

Cover letter for responses and track changes documents for ‘Dilution impacts on smoke aging: Evidence in BBOP data’ (Hodshire et al., 2020)

Please note--due to substantial updates to our supporting information, we provide the track changes version of the SI as well. All of our changes have been documented in the reviewer responses and track-changes documents.

The reviewer responses start on page 2 of this document.

Our track-changes main text starts on page 51 of this document.

Our track-changes SI starts on page 82 of this document.

1 Reviewer responses for ‘Dilution impacts on smoke aging: Evidence in BBOP data’

2
3 We thank the reviewers for their helpful comments. To aid the review process, we are placing
4 reviewer comments in black text, our responses in blue text, any changes to the text in red, and,
5 in some instances, reproduce text from the previously submitted manuscript (*italic magenta*). We
6 have numbered the reviewer comments to assist the conversation.

7
8 Due to the length of the reviews and responses we provide here the page numbers of the start of
9 each review:

10 Review 1 and responses: page 3

11 Review 2 and responses: page 24

12
13 First we would like to note that we found a minor error in our code that calculates the locations
14 of the lowest 10% of out-of-plume CO that we use to determine our background region. This
15 error led to us not including all of the locations (indexes) of this background region for each
16 flight. Fortunately, when we fixed the error, none of our conclusions changed and all values
17 shifted only slightly. We have updated all figures, tables, and text that depends on background
18 corrections and note that the changes in our moderate and strong correlation coefficients (see
19 Fig. 2 for instance) do not exceed 8%.

20
21 We note the recent publication of Lee et al. (2020) that focuses on aerosol optical properties in a
22 southwestern US wildfire that has also looked at differences between edge and core. We have
23 added the following text in Sect. 3.1 (new text underlined for emphasis)

24
25 (Garofalo et al., 2019) segregated smoke data from the WE-CAN field campaign by distance
26 from the center of a given plume and showed that the edges of one of the fires studied have less
27 f_{60} and more f_{44} (not background-corrected) than the core of the plume; Lee et al. (2020) saw
28 similar patterns in a southwestern United States wildfire.

29
30 And

31
32 We do not have UV measurements that allow us to calculate photolysis rates but the in-plume
33 SPN1 shortwave measurements in the visible show a dimming in the fresh cores that has a
34 similar pattern to f_{44} and the inverse of f_{60} (Fig. S26; the rapid oscillations in this figure could be
35 indicative of sporadic cloud cover above the plumes). (Lee et al. 2020) similarly saw indications
36 of enhanced photochemical bleaching at the edges of a southwestern United States wildfire when
37 examining aerosol optical properties.

38
39 Lee, J. E., Dubey, M. K., Aiken, A. C., Chylek, P., & Carrico, C. M. (2020). Optical and
40 chemical analysis of absorption enhancement by mixed carbonaceous aerosols in the 2019

41 Woodbury, AZ fire plume. Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 125,
42 e2020JD032399. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020JD032399>

43

44 We have noticed that we did not include any discussion of the fit equations that we developed
45 (Eqs. 4-5 in the revised manuscript), despite spending significant time on them in the text. We
46 have included the following statements in the conclusions:

47 “We have developed fit equations that can weakly to moderately predict Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta O/\Delta C$, and
48 mean aerosol diameter given a known initial (at the time of first measurement) total organic
49 aerosol mass loading and physical age.”

50 “We also suggest further refinement of our fit equations, as further variables (such as photolysis
51 rates) and better quantification of interfire variability (such as variable emission rates) are
52 anticipated to improve these fits.”

53

54 Finally, we note that we have made updates to many SI figures. In order to hopefully keep this
55 document more navigable, we only rarely have included an updated SI figure here and instead
56 point the reviewers to our marked-up SI document to assess these changes. We have also made
57 many small edits to the main text to improve sentence structure, readability, and grammar (as
58 noted a few times specifically by reviewer 2).

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78 **Review 1**

79 Overall, I find this an interesting paper that addresses an important topic and builds nicely on
80 previous work by the authors. However, I have a number of concerns regarding the inherent
81 assumptions made or implied throughout and how thoroughly they are justified, and regarding
82 the consistency of the interpretations provided. I find there are also a number of areas where
83 more detail is required. I think that this work might be publishable after substantial revision. My
84 specific comments and questions follow below.

85

86 R1.1) L54: It is not clear to me how plume thickness controls gas-particle partitioning or particle
87 coagulation rates. Both depend on concentrations, not thickness. I suggest the authors clarify
88 whether they really mean “thickness” here and on L58.

89 We agree that “thickness” is vague and that “concentration” is more clear. We have changed
90 “thickness” to “aerosol concentration” in both instances as we are really referring to the aerosol
91 concentration.

92 R1.2) L65: Do oxidant concentrations not also depend on the composition of the plume?

93 Yes, this was an oversight on our part. We have updated the text to read:

94 “In turn, oxidant concentrations depend on shortwave fluxes ([Tang et al., 1998](#); [Tie, 2003](#); [Yang](#)
95 [et al., 2009](#)) and the composition of the plume ([Yokelson et al. 2009](#); [Akagi et al. 2012](#); [Hobbs et](#)
96 [al. 2003](#); [Alvarado et al. 2015](#)).”

97

98 R1.3) L67: The authors cite Formenti et al. (2003) as support of dilution occurring. However,
99 they might note that the particular conclusion in Formenti et al. (2003) really derives from the
100 observation of a single, high concentration point for the “fresh” samples that controls the linear
101 regression. If that point is excluded, the slopes of the fresh and aged EC vs. OC curves are nearly
102 identical.

103 This point is a subtlety that we did not capture with our original statement. Upon re-review of
104 Formenti et al. (2003), we see that the authors state “...as our data for the elemental versus
105 organic carbon ratio suggest that organic carbon might have evaporated while in the
106 atmosphere.” (Sect 3.4) However, the authors do not directly explicitly connect evaporation with
107 dilution in their manuscript, and we have chosen to remove this citation. We replace it with
108 ([Garofalo et al. 2019](#); [Grieshop et al. 2009](#)).

109 R1.4) L79: Much of this paragraph seems redundant with material already presented. I suggest it
110 be streamlined. The only new information is the slightly greater information regarding
111 coagulation.

112 We respectfully disagree and believe this paragraph stands alone--it connects prior discussion to
113 climate-relevant aerosol properties, which have not been discussed yet.
114

115 R1.5) L94: I suggest that the authors here define what they mean by “initial.” This is a critical
116 feature of this study. Only later is it clear that "initial" means "the closest we got to the fire for a
117 given flight."

118 This is another oversight on our part--we have updated the text to read:

119 “A range of initial (at the time of the first plume pass in the aircraft) plume OA mass
120 concentrations were captured within these flights and sufficiently fast (1 second) measurements
121 of aerosols and key vapors were taken.”

122

123 R1.6) L112: The authors should note the size range of the SP-AMS measurements, and the size
124 range of the SP2 measurements (L126).

125 We have added the following text (with added underlines as guides) for the SP-AMS:

126 “A Soot Photometer Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (SP-AMS) provided organic and inorganic
127 (sulfate, chlorine, nitrate, ammonium) PM₁ aerosol masses (Canagaratna et al. 2007), select
128 fractional components (the fraction of the AMS OA spectra at a given mass-to-charge ratio)
129 (Onasch et al., 2012), and elemental analysis (O/C and H/C) (Aiken et al., 2008; Canagaratna et
130 al., 2015). The SP-AMS had the highest sensitivity between 70-500 nm, dropping to 50%
131 transmission efficiency by 1000 nm (Liu et al. 2007). “

132 And for the SP2:

133 “A Single-Particle Soot Photometer (SP2; Droplet Measurement Technologies) was used to
134 measure refractory black carbon (rBC) between 80-500 nm (Schwarz et al. 2010) ...”

135

136 R1.7) L125: The authors might also note that the atomic ratios are strongly affected by mixing
137 of different air masses and the co-oxidation of different VOC precursors, which start at different
138 points on a van Krevelen diagram. Different VOCs in the plumes will age on a variety of
139 timescales, giving rise to an evolving O:C and H:C regardless of “aging” of the sort implied here.
140 Mixing and co-oxidation affect the H:C, especially, making inferences of the “types of reactions
141 occurring” challenging. This is discussed in (Chen et al., 2015). See later comment on the same
142 subject.

143 We agree that we did not expand upon this discussion as much as we could have, and we thank
144 the reviewer for the helpful reference. We have expanded this discussion as follows:

145 “O/C tends to increase with oxidative aging ([Decarlo et al., 2008](#)) whereas H/C ranges from
146 increasing to decreasing with oxidative aging, depending on the types of reactions occurring
147 ([Heald et al., 2010](#)). Changes in O/C and H/C are also influenced by mixing of different air
148 masses and co-oxidation of different VOC precursors ([Chen et al. 2015](#)). Thus, tracking H/C
149 with aging may provide clues upon the types of reactions that may be occurring; however,
150 variable oxidation timescales can make inferences of this type difficult ([Chen et al. 2015](#)).”

151
152 In our analysis, we background-correct C, O, and H (creating ΔC , ΔO , and ΔH) and present the
153 ratios as $\Delta O:\Delta C$ and $\Delta H:\Delta C$. The mixing of background OA into the plume should have no
154 direct impact on $\Delta O:\Delta C$ and $\Delta H:\Delta C$ (although there may be indirect impacts through changing
155 chemistry).

156

157 R1.8) L130: The authors note that the supporting info provides “more details on the instruments
158 used.” I find this misleading. The information provided in the SI is extremely limited, hardly
159 greater than that provided in this paragraph. I suggest the authors provide in the SI some
160 discussion at least of instrumental uncertainties.

161 We agree that our SI is sparse on details of the BBOP instrumentation. Our coauthor Lawrence
162 Kleinman’s current ACPD paper also on BBOP aerosol properties has a significant amount of
163 detail on the SP-AMS, the SP2, the FIMS, and trace gas instruments. We will refer the reader to
164 this text for those details. As well, we flushed out our discussion in the SI:

165 The Fast Integrated Mobility Spectrometer (FIMS) characterizes particle sizes based on
166 electrical mobility as in scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS). Because FIMS measures
167 particles of different sizes simultaneously instead of sequentially as in traditional SMPS, it
168 provides aerosol size distribution with a much higher time resolution at 1 Hz ([Wang et al.,](#)
169 [2017](#)). The relative humidity of the aerosol sample was reduced to below ~25% using a Nafion
170 dryer before being introduced into the FIMS. Therefore, the measured size distributions
171 represented that of the dry aerosol particles. The particle number concentration integrated from
172 FIMS size distribution typically agrees with the CPC 3010 (Condensation Particle Counter)
173 measurement ([Kleinman et al. 2020](#)) within ~ 15% when size distribution suggests that particles
174 smaller than 10 nm contribute negligibly to the total number concentration. Thus, we estimate
175 the uncertainty in the FIMS number concentration to be ~15%. The uncertainty in measured
176 particle size is about 3% ([Wang et al. 2017](#)).

177 The Soot Particle Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (SP-AMS) is thoroughly detailed in
178 [Kleinman et al. \(2020\)](#). Although it was not directly characterized for uncertainties during the
179 BBOP campaign, we estimate uncertainties as follows. The AMS uncertainty is estimated

180 following the methods in (Bahreini et al. 2009) (first equation of their supplemental
181 information), leading to 37% uncertainty for organics. The laser vaporizer adds additional
182 uncertainty up to 20%. Thus summing the uncertainties in quadrature leads to a 42% uncertainty
183 in organics. The Soot Photometer (SP2) had an uncertainty of 20%.

184 CO measurement uncertainties are detailed in Kleinmen et al. (2020): the Off-Axis
185 Integrated Cavity Output Spectroscopy was found to have an accuracy of 1-2%, and the
186 precision at ambient backgrounds of 90 ppb was 0.5 ppbv RMS (using a 1 second averaging).

187 An SPN1 radiometer (Badosa et al. 2014; Long et al. 2010) provided total shortwave
188 irradiance, with a shaded mask applied following (Badosa et al. 2014). The data was corrected
189 for tilt up to 10 degrees of tilt, following (Long et al. 2010). For tilt greater than 10 degrees these
190 values are set to "bad". Instrument uncertainties are detailed in (Badosa et al. 2014).

191 Badosa, Jordi, John Wood, Philippe Blanc, Charles N. Long, Laurent Vuilleumier, Dominique
192 Demengel, and Martial Haeffelin. 2014. "Solar Irradiances Measured Using SPN1 Radiometers:
193 Uncertainties and Clues for Development." *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques* 7: 4267–83.

194
195 Bahreini, R., Ervens, B., Middlebrook, a. M., Warneke, C., de Gouw, J. a., DeCarlo, P.F.,
196 Jimenez, J.L., Brock, C. a., Neuman, J. a., Ryerson, T.B., Stark, H., Atlas, E., Brioude, J., Fried,
197 A., Holloway, J.S., Peischl, J., Richter, D., Walega, J., Weibring, P., Wollny, a. G., and
198 Fehsenfeld, F.C. (2009). Organic aerosol formation in urban and industrial plumes near Houston
199 and Dallas, Texas. *J. Geophys. Res.*, 114:D00F16.

200
201 Kleinman, L. I., Sedlacek III, A. J., Adachi, K., Buseck, P. R., Collier, S., Dubey, M. K.,
202 Hodshire, A. L., Lewis, E., Onasch, T. B., Pierce, J. R., Shilling, J., Springston, S. R., Wang, J.,
203 Zhang, Q., Zhou, S., and Yokelson, R. J.: Rapid Evolution of Aerosol Particles and their Optical
204 Properties Downwind of Wildfires in the Western U.S., *Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.*,
205 <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2020-239>, in review, 2020.

206
207 Wang, J., Pikridas, M., Spielman, S. R., and Pinterich, T.: A fast integrated mobility
208 spectrometer for rapid measurement of sub-micrometer aerosol size distribution, Part I: Design
209 and model evaluation, *J. Aerosol Sci.*, 108, 44-55, 10.1016/j.jaerosci.2017.02.012, 2017.

210

211 R1.9) L138: I suggest it be clarified how f60 and f44 are background corrected. Presumably this
212 is not a straight difference, as the denominators ([OA]) differ. Is it, for example $f60_{corrected} =$
213 $(f60_{plume} * [OA]_{plume} - f60_{bgd} * [OA]_{bgd}) / [OA]_{plume}$? If the authors used a straight
214 difference, this must be justified as it does not seem appropriate to me. Similarly, more details on
215 how the other intensive properties (O:C, H:C) are corrected are needed.

216 We calculated the background corrected f60 and f44 as follows (where $f = f_{60}$ or f_{44}):

217
$$\Delta f = \frac{(f_{in} * OA_{in}) - (f_{out} * OA_{out})}{\Delta OA} \quad \text{Eq. R1}$$

218 Similar, the $\Delta O/\Delta C$ and $\Delta H/\Delta C$ are calculated through (where $X = O$ or H):

219
$$\frac{\Delta X}{\Delta C} = \frac{(X_{in \text{ plume}} - X_{out \text{ of plume}})}{(C_{in \text{ plume}} - C_{out \text{ of plume}})} \quad \text{Eq. R2}$$

220 We've added Eqs. R1-R2 as Eqs. 1 and 2 in the main text and have updated other equation
221 numbers and references.

222 R1.10) L140: It would be helpful if in Figs. S2-S6 and S7-S11 the authors would number each
223 plume so that the two can be related to each other. It would also help if the time-series were
224 shown as an additional panel with the spatial plots, again so comparisons can be made. I think
225 this is important because the authors discuss "plumes" here, but they do not discuss how it is, for
226 example, that in a given transect there can be multiple maxima in CO. Does this imply there are
227 two plumes? Or is this the same plume? What drives this behavior, and what might it indicate
228 about the evolution of the plumes? What does it mean to define a "centerline" of the plume if
229 there are clearly two distinct maxima on either side (see Fig. S3, for example).

230

231 We have included subplots for figures S2-S6 that show both the flight tracks colored by time in
232 minutes as well as the leg numbers as designated in the BBOP database (as designated by the
233 flight team). We've updated the x-axis of figures S7-S11 to be in minutes to allow for easier
234 comparisons between the two. We agree that the "centerline" is an imperfect metric and is a
235 limitation of this study. However, the centerlines have been determined using the most-
236 concentrated portion of the aerosol number concentration, which did tend to be more clear (see
237 e.g. Fig. S1). We added more text about the centerline, also following comments from R2.25:

238 "To estimate the physical age of the plume, we use the estimated fire center as well as the total
239 FIMS number concentration to determine an approximate centerline of the plume as the smoke
240 travels downwind (Figs. S1-S6). The centerline is subjectively placed to attempt to capture the
241 most-concentrated portion of the total number concentration for each plume pass, as we focus on
242 aerosol properties and their relations to dilution in this study. We use mean wind speed and this
243 estimated centerline to get an estimated physical age for each transect. We did not propagate
244 uncertainty in fire location, wind speed, or centerline through to the physical age, which is a
245 limitation of this study."

246 We have also added the following text to the first paragraph of section 3 to discuss the potential
247 of multiple plumes (underlines for the new material):

248 "We have divided each transect into four regions: between the 5-15 (edge), 15-50 (intermediate,
249 outer), 50-90 (intermediate, inner), and 90-100 (core) percentile of ΔCO within each transect.

250 Fig. 1 shows the edge and core data, both averaged per transect, with Figs. S14-18 providing all
251 four percentile bins for each flight. These percentile bins correspond with the thinnest to thickest
252 portions of the plume, respectively, and if a fire has uniform emissions ratios across all regions
253 and dilutes evenly downwind, these percentile bins would correspond to the edges, intermediate
254 regions, and the core of the diluting plume. We use this terminology in this study but note that
255 uneven emissions, mixing, and/or dilution lead to the percentile bins not corresponding
256 physically to our defined regions in some cases. We note that some plumes show more than one
257 maxima in CO concentrations within a given plume crossing, which implies that there may be
258 more than one fire or fire front, and that these plumes from separate fires or fronts are not
259 perfectly mixing. As well, in at least one of the fires (in flights ‘730a’ and ‘730b’), the fuels vary
260 between different sides of the fire, as discussed in Kleinman et al., (2020).”

261

262 R1.11) From Figs. S7-S11, it appears that the background [CO] varies from flight-to-flight. For
263 example, in Fig. S7 the background is clearly lower than the 150 ppb threshold the authors have
264 used, but in Fig. S9 it is barely sufficient. Why not define a flight-specific background [CO]
265 based on the observations?

266 We agree that the background CO is variable from flight to flight. However, we performed a
267 sensitivity analysis on the background CO cutoff (using a cutoff of 200 ppbv instead of 150
268 ppbv), shown in Fig. S20, and the results do not qualitatively change our conclusions. This is
269 briefly discussed in lines 205-208, “*Figs. S13, S19-S21 show the same details as Fig. 2 but*
270 *provide sensitivity tests to potential FIMS measurement artifacts (Fig. S13) and our assumed*
271 *background CO and Δ CO percentile spacing (Figs. S19-S21). Although these figures show slight*
272 *variability, the findings discussed below remain robust, and we constrain the rest of our*
273 *discussion to the FIMS measurements, background and Δ CO percentile spacings used in Fig. 2.”*
274

275 R1.12) L156: The authors note that the instruments had various time lags, but it is not clear
276 whether they were all adjusted to account for these varying time lags. This should be clarified.
277 Also, it would be helpful if the authors clarified whether they really mean a “lag” but with a fast
278 response time (i.e., two instruments both show sharp changes but are offset) or whether they are
279 referring to some amount of smearing in which previous measurements affect the current
280 measurement. From the FIMS discussion, it sounds as if they are actually talking about smearing
281 (related to instrument response time) and not a lag.

282 The data was not time lag corrected, and we clarify this in the text now. Kleinman et al. (2020)
283 provides further details on time lags--they did correct the data but note that “Time-shifts of 1-2
284 seconds are readily apparent as a degradation in correlation when comparing instruments.
285 Maximizing correlations, however, does not accurately compensate for varying response time.”
286 From coauthor Kleinman’s careful work and analyses, we believe that most of the instruments

287 display only a time lag, but that the FIMS displays both a time lag and some smearing. Given
288 that analysis only using the first half of the FIMS data for each leg did not change our
289 conclusions (see the methods section, specifically *“To test if these lags impact our results, we*
290 *perform an additional analysis where we only consider the first half of each in-plume transect,*
291 *when concentrations are generally rising with time (Figure S12-S13), and our main conclusions*
292 *are unaffected.”*) We have clarified in the text that the FIMS had additional smearing.

293 Kleinman, L. I., Sedlacek III, A. J., Adachi, K., Buseck, P. R., Collier, S., Dubey, M. K.,
294 Hodshire, A. L., Lewis, E., Onasch, T. B., Pierce, J. R., Shilling, J., Springston, S. R., Wang, J.,
295 Zhang, Q., Zhou, S., and Yokelson, R. J.: Rapid Evolution of Aerosol Particles and their Optical
296 Properties Downwind of Wildfires in the Western U.S., Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.,
297 <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2020-239>, in review, 2020.

298 R1.13) L165: Further details regarding how the FIMS data were used to establish the centerline
299 are needed. How were the number distributions used specifically? How were these determined
300 for different transects to give a single straight line? Also, is wind speed as measured by the
301 aircraft?

302 The centerline was subjectively determined to approximately capture the most-concentrated
303 portion of the total number concentration for each plume pass, as we are focused on aerosol
304 properties in this study (and their relation to concentration and dilution). We have added this text
305 to the main document and do include this as a limitation of the study in the original text (new
306 text underlined for clarity and along with some fixes to errors pointed out in R2):

307 *“To estimate the physical age of the plume, we use the estimated fire center as well as the total*
308 *FIMS number concentration to determine an approximate centerline of the plume as the smoke*
309 *travels downwind (Figs. S1-S6). The centerline is subjectively placed to attempt to capture the*
310 *most-concentrated portion of the total number concentration for each plume pass, as we focus on*
311 *aerosol properties and their relations to dilution in this study. We use mean wind speed and this*
312 *estimated centerline to get an estimated physical age for each transect. We did not propagate*
313 *uncertainty in fire location, wind speed, or centerline through to the physical age, which is a*
314 *limitation of this study.”*

315

316 R1.14) Fig. 1: The figure lacks error bars. Given the analysis, it would seem that precision-
317 based propagated uncertainties would be appropriate, as the authors seem interested more in
318 characterizing changes than they are absolute values. I suggest appropriate error bars are added.

319 We are quite hesitant to put forth a precision-based analysis. We are cautious to apply a known
320 precision under ambient conditions to the sometimes extremely concentrated conditions of
321 smoke plumes. For instance, our initial analyses included ozone measurements and UHSAS

322 particle size distribution measurements, but we had to remove both instruments due to
323 unresolvable issues with interferences under plume conditions. The UHSAS became saturated--
324 this saturation level may be changing as both a function of particle size and concentration (as
325 was discovered from careful analysis of a UHSAS during strong pollution events during an
326 indoor campaign and seen again during a controlled burn study; Erin Boedicker [Colorado State
327 University; Farmer group], personal communication). Another issue is that propagating
328 uncertainties assumes that precision is equivalent in all of the measurements. We are using
329 multiple instruments so this assumption breaks down, as many instruments define and calculate
330 precision differently. This makes a true apples-to-apples comparison (which is needed for
331 propagation of errors) tricky or impossible. As discussed in response to other comments by this
332 and the other reviewer, we have weakened the language of our results throughout due to these
333 uncertainties.

334 R1.15) L182: While it seems that the 5-15 percentile values are primarily found at the physical
335 edges of the plumes shown in the supplemental, as often as not the 90-100 percentile values
336 exhibit bimodal behavior across a transect, often occurring relatively close to the physical edge.
337 From what is shown, I do not believe it is justified to say that the 90-100 percentile “core”
338 corresponds to the physical “core” of the plume as observed. I strongly suggest the authors to
339 define a quantitative metric to relate the percentiles to the spatial distribution. Perhaps a
340 normalized distance from the centerline.

341 We agree that the 5-15 and 90-100 percentiles do not perfectly line up to the physical edge and
342 core, and state in the original manuscript (lines 177-182): *“These percentile bins correspond with
343 the thinnest to thickest portions of the plume, respectively, and if a fire has uniform emissions
344 ratios across all regions and dilutes evenly downwind, these percentile bins would correspond to
345 the edges, intermediate regions, and the core of the diluting plume. We use this terminology in
346 this study but note that uneven emissions, mixing, and/or dilution lead to the percentile bins not
347 corresponding physically to our defined regions in some cases. However, the lowest two ΔCO
348 bins tend more towards the physical edges of the plume and the highest two tend more towards
349 the physical center of the plume (Figs. S2-S6).”*

350 (We note that we have added more material to the above quoted section, following comment
351 R1.10). We argue that our 5-15, 15-50, 50-90, and 90-100 ΔCO percentile bins are our
352 quantitative metric and that due to variable mixing between different smoke plumes as well as
353 variable plume widths, defining a spatial relationship is not necessarily particularly informative.
354 We add the following reminder to the manuscript in sect 3.1:

355 *“We use the simple ‘edge’ and ‘core’ terminology throughout the following discussion but note
356 that the 5-15 and 90-100 ΔCO percentile bins do not necessarily correspond to the physical
357 (spatial) edges and cores of each plume. They instead correspond to the most CO-dense and least
358 CO-dense portions of the plume.*

359 R1.16) L191: I suggest the authors be more precise in their claims. The normalized number
360 concentration in the “core” does not change with age, and at the edge the entirety of the change
361 is observed from the first transect to the second. And there is perhaps an increase in diameter
362 from the first transect to the next, but the diameter is constant (within variability) for all transects
363 further downwind. Also, the $\Delta O/C$ does not increase with aging. The authors indicate that the
364 Δf_{44} changes with age, but it is not clear how this was determined. Was some sort of linear
365 fit done? Is this just the difference between the first point and the last? Visually, the points look
366 scattered about a flat line. Overall, for this discussion I think that the authors need to be more
367 specific and precise and quantitative. As currently written, it is not always clear how the authors
368 came to the conclusions that they did.

369 We agree that this flight shows weak trends for the majority of the metrics discussed, and that
370 information on trends is only gained once all of the flights have been pooled together. Figure 1’s
371 primary purpose is to orient the reader to the different metrics and how they might look for a
372 flight. We have changed this paragraph to read:

373 “Figure 1 shows that for this specific plume, $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ and $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ vary little with age for
374 both the 5-15 and 90-100 percentile of ΔCO (p -values >0.5). A true Lagrangian flight with the
375 aircraft sampling the same portion of the plume and no measurement artifacts (e.g. coincidence
376 errors at high concentrations) would have a constant $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ for each transect. This flight and
377 other flights studied here have slight variations in $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ (Fig. 1; Figs. S14-S18), which may
378 be indicative of deviations from a Lagrangian flight path with temporal variations in emission
379 and/or measurement uncertainties. The remaining variables plotted also show some noise and
380 few clear trends, but it is apparent that the 5-15 and 90-100 percentiles do show a separation for
381 many of the individual metrics. In order to determine the existence or lack trends for these
382 metrics, we spend the remainder of this study examining each metric from all of the pseudo-
383 Lagrangian flights together.”

384 R1.17) L203: I find it exceptionally difficult to understand exactly what the authors have done
385 with the Spearman rank-order correlation tests. The authors need to be much more specific. The
386 authors have one value for (e.g.,) initial plume OA mass but then have multiple values for the
387 $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ for each transect of a given plume. Then there are multiple plumes. How are
388 the data merged to allow comparison across all plumes? Physical age makes more sense, as (for
389 example) $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ can be regressed versus physical age for each plume. But, to me,
390 how the other parameters are used (OA initial and $\Delta OA_{initial}$) is unclear. Are all the initial
391 OA values repeated for a given flight? Are the authors using only the initial values for the other
392 parameters to compare with initial OA?

393 We see that our original text here is confusing and misleading. We have attempted to clarify it.
394 We are using a single value for $\Delta OA_{initial}$ for each transect within a Lagrangian set of transects
395 which is obtained from the first transect of the set. If a flight has two Lagrangian sets of

396 transects, there will be a different value of $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ used for the two sets of transects, each again
397 obtained from the first transect of each set. The original text may have been interpreted that we
398 used OA_{initial} but we did not--we have clarified that. We use the changing values of $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$,
399 Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta H/\Delta C$, and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ as they age downwind to compare with initial OA. We have
400 updated this text (also following suggestions made in R1.20):

401 “Also included in Fig. 2 are the Spearman rank-order correlation tests (hereafter Spearman
402 tests), which are tests for monotonicity. The Spearman tests show correlation coefficients for
403 each flight set (Table S1) with the initial ΔOA of a flight set ($\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$) against $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$,
404 Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta H/\Delta C$, and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ as each variable ages downwind. We also include Spearman tests
405 for the calculated physical age of the smoke for each flight set against these same variables. The
406 R values are labeled $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$ and R_{age} , respectively, in Fig. 2. For the correlations with
407 $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$, all transects in a given Lagrangian set of transects have the same $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ value; for
408 flights with two Lagrangian set of transects, each set has its own $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ value. Correlating to
409 $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ provides an estimate of how the plume aerosol concentrations at the time of the initial
410 transect impact plume aging (aging both before and after this initial transect).”

411

412 R1.18) L213: What does it mean for something to “evaporate off through heterogeneous aging?”
413 Things can evaporate, or they can be heterogeneously oxidized. These are distinct processes.

414 We agree that the language here is misleading, and have updated the text to read:

415 “ Δf_{60} generally decreases with plume age ($R_{\text{age}} = -0.26$; a weak correlation), consistent with the
416 hypotheses that Δf_{60} may be evaporating because of dilution, undergoing heterogeneous
417 oxidation to new forms that do not appear at m/z 60, and/or having a decreasing fractional
418 contribution due to condensation of other compounds.”

419 R1.19) L210: The authors note that the changes in $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ with aging are small. A
420 recent review by the authors (Hodshire et al., 2019) indicates a variety of reasons for such
421 behavior. Another recent paper (Lim et al., 2019) introduces another potential reason for this
422 behavior, specifically potential biases in the measurement of OA as the particle composition
423 evolves. Have the authors considered this?

424 We agree that variable collection efficiency and related measurement artifacts could in theory
425 bias OA measurements. We realized that we did not include in the original manuscript the
426 characterized collection efficiencies (CE) of the SP-AMS, found to have two different
427 efficiencies for when the laser was on (CE=0.76) or off (CE=0.5) and we include those details in
428 the text now. We did not characterize any changes in efficiency with aging. This is an on-going
429 topic of debate within the AMS community (and is addressed within the SI of the
430 abovementioned paper from our group, Hodshire et al. 2019), and we briefly address it as a
431 limitation of this study. We have included these details in the methods section:

432 “It [the SP-AMS] was characterized to have a collection efficiency of 0.5 when the laser was off
433 and 0.76 when the laser was on during the BBOP campaign, and these corrections have been
434 applied to the data. We do not attempt to characterize whether the collection efficiency of the
435 SP-AMS changes as the aerosol ages. This may be a limitation of this study, as collection
436 efficiency has been recently observed to decrease with aging within a laboratory study of
437 biomass burning (Lim et al. 2019). However, no consistent evidence of changing collection
438 efficiencies in field studies exist yet.”

439

440 R1.20) With reporting the Spearman’s correlation coefficient I suggest the authors use
441 consistent language that links to typical interpretation of the level of significance (that a
442 relationship is monotonic). For example, a value of -0.25 (as determined for f60) might be
443 considered “weak” while a value of 0.54 (for f44) is “moderate.” Also, the authors might note
444 when introducing the Spearman’s test that it is a test for monotonicity.

445 Thank you for these suggestions. We now note in the text that the Spearman tests are a test for
446 monotonicity when we first mention it in the text, and have added the following definitions that
447 we use throughout the text each time we discuss an R value (and we also have updated our
448 language for R^2 to reflect these categories as well as emphasizing that R^2 is explaining a given
449 fraction of the variance):

450 “We define the following categories of correlation for the absolute value of R: 0.0-0.19 is ‘very
451 weak’, 0.2-0.39 is ‘weak’, 0.4-0.59 is ‘moderate’, 0.6-0.79 is ‘strong’, and 0.8-1.0 is ‘very
452 strong’ (Evans, 1996).”

453

454 Evans, J. D. (1996). Straightforward statistics for the behavioral sciences. Thomson Brooks/Cole
455 Publishing Co.

456 R1.21) There appears to be a good deal of flight-to-flight variability in behavior, from Fig. 2.
457 This raises a question of how much of the inferred behavior (from the Spearman’s test) derives
458 from fairly strong changes in one flight. The authors might consider testing the sensitivity to
459 their analysis by determining Spearman’s coefficients when systematically leaving out individual
460 flights or transects one at a time. This would give a broader sense of the robustness of the results,
461 given the notable scatter.

462 We have performed the Spearman’s test for R_{age} and $R_{\Delta\text{OA}, \text{initial}}$ for all metrics of Figure 2 leaving
463 one flight out at a time. The results are summarized in Table S2. We add the following text when
464 we first introduce the R values:

465 “As individual flights show scatter in the metrics of Fig. 2 (Figs. 1, Figs. S14-S18), we also
466 include $R_{\Delta\text{OA}, \text{initial}}$ and R_{age} for each metric of Fig. 2 systematically sequentially removing one

467 flight from the statistical analysis. These results are summarized in Table S2. In general,
468 removing single flights does not change our conclusions, particularly when correlations are
469 moderate or stronger.”

470

471 We provide the range of these results within the text as each metric is discussed.

472

473 R1.22) L217: Nitpicky, but compounds do not “contain f44.” Certain compounds fragment in
474 such a way that they show up at m/z 44 in the AMS. But overall this sentence is a run on with a
475 second half that does not logically follow from the first. The sentence starts by talking about a
476 balance between condensation and evaporation but shifts abruptly to note something about
477 heterogeneous oxidation or particle-phase reactions. I suggest the authors clarify the point they
478 are aiming to make here.

479 This is a reasonable point and we have updated the text to here to read (including updates as
480 suggested by reviewer 2’s comment R2.43):

481 “ Δf_{60} generally decreases with plume age ($R_{\text{age}} = -0.26$), consistent with the hypotheses that Δf_{60}
482 may be evaporating because of dilution, undergoing heterogeneous oxidation, and/or having a
483 decreasing fractional contribution due to condensation of other compounds.. In contrast, Δf_{44}
484 generally increases with age ($R_{\text{age}} = +0.5$) for all plumes with available data. It appears for the
485 plumes in this study that although there is little change in $\Delta \text{OA}/\Delta \text{CO}$, loss of compounds that
486 contain f_{60} fragments (as captured by the SP-AMS) is roughly balanced by condensation of
487 more-oxidized compounds, including those that contain compounds with f_{44} fragments, such as
488 carboxylic acids. This observation suggests the possibility of heterogeneous or particle-phase
489 oxidation that would alter the balance of Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} .”

490

491 R1.23) L219: The authors note that $\Delta \text{OA}/\Delta \text{CO}$ does not change much. This would be
492 consistent with the little mass loss that the authors note from heterogeneous oxidation here,
493 correct? Are the authors aiming to make a point more specifically about the efficiency with
494 which heterogeneous oxidation might degrade the f_{60} signal and not about mass loss? I find it
495 unclear.

496 We are trying to note that heterogeneous chemistry is relatively slow (for near-field aging) and
497 shouldn’t significantly contribute to evaporative or compositional changes. We have added text
498 to emphasize that point more clearly:

499 “However, estimates of heterogeneous mass losses indicate that after three hours of aging for a
500 range of OH concentrations and reactive uptake coefficients, over 90% of aerosol mass is

501 anticipated to remain, indicating that heterogeneous loss has limited effect on aerosol
502 composition or mass (Fig. S23; see SI text S2 for more details on the calculation). Hence, the
503 evaporation of f_{60} being balanced by gas-phase production of f_{44} may be the more likely
504 pathway.”

505

506 R1.24) Laboratory observations (Cubison et al., 2011;Hennigan et al., 2011;Hodshire et al.,
507 2019;McClure et al., 2020) have demonstrated that the f_{60} and f_{44} of freshly emitted particles
508 vary over large ranges dependent on the fuel type and specific burn condition. Is it not possible
509 that the differences in Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} between flights result from intrinsic differences in
510 the emitted particle properties? The authors seem to discount this without explicit justification
511 when they state that their interpretation assumes that “emitted Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} do not
512 correlate with $\Delta OA_{initial}$.” Might there not be an initial correlation, as this might indicate
513 some difference in the burn conditions or the particular fuel mix? I can certainly believe that
514 “evaporation and/or chemistry likely occurred before the time of” the first measurements,
515 however it is not clear to me that the observations as presented here demonstrate this
516 conclusively. Also, given that different sources produce particles that have different initial f_{60}
517 and f_{44} , would they be expected to exhibit the same Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} even if initial OA and
518 dilution were identical? Is there evidence that this is expected?

519 The reviewer makes reasonable points here and we agree that these are alternative hypotheses
520 that should be explicitly discussed in the manuscript. Reviewer 2 made similar comments in
521 R2.47. Unfortunately, lacking direct measurements of the emissions, we cannot explore this
522 hypothesis in any detail. And we do find it compelling that less-dense plumes do show higher
523 f_{44} /lower f_{60} than more-dense plumes, which supports our hypothesis of aging prior to the
524 transect. We have added the following text to Sect. 3.1:

525 “We note that each fire may emit particles with variable initial f_{44} and f_{60} values, as has been
526 observed in laboratory studies (Hennigan et al. 2011; Cubison et al. 2011; McClure et al. 2020),
527 which adds to scatter within the data. It is possible that variability in f_{44} and f_{60} may also
528 contribute to the observed correlations with $\Delta OA_{initial}$; however, this would require that higher f_{44}
529 emissions are correlated with lower emissions rates and/or faster dilution rates (and visa versa for
530 f_{60}). Lacking direct emissions measurements, this hypothesis cannot be further explored in this
531 work.”

532 To the reviewer’s last query (“Also, given that different sources produce particles that have
533 different initial f_{60} and f_{44} , would they be expected to exhibit the same Δf_{60} and Δf_{44}
534 even if initial OA and dilution were identical? Is there evidence that this is expected?”), we
535 would not expect the same Δf_{44} and Δf_{60} under those circumstances and thus variability from
536 emissions likely contributes to the noise of our fit parameters. We do include a brief discussion

537 on this in the text in Sect. 3.1 within the discussion of our fit parameters (with new minor edits
538 addressing comments from reviewer 2):

539 “The scatter is likely due to variability in emissions due to source fuel or combustion conditions,
540 instrument noise and responses under the large concentration ranges encountered in these smoke
541 plumes, inhomogeneous mixing within the plume, variability in background concentrations not
542 captured by our background correction method, inaccurate characterizations of physical age due
543 to variable wind speed, and/or deviations from a true Lagrangian flight path.”

544 R1.25) L243: I disagree with the authors interpretation of the van Krevelen diagram here. The
545 authors interpret this in a process based way related to chemistry. However, this does not account
546 for the fact that this is, likely, ultimately a mixing experiment wherein primary OA is being
547 increasingly mixed with secondary OA. This cannot be interpreted in terms of functional group
548 addition. Additionally, it is not clear that a plot of $\Delta O/\Delta C$ vs $\Delta H/\Delta C$ should behave
549 in the same way as a plot of O/C vs H/C. The authors must demonstrate the equivalency of these.

550 We think that the reviewer has interpreted our work to mean that we have calculated $\Delta(H/C)$
551 and $\Delta(O/C)$ (we did not calculate this), rather than $\Delta(H)/\Delta(C)$ and $\Delta(O)/\Delta(C)$
552 (which is the calculation we did do). We hope that our response to the earlier reviewer comment
553 R1.9 clarifies this matter. We remind the reader in the text of this here, (underlines for new
554 additions):

555 A Van Krevelen diagram of $\Delta H/\Delta C$ versus $\Delta O/\Delta C$ (Fig. S27) indicates that oxygenation
556 reactions or a combination of oxygenation and hydration reactions are likely dominant (Heald et
557 al., 2010) (recalling that $\Delta H/\Delta C$ and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ are calculated by background-correcting the
558 individual elements before ratioing; Eq. 1)
559

560 It is true that any non-linear changes in chemistry and composition will mean that our
561 $\Delta(H)/\Delta(C)$ and $\Delta(O)/\Delta(C)$ method will not perfectly isolate the elemental factors
562 from smoke, and we add this disclaimer in the methods:

563
564 “We note that any non-linear changes in chemistry and composition between the plume and
565 background will not perfectly isolate the elemental factors in smoke.”
566

567 R1.26) $\Delta O/\Delta C$ ratios: I am somewhat surprised that these values are positive. O:C ratios
568 of fresh biomass burning tend to be around 0.3-0.4 whereas O:C of background OA are typically
569 large. (The same is true for f44.) The authors should comment on the very fact that their
570 $\Delta O/\Delta C$ values are positive.

571 We think that the reviewer has interpreted our work to mean that we have calculated $\Delta(H/C)$
572 and $\Delta(O/C)$ (we did not calculate this), rather than $\Delta(H)/\Delta(C)$ and $\Delta(O)/\Delta(C)$

573 (which is the calculation we did do). $\Delta(H)/\Delta(C)$ and $\Delta(O)/\Delta(C)$ represent estimates
574 of the H:C and O:C of the smoke OA, which cannot physically be negative; and it would be
575 highly unlikely that $\Delta(H)$, $\Delta(C)$, and $\Delta(O)$ are negative as this would require the
576 background concentration of these elements to be higher than the plume concentrations We hope
577 that our response to the earlier reviewer comment R1.9 clarifies this matter and explains the
578 positive values.

579 R1.27) Eqn. 2: First, what is the justification for this functional form? Is there some other form
580 that would better explain the data? Second, in terms of utility, is it really most useful to predict
581 the delta values, as these will depend explicitly on the background, which may vary between
582 locations? Do the authors expect these relationships will prove robust and applicable to other
583 regions? Would these be appropriate at night as well as during the day? The authors have not
584 been able to distinguish between dilution-driven changes and oxidation-driven changes, so there
585 may be distinct day/night differences? When would they expect them applicable? How could
586 these parameters assist specifically in biomass burning models? Presumably such models would
587 aim to be processed based, differentiating between oxidation and dilution.

588 Reviewer 2 had similar questions in comment R2.56). We do not agree with the comment about
589 delta values here. The delta values mean that the background has been subtracted off in an
590 attempt to isolate the smoke contributions. Hence, in the absence of non-linear interactions
591 between the smoke and background species, the delta values do not depend on the background.
592 The non-delta values (the smoke+background values) much more explicitly depend on the
593 background.

594 We do agree that it's as yet unclear whether these fits are appropriate for other regions of the
595 world as well as day/night differences. We tried a large number of mathematical fits and these
596 equations (Eqs. 2-3 in the original text; Eqs. 4-5 in the updated text) performed the best. They do
597 not have a direct physical meaning. The parameters would need significantly more testing to be
598 applicable for models, and we have added the following text to address these comments:

599 “Eqs. 4-5 performed the best out of the mathematical fits that we tested. These equations do not
600 have a direct physical interpretation but may be used as a starting point for modeling studies as
601 well as for constructing a more physically based fit. There may be another variable not available
602 to us in the BBOP measurements that can improve these mathematical fits, such as photolysis
603 rates. We do not know whether these fits may well-represent fires in other regions around the
604 world, given variability in fuels and burn conditions. We also do not know how these fits will
605 perform under nighttime conditions, as our fits were made during daytime conditions with
606 different chemistry than would happen at night. We encourage these fits to be tested out with
607 further data sets and modeling. These equations are a first step towards parameterizations
608 appropriate for regional and global modeling and need extensive testing to separate influences of
609 oxidation versus dilution-driven evaporation.”

610

611 R1.28) When the authors report the Pearson’s coefficients, are these constrained to go through
612 the origin? The authors show only the 1-1 lines, but visually it seems that any linear fit to the
613 calculated vs. observed relationship will have a non-zero intercept unless constrained. In this
614 context, having a good r^2 value is simply an indication of a linear relationship but it is not an
615 indication of the goodness of the calculated vs. observed. Instead, the authors would need to
616 provide some metric such as normalized mean bias. As presented, I am not convinced that the r^2
617 values are particularly meaningful.

618 We do not constrain the Pearson’s coefficients to go through the origin. We have now calculated
619 the normalized mean bias (NMB) and normalized mean error (NME), as the normalized mean
620 bias is likely to be small given that we’re minimizing the linear fit. We include the NMB and
621 NME values in our Figures 3 and S28-29. We have updated figures and figure captions
622 accordingly. We add the following sections of text to Sect. 3.1 and 3.2:

623 1. (Section 3.1) “We do not constrain our fits to go through the origin. To provide further metrics
624 of goodness-of-fit, we also include the normalized mean bias (NMB) and normalized mean error
625 (NME) in percent for each metric of Fig. 3. The NMB values are very close to zero (which is
626 anticipated as linear fits seek to minimize the sum of squared residuals). The NME is more
627 variable, at 18.8% for Δf_{60} , 14.9% for Δf_{44} , and 10.4% for $\Delta O/\Delta C$.”

628
629 2. (Section 3.1) “Other functional fits were explored, with

630
631
$$\ln(\Delta X) = a \ln(\Delta OA_{initial}) + b \ln(\text{Physical age}) + c \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

632
633 (Fig. S28 and Table S4 for the fit coefficients) and $\Delta N_{initial}$ in the place of $\Delta OA_{initial}$ in Eq. 42
634 (Fig. S29 and Table S5 for the fit coefficients) providing similar correlation values and NMB and
635 NME values for Δf_{60} , and Δf_{44} , and $\Delta O/\Delta C$.”

636
637 3. (Section 3.2) We also perform the functional fit analysis following Sect. 3.1 (Eq. 4; where X is
638 $\underline{D_p}$ in this case). The fit can also weakly predict greater than 30 percent of the variance in $\underline{D_p}$
639 (R_p^2 and R_s^{2s} of 0.36 and 0.31 and NME of 5.6%; Fig. 3d) but does not well-predict ΔN_{40-300}
640 $_{nm}/\Delta CO$ (not shown). We show the functional fit for $\underline{D_p}$ for the alternative fit equation (Eq. 5) in
641 Fig. S28 and Table S4. We also show the functional fits for $\underline{D_p}$ for Eq. 4 with $\Delta N_{initial}$ in place of
642 $\Delta OA_{initial}$ in Fig. 29 and Table S5.

643 R1.29) L263: It is not clear to me what the authors are getting at when they state that aged
644 Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} show scatter, limiting the predictive skill of measurements available from
645 BBOP. They had just discussed how there are “moderate goodness of fits.” It seems now that

646 they are contradicting themselves. Or perhaps they are just providing more context for what
647 “moderate” means.

