

1 **Measurement Report: Effects of anthropogenic emissions and**
2 **environmental factors on biogenic secondary organic aerosol**
3 **(BSOA) formation in a coastal city of Southeastern China**

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34 **Abstract:**

35 To better understand the formation of biogenic secondary organic aerosol (BSOA),
36 aerosol samples with a 4 h time resolution were collected during summer and
37 wintertime in the southeast of China, along with on-line measurements of trace gases,
38 aerosol chemical compositions, and meteorological parameters. The samples were
39 analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry for PM_{2.5}-bound SOA tracers,
40 including isoprene (SOA_I), α / β -pinene (SOA_M), β -caryophyllene (SOA_C), and toluene
41 (ASOA). The average concentrations of total SOA tracers in winter and summer were
42 38.8 and 111.9 ng m⁻³, respectively, with the predominance of SOA_M (70.1% and
43 45.8%), followed by SOA_I (14.0% and 45.6%), ASOA (11.0% and 6.2%) and SOA_C
44 (4.9% and 2.3%). Compared to those in winter, the majority of BSOA tracers in summer
45 showed significant positive correlations with Ox (O₃+NO₂) ($r = 0.443 \sim 0.808$), HONO
46 ($r = 0.299 \sim 0.601$), ultraviolet (UV) ($r = 0.382 \sim 0.588$), and temperature (T) ($r =$
47 $0.529 \sim 0.852$), indicating the influence of photochemical oxidation under relatively
48 clean conditions. However, in winter, BSOA tracers were significantly correlated with
49 PM_{2.5} ($r = 0.407 \sim 0.867$), NO₃⁻ ($r = 0.416 \sim 0.884$), SO₄²⁻ ($r = 0.419 \sim 0.813$), and NH₃
50 ($r = 0.440 \sim 0.757$), attributed to the contributions of anthropogenic emissions. Major
51 BSOA tracers in both seasons was linearly correlated with aerosol acidity (pH) ($r =$
52 $0.421 \sim 0.752$), liquid water content (LWC) ($r = 0.403 \sim 0.876$) and SO₄²⁻ ($r = 0.419 \sim$
53 0.813). The results indicated that acid-catalyzed reactive uptake onto sulfate aerosol
54 particles enhanced the formation of BSOA. In summer, the clean air mass originated
55 from the ocean, and chlorine depletion was observed. We also found that concentrations
56 of the total SOA tracers was correlated with HCl ($R^2 = 0.545$) and chlorine ions ($r =$
57 $0.280 \sim 0.639$) –in PM_{2.5}, reflecting the contribution of Cl-initiated VOC oxidations to
58 the formation of SOA. In winter, the northeast dominant wind direction brought
59 continental polluted air mass to the monitoring site, affecting the transformation of
60 BSOA tracers. This implied that anthropogenic emissions, atmospheric oxidation
61 capacity and halogen chemistry have significant effects on the formation of BSOA in
62 the southeast coastal area.

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63 **Keywords:** SOA tracers; biogenic volatile organic compounds; anthropogenic
64 pollutants; atmospheric oxidation capacity; coastal area
65

66 **1. Introduction**

67 Secondary organic aerosol (SOA) has attracted widespread scientific research
68 concerns, due to its potential impacts on climate change, human health and air quality
69 (Shrivastava et al., 2017; Reid et al., 2018; Zhu et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2021b).
70 Understanding the formation of SOA and assessing its relevance for environmental
71 effects become an integral part of aerosol chemistry (Charan et al., 2019; Xiao et al.,
72 2020; Palmer et al., 2022). However, due to its complex precursors and atmospheric
73 physical or chemical processes, SOA prediction by air quality models remains highly
74 uncertain (McFiggans et al., 2019). Therefore, it is necessary to better explore missed
75 SOA sources and unknown SOA formation mechanisms.

76 SOA ~~was-is~~ produced by the conversion of biogenic and anthropogenic volatile
77 organic compounds (BVOCs and AVOCs) through complex homogeneous and
78 heterogeneous reactions (Charan et al., 2019; Xiao et al., 2020; Mahilang et al., 2021).
79 BVOCs are the main precursors of SOA on a global scale, while AVOCs are the
80 predominant contributor to SOA in urban areas (Hallquist et al., 2009; Wang et al.,
81 2021a). Recently, laboratory, field ~~observation~~ and modeling studies have shown that
82 anthropogenic emissions greatly affect the formation of BSOA (Hoyle et al., 2011;
83 Shrivastava et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019b; Zhang et al., 2019c; Mahilang et al., 2021;
84 Xu et al., 2021). Anthropogenic air pollutants, such as NO_x, SO₂, NH₃ and aerosols,
85 could influence the conversion of BVOCs to the particulate phase and the production
86 of nitrogen and sulfur compounds (Wang et al., 2020). NO_x is one of the important
87 drivers of SOA formation and yields during both daytime and nighttime through
88 alternating the fate of peroxy radicals (RO₂·) (Sarrafzadeh et al., 2016; Newland et al.,
89 2021). While ·OH dominates the photochemical oxidation of BVOC during daylight
90 hours, and NO₃· becomes one of the main oxidants for biogenic SOA and organic

91 ~~nitrate-nitrate formation~~ at night. SO₂ also plays an important role in changing SOA
92 formation from BVOC photooxidation and ozonolysis through sulfuric acid formation
93 and acid-catalyzed heterogeneous reactions (Zhao et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2019b; Xu
94 et al., 2021). In addition, NH₃ and amines can affect the SOA yields and composition
95 through both gas-phase and heterogeneous reactions, by reacting with sulfuric or nitric
96 acid to generate secondary inorganic aerosols (SIA) (Ma et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2021;
97 Lv et al., 2022). However, due to complex precursors and atmospheric processes, the
98 combined effects of anthropogenic emissions and meteorological factors on the
99 formation of SOA are not fully understood.

100 The coastal area of southeastern China is under the East Asian monsoon control,
101 which cause an obvious alternation of polluted and clean air masses from continental
102 and ocean area, respectively (Wu et al., 2019; Hong et al., 2021). Also, the local
103 geographical environment, including relatively high humidity, dense vegetation and
104 strong atmospheric oxidation capacity, provides a good chance to study the sources and
105 formation mechanisms of SOA. In our previous studies, ground-based observations in
106 a mountainous forest area of this region showed that BSOA tracers were the largest
107 contributor to SOA, and the aerosols were highly oxidized (Hong et al., 2019). However,
108 with the development of rapid urbanization, anthropogenic emissions will be of great
109 significance on SOA formation (Liu et al., 2020). Halogen radicals (chlorine, bromine,
110 iodine) have an important role in tropospheric oxidants chemistry and OA formation
111 (Wang et al., 2021c). Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the sources and formation
112 mechanisms of SOA in coastal urban areas, and so as to provide a scientific basis for
113 the estimation of regional SOA budgets and PM_{2.5} pollution control.

114 In this study, a continuous PM_{2.5} sampling campaign with a 4 h time resolution
115 was conducted in a coastal city of southeastern China during the winter and
116 summertime period. Seasonal, diurnal variations and SOC contributions of SOA tracers
117 were analyzed. Atmospheric process identified by SOA tracers in different seasons
118 were further analyzed. ~~We also demonstrated the indications of SOA tracers for air~~
119 ~~pollution process.~~ Finally, the combined effects of anthropogenic emissions and major

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120 environmental factors on promoting SOA formation was discussed.

