

We thank the reviewers for their helpful comments. The comments and suggestions have been addressed accordingly. Thank you for your time and effort. The replies to each comment are shown in blue.

Reviewer 1:

5 In this study, Bryant et al. examined the formation of isoprene-derived SOA (iSOA) during summer in Beijing (China) using a large suite of online and offline instruments. In particular, the authors focus on LC-MS data from filter extracts of PM_{2.5} and the detection, identification, and quantification of isoprene-derived organosulfates (OSs) and nitrooxy-organosulfates (NOSs). They determined an average concentration of
10 iSOA OSs and NOSs of 82.5 ng m⁻³. Moreover, the authors claim that OS formation depends on a combination of photochemistry and particulate sulfate concentrations, and suggest that iSOA formation is strongly controlled by anthropogenic emissions in Beijing.

15 The authors acquired an impressive dataset with state-of-the-art instruments during their field study. Moreover, molecular-level identification and quantification of SOA constituents, such as OSs and NOSs, is challenging, yet highly desirable. However, I see several major weaknesses in the measurement approach, the data analysis and interpretation of the results, which need to be addressed before I can recommend the publication of the manuscript (as detailed below).

20 **Major comments:**

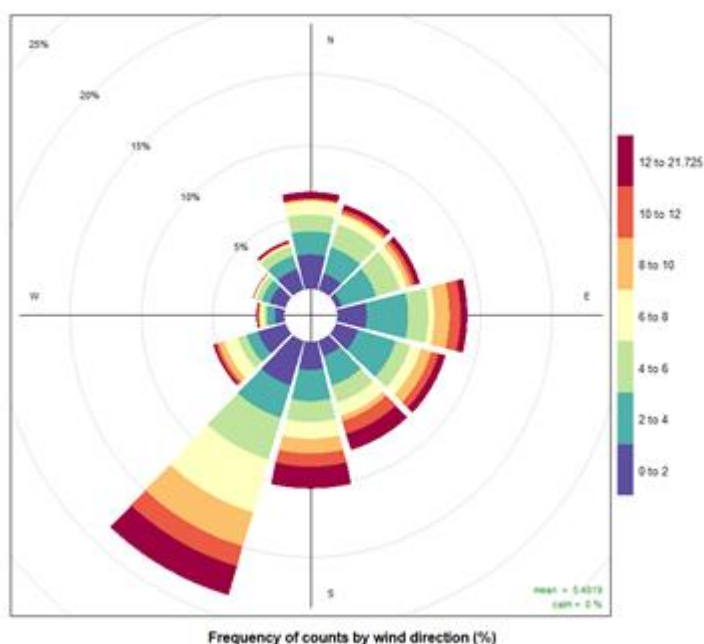
1) I have the impression that the main conclusion (which is also the title) of the manuscript is only weakly supported by the data shown in the manuscript. The authors claim that there is a “strong anthropogenic control of SOA formation from isoprene in Beijing”. However, only one figure (i.e., Figure 5) is actually showing a weak correlation of OSs to the product of ozone and sulfate
25 concentrations, which can be considered to some extent as a metric for anthropogenic influences. Nonetheless, no correlations of total SOA mass to common anthropogenic pollutants is shown or discussed. It should also be noted that particulate sulfate could have been transported to the sampling site over longer distances, and thus, is not a direct anthropogenic emission factor.

30 There was a similar comment from all three reviewers and so we have added an additional section on the gas phase data (see reply to comment 2) to show the concentrations and trends of anthropogenic tracers in Beijing. We have also added a PollutionRose plot (new Figure 2) of particulate sulfate concentrations, which shows a strong anthropogenic source of particulate sulfate to the south of Beijing which contains a large industrial region. While the sulfate is likely formed outside the city, it is still an anthropogenic tracer. We also discussed in the paper the effect of NO (an anthropogenic tracer) on the products formed and have added additional clarification of the role of biogenic-anthropogenic interactions in the formation mechanisms of the products. Finally, we have shown the moderate to strong relationship with the product of sulfate and ozone, which are both secondary pollutants formed from anthropogenic emissions. We have moved Figure S10 into the main manuscript (new Figure 5)
35 which shows the degree of correlation for all isoprene OS SOA tracers against each other and with a range of anthropogenic tracers.

We have added the following text to address this comment:

45 “The isoprene SOA tracers identified in this study are correlated towards themselves as well as common anthropogenic tracers in a corplot (Openair, R), shown in Figure 5. The corplot highlights the correlations of the iSOA tracers to each other as well as the moderate to strong correlations towards some of the anthropogenic pollutants as discussed in further sections.”

“As such, this tracer is the result of a direct biogenic-anthropogenic interaction.”



50 “Figure 2. PollutionRose plot (Openair) of particle sulfate measured by AMS, during the sampling period.”

2) In general, the discussion of the data remains quite superficial in several sections, which might also be one of the reasons for my comment above. For example, Fig. 1, which displays typical anthropogenic pollutants, is barely discussed in the results section (i.e. only four sentences, P8L315–318). This is similar for several other figures in the manuscript. Moreover, the authors should reconsider the order and layout of the figures, as the reader is often forced to jump between figures or to find essential data in the SI (e.g., Fig. S10).

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There have been a number of publications concerning the gas phase data presented and so we did not want to repeat that discussion in length here. However, in response to reviewer 1 and 2, we have added a small section discussing the concentrations and trends of the data in Figure 1. We have also moved figure S10 to the main paper in response to the reviewers paper.

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We have added the following text to address this comment::

“3.2 Anthropogenic tracers

A range of gas phase anthropogenic tracers were measured during the campaign as discussed in Shi et al., 2019. Figure 1 shows the time series of NO, NO₂, O₃ and particulate sulfate during the part of the campaign analysed in this study. Table 1 shows the average, maximum and minimum concentrations for these anthropogenic pollutants. NO mixing ratios ranged from less than 0.1 ppbv to 104 ppbv, and a mean concentration during the filter sampling period of 5.1 ppb. The highest concentrations generally occurred in the morning 04:00-07:00 and steadily decreased during the day. On some days, the mixing ratio of NO was very low in the afternoon, as a result of reaction with ozone and other unknown sinks (Newland et al., 2020). The mean mixing ratio of NO₂ was 22.3 ppbV, much higher than NO, with a range of 3.7 to 95 ppbv. NO₂ peaked between 06:00-07:00 and decreased to a minima at 14:00 and then steady increased until about 20:00. High afternoon concentrations of O₃ (>80 ppb) were found on most days, with a maximum observed mixing ratio of 182 ppbv. Night time O₃ levels were much lower due

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to reduced photochemistry and reaction with NO, although on some nights O₃ levels were maintained above 40 ppbv, as shown in Figure 1. Particulate sulfate concentrations, measured by AMS are also shown in figure 1. Sulfate ranged from 0.7 to 21.7 μg m⁻³, with an average of 5.5 μg m⁻³. The time series shows a number of periods of high sulfate concentrations and these generally matched periods of increased PM_{2.5} (see Figure 9). Figure 2 shows the wind direction dependent concentrations of particulate sulfate for the sampling period in a pollutionRose plot (Openair package, R). There is a strong source of sulfate from the south of the sampling site, which is enhanced under the highest wind speeds. Previous studies have shown a strong source of pollution from the south west of Beijing, which is where many industrial factories are located (Wang et al., 2005).

3a) One of my most pressing concerns is the LC-MS method used for filter extract analysis and the selection of reversed-phase LC for the separation and detection of isoprene-derived OSs. As can clearly be seen from Table 1, the OSs are not retained on the column and probably elute together with inorganic salts such as sulfate. For example, 15 of the 31 identified species have a retention time of <0.8 min. For these compounds, it is actually impossible to exclude ionization artefacts, i.e., the corresponding compounds are formed from inorganic sulfate and organic compounds during electrospray ionization. It would be necessary to give at least the dead time of the LC system, to make the reader aware of such potential artefacts.

Sulfate and nitrate ions elute in the dead time of the column at 0.67 min. Thus these inorganic ions are offset from the OS species, although there is still some co-elution. We analysed a subset of the filters using normal phase HILIC separation and found a strong correlation between the sum of the 2MT-OS isomers and the single mixed isomer peak found using the reverse phase analysis method (R² = 0.85). Considering the two methods extract into different solvents (water v methanol) this suggests that there is no significant formation of OS species in the ion source. To test for artefact formation of OS in the sources, we analysed a sample containing a large excess of ammonium sulfate with 2-methyltetrol and 2-methylglyceric acid authentic standards. No 2-MG-OS formation was observed and <0.5% conversion was seen for the 2-MT. The combination of both pieces of evidence, excludes the formation of OS in the source. In addition, if OS species form from reactions between oxidised species and sulfate in the ion source, then all previous direct infusion studies would also suffer from this interference. We have added text to clarify this and included this new test.

Added text:

“Due to the wide range of compounds studied, poor retention was observed for some species (RT < 0.8min). These species closely eluted to the dead time of the column where inorganic sulfate ions eluted (0.67 min). To check for ionisation artefacts, a aqueous solution containing 20 ppm ammonium sulfate, 1ppm 2-methyltetrol and 1ppm 2-methylglyceric acid was ran under the same conditions as the filter samples to check for organosulfate formation (2-MT-OS and 2-MG-OS respectively). No MG-OS formation was observed and <0.5% conversion was seen for the 2-MT.”

“The sum of peak areas from the 2-MT-OS isomers measured by HILIC and the quantified 2-MT-OS (sum of isomers) measured via UPLC/ESI-HR-MS were compared and showed a high degree of correlation (R² = 0.84), even though the two methods used different solvents. The agreement indicates that the UPLC/ESI-HR-MS method captures the sum of the isomers and there is no evidence of ion source induced artefacts.”

3b) Moreover, the authors state that potential isoprene OSs were “identified” based on previous studies and then searched for in the LC-MS data (cf. P5L204f). However, even with high mass accuracy and resolving power, it is not possible to identify compounds without any reference standards. I can imagine that there were actually several isomers detectable for each of the “identified” OSs in Table 1 (actually, the authors even admit

the presence of isomeric species in the following section 2.4). How did the authors decide which retention time to take for each of the OSs from the literature?

We thank the reviewer for highlighting our confusing use of the word identified here. For the majority of the OS species in this study, the separation was not good enough to separate isomers and a single peak was observed in the extracted chromatograms for each *m/z*. The MS² spectra for each peak was checked for characteristic OS fragmentation patterns. There were only two available authentic standards and so these compounds have been identified in this work (although these still include a number of co-eluting isomers). It is possible that some of the iSOA OS observed here may have other

sources as we highlight in the paper. For the NOS, the individual isomers could be resolved and are presented in the paper. We have replaced the confusing text.

Following text was changed:

135 “Using previously observed iSOA products from literature, extracted ion chromatograms were plotted for each m/z value from a small subset of ambient samples and the retention time (RT) of observed species/isomer were obtained. For most of the OS species in this study the separation was not good enough to see individual isomers and only one peak was observed, which was added to the library. For the NOS species, individual isomers could be resolved, and each isomer was added to the library based on its retention time.”

140 L222 : “Tracefinder extracted the OS/NOS tracer peak areas from each ambient sample chromatogram using the library based on RT and accurate mass.”

145 4) The authors claim that they account for matrix effects by calibrating the LC-MS through a standard addition approach. However, in my opinion, this approach is far from convincing, as only 6 of the 132 filters (i.e., 4.5%) of all filters were actually investigated. Moreover, it seems quite unreasonable to me to take the calibration curve of 2-MG-OS for all other detected OSs. As shown in Fig. S2, the slope of 2-MT-OS is about 4x larger than for 2-MG-OS. Eventually, such differences in sensitivity might lead to a large overestimation of OSs concentrations. This has to be discussed in more detail. Merely stating that the measurement uncertainty is 60% is not sufficient. How did the authors actually calculate this

150 uncertainty?

We disagree with the reviewers comments on using the 2-MG-OS to represent the other iSOA compounds. The 2-MT-OS calibration line using standard addition is only 2.33 times higher than the 2-MG-OS external calibration, compared to around 10 times higher using the 2-MT-OS external

155 calibration. If we used the external calibrations we would have significantly **underestimated** the concentration of the 2-MT-OS species. It is true, that using proxys to calibrate the other iSOA could result in issues during the calibration. However, this careful analysis was carried out to minimise the effects of using just a single external calibration to estimate concentrations. We have added additional text to discuss the potential for underestimating the concentrations without taking matrix effects into

160 account. The 60 % uncertainty was used to account for the difference in the observed correction factors used when correcting for matrix effects.

added text:” this uncertainty was calculated to account for the difference in the measured correction factors used when correcting for the matrix effects.”

165 added text: “ Further work is needed to fully understand the reasons. Without these additional standard addition calibrations, the iSOA concentrations would have been largely underestimated.”

Specific comments:

170 1) As one of the main aspects of the manuscript is the quantification of OSs and NOSs, I was wondering if the introduction may benefit from some more information on the general abundance of OSs also from other precursors such as monoterpenes and/or alkanes (e.g., Wang et al. JGR 2017, doi: 10.1002/2017JD026930; Brüggemann Environ. Chem. 2019, doi: 10.1071/EN19089; Riva et al. ACP 2016, doi:10.5194/acp-16-11001-2016)

The following text has been added:

175 “SOA formed from anthropogenic and other biogenic (monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes) sources have also been studied. Thousands of organic species including hundreds of OS and nitroxy OS (NOS) species have been identified studies from a range of precursors using UPLC/ESI-HR-MS from ambient aerosol samples (Wang et al., 2016, Wang et al., 2017). Brüggemann et al. (2019) quantified with authentic standards both monoterpene OS (MT-OS) and sesquiterpene OS (SQT-OS) species in

180 Melpitz, Germany and Wangdu, China. They found median daytime concentrations for Melpitz and Wangdu for 52 MT-OS species of 12.15 ng m^{-3} and 38.19 ng m^{-3} respectively. For the 5 SQT-OS species, median concentrations were 0.3 ng m^{-3} and 3.90 ng m^{-3} for daytime concentrations respectively, much lower than the iSOA OS species quantified in this study. Riva et al. (2016) identified OS species from the photo-oxidation of $\text{C}_{10} - \text{C}_{12}$ alkanes, which were then characterised in

185 ambient aerosol samples collected in Lahore, Pakistan and Pasadena, CA, USA. High concentrations of OS species were identified in Lahore, with the largest observed concentration arising from a cyclohexane OS species ($\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_7\text{S}$) with a concentration of 35.93 ng m^{-3} . ”

2) P5L174: As the samples were only extracted using H₂O, it is important to state that only the water-soluble fraction of the filter samples was analyzed.

190 The following text has been added: “The water-soluble fraction of the filter samples were analysed”

3) P5L175: Did the authors account for potential artifacts from sonication of the filter samples, for example, as shown by Mutzel et al. (Atmos. Environ. 2013, doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2012.11.012)

195 Additional experiments comparing sonication and an orbital shaker found no appreciable difference in the concentrations of iSOA tracers analysed in this study.

Following text has been added:

200 “A small subset (3) of the filter samples were also extracted via orbital shaker and no appreciable difference was found in the concentrations of the iSOA tracers compared to sonication.”

4) P5L191: What is “full scan MS²”? Do the authors mean full scan combined with data-dependent fragmentation (i.e., full scan-ddMS²)? If so, how many different ion species were fragmented after each full scan? And how were they selected? Moreover, the authors should state at which resolution the mass spectra were obtained, as this will also determine the chromatographic time resolution of the MS method. Besides,
205 it also remains unclear if and how many replicate injections were performed for each sample.

The following text has been added:

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“analysed using UPLC–full scan-ddMS²”

“, with a resolution of 70,000”

“, each filter sample was run only once.”

“ The number of most abundant precursors for MS² fragmentation per scan was set to 10”

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5) P6L216: Here, it is necessary to explain what standards were used for the calibration curves. Without this knowledge, it is very confusing for the reader to follow this discussion.

220 This section is simply discussing how the data was handled, and therefore doesn’t go into detail surrounding how the calibrations were achieved. The quantification including standards are discussed in section 3.3. We have added a sentence to direct the reader to the later section.

Following text has been added:

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“(as discussed in section 3.3)”

6) Section 2.5: The filter extraction method for the HILIC-MS analysis is very different from the LC-MS method. In this case, pure methanol was used for extraction. Did the authors investigate how this affects the presence of certain OSs and NOSs?
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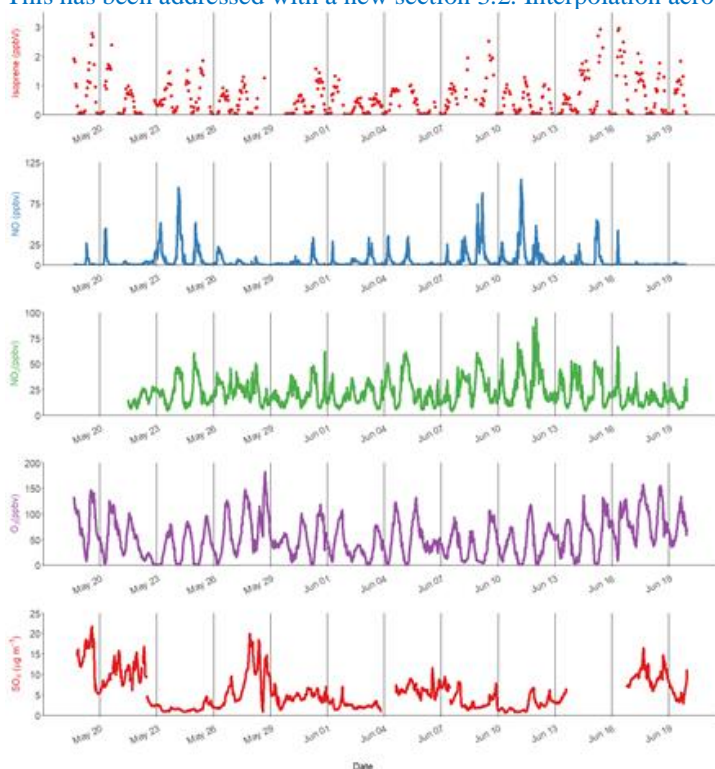
235 This was not carried out as only a small subset of filters were analysed and thus whether extraction in methanol favours certain species over other has not been determined. However, the 2-MT-OS data obtained using both methods show a strong correlation as mentioned above, but unfortunately the HILIC method was not calibrated at the time.

