

1 **Response to comments:**

2 We sincerely thank the reviewers for their helpful comments and guidance. Addressing the
3 major points raised during the review process has substantially improved the quality of the
4 manuscript. In the text that follows, reviewer comments in normal text are followed by author
5 responses in italics.

6

7 **Reviewer #1:**

8 This manuscript presents measurements of aerosol composition made with an Aerodyne
9 HRAMS in Houston, TX. The measurements were carried out in two different seasons, and the
10 focus of the analysis is on differences in the OA composition and sources during these
11 different times. Overall, this is a novel data set and the topic is certainly appropriate for ACP.

12 The writing is generally good and the manuscript is well-organized. I do have a number of
13 major issues with the manuscript – some addressed here, some in the section below – that
14 prevent me from endorsing it for publication at this time. It may be suitable for publication
15 after a major revision.

16 My greatest concern deals with the analyses and discussion related to Figure 9 (lines 482 - 494)
17 and Figure 11 (lines 550 - 560). This seems like the definition of “cherry picking” data to
18 support one’s view, when the entire data set does not. There is no rationale for excluding such
19 large amounts of data until one achieves a good linear fit. It supports the authors’ narratives,
20 but I think the conclusions involving these Figures (which are central to the entire manuscript)
21 need substantial revision since they are not consistent with the data.

22

23 *Response:*

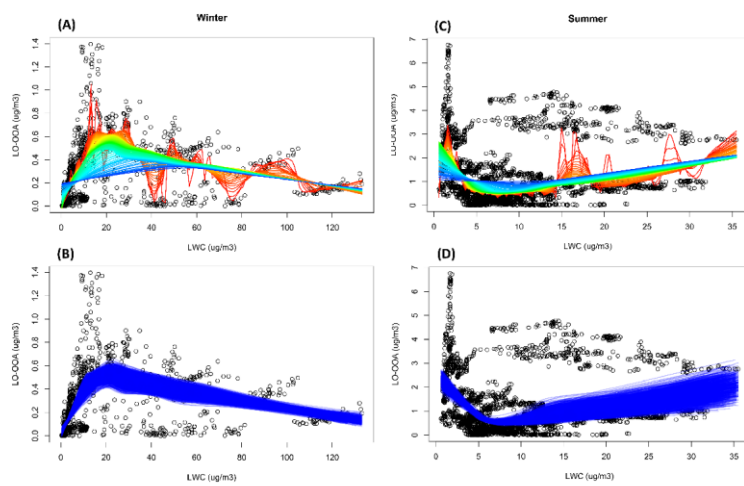
24 *We thank the reviewer for highlighting this point, but we respectfully disagree with the*
25 *reviewer that the data analysis involves cherry picking. Please note the fact that it is possible*
26 *to find a distinct regression relationship between two observed variables for part of a given*
27 *data set, in contrast to the whole data set. We can find many examples in the literature: for*
28 *example, the third figure in Li et al. (2016) and the eighth figure in Guo et al. (2016). In this*

29 work, OOA presented a non-linear relationship with LWC for our whole dataset, which is in
30 agreement with a previous study (Xu et al., 2017). The main focus of their work was to
31 investigate the effects of aqueous-phase and photochemical processing on secondary organic
32 aerosol formation and evolution. Their data suggested that the OOA exhibited a non-linear
33 relationship with RH for their whole dataset in different seasons. However, based on least
34 squares regression correlation analysis, Sullivan et al. (2016) reported a relationship of an
35 increasing water-soluble organic carbon with LWC for RH increased from 40% to 70% during
36 a specific short period. Thus, our aim is to examine if there is a linear relationship between
37 OOA and LWC during specific loadings of LWC.

38 Classical regression methods, such as linear least squares regression, were developed to
39 specify a global function to fit a model to an entire data set. However, as mentioned by the
40 reviewer, no rationale for determining what fraction of the data is appropriate for a good
41 linear fit was provided. In general, data are usually chosen arbitrarily. Here we provide the
42 detailed strategy for choosing the appropriate fraction of data points utilized in subsequent
43 local linear regression analyses.

44 The first step is to examine the linear or non-linear relationships between two variables by
45 fitting the given data with a locally weighted scatter plot smoothing algorithm (LOWESS).
46 Further details on the LOWESS technique is available in Cleveland (1981). We take the
47 relationship between LO-OOA and LWC during the summer campaign as an example. The
48 LOWESS function has a “span” argument (f) that represents the proportion of the total
49 number of points that contribute to each local fitted value. The fitting curve is constructed by
50 connecting the “fitted” value with lines for each data point, with colors from red to blue to
51 show the effect of the smoothing parameter choice. The red curve ($f=0.01$, where f is equal to
52 the proportion of points) is “looser” than the blue curve ($f=1$), as the blue curve is fitted to all
53 data points. As shown in Figure S14(C) (named as in the current SI), the blue curve fitted for
54 data points with LWC concentration great than $5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ is likely a straight line. To further
55 verify this assumption, we resampled the original data by using a bootstrap method and
56 recalculated the LOWESS curves. Figure S14(D) presents the 400 LOWESS curves for all
57 resampled data. A strong linear relationship between LO-OOA and LWC can be found for

58 data with LWC great than $6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Because the number of the corresponding data points
 59 decreased as the LWC increased, the fitted curve is sparsely distributed for high LWC data.
 60 Although these resampled data points are not as representative compared to the data at lower
 61 LWC, the linear relationship is apparent.



62
 63 **Figure S14.** LOWESS curves for the nighttime LO-OOA vs. LWC during winter (A) and
 64 summer (C) and for the associated resampled data obtained by bootstrap method (B for winter
 65 and D for summer).

66

67 *Author's changes in manuscript:*

68 *Our revision to this comment is included in the following bulleted list:*

- 69 1. Added the results of LOWESS analysis into supplementary materials (Figures S14-17).
 70 2. Added a paragraph before the discussion of Figure 8 to clarify the potential relationship
 71 between OOA and LWC during nighttime:

72 “The potential linear relationship between OOA and LWC for the nighttime data was
 73 investigated by fitting the data with a locally weighted scatter plot smoothing algorithm
 74 (LOWESS, (Cleveland, 1981)). According to the LOWESS curves fitted for the original
 75 nighttime data and the resampled data obtained by a bootstrap method (Figs. S14-15), there
 76 likely exists a linear relationship between LO-OOA and LWC for data points with LWC less

77 than $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and greater than $6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the winter and summer periods, respectively. As
78 for MO-OOA, such a linear relationship likely exists when LWC is less than 50 and $7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
79 for the winter and summer periods, respectively.”

80 3. Added another paragraph before the discussion of Figure 10 to clarify the potential
81 relationship between OOA and O_x during daytime:

82 “According to the LOWESS curves fitted for the original daytime data and resampled data
83 obtained using a bootstrap method (Figs. S16-17), there likely exists a linear relationship
84 between LO-OOA and O_x when O_x is less than 35 ppb and greater than 20 ppb for the winter
85 and summer periods, respectively. As for MO-OOA, the linear relationship likely exists for
86 data points with O_x less than 35 ppb for the winter period, but the linear relationship is less
87 prominent.”

88 4. Deleted the discussion of the linear relationship between MO-OOA and O_x for the summer
89 campaign.

90

91 **Specific comment 1:**

92 I think that the quantification of the aerosol organic nitrates (ON) have a large uncertainty that
93 needs to be discussed. Equations 3, 4, and 5 indicate the derived ON concentrations are very
94 sensitive to the R_{ON} value. Although the authors have used an R_{ON} value from a very well cited
95 source, there is major uncertainty because the source they cite is based upon a study of SOA
96 from β -pinene oxidation by the nitrate radical. Clearly, the ON formation in this study will be
97 more complex, which adds significant uncertainty to the R_{ON} value and thus to the derived ON
98 concentrations. Much more discussion of this point, including bounds on the ON
99 concentration is warranted.

100

101 *Response:*

102 *Previous studies found that isoprene was the main biogenic VOC in Houston (Leuchner and*
103 *Rappengluck, 2010; Kota et al., 2014), and Brown et al. (2013) reported that monoterpenes*
104 *and isoprene were frequently present within the nocturnal boundary layer in the Houston area*
105 *and underwent rapid oxidation, mainly by nitrate radical. Given the large abundance of*

106 *monoterpene and isoprene in the Houston area, similar to Xu et al. (2015), we assume organic*
 107 *nitrates formed via isoprene and beta-pinene oxidation are representative. Fry et al. (2013)*
 108 *assumed that the $R_{ON}/R_{NH_4NO_3}$ value is instrument-independent, and further estimated the*
 109 *average $R_{ON}/R_{NH_4NO_3}$ of 2.25 for the organic nitrate standards. The $R_{ON}/R_{NH_4NO_3}$ values vary*
 110 *with precursor VOC. We utilized the average $R_{ON}/R_{NH_4NO_3}$ of isoprene (2.08, (Bruns et al.,*
 111 *2010)) and beta-pinene organic nitrates (3.99, (Boyd et al., 2015)) from the literature to*
 112 *obtain an estimate range of R_{ON} by using the NO_x^+ method. The mass range of ON is estimated*
 113 *by assuming that the average molecular weights of organic molecules with nitrate functional*
 114 *groups are 200 to 300 g mol⁻¹ (Surratt et al., 2008; Rollins et al., 2012).*
 115 *The result of estimated ON is available in Table S2. The associated Figures and content in the*
 116 *original manuscript were updated accordingly. Here we retain the results estimated with R_{ON}*
 117 *value of 0.166 in the manuscript.*

118

119 **Table S2.** Results of organic nitrates estimated using the NO_x^+ ratio method.

	$NO_{3,ON}$ conc. ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)		$NO_{3,ON}/NO_{3,obs}$		ON/OA	
	lower	upper	lower	upper	lower	upper
Winter	0.22	0.34	34%	35%	31%	66%
Summer	0.05	0.06	61%	81%	9%	17%

120

121 **Specific comment 2:**

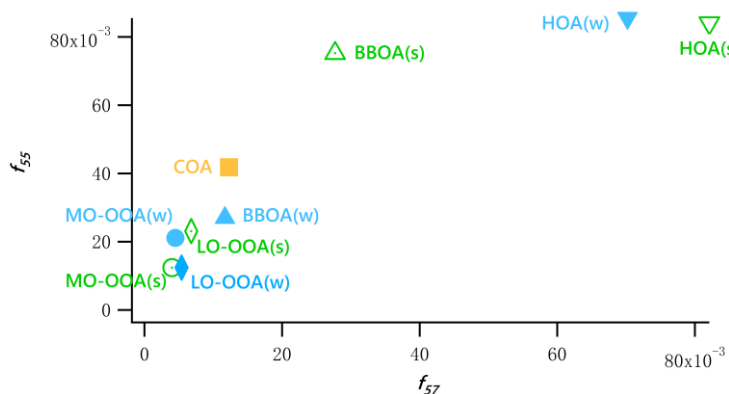
122 The COA factor seems quite problematic given that 1) it is present in winter but absent in
 123 summer (cooking is presumably still occurring in the city during this period?), and 2) the
 124 diurnal profile of COA (Fig. 4) is inconsistent with both cooking activity and results from
 125 many urban areas.

126

127 *Response:*

128 *1) There is a restaurant situated directly northeast of the measurement site (UHSL). The*
 129 *northeasterly winds were observed at the measurement site with a high frequency during the*
 130 *winter campaign but not the summer (Fig. 1), which is likely to be responsible for the impact*
 131 *of emissions from cooking activities on this site during winter. It also is possible that increased*

132 processing in the summer led COA to be oxidized and included in one of the OOA factors.
 133 2) In our previous supplemental material, we have interpreted the COA factor by comparing
 134 the factor mass spectra with other factors, examining the relationship of COA factor versus
 135 cooking-tracer ion ($C_3H_3O^+$) and investigating the factor's signal ratio of m/z 55 to m/z 57. As
 136 shown in the following figure (now S13), the signals for m/z 55 to m/z 57 for COA in the
 137 summer is close to that for LO-OOA and MO-OOA, and higher than that for BBOA and HOA.
 138 This is a strong evidence for the interpretation of the COA factor (Mohr et al., 2012).
 139



140
 141 **Figure S13.** f_{55} vs. f_{57} of PMF factors for the winter and summer periods. (w) and (s) denote
 142 the winter and summer data, respectively.
 143

144 Although there is no routine peak during mealtime in the diurnal pattern of COA, the COA
 145 factor mass spectra correlated moderately with previously reported COA factors deduced from
 146 PMF analysis (as shown in the table below), which further supports the interpretation of COA
 147 factor in this work.
 148

149 **Table** Correlation (r) of COA mass spectra with previously published spectral database.
 150 (<http://cires1.colorado.edu/jimenez-group/HRAMSsd/>)

References	Study area	r
(Mohr et al., 2012)	Barcelona	0.76

(Crippa et al., 2013)	Paris	0.58
(Elser et al., 2016)	Xi'an and Beijing	0.65
(Hu et al., 2016)	Beijing	0.65

151

152

153 **Specific comment 3:**

154 The brief discussion on aerosol acidity (Lines 318-320) is completely wrong: briefly, the
 155 thermodynamic modeling did not include gas-phase ammonia or nitric acid, which
 156 significantly limits the ability to characterize acidity. See the extensive body of work from R.
 157 Weber and A. Nenes on this topic.

158

159 *Response:*

160 *The original sentence (original lines 318-320) has been deleted.*

161

162 **Specific comment 4:**

163 I had a lot of difficulty with Figure 1 and the associated discussion (Lines 349-360). I realize
 164 many published papers (including many in ACP) follow this standard formula for a paper
 165 reporting the results from a ground-based field study. However, I find it almost impossible to
 166 actually get anything useful out of Figure 1-there is simply too much data presented in too
 167 small a space. This is especially true for the discussions about pollutants and wind direction,
 168 which cannot be distinguished in Figure 1. If the discussion is central to the manuscript, then
 169 additional figures in the Supplemental and likely necessary. If not, then I'd suggest removing
 170 (or greatly modifying) Figure 1.

171

172 *Response:*

173 *For the sake of clarity, we have removed the panels of elemental ratios (O/C, H/C, OM/OC,*
 174 *and N/C), ON and MSA from the stacked time series plot and put these panels into the*
 175 *supplemental material (Figure S2).*

176

177 **Specific comment 5:**

178 Perhaps this is just a miscalculation, mis-labeled figure or a typo in the manuscript, but the
179 ON concentration estimates (12% and 37% of OA) do not seem consistent with the results in
180 Figure 2, Figure 6, and Table 1. For example, Fig. 2 lists ON contributions to NR-PM₁ as 3.4%
181 and 1.5% in winter and summer, respectively. Based on the reported averages (NR-PM₁
182 concentrations of 6 and 3.6 µg/m³ in winter and summer, respectively), this would give ON
183 concentrations of 0.204 and 0.054 µg/m³. These levels do not seem consistent with Figure 6,
184 nor with the reported contributions to OA.

