



29 reactions and condensation of species with corresponding volatility are secondary (SOA).
30 Atmospheric aerosols represent a significant risk to human health by causing respiratory problems
31 and heart attacks (Davidson et al., 2005; Pope et al., 2009). At the same time these particles
32 influence the climate of our planet (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007).

33 Oxygenated OA with a high oxygen to carbon ratio (O:C) is often the most important
34 component of ambient OA suggesting the importance of atmospheric chemistry in the formation
35 and processing of OA (Zhang et al., 2007). Most laboratory studies of SOA formation so far have
36 focused on the first stage of reactions involving the target precursor reacting with the chosen
37 oxidant. In the atmosphere, organic vapors and particles interact with oxidants for days and
38 therefore successive oxidation processes are inevitable.

39 Chemical aging refers to the subsequent stages of SOA formation and evolution due to the
40 production of later-generation products via oxidation of first-generation products by oxidants such
41 as OH free radicals (Donahue et al., 2006; Henry et al., 2012). Previous studies have explored
42 various forms of aging, including heterogeneous reactions of oxidants and aerosols (George et al.,
43 2008), oligomerization (Kalberer et al., 2006), photolysis of either gas or condensed-phase
44 products (Henry and Donahue, 2012), and homogeneous gas-phase oxidation by OH (Donahue et
45 al., 2012). Homogeneous gas-phase oxidation reactions appear to be in general much faster than
46 heterogeneous reactions, due to diffusion limitations of the latter (Lambe et al., 2009). The first-
47 generation oxidation reactions of most SOA precursors convert much less than 50 % of the
48 precursor to SOA, leaving more than half of the carbon still in the gas-phase. Additional oxidation
49 of these vapors can potentially contribute additional and more oxygenated SOA components.
50 These later-generation reactions have been proposed to be a major missing step connecting
51 chamber studies to field measurements.

52 Zeroth order parameterizations have been developed to model the chemical aging of semi-
53 volatile POA emissions in chemical transport models (Robinson et al., 2007). CTMs using these
54 schemes show improved performance in urban areas such as Mexico City (Tsimpidi et al., 2011),
55 but tend to over-predict OA in areas such as the southeastern United States where biogenic VOCs
56 dominate if chemical aging is assumed to be a major source of additional SOA (Lane et al., 2008).
57 As a result, the importance of aging of biogenic SOA as a source of SOA mass concentration
58 remains an issue of debate.



59 The ozonolysis of α -pinene ($C_{10}H_{16}$) is considered one of the most important global SOA
60 sources (Griffin et al., 1999). The system has been well characterized through smog chamber
61 experiments where researchers quantified its SOA yields under different conditions, explored the
62 reaction pathways and mechanisms, and identified its product distributions. Recent studies suggest
63 that there is significant potential for additional SOA formation from homogeneous gas-phase aging
64 by OH of the first-generation α -pinene oxidation products. Major identified products existing in
65 gas phase such as pinonaldehyde and pinonic acid can serve as SOA precursors and further react
66 with OH. Pinonaldehyde reacts with OH, with SOA mass yields up to 5 % under low- NO_x
67 conditions and 20 % under high- NO_x conditions (Chacon-Madrid et al., 2013). Müller et al. (2012)
68 demonstrated the formation of 1,2,3-butanetricarboxylic acid (MBTCA), an SOA product of low
69 volatility identified in α -pinene ozonolysis, through the gas-phase OH oxidation of pinonic acid.
70 They reported an experimental yield of 0.6 % for MBTCA from the gas-phase OH oxidation of
71 pinonic acid, accounting for about 10 % of the total SOA formed. The proposed formation
72 mechanisms of MBTCA is a classic example of semi-volatile precursors going through oxidation
73 and forming products of lower volatility.

74 The Multiple Chamber Aerosol Chemical Aging Study (MUCHACHAS) explored the gas-
75 phase OH aging effects of the α -pinene ozonolysis products via experiments performed in four
76 different smog chambers (Donahue et al., 2012). They were able to isolate the aging effect by
77 using different OH sources (HOOH photolysis, HONO photolysis, TME ozonolysis), light sources
78 (sunlight, quasi-solar lamps, 350 nm UV lamps), and chambers of different design in size and
79 material (Teflon and aluminum). Almost in all experiments, additional formation of SOA (up to
80 55 %) and a more oxidized product distribution (increasing O:C) were observed after aging.
81 However, in one of the chambers, strong UV photolysis led to decreasing SOA mass
82 concentrations in experiments with low to moderate OH levels, $[OH] \leq 2 \times 10^6$ molecules cm^{-3}
83 (Henry and Donahue, 2012). These authors concluded that chemical aging involves a complex set
84 of interacting processes with competing functionalization (conserved C number with products of
85 lower volatility and higher oxidation states) and fragmentation (cleavage of C-bond with products
86 over a wide volatility range and higher oxidation states) of the various organic compounds. A 2D-
87 volatility basis set (2D-VBS) simulation based on these two pathways and a branching ratio
88 between them showed that homogeneous OH aging can potentially more than double the α -pinene
89 SOA mass concentration, after about a day's equivalent of typical atmospheric oxidation



90 conditions. Uncertainties such as “ripening” during which SOA volatility evolves but its mass
91 remains constant, UV photolysis and heterogeneous OH uptake can further complicate the aging
92 process.

93 Qi et al. (2012) also explored aging of the α -pinene ozonolysis system through smog
94 chamber experiments using HOOH as an OH source and studied the UV photolysis effect. They
95 observed a 7.5 % increase in the SOA volume concentration and an increase of 0.03 in the O:C
96 after aging. Minimum photolysis effect was reported for these experiments.

97 One complication of chamber experiments is the interaction of particles with chamber
98 walls. The wall-loss rate of particles is a function of particle size, charge distribution, chamber
99 geometry, turbulence, and electric field within the chamber (Crump and Seinfeld, 1981). In order
100 to quantify SOA yields from chamber experiments, it is important to correct for particle wall loss.
101 Recent findings that organic vapors in the chamber can be directly lost to the Teflon walls as well
102 further complicate the wall-loss correction process (Matsunaga and Ziemann, 2010; Zhang et al.,
103 2014). Krechmer et al. (2016) measured the loss rate of vapors formed in the chamber and found
104 the corresponding timescale to be 7-13 min. Ye et al. (2016) determined the vapor wall-loss
105 timescale in the Carnegie Mellon chamber used in this work to be around 15 min for semi-volatile
106 organic compounds.

107 Despite the consensus from the aforementioned chamber studies that gas-phase OH aging
108 of α -pinene ozonolysis products can contribute to additional SOA formation, there lacks
109 consistency in the extent to which the additional mass can form for different OH exposures. Part
110 of the problem is that the estimated amount of additional SOA formed from these long-lasting
111 aging experiments can be extra sensitive to the particle and the vapor wall-loss correction methods
112 deployed. The uncertainties at the end of a 10-hour long aging experiment during which most
113 particles are lost to chamber walls and the measured suspended mass is low can be relatively high.
114 In this work, we aim to quantify the additional SOA formed during the aging step comparing
115 measurements from a suite of instrumentation. We adopt a size-dependent particle wall-loss
116 correction method and develop a procedure to better constrain the associated errors. We also
117 attempt to constrain the vapor loss using both theoretical calculations and measurements.

118

119

120



121 2. Experimental approach

122 We conducted experiments in a 12 m³ Teflon (Welch Fluorocarbons) smog chamber at
123 Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). The reactor was suspended in a temperature-controlled room
124 with walls covered with UV lights (GE 10526 and 10244). Prior to each experiment, we flushed
125 the chamber overnight with purified air under UV illumination to remove any residual particles
126 and gas-phase organics. We generated purified air by passing ambient air through a high-efficiency
127 particulate air (HEPA) filter to remove particles, an activated carbon filter to remove any organics,
128 a Purafil filter to remove NO_x, and finally a silica gel filter, keeping relative humidity (RH) below
129 5 % in the chamber before each experiment.

