estimated by assuming that measured ions are deprotonated ring-opened carboxylic acids or deprotonated phenolic compounds.
- The ions of *m/z* 138 and 154 were identified, using standard reagents, as 4nitrophenol and 4-nitrocatechol. Other ions were provisionally identified as the molecules shown in the Table. To our knowledge, C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> were newly identified in this study. Nitrophenol isomers, nitrocatechol isomers, C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> were also identified in a recent GC/MS analysis (Borrás et al., 2012). Ring-opened products have an aldehyde or car-
- boxy group at each end. Oxalic acid is known to be present in SOA from benzene (Borrás et al., 2012). However, oxalic acid was not detected due to its high detection limit.

The results of LC/TOF-MS analysis of SOA collected in the experiment with 1,3,5-<sup>20</sup> TMB are shown in Table 3. The ion of *m/z* 87 was identified, using standard reagents, as pyruvic acid. All the other ions were provisionally identified as the molecules shown in the Table. The products other than pyruvic acid are, to our knowledge, newly identified. Pyruvic acid was also identified by Fisseha et al. (2004). All the identified products were ring-opened products. These products have a ketone or carboxy group at each <sup>25</sup> end. No nitrophenols were identified. Nitrophenols show absorption in the visible re-

end. No nitrophenols were identified. Nitrophenols show absorption in the visible region of < 460 nm (Calvert et al., 2002). The color of the sample filters of SOA from benzene was light yellow (Fig. S1), whereas that of sample filters of SOA from 1,3,5-TMB was white.



Figure 3 shows the van Krevelen diagram of products identified by LC/TOF-MS analysis. The arithmetic average point of products from benzene and that of products from 1,3,5-TMB appeared in a region between the straight line with a slope of -1 and that with a slope of -2. The oxidation state of the average point of benzene (0.82) is higher
than that determined by H-ToF-AMS for benzene SOA (0.60). A similar result was obtained for 1,3,5-TMB, indicating that products undetectable by the LC/TOF-MS instrument have lower oxidation states than detectable ones. On the other hand, the oxidation state of the products from benzene was higher than that of the products from 1,3,5-TMB. The results of LC/TOF-MS analysis also show a tendency for products from benzene to be more highly oxidized than those from 1,3,5-TMB.

Signals for oligomers were detected in the region *m/z* 250–600 (benzene sample) and in the region *m/z* 250–1000 (1,3,5-TMB sample) by flow injection analysis (Fig. S5). The difference in oligomer distribution is likely to result from the differences in the SOA mass loading and the chemical structure of the precursor. The signal intensities of these oligomers were lower than those of low-MW products by a factor of approximately 10<sup>2</sup>. No oligomers were detected in the column injection analysis. When SOA formed from the photooxidation of benzene and 1,3,5-TMB was measured by H-ToF-AMS, the signals in the 200–600 region also increased (Fig. S6). These results strongly suggest that oligomers are present in SOA particles.

#### 20 4.4 lodometric spectrophotometry

Organic peroxides formed from the reactions of RO<sub>2</sub> with HO<sub>2</sub> are believed to contribute to SOA formation (Johnson et al., 2004, 2005; Sato et al., 2007; Ng et al., 2007; Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008). Organic peroxides appear to contribute to SOA aging because they can function as initiators of particle-phase radical reactions (Sato et al., 2007; Chen et al., 2011), and function as oxidants of other compounds in the aqueous phase (Wang et al., 2011). Organic peroxides are also likely to affect the *f* 44 value and the O/C ratio obtained by AMS. In this study, the ratio of organic peroxides to total SOA mass was determined by means of iodometric spectrophotometry.



The present analytical method was checked by quantifying the organic peroxides present in SOA from the ozonolysis of  $\alpha$ -pinene. The ratio of organic peroxides to total SOA mass was determined as  $45 \pm 16 \%$  (n = 8, error  $2\sigma$ ). This value closely agrees with the value in the literature arrived at by Docherty et al. (2005) ( $47 \pm 24 \%$ ).

