

1 **Supplementary Information**

2 **Diverse Chemical Mixing State of Aerosol Particles in the**
3 **Southeastern United States**

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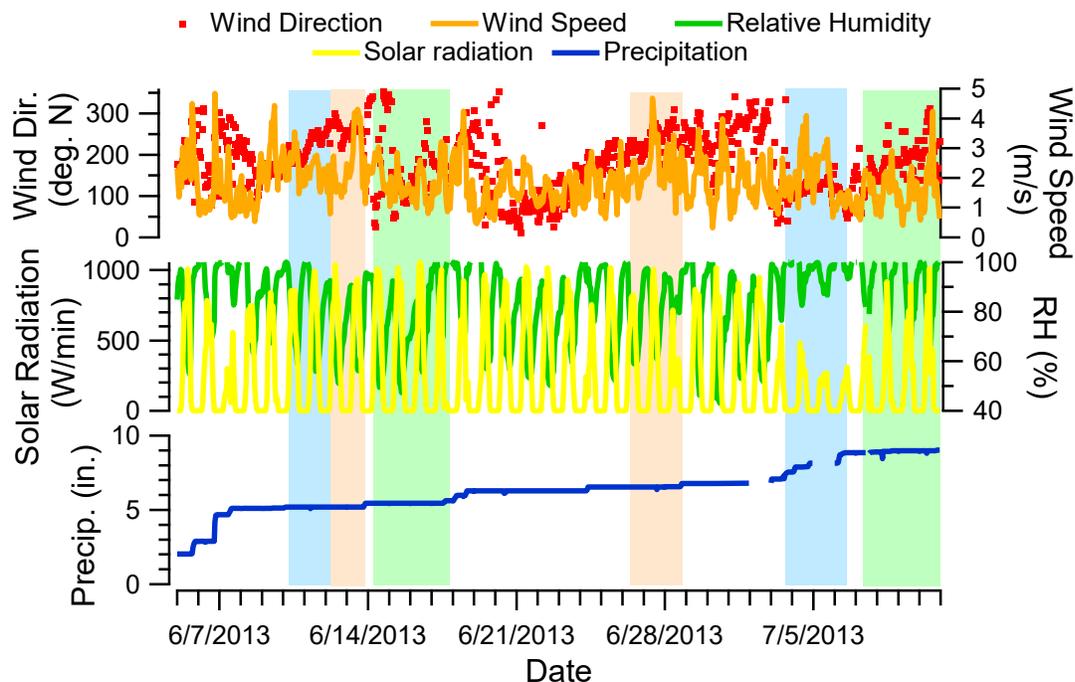
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15 **1 SEARCH network PM_{2.5} and meteorological measurements**

16 The SouthEastern Aerosol Research and Characterization Network (SEARCH) is a multi-pollutant
17 network designed to address regulatory and scientific questions related to ozone and its precursors,
18 particulate matter mass and composition, and atmospheric visibility in addition to other research
19 concerns. Active since 1992, Centreville, AL is one of a handful of sites that is part of SEARCH.
20 During SOAS, meteorological conditions including wind direction, wind speed, solar radiation,
21 precipitation, and relative humidity were monitored from the SEARCH network, plotted in Figure
22 S1. Additionally, the network also collected and determined mass concentrations of EC, NH₄⁺,
23 NO₃⁻, OC, SO₄²⁻, and PM_{2.5} (using a tapered element oscillating microbalance, TEOM) shown in
24 Figure 1. The box green boxes overlaid on the meteorological data in Figure S1 identify the two
25 SOA-rich time periods. Similarly, tan boxes indicate the dust-rich time periods and blue boxes the
26 SSA-rich time periods which were analyzed in this study.



27
28 **Figure S1.** SEARCH meteorological data for Centreville, AL during SOAS with green boxes overlaid for
29 the two SOA-rich time periods, tan boxes for the dust-rich time periods, and blue boxes overlaid for the
30 SSA-rich time periods.

31

32 **2 CCSEM-EDX analysis**

33 SOAS intensive time periods, selected based on meteorological conditions, had shorter MOUDI
34 collection times (3 hours rather than 11 hours.) The intensive dates are shown in Table S1 below,
35 with the sample times highlighted in blue showing periods where CCSEM-EDX was run.

36 **Table S1.** Intensive sample collection times. Highlighted samples were analyzed using CCSEM-EDX.