185

186 *Response:*

187 *We apologize for the error. As suggested, we estimated the bounds of ON based on the R_{ON}*
188 *values (and their precursor VOCs) that are relevant to the Houston area in the revised*
189 *manuscript. The estimated result is available in Table S2. The ON concentrations in Tables,*
190 *Figures and text have been updated in the revised manuscript.*

191

192 **Specific comment 6:**

193 All of the discussion about wet removal is misguided (lines 448-452, 468). The authors seem
194 to imply here that the highest levels of aerosol LWC correspond to periods of precipitation. I
195 seriously doubt that is the case, as precipitation events will greatly reduce all of the aerosol
196 species, as well. Either way, the authors should have access to accurate precipitation data, so
197 this point should be backed by evidence rather than speculated upon.

198

199 *Response:*

200 *Precipitation totals from a nearby Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)*
201 *monitor site were added to Figure 1 (b, g). The periods of precipitation events correspond to*
202 *high levels of RH. Indeed, the wet removal effect works on all species. We have rephrased the*
203 *statement on wet removal effect in response to this comment.*

204 *Lines 436-441: "This result indicates that wet removal may dominate under an extremely high*
205 *RH environment coupled with stagnant air (WS < 2 m/s, Fig. 7(E)), as the OA concentration*

206 *decreased at extremely high LWC level (Fig. 7(A)). In summer, the OA mass decreased when*
207 *LWC increased from 1.25 to 6.25 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ but increased when LWC increased further,*
208 *suggesting the wet removal effect is likely not as strong as that in winter because of the*
209 *relatively lower LWC in summer.”*

210

211 **Specific comment 7:**

212 This discussion linking MSA with aqueous processing is confusing (lines 507-520). It is
213 entirely possible for aqueous processing to produce OOA and at the same time for the OOA
214 factors to exhibit weak (or no) correlations with MSA (e.g., if the air mass had a continental
215 origin).

216

217 *Response:*

218 *The discussion linking MSA with aqueous processing supports the idea that the summertime*
219 *MO-OOA formation was more likely associated with aqueous processing than LO-OOA, as*
220 *MO-OOA positively correlated with MSA but LO-OOA exhibited weak correlation with MSA.*
221 *This result also indicates that MO-OOA was impacted by marine aerosol and that LO-OOA*
222 *likely originated from continental areas.*

223

224 **Specific comment 8:**

225 This is a relatively minor point, but I question the label of “summer” applied to the May
226 measurements. Can the authors use comparison to priori measurement campaigns in Houston
227 to show that May is representative of summertime conditions in terms of source influences,
228 emissions, chemistry, etc.? Further, because of the short duration of the winter measurement
229 period (2 weeks), the limitation that this campaign may not have fully characterized the winter
230 season in Houston should be discussed.

231

232 *Response:*

233 *We agree with the reviewer that the sampling periods are too short to cover the whole seasons*
234 *thus we have added a comment in Section 2.1:*

235 *“The data collected during winter campaign are limited in duration; thus, the following*
236 *discussion focuses primarily on the summer campaign. The label of “winter/summer” in the*
237 *text denotes the measurement period in the winter/summer.”*

238 *The fourth paragraph of the Introduction section has been deleted, and we have shortened the*
239 *discussion about winter data in the text. It should also be noted that even though May*
240 *officially is part of spring, the temperatures in Texas in May are high enough that they are*
241 *much more characteristic of summer meteorology.*

242

243 **Specific comment 9:**

244 The paragraph in lines 64-70 seems contradictory with the current results: the reported
245 measurement seem to indicate that Houston is well below the current (and future) standard.

246

247 *Response:*

248 *The original statement has been deleted.*

249

250 **Specific comment 10:**

251 I understand that it is common to sample an AMS downstream of a Nafion drier (lines
252 150-152), but can the authors comment on potential artifacts from this measurement setup?
253 E.g., the potential loss of semi-volatile organics.

254

255 *Response:*

256 *The work of El-Sayed et al. (2016) indicates that drying of aerosol water led to the*
257 *evaporation of condensed-phase organics (for both daytime and nighttime sampling periods).*

258 *For the purposes of this study, therefore, we may be underestimating the contribution of*
259 *aqueous-SOA (i.e., IEPOX as an example in El-Sayed et al. (2016)).*

260 *We have added comment in Section 2.3.2:*

261 *“As suggested by El-Sayed et al. (2016), drying of aerosol water may have led to the*
262 *evaporation of condensed-phase organics. Thus, the mass concentrations of resolved OA*
263 *factors here are a lower-bound, conservative estimate due to potential losses of aqueous-SOA*

264 *in the Nafion dryer element.*”

265

266 **References:**

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338 seasonal variation of aerosol composition and sources with a focus on organic nitrates,
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345

346 **Reviewer #2:**

347 **Specific Comment 1:**

348 My major concern is that the authors claimed seasonal differences between winter and summer,
349 but the measurements were only made for 2-week period during wintertime with high

350 frequencies of RH>60% (~70% in Fig.1). As a result, there might be a significant uncertainty
351 when comparing the summer and winter data. The authors need to address such uncertainties
352 in the revised manuscript.

353

354 *Response:*

355 *Please see response to similar comment from Reviewer #1.*

356

357 **Specific Comment 2:**

358 The uncertainties for the quantification of S/C and N/C AMS was operated in V-mode
359 ($m/\Delta m \sim 2000$) in this study, separation of N-containing and S-containing are challenging.

360 What are the uncertainties in quantification of S/C and N/C.

361

362 *Response:*

363 *Because of the lack of measurement results for standard organic nitrates and organic sulfates,*
364 *we are unable to estimate quantitatively the uncertainties in N/C and S/C. Since the elemental*
365 *ratio packages in PIKA indicate that the calibration factors for S/C ratios are “not*
366 *measured/published”, we have deleted the S/C data in the revised manuscript.*

367 *The uncertainties in quantification of N/C include: 1) the important nitrogen-containing ion*
368 *(CH_2N^+ , m/z 28 (Ge et al., 2017)) was excluded from the AMS elemental analysis due to the*
369 *overwhelming interference of adjacent N_2^+ ion, resulting in the current N/C ratio being*
370 *underestimated by ~20% on average (Struckmeier et al., 2016); 2) because the signals of*
371 *$\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{N}_p^+$ and $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_z\text{N}_p^+$ are much lower than C_xH_y^+ and $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_z^+$, the determination of N/C*
372 *relies on the mass resolution ($m/\Delta m$). The mass resolution of V-mode AMS is just half of that*
373 *of W-mode, making separation and quantification of the nitrogen-containing ions above m/z*
374 *50 impossible (Xu et al., 2017); and 3) N-containing ion peaks are very often on tails of larger*
375 *peaks, thus small errors in m/z calibration can generate uncertainty in estimated N/C.*

376 *Aiken et al. (2007) compared the N/C ratios for methylamine, ethylamine, and hydrogen*
377 *cyanide from a NIST electron-ionization database and from elemental analysis using an AMS.*

378 *The analysis of AMS (NIST) spectra indicates that quantification of N/C is possible with an*

379 average error of 20%.

380

381 **Specific Comment 3:**

382 What the values of CE and RIE used for MSA quantification? Please elaborate.

383

384 *Response:*

385 *Following previous studies by Zorn et al. (2008) and Huang et al. (2015), the relative*
386 *ionization efficiency (RIE) of MSA (1.3) was assumed to be the average of the value for*
387 *organic species (RIE_{org} = 1.4) and sulfate species (RIE_{so4} = 1.2). The collection efficiency of*
388 *all ions composing MSA was calculated using the composition-dependent collection efficiency*
389 *developed by Middlebrook et al. (2015). The resulting collection efficiency was 0.5 for 7.3%*
390 *and 4.2% of time of the summer and winter campaign, respectively, and was 1.0 for the*
391 *remaining time of the two campaigns.*

392

393 **Specific Comment 4:**

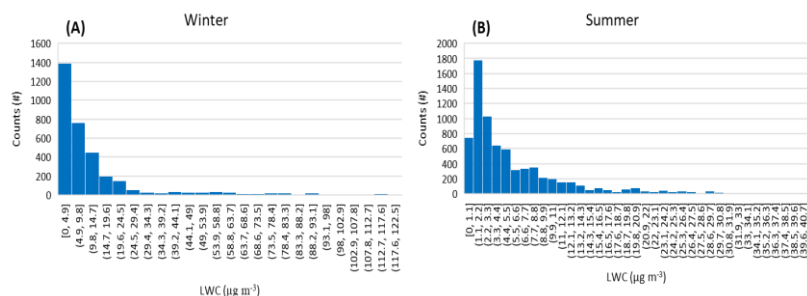
394 What's the basis of LWC bin division (Fig.8)? Why didn't you use the uniformly-spaced LWC
395 bin as Fig. 10 (Ox binned in 10 ppb).

396

397 *Response:*

398 *Unlike the O_x concentration, the LWC in the winter and summer show a power function*
399 *distribution and a lognormal distribution, respectively. We used uniformly-spaced LWC bins*
400 *for most of the data. The summer data are binned in 5 μg m⁻³ increments from 0 to 20 μg m⁻³*
401 *(covering 83% of data points), and winter data are binned in 2.5 μg m⁻³ increments from 0 to*
402 *15 μg m⁻³ (covering 91% of data points). The number of data points within each bin is too*
403 *small to produce a reasonable result if the remaining data at higher values are binned using*
404 *the same increment. This data processing method is common in literature (Huang et al., 2015).*

405



406
407 **Figure** The frequency histograms of LWC in the winter and summer.
408

409 **Specific Comment 5:**

410 Are there any specific reasons that you used two different versions of software to do data
411 analysis (PIKA1.16 for time series (line 176) and PIKA 1.19D to do PMF analysis (line 235))?
412

413 *Response:*

414 *We performed updated data analysis in the version of PIKA 1.19D, and all data presented in*
415 *Figures, Tables and the text have been updated in the revised manuscript.*
416

417 **Specific Comment 6:**

418 How the density of organics was calculated? Was it the I-A method (you mentioned in line
419 183?) or A-A methods?
420

421 *Response:*

422 *The organic density was estimated using an empirical equation based on elemental ratios*
423 *(Kuwata et al., 2012):*

424
$$\rho_{org} = 1000 \times \left[\frac{12 + \frac{H}{C} + 16 \times \frac{O}{C}}{7.0 + 5 \times \frac{H}{C} + 4.15 \times \frac{O}{C}} \right]$$

425 *The elemental ratios were estimated using the updated I-A method (Canagaratna et al., 2015).*
426

427 **Specific Comment 7:**

428 Line 199-200, NO₂⁺/NO⁺=0.1-2.0, that is to say, the NO⁺/NO₂⁺= 0.5-10, which is

429 contradictory with the cited study (5-10) (Xu et al., 2015). What is the ON with $R_{ON}=0.5$?
430 Please mention it here.

431

432 *Response:*

433 *This is an error. The NO_2^+/NO^+ ratio is in the range of 0.1-0.2. This mistyping has been*
434 *deleted and the bounds of ON have been estimated. Please see response to Reviewer #1*
435 *regarding uncertainties in ON.*

436

437 **Specific Comment 8:**

438 Line 417, what is the correlation coefficient between LO-OOA/MO-OOA vs. aq-OOA in
439 summer? Are there any further support other than the mass spectra? In fact, the correlation
440 between LO-OOA/MO-OOA vs. SO_4 is moderate in Fig. 7.

441

442 *Response:*

443 *The correlation coefficients of summertime LO-OOA/MO-OOA mass spectra with aq-OOA is*
444 *0.95/0.96, respectively. This result suggests that the formation of LO-OOA in summer and*
445 *MO-OOA in both seasons likely involved aqueous processing. The correlation between OOA*
446 *and MSA also supports this. MSA has a relatively higher correlation coefficient with MO-OOA*
447 *($r=0.45$) compared to LO-OOA ($r=0.30$), though the correlation also is influenced by many*
448 *other factors. Additionally, the high correlation coefficients of SO_4 with MO-OOA in both*
449 *seasons ($r=0.74$ and 0.79 for winter and summer, respectively) further support the conclusion,*
450 *although the correlation of LO-OOA and SO_4 is not as strong as expected. We believe that the*
451 *strong correlation between the mass spectra of OOA and aq-OOA is strong enough to support*
452 *our conclusion.*

453

454 **Specific Comment 9:**

455 Line 448, the authors attributed the decreased MO-OOA concentration at $LWC > 40 \mu g/m^3$ to
456 wet removal. How about other species? Besides, in Fig.8 (I), the continuous increase of
457 MO-OOA under $LWC < 40 \mu g/m^3$ appeared not very clear.

458

459 Response:

460 *Please see response to Reviewer #1. The continuous increase of MO-OOA under $LWC < 40 \mu$*

461 *$g m^{-3}$ is not very clear; but the maximum and minimum values of each bin increased obviously.*

462 *We further investigated the relationship between MO-OOA and LWC for nighttime data only,*

463 *and the MO-OOA shows a significant increase trend under $LWC < 40 \mu g m^{-3}$ during nighttime.*

464

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505

506 **Seasonal differences in formation processes of oxidized organic aerosol near**

507 **Houston, TX**

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523

524 **Abstract**

525 Submicron aerosol was measured to the southwest of Houston, Texas during winter and
526 summer 2014 to investigate its seasonal variability. Data from a high-resolution time-of-flight
527 aerosol mass spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS) indicated that organic aerosol (OA) was the largest
528 component of non-refractory submicron particulate matter (NR-PM₁) (on average, ~~46-38~~ ± 13%
529 and ~~55-47~~ ± 18% of the NR-PM₁ mass loading in winter and summer, respectively). Positive
530 matrix factorization (PMF) analysis of the OA mass spectra demonstrated that two classes of
531 oxygenated OA (less and more-oxidized OOA, LO and MO) together dominated OA mass in
532 summer (77%) and accounted for ~~42-39~~% of OA mass in winter. The fraction of LO-OOA (out
533 of total OOA) is higher in summer (~~69-70~~%) than in winter (44%). Secondary aerosols
534 (sulfate+nitrate+ammonium+OOA) accounted for ~76% and ~~89-88~~% of NR-PM₁ mass in winter
535 and summer, respectively, indicating NR-PM₁ mass was driven mostly by secondary aerosol
536 formation regardless of the season. The mass loadings and diurnal patterns of these secondary
537 aerosols show a clear winter/summer contrast. Organic nitrate (ON) concentrations were
538 estimated using the NO_x⁺ ratio method, with ~~an average contribution~~s of ~~31-66-45~~% and
539 ~~9-17-37~~% to OA during winter and summer campaign, respectively. The estimated ON in
540 summer strongly correlated with LO-OOA ($r=0.73$) and was enhanced at nighttime.

