



1 **Evaluating the impact of new observational constraints on P-**  
2 **S/IVOC emissions, multi-generation oxidation, and chamber**  
3 **wall losses on SOA modeling for Los Angeles, CA**

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28



## 29 **ABSTRACT**

30 Secondary Organic Aerosols (SOA) are important contributors to fine PM mass in  
31 polluted regions, and their modeling remains poorly constrained. A box model is  
32 developed that uses recently published literature parameterizations and data sets to better  
33 constrain and evaluate the formation pathways and precursors of urban SOA during the  
34 CalNex 2010 campaign in Los Angeles. When using the measurements of IVOCs  
35 reported in Zhao et al. (2014) and of SVOCs reported in Worton et al. (2014) the model  
36 is biased high at longer photochemical ages whereas at shorter photochemical ages it is  
37 biased low, if the yields for VOC oxidation are not updated. The parameterizations using  
38 an updated version of the yields, which takes into account the effect of gas phase wall-  
39 losses in environmental chambers, show model/measurement agreement at longer  
40 photochemical ages, even though some low bias at short photochemical ages still  
41 remains. Furthermore, the fossil/non-fossil carbon split of urban SOA simulated by the  
42 model is consistent with measurements at the Pasadena ground site.

43 Multi-generation oxidation mechanisms are often employed in SOA models to  
44 increase the SOA yields derived from environmental chamber experiments in order to  
45 obtain better model/measurement agreement. However, there are many uncertainties  
46 associated with these “aging” mechanisms. Thus, SOA formation in the model is  
47 compared against data from an oxidation flow reactor (OFR) in order to constrain SOA  
48 formation at longer photochemical ages than observed in urban air. The model predicts  
49 similar SOA mass when the “aging” mechanisms or the updated version of the yields for  
50 VOC oxidation are implemented. The latter case though has SOA formation rates that are  
51 more consistent with observations from the OFR.

52 All the model cases evaluated in this work have a large majority of the urban SOA  
53 (70 – 86 %) at Pasadena coming from the oxidation of P-SVOCs and P-IVOCs. The  
54 importance of these two types of precursors is further supported by analyzing the  
55 percentage of SOA formed at long photochemical ages (1.5 days) as a function of the  
56 precursor rate constant. The P-SVOCs and P-IVOCs have rate constants that are similar  
57 to highly reactive VOCs that have been previously found to strongly correlate with SOA  
58 formation potential measured by the OFR.

59 Finally, the volatility distribution of the total organic mass (gas and particle  
60 phase) in the model is compared against measurements. The total SVOC mass simulated  
61 is similar to the measurements, but there are important differences in the measured and  
62 modeled volatility distributions. A likely reason for the difference is the lack of particle-  
63 phase reactions in the model that can oligomerize and/or continue to oxidize organic  
64 compounds even after they partition to the particle phase.

65



## 66 1. INTRODUCTION

67 Atmospheric aerosols are important climate forcing agents (Christensen et al.,  
68 2013), negatively impact human health (Dockery and Pope, 1994) and reduce visibility  
69 by scattering and absorbing light (Watson, 2002). However, predicting quantitatively the  
70 composition and concentrations of aerosols is challenging, in part because of their  
71 complex composition and the variety of emission sources and chemical pathways that  
72 contribute to aerosol loadings in the atmosphere (Heald et al., 2011; Spracklen et al.,  
73 2011). Atmospheric aerosols are composed of black carbon, inorganic, and organic  
74 matter, and the latter is a mixture of hundreds to thousands of compounds (Gentner et al.,  
75 2012).

76 Due to this complexity, organic aerosol is often categorized into two groups.  
77 Primary organic aerosol (POA) is directly emitted into the atmosphere from sources such  
78 as motor vehicles, food cooking, and biomass burning (Hallquist et al., 2009). On the  
79 other hand, secondary organic aerosol (SOA) is the product of diverse chemical reactions  
80 occurring in the atmosphere that transform more-volatile precursors such as volatile  
81 organic compounds (VOCs) into lower volatility products that are either incorporated  
82 into existing particles or nucleate new particles. Many previous studies have shown that  
83 SOA is an important fraction of OA globally often representing more than half the total  
84 OA concentration (Jimenez et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2007).

85 In SOA parameterizations for use in regional and global models, a semi-empirical  
86 approach is used in which VOCs, often the only SOA precursors considered, react with  
87 OH radicals and other oxidants to form secondary products with lower volatility at a  
88 given mass yield. These secondary semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) can  
89 partition to the particle phase to form SOA (Donahue et al., 2006; Odum et al., 1996;  
90 Pankow, 1994). The parameters used in the models for the VOCs, such as the yields and  
91 product volatilities, are often determined from published chambers studies (e.g. Presto  
92 et al., 2010; Chan et al., 2009; Hallquist et al., 2009; Kroll et al., 2006). Over the past  
93 decade a number of studies have shown that traditional models that consider only the  
94 oxidation of VOCs alone predict SOA concentrations much lower than those observed in  
95 polluted urban regions (Hayes et al., 2015; Hodzic and Jimenez, 2011; Dzepina et al.,  
96 2009; Volkamer et al., 2006). As a result, several updates have been proposed in the  
97 literature to improve SOA models including new pathways for SOA formation, new SOA  
98 precursors, and increased yields for known precursors (e.g. Ervens and Volkamer, 2010;  
99 Ng et al., 2007; Robinson et al., 2007).

100 The volatility basis-set (VBS) approach (Donahue et al., 2006) has been used in  
101 most recent parameterizations of SOA yields. In this approach, the organic mass is  
102 distributed in logarithmically spaced volatility bins, and the SOA forming reactions then  
103 redistribute the mass from precursors such as anthropogenic and biogenic VOCs, into



104 bins with generally lower volatility (except for fragmentation reactions) leading to  
105 increased OA concentrations (Tsimpidi et al., 2010; Robinson et al., 2007). While the  
106 VBS provides a valuable conceptual framework for SOA modeling, substantial  
107 uncertainties remain in the correct parameters for different precursors and conditions.

108 In this paper we focus on investigating three interrelated questions that are  
109 responsible for important uncertainties in urban SOA modeling. The first is how to best  
110 incorporate SOA from primary semi- and intermediate volatility compounds (P-  
111 S/IVOCs), two recently-proposed types of SOA precursors. While there is now ample  
112 evidence that P-S/IVOCs are important contributors to SOA (Zhao et al., 2014; Robinson  
113 et al., 2007), the emissions of these precursors as well as the parameters that govern their  
114 oxidation and SOA formation are not well constrained. Also, it is well known that models  
115 of SOA that incorporate P-S/IVOCs often do not agree with measurements across a range  
116 of photochemical ages, although the modeled SOA mass varies substantially with the  
117 parameterization used. (Fountoukis et al., 2016; Woody et al., 2016; Hayes et al., 2015;  
118 Dzepina et al., 2009). The second question is whether losses of semi-volatile gases to the  
119 walls of environmental chambers (Krechmer et al., 2016; Matsunaga and Ziemann, 2010)  
120 have resulted in low biases for the yields of some or all precursors, especially VOCs, as  
121 has been recently reported (Zhang et al., 2014). The third question is the appropriateness  
122 of including “aging” mechanisms in the VBS parameterization of SOA from VOCs, in  
123 which the initial oxidation reaction is followed by subsequent oxidation reactions of the  
124 first and later generation products, with each reaction resulting in a reduction of the  
125 organic volatility by, e.g., an order of magnitude. These “aging” mechanisms increase  
126 VOC yields to levels much higher than those observed in chamber studies. In some  
127 model applications they improve model agreement with field measurements (Ahmadov et  
128 al., 2012), while in other cases they lead to model SOA formation that is substantially  
129 larger than observed (e.g. Hayes et al., 2015; Dzepina et al., 2011; 2009) While the  
130 inclusion of some of these new SOA precursors, updated yields, and aging can provide in  
131 some cases better agreement with measurements, the relative amount of SOA formed  
132 from VOCs (V-SOA), P-IVOCs (I-SOA), and P-SVOCs (S-SOA) is highly uncertain,  
133 and changes strongly depending on which of the above updates are implemented in a  
134 specific model. In addition, the fact that different subsets and variants of these updates  
135 can allow specific models to match SOA measurements raises important questions  
136 regarding whether or not the model mechanisms are representative of actual SOA  
137 forming processes in the atmosphere.

138 Recently, we evaluated three parameterizations for the formation of S-SOA and I-  
139 SOA using a constrained 0-D box model that represents the South Coast Air Basin during  
140 the California Research at the Nexus of Air Quality and Climate Change (CalNex)  
141 campaign (Hayes et al., 2015). The box model allowed the evaluation of multiple model  
142 parameterizations previously proposed in the literature and the performance of sensitivity



143 studies, which would be difficult to carry-out in more computationally demanding  
144 gridded 3-D models. The results obtained indicated that different combinations of  
145 parameterizations could reproduce the total SOA equally well even though the amounts  
146 of V-SOA, I-SOA, and S-SOA were very different. In addition, the model over-predicted  
147 SOA formed at longer photochemical ages ( $\approx 3$  days) when compared to observations  
148 downwind of multiple urban sites. This discrepancy suggests that the ratio of P-S/IVOCs-  
149 to-POA may have been too high in the parameterizations evaluated. Also, as mentioned  
150 previously and discussed in Hayes et al. (2015), the implementation of aging for VOC  
151 products remains uncertain.

152 The goal of this study is to use several recently published results to better evaluate  
153 and constrain the box model introduced in our previous work, and thus facilitate the  
154 identification of parameterizations that can be eventually incorporated into 3-D air  
155 quality models to accurately predict SOA for the right reasons. In particular, our work  
156 here improves the box model by incorporating recently published measurements of P-  
157 IVOCs and P-SVOCs that allow better constraining of the concentration, reactivity,  
158 yields, and volatility of these precursors (Worton et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2014). In  
159 addition, given that experiments in environmental chambers may underestimate SOA  
160 yields for the VOCs due to losses of semi-volatile gases to the chamber walls (Zhang et  
161 al., 2014), the SOA yields from VOCs have been re-estimated using a very recent  
162 parameterization of these wall-losses (Krechmer et al., 2016). The wall-loss corrected  
163 yields obtained are then used in the model in a sensitivity study to evaluate the  
164 corresponding change in the modeled SOA concentrations. The results obtained from the  
165 new box model are also compared against ambient ground site and airborne  
166 measurements, and also against recently-published oxidation flow reactor (OFR)  
167 measurements (Ortega et al., 2016). This combination of data sets allows the model to be  
168 evaluated for photochemical ages ranging up to 3 equivalent days (at  $1.5 \times 10^6$  molec OH  
169  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ) providing a means to evaluate the aging mechanisms of the VOCs in the VBS.

