

1 **Measurement Report: Distinct size dependence and**
2 **diurnal variation of OA hygroscopicity, volatility, and**
3 **CCN activity at a rural site in the Pearl River Delta**
4 **(PRD) region, China**

5 Mingfu Cai^{1,2,3}, Shan Huang^{1,2*}, Baoling Liang³⁴, Qibin Sun³⁴, Li Liu^{45*}, Bin Yuan^{1,2},
6 Min Shao^{1,2}, Weiwei Hu⁵⁶, Wei Chen⁶⁶, Qicong Song^{1,2}, Wei Li^{1,2}, Yuwen Peng^{1,2},
7 Zelong Wang^{1,2}, Duohong Chen⁷⁶, Haobo Tan⁵⁴, Hanbin Xu⁴³, Fei Li^{54,7}, Xuejiao
8 Deng⁵⁴, Tao Deng⁵⁴, Jiaren Sun³², and Jun Zhao^{4,88,99}

9 ¹ Institute for Environmental and Climate Research, Jinan University; Guangdong-Hongkong-
10 Macau Joint Laboratory of Collaborative Innovation for Environmental Quality,⁵ Guangzhou,
11 Guangdong-511443, China

12 ~~²-Guangdong Hongkong Macau Joint Laboratory of Collaborative Innovation for Environmental~~
13 ~~Quality, Guangzhou, Guangdong 511443, China~~

14 ³² Guangdong Province Engineering Laboratory for Air Pollution Control, Guangdong Provincial
15 Key Laboratory of Water and Air Pollution Control, South China Institute of Environmental
16 Sciences, MEE, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510655, China

17 ⁴³ School of Atmospheric Sciences, Guangdong Province Key Laboratory for Climate Change and
18 Natural Disaster Studies, and Institute of Earth Climate and Environment System, Sun Yat-sen
19 University, Zhuhai, Guangdong 519082, China

20 ⁵⁴ Institute of Tropical and Marine Meteorology of China Meteorological Administration,
21 Guangzhou 510640, China

22 ⁶⁵ State Key Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry and Guangdong Key Laboratory of
23 Environmental Protection and Resources Utilization, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry,
24 Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510640, China

25 ⁷⁶ Guangdong Environmental Monitoring Center, Guangzhou 510308, China

26 ⁷ Xiamen Key Laboratory of Straits Meteorology, Xiamen Meteorological Bureau, Xiamen 361012,
27 China

28 ⁸ Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory (Zhuhai), Zhuhai, Guangdong
29 519082, China

30 ⁹ Guangdong Provincial Observation and Research Station for Climate Environment and Air Quality
31 Change in the Pearl River Estuary, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510275, China

32 *Corresponding authors: Shan Huang (shanhuang_eci@jnu.edu.cn) and Li Liu (liul@gd121.cn)

33 **Abstract.**

34 Organic aerosol (OA) has a significant contribution to cloud formation and hence climate
35 change. However, high uncertainties still exist in its impact on global climate, owing to the varying
36 physical properties affected by the complex formation and aging processes. In this study, the
37 hygroscopicity, volatility, cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) activity, and chemical composition of
38 particles were measured using a series of online instruments at a rural site in the Pearl River Delta
39 (PRD) region of China in Fall 2019. During the campaign, the average hygroscopicity of OA (κ_{OA})
40 increased from 0.058 at 30 nm to 0.09 at 200 nm, suggesting a higher oxidation state of OA at larger
41 particle sizes, supported by a higher fraction of extremely low volatile OA (ELVOA) for larger size
42 particles. Significantly different diurnal patterns of κ_{OA} were observed between Aitken mode and
43 accumulation mode. For Aitken mode (30-100 nm), the κ_{OA} values showed daily minima (0.02-0.07)
44 during daytime, while exhibited a daytime peak (~ 0.09) in the accumulation mode. Coincidentally, a
45 daytime peak was observed for both aged biomass burning organic aerosol (aBBOA) and less
46 oxygenated organic aerosol (LOOA) based on source apportionment, which were attributed to the
47 aging processes and gas-particle partitioning through photochemical reactions. In addition, the
48 fraction of semi-volatile OA (SVOA) was higher at all measured sizes during daytime than during
49 nighttime. These results indicate that the formation of secondary OA (SOA) through gas-particle
50 partitioning can generally occur at all diameters, while the aging processes of pre-existing particles
51 are more dominated in the accumulation mode. Furthermore, we found that applying a fixed κ_{OA}
52 value (0.1) could lead to an overestimation of the CCN number concentration (N_{CCN}) up to 12%-
53 19% at 0.1%-0.7% supersaturation (SS), which was more obvious at higher SS during daytime.
54 Better prediction of N_{CCN} could be achieved by using size-resolved diurnal κ_{OA} , which indicates that

55 the size-dependence and diurnal variations of κ_{OA} can strongly affect the N_{CCN} at different SS. Our
56 results highlight the need for accurately evaluating the atmospheric evolution of OA at different size
57 ranges, and their impact on the physicochemical properties and hence climate effects.

58

59 **1. Introduction**

60 The impact of aerosol particles on global climate is widely known, including absorbing and
61 scattering solar radiation, and acting as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN). However, the extent of
62 their contribution on the climate forcing is still unclear. Organic aerosol (OA) as a dominant
63 component of fine particles (Jimenez et al., 2009), may contribute the uncertainties of climate effects
64 of particles, mainly owing to unknown sources, physical properties, formation, and aging
65 mechanisms (Volkamer et al., 2006;Kuang et al., 2020b;Rastak et al., 2017). Numerous studies show
66 that secondary organic aerosol (SOA) accounts for a large OA fraction in most atmospheric
67 environments (e.g., Huang et al., 2014;Shrivastava et al., 2017;Kanakidou et al., 2005;Hallquist et
68 al., 2009). Nevertheless, both primary OA (POA) and SOA in the ambient air remain poorly
69 characterized in terms of the formation mechanism and atmospheric evolution, and their particle
70 diameter can vary on a large scale. Their impact on the global climate and atmospheric chemistry is
71 still highly uncertain.

72 A combination of Aerodyne Aerosol Mass Spectrometer (AMS) or Aerosol Chemical Species
73 Monitor (ACSM) with positive matrix factorization (PMF) is widely used for investigating the OA
74 evolution in the atmosphere (Li et al., 2013;Huang et al., 2018;Huang et al., 2014;Chen et al.,

75 2015;Jimenez et al., 2009). For instance, Qin et al. (2017) found that hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA)
76 from traffic emission contributed up to 40% of OA during nighttime, owing to daytime traffic
77 restrictions on heavy vehicles in urban Guangzhou. Kuang et al. (2020a) reported a dominant
78 contribution to oxygenated OA (OOA) through aqueous-phase reaction in the North China Plain
79 (NCP). Guo et al. (2020) observed different SOA mechanisms between clean and pollution episodes
80 in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. Nevertheless, the investigation of bulk OA is still insufficient
81 in understanding the aerosol climate effects without the size-resolved characterization. The OA size
82 distribution is largely dependent on its composition, sources and aging level. Li et al. (2012)
83 observed various mass distribution patterns for different species in airborne particulate organics and
84 reported that dehydrated sugars, fossil fuel-derived *n*-alkanes, and PAHs showed a unimodal
85 distribution, while non-dehydrated sugars and plant wax was derived as *n*-alkanes which presented
86 a bimodal pattern. In the urban region, Aitken mode was mainly dominated by HOA owing to traffic
87 emissions (Zhang et al., 2005b;Cai et al., 2020). In the marine atmosphere, the size distribution of
88 fine mode POA was found to be independent of sea salt, while coarse mode particles tended to be
89 internally mixed with sea salt (Gantt and Meskhidze, 2013). Similarly, the OA physical properties
90 were also found to be size-dependent. Deng et al. (2018) reported a higher OA hygroscopicity
91 ($\kappa_{OA} \approx 0.22$) at about 150 nm than that ($\kappa_{OA} \approx 0.19$) at sub-100 nm at a forest site. In contrast, Zhao
92 et al. (2015) measured size-dependent hygroscopicity and chemical composition for SOA from
93 various procedures and found that κ_{OA} of SOA from α -pinene photooxidation decreased from 0.17
94 at 50 nm to 0.07 at 200 nm, which was attributed to the higher oxidation degree for smaller
95 particles. Deng et al. (2018) reported a higher OA hygroscopicity ($\kappa_{OA} \approx 0.22$) at about 150 nm than
96 that ($\kappa_{OA} \approx 0.19$) at sub-100 nm. In contrast, Zhao et al. (2015) found that κ_{OA} decreased from 0.17

97 ~~at 50 nm to 0.07 at 200 nm in laboratory study, which was attributed to the higher oxidation degree~~
98 ~~for smaller particles.~~

99 The size dependence of OA properties in the aforementioned studies might exert impact on the
100 CCN prediction, which is mainly determined by their sources and formation processes. Cai et al.
101 (2018) found that N_{CCN} at 0.1% SS was underestimated by about 10% if a κ_{OA} value of 0.1 was used.
102 A model simulation from Liu and Wang (2010) showed that an increase of about 40-80% for the
103 CCN concentration was obtained by increasing the κ value of POA from 0 to 0.1. Wang et al. (2008)
104 reported that the uncertainties of the first indirect aerosol effect varied from -0.2 to 0.2 W m^{-2} for a
105 κ_{OA} value of 0 to 0.25. Rastak et al. (2017) showed that using a single-parameter framework of κ_{OA}
106 in evaluating the climate effects of aerosol could lead to significant errors (about -1.02 W m^{-2}),
107 which is the same order as the climate forcing of anthropogenic aerosol during the industrial period.
108 These results further highlight a need for the understanding of the relationship between the OA
109 evolution processes and its impact on the CCN activity at different particle sizes.

110 The OA hygroscopicity and volatility can provide information about the evolution of OA, given
111 that they are often related to the chemical composition of the particles. A positive correlation
112 between the hygroscopicity values and the oxidation degree of OA, including the ratio of atomic
113 oxygen to atomic carbon (O:C), the oxidation state (\overline{OS}_C), or the mass fraction of m/z 44 (for CO_2^+)
114 ion fragments in the organic spectra (f_{44}) from chemical composition, were widely reported in the
115 literature (Wu et al., 2013; Pajunoja et al., 2015; Chang et al., 2010). Kim et al. (2020) found that the
116 κ_{OA} was positively and negatively correlated with OOA and HOA at different size ranges,
117 respectively. Deng et al. (2019) reported a decreasing trend of κ_{OA} at a size range of 100-360 nm
118 during daytime in a forest environment, suggesting the formation of biogenic SOA (BSOA) through

119 photochemical oxidation of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs). The OA volatility,
120 specifically saturation vapor concentration (C^*), is linked to the gas-particle partitioning and aging
121 processes. In general, the C^* value decreases with an increase of the oxidation degree and the
122 number of atomic carbon (Donahue et al., 2011). May et al. (2013) found that most of the biomass-
123 burning POA were semi-volatile. Saha et al. (2017) showed a lower volatility of OA in the afternoon
124 hours using a dual-thermodenuder (TD) system, probably owing to photochemical oxidation of OA.
125 Hong et al. (2017) derived the OA volatility distribution by a combination of the VTMDA
126 measurement and a multi-component evaporation dynamics model, and found a moderate ($R \approx 0.4$)
127 correlation between the OA groups obtained by the VTMDA data and the PMF results, respectively.