121 **2. Materials and methods**

122 *2.1 Sample collection*

123 The sampling was performed at the Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese
124 Academy of Sciences (118.06° E, 24.61° N), which is located in a suburban area of
125 Xiamen, a coastal city of southeastern China. Detailed information of the air monitoring
126 supersite was described in our previous study (Hong et al., 2021). Briefly, time-resolved
127 (00:00–08:00, 08:00–12:00, 12:00–16:00, 16:00–20:00, 20:00–24:00 CST – China
128 Standard Time) PM_{2.5} samples were collected on the rooftop of the station (about 70m
129 above the ground). The sampling was carried out by using a high volume (1.05 m³ min⁻¹)
130 sampler (TH-1000C, Wuhan Tianhong, China) with a PM_{2.5} inlet from 10 to 18 January,
131 and from 5 to 14 July 2020. All samples were collected onto pre-baked (450 °C, 6 h)
132 quartz fiber filters. Field blank samples were also collected. The sample filters were
133 separately sealed in aluminum foil and stored in a freezer (–20 °C) prior to analysis.

134 *2.2 SOA tracers analysis by GC/MS*

135 The isoprene-derived SOA (SOA_I) tracers included 2 methyltetrols (MTLs: 2-
136 methylthreitol (MTL1) and 2-methylerythritol (MTL2)), C5-alkene triols (cis-2-
137 methyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene, trans-2-methyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene, and 3-
138 methyl-2,3,4-trihydroxy-1-butene) and 2-methylglyceric acid (MGA). The
139 monoterpene-derived SOA (SOA_M) tracers were composed of pinic acid (PA), pinonic
140 acid (PNA), 3-hydroxyglutaric acid (HGA), 3-methyl-1,2,3-butanetricarboxylic acid
141 (MBTCA), 3-hydro-4,4-dimethylglutaric acid (HDMGA), and 3-acetylglutaric acid
142 (AGA). The β-caryophyllene-derived SOA (SOA_C) tracer was β-caryophyllenic acid
143 (CA), the toluene-derived SOA (SOA_A) tracer was 2,3-Dihydroxy-4-oxopentanoic acid
144 (DHOPA) and levoglucosan (LEV) as a tracer of biomass burning. Due to the lack of
145 authentic standards, surrogate standards (including erythritol, malic acid, PA and
146 citramalic acid) were used to compensate for unavoidable assay variance of SOA_I,
147 SOA_M, SOA_C and SOA_A tracer in each sample during the pretreatment process,

148 respectively (Fu et al., 2009). However, inherent low volatility of isoprene SOA tracers
149 could cause the uncertainties of using the GC/MS method, and low-volatility oligomers
150 might break down into monomers, such as C5-alkene triols and 2-methyltetrols (Lopez-
151 Hilfiker et al., 2016; Hu et al., 2016). Therefore, quantifying the abundance of certain
152 SOA tracers remained a lot of uncertainties.

153 The analytical procedure of fifteen SOA tracers was published in our previous
154 studies (Hong et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020). Briefly, the filter samples were
155 ultrasonically extracted with a mixture of dichloromethane and methanol (2:1, v/v) for
156 10 min three times. The mixed extracts were filtered with a PTFE filter (0.22 μm), and
157 dried with high purity N_2 (99.99%), and then derivatized with 60 μL of
158 N,O-bis-(trimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) with 1% trimethylsilyl chloride
159 and 10 μL of pyridine at 70 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 3 h. At last, 140 μL of internal standard solution (^{13}C
160 n-alkane solution, 1.507 $\text{ng } \mu\text{L}^{-1}$) was added into the samples. Then, relative response
161 factors (RRFs) of surrogate and internal standard were calculated to quantify the
162 targeted organic tracers in each sample. Details of SOA tracer's calculated
163 concentrations based on RRFs were presented in our previous studies (Hong et al., 2019;
164 Liu et al., 2020).

165 Fifteen SOA tracers were determined by GC-MSD (7890A/5975C, Agilent
166 Technologies, Inc., USA) with a DB-5 MS silica capillary column (i.d. 30 \times 0.25 mm,
167 0.25 μm film thickness). 1 μL sample was injected with splitless mode and high purity
168 helium (99.999%) was used as carrier gas at a stable flow of 1.0 mL/min. The GC
169 temperature was initiated at 100 $^\circ\text{C}$ (held for 1 min) and then to 300 $^\circ\text{C}$ at 5 $^\circ\text{C } \text{min}^{-1}$,
170 and kept at 300 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 min. The operation mode is electron ionization (EI) mode of
171 70 eV. The method detection limits (MDLs) for erythritol and PNA were 0.01 and 0.02
172 $\text{ng } \text{m}^{-3}$, respectively. The recoveries of erythritol, PNA, malic acid, PA and citramalic
173 acid were 67 \pm 2%, 73 \pm 1%, 75 \pm 1%, 88 \pm 7% and 82 \pm 8%, respectively. SOA tracers were
174 not detected in the field blank samples.

175 2.3 Observations in the air monitoring supersite

176 Water-soluble inorganic ions (WSII) in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ (Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , Na^+ , K^+ , NH_4^+ ,

177 Mg^{2+} , and Ca^{2+}) and gas pollutants (HCl, HONO, HNO_3 , NH_3) were hourly measured
178 using a monitoring device for aerosols and gases in ambient Air (MARGA 2080;
179 Metrohm Applikon B.V.; Delft, Netherlands). Internal calibration was carried out using
180 LiBr standard solutions. The detection limit of Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , Na^+ , K^+ , NH_4^+ , Mg^{2+} ,
181 and Ca^{2+} were 0.01, 0.04, 0.05, 0.05, 0.09, 0.05, 0.06 and $0.09 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, respectively.

182 Hourly mass concentrations of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} were measured by using a tapered
183 element oscillating microbalance (TEOM1405, Thermo Scientific Corp., MA, USA).
184 NO_2 , SO_2 , and O_3 were monitored using continuous gas analyzers (TEI 42i, 43i, and
185 49i, Thermo Scientific Corp., MA, USA). Ambient meteorological parameters
186 including relative humidity (RH), temperature (T), wind speed (WS), and wind
187 direction (WD) were obtained by an ultrasonic anemometer (150WX, Airmar, the
188 USA). Photolysis frequencies were determined using a photolysis spectrometer (PFS-
189 100, Focused Photonics Inc., Hangzhou, China), including the photolysis rate constants
190 $J(\text{O}^1\text{D})$, $J(\text{HCHO}_M)$, $J(\text{HCHO}_R)$, $J(\text{NO}_2)$, $J(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2)$, $J(\text{HONO})$, $J(\text{NO}_3_M)$ and
191 $J(\text{NO}_3_R)$, and the spectral band ranged from 270 to 790 nm. Boundary layer height
192 (BLH) based on ERA-5 reanalysis dataset was downloaded from the following link
193 <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/datasets/reanalysis-datasets/era5>.

