

General Response: We thank the reviewer for your helpful comments. We have addressed all comments and provided point by point response below. The revised manuscript is presented in below.

Response to the referee#1' comments

Yu et al. present findings from detailed compositional measurements of Arctic aerosol in Svalbard during August 2012. While there is obvious importance of conducting detailed physiochemical characterizations of Arctic aerosol in terms of their radiative impacts and subsequent indirect effects on frozen surfaces, there are major issues with the manuscript by Yu et al. that would need to be addressed prior to publication. These issues stem from possible misinterpretation of the data that shape the reported main findings. It would behoove the authors to provide a sufficient level of detail on the methodologies (including caveats) and results to support the main conclusions they report.

Response: We carefully addressed all of the questions and concerns raised.

General comments:

There is a scarcity of detail regarding which samples and particles were analyzed. More specifically, which samples were analyzed, which particles were analyzed per sample and how those were chosen, how many particles per sample were analyzed, and why only select samples and particle numbers were analyzed under each method is not at all defined.

Response: We added more details in the Experimental section. In addition, we revised Table S1 and added information on what samples were analyzed by what methods.

which samples were analyzed?

Response: Revised in the context line 144-146

“The sample information such as local sampling date and time and meteorological conditions (e.g., temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), pressure (P), wind direction (WD), and wind speed (WS)) are listed in Table S1.”

which particles were analyzed per sample and how those were chosen,

Response: We follow a commonly used methodology in single particle analysis community. Since the distribution of aerosol particles on TEM grids was not uniform, with coarser particles occurring near the center and finer particles on the periphery five areas were chosen from the center and periphery of the sampling spot on each grid to ensure that the analyzed particles are representative of the whole sample.

We added the following in the revised manuscript. Line 159-162

“The distribution of aerosol particles on TEM grids was not uniform, with coarser particles occurring near the center and finer particles on the periphery. Therefore, to ensure that the analyzed particles are representative, five areas were chosen from the center and periphery of the sampling spot on each grid. Through a labor-intensive operation, 2002 aerosol particles with diameter < 10 μm in 21 samples were analyzed by TEM/EDS (Table S1).”

How many particles per sample were analyzed, For example, which of the samples constituted the 2002 and 575 particles analyzed by TEM and TEM/EDS, respectively?

Response: Through a labor-intensive operation, 2002 aerosol particles with diameter < 10 μm in 21 samples were analyzed by TEM/EDS (Table S1). To check composition of individual particles, EDX was manually used to obtain EDS spectra of individual particles. In the clean Arctic air, there are several relatively easy-to-identify particle types including sea salt, sulfate, soot, and OM. Because soot particles have chain-like aggregation, it is not necessary to check their elemental composition. Sea salt particles display spherical or square shapes and are stable under the electron beam in TEM but sulfate particles are spherical but flats on the substrate and produce unstable bubble under the electron beam (Buseck and Posfai, 1999; Chi et al., 2015). TEM observations also can clearly identify sulfate particles or sulfate with OM coating. Therefore, we can identify Arctic particle types based on their morphology. We usually randomly chose 20-30 particles in each sample for elemental analysis to confirm the identification of particle types (Table S1). In total, EDS spectra of 575 particles were manually obtained and saved in the computer for elemental composition analysis. Detailed information is now added to Table S1 We would like to point out that it is not realistic to analyse every single particle collected on the grid as each EDS analysis took about 100 s and all data need to be analysed manually. Therefore, we In the revised manuscript (track changed), we added the following (line 165 to 180)

“In the clean Arctic air, there are simply particle types including sea salt, sulfate, soot, and OM. Because soot particles have chain-like aggregation, it is not necessary to check their elemental composition. Sea salt particles display spherical or square shapes and are stable under the electron beam in TEM but sulfate particles are spherical but flats on the substrate and produce unstable bubble under the electron beam (Buseck and Posfai, 1999; Chi et al., 2015). TEM observations also can clearly identify sulfate particles or sulfate with OM coating. Therefore, we can easily identify Arctic particle types based on their morphology. Because of the time-consuming in the experiment, it is not necessary to frequently check elemental composition of the same particle type. For the data statistic in this study, we randomly checked elemental composition of 20-30 particles in each sample (Table S1). EDS spectra of 575 particles were manually selected and saved in the computer for elemental composition analysis. Particles examined by TEM were dry at the time of observation in the vacuum of the electron microscope. In our study, the effects of water and other semi-volatile organics were not considered as they evaporate in the vacuum.”