130 We pumped an ammonium sulfate solution (1 g L⁻¹) into the chamber at the beginning of
131 each experiment through an atomizer (TSI, model 3076) at a constant rate of 90 mL h⁻¹ to produce
132 droplets. The droplets passed through a diffusion dryer and a neutralizer to produce dry ammonium
133 sulfate seed particles. We injected seeds with a number mode size of 110 nm until they reached a
134 number concentration of 2×10⁴ cm⁻³, resulting in an initial seed mass concentration of around 40
135 μg m⁻³ and a surface area concentration of up to 1000 μm² cm⁻³. Typical organic vapors with a
136 molar weight of 250 g mol⁻¹ thus had an initial collision frequency with these seeds of 0.01 s⁻¹. We
137 injected α-pinene (Sigma-Aldrich, ≥ 99 %) into the chamber using a septum injector with purified
138 air as carrier flow. We generated ozone using a corona-discharge ozone generator (AZCO,
139 HTU500AC) to initiate the ozonolysis reaction. We prepared a fresh HONO solution in a bubbler
140 by adding a 4.9 g L⁻¹ sulfuric acid solution to a 6.9 g L⁻¹ sodium nitrite solution. We then turned
141 on the UV lights to start the photo-dissociation of HONO, producing OH.

142 At the end of each experiment, we injected additional ammonium-sulfate seeds into the
143 chamber using the same method with a more concentrated solution (5 g L⁻¹) in order to characterize
144 the particle wall-loss rates a second time.

145 We added butanol-d9 (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, 98 %) into the chamber through
146 the septum injector as an OH tracer before the reaction started and used the method described in
147 Barmet et al. (2012) to calculate the OH produced by HONO photolysis. The OH concentration in
148 these experiments was around 2.4×10⁷ molecules cm⁻³ for the first hour, then dropped to around
149 5×10⁶ molecules cm⁻³ afterwards.



150 We performed experiments at both low RH of less than 20 % and intermediate RH of 50 %.
151 To add water vapor to the chamber, we used a stream of purified air to carry ultrapure water
152 (Millipore water purification system) in a bubbler into the chamber before the introduction of seeds.

153 We measured the particle size distribution using a TSI Scanning Mobility Particle Sizer,
154 SMPS (classifier model 3080; CPC model 3010 or 3772), and the particle composition and mass
155 spectrum of the OA with an Aerodyne High Resolution Time-of-flight Aerosol Mass Spectrometer
156 (HR-ToF-AMS). We monitored the concentrations of α -pinene and butanol-d9 using a Proton
157 Transfer Reaction-Mass Spectrometer (PTR-MS, Ionicon), the ozone concentration using a Dasibi
158 1008 ozone monitor (ICE: Teledyne 400E), and NO_x (NO + NO₂) levels using a Teledyne API
159 NO_x Analyzer 200A (ICE: Teledyne T201). We held the chamber temperature constant at 22 °C
160 throughout all experiments. We list the initial conditions of the experiments performed for this
161 work in Table 1.

162

163 3. Data analysis

164 3.1 SOA yields

165 The SOA mass yield, Y , is a metric of the ability of a gaseous precursor to form SOA, and
166 is defined as $Y = C_{\text{SOA}}/\Delta\text{VOC}$, where C_{SOA} is the produced SOA mass concentration (in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)
167 and ΔVOC the amount of the VOC precursor (α -pinene in this case) reacted (in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). To
168 separate the effect of aging on SOA mass concentration, we define a first-generation SOA mass
169 yield, $Y_1 = C_{\text{SOA},1}/\Delta\text{VOC}$, and a second-generation SOA mass yield, $Y_2 = C_{\text{SOA},2}/\Delta\text{VOC}$. $C_{\text{SOA},1}$ and
170 $C_{\text{SOA},2}$ are the concentrations of SOA formed before, and after aging with hydroxyl radicals. All
171 α -pinene reacts away during the first stage and thus ΔVOC for the second stage is the same as the
172 initial α -pinene concentration in the chamber.

173

174 3.2 Particle wall-loss correction

175 In this work, we try to reduce the uncertainties in the estimated SOA mass concentration
176 associated with the particle wall-loss correction. This uncertainty can be significant due to two
177 aspects of these aging experiments: the evolution of the particle size distribution and the duration
178 of the experiments. In these aging experiments, where particles grow by condensation and
179 coagulation for several hours, the particle size distribution can potentially shift, covering a wide
180 size range over the course of an experiment. Particle wall losses are size dependent, and this shift



181 can introduce significant errors if a constant loss rate constant is assumed. To minimize these
182 problems, we adopted a size-dependent particle wall-loss correction method where we determined
183 the particle wall-loss rate constant, k , at each particle size, D_p .

184

185 3.2.1 Determination of particle wall-loss rate constants

186 The size-dependent particle wall-loss correction method (Keywood et al., 2004; Ng et al.,
187 2007; Loza et al., 2012; Nah et al., 2016) adopted in this work is based on the SMPS-measured
188 particle size distribution. At each particle size bin i , the first-order particle wall-loss rate constant
189 k , can be determined as the slope of the following equation:

190

$$191 \ln[N_i(t)] = -k_i t + Q \quad (1)$$

192

193 where $N_i(t)$ is the SMPS-measured aerosol number concentration at size bin i and Q is an arbitrary
194 constant. Applying Eqn. 1 across the entire SMPS-measured particle size range, we obtain the
195 particle wall-loss rate constant function, $k(D_p)$.

196 To determine the $k(D_p)$ profile, we utilized the initial four-hour ammonium sulfate seed
197 wall-loss period for each experiment. Since k may also vary with time (McMurray and Rader,
198 1985), we determined a second $k(D_p)$ profile for each experiment using the ammonium sulfate
199 seed wall-loss period at the end. It is important to ensure that the k 's, especially at sizes where the
200 majority of SOA mass is distributed, remain the same over the course of each experiment.

201 The $k(D_p)$ values calculated (with an $R^2 > 0.5$) based on SMPS measurements of the seed
202 distribution from this work usually only cover particle size range of 30-300 nm due to the lack of
203 particles at either end of the particle size distribution. To determine the $k(D_p)$ for $D_p < 30$ nm, we
204 use a simple log-linear fit of k 's from 30-50 nm and back extrapolate it to 10 nm. To determine
205 $k(D_p)$ for $D_p > 300$ nm, we assume that the constant is practically the same in the 300-600 nm
206 range. We confirmed this with additional seed-only experiments where there were enough particles
207 at that size range (Wang et al., 2017). We then applied the complete $k(D_p)$ profile to correct for
208 the particle number and mass concentration. Details regarding the wall-loss profiles in the CMU
209 chamber and the execution of the size-dependent particle wall-loss correction for this work can be
210 found in Wang et al. (2017).

211



212 3.2.2 Correction of SMPS measurements

213 The corrected particle number concentration at each size bin i , $N_i(t)$, can be calculated
214 numerically,

215

$$216 N_i(t) = N_i^m(t) + k_i \int_0^t N_i^m(t) dt, \quad (2)$$

217

218 from the measured values $N_i^m(t)$ and the $k(D_p)$ corresponding to the size bin i , k_i .

219 For closed systems in which coagulation is slow, the particle wall-loss corrected number
220 concentration should be constant. In order to evaluate how well the correction works, we define
221 the parameter: $\varepsilon_N = 2\sigma_{N_s}/\overline{N_s}$, where σ_{N_s} is the standard deviation of the particle wall-loss
222 corrected number concentration for the seed wall-loss periods and $\overline{N_s}$ the average. Similarly, we
223 define $\varepsilon_V = 2\sigma_{N_s}/\overline{V_s}$ based on the particle wall-loss corrected volume concentration for the two
224 seed wall-loss periods. Only when all four values, ε_N and ε_V for both the initial and the final seed
225 periods, are less than 5 % do we deem the particle wall-loss correction valid for that individual
226 experiment. Experiments in which these criteria were not met were not included in the analysis.