648 We have updated our language when discussing the correlation metrics to be consistent
649 throughout, following comment R1.20). Reviewer 2 had similar comments in R2.57), and we
650 provide our response to that comment here:

651 We were referring to the aging values of Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} , we were not careful in our language
652 here though. “Limiting the predictive skill” was perhaps not the best phrase to use--we are trying
653 to argue that the scatter in the measurement data is likely contributing to the limited predictive
654 power of our current mathematical fits. We note that the p-values for these fits for Δf_{60} and Δf_{44}
655 (as well as the other variables in Fig. 3, mean $D_p \Delta O/\Delta C$) and are both less than 0.01 and we
656 argue that our fits provide valuable information on how physical age and a metric for plume size
657 (here, initial OA at the time of the first measurement) impact Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} . We now note in the
658 text that the p-values are <0.01 for all fits and we have updated this section to read:

659
660 “The aging values of Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ show scatter (Figs. S14-18), which likely
661 contributes to the limited predictive power of our mathematical fits. The scatter is likely due to
662 variability in emissions due to source fuel or combustion conditions, instrument noise and
663 responses under the large concentration ranges encountered in these smoke plumes,
664 inhomogeneous mixing within the plume, variability in background concentrations not captured
665 by our background correction method, inaccurate characterizations of physical age due to
666 variable wind speed, and/or deviations from a true Lagrangian flight path. Eqs. 4-5 performed
667 the best out of the mathematical fits that we tested. These equations do not have a direct physical
668 interpretation but may be used as a starting point for modeling studies as well as for constructing
669 a more physically based fit. There may be another variable not available to us in the BBOP
670 measurements that can improve these mathematical fits, such as photolysis rates. We do not
671 know whether these fits may well-represent fires in other regions around the world, given
672 variability in fuels and burn conditions. We also do not know how these fits will perform under
673 nighttime conditions, as our fits were made during daytime conditions with different chemistry
674 than would happen at night. We encourage these fits to be tested out with further data sets and
675 modeling. These equations are a first step towards parameterizations appropriate for regional and
676 global modeling and need extensive testing to separate influences of oxidation versus dilution-
677 driven evaporation..”

678 R1.30) L273: While the authors state here that highest initial deltaOA generally has the lowest
679 normalized number concentrations, this seems to contradict their near zero Spearman’s
680 coefficient reported in Fig. 2. In fact, the authors state this two lines later. This needs to be
681 revised. Either there is a correlation or there is not.

682 This is a good point--we have omitted this statement as it is not consistent with the observations.
683 Instead we state:

684 “Although we would anticipate that plume regions with higher initial ΔOA would have lower
685 normalized number concentrations due to coagulation, a few dense cores have normalized
686 number concentrations comparable or higher than the thinner edges, leading to no correlation
687 with $\Delta\text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$.”

688 R1.31) L276: Is variability in number emissions really “noise?” It seems like an inherent
689 feature.

690 We have changed “noise” to “unexplained variability” in the text.

691 R1.32) L278: Does the particle size really increase for “all” plumes, or does it statistically
692 increase when considered across all plumes? There seem to be some lines in the graph that are
693 basically flat when considered individually; thus, I am not certain that the “all” applies.

694 This is a good point. We have deleted the ‘all’ reference and have modified the text to read:

695 “The mean particle size between 40-262 nm, D_p (Eq. 31), is shown to statistically increase with
696 aging when considered across the BBOP dataset...”

697

698 R1.33) L280: As mentioned above, have the authors considered other potential artifacts in their
699 $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ that might lead to this parameter remaining flat while the apparent particle size
700 increases? I suggest this be discussed in the context of the authors’ conclusion that coagulation
701 drives the size change.

702 We agree that this caveat is appropriate to discuss here. We have added the following
703 parenthetical remark:

704 “(We acknowledge that $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ may be impacted by measurement artifacts as discussed in
705 Sect. 2. For instance, if the collection efficiency of the AMS is actually decreasing with age, then
706 $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ would be increasing and the increases in mean diameter will be due to SOA
707 condensation as well as coagulation.)”

708 R1.34) L283: The authors have been assuming that it is acceptable to use as an “initial” OA and
709 particle concentration the value measured in the closest transect for each flight. Given this
710 assumption, it is unclear why the authors now indicate it is essentially inappropriate to estimate
711 an initial particle diameter from the closest transect to use for comparison with the model of
712 Sakamoto et al. (2016). If the assumption is poor for one variable how is it justified that it is
713 okay for two other variables?

714 The reviewer has a good point that our logic seems inconsistent here. We add the following text
715 when we first introduce the concept of $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ in Sect. 3.1:

716 We note that $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ does not actually represent the true initial emitted OA from each fire, but
717 instead serves as a proxy for the general fire size, intensity, and emission rate (as presumably
718 larger, more intensely burning fires will have larger mass fluxes than smaller, less intensely
719 burning fires). Thus, $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ and other “initial” metrics referred to in this study are not to be
720 taken as emission values, and direct comparison to studies with direct emissions values is not
721 appropriate, as dilution and chemistry may occur before the initial flight transect, which we
722 discuss further below.

723
724 We also modify the specifically mentioned section:

725
726 “Sakamoto et al. (2016) provide fit equations for modeled D_p as a function of age, but they
727 include a known initial D_p at the time of emission in their parameterization (rather than 15
728 minutes or greater, as available to us in this study)” (underline added to point out new text)

729

730 R1.35) Equation 2: What units must the time have?

731 Good call--for the fit coefficients, time is in hours. We have now included this when introducing
732 the fit equation.

733 R1.36) L290: Nucleation is generally more favorable when existing particle surface area is
734 smaller, as the condensation sink is reduced. Might this also be an explanation for the greater
735 incidence of nucleation near plume edges?

736 Yes absolutely--we have added this possibility to the discussion.

737 “As well, nucleation is more favorable when the total condensation sink is lower (e.g. reduced
738 particle surface area) (Dal Maso et al. 2002), which may occur for outer portions of plumes with
739 little aerosol loading.”

740 R1.37) L294: The authors note that the nucleation mode “appears to be coagulating or
741 evaporating away as the plumes travel downwind.” It would be useful if they show this explicitly
742 in some way. Which figures should the reader look at specifically and which intersects? I find
743 this overall too vague and suggest that it needs to be made more explicit.

744 We have examined this statement and Figs. S7-S11 (number size distribution plots) and upon
745 further consideration do not think that it’s strictly apparent what is happening to the smallest
746 particles downwind--quite often the nucleation mode appears to be persistent even at final

747 transects. We have removed the statement and have moved the first half of this sentence to
748 earlier in the paragraph (underlines to emphasis text that has been moved into this sentence):

749 Nucleation-mode particles appear to be approximately one order of magnitude less concentrated
750 than the larger particles, and primarily occur in the outer portion of plumes, although one day did
751 show nucleation-mode particles within the core of the plume (Fig. S11).

752 R1.38) L303: Again, does “thicker” here mean “more concentrated”? Thickness, which I would
753 interpret to mean some spatial thickness, is not discussed in this paper as best I can tell.

754 Regardless, the authors cannot conclude that $\Delta N/\Delta CO$ is lower for “thicker” plumes since
755 their Spearman’s coefficient is essentially zero.

756 The reviewer is correct--following similar comments above, we delete this statement.

757

758 R1.39) L308: Again, how can the authors rule out differences in the initial conditions that are
759 independent of physical or chemical aging? This seems to be an underlying assumption
760 throughout this entire study, but I do not find that the authors have really justified this
761 assumption. Given how central it is to everything, I strongly suggest that an explicit discussion
762 must be included wherein the authors review the evidence for and against their assumption.

763 We have added more text and qualifiers to section 3 addressing this issue, following comments
764 R1.24 and R2.47. We add the following text to this discussion:

765 “We were unable to quantify the impact on potential interfire variability in the emission values
766 of the metrics studied here (such as variable f_{60} and f_{44}). We anticipate that being able to capture
767 this additional source of variability may lead to stronger fits and correlation.”

768 And

769 “We also suggest further refinement of our fit equations, as further variables (such as photolysis
770 rates) and better quantification of interfire variability (such as variable emission rates) are
771 anticipated to improve these fits.”

772 Minor:

773 R1.40) L47: It might be more accurate to say that the smoke plumes dilute through entrainment
774 of background air rather than that they dilute and entrain background air.

775 Thank you--this is similar to comment R2.14) and we have clarified this sentence, addressing
776 both reviewer comments:

777

778 “Dilution through entrainment of regional background air can cause vapors and particles emitted
779 from fires to rapidly evolve as smoke travels downwind”

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818 **Review 2**

819 *Summary:*

820 This manuscript uses airborne data of wildfire smoke plumes, measured as pseudo-lagrangian
821 transects of the plumes during the 2013 BBOP field campaign. Physical ages of the plumes
822 ranged from approximately 15 minutes to 2-4 hours.

823
824 The authors analyze the oxidation state (through f44, f60, O/C, and H/C) as well as mean particle
825 diameter and the OA/CO emission ratio of aerosol in terms of physical plume age and the
826 aerosol's proximity to the plume core. They demonstrate enhanced chemical aging/oxidation at
827 the edges of plumes that they argue is related to enhanced photolysis in more dilute BBOA-
828 containing air.

829
830 Only a couple studies have discussed the effects of chemical aging in terms of plume thickness
831 and edge-to-core position. This is a very informative and fascinating approach and is a great use
832 of archived data BBOP data to build upon previous modeling research. The paper is well cited
833 and the figures are generally aesthetically pleasing. Please don't be dismayed by the criticism to
834 follow as I tend to focus on the things that need to be fixed. There are a lot of good observations
835 and analysis in this paper which I don't, but maybe should, highlight.

836
837 I believe that many of the conclusions are likely true, however the way the data was analyzed
838 does not always support this and I have made quite a few comments regarding this. In my
839 opinion, a focus should be made on comparisons within transect sets regarding how things
840 evolve with physical age and generalizations of plume cores vs plume edges instead of on bulk
841 regressions (Spearman's correlations) which are not particularly convincing (either low R-values
842 or R-values reflective of outlier data). Additionally, there seems to be a lot of contradicting
843 statements made in interpreting the results. This is potentially a very good and interesting paper
844 relevant to the subject areas of ACP and eventually should be published, but obviously will
845 require significant edits.

846
847 *General Comments:*

848
849 R2.1) Figures are aesthetically pleasing but could use some minor changes.

850
851 [We have followed both reviewers' specific suggestions in ensuing comments to the best of our](#)
852 [abilities and scientific agreement.](#)

853
854 R2.2) Format of citations need to be fixed.

855
856 [We agree that a number of our in-text citations came through poorly. We apologize and have](#)
857 [fixed these to the best of our abilities.](#)

858

859 R2.3) There are a lot of typos and issues with word choice which will need to be fixed before
860 final publication.

861

862 We have responded to specific comments in both reviews and have done a thorough check of our
863 document before resubmission.

864

865 R2.4) I am curious, how wide were the plumes and how long did it take to fly through them? It
866 seems like you explored whether instrument lags affected your results, but during a
867 transect did the physical age of the leading the plume edge vary significantly from the
868 edge when you left the plume?

869

870 The plumes are approximately 5-50 km wide (using the Haversine method; this can be observed
871 in Figs. S2-S6). We now note this in the methods section:

872

873 “The plumes spanned from approximately 5-50 km wide (Figs. S2-6).”

874

875 If the flights were perfectly Lagrangian, the physical age would be the same from leading plume
876 edge to trailing plume edge. The plane was travelling at 100 m s^{-1} on average, and thus took ~50-
877 500 s (0.8 to 8.3 minutes) to cross, and general uncertainty in physical age is larger than this. We
878 note this at the end of the section:

879

880 “We use the mean wind speed and this estimated centerline to calculate an estimated physical
881 age for each transect, and this physical age is assumed to be constant across the transect, as
882 plume crossings took between 50-500 seconds.”

883

884

885 R2.5) I think you can better clarify how you estimate physical age. In the supplementary files,
886 the “core” trajectory is a straight line, presumably because you use a single wind speed
887 and direction, but the core of the transect frequently does not lie on that line. Could this
888 be improved with Hysplit/WRF models? Would that help the core of the transect fall
889 along the dashed line?

890

891 There were a few other comments on our physical age estimate (see R1.10, R1.13, and R2.25).
892 We have modified the text to read:

893

894 “To estimate the physical age of the plume, we use the estimated fire center as well as the total
895 FIMS number concentration to determine an approximate centerline of the plume as the smoke
896 travels downwind (Figs. S1-S6). The centerline is subjectively placed to attempt to capture the

897 most-concentrated portion of the total number concentration for each plume pass, as we focus on
898 aerosol properties and their relations to dilution in this study.”

899

900 We agree that our approximate center-line is not perfect. However, the resolution and uncertainty
901 of models like Hysplit or WRF are great enough that we do not have confidence that they would
902 perform any better as the model/reanalysis meteorology may have errors.

903

904

905 R2.6) Data are broken down into physical age and further into fringe-vs-core (such as shown in
906 Figure 1). These data-points represent a range of data subsample in time and space and
907 therefore should include error bars representing the variance in data represented by each
908 data point as well as the measurement uncertainty.

909

910 Reviewer 1 had similar comments in R1.14) for figure 1. We provide our response to them here
911 and argue that these comments are appropriate for figure 2 as well.

912 We are quite hesitant to put forth a precision-based analysis. We are cautious to apply a known
913 precision under ambient conditions to the sometimes extremely concentrated conditions of
914 smoke plumes. For instance, our initial analyses included ozone measurements and UHSAS
915 particle size distribution measurements, but we had to remove both instruments due to
916 unresolvable issues with interferences under plume conditions. The UHSAS became saturated--
917 this saturation level may be changing as both a function of particle size and concentration (as
918 was discovered from careful analysis of a UHSAS during strong pollution events during an
919 indoor campaign and seen again during a controlled burn study; Erin Boedicker [Colorado State
920 University; Farmer group], personal communication). Another issue is that propagating
921 uncertainties assumes that precision is equivalent in all of the measurements. We are using
922 multiple instruments so this assumption breaks down, as many instruments define and calculate
923 precision differently. This makes a true apples-to-apples comparison (which is needed for
924 propagation of errors) tricky or impossible. As discussed in response to other comments by this
925 and the other reviewer, we have weakened the language of our results throughout due to these
926 uncertainties.

927

928 R2.7) Df60 and Df44 are known to vary in primary emissions, even in laboratory experiments
929 where nascent soot can be analyzed (i.e. not after 10+ minutes of aging). However, a key
930 assumption in many of the conclusions seems to be that all primary BBOA has the same
931 initial Df60 and Df44. This is a problem when the authors try to support their conclusions.

932

933 Reviewer 1 had similar concerns in comment R1.24. We did not intend to make that assumption,
934 but it is possible that a reading of our manuscript gives the impression that we implicitly are
935 making that assumption. We do not expect the same Δf_{44} and Δf_{60} for each fire, and thus

936 variability from emissions likely contributes to the unexplained variability of our fit parameters.
937 We do include two more brief discussions on this in the text in Sect. 3.1 within the discussion of
938 our fit parameters:

939
940 “We note that each fire may emit particles with variable initial f_{44} and f_{60} values, as has been
941 observed in laboratory studies (Hennigan et al. 2011; Cubison et al. 2011; McClure et al. 2020),
942 which adds to scatter within the data. It is possible that variability in f_{44} and f_{60} may also
943 contribute to the observed correlations with $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$; however, this would require that higher f_{44}
944 emissions are correlated with lower emissions rates and/or faster dilution rates (and visa versa for
945 f_{60}). Lacking direct emissions measurements, this hypothesis cannot be further explored in this
946 work.”(this comment and R1.24)

947
948 “The scatter is likely due to variability in emissions due to source fuel or combustion conditions,
949 instrument noise and responses under the large concentration ranges encountered in these smoke
950 plumes, inhomogeneous mixing within the plume, variability in background concentrations not
951 captured by our background correction method, inaccurate characterizations of physical age due
952 to variable wind speed, and/or deviations from a true Lagrangian flight path.” (this comment and
953 R1.24)

954
955 R2.8) The use of Spearman’s rank-correlation is fine as you may not expect linearly
956 increasing/decreasing values with physical (or even chemical) age. But it needs to be
957 clearly stated that this is a test of monotonically increasing/decreasing values, which does
958 not give the same predictive interpretations as a Pearson’s correlation.
959 Interpretation of Spearman’s correlation coefficients and the strength of these
960 coefficients, in many cases, do not support the interpretations presented in this work. Part
961 of this is because the authors chose to combine all data from all flights together for the
962 regressions. This means that data representing older physical age of a plume with high
963 initial concentrations is mixed together with data representing young physical age but low
964 concentrations. The result is that there is not a strong relationship between these
965 parameters (e.g. DN/DCO) and physical age (or DOA_{initial}). If these transects were
966 normalized in some other way, maybe these statements may be more supportive of the
967 Conclusions.

968
969 We now note in the text that the Spearman tests are a test for monotonicity when we first
970 mention it in the text. We agree that mixing data in the fashion described may limit our statistical
971 analysis. However, the fit equations and results of Figure 3 do get at the combined effects of
972 age/concentration. Given that those fits show initial promise and that the results of Figure 1 do
973 show some moderate trends, we argue that there is value in our methods. The reviewer asks more
974 specific questions regarding normalization in comment R2.35, and we refer the reviewer to our
975 response there for further details.

976
977 R2.9) The supplementary text provides very little additional information. There seems to be
978 some confusion regarding methodology which could be explained in more detail here. I
979 would suggest a cartoon of a flight path showing how you chose your background for a
980 Transect.

981
982 We agree that the original SI was too sparse. We have expanded the SI section to include more
983 information about the campaign instrumentation, following reviewer 1's comment R1.8, and we
984 refer reviewer 2 to comment R1.8. We have included the locations of each flight's background
985 (lowest 10% of CO) in Figures S2-S6.

986
987 R2.10) Were all supplementary sections/figures referenced in the text? I lost count.

988
989 We verified before submission that all SI figures and text were referenced in the text; we have
990 re-verified before our current re-submission.

991
992
993 *Specific Comments:*

994
995 R2.11) L30: Be more specific about what you mean by "smoke concentrations... aging
996 markers,number, diameter."

997
998 We have updated the text to read:

999
1000 "Here, we use observational data from the BBOP field campaign and show that initial smoke
1001 organic aerosol mass concentrations can help predict changes in smoke aerosol aging markers,
1002 number concentration, and mean diameter between 40-262 nm."

1003
1004 R2.12) L34-35: You state that it is not quantifiable how diluted a plume is when first measured;
1005 does this contradict the next statement that (hence) the initially measured (number?)
1006 concentration is a proxy for dilution?

1007
1008 We agree that this text is confusing and have clarified it:

1009
1010 "However, the extent to which dilution has occurred prior to the first observation is not a directly
1011 measurable quantity. Hence, initial observed plume concentrations can serve as a rough indicator
1012 of the extent of dilution prior to the first measurement, which impacts photochemistry and
1013 aerosol evaporation."

1014
1015

1016 R2.13) L37: Do you mean “increases in oxidative tracers” or that the oxidation-state of OA at
1017 the edges was higher?

1018

1019 The latter--we’ve clarified the text (and split the original long sentence into two):

1020

1021 “We further find that on the edges, the oxidation state of organic aerosol has increased and has
1022 undergone more decreases in a marker for primary biomass burning organic aerosol. ”

1023

1024 R2.14) L44-47: “...rapidly evolve as smoke travels downwind, diluting and entraining
1025 background air.” I think you mean that dilution and entrainment can rapidly cause aerosol &
1026 vapor evolution, but that is not how it reads.

1027

1028 Thank you--this is similar to comment R1.40) and we have clarified this sentence, addressing
1029 both reviewer comments:

1030

1031 “Dilution through entrainment of regional background air can cause vapors and particles emitted
1032 from fires to rapidly evolve as smoke travels downwind”

1033

1034 R2.15) L49: I think you mean “dilution at time of measurement”.

1035

1036 Thank you--we have added this.

1037

1038 R2.16) L54: Does this refer to radiative fluxes?

1039

1040 Yes--we have updated this phrase to “shortwave radiative fluxes”

1041

1042 R2.17) L 55-57: Please fix the brackets around citations.

1043

1044 Fixed.

1045

1046 R2.18) L93: Should read “aging and oxidation of OA mass and aerosol number concentration
1047 and mean Diameter.”

1048

1049 We agree that this sentence is hard to parse; we’ve updated it:

1050

1051 “Here, we present smoke plume observations from the Biomass Burning Observation Project
1052 (BBOP) campaign of aerosol properties from five research flights sampling wildfires downwind
1053 in seven pseudo-Lagrangian sets of transects to investigate the evolution of OA mass and
1054 oxidation state, aerosol number, and aerosol mean diameter.”

1055

1056 R2.19) L112: 20-262 nm size range is not ideal, but I guess it is what you have.

1057

1058 We agree that we would have preferred a larger size range.

1059

1060 R2.20) L134-135: Also background correct m/z=44 and m/z=60?

1061

1062 Reviewer 1 was also unclear on our background-corrections and calculations for f_{60} and f_{44}
1063 (comment R1.9). We repeat our response here:

1064

1065 We calculated the background corrected f_{60} and f_{44} as follows (where $f = f_{60}$ or f_{44}):

$$1066 \Delta f = \frac{(f_{in} * OA_{in}) - (f_{out} * OA_{out})}{\Delta OA} \quad \text{Eq. R1}$$

1067 Similar, the $\Delta O/\Delta C$ and $\Delta H/\Delta C$ are calculated through (where $X = O$ or H):

$$1068 \frac{\Delta X}{\Delta C} = \frac{(X_{in\ plume} - X_{out\ of\ plume})}{(C_{in\ plume} - C_{out\ of\ plume})} \quad \text{Eq. R2}$$

1069 We've added Eqs. R1-R2 as Eqs. 1 and 2 in the main text and have updated other equation
1070 numbers and references.

1071

1072 R2.21) L 136: Conceptually, where does the lowest 10% of CO occur? Just outside of the plume
1073 as the plane circles back through? Is the background fairly constant for a flight leg? Do you
1074 adjust background each time the plane turns around and goes back to transect the plume again?

1075

1076 Figures S7-S11 (white solid line in each figure) indicate that the CO outside of the plume is
1077 fairly constant. We do not adjust the background each time but instead use the lowest 10% for
1078 the entire flight path once the plane has reached the fire until the plane leaves the fire/smoke
1079 complex. The location of the lowest 10% varies from flight to flight and from leg to leg, but
1080 often occurs on the flight portion furthest from the smoke plume of each leg. As was noted in the
1081 text, we did sensitivity analyses of our results to our assumptions about background and in-
1082 plume CO values and our conclusions were not changed.

1083

1084

1085 R2.22) L137: Is elemental O, H, and C calculated from O/C, H/C & OA or is H/C and O/C
1086 calculated from the elemental O, H, C concentrations? Aiken et al (2007) estimate it in the later
1087 (Eqn 1).

1088

1089 We calculate elemental O, H, and C using O/C, H/C, and OA, assuming that all of the OA mass
1090 was from O, C, and H. We have added the following: "Elemental O, H, and C are calculated

1091 using the O/C and H/C and OA data from the SP-AMS (assuming all of the OA mass is from O,
1092 C, and H),...) (underline ours)

1093

1094 R2.23) L 139: Typo (“..., we but do not...”)

1095

1096 Fixed

1097

1098 R2.24) L164-165: Sentence grammar

1099

1100 Updated to:

1101

1102 “The true fire location and center at the time of sampling is likely different than the MODIS
1103 estimates, depending on the speed of the fire front.”

1104

1105 R2.25) L165-167: Why use the FIMS # distribution to determine plume center? Why not [CO],
1106 [mrBC], total number concentration, etc? In the supplemental figures, it says the center-flow is
1107 determined by number concentration (not distribution).

1108

1109 We have made an error here--we do use the total FIMS number concentration to determine our
1110 plume center and have updated the text to reflect that. We use aerosol number as this study is
1111 focused on aerosol properties as a function of dilution amount. We have updated the text here
1112 (also following points made in R1.13):

1113

1114 “To estimate the physical age of the plume, we use the estimated fire center as well as the total
1115 FIMS number concentration to determine an approximate centerline of the plume as the smoke
1116 travels downwind (Figs. S1-S6). The centerline is subjectively placed to attempt to capture the
1117 most-concentrated portion of the total number concentration for each plume pass, as we focus on
1118 aerosol properties and their relations to dilution in this study. We use mean wind speed and this
1119 estimated centerline to get an estimated physical age for each transect. We did not propagate
1120 uncertainty in fire location, wind speed, or centerline through to the physical age, which is a
1121 limitation of this study.”

1122

1123 R2.26) L170: Fix heading

1124

1125 Fixed

1126

1127 R2.27) L189: Measurement uncertainty should be plotted in Figures (sum of variance in data
1128 represented by each data point + uncertainty in each instrumental recording)

1129

1130 This comment is similar to comments R2.8 and R1.14, and we refer the reviewer to our
1131 responses there.

1132
1133

1134 R2.28) L189-190: Changes in f60 and f44 should be provided as fractional (as displayed on axis
1135 of Figure 1, etc). Relative changes (%) are confusing.

1136

1137 Reviewer 1 pointed out in comment R1.16 that much of the discussion in this paragraph (lines
1138 185-194 of the original document) was not well-posed. We have deleted this discussion and
1139 replaced it with:

1140

1141 “Figure 1 shows that $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ and $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ vary little with age for both the 5-15 and 90-100
1142 percentile of ΔCO (p-values>0.5). A true Lagrangian flight with the aircraft sampling the same
1143 portion of the plume and no measurement artifacts (e.g. coincidence errors at high
1144 concentrations) would have a constant $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ for each transect. This flight and other flights
1145 studied here have slight variations in $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ (Fig. 1; Figs. S14-S18), which may be indicative
1146 of deviations from a Lagrangian flight path with temporal variations in emission and/or
1147 measurement uncertainties. The remaining variables plotted also show some noise and few clear
1148 trends, but it is apparent that the 5-15 and 90-100 percentiles do show a separation for many of
1149 the individual metrics. In order to determine the existence or lack trends for these metrics, we
1150 spend the remainder of this study examining each metric from all of the pseudo-Lagrangian
1151 flights together.”

1152

1153 R2.29) L192: Replace “number concentration” with either “normalized number concentration”
1154 or “DN40-262 nm /DCO”.

1155

1156 Thank you, we have changed this to read as “normalized number concentration”

1157

1158 R2.30) L192: I only see a decrease in DN40-262 nm /DCO between ~0.6 and 1.0 hours physical
1159 age. Saying that it decreases with age implies a consistent trend. For D_p , this trend is hard to tell
1160 if it is statistically significant.

1161

1162 Reviewer 1 had similar issues with this paragraph in comment R1.16 (see also comment R2.28
1163 above) and we have modified the discussion entirely:

1164

1165 “Figure 1 shows that $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ and $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ vary little with age for both the 5-15 and 90-100
1166 percentile of ΔCO (p-values>0.5). A true Lagrangian flight with the aircraft sampling the same
1167 portion of the plume and no measurement artifacts (e.g. coincidence errors at high
1168 concentrations) would have a constant $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ for each transect. This flight and other flights
1169 studied here have slight variations in $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ (Fig. 1; Figs. S14-S18), which may be indicative

1170 of deviations from a Lagrangian flight path with temporal variations in emission and/or
1171 measurement uncertainties. The remaining variables plotted also show some noise and few clear
1172 trends, but it is apparent that the 5-15 and 90-100 percentiles do show a separation for many of
1173 the individual metrics. In order to determine the existence or lack trends for these metrics, we
1174 spend the remainder of this study examining each metric from all of the pseudo-Lagrangian
1175 flights together.”

1176

1177 R2.31) L197: What do you mean by “available ...”?

1178

1179 By available, we mean when instruments were taking measurements--we have gaps in the
1180 measurement data. We have added the following parenthetical statement:

1181

1182 “(Some transects do not have data available for specific instruments.)”

1183

1184 R2.32) L197-199: Really long sentence. I have had to read it 6-7 times to parse out what is
1185 shown.

1186

1187 We have updated this to:

1188

1189 “Fig. 2a-e show available $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$, Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} $\Delta\text{H}/\Delta\text{C}$, and $\Delta\text{O}/\Delta\text{C}$ edge and core data versus
1190 physical age for each transect for each flight of this study. We color each line by the mean ΔOA
1191 within a ΔCO percentile bin from the transect closest to the fire, $\Delta\text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$.”

1192

1193 R2.33) L200-201: Physical age is the distance between the transect-center to the fire-center
1194 divided by the average windspeed? So does 0 physical age imply infinite or 0 windspeed?

1195

1196 It would imply that the measurement is directly over the fire center (fire center - transect center =
1197 0), we’ve clarified this in the text:

1198

1199 “We note that although some of the physical ages appear to be at ~0 hours (e.g. over the fire)...”

1200

1201 R2.34) L203: The “...correlation coefficients (R) with initial plume OA mass,...” is not shown.
1202 Do you mean to say that this is represented by $\text{DOA}_{\text{initial}}$?

1203

1204 Reviewer 1 had similar concerns in comments R1.17 and R.20. We copy our discussion here:

1205 We see that our original text here is confusing and misleading. We have attempted to clarify it.
1206 We are using a single value for $\Delta\text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$ for each transect within a Lagrangian set of transects
1207 which is obtained from the first transect of the set. If a flight has two Lagrangian sets of
1208 transects, there will be a different value of $\Delta\text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$ used for the two sets of transects, each again

1209 obtained from the first transect of each set. The original text may have been interpreted that we
1210 used $OA_{initial}$ but we did not--we have clarified that. We use the changing values of $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$,
1211 Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} $\Delta H/\Delta C$, and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ as they age downwind to compare with initial OA. We have
1212 updated this text (also following suggestions made in R1.20):

1213 “Also included in Fig. 2 are the Spearman rank-order correlation tests (hereafter Spearman
1214 tests), which are tests for monotonicity. The Spearman tests show correlation coefficients for
1215 each flight set (Table S1) with the initial ΔOA of a flight set ($\Delta OA_{initial}$) against $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$,
1216 Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} $\Delta H/\Delta C$, and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ as each variable ages downwind. We also include Spearman tests
1217 for the calculated physical age of the smoke for each flight set against these same variables. The
1218 R values are labeled $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$ and R_{age} , respectively, in Fig. 2. For the correlations with
1219 $\Delta OA_{initial}$, all transects in a given Lagrangian set of transects have the same $\Delta OA_{initial}$ value; for
1220 flights with two Lagrangian set of transects, each set has its own $\Delta OA_{initial}$ value. Correlating to
1221 $\Delta OA_{initial}$ provides an estimate of how the plume aerosol concentrations at the time of the initial
1222 transect impact plume aging (aging both before and after this initial transect).”

1223
1224

1225 R2.35) L202-204: Is the Spearman coefficient for concatenation of all data points from all
1226 transects? If so, I am not sure it would make sense to do this way. Spearman’s test tests for
1227 monotonically increasing/decreasing values. Given that each transect set starts at a different
1228 initial value you wouldn’t expect the grouped transect sets to display a strong R-value. If you
1229 want to use Spearman’s test in this way, for R_{age} you could normalize each normalized value to
1230 the initial normalized value to get a % change and plot that in Figure 2 and relevant
1231 supplementary figures.

1232

1233 We do agree that variability in emissions will lead to a different initial value of $\Delta OA_{initial}$.
1234 However, changes to the smoke aerosol (coagulation, dilution, evaporation, chemistry, etc.)
1235 should be occurring before the time of the first measurement, and using $\Delta OA_{initial}$ helps show
1236 that. If the changes in the factors in Figure 2 between the time of emission and the first transect
1237 are affected by the plume density, this would lead to an increase in the Spearman $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$. Of
1238 course, we are still impacted by variability in emissions within our current methods, and we have
1239 added further disclaimers throughout the text following reviewer comments. As the reviewer
1240 mentions, this scatter at the time of the first transect does reduce the Spearman R_{age} , but because
1241 plume-density-dependent aging prior to the first transect is one of the potentially interesting
1242 findings of this study, we feel that it is important to not normalize our changes. We have added
1243 the following text to Sect. 3.1:

1244

1245 “We note that scatter in $\Delta OA_{initial}$ leads to weaker R_{age} values than would be obtained if we
1246 normalized changes with aging to the first (normalized) value. However, as plume-density-
1247 dependent aging prior to the first transect is one of the potentially interesting findings of this
1248 study, we feel that it is important to not normalize our changes further.”

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R2.36) L206: Spell out “Figs.” And lower case.

Fixed

R2.37) L207-208: Type in list “...FIMS measurements AND BACKGROUND and DCO percentile Spacings...”

We have updated this section. We also have changed “background CO” to “in-plume CO threshold value”, as the latter is accurate and background CO is misleading.

“Figs. S13, S19-S21 show the same details as Fig. 2 but provide sensitivity tests to potential FIMS measurement artifacts (Fig. S13) and our assumed in-plume CO threshold value (set to 150 ppbv for Figs. 1-3; Sect. 2) and Δ CO percentile spacing (Figs. S19-S21). Although these figures show slight variability, the findings discussed below remain robust and we constrain the rest of our discussion to the assumptions made for the FIMS measurements, in-plume CO threshold value, and Δ CO percentiles used in Fig. 2.”

R2.38) L209: Previous line said you would only discuss FIMS, background and DCO.

We see that this sentence is confusing, we intend that our assumptions used in Fig. 2 about the FIMS measurements, CO, and delta(CO) percentiles will be used throughout the rest of the study. We have clarified the text:

“Although these figures show slight variability, the findings discussed below remain robust and we constrain the rest of our discussion to the original assumptions made for the FIMS measurements, in-plume CO threshold value, and Δ CO percentiles used in Fig. 2.”

R2.39) L209-210: RDOA,initial just says 0 in figure.

Thank you for catching this, the R value is 0 here and we have updated the text:

“In general, both the cores and edges show little change in Δ OA/ Δ CO with physical aging, with R_{Δ OA,initial and R_{age} at 0 .02 and 0.03... “

R2.40) L209-210: This figure shows orders of magnitude changes in DOA/DCO with age. I think you mean there is not a clear positive or negative trend (as stated in the first clause of the next sentence), not that there is no change.

We have updated the text from “show little change” to “do not show any positive or negative trend”.

1289

1290 R2.41) L212: Here and elsewhere, spell out “vs.” Check grammar.

1291

1292 We have fixed the vs. errors and have done a thorough grammar check. We have made many
1293 small changes to improve readability and grammar.

1294

1295

1296 R2.42) L213: For positive R values, consider putting a “+” sign in front of the value.

1297

1298 This does improve clarity and we have updated the positive R values to have a + sign throughout
1299 the manuscript.

1300

1301 R2.43) L214-218: Consider breaking this into multiple, shorter sentences. Check for redundancy
1302 with L212-214, i.e. a negative R value means there is a decreasing trend.

1303

1304 We have updated this section (including suggestions following reviewer 1’s comment R1.22).
1305 We removed the sentence in L212-214, as it is redundant, and incorporated the R values into the
1306 updated text:

1307

1308 “ Δf_{60} generally decreases with plume age ($R_{age} = -0.26$), consistent with the hypotheses that Δf_{60}
1309 may be evaporating because of dilution, undergoing heterogeneous oxidation, and/or having a
1310 decreasing fractional contribution due to condensation of other compounds.. In contrast, Δf_{44}
1311 generally increases with age ($R_{age} = +0.5$) for all plumes with available data. It appears for the
1312 plumes in this study that although there is little change in $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, loss of compounds that
1313 contain f_{60} fragments (as captured by the SP-AMS) is roughly balanced by condensation of
1314 more-oxidized compounds, including those that contain compounds with f_{44} fragments, such as
1315 carboxylic acids. This observation suggests the possibility of heterogeneous or particle-phase
1316 oxidation that would alter the balance of Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} .”

1317

1318

1319 R2.44) L214-218: Is it only evaporation or condensation (phase changes) happening or does O
1320 attack volatile and semivolatile species (levoglucosan) changing its molecular composition to
1321 more oxidized/refractory species without a phase change?

1322

1323 Reviewer 1 made similar comments in R1.23. We answer this comment and the next comment
1324 (R2.45) as well as R1.23:

1325

1326 We are trying to note that heterogeneous chemistry is relatively slow (for near-field aging) and
1327 shouldn’t significantly contribute to compositional changes. We have added text to emphasize
1328 that point more clearly:

1329 “However, estimates of heterogeneous mass losses indicate that after three hours of aging for a
1330 range of OH concentrations and reactive uptake coefficients, over 90% of aerosol mass is
1331 anticipated to remain, indicating that heterogeneous loss has limited effect on aerosol
1332 composition or mass (Fig. S23; see SI text S2 for more details on the calculation). Hence, the
1333 evaporation of f_{60} being balanced by gas-phase production of f_{44} may be the more likely
1334 pathway”

1335

1336 R2.45) L218-220: If you didn’t expect a change in normalized-OA anyway based on your
1337 model, why do you suggest a balance between evaporation particle mass loss and condensation
1338 mass gain?

1339

1340 The evaporative loss may be driven by dilution and the condensation may be driven by
1341 production of lower-volatility species from oxidation of either evaporated POA or more-volatile
1342 SOA precursors.

1343

1344 R2.46) L221: Those are not very strong R values to base your interpretations on, but I wouldn’t
1345 expect them to be for the reasons discussed above. This statement is not particularly true for f_{60} .

1346

1347 We have unified our language when discussing R and R^2 values throughout the text, following
1348 reviewer comment R1.20 as well as this comment.

1349

1350 R2.47) L224: But you just said that Df_{60} and Df_{44} correlate with $DOA_{initial}$. Differences in
1351 your initial Df_{60} or Df_{44} don’t necessary need a mechanistic explanation. We see variance these
1352 parameters in fresh emission in laboratory experiments and would expect to also see variance in
1353 primary emissions of wildfires. This is not good support for your next conclusion (that aircraft
1354 observations are missing evaporation and/or condensation).

1355

1356 Reviewer 1 had similar concerns in comments R1.24 and 1.39. Our response to both R1.24 and
1357 R2.47 is:

1358 Both reviewers makes reasonable points here and we agree that these are alternative hypotheses
1359 that should be explicitly discussed in the manuscript. Reviewer 2 made similar comments in
1360 R2.47. Unfortunately, lacking direct measurements of the emissions, we cannot explore this
1361 hypothesis in any detail. And we do find it compelling that less-dense plumes do show higher
1362 f_{44} /lower f_{60} than more-dense plumes, which supports our hypothesis of aging prior to the
1363 transect. We have added the following text to Sect. 3.1:

1364 “We note that each fire may emit particles with variable initial f_{44} and f_{60} values, as has been
1365 observed in laboratory studies (Hennigan et al. 2011; Cubison et al. 2011; McClure et al. 2020),
1366 which adds to scatter within the data. It is possible that variability in f_{44} and f_{60} may also
1367 contribute to the observed correlations with $\Delta OA_{initial}$; however, this would require that higher f_{44}

1368 emissions are correlated with lower emissions rates and/or faster dilution rates (and visa versa for
1369 f_{60}). Lacking direct emissions measurements, this hypothesis cannot be further explored in this
1370 work.”

1371 To Reviewer 1’s last query (“Also, given that different sources produce particles that have
1372 different initial f_{60} and f_{44} , would they be expected to exhibit the same Δf_{60} and Δf_{44}
1373 even if initial OA and dilution were identical? Is there evidence that this is expected?”), we
1374 would not expect the same Δf_{44} and Δf_{60} under those circumstances and thus variability from
1375 emissions likely contributes to the noise of our fit parameters. We do include a brief discussion
1376 on this in the text in Sect. 3.1 within the discussion of our fit parameters (with new minor edits
1377 addressing comments from reviewer 2):

1378 “The scatter is likely due to variability in emissions due to source fuel or combustion conditions,
1379 instrument noise and responses under the large concentration ranges encountered in these smoke
1380 plumes, inhomogeneous mixing within the plume, variability in background concentrations not
1381 captured by our background correction method, inaccurate characterizations of physical age due
1382 to variable wind speed, and/or deviations from a true Lagrangian flight path.”

1383 We also address this issue in the conclusions. We have added more text and qualifiers to section
1384 3 addressing this issue, following comments R1.24 and R2.47. We add the following text to this
1385 discussion:

1386 “We were unable to quantify the impact on potential interfire variability in the emission values
1387 of the metrics studied here (such as variable f_{60} and f_{44}). We anticipate that being able to capture
1388 this additional source of variability may lead to stronger fits and correlation.”

1389 And

1390 “We also suggest further refinement of our fit equations, as further variables (such as photolysis
1391 rates) and better quantification of interfire variability (such as variable emission rates) are
1392 anticipated to improve these fits.”

1393
1394 R2.48) L227: Is this logic circular? That differences in $DOA_{initial}$ is due to different emission
1395 fluxes?

1396
1397 Differences in $\Delta OA_{initial}$ (which is the ΔOA of the first flight transect, not the ΔOA directly
1398 emitted from the fire) can stem from a variety of reasons beyond emission fluxes. We include
1399 some further reasons in our original text, copied here: “*The differences in $\Delta OA_{initial}$ between*
1400 *plumes may be due to different emissions fluxes (e.g., due to different fuels or combustion*
1401 *phases), or plume widths, where larger/thicker plumes dilute more slowly than smaller/thinner*

1402 *plumes; these larger plumes have been predicted to have less evaporation and may undergo*
1403 *relatively less photooxidation (Bian et al., 2017; Hodshire et al., 2019a, 2019b).*”

1404

1405 R2.49) L228: should not be a comma after the bracket.

1406

1407 Fixed

1408

1409 R2.50) L231 & 234: Reference format needs to be changed.

1410

1411 Fixed

1412

1413 R2.51) L234: Grammar. Reference to figure in Garofalo should be something like “(Fig. 6 in
1414 Garofalo et al, 2019)”

1415

1416 Fixed

1417

1418 R2.52) L235-236: Isn't that why you normalize?

1419

1420 The lack of trends from physical edge to core is most likely due to inhomogeneous mixing
1421 (which will not be improved by subtracting background concentrations), which is our next
1422 sentence, repeated here for reference:

1423

1424 *This could be as CO concentrations (and thus presumably other species) do not evenly increase*
1425 *from the edge to the core for many of the plume transects studied (Figs. S2-S6).*

1426

1427 We have added “... the remaining plumes do not show a clear trend from the physical edges to
1428 cores” (underline ours) to this statement to emphasize that we are discussing the physical
1429 transect, rather than the divisions made by ΔCO percentile bins.

1430

1431 R2.53) L237-239: You imply that patterns of f60 and f44 compared to shortwave irradiance is
1432 related by photolysis rates. I don't necessarily agree with this interpretation. If the plume is
1433 thicker it means that a higher fraction of aerosol mass is from the fire and because fire-emitted
1434 aerosol has higher f60 and lower f44 than background a simple mechanism of mixing explains
1435 your observations.

1436

1437 Our f60 and f44 values are background corrected (please see section 2 and newly added equation
1438 2; comment R1.9), which should correct for mixing. We are also not trying to draw any firm
1439 conclusions here, but are pointing out observational similarities (underline added for quick
1440 reference): *We do not have UV measurements that allow us to calculate photolysis rates but the*
1441 *in-plume shortwave measurements in the visible show a dimming in the fresh cores that has a*

1442 *similar pattern to f_{44} and the inverse of f_{60} (Fig. S26; the rapid oscillations in this figure could be*
1443 *indicative of sporadic cloud cover above the plumes).*

1444
1445 R2.54) L242-243: DO/DC and f_{44} are both proxies for OOA and would be expected to have the
1446 same trends. DH/DC and f_{60} , while not conceptually the same, both reflect primary BBOA and
1447 would also be expected to show the same trends It is a little redundant to analyze both sets.

1448
1449 We have reviewed a significant amount of biomass burning (BB) literature and have noted that
1450 many studies examine f_{44}/f_{60} or O:C/H:C or both. Furthermore, while f_{44}/f_{60} are popular
1451 within AMS BB measurement studies, models currently can only predict O:C/H:C. We chose to
1452 include both for completeness and ease of comparisons to other datasets in future studies. We
1453 agree that it's unsurprising to see similarities between the DO/DC and Df_{44} and DH/DC and
1454 Df_{60} results, given their relations, particularly for DO/DC and Df_{44} . We have added the
1455 following text within this paragraph:

1456
1457 “Given that Δf_{44} and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ are both metrics for OA aging (Sect. 2), it is unsurprising that we
1458 see similar trends between them.”

1459
1460 R2.55) L242-243: See issues raised earlier regarding interpreting Spearman's test results for
1461 these data sets.

1462
1463 We refer the reviewer to our responses on comments R2.8 and R.35.

1464
1465 R2.56) L249-264: You should provide explanation for why you used these equations to try and
1466 fit f_{44} and f_{60} . Is there a conceptual justification for them? Do they have meaning outside of a
1467 mathematical fit?

1468
1469 We tried a large number of mathematical fits and these equations (Eqs. 2-3 in the original text;
1470 Eqs. 4-5 in the updated text) performed the best. They do not have a direct physical meaning, and
1471 we have added the following to the end of this discussion:

1472
1473 “Eqs. 4-5 performed the best out of the mathematical fits that we tested. They do not have a
1474 direct physical interpretation but may be used as a starting point for modeling studies as well as
1475 for constructing a more physically-based fit.”

1476
1477 R2.57) L263-268: What do you mean by “Aged Df_{60} and Df_{44} ”? Does “limiting the predictive
1478 skill” mean that your fits are not particularly informative?

1479
1480 We were referring to the aging values of Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} , we were not careful in our language
1481 here though. “Limiting the predictive skill” was perhaps not the best phrase to use--we are trying

1482 to argue that the scatter in the measurement data is likely contributing to the limited predictive
1483 power of our current mathematical fits. We note that the p-values for these fits for Δf_{60} and Δf_{44}
1484 (as well as the other variables in Fig. 3, mean $D_p \Delta O/\Delta C$) and are both less than 0.01 and we
1485 argue that our fits provide valuable information on how physical age and a metric for plume size
1486 (here, initial OA at the time of the first measurement) impact Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} . We now note in the
1487 text that the p-values are <0.01 for all fits and we have updated this section to read:

1488
1489 “The aging values of Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ show scatter (Figs. S14-18), which likely
1490 contributes to the limited predictive power of our mathematical fits. The scatter is likely due to
1491 variability in emissions due to source fuel or combustion conditions, instrument noise and
1492 responses under the large concentration ranges encountered in these smoke plumes,
1493 inhomogeneous mixing within the plume, variability in background concentrations not captured
1494 by our background correction method, inaccurate characterizations of physical age due to
1495 variable wind speed, and/or deviations from a true Lagrangian flight path. Eqs. 4-5 performed
1496 the best out of the mathematical fits that we tested. These equations do not have a direct physical
1497 interpretation but may be used as a starting point for modeling studies as well as for constructing
1498 a more physically based fit. There may be another variable not available to us in the BBOP
1499 measurements that can improve these mathematical fits, such as photolysis rates. We do not
1500 know whether these fits may well-represent fires in other regions around the world, given
1501 variability in fuels and burn conditions. We also do not know how these fits will perform under
1502 nighttime conditions, as our fits were made during daytime conditions with different chemistry
1503 than would happen at night. We encourage these fits to be tested out with further data sets and
1504 modeling. These equations are a first step towards parameterizations appropriate for regional and
1505 global modeling and need extensive testing to separate influences of oxidation versus dilution-
1506 driven evaporation.”

1507
1508 R2.58) L264-265: typos/grammar

1509
1510 Fixed

1511
1512 R2.59) L271-272: The decrease in normalized number concentration with physical age mostly
1513 appears to be caused by 2-3 outlier measurements (the initial points for leg 730b edge, the initial
1514 value of another edge, and the tailing value of leg 726a 1). This does not seem like a statistically
1515 robust claim and I think the R value verifies it. Lines 275-277 seem to agree with my
1516 Assessment.

