Chemical characteristics of submicron particles at the central

- Tibet Plateau: influence of long-range transportinsights from
- 3 aerosol mass spectrometry

4

1

2

- 5 Jianzhong Xu¹, Qi Zhang², Jinsen Shi³, Xinlei Ge⁴, Conghui Xie¹, Junfeng Wang⁴,
- 6 Shichang Kang¹, Ruxiong Zhang⁵, Yuhang Wang⁵

7

- 8 ¹State Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Sciences, Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources,
- 9 CAS, Lanzhou 730000, China
- 10 ²Department of Environmental Toxicology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, USA
- 11 ³Key Laboratory for Semi-Arid Climate Change of the Ministry of Education, College of Atmospheric
- 12 Sciences, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, China
- 13 ⁴Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Atmospheric Environment Monitoring and Pollution Control (AEMPC),
- 14 School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Nanjing University of Information Science &
- 15 Technology, Nanjing 210044, China
- 16 School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA

17 18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34 35

Abstract

Recent studies have revealed a significant influx of air pollution from south Asia to Himalayas and Tibet Plateau (TP) during pre-monsoon period. In order to characterize the chemical composition, sources, and transport mechanismprocesses of polluted air mass in this pristine area, we performed carried out a field study during June 2015 by deploying a suite of online instruments including an Aerodyne high-resolution time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer (HR-AMS) and a multi-angle absorption photometer (MAAP) at Nam Co Station (90°57′E, 30°46′N, 4730m a.s.l) at the central of the TP. The measurements were made at a timeperiod when the transition from pre-monsoon to monsoon occurred. The average ambient mass concentration of submicron particulate matter (PM₁) over the whole campaign period was $\simeq 2.0 \, \mu \text{g m}^{-3}$, with organics accounting for 6468%, followed by sulfate (1615%), black carbon (98%), ammonium (87%), and nitrate (3%). This mass loading and composition were comparable with most of AMS results in remote sites worldwide.2%). Air pollution episodes were observed during the pre-monsoon period, while consistently whereas persistently low aerosol concentrations were observed during the monsoon period. However, the chemical composition of aerosol during the air pollution episodes in the pre-monsoon season was on a case-by-case basis, depending on the prevailing meteorological conditions and air mass transport routes. Most of the chemical species exhibited significant diurnal variations with higher values occurring during afternoon and lower values during early morning time, whereas nitrate peaked during early morning in association with higher relative humidity and lower air temperature. Organic aerosol (OA) was more

oxidized with an oxygen-to-carbon ratio (O/C) of 0.94 during the pre-monsoon period than during monsoon (average O/C of 0.4872). The average O/C of OA was 0.88 over the entire campaign period. Positive matrix factorization of the high resolution mass spectra of OA identified two oxygenated organic aerosol (OOA) factors: a less oxidized OOA (LO-OOA) and a more oxidized OOA (MO-OOA). The MO-OOA dominated during the pre-monsoon period, whilewhereas LO-OOA dominated during the-monsoon. The sensitivity of air pollution transport with synoptic process was also evaluated with a 3-D chemical transport model.

1. Introduction

The Tibet Plateau (TP) and Himalayas is a vast and elevated highland in Central Asia that extends over the area of 27-45°N, 70-105°E with a mean elevation of more than 4000 m above sea level (a.s.l.). It is a sparsely populated area with minimal local pollution. The TP is an ideal area for observations of free tropospheric air masses and pollutants transported from polluted areas surrounding the TP after long-range transport, distances. Determination of the chemical characteristics of aerosol particles in TP is important for assessment on assessments of their influence influences on atmospheric chemistry and climate (Li et al., 2016), which are so far poorly understood due to harsh conditions and logistic limitation limitations.

Over recent decades, an increasing number of field studies have been conducted in these regions to characterize aerosol physical and chemical features from mountain observatories, e.g., the Nepal Climate Observatory-Pyramid (5079 m), which areis set up for long-term monitoring and synchronous observation (Bonasoni et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2017). There are significant seasonal variations in aerosol mass loading in the southern TP and Himalayas. Higher aerosol concentration was often found during pre-monsoon due to less precipitation and favorable atmospheric circulation (Bonasoni et al., 2010; Marinoni et al., 2010; Marinoni et al., 2013; Zhao et al., 2013). For example, the concentration of carbonaceous species at the Oomolangma (Mt. Everest) Station (4276 m a.s.l.), northern Himalayas during pre-monsoon was found to be 3 - 5 times higher than that during the monsoon periods (Cong et al., 2015). Since this seasonal variation of aerosol loading is consistent at both the southern and northern Himalayas (Xu et al., 2014), polluted air mass was thought to be able to across the Himalayas, a conditionSince this seasonal variation of aerosol loading is consistent at both the southern and northern Himalayas (Xu et al., 2014a), polluted air mass was thought to be able to across the Himalayas, a finding which is also supported by model results (Lu et al., 2012; Lüthi et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2015). During monsoon period, ambient aerosol at from the upwind sources is significantly scavenged beforeduring long-range transport and air mass areis mainly originated from marine area, which hadcan lead to aerosol chemical differencedifferences between premonsoon and monsoon. The distinct seasonal variation of aerosol loading is mainly attributed to the change of the dominated climatic systems and then weather conditions. During pre-monsoon, the cold and dry southern Westliers dominated the southern TP and Himalayas, while the South Asia Monsoon covers most of South Asia, Himalayas, and the southern TP during summer period.

Most of the studies conducted in these regions focused on some specific species, such as black carbon, which has stronglystrong light absorption. Burning of biomass fuels and wildfires in the south Himalaya and South Asia are thought to be important sources for the black carbon (Stone et al., 2010; Engling et al., 2011; Kumar et al., 2011). However, a recent study shows that sources of black carbon in the region of South Asia are highly complex, including emissions from low efficient transport tools and cooking using cow dung and biogas as well (Stockwell et al., 2016). These burning activities also emit other species such as organic and inorganic particulate species and volatile organic compounds, which generate a well-mixed aerosol plume eventually via processes such as coagulation, evaporation, oxidation, and condensation. Fang et al. (2015) recently suspected that biogenic aerosol could also be an important contribution for aerosol in the TP during summer. However, these mixed plumes have been rarely, if ever, characterized by comprehensive field measurements.

Filter-based sampling method with a low time resolution (days) were widely adopt in these remote regions due to logistical difficulties with deployment of real-time instruments. The low time resolution made the understanding of chemical processes of aerosol during transport challenging. Secondary species such as sulfate and water soluble organic carbon (WSOC) are normally the dominated species in aerosol. For example, WSOC accounted for about 60% of OC and the ratio between OC and EC could be up to 10 (Zhao et al., 2013; Cong et al., 2015), suggesting a dominant contribution of secondary organic aerosol (SOA) to carbonaceous aerosol loading in the TP. The ambient conditions at high elevation regions are characterized by higher solar radiation and concentrations of oxidants such as OH radicals and O₃, which makemakes photochemical processing in this high elevation remote region intense and likely dynamic. Therefore high dominant. High-time resolution measurement is thus necessary in these regions this region for detecting short-term events and the evolution of pollution events pollutants. In addition, the high time resolution data are useful for constraining atmospheric chemical transport models.

The aerodyne aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) has been widely used to study the chemical composition of non-refractory submicron particle; (e.g., Xu et al., 2014b; Xu et al., 2016). There are two merits of the AMS including its high time resolution and bulk measurement. The high time resolution is usually minute in minutes which has advanced our understanding of fundamental chemical emposition processes of fine aerosols at different regions of the world (Canagaratna et al., 2007). The bulk measurements makeenable the observation to obtain more ich information of various aerosol in one time chemical species simutaneously. The organic aerosol, which is often the most important component of aerosol, can be further analyzed for their mass spectra to determine the average elemental ratios and by positive matrix factorization (PMF) analysis to determine the sources and atmospheric processes of aerosol (Ulbrich et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011). The atomic elemental ratios of oxygen and hydrogen withto carbon (O-/C and H-/C) calculated from the OA mass spectra can provide information about the sources and evolution

processes of OA in the atmosphere (Aiken et al., 2008; Heald et al., 2010; Kroll et al., 2011; Ng et al., 2011). They also often <u>closely</u> correlate with key OA properties such as hygroscopicity, <u>material</u> density, and phase separation (Jimenez et al., 2009; Bertram et al., 2011). In addition, due to high sensitivity <u>and low detection limits</u>, AMS has been successfully deployed at many remote sites with low aerosol <u>mass</u> loading such as Antarctica (Schmale et al., 2013; Giordano et al., 2017). <u>However, there are not AMS measurement in the TP and Himalayas so far.</u>

115116117

118

119

120

110

111

112

113

114

The study here presents an analysis of comprehensive results from measurements using an AMS acquired at the central of the TP during the transitional season period from pre-monsoon to monsoon. The study was designed to characterize aerosol chemical composition, temporal variations, transport processes, and emission sources. During the campaign, besides the AMS, multiple other real-time instruments were also deployed.

121122123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

132133

134

135

136

137

138

139

2. Methodology

2.1 Site description

The field study was conducted between May 31 and July 1, 2015 at a high altitude observatory, i.e., Nam Co Station for Multisphere Observation and Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Nam Co station, 90°57′E, 30°46′N 4730m a.s.l), at the central part of the TP (Figure 1). The Nam Co station is located nearby Nam Co lake (Figure 1b), the second largest inland lake in the TP (area: 1920 km²) which is located at the northern border of Nyainqentanglha Mountains. The melted glacier from Nyainqentanglha Mountains supply water to the lake each year during warm seasons. This The Nam Co station and its surrounding is a pristing region except for a small county for local people that is about 10 km to west of to the station. In the past several years, tourism for this beautiful lake has growth.grown. A highwayfreeway for tourists was built about 45 km south of the station. The capital city (Lhasa) of the Tibet Autonomous Region is about 100 km southeast of the station with an average elevation of 3600 m a.s.l. between which is Nyainqentanglha Mountains (higher than 6000 m a.s.l) (Figure 1c). The closest town, Dangxiong, is alongalongside the famous highway, Qinghai-Tibet Highway, and about 70 km east of the station with an average elevation of 4200 m a.s.l. Overall, the station is aroundsurrounded by the mountains in the south and east, and the lake at the west. The ecology of surrounding area is semi-arid type-land dominated by alpine meadow and barren areas. The precipitation is mainly occurred during summer monsoon period. The cooking and heating at the station is maintained supplied by the power and natural gas.

140141142

143

144

145

146

2.2 Instrument setup

The study was conducted at the observatory field of the station using a customer-made trailer with inlet stepped out of the top with the height of \sim 5m above ground. All the instruments were arranged ininside the trailer where the air temperature is was controlled at \simeq 20°C by two conditions. Figure 1 shows the set up of the instruments. The totalair conditioners. The inlet was maintained by a vacuum pump with a flowrate of

Formatted: No underline

10 m/sL/min, following by a high-resolution time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer (HR-AMS, Aerodyne Research Inc., Billerica, MA, USA), a custom-made scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS), a soot particle Aerodyne mass spectrometer (SP-AMS, Aerodyne Research Inc., Billerica, MA, USA), a single-particle intracavity laser-induced incandescence photometer (SP2, DMT, Inc., Boulder, CO, USA), and a seven wavelength Athelometer (model AE31, Magee Scientific, Berkeley, CA, USA). The total flowrate of this the inlet was maintained at ~16 m/sL/min and a PM_{2.5} cyclone atwas used in the beginningfront of the inlet (model URG-2000-30EH, URG Corp., Chapel Hill, NC, USA)-) to remove coarse particles. Several additional instruments were also co-located but with their own inletinlets, such as a Nephelometer (model 3563, TSI, Shoreview, MN, USA), a PM_{2.5} sampler (model PQ200, BGI, USA), and a multi-angle absorption photometer (MAAP, model 5012, Thermo Electron Cooperation, USA). The operations of the instruments used in this study were described below.