227 To calculate the mass concentration of the formed SOA, C_{SOA} , during the course of an
228 experiment, we treated the particle wall-loss corrected aerosol volume concentration $V(t)$
229 differently before and after its maximum, V_{max} . For

230

$$231 t < t_{V_{max}}, C_{SOA}(t) = (V(t) - V_s)\rho_{SOA},$$

$$232 t \geq t_{V_{max}}, C_{SOA}(t) = [V(t) - V_s \frac{V(t)}{V_{max}}]\rho_{SOA}, \quad (3)$$

233

234 where $t_{V_{max}}$ is the corresponding time at the maximum particle wall-loss corrected total aerosol
235 volume concentration. V_s is the average particle wall-loss corrected seed volume concentration
236 before the beginning of each experiment. ρ_{SOA} is the SOA density, assumed to be equal to $1.4 \mu\text{g}$
237 m^{-3} (Kostenidou et al., 2007). Ideally, $V(t)$ should equal to V_{max} after the reactions are completed
238 and particle wall loss is the only process after $t_{V_{max}}$. However, deviations of $V(t)$ from V_{max} are
239 caused by the uncertainty associated in applying the size-dependent wall-loss corrections. By
240 scaling V_s with $V(t)/V_{max}$, we are distributing the impact of any potential fluctuations in $V(t)$ evenly
241 to both the seeds and the organics, and thus obtain a more stable C_{SOA} after aging.



242 3.3 Analysis of AMS measurements

243 The HR-AMS was operated in V mode during the experiments in this work. Squirrel
244 v1.56D was used to analyze the data. The atomic oxygen to carbon ratio, O:C, was determined
245 based on the unit-resolution correlation described in Caragaratna et al. (2015). Nitrate signals were
246 attributed to organics since the only sources of them in these experiments are organonitrate
247 compounds.

248

249 4. Results and discussion

250 The particle wall-loss corrected aerosol number concentration evolution during a typical
251 experiment (Exp. 1) together with the SMPS raw measurements are shown in Fig. 1. Prior to the
252 ozonolysis, $18,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ammonium sulfate particles were added to the chamber as seeds. After a
253 4.5 h wall-loss period, $8,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ particles remained suspended, serving as pre-existing surface
254 for condensation. At $t=0$, ozone was added into the chamber, reacting with α -pinene to form
255 condensable first-generation products. An additional 100 cm^{-3} particles were formed due to
256 nucleation at this time. Two doses of HONO were added into the chamber in this experiment at
257 $t=0.4 \text{ h}$ and $t=1.3 \text{ h}$, respectively. HONO was allowed to mix in the chamber and then the UV
258 lights were turned on at $t=0.8 \text{ h}$ and $t=1.8 \text{ h}$ to produce OH. At $t=3.5 \text{ h}$, another $10,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
259 ammonium sulfate particles were added into the chamber for a second 4 h long determination of
260 the $k(D_p)$ profile for this experiment.

261 The two $k(D_p)$ profiles determined from the initial seed wall-loss period and the one at the
262 end of the experiment are shown in Fig. 2. They agree relatively well with small discrepancies at
263 $D_p < 50 \text{ nm}$. The complete $k(D_p)$ profile used for the size-dependent particle wall-loss correction
264 is also shown.

265 As indicated in Fig. 1, the particle wall-loss corrected aerosol number concentration
266 remains relative level at $t < 0 \text{ h}$ and $t > 3.5 \text{ h}$, with $\varepsilon_{N,1} = 3.3 \%$ and $\varepsilon_{N,2} = 0.5 \%$, respectively. The
267 particle wall-loss corrected aerosol volume concentration (Fig. 3) at the initial seed wall-loss
268 period and that at the end had variabilities equal to $\varepsilon_{V,initial} = 4.2 \%$ and $\varepsilon_{V,end} = 3.8 \%$,
269 respectively. All parameters were less than 5 % and therefore the accuracy of the wall-loss
270 correction was acceptable.

271 The particle wall-loss corrected aerosol volume concentration evolution for Exp. 1 together
272 with the corresponding SMPS raw measurements are shown in Fig. 3. Particles grew from $t=0$ to



273 0.7 h and $t=0.8$ to 1 h due to vapor condensation. The total aerosol volume peaked at $t=0.7$ h during
274 the first-generation oxidation, and reached its maximum at $t=1.1$ h due to aging during the second-
275 generation oxidation. The change in volume during the second addition of OH at 1.7 h was
276 negligible.

277 The SOA mass concentration evolution for Exp. 1 calculated using Eqn. 3 is shown in Fig.
278 4. The error bars are calculated using the highest ε (in this case $\varepsilon_{V,1} = 4.2\%$). For this experiment,
279 $37.7 \pm 1.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ of SOA was formed during ozonolysis. An additional $11.1 \pm 2.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ SOA was
280 formed during the first aging period. The SOA reached $48.8 \pm 2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ after aging and remained
281 approximately constant until the end of the experiment. The total SOA produced and the calculated
282 SOA yields for all experiments are listed in Table 2.

283 The AMS-derived atomic oxygen to carbon ratio (O:C) evolution for Exp. 1 is shown
284 together with the AMS-measured aerosol composition (assuming CE=1) in Fig. 5. The increase in
285 the sulfate signals at $t=0$ is caused by a change in the instrument collection efficiency. Due to the
286 uncertainty caused by CE changes over the course of an experiment, we did not use the absolute
287 AMS-measured organic mass concentration for any quantitative analysis. Using the algorithm
288 derived by Kostenidou et al. (2007), we calculated the CE to be ~ 0.25 for the initial seed period
289 and ~ 0.4 after the seeds were coated with organics. A quick check comparing the two stepwise
290 increase in the CE-corrected organic mass concentration to those derived from SMPS revealed that
291 the results from both instrument agreed reasonably well.

292 The O:C is a collective measure for the ongoing chemistry during these aging experiments.
293 In Exp. 1, the O:C kept decreasing due to the freshly-formed semi-volatile SOA condensing onto
294 particles from $t=0$ to 0.5 h. From $t=0.5$ h to 0.8 h (UV on), the O:C ratio kept decreasing to 0.42
295 while the organic mass concentration stayed almost constant. This is consistent with the “ripening”
296 phenomenon, first observed during the MUCHACHAS campaign, where the composition of the
297 formed SOA keeps evolving after α -pinene has reacted while the change in SOA mass is minimal
298 (Tritscher et al., 2011). After OH radicals were generated in the chamber at $t=0.8$ h, the semi-
299 volatile vapors got oxidized to form second-generation products of lower volatility, resulting in an
300 increase of 0.02 in O:C in about 10 min. After $t=1$ h, the O:C remained relatively constant but it
301 started to decrease at $t=1.25$ h when the UV lights were turned off. Since aging is a complex
302 process that involves functionalization, fragmentation and heterogeneous reactions, the trends in
303 O:C are indicative of the competition among these processes. The decrease we observed here was



304 associated with turning the UV lights off, and thus it is likely that some chemistry was perturbed
305 and thus the processes resulting in decreasing O:C took over. The decrease in O:C associated with
306 turning off the UV lights was not consistent across the five experiments. This further proves that
307 this phenomenon is the result of several competing process and needs further investigation on a
308 molecular level. An inflection point at $t=1.7$ h was observed after a second dose of OH being
309 introduced in the chamber. Instead of the stepwise increase like the one observed after the first
310 dose of OH, the O:C increased slowly but steadily this time until the end of the experiment to 0.45
311 with no significant increase in organic mass. This is also quite consistent with what was observed
312 in MUCHACHAS.

313 We used the organic to sulfate ratio (Org/Sulf) derived from AMS measurements to look
314 at the SOA formation in these experiments due to its insensitivity to changes in collection
315 efficiency. The Org/Sulf time series for Exp. 1 is shown in Fig. 6. The ratio increased to 1.25 at
316 $t=0.7$ h as the result of the first-generation vapors condensing onto pre-existing particles. After we
317 first turned on the UV lights, a stepwise increase in the ratio was observed and reached the
318 maximum value of 1.60 at $t=1.1$ h as a result of the second-generation oxidation chemistry. After
319 that, the ratio kept decreasing. A small bump was observed after the second introduction of OH
320 and then the ratio kept decreasing. One possible explanation for this continuous decrease is the
321 effect of the size-dependent particle wall-loss process. The faster removal of smaller particles
322 (which contain more SOA than sulfate) than that of the bigger ones (which have a lower SOA to
323 sulfate ratio) can lead to a decrease of the overall organic to sulfate ratio. Fig. 7 shows the size
324 dependence of the Org/Sulf, together with the mass distribution of both organic and sulfate for
325 Exp. 1. The Org/Sulf decreased dramatically from 10 to 1 over the particle vacuum aerodynamic
326 diameter (D_{va}) range of 200 – 500 nm, indicating strong composition dependence on particle size.
327 Since the majority of the mass is distributed in this range, the size-dependent particle wall-loss rate
328 can contribute significantly to the decrease observed in Fig. 6 after the Org/Sulf reached its
329 maximum.