7) P8L300: It is stated that a SIFT-MS was used to measure isoprene, however, there are no data shown from these measurements. The authors merely claim that there is a good correlation to the DC-GC measurements (P8L321)
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245 The DC-GC Isoprene diurnal profile is shown in figure 3 and the full time series is shown in figure 1. We did not show the sift data since it was taken at a height of 100 m up the tower. We only used the SIFT data to compare the correlation of the iSOA species with both techniques, as they cover slightly different time periods due to instrument maintenance and down-time.

8) Fig. 1: I would recommend avoiding interpolation over periods of missing data. Again, as mentioned above, there is almost no discussion of the data.

This has been addressed with a new section 3.2. Interpolation across periods of missing data removed.



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9) P8L328: Give values for k_{ox} in the main text and not only in the caption of the figure.

Following text has been added:

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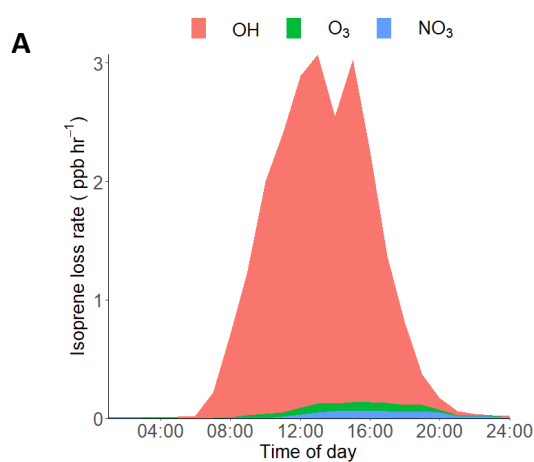
L343: “The IUPAC rate constants that were used in the calculation for NO_3 , O_3 and OH were 7×10^{-13} , 1.27×10^{17} , $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ respectively.”

10) Fig. 3a: I would recommend giving the loss rate in ppb h^{-1} , as this would help the reader to compare the numbers to the actual measurements. Moreover, you could try to estimate a lower limit for isoprene emissions here and compare it to previous studies.

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We have added a figure showing the values in ppb hr^{-1} . We cannot estimate the isoprene emission as we don't know the reaction time between emission and measurement and since this is a biogenic emission, photochemical age calculations are unlikely to give useful information.

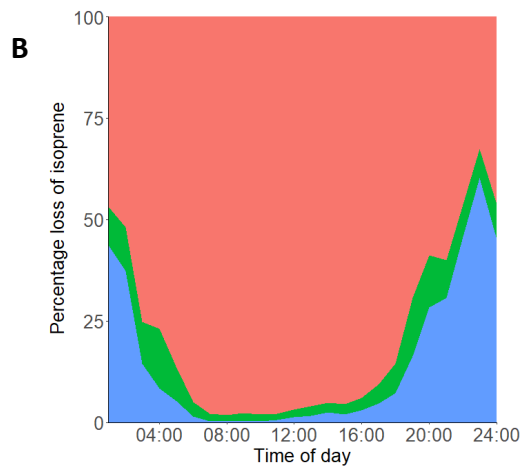
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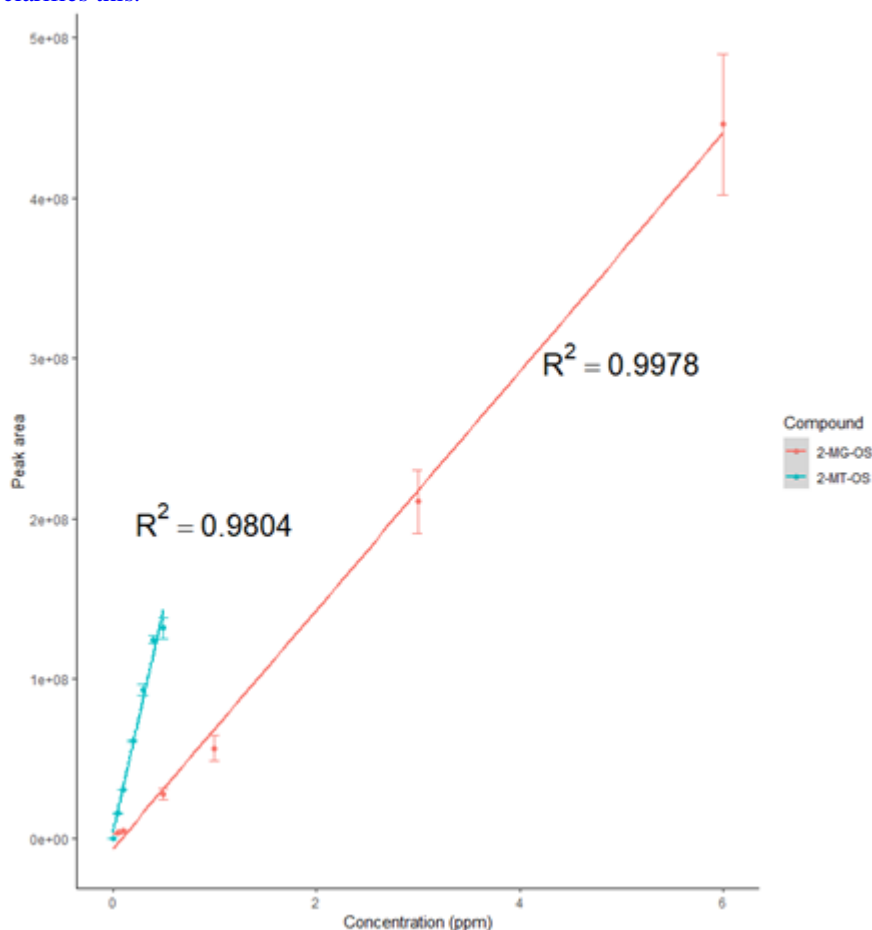
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285 **Figure 4.** (A) Diurnal loss rate of isoprene calculated using measured average diurnal profiles of isoprene, OH, NO₃
and ozone. (B) Average diurnal of the percentage loss of isoprene from reactions with OH, O₃ and NO₃
radicals. The IUPAC rate constants used for the calculations are as follows, NO₃: 7×10^{-13} , O₃: 1.27×10^{17} ,
OH: $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Atkinson et al., 2006).

290 11) P9L349 / Fig. S2-S4: The calibration curves are not of high quality. Especially, for
the lower concentrations the data seem to deviate quite strongly from the determined
fits (Fig. S2). It would be nice to see errorbars for the variability / standard deviation of the data. Why
is the standard addition only shown for one filter sample each? You could normalize the data and show
how the slopes of the calibration curves compare to the external calibration for the two compounds.

295 There is only a small deviation at the lower concentrations, with both calibrations showing a good
linear fit. Error bars have been added to the calibration curves. Only one standard addition per filter
sample was carried out due to having a limited amount of sample. We did present all of the standard
addition sample data (i.e. the comparison of slopes) in the Table S1 and S2 but from the reviewers
comment this is not clear to the reader. The additional text we have added in response to comment 12
300 clarifies this.



305 12) P9L354 / Table S1 and S2: How did the authors select these filter samples? There
is no further information given on how these filters were selected and whether they are
representative for the campaign period. Moreover, Tables S1 and S2 are very difficult
to comprehend.

This sentence in the text already describes how these filters were selected:

310 “Five-point standard addition calibrations were run on 6 different filter extracts, covering both day and
nighttime samples, during periods of both high and low concentrations of iSOA species.”

An additional paragraph has been added to improve understanding of tables S1 and S2.

315 “Table S1 shows the concentration of 2-MT-OS in three filter sample extracts (144, 204, 208) calculated
via standard addition of 2-MT-OS to the filter sample extract and via external calibrations using both 2-
MT-OS and 2-MG-OS. The ratio of the standard addition to the external calibrations then gives an
estimate of the under or overestimate the external calibrations make to calculating the concentration of
320 concentration of 2-MT-OS in the filter samples. 2-MG-OS provided a closer quantification of 2-MT-OS
in the samples, with an average factor of 2.3 underestimation, while the 2-MT-OS external calibration
gives a sample concentration a factor of 10 lower than the standard addition determined concentration.”

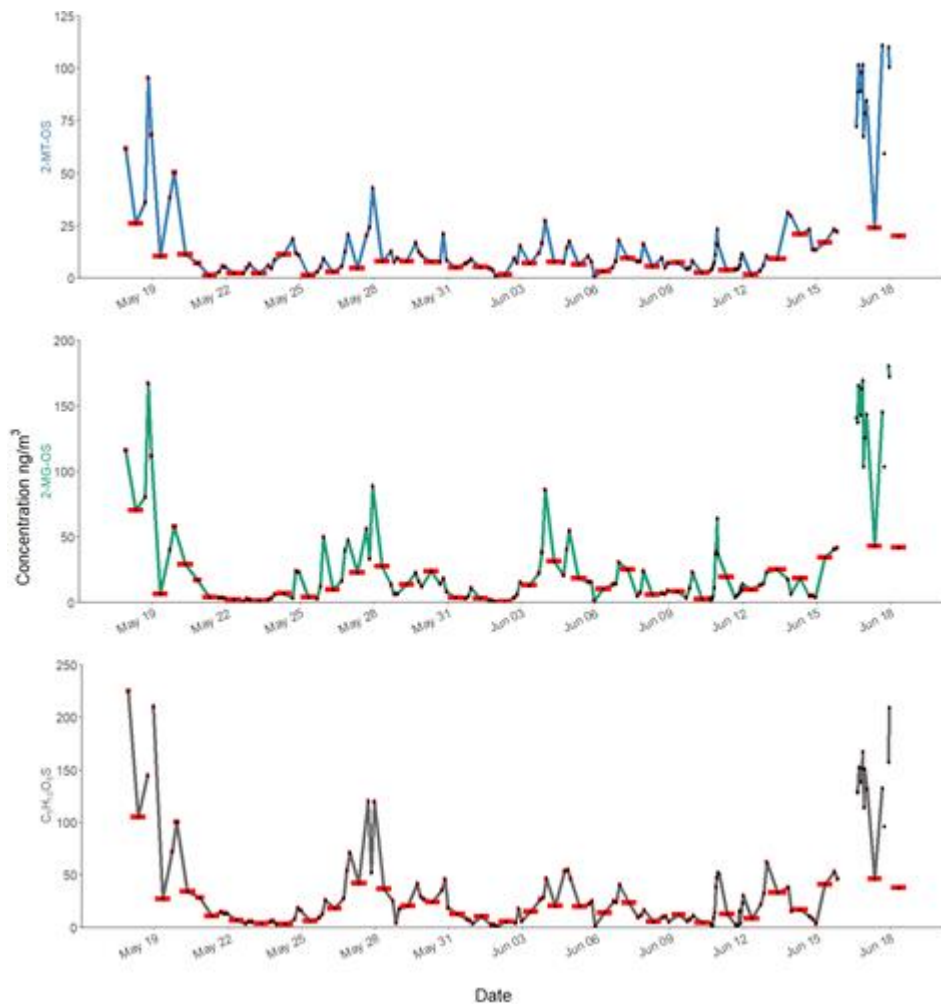
325 13) P10L372: Where do these scaling factors come from?
This has been addressed in response to comment 12.

14) P10L374: How did the authors calculate an uncertainty of 60% for their concentrations? If there is
such a high uncertainty, it should clearly be stated also in Table 1.

330 This is addressed above. We do not feel it is necessary to add this to the table.

15) Fig. 4: It is misleading to represent the concentrations of the quantified compounds
by single data points and to interpolate in between. Better display concentration steps
335 with corresponding lengths to the sampling time.

We have modified the figures to show the start and end time of the samples but kept a data point at the
mid sample time and the interpolation between points. Using simple bars made the plot very difficult
340 to read, especially as there are over 100 sample points.

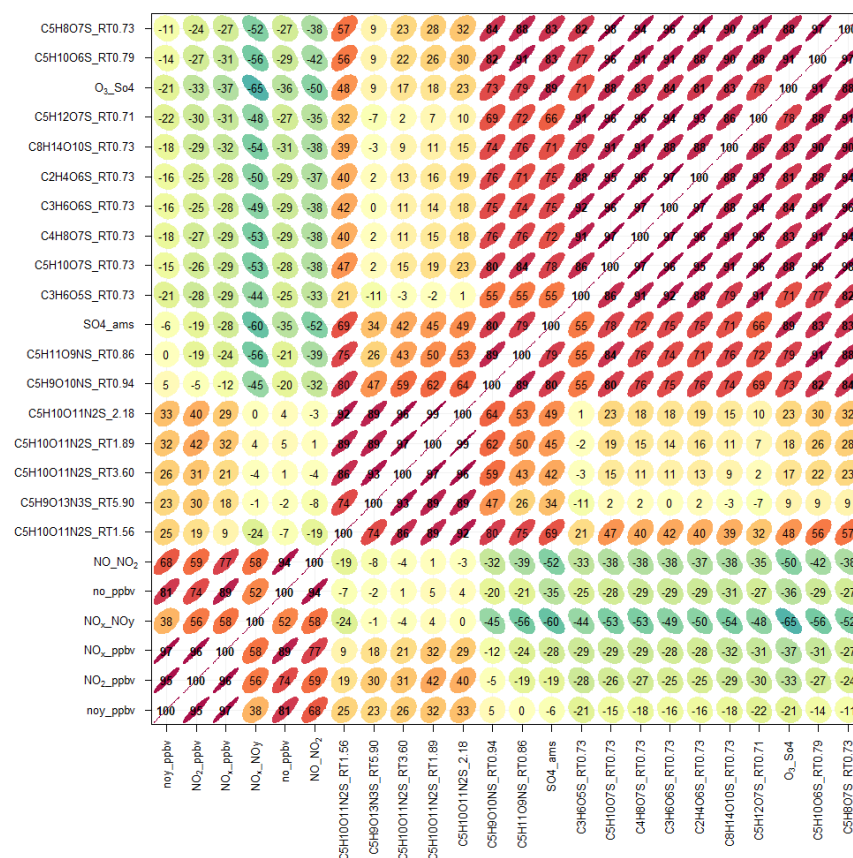


345 16) P10L394: The reader has to believe the authors that the three-hourly data are consistent with the hourly samples. No evidence is shown for this assertion.

350 Both figures 2 (now 3) and S10 (now 8) show the diurnal variation of 2-MT-OS and 2-MG-OS respectively during the hourly sampling and shows that the 1 hourly is consistent with the 3 hourly data. The hourly filters were taken during the highest pollution event, and so is expected to show higher concentrations.

355 17) P10L398–P11L413: It would be helpful for the reader to see all the data discussed in this section in one figure. Furthermore, it would be much more convincing to see correlation plots instead of time series (also in other parts of the manuscript).

A Corplot has now been added to the main manuscript to highlight the correlations between all known iSOA species and anthropogenic pollutants. This clearly shows the high correlation of different types of iSOA with each other, with the daytime peaking OS in the top right and the NOS towards the middle of the plot. The gas phase tracers are in the bottom corner. This plot also includes both [SO₄2-] and [O₃][SO₄2-] and the higher correlations with the latter can be seen.



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Figure 5. Corplot (Openair) highlighting the correlations between known iSOA tracers and anthropogenic pollutants. The number represents the R correlation between the two species. With redder more elongated circles highlighting a higher correlation.

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18) Fig S7 / P11L416: It is obvious that especially OSs with similar retention times (i.e., 0.71–0.73 min) strongly correlate with each other. This is a strong indication that ionization artifacts produce these species (e.g., fragments, adducts, complexes, etc.), as they are all ionized at the same time in the ESI source. The authors should discuss and clearly state this in the manuscript.

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19) P11L421: Any references which support this hypothesis? This sort of correlation has not been seen previously as far as we are aware and so no reference can be included.

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20) Fig. S8: The figure has a bad quality and typos in the title. Moreover, the caption is not sufficient to understand the content of the figure.

We agree that the labels on the plot have gone wrong during the conversion to pdf. This has been rectified. We have added additional text to the caption.

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New figure caption: “**Figure S7:** Extracted ion chromatograms (m/z 215.0) using hydrophobic interaction liquid chromatography (HILIC) of 2-methyltetrol OS (2-MT-OS) isomers, highlighting improved separation of isomers using this technique. Upper: Extract of filter collected on the 28/05/2017 between 11:33 and 14:23. Lower: 10 ppm 2-MT-OS standard (Cui et al., 2018).”