## 170 2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### 171 2.1 Measurement and sampling site

172 The box model is constructed in order to represent the South Coast Air Basin  
173 during CalNex in spring/summer 2010. The measurements of aerosols used in this study  
174 were conducted in Pasadena, California ( $34.1406^\circ$  N  $118.1224^\circ$  W), located to the  
175 northeast of downtown Los Angeles (Hayes et al., 2015). An overview of CalNex has  
176 been published previously (Ryerson et al., 2013). The location and the meteorology of the  
177 ground site at Pasadena are described in further detail in Hayes et al. (2013). Pasadena is  
178 a receptor site for pollution due to winds that transport emissions from the Ports of Los  
179 Angeles and Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles. Airborne measurements of



180 aerosols were also carried out in the South Coast Air Basin as part of the CalNex project.  
181 A detailed description of the airborne measurements is given in Bahreini et al. (2012).  
182 Furthermore, measurements of POA composition and volatility taken at the Caldecott  
183 Tunnel in the San Francisco Bay Area reported in previous work (Worton et al., 2014)  
184 are also used to constrain the model as described below. The tunnel air samples were  
185 collected during July 2010. It should be noted that the tunnel measurements do not  
186 include emissions due to cold starts of vehicles. In the box model, only the relative  
187 volatility distribution of vehicular POA measured during the tunnel study is used, and  
188 thus this potential source of error does not apply to the total amount of vehicular POA  
189 emissions in the model.

190 Two additional datasets are used to evaluate the model. In addition to sampling  
191 ambient air, an aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) sampled air that had been  
192 photochemically aged using an oxidation flow reactor (OFR) (Ortega et al., 2016). The  
193 OFR exposed ambient air to varying concentrations OH radicals in order to obtain  
194 photochemical ages much higher than the ambient levels observed at the Pasadena site,  
195 and the amount of SOA produced was quantified as a function of OH exposure.  
196 Moreover, radiocarbon ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ) analysis has been performed on filter samples and results  
197 were combined with positive matrix factorization (PMF) data to determine fossil and  
198 non-fossil fractions of the SOA components as reported in Zotter et al. (2014). The  $^{14}\text{C}$   
199 results are used for subsequent comparison against the box model from which fossil and  
200 non-fossil SOA mass can be estimated.

## 201 **2.2 Model set-up**

202 The SOA model is set-up to include 3 types of precursors: VOCs, P-IVOCs, and  
203 P-SVOCs. The parameters used in the box model to simulate the formation of SOA from  
204 these precursors are listed in Tables S1 to S3 of the supporting information. The box  
205 model dynamically calculates the evolution of organic species in an air parcel as it  
206 undergoes photochemical aging, hence producing SOA. The total SOA also includes  
207 background SOA (BG-SOA) at a constant concentration of  $2.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , as determined in  
208 our previous work (Hayes et al., 2015). The model accounts for P-SVOC emissions from  
209 vehicular exhaust and cooking and treats POA as semi-volatile (Robinson et al., 2007).

210 A schematic of the model is shown in Figure 1. All the model cases are listed in  
211 Table 1, and all the parameterizations are shown schematically in Figure 2. The first  
212 model case (ROB + TSI) incorporates the Robinson et al. (2007) parameterization for  
213 SOA formation that models P-IVOCs and P-SVOCs (i.e. P-S/IVOCs) using a single  
214 volatility distribution and oxidation rate constant. The ROB + TSI case also uses the  
215 Tsimpidi et al. (2010) parameterization for SOA formation from VOCs. A detailed  
216 description of the parameters used in ROB + TSI can be found in Hayes et al. (2015), and  
217 the ROB + TSI model case used here is identical to the case of the same name used in



218 that paper. Briefly, as displayed in Fig. 2A, the Tsimpidi et al. (2010) parameterization  
219 proposes that the VOCs undergo an initial oxidation step that will form four lumped  
220 products with different volatilities ( $c^* = 1, 10^1, 10^2, 10^3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , where  $c^*$  is the effective  
221 saturation concentration). The first-generation oxidation products can be further oxidized,  
222 decreasing their volatility by one order of magnitude (i.e. aging). This “bin-hopping”  
223 mechanism repeats until the lowest volatility product is reached ( $c^* = 10^{-1} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in this  
224 study and  $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in other studies such as Tsimpidi et al. (2010) and Hayes et al. (2015).  
225 The Robinson et al. (2007) parameterization proposes that the P-S/IVOCs are initially  
226 distributed in logarithmically spaced volatility bins ranging from  $c^* = 10^{-2}$  to  $10^6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ .  
227 Thereafter, the oxidation of P-S/IVOCs decreases their volatility by one order of  
228 magnitude until the lowest volatility product is reached ( $c^* = 10^{-2} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ). The lowest  
229 volatility product possible is not the same for the oxidation of VOCs versus the oxidation  
230 of the P-S/IVOCs ( $10^{-1}$  vs.  $10^{-2} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , respectively). However, whether the mass is  
231 distributed into either bin has a negligible effect on the SOA mass simulated in the box  
232 model because of the relatively high SOA concentrations during the case study.

233 In this work, 5 model parameterizations are tested that incorporate new  
234 measurements of IVOCs and P-SVOC volatility as well as updated VOC yields that  
235 account for wall-losses of vapors (Krechmer et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2014). For the first  
236 new case (ROB + ZHAO + TSI), we incorporate IVOC data measured in Pasadena  
237 during the CalNex campaign as reported from Zhao et al. (2014). In particular, the  
238 measured concentrations of speciated and unspeciated IVOCs and their estimated  
239 volatility are used to constrain the initial concentration of these species (as discussed in  
240 Section 2.2.2 below) as well as to estimate their yields (Zhao et al., 2014). Therefore, we  
241 replace the inferred concentrations of IVOCs that were used in our previous work and  
242 based on the volatility distribution of Robinson et al. (2007) with concentrations that are  
243 directly constrained by measurements. In the ROB + ZHAO + TSI case the SOA  
244 formation parameters used (e.g. yields, oxidation rate constants) are taken from Zhao et  
245 al. (2014) for the IVOCs and from Hayes et al. (2015) for the VOCs and SVOCs.

246 For the second new case (WOR + ZHAO + TSI), the volatility distribution of P-  
247 SVOCs is updated using measurements of POA performed at the Caldecott tunnel in the  
248 California Bay Area (Worton et al., 2014). In the previous two cases described above, the  
249 relative volatility distribution of P-SVOCs was taken from the work of Robinson et al.  
250 (2007). In this distribution, the relative concentration of SVOCs increases monotonically  
251 between the  $c^*$  bins  $10^{-2}$  and  $10^2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ . The P-SVOC volatility distribution in the WOR  
252 + ZHAO + TSI case increases monotonically as well, but the relative concentrations in  
253 each bin are different and notably there is a much higher relative concentration of SVOCs  
254 in the  $c^* = 10^{-2} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  bin (see Fig. 2 and Table S3 in the supporting information). In this  
255 model case, the updated P-SVOC volatility distribution is only applied to vehicular P-  
256 S/IVOCs. The volatility distribution proposed by Robinson et al. (2007) is still used for



257 cooking emissions since no distribution specific to these emissions is available in the  
258 literature to our knowledge.

259 Several recently published papers have found that chamber experiments may  
260 underestimate SOA yields due to the loss of semi-volatile vapors to chamber walls  
261 (Krechmer et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2014; Matsunaga and Ziemann, 2010). A sensitivity  
262 study has been performed to explore this uncertainty by running the three model cases  
263 described above (ROB + TSI, ROB + ZHAO + TSI, and WOR + ZHAO + TSI) with a  
264 revised version of the SOA yields for VOCs that accounts for these wall losses. A  
265 detailed description of how these updated yields were estimated is provided in the  
266 supporting information and the values can be found in Table S4. Briefly, equilibrium  
267 partitioning is assumed to hold for the organic mass found in the gas phase, particle  
268 phase, or chamber walls. The SOA yields are then obtained by refitting SOA chamber  
269 yield curves using a model that accounts for partitioning between the three compartments  
270 (particle, gas, and wall) and incorporates the equivalent wall mass concentrations  
271 published in Krechmer et al. (2016), which are volatility dependent. The SOA chamber  
272 yield curves that were refitted were first calculated using the parameters published in  
273 Tsimpidi et al. (2010). There are limits to the assumption that partitioning between the  
274 three phases occurs on short enough timescales for all four VOC product volatilities that  
275 equilibrium is reached during an SOA chamber study. Specifically, at lower volatilities  
276 ( $c^* \approx 1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ), the partitioning kinetics of the organic mass from the particles to the  
277 chamber walls have a timescale that is longer than typical chamber experiments (Ye et  
278 al., 2016). As described in the supporting information, the updated SOA yields for VOC  
279 oxidation should therefore be considered upper limits, whereas the original yields serve  
280 as lower limits.

281 According to Krechmer et al. (2016) and other chamber experiments (Matsunaga  
282 and Ziemann, 2010), the gas-wall equilibrium timescale doesn't vary strongly with the  
283 chamber size. Similar timescales have been calculated for a variety of environmental  
284 chambers, including chambers that were used to determine many of the yields used in this  
285 paper. In addition, Matsunaga and Ziemann found that partitioning was nearly  
286 independent of chamber treatment, reversible, and obeyed Henry's law. Thus, the  
287 effective wall concentrations determined from the chamber experiments reported in  
288 Krechmer et al. (2016) are likely applicable to other chambers with different sizes.

289 The three model cases accounting for wall losses of organic vapors are named  
290 ROB + MA, ROB + ZHAO + MA, and WOR + ZHAO + MA. For these cases, the aging  
291 of the secondary SVOCs formed from the oxidation of VOCs was not included, since  
292 multi-generation oxidation is not well-constrained using data from chamber studies that  
293 are run over relatively short time-scales (i.e. hours). In addition, aging and correcting for  
294 wall-losses of organic vapors have been separately proposed to close the gap between  
295 observed and predicted SOA concentration from pre-2007 models. The aging of





296 secondary SVOCs formed from the oxidation of P-IVOCs (and P-SVOCs) has been kept  
297 for all of the MA cases, however. A similar approach for correcting the yields as  
298 described above cannot be applied to P-IVOCs because organics with low volatilities ( $c^*$   
299  $< 10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) will partition to chamber walls very slowly, and SVOCs from P-IVOC  
300 oxidation tend to have lower volatilities than the SVOCs formed from VOC oxidation  
301 (Tables S1 and S2). Indeed, when trying to refit the IVOC yield curves, the model  
302 assuming equilibrium partitioning between particles, the gas phase, and the walls was not  
303 able to reproduce the chamber data, which would be consistent with equilibrium not  
304 having been reached during the chamber studies.