1517
1518 We agree with this assessment--reviewer 1 has asked us to be more precise in our language for
1519 reviewer comments (please see R1.20) and we have noted that this is a weak correlation within
1520 these sentences. We also note that reviewer 1 asked for a test in which we leave one flight out,

1521 sequentially, to see how each R value changes (comment R1.21). We have done this and include
1522 language in the text as well as Table S2, summarizing the results.

1523

1524 R2.60) L273-274: “generally have lower normalized ... by the time of the first measurement”.
1525 This implies that there was a measurement made before the first measurement. Please explain.

1526

1527 We are merely trying to comment on our observations from the data here. We do not think that
1528 our text is implying that there’s a measurement before the first measurement--perhaps this is
1529 made more clear by changing the phrase “by the time” to “**at the time**”, and we have changed our
1530 text thusly.

1531

1532 R2.61) L273-274: “plume edges and cores with the highest DOA generally have lower
1533 normalized number concentrations...” This is not true based on figure 2f. The two lowest
1534 DOA initial values (white dashed lines) have two of the highest DN/DCO values.

1535

1536 We respectfully point out that our quoted text here is discussing “highest ΔOA and low
1537 $\Delta N/\Delta CO$ ” whereas the reviewer is pointing out “lowest ΔOA and highest $\Delta N/\Delta CO$ ”--the two
1538 arguments are consistent with each other.

1539

1540 R2.62) L279: Evaporation (mass loss/time) is, partially, a function of available surface area.
1541 Since small particles have a higher surface area-to-volume, it is plausible that evaporation will
1542 decrease the number of small particles more than large particles and therefore increase the mean
1543 particle size. You state this possibility of preferential loss of small particles on lines 293-295.

1544

1545 This is a reasonable point--if evaporation is gas-phase mass-transfer limited, evaporation will
1546 decrease the size of smaller particles more than larger particles. However, this case would only
1547 lead to an increase in the mean diameter if a significant number of small particles shrunk to
1548 below 40 nm, removing them from the calculation of the mean D_p . And if evaporation is in
1549 quasi-equilibrium, evaporation is independent of surface area. However--the organic mass of the
1550 plume does not change significantly, so we do not have evidence to support this hypothesis for
1551 the increase in mean D_p . We have added the following text to this discussion:

1552

1553 “OA evaporation will decrease D_p if the particles are in quasi-equilibrium (where evaporation is
1554 independent of surface area) (Hodshire et al. 2019b). However, if evaporation is kinetically
1555 limited, smaller particles will preferentially evaporate more rapidly than larger particles, which
1556 may lead to an increase in D_p if the smallest particles evaporate to below 40 nm (Hodshire et al.
1557 2019b). The plumes do not show significant changes in $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ (Fig. 2a), indicating that
1558 coagulation is likely responsible for the majority of increases in D_p .”

1559

1560 R2.63) L282-283: should be R_p^2 instead of R^2_p .

1561

1562 We've fixed this formatting here and elsewhere in the text.

1563

1564 R2.64) L282-283: you were previously using R and not R2 (L272, Fig 2, etc). In my opinion,
1565 this is fine and depends on how you use them, but I have been reviewed differently. Did you
1566 intend to calculate R and R2? Please check to make sure that you they are used and calculated
1567 correctly. I only state this because there are a number of typos in the manuscript and want to
1568 make sure that this is not one.

1569

1570 We did indeed intend to calculate R^2 here. Calculating R previously was useful to indicate the
1571 sign of the correlation whereas here with R^2 we intend to show what fraction of the variability is
1572 captured, since all fits are positively correlated. We have added the following text:

1573

1574 We show R^2 here to indicate the fraction of variability captured by these fits, whereas calculating
1575 R for the trends in Fig. 2 indicate the direction of the correlation.

1576

1577 R2.65) L287: Do you mean “legs” instead of “days”?

1578

1579 We have updated this text to “Lagrangian set of transects” to match the language of our other
1580 text.

1581

1582 R2.66) L294: Replace “~” with “approximately”

1583

1584 We have updated this instance of ‘~’ and all others in the text for consistency.

1585

1586 R2.67) L301-302: As mentioned above, I do not agree that the data supports the statement
1587 regarding correlation. I think there is a lot of good analysis in this paper and I don't think you
1588 need to make this statement.

1589

1590 We update this text to be more subjective and consistent with our terminology added in response
1591 to R1.20:

1592

1593 “We find that although $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ does not correlate with $\Delta OA_{initial}$ or physical age, Δf_{60} (a
1594 marker for evaporation) is moderately correlated with $\Delta OA_{initial}$ (Spearman rank-order correlation
1595 tests correlation coefficient, $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$, of +0.43) and weakly correlated with physical age
1596 (Spearman rank-order correlation tests correlation coefficient, R_{age} , of -0.26). Δf_{44} and $\Delta O/\Delta C$
1597 (markers for photochemical aging) increases with physical aging (moderate correlations of R_{age}
1598 of +0.5 and +0.56, respectively) and are inversely related to $\Delta OA_{initial}$ (moderate correlations of
1599 $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$ of -0.55 and -0.45, respectively).”

1600

1601

1602 R2.68) L302-304: I also do not agree that the data supports the statement regarding DN/DCO.

1603

1604 We have removed the latter half of this sentence, which is consistent with edits made previously
1605 in the manuscript.

1606

1607 R2.69) L304: You don't need to keep specifying that diameter size range of 40-262.

1608

1609 We removed this mention of the size range.

1610

1611 R2.70) L306-308: I don't like saying this, I don't agree that your data support this statement.
1612 The only way that differences in Df_{44} initial, Df_{60} initial and DO/C initial support this statement is
1613 if all primary OA from all wildfires have the same value which has been shown to not be true.

1614

1615 We respectfully disagree here--variability in the emitted oxidation markers from fire to fire is
1616 most likely random, and yet we see correlations despite the random variability. The only way
1617 this comment would be true is if the emitted oxidant markers are correlated with OA emission
1618 rates, fire size, and/or dilution rates prior to the first transect--there is currently no evidence for
1619 this. We choose to keep this statement as is. We note that in Sect 3.1 we have the following
1620 statement (and have added additional text to further emphasize these points, underlined here to
1621 clearly show what's been added):

1622

1623 Differences in Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} for the nearest-to-source measurements indicate that evaporation
1624 and/or chemistry likely occurred before the time of these first measurements (assuming that
1625 emitted Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} do not correlate with $\Delta OA_{initial}$; there is currently no evidence for this
1626 alternative hypothesis).

1627

1628 R2.71) Figure 1: Change "BC" to "rBC" in the legend and axis. Also in Figures S14-S18

1629

1630 We have changed all mentions of 'rBC' in the text to 'BC' to be consistent with our figure
1631 notation and note in the text when Fig. 1 is introduced that BC is for the refractory BC from the
1632 SP2.

1633

1634 R2.72) Figure 1: Change DN/DCO to DN40-262 nm /DCO to be consistent with text.

1635

1636 We have noticed our inconsistency of $\Delta N/\Delta CO$ vs. $\Delta N_{40-262\text{ nm}}/\Delta CO$ throughout our figures. We
1637 had originally divided our analysis into $\Delta N_{40-262\text{ nm}}/\Delta CO$ vs $\Delta N_{<40\text{ nm}}/\Delta CO$ but did not include the
1638 $\Delta N_{<40\text{ nm}}/\Delta CO$ analysis in the final paper. We apologize for these inconsistencies and have

1639 changed all instances in the text and figures to simply $\Delta N/\Delta CO$. We have done the same for D_p
1640 vs $D_{p,40-262\text{ nm}}$ (updating all mentions of the latter to the former).

1641
1642 R2.73) Figure 2: Caption should be “function of physical age”

1643
1644 Good catch, thank you. Fixed

1645
1646 R2.74) Figure 2: This figure is pretty confusing. If I look at Figure S2, I see that for leg 726a
1647 there were 2 sets of transects with each comprising of 4 transects. So, theoretically, the same air
1648 mass was sampled 4 times corresponding to 4 different physical ages. So a line in figure contains
1649 ~4 data points which correspond with either the edge or core of a transect in the transect set? Am
1650 I reading this correct?

1651
1652 For the flights that have 2 Lagrangian sets of transects or days with 2 separate flights (‘726a’,
1653 ‘730a’, and ‘730b’), Figure 2 will contain one line for each Lagrangian set of transects
1654 downwind. The physical age is assumed to be constant across a given flight transect (see
1655 comment R2.4 for further discussion on this), as mentioned in the manuscript with minor edits
1656 for clarity,

1657
1658 “We use the mean wind speed and this estimated centerline to calculate an estimated physical
1659 age for each transect, and this physical age is assumed to be constant across the transect, as
1660 plume crossing took between 50-500 seconds”.

1661
1662 We include the following text to clarify the reviewer’s other comments on Figure 2 here:

1663
1664 “Flights with two sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects (‘726a’ and ‘730b’) have two separate
1665 lines in Fig. 2, one for each set.”

1666
1667 R2.75) How does the white dashed line in 2a go backwards in physical age?

1668
1669 The white line in 2a is for flight ‘809a’. Figure S5 (S5 of the original submission) shows that 2
1670 legs essentially overlap. We have added subpanels to Figs. S2-S6 that indicates the time-of-flight
1671 for each flight. However, the leg slightly further from the fire occurred first in the flight so it has
1672 a calculated age slightly older than the next leg, as the calculation depends in part on distance
1673 from the fire. This is a limitation of our method. We have added the following text to the first
1674 paragraph of Sect. 3.1:

1675
1676 “As well, two legs for flight ‘809a’ nearly overlap (Fig. S5), with the leg that is further from the
1677 fire occurring first in the flight path, leading to an apparent slight decrease in physical age for the
1678 sequential leg (see e.g. the white dashed line in Fig. 2a).”

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R2.76) Figure 2: Change to RDOA,initial instead of double subscript to be consistent with that used in text.

Thank you for catching this--we have updated these labels.

R2.77) Figure S1: I don't see a black star or dashed line.

We have added these to the figure, thank you. We include the new version of Fig. S1 after comment R2.80.

R2.78) Figure S1: Leg number not indicated. ("The numbers are the leg number")

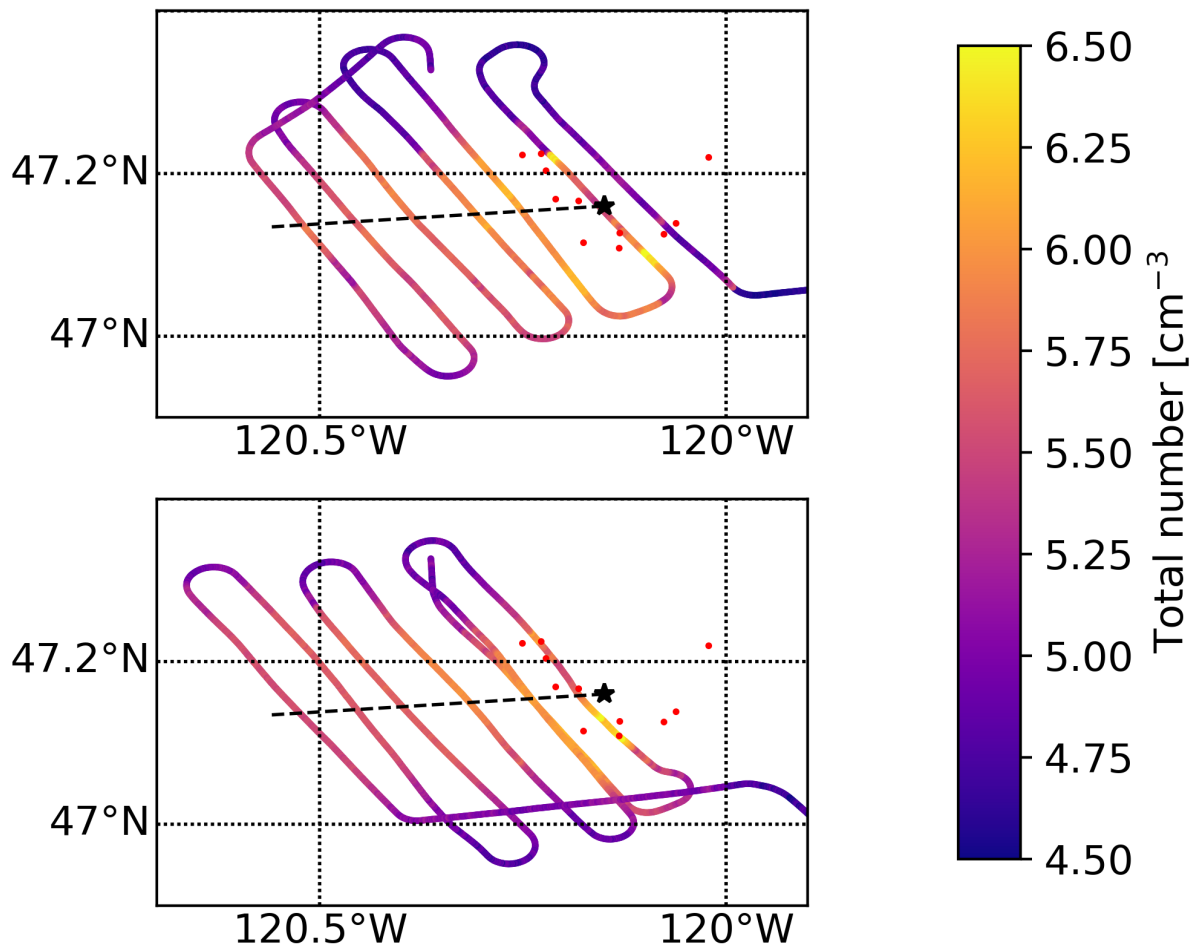
We have removed this reference . Figures S2-S6 now include the leg numbers, and this is reflected in these figure captions.

R2.79) Figure S1: I would suggest that you use a different symbol and symbol color for the MODIS thermal anomalies so that it contrasts with the color code of the # concentration.

We have changed our color palette for the number concentration to 'plasma', which hopefully provides enough contrast.

R2.80) Figure S1: Please change the colorcode to a color-blind friendly one.

We have changed our color palette for the number concentration to 'plasma'. We include the updated figure and caption below, as reference.



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Figure S1. The flight path for flight ‘730b’, colored by the FIMS total number concentration. The red dots are MODIS fire/thermal anomalies. The black star indicates the approximate center of the fire and the black dashed line indicates the approximate centerline of the plume, estimated by the number concentration.

R2.81) Figure S5: Is the black star the fire center for 8/9/2013 or 8/8/2013? The caption does not say what symbol is used for 8/8/2013, only that “The black star indicates the approximate center of the fire...”

We do not show the fire location on 8/8/2013 or 8/10/2013; we instead are estimating the fire center on 8/9/2013 (black star) using MODIS images from 8/8/2013 and 8/10/2013. We have added in a green star to this figure to indicate the approximate fire center on 8/8/2013.

1723 R2.82) Figure S24-S25: The y-axis scale changes between graphs, with a wide range for data
1724 that do not look like they have much variation (leg 730a) and a smaller range for others (730b).
1725 Is this why there is not consistent patterns in 730a and 730b?
1726

1727 We have tightened the y axes on the subpanels that had too much whitespace. We thank the
1728 reviewer for pointing this out.
1729

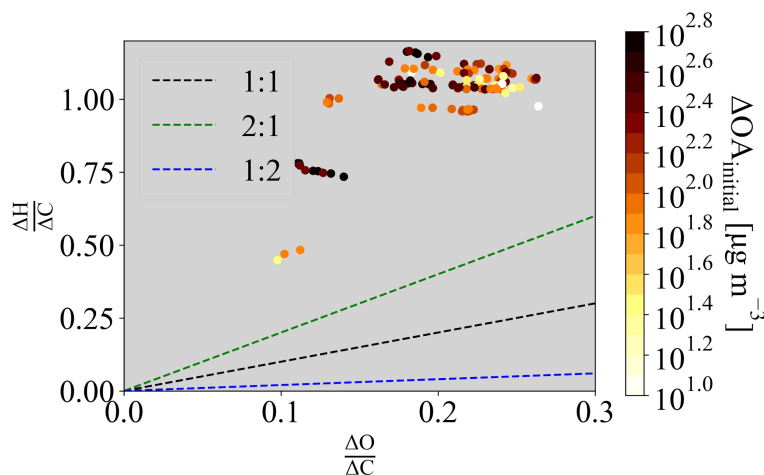
1730 R2.83) Figure S26: is shortwave irradiance a measure of photo-chemical rate, the amount of
1731 scattering/absorbing aerosol above you, or a combination of both?
1732

1733 In this study, we're using the total shortwave irradiance as measured by an SPN1 (Long et al.,
1734 2010). The shortwave irradiance is a function of solar angle and scattering/absorption prior to the
1735 measurement. While it is not a measure of the UV wavelengths that drive photochemistry, we are
1736 using it as a rough proxy for these wavelengths so that we can look at how photolysis rates may
1737 vary across the flight path. We note this in our original text: "*We do not have UV measurements
1738 that allow us to calculate photolysis rates but the in-plume SPN1 shortwave measurements in
1739 the visible show a dimming in the fresh cores that has a similar pattern to f_{44} and the inverse of
1740 f_{60} (Fig. S26; the rapid oscillations in this figure could be indicative of sporadic cloud cover
1741 above the plumes).*"
1742

1743 Long, C. N., A. Bucholtz, H. Jonsson, B. Schmid, A. Vogelmann, and J. Wood (2010): A
1744 Method of Correcting for Tilt from Horizontal in Downwelling SW Measurements on Moving
1745 Platforms, TOASJ, 4, pp.78-87, doi: 10.2174/1874282301004010078
1746

1747 R2.84) Figure S27: Please complete the drawing of the Van Krevelen diagram with the 1:1, 2:1,
1748 and 0.5:1 lines
1749

1750 Literal 1:1, 2:1, and 0.5:1 lines are rather uninformative, as can be seen in the below figure.



1751

1752
1753 We think that the reviewer may have intended constant lines of oxidation, as shown in Figure 1
1754 of Heald et al. (2010) (their red and blue lines). Heald et al. (2010) chose a starting point of
1755 $H/C=2$ at $O/C=0$ (which is the case for long alkanes), which upon visual inspection is not an
1756 appropriate starting point for our data. We do not know exactly what the appropriate H/C and
1757 O/C starting point for primary biomass burning OA is, given variability in the emissions during
1758 BBOP and literature values. We do not add these lines of oxidation for this reason. We note that
1759 reviewer 1 had confusion with this figure, and we refer reviewer 2 to R1.7 and R1.25 for further
1760 details.

1761
1762 Heald, C. L., Kroll, J. H., Jimenez, J. L., Docherty, K. S., Decarlo, P. F., Aiken, A. C., Chen, Q.,
1763 Martin, S. T., Farmer, D. K. and Artaxo, P.: A simplified description of the evolution of organic
1764 aerosol composition in the atmosphere, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 37(8), doi:10.1029/2010GL042737,
1765 2010.

1 Dilution impacts on smoke aging: Evidence in BBOP data

2
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28 **Abstract.** Biomass burning emits vapors and aerosols into the atmosphere that can rapidly evolve as smoke plumes travel
29 downwind and dilute, affecting climate- and health-relevant properties of the smoke. To date, theory has been unable to
30 explain variability in smoke evolution. Here, we use observational data from the BBOP field campaign and show that initial
31 smoke **organic aerosol mass** concentrations can help predict changes in smoke aerosol aging markers, number **concentration**,
32 and **mean diameter between 40-262 nm**. Because initial field measurements of plumes are generally >10 minutes downwind,
33 smaller plumes will have already undergone substantial dilution relative to larger plumes. However, the extent to which
34 dilution has occurred prior to the first observation is not a **directly** measurable quantity. Hence, initial observed **plume**
35 concentrations can serve as a **rough** indicator of **the extent of dilution prior to the first measurement**, which impacts
36 photochemistry and aerosol evaporation. Cores of plumes have higher concentrations than edges. By segregating the
37 observed plumes into cores and edges, we infer that particle aging, evaporation, and coagulation occurred before the first
38 measurement. **We further find that on the edges, the oxidation state of organic aerosol has increased**, ~~and we find that edges~~

39 ~~generally undergo higher increases in oxidation tracers, and~~ ~~undergone~~ more decreases in a marker for primary biomass
40 ~~burning organic aerosol. semivolatile compounds. The edges also undergo and less coagulation than the cores.~~

41 **1 Introduction**

42 Smoke from biomass burning is a major source of atmospheric primary aerosol and vapors (Akagi et al., 2011;
43 Gilman et al., 2015; Hatch et al., 2015, 2017; Jen et al., 2019; Koss et al., 2018; Reid et al., 2005; Yokelson et al., 2009),
44 influencing air quality, local radiation budgets, cloud properties, and climate (Carrico et al., 2008; O'Dell et al., 2019; Petters
45 et al., 2009; Ramnarine et al., 2019; Shrivastava et al., 2017), as well as the health of smoke-impacted communities (Ford et
46 al., 2018; Gan et al., 2017; Reid et al., 2016). ~~Dilution through entrainment of regional background air can cause~~ Vapors
47 and particles emitted from fires ~~to can~~ rapidly evolve as smoke travels downwind (Adachi et al., 2019; Akagi et al., 2012;
48 Bian et al., 2017; Cubison et al., 2011; Hecobian et al., 2011; Hodshire et al., 2019a, 2019b; Jolleys et al., 2012, 2015;
49 Konovalov et al., 2019; May et al., 2015; Noyes et al., 2020; Sakamoto et al., 2015), ~~diluting and entraining regional~~
50 ~~background air~~. Fires span an immense range in size, from small agricultural burns, which may be only a few m² in total area
51 and last a few hours, to massive wildfires, which may burn 10,000s of km² over the course of weeks (Andela et al., 2019).
52 This range in size leads to variability in initial plume size and ~~extent of dilution by the time of the first measurement~~, as
53 large, thick plumes dilute more slowly than small, thin plumes for similar atmospheric conditions (Akagi et al., 2012; Bian et
54 al., 2017; Cubison et al., 2011; Hecobian et al., 2011; Hodshire et al., 2019a, 2019b; Jolleys et al., 2012, 2015; Konovalov et
55 al., 2019; May et al., 2015; Sakamoto et al., 2015)). Plumes can dilute unevenly, with edges of the plume mixing in with
56 surrounding air more rapidly than the core of the plume. Variability in dilution leads to variability in the evolution of smoke
57 emissions as instantaneous plume ~~aerosol concentration thickness~~ will control shortwave ~~radiative~~ fluxes (and thus
58 photolysis rates and oxidant concentrations), gas-particle partitioning, and particle coagulation rates ((Akagi et al., 2012;
59 Bian et al., 2017; Cubison et al., 2011; Hecobian et al., 2011; Hodshire et al., 2019a, 2019b; Jolleys et al., 2012, 2015;
60 Konovalov et al., 2019; May et al., 2015; Sakamoto et al., 2015), (Garofalo et al., 2019), (Ramnarine et al., 2019; Sakamoto
61 et al., 2016)). Thus, capturing variability in plume ~~aerosol concentrations thickness~~ and dilution between fires and within
62 fires can aid in understanding how species change within the first few hours of emission for a range of plume sizes.

63 The evolution of total particulate matter (PM) or organic aerosol (OA) mass from smoke has been the focus of
64 many studies, as PM influences both human health and climate. Secondary organic aerosol (SOA) production may come
65 about through oxidation of gas-phase volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can form lower-volatility products that
66 partition to the condensed phase (Jimenez et al., 2009; Kroll and Seinfeld, 2008). SOA formation may also arise from
67 heterogeneous and multi-phase reactions in both the organic and aqueous phases (Jimenez et al., 2009; Volkamer et al.,
68 2009). In turn, oxidant concentrations depend on shortwave fluxes (Tang et al., 1998; Tie, 2003; Yang et al., 2009) ~~and the~~

69 composition of the plume ([Yokelson et al. 2009](#); [Akagi et al. 2012](#); [Hobbs et al. 2003](#); [Alvarado et al. 2015](#)). Smoke particles
70 contain semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) ([Eatough et al., 2003](#)); ([May et al., 2013](#)), which may evaporate off of
71 particles as the plume becomes more dilute ([Huffman et al. 2009](#); [May et al. 2013](#); [Garofalo et al. 2019](#); [Grieshop et al.](#)
72 [2009](#))([Formenti et al. 2003](#); [Huffman et al. 2009](#); [May et al. 2013](#)), leading to losses in total aerosol mass. Field
73 observations of smoke PM and OA mass normalized for dilution (e.g. through an inert tracer such as CO) report that for
74 near-field (<24 hours) physical aging, net PM or OA mass can increase ([Cachier et al., 1995](#); [Formenti et al., 2003](#); [Liu et al.,](#)
75 [2016](#); [Nance et al., 1993](#); [Reid et al., 1998](#); [Vakkari et al., 2014, 2018](#); [Yokelson et al., 2009](#)), decrease ([Akagi et al., 2012](#);
76 [Hobbs et al., 2003](#); [Jolleys et al., 2012, 2015](#); [May et al., 2015](#)), or remain nearly constant ([Brito et al., 2014](#); [Capes et al.,](#)
77 [2008](#); [Collier et al., 2016](#); [Cubison et al., 2011](#); [Forrister et al., 2015](#); [Garofalo et al., 2019](#); [Hecobian et al., 2011](#); [Liu et al.,](#)
78 [2016](#); [May et al., 2015](#); [Morgan et al., 2019](#); [Sakamoto et al., 2015](#); [Sedlacek et al., 2018](#); [Zhou et al., 2017](#)). It is theorized
79 that both losses and gains in OA mass are likely happening concurrently in most plumes through condensation and
80 evaporation ([Bian et al., 2017](#); [Hodshire et al., 2019a, 2019b](#); [May et al., 2015](#)), with the balance between the two
81 determining whether net increases or decreases or no change in mass occurs during near-field aging. However, there is
82 currently no reliable predictor of how smoke aerosol mass (normalized for dilution) may change for a given fire.

83 Evolution of total aerosol number, size, and composition is critical ~~form~~ improving quantitative understanding of
84 how biomass burn smoke plumes impact climate. These impacts include smoke aerosols' abilities to both act as cloud
85 condensation nuclei (CCN) and to scatter/absorb solar radiation, each of which is determined by particle size and
86 composition ([Albrecht, 1989](#); [Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007](#); [Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006](#); [Twomey, 1974](#); [Wang et al., 2008](#)).
87 Particles can increase or decrease in size as well as undergo compositional changes through condensation or evaporation of
88 vapors. In contrast, coagulation always decreases total number concentrations and increases average particle diameter;
89 plumes with higher concentrations will undergo more coagulation than those with lower concentrations ([Sakamoto et al.,](#)
90 [2016](#)).

91 Being able to predict smoke aerosol mass, number, size, and composition accurately is an essential component in
92 constraining the influence of fires on climate, air quality, and health. Fires in the western United States region are predicted
93 to increase in size, intensity, and frequency ([Dennison et al., 2014](#); [Ford et al., 2018](#); [Spracklen et al., 2009](#); [Yue et al., 2013](#)).
94 In response, several large field campaigns have taken place in the last 7 years examining wildfires in this region ([Kleinman](#)
95 [and Sedlacek 2016](#); [Garofalo et al. 2019](#)). Here, we present smoke plume observations from the Biomass Burning
96 Observation Project (BBOP) campaign of aerosol properties from five research flights sampling wildfires downwind in
97 seven pseudo-Lagrangian sets of transects to investigate [the evolution of OA mass and oxidation state, aerosol number, and](#)
98 [aerosol mean diameter.](#) ~~aging of OA mass and oxidation, and aerosol number and mean diameter.~~ A range of initial [\(at the](#)
99 [time of the first plume pass in the aircraft\)](#) plume OA mass concentrations were captured within these flights and sufficiently
100 fast (1 second) measurements of aerosols and key vapors were taken. We segregate each transect into edge, core, or

101 intermediate regions of the plume and examine aerosol properties within the context of both the location within the plume
102 (edge, core, or intermediate) and the initial OA mass loading of the given location, ~~with~~ The differences in aerosol loading
103 ~~serv~~ing as a proxy for differences in dilution rates, as the extent to which dilution has occurred prior to the first observation
104 is not a measurable quantity. We create mathematical fits for predicting OA oxidation markers and mean particle diameter
105 given initial plume mass and physical age (time) of the smoke. These fits may be used to evaluate other smoke datasets and
106 assist in building parameterizations for regional and global climate models to better-predict smoke aerosol climate and health
107 impacts.

108 2 Methods

109 The BBOP field campaign occurred in 2013 and included a deployment of the United States Department of Energy
110 Gulfstream 1 (G-1) research aircraft in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States (Kleinman and Sedlacek, 2016;
111 Sedlacek et al., 2018) from June 15 to September 13. We analyze five cloud-free BBOP research flights that had seven total
112 sets of across-plume transects that followed the smoke plume downwind in a ~~pseudo~~-Lagrangian manner (see Figs. S1-S6
113 for examples; Table S1) from approximately 15 minutes after emission to 2-4 hours downwind (Kleinman and Sedlacek,
114 2016). The G-1 sampling setup is described in (Kleinman and Sedlacek, 2016; Sedlacek et al., 2018; Kleinman et al., 2020).

115 Number size distributions were obtained with a Fast-integrating Mobility Spectrometer (FIMS), providing particle
116 size distributions nominally from ~~approximately~~ 20-350 nm (Kulkarni and Wang, 2006; Olfert and Wang, 2009); data was
117 available between 20-262 nm for the flights used in this study. A Soot Photometer Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (SP-AMS)
118 provided organic and inorganic (sulfate, chlorine, nitrate, ammonium) ~~PM1~~ aerosol masses ([Canagaratna et al. 2007](#)), select
119 fractional components (the fraction of the AMS OA spectra at a given mass-to-charge ratio) (Onasch et al., 2012), and
120 elemental analysis (O/C and H/C) (Aiken et al., 2008; Canagaratna et al., 2015). ~~The SP-AMS had the highest sensitivity~~
121 ~~between 70-500 nm, dropping to 50% transmission efficiency by 1000 nm~~ ([Liu et al. 2007](#)). It was characterized to have a
122 ~~collection efficiency of 0.5 when the instrument's laser was off and 0.76 when the instrument's laser was on during the~~
123 ~~BBOP campaign, and these corrections have been applied to the data. We do not attempt to characterize whether the~~
124 ~~collection efficiency of the SP-AMS changes as the aerosol ages. This may be a limitation of this study, as collection~~
125 ~~efficiency has been recently observed to decrease with aging within a laboratory study of biomass burning~~ ([Lim et al. 2019](#)).
126 ~~However, no consistent evidence of changing collection efficiencies in field studies exist yet.~~ We use the f_{60} and f_{44}
127 fractional components (the mass concentrations of m/z 60 and 44 normalized by the total OA mass concentration) and O/C
128 and H/C elemental ratios of OA as tracers of smoke and oxidative aging. Elevated f_{60} values are indicative of
129 “levoglucosan-like” species (levoglucosan and other molecules that similarly fragment in the AMS) (Aiken et al., 2009;
130 Cubison et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2010) and are shown to be tracers of smoke primary organic aerosol (POA) (Cubison et al.,

131 2011). The f_{44} fractional component (arising from primarily CO₂+ as well as some acid groups;) is indicative of SOA arising
 132 from oxidative aging (Alfarra et al., 2004; Cappa and Jimenez, 2010; Jimenez et al., 2009; Volkamer et al., 2006). Fractional
 133 components f_{60} and f_{44} have been shown to decrease and increase with photochemical aging, respectively, likely due to both
 134 evaporation and/or oxidation of semivolatile f_{60} -containing species and addition of oxidized f_{44} -containing species (Alfarra et
 135 al., 2004; Huffman et al., 2009). O/C tends to increase with oxidative aging (Decarlo et al., 2008) whereas H/C ranges from
 136 increasing to decreasing with oxidative aging, depending on the types of reactions occurring (Heald et al., 2010). **Changes in**
 137 **O/C and H/C are also influenced by mixing of different air masses and co-oxidation of different VOC precursors (Chen et al.**
 138 **2015).** ~~Thus, tracking H/C with aging may provide clues upon the types of reactions that may be occurring; however,~~
 139 ~~variable oxidation timescales can make inferences of this type difficult (Chen et al. 2015).~~ A Single-Particle Soot Photometer
 140 (SP2; Droplet Measurement Technologies) was used to measure refractory black carbon (rBC) **between 80-500 nm (Schwarz**
 141 **et al. 2010)** through laser-induced incandescence (Moteki and Kondo, 2010; Schwarz et al., 2006). An Off-Axis
 142 Integrated-Cavity Output Spectroscopy instrument (Los Gatos, Model 907) provided CO measurements. An SPN1
 143 radiometer (Badosa et al., 2014; Long et al., 2010) provided total shortwave irradiance. **Kleinman et al. 2020 provides**
 144 **extensive details for the BBOP instruments used in this work.** The supporting information **also** includes more details on the
 145 instruments used.

146 To determine the contribution of species X from smoke, the background concentration of X is subtracted off (ΔX).
 147 **To correct for dilution, we** ~~and~~ **normalized ΔX by background-corrected CO (ΔCO), which is inert on timescales of**
 148 **near-field aging (Yokelson et al., 2009),** ~~to correct for dilution.~~ Increases or decreases of $\Delta X/\Delta CO$ with time indicate whether
 149 the total amount of X in the plume has increased or decreased since time of emission. We background correct the number
 150 size distribution, OA, O, H, C, and rBC data in this manner by determining an average regional background for each species
 151 by using the lowest 10% of the CO data for a given flight with a similar altitude, latitude, and longitude as the smoke plume
 152 ~~(excluding data from flying to and from the fire).~~

153 Elemental O, H, and C are calculated using the O/C and H/C and OA data from the SP-AMS **(assuming all of the**
 154 **OA mass is from O, C, and H),** allowing us to calculate $\Delta O/\Delta C$ and $\Delta H/\Delta C$, **following equation 1 (where $X = O$ or H):**

$$155 \quad \frac{\Delta X}{\Delta C} = \frac{(X_{in\ plume} - X_{out\ of\ plume})}{(C_{in\ plume} - C_{out\ of\ plume})} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

156 **. We note that any non-linear changes in chemistry and composition between the plume and background will not perfectly**
 157 **isolate the elemental factors in smoke.** We also background-correct f_{60} and f_{44} (using the mass concentrations of m/z 60, m/z
 158 44, and OA inside and outside of the plume), ~~but we~~ **but** do not normalize by CO due to these values already being
 159 normalized by OA, **following equation 2 (where $f = f_{60}$ or f_{44}):**

$$160 \quad \Delta f = \frac{(f_{in} * OA_{in}) - (f_{out} * OA_{out})}{\Delta OA} \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

161 We only consider data to be in-plume if the absolute CO \geq 150 ppbv, as comparisons of CO and the number concentration
162 show that in-plume data has CO $>$ 150 ppbv and out-of-plume (background) data has CO $<$ 150 ppbv. This threshold appears
163 to be capturing clear plume features while excluding background air (Figs. S7-S11). We perform sensitivity analyses of
164 our results to our assumptions about background and in-plume values in Section 3. Figures S2-S6 indicate the locations of
165 the lowest 10% of CO for each flight.

166 From the FIMS, we examine the background-corrected, normalized number concentrations of particles with
167 diameters between 40-262 nm, $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta \text{CO}$. This size range ~~$\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta \text{CO}$~~ allows us to exclude potential influence
168 of fresh nucleation upon the total number concentrations, as the bulk of observed newly formed particles observed fell below
169 40 nm (Figs. S7-S11). Smoke plumes contain particles with diameters larger than 262 nm (Janhäll et al., 2009), and so
170 although we cannot provide total number concentrations, we can infer how the evolution of $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta \text{CO}$ will impact
171 number concentrations overall. We also obtain an estimate of how the mean diameter between 40-262 nm, \overline{D}_p , changes with
172 aging through:

$$174 \quad \overline{D}_p = \frac{\sum N_i * D_{p,i}}{\sum N_i} \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

175
176 Where N_i and $D_{p,i}$ are the number concentration and geometric mean diameter within each FIMS size bin, respectively.

177 All of the data are provided at 1 Hz and all but the SP-AMS fractional component data are available on the DOE
178 ARM web archive (<https://www.arm.gov/research/campaigns/aaf2013bbop>). As the plane traveled at approximately 100 m
179 s^{-1} on average, data were collected every 100 m across the plume. The plumes spanned from approximately 5-50 km wide
180 (Figs. S2-6). The instruments used here had a variety of time lags (all $<$ 10 seconds) relative to a TSI 3563 nephelometer used
181 as reference. The FIMS also showed an additional smearing lag in flushing smoky air with cleaner air when exiting the plume
182 with maximum observed flushing timescales around 30 seconds, but generally less (Fig. S12). To test if these lags impact our
183 results, we perform an additional analysis where we only consider the first half of each in-plume transect, when
184 concentrations are generally rising with time (Figure S12-S13), and our main conclusions are unaffected. We do not test the
185 impacts of other timelags and do not attempt to further correct the data for any timelags. Kleinman et al. (2020) provides
186 further information on instrument time delays during BBOP.

187 We use MODIS Terra and Aqua fire and thermal anomalies detection data to determine fire locations (Giglio et al.,
188 2006, 2008). We estimate the fire center to be the approximate center of all clustered MODIS detection points for a given
189 sampled fire (Figs. S1-S6). Depending upon the speed of the fire front, the true fire location and center at the time of
190 sampling is likely different than the MODIS estimates, depending on the speed of the fire front. To estimate the physical age
191 of the plume, we use the estimated fire center as well as the total FIMS number concentration distribution to determine an

192 approximate centerline of the plume as the smoke travels downwind (an example is provided in Figs. S1-S6). The centerline
193 is subjectively placed to attempt to capture the most-concentrated portion of the total number concentration for each plume
194 pass, as we focus on aerosol properties and their relations to dilution in this study. and We use the mean wind speed and this
195 estimated centerline to calculate an estimated physical age for each transect, and this physical age is assumed to be
196 constant across the transect, as plume crossings took between 50-500 seconds. We did not propagate uncertainty in fire
197 location, wind speed, or centerline through to the physical age, which is a limitation of this study.

198 3 Results and discussion (as Heading 1)

199 As a case example, we examine the aging profiles of smoke from the Colockum fire during the first set of
200 pseudo-Lagrangian transects on flight 730b (Table S1). Figure 1 provides $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$, $\Delta\text{rBC}/\Delta\text{CO}$, Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta\text{H}/\Delta\text{C}$,
201 $\Delta\text{O}/\Delta\text{C}$, $\Delta\text{N}_{40-262\text{ nm}}/\Delta\text{CO}$, and $\overline{D_p}$ as a function of the estimated physical age; Figs. S14-S18 provides provide this
202 information for the other pseudo-Lagrangian transect sets studied. (Here, BC represents the refractory BC from the SP2;
203 Sect. 2.) We have divided each transect into four regions: between the 5-15 (edge), 15-50 (intermediate, outer), 50-90
204 (intermediate, inner), and 90-100 (core) percentile of ΔCO within each transect. Figures S2-S6 show the locations of these
205 CO percentile bin for each transect of individual flights. Figure 1 shows the edge and core data, both averaged per transect,
206 with Figs. S14-18 providing all four percentile bins for each flight. These percentile bins correspond with the thinnest (least
207 CO-dense) to thickest (most CO-dense) portions of the plume, respectively, and if a fire has uniform emissions ratios
208 across all regions and dilutes evenly downwind, these percentile bins would correspond to the edges, intermediate regions,
209 and the core of the diluting plume. We use this terminology in this study but note that uneven emissions, mixing, and/or
210 dilution lead to the percentile bins not physically corresponding physically to our defined regions in some cases. We note
211 that some plumes show more than one maxima in CO concentrations within a given plume crossing, which implies that there
212 may be more than one fire or fire front, and that these plumes from separate fires or fronts are not perfectly mixing. As well,
213 in at least one of the fires (in flights '730a' and '730b'), the fuels vary between different sides of the fire, as discussed in
214 Kleinman et al., 2020. However, the lowest two ΔCO bins tend more towards the physical edges of the plume and the
215 highest two tend more towards the physical center of the plume (Figs. S2-S6). We do not use the data from the lowest 5% of
216 ΔCO to reduce uncertainty at the plume-background boundary. We do not know where the plane is vertically in the plume,
217 which is a limitation as vertical location will also impact the amount of solar flux able to penetrate through the plume.

218 Figure 1 shows that for this specific plume, $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ and $\Delta\text{rBC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ vary little with age for both the 5-15 and
219 90-100 percentile of ΔCO (p -values > 0.5). A true Lagrangian flight with the aircraft sampling the same portion of the plume
220 and no measurement artifacts (e.g. coincidence errors at high concentrations) would have a constant $\Delta\text{rBC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ for each
221 transect. This flight and other flights studied here have slight variations in $\Delta\text{rBC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (Fig. 1; Figs. S14-S18), which may be

222 indicative of deviations from a Lagrangian flight path with temporal variations in emission and/or measurement
223 uncertainties. The remaining variables plotted also show some noise and few clear trends, but it is apparent that the 5-15 and
224 90-100 percentiles do show a separation for many of the individual metrics. In order to determine the existence or lack of
225 trends for these metrics, we spend the remainder of this study examining each metric from all of the pseudo-Lagrangian
226 flights together. For this flight, Δf_{60} changes little (p-values > 0.5 approximately $\pm 6\%$ for both the between edge and core)
227 while Δf_{44} increases slightly (approximately $\sim 8\%$ for both edge and core between the initial and final transect) with age, with
228 edges showing the highest Δf_{44} . $\Delta H/\Delta C$ decreases while $\Delta O/\Delta C$ changes little, however, the increases with the edges
229 showing higher values of $\Delta O/\Delta C$. Mean aerosol diameter (between 40-262 nm) increases with aging, and the normalized
230 number concentration of this same size range changes little in the 90-100 percentile of ΔCO for this flight, while it decreases
231 in the 5-15 percentile of ΔCO between 40-262 nm with aging. The decrease in normalized number concentration is
232 presumably due to coagulation, as little dry deposition would occur within these timescales (< 2.5 hours). These trends are
233 discussed for all flights in the following sections.

234

235 3.1 Organic aerosol aging: $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta H/\Delta C$, and $\Delta O/\Delta C$

236 Figure 2a-e show available $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta H/\Delta C$, and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ edge and core data versus physical age for
237 each transect for each flight of this study. We color each line by the mean ΔOA within a ΔCO percentile bin from the
238 transect closest to the fire, $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$. (Some transects do not have data available for specific instruments.) We note that
239 $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ does not actually represent the true initial emitted OA from each fire, but instead serves as a proxy for the general
240 fire size, intensity, and emission rate (as presumably larger, more intensely burning fires will have larger mass fluxes than
241 smaller, less intensely burning fires). Thus, $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ and other “initial” metrics referred to in this study are not to be taken as
242 emission values and direct comparison to studies with direct emissions values is not appropriate, as dilution and chemistry
243 may occur before the initial flight transect, which we discuss further below. (Some transects do not have data available for
244 specific instruments.) We show the 5-15 (edge) and 90-100 (core) ΔCO percentile bins in Fig. 2 here; Fig. S19 shows the
245 same information for all four ΔCO percentiles. We use the simple ‘edge’ and ‘core’ terminology throughout the following
246 discussion but note that the 5-15 and 90-100 ΔCO percentile bins do not necessarily correspond to the physical (spatial)
247 edges and cores of each plume. They instead correspond to the most CO-dense and least CO-dense portions of the plume.
248 We also note that although some of the physical ages appear to start at approximately 0 hours (e.g. over the fire), this is
249 from a limitation of our physical age estimation method (Sect. 2), as no flights captured data before approximately 15
250 minutes after emission (Kleinman et al., 2016). Flights with two sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects (‘726a’ and ‘730b’)
251 have two separate lines in Fig. 2, one for each set. As well, two transects for flight ‘809a’ nearly overlap (Fig. S5), with the

252 transect that is further from the fire occurring first in the flight path, leading to an apparent slight decrease in physical age for
253 the sequential transect (see e.g. the white dashed line in Fig. 2a).

254 Also included in Fig. 2 are the Spearman rank-order correlation tests (hereafter Spearman tests), which are tests for
255 monotonicity. The Spearman tests show correlation coefficients for each flight set (Table S1) with the initial ΔOA of a flight
256 set ($\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$) against $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta H/\Delta C$, and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ as each variable ages downwind. We also include
257 Spearman tests for the calculated physical age of the smoke for each flight set against these same variables. ~~that The~~
258 ~~Spearman tests show correlation coefficients (R) for each flight set (Table S1) with the initial ΔOA plume OA mass of a~~
259 ~~flight set, denoted as $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ ($R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$), and the calculated physical age of the smoke for each flight set ($R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$ and R_{age} ,~~
260 ~~respectively) against each variable ($\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta H/\Delta C$, and $\Delta O/\Delta C$) as each variable changes downwind. The R~~
261 values are labeled $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$ and R_{age} respectively, in Fig. 2. ~~(For the correlations with $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$, all transects in a given~~
262 ~~pseudo-Lagrangian set of transects set have are given the same $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ value; for flights with two pseudo-Lagrangian sets of~~
263 ~~transects, each set has its own $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ value have two unique values of $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ that correspond to each flight set).~~
264 Correlating to $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ provides an estimate of how the plume aerosol concentrations at the time of the initial transect
265 impact plume aging (aging both before and after this initial transect). We define the following categories of correlation for
266 the absolute value of R: 0.0-0.19 is ‘very weak’, 0.2-0.39 is ‘weak’, 0.4-0.59 is ‘moderate’, 0.6-0.79 is ‘strong’, and 0.8-1.0
267 is ‘very strong’ (Evans 1996).