128 In this study, we investigate physical properties of OA at different size ranges, and evaluate
129 their influence on the atmospheric CCN concentration. A rural field measurement was conducted at
130 the Heshan site in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region, China, during Fall 2019 (October and
131 November). The hygroscopicity, volatility, size-resolved CCN activity, and chemical composition
132 were measured by a series of online instruments. The size-resolved hygroscopicity and volatility
133 distribution of organics was investigated. PMF was employed to analyze the sources and processes
134 of OA. The impact of diurnal variation and size dependence of κ_{OA} on the N_{CCN} prediction at
135 different supersaturation (SS) was assessed.

136 **2. Measurement and methodology**

137 **2.1 Measurement site**

138 The field measurements were conducted at the Heshan supersite in the Guangdong province,

139 China during autumntime 2019 (27th September to 17th November 2019). This supersite (22°42'39.
140 1"N, 112°55'35.9"E) is located at the southwest of the PRD region and surrounded by farms and
141 villages, with an altitude of about 40 m. All sample particles first passed through a Nafion dryer
142 (Model MD-700, Perma Pure Inc., USA) to maintain a relative humidity (RH) lower than 30%. The
143 schematic diagram of the experimental setup can be found in Fig. S1. Detailed descriptions of the
144 measurement site and some instruments can be found in Cai et al. (2021a).

145 **2.2 Instrumentation**

146 **2.2.1 Aerosol hygroscopicity and volatility measurement**

147 Size-resolved hygroscopicity and volatility of particles were measured by a H/V-TDMA
148 (model M3000, Bmet Inc., China). The instrument consists of two differential mobility analyzers
149 (DMA1 and DMA2, model 3081 L, TSI Inc., USA), a Nafion humidifier (Model MD-700, Perma
150 Pure Inc., USA), a heater tube, and a condensation particle counter (CPC, model 3788, TSI Inc.,
151 USA). The instrument was operated in H- and V- mode during the measurement with a cycle time
152 of about 3-4 h. The dried sample particles were firstly charged by an X-ray neutralizer and then
153 classified by DMA1 at six diameters (30, 50, 80, 100, 150, and 200 nm). In the H-mode, the chosen
154 particles with a specific dry diameter (D_0) were sequentially humidified by the Nafion humidifier
155 to achieve 90% of RH. A combination of DMA2 and CPC were employed to measure the size
156 distribution of humidified particles (Dp_{wet}). The hygroscopic growth factor (GF) at a certain dry
157 diameter can be defined as:

$$158 \quad GF(D_0) = \frac{Dp_{wet}}{D_0} \quad (1)$$

159 In the V-mode, the selected particles from DMA1 were heated in the heater tube at 100, 150,

160 200, and 250°C, respectively. Similar to the H mode, the size distribution of heated particles along
161 with particles at room temperature (25°C) was measured by the DMA2 and CPC. The volatility
162 shrink factor (VSF) at a certain diameter and temperature is then defined as:

$$163 \quad VSF(T, D_0) = \frac{Dp(T)}{D_0} \quad (2)$$

164 Before the campaign, standard polystyrene latex spheres (PSLs; with a size of 20, 50, and 200
165 nm), ammonium sulfate, and sodium chloride were used to calibrate the diameter classification of
166 DMAs, hygroscopicity measurement, and the transport efficiency of particles in the heater tube,
167 respectively. For the H/V-TDMA data, the TDMAfit algorithm (Stolzenburg and McMurry, 2008)
168 was applied to fit the growth factor and volatility shrink factor probability density function (GF-
169 PDF and VSF-PDF) with various DMA transfer functions. The detailed data inversion processes
170 can be found in Tan et al. (2013a).

171 **2.2.2 The size-resolved CCN activity and particle number size distribution measurement**

172 A combination of a cloud condensation nuclei counter (CCNc, model 200, DMT Inc., USA)
173 and a scanning mobility particle sizer (SMPS, model 3938L75, TSI Inc., USA) was employed to
174 measure size resolved CCN activity. The supersaturation (SS) of each column (A and B) of CCNc
175 was set to be 0.1%, 0.2% and 0.4% (for column A), and 0.7%, 0.9% and 1.0% (for column B),
176 respectively. During the measurement, the SMPS was operated at a scanning mode. The sample
177 particles were firstly neutralized by an X-ray neutralizer (model 3088, TSI Inc., USA) and were
178 subsequently classified by a DMA. The classified particles were then split into three paths: one to a
179 CPC (model 3756, TSI Inc., USA) for measurement of particle number concentration (with a flow
180 rate of 0.6 LPM) and two to the CCNc for measurement of the CCN number concentration (N_{CCN})

181 at a specific SS (with a flow rate of 0.5 LPM).

182 The particle number size distribution (PNSD) in a size range of 1 nm-10 μm was measured by
183 a suite of instruments including a diethylene glycol scanning mobility particle sizer (DEG-SMPS,
184 model 3938E77, TSI Inc., USA), a SMPS (model 3938L75, TSI Inc., USA), and an aerodynamic
185 particle sizer (APS, model 3321, TSI Inc., USA). The detailed description of these instruments can
186 be found in Cai et al. (2021a). Before the measurement, the SMPSs were calibrated with PSLs (20,
187 50 and 200 nm) and the CCNc was calibrated with ammonium sulfate ((NH₄)₂SO₄) particles at
188 selected SSs (0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.7%, 0.9%, and 1.0%, Sect. S1).~~Before the measurement, the~~
189 ~~SMPSs were calibrated with PSLs (20, 50 and 200 nm) and the CCNc was calibrated with~~
190 ~~ammonium sulfate ((NH₄)₂SO₄) particles at selected SSs (0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.7%, 0.9%, and 1.0%).~~

191 **2.2.3 Aerosol chemical composition measurement**

192 The size-resolved chemical composition of ambient aerosol particles was measured by a soot
193 particle aerosol mass spectrometer (SP-AMS, Aerodyne Research, Inc., USA). The principle and
194 operation of the instrument are generally the same as a high resolution time-of-flight aerosol mass
195 spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS) (Canagaratna et al., 2007). In addition to an original tungsten
196 vaporizer ($\sim 600^\circ\text{C}$), a soot-particle module which mainly contains a Nd:YAG (1064 nm) laser was
197 integrated into HR-ToF-AMS for vaporizing refractory species (Onasch et al., 2012). As a result,
198 SP-AMS can provide chemical information for non-refractory species (nitrate, sulfate, ammonium,
199 chloride, and organics) as well as refractory species such as refractory black carbon (rBC) and
200 several metals. During the campaign, SP-AMS was run between V mode (only tungsten vaporizer)
201 and SP mode (tungsten and laser vaporizers) with a time resolution of 1 min. In order to minimize

202 disturbance caused by mode switch, 15 min averaged data are used in the present study. More details
203 on the quantification using ionization efficiency, composition dependent collection efficiency and
204 external instrument as well as software for SP-AMS data analysis could be found in Kuang et al.
205 (2021).

206 Facilitated by the time-of-flight chamber in SP-AMS, the particle mass size distribution can be
207 measured in submicrometer size range, specifically, 40 to 800 nm in vacuum aerodynamic diameter
208 (Dva). The mass size distribution for relevant AMS species was used in this study for investigating
209 the link between particle chemical composition and volatility/hygroscopicity. Since SP-AMS
210 provided the size distribution versus Dva, the equation below was used to convert Dva into mobility
211 diameter (Dp).

$$212 \quad D_p = \frac{D_{va}}{S \times \frac{\rho_p}{\rho_0}} \quad (3)$$

213 where S is the shape factor, ρ_p is the particle density, and ρ_0 is the density for water (1 kg m^{-3}). In
214 this study, we estimate that the particles were close to sphere due to high RH in the PRD and thus a
215 shape factor of 0.8 was applied. An overall particle density of 1.6 kg m^{-3} is used.

216 Based on high resolution data from SP-AMS, source apportionment was performed for organic
217 aerosols (OA) in the bulk PM_{10} with positive matrix factorization (PMF, Paatero, 1997; Paatero and
218 Tapper, 1994) following the instruction in Ulbrich et al., 2009. The input data, selection of solutions,
219 mass spectral profile, and time series of each factor can be found in Kuang et al. (2021). In brief,
220 OA measured at the Heshan site could be divided into six components with identified sources and
221 processes, including two from primary sources and four factors corresponding to secondary
222 formation: a hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA) contributed mainly by vehicle exhausts mixed with
223 cooking emissions, a biomass burning OA (BBOA) related to biomass burning combustion from the

224 surrounding villages, an aged BBOA (aBBOA), a more oxygenated OA (MOOA) from regional
 225 transport, a less oxygenated OA (LOOA) provided by daytime photochemical formation, and a
 226 nighttime-formed OA (Night-OA) related to secondary formation during nighttime.

227 **2.3 Methodology**

228 **2.3.1 Estimates of hygroscopicity**

229 The hygroscopicity parameter κ can be obtained under subsaturation condition by the H/V-
 230 TDMA measurement and supersaturation condition by the CCNc measurement. The κ value
 231 (κ_{HTDMA}) can be estimated from the growth factor measured by H/V-TDMA (Petters and
 232 Kreidenweis, 2007):

$$233 \quad \kappa_{\text{HTDMA}} = (\text{GF}^3 - 1) \left[\frac{1}{\text{RH}} \exp \left(\frac{4\sigma_{s/a}M_w}{RT\rho_w D_p} - 1 \right) \right] \quad (4)$$

234 where $\sigma_{s/a}$ is the surface tension of the solution/air interface and the solution is temporarily assumed
 235 to be pure water (0.0728 N m⁻¹ at 298.15 K), M_w is the molecular weight of water (0.018 kg mol⁻¹),
 236 R is the universal gas constant (8.314 J mol⁻¹ K⁻¹), T is the thermodynamic temperature in Kelvin
 237 (298.15 K), ρ_w is the density of water (about 997.04 kg m⁻³ at 298.15 K) and D_p is the particle
 238 diameter in meters.

239 For the CCNc measurement, the κ value (κ_{CCN}) is calculated from the critical supersaturation
 240 (S_c) and the critical diameter (D_{50}) by the following equation (Petters and Kreidenweis, 2007):

$$241 \quad \kappa_{\text{CCN}} = \frac{4A^3}{27D_{50}^3(\ln S_c)^2}, \quad A = \frac{4\sigma_{s/a}M_w}{RT\rho_w} \quad (5)$$

242 The critical diameter, D_{50} , is defined as the diameter at which 50% of the particles are activated
 243 at a specific SS, and can be obtained from the N_{CCN} and N_{CN} measured by the CCNc and SMPS
 244 system:

$$\frac{N_{CCN}}{N_{CN}} = \frac{B}{1 + \left(\frac{D_p}{D_{50}}\right)^c} \quad (6)$$

where the B and C are fitting coefficients.

