

# Measurement report: Large contribution of biomass burning and aqueous-phase processes to the wintertime secondary organic aerosol formation in Xi'an, Northwest China

Jing Duan<sup>1</sup>, Ru-Jin Huang<sup>1,2</sup>, Yifang Gu<sup>1,2</sup>, Chunshui Lin<sup>1</sup>, Haobin Zhong<sup>1,2</sup>, Wei Xu<sup>1</sup>, Quan Liu<sup>3</sup>, Yan You<sup>4</sup>, Jurgita Ovadnevaite<sup>5</sup>, Darius Ceburnis<sup>5</sup>, Thorsten Hoffmann<sup>6</sup>, Colin O'Dowd<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>State Key Laboratory of Loess and Quaternary Geology (SKLLQG), CAS Center for Excellence in Quaternary Science and Global Change, Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi'an 710061, China

<sup>2</sup>University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

<sup>3</sup>China State Key Laboratory of Severe Weather & Key Laboratory of Atmospheric Chemistry of CMA, Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, Beijing 100081, China

<sup>4</sup>National Observation and Research Station of Coastal Ecological Environments in Macao, Macao Environmental Research Institute, Macau University of Science and Technology, Macao SAR 999078, China

<sup>5</sup>School of Physics and Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies, Ryan Institute, National University of Ireland Galway, University Road, Galway, H91CF50, Ireland

<sup>6</sup>Department of Chemistry, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Duesbergweg 10–14, Mainz 55128, Germany

**Correspondence:** Ru-Jin Huang (rujin.huang@ieecas.cn) or Quan Liu (liuq@cma.gov.cn)

## Abstract

Secondary organic aerosol (SOA) plays an important role in particulate air pollution, but its formation mechanism is still not fully understood. The chemical composition of non-refractory particulate matter with a diameter  $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$  (NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub>), OA sources, and SOA formation mechanisms were investigated in urban Xi'an during winter 2018. The fractional contribution of SOA to total OA mass (58%) was larger than primary OA (POA, 42%). A biomass burning-influenced oxygenated OA (OOA-BB) was resolved in urban Xi'an, which was formed from the photochemical oxidation and aging of biomass burning OA (BBOA). The formation of OOA-BB was more favorable in the days with larger OA fraction and higher BBOA concentration. In comparison, the aqueous-phase processed oxygenated OA (aq-OOA) was more dependent on secondary inorganic aerosol (SIA) content and aerosol liquid water content (ALWC), and increased largely to 50% of OA during SIA-enhanced periods. Further Van Krevelen (VK) diagram analysis suggests the increased aq-OOA contributions during SIA-enhanced periods were likely from alcohol or peroxide addition in the OA aqueous-phase oxidation processes.

## 1 Introduction

Particulate matter with a diameter  $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$  (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in the atmosphere has become an important environmental problem for climate, visibility and human health, especially in China with rapid

industrialization, urbanization and population expansion (Huang et al., 2014; Lelieveld et al., 2015; Peng et al., 2016; An et al., 2019). Most megacities in China are frequently plagued by severe particulate pollution in recent years, attracting extensive attention and research on its composition characteristics and formation mechanisms (Guo et al., 2014; Hu et al., 2013, 2016; Li et al., 2017; Tong et al., 2017; Sun et al., 2016, 2018). The haze pollution occurs more frequently in winter with unfavorable meteorological conditions, and myriad variables, such as complex emission sources, pollutant lifetimes, and atmospheric reactions (Sun et al., 2013, 2014; Elser et al., 2016; Hu et al., 2016; An et al., 2019; Kuang et al., 2020).

Fine particles can be either emitted directly from primary sources that refers to as primary aerosol, or produced in the atmosphere through gas-to-particle conversion or aging of primary aerosol, which refers to as secondary aerosol (Jimenez et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2010; Xu et al., 2017). Numerous studies have elucidated the increasing importance of secondary aerosol in haze pollution (Sun et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2014, 2019; An et al., 2019; Duan et al., 2020). However, the formation and evolution of secondary aerosol, especially secondary organic aerosol (SOA), is still not well understood and becoming a critical concern for air pollution research (Gilardoni et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2017; Kuang et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022; Lv et al., 2022). Variable precursors, complex transformation and aging chemistry of SOA lead to insufficient cognition of its formation and uncertainty in model simulation (Shrivastava et al., 2017).

Field studies based on aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) combined with OA source apportionment techniques (Paatero, 1999; DeCarlo et al., 2006; Canonaco et al., 2013) have been conducted in China to resolve SOA sources and investigate its formation and evolution mechanisms (Hu et al., 2013, 2016; Sun et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2017, 2019). Gas-phase photochemical oxidation has been considered as a major pathway of SOA formation in a number of studies, according to the correlation between SOA and odd oxygen, which defined as Ox ( $Ox = O_3 + NO_2$ ) (Sun et al., 2014; Elser et al., 2016; Hu et al., 2016). However, recent studies also revealed the important contribution of aqueous-phase chemistry to SOA formation, which is also missing in SOA simulation and difficult to identify (Guo et al., 2014; Sun et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2017, 2019; Huang et al., 2020; Li et al., 2021). For example, Sun et al. (2016) resolved an aqueous-phase-processed SOA (aq-OOA) which significantly affected OA oxidation state in high RH conditions (>50%). The results of Wang et al (2017) and Xu et al. (2017) indicated that aqueous-phase chemistry played a dominant role in the formation of more-oxidized-oxygenated OA (MO-OOA). Kuang et al. (2020) further resolved the contribution of photochemical aqueous-phase chemistry in wintertime haze pollution which induced the rapid formation of SOA in the daytime.

As the largest city of the Guanzhong basin, one of the top three regions in China's air cleaning campaign, Xi'an has suffered serious particulate pollution in recent years due to the rapid urbanization, while research on aerosol composition and SOA formation mechanisms are still limited in the region (Elser et al., 2016; Zhong et al., 2020; Duan et al., 2021). Elser et al (2016) analyzed the chemical composition and OA sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> during the heavy pollution period of 2013 in Xi'an using a high resolution

AMS (HR-AMS), and found the contribution of SOA increased during extreme haze events, but the SOA formation mechanism and OA oxidation state during haze pollution were not well analyzed. As multiple control measures have been implemented in Xi'an, such as the 13th five-year energy conservation and emission reduction plan (Wan et al., 2022), and motor vehicle restrictions, it is expected that aerosol composition and sources have largely varied in recent years, while direct elucidation and characterization are lack. Recent studies showed that biomass burning and secondary formation dominated OA concentration in Xi'an, which in total contributed >50% of total OA in both autumn and winter (Zhong et al., 2020). In addition, Xiao et al. (2020) reported that biomass burning sources, especially residential biofuel, can contribute to increased urban NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. Several studies also indicated that biomass burning is an important source of light absorption components in Xi'an (Zhang et al., 2020; Yuan et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022). Wu et al. (2018) revealed that simultaneously elevated RH and anthropogenic secondary inorganic aerosol resulted in an abundant ALWC, which can further facilitate the formation of heavy haze. Zhong et al. (2020) indicated that OOA formation was most likely dominated by aqueous-phase processes when Ox was <35 ppb in autumn and winter Xi'an, and Duan et al. (2021) found that persistently high RH/ALWC was the driving factor of aq-OOA formation in summer Xi'an, and the increasing trend of aq-OOA was much consistent with that of nitrate. These studies indicated the importance of biomass burning as well as aqueous-phase reactions in Xi'an, which need further elucidation.

In this study, PM<sub>2.5</sub> composition was measured during the heating season of 2018 in Xi'an using a soot particle long-time-of-flight AMS (SP-LToF-AMS). Chemical composition and OA sources were analyzed and compared with those resolved in Elser et al (2016), in order to elucidate the aerosol variation in recent years due to emission controls. Meanwhile, the SOA formation mechanisms and its contribution to haze event were investigated and compared with those in the summer of 2019 (Duan et al., 2021).

## 2 Experimental

### 2.1 Sampling

The winter campaign was conducted from 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the campus of the Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences (34°23'N, 108°89', 12 m above the ground level) in downtown Xi'an with surrounding residential, commercial, and traffic areas (Duan et al., 2021).

A SP-LToF-AMS (Aerodyne Research Inc.) was deployed for the online characterization of PM<sub>2.5</sub> with a time resolution of 1 min. The detailed instrument description could be found in Onasch et al. (2012) and a similar operation was conducted as that in Duan et al. (2021). The contribution of black carbon (BC) was not considered, and only NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> composition, including organics (OA), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>), and chloride (Cl<sup>-</sup>) were analyzed. Briefly, ambient air was sampled into the room at a flow rate of 5 L min<sup>-1</sup>. After being dried by a Nafion dryer (MD-700-24S, Perma

Pure, Inc.), the ambient aerosol was focused into a particle beam using an PM<sub>2.5</sub> aerodynamic lens, and was sub-sampled into the SP-LToF-AMS at a flow rate of  $\sim 0.1 \text{ L min}^{-1}$ . The particle beam was then vaporized upon impacting the heated tungsten surface ( $\sim 600 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and ionized by electron ionization (70 eV) to produce positive fragments, which were detected and analyzed by the LToF mass spectrometer. The ionization efficiency (IE) as well as relative ionization efficiency (RIE) calibrations were conducted during the campaign, using the 350 nm (Dm) ammonium nitrate (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>) and ammonium sulfate ((NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) particles (Jimenez et al., 2003). Meanwhile, gases species including CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> were measured using a Thermo Scientific Model 48i carbon monoxide analyzer, a Thermo Scientific Model 42i NO–NO<sub>2</sub>–NO<sub>x</sub> analyzer, a Thermo Scientific Model 49i ozone analyzer, and an Ecotech EC 9850 sulfur dioxide analyzer, respectively. ~~Meanwhile, gases species including CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> were measured using Thermo Scientific gases monitors. The meteorological parameters including relative humidity (RH), temperature, wind speed, and wind direction were measured by an automatic weather station (MAWS201, Vaisala, Vantaa, Finland) and a wind sensor (Vaisala Model QMW101-M2), respectively and the meteorological parameters including relative humidity (RH) and temperature were measured by an automatic weather station (MAWS201, Vaisala, Vantaa, Finland).~~

## 2.2 Data analysis

The SQUIRREL (version 1.61D) and PIKA (1.21D) coded in Igor Pro 6.37 (WaveMetrics) were used to analyze the SP-LToF-AMS data. Standard RIEs of 1.4, 1.1 and 1.3 were used for organics, nitrate and chloride, respectively, while experimentally determined RIEs of 3.7 and 1.3 were used for ammonium and sulfate, respectively. Meanwhile, the composition-dependent collection efficiency (CDCE) was used to calibrate and compensate for the incomplete detection due to particle bounce (Middlebrook et al., 2012). Note RH was not considered in the CDCE calculations as a Nafion dryer was used and the RH effects on collection efficiency were much reduced. The elemental ratios including oxygen-to-carbon (O/C), organic mass-to-organic carbon (OM/OC) and hydrogen-to-carbon (H/C) were also analyzed for the high-resolution OA mass spectra based on the Improved Ambient (I-A) method (Canagaratna et al., 2015). Meanwhile, the data and error matrices of high-resolution OA mass spectra for m/z 12-120 were preprocessed, and OA source apportionment was performed using Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) and multilinear engine (ME-2) in Igor Pro (Paatero, 1999), as conducted in Duan et al (2021).