2.2.1 HR-AMS

HR-AMS was used to measure the non-refractory PM₁ (NR-PM₁)), which was thermalthermally vaporized at ~600 °C, ionized with a 70eV electron impact and measureddetermined by using a time-of-flight mass spectrometry. The details enof the instrument have been described elsewhere (DeCarlo et al., 2006). For thisour study, HR-AMS was only setupoperated with V-mode with 5 min resolution due to the low aerosol mass loading. Due to damagemalfunction of the chopper,—the size distribution of NR-PM₁ was not determined. The HR-AMS was calibrated for ionization efficiency (IE) with the ammonium nitrate following standard procedures (Jayne et al., 2000) at the beginning, in the middle and end of the study. Particulate-free air was sampled two timestwice during the study period to adjust the interactioninfluences of air on the fragmentation table and determine the detection limitationlimits (DLs) of aerosol species. The DLs were calculated as 3 times the standard deviations (3σ) of the measured values during this period the particle-free sampling periods. The 2.5-min DLs for organic, sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, and chloride were determined at 0.108, 0.014, 0.007, 0.002, 0.010 μg m⁻³, which are comparable to the values reported in previous studies.

2.2.2 Other instruments

The Aethalometer was used to measure the equivalent black carbon mass concentration using seven wavelength lights. The data for BC is commonly calculated from measurement at 880 nm using recommended MAC from factory:the manufacture. The instrument was operated at the time resolution of 5 min with a flow rate of 5 L/min, which was calibrated atonce a week-frequency.

 PM_{2.5} sampler was operated set up at the top of the trailer. Filter samples were collected between 2 June and 1 July 2015. Each aerosol sample was collected on a 47 mm quartz filter (Whatman, Maidstone, UK) using the aerosol sampler-with a flowrate of 16.7 L/min (BGI, USA, model PQ 200). The meteorological data was recorded at the tower of the Nam Co station at a height of 20 m above ground.

2.3 Data processing

The HR-ToF-AMS data were processed using the standard software of SQUIRREL (v1.56) and PIKA (v1.15c) written in IGOR (Wavemetrics, Inc., Lake Oswego, OR, USA) (http://cires.colorado.edu/jimenez-group/ToFAMSResources/ToFSoftware/index.html) to determine the mass concentrations of the NR-PM₁ species and the ion-speciated mass spectra of organics, written in IGOR (Wavemetrics, Inc., Lake Oswego, OR, USA). An empirical particle collection efficiency (CE) of 0.5 was used, which has been widely used in field studies employing AMS with a dryer installed in front of the equipment's particle inlet. This CE value was further validated by the consistency and reasonable slope between HR-AMS measured mass concentrations and SMPS-determined particle volumes (section 3.1.2, $R^2 = 0.9$, slope = 1.48). The elemental ratios of OA (O½C, H½C, and organic matter to carbon (OM½OC)) forin this study was determined using the "improved-ambient" method (Canagaratna et al., 2015). Default relative ionization efficiency (RIE) values were used for organics (1.4), nitrate (1.1), and chloride (1.3), while an RIE value of 3.8 was determined for ammonium and 1.1 for sulfate based on the calibration for pure NH4NO3 and (NH4)2SO4, respectively.

198 (NH₄)₂SO₄, respectively.

The source decompositionapportionment of organics was analysed conducted by PMF with the robust engine. First, organic matrix was analysed using the PMF2.exe algorithm in robust mode (Paatero and Tapper, 1994) and explored using the PMF Evaluation Toolkit (PET) (Ulbrich et al., 2009). The PMF solution was evaluated following the procedures outlined in Table 1 of (Zhang et al., 2011) including modification of the error matrix and downweight of low S/N ions-Zhang et al. (2011) including modification of the error matrix and downweight of low signal-to-noise ions. Moreover, based on the AMS fragmentation table, some organic ions were not directly measured but scaled to the organic signal at m/z 44, which were downweighted by increasing their errors by a factor of 3. A two-factor solution with fPeak = 0 was chosen in this study, as it is able to reconstruct the total OA mass and temporal profiles very well. The results of three-factor solution with fPeak = 0 are shown in supplementary material (Figure S1), which show splitting inof the solutions.

3 Results and discussions

3.1 The meteorological conditions during the study

During the field study, the meteorological conditions were generally cold and windy (Figure 2a and b). The average air temperature was 8.4 ± 3.6 °C with a diurnal hourly average ranging from 4.8 to 12.3 °C; the diurnal average wind speed (WS) ranged from 4.5 to 6.5 m s⁻¹. The dominant wind direction was directions were south and southwest, although itthey varied during different periods (Figure 2b and S2). The wind direction (WD) had distinct diurnal variation with air mass from south during night to morning and west

during afternoon. Based on the report of the Climate Diagnostics Bulletin of India (http://imdpune.gov.in/Clim_RCC_LRF/Climate_Diagnostic_Bulletins/cdbi_apr_2015.pdf), the precipitation from Indian monsoon had covered most part of India on June 12 to June 14, and these days are treated as the onset of India monsoon. Indeed, precipitation was recorded at the Nam Co station on June 13 and lasted for several days (Figure 2a). Based on this weather condition, the period before June 14 was classified as the pre-monsoon period and afterwards as the monsoon period. The RH during the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods were $48.4 \pm 19.2\%$ and $58.8 \pm 16.5\%$, respectively. The originationsorigins of the air masses were also different during these two periods. Figure 3 shows the air mass from west during pre-monsoon periodsperiod accounted about 30-40%, while it was only 7% during monsoon periods of which ~80% was from south.

3.2 The temporal variation of chemical species

220

221

222

223

224

225

226227

228

229

230

231232233

234235

236

237

238239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

The average mass concentration of PM₁ (NR-PM₁ + BC) was 2.0 µg m⁻³ during the whole study period with 68% OA, 15% sulfate, 2% nitrate, 7% ammonium, and 8% BC. The NR-PM₁ mass loading (1.84 μg m⁻³) at Nam Co Station was lower than the values observed at some high elevation sites such as Menyuan (10.8 μg m⁻³) (Du et al., 2015), Montsec (4.9 μg m⁻³) (Ripoll et al., 2015), Mt. Cimone (4.5 μg m⁻³) (Rinaldi et al., 2015), Puy de Done (5 – 27 μg m $^{-3}$), and Mt. Bachelor (15.1 μg m $^{-3}$) (Zhou et al., 2017), but higher than those in some other sites, such as sub-Antarctic (0.46 µg m⁻³) (Schmale et al., 2013) and Jungfraujoch (0.55 μg m⁻³) (Fröhlich et al., 2015), similar with that at Mt. Whistler (1.91 μg m⁻³) (Sun et al., 2009) (Table 1 and Figure S3). Although the sampling seasons and elevational titudes of these sampling sites are different (Table 1), the results of these studies could basically represent the level of pollution at these sits due to their relatively long sampling spans (from one month to ten months). The contribution of OA at these high-elevation sites ranged from 50% - 90%; the highest value was at Mt. Bachelor which was frequently influenced by transported biomass burning plume, while the relative low OA contribution (38%) at sub-Antarctic was due to the dominant source from marine emission containing higherhigh sulfate. The mass concentration of PM₁ varied dynamically during theour study with distinct difference between pre-monsoon and monsoon periods. The average mass concentrations of PM1 for these two periods were 2.6 and 1.2 µg m⁻³, respectively. For comparison, the ehemical concentrations of various species for these two periods were side-by-side displayed in Figure 4a. The ratios between pre-monsoon and monsoon for all the species were higher than 1 with the maxima for ammonium (3.1) and sulfate (2.8), suggesting high efficiency of wet scavenging for ammonium sulfate during monsoon. The); the contribution of OA was thus slightly higher during the monsoon period than during the pre-monsoon (71% vs. 64%).64% with a mass concentration ratio of 1.9). Apart from the potential scavenging effect, these results could also be influenced by the sources, transport route, and chemical processes during different periods.

Based on the mass concentration and temporal variations of PM₁ species and weather conditions, the premonsoon period could be further divided into two periods, i.e., period 1 (P1: May 30 to June 7) and period 2 (P2: June 8 to June 13). The P1 was characterized by higher relatively high sulfate concentration (0.46 vs. 0.41 μg m⁻³) and sunny days, while P2 was characterized by higher high PM₁ concentration (2.9 vs. 2.1 μg m⁻³), higher; P< 0.005, chi-square test), high nitrate contribution, and wet and cold days (Figure S4). The air masses for P2 had higher contribution from west and north than those during P1 (Figure 3). Figure 4b shows the comparisons of mass concentration of different species between these two periods. For chemical species, from P1 to P2, nitrate and OA increased dramatically by a factor of 1.6 and 2.2, respectively, and BC and ammonium were—also increased, suggesting the influence of transported polluted air mass. However, sulfate and chloride decreased slightly (the ratios between P1-P2 and P2-P1 were ~0.95). The variations of sulfate and nitrate during these two periods could be related to the photochemical conditions and origination of air mass (see section 3.3).

The particles were generally chemical neutralized as illustrated fromby the scatter plot between predicted and measured ammonium (slope = 0.91) (Figure S5a). The neutralized PM₁ were likely due to the high availability of ammonia from agriculture emission in North of-India (Clarisse et al., 2009; Van Damme et al., 2015). The slope was ~0.75 during P2 (Figure S5a), which suggested that there was overexcess ammonium to neutralize sulfate and nitrate. We checkchecked whether the high concentration of ammonium was from fragmentation of organic nitrogen such as amine, however, theamines. The ratios of NH⁺ andto NH₂⁺ were consistently during the study (Figure S5b), suggesting there was no aminesignificant influences from amino compounds. This high contribution from excess ammonium determined by the neutralization could be related to the presence of significant amounts of organic anions in aerosol (such as carboxylic acids) or variation of RIE for ammonium which could have higher value in the mixed acidic particles.

3.3 Diurnal variation and chemical process of different species

The diurnal variation cycles of OA, sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, and BC during different periods are shown in Figure 5. All these species unexpected present significant diurnal patterns, especially during P2. The diurnal variation of aerosol are usually related to the local source emission (e.g., Xu et al., 2016). The diurnal variation at Nam Co may be related to the diurnal variations of long range transport air mass, photochemistry, and the variation of plenary boundary layer (PBL)-unexpectedly present dramatic diurnal variations, especially during P2. OA, sulfate, ammonium, and BC showed a similar pattern with low values during nighttime to early morning and high values during afternoon. We check which suggest their common sources or similar transport pathways (Zhang et al., 2001). We checked the diurnal variation of the origination of air masses and found that there were increased air masses from south during nighttime and from west during afternoon (Figure S6), which could be related to the plateau monsoon during summer

(Tang and Reiter, 1984). The enhanced air mass from west during afternoon could be more favorable for transportfavor the transportation of polluted air mass. The enhanced WS during afternoon was also observed with the increase of air temperature (Figure 5). The diurnal variations of chemical species during monsoon period were relatively flat comparing with those during P1 and P2- which may relate with the relatively consistent air mass origination during monsoon. Nitrate presented a significant different diurnal variation with high values during nighttime to early morning and low values during afternoon. These features were highly correlated with that of the RH and air temperature (Figure 5) suggesting the important chemical processing importance of thermodynamically-driven gas/particle/gas partitioning of ammonium nitrate and heterogeneous production of nitrate due to hydrolysis of N₂O₅. In addition, during the early morning time (6:00 – 8:00), there werewas a peak for most of species, which were corresponding was accompanied with the lowest air temperature and the highest RH, then the lower plenary boundary layer (PBL), which could concentrate all the polluted air in a smaller spacepollutants (Yanai and Li, 1994). Overall, the diurnal variations of aerosol species at Nam Co may be dominated by the variabilities of both long-range transport air mass and local meteorological conditions.