330

331 **4.1 Effect of size-dependent losses on the organic to sulfate ratio**

332 To quantify the effect of the size-dependence of the particle wall-loss process on the
333 organic to sulfate ratio, we discretized the AMS-measured mass distribution $M(D_p)$ into 10 bins



334 in the particle diameter space and defined a mass-weighted particle wall-loss rate constant for each
335 species j , \bar{k}_j , as

336

$$337 \quad \bar{k}_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{10} M_{ij} k_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{10} M_{ij}} \quad (4)$$

338

339 where M_{ij} is the aerosol mass concentration of species j for size bin i and k_i is the averaged $k(D_p)$
340 across size bin i . Note that the particle diameter used in this section refers to the SMPS-measured
341 mobility equivalent diameter D_p . The particle vacuum aerodynamic diameters derived from the
342 AMS measurements have been converted to D_p using an SOA density of $1.4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

343 From Eqn. 4 we are able to determine a mass-weighted particle wall-loss rate constant for
344 sulfate, \bar{k}_{SO_4} , and for organics, \bar{k}_{Org} . For the period after completion of the reactions and if there
345 are only particle losses to the walls the Org/Sulf ratio should satisfy:

346

$$347 \quad (\text{Org/Sulf})(t) = (\text{Org/Sulf})_m(t) \exp(\bar{k}_{SO_4} - \bar{k}_{Org})t \quad (5)$$

348

349 where $(\text{Org/Sulf})_m(t)$ is the AMS-measured and $(\text{Org/Sulf})(t)$ the loss-corrected organic to
350 sulfate ratio.

351 We can test if indeed the particle wall losses are responsible for the decreasing ratio in Exp.
352 1 focusing on the period from $t_1 = 1.2$ h to $t_2 = 1.7$ h (Fig. 6). In this example t_1 corresponds to
353 the maximum Org/Sulf and t_2 is the second time in which the UV lights were turned on. Applying
354 Eqn. 4, we found the mass-weighted particle wall-loss rate constant for organics, $\bar{k}_{Org} = 0.06 \text{ h}^{-1}$,
355 and for sulfate, $\bar{k}_{SO_4} = 0.05 \text{ h}^{-1}$. The black line in the inset graph of Fig. 6 indicates the particle
356 wall-loss corrected Org/Sulf for the chosen time period using Eqn. 5. The loss-corrected ratio
357 remained relatively constant indicating that the size-dependent particle wall-loss process coupled
358 with the different size distributions of the sulfate and organics were causing the decrease in the
359 ratio. This exercise was repeated for the other experiments arriving in the same conclusion.

360

361 **4.2 Effect of chemical aging on additional SOA formation**

362 To quantify aging effects based on the SMPS measurements, we define the fractional
363 change in the particle wall-loss corrected SOA mass concentration after aging, $\Delta[\text{OA}]$, as:



364
$$\Delta[\text{OA}] = (C_{\text{SOA},2} - C_{\text{SOA,UV}})/C_{\text{SOA},1}, \quad (6)$$

365

366 where $C_{\text{SOA,UV}}$ is the particle wall-loss corrected aerosol mass concentration at the time when we
367 first turned on the UV lights. $C_{\text{SOA,UV}}$ can be equal to $C_{\text{SOA},1}$ depending on how level the first-
368 generation SOA mass concentration remains after wall-loss correction. Fig. 8 summarizes the
369 $\Delta[\text{OA}]$ for all five experiments with the values and corresponding errors listed in Table 2. The OH
370 exposure resulted in an average increase of 24 ± 6 % in SOA mass concentration after aging, ranging
371 from 20 to 29 %. Our HONO injection method creates OH levels of about 2.4×10^7 molecules
372 cm^{-3} for the first hour and then the concentration dropped to around 5×10^6 molecules cm^{-3} . The
373 OH exposure is equivalent to 2-4 days of typical atmospheric oxidation conditions, assuming an
374 OH concentration of 2×10^6 molecules cm^{-3} . The uncertainties displayed in Fig. 8 were propagated
375 from uncertainties in the SOA mass concentration.

376 To quantify aging effects based on the AMS data, we define the fractional change in the
377 organic to sulfate ratio:

378

379
$$\Delta[\text{Org/Sulf}] = ([\text{Org/Sulf}]_2 - [\text{Org/Sulf}]_{\text{UV}})/[\text{Org/Sulf}]_1, \quad (7)$$

380

381 where $[\text{Org/Sulf}]_{\text{UV}}$ refers to the organic to sulfate ratio at the time when we first turned on the UV
382 lights, $[\text{Org/Sulf}]_1$ the maximum before we first turned on the UV lights and $[\text{Org/Sulf}]_2$ the
383 maximum after the OH exposure. Fig. 8 summarizes the $\Delta[\text{Org/Sulf}]$ calculated for all five
384 experiments with the values and corresponding errors listed in Table 2. The uncertainties are based
385 on the deviation between the measured and the corrected Org/Sulf (Fig. 6 inset) over the chosen
386 time period. An associated error is calculated respectively for $[\text{Org/Sulf}]_{\text{UV}}$, $[\text{Org/Sulf}]_1$ and
387 $[\text{Org/Sulf}]_2$. The reported error for $\Delta[\text{Org/Sulf}]$ in Table 2 is the propagated results of the three.
388 For experiments in this work, the percent increase in organic to sulfate ratios ranged from 18 to
389 27 % with an average increase of 21 ± 4 %. The values are fairly consistent with the SMPS-derived
390 $\Delta[\text{OA}]$.

391

392 4.2.1 Role of RH

393 Exp. 5, performed at the intermediate RH of 50 %, resulted in a comparable change in SOA
394 formation after aging as experiments at lower RH (Fig. 8). In this experiment, the increase in



395 Org/Sulf after aging was 21.2 %, 1.5 % higher than the average $\Delta[\text{Org/Sulf}]$ of experiments 2-4.
396 $\Delta[\text{OA}]$ for Exp. 5 was 20.5 %, about 2 % lower than the average $\Delta[\text{OA}]$ of experiments 2-4. The
397 effect of RH on the SOA formation during chemical aging, at least for these conditions, appears
398 to be small.

399

400 **4.2.2 Role of organic vapor loss to the Teflon walls**

401 For chamber SOA experiments with preexisting particles, the particles act as competing
402 surface against the chamber walls. We calculated the condensation sink (CS) of particles using the
403 method described in Trump et al. (2014) with a unit accommodation coefficient, consistent with
404 recent findings (Julin et al., 2014; Palm et al., 2016). The calculated condensation sink in the form
405 of time scale for vapors condensing onto particles ($1/\text{CS}$) for Exp. 1 is shown in Fig. 9. During the
406 entire experiment, the timescale for vapors to condense onto particles remained less than a minute.
407 Compared to the organic vapor wall-loss timescale of 15 min in the CMU chamber (Ye et al.,
408 2016), the vapors condense onto the particles 15 times faster than that onto the walls. This
409 corresponds to a 6.3 % loss of the semi-volatile vapors to the walls. For the experiments conducted
410 in this work, the yields should be increased by 1-3 % after accounting for the vapor wall-loss effect.

411 The situation is a little more complex for the second-generation oxidation because material
412 with higher volatilities that could have become SOA were lost during the time after the end of the
413 first phase and before the beginning of the second. To address this issue, OH radicals were
414 introduced about an hour earlier in Exp. 1 as compared to the rest of the experiments. A shorter
415 timescale ensures the first-generation vapor products react efficiently with OH instead of
416 interacting with the chamber walls as in the case of longer timescales. There was an increase of
417 27 % in Org/Sulf in this experiment after aging, 7 % more than the average of the other four
418 experiments. $\Delta[\text{OA}]$ for Exp. 1 was 29.4 %, about 7.5 % higher than the average of the rest four
419 experiments. If we attribute this 7 % difference purely to the vapor wall-loss effect, then we
420 estimate that vapor losses can increase the additional SOA formation by roughly another 10 % for
421 the experiments conducted in this work.