2.3.2 Derivation of the size-resolved hygroscopicity of organic matter

The size-resolved chemical composition is adopted to derive the size-dependent hygroscopicity of organic matter (κ_{OA}). However, the AMS cannot provide sufficient information of the size-resolved species, especially for small size particles (< 100 nm) owing to the low mass concentration. Thalman et al. (2017) proposed a method to reconstruct the size-resolved chemical composition, which combines a time-resolved bulk mass concentration and an average mass distribution. Nevertheless, the variation of mass distribution was not considered in this method. In this study, a bimodal lognormal distribution function method was adopted and the one-hour average mass distribution was fitted to obtain the reconstructed size-resolved chemical composition. The average mass distribution with bimodal lognormal fitted modes of each species was shown in Fig. S2.

According to the ZSR mixing rule (Zdanovskii, 1948; Stokes and Robinson, 1966), the hygroscopicity of particles (κ_{AMS}) can be calculated based on the SP-AMS measurement, assuming an internal mixing state for all particles:

$$\kappa_{AMS} = \sum_i \kappa_i \varepsilon_i \quad (7)$$

where κ_i is the κ value of each component and ε_i is the volume fraction of corresponding species in particles. The mole concentrations of the inorganic species are estimated based on the NH_4^+ , SO_4^{2-} , and NO_3^- measured by the AMS (Gysel et al., 2007):

$$n_{NH_4NO_3} = n_{NO_3^-}$$

$$n_{H_2SO_4} = \max(0, N_{SO_4^{2-}} - n_{NH_4^+} + n_{NO_3^-})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
266 \quad n_{NH_4HSO_4} &= \min(2n_{SO_4^{2-}} - n_{NH_4^+} + n_{NO_3^-}, n_{NH_4^+} - n_{NO_3^-}) \\
267 \quad n_{(NH_4)_2SO_4} &= \max(n_{NH_4^+} - n_{NO_3^-} - n_{SO_4^{2-}}, 0) \\
268 \quad n_{HNO_3} &= 0
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

269 where n denotes the number of moles of each component (NH_4^+ , SO_4^{2-} and NO_3^-), ε_{org} and ε_{BC}
270 were obtained from mass concentration measured by the SP-AMS. The density and κ value of each
271 component were listed in Table 1.

272 The κ_{OA} can be calculated based on the size-resolved chemical composition and H/V-TMDA
273 measurement using following equation:

$$274 \quad \kappa_{OA} = \frac{\kappa_{HTDMA} - (\kappa_{inorgsalt} \varepsilon_{inorgsalt} + \kappa_{BC} \varepsilon_{BC})}{\varepsilon_{org}} \tag{9}$$

275 2.3.3 Volatility data

276 During the heating process, some particles could be lost between DMA₁ and DMA₂ due to
277 complete evaporation (CV), thermophoresis, and Brownian diffusion (Philippin et al., 2004).
278 Owing to these losses, the V-mode measurement does not represent the actual volatility distribution
279 of the monodisperse particles. The sodium chloride (NaCl) particles, which do not evaporate at the
280 set temperature in this measurement, were used to determine the particle losses owing to
281 thermophoretic forces and diffusion. The size- and temperature-dependent transmission efficiency
282 ($\eta(D_p, T)$) of NaCl in the heater was shown in Fig. S3. Thus, the number fraction of CV group
283 ($NF_{CV}(D_p, T)$) at a certain diameter and temperature can be calculated using the following equation
284 (Cheung et al., 2016):

$$285 \quad NF_{CV}(D_p, T) = 1 - \frac{N'(D_p, T)}{N(D_p) \eta(D_p, T)} \tag{10}$$

286 where $N'(D_p, T)$ is the number concentration of particles at a specific diameter and temperature

287 after heating, which was measured by the CPC in the H/V-TDMA. The $N(D_p)$ is the number
 288 concentration of particles with a diameter D_p before heating, which was provided by the SMPS
 289 measurement. The volume fraction remaining (VFR) after heating for the measured particles can be
 290 obtained according to the following equation:

$$291 \quad VFR(D_p, T) = \sum_i VSF_i^3(D_p, T) NF_i(D_p, T) [1 - NF_{CV}(D_p, T)] \quad (11)$$

292 where i represents the i th VSF bin, and NF_i is the number fraction of particles with VSF_i , which is
 293 calculated based on the VSF-PDF ($c(VSF, D_p, T)$):

$$294 \quad NF_i = \int_{VSF_i}^{VSF_{i+1}} c(VSF, D_p, T) dVSF \quad (12)$$

295 The mass fraction remaining (MFR) was assumed to be proportional to VFR, assuming that
 296 the density of particles was constant before and after heating.

297 **2.3.4 Multi-component evaporation dynamics model**

298 Based on the volatility basis set (VBS) framework (Donahue et al., 2011), the organic matter
 299 was classified into three organic groups based on the saturation concentration ($C^*(T_{ref})$,
 300 $T_{ref}=298.15$ K): extremely low volatility organic aerosol (ELVOA, $C^*=10^{-5}$ $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), low volatility
 301 organic aerosol (LVOA, $C^*=10^{-2}$ $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), and semi-volatility organic aerosol (SVOA, $C^*=10$ $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$).
 302

303 A multi-component evaporation dynamics model described by Lee et al. (2011) was used to
 304 simulate the evaporation of particles in the heated tube of the H/V-TDMA by solving the mass
 305 transfer regime equation, in order to obtain the size-resolved distribution of the aforementioned
 306 three OA groups. The MFR, residence time (about 4.11 s) in the heater tube, the temperature of the
 307 heater tube, particle number concentration, particle sizes, chemical composition, and

308 thermophysical properties of each species (Table 2) were input into the model. The particles were
 309 assumed to be internally mixed with organic and inorganic species, including three organic groups,
 310 NH_4NO_3 , $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, and black carbon (BC). The mass transfer of each component i between the
 311 aerosol and gas phases in the transition regime was calculated from the following equation:

$$312 \quad \frac{dm_{p,i}}{dt} = 2\pi D_i D_p f(Kn, \alpha) (C_{i,g} - f_i C_i^*(T)) \exp\left(\frac{4\sigma_s/\alpha M_i}{D_p \rho_i RT}\right)$$

$$313 \quad \frac{dC_{i,g}}{dt} = -\frac{dm_{p,i}}{dt} N_p(D_p) \quad (13)$$

314 where $m_{p,i}$ (μg) is the mass of species i in a single particle, $C_{i,g}$ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) is its gas-phase
 315 concentration, D_i ($\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$) is the diffusion coefficient for species i in air, D_p (m) is the particle
 316 diameter, $f(Kn, \alpha)$ is a correction term to account for non-continuum mass transfer depending on
 317 Knudsen number (Kn) and mass accommodation coefficient (α), f_i is the mole fraction of species
 318 i , $C_i^*(T)$ is the saturation concentration at temperature (T) of the heater tube, M_i (kg mol^{-1}) is the
 319 molecular weight of species i , ρ_i (kg m^{-3}) is its density and $N_p(D_p)$ (cm^{-3}) is the number
 320 concentration of particles with a diameter D_p .

321 The correction term $f(Kn, \alpha)$ is determined by the following equation (Seinfeld and Pandis,
 322 2016):

$$323 \quad f(Kn, \alpha) = \frac{1+Kn}{1+2Kn(1+Kn)/\alpha}$$

$$324 \quad Kn = \frac{2\lambda_i}{D_p} \quad (14)$$

325 where λ_i is the mean free path of species i in the air, which is defined as $\lambda_i = \frac{2D_i}{c_i}$. The c_i is the mean
 326 speed of species i and $c_i = \sqrt{\frac{8RT}{\pi M_i}}$.

327 The temperature-dependent $C_i^*(T)$ is estimated from the Clausius-Clapeyron equation:

$$328 \quad C_i^*(T) = C_i^*(T_{ref}) \exp\left[\frac{\Delta H_{vap,i}}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_{ref}} - \frac{1}{T}\right)\right] \frac{T_{ref}}{T} \quad (15)$$

329 where $\Delta H_{vap,i}$ (kJ mol^{-1}) is the enthalpy of vaporization. The known mass fractions of NH_4NO_3 ,

330 $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, and BC were calculated respectively, based on the SP-AMS measurement. The time
 331 step of the model was set to be 10^{-3} s. The characteristics of each species were listed in Table 2. The
 332 mass fraction of each organic group in different particle sizes was derived by minimizing the squared
 333 residuals (SSR) values, $\text{SSR} = \sum_{T_i=T_1}^{T_5} [\text{MFR}_{\text{model}}(T_i, D_p) - \text{MFR}_{\text{measured}}(T_i, D_p)]^2$. The non-
 334 linear constrained optimization function “fmincon” in MATLAB (version 2016a, Mathworks Inc.)
 335 was used to obtain the optimal fitted result. A constrained of $\sum f_{i,\text{inorganics}} + \sum f_{i,\text{organics}} = 1$ is used.
 336 The modeled MFR is strongly dependent on the values of vaporization enthalpy (ΔH_{vap}) and
 337 mass accommodation coefficient (α) (Lee et al., 2010; Lee et al., 2011). Thus, a sensitivity test is
 338 performed to determine the ΔH_{vap} of OA and α based on the campaign average data (Fig. S4). A
 339 linear relationship was adopted between ΔH_{vap} and $\log_{10} C_i^*(T_{\text{ref}})$, $\Delta H_{\text{vap}} = -a \cdot$
 340 $\log_{10} C_i^*(T_{\text{ref}}) + b$, where a and b are fitting parameters (Epstein et al., 2010). The a and b values
 341 are set to be [0, 4, 8, 12] and [50, 80, 100, 150, 200] in the sensitivity test, respectively, along with
 342 $\alpha = [0.01, 0.09, 0.1, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9, 1]$. The results show that the measured MFR was reproduced well
 343 (with the lowest SSR of 0.0205, Fig. S5) by using $\Delta H_{\text{vap}}=80 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ with α of 0.09, 0.1 and 0.7,
 344 respectively. For simplicity, $\Delta H_{\text{vap}}=80 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ and $\alpha=0.09$ are considered as the best estimation
 345 and adopted in the simulation of the whole campaign datasets. The extracted α value was consistent
 346 with the values ($\alpha \leq 0.1$) reported previously (Saha et al., 2015; Park et al., 2013; Saleh et al.,
 347 2008; Cappa and Jimenez, 2010), indicating significant resistance to mass transfer during
 348 evaporation. In addition, the ΔH_{vap} of OA is of the same magnitude (80-150 kJ mol^{-1}) as reported
 349 in the literature (Hong et al., 2017; Saha et al., 2017; Riipinen et al., 2010).

350 Note that the decomposition of particles during the heating process is ignored in the model.

351 Kiyoura and Urano (1970) suggested that ammonium sulfate would decompose to ammonium

352 bisulfate (NH_4HSO_4) or triammonium hydrogen sulfate ($(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{H}(\text{SO}_4)_2$), and ammonia (NH_3) when
353 heated to around 160-180 °C. Wang and Hildebrandt Ruiz (2018) also observed thermal
354 decomposition of organics and ammonium sulfate during evaporation by using a Filter Inlet for
355 Gases and AEROSols chemical-ionization mass spectrometer (FIGAERO-CIMS). It suggests that,
356 besides sublimation, decomposition might occur during evaporation of particles. However, the
357 mechanisms of decomposition are complex and remain unclear, which is difficult to simulate in our
358 model. We roughly estimated uncertainty caused by the decomposition and found that ignoring the
359 decomposition of organics would lead to an underestimation of SVOA, while the decomposition of
360 $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ played a minor role in the simulation (Sect. S2). However, the exact effects are still
361 highly uncertain. We hence exclude the decomposition of particles from the model for simplicity.

