

We are thankful to the two referees for thoughtful comments which help improve the manuscript substantially. Following the reviewers' suggestions, we have revised the manuscript accordingly. Listed below are our point-by-point responses in blue to each comment that is repeated in italic.

### **Response to Referee #1**

*This paper reports an observational case study of pollution in Beijing around the APEC period, chiefly with an HR-AMS. The techniques used are fairly well-established, but the results presented are extremely interesting because this presented a unique opportunity to study the different sources of megacity pollution in isolation. Several interesting observations are made regarding the different sources of PMF-resolved organics and the changes in the oxidation state of the organics and the sizes of the particles. It is generally well written and very relevant to ACP, so I recommend publication after the comments below have been considered.*

We thank the reviewer's positive comments.

*This is not the only paper covering this case study; the paper Chen et al. ([www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/15/22889/2015/](http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/15/22889/2015/)) also covers this from the perspective of the measurements made on the Beijing Meteorological Tower. While I have read both papers and I am satisfied that there is not too much overlap between the two papers, I find it strange that this paper makes no reference to the Chen et al. paper, especially as the two papers share the same corresponding author. It would be useful to discuss the relevance of the findings presented here in the context of the observations of the other paper.*

Thanks the reviewer's comments. Chen et al. (2015) was now cited more in the revised manuscript for a better comparison with the results obtained at the ground site. For example, in section 3.1, we added "However, the measurements at 260 m at the same location showed significant decreases of 40–80% for all aerosol species during APEC, whereas the bulk aerosol composition was relatively similar before and during APEC as a result of synergetic controls of aerosol precursors over a regional scale(Chen et al., 2015). These results indicated the different sources of aerosol particles between the ground site and 260 m."

*General: The use of the term 'oxidative properties' seems a little odd. This is normally used to refer to the properties of oxidizing agents or their precursors (e.g.  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ ), but here it is the oxygen content of the organic aerosol that is under investigation. I think it would be more correct to refer to the 'oxidation properties' throughout the manuscript (as it is done in a few instances).*

A good point. “oxidative properties” was changed to “oxidation properties” throughout the manuscript.

*Page 23411, line 5: The statement that ‘the oxidative properties of aerosol particles remain largely unknown’ is a little odd because there have been a large number of papers focusing on this exact topic in the last seven years using the techniques used here. While it continues to be a subject of much interest, I don’t think the statement as it is written really stands.*

Thank the reviewer’s comment. This sentence was now revised as “the oxidation properties of aerosol particles remain less understood”.

*Page 23415: The terms ‘A-A’ and ‘I-A’ should be defined.*

Thanks the reviewer’s comments. The AMS organic O/C tends to be biased low because of the influence of unimolecular ion decomposition reactions, in which a fragment with an electronegative atom such as oxygen has a larger tendency to become a neutral, rather than a cation. The study by Aiken et al. (2008) showed that the bias can be accounted for by dividing an average calibration factor (0.75) which was obtained from laboratory standards. However, a recent study found that the O/C values from the method of Aiken et al. (2008) are systematically biased low, particularly with larger biases for alcohols and simple diacids. Therefore, a new method on the basis of O/C from Aiken et al. (2008), fraction of  $\text{CO}_2^+$  and  $\text{CHO}^+$  was proposed for the calculation of O/C of organic aerosol (Canagaratna et al., 2015). To differentiate these two methods, the method of Aiken et al. (2008) was defined as “Aiken-Ambient” (A-A), and the one proposed by Canagaratna et al. (2015) was defined as “Improved-Ambient”. Following the reviewer’s suggestion, we defined A-A and I-A in the revised manuscript.

*Page 23418: The discussion regarding aerosol acidity is almost certainly not correct. If the aerosol was acidic, it would be unable to support nitrate, which would partition completely to the gas phase as nitric acid. Reports of acidic aerosols in the atmosphere measured using AMS (e.g. in marine locations) always feature very little or no nitrate and show much worse correlations than is presented in figure 2. It is far more likely that in this instance, the aerosol is pH neutral and the sub-unity  $\text{NH}_4$  meas/pred value is because sulphate RIE used here is inaccurate. This parameter can and does vary from the default value of 1.2 and should have been calibrated along with the RIE of ammonium.*

Thanks the reviewer’s comments. The default RIE (1.2) was used in this study for sulfate quantification. Unfortunately, we didn’t calibrate the AMS with pure  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  particles. As the reviewer mentioned, the RIE of sulfate might be a factor affecting the calculation of the predicted  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . In addition, a considerable fraction of

biomass burning was observed in this study which can emit chloride in the form of KCl. As a result, we may also overestimate the predicted  $\text{NH}_4^+$  by counting all chloride as  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , and hence overestimate aerosol particle acidity. The cations such as  $\text{K}^+$  and  $\text{Na}^+$ , and the organic acids that the AMS cannot quantify will introduce further uncertainties in evaluating aerosol particle acidity. For these reasons, we deleted the discussions on aerosol particle acidity in the revised manuscript. We also deleted the section of aerosol particle acidity in Chen et al. (2015) which likely has the same issue.

*Page 23420: Could the variation in the HOA/BC ratio also be caused by changes in the relative contributions from the local combustion sources such as biofuel, coal and traffic?*

Thanks the reviewer's comment. Coal combustion was not a major source of organic aerosol during this study for two reasons: 1) the heating season in Beijing started from November 15 which was behind this study; 2) PMF analysis of high resolution mass spectra of organic aerosol did not resolve a factor associated with coal combustion emissions, while it can be resolved during the heating season (Sun et al., 2013). The reduction of BBOA (16%) during APEC was similar to that of HOA (19%), and the ratio of HOA/BBOA was 0.81 during APEC, which is also similar to that (0.84) before APEC. Therefore, we infer that the variations of HOA/BC ratios could not likely due to the changes of relative contributions of local combustion sources.

*Haze event: Please use a different numbering convention than 'S1', 'S2', etc. for the stages because these are also used for the supplement figures and I found this confusing.*

Thanks the reviewer's comment. The four stages were now defined as "E1, E2, E3, and E4" in the revised manuscript.

*Figure 13: The vertically-resolved wind speed and direction data needs to be properly introduced. Is this the same data as was used in figure 14a of Chen et al.?*

Yes, it is the same data as that in Chen et al. (2015). Following the reviewer's suggestion, we added a description of the wind profile measurements in the revised manuscript. "The wind profiles including WS and WD between 100 m to 5000 m were measured by a Doppler wind lidar (Windcube 200, Leosphere, Orsay, France) at the same location."

*Figure 14: The caption needs to be specific about what event is being shown in this Figure*

We revised the figure caption as:

Fig. 14. (a) Evolution of size distributions of sulfate, nitrate, and organics during the severe haze episode between October 22 and 25 (Fig. 12). (b) Average size distributions of sulfate, nitrate, and organics during the four stages of E1-E4.

*Supplement: Are the ion tracers referred to in S1 and S2 derived from AMS data? If so, these are internal, not external tracers.*

Good point. They were from the AMS measurements. We deleted “external” in the captions of Figs. S1 and S2.

## Response to Referee #2

*The manuscript reports detailed chemical characterization of PM<sub>1</sub>, mostly NR-PM<sub>1</sub> during an important event (APEC) in Beijing. Strict atmospheric legislation emissions were imposed during APEC, which gave the authors the opportunity to investigate aerosol properties and sources before and during APEC, including severe haze episodes. The authors demonstrate experience on the techniques and provided very detailed information. Although not many new insights are presented, it seems to me that the results have implications on atmospheric chemistry and for this reason I recommend it to be accepted for publication in this journal after the considerations below are taken into account.*

Thanks the reviewer's comments.

*General comments:*

*Language was often poorly written, I recommend careful text revision, especially with the use of 'plural' form.*

Thanks the reviewer's comments. We had a careful proofread in the revised manuscript.

*In the introduction the authors claim that 'understanding of size distributions and elemental compositions of OA in Beijing remains poor'. Nowhere in this planet there have been so many studies with HR-AMS including HR-PMF, size distributions and elemental composition of OA till the present moment (I counted 8 studies!). No doubt that they were all important. However, I do not believe such sentences can be used as motivation statements.*

Thank the reviewer's comments. HR-AMS has been widely used in field campaigns for characterization the size distributions and elemental composition of organic aerosols. Here we refer to the HR-AMS studies in Beijing. To our knowledge, the number of reported HR-AMS ambient studies in Beijing is approximately 9 (Huang et al., 2010a;Huang et al., 2010b;Liu et al., 2011;Zhang et al., 2014;Elser et al., 2015;Sun et al., 2015;Zhang et al., 2015a;Zhang et al., 2015b;Zhang et al., 2015c). Although several of these studies discussed the size distributions and elemental composition, most of them focused on the average size distributions for the entire study period and/or presented the time series and diurnal cycles of elemental ratios. Few of them discussed the evolution of size distributions during the severe haze episode, and also the evolution of oxidation degree of OA as a function of relative humidity was rarely investigated. Therefore, our understanding of the size

distributions and elemental composition of OA is still limited. Following the reviewer's comments, we revised this sentence as: "our understanding of the evolution of size distributions and elemental composition of OA in Beijing is still limited."

*The authors say that emissions control during the Olympic Games 2008 were implemented to a lesser degree. Please provide more detail on that.*

The emission controls during the Olympic Games included temporary closures of factories and restrictions on traffic by alternating the odd and even plate numbers. The control measures were mainly implemented in Beijing, while similar but less extensive traffic and industry restrictions were imposed in Beijing surrounding areas within a radius of about 150 km (Cermak and Knutti, 2009). In the revised manuscript, we added a more detailed description of the emission control during the Olympic Games and cited the reference of Cermak and Knutti (2009) for further details.

*Limits of detection for the HR-AMS were estimated and presented, however, it surprises me that some compounds presented much lower values than the ones presented by DeCarlo et al. (2006), especially ammonium. Do the authors have an explanation for that?*

There are several reasons for such differences: 1) the detection limits we reported are 5-min averages while those reported in DeCarlo et al. (2006) are 1-min values; 2) the detection limit of HR-AMS is instrument dependent. For example, the HR-AMS in DeCarlo et al. (2006) was the early version, while the performance of HR-AMS has been significantly improved during the last 10 years; 3) the ambient environment, e.g., relative humidity, might also be a factor affecting the detection limits, particularly ammonium, because the fragments of ammonium (mainly  $m/z$  16, and 17) have interferences from water fragments ( $O^+$  and  $OH^+$ ). We removed the statement "which are close to the values reported in previous HR-AMS studies (DeCarlo et al., 2006)." in the revised manuscript for clarification.

*I suggest the authors include the input organics matrix dimensions, so the readers will know the number of variables and samples used in the PMF analysis. Also, explain if PMF was run for all the period (before APEC, during APEC) together or separately.*

Good point. We clarified this information in the revised manuscript as:

“The PMF2.exe algorithm (v4.2) in robust mode (Paatero and Tapper, 1994) was applied to the HRMS matrix (4158×306) of OA for the entire study period to resolve distinct OA factors representing specific sources and processes.”

*In section 3.1 the authors say that nitrate contribution was larger than in previous studies. Is that an indication that legislation imposed during APEC was more effective for this compound? Why?*

The higher nitrate contribution than those in previous studies indicate that nitrate played a more important role in PM pollution during the study period. One of the major reasons is the continuous reduction of SO<sub>2</sub> in recent years while the NO<sub>x</sub> level remained at a high level and even increased. Another part of the reason is because of the season (autumn) for this campaign, when the temperature is not high enough to evaporate NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> substantially while the photochemical production is still strong (Zhang et al., 2012b). Based on our analysis, the emission controls over a regional scale during APEC showed similar impacts on nitrate and sulfate, and it is difficult to tell that the legislation imposed during APEC was more effective for nitrate reduction.

*Concerning the acidity, do the authors have additional information concerning cations, such as K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Rb<sup>+</sup>? For example, Takegawa et al. (2009) measured those ions with tan AMS in Beijing. In an environment where mass loadings are so elevated, one could expect them to be relevant for the neutralization.*

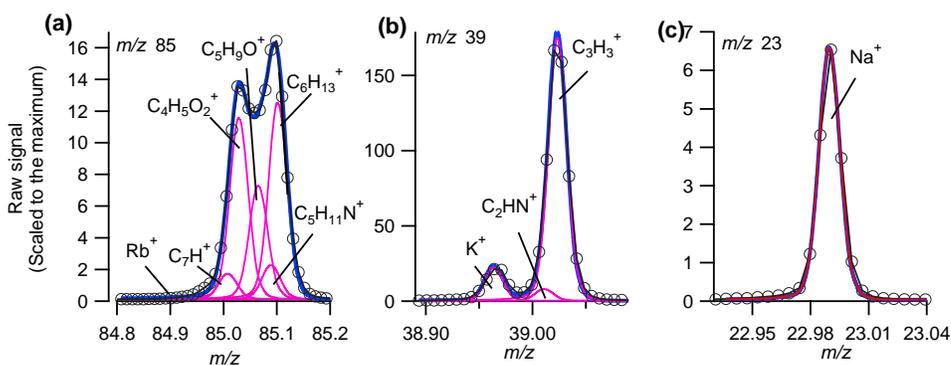


Figure R1. The raw spectra of (a)  $m/z$  85 (b)  $m/z$  39 and (c)  $m/z$  23

The high resolution mass spectra showed clear signals of K<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup> (Figure R1). However, quantification of K<sup>+</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup> is challenging due to the surface ionization

issue and also the unknown RIE of  $K^+$  ( $RIE_K$ ). The  $RIE_K$  can vary a lot depending on the tuning of the spectrometer and the temperature of the vaporizer. For example, Slowik et al. (2010) reported a  $RIE_K = 10$  based on the calibration of pure  $KNO_3$  particles using a ToF-AMS, which is much higher than the  $RIE_K = 2.9$  obtained from the comparisons of K/S from fireworks and AMS measurements (Drewnick et al., 2006). In addition, the stability of surface ionization (SI) and electron impact (EI) also affects  $RIE_K$ . For these reasons, we didn't quantify  $K^+$  and  $Na^+$  with the HR-AMS measurements.

The  $K^+$  and  $Na^+$  will affect our evaluation of aerosol particle acidity in this study. For example, a considerable fraction of biomass burning was observed in this study which emits chloride mainly in the form of  $KCl$ . We may overestimate the particle acidity by counting all chloride as  $NH_4Cl$ . As the reviewer #1 mentioned, the RIE of sulfate and the organic acids may introduce further uncertainties in calculation of aerosol particle acidity. Therefore, we deleted the discussions on aerosol particle acidity in the revised manuscript.

*Diurnal cycles of SIA components were very similar, increase in the afternoon. To me that suggests mixing layer development. Regional pollutants stay imprisoned above the mixing layer during the night and during the day when the mixing layer evolves they are released down to the surface level.*

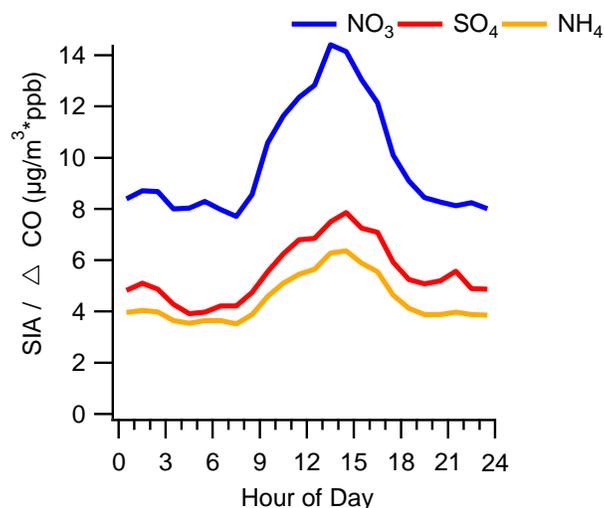


Figure R2. Diurnal cycles of  $SIA/\Delta CO$  ( $\Delta CO$  is the  $CO$  minus background  $CO$ ).

As stated, planetary boundary layer (PBL) played an important role in changing the diurnal cycles of SIA components. Because of the stronger convective turbulence and higher temperature, the boundary layer height during daytime is generally much higher than that at night. The rising boundary layer would dilute the concentrations of pollutants leading to lower concentrations during daytime. Figure R2 shows the diurnal cycles of SIA/ $\Delta$ CO which can remove the dilution effect of PBL to a certain degree. It is clear that secondary inorganic species showed pronounced daytime peaks indicative of daytime photochemical production. Therefore, the increased concentration of SNA in the afternoon was primarily caused by photochemical processing. It is possible that the pollutants in the residual layer at night can be mixed downwards to the ground site during daytime. However, we cannot draw such a conclusion based on the current data analysis in this study.