194 *2.4 Estimation of SOC using a tracer-based method*

195 The fraction of SOC formed by the oxidation of monoterpene, isoprene, β -
196 caryophyllene and toluene was estimated using a tracer-based method (Kleindienst et
197 al., 2007; Hong et al., 2019). It is defined as $[\text{SOC}] = \sum_i [\text{tri}]/f_{\text{SOC}}$, where [SOC]
198 represents the mass concentration of SOC ($\mu\text{gC m}^{-3}$) and $\sum_i [\text{tri}]$ means the sum of the
199 concentration of individual SOA tracer ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). The carbon mass fractions (f_{SOC}) of
200 monoterpene, isoprene, β -caryophyllene and toluene were 0.231 ± 0.111 , 0.155 ± 0.039 ,
201 0.023 ± 0.005 and 0.008 ± 0.003 , respectively, based on smog-chamber experimental
202 data (Kleindienst et al., 2007).

203 *2.5 Aerosol acidity and OH calculation*

204 The forward mode of ISORROPIA II thermodynamic model was used to calculate

205 the aerosol acidity (pH) (Fountoukis and Nenes, 2007). ISORROPIA II can calculate
 206 liquid water content (LWC), based on total SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- (gas HNO_3 plus particle NO_3^-),
 207 Cl^- , ammonia (gas NH_3 plus particle NH_4^+), non-volatile cations (Na^+ , K^+ , Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+}),
 208 and meteorological factors (RH and T) (Rumsey et al., 2014; Guo et al., 2016). The pH
 209 value from ISORROPIA II was calculated using the following equation:

$$210 \quad \text{pH} = -\lg\left(\frac{1000 \times \text{H}^+}{\text{LWC}}\right)$$

211 where H^+ is the hydronium ion concentration loading for an air sample ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).

212 The OH concentration ($[\text{OH}]$) was estimated using the NO_2 and HONO
 213 concentrations and the photolysis rate constants (J) of NO_2 , O_3 , and HONO, according
 214 to the following improved empirical formula (Wen et al., 2019).

$$215 \quad [\text{OH}] = 4.1 \times 10^9 \times \frac{J(\text{O}^1\text{D})^{0.83} \times J(\text{NO}_2)^{0.19} \times (140 \times \text{NO}_2 + 1) + \text{HONO} \times J(\text{HONO})}{0.41 \times \text{NO}_2^2 + 1.7 \times \text{NO}_2 + 1 + \text{NO} \times k_{\text{NO}+\text{OH}} + \text{HONO} \times k_{\text{HONO}+\text{OH}}}$$

216 2.6 Statistical analysis

217 Correlation analysis by SPSS 22.0 software (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA) was used
 218 to study the relationship among SOA tracers, meteorological parameters and criteria air
 219 pollutants. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was adopted to examine the
 220 variations of different factors.

221 2.7. Backward trajectory analysis

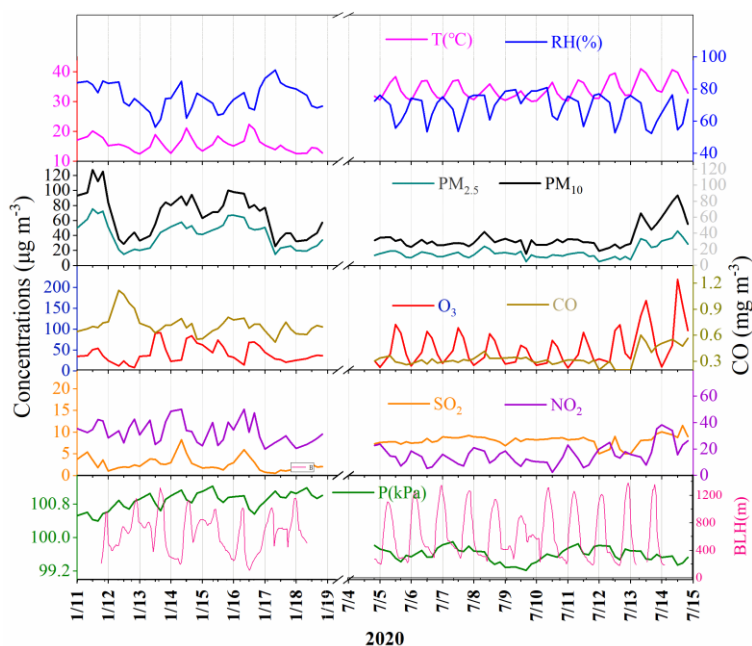
222 Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) was used to
 223 analyze the impacts of air masses on Xiamen during different seasons. 72 h backward
 224 trajectories were calculated every hour at a height of 500 m. The meteorological data
 225 with a resolution of 1° longitude \times 1° latitude was obtained from the NCEP/GDAS.
 226 Cluster analysis was adopted using the total spatial variance (TSV).

227 3 Results and discussion

228 3.1. Overview of air pollutants

229 The concentrations of criteria air pollutants, including SO_2 , CO, NO_2 , O_3 , $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
 230 and PM_{10} , and meteorological parameters during wintertime and summertime were
 231 shown in Fig.1. The concentrations of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in winter ranged from 14.9 to $75.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$

232 with an average of $42.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, which was much higher than that (the average of 18.4
 233 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in summer, ranging from 12.8 to $46.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The concentrations of CO, NO₂
 234 and PM₁₀ showed similar seasonal trends to the pattern of PM_{2.5}. In contrast, O₃ had the
 235 highest concentration in summer, which was attributed to the formation of
 236 photochemical reaction under strong UV radiation and the weak titration of nitrogen
 237 oxides. Meanwhile, the concentrations of SO₂ ($8.37 \pm 0.79 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in summer was also
 238 higher than that ($2.63 \pm 1.95 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in winter, mainly attributed to the influence of coal
 239 combustion and ship emissions. The monitoring site was located approximately 15 km
 240 away from Xiamen port area and a coal-fired power plant ($4 \times 300 \text{ kW}$) in the south.
 241 Southerly winds were prevailed in summer, which might cause the relative high
 242 concentration of SO₂ in the monitoring site.