~~Six OA sources were resolved, including a hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA), a cooking OA (COA), a biomass burning OA (BBOA), a coal combustion OA (CCOA), a biomass burning influenced oxygenated OA (OOA-BB), and an aqueous phase processed oxygenated OA (aq-OOA) (Fig. S1 and Fig. 2). Both the mass spectrum of HOA and COA are characterized by prominent hydrocarbon ion series of C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n+1</sub><sup>+</sup> and C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n+3</sub><sup>+</sup>, while the COA contains higher signal at C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n+1</sub><sup>+</sup> than C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n+3</sub><sup>+</sup>, an especially much higher signal ratio of C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup>/C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub><sup>+</sup> which is the typical characteristic of COA profile as reported in previous studies at various urban sites (He et al., 2011; Ng et al., 2011a). The HOA was~~

emitted mainly from local traffic with mass peaks in traffic hours, and COA was dominantly associated with the cooking emissions, exhibiting mass peaks at around breakfast, lunch and dinner times (Fig. S1). Meanwhile, the time series of COA correlated well with that of  $C_6H_{10}O^+$  ( $r=0.85$ ), which is a tracer fragment of cooking emissions (Hu et al., 2016) (Fig. S1). The mass spectrum of CCOA is dominated by unsaturated hydrocarbons, particularly polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)-related ion peaks (e.g.,  $m/z$  77, 91 and 115) (Dall'Osto et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2013). In comparison, BBOA was mainly emitted from the combustion of biomass fuel such as wood or straw, with the tracer signal at  $m/z$  60 (dominantly  $C_2H_4O_2^+$ ), which is mainly enhanced by biomass burning tracer levoglucosan and related species (mannosan, galactosan, etc.) (Cubison et al., 2011). Consistently, a good correlation between the time series of BBOA and the  $C_2H_4O_2^+$  fragment was also observed ( $r=0.95$ ) (Fig. S1). Two SOAs including OOA-BB and aq-OOA both contain prominent peaks at  $m/z$  44 (mainly  $CO_2^+$ ), but the mass spectrum of OOA-BB shows a higher peak at  $m/z$  43 (mainly  $C_2H_3O^+$ ) and a lower O/C ratio (0.57) than that of aq-OOA (0.82). The tight correlation between the time series of  $C_2H_3O^+$  and OOA-BB ( $r=0.83$ ) also suggests its less oxidized property (Fig. S1). In comparison, aq-OOA has a mass spectrum with a much higher peak at  $m/z$  44 (mainly  $CO_2^+$ ) than  $m/z$  43, and a largely different time series with OOA-BB, implying different formation processes between OOA-BB and aq-OOA which will be discussed in detail in the sections 3.2 and 3.3, respectively.

In addition, the aerosol liquid water content (ALWC) was also calculated based on the ISORROPIA-II model, using inorganic aerosol composition ( $NH_4^+$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ) combined with ambient temperature and RH as input data (Fountoukis and Nenes, 2007). The simulation was run in “metastable” mode in which all components are assumed to be deliquescent and no solid matter is present. The thermodynamic equilibrium and phase state of those inorganic species were then simulated and the ALWC was resolved.

### 3 Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Overview of NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> composition and OA sources in winter Xi'an

During the winter of 2018 in Xi'an, NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration varied from 5.9  $\mu g m^{-3}$  to 205.6  $\mu g m^{-3}$ , with an average of  $68.0 \pm 42.8 \mu g m^{-3}$  (see Fig. 1 and Table S1, note that all the values throughout the results and discussion are the arithmetic means and standard deviations of the per-minute samples over the campaign or specified sub-period). This average concentration was higher than that measured in the summer of 2019 in Xi'an ( $22.3 \pm 11.7 \mu g m^{-3}$ , Duan et al., 2021), due to the increase of source emissions in winter than in summer which was also observed in other cities (Sun et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2014, 2016). Meanwhile, the average NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration observed in our study was much lower than those observed in the winter of 2013 in Xi'an ( $125.0 \pm 99.0 \mu g m^{-3}$  during reference days and  $498.0 \pm 146.0 \mu g m^{-3}$  during haze days, respectively) (Elser et al., 2016), pointing to an improved air quality. However, haze events with NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations higher than 100  $\mu g m^{-3}$  were still observed frequently during the campaign, indicating some overlooked pollution sources or atmospheric formation pathways which require further attention. As for the chemical composition, OA constituted a dominant

fraction of 54% in total NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass, lower than that observed in summer Xi'an (63%). Nitrate contributed 20% to total NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass, followed by sulfate (13%), ammonium (10%), and chloride (3%). The higher contribution of nitrate than sulfate was opposite to that in summer with higher contribution from sulfate (17%) than nitrate (12%), suggesting the increased formation and contribution of nitrate in winter pollution, likely due to the much lower temperature in winter which ~~facilitated~~~~promoted~~ the transformation of nitrate from gas-phase to particle-phase (Duan et al., 2021). Meanwhile, the contribution of nitrate in our campaign was also higher than that observed in Xi'an during the winter of 2013 (by 13% during haze days and by 10% during reference days, respectively) (Elser et al., 2016), suggesting the increasing importance of nitrate pollution over sulfate pollution in recent years, consistent with the interannual evolution trend of nitrate observed in Beijing (Xu et al., 2019).

A continuous and large increase of secondary inorganic aerosol (SIA, nitrate + sulfate + ammonium, ~~Schaap et al., 2011; Fu et al., 2016~~) was observed during two periods, including period 1 from 2018/12/30 0:00 to 2019/1/15 6:00 (SIA-enhanced period 1, SIA\_P1) and period 2 from 2019/2/7 0:00 to 2019/3/4 23:00 (SIA-enhanced period 2, SIA\_P2)~~including period 1 from 2018/12/30 to 2019/1/15 (SIA-enhanced period 1, SIA\_P1) and period 2 from 2019/2/7 to 2019/3/4 (SIA-enhanced period 2, SIA\_P2)~~. The other periods are defined as reference days. During the reference days, OA contributed a major fraction of ~~65~~66% to total NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass, even higher than that during the summer of 2019 in Xi'an (63%) (Duan et al., 2021). In comparison, from reference days to SIA\_P1 and SIA\_P2, the contribution of OA decreased from 66% to 52% and 44%, respectively, and the contribution of SIA increased from 30% to 45% and 53%, accordingly. Meanwhile, the SIA-enhanced periods were also related to higher PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration, which increased from 44.1  $\pm$  25.5  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during reference days to 131.0  $\pm$  49.6  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during SIA\_P1 and 84.9  $\pm$  30.7  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during SIA\_P2, suggesting the much important contribution of SIA in the formation of haze pollution in winter Xi'an (~~Zhong et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2021~~). The major difference between SIA-enhanced periods and reference days was the much frequent occurrence of higher relative humidity (RH > 60%) and ALWC concentration (ALWC > 10  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) during SIA\_P1 and SIA\_P2 than reference days (~~Fig. S1~~). These indicated the more frequent occurrence of liquid condition during SIA periods than reference days. According to previous studies, high RH and liquid phase reactions played important roles in the formation of secondary inorganic aerosol, such as sulfate and nitrate (Sun et al., 2016; Wu et al., 2018). These indicated suggesting that high RH and liquid phase condition may drive the large production of SIA in winter Xi'an (Fig. S2) (Xu et al., 2019; Duan et al., 2021).

During our measurement, the concentration of ammonium increased from 3.3  $\pm$  2.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during reference days to 13.3  $\pm$  6.5  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during SIA\_P1 and 10.8  $\pm$  4.6  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during SIA\_P2, consistent with the variation trends of sulfate and nitrate, in which sulfate increased from 3.5  $\pm$  2.8  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during reference days to 18.4  $\pm$  10.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during SIA\_P1 and 14.7  $\pm$  7.2  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during SIA\_P2, and nitrate increased from 6.8  $\pm$  4.9  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during reference days to 27.4  $\pm$  13.4  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during SIA\_P1 and 19.9  $\pm$  9.3  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  during SIA\_P2. The equivalent molar concentration of ammonium correlated tightly with



that of the total of sulfate and nitrate with a slope  $\approx 1$  during all the three periods including reference days, SIA\_P1, and SIA\_P2, suggesting ammonium was mainly neutralized by sulfate and nitrate in winter Xi'an both in reference days and SIA-enhanced periods (Fig. S2).

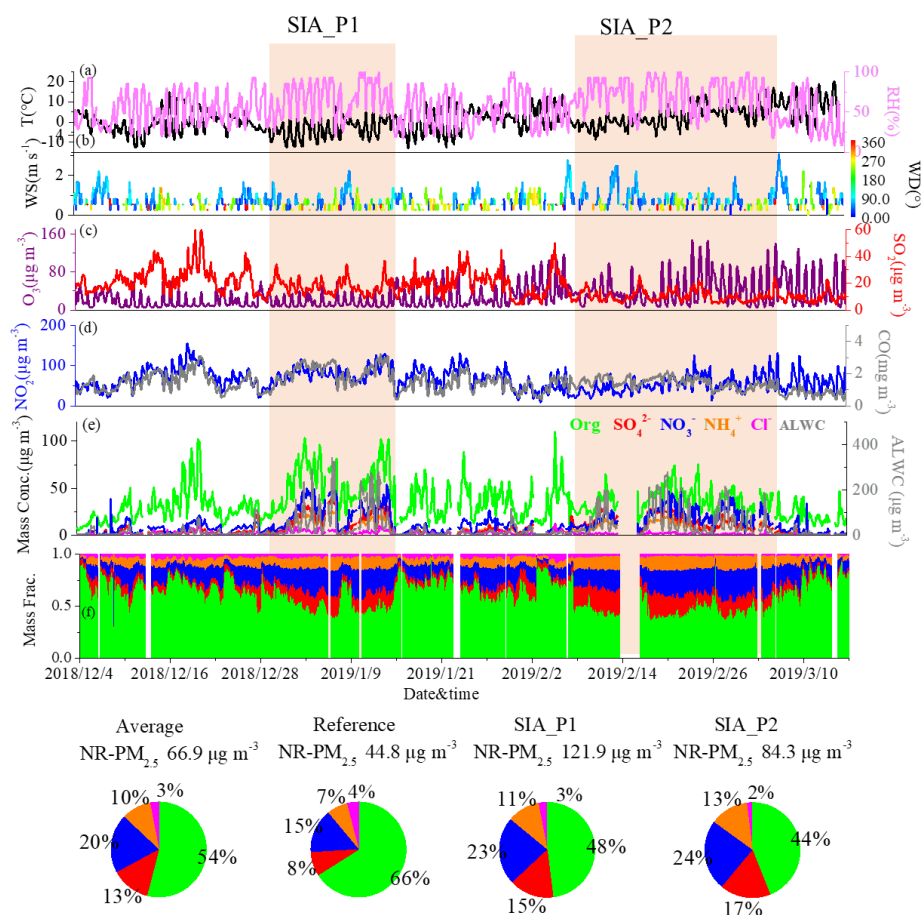
Specifically, in order to further analyze the relative importance of sulfate and nitrate in haze pollution, the increase ratio of sulfate or nitrate contribution from reference days to SIA periods was calculated following the equations below:

$$IR_{\text{sulfate}} = f_{\text{sulfate,SIA}} / f_{\text{sulfate,reference}}$$

$$IR_{\text{nitrate}} = f_{\text{nitrate,SIA}} / f_{\text{nitrate,reference}}$$

In which the  $IR_{\text{sulfate}}$  and  $IR_{\text{nitrate}}$  refers the increase ratio of sulfate contribution or nitrate contribution from reference days to SIA periods, respectively.  $f_{\text{sulfate,SIA}}$  or  $f_{\text{nitrate,SIA}}$  refers the mass fraction of sulfate or nitrate in total  $PM_{2.5}$  mass during SIA periods including SIA\_P1 and SIA\_P2, and  $f_{\text{sulfate,reference}}$  or  $f_{\text{nitrate,reference}}$  refers the mass fraction of sulfate or nitrate in total  $PM_{2.5}$  mass during reference days.