362 **3 Results and discussion**

363 **3.1 Overview**

364 Figure 1 shows the temporal profile of PNSD (a), aerosol chemical composition and total mass
365 concentration of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ (b), mass fraction of each component (c), and wind speed and direction (d)
366 during the measurements. Note that the SP-AMS measurement started on 12th October. According
367 to the PNSD data, a total number of 20 new particle formation (NPF) events were observed during
368 the whole campaign. The background particles mainly exhibited unimodal distribution which
369 peaked at a size range of about 80-150 nm. The average particle number concentration (N_{CN}) in the
370 size range of 3-1000 nm was about 12700 cm^{-3} , much lower than that from the rural measurement
371 (18150 cm^{-3}) in 2006 in the PRD region (Rose et al., 2010). A wide accumulation mode was

372 observed during the period prevalent with north wind direction, implying that the air mass from the
373 north could bring pollutants from the city cluster around Guangzhou to the measurement site.

374 The chemical composition and the corresponding mass fraction measured by the SP-AMS (Fig.
375 1 b and c) were consistent with those of PNSD, which showed a significantly high mass
376 concentration of organics when the wind was from the north. The average mass fraction of PM₁ was
377 dominated by organics (51.8%), followed by sulfate (17.5%), nitrate (10.2%), BC (9.9%),
378 ammonium (8.8%), and chloride (1.7%). The mass concentration of organics varied from 3.3 to
379 123.4 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, with an average value of 20.3 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, lower than the value (25.7 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) reported in
380 Guangzhou city (Qin et al., 2017), but significantly higher than that was observed (4.1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) in
381 Hong ~~k~~Kong (Lee et al., 2013). The mass distribution of the chemical species at the Heshan site was
382 similar to that measured in inland China (Chen et al., 2015;Huang et al., 2014), which was
383 dominated by organics from anthropogenic emissions. A distinguished and reproducible diurnal
384 pattern of the mass fraction was observed during the measurement (Fig. 1c), implying that the
385 particle composition was more affected by local emission or photochemical production than other
386 pathways. Organics showed a diurnal pattern with bimodal peaks respectively in the afternoon and
387 evening, which will be discussed later in section 3.3. —The temporal profile of GF-PDF (Fig. 2)
388 measured by the H/V-TDMA was consistent with that of chemical composition, which showed a
389 significant diurnal pattern. ~~This~~ suggested that particles at all diameters could be affected by
390 atmospheric chemical processes and local emissions, which will be further discussed in section 3.3.
391 The H/V-TDMA data from 18th to 26th October and 29th October to 3rd November were not available
392 due to instrumental failure. In general, the GF-PDF exhibited a bimodal distribution for particles
393 larger than 30 nm, with a significant more-hygroscopic (MH, GF>1.33) or less-hygroscopic (LH,

394 1.11<GF<1.33) mode and a less obvious non-hygroscopic (NH, GF<1.11), indicating that these
395 particles were partly externally mixed. The NH mode with primary emissions (e.g., fresh black
396 carbon and some organics) was more obvious in a size range of 50-150 nm than others, suggesting
397 that these particles were more affected by local anthropogenic emissions. The above observation
398 was supported by the size distribution of the BC mass fraction (Fig. S6), which peaked at a size range
399 of about 50-150 nm. Besides, the MH mode shifted to a higher GF value with an increase of particle
400 sizes, implying that larger particles were more aged with a higher fraction of inorganic salt (Fig. S6)
401 and well separated from the freshly emitted counterparts. A similar phenomenal pattern was
402 previously observed in the urban environment, including the PRD region (Hong et al., 2018;Cai et
403 al., 2017;Jiang et al., 2016;Tan et al., 2013b), the North China Plain (Liu et al., 2011;Ma et al., 2016)
404 and other city regions around the world (Yuan et al., 2020;Mochida et al., 2006;Massling et al.,
405 2005).

406 Table 3 summaries the N_{CCN} , activation ratio (AR), D_{50} , and K_{CCN} values at 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4%,
407 0.7%, 0.9%, and 1.0% SS during the campaign. The activation ratio is defined as the ratio of N_{CCN}
408 to N_{CN} , that is, $AR = N_{CCN}/N_{CN}$. The average N_{CCN} at 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.7%, 0.9%, and 1.0% SS
409 was about 2507, 4322, 5854, 6834, 7497, and 7862 cm^{-3} , respectively. The N_{CCN} at 0.7% SS was
410 lower than that measured (7900 cm^{-3} at 0.7% SS) in urban Guangzhou (Cai et al., 2018) and at a
411 suburban site (14400 cm^{-3} at 0.864% SS) in the North China Plain (Zhang et al., 2020), but
412 significantly higher than that measured at an urban site (2776 cm^{-3} at 0.68% SS) in São Paulo, Brazil
413 (Almeida et al., 2014). The average AR at the above six SS was 0.20, 0.34, 0.45, 0.52, 0.57, and
414 0.60, respectively. The AR at 0.7% SS was lower than the measured value (0.64 at 0.7% SS) in the
415 urban Guangzhou (Cai et al., 2018), while the corresponding D_{50} (52.56 nm) was lower than that

416 (58.45 nm) in the Guangzhou campaign, implying a higher CCN activity at this site. Thus, the lower
417 AR in this autumn campaign suggested that particles were more centered at smaller sizes, which
418 might be attributed to frequently occurred NPF at the Heshan site. ~~The hygroscopicity parameter κ~~
419 ~~obtained by the CCNe method were 0.48, 0.47, 0.31, 0.22, 0.20, and 0.20 at the above SS,~~
420 ~~respectively, which was much higher than those measured by the HTDMA in this study.~~ The average
421 κ values obtained using HTDMA fall in a range of 0.1-0.17 at 30-200 nm (Fig. S7a), which were
422 possibly attributed to a high fraction of organic matter (Fig. S6). The κ_{AMS} is slightly higher than
423 the κ_{HTDMA} and the differences become larger with decreasing particle sizes. This was probably due
424 to the overestimated κ_{OA} at a small size range, which will be discussed in the next section. The
425 hygroscopicity parameter κ values obtained by the CCNe method were 0.48, 0.47, 0.31, 0.22, 0.20,
426 and 0.20 at the above SS, respectively, which were much higher than those measured by the
427 HTDMA in this study. This significant discrepancy between the measured κ_{CCN} and κ_{HTDMA} values
428 might suggest that the water uptake behavior is different under super- and sub-saturation condition,
429 which is likely attributed to the surfactant effect.~~The average κ values obtained using HTDMA fall~~
430 ~~in a range of 0.1-0.17 at 30-200 nm (Fig. S7), which were possibly attributed to high fraction of~~
431 ~~organic matter (Fig. S6).~~ The hygroscopicity parameter κ obtained by the CCNe method were 0.48,
432 0.47, 0.31, 0.22, 0.20, and 0.20 at the above SS, respectively, which was much higher than those
433 measured by the HTDMA in this study. It was reported that organic matter in the particles could
434 serve as surfactant and lower surface tension by about 0.01-0.032 N m⁻¹, leading to a higher CCN
435 activity and thus a higher κ_{CCN} (Petters and Kreidenweis, 2013; Ovadnevaite et al., 2017; Liu et al.,
436 2018). According to Eqs. (4) and (5), the κ_{CCN} was more susceptible affected by the value of surface
437 tension than that of κ_{HTDMA} , which would lead to the discrepancy between κ_{CCN} and κ_{HTDMA} values.

438 The surfactant effect is closely related to the presence of liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) for
439 organic-containing particles at high RH (Renbaum-Wolff et al., 2016; Rühl and Wilson, 2014).
440 Once LLPS occurred, the organic film on the droplet surface would decrease surface tension and
441 enhance water uptake. For particles of organic/inorganic mixture, the LLPS can occur when the O:C
442 is lower than 0.8 (Bertram et al., 2011; Song et al., 2012a, b; Schill and Tolbert, 2013). The average
443 O:C obtained using AMS is about 0.53 in this campaign, suggesting that the LLPS likely occurred
444 at supersaturation conditions. Meanwhile, the variation of the discrepancy between κ_{CCN} and κ_{HTDMA}
445 is statistically insignificant during clean and polluted periods (Fig. S7b and S7c), implying that the
446 surfactant effect was hardly affected by pollution condition. Note that surface tension effect is not
447 the only factor which leads to a higher κ_{CCN} . It was found that κ_{CCN} could be higher than κ_{HTDMA} ,
448 since the existence of the slightly soluble compounds inhibits water uptake under subsaturation
449 conditions (Zhao et al., 2016; Pajunoja et al., 2015; Dusek et al., 2011; Petters et al., 2009; Hong et
450 al., 2014; Hansen et al., 2015). Other factors, such as different parameters used in the CCNc and
451 HTMDA calibration and function groups associated with the carbon chain, can lead to a gap between
452 κ_{HTDMA} and κ_{CCN} (Rose et al., 2008; Wex et al., 2009). More future work is needed to better
453 understand this water uptake mechanism and to improve the prediction of aerosol-cloud-climate
454 interactions. This significant discrepancy between the measured κ_{CCN} and κ_{HTDMA} values is likely
455 attributed to the surfactant effect. It was reported that organics matter in the particles could serve as
456 surfactant and lower surface tension by about 0.01–0.032 N m⁻¹, leading to a higher CCN activity
457 and thus a higher κ_{CCN} (Petters and Kreidenweis, 2013; Ovadnevaite et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2018).
458 According to Eqs. (4) and (5), the κ_{CCN} was more susceptible affected by the value of surface tension
459 than that of κ_{HTDMA} , which would lead to the discrepancy between κ_{CCN} and κ_{HTDMA} values. Note

460 ~~that surface tension effect is not the only factor which leads to a higher κ_{CCN} . It was found that κ_{CCN}~~
461 ~~could be higher than κ_{HTDMA} , since the existence of the slightly soluble compounds inhibits water~~
462 ~~uptake under subsaturation conditions (Zhao et al., 2016; Pajunoja et al., 2015; Dusek et al.,~~
463 ~~2011; Petters et al., 2009).~~

464 3.2 The average size-resolved hygroscopicity and volatility of OA

465 The composition of organics could vary on a large scale with diameters due to different sources
466 and aging processes, which would further affect their properties. Figure 3 presents the average size-
467 resolved hygroscopicity and volatility of OA. The κ_{OA} values (vertical red lines in Fig. 3) ranged
468 from 0.058 to 0.09, within the range (0.05-0.15 at 100 nm) previously reported in the PRD region
469 (Hong et al., 2018) and slightly higher than that (0.03-0.06 at 250 nm) at a mountain site in Germany
470 (Wu et al., 2013). In general, the κ_{OA} values increased with particle sizes from 0.058 at 30 nm to
471 0.09 at 150 and 200 nm, similar to the feature observed in urban and forest environments (Kim et
472 al., 2020; Deng et al., 2019). The increases of the κ_{OA} values with particle sizes could be explained
473 by the oxidation level of organic aerosols (Massoli et al., 2010; Lambe et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2021).
474 Specifically, the hygroscopicity of OA was often found to be positively correlated to its oxidation
475 level (Mei et al., 2013; Lambe et al., 2011), which was usually represented by f_{44} , O/C ratio, or \overline{OS}_C .
476 Thus, the higher κ_{OA} values at larger particle diameters in this study might correspond to a higher
477 aging degree of these particles, and this was confirmed by the increasing trend of f_{44} with particle
478 diameters, i.e., the increasing fraction of CO_2^+ in OA in large particles (Fig. S8). Previous field
479 studies also indicated that f_{44} increased with particle diameters (Kim et al., 2020; Cai et al., 2018),
480 leading to a higher κ_{OA} value.

