

1 **In-depth study of the formation processes of single atmospheric particles in**
2 **the southeastern margin of Tibetan Plateau**

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13

14 **Abstract**

15 The unique geographical location of the Tibetan Plateau (TP) plays an important role in
16 regulating global climate change, but the impacts of the chemical components and
17 atmospheric processing on the size distribution and mixing state of individual particles are
18 rarely explored in the southeastern margin of the TP, which is a transport channel for
19 pollutants from Southeast Asia to the TP during the pre-monsoon season. Thus a
20 single-particle aerosol mass spectrometer (SPAMS) was deployed to investigate how the local
21 emissions of chemical composition interact with the transporting particles and assess the
22 mixing state of different particle types and secondary formation in this study. The TP particles
23 were classified into six distinct types, mainly including the largest fraction of the
24 rich-potassium (rich-K) type in the total particles (30.9%), followed by the biomass burning
25 (BB) type (18.7%). Most particle types were mainly transported from surroundings the
26 sampling site and along the Sino-Myanmar border; but the air mass trajectories from
27 northeastern India and Myanmar show a greater impact on the number fraction of BB (31.7%)
28 and Dust (18.2%) types, respectively. Then, the two episodes with high particle
29 concentrations showed that the differences in the meteorological conditions in the same
30 trajectory clusters could cause significant changes in chemical components, especially the
31 Dust and EC-aged types, which changed by a sum of 93.6% and 72.0%, respectively.
32 Ammonium and Dust particles distribute at a relatively larger size (~ 600 nm), but the size
33 peak of other types is present at ~ 440 nm. Compared with the abundant sulfate ($^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$),
34 the low nitrate ($^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$) internally mixed in TP particles is mainly due to the fact that nitrate
35 is more volatilized during the transport process. The formation mechanism of secondary
36 speciation demonstrate that the formation capacity of atmospheric oxidation is presumably
37 affected by the convective transmission and the regional transport in TP. However, the
38 relative humidity (RH) could significantly promote the formation of secondary species,
39 especially $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ and $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$. This study provides new insights, into the particle
40 composition and size, mixing state, and aging mechanism in high time resolution over the TP
41 region.

42 **Keywords**

43 Southeastern Tibetan Plateau, Individual particles, Chemical characteristics, mixing state,

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44 Secondary formation

45 1 Introduction

46 Atmospheric aerosols have complex components and sources and can be coated with
47 inorganic or organic materials during transport and atmospheric processing (Crippa et al.,
48 2013), **and then** its sizes, chemical compositions, mixing states and optical properties would
49 change greatly, leading to its influence in the atmosphere more uncertain (Jacobson, 2002;
50 Zaveri et al., 2010; Matsui, 2016; Budisulistiorini et al., 2017; Ma et al., 2012). Currently, the
51 influences of the complex chemical components on aerosol size and mixing state show large
52 regional differences due to the variations in the pollution sources, atmospheric formation
53 mechanism and meteorological conditions, which have been widely studied in an urban area
54 at a low altitude (Pratt et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2020a; Xu et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2022).
55 However, **Liu et al (2020) have** found that the migration or formation of low-volatile
56 component (such as nitrate and organic matter) could effectively be reduced due to
57 evaporation during the upward transportation process, **which further alter the chemical**
58 **compositions and the particle sizes.** The transportation of the aerosols to a relatively cleaner
59 environment prevails the formation of secondary chemicals at a high altitude (Liu et al.,
60 2020b). Therefore, a comprehensive investigation of the detailed characteristic of aerosol
61 formation and mixing states is required to understand their environmental effects in low-, and
62 high-altitude.

63 As a typical high-altitude region, the Tibetan Plateau (TP) has the highest and largest
64 mountain area in the world, which is the most sensitive and obvious indicator of climate
65 change in the entire Asian continent (Liu et al., 2017; Chen and Bordoni, 2014; Immerzeel et
66 al., 2010). **Numerous** studies have shown that the melting and retreat of glaciers in the TP
67 regions is accelerating **in recent decades, largely attributed** to anthropogenic emissions, such
68 as greenhouse gases and aerosols (Luo et al., 2020; Hua et al., 2019). Atmospheric aerosols
69 also can act as cloud condensation nuclei to impact the local hydrological cycles and
70 monsoon patterns by changing the microphysical properties and life span of clouds (Qian et
71 al., 2011; Gettelman et al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2017). The southern part of the TP is always
72 affected by the transport of more polluted air from South Asia along the mountain valleys,

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73 especially during the pre-monsoon (i.e., March-May) with the southwest prevailing wind
74 (Chan et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2017; Han et al., 2020). Most studies have focused on the
75 optical characteristics within the TP; however, only a few research has been conducted on
76 aerosol components.

77 Present researches on aerosol components, over the TP mostly focus on exploring the
78 influence of light-absorbing carbon aerosols and dust particles on climate change by optical
79 or offline sampling methods (e.g., Wang et al., 2019a; Liu et al., 2021). There is a lack of
80 studies on the chemical composition, mixing states, and formation mechanism of aerosols in
81 the southeast margin and even the entire TP, especially using high-time resolved
82 measurements. Although time-integrated sampling with filter collection followed by
83 laboratory analyses has been widely adopted for the chemical characterization of aerosols (Li
84 et al., 2022a; Shen et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2013), the drawbacks of the traditional approach
85 need to get attention, including the low time resolution, high detection limit, and time- and
86 labor-intensive procedures. Therefore, more advanced aerosol measurement equipment with
87 high-time resolution are developed, for example the aerosol chemical speciation monitor
88 (ACSM) and aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) (Ng et al., 2011; Canagaratna et al., 2007) are
89 mainly achieved the online observation datasets of non-refractory submicron aerosol
90 (including the mass concentration of sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, chloride, and organic; and
91 mass spectral of organic). This is beneficial to recognize the dynamic processes of source
92 emission of organic matter in the atmosphere (Du et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2019a).
93 Meanwhile, aerosol time-of-flight mass spectrometry (ATOFMS) (Dall'Osto et al., 2014), and
94 single particle aerosol mass spectrometer (SPAMS) (Zhang et al., 2020), are popular for
95 characterizing atmospheric individual particles. These devices can determine the chemical
96 composition and size distribution of the particles in detail, such as the dynamic processes of
97 chemical aging, mixing state, and transporting (Liang et al., 2022; Li et al., 2022b; Zhang et
98 al., 2019b). To the best knowledge, the advanced measurement device has not yet been
99 applied for the studies conducted in TP, leading to a lack of in-depth research on the PM_{2.5}
100 pollution in TP, especially in the southeastern margin, which hinders our understanding of the
101 distribution characteristics and formation mechanism of aerosol components in high-altitude
102 regions.

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103 The southeastern margin of the TP is an important transitional zone between the
104 high-altitude TP and the low-altitude Yungui Plateau (Wang et al., 2019a; Zhao et al., 2017),
105 is an ideal place for investigating the impacts of pollutants transport and formation in the
106 high-altitude zone. In this study, continuous field observation of individual particles (SPAMS)
107 was deployed on the southeastern margin of the TP during the pre-monsoon period, to (i)
108 investigate the changes of chemical characteristics between transport and local fine particles
109 during pre-monsoon, (ii) determine the size distributions and mixing states of different
110 particle types, and (iii) assess the contributions of photooxidation and aqueous reaction to the
111 formation of the secondary species. These results would expand our understanding of the
112 chemical components, size distribution, mixing state and aging pathways of aerosols in the
113 high-altitude areas over the TP and surrounding areas.

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114 2 Methodology

115 2.1 Sampling site

116 Intensive one-month field observation was deployed at the rooftop (~ 10 m above ground
117 level) of the Lijiang Astronomical Station, Chinese Academy of Sciences (3260 m above sea
118 level; 26°41'24"N, 100°10'48"E), Gaomeigu County, Yunnan Province, China, during the
119 pre-monsoon period (from April 14th to May 13th, 2018). The nearest residential area is the
120 Gaomeigu village (3–5 km away) with a small population size of 113 residents in 27
121 households. Villagers earn a living by farming (e.g., potato and autumn rape), and biomass is
122 the major domestic fuel (Li et al., 2016). The sampling site is surrounded by rural and
123 mountainous areas and has no obvious industry or traffic emissions. During the total
124 observation period, the average temperature (T) and relative humidity (RH) are 8.4 ± 3.1 °C
125 and $69\% \pm 21\%$, respectively. The wind speed (WS) is 2.2 ± 1.2 m·s⁻¹ with the prevailing
126 wind in the north and northeastern (Fig. S1).