The  $IR_{\text{sulfate}}$  from reference days to SIA\_P1 (1.8) and to SIA\_P2 (2.1) was higher than those of  $IR_{\text{nitrate}}$  (1.4 from reference days to SIA\_P1 and 1.5 from reference days to SIA\_P2, respectively). Meanwhile, the average mass ratio of  $NO_3^-/SO_4^{2-}$  (Sun et al., 2016) decreased from 1.9 during reference days to 1.5 during SIA\_P1 and 1.4 during SIA\_P2, respectively. These trends suggested that the increase of sulfate contribution during haze pollution was much obvious than that of nitrate contribution in winter Xi'an, although the absolute concentration of nitrate was higher than sulfate both in reference days and SIA periods. ~~the increase ratio of sulfate contribution from reference days to SIA\_P1 (1.8) and to SIA\_P2 (2.1) was higher than those of nitrate (1.4 for SIA\_P1 and 1.5 for SIA\_P2, respectively) (Fig. 1). As a result, the average mass ratio of  $NO_3^-/SO_4^{2-}$  decreased from 1.9 during reference days to 1.5 during SIA\_P1 and 1.4 during SIA\_P2, respectively.~~  $NO_3^-/SO_4^{2-}$  showed an evident decrease as a function of RH at higher NR- $PM_{2.5}$  loading ( $> 50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) (Fig. S12). Consistently, although both sulfur oxidation ratio (SOR, defined as  $n[SO_4^{2-}]/(n[SO_4^{2-}] + n[SO_2])$ , Ji et al., 2018; Chang et al., 2020) and nitrogen oxidation ratio (NOR, defined as  $n[NO_3^-]/(n[NO_3^-] + n[NO_2])$ , Ji et al., 2018; Chang et al., 2020) increased with RH, SOR increased from 0.10-0.20 at  $RH < 40\%$  to 0.33-0.63 at  $RH > 60\%$ , which was more efficient than the increase of NOR (from 0.07-0.10 at  $RH < 40\%$  to 0.18-0.30 at  $RH > 60\%$ ) (Fig. S3). These results suggested that high RH is favorable in ~~promoting~~ sulfate formation than nitrate formation especially in haze pollution in winter Xi'an.



**Fig. 1** Time series of meteorology parameters (relative humidity (RH), temperature (T), wind speed (WS), and wind direction (WD) (a, b); gases species (SO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and CO) (c, d); and NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> composition as well as the aerosol liquid water content (ALWC) (e, f) in the winter of 2018 in Xi'an. The average composition of NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> for the entire winter campaign, as well as reference days and SIA-enhanced periods (SIA\_P1 and SIA\_P2) are also shown.

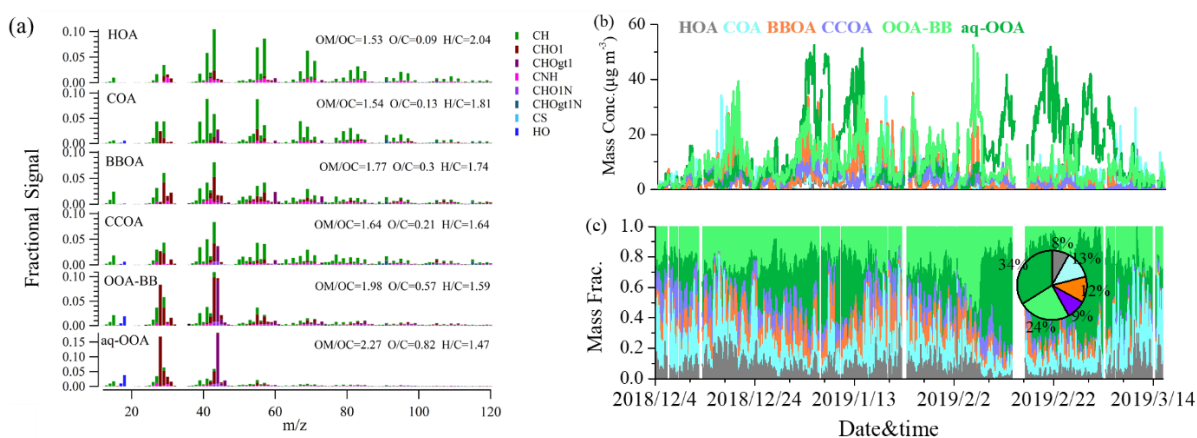
Six OA sources were resolved, including a hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA), a cooking OA (COA), a biomass burning OA (BBOA), a coal combustion OA (CCOA), a biomass burning influenced-oxygenated OA (OOA-BB), and an aqueous phase processed-oxygenated OA (aq-OOA) (Fig. 2, the OA source apportionment was detailed in the supplement). As for the OA sources, POA including HOA, COA, CCOA and BBOA in total contributed 42% to OA mass. HOA contributed 8% ( $3.0 \pm 3.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) to the total OA mass (Fig. 2). This contribution was lower than that observed in winter 2013 ( $18\%, 23.0 \pm 27.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in reference days and  $16\%, 49.0 \pm 41.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in extreme haze, respectively) (by  $16\%$ ) (Elser et al., 2016), which may be related to the better traffic control in recent years in urban Xi'an. COA on average contributed 13% ( $4.8 \pm 4.2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) to total OA, which was higher than that observed during winter 2013 ( $9\%, 15.8 \pm 8.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in reference days and  $4\%, 33.0 \pm 16.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in extreme haze, respectively) ( $49\%$ ) in Xi'an (Elser, et al., 2016; Duan et al., 2021). CCOA on average contributed 9% ( $3.2 \pm 2.5 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) to total OA in this winter campaign, consistent with that observed in



the winter of 2013 ( $14\%$ ,  $5.7 \pm 4.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in reference days and  $6\%$ ,  $7.7 \pm 8.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in extreme haze, respectively) ( $\sim 6\text{--}14\%$ ) (Elser et al., 2016). In comparison, BBOA was more significant contributor than CCOA, and on average accounted for  $12\%$  ( $4.3 \pm 5.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) of total OA mass. However, this contribution was much lower than that observed in the winter of 2013 in Xi'an ( $42\%$ ,  $22.0 \pm 20.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in reference days and  $43\%$ ,  $67.0 \pm 40.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in extreme haze, respectively) ( $\sim 40\%$ ) (Elser et al., 2016), suggesting the reduction of BBOA emissions in recent years in Xi'an and surrounding areas.

SOA contributed a higher fraction of  $58\%$  ( $21.8 \pm 7.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) than POA to total OA, with OOA-BB and aq-OOA accounting for  $24\%$  and  $34\%$  of OA mass, respectively. The contribution of SOA was much higher than that observed in the winter of 2013 in Xi'an ( $16\%$ ,  $5.4 \pm 8.9 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in reference days and  $31\%$ ,  $47.0 \pm 12.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in haze days, respectively) (Elser et al., 2016). ( $16\%$  in reference days and  $31\%$  in haze days, respectively) (Elser et al., 2016), suggesting enhanced formation of SOA in recent years.

As discussed above, the SIA-enhanced periods were usually related to haze pollution with higher NR- $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  mass. OA composition between reference days and SIA-enhanced periods was further compared (in Fig. 6, in order to better understand the OA evolution during haze pollution in Xi'an (Fig. S9). From reference days to SIA P1, the total mass of OA increased from  $28.7 \pm 16.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  to  $68.0 \pm 20.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (Table S1). Both POAs and SOAs concentrations increased, with the aq-OOA increasing the most from  $4.9 \pm 3.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  to  $26.2 \pm 14.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ . As a result, the O/C ratio of the bulk OA increased from  $0.41 \pm 0.10$  during reference days to  $0.52 \pm 0.10$  during SIA P1, suggesting the enhanced OA oxidation state during SIA P1. In comparison, the total mass of OA ( $37.7 \pm 11.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) during SIA P2 was higher than that during reference days, while lower than that during SIA P1. The mass concentrations of POAs and OOA-BB were lower than those during both reference days and SIA P1, and the increase of the total OA mass from reference days to SIA P2 was dominantly ascribed to the dramatic increase of aq-OOA from  $4.9 \pm 3.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  to  $22.7 \pm 10.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , similar with that from reference days to SIA P1. As a result, the O/C ratio of total OA during SIA P2 was further enhanced to  $0.67$ , much higher than those during reference days and SIA P1.



**Fig. 2** Mass spectra of OA sources (a), and time series of concentration (b) and fraction (c) of each OA source in total OA mass during the winter campaign. The average composition of OA sources for the

entire observation are also shown as pie chart in figure c.

### 3.2 OOA-BB dependence on BBOA and photochemical oxidation

We further analyzed the evolution and formation mechanism of OOA-BB, and found that the time variation of OOA-BB correlated well with that of BBOA ( $R^2 = 0.59$ ) (Fig. S74), with peaks of  $m/z$  60 ( $C_2H_4O_2^+$ ) and  $m/z$  73 ( $C_3H_5O_2^+$ ) in the mass spectrum of OOA-BB (Fig. 2), indicating the possible influence of BBOA source on the formation of OOA-BB. Note that although moderate correlation was observed between the time series of OOA-BB and BBOA, lags and differences between their time series were observed, suggesting the atmospheric aging under environmental conditions.

The fragment ions of  $m/z$  60 ( $C_2H_4O_2^+$ ) and  $m/z$  73 ( $C_3H_5O_2^+$ ) generated from the pyrolysis of cellulose such as levoglucosan and mannosan were considered as good tracers of BBOA (Alfarra et al., 2007; Cubison et al., 2011). Fresh BBOA usually exhibits the highest content of  $m/z$  60 ( $C_2H_4O_2^+$ ) and  $m/z$  73 ( $C_3H_5O_2^+$ ), which will decrease due to oxidation reaction and degradation during atmospheric aging.

