



1 Efficient N₂O₅ Uptake and NO₃ Oxidation in the Outflow of Urban Beijing

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18 Abstract. Nocturnal reactive nitrogen compounds are important for understanding regional air 19 pollution. Here we present the measurements of dinitrogen pentoxide (N_2O_5) associated with nitryl 20 chloride (CINO₂) and particulate nitrate (pNO₃⁻) in a suburban site of Beijing in the summer of 2016. 21 High levels of N₂O₅ and ClNO₂ were observed in the outflow of the urban Beijing air masses, with 1-22 min average maxima of 937 pptv and 2.9 ppbv, respectively. The N₂O₅ uptake coefficients, γ , and 23 $CINO_2$ yield, f, were experimentally determined from the observed parameters. The N₂O₅ uptake 24 coefficient ranged from 0.012 to 0.055, with an average of 0.034 ± 0.018 , which is in the upper range 25 of previous field studies reported in North America and Europe but is a moderate value in the North 26 China Plain (NCP), which reflects efficient N₂O₅ heterogeneous processes in Beijing. The ClNO₂ yield 27 exhibited high variability, with a range of 0.50 to unity and an average of 0.73 ± 0.25 . The nighttime 28 nitrate radical (NO₃) was calculated assuming that the thermal equilibrium between NO₃ and N₂O₅ 29 was maintained. In NOx-rich air masses, the oxidation of nocturnal biogenic volatile organic 30 compounds (BVOCs) was dominated by NO₃ rather than O₃. The production rate of organic nitrates 31 (ONs) via NO₃+BVOCs was significant, with an average of 0.11 ± 0.09 ppbv h⁻¹. We highlight the 32 importance of NO₃ oxidation of VOCs in the formation of ONs and subsequent secondary organic 33 aerosols in summer in Beijing. The capacities of BVOCs oxidation and ONs formation are maximized 34 and independent of NOx under a high NOx/BVOCs ratio condition (>10), which indicates that the 35 initial reduction of the NOx emission cannot help reduce the nocturnal formation of ONs.





37 **1. Introduction**

38 It has been well recognized that reactive nitrogen compounds, specifically the nitrate radical (NO₃) 39 and dinitrogen pentoxide (N₂O₅), play a key role in nighttime chemistry (Wayne et al., 1991; Brown 40 and Stutz, 2012). NO₃ is the most important oxidant in the nighttime and can be considered the 41 nighttime analogue of the hydroxyl radical (OH) for certain VOCs (Wayne et al., 1991; Benton et al., 42 2010). NO₃ can initiate the removal processing of many kind of anthropogenic and biogenic emissions 43 after sunset. In the NO_x-rich plumes, NO₃ is responsible for the vast majority of the oxidation of 44 biogenic VOCs because of its rapid reactions with unsaturated hydrocarbons (Edwards et al., 2017). 45 NO_3 is predominantly formed by the reaction of NO_2 with O_3 (R1) and further reacts with NO_2 to 46 produce N₂O₅ (R2). Because N₂O₅ is rapidly decomposed back into NO₂ and NO₃ (R3), NO₃ and N₂O₅ 47 are in dynamic equilibrium in the troposphere.

R1)

49	$NO_2 + NO_3 + M \rightarrow N_2O_5 + M$	(R2)
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 $50 \qquad N_2O_5 + M \rightarrow NO_2 + NO_3 + M \tag{R3}$

51 Photolysis of NO₃ and its reaction with NO are rapid, which leads to a daytime NO₃ lifetime being 52 shorter than 5 s with extremely low concentrations, whereas in low-NO air masses, the fate of NO₃ is 53 mainly controlled by the mixing ratios of various VOCs and N₂O₅ heterogeneous hydrolysis because 54 the two terms are the dominating loss pathways of NO3 and N2O5. The VOCs reaction is significant 55 downwind of a human-dominated area or a strongly urban-influenced forested area in summer. The 56 NO₃ oxidation of VOCs was responsible for more than 70% nocturnal NO₃ loss in Houston (Stutz et al., 2010) and contributed approximately 50% in the forest region in Germany (Geyer et al., 2001). 57 58 The reactions of NO₃ with several BVOCs produce considerable organic nitrates (ONs) with efficient 59 yields, which act as important precursors of secondary organic aerosols (SOA). The reaction of NO₃ 60 with isoprene has a considerable SOA yield of 23.8% (Ng et al., 2008), and the reaction with 61 monoterpene, such as limonene, can reach 174% at ambient temperatures (Boyd et al., 2017). The 62 reactions of NO₃+BVOCs are critical to the studies of aerosols on regional and global scales (Fry et 63 al., 2009; Rollins et al., 2009; Pye et al., 2010; Ng et al., 2017). For example, ONs had extensive 64 percentages of fine particulate nitrate (pNO₃⁻) (34% - 44%) in Europe (Kiendler-Scharr et al., 2016).

The heterogeneous hydrolysis of N_2O_5 produces soluble nitrate (HNO₃ or NO₃⁻) and nitryl chloride (CINO₂) on the chloride-containing aerosols (R4) (Finlayson-Pitts et al., 1989). This reaction is known to be an important intermediate in the NO_X removal processes (Brown et al., 2006). The rate coefficient of the heterogeneous N₂O₅ reaction is given in Eq. 1 (Tang et al., 2017).

69
$$N_2O_5 + (H_2O \text{ or } Cl^-) \rightarrow (2 - f) NO_3^- + f ClNO_2$$
 (R4)

70
$$k_{N205} = 0.25 \cdot c \cdot \gamma (N_2 O_5) \cdot S_a$$
 (Eq. 1)

where *c* is the mean molecule speed of N₂O₅, S_a is the aerosol surface concentration and γ (N₂O₅) is the N₂O₅ uptake coefficient. N₂O₅ heterogeneous hydrolysis is one of the major uncertainties of the NO₃ budget since the N₂O₅ uptake coefficient can be highly variable and difficult to quantify (Brown and Stutz, 2012; Chang et al., 2011; H. C. Wang et al., 2016). Laboratory and field measurement studies have reported that the N₂O₅ uptake coefficient has large variability and ranges from <0.001 to 0.1; the





N₂O₅ uptake coefficient is subject to relative humidity (RH), particle morphology, compositions (water 76 77 content, nitrate, sulfate, organic or mineral particles) and other factors (e.g., Wahner et al., 1998; 78 Mentel et al., 1999; Hallquist et al., 2003; Thornton et al., 2003; Thornton et al., 2005; Brown et al., 79 2006; Bertram and Thornton, 2009; Tang et al., 2012, 2014; Gaston et al., 2014; Grzinic et al., 2015). 80 The coupled chemical mechanisms in ambient conditions are still not well understood. CINO₂ forms 81 and accumulates with a negligible sink during the night and further photolyzes and liberates the 82 chlorine radical (Cl) and NO₂ after sunset. Hundreds of pptv to ppbv of ClNO₂ can lead to several 83 ppbv of O₃ enhancement and significant primary ROx production (Osthoff et al., 2008; Thornton et al., 84 2010; McLaren et al., 2010; Riedel et al., 2014; Sarwar et al., 2014; Tham et al., 2016).