308309310

311

312

313

314315

316

317

318319

320

321

322

323

324

325 326

294

295

296

297

298

299

300

301

302 303

304

305

306

307

AlthoughIn order to further elucidate the diurnal patterns for each species were similar during the three periodschemical processes and potential sources of the aerosol species, the relationships of chemical species with wind conditions were significant differentanalyzed based on bivariate polar plot analysis (Figure 6). Sulfate and ammonium during During P1-, sulfate and ammonium had hotspots from all of the directions atacross a bigwide range of wind speed (0 - 10 m s_a⁻¹) suggesting the local/regional transport and formation of ammonium sulfate from different air mass;); while OA were concentrated depending to thewas prevailing wind direction from southeast and northwest suggesting important transport routes for OA from these two directions winds; nitrate had hotspots atwhen the lowest wind speed was relatively slow (0 - 8 m s⁻¹) only from southwest suggesting the nearby sources and/or local formation; while from southeast/east mainly; BC had hotspots from south, west and northwest at high wind speedspeeds (4 - 12 m s_a⁻¹) during P1 suggesting long range transport from the concentrated polluted regions in northern India and northwestern India.). During P2, all species except nitrate had hotspots from south/southwest at high wind speedspeeds (6 - 14 m s₁⁻¹), suggesting the different synoptic process comparing with that during P1-); Nitrate stillalso had hotspots at a relative low wind speed from southwest during P2. These results suggested that the sources and ehemical formation for formations of aerosols during P1 and P2 were similar could be different, albeit the wind conditions were different diurnal variations of species between these two periods were similar. During monsoon period, all species had more similar distributiondistributions of the hotspots-and strongly, which could be from northwest and weakly formall directions but relatively weak from southeast.

327328329

330

The significant difference of diurnal variation between sulfate and nitrate suggested the different chemical evolution of these two species. Nitrate and sulfate during three periods all had weak correlations. During P1,

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Formatted: English (U.S.)

the ratios of sulfate versus nitrate had peaks (> 20) during afternoon-time, while during P2, the ratios all kept at low values (< 20) (not shown). In order to further eheck oninvestigate the chemical evolutions of these two species, we dig outselected the high concentration periods based on nitrate concentration (> average + 2σ). Figure 7 showed all periods during thewith high nitrate period ofduring the study and the corresponding meteorological conditions. It is easy to find that most of the high mass loading periods occurred during the nighttime. The wind speed and wind direction were varied dynamically and most of them were from southwest. Higher wind speed from this wind direction could transport more polluted air mass to Nam Co as illustrated from the event 1 (E1) during which all the species (OA, sulfate, ammonium, and BC) except nitrate increased; the weather during this type of event was accompanied with warm and dry air conditions. While when When the wind direction was from southwest with lower wind speed (E2), the RH increased to higher than 90% accompanying with deceased air temperature, and the mass concentrations of nitrate, sulfate and OA increased significantly and BC decreased significantly in contrast withto the increase of nitrate being the most significants. The decreased mass concentration of BC indicated no primary aerosol transportation, thus the increased species were mainly secondary formation secondarily formed.

3.4 The average chemical feature of organic aerosol

The average mass spectrum of OA was shown in Figure 8a. The organic mass was on average composed of 51% oxygen, 44% carbon, and 5% hydrogen with an average nominal formula being $C_1H_{1.33}O_{0.88}N_{0.001}$. On average, $C_xH_yO_1^+$ (38.1%) and $C_xH_y^+$ (37.3%) ions dominated the total OA following by $C_xH_yO_2^+$ (19.8%), and $H_yO_1^+$ (4.6%). m/z 44 was the base peak in the OA spectrum and mainly composed of CO_2^+ (99%). m/z 43 had a significant contribution from both $C_2H_3O^+$ (82%) and $C_3H_7^+$ (18%). m/z 55, likely an important primary fragment was consisted of 51% $C_4H_7^+$ and 49% $C_3H_3O^+$. The OA was highly oxidized with an O/C of 0.88 on average. The OA was more oxidized during pre-monsoon than monsoon with higher $O \rightarrow C$ ratio (0.9094 vs. 0.9872) and lower $H \rightarrow C$ ratio (1.3028 vs. 1.2744) (Figure 8b). The oxidation states of OA during two pre-monsoon periods were also different. The O/C during P2 (0.98) was higher than P1 (0.90) and the H/C was higher during P1 than P2 $\frac{1}{2}$ (1.30 vs. 1.27). Correspondingly, the OA during P2 was containing ontained higher contribution of $C_xH_yO_1^+$ (40.3 vs. 39.1%) and $C_xH_yO_2^+$ (25.2 vs. 23.6%) ions than those of during P1 (Figure 8c).

 The diurnal variations of both O ildes i

relationship could relate with the different influences of wet scavenging on more oxidized and less oxidized OA. In addition, this result likely suggested the importance of transportation on the oxidized OA-during afternoon due to the higher mass concentration occurring frequently on afternoon time. However it was not possible that the polluted air mass arrived at Nam Co within several hours due to the long distance from source regions (more than 1000 km from India). Previous studies have reported the presence of an aerosol layer between 6 - 18 km a.s.l altitude over the Tibet Plateau during summer (Tobo et al., 2007; Vernier et al., 2011). He et al. (2014) examined the vertical profiles of aerosol extinction coefficients measured with a Micro Pulse Lidar at Naqu, about 100 km east of Nam Co Station, and observed a maximum in aerosol extinction coefficient between 18 - 19 km a.s.l during summer 2011. Recently, Gu et al. (2016) examined the ehemicalaerosol compositions using the global three-dimensional Goddard Earth Observing System chemical transport model (GEOS-Chem) and found elevated aerosol-concentrations of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, BC, and organic carbon over the TP. Further, observational and modeling studies have also shown that deep convection over the Tibet PlateauTP during daytime which is one of the important routes for tropospheric and stratospheric exchange of aerosols (Cristofanelli et al., 2009; Cristofanelli et al., 2010; Lin et al., 2016). Thus the enhanced aerosol concentrations during afternoon could possible frombe possibly attributed to the mixed downward of aerosol layer at 16 – 18 km altitude during the growth of TP boundary layer. This type of transportation could not be captured by the re-analysis of data used in the back-trajectory analysis likely due to the low time and spatial resolution. The needNevertheless, this hypothesis needs further validation in the future in this region.

3.5 The PMF decomposition apportionment on the OA

The two OA factors determined by PMF have distinctly different mass spectra and diurnal patterns (Figure 10), including a less oxidized OOA (LO-OOA; O \div /C = 0.49) and a more oxidized OOA (MO-OOA; O \div /C = 0.96). Both factors appeared to be secondary in nature. Our inability to separate an HOAa primary traffic-related OA factor is consistent with the fact that $C_4H_9^+$ was a minor peak in the OA spectra (0.6% of the total signal) and the average organic-equivalent concentration of $C_4H_9^+$ was only 0.008 µg m⁻³ during this study (Figure 5a). Collier et al. (2015) reported that the average $fC_4H_9^+$ (fraction of total organic signal accounted for by $C_4H_9^+$) was 8.1% in the mass spectrum of POAprimary OA from vehicle emissions. Based on this relationship, even assuming $C_4H_9^+$ was completely contributed by primary OA (POA) from vehicle emissions derived OA, the average HOAvchicle-OA concentration would be only ~ 0.1 ugug m⁻³, or 7% of total OA mass, during thisour study. Note that in this study, $C_4H_9^+$ was fit fitted well in the PMF analysis with very small residual, indicating that the signal of this ion was properly apportioned between the two OOA factors.

The mass spectra of MO-OOA and LO-OOA were characterized by high peaks at m/z 44 (mostly CO_2^+) and LO-OOA had a relative large peak at m/z 43 (mostly $C_2H_3O^+$) as well (Figure 10a). The contributions

of the C_xH_yO₂⁺ ion category in these two mass spectra were 15.1% and 28.6%, respectively, while the contributions of $C_x H_v O_1^+$ were 37.8% and 41.5%, respectively. The time series of LO-OOA correlated well with $C_x H_v O_1^+$ and $C_x H_v^+$ ions, while MO-OOA correlated well with $C_x H_v O_2^+$ ions (Figure S7). In addition, the time series of MO-OOA correlated well with sulfate ($R^2 = 0.55$), BC ($R^2 = 0.54$) and less well with nitrate (R² = 0.33), while LO-OOA correlated poorly with sulfate, BC and nitrate (Figure 10b and S8). These results highlight the oxidation degree of MO-OOA and LO-OOA. LO-OOA and MO-OOA accounted for 41% and 59% on average, respectively, of total OA mass during this study (Figure 11a), and their relative contributions varied across the study (Figure 2e). For example, LO-OOA accounted for 41% of the total OA mass during P1-of the pre-monsoon period, 24% during P2, and 67% during the monsoon period (Figure 11b). The diurnal pattern of MO-OOA was characterized by higher concentrations during afternoon similar to those of sulfate and BC. While the diurnal pattern of LO-OOA peaked at early evening time (Figure 10c). The polar plot showed concentrated hotspots to the northwest of the sampling site for MO-OOA, and southeast for LO-OOA (Figure 6), indicating that the sources of these two components were totally different. MO-OOA was likely closely related to long-range transport of air mass from South Asia, while LO-OOA could from relative shorter distance transport such as marine air mass and regional background aerosol during the nighttime. Shen et al. (2015) reported that there were significant aerosol source from biogenic emission during summer near the Nam Co Station. As shown in Figure 12a and b, MO-OOA, which was highly oxidized $(O \rightarrow C = 0.96)$, appeared on the up-left corner of the triangle plot while LO-OOA was in the middle part with an O-/C ratio of 0.49. The high oxidation degree of MO-OOA was likely related to extensive aging processes occurred during long-range transport. The slope of linear fitting of all the data points in V-K diaphragm is -0.76 suggesting the evolution of OA as carboxylic acid functionalization (Figure 12c).

Biomass burning emission is an important source in South Asia and could be transported to Himalayas and TP during pre-monsoon (Engling et al., 2011; Kumar et al., 2011; Sang et al., 2013; Cong et al., 2015), however there are not evidently significant signals of biomass emitted burning aerosol in our AMS results such as signals at m/z 60 and 73 in mass spectrum of OA which were found to be associated with levoglucosan formed from the pyrolysis of cellulose (Alfarra et al., 2007). The contribution of f60 (fraction of total organic signal accounted for by m/z 60) for LO-OOA and MO-OOA were 0.2% and 0.3%, respectively, which were similar with the global background level (less than 0.3%) suggested by Cubison et al. (2011). These results suggest that OA, if ever partly originated from biomass burning emission, could have been highly oxidized during transport. This behavior had been observed in a few studies that levoglucosan could be quickly (within a few hours) oxidized after being emitted (Ortega et al., 2013). In addition, Zhou et al. (2017) recently reported the observation of a highly aged BBOA factor with f60 < 0.3% in its mass spectrum, in aged wildfire plumes that had gone through extensive photochemical oxidation.