268 As individual flights show scatter in the metrics of Fig. 2 (Figs. 1, Figs. S14-S18), we also include $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$ and R_{age}
269 for each metric of Fig. 2 systematically sequentially removing one flight from the statistical analysis. These results are
270 summarized in Table S2. In general, removing single flights does not change our conclusions, particularly when correlations
271 are moderate or stronger. We note that scatter in $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ leads to weaker R_{age} values than would be obtained if we
272 normalized changes with aging to the first (normalized) value. However, as plume-density-dependent aging prior to the first
273 transect is one of the potentially interesting findings of this study, we feel that it is important to not normalize our changes
274 further. Figs. S13, S19-S21 show the same details as Fig. 2 but provide sensitivity tests to potential FIMS measurement
275 artifacts (Fig. S13), ~~and our assumed background in-plume CO threshold value (set to 150 ppbv for Figs. 1-3; Sect. 2), and~~
276 ΔCO percentile spacing (Figs. S19-S21). Although these figures ~~Fig.~~ show slight variability, the findings discussed below
277 remain robust and we constrain the rest of our discussion to the original assumptions made for the FIMS measurements, ~~and~~
278 ~~background in-plume CO threshold value, and ΔCO percentiles spacings used in Fig. 2.~~

279 In general, both the cores and edges do not show any positive or negative trends ~~show little change~~ in $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$
280 with physical aging, with $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$ and R_{age} showing very weak correlations of 0.02 and ~~both at~~ +0.03 (with $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$ and
281 R_{age} ranging between -0.25 to +0.17 and 0 to 0.07, respectively, when individual flights are left out sequentially; Table S2).
282 ~~T~~ (the absolute variability is dominated by differences between plumes). While the observed trends in $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ with aging
283 are small, Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} show clear signs of changes with aging, consistent with previous studies (Cubison et al., 2011;

284 Garofalo et al., 2019; May et al., 2015). Spearman tests on physical age versus vs. Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} give R_{age} values of -0.25 and
285 0.54, respectively. Δf_{60} generally decreases with plume age ($R_{\text{age}} = -0.26$; a weak correlation), consistent with the hypotheses
286 that Δf_{60} may be evaporating because of dilution, undergoing heterogeneous oxidation to new forms that do not appear at
287 m/z 60, ~~be evaporating off through heterogeneous oxidation~~ and/or having a decreasing fractional contribution due to
288 condensation of other compounds. In contrast, Δf_{44} generally increases with age ($R_{\text{age}} = +0.5$; a moderate correlation) for all
289 plumes with available data, ~~and hence it would appear that for~~ It appears for the plumes in this study that although there is
290 ~~with little change in $\Delta \text{OA} / \Delta \text{CO}$, lossevaporation~~ of compounds that contain f_{60} ~~containing~~ fragments (as captured by the
291 SP-AMS) ~~compounds~~ is roughly balanced by condensation of more-oxidized compounds, including those that contain
292 compounds with f_{44} fragments, such as carboxylic acids. This observation, ~~also suggests~~ ~~suggesting~~ the possibility of ~~that~~
293 heterogeneous or particle-phase oxidation that would alter the balance of Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} . However, estimates of
294 heterogeneous mass losses indicate that after three hours of aging for a range of OH concentrations and reactive uptake
295 coefficients, ~~over 90%~~ over 90% of aerosol mass is anticipated to remain, indicating that heterogeneous loss has limited effect on
296 aerosol composition or mass (Fig. S23; see SI text S2 for more details on the calculation). Hence, the evaporation of f_{60}
297 being balanced by gas-phase production of f_{44} may be the more likely pathway. When individual flights are left out
298 sequentially, R_{age} ranges from -0.21 to -0.38 and +0.4 to +0.57 for Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} , respectively (Table S2).

299 Two more important features of Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} can be seen within Fig. 2: (1) Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} depend on $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$
300 (moderate correlations of $R_{\Delta \text{OA}, \text{initial}} = +0.43$ ~~38~~ and -0.55, respectively), with more concentrated plumes having consistently
301 higher Δf_{60} and lower Δf_{44} . (2) Differences in Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} for the nearest-to-source measurements indicate that evaporation
302 and/or chemistry likely occurred before the time of these first measurements (assuming that emitted Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} do not
303 correlate with $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$; there is currently no evidence for this alternative hypothesis). The amounts of evaporation and/or
304 chemistry depend on $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$, with higher rates of evaporation and chemistry occurring for lower values of $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$. This
305 result is consistent with the hypothesis that aircraft observations are missing evaporation and chemistry prior to the first
306 aircraft observation (Hodshire et al., 2019b). The differences in $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$ between plumes may be due to different emissions
307 fluxes (e.g., due to different fuels or combustion phases), or plume widths, where larger/thicker plumes dilute more slowly
308 than smaller/thinner plumes; these larger plumes have been predicted to have less evaporation and may undergo relatively
309 less photooxidation (Bian et al., 2017; Hodshire et al., 2019a, 2019b). We note that each fire may emit particles with variable
310 initial f_{44} and f_{60} values, as has been observed in laboratory studies (Hennigan et al. 2011; Cubison et al. 2011; McClure et al.
311 2020), which adds to scatter within the data. It is possible that variability in f_{44} and f_{60} may also contribute to the observed
312 correlations with $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$; however, this would require that higher f_{44} emissions are correlated with lower emissions rates
313 and/or faster dilution rates (and vice versa for f_{60}). Lacking direct emissions measurements, this hypothesis cannot be further
314 explored in this work. When individual flights are left out sequentially, $R_{\Delta \text{OA}, \text{initial}}$ ranges from +0.3 to +0.58 and -0.42 to
315 -0.63 for Δf_{60} and Δf_{44} , respectively (Table S2).

316 (Garofalo et al., 2019) segregated smoke data from the WE-CAN field campaign by distance from the center of a
 317 given plume and showed that the edges of one of the fires studied have less f_{60} and more f_{44} (not background-corrected) than
 318 the core of the plume; Lee et al. (2020) saw similar patterns in a southwestern United States wildfire. Similarly, we find that
 319 the 730b flight shows a very similar pattern in f_{60} and f_{44} (Figs. S24-S25) to that shown in Fig. 6 of (Garofalo et al., 2019)
 320 (their Fig. 6). The 821b and 809a flights also hint at elevated f_{44} and decreased f_{60} at the edges but the remaining plumes do
 321 not show a clear trend from the physical edges to cores in f_{60} and f_{44} . This could be as CO concentrations (and thus
 322 presumably other species) do not evenly increase from the edge to the core for many of the plume transects studied (Figs.
 323 S2-S6). We do not have UV measurements that allow us to calculate photolysis rates but the in-plume SPN1 shortwave
 324 measurements in the visible show a dimming in the fresh cores that has a similar pattern to f_{44} and the inverse of f_{60} (Fig. S26;
 325 the rapid oscillations in this figure could be indicative of sporadic cloud cover above the plumes). Lee et al. (2020) similarly
 326 saw indications of enhanced photochemical bleaching at the edges of a southwestern United States wildfire when examining
 327 aerosol optical properties.

328 We also plot core and edge $\Delta H/\Delta C$ and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ as a function of physical age (Fig. 2d-e). Similar to Δf_{44} , $\Delta O/\Delta C$
 329 increases with physical age and is well correlated to both physical age and $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ (moderate correlations of $R_{\text{age}} = +0.56$
 330 and $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}} = -0.45$). When individual flights are left out sequentially, R_{age} for $\Delta O/\Delta C$ ranges between $+0.46$ and $+0.63$
 331 and $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$ ranges between -0.21 and -0.54 (Table S2). Given that Δf_{44} and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ are both metrics for OA aging (Sect. 2),
 332 it is unsurprising that we see similar trends between them. Conversely, $\Delta H/\Delta C$ tends to be fairly constant or slightly
 333 decreasing with physical age and is poorly correlated to physical age and $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$. A Van Krevelen diagram of $\Delta H/\Delta C$
 334 versus $\Delta O/\Delta C$ (Fig. S27) indicates that oxygenation reactions or a combination of oxygenation and hydration reactions are
 335 likely dominant (Heald et al., 2010) (recalling that $\Delta H/\Delta C$ and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ are calculated by background-correcting the
 336 individual elements before ratioing; Eq. 1); however, without further information, we cannot conclude which reactions are
 337 occurring.

338 Both physical age and $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ appear to influence Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , and $\Delta O/\Delta C$: oxidation reactions and evaporation
 339 from dilution occur with aging, and the extent of photochemistry and dilution should depend on plume thickness. Being able
 340 to predict biomass burning aerosol aging parameters can provide a framework for interstudy-comparisons and can aid in
 341 modeling efforts. We construct mathematical fits for predicting Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , and $\Delta O/\Delta C$:

$$342$$

$$343 \quad X = a \log_{10}(\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}) + b (\text{Physical age}) + c \quad \text{Eq. 42}$$

$$344$$

345 where X is Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , or $\Delta O/\Delta C$, physical age is in hours, and a , b , and c are fit coefficients. The measured versus vs. fit data
 346 are shown in Fig. 3a-c. The values of a , b , and c are provided shown in Table S3 Fig. 3a-c. The Pearson and Spearman
 347 coefficients of determination (R_p^2 and R_s^2 , respectively) are also summarized in Fig. 3 and indicate weak-moderate

348 goodness of fits (R_p^2 and R_s^2 of between 0.281 and 0.255 for Δf_{60} , R_p^2 and R_s^2 of between 0.583 and 0.658 for Δf_{44} , and
 349 R_p^2 and R_s^2 of between 0.451 and 0.558 for $\Delta O/\Delta C$). We show R^2 here to indicate the fraction of variability captured by
 350 these fits, whereas calculating R for the trends in Fig. 2 indicate the direction of the correlation. We do not constrain our fits
 351 to go through the origin. To provide further metrics of goodness-of-fit, we also include the normalized mean bias (NMB) and
 352 normalized mean error (NME) in percent for each metric of Fig. 3. The NMB values are very close to zero (which is
 353 anticipated as linear fits seek to minimize the sum of squared residuals). The NME is more variable, at 19.8% for Δf_{60} , 14.9%
 354 for Δf_{44} , and 10.2% for $\Delta O/\Delta C$. The p-values for each fit is less than 0.01. Although no models that we are aware of
 355 currently predict aerosol fractional components (e.g. f_{60} or f_{44}), O/H and H/C are predicted by some models (e.g., (Cappa and
 356 Wilson, 2012) and these fit parameters may assist in biomass burning modeling.

357 Other functional fits were explored (Figs. S28-S29), with

358

$$359 \quad \ln(\Delta X) = a \ln(\Delta OA_{initial}) + b \ln(\text{Physical age}) + c \quad \text{Eq. 53}$$

360

361 (Fig. S28 and Table S4 for the fit coefficients) and $\Delta N_{initial}$ in the place of $\Delta OA_{initial}$ in Eq. 42 (Fig. S29 and Table S5 for the fit
 362 coefficients) providing similar correlation values and NMB and NME values for Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , and $\Delta O/\Delta C$. The aging
 363 values of Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ show scatter (Figs. S14-18), which likely contributes to the limited predictive
 364 power of our mathematical fits, limiting the predictive skill of measurements available from BBOP. The scatter is likely
 365 due to variability in emissions due to source fuel or combustion conditions, instrument noise and responses under the large
 366 concentration ranges encountered in these smoke plumes, inhomogeneous mixing within the plume, variability in
 367 background concentrations not captured by our background correction method, inaccurate characterizations of physical age
 368 due to variable wind speed, and/or deviations from a true Lagrangian flight path. Eqs. 4-5 performed the best out of the
 369 mathematical fits that we tested. These equations do not have a direct physical interpretation but may be used as a starting
 370 point for modeling studies as well as for constructing a more physically based fit. There may be another variable not
 371 available to us in from the BBOP measurements data that can improve these mathematical fits, such as
 372 photolysis rates. We do not know whether these fits may well-represent fires in other regions around the world, given
 373 variability in fuels and burn conditions. We also do not know how these fits will perform under nighttime conditions, as our
 374 fits were made during daytime conditions with different chemistry than would happen at night. We encourage these fits to be
 375 tested out with further data sets and modeling. These equations are a first step towards parameterizations appropriate for
 376 regional and global modeling and need extensive testing to separate influences of oxidation versus dilution-driven
 377 evaporation, as well as determine how they may be improved upon.

378 3.2 Aerosol size distribution properties: $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta \text{CO}$ and \overline{D}_p

379 The observations of the normalized number concentration between 40-262 nm, $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta \text{CO}$ (Fig. 2f), show that
380 plume edges and cores generally show decreases in $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta \text{CO}$ with physical age, with a weak correlation of $R_{\text{age}} =$
381 -0.275 (-0.13 to -0.43 when individual flights are left out, sequentially; Table S2). ~~The plume edges and cores with the~~
382 ~~highest initial ΔOA generally have lower normalized number concentrations at by the time of the first measurement, and the~~
383 ~~edges generally have higher initial normalized number concentrations than the cores, potentially due to differences in~~
384 ~~coagulation rates. Although we would anticipate that plume regions with higher initial ΔOA would have lower normalized~~
385 ~~number concentrations due to coagulation, a few dense cores have normalized number concentrations comparable or higher~~
386 than the thinner edges, leading to no correlation with $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$. We note that variability in number emissions (due to e.g.
387 burn conditions) adds unexplained variability ~~noise~~ not captured by the R values.

388 The mean particle size between 40-262 nm, \overline{D}_p (Eq. 3~~4~~), is shown to statistically increase with aging when
389 considered across the BBOP dataset (Fig. 2g) for all plumes (a moderate correlation of $R_{\text{age}} = +0.5348$, with R_{age} ranging
390 between $+0.43$ to $+0.63$ when individual flights are left out sequentially; Table S2). Coagulation and SOA condensation will
391 increase \overline{D}_p , and OA evaporation will decrease \overline{D}_p if the particles are in quasi-equilibrium (where evaporation is
392 independent of surface area) (Hodshire et al. 2019b). However, if evaporation is kinetically limited, smaller particles will
393 preferentially evaporate more rapidly than larger particles, which may lead to an increase in \overline{D}_p if the smallest particles
394 evaporate below 40 nm (Hodshire et al. 2019b). ~~We do not have measurements to provide information on the volatility of~~
395 ~~the smoke aerosol particles.~~ The plumes do not show significant changes in $\Delta \text{OA}/\Delta \text{CO}$ (Fig. 2a), indicating that coagulation is
396 likely responsible for the majority of increases in \overline{D}_p . (We acknowledge that $\Delta \text{OA}/\Delta \text{CO}$ may be impacted by measurement
397 artifacts as discussed in Sect. 2. For instance, if the collection efficiency of the AMS is actually decreasing with age, then
398 $\Delta \text{OA}/\Delta \text{CO}$ would be increasing and the increases in mean diameter will be due to SOA condensation as well as coagulation.)
399 We do not have measurements for the volatility of the smoke aerosol, and so cannot refine these conclusions further. We also
400 perform the functional fit analysis following Sect. 3.1 ~~The functional fits as done for Δf_{60} , and Δf_{44} (Eq. 4~~2~~;~~ where X is \overline{D}_p
401 in this case). The fit can also ~~weakly/moderately~~ predict greater than 30 percent of the variance in \overline{D}_p (R_p^{2R2n} and R_s^{2R2s} of
402 0.376 and 0.334 , NME of 5.5%, and p-value less than 0.01; Fig. 3d) but does not well-predict $\Delta N_{40-300 \text{ nm}}/\Delta \text{CO}$ (not shown).
403 We show the functional fit for \overline{D}_p for the alternative fit equation (Eq. 5) in Fig. S28 and Table S4. We also show the
404 functional fits for \overline{D}_p for Eq. 4 with $\Delta N_{\text{initial}}$ in place of $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$ in Fig. 29 and Table S5. Sakamoto et al. (2016) provide fit
405 equations for modeled \overline{D}_p as a function of age, but they include a known initial \overline{D}_p at the time of emission in their
406 parameterization (rather than 15 minutes or greater, as available to us in this study), which is not available here. $\Delta N_{\text{initial}}$ in

407 the place of $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ in Eq. 42 predicts $\overline{D_p}$ similarly (Fig. S29). As discussed in Section 3.1, scatter in number
408 concentrations limits our prediction skill.

409 Nucleation-mode particles (inferred in this study from particles appearing between 20–40 nm in the FIMS
410 measurements) are observed for some of the transects (S7–S11). Some pseudo-Lagrangian sets of transects days also show
411 nucleation-mode particles downwind of fires in between transects (Figs. S7, S8, S9, and S11). Nucleation-mode particles
412 appear to be approximately one order of magnitude less concentrated than the larger particles, and primarily occur in the
413 outer portion of plumes, although one day did show nucleation-mode particles within the core of the plume (Fig. S11).
414 Nucleation at edges could be due to increased photooxidation from higher total irradiance relative to the core (Fig. S26). As
415 well, nucleation is more favorable when the total condensation sink is lower (e.g. reduced particle surface area) (Dal Maso et
416 al. 2002), which may occur for outer portions of plumes with little aerosol loading. However, given the relatively small
417 number of data points showing nucleation mode particles and limited photooxidation and gas-phase information, we do not
418 have confidence in the underlying source of the nucleation-mode particles. ~~The nucleation mode tends to be~~
419 ~~approximately one order of magnitude less concentrated than the larger particles, and appears to be coagulating or~~
420 ~~evaporating away as the plumes travel downwind.~~

421 4 Summary and outlook

422 The BBOP field campaign provided high time resolution (1 s) measurements of gas- and particle-phase smoke
423 measurements downwind of western U.S. wildfires along pseudo-Lagrangian transects. These flights have allowed us to
424 examine near-field (<4 hours) aging of smoke particles to provide analyses on how these species vary across a range of
425 initial aerosol mass loadings ($\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$; a proxy for the relative rates at which the plume is anticipated to dilute as dilution
426 before the first observation is not a measurable quantity) as well as how they vary between the edges and cores of each
427 plume. We find that although $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ does not correlate with $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ or physical age shows little variability, Δf_{60} (a
428 marker for evaporation) is moderately correlated with $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ (Spearman rank-order correlation tests correlation coefficient,
429 $R_{\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}}$ of +0.43) and weakly correlated with physical age (Spearman rank-order correlation tests correlation coefficient,
430 R_{age} of -0.26). ~~decreases with physical aging,~~ Δf_{44} and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ (markers for photochemical aging) increases with physical
431 aging (moderate correlations of R_{age} of +0.5 and +0.56, respectively) and are inversely related to $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ (moderate
432 correlations of $R_{\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}}$ of -0.55 and -0.45, respectively); ~~and each metric weakly or moderately correlate with both~~
433 ~~$\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ and physical age.~~ $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta CO$ likely decreases with physical aging through coagulation; ~~with thicker plumes~~
434 ~~with higher aerosol mass loadings tending to show lower number concentrations, indicative of higher rates of coagulation.~~
435 Mean aerosol diameter between 40–262 nm increases with age primarily due to coagulation, as organic aerosol mass does not
436 change significantly, and is moderately correlated with physical age ($R_{\text{age}} = +0.53$). Nucleation is observed within a few of

437 the fires and appears to occur primarily on the edges of the plumes. Differences in initial values of Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , and $\Delta O/\Delta C$
438 between higher- and lower-concentrated plumes indicate that evaporation and/or chemistry has likely occurred before the
439 time of initial measurement and that plumes or plume regions (such as the outer parts of the plume) with lower initial aerosol
440 loading can undergo these changes more rapidly than thicker plumes. We have developed fit equations that can weakly to
441 moderately predict Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta O/\Delta C$, and mean aerosol diameter given a known initial (at the time of first measurement)
442 total organic aerosol mass loading and physical age. We were unable to quantify the impact on potential inter-fire variability
443 in the emission values of the metrics studied here (such as variable emissions of f_{60} and f_{44}). We anticipate that being able to
444 capture this additional source of variability may lead to stronger fits and correlation. We encourage future studies to attempt
445 to quantify these chemical and physical changes before the initial measurement using combinations of modeling and
446 laboratory measurements, where sampling is possible at the initial stages of the fire and smoke. We also suggest further
447 refinement of our fit equations, as further variables (such as photolysis rates) and better quantification of inter-fire variability
448 (such as variable emission rates) are anticipated to improve these fits. We finally also urge encourage future near-field (<24
449 hours) analyses of recent and future biomass burning field campaigns to include differences in initial plume mass
450 concentrations and location within the plume as considerations for understanding chemical and physical processes in plumes.

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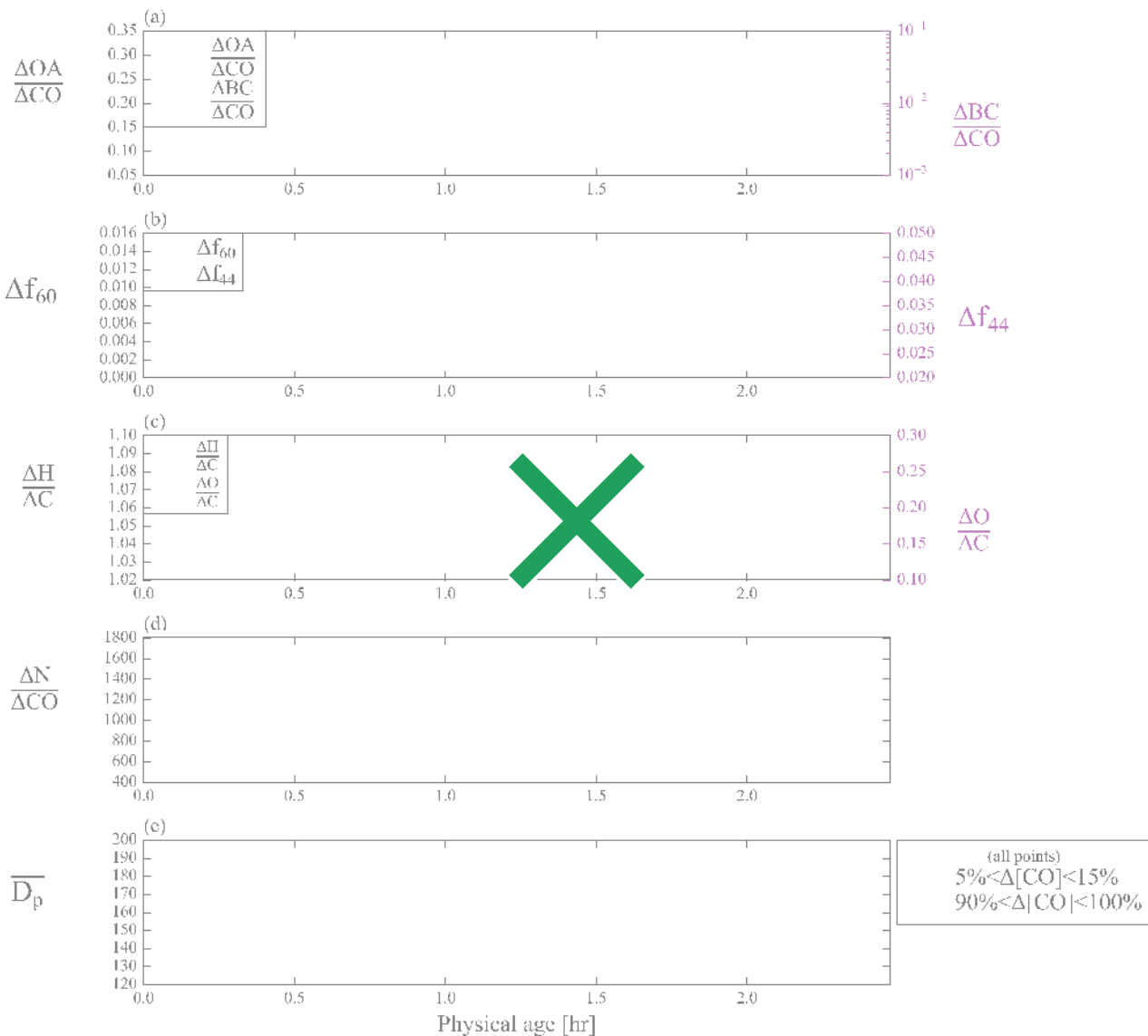
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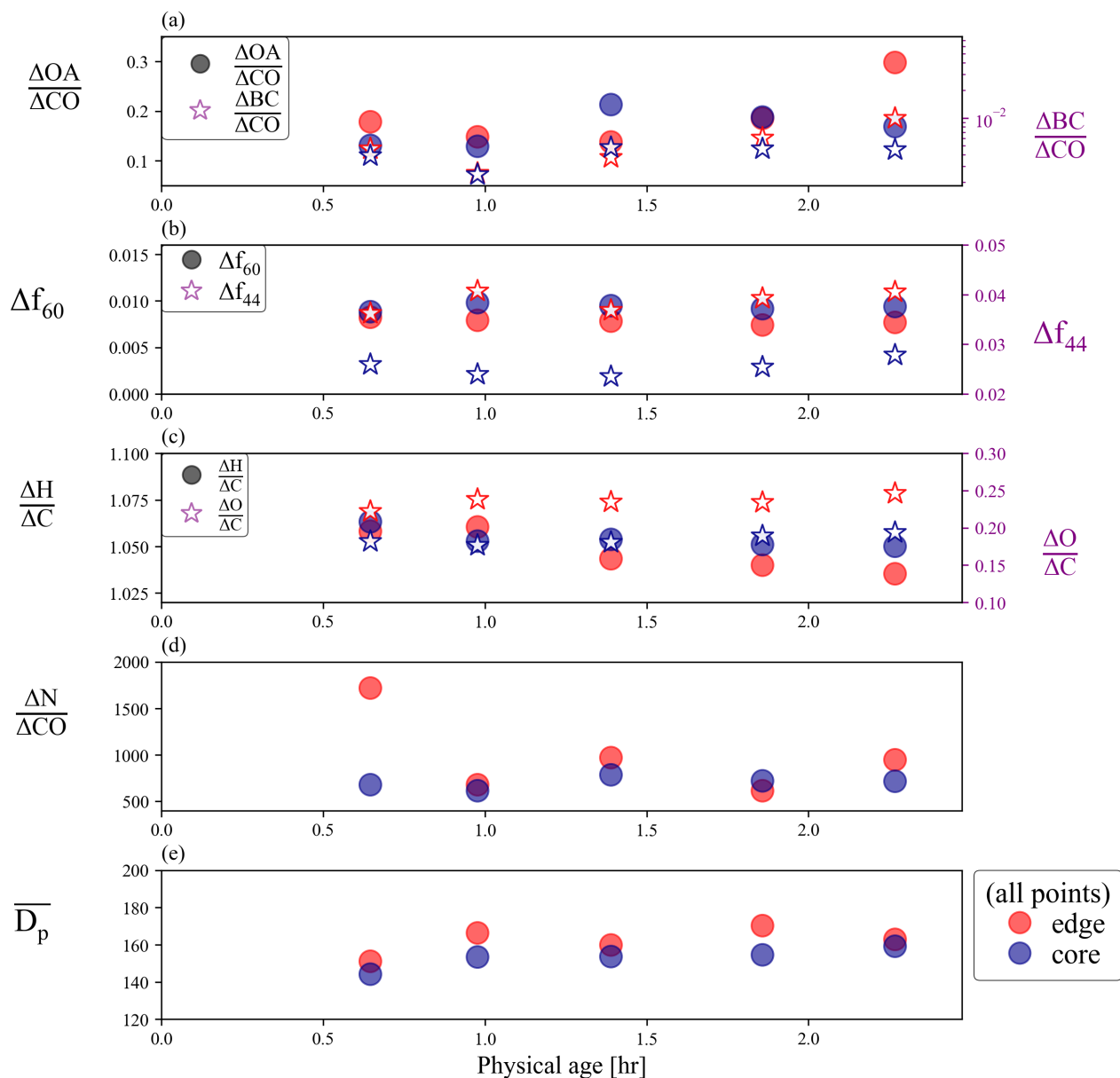
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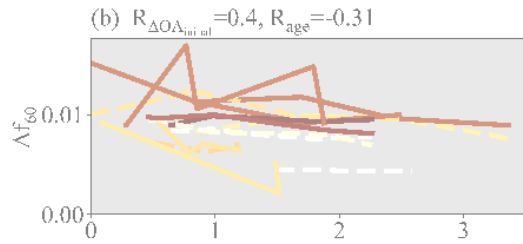
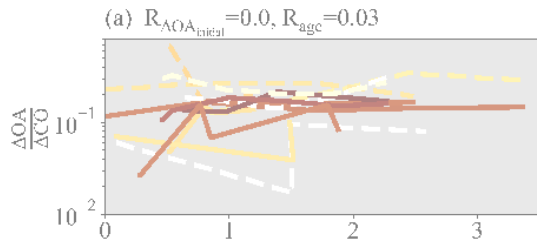
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771 **Figure 1: Aerosol properties from the first set of pseudo-Lagrangian transects from the Colockum fire on flight ‘730b’** (a)
 772 $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ (left y-axis), (b) Δf_{60} (right y-axis) and Δf_{44} (left y-axis), (c) $\Delta H/\Delta C$ (right y-axis) and
 773 $\Delta O/\Delta C$ (left y-axis), (d) $\Delta N/\Delta CO$, and (e) $\overline{D_p}$ against physical age. For each transect, the data is divided into edge (the lowest
 774 5-15% of ΔCO data; red points) and core (90-100% of ΔCO data; blue points). $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ is shown in log scale to improve clarity.

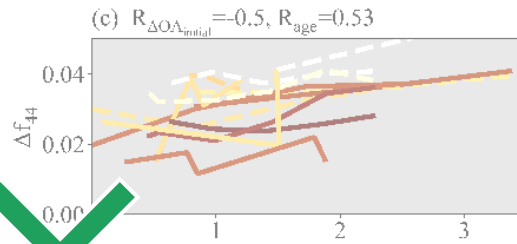
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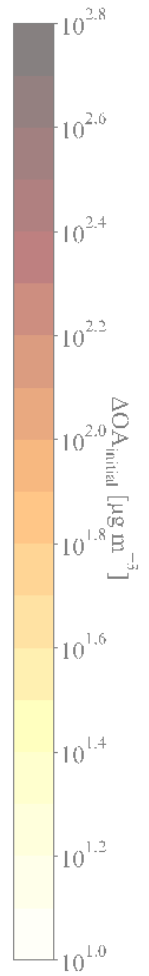
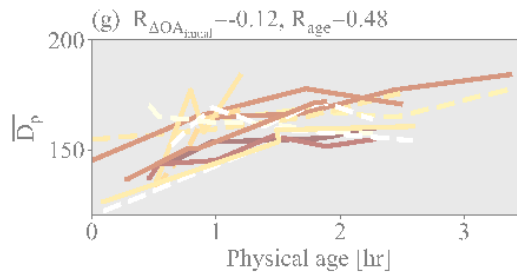
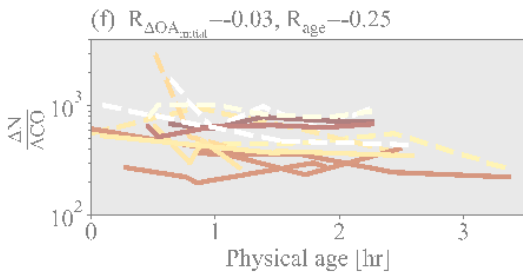
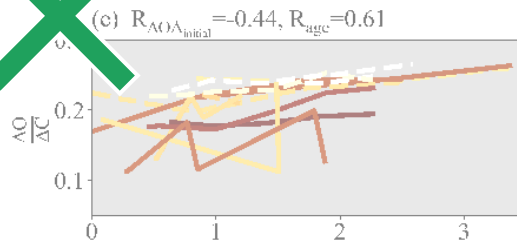
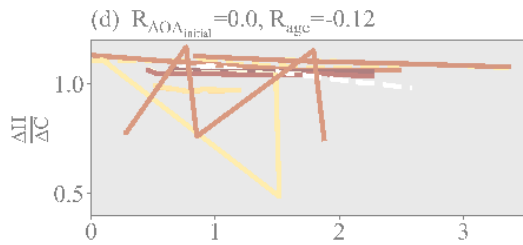
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-- 5% < Δ[CO] < 15%
 — 90% < Δ[CO] < 100%

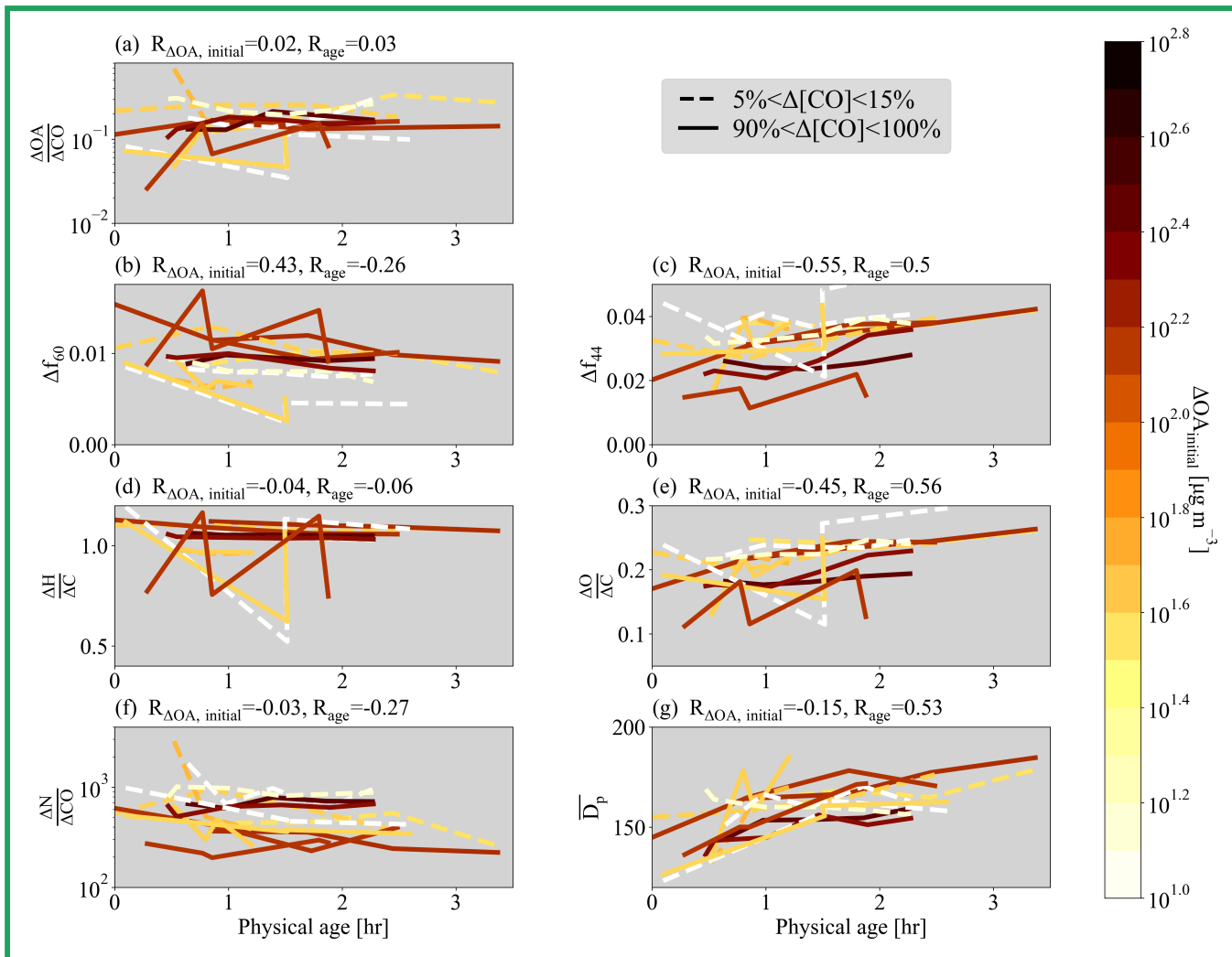


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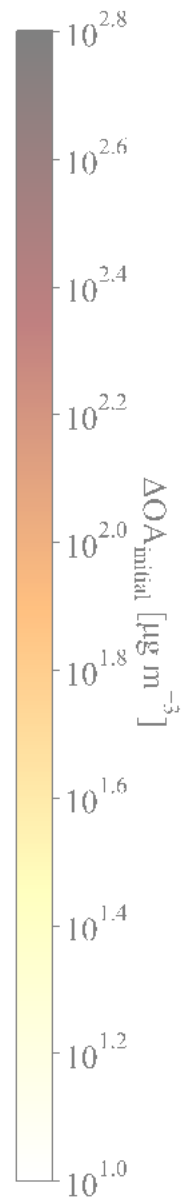
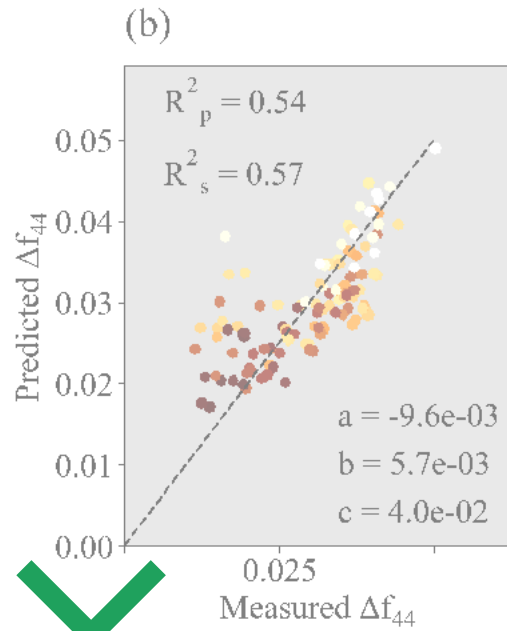
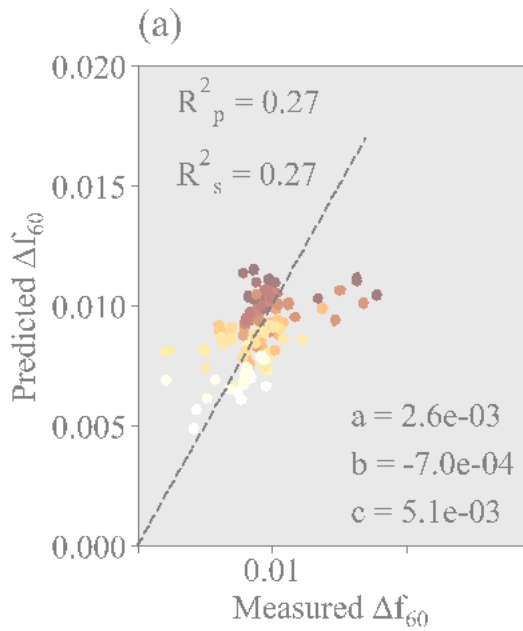


781 **Figure 2. Various normalized parameters as a function of physical age for the 7 sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects. Separate lines**
 782 **are shown for the edges (lowest 5-15% of ΔCO ; dashed lines) and cores (highest 90-100% of ΔCO ; solid lines). (a) $\Delta OA / \Delta CO$, (b)**
 783 **Δf_{60} , (c) Δf_{44} , (d) $\Delta H / \Delta C$, (e) $\Delta O / \Delta C$, (f) $\Delta N_{40-262 nm} / \Delta CO$, and (g) \overline{D}_p between 40-262 nm against physical age for all flights, colored**
 784 **by $\Delta OA_{initial}$. Some flights have missing data. Also provided is the Spearman correlation coefficient, R, between each variable and**
 785 **$\Delta OA_{initial}$ and physical age for each variable. Note that panels (a), (d), and (g) have a log y-axis.**

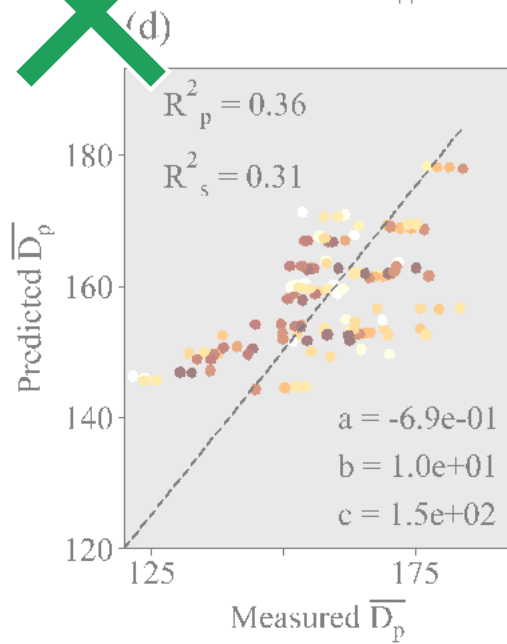
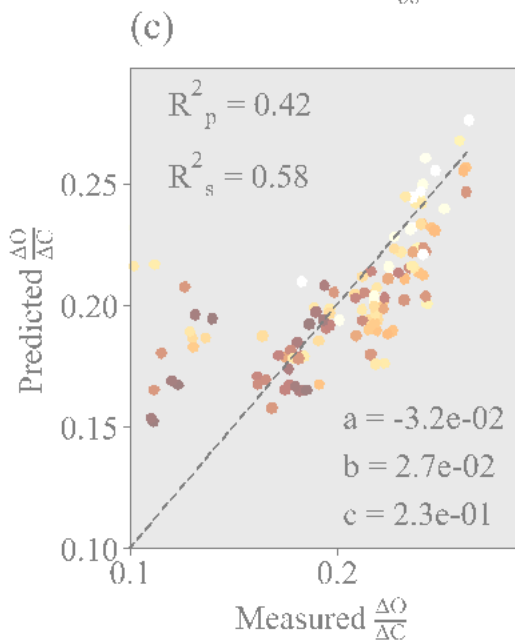
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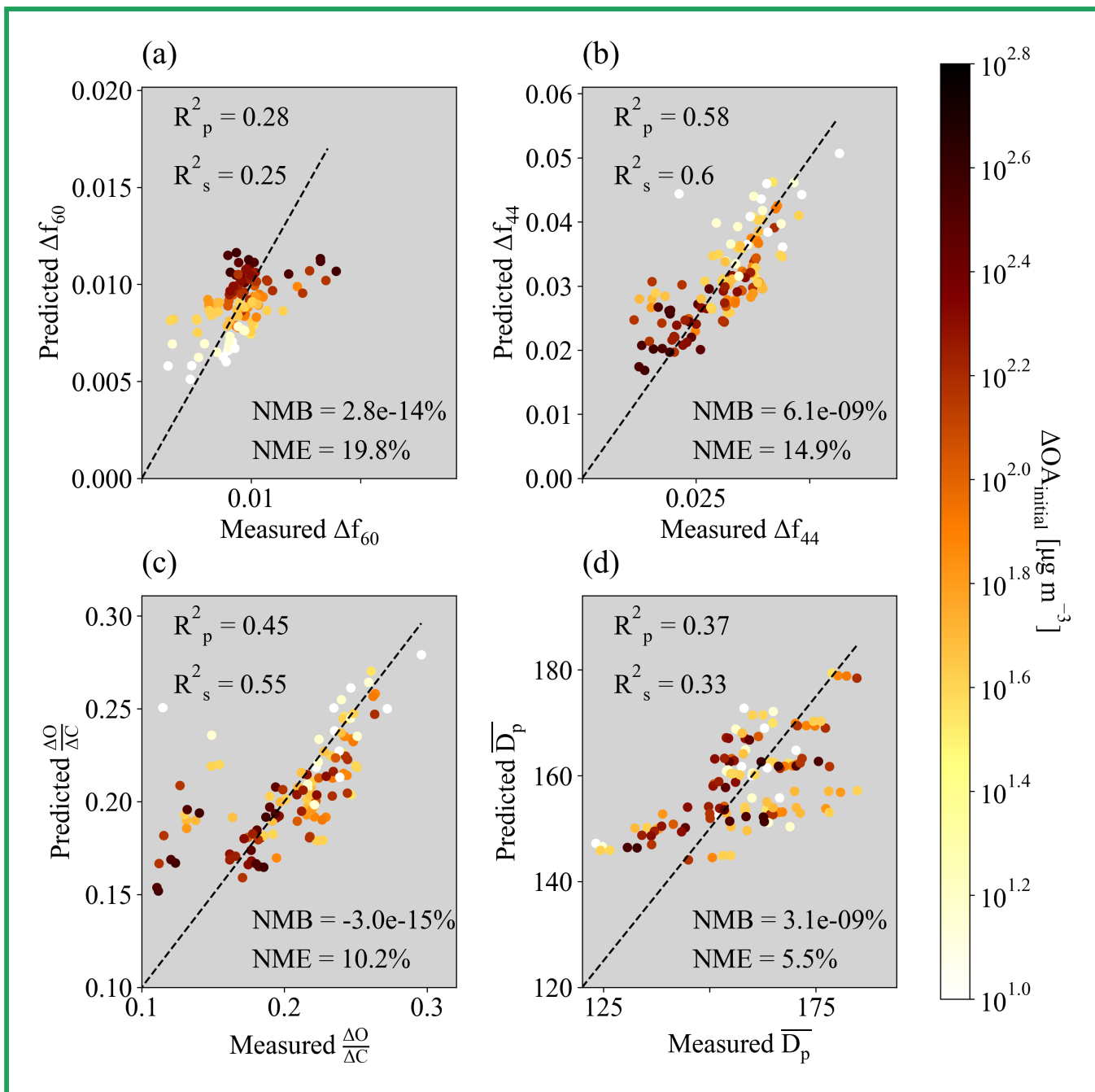


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792 **Figure 3.** Measured versus predicted (a) Δf_{60} , (b) Δf_{44} , (c) $\Delta O/\Delta C$, and (d) \overline{D}_p between 40-262 nm. The predicted values are from
 793 the equation $X = a \log_{10}(OA_{\text{initial}}) + b(\text{Physical age}) + c$ where $X = \Delta f_{60}$, Δf_{44} , $\Delta O/\Delta C$, or \overline{D}_p . The values of a , b , and c are provided in
 794 **Table S3** within each subpanel, as are \dagger The Pearson and Spearman coefficients of determination (R_p^2 and R_s^2 , respectively) are
 795 provided in each panel, along with the normalized mean bias (NMB) and normalized mean error (NME). Note that Fig. 2 provides
 796 **R** values rather than R^2 to provide information upon the trend of the correlation. Included in the fit and figure are points from all
 797 four ΔCO regions within the plume (the 5-15%, 15-50%, 50-90%, and 90-100% of ΔCO), all colored by the mean $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ of each
 798 ΔCO percentile range.

Supporting information for Dilution impacts on smoke aging: Evidence in BBOP data

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Text S1. Further details on BBOP instrumentation

The Fast Integrated Mobility Spectrometer (FIMS) characterizes particle sizes based on electrical mobility as in scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS). Because the FIMS measures particles of different sizes simultaneously instead of sequentially as in traditional SMPS, it provides aerosol size distribution with a much higher time resolution at 1 Hz (Wang et al., 2017). The relative humidity of the aerosol sample was reduced to below ~25% using a Nafion dryer before being introduced into the FIMS. Therefore, the measured size distributions represented that of the dry aerosol particles. The particle number concentration integrated from FIMS size distribution typically agrees with the CPC 3010 (Condensation Particle Counter) measurement (Kleinman et al., 2020) within ~ 15% when size distribution suggests that particles smaller than 10 nm contribute negligibly to the total number concentration. Thus, we estimate the uncertainty in the FIMS number concentration to be ~15%. The uncertainty in measured particle size is about 3% (Wang et al., 2017).

The Soot Particle Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (SP-AMS) is thoroughly detailed in Kleinman et al. (2020). Although it was not directly characterized for uncertainties during the BBOP campaign, we estimate uncertainties as follows. The AMS uncertainty is estimated following the methods in (Bahreini et al. 2009) (first equation of their supplemental information), leading to 37% uncertainty for organics. The laser vaporizer adds additional uncertainty up to 20%. Thus summing the uncertainties in quadrature leads to a 42% uncertainty in organics. The Soot Photometer (SP2) had an uncertainty of 20%.

CO measurement uncertainties are detailed in Kleinmen et al. (2020): the Off-Axis Integrated Cavity Output Spectroscopy was found to have an accuracy of 1-2%, and the precision at ambient backgrounds of 90 ppb was 0.5 ppbv RMS (using a 1 second averaging).

An SPN1 radiometer (Badosa et al., 2014; Long et al., 2010) provided total shortwave irradiance, with a shaded mask applied following (Badosa et al., 2014). The data was corrected for tilt up to 10 degrees of tilt, following (Long et al., 2010). For tilt greater than 10 degrees these values are set to "bad". Instrument uncertainties are detailed in (Badosa et al. 2014).