541 The relative importance of aqueous-phase chemistry and photochemistry in processing
542 OOA was investigated by examining the relationship of aerosol liquid water content (LWC)
543 and the sum of ozone (O₃) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) (O_x=O₃+NO₂) with LO-OOA and
544 MO-OOA. The processing mechanism of LO-OOA apparently depended on relative humidity
545 (RH). In periods of RH <80%, aqueous-phase chemistry likely played an important role in the

546 formation of wintertime LO-OOA, whereas photochemistry promoted the formation of
547 summertime LO-OOA. For periods of high RH >80%, these effects were opposite that of low
548 RH periods. Both photochemistry and aqueous-phase processing appear to facilitate MO-OOA
549 formation except during periods of high LWC, which is likely a result of wet removal during
550 periods of light rain.

551 The nighttime increases of MO-OOA during winter and summer were 0.013 and 0.01 μg
552 MO-OOA per μg of LWC, respectively. The increase of LO-OOA was larger than that for
553 MO-OOA, with increase rates of 0.033 and 0.055 μg LO-OOA per μg of LWC at night during
554 winter and summer, respectively. On average, the mass concentration of LO-OOA in summer
555 was elevated by nearly 1.2 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for a ~ 20 μg change in LWC, which is accompanied by a 40
556 ppb change in O_x .

557

558 **1 Introduction**

559 Tropospheric particulate matter (PM) has adverse effects on air quality, visibility, and
560 ecosystems and participates in climate forcing (Watson, 2002; Grantz et al., 2003; Racherla and
561 Adams, 2006; Tai et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2017). The various effects of PM depend on its
562 physical, chemical and optical properties, which are determined by its emission, formation and
563 evolution/aging processes. Atmospheric PM can either be directly emitted from primary
564 sources (fossil fuel combustion, soil dust, sea salt, biomass burning, etc.) or formed through
565 chemical reactions of gaseous precursors, as is the case for secondary inorganic sulfate (SO_4^{2-})
566 and nitrate (NO_3^-) and secondary organic aerosol (SOA). Understanding the source

567 contributions and formation pathways of PM is essential for mitigating its effects (Jimenez et
568 al., 2009).

569 Houston, TX, is of great interest to the scientific community with respect to air quality, as
570 it is the fourth most populous city in the United States (U.S.) and is well known for its energy
571 and chemical industries. ~~The annual average National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)
572 for PM_{2.5} (PM with diameter smaller than 2.5 micron) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection
573 Agency (EPA) was recently tightened from 15 to 12 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (US EPA, 2013), causing Houston
574 to be near non-attainment of this new standard, and creating a challenging for future NAAQS
575 attainment (Bean et al., 2016).~~

576 Numerous efforts, from modelling (McKeen et al., 2009; Li et al., 2015; Ying et al., 2015)
577 to field measurements (for example, TexAQs 2000 and II (Bates et al., 2008; Parrish et al.,
578 2009; Atkinson et al., 2010), Go-MACCS (McKeen et al., 2009; Parrish et al., 2009),
579 TRAMP2006 (Mao et al., 2010; Cleveland et al., 2012), GC-ARCH (Allen and Fraser, 2006),
580 SHARP (Olague et al., 2014), and DISCOVER-AQ (Bean et al., 2016; Leong et al., 2017))
581 have been made in the Houston metropolitan area during the past two decades, providing
582 critical insights into our understanding of air quality and atmospheric chemistry with respect to
583 the sources and formation of PM. Previous field campaigns underscore that OA accounts for a
584 major fraction of non-refractory submicron PM (NR-PM₁) in Houston (Bates et al., 2008;
585 Russell et al., 2009; Cleveland et al., 2012; Brown et al., 2013; Bean et al., 2016; Leong et al.,
586 2017; Wallace et al., 2018). The spatial variation of NR-PM₁ in Houston was investigated by
587 Leong et al. (2017), who divided ~~the~~ greater Houston into two zones based on marked
588 differences in NR-PM₁ levels, characteristics, and dynamics measured at 16 sampling locations.

589 Zone 1 is northwest of Houston and is dominated by SOA likely driven by nighttime biogenic
590 organic nitrate (ON) formation. Intensive attention has been paid recently to such
591 anthropogenic-biogenic interactions (Bahreini et al., 2009; Bean et al., 2016). Zone 2 is the
592 industrial/urban area south/east of Houston. Wallace et al. (2018) found mobile source exhaust
593 and petrochemical emissions likely are the most important factors impacting the NR-PM₁ and
594 trace gases at a site in Zone 2.

595 ~~In terms of seasonal variation, many aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) field campaigns~~
596 ~~worldwide have been conducted in the summer (de Gouw et al., 2008; Takegawa et al., 2009;~~
597 ~~Lefer et al., 2010; Crippa et al., 2013a; Hayes et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2016). Intense summertime~~
598 ~~photochemical activity in Houston was observed during TRAMP 2006 relative to other field~~
599 ~~studies (Mao et al., 2010), indicating the potential important role of photochemical oxidation in~~
600 ~~SOA formation in the summer (Bahreini et al., 2009). In contrast, few measurements have~~
601 ~~focused on wintertime aerosol (Crippa et al., 2013b; Chakraborty et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2017;~~
602 ~~Wallace et al., 2008). Wintertime aerosol generally exhibits elevated mass loadings due to the~~
603 ~~enhanced emissions from fuel combustion for heating and weather conditions favorable to~~
604 ~~aerosol accumulation. Only a few studies present results based on long term measurements for~~
605 ~~seasonal comparison, such as in the SE U.S. (Xu et al., 2015; Budisulistiorini et al., 2016). The~~
606 ~~knowledge gap regarding aerosol seasonal variability in Houston needs to be addressed to~~
607 ~~improve regional air quality.~~

608 Formation of SOA in clouds and the aqueous phase of aerosol particles has been reported
609 worldwide (Lim et al., 2010; Ervens et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2017). Given that both
610 photochemical oxidation and aqueous-phase chemistry are conducive to the formation of SOA,

611 it is of interest to compare the relative importance of photochemistry and aqueous-phase
612 chemistry for SOA formation in different seasons. The roles of photochemistry and
613 aqueous-phase processing on SOA formation and evolution in different seasons in Beijing have
614 been investigated by Hu et al. (2016) and Xu et al. (2017), respectively. Generally, the
615 aqueous-phase processing has a dominant influence on the formation of more oxidized SOA
616 and photochemical chemistry plays a major role in the formation of less oxidized SOA in
617 summer and winter in Beijing, while the relative importance of these two pathways in the
618 formation processes of SOA in autumn is different from those in summer and winter. The
619 relative roles of aqueous-phase and photochemical processes in the formation of SOA likely
620 vary with location and time. The seasonal differences in the spectral patterns, oxidation degrees
621 and contributions of SOA may result from different VOCs precursors, meteorological
622 conditions and atmospheric oxidizing capacity, which are not well understood in Houston,
623 particularly in different seasons.

624 This study presents observations of NR-PM₁ from two high-resolution time-of-flight AMS
625 (HR-ToF-AMS) measurement campaigns conducted during the winter and summer of 2014 at a
626 site in the suburbs of Houston, where industrial and vehicular emission sources and
627 photochemical processes are likely to play an important role in NR-PM₁ formation (Leong et
628 al., 2017). In addition to local emissions, this site was possibly impacted by regional marine
629 aerosol transported from the Gulf of Mexico (Schulze et al., 2018). The aims of this work are to
630 (1) investigate the seasonal characteristics of NR-PM₁ in the Houston area, (2) characterize the
631 primary and secondary sources by applying positive matrix factorization (PMF) analysis to the
632 measured OA mass spectra, and (3) evaluate the seasonal dependence of SOA composition and

633 formation, with a main focus on the relative effects of photochemistry and aqueous-phase
634 chemistry.

635

636 **2 Materials and Methods**

637 **2.1 Sampling Site and Campaigns**

638 Instrumentation was deployed in the University of Houston/Rice University Mobile Air
639 Quality Laboratory (MAQL), as described in Leong et al. (2017) and Wallace et al. (2018). The
640 winter campaign was conducted from February 3 through February 17, 2014, and the summer
641 campaign was conducted from May 1 to May 31, 2014. The measurement site was located on
642 the campus of University of Houston Sugar Land (UHSL) (29.5740 °N, 95.6518 °W). The
643 campus is situated southwest of downtown and the Houston Ship Channel (HSC). The map of
644 the measurement site is presented in Fig. S1 in the Supplemental Information (SI). The nearby
645 interstate highway (I-69) extends to the west of downtown and serves as a major traffic
646 emission source. The W.A. Parish Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant that is the
647 largest electricity generating facility in Texas, is ~6 miles south of the site (Fig. S1). The data
648 collected in the winter campaign is limited, thus the following discussion is focus primarily on
649 the summer campaign. The label of “winter/summer” in the text denotes the measurement
650 period in the winter/summer.

651 **2.2 Measurements**

652 The data used in this paper are reported in local time, which is 6 and 5 hours behind
653 Universal Coordinated Time (~~UTC~~) in winter and summer, respectively. The details regarding

654 the instrumental setup and data processing of these measurements were the same as described
655 in Wallace et al. (2018). The NR-PM₁ composition was measured using an Aerodyne
656 HR-ToF-AMS (DeCarlo et al., 2006; Canagaratna et al., 2007). A PM_{2.5} Teflon®-coated
657 cyclone inlet was installed above the MAQL trailer at a height of 6 m above ground to remove
658 coarse particles and to introduce air into the sampling line at a rate of 16.7 SLPM. A Nafion
659 dryer (Perma Pure, LLC) was mounted upstream of the HR-ToF-AMS to dry the sample to
660 below 45% relative humidity (RH). Particles are focused into a narrow beam via an
661 aerodynamic lens and accelerated under high vacuum into the particle sizing measurement
662 chamber. After passing the particle sizing chamber, the non-refractory components are flash
663 vaporized at near 600°C and ionized using electron impact at 70 eV. Ionized mass fragments are
664 then transmitted directly into the time-of-flight region so that the mass spectra can be obtained.
665 In this study, the HR-ToF-AMS was operated in “V-mode” to obtain the non-refractory
666 chemical components with a higher sensitivity, lower mass spectral resolution compared to the
667 “W-mode.” Ionization efficiency (IE) calibration was performed monodisperse ammonium
668 nitrate (NH₄NO₃) at the beginning and end of each campaign. Filtered ambient air was sampled
669 every two days for approximately 20 to 30 min to provide a baseline of signal for the
670 HR-ToF-AMS during campaigns. The detection limits, (Table S1 in the SI) were calculated by
671 multiplying the standard deviations of the filter periods by three.

672 Trace gas mixing ratios and meteorological parameters also were measured on the MAQL
673 during the campaigns. Carbon monoxide (CO) was measured with high-resolution cavity
674 enhanced direct-absorption spectroscopy (Los Gatos Research, Inc.), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂)
675 was quantified using a pulsed fluorescence analyzer (ThermoFischer Scientific, model

676 43i-TLE). Nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) were measured with a
677 chemiluminescence monitor with a UV-LED NO₂ photolytic converter on the NO₂ channel
678 (AQD, Inc.) The total reactive nitrogen (NO_y) was measured with a Thermo 49c-TL with a
679 heated Mo inlet converter. Ozone (O₃) mixing ratio was measured with ultraviolet absorption
680 (2BTech, Inc., model 205). Meteorological parameters including ambient temperature, solar
681 radiation, RH, wind speed (WS), and wind direction were measured using an RM Young
682 meteorological station. [Precipitation totals from a nearby Texas Commission on Environmental](#)
683 [Quality \(TCEQ\) monitor site \(EPA Site: 48_157_0696\) were downloaded from TECQ website.](#)

684 **2.3 Data Processing**

685 The HR-ToF-AMS data analysis was performed using SQUIRREL v.1.56A and PIKA
686 v.1.16-19D in Igor Pro 6.37 (Wave Metrics Inc.). The relative ionization efficiencies (RIE)
687 were applied to OA (1.4), SO₄²⁻ (1.2), NO₃⁻ (1.1), NH₄⁺ (4.0), and chloride (Cl⁻, 1.3) following
688 the standard data analysis procedures. The composition-dependent collection efficiency (CE)
689 was applied to the data based on Middlebrook et al. (2012). Elemental ratios (H/C, O/C; [and](#)
690 [N/C; and S/C](#), where H is hydrogen, C is carbon, N is nitrogen, ~~and S is sulfur~~) and the ratio of
691 organic mass to organic carbon (OM/OC) were generated using the procedures described by
692 Canagaratna et al. (2015).