### 305 **2.2.1 IVOC oxidation parameterizations**

306 An important difference between the ROB + TSI and ROB + MA cases and the  
307 other four cases that have been updated with the IVOC measurements of Zhao et al.  
308 (2014) is that in the ZHAO cases, the first generation of IVOC oxidation distributes part  
309 of the product mass into four different volatility bins ( $C^* = 10^{-1}, 1, 10^1, 10^2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) as is  
310 displayed in Fig. 2E. This IVOC oxidation scheme is similar to that used for the first step  
311 of VOC oxidation (Tsimpidi et al., 2010) as displayed in Fig. 2A and D, and has been  
312 used to model chamber measurements of SOA from IVOCs (Presto et al., 2010).  
313 Contrastingly, in the ROB + TSI and ROB + MA cases, a “bin-hopping” approach is used  
314 for all P-S/IVOCs where oxidation lowers volatility by only one order of magnitude (see  
315 Fig. 2B and C). The Robinson et al. (2007) parameters are still used for the formation of  
316 SOA from P-SVOCs in the ROB + ZHAO + TSI and ROB + ZHAO + MA cases, but the  
317 parameters are only applied to primary emissions in  $c^*$  bins between  $10^{-2}$  and  $10^2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$   
318 inclusive (i.e. the volatilities corresponding to P-SVOCs).

### 319 **2.2.2. Determination of initial precursor concentrations**

320 In the ROB + TSI and ROB + MA cases, the initial concentration of P-S/IVOCs is  
321 estimated as follows. The volatility distribution determined by Robinson et al. (2007) is  
322 assumed to represent all P-S/IVOCs emitted (Dzepina et al., 2009). The total  
323 concentration of P-S/IVOCs is then set so that the amount of P-S/IVOCs in the particle  
324 phase is equal to the initial POA concentration. The initial POA concentration is  
325 determined from the product of the background-subtracted CO concentration and the  
326  $\Delta\text{POA}/\Delta\text{CO}$  emission ratio (Hayes et al., 2015). The same method is used for the other  
327 four model cases, but only the initial concentration of P-SVOCs is estimated by this  
328 method and the initial concentration of P-IVOCs is estimated separately as described in  
329 the next paragraph. In addition, in the WOR + ZHAO + TSI and WOR + ZHAO + MA  
330 cases the volatility distribution of vehicular P-SVOCs reported in Worton et al. (2014) is  
331 used for estimating the initial concentration of vehicular P-SVOCs whereas the volatility



332 distribution of Robinson et al. (2007) is used for estimating the initial concentration of  
333 cooking P-SVOCs.

334 The initial concentrations of VOCs and IVOCs are calculated by multiplying the  
335 background-subtracted CO concentrations measured at Pasadena by the emission ratios  
336  $\Delta\text{VOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$  or  $\Delta\text{IVOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ . In the ROB + TSI and ROB + MA cases this method is  
337 only applied to the VOCs. The initialization method for the concentrations of the VOCs  
338 is the same for all six cases in this paper. For the biogenic VOCs, we follow the same  
339 method as Hayes et al. (2015) to determine the initial concentrations since these  
340 compounds are not co-emitted with CO (Hayes et al., 2015). The emission ratios are  
341 taken from the literature when available (Borbon et al., 2013; Warneke et al., 2007). For  
342 most of the IVOCs and some VOCs, emission ratios are not available in the literature.  
343 The ratios are instead determined by performing linear regression analyses on scatter  
344 plots of the IVOC or VOC and CO concentrations measured in Pasadena between 00:00-  
345 06:00 local time when the amount of photochemical aging was very low. The slope of the  
346 resulting line corresponds to the estimated emission ratio.

### 347 **2.3 SOA model**

348 The VOC yields are taken from Tsimpidi et al. (2010) or determined in this work  
349 as described below. The estimation of the IVOC yields (based on values taken from  
350 Presto et al. (2010) and of the OH reaction rate constants for IVOCs follows the same  
351 approach used by Zhao et al. (2014). However, instead of using the total SOA yield,  $Y$ ,  
352 for a fixed OA concentration as reported in Zhao et al. (2014), we use the SVOC yield,  $\alpha$ ,  
353 of each  $c^*$  bin. It is important to note here that the SOA yields taken from Tsimpidi et al.  
354 and Presto et al. use a four-product basis set with  $c^* = 10^0, 10^1, 10^2, 10^3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  and  $c^* =$   
355  $10^{-1}, 10^0, 10^1, 10^2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  respectively. For this box model, it is more appropriate to have  
356 a uniform VBS in terms of the bin range utilised so a bin with a lower volatility ( $c^* = 10^{-1}$   
357  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) has been added to the VBS distribution of Tsimpidi et al. (2010). The yield for  
358 bin  $c^* = 10^{-1} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  is 0 for VOC oxidation, but when aging occurs mass can be  
359 transferred into this bin. However, the change in the total V-SOA mass is negligible  
360 because for both bin  $c^* = 10^{-1}$  and  $10^0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  the secondary products almost completely  
361 partition to the particle phase.

362 The OH reaction rate constants are taken from the literature (Carter, 2010;  
363 Atkinson and Arey, 2003) as described previously in Hayes et al. (2015). During aging,  
364 the oxidation products undergo subsequent reactions with OH radicals with a reaction  
365 rate constant of  $1 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $4 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  for the products of  
366 VOC oxidation and P-S/IVOC oxidation respectively (Hayes et al., 2015). For each  
367 oxidation step during aging, there is a mass increase of 7.5 % due to added oxygen.



368 The gas-particle partitioning is calculated in each bin by using the reformulation  
369 of Pankow theory by Donahue et al. (2006).

$$x_{p,i} = \left(1 + \frac{C_i}{C_{OA}}\right)^{-1}; C_{OA} = \sum_i [\text{SVOC}]_i x_{p,i}$$

370 Where  $x_{p,i}$  is the particle phase fraction of lumped species  $i$ ;  $C_i$  is the effective saturation  
371 concentration, and  $C_{OA}$  is the total mass of organic aerosol available for partitioning ( $\mu\text{g}$   
372  $\text{m}^{-3}$ ). Only species in the gas phase are allowed to react with OH radicals in the model,  
373 since aerosol species react at much lower rates (Donahue et al., 2013).

374 The simulated SOA mass from the model is compared against field measurements  
375 of aerosol composition including results from PMF analysis of aerosol mass spectrometry  
376 data (Hayes et al., 2015, 2013). Specifically, the model predictions of urban SOA (i.e.  
377 SOA formed within the South Coast Air Basin) are compared against the semi-volatile  
378 oxygenated organic aerosol (SV-OOA) concentration from the PMF analysis. The other  
379 OA component also attributed to SOA, low-volatility oxygenated organic aerosol (LV-  
380 OOA), is primarily from precursors emitted outside the South Coast Air Basin and is  
381 used to estimate the background secondary organic aerosol (BG-SOA) as discussed  
382 previously (Hayes et al., 2015).

### 383 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 384 3.1 Evolution of SOA concentration over 3 days

385 We follow an approach similar to Hayes et al. (2015) in order to analyse the  
386 model results. The model SOA concentration is normalized to the background subtracted  
387 CO concentration to account for dilution, and the ratio is then plotted against  
388 photochemical age rather than time to remove variations due to diurnal cycles of  
389 precursor and oxidant concentrations. The photochemical age is calculated at a reference  
390 OH radical concentration of  $1.5 \times 10^6 \text{ molec cm}^{-3}$  (DeCarlo et al., 2010). Figure 3 shows  
391 this analysis for each model case for up to 3 days of photochemical aging. Since  
392 fragmentation and dry deposition are not included in the model, it has only been run to 3  
393 days in order to minimize the importance of these processes with respect to SOA  
394 concentrations (Ortega et al., 2016).

395 In each panel of Fig. 3, field measurements are included for comparison. The  
396 urban SOA mass measured at the Pasadena site is observed at shorter photochemical ages  
397 (Hayes et al., 2013). The airborne observations of SOA in the Los Angeles basin outflow  
398 is also shown and is the average of all data between 1 and 2 days of photochemical aging  
399 (Bahreini et al., 2012). The gray region on the right serves as an estimate for very aged  
400 urban SOA based on data reported by de Gouw and Jimenez (2009). The data from the



401 OFR and a fit of the ambient and reactor data (dotted black line) are also displayed in Fig.  
402 3 (Ortega et al., 2016). In addition, in Figure 4 the ratio of modeled-to-measured SOA  
403 mass is shown on a logarithmic axis to facilitate evaluation of model performance.

404 In ROB + TSI, as described in previous work (Hayes et al., 2015), there is a large  
405 over-prediction of SOA mass at longer photochemical ages. As displayed in Fig. 3, the  
406 amount of SOA produced in the model is higher than all of the field measurements taken  
407 at a photochemical age longer than 0.5 days. Moreover, the ratios of model to  
408 measurement are higher than the upper limit of the gray bar representing the ratios within  
409 the measurement uncertainties. There is an agreement with the measurements at moderate  
410 photochemical ages (between 0.25 and 0.50 days), but the SOA mass simulated by the  
411 model is slightly lower than the measurements at the shortest photochemical ages (less  
412 than 0.25 days) even when accounting for measurement uncertainties. In this  
413 parameterization, most of the SOA produced comes from the P-S/IVOCs, and  
414 uncertainties in the model with respect to these compounds likely explain the  
415 overestimation observed at longer photochemical ages. As discussed in the introduction,  
416 a major goal in this work is to better constrain the amount of SOA formed from the  
417 oxidation of P-S/IVOCs, and the following two model cases (ROB + ZHAO + TSI and  
418 WOR + ZHAO + TSI) seek to incorporate new measurements to better constrain the box  
419 model with respect to the P-S/IVOCs.

420 When the yield, rate constants, and initial concentrations of P-IVOCs are  
421 constrained using the field measurements reported in Zhao et al. (2014) (ROB + ZHAO +  
422 TSI), the SOA mass simulated by the model shows much better agreement with the  
423 measurements at longer photochemical ages (Fig. 3 et 4). There is a slight over-prediction  
424 at 2 days of photochemical aging, but the model is still within the range of measurements  
425 of very aged urban SOA reported by De Gouw and Jimenez (2009). The parameterization  
426 reported in Robinson et al. (2007) for P-S/IVOCs is based on one study of the photo-  
427 oxidation of diesel emissions from a generator (Robinson et al., 2007). The results  
428 obtained here for the better constrained ROB + ZHAO + TSI case indicate that the initial  
429 concentrations of P-IVOCs as well as the P-IVOC yields within ROB + TSI are too high  
430 which leads to over-prediction of SOA concentration at longer photochemical ages. On  
431 the other hand, the SOA mass simulated in ROB + ZHAO + TSI is biased low at shorter  
432 photochemical ages (less than 1 day). Similar to other recent studies (Ortega et al., 2016;  
433 Hayes et al., 2015; Gentner et al., 2012), there may be unexplained SOA precursors not  
434 included in the model which rapidly form SOA or yields for fast-reacting species  
435 including certain VOCs may be biased low. Both of these possibilities are explored in the  
436 other model cases discussed below.