From experiments with 1,3,5-TMB, the ratio of organic peroxides to total SOA mass was determined to be 12±8% (n = 3, error 2σ). This value is close to a previous value reported by Sato et al. (2007) for toluene SOA (16–18%). Although we also measured this value in the experiment with benzene (Run 3), the SOA sample obtained was not sufficiently large to permit quantification. The ratio of organic peroxides to total SOA
 mass was estimated, from the value of the detection limit (3σ), to be < 39%. Although organic peroxides from aromatic hydrocarbon are present in SOA, the effect of these peroxides on the AMS data will be limited because of their low mass fraction.</li>

#### 4.5 Reaction schemes for SOA formation and aging

To interpret the present result of the triangle plot, a reaction mechanism relevant to
SOA formation and aging is now discussed (Fig. 4). The major fraction of total SOA mass is believed to comprise ring-opened products from aromatic hydrocarbons (Jang and Kamens, 2001; Fisseha et al., 2004). As shown in Fig. 4a, dialdehydes are produced as ring-opened products from the reaction of benzene with OH radicals (Calvert et al., 2002). These products, as well as second-generation products formed from subsequent oxidation, are absorbed onto existing particles. Some second-generation products have both carbonyl and hydroxy groups. In the particle phase, oligomers are formed from carbonyl hydration, acetal condensation, carbonyl polymerization, and aldol condensation (Jang and Kamens, 2001; Jang et al., 2002; Kalberer et al., 2004). The photooxidation process of 1,3,5-TMB is basically the same as for benzene
(Fig. 4b). Ketoaldehydes are likely to be produced as gas-phase oxidation products.

Nakao et al. (2011) and Borrás et al. (2012) have recently reported that a substantial amount of SOA is also formed through the oxidation of phenolic products from aromatic hydrocarbons. As oxidation products from phenols, ring-opened molecules such as



glyoxal + butenedial and hydroxylated compounds of these are formed (Bloss et al., 2005). Ring-opened products from phenolic compounds will also contribute to SOA formation.

- The present results indicate that SOA aging proceeds through the oxidation of the internal double bond of ring-opened products and carboxylic acid formation resulting from the oxidation of the carbonyl group (Fig. 4c). Loza et al. (2011) suggested that SOA aging in laboratory chamber experiments proceeds through the gas-phase oxidation of SVOCs, although oxidation on particle surfaces cannot be excluded. The gas-phase oxidation of the internal double bond results in fragmentation or function-10 alization. As a result of fragmentation, a carbonyl pair is formed. These carbonyls then undergo the following oxidation. The functionalization of the internal carbons of ring-opened products produces hydroxycarbonyls or diols; these reactions affect the
- increase in the O/C ratio (van Krevelen diagram), but will not affect the increase in the m/z 44 signal (triangle plot).
- <sup>15</sup> Gas-phase carboxylic acid formation from carbonyls is initiated by reactions with OH radicals. Generally, the reactions of ketones with OH radicals are slower than the reactions of aldehydes. For example, the lifetime of acetaldehyde is 20 h at an OH concentration of 10<sup>6</sup> molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>, whereas that of acetone is 53 days (DeMore et al., 1997). Ketoaldehydes are produced by the reaction of 1,3,5-TMB. Since the oxidation
- of ketone groups is slow, formation of carboxylic acids from dicarbonyl products is much slower than from benzene. Therefore, AMS measurements of SOA from benzene give stronger m/z 44 signals than those of SOA from 1,3,5-TMB. The ketone groups of the products from 1,3,5-TMB resist oxidation. AMS measurements of SOA from 1,3,5-TMB give stronger m/z 43 signals than those of SOA from benzene.
- <sup>25</sup> The SOA yield from benzene was higher than that from highly methylated 1,3,5-TMB. Sato et al. (2011) reported that the SOA yield from a highly methylated conjugated diene is much lower than that from non-methylated 1,3-butadiene. This previous result mirrors the present results for aromatic hydrocarbons. Oligoesters contribute to SOA formation during the reactions of conjugated dienes (Surratt et al., 2006). Ester-type



oligomers will also be produced in the particle phase during the oxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons.