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127 2.2 On-line instrument

128 A detailed operational principle and the calibrations of the single-particle aerosol mass
129 spectrometer (SPAMS, Hexin Analytical Instrument Co., Ltd., Guangzhou, China) has been
130 described elsewhere (Li et al., 2011). Briefly, individual particles are drawn into SPAMS

131 through a critical orifice. The particles are focused and accelerated, then aerodynamically
132 sized by two continuous diode Nd: YAG laser beams (532 nm), subsequently desorbed and
133 ionized by a pulsed laser (266 nm) triggered exactly based on the velocity of the specific
134 particle. The generated of positive and negative molecular fragments are recorded with the
135 corresponding size of individual particles. In summary, a velocity, a detection time, and an
136 ion mass spectrum are recorded for each ionized particle, while there is no mass spectrum for
137 not ionized particles. The velocity could be converted to d_{va} based on a calibration using
138 polystyrene latex spheres (PSL, Thermo Scientific Corp., Palo Alto, USA) with predefined
139 sizes. The average ambient pressure is 690 hPa (in a range of 685–694 hPa) during the
140 measurements and calibration. Particles measured by SPAMS mostly are within the size
141 range of vacuum aerodynamic diameter (d_{va}) 0.2–2.0 μm . A hollow silicone dryer was
142 installed in front of the inlet. This reduces the uncertainty of particle collection efficiency due
143 to the changes of humidity in sampled airs.

144 Meteorological parameters, including the temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), RH (%), WS ($\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$), and
145 wind direction (WD) were continuously achieved using an automatic weather station (Model
146 MAWS201, Vaisala HydroMet, Helsinki, Finland) in a 5-min resolution, and the planetary
147 boundary layer (PBL) was acquired from the website (<https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2>,
148 last access: 17 April 2020) in a 1-hour resolution. Gaseous concentrations (ppbv) were
149 obtained using a multiple gas analyzer (Thermo Scientific Corp.), including ozone (O_3 , model
150 49i) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x , model 42i) in a 5-min resolution. The SPAMS and gas
151 analyzers are co-located in the same position, and the weather station was uncovered outside
152 ~5 m from the sampling house. Time series of SPAMS particles, gaseous concentrations (NO ,
153 NO_x , O_3 , and CO) and meteorological parameters (PBL, temperature, RH, WD, and WS)
154 were shown in Fig. S2.

155 **2.3 Individual particle classification**

156 During the observation period, a total of 461,876 ambient particles with the size (d_{va}) of
157 0.2–2.0 μm were collected, including 55,583 in Episode 1 (E1; from April 18th 08:00 local
158 time (LT) to April 19th 08:00 LT) and 62,110 in Episode 2 (E2; from April 26th 17:00 LT to
159 April 28th 02:00 LT). The analyzed particles are classified into 1,557 groups using an adaptive

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160 resonance theory neural network (ART-2a) with a vigilance factor of 0.8, a learning rate of
161 0.05, and 20 iterations (Song et al., 1999). Finally, eight major particle clusters [i.e.,
162 potassium-rich (rich-K), biomass burning (BB), organic carbon (OC), Ammonium, aged
163 element carbon (EC-aged), Dust, sodium (Na)-potassium (K)-containing (NaK-SN), and iron
164 (Fe)-lead (Pb)-containing (Metal)] with distinct chemical patterns were manually combined,
165 which represent ~99.7 % of the population of the detected particles. The remaining particles
166 are grouped as “Other”. The characteristics of the positive and negative mass spectra (MS) of
167 each particle type are shown in Fig. S3. A detailed description of classification criteria for
168 individual particles and the characteristic ion fragments for each particle type can be found in
169 Text S1. The criteria used for searching the some secondary species in the SPAMS datasets
170 are summarized in Table S2.

171 **2.4 Trajectory-related analysis**

172 To determine the influence of regional transport on different particles at the southeastern
173 margin of the TP, the trajectory clusters analysis was carried out using the 72-h backward air
174 mass trajectories at arrival heights of 500 m above ground level. The trajectories were
175 calculated with the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory model (Draxler
176 and Hess, 1998), and the meteorological data were obtained from the Global Data
177 Assimilation System (GDAS; ftp://arlftp.arlhq.noaa.gov/pub/archives/gdas1, last access: 6
178 April, 2022). The cluster analysis employs a Euclidean-oriented distance definition to
179 differentiate and cluster the major spatial features of the inputting trajectories. Details of the
180 trajectory clustering method can be found in Sirois and Bottenheim (1995). To investigate the
181 effects of transport on the chemical characteristic of the individual particles, trajectories with
182 particle number concentrations high than the 75th percentile are considered as pollution (Liu
183 et al., 2021).

184 **3 Results and Discussion**

185 **3.1 Characteristics of particle composition**

186 Table 1 summarizes the numbers of concentrations, relative percentages, and
187 characteristic ions of each particle type. The most dominant particle type in Gaomeigu during

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188 pre-monsoon is rich-K, accounting for an average of 30.9% of the total resolved particles,
189 followed by BB (18.7%), OC (12.8%), Ammonium (11.9%), EC-aged (10.9%), and Dust
190 (10.7%). Their characteristics of mass spectrum and possible sources are described in
191 supplemental information of text S1 in detail. Similar to the results of some studies in urban
192 areas, rich-K or carbonaceous-containing type is the dominant particle type (15-50%) (Xu et
193 al., 2018; Wang et al., 2019b; Li et al., 2022). Combined with the previous studies and the
194 characteristics of the mass spectrum (Fig. S3a) in this study, the rich-K particles are
195 contributed by biomass burning and traffic emission, because that extensive works usually
196 identify abundant $^{39}\text{K}^+$ signals for biomass burning (Pratt et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2017),
197 while the presence of phosphate (m/z , $^{79}\text{PO}_3^-$) indicates the vehicle exhaust (Yang et al., 2017).
198 The results of the correlation between seven variables (Fig. S4) show that rich-K type was
199 strongly correlated with Ammonium ($r=0.84$) and EC-aged ($r=0.90$) types, follow well
200 correlated with OC ($r=0.70$) and BB ($r=0.68$) types, further demonstrate that rich-K particles
201 type is from traffic emission and biomass burning, and is affected by secondary formation
202 during the atmospheric aging in southeastern TP. It is worth noting that few research have
203 captured the high proportion of Ammonium particles as shown in this study (Shen et al., 2017;
204 Xu et al., 2018), which is ascribed to the conversion of ammonia (NH_3) precursor emitted
205 from large-scale agricultural activities and mountain forest (Engling et al., 2011; Li et al.,
206 2013). It is necessary to point out that 60% of Ammonium particles contain signals of amine
207 fragment (m/z 58, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NH}=\text{CH}_2^+$), implying their similar formation pathway (Zhang et al.,
208 2012). Moreover, the amine-containing particle represented 12.5% of the total ambient
209 particles, which is significantly higher than that in some urban areas at low altitudes (around
210 2%) (Cahi et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2015; Li et al., 2017) but is comparable to that at
211 observed sites with high RH, or during fog and cloud events at a high altitude ($> 9\%$) (Roth et
212 al., 2016; Lin et al., 2019). This suggests that the formation of amines under high RH and fog
213 conditions might exist in the Gaomeigu area (with an altitude of 3260 m), for example, the
214 high relative fraction of amine-containing particle corresponds to a high RH (Fig. S5), and
215 the existence of amine sources govern the ammonium formations (Bi et al., 2016; Rehbein et
216 al., 2011). The relatively larger fraction of Dust particles is related to the short-time
217 occurrences of dust events in spring (Fig. S6), leading to a wide contribution ranging between

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218 10% and 70% in the period of 19:00 LT on April 16th to 10:00 LT on April 17th.

219 Fig. 1 shows the diurnal variations of each particle type. The rich-K, BB, and OC
220 particles decrease after midnight until 06:00 LT, possibly explained by the curtailment of
221 local traffic and biomass-burning activities at nighttime even though both the planetary
222 boundary layer (PBL) height and WS decrease (Fig. S7). Then, their concentrations rapidly
223 increase in the morning (around 07:00 LT) due to more pollutants from biomass burning and
224 traffic emissions at the upwind region. The increases of PBL height and WS also lead to the
225 transported of air pollutants from the surrounding regions to the sampling site (Liu et al.,
226 2021). At 11:00 LT, the particle concentrations sharply decrease till 16:00–17:00 LT, caused
227 by the pollutant dispersion with the continuing increases of the PBL height and WS.
228 Increasing trends are observed after 17:00 LT due to the pollutant accumulation with the
229 reduction of PBL height and WS. In contrast, the Ammonium, EC-aged and Dust particles
230 show a unimodal pattern of the daily diurnal variation (Fig. 1d–f). From 00:00 to 06:00 LT,
231 minor fluctuation of particle concentrations of Ammonium, EC-aged and Dust is observed for
232 these particle types. After that, their levels continuously elevate until ~11:00 LT due to the
233 regional transport, traffic emission and fugitive dust (Text S2). While the PBL height and WS
234 increase continuously, the Ammonium, EC-aged and Dust types begin to decline from 12:00
235 to 17:00 LT. The subsequent increases of these three types after 17:00 LT are attributed to the
236 reduction of PBL height, as a result of the accumulation of pollutants in the near-surface
237 atmosphere.