481 Besides the hygroscopicity of OA, we observed the size dependence of volatility. As shown in
482 Fig. 3, the mass fraction of ELVOA increases from 0.16 to 0.30 with the particle diameter, indicating
483 that the particles could be more aged at larger diameters, consistent with the higher κ_{OA} values as
484 discussed above. The ELVOA fraction in this campaign was higher than that in Beijing in summer
485 (0.13) measured by a thermodenuder (TD) coupled to an AMS (Xu et al., 2019), but similar to that
486 in Athens (0.3) using a similar TD system (Louvaris et al., 2017). The SVOA generally contributed
487 42%-57% to the OA at all measured sizes, comparable to the values reported in Centreville and
488 Raleigh (66-75%, Saha et al., 2017), Beijing (64%, Xu et al., 2019) and Mexico City (39%-73%,
489 Cappa and Jimenez, 2010). Note that the relationship between volatility and oxidation state of OA
490 is not usually strong. Saha et al. (2017) reported weak correlations ($R < 0.3$) between the mean
491 volatility ($\overline{C^*}$) and the mean oxidation state ($\overline{\text{OS}}_C$). Hong et al. (2017) also found that the volatility
492 distribution of OA derived from the combined V-TDMA and evaporation dynamic model could not
493 be fully explained by the organic fractions determined by the PMF analysis based on the AMS data.
494 This is probably because the volatility was not only dependent on the $\overline{\text{OS}}_C$, but also the number of
495 atomic carbon (Donahue et al., 2011). In spite of this, the size-resolved volatility distribution can
496 provide a rough estimate of the aging degree of OA.

497 **3.3 The diurnal variation of OA hygroscopicity and volatility**

498 As discussed in Sect. 3.2, the hygroscopicity and volatility of OA could vary on a large range
499 with particle diameters, which might be attributed to photochemical reactions and the OA sources.
500 In this section, the diurnal variation of hygroscopicity and volatility of OA at different particle sizes
501 was investigated, in combination with the PMF results. In general, the mass fraction of organics

502 showed an obvious diurnal pattern during the whole campaign, with two peaks at about 14:00 and
503 19:00 LT (Fig. 4a), implying significant impacts of photochemical reactions and local emissions.
504 Based on the PMF results (Fig. 5), the afternoon peak was attributed to secondary organics aerosol
505 (SOA) formation (aBBOA and LOOA) during daytime, while the evening peak was explained by
506 local residential activity (e.g., biomass burning and cooking, HOA and BBOA), as will be discussed
507 later. A similar late-afternoon peak was observed in Hong Kong (Lee et al., 2013), where the OA
508 enhancement was mainly contributed by traffic emissions. The f_{44} remained at a high level during
509 daytime, consistent with strong photochemical reactions. A similar diurnal pattern was observed in
510 the urban and sub-urban regions (Hong et al., 2018; Hu et al., 2016; Thalman et al., 2017), suggesting
511 the consistent aging processes of pre-existing OA. In contrast, Deng et al. (2019) reported a relative
512 low OA oxidation state during daytime in a forest environment, which could be explained by the
513 SOA formation through photochemical oxidation of BVOCs.

514 The calculated κ_{HTDMA} and κ_{AMS} (the blue and red lines in Fig. 4b, respectively) values at 200
515 nm based on Eqs. (4) and (7) both reached minimum during daytime which was consistent with high
516 OA fractions. This may be explained by lower hygroscopic of OA than inorganics as found in
517 previous studies (Pajunoja et al., 2015; Zhao et al., 2015; Kuang et al., 2020b) as well as the low κ_i
518 values shown in Table 1. Although OA in a higher oxidation state could be hydrophilic (Massoli et
519 al., 2010), the primary OA is usually considered to be hydrophobic substance and their mixture
520 would be less hygroscopic (usually with average $\kappa = 0.1$). The κ_{AMS} values were generally consistent
521 with those of the κ_{HTDMA} during daytime while the overestimated κ_{OA} was observed during nighttime.
522 This implies a lower κ_{OA} value than 0.1 at 200 nm during the nighttime, probably due to less
523 oxidation processes at night than those under the sunlight.

524 The average diurnal profile of PNSD is shown in Fig. 4c. Besides a stable accumulation mode
525 peaked at around 100 nm, a significantly growing mode of particle number from 20nm to 80 nm
526 was observed from 12:00 to 20:00 LT, which could be attributed to the frequently occurred NPF
527 during the campaign (Fig. 1a).

528 The size-resolved diurnal variations of κ_{OA} was explored in Fig. 6. Note that the κ_{OA} values are
529 presented in 2-hour resolution due to the low data coverage (Figs. 1 and 2). In general, a significantly
530 different pattern was observed between Aitken mode and accumulation mode. For Aitken mode
531 particles (30-100 nm), the κ_{OA} values were higher (0.05-0.1) before dawn than those (0.02-0.07)
532 during daytime, while this trend began to overturn at 150 and 200 nm, where the κ_{OA} values peaked
533 at noon (~ 0.09 , Fig. 6). As reported in literature, the hygroscopicity of organics was partly dependent
534 on the aging degree (Liu et al., 2021; Zhao et al., 2016; Kim et al., 2020). The diurnal characteristics
535 of the size-resolved κ_{OA} indicate that the OA in small particles (30-100 nm) was fresh and became
536 aged in large particles. For the same campaign, Kuang et al. (2021) reported the bulk κ_{OA} of PM_{10}
537 based on aerosol optical hygroscopicity measurements, which could provide high time resolution
538 data of κ_{OA} . The relationship between κ_{OA} and different OA factors was investigated, which
539 showed showed a negative correlation ($R=-0.25$) between LOOA and ~~κ_{OA}~~ κ_{OA} , while a positive
540 correlation ($R=0.35$) between aBBOA and κ_{OA} . Thus, the decrease of κ_{OA} for Aitken mode particles
541 during daytime might be attributed to the daytime formation of LOOA through gas-particle
542 partitioning (Fig. 5). A similar phenomenon was reported by Deng et al. (2019) in a forest
543 environment, which might be attributed to the photochemical reactions of BVOCs. Therefore, OA
544 in small particles might be less aged and was primarily contributed by photochemical oxidation of
545 VOCs. In contrast, it is likely that the accumulation mode particles became aged through

546 photochemical oxidation during daylight, as evidenced by higher fractions of ELVOA at 200 nm
547 and higher κ_{OA} (Figs. 6 and 7) during daytime. According to the PMF analysis, the daytime
548 formation of aBBOA likely resulted from the aging processes of primary OA or biomass burning
549 related precursors (Fig. 5). As suggested by Kuang et al. (2021), the daytime formation of aBBOA
550 (Fig. 5) would lead to an increase of κ_{OA} , which likely explained the noontime κ_{OA} peak at 150 and
551 200 nm. It suggested that the OA in the accumulation mode was more influenced by the aging
552 processes through photochemical reactions (leading to aBBOA formation).

553 The average size-resolved volatility distribution of OA during daytime (8:00 to 16:00 LT) and
554 nighttime (20:00 to 4:00 LT) was demonstrated in Fig. 7. A higher fraction of semi-volatile organic
555 aerosol (SVOA) was observed at six measured sizes (30, 50, 80, 100, 150, and 200 nm) during
556 daytime. SVOA was usually related to primary emission (e.g., traffic, biomass burning) and gas-
557 particle partitioning (Donahue et al., 2012; Jathar et al., 2020; Hong et al., 2017; Saha et al., 2017).
558 Two primary emission factors, BBOA and HOA, remained at a relative low level during daytime,
559 suggesting that the higher fraction of SVOA during daylight might be more originated from gas-
560 particle partitioning. Note that gas-particle partitioning (leading to LOOA formation) could occur
561 at all measured diameters, as shown by the higher daytime fractions of SVOA (Fig. 7). In summary,
562 the above results indicate that the negative effect of LOOA on κ_{OA} might exist at all diameters, while
563 the positive effect of aBBOA was more dominant at larger particle sizes.

564 Meanwhile, the decreasing trend of κ_{OA} was observed from 18:00 to 24:00 at 80 and 100 nm
565 which might be related to the high mass fraction of OA from primary emissions (HOA and BBOA,
566 Fig. 5), owing to their hydrophobic nature. These two primary factors were associated with traffic
567 emissions, cooking and biomass burning. Zhang et al. (2005b) constructed the size distribution of

568 HOA based on the size-resolved m/z 44 and 57 from the AMS measurement and showed that HOA
569 was dominant ($\sim 75\%$) in ultrafine particles ($D_{va} < 100$ nm). The size-resolved PMF results from Sun
570 et al. (2012) also indicated a high mass fraction of HOA (0.3-0.4) in Aitken mode particles. The
571 mass distribution of BC could be used to represent the distribution of primary OA (Cubison et al.,
572 2008; Wang et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2005a) due to similar source origins for BC and HOA/BBOA.
573 The average mass fraction of BC peaked at about 80-100 nm (Fig. S6a), suggesting that HOA and
574 BBOA might be dominant at this size range. The BC peaks at 80 nm and 100 nm were consistent
575 with those of the SVOA mass fraction (Fig. 3), which was attributed to biomass burning as similar
576 characteristics for the BC peak were shown in other studies (May et al., 2013; Huffman et al.,
577 2009; Donahue et al., 2011). Furthermore, this conclusion was supported by the hygroscopicity
578 measurements as a significant NH mode for 80-100 nm particles was found (Fig. 2). Overall, these
579 results highlight that the diurnal variation of physicochemical properties of OA could vary in a large
580 range with particle diameters, and further investigation is needed.

581 **3.4 Implication for CCN activity**

582 The CCN activity and its prediction is essential in global climate model and evaluation. A κ_{OA}
583 value of 0.1~0.15 was widely adopted in the prediction of N_{CCN} based on aerosol chemical
584 composition (Meng et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2010; Almeida et al., 2014). As discussed in Sect. 3.3,
585 the κ_{OA} values might be dependent on particle sizes and vary diurnally, which in turn affect N_{CCN} .
586 Here, different κ_{OA} values were adopted to predict N_{CCN} and the impact of κ_{OA} on N_{CCN} was
587 investigated through comparison between the predicted and measured N_{CCN} . Note that we only
588 discussed the N_{CCN} at 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4% and 0.7% SS, since the D_{50} at higher SS (0.9% and 1.0%)

589 was within a narrow range (35-60 nm).