437 The WOR + ZHAO + TSI case simulates higher SOA concentrations at shorter  
438 photochemical ages compared to the previous case (ROB + ZHAO + TSI), but it is still  
439 biased low at shorter photochemical ages. The more rapid SOA formation is due to the



440 updated SVOC volatility distribution in this model case compared to the cases that use  
441 the Robinson et al. (2007) distribution. Specifically, as shown in Fig. 2F, there is a higher  
442 relative concentration of gas phase SVOCs in the  $c^* = 10^2$  bin, and SOA formation from  
443 these precursors is relatively fast due to their low initial volatility leading to increased  
444 SOA formation during the first hours of photochemical aging. This case suggests that P-  
445 SVOCs in their highest volatility bin ( $c^* = 10^2$  bin) that are emitted by motor vehicles  
446 may be responsible for some of the observed rapid SOA formation within the South  
447 Coast Air Basin. When observing the SOA mass simulated at photochemical ages higher  
448 than 1 day, the simulation is similar to ROB + ZHAO + TSI. There is better  
449 model/measurement agreement than for the ROB + TSI case, but a small over-prediction  
450 is observed in the comparison to the reactor data at 2 days of photochemical aging.

451 Also shown in the right-hand panels of Fig. 3 and 4 are the results with the  
452 updated yields for the VOCs that account for gas phase chamber wall losses. For these  
453 last three cases (ROB + MA, ROB + ZHAO + MA, and WOR + ZHAO + MA), the rate  
454 of SOA formation at short photochemical ages is faster because the secondary SVOC  
455 mass from the oxidation of the VOC precursors is distributed into lower volatility bins  
456 compared to the Tsimpidi et al. (2010) parameterization. In the ROB + MA case (Fig. 3D  
457 and 4D), similar to ROB + TSI, an over-prediction is obtained at longer photochemical  
458 ages. However, there is an improvement in the model at the shortest photochemical ages,  
459 but the simulated mass is still lower than the measurements even when considering the  
460 measurement uncertainty. Both of these cases perform less well for SOA formation  
461 within the South Coast Air Basin, and therefore the remainder of this study is focused on  
462 the other four model cases. In the cases with the updated yields, the SOA concentration  
463 reaches a plateau at longer photochemical ages, whereas in the model cases using the  
464 original yields from the TSI parameterization, the SOA mass concentration continues to  
465 increase due to aging. Overall, the model cases using the updated yields for V-SOA show  
466 improvement for the shorter photochemical ages, and the evolution of SOA concentration  
467 as a function of photochemical age better corresponds to the various measurements taken  
468 at Pasadena, aboard the NOAA P3, and from the OFR.

469 Finally, the WOR + ZHAO + MA case shows the best model/measurement  
470 agreement among the different cases used in this work. The SOA mass simulated at  
471 longer photochemical ages better agrees with measurements compared to the WOR +  
472 ZHAO + TSI case, and model/measurement agreement is obtained for the reactor and the  
473 airborne data at longer photochemical ages as shown in Fig. 4F. Also, the WOR + ZHAO  
474 + MA simulation is more consistent with the fit of the measurements (Fig. 3F) in which  
475 the SOA mass remains nearly constant at longer photochemical ages. In contrast, the  
476 WOR + ZHAO + TSI case does not follow this trend as the SOA mass keeps increasing  
477 between 2 and 3 days age, which is not observed in the measurements. As mentioned  
478 above, the model used for this work doesn't include fragmentation reactions, but this



479 option is unlikely to be the explanation for the over-prediction observed at > 2 days for  
480 the WOR + ZHAO + TSI case. According to the OFR data from Ortega et al. (2016), the  
481 mass of OA starts to decay due to fragmentation at approximately 10 days of  
482 photochemical aging. In this work, the model is run only up to 3 days, which is much  
483 shorter than the age when fragmentation appears to become important. Fig. 4F indicates  
484 that including additional P-SVOC mass in the model and accounting for gas-phase wall  
485 losses in chamber studies improves SOA mass concentration simulations with respect to  
486 the measurements. However, in the WOR + ZHAO + MA case there is still a slight  
487 under-prediction of SOA formed at shorter photochemical ages (between 0.05 and 0.5  
488 days), and this discrepancy is observed in all the other model cases.

### 489 **3.1.2 SOA concentration estimated at Pasadena: fossil and non-fossil** 490 **fractions**

491 In the top panel of Figure 5, the box model is compared against the urban SOA  
492 determined by PMF analysis of the AMS measurements at Pasadena (Hayes et al., 2013).  
493 In the bottom panel of the same figure the model is compared against the fossil and non-  
494 fossil fraction of urban SOA as obtained from  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements reported in Zotter et al.  
495 (2014). Both panels show measurements and predictions corresponding to 12:00 – 15:00  
496 local time, when SOA concentrations peaked due to longer photochemical ages (5 hours  
497 on average) as well as the arrival of emissions transported from source-rich western  
498 regions of the South Coast Air Basin.

499 Similar to the results in Fig. 3 and 4 for short photochemical ages, the SOA mass  
500 simulated by the ROB + ZHAO + TSI case is biased low in Fig. 5A. The ROB + ZHAO  
501 + MA, WOR + ZHAO + TSI, and WOR + ZHAO + MA cases show better  
502 model/measurement agreement as the simulated SOA mass is within the measurement  
503 uncertainty or essentially equal to the lower limit of the concentration that is defined by  
504 the measurement uncertainty. Fig. 5A also allows evaluation of the contribution of each  
505 precursor type to the SOA at Pasadena. For the four cases displayed, the P-SVOCs and P-  
506 IVOCs are responsible for 70 – 86 % of the urban SOA formation. Thus, more than half  
507 of the urban SOA is attributed to these precursors even in the MA parameterizations  
508 where the model is run with the updated yields, which doubles V-SOA compared to the  
509 cases using the yields reported from Tsimpidi et al. (2010). Furthermore, 7 – 30 % of the  
510 measured urban SOA is due to V-SOA where the range of values is due to the uncertainty  
511 in the measurements as well as the difference in simulated V-SOA concentration for each  
512 case.

513 According to the  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements, an average of  $71 \pm 3$  % of urban SOA at  
514 Pasadena is fossil carbon, which is thought to be due to the importance of vehicular  
515 emissions, especially during the morning rush hour (Hayes et al., 2015; Zotter et al.,  
516 2014; Bahreini et al., 2012). In general, the box model gives results consistent with the



517  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements. To make this comparison, the simulated SOA is apportioned between  
518 fossil S-SOA, fossil I-SOA, fossil V-SOA, cooking S-SOA, and biogenic V-SOA. The  
519 last two apportionments correspond to non-fossil carbon. The apportionment of SOA into  
520 these categories is possible because the box model calculates the SOA formed from each  
521 precursors compound or lumped species individually. Then the SOA mass from a  
522 precursor can be attributed to fossil or non-fossil depending on the identity of the  
523 precursor following an approach similar to Hayes et al. (2015). Briefly, the fossil S-SOA  
524 is formed from P-SVOCs emitted with hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA), which is a surrogate  
525 for vehicular POA. Second, cooking S-SOA is formed from P-SVOCs emitted with  
526 cooking-influenced OA (CIOA). The concentrations of HOA and CIOA were determined  
527 previously using PMF analysis. Fossil V-SOA is formed from aromatics, alkanes, and  
528 olefins while isoprene and terpenes are responsible for biogenic V-SOA. The treatment of  
529 IVOCs in the comparison with the  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements has been updated from our 2015  
530 study. Previously, it was assumed that P-IVOCs were co-emitted with cooking-influenced  
531 OA, but the recent work of Zhao et al. (2014) indicates that petroleum sources contribute  
532 substantially to IVOC emissions. Therefore, the IVOCs are considered entirely fossil  
533 carbon in order to obtain the results shown in Fig. 5B.

534 As seen in Fig. 5B, for all the model cases, cooking S-SOA dominates the non-  
535 fossil fraction and biogenic VOCs have only a small contribution to non-fossil urban  
536 SOA. This result is consistent with our previous work, and indicates agreement between  
537 the model and  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements cannot be achieved without including an urban source  
538 of non-fossil carbon such as P-SVOCs from cooking. With respect to fossil SOA, more  
539 S-SOA is formed when using the volatility distribution of vehicular POA reported from  
540 Worton et al. (2014) due to the greater proportion of gas-phase of P-SVOCs. When the  
541 V-SOA yields are updated in the model (MA parameterizations), there is a corresponding  
542 increase in both fossil and non-fossil V-SOA.

543 When comparing the fossil/non-fossil carbon split, all the cases are either in  
544 agreement with the measurement within its uncertainty, or slightly lower. Starting with  
545 the ROB + ZHAO + TSI case, the fossil fraction increases from 73 % to 77 % in each  
546 case as VOCs or P-SVOCs from vehicle emissions have greater importance for SOA  
547 formation. While the uncertainties reported in Zotter et al. (2014) were  $71 \pm 3$  %, there  
548 are likely additional errors due to different factors that may influence the model or  
549 measurements. For example, the SOA forming potential of cooking emissions remains  
550 uncertain since no parameterization specific to this source has been published, to our  
551 knowledge. Alternatively, a portion of the P-IVOCs may be from cooking sources rather  
552 than entirely from fossil sources as is assumed above (Klein et al., 2016). Taking the  
553 WOR + ZHAO + MA case as an example, since it is the best performing case in this  
554 work, model/measurement agreement is obtained within measurement uncertainties if one  
555 assumes that 15 – 38 % of P-IVOCs come from cooking emissions. Ultimately, the



556 differences observed in the comparison with the  $^{14}\text{C}$  data are very likely smaller than  
557 these errors discussed here, and it is concluded that all the model cases perform equally  
558 well with respect to the fossil/non-fossil carbon split.

559 As reported in Gentner et al. (2012), emissions from petroleum derived fuels such  
560 as diesel and gasoline have an important contribution to the formation of SOA. However,  
561 there have been conflicting results regarding the relative contributions of diesel versus  
562 gasoline emissions (Bahreini et al., 2012; Gentner et al., 2012). In this work, the relative  
563 contribution of different SOA sources is estimated following a procedure similar to that  
564 previously published in Hayes et al. (2015), and the results are shown in Fig. S2 of the  
565 supporting information. Briefly, the source apportionment method follows four steps.  
566 First, after classifying the SOA mass from isoprene and terpenes as biogenic V-SOA, the  
567 remaining V-SOA is attributed to gasoline emissions since the diesel contribution to V-  
568 SOA is small ( $\sim 3\%$ ) (Hayes et al., 2015). Second, for the diesel and gasoline  
569 contribution to S-SOA, 70( $\pm 10$ )% of HOA is emitted from diesel vehicles with the  
570 remainder from gasoline vehicles (Hayes et al., 2013), and thus it is assumed for the  
571 source apportionment that 70% (30%) of vehicular P-SVOCs are from diesel (gasoline)  
572 vehicles. Third, the S-SOA from cooking sources is calculated separately in the model,  
573 where the initial concentration of cooking P-SVOCs is estimated using the measured  
574 CIOA concentration and the method described in Section 2.2.2 above. Lastly, the  
575 fractional contributions to I-SOA mass is difficult to determine since there are still  
576 uncertainties about the sources of IVOCs. According to Zhao et al. (2014), petroleum  
577 sources other than on-road vehicles likely contribute substantially to primary IVOCs, but  
578 evidence exists that cooking may be a source of IVOCs as well (Klein et al., 2016). Thus,  
579 while we attribute I-SOA to these two sources, we do not distinguish the sources. The  
580 estimated source apportionment in Fig S2 attributes urban SOA as follows: 4% to  
581 biogenic V-SOA, 21% to gasoline V-SOA, 9% to gasoline S-SOA, 22% to diesel S-  
582 SOA, and 28% to cooking S-SOA. The remaining 26% is I-SOA that is either due to  
583 cooking or off-road emissions of P-IVOCs.