238 Based on the transport pathways, four air mass clusters are identified to investigate the
239 effect of regional transport on the major particle types (i.e., rich-K, BB, OC, Ammonium,
240 EC-aged and Dust) (Fig. 2). Cluster 1, 3 and 4 are originated from northeastern Myanmar,
241 accounting for 59.8%, 33.2% and 4.6% of the total trajectories, respectively. Cluster 1 had an
242 average percentage of 32.7%, 18.5%, 12.0%, 12.5%, 11.1% and 8.9%, respectively, on the
243 rich-K, BB, OC, Ammonium, EC-aged and Dust particles (Table S1). Cluster 3 and 4 have
244 the comparable contributions of OC (15.5% and 12.5%, respectively), increased of BB
245 (19.3% and 26.8%, respectively), and decreased of rich-K (26.8% and 25.2%, respectively),
246 Ammonium (10.4% and 7.7%, respectively), and EC-aged (7.7% and 6.3%, respectively), to

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247 those of Cluster 1, but with a high contribution of Dust (16.6%), which refer Cluster 3 and 4,
248 to as dust and biomass burning pollution. However, Cluster 1 is more influenced by
249 compound pollution, mainly including secondary formation, biomass burning, and traffic
250 emissions. The diurnal variations of the BB and OC fractions are similar which rapidly
251 elevate at 07:00 LT (Fig. S8) due to the increased contribution of biomass burning and traffic,
252 emissions from Cluster 1, Ammonium and EC-aged particles (peak at 07:00 LT) caused by
253 the effect of Cluster 1 and 3 together. A stable diurnal variation of rich-K fraction is mainly
254 due to its large proportion and diverse sources. The similar diurnal trend of Clusters 3 and 4
255 are both associated with dust contributions, which decrease at 04:00 LT and increase at noon.
256 The increased nighttime particles could be attributed to the pollutant accumulation with the
257 decreased PBL height. Cluster 2 originate from the northeastern India and passes over
258 Bangladesh. This cluster accounts for only 2.4 % of the total trajectories, in which ~30.8%
259 and ~35.9% are mainly associated with the rich-K and BB particles, respectively. Although
260 Cluster 2 and 4 are composed of a small fraction of total trajectories (2.4% and 4.6 %,
261 respectively), BB and dust particles are identified as the major pollutants, suggesting
262 significant influences from India and northeastern Myanmar during the campaign.

263 A more in-depth investigation of the characteristics of the main particle types in the
264 southeastern Tibet Plateau was conducted during two episode periods when the number
265 concentration of particles was high (i.e., E1: from 08:00 LT April 18th to 08:00 LT April 19th,
266 2018; E2: 17:00 LT April 26th to 02:00 LT April 28th, 2018) (Fig. S6). Even though the two
267 episodes are contributed by Cluster 1, the chemical components show significant differences
268 (Table 1). During E1, the average fractions of the rich-K, BB, OC, Ammonium, EC-aged, and
269 Dust particle are 29.0%, 11.5%, 8.1%, 17.5%, 10.0% and 20.3%, respectively, different from
270 39.3%, 14.2%, 10.0%, 13.5%, 17.2%, and 1.3% respectively, during E2. It can be seen that
271 the major changed factor of the Dust particle is 93.6% lower during E2 than E1, whereas the
272 EC-aged particle shows a reversible of 72.0% higher during E2. Meanwhile, rich-K, BB, and
273 OC particles also increase by 35.5%, 23.5% and 23.4% respectively, during E1 compared to
274 E2. For the air mass clusters (Fig. S9), E1 and E2 exhibit minor differences, mostly
275 originating from northern Myanmar and the Sino-Burmese border, but not identical regions.

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276 The Dust particles that are much lower during E2 than E1 could be explained by higher WS
277 (on average of 2.7 ± 1.0 m/s versus 0.4 ± 0.5 m/s) (Fig. S9) and PBL height (771 ± 717 m
278 versus 560 ± 549 m) (Fig. S10). The Dust particles are mainly formed by re-suspension in the
279 local areas. In addition, the quick thrown-up dust belongs to more coarse size particles, which
280 are out of the detection range of the SPAMS. However, due to the larger dust particles
281 deposited more easily under the low WS and the stagnant air conditions during E1, more
282 suspended dust particles of small size fall in the detection range of SPAMS. Moreover, the
283 increased PBL height and WS could speed up the transportation of pollutants from multiple
284 sources (e.g., traffic and biomass burning emissions) to the observation site, leading to
285 elevate the fraction of EC-aged, rich-K, BB, and OC particles during E2. The decreased
286 Ammonium fraction during E2 is potentially explained by the reductions in the secondary
287 pollutant formation with declines of RH (from $73.9\% \pm 23.9\%$ to $53.1\% \pm 14.9\%$), in
288 comparison to those during E1.

289 3.2 Characteristics of size distribution and mixing state

290 The aerodynamic size distributions of all particle types are shown in Fig. 3. According to
291 the characteristics of the average MS (Text S1 and Fig. S3), rich-K, BB, OC and EC-aged
292 particles originated from the similar sources of solid-fuel combustion or vehicle emission
293 Their size distribution thus presents within a small-scale (~ 440 nm) (Fig. S11a). However, the
294 relative percentage of each particle type is distinct with different size ranges, possibly due to
295 the unique atmospheric processing. For example, as shown in Fig. 3a, the proportions of
296 rich-K and BB types increases along with the increase in particle size from 200 to 420 nm,
297 then decrease. OC and EC-aged types are mainly distributed in relatively small sizes, and
298 their proportions gradually decrease when the size ranges become larger. Ammonium and
299 Dust types are mainly distributed in large sizes of ~ 600 nm (Fig. S11a). The proportion of
300 Ammonium particles gradually increases with the increase of particle size and peaks at 740
301 nm, the relatively large size distribution is ascribed to the intense atmospheric aging during
302 regional transport (Text S1). The proportion of Dust particles gradually increases with a
303 size > 560 nm and peaks at $1.48 \mu\text{m}$. This is consistent with the fact that dust is a coarse
304 particle, generally formed at the roadside and fly ash.

305 Compared with the total particle size distribution, the peak values of the six main
306 particle types show minor differences (< 80 nm) during the two different episode periods (Fig.
307 11b,c). However, the percentage of the six particle types distribute in wider size ranges during
308 E2 than during E1 possibly due to the more intensive atmospheric aging. Similarly, during the
309 two episodes (Fig. 3b,c), the relatively high fraction of the rich-K and BB particles are more
310 affected by the primary emissions, when their peak value concentrate at < 300 nm, and > 300
311 nm are more related to the aging process (Li et al., 2022b; Bi et al., 2011). Relatively greater
312 fluctuation for the large-size fractions (> 1.1 μm) could be explained by the low particle
313 concentration (a number less than 20). It should be pointed out that further application of this
314 method would require a co-located particle-sizing instrument to scale the size-resolved
315 particle detection efficiency. Both particle composition and size-dependent are the
316 predominant impacting factors on the particle detection efficiency of the SPAMS (Wenzel et
317 al., 2003; Yang et al., 2017; Healy et al., 2013).

318 To investigate the mixing state of the secondary species in the six main particle types,
319 the number fractions of six secondary markers ($^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$, $^{195}\text{H}(\text{HSO}_4)_2^-$, $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$,
320 $^{58}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NHCH}_2^+$ and $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$) are calculated (Fig. 4). The presences of amine (m/z
321 $^{58}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NHCH}_2^+$) and sulfuric acid (m/z $^{195}\text{H}(\text{HSO}_4)_2^-$) signals are possibly indicative of the
322 water uptake (Chen et al., 2019) and acidic property of the particles (Rehbein et al., 2011),
323 respectively. The mixing states are obtained by the ratio of the number concentration of the
324 selected ions to each particle type.