#### Comparison between chamber and ambient conditions 5

The present results show that laboratory SOA is less oxidized than ambient OOA, and that the rate of SOA aging in laboratory chambers is limited by the oxidation of ketone 5 groups. Ketocarboxylic acids are also detected in ambient organic aerosol. The ratio of ketocarboxylic acids to dicarboxylic acids is known to decrease as an aerosol ages (Ho et al., 2005, 2007; He et al., 2010). These field results show that the oxidation of ketocarboxylic acids is competitive with the deposition of particles (the lifetime due to deposition is about 14 days). The rate of the oxidation of ketocarboxylic acids in the 10 ambient atmosphere cannot be fully explained by oxidation in the gas phase.

Recently, Loza et al. (2011) carried out long-photoirradiation (> 12 h) laboratory chamber experiments to investigate the photooxidation of *m*-xylene. They reported the rate of increase of the O/C ratio to be  $0.0012 h^{-1}$  during SOA aging. The time needed for the O/C ratio to increase from the initial SOA value (0.6) to the ambient 15 maximum (1.2) is estimated to be 20 days. In their experiments, the chamber was continuously irradiated, suggesting that it takes a much longer time for the O/C ratio to increase to 1.2 under ambient-like intermittent irradiation conditions.

As another oxidation process of ketocarboxylic acids, oxidation in the particle phase is also possible. However, dry SOA particles are suggested to be in the amorphous 20 solid state (Virtanen et al., 2010) or in the semi-solid phase (Shiraiwa et al., 2011). If these claims are correct, particle-phase reactions can only occur near the surface. The major fraction of total SOA mass comprises the molecules present in the internal region of particles, which remain unoxidized. On the other hand, under highly humid conditions, cloud processing such as acid-catalyzed reactions in the aqueous phase 25 (Böge et al., 2006) and OH radical reactions in the aqueous phase (Lim et al., 2005;



cal reactions in the aqueous phase, ketocarboxylic acids such as pyruvic acid can be oxidized to form dicarboxylic acids such as oxalic acid. SOA produced in laboratory chamber experiments is less oxidized than for ambient OOA, not only because the experimental duration is insufficient: laboratory chamber experiments cannot simulate the reactions of organics in the aqueous phase that take place in cloud processing

5 the reactions of organics in the aqueous phase that take place in cloud processing.

# 6 Nitrate formation

LC/TOF-MS analysis revealed no nitrophenols in SOA from 1,3,5-TMB, although they were detected in SOA from benzene. Nitrophenols appear to affect the optical properties of aerosol particles (Nakayama et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2011) and the toxicity of aerosol particles (Furuta et al., 2004; Li et al., 2006). In addition, nitrophenols will be used as markers of ambient SOA from fossil fuels and biomass burning (Irei et al., 2006, 2011; linuma et al., 2010). Formation of nitrophenols from aromatic hydrocarbons is further discussed in this section.

# 6.1 HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio

- Particulate nitrophenols are detected as nitrates by AMS (Bahreini et al., 2005; Sato et al., 2010). The ratio of nitrates (HRNO<sub>3</sub>) to organics (HROrg), identified from high-resolution mass spectra, was plotted as a function of time (Fig. 5). The NO<sup>+</sup>/NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> ratio observed was 3.8–5.8, higher than that for inorganic nitrates, indicating that the nitrates observed are rich in organic nitrates or nitro organics. Since the absolute concentra-
- tion of HRNO<sub>3</sub> determined for organonitrates is incorrect (Farmer et al., 2010), only relative comparisons are made here. The HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio decreased with time. This shows that nitrophenols and organic peroxides decrease as a result of chemical reactions. The decay rate of the HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio was also influenced by the faster increase in HROrg than HRNO<sub>3</sub> in the 0–60 min region. The average decay rate, determined from data in the region of >60 min, was 0.059 h<sup>-1</sup>. If we ignore reactions in



the aqueous phase, a major sink of nitrophenols and organic nitrates is photolysis in the gas phase (Calvert et al., 2002; Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000).

The HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio measured in the experiment with benzene (Run 2) was higher than that measured in the other experiment (Run 1) in the region of >60 min; this is because the initial NO<sub>x</sub> concentration in Run 2 (889 ppb) is higher than that for Run 1 (102 ppb). Since nitrophenols and organic nitrates are semivolatile compounds, the HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio would also depend on the SOA mass loading. However, the HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio measured in Run 3 ([SOA] = 198  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>) was close to or slightly below that measured in Run 2 ([SOA] = 49  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>). Under the present experimental conditions, the HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio was closely dependent on the initial NO<sub>x</sub> concentration.

The concentration of HRNO<sub>3</sub> also increased in experiments with 1,3,5-TMB. The HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio measured in the region >60 min (0.03–0.06) was almost independent of the initial NO<sub>x</sub> concentration or the SOA mass loading. The NO<sub>x</sub> concentra-<sup>15</sup> tion and the SOA mass loading in the experiment with benzene (Run 3) were close to those in the experiment with 1,3,5-TMB (Run 5). In a comparison between these experiments, the HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio measured in the experiment with benzene was higher than that measured in the experiment with 1,3,5-TMB.

#### 6.2 Reaction schemes for nitrophenol formation

- To be able to interpret the relationship between the structure of aromatic hydrocarbons and the yield of nitrophenols, the reaction mechanisms relevant to formation of nitrophenols from benzene and 1,3,5-TMB were investigated (Fig. 6). These mechanisms are based on an already known reaction mechanism (Forstner et al., 1997). Phenol is produced by the reaction of benzene with OH radicals (Fig. 6a). Phenoxy radicals formed from the following oxidation process of phenol have two other resonance
- structures: 2-oxyo-3,5-cyclohexadienyl and 4-oxo-2,5-cyclohexadienyl. The addition of  $NO_2$  to 2-oxo-3,5-cyclohexadienyl radicals followed by isomerization results in the



formation of 2-nitrophenol. Similarly, 4-nitrophenol is formed from the reaction of 4-oxo-2,5-cyclohexadienyl with  $NO_2$ .

As shown in Fig. 6b, 2,4,6-trimethylphenol is formed from the reaction of 1,3,5-TMB with OH radicals (Calvert et al., 2002; Kleindienst et al., 1999). The resonance struc-

- <sup>5</sup> tures of phenoxy-type radicals from this phenolic product are 1,3,5-trimethyl-2-oxo-3,5cyclohexadienyl and 1,3,5-trimethyl-4-oxo-2,5-cyclohexadienyl. In both these structures, the carbon atom at the radical's center is bonded with a methyl group. Even if NO<sub>2</sub> is added to these radicals, these adducts dissociate to reactants again since subsequent isomerization involving the methyl group migration cannot take place.
- Noda et al. (2009) recently reported a phenol formation pathway from alkylbenzene via dealkylation. Their results indicate that 3,5-dimethylphenol is also produced by the reaction of 1,3,5-TMB with OH radicals. The oxidation of this phenolic compound would appear to lead to the formation of 3,5-dimethyl-2-nitrophenol and 2,5-dmethyl-4-nitrophenol; however, no nitrophenols were detected in SOA from 1,3,5-TMB. The
   present results suggest that the yield of 3,5-dimethylphenol is lower than that of 2,4,6-trimethylphenol, or that NO<sub>2</sub> addition to the phenoxy from 3,5-dimethylpenol is blocked by steric hindrance.