693 **2.3.1 Quantification of the contributions of ON and Methanesulfonic Acid (MSA)**

694 *Estimation of ON.* The mass loading of NO₃⁻ measured by HR-ToF-AMS includes both
695 organic and inorganic NO₃⁻. The fragmentation ratio of NO₂⁺ to NO⁺ (NO_x⁺ ratio) is different
696 for ON and inorganic NO₃⁻ (Farmer et al., 2010; Fry et al., 2013), and the NO₂⁺ and NO⁺ mass

697 loadings for ON ($NO_{2,ON}$ and NO_{ON}) can be estimated using the method proposed by Farmer et
698 al. (2010):

$$699 \quad NO_{2,ON} = \frac{NO_{2,obs} \times (R_{obs} - R_{NO_3NH_4})}{R_{ON} - R_{NO_3NH_4}} \quad (1)$$

$$700 \quad NO_{ON} = NO_{2,ON} / R_{ON} \quad (2)$$

701 where R_{obs} is the ambient NO_x^+ ratio (0.531, 0.260 for the winter and summer campaign,
702 respectively, see Fig. S2 for details). $R_{NO_3NH_4}$ (NO_x^+ ratio of NH_4NO_3) is determined by IE
703 calibration using monodisperse NH_4NO_3 before and after the campaigns. The average of the
704 two IE calibrations was used as the $R_{NO_3NH_4}$ for the campaign (0.588, 0.381 for the winter and
705 summer campaigns, respectively), which is comparable with the value reported elsewhere (Xu
706 et al., 2015; Zhu et al., 2016). The value of R_{ON} is hard to determine because it varies with
707 instruments and precursor volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (Fry et al., 2013). Previous
708 studies have found that isoprene was the main biogenic VOC in Houston (Leuchner and
709 Rappengluck, 2010; Kota et al., 2014), and Brown et al. (2013) reported that monoterpenes and
710 isoprene were frequently present within the nocturnal boundary layer in Houston area and
711 underwent rapid oxidation, mainly by nitrate radical (denoted as NO_3^{\cdot} with a dot to differentiate
712 it from aerosol NO_3^-). Given the abundance of monoterpene and isoprene in Houston area,
713 similar to Xu et al. (2015), we assume organic nitrates formed via isoprene and beta-pinene
714 oxidation are representative. Fry et al. (2013) assumed that the $R_{ON}/R_{NH_4NO_3}$ value is
715 instrument-independent, and further estimated the average $R_{ON}/R_{NH_4NO_3}$ of 2.25 for the organic
716 nitrate standards. The $R_{ON}/R_{NH_4NO_3}$ values vary with precursor VOC. We utilized the average
717 $R_{ON}/R_{NH_4NO_3}$ of isoprene (2.08, (Bruns et al., 2010)) and beta-pinene organic nitrates (3.99,

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718 ~~(Boyd et al., 2015)) from the literatures to obtain an estimation range of R_{ON} by using the NO_x^+~~
 719 ~~method.~~
 720 ~~As summarized by Xu et al. (2015), R_{ON} values ranging from 0.1 to 2.0 likely correspond to~~
 721 ~~the upper and lower bounds of the ON concentration estimated by the NO_x^+ ratio method. In~~
 722 ~~this work, R_{ON} is adopted as 0.166 as reported in literature (Fry et al., 2009). In winter, R_{obs}~~
 723 ~~was significantly higher than R_{ON} and close to $R_{NO_3^-/NH_4^+}$, implying significant existence of~~
 724 ~~inorganic NO_3^- . In summer, R_{obs} was lower than $R_{NO_3^-/NH_4^+}$ and close to R_{ON} , indicating a~~
 725 ~~significant fraction of the total NO_3^- is ON (Fig. S2).~~

726 The measured NO_x^+ ratio can be used to separately quantify ammonium and organic
 727 nitrates as:

$$728 \quad ON_{frac} = \frac{(R_{obs} - R_{NO_3NH_4})(1 + R_{ON})}{(R_{ON} - R_{NO_3NH_4})(1 + R_{obs})} \quad (3)$$

729 The nitrate functionality from organic nitrate was calculated as:

$$730 \quad NO_{3,ON} = ON_{frac} \times NO_3^- \quad (4)$$

731 Thus, the nitrate functionality from inorganic nitrate (assuming NH_4NO_3 is the solely important
 732 inorganic nitrate in the submicron mode) can be calculated as:

$$733 \quad NO_{3,AN} = (1 - ON_{frac}) \times NO_3^- \quad (5)$$

734 The accurate estimation of the total mass of ON via this method is uncertain as the actual
 735 molecular weight of the particle-phase species is unclear. Generally, the mass of ON is
 736 estimated by assuming that the average molecular weights of organic molecules with nitrate
 737 functional groups (value determined as described above) are 200 to 300 g mol⁻¹ (Surratt et al.,
 738 2008; Rollins et al., 2012). Previous work found that the nitrate radical (denoted as NO_3^{\cdot} with a
 739 dot to differentiate it from aerosol NO_3^-) reaction with monoterpenes resulted in significant

740 SOA formation and that a hydroperoxy nitrate ($C_{10}H_{17}NO_5$) was likely a major NO_3^- -oxidized
741 terpene product in the southeastern U.S. (Ayres et al., 2015). Here, we use the molecular
742 weight of $C_{10}H_{17}NO_5$ (231 g mol^{-1}) to calculate the ON mass. Example periods of significant
743 ON contribution to PM are given in Fig. S3. While the values of ON concentrations estimated
744 using the method are presented in the text, the result of estimated ON including uncertainties is
745 available in Table S2.

746 *Estimation of MSA.* During the two campaigns, there is no significant organic sulfur
747 contribution from other ion fragments except for $CH_3SO_2^+$. The concentration of MSA was
748 estimated as:

$$749 \quad C_{MSA} = \frac{C_{CH_3SO_2}}{f_{MSA, CH_3SO_2}} \quad (6)$$

750 where $C_{CH_3SO_2}$ is the concentration of ion fragment $CH_3SO_2^+$ ($m/z=78.99$) and the fraction of
751 $CH_3SO_2^+$ to the total signal intensity of all the fragments of pure MSA, f_{MSA, CH_3SO_2} , is 5.55%.
752 This values was observed for the mass spectra of pure MSA in laboratory experiments (Schulze
753 et al., 2018) and is comparable to previous work (Huang et al., 2015).

754 **2.3.2 Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) Analysis**

755 The PMF technique has been used widely for source apportionment (Paatero and Tapper,
756 1994), including with HR-TOF-AMS data (Ulbrich et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2011). The
757 high-resolution NR-PM₁ OA mass spectra matrix ($m/z = 12$ to $m/z=130$) and the associated
758 error matrix obtained by using PIKA v 1.19 D were used for PMF analysis. Data were prepared
759 according to the protocol proposed by Ulbrich et al. (2009) and Zhang et al. (2011) prior to

760 PMF analysis. The PMF model was used to decompose the measured OA mass spectra matrix
761 by solving:

$$762 \quad X = GF + E = \sum_{p=1}^J G_{ip}F_{pj} + E_{ij} \quad (7)$$

763 where X is the $m \times n$ matrix of measurement data, the m rows of X are the OA mass spectra
764 measured at each time step, the n columns of X are the time series of each organic
765 mass-to-charge ratio, and p is the number of factors. G_{ip} is the matrix that denotes the
766 contributions of factor p at time step i , and F_{pj} represents the factor mass spectral profiles. E
767 is the residual matrix. The least-squares algorithm is used to fit the data to minimize iteratively
768 a quality of fit parameter, Q :

$$769 \quad Q = \sum_i \sum_j (E_{ij}/\sigma_{ij})^2 \quad (8)$$

770 where σ_{ij} is the matrix of estimated errors of the data.

771 Solutions using PMF with 2 to 7 factors were explored. The best solution with the
772 optimum number of factors was evaluated carefully using an open source PMF evaluation tool
773 (PET v 2.08D, (Ulbrich et al., 2009)) following the procedures described in Zhang et al. (2011).
774 Selection criteria included 1.) variation of the ratio of Q to expected Q_{exp} ($mn-p(m+n)$), the
775 degrees of freedom of the fitted data (Paatero et al., 2002)) after adding an additional factor, 2.)
776 agreement between the reconstructed OA mass concentrations and the measured concentrations,
777 3.) scaled residuals for the different ion fragments included in the dataset and variations of the
778 residual of the solution as a function of time, 4.) agreement between factor time series and time
779 series of external tracers/individual ions, and 5.) examination of factor profiles. The last two are
780 considered to determine the physical meaningfulness of the factors. The PMF solution with

781 factor numbers greater than five and four for winter and summer dataset, respectively, yielded
782 no new distinct and physical meaningful factors. The Q/Q_{exp} and the factors obtained for
783 different FPEAK (from -1 to 1 with a step value of 0.2) values resulted in a small difference in
784 the OA components. Because of the lowest Q/Q_{exp} and because the use of FPEAK values
785 different from 0 did not improve the correlations between PMF factors and potentially
786 associated tracers, the five- and four-factors solutions with FPEAK=0 can be well interpreted in
787 winter and summer, respectively. The convergence of the PMF model containing five- and
788 four-factors were examined by running each model from fifteen different starting values
789 (SEEDs 0-30 with a step value of 2). The small variation observed in Q/Q_{exp} and the mass
790 fraction of different factors as SEED changed indicates the solutions were stable. As a result,
791 SEED 0 was chosen for the final solution. The factors were interpreted as hydrocarbon-like OA
792 (HOA), biomass burning OA (BBOA), cooking OA (COA, identified only in the winter
793 campaign), and two oxidized OA (named less-oxygenated (LO-) OOA and more-oxygenated
794 (MO-) OOA). The data treatment, factor selection and interpretation are detailed in the SI. [As
795 suggested by El-Sayed et al. \(2016\), drying of aerosol water may have led to the evaporation of
796 condensed-phase organics. Thus, the resolved mass concentrations of OA factors here are a
797 lower-bound, conservative estimate due to losses of aqueous-SOA in the dryer element.](#)

798 **2.3.3 Estimation of Aerosol Liquid Water Content (LWC)**

799 Aerosol LWC includes water associated with organic aerosol and inorganic aerosol, which
800 were calculated using an empirical method and a thermodynamic model, respectively.
801 Inorganic LWC (W_i) was predicted by ISORROPIA-II in forward mode in mol L^{-1} (Fountoukis
802 and Nenes, 2007). Inputs for ISORROPIA-II include inorganic aerosol mass concentrations

803 (SO_4^{2-} , inorganic NO_3^- , and ammonium (NH_4^+)) and meteorological parameters (temperature
 804 and RH). Calculation empirical of organic LWC (W_o) follows (Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007;
 805 Guo et al., 2015):

$$806 \quad W_o = \frac{m_{org}\rho_w}{\rho_{org}} \frac{\kappa_{org}}{(1/RH)^{-1}} \quad (9)$$

807 where m_{org} is the organic mass concentration ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), and ρ_w is the density of water (1 g
 808 cm^{-3}). The organic density (ρ_{org} , g cm^{-3}) was estimated using an empirical equation based on
 809 elemental ratios (Kuwata et al., 2012; Guo et al., 2015):

$$810 \quad \rho_{org} = 1000 \times \left[\frac{12 + \frac{H}{C} + 16 \times \frac{O}{C}}{7.0 + 5 \times \frac{H}{C} + 4.15 \times \frac{O}{C}} \right] \quad (10)$$

811 The hygroscopicity of SOA generated during chamber studies under sub-saturated regimes
 812 depends on the OA degree of oxidation (Prenni et al., 2007; Jimenez et al., 2009; Petters et al.,
 813 2009; Chang et al., 2010). A simple linear relationship between the OA degree of oxidation
 814 (defined as the fraction of the total signal at m/z 44, f_{44}) and hygroscopicity (κ_{org}) is used
 815 (Duplissy et al., 2011):

$$816 \quad \kappa_{org} = 2.2 \times f_{44} - 0.13 \quad (11)$$

817 The total LWC is then found by summing the water content associated with each mass fraction:

$$818 \quad LWC = W_i + W_o \quad (12)$$

819

820 **3 Results and Discussion**

821 **3.1 Temporal Dependences of Submicron Aerosol Composition**

822 Campaign overview data for winter and summer are shown in [Table 1](#) and [Fig. 1](#). [This](#)

823 including meteorological parameters (e.g., temperature, RH, radiometer, precipitation, wind
824 direction and speed), trace gases (e.g., CO, SO₂, ~~NO~~, NO₂, and O₃), chemically resolved
825 NR-PM₁ concentrations, ~~OM/OC, and elemental ratios (H/C, O/C, N/C and S/C). Data also are~~
826 ~~shown in Table 1.~~

827 Data indicate that the average concentration of NR-PM₁ during winter campaign was 6.0 ±
828 3.7 μg m⁻³, ranging from 0.5 to 14.8 μg m⁻³. Mass loadings of NR-PM₁ at this measurement site
829 are relatively smaller than a site near the HSC in winter 2015 (10.8 μg m⁻³ (Wallace et al.,
830 2018)), perhaps suggesting a weaker industrial influence at the UHSL site.

831 The average concentration of NR-PM₁ during summer was 3.6 ± 1.7 μg m⁻³, ranging from
832 0.3 to 13.7 μg m⁻³. For comparison, a summer campaign in 2006 on an elevated building near
833 downtown Houston showed an average NR-PM₁ concentration of approximately 11 μg m⁻³
834 (Cleveland et al., 2012). An elevated NR-PM₁ episode was observed from May 28-31 (Fig.
835 1(~~mj~~)), with high solar radiation and O_x (O_x = NO₂ + O₃) levels during the daytime, and high
836 RH at night, resulting in OA becoming the largest fractional species, likely due to gas-phase
837 photochemical production of SOA together with the nighttime increase of SOA associated with
838 high RH, lowered boundary layer and cooler temperatures.

839 In winter, OA was the largest component of NR-PM₁, accounting for ~~45.538 ± 13.3%~~ on
840 average of the total mass, followed by SO₄²⁻ (~~19.923 ± 11.2%~~), NO₃⁻, ~~AN~~ (~~17.223 ± 110.8%~~),
841 NH₄⁺ (~~13.215 ± 5.4%~~), ~~NO₃-ON~~ (~~3.4 ± 1.4%~~) and Cl⁻ (~~0.91 ± 0.2%~~) (Fig. 2). Primary OA
842 (POA=HOA+BBOA+COA) was responsible for ~~59.61 ± 19.2%~~ of OA mass. Secondary
843 species (SO₄²⁻+NO₃⁻+NH₄⁺+LO-OOA+MO-OOA) accounted for ~~72.3-76 ± 1821.1%~~ of
844 NR-PM₁ mass, which is higher than that in winter in Seoul (Kim et al., 2017) and Beijing (Hu

批注 [f1]:

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845 et al., 2016). ~~The inorganic aerosols in the winter were mostly neutralized in the forms of NH₄⁺~~
846 ~~salts (e.g., (NH₄)₂SO₄, NH₄NO₃, NH₄Cl) based on the predicted to measured NH₄⁺ ratio of ~~1~~~~
847 ~~with correlation coefficient (r²) of 0.98 (Fig. 3(A)).~~

848 In contrast to winter, OA during the summer campaign constituted on average ~~54.647~~ ±
849 ~~18.2~~% of NR-PM₁ mass, and SO₄²⁻ was the second largest component (~~30.936~~ ± 15.5%),
850 followed by NH₄⁺ (~~14.22~~ ± 5.2%). NO₃⁻_{ON} and NO₃⁻_{AN} only accounted for ~~1.52~~ ± 1.9% and ~~0.4~~
851 ~~± 0.8~~% of NR-PM₁ mass in the summer, respectively. Cl⁻ contributed ~~0.41~~ ± 0.5% of NR-PM₁
852 mass. The increased PBL height in summer (Haman et al., 2012) likely contributed to relatively
853 lower trace gas and NR-PM₁ levels in the summer. Secondary species contributed ~~~87.388~~ ±
854 ~~14.215~~% of NR-PM₁ mass, indicating that the relative importance of secondary aerosol
855 formation increased during summer as compared to winter, especially for species such as SO₄²⁻
856 and MO-OOA.

857 The total OA displayed high values during the nighttime hours in both winter and summer,
858 maintaining a high level until morning rush hour, and then decreasing to a minimum value after
859 9:00 (Fig. 43). The summertime OA presented a small peak at noon, suggesting that
860 photochemical formation of OA played a more important role in summer than in winter.
861 Increasing of ambient temperature and PBL height after sunrise causes re-partitioning to the gas
862 phase, likely contributing to the decrease of OA, LO-OOA and ON during daytime.