325 The most abundant of $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ and $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$ fraction are seen in Ammonium (99% and
326 94%, *respectively*) and EC-aged (92% and 31%, *respectively*) particles, whereas much low
327 fraction of $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ is found (2% and 7%, *respectively*). These suggest that ammonium sulfate
328 is not a predominant form instead of ammonium nitrate (Zhang et al., 2013). The high
329 contribution of $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ in EC-containing particles also suggests a significant influence of
330 anthropogenically emitted sulfate precursors (e.g., SO_2) on the aging of EC-containing
331 particles at the high altitude (Peng et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2017a). Meanwhile, relatively
332 high number fractions of $^{195}\text{H}(\text{HSO}_4)_2^-$ and $^{58}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NHCH}_2^+$ are also observed in Ammonium
333 (63% and 60%) and EC-aged (4% and 19%) particles. These abundant mixtures potentially
334 represent the high hygroscopicity of Ammonium and EC-aged particles, and their ability to

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335 neutralize the acidic particles of Ammonium particle (Sorooshian et al., 2007). Then, a
336 moderate fraction of $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ and $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$ are seen on the rich-K (65%, 7%) and OC (56%,
337 4%) particles. In contrast, more $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ fraction contribute to the rich-K (38%) and OC (68%)
338 particles, mainly affected by vehicle emissions and biomass burning (Text S1). Following BB
339 (18%) and Dust (6%) particles are found in a relatively low fraction of $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$, while the
340 moderate $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ accounts for 45% of the BB particle but only 3% of the Dust particle.
341 Combined with the results of the minor $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$ fraction (<1%) in BB and Dust particles,
342 suggests a relatively low degree of aging. In addition, oxalate ($^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$), a representative
343 component of secondary organic formation is mainly mixed with BB (13%) and rich-K (12%)
344 particles. This is because the substantial precursors of oxalic acid, including acetate
345 ($^{59}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2^-$), methylglyoxal ($^{71}\text{C}_3\text{H}_3\text{O}_2^-$), glyoxylate ($^{73}\text{C}_2\text{HO}_3^-$), are emitted from biomass
346 burning, and then oxalate heterogeneously formed in BB related particles (Zhang et al.,
347 2019b; Zauscher et al., 2013). A relatively low fraction (<5%) of oxalate-containing particles
348 in OC, Ammonium, EC-aged and Dust particles is potentially limited by the contributions of
349 precursor oxalic acid.

350 Compared to the mixing state of individual particle, in urban or suburban areas that are
351 located close to emission sources (Chen et al., 2016; Dall'Osto and Harrison, 2012; Zhang et
352 al., 2017a; Li et al., 2022b), the high fractions of sulfate and ammonium at the high altitude
353 area demonstrate a high degree of aging of the individual particles, whereas the low fraction
354 of nitrate with high volatility indicates its loss during transportation processing.

355 The number fractions of six markers in the four trajectories, were used to further
356 investigate the impacts of regional transport. As shown in Fig. 5(a,c), the dominant mixing
357 ion types in each particles (except for Dust) are similar among the four clusters. For Cluster 1,
358 the number fractions of $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ and $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$ have larger values in five particle types
359 (except for Dust type) than those in other trajectories. Similar to Cluster 1, Cluster 3 and 4 are
360 impacted by regional transport from northeastern Myanmar, the fractions of the six markers,
361 also similar, in OC, Ammonium, and EC-aged types. However, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ in Cluster 3 and 4 is
362 reduced in rich-K, BB and Dust types, while $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ is increased in rich-K and decreased in
363 Dust types, compared with Cluster 1. As discussed in Section 3.1, these results demonstrate
364 that the aging degree of Cluster 3 and 4 might be lower than that of Cluster 1. For Cluster 2,

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365 the fraction of $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ is obviously decreased in rich-K, BB and EC-aged types but slightly
366 increased in Dust type (Fig. 5f). Such pattern inverse the observations in rich-K, OC and Dust
367 types for $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ ions. These variations in Cluster 2 are more likely due to the influences of
368 biomass-burning activities from surrounding the sampling site, rather than regional transport.
369 Furthermore, Cluster 2 is associated with regional transport from northeastern India along the
370 afternoon to nighttime (from 15:00 LT on 11 May to 07:00 LT on 12 May), which is
371 favorable to the nitrate formation N_2O_5 by heterogeneous hydrolysis (Wang et al., 2017; Ding
372 et al., 2021). However, these cases are infrequent, as only 2% of trajectories are associated
373 with Cluster 2.

374 During E1, more than 50% of $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ fractions are mixed in the rich-K (81%), OC
375 (62%), Ammonium (100%), EC-aged (98%) particles (Fig. S12), low in BB (37%) and Dust
376 (4%) particles. Dissimilar with E1, the number fraction of $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ in Dust increases to 34%
377 during E2, potentially associated with the enhancement by secondary formation during
378 regional transport. However, the mixing state of $^{195}\text{H}(\text{HSO}_4)_2^-$, $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, NH_4^+ and oxalate
379 fractions are similar between the two episode events. The $^{58}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NHCH}_2^+$ fractions are
380 significantly higher in E2 than E1 for Ammonium (67% versus 31%) and EC-aged particles
381 (48% versus 17%), due to the relatively higher hygroscopic behavior (i.e., RHs) (Sorooshian
382 et al., 2007).

383 3.3 Formation process of the high number concentration particle episodes

384 Photochemical oxidation and aqueous-phase reaction are the key formation pathways of
385 secondary species (Link et al., 2017; Xue et al., 2014; Jiang et al., 2019). The oxidant O_x (O_3
386 + NO_2) concentration and RH usually serve as indicators of the degree of photochemical
387 oxidation (Wood et al., 2010) and aqueous-phase reaction (Ervens et al., 2011), *receptively,*
388 though the current O_x and RH conditions obtained using the in-situ measurement are not
389 indicative of the past conditions experienced by the particle. Thus, the relative number
390 fractions of $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$, $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$, $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ and $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$ -containing particles to the total
391 detected particles were selected to provide a rough speculative of the secondary formation
392 mechanism in TP ambient conditions (Liang et al., 2022). The correlations of the number
393 fraction of each secondary species with the O_x concentrations (O_x) during daytime (from
394 06:00 to 20:00 LT) and RH during nighttime (from 20:00 to 06:00 LT next day) are used to

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395 reveal the formation pathways during the two episodes (Li et al., 2022).

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396 As illustrated in Fig. 6, for E1, $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$, $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$, and $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$ show
397 significant negative linear correlations with O_x ($p < 0.01$), and the correlation strengths range
398 from moderate to strong ($r = -0.51$ to -0.81). However, the $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ fraction shows an upward
399 trend with an insignificant correlation ($r = 0.33$, $p > 0.05$) with the increase in O_x
400 concentration. For E2, $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ shows weak correlation with O_x ($r = 0.37$, $p > 0.05$), but
401 strong correlations with $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$, and $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$ ($r = 0.81\sim 0.92$, $p < 0.01$). It should
402 be noted that $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ has a strong negative correlation ($r = -0.85$, $p < 0.01$) with O_x . In general,
403 the opposite linear relationship between secondary aerosol and O_x during E1 and E2 might be
404 influenced by reasons of i) the relatively low secondary formations because of the small
405 amount of precursors emitting from anthropogenic activities around the sampling site (Li et
406 al., 2016); ii) higher dilution rate of the particles formed in the atmosphere with the rapid rise
407 of PBL height during E1 than E2 (Fig. S13a); iii) the degrees of contributions of regional
408 transport due to the low WS ($0.5 \pm 0.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) during E1 and the high WS ($3.1 \pm 1.0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$)
409 during E2, respectively (Fig. S9). Therefore, for E1, the increases of NO_3^- fraction could be
410 influenced by the local nitrate formation, while the declines of other secondary components
411 should be ascribed to the reduced contribution of regional transport. For E2, the decreased of
412 NO_3^- fraction could be caused by the relatively higher volatilization loss of nitrate than other
413 components through the regional transport. Additionally, previous study proves that the
414 formations of organic nitrate species (such as $^{27}\text{CHN}^+$, $^{30}\text{NO}^+$, $^{43}\text{CHO}_1\text{N}^+$ and CHO_xN^+)
415 through the $\text{NO}+\text{RO}_2$ pathway dominate 80% of the total nitrate production in tropical
416 forested regions during summertime (Alexander et al., 2009). Aruffo et al (2022) also found
417 that low NO_x (i.e. $< 6 \text{ ppbv}$), compared to $2.3 \pm 0.8 \text{ ppbv}$ in this study, could even promote
418 the particle-phase partitioning of the lower volatility of organonitrates. These results suggest
419 that the secondary organic species have different formation capacities through
420 photo-oxidation reactions, among which the rate of HSO_4^- formation (slop=0.017) is the
421 highest. Increased with O_x concentration during E2, the concentration levels of secondary
422 organic species of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ (18%-28%) imperceptibly rise, while the oxalate fraction
423 significantly increase by 7%-20%.