*Concerning the COAs factors, the authors associate COA2 to charbroiling because that was the banned cooking technique during APEC. Could the authors provide further evidence of charbroiling cooking factor? For example, this factor presented  $CHN^+$  and  $CHNO^+$  fragments, especially for larger  $m/z$ s ( $>m/z80$ ). Any insights on what could those fragments represent? How could they be related to charbroiling and not to typical cooking?*

Thank the reviewer's comments. Charbroiling was banned in certain areas, e.g., Huairou district in Beijing during APEC. However the charbroiling activities were still significant in the streets near our sampling site. We currently don't have a good explanation for the high nitrogen-containing ions in cooking aerosols, which should be explored in the future by sampling directly the source aerosol of charbroiling.

Previous GC/MS analysis showed that unsaturated fatty acids were abundant organic aerosol species from Chinese cooking emissions (He et al., 2004; Zhao et al., 2006). The mass spectra of typical cooking organic aerosol are characterized by strong signal at  $m/z$  41 and 55 (He et al., 2010), which is similar to the spectral profile of COA1. Whereas the spectrum of meat charbroiling showed high ion signals at  $m/z$  43 and 55 (Mohr et al., 2009), which was similar to that of COA2 in our study. Based on these comparisons, we infer that COA1 was related to the typical cooking aerosol and COA2 was mainly associated with charbroiling.

*It surprises me that all POA factors (but COA1) contain significant fractions of  $m/z$  60 and 73. Did the authors try ME2 to better separate the factors? They look rather mixed.*

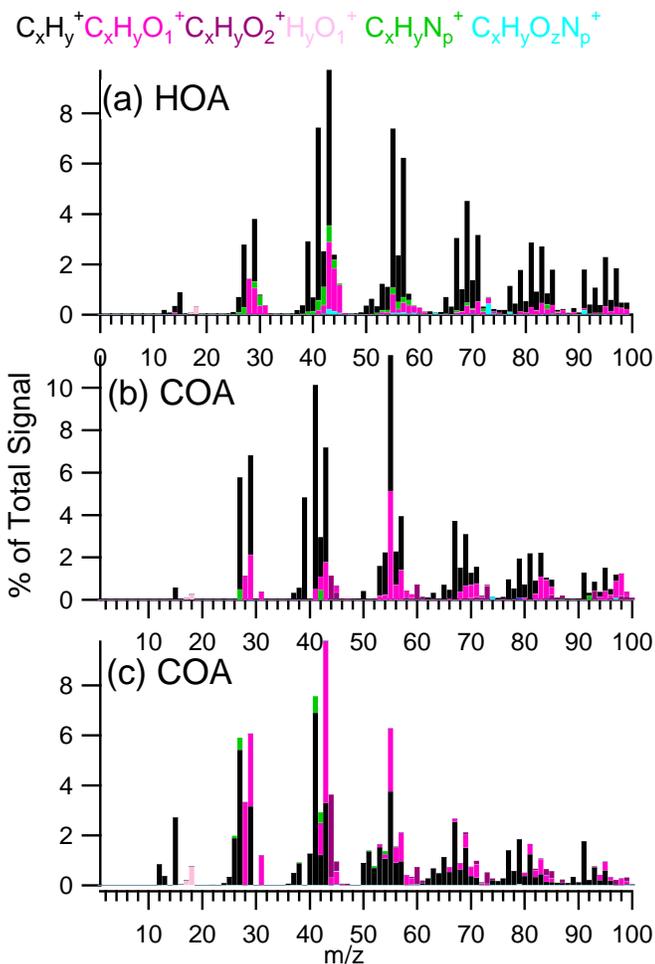


Figure R3. High-resolution mass spectra of OA resolved from previous studies, including (a) HOA (Aiken et al., 2009), (b) COA (Crippa et al., 2013) and (c) COA (Mohr et al., 2012).

Thank the reviewer's comments. We didn't try the advanced ME-2 analysis yet. The high  $m/z$  60 in COA is consistent with that resolved in previous studies, e.g., Paris, 2009 (Crippa et al., 2013), Barcelona 2009 (Mohr et al., 2012), and also those in source profiles of Chinese cooking emissions (He et al., 2010).

The high  $m/z$  60 in HOA is not typical. However, the spectral patterns and the comparisons of time series with external tracers (CO and BC) indicate that the HOA factor was well separated. One explanation is that HOA was mixed with a small amount of coal combustion organic aerosol (CCOA) that cannot be resolved by PMF. The mass spectrum of CCOA is similar to that of HOA, yet shows visible  $m/z$  60 peak

(Elser et al., 2015). However, due to their similar spectra and the small contribution of CCOA before the heating season, PMF analysis cannot resolve the CCOA factor.

*Why was the terminology SV-OOA and LV-OOA utilized instead of OOAI and OOAI (Huang et al., 2010)? Both OOAs are very oxidized ( $m/z$  44>43) and both present similar agreement with nitrate and/or SIA. It is not clear to me that the factor labeled as SV-OOA is more volatile. Concerning diurnal cycle of SV-OOA, how can the mountain valley breeze influence only this factor and not the others? Please explain.*

The terms of “OOAI” and “OOAI” are widely used in early AMS, mostly Quadrupole-AMS studies which refer to highly oxidized and freshly oxidized oxygenated organic aerosol, respectively. Recent HR-AMS studies together with the volatility measurements (Huffman et al., 2009b; Huffman et al., 2009a; Jimenez et al., 2009) suggest that OOAI is characterized by high oxygen-to-carbon (O/C) ratio with low volatility while OOAI with lower O/C is found to be more volatile than OOAI. In addition, many studies found that OOAI often correlated with sulfate and OOAI often correlated with semi-volatile nitrate. Since then, the two types of OOA, i.e., OOAI and OOAI are commonly defined as low-volatility oxygenated organic aerosol (LV-OOA) and semi-volatile OOA (SV-OOA), respectively. In this study, the O/C of LV-OOA (=0.99) is much higher than that of SV-OOA (=0.47). To be consistent with previous studies, we named the two types of OOA as LV-OOA and SV-OOA, respectively. Although the two OOA both showed high  $m/z$  44/43, we noticed a considerable fraction of  $C_xH_y^+$  ions in SV-OOA, further indicating that it is less oxidized than LV-OOA.

The mountain-valley breeze influenced all OA factors as indicated by the diurnal cycles in Figure 6. All OA factors started to decrease from midnight when the mountain-valley breeze occurred.

*SIA and OOA showed similar large accumulation modes peaking at 650nm. Usually, the lens transmission efficiency drops abruptly at  $D_{va}>600$  nm. Please explain how could that be? Was the transmission efficiency measured for this instrument?*

Thank the reviewer’s comments. We didn’t measure the lens transmission efficiency for our HR-AMS. One of the explanations is that there was a considerable amount of SIA and OOA in the larger particles, e.g.,  $D_{va}>600$  nm before APEC. In fact, a recent HR-AMS study using a  $PM_{2.5}$  lens in Beijing (Elser et al., 2015) showed that the size distribution of sulfate during the pollution episode peaked at ~1000 nm while nitrate

showed the highest concentration between 600 – 1000 nm. Our study showed maximum sizes at ~650 nm for SIA which might indicate that the increased concentrations between 600 – 650 nm overcame the decreases caused by lens transmission efficiency. To be accurate, we revised “peaking at ~650 nm” as “peaking at ~650 nm or even larger”.

*In the Krevelen diagram, slopes before and during APEC are very similar (-0.52 and -0.58) to infer that different aging processes took place.*

We agree with the reviewer that the slopes before and during APEC were similar. Therefore, we used “slightly” to describe the differences.

#### *Minor Comments*

*P23414, L13: Write W-mode.*

#### Changed

*P23416, L17: NO<sub>x</sub> or NO<sub>y</sub>? In section 2.1.1 NO<sub>y</sub> was mentioned. Please choose one.*

It is NO<sub>x</sub>. NO and NO<sub>y</sub> were measured by the gas analyzer (model 42i ) from Thermo Scientific. The NO<sub>2</sub> was measured by a cavity attenuated phase shift NO<sub>2</sub> monitor (Aerodyne Research Inc.), which was described in section 2.1.1. The NO<sub>x</sub> was then calculated as NO<sub>x</sub>=NO+NO<sub>2</sub>.

*P23416, L19-22: Sentences need clarification. Were the two SV-OOAs combined? Please, write clarify.*

We reworded this sentence as:

“The five-factor solution yielded a mixed SOA factor and the seven-factor solution split the SV-OOA into two components, which cannot be reasonably explained due to limited external tracers.”

*P23417, L11: 3rd, not ‘3’.*

We changed it to “November 3”.

*P23417, L18: Write ‘composed of’ down.*

Added.

*P23417, L20: Did you mean organic mass fraction?*

Yes, we revised it as “The contribution of organics showed a large increase, accounting for more than half of PM<sub>1</sub>, whereas that of SIA was decreased from 51.2% to 35.4%.”

*P23417, L27: Please report the NO<sub>3</sub>/SO<sub>4</sub> value for Zhang, et al. (2014), so the reader can compare it.*

Added.

*P23419, L7: Spell out BA and DA.*

Spelled out.

*P23419, L23: Please cite few chloride combustion sources.*

Added.

“Chloride, mainly from combustion sources, e.g., biomass burning and coal combustion (Levin et al., 2010;Zhang et al., 2012a), showed similar diurnal cycles before and during APEC”.

*P23421, L4: The authors probably meant ‘increase’, not ‘decrease’. Please correct.*

Corrected.

*P23421, L17-18: Already described in section 2.1.1, no need to mention it again here.*

Removed.

*P23421, L21: The word correlates is not appropriate, replace it by ‘in agreement’.*

Revised as “This result is consistent with the fact that vehicles use was limited only between 3:00 and 24:00 during APEC.”

*P23427, L-14-15: This sentence is not clear.*

It was reworded as “coinciding with a time without traffic control, and likely having more traffic emissions during APEC.”

*P23432, L26: Please include the meteorological effects after emission control.*

Added

*Fig. 5 (f) right panel, there’s a typo, ‘SNA’.*

We changed “SNA” to “SIA”.

Fig. 4 was cited after Fig 5 in the manuscript.

Changed

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1 | Aerosol composition, ~~oxidative-oxidation~~ properties, and sources in  
2 | Beijing: results from the 2014 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation  
3 | summit study  
4 |

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## 22 **Abstract**

23 The mitigation of air pollution in megacities remains a great challenge because of  
24 the complex sources and formation mechanisms of aerosol particles. The 2014 Asia-  
25 Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Beijing serves as a unique  
26 experiment to study the impacts of emission controls on aerosol composition, size  
27 distributions, and oxidative-oxidation properties. Herein, a high-resolution  
28 time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer was deployed in urban Beijing for real-time  
29 measurements of size-resolved non-refractory submicron aerosol (NR-PM<sub>1</sub>) species  
30 from October 14 to November 12, 2014, along with a range of collocated  
31 measurements. The average ( $\pm\sigma$ ) PM<sub>1</sub> was 41.6 ( $\pm$ 38.9)  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  during APEC, which  
32 was decreased by 53% compared with that before APEC. The aerosol composition  
33 showed substantial changes owing to emission controls during APEC. Secondary  
34 inorganic aerosols (SIA = sulfate + nitrate + ammonium) showed significant  
35 reductions of 62%–69%, whereas organics presented much smaller decreases (35%).  
36 The results from the positive matrix factorization of organic aerosols (OA) indicated  
37 that highly oxidized secondary OA (SOA) showed decreases similar to those of SIA  
38 during APEC. However, primary OA (POA) from cooking, traffic, and biomass  
39 burning sources were comparable to those before APEC, indicating the presence of  
40 strong local source emissions. The oxidation properties showed corresponding  
41 changes in response to OA composition. The average oxygen-to-carbon level during  
42 APEC was 0.36 ( $\pm$ 0.10), which is lower than the 0.43 ( $\pm$ 0.13) measured before APEC,  
43 demonstrating a decrease in the OA oxidation degree. The changes in size  
44 distributions of primary and secondary species varied during APEC. SIA and SOA  
45 showed significant reductions in large accumulation modes with peak diameters  
46 shifting from ~650 to 400 nm during APEC, whereas those of POA remained  
47 relatively unchanged. The changes in aerosol composition, size distributions, and  
48 oxidation degrees during the aging processes were further illustrated in a case study of  
49 a severe haze episode. Our results elucidated a complex response of aerosol chemistry  
50 to emission controls, which has significant implications that emission controls over

51 regional scales can substantially reduce secondary particulates. However, stricter  
52 emission controls for local source emissions are needed for further mitigating air  
53 pollution in the megacity of Beijing.

## 54 **1. Introduction**

55 Atmospheric aerosols, especially fine particles of particulate matter (PM) with  
56 aerodynamic diameters less than 2.5 $\mu\text{m}$ , play significant roles in human health  
57 hazards (Pope et al., 2009) and visibility reduction (Chow et al., 2002). Atmospheric  
58 aerosols also exert highly uncertain effects on climate change (Forster et al., 2007).  
59 Recently, the ~~frequency of~~ severe haze pollution ~~events~~, which is characterized by  
60 high concentrations of fine particles, has become a significant concern in China  
61 (Zhang et al., 2010). Consequently, extensive studies have been conducted to  
62 investigate the sources, formation mechanisms, and evolution processes of haze  
63 pollution during the last decade. The results showed that fine particles were mainly  
64 composed of organic matter (OM) and secondary inorganic aerosols (SIA) including  
65 sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium. The major sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> were also identified and  
66 quantified by using receptor models, e.g., factor analysis, chemical mass balance,  
67 positive matrix factorization (PMF) (Zheng et al., 2005; Song et al., 2006; Wang et al.,  
68 2008; Zhang et al., 2013), and tracer-based methods (Dan et al., 2004; Cao et al.,  
69 2005; Guo et al., 2012). Overall, traffic exhaust, industrial emissions, coal combustion,  
70 biomass burning, and secondary aerosols were the major sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Cooking  
71 aerosols (COA) ~~were~~ also found to be a significant contributor of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in urban  
72 environments (Huang et al., 2010b; Sun et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2013). Recent studies  
73 further highlighted the important roles of SIA and secondary organic aerosols (SOA)  
74 in the formation of severe haze pollution (Sun et al., 2014; Huang et al., 2014; Zheng et  
75 al., 2015). The substantial emissions from primary sources and rapid secondary  
76 aerosol formation coupled with stagnant meteorological conditions lead to frequent  
77 haze pollution in China, particularly during winter (Sun et al., 2014). However,  
78 ~~because~~ most previous studies are based on filter measurements with a time resolution  
79 ranging from hours to days, our knowledge of the rapid formation of severe haze

80 | remains ~~poorly understood~~ limited. Although recent real-time measurements of  
81 | aerosol composition have improved our understanding of the evolutionary processes  
82 | of haze pollution, most of them focus on chemical composition and source analysis,  
83 | and ~~the oxidative-oxidation~~ properties of aerosol particles remain ~~largely unknown~~.  
84 | ~~less understood~~.

85 | The aerodyne aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) is unique for real-time  
86 | characterization of size-resolved non-refractory submicron aerosol (NR-PM<sub>1</sub>)  
87 | composition (Jayne et al., 2000). The first deployments of Quadrupole AMS (QAMS)  
88 | at urban (Sun et al., 2010) and rural sites (Yufa) (Takegawa et al., 2009) in Beijing in  
89 | 2006 showed significant differences in aerosol chemical compositions between ~~such~~  
90 | ~~the two~~ sites. Organics dominated NR-PM<sub>1</sub> at both sites (33%–35%), whereas nitrates  
91 | presented a much higher contribution at the urban site (22%) than at the rural site  
92 | (11%). Three types of organic aerosols (OA) were identified : a hydrocarbon-like  
93 | aerosol (HOA) from the primary emissions and two oxygenated OA (OOA) from the  
94 | secondary formation (Sun et al., 2010). The results highlighted the importance of  
95 | SOA in summer, which on an average contributed 61% of the total OA. The  
96 | high-resolution time-of-flight AMS (HR-AMS), which provides more detailed  
97 | chemical information and ~~oxidative-oxidation~~ properties of OA, was first deployed in  
98 | Beijing during the 2008 Olympic Games (Huang et al., 2010b). COA was first  
99 | resolved by using AMS in Beijing and was observed to contribute a large fraction  
100 | (25%) of the total OA. The elemental composition of OA factors was also determined.  
101 | The oxygen-to-carbon (O/C) ratios of SOA (0.47–0.48) were significantly higher than  
102 | those of primary OA (0.11–0.17), indicating significant~~ly~~ differences in the oxidation  
103 | degrees of primary and secondary aerosols. Since 2008, the HR-AMS has been  
104 | deployed in various environments, mainly in Beijing (Zhang et al., 2014a;Zhang et al.,  
105 | 2015), the Yangtze River Delta (YRD) (Huang et al., 2013), the Pearl River Delta  
106 | (PRD) (He et al., 2011;Huang et al., 2011), and Lanzhou in northwest China (Xu et al.,  
107 | 2014). The average mass concentrations of submicron aerosols (PM<sub>1</sub>) in China ranged  
108 | from 15µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 67 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with organics constituting the major fraction (28%–52%)~~.~~

109 ~~of PM<sub>4</sub>~~. The OA ~~sources-factors investigated-identified~~ by ~~using~~ PMF analysis ~~;~~  
110 include HOA, COA, biomass-burning (BBOA), coal combustion (CCOA)  
111 semi-volatile OOA (SV–OOA), and low-volatility OOA (LV–OOA). The OA factors  
112 varied substantially with seasons and sampling site environments.