At the same time, oxygenated fragments such as  $m/z$  44 ( $CO_2^+$ ) will increase during atmospheric aging (Cubison et al., 2011; Paglione et al., 2020). The correlation and evolution of  $f_{60}$  (the fraction of  $m/z$  60 in the total signal of the OA mass spectrum) and  $f_{44}$  (the fraction of  $m/z$  44 in the total signal of the OA mass spectrum) is usually used to analyze the influence of BBOA on SOA and their evolution processes (Cubison et al., 2011). As  $PM_{2.5}$  was measured in our campaign, in order to further analyze the influence

of BBOA on SOA formation in Xi'an, OA sources in  $PM_{2.5}$  resolved using AMS were compared. Fig. 3a displays plots of  $f_{44}$  ( $f_{CO_2^+}$ ) vs.  $f_{60}$  ( $f_{C_2H_4O_2^+}$ ) of BBOA and SOA sources resolved ~~by source apportionment of OA in  $PM_{2.5}$~~  in the winter of 2018 (this campaign), the winter of 2013 (Elser et al., 2016) and the summer of 2019 (Duan et al., 2021). According to Cubison et al. (2010),  $f_{60}=0.003 \pm 0.002$  represented the threshold of BB influence. SOA sources have a  $f_{60}$  higher than 0.005 suggested

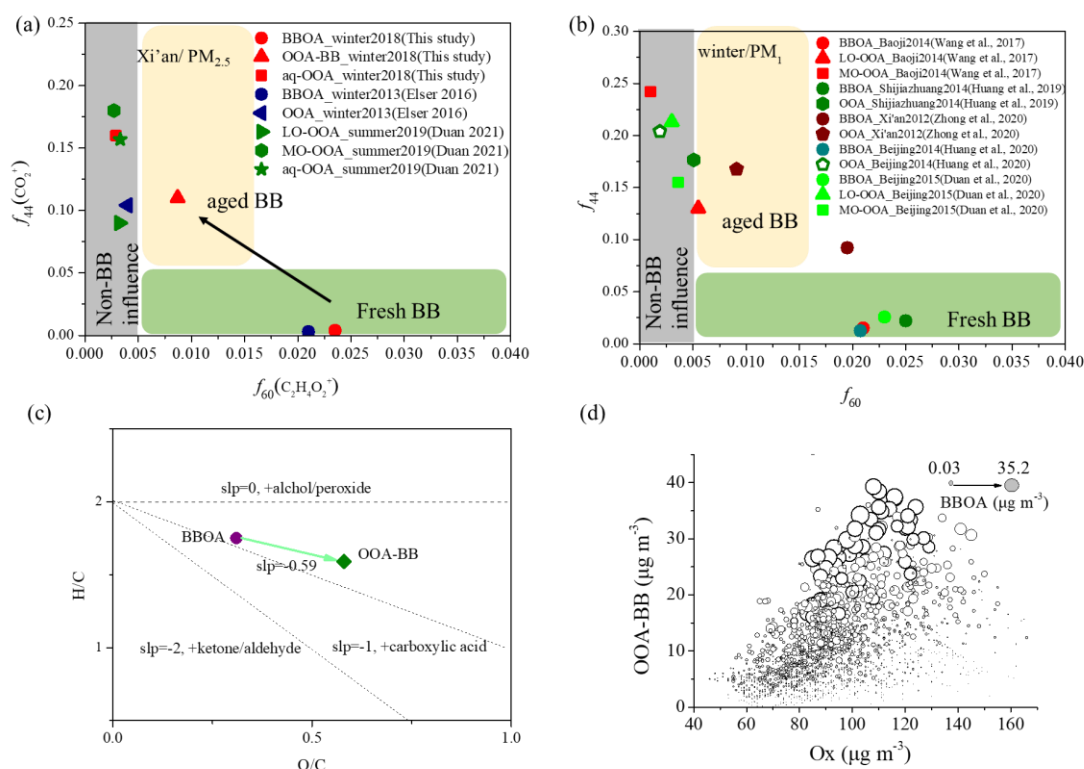
the influence from BBOA, while  $f_{60} < 0.003$  suggested a secondary source having no influence from BBOA, and sources from fresh biomass burning emission usually have high  $f_{60}$  and low  $f_{44}$ . in order to analyze the influence of BBOA on SOA formation in Xi'an. As shown in Fig. 3, BBOA factor resolved in the winter of 2018 and 2013 were both located in the fresh BBOA region with higher  $f_{C_2H_4O_2^+}$  (0.024 and 0.021, respectively, which were both higher than 0.005) and lower  $f_{CO_2^+}$ , suggesting they were fresh

BBOA emissions. OOA-BB (Paglione et al., 2020) resolved in the winter of 2018 was characterized by a  $f_{C_2H_4O_2^+}$  value of 0.08 and a  $f_{CO_2^+}$  value of 0.13, which was located in the BB-influenced region, indicating the OOA-BB resolved in the winter of 2018 was largely influenced by BBOA emission. In comparison, the aq-OOA (Sun et al., 2016) resolved in the winter of 2018, OOA resolved in the winter of 2013, as well as the three SOA sources (LO-OOA, MO-OOA, aq-OOA) resolved in the summer of

2019 all showed higher  $f_{CO_2^+}$  and lower  $f_{C_2H_4O_2^+}$  ( $< 0.005$ ), and were located in the non-BB influenced region, suggesting that these SOA were formed from other processes independent on BBOA source. In addition, in order to further compare the BBOA influence on SOA between different regions,  $f_{44}$  vs.  $f_{60}$  for BBOA and SOA resolved in  $PM_1$ -OA from previous studies were also compared (see Fig. 3b, note that  $f_{44}$  and  $f_{60}$  values are not available in other group papers, only those resolved in our previous studies

are summarized here).  $f_{44}$  vs.  $f_{60}$  for BBOA and SOA resolved in  $PM_{2.5}$  OA from previous studies were also compared (see Fig. 3b). In most of studies, BBOA is located in the fresh BBOA region, except the BBOA resolved in the winter of 2012 in Xi'an (Zhong et al., 2020). Meanwhile, most of the SOAs were located in the non-BB influenced region, except the OOA resolved in the winter of 2012 (Zhong et al., 2020) which showed a higher  $f_{44}$  of 0.17 and a higher  $f_{60}$  of 0.09 ( $>0.05$ ). This further indicated the influence from biomass burning on SOA formation in winter Xi'an. In comparison, the MO-OOA resolved in Baoji and the OOA resolved in Shijiazhuang also showed minor influence from BBOA, which are located in the edge of the aged-BB region (Wang et al., 2017; Huang et al., 2019).

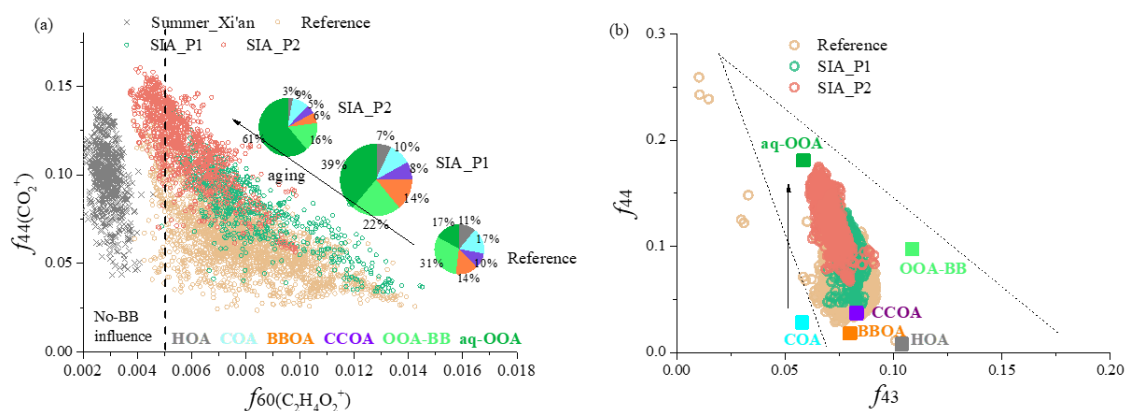
In order to further explain the possible pathway of OOA-BB formation and influence from BBOA in the 2018 winter campaign, the evolution of BBOA into OOA-BB was further analyzed using the van Krevelen (VK) diagram of O/C vs. H/C ratios, which is typically used to investigate the OA evolution during field and laboratory experiments (Heald et al., 2010; Ng et al., 2011b). As shown in Fig. 3c, the slope of the line that links BBOA to OOA-BB is -0.59, between  $-0.5$  and  $-1$ , suggesting that OOA-BB was likely formed from BBOA through the formation of carboxylic acid moieties (Ng et al., 2011b; Paglione et al., 2020). Meanwhile, in our study, the concentration of OOA-BB positively increased as the Ox increased, suggesting the importance of photochemical oxidation processes (Fig. 3d). Meanwhile, the formation of OOA-BB was also enhanced under higher BBOA concentration conditions, confirming that OOA-BB was formed from the aging of BBOA.



**Fig. 3** Plots of  $f_{44}$  vs.  $f_{60}$  for BBOAs and SOAs resolved in OA of  $PM_{2.5}$  in Xi'an (a); plots of  $f_{44}$  vs.  $f_{60}$  for BBOAs and SOAs resolved in OA of  $PM_1$  in our previous campaigns conducted in Xi'an, Baoji,

Shijiazhuang and Beijing(b); the van Krevelen (VK) diagram of the BBOA and OOA-BB factors resolved in the winter of 2018 in Xi'an (c); and the effects of Ox and BBOA concentrations on the OOA-BB formation (d).

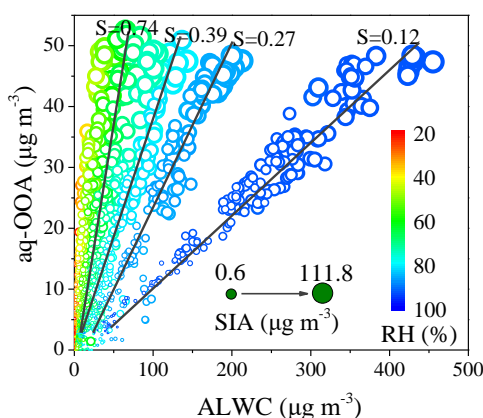
The scatterplot of  $f_{44}$  vs.  $f_{60}$  for ambient data was also applied to further investigate OA transformation during different periods. Also as discussed above, in the  $f_{44}$  vs.  $f_{60}$  space, data from biomass burning appear in the lower right part, while data with negligible biomass burning influence are concentrated on the left side as a band shape (Cubison et al., 2011). As shown in Fig.4a6b, data during the summer of 2019 in Xi'an were mainly located on the left side ( $f_{60} \equiv 0.1$ -0.5%), consistent with the negligible biomass burning influence and BBOA-absent OA sources in the summer campaign (Duan et al., 2021). In the winter campaign, the data were mainly located in the lower right part with  $f_{60}$  ranging from 0.4%-1.4% during reference days, suggesting significant influence of BBOA. The data during SIA-P1 were also mainly located in the lower right part with  $f_{60}$  ranging from 0.7%-1.4%, suggesting BBOA also had significant influence during this period. Meanwhile, more data were located in the upper range with higher  $f_{44}$  than those in reference days, suggesting the increased OA aging and secondary formation during SIA P1. As for SIA P2, more data were located on the left side with no-BB influence, and the range of  $f_{44}$  was further higher than those in reference days and SIA P1, suggesting that the BBOA influence decreased while the SOA influence and OA oxidation state increased during the SIA P2. Consistently, from reference days and SIA P1 to SIA P2, the contribution of BBOA decreased from 13% and 14% to 6%, and the OOA-BB contribution decreased from 31% and 22% to 16%, respectively, and the aq-OOA contribution increased largely from 19% and 39% to 61%. The scatterplot of  $f_{44}$  vs  $f_{43}$  was also discussed in Fig. 4b in order to study the evolution of SOA. The data points substantially fell into the triangle space derived by Ng et al. (2010), in which higher  $f_{44}$  and lower  $f_{43}$  are characteristics of more oxidized and aged aerosol, while lower  $f_{44}$  and higher  $f_{43}$  values represent less oxidized and fresh organics. From reference days to SIA\_P1 and SIA\_P2, OA showed the evolution trends moving from the lower right to the upper left in the triangle, suggesting the increased oxidation of OA during SIA-enhanced periods (Ng et al., 2010). Consistently, the POA factors (HOA, COA, CCOA, and BBOA) were concentrated in the bottom of the triangle, while OOA-BB was in an intermediate location with a higher oxidation state, and aq-OOA was at the top left of the triangle with the highest oxidation state.