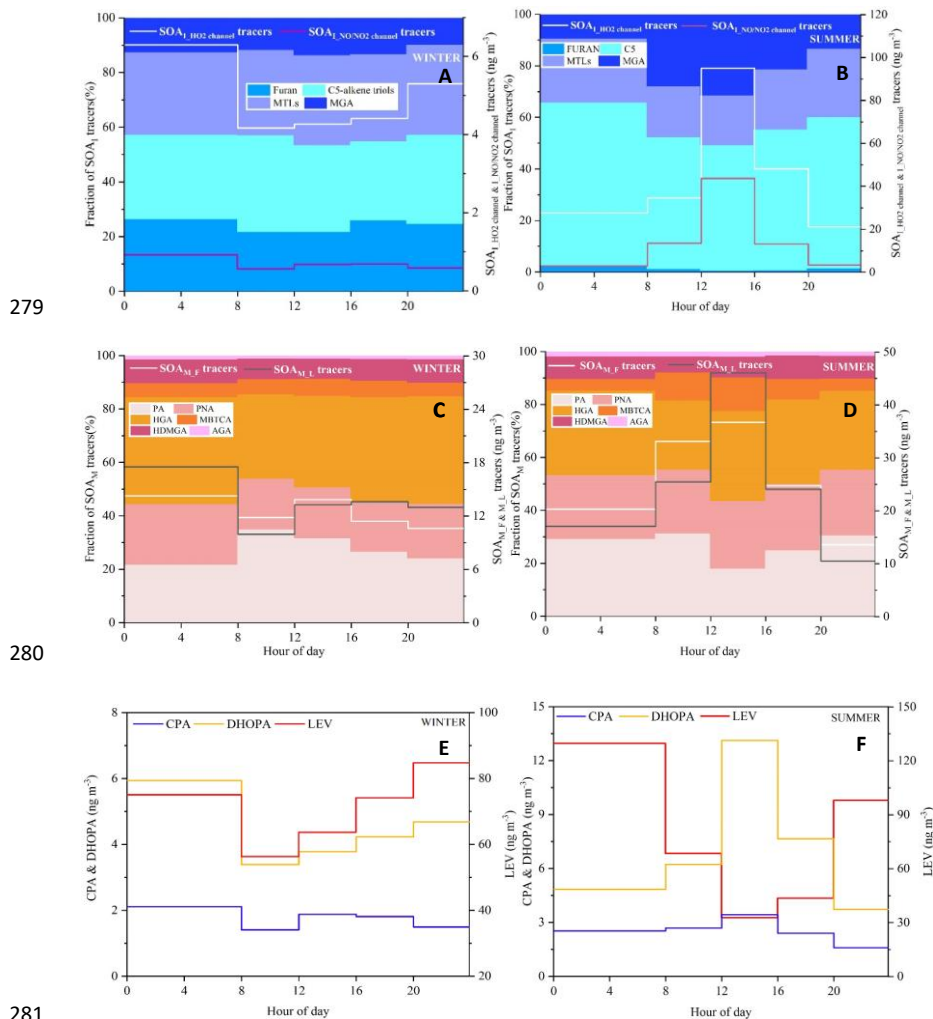
243
 244 **Figure 1. Time series of criteria air pollutants and meteorological parameters**
 245 **during the sampling period**

246 *3.2 Temporal variations of SOA tracers and estimated SOC*

247 Temporal variations of individual SOA tracer are shown in Fig.S1. The average

248 concentrations of total SOA tracers in winter and summer were 37.3 and 111.3 ng m⁻³,
249 respectively. The predominance of SOA_M (26.6 ng m⁻³), followed by ASOA (4.60 ng
250 m⁻³), SOA_I (4.35 ng m⁻³) and SOA_C (1.76 ng m⁻³) was observed in winter while SOA_I
251 (54.4 ng m⁻³) and SOA_M (47.8 ng m⁻³) in summer were the main contributors to total
252 SOA tracers, followed by ASOA (6.64 ng m⁻³) and SOA_C (2.45 ng m⁻³). In summer,
253 BSOA tracers showed much higher concentrations in the daytime (149.3 ng m⁻³) than
254 in the nighttime (60.1 ng m⁻³), while inverse results were observed in winter (30.4 ng
255 m⁻³ and 35.0 ng m⁻³ in the daytime and nighttime, respectively). As shown in Table S2,
256 in summer, SOA_I in the daytime ranged from 21.3 to 293.2 ng m⁻³ (average of
257 82.0±66.2 ng m⁻³) and the concentrations of SOA_I ranging from 6.81 to 110.1 ng m⁻³
258 (average of 26.8±24.6 ng m⁻³) were observed in the nighttime. However, in winter, the
259 concentrations of isoprene SOA tracers in the daytime ranging from 1.36 to 11.1 ng m⁻³
260 (average of 3.79±2.37 ng m⁻³) were lower than those (average of 4.91±3.75 ng m⁻³) in
261 the nighttime. As shown in Fig. 2, diurnal variations of SOA_M, SOA_I, CPA and DHOPA
262 tracers in summer showed high levels in the afternoon (12:00–16:00 CST), due to the
263 impacts of beneficial photochemical oxidation conditions caused by high temperature
264 and strong UV radiation. The related SOA tracers were consisted with the emissions of
265 their precursors including biogenic and anthropogenic VOCs, similar to our previous
266 studies (Hong et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020). However, the SOA tracers in winter showed
267 the lowest concentrations in the morning (8:00–12:00 CST), related with the favorable
268 dispersion conditions caused by the increasing planetary boundary layer height (BLH)
269 (Fig.1). Levoglucosan (LEV), a typical tracer of biomass burning, similar seasonal and
270 diurnal trend to other tracers was observed. However, LEV may not be as stable in the
271 atmosphere, especially under high relative humidity conditions (Hoffmann et al., 2010).
272 In this study, maybe, it's hard to reflect the real concentration of LEV. A correlation of
273 CPA with LEV was carried out (Fig.S2), just to discuss the impacts of biomass burning
274 on the distribution of CPA tracers through local or long-range transport. Totally, high
275 concentrations of BSOA tracers was found in the daytime and in summer, indicating
276 the effects of temperature on biogenic VOCs emissions and their photochemical

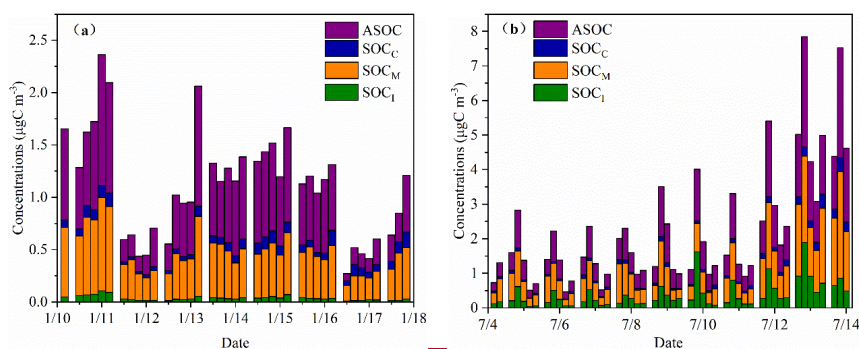
277 oxidations. And the concentrations of BSOA tracers in winter increased in the nighttime,
 278 due to the changing of nocturnal boundary layer.