Intensive Date	Time (CST)
6/10/13	8:00-11:00
6/10/13	12:00-15:00
6/10/13	16:00-19:00
6/10/13	20:00-7:00
6/11/13	8:00-11:00
6/11/13	12:00-15:00
6/11/13	16:00-19:00
6/11/13	20:00-7:00
6/12/13	8:00-11:00
6/12/13	12:00-15:00
6/12/13	16:00-19:00
6/12/13	20:00-7:00
6/14/13	8:00-11:00
6/14/13	12:00-15:00
6/14/13	16:00-19:00
6/14/13	20:00-7:00
6/15/13	8:00-11:00
6/15/13	12:00-15:00
6/15/13	16:00-19:00
6/15/13	20:00-7:00
6/16/13	8:00-11:00
6/16/13	12:00-15:00
6/16/13	16:00-19:00
6/16/13	20:00-7:00
6/29/13	8:00-11:00
6/29/13	12:00-15:00
6/29/13	16:00-19:00
6/29/13	20:00-7:00
6/30/13	8:00-11:00
6/30/13	12:00-15:00
6/30/13	16:00-19:00
6/30/13	20:00-7:00
7/1/13	8:00-11:00
7/1/13	12:00-15:00
7/1/13	16:00-19:00
7/1/13	20:00-7:00
7/9/13	8:00-11:00
7/9/13	12:00-15:00
7/9/13	16:00-19:00
7/9/13	20:00-7:00

37 All sampling periods that were analyzed using CCSEM-EDX are indicated in Table S2 below. The
38 MOUDI stage(s) that were analyzed, in addition to the number of particles per sample, are also
39 indicated. The aerodynamic diameter 50% cut points, detailed in Marple et al (1991), are as
40 follows: stage 5 (1.8 μm), stage 6 (1.00 μm), stage 7 (0.56 μm), stage 8 (0.32 μm), stage 9 (0.18
41 μm), stage 10 (0.100 μm), and stage 11 (0.056 μm). Not every sample collected was analyzed due
42 to time/funding constraints and damaged substrates.

43

44 **Table S2.** Sampling times of all CCSEM-analyzed MOUDI samples and the number of particles analyzed
 45 per stage.

Sample Date	Time (CST)	Stage(s)	# of particles
6/5/13	10:00-19:00	7	145
6/6/13	20:00-7:00	6 / 7	23 / 43
6/7/13	8:00-19:00	7	305
6/7/13	20:00-7:00	6	222
6/8/13	8:00-19:00	6	167
6/10/13	8:00-11:00	6 / 8	395 / 580
6/10/13	12:00-15:00	6 / 8	518 / 497
6/10/13	16:00-19:00	8	281
6/10/13	20:00-7:00	7	567
6/11/13	8:00-11:00	7	431
6/11/13	16:00-19:00	7	450
6/11/13	20:00-7:00	7	553
6/12/13	8:00-11:00	6 / 8	305 / 151
6/12/13	12:00-15:00	5 / 7 / 8	129 / 474 / 1314
6/12/13	16:00-19:00	6 / 7	365 / 220
6/12/13	20:00-7:00	7 / 9	581 / 2313
6/13/13	8:00-19:00	5 / 8 / 10	462 / 653 / 688
6/13/13	20:00-7:00	7	122
6/14/13	8:00-11:00	6 / 7	101 / 355
6/14/13	12:00-15:00	6 / 7 / 8	22 / 343 / 402
6/14/13	16:00-19:00	8	512
6/14/13	20:00-7:00	6	100
6/15/13	8:00-11:00	7 / 8	384 / 380
6/15/13	20:00-7:00	6 / 7 / 8	84 / 532 / 2304
6/16/13	8:00-11:00	7	239
6/16/13	16:00-19:00	7	338
6/16/13	20:00-7:00	6 / 8	514 / 791
6/17/13	8:00-19:00	7	2707
6/20/13	8:00-19:00	6 / 7	134 / 938
6/26/13	20:00-7:00	6 / 7	295 / 539
6/28/13	20:00-7:00	7	95
7/1/13	12:00-15:00	7	392
7/3/13	20:00-7:00	7	711
7/4/13	8:00-19:00	7	1826
7/5/13	8:00-19:00	7	448
7/6/13	8:00-19:00	6 / 10 / 11	369 / 64 / 342
7/7/13	8:00-19:00	7 / 10	209 / 690
7/7/13	20:00-7:00	9	153
7/8/13	8:00-19:00	6 / 9 / 11	137 / 755 / 1246
7/8/13	20:00-7:00	9	260
7/9/13	16:00-19:00	5 / 6 / 10 / 11	527 / 446 / 846 / 879
7/11/13	8:00-19:00	9	1262