590 The N_{CCN} at a certain SS can be calculated using PNSD and D_{50} :

$$591 \quad N_{CCN,p}(SS) = \int_{D_{50}}^{\infty} n_i d\log Dp_i \quad (16)$$

592 where n_i is the particle distribution function at Dp_i and D_{50} is determined from the κ_{AMS} using Eqs.

593 (5) and (7). The D_{50} at 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4% and 0.7% SS ranged from about 130-160 nm, 90-110 nm,

594 60-80 nm and 45-60 nm, respectively. Three κ_{OA} schemes were proposed to predict N_{CCN} : (1) fixed

595 κ_{OA} , where κ_{OA} was assumed to be 0.1 for all size particles. (2) size-resolved κ_{OA} (SR κ_{OA}), where

596 κ_{OA} was taken from average size-resolved κ_{OA} (κ_{OA} at 50, 80, 100 and 150 nm for 0.7%, 0.4%, 0.2%

597 and 0.1% SS, respectively) in Sect. 3.2. (3) size-resolved diurnal κ_{OA} (SR diurnal κ_{OA}), where κ_{OA}

598 was the average diurnal value of κ_{OA} at each diameter (κ_{OA} at 50, 80, 100 and 150 nm for 0.7%,

599 0.4%, 0.2% and 0.1% SS, respectively) as shown in Sect. 3.3. The κ_{AMS} was calculated based on the

600 chemical composition at the corresponding D_{50} range. Note that the N_{CCN} prediction based on the

601 SR diurnal κ_{OA} scheme was presented in 2 h time resolution and the particles were assumed to be

602 internally mixed in Eq. (16). The internal mixing assumption could slightly increase the predicted

603 N_{CCN} by about 6-10% (Sect. S3). As aforementioned, organics can increase the CCN activity by

604 decreasing surface tension, which might lead to significant discrepancy between κ_{HTDMA} and κ_{CCN}

605 in this campaign (Fig. S7). In addition, this effect could result in a significant underestimation of

606 N_{CCN} (Ovadnevaite et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2018; Good et al., 2010; Noziere, 2016).

607 Here, we evaluate the surface tension effect by comparing κ_{HTDMA} and κ_{CCN} as a function of

608 $\sigma_{s/a}$ (Fig. S9). The κ_{CCN} reached κ_{HTDMA} when the $\sigma_{s/a}$ values were set to be about 0.059 N m⁻¹ at

609 0.7%, 0.9% and 1.0% SS, 0.053 N m⁻¹ at 0.4% SS, 0.047 N m⁻¹ at 0.2% SS, and 0.049 N m⁻¹ at 0.1%

610 SS, respectively. Thus, we adopted $\sigma_{s/a}$ values of 0.049, 0.047, 0.053 and 0.059 N m⁻¹ to predict

611 N_{CCN} at 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4% and 0.7% SS, respectively. In general, the N_{CCN} prediction could be
612 significantly improved by considering the surfactant effect (Fig. S10). The N_{CCN} was slightly
613 overestimated by using reduced $\sigma_{s/a}$ values, which was probably due to using a fixed κ_{OA} values.
614 This bias could be corrected by adopting SR κ_{OA} scheme (Fig. S11).

615
616 The deviation of the N_{CCN} prediction ($\delta_{N_{CCN}}$) at a certain SS is defined as (Cai et al., 2021b):

$$617 \delta_{N_{CCN}}(SS) = \frac{N_{CCN,m}(SS) - N_{CCN,p}(SS)}{N_{CCN,m}(SS)} 100\% \quad (17)$$

618 where $N_{CCN,m}(SS)$ is the measured N_{CCN} at a specific SS. A negative $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ indicates an
619 overestimate of N_{CCN} , and vice versa.

620 Figure 8 shows the $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ at different SS for the three κ_{OA} schemes. Fixed κ_{OA} scheme gave
621 generally a negative value of $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ (-0.18 to -0.02) at 0.7% SS, indicating an N_{CCN} overestimation,
622 due to lower κ_{OA} values for smaller particles. A significant diurnal pattern of $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ was observed at
623 all SS. The $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ was relatively higher during daytime at 0.1% SS, while an opposite pattern was
624 shown at high SS, consistent with the size-dependent variation of κ_{OA} (Fig. 6). Hence, the fixed κ_{OA}
625 scheme could lead to an obvious discrepancy in the N_{CCN} prediction as SS increased. The results
626 based on the SR κ_{OA} scheme showed that the minimum $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ value at 0.7% SS increased from -
627 0.18 in the fixed κ_{OA} scheme to -0.08, indicating the improvement for the N_{CCN} prediction at high
628 SS (Fig. 8b). However, only minor improvement was observed at SS lower than 0.4 % because of
629 the low employed κ_{OA} (about 0.08), which was close to the κ_{OA} value (0.1) adopted in the fixed κ_{OA}
630 scheme. A significant difference of $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ was still observed in the diurnal pattern at high and low
631 SS, implying the impact of the diurnal variation of κ_{OA} on the N_{CCN} prediction. To further investigate
632 this impact, the SR diurnal κ_{OA} scheme was employed to calculate $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ and the results were shown

633 in Fig. 8c. The $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ value at 0.7% SS varied from -0.04 to 0.09 with an average value of 0, whereas
634 it ranged from 0 to 0.11 at 0.1% SS. Hence, the discrepancies of $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ among different SS became
635 minor compared to the other two schemes as a relatively flat diurnal pattern of $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ was observed
636 at all SS. It implies that better prediction of N_{CCN} could be achieved by considering the diurnal
637 variation and the size dependence of κ_{OA} .

638 4. Conclusions

639 A rural field measurement was conducted at the Heshan supersite in the PRD region of China
640 during October and November 2019. We investigated the diurnal variation and size dependence in
641 the hygroscopicity and volatility of OA in combination with the PMF analysis of the AMS data. The
642 impacts of OA on the CCN number concentration at different SS were discussed for various given
643 size-dependent κ_{OA} values.

644 In general, the average κ_{OA} values varied from 0.058 at 30 nm to 0.09 at 200 nm, indicating a
645 higher oxidation degree of OA at larger sizes than at smaller sizes. This is consistent with particle
646 volatility: the mass fraction of ELVOA increased (0.16-0.30) with increasing particle diameters.

647 Our results suggest that the formation and aging processes of OA might vary with particle sizes.
648 An oppositely diurnal pattern of κ_{OA} was observed between Aitken mode (30-100 nm) and
649 Accumulation mode (150 and 200 nm) particles, suggesting different atmospheric evolution
650 processes of OA at different diameters. The gas-particle partitioning could decrease the κ_{OA} , while
651 the aging processes of preexisting particles could enhance the hygroscopicity of OA. For Aitken
652 mode particles (30-100 nm), the κ_{OA} values reached minimal (0.02-0.07) during daytime.

653 ~~Meanwhile, a daytime peak was observed for the κ_{OA} value (~ 0.09) in the accumulation mode (150~~
654 ~~and 200 nm), suggesting that the aging processes of preexisting particles were more dominant at~~
655 ~~accumulation mode particles. The κ_{OA} values for 30–100 nm particles reached minimal (0.02–0.07)~~
656 ~~and a high κ_{OA} value (~ 0.09) for 150 and 200 nm particles was observed during daytime, suggesting~~
657 ~~that the aging processes of preexisting particles were more dominant at accumulation mode particles.~~

658 In addition, the mass fraction of SVOA was higher during daytime at all measured diameters,
659 implying that the formation of LOOA through gas-particle partitioning was independent of particle
660 diameters.

661 The impact of the size-resolved diurnal variation of κ_{OA} on the N_{CCN} was investigated. The use
662 of fixed κ_{OA} ($\kappa_{OA}=0.1$) overestimated the N_{CCN} up to 18% at 0.7% SS. The diurnal deviation became
663 obvious at 0.7% SS and minor at 0.1% SS during daytime, owing to the size-dependent variation of
664 κ_{OA} . The N_{CCN} prediction at 0.7% SS was improved if the SR κ_{OA} scheme was used, while the
665 diurnal variation of $\delta_{N_{CCN}}$ still existed. Better predictions can be obtained by using SR diurnal κ_{OA} .
666 Our results highlight that the physical properties of OA can vary in a large range at different size
667 ranges due to the formation and aging processes, and the size-resolved diurnal variation in κ_{OA} plays
668 an important role in the N_{CCN} prediction at different SS. Further studies on the size-resolved
669 physicochemical properties of OA should be performed in different environments to better
670 understand their impact on cloud formation and hence climate.

671

672 *Data availability.* Data from the measurements are available at
673 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.18094277.v1> (Cai et al., 2022).

674

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676

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681

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701

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1095

1096 Table 1. The density and the κ value of the related species used in this study.

Species	Density (kg m ⁻³)	κ
NH ₄ NO ₃	1720 ^a	0.58 ^b
NH ₄ HSO ₄	1780 ^a	0.56 ^b
H ₂ SO ₄	1830 ^a	0.90 ^b
(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	1769 ^a	0.48 ^b
Organics	1400 ^a	0.10 ^b
BC	1770 ^c	0 ^d

1097 ^a From Gysel et al. (2007); ^b From (Cai et al., 2018); ^c From Deng et al. (2019); ^d Assumed to be 0.

1098

1099 Table 2. Thermophysical properties of each component used in the multi-component evaporation
 1100 dynamics model.

Parameters	ELVOA	LVOA	SVOA	Ammonium	Ammonium	Black
				Nitrate	Sulfate	Carbon
$C_i^*(T_{ref})$ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) ^a	10^{-5}	10^{-2}	10	76	2×10^{-3}	10^{-30}
D_i ($\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$) ^b	5×10^{-6}	5×10^{-6}	5×10^{-6}	5×10^{-6}	5×10^{-6}	5×10^{-6}
$\sigma_{s/a}$ (N m^{-1}) ^c	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
M_i (kg mol^{-1})	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.08	0.132	0.28
ρ_i (kg m^{-3})	1400	1400	1400	1720	1769	1770
$\Delta H_{vap,i}$ (kJ mol^{-1}) ^d	80	80	80	152	94	100
α^c	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09

1101 ^a From Hong et al. (2017); ^b From Riipinen et al. (2010); ^c From Riipinen et al. (2010); ^d The ΔH_{vap}
 1102 values of organics are obtained from the sensitivity test shown in Fig. S4 and the values of inorganic
 1103 species are from Hong et al. (2017); ^e Obtained from the sensitivity test shown in Fig. S4.
 1104

1105 Table 3. The average and standard deviation values (mean \pm std) of N_{CCN} , AR, D_{50} , and κ_{CCN} at 0.1%,
 1106 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.7%, 0.9% and 1.0% SS during the campaign.

SS	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%
N_{CCN} (# cm ⁻³)	2507 \pm 1187	4322 \pm 1981	5843 \pm 2461	6834 \pm 2921	7497 \pm 3210	7862 \pm 3352
AR	0.20 \pm 0.09	0.34 \pm 0.13	0.45 \pm 0.16	0.52 \pm 0.17	0.57 \pm 0.17	0.60 \pm 0.17
D_{50} (nm)	145.55 \pm 11.26	92.83 \pm 8.80	66.79 \pm 6.33	52.56 \pm 5.46	45.38 \pm 4.82	42.26 \pm 4.45
κ_{CCN}	0.48 \pm 0.13	0.47 \pm 0.15	0.31 \pm 0.10	0.22 \pm 0.09	0.20 \pm 0.08	0.20 \pm 0.08

1107

1108 FIGURE CAPTIONS

1109 Figure 1. The temporal profile of the measured variables during the campaign. (a) particle number
1110 size distribution; (b) PM_1 chemical composition measured by the SP-AMS along with mass
1111 concentration of $PM_{2.5}$; (c) mass fraction of each species; (d) wind speed and direction. The color
1112 code in (d) represents the wind direction.