3.6 Sensitivity of the ehemical characteristics transport of PM₁pollutants to synoptic process

Synoptic process is an important factor determining if the regional emissions can be transported to the TP. It is interesting to know what kind of synoptic process is favorable for transporting the polluted air mass to the Himalayas and the TP. A 3-D Regional chemical transport Model (REAM) coupled with the Weather Research and Forecasting model (WRF) was used to examine the chemical evolution and regional transport of pollutants such as aromatics in this study. REAM has been used in previous studies of the Tibet Plateau, and details about the model can be found in Zhang et al. (2017)Zhang et al. (2017) and supplementary material. REAM could capture some synoptic processes which cannot be simulated by the normally used reanalysis data due to their low-resolution and the complexity of terrain in the Tibet Plateau (Zhang et al., 2017)(Zhang et al., 2017). Figure 13 shows the distribution of simulated daily surface wind, 300 hPa geopotential height fields and concentrations of reactive aromatics over the Tibetan Plateau during 30 May - 13 June, 2015. During 30 May to 7 June corresponding to P1 in this study, there was a trough over the north propagated from west to east and this low pressure induced increasingly stronger surface wind from India to the TP, which could lead to transport of polluted air mass as illustrated by the results of model and AMS. The simulated concentration of reactive aromatics showed a peak during this period (Figure S9). During 8-11 June, there was a weak ridge system over the north. Intensified wind from north was observed as illustrated by HYSPLIT results (Figure 5b) and the simulated concentrations of reactive aromatics were sharply decreased (Figure S9). After that, a weak low-pressure trough system was observed again. The increased concentrations of reactive aromatics were also observed accompanying with intensified southern wind. TheseAlthough these trends were are basically consistent with thatour AMS results, there were also significant differences (Figure S9). The potential possible reason for this difference was that the weak trough during P2 intensified the wind from west other than south where a lot of biomass burning emission sources were located (Figure 5b). Meanwhile the interaction between cold dry air mass from north and warm wet air mass from south increased the RH at Nam Co which was very favorable for aqueous formation.locate (Figure 5b). Zhang et al., (2017) suggested that a low-cut system from stratosphere could be an important driver for pollution transport into the Tibet Plateau. However, TP. In our study, the trough/ridge system seems to be also an important factor affecting the transport of air pollution from south and west, although this effect tends to be weaker in summer than in the other seasons because the tropopause is higher and stratospheric wave activity is weaker in summer. In our study, the trough/ridge

3.7 Atmospheric implications

441 442

443 444

445

446

447

448

449 450

451

452

453

454 455

456

457

458

459

460

461

462

463

464

465

466

467

468

469

470

471

472 473 474

475 476

477

Our results have several potential implications to the atmospheric studies in the TP and Himalayas. Firstly, it is useful for the accurate estimation of the radiative forcing of aerosols in this region and validation of

current model simulation results based on our observed chemical composition and mass loadings of fine aerosols. Ji et al. (2015) estimate the radiative forcing from aerosols over the TP and Himalayas at the surface level using a regional climate model (RegCM4.3); for carbonaceous aerosols, there are several literatures that tested the model results, but all other species were referred to data available in the published inventory with a coarse spatial resolution. Secondly, our findings are implicate to the estimation of aerosol deposition on the glacier of this region and evaluation of subsequent impacts on the melting of snow/ice (Yasunari et al., 2010). Thirdly, highly-time resolved aerosol data is very scarce in this remote plateau, thus our data are valuable to validate modeling results regarding the transport of polluted air mass as demonstrated in section 3.6. At last, the transport mechanism of aerosol to the inland of TP is less understood so far. Hindman and Upadhyay (2002) suggested that the vertical lifting due to convection and subsequent horizontal mountain-valley wind could lead to the transport of aerosol from Nepal to Tibet. Dumka et al. (2010) also highlighted the important role of mountain-valley wind in the aerosol transport in the central Himalayas. The dynamic variations of aerosol chemical species measured here, are likely helpful to elucidate the transport mechanism of polluted air mass. Nevertheless, this scientific issue required further detailed investigations in the future.

4. Conclusion

The average PM₁ loading measured at Nam Co during June 2015 was 2.0 μg m⁻³ with organics accounting for 68%, followed by sulfate (15%), black carbon (8%), ammonium (7%), and nitrate (2%). This mass concentration was comparable to some AMS observations from mountain-top sites. The mass concentration of PM₁ varied during different weather conditions with higher concentration during pre-monsoon and lower concentration during monsoon. The pre-monsoon period could also be divided into two periods (P1 and P2) based on meteorological conditions and aerosol chemical composition. During P1, PM1 was characterized with high contribution from OA and sulfate, while increased contribution of nitrate was observed during P2 with wet and cold weather conditions. All PM₁ species had clear diurnal variations with OA, sulfate, BC, and ammonium peaking during afternoon due to photochemical production of these species coupled with transport of polluted air mass. Nitrate, however, peaked during the nighttime and early morning, which was related to the higherhigh RH condition, and low air temperature. The formation of nitrate was highly correlated with transport of air masses from southwest under very low wind speeds, while the mass concentrations of sulfate, OA, and BC were highly correlated with air masses from northwest and southeast under higher wind speed conditions. OA was overall highly oxidized during the entire study with higher O/C ratios during the pre-monsoon period. Based on PMF analysis, the OA was found to be composed of a LO-OOA and a MO-OOA. LO-OOA was mainly associated with air masses originated from south, while MO-OOA was mainly from northwest. MO-OOA dominated OA during the pre-monsoon period, while LO-OOA dominated during the monsoon period. The transport mechanism of polluted air plume was further eheckedinvestigated by using the REAM chemical model coupled with the WRF model. The

polluted air plume was found to be more easily transported to the TP and Himalayas during low pressure trough weather.

Acknowledgements

Thanks for the logistical supports of Nam Co Station for Multisphere Observation and Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences. This research was supported by grants from the Key Laboratory of Cryospherie Sciences Scientific Research Foundation (SKLCS-ZZ-2017-01), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (41771079, 41330526), the National Natural Science Foundation of China Science Fund for Creative Research Groups (41421061), the Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Sciences Scientific Research Foundation (SKLCS-ZZ-2017-01), the US National Science Foundation, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences Hundred Talents Program.

Reference:

- Aiken, A. C., DeCarlo, P. F., Kroll, J. H., Worsnop, D. R., Huffman, J. A., Docherty, K. S., Ulbrich, I. M.,
 Mohr, C., Kimmel, J. R., Sueper, D., Sun, Y., Zhang, Q., Trimborn, A., Northway, M., Ziemann, P.
 J., Canagaratna, M. R., Onasch, T. B., Alfarra, M. R., Prevot, A. S. H., Dommen, J., Duplissy, J.,
 Metzger, A., Baltensperger, U., and Jimenez, J. L.: O/C and OM/OC Ratios of Primary, Secondary,
 and Ambient Organic Aerosols with High-Resolution Time-of-Flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometry,
 Environ. Sci. Technol., 42, 4478-4485, 10.1021/es703009q, 2008.
 Alfarra, M. R., Prevot, A. S. H., Szidat, S., Sandradewi, J., Weimer, S., Lanz, V. A., Schreiber, D., Mohr,
 - Alfarra, M. R., Prevot, A. S. H., Szidat, S., Sandradewi, J., Weimer, S., Lanz, V. A., Schreiber, D., Mohr, M., and Baltensperger, U.: Identification of the Mass Spectral Signature of Organic Aerosols from Wood Burning Emissions, Environ. Sci. Technol., 41, 5770-5777, 10.1021/es062289b, 2007.
 - Bertram, A., Martin, S., Hanna, S., Smith, M., Bodsworth, A., Chen, Q., Kuwata, M., Liu, A., You, Y., and Zorn, S.: Predicting the relative humidities of liquid-liquid phase separation, efflorescence, and deliquescence of mixed particles of ammonium sulfate, organic material, and water using the organic-to-sulfate mass ratio of the particle and the oxygen-to-carbon elemental ratio of the organic component, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 11, 10995-11006, 10.5194/acp-11-10995-2011, 2011.
 - Bonasoni, P., Laj, P., Marinoni, A., Sprenger, M., Angelini, F., Arduini, J., Bonafè, U., Calzolari, F., Colombo, T., Decesari, S., Di Biagio, C., di Sarra, A. G., Evangelisti, F., Duchi, R., Facchini, M. C., Fuzzi, S., Gobbi, G. P., Maione, M., Panday, A., Roccato, F., Sellegri, K., Venzac, H., Verza, G. P., Villani, P., Vuillermoz, E., and Cristofanelli, P.: Atmospheric Brown Clouds in the Himalayas: first two years of continuous observations at the Nepal Climate Observatory-Pyramid (5079 m), Atmos. Chem. Phys., 10, 7515-7531, 10.5194/acp-10-7515-2010, 2010.
 - Canagaratna, M. R., Jayne, J. T., Jimenez, J. L., Allan, J. D., Alfarra, M. R., Zhang, Q., Onasch, T. B.,
 Drewnick, F., Coe, H., Middlebrook, A., Delia, A., Williams, L. R., Trimborn, A. M., Northway,
 M. J., DeCarlo, P. F., Kolb, C. E., Davidovits, P., and Worsnop, D. R.: Chemical and microphysical characterization of ambient aerosols with the aerodyne aerosol mass spectrometer,
 Mass. Spectrom. Rev., 26, 185-222, 10.1002/mas.20115, 2007.
 - Canagaratna, M. R., Jimenez, J. L., Kroll, J. H., Chen, Q., Kessler, S. H., Massoli, P., Hildebrandt Ruiz, L., Fortner, E., Williams, L. R., Wilson, K. R., Surratt, J. D., Donahue, N. M., Jayne, J. T., and Worsnop, D. R.: Elemental ratio measurements of organic compounds using aerosol mass spectrometry: characterization, improved calibration, and implications, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15, 253-272, 10.5194/acp-15-253-2015, 2015.
 - Clarisse, L., Clerbaux, C., Dentener, F., Hurtmans, D., and Coheur, P.-F.: Global ammonia distribution derived from infrared satellite observations, Nature Geosci., 2, 479-483, 10.1038/ngeo551, 2009.
 - Collier, S., Zhou, S., Kuwayama, T., Forestieri, S., Brady, J., Zhang, M., Kleeman, M., Cappa, C., Bertram, T., and Zhang, Q.: Organic PM Emissions from Vehicles: Composition, O/C Ratio, and Dependence on PM Concentration, Aerosol. Sci. Tech., 49, 86-97, 10.1080/02786826.2014.1003364, 2015.
 - Cong, Z., Kang, S., Kawamura, K., Liu, B., Wan, X., Wang, Z., Gao, S., and Fu, P.: Carbonaceous aerosols on the south edge of the Tibetan Plateau: concentrations, seasonality and sources, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15, 1573-1584, 10.5194/acp-15-1573-2015, 2015.
 - Cristofanelli, P., Bonasoni, P., Bonafé, U., Calzolari, F., Duchi, R., Marinoni, A., Roccato, F., Vuillermoz, E., and Sprenger, M.: Influence of lower stratosphere/upper troposphere transport events on surface ozone at the Everest-Pyramid GAW Station (Nepal): first year of analysis, International Journal of Remote Sensing, 30, 4083-4097, 10.1080/01431160902821940, 2009.
 - Cristofanelli, P., Bracci, A., Sprenger, M., Marinoni, A., Bonafè, U., Calzolari, F., Duchi, R., Laj, P., Pichon, J. M., Roccato, F., Venzac, H., Vuillermoz, E., and Bonasoni, P.: Tropospheric ozone variations at the Nepal Climate Observatory-Pyramid (Himalayas, 5079 m a.s.l.) and influence of deep stratospheric intrusion events, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 10, 6537-6549, 10.5194/acp-10-6537-2010, 2010.
- Cubison, M. J., Ortega, A. M., Hayes, P. L., Farmer, D. K., Day, D., Lechner, M. J., Brune, W. H., Apel, E.,
 Diskin, G. S., Fisher, J. A., Fuelberg, H. E., Hecobian, A., Knapp, D. J., Mikoviny, T., Riemer, D.,
 Sachse, G. W., Sessions, W., Weber, R. J., Weinheimer, A. J., Wisthaler, A., and Jimenez, J. L.:
 Effects of aging on organic aerosol from open biomass burning smoke in aircraft and laboratory
 studies, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 11, 12049-12064, 10.5194/acp-11-12049-2011, 2011.