113 Despite these results, few HR–AMS measurements have been reported in Beijing.  
114 Although ~~the~~ recent deployments of an aerosol chemical speciation monitor (ACSM)  
115 have illustrated the chemical evolution of aerosol species and OA factors in various  
116 seasons (Sun et al., 2012;Sun et al., 2013), our understanding of ~~the evolution of~~ size  
117 distributions and elemental compositions of OA in Beijing ~~remains-poor-mainly-~~  
118 ~~because-of-the-limitations-of-ACSM-is-still-limited~~. Zhang et al. (2014a) reported a  
119 detailed characterizations of submicron aerosol composition, OA composition, and  
120 elemental composition of OA in January 2013. The results highlighted the vast  
121 differences in aerosol chemistry between clean and polluted days. Zhang et al. (2015)  
122 further analyzed two HR–AMS datasets collected in August and October in Beijing.  
123 The results showed higher oxidation ~~degree~~ of OA in summer than that in fall, in  
124 addition to differences in OA compositions during the two seasons.

125 Compared with previous HR–AMS measurements in Beijing, this study was  
126 conducted at a unique time during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)  
127 summit. To ensure good air quality during APEC, strict emission controls were  
128 implemented in Beijing and in the surrounding regions, which included restrictions on  
129 the number of vehicles in operation, factory operations, construction activities, and  
130 open barbeques. This study provides a unique opportunity to study the impacts of  
131 source emissions on aerosol chemistry in a megacity such as Beijing. Similar  
132 emission controls ~~including temporary closures of factories and restrictions on traffic~~  
133 were implemented to a lesser degree during the 2008 Olympic Games (Cermak and  
134 Knutti, 2009). Numerous studies have investigated the impacts of emission controls  
135 on reductions in PM levels and secondary aerosol precursors during the Olympic  
136 Games. Emission controls were shown to significantly reduce primary aerosols and  
137 traffic- related gaseous and volatile organic compounds (Wang et al., 2010;Wang et al.,

138 2011;Shao et al., 2011;Guo et al., 2013), although the impacts on secondary species  
139 were significantly lower (Wang et al., 2010;Guo et al., 2013). In ~~studies designed to~~  
140 ~~distinguish the relative contributions of emission controls from the effects of~~  
141 ~~meteorological phenomena addition~~, meteorological conditions were shown to play a  
142 more important role than emission controls in reducing PM levels during the Olympic  
143 Games (Wang et al., 2009;Cermak and Knutti, 2009). Therefore, significant  
144 uncertainties remain despite investigations of the response of aerosol chemistry to  
145 emission controls, and the link between emission controls and sources and the  
146 chemical composition of aerosol particles is far from being clearly understood.

147 In this study, we conduct real-time measurements of size-resolved NR-PM<sub>1</sub>  
148 composition by using an HR-AMS along with a suite of collocated instruments from  
149 October 14 to November 12, 2014. The submicron aerosol composition, diurnal  
150 variations, size distributions, elemental composition, and sources of OA are  
151 investigated in detail. In particular, the impacts of emission controls and  
152 meteorological variables on aerosol composition, size distributions, and ~~oxidative~~  
153 ~~oxidation~~ properties are elucidated by comparing the aerosol chemistry before and  
154 during APEC. In addition, a comprehensive analysis is performed to illustrate the  
155 chemical evolution of aerosol properties during a severe haze pollution event.

## 156 **2. Experimental methods**

### 157 **2.1 Sampling and instrumentation**

#### 158 **2.1.1 Sampling**

159 This study took place from October 14 to November 12, 2014, at the Institute of  
160 Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, between ~~the~~ north 3rd and 4th  
161 ~~Ring-ring~~ roads in Beijing. The HR-AMS was stored in a trailer near ground level  
162 with a sampling height of approximately 4m. Aerosol particles were sampled into the  
163 trailer at a flow rate of 10 L/min, of which ~0.1 L/min was isokinetically sampled into  
164 the HR-AMS. A PM<sub>2.5</sub> cyclone (model URG-2000-30EN) was mounted in front of  
165 the sampling line to remove coarse particles larger than 2.5 μm. In addition, aerosol  
166 particles were dried by a diffusion silica-gel dryer before sampling into the HR-AMS.

167 The collocated measurements in the trailer included particle extinction (630 nm) of  
168 PM<sub>2.5</sub> by a cavity attenuated phase shift extinction monitor (CAPS PM<sub>ext</sub>, Aerodyne  
169 Research Inc.), gaseous NO<sub>2</sub> by a CAPS-NO<sub>2</sub> **monitor**, and black carbon (BC) by a  
170 two-wavelength ~~aethalometer~~ **Aethalometer** (model AE22, Magee Scientific Corp.).  
171 In addition, gaseous species (such as CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NO, NO<sub>y</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>) were simultaneously  
172 measured at a nearby two-story building by using a series of gas analyzers from  
173 Thermo Scientific. Meteorological parameters such as relative humidity (RH),  
174 temperature, wind speed (WS), and wind direction (WD) were obtained at 15  
175 ~~elevations-heights at-~~ **from** the Beijing 325 m Meteorological Tower, which is  
176 approximately 30 m from the sampling site. **The wind profiles including WS and WD**  
177 **between 100 m to 5000 m were measured by a Doppler wind lidar ( Windcube 200,**  
178 **Leosphere, Orsay, France) at the same location.** All of the data in this study are  
179 reported in Beijing Standard Time (BST), which is equivalent to Coordinated  
180 Universal Time (UTC) plus 8 h.

### 181 **2.1.2 HR-AMS operations**

182 The HR-AMS was operated by alternating the mass-sensitive V-mode and the  
183 high-mass-resolution ~~optical mode~~ **W-mode** every 5min. Under V-mode operation, the  
184 HR-AMS cycled through the mass spectrum (MS) and particle time-of-flight (PToF)  
185 modes every 10 s. No PToF data were collected in the W-mode due to the limited  
186 signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio. The particle-free ambient air was sampled and analyzed to  
187 determine the detection limits (DLs) of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> species and the fragment ion ratios  
188 of gases for subsequent high-resolution analysis. The 5 min DLs of organics, sulfate,  
189 nitrate, ammonium, and chloride of V and W-modes determined as three times the  
190 standard deviations (3σ) were 0.017, 0.010, 0.0016, 0.0014, and 0.004μg/m<sup>3</sup> and  
191 0.030, 0.035, 0.026, 0.0049, and 0.032μg/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively, ~~which are close to the~~  
192 ~~values reported in previous HR-AMS studies (DeCarlo et al., 2006).~~ Prior to this  
193 study, the ionization efficiency (IE) and particle sizes were calibrated ~~by~~ using pure  
194 ammonium nitrate particles and polystyrene latex spheres (PSL, density = 1.05 g/cm<sup>3</sup>),  
195 respectively, following previous standard protocols (Jayne et al., 2000; Jimenez,

196 2003;Drewnick et al., 2005).

## 197 **2.2 HR-AMS data analysis**

198 The mass concentrations and size distributions of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> were analyzed by  
199 using standard AMS data analysis software (SQUIRREL v1.56 and PIKA v 1.15D)  
200 written in Igor Pro 6.12A (Wavemetrics, Lake Oswego, Ore., USA). A constant  
201 collection efficiency (CE) of 0.5 was applied for the quantification of NR-PM<sub>1</sub>  
202 species because ~~the~~ aerosol particles were dry and were slightly acidic as indicated by  
203  $\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{measured}}/\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{predicted}}$  (= 0.75) (Zhang et al., 2007). In addition, the overall mass  
204 fractions of ammonium nitrate were below the threshold value (40%) that  
205 significantly affects the CE (Matthew et al., 2008). Therefore, the three major factors,  
206 humidity, particle acidity, and ammonium nitrate fraction, did not significantly affect  
207 the universal CE = 0.5, which has been widely used in numerous AMS studies.  
208 However, a constant CE value may introduce an uncertainty of 20%–30% for the  
209 mass concentrations of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> species (Middlebrook et al., 2012). The default  
210 relative ionization efficiencies (RIEs) of 1.4 for organics, 1.2 for sulfate, 1.1 for  
211 nitrate, and 1.3 for chloride were used (Allan et al., 2003) in this study; that for  
212 ammonium, 5.0, was determined from pure NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> particles. The total PM<sub>1</sub> mass (=   
213 NR-PM<sub>1</sub> + BC) agreed well with PM<sub>2.5</sub> ( $R^2 = 0.86$ ). The average ratio of PM<sub>1</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> ,  
214 0.77, was also consistent with that reported in previous studies (Sun et al., 2014). This  
215 result further supports that CE = 0.5 is reasonable for this study.

216 The high-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) of the V- and W-modes were analyzed  
217 for ion-specified fragments of  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y^+$ ,  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_z^+$ ,  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{N}_p^+$ , and  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_z\text{N}_p^+$  ~~by~~-using  
218 PIKA v1.15D. The elemental composition of OA, including ratios of  
219 oxygen-to-carbon (O/C), hydrogen-to-carbon (H/C), organic mass to organic carbon  
220 (OM/OC), and nitrogen-to-carbon (N/C), were determined by using the elemental  
221 analysis approach recommended by Aiken et al. (2007), referred to **here** as  
222 **“Aiken-Ambient”**(A-A). We also calculated the elemental ratios ~~by~~-using the  
223 improved calibration factors recommended by Canagaratna et al. (2015), referred to  
224 **here** as **“Improved-Ambient”**(I-A). The average A-A H/C and O/C ratios were 1.55

225 and 0.41, which are respectively 8% and 20% lower than the I-A H/C and O/C ratios  
226 of 1.69 and 0.51. For consistency with previous studies, the elemental composition  
227 determined ~~by using from~~ the A-A approach ~~was reported~~ in this study. ~~In addition,~~  
228 ~~the oxidation state ( $\overline{OS} = 2 \times O/C - H/C$ ) (Kroll et al., 2011) of OA was calculated to~~  
229 ~~be -0.73 and -0.67 with the A-A and I-A methods, respectively.~~

230 The PMF2.exe algorithm (v4.2) in robust mode (Paatero and Tapper, 1994) was  
231 applied to the HRMS ~~matrix (4158 × 306)~~ of OA ~~for the entire study period~~ to resolve  
232 distinct OA factors representing specific sources and processes. Values of  $m/z$  larger  
233 than 120 were excluded due to the limited mass resolution in separating higher mass  
234 ions. Isotopic ions scaled on the basis of the signals of parent ions were also excluded.  
235 Such exclusion had a minor impact on the total mass (~2–3%). Other  
236 data-pretreatments were similar to those reported in previous studies; that is, ~~the~~ bad  
237 ions with  $S/N < 0.2$  were removed, and the “weak” ions with  $0.2 < S/N < 3$  were  
238 further down-weighted by increasing their errors by a factor of three.

239 The PMF solutions were investigated in detail by evaluating the mass spectral  
240 profiles and time series of OA factors (1 to 10) as a function of rotational parameter  
241 (fPeak). By comparing the mass spectral profiles of OA factors with previously  
242 reported standard mass spectra, and the time series with external tracers, such as CO,  
243 NO<sub>x</sub>, BC, SIA, C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sup>+</sup>, and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>, a six-factor solution with fPeak=0 was selected  
244 in this work. ~~Although the five-factor solution yielded a mixed SOA factor and was~~  
245 ~~a mixed factor for the five-factor solution,~~ the seven-factor solution split the SV-OOA  
246 into two components, which cannot be reasonably explained due to limited external  
247 tracers. ~~A Summary-summary~~ of the key diagnostic plots of the PMF results ~~are-is~~  
248 shown in Figs. S1–S3.

## 249 **3. Results and discussion**

### 250 **3.1 Mass concentrations and chemical composition**

251 Figure 1 shows the time series of submicron aerosol species during the entire  
252 study period. All aerosol species varied dramatically between haze episodes and clean  
253 periods. As indicated in the figure, three evident pollution episodes and two episodes

254 were observed before and during APEC, respectively. The formation and evolution of  
255 the haze episodes were closely related to stagnant meteorology characterized by low  
256 WS and high RH. The average ( $\pm\sigma$ ) mass concentration of PM<sub>1</sub> was 41.6 ( $\pm$ 38.9)  
257  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  during APEC, which was 52.7% lower than the 88.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  measured before  
258 APEC. Periods of high PM<sub>1</sub> concentration ( $>60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) accounted for 56.7% of the  
259 time before APEC and 22.6% during APEC. These results indicate significant  
260 reductions in PM during APEC, particularly for pollution events with high PM<sub>1</sub>  
261 loading.

262 The variations of inorganic aerosol and organics showed different behaviors  
263 before and during APEC. Figure 1c shows clear decreases in inorganic aerosol species  
264 on November 3, when emission controls were first implemented in Beijing. Relatively  
265 low ambient levels were maintained on November 6, when far stricter emission  
266 controls were imposed in Beijing and in the surrounding regions. As a comparison,  
267 the variations in organics were more dramatic, and the changes during APEC were not  
268 as significant as those for inorganic aerosol species. Although SIAs such as sulfate,  
269 nitrate, and ammonium were decreased by 62 – 69% during APEC, organics showed a  
270 much smaller decrease of 35% (Table 1). The chemical composition of PM<sub>1</sub> before  
271 APEC was mainly composed of organics, accounting for 38.0%, followed by nitrate  
272 at 26.4% and sulfate at 13.7%. The average aerosol composition during APEC showed  
273 significant changes. The contribution of organics showed a large increase,  
274 accounting for more than half of PM<sub>1</sub>, whereas ~~the contribution that~~ of SIA was  
275 decreased from 51.2% to 35.4%. These results suggest different responses of SIA and  
276 OA to emission controls. However, the measurements at 260 m at the same location  
277 showed significant decreases of 40–80% for all aerosol species during APEC, whereas  
278 the bulk aerosol composition was relatively similar before and during APEC as a  
279 result of synergetic controls of aerosol precursors over a regional scale (Chen et al.,  
280 2015). These results indicated the different sources of aerosol particles between the  
281 ground site and 260 m. Compared with ~~that reported in~~ previous AMS studies in  
282 Beijing, we observed a significantly higher nitrate contribution before APEC in

283 summer 2008 (15.8%)(Huang et al., 2010b) and in winter 2011–2012 (16.0%) (Sun et  
284 al., 2013). The average mass ratio of  $\text{NO}_3/\text{SO}_4$  was 1.78, which is also significantly  
285 higher than the values (0.78-1.04) previously reported in China (Zhang et al.,  
286 2012b;Zhang et al., 2014b). High nitrate contribution to  $\text{PM}_1$  was also observed at 260  
287 m, which accounted for 27% and 29%, respectively before and during APEC (Chen et  
288 al., 2015). Thus, our results elucidate the important role of nitrate in PM pollution  
289 during the study period.