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21) P11L445: Do the authors mean regional background sites? (also at P12L450)

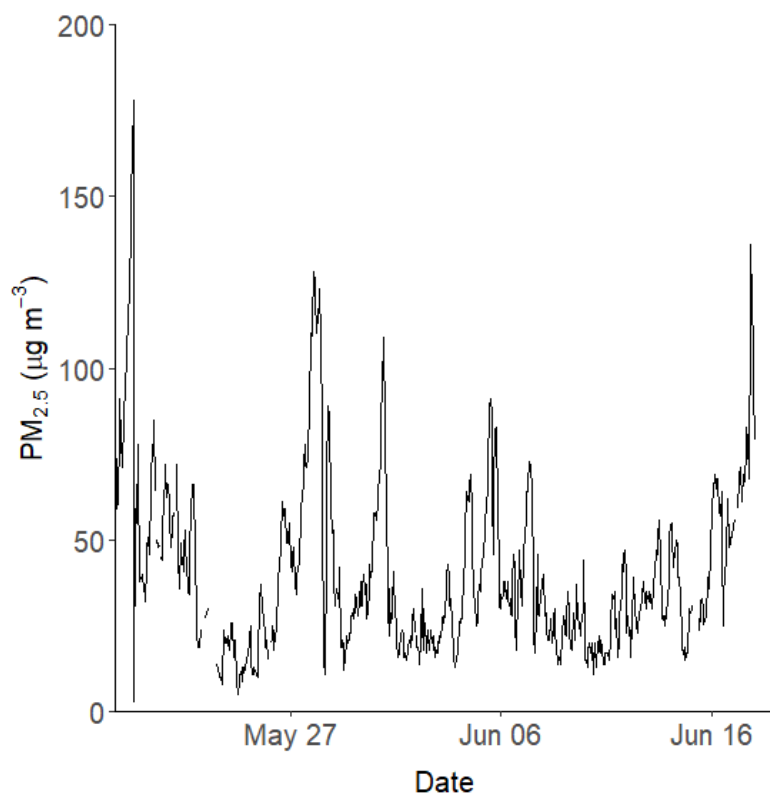
390 This has been addressed.
Text added: "background"

22) Fig. S10 / P12L463: Why is the Figure in the SI? It is an essential part of your data.
Any hypothesis why the concentrations are higher at night?
Moved into the main paper. We are not sure what the second part of this comment refers to?

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23) Fig. 6: It would be beneficial to see a comparison to total PM or OM mass concentrations in the figure.
We have added PM_{2.5} into an upper panel on figure 6 for comparison.

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410 24) P13L526: There are no corresponding data shown to this discussion.
A table (Table 3) has been added to show the min, max and mean concentrations of the CHO species measured via GC-MS. The following has been added:

415 "Table 3. Isoprene CHO tracer concentrations measured via GC-MS using 24 hour samples between 22/05/2017 and 22/06/2017. 2-MTs is equal to the sum of 2-methylthreitol and 2-methylerythritol and the C5-alkene triols is equal to the sum of cis-2-methyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene, 3-methyl-2,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene and trans-2-methyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene."

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Isoprene Tracer	Min (ng m ⁻³)	Max (ng m ⁻³)	Average (ng m ⁻³)
2-MTs	4.55	52.67	17.29
MG	1.38	15.53	7.24
C ₅ -alkene triols	0.23	1.08	0.51

25) P14L546: So far, there was no clear discussion of NO_x levels and how they affect iSOA formation in Beijing.

425 [This has been addressed by the response to comment 2.](#)

Technical comments:

430 1) P5L184: What is “UPLC-MS2”? I think this term is very misleading here. If I understood the methods section correctly, the authors use full scan data for the quantification of the target analytes.

[We do indeed use full scan for the quantification but we also use the MS2 to check that the species fragment to give typical OS fragment ions. This has been added to the text.](#)

435 [Following text was added:](#)

[“It should be noted that MS² was used to check that the iSOA species fragmented to give typical OS fragment ions.”](#)

440 2) P9L341: The wording “high throughput screening” is quite exaggerated. The method described here is more like a standard data processing method of LC-MS data.

[The high throughput represents the analysis time, which at 16 min is shorter than previous methods. By building the library of dedicated iSOA species, we have also significantly reduced the analysis time.](#)

445 3) P9L355: I do not understand what the sentence “50 μ L of filter sample extract and : :” should tell the reader here.

[In the pdf version we downloaded this sentence says 50 MICRO\(\$\mu\$ \) L](#)

4) P9L367: Use the notation “Table S1 and S2” to avoid confusion

[This has now been changed.](#)

450 5) P10L389: I do not understand what this sentence should tell us here. Is this an important comparison to AMS data?

[This information shows that under these conditions the AMS cannot replicate the type of isoprene PMF factors analysis that can be done in more isoprene dominated regions.](#)

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6) P14L540: Instead of “heterogeneous products”, better use “products from heterogeneous reactions”.

[This has now been changed.](#)

Reviewer 2

460 The paper by Bryant et al. entitled as ‘Strong anthropogenic control of secondary organic aerosol formation from isoprene in Beijing’ shows the observational data for isoprene-derived organic aerosol (iSOA), especially focusing on organosulfate. Although observational data of iSOA in Beijing itself might be unique, the reviewer believes that the manuscript needs to be re-structured and more carefully prepared to meet the publication criteria for ACP. Discussion of the data could have been deeper and

465 more convincing if the authors have analyzed the data in more detail and carefully. There were numerous errors in the reference list. Some technical descriptions were not clear. I can understand that the authors have put significant effort to obtain this dataset. So, the manuscript should have been prepared more carefully.

470 We thank the reviewer for their helpful comments and suggestions. However, we do not understand why they think it does not meet “ACP criteria”? We feel the paper has been written carefully and we have added clarification to the points below. When large scale field experiments are carried out, there are often numerous groups concentrating their publications on specific areas. Here we are interested in the isoprene SOA and feel that an extensive discussion of the gas phase data is not needed and can be found in Shi et al., 2019 and other subsequent research papers. However, we have added a small section to draw out the main conclusions from the auxiliary data as shown in reviewer 1 comment 2 and the new section 3.2

475 We could only find a few errors and one duplication in the reference list and these have been addressed.

Major comments

480 Major comments Figures 3 and S1. L331 ‘OH chemistry is still an important loss route at night (>30 %) owing to night-time OH sources, such as the ozonolysis of alkenes.’ The authors estimated that the contribution of OH radicals on the loss process of isoprene is more than 50% even during nighttime, as the concentration of OH radical is close to 2×10^6 molecules cm^{-3} even at around the midnight.

485 However, this concentration seems to be higher than OH concentrations in other urban areas during nighttime (Kanaya et al., 2007; Heard et al., 2004). Although I am not familiar with other recent field campaigns for OH radicals in Beijing, a recent modeling result also indicated that OH radical concentration in Beijing should be orders of magnitudes lower

490 than what the authors have reported (Tan et al., 2019). If the night-time OH sources in Beijing is so important for isoprene oxidation chemistry, the potential sources need to be discussed in more detail by employing observation data or by appropriately citing necessary publications.

495 Actually, significant OH concentrations have been seen at night for field campaigns performed in both the Beijing and Pearl River Delta areas in China. In Lu et al. (ACP 2014) OH concentrations of up to 3×10^6 at night (higher than those reported for our work at night) were observed and there is a modelling study of two campaigns in that paper which discusses radical sources at night, and it was proposed that these levels can be reconciled if the model includes an additional ROx production process. A further discussion of night-time chemistry is out of scope of the current paper, there are other papers in preparation which will discuss night-time radical chemistry in more detail. We have added Lu et al. as a reference to potential sources of OH and other radicals at night in this type of environment in China.”
500 Lu, K. D., Rohrer, F., Holland, F., Fuchs, H., Brauers, T., Oebel, A., Dlugi, R., Hu, M., Li, X., Lou, S. R., Shao, M., Zhu, T., Wahner, A., Zhang, Y. H., and Hofzumahaus, A.: Nighttime observation and chemistry of HOx in the Pearl River Delta and Beijing in summer 2006, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 14, 4979–4999, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-14-4979-2014>, 2014.

505 L421 ‘The correlation of [O3] [pSO4]’/Figure 5 It seems to me that the authors have assumed that the formation of organosulfate is approximated by the second order reaction with a constant reaction rate. However, it is a multiphase chemistry. In addition, the importance of particle phase acidity and phase are known to influence the rate of such chemical reactions. So, I am not sure if it is a good idea to assume that the

510 rate constant is a fixed value. Figure 4 indicates that the concentrations of all the organosulfates are high during pollution episodes. Although the authors did not provide time-series data for sulfate concentration, I speculate that it must have also been high during these time periods. Considering that the ozone concentration was less

515 variable than particle phase species (Figure 1), I suspect that the correlation shown in Figure 5 is dominantly driven by accumulation of particle phase species (i.e., sulfate and organosulfate) during pollution episodes, although there must have also been insitu production of these species. The discussion will need to be thoroughly revised, including reconsideration of the metric.

520 We disagree with the reviewers comments here. The correlation between the OS and particulate sulfate is weaker than the correlation with [O3][SO4] as shown in figure S10 (now the new Figure 5). We are not suggesting there is a direct reaction with a fixed rate constant under all conditions, but at this location ozone is acting as a proxy of the photochemical oxidation of isoprene, leading to the precursors of the OS. Therefore their formation rates are dependent on the production of isoprene

525 oxidation products and the particle phase reaction(s) with sulfate. This relationship may not hold at longer photochemical lifetimes and under different conditions.

Other comments L300 'OH, HO₂ and RO₂ concentrations were measured using Fluorescence Assay by Gas Expansion (FAGE) and NO₃ concentrations were measured using Broadband cavity enhanced absorption spectrometry (Zhou et al., 2018).' I checked Zhou et al. (2018); however, I was unable to find the corresponding information (maybe, I missed)?

This has been addressed. Cited Whalley et al., 2010.

535 L321 'There was strong a correlation between the isoprene mixing ratio measured at 8 m by the DC-GC and at 102 m using the SIFT-MS (R₂ = 0.77). The SIFT-MS measurements were therefore used to investigate the correlation with iSOA tracers when no DC-GC data was available.' Being correlated does not mean that they are quantitatively the same. Further detailed descriptions would be needed.

540 There was an offset in concentration between the isoprene measured at the ground and at 100 m reflecting the loss rate of isoprene during transport from surface emissions. We originally included this information and felt it was not needed. However, we have added it back in to address the reviewers comment.

545 Following text has been added:

L348 "The slope of the linear fit between the two data sets was 0.67, indicating a loss of around 30% of the isoprene during transport from the ground to the tower(100m)."

550 Section 3.3 The reviewer believes that the content is more suitable for the experimental section.

We thank the reviewer for their suggestion. However, we believe that section 3.3 should remain as part of the main text due to identifying the matrix effects as a key result of this study.

555 L402: 'Zero-dimensional box modelling indicates on some days up to 35 % of the isoprene-derived RO₂ radicals can react with HO₂ in the afternoon (Newland et al., 2019).' As Newland et al. (2019) has not been published yet, I am unable to evaluate the validity of this description.

560 Newland et al., 2019 has now been published in ACPD. <https://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/acp-2020-35/>

Acknowledgement It seems that at least one of the authors is also included in the acknowledgement.

565 Removed Yele Sun from Acknowledgements

References There are numerous errors. For example, names of some authors are duplicated. Information about issues/page numbers are unavailable for some references.

570 Abbreviations for some journals are not following the standard style. Titles of some papers are missing. Some references are appearing twice (i.e., duplicate). The authors will need to carefully check the reference list again.

These have been addressed.

575 Figure 1 It seems that all the data points are connected by line, even if some data are missing. I suggest to change it so that the readers can tell for which time period the data is/is not available.

Addressed in previous comment to reviewer 1 and now in the new version of Figure 1.

580 Figure 3 (caption) What is the unit for the reaction rate constants?

Text added: "cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹"

Reviewer 3

Comments:

585 In this work, the authors have quantified a number of organic tracers, primarily organosulfates or nitroxyorganosulfates in order to better the contribution of isoprene derived secondary organic aerosol (iSOA) to organic aerosol carbon in the atmosphere. They found that iSOA formation in urban Beijing is strongly controlled by anthropogenic emissions. This work provides new valuable field data to better understand
590 the sources of ambient aerosols in an urban polluted environment. I support the publication of this work in ACP and have some comments for the authors' consideration.

Comments Line 43, "The coelution of the inorganic ions in the extracts caused matrix effects that impacted two authentic standards differently." This is a very good finding. However, the authors do not further elaborate this point here. What is the potential significance of matrix effects on the
595 quantification of the species in this work?

This has been addressed in response to reviewer one, comment 4.

600 Line 51, "These results indicate for the first time that iSOA formation in urban Beijing is strongly controlled by anthropogenic emissions and results in extensive conversion to heterogeneous OS products". Could the authors further elaborate the correlation between the formation of iSOA controlled by the emissions of anthropogenic pollutants and formation of OSs in a more quantitative way? How significance or any numbers
605 based on their field observations and data?

We have addressed this in our response to reviewer 1, comment 1.

Line 336, "This indicates that there are significant local emissions of isoprene impacting the measurement site and therefore a high potential for the formation of iSOA in this urban environment."
610 Could the authors further comment whether the sampling site be a representative site for the typical urban environment in most parts of Beijing? Could the observations and results presented in this work largely reflect the title of this paper
"Strong anthropogenic control of secondary organic aerosol formation from isoprene in Beijing"?

615 The site which was located between the fourth and third north ring roads of Beijing is a largely residential area which is typical of Beijing as described in Shi et al. As such, this study is thought to be representative of Beijing as a whole. Beijing has a very high proportion of green space (55%) indicating there is significant coverage of land with plants which could emit isoprene.

620 Line 342, "The full list of iSOA tracers, along with their measured m/z and molecular formula is shown in Table 1, ordered by descending average concentration (weighted by filter sampling time and reported in ng m⁻³) during the campaign" What are the uncertainties of the reported concentrations? Please present the uncertainties.

625 The estimated uncertainties were discussed in section 3.4 as 60 %, accounting for the use of the matrix correction factors.

630 Line 360, "A strong matrix effect was observed for the 2-MT-OS, with the concentration measured by standard addition calibration 8.6 to 10 times higher than when using the external calibration carried out on the same day." This is an important finding. Why? Could the authors explain these results?

635 The extracted samples are a complex mixture of different compounds, including a high proportion of inorganic ions that are extracted into water. This is likely to change the surface tension of the droplet produced in the source and the ion distribution. Further work is needed to fully understand the reasons. The following text has been added:

640 "The matrix effects identified in this study are likely due to the extracted samples being a complex mixture of different compounds, including a high proportion of inorganic ions that are extracted into water. This is likely to change the surface tension of the droplet produced in the ionisation source and the ion distribution. Further work is needed to fully understand the reasons."

Line 404, “Zero-dimensional box modelling indicates on some days up to 35 % of the isoprene-derived RO₂ radicals can react with HO₂ in the afternoon (Newland et al., 2019).” Please kindly note that this paper is under review or has been accepted for publication.

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Newland et al., 2019 has now been published in ACPD. <https://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/acp-2020-35/>

Line 425, “Therefore, these spikes in 2-MT-OS could be a result of either higher 2-MTOS in regional aerosol transported to the site or a high isoprene emission source to the south west of the site (i.e. producing IEPOX locally) that then reacts with increased regional sulfate pollution.” Any field evidences or model predictions show that the IEPOX can be effectively produced locally? What are the contributions from the regional transport? The effects of anthropogenic emission on iSOA formation observed in this work are local, regional or a combination of both effects.

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We have added a sentence to clarify that the influence of anthropogenic pollutants on iSOA is occurring at both the local and regional level.

The following text has been added: “. The I-CIMS data shows that the IEPOX/ISOPROOH (Figure S5 and Newland et al., 2020) signal increases during the afternoon as the NO levels drop to below 1 ppb. The low NO levels mean that up to 30 % of the isoprene peroxy radical from OH oxidation can react with HO₂ rather than NO at this site, meaning IEPOX can be formed locally (Newland et al., 2020). There is also likely to be a regional source of IEPOX and 2-MT-OS, suggesting both local and regional anthropogenic influences.”

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Line 450, “The ratio of 2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS observed in Beijing is compared to previous studies in Table 2 and is considerably lower than measurements taken in a range of isoprene dominated environments (South East US, 2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS = 17, Budisulistiorini et al., 2015.; Amazon, 2-MTOS:2-MG-OS = 13-118, Glasius et al., (2018).; Atlanta, 2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS = 33, Hettiyadura et al., (2019)) reflecting the strong impact of urban NO emission on iSOA formation.” I agree with this argument. However, how could we use this ratio to quantify the effect of NO emission on iSOA formation or OS formation in different regions?

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We like the reviewers suggestion of using this kind of data as a metric for understanding the formation pathways in different environments. However, at present there is not enough information available for the ratio of these species in urban or suburban areas to develop this metric. This has been added as a suggestion for future work.

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The following text was added: “Future work will investigate how to use these ratios to quantify the effect of NO emission on iSOA formation in different regions.”

Line 505, “Some of the NOS observed peaked in the daytime and some were enhanced at night. In total they had a mean concentration of 24 ng m⁻³ during the campaign. The sources and formation of these species will be discussed in a separate publication.” I am okay with this. However, could the authors briefly elaborate how the detection of NOS help to better understand the effect of anthropogenic emission on the iSOA

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formation in this work?