1113 Figure 2. The temporal profile of GF-PDF at the measured diameters (30, 50, 80, 100, 150 and 200
1114 nm). The color code denotes the probability density and the red solid line represents the mean GF
1115 (GF_{mean}).

1116 Figure 3. The average mass fraction distribution of SVOA, LVOA and ELVOA at the measured
1117 diameters (30, 50, 80, 100, 150 and 200 nm), and average size-resolved hygroscopicity of organic
1118 aerosol (κ_{OA}) with the upper and lower error bars (in red).

1119 Figure 4. The campaign average diurnal variation of mass fraction of organics and f44 in bulk
1120 PM_1 (a), the κ values at 200 nm obtained by HTDMA (κ_{HTDMA}) and AMS (κ_{AMS}) measurements
1121 (b), the PNSD (c) and mass distribution of organics (d). The shaded area represents standard
1122 deviation.

1123 Figure 5. The diurnal variation (displayed in boxplot) mass concentration of the deconvolved OA
1124 factors from PMF analysis of AMS data, including more oxygenated OA (MOOA), less
1125 oxygenated OA (LOOA), aged biomass burning OA (aBBOA), hydrocarbon-like OA (HOA),
1126 biomass burning OA (BBOA), and nighttime OA (night-OA).

1127 Figure 6. The average (solid line) and standard deviation (shaded area) diurnal variation of κ_{OA} at
1128 different particle diameters.

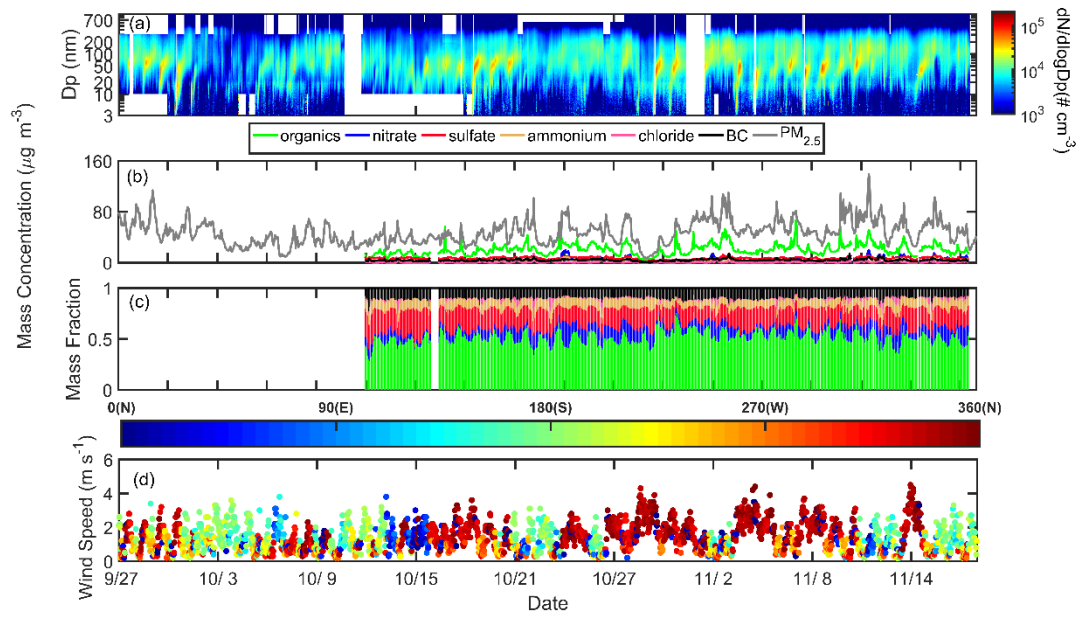
1129 Figure 7. The size-resolved volatility distribution during daytime (8:00-16:00 LT) and nighttime

1130 (20:00 to 4:00 LT) based on the median time of each cycle owing to the limited time resolution.

1131 Figure 8. The average diurnal variation of δ_{NCCN} at 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4% and 0.7% SS based on fixed

1132 κ_{OA} (a), SR κ_{OA} (b) and SR diurnal κ_{OA} (c).

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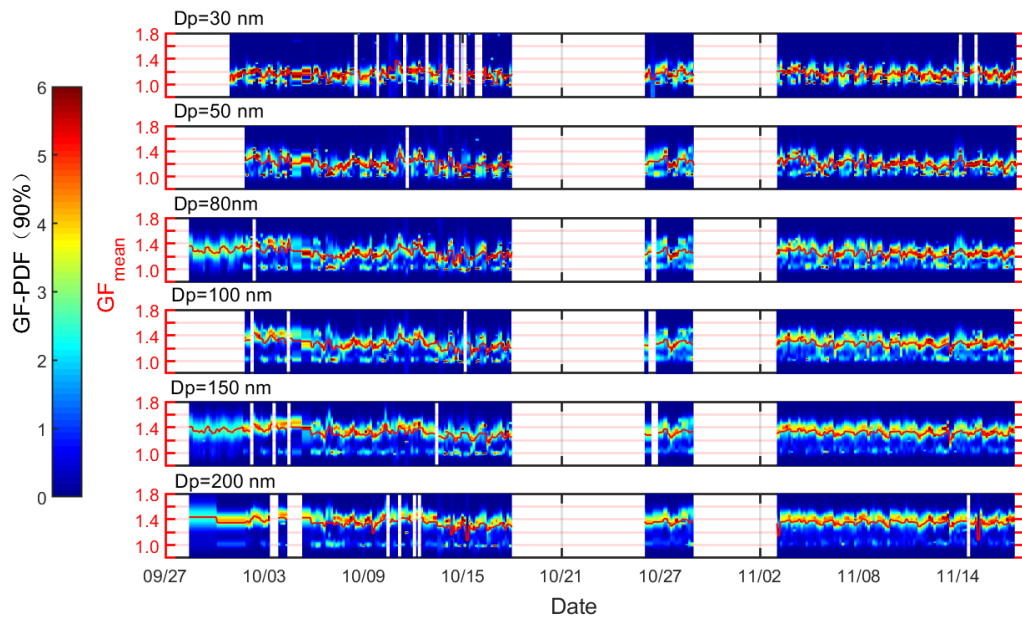
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1137 Fig. 1.

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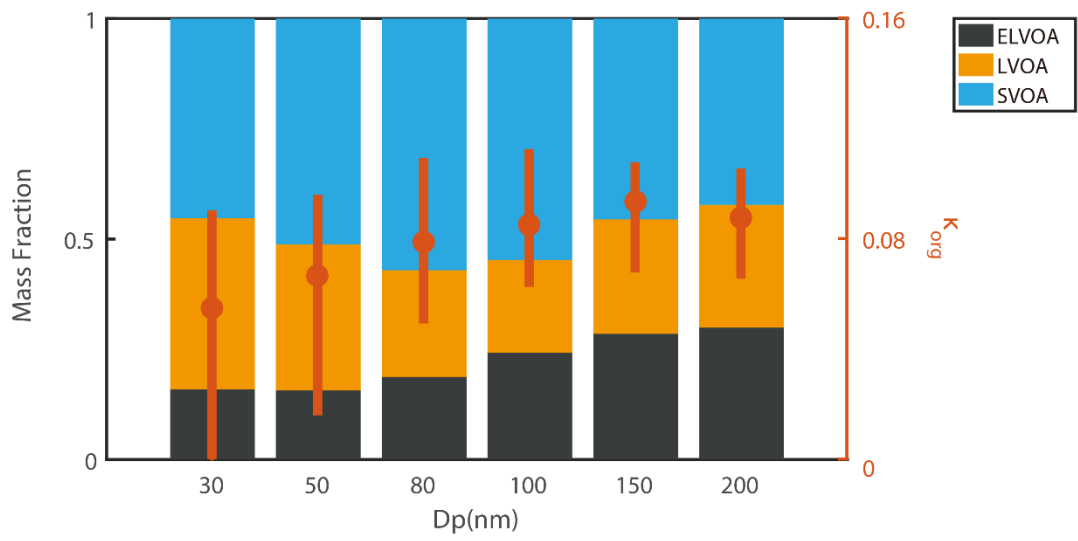


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Fig. 2.

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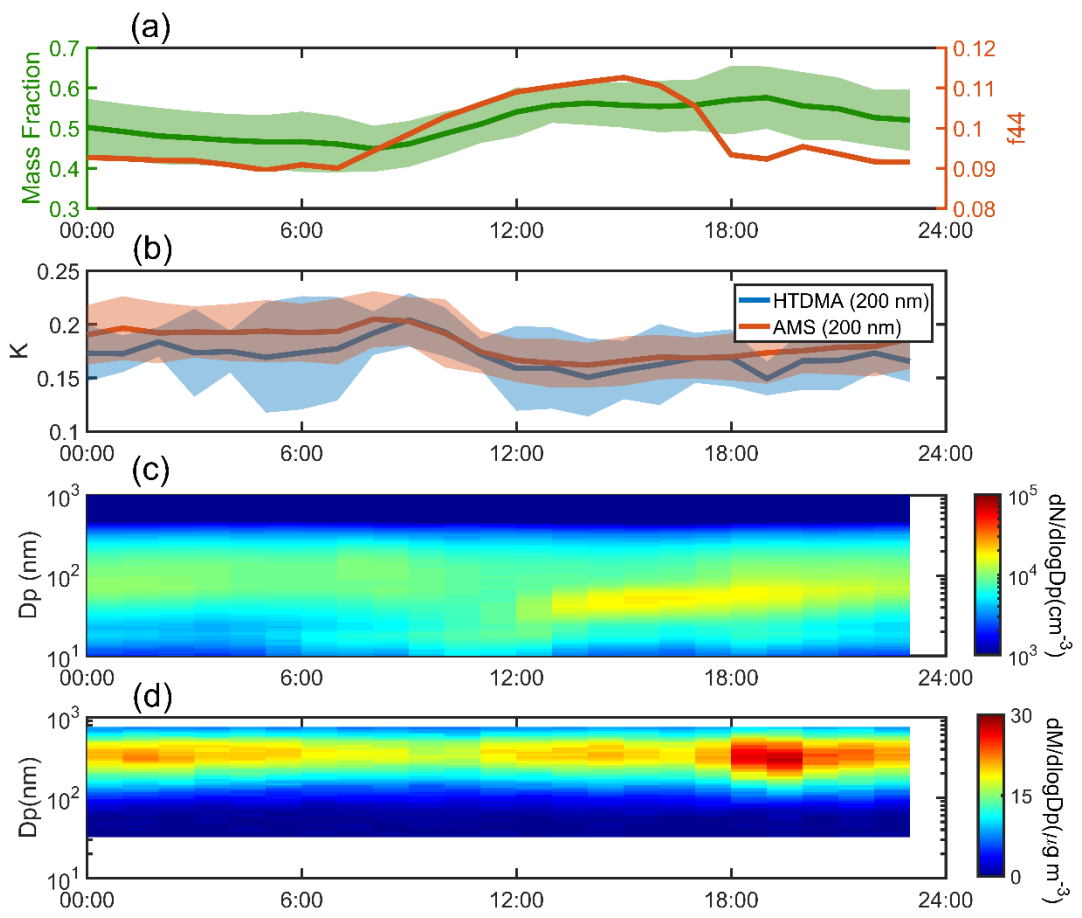