290 ~~Figure 2 shows a correlation between measured  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ( $\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{measured}}$ ) and predicted-~~  
291  ~~$\text{NH}_4^+$  ( $\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{predicted}}$ ) required to fully neutralize sulfate, nitrate, and chloride ( $-18 \times (2$   
292  ~~$\times \text{SO}_4/96 + \text{NO}_3/62 + \text{Cl}/35.5)$ )(Zhang et al., 2007). A ratio of  $\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{measured}}/$   
293  ~~$\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{predicted}}$  less than 1 indicates acidic aerosol particles. As shown in Fig. 2, the~~  
294 ~~average ratio of  $\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{measured}}/\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{predicted}}$  was 0.75 before APEC, indicating that~~  
295 ~~aerosol particles were overall acidic during this study. The aerosol particle acidity was~~  
296 ~~similar to that observed in January 2013 with  $\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{measured}}/\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{predicted}}$  ratios varying~~  
297 ~~between 0.66 and 0.74 (Zhang et al., 2014a).  $\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{measured}}$  also correlated strongly with~~  
298  ~~$\text{NH}_4^+_{\text{predicted}}$  ( $R^2 = 0.99$ ) during APEC, yielding a regression ratio of 0.80. This result~~  
299 ~~suggests a slight decrease in aerosol particle acidity during APEC, which is likely~~  
300 ~~attributed to a reduction in precursors of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{SO}_2$ , and hence a decrease in the~~  
301 ~~formation of sulfate and nitrate during APEC. An additional factor is that the~~  
302 ~~oxidation of precursors to SIA, e.g., aqueous phase processing of  $\text{SO}_2$ , was slower~~  
303 ~~owing to lower RH during APEC. Nevertheless, it appears that the joint controls of~~  
304 ~~SIA precursors over a regional scale did not significantly affect the aerosol particle~~  
305 ~~acidity.~~~~~~

### 306 3.2 Diurnal cycles

307 The diurnal cycles of  $\text{PM}_1$  species before and during APEC are illustrated in  
308 Fig. 32. SIA showed similar pronounced diurnal cycles before APEC, which were all  
309 characterized by gradual increases during daytime. Such diurnal cycles were primarily  
310 driven by photochemical processing, considering the rising planetary boundary layer  
311 height during daytime. Similar diurnal cycles of SIA were also observed during winter

312 in 2011–2012 (Sun et al., 2013). Note that the ratio of  $\text{NO}_3/\text{SO}_4$  was not constant  
313 throughout the day. In fact, a gradual decrease in  $\text{NO}_3/\text{SO}_4$  from  $\sim 2.2$  to 1.9 was  
314 observed during daytime, indicating additional evaporative loss of nitrate particles  
315 because of gas–particle partitioning. The diurnal cycles of SIA during APEC differed  
316 significantly. The concentrations of SIA at night were nearly twice that during the day.  
317 A detailed check of the meteorology and time series of aerosol species during APEC  
318 revealed that the routine circulation of mountain–valley breeze played a dominant role  
319 in driving the diurnal variations. As indicated in Fig. 1, a northwesterly  
320 mountain–valley breeze occurred regularly at midnight on November 9–10 when the  
321 mass concentrations of aerosol species began to decrease. The mountain–valley  
322 breeze dissipated at approximately noon when the WD changed from the northwest to  
323 the south, and the mass concentrations reached the minimum daily level.

324 Consequently, the change percentages of SIA ( $=\frac{([\text{BA}] - [\text{DA}])}{[\text{BA}]} = \frac{([\text{Before APEC}] - [\text{During APEC}])}{([\text{Before APEC}]})$ ) showed pronounced diurnal cycles with  
325 the greatest decrease during daytime. Because SIA was formed mainly over a regional  
326 scale and was less influenced by local sources, we can roughly estimate the relative  
327 contributions of emission controls and mountain–valley breeze effects. Assuming that  
328 the decreases in SIA during APEC were caused mainly by emission controls and the  
329 mountain–valley breeze, and that the decreases in SIA at night without the  
330 mountain–valley breeze were caused solely by emission controls, we can estimate that  
331 approximately 27% of reduction in sulfate and nitrate during the day was caused by  
332 the cleaning effects of the mountain–valley breeze.

334 Organics showed a substantially different diurnal cycle from that of SIA,  
335 characterized by a pronounced nighttime peak and a visible noon peak. The diurnal  
336 cycles of OA factors indicated that such diurnal variations were mainly driven by  
337 local primary sources such as cooking, traffic, and biomass burning emissions.  
338 Although organics showed a decrease of approximately 60% during daytime, the  
339 differences before and during APEC were much smaller at nighttime, indicating that  
340 strong local sources emissions remained during APEC despite the strict emission

341 controls. Chloride, mainly from combustion sources, e.g., biomass burning and coal  
342 combustion (Levin et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2012a), showed similar diurnal cycles  
343 before and during APEC with the greatest reduction occurring during daytime.  
344 Similarly, the small decrease in chloride at nighttime likely indicates the presence of a  
345 considerable amount of combustion emissions during APEC. The diurnal cycles of  
346 BC were similar before and during APEC, both characterized by significantly higher  
347 concentrations at nighttime than during the day. Such a diurnal cycle of BC is similar  
348 to that previously observed in Beijing (Han et al., 2009), indicating higher BC source  
349 emissions during night time. This result is consistent with the diurnal variations of  
350 diesel trucks and heavy-duty vehicles that are only allowed to operate inside the city  
351 between 22:00–6:00. Different from other aerosol species, the reduction in BC was  
352 relatively constant at 47.0–67.5% throughout the day, suggesting similar BC sources  
353 before and during APEC, but with different emission intensities. In addition, the  
354 mountain–valley breeze effect on BC was different from that on other species, likely  
355 due to the similar BC levels in northwest and south Beijing.

### 356 **3.3 Composition and sources of OA**

357 Six OA factors were identified by PMF analysis of HRMS of OA, including four  
358 primary OA factors (HOA, BBOA, COA1, and COA2), and two secondary OA  
359 factors (SV-OOA and LV-OOA). The mass spectra and time series of the six OA  
360 factors are shown in Fig. 53.

361 The HOA spectrum was characterized by prominent hydrocarbon ion series of  
362  $C_nH_{2n+1}^+$  and  $C_nH_{2n-1}^+$ , which is consistent with that observed at various urban sites  
363 (Huang et al., 2010b; Sun et al., 2011b; Xu et al., 2014). The O/C ratio of HOA was  
364 0.17, which is considerably higher than 0.03–0.04 measured from diesel and gasoline  
365 exhausts (Mohr et al., 2009) and slightly higher than 0.11–0.13 observed in the YRD  
366 (Huang et al., 2013), and the PRD in China (He et al., 2011), indicating that the HOA  
367 in this study was relatively oxidized. HOA correlated well with BC ( $R^2 = 0.78$ ) during  
368 APEC, and the average HOA/BC ratio of 1.2 was consistent with that obtained in  
369 other megacities such as Mexico City (Aiken et al., 2009) and New York City (Sun et

370 al., 2011b). Although HOA also tightly correlated with BC before APEC ( $R^2 = 0.66$ ),  
371 a significantly lower ratio of HOA/BC (0.57) was observed. These results suggest a  
372 substantial change of the sources of either HOA or BC during APEC. As shown in Fig.  
373 32, BC showed large reductions similar to those of SIA during APEC, suggesting that  
374 a large fraction of BC was likely from regional transport. This result is consistent with  
375 a recent study at an urban site in Lanzhou (Xu et al., 2014) in which 53% of BC was  
376 found to be associated with SIA and SOA at an urban site in Lanzhou, and the rest 47%  
377 was from local primary emissions. Therefore, we infer that the HOA/BC ratio of 1.2  
378 during APEC is likely representative of local source emissions, whereas lower  
379 HOA/BC ratios before APEC indicate additional BC sources such as regional  
380 transport. Therefore, the HOA/BC ratio can be used to indicate the relative  
381 importance between local emissions and regional transport. The decrease-increase in  
382 the HOA/BC ratio during APEC illustrates a significant reduction of BC from  
383 regional transport owing to emission controls over a regional scale. Sun et al. (2014)  
384 also reported a large decrease in the HOA/BC ratio during severe haze episodes in  
385 which approximately 53% of BC was from regional transport.

386 The HOA/CO ratios were similar before and during APEC, at 1.64 and 1.40,  
387 respectively, but were significantly lower than the values reported in Mexico City  
388 (Aiken et al., 2009) and Fresno, California (Ge et al., 2012b) at 5.71 and 5.64,  
389 respectively. A likely explanation is that more complex sources of CO from traffic,  
390 cooking, and biomass burning were measured in this study. Indeed, HOA only  
391 correlated moderately with CO ( $R^2 = 0.39$ ) before APEC. HOA showed similarly  
392 pronounced diurnal cycles before and during APEC with nighttime concentrations  
393 approximately four – six times that during the day (Fig. 65). The diurnal cycle of  
394 HOA resembled that of BC, yet the reduction during APEC was significantly smaller,  
395 ranging from ~20% to 50% between 9:00 and 24:00. All of the data in this study are  
396 reported in Beijing Standard Time (BST), which is described in Sect. 2.1.1. Note that  
397 the HOA concentration between 0:00 and 3:00 during APEC was even slightly higher  
398 than that before APEC, indicating the presence of emissions from diesel trucks and

399 | heavy-duty vehicles during this period. This result ~~correlates~~ is consistent with the  
400 | fact that vehicles use was limited only between 3:00 and 24:00 during APEC.

401 |       The mass spectra of the two COA factors were both characterized by high ratios  
402 | of  $m/z$  55/57, at 2.4 and 2.1, respectively, which is consistent with the spectral  
403 | characteristics of fresh cooking aerosols (Mohr et al., 2009;He et al., 2010) and that of  
404 | COA ubiquitously observed in megacities (Huang et al., 2010b;Sun et al., 2011a;Ge et  
405 | al., 2012a). As shown in Fig. 53, the O/C of COA1 was 0.07, which is significantly  
406 | lower than 0.19 of COA2, suggesting significant differences in ~~oxidative-oxidation~~  
407 | properties. Moreover, COA1 correlated more strongly with the tracer ion  $C_6H_{10}O^+$  of  
408 | COA (Sun et al., 2011b) ( $R^2 = 0.96$ ) than COA2 ( $R^2 = 0.81-0.83$ ), which is indicative  
409 | of their different sources. The diurnal cycles of COA1 and COA2 were both  
410 | characterized by pronounced evening peaks with maximum concentrations occurring  
411 | between 20:00 and 21:00, indicating the large amount of cooking activities at  
412 | nighttime. Note that the diurnal cycle of COA1 showed clear morning and noon peaks  
413 | associated with breakfast and lunch emissions, which were almost invisible for COA2.  
414 | Interestingly, a significant decrease in COA1 concentration was not observed during  
415 | APEC, suggesting similar local cooking sources near the sampling site before and  
416 | during APEC. However, COA2 showed a considerable reduction from late afternoon  
417 | to mid-night during APEC. This result suggests that the sources of COA2 were  
418 | controlled by a certain degree during APEC. Considering that the major control of  
419 | cooking emissions was the banning of open charcoal grills, we conclude that the  
420 | COA2 was primarily from charbroiling emissions, whereas COA1 was more like a  
421 | factor of regular cooking emissions.

422 |       The BBOA spectrum showed pronounced peaks at  $m/z$  60, mainly  $C_2H_4O_2^+$ , and  
423 |  $m/z$  73, mainly  $C_3H_5O_2^+$ ; these two marker ions indicate the presence of biomass  
424 | burning (Alfarra et al., 2007;Aiken et al., 2009;Cubison et al., 2011). BBOA  
425 | correlated strongly with  $C_2H_4O_2^+$  before and during APEC ( $R^2 = 0.65$  and 0.88,  
426 | respectively). The weaker correlation before APEC is likely due to other source  
427 | contributions to  $C_2H_4O_2^+$  such as cooking aerosol (COA2). The O/C ratio of BBOA

428 was 0.50, which is significantly higher than that observed in Kaiping and Jiaying in  
429 China at 0.26–0.27 (Huang et al., 2011;Huang et al., 2013), and in Mexico City at  
430 0.30 (Aiken et al., 2009). The  $f_{44}$  of BBOA, at 11.3% was higher as well. Because  
431 biomass burning, e.g., agricultural burning in October, was rare inside the city of  
432 Beijing, the observed BBOA was expected to be mainly from regional transport.  
433 Previous studies have shown that BBOA can be rapidly oxidized in the atmosphere,  
434 leading to a decrease in  $f_{60}$  and a corresponding increase in  $f_{44}$  (Cubison et al., 2011).  
435 Therefore, we infer that BBOA in this study was an aged BBOA from regional  
436 transport. In fact, the O/C ratio of BBOA was close to that of the aged BBOA  
437 observed from the aircraft measurements during the Megacity Initiative: Local and  
438 Global Research Observations (MILAGRO) project in 2006 (DeCarlo et al., 2010).  
439 The diurnal cycles of BBOA ~~were~~ differed substantially before and during APEC.  
440 Although relatively flat before APEC, it presented a pronounced diurnal variation  
441 with nighttime concentration approximately three times that during daytime. Although  
442 the daytime BBOA concentration was reduced by ~40% during APEC, the nighttime  
443 concentration was even higher than that before APEC. These results suggest that  
444 significant biomass burning emissions remained in the surrounding regions of Beijing  
445 during APEC. The low daytime concentration was found to be mainly associated with  
446 the mountain–valley breeze that carried aerosols from the northwest with significantly  
447 lower biomass burning emissions to Beijing.

448 Compared with POA, the two OOA factors, SV-OOA and LV-OOA, showed  
449 significantly higher  $f_{44}$  and O/C ratios. The  $f_{44}$  and O/C of LV-OOA were 0.22 and  
450 0.99, respectively, indicating that LV-OOA was a highly aged SOA. Indeed, the O/C  
451 of LV-OOA in this study was even higher than that previously observed at various  
452 urban sites in China, e.g., Shanghai, Lanzhou, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong at ~0.6–0.8  
453 (He et al., 2011;Huang et al., 2012;Lee et al., 2013;Xu et al., 2014). LV-OOA highly  
454 correlated with SIA before and during APEC ( $R^2 = 0.98$  and  $0.94$ , respectively),  
455 indicating the secondary nature of LV-OOA. The diurnal cycle of LV-OOA before  
456 APEC showed a gradual increase during daytime, although the absolute increase at ~4

457  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  was significantly smaller than the background concentration at  $\sim 8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . This  
458 result indicates that LV-OOA was mainly from regional transport, which is consistent  
459 with its high oxidative-oxidation properties. Comparatively, LV-OOA showed a  
460 similar diurnal cycle as that of SIA during APEC characterized by a higher  
461 concentration at nighttime. As indicated in Fig. 4, LV-OOA showed the greatest  
462 reduction among OA factors, at 60–80%, which indicates that regional emission  
463 controls exerted the most impact on LV-OOA. SV-OOA showed moderately high  $f_{44}$   
464 and O/C at 0.15 and 0.47 respectively, suggesting a lesser degree of photo-chemical  
465 processing. SV-OOA correlated with nitrate ( $R^2 = 0.50$ ), indicating similar  
466 semi-volatile properties (Ulbrich et al., 2009). However, significant differences in  
467 variation between SV-OOA and nitrate were also observed occasionally. In particular,  
468 the time series of SV-OOA showed sporadic peaks corresponding to those of COA,  
469 BBOA, and HOA, yet they were not observed in the nitrate time series. These results  
470 might suggest that part of freshly emitted OA can be rapidly oxidized to form  
471 SV-OOA. The diurnal cycle of SV-OOA before APEC showed an evident daytime  
472 increase, indicating photochemical processing. However, such a diurnal cycle was not  
473 observed during APEC. These results indicated that photochemical processing was  
474 not the major factor driving the diurnal variation of SV-OOA during APEC. In fact,  
475 we determined that the mountain–valley breeze played a more important role.

476 Overall, SOA dominated the OA composition before APEC with SV-OOA and  
477 LV-OOA accounting for 24.4% and 30.0%, respectively. POA together accounted for  
478 45.4% of the total OA with cooking aerosol being the largest component at 23%. It  
479 should be noted that the COA contribution varied significantly throughout the day.  
480 Although COA showed a contribution of generally less than 20% during daytime, its  
481 contribution reached as high as 40% at dinner time (Fig.4). BBOA also comprised a  
482 considerable fraction of OA, at 12.2% on average. The average mass concentrations  
483 of SV-OOA and LV-OOA showed large decreases by 56% and 74%, during APEC,  
484 respectively (Table 1), whereas those of primary OA showed significantly lower  
485 decreases ranging from 16% to 27%. As a result, the bulk OA composition showed a

486 substantial change during APEC. For example, the contribution of SOA decreased  
487 from 54% before APEC to 34% during APEC. Correspondingly, all primary OA  
488 factors showed elevated contributions to OA. As a comparison, POA at 260 m with  
489 much less influences from local sources showed a similar reduction to SOA (Chen et  
490 al., 2015). Our results have significant implications ~~such~~ that controlling secondary  
491 precursors over regional scales can reduce secondary particulates substantially and  
492 hence mitigate air pollution in megacities. As previously discussed, the reduction of  
493 local primary emissions was significantly less than that of secondary aerosol during  
494 APEC; therefore, stricter control of local source emissions is crucial for improving air  
495 quality in the future.