Thank you for your comment. We have added:

“NOS species are formed via the heterogenous uptake of isoprene nitrates (IN) into the particle phase. Nitrate radicals play a key role in the formation of IN, with nitrate radicals forming from reaction of NO₂ with O₃, both key anthropogenic pollutants. Therefore, emissions of NO_x and formation of particulate sulfate will enhance the production of isoprene NOS species.”

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Strong anthropogenic control of secondary organic aerosol formation from isoprene in Beijing

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Abstract: Isoprene-derived secondary organic aerosol (iSOA) is a significant contributor to organic carbon (OC) in some forested regions, such as tropical rainforests and the Southeast US. However, its contribution to organic aerosol in urban areas, with high levels of anthropogenic pollutants, is poorly understood. In this study we examined the formation of anthropogenic-influenced iSOA during summer in Beijing, China. Local isoprene emissions and high levels of anthropogenic pollutants, in particular

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NO_x and particulate SO₄²⁻, led to the formation of iSOA under both high- and low-NO oxidation conditions, with significant heterogeneous transformations of isoprene-derived oxidation products to particulate organosulfates (OSs) and nitrooxy-organosulfates (NOSs). Ultra-pressure liquid chromatography coupled to high-resolution mass spectrometry was combined with a rapid automated data processing technique to quantify 31 proposed iSOA tracers in offline PM_{2.5} filter extracts. The co-

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elution of the inorganic ions in the extracts caused matrix effects that impacted two authentic standards differently. The average concentration of iSOA OSs and NOSs was 82.5 ng m⁻³, around three times higher than the observed concentrations of their oxygenated precursors (2-methyltetrols and 2-methylglyceric acid). OS formation was dependant on both photochemistry and sulfate available for

750 reactive uptake as shown by a strong correlation with the product of ozone (O_3) and particulate sulfate
(SO_4^{2-}). A greater proportion of high-NO OS products were observed in Beijing compared to previous
studies in less polluted environments. The iSOA derived OSs and NOSs represented on average 0.62 %
of the oxidised organic aerosol measured by aerosol mass spectrometry, but this increased to ~3 % on
755 certain days. These results indicate for the first time that iSOA formation in urban Beijing is strongly
controlled by anthropogenic emissions and results in extensive conversion to OS products from
heterogenous reactions.

1 Introduction

Rapidly developing countries such as China often experience very poor air quality. Beijing regularly
experiences periods of very high particle pollution, with annual and 24-hourly levels well above World
760 Health Organisation guidelines (Chan et al., 2008; Hu et al., 2014). Premature mortality, as a result of
respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease and cancer, has been associated with exposure to poor air
quality (Dockery et al., 1993; Pope et al., 2000, 2006; Jerrett et al., 2009; Beelen et al., 2014; Laurent et
al., 2014; Ostro et al., 2015). Lelieveld et al. (2015) estimated that 1.36 million premature deaths in
China in 2010 were a result of exposure to outdoor air pollution. By far the most dangerous pollutant to
765 health in China are particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter, known as $PM_{2.5}$, with a recent study
suggesting that a 50 % reduction in excess mortality requires a 62 % reduction in $PM_{2.5}$ in the Beijing-
Tianjin-Hebei (BTH) region (Hu et al., 2017a).

Previous measurements using aerosol mass spectrometry (AMS) indicate that PM_{10} in Beijing is mainly
770 composed of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium and organics (Hu et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2013). Positive
Matrix Factorisation of AMS measurements indicate that oxidised or secondary organic aerosol (SOA)
can make up a substantial fraction of the PM_{10} mass (> 25 %), even in urban areas, but the sources of this
material are still poorly understood (Zhang et al., 2011; Sun et al., 2018). Hu et al. (2017a) estimated that
exposure to SOA was responsible for 0.14 million deaths in China in 2013 based on mass contribution
775 alone, ranging from < 1 % to 23 % source contributions to $PM_{2.5}$ depending on location. Zhang et al.
(2017) used ^{14}C measurements to determine that non-fossil emissions are generally a dominant
contributor of secondary organic carbon (SOC) in Beijing, with a larger contribution in summer as a
result of increased biogenic volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emissions.

780 Hu et al. (2017b) updated the Community Multi-scale Air Quality (CMAQ) model with updated SOA
yields and a more detailed description of SOA formation from isoprene oxidation. Removing all
anthropogenic pollutants from the model resulted in a huge drop in isoprene SOA concentrations,
indicating that controlling anthropogenic emissions would result in reduction of both anthropogenic and
biogenic SOA. The predicted SOA was dominated by isoprene in summer across China and in four cities
785 (Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Chengdu) with concentrations up to $30 \mu g m^{-3}$ in Beijing. However,
there is currently very little observational evidence to support such high SOA mass concentrations from
isoprene oxidation in these Chinese cities. The widely used SOA tracer method (Kleindienst et al., 2007)
has been used extensively to estimate the fraction of isoprene-derived SOA (iSOA) across China. Ding

790 et al. (2014) studied SOA at 14 Chinese sites and found that iSOA dominated the apportioned SOA mass
(46 ± 14 %), with it contributing between $0.4 - 2.17 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and an average of $1.59 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in Beijing.
However, only a very limited subset of VOC precursors was included, and this method fails to account
for heterogeneous formation processes. To overcome some of these limitations, Wang et al. (2017) used
tracer-based source apportionment of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ with positive matrix factorisation in the Pearl River Delta
region during summer. They identified an iSOA factor that contributed up to $4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in Guangzhou, and
795 up to 11 % of the total SOC.

A multitude of studies have examined iSOA formation (Pandis et al., 1991; Edney et al., 2005; Kroll et
al., 2006; Dommen et al., 2006; Kleindienst et al., 2006; Ng et al., 2006; Surratt et al., 2007a, 2007b,
2008, 2010; Ng et al., 2008; Paulot et al., 2009; Chan et al., 2010; Chhabra et al., 2010; Nguyen et al.,
800 2011, 2014, 2015; Zhang et al., 2011, 2012; Lin et al., 2013; Xu et al., 2014; Krechmer et al., 2015; Clark
et al., 2016; Riva et al., 2016a, 2016b); however, the magnitude of iSOA formed can be vastly different
from study to study (Carlton et al., 2009). Furthermore, there have been limited field measurements to
establish if these estimates are representative of urban environments (Wang et al., 2018; Li et al., 2018;
Glasius et al., 2018; Le Breton et al., 2018; Hettiyadura et al., 2018,2019; Rattanavaraha et al., 2016;
805 Budisulistiorini et al., 2013).

iSOA formation during the daytime is dominated by reaction with hydroxyl radicals (OH), with the
concentrations of NO having a strong influence on the reaction products (Wennberg et al., 2018 and
references therein). Under low-NO conditions the isoprene peroxyradicals (RO_2) can react with
810 hydroperoxy radicals (HO_2) to form isoprene hydroxyhydroperoxides (ISOPPOOH). The ISOPPOOH
isomers can react further with OH to form isoprene epoxydiol isomers (β - or δ -IEPOX) (Paulot et al.,
2009), which can undergo uptake into acidified sulfate particles to form 2-methyltetrol organosulfates
(2-MT-OS) (Surratt et al., 2010. Lin et al., 2012). Under high-NO conditions, isoprene RO_2 can react
with NO to form alkoxy radicals (RO) producing methacrolein (MACR) and methyl vinyl ketone (MVK)
815 as the main reaction products. The reaction of MACR with OH, and subsequent addition of NO_2 , leads
to the methylacroylperoxynitrate (MPAN), which reacts with OH to produce hydroxymethylmethyl- α -
lactone (HMML) (Nguyen et al., 2015) or methacrylic epoxide (MAE) (Lin et al., 2013). HMML is
thought to be the more abundant product compared to MAE (Nguyen et al., 2015). Subsequent uptake of
HMML into wet sulfate aerosols is proposed to lead to either 2-methylglyceric acid (2-MG) or its
820 organosulfate derivative (2-MG-OS), as well as their dimers and higher order oligomers (Surratt et al.,
2006; Surratt et al., 2010; Lin et al., 2013; Nguyen et al., 2015). Recently Schwantes et al. (2019) showed
that under ambient conditions the formation of SOA from low-volatility nitrates and dinitrates, formed
via reactions of isoprene derived RO_2 with NO, is also important. Chamber-derived SOA yields for OH
chemistry are variable depending on the experimental conditions, but are generally low (<10 %). The
825 addition of acidified sulfate aerosol, accounting for wall losses and using more atmospherically relevant
radical lifetimes can lead to significantly higher SOA yields in chamber studies (Surratt et al., 2010; Lin
et al. 2012; Gaston et al., 2014). However, recent work has revealed that isoprene SOA formation can be
suppressed when viscous organic coatings are present on acidified sulfate aerosol, impeding the

830 multiphase chemistry of IEPOX yielding additional SOA (Riva et al., 2016b; Zhang et al., 2018; Riva et al., 2019).

835 Observations using aerosol mass spectrometry (AMS) indicate that IEPOX-derived SOA can make up a significant fraction of organic aerosol in isoprene-rich environments, such as Borneo (23 %; Robinson et al., 2011), the Amazon (34 %; Chen et al., 2015) and the South East US (33-40 %; Budisulistiorini et al., 2013; Budisulistiorini et al., 2016; Rattanvaraha et al., 2017). Hu et al. (2015) compared previous
840 AMS studies and found a magnitude lower average IEPOX-SOA signal in urban studies ($f_{C_{5H_{6O}}} = 0.17\%$) compared to those in isoprene-rich regions ($f_{C_{5H_{6O}}} = 2.2\%$). The average IEPOX-SOA concentration measured in Nanjing, a polluted city in Eastern China, in August 2013 was $0.33 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ (Zhang et al., 2017). This represented only 3.8 % of the total OA, indicating there is limited formation of IEPOX under
845 high- NO_x conditions (average $\text{NO}_x = 21 \text{ ppb}$). He et al. (2018) found higher concentrations of the low- NO isoprene SOA tracers (average = 121 ng m^{-3}) than the high- NO iSOA tracers (average = 9 ng m^{-3}) at a regional background site (Wanqingsha) situated within the heavily polluted Pearl River Delta Region. Only two high- NO iSOA tracers were measured (2-MG and 2-MG-OS), which could lead to a significant underestimate of the strength of the high NO_x pathway. Wang et al. (2018) measured a range of OSs at
850 a regional site 38 km north east of Beijing during May-June 2016. Isoprene-derived OSs ranged from $0.9\text{-}20 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$, with a mean isoprene-derived OS concentration of 14.8 ng m^{-3} . In both these studies, the ratio of the average concentration of the commonly used OS tracers from the low NO versus the high NO pathways was close to 1.5 (2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS; Beijing = 1.47, Wanqingsha = 1.57) indicating that even in polluted environments low- NO oxidation chemistry can play a significant role in iSOA formation.

855 SOA formed from anthropogenic and other biogenic (monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes) sources have also been studied. Thousands of organic species including hundreds of OS and nitroxy OS (NOS) species have been identified studies from a range of precursors using UPLC/ESI-HR-MS from ambient aerosol samples (Wang et al., 2016, Wang et al., 2017). Brüggemann et al. (2019) quantified with authentic standards both monoterpene OS (MT-OS) and sesquiterpene OS (SQT-OS) species in Melpitz, Germany and Wangdu, China. They found median daytime concentrations for Melpitz and Wangdu for 52 MT-OS species of 12.15 ng m^{-3} and 38.19 ng m^{-3} respectively. For the 5 SQT-OS species, median concentrations were 0.3 ng m^{-3} and 3.90 ng m^{-3} for daytime concentrations respectively, much lower than
860 the iSOA OS species quantified in this study. Riva et al. (2016) identified OS species from the photo-oxidation of $\text{C}_{10} - \text{C}_{12}$ alkanes, which were then characterised in ambient aerosol samples collected in Lahore, Pakistan and Pasadena, CA, USA. High concentrations of OS species were identified in Lahore, with the largest observed concentration arising from a cycodecane OS species ($\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_7\text{S}$) with a concentration of 35.93 ng m^{-3} .

865 The lack of molecular-level measurements of iSOA in highly polluted urban areas makes it difficult to determine the role of isoprene in summer haze episodes in Beijing. To investigate the formation of iSOA in Beijing, offline $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ filter samples were collected during summer 2017 as part of the Atmospheric

870 Pollution and Human Health program (Shi et al., 2019). The filters were extracted and then screened
using a sensitive and selective high throughput method based on ultra-performance liquid
chromatography coupled to ultra-high-resolution mass spectrometry equipped with electrospray
ionization (UPLC/ESI-HR-MS). High-time resolution filter sampling allowed the formation and
evolution of iSOA to be studied, with observed concentrations strongly controlled by levels of
anthropogenic pollutants.

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2 Experimental

2.1 PM_{2.5} filter sampling and extraction

880 Aerosol samples were collected between the 18th May and 24th June 2017 at the Institute of Atmospheric
Physics (IAP) in Beijing, China. This sampling was part of the Sources and Emissions of Air Pollutants
in Beijing (AIRPOLL-Beijing) project, as part of the wider Atmospheric Pollution and Human Health in
a Chinese Megacity (APHH-Beijing) programme (Shi et al., 2019). PM_{2.5} filter samples were collected
using an ECOTECH HiVol 3000 (Ecotech, Australia) high-volume air sampler with a selective PM_{2.5}
inlet, with a flow rate of 1.33 m³ min⁻¹. Filters were baked at 500 °C for five hours before use. After
collection, samples were wrapped in foil, and then stored at -20 °C and shipped to the laboratory for
885 offline analysis. Samples were collected at a height of 8 m, on top of a building in the IAP complex.
Samples were collected every 3 hours during the day, approximately between 08:30 and 17:30 and then
one sample was collected overnight between 17:30 and 08:30. Hourly samples were also taken on certain
days towards the end of the sampling period on high pollution days. 24-hour samples were also collected
using a Digital high volume PM_{2.5} sampler at the same location.

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The extraction of the organic aerosol from the filter samples was based on the method in Hamilton et al.,
(2008). Initially, an 8th of the filter was cut up into roughly 1 cm² pieces and stored in a vial. 4 ml of LC-
MS grade H₂O was then added to the sample and left for two hours. The samples were then sonicated for
30 minutes. A small subset (3) of the filter samples were also extracted via orbital shaker and no
895 appreciable difference was found in the concentrations of the iSOA tracers compared to sonication. Using
a 2 ml syringe, the water extract is then pushed through a 0.22 µm filter (Millipore) into another sample
vial. An additional 1 mL of water was added to the filter sample, then extracted through the filter, to give
a combined aqueous extract. This extract was then reduced to dryness using a vacuum solvent evaporator
(Biotage, Sweden). The dry sample was then reconstituted in 1 mL 50:50 MeOH:H₂O solution for offline
900 chemical analysis.

2.2 Ultra-performance liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (UPLC-MS²)

~~The extracted filter samples and standards were analysed~~ The water-soluble fraction of the filter samples
were analysed using ~~UPLC-MS²~~ UPLC-full scan-ddMS², using an Ultimate 3000 UPLC (Thermo
905 Scientific, USA) coupled to a Q-Exactive Orbitrap MS (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) with a heated
electrospray ionisation (HESI). The UPLC method uses a reverse phase 5 µm, 4.6 x 100mm, Accucore
column (Thermo Scientific, UK) held at 40 °C. The mobile phase consists of LC-MS grade water and
100 % MeOH (Fisher Chemical, USA). The water was acidified using 0.1 % formic acid to improve peak

910 resolution. The injection volume was 2 μL . The solvent gradient was held for a minute at 90:10
915 $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{MeOH}$, then changed linearly to 10:90 $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{MeOH}$ over 9 minutes, then held for 2 minutes at this
920 gradient before returning to 90:10 $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{MeOH}$ over 2 minutes and then held at 90:10 for the remaining
925 2 minutes, with a flow rate of $300 \mu\text{L min}^{-1}$. Due to the wide range of compounds studied, poor retention
was observed for some species ($\text{RT} < 0.8\text{min}$). These species closely eluted to the dead time of the
column where inorganic sulfate ions eluted (0.67 min). To check for ionisation artefacts, a aqueous
solution containing 20 ppm ammonium sulfate, 1ppm 2-methytetrol and 1ppm 2-methylglyceric acid
was ran under the same conditions as the filter samples to check for organosulfate formation (2-MT-OS
and 2-MG-OS respectively). No MG-OS formation was observed and $<0.5\%$ conversion was seen for
the 2-MT. The mass spectrometer was operated in negative mode using full scan ddMS². The scan range
was set between 50 - 750 m/z, with a resolution of 70,000. The ESI voltage was 4 kV, with capillary and
auxiliary gas temperatures of 320 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. The number of most abundant precursors for MS² fragmentation
per scan was set to 10. The samples were run in batches of 70, in a repeating sequence of 5 samples
followed by one blank, each filter sample was run only once. The calibrations were run separately after
the samples were finished, in the following sequence; (3 X same concentration) X number of standards
in calibration curve from the lowest concentration to the highest followed by 2 blanks. The quantification
method will be discussed in the results section (3.3).

