

## Response to Reviewers

Ms. Ref. No.: acp-2016-486

**Title:** “Synergetic formation of secondary inorganic and organic aerosol: Influence of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub> in the heterogeneous process”

**Revised Title:** “Synergetic formation of secondary inorganic and organic aerosol: Effect of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> on particle formation and growth”

We appreciate the comments from the reviewers on this manuscript. We have answered them in the following paragraphs (the text in italics is the reviewer comments, followed by our response) point by point. **The text in blue is some revisions for the manuscript.** The line numbers in the response are from the revised manuscript.

### Response for Reviewer #1

*The authors investigated the effect of sulphur dioxide and ammonia on the secondary organic aerosol formation in the photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with or without Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed particles. They presented new experimental results and showed that the synergistic effects between SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> in the heterogeneous process can greatly enhance the aerosol formation. While the authors presented valuable experimental data, they should provide detailed explanations to support their arguments and observations made in the manuscript.*

*Comments*

*One main question is: How much toluene is being reacted under different experimental conditions? This information is not given in the manuscript. If the amount of the toluene reacted is known, what are the aerosol mass yields in these experiments? How do the measured aerosol mass yields compare with literature results, if any?*

**Response:** Thanks for the reviewer’s comments. Time variations of gas-phase compounds in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> in the presence or absence of NH<sub>3</sub> and/or

SO<sub>2</sub> are displayed in Figure R1 and Figure R2. These Figures has been added in the revised Supporting information. The reacted amount of toluene was calculated and has been added in the revised manuscript. The presence of SO<sub>2</sub>/NH<sub>3</sub> had no obvious effect on the reacted amount of toluene, as shown in Table R1 and Table R2. SOA yields were also calculated. In Figure R3, the SOA yields in this study are compared with literature results. SOA yields in in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> in the presence or absence of NH<sub>3</sub> and/or SO<sub>2</sub> were similar as that reported by Odum, J. R., et. al.. A closer inspection revealed that experiment TN had SOA yield a little lower than the curve in the study of Odum, J. R., et. al., experiment STN and ATN had SOA yields quite close to the curve, while experiment ASTN had a little higher yield than the curve. For SOA yields in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>, SOA yields were higher in NH<sub>3</sub>-rich condition compare to NH<sub>3</sub>-poor condition. And there is a trend that SOA yield increased with increasing SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. The presence of SO<sub>2</sub>/NH<sub>3</sub> increased SOA yield.

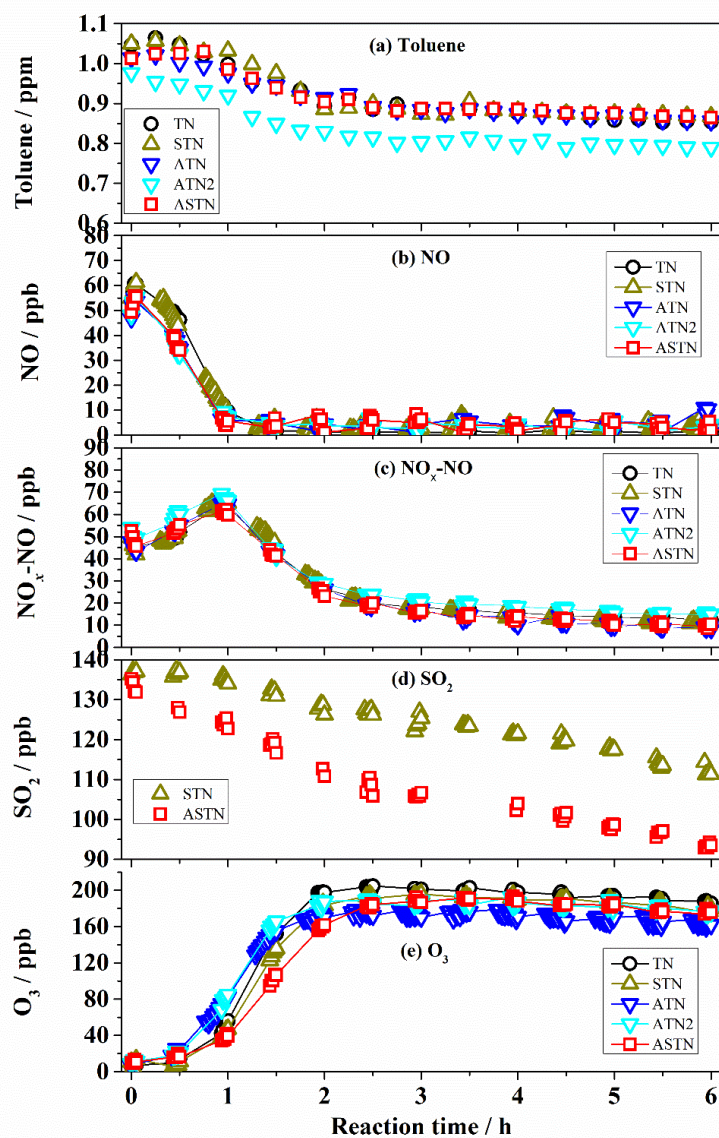
**Table R1.** The consumption of gas precursors, the formation of ozone and SOA, and SOA yield in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> in the presence or absence of NH<sub>3</sub> and/or SO<sub>2</sub>. The letters codes for the experiments indicate the introduced pollutants, i.e. “A” for ammonia, “S” for sulfur dioxide, “T” for toluene and “N” for nitrogen dioxide.

Experiment No.	$\Delta$ toluene ppm	$\Delta$ NO <sub>x</sub> ppb	$\Delta$ SO <sub>2</sub> ppb	$\Delta$ O <sub>3</sub> ppb	SOA $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	SOA yield %
TN	0.19	89	NA	179	8.0	1.1
STN	0.18	90	25	176	27.7	4.1
ATN	0.16	82	NA	159	17.2	2.9
ASTN	0.15	90	42	166	37.4	6.8

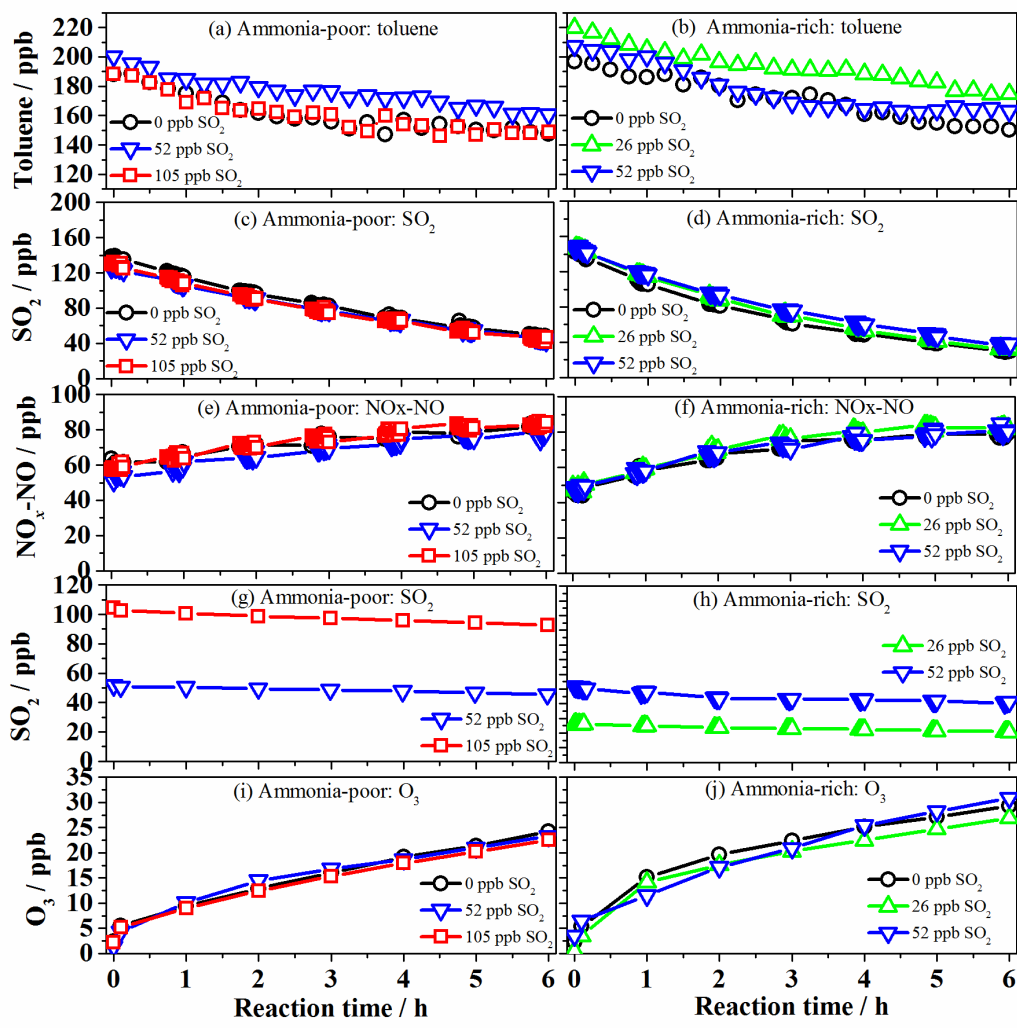
**Table R2.** The consumption of gas precursors, the formation of ozone and SOA, and SOA yield in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions.

	$\Delta$ toluene ppb	$\Delta$ NO <sub>x</sub> ppb	$\Delta$ SO <sub>2</sub> ppb	$\Delta$ O <sub>3</sub> ppb	SOA $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	SOA yield %
NH <sub>3</sub> -poor	41	73	NA	22	0.6	0.4

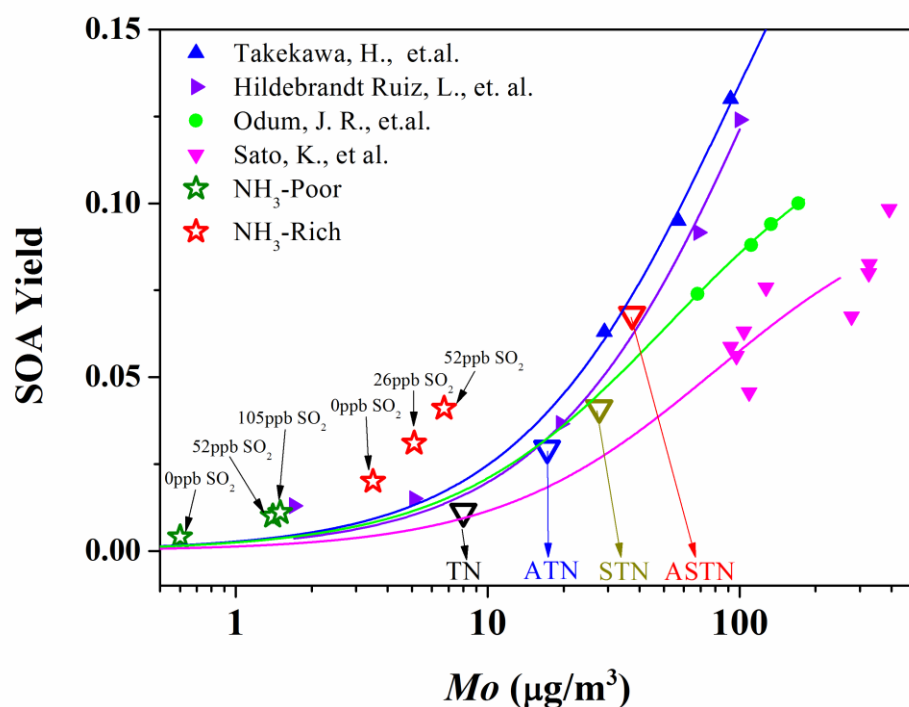
	40	61	6	22	1.4	1.0
	39	62	12	20	1.5	1.1
NH <sub>3</sub> -rich	47	79	NA	27	3.5	2.0
	45	81	6	26	5.1	3.1
	44	75	11	27	6.7	4.1



**Figure R1.** Time variations of gas-phase compounds in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> in the presence or absence of NH<sub>3</sub> and/or SO<sub>2</sub>. The letters codes for the experiments indicate the introduced pollutants, i.e. “A” for ammonia, “S” for sulfur dioxide, “T” for toluene and “N” for nitrogen dioxide.



**Figure R2.** Time variations of gas-phase compounds in photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  with different concentrations of  $\text{SO}_2$  under  $\text{NH}_3$ -poor and  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich conditions



**Figure R3.** SOA yields in the experiments in this study and the comparison with literature results (Takekawa et al., 2003;Hildebrandt Ruiz et al., 2015;Odum et al., 1997;Sato et al., 2007)

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 222-225, Add:** “Time variations of gas phase compounds of these experiments are shown in Fig. S1 in the supporting information. The presence of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub> had no obvious effect on the gas phase compounds, including toluene, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>.”

**Add Table R1 and Table R2 in the supporting information**

**Add Fig. R1, Fig. R2 and Fig. R3 in the supporting information**

**Lines 428-430, Add:** “The increases of SOA mass in the presence of NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> are shown in Fig. 5. Similar trends for SOA yields can be found in the supporting information.”

*Line 184, “Assuming the same aerosol density in these experiments, the presence of either NH<sub>3</sub> or SO<sub>2</sub> enhanced secondary aerosol formation markedly” Can the authors provide justification for this assumption?*

**Response:** This assumption is actually not true. In the presence of NH<sub>3</sub>/SO<sub>2</sub>, more

inorganic aerosol (higher mass proportion) was generated than the experiment in the absence of NH<sub>3</sub>/SO<sub>2</sub>. The density of inorganic aerosol, mainly sulfate, nitrate and ammonium, is about 1.7 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, while it is about 1.4 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for SOA. Therefore, the assumption of a same aerosol density would under estimate the increase effect of NH<sub>3</sub> or SO<sub>2</sub> on secondary aerosol formation. To keep things simple and to avoid misunderstanding, this sentence has been deleted in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 229-231, Delete:** “Assuming the same aerosol density in these experiments, the presence of either NH<sub>3</sub> or SO<sub>2</sub> enhanced secondary aerosol formation markedly.”

*Line 217, “A significant increase in new particle formation was observed in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub>.” Can the authors provide an explanation for this observation?*

**Response:** The new particle formation was not directly measured in this study. The comparison about new particle formation was made based on the number concentrations of particles. In the two experiments in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub>, the maximum number concentration of particles are  $3.8 \times 10^4$  particles/cm<sup>3</sup> and  $7.3 \times 10^4$  particles/cm<sup>3</sup>. This was one magnitude higher than that in the experiments in the absence of SO<sub>2</sub>, in which the maximum number concentration of particles are  $4.5 \times 10^3$  particles/cm<sup>3</sup> and  $2.8 \times 10^3$  particles/cm<sup>3</sup>, as shown in Fig. 2 in the manuscript. This explanation has been added in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 261-265, Change:** “A significant increase in new particle formation was observed in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub>.”

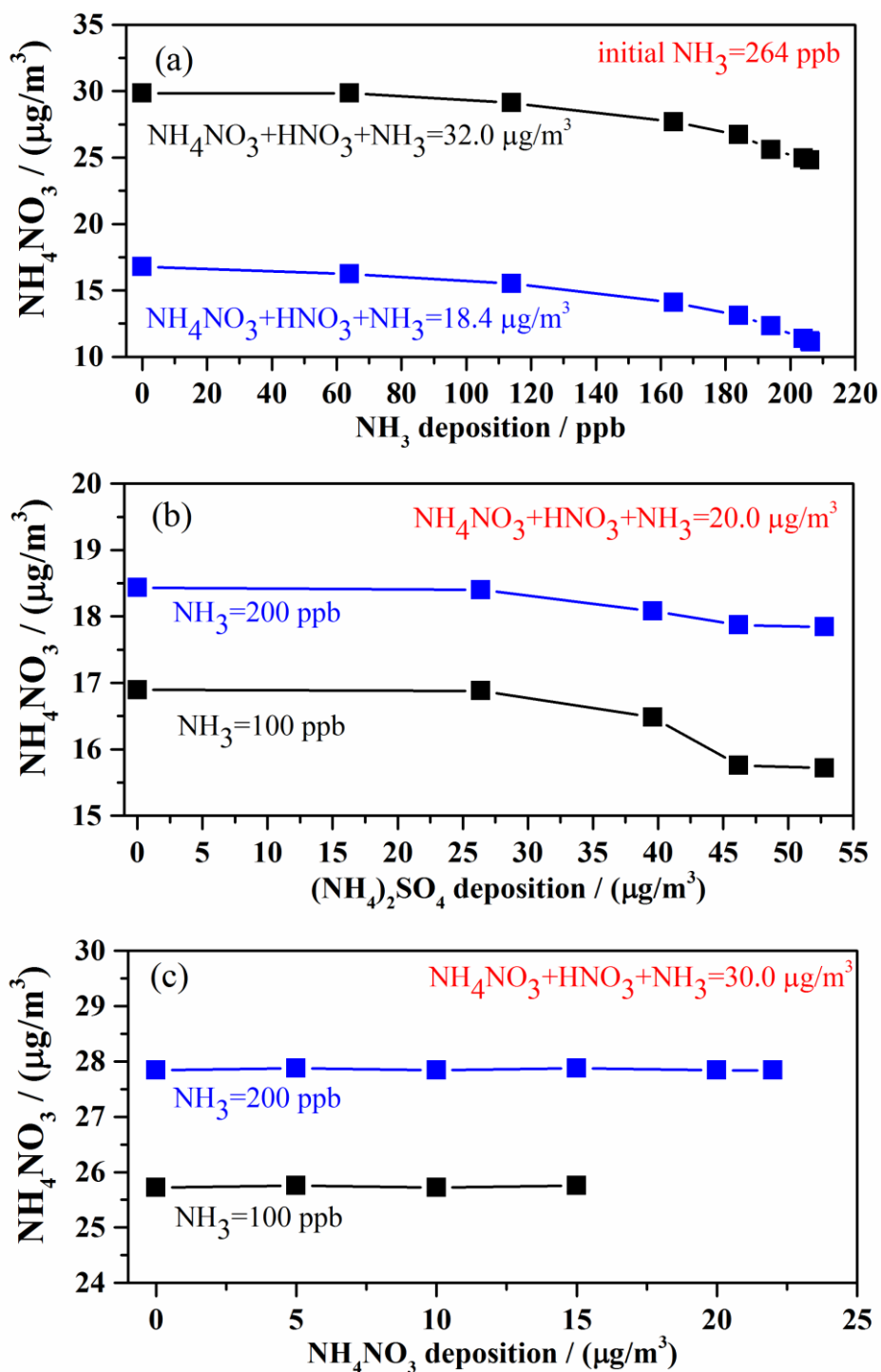
**To:** “The new particle formation was not directly measured in this study, but the newly generated particles could be detected when the particles increased in size. According to the particle number concentrations, new particle formation appeared to increase a great deal in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub>.”

*Line 232, “In experiment ATN, the concentrations of ammonium and nitrate decreased after about 2.3 hours of reaction, as shown in Fig. 3, which was consistent with the*

*decreasing trend of particle concentration shown in Fig. 1. The reason for this phenomenon is unknown but we speculate that the generated NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> might partition back into the gas phase as reaction goes on.” Can the authors perform any calculations or model simulations to support this hypothesis? What the concentration of the NH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> as a function of time in these experiments?*

**Response:** The partition of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> has been simulated using the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model. The detail of the model is available at <http://www.aim.env.uea.ac.uk/aim/aim.php>, and was described elsewhere (Clegg and Brimblecombe, 2005; Clegg et al., 1998; Carslaw et al., 1995). The simulation results are summarized in Fig. R4. This figure has been added in the supporting information. The results showed that the concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> gas and coexisted (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> both influenced the partition balance between NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub>+NH<sub>3</sub> in the gas phase. The deposition of NH<sub>3</sub> gas and (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> were likely to shift balance to the gas phase and reduce the concentration of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> salt. While the concentration of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> salt seemed not to be affected by the deposition of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>, as long as the wall loss was corrected accurately. As we mentioned in the manuscript, the deposition correction was introduced in our previous studies (Chu et al., 2012; Chu et al., 2014). We measured the deposition rates of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aerosol with different sizes and fitted them into an empirical function. Then, the deposition of aerosols was corrected based on the function and the size distribution of aerosols measured by the SMPS. According to these results, some revision has been made in the revised manuscript.

The time variations of NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> are shown in Fig. R1 as mentioned earlier. However, the concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were not measured in this study due to the lack of analytical instruments. We noticed the concentration of NH<sub>3</sub> is crucial for a quantitative study about the effects of NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary aerosol formation. This problem is expected to be solved in a future study.



**Figure R4.** Concentrations of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt as a function of the wall deposition of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  based on the simulation results of the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 289-302, Change:** “In Fig.2, we observed that the particle size was larger in experiment ATN than the other three experiments. The larger diameter resulted in more



significant wall deposition, reduced the surface area of the suspended particles, and shifted the partition equilibrium to the gas phase.”