References

Text S2. Heterogeneous chemistry calculations

We test the impact of heterogeneous chemistry on aerosol mass loss within the smoke plume. We performed a simple calculation of OH molecules collision to the surface of a single particle ranging from 1 nm to 1 μm size in diameter. The following parameters assumed for the calculations:

- OH diffusivity = $3.5\text{e-}5$ [$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$]
- Constant OH concentration varied from $1\text{e}5$ to $5\text{e}7$ [molecules cm^{-3}]
- Molecular weight of organics = 200 [g mol^{-1}]
- Density of organics = 1.4 [g cm^{-3}]
- Total run time = 3 [hours]

As an upper bound calculation, we assume each collision results in removing an organic molecule on the surface of the particle (assumed to be 200 amu), fragmenting and removing the molecule from the particle. The fragmentation products are not assumed to participate in further reaction. Figure S23a shows the resulting final:initial mass ratios after four hours of aging, indicating that for all aerosol sizes captured in this study (>10 nm) and under a range of OH concentrations, $>90\%$ of the aerosol mass remains. As a lower bound, we also include a case in which only 10% of all OH collisions result in a mass loss of 200 amu (Figure S23c). (Slade and Knopf, 2013)

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Table S1. Flight description table.

Flight name, date	Number of sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects	Fire name	Fuel ¹	Missing data ²
'726a', 07-26-2013	2	Mile Marker 28	grasslands, shrub brush, timber, and timber litter	
'730a', 07-30-2013	1	Colockum Tarps	grass, trees	
'730b', 07-30-2013	2	Colockum Tarps	grass, trees	
'809a', 08-09-2013	1	Colockum Tarps	grass, trees	NO _x
'821b', 08-21-2013	1	Government Flats		O ₃

¹When known

²Instruments relevant to this study





Table S2. Calculated $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$ and R_{age} values for $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta H/\Delta C$, $\Delta O/\Delta C$, $\Delta N/\Delta CO$, and D_p when one flight is left out of the statistical analysis. We include the original R values as the first row for comparison. Red values indicate that the correlation has improved compared to all flights in the statistical analysis (closer to ± 1). Blue values indicate that the correlation has worsened (closer to 0) compared to all flights in the statistical analysis. Black values denote no change in the correlation compared to all flights in the statistical analysis. Note that for flights ‘726a’ and ‘730b’ both sets of Lagrangian transects have been left out.

$\Delta OA/\Delta CO$		
Flight left out, date	Resulting $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$	Resulting R_{age}
None	+0.02	+0.03
‘726a’, 07-26-2013	+0.12	0.0
‘730a’, 07-30-2013	+0.02	+0.07
‘730b’, 07-30-2013	+0.17	0.0
‘809a’, 08-09-2013	-0.25	+0.02
‘821b’, 08-21-2013	+0.05	+0.03
Δf_{60}		
Flight left out, date	Resulting $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$	Resulting R_{age}
None	+0.43	-0.26
‘726a’, 07-26-2013	+0.58	-0.38
‘730a’, 07-30-2013	+0.39	-0.37
‘730b’, 07-30-2013	+0.52	-0.19
‘809a’, 08-09-2013	+0.3	-0.21
‘821b’, 08-21-2013	+0.4	-0.26

Δf_{44}		
Flight left out, date	Resulting $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$	Resulting R_{age}
None	-0.55	+0.5
'726a', 07-26-2013	-0.63	+0.4
'730a', 07-30-2013	-0.62	+0.54
'730b', 07-30-2013	-0.45	+0.46
'809a', 08-09-2013	-0.54	+0.54
'821b', 08-21-2013	-0.42	+0.57
$\Delta H/\Delta CO$		
Flight left out, date	Resulting $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$	Resulting R_{age}
None	-0.04	-0.06
'726a', 07-26-2013	-0.04	-0.12
'730a', 07-30-2013	-0.13	-0.2
'730b', 07-30-2013	0.0	-0.16
'809a', 08-09-2013	0.02	-0.01
'821b', 08-21-2013	-0.01	-0.05
$\Delta O/\Delta CO$		
Flight left out, date	Resulting $R_{\Delta OA, initial}$	Resulting R_{age}
None	-0.45	+0.56
'726a', 07-26-2013	-0.54	+0.46
'730a', 07-30-2013	-0.52	+0.55
'730b', 07-30-2013	-0.21	+0.54
'809a', 08-09-2013	-0.5	+0.61
'821b', 08-21-2013	-0.32	+0.63
$\Delta N/\Delta CO$		

Flight left out, date	Resulting $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$	Resulting R_{age}
None	-0.03	-0.27
'726a', 07-26-2013	-0.03	-0.13
'730a', 07-30-2013	-0.03	-0.3
'730b', 07-30-2013	-0.21	-0.43
'809a', 08-09-2013	-0.07	-0.2
'821b', 08-21-2013	0.0	-0.37
$\overline{D_p}$		
Flight left out, date	Resulting $R_{\Delta OA, \text{initial}}$	Resulting R_{age}
None	-0.15	+0.53
'726a', 07-26-2013	-0.18	+0.43
'730a', 07-30-2013	-0.17	+0.57
'730b', 07-30-2013	+0.19	+0.63
'809a', 08-09-2013	-0.28	+0.52
'821b', 08-21-2013	-0.18	+0.52

Table S3. Fit coefficients a , b , and c for the fits shown in Fig. 3 , equation 4. The units of a are (metric); the units of b are (metric)/hr, and the units of c are (metric), where (metric) = the units of Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta O/\Delta C$, or \overline{D}_p , respectively.

Metric	a	b	c
Δf_{60}	2.8e-03	-6.4e-04	4.7e-03
Δf_{44}	-1.1e-02	5.8e-03	4.4e-02
$\Delta O/\Delta C$	-3.6e-02	2.6e-02	0.24
\overline{D}_p	-1.5	10	150

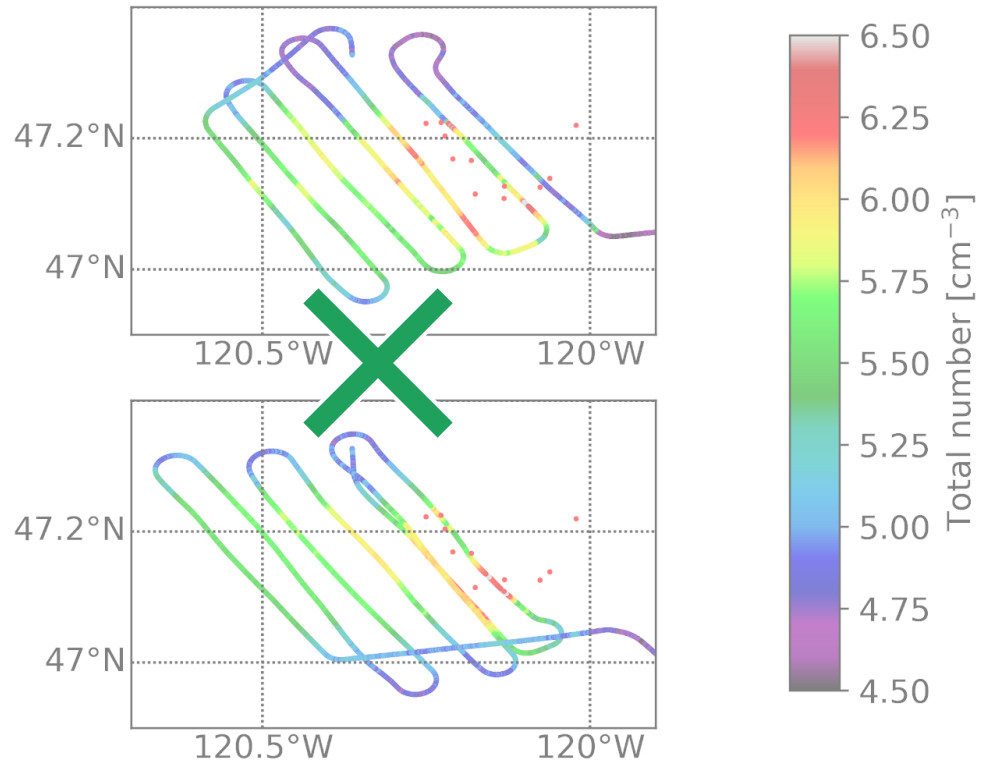
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Table S4. Fit coefficients a , b , and c for the fits shown in Fig. S28 , equation 5. The units of a are (metric); the units of b are (metric)/hr, and the units of c are (metric), where (metric) = the units of Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta O/\Delta C$, or \overline{D}_p , respectively.

Metric	a	b	c
Δf_{60}	0.14	-6.6e-02	-5.3
Δf_{44}	-0.14	0.11	-2.9
$\Delta O/\Delta C$	-7.3e-02	6.1e-02	-1.3
\overline{D}_p	-6.3e-03	4.0e-02	5.1

Table S5. Fit coefficients a , b , and c for the fits shown in Fig. S29 , equation 4 (but with $\Delta N_{\text{initial}}$ in place of $\Delta O A_{\text{initial}}$). The units of a are (metric); the units of b are (metric)/hr, and the units of c are (metric), where (metric) = the units of Δf_{60} , Δf_{44} , $\Delta O/\Delta C$, or \overline{D}_p , respectively.

Metric	a	b	c
Δf_{60}	2.0e-03	-5.4e-04	-1.5e-03
Δf_{44}	-1.1e-02	5.3e-03	8.4e-02
$\Delta O/\Delta C$	-4.1e-02	2.4e-02	0.4
\overline{D}_p	-3.5	10	160



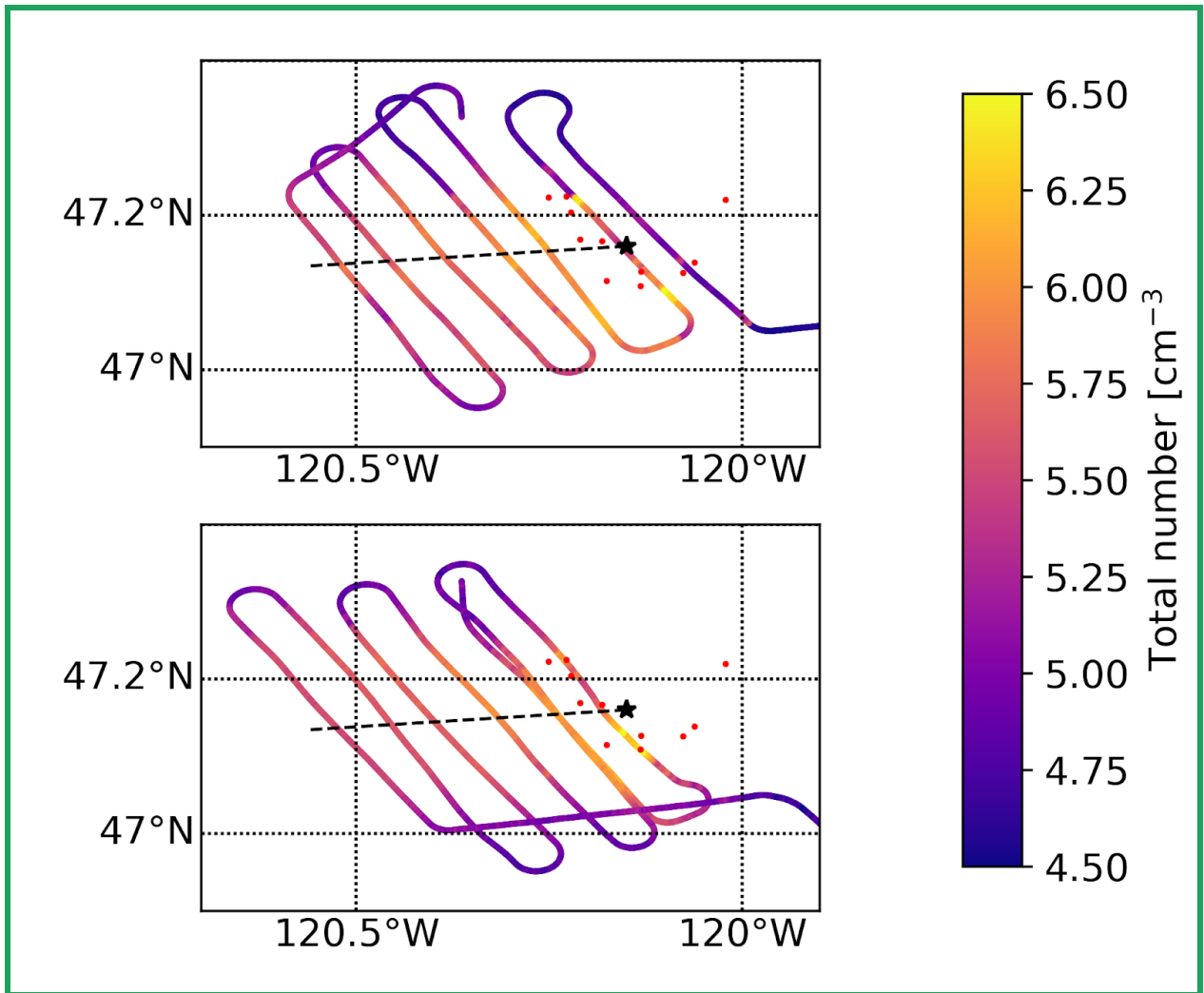
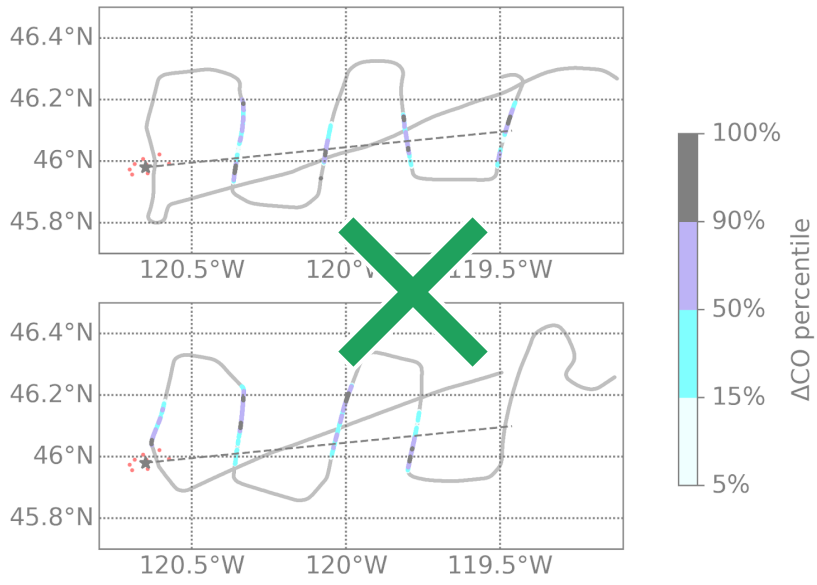


Figure S1. The flight path for flight '730b', colored by the FIMS total number concentration. The red dots are MODIS fire/thermal anomalies. The black star indicates the approximate center of the fire and the black dashed line indicates the approximate centerline of the plume, estimated by the number concentration. ~~The numbers are the leg number.~~



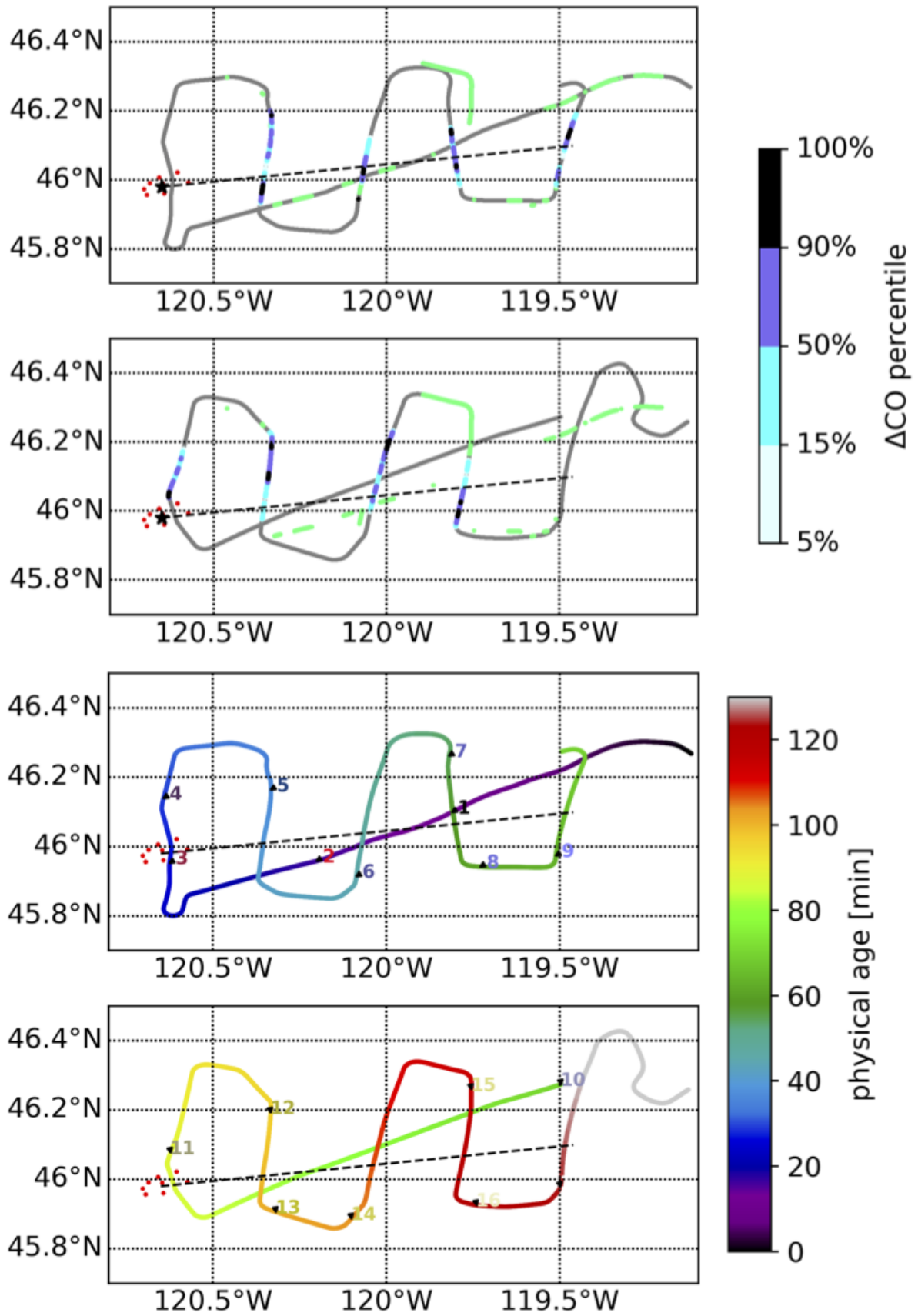
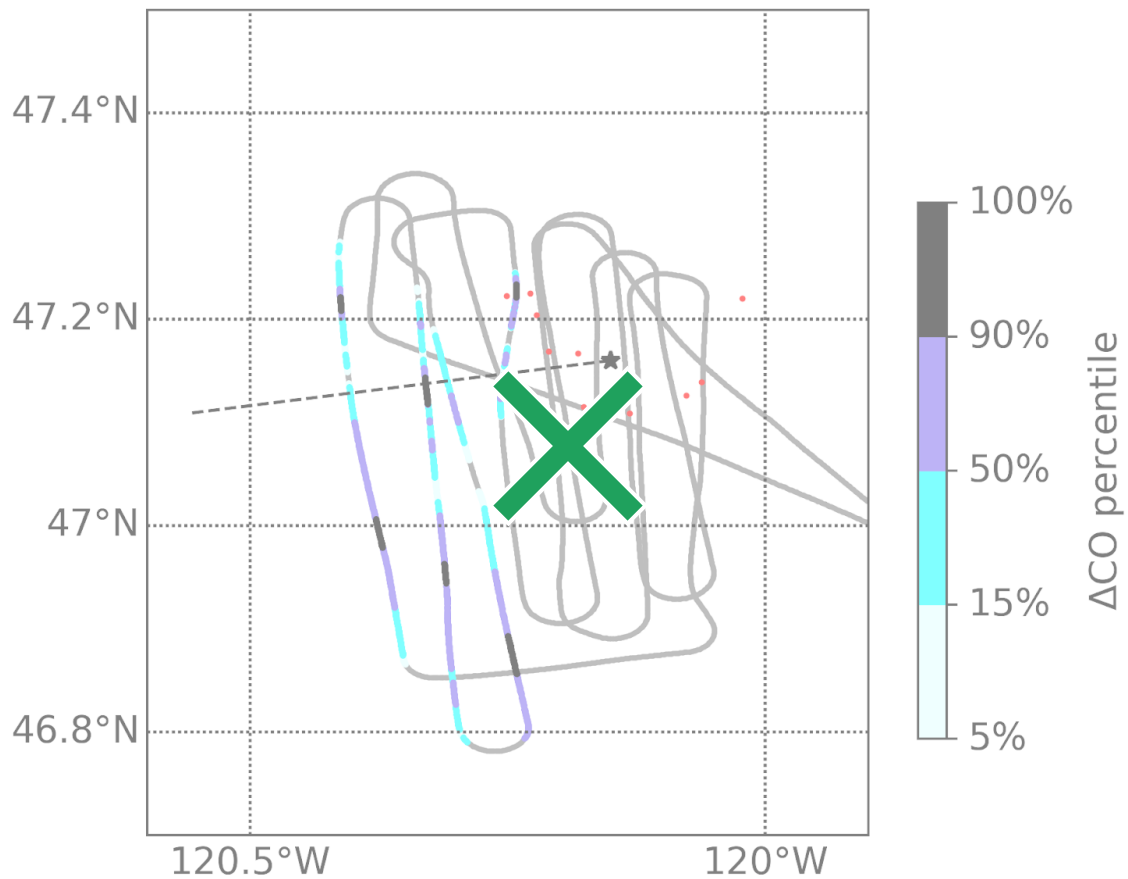


Figure S2. The flight path for '726a'. **Top two panels:** The legs used in this study are colored by each ΔCO percentile bin used in the main text analyses. **The green traces indicate the locations of the lowest 10% of CO, used to compute averaged backgrounds for this flight.** **Bottom two panels:** the flight track colored by time since take-off in minutes. The numbers indicate the leg numbers as identified in the BBOP database. There were two complete flight paths for this day. The red dots are MODIS fire/thermal anomalies. The black star indicates the approximate center of the fire and the black dashed line indicates the approximate centerline of the plume, estimated by the number concentration.



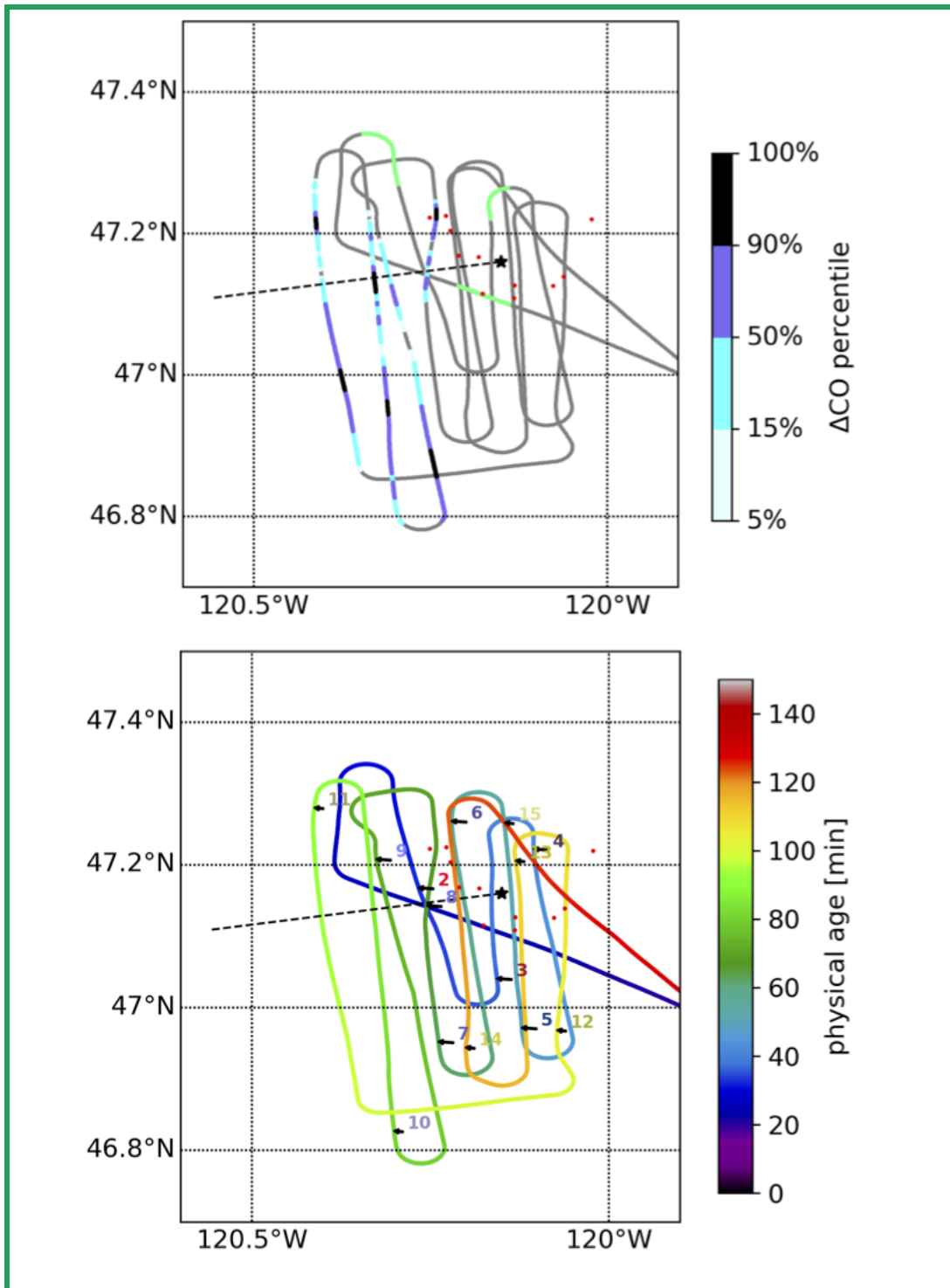
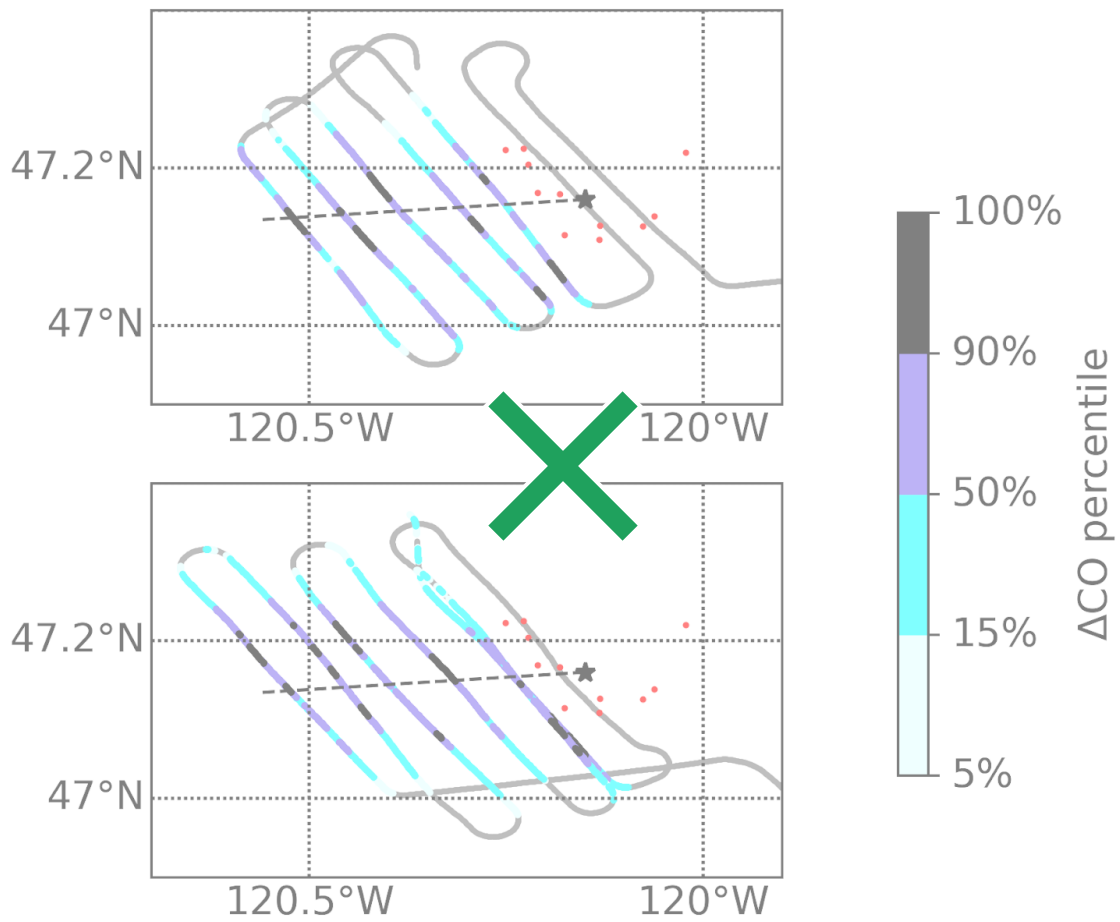


Figure S3. The flight path for ‘730a’. **Top panel:** The legs used in this study are colored by each ΔCO percentile bin used in the main text analyses. The green traces indicate the locations of the lowest 10% of ΔCO , used to compute averaged backgrounds for this flight. **Bottom panel:** the flight track colored by time since take-off in minutes. The numbers indicate the leg numbers as

identified in the BBOP database. The red dots are MODIS fire/thermal anomalies. The black star indicates the approximate center of the fire and the black dashed line indicates the approximate centerline of the plume, estimated by the number concentration.



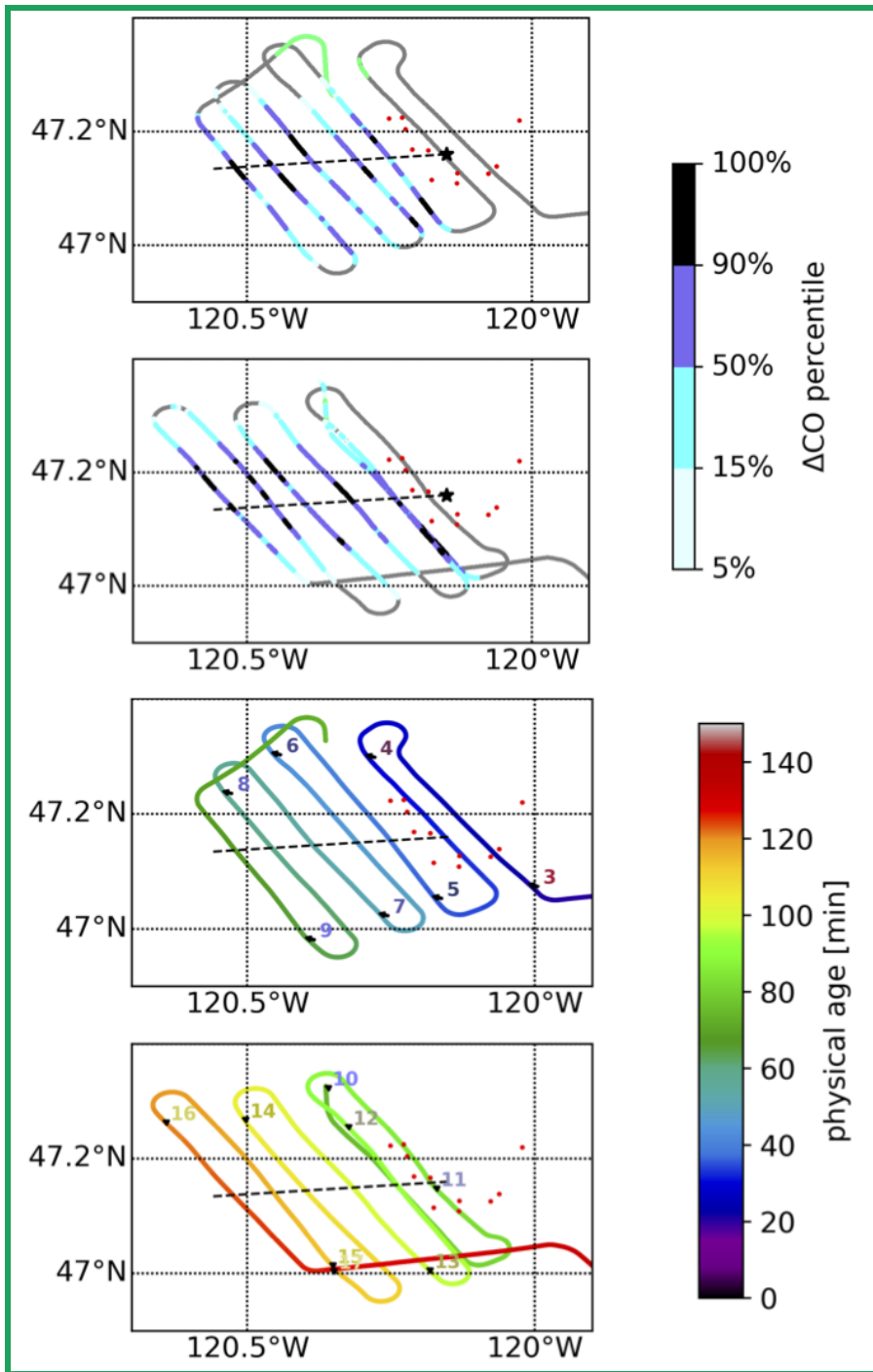
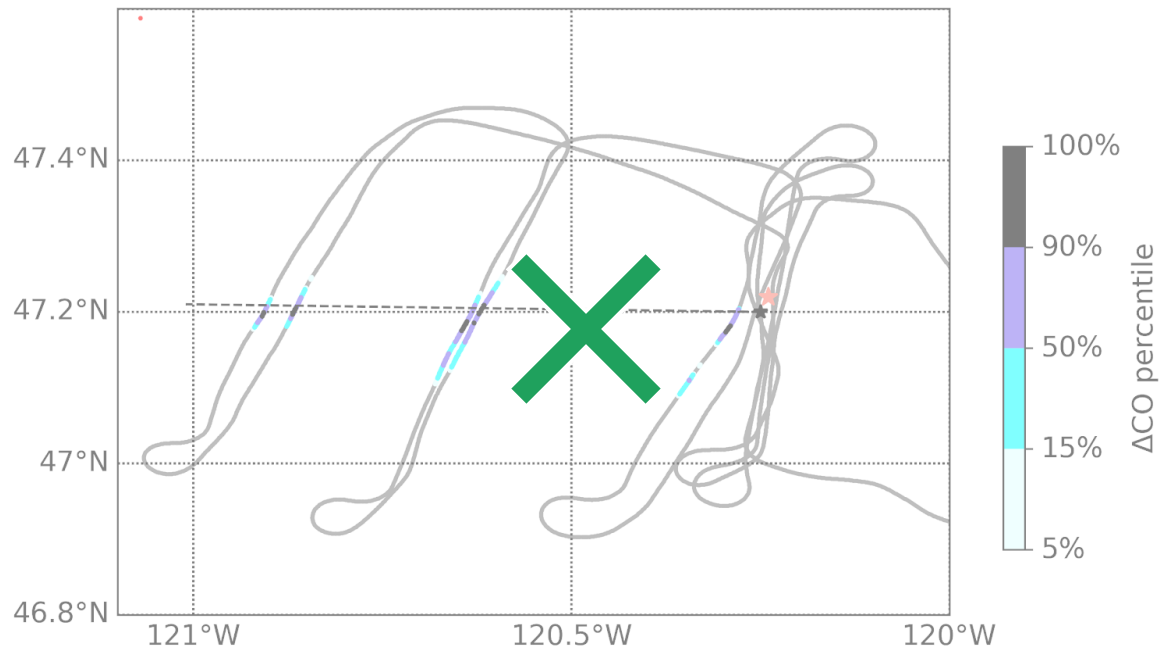


Figure S4. The flight path for '730b'. **Top two panels:** The legs used in this study are colored by each ΔCO percentile bin used in the main text analyses. **The green traces indicate the locations of the lowest 10% of CO, used to compute averaged backgrounds for this flight.** **Bottom two panels:** the flight track colored by time since take-off in minutes. The numbers indicate the leg numbers as identified in the BBOP database. There were two complete flight paths for this flight. The red dots are MODIS fire/thermal anomalies. The black star indicates the approximate center

of the fire and the black dashed line indicates the approximate centerline of the plume, estimated by the number concentration.



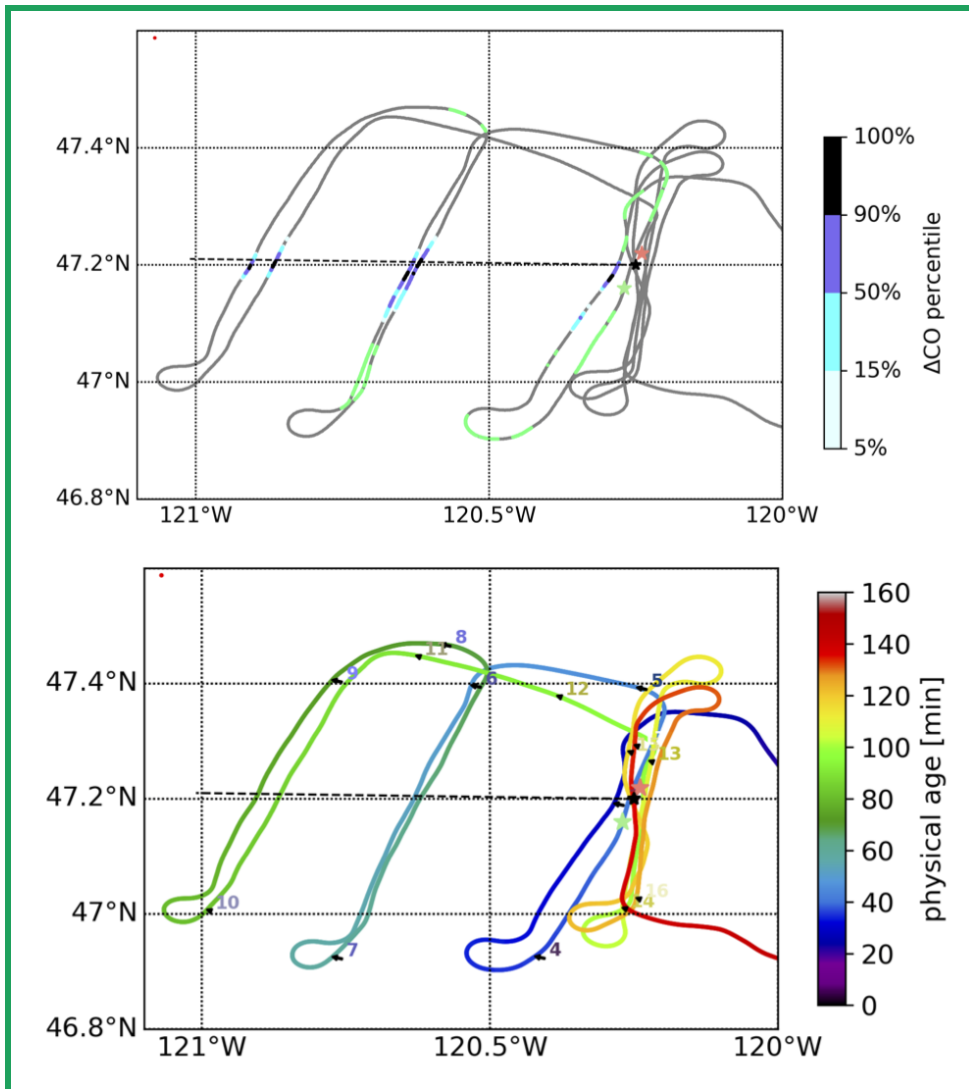
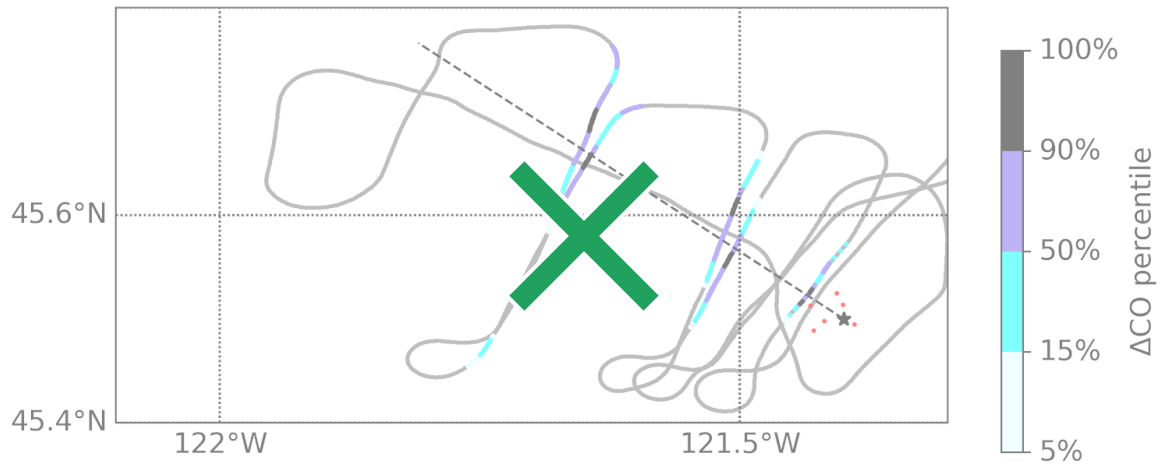


Figure S5. The flight path for ‘809a’. **Top panel:** The legs used in this study are colored by each ΔCO percentile bin used in the main text analyses. The green traces indicate the locations of the lowest 10% of CO, used to compute averaged backgrounds for this flight. **Bottom panel:** the flight track colored by time since take-off in minutes. The numbers indicate the leg numbers as identified in the BBOP database. The Worldview image for this day had clouds over the fire location at the time of the satellite passover. Thus we estimate a fire center using Worldview and MODIS images for this region on the previous day (8-08-2013) (light green star) and the following day (8-10-2013) (salmon-colored star). The black star indicates our estimated the approximate center of the fire on 8-09-2013 and the black dashed line indicates the approximate centerline of the plume, estimated by the number concentration.



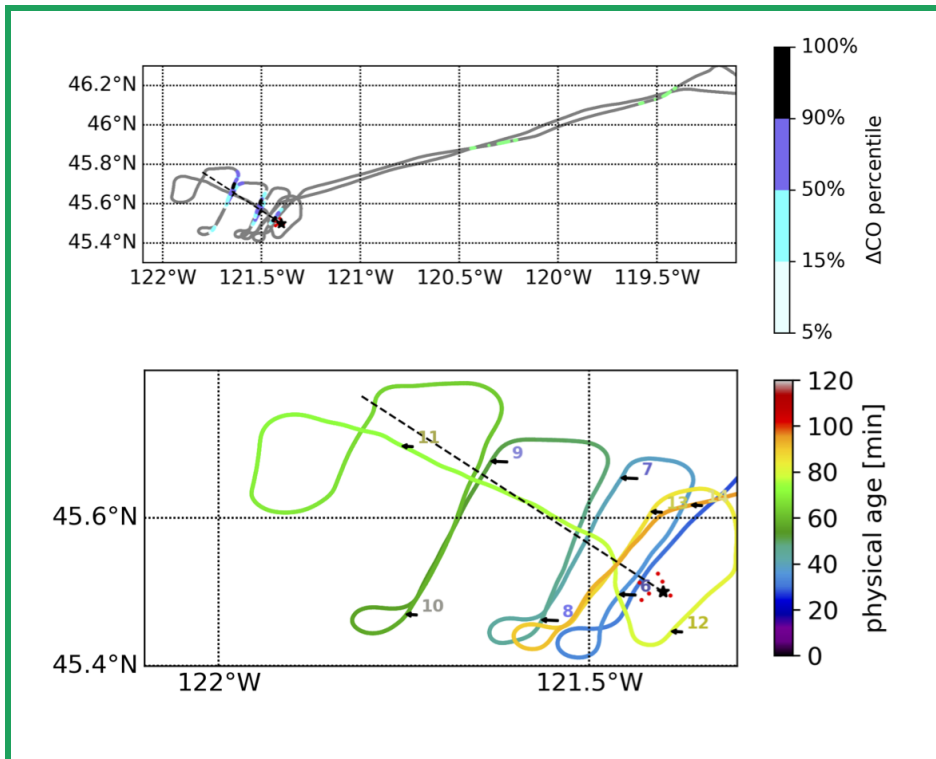
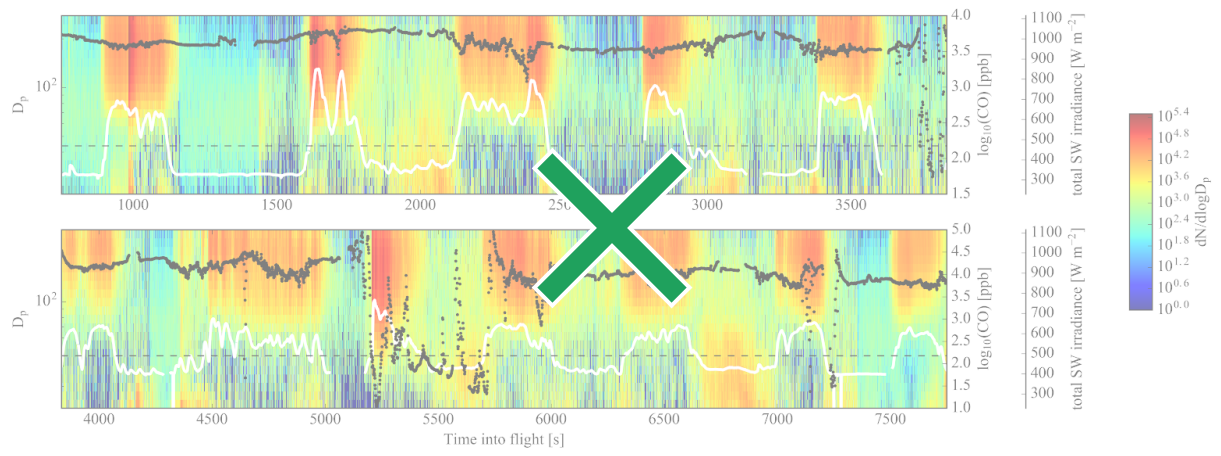


Figure S6. The flight path for '821b'. **Top panel:** The legs used in this study are colored by each ΔCO percentile bin used in the main text analyses. The green traces indicate the locations of the lowest 10% of CO, used to compute averaged backgrounds for this flight. **Bottom panel:** the flight track colored by time since take-off in minutes. The numbers indicate the leg numbers as identified in the BBOP database. The red dots are MODIS fire/thermal anomalies. The black star indicates the approximate center of the fire and the black dashed line indicates the approximate centerline of the plume, estimated by the number concentration.