Large amounts of NOx have been emitted for the past several decades in China, but comprehensive 85 field studies of the nighttime chemical processes of reactive nitrogen oxides remain sparse. Previous 86 87 studies have found high mixing ratios of NO3 associated with high NO3 reactivity in the megacities in 88 China, including Shanghai, the Pearl River Delta (PRD) and Beijing (Li et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2013; 89 Wang et al., 2015). N₂O₅ concentration was elevated in Beijing (H. C. Wang et al., 2017a; H. C. Wang 90 et al., 2017c) but was moderate in other places of North China Plain (NCP), such as Wangdu, Jinan 91 and Mount Tai (Tham et al., 2016; X. F. Wang et al., 2017; Z. Wang et al., 2017). Recently, the N₂O₅ 92 uptake coefficients were determined to be very high, even up to 0.1 in NCP, but the reason is still not 93 well studied (H. C. Wang et al., 2017c; X. F. Wang et al., 2017; Z. Wang et al., 2017). Reactive N₂O₅ 94 chemistry was also reported in Hong Kong, which had the highest N₂O₅ concentration (T. Wang et al., 95 2016; Brown et al., 2016). Observations and model simulations revealed that fast heterogeneous uptake 96 of N₂O₅ is an important pathway of pNO₃⁻ formation in China (H. C. Wang et al., 2017b; H. C. Wang 97 et al., 2017c; Z. Wang et al., 2017; Su et al., 2017); the reaction also considerably contributed to NOx 98 removal (Z. Wang et al., 2017; Brown et al., 2016). Moreover, chlorine activation from N_2O_5 uptake 99 had a significant effect on daytime photolysis chemistry in China (Xue et al., 2015; Li et al., 2016; 100 Tham et al., 2016; T. Wang et al., 2016).

In this study, to quantify the contribution of NO₃ and N₂O₅ chemistry to the atmospheric oxidation capacity and the NO_x removal process in the outflow of urban Beijing, we reported the measurement of N₂O₅, ClNO₂, and related species in the surface layer of a suburban site in Beijing and determined the N₂O₅ heterogeneous uptake coefficients and ClNO₂ yields. The nighttime NO₃ oxidation to the biogenic VOCs and its impact on the ONs formation in the NO_x-rich region were diagnosed. Finally, the nighttime NO_x removal via the NO₃ and N₂O₅ chemistry was estimated and discussed.

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108 **2. Method**

109 **2.1 The site**

Within the framework of a Sino-Sweden joint research project, "Photochemical Smog in China", a summer field campaign was conducted in Beijing to enhance our understanding of the secondary chemistry via photochemical smog and the heterogeneous reactions (Hallquist et al., 2016). The data presented here were collected at a regional site, PKU-CP (Peking University Changping campus), from 23 May to 5 June 2016. The measurement site is located in the northern rural area of Beijing,





approximately 45 km from the city center; the closest road is approximately 1 km to the south, and there are no major industry surroundings (Figure. 1). The site is surrounded to the north, east and west by mountains. The general feature of this site is that it captures air masses with strong influences from both urban and biogenic emissions. Instruments were set up on the fifth floor of the main building of the campus with inlets approximately 12 m above the ground. Time is given in this paper as CNST (Chinese National Standard Time = UTC+8 h). During the campaign, sunrise was at 05:00 CNST and sunset was at 19:30 CNST.

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122 **2.2 Instrument setup**

123 A comprehensive suite of trace gas compounds and aerosol properties was measured in the field study, 124 and the details are listed in Table 1. N₂O₅ was measured by a newly developed cavity enhanced 125 absorption spectrometer (CEAS; H. C. Wang et al., 2017a). In the CEAS, ambient N₂O₅ was thermally decomposed to NO₃ in a perfluoroalkoxy alkanes (PFA) tube (length: 35 cm, I.D.: 4.35 mm) heated to 126 127 120 °C and was then detected within a PFA resonator cavity: the cavity was heated to 80 °C to prevent 128 NO₃ reacting back to N₂O₅. Ambient gas was sampled with a 1.5-m sampling line (I.D.: 4.35 mm) with 129 a flow rate of 2.0 L min⁻¹. NO was injected for 20 seconds to destroy NO₃ from N₂O₅ thermal 130 decomposition in a 5-minute cycle, and the corresponding measurements were then used as reference 131 spectra (I₀). A Teflon polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) filter was used in the front of the sampling 132 module to remove ambient aerosol particles. The filter was replaced with a fresh one every hour to 133 avoid the decrease of N2O5 transmission efficiency due to aerosol accumulation on the filter. The limit 134 of detection (LOD) was 2.7 pptv (1σ), and the measurement uncertainty was 19%.

135 CINO2 and N2O5 were also detected using a Time of Flight Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometer 136 (ToF-CIMS) with the Filter Inlet for Gas and AEROsols (FIGAERO; Lopez-Hilfiker et al., 2014; 137 Bannan et al., 2015). Briefly, the gas phase species were measured via a 2-m-long, 6-mm-outer-138 diameter PFA inlet while the particles were simultaneously collected on a Teflon filter via a separate 139 2-m-long, 10-mm-outer-diameter copper tubing inlet; both had flow rates of 2 L min⁻¹. The gas phase 140 was measured for 25 minutes at 1 Hz, and the FIGAERO instrument was then switched to place the 141 filter in front of the ion molecule region; it was then heated incrementally to 200 °C to desorb all the 142 mass from the filter to be measured in the gas phase, which resulted in high-resolution thermo grams. 143 Formic acid calibrations were performed daily using a permeation source maintained at 40 °C. Post-144 campaign laboratory calibrations of N₂O₅ were first normalized to the campaign formic acid 145 calibrations to account for any change in sensitivity (Le Breton et al., 2014). Then, CINO₂ 146 measurements were quantified by passing the N_2O_5 over a wetted NaCl bed to produce ClNO₂. The 147 decrease in N₂O₅ from the reaction with NaCl was assumed to be equal to the concentration of ClNO₂ produced (i.e., 100% yield). The sensitivities of the CIMS to N_2O_5 and CINO₂ were found to be 9.5 148 149 and 1.2 ion counts per ppty Hz⁻¹, respectively, with errors of 23% and 25% for ClNO₂ and N₂O₅, 150 respectively. The limit of detection (LOD) for ClNO₂ and N₂O₅ were 16 and 8 pptv, respectively. An 151 intercomparison of N2O5 measurements between the CEAS and FIGAERO-ToF-CIMS showed good 152 agreement; a companion paper on chlorine photochemical activation during this campaign gives 153 detailed intercomparison results of N₂O₅ measured by the two different techniques (Le Breton et al., 154 2018).