584 It should be noted that according to McDonald et al. (2015), the emissions from  
585 vehicles have decreased over time (i.e. between 1970 and 2010) due to regulations in  
586 California. Warneke et al. (2012) have observed also that the emission ratios of some  
587 SOA precursors (i.e.  $\Delta\text{VOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ ) have remained constant between 2002 and 2010,  
588 while absolute concentrations have decreased. On the other hand, cooking and off-road  
589 emissions are subject to different regulations in California, and the ratios of cooking or  
590 off-road emissions to vehicular emissions have likely changed with time, which means  
591 that the source apportionment results for urban SOA presented here will be specific to  
592 2010.

593





### 594 3.2 SOA formation versus precursor oxidation rate constant

595 It is important to evaluate the contribution of different classes of precursors to  
596 SOA formation, and the relative contributions of VOCs, P-SVOCs, and P-IVOCs have  
597 not been well-constrained by previous studies as discussed in the introduction. Recent  
598 results from Ortega et al. (2016) point to the importance of fast-reacting precursors for  
599 urban SOA during CalNex, and we can use their results to provide an additional  
600 constraint on our box model. The fraction of SOA formed from each precursor class as a  
601 function of the precursor rate constant is displayed in Figure 6. A large majority of the V-  
602 SOA mass has precursor rate constants ranging from approximately  $3 \times 10^{-12}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-10}$   
603  $\text{cm}^3 \text{molec}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$  ( $\log k_{\text{OH}} -11.5$  to  $-10.0$ ). Aromatic species including toluene, 1,3,5-TMB,  
604 and 1,2,4-TMB that produce significant V-SOA as shown in previous studies generally  
605 have rate constants in this range (Hayes et al., 2015; Dzepina et al., 2009). On the other  
606 hand, the I-SOA and S-SOA are formed from compounds that have on average higher  
607 rate constants with a narrower range of values of  $1 \times 10^{-11}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-10} \text{cm}^3 \text{molec}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$  ( $\log$   
608  $k_{\text{OH}} -11.0$  to  $-10.0$ ). It is important to note that the measurements of IVOCs used here  
609 allow the rate constants of these precursors to be taken from published work or estimated  
610 using structure-function relationships as described previously (Zhao et al., 2014). For S-  
611 SOA, the rate constant is the aging rate constant reported originally by Robinson et al.  
612 (2007).

613 The right-axis of Fig. 6 shows the correlation ( $R^2$ ) of different VOCs with the  
614 maximum concentration of SOA formed using the OFR as a function of their oxidation  
615 rate constants as reported in Ortega et al. (2016). This analysis of the OFR data allows us  
616 to constrain the rate constants of the most important SOA precursors. A detailed  
617 description of how the  $R^2$  values were obtained can be found in Ortega et al. (2016).  
618 According to the  $R^2$  data, the VOC compounds that correlate best with maximum SOA  
619 formation potential are those that have  $\log k_{\text{OH}}$  rate constants ranging from  $-10.5$  to  $-10.0$ .  
620 Similarly, in all four model cases most of the SOA formed comes from species with  $\log$   
621  $k_{\text{OH}}$  values in the range  $-11$  to  $-10$ .

622 On the other hand, when comparing the percentage of SOA mass simulated by the  
623 model with the observed  $R^2$  values, all of the four cases are not entirely consistent with  
624 the  $R^2$  data. According to the model, more SOA mass is formed from precursors in the  
625 bin ranging from  $-11.0$  to  $-10.5$  (the majority of mass formed comes from P-IVOCs)  
626 rather than the bin ranging from  $-10.5$  to  $-10.0$ . In contrast, the  $R^2$  value is higher for the  
627 more reactive bin. It is important to remember that the rate constants used for the  
628 unspciated P-IVOCs are estimated as their lower limits (Zhao et al., 2014). If the P-  
629 IVOCs were fully speciated and the actual rate constants were used in the model, then  
630 some of the I-SOA mass would likely move from the  $-11.0$  to  $-10.5$  bin into the  $-10.5$  to  
631  $-10.0$  bin. If either fast-reacting precursors were missing in the model, or if the rate



632 constants of the currently-implemented precursors were too small, then correcting either  
633 error would shift the relative distribution shown in Fig. 6 towards faster-reacting SOA  
634 precursors. In turn, the trend in the percentage of modeled SOA mass may more closely  
635 follow the trend in  $R^2$  values. Lastly, the higher P-SVOC concentrations in the WOR +  
636 ZHAO + TSI and WOR + ZHAO + MA cases (Fig. 6B and D) slightly improve the  
637 comparison with the  $R^2$  data since additional SOA mass is formed from precursors in the  
638 -10.5 to -10.0 bin. These findings highlight again the important contribution of fast-  
639 reacting compounds, including P-S/IVOCs, to SOA formation in the South Coast Air  
640 Basin.

### 641 3.3 Volatility distribution of OA

642 Based on the evaluations carried out up to this point on the six model cases, the  
643 WOR + ZHAO + MA case seems to most closely reproduce the observations. The entire  
644 volatility distribution of the OA, precursors, and secondary gas phase organics is  
645 therefore analyzed for this model case. Figure 7 shows this distribution for three selected  
646 photochemical ages: 0, 5, and 36 h. The figure allows us to track the evolution of SOA  
647 and secondary gas phase organics from each precursor class in terms of their  
648 concentration and volatility and also to evaluate the reduction of precursor  
649 concentrations. For the model results, the volatility distribution of all organics resolved  
650 by precursor class, except for the VOCs and P-IVOCs, can be taken directly from the  
651 model. To determine the volatility distribution of the VOCs and P-IVOCs, the SIMPOL.1  
652 method (Pankow and Asher, 2008) is used to estimate the effective saturation  
653 concentration of each compound or lumped species in the model. Also included in Fig. 7,  
654 in the bottom-right panel, is the observed volatility distribution for the Pasadena ground  
655 site, which is an average of measurements collected during 12:00 – 15:00 local time and  
656 corresponds to 5 h of photochemical aging. For the measurements, the volatility  
657 distribution of VOCs was determined using GC-MS data (Borbon et al., 2013) whereas  
658 the IVOC distribution is taken from Zhao et al. (2014). The volatility distribution of  
659 SVOCs was determined using combined thermal denuder AMS measurements (see the  
660 supporting information for further details).

661 For the volatility distribution of the model at time 0, the concentrations of P-  
662 SVOCs and P-IVOCs monotonically increases with the value of  $c^*$ . However, a  
663 discontinuity in the mass concentration exists between the bins  $c^* = 10^2$  and  $10^3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ .  
664 This discontinuity can be explained by several factors. First, the measured IVOCs mass  
665 concentration in the  $c^* = 10^3$  bin is very low, and since the initial concentrations of  
666 IVOCs in the model are constrained by the field measurements, the model will also have  
667 very low concentrations. Zhao et al. (2014) have already noted that the concentration of  
668 P-IVOCs in this bin is relatively low when compared to the volatility distribution from  
669 Robinson et al. (2007). Another possible explanation is the presence of cooking sources,



670 which in the model are responsible for substantial P-SVOC mass (~50%) but may have a  
671 smaller contribution to the P-IVOC mass.

672 During oxidation the volatility distribution evolves and the concentration of  
673 secondary organics increases in the bins between  $c^* = 10^{-1}$  and  $10^3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (inclusive), and  
674 the largest portion of SOA is found in the  $c^* = 1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  bin. This result is due to the  
675 partitioning of the organic mass to the particle phase and the lack of particle phase  
676 reactions in the model, which leads to very slow oxidation rates for species found in the  
677 lower volatility bins. After 36 h, a large portion of the precursors have been reacted,  
678 although some primary and secondary material remains in the gas phase giving rise to  
679 more gradual SOA formation.

680 In Fig. 7, it is possible to compare the measured volatility distribution with the  
681 model simulation at 5 h of photochemical aging. It should be noted that the relatively  
682 high concentrations of VOCs in the model compared to the measurements are due to the  
683 model containing VOCs for which measurements were not obtained in Pasadena. There  
684 are 47 VOCs used in the model and only 19 VOCs were measured. However, the  
685 remaining VOCs have been measured in other urban locations (Borbon et al., 2013;  
686 Warneke et al., 2007) and thus it is assumed they are also present in the South Coast Air  
687 Basin. For this work, we include these 28 remaining VOCs by assuming that they are also  
688 emitted in the South Coast Air Basin with identical emission ratios ( $\Delta\text{VOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ ). When  
689 comparing only VOCs measured and modeled (shown in hollow black bars), the results  
690 are consistent ( $3.1, 3.6$  and  $2.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  from bins  $c^* = 10^7$  to  $10^9$  versus  $3.8, 3.7$  and  $2.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$   
691 for the measurements). On the other hand, the model appears to have a low bias for  
692 the concentrations of P-IVOCs ( $0.16, 0.63, 0.89$  and  $2.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  from bins  $c^* = 10^3$  to  $10^6$   
693 versus  $0.21, 1.39, 2.65$  and  $3.82 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for the measurements). This low bias is seen for  
694 each volatility bin and could possibly be explained by either oxidation rate constants that  
695 are too high or  $\Delta\text{IVOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$  ratios that are too low. The latter explanation seems more  
696 likely given that the rate constants estimated using surrogate compounds and structure-  
697 activity relationships for the unspciated P-IVOCs are generally lower limits (Zhao et al.,  
698 2014), which would result in a high bias rather than a low bias. The  $\Delta\text{IVOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$  ratios  
699 may be low because the photochemical age between 00:00 – 6:00 local time is not strictly  
700 zero, and some oxidation may have occurred during the period used to determine the ratio  
701 values. Emission ratios such as  $\Delta\text{IVOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$  facilitate incorporating P-IVOC emissions  
702 into 3-D models that already use CO emissions inventories, and the  $\Delta\text{IVOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$  ratios  
703 reported here could be used for this purpose. However, the resulting I-SOA  
704 concentrations should be considered lower limits given that the emission ratios, and also  
705 the rate constants, are likely themselves lower limits.