422

423 **4.3 Effect of chemical aging on O:C**

424 Fig. 10 summarizes the absolute increase in O:C after the two doses of OH, respectively,
425 with the corresponding exposure required to achieve the increase. As we discussed above using



426 Exp. 1 as an example, the O:C in all experiments showed a stepwise increase after the first OH
427 introduction while it grew continuously after the second OH introduction until the end of the
428 experiment. For these five experiments, it took 10 - 30 min for the O:C to increase by 0.02-0.04.
429 The stepwise increase in O:C is caused by the rapid reactions between the first generation vapor
430 products and the OH. One of the major products identified in the gas phase from the α -pinene
431 ozonolysis system, pinonaldehyde, reacts with OH at a rate of $4.4 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
432 (Atkinson and Arey, 2003). During the first hour of OH introduction, the OH concentration
433 remains on average at a steady state of $2.4 \times 10^7 \text{ molecule cm}^{-3}$. A quick estimation of $1/k_{OH}[OH]$
434 gives a timescale of 16 min, which is consistent with what we observed in these experiments. The
435 second exposure corresponds to the period until the end of each experiment. The increase in O:C
436 of 0.01 to 0.04 clearly indicates change in SOA composition, however paired with minimum
437 change in SOA mass. This phenomenon is likely caused by heterogeneous reactions.

438

439 **4.4 Comparison with other studies**

440 Overall, the results from our chamber experiments in this work are consistent to those from
441 the MUCHACHAS chambers. After adopting a size-dependent particle wall-loss correction
442 method, we observed 20-30 % additional SOA formation after aging. Vapor wall-loss effect can
443 account for an additional 10 %, increasing the range to 20-40 %. The O:C presented a stepwise
444 increase of 0.02-0.04 after the first introduction of OH, and then increased gradually overtime after
445 the second introduction of OH.

446 During the MUCHACHAS campaign, mixtures of SOA and gas-phase products formed in
447 the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) 27 m³ Teflon chamber from low (10 ppb) and high (40 ppb) initial
448 α -pinene concentration were exposed to OH by TME ozonolysis and HONO photolysis at an RH
449 of approximately 50 % (Tritscher et al. 2011). An OH concentration of 2×10^6 to 10×10^6 molecules
450 cm⁻³ was maintained up to four hours. The authors reported an additional 50 % SOA mass forming
451 after aging using the first-order, size-independent particle wall-loss correction for the suspended
452 organic mass concentration measured by AMS. An increase of 0.04 in the oxygen to carbon ratio
453 was also observed during aging.

454 In the 84.5 m³ Aerosol Interaction and Dynamics in the Atmosphere (AIDA) aluminum
455 chamber at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, an OH concentration of 2×10^6 to 10×10^6 molecules
456 cm⁻³ was used by a constant flow of TME (dark aging). The authors observed an increase of 17-



457 55 % in the SMPS-derived SOA mass concentration (density corrected) after aging during four
458 experiments with initial α -pinene concentration ranging from 14 to 56 ppb (Salo et al., 2011). In
459 the 270 m³ Simulation of Atmospheric Photochemistry in a large Reaction (SAPHIR) Teflon
460 chamber at Forschungszentrum Jülich, SOA and vapors generated from the ozonolysis of 40 ppb α -
461 pinene was aged for three consecutive days with OH produced by ambient light chemistry. An OH
462 concentration of 2.5×10^6 molecules cm⁻³ was maintained and 9 %, 4 % and 1 % additional SOA
463 was formed respectively after aging each day. These values were corrected for particle wall loss
464 using different wall-loss rate constants determined during different periods of the experiment.

465 Our result of 20-40 % additional SOA formation due to aging is well within the range of
466 that from the above chambers. The difference in the results from each chamber could potentially
467 be attributed to different OH exposure (e.g. a constant flow of HONO or TME was provided in the
468 PSI chamber). Other plausible explanations include whether the reported values were particle wall-
469 loss corrected and whether the same method was adopted for the correction.

470 For the HONO aging experiment performed in the CMU chamber during the
471 MUCHACHAS campaign, Henry and Donahue (2012) suggested a potentially strong photolysis
472 effect based on decreasing organic to sulfate ratio derived from the AMS measurements. In our
473 experiments, the organic to sulfate ratio was affected by the size-dependent wall-loss process. Both
474 the AMS-measured organic to sulfate ratio and the SMPS-measured OA remained relatively
475 constant after correcting for the size dependence of the particle-wall process in these experiments.
476 We thus conclude that minimum photolysis was observed for our experiments.

477

478 5. Conclusions

479 With an OH exposure equivalent to 2-4 days of typical atmospheric oxidation conditions,
480 the OH aging of the α -pinene ozonolysis products formed 20-40 % additional SOA mass for the
481 experimental conditions used in this work. Elevated RH up to 50 % has minimum effect on SOA
482 production due to aging. We have constrained the aging effects on additional SOA formation
483 quantitatively using both SMPS and AMS measurements.

484 A more oxygenated product distribution was observed after aging. A stepwise increase of
485 0.02-0.04 in O:C was observed within half an hour after the first introduction of OH. After the
486 second-generation products were exposed to additional OH, the O:C grew continuously until the
487 end of the experiments with an absolute increase of up to 0.04. During this period, minimum SOA



488 production was observed. We attribute this phenomenon to condensed-phase reactions. Further
489 investigation on a molecular scale is needed.

490

491 *Acknowledgement:* The work was funded by the EPA STAR grant 835405 and the EUROCHAMP-
492 2020 EU project.

493

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Table 1: Initial conditions of the α -pinene ozonolysis aging experiments.

Experiment	α -pinene (ppb)	O ₃ (ppb)	Initial seed surface area ($\mu\text{m}^2 \text{cm}^{-3}$)	RH (%)	OH ^a ($\times 10^7$ molecules cm^{-3})	OH introduction time (h after α -pinene consumption)
1	33	450	850	<20	2.4	0.3
2	14	600	760	<20	2.7	0.8
3	35	450	720	<20	2.0	1.1
4	16	500	950	<20	2.4 ^b	1.1
5	20	400	710	~50	2.7	0.8

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633 ^aThe OH concentration was calculated using the decay of butanol-d9 (monitored by PTRMS)
634 (Barnet et al., 2012).

635 ^bEstimated OH concentration for Exp. 4 based on the other experiments. The PTRMS data was
636 not available during that time for Exp. 4.

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Table 2: SOA mass concentration and yields of the α -pinene ozonolysis aging experiments.

Experiment	$C_{\text{SOA},1}$ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	Y_1 (%)	$C_{\text{SOA},2}$ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	Y_2 (%)	ΔOA (%)	$\Delta[\text{Org/Sulf}]$ (%)
1	37.7±1.6	20.6±0.9	48.8±2.0	26.7±1.1	29.4±6.9	27.0±5.8
2	16.7±0.9	21.5±1.2	18.3±1.0	23.5±1.3	19.8±8.1	18.1±2.9
3	57.1±1.3	29.4±0.7	71.0±1.6	36.2±0.8	23.5±3.6	19.1±3.6
4	16.8±0.6	19.1±0.6	20.8±0.7	23.7±0.8	24.0±5.3	21.9±2.1
5	22.2±0.7	19.5±0.6	25.4±0.8	22.3±0.7	20.5±4.7	21.2±4.4