Information is now added to Table S1 s.

For certain techniques, only a few samples (i.e., 3 samples for NanoSIMS but no mention of particle number) or even only a handful of particles (i.e., only 17 particles for AFM but no mention of which sample(s) these came from) were analyzed, and in the case of SEM there is no information on sample or particle number. I understand that some of these tools, i.e., AFM, are time-consuming which is why a low number of particles were analyzed, but then the authors need to be careful about overstating result interpretations. It is important to know how many particles and from which samples to provide sufficient statistics and afford information on daily

source variability. As it stands, there is no way to tell how representative the percentages (which are hidden in the text) are of summertime aerosol in general, or just of specific samples from select days.

Response: Information is given in Table S1.

For some methods, we analysed only a small number of particles. This does not affect our conclusion. The purpose of AFM is to calibrate the equivalent circle diameter to equivalent spherical diameter. As the previous studies (Chi et al., ACP, 2015), the number of samples analysed is enough to address this issue.

The purpose of NanoSIMS is to confirm the OM coating. we analysed 32 S-OM particles, which have the same morphology and composition; analyzing more samples is unlikely adding more information .

Table S1

* number of particles analysed

Date	Local time	T	RH	P	WD	WS	TEM	EDX	SEM	AFM	NanoSIMS
2012.8.7	20:50 -21:15	4.9	84	1009.0	296	4.1	43	10			
2012.8.8	08:23 -08:48	4.9	81	1007.6	238	2.1	38	11			
2012.8.9	14:40 -15:05	6.6	81	1003.9	129	6.5	146	50			12
	15:20 -15:49	7.0	78	1003.5	120	7.3	130	26	20		
2012.8.10	00:15 -00:40	7.3	80	998.6	135	8.9	121	23			
2012.8.11	09:10 -09:35	6.2	94	997.0	303	3.3	128	50			10
2012.8.11	16:00 -16:25	4.1	92	1002.0	327	4.6	156	55		6	
2012.8.12	15:25 -15:50	5.7	83	1006.8	132	6.9	100	15	32		
2012.8.13	08:55 -09:20	5.3	81	1009.6	91	1.1	113	16			
2012.8.13	14:15 -14:40	4.5	90	1011.4	351	2.1	136	56			10
2012.8.14	09:50 -10:20	5.0	85	1019.7	351	2.3	134	24			
2012.8.14	15:12 -15:42	4.6	88	1020.5	117	2.6	121	26			
2012.8.14	21:17 -21:47	4.8	84	1020.7	276	5.4	178	56		5	
2012.8.15	09:15 -09:45	5.8	73	1019.6	135	3.7	165	60		6	
2012.8.15	15:00 -15:33	6.8	70	1018.9	270	3.3	80	11			
2012.8.17	9:00 -10:00	3.8	86	1017.1	116	0.3	30	15			
2012.8.17	14:50 -15:20	3.7	85	1015.7	109	2.2	42	16			
2012.8.21	15:05 -15:40	1.6	87	1003.7	314	6.8	46	18			
2012.8.22	08:55 -09:30	2.8	78	999.2	331	2.8	49	19			
2012.8.23	09:00 -09:40	3.4	64	998.0	136	6.9	21	9			
2012.8.23	20:35 -21:08	3.8	59	1002.0	138	6.3	25	9			

It would be helpful to provide a figure or two of the overall picture of aerosol composition, e.g., bar graphs or pie charts.