155 Sub-micron aerosol compositions (PM1.0), including nitrate, sulfate, chloride, ammonium and organic compounds, were measured by a High Resolution Time of Flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometer 156 157 (HR-ToF-AMS) (DeCarlo et al, 2006, Zheng et al., 2017). Particle number and size distribution (PNSD) 158 was measured by a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS, TSI 3936) and an aerosol particle sizer 159 (APS, TSI 3321) (Yue et al., 2009). SMPS measured the particles in the range between 3.5 nm and 160 523.3 nm in diameter, and APS measured the particles with a diameter range from 597.6 nm to 10.0 161 μ m. S_a was calculated based on the dry-state particle number and geometric diameter in each size bin 162 $(3.5 \text{ nm} - 2.5 \mu\text{m})$. Dry-state S_a was corrected to wet particle-state S_a for particle hygroscopicity by a growth factor. The growth factor, $f(RH)=1 + 8.77 \times (RH/100)^{9.74}$, was derived from the aerosol optical 163 property in autumn in Beijing and is valid for 30% < RH < 90% (Liu et al., 2013). The uncertainty of 164 the wet aerosol surface areas was estimated to be \sim 30%, associated from the error from dry PNSD 165 166 measurement ($\sim 20\%$) and the growth factor ($\sim 20\%$). During this measurement, fine particles below 167 500 nm contributed to more than 90% of the total particle aerosol surface area.

168 VOCs were measured by Proton Transfer Reaction Mass Spectrometry (PTR-MS) with a time 169 resolution of 5 minutes (de Gouw and Warneke et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2014). A commercial 170 instrument (Thermo Electron model 42i) equipped with a molybdenum-catalytic converter was used 171 to monitor NO_x. The LOD were 60 pptv (1 min) for NO and 300 pptv (1 min) for NO₂, with both at a 172 20% precision (Tan et al., 2017). The molybdenum-catalytic technique not only converts NO₂ to NO but also converts ambient NO_V such as peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN) and HNO₃. Therefore, the measured 173 174 NO_2 concentration corresponded to $NO_2 + NO_y$ and was normally higher than the real concentration, 175 especially in an aged air mass with high NO_x conditions. In this study, we used a factor of 0.6 to correct 176 the nighttime NO₂ concentration (a detailed explanation is in the Support Information Text S1 and Figure S1). O₃ was measured by a commercial instrument using ultraviolet (UV) absorption (Thermo 177 178 Electron model 49i); the LOD was 0.5 ppby, with an uncertainty of 5%. The mass concentration of 179 $PM_{2.5}$ was measured using a standard Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM, 1400A 180 analyzer). Meteorological parameters included relative humidity, temperature, pressure, wind speed, 181 and wind direction and were available during the campaign. Photolysis frequencies were calculated 182 from the spectral actinic photon flux density measured by a spectroradiometer (Bohn et al., 2008).

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184 **3. Results**

185 **3.1 Overview**

186 During the campaign, the meteorological conditions of the site were characterized by high temperature 187 and low relative humidity (RH); the temperature ranged from 10 - 34 °C and was 23 ± 5 °C on average, and RH ranged from 10% - 80%, with an average of $37\% \pm 15\%$. Because of the special terrain of the 188 189 observation site, the local wind was measured by the in situ meteorological stations; the site has a 190 typical mountain-valley breeze that cannot reflect the general air mass movement patterns at slightly 191 higher altitudes. Figure 2 shows the calculated backward trajectories using the Hybrid Single-Particle 192 Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model (Draxler and Rolph, 2003); these images show 193 the 24-h backward particle dispersion trajectories for 12:00 local time (CNST) as the starting time 194 during May 23 - July 5, 2016. According to the results of HYSPLIT, the arrivals of air masses were





mainly from the northwest and the south. Therefore, we meteorologically separated the measurement period into two parts. The first three days show that the air masses came from the north or northwest; the air masses represent the background region (defined as Background Air Mass, BAM). The air masses after May 26 originated from the polluted NCP and passed over urban Beijing; they were characterized by large NO_x emissions and severe photochemical pollution (defined as Urban Air Mass,

200 UAM).

201 The time series of N₂O₅, ClNO₂ and other relevant species are shown in Figure 3, and nighttime 202 statistical results are listed in Table S1. The daily 8-h maximum of O₃ concentration exceeded 93 ppbv 203 (Chinese national air quality standard) for 8 of 12 days, and all the O₃-polluted air masses came from 204 the urban region. When the air masses were from the background region, the daily maximum of O_3 205 was only approximately 60 ppby, much lower than that from the urban region. The NO₂ concentration 206 was elevated, with a nocturnal average value over 10 ppbv during the urban air mass period. The 207 nocturnal nitrate radical production rate, $P(NO_3)$, was profound, with an average of 1.2 ± 0.9 ppbv h⁻ 208 ¹, which is comparable with rates previously reported in the NCP and Hong Kong (Tham et al., 2016; 209 Brown et al., 2016; Z. Wang et al., 2017; X. F. Wang et al., 2017). The daily peaks of N₂O₅ were 100-210 500 pptv most nights; the maximum of 937 pptv in a 1-min average was observed near 20:00 on the early night of June 2, when the P(NO₃) was up to 4 ppbv h⁻¹. The average mixing ratio of N₂O₅ was 73 211 \pm 90 pptv, which is much higher than recent measurements reported in North China (Tham et al., 2016; 212 213 X. F. Wang et al., 2017; Z. Wang et al., 2017) but much lower than that observed in the residual layer 214 of the outflow from the PRD region, where the N₂O₅ was up to 7.7 ppbv (T. Wang et al., 2016). With 215 an elevated O₃ mixing ratio in the first half of the night, the NO lifetime was only several minutes, and 216 the mixing ratio of NO concentration was observed below the detection limit. During the second half 217 of the night when the O₃ concentration was consumed to low concentration, high levels of NO could 218 occasionally be observed, and N₂O₅ dropped to zero because of the fast titration by NO, such as the 219 events that occurred on the second half of the nights of May 24, 28, 30. The PM_{2.5} mass concentration 220 was moderate during the measurement period, with an average of $26 \pm 21 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}$, and the average 221 aerosol surface area was $560 \pm 340 \,\mu\text{m}^2 \,\text{cm}^{-3}$. Elevated ClNO₂ was observed to have a daily maximum 222 1-min average of over 800 pptv during the urban air masses period; the campaign maximum of up to 223 2.9 ppbv was observed on the morning (05:30) of May 31, which implied that fast N₂O₅ heterogeneous 224 hydrolysis and effective ClNO₂ yields are common in Beijing. The level of ClNO₂ was comparable 225 with the results in NCP (Tham et al., 2016; X. Wang et al., 2017; Z. Wang et al., 2017) but slightly 226 higher than that measured in coastal (e.g., Osthoff et al., 2008) and inland sites (e.g., Thornton et al., 227 2010) in other regions of the world.