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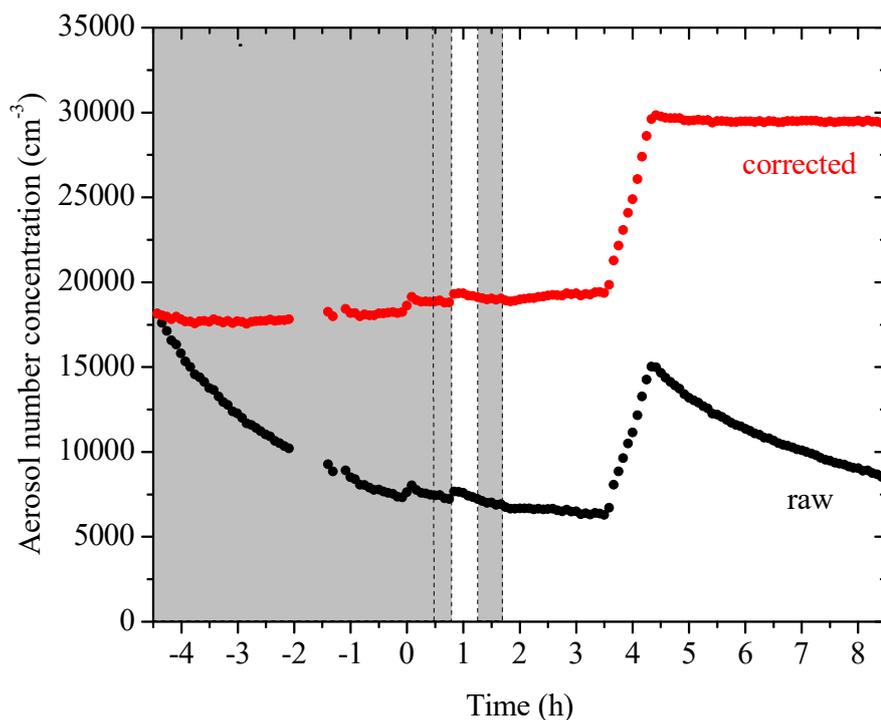
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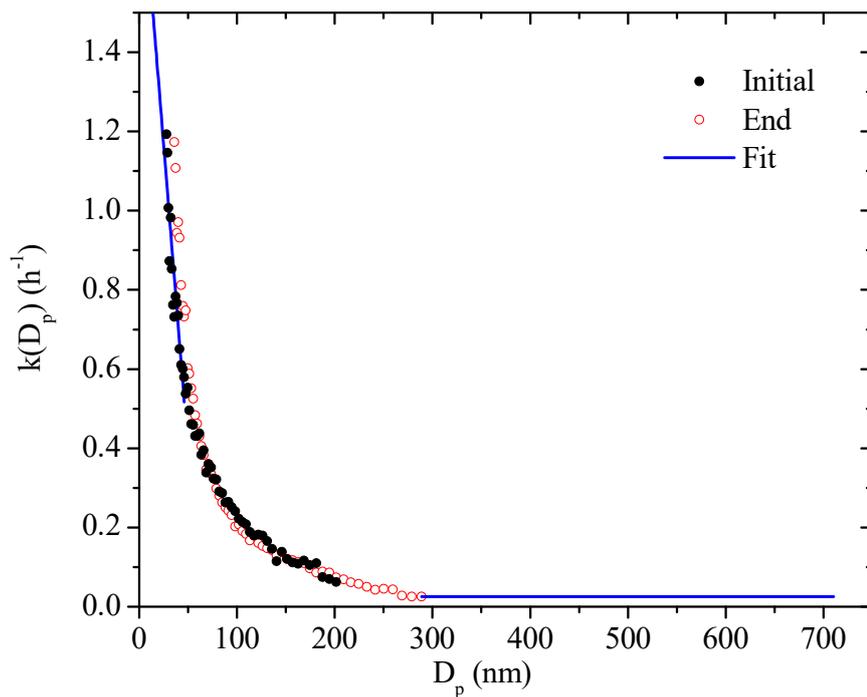
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666 **Figure 1:** SMPS-measured (black symbols) and the size-dependent particle wall-loss corrected
667 (red symbols) aerosol number concentration evolution during a typical experiment (Exp. 1). Ozone
668 was added into the chamber at time zero to initiate α -pinene ozonolysis. The shaded areas indicate
669 that the chamber was dark. The dashed lines mark the beginning and the end of the two times
670 HONO were added, respectively. The increase in number concentration at $t=3.5$ h is due to the
671 injection of 5 g L^{-1} ammonium sulfate particles. An additional 100 cm^{-3} particles were formed due
672 to nucleation both at the ozonolysis step and the aging step. Data were not recorded from $t = -2$ h
673 to -1.4 h.

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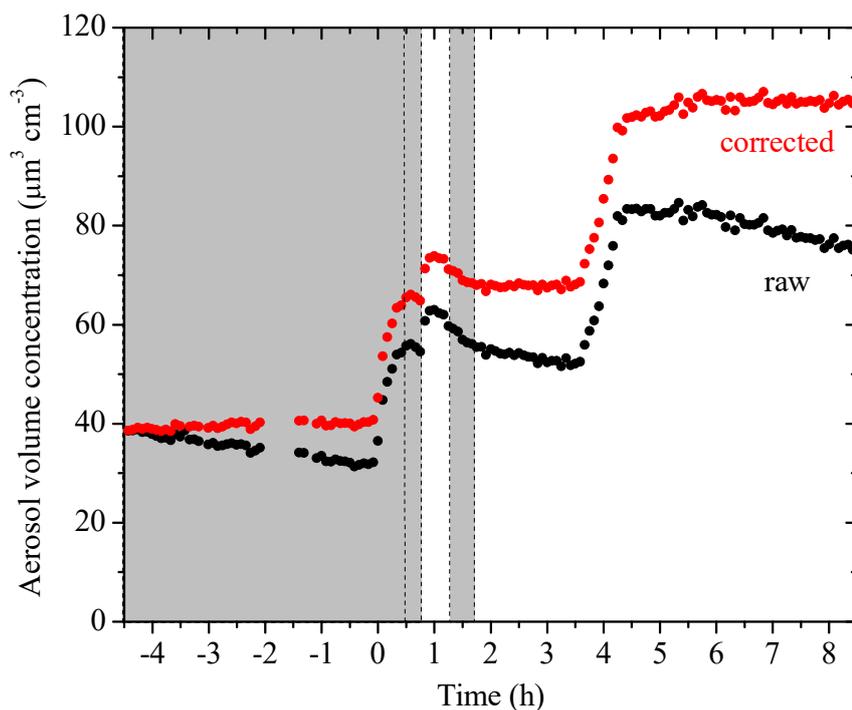
678 **Figure 2:** The size-dependent particle wall-loss rate constant profile, $k(D_p)$, for Exp. 1. The black
679 symbols are the rate constants calculated based on the wall-loss process of the initial ammonium
680 sulfate seed particles from $t=-4.5$ h to $t=0$ h, while the red open symbols that of the additional
681 ammonium sulfate particles at the end from $t=4.5$ h to $t=8.5$ h. The blue line is the fit determined.

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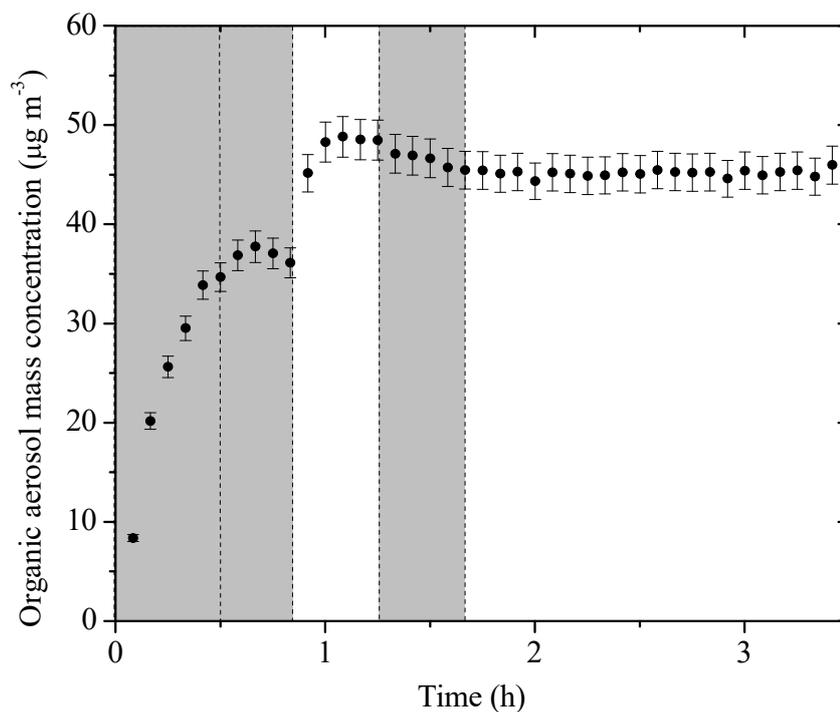


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687 **Figure 3:** SMPS-measured (black symbols) and the size-dependent particle wall-loss corrected
688 (red symbols) aerosol (seed and organic) volume concentration evolution during a typical
689 experiment (Exp. 1). Ozone was added into the chamber at time zero to initiate α -pinene ozonolysis.
690 The shaded areas indicate that the chamber was dark. The dashed lines mark the beginning and the
691 end of the two times HONO were added, respectively. 5 g L^{-1} ammonium sulfate particles were
692 injected into the chamber at $t=3.5 \text{ h}$. Data were not recorded from $t=-2 \text{ h}$ to -1.4 h .