**Fig. 4** The plots of  $f_{44}$  vs  $f_{60}$ , as well as the average OA composition during these three periods (a). The size of the pie chart identifies the mass concentration of total OA, and the plots of  $f_{44}$  vs  $f_{60}$  in summer 2019 was also shown for comparison. And the scatterplots of  $f_{44}$  vs  $f_{43}$  (b). The corresponding values of the six OA factors identified in this study are also shown, and the triangle range is from Ng et al. (2010).

### 3.3 aq-OOA dependence on SIA and ALWC

The aq-OOA showed an obvious mass increase during the SIA-enhanced periods, and tracked well with the ALWC increase during this winter campaign (Fig. 1 and Fig. 24). In addition, the mass spectrum of aq-OOA resolved in this study was tightly correlated with that resolved in the summer of 2019 in Xi'an (Duan et al., 2021) ( $R^2 = 0.86$ , Fig. S85), and the time series of aq-OOA was also correlated well with  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}_2^+$  ( $R^2 = 0.91$ ),  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}^+$  ( $R^2 = 0.89$ ), and  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2^+$  ( $R^2 = 0.75$ ) (Fig. S85), which are the typical fragment ions of aqueous-phase processing products (Tan et al., 2009; Chhabra et al., 2010; Ge et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2016). These results suggested the dominant role of aqueous-phase processes in the formation of aq-OOA in winter Xi'an. As shown in Fig. 54b, there was a positive correlation between the concentration of aq-OOA and ALWC with variable slopes in different RH ranges, likely due to the exponential increase of ALWC with RH (Wu et al., 2018). As discussed by Wu et al. (2018), simultaneously elevated RH levels and SIA concentrations resulted in an abundant ALWC. Condensed water also facilitates the partitioning of water-soluble, polar organics into condensed phases, and subsequent facilitate the SOA formation which could further facilitate the SOA formation. Consistently, higher SIA concentration also showed positive promotion effect on the aq-OOA increase (Fig. 54b), and a tight correlation between the concentration of aq-OOA and SIA was observed for the whole dataset irrespective of the RH variation ( $R^2 = 0.96$ , Fig. S106).



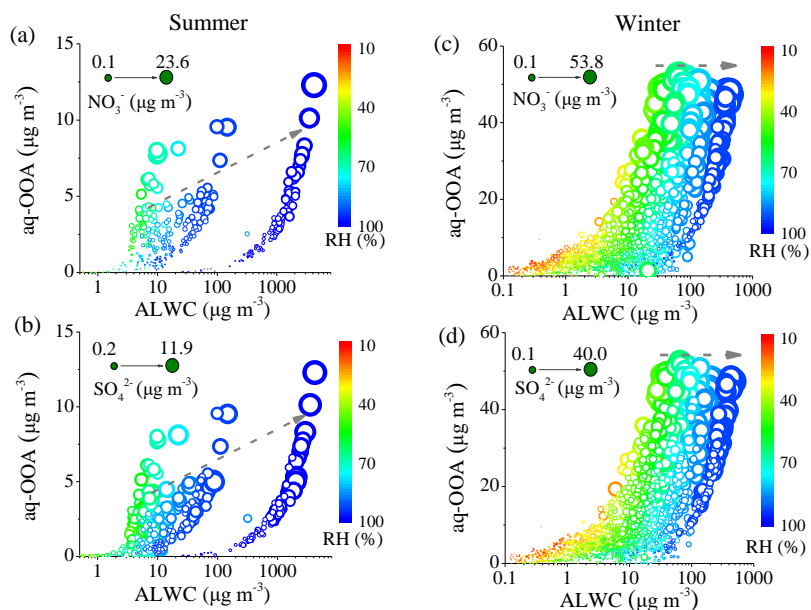
**Fig. 54** Time-series of aq-OOA, sulfate, nitrate, and ALWC during the winter campaign in Xi'an (a), and the effects of ALWC on the formation of aq-OOA colored by RH, with the increase of SIA concentration shown as the size increase of the data points (b). Note "S" is defined as the slope between aq-OOA and ALWC in different RH range.

We further compared the aqueous-phase formation of aq-OOA during summer 2019 and winter 2018 in Xi'an, and discussed the specific effect of sulfate or nitrate on their formations (Fig. 65). As discussed



in our previous study (Duan et al., 2021), aq-OOA was dominantly formed in fog-rain days with consistently high RH (>60%) and ALWC conditions during summer. The concentration of aq-OOA continuously increased as RH increased from 70% to 100% and ALWC increased from  $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  to  $100 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  and further to  $1000 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , suggesting the much important effects of high RH and ALWC on the aq-OOA formation in summer Xi'an (Fig. 65a, b). In addition, nitrate displayed a more positive ~~promotion-effect~~ on the aq-OOA formation than sulfate, as sulfate showed a weak correlation ( $R^2=0.44$ ) with aq-OOA than that of nitrate ( $R^2=0.98$ ) (Fig. S117). Different from aq-OOA in summer that was mainly formed when RH >60%, the formation of aq-OOA in winter was frequently observed when RH >40% (Fig. 65c, d). This may be related to the much higher nitrate contribution during winter which reduced the deliquesce RH of the aerosol mixture and provided liquid condition for aq-OOA formation at even lower RH (Xue et al., 2014; Wu et al., 2018). When the ALWC was higher than  $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , aq-OOA was formed efficiently, and both nitrate and sulfate displayed positive ~~promotions-effects~~ on aq-OOA increase. Different from summer, the concentration of aq-OOA was not continuously increasing when ALWC increased from  $10\text{-}100 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  to  $>100 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ . Instead, the aq-OOA concentration was much affected by the mass increase of nitrate and sulfate, with similar aq-OOA concentration associated with similar sulfate or nitrate concentration level under different RH ranges. This may suggest that aq-OOA formation is more driven by heterogeneous surface reactions in winter, as sulfate and nitrate associated with condensed water may provide the relevant media and increase the aerosol surface area, which leads to the increasing of heterogeneous reaction rate and modulate the formation and properties of SOA (Wu et al., 2018).~~This may suggest that aq-OOA was bulk water reaction during summer while during winter aq-OOA formation is more driven by heterogeneous surface reactions.~~ Also as shown in Fig. 54b, the correlation slope (S) between aq-OOA and ALWC decreased from 0.74 for RH <70% to 0.12 for RH >90%, which means that when the ALWC exponentially increased with high RH, aq-OOA did not increase proportionally, and the slope decreased. In comparison, similar aq-OOA concentration was associated with similar SIA concentration levels under different RH ranges. These results suggest that SIA may play a much more important role in the formation of aq-OOA in winter Xi'an.





**Fig. 65** Correlations between ALWC and aq-OOA colored by RH during summer (a, b) and winter (c, d) in Xi'an. The effects of nitrate and sulfate are also shown in (a, c) and (b, d), respectively, in which the increase of sulfate or nitrate concentration is shown as the size increase of the data points. The summer data was from Duan et al. (2021), and tThe horizontal axes both in summer and winter were shown in exponential type for comparison.

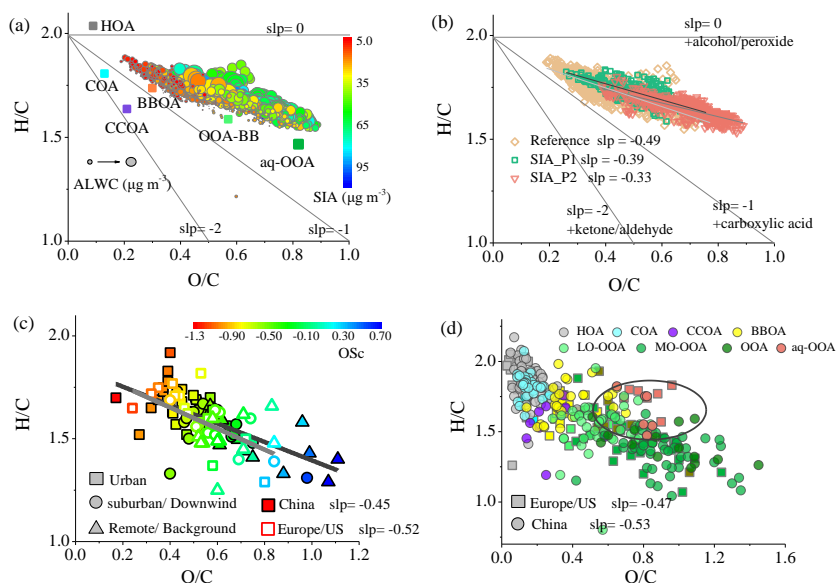
### 3.4 Van Krevelen analysis: importance of aqueous-phase processes ~~Haze pollution in winter Xi'an: enhanced contribution of aqueous-phase processes~~

~~As discussed above, the SIA-enhanced periods were usually related to haze pollution with higher NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass. OA composition between reference days and SIA-enhanced periods was further compared in Fig. 6, in order to better understand the OA evolution during haze pollution in Xi'an. From reference days to SIA\_P1, the total mass of OA increased from 28.7 μg m<sup>-3</sup> to 68.0 μg m<sup>-3</sup> (Table S1). Both POAs and SOAs concentrations increased, with the aq-OOA increasing the most from 4.9 μg m<sup>-3</sup> to 26.2 μg m<sup>-3</sup>. As a result, the O/C ratio of the bulk OA increased from 0.41 during reference days to 0.52 during SIA\_P1, suggesting the enhanced OA oxidation state during SIA\_P1. In comparison, the total mass of OA (37.7 μg m<sup>-3</sup>) during SIA\_P2 was higher than that during reference days, while lower than that during SIA\_P1. The mass concentrations of POAs and OOA-BB were lower than those during both reference days and SIA\_P1, and the increase of the total OA mass from reference days to SIA\_P2 was dominantly ascribed to the dramatic increase of aq-OOA from 4.9 μg m<sup>-3</sup> to 22.7 μg m<sup>-3</sup>, similar with that from reference days to SIA\_P1. As a result, the O/C ratio of total OA during SIA\_P2 was further enhanced to 0.67, much higher than those during reference days and SIA\_P1.~~

~~The scatterplot of  $f_{44}$  vs.  $f_{60}$  was also applied to further investigate OA transformation during different periods. Also as discussed above, in the  $f_{44}$  vs.  $f_{60}$  space, data from biomass burning appear in the lower right part, while data with negligible biomass burning influence are concentrated on the left side as a~~

band shape (Cubison et al., 2011). As shown in Fig. 6b, data during the summer of 2019 in Xi'an were mainly located on the left side ( $f_{60}=0.1-0.5\%$ ), consistent with the negligible biomass burning influence and BBOA-absent OA sources in the summer campaign (Duan et al., 2021). In the winter campaign, the data were mainly located in the lower right part with  $f_{60}$  ranging from 0.4%–1.4% during reference days, suggesting significant influence of BBOA. The data during SIA\_P1 were also mainly located in the lower right part with  $f_{60}$  ranging from 0.7%–1.4%, suggesting BBOA also had significant influence during this period. Meanwhile, more data were located in the upper range with higher  $f_{44}$  than those in reference days, suggesting the increased OA aging and secondary formation during SIA\_P1. As for SIA\_P2, more data were located on the left side with no BB influence, and the range of  $f_{44}$  was further higher than those in reference days and SIA\_P1, suggesting that the BBOA influence decreased while the SOA influence and OA oxidation state increased during the SIA\_P2. Consistently, from reference days and SIA\_P1 to SIA\_P2, the contribution of BBOA decreased from 13% and 14% to 6%, and the OOA-BB contribution decreased from 31% and 22% to 16%, respectively, and the aq-OOA contribution increased largely from 19% and 39% to 61%.