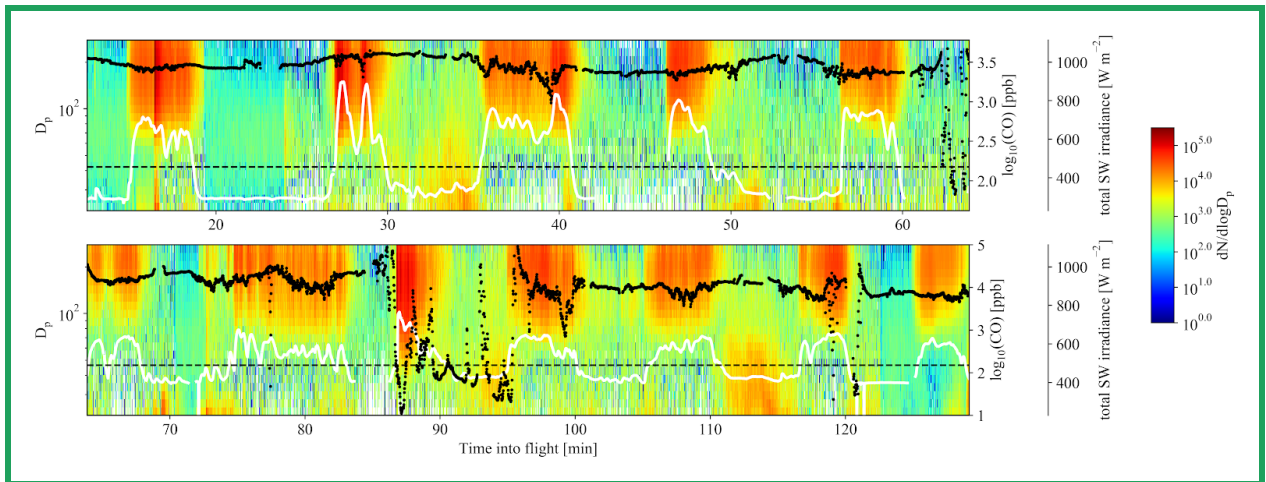
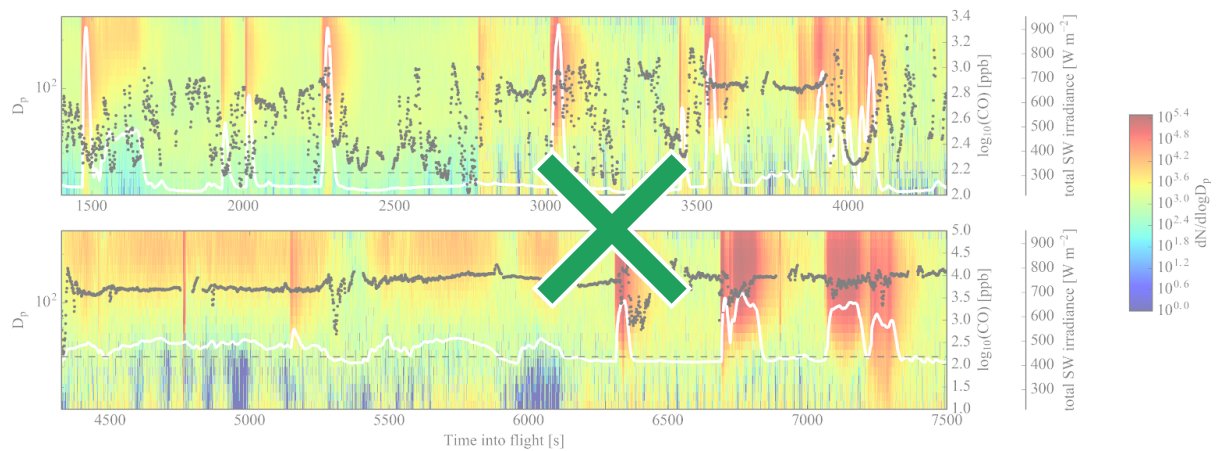


Figure S7. Number size distribution data, $dN/d\log D_p$, from the FIMS; CO (white solid line); and total short wave (SW) irradiance (black dots) data for the '726a' flight. The dotted dashed line indicates CO=150 ppb, our cutoff for in-plume/out-of-plume. The second set of Lagrangian transects for this flight start at the plume at approximately 86 minutes into the flight.



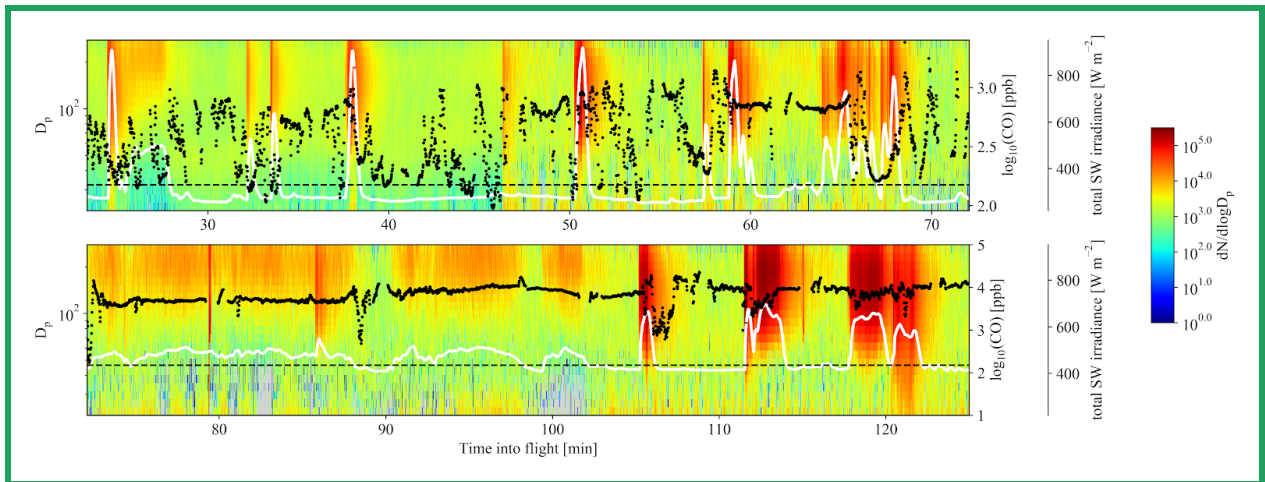


Figure S8. Number size distribution data, $dN/d\log D_p$, from the FIMS; CO (white solid line); and total short wave (SW) irradiance (black dots) data for the '730a' flight. The dotted dashed line indicates CO=150 ppb, our cutoff for in-plume/out-of-plume.

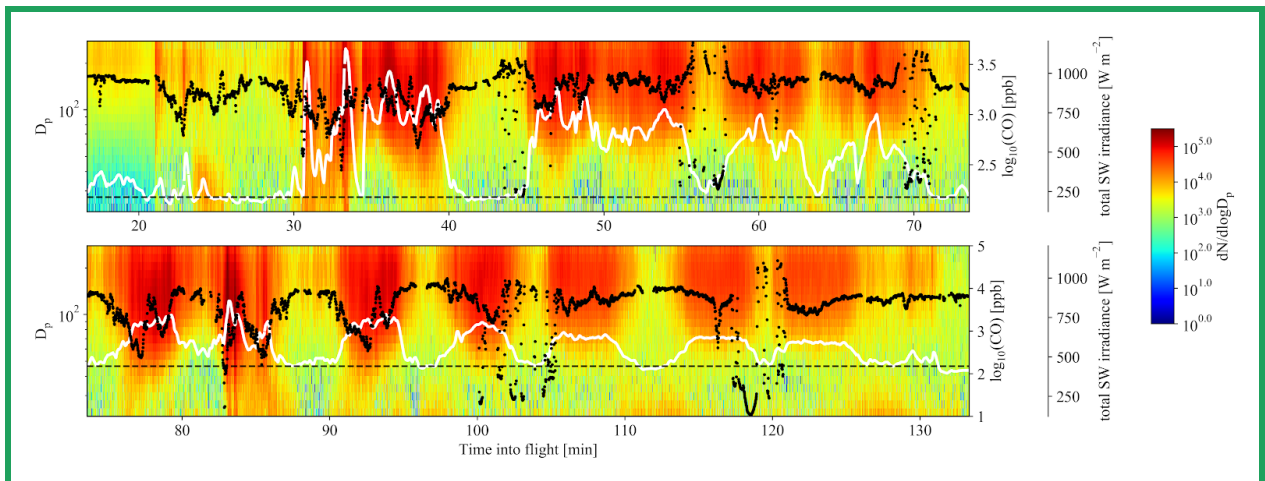
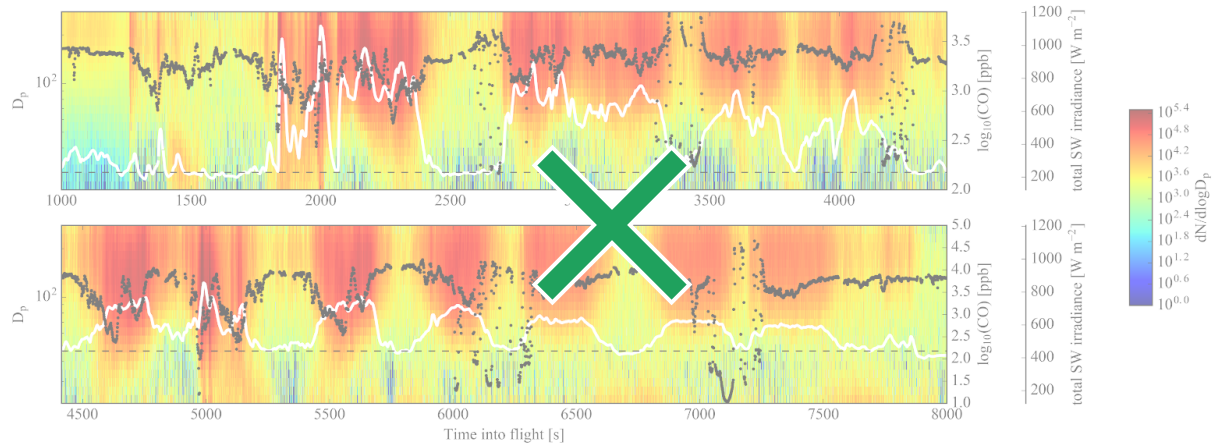


Figure S9. Number size distribution data, $dN/d\log D_p$, from the FIMS; CO (white solid line); and total short wave (SW) irradiance (black dots) data for the ‘730b’ flight. The dotted dashed line indicates CO=150 ppb, our cutoff for in-plume/out-of-plume. For this figure, the top panel contains all of the first Lagrangian set of flight transects, and the bottom panel contains all of the second Lagrangian set of flight transects.

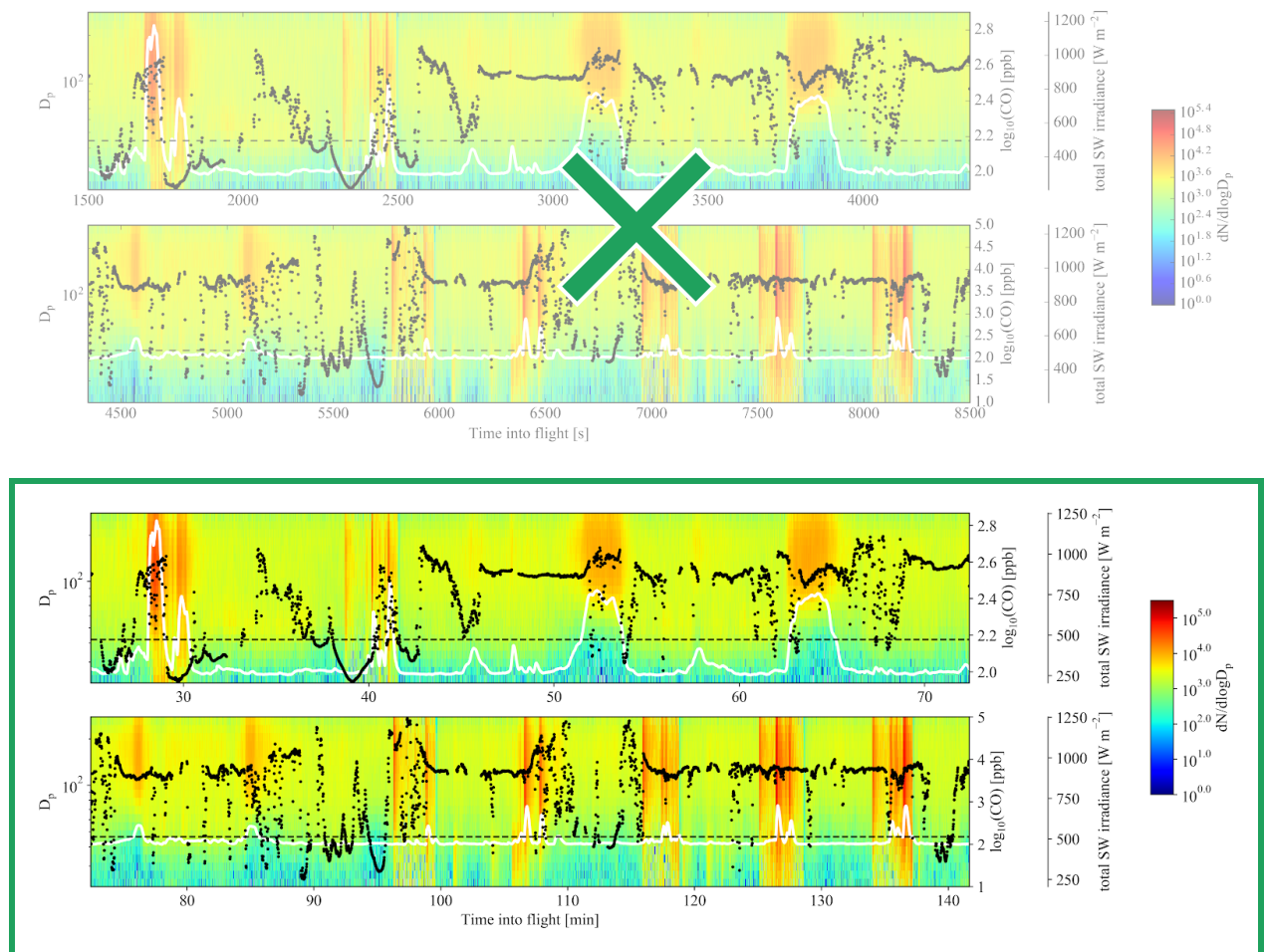


Figure S10. Number size distribution data, $dN/d\log D_p$, from the FIMS; CO (white solid line); and total short wave (SW) irradiance (black dots) data for the '809a' flight. The dotted dashed line indicates CO=150 ppb, our cutoff for in-plume/out-of-plume.

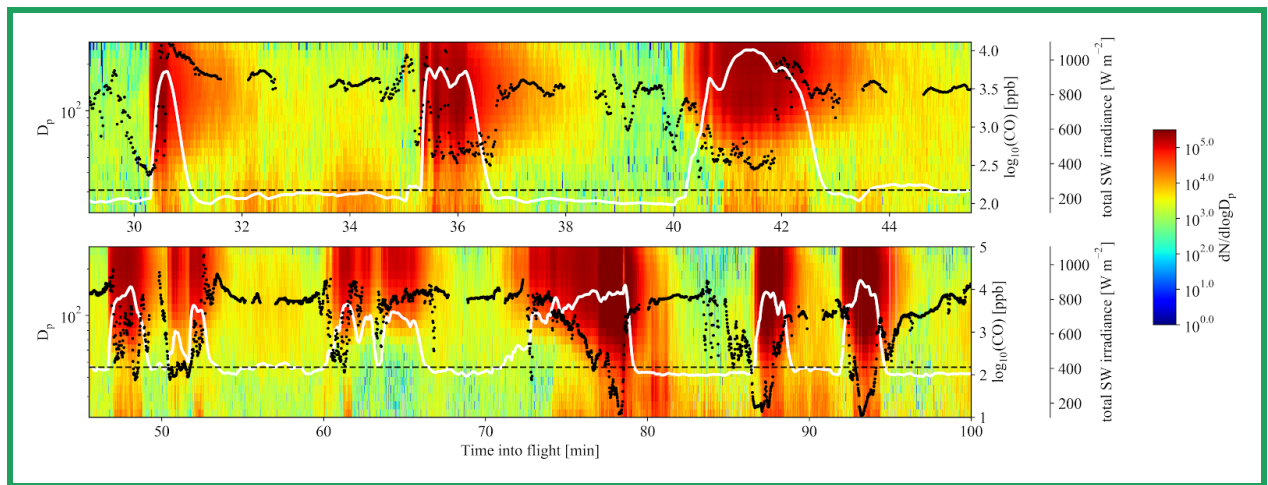
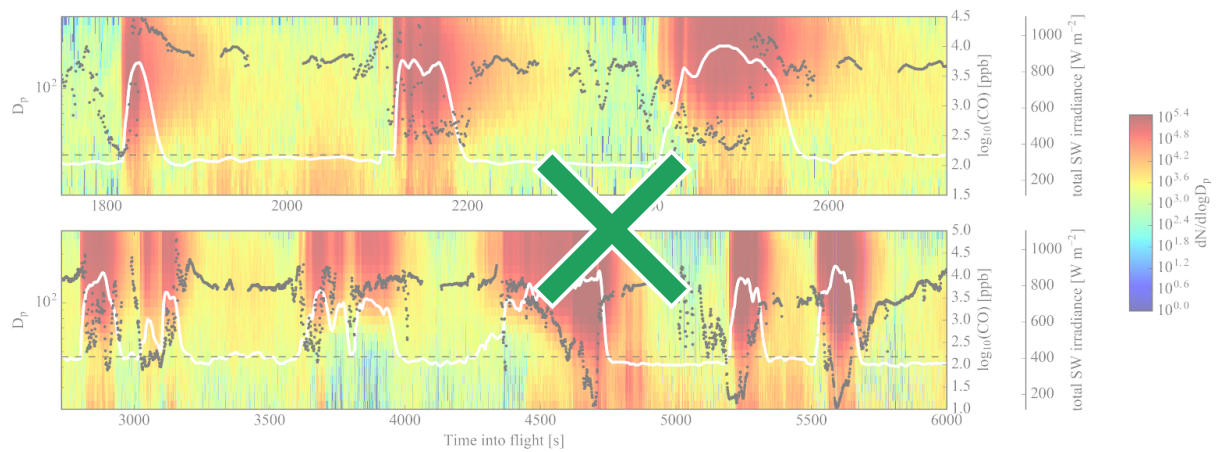


Figure S11. Number size distribution data, $dN/d\log D_p$, from the FIMS; CO (white solid line); and total short wave (SW) irradiance (black dots) data for the '821b' flight. The dotted dashed line indicates CO=150 ppb, our cutoff for in-plume/out-of-plume.

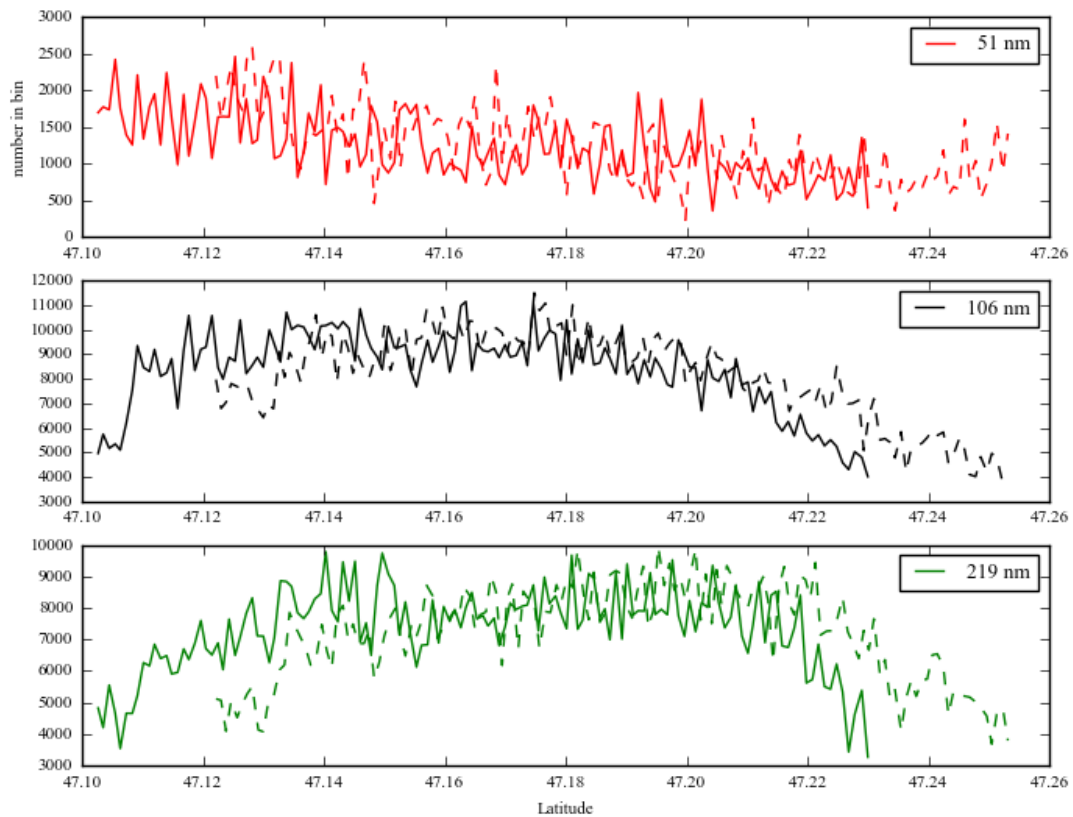
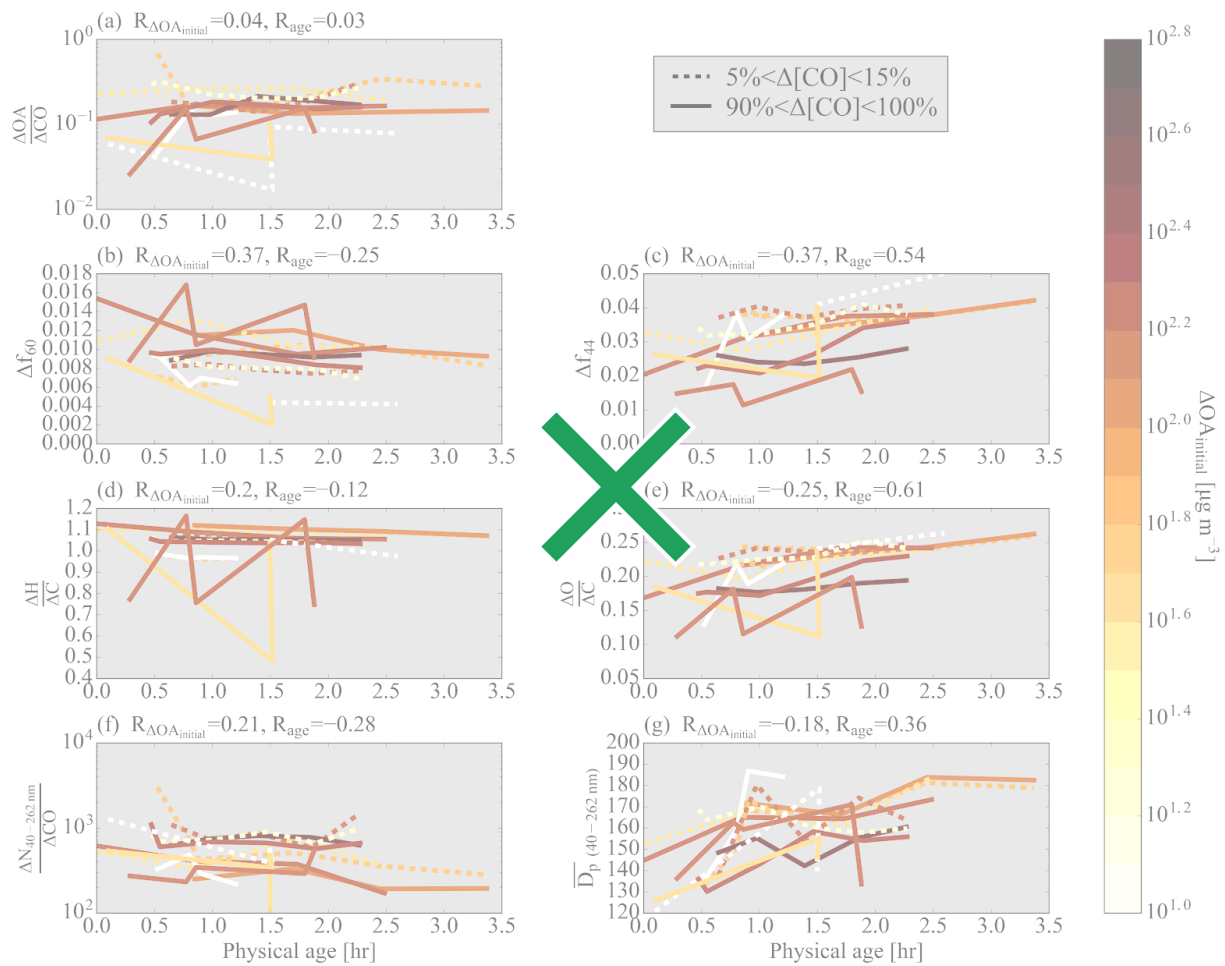


Figure S12. FIMS data for ‘809a’ for the two legs that ~overlap (Figure S5) for the 51, 106, and 219 nm size bins. The solid line is from the plane flying north to south (right to left in this figure) and the dashed line is from the plane flying south to north (left to right in this figure). In the absence of FIMS measurement artifacts, we expect these two lines to roughly match each other. Each y axis is number in bin.



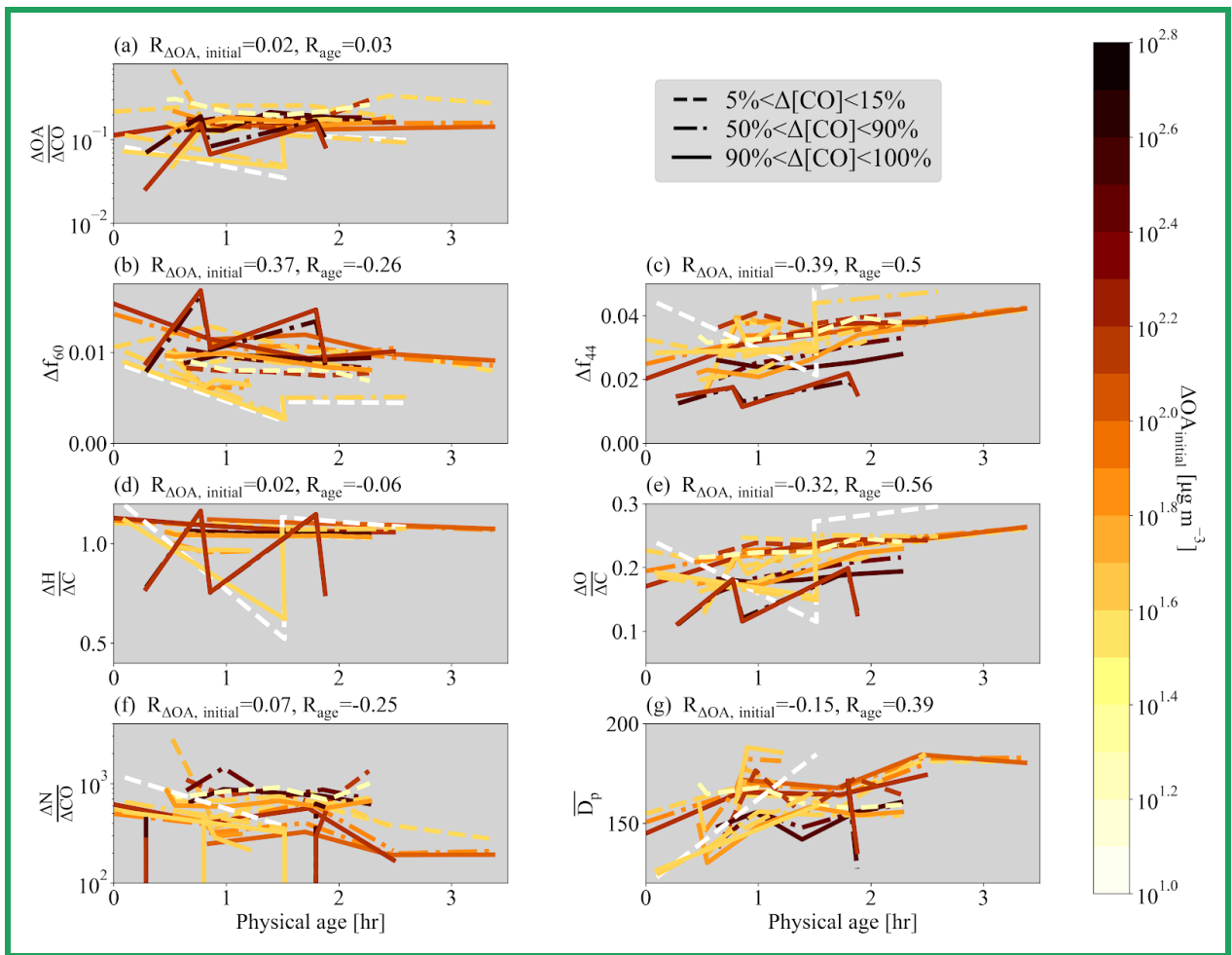
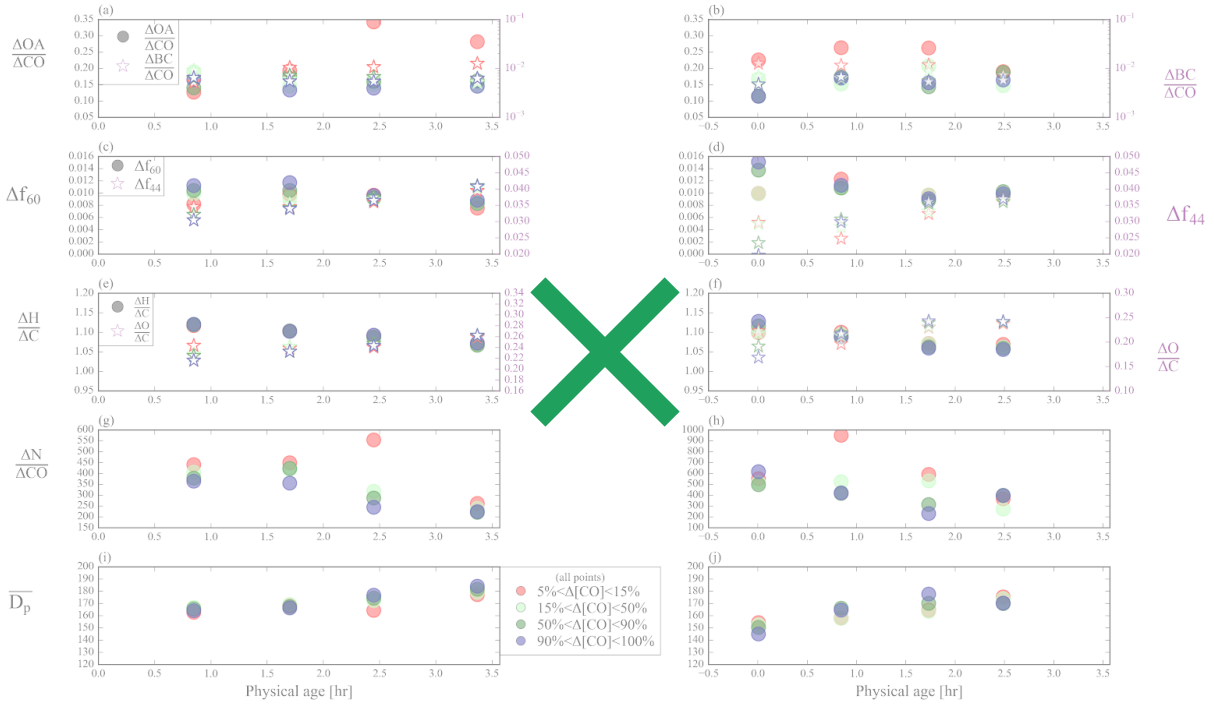


Figure S13. Same as Figure 2 but using only the first 50% of data for each leg of the FIMS and CO data for panels f-g.



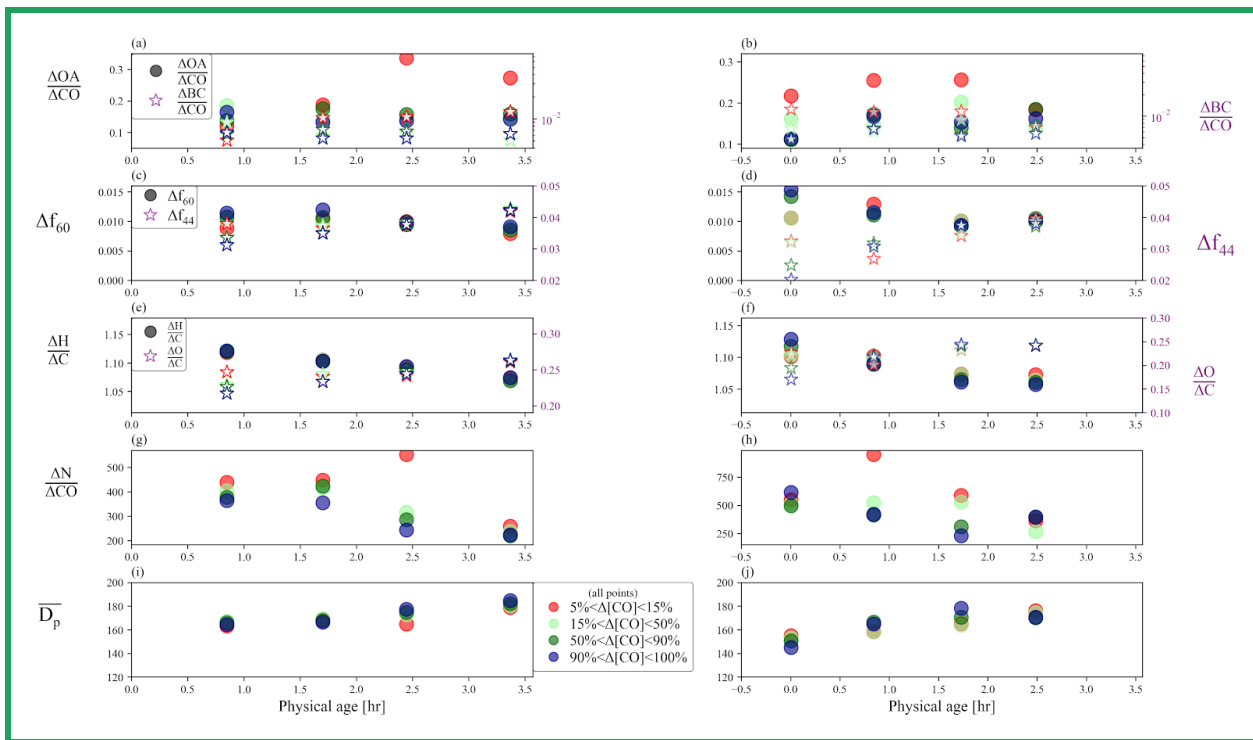
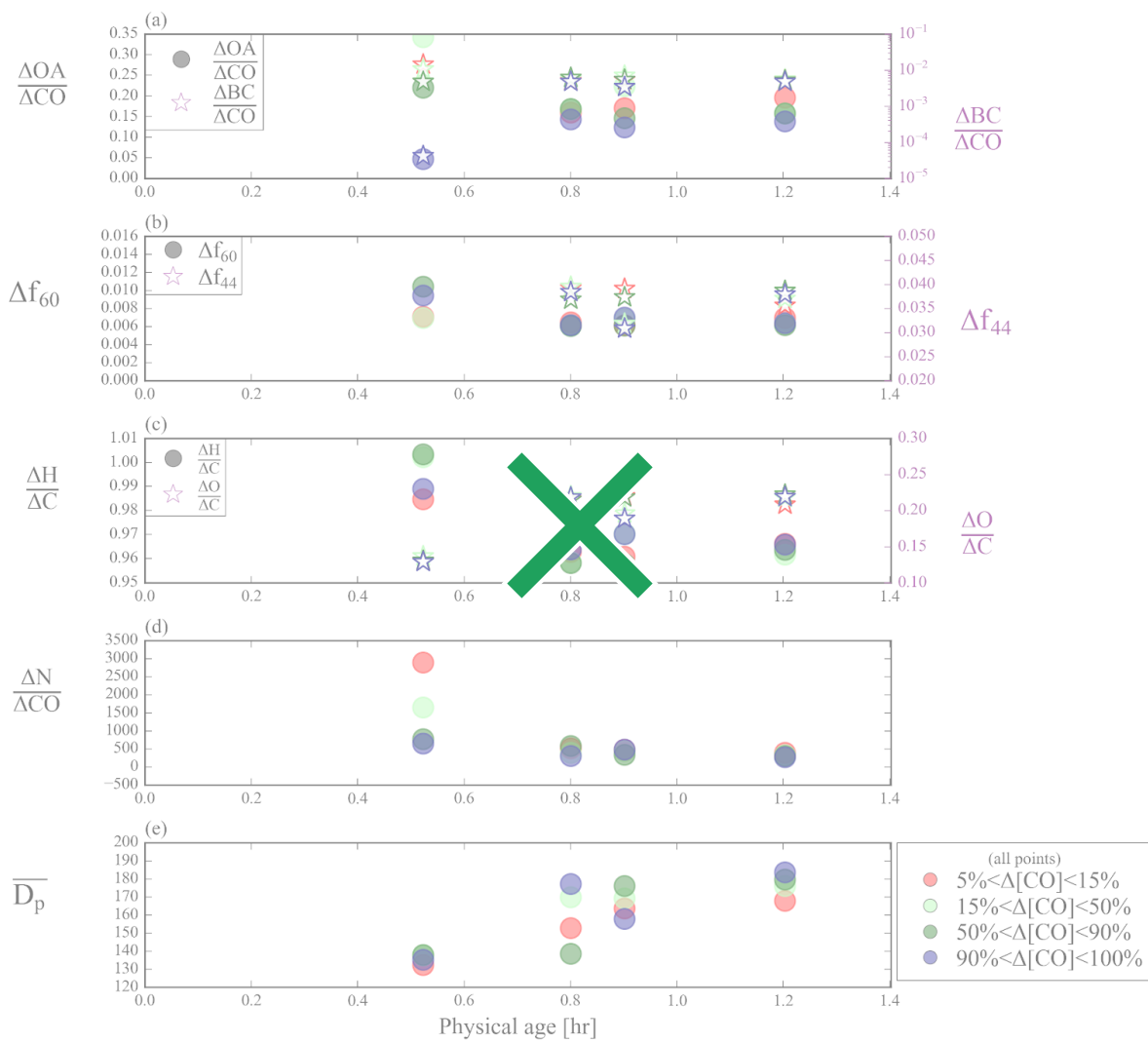


Figure S14. Aerosol properties for the first set (left-hand column) and second set (right-hand column) of pseudo-Lagrangian transects from flight ‘726a’ (a-b) $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta\text{rBC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (left y-axis), (c-d) Δf_{60} (right y-axis) and Δf_{44} (left y-axis), (e-f) $\Delta\text{H}/\Delta\text{C}$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta\text{O}/\Delta\text{C}$ (left y-axis), (g-h) $\Delta\text{N}/\Delta\text{CO}$, and (i-j) \overline{D}_p against physical age. For each transect, the data is divided into edge (the lowest 5-15% of ΔCO data; red points), core (90-100% of ΔCO data; blue points), and intermediate regions (15-50% and 50-90% of ΔCO data; light green and dark green points). $\Delta\text{rBC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ is shown in log scale and the x-axis for the right-hand column has been shifted backwards to improve clarity. Note that the left-hand and right-hand columns do not always have the same y-axis limits.



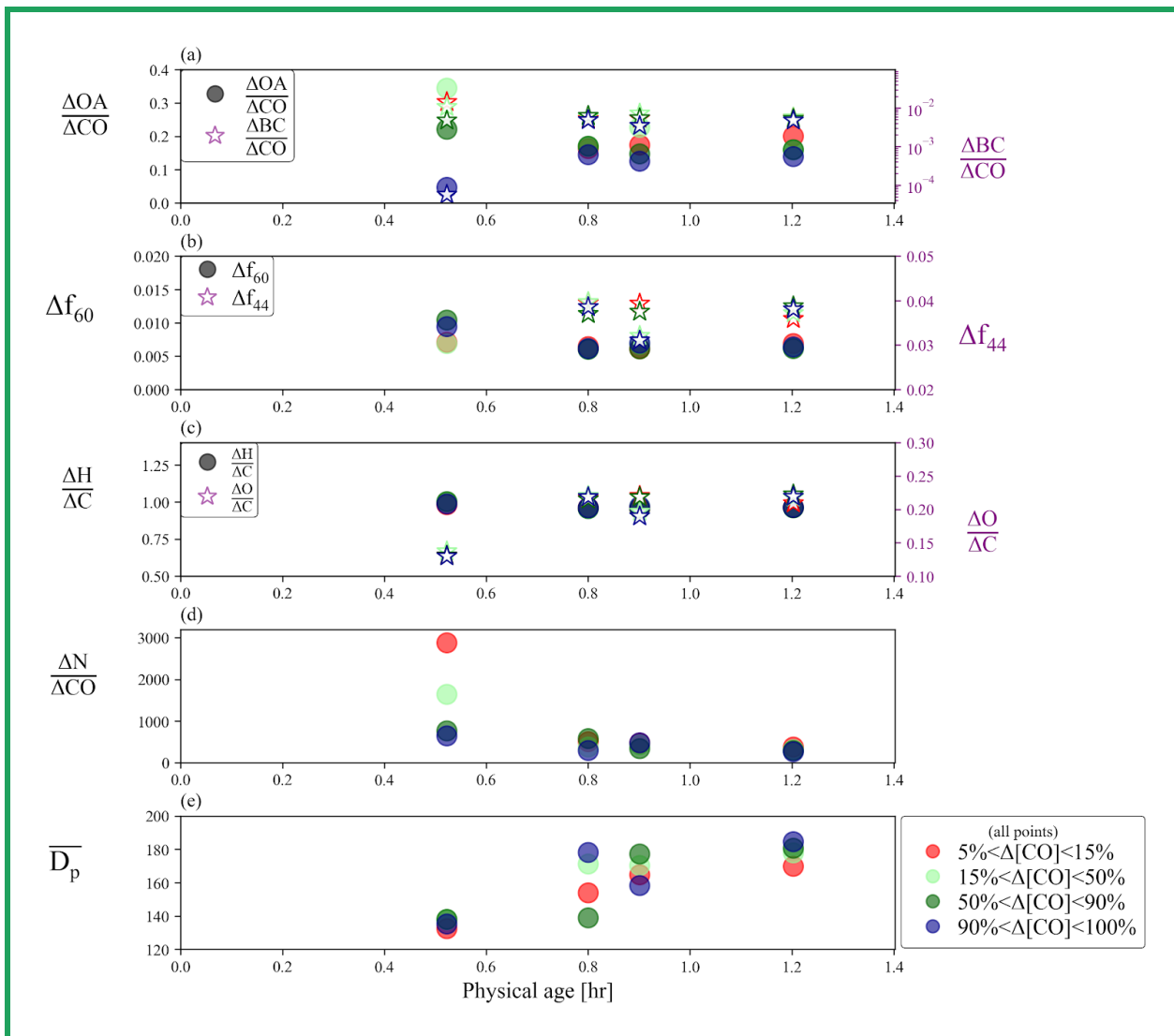


Figure S15. Aerosol properties for the set of pseudo-Lagrangian transects from flight ‘730a’ (a) $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta\text{BC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (left y-axis), (b) Δf_{60} (right y-axis) and Δf_{44} (left y-axis), (c) $\Delta\text{H}/\Delta\text{C}$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta\text{O}/\Delta\text{C}$ (left y-axis), (d) $\Delta\text{N}/\Delta\text{CO}$, and (e) $\overline{D_p}$ against physical age. For each transect, the data is divided into edge (the lowest 5-15% of ΔCO data; red points), core (90-100% of ΔCO data; blue points), and intermediate regions (15-50% and 50-90% of ΔCO data; light green and dark green points). $\Delta\text{BC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ is shown in log scale to improve clarity.