496 The RH and wind dependence of SV-OOA and LV-OOA before and during APEC  
497 are shown in Fig. 76. Both SV-OOA and LV-OOA showed clear concentration  
498 gradients as a function of RH with higher concentrations associated with higher RH  
499 levels. The lowest concentrations of SV-OOA and LV-OOA were observed at low RH  
500 levels (<30%) with northerly winds. No significant differences in SOA, particularly  
501 LV-OOA, were noted between the south and the north when the WS (280 m) was less  
502 than 4 m/s and the RH was above 60%, indicating that SOA was relatively evenly  
503 distributed around the sampling site under stagnant meteorological conditions. The  
504 ratio of LV-OOA/SV-OOA was larger than 1 for most of the time at RH >60%,  
505 suggesting a more important role of highly oxidized SOA at high RH levels. In  
506 contrast, SV-OOA was more important than LV-OOA at low RH levels. SV-OOA and  
507 LV-OOA during APEC generally showed similar RH- and wind-dependent patterns  
508 (Figs. 7b6b, d). By comparing the SV-OOA and LV-OOA before and during APEC  
509 under similar RH and wind conditions, we can evaluate the impacts of emission  
510 controls on SOA. Both SV-OOA and LV-OOA showed significant reductions at RH >  
511 40% suggesting that regional emission controls played a significant role in  
512 suppressing the formation of SOA. However, small changes and even increases of  
513 SV-OOA and LV-OOA in the low RH region from the north were observed, which is  
514 consistent with the fact that emission controls were implemented mainly in the

515 | regions south of Beijing. Figure 7f shows a very different ratio of  
516 | LV-OOA/SV-OOA during APEC. In particular, SV-OOA was higher than LV-OOA  
517 | for most of the time, indicating that SOA was less oxidized during APEC.

### 518 | **3.4 Size distributions**

519 | Figure 8-7 presents the average mass-weighted size distributions of NR-PM<sub>1</sub>  
520 | species before and during APEC. The size distributions of OOA were derived from  
521 | that of  $m/z$  44 by normalizing the integrated signals of  $m/z$  44 between 30 nm and  
522 | 1500 nm to the concentrations of OOA (Zhang et al., 2005). This method is rational  
523 | because  $m/z$  44 (mainly CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>) strongly correlated with OOA ( $R^2=0.98$ ). The size  
524 | distributions of POA were then obtained from the differences between total OA and  
525 | OOA. It should be noted that the OOA concentration might be slightly overestimated  
526 | in small size ranges because ~17% of  $m/z$  44 was constituted by POA. SIA and OOA  
527 | showed similar single large accumulation modes peaking at ~650 nm or even larger  
528 | before APEC. In comparison, POA showed a much broader size distribution with the  
529 | peak diameter occurring at ~300 nm. The size-resolved composition showed a  
530 | dominant contribution of POA in small size ranges, accounting for almost 80% below  
531 | 100 nm, whereas the contributions of SIA and OOA increased significantly from ~20%  
532 | to more than 90% as the particle diameter increased from 100 nm to 1000 nm. These  
533 | results indicate the dominant contributions of secondary aerosol to accumulation  
534 | mode particles, whereas primary emissions played more significant roles in ultrafine  
535 | mode particles. The differences in size distributions between POA and secondary  
536 | aerosol also highlight their different sources and aging processes.

537 | The size distributions of SIA and OOA showed substantial changes during APEC.  
538 | Although the mass concentrations in the accumulation mode were reduced by  
539 | approximately 50%, the peak diameters also shifted to smaller sizes (~400 nm). These  
540 | results demonstrate that emission controls of secondary aerosol precursors exerted a  
541 | dominant impact on accumulation mode particles. As indicated in Fig. 1, the duration  
542 | time of pollution episodes before APEC was overall longer than that during APEC,  
543 | indicating that secondary aerosol was less aged during APEC. This might also

544 explained the smaller size of secondary aerosol species during APEC. In addition, we  
545 noted that the average RH during APEC was 37%, which is lower than 53% recorded  
546 before APEC. The relatively drier conditions during APEC also played a role in  
547 suppressing particle growth. Indeed, clear particle growth was observed during three  
548 episodes before APEC, although it was insignificant during APEC. Comparatively, the  
549 size distribution of POA remained relatively unchanged, indicating the presence of  
550 strong local source emissions during APEC. This result is consistent with the  
551 significantly smaller reductions of primary species than those of secondary species  
552 during APEC. Although the contribution of POA to NR-PM<sub>1</sub> showed a rapid decrease  
553 as a function of diameter, it still constituted a considerable fraction (~30%) at particle  
554 sizes larger than 30 nm. These results suggested that POA played an important role in  
555 PM pollution during APEC as a result of large reductions of secondary aerosol.

556 | As indicated in Fig. 98, SIA and SOA showed consistently large accumulation  
557 modes at ~500–800 nm throughout the day before APEC. This result is consistent  
558 with the fact that SIA and SOA were formed mainly over a regional scale and were  
559 relatively well processed in the atmosphere. Slight increases in particle diameters in  
560 the afternoon were also observed for SIA and SOA, indicating the role of  
561 photochemical processing. In contrast, SIA and SOA shifted to smaller sizes at  
562 ~300–600 nm at various times of the day during APEC with the mass concentrations  
563 above 200 nm showing substantial decreases. As previously discussed, such changes  
564 in size and mass during APEC are the combined results of emission controls and  
565 meteorological effects. The POA showed significant differences in size evolution  
566 behavior from secondary aerosol. The POA size distribution was similar before and  
567 during APEC, both characterized by higher concentration at nighttime (19:00 – 3:00)  
568 with a peak diameter at ~300 nm. Moreover, a considerable fraction of POA particles  
569 was found in ultrafine mode (< 100 nm), particularly in the evening time, indicating  
570 local fresh primary emissions. It is worth noting that POA during APEC showed  
571 | higher mass concentrations between 0:00 and 3:00 than that before APEC. ~~This period  
572 | correlates with that in which no traffic control measures were in place and reflects a~~

573 ~~greater amount of traffic emissions during APEC~~, coinciding with a time without  
574 traffic control, and likely having more traffic emissions during APEC.

### 575 3.5 Elemental composition of OA

576 Figure ~~10-9~~ shows the time series of elemental ratios for the entire study period.  
577 The O/C ratio, an indicator of the oxidation degree of OA, varied significantly from  
578 0.11 to 0.72, indicating large variations of ~~oxidative-oxidation~~ properties of OA in this  
579 study. The average O/C for the entire study was 0.41, which is higher than that  
580 observed at other urban sites in China, at 0.31–0.33 (He et al., 2011;Huang et al.,  
581 2012;Xu et al., 2014;Zhang et al., 2015), yet lower than those measured at  
582 rural/remote sites (Huang et al., 2011;Hu et al., 2013). These results indicate that the  
583 OA in this study was aged more than that at other urban sites in China. The OM/OC  
584 ratio showed similar variations ~~to~~ as those of O/C ( $R^2 = 0.99$ ), varying between 1.30  
585 and 2.16 with an average value of 1.7 ( $\pm 0.17$ ). The average OM/OC was slightly  
586 higher than the  $1.6 \pm 0.2$  value for urban OA recommended by Turpin and Lim (2001),  
587 and the value of 1.6 previously reported in urban Beijing (Huang et al., 2010a;Zhang  
588 et al., 2015). The average O/C and OM/OC during APEC were  $0.36 (\pm 0.10)$  and  $1.64$   
589 ( $\pm 0.13$ ), respectively, which are lower than 0.43 and 1.75 before APEC,  
590 demonstrating a decrease in oxidation degree of OA during APEC. These results are  
591 consistent with the OA composition change during APEC, which showed a substantial  
592 decrease in SOA and a corresponding increase in POA. Figure ~~10-9~~ also shows that  
593 the O/C ratio exhibited a continuous increase during three severe pollution episodes  
594 on October 17–20, October 23–25, and October 29–31 with the exception of  
595 occasional decreases due to the influences of local POA. These results suggest that  
596 OA can be aged to a high degree ( $O/C > 0.6$ ) during the evolution of severe air  
597 pollution. In contrast, such an aging process of OA was observed to be insignificant  
598 during APEC.

599 Both H/C and O/C ratios showed pronounced diurnal cycles before and during  
600 APEC (Figs. ~~10e9c~~, d). The O/C ratio showed a gradual increase and reached a  
601 maximum value of 0.55 at 16:00 before APEC, indicating the photochemical aging

602 | processes of OA. Such a ~~photo~~-photo-chemical driven diurnal variation of O/C was  
603 | also observed at various sites in China (He et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2014; Zhang et al.,  
604 | 2015). The O/C also showed a temporal decrease at three times, corresponding to  
605 | cooking activities. This result indicates that cooking aerosol can significantly  
606 | influence the bulk oxidation degree of OA. Indeed, the diurnal variation of O/C ratio  
607 | after excluding COA contributions was markedly smoother, varying from 0.5 to 0.65.  
608 | The O/C ratio during APEC showed a diurnal pattern similar to that before APEC yet  
609 | with lower values by  $\sim 0.1$  throughout the day. This result illustrates that the  
610 | photochemical aging of OA was significantly less pronounced during APEC. The H/C  
611 | ratios showed opposite diurnal cycles as those of O/C before and during APEC (Fig.  
612 | ~~109~~).

613 | Figure ~~11~~-10 shows a Van Krevelen diagram for illustrating the evolution of OA  
614 | before and during APEC. The aging of OA is generally characterized by an increase in  
615 | O/C and a decrease in H/C. The different aging mechanisms of OA follow different  
616 | slopes. Although H/C correlated strongly with O/C before and during APEC ( $R^2 =$   
617 | 0.84 and 0.81, respectively), the regression slopes differed. The slope of H/C versus  
618 | O/C during APEC was  $-0.58$  which is steeper than  $-0.52$  measured before APEC.  
619 | This result indicates their slightly different aging processes mainly driven by the  
620 | additions of carboxylic acid with fragmentation (Ng et al., 2011). The slope in this  
621 | study is less than that measured in Changdao at  $-0.63$  (Hu et al., 2013), Shenzhen at  
622 |  $-0.87$  (He et al., 2011), and Kaiping in PRD at  $-0.76$  (Huang et al., 2011), indicating  
623 | that the aging mechanism of OA varies among different sites and seasons in China.

624 | As shown in Fig. ~~12a~~11a, The O/C varied dramatically and showed no clear  
625 | dependence on RH at low RH levels of  $< 60\%$ , although a positive increase as a  
626 | function of RH before APEC was observed at  $RH > 60\%$ . These results might indicate  
627 | that aqueous-phase processing at high RH levels increased the oxidation degree of OA.  
628 | The POA with high concentration at nighttime when RH is correspondingly high can  
629 | have a large influence on the O/C of total OA, which explains the slight decrease in  
630 | O/C as a function of RH during APEC. The O/C ratio of SOA was calculated, and its

631 | relationship with RH is shown in Fig. 12b11b. It is clear that the O/C ratio of SOA  
632 | rapidly increased from 0.5 to 0.8 as the RH increased from 10% to >80% before  
633 | APEC. The O/C of SOA showed similar RH dependence during APEC. Such an  
634 | increase is mainly caused by a faster increase of LV-OOA than that of SV-OOA.  
635 | These results likely indicate that aqueous-phase processing produced highly aged OA  
636 | during the severe haze pollution episodes. However, we found that LV-OOA tightly  
637 | correlated with NO<sub>3</sub> (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.94), whereas aqueous-phase production appeared to play  
638 | an insignificant role in nitrate formation during winter (Sun et al., 2013). Therefore,  
639 | the highly aged OA at high RH levels was more likely due to the aging of LV-OOA  
640 | for a longer time during the transport to Beijing. Further studies are needed to  
641 | investigate the role of aqueous-phase processing in the alteration of the oxidation  
642 | properties of OA.

### 643 | 3.6 Case study of the evolution of a severe haze episode

644 | The four-day evolution of a severe pollution episode was observed between  
645 | October 22 and 25 during which the average PM<sub>1</sub> concentration showed a 10-fold  
646 | increase from <30 μg/m<sup>3</sup> to >300 μg/m<sup>3</sup>. As shown in Fig. 1312, this evolution period  
647 | was characterized by prevailing southerly winds and air masses (Fig. S5), low WS (<  
648 | 4 m/s) across the entire layer below 500 m, and also relatively high RH (> 50%).  
649 | Routine circulations of mountain–valley breeze from the northwest and the northeast  
650 | that occurred at midnight and dissipated at noon were also observed. However, the  
651 | mountain–valley breeze did not appear to significantly affect the evolution of this  
652 | haze episode likely because it was a regional haze event with high PM concentration  
653 | in the entire region of the North China (Fig. S4).

654 | The evolution of this haze episode can be classified into four stages with different  
655 | aerosol composition and oxidative-oxidation properties. The aerosol composition  
656 | during the early formation stage (S1E1) was dominated by organics (53%) with a  
657 | small contributions from SIA (23%). The OA showed dominant contributions from  
658 | cooking (45%) and traffic (19%) sources, indicating that local sources played the  
659 | most significant roles during this stage. Consistently, OA showed fresh properties

660 with an average O/C ratio of 0.25. The aerosol composition had a substantial change  
661 during stage 2 (S2E2). Although the contribution of organics decreased to 41%, those  
662 of sulfate and nitrate increased nearly by a factor of two (10% and 19%, respectively).  
663 The O/C ratio of OA increased from ~0.2 to ~0.5, suggesting the occurrence of more  
664 aged air masses during S2E2. Indeed, the contribution of LV-OOA showed a great  
665 enhancement from 6% to 19%, whereas that of SV-OOA exhibited minor changes. As  
666 this haze episode progressed (stage 3, S3E3), ~~the~~SIA exceeded ~~the~~organics and  
667 became the dominant component in PM<sub>1</sub> (53%); in particular, nitrate accounted for  
668 nearly one-third of the total PM<sub>1</sub> mass. These results highlight the enhanced roles of  
669 SIA in severe haze episodes, which ~~is~~are consistent with the conclusions drawn in  
670 many previous studies in China (Huang et al., 2014;Sun et al., 2014). OA was further  
671 aged during this stage with the O/C ratio approaching 0.6, and the highly oxidized  
672 LV-OOA accounting for nearly one-third of the total OA. The haze episode evolved  
673 further at 10:00 on October 24 with a large enhancement of PM<sub>1</sub> from ~150 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to >  
674 200 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which remained consistently high for 1.5 days (stage 4, S4E4). The  
675 aerosol composition during this stage remained relatively constant. SIA contributed  
676 more than 60% of the total PM<sub>1</sub>, and SOA accounted for 67% of the total OA, which  
677 together contributed 82% of the total PM<sub>1</sub>, further elucidating the significant role of  
678 secondary aerosol in haze formation.

679 Although SIA was observed to gradually increase during the evolution of this  
680 haze episode, primary aerosol species such as COA, HOA, and BC showed similar  
681 diurnal variations during S3-E3 and S4E4, indicating relatively constant local  
682 emissions during these two stages. Although the daily maximum of O/C showed a  
683 continuous increase, pronounced diurnal cycles with the lowest values occurring at  
684 mid-night were also observed due to the influences of local primary OA. The O/C of  
685 SOA was then calculated for a better illustration of OA aging. As shown in Fig.  
686 ~~13d12d~~, the O/C ratio of SOA showed a gradual increase from ~0.55 to 0.8 during  
687 ~~S1E1-S3-E3~~ and remained consistently high (~0.8) during S4E4. This result is  
688 consistent with the relative contributions of LV-OOA and SV-OOA during the four

689 evolution stages. Although SV-OOA was higher than LV-OOA during S4E1, LV-OOA  
690 gradually exceeded SV-OOA and became the dominant contributor of OA during the  
691 following three stages. These results illustrate that the aging of the haze episode was  
692 associated with significant formation of highly oxidized OA. The Van Krevelen  
693 diagram of H/C versus O/C for this haze episode is shown in Fig. 4-10. It is clear that  
694 OA evolved rapidly during this haze episode, showing an increase in O/C associated  
695 with a corresponding decrease in H/C with a slope of  $-0.6$ .

696 Figure 4-13 shows the evolution of size distributions of sulfate, nitrate, and  
697 organics during this haze episode. Sulfate and nitrate showed evident particle growth  
698 as a function of time. Although broad size distributions peaking at  $\sim 350$  nm were  
699 observed during S4E1, the peak diameters gradually evolved to  $\sim 700$  nm during S4E4;  
700 these size distributions were characterized by single large accumulation modes.  
701 Organics showed similar size evolution behavior as that of sulfate and nitrate but  
702 presented significant contributions from particles smaller than 200 nm. In particular,  
703 the influences of local primary emissions such as cooking and traffic on small  
704 particles were observed at nighttime during October 23–25. Overall, the aerosol  
705 composition, oxidative-oxidation properties, and size distributions exhibited  
706 substantial changes during the evolution of the severe haze episode, which was  
707 characterized by the significant enhancement of SIA and SOA with high oxidation  
708 degrees and large particle diameters.