Response: Bulk aerosols were not determined in this study. We provide a summary of elemental compositions of individual particles (see figure below and Supplementary Fig. 3). These are based on elemental compositions of EDS. Based on the Figure S3, O, Na, S, Cl are most abundant elements in the arctic particles.

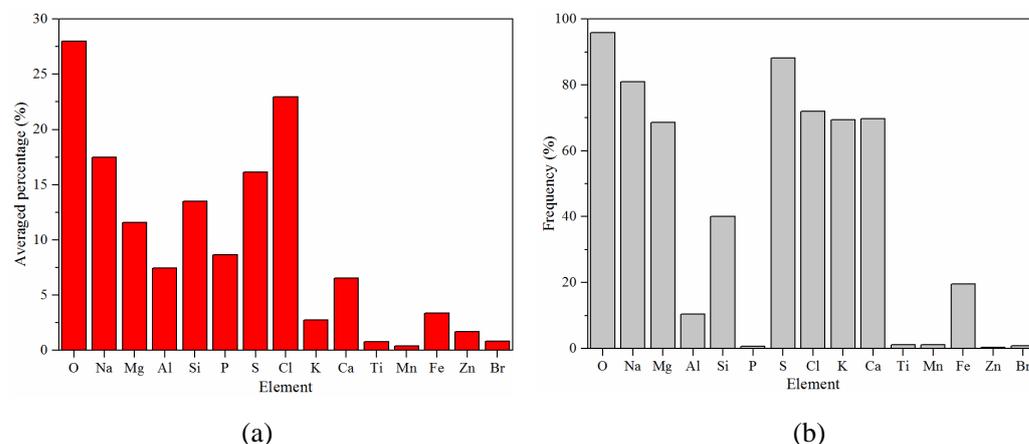


Figure S3 Elemental compositions of individual particles from EDS spectra. Left: Average weight of elemental compositions derived from the EDS spectra (b) frequency of element occurring in individual particles.

There are percentages provided in the text, but showing the relative abundance of each particle type is pretty standard. Along relative abundance, the authors report that 29% of the particles were non-sea salt. What percentage were unclassified? What percentage is the “majority of NSS-particles”?

Response: Indeed, there are a few of unclassified particles. 63% of particles were identified as the sea salt particles, 29% particles were NSS-sulfate particles, and 10% particles were unclassified particles. The Figure as the referee requests was added in the main manuscript.

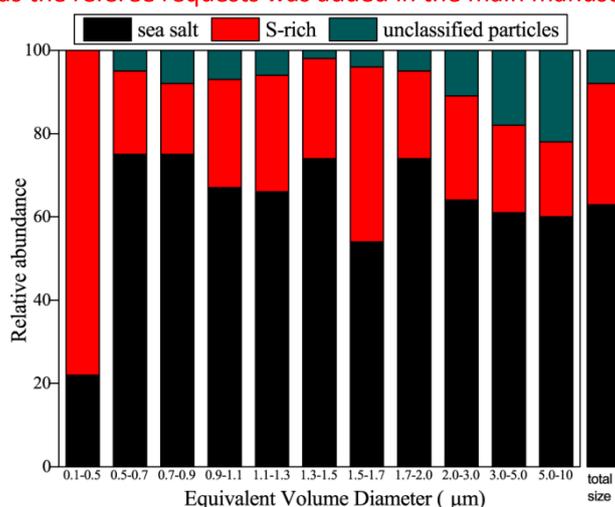


Figure 3 Morphology and relative abundances of typical individual aerosol particles in the 21 analyzed samples.

As a result, it is not clear how important these particles are in general in the context of radiative

impacts, given sea salt was what seemed like the dominant particle type and also largely affects scattering and SSA. In addition, to demonstrate that these particle types are important for the Arctic energy budget, they should show extinction properties for total aerosol (including sea salt) in Figure 6. I would think given the typical sizes for these types of particles (sulfate and soot) and reported abundance for this particular study, they would not affect the scattering cross sections relative to sea salt. The emphasis on the radiative impacts of these aerosol types is a large part of the manuscript, so their properties need to be presented in broader context. Are they important within the total aerosol population or not? This would be more relevant to the actual atmospheric implications.