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697 **Figure 4:** The particle wall-loss corrected SOA mass concentration ($\rho=1.4 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$) evolution for

698 Exp. 1 derived from SMPS measurements. The corresponding error shown is due to the particle

699 wall-loss correction. Ozone was added into the chamber at time zero to initiate α -pinene ozonolysis.

700 The shaded areas indicate that the chamber was dark. The dashed lines mark the beginning and the

701 end of the two times HONO were added, respectively.

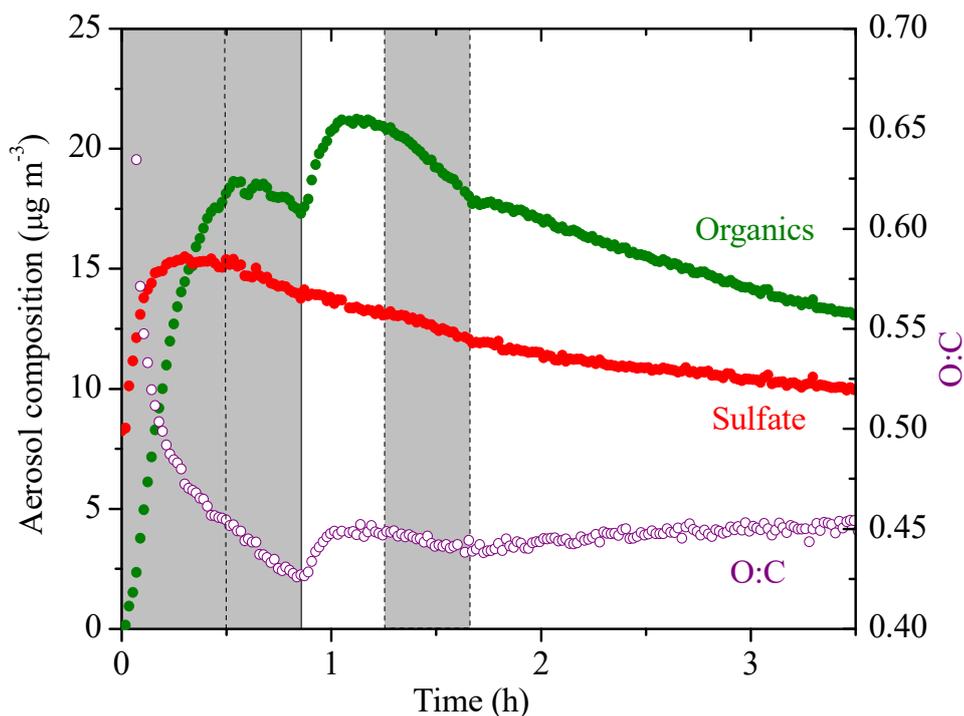
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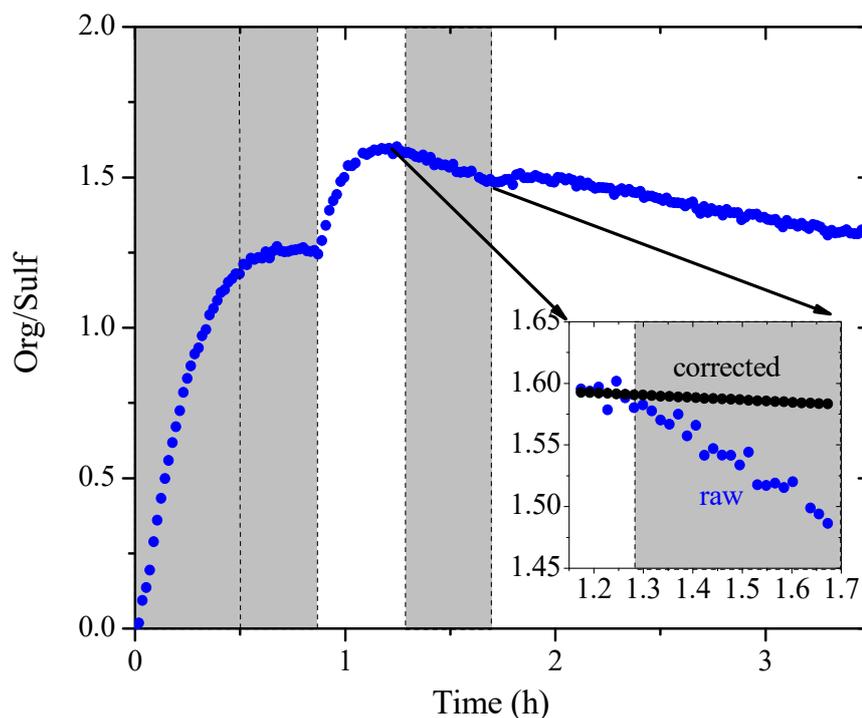
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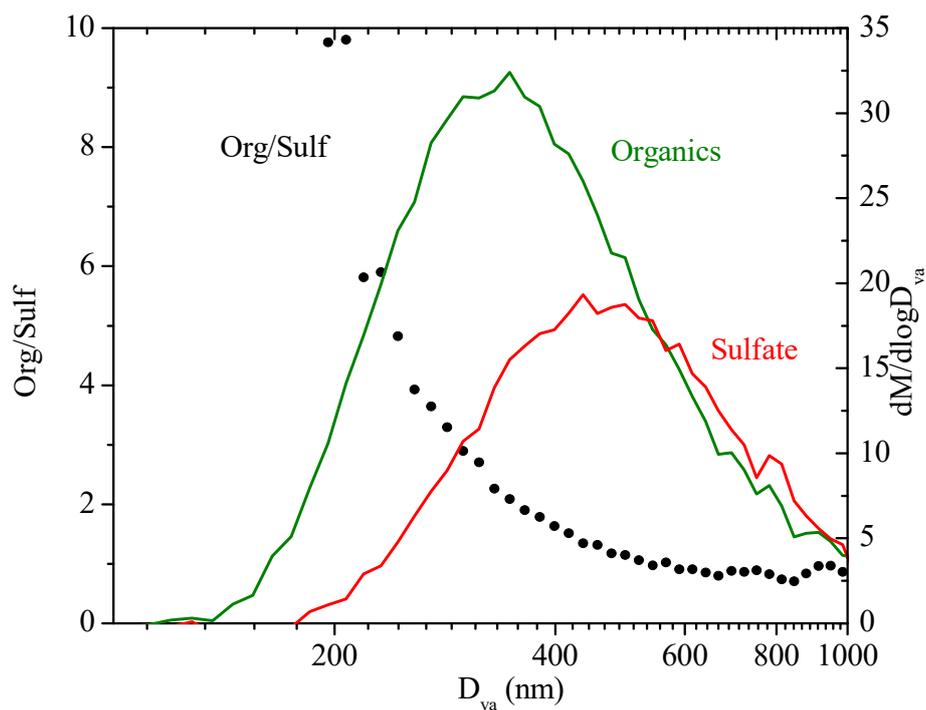
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708 **Figure 5:** The AMS-measured aerosol composition (CE=1) (left axis) and the atomic oxygen to
709 carbon ratio (right axis) evolving with time for Exp. 4. The increase in the sulfate signal at t=0 is
710 the result of a change in the collection efficiency (CE). Ozone was added into the chamber
711 zero to initiate α -pinene ozonolysis. The shaded areas indicate that the chamber was dark. The
712 dashed lines mark the beginning and the end of the two times HONO were added, respectively.



713

714 **Figure 6:** The AMS-derived organic to sulfate ratio time series for Exp. 1. The inset is a blow-up
715 of the Org/Sulf ratio from its maximum until the second time when the UV lights were turned on.
716 The black symbols are the particle wall-loss corrected Org/Sulf during that half hour. Ozone was
717 added into the chamber at time zero to initiate α -pinene ozonolysis. The shaded areas indicate that
718 the chamber was dark. The dashed lines mark the beginning and the end of the two times HONO
719 were added, respectively.