**To:** “Detailed simulation results based on the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model (Clegg and Brimblecombe, 2005; Clegg et al., 1998; Carslaw et al., 1995) are shown in Fig. S3 in the supporting information. The deposition of NH<sub>3</sub> in the experiment was likely to shift the partition equilibrium to the gas phase and reduce the concentration of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> salt. In addition, the wall deposition of aerosols might also introduce some error in the concentrations of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> salt, although wall deposition was corrected using an empirical function based on deposition rates of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aerosol with different sizes (Chu et al., 2012; Chu et al., 2014).”

**Add Fig. R4 in the supporting information**

**Lines 305-308, Add:** “Some simulation results using the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model with different concentrations of sulfate are also shown in Fig. S3 in the supporting information.”

*Line 245, “In addition, the presence of organic matter might accelerate the deliquescence of generated inorganic particles (Meyer et al., 2009; Li et al., 2014), and provide moist surfaces for heterogeneous hydrolysis of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, contributing to nitrate formation (Pathak et al., 2009).” What is the meaning of “the deliquescence of generated inorganic particles”? Please elaborate. Does the N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> form under the experimental conditions?*

**Response:** In the presence of organic compounds, (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was reported to deliquesce at RH lower than pure (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. (Meyer et al., 2009; Li et al., 2014). To avoid misunderstanding, the description was revised.

N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> was not measured in this study, but it was expected to be generated in the presence of NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> in the experiments. Under the experimental conditions, the maximum formation velocity was calculated to be about 13 ppb/hour from gas phase reaction between NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>. The concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> are shown in Fig. R1. The reaction constant was summarized by Atkinson et al. (2004). The uptake coefficient of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> on particle surface was reported to be about 10<sup>-2</sup> on ammonium sulfate (Hallquist

et al., 2003;Hu and Abbatt, 1997), but would decrease when organics coated on the sulfate (Anttila et al., 2006). The particle surface area concentration in experiment ASTN ranged from 0 to  $0.1 \text{ m}^2/\text{m}^3$ . Assuming a concentration of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  of 0.1 ppb and an uptake coefficient of  $10^{-3}$  for  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , the heterogeneous hydrolysis of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on  $0.05 \text{ m}^2/\text{m}^3$  suspended particles would generate  $6 \text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  nitrate per hour in the reactor. Thus we speculated the heterogeneous hydrolysis of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  might be important in the experiment. Some of these explanations have been added in the revised manuscript.

### **Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 308-317, Change:** “In addition, the presence of organic matter might accelerate the deliquescence of generated inorganic particles (Meyer et al., 2009;Li et al., 2014), and provide moist surfaces for heterogeneous hydrolysis of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , contributing to nitrate formation (Pathak et al., 2009).”

**To:** “In addition, in the presence of organic matter,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  aerosol might deliquesce at a RH lower than the deliquescence relative humidity (DRH) (Meyer et al., 2009;Li et al., 2014). If this took place in the experiment, sulfate might provide moist surfaces for heterogeneous hydrolysis of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , contributing to nitrate formation due to the high uptake coefficient of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on ammonium sulfate (Pathak et al., 2009;Hallquist et al., 2003;Hu and Abbatt, 1997).  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  was not measured in this study, but it was expected to be generated in the presence of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_3$  in the experiments.”

*Line 256, “In Fig. 3, the generation of ammonium salt can be observed in the photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$ / $\text{SO}_2$  without introducing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas. This indicated there was  $\text{NH}_3$  present in the background air in the chamber, and also indicated that the effects of  $\text{NH}_3$  on secondary aerosol formation might be underestimated in this study.” As stated, in order to better access the impact of  $\text{NH}_3$  on the aerosol formation, it is important to know the background  $\text{NH}_3$  concentration. The authors should give a reasonable guess or estimate on the background  $\text{NH}_3$  concentration in their experiments. Could the authors estimate background  $\text{NH}_3$  concentration based on their experimental results (e.g. STN data)?*

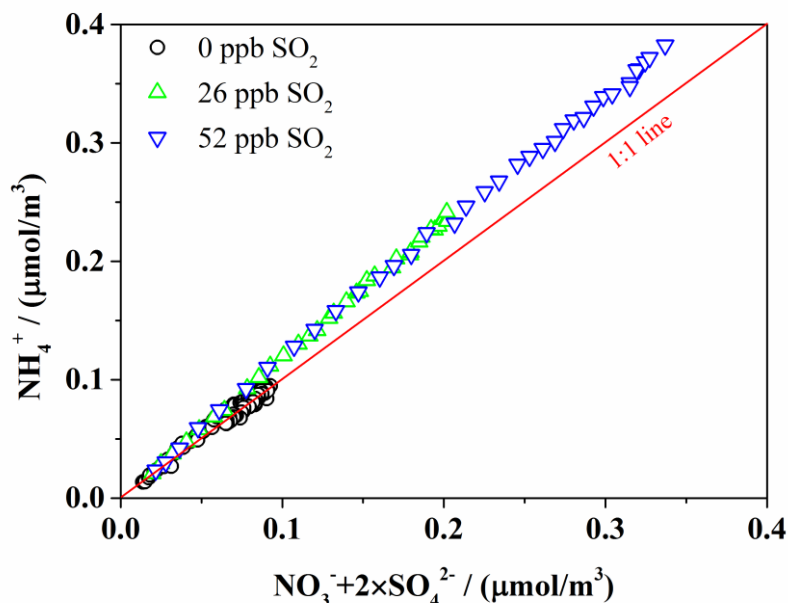
**Response:** Thanks for the good suggestion! Based on the results of experiment STN, the amount of  $\text{NH}_3$  (about 4.8 ppb) that contributed to  $\text{NH}_4$  salt was calculated. Besides, according to the equilibrium between aerosol ( $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3+(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ ) and gas phase ( $\text{NH}_3+\text{HNO}_3+\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), the gas phase  $\text{NH}_3$  concentration was estimated to be about 3.0 ppb using the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model. Therefore, the background  $\text{NH}_3$  was estimated to be around 8 ppb. This information has been added in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 334-336, Add:** “It was estimated to be around 8 ppb based on the amount of ammonium salt and the gas-aerosol equilibrium calculated using the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model.”

*Line 267, “in which the concentrations of  $\text{NH}_3$  were more than twice the  $\text{SO}_2$  concentrations and the oxidation products of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  were fully neutralized by  $\text{NH}_3$ .” Any experimental data or calculations to support this argument.*

**Response:** As we mentioned earlier, the concentration of  $\text{NH}_3$  was not measured in this study due to the lack of appropriate instruments. The initial concentration of  $\text{NH}_3$  was estimated according to the amount of  $\text{NH}_3$  added into the chamber and the volume of the reactor. The chemical composition of the aerosols was measured by the AMS. The concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium salt could be used to calculate the acid-base balance. Some data are shown in Fig. R5. This figure has been added in the supporting information. As indicated in the figure, the sulfate and nitrate was fully neutralized by ammonium. The redundant ammonium was due to the formation of organic ammonium, which was discussed in the section “Secondary organic aerosol formation” and the supporting information about estimating concentrations of nitrogen-containing organics (NOC).



**Figure R5.** Evaluation of acid-base balance of the aerosols according to the concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium salt measured by the AMS in  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich experiments. The line in the figure indicated an acid-base balance.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 339-344, Change:** “in which the concentrations of  $\text{NH}_3$  were more than twice the  $\text{SO}_2$  concentrations and the oxidation products of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  were fully neutralized by  $\text{NH}_3$ .”

**To:** “in which the estimated concentrations of  $\text{NH}_3$  were more than twice the  $\text{SO}_2$  concentrations and the oxidation products of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  were fully neutralized by  $\text{NH}_3$ , according to the chemical composition of aerosols measured by the AMS. The details of the acid-base balance in the aerosols are shown in Fig. S4 in the supporting information.”

**Add Fig. R5 in the supporting information**

Line 274, “In these experiments, the concentrations of toluene were reduced compared to the experiments in Table 1, and monodisperse  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  seed particles with mode diameter about 100 nm were introduced into the chamber.” Any reason why a lower concentration of toluene is used for the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  seed particle experiments.

**Response:** For experiments in Table 1, the concentrations of toluene were designed to

be high to generate enough high concentration of secondary aerosol to reduce the experimental error for a qualitative study. For experiments in Table 2, in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  seed particles, secondary aerosol would be generated on their surface and would be easier to be detected by the AMS due to a larger diameter, so lower concentrations of toluene was used to simulate secondary aerosol formation under experimental conditions closer to real ambient conditions. Some of these explanations have been added in the revised manuscript.

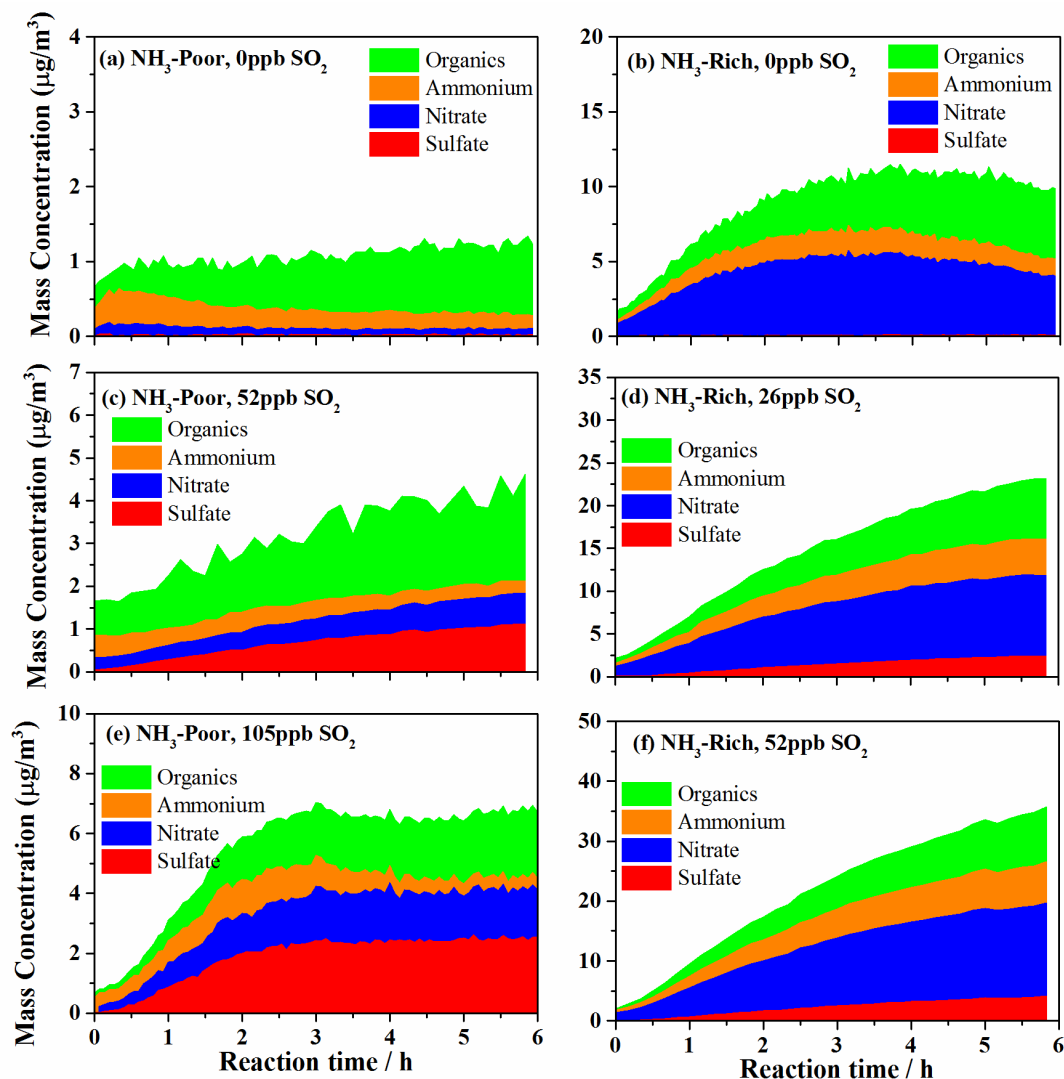
**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 349-351, Add:** “to simulate secondary aerosol formation under experimental conditions closer to real ambient conditions”

*Line 279, “In the experiments carried out in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  seed aerosols, the decrease of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  was not obvious in the experiment carried out in the absence of  $\text{SO}_2$  under  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich conditions, indicating that generation of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  was highly dependent on the surface area concentration of the particles, which decreased the partitioning of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  back to the gas phase, as discussed above”. In addition to describe the results in text, can the authors show the time variation of the chemical species in the SOA generated from the toluene oxidation in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  seed aerosols to support their argument?*

**Response:** Time variations of chemical species for the secondary aerosol are shown in Fig. R6. This picture has also been added in the supporting information, and corresponding description had been added in the revised manuscript. As shown in Fig. R6(b), the decrease of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  was less than 25%, which was less obvious than experiment ATN (decrease 75%). As we mentioned earlier, based on the simulation results for the partition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  using the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model, the concentrations of  $\text{NH}_3$  gas and coexisted  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  both influenced the partition balance between  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{HNO}_3+\text{NH}_3$  in the gas phase. The deposition of  $\text{NH}_3$  gas and  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  were likely to shift balance to the gas phase and reduce the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt. While the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt seemed not to be affected by the deposition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ , as long as the wall loss was corrected

accurately. We has revised the argument about the partition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  in the revised manuscript.



**Figure R6.** Time variations of sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium and organics measured by the AMS in the photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  with different concentrations of  $\text{SO}_2$  under  $\text{NH}_3$ -poor and  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich conditions

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 354-362, Change:** “In the experiments carried out in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  seed aerosols, the decrease of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  was not obvious in the experiment carried out in the absence of  $\text{SO}_2$  under  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich conditions, indicating that generation of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  was highly dependent on the surface area concentration of the particles, which decreased the partitioning of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  back to the gas phase, as discussed above.”

**To:** “In the experiments carried out in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  seed aerosols, the decrease

of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  was less obvious in the experiment carried out in the absence of  $\text{SO}_2$  under  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich conditions than in experiment ATN, as indicated in Fig.S5 in the supporting information and Fig.3. This might also indicate that generation of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  was dependent on the surface area concentration of the particles, which decreased the partitioning of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  back to the gas phase, as discussed above concerning the effects of co-existing  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ .”

**Add Fig. R6 in the supporting information**

*Line 297, “A better correlation was found between secondary aerosol formation and particle surface area than that with particle volume, with details introduced in Fig. S1 in the supporting information, indicating an enhancement effect in the heterogeneous process rather than in bulk reactions”. From the Figure S1, the authors argue that there is a significant correlation between the aerosol formation and aerosol surface area. From that point, they suggest that the heterogeneous processes is important than the bulk reactions. However, a strong conclusion cannot be easily drawn from the simple correlation method and limited data points. Furthermore, a nice correlation between the aerosol formation and aerosol volume is observed. Can the authors further elaborate this point?*

**Response:** We also notice that argue the heterogeneous reactions is important form the correlation is not convictive. The statement about heterogeneous and bulk reactions has been deleted in the revised manuscript. The possible importance of heterogeneous process was discussed in Page 22 based on Figure 6.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 375-379, Delete:** “A better correlation was found between secondary aerosol formation and particle surface area than that with particle volume, with details introduced in Fig. S1 in the supporting information, indicating an enhancement effect in the heterogeneous process rather than in bulk reactions.”

*Line 330, “According to the consumption of toluene, OH concentrations in the photooxidation experiments were estimated to range from  $1.6 \times 10^6$  molecules/cm<sup>3</sup> to*

*2.7 x10<sup>6</sup> molecules/cm<sup>3</sup>. The reaction between these OH radicals and SO<sub>2</sub> contributed 35%-50% of the total SO<sub>2</sub> degradation in NH<sub>3</sub>-poor experiments, while this ratio was reduced to 25%-30% in NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiments” Again, what is the amount of toluene and SO<sub>2</sub> reacted in the experiments? What the time variations of the toluene and SO<sub>2</sub> and other gas phase species (e.g. NO<sub>x</sub>) in these experiments?*

**Response:** As mentioned earlier, the time variations of toluene and SO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> are shown in Fig. R2, while the reacted amount of toluene and SO<sub>2</sub> are shown in Table R2. This figure has been added in the supporting information. We estimated OH radical concentrations according to the decay of toluene, and then calculated the decay of SO<sub>2</sub> in the reaction between OH radical and SO<sub>2</sub> using the known reaction constant and the measured time variations of SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, and finally calculated the ratios mentioned in the text.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Add Fig. R2 in the supporting information**

*Line 341, “According to previous studies, NH<sub>3</sub> might provide surface Lewis basicity and liquid surface layers for SO<sub>2</sub> absorption and subsequent oxidation, and therefore, enhance sulfate formation (Yang et al., 2016; Tursic et al., 2004).” What is the physical state of the aerosols in the experiments? Aqueous droplets or solid particles?*

**Response:** Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed aerosols were used in this study. It is quite hydrophobic and would be solid in the experiments. Yang et al. reported that the coexistence of NH<sub>3</sub> would enhance the heterogeneous oxidation of SO<sub>2</sub> on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> surface (Yang et al., 2016). During the reaction, secondary aerosol would be generated on the surface of the seed aerosols or as new particles. The deliquescence relative humidity of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> and (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> were reported to be about 60% and 80%, which were higher than the RH of 50% in the experiments. However, as we mentioned earlier, inorganic aerosol might deliquesce at a RH lower than the DRH for pure salt (Meyer et al., 2009; Li et al., 2014). Tursic et al. found the presence of NH<sub>3</sub> would significantly increase the amount of condensed water and enhance the conversion of SO<sub>2</sub> to sulfate (Tursic et al., 2004). Thus we speculated that there might be liquid surface layers on the secondary aerosols.



### Revision in the manuscript:

**Lines 419-424, Change:** “According to previous studies, NH<sub>3</sub> might provide surface Lewis basicity and liquid surface layers for SO<sub>2</sub> absorption and subsequent oxidation, and therefore, enhance sulfate formation (Yang et al., 2016; Tursic et al., 2004).”

**To:** “According to previous studies, NH<sub>3</sub> might provide surface Lewis basicity for SO<sub>2</sub> absorption on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> aerosols (Yang et al., 2016) and increase the amount of condensed water on the secondary aerosols (Tursic et al., 2004), and therefore, enhance sulfate formation (Yang et al., 2016;Tursic et al., 2004)”

*Line 416, “The higher production of Factor 2 with higher SO<sub>2</sub> under an NH<sub>3</sub>-poor environment could be probably attributed to the well-known acid-catalysis effects of the oxidation product of SO<sub>2</sub>, i.e. sulfuric acid, on heterogeneous aldol condensation (Offenberg et al., 2009; Jang et al., 2002; Gao et al., 2004)” What is the pH or acidity of the aerosols in these experiments?*

**Response:** Based on the chemical compositions of aerosols measured by the AMS, the mole concentrations of species are shown in Table R3. As shown in the table, the concentration of H<sup>+</sup> increased with the increasing of SO<sub>2</sub> in NH<sub>3</sub>-poor condition.

Table R3. The mole concentrations of chemical species in the NH<sub>3</sub>-poor experiments in the

	chamber ( $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^3$ )			
	H <sup>+</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>
0ppb SO <sub>2</sub>	0.000	0.0020	0.0003	0.0015
52ppb SO <sub>2</sub>	0.018	0.016	0.011	0.011
105ppb SO <sub>2</sub>	0.059	0.018	0.027	0.022

Using the AIM model as we mentioned earlier, the concentrations of these species in the aqueous phase was calculated. The results for the two experiments in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub> are shown in Table R4. The pH of the aerosols was calculated to be -0.5 and -0.7 in the two experiments, respectively. With this acidity, the aerosol was likely to enhance SOA formation due to acid-catalytic effects on heterogeneous aldol condensation.

Table R4. The concentrations of inorganic species in the aqueous phase in the two NH<sub>3</sub>-poor

experiments in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub>

(a) 52 ppb SO<sub>2</sub>

Species	Moles	Grams	Molality	Mole Frac.	Act. Coeff.
H(aq)	7.63E-09	7.69E-09	6.54E+00	6.88E-02	1.05E+01
NH <sub>4</sub> (aq)	1.60E-08	2.89E-07	1.37E+01	1.44E-01	2.63E-01
HSO <sub>4</sub> (aq)	1.04E-08	1.01E-06	8.89E+00	9.35E-02	3.77E+00
SO <sub>4</sub> (aq)	1.13E-09	1.08E-07	9.67E-01	1.02E-02	7.80E-03
NO <sub>3</sub> (aq)	1.10E-08	6.82E-07	9.43E+00	9.92E-02	3.84E-01
OH(aq)	1.68E-26	2.85E-25	1.44E-17	1.51E-19	2.13E+01
H <sub>2</sub> O(aq)	6.48E-08	1.17E-06	5.55E+01	5.84E-01	8.56E-01
NH <sub>3</sub> (aq)	4.90E-20	8.34E-19	4.20E-11	4.42E-13	1.71E+00

The density of the aqueous phase is 1.39289 g per cm<sup>3</sup>, and its total volume is 2.34095E-06 cm<sup>3</sup>.