Response: As suggested by the reviewer, the scattering cross section of sea salt particles is much higher than other aerosols. On the other hand, the purpose of this study is to show the potential role of BrC coating on sulfate particles on absorption. since sea salts do not absorb light, it is the soot and BrC that matters for the light absorption in the atmosphere within the whole aerosol population. does, and so does BrC. In the Arctic, it is the soot and BrC that has the potential to warm up the climate, even though their total absorption is likely to significantly lower than the absolute value of scattering.

The sizes of sulfate and soot particles are given in Figure 8. Our analysis cannot provide a clear information on the radiation balance but it did suggest the potential role BrC, which we know plays an important role in Arctic climate

In the revised manuscript, we revised Figure 8 and added the following (line 472 to 482)

“Figure 8c also shows that the single scattering albedos (SSAs) of individual particles are 0.92, 0.99, and 1 when assuming the BrC as strongly, moderately and non-absorbing (cases SSA1 to SSA3). These results suggest whether we consider organic coating as BrC may have a significant influence on the absorption properties of individual sulfate particles.

In this study, we explored the relationship between ACS of individual particles and particle diameters. Interestingly, Figure 8d shows that ACS of individual fine OM-coating sulfate particles increased following the increasing particle size. The result shows that the ACS can be enhanced following particle size growing and particle aging. In other word, OM-coating sulfate particles transported more longer distances and they might have stronger optical absorption in the Arctic air.”