#### 709 4. Conclusions

710 China imposed strict emission controls in Beijing and its surrounding regions  
711 during the 2014 APEC summit. In this study, we present a detailed investigation of the  
712 impacts of emission controls on the changes in chemical composition, oxidative-  
713 oxidation properties, and size distributions of submicron aerosols. The average mass  
714 concentration of  $PM_{10}$  showed a substantial decrease from  $88.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  before APEC to  
715  $41.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  during APEC. The aerosol composition also showed significant changes.  
716 Although submicron aerosols were composed mainly of organics, at 38.0%, followed  
717 by nitrate at 26.4% and sulfate at 13.7% before APEC, the contribution of organics

718 | was observed to have a significant increase at 52.4% associated with ~~the a~~ significant  
719 | reductions~~s~~ of SIA during APEC. This result demonstrates the different responses of  
720 | SIA and OA to regional emission controls. PMF analysis of OA identified three  
721 | primary sources ~~such as including~~ traffic, cooking, and biomass burning emissions  
722 | and two secondary factors with different oxidation degrees. The highly oxidized  
723 | LV-OOA showed reductions similar to those of SIA with the contribution to OA  
724 | decreasing from 30% to 14%. In contrast, POA showed elevated contributions  
725 | indicating the presence of strong local source emissions during APEC. The O/C ratio  
726 | of OA decreased from 0.43 to 0.36, demonstrating a decrease in the oxidization  
727 | degree of OA during APEC. The peak diameters in size distributions of SIA and SOA  
728 | were ~650nm ~~or even larger~~ before APEC and shifted to smaller sizes of ~400 nm  
729 | during APEC. This result illustrates that emission controls of secondary aerosol  
730 | precursors exerted a dominant impact in reducing accumulation mode particles.  
731 | Comparatively, the size distributions of POA remained relatively unchanged.  
732 | Therefore, our results elucidated significant changes in chemical composition, size  
733 | distributions, and ~~oxidative-oxidation~~ properties of aerosol particles as a result of  
734 | emission controls ~~and meteorological effects~~. In addition, we observed significant  
735 | changes in aerosol properties during the aging processes of a severe haze pollution  
736 | episode, which was typically characterized by a gradual increase of SIA and SOA  
737 | with higher oxidation degrees and large particle diameters. Note that the routine  
738 | circulation of a mountain–valley breeze during APEC was also observed to play a role  
739 | in achieving “APEC blue” by conditions reducing PM levels substantially during  
740 | daytime. Despite the fact that controlling secondary aerosol precursors over regional  
741 | scales can substantially reduce secondary particulates, stricter controls of local source  
742 | emissions are needed for further mitigation of air pollution in Beijing.

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1032 **Table1.** Summary of average meteorological parameters, mass concentrations of PM<sub>1</sub>  
 1033 Species and OA factors for the entire study, before and during APEC, and also the  
 1034 change percentages during APEC.

	Entire Study	Before APEC	APEC	Change Perc. (%)
Meteorological Parameters				
RH(%)	47.5	52.8	37.4	
T(°C)	13.0	14.5	10.1	
PM <sub>1</sub> Species (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )				
Org	29.4	33.6	21.8	35.1
SO <sub>4</sub>	9.1	12.0	3.7	69.2
NO <sub>3</sub>	17.8	23.1	7.7	66.7
NH <sub>4</sub>	7.8	9.8	3.7	62.2
Chl	2.9	3.4	2.0	41.2
BC	4.8	6.1	2.7	55.7
PM <sub>1</sub>	71.8	88.0	41.6	52.7
OA (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )				
COA1	5.5	5.9	4.7	20.3
COA2	2.0	2.2	1.6	27.3
HOA	3.4	3.6	2.9	19.4
BBOA	4.1	4.3	3.6	16.3
SV-OOA	7.0	8.6	3.8	55.8
LV-OOA	7.9	10.6	2.8	73.6

1035

1036 **Figure captions:**

1037 **FigureFig. 1.** Time series of (a) relative humidity (RH), temperature ( $T$ ), (b) wind  
1038 direction (WD), wind speed (WS), (c) mass concentrations, and (d) mass fractions of  
1039 chemical species in  $PM_{10}$ . The pie charts show the average chemical composition of  
1040  $PM_{10}$  measured before and during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)  
1041 summit.

1042 ~~**Fig. 2.** Correlation between predicted  $NH_4^+$  and measured  $NH_4^+$  recorded before and~~  
1043 ~~during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.~~

1044 **FigureFig. 32.** Diurnal profiles of the mass concentrations of  $PM_{10}$  species measured  
1045 before and during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. Also  
1046 shown are the changes in percentage of aerosol species occurring during APEC.

1047 ~~**Fig. 4.** Diurnal evolution of the composition of  $PM_{10}$  and organic aerosols (OA)~~  
1048 ~~measured (a), (c) before the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation summit (APEC) and~~  
1049 ~~(b), (d) during APEC.—~~

1050 **FigureFig. 53.** High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS; left panel) and time series  
1051 (right panel) of six organic aerosols (OA) components (a) hydrocarbon-like aerosol  
1052 (HOA), (b) biomass burning OA (BBOA), (c) cooking organic aerosol 2 (COA2), (d)  
1053 COA1, (e) semi-volatile oxygenated OA (SV-OOA), and (f) low-volatility oxygenated  
1054 OA (LV-OOA). Also shown in the right panel are the time series of ~~external~~ tracers  
1055 including  $C_6H_{10}O^+$ ,  $C_2H_4O_2^+$ , CO, black carbon (BC), nitrate and ~~SNA-SIA~~ (sulfate +  
1056 nitrate + ammonium). The two pie charts show the average chemical composition of  
1057  $PM_{10}$  measured before and during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)  
1058 summit, respectively. The correlation coefficients between OA factors and external  
1059 tracers measured before and during APEC are also shown in the figure.

1060 ~~**Figure 4.** Diurnal evolution of the composition of  $PM_{10}$  and organic aerosols (OA)~~  
1061 ~~measured (a), (c) before the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation summit (APEC) and~~  
1062 ~~(b), (d) during APEC.~~

1063 **FigureFig. 65.** Diurnal profiles of the mass concentrations of organic aerosol (OA)  
1064 factors measured before and during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

1065 summit. Also shown are the changes in percentage of OA factors measured during  
1066 APEC.

1067 **FigureFig. 76.** Relative humidity (RH) and wind dependence (WD) of (a), (b)  
1068 semi-volatile oxygenated organic aerosols (SV-OOA), (c), (d) low-volatility  
1069 oxygenated organic aerosols (LV-OOA), and (e), (f) the ratio of LV-OOA/SV-OOA  
1070 measured before (left panel) and during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation  
1071 (APEC) summit (right panel). S refers to the south ( $90^\circ < \text{WD} < 270^\circ$ ), and N refers  
1072 to the north ( $0^\circ < \text{WD} < 90^\circ$  and  $270^\circ < \text{WD} < 360^\circ$ ). Grids with points numbering  
1073 less than five were excluded.

1074 **FigureFig. 87.** Average size distributions and fractions of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> species, primary  
1075 organic aerosols (POA) and oxygenated organic aerosols (OOA) measured (a) before  
1076 the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit and (b) during APEC.

1077 **FigureFig. 98.** Diurnal evolution of the size distributions of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> species  
1078 measured (a) before the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and (b) during  
1079 APEC.

1080 **FigureFig. 109.** Time series of (a) H/C, (b) O/C, and organics, and diurnal variations  
1081 of (c) O/C and (d) H/C. The dashed lines in (c) and (d) indicate the elemental ratios by  
1082 excluding the contributions from cooking aerosols.

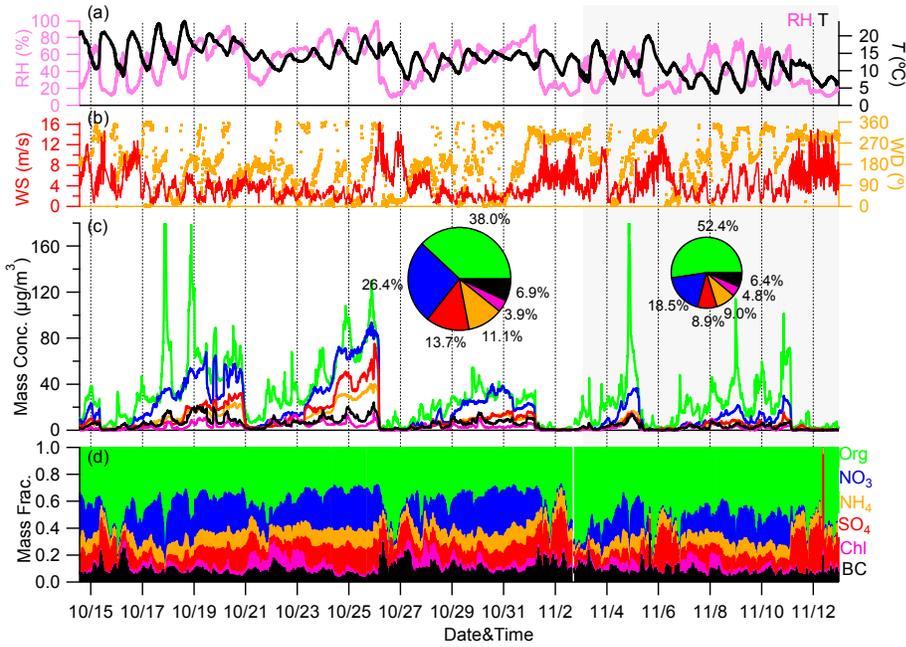
1083 **FigureFig. 110.** Van Krevelen diagram of H/C versus O/C. The dashed lines indicate  
1084 changes in H/C against O/C due to the addition of specific functional groups to  
1085 aliphatic carbon (Heald et al., 2010). The pink and blue lines are derived from the  
1086 right and left lines in the triangle plot of positive matrix factors (PMF) determined  
1087 from 43 sites in the Northern Hemisphere (Ng et al., 2011). The color-coded H/C  
1088 versus O/C refers to the data measured during the severe haze episode shown in Fig.-  
1089 ~~13~~12.

1090 **FigureFig. 1211.** Variations in (a) O/C and (b) O/C of secondary organic aerosols  
1091 (SOA) as a function of relative humidity (RH) measured (a) before the Asia–Pacific  
1092 Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit and (b) during APEC. The data are also  
1093 binned according to RH with increments of 10%.

1094 | **FigureFig. 1312.** Evolution of meteorological variables including (a)–(c) relative  
1095 humidity (RH), temperature ( $T$ ), and vertical profiles of wind direction (WD) and  
1096 wind speed (WS); (d) O/C and O/C of secondary organic aerosols (SOA); (e) organic  
1097 aerosol (OA) factors; and (f) PM<sub>1</sub> species. The pie charts show the average chemical  
1098 composition of PM<sub>1</sub> and OA for each stage. The numbers on the pie charts show the  
1099 contributions of (e) semi-volatile oxygenated organic aerosols (SV-OOA) and  
1100 low-volatility oxygenated organic aerosols (LV-OOA) and (f) organics, nitrate, and  
1101 sulfate.

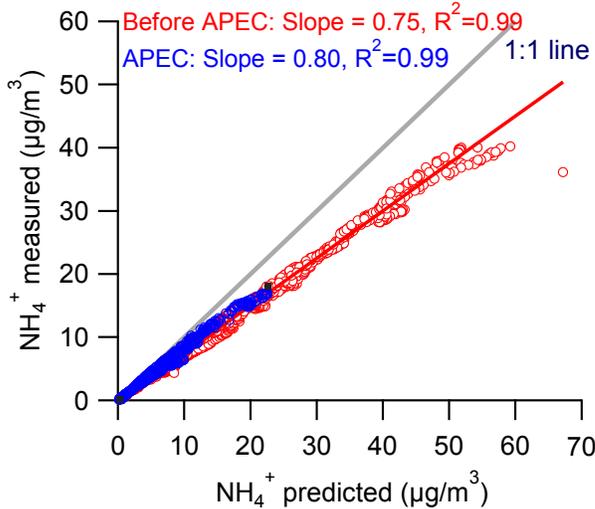
1102 | **FigureFig. 1413.** (a) Evolution of size distributions of sulfate, nitrate, and organics  
1103 during the severe haze episode between October 22 and 25 (Fig.12). (b) Average size  
1104 distributions of sulfate, nitrate, and organics during the four stages of E1-E4. ~~these~~  
1105 ~~three species for each stage.~~

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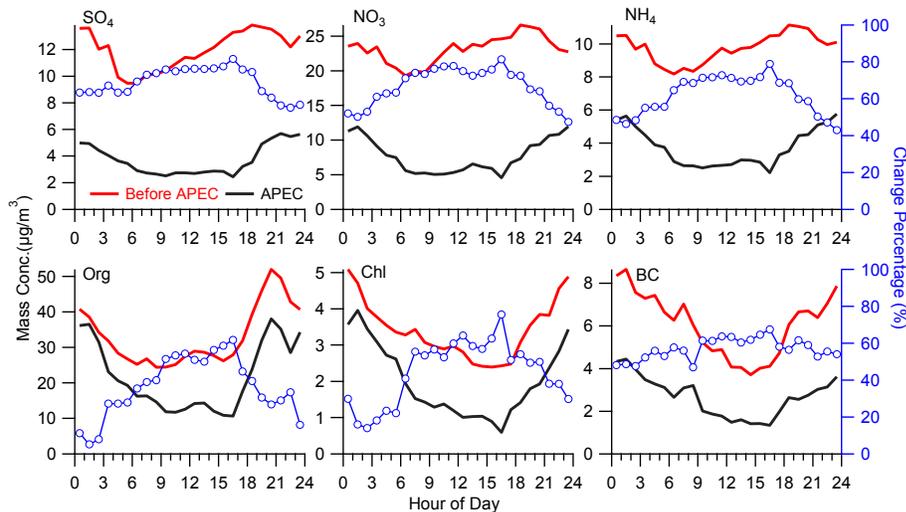
1108 **Figure 1.** Time series of (a) relative humidity (RH), temperature ( $T$ ), (b) wind  
 1109 direction (WD), wind speed (WS), (c) mass concentrations, and (d) mass fractions of  
 1110 chemical species in  $\text{PM}_{10}$ . The pie charts show the average chemical composition of  
 1111  $\text{PM}_{10}$  measured before and during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)  
 1112 summit.



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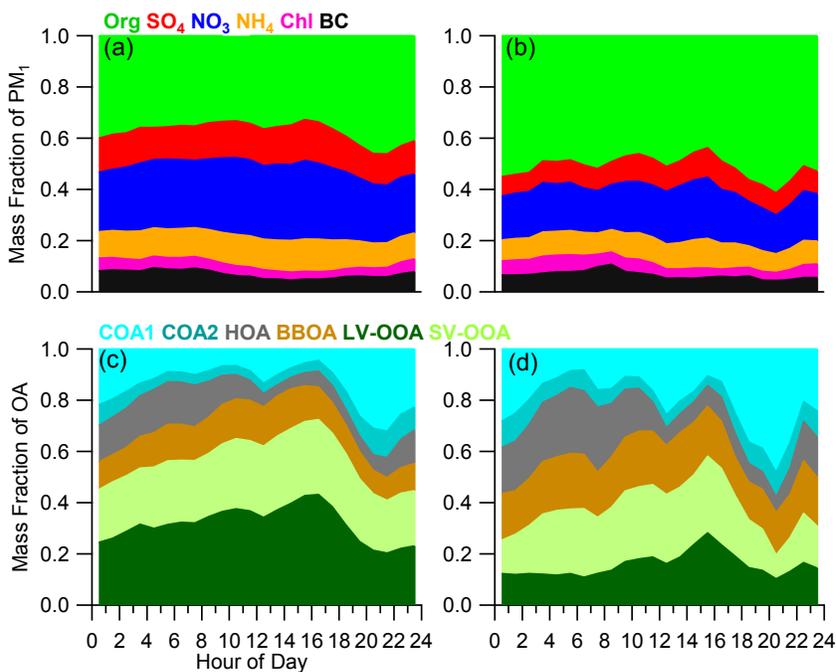
1114 **Fig. 2.** Correlation between predicted  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and measured  $\text{NH}_4^+$  recorded before and  
 1115 during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

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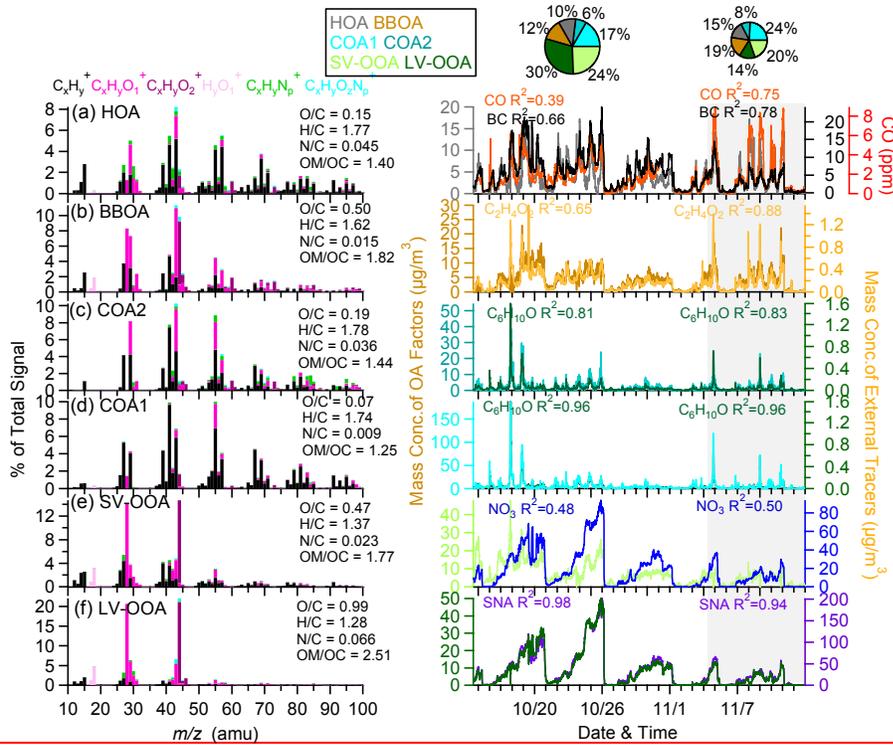
1117 **Figure Fig. 32.** Diurnal profiles of the mass concentrations of PM<sub>1</sub> species measured  
 1118 before and during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. Also  
 1119 shown are the changes in percentage of aerosol species occurring during APEC.