228 **3. 2 Mean diurnal profiles**

The mean diurnal profiles of the measured NO₂, O₃, N₂O₅, ClNO₂ and the particle chloride content are shown in Figure 4, as well as the calculated NO₃ based on the thermal equilibrium of NO₂, NO₃ and N₂O₅. The left panels show the average results of the BAM period, and the right panels show those of the UAM period. The NO₂ and O₃ from the UAM were much higher than were those from the BAM, as were the mixing ratios of N₂O₅, NO₃ and ClNO₂. The daily variation tendencies of those species in the two kinds of air masses were similar. N₂O₅ began to accumulate in the late afternoon and increased sharply after sunset. The single peak occurred near 20:00 and then gradually decreased to the LOD





before sunrise; the N₂O₅ maxima occurred at a similar time to our previous observation in urban Beijing (H. C. Wang et al., 2017c); however, the N₂O₅ decrease rate after the peak time was much slower than that in urban Beijing, where the N₂O₅ dropped to almost zero in 2-4 hours, which suggests a relatively slow N₂O₅ loss rate in suburban Beijing. The peaks of N₂O₅ during the BAM period and the UAM period were approximately 75 pptv and 150 pptv, respectively. The calculated NO₃ diurnal profile was quite similar to that of N₂O₅, and the peaks of NO₃ during the BAM and UAM periods were approximately 11 pptv and 27 pptv, respectively.

CINO₂ accumulated corresponding to N₂O₅ after sunset but CINO₂ peaked in the middle or the 243 244 second half of the night since the nocturnal sinks of ClNO₂ were negligible to our knowledge. The 245 diurnal peak of CINO₂ in the BAM period was approximately 125 ppty, whereas the diurnal peak of 246 CINO₂ was over 780 pptv in the UAM period and approximately 6 times as high as that in the UAM 247 period. Particle chloride (Cl⁻) is regarded as a key factor that affected the ClNO₂ yield on the aerosol 248 surface. Higher particle chloride led to higher ClNO₂ yield and promoted the N₂O₅ conversion to 249 CINO₂ (e.g., Roberts et al., 2009), whereas the particle chloride content during the measurement was 250 below 60 pptv and was extremely lower than the mixing ratio of CINO₂. The HYSPLIT model results 251 showed that the air masses had almost always continental conditions; as was mentioned above, fine 252 particles dominated the S_{a} , which meant that large amounts of the particle chloride were not 253 replenished by NaCl from marine sources but possibly by the gas-phase HCl (Ye et al., 2016). Cl was 254 found to be correlated strongly with CO and SO₂, likely to originate from an anthropogenic source, 255 such as power plants or combustion sources (Le Breton et al., 2018). Up to 10 ppbv of HCl was 256 observed by a Gas and Aerosol Collector combined with Ion Chromatography (GAC-IC; Dong et al., 257 2012) in the urban Beijing in September, 2016, which implies that the potential particle Cl source was 258 sufficient and the gas-phase HCl was possibly the main particle chloride source by the acid 259 replacement reaction. After sunrise, ClNO₂ was photolyzed and decreased with the increasing 260 photolysis intensity; however, the photolysis with profound ClNO₂ was still maintained until noon. 261 Similar to the studies reported in London, Texas and Wangdu (Bannan et al., 2015; Faxon et al., 2015; 262 Tham et al., 2016), we observed sustained elevated $CINO_2$ events after sunrise in 5 of 12 days. For example, on the morning of May 30, CINO2 increased after sunrise and peaked at approximately 8:00 263 264 am, with a concentration over 500 ppty, which was impossible from the local chemical formation since 265 N_2O_5 dropped to almost zero and the needed N_2O_5 uptake coefficients were unrealistically high. Previous work has suggested that abundant CINO₂ produced in the residual layer at night and 266 downward transportation in the morning may help to explain this phenomenon (Tham et al., 2016). 267

268 **3.3 Variation of N2O5 in the background air masses**

269 During the BAM period, the O₃ concentration was excessive compared with NO₂. In the NO₃ and N₂O₅ 270 formation processes, the limited NO_2 in high O_3 region indicates that the variation of NO_2 is more 271 essential to the variation of the N₂O₅ concentration. As shown in Figure 5, during the night of May 24 272 (20:00 - 04:00), the local emission of NO was negligible. O₃ concentration was larger than 25 ppby, 273 much higher than NO₂ and free of the local NO emission. The variation of N₂O₅ concentration was 274 highly correlated with the mixing ratio of NO₂ ($R^2 = 0.81$). The result suggests that when the air mass 275 with high O₃ was sampled from the background air mass, the N₂O₅ concentration was especially 276 subjected to the NO₂ concentration rather than O₃. Furthermore, The variation of N₂O₅ concentration





- 277 was considerably correlated with the NO₃ production rate ($R^2 = 0.60$), suggests the mixing ratio of
- 278 N₂O₅ was subject to the formation processes in clean air masses.

279 **3.4 Elevated CINO2 to N2O5 ratio**

280 Large day-to-day variabilities of N₂O₅ and CINO₂ were observed during the measurement period. 281 Following the work of Osthoff et al. (2008), Mielke et al. (2013), Phillips et al. (2012) and Bannan et 282 al. (2015), we used the relative production rates, ClNO₂:N₂O₅, to describe the conversion capacity of N₂O₅ to CINO₂. The nighttime peak values and mean values were used to calculate the ratios, and two 283 284 kinds of daily ratios are listed in Table S2. The average nighttime ratio ranged from 0.7 to 42.0, with 285 a mean of 7.7 and a median of 6.0. The CINO2 formation was effective, with CINO2:N2O5 ratios larger 286 than 1:1 throughout the campaign, except for the night of May 26, when the ratio was 0.7:1. Previous 287 observations of the CINO₂:N₂O₅ ratios are summarized in Table 2. Compared with the results conducted in similar continental regions in European and America (0.2 - 3.0), the ratios in this work 288 289 were significantly higher and consistent with the recent studies in the NCP, which suggests that high 290 ClNO₂:N₂O₅ ratios were ubiquitous in the NCP and implies that the ClNO₂ yield via N₂O₅ uptake is 291 effective.