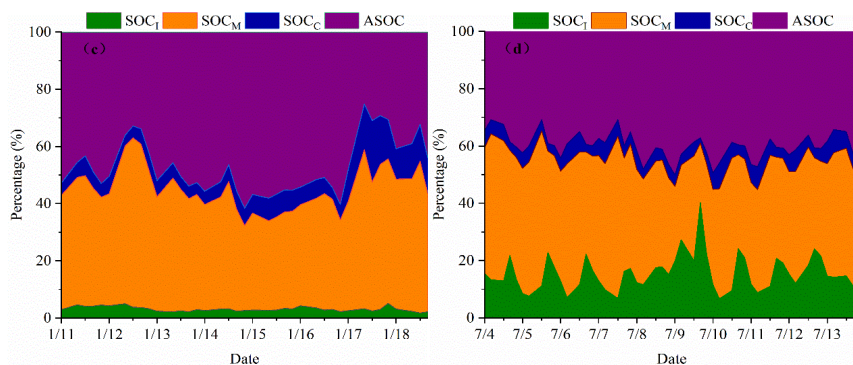
282 **Figure 2. Diurnal variation of individual SOA tracer during the wintertime (A,**
 283 **C, and E) and summertime (B, D, and F)**

284 As shown in Fig. 3aS2a, b, SOA tracers-based SOC in winter and summer was
 285 estimated. The concentrations of SOC in winter ranged from 0.27 to 2.36 $\mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$, with
 286 an average of 1.11 $\mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$. Meanwhile, the concentrations of SOC in summer ranged

287 from 0.46 to $7.85 \mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$, with an average of $2.27 \mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$. The concentrations of
 288 SOC in summer was higher than that in winter, attributed to the increase of flourishing
 289 vegetation emissions and photochemical reactions under high temperature and strong solar
 290 radiation conditions. For individual SOA tracer, the concentrations of monoterpene-
 291 derived SOC ($0.87 \pm 0.64 \mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$) was comparable to the toluene-derived SOC (0.90
 292 $\pm 0.69 \mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$), which were higher than isoprene-derived SOC ($0.39 \pm 0.38 \mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$)
 293 and β -caryophyllene-derived SOC ($0.10 \pm 0.08 \mu\text{g C m}^{-3}$). An obvious trend of
 294 diurnal variations of isoprene-derived SOC in summer was observed, which was
 295 consistent with the diurnal pattern of isoprene concentration (Fig.S3). However, no
 296 similar trend was found in winter, attributed to the influence of low temperature on
 297 inhibiting the emissions of isoprene from various kinds of plants. In addition, the
 298 toluene, monoterpene, isoprene and β -caryophyllene-derived SOC in summer
 299 accounted for 40.0%, 39.2%, 15.7% and 5.1% of the total SOC, respectively (Fig.3eS2c,
 300 d). However, in winter, the percentages of toluene, monoterpene, isoprene and β -
 301 caryophyllene-derived SOC were 47.2%, 42.1%, 3.2% and 7.6%, respectively. The
 302 percentages of isoprene-derived SOC estimated from different precursors varied
 303 significantly among the seasons. High temperature enhanced the emissions of isoprene,
 304 and strong solar radiation favored the formation of isoprene SOA tracers, contributing
 305 to the highest isoprene-derived SOC percentage in summer (Ding et al., 2014). And the
 306 highest percentages of toluene-derived SOC (47.2%) in winter were related with
 307 anthropogenic emissions and adverse diffusion conditions.



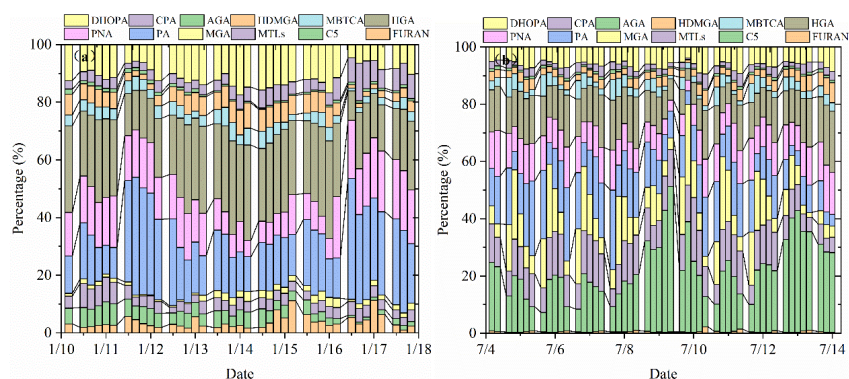
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309
310 **Figure 3. Concentrations and percentages of SOA tracer-based estimated SOC**
311 **during the sampling period**

312 3.3 Atmospheric process indication of BSOA tracers

313 As shown in Fig.43, percentages of different types of SOA tracers in winter and
314 summer were calculated. In summer, the monoterpene, isoprene, toluene and β -
315 caryophyllene SOA tracers accounted for 45.8%, 45.6%, 6.2% and 2.3% of the total
316 SOA tracers, respectively. However, in winter, the percentages of monoterpene,
317 isoprene, toluene and β -caryophyllene SOA tracers were 70.1%, 14.0%, 11.0% and
318 4.9%, respectively. The percentage of SOA_I tracers decreased sharply, due to the
319 impacts of temperature on isoprene emissions, which was consisted with our previous
320 findings (Hong et al., 2019). Meanwhile, the concentrations of SOA_M tracers were the
321 largest in both seasons, due to a large amount of monoterpene emissions from the
322 related plant species. Xiamen, an international garden city, located in coastal area of
323 southeastern China. Monoterpene, such as α/β -pinene, is mostly emitted by coniferous
324 plant and most flowers and fruits, while isoprene originates from broad-leaved trees
325 and deciduous plants (Ding et al., 2014; Shrivastava et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2021).



326

327 **Figure 43. Percentages of isoprene, monoterpene, β -caryophyllene and toluene**
 328 **SOA tracers in winter (a) and summer (b)**

329 The first (PA and PNA) and later generation (HGA, AGA, HDMGA and MBTCA)
 330 products were used to evaluate the aging degree of SOA_M (Ding et al., 2014; Hong et
 331 al., 2019). In this study, HGA (32.2%) was the major component of α/β -pinene tracers,
 332 followed by PA (30.5%), PNA (21.8%), HDMGA (7.3%), MBTCA (6.8%), and AGA
 333 (1.5%). The percentage of PA and PNA were much higher than those in mountainous
 334 background areas (PA: 9% and PNA: 3%)(Hong et al., 2019), suggesting the
 335 contribution of preliminary products to SOA in urban areas. As shown in Fig.43, the
 336 percentages of PA and PNA in winter (21.8% and 14.2%) were higher than those in
 337 summer (14.2% and 10.7%). Reacted with atmospheric oxidants including O₃ and OH,
 338 PA and PNA were transformed into MBTCA (Offenberg et al., 2007). This is the reason
 339 why the proportions of PA and PNA had a significant decreasing trend from winter to
 340 summer. The ratio of MBTCA/(PA+PNA) in summer and winter were 0.16 ± 0.09 and
 341 0.12 ± 0.07 , respectively, which also proved the impacts of atmospheric oxidation
 342 capacity on the aging degree of SOA_M. In addition, the ratio of HGA/MBTCA could
 343 be used to distinguish the contribution of α -pinene or β -pinene to the SOA_M formation
 344 (Jaoui et al., 2005; Ding et al., 2014). Low ratio of HGA/MBTCA (~ 1.0) showed that
 345 α -pinene was the major precursor for SOA_M (Lewandowski et al., 2013). The ratio of
 346 HGA/MBTCA with an average of 5.78 in Xiamen was high, suggesting the contribution

347 of β -pinene to SOA_M.