863 Contributions of PMF factors to wintertime and summertime OA show significant
864 differences. For wintertime OA, on average, BBOA, MO-OOA, and COA made similar
865 contributions of ~~24.26~~%, ~~23.22~~% and 22% to total OA mass, respectively. The LO-OOA
866 accounted for ~~18.17~~% of OA mass, followed by HOA (13%). The POA constituted more than

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867 half of OA mass (~~59~~61%), with the remainder of being OOA (~~41~~39%). In the summer,
868 LO-OOA represented the largest fraction of the OA mass (~~53~~54% on average), followed by
869 MO-OOA (~~24~~23%), HOA (~~12~~15%) and BBOA (~~11~~8%). In the case of summer, OOA
870 constituted 77% of OA and ~~42~~36% of total NR-PM₁ mass, which are almost two times their
871 relative contributions in winter. The time series of mass concentrations of NR-PM₁ species (Fig.
872 1) and OA factors (Fig. ~~5~~4) in summer were relatively stable and repeatable, while it changed
873 dramatically in winter due to the different meteorological conditions.

874 3.2 Seasonal Variation of the Formation of Sulfate and Nitrate

875 During the summer campaign, the prevailing southerly winds from the Gulf of Mexico
876 carry marine aerosols to Houston (Schulze et al., 2018), resulting in a relatively high fraction of
877 SO₄²⁻ and MSA. As shown in Fig. 1(~~ag~~, j), the increased contribution of SO₄²⁻ occurred when
878 winds originated from the south at a high speed (e.g., May 16-27), while the contribution of
879 SO₄²⁻ decreased significantly when winds originated from the north (e.g., May 10th and May
880 13-15). MSA ~~and S/C were~~ markedly elevated during periods of southerly winds (Fig. ~~S2~~(~~e~~,
881 ~~pE~~)), and O/C and OM/OC were relatively higher (Fig. ~~S2~~(~~mD~~)). In addition, elevated SO₂
882 plumes were recorded during periods of southerly winds (Fig. 1(~~fg~~, ~~hk~~)), potentially as a result
883 of emissions from the Parish coal-fired power plant. In contrast to SO₄²⁻, the fractional
884 contribution of NO₃⁻ and OA increased greatly when the winds were not southerly. Primary
885 pollutants such as CO, ~~NO~~ and NO₂, were elevated when winds were northerly (Fig. 1(~~kl~~)),
886 accompanied by lower O/C and higher H/C ratios during the corresponding periods (Fig.
887 ~~S2~~(~~mD~~), e.g., May 1st, 2nd, 10th, 15th).

888 Diurnal patterns of NR-PM₁ and other species in the winter and summer (Fig. 43) suggest

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889 significant seasonal dependence of sources and formation processes of NR-PM₁ species in
890 Houston. In the case of SO₄²⁻, the diurnal pattern displayed a daytime peak in both winter and
891 summer, with the peak much more pronounced in summer mid-day. In winter, the f_{SO_4} (mole
892 ratio of [SO₄²⁻] to the sum of [SO₂] and [SO₄²⁻]) and LWC have concurrent peak value during
893 the night time. However, there is no obvious correlation between f_{SO_4} and LWC in summer,
894 though a moderate correlation ($r = 0.44$) was found in winter (Fig. 3). These results suggest that
895 SO₄²⁻ formed through aqueous-phase chemistry in winter is more prominent than that in
896 summer.

897 The total nitrate concentration was higher in winter than in summer. NO₃⁻,AN was very low
898 in summer due to its thermal instability under high temperature, while it was relatively
899 enhanced in winter. According to the NO_x⁺ ratio method described in Sec. 2.3.1, the mass
900 fraction of NO₃⁻,AN in total nitrate was ~~decreased in the range of 65-66 from 90%~~ (1.26 μg m⁻³)
901 in winter, ~~and in the range of 19-39 to 48%~~ (0.04 μg m⁻³) in summer. The averaged bound
902 concentrations of NO₃,ON was ranged from 0.22-0.3444 μg m⁻³ in winter, and 0.05-0.06 ~~which is~~
903 3.5 times that μg m⁻³ in summer. The seasonal variation of NO₃⁻,AN is much stronger than that
904 of NO₃,ON. This is in accordance with previous observations in Atlanta, Georgia and Centreville,
905 Alabama (Xu et al., 2015).

906 The diurnal profiles of NO₃,ON show that it reached peak value before dawn in both seasons
907 (Fig. 65). However, NO₃⁻,AN presents a bimodal diurnal profile in both seasons. The NO₃⁻,AN,
908 which increased from late afternoon and peaked at 2:00-4:00, was likely formed through
909 nighttime chemistry from dinitrogen pentoxide (N₂O₅) hydrolysis, as the LWC displayed a
910 trend similar to that of NO₃⁻,AN, This was corroborated by the observation of O_x (>25 ppb),

911 which is needed to form N₂O₅ (via NO₃[·]). The second peak observed during morning rush hour
912 was likely formed through photochemical processing of NO_x emitted from vehicles because the
913 traffic flow and O_x level are elevated during morning rush hour. The decreasing trend of
914 NO₃[·]AN after 9:00 is presumed to be a result of enhanced PBL height and evaporation.

915 The estimated ON accounted for ~~1 to 574.8%~~ of the total NR-PM₁ and ~~1 to 999.17%~~
916 percent of the OA ~~with an average contribution of about 12 and 37% to both in summer, 12-27%~~
917 ~~of the total NR-PM₁ and 31-66% percent of the OA in winter, which are comparable to other~~
918 studies (Fry et al., 2009; Rollins et al., 2010; Xu et al., 2015; Berkemeier et al., 2016). ~~In winter,~~
919 ~~ON, on average accounted for 35 and 15% of NR-PM₁ and OA mass, respectively. Figure S3~~
920 ~~presents a high ON loading period observed in summer.~~

921 A proxy for NO₃[·] production rate is based on the product of the observations of [NO₂] and
922 [O₃] (Rollins et al., 2012), where brackets represent mixing ratios in ppb. The O_x (> 25 ppb)
923 and elevated NO_x observed at night in summer (Fig. 43) resulted in rapid NO₃[·] formation. Thus,
924 the concurrent enhancement in ON and O₃ times NO₂ occurring during nighttime (Fig. S3)
925 presumably was caused by the nocturnal NO₃[·]-initiated oxidation of anthropogenic and
926 biogenic VOCs, with the latter probably larger than the former (Brown et al., 2013). The high
927 N/C ratio of LO-OOA, concurrent peak value in LO-OOA and ON (MW=231 g mol⁻¹) during
928 nighttime hours (Fig. 43), and appreciable correlation of LO-OOA and ON -in summer (*r* =
929 0.73) (Fig. 54) together suggest that particle-phase ON from NO₃[·]-initiated chemistry
930 contributed to nighttime LO-OOA in summer.

931

932 3.3 Effects of Aqueous-phase and Photochemical Oxidation on OOA Formation

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933 On average, OOA accounted for ~~44~~39 ± 19% of OA mass in winter but increased to 77 ±
934 16% in summer. Note that MO-OOA accounted for more than half of OOA in winter (56%),
935 indicating the more important role of MO-OOA in winter as compared to LO-OOA on a
936 relative basis. In contrast, LO-OOA dominated OOA in summer (~~69~~70%). The mass spectra of
937 MO-OOA in winter and summer are similar (Fig. ~~75~~6, $r = 0.84$) as are the extent of oxidation
938 ($O/C = 1.10$ versus 1.07). However, LO-OOA in winter showed a different spectral pattern
939 compared with that in summer. The mass spectrum of LO-OOA in winter was characterized by
940 high m/z 32 (mainly CH_4O^+) and 46 (mainly $CH_2O_2^+$) peaks, resulting in a relatively high O/C
941 (0.89) in winter that suggest LO-OOA in winter was more aged than that in summer
942 ($O/C=0.74$).

943 Sun et al. (2016) reported a unique OOA in ambient air, termed aq-OOA
944 (aqueous-phase-processed SOA), that strongly correlated with particle LWC, sulfate and
945 S-containing ions. As shown in Table 2, by comparing the mass spectra of OOA in this work
946 with aq-OOA, it is found that the mass spectra of MO-OOA in winter in this study presents a
947 much stronger correlation ($r = 0.96$) with aq-OOA, rather than LO-OOA in winter in this study
948 ($r = 0.75$). Both MO-OOA and LO-OOA in summer highly correlated with aq-OOA. This result
949 indicates that the formation of LO-OOA in summer and MO-OOA in both seasons may involve
950 aqueous-phase chemistry.

951 Assuming that OOA deduced from PMF analysis can be used as a surrogate of SOA (Wood
952 et al., 2010; Xu et al., 2017), the two OOA were used to investigate the formation mechanisms
953 and evolutionary processes of SOA. Previous studies have found SOA correlated well with odd
954 oxygen (O_x) in many cities (Wood et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2011; Hayes et al., 2013; Zhang et al.,

955 2015; Xu et al., 2017) and that SOA formation is significantly impacted by aqueous-phase
956 processing (Lim et al., 2010; Ervens et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2017). The relationships between
957 OOA factors and O_x/LWC were used as the metrics to characterize SOA formation mechanisms
958 associated with photochemistry/aqueous oxidation chemistry (Xu et al., 2017).

959 Fig. 8-7 (A, B) indicates the LWC frequency distribution. Winter LWC are binned in $5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
960 m^{-3} increments from 0 to $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Data in the ranges of 20 to $30 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, 30 to $50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, 50
961 to $80 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, and 80 to $120 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ are shown as 25, 40, 65 and $100 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, respectively.
962 Summer LWC are binned in $2.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ increments from 0 to $15 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The bins shown as 17.5
963 and $27.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ represent data from 15 to $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and 20 to $35 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. It should be noted that
964 a fit for the binned data likely results in an increase in R^2 compared to the fit for the original
965 data.

966 The data associated with the artificially created bins in both seasons did not pass the
967 normal test and homogeneity test of variances. The statistical significance of differences
968 between bins was then tested using the Kruskal-Wallis analysis of variance (K-W ANOVA).
969 The differences between winter and summer data of the bins were significant. Thus, the
970 Dunn-Bonferroni test was performed for the *post-hoc* pairwise comparisons. It was found that
971 the difference of all measured variables in different bins shown in Fig. 8 were significant
972 ($p < 0.01$). The results can be found in Tables S5S6-S6S7. Fig. 87(C, D) presents a clear positive
973 trend of RH as a function of LWC in both winter and summer which implies an increased
974 potential for aqueous-phase processing at high RH level, enhanced by low wind speed that
975 allows accumulation of pollutants (Fig. 87(E, F)). The patterns of other parameters as LWC
976 increases in winter were different from those in summer.

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977 The variation of binned mean OA mass against LWC presents significant seasonal
978 difference (Fig. 87(A, B)). In winter, the OA mass increased when LWC increased from 2.5 to
979 12.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ but decreased as the LWC increased further. The LO-OOA mass decreased
980 dramatically when $\text{LWC} > 12.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ($\text{RH} > 80\%$, Fig. 87(C)) while MO-OOA continues
981 increasing until $\text{LWC} > 40 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. This result indicates that wet removal may dominate under
982 an extremely high RH environment coupled with stagnant air ($\text{WS} < 2 \text{ m/s}$ Fig. 87(E)), as the
983 OA concentration decreased at extremely high LWC level (Fig. 7(A)). In summer, the OA mass
984 decreased when LWC increased from 1.25 to 6.25 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ but increased when LWC increased
985 further, suggesting the wet removal effect is not as strong as that in winter because of the
986 relatively lower LWC in summer than in winter.---

987 On average, LO-OOA (Fig. 87(G, H)) in winter increased from 0.3 to 0.9 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ when
988 LWC increased from 2.5 to 7.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ but decreased as the LWC increased further, particularly
989 when $\text{LWC} > 40 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The slope of this decrease was approximately $-0.008 \mu\text{g LO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1}$
990 LWC. Fig. 87(A) shows that 64% of the data points were observed in the situation of low LWC
991 ($< 12.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, $\text{RH} < 80\%$), when the increase of LO-OOA was more significant than that of
992 MO-OOA. In contrast, LO-OOA in summer showed a decreased trend under low LWC level
993 ($\text{LWC} < 6.25 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, $\text{RH} < 80\%$) but a significant linear increase from approximately $0.77 \mu\text{m}^{-3}$
994 to $1.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ as LWC increased from 6.25 to 27.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, a slope of $0.053 \mu\text{g LO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1}$
995 LWC. The relatively high LO-OOA under low LWC level was likely more regional, with
996 contributions from possibly transported non-aqueous OOA, as the wind speed in this case was
997 relatively high and RH was low. The formation of LO-OOA under high LWC level was likely
998 enhanced by local aqueous-phase heterogeneous chemistry.

999 MO-OOA (Fig. 87(I, J)) slightly increased during both seasons as LWC increased. In
1000 winter, MO-OOA presented a similar linear ~~increase-increasing~~ trend from 0.57 to 0.98 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
1001 when LWC increased from 2.5 to 40 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ but decreased as the LWC increased further
1002 (~~probably due to the wet removal effect~~). The slope of this increase was approximately 0.008
1003 $\mu\text{g MO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1} \text{ LWC}$. In summer, MO-OOA appears to increase from 0.49 to 0.64 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
1004 when LWC increased from 2.5 to 27.5 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, with slope of 0.005 $\mu\text{g MO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1} \text{ LWC}$. In
1005 winter, because of the decrease in LO-OOA with LWC, the relative fraction of MO-OOA
1006 increases as LWC increases.

1007 The mutual effect of aqueous-phase and photochemistry on OOA formation prevents solely
1008 evaluating the role of the two processes. Sullivan et al. (2016) reported multiple lines of
1009 evidence for local aq-SOA formation observed in the Po Valley, Italy during times of increasing
1010 RH, which coincided with dark conditions. Thus, the daytime data were separated to examine
1011 the variation of OOA against O_x . The relationship between OOA and aqueous-phase chemistry
1012 was investigated further by excluding the daytime data, with the aim of diminishing the
1013 influence of photochemistry. To do so, nighttime and daytime were based on sunrise and sunset
1014 in Houston during the two campaigns (<https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/houston>). On
1015 average, the day lengths are 11 h 10 min and 13 h 35 min for the campaigns in February and
1016 May, 2014, respectively.