292

293 4. Discussion

294 4.1 Determination of N₂O₅ uptake coefficients

295 A composite term, $\nu \times f$, was used to evaluate the overall ClNO₂ yield from N₂O₅ heterogeneous 296 hydrolysis (Mielke et al., 2013); the term was estimated by considering the production rate of CINO₂ 297 and using the measured N_2O_5 and S_a . The values calculated based on the field observations are listed 298 in Table S3 and had moderate variability, a range from 0.008 - 0.035 and an average of 0.019 ± 0.009 . 299 Table 3 summarizes the $\gamma \times f$ values derived in the previous field observations. The value in suburban 300 Germany was between 0.001 and 0.09, with the average of 0.014 (Phillips et al., 2016), and the average 301 value in Mt. Tai, China, was approximately 0.016 (X. F. Wang et al., 2017). Therefore, the average 302 value in this study was comparable with that of the two suburban sites, whereas in an urban site of 303 Jinan, China, the value was lower than 0.008 and comparable with that in the CalNex-LA campaign. 304 The three sets of $\gamma \times f$ values from suburban regions were approximately twice as large as those in 305 urban regions, which implies that the composited CINO₂ yields in the aged air masses in suburban 306 regions were more efficient than in the urban region. The difference of the overall yield between the 307 two regions may have been caused by (1) the particle morphology variation because of particle aging, 308 such as the particle mixing state, O:C ratio, particle viscosity and solubility (Riemer et al., 2009; 309 Gaston et al., 2014; Grzinic et al., 2015) or (2) the particle compound variation such as the liquid water 310 content and the Cl⁻ content. The liquid water content and the Cl⁻ content were proposed to affect the 311 CINO₂ yield because those particle physicochemical properties were reported to affect the N₂O₅ uptake 312 coefficient (Bertram and Thornton, 2009).





313 According to the R4 reaction, pNO₃⁻ and CINO₂ were formed by N₂O₅ heterogeneous uptake, with 314 yields of 2 - f and f, respectively. Following the recent work of Phillips et al., (2016), we used the 315 observed pNO₃⁻ and ClNO₂ formation rates to derive individual γ and f. The calculations assumed that 316 the relevant properties of the air mass are conserved and that the losses of produced species are 317 negligible; additionally, the N₂O₅ uptake coefficients and the ClNO₂ yield are independent of particle 318 size. The nights characterized by the following two features were chosen for further analysis: (1) A 319 clear covariance existed between the pNO₃⁻ and ClNO₂, which indicated that pNO₃⁻ and ClNO₂ were 320 to some extent predominantly produced by N₂O₅ uptake, and the HNO₃ uptake was not important for 321 pNO3⁻ formation. (2) An equivalent or increase in ammonium was accompanied by an increase of 322 pNO₃, which suggested that the gas-phase ammonia was repartitioned to form ammonium nitrate and 323 suppress the release of HNO₃. The rich-ammonia conditions in Beijing (Liu et al., 2017) demonstrated 324 that the degassing of HNO₃ at night can be effectively buffered by the high concentrations of ammonia 325 presented in the NCP. During this campaign, five nights were eligible for the following analysis. Three 326 different types of derivation were proposed by Phillips et al., (2016), based on the observational data 327 of N₂O₅, ClNO₂, pNO₃⁻ and S_a ; the most rigorous analysis was used in this study. The formations of 328 pNO₃⁻ and ClNO₂ were calculated and integrated based on the measured S_a and N₂O₅ from 5 min-329 averaged datasets and an estimated initial γ and f. The γ and f were optimized until good agreement 330 between the observed and predicted concentrations of pNO₃⁻ and ClNO₂ was obtained. Figure 6 depicts an example of the fitting results on May 28, the predicted N₂O₅ uptake coefficient and CINO2 yield 331 were 0.017 and 1.0, respectively. Five sets of values of y and f obtained are listed in Table 4. N₂O₅ 332 333 uptake coefficients ranged from 0.012 - 0.055, with an average of 0.034 ± 0.018 , and the CINO₂ yield 334 ranged from 0.50 to unity, with an average of 0.73 ± 0.25 . The errors from each derivation were 30% 335 - 50% and came from the field measurements of S_a , N₂O₅, pNO₃⁻ and ClNO₂.

336 The average γ value was consistent with the results derived by the same method in a rural site in 337 Germany (Phillips et al., 2016) but was higher than that found in previous studies in the UK and North 338 America that used different derivation methods; these methods included the steady state lifetime 339 method (Morgan et al., 2015; Brown et al., 2006, 2009), the iterated box model (Wagner et al., 2013) 340 and direct measurement based on an aerosol flow reactor (Bertram et al., 2009; Riedel et al., 2012). 341 The steady state lifetime method is very sensitive to NO₂ concentration, and since the NO₂ 342 measurement suffered with ambient NOy interference, we did not apply the steady state lifetime method in this study (Brown et al., 2003). Nonetheless, the derived γ in Beijing showed good 343 agreement with the recent results derived by the steady state method in Jinan and Mt. Tai (X. F. Wang 344 X et al., 2017; Z. Wang et al., 2017). The consistency eliminates the discrepancy possibly brought by 345 346 the differences of analysis methods. Therefore, we suggest that fast N_2O_5 uptake was a ubiquitous 347 feature that existed in the NCP. In this study, sulfate is dominated the PM_{1.0} concentration with the 348 percentage over 30%, which may be the reason of elevated N₂O₅ uptake coefficient presented in 349 Beijing, like the result in high sulfate air mass over Ohio and western Pennsylvania (Brown et al., 350 2006). Previous studies have shown that the N_2O_5 uptake coefficient strongly depends on the liquid water, the pNO₃⁻ and organic mass; liquid water content promotes N₂O₅ uptake, whereas pNO₃⁻ and 351 352 organic mass inhibit N₂O₅ uptake (Thornton et al., 2003, Wahner et al., 1998; McNeill et al., 2006). 353 Because of the limited data set of N_2O_5 uptake coefficients in this campaign, the trends of the 354 determined N_2O_5 uptake coefficients with the parameters mentioned above were not convincing, and 355 more valid data is needed for further studies of the N_2O_5 uptake mechanism. With respect to f, the





values are comparable with that observed in Germany (Phillips et al., 2016) and are similar with that
 estimated in the power plant plume in Mt. Tai with high chloride content (Z. Wang et al., 2017).

358 4.2 N₂O₅ lifetime and reactivity

The lifetime of N₂O₅ was estimated by the steady state method, assuming that the production and loss of N₂O₅ was in balance after a period following sunset. Eq. 2 for the steady state approximation has been frequently applied in analyzing the fate of N₂O₅ (Platt et al., 1980; Allan et al., 1999; Brown et al., 2003).