(b) 105 ppb SO<sub>2</sub>

Species	Moles	Grams	Molality	Mole Frac.	Act. Coeff.
H(aq)	3.50E-08	3.53E-08	8.93E+00	1.09E-01	8.35E+00
NH <sub>4</sub> (aq)	1.80E-08	3.25E-07	4.59E+00	5.62E-02	1.85E-01
HSO <sub>4</sub> (aq)	2.40E-08	2.33E-06	6.12E+00	7.49E-02	1.00E+01
SO <sub>4</sub> (aq)	3.51E-09	3.37E-07	8.95E-01	1.10E-02	1.22E-02
NO <sub>3</sub> (aq)	2.20E-08	1.36E-06	5.61E+00	6.87E-02	8.43E-01
OH(aq)	5.31E-25	9.03E-24	1.35E-16	1.66E-18	1.54E+00
H <sub>2</sub> O(aq)	2.18E-07	3.92E-06	5.55E+01	6.80E-01	7.35E-01
NH <sub>3</sub> (aq)	3.57E-20	6.07E-19	9.09E-12	1.11E-13	1.47E+00

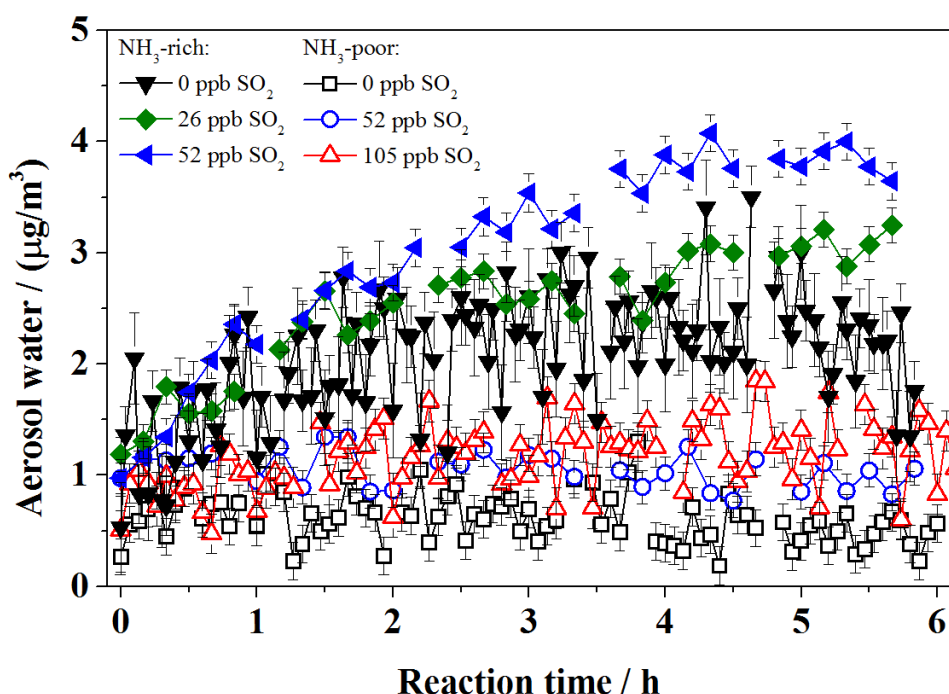
The density of the aqueous phase is 1.34747 g per cm<sup>3</sup>, and its total volume is 6.16843E-06 cm<sup>3</sup>.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 505-508, Add:** “This is consistent with the fact that the aerosols in the NH<sub>3</sub>-poor environment were quite acidic according to the simulation results of the AIM model, based on the chemical compositions of aerosols measured by the AMS.”

Line 427 "By inference and from the results of AMS measurements, aerosol water increased as the initial concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> increased, since more inorganic aerosol was generated. Liggio and Li (2013) suggest that dissolution of primary polar gases into a partially aqueous aerosol contributed to the increase of organic mass and oxygen content on neutral and near-neutral seed aerosols, which would also take place in the NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiments and contribute to the generation of Factor 1." What is the amount of aerosol phase water and how the aerosol water content change with reactions in these experiments?

**Response:** The aerosol water concentrations measured by AMS are shown in Figure R7. First, we have to point out that there is high uncertainty about the aerosol water measured by AMS. But there is a tendency that aerosol water increased with reaction time. Besides, higher concentrations of aerosol water were observed in NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiment compare to that in the NH<sub>3</sub>-poor experiment.



**Figure R7.** Time variations of aerosol water measured by the AMS in the photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions

## Response for Reviewer #2

*The manuscript reports data related to the effect of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> on aerosol formation from the oxidation of toluene in the presence on NO<sub>x</sub>. The experimental study was conducted in the presence or absence of inorganic seed aerosol: AL<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> are two species emitted into the atmosphere and can have a large effect on atmospheric chemistry. The data analysis show aerosol formation and growth increased in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub> regardless of the presence of NH<sub>3</sub>. This study and its topic is of great interest and appropriate to ACPD journal. This study is worth to be published since it present an important set of data that can be useful for the atmospheric communities. However, I feel that the text and the scientific discussion (interpretation of experimental data) (see my comments below) need to be addressed before publication.*

*The experimental part needs to be addressed and clearly state how the experiments were run. Toluene as well other gas phase species need to be reported vs time in this study. The role of OH radicals should be discussed? The wall loss of gas phase and particles should be addressed also? The errors and uncertainties need to be addressed since assumptions were made in this study. Yield should be reported in this study for the different systems studied.*

**Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's comments. Here we response to some of the comments, while the other questions (including gas compounds, OH radicals, wall loss and yield) would be answered later in the following paragraphs point by point.

Some additional information about how we run the experiments has been added in the methods section. We introduced how we wash the chamber, how we control the humidity, how we adding gas and particles into the chamber and so on.

Several assumptions were made in this study due to the limitation of analytical instruments. In Line 184 in the original manuscript, we assumed a same aerosol density

in experiments in the presence or absence of  $\text{NH}_3$  or  $\text{SO}_2$ . This assumption is actually not true. In the presence of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{SO}_2$ , more inorganic aerosol (higher mass proportion) was generated than the experiment in the absence of  $\text{NH}_3/\text{SO}_2$ . The density of inorganic aerosol, mainly sulfate, nitrate and ammonium, is about  $1.7 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , while it is about  $1.4 \text{ g/cm}^3$  for SOA. Therefore, the assumption of a same aerosol density would underestimate the increase effect of  $\text{NH}_3$  or  $\text{SO}_2$  on secondary aerosol formation. To keep things simple and to avoid misunderstanding, this sentence has been deleted in the revised manuscript. In Line 184 in the original manuscript, we assumed that the presence of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NH}_3$  did not significantly impact the gas phase oxidation of hydrocarbons and mainly played a role in the aerosol phase. This is actually not an assumption but a corollary based on previous studies and experimental data in this study. Some revision about these sentences has been made in the revised manuscript. The assumption and uncertainties about  $\text{NH}_3$  concentrations would be discussed later in this file.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

For how the experiments were run:

**Lines 179-183, Add:** “Prior to each experiment, the chamber was flushed for about 40 h with purified air at a flow rate of 15 L/min. In the first 20 h, the chamber was exposed to UV light at  $34 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . In the last several hours of the flush, humid air was introduced to obtain the target RH, which was 50% in this study. After that, alumina seed particles were added into the chamber.”

**Lines 194-204, Add:** “ $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NH}_3$  were directly injected into the chamber from standard gas bottles using mass flow controllers. Before adding  $\text{NH}_3$  into the chamber,  $\text{NH}_3$  gas was passed through the inlet pipeline for about 15 minutes to reduce absorption within the line. The concentrations of  $\text{NH}_3$  were estimated according to the amount of  $\text{NH}_3$  introduced and the volume of the reactor. These experiments with  $\text{NH}_3$  added to the chamber were referred to as  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich experiments in this study, since the concentrations of  $\text{NH}_3$  were not measured and it was difficult to estimate the uncertainty of the calculated  $\text{NH}_3$  concentration.”

**Lines 205-209, Add:** “The experiments were carried out at 30 °C with an initial RH of 50%. During the reaction, the temperature was kept nearly constant (30±0.5 °C) in the temperature-controlled enclosure, while the RH decreased to 45%-47% at the end of the experiment.”

For the errors and uncertainties:

**Lines 192-194, Delete:** “Assuming the same aerosol density in these experiments, the presence of either NH<sub>3</sub> or SO<sub>2</sub> enhanced secondary aerosol formation markedly.”

**Line 426, Change:** “assumed”

**To:** “speculated”

*As I mentioned, the manuscript reports a set of great data important to scientist interested in atmospheric organic and inorganic aerosol formation and the effect of NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>!*

**Response:** Thanks for the affirmation.

*Comments:*

*In the introduction (1st paragraph), the authors report literature data for NH<sub>3</sub> in China and almost no data was provided for SO<sub>2</sub>. I suggest SO<sub>2</sub> should be provided also and a comparison should be reported between SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>. The text in the manuscript should be edited for consistency. I found it very hard to follow the authors' ideas in the manuscript, although lot of information is provided. For example, sentences reported between lines 89 and 115 are very difficult to follow for me!!! This is true for most the manuscript!*

**Response:** We agree with the reviewer that more literature data for SO<sub>2</sub> are needed. More information about SO<sub>2</sub> and a simple comparison between SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> has also been added in the introduction.

The introduction, the description about the results and the discussions were carefully amended in the revised manuscript. The manuscript was also revised by a native English to make it more readable. A lot of revisions have been made. These revisions are recorded in the revised manuscript, but are not listed one by one here.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 61-72, Change:** “For example, the SO<sub>2</sub> concentration in Jinan, a city in North China, can be as high as 43 ppb in the winter season (Wang et al., 2015a)”

**To:** “China has the highest concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> in the world due to a large proportion of energy supply from coal combustion (Bauduin et al., 2016). Surface concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> in the range of a few ppb to over 100 ppb have been observed in north China (Sun et al., 2009; Li et al., 2007). The total emission and concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> have decreased in most regions of China in recent years (Lu et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2015b), but high concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> are still frequently observed. For example, the SO<sub>2</sub> concentration was as high as 43 ppb in the winter of 2013 in Jinan city (Wang et al., 2015a), while over 100 ppb SO<sub>2</sub> was observed in winter haze days during 2012 in Xi’an city (Zhang et al., 2015).”

**Lines 83-85, Add:** “Unlike SO<sub>2</sub>, the emission of NH<sub>3</sub> is mainly from non-point sources, which are difficult to control, and shows an increasing trend in China (Dong, 2010).”

*Line 125: this study focusses on "toluene" and "VOC" should be deleted.*

**Response:** Corresponding revision has been made in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Line 141, Change:** “VOC/NO<sub>x</sub>”

**To:** “toluene/NO<sub>x</sub>”

*The chamber was a 2 m<sup>3</sup> and the losses expected to be higher. The authors should give more information in this study about the wall losses of gas phase and particles.*

**Response:** Yes, the wall deposition of particles was high in this study due to the small volume of the chamber. We measured the deposition rate of different gases, particles of different sizes. Deposition of particles and gas compounds on the wall was considered to be a first-order process for wall loss correction. Additional information has been added in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 165-169, Add:** “The chamber was run as a batch reactor in this study. Deposition

of particles and gas compounds on the wall was considered to be a first-order process. The deposition rates of particles with different sizes (40-700 nm) were measured under dark conditions.”

**Lines 173-178, Add:** “The deposition of gas phase compounds was determined to be 0.0025 h<sup>-1</sup>, 0.0109 h<sup>-1</sup>, 0.0023 h<sup>-1</sup> and 0.006 h<sup>-1</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, NO and toluene, respectively. In this study, the wall loss of aerosol mass was about 30%-50% of total secondary aerosol mass, while the deposition of gas phase compounds was less than 5% of their maximum concentrations in the experiments.”

*How NH<sub>3</sub> was estimated (line 168)? Needs errors and uncertainties?*

**Response:** The concentration of NH<sub>3</sub> is an important problem in this study. Due to the lack of analytical instruments, we were not able to measure the concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> in the chamber. Alternatively, we used a mass flow controller and a stopwatch to control the added amount of NH<sub>3</sub> in the chamber. Then, we estimated the initial concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> based on the volume of the reactor. As the reviewer pointed out, there are many uncertainties for the estimated concentrations. The main uncertainties included:

(1) the absorption of NH<sub>3</sub> in the inlet pipeline (Before adding NH<sub>3</sub> into the chamber, NH<sub>3</sub> gas was passed through the inlet pipeline for about 15 minutes to reduce absorption within the line. This uncertainty is difficult to estimate.)

(2) the concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> standard gas (Less than 1%, Beijing AP BAIF Gases Industry CO., Ltd)

(3) the volume of the reactor (Less than 5% according to our experiences and the concentrations of other pollutants)

(4) the background NH<sub>3</sub> gas in the chamber (As we mentioned in the manuscript, there was NH<sub>3</sub> present in the background air in the chamber derived from the partitioning of the deposited ammonium sulfate and nitrate on the chamber wall when humid air was introduced. Based on the results of experiment STN (without NH<sub>3</sub> added), the amount of NH<sub>3</sub> that contributed to NH<sub>4</sub> salt was calculated to be about 4.8 ppb. Besides, according to the equilibrium between aerosol (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>+(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and gas phase (NH<sub>3</sub>+HNO<sub>3</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), the gas phase NH<sub>3</sub> concentration was estimated to be about 3.0



ppb using the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model. The detail of the model is available at <http://www.aim.env.uea.ac.uk/aim/aim.php>, and was described elsewhere (Clegg and Brimblecombe, 2005; Clegg et al., 1998; Carslaw et al., 1995). Therefore, the background NH<sub>3</sub> was estimated to be around 8 ppb. This information has been added in the revised manuscript.)

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 196-204, Add:** “NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> were directly injected into the chamber from standard gas bottles with mass flow controllers. Before adding NH<sub>3</sub> into the chamber, NH<sub>3</sub> gas was passed the inlet pipeline for about 15 minutes to reduce the absorption. The concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were then estimated according to the introduced amount of NH<sub>3</sub> and the volume of the reactor. These experiments with NH<sub>3</sub> added to the chamber were referred as NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiments in this study since the concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were not measured and it was difficult to estimate the uncertainty of the calculated NH<sub>3</sub> concentration.”

**Lines 333-335, Add:** “It was estimated to be around 8 ppb based on the amount of ammonium salt and the gas-aerosol equilibrium calculated using the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model. ”

*Line 171. title not clear to me? Be specific I would suggest: Effect of NH3 and SO2 on particle formation and growth*

**Response:** Corresponding revision has been made in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**The title, Change:** “Synergetic formation of secondary inorganic and organic aerosol: Influence of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub> in the heterogeneous process”

**To:** “Synergetic formation of secondary inorganic and organic aerosol: Effect of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> on particle formation and growth”

*Table 1 change “hydrocarbon” to “toluene”*

**Response:** Corresponding revision has been made in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Table 1, Change:** “hydrocarbon”

**To:** “toluene”

*Data provided in Table 1 are initial concentration? The authors need to specify how the chamber was run (as flow reactor or batch reactor). Based on fig 1, it seems to me it was conducted as a batch reactor. In this case the wall losses are important and need to be incorporated in the discussion and how toluene and SMPS data were analyzed to get to Figs 1, 2.. and tables 1, 2.*

**Response:** Yes, the data provided in Table 1 are the initial concentrations. The chamber was run as a batch reactor. To make this clear, corresponding revisions have been made in the revised manuscript. For the wall losses, as we mentioned earlier, additional information about the deposition rates of gas phase compounds and contribution of particle deposition to Figs 1 and 2 have been added in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Table 2, Change:** “Experimental conditions”

**To:** “Initial experimental conditions”

(For Table 1, it is “Initial experimental conditions” in the manuscript.)

**Lines 165-169 Add:** “The chamber was run as a batch reactor in this study. Deposition of particles and gas compounds on the wall was considered to be a first-order process. The deposition rates of particles with different sizes (40-700 nm) were measured under dark conditions.”

**Lines 173-178, Add:** “The deposition of gas phase compounds was determined to be  $0.0025 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ,  $0.0109 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ,  $0.0023 \text{ h}^{-1}$  and  $0.006 \text{ h}^{-1}$  for  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{NO}$  and toluene, respectively. In this study, the wall loss of aerosol mass was about 30%-50% of total secondary aerosol mass, while the deposition of gas phase compounds was less than 5% of their maximum concentrations in the experiments.”

*It is also very important to provide data for Toluene reacted,  $\text{SO}_2$  reacted,  $\text{NH}_3$  reacted and  $\text{NO}$  reacted,  $\text{NO}_x$  reacted (vs. time) in the gas phase in a separate figure.*

**Response:** Time variations of gas-phase compounds in photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$

in the presence or absence of NH<sub>3</sub> and/or SO<sub>2</sub> are displayed in Figure R1 and Figure R2 in the “Response for Reviewer #1”. These Figures has been added in the revised Supporting information.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 222-225, Add:** “Time variations of gas phase compounds of these experiments are shown in Fig. S1 in the supporting information. The presence of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub> had no obvious effect on the gas phase compounds, including toluene, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>.”

**Add Fig. R1 and Fig. R2 in the supporting information**

*The experiments were conducted under 50% RH. The authors didn't reported in the text until Table 1 was mentioned. This is a very important parameters that should be reported and discussed at list briefly. How it was measured and controlled in the chamber!!! Same thing for the temperature! I'm expecting the RH will change over the run time and will be not constant?*

**Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's reminding. As we mentioned above for how the experiment was run, some information about the temperature and RH have been added in the methods in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 179-183, Add:** “Prior to each experiment, the chamber was flushed for about 40 h with purified air at a flow rate of 15 L/min. In the first 20 h, the chamber was exposed to UV light at 34 °C. In the last several hours of the flush, humid air was introduced to obtain the target RH, which was 50% in this study. After that, alumina seed particles were added into the chamber.”

**Lines 205-209, Add:** “The experiments were carried out at 30 °C with an initial RH of 50%. During the reaction, the temperature was kept nearly constant (30±0.5 °C) in the temperature-controlled enclosure, while the RH decreased to 45%-47% at the end of the experiment.”

*How NH<sub>3</sub> was introduced into the chamber? Please elaborate!*

**Response:** NH<sub>3</sub> was introduced into the chamber using standard gas from high-pressure gas bottle. We used a mass flow controller, a stopwatch and a solenoid three-way valve to control the amount of NH<sub>3</sub> in the chamber. Then, we estimated the initial concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> based on the volume of the reactor. The solenoid three-way valve was placed on the inlet next to the chamber. Before adding NH<sub>3</sub> into the chamber, NH<sub>3</sub> gas was passed the inlet pipeline for about 15 minutes (not into the chamber through the valve) to reduce the absorption when adding NH<sub>3</sub> into the chamber.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 196-204, Add:** “NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> were directly injected into the chamber from standard gas bottles using mass flow controllers. Before adding NH<sub>3</sub> into the chamber, NH<sub>3</sub> gas was passed through the inlet pipeline for about 15 minutes to reduce absorption within the line. The concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were estimated according to the amount of NH<sub>3</sub> introduced and the volume of the reactor. These experiments with NH<sub>3</sub> added to the chamber were referred to as NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiments in this study, since the concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were not measured and it was difficult to estimate the uncertainty of the calculated NH<sub>3</sub> concentration.”

*It's important to have the amount of toluene reacted in each case in order to see how much was oxidized. then measure the yield etc... The OH radicals present in the system can be reacted with different gas phase species (e.g. toluene, SO<sub>2</sub>,...) and then depending on the rate constant, it can affect the conclusion reported in this study.*

**Response:** The reacted amounts of gas phase species were calculated and are displayed in Table R1 and Table R2 in “Response for Reviewer #1”. SOA yields were also calculated. The presence of SO<sub>2</sub>/NH<sub>3</sub> had no obvious effect on the reacted amount of toluene. In Fig. R3 in “Response for Reviewer #1”, the SOA yields in this study are compared with literature results. SOA yields in in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> in the presence or absence of NH<sub>3</sub> and/or SO<sub>2</sub> were similar as that reported by Odum, J. R., et. al.. A closer inspection revealed that experiment TN had a SOA yield a little lower than the curve in the study of Odum, J. R., et. al., experiment STN and ATN had SOA

yields quite close to the curve, while experiment ASTN had a yield a little higher than the curve. For SOA yields in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>, SOA yields were higher in NH<sub>3</sub>-rich condition compare to NH<sub>3</sub>-poor condition. And there is a trend that SOA yield increased with increasing SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. The presence of SO<sub>2</sub>/NH<sub>3</sub> increased SOA yield.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Add Table. R1 and Table. R2 in the supporting information**

**Add Fig. R3 in the supporting information**

**Lines 428-430, Add:** “The increases of SOA mass in the presence of NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> are shown in Fig. 5. Similar trends for SOA yields can be found in the supporting information.”