46

47

48 3 Calculation of particle volume equivalent diameters

49 To describe the impact of size on aerosol chemical diversity during SOAS, projected area
50 diameters (D_{pa}) measured using CCSEM-EDX were converted to volume equivalent diameters
51 (D_{ve}) using a conversion factor determined from atomic force microscopy (AFM) height images
52 of organic particles from SOAS collected on silicon substrates (Ted Pella Inc.). As particles can
53 undergo spreading upon impaction on substrates, D_{ve} represents the size of particles before
54 impaction. AFM images from organic aerosol particles collected during SOAS on June 14, 2013
55 were used in the subsequent analysis to calculate a conversion factor between D_{pa} and D_{ve} for SOA
56 and biomass burning particles. As SSA during SOAS was predominately aged by HNO_3 leading
57 to NaNO_3 in the particle phase (Bondy et al., 2017b), a SSA spreading conversion factor was
58 calculated using laboratory-generated NaNO_3 (Bondy et al., 2017a). Though organic aerosol
59 particles and SSA are expected to spread upon impaction as they are generally liquids at the
60 temperatures and relative humidities presented, mineral dust, fly ash and primary biological
61 particles are not expected to spread as they are solid. Thus, D_{pa} is equivalent to D_{ve} for mineral
62 dust, fly ash and biological particles.

63 AFM was performed on a nanoIR2 system (Anasys Instruments). AFM height/deflection
64 images were collected in contact mode (IR power 21.27%, filter in) at a scan rate of 1 Hz using a
65 gold-coated contact mode silicon nitride probe (Anasys Instruments, 13 ± 4 kHz resonant
66 frequency, 0.07-0.4 N/m spring constant). Volumes of particles were measured using SPIP
67 software (v6.2.6, Image Metrology, Hørsholm, Denmark), and from these volumes, D_{ve} was
68 calculated for each particle. Table S3 shows the measured height and diameter, calculated volume,
69 and calculated D_{ve} for select organic particles from SOAS (~100 particles were actually used to
70 calculate the conversion factor). From these results, SOA and biomass burning particles were
71 multiplied by a conversion factor of 0.49 to convert D_{pa} to D_{ve} .

72
73

82 **Table S4.** AFM-measured and volume-calculated diameters of NaNO₃ particles impacted on silicon
 83 substrates, representative of SSA.

Particle #	D_{pa} (nm)	Height (nm)	Volume (nm ³)	D_{ve} (nm)
1	448	84	8981224	258
2	68	17	102174	58
3	171	29	821752	116
4	136	19	435493	94
5	100	13	205804	73
6	105	12	228540	76
7	250	58	2467066	168
8	258	77	2776954	174
9	153	29	648760	107
10	284	72	3454101	188
11	251	51	2288227	164
12	217	24	1243357	133
13	265	57	2718737	173
14	89	15	169364	69
15	320	67	4208101	200
16	745	108	24432611	360
17	273	55	2854158	176
18	217	40	1542059	143
19	458	79	8608666	254
20	199	33	1133683	129
21	319	69	4500131	205
22	383	64	5131053	214
23	187	9	676804	109
24	250	50	2184633	161

84

85 **4 Fresh soot calculation**

86 Soot was difficult to detect using CCSEM-EDX due to interference from the Formvar B coating
 87 on the TEM grid. Therefore, the size distribution for soot was manually calculated from SEM
 88 images using samples on various stages from one day, and then a correction factor was applied to
 89 each sampling period based on the SEARCH network mass concentrations of elemental carbon
 90 (EC). This method likely overestimates the contribution of fresh soot since organic
 91 carbon/elemental carbon (OC/EC) SEARCH measurements include both fresh and aged soot,
 92 however the EC mass was used as an approximation of soot’s contribution. To calculate the size
 93 distribution of soot particles during SOAS, all SEM images from July 9, 2013 4pm-7pm CST were
 94 inspected for soot agglomerates. This sample was chosen for analysis because stages 7-11 of the
 95 MOUDI (0.056-0.56 μm 50% size cut; relevant sizes for soot) were available for imaging. Once a
 96 soot particle was identified, the particle was traced in ImageJ software to calculate the area. From
 97 this area, similar to the CCSEM software output, the projected area diameter (D_{pa}) was calculated
 98 and a size distribution using all soot D_{pa} was generated, shown below.