2.3 Construction of accurate mass library

930 A mass spectral library was built using the compound database function in TraceFinder 4.1 General Quan
software (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). Each compound was input into the compound library in the
935 generic form: $\text{C}_c\text{H}_h\text{O}_o\text{N}_n\text{S}_s$ (where c, h, o, n, and s represent the number of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen,
nitrogen and sulfur atoms respectively). From literature, species were identified, searched for in the
ambient samples according to their accurate mass, and then the retention time (RT) of each isomer was
obtained. Using previously observed iSOA products from literature, extracted ion chromatograms were
plotted for each m/z value from a small subset of ambient samples and the retention time (RT) of observed
940 species/isomer were obtained. For most of the OS species in this study the separation was not good
enough to see individual isomers and only one peak was observed, which was added to the library. For
the NOS species, individual isomers could be resolved, and each isomer was added to the library based
on its retention time. The accurate masses, RT and literature references for iSOA tracers are shown in
Table 4.2.

2.4 Automated method for SOA tracer analysis

945 The UPLC/ESI-HR-MS data for each ambient sample and standard was analysed using TraceFinderTM.
Tracefinder extracted the OS/NOS tracer peak areas from each ambient sample chromatogram using the
library based on RT and accurate mass. The mass tolerance of the method was set to 2 ppm and the
retention time window was set to 30 s, although for species with multiple isomers present, the integration
was checked to make sure the same peaks were not being integrated twice, and the window changed
accordingly. The peak tailing factor was set to 2.0 to reduce the integration of the peak tails. The
minimum signal to noise (S/N) for a positive identification was set to 3.0. Using the output from

TraceFinder, an *in-house* R code script was developed to combine the identified species and peak areas with the correct filter sampling date/time midpoint and volume of air sampled. Calibration curves from the standards were then obtained (as discussed in section 3.3), and the intercept and gradient inputted to quantify the iSOA tracer concentrations in the extract. These quantified values were then converted to the mass on the whole filter and divided by the volume of air sampled for that filter sampling period and converted to units of ng m^{-3} . Higher time resolution data were averaged to the filter sampling times. It should be noted that MS^2 was used to check that the iSOA species fragmented to give typical OS fragment ions.

2.5 Hydrophilic Liquid Interaction Chromatography (HILIC).

A subset of filters (n=15) were also analysed at the University of North Carolina (UNC) using a newly developed HILIC method interfaced to high-resolution quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry equipped with ESI (i.e., HILIC/ESI-HR-QTOFMS) (Cui et al., 2018). Briefly, filters were extracted with 22 mL of LC/MS-grade methanol by 45 min of sonication; the samples were first extracted for 23 min, the water bath replaced with cool water, and then extracted again for 22 min. This was done to make sure the water bath contained within the sonicator did not reach above 30 C. Extracts were filtered through polypropylene membrane syringe filters in order to remove insoluble filter fibres and soot particles. The extracts were dried under a gentle stream of nitrogen gas. Dried methanol extracts were reconstituted with 150 μL of 95:5 (v/v) LC/MS-grade acetonitrile/Milli-Q water. Operating details of the HILIC/ESI-HR-QTOFMS used for these samples is also summarized by Cui et al. (2018).

2.6 Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometer

Details of the measurement procedure used can be found elsewhere (Fu et al., 2010). Briefly, filter samples were extracted with dichloromethane/methanol (2:1 v/v), filtered through quartz wool packed in a Pasteur pipette, concentrated using a rotary evaporator under vacuum, and blown down to dryness with pure nitrogen gas. The extracts were derivatized and diluted with n-hexane containing the internal standard prior to GC-MS analysis. Separation was performed on a fused silica capillary column (DB-5MS: 30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 μm). The MS detection was conducted in electron ionization (EI) mode at 70 eV, scanning from 50 to 650 Da. Individual compounds were identified by comparison of mass spectra with those of authentic standards or literature data. 2-methylglyceric acid, C_5 -alkene triols (the sum of *cis*-2-methyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene, *trans*-2-methyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene, and 3-methyl-2,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene), and 2-methyltetrols (the sum of 2-methylthreitol and 2-methylerythritol) were quantified using the response factor of *meso*-erythritol. Field blank filters were treated as the real samples for quality assurance. Target compounds were not detected in the blanks.

2.7 High-Resolution Aerosol Mass Spectrometry measurements

The size-resolved non-refractory submicron aerosol species at the same site were measured by an Aerodyne high-resolution time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS) at a time resolution of 5 min. The elemental ratios of hydrogen-to-carbon (H:C) and oxygen-to-carbon (O:C) of OA were determined, and the sources of OA were analysed with positive matrix factorisation. Six OA factors were

990 identified in summer including two primary factors; hydrocarbon like OA (HOA), cooking OA (COA),
and three oxidised OA factors with increasing degrees of oxidation, OOA1 (O:C = 0.53), OOA2 (O:C =
1000 0.74), OOA3 (O:C = 1.18).

2.8 Iodide CIMS

995 A time of flight chemical ionisation mass spectrometer (ToF-CIMS) (Lee et al. 2014; Priestley et al.
2018) using an iodide ionisation system coupled with a filter inlet for gases and aerosols (FIGAERO)
was deployed here to make near simultaneous, real-time measurements of both the gas- and particle-
phase chemical composition. The instrument was originally developed by Lopez-Hilfiker et al. (2014)
and is described and characterised in more detail by Bannan et al., (2019). The experimental set up
employed by the University of Manchester ToF-CIMS is described in Zhou et al., (2019). Only gas phase
1000 data is presented herein.

Field calibrations were regularly carried out using known concentration of formic acid in gas mixtures
made in a custom-made gas phase manifold. A range of other species were calibrated for after the
campaign, and relative calibration factors were derived using the measured formic acid sensitivity during
1005 the in-situ calibrations (Bannan et al. 2015). Offline calibrations after the field work campaign were
performed specific to the isoprene oxidation species observed here. IEPOX ($C_5H_{10}O_3$) synthesized by
the University of North Carolina, Department of Environmental Sciences & Engineering was specifically
calibrated for. Known concentrations were deposited on the FIGAERO filter in various amounts and
thermally desorbed using a known continuous flow of nitrogen over the filter. For the isoprene nitrate;
1010 $C_5H_9NO_4$ there was no direct calibration source available and concentrations using the calibration factor
of $C_5H_{10}O_3$ are presented here.

2.9 Gas-phase measurements

1015 Additional gas-phase measurements were collected at the site from an elevated inlet at 8 m. Data included
Nitrogen oxide, NO, measured by chemiluminescence with a Thermo Scientific Model 42i NO_x analyser
and Nitrogen dioxide, NO_2 , was measured using a Teledyne Model T500U Cavity Attenuated Phase Shift
(CAPS) spectrometer. The sum of the NO_y species was measured using a Thermo Scientific Model 42C
 NO_x analyser and a heated molybdenum converter at the sample inlet. The molybdenum converter
1020 reduces NO_y compounds to NO allowing measurement by chemiluminescence. Ozone, O_3 , was measured
using a Thermo Scientific Model 49i UV photometric analyser. All instruments were calibrated
throughout the measurement period, with a 'zero' or 'background' calibration using a Sofnofil/charcoal
trap. Span (high concentration) calibrations were carried out using gas standards. Both the Thermo
Scientific 42i and 42C instrument calibrations are traceable to the National Physical Laboratories (NPL)
1025 NO scale. The meteorological variables of wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity (RH), and
temperature were measured at 102 m on the IAP 325 m meteorological tower.

1030 Observations of VOCs were made using a dual-channel GC with flame ionisation detectors (DC-GC-FID). Air was sampled at 30 L min⁻¹ at a height of 5m, through a stainless-steel manifold (½" internal diameter). 500 mL subsamples were taken, dried using a glass condensation finger held at -40°C and then pre-concentrated using a Markes Unity2 pre-concentrator on a multi-bed Ozone Precursor adsorbent trap (Markes International Ltd). These samples were then transferred to the GC over for analysis following methods described by Hopkins et al. (2011).

1035 Further details of the following additional gas phase instrumentation can be found in the SI and Shi et al., 2019. Isoprene was also measured at a height of ~102 m using a Voice200 Selected ion flow tube mass spectrometer (SIFT-MS, Syft Technologies, Christchurch, New Zealand). OH, HO₂ and RO₂ concentrations were measured using Fluorescence Assay by Gas Expansion (FAGE) (Whalley et al., 2010) and NO₃ concentrations were measured using Broadband cavity enhanced absorption spectrometry (Le Breton et al., 2014). (~~Zhou et al., 2018~~)

3 Results and discussion

1045 The field campaign was conducted at the Institute of Physics, Beijing, situated between the third and fourth ring roads (Shi et al., 2019). The site is typical of central Beijing, surrounded by residential and commercial properties and is near several busy roads. It is also close to several green spaces including a tree-lined canal to the south and the Olympic forest park to the north-east, providing sources for local isoprene emissions.

3.1 Isoprene gas phase concentrations and loss processes

1050 Isoprene was measured hourly using the DC-GC-FID between 18/05/2017 – 20/06/2017 and the observed concentrations are shown in Figure 1, alongside NO, NO₂ and ozone. The mean mixing ratio of isoprene was 0.53 ppb, with a maximum of 2.9 ppb on the 16/06/2017. The ambient temperature ranged from 16 to 38 °C. Day-time isoprene mixing ratios increased with temperature, with all isoprene mixing ratios above 1 ppb occurring when the temperature was > 25 °C. The average diurnal profile of isoprene in Figure 23a shows low values overnight (< 50 ppt), with a rapid increase at 6 am reaching a maximum of around 1 ppb by the afternoon. The mixing ratio rapidly decreased after 18:00 and returned to very low values by around 22:00. There was strong a correlation between the isoprene mixing ratio measured at 8 m by the DC-GC and at 102 m using the SIFT-MS ($R^2 = 0.77$). The SIFT-MS measurements were therefore used to investigate the correlation with iSOA tracers when no DC-GC data was available. The slope of the linear fit between the two data sets was 0.67, indicating a loss of around 30% of the isoprene during transport from the ground to the tower (100m).

1060 Using the average observed diurnal profiles of the main atmospheric oxidants, OH, ozone and NO₃ (shown in SI Figure S1), and isoprene (Figure 23a), the isoprene loss rate was calculated (rate of loss = $k_{ox}[\text{Oxidant}][\text{Isoprene}]$) and is shown in Figure 34a. The IUPAC rate constants that were used in the calculation for NO₃, O₃ and OH were 7×10^{-13} , 1.27×10^{17} , 1×10^{10} cm³ molecule⁻¹ s⁻¹ respectively. The percentage contribution of each oxidant to the average diurnal isoprene loss rate is shown in Figure 34b. During the day, OH is responsible for over 90 % of isoprene loss, with NO₃ becoming relatively more

important from 18:00 until around 03:00, although the amount of isoprene available to react rapidly decreased during this time period. OH chemistry is still an important loss route at night (>30 %) owing to night-time OH sources, such as the ozonolysis of alkenes (Lu et al., 2014). Loss of isoprene via ozonolysis however is a minor route, contributing <15 %. During the daytime (10:00-15:00), the lifetime of isoprene was on average around 20 minutes, increasing to a maximum of around 6 hours at 03:00. While the high levels of oxidants lead to a short isoprene lifetime during the day, the ambient concentrations of isoprene are still maintained at the ppb level. This indicates that there are significant local emissions of isoprene impacting the measurement site and therefore a high potential for the formation of iSOA in this urban environment.

3.2 Anthropogenic tracers

A range of gas phase anthropogenic tracers were measured during the campaign as discussed in Shi et al., 2019. Figure 1 shows the time series of NO, NO₂, O₃ and particulate sulfate during the part of the campaign analysed in this study. Table 1 shows the average, maximum and minimum concentrations for these anthropogenic pollutants. NO mixing ratios ranged from less than 10.1 ppbv to 104 ppbv, and a mean concentration during the filter sampling period of 5.1 ppbv. The highest concentrations generally occurred in the morning 04:00-07:00 and steadily decreased during the day. On some days, the mixing ratio of NO was very low in the afternoon, as a result of reaction with ozone and other unknown sinks (Newland et al., 2020). The mean mixing ratio of NO₂ was 22.3 ppbv, much higher than NO, with a range of 3.7 to 95 ppbv. NO₂ peaked between 06:00-07:00 and decreased to a minima at 14:00 and then steady increased until about 20:00. High afternoon concentrations of O₃ (>80 ppb) were found on most days, with a maximum observed mixing ratio of 182 ppbv. Night time O₃ levels were much lower due to reduced photochemistry and reaction with NO, although on some nights O₃ levels were maintained above 40 ppbv, as shown in Figure 1. particulate sulfate concentrations, measured by AMS are also shown in figure 1. Sulfate ranged from 0.7 to 21.7 µg m⁻³, with an average of 5.5 µg m⁻³. The time series shows a number of periods of high sulfate concentrations and these generally matched periods of increased PM_{2.5} (see figure 9). Figure 2 shows the wind direction dependent concentrations of particulate sulfate for the sampling period in a pollutionRose plot (Openair package, R). There is a strong source of sulfate from the south of the sampling site, which is enhanced under the highest wind speeds. Previous studies have shown a strong source of pollution from the south west of Beijing, which is where many industrial factories are located (Wang et al., 2005).

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3.3 Isoprene SOA in Beijing

Using the high throughput screening method described, the peak areas of 31 potential isoprene-derived OSs and NOSs, which are known iSOA tracers, were measured in 132 PM_{2.5} filter extracts. The full list of iSOA tracers, along with their measured *m/z* and molecular formula is shown in Table 42, ordered by descending average concentration (weighted by filter sampling time and reported in ng m⁻³) during the

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campaign. The isoprene SOA tracers identified in this study are correlated towards themselves as well as common anthropogenic tracers in a corplot (Openair, R), shown in Figure 5. The corplot highlights the correlations of the iSOA tracers to each other as well as the moderate to strong correlations towards some of the anthropogenic pollutants as discussed in further sections.

3.3 3.4 Quantification of isoprene OS tracers

Initially, two synthesised isoprene-derived OS standards (2-MT-OS and 2-MG-OS, Cui et al., 2018; Rattanavaraha et al., 2016) were used to produce calibration curves. Both standards gave strong linear calibration curves ($R^2 = 0.980$ and 0.996 respectively) across an appropriate range of concentrations for the peak areas in the samples. The gradient obtained for the 2-MT-OS standard was ~4 times higher than that of the 2-MG-OS, as shown in Figure S2. To investigate the potential for matrix effects from the large amounts of inorganic sulfate, nitrate and other particulate components that co-elute due to the poor retention of OS in reverse phase UPLC, standard addition calibrations were used. Five-point standard addition calibrations were run on 6 different filter extracts, covering both day and night-time, samples, during periods of both high and low concentrations of iSOA species. This therefore gives a representative sample of filters for the entire sampling period. 50 μ L of filter sample extract and 50 μ L of the calibrant solution were combined, giving a dilution factor of 2. The five-point calibration range of standard added to each sample was between 0-3 ppm for 2-MGOS and 0-1 ppm for 2-MT-OS. Two examples of the standard addition calibrations are shown in SI Figures S3 (2-MG-OS) and S4 (2-MT-OS), with good linear fits observed ($R^2 = 0.997$ and 0.997 respectively). A strong matrix effect was observed for the 2-MT-OS, with the concentration measured by standard addition calibration 8.6 to 10 times higher than when using the external calibration carried out on the same day. In contrast, the 2-MG-OS showed a much lower matrix effect, with the concentrations only 1.1-1.5 times higher when using the standard addition calibration. A further comparison using camphorsulfonate, which has a longer retention time (3.74 min) and so does not experience high inorganic ion concentrations in the source, showed no matrix effects when using standard addition. Tables 1 and 2 Tables S1 and S2 shows a comparison of the concentrations calculated from the standard additions and the two external calibrations. Table S1 shows the concentration of 2-MT-OS in three filter sample extracts (144, 204, 208) calculated via standard addition of 2-MT-OS to the filter sample extract and via external calibrations using both 2-MT-OS and 2-MG-OS. The ratio of the standard addition to the external calibrations then gives an estimate of the under or overestimate the external calibrations make to calculating the concentration of 2-MT-OS in the samples. Both the external calibrations would lead to an underestimation of concentration of 2-MT-OS in the filter samples. 2-MG-OS provided a closer quantification of 2-MT-OS in the samples, with an average factor of 2.3 underestimation, while the 2-MT-OS external calibration gives a sample concentration a factor of 10 lower than the standard addition determined concentration.

It is not realistic to carry out standard addition calibrations for all samples and all SOA tracers. When the 2-MG-OS external calibration was used to predict the 2-MT-OS concentrations during the standard addition experiments, the concentrations were within a factor of 1.5-2.5. Therefore, the 2-MG-OS external calibration was used as a proxy for all isoprene SOA tracers, with scaling factors applied to account for matrix effects (1.33 for 2-MG-OS, 2.33 for 2-MT-OS, and an average of 1.83 used for all

other OSs). Therefore, we estimate an uncertainty on our measured concentrations of 60%, this uncertainty was calculated to account for the difference in the measured correction factors used when correcting for the matrix effects. The matrix effects identified in this study are likely due to the extracted samples being a complex mixture of different compounds, including a high proportion of inorganic ions that are extracted into water. This is likely to change the surface tension of the droplet produced in the ionisation source and the ion distribution. Further work is needed to fully understand the reasons. Without these additional standard addition calibrations, the iSOA concentrations would have been largely underestimated. The dinitrate and trinitrate NOS species eluted after the sulfate peak ($R_t > 1.6$ min). In the absence of authentic standards for these species, camphorsulfonic acid was used as a proxy for calibration. This work highlights an additional difficulty of calibration when using ESI-MS to study OSs and indicates that future studies using reversed phase LC (RPLC) should consider the impacts of matrix effects.