1017 The potential linear relationship between OOA and LWC for the nighttime data was
1018 investigated by fitting the data with locally weighted scatter plot smoothing algorithm
1019 (LOWESS, (Cleveland, 1981)). According to the LOWESS curves for the original nighttime
1020 data and the resampled data obtained by bootstrap method (Figs. S14-15), it is interpreted that

1021 there is likely exist a linear relationship between LO-OOA and LWC for data points with LWC
1022 less than 20 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and great than 6 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the winter and summer campaign, respectively.
1023 As for MO-OOA, the linear relationship is likely exist when LWC less than 50 and 7 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for
1024 the winter and summer campaign, respectively. ~~The~~

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1025 Figure 98 presents the scatter plots of OOA versus LWC during nighttime for the two
1026 campaigns. The green dots denote the increasing trend of OOA against LWC. It is found that
1027 the increase of wintertime LO-OOA under low LWC level ($<20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) during the night is
1028 stronger than that shown in Fig. 8-7(G). The nighttime LO-OOA linearly increased from 0.04
1029 to $0.64 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ when LWC increased from 2.5 to $17.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, a slope of $0.033 \mu\text{g LO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1}$
1030 LWC. This result indicates that the nighttime increase in LO-OOA in winter is more likely
1031 formed via aqueous-phase chemistry in aerosol liquid water. In contrast, the increase of
1032 LO-OOA under high LWC level ($\text{LWC} > 6.25 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in summer was less enhanced during
1033 nighttime ($0.055 \mu\text{g LO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1} \text{ LWC}$) as compared to the increase rate of whole dataset
1034 ($0.053 \mu\text{g LO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1} \text{ LWC}$). The slope of nighttime increase of MO-OOA against LWC
1035 during the winter campaign was $0.013 \mu\text{g MO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1} \text{ LWC}$, which is 1.7 times the slope for
1036 the whole dataset (daytime and nighttime). For the summer campaign, the increase of nighttime
1037 MO-OOA is 2.2 times the rate for the whole dataset.

1038 These results suggest that aqueous-phase processing likely has a strong positive impact on
1039 the formation of MO-OOA in the two seasons except for instances when LWC exceeds $100 \mu\text{g}$
1040 m^{-3} in winter. It also appears to facilitate the local formation of LO-OOA under low LWC level
1041 ($<17.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in winter and under relatively high LWC level ($>6.25 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in summer.

1042 As mentioned previously, ON contributes significantly to summertime LO-OOA, and the

1043 concurrent enhancement in ON ($MW=231 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$) and LO-OOA during night was associated
1044 with elevated RH (Fig. 43). A previous study found that the partitioning of organic compounds
1045 to the particle phase was significantly increased at elevated RH levels (70%) in an urban area
1046 dominated by biogenic emissions in Atlanta (Hennigan et al., 2008). The correlation of ON and
1047 LO-OOA in summer nighttime ($r=0.76$) was stronger than that during daytime ($r=0.53$). Thus,
1048 we presume that aerosol water facilitates the formation of ON from NO_3^- -initiated chemistry
1049 involving BVOCs during nighttime, resulting in a good relationship of LO-OOA and LWC in
1050 summer.

1051 MSA is a secondary product from the oxidation of dimethyl sulfide (~~DMS~~) (Zorn et al.,
1052 2008), which is a gaseous species emission from marine organisms (Barnes et al., 2006). Thus,
1053 MSA is found to be abundant in marine/coastal areas and play an important role in the
1054 formation of marine PM (Gondwe, et al., 2004; Huang et al., 2015; Schulze et al., 2018). The
1055 formation of MSA is unique to aqueous-phase processing, and could be used as an indicator of
1056 aqueous SOA formation (Barnes et al., 2006; Ervens et al., 2011). Recent observations
1057 confirmed that MSA and associated fragment ions (CH_2O_2^+ (m/z 46), C_2O_2^+ (m/z 56) and
1058 $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}_2^+$ (m/z 58), which are unique ions of glyoxal and methylglyoxal uptake on SOA
1059 (Chhabra et al., 2010)) strongly correlated with SOA formed via aqueous-phase processing (Ge
1060 et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2016). In this work, the MO-OOA formation was associated with
1061 aqueous-phase oxidation more strongly than LO-OOA in winter, which likely can be further
1062 verified by the correlations between MO-OOA/LO-OOA and MSA. As shown in Fig. 76, MSA
1063 has a relatively higher correlation coefficient with MO-OOA ($r=0.45$) compared to LO-OOA
1064 ($r=0.30$), though the correlation also is influenced by many other factors.

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1065 Fig. ~~40-9~~(A, B) presents the frequency distribution of O_x. Winter O_x are binned in 10 ppb
1066 increments from 0 to 60 ppb. The range for summer is 20 to 70 ppb. The data associated with
1067 the artificially created O_x bins in both seasons did not pass the normal test and homogeneity test
1068 of variances. The K-W ANOVA for winter and summer data of the bins were significant. The
1069 Dunn-Bonferroni test for the *post-hoc* pairwise comparisons shows that the difference of
1070 measured variables among different bins shown in Fig. ~~40-9~~ were significant (Tables
1071 ~~S758-S89~~). The clear positive relationship between solar radiation and O_x is shown in Fig. ~~40-9~~
1072 (C, D), and the negative relationship between solar radiation and RH is shown in Fig. ~~40-9~~(E,
1073 F), suggesting strong atmospheric photochemical activity associated with high O_x periods.

1074 The variations of LO-OOA and MO-OOA showed substantially different patterns with
1075 increases of O_x in winter and summer. In winter, LO-OOA and MO-OOA showed comparable
1076 increasing trends at low O_x level (<35 ppb), with MO-OOA having a stronger response. The
1077 LO-OOA was increased from 0.13 to 0.72 μg m⁻³ when O_x increased from 5 to 35 ppb but
1078 decreased as the O_x increased further. The slope of this increase was approximately 0.023 μg
1079 LO-OOA ppb⁻¹ O_x. MO-OOA increased from 0.13 to 0.88 μg m⁻³ when the O_x increased from 5
1080 to 35 ppb, with a slope of 0.027 μg MO-OOA ppb⁻¹ O_x. This leads to a maximum in the mass
1081 fraction of MO-OOA in the mid-O_x level range and also at highest levels of observed O_x.

1082 In summer, there is a clear decreasing trend of RH with increases of O_x. As discussed
1083 previously, the high level of summertime LO-OOA likely was associated with high LWC.
1084 Therefore, the high mass fraction of LO-OOA at the lowest O_x level (<20 ppb) associated with
1085 the high RH/LWC was likely from aqueous-phase chemistry. After excluding ~~low-low-O_x~~ data
1086 (<20 ppb), LO-OOA showed a much stronger response to O_x than did MO-OOA. The summer

1087 LO-OOA showed a significant linear increase from approximately 0.6 to 1.8 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ when O_x
1088 increased from 25 to 65 ppb, a slope of 0.03 $\mu\text{g LO-OOA ppb}^{-1} \text{O}_x$. This increase was likely in
1089 the case of low RH conditions (<80%, Fig. 8-7 (D)), when aqueous-phase chemistry did not
1090 promote the formation of LO-OOA (Fig. 8-7 (H)). Summer MO-OOA increased from 0.36 to
1091 0.67 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ when O_x increased from 25 to 55 ppb but decreased as the O_x increased further.
1092 The slope of this increase was 0.007 $\mu\text{g MO-OOA ppb}^{-1} \text{O}_x$. Contrary to winter, LO-OOA
1093 responded more strongly to increases of O_x than MO-OOA did.

1094 The relationship of OOA versus O_x was examined further by excluding nighttime data.

1095 According to the LOWESS curves for the original daytime data and resampled data obtained
1096 using bootstrap method (Figs.S16-17), it is interpreted that there is likely exist a linear
1097 relationship between LO-OOA and O_x when O_x less than 35 ppb and great than 20 ppb for the
1098 winter and summer period, respectively. As for MO-OOA, the linear relationship likely exists
1099 for data points with O_x less than 35 ppb for the winter period, but it is less prominent.

1100 Figure 4-10 presents the scatter plots of daytime OOA versus O_x for the winter and
1101 summer campaign. The daytime responses of LO-OOA and MO-OOA to O_x in winter were
1102 ~1.5 times that for the whole dataset (Fig. 4-9 (G, I)), and the increase rate of MO-OOA was
1103 higher than that of LO-OOA. In summer, the slope of the daytime increase of LO-OOA was
1104 1.24 times that for the whole campaign (Fig. 10 (H)), ~~and the increase rate of daytime~~
1105 ~~MO-OOA was close to that for whole dataset.~~ These results suggest that the photochemical
1106 enhancement of OOA in winter was more prominent than that in summer. For the summer
1107 campaign, the formation of LO-OOA was more strongly linked to photochemistry compared to
1108 MO-OOA. At low atmospheric oxidative capacity ($\text{O}_x < 20$ ppb), aqueous-phase chemistry was

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1109 likely predominant in the formation of LO-OOA.

1110 The combined effects of photochemistry and aqueous-phase chemistry on OOA
1111 composition during winter and summer are further demonstrated in Fig. 4211. The ratio of
1112 MO-OOA/LO-OOA in winter showed the highest values on the left-top corner in Fig. 42-11
1113 (A), suggesting photochemical processing was likely responsible for MO-OOA formation,
1114 under low LWC levels ($< 10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). Additionally, data with high MO-OOA/LO-OOA on the
1115 right-bottom corner in Fig. 42-11(A) indicate the important role of aqueous-phase chemistry
1116 under low O_x and high LWC levels. Overall, the concentration of MO-OOA in winter increased
1117 as O_x/LWC increased, whereas LO-OOA markedly decreased. This result indicates both
1118 photochemical and aqueous-phase processing played a more important role in enhancing
1119 MO-OOA than LO-OOA in winter. Furthermore, the diurnal patterns of wintertime LO-OOA
1120 only presented a peak value at night while MO-OOA showed one peak value at night (high
1121 LWC) and another one in the afternoon (high O_x period) (Fig. 43).

1122 In summer, data points with low MO-OOA/LO-OOA value on the left-top of Figure 42-11
1123 (B) illustrated that LO-OOA was enhanced in high- O_x and low-LWC condition, though the low
1124 MO-OOA/LO-OOA are not confined to just the top left. In case of high LWC level ($\text{LWC} > 6.5$
1125 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), MO-OOA/LO-OOA were much lower (on the right of Figure 42-11(B), particularly
1126 when $\text{LWC} > 10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). Although MO-OOA increased with LWC and O_x , the increase of
1127 LO-OOA was more significant. The effects of both photochemistry ($\geq 25 \text{ ppb}$) and
1128 aqueous-phase chemistry ($\geq 6.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) were more relevant for the formation of LO-OOA than
1129 MO-OOA. On average, the mass concentration of LO-OOA was elevated by nearly $1.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$
1130 as a $\sim 20 \mu\text{g}$ change in LWC (increased from $6.25 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ to $27.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, Fig. 8-7(H)), which is

1131 equivalent to a 40 ppb change in O_x (increased from 25 ppb to 65 ppb, Fig. ~~40-9~~(H)). This
1132 result further suggests that the aqueous-phase chemistry is comparable to photochemistry in
1133 processing LO-OOA in summer. The diurnal pattern of summertime LO-OOA displays a peak
1134 value at night and a comparable peak value in the afternoon (Fig. ~~43~~).

1135

1136 **4 Conclusions**

1137 Seasonal characterization of NR-PM₁ collected using HR-ToF-AMS near Houston in 2014
1138 demonstrated that the mass loading, diurnal patterns, and important formation pathways of
1139 NR-PM₁ vary seasonally. The OA was the largest component of NR-PM₁ mass, on average,
1140 accounting for ~~4638~~% and ~~5547~~% of the mass loadings in winter and summer, respectively,
1141 which is less than that in the north part of Houston, which is influenced by high biogenic
1142 emission rates. ~~Inorganic-Nitrate~~ was the second largest component in winter (~~1723~~%) but
1143 accounted for only ~~-0.42~~% of NR-PM₁ mass in summer; SO_4^{2-} was the ~~third and~~ second largest
1144 component in winter (~~2023~~%) and summer (~~3136~~%), respectively. ON, on average accounted
1145 for ~~-1531-66~~ and ~~-39-17~~ % of OA during winter and summer campaign, respectively. The
1146 summertime ON correlated very well with LO-OOA and concurrently peaked at nighttime. It is
1147 likely that ON from NO_3^- -initiated oxidation of BVOC in the forested northeastern Houston
1148 contributed greatly to nighttime LO-OOA in summer.

1149 Contributions of factors to wintertime and summertime OA show distinct differences. For
1150 wintertime OA, on average, BBOA ~~contributed 26% of OA mass~~, MO-OOA, and COA made
1151 ~~similar the same~~ contributions of ~~24%, 23% and 22%~~ to total OA mass, ~~respectively~~. LO-OOA
1152 accounted for ~~1817~~% of OA mass, followed by HOA (~~13~~%). In the summer, LO-OOA

1153 represented the largest fraction of the OA mass, ~~53.54~~54% on average. The second largest
1154 contributor was MO-OOA (~~24.23~~24.23%). Together, POA constituted more than half of OA mass
1155 (~~59.61~~59.61%) in winter, while it accounted for 23% of OA mass in summer, highlighting the
1156 enhanced impact of primary emissions on OA level during wintertime. Secondary aerosols
1157 account for ~76% and ~~89.88~~89.88% of NR-PM₁ mass in winter and summer, respectively, indicating
1158 NR-PM₁ mass was likely driven mostly by secondary aerosol formation.

1159 The two proxies of SOA (LO-OOA and MO-OOA) presented seasonal differences in their
1160 spectral patterns, oxidation degrees and contributions to SOA. MO-OOA showed a higher
1161 contribution to SOA than LO-OOA in winter (56% vs. 44%). In contrast, LO-OOA dominated
1162 SOA in summer (~~69.70~~69.70%). Our results indicate that both photochemical and aqueous-phase
1163 chemistry played important roles in the formation of MO-OOA and LO-OOA. Aqueous-phase
1164 processing likely has strong positive impact on the formation of MO-OOA in the two seasons,
1165 especially in winter. The relationships between MO-OOA and LWC were ~~0.0076-0.008~~
1166 0.0045 $\mu\text{g MO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1} \text{ LWC}$ during winter and summer, respectively. Wet removal likely
1167 limits MO-OOA when LWC exceeds 100 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in winter. ~~Interestingly, the~~ relative
1168 importance of aqueous-phase chemistry versus photochemistry in processing LO-OOA was
1169 dependent on RH. Aqueous-phase processing likely facilitated the local formation of
1170 wintertime LO-OOA at low LWC level ($<17.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, RH $<80\%$), with a stronger dependence
1171 ($0.033 \mu\text{g LO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1} \text{ LWC}$) than MO-OOA. In summer, the formation of LO-OOA was
1172 enhanced by aqueous-phase processing at relatively high LWC level ($>6.25 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, RH $>80\%$)
1173 with a slope of ~~0.0526-0.053~~0.0526 $\mu\text{g LO-OOA } \mu\text{g}^{-1} \text{ LWC}$, while LO-OOA was likely transported
1174 non-aqueous regional OOA when LWC $< 6.25 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. These increases of OOA in response to

1175 LWC were greatly enhanced during nighttime. Aqueous-phase chemistry also was predominant
1176 in the formation of summertime LO-OOA at low atmospheric oxidative capacity ($O_x < 20$ ppb).
1177 In general, summertime LO-OOA showed a much stronger response to O_x than did MO-OOA,
1178 with a slope of ~~0.0299~~ 0.030 $\mu\text{g LO-OOA ppb}^{-1} O_x$. LO-OOA in summer was elevated by nearly
1179 $1.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ as a $\sim 20 \mu\text{g}$ change in LWC, which is equivalent to a 40 ppb change in O_x .