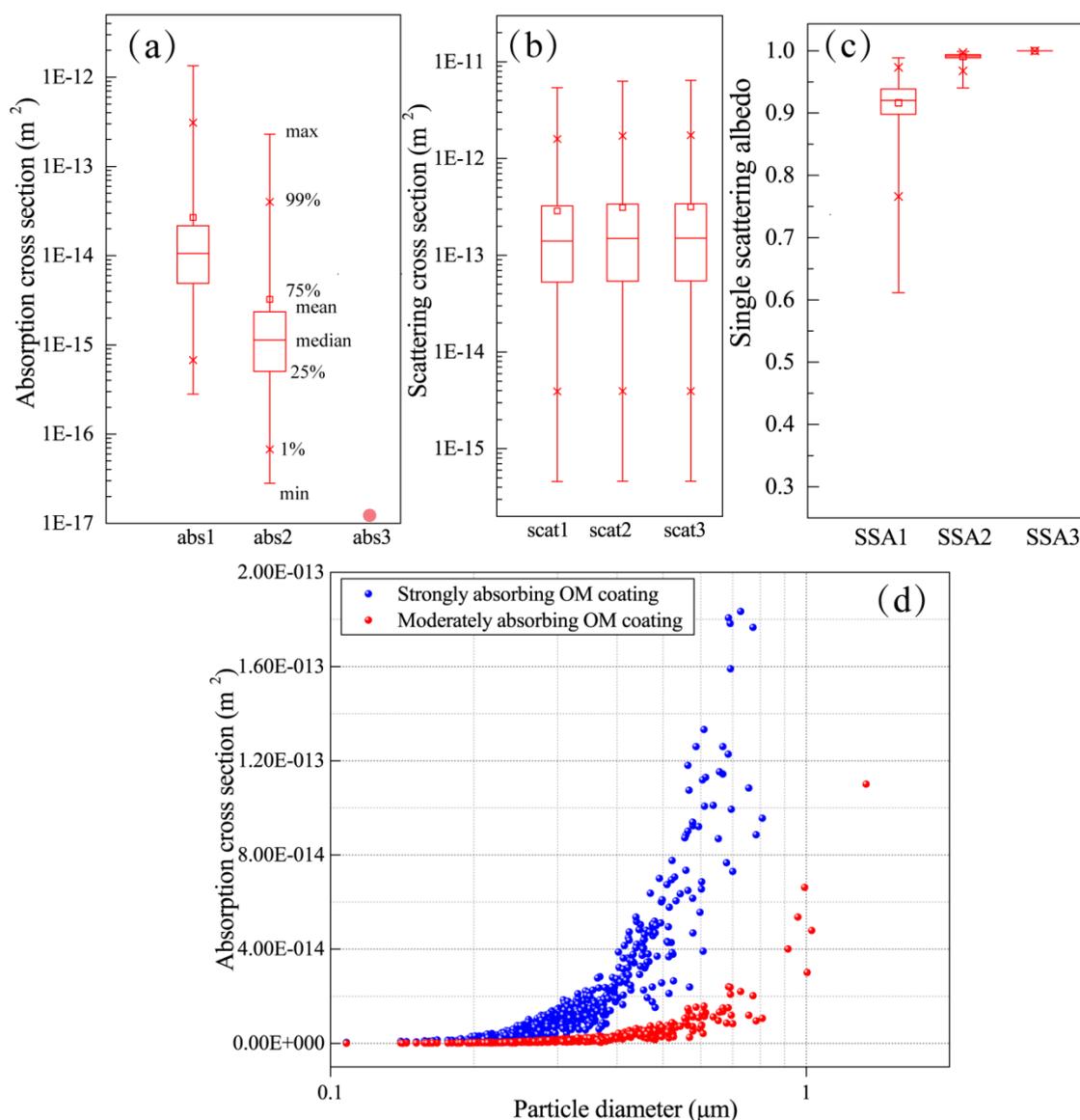


Figure 8 Optical properties of Box-and-whisker plots showing optical parameters of all analysed particles assuming sulfate core and BrC shell (not considering soot cores in the particles). (a) Scattering cross section (b) Absorption cross section (c) Single scattering albedo. Top to bottom markers in the box-and-whisker represent max, 99%, 75%, mean, median, 25%, 1%, min values. (d) Absorption cross section along with particle diameter assuming strongly absorbing BrC and Moderate absorbing BrC as the particle OM coating.

There are several issues with the methods as presented. For instance, there is very little detail given on how the particles were classified under each technique, there are no errors or statistical analyses reported, and certain methods have very little specification detail (i.e., SEM is a very short paragraph). Regarding the samples storage, at 20% RH, I would assume all volatile and most semi-volatile species would evaporate, significantly altering particle shape, size, and composition. I will admit, these techniques are not my area of expertise, but the authors should at least comment on potential losses and caveats with this storage method. If there are significant losses of material, how representative are the analyzed particles of the total ambient aerosol population at the time of collection? I am skeptical the authors are comparing apples to apples

by possible alteration of particles during storage.

Response: We add more specification detail of SEM in the paragraph.

SEM/ TEM/NanoSIMS all have to be analysed under vacuum so the volatile fractions will be lost during the analyses, but there is absolutely no other way to observe the shape of the particles from the ambient air. Laskina et al., EST, (2015) tested different methods and confirmed that the best way is settled in dry condition for further TEM or SEM analysis. Individual particle analyses offer the advantages of the mixing state and composition of individual particles.

The details about individual particle analysis have been reviewed by one previous paper (Li et al., JCP, 2016)

Laskina, O., Morris, H.S., Grandquist, J.R., Estillore, A.D., Stone, E.A., Grassian, V.H., Tivanski, A.V., 2015. Substrate-Deposited Sea Spray Aerosol Particles: Influence of Analytical Method, Substrate, and Storage Conditions on Particle Size, Phase, and Morphology. *Environ. Sci. Tech.* 49 (22), 13447-13453.

Li, W., Shao, L., Zhang, D., Ro, C.-U., Hu, M., Bi, X., Geng, H., Matsuki, A., Niu, H., Chen, J., 2016. A review of single aerosol particle studies in the atmosphere of East Asia: morphology, mixing state, source, and heterogeneous reactions. *J. Clean. Prod.* 112, Part 2, 1330-1349.