*Line 225: How the authors distinguish between secondary organic aerosol and secondary inorganic aerosol in these experiments?*

**Response:** The chemical composition of the aerosols was measured by the ACSM and AMS in this study. The measurement results of ACSM and AMS including the concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium salt and organics. In the ACSM or AMS, the aerosols were heated to about 600°C and ionized by 70eV electrons. During the ionization, most secondary species were fragmented. There were some organic nitrates and organic acid ammonium in the aerosols, as we discussed in the section of “secondary organic aerosol formation”, but they can’t be identified from the ACSM or AMS data. Therefore, the measured sulfate, nitrate, ammonium salt (estimated from corresponding fragments) were all considered secondary inorganic aerosol, and the organics (estimated from organic fragments) were all considered secondary organic aerosol. Some explanation has been added in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 280-284, Add:** “Since the ACM or AMS cannot distinguish organic salts and organic nitrates, the measured sulfate, nitrate, ammonium were all considered secondary inorganic aerosol, while the organics were all considered secondary organic

aerosol in this study.”

*Line 228-230 How the authors come to this conclusion? It's speculation and not based on data reported here. How nitrate are measured in this study? Are you refering to inorganic or organic nitrates? It will be great if a distinction was made between SOA and secondary inorganic aerosol in this study?*

**Response:** As we mentioned above, the chemical composition of the aerosols was measured by the ACSM and AMS in this study. The inorganic or organic nitrates were not distinguished. Here, the nitrate is the sum of inorganic or organic nitrates. Therefore, besides ammonia nitrate, organic nitrate might also contribute to the observed nitrate.

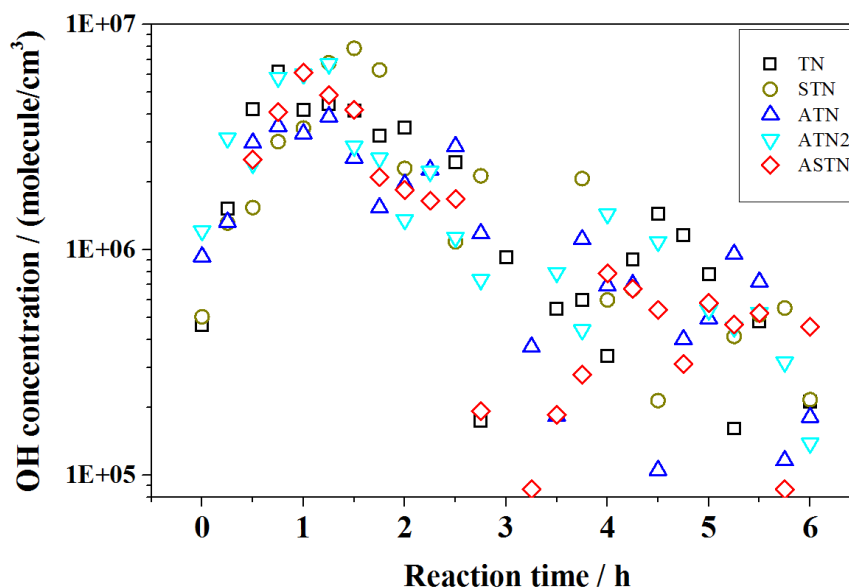
**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 276-279, Change:** “For example, nitrate formation was not only enhanced by  $\text{NH}_3$ , due to conversion of nitric acid into ammonia nitrate, but also was markedly affected by  $\text{SO}_2$ .”

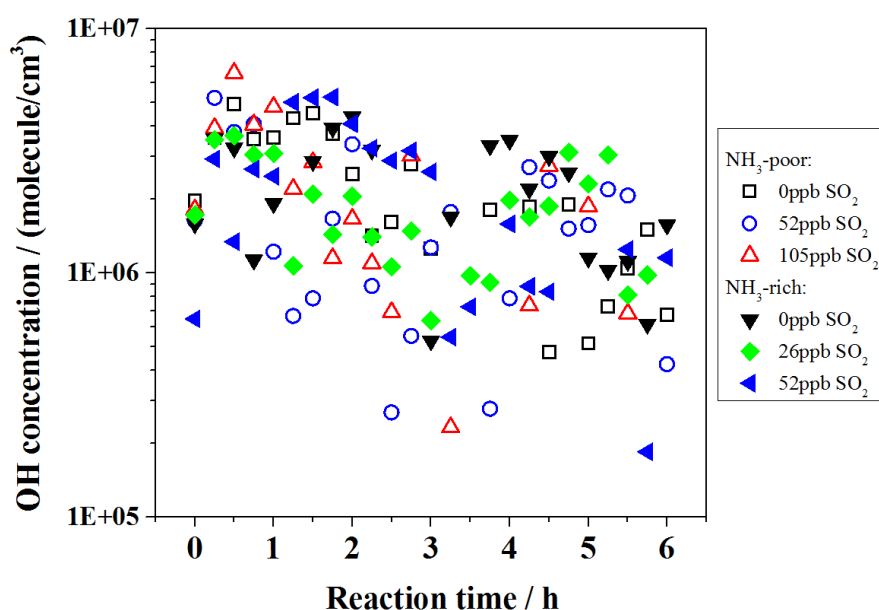
**To:** “For example, nitrate formation (which may include both inorganic nitrate and organic nitrates) was not only enhanced by  $\text{NH}_3$ , but also was markedly affected by  $\text{SO}_2$ .”

*It will be interesting to estimate the concentration of OH radicals vs time in these experiments?*

**Response:** The time variations of OH radicals were calculated based on the time variations of toluene and the reaction rate between toluene and OH radical. The results are shown in the following two pictures. The concentrations are quite scattered due to the measurement error of the toluene in the GC-FID. As we can see in the two pictures, the estimated OH radical concentrations were higher at the beginning of the experiment than that at the end of the experiment.



**Figure R8.** Time variations of OH radical concentrations in photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  in the presence or absence of  $\text{NH}_3$  and/or  $\text{SO}_2$ . The letters codes for the experiments indicate the introduced pollutants, i.e. “A” for ammonia, “S” for sulfur dioxide, “T” for toluene and “N” for nitrogen dioxide.



**Figure R9.** Time variations of OH radical concentrations in photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  with different concentrations of  $\text{SO}_2$  under  $\text{NH}_3$ -poor and  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich conditions

Line 239. “The larger diameter resulted in more significant wall deposition, reduced the surface area of the suspended particles, and shifted the partition equilibrium to the gas phase.” Are the authors measured the wall losses at different size distribution or this only speculation?

**Response:** As we mentioned above, the deposition rates of particles with different sizes

(40-700nm) under dark conditions were measured. Additional information has been added in the revised manuscript. However, the reason for the decreasing of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  was revised according to the simulation results from the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model. The simulation results are summarized in Fig. R4 in “Response for Reviewer #1”. This figure has been added in the supporting information. The results showed that the concentrations of  $\text{NH}_3$  gas and coexisted  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  both influenced the partition balance between  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  and  $\text{HNO}_3+\text{NH}_3$  in the gas phase. The deposition of  $\text{NH}_3$  gas and  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  were likely to shift balance to the gas phase and reduce the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt. While the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt seemed not to be affected by the deposition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ , as long as the deposition was corrected accurately. According to these results, some revision has been made in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 165-169, Add:** “The chamber was run as a batch reactor in this study. Deposition of particles and gas compounds on the wall was considered to be a first-order process. The deposition rates of particles with different sizes (40-700 nm) were measured under dark conditions.”

**Lines 290-302, Change:** “In Fig. 2, we observed that the particle size was larger in experiment ATN than the other three experiments. The larger diameter resulted in more significant wall deposition, reduced the surface area of the suspended particles, and shifted the partition equilibrium to the gas phase.”

**To:** “Detailed simulation results based on the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model (Clegg and Brimblecombe, 2005;Clegg et al., 1998;Carslaw et al., 1995) are shown in Fig. S3 in the supporting information. The deposition of  $\text{NH}_3$  in the experiment was likely to shift the partition equilibrium to the gas phase and reduce the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt. In addition, the wall deposition of aerosols might also introduce some error in the concentrations of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt, although wall deposition was corrected using an empirical function based on deposition rates of  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  aerosol with different sizes (Chu et al., 2012;Chu et al., 2014).”



## Add Fig. R4 in the supporting information

*Line 245 – 249. It seems to me that these were not based on data reported in these study. How N2O5 plays a role here? N2O5 was measured in this study? How it was formed in the chamber. Is ozone was measured in this study? If yes it should be reported vs time.*

**Response:** In the presence of organic compounds, (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was reported to deliquesce at RH lower than pure (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. (Meyer et al., 2009;Li et al., 2014). To avoid misunderstanding, the description was revised.

N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> was not measured in this study, but it was expected to be generated in the presence of NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> in the experiments. Under the experimental conditions, the maximum formation velocity was calculated to be about 13 ppb/hour from gas phase reaction between NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>. The concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> are shown in Fig. R1. The reaction constant was summarized by Atkinson et al. (2004). The uptake coefficient of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> on particle surface was reported to be about 10<sup>-2</sup> on ammonium sulfate (Hallquist et al., 2003;Hu and Abbatt, 1997), but would decrease when organics coated on the sulfate (Anttila et al., 2006). The particle surface area concentration in experiment ASTN ranged from 0 to 0.1 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>. Assuming a concentration of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> of 0.1 ppb and an uptake coefficient of 10<sup>-3</sup> for N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, the heterogeneous hydrolysis of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> on 0.05 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> suspended particles would generate 6 μg/m<sup>3</sup> nitrate per hour in the reactor. Thus we speculated the heterogeneous hydrolysis of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> might be important in the experiment. Some of these explanations have been added in the revised manuscript.

### **Revision in the manuscript:**

**Lines 308-317, Change:** “In addition, the presence of organic matter might accelerate the deliquescence of generated inorganic particles (Meyer et al., 2009;Li et al., 2014), and provide moist surfaces for heterogeneous hydrolysis of N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, contributing to nitrate formation (Pathak et al., 2009).”

**To:** “In addition, in the presence of organic matter, (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aerosol might deliquesce at a RH lower than the deliquescence relative humidity (DRH) (Meyer et al., 2009;Li et al., 2014). If this took place in the experiment, sulfate might provide moist surfaces

for heterogeneous hydrolysis of  $N_2O_5$ , contributing to nitrate formation due to the high uptake coefficient of  $N_2O_5$  on ammonium sulfate (Pathak et al., 2009; Hallquist et al., 2003; Hu and Abbatt, 1997).  $N_2O_5$  was not measured in this study, but it was expected to be generated in the presence of  $NO_2$  and  $O_3$  in the experiments.”

*Lines 256. Is ammonia salt was measured? How the authors come to the measured ammonia salt.*

**Response:** As we mentioned earlier, the chemical composition of the aerosols were measured by the ACSM or AMS in this study. The measurement results of ACSM or AMS including the concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium salt and organics. These results were shown in Fig.3 in the manuscript.

*NH<sub>3</sub> was estimated in the chamber according to Table 2. Why NH<sub>3</sub> was not measured experimentally vs time? This is very important (same for SO<sub>2</sub>). I suggest to use "experiment without NH<sub>3</sub> added to the chamber" instead of "NH<sub>3</sub> poor"? It's confusing and make it difficult for comparison with other data?*

**Response:** As we mentioned earlier, the concentrations on  $NH_3$  were not measured due to lack of analytical instruments. Besides, as we mentioned in the manuscript, there was  $NH_3$  present in the background air in the chamber derived from the partitioning of the deposited ammonium sulfate and nitrate on the chamber wall when humid air was introduced. Based on the results of experiment STN, the background  $NH_3$  was estimated to be around 8 ppb. With this in mind, the experiments carried out without  $NH_3$  added were considered “ $NH_3$ -poor” experiments in this study, while experiments with  $NH_3$  added were considered “ $NH_3$ -rich” experiments.

*Line 314. Should be Table 2.*

**Response:** Thanks for the reminding! Corresponding revision has been made in the revised manuscript.

**Revision in the manuscript:**

**Fig. 4 caption:** “Table 1”

To: "Table 2"

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1 **Synergetic formation of secondary inorganic and organic**  
2 **aerosol: ~~Influence-Effect~~ of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub> in the**  
3 **~~heterogeneous process~~ particle formation and growth**

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20 **Abstract**

21 The effects of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary organic aerosol formation have  
22 rarely been investigated together, while the interactive effects between  
23 inorganic and organic species under highly complex pollution conditions  
24 remain uncertain. Here we studied the effects of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary  
25 aerosol formation in the photooxidation system of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> in the

26 presence or absence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed aerosols in a 2 m<sup>3</sup> smog chamber. The  
27 presence of SO<sub>2</sub> increased new particle formation and particle growth  
28 significantly, regardless of whether NH<sub>3</sub> was present or not. Sulfate,  
29 organic aerosol, nitrate and ammonium were all found to increase linearly  
30 with increasing SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. The increases in these four species  
31 were more obvious under NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions, and the generation of nitrate,  
32 ammonium and organic aerosol increased more significantly than sulfate  
33 with respect to SO<sub>2</sub> concentration, while sulfate was the most sensitive  
34 species under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor conditions. The synergistic effects between SO<sub>2</sub>  
35 and NH<sub>3</sub> in the heterogeneous process contributed greatly to secondary  
36 aerosol formation. Specifically, the generation of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> was found to be  
37 highly dependent on the surface area concentration of suspended particles,  
38 and increased most significantly with SO<sub>2</sub> concentration among the four  
39 species ~~with respect to SO<sub>2</sub> concentration~~ under ammonia-rich conditions.  
40 Meanwhile, the absorbed NH<sub>3</sub> might provide a liquid surface layer for the  
41 absorption and subsequent reaction of SO<sub>2</sub> and organic products, and  
42 therefore, enhance sulfate and secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation.  
43 This effect mainly occurred in the heterogeneous process, and resulted in  
44 a significantly higher growth rate of seed aerosols compared to that without  
45 NH<sub>3</sub>. By applying positive matrix factorization (PMF) analysis to the AMS  
46 data, two factors were identified for the generated SOA. One factor,  
47 assigned to less-oxidized organic aerosol and some oligomers, increased  
48 with increasing SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor conditions, mainly due to the well-  
49 known acid catalytic effect of the acid products on SOA formation in the

50 heterogeneous process. The other factor, assigned to the highly oxidized  
51 organic component and some nitrogen-containing organics (NOC),  
52 increased with SO<sub>2</sub> under a NH<sub>3</sub>-rich environment, with NOC  
53 (organonitrates and NOC with reduced N) contributing most of the increase.

## 54 **Introduction**

55 With the recent rapid economic development and urbanization, the  
56 associated emissions from coal combustion, motor vehicle exhaust and  
57 various industrial emissions have led to highly complex air pollution in  
58 China. Besides the high concentrations of fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), high  
59 concentrations of NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)  
60 were observed in haze pollution episodes (Liu et al., 2013; Ye et al., 2011;  
61 Zou et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2015a). China has the highest concentration  
62 of SO<sub>2</sub> in the world due to a large proportion of energy supply through  
63 coal combustion (Bauduin et al., 2016). The surface concentrations of  
64 SO<sub>2</sub> were observed in the range of a few ppb to over 100 ppb have been  
65 observed in north China (Sun et al., 2009; Li et al., 2007). The total  
66 emission and the concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> have decreased in most regions of  
67 China in recent years (Lu et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2015b), but high  
68 concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> were are still frequently observed. For example, the  
69 SO<sub>2</sub> concentration in Jinan, a city in North China, can be was as high as 43  
70 ppb in the winter season of 2013 in Jinan city (Wang et al., 2015a), while  
71 over 100 ppb SO<sub>2</sub> was observed in winter haze days of during 2012 in Xi'an  
72 city (Zhang et al., 2015). The high-High concentrations of precursors have



73 resulted in high concentrations of secondary inorganic and organic species  
74 in PM<sub>2.5</sub> during haze formation (Yang et al., 2011; Zhao et al., 2013; Dan  
75 et al., 2004; Duan et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2012). There has been no  
76 ~~extensive systematic~~ measurement of NH<sub>3</sub> in China despite its extensive  
77 emission and increasing trend (Fu et al., 2015). A few studies ~~have~~ reported  
78 high concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> (maximum concentration higher than 100 ppb)  
79 in the North China Plain (Meng et al., 2015; Wen et al., 2015) and many  
80 ~~observational~~ data indicated NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions for secondary aerosol  
81 formation, and strong correlations between peak levels of fine particles and  
82 large increases in NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations in China (Ye et al., 2011; Liu et al.,  
83 2015a). ~~Unlike SO<sub>2</sub>, the emission of NH<sub>3</sub> are is mainly from non-point~~  
84 ~~sources, which is are difficult to control, and presented shows an increasing~~  
85 ~~trend in China~~ (Dong, 2010). ~~Under this complex situation, studying the~~  
86 synergistic effects of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> ~~among pollutants~~ in secondary aerosol  
87 formation is crucial in order to understand the formation mechanism ~~of for~~  
88 heavy haze pollution.

89 Interactions between inorganic pollutants in secondary aerosol  
90 formation have been investigated extensively. For example, NO<sub>2</sub> was found  
91 to increase the oxidation of SO<sub>2</sub> in aqueous aerosol suspensions (Tursic and  
92 Grgic, 2001) and on a sandstone surface (Bai et al., 2006). ~~The synergistic~~  
93 ~~Synergistic~~ reaction between SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> on mineral oxides was reported  
94 (Liu et al., 2012a) and ~~was~~ proposed to explain the rapid formation of  
95 sulfate ~~during in~~ heavy haze days (He et al., 2014). The presence of NH<sub>3</sub>  
96 ~~was also found to could also~~ enhance the conversion of SO<sub>2</sub> to sulfate in

97 aerosol water and on the surface of mineral dust or PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Tursic et al.,  
98 2004; Behera and Sharma, 2011; Yang et al., 2016).

99 Secondary aerosol formation from coexisting inorganic and organic  
100 pollutants is far more complicated. There have been a few studies that  
101 investigated the effects of SO<sub>2</sub> or NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary organic aerosol (SOA)  
102 formation. SO<sub>2</sub> has been found to enhance SOA yield from isoprene (Edney  
103 et al., 2005; Kleindienst et al., 2006; Lin et al., 2013),  $\alpha$ -pinene  
104 (Kleindienst et al., 2006; Jaoui et al., 2008), and anthropogenic precursors  
105 (Santiago et al., 2012). The enhancing effect is mainly due to its the fact  
106 that the acidic aerosol products of SO<sub>2</sub>, which were thought to can either  
107 take up organic species (Liggio and Li, 2008, 2006) or result in increase the  
108 formation of high molecular weight compounds in acid-catalytic reactions  
109 (Liggio et al., 2007; Kleindienst et al., 2006; Santiago et al., 2012). Besides,  
110 sulfate esters were could can –also confirmed as major players in contribute  
111 to SOA formation (Schmitt-Kopplin et al., 2010). The effects of NH<sub>3</sub> on  
112 SOA formation are relatively poorly understood. In previous studies,  
113 disparate effects of NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary aerosol formation were reported. It  
114 was found that the presence of NH<sub>3</sub> increased SOA formation in the  
115 reaction of from ozonolysis of  $\alpha$ -pinene or cyclohexene with ozone (Na et  
116 al., 2007), but had little effect on SOA mass in from ozonolysis of isoprene  
117 ozonolysis (Na et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2013) and even decreased SOA  
118 production from ozonolysis the reaction of styrene and ozone (Na et al.,  
119 2006). NH<sub>3</sub> was reported to react with some organic acids and contribute  
120 to secondary aerosol formation (Na et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2013), while its

121 nucleophilic ~~NH<sub>3</sub> might~~ attack ~~and might~~ decompose trioxolane and  
122 hydroxyl-substituted esters and decrease SOA mass (Na et al., 2006), ~~and~~  
123 ~~therefore decrease SOA mass~~. Updyke et al. (2012) studied brown carbon  
124 formation via reactions of ammonia with SOA from various precursors ~~and~~  
125 ~~emphasized that aging by NH<sub>3</sub> is not a unique mechanism of SOA~~  
126 ~~browning~~. It was found that the degree of browning had a positive  
127 correlation with the carbonyl products, which may react with NH<sub>3</sub> or NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>  
128 ion and generate hemiaminal (Amarnath et al., 1991), ~~while the form of~~  
129 ~~ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub> gas or NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> ion) had little influence on the browning~~  
130 ~~processes~~.

131 The effects of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> on SOA formation have rarely been  
132 investigated together, while the interactive effects between inorganic and  
133 organic species under highly complex pollution conditions remain  
134 uncertain. This study investigated secondary aerosol formation in the  
135 photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with varied concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> under  
136 NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions. Some synergetic effects in the  
137 heterogeneous process that contributed to both secondary inorganic and  
138 organic aerosol formation were explored.