### 7 Conclusions

In this study, SOA formed from the photooxidation of benzene and 1,3,5-TMB in the presence of NO<sub>x</sub> is measured by SMPS, H-ToF-AMS, and LC/TOF-MS. The SOA yield from benzene was higher than that from 1,3,5-TMB. A triangle plot of SOA from aromatic hydrocarbons was studied using the *f* 43 and *f* 44 data obtained by H-ToF-AMS measurements made in the present and previous studies. The *f* 44 value decreased on increasing the number of alkyl groups of the precursor aromatic hydrocarbon. The triangle plot also revealed a trade-off relationship between decreased *f* 44 value and in-

creased f 43 value. All f 44 values obtained for SOA from aromatic hydrocarbons were lower than that of highly oxidized ambient OOA. The van Krevelen diagram plotted us-



ing AMS data for SOA from benzene and 1,3,5-TMB showed the organic compounds present in SOA to be rich in carboxylic acids or hydroxycarbonyls. Ring-opened carboxylic acids and nitrophenols were identified as products present in SOA by LC/TOF-MS analysis of SOA from benzene. The ring-opened carboxylic acids from benzene

- <sup>5</sup> had an aldehyde or carboxy group at each end. On the other hand, only ring-opened carboxylic acids were identified. The ring-opened carboxylic acids from 1,3,5-TMB had a ketone and carboxy group at each end. The present results of the triangle plot, van Krevelen diagram, and composition analysis at the molecular level together indicate that SOA aging proceeds chiefly through carboxylic acid formation via the oxidation of
- <sup>10</sup> carbonyls, and that the rate of SOA aging in laboratory chamber experiments is limited by the rate of oxidation of ketones. SOA produced in laboratory chamber experiments is less oxidized than with ambient OOA, not only because the experimental duration is insufficient, but because laboratory chamber experiments are unable to simulate ketocarboxylic acid photochemical oxidation in the aqueous phase.
- <sup>15</sup> The HRNO<sub>3</sub>/HROrg ratio (representing the relative mass fraction of organonitrates or nitro organics) measured by H-ToF-AMS for SOA from benzene was confirmed to be higher than that measured for SOA from 1,3,5-TMB. The suppression of nitrophenol formation from 1,3,5-TMB is explained by the already-known reaction mechanism in relation to nitrophenol formation.

#### <sup>20</sup> Supplementary material related to this article is available online at: http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/12/283/2012/ acpd-12-283-2012-supplement.pdf.

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Table 1. Experimental conditions and SOA yields.

Run number	Compound	[HC] <sub>0</sub> (ppb)	[NO <sub>x</sub> ] <sub>0</sub> (ppb) <sup>a</sup>	[CH <sub>3</sub> ONO] <sub>0</sub> (ppb) <sup>b</sup>	SOA mass conc. $(\mu g m^{-3})^{c}$	SOA yield (%) <sup>d</sup>
Run 1	Benzene	1834	102	2	18	1.8
Run 2	Benzene	1466	889	1093	49	8.0
Run 3	Benzene	4163	999	1078	198	31.2
Run 4	1,3,5-TMB	1002	200	2	54	2.5
Run 5	1,3,5-TMB	1455	974	50	160	3.7
Run 6	1,3,5-TMB	1515	1052	1036	920	15.6

 $^a$  NO\_2/NO ratio was  $\sim 0$  (runs 1 and 4) or  $\sim 3$  (runs 2, 3, 5, and 6).

<sup>b</sup> Used as OH radical source.

<sup>c</sup> SOA mass concentrations were calculated using SMPS volume concentrations and a density of 1.4 g cm<sup>-3</sup>; no correction of SOA wall loss deposition was carried out.

<sup>d</sup> SOA yield was determined dividing the mass concentration of aerosol produced by the concentration of hydrocarbon reacted.