The VK diagram, displaying the variation of O/C vs H/C (Hu et al., 2013), was further used to probe OA oxidation reaction mechanisms in our study. As shown in Fig. 7a, data with a higher O/C ratio and lower H/C ratio located in the right-bottom corner were usually related to higher SIA concentration, and higher ALWC also ~~facilitated~~~~promoted~~ the increase of O/C ratio, suggesting the ~~promotion~~positive effects of SIA and aqueous-phase processes on the OA oxidation enhancement during winter Xi'an. The slope and intercept of the VK diagram for OA during different periods were further displayed in Fig. 7b. More data were located in the right-bottom corner with a higher O/C ratio during SIA-enhanced periods than those during reference days, especially in SIA\_P2 with a much higher fraction of aq-OOA. Meanwhile, the slope of the correlation between H/C and O/C during SIA-enhanced periods was also shallower than that during reference days, which changed from -0.49 during reference days to -0.39 during SIA\_P1 and -0.33 during SIA\_P2. This variation might suggest the transformation of OA from reference days to SIA-enhanced periods, which is likely transferring much close to the processes of addition of alcohol or peroxide groups (slope  $\approx 0$ ) (Heald et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2015).



**Fig. 7** The VK diagram of H/C vs O/C for the entire winter observation (a) as well as different periods including reference days, SIA\_P1 and SIA\_P2 (b). The scatterplots of H/C vs O/C are colored by the mass concentration of SIA, and the size of the data points is proportional to the ALWC concentration in figure a. The scatterplots of H/C vs O/C of the bulk OA (c) as well as different OA factors (d) observed and resolved in urban, rural and remote sites in recent years both in China and Europe or US based on HR-AMS are also summarized for comparison.

We also explored the oxidation state of bulk OA observed in recent years in China, and compared to those observed in European or American campaigns (Fig. 7c and Table S2). Campaign-averaged O/C ratios of total OA observed in China range from 0.17 to 1.11 with the carbon oxidation states (OSc) ranging from -1.36 to 0.85, which are much variable than those observed in European or American campaigns with the average O/C ratio ranging from 0.24 to 0.84 and OSc ranging from -1.17 to 0.31, respectively. As for different campaigns in China, the O/C ratio of bulk OA increases from an average of 0.45 in urban sites to 0.58 in suburban or rural sites and further to 0.80 in remote or background sites, likely due to the OA aging and less influence from POA emission in rural or background sites. Meanwhile, the slope of H/C vs. O/C for bulk OA observed in China is -0.45, slightly flatter than that observed in European or American campaigns (-0.52), while both are close to -0.5. This suggests that the carboxylic acid with fragmentation dominates OA aging from urban to remote sites both in China and European or American sites. Similarly, the VK diagram between O/C and H/C ratios for PMF-resolved OA factors from AMS measurements in China is also summarized and compared to those in European or American sites (Fig. 7d). Although O/C ratios of bulk OA between China and Europe display different variation ranges, O/C and H/C ratios of specific OA factors show similar range between China and Europe or the US. Similar slope for OA factors evolution from POA to SOA is observed between China and Europe or US, which indicates the consistent characteristic of individual OA factors resolved using PMF. MO-OOA shows the highest O/C ratio, with a range of 0.58-1.35 in

China and 0.63-1.49 in Europe or US, respectively. In comparison, aq-OOA is mainly located in the  
 520 range with both high O/C ratio (0.7-1.0) and high H/C ratio ( $\geq 1.45$ ), which may result in a much  
 shallower slope for the evolution from POA to SOA (Heald et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2015). This was  
 also consistent with the slope changes from reference days to SIA-enhanced periods for bulk OA  
 observed in our study, as the aq-OOA enhanced obviously during the SIA-enhanced periods.

#### 4 Conclusion

525 The NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> chemical composition and OA sources were characterized during the heating season of  
 2018 in Xi'an. The average mass concentration of NR-PM<sub>2.5</sub> was  $68.0 \pm 42.8 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , higher than that  
 during the summer of 2019 but much lower than that during the winter of 2013 in Xi'an. Six OA sources  
 including HOA, COA, CCOA, BBOA, OOA-BB, and aq-OOA were resolved, in which SOA  
 contributed a much larger extent (58%) than POA (42%) to total OA mass. Further formation  
 530 mechanism analysis showed that OOA-BB was mainly formed from the photochemical oxidation and  
 aging of BBOA, which formation was more favorable in the reference days with higher BBOA  
 concentration. In comparison, aq-OOA was dominated by the aqueous-phase processes, which showed  
 an obvious mass increase during the SIA-enhanced periods, and tracked well with the ALWC. From  
 reference days to SIA-enhanced periods which usually related to haze pollution, aq-OOA increased  
 535 obviously, with the concentration and fraction increasing from  $4.9 \pm 3.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (17%) during reference  
 days to  $26.2 \pm 14.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (39%) during SIA\_P1 and  $22.7 \pm 10.7 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  (61%) during SIA\_P2,  
 respectively, suggesting the critical role of aqueous-phase processes in haze pollution during winter in  
 Xi'an. Consistently, the O/C ratio of the bulk OA increased from 0.41 during reference days to 0.52  
 during SIA\_P1 and 0.67 during SIA\_P2, with the VK slope of H/C vs O/C changing from -0.49 to -  
 540 0.39 and -0.33, respectively. This suggests the increased aq-OOA contribution during SIA-enhanced  
 periods is likely transferring the OA evolution close to the processes of addition of alcohol or peroxide  
 groups. The comparison of oxidation state of bulk OA or OA factors observed in recent years further  
 indicates that carboxylic acid with fragmentation dominates OA aging from urban to remote sites both  
 in China and European or American sites. Meanwhile, aq-OOA mainly located in the range with both  
 545 high O/C ratio and high H/C ratio might also result in a much shallower slope close to the alcohol or  
 peroxide addition in the OA oxidation processes from POA to SOA.

*Data availability.* Raw data used in this study are archived at the East Asian Paleoenvironmental  
 Science Database, National Earth System Science Data Center, National Science & Technology  
 Infrastructure of China (<http://paleodata.ieecas.cn/index.aspx>).

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

*Author contributions.* RJH designed the study. JD, YFG, CSL, and HBZ conducted the field observation.  
 Data analysis and source apportionment were done by JD and RJH, with help from WX, QL, and YY.  
 JD and RJH wrote the manuscript. JD and RJH interpreted data and prepared display items, and JO,

DC, TH, and CO all commented on and discussed the manuscript. ~~All authors commented on and discussed the manuscript.~~

*Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Acknowledgements.** This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) under grant no. 41925015, the Strategic Priority Research Program of Chinese Academy of Sciences (No. XDB40000000), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (no. ZDBS-LY-DQC001), and the Cross Innovative Team fund from the State Key Laboratory of Loess and Quaternary Geology (SKLLQG) (no. SKLLQGT1801).

## Reference

Alfarra, M. R., Prevot, A. S. H., Szidat, S., Sandradewi, J., Weimer, S., Lanz, V. A., Schreiber, D., Mohr, M., and Baltensperger, U.: Identification of the mass spectral signature of organic aerosols from wood burning emissions, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 41, 5770–5777, <https://doi.org/10.1021/es062289b>, 2007.

An, Z. S., Huang, R.-J., Zhang, R. Y., Tie, X. X., Li, G. H., Cao, J. J., Zhou, W. J., Shi, Z. G., Han, Y. M., Gu, Z. L., and Ji, Y. M.: Severe haze in northern China: A synergy of anthropogenic emissions and atmospheric processes, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 116, 8657–8666, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1900125116>, 2019.

Canagaratna, M. R., Jimenez, J. L., Kroll, J. H., Chen, Q., Kessler, S. H., Massoli, P., Hildebrandt Ruiz, L., Fortner, E., Williams, L. R., Wilson, K. R., Surratt, J. D., Donahue, N. M., Jayne, J. T., and Worsnop, D.R.: Elemental ratio measurements of organic compounds using aerosol mass spectrometry: characterization, improved calibration, and implications, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 15, 253–272, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-15-253-2015>, 2015.

Canonaco, F., Crippa, M., Slowik, J. G., Baltensperger, U., and Prévôt, A. S. H.: SoFi, an IGOR-based interface for the efficient use of the generalized multilinear engine (ME-2) for the source apportionment: ME-2 application to aerosol mass spectrometer data, *Atmos. Meas. Tech.*, 6(12), 3649, <https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-6-3649-2013>, 2013.

Chang, Y., Huang, R.-J., Ge, X., Huang, X., Hu, J., Duan, Y., Zou, Z., Liu, X., and Lehmannet, M.F.: Puzzling haze events in China during the coronavirus (COVID-19) shutdown, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 47, e2020GL088533, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GL088533>, 2020.

Chen, Q., Heald, C. L., Jimenez, J. L., Canagaratna, M. R., Zhang, Q., He, L.-Y., Huang, X.-F., Campuzano-Jost, P., Palm, B. B., Poulain, L., Kuwata, M., Martin, S. T., Abbatt, J. P. D., Lee, A. K. Y., and Liggio, J.: Elemental Composition of Organic Aerosol: The Gap Between Ambient and Laboratory Measurements, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 42, 4182–4189, <https://doi.org/10.1002/2015GL063693>, 2015.