DeCarlo, P. F., Kimmel, J. R., Trimborn, A., Northway, M. J., Jayne, J. T., Aiken, A. C., Gonin, M., Fuhrer,
 K., Horvath, T., Docherty, K. S., Worsnop, D. R., and Jimenez, J. L.: Field-Deployable, High Resolution, Time-of-Flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometer, Anal. Chem., 78, 8281-8289,
 10.1021/ac061249n, 2006.

- Du, W., Sun, Y. L., Xu, Y. S., Jiang, Q., Wang, Q. Q., Yang, W., Wang, F., Bai, Z. P., Zhao, X. D., and Yang, Y. C.: Chemical characterization of submicron aerosol and particle growth events at a national background site (3295 m a.s.l.) on the Tibetan Plateau, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15, 10811-10824, 10.5194/acp-15-10811-2015, 2015.
- Dumka, U. C., Moorthy, K. K., Kumar, R., Hegde, P., Sagar, R., Pant, P., Singh, N., and Babu, S. S.:

 Characteristics of aerosol black carbon mass concentration over a high altitude location in the

 Central Himalayas from multi-year measurements, Atmos. Res., 96, 510-521,

 10.1016/j.atmosres.2009.12.010, 2010.
- Engling, G., Zhang, Y.-N., Chan, C.-Y., Sang, X.-F., Lin, M., Ho, K.-F., Li, Y.-S., Lin, C.-Y., and Lee, J. J.:

 Characterization and sources of aerosol particles over the southeastern Tibetan Plateau during the Southeast Asia biomass-burning season, Tellus. B, 63, 117-128, 10.1111/j.1600-0889.2010.00512.x, 2011.
- Fang, K., Makkonen, R., Guo, Z., Zhao, Y., and Seppa, H.: An increase in the biogenic aerosol concentration as a contributing factor to the recent wetting trend in Tibetan Plateau, Scientific Reports, 5, 10.1038/srep14628, 2015.
- Freney, E. J., Sellegri, K., Canonaco, F., Boulon, J., Hervo, M., Weigel, R., Pichon, J. M., Colomb, A., Prévôt, A. S. H., and Laj, P.: Seasonal variations in aerosol particle composition at the puy-de-Dôme research station in France, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 11, 13047-13059, 10.5194/acp-11-13047-2011, 2011.
- Fröhlich, R., Crenn, V., Setyan, A., Belis, C. A., Canonaco, F., Favez, O., Riffault, V., Slowik, J. G., Aas, W., Aijälä, M., Alastuey, A., Artiñano, B., Bonnaire, N., Bozzetti, C., Bressi, M., Carbone, C., Coz, E., Croteau, P. L., Cubison, M. J., Esser-Gietl, J. K., Green, D. C., Gros, V., Heikkinen, L., Herrmann, H., Jayne, J. T., Lunder, C. R., Minguillón, M. C., Močnik, G., O'Dowd, C. D., Ovadnevaite, J., Petralia, E., Poulain, L., Priestman, M., Ripoll, A., Sarda-Estève, R., Wiedensohler, A., Baltensperger, U., Sciare, J., and Prévôt, A. S. H.: ACTRIS ACSM intercomparison Part 2: Intercomparison of ME-2 organic source apportionment results from 15 individual, co-located aerosol mass spectrometers, Atmos. Meas. Tech., 8, 2555-2576, 10.5194/amt-8-2555-2015, 2015.
- Giordano, M. R., Kalnajs, L. E., Avery, A., Goetz, J. D., Davis, S. M., and DeCarlo, P. F.: A missing source of aerosols in Antarctica beyond long-range transport, phytoplankton, and photochemistry, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 17, 1-20, 10.5194/acp-17-1-2017, 2017.
- Gu, Y., Liao, H., and Bian, J.: Summertime nitrate aerosol in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere over the Tibetan Plateau and the South Asian summer monsoon region, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 16, 6641-6663, 10.5194/acp-16-6641-2016, 2016.
- He, Q. S., Li, C. C., Ma, J. Z., Wang, H. Q., Yan, X. L., Lu, J., Liang, Z. R., and Qi, G. M.: Lidar-observed enhancement of aerosols in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere over the Tibetan Plateau induced by the Nabro volcano eruption, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 14, 11687-11696, 10.5194/acp-14-11687-2014, 2014.
- Heald, C. L., Kroll, J. H., Jimenez, J. L., Docherty, K. S., DeCarlo, P. F., Aiken, A. C., Chen, Q., Martin, S. T., Farmer, D. K., and Artaxo, P.: A simplified description of the evolution of organic aerosol composition in the atmosphere, Geophys. Res. Lett., 37, L08803, 10.1029/2010gl042737, 2010.
- Hindman, E. E., and Upadhyay, B. P.: Air pollution transport in the Himalayas of Nepal and Tibet during the 1995-1996 dry season, Atmospheric Environment, 36, 727-739, Doi 10.1016/S1352-2310(01)00495-2, 2002.
- Jayne, J. T., Leard, D. C., Zhang, X., Davidovits, P., Smith, K. A., Kolb, C. E., and Worsnop, D. R.: Development of an Aerosol Mass Spectrometer for Size and Composition Analysis of Submicron Particles, Aerosol. Sci. Tech., 33, 49 - 70, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/027868200410840, 2000.
- Ji, Z. M., Kang, S. C., Cong, Z. Y., Zhang, Q. G., and Yao, T. D.: Simulation of carbonaceous aerosols over the Third Pole and adjacent regions: distribution, transportation, deposition, and climatic effects, Climate Dynamics, 45, 2831-2846, 2015.
- Jimenez, J. L., Canagaratna, M. R., Donahue, N. M., Prevot, A. S. H., Zhang, Q., Kroll, J. H., DeCarlo, P. F., Allan, J. D., Coe, H., Ng, N. L., Aiken, A. C., Docherty, K. S., Ulbrich, I. M., Grieshop, A. P.,

- Robinson, A. L., Duplissy, J., Smith, J. D., Wilson, K. R., Lanz, V. A., Hueglin, C., Sun, Y. L., Tian, J., Laaksonen, A., Raatikainen, T., Rautiainen, J., Vaattovaara, P., Ehn, M., Kulmala, M., Tomlinson, J. M., Collins, D. R., Cubison, M. J., E., Dunlea, J., Huffman, J. A., Onasch, T. B., Alfarra, M. R., Williams, P. I., Bower, K., Kondo, Y., Schneider, J., Drewnick, F., Borrmann, S., Weimer, S., Demerjian, K., Salcedo, D., Cottrell, L., Griffin, R., Takami, A., Miyoshi, T., Hatakeyama, S., Shimono, A., Sun, J. Y., Zhang, Y. M., Dzepina, K., Kimmel, J. R., Sueper, D., Jayne, J. T., Herndon, S. C., Trimborn, A. M., Williams, L. R., Wood, E. C., Middlebrook, A. M., Kolb, C. E., Baltensperger, U., and Worsnop, D. R.: Evolution of Organic Aerosols in the Atmosphere, Science, 326, 1525-1529, 10.1126/science.1180353, 2009.
- Kroll, J. H., Donahue, N. M., Jimenez, J. L., Kessler, S. H., Canagaratna, M. R., Wilson, K. R., Altieri, K.
 E., Mazzoleni, L. R., Wozniak, A. S., Bluhm, H., Mysak, E. R., Smith, J. D., Kolb, C. E., and
 Worsnop, D. R.: Carbon oxidation state as a metric for describing the chemistry of atmospheric
 organic aerosol, Nature Chem., 3, 133-139, 10.1038/nchem.948, 2011.

- Kumar, R., Naja, M., Satheesh, S. K., Ojha, N., Joshi, H., Sarangi, T., Pant, P., Dumka, U. C., Hegde, P., and Venkataramani, S.: Influences of the springtime northern Indian biomass burning over the central Himalayas, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 116, 10.1029/2010jd015509, 2011.
- Li, Z., Lau, W. K. M., Ramanathan, V., Wu, G., Ding, Y., Manoj, M. G., Liu, J., Qian, Y., Li, J., Zhou, T., Fan, J., Rosenfeld, D., Ming, Y., Wang, Y., Huang, J., Wang, B., Xu, X., Lee, S. S., Cribb, M., Zhang, F., Yang, X., Zhao, C., Takemura, T., Wang, K., Xia, X., Yin, Y., Zhang, H., Guo, J., Zhai, P. M., Sugimoto, N., Babu, S. S., and Brasseur, G. P.: Aerosol and monsoon climate interactions over Asia, Rev. Geophys., 54, 2015RG000500, 10.1002/2015RG000500, 2016.
- Lin, M., Zhang, Z., Su, L., Hill-Falkenthal, J., Priyadarshi, A., Zhang, Q., Zhang, G., Kang, S., Chan, C.-Y., and Thiemens, M. H.: Resolving the impact of stratosphere-to-troposphere transport on the sulfur cycle and surface ozone over the Tibetan Plateau using a cosmogenic 35S tracer, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 121, 2015JD023801, 10.1002/2015JD023801, 2016.
- Liu, B., Cong, Z., Wang, Y., Xin, J., Wan, X., Pan, Y., Liu, Z., Wang, Y., Zhang, G., Wang, Z., Wang, Y., and Kang, S.: Background aerosol over the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau: observed characteristics of aerosol mass loading, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 17, 449-463, 10.5194/acp-17-449-2017. 2017.
- Lu, Z., Streets, D. G., Zhang, Q., and Wang, S.: A novel back-trajectory analysis of the origin of black carbon transported to the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau during 1996–2010, Geophys. Res. Lett., 39, L01809, 10.1029/2011gl049903, 2012.
- Lüthi, Z. L., Škerlak, B., Kim, S. W., Lauer, A., Mues, A., Rupakheti, M., and Kang, S.: Atmospheric brown clouds reach the Tibetan Plateau by crossing the Himalayas, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15, 6007-6021, 10.5194/acp-15-6007-2015, 2015.
- Marinoni, A., Cristofanelli, P., Laj, P., Duchi, R., Calzolari, F., Decesari, S., Sellegri, K., Vuillermoz, E., Verza, G. P., Villani, P., and Bonasoni, P.: Aerosol mass and black carbon concentrations, a two year record at NCO-P (5079 m, Southern Himalayas), Atmos. Chem. Phys., 10, 8551-8562, 10.5194/acp-10-8551-2010, 2010.
- Marinoni, A., Cristofanelli, P., Laj, P., Duchi, R., Putero, D., Calzolari, F., Landi, T. C., Vuillermoz, E.,
 Maione, M., and Bonasoni, P.: High black carbon and ozone concentrations during pollution
 transport in the Himalayas: Five years of continuous observations at NCO-P global GAW station,
 Journal of Environmental Sciences, 25, 1618-1625, 10.1016/s1001-0742(12)60242-3, 2013.
 - Ng, N. L., Canagaratna, M. R., Jimenez, J. L., Chhabra, P. S., Seinfeld, J. H., and Worsnop, D. R.: Changes in organic aerosol composition with aging inferred from aerosol mass spectra, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 11, 7095-7112, 10.5194/acpd-11-7095-2011, 2011.
- Ortega, A. M., Day, D. A., Cubison, M. J., Brune, W. H., Bon, D., de Gouw, J. A., and Jimenez, J. L.:
 Secondary organic aerosol formation and primary organic aerosol oxidation from biomass-burning
 smoke in a flow reactor during FLAME-3, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 13, 11551-11571, 10.5194/acp 13-11551-2013, 2013.
 - Paatero, P., and Tapper, U.: Positive matrix factorization: A non-negative factor model with optimal utilization of error estimates of data values, Environmetrics, 5, 111-126, 10.1002/env.3170050203, 1994.
- Rinaldi, M., Gilardoni, S., Paglione, M., Sandrini, S., Fuzzi, S., Massoli, P., Bonasoni, P., Cristofanelli, P.,
 Marinoni, A., Poluzzi, V., and Decesari, S.: Organic aerosol evolution and transport observed at

Mt. Cimone (2165 m a.s.l.), Italy, during the PEGASOS campaign, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15,
 11327-11340, 10.5194/acp-15-11327-2015, 2015.