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424 Considering that the oxalate is abundant mixed in rich-K (14%), BB (15%), EC-aged

425 (5%), and Dust (6%) particles in Cluster 1 (Fig. 5), and the increased contributions of rich-K
426 (39.3%), BB (14.2%) and EC-aged (17.2%) types during E2 (Table 1), the apparent formation
427 of oxalate might be due to the enhancement of regional transport. Particularly, this presents
428 the nearby biomass burning and combustion activities produce more precursor species of
429 oxalate (Sullivan et al., 2007; Kundu et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2017b).

430 Fig. 7 illustrates that the number fractions of $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$, $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$, and $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$
431 have moderate to strong positive correlations with RH ($r = 0.70\sim 0.81$, $p < 0.01$ or 0.05) in the
432 nighttime during the two episodes, except that $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ during E2 ($p = 0.48$) and $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$
433 during E1 ($p = 0.12$). Furthermore, $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ fraction has no obvious changes with insignificant
434 correlation with RH during E1 ($p = 0.43$) and presents a moderate negative correlation with
435 RH ($r = 0.69$, $p < 0.01$) during E2. As shown in Fig. 7e, the highest aqueous formation rate of
436 HSO_4^- is mainly due to the properties of low volatile and high hygroscopic of sulfate (Wang
437 et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2019c; Sun et al., 2013). Compared with that during E2
438 (slop=0.014), the decreased formation rate of HSO_4^- during the E1 (slop=0.009) may be
439 because the decreases of aerosol acidity in higher RH > 80% (Huang et al., 2019; Meng et al.,
440 2014; Tian et al., 2021). And the increased contributions of regional transport due to the high
441 WS ($2.4 \pm 0.8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) during E2 are compared with the low WS ($0.08 \pm 0.08 \text{ m s}^{-1}$) during E1
442 (Fig. S9). The fair production rate of NH_4^+ during the E1 (slop= 0.005) and E2 (slop=0.006)
443 demonstrate that an aqueous-phase reaction could effectively promote ammonium formation.
444 Meanwhile, a slightly larger slop of NH_4^+ during E2 could be also affected by the increased
445 contributions of regional transport. Compared with those during E1, the inverse generation
446 rates of two secondary organic species (i.e., $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ and HC_2O_4^-) during E2 are possibly
447 caused by the different formation pathways with a variety of RH levels or distinct regional
448 transports. For example, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ shows a strong correlation with RH ($r = 0.70$, $p < 0.05$)
449 during E1 (slop=0.003) but has insignificant correlation during E2. This could be explained
450 by high RHs that could effectively promote secondary organic formation during E1. In
451 addition, the HC_2O_4^- fraction increases slightly (9.7-13.1%) during E1 is potentially ascribed
452 to more abundant Dust-type particles (20.3%) which compose of high calcium (Ca) (Fig. S14)
453 that favor the formation of metal oxalate complexes (i.e., Ca oxalate). At high RHs ($93.4 \pm$
454 7.6%), if oxalate ions are dissolved in the aqueous phase with the presence of Ca ions, the Ca

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455 oxalate complexes can precipitate because of their low hygroscopic and insoluble natures
456 (Furukawa and Takahashi, 2011). This could offset the oxalate formation in the
457 aqueous-phase reaction. However, significant linear increases (slop=0.003) with RH ($r = 0.81$,
458 $p < 0.01$) during E2 demonstrate that the aqueous-phase reaction effectively promotes the
459 oxalate formation (Cheng et al., 2017; Meng et al., 2020). No obvious change and
460 insignificant correlation between $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ and RH are found during E1, potentially attributed
461 to the decreases of NO_2 concentration (3.7 ± 0.4 ppbv) in the local atmosphere. Meanwhile,
462 high RHs could promote organonitrates formation (Fang et al., 2021; Fry et al., 2014). The
463 linearity between $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$ and RH ($r = 0.69$, $p < 0.01$) significantly decreases during E2,
464 mostly due to the losses of the volatile compound through the regional transport (Fig. S15).

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465 4 Conclusions

466 This study presents the chemical composition, size distribution, mixing state, and
467 secondary formation of individual particles in the southeastern margin of TP, China during
468 the pre-monsoon season using a high-resolution SPAMS. The finding shows that the rich-K
469 (30.9%) and BB types (18.7%) are the two dominant aerosol particles in the remote area;
470 followed by the OC (12.8%), Ammonium (11.9%), EC-aged (10.9%), and Dust (10.7%) types;
471 the NaK-SN, Metal and Others particle types contributed 0.3–2.8% to the total ambient
472 particles. By interpreting the mass spectra and diurnal trends, the major particle types are
473 mainly from traffic emission, biomass burning, secondary formation, and fly ash, while the
474 dynamics of the PBL height could also affect their contributions. The observed change in the
475 number fraction of the particle types was mainly influenced by air mass (97.61% of the total
476 trajectories) from northeastern Myanmar, and significantly contributed to rich-K and BB
477 types. The particle types show distinct size distributions. The two critical particle types of
478 rich-K and BB appear in a unimodal pattern, the fractions of OC and EC-aged gradually
479 decrease with the increase of the particle sizes, but Ammonium and Dust types show the
480 opposite. Sulfate is the major secondary species and is highly mixed with rich-K, Ammonium,
481 and EC-aged types. Nitrate has a relatively low mixing ratio due to its higher volatility than
482 sulfate during regional transportation, except for BB and OC types. During the entire study
483 campaign, two episodes with the high number concentration of particles occur, but with
484 significant differences in each particle fraction due to the different meteorological conditions

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485 (RH, WS, etc.). Meanwhile, the different meteorological conditions also lead to an inverse
486 linear correlation between the indicators of secondary formation, including $C_2H_3O^+$, $HC_2O_4^-$,
487 NH_4^+ , NO_3^- and HSO_4^- and O_x (O_3+NO_2) during episode 1 and 2 periods; however, they
488 present a positive linear correlation with relative humidity (RH), except for NO_3^- shown the
489 negative linear correlation with RH due to the low precursors concentration and potential
490 organonitrates formation. These results demonstrated that the capacity of atmospheric aging
491 of photo-oxidation and aqueous reaction have complex influencing factors. Although the
492 detailed formation pathways and their percentage contributions to secondary species are not
493 quantitatively estimated in this study, our results have important implications for the various
494 possibilities affecting the characteristic of chemical components, size distribution, mixing
495 states, and formation mechanism of aerosols in the southeast TP. More depth investigations
496 concerning the evolution mechanisms of secondary aerosols are encouraged since TP is a
497 significant regulator to global climate change.

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498 *Data availability.* The data presented in this study are available at the Zenodo data archive
499 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7336857>.

500

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

502

503 *Author contributions.* QW and JC designed the campaign. WR conducted field measurements.
504 LL, QW, JT, and YZ made data analysis and interpretation. LL and QW wrote the paper. All
505 the authors reviewed and commented on the paper.

506

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856

857 Table 1. The number concentrations, average percentages and characteristic ions of nine types
 858 of particles during the entire **campaign**, and the average percentages of the major six particle
 859 types during two episodes.