1160 **3.4.3.5 Organosulfates**

3.4.3.5.1 2-methyltetrol OS (2-MT-OS)

The 2-MT-OS ($C_5H_{12}SO_7$) formed from the uptake of IEPOX into the particle phase is often used as a marker of low-NO isoprene photochemistry (Wennberg et al., 2018). The time series of 2-MT-OS is shown in Figure 46a. The particle concentration ranged from 0.7 ng m^{-3} to a maximum of 111 ng m^{-3} , with a mean concentration of 11.8 ng m^{-3} . The mean concentrations of 2-MT-OS and 2-MG-OS are compared to observations in previous studies in Table 23. The mean concentration observed in Beijing was much lower than those observed in the Amazon (Riva et al., 2019) and the SE US (Budisulistiorini et al., 2015; Hettiyadura et al., 2019) but are higher than summer time observations at polluted regional sites in China (Wang et al., 2018; He et al., 2018). The lower amounts of IEPOX-derived SOA results in an average AMS f_{C5H6O} in Beijing during the APHH project of only 0.2 %, similar to observations in other urban studies (Hu et al., 2015).

Hourly samples were collected on selected high pollution days and used to obtain information on the diurnal evolution of the iSOA tracers. The findings on these days are consistent with the three-hourly data. The particulate 2-MT-OS measured by UPLC-MS, on the 11th - 12th June 2017, had a strong diurnal profile (Figure 23b), peaking in the late afternoon, between 15:30 and 18:30, with a minimum over-night. This is consistent with the average diurnal profile of the gas phase precursors IEPOX+ISOPOOH ($C_5H_{12}O_3$) measured using the I-CIMS (SI Figure S5). High levels of ozone were observed in the afternoon (up to 180 ppb), leading to relatively low levels of NO observed for a highly polluted environment, in some cases below 500 ppt. Thus, although the mixing ratio of NO_x was high, on most afternoons less than 2 % was in the form of NO. High levels of peroxy radicals were observed, with mean afternoon concentrations of HO_2 and RO_2 of around $3 \times 10^8 \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$ and $1.5 \times 10^9 \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$, respectively. Zero-dimensional box modelling indicates on some days up to 35 % of the isoprene-derived RO_2 radicals can react with HO_2 in the afternoon (Newland et al., 2019). Thus, the diurnal profile seen in Figure 23b, measured in samples during the measurement period suggests that IEPOX was formed at this urban location by the reaction of OH with local isoprene emissions, with a fraction of the RO_2

radicals formed reacting with HO₂ rather than NO, and subsequent uptake to aerosol forming 2-MT-OS. OH + isoprene hydroxynitrate also has a small yield of IEPOX (Jacobs et al., 2014). The average diurnal profile of isoprene hydroxynitrates (C₅H₉NO₄) in the gas phase measured using the I-CIMS peaks at around 11:00-12:00 followed by a reduction during the afternoon into the evening/night (SI Figure S6). This is likely to be a result of the relatively low levels of NO during the afternoon, which will reduce isoprene nitrate formation from RO₂ + NO reactions, thus isoprene hydroxynitrates are unlikely to be a significant source of 2-MT-OS in Beijing.

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The 2-MT-OS showed a moderate correlation with particulate sulfate ($R^2=0.44$), and a weak anti-correlation with photochemical age, estimated using the ratio of NO_x/NO_y ($R^2=0.23$) as shown in Figure 5. All correlations between species are shown in SI Figure S7 Figure 5. By taking the product of the concentration of ozone, as a proxy of photochemistry, with the amount of particulate sulfate measured using AMS, [O₃][pSO₄], a much stronger correlation with 2-MT-OS was observed ($R^2=0.61$) as shown in Figure S7. This observation highlights the role of both local photochemistry and particulate sulfate mass in the formation of 2-MT-OS (Figure S7). The correlation of [O₃][pSO₄] with 2-MT-OS is likely to be weaker at longer photochemical ages when the ozone concentration is not directly related to the photochemical formation of the OS. Again, this highlights the strong role of local photochemistry in the production of low-NO iSOA (2-MT-OS) in Beijing. Elevated levels of 2-MT-OS were observed at the start and end of the measurement period which were influenced by strong south-westerly winds. There were also elevated isoprene concentrations (up to 2.9 ppb) and high particulate SO₄²⁻ levels. Therefore, these spikes in 2-MT-OS could be a result of either higher 2-MT-OS in regional aerosol transported to the site or a high isoprene emission source to the south west of the site (i.e. producing IEPOX locally) that then reacts with increased regional sulfate pollution. The I-CIMS data shows that the IEPOX/ISOPOOH (Figure S5 and Newland et al., 2020) signal increases during the afternoon as the NO levels drop to below 1 ppb. The low NO levels mean that up to 30 % of the isoprene peroxy radical from OH oxidation can react with HO₂ rather than NO at this site, meaning IEPOX can be formed locally (Newland et al., 2020). There is also likely to be a regional source of IEPOX and 2-MT-OS, suggesting both local and regional anthropogenic influences.

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Analysis of the 2-MT-OS isomer distribution using HILIC/ESI-HR-QTOFMS, on a subset of 15 samples, indicates that β-IEPOX is the dominant ambient IEPOX isomer, in line with other recent observations (Cui et al, 2018; Krechmer et al., 2016) see SI Figure S78. The MT-OS derived exclusively from δ-IEPOX-OS isomers could not be observed in any of the samples. The 4 IEPOX-OS isomers in SI Figure S78 showed similar temporal trends although small changes in the relative proportions were observed. The sum of peak areas from the 2-MT-OS isomers measured by HILIC and the quantified 2-MT-OS (sum of isomers) measured via UPLC/ESI-HR-MS were compared and showed a high degree of correlation ($R^2 = 0.84$), even though the two methods used different solvents. The agreement indicates that the UPLC/ESI-HR-MS method captures the sum of the isomers and there is no evidence of ion source induced artefacts.

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3.43.5.2 2-methyl glyceric acid OS (2-MG-OS)

1230 The most common targeted SOA tracer for high-NO isoprene chemistry is 2-methylglyceric acid (2-MG) and its derivatives. As such, this tracer is the result of a direct biogenic-anthropogenic interaction. Two observed SOA tracers related to this chemistry are the OS derivatives of 2-methylglyceric acid (2-MG-OS) and the unresolved C₈ dimers of 2-MG-OS (C₈H₁₄SO₁₀) that have been identified previously in chamber-derived iSOA (Surratt et al., 2006; Surratt et al., 2010). 2-MG-OS had an average concentration during the campaign of 21.5 ng m⁻³, ranging from 0.3 to 180.5 ng m⁻³, with the time series shown in
1235 Figure 46b. These values are within the range of 2-MG-OS measured in other urban locations (Nguyen et al., 2014; Rattanavaraha et al., 2016; Hettiyadura et al., 2019). However these concentrations are considerably higher than previously observed at two Chinese regional background sites (Wang et al., 2018; He et al., 2018). At these locations, the ratio of the low-NO to high-NO isoprene OS tracer average concentrations was close to 1.5 (2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS; Beijing = 1.47, Wanqingsha = 1.57). However,
1240 in central Beijing, this ratio was considerably lower (2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS = 0.55), reflecting the higher proportion of RO₂ radicals reacting with NO at this location compared to the regional measurements. The ratio of 2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS observed in Beijing is compared to previous studies in Table 23 and is considerably lower than measurements taken in a range of isoprene dominated environments (South East US, 2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS = 17, Budisolistiorini et al., 2015.; Amazon, 2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS = 13-118, Glasius et al., (2018).; Atlanta, 2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS = 33, Hettiyadura et al., (2019)) reflecting the strong impact of urban NO emission on iSOA formation. Future work will investigate how to use these ratios to quantify the effect of NO emission on iSOA formation in different regions.

1250 The mean concentration of the 2-MG-OS dimer (C₈H₁₄SO₁₀) was 0.57 ng m⁻³. A strong linear relationship was observed between the 2-MG-OS monomer and dimer concentrations (R²=0.83) with a dimer:monomer ratio of 0.02. Formation of oligomers from reactions of 2-MG and HMML has been shown to be reduced in chamber experiments under humid conditions (Schwantes et al., 2019; Nestorowicz et al., 2018). The average RH during the afternoon of the campaign was ~40 %, which may account for the relatively low formation of the dimer OS compared to the monomer (see SI Figure 89).

1255 The diurnal profile of the 2-MG-OS as shown in SI Figure 8 10 was similar to the 2-MT-OS peaking during the early afternoon samples but with an enhanced signal at night. There was also a strong correlation between these two species (R² = 0.92) during the campaign. The 2-MG-OS showed a stronger correlation with particulate sulfate (R²=0.52) than 2-MT-OS (R²=0.44), and there was also a weak anti-correlation with photochemical age (R²=0.28). A strong correlation was also observed for 2-MG-OS with [O₃][pSO₄] (R²=0.69), as shown in Figure 57, highlighting that formation is dependent on both photochemistry and sulfate aerosol availability.
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3.43.5.3 Other isoprene-related OSs and NOSs

1265 24 additional OSs species, with molecular formulae consistent with iSOA tracers seen in chamber experiments, were also observed in Beijing as shown in Table 42. For C₅ compounds, the most abundant

species were $C_5H_{10}SO_6$ and $C_5H_{10}SO_5$, with mean concentrations of 28.7 ng m^{-3} and 26.5 ng m^{-3} , respectively. The identity of the OS at m/z 182 ($C_5H_{10}SO_5$) is currently unknown and the product ion MS provides little additional information other than sulfate-related fragment ions at m/z 97 and m/z 80. The OS at m/z 198 ($C_5H_{10}SO_6$) was identified as an IEPOX-related OS in chamber experiments by Nestorowicz *et al.* (2018), but at relatively low concentrations compared to the 2-MT-OS (1-4 %). This is very different to the observed ratio in Beijing, where the $C_5H_{10}SO_6$ average concentration was more than double that of 2-MT-OS, as shown in Figure 46c. This compound showed a strong correlation with 2-MT-OS ($R^2 = 0.77$) but it is currently unclear why this compound is the most abundant C_5 species. The molecular weight of this species is 18 Da ($-H_2O$) lower than 2-MT-OS, which may indicate it is a dehydration product enhanced under acidic aerosol conditions. In addition, this species may also be enhanced if it is formed from additional VOC precursors.

Potential low-NO iSOA tracers, seen in chamber experiments, correlated strongly with the 2-MT-OS including unresolved isomers of cyclic hemiacetals [$C_5H_{10}SO_7$ ($R^2=0.92$)], and lactones [$C_5H_8SO_7$ ($R^2=0.83$)] (Spolnik *et al.*, 2018). These compounds were similar in concentration to the 2-MT-OS, with the lactones at MW 212 having a mean concentration of 14 ng m^{-3} and the cyclic hemiacetals at MW 214 a mean of 10.6 ng m^{-3} . These compounds were also observed to be the dominant type of isoprene-derived OSs in Atlanta, Georgia, although they had concentrations a factor of ~ 15 times lower than the observed 2-MT-OS. (Hettiyadura *et al.*, 2019)

Additional small OS compounds, previously identified during high-NO chamber experiments, were also observed in Beijing, including in order of decreasing concentration, glycolic acid sulfate ($C_2H_4SO_6$, mean = 38.4 ng m^{-3}), hydroxyacetone sulfate ($C_3H_6SO_5$, mean = 20.5 ng m^{-3}) and lactic acid sulfate ($C_3H_6SO_6$, mean = 14.5 ng m^{-3}) (Surratt *et al.*, 2007; Surratt *et al.*, 2008). These concentrations are in line with measurements made in other urban locations (Rattanavaraha *et al.*, 2016; Huang *et al.*, 2018; Hettiyadura *et al.*, 2018). While all three C_2 - C_3 -OS compounds had strong correlations with the other iSOA OS tracers ($R^2 = 0.6-0.94$), the relative strength of isoprene versus other VOC precursors, such as aromatics, cannot be determined. As such, they cannot be definitively assigned as iSOA tracers, and are therefore included in the potential iSOA portion of Figure 69. The sum of the C_2 and C_3 OSs had an average concentration of 73 ng m^{-3} , with a range of $2.0-831 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$.

In addition, 9 NOS species related to isoprene were identified as shown in Table 42 (Ng *et al.*, 2008; Rollins *et al.*, 2009). Some of the NOS observed peaked in the daytime and some were enhanced at night. In total they had a mean concentration of 24 ng m^{-3} during the campaign. NOS species are formed via the heterogeneous uptake of isoprene nitrates (IN) into the particle phase. Nitrate radicals play a key role in the formation of IN, with nitrate radicals forming from reaction of NO_2 with O_3 , both key anthropogenic pollutants. Therefore, emissions of NO_x and formation of particulate sulfate will enhance the production of isoprene NOS species.

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3.5.3.6 Contribution of Isoprene SOA in Beijing

In order to estimate the total amount of isoprene-derived OSs and NOSs, labelled here as iSOA, 13 species were chosen that could be confidently identified as being predominately from isoprene (2-MT-OS, 2-MG-OS, C₅H₁₀SO₇, C₅H₈SO₇, C₅H₁₁NSO₉, C₅H₉NSO₁₀, C₅H₉N₂SO₁₁, C₅H₈N₃SO₁₃). Although there were a number of other compounds with formula similar to iSOA tracers, their trends compared to previous studies and potential for alternative sources made a confident assignment of VOC precursor difficult. Therefore, the estimated contribution of iSOA to the observed total particulate mass determined here should be taken as a lower limit. Figure 69 shows the time series of the iSOA observed in Beijing. The average concentration was 82.5 ng m⁻³ during the campaign, ranging from 718 ng m⁻³ on the 19/05/2017 (11:38 – 14:30) to 1.9 ng m⁻³ on the 02/06/2017 (14:36-17:28). The contribution of iSOA to the OOA factors measured by the AMS was obtained by assuming all OSs and NOSs species fragment in the ion source to lose the sulfate and nitrate groups. Across the whole measurement period, the iSOA tracers represented only a small fraction of the total OOA measured by AMS (0.62% of $\sum[\text{OOA1-3}]$). However, towards the end of the measurement period, this increased up to a maximum of 3 % on the 17/06/2017 (13:32-14:23).

Additional iSOA tracers containing only CHO (Table 3), including 2-methyltetrols, 2-methylglyceric acid and C₅-alkene triols, were measured in separate 24-hour filter samples, with the commonly used derivatization GC-MS method (Claeys et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2005.). The average ratio of the 2-methyltetrols to its corresponding OS (2-MT:2-MT-OS) was 1.4, indicating extensive heterogeneous conversion of isoprene oxidation products within the particles. The observed ratio is slightly larger than those measured in the SE US (~0.37-0.96 as shown in Table 23) but much lower than that measured in the Pearl River Delta region (~40,) where the 2-methyltetrols dominated. In contrast, the average ratio of the high-NO iSOA tracer, 2-MG and its corresponding organosulfate (2-MG:2-MG-OS) observed in Beijing was 0.33, indicating more extensive transformation to products from heterogeneous reactions. This ratio may also reflect the more volatile nature of 2-MG compared to 2-MT. Overall, the combined concentrations of these isoprene CHO compounds were generally low (mean 25 ng m⁻³, max 69 ng m⁻³) in comparison to the heterogeneous iSOA compounds (i.e., isoprene-derived OSs and NOSs) targeted in this work. In addition, the concentrations of these CHO species may be overestimated based on recent studies demonstrating that thermal decomposition leads to these products being detected by GC-MS and FIGAERO-CIMS methods (D'Ambro et al., 2019), and so the conversion to ~~heterogeneous products~~ products from heterogenous reactions (i.e., OSs and NOSs) may in fact be larger (2MT:2MT-OS = 0.5-0.91 using the overestimates of 160-288 % observed in Cui et al., (2018)).

The study presented here shows for the first time that OS species derived from isoprene oxidation can make a significant contribution to oxidised organic aerosol in Beijing in summer. There is significant anthropogenic control, from both NO_x and sulfate aerosols, on the products and concentrations of iSOA in Beijing. The majority of the OS species showed a strong correlation towards the product of [O₃][pSO₄], highlighting the role of both photochemistry and the availability of particulate sulfate for heterogeneous reactions. When the observed concentrations of all the OS and NOS species measured in this study, including the additional 19 compounds not confidently assigned to iSOA, are combined they contribute

on average 2.2 % to the total OOA ($\sum[\text{OOA1-3}]$), increasing to a maximum of 10.5 %, indicating extensive heterogeneous conversion of VOC oxidation products in Beijing in summer.

1350 **Author contributions**

DB analysed the aerosol samples and quantified iSOA tracers. WD and KP developed the UPLC-MS method. JRH, RD and MS provided the VOC measurements. FS and JL collected the NO, NO₂ and O₃ data. TB, AM, SW, AB, CJP, HC collected and analysed the CIMS data. LW, DH and ES provided the OH and HO₂ data and BO provided the NO₃ measurements. TC, JDS and WD carried out the offline HILIC analysis. DL, ZS and RH provided the GC-MS iSOA data. YS and WX carried out the AMS measurements and PMF analysis. ACL and RH lead the APHH projects. DB, ARR and JFH wrote the manuscript with input and discussion with all co-authors.