 Table 2. LC/TOFMS measured particulate products from benzene oxidation (Run 3).

<sup>a</sup> Structural and stereo isomers are likely; for simplicity only one isomer is shown.

<sup>b</sup> Newly identified.

<sup>c</sup> Found very recently by GC/MS analysis (Borrás et al., 2012).

<sup>d</sup> Latest-eluting compound will have cyclic structure.

<sup>e</sup> Two peaks were identified to be 2-nitrophenol and 4-nitrophenol; the signal of 4-nitrophenol was stronger than the other.

<sup>f</sup> No strong signal of trans, trans-muconic acid was found; detected peaks will be attributed to other structural isomers.

<sup>g</sup> Strongest peak was identified to be 4-nitrocatecol.



#### Table 3. LC/TOFMS measured particulate products from 1,3,5-TMB oxidation (Run 6).

Measured ion $(m/z)$	Retention time (min)	Suggested ion formula	Error (ppm)	Proposed structure <sup>a</sup>	Note
87.0080	6.2	$C_3H_3O_3^-$	9.0	ноос	b, c
127.0393	11.6, 12.1, 13.8	$C_6H_7O_3^-$	6.0	HOOC	d
161.0456	4.6, 6.1	$C_6H_9O_5^-$	-0.1	HOOC OH OH	d
169.0494	13.2, 14.7	$C_8H_9O_4^-$	7.0	ноос	d
173.0444	8.0, 11.6	$C_7H_9O_5^-$	6.3	ноос	d
183.0650	15.0, 17.3	$C_9H_{11}O_4^-$	6.8	HOOC	d
185.0444	8.2, 11.4	$\rm C_8H_9O_5^-$	6.0	ноос	d
189.0405	7.3	$C_7 H_9 O_6^-$	0.1	ноос	d
191.0562	3.1	$C_7 H_{11} O_6^-$	-0.3	ноос он он	d
199.0597	14.7	$C_9H_{11}O_5^-$	7.6	ноос	d
201.0747	11.6, 12.1	$C_9 H_{13} O_5^-$	10.4		d
203.0548	12.0, 12.9	$C_8H_{11}O_6^-$	6.6	HOOC O OH OH	d
215.0547	10.2, 15.9	$C_9H_{11}O_6^-$	6.8	HOOC OH	d
217.0708	8.4	$\mathrm{C_{9}H_{13}O_{6}^{-}}$	4.4		d
231.0507	13.0, 16.9, 20.8	$C_9H_{11}O_7^-$	1.4		d
233.0652	8.7, 16.3, 17.0	C <sub>0</sub> H <sub>13</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	6.3	HOOC OH OH OH	d



<sup>a</sup> Structural and stereo isomers are likely; for simplicity only one isomer is shown.

<sup>b</sup> Identified to be pyruvic acid.

<sup>c</sup> Found by ion chromatograph-mass spectrometry by Fisseha et al. (2004).

<sup>d</sup> Newly identified.



Fig. 1. Triangle plot of SOA formed from the photooxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons in the presence of NO<sub>v</sub>; data of benzene and 1,3,5-TMB are present results; data of other hydrocarbons are taken from Sato et al. (2010).

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Interactive Discussion

![](_page_31_Figure_0.jpeg)

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**Fig. 2.** Van Krevelen diagram of SOA formed from the photooxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons in the presence of  $NO_x$ ; data from ambient organic aerosol measurements appear in a region surrounded by gray curves (Ng et al., 2011).

![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

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Interactive Discussion

Fig. 4. Reaction schemes of (a) SOA formation from benzene photooxidation, (b) SOA formation from 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene photooxidation, and (c) SOA aging.

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

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Interactive Discussion

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**Fig. 6.** Reaction schemes of **(a)** nitrophenol formation from the photooxidation of benzene and **(b)** corresponding routes from the photooxidation of 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene.

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