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Type	Number count	Fraction in total (%)	Episode 1 (%)	Episode 2 (%)	Tracer ions
rich-K	151040	30.9	29.0	39.3	$^{39}\text{K}^+$, $^{26}\text{CN}^-$, $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$, $^{46}\text{NO}_2^-$, $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$
BB	91322	18.7	11.5	14.2	$^{39}\text{K}^+$, levoglucosan ($^{45}\text{CHO}_2^-$, $^{59}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2^-$, $^{71}\text{C}_3\text{H}_3\text{O}_2^-$, $^{73}\text{C}_3\text{HO}_3^-$), $^{26}\text{CN}^-$, $^{35,37}\text{Cl}^-$, $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$, $^{46}\text{NO}_2^-$, $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$
OC	62446	12.8	8.1	10.0	$^{27}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3^+$, $^{37}\text{C}_3\text{H}^+$, $^{38}\text{C}_3\text{H}_2^+$, $^{39}\text{K}^+/\text{C}_3\text{H}_3^+$, $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$, $^{51}\text{C}_4\text{H}_3^+$, $^{26}\text{CN}^-$, $^{42}\text{CNO}^-$, $^{46}\text{NO}_2^-$, $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$
Ammonium	58317	11.9	17.5	13.5	$^{12}\text{C}^+$, $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$, $^{39}\text{K}^+$, $^{58}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NHCH}_2^+$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$, $^{195}\text{H}(\text{HSO}_4)_2^-$
EC-aged	53337	10.9	10.0	17.2	C_n^\pm (n = 1 ~ 5), $^{39}\text{K}^+$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$
Dust	52533	10.7	20.3	1.3	$^{40}\text{Ca}^+$, $^{56}\text{CaO}^+$, $^{16}\text{O}^-$, $^{17}\text{OH}^-$, $^{76}\text{SiO}_3^-$, $^{79}\text{PO}_3^-$
NaK-SN	13726	2.8	na	na	$^{23}\text{Na}^+$, $^{39}\text{K}^+$, $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$
Metal	4672	1.0	na	na	$^{51}\text{V}^+$, $^{56}\text{Fe}^+$, $^{64,66,68}\text{Zn}^+$, $^{206,207,208}\text{Pb}^+$
Others	1580	0.3	na	na	No obvious characteristic peaks

860

861 **Figure captions:**

862 **Figure 1.** Box and whisker diurnal plots of the number concentration of the main particle
863 types (a) rich-Potassium (K), (b) Biomass burning (BB), (c) Organic carbon (OC), (d)
864 Ammonium, (e) Element carbon (EC)-aged, (f) Dust in hourly resolution. The lower, middle,
865 and upper lines of the boxes denote the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles. The lower and upper
866 whiskers represent the 10th and 90th percentiles, respectively. Average values are shown in
867 white dots.

868 **Figure 2.** Maps of the mean HYSPLIT back trajectory clusters (72 h) at the height of 500 m
869 during the whole field observation. Embedded pie chart represents the relative fraction of
870 each particle type in the four clusters.

871 **Figure 3.** Size distributions of the relative number fraction (%) of the total particles for nine
872 groups during (a) the total sampling campaign and two episodes of (b) E1 and (c) E2.

873 **Figure 4.** Number fractions of secondary markers associated with the six particle types
874 (rich-K, BB, OC, Ammonium, EC-aged, Dust) during the whole observation. Secondary
875 species include sulfate ($^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$), sulfuric acid ($^{195}\text{H}(\text{HSO}_4)_2^-$), nitrate ($^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$), ammonium
876 ($^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$), amine ($^{58}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NHCH}_2^+$), and oxalate ($^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$) ions.

877 **Figure 5.** Number fractions of secondary markers associated with the six particle types (i.e.,
878 rich-K, BB, OC, Ammonium, EC-aged, and Dust) in four clusters. Secondary species
879 abbreviations as in Figure 4.

880 **Figure 6.** Correlations between the relative number fractions of the secondary species (a)
881 $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$, (b) $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$, (c) $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$, (d) $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, (e) $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ and O_x concentration during E1
882 (blue square) and E2 (red dot).

883 **Figure 7.** Correlations between the relative number fractions of the secondary species (a)
884 $^{43}\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$, (b) $^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$, (c) $^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$, (d) $^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$, (e) $^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$ and relative humidity (RH)
885 during E1 (cyan dot) and E2 (orange square).

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删除[Li]: (a) the total number particle counts, (b) the relative percentages (%) of the total particles for nine groups during the sampling campaign

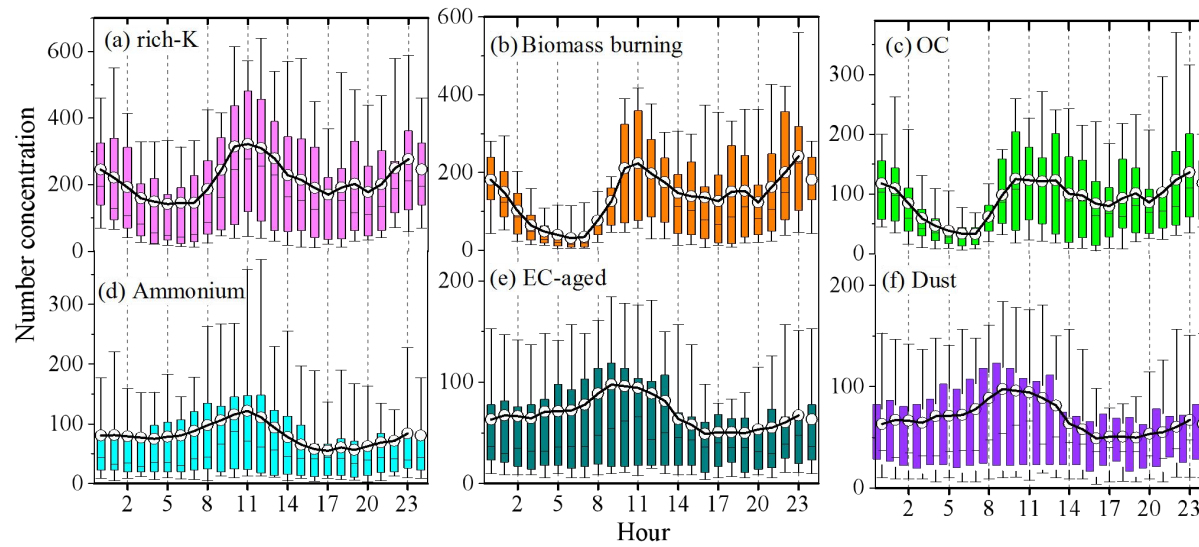
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886

887 Figure 1. Box and whisker diurnal plots of the number concentration of the main particle types (a)
 888 rich-Potassium (K), (b) Biomass burning (BB), (c) Organic carbon (OC), (d) Ammonium, (e) Element
 889 carbon (EC)-aged, (f) Dust in hourly resolution. The lower, middle, and upper lines of the boxes denote the
 890 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles. The lower and upper whiskers represent the 10th and 90th percentiles,
 891 respectively. Average values are shown in white dots.

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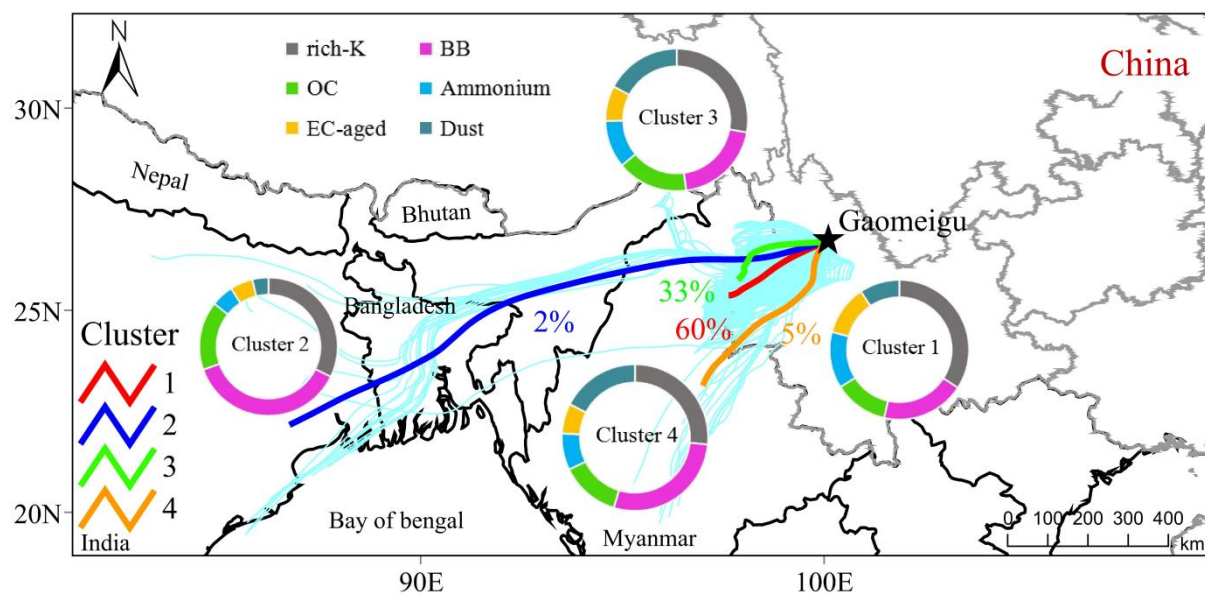
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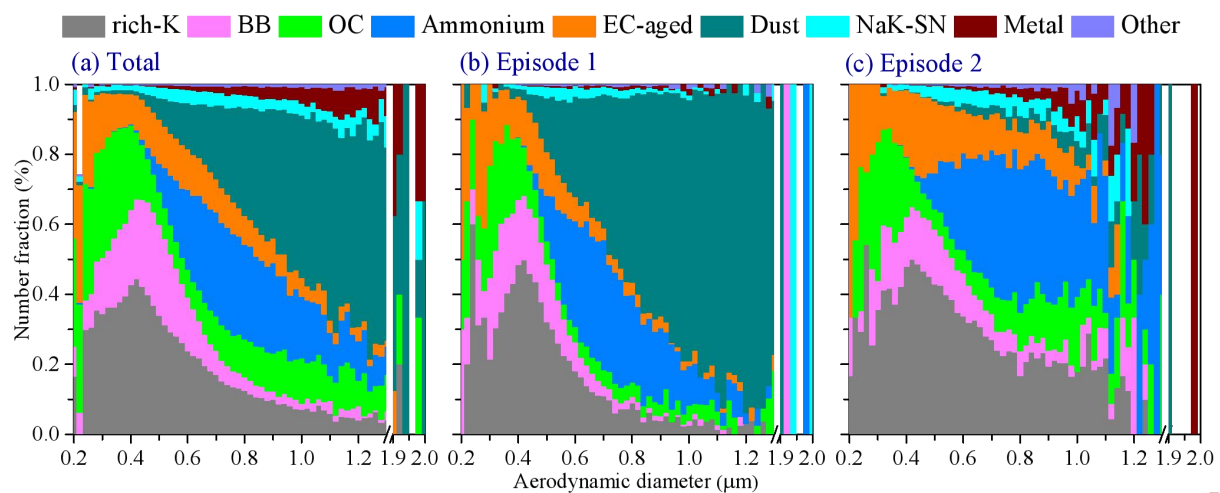