Competing interests

1360 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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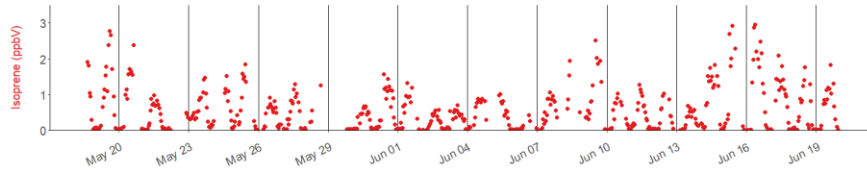
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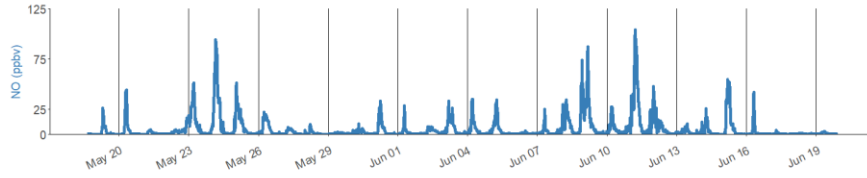
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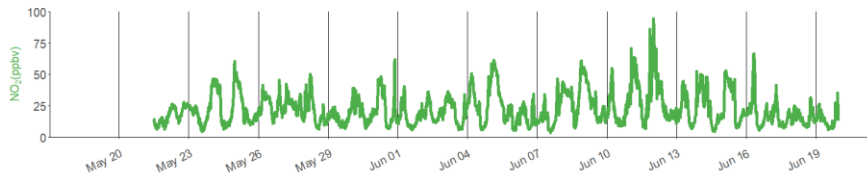
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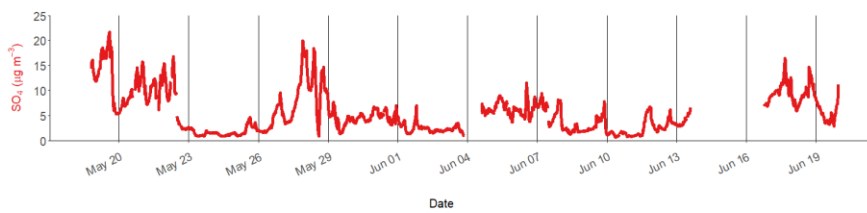
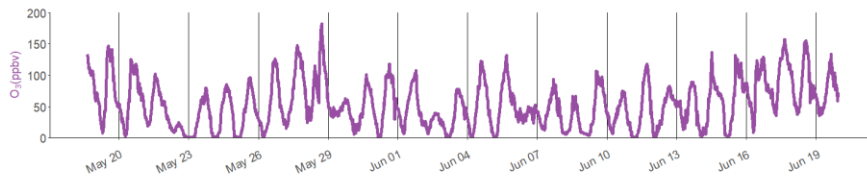


Figure 1. Time series of isoprene, nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃) and particulate sulfate (SO₄). The black lines are at midnight every 72 hours.

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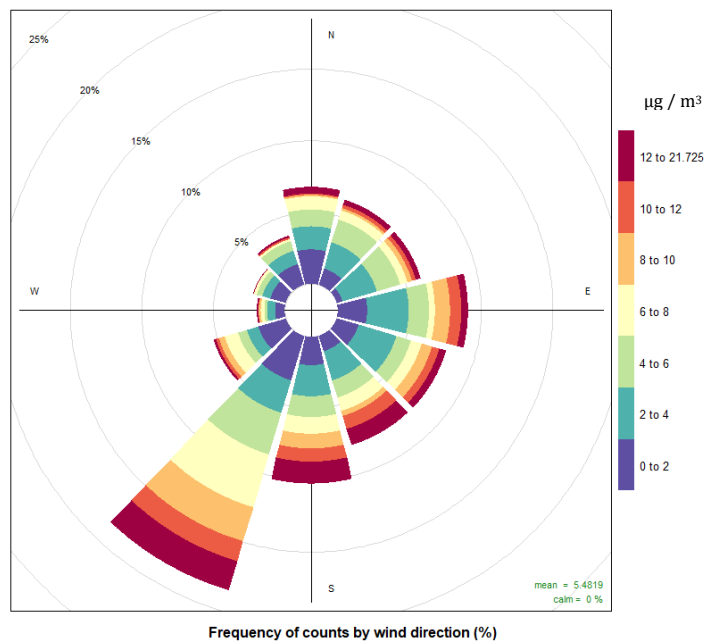


Figure 2. PollutionRose plot (Openair) of particulate sulfate measured by AMS, for the sampling period.

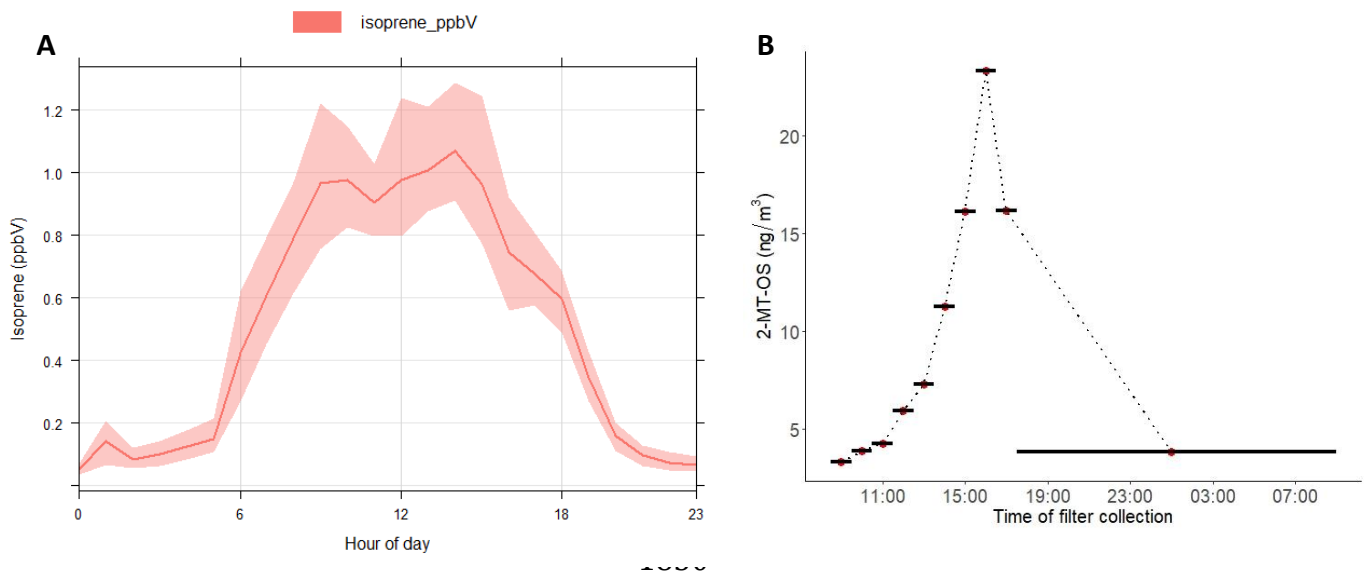


Figure 3. (A) Average diurnal profile of isoprene mixing ratio measured using DC-GC-FID. (B) Diurnal profile of 2-methyltetrol sulfate (2-MT-OS) in particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) collected on filters hourly over the 11th to 12th June 2017. Black lines indicate length of filter sampling period.

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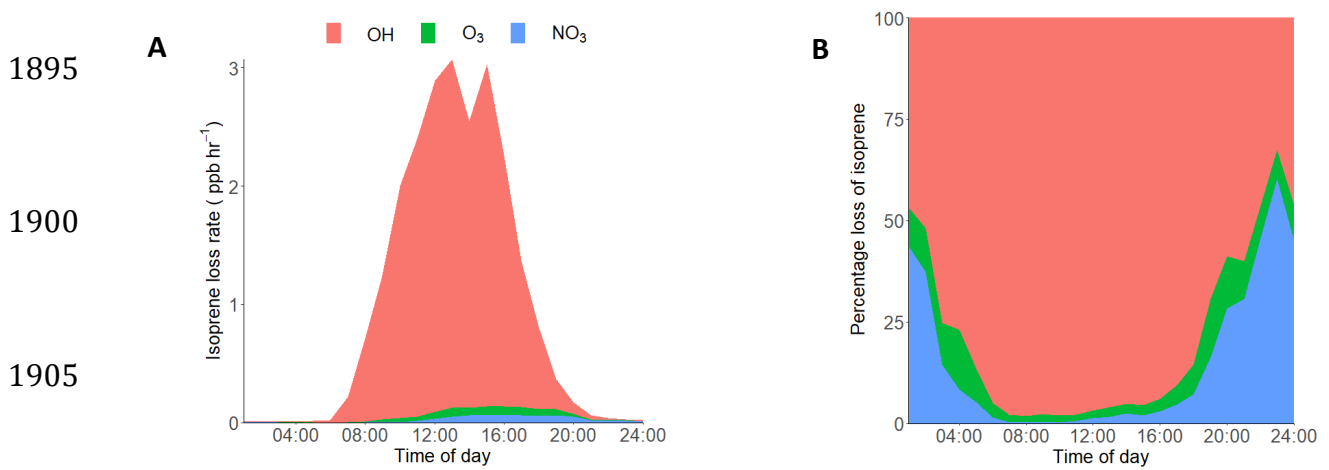


Figure 4. (A) Diurnal loss rate of isoprene calculated using measured average diurnal profiles of isoprene, OH, NO₃ and ozone. (B) Average diurnal of the percentage loss of isoprene from reactions with OH, O₃ and NO₃ radicals. The IUPAC rate constants used for the calculations are as follows, NO₃: 7×10^{-13} , O₃: 1.27×10^{17} , OH: $1 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Atkinson et al., 2006).

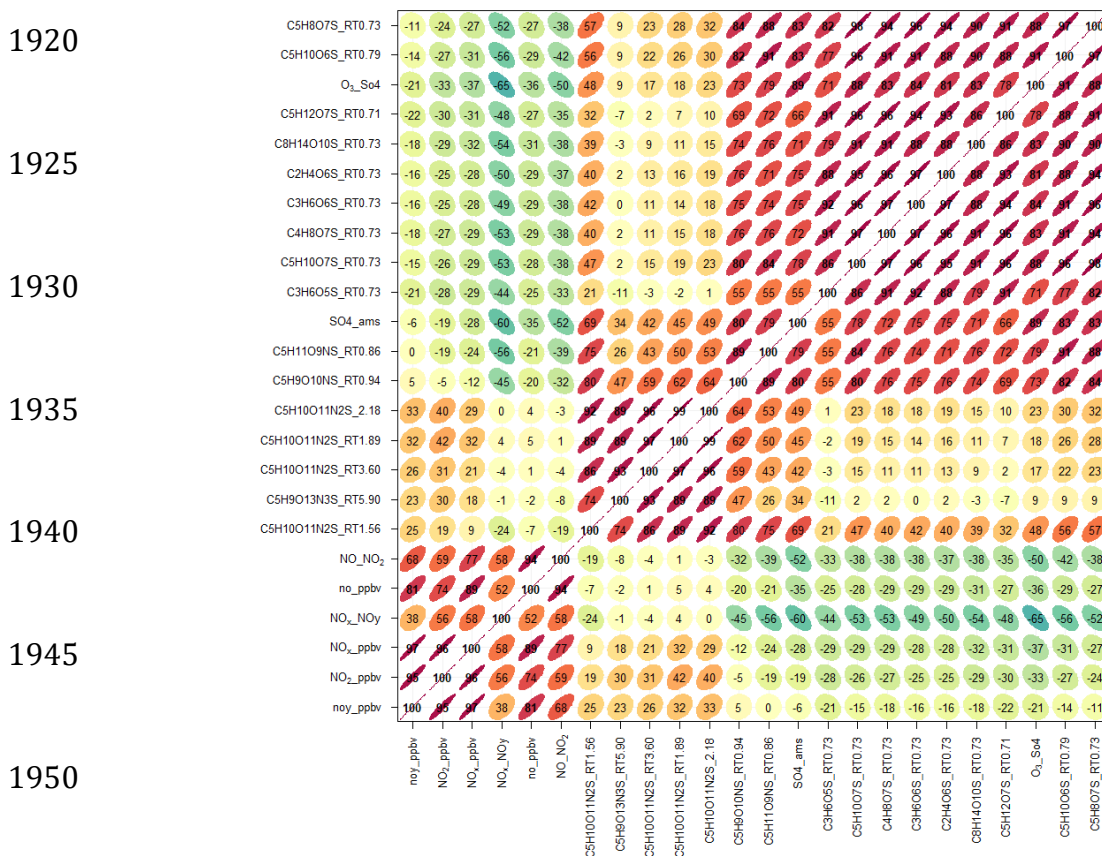


Figure 5. Corplot (Openair) highlighting the correlations between known iSOA tracers and anthropogenic pollutants. The number represents the R correlation between the two species. With redder more elongated circles highlighting a higher correlation.

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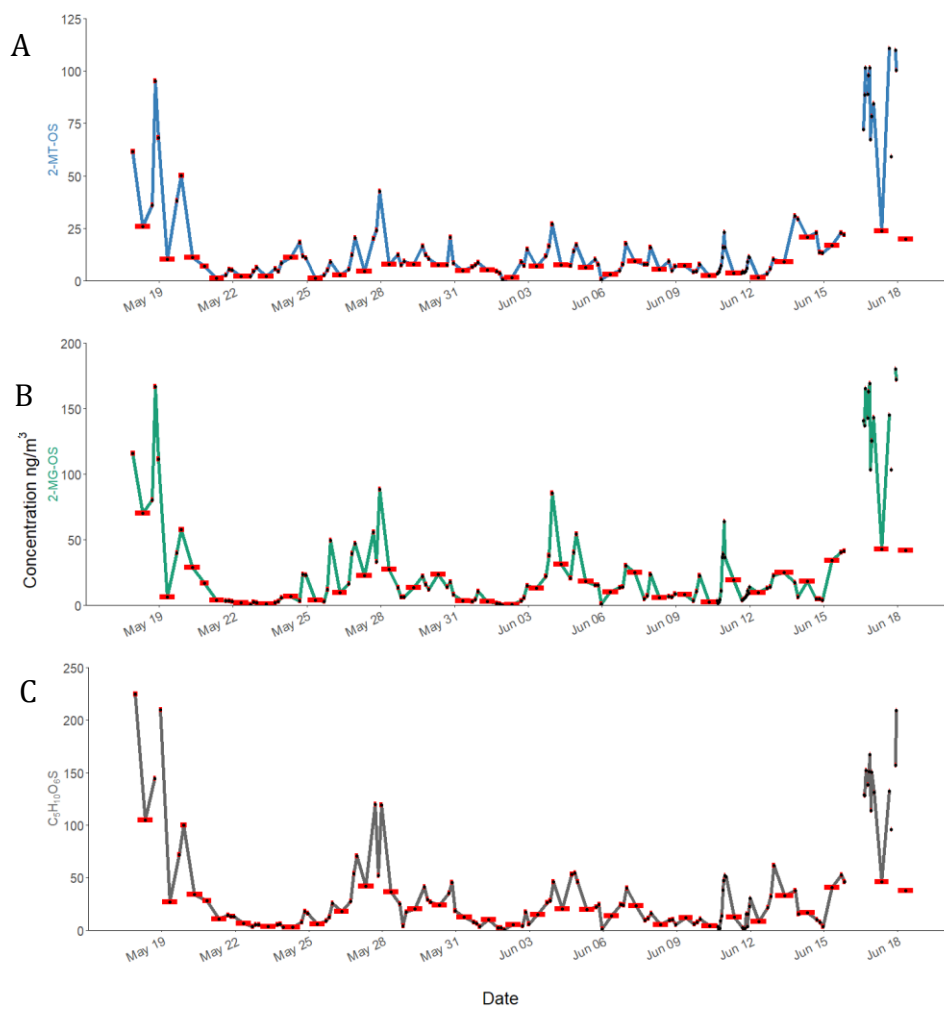
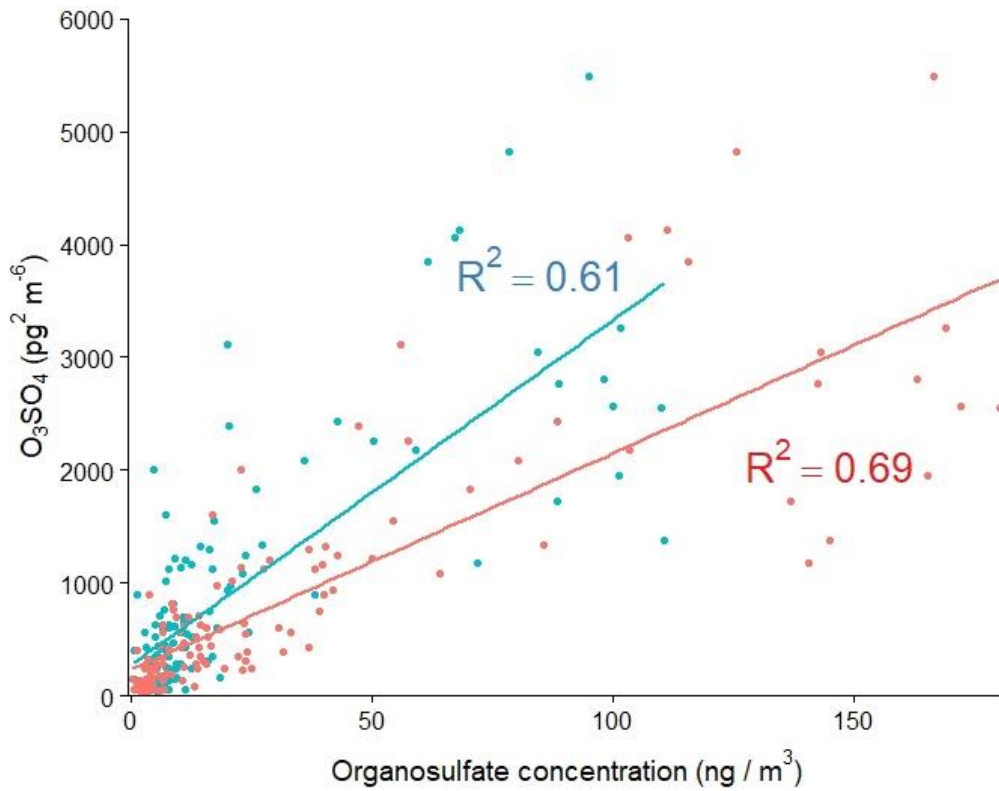


Figure 6. Time series of observed concentrations of iSOA tracers in Beijing during APHH. (A) 2-MT-OS (C₅H₁₂O₇S) (B) 2-MG-OS (C₄H₈O₇S) (C) C₅H₁₀SO₆. The red bars indicate the length of the sampling time. The individual sample times will be given in the accompanying dataset. (*doi to be given on acceptance*)

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Figure 7. Plot of 2-MT-OS (C₅H₁₂O₇S, blue) and 2-MG-OS (C₄H₈O₇S, red) concentrations versus [Ozone][SO₄]. The high time resolution data (O₃ and AMS SO₄²⁻) has been averaged to the filter sampling time. The line was calculated using the stat_smooth function in the R package ggplot2, using the method “lm”.