363
$$\tau_{ss}(N_2O_5) = \frac{1}{L_{ss}(N_2O_5)} = \frac{[N_2O_5]}{k_{NO2+O3}[NO_2][O_3]}$$
 (Eq. 2)

In Eq. 2 $\tau_{ss}(N_2O_5)$ denotes the steady state lifetime of N₂O₅ and $L_{ss}(N_2O_5)$ denotes the loss term of 364 365 N₂O₅ corresponding to the steady state lifetime. A numerical model was used to check the validity of the steady state approximation (Brown et al., 2003); details are given in Figure S2. The results show 366 367 that the steady state can generally be achieved within 30 minutes. In this study, the steady state lifetime 368 was only calculated from 20:00 to 04:00. The time periods with NO concentration larger than 0.1 ppbv 369 were excluded because the steady state is easily disturbed. The overall N_2O_5 reactivity (k(N_2O_5)) can 370 be calculated by accumulating each individual loss term as in Eq. 3, including the N₂O₅ heterogeneous 371 hydrolysis and the reaction of NO3 with VOCs. The NO3 heterogeneous uptake and the loss of N2O5 372 via gas-phase reactions were assumed to be negligible (Brown and Stutz, 2012). k_i represent the 373 reaction rate constants of the reaction of NO₃+VOCs_i. Isoprene and monoterpene were used in the 374 calculation. The N₂O₅ loss rate coefficient by heterogeneous hydrolysis was calculated by using an 375 average γ of 0.034.

376
$$k(N_2O_5) = \frac{\sum k_i \cdot [VOCs_i]}{k_{eq} \cdot [NO_2]} + \frac{c \cdot s_a \cdot \gamma}{4}$$
(Eq. 3)

377 The time series of the steady state lifetime of N₂O₅ is shown in Figure S3. The N₂O₅ steady state 378 lifetime ranged from <5 s to 1140 s, with an average of 310 ± 240 s, and large variability was shown 379 during the campaign. The N₂O₅ lifetimes during the BAM period were higher than those during the 380 UAM period, which is predictable since the clean air mass has lower N₂O₅ reactivity because of much 381 lower aerosol loading. Two extremely short N2O5 lifetime cases were captured on the nights of May 30 and June 3, with peak values below 200 s throughout those nights. Figure 7 shows that the N_2O_5 382 383 lifetime had a very clear negative dependence of the ambient aerosol surface area when larger than $300 \ \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ cm}^3$, which indicates that the N₂O₅ heterogeneous uptake plays an important role in the 384 385 regulation of N₂O₅ lifetime. The study conducted in the residual layer of Hong Kong showed a similar 386 tendency despite the overall N₂O₅ lifetime being shorter at this site (Brown et al., 2016). Additionally, 387 a negative dependence of N₂O₅ lifetime on RH was reported in Hong Kong but was not observed in 388 this study (Figure S4).

Figure 8 shows the time series of the overall N₂O₅ loss rate constant as well as the steady state N₂O₅ loss rate. The overall N₂O₅ loss rate constant from the individuals was reasonably comparable with the steady state N₂O₅ loss rate, except for the nights of 28, 30 May and 3 June, on which the $L_{ss}(N_2O_5)$





392 calculated by the steady state method were much higher than the overall k(N2O5). The average N2O5 393 loss rate contributed by the N₂O₅ heterogeneous hydrolysis was 8.1×10^{-4} s⁻¹. The average NO₃ loss rate by the reaction of NO₃ with VOCs was 0.015 ± 0.007 s⁻¹, which is comparable with the previous results 394 in suburban Beijing in 2006 (H. C. Wang et al., 2017c), in which the contribution to the N₂O₅ reactivity 395 was 1.63×10-3 s⁻¹. Compared with N2O5 loss via direct heterogeneous hydrolysis, the indirect loss via 396 397 NO₃+VOCs as dominated by approximately 67% of the total N₂O₅ loss. Because only a subset of the 398 suite of organic species at the site was measured, the calculated loss rate constant via NO₃+VOCs 399 represents a lower limit. Therefore, the N₂O₅ loss via NO₃+VOCs may occupy a larger proportion. The overall loss rate constant from NO₃+VOCs and N₂O₅ uptake was 2.44×10^{-3} s⁻¹, which was reasonably 400 lower than the steady state N₂O₅ loss rate constant of 3.61×10^{-3} s⁻¹; the gap may be explained by the 401 402 unmeasured reactive VOCs or the unaccounted NO that was near the instrumental limit of detection.

403 4.3 Nocturnal NO₃ oxidation

404 Recent studies have suggested that the fate of BVOCs after sunset is dominated by NO_x or O₃, with 405 variation of the ratio of NOx to BVOCs and that the nighttime oxidation is located in the transition region between NO_X-domination and O₃-domination in the United States (Edwards et al., 2017). 406 407 During this campaign, the nocturnal average concentrations of isoprene and monoterpene were $156 \pm$ 408 88 pptv and 86 ± 42 pptv, respectively. We used isoprene and monoterpene to represent a lower limit 409 mixing ratio of total BVOCs; the average ratio of NOx/BVOC was larger than 10 and exhibited small 410 variation during the BAM and UAM periods. The value was much higher than the critical value 411 (NOx/BVOC = 0.5) of the transition regime proposed by Edwards et al. (2017), which suggests that 412 the oxidation of BVOCs in Beijing was NOx-dominated and the nighttime fate of BVOCs was 413 controlled by NO₃. Since the ONs formation via BVOC oxidation was mainly attributed to the NO₃ 414 oxidation with high yield, we suggest that the ONs production capacity was maximized in the high 415 NOx/BVOCs region.

416 Similar to k(OH), the nighttime VOCs reactivity, $k(VOCs_i)$, is defined as the pseudo loss rate of 417 VOCs oxidized by oxidants and is expressed as Eq. 4. Here, we only consider the oxidation by O₃ and 418 NO₃. $k_{VOCs_i+NO_3}$ and $k_{VOCs_i+O_3}$ are the reaction constants of VOCs with NO₃ and O₃, respectively.

419
$$k(VOCs_i) = k_{VOCs_i + NO_3} \cdot [NO_3] + k_{VOCs_i + O_3} \cdot [O_3]$$
 (Eq. 4)

420 During this campaign, VOCs reactivity could be determined with the measured O₃ and calculated NO₃. 421 Figure 9 depicts four kinds of VOCs reactivity distribution during nighttime, including the isoprene 422 (ISO), monoterpene (here represented by α -pinene, API), the alkenes with the double bond elsewhere 423 in the molecule (OLI) and the double bond at the end or terminal position of the molecule (OLT). The 424 reaction rates were cited from the regional atmospheric chemistry mechanism version 2 (RACM2, 425 Goliff et al., (2013)). The VOCs reactivity were dominated by NO₃ oxidation and contributed up to 426 90% in total; less than 10% were oxidized by O₃ during the nighttime. The results further confirmed 427 that the oxidation of BVOCs is controlled by NO₃ rather than O₃.

For calculating nocturnal ONs production from NO₃ oxidation of isoprene and monoterpene, as well as the same period inorganic nitrate production via N₂O₅ heterogeneous uptake, the ClNO₂ yield was





430 set to the determined average value of 0.73. The organic nitrate yield of the reaction of NO₃ with isoprene was set to 0.7, from Rollins et al. (2009). The yield from the reaction of NO₃ with 431 432 monoterpene was represented by the NO₃ + α -pinene and was set to 0.15, following Spittler et al. (2006). 433 Although the yield from the NO₃ oxidation of isoprene is much higher than that of monoterpene, the 434 total ONs production was dominated by the oxidation of NO₃ with monoterpene because the reaction 435 of NO₃ with monoterpene is much faster than that with isoprene. Because of the lack of measurement 436 of alkenes and other VOCs that can react with NO3 and form ONs, the calculated nighttime ONs 437 production rate analyzed here served as lower limit estimations. Figure 10 depicts the mean diurnal 438 profiles of the nocturnal formation rates of inorganic nitrates and ONs. The average production rate of 439 ONs was up to 0.11 ± 0.09 ppby h⁻¹, which was much higher than that predicted in a suburban site in 440 Beijing in 2006, with an average value of 0.06 ppbv h⁻¹ (H. C. Wang et al., 2017b). In the high 441 NO_x/BVOCs air masses, the inorganic nitrate formation was proposed to increase with the increase of 442 sunset NO_x/BVOCs (Edwards et al., 2017). The formation rate of inorganic nitrate via N₂O₅ uptake was significant, with an average of 0.43 ± 0.12 ppbv h⁻¹, and was much larger than the organic nitrate 443 444 formation. The NOx was mainly removed as the inorganic nitrate format by nocturnal NO₃-N₂O₅ 445 chemistry in Beijing. Overall, the NO₃-N₂O₅ chemistry promoted significant NO_X removal, with 0.54 446 ppbv h⁻¹ accounted for by the organic and inorganic nitrates, and the integral NO_X removal was 447 approximately 5 ppbv per night. Since ONs is an important precursor of the secondary organic aerosols 448 (SOA), the NO₃ oxidation was very important from the perspective of organic aerosol formation and 449 regional particulate matter (e.g., Ng et al., 2008).

450

451 5. Conclusion

452 We reported an intensive field study of NO₃-N₂O₅ chemistry at a downwind suburban site in Beijing 453 during the summer of 2016. High levels of CINO2 and N2O5 were observed, with maxima of 2.9 ppbv 454 and 937 pptv (1-min), respectively. The N₂O₅ uptake coefficient was estimated to be in the range of 455 0.012-0.055, with an average value of 0.034 ± 0.018 , and the corresponding ClNO₂ yield was derived 456 to be in the range of 0.5-1.0, with an average value of 0.73 ± 0.25 . The elevated CINO₂ levels and 457 CINO₂/N₂O₅ ratios are comparable with those in chloride-rich regions in the NCP. The results highlight 458 fast N₂O₅ heterogeneous hydrolysis and efficient ClNO₂ formation in the outflow of urban Beijing. 459 Thus, its role in O₃ pollution in summer could be more important than in other regions.

460 Since the NO₃-N₂O₅ chemical equilibrium favors NO₃ in summer with high temperature and high NOx, the elevated NO₃ dominated the nocturnal degradation of BVOCs and could lead to efficient 461 462 ONs formation. Because the air masses in Beijing featured high NOx/BVOCs ratios (>10), our results 463 suggest that the nocturnal NO₃ oxidation of BVOCs was NOx-dominated. Because of the extremely 464 high NOx emissions, the formation of ONs may not be sensitive to the reduction of NOx but rather to 465 the change of unsaturated VOCs (e.g., BVOCs), which is similar to the daytime photochemical O_3 466 pollution (e.g., Lu et al., 2010) diagnosed for this area; this suggests that the control of the unsaturated 467 VOCs would moderate the O₃ pollution and ONs particulate matter in parallel. Moreover, the reduction 468 of NOx would also be helpful to reduce the pNO3⁻ formation via N2O5 heterogeneous hydrolysis under such high NOx/BVOCs ratios (Edwards et al., 2017). 469





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Figure 1. Map of Beijing and surrounding area. The red star represents the location of the Changping

- $\label{eq:steps} site, red dots show other sites where previous N_2O_5 measurements were conducted in the North China$
- 744 Plain (NCP), including Peking University (PKU), Wangdu, Jinan and Mt. Tai (in Tai' an).

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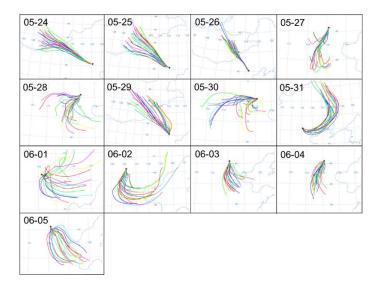
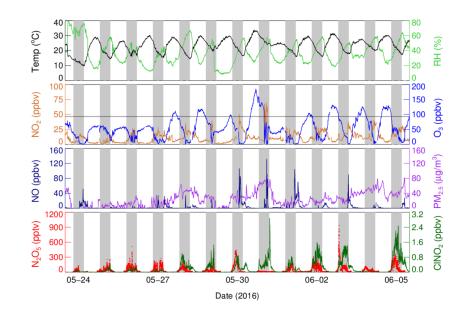


Figure 2. Backward trajectory calculations using the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated
Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model. The images depict a 24-h history of air masses arriving at the
measurement site at 12:00 (CNST).







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Figure 3. Time series of N₂O₅, CINO₂ and other relevant parameters. The black line in the O₃ panel

denotes Chinese national air quality standard for O₃ (ca. 93 ppbv for the surface conditions).

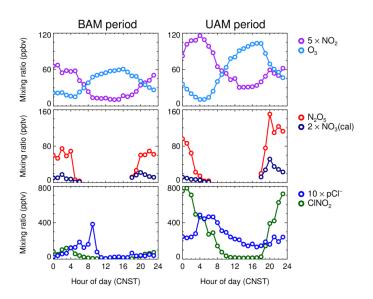
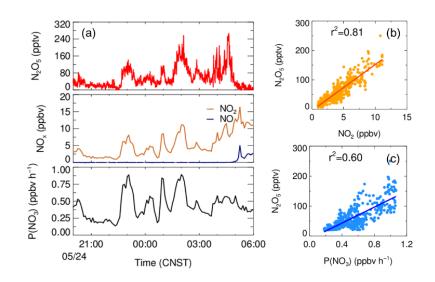


Figure 4. Mean diurnal profiles of 5×NO₂, O₃, N₂O₅, 2×NO₃ (calculated), ClNO₂, and 10×pCl⁻. The
left three panels depict the background air mass (BAM) period and the right three panels depict the
urban air mass (UAM) period.