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893 Figure 2. Maps of the mean HYSPLIT back trajectory clusters (72 h) at the height of 500 m during the

894 whole field observation. Embedded pie chart represents the relative fraction of each particle type in the

895 four clusters.

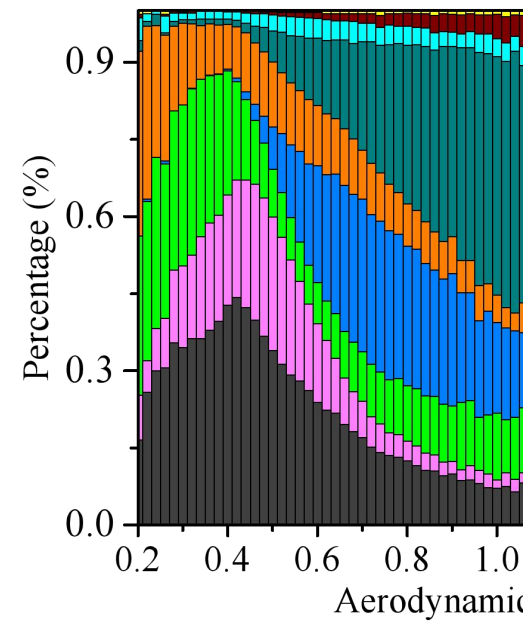
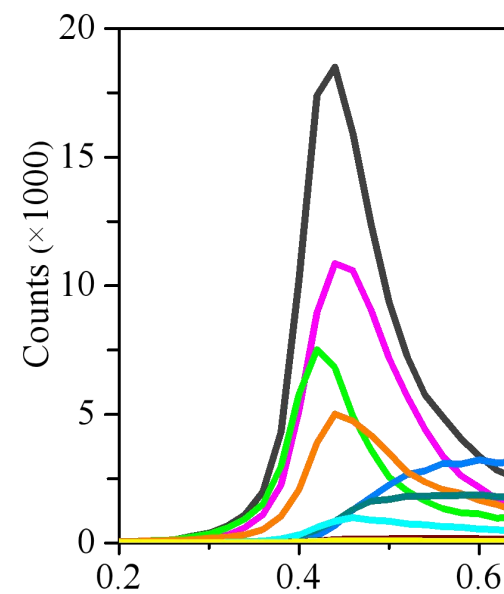


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897 Figure 3. Size distributions of the relative number fraction (%) of the total particles for nine groups during

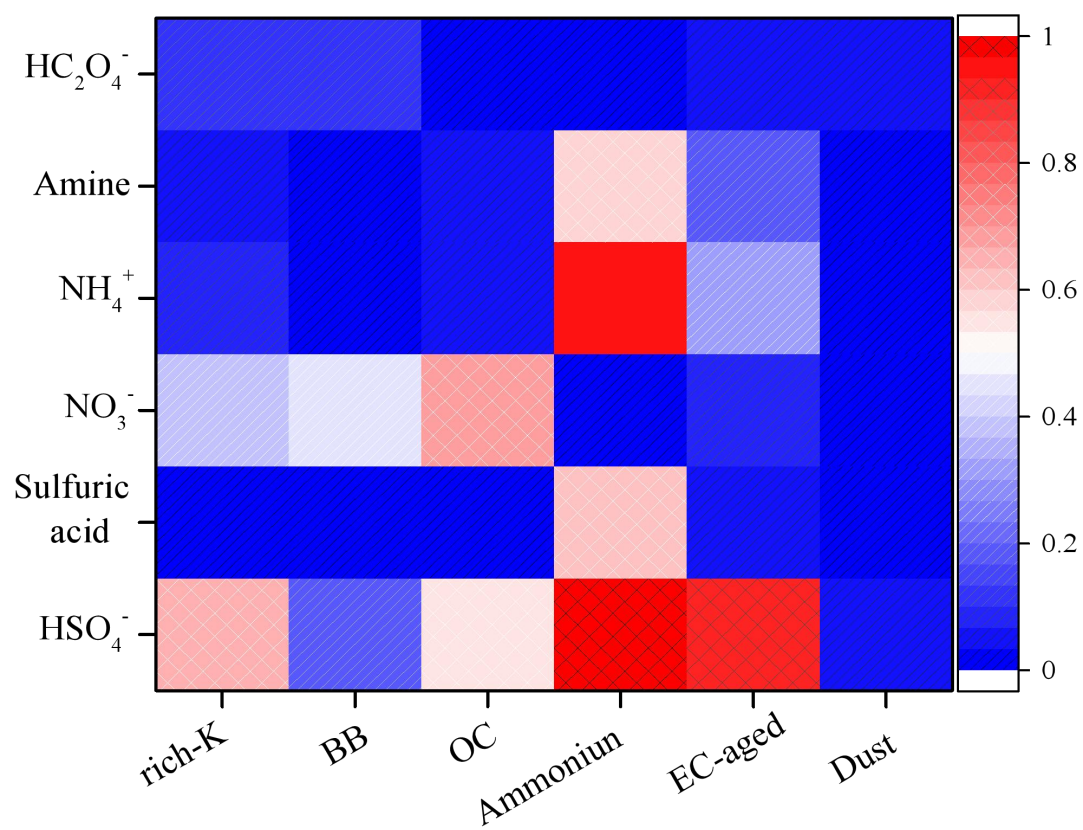
898 (a) the total sampling campaign and two episodes of (b) E1 and (c) E2.