99 **Table S5.** Size distribution for fresh soot calculated for July 9, 2013 stages 7-11.

<i>Projected Area Diameter (μm)</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Fraction of soot per bin</i>
0.133352	0	0
0.177828	0	0
0.237137	5	0.065789474
0.316228	14	0.184210526
0.421697	27	0.355263158
0.562341	18	0.236842105
0.749894	11	0.144736842
1	0	0
1.333521	0	0
1.778279	1	0.013157895
2.371374	0	0
3.162278	0	0
4.216965	0	0
5.623413	0	0
7.498942	0	0
10	0	0
Total	76	

100

101 The fraction of soot per size bin was then used with the SEARCH network EC mass
 102 concentrations, measured using oxidative combustion, to calculate an approximate number of soot

103 particles within each size range. First, the average EC mass was calculated for each time period of
104 interest during SOAS. Then, the average PM_{2.5} mass, measured using a tapered element oscillating
105 microbalance (TEOM), was calculated for each time period. A scaling factor was generated by
106 dividing EC mass/TEOM mass. The scaling factor calculated for each time period is: SOA (0.022),
107 mineral dust (0.018), and SSA (0.029). This scaling factor was then multiplied by the size
108 distributions in Table S5, giving results for the fraction of soot within the designated size bins for
109 each of the three time periods.

110 **5 Mass calculations and mixing state parameters**

111 To calculate the mixing state parameters, atomic percentages were converted to mass fractions as
112 described in the experimental section. To calculate elemental diversity, the mass of each element
113 was used in the mixing state calculations shown below. To calculate mixing state due to aging
114 during the SOA-rich, dust-rich, and SSA-rich time periods, elemental masses were assigned to
115 specific source-based particle classes with the compositions described below. The elemental mass
116 fractions for each of the three time periods are shown in Figure S2 depicting each element's
117 contribution as a function of size. For the source-based elemental assignments, SOA particles
118 consisted of solely S, biomass burning particles contained K and Cl, fly ash particles consisted of
119 Si and Al, dust particles contained Na, Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, Ti, and Fe, SSA particles contained Na,
120 Mg, Cl, K, and Ca, and biological particles consisted of P, Cl, and K. Secondary species in this
121 study were represented by S in every particle class, since organic (C, O) and nitrogen-containing
122 species (N) are not quantitative using SEM-EDX (Laskin et al., 2006).

123 In addition to mass calculations, mixing state parameters were calculated for each
124 elemental class to quantify diversity, and for the SOA, dust, and SSA time periods to quantify
125 aging. The experimental section describes the equations used to calculate the entropy and mixing
126 state index. Below are the definitions and equations for aerosol mass and mass fraction used to
127 calculate the entropy along with equations for particle, species, and bulk population diversity
128 (Riemer and West, 2013). The mass of species a in particle i is termed μ_i^a where $a = 1, \dots, A$ and i
129 $= 1, \dots, N$. The total mass of particle i (μ_i) is given by

$$130 \quad \mu_i = \sum_{a=1}^A \mu_i^a \quad (2)$$

131 The total mass of species a in the population (μ^a) is given by

132
$$\mu^a = \sum_{i=1}^N \mu_i^a \quad (3)$$

133 The total mass of the population (μ) is given by

134
$$\mu = \sum_{i=1}^N \mu_i \quad (4)$$

135 The mass fraction of species a in particle i (p_i^a) is given by

136
$$p_i^a = \frac{\mu_i^a}{\mu_i} \quad (5)$$

137 The mass fraction of particle i in the population (p_i) is given by

138
$$p_i = \frac{\mu_i}{\mu} \quad (6)$$

139 The mass fraction of species a in the population (p^a) is given by

140
$$p^a = \frac{\mu^a}{\mu} \quad (7)$$

141 The particle diversity of particle i (D_i) is given by

142
$$D_i = e^{H_i} \quad (8)$$

143 where H_i is the mixing entropy of particle i . The average particle species diversity (D_α) is given by