Chhabra, P. S., Flagan, R. C., and Seinfeld, J. H.: Elemental analysis of chamber organic aerosol using an aerodyne high-resolution aerosol mass spectrometer, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 10, 4111–4131,

- <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-10-4111-2010>, 2010.
- Cubison, M. J., Ortega, A. M., Hayes, P. L., Farmer, D. K., Day, D., Lechner, M. J., Brune, W. H., Apel, E., Diskin, G. S., Fisher, J. A., Fuelberg, H. E., Hecobian, A., Knapp, D. J., Mikoviny, T., Riemer, D., Sachse, G. W., Sessions, W., Weber, R. J., Weinheimer, A. J., Wisthaler, A., and Jimenez, J. L.: Effects of aging on organic aerosol from open biomass burning smoke in aircraft and laboratory studies, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 11, 12049–12064, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-11-12049-2011>, 2011.
- ~~Dall'Osto, M., Ovadnevaite, J., Ceburnis, D., Martin, D., Healy, R. M., O'Connor, I. P., Kourtehev, I., Sodeau, J. R., Wenger, J. C., and O'Dowd, C.: Characterization of urban aerosol in Cork city (Ireland) using aerosol mass spectrometry, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 13, 4997–5015, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-13-4997-2013>, 2013.~~
- DeCarlo, P. F., Kimmel, J. R., Trimborn, A., Northway, M. J., Jayne, J. T., Aiken, A. C., Gonin, M., Fuhrer, K., Horvath, T., Docherty, K. S., Worsnop, D. R., and Jimenez, J. L.: Field-deployable, high-resolution, time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer, *Anal. Chem.*, 78, 8281–8289, <https://doi.org/10.1021/ac061249n>, 2006.
- Duan, J., Huang, R. J., Gu, Y., Lin, C., Zhong, H., Wang, Y., Yuan, W., Ni, H.Y., Yang, L., Chen, Y., Worsnop, D.R., and O'Dowd, C.: The formation and evolution of secondary organic aerosol during summer in Xi'an: Aqueous phase processing in fog-rain days, *Sci. Total. Environ.*, 756, 144077, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.144077>, 2021.
- Elser, M., Huang, R.-J., Wolf, R., Slowik, J. G., Wang, Q., Canonaco, F., Li, G., Bozzetti, C., Daellenbach, K. R., Huang, Y., Zhang, R., Li, Z., Cao, J., Baltensperger, U., ElHaddad, I., and Prevot, A. S. H.: New insights into PM<sub>2.5</sub> chemical composition and sources in two major cities in China during extreme haze events using aerosol mass spectrometry, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 16, 3207–3225, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-16-3207-2016>, 2016.
- Fountoukis, C. and Nenes, A.: ISORROPIA II: a computationally efficient thermodynamic equilibrium model for  $K^+Ca^{2+}Mg^{2+}NH_4^+Na^+SO_4^{2-}NO_3^-Cl^-H_2O$  aerosols, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 7, 4639–4659, 2007.
- ~~Ge, X., Setyan, A., Sun, Y., and Zhang, Q.: Primary and secondary organic aerosols in Fresno, California during wintertime: Results from high resolution aerosol mass spectrometry, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 117, D19301, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2012jd018026>, 2012.~~
- Guo, S., Hu, M., Zamora, M. L., Peng, J., Shang, D., Zheng, J., Du, Z., Wu, Z., Shao, M., Zeng, L., Molina, M. J., and Zhang, R.: Elucidating severe urban haze formation in China, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 111 (49), 17373–17378, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1419604111>, 2014.
- ~~He, L. Y., Huang, X. F., Xue, L., Hu, M., Lin, Y., Zheng, J., Zhang, R., and Zhang, Y. H.: Submicron aerosol analysis and organic source apportionment in an urban atmosphere in Pearl River Delta of China using high resolution aerosol mass spectrometry, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, 116, D12304, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2010JD014566>, 2011.~~
- Heald, C. L., Kroll, J. H., Jimenez, J. L., Docherty, K. S., DeCarlo, P. F., Aiken, A. C., Chen, Q., Martin, S. T., Farmer, D. K., and Artaxo, P.: A simplified description of the evolution of organic aerosol



composition in the atmosphere, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 37, L08803, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2010GL042737>, 2010.

630 Hu, W. W., Hu, M., Yuan, B., Jimenez, J. L., Tang, Q., Peng, J. F., Hu, W., Shao, M., Wang, M., Zeng, L. M., Wu, Y. S., Gong, Z. H., Huang, X. F., and He, L. Y.: Insights on organic aerosol aging and the influence of coal combustion at a regional receptor site of central eastern China, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 13, 10095–10112, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-13-10095-2013>, 2013.

635 Hu, W. W., Hu, M., Hu, W., Jimenez, J. L., Yuan, B., Chen, W., Wang, M., Wu, Y., Chen, C., Wang, Z., Peng, J., Zeng, L., and Shao, M.: Chemical composition, sources, and aging process of submicron aerosols in Beijing: Contrast between summer and winter, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 121, 1955–1977, <https://doi.org/10.1002/2015JD024020>, 2016.

640 Huang, R.-J., Zhang, Y. L., Bozzetti, C., Ho, K.-F., Cao, J. J., Han, Y. M., Daellenbach, K. R., Slowik, J. G., Platt, S. M., Canonaco, F., Zotter, P., Wolf, R., Pieber, S. M., Brun, E. A., Crippa, M., Ciarelli, G., Piazzalunga, A., Schwikowski, M., Abbaszade, G., Schnelle-Kreis, J., Zimmermann, R., An, Z., Szidat, S., Baltensperger, U., Haddad, I. E., and Prévôt, A. S. H.: High secondary aerosol contribution to particulate pollution during haze events in China, *Nature*, 514, 218–222, <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature13774>, 2014.

645 Huang, R.-J., Wang, Y., Cao, J., Lin, C., Duan, J., Chen, Q., Li, Y., Gu, Y., Yan, J., Xu, W., Fröhlich, R., Canonaco, F., Bozzetti, C., Ovadnevaite, J., Ceburnis, D., Canagaratna, M. R., Jayne, J., Worsnop, D. R., El-Haddad, I., Prévôt, A. S. H., and O'Dowd, C. D.: Primary emissions versus secondary formation of fine particulate matter in the most polluted city (Shijiazhuang) in North China, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 19, 2283–2298, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-19-2283-2019>, 2019.

650 Huang, R.-J., He, Y., Duan, J., Li, Y., Chen, Q., Zheng, Y., Chen, Y., Hu, W., Lin, C., Ni, H., Dai, W., Cao, J., Wu, Y., Zhang, R., Xu, W., Ovadnevaite, J., Ceburnis, D., Hoffmann, T., and O'Dowd, C. D.: Contrasting sources and processes of particulate species in haze days with low and high relative humidity in wintertime Beijing, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 20, 9101–9114, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-20-9101-2020>, 2020.

655 Ji, Y., Qin, X., Wang, B., Xu, J., Shen, J., Chen, J., Huang, K., Deng, C., Yan, R., Xu, K., and Zhang, T.: Counteractive effects of regional transport and emission control on the formation of fine particles: a case study during the Hangzhou G20 summit, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 18, 13581–13600, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-18-13581-2018>, 2018.

660 Jimenez, J. L., Jayne, J. T., Shi, Q., Kolb, C. E., Worsnop, D. R., Yourshaw, I., Seinfeld, J. H., Flagan, R. C., Zhang, X., Smith, K. A., Morris, J. W., and Davidovits, P.: Ambient aerosol sampling with an Aerosol Mass Spectrometer, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 108, 8425, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JD001213>, 2003.

665 Jimenez, J. L., Canagaratna, M. R., Donahue, N. M., Prevot, A. S. H., Zhang, Q., Kroll, J. H., DeCarlo, P. F., Allan, J. D., Coe, H., Ng, N. L., Aiken, A. C., Docherty, K. S., Ulbrich, I. M., Grieshop, A. P., Robinson, A. L., Duplissy, J., Smith, J. D., Wilson, K. R., Lanz, V. A., Hueglin, C., Sun, Y. L., Tian, J., Laaksonen, A., Raatikainen, T., Rautiainen, J., Vaattovaara, P., Ehn, M., Kulmala, M.,

- Tomlinson, J. M., Collins, D. R., Cubison, M. J., Dunlea, J., Huffman, J. A., Onasch, T. B., Alfarra, M. R., Williams, P. I., Bower, K., Kondo, Y., Schneider, J., Drewnick, F., Borrmann, S., Weimer, S., Demerjian, K., Salcedo, D., Cottrell, L., Griffin, R., Takami, A., Miyoshi, T., Hatakeyama, S., Shimojo, A., Sun, J. Y., Zhang, Y. M., Dzepina, K., Kimmel, J. R., Sueper, D., Jayne, J. T., Herndon, S. C., Trimborn, A. M., Williams, L. R., Wood, E. C., Middlebrook, A. M., Kolb, C. E., Baltensperger, U., and Worsnop, D. R.: Evolution of Organic Aerosols in the Atmosphere, *Science*, 326(5959), 1525–1529, <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1180353>, 2009.
- Kuang, Y., He, Y., Xu, W. Y., Yuan, B., Zhang, G., Ma, Z. Q., Wu, C. H., Wang, C. M., Wang, S. H., Zhang, S. Y., Tao, J. C., Ma, N., Su, H., Cheng, Y. F., Shao, M., and Sun, Y. L.: Photochemical aqueous-phase reactions induce rapid daytime formation of oxygenated organic aerosol on the North China Plain, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 54(7), 3849–3860, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.9b06836>, 2020.
- Lelieveld, J., Evans, J. S., Fnais, M., Giannadaki, D., and Pozzer, A.: The contribution of outdoor air pollution sources to premature mortality on a global scale, *Nature*, 525, 367–371, <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature15371>, 2015.
- Li, J., Han, Z., Sun, Y., Li, J., and Liang, L.: Chemical formation pathways of secondary organic aerosols in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region in wintertime, *Atmos. Environ.*, 244, 117996, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2020.117996>, 2021.
- Li, J., Deng, S., Li, G., Lu, Z., Song, H., Gao, J., Sun, Z., and Xu, K.: VOCs characteristics and their ozone and SOA formation potentials in autumn and winter at Weinan, China, *Environ. Res.*, 203, 111821, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2021.111821>, 2022.
- Li, X., Sun, N., Jin, Q., Zhao, Z., Wang, L., Wang, Q., Gu, X., Li, Y., and Liu, X.: Light absorption properties of black and brown carbon in winter over the North China Plain: Impacts of regional biomass burning, *Atmos. Environ.*, 278, 119100, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2022.119100>, 2022.
- Li, Y. J., Sun, Y., Zhang, Q., Li, X., Li, M., Zhou, Z., and Chan, C. K.: Real-time chemical characterization of atmospheric particulate matter in China: a review, *Atmos. Environ.*, 158, 270–304, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.02.027>, 2017.
- Liu, Z., Wang, Y., Gu, D., Zhao, C., Huey, L. G., Stickel, R., Liao, J., Shao, M., Zhu, T., Zeng, L., Liu, S.-C., Chang, C.-C., Amoroso, A., and Costabile, F.: Evidence of reactive aromatics as a major source of peroxy acetyl nitrate over China, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 44 (18), 7017–7022, <https://doi.org/10.1021/es1007966>, 2010.
- Lv, S., Wang, F., Wu, C., Chen, Y., Liu, S., Zhang, S., Li, D., Du, W., Zhang, F., Wang, H., Huang, C., Fu, Q., Duan, Y., and Wang, G.: Gas-to-Aerosol Phase Partitioning of Atmospheric Water-Soluble Organic Compounds at a Rural Site in China: An Enhancing Effect of NH<sub>3</sub> on SOA Formation, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 56, 7, 3915–3924, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.1c06855>, 2022.
- Middlebrook, A. M., Bahreini, R., Jimenez, J. L., and Canagaratna, M. R.: Evaluation of composition-dependent collection efficiencies for the Aerodyne Aerosol Mass Spectrometer using field data,

Aerosol Sci. Tech., 46, 258–271, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02786826.2011.620041>, 2012.

705 Ng, N. L., Canagaratna, M. R., Zhang, Q., Jimenez, J. L., Tian, J., Ulbrich, I. M., Kroll, J. H., Docherty, K. S., Chhabra, P. S., Bahreini, R., Murphy, S. M., Seinfeld, J. H., Hildebrandt, L., Donahue, N. M., DeCarlo, P. F., Lanz, V. A., Prévôt, A. S. H., Dinar, E., Rudich, Y., and Worsnop, D. R.: Organic aerosol components observed in Northern Hemispheric datasets from Aerosol Mass Spectrometry, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 10, 4625–4641, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-10-4625-2010>, 2010.