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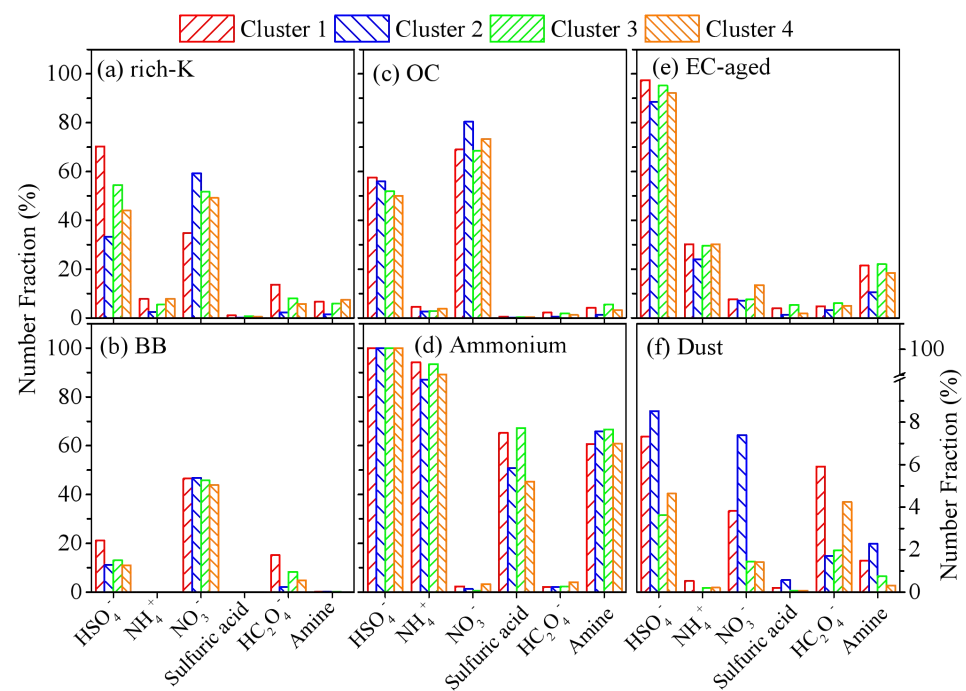
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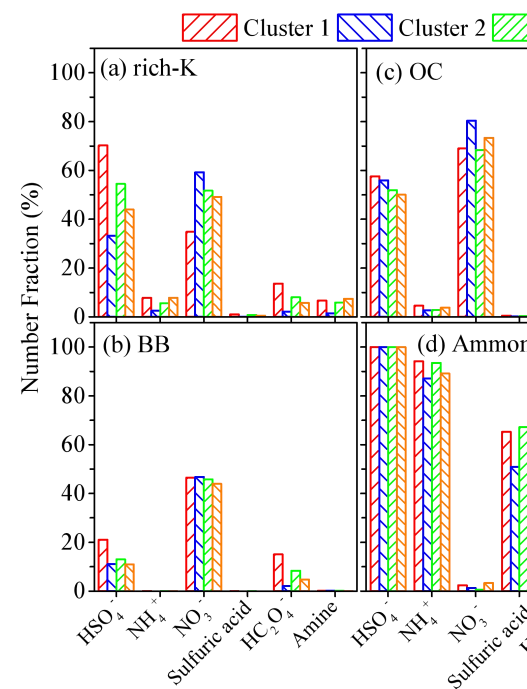
900 Figure 4. Number fractions of secondary markers associated with the six particle types (rich-K, BB, OC,
 901 Ammonium, EC-aged, Dust) during the whole observation. Secondary species include sulfate ($^{97}\text{HSO}_4^-$),
 902 sulfuric acid ($^{195}\text{H}(\text{HSO}_4)_2^-$), nitrate ($^{62}\text{NO}_3^-$), ammonium ($^{18}\text{NH}_4^+$), amine ($^{58}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{NHCH}_2^+$), and oxalate
 903 ($^{89}\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-$) ions.

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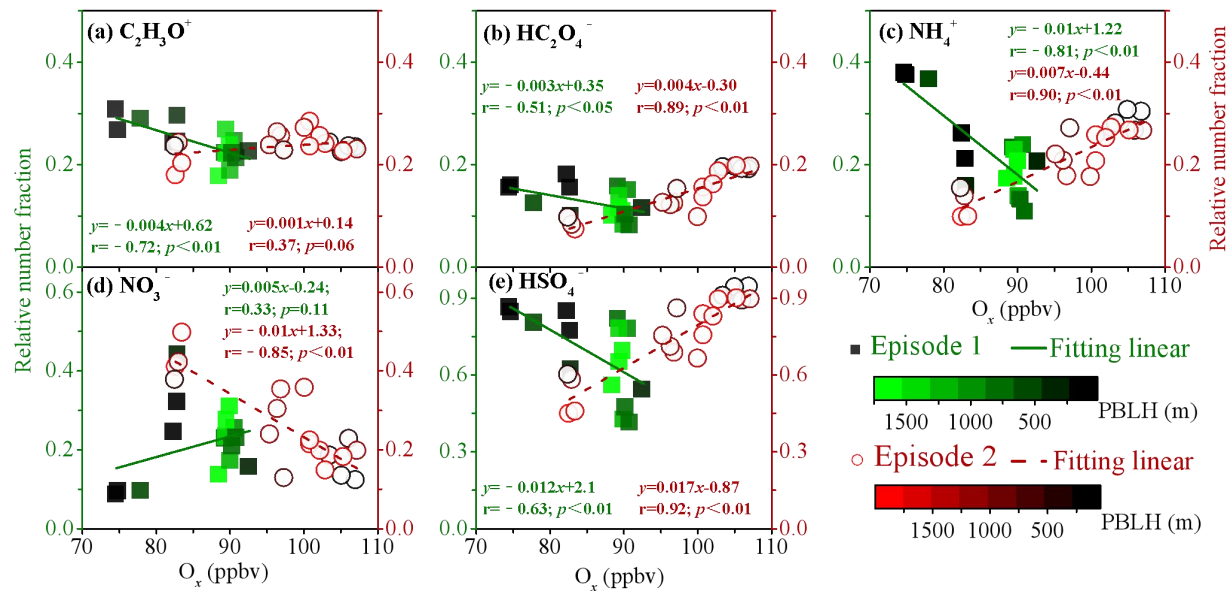
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Figure 5. Number fractions of secondary markers associated with the six particle types (i.e., rich-K, BB, OC, Ammonium, EC-aged, and Dust) in four clusters. [Secondary species abbreviations as in Figure 4.](#)



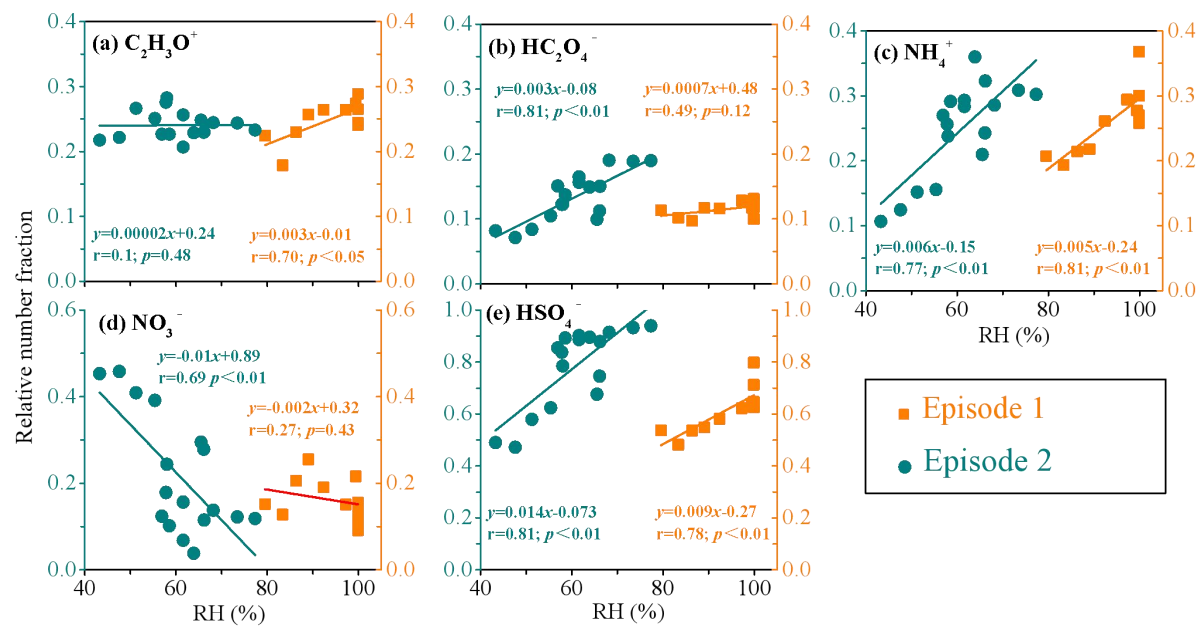
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909

910 Figure 6. Correlations between the relative number fractions of the secondary species (a) $^{43}C_2H_3O^+$, (b)
 911 $^{89}HC_2O_4^-$, (c) $^{18}NH_4^+$, (d) $^{62}NO_3^-$, (e) $^{97}HSO_4^-$ and O_x concentration during E1 (blue square) and E2 (red
 912 dot).



913

914 Figure 7. Correlations between the relative number fractions of the secondary species (a) $^{43}C_2H_3O^+$, (b)
 915 $^{89}HC_2O_4^-$, (c) $^{18}NH_4^+$, (d) $^{62}NO_3^-$, (e) $^{97}HSO_4^-$ and relative humidity (RH) during E1 (cyan dot) and E2
 916 (orange square).

917