## 139 **Methods**

140 A series of smog chamber experiments were carried out to simulate  
141 secondary aerosol formation in the photooxidation of ~~VOCToluene~~/NO<sub>x</sub> in  
142 the presence or absence of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub>. The chamber is a 2 m<sup>3</sup> cuboid  
143 reactor constructed with 50 μm-thick FEP-Teflon film (Toray Industries,

144 Inc., Japan). The chamber was described in detail in Wu *et al.* (2007). A  
145 temperature-controlled enclosure (SEWT-Z-120, Escpec, Japan) provides  
146 a constant temperature ( $30 \pm 0.5$  °C), and 40 black lights (GE F40T12/BLB,  
147 peak intensity at 365 nm, General Electric Company, USA) provide  
148 irradiation during the experiments. The hydrocarbon concentration was  
149 measured by a gas chromatograph (GC, Beifen SP-3420, Beifen, China)  
150 equipped with a DB-5 column (30 m $\times$ 0.53 mm $\times$ 1.5 mm, Dikma, USA) and  
151 flame ionization detector (FID), while NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> were monitored  
152 by an NO<sub>x</sub> analyzer (Model 42C, Thermo Environmental Instruments,  
153 USA), an SO<sub>2</sub> analyzer (Model 43I, Thermo Environmental Instruments,  
154 USA) and an O<sub>3</sub> analyzer (Model 49C, Thermo Environmental Instruments,  
155 USA), respectively. A scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS) (TSI 3936,  
156 TSI Incorporated, USA) was used to measure the size distribution of  
157 particulate matter (PM) in the chamber, and also employed to estimate the  
158 volume and mass concentration. The chemical composition of aerosols was  
159 measured by an aerosol chemical speciation monitor (ACSM, Aerodyne  
160 Research Incorporated, USA) or high resolution time of flight aerosol mass  
161 spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS, Aerodyne Research Incorporated, USA).  
162 ACSM is a simplified version of aerosol mass spectrometry (AMS), with  
163 similar principles and structure. Ng *et al.* (2011) presented a detailed  
164 introduction to this instrument and found that the measurement results  
165 agreed well with ~~the~~ those of AMS. The chamber was run as a batch reactor  
166 in this study. Deposition of particles and gas compounds on the wall was  
167 considered ~~asto~~ be a first-order process. The deposition rates of particles

168 with different sizes (40-700 nm) under dark conditions were measured  
169 under dark conditions. Then, Wall-wall deposition losses of particles in the  
170 chamber was similarly corrected using a regression equation to describe  
171 the dependence of deposition rate on the particle size (Takekawa et al.,  
172 2003). Detailed information on this equation was given in our previous  
173 studies (Chu et al., 2012; Chu et al., 2014). The deposition of gas phase  
174 compounds werewas measureddetermined to be 0.0025 h<sup>-1</sup>, 0.0109 h<sup>-1</sup>,  
175 0.0023 h<sup>-1</sup> and 0.006 h<sup>-1</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, NO and toluene, respectively. In this  
176 study, the wall loss of aerosol mass was about 30%-50% of total secondary  
177 aerosol mass, while the deposition of gas phase compounds was less than  
178 5% of their maximum concentrations in the experiments.

179 Prior to each experiment, the chamber was flushed for about 40 h with  
180 purified air at a flow rate of 15 L/min. In the first 20 h, the chamber was  
181 exposed to UV light at 34 °C. In the last several hours of the flush, humid  
182 air was introduced to obtain the target RH, which iswas 50% in this study.  
183 After that, alumina seed particles were added into the chamber. Alumina  
184 seed particles were produced on-line via a spray pyrolysis setup, which has  
185 been described in detail elsewhere (Liu et al., 2010). Liquid alumisol  
186 (AlOOH, Lot No. 2205, Kawaken Fine Chemicals Co., Ltd., Japan) with  
187 an initial concentration of 1.0 wt%, was sprayed into droplets by an  
188 atomizer. After that, the droplets were carried through a diffusion dryer and  
189 a corundum tube embedded in a tubular furnace with the temperature  
190 maintained at 1000 °C to generate alumina particles. The obtained alumina  
191 particles were  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as detected by X-ray diffraction measurements, and

192 spherical-shaped according to electron micrograph results. Before being  
193 introduced into the chamber, the particles were carried through a  
194 neutralizer (TSI 3087, TSI Incorporated, USA). ~~In addition~~ Then, toluene  
195 was injected into a vaporizer and ~~then~~ carried into the chamber by purified  
196 air, while NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> were directly injected into the chamber from  
197 standard gas bottles ~~using with~~ mass flow controllers. Before adding NH<sub>3</sub>  
198 into the chamber, NH<sub>3</sub> gas was passed through the inlet pipeline for about  
199 15 minutes to reduce the absorption within the line. The concentrations of  
200 NH<sub>3</sub> were ~~then~~ estimated according to the ~~introduced~~ amount of NH<sub>3</sub>  
201 introduced and the volume of the reactor. These experiments with NH<sub>3</sub>  
202 added to the chamber were referred to as NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiments in this study,  
203 since the concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were not measured and it was difficult to  
204 estimate the uncertainty of the calculated NH<sub>3</sub> concentration. The  
205 experiments were carried out at 30 °C and with an initial RH of 50% in  
206 this study. During the reaction, the temperature ~~were was controlled to be~~  
207 almost kept nearly constant (30±0.5 °C) in the temperature-controlled  
208 enclosure, while the RH decreased to 45%-47% at the end of the  
209 experiment.

## 210 **Results and discussion**

### 211 **Particle formation and growth in different inorganic gas conditions**

212 ~~The First, the~~ effects of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary aerosol formation  
213 were qualitatively studied ~~first~~ in the photooxidation system of

214 toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> without the presence of a seed aerosol. Experiments were  
215 carried out in the absence of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>, in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub> or NH<sub>3</sub>,  
216 and coexistence of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>, respectively. Experimental details are  
217 listed in Table 1. The letter codes used for the experiments represent a  
218 combination of the initial letters of the precursors for each experiment. For  
219 example, experiment “ASTN” is an experiment with presence of ammonia  
220 gas (A), sulfur dioxide (S), toluene (T) and nitrogen oxides (N). Two  
221 experiments (ATN1 and ATN2) were carried out under similar conditions  
222 to test the reproducibility of the experiments. Time variations of gas phase  
223 compounds of these experiments are shown in Fig. S1 in the supporting  
224 information. The presence of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub> had no obvious effect on the  
225 gas phase compounds, including toluene, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>.

226 Secondary aerosol formation in these photooxidation experiments was  
227 measured by the SMPS, and the results are displayed in Figure 1. ~~Assuming~~  
228 ~~the same aerosol density in these experiments, the presence of either NH<sub>3</sub>~~  
229 ~~or SO<sub>2</sub> enhanced secondary aerosol formation markedly.~~ Compared to  
230 toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> photooxidation, the secondary aerosol volume concentration  
231 rose 1.5 times in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub>, and was more than tripled in the  
232 presence of ~~the~~ NH<sub>3</sub>. The volume of secondary aerosol showed an obvious  
233 peak in the toluene/NO<sub>x</sub>/NH<sub>3</sub> system at about 2.3 hours of photooxidation.  
234 With the wall deposition accounted for, the decrease of the volume  
235 concentration after that point was unexpected, but could be reproduced  
236 (Experiments ~~ATN1~~ and ATN2). Such a decrease was not observed with  
237 coexisting NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>, indicating interactions between NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> in

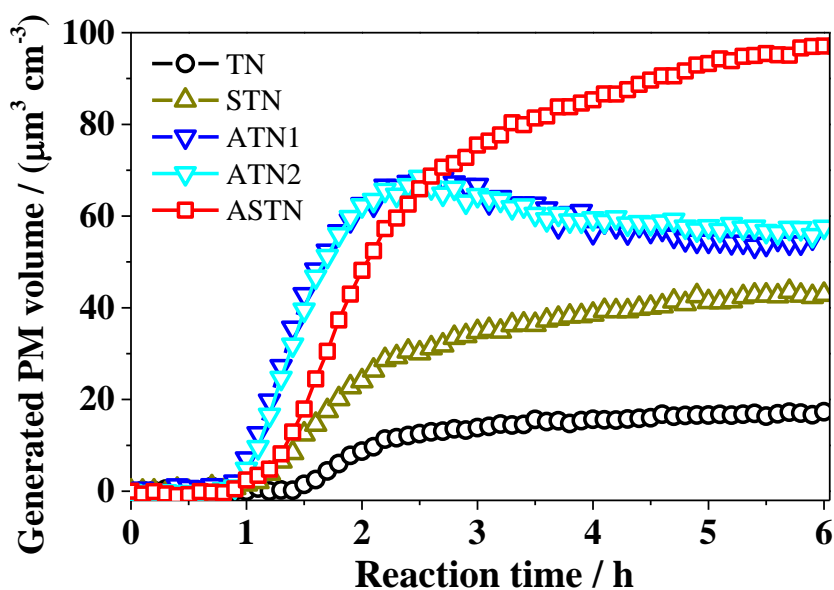
238 the photooxidation system. The reason for this phenomenon will be  
 239 discussed in the following analysis of the chemical composition of the  
 240 generated particles.

241 Table 1. Initial experimental conditions of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> photooxidation in the  
 242 presence or absence of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub>

Experiment No.	Hydrocarbon Toluene <i>ppm</i>	NO <i>ppb</i>	NO <sub>x</sub> -NO <i>ppb</i>	SO <sub>2</sub> <i>ppb</i>	NH <sub>3</sub> * <i>ppb</i>	RH %	T K
TN	1.05	54	49	0	0	50	303
STN	1.05	55	50	137	0	50	303
ATN1	1.06	47	48	0	264	50	303
ATN2	0.98	48	54	0	264	50	303
ASTN	1.02	49	53	134	264	50	303

243 \*The concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were calculated according to the ~~introduced~~ amount of NH<sub>3</sub>  
 244 ~~introduced~~ and the volume of the reactor.

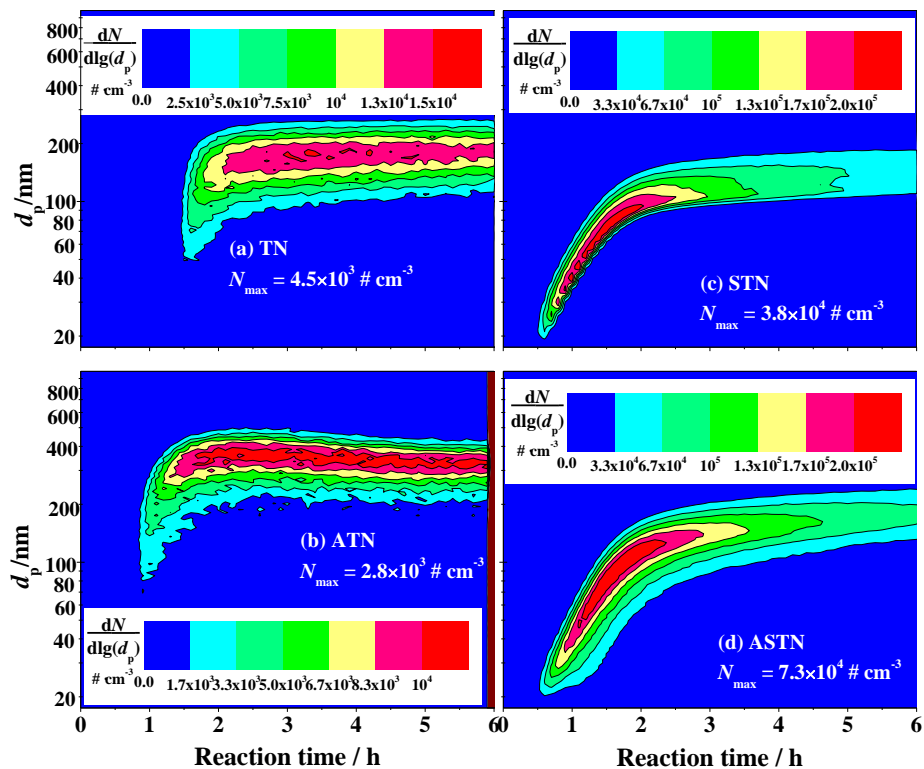
245



246



247 Figure 1. Secondary aerosol formation in photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  in the  
 248 presence or absence of  $\text{NH}_3$  and/or  $\text{SO}_2$ . The letters codes for the experiments  
 249 indicate the introduced pollutants, i.e. “A” for ammonia, “S” for sulfur dioxide,  
 250 “T” for toluene and “N” for nitrogen dioxide. Experimental details are listed in  
 251 Table 1.



253  
 254 Figure 2. Size distributions of the suspended particles as a function of time during  
 255 the reaction in photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  in the presence or absence of  $\text{NH}_3$   
 256 and/or  $\text{SO}_2$ .  $N_{\text{max}}$  shows the maximal particle number concentration during the  
 257 reaction for each experiment. Experimental details are listed in Table 1.

258  
 259 The size distributions of the secondary aerosol in the photooxidation,  
 260 with a range of 17-1000 nm, were analyzed and are shown in Figure 2. [The](#)

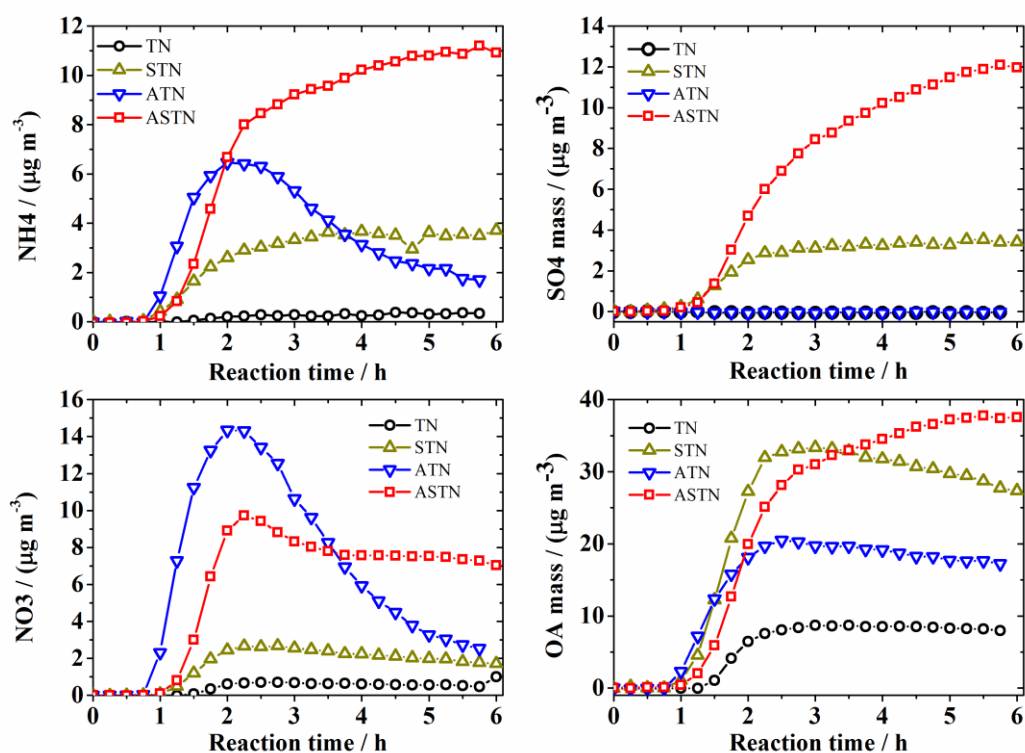
261 new particle formation was not directly measured in this study, but the  
262 newly generated particles could be detected when the particles grow  
263 up/increased in size. According to the particle number concentrations, A  
264 significant increase in new particle formation appeared to increase a great  
265 deal in the presence of SO<sub>2</sub>. The maximal particle number concentrations  
266 in experiments ASTN and STN were one order of magnitude higher than  
267 those in experiments ATN and TN. The presence of NH<sub>3</sub> also contributed  
268 substantially to the particle growth in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub>.  
269 Comparing Figure 2(c) to Figure 2(a), the total number concentration of  
270 particles in experiment ATN was a little lower than that in experiment TN,  
271 but the mode diameter of the particles was much larger.

## 272 **Secondary inorganic aerosol formation**

273 Some synergetic effects were observed in secondary inorganic aerosol  
274 formation besides the generation of ammonium and sulfate from NH<sub>3</sub> and  
275 SO<sub>2</sub>. For example, nitrate formation (which may include both inorganic  
276 nitrate and organic nitrates) was not only enhanced by NH<sub>3</sub>, ~~due to~~  
277 ~~conversion of nitric acid into ammonia nitrate,~~ but also was markedly  
278 affected by SO<sub>2</sub>. The chemical compositions of the ~~generated~~ aerosols  
279 generated in the photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> were analyzed with an  
280 ACSM, and their time variations are displayed in Figure 3. ~~Since the ACM~~  
281 ~~or AMS can't cannot distinguish organic salts and organic nitrates, the~~  
282 ~~measured sulfate, nitrate, ammonium were all considered as secondary~~  
283 ~~inorganic aerosol, while the organics were all considered as secondary~~

284 organic aerosol in this study. In experiment ATN, the concentrations of  
285 ammonium and nitrate decreased after about 2.3 hours of reaction, as  
286 shown in Fig. 3, which was consistent with the decreasing trend of particle  
287 concentration shown in Fig. 1. The reason for this phenomenon is unknown,  
288 but we speculate that the generated  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  might partition back into the  
289 gas phase as reaction goes on. Detailed simulation results based on the AIM  
290 Aerosol Thermodynamics Model (Clegg and Brimblecombe, 2005; Clegg  
291 et al., 1998; Carslaw et al., 1995) are shown in Fig. S3 in the supporting  
292 information. The deposition of  $\text{NH}_3$  in the experiment was likely to  
293 Figure 2, we observed that the particle size was larger in experiment ATN  
294 than the other three experiments. The larger diameter resulted in more  
295 significant wall deposition, reduced the surface area of the suspended  
296 particles, and shifted the partition equilibrium to the gas phase and reduce  
297 the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt. Besides In addition, the wall deposition  
298 of aerosols might also introduce some error to in the concentrations of  
299  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt, although wall deposition was corrected using an empirical  
300 function based on deposition rates of  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  aerosol with different  
301 sizes (Chu et al., 2012; Chu et al., 2014). Adding  $\text{SO}_2$  to the system resulted  
302 in a lower peak concentration but a higher final concentration of nitrate. In  
303 the presence of  $\text{SO}_2$ , higher concentrations of sulfate and organic species  
304 were generated and mixed with nitrate in the aerosol, which may shift the  
305 partition balance of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  to the aerosol phase. Some simulation results  
306 with different concentrations of sulfate using the AIM Aerosol  
307 Thermodynamics Model with different concentrations of sulfate are also

308 shown in Fig. S3 in the supporting information. In addition, in the presence  
 309 of organic matter,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  aerosol might accelerate the deliquescence  
 310 of generated inorganic particles at a RH lower than the deliquescence  
 311 relative humidity (DRH) (Meyer et al., 2009; Li et al., 2014). If this  
 312 happened took place in the experiment, and sulfate might provide moist  
 313 surfaces for heterogeneous hydrolysis of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$ , contributing to nitrate  
 314 formation due to the high uptake coefficient of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  on ammonium  
 315 sulfate (Pathak et al., 2009; Hallquist et al., 2003; Hu and Abbatt, 1997).  
 316  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$  was not measured in this study, but it was expected to be generated  
 317 in the presence of  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_3$  in the experiments.



318  
 319 Figure 3. Time variations of the chemical species in the secondary aerosol  
 320 generated from the photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  in the presence or absence of  
 321  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{SO}_2$ . Letter codes for experiments indicate the introduced pollutants, i.e.

322 “A” for ammonia, “S” for sulfur dioxide, “T” for toluene and “N” for nitrogen  
323 dioxide. Experimental details are listed in Table 1.

324 In Fig. 3, the generation of ammonium salt can be observed in the  
325 photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub>/SO<sub>2</sub> without introducing NH<sub>3</sub> gas. This  
326 indicated there was NH<sub>3</sub> present in the background air in the chamber, and  
327 also indicated that the effects of NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary aerosol formation might  
328 be underestimated in this study. The background NH<sub>3</sub> was derived from the  
329 partitioning of the deposited ammonium sulfate and nitrate on the chamber  
330 wall when humid air was introduced (Liu et al., 2015b). Unfortunately, due  
331 to the lack of appropriate ~~instrumentation~~instruments, we were not able to  
332 measure the exact concentration of NH<sub>3</sub> in the background air in the  
333 chamber. It was estimated to be around 8 ppb based on the amount of  
334 ammonium salt and the ~~calculated~~ gas-aerosol equilibrium ~~calculated~~ using  
335 the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model. With this in mind, the  
336 experiments carried out without introducing NH<sub>3</sub> gas were considered  
337 “NH<sub>3</sub>-poor” experiments in this study, while experiments with the  
338 introduction of NH<sub>3</sub> gas were considered “NH<sub>3</sub>-rich” experiments, in  
339 which the estimated concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> were more than twice the SO<sub>2</sub>  
340 concentrations and the oxidation products of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> were fully  
341 neutralized by NH<sub>3</sub>. according to the chemical composition of aerosols  
342 measured by the AMS. The details of the acid-base balance in the aerosols  
343 isare shown in Fig. S4 in the supporting information.

344 To further quantify the effect of SO<sub>2</sub> on secondary aerosol formation,  
345 different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> were introduced under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-

346 rich conditions. The details of the experimental conditions are shown in  
347 Table 2. In these experiments, the concentrations of toluene were reduced  
348 compared to the experiments in Table 1 to simulate secondary aerosol  
349 formation under experimental conditions ~~more close~~ closer to real ambient  
350 conditions, and monodisperse Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed particles with mode diameter  
351 about 100 nm were introduced into the chamber. As shown in Fig. 4,  
352 similar to the seed-free experiments, the presence of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> clearly  
353 increased secondary aerosol formation in toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> photooxidation in  
354 the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed aerosols. In the experiments carried out in the  
355 presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed aerosols, the decrease of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> was less~~not~~  
356 obvious in the experiment carried out in the absence of SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-  
357 rich conditions than in experiment ATN, as indicated in Fig.S5 in the  
358 supporting information and Fig.3. This might also ~~indicating~~ indicated that  
359 generation of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> was highly—dependent on the surface area  
360 concentration of the particles, which decreased the partitioning of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>  
361 back to the gas phase, as discussed above about concerning the effects of  
362 the co-existeding (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

363 Under both NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions, all the detected  
364 chemical species in the generated aerosol, including sulfate, organic  
365 aerosol, nitrate and ammonium, increased linearly with increasing SO<sub>2</sub>  
366 concentrations, as shown in Fig. 5. The increase was more significant in a  
367 NH<sub>3</sub>-rich environment than ~~that~~ under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor conditions, indicating a  
368 synergistic effect of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> on aerosol generation. Among the four  
369 chemical species, nitrate generation increased most significantly with

370 respect to SO<sub>2</sub> concentration under NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions, followed by  
 371 ammonium and organic aerosol, while sulfate was the least sensitive  
 372 species. Under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor conditions, the sensitivity of these species  
 373 followed a different sequence, in which sulfate > nitrate > organic aerosol >  
 374 ammonium. ~~A better correlation was found between secondary aerosol  
 375 formation and particle surface area than that with particle volume, with  
 376 details introduced in Fig. S1 in the supporting information, indicating an  
 377 enhancement effect in the heterogeneous process rather than in bulk  
 378 reactions.~~—The different sequences under NH<sub>3</sub>-rich and NH<sub>3</sub>-poor  
 379 conditions indicated that the presence of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> not only contributed  
 380 aerosol surface for partitioning, but also enhanced the heterogeneous  
 381 process for secondary aerosol formation.

382

383 Table 2. ~~Initial E~~experimental conditions ~~of the for~~ toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> photooxidation in the  
 384 presence of different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed particles under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor

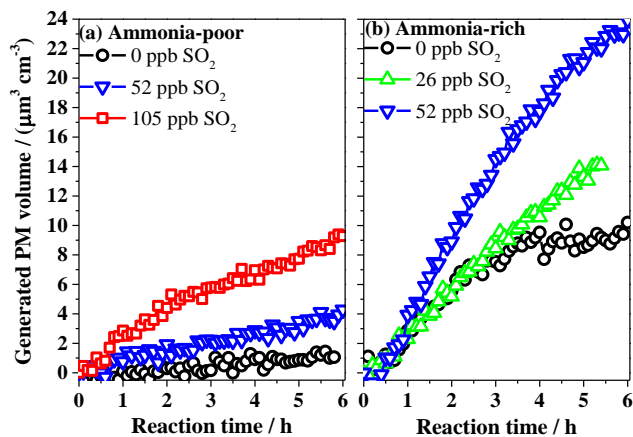
385

and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions

	<b>Toluene<sub>0</sub></b>	<b>NO<sub>0</sub></b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub>-NO</b>	<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>NH<sub>3</sub><sup>*</sup></b>	<b>RH</b>	<b>T</b>
	<i>ppb</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>particle/cm<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>K</i>
NH <sub>3</sub> -poor	188	147	60	0	2400	0	50	303
	200	126	51	52	3100	0	50	303
	188	130	58	105	2100	0	50	303
NH <sub>3</sub> -rich	197	142	46	0	3300	105	50	303
	220	147	50	26	3300	105	50	303
	207	145	49	52	3200	105	50	303

386 \*Calculated according to the [introduced](#) amount of  $\text{NH}_3$  [introduced](#) and the volume of  
 387 the reactor.

388

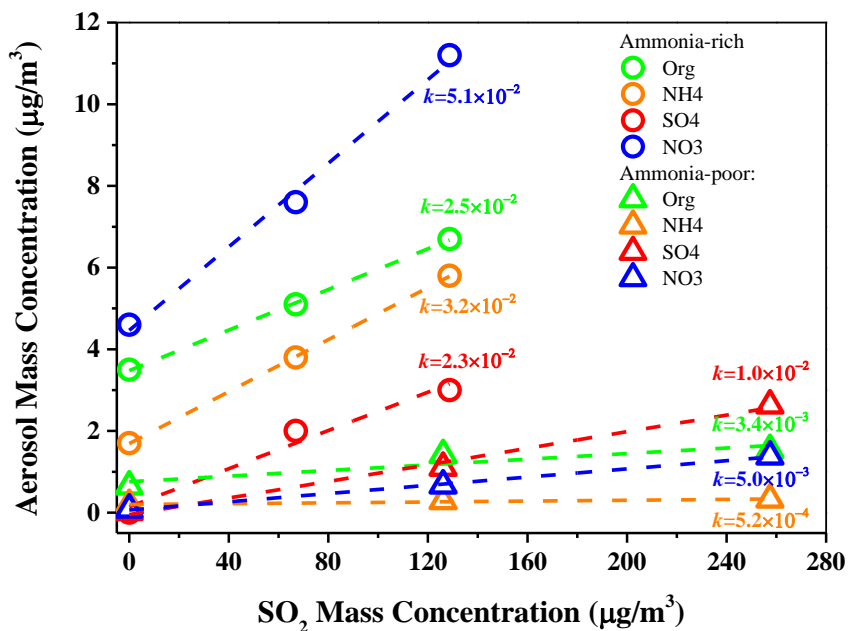


389

390 Figure 4. Secondary aerosol formation as a function of time with different

391 concentrations of  $\text{SO}_2$  in the photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  under  $\text{NH}_3$ -poor (a)

392 and  $\text{NH}_3$ -rich (b) conditions. Experimental details are listed in [Table 1](#) [Table 2](#).



393

394 Figure 5. Formation of nitrate (blue), organic aerosol (green), sulfate (red), and

395 ammonium salt (orange) as functions of  $\text{SO}_2$  concentration in the photooxidation



396 of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-rich (circles) or NH<sub>3</sub>-poor (triangles) conditions. The *k*  
397 values are the slopes of the fitted lines for each species. Experimental details are  
398 listed in Table 1.

399  
400 Another synergetic effect we found in secondary inorganic aerosol  
401 formation was that sulfate formation was enhanced by the presence of NH<sub>3</sub>.  
402 In both seed-free experiments and experiments in the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
403 seed aerosols, the sulfate mass concentration was more than tripled under  
404 NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions compared to an NH<sub>3</sub>-poor environment. This is  
405 consistent with previous studies on the reactions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> in  
406 smog chambers (Behera and Sharma, 2011) and the heterogeneous reaction  
407 between NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> on particle surfaces (Yang et al., 2016; Tursic et al.,  
408 2004). According to the consumption of toluene, OH concentrations in the  
409 photooxidation experiments were estimated to range from 1.6 ×10<sup>6</sup>  
410 molecules/cm<sup>3</sup> to 2.7 ×10<sup>6</sup> molecules/cm<sup>3</sup>. The reaction between these OH  
411 radicals and SO<sub>2</sub> contributed 35%-50% of the total SO<sub>2</sub> degradation in  
412 NH<sub>3</sub>-poor experiments, while this ratio was reduced to 25%-30% in NH<sub>3</sub>-  
413 rich experiments. This indicated that the heterogeneous process was an  
414 important pathway for inorganic aerosol formation in the photooxidation  
415 system, and the heterogeneous process was enhanced by the presence of  
416 NH<sub>3</sub>. This result is consistent with the finding that failure to include the  
417 heterogeneous process in the model caused an underestimation of SO<sub>2</sub>  
418 decay in the chamber (Santiago et al., 2012). According to previous studies,  
419 NH<sub>3</sub> might provide surface Lewis basicity ~~and liquid surface layers~~ for SO<sub>2</sub>

420 absorption ~~and subsequent oxidation on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> aerosols (Yang et al., 2016);~~  
421 and increase the amount of condensed water on the secondary aerosols  
422 (Tursic et al., 2004), and therefore, enhance sulfate formation (Yang et al.,  
423 2016; Tursic et al., 2004) ~~(Yang et al., 2016; Tursic et al., 2004).~~

#### 424 **Secondary organic aerosol formation**

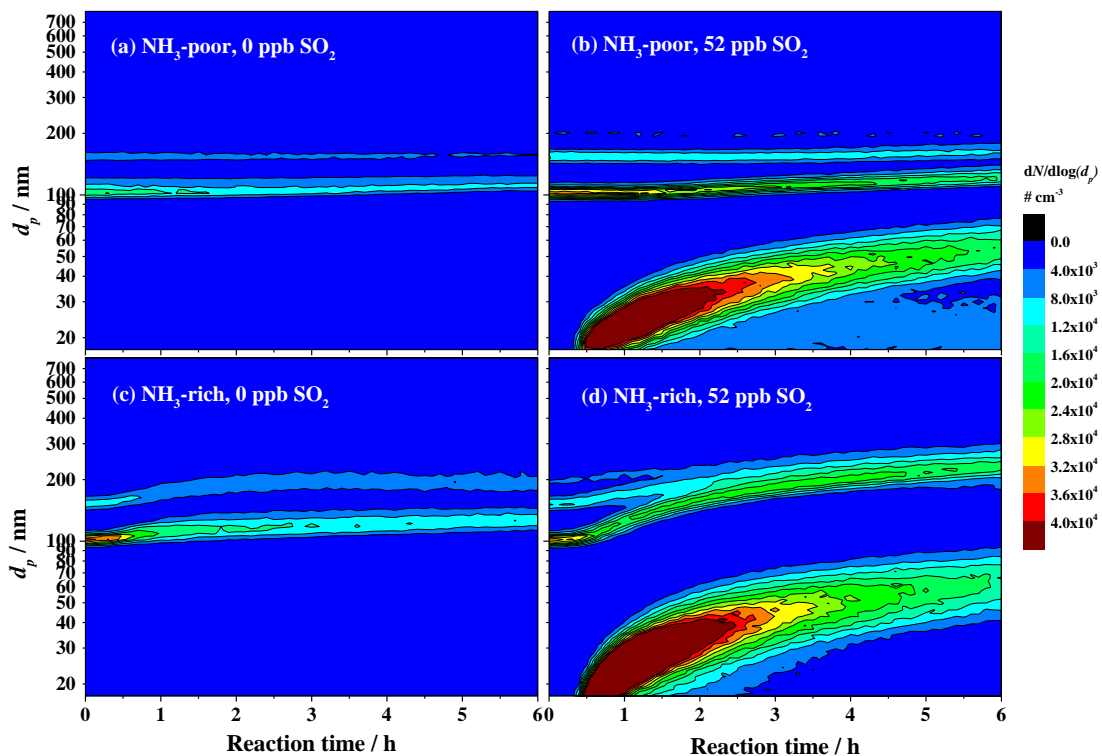
425 The presence of NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> caused significant formation of  
426 secondary inorganic aerosol, and meanwhile, also enhanced SOA formation.  
427 The increases of SOA mass in the presence of NH<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> are shown in  
428 Fig. 5. Similar trends for SOA yields could can be found in the supporting  
429 information. In previous studies, Kleindienst et al. (2006) found that the  
430 presence of SO<sub>2</sub> did not disturb the dynamic reaction system of  $\alpha$ -pinene  
431 or isoprene in the presence of NO<sub>x</sub>. In the present study, no obvious  
432 difference was found in the OH concentration in experiments with different  
433 concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>. Therefore, it could be also ~~assumed~~  
434 speculated that the presence of SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> in this study did not  
435 significantly impact the gas phase oxidation of hydrocarbons and mainly  
436 played a role in the aerosol phase.

437 The presence of NH<sub>3</sub> markedly increased aerosol formation in the  
438 photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub>. In the seed-free toluene/NO<sub>x</sub>  
439 photooxidation experiments, the presence of NH<sub>3</sub> caused similar additional  
440 amounts of organic aerosol mass and resulted in increases of 116% and 36%  
441 in the absence or presence of SO<sub>2</sub>, respectively. In the experiments carried  
442 out in the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed aerosols, the increase caused by NH<sub>3</sub> was

443 more significant, with the organic aerosol quantity increasing by a factor  
444 of four to five. NH<sub>3</sub> may react with the ~~ring-opening~~ oxycarboxylic acids  
445 from [ring-opening reactions in the photo-oxidation of](#) toluene (Jang and  
446 Kamens, 2001), resulting in products with lower volatility. The presence  
447 of NH<sub>3</sub> might also change the surface properties of the aerosol and enhance  
448 heterogeneous oxidation of organic products. As mentioned earlier in this  
449 study, there was NH<sub>3</sub> present in the background air in the chamber, so the  
450 effects of NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary aerosol formation might be underestimated in  
451 this study. Detecting the concentration of NH<sub>3</sub> gas as a function of time and  
452 quantifying the effects of NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary aerosol are meaningful, and  
453 are expected to be studied in the future.

454 The enhancing effect of NH<sub>3</sub> on secondary aerosol formation in toluene  
455 photooxidation was further attributed to its influence in heterogeneous  
456 reactions. In the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed particles, no obvious new particle  
457 formation was detected in experiments without SO<sub>2</sub>, as shown in Fig. 6(a)  
458 and Fig. 6(c). The presence of NH<sub>3</sub> caused a more noticeable ~~particle~~  
459 growth [in the size](#) of the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed particles. The increase mainly took  
460 place after 0.5 hours of irradiation, and lasted for about an hour, with an  
461 average diameter growth of about 12 nm. In the two experiments carried  
462 out in the presence of 52 ppb SO<sub>2</sub> in Fig. 76(b) and Fig. 76(d), significant  
463 but similar new particle formation occurred. The maximum particle  
464 number concentrations detected by the SMPS were about 33000  
465 particle/cm<sup>3</sup> and 34000 particle/cm<sup>3</sup> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich  
466 conditions, respectively. However, the growth of the seed aerosol in these

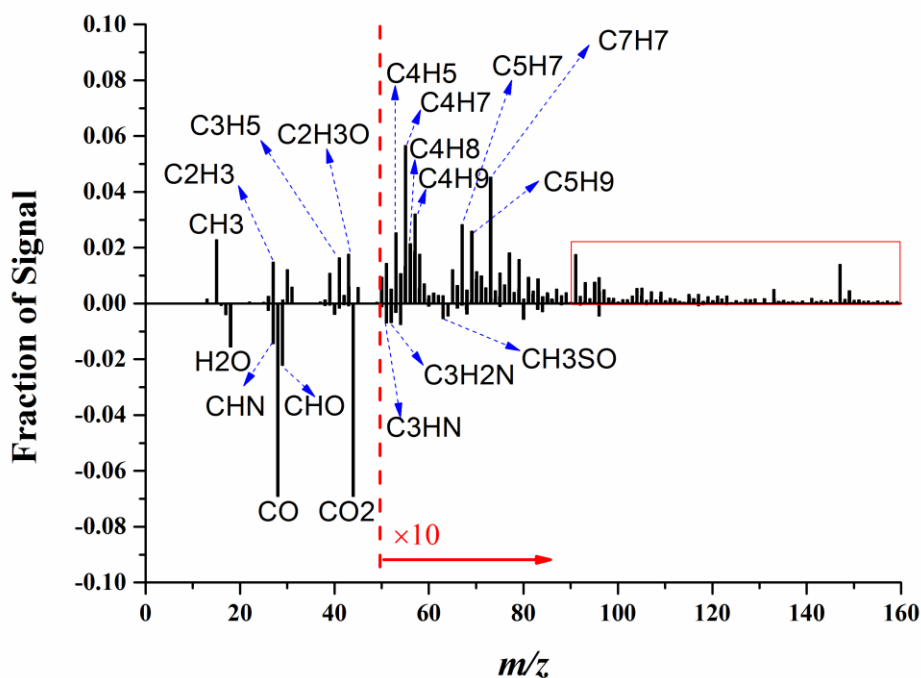
467 two experiments was quite different. Under an  $\text{NH}_3$ -poor condition, the  
468 mode diameter of the seed aerosols grew from 100 nm to about 130 nm,  
469 while under an  $\text{NH}$ -rich condition it grew to about 220 nm. These results  
470 indicated that elevated  $\text{NH}_3$  concentrations mainly affected secondary  
471 aerosol formation in the heterogeneous process.



472  
473 Figure 6. Size distributions of the suspended particles as a function of time during  
474 the reaction in photooxidation of toluene/ $\text{NO}_x$  in the presence of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  seed  
475 particles. Experimental details are listed in Table 1.

476  
477 The chemical properties of the generated–SOA generated under  
478 different conditions of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{SO}_2$  were compared by applying PMF  
479 analysis to the AMS data. Two factors were identified from the analysis,  
480 with average elemental composition of  $\text{CH}_{0.82}\text{O}_{0.75}\text{N}_{0.051}\text{S}_{0.0014}$  for Factor 1

481 and  $\text{CH}_{1.05}\text{O}_{0.55}\text{N}_{0.039}\text{S}_{0.0017}$  for Factor 2. The difference mass spectra  
 482 between the two factors are shown in Fig. 7. The abundance of  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y$   
 483 fragments was higher in Factor 2 than Factor 1, while oxygen and nitrogen  
 484 contents in Factor 1 were higher than Factor 2. Meanwhile, as indicated in  
 485 the red box in Fig. 7, fragments with high  $m/z$  were more abundant in  
 486 Factor 2. Thus we assigned Factor 1 to the highly oxidized organic  
 487 component and some nitrogenous organic compounds, while Factor 2 was  
 488 assigned to less-oxidized organic aerosol and some oligomers.



489

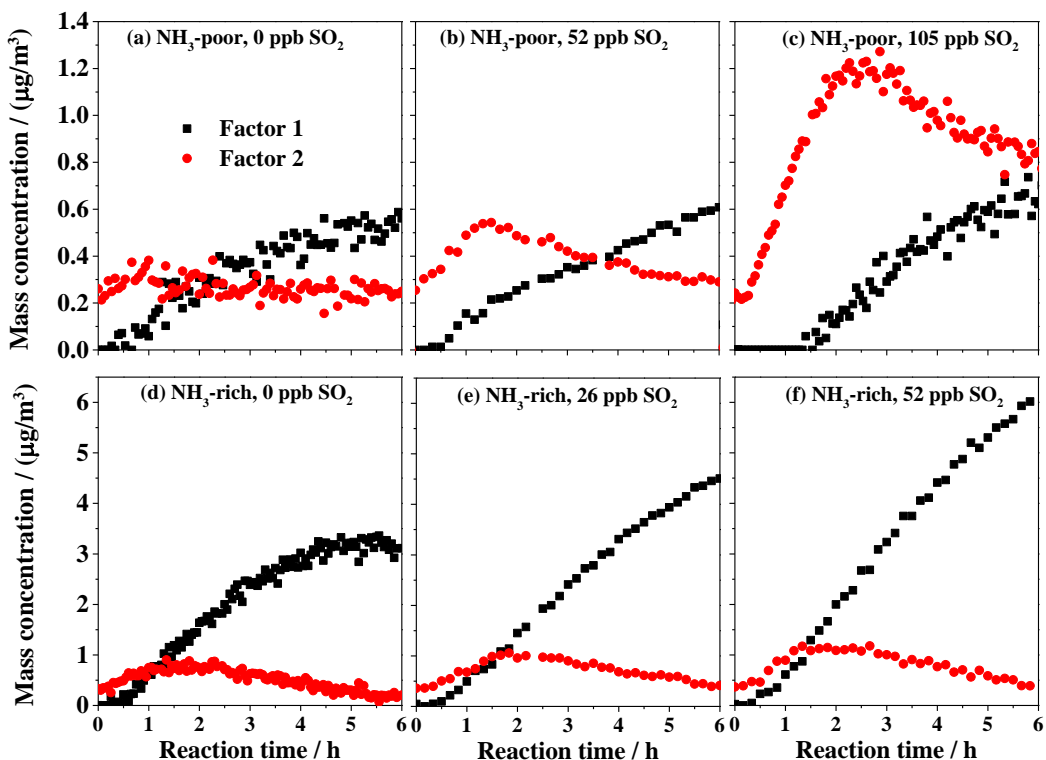
490 Figure 7. The difference mass spectra (Factor 2 – Factor 1) between the two  
 491 factors of the generated organic aerosol identified by applying PMF analysis to  
 492 the AMS data

493 These two factors had different temporal variations during the reaction.

494 As indicated in Fig. 8, Factor 2 always increased at the beginning of the

495 reaction but decreased after reaching a peak ~~with~~at 1 or 2 hours of  
496 irradiation. Factor 1 was generated later than Factor 2, while it  
497 continuously increased during the reaction. Comparing experiments with  
498 different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>, the production of Factor 2 increased with  
499 increasing SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor conditions, while Factor 1 increased with  
500 increasing SO<sub>2</sub> under an NH<sub>3</sub>-rich environment. Similar results can also be  
501 found in Fig. 9. The higher production of Factor 2 with higher SO<sub>2</sub> under  
502 an NH<sub>3</sub>-poor environment could be probably attributed to the well-known  
503 acid-catalysis effects of the oxidation product of SO<sub>2</sub>, i.e. sulfuric acid, on  
504 heterogeneous aldol condensation (Offenberg et al., 2009; Jang et al., 2002;  
505 Gao et al., 2004). This is consistent with the fact that the aerosols in the  
506 NH<sub>3</sub>-poor environment were quite acidic according to the simulation  
507 results of the AIM model, based on the chemical compositions of aerosols  
508 measured by the AMS. Under NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions, however, Factor 1,  
509 which has higher contents of oxygen and nitrogen than Factor 2, dominated  
510 in the SOA formation. Meanwhile, the production of Factor 2 increased  
511 significantly with increasing SO<sub>2</sub> concentration in NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions.  
512 This indicated that the formation of highly oxidized organic compounds  
513 and nitrogenous organic compounds was increased with higher  
514 concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions. By inference and from  
515 the results of AMS measurements, aerosol water increased as the initial  
516 concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> increased, since more inorganic aerosol was  
517 generated. Liggio and Li (2013) suggest that dissolution of primary polar  
518 gases into a partially aqueous aerosol ~~contributed~~contributes to the

519 increase of organic mass and oxygen content on neutral and near-neutral  
520 seed aerosols, which would also take place in the NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiments  
521 and contribute to the generation of Factor 1.  
522



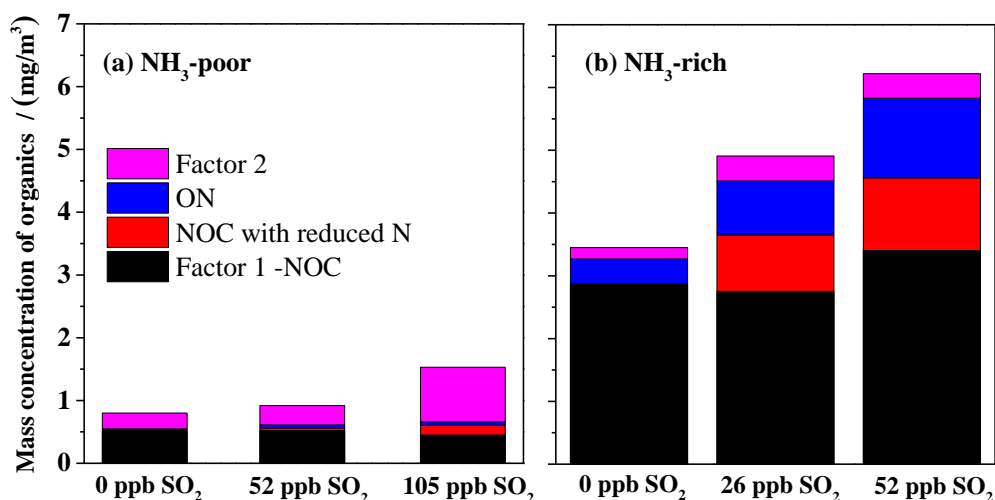
523

524 Figure 8. Temporal variations of Factor 1 and Factor 2 in the presence of different  
525 concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions.

526 Nitrogen-containing organics (NOC) are a potentially important aspect  
527 of SOA formation, and may have contributed to the increase of Factor 1 in  
528 this study. NOC might contain organonitrates, formed through reactions  
529 between organic peroxy radicals (RO<sub>2</sub>) and NO (Arey et al., 2001), organic  
530 ammonium salts, generated in acid-base reactions between  
531 ammonia/ammonium and organic acid species (Liu et al., 2012b), and  
532 species with carbon covalently bonded to nitrogen, generated in reactions

533 of ammonia/ammonium with carbonyl functional group organics (Wang et  
534 al., 2010). Although we were not able to measure NOC, some indirect  
535 estimation methods suggested by Farmer et al. (2010) could be applied.  
536 The details for estimation of the concentrations of organonitrates and NOC  
537 with reduced N are given in the supporting information. Despite the  
538 uncertainty, there is an obvious increasing trend of organonitrates and NOC  
539 with reduced N with increasing SO<sub>2</sub> concentration under NH<sub>3</sub>-rich  
540 conditions, as shown in Fig. 9. The increase ratio of NOC is higher than  
541 that of the organic aerosol or Factor 1 as SO<sub>2</sub> concentration increases. The  
542 estimated NOC contributed most of the increase in Factor 1 in NH<sub>3</sub>-rich  
543 conditions. These results provide some evidence that the formation of  
544 organonitrates and NOC with reduced N (organic ammonium salts, imines,  
545 imidazole, and so on) played an important role in the increasing trend of  
546 SOA with SO<sub>2</sub> in an NH<sub>3</sub>-rich environment. It was speculated that the  
547 higher surface acidity of aerosol formed in the presence of a high  
548 concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> favors NOC formation through NH<sub>3</sub> uptake by SOA,  
549 as observed in a recent work (Liu et al., 2015b).





550

551

Figure 9. The estimated concentrations of NOC (ON+NOC with

552

reduced N) and the two factors (identified by PMF analysis) in SOA

553

as a function of SO<sub>2</sub> concentration in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub>

554

under (a) NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and (b) NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions

555

## Conclusions

556

In the photooxidation system of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub>, the presence of SO<sub>2</sub>

557

and/or NH<sub>3</sub> increased secondary aerosol formation markedly, regardless of

558

whether Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed aerosol was present or not. Some synergetic effects in

559

the heterogeneous process were observed in secondary inorganic aerosol

560

formation in addition to the generation of ammonium and sulfate from NH<sub>3</sub>

561

and SO<sub>2</sub>. Specifically, the generation of NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> was found to be highly

562

dependent on the surface area concentration of suspended particles, and

563

was enhanced by increased SO<sub>2</sub> concentration. Meanwhile, sulfate

564

formation was also increased in the presence of NH<sub>3</sub>. The absorbed NH<sub>3</sub>

565

might provide liquid surface layers for the absorption and subsequent

566 reaction for SO<sub>2</sub> and organic products, and therefore, enhance sulfate and  
567 SOA formation. NH<sub>3</sub> mainly influenced secondary aerosol formation in the  
568 heterogeneous process, resulting in significant growth of seed aerosols, but  
569 had little influence on new particle generation. In the experiments carried  
570 out in the presence of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> seed aerosols, sulfate, organic aerosol, nitrate  
571 and ammonium were all found to increase linearly with increasing SO<sub>2</sub>  
572 concentrations in toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> photooxidation. The increase of these four  
573 species was more obvious under NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions, and the order of their  
574 sensitivity was different from that under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor conditions. AThe better  
575 correlation between secondary aerosol formation and particle surface area  
576 than that with particle volume indicated an enhancement effect in the  
577 heterogeneous process rather than in bulk reactions.

578 Two factors were identified in the PMF analysis of the AMS data. One  
579 factor assigned to less-oxidized organic aerosol and some oligomers  
580 increased with increasing SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor conditions, mainly due to  
581 the well-known acid catalytic effects of the acid products on SOA  
582 formation in the heterogeneous process. The other factor, assigned to the  
583 highly oxidized organic component and some nitrogenous organic  
584 compounds, increased with increasing SO<sub>2</sub> under an NH<sub>3</sub>-rich environment,  
585 with NOC (organonitrates and NOC with reduced N) contributing most of  
586 the increase.

587 This study indicated that the synergistic effects between inorganic  
588 pollutants could substantially enhance secondary inorganic aerosol  
589 formation. Meanwhile, the presence of inorganic gas pollutants, i.e. SO<sub>2</sub>

590 and NH<sub>3</sub>, promoted SOA formation markedly. Synergistic formation of  
591 secondary inorganic and organic aerosol might increase the secondary  
592 aerosol load in the atmosphere. These synergistic effects were related to  
593 the heterogeneous process on the aerosol surface, and need to be quantified  
594 and considered in air quality models.

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**Synergetic formation of secondary inorganic and organic aerosol: ~~Influence~~ Effects of SO<sub>2</sub> and/or NH<sub>3</sub> ~~in the heterogeneous process~~ particle formation and growth**

**(Supporting information)**

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## The consumption of gas precursors, the formation of ozone and SOA, and SOA yield

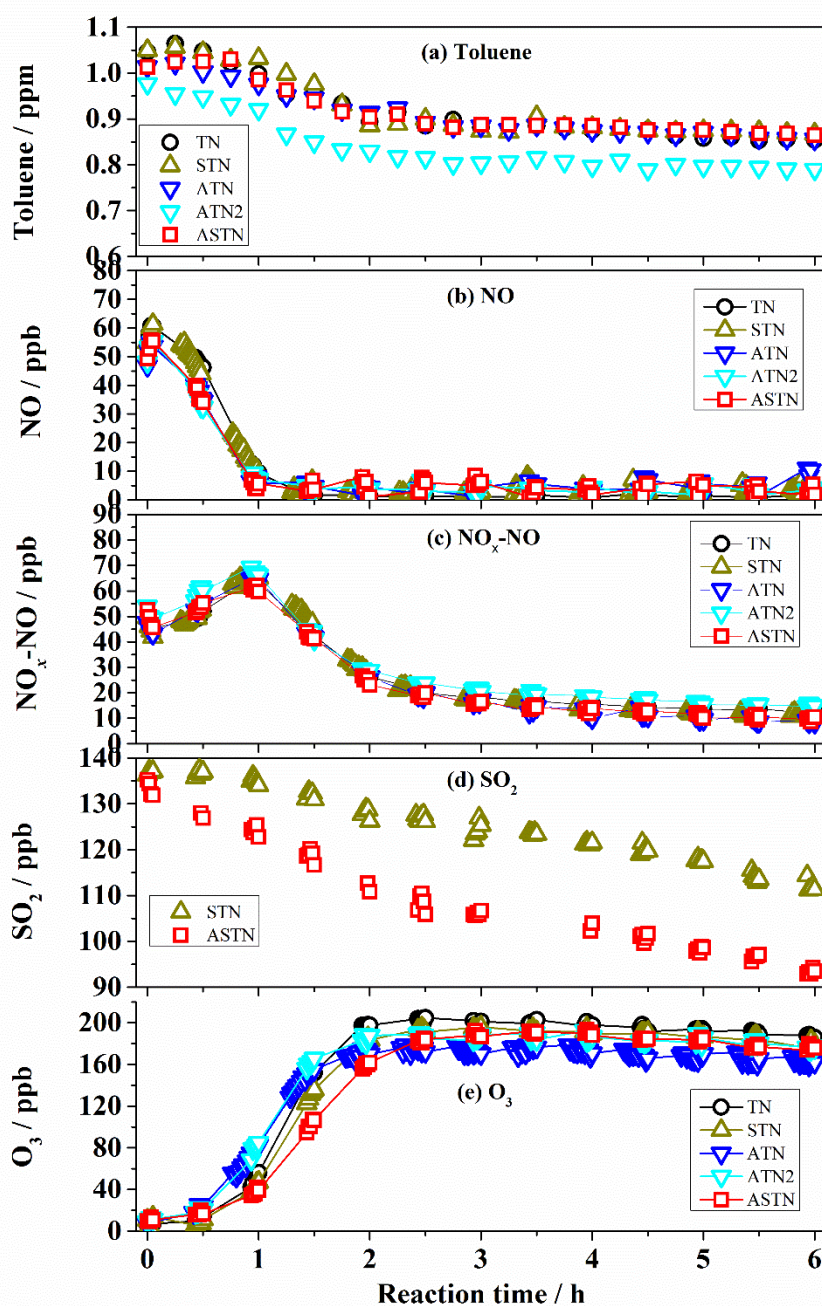
**Table R1.** The consumption of gas precursors, the formation of ozone and SOA, and SOA yield in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> in the presence or absence of NH<sub>3</sub> and/or SO<sub>2</sub>. The letters codes for the experiments indicate the introduced pollutants, i.e. “A” for ammonia, “S” for sulfur dioxide, “T” for toluene and “N” for nitrogen dioxide.

<u>Experiment No.</u>	<u>Δtoluene</u> ppm	<u>ΔNO<sub>x</sub></u> ppb	<u>ΔSO<sub>2</sub></u> ppb	<u>ΔO<sub>3</sub></u> ppb	<u>SOA</u> μg/m <sup>3</sup>	<u>SOA yield</u> %
TN	0.19	89	NA	179	8.0	1.1
STN	0.18	90	25	176	27.7	4.1
ATN	0.16	82	NA	159	17.2	2.9
ASTN	0.15	90	42	166	37.4	6.8

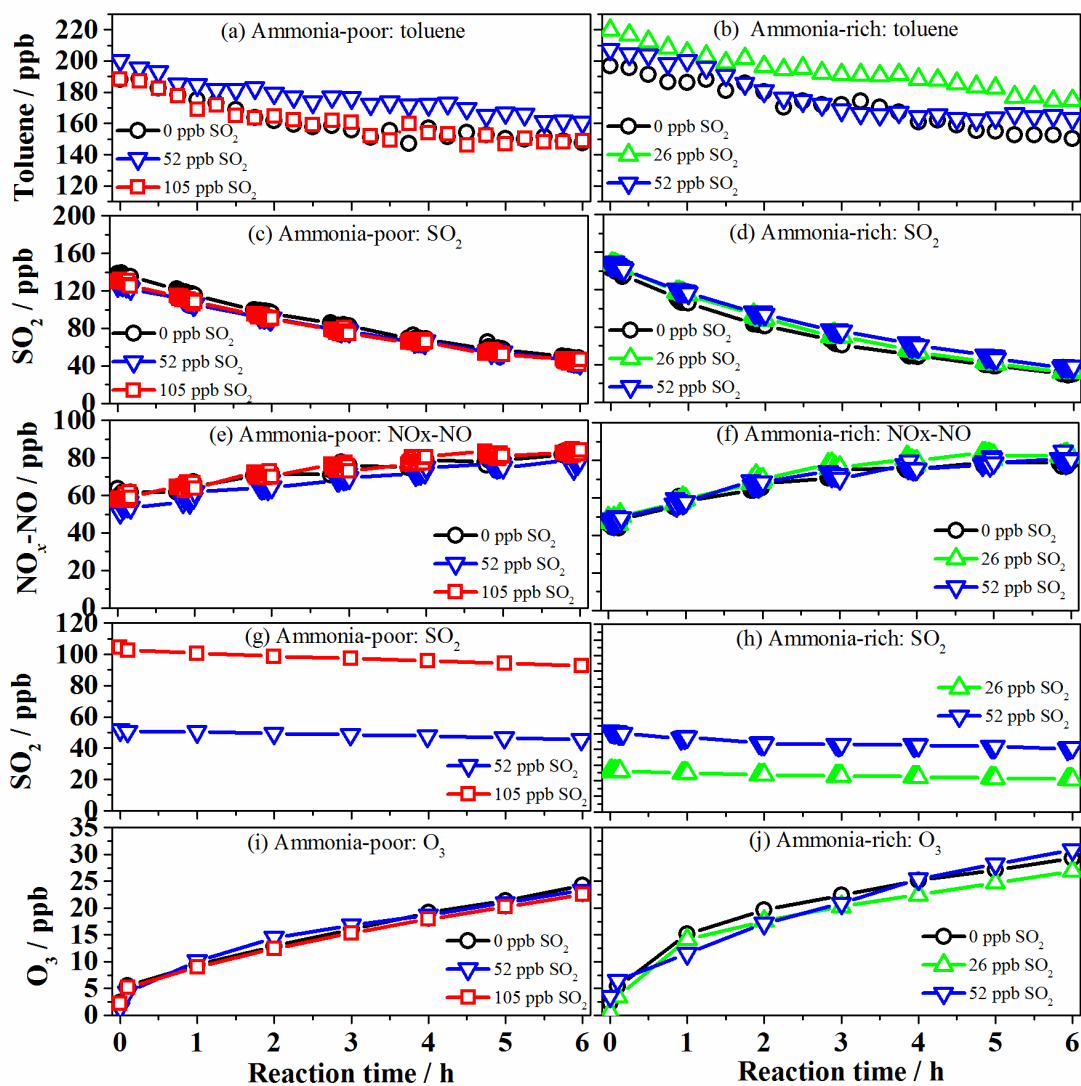
**Table R2.** The consumption of gas precursors, the formation of ozone and SOA, and SOA yield in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> in the photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions.

	<u>Δtoluene</u> ppb	<u>ΔNO<sub>x</sub></u> ppb	<u>ΔSO<sub>2</sub></u> ppb	<u>ΔO<sub>3</sub></u> ppb	<u>SOA</u> μg/m <sup>3</sup>	<u>SOA yield</u> %
NH <sub>3</sub> -poor	41	73	NA	22	0.6	0.4
	40	61	6	22	1.4	1.0
	39	62	12	20	1.5	1.1
NH <sub>3</sub> -rich	47	79	NA	27	3.5	2.0
	45	81	6	26	5.1	3.1
	44	75	11	27	6.7	4.1

## Time variations of gas phase compounds

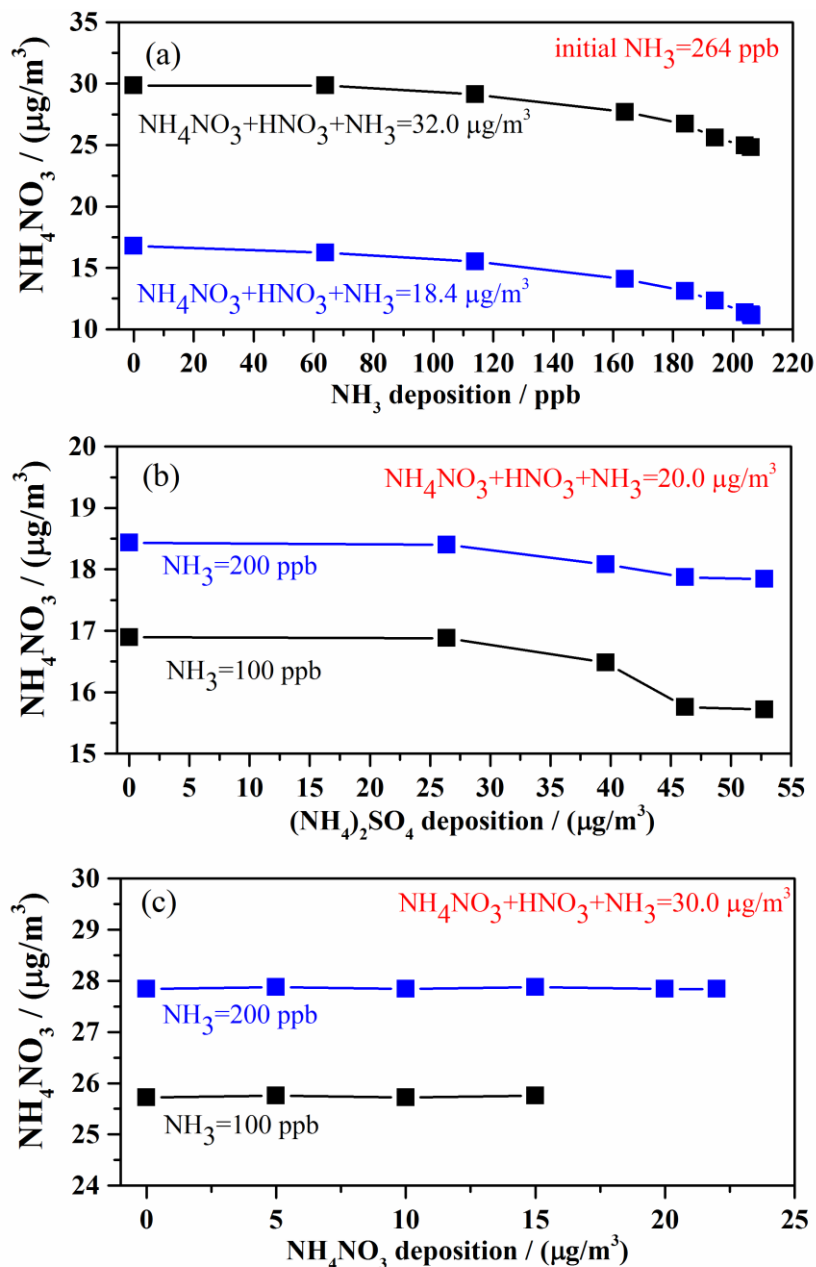


**Figure S1.** Time variations of gas-phase compounds in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> in the presence or absence of NH<sub>3</sub> and/or SO<sub>2</sub>. The letters codes for the experiments indicate the introduced pollutants, i.e. “A” for ammonia, “S” for sulfur dioxide, “T” for toluene and “N” for nitrogen dioxide.



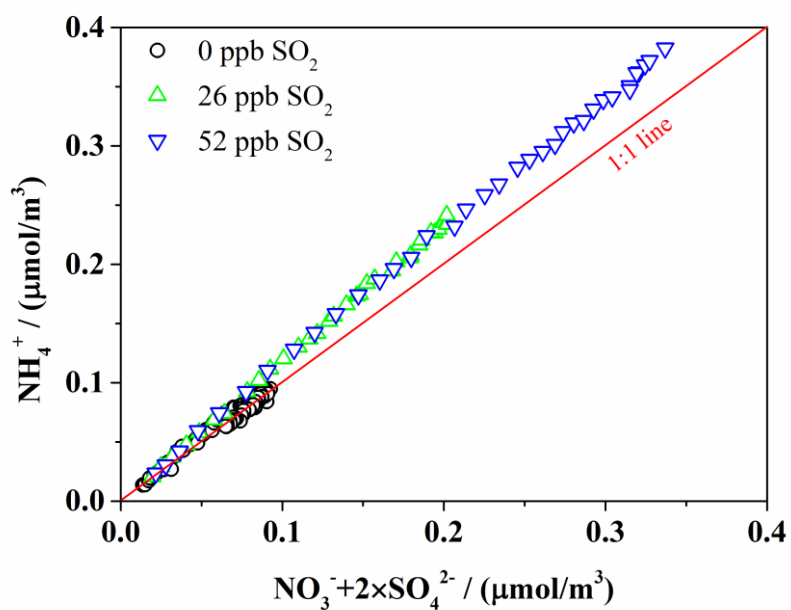
**Figure S2.** Time variations of gas-phase compounds in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions

## Partition of $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ salt based on the simulation results of the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model



**Figure S3.** Concentrations of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  salt as a function of the wall deposition of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  based on the simulation results of the AIM Aerosol Thermodynamics Model

## Acid-base balance in the aerosols in NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiments



**Figure S4.** Evaluation of acid-base balance of the aerosols according to the concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium salt measured by the AMS. The line in the figure indicated an acid-base balance.

Chemical compositions of aerosols in the photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions

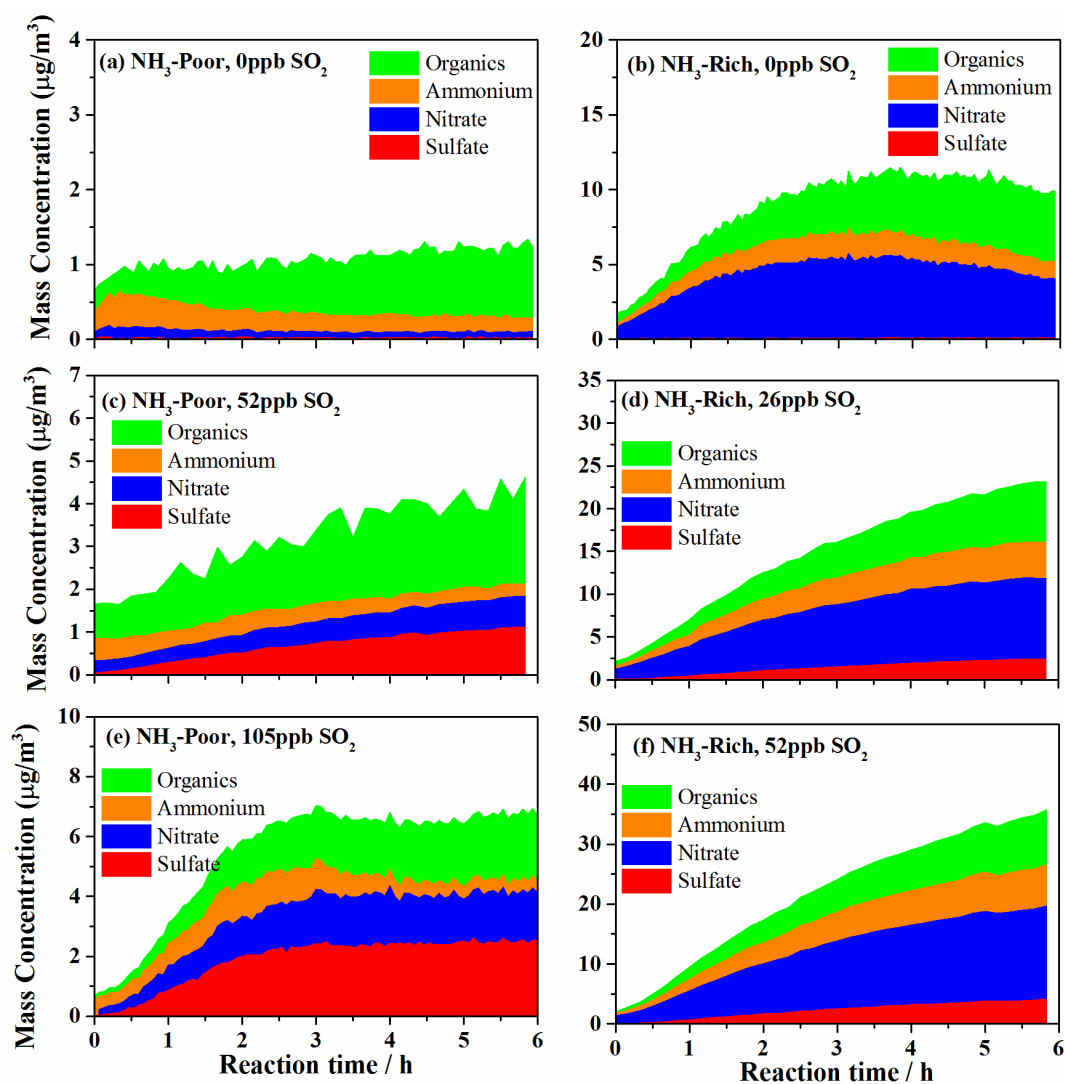
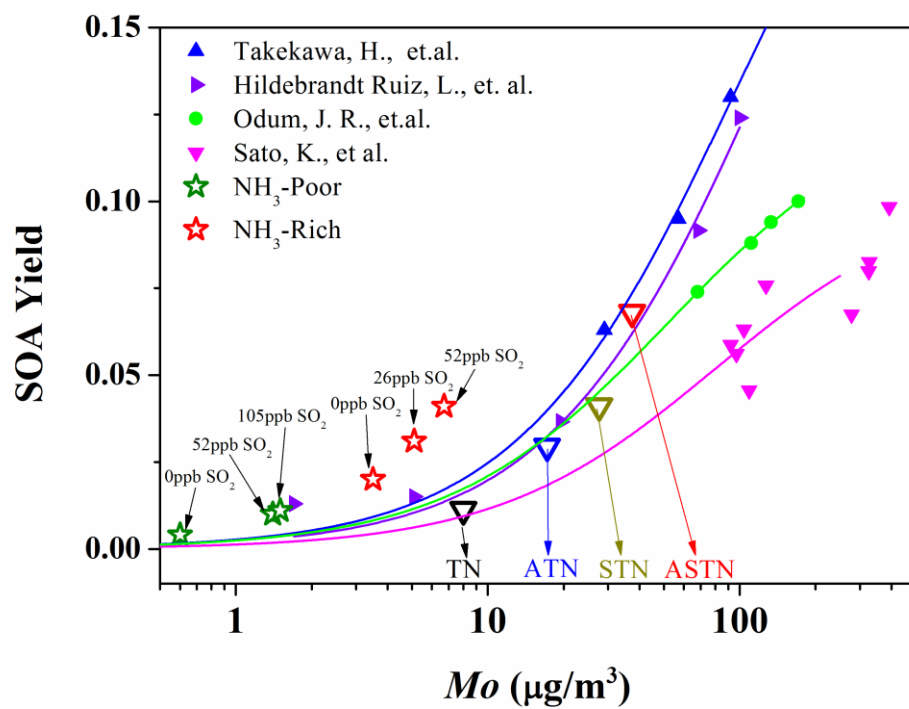


Figure S5. Time variations of sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium and organics measured by the AMS in the photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> with different concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> under NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions

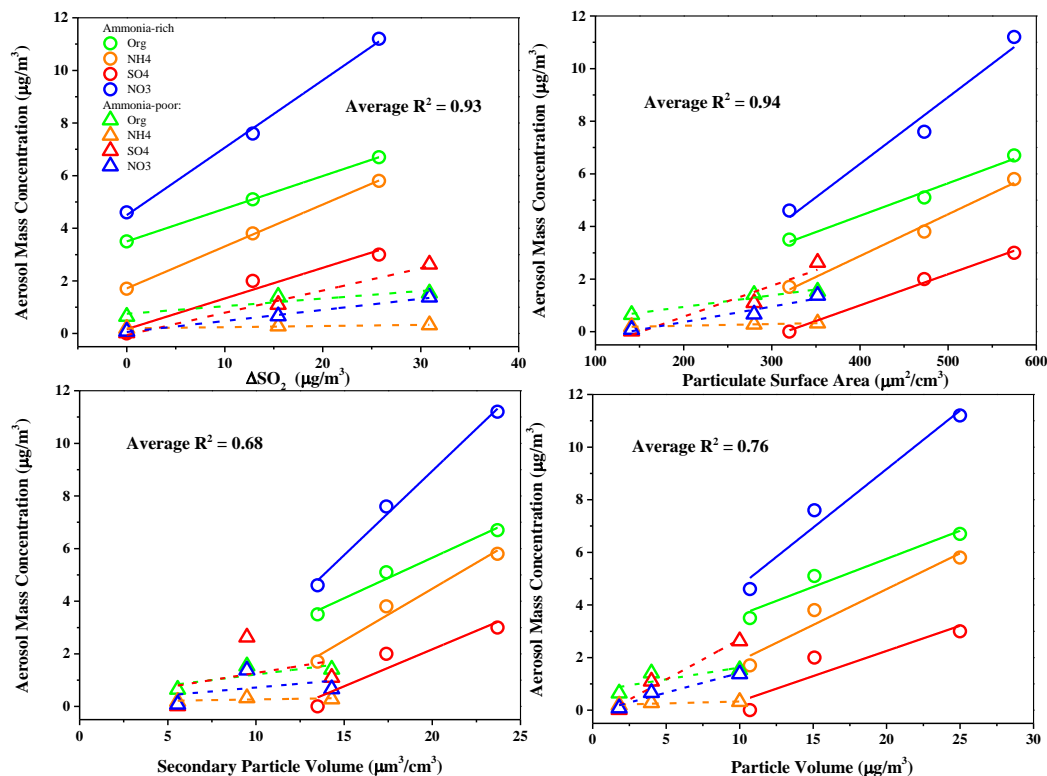


## SOA yields in the experiments in this study and the comparison with literature results



**Figure S6.** SOA yields in the experiments in this study and the comparison with literature results  
(Takekawa et al., 2003;Hildebrandt Ruiz et al., 2015;Odum et al., 1997;Sato et al., 2007)

## Increase of secondary aerosol formation with SO<sub>2</sub> consumption, particle surface area, and particle volume



**Figure S37, Fig. S1** Correlation of secondary aerosol formation with SO<sub>2</sub> consumption, particle surface area, and particle volume.

## Estimating concentrations of nitrogen-containing organics (NOC)

Nitrogen-containing organics (NOC) might contain organonitrates, organic ammonium salts, and species with carbon covalently bonded to nitrogen. Organonitrates could be estimated using methods suggested by Farmer et al. (2010), one of which was using  $NO_x^+$  ratios. The ratio of  $m/z$  30 to  $m/z$  46 for nitrate ( $R_{NH_4NO_3}$ ) is lower than that of organonitrates ( $R_{Organonitrates}$ ) in AMS measurement, so the observed ratio,  $R_{obs}$ , can be used

to estimate the fraction of the total nitrate signal due to organonitrates ( $x$ )

using the Equation S1:

$$x = \frac{(R_{obs} - R_{NH_4NO_3})(1 + R_{obs})}{(R_{Organonitrates} - R_{NH_4NO_3})(1 + R_{Organonitrates})} \quad (S1)$$

where  $R_{NH_4NO_3}$  was measured as 2.35 in the calibration of AMS, and

$R_{Organonitrates}$  was assumed to be 15, which was highest value suggested by

Farmer et al (2010), to avoid overestimation of organonitrates. The

estimated concentrations of organonitrates are shown in Fig. S2S8.

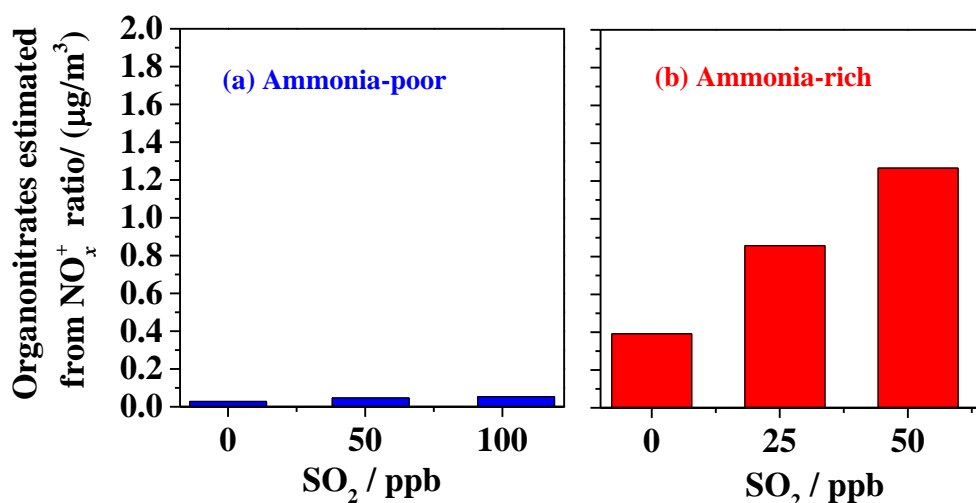


Figure- S2—S8 The estimated concentrations of organonitrates from NO<sub>x</sub><sup>+</sup> ratios as a function of SO<sub>2</sub> concentration in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> under (a) NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and (b) NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions

As suggested by Farmer et al. (2010), NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> is required to balance with the SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> in the absence of NOC. In this study, the measured concentration of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> was higher than the calculated concentration according to charge balance, especially in the NH<sub>3</sub>-rich experiments. This result indicated the presence of NOC with reduced N

(Reduced NOC). The  $\text{NH}_3$  present may react with the ring opening oxycarboxylic acids from toluene (Jang and Kamens, 2001) and carbonyl functional group organics (Wang et al., 2010), and result in organic ammonium salt products, imines, imidazole, and so on. The  $\text{NH}_4$  balance considering the presence of NOC with reduced N is described by Equation S2:

$$\frac{c_{\text{NH}_4}}{18} - \frac{c_{\text{Reduced NOC}}}{M_{\text{Reduced NOC}}} = 2 \times \frac{c_{\text{SO}_4}}{96} + \left[ \frac{c_{\text{NO}_3}}{62} - \frac{c_{\text{Organonitrates}}}{M_{\text{Organonitrates}}} \right] \quad (\text{S2})$$

where  $c_{\text{NH}_4}$ ,  $c_{\text{SO}_4}$  and  $c_{\text{NO}_3}$  are the mass concentrations of ammonium and sulfate and nitrate in AMS measurement results, respectively; while  $c_{\text{Reduced NOC}}$  and  $c_{\text{Organonitrates}}$  are the estimated mass concentrations of NOC with reduced N and organonitrates, respectively.  $M_{\text{Reduced NOC}}$  and  $M_{\text{Organonitrates}}$  in Equation S2 are the molecular weights of NOC with reduced N and organonitrates, and are assumed to be 100 and 200, respectively.  $M_{\text{Reduced NOC}}$  is assumed to have a smaller value than  $M_{\text{Organonitrates}}$  to avoid overestimation of NOC with reduced N. Using the estimated concentration of organonitrates according to Equation S1, the estimated concentrations of the NOC with reduced N are calculated and displayed in Fig. [S3S9](#).

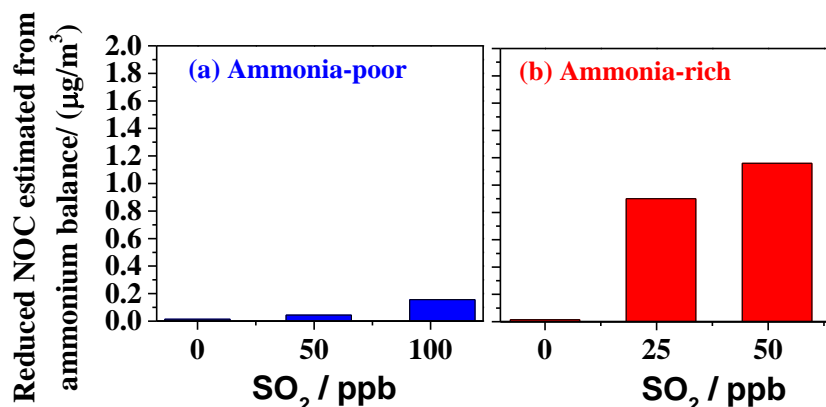


Figure: S3—S9 The estimated concentrations of NOC with reduced N as a function of SO<sub>2</sub> concentration in photooxidation of toluene/NO<sub>x</sub> under (a) NH<sub>3</sub>-poor and (b) NH<sub>3</sub>-rich conditions

The uncertainty in the results in Fig. S2-S8 and Fig. S3-S9 might be large, since a lot of parameters are assumed and the measurement response of AMS to the NOC is still highly uncertain. We analyzed the organic fragments containing N in the AMS measurements. Farmer et al. (2010) suggested the estimation of concentrations of organonitrates using the sum of the signals of the five major C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>O<sub>z</sub>N<sup>+</sup> fragments in AMS measurement results. However, as pointed out by Farmer et al (2010) and other studies (Galloway et al., 2009;Laskin et al., 2014;Liu et al., 2015), NOC with reduced N could also produce these fragments. In this study, we used Equation S3 to provide an estimate of NOC:

$$c_{NOC} = \frac{CH_4NO^+ + C_2H_5NO^+ + C_3H_4NO^+ + CH_2NO_3^+ + CH_2NO_2^+}{R_{C_xH_yO_zN^+}} \quad (S3)$$

where  $R_{C_xH_yO_zN^+}$  is the fraction of these five major C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>O<sub>z</sub>N<sup>+</sup> fragments and accounts for the total oxidized N signal of the organonitrates samples,

and was measured as 0.045 in the study of Farmer et al. (2010). The estimated concentrations of NOC using Equation S3 are shown in Fig. S4S10. These results appear to be comparable to the sum of organonitrates in Fig. S2–S8 and NOC with reduced N in Fig. S3S9. Meanwhile, the concentrations of  $C_xH_yN^+$  fragments are displayed in Fig. S5S11. They also have similar change trends with  $SO_2$  concentration as the estimated NOC concentrations.

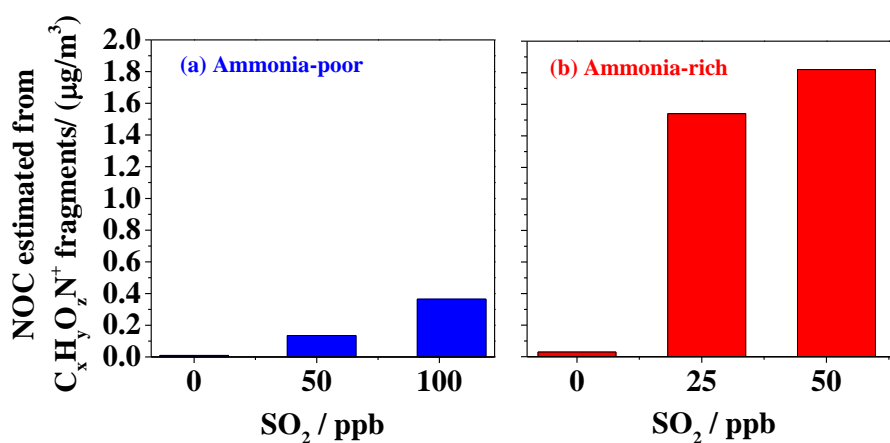


Fig. S4—S10 The estimated concentrations of NOC from  $C_xH_yO_zN^+$  fragments as a function of  $SO_2$  concentration in photooxidation of toluene/ $NO_x$  under (a)  $NH_3$ -poor and (b)  $NH_3$ -rich conditions

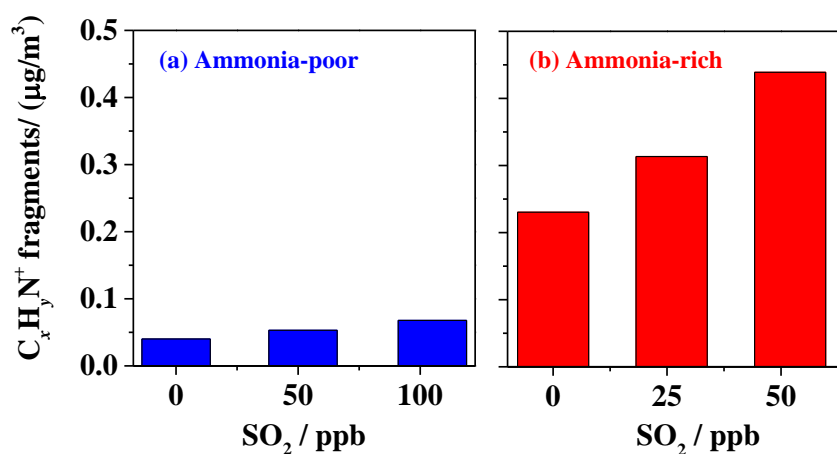


Figure S5–S11 The concentrations of  $C_xH_yN^+$  fragments as a function of  $SO_2$  concentration in photooxidation of toluene/ $NO_x$  under (a)  $NH_3$ -poor and (b)  $NH_3$ -rich conditions

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