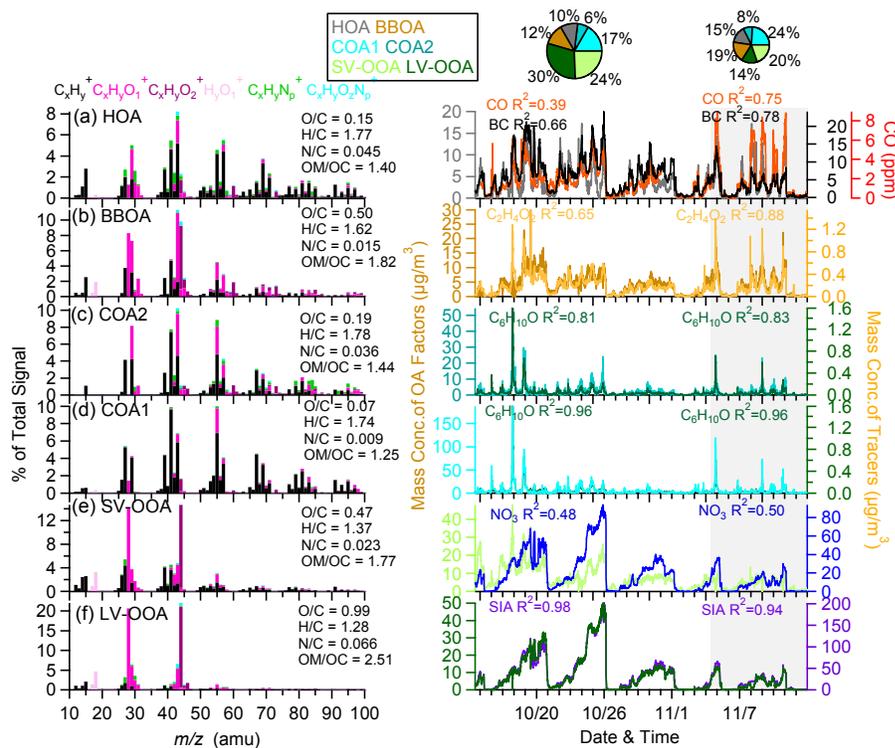
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1121 **Fig. 4.** Diurnal evolution of the composition of PM<sub>1</sub> and organic aerosols  
 1122 (OA) measured (a), (c) before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit  
 1123 (APEC) and (b), (d) during APEC.

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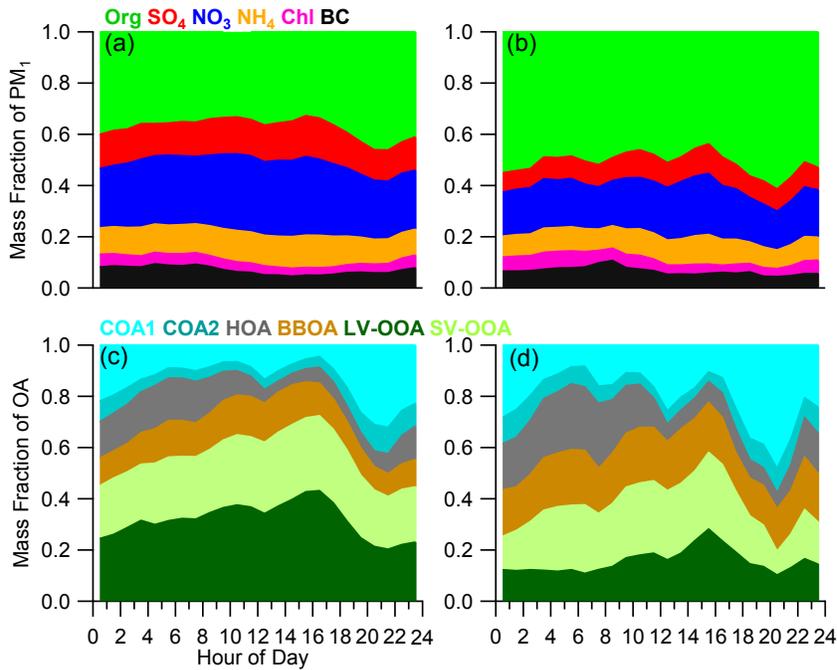
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**Figure 53.** High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS; left panel) and time series (right panel) of six organic aerosol (OA) components (a) hydrocarbon-like aerosol (HOA), (b) biomass burning OA (BBOA), (c) cooking organic aerosol 2 (COA2), (d) COA1, (e) semi-volatile oxygenated OA (SV-OOA), and (f) low-volatility oxygenated OA (LV-OOA). Also shown in the right panel are the time series of external tracers including C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, CO, black carbon (BC), nitrate and SNA-SIA (sulfate + nitrate + ammonium). The two pie charts show the average chemical composition of PM<sub>1</sub> measured before and during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, respectively. The correlation coefficients between OA factors and external tracers measured before and during APEC are also shown in the figure.

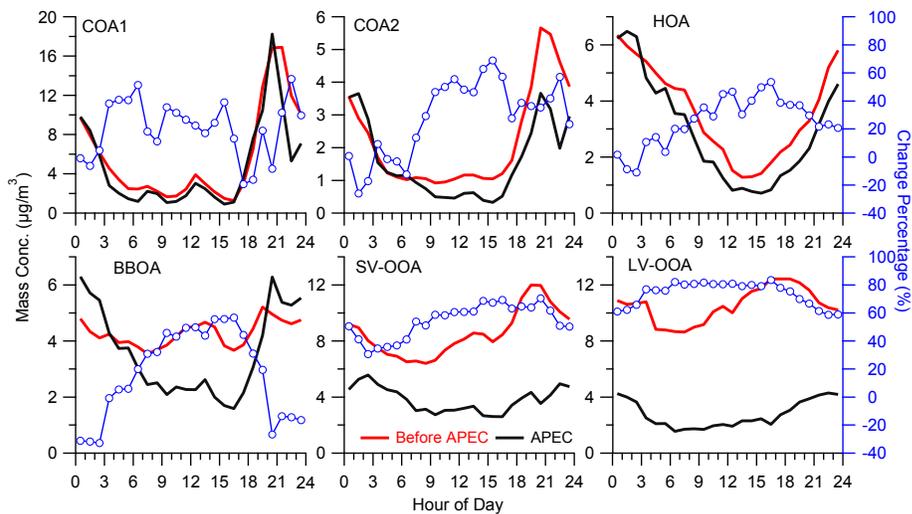


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1138 **Figure 4.** Diurnal evolution of the composition of PM<sub>1</sub> and organic aerosols  
 1139 (OA) measured (a), (c) before the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation summit  
 1140 (APEC) and (b), (d) during APEC.

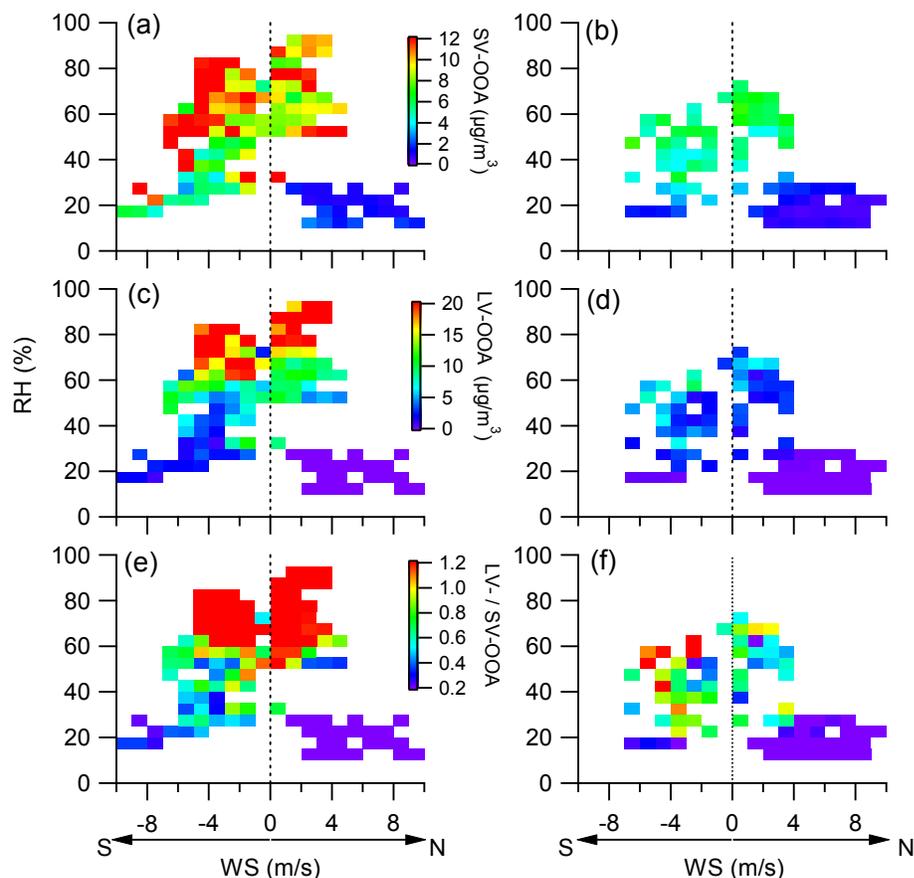
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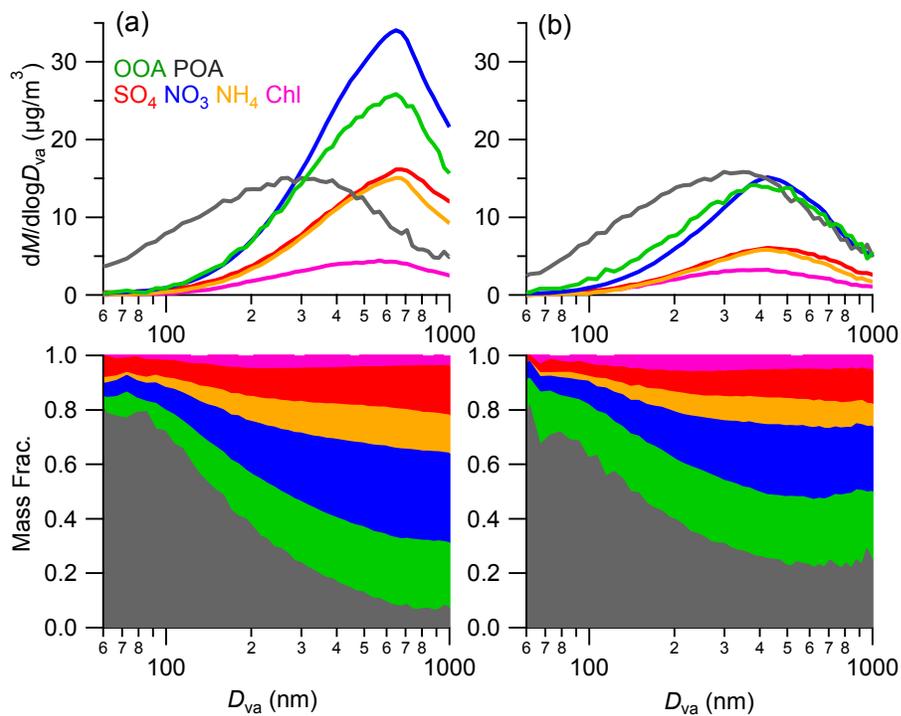
1143 **Figure 65.** Diurnal profiles of the mass concentrations of organic aerosol (OA)  
 1144 factors measured before and during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

1145 summit. Also shown are the changes in percentage of OA factors measured during  
 1146 APEC.



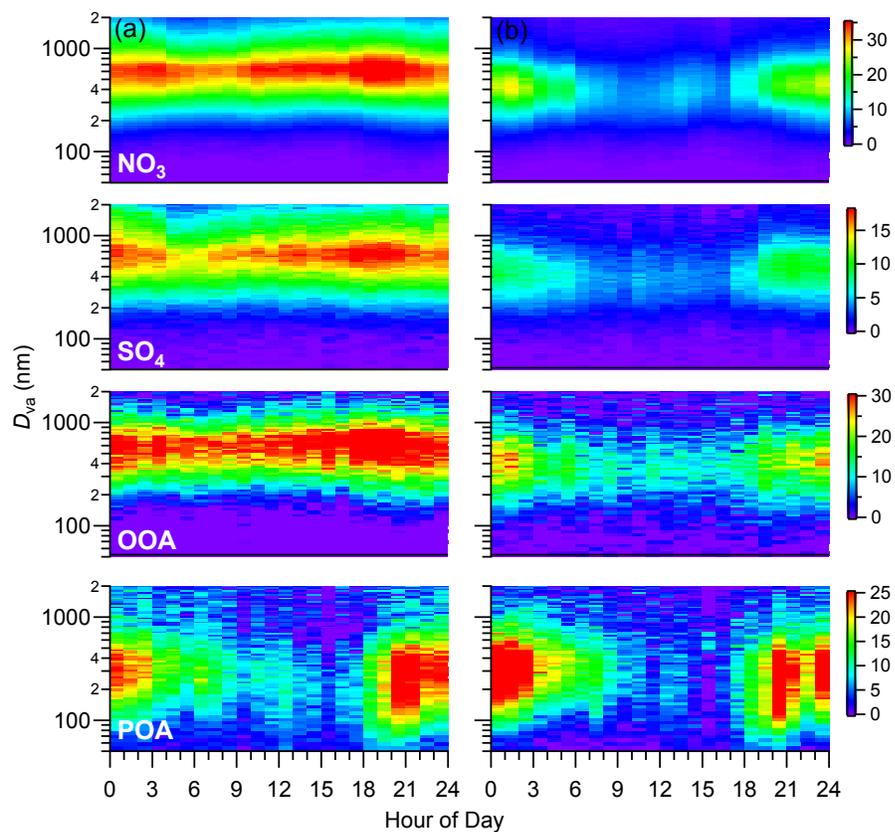
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1148 | **Figure Fig. 76.** Relative humidity (RH) and wind dependence (WD) of (a), (b)  
 1149 semi-volatile oxygenated organic aerosols (SV-OOA), (c), (d) low-volatility  
 1150 oxygenated organic aerosols (LV-OOA), and (e), (f) the ratio of LV-OOA/SV-OOA  
 1151 measured before (left panel) and during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation  
 1152 (APEC) summit (right panel). S refers to the south ( $90^\circ < \text{WD} < 270^\circ$ ), and N refers  
 1153 to the north ( $0^\circ < \text{WD} < 90^\circ$  and  $270^\circ < \text{WD} < 360^\circ$ ). Grids with points numbering  
 1154 less than five were excluded.



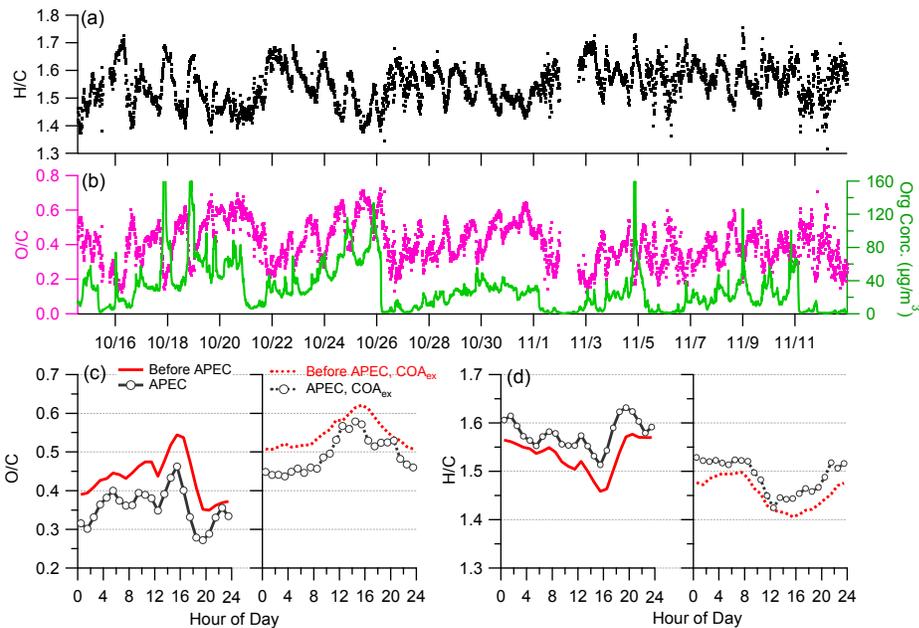
1155

1156 | **Figure Fig-87.** Average size distributions and fractions of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> species, primary  
 1157 organic aerosols (POA) and oxygenated organic aerosols (OOA) measured (a) before  
 1158 the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit and (b) during APEC.