- Ripoll, A., Minguillón, M. C., Pey, J., Jimenez, J. L., Day, D. A., Sosedova, Y., Canonaco, F., Prévôt, A. S. H., Querol, X., and Alastuey, A.: Long-term real-time chemical characterization of submicron aerosols at Montsec (southern Pyrenees, 1570 m a.s.l.), Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15, 2935-2951, 10.5194/acp-15-2935-2015, 2015.
- Sang, X., Zhang, Z., Chan, C., and Engling, G.: Source categories and contribution of biomass smoke to organic aerosol over the southeastern Tibetan Plateau, Atmospheric Environment, 78, 113-123, 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2012.12.012, 2013.
- Schmale, J., Schneider, J., Nemitz, E., Tang, Y. S., Dragosits, U., Blackall, T. D., Trathan, P. N., Phillips, G. J., Sutton, M., and Braban, C. F.: Sub-Antarctic marine aerosol: dominant contributions from biogenic sources, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 13, 8669-8694, 10.5194/acp-13-8669-2013, 2013.
- Shen, R. Q., Ding, X., He, Q. F., Cong, Z. Y., Yu, Q. Q., and Wang, X. M.: Seasonal variation of secondary organic aerosol tracers in Central Tibetan Plateau, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15, 8781-8793, 10.5194/acp-15-8781-2015, 2015.
- Stockwell, C. E., Christian, T. J., Goetz, J. D., Jayarathne, T., Bhave, P. V., Praveen, P. S., Adhikari, S., Maharjan, R., DeCarlo, P. F., Stone, E. A., Saikawa, E., Blake, D. R., Simpson, I. J., Yokelson, R. J., and Panday, A. K.: Nepal Ambient Monitoring and Source Testing Experiment (NAMaSTE): emissions of trace gases and light-absorbing carbon from wood and dung cooking fires, garbage and crop residue burning, brick kilns, and other sources, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 16, 11043-11081, 10.5194/acp-16-11043-2016, 2016.
- Stone, E. A., Schauer, J. J., Pradhan, B. B., Dangol, P. M., Habib, G., Venkataraman, C., and Ramanathan, V.: Characterization of emissions from South Asian biofuels and application to source apportionment of carbonaceous aerosol in the Himalayas, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 115, 10.1029/2009jd011881, 2010.
- Sun, Y., Zhang, Q., Macdonald, A. M., Hayden, K., Li, S. M., Liggio, J., Liu, P. S. K., Anlauf, K. G., Leaitch, W. R., Steffen, A., Cubison, M., Worsnop, D. R., van Donkelaar, A., and Martin, R. V.: Size-resolved aerosol chemistry on Whistler Mountain, Canada with a high-resolution aerosol mass spectrometer during INTEX-B, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 9, 3095-3111, 10.5194/acp-9-3095-2009, 2009.
- Tang, M., and Reiter, E. R.: Plateau monsoons of the Northern Hemisphere: A comparison between North America and Tibet, Monthly Weather Review, 112, 617-637, 1984.
- Tobo, Y., Zhang, D., Iwasaka, Y., and Shi, G.: On the mixture of aerosols and ice clouds over the Tibetan Plateau: Results of a balloon flight in the summer of 1999, Geophys. Res. Lett., 34, L23801, 10.1029/2007GL031132, 2007.
- Ulbrich, I. M., Canagaratna, M. R., Zhang, Q., Worsnop, D. R., and Jimenez, J. L.: Interpretation of organic components from Positive Matrix Factorization of aerosol mass spectrometric data, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 9, 2891-2918, 10.5194/acp-9-2891-2009, 2009.
- Van Damme, M., Erisman, J. W., Clarisse, L., Dammers, E., Whitburn, S., Clerbaux, C., Dolman, A. J., and Coheur, P. F.: Worldwide spatiotemporal atmospheric ammonia (NH3) columns variability revealed by satellite, Geophys. Res. Lett., 42, 8660-8668, 2015.
- Vernier, J. P., Thomason, L. W., and Kar, J.: CALIPSO detection of an Asian tropopause aerosol layer, Geophys. Res. Lett., 38, L07804, 10.1029/2010GL046614, 2011.
- Xu, C., Ma, Y. M., Panday, A., Cong, Z. Y., Yang, K., Zhu, Z. K., Wang, J. M., Amatya, P. M., and Zhao, L.: Similarities and differences of aerosol optical properties between southern and northern sides of the Himalayas, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 14, 3133-3149, 10.5194/acp-14-3133-2014, 2014a.
- Xu, J., Zhang, Q., Chen, M., Ge, X., Ren, J., and Qin, D.: Chemical composition, sources, and processes of urban aerosols during summertime in northwest China: insights from high-resolution aerosol mass spectrometry, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 14, 12593-12611, 10.5194/acp-14-12593-2014, 2014b.
- Xu, J., Shi, J., Zhang, Q., Ge, X., Canonaco, F., Prévôt, A. S. H., Vonwiller, M., Szidat, S., Ge, J., Ma, J., An, Y., Kang, S., and Qin, D.: Wintertime organic and inorganic aerosols in Lanzhou, China: sources, processes, and comparison with the results during summer, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 16, 14937-14957, 10.5194/acp-16-14937-2016, 2016.
- 745 Yanai, M., and Li, C.: Mechanism of heating and the boundary layer over the Tibetan Plateau, Monthly 746 Weather Review, 122, 305-323, 1994.

Yasunari, T. J., Bonasoni, P., Laj, P., Fujita, K., Vuillermoz, E., Marinoni, A., Cristofanelli, P., Duchi, R.,

Tartari, G., and Lau, K. M.: Estimated impact of black carbon deposition during pre-monsoon
season from Nepal Climate Observatory – Pyramid data and snow albedo changes over Himalayan
glaciers, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 10, 6603-6615, 10.5194/acp-10-6603-2010, 2010.

- Zhang, D., Iwasaka, Y., and Shi, G.: Soot particles and their impacts on the mass cycle in the Tibetan atmosphere, Atmos. Environ., 35, 5883-5894, 10.1016/s1352-2310(01)00391-0, 2001.
- Zhang, Q., Jimenez, J. L., Canagaratna, M. R., Ulbrich, I. M., Ng, N. L., Worsnop, D. R., and Sun, Y.: Understanding atmospheric organic aerosols via factor analysis of aerosol mass spectrometry: a review, Anal. Bioanal. Chem., 401, 3045-3067, 10.1007/s00216-011-5355-y, 2011.
- Zhang, R., Wang, H., Qian, Y., Rasch, P. J., Easter, R. C., Ma, P. L., Singh, B., Huang, J., and Fu, Q.: Quantifying sources, transport, deposition, and radiative forcing of black carbon over the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 15, 6205-6223, 10.5194/acp-15-6205-2015,
- Zhang, R., Wang, Y., He, Q., Chen, L., Zhang, Y., Qu, H., Smeltzer, C., Li, J., Alvarado, L. M. A., Vrekoussis, M., Richter, A., Wittrock, F., and Burrows, J. P.: Enhanced trans-Himalaya pollution transport to the Tibetan Plateau by cut-off low systems, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 17, 3083-3095, 10.5194/acp-17-3083-2017, 2017.
- Zhao, Z., Cao, J., Shen, Z., Xu, B., Zhu, C., Chen, L. W. A., Su, X., Liu, S., Han, Y., Wang, G., and Ho, K.:

 Aerosol particles at a high-altitude site on the Southeast Tibetan Plateau, China: Implications for pollution transport from South Asia, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 118, 11360-11375, 10.1002/jgrd.50599, 2013.
- Zhou, S., Collier, S., Jaffe, D. A., Briggs, N. L., Hee, J., Sedlacek Iii, A. J., Kleinman, L., Onasch, T. B., and Zhang, Q.: Regional influence of wildfires on aerosol chemistry in the western US and insights into atmospheric aging of biomass burning organic aerosol, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 17, 2477-2493, 10.5194/acp-17-2477-2017, 2017.

Table 1. Summary of AMS measurement at mountain sites around the world. The mass concentration was for $NR-PM_1$.

-						3.6	
Sites	Instruments	Lat.	Long.	Elev.	Date	Mass Conc.	Reference
Nam Co	HR-AMS	30.77°N	90.9°E	4730	Jun-15	1.84	
Menyuan	ACSM	37.61°N	101.26°E	3925	5 September - 15 October, 2013	10.8	Du et al. (2015)
Montsec	ACSM	42.05°N	0.73°E	1570	14 July 2011 - 23 April 2012	4.9	Rinaldi et al. (2015)
Jungfraujoch	ToF- ACSM	46.55°N	07.98°E	3580	27 July 2012 - 2 October 2013	0.55	Fröhlich et al. (2015)
Mt. Cimone	HR-AMS	44.18°N	10.7°E	2165	June - July 2012	4.5	Rinaldi et al. (2015)
Mt. Whistler	HR-AMS	50.01°N	122.95°E	2182	Apr - May 2006	1.91	Sun et al. (2009)
Puy de Done	cToF-AMS	45.77°N	2.95°E	1465	Sep 2008 - June 2010	2008 Autumn: 7.82 2008 Winter: 5.58 2009 Summer: 27.594	Freney et al. (2011)
Mt. Bachelor	HR-AMS	43.98°S	121.69W	2800	25 July - 25 August, 2013	15.1	Zhou et al. (2017)
Sub- Antarctic Bird Island	HR-AMS	54.00°S	38.00°W	ND	November and December, 2010	0.46	Schmale et al. (2013)

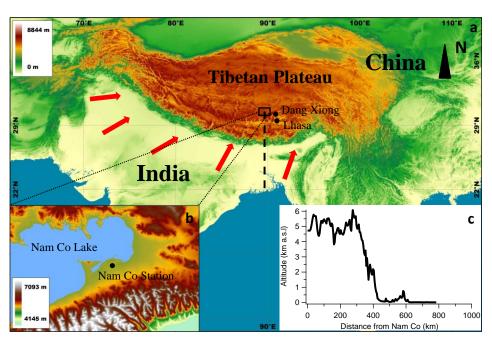


Figure 1. Location map for (a) the Tibetan Plateau and (b) Nam Co Station colored by the elevation altitude. (c) The elevation profile of altitude from costal area to Nam Co Station (vertical dash line). The red arrow in the map represent the possible wind direction.

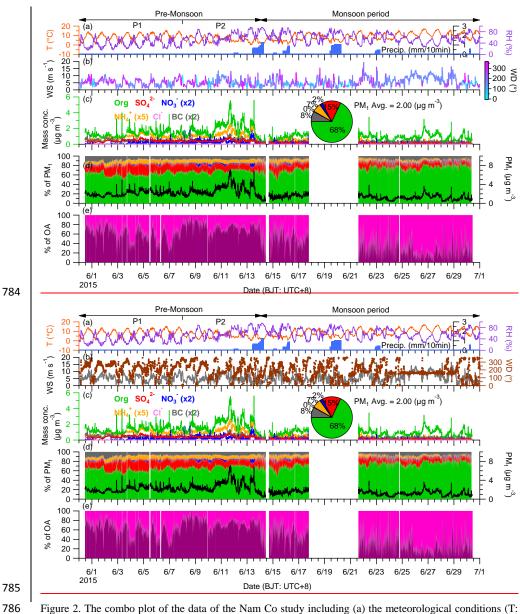


Figure 2. The combo plot of the data of the Nam Co study including (a) the meteorological conditions (T: air temperature; RH: relative humidity; Precip.: precipitation), (b) the variation of WS (wind speed) colored by WD (wind direction), (c) the temporal variation of mass concentration of PM1 species and the average contribution each species (pie chart), (d) the mass contribution of each PM1 species and the total mass

concentration of PM₁, and (e) the mass contribution of PMF results (section 3.5). Three periods based on the meteorological conditions were marked.

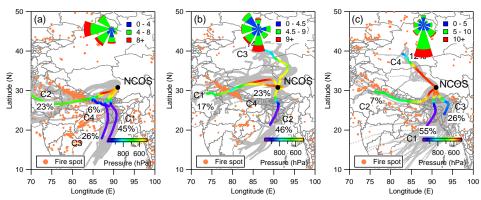


Figure 3. Air mass trajectory statistics for (a) P1, (b) P2, and (c) monsoon period. The classes of trajectories are colored by pressure. Fire spot observed by MODIS and average wind rose plot during each period are also shown.

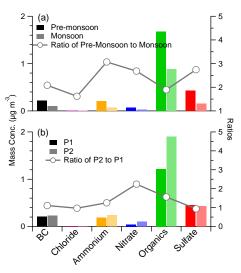


Figure 4. The comparisons of PM_1 species of the mass concentration (left axis) and the ratio between them (right axis) between (a) pre-monsoon and monsoon and (b) P1 and P2.



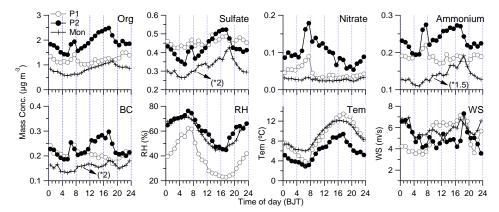


Figure 5. Diurnal variations of each species and weather conditions (RH: relative humidity; Tem: air temperature; and WS: wind speed) during three periods of the study. Note that the signals of sulfate, ammonium, and BC are increased by a factor for comparison.



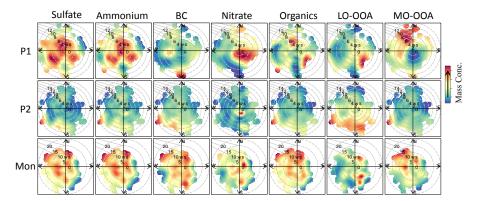


Figure 6. Bivariate polar plots that illustrate the variations of the concentrations (colored) of each species as a function of wind speed (m s^{-1}) and wind direction during different periods of the study.

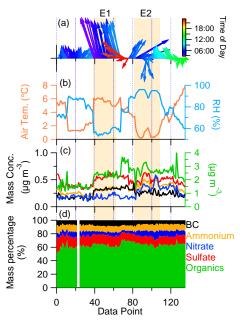


Figure 7. The high aerosol loading periods based on nitrate (> average \pm 2 σ) accompanying with meteorological data.

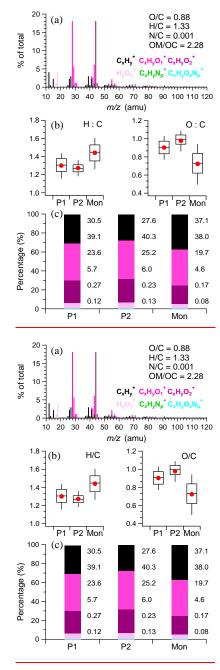


Figure 8. (a) The average mass spectrum of organic aerosol, (b) the average ratios of H + C and O + C during different periods, and (c) the average contribution of six ion categories during different periods.



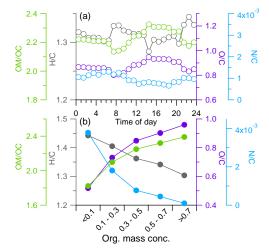


Figure 9. (a) Diurnal variations of elemental ratios and (b) the variations of elemental ratios as the function of mass concentration of organic aerosol.

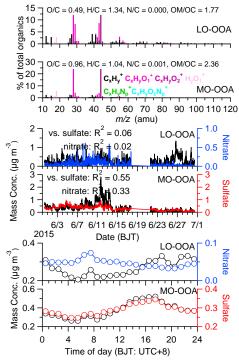


Figure 10. PMF results of (a) the mass spectra, (b) the temporal variation and (c) diurnal variations of two factors. The temporal and diurnal variations of sulfate and nitrate are also shown for comparisons.



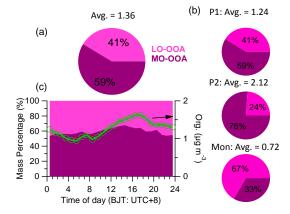


Figure 11. (a) The average mass contributions of two factors (a) during the study, (b) during the different periods, and (c) the diurnal mass contribution of two factor (left axis) accompanying with the total organics (right axis).

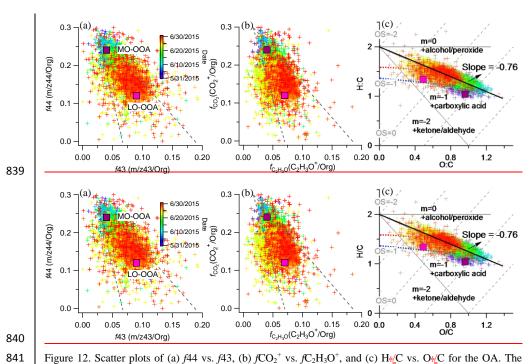


Figure 12. Scatter plots of (a) f44 vs. f43, (b) fCO_2^+ vs. $fC_2H_3O^+$, and (c) $H\frac{1}{2}C$ vs. $O\frac{1}{2}C$ for the OA. The corresponding values of the OOAs identified in this study are also shown.

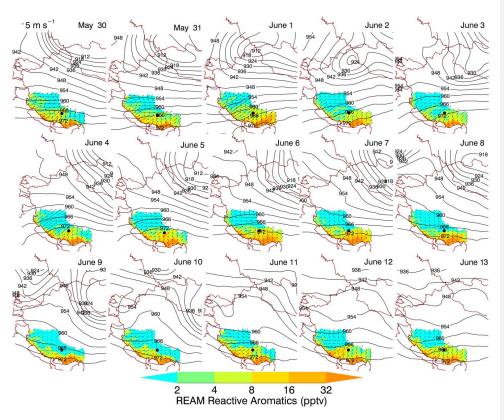


Figure 13. Daily distribution of WRF-simulated surface wind and REAM-simulated concentrations of reactive aromatics over the Tibet Plateau during 30 May to 13 June, 2015.

1 Supplementary of:

2 Chemical characteristics of submicron-particle at the central Tibet

- Plateau: influence of long-range transportinsights from aerosol mass
- 4 **spectrometry**

5

- 6 Jianzhong Xu¹, Qi Zhang², Jinsen Shi³, Xinlei Ge⁴, Conghui Xie¹, Junfeng Wang⁴, Shichang
- 7 Kang¹, Ruxiong Zhang⁵, Yuhang Wang⁵

8

- ¹State Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Sciences, Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, CAS,
- 10 Lanzhou 730000, China
- ²Department of Environmental Toxicology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, USA
- ³Key Laboratory for Semi-Arid Climate Change of the Ministry of Education, College of Atmospheric Sciences,
- 13 Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, China
- ⁴Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Atmospheric Environment Monitoring and Pollution Control (AEMPC), School of
- 15 Environmental Science and Engineering, Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology, Nanjing
- 16 210044, China
- 17 ⁵School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA

Model description

The 3-D Regional chEmical trAnsport Model (REAM) has a horizontal resolution of 36 km. REAM features 30 vertical layers in the troposphere and 5 vertical layers in the stratosphere, with a model top at 10 hpa. Meteorological fields in REAM are from Weather Research and Forecast model (WRF) assimilations, and are updated every 5 minutes for convective transport related inputs and every 30 minutes for the others. The WRF model is constrained by National Centers for Environmental Prediction Climate Forecast System Reanalysis (NCEP CFSR, Saha et al., 2010) 6-hourly products. The initial and boundary conditions for chemical tracers in REAM are obtained from GEOS-Chem global simulations with a resolution of 2° × 2.5° (Bey et al., 2001). REAM expands GEOS-Chem standard chemical mechanism (v9-02) with aromatic chemistry (Liu et al., 2010, 2012), including benzene and other reactive aromatics as chemical tracers (toluene, ethyl-benzene, and m/p/o-xylene). REAM implements the Intercontinental Chemical Transport Experiment-Phase B (INTEX-B) anthropogenic emissions inventory for South Asia (Zhang et al., 2009; Li et al., 2014) and a mosaic Asian anthropogenic emissions inventory (MIX, Li et al., 2015) for other regions in the model domain. For further model descriptions and evaluations, we refer readers to Zhang et al. (2017).

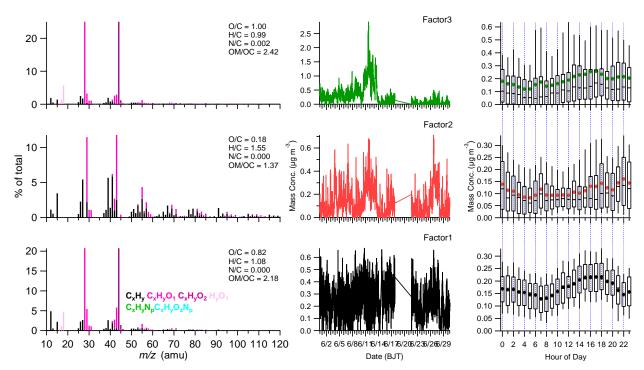


Figure S1 Three factor solutions.

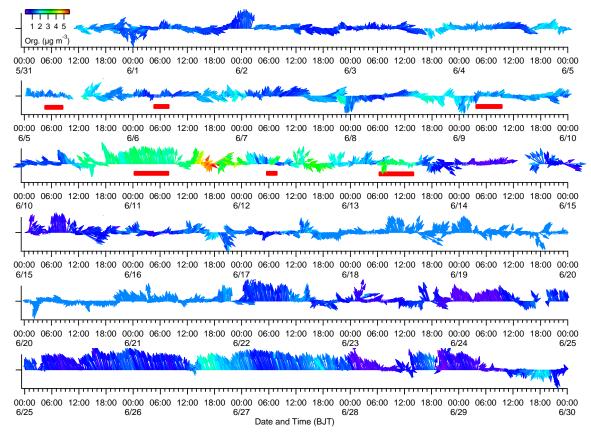


Figure S2. The wind dataset during field study. The red marker along the wind represent the high nitrate periods.

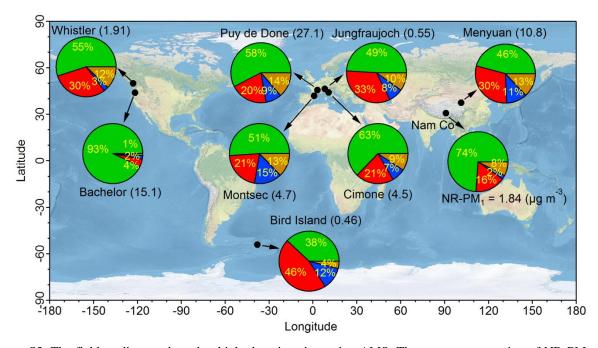


Figure S3. The field studies conducted at high elevation sites using AMS. The mass concentration of $NR-PM_1$ and the mass contribution of each species (pie chart) are including in each site.

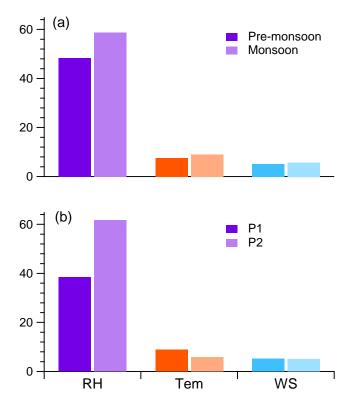


Figure S4. The comparisons of meteorological conditions between (a) pre-monsoon and monsoon and (b) P1 and P2.

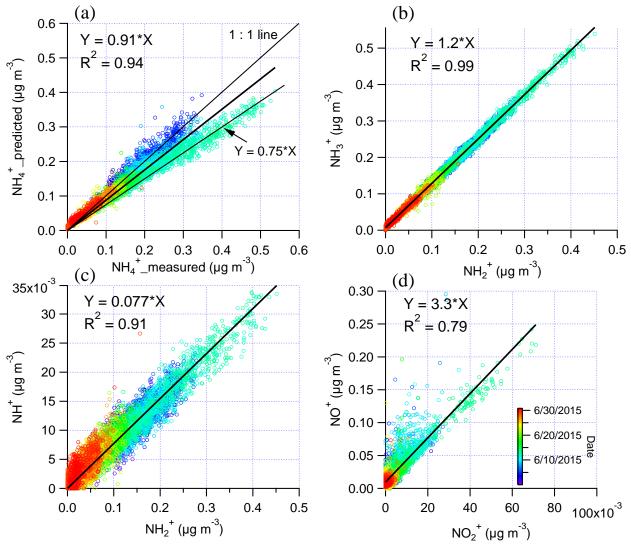


Figure S5. Scatter plots of (a) predicted ammonium (NH_4^+ _predicted) calculated from the stoichiometry of sulfate, nitrate, and chloride vs. measured ammonium (NH_4^+ _measured), (b) NH_3^+ vs. NH_2^+ , (c) NH^+ vs. NH_2^+ , and (d) NO^+ vs. NO_2^+ .

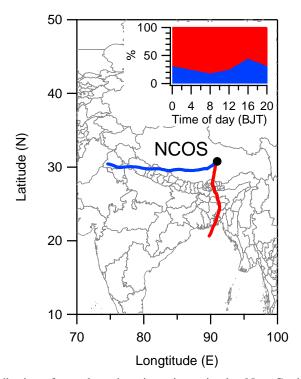


Figure S6. The diurnal contribution of two class air trojectories arrived at Nam Co during sampling period.

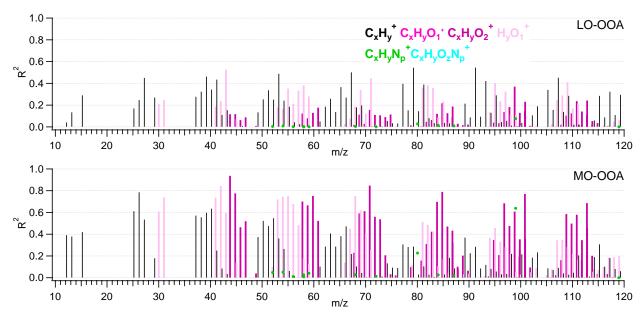


Figure S7. The correlation coefficent of time series between OOA factor and ions.

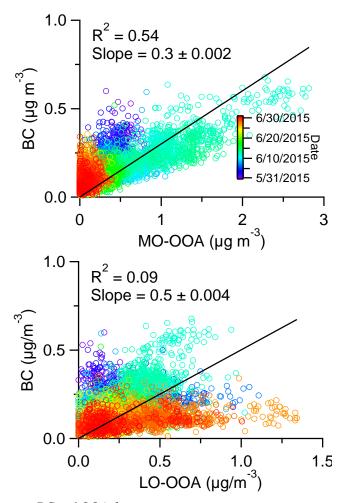


Figure S8. Scatter plots between BC and OOA factors.

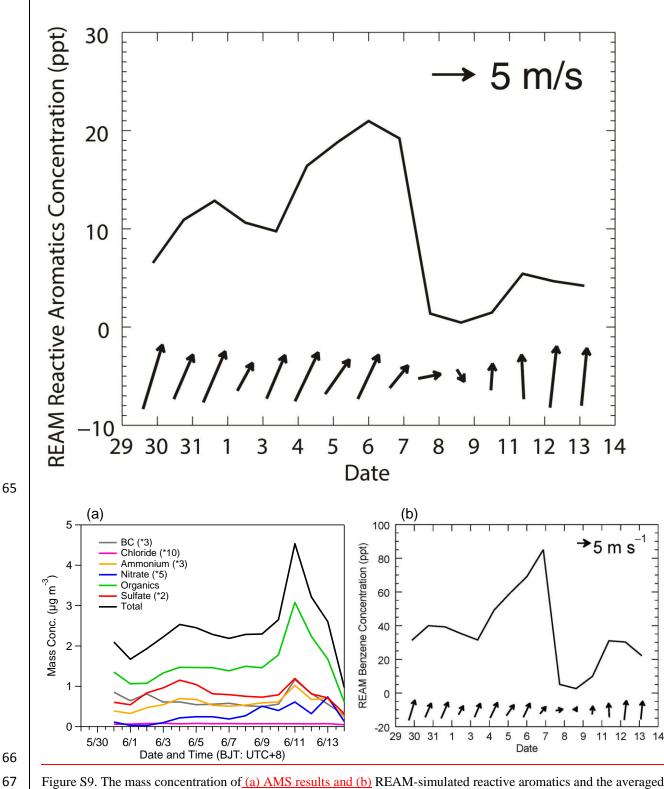


Figure S9. The mass concentration of (a) AMS results and (b) REAM-simulated reactive aromatics and the averaged wind data.

71 References

- Bey, I., Jacob, D. J., Yantosca, R. M., Logan, J. A., Field, B. D., Fiore, A. M., Li, Q. B., Liu, H. G. Y.,
- 73 Mickley, L. J., and Schultz, M. G.: Global modeling of tropospheric chemistry with assimilated
- meteorology: Model description and evaluation, J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos., 106, 23073-23095, doi:
- 75 10.1029/2001jd000807, 2001.
- Li, M., Zhang, Q., Streets, D. G., He, K. B., Cheng, Y. F., Emmons, L. K., Huo, H., Kang, S. C., Lu, Z.,
- Shao, M., Su, H., Yu, X., and Zhang, Y.: Mapping Asian anthropogenic emissions of non-
- 78 methane volatile organic compounds to multiple chemical mechanisms, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 14,
- 79 5617-5638, doi: 10.5194/acp-14-5617-2014, 2014.
- 80 Li, M., Zhang, Q., Kurokawa, J., Woo, J. H., He, K. B., Lu, Z., Ohara, T., Song, Y., Streets, D. G.,
- Carmichael, G. R., Cheng, Y. F., Hong, C. P., Huo, H., Jiang, X. J., Kang, S. C., Liu, F., Su, H.,
- and Zheng, B.: MIX: a mosaic Asian anthropogenic emission inventory for the MICS-Asia and
- the HTAP projects, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 2015, 34813-34869, doi: 10.5194/acpd-15-
- 84 34813-2015, 2015.
- 85 Liu, Z., Wang, Y., Gu, D., Zhao, C., Huey, L. G., Stickel, R., Liao, J., Shao, M., Zhu, T., Zeng, L., Liu,
- 86 S.-C., Chang, C.-C., Amoroso, A., and Costabile, F.: Evidence of Reactive Aromatics As a Major
- 87 Source of Peroxy Acetyl Nitrate over China, Environ. Sci. Technol., 44, 7017-7022, doi:
- 88 10.1021/es1007966, 2010.
- 89 Liu, Z., Wang, Y., Vrekoussis, M., Richter, A., Wittrock, F., Burrows, J. P., Shao, M., Chang, C.-C., Liu,
- 90 S.-C., Wang, H., and Chen, C.: Exploring the missing source of glyoxal (CHOCHO) over China,
- 91 Geophys. Res. Lett., 39, L10812, doi: 10.1029/2012GL051645, 2012.
- 92 Saha, S., Moorthi, S., Pan, H.-L., Wu, X., Wang, J., Nadiga, S., Tripp, P., Kistler, R., Woollen, J.,
- 93 Behringer, D., Liu, H., Stokes, D., Grumbine, R., Gayno, G., Wang, J., Hou, Y.-T., Chuang, H.-
- 94 Y., Juang, H.-M. H., Sela, J., Iredell, M., Treadon, R., Kleist, D., Van Delst, P., Keyser, D.,
- Derber, J., Ek, M., Meng, J., Wei, H., Yang, R., Lord, S., Van Den Dool, H., Kumar, A., Wang,
- 96 W., Long, C., Chelliah, M., Xue, Y., Huang, B., Schemm, J.-K., Ebisuzaki, W., Lin, R., Xie, P.,
- 97 Chen, M., Zhou, S., Higgins, W., Zou, C.-Z., Liu, Q., Chen, Y., Han, Y., Cucurull, L., Reynolds,
- 98 R. W., Rutledge, G., and Goldberg, M.: The NCEP Climate Forecast System Reanalysis, Bull.
- 99 Am. Meteorol. Soc., 91, 1015-1057, doi: 10.1175/2010BAMS3001.1, 2010.
- Zhang, Q., Streets, D. G., Carmichael, G. R., He, K. B., Huo, H., Kannari, A., Klimont, Z., Park, I. S.,
- Reddy, S., Fu, J. S., Chen, D., Duan, L., Lei, Y., Wang, L. T., and Yao, Z. L.: Asian emissions in
- 102 2006 for the NASA INTEX-B mission, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 9, 5131-5153, doi: 10.5194/acp-9-
- 103 5131-2009, 2009.
- Zhang, R., Wang, Y., He, Q., Chen, L., Zhang, Y., Qu, H., Smeltzer, C., Li, J., Alvarado, L. M. A.,
- Vrekoussis, M., Richter, A., Wittrock, F., and Burrows, J. P.: Enhanced trans-Himalaya pollution
- transport to the Tibetan Plateau by cut-off low systems, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 17, 3083-3095,
- 107 10.5194/acp-17-3083-2017, 2017.