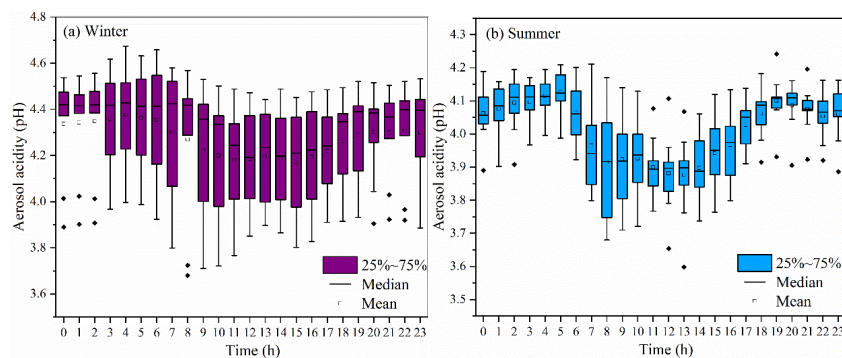
348 As shown in Fig.43, MTLs and C5 alkene triols were the main components of
349 the total SOA_I, with an average percentage of $68.0\pm 14.9\%$, indicating a low-NO_x
350 environment (Ding et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2020). In summer, the percentages of MTLs
351 and C5 alkene triols to the total SOA tracers in summer (21.8% and 14.2%) were
352 obviously higher than those in winter (4.2% and 4.3%). This was consisted with the
353 fact that the concentrations of NO₂ ($14.8\pm 7.46 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in summer was significantly
354 lower than that ($32.7\pm 32.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in winter. Previous studies found that MTLs and C5
355 alkene triols were formed by the OH and HO₂ radicals via the HO₂ channel under low-
356 NO_x conditions (Surratt et al., 2010). C5 alkene triols are mainly produced by acid
357 catalyzed reaction of Isoprene Epoxydiols (IEPOX) in the gas phase, while MTLs are
358 formed by ring opening products of IEPOX (Surratt et al., 2007; Surratt et al., 2010).
359 And the ozonolysis of isoprene was also an important pathway for MTLs in the
360 presence of acid sulfate aerosols (Riva et al., 2016).

361 CPA, the typical tracer of sesquiterpenes, is formed by the photooxidation of β -
362 caryophyllene (Jaoui et al., 2007). As shown in Fig.43, CPA in winter and summer
363 accounted for 5.0% and 2.3% of the total SOA tracers, respectively. This is because
364 that the percentage of SOA_I has significant increase in summer. And the concentrations
365 of CPA ($2.5\pm 2.0 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$) in summer were higher than that ($1.7\pm 0.8 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$) in winter,
366 probably attributed to the emissions of β -caryophyllene driven by temperature and solar
367 radiation. The CPA has a good correlation with DHOPA in summer (Fig.S2S4),
368 suggesting the influence of photochemical oxidation (Liu et al., 2020). However, the
369 CPA were not correlated with LEV in both seasons, reflecting the limited contribution
370 of biomass burning (Zhang et al., 2019c).

371 3.4 Impacts of aerosol acidity on BSOA formation

372 Aerosol acidity (pH) was an important factor on SOA formation (Surratt et al.,
373 2007; Offenberg et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2019b; Zhang et al., 2019d). Time series of
374 aerosol pH calculated by ISORROPIA II is shown in Fig.54. The PM_{2.5} in Xiamen was
375 moderately acidic with daily pH range from 3.68 to 4.67. The highest aerosol pH was

376 observed in winter, and the lowest pH in summer. This is with similar seasonal trend,
377 closing to the Yangtze River Delta (YRD) region, but obviously lower levels than those
378 in NCP cities of China (Zhou et al., 2021). In general, the aerosol pH in Chinese cities
379 were higher than those in US and European.



380

381 **Figure 54.** Diurnal variations of aerosol acidity (pH) during the wintertime (a)
382 and summertime (b) period (The boxes with error bars represent the 10th, 25th,
383 75th, and 90th percentiles)

384 A declining trend pH during the daytime was observed (Fig. 54), which was related
385 to the changes of chemical compositions and environmental conditions. The aerosol pH
386 levels (~3 to 6) was related with a shift from sulfate- to nitrate-dominated aerosols (Guo
387 et al., 2017). According to the multiphase buffer theory, the peak buffer pH (pKa*)
388 regulated the aerosol pH, and temperature could obviously cause the variation of
389 aerosol pH (Zheng et al., 2020). To further discuss the impacts of aerosol acidity on
390 BSOA formation in coastal city, we analyzed the relationship between BSOA tracers
391 and seed particles with different pH and liquid water content (LWC) (Fig. S4-S5 and
392 Table 1).

393 ~~In Table 1, the BSOA tracers was linearly correlated with aerosol acidity (pH) and~~
394 ~~SO₄²⁻. In summer, BSOA tracers in the particle phase were found to increase with~~
395 ~~increasing acidity, which was attributed to the presence of acid catalyzed aerosols. For~~
396 ~~example, isoprene SOA tracers is mainly formed through acid catalyzed reactive~~
397 ~~uptake of isoprene derived epoxydiols (IEPOX) onto sulfate aerosol particles.~~

Table 1 Correlations between individual BSOA tracer and environmental factors in winter and summer

Season	SOA tracer	pH	LWC	HONO	PM _{2.5}	Cl ⁻	NO ₃ ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻	NH ₃	SO ₂	NO ₂	Ox	T	RH	UV
WINTER (n=39)	C5	.584**	.701**	.534**	.690**	.569**	.710**	.663**	.705**	.308	.353*	0.203	.361*	0.140	0.200
	MTLS	.590**	.705**	.431*	.665**	.639**	.707**	.651**	.757**	0.185	0.229	0.098	.353*	0.295	-0.068
	MGA	.390*	.707**	0.261	.668**	0.081	.758**	.572**	0.284	0.172	0.123	.374*	.377*	-0.019	0.238
	PA	.432*	.403**	.463**	.407**	.481*	.416*	.488*	.440*	.446*	0.241	-0.193	.319*	-0.205	0.145
	PNA	.489**	.579**	0.311	.459**	.516**	.573**	.533**	.543**	0.08	0.071	-0.101	0.121	.337*	-0.122
	HGA	.443*	.829**	.352*	.834**	.600**	.847**	.754**	.641**	0.275	0.299	.451**	.451**	0.043	0.210
	MBTCA	.433*	.678**	.447**	.670**	.435*	.733**	.589**	.710**	.327*	0.253	.492**	.552**	-0.158	0.317
	HDMGA	.421*	.876**	.401*	.867**	.631**	.884**	.813**	.643**	.335*	.321*	.526**	.485**	-0.049	0.327
	AGA	.570**	.575**	.370*	.488**	.577**	.566**	.544**	.731**	0.126	0.181	0.019	0.279	0.298	-0.122
	CPA	0.212	.462**	-0.068	.452**	.483**	.437*	.419*	.4255	-0.15	-0.170	0.016	0.079	0.200	-0.144
SUMMER (n=50)	C5	-.495**	.425**	0.160	.622**	-.340*	0.268	.625**	.436**	0.254	0.025	.649**	.573**	-.529**	0.247
	MTLS	-.551**	0.131	0.055	0.272	-.439**	0.131	.428**	.304*	0.089	-0.278	.550**	.610**	-.594**	0.263
	MGA	-.540**	0.029	0.116	0.132	-.403**	0.066	.472**	0.270	0.096	-.410**	.443**	.633**	-.668**	.382*
	PA	-.633**	.483**	.601**	.461**	-0.135	.541**	.502**	.405*	0.037	0.238	.456**	.626**	-.558**	.400*
	PNA	-.664**	.616**	.387**	.812**	-.389**	.450**	.784**	.503**	0.269	.294*	.769**	.718**	-.631**	.404*
	HGA	-.607**	.612**	.299*	.836**	-.384**	.447**	.770**	.539**	.316*	0.272	.808**	.670**	-.599**	0.322
	MBTCA	-.752**	.415**	0.237	.577**	-.382**	.359*	.636**	.501**	0.201	-0.052	.712**	.852**	-.816**	.588**
	HDMGA	-.525**	.618**	.299*	.833**	-.342*	.408**	.768**	.488**	.358*	.365**	.746**	.574**	-.500**	0.240
	AGA	-.684**	.592**	.447**	.766**	-.334*	.479**	.735**	.435**	0.244	0.271	.694**	.720**	-.634**	.477**
	CPA	-.552**	.625**	.441**	.780**	-.280*	.453**	.763**	.307*	.299*	.503**	.611**	.529**	-.458**	0.305