1180

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1189

1190 *Author contribution.* Qili Dai performed the data analysis and wrote the manuscript. Robert J.
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1193 during the field campaigns. Benjamin C. Schulze, Henry W. Wallace, Alexander A.T. Bui and
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1198 *Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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1558 **Table 1** Statistics of meteorological parameters, gas-phase pollutants, NR-PM₁ species, and PMF OA
 1559 factors for the winter and summer campaigns at UHSL.

	Variables	Season	Ave. value ± 1 SD	Minimum value	Maximum value
Meteorological parameters	Temp (°C)	Winter	9.3 ± 6.0	0.7	25.9
		Summer	23.6 ± 3.8	12.2	33.1
	RH (%)	Winter	76 ± 18	23	99
		Summer	72 ± 19	21	98
	WS (m s ⁻¹)	Winter	2.1 ± 1.4	6.8×10 ⁻³	9.4
		Summer	2.1 ± 1.2	9.0×10 ⁻³	6.7
Radiometer (W m ⁻²)	Winter	0.6 ± 0.9	0.02	3.6	
	Summer	1.1 ± 1.3	0.02	4.6	
Gas-phase pollutants (ppb)	O ₃	Winter	23.0 ± 12.6	0.12	53.0
		Summer	34.9 ± 15.3	0.02	75.9
	CO	Winter	238.7 ± 71.9	98.5	621.1
		Summer	168.3 ± 75.5	103.6	1110.2
	SO ₂	Winter	1.0 ± 1.9	5.7×10 ⁻³	29.5
		Summer	0.7 ± 1.7	2.8×10 ⁻³	30.9
	NO	Winter	4.3 ± 6.4	2.0×10 ⁻³	74.9
		Summer	1.3 ± 4.6	0.01	68.1
NO ₂	Winter	12.5 ± 9.7	0.8	101.2	
	Summer	4.6 ± 6.4	0.2	44.4	
NO _y	Winter	22.9 ± 19.6	2.8	210.9	
	Summer	8.6 ± 11.9	1.3	123.9	
NR-PM ₁ species (µg m ⁻³)	OA	Winter	2.3 ± 1.4	0.42	9.4
		Summer	1.7 ± 1.4	0.27	12.3
	Sulfate	Winter	1.4 ± 0.8	0.05	3.4
		Summer	1.3 ± 0.6	0.02	5.6
	Nitrate	Winter	1.4 ± 1.4	0.02	6.9
		Summer	0.08 ± 0.1	0.01	0.9
Ammonium	Winter	0.9 ± 0.6	BDL ^a	2.8	
	Summer	0.5 ± 0.2	0.02	1.8	
Chloride	Winter	0.06 ± 0.09	BDL	1.1	
	Summer	0.02 ± 0.02	BDL	0.5	
OA factors (µg m ⁻³)	HOA	Winter	0.3 ± 0.4	0 ^b	8.6
		Summer	0.2 ± 0.5	0	10.9
	BBOA	Winter	0.6 ± 0.6	0	3.7
		Summer	0.1 ± 0.3	0	5.4
	COA	Winter	0.5 ± 0.5	0	4.8
		Summer	0.4 ± 0.5	0	2.1
LO-OOA	Winter	0.4 ± 0.5	0	2.1	
	Summer	0.7 ± 0.9	0	6.7	
MO-OOA	Winter	0.5 ± 0.3	0	1.8	
	Summer	0.3 ± 0.2	0	1.6	

1560 ^aBDL: below detection limit; ^bStatistically determined factor concentrations with values below 1.0×10⁻³ are listed
 1561 as 0.

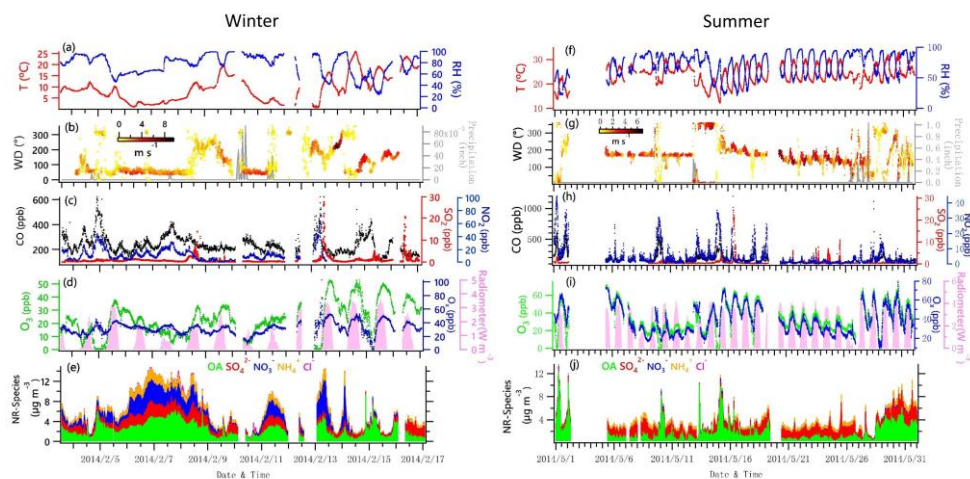
1562

1563 **Table 2** Correlation (*r*) of OOA mass spectra with previously published spectra database.
 1564 (<http://cires1.colorado.edu/jimenez-group/HRAMSsd/>)

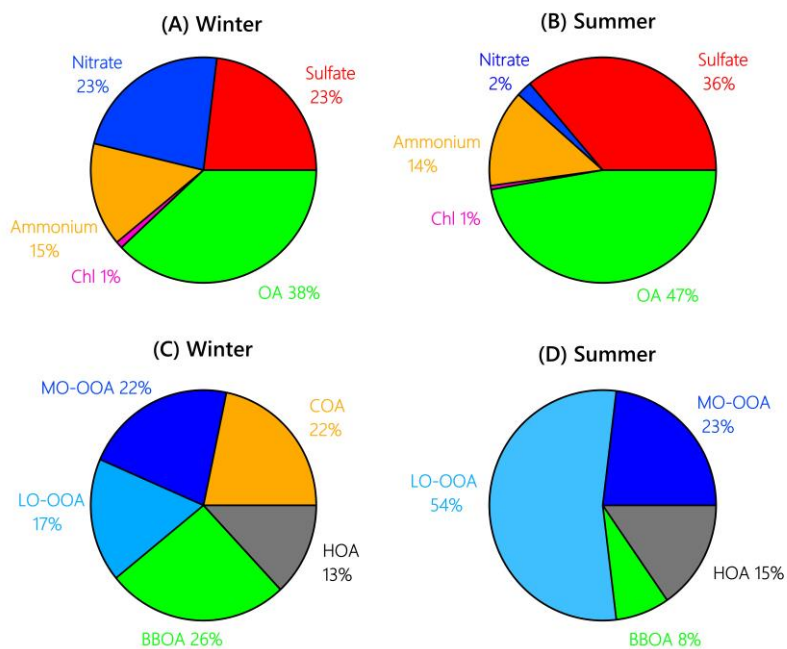
Factor	Winter		Summer		Reference
	MO-OOA	LO-OOA	MO-OOA	LO-OOA	
aq-OOA ^a	0.96	0.75	0.96	0.95	Sun et al., 2016
MO-OOA	0.85	0.87	0.89	0.77	Setyan et al., 2012
MO-OOA	0.98	0.92	0.98	0.60	Hu et al., 2015
LV-OOA	0.97	0.91	0.98	0.62	Crippa et al., 2013
SV-OOA	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.78	Crippa et al., 2013
LO-OOAI, Biogenic-origin	0.83	0.84	0.86	0.76	Hu et al., 2015
LO-OOAII, Anthropogenic-origin	0.78	0.80	0.82	0.74	Hu et al., 2015

1565 ^aaq-OOA is an aqueous-phase-processed SOA reported by Sun et al. (2016); LV=less volatility; SV=semi-volatile.

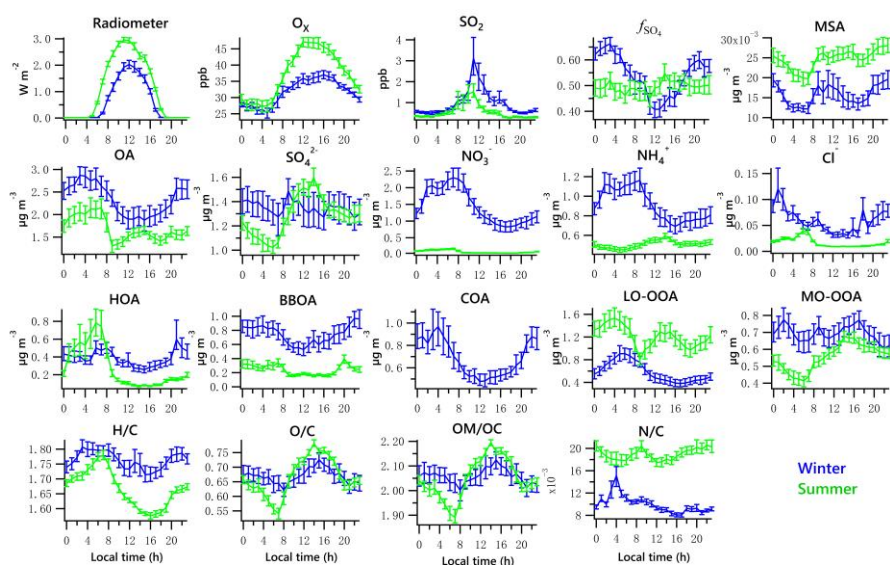
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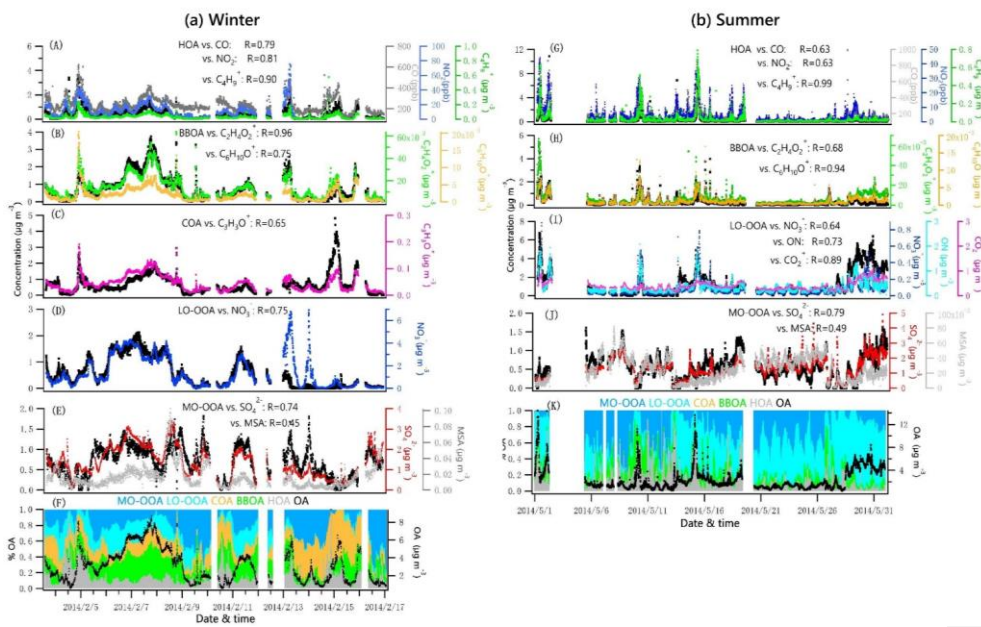
1567
 1568 **Figure 1.** Time series of data collected at UHSL in Houston during the sampling periods in
 1569 winter and summer 2014. Time series of 5-min average campaign data for **(a, f)** ambient
 1570 temperature (T) and relative humidity (RH); **(b, g)** precipitation and wind direction (WD), with
 1571 colors showing different wind speeds (WS); **(c, h)** CO, SO₂ and NO₂; **(d, i)** O₃, O_x (NO₂+O₃)
 1572 and solar radiometer; **(e, j)** NR-PM₁ species, including OA, NO₃⁻, SO₄²⁻, NH₄⁺, and Cl⁻.
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 1575 **Figure 2.** Average composition of NR-PM₁ species and OA factors during the winter (A, C)
 1576 and summer campaign (B, D) at UHSL.
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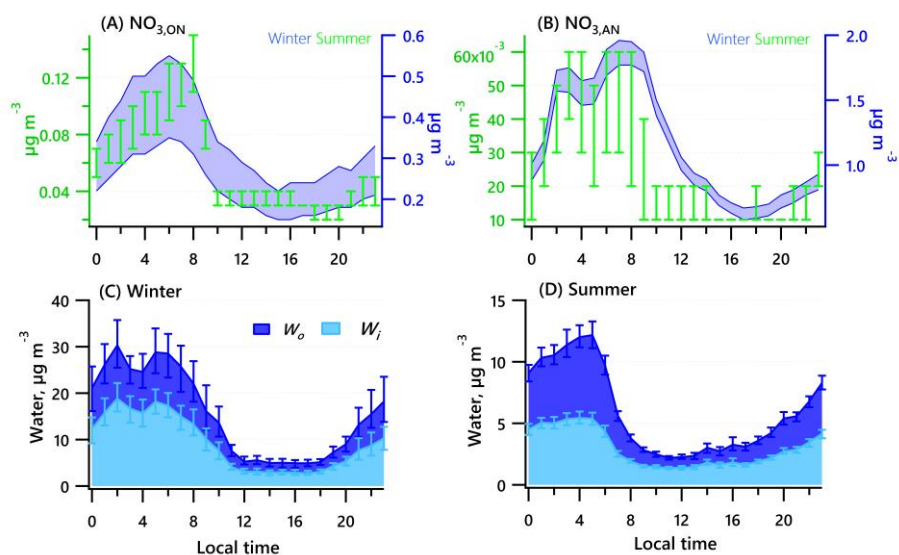