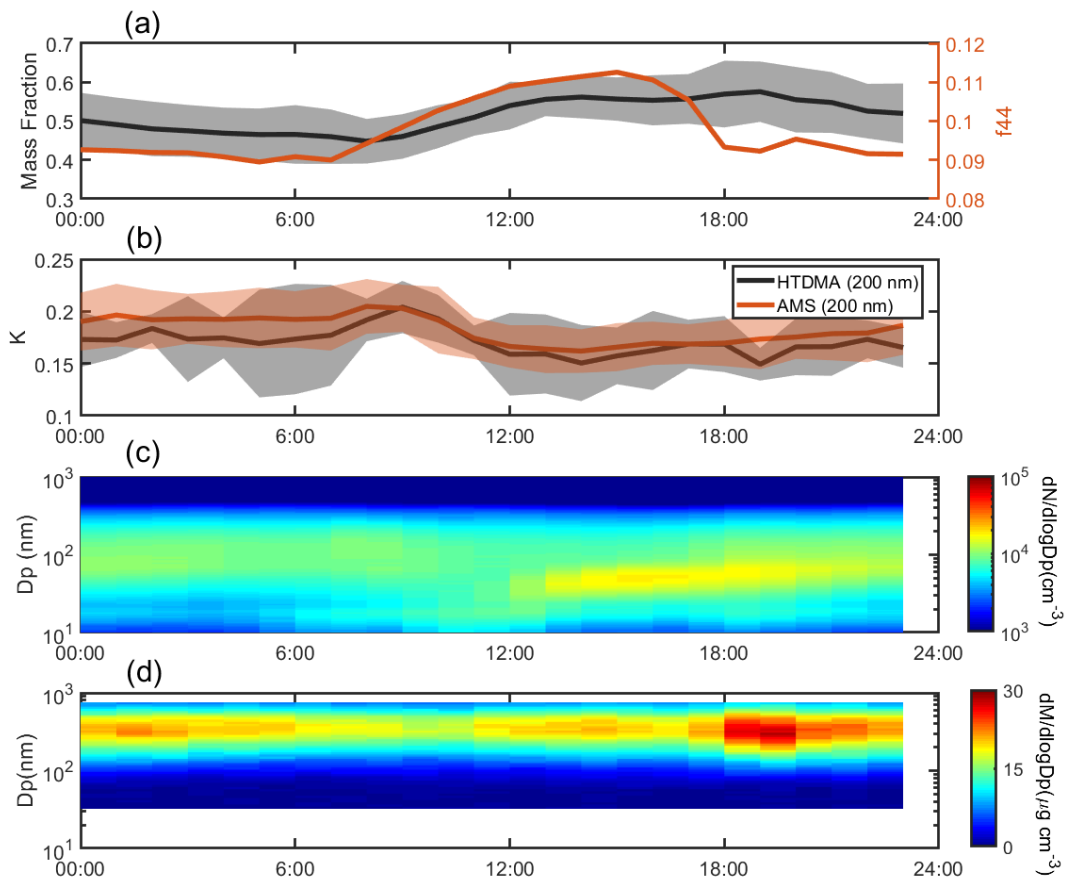
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1144 Fig. 3.

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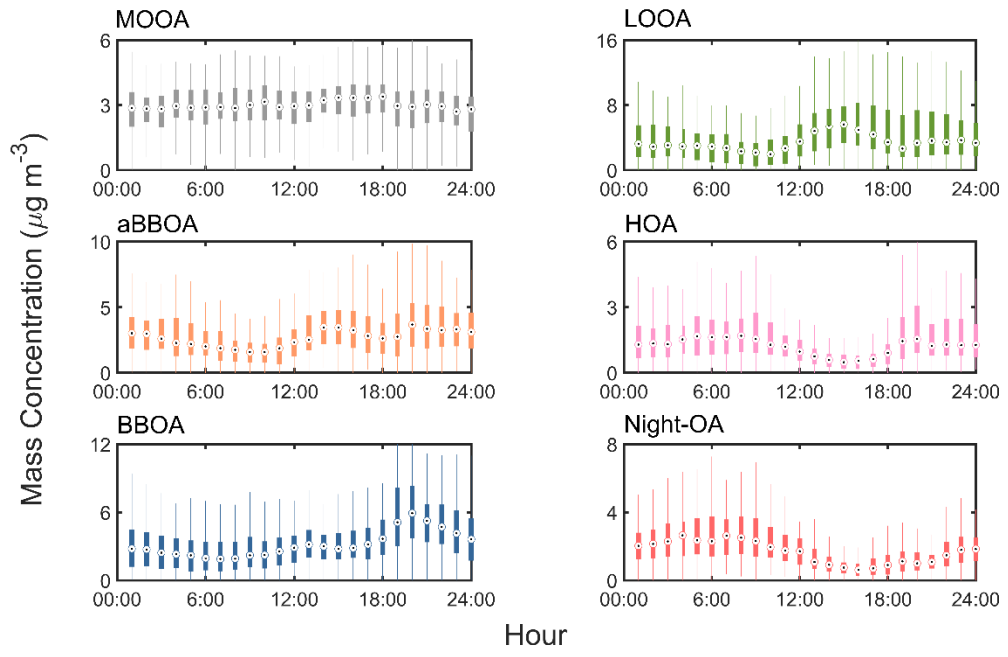


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1149 Fig. 4.

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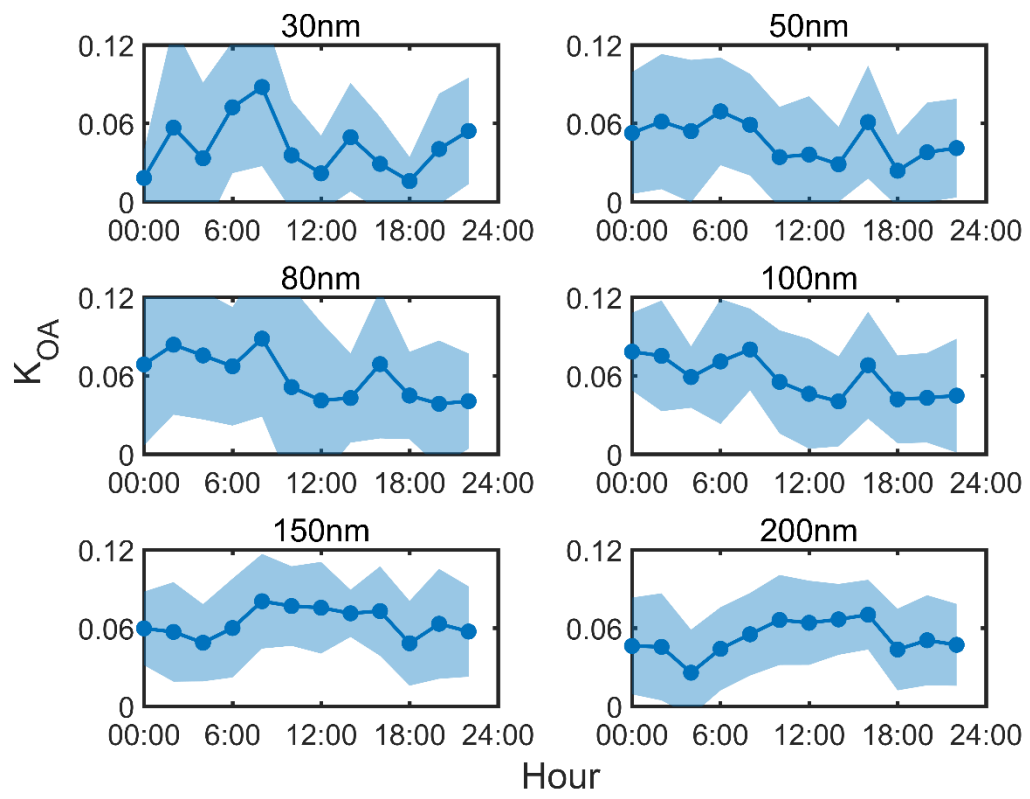


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Fig. 5.

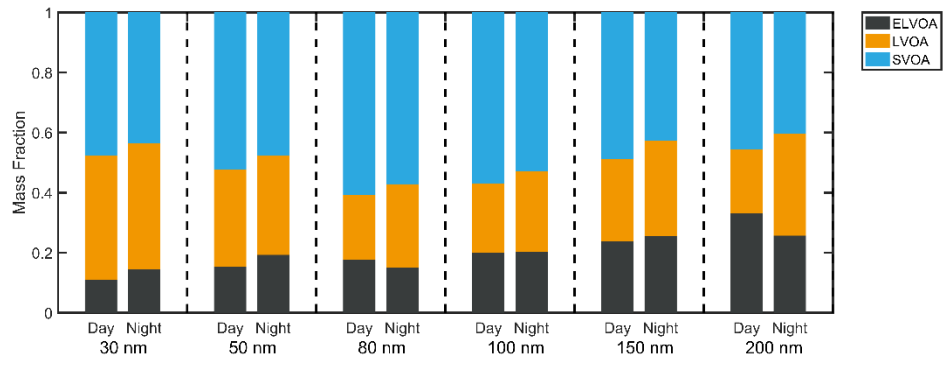


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Fig. 6.



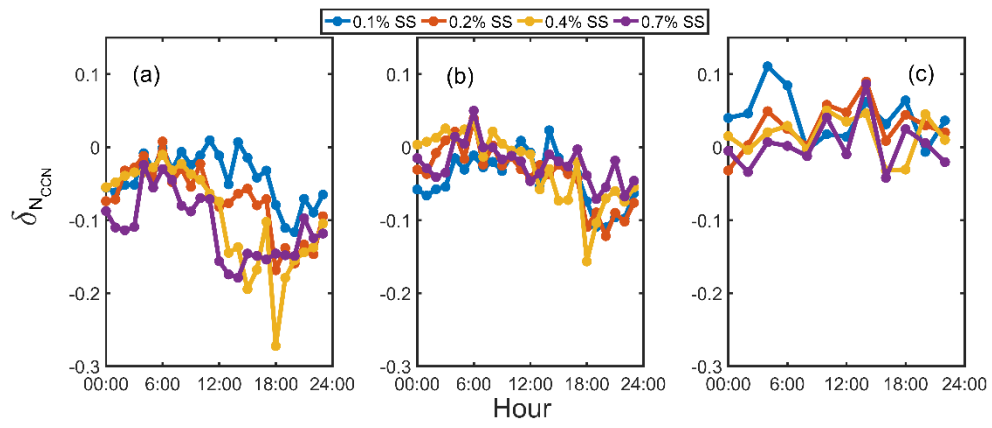
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1159 Fig. 7.

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Fig. 8.