*/**Correlation coefficients with an asterisk indicate statistically significant relationships at $\alpha = 0.05$, and two asterisks mean significant at $\alpha = 0.01$.

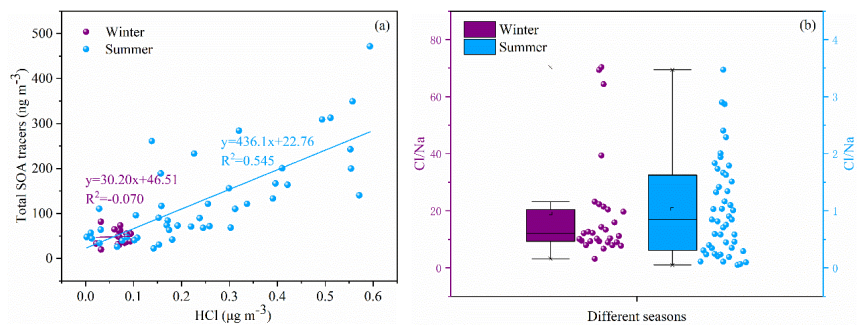
402 In Table 1, the BSOA tracers was linearly correlated with aerosol acidity (pH) and
403 SO₄²⁻. In summer, BSOA tracers in the particle phase were found to increase with
404 increasing acidity, which was attributed to the presence of acid catalyzed aerosols. For
405 example, isoprene SOA tracers is mainly formed through acid-catalyzed reactive uptake
406 of isoprene-derived epoxydiols (IEPOX) onto sulfate aerosol particles. In our previous
407 studies, we have reported that high concentration of MTLs was related with sulfate,
408 which could significantly promote the formation of isoprene-SOA tracers (Liu et al.,
409 2020). Other studies also found that sulfate could increase the BSOA production by
410 promoting acid-catalyzed ring-opening reactions (Xu et al., 2015). In contrast, positive
411 correlations between BSOA tracers and aerosol pH in winter were observed, indicating
412 that the formation of BSOA was predominantly enhanced by other factors, except for
413 the aerosol acidity. The aerosol pH in winter was higher than those in summer, probably
414 due to the influence of nitrate-dominated aerosols. Also, the aged aerosols through long-
415 range transport might result in the increase of BSOA tracers and aerosol pH.

416 In addition, positive correlation between BSOA tracers and LWC was observed
417 (Table 1), probably attributed to the effects of the LWC on determining the peak buffer
418 pH (pKa*). Zheng et al. (2020) reported that the buffering effect of ammonia suppresses
419 the contribution of different chemical compositions in aerosol particles, making LWC
420 the primary determinant of aerosol pH. Other studies have demonstrated that the uptake
421 coefficient of first-generation oxidation products, especially for carbonyl compounds,
422 might depend on RH (Luo et al., 2019). Meanwhile, high LWC could reduce the aerosol
423 particle viscosity, which was benefit to the generation of the reactive intermediate such
424 as IEPOX, or other oxidation products of VOC into aqueous-phase of aerosol particles,
425 thereby promoting the formation of BSOA (Zhang et al., 2019b; Zhang et al., 2019d).

426 *3.5 Impacts of chlorine on BSOA formation*

427 Halogen radicals (Cl, Br and I) originated from sea salt aerosol (SSA) have an
428 important role in tropospheric oxidants chemistry (Wang et al., 2021c). In this study,
429 chlorine depletion was frequently observed in summer (Fig. 6b5b), indicating that HCl
430 can be formed through acid displacement of sea salt aerosol Cl⁻ by H₂SO₄ and HNO₃
431 produced from anthropogenic emissions of SO₂ and NO_x. Moreover, concentrations of
432 the total SOA tracers were positively correlated with HCl (Fig. 6a5a), suggesting the
433 enhancement of SOA precursors transformation. Previous studies have found that Cl-
434 initiated VOC oxidations could contribute to the formation of SOA (Wang and Ruiz,

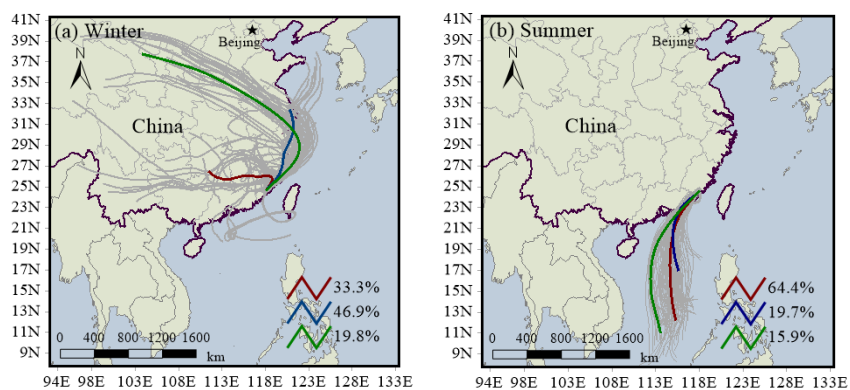
435 2017; Dhulipala et al., 2019).



436

437 **Figure 65. Correlations of total SOA tracers and HCl (a) and chlorine**
438 **depletion (b) in different seasons**

439 Under ammonia-rich conditions, HCl partitioned into the aqueous particulate
440 phase mostly took place, and chlorine ions could affect aqueous oxidation of secondary
441 organic compounds (Xu et al., 2021). As shown in Table 1, most of SOA tracers in
442 winter were correlated with the concentrations of chlorine ions in $PM_{2.5}$, while inverse
443 results were observed in summer. In winter, the dominant wind direction is northeast
444 (Fig. 76), and chlorine mainly come from continental polluted air mass, such as
445 industrial and combustion emissions. So, anthropogenic pollutants through long-range
446 transport might cause the enhancement of SOA tracer concentrations at the monitoring
447 site. However, in summer, negative correlations of BSOA tracers and chlorine ions in
448 $PM_{2.5}$ was found, probably due to the influence of chlorine depletion. As shown in Fig.
449 76, the dominant wind direction is southerly, and chlorine mainly originated from the
450 spray of sea salt.