706 For the measurements of SVOCs, all the mass in bins lower than  $10^{-2} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  are  
707 lumped into this bin for Fig. 7 since the model does not contain lower volatility bins. In



708 addition, the  $10^1$  and  $10^2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  bins are not well-resolved because the thermal denuder  
709 did not consistently reach temperatures low enough (less than  $37^\circ\text{C}$ ) to resolve SVOCs in  
710 this range of volatilities. Thus, the  $10^1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  bin may contain some higher volatility  
711 particulate mass although this contribution is expected to be small due to the low particle  
712 phase fraction of compounds in the  $10^2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  bin. With these considerations in mind, the  
713 volatility distribution of the SVOCs is somewhat different in the model compared to the  
714 measurements. Most notably, the model does not form a significant amount of lower  
715 volatility SOA in the  $10^{-2} \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  bin, whereas the measurements have a much higher  
716 concentrations in this bin. A factor that may explain this difference between the volatility  
717 distributions is the lack of particle phase reactions that continue to transform SOA into  
718 lower volatility products, a process which is not considered in the model. One example of  
719 a particle phase reaction is the formation of SOA within deliquesced particles, including  
720 the partitioning of glyoxal to the aqueous phase to produce oligomers as discussed in  
721 Ervens and Volkamer (2010). However, when comparing the total amount of particle  
722 phase SVOCs, it seems that the model reproduces reasonably well the measurements ( $6.7$   
723 versus  $9.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) as expected based on the comparisons of the total SOA concentration  
724 discussed above. In addition, the total amount of SVOCs (particle and gas phase) are  
725 similar ( $12.3$  vs  $11.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ), although it is difficult to determine from measurements the  
726 gas phase concentration of SVOCs in the  $10^2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  bin due to the lack of particle mass  
727 in this bin under ambient concentrations as well as the limited temperature range of the  
728 thermal denuder system.

729 Recently, Woody et al. (2016) published a paper that modeled SOA over  
730 California using the Environmental Protection Agency's Community Multiscale Air  
731 Quality Model that had been updated to include a VBS treatment of SOA (CMAQ-VBS).  
732 As discussed in that paper, the modeled P-S/IVOC emission inventories remain an  
733 important source of uncertainty in 3-D grid-based models. In that previous study several  
734 different ratios of P-S/IVOCs-to-POA emissions were evaluated against measurements,  
735 and it was found that a ratio of 7.5 gave the best agreement between the CMAQ-VBS  
736 model and observations. From the results shown in Fig. 7 at a photochemical age of 0 h, a  
737 P-S/IVOC-to-POA ratio of 5.2 is calculated. This ratio is different from that determined  
738 by Woody et al. (2016), and may be biased low due to possibly low  $\Delta\text{IVOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$   
739 emission ratios as discussed earlier in this section, but it serves as both a useful lower  
740 bound and has the advantage of being determined from empirical measurements of  
741 aerosols rather than by tuning a model to match measured SOA concentrations. As stated  
742 in Woody et al. (2016), the higher ratio may compensate for other missing (or  
743 underrepresented) formation pathways in SOA models.

744



#### 745 4. CONCLUSION

746 We have used several data sets from recently published papers to better constrain  
747 and evaluate urban SOA formation pathways and precursors, especially P-SVOCs and P-  
748 IVOCs, within a custom-built box model. The use of the box model facilitates the  
749 incorporation of these new data sets as well as the evaluation of a number of model cases.  
750 When measurements of IVOCs are used to constrain the concentrations of P-IVOCs, such  
751 as in the ROB + ZHAO + TSI and ROB + ZHAO + MA cases, a large improvement of  
752 the model at longer photochemical age is observed. However, these model cases are still  
753 biased low at shorter photochemical ages. By constraining the P-SVOCs additionally  
754 with measurements of those precursors, such as in the WOR + ZHAO + TSI case, better  
755 model/measurement agreement is obtained at shorter photochemical ages, yet the model  
756 is still biased low. The WOR + ZHAO + MA case, which incorporates state-of-the-art  
757 measurements of P-SVOCs and P-IVOCs and also accounts for the effect of chamber  
758 wall-losses on VOC yields, best simulates SOA formation, although some low bias at  
759 short photochemical ages remains. This bias may be due to low  $\Delta\text{IVOC}/\Delta\text{CO}$  emissions  
760 ratios or IVOC oxidation rate constants for which the estimated values are too low. It is  
761 also possible that additional sources or SOA formation pathways are missing from the  
762 model. Moreover, a P-S/IVOC-to-POA ratio of 5.2 is determined, which can be  
763 combined with POA emission inventories to constrain the emissions of P-S/IVOCs in  
764 gridded chemical transport models. All the model cases are able to correctly simulate the  
765 fossil/non-fossil carbon split at the Pasadena ground site providing support for the  
766 performance of the model.

767 In addition to evaluating the model performance with respect to SOA  
768 concentration, the rates of SOA formation are compared against measurements as well.  
769 This aspect of the study was enhanced by the use of OFR data to constrain SOA  
770 formation potential for up to 3 days of photochemical aging (at  $1.5 \times 10^6$  molec OH  
771  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ). The model cases that include multi-generation oxidative aging predict substantial  
772 SOA increases after 1.5 days of aging, which is not consistent with the OFR  
773 measurements. In contrast, model cases in which aging is omitted and instead SOA yields  
774 for VOCs are corrected for gas phase wall-losses in chamber experiments predict little  
775 change in the SOA concentration after 1.5 days. These results highlight the uncertainties  
776 associated with aging schemes for SOA from VOCs, which are often implemented in  
777 SOA models. Implementing instead corrected yields for VOCs results in similar amounts  
778 of SOA but formation rates versus time that are more consistent with observations.

779 In all six of the model cases, a large majority of the urban SOA at Pasadena is the  
780 result of P-SVOC and P-IVOC oxidation. While this result alone cannot be taken as  
781 conclusive due to the uncertainties in the model parameters, further evidence for the  
782 importance of P-SVOCs and P-IVOCs is obtained by analyzing the percentage of SOA



783 formed at long photochemical ages (~1.5 days) as a function of the precursor rate  
784 constant. Highly reactive VOCs (e.g. decane, xylenes, and trimethylbenzenes) have been  
785 previously found to strongly correlate with SOA formation potential, and P-IVOCs and  
786 P-SVOCs have rate constants similar to these highly reactive VOCs ( $\log k_{\text{OH}} = -11.0$  to  
787  $-10.0$ ). In contrast, the rate constants for the VOCs that are the largest contributors to  
788 SOA are generally smaller ( $\log k_{\text{OH}} -11.5$  to  $-10.5$ ), which further suggests that VOCs are  
789 less important urban SOA precursors unless there are some highly reactive VOCs that are  
790 not included in the model that produce a substantial amount of SOA.

791 Lastly, the modeled volatility distribution of the total (gas and particle phase)  
792 organic mass between  $C^* = 10^{-2}$  and  $10^{10}$   $\text{ug m}^{-3}$  is analyzed at three ages and compared  
793 against volatility-resolved measurements. While the total concentrations of gas and  
794 particle phase SVOCs are reasonably well simulated, at the same time there are important  
795 differences between the measured and modeled volatility distribution of SVOCs. These  
796 differences highlight the need for further studies of the chemical pathways that may give  
797 rise to SOA in low volatility bins at  $C^* = 10^{-2}$   $\text{ug m}^{-3}$  and lower.

798

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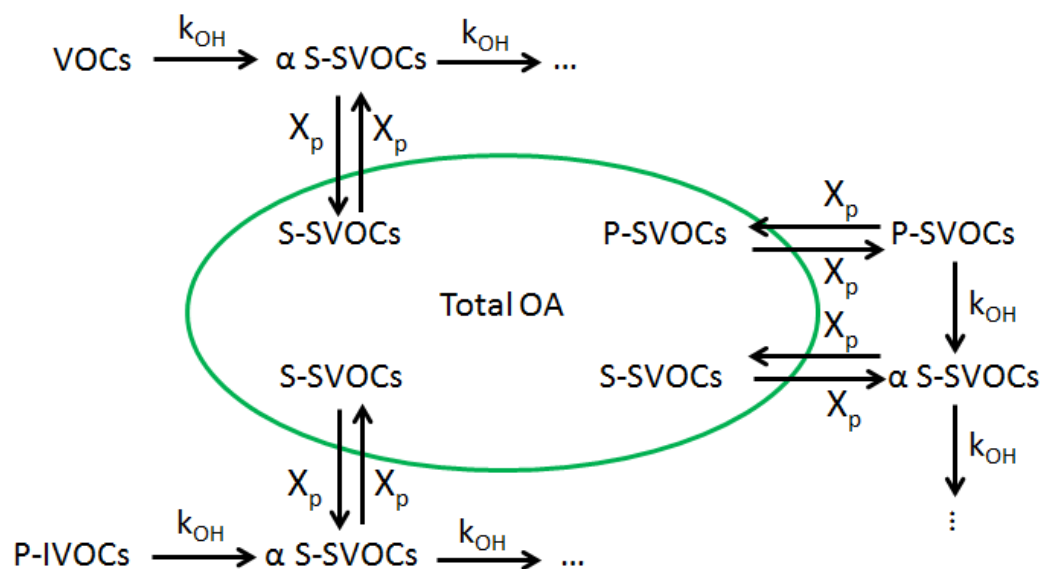
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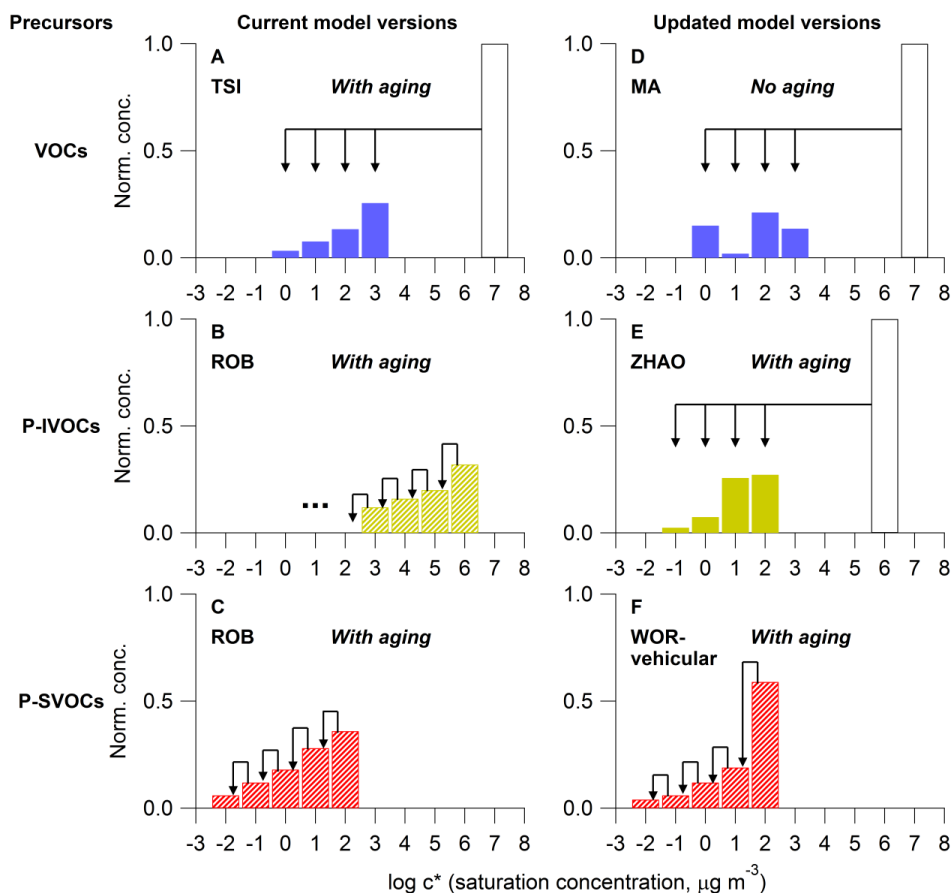
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**Table 1** Summary of the model cases used in this paper.