710 Ng, N. L., Canagaratna, M. R., Jimenez, J. L., Chhabra, P. S., Seinfeld, J. H., and Worsnop, D. R.: Changes in organic aerosol composition with aging inferred from aerosol mass spectra, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 11, 6465–6474, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-11-6465-2011>, 2011a.

Ng, N. L., Canagaratna, M. R., Jimenez, J. L., Zhang, Q., Ulbrich, I. M., and Worsnop, D. R.: Real-time methods for estimating organic component mass concentrations from aerosol mass spectrometer data, Environ. Sci. Technol., 45, 910–916, <https://doi.org/10.1021/es102951k>, 2011b.

715 Onasch, T. B., Trimborn, A., Fortner, E. C., Jayne, J. T., Kok, G. L., Williams, L. R., Davidovits, P., and Worsnop, D. R.: Soot particle aerosol mass spectrometer: development, validation, and initial application, Aerosol. Sci. Tech., 46(7), 804–817, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02786826.2012.663948>, 2012.

720 Paatero, P.: The multilinear engine: a table-driven, least squares program for solving multilinear problems, including the n-way parallel factor analysis model, J. Comput. Graph. Stat., 8, 854–888, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10618600.1999.10474853>, 1999.

Paglionee, M., Gilardoni, S., Rinaldi, M., Decesari, S., Zanca, N., Sandrini, S., Giulianelli, L., Bacco, D., Ferrari, S., Poluzzi, V., Scotto, F., Trentini, A., Poulain, L., Herrmann, H., Wiedensohler, A., Canonaco, F., Prévôt, A. S. H., Massoli, P., Carbone, C., Facchini, M. C., and Fuzzi, S.: The impact of biomass burning and aqueous-phase processing on air quality: a multi-year source apportionment study in the Po Valley, Italy, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 20, 1233–1254, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-20-1233-2020>, 2020.

730 Peng, J., Hu, M., Guo, S., Du, Z., Zheng, J., Shang, D., Levy Zamora, M., Zeng, L., Shao, M., Wu, Y., Zheng, J., Wang, Y., Glen, C. R., Collins, D. R., Molina, M. J., and Zhang, R.: Markedly enhanced absorption and direct radiative forcing of black carbon under polluted urban environments, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 113 (16), 4266–4271, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1602310113>, 2016.

735 Shrivastava, M., Cappa, C. D., Fan, J. W., Goldstein, A. H., Guenther, A. B., Jimenez, J. L., Kuang, C., Laskin, A., Martin, S. T., Ng, N. L., Petaja, T., Pierce, J. R., Rasch, P. J., Roldin, P., Seinfeld, J. H., Shilling, J., Smith, J. N., Thornton, J. A., Volkamer, R., Wang, J., Worsnop, D. R., Zaveri, R. A., Zelenyuk, A., and Zhang, Q.: Recent advances in understanding secondary organic aerosol: Implications for global climate forcing, Rev. Geophys., 55, 509–559, <https://doi.org/10.1002/2016RG000540>, 2017.

740 Sun, Y. L., Wang, Z. F., Fu, P. Q., Yang, T., Jiang, Q., Dong, H. B., Li, J., and Jia, J. J.: Aerosol composition, sources and processes during wintertime in Beijing, China, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 13, 4577–4592, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-13-4577-2013>, 2013.

Sun, Y. L., Jiang, Q., Wang, Z., Fu, P., Li, J., Yang, T., and Yin, Y.: Investigation of the sources and evolution processes of severe haze pollution in Beijing in January 2013, *J. Geophys. Res. Atmos.*, 119, 4380–4398, <https://doi.org/10.1002/2014JD021641>, 2014.

745 Sun, Y. L., Wang, Z. F., Du, W., Zhang, Q., Wang, Q. Q., Fu, P. Q., Pan, X. L., Li, J., Jayne, J., and Worsnop, D. R.: Long term real-time measurements of aerosol particle composition in Beijing, China: seasonal variations, meteorological effects, and source analysis, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 15, 10149–10165, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-15-10149-2015>, 2015.

750 Sun, Y. L., Du, W., Fu, P., Wang, Q., Li, J., Ge, X., Zhang, Q., Zhu, C., Ren, L., Xu, W., Zhao, J., Han, T., Worsnop, D. R., and Wang, Z.: Primary and secondary aerosols in Beijing in winter: sources, variations and processes, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 16, 8309–8329, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-16-8309-2016>, 2016.

755 Sun, Y. L., Xu, W., Zhang, Q., Jiang, Q., Canonaco, F., Prévôt, A. S. H., Fu, P., Li, J., Jayne, J., Worsnop, D. R., and Wang, Z.: Source apportionment of organic aerosol from 2-year highly time-resolved measurements by an aerosol chemical speciation monitor in Beijing, China, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 18, 8469–8489, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-18-8469-2018>, 2018.

Tan, Y., Perri, M. J., Seitzinger, S. P., and Turpin, B. J.: Effects of Precursor Concentration and Acidic Sulfate in Aqueous Glyoxal-OH Radical Oxidation and Implications for Secondary Organic Aerosol, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 43, 8105–8112, <https://doi.org/10.1021/es901742f>, 2009.

760 Tong, Z., Yang, B., Hopke, P. K., and Zhang, K. M.: Microenvironmental air quality impact of a commercial-scale biomass heating system, *Environ. Pollut.*, 220, 1112–1120, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2016.11.025>, 2017.

765 Wan, J., Qin, C., Wang, Q., Xiao, Y., Niu, R., Li, X., and Su, J.: A Brief Overview of the 13th Five-Year Plan for the Protection of Ecological Environment, Environmental Strategy and Planning in China, 57-85, [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-6909-5\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-6909-5_3), 2022.

770 Wang, Y. C., Huang, R.-J., Ni, H. Y., Chen, Y., Wang, Q. Y., Li, G. H., Tie, X. X., Shen, Z. X., Huang, Y., Liu, S. X., Dong, W. M., Xue, P., Fröhlich, R., Canonaco, F., Elser, M., Daellenbach, K. R., Bozzetti, C., Haddad, E. I., and Cao, J. J.: Chemical composition, sources and secondary processes of aerosols in Baoji city of northwest China, *Atmos. Environ.*, 158, 128–137, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2017.03.026>, 2017.

Wu, Z., Wang, Y., Tan, T., Zhu, Y., Li, M., Shang, D., Wang, H., Lu, K., Guo, S., Zeng, L., and Zhang, Y.: Aerosol liquid water driven by anthropogenic inorganic salts: implying its key role in haze formation over the North China Plain, *Environ. Sci. Tech. Lett.*, 5, 160–166, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.8b00021>, 2018.

775 Xiao, H. W., Wu, J. F., Luo, L., Liu, C., Xie, Y. J., and Xiao, H. Y.: Enhanced biomass burning as a source of aerosol ammonium over cities in central China in autumn, *Environ. Pollut.*, 266, 115278, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2020.115278>, 2020.

Xu, J., Zhang, Q., Chen, M., Ge, X., Ren, J., and Qin, D.: Chemical composition, sources, and processes of urban aerosols during summertime in northwest China: insights from high-resolution aerosol

- 780 mass spectrometry, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 14, 12593–12611, [https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-14-12593-](https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-14-12593-2014)  
2014, 2014.
- Xu, J., Shi, J., Zhang, Q., Ge, X., Canonaco, F., Prévôt, A. S. H., Vonwiller, M., Szidat, S., Ge, J., Ma, J., An, Y., Kang, S., and Qin, D.: Wintertime organic and inorganic aerosols in Lanzhou, China: sources, processes, and comparison with the results during summer, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 16, 14937–14957, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-16-14937-2016>, 2016.
- 785 Xu, W. Q., Han, T. T., Du, W., Wang, Q. Q., Chen, C., Zhao, J., Zhang, Y. J., Li, J., Fu, P. Q., Wang, Z. F., Worsnop, D. R., and Sun, Y. L.: Effects of Aqueous-Phase and Photochemical Processing on Secondary Organic Aerosol Formation and Evolution in Beijing, China, *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 51, 762–770, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.6b04498>, 2017.
- 790 Xu, W., Sun, Y., Wang, Q., Zhao, J., Wang, J., Ge, X., Xie, C., Zhou, W., Du, W., Li, J., Fu, P., Wang, Z., Worsnop, D. R., and Coe, H.: Changes in aerosol chemistry from 2014 to 2016 in winter in Beijing: Insights from high-resolution aerosol mass spectrometry, *J. Geophys. Res.-Atmos.*, 124, 1132–1147, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2018JD029245>, 2019.
- Xue, J., Griffith, S. M., Yu, X., Lau, A. K. H., and Yu, J. Z.: Effect of nitrate and sulfate relative abundance in PM<sub>2.5</sub> on liquid water content explored through half-hourly observations of inorganic soluble aerosols at a polluted receptor site, *Atmos. Environ.*, 99, 24–31, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2014.09.049>, 2014.
- 795 [Yuan, W., Huang, R. J., Yang, L., Ni, H., Wang, T., Cao, W., Duan, J., Guo, J., Huang, H., and Hoffmann, T.: Concentrations, optical properties and sources of humic-like substances \(HULIS\) in fine particulate matter in Xi'an, Northwest China, \*Sci. Total. Environ.\*, 789, 147902, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.147902>, 2021.](#)
- 800 [Zhang, H., Chen, C., Yan, W., Wu, N., Bo, Y., Zhang, Q., and He, K.: Characteristics and sources of non-methane VOCs and their roles in SOA formation during autumn in a central Chinese city, \*Sci. Total. Environ.\*, 782, 146802, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.146802>, 2021.](#)
- 805 [Zhang, T., Shen, Z., Zhang, L., Tang, Z., Zhang, Q., Chen, Q., Lei, Y., Zeng, Y., Xu, H., and Cao, J.: PM<sub>2.5</sub> Humic-like substances over Xi'an, China: Optical properties, chemical functional group, and source identification, \*Atmos. Res.\*, 234, 104784, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosres.2019.104784>, 2020.](#)
- 810 [Zhang, T., Shen, Z., Zeng, Y., Cheng, C., Wang, D., Zhang, Q., Lei, Y., Zhang, Y., Sun, J., Xu, H., Ho, S.S.H., and Cao, J.: Light absorption properties and molecular profiles of HULIS in PM<sub>2.5</sub> emitted from biomass burning in traditional “Heated Kang” in Northwest China, \*Sci. Total. Environ.\*, 776, 146014, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.146014>, 2021.](#)
- 815 Zhong, H., Huang, R.-J., Duan, J., Lin, C., Gu, Y., Wang, Y., Li, Y. J., Zheng, Y., Chen, Q., Chen, Y., Dai, W. T., Ni, H. Y., Cao, J. J., Worsnop, D. R., Xu, W., Ovadnevaite, J., Ceburnis, D., and O'Dowd, C. D.: Seasonal variations in the sources of organic aerosol in Xi'an, Northwest China: The importance of biomass burning and secondary formation, *Sci. Total. Environ.*, 737, 139666, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.139666>, 2020.