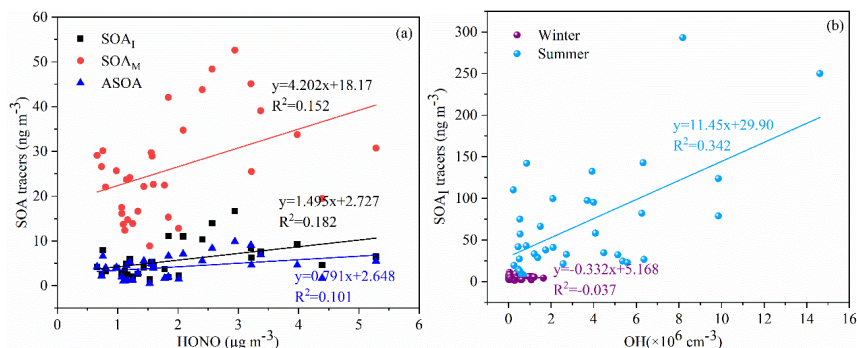
451

452 **Figure 76. Backward trajectories analyses during the winter (a) and summertime**
 453 **(b)**

454 *3.6. Enhanced formation of BSOA by anthropogenic emissions*

455 Recent studies had indicated that anthropogenic emissions might affect SOA
 456 formation through multiple chemical processes, based on laboratory studies and field
 457 observations (Kari et al., 2019; Shrivastava et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019c; Cheng et
 458 al., 2021; Xu et al., 2021). In this study, we conducted the correlation analysis of
 459 individual SOA tracers and Ox ($=\text{O}_3+\text{NO}_2$), HONO, OH, SO₂, NH₃, PM_{2.5}, sulfate,
 460 nitrate, as well as meteorological parameters (including T, RH and UV) (Table 1).

461 Most of SOA tracers have a significant positive correlation with NH₃, suggesting
 462 an enhancement effect on the formation of SOA (Table 1). NH₃ could affect the SOA
 463 yields through both gas-phase and heterogeneous reactions (Na et al., 2007; Ma et al.,
 464 2018; Hao et al., 2020). Gas-phase reaction between NH₃ and organic acids (such as
 465 PA and PNA) produced ammonium salts in the particle phase, which contributed to the
 466 increased SOA formation. However, not all gas-phase organic acids (e.g., MGA and
 467 pyruvic acid) could demonstrate gas-to-particle conversion (Na et al., 2007). When
 468 SOA formation had ceased, the addition of excessive NH₃ would result in the rapid
 469 decomposition of the main SOA species, due to the nucleophilic attack of NH₃ (Ma et
 470 al., 2018).



471

472 **Figure 87. Relationships of SOA tracers and HONO (a) and its estimated OH (b)**

473 As an indicator of atmospheric oxidation capacity, the tropospheric odd oxygen
 474 Ox (O₃+NO₂) was calculated. As shown in Table 1, the majority of SOA tracers in
 475 summer showed significant positive correlations with Ox (R>0.5, P<0.001). However,
 476 in winter, a part of SOA_M tracers (e.g. HGA, MBTCA and HDMGA) were found to be
 477 significantly correlated with Ox. In addition, HONO and OH radicals, another critical
 478 indicator of atmospheric oxidation capacity, was also discussed. In this study, the
 479 concentration of OH radicals calculated from HONO in summer was higher than those
 480 in winter. In summer, the SOA_I tracers was correlated with OH radicals (Fig. 8b7b),
 481 consisted with previous findings that OH radicals could promote the formation of SOA
 482 (Sarrafzadeh et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2019; Song et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019a). Due
 483 to its photolysis to produce OH radicals during the daytime, HONO could facilitate
 484 SOA formation. In winter, the concentrations of SOA_I, SOA_M and ASOA tracers were
 485 correlated with HONO (Fig. 8a7a). These results indicated high concentrations of
 486 HONO and sufficient ultraviolet radiation could enhance the photochemical reactions
 487 of VOCs. Which was consisted with our previous results on the formation of
 488 peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN) (Hu et al., 2020). As for T and UV, it exhibited significantly
 489 positive correlations with the related SOA tracers, especially in summer. These results
 490 suggested that SOA tracers were produced from the photo-oxidation of VOC precursors
 491 (Cheng et al., 2021).

492 In addition, the SOA tracers were significantly positive correlated with PM_{2.5} and
 493 its components including NO₃⁻ and SO₄²⁻. In coastal cities of southeastern China, with
 494 the development of rapid urbanization, air pollution caused by motor vehicles and
 495 industrial emissions is becoming more frequent in winter (Wu et al., 2020). The Xiamen

496 port is one of the top 10 ports in China, resulting the impacts of ship emissions and port
497 activities on ambient air quality (Xu et al., 2018), and the numbers of motor vehicles
498 increased sharply in recent years. We also found that the 90th percentile of maximum
499 daily average 8h (MDA8) O₃ concentrations in Xiamen was significantly increased
500 from 2015 to 2020 (Fig. S5S6). During the past several years, the elevated secondary
501 inorganic components, including NO₃⁻, SO₄²⁻ and NH₄⁺, accounted for 40-50% of the
502 total PM_{2.5}, and OM ranged from 30% to 40% (Wu et al., 2019; Hong et al., 2021).
503 These results also implied the effects of anthropogenic emissions and enhanced
504 atmospheric oxidation capacity on secondary formation of aerosol particles under
505 atmospheric stagnant conditions.

506 **Conclusions**

507 Pollution characteristics and source identification of BSOA tracers during the
508 summer and winter in coastal areas of southeastern China were investigated. The
509 average concentration of total BSOA tracers in summer was higher than that in winter,
510 with the predominance of SOA_M, followed by SOA_I and SOA_C. The BSOA tracers in
511 summer were predominantly produced by the influence of photochemical oxidation
512 under relatively clean conditions. However, in winter, the formation of BSOA tracers
513 were attributed to the impacts of anthropogenic emissions and atmospheric stagnant
514 conditions. In addition, the results also indicated that acid-catalyzed reactive uptake
515 onto sulfate aerosol particles enhanced the formation of BSOA in both seasons. We
516 further found that Cl-initiated VOC oxidations has potentially accelerated the
517 transformation of BSOA precursors through sea salt aerosol originated from the ocean
518 in summer and anthropogenic emissions in winter. This study demonstrated that the
519 combined effects of anthropogenic pollutants and atmospheric oxidation capacity on
520 the formation of BSOA in coastal area.

521

522 **Data Availability.** The data set related to this work can be accessed via
523 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6376025> (Hong, 2022). The details are also available
524 upon request from the corresponding author (ywhong@iue.ac.cn).

525

526 **Authorship Contribution Statement.** Youwei Hong and Xinbei Xu contributed equally
527 to this work. Youwei Hong designed and wrote the manuscript. Xinbei Xu collected the
528 data, contributed to the data analysis. Dan Liao, Taotao Liu, Xiaoting Ji and Ke Xu

529 performed modeling analyses and data analysis. Jinsheng Chen supported funding of
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531 revise the manuscript.

532

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

534

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552

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