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Figure 5. The correlation of the mixing ratio of N₂O₅ and NO₂ and the production rate of NO₃ on the
night of May 24.

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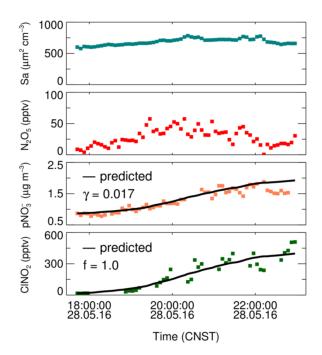


Figure 6. The best fitting of γ and f to reproduce the observed CINO₂ and pNO₃⁻ with an offset on May

763 28. The black lines are the predicted results of the integrated pNO_3^- and $CINO_2$ by using the observed 764 S_a and N_2O_5 .





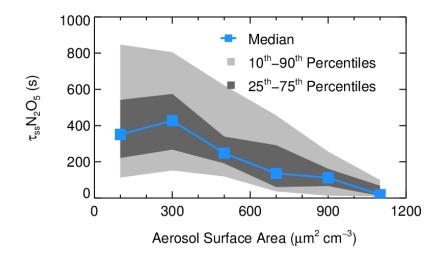
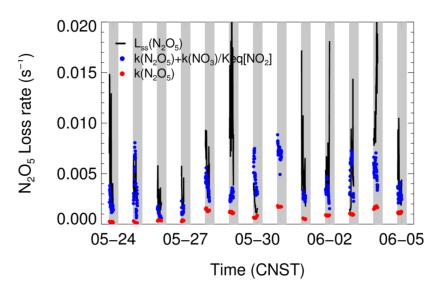




Figure 7. The dependence of N₂O₅ lifetime on aerosol surface area. Data were selected from 20:00 to

04:00 and are shown as medians, 25 - 75th percentile ranges, and 10 - 90th percentile ranges, as shown
in the legend.

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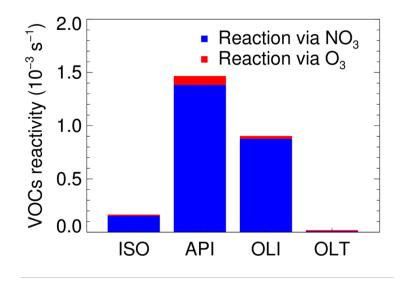
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Figure 8. Time series of the individual N₂O₅ loss terms and the loss rate constant of N₂O₅ in steady
state (*Lss*(N₂O₅)).

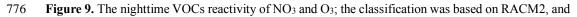
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data were selected from 20:00 to 04:00.

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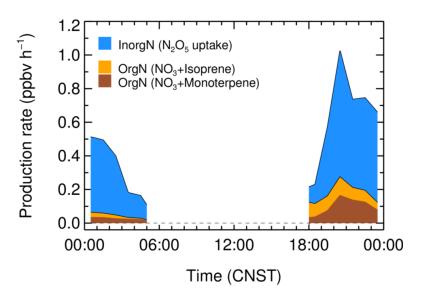


Figure 10. The nighttime production rate of organic and inorganic nitrates; the inorganic nitrates were

calculated from the N₂O₅ heterogeneous hydrolysis, and the ONs were calculated by the NO₃ reacted
 with isoprene and monoterpene.





784 **Table 1.** The observed gas and particle parameters used in this analysis during the campaign.

Species	Limit of detection	Methods	Accuracy
N2O5	2.7 pptv (1 σ , 1 min)	CEAS	± 19%
CINO ₂	16 pptv (2σ , 1 min)	FIGAERO-ToF-CIMS	$\pm 23\%$
NO	60 pptv (2σ, 1 min)	Mo convert	$\pm 20\%$
NO ₂	0.3 ppbv (2σ, 1 min)	Mo convert	$\pm 20\%$
O ₃	0.5 ppbv (2σ, 1 min)	UV photometry	$\pm 5\%$
Aerosol surface area	- (4 min)	SMPS, APS	$\pm 30\%$
VOCs	0.1 ppbv (5 min)	PTR-MS	$\pm 30\%$
PM _{2.5}	0.1 μg m ⁻³ (1 min)	TEOM	$\pm 5\%$
$PM_{1.0}$ components	0.15 μg m ⁻³ (4 min)	HR-ToF-AMS	$\pm 30\%$

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Table 2. Summary of the field observed ambient CINO₂/N₂O₅.

Location	Region	ClNO ₂ /N ₂ O ₅ ^a	References
Beijing, China	Inland	0.7 – 42.0 (7.7)	This work
Wangdu, China	Inland	0.4 - 131.3 (29.5)	Tham et al., 2016
Jinan, China	Marine	25.0 - 118.0 ^b	Z. Wang et al., 2017
Mt. Tai, China	Marine	~ 4.0	X. F. Wang et al., 2017
Hong Kong, China	Marine	0.1 - 2.0	T. Wang et al., 2016
London, UK	Inland	0.02 - 2.4 (0.51)	Bannan et al., 2015
Frankfurt, Germany	Inland	0.2 - 3.0	Phillips et al., 2012
Colorado, USA	Inland	0.2 - 3.0	Thornton et al., 2010
California, USA	Marine	~ 0.2 - 10.0 $^{\rm c}$	Mielke et al., 2013

787 Note: ^a Daily average results; ^b Power plant plume cases at Mt. Tai in Shandong, China; ^c Estimated according to Mielke
788 et al., (2013).





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Table 3. Summary of the average $\gamma \times f$ values derived in the field observations.

Location	Region	$\gamma \times f$	References
Beijing, China	suburban	0.019	This work
Frankfurt, Germany	suburban	0.014	Phillips et al., 2016
Mt. Tai, China	suburban	0.016	X. F. Wang et al., 2017
Jinan, China	urban	< 0.008	Z. Wang et al., 2017
California, USA	urban	0.008	Mielke et al., 2013

790 791

Table 4. List of the N₂O₅ uptake coefficients and the yield of CINO₂ in this campaign.

Start time	End time	γ	f	
05/25 00:00	05/25 05:00	0.047	0.60	
05/25 18:30	05/25 23:00	0.012	1.0	
05/27 19:00	05/27 20:40	0.040	0.50	
05/28 19:00	05/28 23:00	0.017	1.0	
05/30 21:00	05/31 00:00	0.055	0.55	