144
$$D_\alpha = e^{H_\alpha} \quad (9)$$

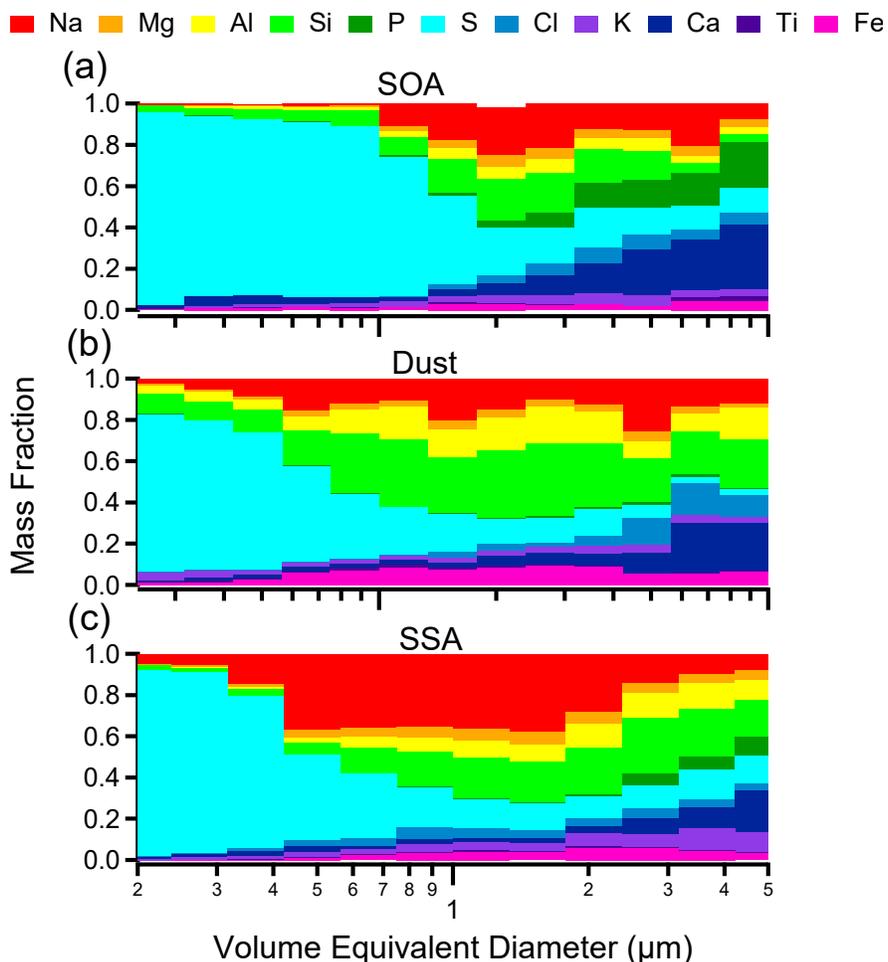
145 where H_α is the average particle mixing entropy. The bulk population species diversity (D_γ) is
146 given by

147
$$D_\gamma = e^{H_\gamma} \quad (10)$$

148 where H_γ is the population bulk mixing entropy. D_α was used as a quantitative measure of
149 elemental diversity for each particle class during SOAS (SOA, biomass burning particles, fly ash,
150 dust, SSA, and biological particles.) However to quantify particle aging due to S during SOAS,
151 the mixing state index (χ), a ratio between the average particle species diversity and bulk
152 population species diversity, was calculated. While D_α is a useful metric to quantify elemental
153 diversity, χ quantifies the degree of internal versus external mixing present within particle
154 populations.

155

156



157
 158 **Figure S2.** Mass fractions as a function of volume equivalent diameter for particle-rich time periods: (a)
 159 SOA-rich periods (June 14-17 and July 7-11, 2013), (b) dust-rich periods (June 12-13 and June 26-28,
 160 2013), and (c) SSA-rich periods (June 10-11 and July 3-6, 2013.) C and O are not included in element
 161 quantification due to substrate interferences. *Only particles with a diameter between 0.2 - 5 μm are shown
 162 due to too few particles present at larger sizes for quantitative analysis.