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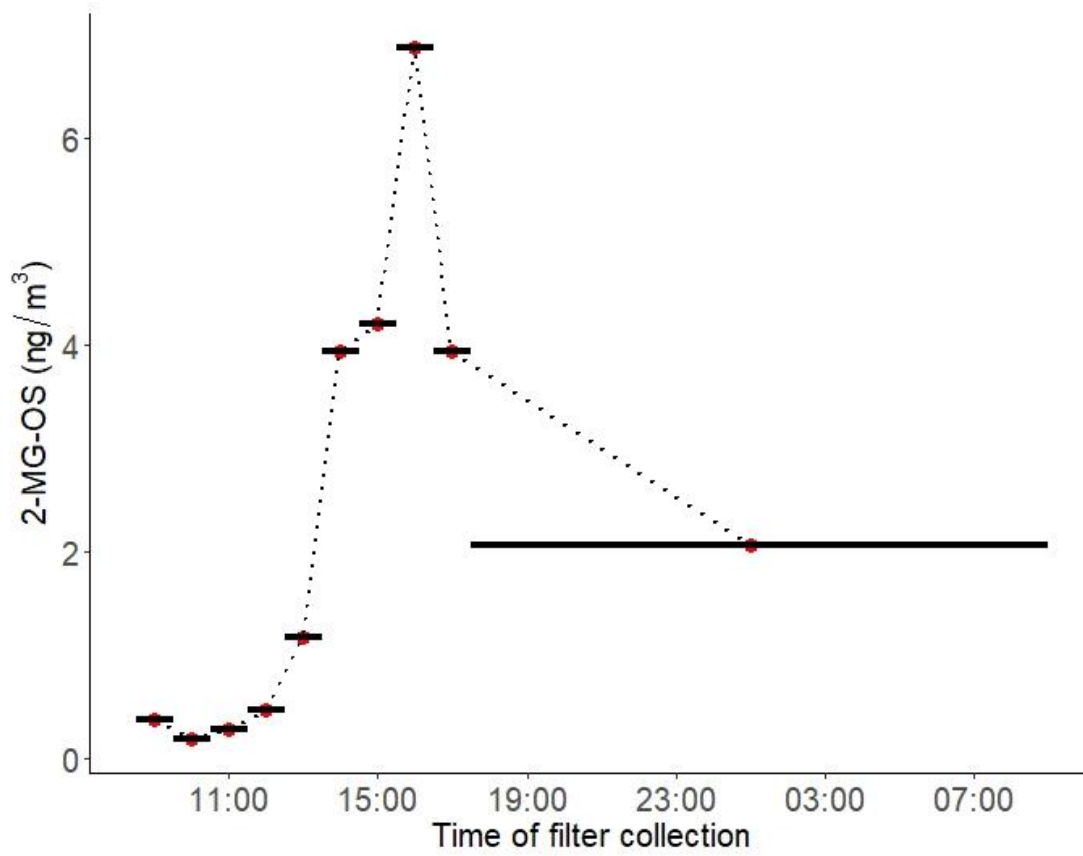
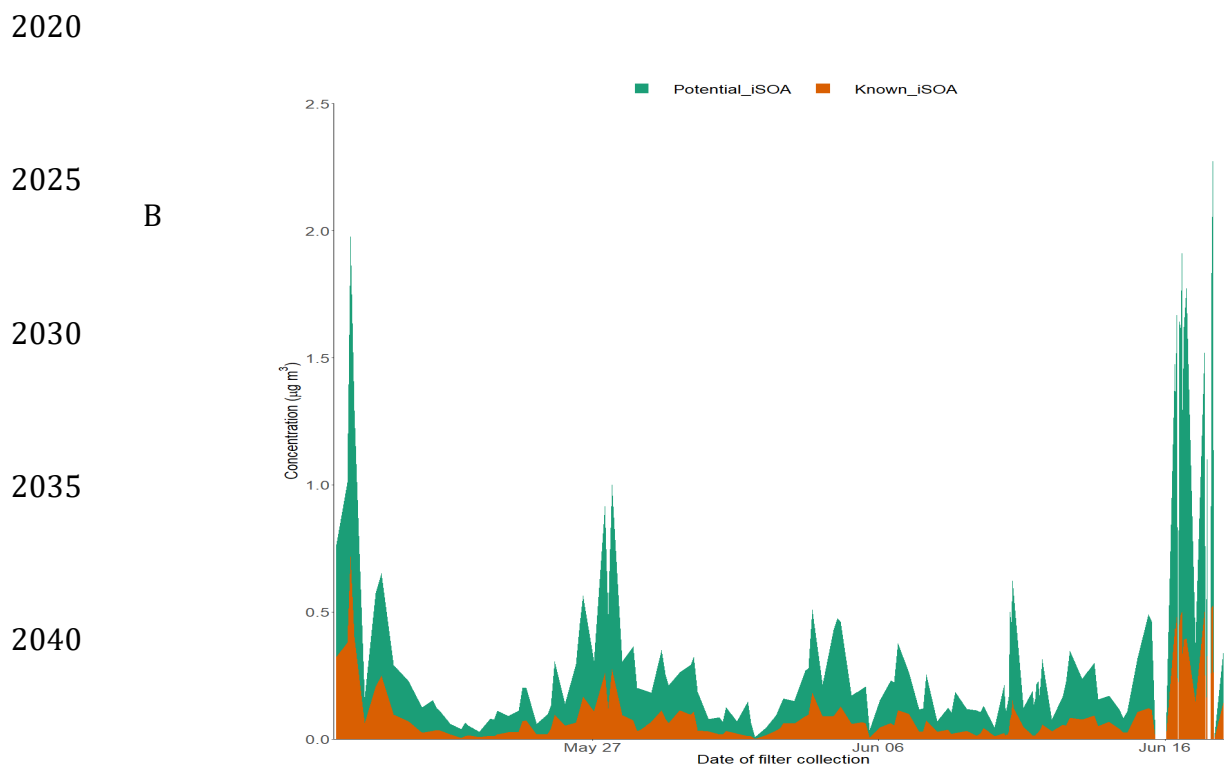
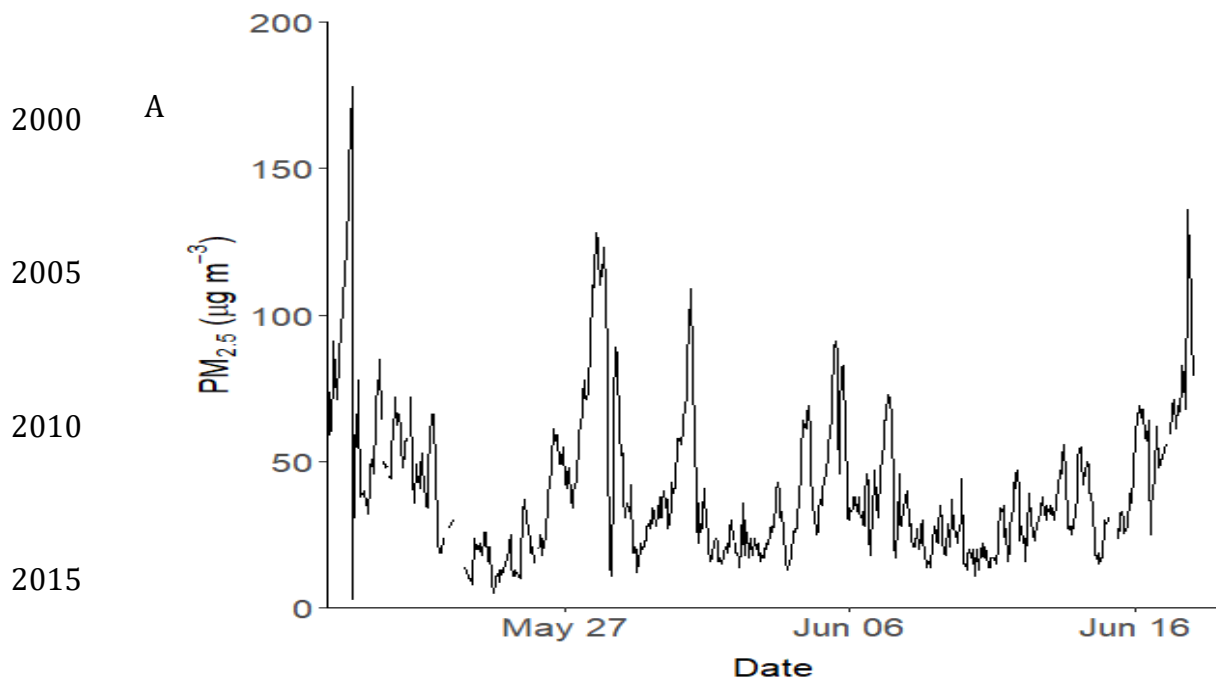


Figure 8. Diurnal profile of 2-methylglyceric acid sulphate (2-MG-OS) in particulate matter collected on filters hourly over the 11th to 12th June 2017. Black lines indicate length of sampling.



2050 **Figure 9.** A) Time series of PM_{2.5} over the sampling period. B) Time series of the total known isoprene SOA signal (2-MT-OS, 2-MG-OS, C₅H₁₀SO₇ (MW 214) C₅H₈SO₇ (MW 212) C₅H₁₁NSO₉ (MW 261), C₅H₉NSO₁₀ (MW 275) C₅H₁₀O₁₁N₂S (MW 306), C₅H₉O₁₃N₃S (MW 351) and the total signal from the other iSOA tracers quantified in this study.

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Table 1. Supplementary anthropogenic pollutants measured during the sampling period analysed in this study.

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	Pollutant	Mean \pm SD	Max	Min
2065	O₃ (ppbv)	54.0 \pm 37.5	181.8	2.0
	NO (ppbv)	5.1 \pm 11.3	104.1	0.1
	NO₂ (ppbv)	22.3 \pm 13.0	94.5	3.7
2070	SO₄ ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	5.5 \pm 4.1	21.7	0.7

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Table 2. Molecular formulas, negative ion masses, retention times (RT), time weighted means (ng m^{-3}) for the entire sampling period and original reference to where the tracer was found of each proposed iSOA tracer. BD = Below detection. The estimated uncertainties were discussed in section 3.4 as 60 %, accounting for the use of the matrix correction factors.

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Isoprene Tracer	[M-H] ⁻¹	RT (min)	Time weighted mean (ng m^{-3})	Maximum (ng m^{-3})	Minimum (ng m^{-3})	Reference
C ₂ H ₄ O ₆ S	154.9656	0.73	38.4	366.1	BD	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₆ S	197.0125	0.79	28.7	336.2	0.25	Surratt et al., 2007
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₅ S	181.0176	0.93	26.5	448.5	2.91	Nguyen et al., 2010
C ₄ H ₈ O ₆ S	182.9969	0.73	21.7	229.1	0.50	Riva et al., 2016
C ₄ H ₈ O ₇ S	198.9918	0.73	21.5	180.5	0.32	Surratt et al., 2007
C ₃ H ₆ O ₅ S	152.9863	0.73	20.5	327.9	0.98	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₃ H ₆ O ₆ S	168.9812	0.73	14.5	137.7	0.25	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₈ O ₇ S	210.9918	0.73	14.0	136.4	0.27	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₁₁ O ₉ NS	260.0082	0.86	12.6	154.1	0.10	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₁₂ O ₇ S	215.0231	0.71	11.8	110.9	0.77	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₇ S	213.0075	0.73	10.6	104.7	0.38	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₉ O ₁₀ NS	273.9874	0.94	9.17	53.8	BD	Nestorowicz et al., 2018
C ₄ H ₈ O ₅ S	167.0019	0.73	9.10	114.5	0.68	Surratt et al., 2007
C ₅ H ₈ O ₅ S	179.0020	0.85	6.59	144.2	0.43	Riva et al., 2016
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₅ S	181.0176	1.24	4.90	36.3	1.21	Riva et al., 2016
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₈ S	229.0024	0.75	4.59	40.9	BD	Nestorowicz et al., 2018
C ₅ H ₈ O ₉ S	242.9816	0.64	1.55	13.9	BD	Nestorowicz et al., 2018
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₁₁ N ₂ S	304.9783	2.18	1.04	8.62	BD	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₁₀ H ₂₀ O ₈ S	299.0806	1.65	1.01	8.38	BD	Riva et al., 2016
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₁₁ N ₂ S	304.9783	1.89	0.83	7.69	BD	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₈ H ₁₄ O ₁₀ S	301.0235	0.73	0.57	4.16	BD	Surratt et al., 2007
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₁₁ N ₂ S	304.9783	1.56	0.42	2.90	BD	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₁₀ H ₁₈ O ₇ S	281.0701	1.03	0.33	6.76	BD	Riva et al., 2016
C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₁₁ N ₂ S	304.9783	3.60	0.31	3.32	BD	Surratt et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₉ O ₁₃ N ₃ S	349.9783	5.90	0.19	2.04	BD	Ng et al., 2008
C ₁₀ H ₁₈ O ₈ S	297.0650	0.75	0.14	5.25	BD	Riva et al., 2016
C ₅ H ₁₁ O ₈ NS	244.0133	1.93	0.11	1.46	BD	Nestorowicz et al., 2018
C ₅ H ₉ O ₁₃ N ₃ S	349.9783	5.49	0.02	0.17	BD	Ng et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₉ O ₁₃ N ₃ S	349.9783	5.34	0.008	0.10	BD	Ng et al., 2008
C ₅ H ₁₂ O ₈ S	231.0180	0.75	0.005	0.50	BD	Riva et al., 2016
C ₁₀ H ₂₀ O ₉ S	315.0755	1.46	0.002	0.21	BD	Riva et al., 2016

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Table 3. Isoprene CHO tracer concentrations measured via GC-MS using 24-hour samples between 22/05/2017 and 22/06/2017. 2-MTs is equal to the sum of 2-methylthreitol and 2-methylerythritol and the C₅-alkene triols is equal to the sum of cis-2-methyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene, 3-methyl-2,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene and trans-2-methyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene.

Isoprene Tracer	Min (ng m^{-3})	Max (ng m^{-3})	Average (ng m^{-3})
2-MTs	4.55	52.67	17.29
MG	1.38	15.53	7.24
C ₅ -alkene triols	0.23	1.08	0.51

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Table 34. Comparison of concentrations of iSOA tracer concentrations and ratios in previous studies in the Amazon, SE USA and China. *Selected sample not an average concentration.

Location	Mean Concentration (ng m ⁻³)				Ratio low to high NO		Ratio CHO:CHOS		Reference
	2-MT	2-MT-OS	2-MG	2-MG-OS	2-MT:2-MG	2-MT-OS:2-MG-OS	2-MT:2-MT-OS	2-MG:2-MG-OS	
China Urban, Beijing (2017)	17.3	11.8	7.2	21.5	2.40	0.55	1.47	0.33	This work
China Rural, NCP (2013)	44	19.3	19.3	44	2.30	1.47	2.30	0.33	
China Regional, Beijing (2016)	91.5	5.3	7.7	3.6	11.9	1.47	41.6	5.51	
China Regional, PRD (2008)	91.5	2.2	7.7	1.4	11.9	1.57	41.6	5.51	
SE US, Atlanta (2015)	861*	2334*	7.5	10	21.7	17.0	0.96	0.75	Cui et al., 2018
SE US, Look Rock (2013)	163.1	169.5	7.5	10	21.7	17.0	0.96	0.75	
SE US, Centreville (2013)	217	217	10.7	10.7	20.3	20.3	0.35	0.35	Glasius et al., 2018
Amazon, T3 (2014)	83(wet)/399(dry)	83(wet)/399(dry)	0.7(wet)/30(dry)	0.7(wet)/30(dry)	118(wet)/13(dry)	118(wet)/13(dry)	0.35	0.35	
Amazon, Manuas (2016)	137*	390*	137*	390*	137*	390*	137*	390*	Cui et al., 2018