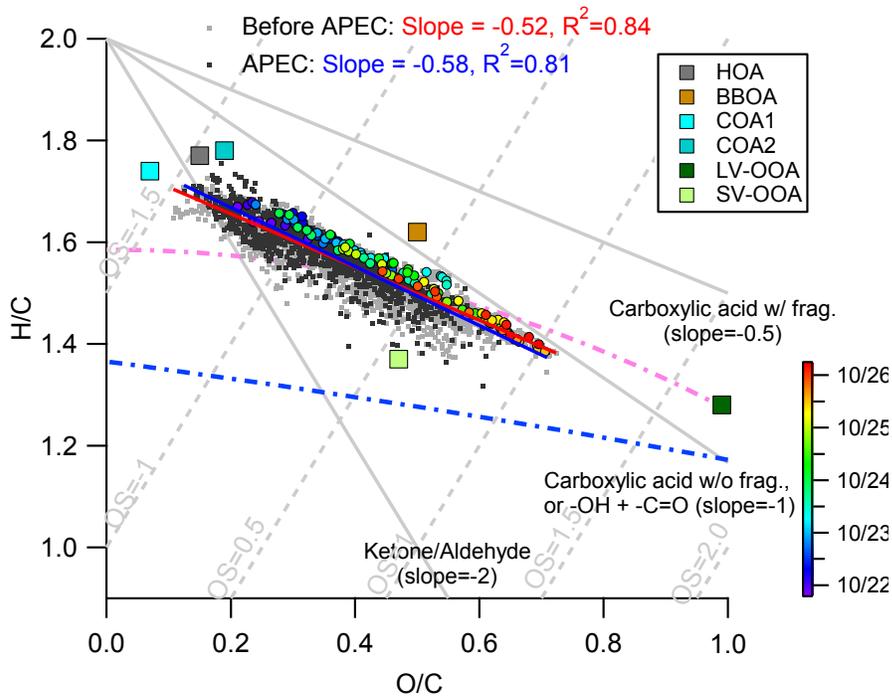
1159

1160 | **FigureFig. 98.** Diurnal evolution of the size distributions of NR-PM<sub>1</sub> species  
 1161 measured (a) before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and (b) during  
 1162 APEC.



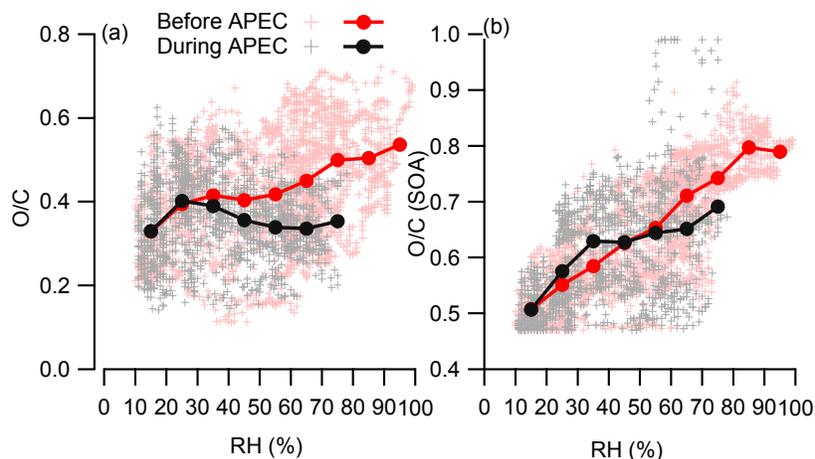
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1164 | **Figure 109.** Time series of (a) H/C, (b) O/C, and organics, and diurnal variations  
 1165 of (c) O/C and (d) H/C. The dashed lines in (c) and (d) indicate the elemental ratios by  
 1166 excluding the contributions from cooking aerosols.

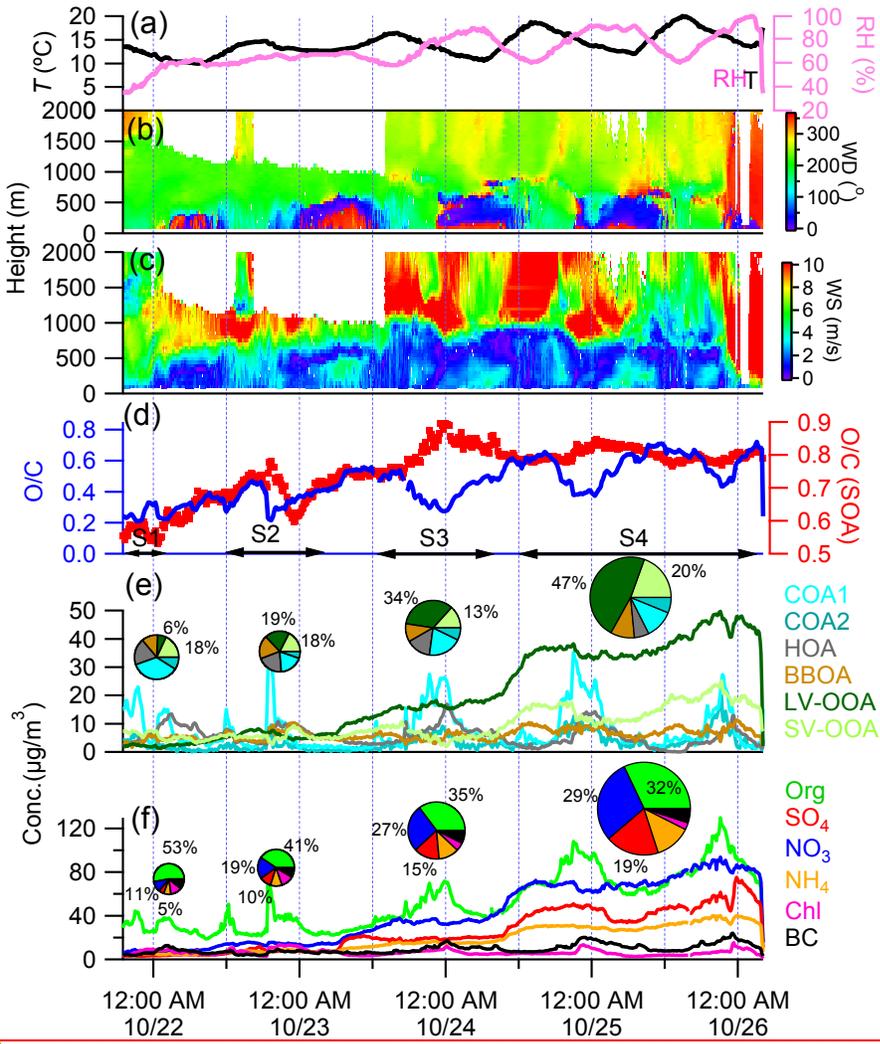


1167

1168 | **Figure Fig. H10.** Van Krevelen diagram of H/C versus O/C. The dashed lines indicate  
 1169 changes in H/C against O/C due to the addition of specific functional groups to  
 1170 aliphatic carbon (Heald et al., 2010). The pink and blue lines are derived from the  
 1171 right and left lines in the triangle plot of positive matrix factors (PMF) determined  
 1172 from 43 sites in the Northern Hemisphere (Ng et al., 2011). The color-coded H/C  
 1173 versus O/C refers to the data measured during the severe haze episode shown in Fig.  
 1174 | **13.12.**

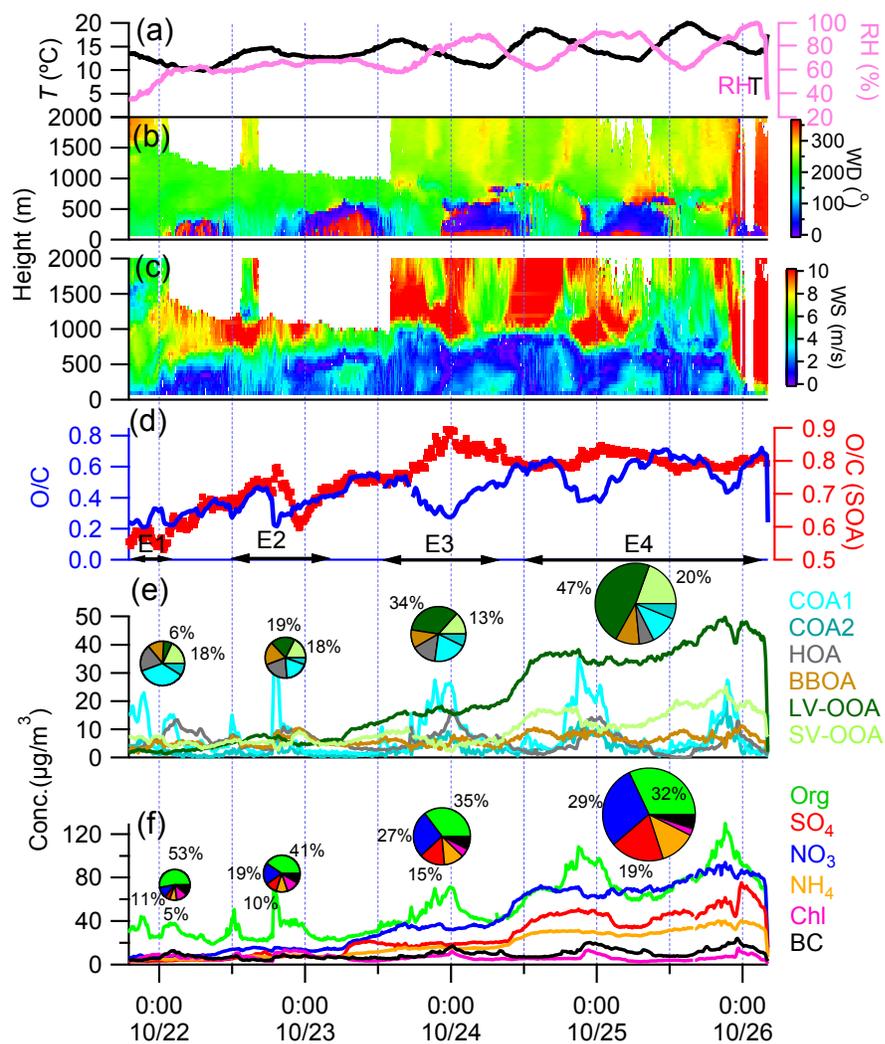


1175  
 1176 | **Figure Fig. 1211.** Variations in (a) O/C and (b) O/C of secondary organic aerosols  
 1177 (SOA) as a function of relative humidity (RH) measured (a) before the Asia-Pacific  
 1178 Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit and (b) during APEC. The data are also  
 1179 binned according to RH with increments of 10%.



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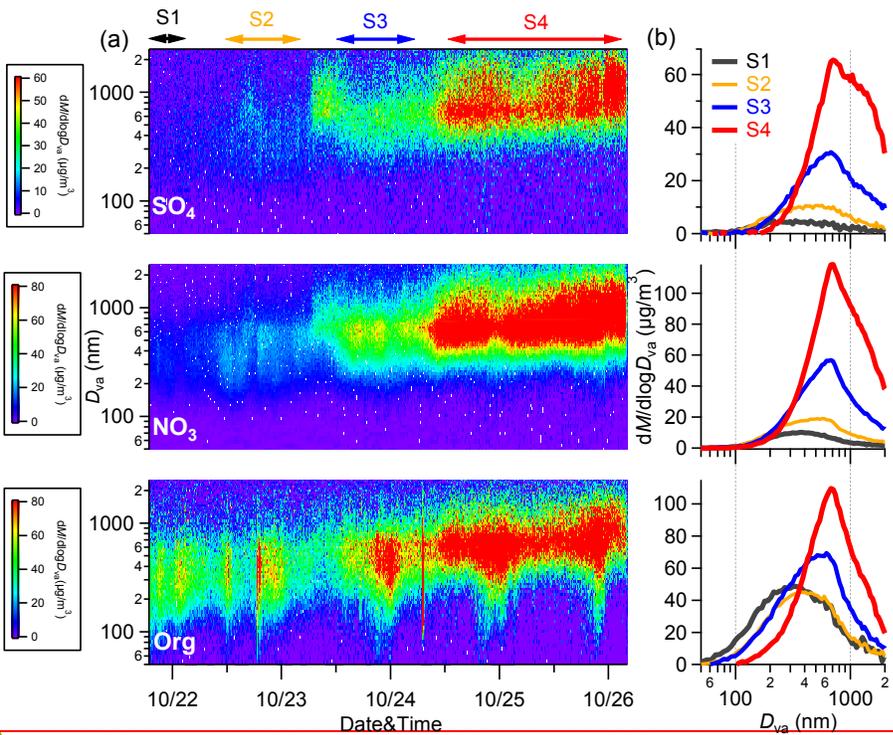


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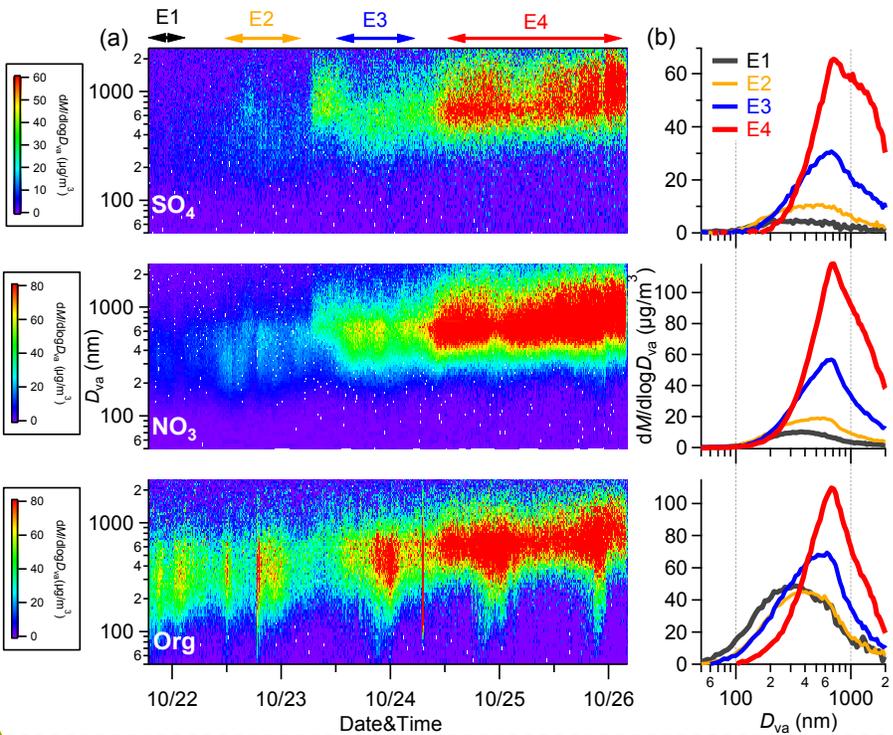
1181

1182 **Figure Fig-1312.** Evolution of meteorological variables including (a)–(c) relative  
 1183 humidity (RH), temperature ( $T$ ), and vertical profiles of wind direction (WD) and  
 1184 wind speed (WS); (d) O/C and O/C of secondary organic aerosols (SOA); (e) organic  
 1185 aerosol (OA) factors; and (f)  $\text{PM}_{10}$  species. The pie charts show the average chemical  
 1186 composition of  $\text{PM}_{10}$  and OA for each stage. The numbers on the pie charts show the  
 1187 contributions of (e) semi-volatile oxygenated organic aerosols (SV-OOA) and  
 1188 low-volatility oxygenated organic aerosols (LV-OOA) and (f) organics, nitrate, and  
 1189 sulfate.

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1192 **Figure 1413.** (a) Evolution of size distributions of sulfate, nitrate, and organics  
1193 during the severe haze episode between October 22 and 25 (Fig.12). (b) Average size  
1194 distributions of sulfate, nitrate, and organics during the four stages of E1-E4.~~these~~  
1195 ~~three species for each stage.~~