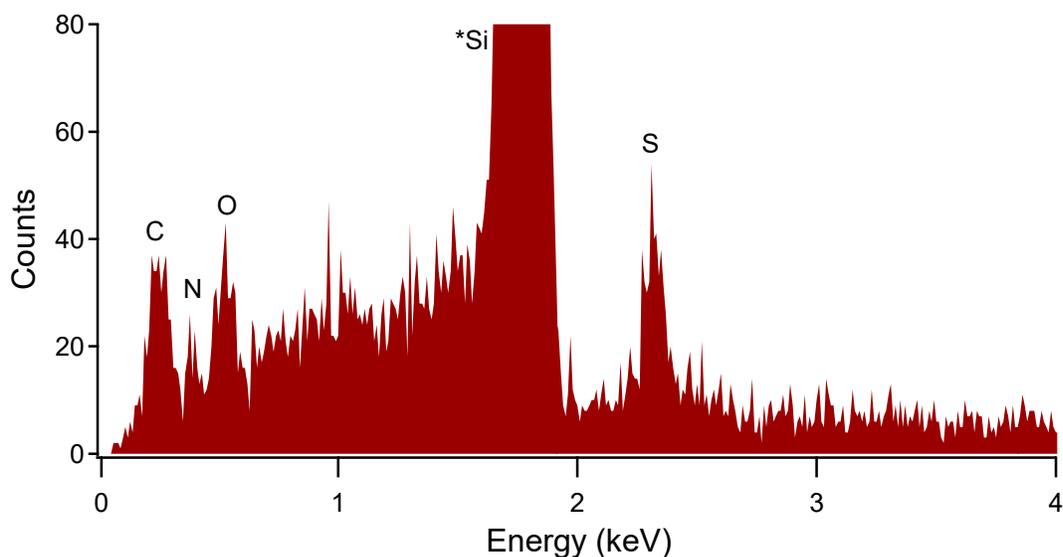
163 6 STXM-NEXAFS soot identification

164 Two samples, June 10 and July 7, 2013, were analyzed using STXM-NEXAFS. In order to
 165 calculate the number fraction of particles from each sample that contained sp² C in the form of
 166 soot, matlab was used to visualize every particle in the sample. Each particle was screened on a
 167 per pixel basis for regions of high C=C content (> 35% C=C). If a pixel contained > 35 % C=C,
 168 then the script rendered a red pixel, stating that it was safe to call that region soot. The same was
 169 performed for the other colors (ie. blue=inorganic, green=organic). Using this data, 6.9 % of

170 particles by number contained soot collected June 10, 2013 and 9.9 % of particles collected July
171 7, 2013 contained soot.

172 7 EDX of SOA on silicon

173 Most of the CCSEM-EDX analysis in this study was conducted on Formvar-coated TEM grids.
174 However, since Formvar (a polymer) interferes with particle carbon and oxygen X-ray signals,
175 additional EDX spectra of SOA particles were collected on Si substrates. EDX spectra from 61
176 particles (June 15, 2013 8pm-7am St. 8 sample) were collected and quantified with respect to C,
177 N, O, and S. Figure S3 shows an example spectrum of an SOA/sulfate particle collected on Si.
178 Note, the signal for Si extend beyond 80 counts, however the y-axis range shown here was selected
179 to view the elements of interest (C, N, O, S). The average weight % of elements within SOA/sulfate
180 from this analysis was 40 % C, 11 % N, 28 % O, and 20 % S. Though SOA/sulfate only contained
181 20% sulfur from this analysis, the mixing state indices for aerosol populations were calculated
182 based on SOA/sulfate containing only sulfur, since CCSEM-EDX is not quantitative for C, N, and
183 O.



184
185 **Figure S3.** Example EDX spectrum of an SOA/sulfate particle collected on a silicon substrate.

186

187 **8 Circularity equation**

188 To determine the average circularity for SOA, biomass burning aerosol, and fly ash classes, the
189 mode circularity was averaged across the k-means clusters assigned to that class in Equation 1:

$$190 \quad C = 4\pi A/p^2 \quad (11)$$

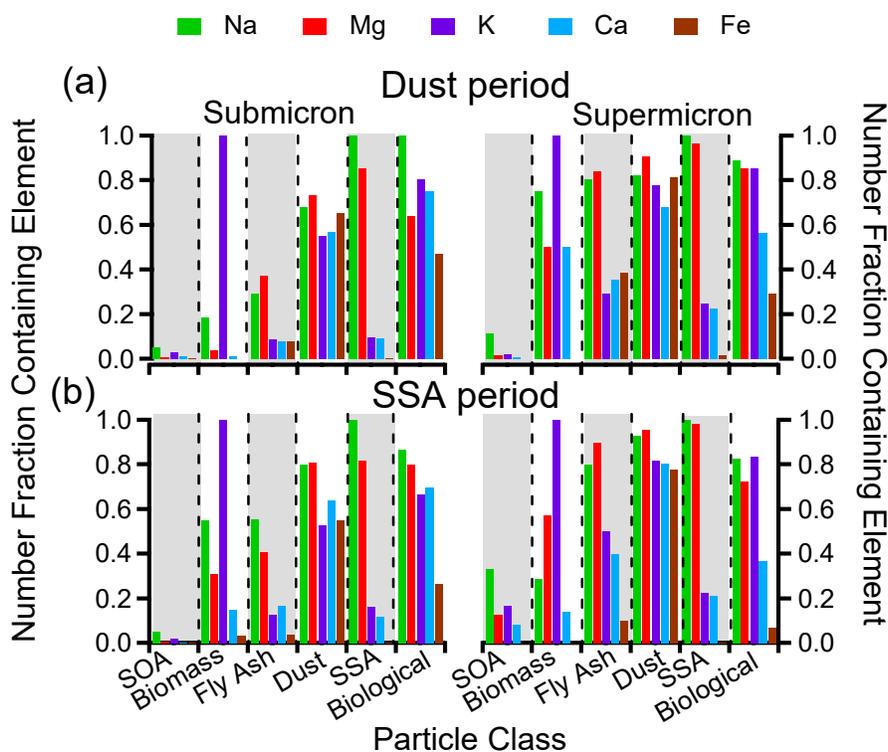
191 where C is circularity, A is area of the particle, and p is the particle perimeter.