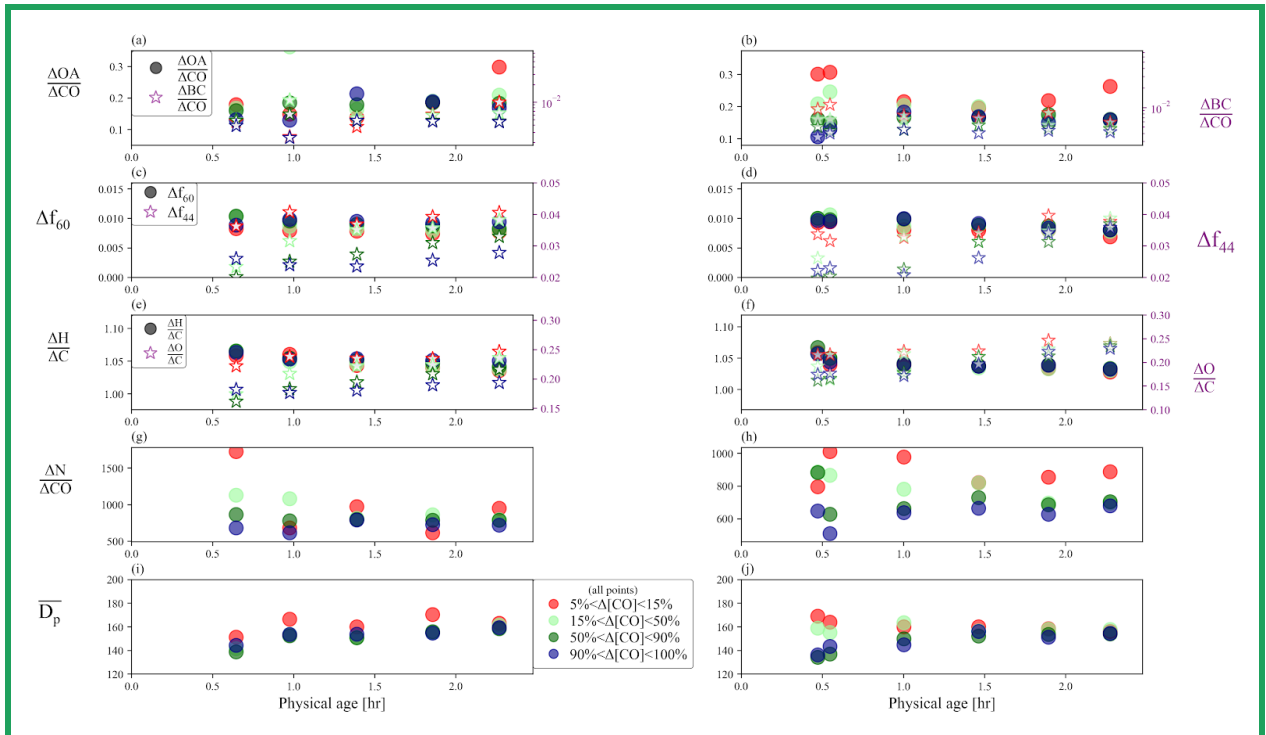
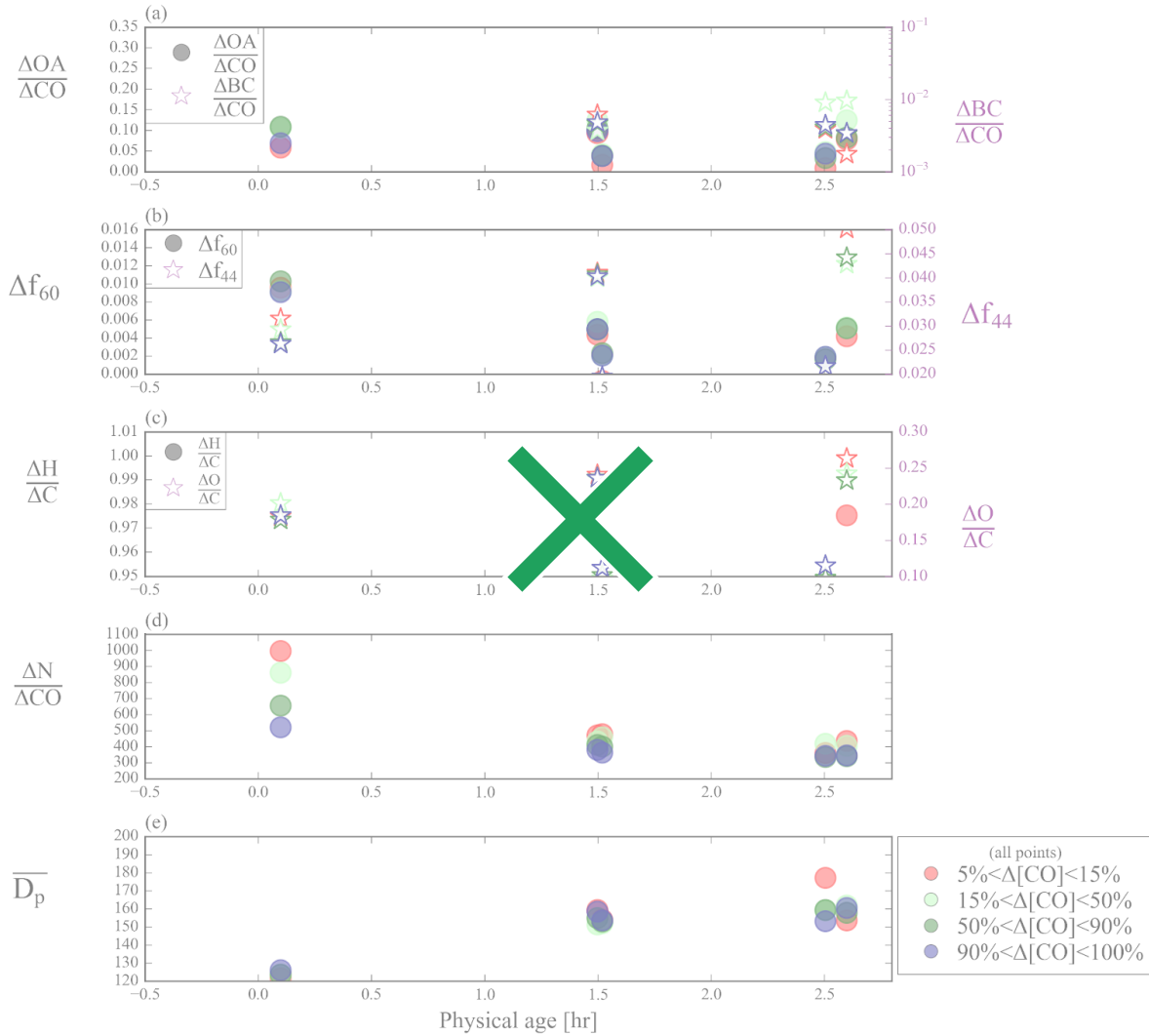


Figure S16. Aerosol properties for the first set (left-hand column) and second set (right-hand column) of pseudo-Lagrangian transects from flight '730b' (a-b) $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (right y-axis) and

$\Delta r_{BC}/\Delta CO$ (left y-axis), (c-d) Δf_{60} (right y-axis) and Δf_{44} (left y-axis), (e-f) $\Delta H/\Delta C$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta O/\Delta C$ (left y-axis), (g-h) $\Delta N/\Delta CO$, and (i-j) $\overline{D_p}$ against physical age. For each transect, the data is divided into edge (the lowest 5-15% of ΔCO data; red points), core (90-100% of ΔCO data; blue points), and intermediate regions (15-50% and 50-90% of ΔCO data; light green and dark green points). $\Delta r_{BC}/\Delta CO$ is shown in log scale to improve clarity. Note that the left-hand and right-hand columns do not always have the same y-axis limits.



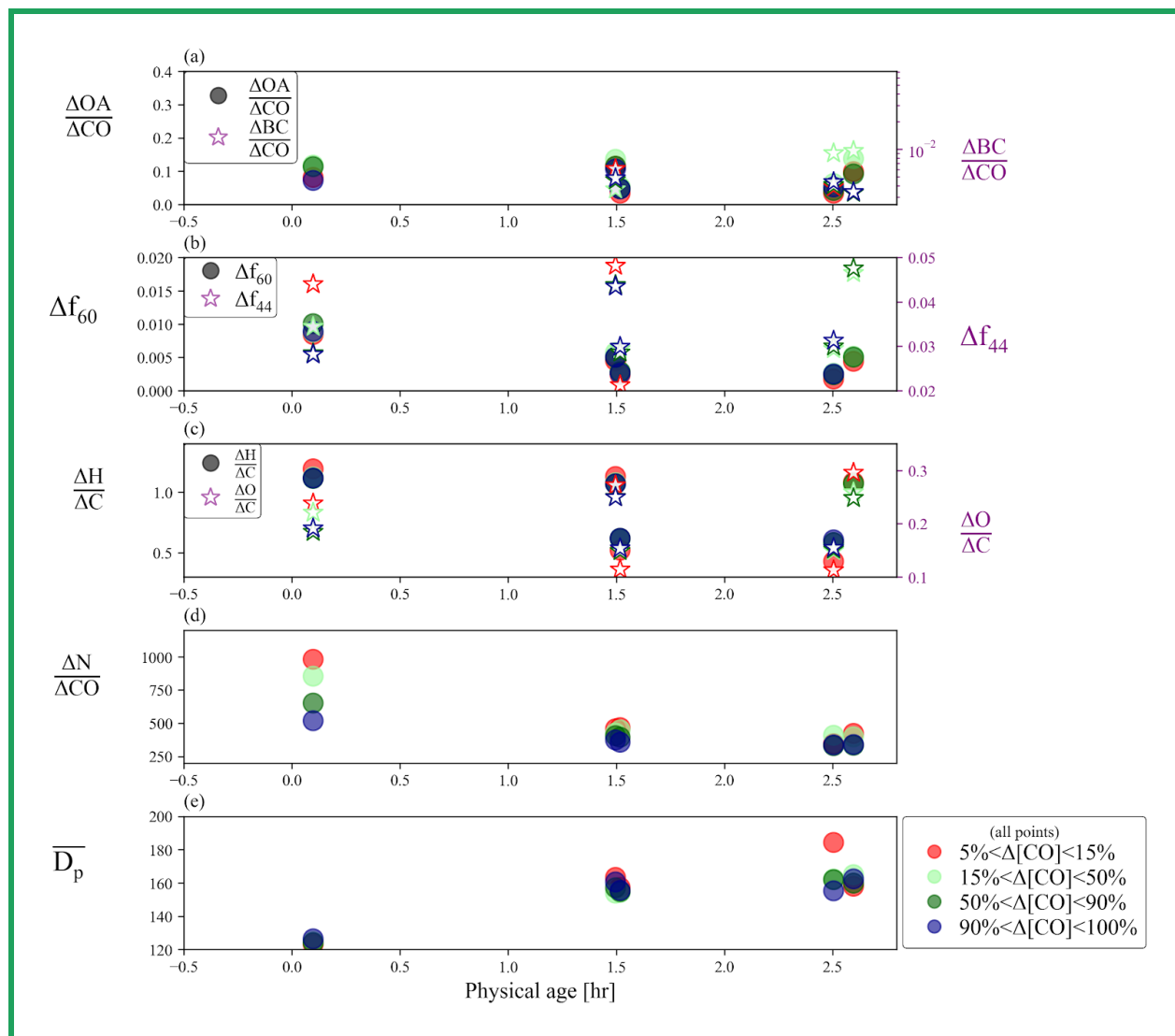
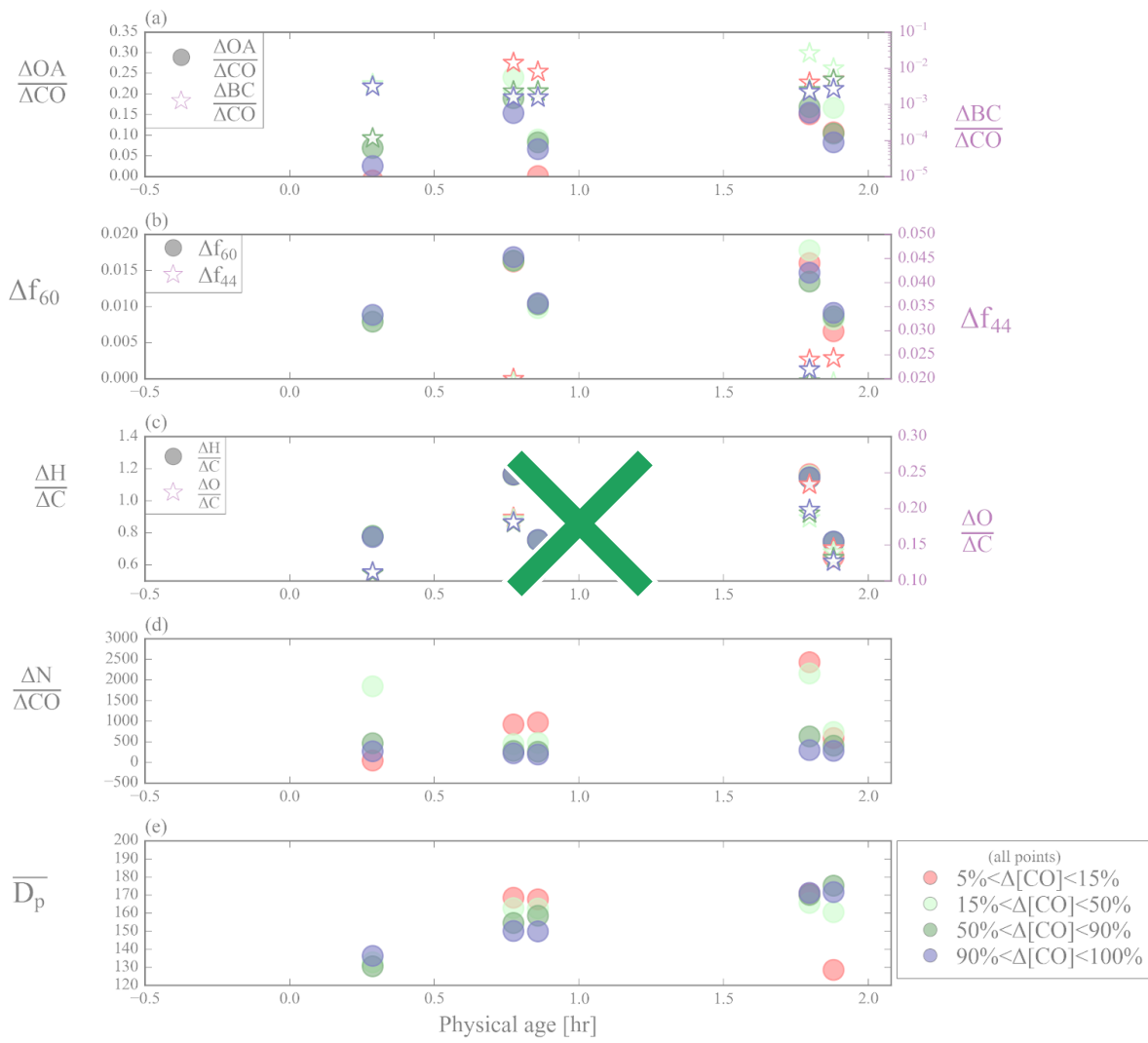


Figure S17. Aerosol properties for the set of pseudo-Lagrangian transects from flight '809a' (a) $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta\text{BC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (left y-axis), (b) Δf_{60} (right y-axis) and Δf_{44} (left y-axis), (c) $\Delta\text{H}/\Delta\text{C}$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta\text{O}/\Delta\text{C}$ (left y-axis), (d) $\Delta\text{N}/\Delta\text{CO}$, and (e) $\overline{D_p}$ against physical age. For each transect, the data is divided into edge (the lowest 5-15% of ΔCO data; red points), core (90-100% of ΔCO data; blue points), and intermediate regions (15-50% and 50-90% of ΔCO data; light green and dark green points). $\Delta\text{BC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ is shown in log scale and the x-axis for the right-hand column has been shifted backwards to improve clarity.



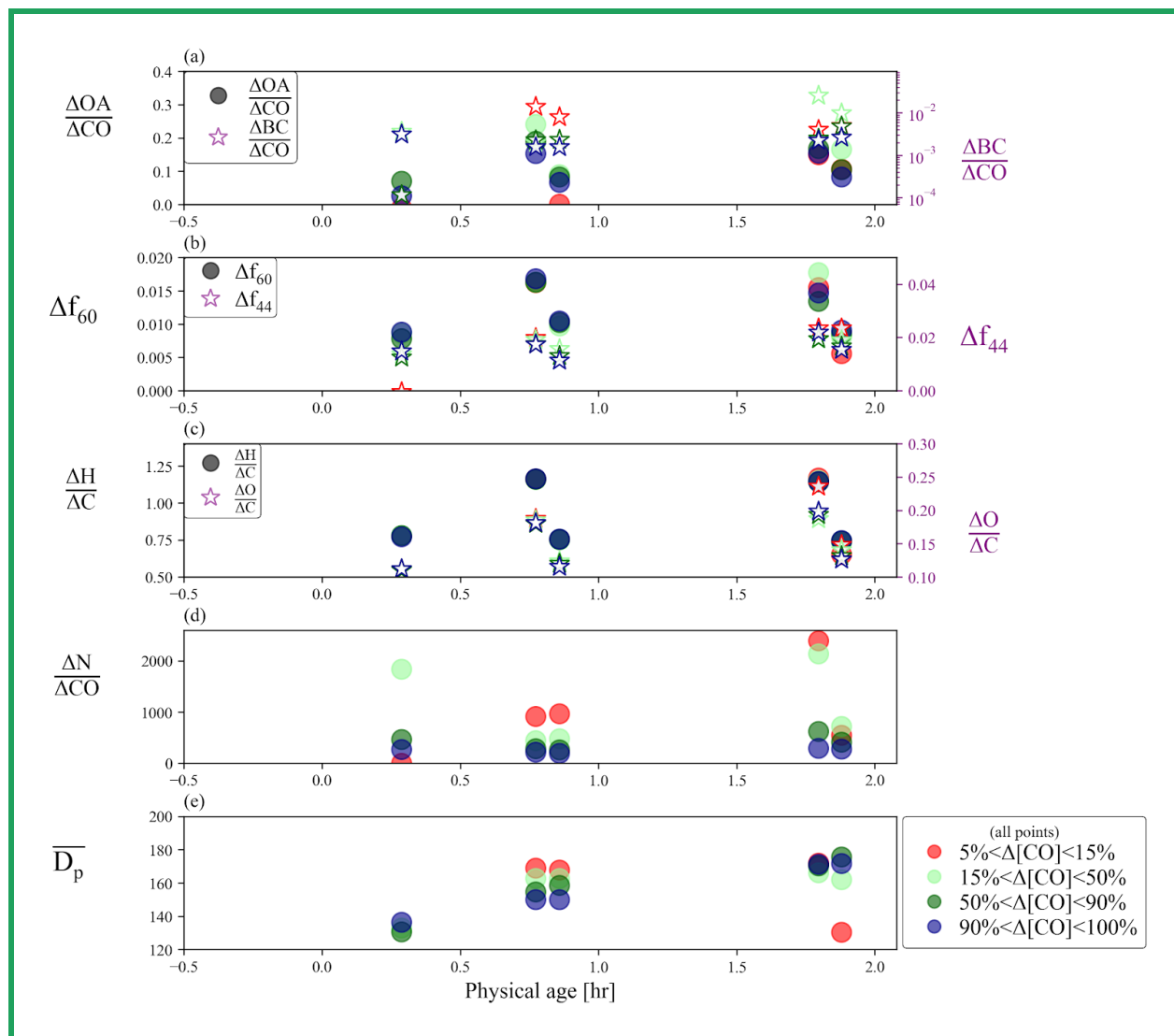
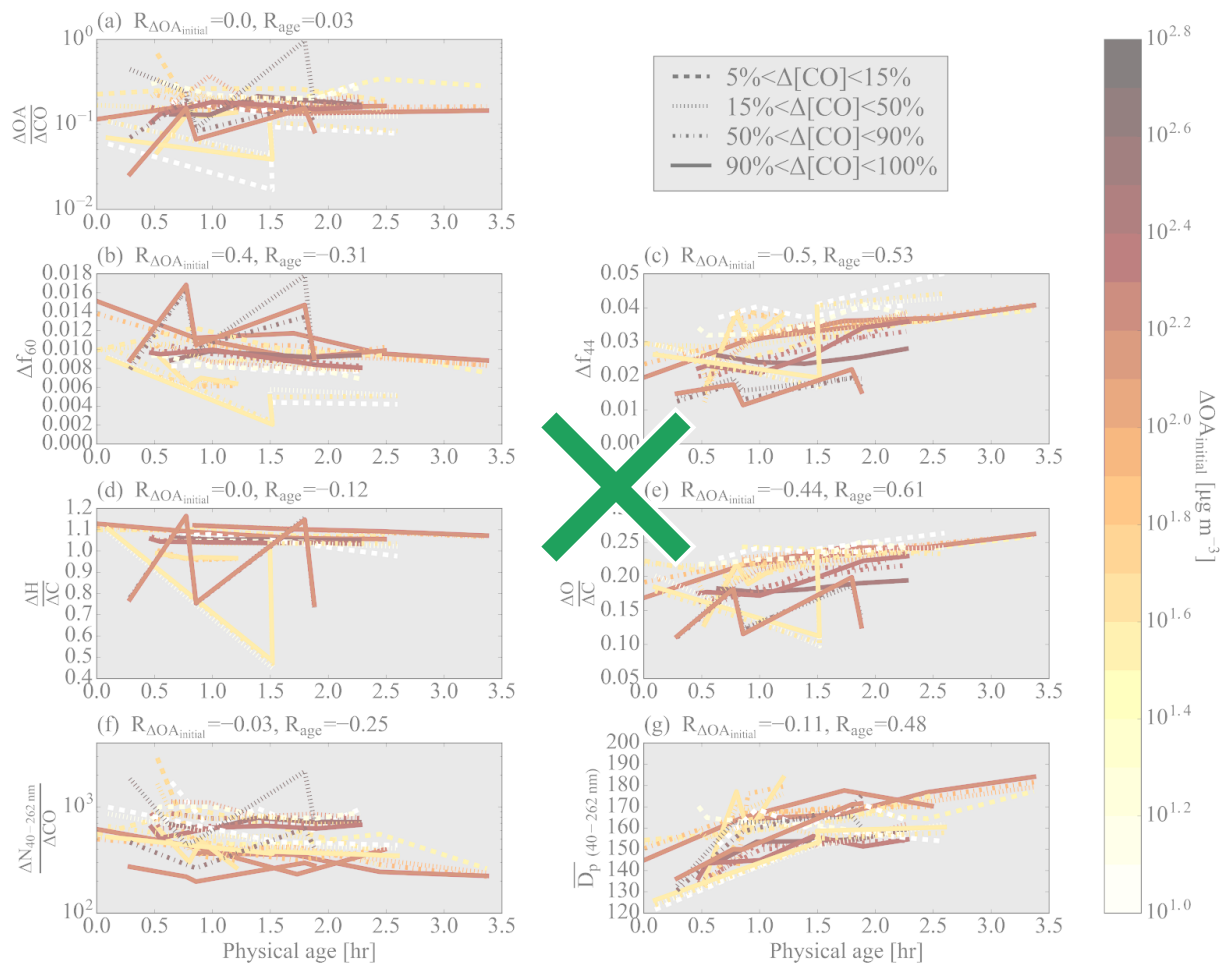


Figure S18. Aerosol properties for the set of pseudo-Lagrangian transects from flight ‘821b’ (a) $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta r\text{BC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ (left y-axis), (b) Δf_{60} (right y-axis) and Δf_{44} (left y-axis), (c) $\Delta\text{H}/\Delta\text{C}$ (right y-axis) and $\Delta\text{O}/\Delta\text{C}$ (left y-axis), (d) $\Delta\text{N}/\Delta\text{CO}$, and (e) $\overline{D_p}$ against physical age. For each transect, the data is divided into edge (the lowest 5-15% of ΔCO data; red points), core (90-100% of ΔCO data; blue points), and intermediate regions (15-50% and 50-90% of ΔCO data; light green and dark green points). $\Delta r\text{BC}/\Delta\text{CO}$ is shown in log scale and the x-axis for the right-hand column has been shifted backwards to improve clarity.



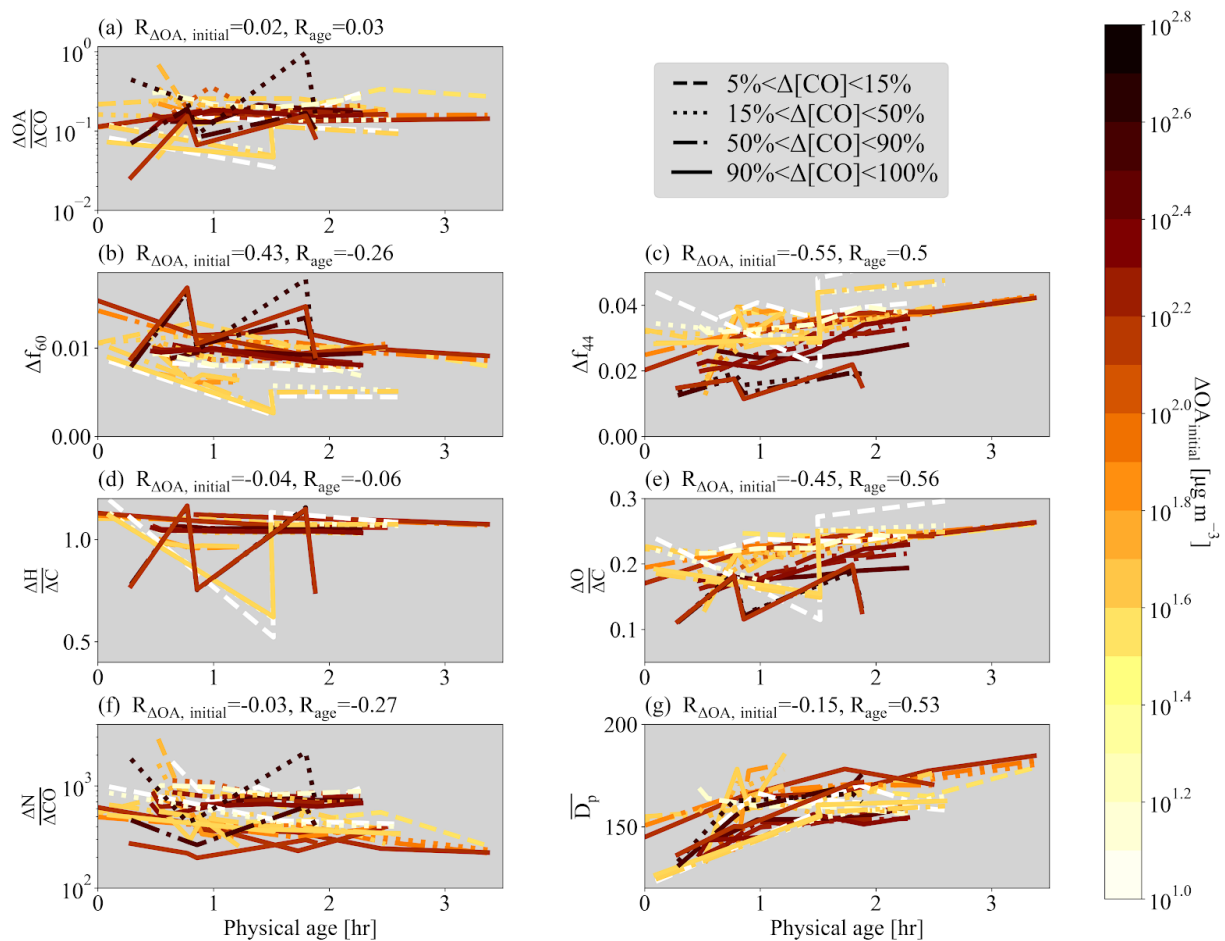
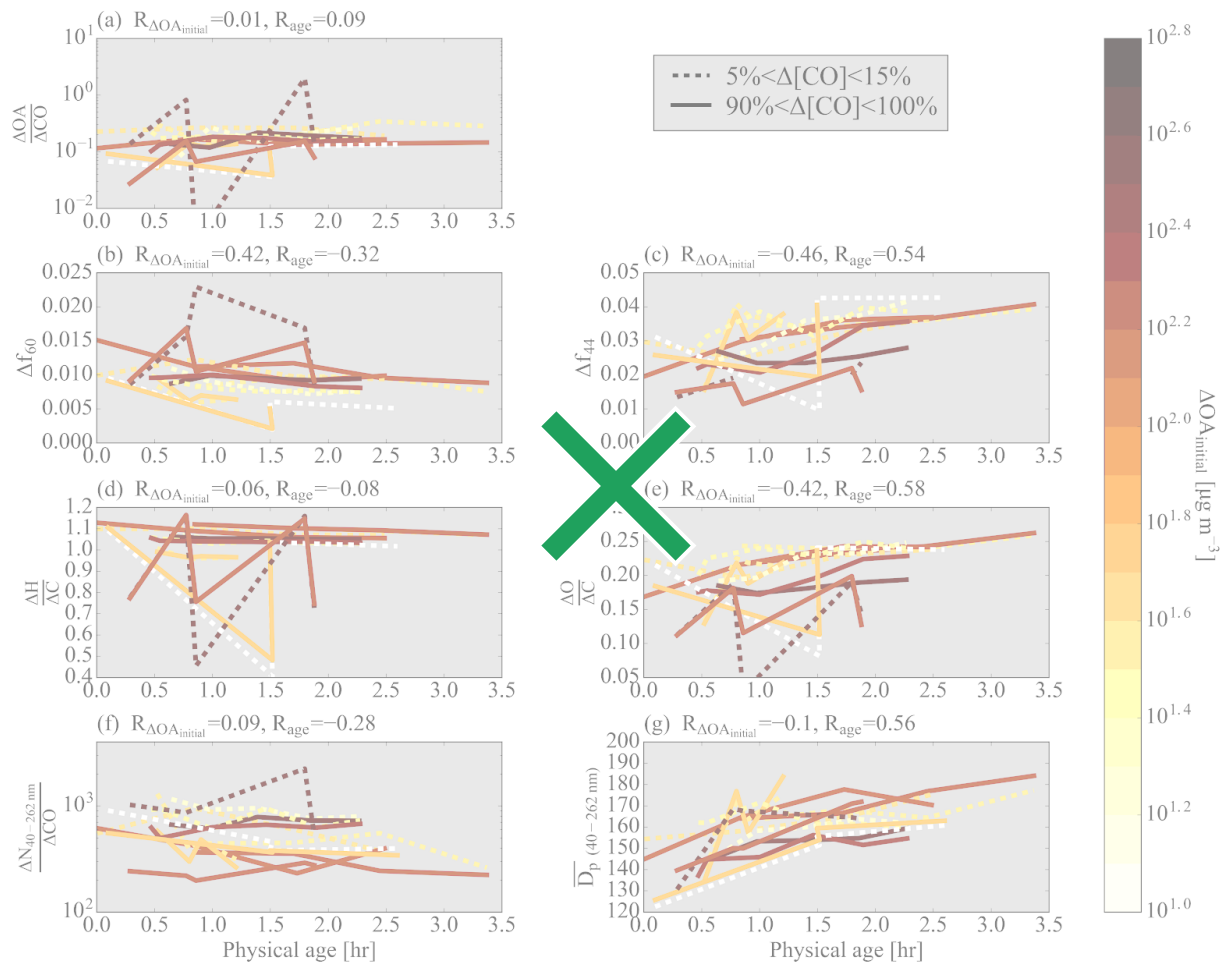


Figure S19. Various normalized parameters as a function of age for the 7 sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects. Separate lines are shown for the edges (lowest 5-15% of ΔCO ; dashed lines) cores (highest 90-100% of ΔCO ; solid lines), and intermediate regions (15-50% and 50-90%; dotted and dashed-dot lines). (a) $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, (b) Δf_{60} , (c) Δf_{44} , (d) $\Delta H/\Delta C$, (e) $\Delta O/\Delta C$, (f) $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta CO$, and (g) \overline{D}_p between 40-262 nm against physical age for all flights, colored by $\Delta OA_{initial}$. Some flights have missing data. Also provided is the Spearman correlation coefficient, R , between each variable and $\Delta OA_{initial}$ and physical age for each variable. Note that panels (a), (d), and (g) have a log y-axis.



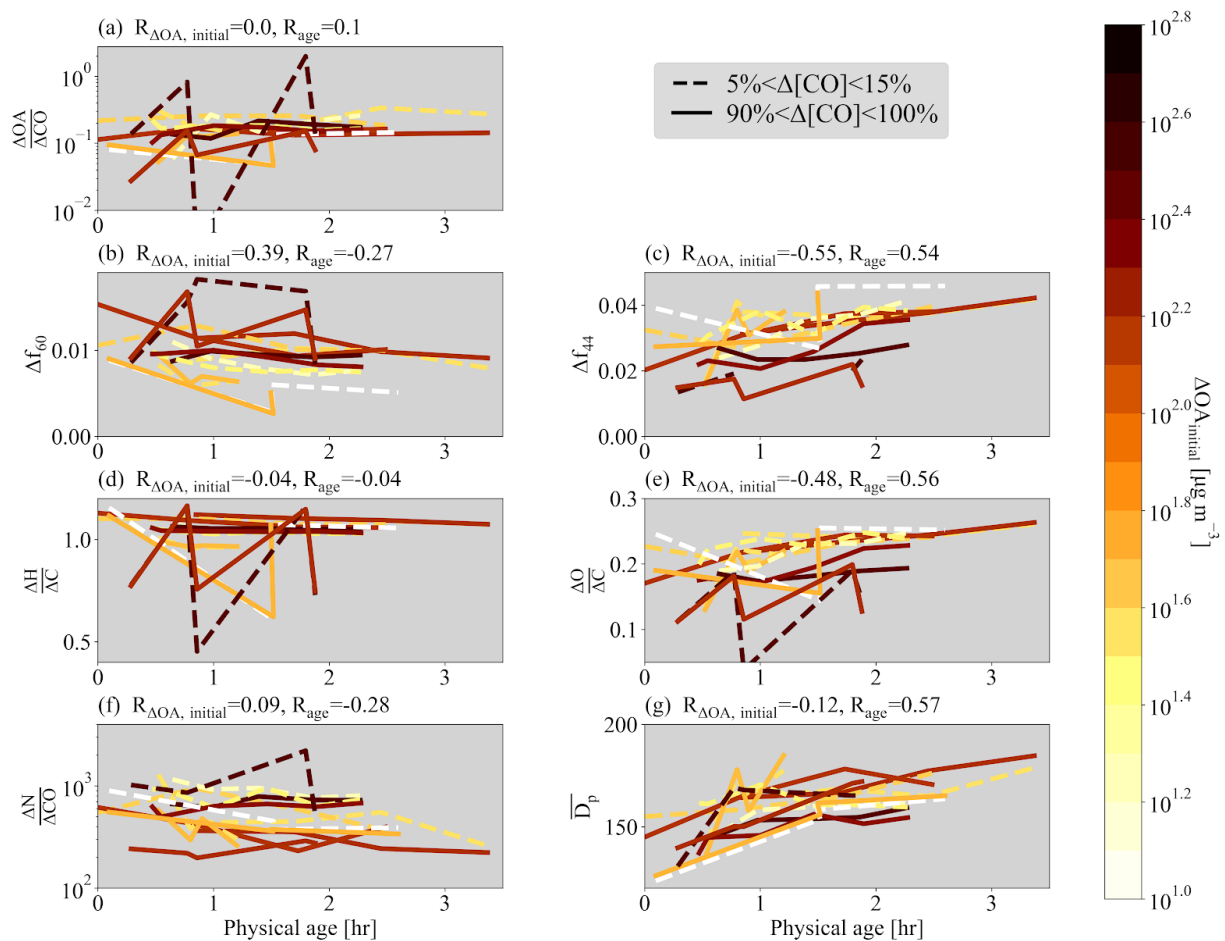
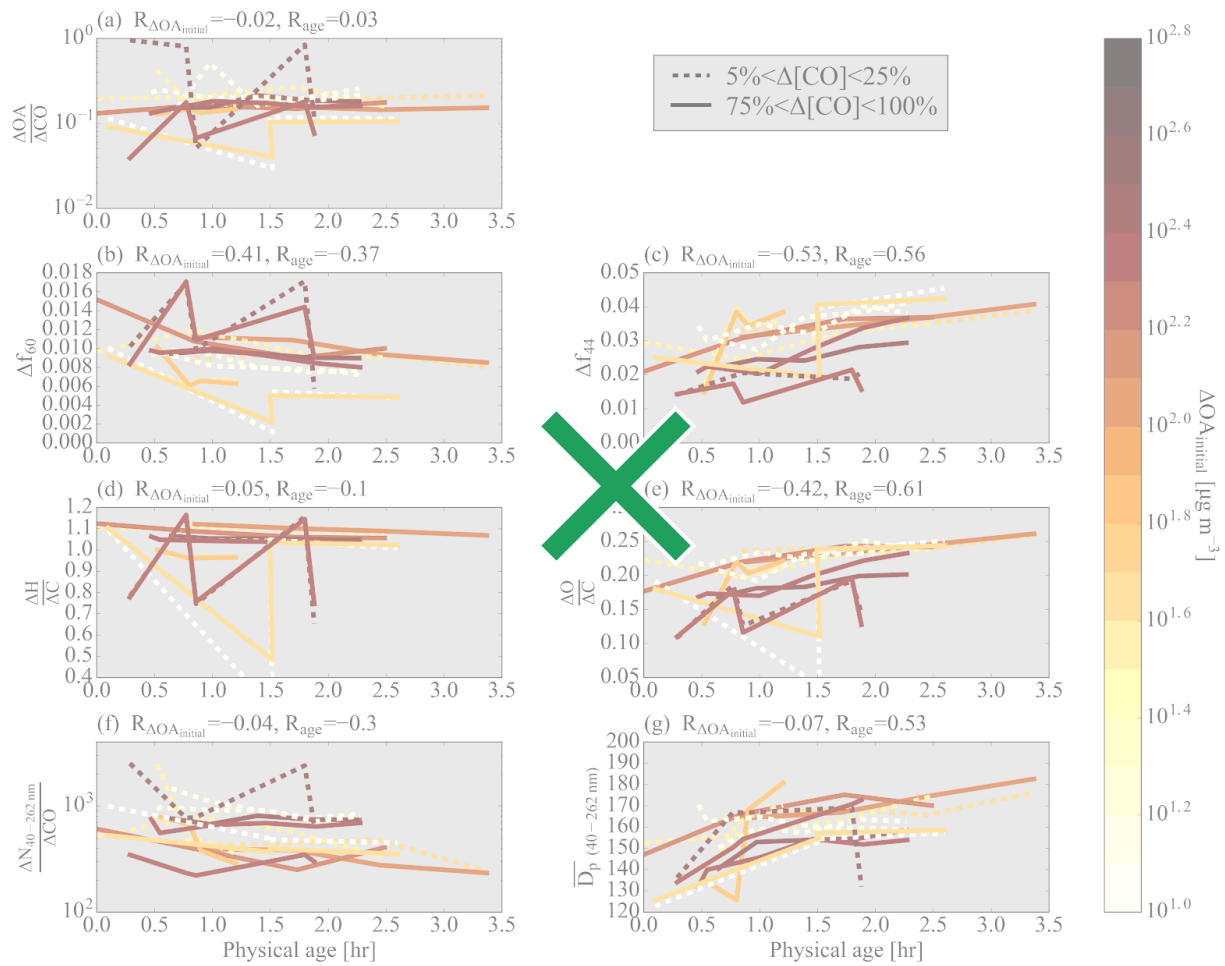


Figure S20. Various normalized parameters as a function of age for the 7 sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects. Separate lines are shown for the edges (lowest 5-15% of ΔCO ; dashed lines) and cores (highest 90-100% of ΔCO ; solid lines). (a) $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, (b) Δf_{60} , (c) Δf_{44} , (d) $\Delta H/\Delta C$, (e) $\Delta O/\Delta C$, (f) $\Delta N_{40-262\text{ nm}}/\Delta CO$, and (g) \overline{D}_p between 40-262 nm against physical age for all flights, colored by $\Delta OA_{initial}$. Some flights have missing data. Also provided is the Spearman correlation coefficient, R , between each variable and $\Delta OA_{initial}$ and physical age for each variable. Note that panels (a), (d), and (g) have a log y-axis. This figure is identical to Figure 2 but uses an in-plume CO cutoff of 200 ppb.



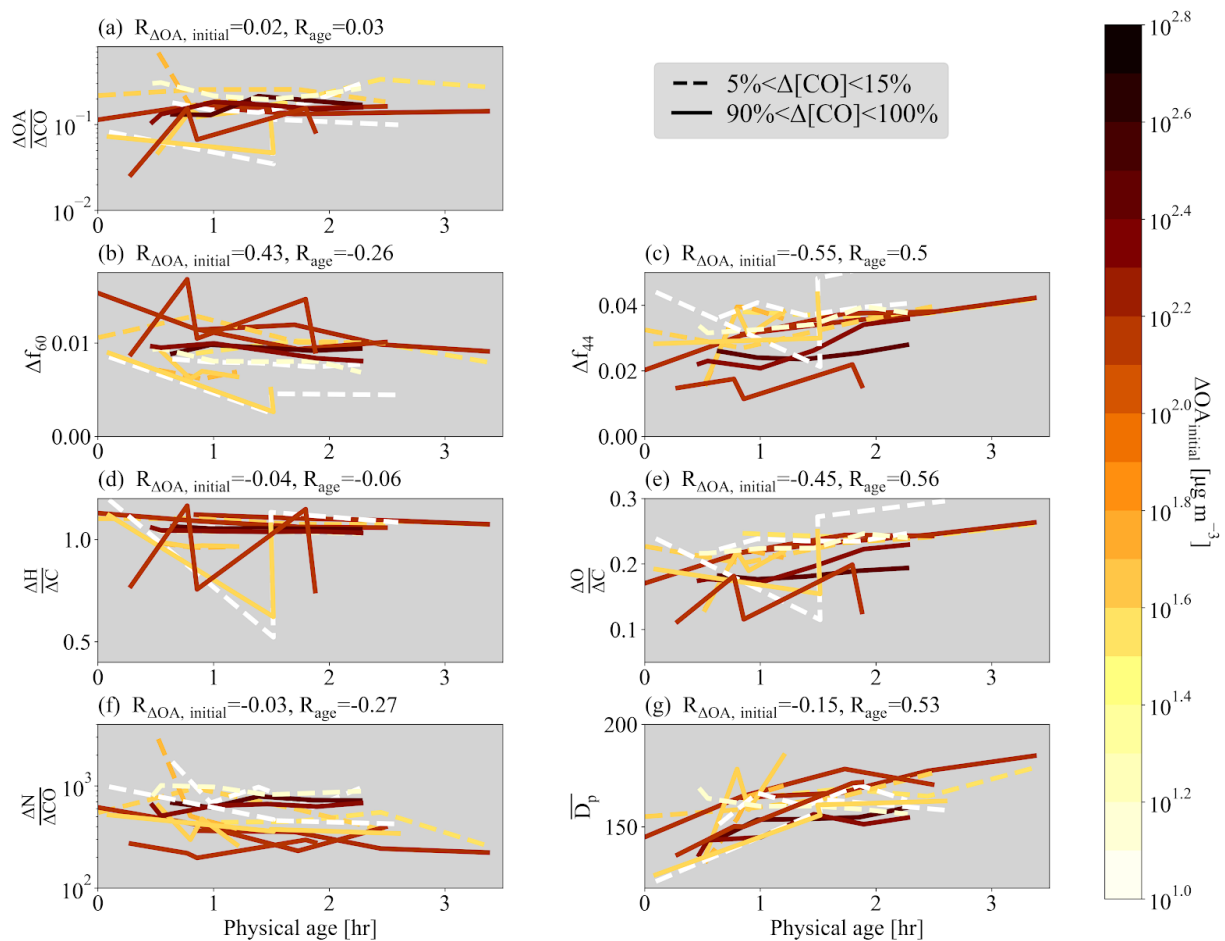
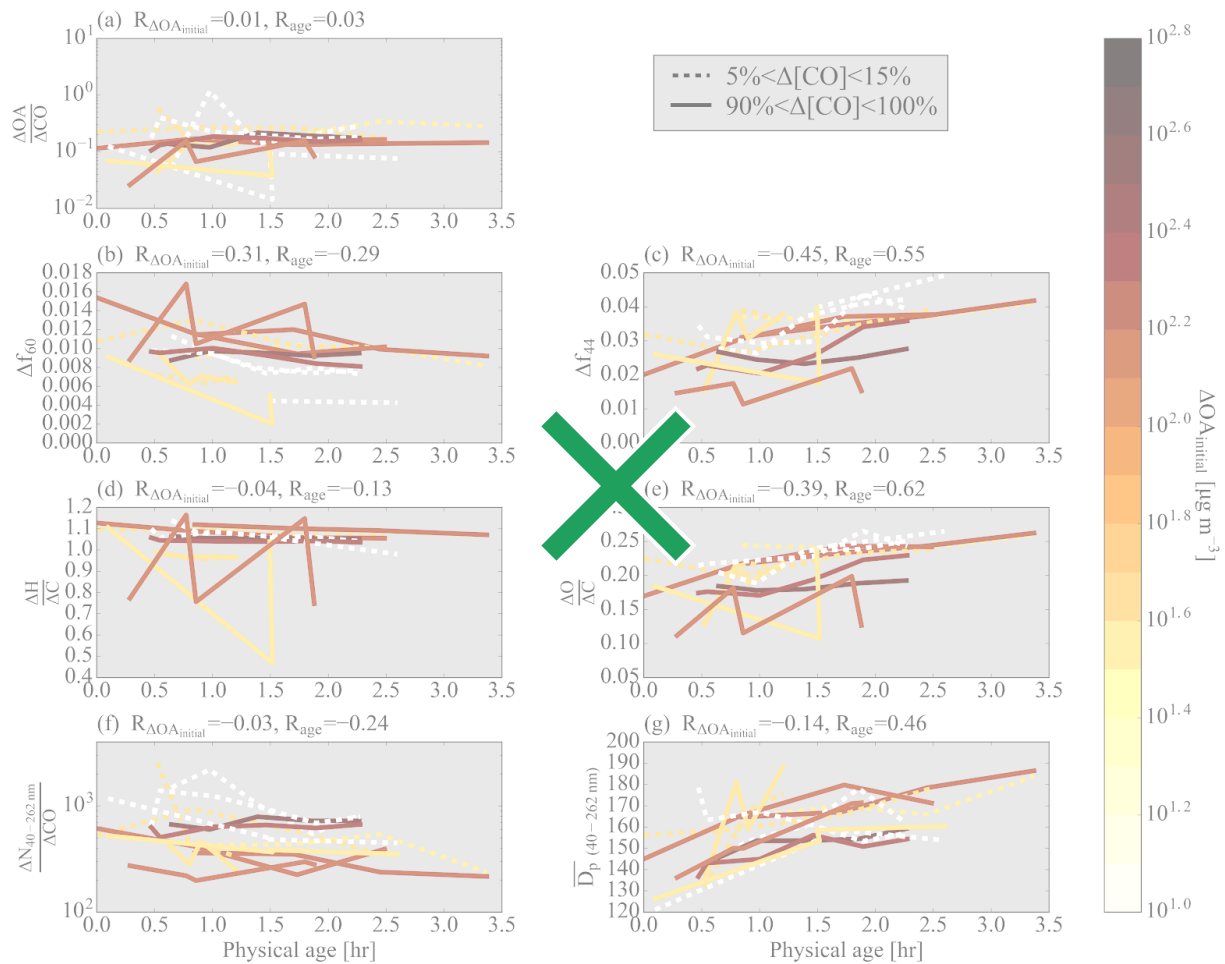


Figure S21. Various normalized parameters as a function of age for the 7 sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects. Separate lines are shown for the edges (lowest 5-25% of ΔCO ; dashed lines) and cores (highest 75-100% of ΔCO ; solid lines). (a) $\Delta\text{OA}/\Delta\text{CO}$, (b) Δf_{60} , (c) Δf_{44} , (d) $\Delta H/\Delta C$, (e) $\Delta O/\Delta C$, (f) $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta\text{CO}$, and (g) \overline{D}_p between 40-262 nm against physical age for all flights, colored by $\Delta\text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$. Some flights have missing data. Also provided is the Spearman correlation coefficient, R , between each variable and $\Delta\text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$ and physical age for each variable. Note that panels (a), (d), and (g) have a log y-axis. —This figure is identical to Figure 2 but uses different ΔCO percentile widths.



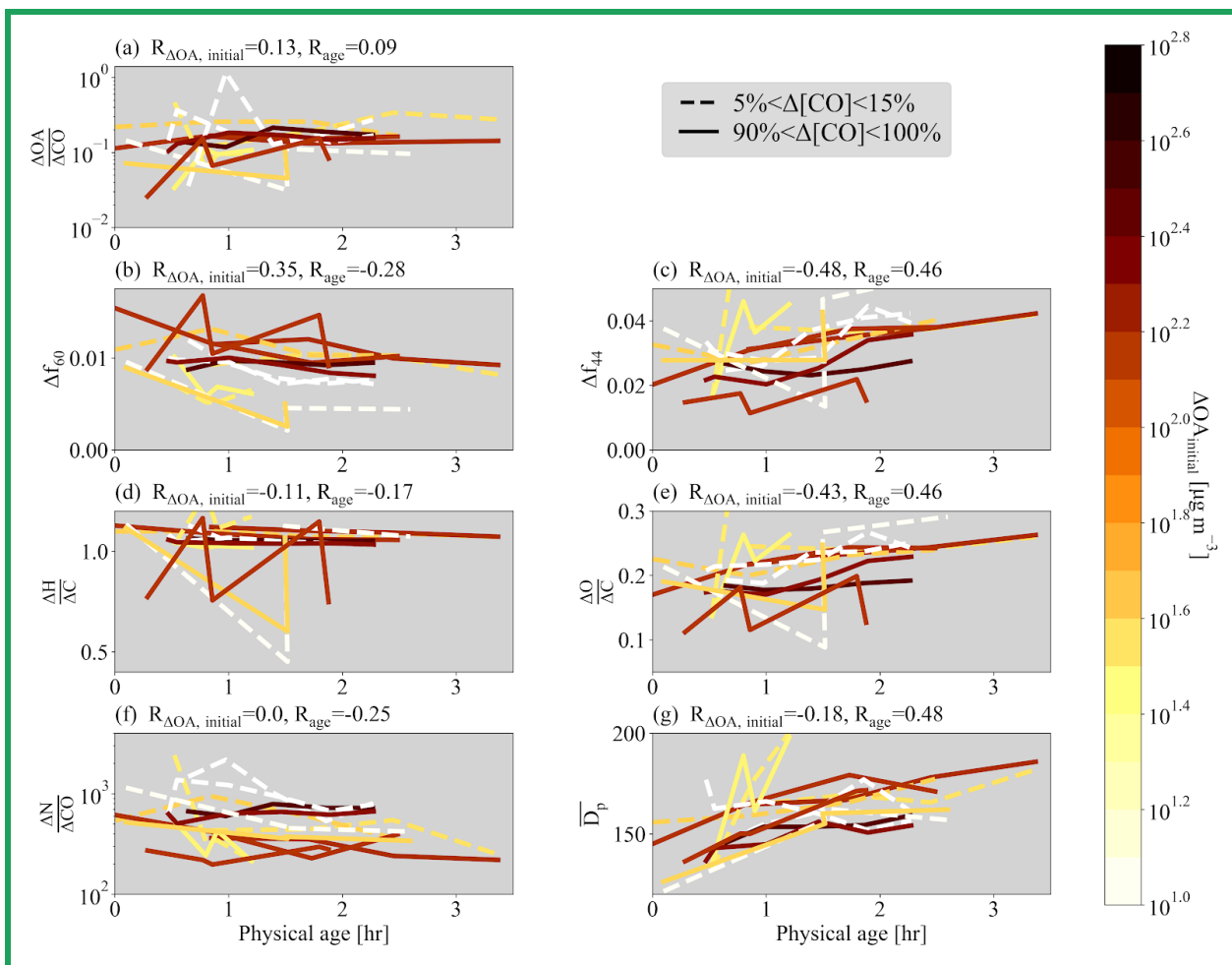


Figure S22. Various normalized parameters as a function of age for the 7 sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects. Separate lines are shown for the edges (lowest 5-15% of ΔCO ; dashed lines) and cores (highest 90-100% of ΔCO ; solid lines). (a) $\Delta OA/\Delta CO$, (b) Δf_{60} , (c) Δf_{44} , (d) $\Delta H/\Delta C$, (e) $\Delta O/\Delta C$, (f) $\Delta N_{40-262 \text{ nm}}/\Delta CO$, and (g) \overline{D}_p between 40-262 nm against physical age for all flights, colored by $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$. Some flights have missing data. Also provided is the Spearman correlation coefficient, R , between each variable and $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$ and physical age for each variable. Note that panels (a), (d), and (g) have a log y-axis. This figure is identical to Figure 2 except that it uses the location of the lowest 25% of CO data to determine the background concentrations of each species.

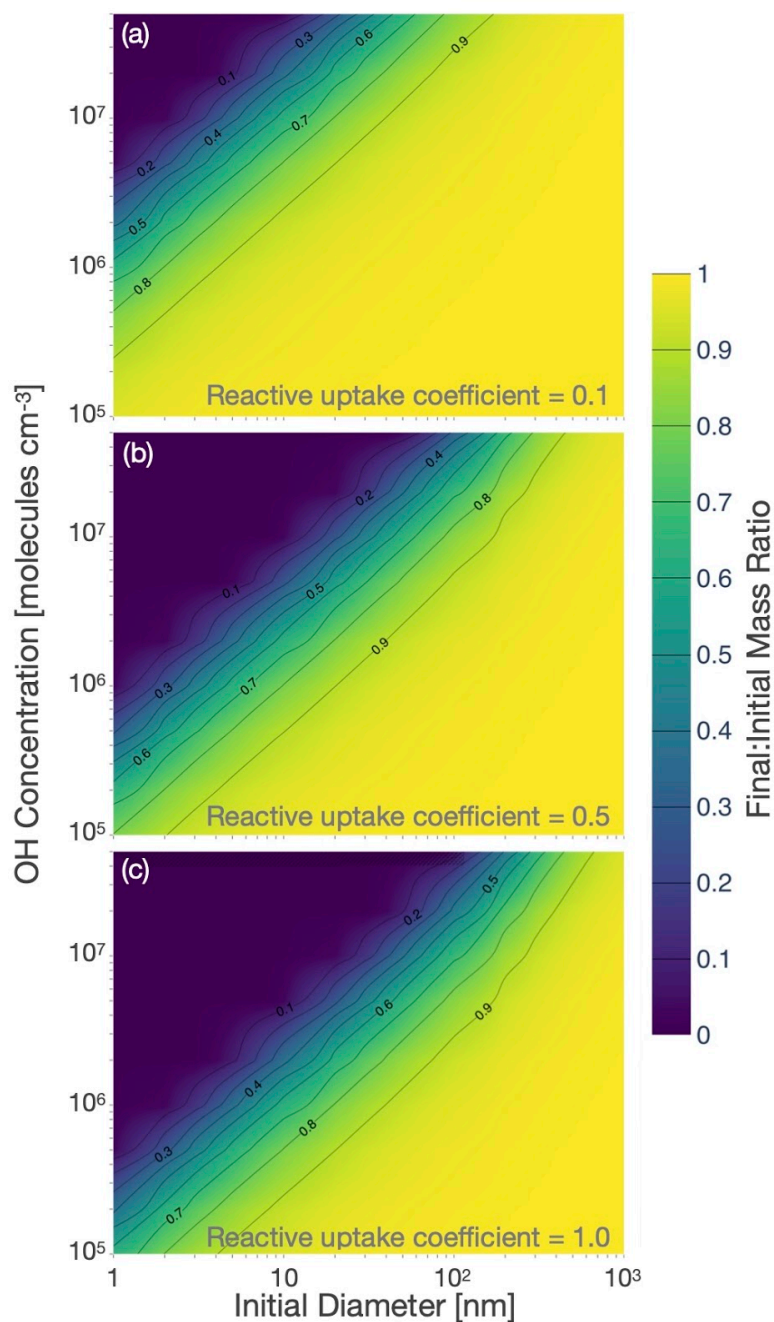
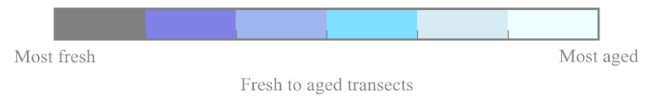
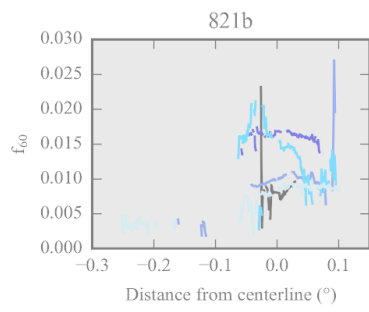
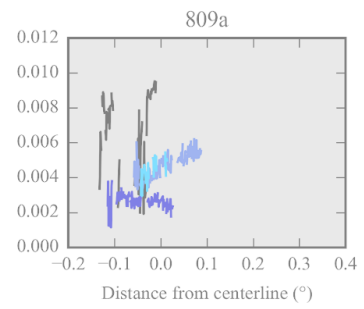
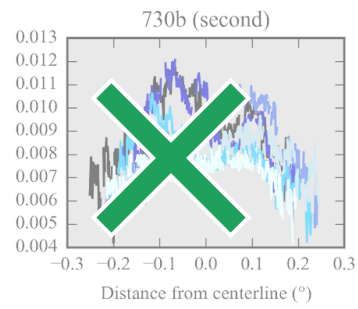
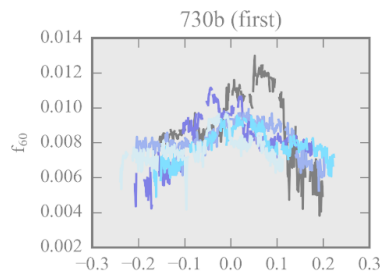
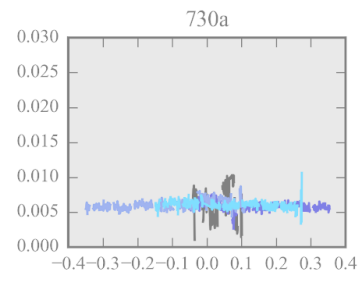
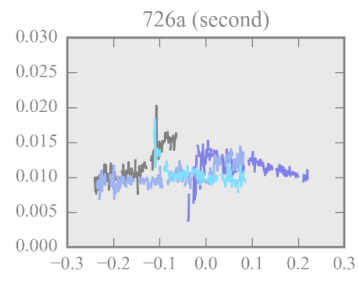
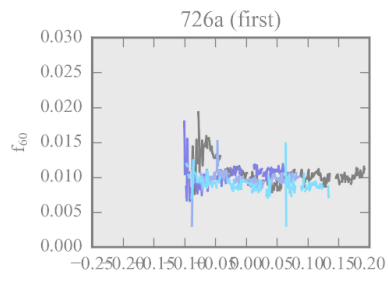


Figure S23. Calculated (final aerosol mass):(initial aerosol mass) ratios for mass loss through heterogeneous chemistry over a range of aerosol diameters and OH concentrations. As an upper-bound case, (a) it is assumed that for each OH collision, 200 amu of mass is lost. As a middle-bound, (b) it is assumed that 50% of OH collisions result in a 200 amu mass loss. As a more-realistic loss rate, (c) assumes that 10% of all OH collisions result in an 200 amu mass loss. See SI text S2 for more details.



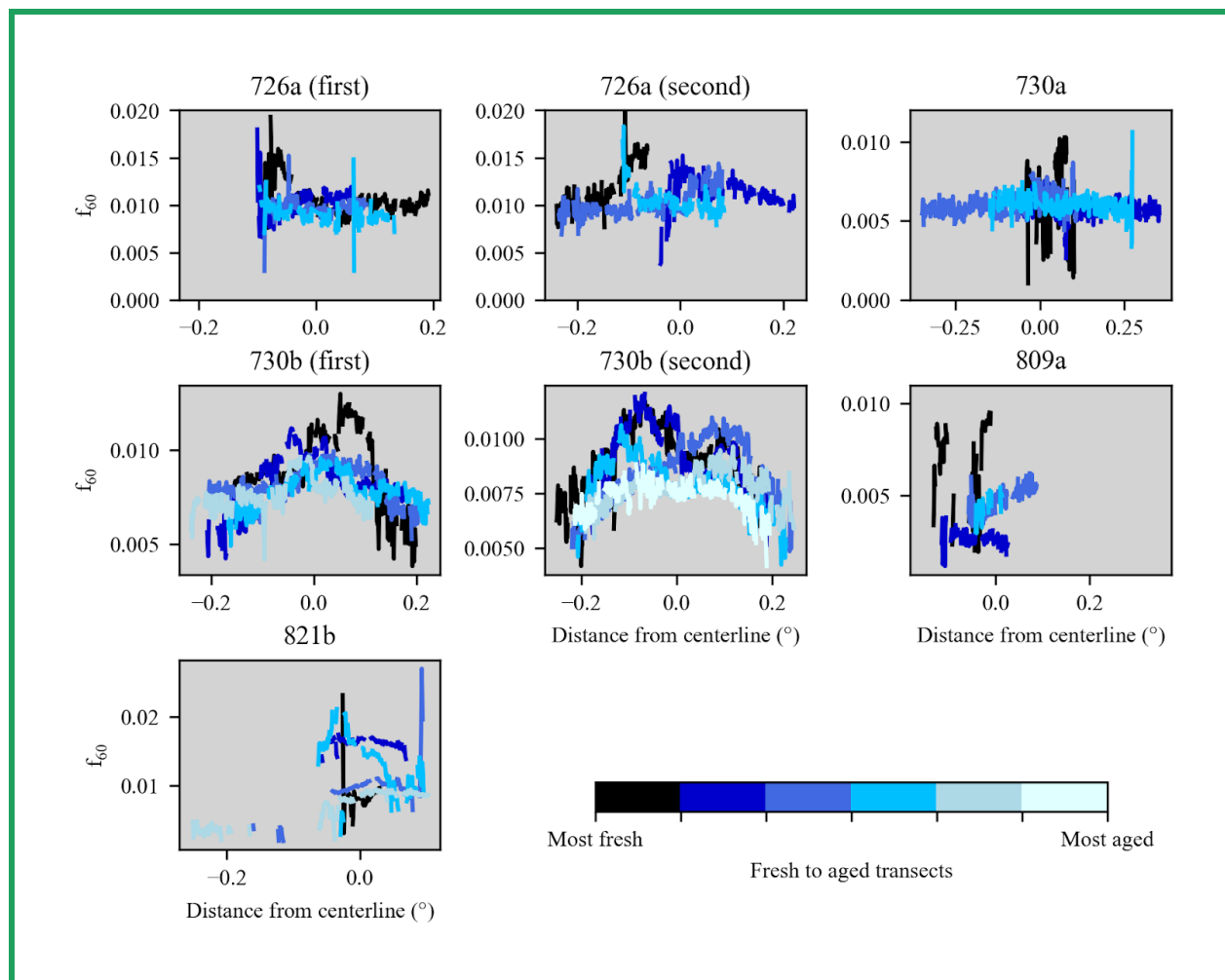
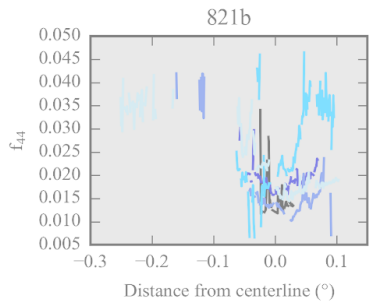
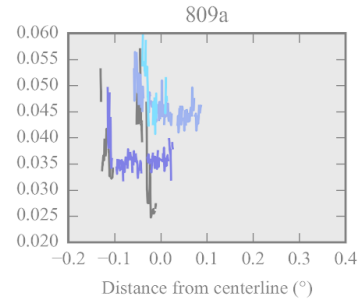
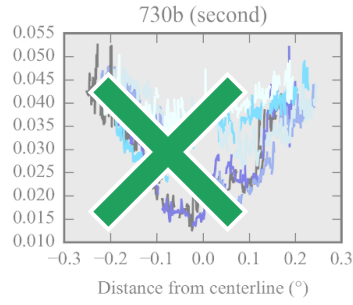
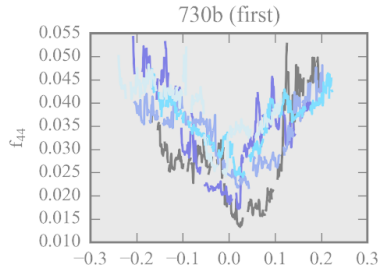
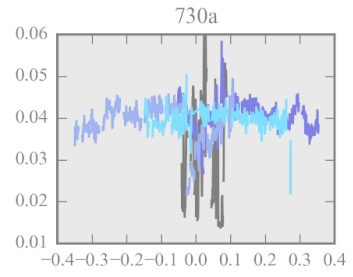
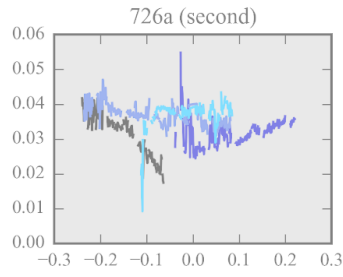
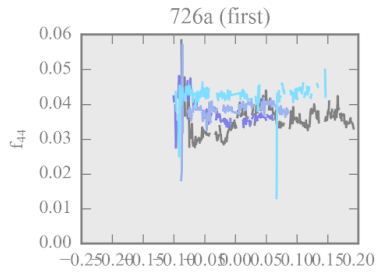


Figure S24. Raw f_{60} data for each flight along each transect included in this study. The titles indicate the flight. The black color indicates the earliest transect, with increasingly lighter colors indicating increasingly downwind transects. The centerline was estimated from the number size distribution and the estimated center of the fire (Figures S1-S6).



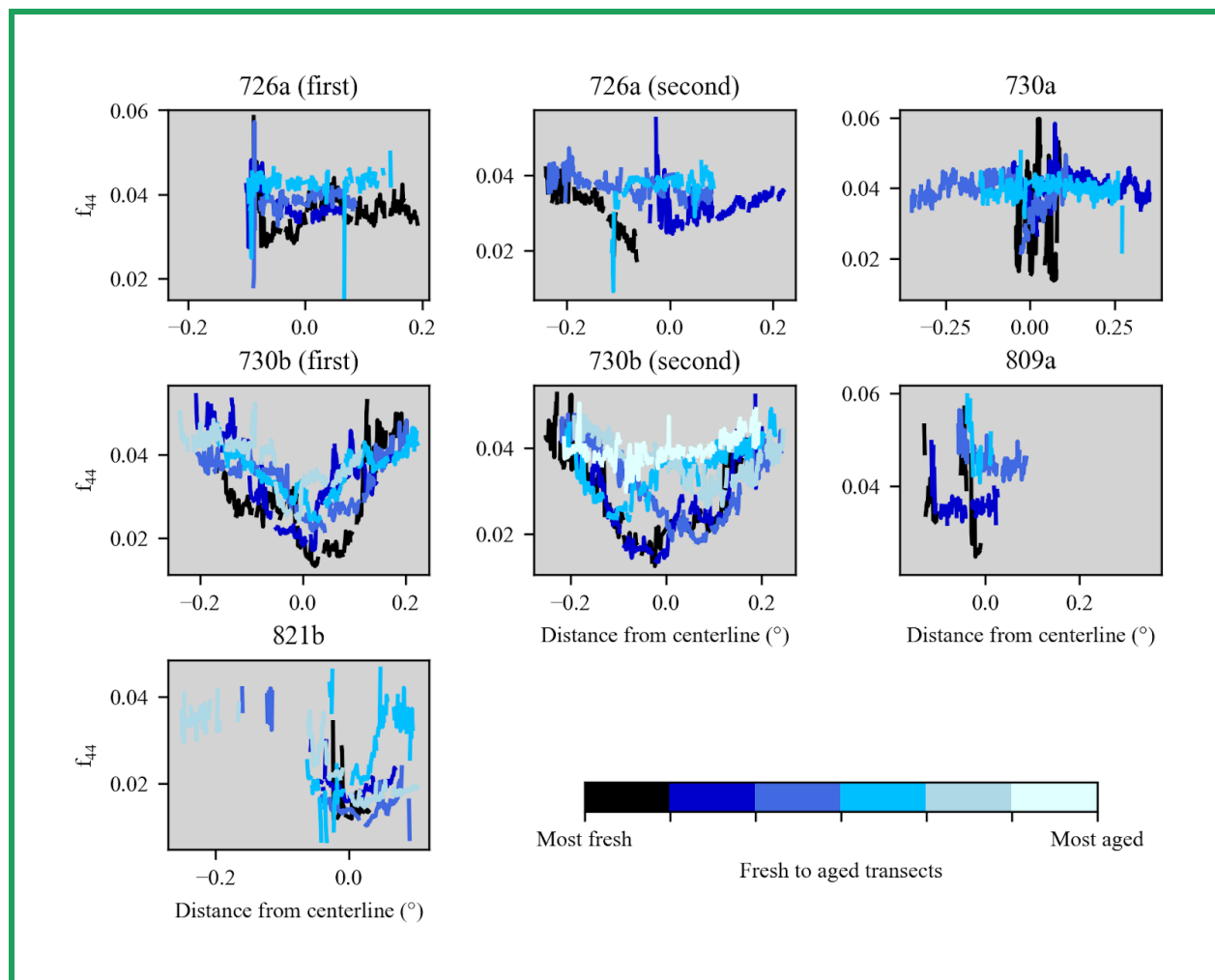


Figure S25. Raw f_{44} data for each flight along each transect included in this study. The titles indicate the flight. The black color indicates the earliest transect, with increasingly lighter colors indicating increasingly downwind transects. The centerline was estimated from the number size distribution and the estimated center of the fire (Figures S1-S6).

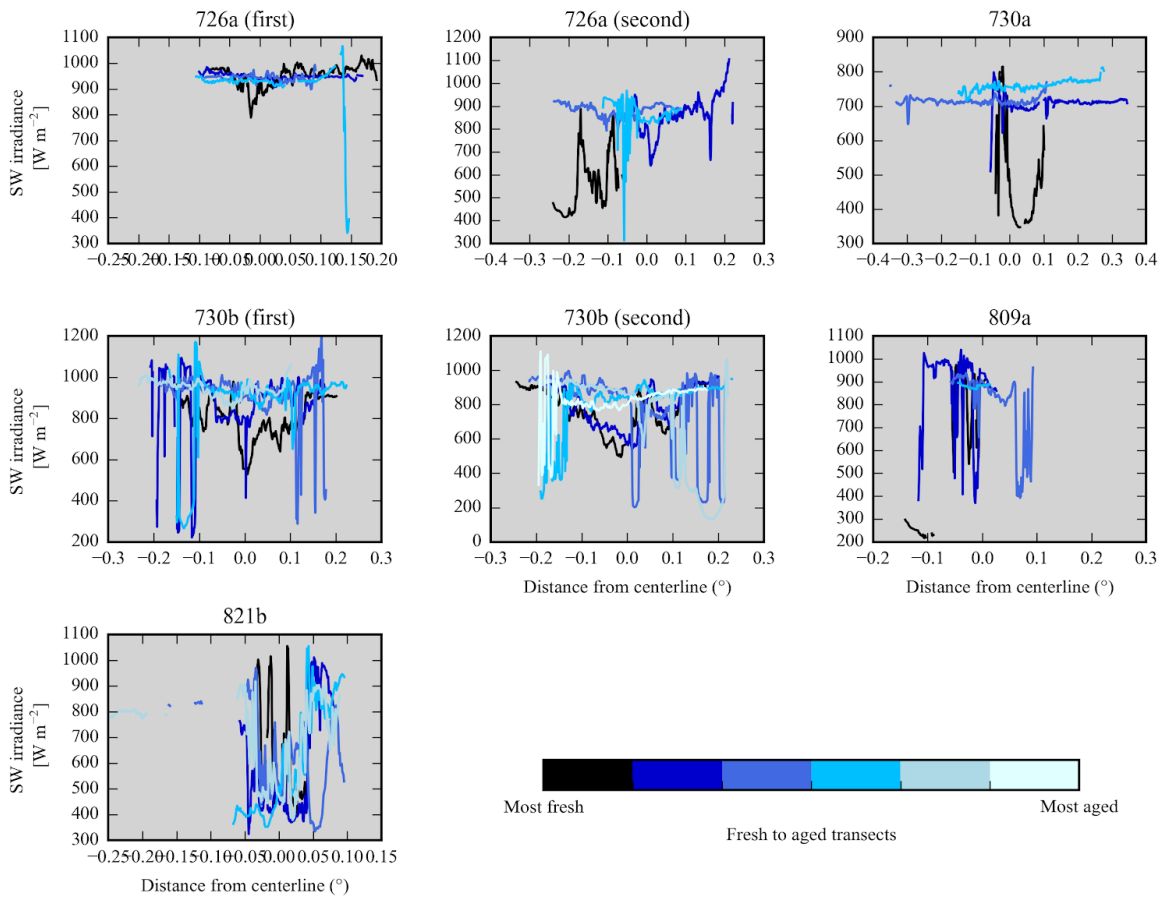


Figure S26. Total in-plume shortwave (SW) irradiance for each flight along each transect included in this study. The titles indicate the flight. The black color indicates the earliest transect, with increasingly lighter colors indicating increasingly downwind transects. The centerline was estimated from the number size distribution and the estimated center of the fire (Figures S1-S6).

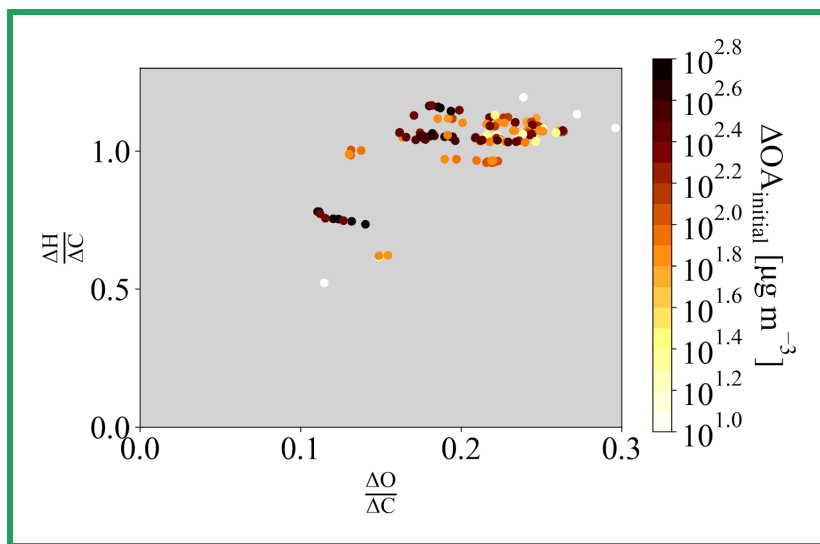
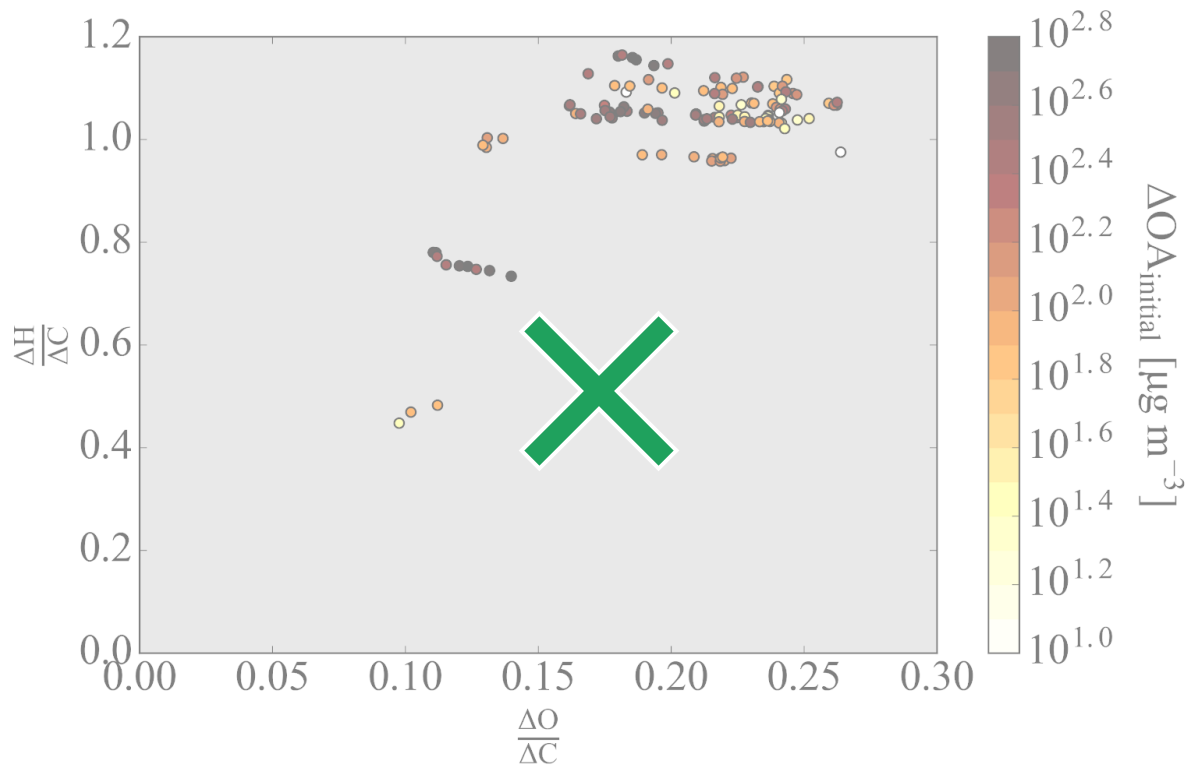
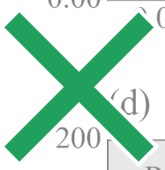
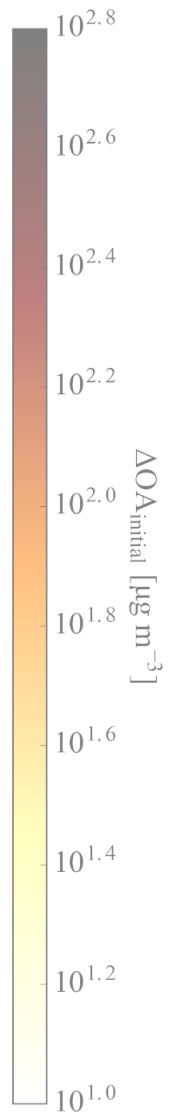
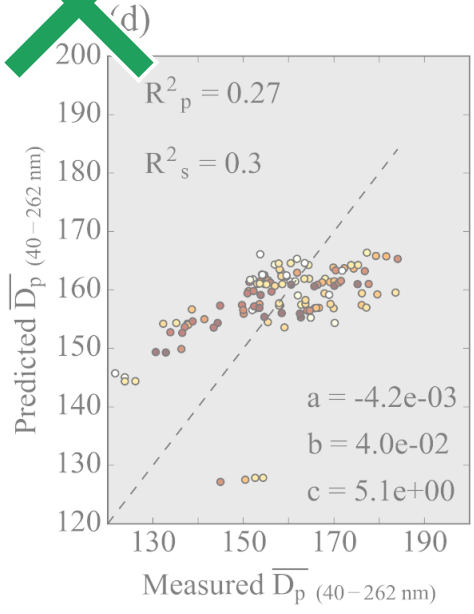
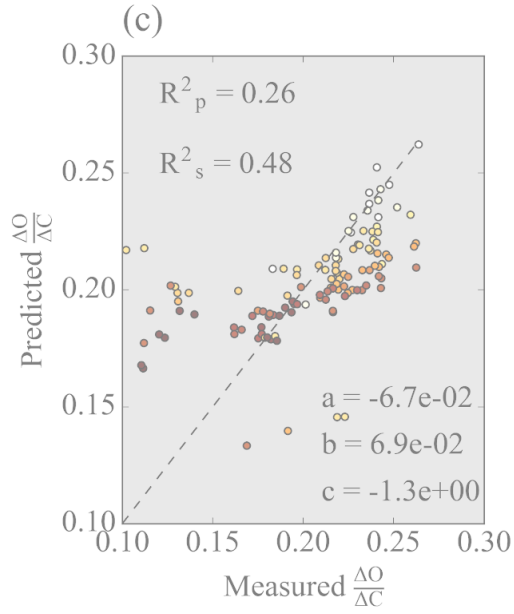
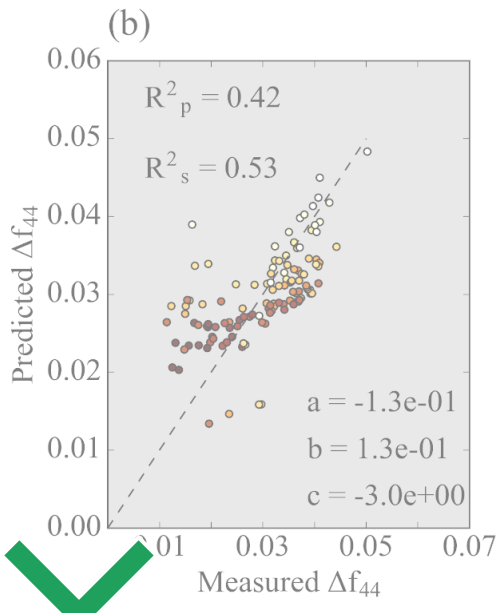
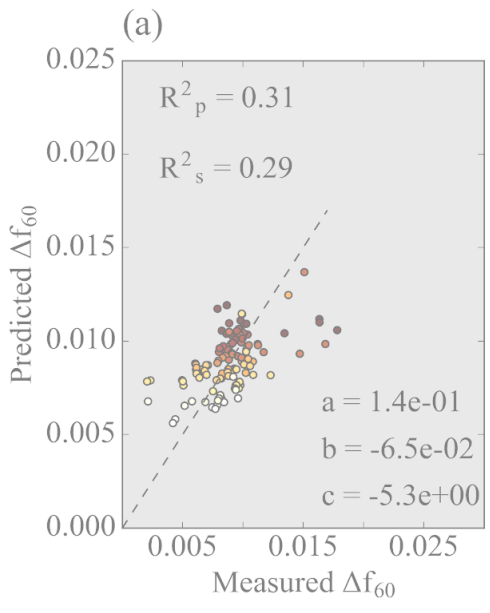


Figure S27. The Van Krevelen diagram of $\Delta H/\Delta C$ versus $\Delta O/\Delta C$ for all points in the 7 sets of pseudo-Lagrangian transects, colored by $\Delta OA_{\text{initial}}$.



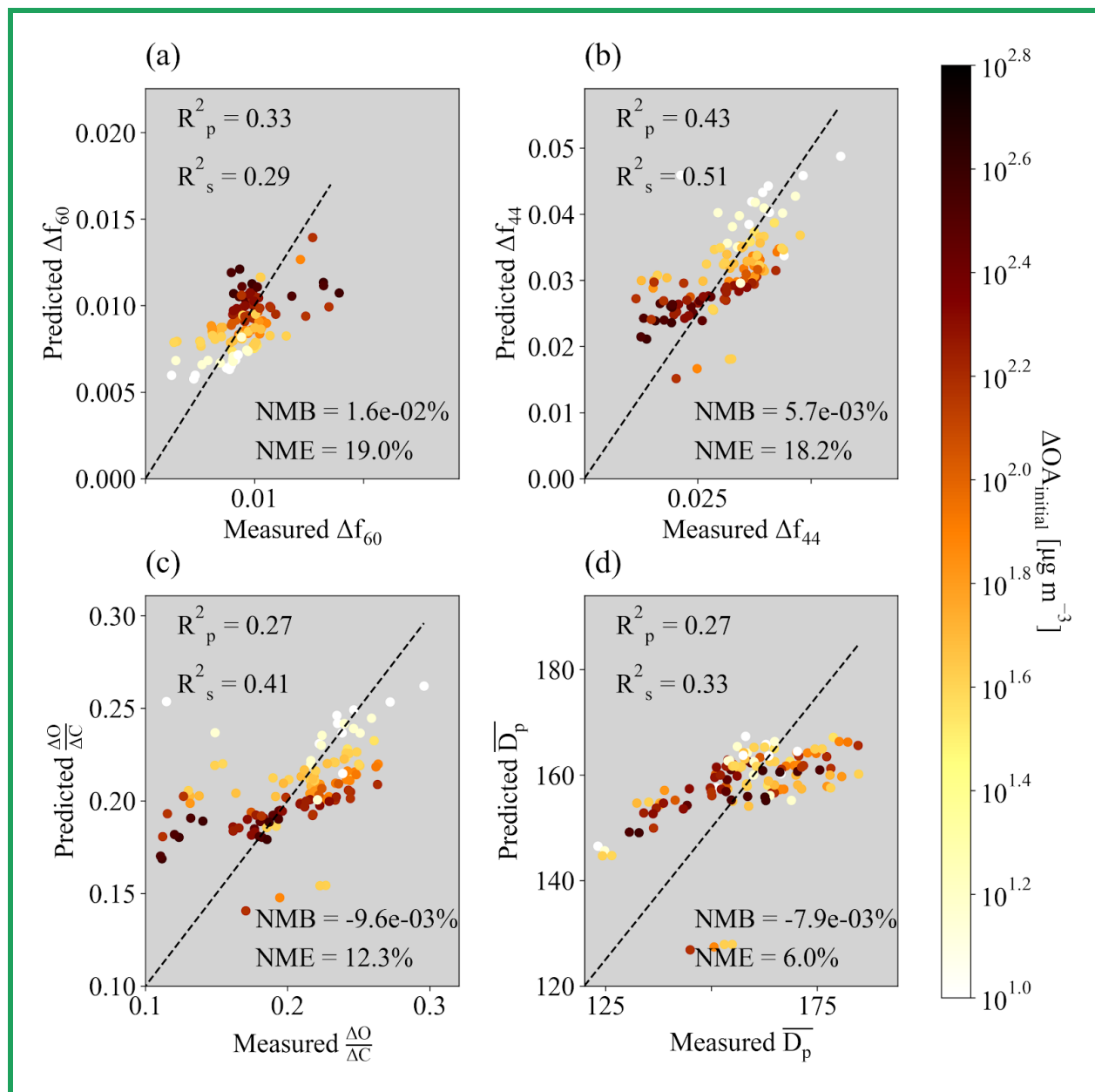
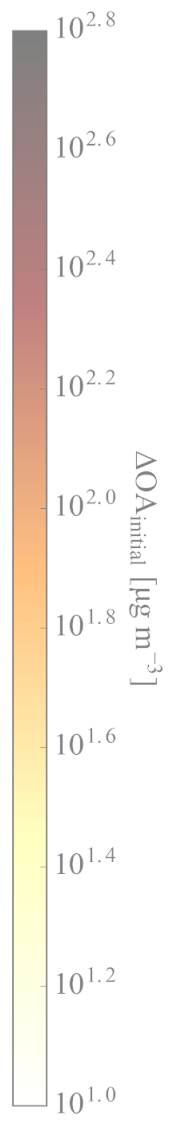
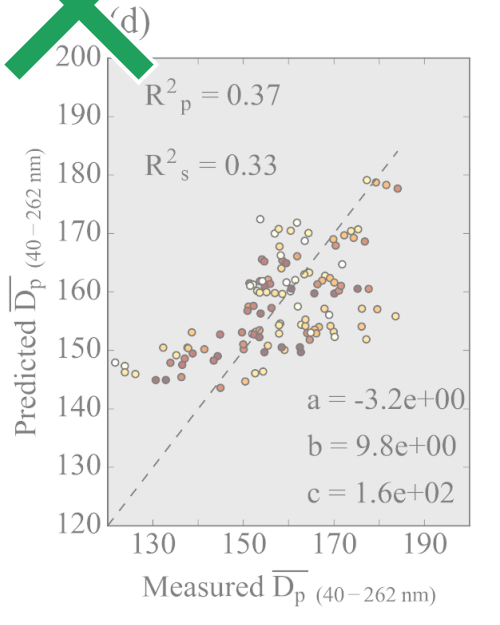
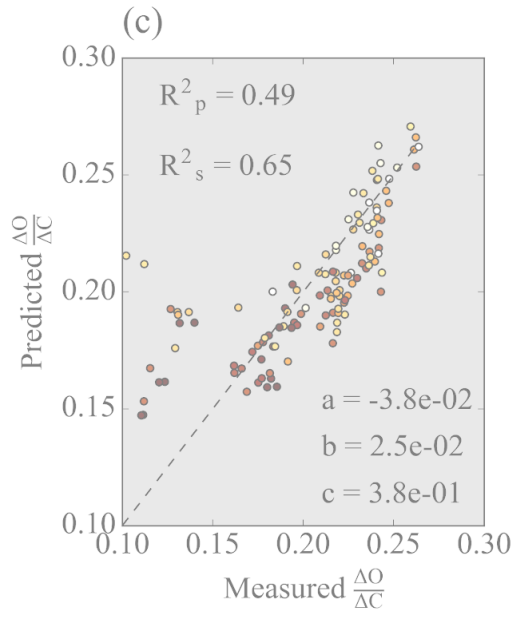
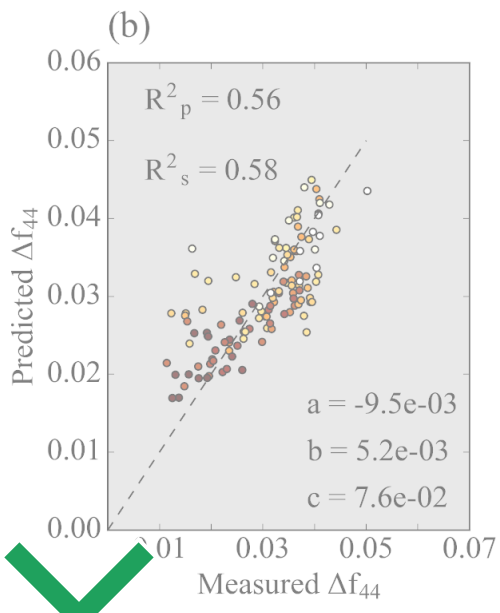
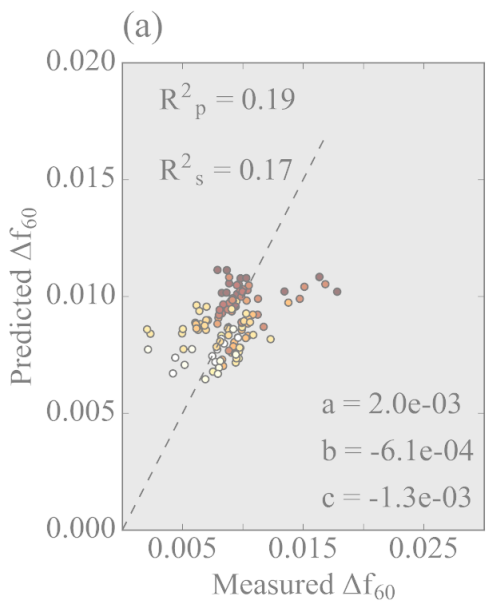


Figure S28. Measured versus predicted (a) Δf_{60} , (b) Δf_{44} , and (c) \overline{D}_p between 40-262 nm, using the equation $\ln(X) = a \ln(\Delta OA_{initial}) + b \ln(\text{Physical age}) + c$ (Eq. 5) where $X = \Delta f_{60}$, Δf_{44} , or \overline{D}_p . The values of a, b, and c are provided in Table S4. The Pearson and Spearman coefficients of determination (R_p^2 and R_s^2 , respectively) are provided in each panel, along with the normalized mean bias (NMB) and normalized mean error (NME). The values of a, b, and c when the equation is solved for X are provided within each subpanel, as are the Pearson and Spearman coefficients of determination (R_p^2 and R_s^2 , respectively). Included in the fit and figure are all four regions within the plume (the 5-15%, 15-50%, 50-90%, and 90-100% of ΔCO), all colored by the mean $\Delta OA_{initial}$ of each ΔCO percentile range.



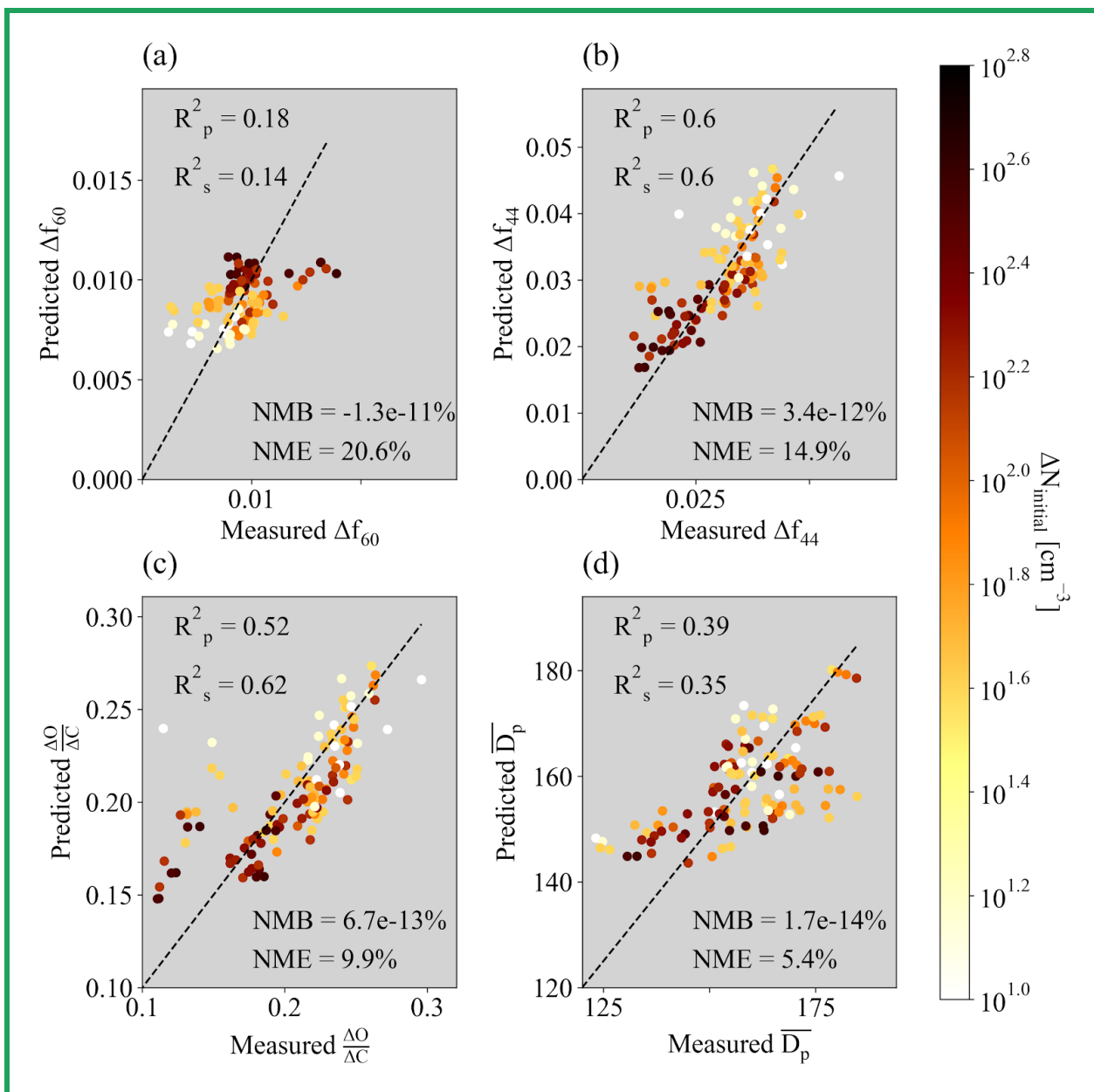


Figure S29. Measured versus predicted (a) Δf_{60} , (b) Δf_{44} , and (c) \overline{D}_p between 40-300 nm, using the equation $X = a \log_{10}(\Delta N_{\text{initial}}) + b (\text{Physical age}) + c$ where $X = \Delta f_{60}$, Δf_{44} , or \overline{D}_p where $X = \Delta f_{60}$, Δf_{44} , or \overline{D}_p . Note that the fit here is the same as that in Eq. 2 except that $\Delta N_{\text{initial}}$ replaces $\Delta \text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$. The values of a , b , and c are provided in Table S5. The Pearson and Spearman coefficients of determination (R_p^2 and R_s^2 , respectively) are provided in each panel, along with the normalized mean bias (NMB) and normalized mean error (NME). The values of a , b , and c when the equation is solved for X are provided within each subpanel, as are the Pearson and Spearman coefficients of determination (R_{2p} and R_{2s} , respectively). Included in the fit and

figure are all four regions within the plume (the 5-15%, 15-50%, 50-90%, and 90-100% of ΔCO), all colored by the mean $\Delta\text{OA}_{\text{initial}}$ of each ΔCO percentile range.