1579
 1580 **Figure 3.** Diurnal profiles of radiometer, O_x , SO_2 , f_{SO_4} , MSA, each of the five NR-PM₁ species
 1581 (Org, SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , NH_4^+ and Cl^-), PMF-resolved factors (HOA, BBOA, COA, LO-OOA and
 1582 MO-OOA) and elemental ratios (H/C, O/C, OM/OC and N/C). Lines denote the mean value,
 1583 and bars represent the 5/95 percent confidence interval in the mean (blue for winter, green for
 1584 summer).
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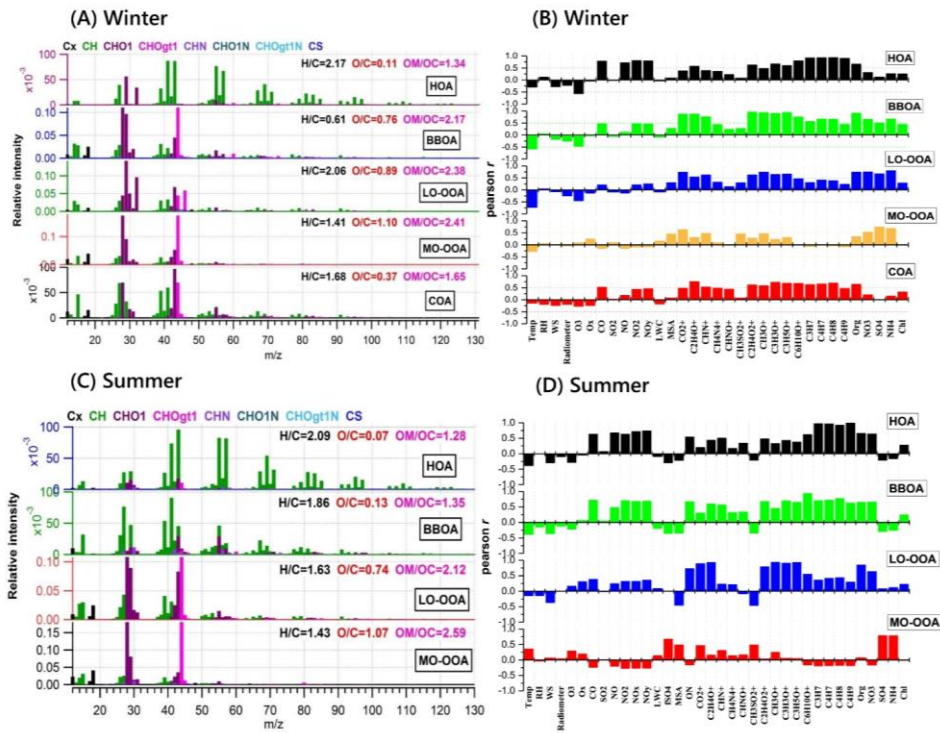


1586
 1587 **Figure 4.** Time series of each OA factor and associated correlated species for the winter and
 1588 summer campaign at UHSL.

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1590
 1591 **Figure 5.** Diurnal profiles of the estimated range of nitrate functionality from organic nitrate (A)
 1592 and inorganic nitrate (B) for the winter and summer campaigns. Estimated water associated
 1593 with inorganic and organic aerosol for the winter (C) and summer campaigns (D). Solid lines
 1594 denote the mean value (blue for winter, green for summer), and bars represent the 5/95 percent
 1595 confidence interval in the mean.
 1596



1599 **Figure 6.** Mass spectra of PMF-resolved OA factors (A, C) and correlation coefficients
1600 between OA factors and other variables (tracer ions, trace gas, meteorological parameters, etc.)
1601 (B, D) for winter and summer campaigns at UHSL.
1602

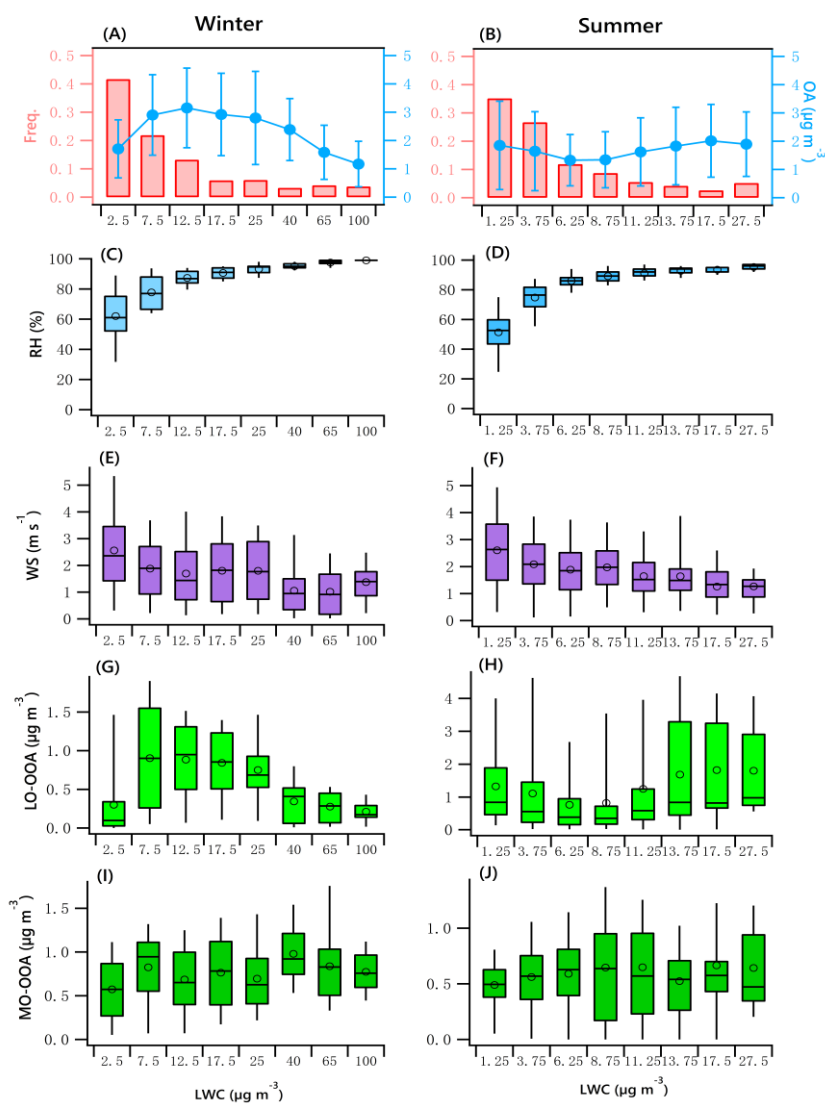


Figure 7. OA mass and frequency histograms of data points in each LWC bin for winter (A) and summer (B). Variations of RH, WS, LO-OOA and MO-OOA mass as a function of LWC in winter (C, E, G, I) and summer (D, F, H, J). The data were binned according to the LWC (with different increment values), and mean (circle), median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentiles (lower and upper box), and 5th and 95th percentiles (lower and upper whiskers) are displayed for data in each bin.

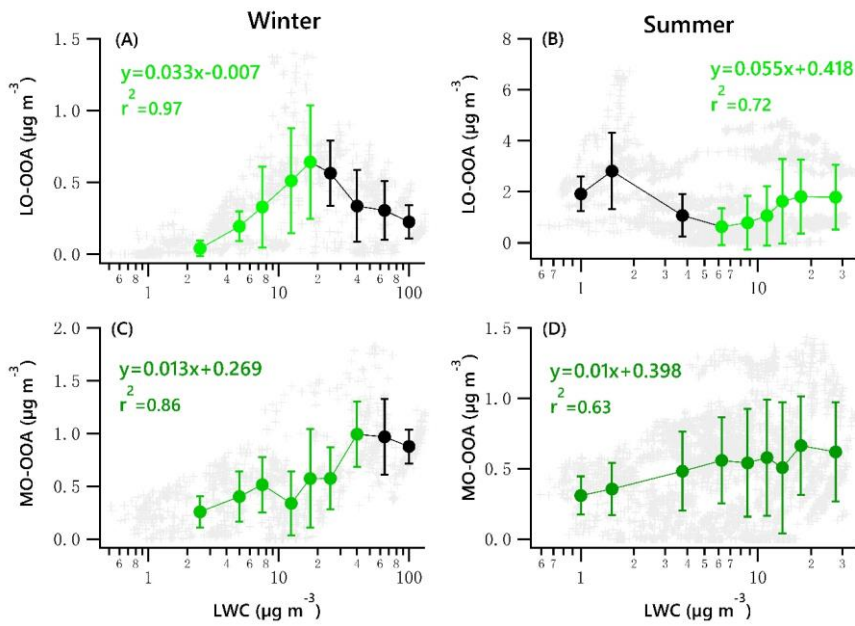


Figure 8. Scatter plots of nighttime OOA vs. LWC for the winter and summer campaign. The linear equations are given for fitting only the green dots. Solid dots denote the average value of data in each bin. Bars indicate standard deviations.

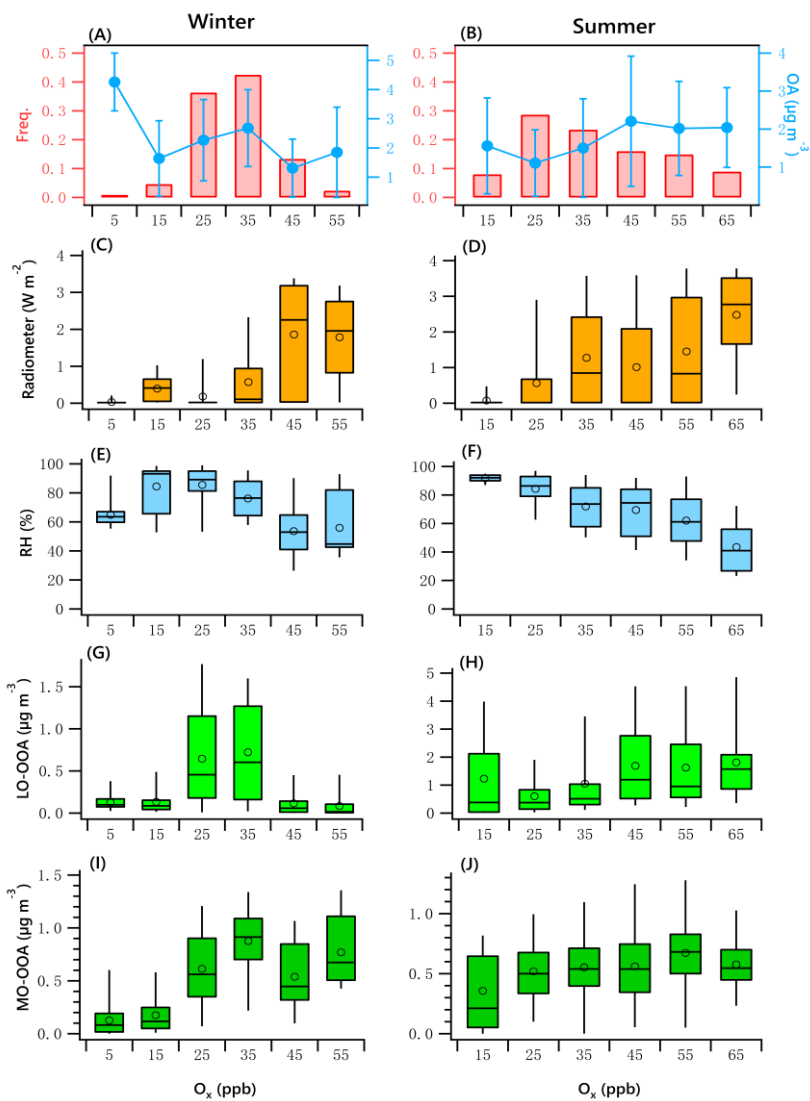


Figure 9. OA mass and frequency histograms of data points in each O_x bin for winter (A) and summer (B). Variations of solar radiation, RH, LO-OOA and MO-OOA mass as a function of LWC in winter (C, E, G, I) and summer (D, F, H, J). The data were binned according to the O_x (10 ppb increment), and mean (circle), median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentiles (lower and upper box), and 5th and 95th percentiles (lower and upper whiskers) are displayed for data in each bin.

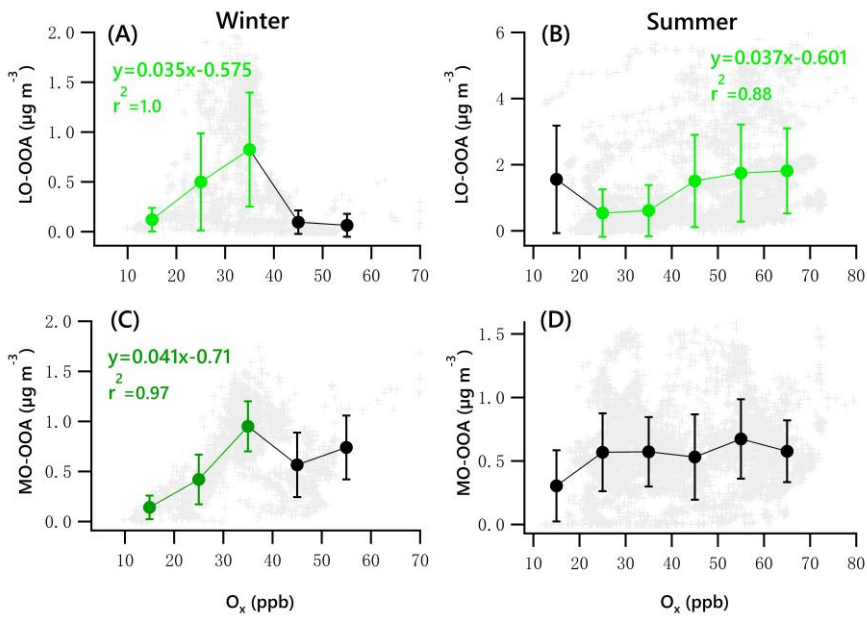


Figure 10. Scatter plots of daytime OOA vs. O_x for the winter and summer campaign. The linear equations are given for fitting the green dots. Bars indicate standard deviations.

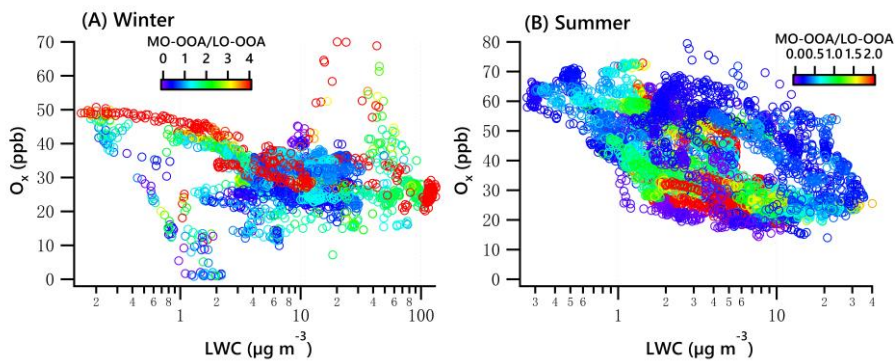


Figure 11. O_x vs LWC dependence of the ratio of MO-OOA/LO-OOA in winter (A) and summer (B).