192

193 **9 Nonvolatile cations**

194 The number fraction of particles containing nonvolatile cations (Na, Mg, K, Ca, Fe) in sub- and
195 supermicron sizes is shown in Figure S4 for the dust and SSA periods. In general, the number
196 fraction of metal-containing particles is consistent for each class across the different periods
197 (although there are minor differences between the sub- and super micron size ranges), suggesting
198 that nonvolatile cations don't vary with processing, but are inherent to each class.

199



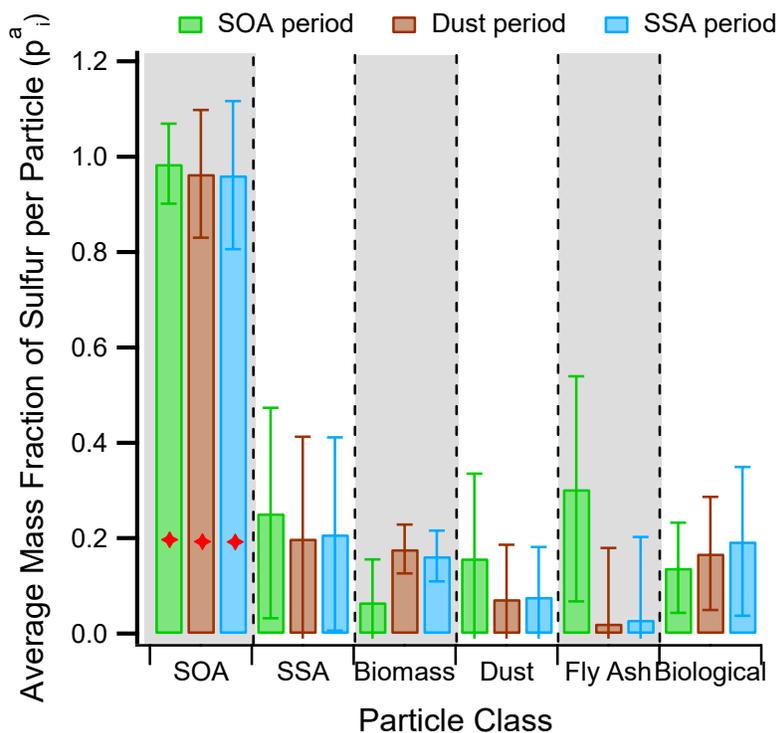
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202 **Figure S4.** Size-resolved particle class compositions indicate the number fraction of particles in each
 203 class containing non-volatile cations Na, Mg, K, Ca, and Fe during the (a) dust period and (b) SSA period
 204 in the submicron and supermicron size range.

205 **10 Significance of aging by sulfur during three events**

206 The degree of secondary processing for each particle class was calculated as the average mass
 207 fraction of sulfur per particle (Figure S5). This parameter was used to calculate average sulfur
 208 diversity and along with the bulk population diversity, mixing state indices could be quantified.
 209 However, the mass fraction calculations here exclude C, N, and O since low Z elements are only
 210 semiquantitative with CCSEM. Excluding C, N, and O, SOA/sulfate have average sulfur mass
 211 fractions of 0.98 ± 0.08 , 0.96 ± 0.13 , 0.96 ± 0.16 , during the SOA-influenced, dust-influenced, and
 212 SSA-influenced events, respectively. However, analysis of SOA on a non-carbonaceous substrate,
 213 which allowed C, N, and O to be quantified, demonstrated that the average mass fraction of sulfur

214 in SOA was actually 0.20 ± 0.04 . This “actual” mass value for SOA was used to scale the average
 215 mass fraction of sulfur for each period and is portrayed in Figure S5 by red markers. Using this
 216 scaled mass fraction of sulfur, the “actual” mass of sulfur was 0.197 during the SOA-influenced
 217 events, 0.193 during the dust periods, and 0.192 during the SSA periods.