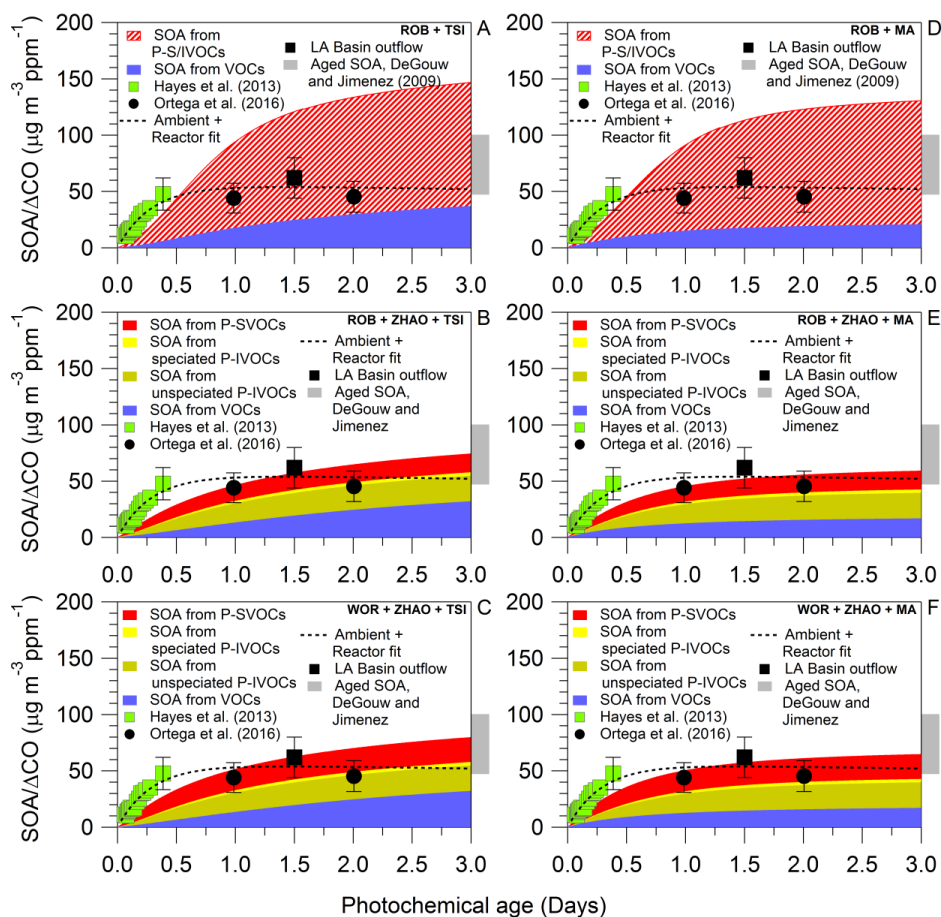
Case	Notes	References
1) ROB + TSI	<u>P-S/IVOCs</u> : Robinson et al. parameterization, and all SOA treated within VBS framework	Hayes et al. (2015) Robinson et al. (2007)
	<u>VOCs</u> : Tsimpidi et al. parameterization with aging	Tsimpidi et al. (2010)
2) ROB + ZHAO + TSI	<u>P-SVOCs</u> : Robinson et al. parameterization, and all SOA treated within VBS framework	Robinson et al. (2007)
	<u>P-IVOCs</u> : Zhao et al. parameterization with aging	Zhao et al. (2014) Tsimpidi et al. (2010)
3) WOR + ZHAO + TSI	<u>VOCs</u> : Tsimpidi et al. parameterization with aging	
	<u>P-SVOCs</u> : Worton et al. volatility distribution for vehicular P-SVOCs, Robinson et al. volatility distribution for cooking P-SVOCs	Robinson et al. (2007) Worton et al. (2014)
4) ROB + MA	<u>P-IVOCs</u> : Zhao et al. parameterization with aging	Zhao et al. (2014) Tsimpidi et al. (2010)
	<u>VOCs</u> : Tsimpidi et al. parameterizations with aging	
5) ROB + ZHAO + MA	<u>P-S/IVOCs</u> : Robinson et al. parameterization, and all SOA treated within VBS framework	Robinson et al. (2007)
	<u>VOCs</u> : Updated VOCs yields, no aging of VOC oxidation products	This work
6) WOR + ZHAO + MA	<u>P-SVOCs</u> : Robinson et al. parameterization, and all SOA treated within VBS framework	Robinson et al. (2007)
	<u>P-IVOCs</u> : Zhao et al. IVOC parameterization with aging	Zhao et al. (2014) This work
7) WOR + ZHAO + MA	<u>VOCs</u> : Updated VOCs yields, no aging of VOC oxidation products	
	<u>P-SVOCs</u> : Worton et al. volatility distribution for vehicular P-SVOCs, Robinson et al. volatility distribution for cooking P-SVOCs	Robinson et al. (2007) Worton et al. (2014)
8) WOR + ZHAO + MA	<u>P-IVOCs</u> : Zhao et al. IVOC parameterization with aging	Zhao et al. (2014) This work
	<u>VOCs</u> : Updated VOCs yields, no aging of VOC oxidation products	



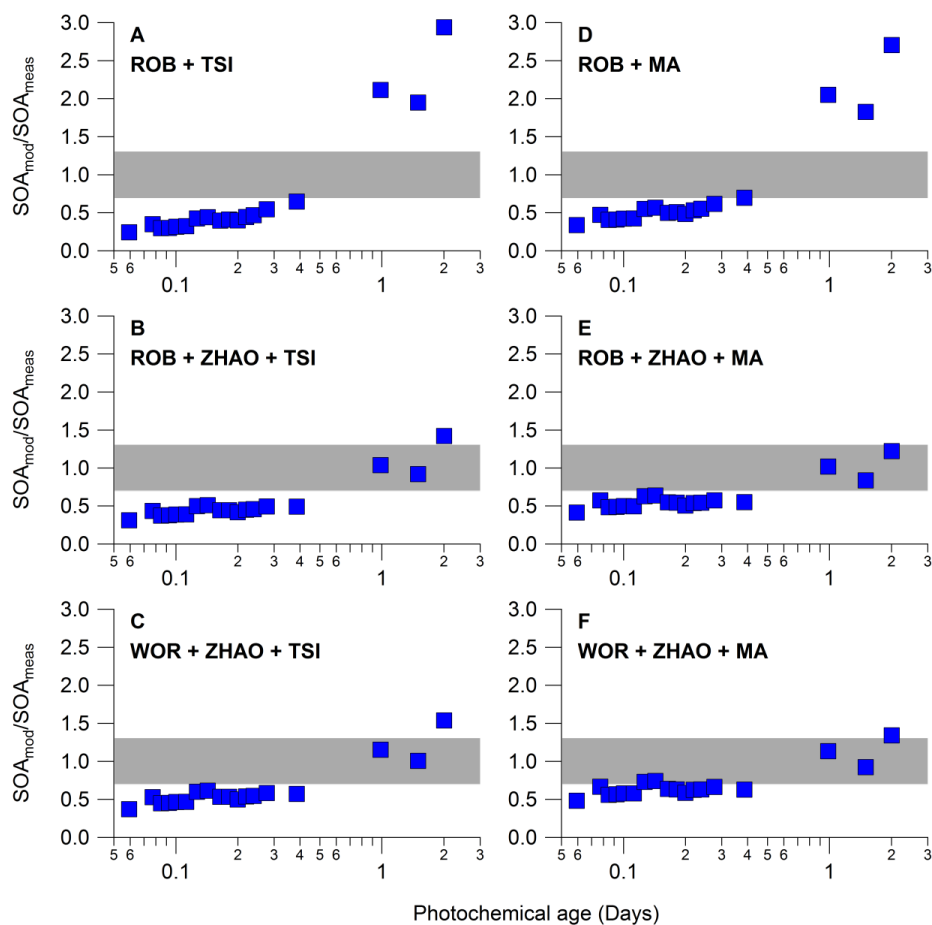
**Figure 1** Schematic of the chemical pathways leading to the formation of SOA in the box model where  $\alpha$  is the SOA yield,  $k_{OH}$  is the rate constant of a species oxidized by OH radicals, and  $X_p$  is the particle-phase fraction of a species.



**Figure 2** Schematic of the SOA formation parameterizations used in the model. The products formed are shown in different colors for each precursor. Note that the striped color bars indicate that the bins contain both primary and secondary organics. In panel (A) the parameterization of Tsimpidi et al. (2010) distributes the products of VOCs oxidation into four volatility bins. Panels (B) and (C), show the parameterization of Robinson et al. (2007) in which the volatility of the SOA precursors, specifically IVOCs and SVOCs, decrease by one order of magnitude per oxidation reaction. For P-IVOCs, aging continues to transfer mass to lower volatility bins ( $\log c^* < 2$ ). Panel (D) shows the updated parameterization for VOC oxidation that accounts for gas phase wall losses, and Panel (E) shows the updated parameterization for P-IVOC oxidation that uses the speciated measurements of IVOCs from Zhao et al. (2014). In Panel (F), for the parameterization based on the measurements of Wornton et al. (2014), the Robinson et al. (2007) volatility distribution is still used for the P-SVOCs emitted from cooking sources. Arrows representing the aging of SOA are omitted for clarity.