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721 **Figure 7:** The dependence of the AMS-derived organic to sulfate ratio on particle vacuum
722 aerodynamic diameter for Exp. 1 (left axis). Also shown are the AMS-measured organic (green)
723 and sulfate (red) mass distribution (right axis). The results are based on PToF data averaged over
724 ~2.5 hours ($t=1.1$ h to 3.5 h).

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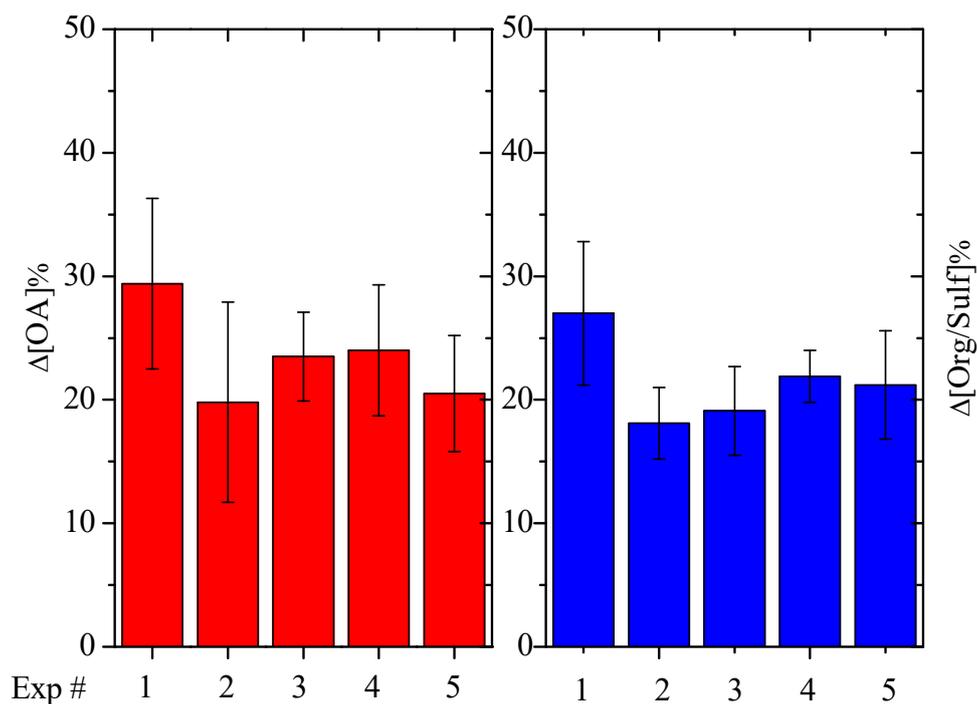
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733 **Figure 8:** SMPS-derived percent change in the particle wall-loss corrected SOA (red columns)

734 mass concentration after aging and AMS-derived percent change in organic to sulfate ratio (blue

735 columns) after aging for all five experiments.

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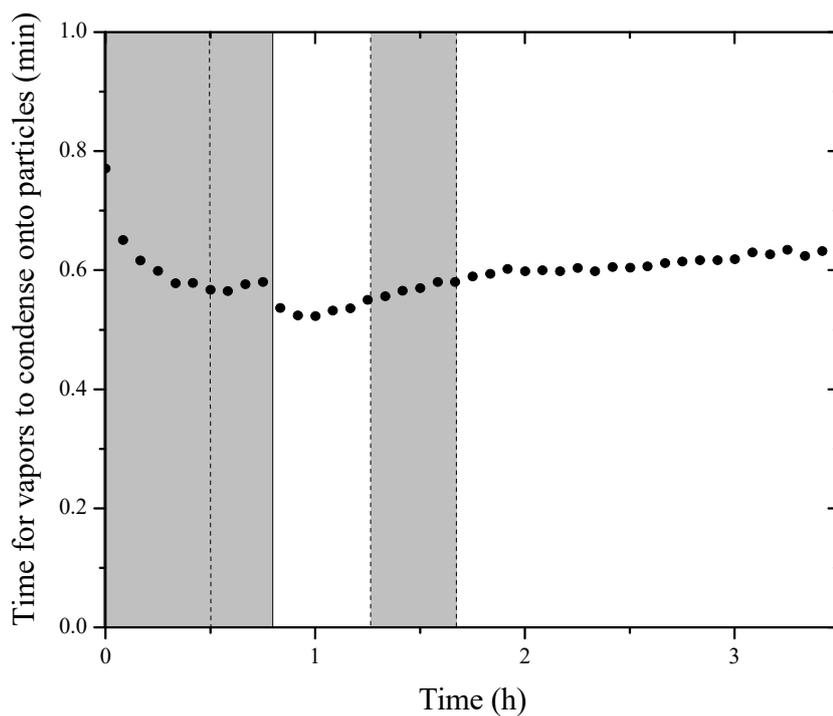
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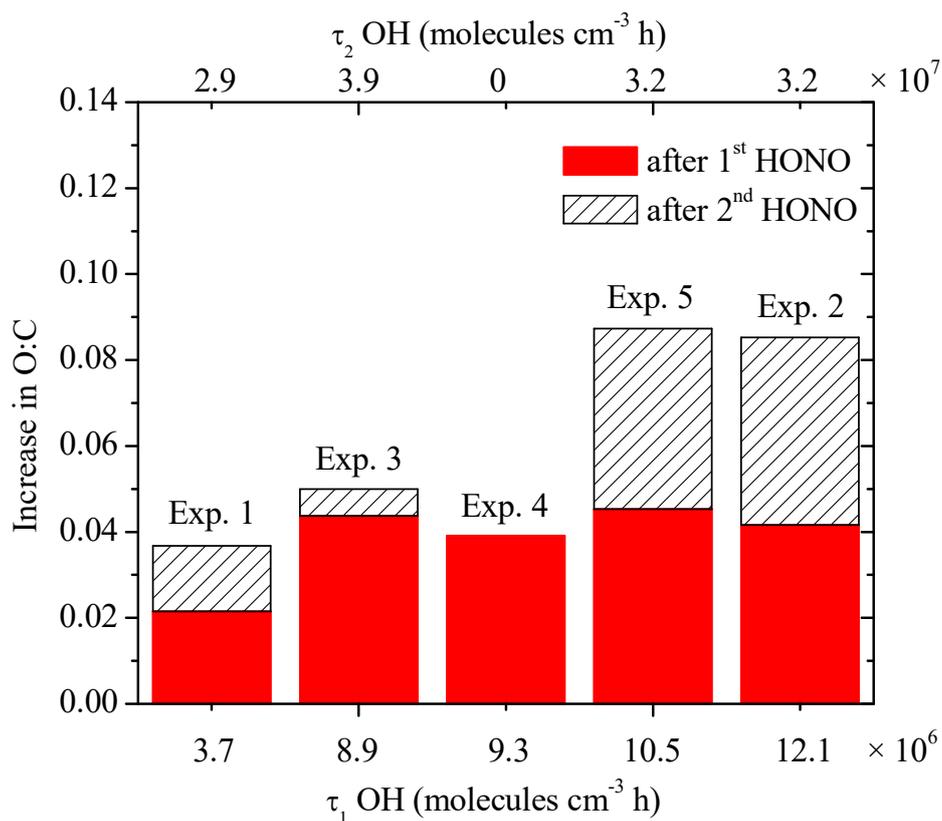
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743 **Figure 9:** The calculated condensation sink (CS) in the form of time scale for vapors condensing
744 onto particles ($1/CS$). Ozone was added into the chamber at time zero to initiate α -pinene
745 ozonolysis. The shaded areas indicate that the chamber was dark. The dashed lines mark the
746 beginning and the end of the two times HONO were added, respectively.



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749 **Figure 10:** The absolute increase in O:C after the two doses of OH, respectively, with the
750 corresponding exposure. The solid red columns are the increase in O:C after the first introduction
751 of OH, with the corresponding exposure on the bottom axis. The hatched columns are the increase
752 in O:C after the second introduction of OH, with the corresponding exposure on the top axis.

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