218
 219 **Figure S5.** The secondary processing of particles by sulfate was calculated for each class during the three
 220 time periods of interest as the average mass fraction of sulfur per particle. Red markers indicate the scaled
 221 “actual” mass fraction of sulfur for SOA including mass contributions from C, N, and O.

222
 223 A student’s t-test was used to compare the average mass fraction of sulfur per particle for six main
 224 particle classes (SOA/sulfate, biomass burning aerosol, fly ash, dust, SSA, and biological) during
 225 the SOA events, dust events, and SSA events. The standard deviation, S_{pooled} , was calculated using
 226 the following equation,

227

$$S_{pooled} = \sqrt{\frac{s_1^2(n_1-1) + s_2^2(n_2-1)}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}} \quad (12)$$

228 where s_1 and s_2 are the standard deviations from the two samples, and n_1 and n_2 are the number of
 229 samples in each category. Then the student's t-test was calculated,

$$230 \quad t_{\text{calculated}} = \frac{x_1 - x_2}{S_{\text{pooled}}} \sqrt{\frac{n_1 n_2}{n_1 + n_2}} \quad (13)$$

231 where x_1 and x_2 are the mean mass fraction of sulfur per particle class. The results of the student t-
 232 tests are located in Table S6, Table S7, and Table S8. The student's t-test was calculated to
 233 compare the aging of particle classes during the SOA vs. dust events, SOA vs. SSA events, and
 234 dust vs. SSA events. The difference in average sulfur mass fractions for all particle classes was
 235 found to be significant for the SOA vs. dust events and SOA vs. SSA events, but the difference
 236 was not statistically significant for the dust vs. SSA events at the 95% confidence interval.

237

238 **Table S6.** Student's t-test comparing average sulfur mass fractions among particle classes for the SOA vs.
 239 dust events

	SOA	Biomass	Fly Ash	Dust	SSA	Biological
x_1	0.985	0.260	0.070	0.169	0.306	0.140
x_2	0.964	0.177	0.022	0.072	0.199	0.168
s_1	0.081	0.221	0.091	0.179	0.235	0.096
s_2	0.134	0.214	0.051	0.114	0.156	0.119
S_{pooled}	0.095	0.048	0.006	0.128	0.194	0.099
<i>degrees of freedom</i>	120	120	120	120	120	120
$t_{\text{calculated}}$	10.97	3.95	5.67	19.82	13.49	2.50
95% CI t_{table}	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98
<i>significantly different?</i>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

240

241 **Table S7.** Student's t-test comparing average sulfur mass fractions among particle classes for the SOA vs.
 242 SSA events

	SOA	Biomass	Fly Ash	Dust	SSA	Biological
x_1	0.985	0.260	0.070	0.169	0.306	0.140
x_2	0.962	0.163	0.029	0.077	0.209	0.193
s_1	0.081	0.221	0.091	0.179	0.235	0.096
s_2	0.155	0.202	0.053	0.104	0.173	0.156
S_{pooled}	0.098	0.047	0.083	0.132	0.193	0.108
<i>degrees of freedom</i>	120	120	120	120	120	120
$t_{\text{calculated}}$	10.71	3.98	3.50	16.56	13.62	5.04
95% CI t_{table}	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98
<i>significantly different?</i>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

243

244 **Table S8.** Student's t-test comparing average sulfur mass fractions among particle classes for the dust vs.
 245 SSA events

	SOA	Biomass	Fly Ash	Dust	SSA	Biological
x_1	0.985	0.177	0.022	0.072	0.199	0.168
x_2	0.964	0.163	0.029	0.077	0.209	0.193
s_1	0.081	0.214	0.051	0.114	0.158	0.119
s_2	0.134	0.202	0.053	0.104	0.173	0.156
s_{pooled}	0.144	0.209	0.052	0.111	0.168	0.142
<i>degrees of freedom</i>	120	120	120	120	120	120
$t_{calculated}$	0.568	0.57	0.94	1.63	1.78	1.29
<i>95% CI t_{table}</i>	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98
<i>significantly different?</i>	no	no	no	no	no	no

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