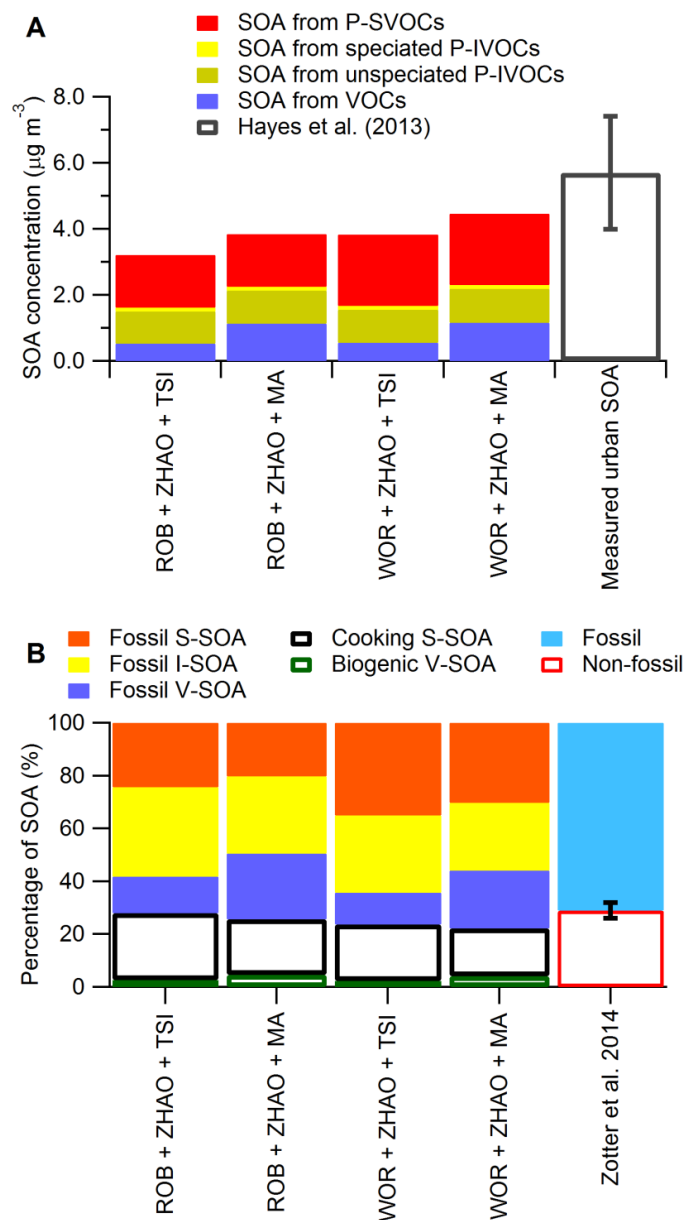


**Figure 3** Predicted urban SOA mass by all six cases for up to 3 days of photochemical aging using a reference OH radical concentration of  $1.5 \times 10^6 \text{ molec cm}^{-3}$ . Background SOA is not included in the figure. The SOA concentrations have been normalized to the background subtracted CO ( $\Delta\text{CO}$ ) concentration to account for changes in emission strengths and dilution. The SOA/ $\Delta\text{CO}$  data determined from the ambient and OFR measurements at Pasadena as reported by Hayes et al. 2013 (green squares) and Ortega et al. 2016 (black circles) are shown. Also shown is SOA/ $\Delta\text{CO}$  determined from measurements performed aboard the NOAA P3 research aircraft (black square) and reported by de Gouw and Jimenez (2009) (gray bar) for highly aged urban air masses. The fit for ambient and reactor data reported by Ortega et al. 2016 is also shown (dotted black line).

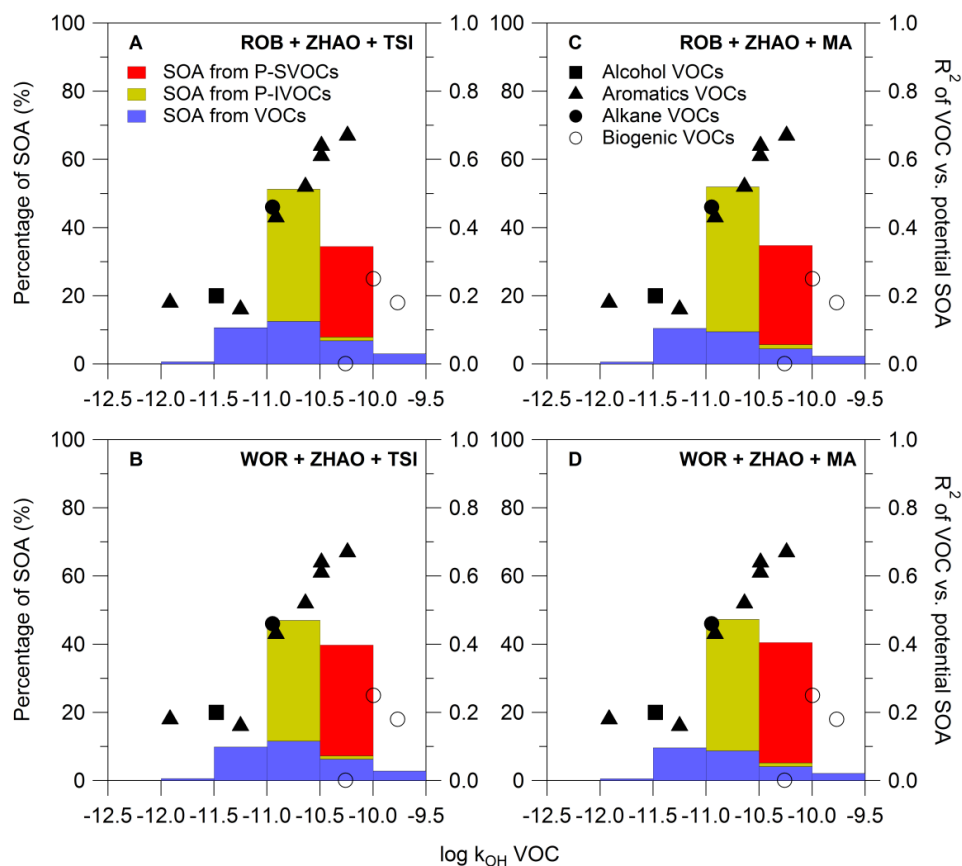


**Figure 4** The ratio of the modeled-to-measured SOA concentrations (blue squares) for all model cases. The measurements are the same as used in Figure 1. The gray bar indicates ratios that would correspond to model results that are within the estimated  $\pm 30\%$  uncertainty of the measurements.

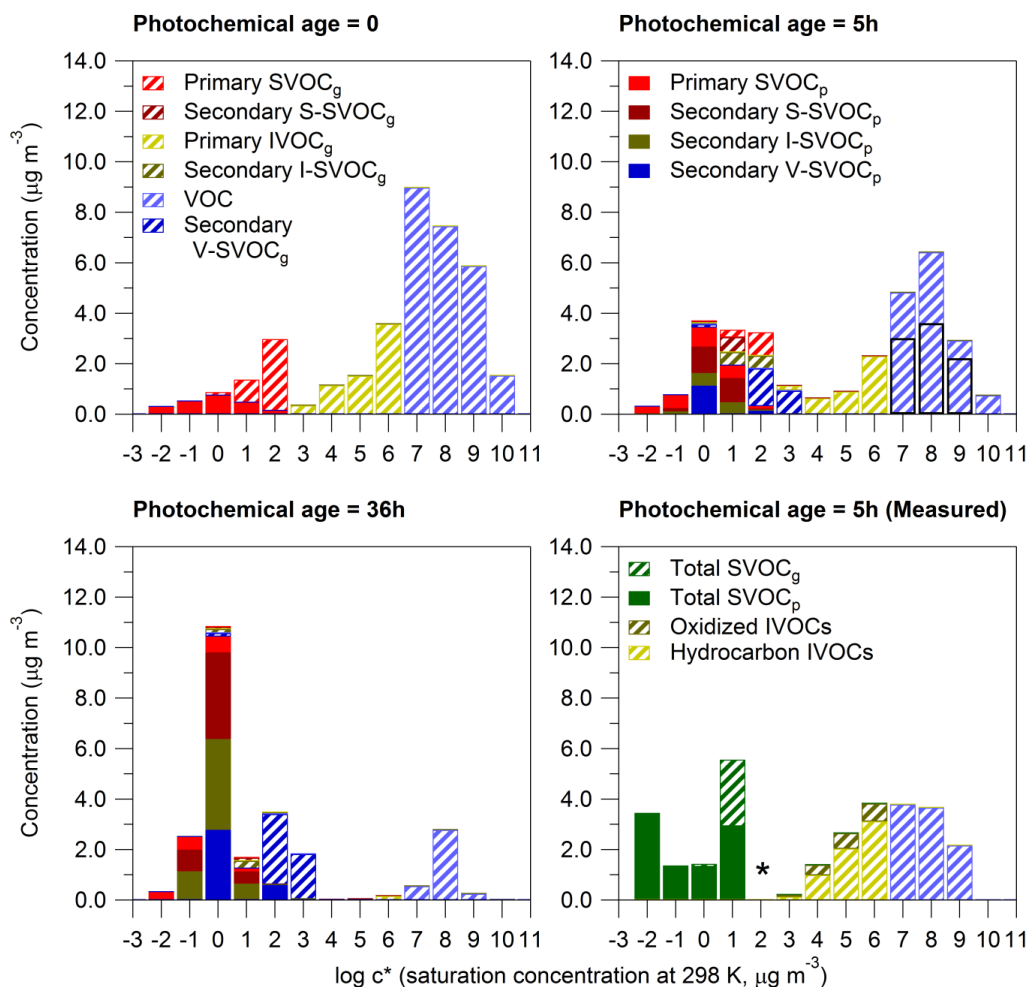




**Figure 5** (A) Predicted and measured urban SOA mass for 12:00 – 15:00 local time at the Pasadena ground site. (B) The fractional mass of fossil S-SOA, fossil I-SOA, and fossil V-SOA, as well as cooking S-SOA and biogenic V-SOA for the same time and location. The percentage of urban SOA from fossil and non-fossil sources as reported in Zotter et al. (2014) is also displayed. The fossil sources are shown as solid bars and the non-fossil sources as hollow bars.



**Figure 6** Percentage of SOA mass formed from different precursors at 1.5 days of photochemical aging (at  $1.5 \times 10^6 \text{ molec OH cm}^{-3}$ ) binned according to precursor rate constant. The correlations ( $R^2$ ) between the concentrations of different VOCs and the maximum SOA concentration formed in the OFR as reported by Ortega et al. (2016) are represented by the markers. The shape of the marker indicates the chemical family to which each compound belongs. For the VOCs and the P-IVOCs the rate constant is the constant for the initial oxidation reaction.



**Figure 7** OA volatility distribution as simulated by the WOR + ZHAO + MA case displayed at different photochemical ages (0, 5, and 36 h). The partitioning of the species is indicated using patterned bars for gas phase and solid bars for particle phase mass. The bottom-right graph also shows the measured volatility distribution of OA. The SVOC volatility distribution is determined using a combined thermal denuder AMS system as described in the supporting information. The IVOC volatility distribution was previously published in Zhao et al. (2014), and the VOC distribution was determined from GC-MS measurements using the SIMPOL.1 model to estimate the volatility of each VOC. The asterisk in the bin  $\log c^* = 2$  indicates that measurements are not available for this bin. It should be noted that not all the VOCs in the model were measured at Pasadena (see text for details). For direct visual comparison with the measurements, the simulated concentrations of only the VOCs measured at Pasadena are indicated by the black hollow bars in the bins  $\log c^* = 7, 8,$  and  $9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ .