



# Iron (Fe) speciation in size-fractionated aerosol particles in the Pacific Ocean: The role of organic complexation of Fe with humic-like substances in controlling Fe solubility

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### Abstract.

Atmospheric deposition is one of the dominant sources of dissolved Fe on the ocean surface. Atmospheric processes are recognized as controlling fractional Fe solubility ( $Fe_{sol}\%$ ) in marine aerosol particles, but the impact of these processes on  $Fe_{sol}\%$  remains unclear. One of the reasons for this is the lack of field observations focusing on the relationship between  $Fe_{sol}\%$  and Fe species in the marine aerosol particles. In particular, the effects of organic ligands on the  $Fe_{sol}\%$  have not been well investigated through observational studies. In this study, Fe species in size-fractionated aerosol particles in the Pacific Ocean were determined by X-ray absorption fine structure (XAFS) spectroscopy. The internal mixing states of Fe with organic carbons were investigated using scanning transmission X-ray microscopy (STXM). The effects of atmospheric processes on  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in the marine aerosol particles were investigated based on these speciation results. Iron in size-fractionated aerosol particles was mainly derived from mineral dust regardless of aerosol diameter because the enrichment factor of Fe was almost 1 in both coarse ( $PM_{1.3-10.2}$ ) and fine aerosol particles ( $PM_{1.3}$ ). About 80% of total Fe (insoluble + labile Fe) was present in coarse aerosol particles ( $PM_{1.3-10.2}$ ), whereas labile Fe was mainly present in fine aerosol particles ( $PM_{1.3}$ ). The  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  was not well increased ( $2.56 \pm 2.53\%$ ,  $0.00-8.50\%$ ,  $n=20$ ) by the atmospheric processes because mineral dust was not acidified beyond the buffer capacity of calcite. By contrast, mineral dust in  $PM_{1.3}$  was acidified beyond the buffer capacity of calcite. As a result,  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in  $PM_{1.3}$  ( $0.202-64.7\%$ ,  $n=10$ ) is an order of magnitude higher than those in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$ . The  $PM_{1.3}$  contained ferric organic complexes with humic-like substances (Fe(III)-HULIS, but not included Fe-oxalate complexes), of which abundance correlated with  $Fe_{sol}\%$ . The Fe(III)-HULIS was formed during transport in the Pacific Ocean since the Fe(III)-HULIS was not found in aerosol particles in Beijing and Japan. The pH estimations of mineral dust in  $PM_{1.3}$  revealed that Fe was solubilized by proton-promoted dissolution under highly acidic conditions ( $pH < 3.0$ ), whereas Fe(III)-HULIS was stabilized under moderately acidic conditions ( $pH: 3.0-6.0$ ). Since the observed labile Fe concentration could not be reproduced by proton-promoted dissolution under moderately acidic conditions, the pH of mineral dust was increased after proton-promoted dissolution. The cloud process in the marine atmosphere increased the pH of mineral dust because the dust particles were covered with organic carbons and Na. At this stage, the precipitation of ferrihydrite was suppressed by Fe(III)-HULIS because of its high water solubility. Thus, the organic complexation of Fe with HULIS plays a significant role in the stabilization of Fe initially solubilized by proton-promoted dissolution.



## 1. Introduction

Primary production on the ocean surface is limited by the depletion of dissolved iron (Fe, Martin and Fitzwater, 1988; Jickells et al., 2005; Baker et al., 2016, 2021; Mahowald et al., 2018; Meskhidze et al., 2019). The fertilization of Fe in the surface ocean has the potential to regulate global climate systems via the uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxides (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the surface seawater. Dissolved iron must be supplied to activate biological activity because microorganisms utilize dissolved Fe as micronutrients (Boyd et al., 2007; Moore et al., 2013; Mahowald et al., 2018). Atmospheric deposition of Fe in mineral dust is one of the dominant sources of dissolved Fe on the ocean surface (Jickells et al., 2005; Baker et al., 2016, 2021; Mahowald et al., 2018; Meskhidze et al., 2019). However, fractional Fe solubility ( $Fe_{sol}\% = (\text{labile Fe}/\text{total Fe}) \times 100$ ) in mineral dust in source regions is usually less than 1.0% because Fe in mineral dust is typically present as insoluble species (e.g., Fe in aluminosilicates and Fe (hydr)oxides). In contrast, a wide range of  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in marine aerosol particles (0.1–90%) has been reported by previous observational studies (Buck et al., 2006; 2010; 2013, Baker and Jickells, 2006; Bakers et al., 2016, 2021; Chance et al., 2015; Kurisu et al., 2021). One of the reasons for high  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in the marine aerosol particles is pyrogenic Fe with high  $Fe_{sol}\%$  (up to 80%, Schroth et al., 2009; Takahashi et al., 2013; Kurisu et al., 2016; 2019, 2021; Conway et al., 2019). It seems that the variation of  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in marine aerosol particles can be explained by a binary mixing system of mineral dust and anthropogenic aerosols if the  $Fe_{sol}\%$  of these components at the time of emission is known. However, it is difficult to explain the variation of  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in the marine aerosol particles by the mixing system because atmospheric processes during transport affect  $Fe_{sol}\%$  of mineral dust and anthropogenic Fe.

Atmospheric processes of Fe are described as proton-promoted, ligand-promoted, and photo-reductive Fe dissolutions (Bakers et al., 2016, 2021; Mahowald et al., 2018; Meskhidze et al., 2019 and references therein). The proton-promoted Fe dissolution is mainly driven by aerosol acidifications (Desboufs et al., 1999; Mackie et al., 2005; Cwiertny et al., 2008; Shi et al., 2009, 2011, 2015; Maters et al., 2016). As a proof of the acidification of Fe-bearing particles, the single-particle analysis revealed that internal mixing of Fe with sulfate, nitrate, and chloride were identified in the atmosphere (Sullivan et al., 2007; Moffet et al., 2012; Fitzgerald et al., 2015; Li et al., 2017), but these analytical techniques could not mention direct relationships of internal mixing state with aerosol pH and  $Fe_{sol}\%$ . Therefore, aerosol pH was usually estimated by using thermodynamic model calculations (e.g., E-AIM and ISOROPPIA). The Fe dissolution from aerosol particles is enhanced in the wet aerosol phase with highly acidic conditions (pH < 3.0, Longo et al., 2016; Fang et al., 2017; Tao and Murphy, 2019). However, calculated pH by the thermodynamic models does not necessarily reflect the pH of the mineral dust. One of the reasons is that the calculated result is the pH of the main component of the marine aerosols (e.g., sulfate aerosols and sea spray aerosols), which were usually externally mixed with Fe-bearing particles. Another reason is that the aerosol pH of proton-promoted dissolution cannot uniquely determine the aerosol pH since the Fe-bearing particles may go through pH cycles according to evaporation-condensation cycles. Therefore, it is preferred that the average pH of Fe-bearing particles for proton-promoted dissolution are evaluated based on  $Fe_{sol}\%$  and/or labile (L-Fe) concentrations.



In the case of ligand-promoted and photo-reductive Fe dissolutions, organic ligands play a significant role in the enhancement of  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in marine aerosol particles. The formation of organic complexes on the surface of Fe-oxides destabilizes the Fe–O bond (Wang et al., 2017). The complexation of L-Fe with organic complexes decreases a saturation index of Fe in aerosol liquid water (ALW). The photoreduction of Fe(III)-organic complexes also decreases the saturation index of Fe(III) in the ALW because of the formation of Fe(II) (Chen and Grassian, 2013). As a result of these interactions of Fe with organic ligands, the dissolution of Fe-bearing particles is promoted. It is considered that oxalate is an important ligand in aerosol particles because oxalate is ubiquitously present in aerosol particles. However, the mass fraction of oxalate in water-soluble organic carbon (WSOC) is usually lower than 10% (Bikkina et al., 2015; Kawamura and Bikkina, 2016). In contrast, more than half of WSOC is present as humic-like substances (HULIS), which are also considered to affect  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in aerosol particles (Wozniak et al., 2013, 2015; Al-Abdleh 2015). In addition, siderophores have been detected in aerosol, rainwater, and cloud water (Cheize et al., 2012; Sullivan et al., 2012; Vinatier et al., 2016). The siderophore has higher stability constant with Fe than oxalate, and the Fe-siderophore complexes have high water solubility (Cheize et al., 2012). Recently, the Fe(III)-dextrans as Fe(III)-organic complexes have been detected in  $PM_{2.5}$  collected in Colorado, USA (Salazar et al., 2020). The formation of Fe-organic complexes may suppress the precipitation of nano-ferrhydrite when the acidified aerosol particles with high  $Fe_{sol}\%$  encounters high pH solution because these Fe-organic complexes have higher water solubility than inorganic Fe under wide pH range. However, the effects of Fe(III)-organic complexes of HULIS and siderophore in atmospheric samples on  $Fe_{sol}\%$  have not been well investigated through the field observations of marine aerosol particles.

In this study, Fe species in size-fractionated aerosol particles in the Pacific Ocean were determined by X-ray absorption fine structure (XAFS) spectroscopy to investigate a relationship between Fe species and  $Fe_{sol}\%$ . The XAFS spectroscopy provides us the average fraction of Fe species, which can directly compare to  $Fe_{sol}\%$ . In addition, Al species in several size-fractionated aerosol particles were determined to evaluate the aging effect of aluminosilicates in the samples. The Al K-edge X-ray absorption near-edge structure (XANES) spectrum is sensitive to the coordination chemistry of Al (Ildefonse et al., 1998; Shaw et al., 2009; Hagvall et al., 2015). Furthermore, internal mixing states of Fe with organic carbons (OCs) were investigated using scanning transmission X-ray microscopy (STXM) to evaluate detailed alteration processes of Fe-bearing particles. Based on  $Fe_{sol}\%$  and speciation results, the average pH required for proton-promoted dissolution ( $pH_{PPD}$ ) was evaluated using a conceptual model according to the first-order Fe dissolution. The pH for stabilization of L-Fe species in aerosol particles ( $pH_{L-Fe}$ ) was evaluated by a geochemical model. If  $pH_{L-Fe}$  differs from  $pH_{PPD}$ , the L-Fe species are formed under different pH conditions from the proton-promoted dissolutions. Therefore, differences between  $pH_{PPD}$  and  $pH_{L-Fe}$  may become an indicator for pH variation of the Fe-bearing particles. From these results, the role of atmospheric processes in the enhancement of  $Fe_{sol}\%$  is discussed in this study.



## 105 2. Sampling and analytical methods

### 2.1. Aerosol sampling

Size-fractionated sampling of marine aerosols was conducted on the research cruise of *R/V Hakuho-Maru* (Fig. 1 and Table S1: KH-14-6, Longitudinal cruise of the Western Pacific Ocean, December 2, 2014 to February 26, 2015, GEOTRACES). A high-volume air sampler (MODEL-123SL, Kimoto, Japan) with a Sierra-type cascade impactor (TE-236, Tisch Environmental Inc., USA) was installed on the compass deck of the vessel, located 13 m above sea level. A sampling air flow rate was fixed at 0.566 m<sup>3</sup>/min. Wind speed and direction were monitored by a wind-sector control system to prevent the contamination of fly ashes and exhaust gases emitted from the vessel.

Aerosol diameters for each sampling stage (stages 1 to 7) are described in Table S1. Aerosol samples in stages 1 to 4 (PM<sub>1.3-10.2</sub> > 1.3 μm) were defined as coarse aerosol particles, whereas those in stages 5 to 7 were defined as fine aerosol particles (PM<sub>1.3</sub> < 1.3 μm). Aerosol particles in stages 1 to 6 were collected on a custom-built polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE, about 15 cm<sup>2</sup>) filter (Sakata et al. 2018). The filter blanks of Al and Fe were 0.306±0.352 and 0.335±0.340 ng/cm<sup>2</sup>, which were corresponding to few pg/m<sup>3</sup>. The blank concentrations of Fe and Al were about an order of magnitude lower than the lowest concentration of these elements in our samples. For single particle analysis, aerosol particles were also collected on molybdenum grids with formvar thin film (Mo grid) that fixed on the PTFE filter by a double-face cellulose tape. The PTFE filter was rinsed based on our previous study (Sakata et al., 2018). Aerosol samples in stage 7 were collected on a cellulose filter (Whatman 41, 516 cm<sup>2</sup>, GE Healthcare, USA). The filter blank of Al and Fe in the cellulose filter 7.20±3.91 and 16.5±6.27 ng/cm<sup>2</sup>, which are corresponded to 2.52 and 5.77 ng/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. Stage 7 was excluded from the discussion because of the high filter background. In this study, sample names are described as the stage number of cascade impactor combined with sampling site (e.g., stage 6 collected in SPO: S6-SPO; Tables S1 and S2).

For comparison, aerosol sampling was performed at Noto Ground-Based Research Observatory (NOTOGRO) located in the coastal region of the Sea of Japan (Suzu, Ishikawa, Japan: 37.4513° N, 137.3589° E). NOTOGRO is located between China and the sampling sites of the WPO (Fig. 1). Size-fractionated aerosol sample influenced by Chinese air mass was collected from February 19 to 26, 2020. In addition, reference materials of Beijing aerosol (NIES CRM 28, Urban dust, Mori et al., 2008) was also employed for comparison of Fe species.

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### 2.2. Total and labile metal concentrations

All sample treatments were conducted in clean booth (Class-100) and an evaporation chamber installed in a Class-10000 clean room. Acid digestion and ultrapure water extractions of aerosol samples were performed to determine total and labile metal concentrations, respectively. Aerosol samples were decomposed by mixed acid (2 mL of 15.2 mol/L HNO<sub>3</sub>, 2 mL of 9.3 mol/L HCl, and 1 mL of 20 mol/L HF) with heating at 120 °C for 1 day. The mixed acid was evaporated to dryness at 120 °C,

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subsequently residues were re-dissolved in 0.15 mol/L HNO<sub>3</sub>. Labile metals in aerosol particles were extracted ultrasonically for 30 min with 5 mL of MQ water. The extracted solutions were acidified to 0.15 mol/L after filtration of insoluble particles. Total and labile metal concentrations were determined by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS, Agilent 7700, Agilent, Japan). Total and labile metal concentrations in total suspended particulate (TSP) were calculated by summation of target metal concentrations in stages 1 to 6. Fractional Fe and Al solubility (Fe<sub>sol</sub>% and Al<sub>sol</sub>%, respectively) and enrichment factors (EF) were calculated using the following equations:

$$\text{Fe}_{\text{sol}}\% = (\text{labile Fe}/\text{total Fe}) \times 100 \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

$$\text{Al}_{\text{sol}}\% = (\text{labile Al}/\text{total Al}) \times 100 \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

$$\text{EF} = (\text{Fe}/\text{Al})_{\text{aerosol}}/(\text{Fe}/\text{Al})_{\text{crust.}} \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

Iron and Al concentrations in the average continental crust were cited from Taylor (1964).

### 2.3. Major ion and water-soluble organic carbon concentrations

Major ions (Na<sup>+</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, and C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) in aerosol samples were extracted by the same methods for labile metal extractions. Water-soluble organic carbon (WSOC) was extracted using 15 mL of MQ water in glass vials on a shaker for 1 hour. Major ions and WSOC concentrations were measured using ion chromatography (ICS-1100, Dionex, Japan) and a total carbon analyzer (TOC-V CSH, Shimadzu, Japan), respectively. Detail methods for ion chromatography are described in Sakata et al. (2014). Non-sea-salt (nss) SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> were calculated by a following equation:

$$[\text{nss-SO}_4^{2-} \text{ or nss-Ca}^{2+}] = [\text{SO}_4^{2-} \text{ or Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{aerosol}} - [\text{Na}^+]_{\text{aerosol}} \times ([\text{SO}_4^{2-} \text{ or Ca}^{2+}]/[\text{Na}^+]_{\text{seawater}}) \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

To evaluate acidification degrees of mineral dust in aerosol particles, available proton for mineral dust ([H<sup>+</sup>]<sub>mineral</sub>) were evaluated (see Supplemental Methods). The [H<sup>+</sup>]<sub>mineral</sub> is equal to the sum of [NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>] and [nss-SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>] that are not associated with ammonium salt and aged sea spray aerosol. If [H<sup>+</sup>]<sub>mineral</sub> is higher than [nss-Ca] ([H<sup>+</sup>]<sub>mineral</sub> > 0), mineral dust may have been acidified beyond the buffering capacity of CaCO<sub>3</sub>.

### 2.4. Iron speciation by XAFS

Average Fe species in aerosol samples were determined using bulk XAFS spectroscopy at BL-9A and BL-12C in Photon Factory (PF), Ibaraki, Japan (Nomura and Koyama, 2001). Synchrotron radiation generated by bending magnet was monochromatized by a double-crystal monochromator of Si(111). The energy calibration was performed with the peak top of pre-edge peaks of hematite aligned to 7112 eV. Approximately 1/10 of collected aerosol samples on PTFE filters were transferred to double-face carbon tape that oriented at 45° to the orthogonal direction of the incident X-ray beam. Iron K-edge XANES spectra of all target samples were recorded by fluorescence yield (FY) mode. The EXAFS spectra were simultaneously recorded with XANES for samples with Fe concentrations high enough to obtain EXAFS spectra. Scanning energies of XANES and EXAFS were 7080–7200 and 7080–7530 eV, respectively. All XANES and EXAFS spectra were recorded by



170 fluorescence yield (FY) mode. Fluorescence X-ray from the samples was detected by a 19-element Ge solid-state detector equipped with a Soller slit. Spectrum analysis of XANES and EXAFS spectra were performed by REX2000 Software (Rigaku, Japan). Energy region for LCF of XANES and EXAFS spectra was 7100–7200 eV and 0–10 Å in k-space, respectively.

Reference materials for inorganic Fe are ferrihydrite, goethite, hematite, biotite, chlorite, illite, smectite, montmorillonite, and Fe(III)-sulfate. Details of these references are described in Takahashi et al. (2011). Iron(II)-oxalate, Fe(III)-oxalate, Fe(III)-stearate, Fe(III)-nitrate, Fe(III) complexed with deferoxamine (Fe(III)-DFO) and Fe(III)-humate were employed as reference  
175 materials of Fe(III)-organic complexes. Among them, Fe(III)-citrate, Fe(III)-stearate, Fe(III)-humate, and Fe(III)-DFO were defined as Fe(III)-HULIS in a broad sense. The Fe(III)-HULIS can be distinguished by Fe(III)-oxalate based on Fe K-edge XANES. The Fe K-edge XANES spectrum of Fe(III)-oxalate has two shoulders between 7120–7130 eV, whereas those of Fe(III)-HULIS has flatten peaks in the same region. To make it easier to compare XANES spectra between reference sand aerosol samples, the XANES spectrum of the reference materials sample is shown in Fig. 6b.

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## 2.5. Al and Na speciation by XANES spectroscopy

Aluminium and Na speciation experiments were performed at BL-19B in PF and BL27SU in SPring-8, respectively. For both beamlines, synchrotron radiation generated by an undulator was monochromatized by the valid-line spacing plane grating monochromator (VLS-PGM). Aerosol samples on the carbon tape were installed in a vacuum chamber because of the short  
185 attenuation length of soft X-ray (< 2000 eV) in the ambient atmosphere. The Al K-edge (1550–1600 eV) and Na K-edge (1065–1100 eV) XANES spectra of aerosol samples were recorded by FY mode. Fluorescence X-ray was detected by a single-element silicon drift detector.

## 2.6. Single-particle analysis

190 Single-particle analyses were conducted using scanning transmission X-ray microscopy (STXM) at BL-13A in PF (Takeichi et al. 2016). Monochromatic X-rays were focused to 30 nm × 30 nm by a Fresnel Zone Plate. The aerosol sample on the Mo grid was mounted on a piezo-controlled stage in a chamber purged with 0.1 atm He. Firstly, aerosol particles were imaged around energies in following: 280 eV (pre-edge), 285.0 eV (aromatic C), 287.6 eV (aliphatic C), 288.8 eV (carboxylic/hydroxamate C), carbonate (290.3 eV), and 297.2 eV (K L-edge), and 305 eV (post-edge). Iron, Na, and Al  
195 distributions were identified image subtraction of post-edge from pre-edge. The typical imaging size was 15×15 μm<sup>2</sup> with 0.06×0.06 μm<sup>2</sup>. After that, XANES spectra of C, K, Fe, Na, and Al were separately obtained by image stack mode. The typical imaging size for the image stack was 3×3 μm<sup>2</sup>. Image drift was aligned after appending image stack data of all elements. The XANES spectra of the regions of interest (e.g., core and surface of the aerosol particles) were extracted using aXis2000 software.

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## 2.7. Estimation of pH for proton-promoted dissolution (pH<sub>PPD</sub>)





Average pH of proton-promoted dissolution (pH<sub>PPD</sub>) was estimated using three Fe-pool model. The model was constructed based on a previous study on dissolution experiments using Beijing dust (Shi et al., 2011). Three Fe pools (fast, intermediate, and slow) have different dissolution rate constants according to the first-order kinetics (Shi et al., 2011). Observed L-Fe concentration of aerosol particles ( $[L-Fe(t)]_{\text{aerosol}}$ ) was described by the following equation:

$$[L-Fe(t)]_{\text{aerosol}} \text{ (ng/m}^3\text{)} = [L-Fe(t)]_{\text{fast}} + [L-Fe(t)]_{\text{intermediate}} + [L-Fe(t)]_{\text{slow}} \quad (\text{Eq. 6})$$

$$[L-Fe(t)]_{\text{fast/intermediate/slow}} \text{ (ng/m}^3\text{)} = [\text{obs-Fe}] \times [\%Fe(0)]_{\text{fast/intermediate/slow}} \times (1 - e^{-kt}) \quad (\text{Eq. 7})$$

where  $t$  is the dissolution time (h),  $[L-Fe(t)]_{\text{fast/intermediate/slow}}$  is the labile Fe concentration ( $\text{ng/m}^3$ ) at time  $t$ ,  $[\text{obs-Fe}]$  is observed total Fe concentration,  $[\%Fe(0)]_{\text{fast/intermediate/slow}}$  is the percentage of solubilized Fe in each pool to total Fe, and  $k$  is dissolution rate constant for each pool. Mineral dust is expected to undergo several condensation-evaporation cycles (one cycle: 12 hours) during transport, and the proton-promoted Fe dissolution occurs during the evaporation state (wet aerosol). Therefore,  $t$  is half of the transportation time estimated by backward trajectories. The  $\%Fe(0)$  and  $k$  in each pool are basically pH-dependent (Table 1). Previous studies assumed illite as the major Fe species of Fe-containing mineral in the slow pool. However, weathered biotite was the dominant Fe-containing mineral in our samples (see Section 3.2.). Since the dissolution rate of biotite is about an order of magnitude higher than those of illite (Bibi et al., 2011; Bray et al., 2015), the equation given in the previous study was rewritten as follows:

$$\text{Previous study: } \log k_{\text{slow}} = -0.44\text{pH} - 1.76. \quad (\text{Eq. 8})$$

$$\text{This study: } \log k'_{\text{slow}} = -0.44\text{pH} - 0.76. \quad (\text{Eq. 9})$$

Finally, pH (optional) was given to these equations to find the pH at which the observed L-Fe could be accounted within the assumed transport time.

## 2.8. Geochemical modelling of L-Fe species

Aerosol liquid water (ALW) contents were calculated by E-AIM model IV (Clegg et al., 1992; Friese and Ebel, 2010), which can have an agreement of ALW between observational and modelled water mass has been reported by a previous study (Engelhart et al., 2011). The input parameters for E-AIM Model IV were molar concentrations of  $H^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $NH_4^+$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ , and  $SO_4^{2-}$ ; temperature; and relative humidity. The proton concentration was estimated using the following equation:

$$[H^+] = [Cl^-] + [NO_3^-] + 2 \times [SO_4^{2-}] - [Na^+] - [NH_4^+] \quad (\text{Eq. 10})$$

The L-Fe species in aerosol liquid water (ALW) were calculated using the React model in GWB software (Bethke, 1996). Input data were molar concentrations of all major ions, oxalate ions, and labile metals (Al, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd, Ba, and Pb), WSOC, ALW, and temperature. The precipitations of metal species with high saturation index ( $> 1.0$ ) were inhibited for simulation of the high ionic strength conditions of ALW ( $> \text{few mol/L}$ , Herrmann et al., 2015). The molar concentrations of WSOC were evaluated with three types of organic species: citric acid (C6), marine aliphatic carbon (C18, Cochran et al., 2016), and deferoxamine (C25). Furthermore, L-Fe species were calculated under various mixing ratio of WSOC to evaluate effects of internal mixing state between L-Fe and WSOC on L-Fe species. The mixing ratio is 1.0%, 2.5%, 5.0%, 10%, 25%, 50% and 100% of WSOC concentration. For all calculations, the thermodynamic data of citric acid with Fe were used as a





representative organic ligand because the stability constant and acid dissociation constant of citric acid (log  $K$ : 13.13 and  $pK_{a1}$ : 3.13) are similar to those of HULIS (log  $K_{HULIS}$ : 11.1–13.9 and  $pK_a$ : 3.3–4.0, Salma and Láng, 2008; Samburova et al., 2008; Abualhaija et al., 2015). The initial pH was fixed at 7 and subsequently shifted from 7 to 0 to calculate the pH dependence of L-Fe species in the ALW. Total of 276 aqueous species were considered in the calculation, of which stability constants of the main species are shown in Appendix in Supplemental Information.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Total and labile Fe and Al concentrations in TSP

Backward trajectories analysis was performed by the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory model (HYSPLIT, Stein et al., 2015). The WPO samples were affected by Asian continental outflows, whereas the air masses in CPO and WPO were derived from pelagic regions (Fig. 2). Total Fe and Al concentrations in TSP at the WPO samples (Figs. 3a and 3e, Fe: 75.6–257  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ , Al: 130–422  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ) were one to two orders of magnitude higher than those in the CPO and SPO (Figs. 3a and 3e, Fe: 0.733–4.37  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ , Al: 3.56–4.12  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ). Labile Fe and Al concentrations were also higher in WPO samples (Figs. 3b and 3f, Fe: 2.61–19.8  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ , Al: 3.56–27.0  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ) than CPO and SPO (Figs. 3b and 3f, Fe: 0.0422–0.0489  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ , Al: 0.0383–0.0678  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ). Thus, high total and labile metal concentrations were attributed to continental air masses (Figs. 2 and 3). Enrichment factors of Fe in these samples were 0.26–1.8 (0.92±0.55), indicating that Fe in these TSP samples were mainly derived from mineral dust (Fig. 3d). The  $\text{Fe}_{\text{sol}}\%$  and  $\text{Al}_{\text{sol}}\%$  in TSP were 5.30±2.99 % (0.967–7.69 %) and 3.32±2.22 % (1.08–6.40 %), respectively (Figs. 3c and 3g). These values were within a range reported by previous studies (Box 2 in Mahowald et al., 2018).

#### 3.2. Size distributions of Fe and Al concentrations

The total Fe and Al concentrations in  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$  were higher than those in  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  (Figs. 4a and 4d). Iron and Al in  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$  were accounted for 78.5±8.34 % (n= 5, 69.9–87.9 %) and 81.8±8.53 % (n= 5, 72.0–88.8 %) in those of TSP, respectively. The enrichment factors of Fe and Ti as typical crustal elements were almost 1.0 regardless of aerosols diameter (Fig. S1). This is because mineral dust is mainly present in  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$ . The labile concentrations of Fe and Al were higher in  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  than in  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$  (Figs. 4b and 4e). Labile Fe and Al in  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$  were accounted for 60.5±34.1 % (n= 5, 10.7–87.3 %) and 45.9±24.1 % (n= 5, 24.2–76.2 %) in those of TSP, respectively. Thus, size distributions of L-Fe and L-Al concentrations were clearly different from those of total Fe and Al. The average  $\text{Fe}_{\text{sol}}\%$  in  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$  and  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  were 2.56±2.53 % (n=20, 0.00–8.50%) and 22.3±21.7 % (n=10, 0.202–64.7 %), respectively (Fig. 4c). In the case of Al, the average  $\text{Al}_{\text{sol}}\%$  in  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$  and  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  were 2.76±2.85 % (n=20, 0.389–11.5 %) and 11.7±10.8 % (n=10, 0.700–32.4 %), respectively (Fig. 4e). Thus, both Fe and Al in  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  were more soluble than those in  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$ . Therefore, even if the total Fe concentration in  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  was lower than  $\text{PM}_{1.3-10.2}$ , the  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  plays a significant role in supplying Fe in the ocean surface.

The enrichments of labile Fe and Al in fine fractions have been reported by previous studies (Baker and Jickells, 2006; Buck et al., 2010; Chance et al., 2015; Baker et al., 2020; Kurisu et al., 2021). One of the reasons for the enrichment of labile



270 Fe in fine fractions is the presence of pyrogenic Fe in fine fractions (Kurusu et al., 2021). Oil combustions, including ship emissions, are one of the dominant sources of pyrogenic Fe in fine aerosol particles because several studies have been reported associations of high  $Fe_{sol}\%$  with high EF of V and Ni (Sedwick et al., 2007; Sholkovitz et al., 2009). However,  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in  $PM_{1.3}$  were not correlated with EF of V and Ni (Table S3, Spearman's correlation factor  $\rho$ : 0.36 and -0.25 for V and Ni, respectively), which was consistent with a previous study (Buck et al., 2013). In contrast,  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in  $PM_{1.3}$  were correlated with  
275 EF of Pb (Table S3,  $\rho$ : 0.75 for Pb), which were useful tracers for municipal solid waste incineration (MSWI) and coal combustions (Nriagu and Pacyna, 1988; Sakata et al., 2000, 2014). However, L-Fe in our samples were unlikely derived from anthropogenic sources because EFs of Fe in  $PM_{1.3}$  were almost 1.0 above mentioned (Fig. S1). The  $PM_{1.3}$  with high  $Fe_{sol}\%$  (>10 %) contained available proton for mineral dust ( $[H^+]_{mineral}$ , see the Method section), whereas those in  $PM_{1.3-10.3}$  and  $PM_{1.3}$  with low  $Fe_{sol}\%$  (<10 %) were near 0 or negative (Fig. 5a). Furthermore, the  $[H^+]_{mineral}$  in  $PM_{1.3}$  with high  $Fe_{sol}\%$  was higher  
280 than  $[nss-Ca^{2+}]$ , indicating that  $[H^+]_{mineral}$  acidified mineral dust beyond the buffer capacity of  $CaCO_3$  (Figs. 5b and 5c). In fact,  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in  $PM_{1.3}$  were also correlated with  $nss-SO_4^{2-}$  (Table S3,  $\rho$ : 0.81), but a good correlation between  $Fe_{sol}\%$  and oxalate was not observed (Table S3,  $\rho$ : 0.20). Therefore, it seems that aerosol acidification is more significant compared to organic complexations and anthropogenic emissions to solubilize Fe in  $PM_{1.3}$ .

In the case of WPO samples, it is considered that mineral dust was acidified during transportation in East Asia because  
285 East Asia is a highly polluted area in the world. Previous studies showed that mineral dust in East Asian aerosol contained sulfate and oxalate as a proof of particle acidifications (Sullivan et al., 2007; Fitzgerald et al., 2015; Li et al., 2017; Sakata et al., 2021). Although  $PM_{1.3}$  in the CPO sample did not pass over the highly polluted region, the S6-CPO has positive  $[H^+]_{mineral}$  and high  $Fe_{sol}\%$ . This result is probably due to the acidifications of mineral dust by  $SO_2$  and  $H_2SO_4$  derived from biogenic S (e.g., dimethylsulfide) because  $NH_3$  gas cannot fully neutralized biogenic  $SO_2$  and  $H_2SO_4$  (Paulot et al., 2015; Nault et al.,  
290 2021). In fact, the  $nss-SO_4^{2-}$  concentration in S6-CPO was approximately an order of magnitude higher than that of  $NH_4^+$  (Figs. S2a and S2b). Thus,  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in  $PM_{1.3}$  was enhanced by aerosol acidifications in not only polluted regions but also marine atmosphere.

### 3.3. Size dependence of Fe species in marine aerosols

295 Iron species in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  were composed of two or three Fe species of hematite, ferrihydrite, biotite, and illite (Figs. 6a, 6c, and S3). More than half of the Fe in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  was composed of biotite (Fig. 6a). The EXAFS spectra of  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  well reflected spectrum feature of biotite in 7–9 Å of k-space (Fig. S4), indicating that biotite was the dominant Fe species in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$ . The relative abundance of ferrihydrite increased with decreasing aerosol diameter and with increasing transportation distances (Fig. 6a, WPO1 < WPO2 < WPO3 < SPO  $\cong$  CPO). The hydration reaction of phyllosilicates in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  forms  
300 secondary ferrihydrite during transportations (Takahashi et al., 2011). Therefore, Fe in biotite in the  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  was partially altered to ferrihydrite. The Fe species in  $PM_{1.3}$  with negative  $[H^+]_{mineral}$  (S5-WPO1 and S6-SPO) were composed of the same



species in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$ . The negative  $[H^+]_{\text{mineral}}$  means that mineral dust was not acidified beyond the buffering capacities of  $CaCO_3$ . Therefore, Fe species in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  and  $PM_{1.3}$  were not drastically modified by aerosol acidification.

305 Iron(III)-HULIS and Fe(III)-sulfate were found as characteristic Fe species in  $PM_{1.3}$  with  $[H^+]_{\text{mineral}}$  and high  $Fe_{\text{sol}}\%$  ( $>10\%$ , Figs. 6a, 6c, and S3). Iron(III)-HULIS was present in all  $PM_{1.3}$  with positive  $[H^+]_{\text{mineral}}$ , whereas only S6-WPO3 contained Fe(III)-sulfate with Fe(III)-HULIS (Fig. 6a). Since the source of Fe in  $PM_{1.3}$  was mineral dust (Fig. S1), the Fe species at the time of emission was thought to be similar to that of coarse particles. However, the EXAFS spectra of  $PM_{1.3}$  reflected spectrum features of Fe(III)-HULIS and Fe(III)-sulfate rather than biotite (Fig. S4). It seems that Fe(III)-sulfate and Fe(III)-HULIS were formed by secondary processes of biotite during transport. It is known that oxalate is one of the important  
310 ligands to enhance  $Fe_{\text{sol}}\%$  in aerosol particles (Chen and Grassian, 2013; Ito and Shi, 2016; Hamilton et al., 2019), the presence or the absence of Fe(III)-oxalate in these samples were examined. As a result, the abundance of the Fe(III)-oxalate in these samples was not dominant Fe species in our samples by the LCF. This result is consistent with the fact that there is no correlations between  $Fe_{\text{sol}}\%$  and oxalate concentrations (Table S3).

For comparison, Fe species in East Asian aerosols (Beijing and NOTOGRO) were determined by XAFS spectroscopy.  
315 Beijing dust also contained Fe(II)-sulfate and Fe(III)-sulfate with ferrihydrite and biotite (Fig. S5). Iron species in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  collected in the NOTGRO were composed of illite, smectite, biotite and ferrihydrite, which species were similar to those in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  in marine aerosol particles (Figs. 6a and 6d), whereas Fe(II)-sulfate and Fe(III)-oxalate was found in  $PM_{1.3}$  collected in the NOTOGRO (Figs. 6a and 6c). The EXAFS spectrum of the S6-NT has single peak in 7–9 Å of k-space, whereas those of  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  has two peaks of biotite in the same regions (Fig. S4e). Therefore, Fe(II)-sulfate and Fe(III)-oxalate were formed  
320 by chemical alteration of biotite, which was consistent with Fe speciation results of WPO. Iron(III)-HULIS was not assigned as the dominant Fe species in NOTOGRO and Beijing dust (Figs. 6a, 6c and S5). These results indicated that Fe(III)-HULIS in the WPO samples was possibly formed by chemical alteration of Fe(II, III)-sulfates and Fe(III)-oxalate after aerosol pass over Japan.

To identify L-Fe species in  $PM_{1.3}$ , Fe K-edge XANES spectra of insoluble Fe in the S6-WPO2 were recorded after water  
325 extractions of labile Fe species. As a result, the XANES spectra of total Fe (= labile + insoluble Fe) was well fitted by insoluble Fe and Fe(III)-HULIS (Fig. S3d). Furthermore, the  $Fe_{\text{sol}}\%$  in  $PM_{1.3}$  were correlated with the abundance of Fe(III)-HULIS (Fig. 6e). Therefore, Fe(III)-HULIS is an important L-Fe species in  $PM_{1.3}$  in the marine atmosphere.

### 3.4. Size dependence of Al species

330 Given that Fe(III)-HULIS was formed by chemical alterations of Fe in biotite, Al species in  $PM_{1.3}$  may be different from those in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$ . Therefore, we determined Al species in WPO2 and WPO3 using XANES spectroscopy. The Al species in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  were composed of octahedral Al and tetrahedral Al, of which Al K-edge XANES spectra were similar to those of biotite (Fig. 7). The Al K-edge XANES spectra of  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  were well fitted by each other. This result implies that (i) the sources of Al emissions were similar among  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$ , and (ii) Al species in these samples were not changed significantly  
335 during transport. In contrast, secondary Al species were identified in  $PM_{1.3}$ . The S5-WPO2 and S5-WPO3 contained gibbsite



and phyllosilicates (Fig. 7). The S6-WPO3 contained Al-sulfate and organic complexes of Al (organo-Al) in addition to phyllosilicates in PM<sub>1.3</sub> and gibbsite, which was consistent with the presence of Fe(III)-sulfate in this sample (Figs 6a and 8). In the case of S6-WPO2 with the highest abundance of Fe(III)-HULIS, the Al K-edge XANES spectrum was totally different from that of phyllosilicates in PM<sub>1.3-10.2</sub>, though the XANES spectrum of S6-WPO2 could not be fitted by the reference materials examined in this study. Given that initial Al species in PM<sub>1.3</sub> were phyllosilicate as was for PM<sub>1.3-10.2</sub>, it is possible that phyllosilicate particles were altered in the atmosphere. This result is consistent with the absence of the spectrum feature of biotite in Fe K-edge EXAFS spectra of PM<sub>1.3</sub>.

### 3.5. Single particle analysis

Single-particle analysis in S6-WPO2 was conducted using STXM to evaluate the alteration processes of Fe-bearing phyllosilicate particles. Iron-bearing particles have irregular shapes (Figs. 8 and S6–S8). This morphological feature was similar to naturally occurring phyllosilicate particles (Matsuki et al., 2005; Jeong and Nousiainen, 2014). In contrast, anthropogenic Fe (e.g., fly ash and pyrogenic hematite) has spherical shapes which were not dominated in S6-WPO2 (Li and Shao, 2009; Adachi et al., 2021). Therefore, Fe-bearing particles with irregular shapes and high OD<sub>C-pre</sub> were phyllosilicate particles. These Fe-bearing phyllosilicates were covered with Na and OCs. Organic carbons on mineral dust were mainly presented as aliphatic species because the peaks of aliphatic C and carboxylates were dominated in the C K-edge NEXAFS spectra (Fig. 8 and S8). The C K-edge NEXAFS spectra of OCs on the mineral surface were similar to those in submicron sea spray aerosol SSA (Prather et al., 2013; Wilson et al., 2015). Furthermore, the Na K-edge XANES spectra on the particle surface were also similar to Na salt with organic acids rather than inorganic Na (Fig. S9). It is known that submicron sea spray aerosol (SSA) and marine cloud water contained both Na and OCs (Mochida et al., 2002; Straub et al., 2007; Cochran et al., 2016; Bikkina et al., 2019). In fact, the Na speciation result also showed that PM<sub>1.3</sub> collected in WPO2 and WPO3 contained organic Na salts, whereas Na species in PM<sub>1.3-10.2</sub> was composed of only NaCl (Fig. S9). Therefore, submicron SSA or marine cloud water is one of the sources of Na and OCs on the phyllosilicate surface. The surface coating of Na and OCs contributed to chemical alteration of phyllosilicate particles because Al K-edge XANES spectra of these particles were similar to that in humic substances (SRFA, Fig. 7). Thus, phyllosilicate particles in PM<sub>1.3</sub> were intensely altered during transport from East Asia to the WPO.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Reconstruction alteration processes of Fe based on pH<sub>PPD</sub> and pH<sub>L-Fe</sub>

Our observation results showed that L-Fe in aerosol particles were mainly controlled by Fe in PM<sub>1.3</sub> (Fig. 4b). Aerosol acidification was one of the factors of enhancement of L-Fe concentrations because (i) PM<sub>1.3</sub> with high Fe<sub>sol</sub>% (>10%) has positive [H<sup>+</sup>]<sub>mineral</sub> (Fig. 5a), and (ii) L-Fe concentration correlated with [nss-SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>] (Table S3). Furthermore, the fraction of Fe(III)-HULIS correlated with Fe<sub>sol</sub>% in aerosol particles (Fig. 6e). Therefore, it is likely that both aerosol acidification and organic complexation of Fe contributed to the enhancement of Fe<sub>sol</sub>%. Here, reaction pH for proton-promoted dissolution



370 (pH<sub>PPD</sub>) and formation of L-Fe species (pH<sub>L-Fe</sub>) were evaluated using conceptual and geochemical models, respectively. Firstly, the modelled L-Fe concentration in PM<sub>1.3</sub> with negative [H<sup>+</sup>]<sub>mineral</sub> was much higher than the observed L-Fe concentration, even though pH<sub>PPD</sub> was set as 3.0 (Fig. S10). This result indicated that Fe-bearing particles in these samples were not acidified to pH 3.0. Consequently, Fe in these samples was not sufficiently solubilized by atmospheric processes. In fact, Fe species in these samples were similar to those in PM<sub>1.3-10.2</sub> with low Fe<sub>sol</sub>%.

375 The observed L-Fe concentrations in PM<sub>1.3</sub> with positive [H<sup>+</sup>]<sub>mineral</sub> were reproduced when pH was lower than 3.0 (Figs. 9 and S11). This result is consistent with previous studies because the high Fe<sub>sol</sub>% was observed when aerosol pH was lower than 3.0 (Fang et al., 2017; Tao and Murphy, 2019). As previously mentioned, Fe in biotite was altered to Fe(III)-HULIS and/or Fe(III)-sulfate (Fig. S4). Previous studies showed that octahedral layer of phyllosilicate including biotite were preferentially decomposed under highly acidic conditions (pH < 3.0) and Fe in biotite is mainly present in the octahedral layer  
380 (Shaw et al., 2009; Bray et al., 2015). Therefore, it is reasonable that Fe<sub>sol</sub>% increases rapidly when the pH drops below 3.0. Modelled L-Fe species in PM<sub>1.3</sub> with positive [H<sup>+</sup>]<sub>mineral</sub> were present as Fe(III)-sulfate or Fe(III)-oxalate under acidic conditions (pH<sub>L-Fe</sub> < 3.0) with any ratios of [citrate]/[oxalate] and [citrate]/[L-Fe], though stability constants of citrate is much higher than that of oxalate and sulfate (Fig. 9 and S12–16). This phenomenon can be ascribed to the fact that citric acid forms fully protonated species below its pK<sub>a1</sub> (= 3.13), whereas oxalate and sulfate can form ferric complexes even at pH < 3.0 (Fig.  
385 9 and S12–16). As previously mentioned, East Asian aerosol particles contained Fe(II, III)-sulfate and Fe(III)-oxalate, but Fe(III)-HULIS was not dominant Fe species (Figs. 6a, 6d and S5). Therefore, it is considered that mineral dust in the WPO samples encountered the highly acidic conditions during transportation in East Asia.

In contrast, the geochemical model showed that Fe(III)-HULIS was dominant under moderately acidic conditions (pH<sub>L-Fe</sub> 3.0–6.0), where [citrate]/[L-Fe] was higher than 1.0 (Figs. 10b and S12–S16). In the case of S6-WPO3, the coexistence of  
390 Fe(III)-HULIS and Fe(III)-sulfate was found under only moderately acidic conditions, when [citrate]/[L-Fe] was between 0.30 and 0.45 (Figs. 9d and S16). Therefore, the pH of phyllosilicate should be increased after proton-promoted processes to form the Fe(III)-HULIS. Single-particle analyses identified the presence of surface coating of Na and OCs on phyllosilicate particles, which was caused by internal mixing with submicron SSA or marine cloud water. A recent mesocosm experiment showed that submicron SSA is rapidly acidified to pH 2.0 because of water evaporation, uptake of acidic gases and/or displacement reaction  
395 of proton in organic acids by Na<sup>+</sup> (Angle et al., 2021). Our Na speciation results showed that organic salt of Na was present in submicron SSA (Fig. S8). If submicron SSA in ambient atmosphere has high aerosol acidity, the internal mixing of phyllosilicates and submicron SSA may not sufficiently increase the pH of phyllosilicates.

Another candidate is the evaporation-condensation cycles (cloud process) during transportation. The marine cloud water also can form Na and OCs coating on the phyllosilicate particles because Na and OCs as dominant components in the marine  
400 cloud water (Straub et al., 2007). Given that 500 nm of phyllosilicate particles with a 100 nm-thick water layer at pH 1.0 was incorporated into typical marine cloud water (diameter 10 μm, pH 4.0, Boris et al., 2016; Kim et al., 2019; Shah et al., 2020), the pH of the cloud water decreased by only 0.03 pH unit. The increase in aerosol pH by cloud processes decreases Fe<sub>sol</sub>% because of the precipitation of nano-ferrihydrite with the sole consideration of inorganic Fe chemistry (Spokes et al., 1994;



Shi et al., 2015; Maters et al., 2016). However, the nano-ferrihydrate precipitations were suppressed by the formation of Fe(III)-  
405 HULIS due to its high solubility. As a result, L-Fe obtained by proton-promoted dissolution below pH 2.0 was retained under moderately acidic conditions. Therefore, the role of HULIS is not to promote further Fe dissolution from aerosol particles, but to stabilize the L-Fe under moderately acidic conditions. This result was consistent with a previous laboratory experiment (Paris and Desboeufs, 2013).

In summary, Fe in  $PM_{1.3}$  was solubilized by the proton-promoted dissolution, and subsequently solubilized Fe were  
410 stabilized as L-Fe by organic complexation with HULIS in the cloud processes (Fig. 10). In the case of WPO samples, aerosol acidification and stabilization of L-Fe was caused in East Asia and the Pacific Ocean, respectively. This result is consistent with the hypothesis suggested by Buck et al. (2013). The studies implied that atmospheric processing after passing over Japan are not important to solubilize Fe because significant differences of  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in the North Pacific Ocean has not been observed (Buck et al., 2013). The stabilization of L-Fe species may play a critical role in the supply of dissolved Fe from aerosol  
415 particles to the ocean surface. Given that  $\log K_{HULIS}$  in aerosol particles is a strong ligand on the ocean surface ( $L_1$ ,  $\log K > 12$ ), Fe(III)-HULIS dissolved without the consumption of  $L_1$  ligands on the ocean surface. This phenomenon possibly promoted further Fe dissolution with moderately water-soluble species (e.g., nano-ferrihydrate) by complexation with the  $L_1$  or weaker ligands ( $L_2$ ,  $\log K$ : 11–12) on the ocean surface (Gledhill and Buck, 2012). When  $\log K_{HULIS}$  was similar to weak or super-weak ligands ( $\log K < 11$ ), the probabilities of encountering  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  ligands with Fe(III)-HULIS  
420 increased by the expanding lifetime of dissolved Fe (hours to days, Meskhidze et al., 2017). Thus, Fe(III)-HULIS strongly influences the fate of dissolved Fe in the ocean from aerosol particles. Further investigations of atmospheric organic ligands combined with Fe in aerosol particles are necessary to extend our knowledge on the biogeochemical cycle of Fe.

#### 425 4.2. Importance of size-fractionated aerosol particles

Thus, Fe in  $PM_{1.3}$  was solubilized by atmospheric processes during transportation. These results could not be  
obtained if we collected TSP rather than size-fractionated aerosol particles. This is because the abundance of Fe(III)-  
HULIS is approximately 5% of total Fe in TSP, which was below the detection limit of XAFS spectroscopy. Previous  
studies have also suggested the presence of Fe(III)-sulfate as L-Fe species by spot analysis using microscopic XAFS,  
430 but Fe(III)-sulfate were not detected by macroscopic XAFS because of lower abundance of the species in TSP (Oakes et al., 2012; Kurisu et al., 2021). Therefore, size-fractionated aerosol sampling is needed to identify L-Fe species in the marine aerosol particles.

In general, the cutoff diameter for size-fractionated aerosol sampling is 2.5  $\mu m$ , but this may not be enough to separate the L-Fe species with high  $Fe_{sol}\%$  from the less aged mineral dust. Our results showed that high  $Fe_{sol}\%$





435 associated with Fe(III)-HULIS was found in  $PM_{1.3}$ . In contrast, aerosol particles in stage-4 (hereafter,  $PM_{1.3-2.3}$  is  
described as  $PM_{1.0-2.5}$  for the simplification) did not have high  $Fe_{sol}\%$  because mineral dust in the fractions was not  
acidified beyond the buffering capacity of  $CaCO_3$ . This result is consistent with previous studies because aerosol pH in  
 $PM_{1.0-2.5}$  was higher than those in  $PM_{1.0}$  because of larger and smaller contributions of non-volatile cations (e.g., Ca and  
Na) and sulfates in  $PM_{1.0-2.5}$  compared to  $PM_{1.0}$ , respectively (Fang et al., 2017; Guo et al., 2018). Furthermore, in the  
440 case of our sample, about 40% (11.9-58.9%) of the total Fe in  $PM_{2.5}$  was contained in  $PM_{1.0-2.5}$ . In the analysis of the  
 $PM_{2.5}$ , the relative abundances of L-Fe concentrations in  $PM_{1.0}$  were diluted by insoluble Fe in  $PM_{1.0-2.5}$ . This is also true  
for the investigation of pyrogenic Fe with high  $Fe_{sol}\%$ . Previous studies showed that low Fe isotope ratio associated with  
pyrogenic Fe was found in  $PM_{1.3}$ , whereas the isotope ratio in  $PM_{1.0-2.5}$  was similar to Fe in crustal materials (Kurusu et  
al., 2016, 2019). For these reasons, two-stage aerosol sampling with a cutoff diameter of 1.0  $\mu m$  or multi-stage aerosol  
445 sampling is desirable to investigate the factors controlling the  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in marine aerosol particles. Since size-fractionated  
aerosol sampling recovered small amount of sample in each stage compared to TSP sampling (Sakata et al., 2018; Baker  
et al., 2020), the developments of analytical techniques for low concentration of trace metal are essential.

## 5. Conclusions

450 In this study, size-fractionated aerosol particles were collected in the Pacific Ocean. About 80% of total Fe were present  
in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$ , whereas  $PM_{1.3}$  accounted for about 60% of L-Fe in TSP. The average  $Fe_{sol}\%$  in  $PM_{1.3}$  ( $22.3 \pm 21.7\%$ ) was about an  
order magnitude of higher than that in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  ( $2.56 \pm 2.53\%$ ). The Fe species in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  were ferrihydrite, hematite, biotite,  
and illite. These Fe were similar to those in mineral dust. The Fe in  $PM_{1.3-10.2}$  was not well solubilized during transportation  
because mineral dust in the fraction was not acidified beyond the buffering capacity of  $CaCO_3$ . In the case of  $PM_{1.3}$  with  
455 positive  $[H^+]_{minerals}$ , Fe(III)-HULIS was present as specific L-Fe species in  $PM_{1.3}$ . The species were formed by the chemical  
alteration of biotite. The chemical alteration of biotite in  $PM_{1.3}$  was confirmed by bulk Al speciation and single-particle analysis  
of mineral dust because secondary Al species (e.g., gibbsite, Al-sulfate, and organo-Al) were present in the  $PM_{1.3}$ . Thus, the  
Al species can be used as a good indicator of the degree of phyllosilicate alterations. As a result of pH estimation using a  
conceptual model, Fe in mineral dust was solubilized under highly acidic conditions ( $pH < 3.0$ ). Subsequently, Fe(III)-HULIS  
460 was formed in marine cloud water under moderately acidic conditions ( $3.0 < pH < 6.0$ ). The role of the complexation reaction  
of Fe with HULIS is the stabilization of L-Fe rather than the further promotion of Fe dissolution from aerosol particles. At  
present, thermodynamic data of HULIS with Fe in  $PM_{1.3}$  are not enough to evaluate the effects of HULIS on Fe dissolution.  
Therefore, further observations and laboratory experiments on the complex formation between HULIS and Fe are expected to  
improve our understanding of the effect of HULIS on Fe dissolution.

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*Data availability.* The data are available upon request (Kohei Sakata, sakata.kohei@nies.go.jp).





*Supplement.* The supplement related to this article is available online at XXXX.

470 *Author contributions.* The study was designed by Kohei Sakata (K.S.), Hiroshi Tanimoto (H.T.), and Yoshio Takahashi (Yo.T.).  
Aerosol sampling was conducted by K.S., Aya Sakaguchi (A.S.), and Atsushi Matsuki (A.M.). Quantitative analyses were  
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Tamenori (Yu. T.), and Yasuo Takeichi (Ya.T.). Single particle analyses were performed by K.S., Ya.T., and Yo. T. The model  
calculations were performed by K.S. The paper was written by K.S., H.T., and Yo.T. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

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*Competing interests.* The authors declare no competing interests.

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485 **Figure captions**

Figure 1: Track chart of the research cruise of KH-14-6 (R/V Hakuho-Maru) and sampling locations of WPO, CPO and SPO samples. Red circle showed the locations of Beijing and Noto Ground-Based Research Observatory (NOTOGRO).

Figure 2: Backward trajectories of (a) WPO1, (b) WPO2, (c) WPO3, (d) CPO, and (e) SPO obtained by the ensemble mode. The backward trajectories were calculated at midpoint of each sampling region shown in Fig. S1. Duration of WPO1 to WPO3 were 5 days, where those for CPO and SPO samples were 7 days.

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Figure 3: (a) total Fe ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ), (b) labile Fe ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ), (c)  $\text{Fe}_{\text{sol}}\%$ , (d) EF of Fe, (e) total Al ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ), (f) labile Al ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ), and (g)  $\text{Al}_{\text{sol}}\%$  in TSP.

Figure 4: Size distributions of (a) total Fe ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ), (b) labile Fe ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ) (c)  $\text{Fe}_{\text{sol}}\%$ , (d) total Al ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ), (e) labile Al ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ), and (f)  $\text{Al}_{\text{sol}}\%$ . The  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  is shown in yellow regions.

495 Figure 5: (a) A scatter plot between  $\text{Fe}_{\text{sol}}\%$  and  $[\text{H}^+]_{\text{mineral}}$ . The blue region shows positive  $[\text{H}^+]_{\text{mineral}}$ . Size distributions of (b)  $[\text{H}^+]_{\text{mineral}}$  and (c)  $\text{nss-Ca}^{2+}$ . The  $\text{PM}_{1.3}$  is shown in yellow regions.

Figure 6: (a) Fraction of Fe species in each sample determined by Fe K-edge XANES spectroscopy. (b) Fe K-edge XANES spectra of reference materials. Colored spectra were used as reference materials for LCF, whereas black spectra were not assigned as dominant Fe species in our samples. Iron K-edge XANES spectra of size-fractionated aerosol particles collected in (c)WPO2 and (d) NOTOGRO. (d) a scatter plot between fraction of Fe(III)-HULIS and  $\text{Fe}_{\text{sol}}\%$ .

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Figure 7: Al K-edge XANES spectra of (a) WPO2 and (b) WPO3. Black and red solid line showed XANES spectra for aerosol particles and fitting spectra, respectively. Colored spectra with dashed line show fitting components. The Al K-edge XANES spectra of particle 1 to particle 3 in panel (a) were obtained by single particle analysis using STXM. The X-ray image of these particles are shown in Figure 9.

505 Figure 8: (a-1 and b-1) X-ray image at post-edge of C K-edge of single aerosol particles in S6-WPO2. (a-2 and b-2) RGB composites of Fe (R: red), carboxylates (G: green), and Na (B: blue). Distributions of carboxylates (OCs), K, Fe, Na, and Al are shown in panels (a-3 and b-3), (a-4 and b-4), (a-5 and b-5), (a-6 and b-6), and (a-7 and b-7), respectively. (a-8 and b-8) Carbon K-edge XANES spectra on the surface of each phyllosilicate particle. Particle 1 in panel (a) was covered with tiny amounts of OCs, whereas particles 2 and 3 in panel b is covered with aliphatic C. Gray, light green, pink, light blue, orange, and brown regions show the peak positions of aromatic C, ketonic C, aliphatic C, carboxylates, carbonate, and potassium, respectively.

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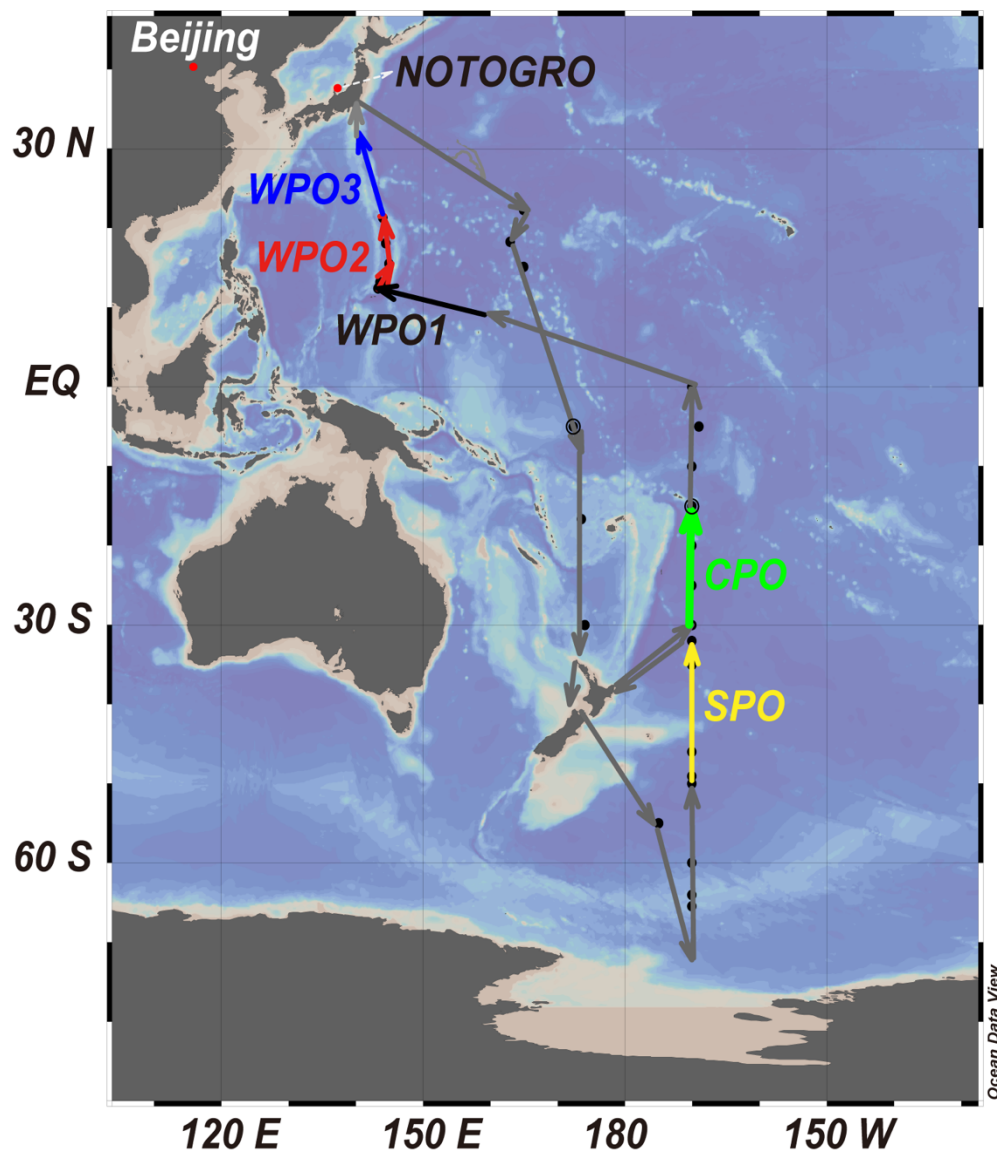
Figure 9: (a and c) dissolution curves for each Fe pool (colored dashed lines) and summation of all Fe pools (solid black line) in S6-WPO2 and S6-WPO3 as a function of dissolution time. Solid red line in these figures shows the observed L-Fe concentrations. The pH was set so that the total value reached the observed L-Fe in approximately 60 h (expected time for wet aerosol phase). (b and d) pH dependences of L-Fe species in ALW for S6-WPO2 and S6-WPO3. Pink

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and yellow regions show the aerosol pH for the proton-promoted dissolution (same pH as in panels a and c) and stable pH regions of Fe(III)-HULIS, respectively.

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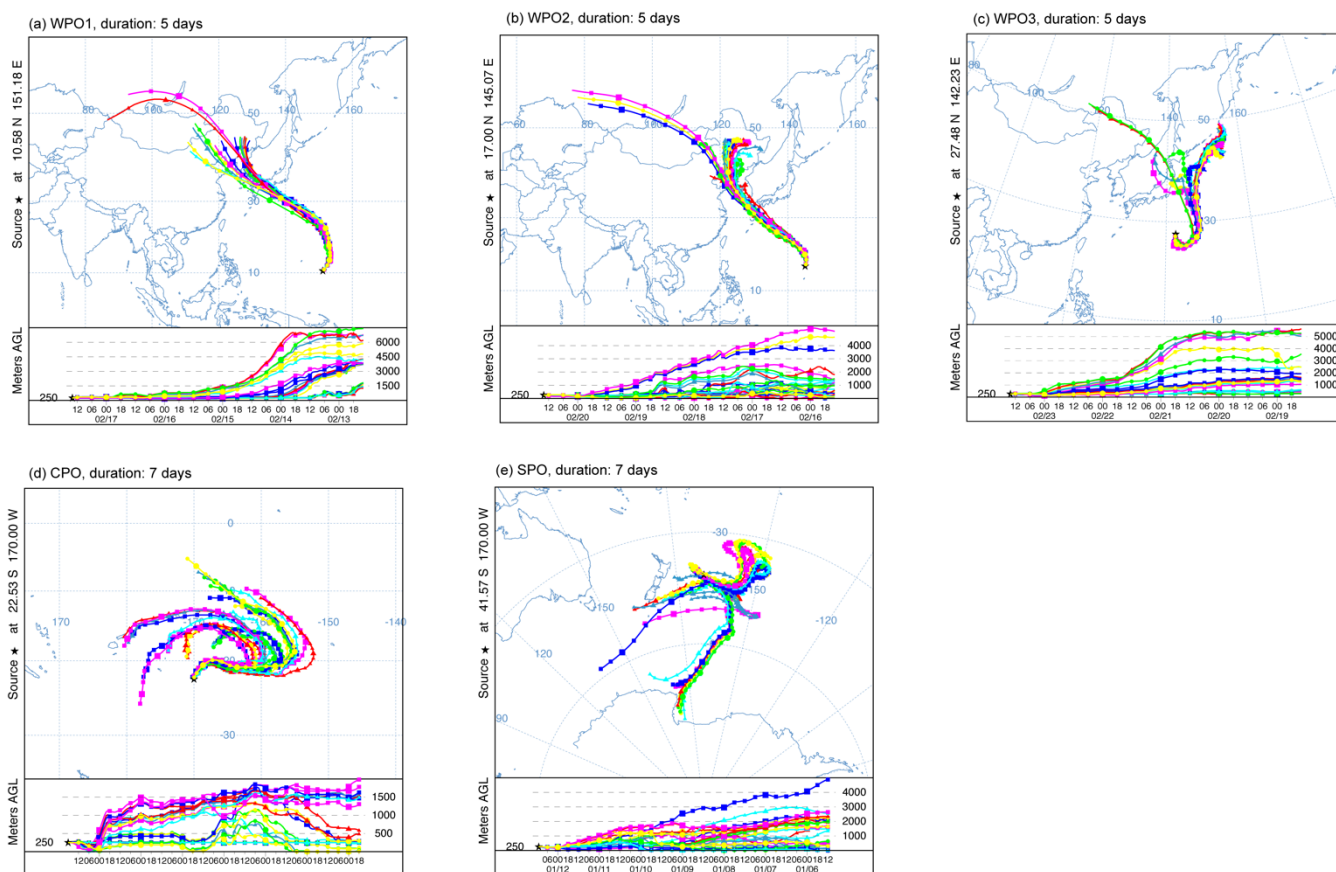
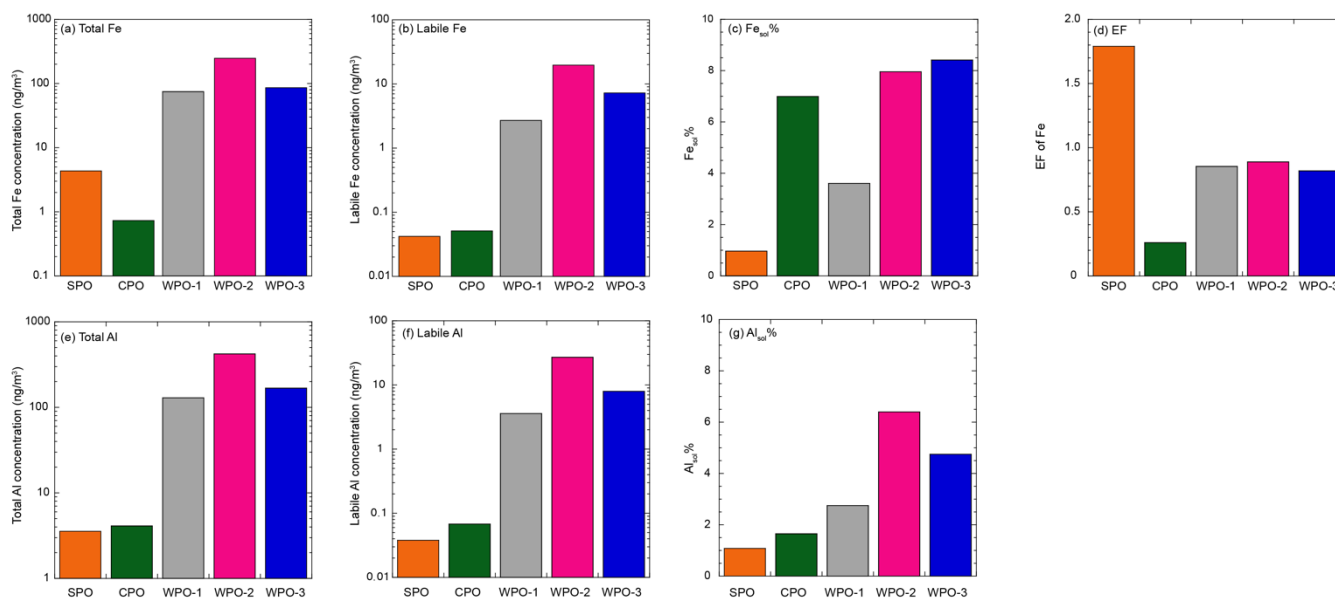


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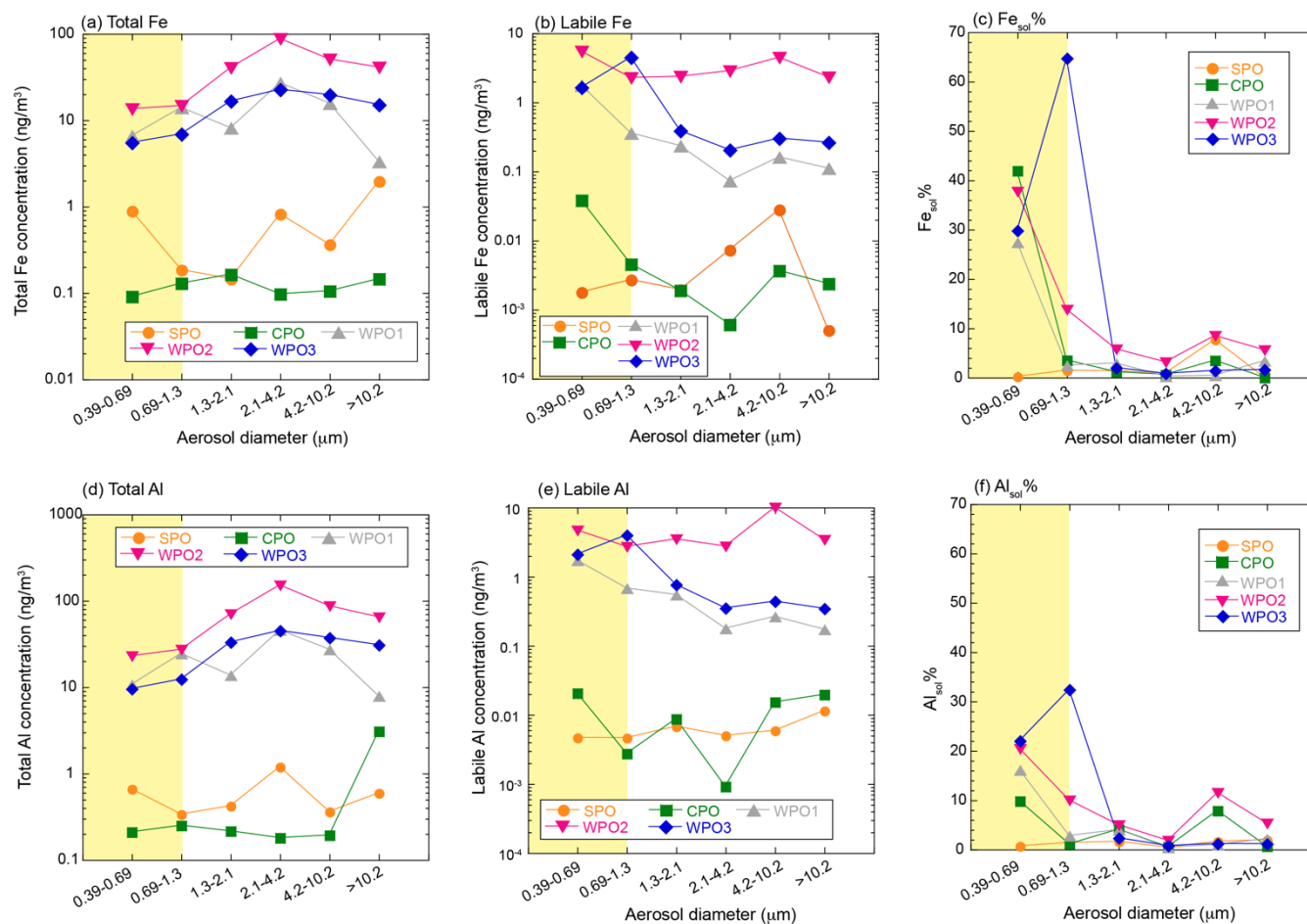


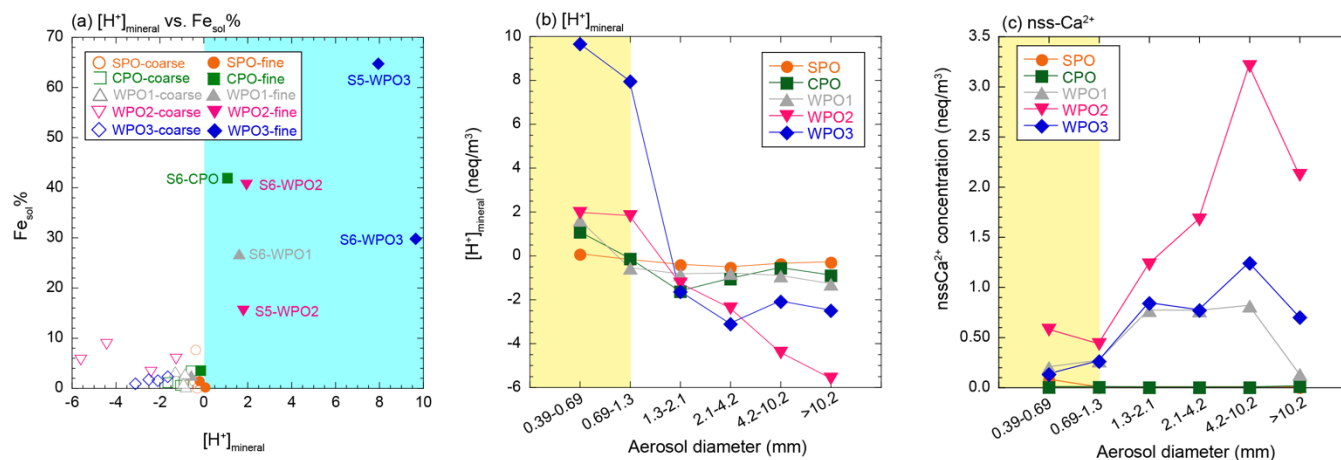
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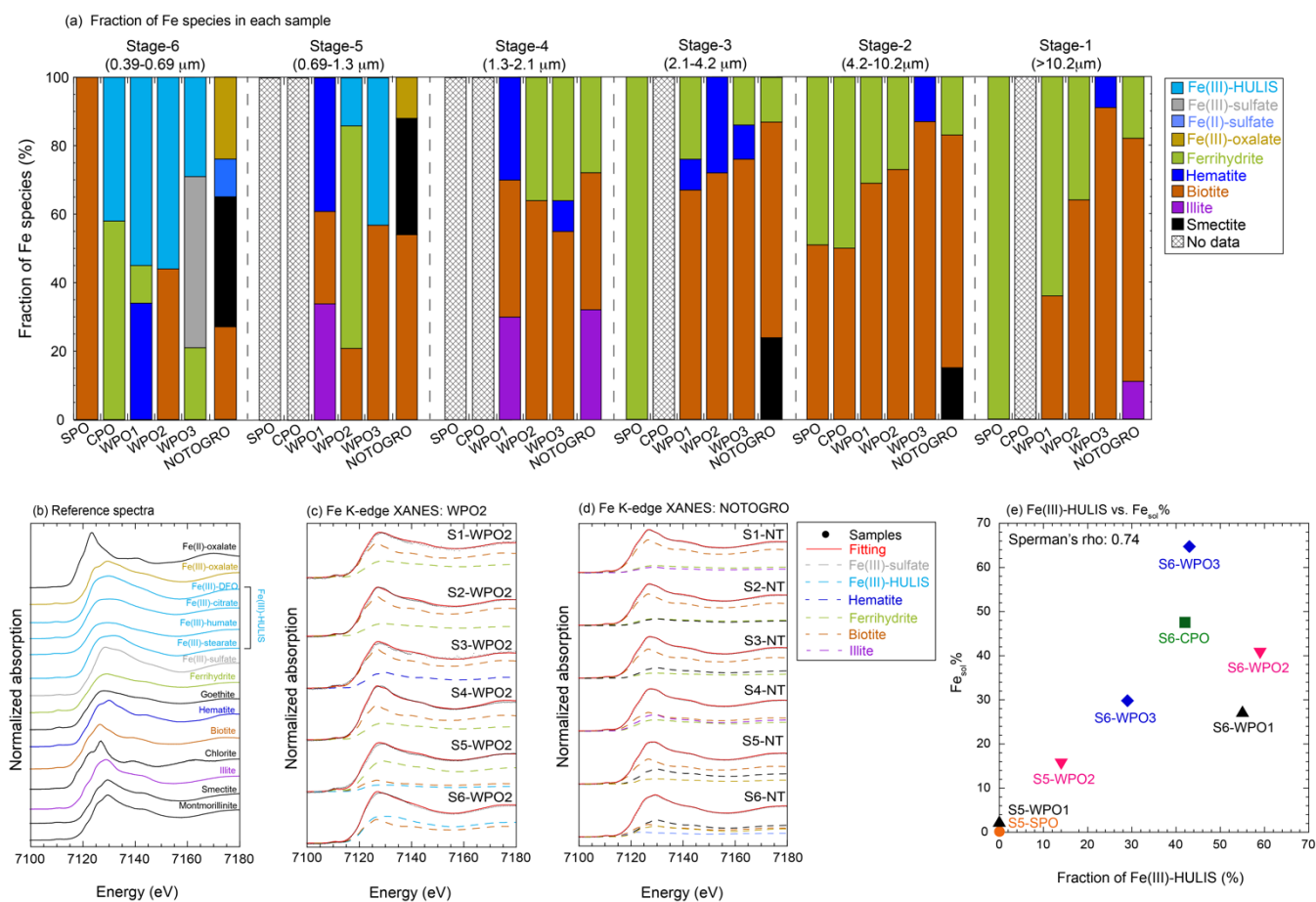
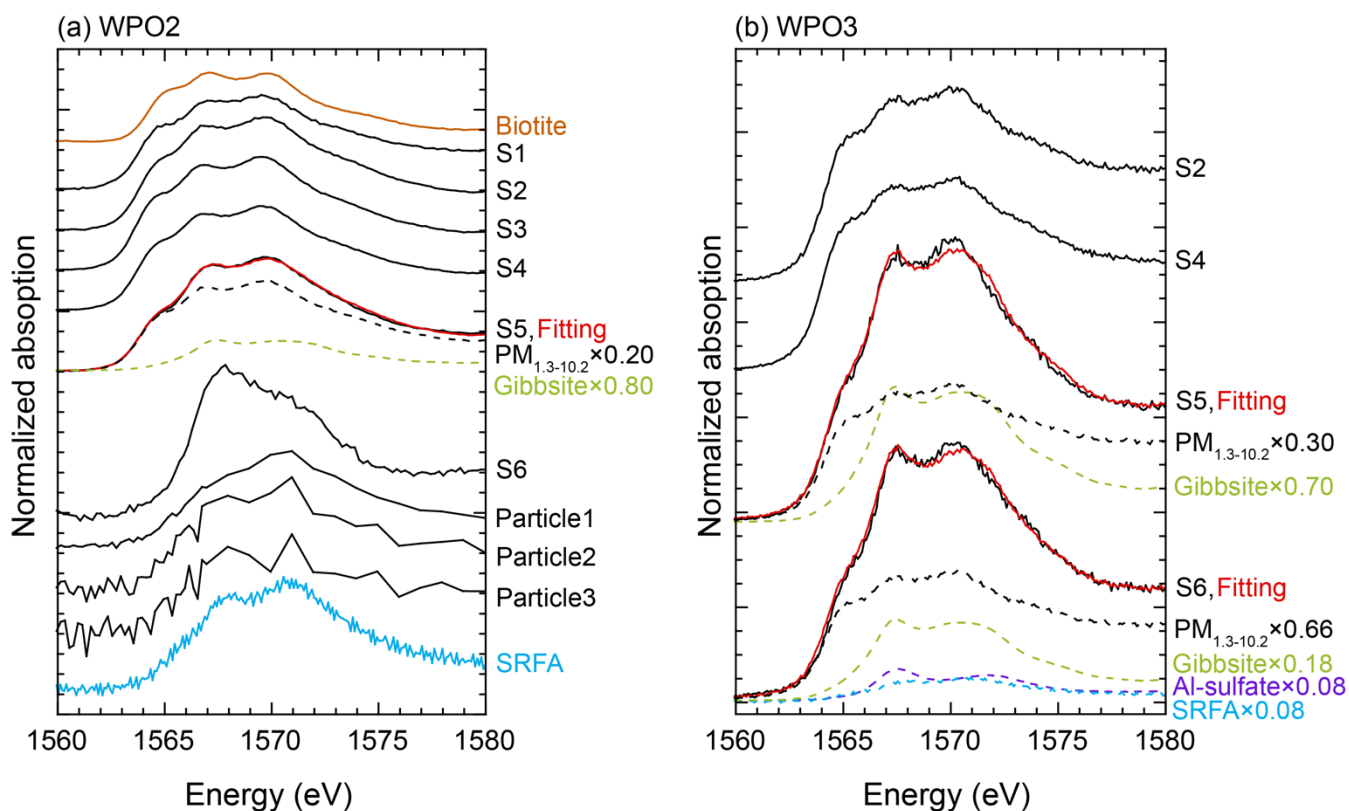


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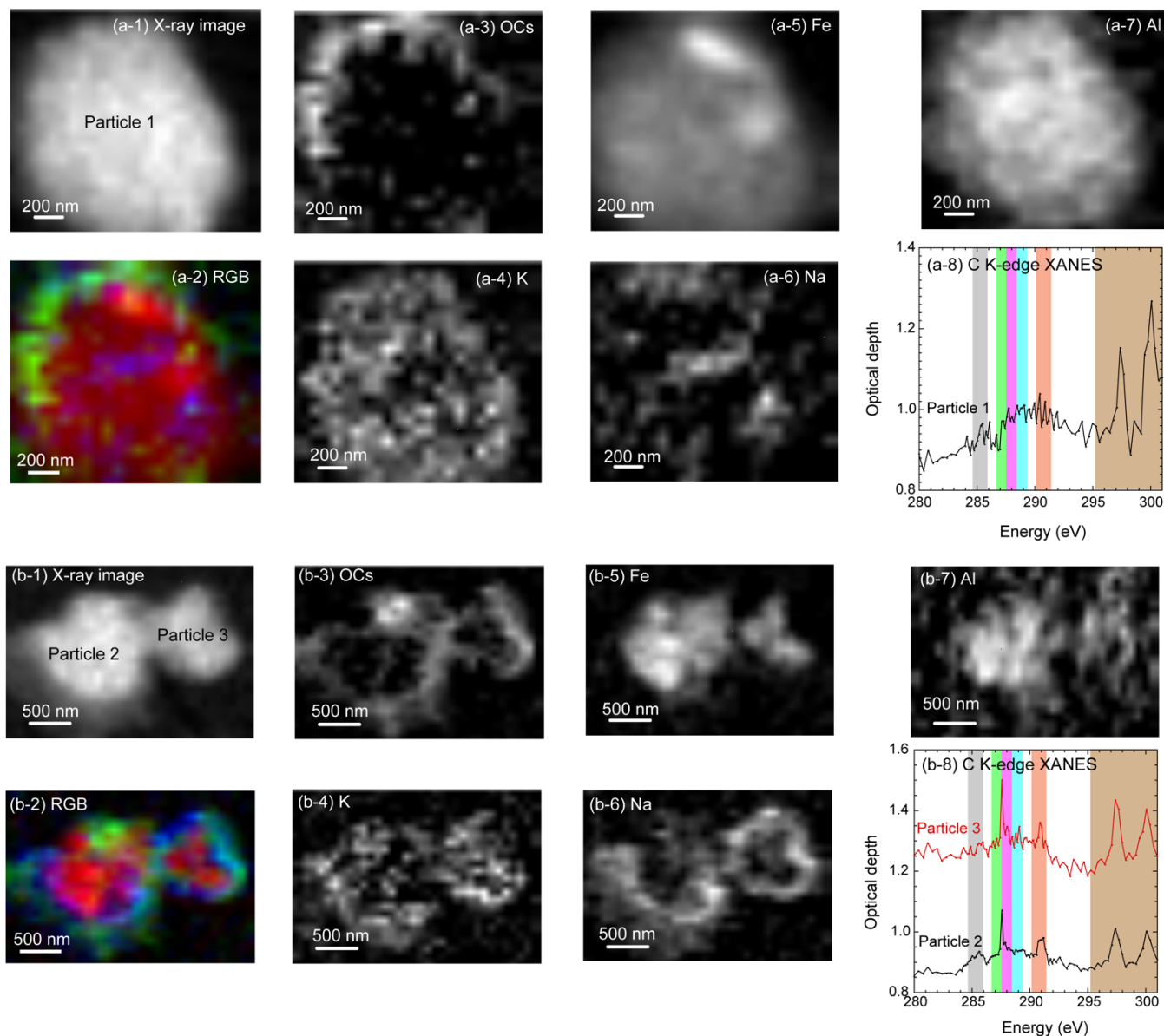


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595 Figure 7 Al K-edge XANES spectra of (a) WPO2 and (b) WPO3. Black and red solid line showed XANES spectra for aerosol particles and fitting spectra, respectively. Colored spectra with dashed line show fitting components. The Al K-edge XANES spectra of particle 1 to particle 3 in panel (a) were obtained by single particle analysis using STXM. The X-ray image of these particles are shown in Figure 9.

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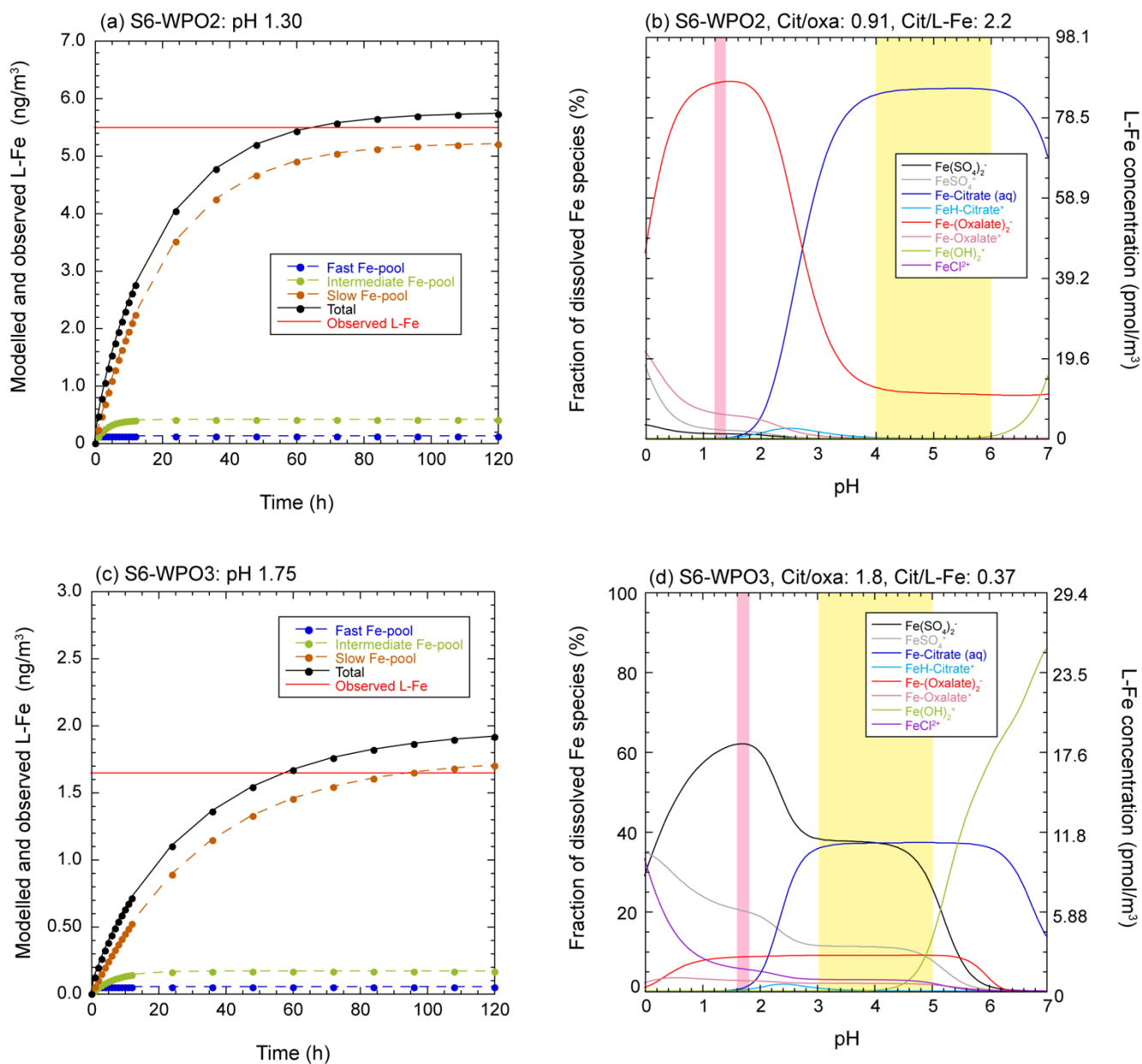
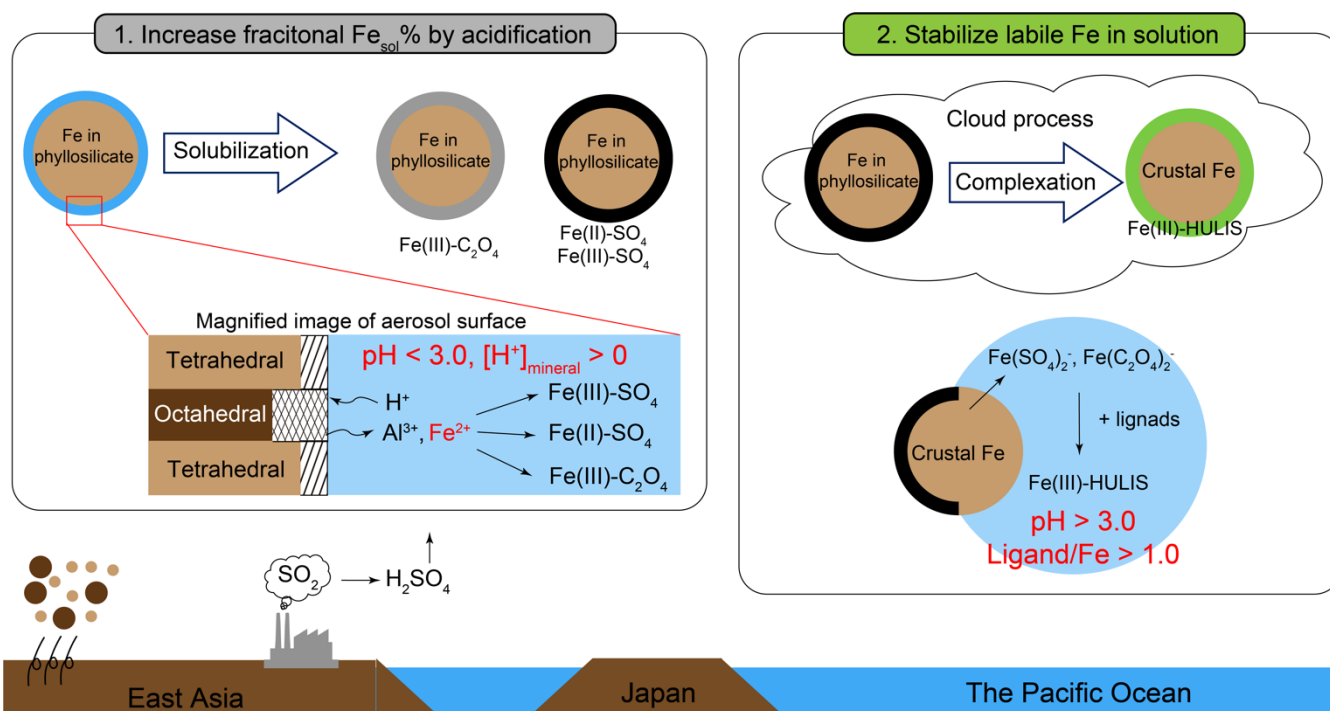


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Table 1. Model parameter for three Fe-pool model.

	pH <sub>PPD</sub>	Expected Fe species	%Fe(0)	Dissolution rate
Fast	1.0–2.0	Ferrihydrite	Fixed at 0.9	$\log k_{\text{fast}} = -0.50 \text{ pH}_{\text{PPD}} + 1.87$
	2.0–3.0	Poor crystalline Fe-oxides	$\% \text{FeT} = -0.4 \text{ pH}_{\text{PPD}} + 1.7$	
Intermediate	1.0–2.0	nano-size Fe-oxides	Fixed at 3.0	$\log k_{\text{intermediate}} = -0.66 \text{ pH}_{\text{PPD}} + 0.36$
	2.0–3.0		$\% \text{FeT} = -2.0 \text{ pH}_{\text{PPD}} + 7.0$	
Slow	1.0–2.0	Crystalline Fe-oxides Fe in clay mineral	$\% \text{FeT} = -15.2 \text{ pH}_{\text{PPD}} + 58.4$	$\log k'_{\text{slow}} = -0.44 \text{ pH}_{\text{PPD}} - 0.76$
	2.0–3.0			





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