We've added the following the revised manuscript: L141-144

“Ambient laboratory conditions (17–23% RH and 19–21 °C) is effective at preserving individual hygroscopic aerosol particles and reducing changes that would alter samples and subsequent data interpretation (Laskina et al., 2015).”

L178-180“Particles examined by TEM were dry at the time of observation in the vacuum of the electron microscope. In our study, the effects of water and other semi-volatile organics were not considered as they evaporate in the vacuum.”

Regarding the source analysis, there is very little detail given on the FLEXPART modeling and only a couple sentences on the results and discussion of the simulations. It is used to a very minimal extent and very generally summarized, even though Arctic aerosol sources can vary drastically day-by-day, and especially given possible local contributions. Figure 5 is very difficult to discern and glean any source information from it. Also, why are only these particular days shown?

Response: We revised the part related to the FLEXPART and added the sources around Arctic areas. Here we also added the Figure 1 that showing back trajectory of air mass during the sampling periods.

The reason we showed the FLEXPART at the specific days is that we did FLEXPART based on the preliminary works including back trajectories of each sampling and TEM study. During these days, We found abundant sulfate and soot in samples in 9-15, Aug (Table S1). This is the reason that we planned to the FLEXPART modeling.

Figure 2 could not give direct source information but they can provide potential source locations. Here we added two Figures in the supplemental which provide the emission intensity in the Arctic area.

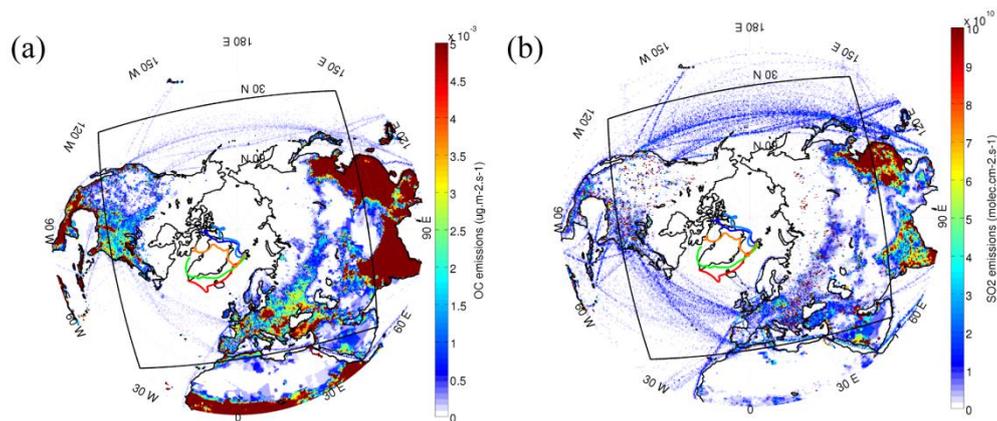


Figure S2 OC (a) and SO₂ (b) Emission intensity in Arctic area and 24h back trajectories on August 11, 12, 14, and 15, 2012.

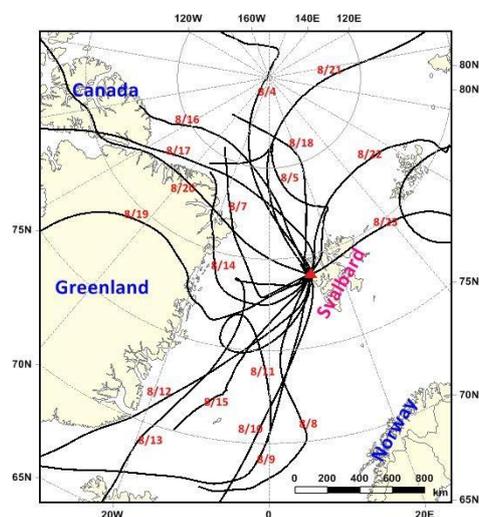


Figure 1 72 h back trajectories of air masses at 500m over Arctic Yellow River Station in Svalbard during 3–26 August 2012, and arriving time was set according to the sampling time

There is no background on previous relevant studies conducted at the study location, even though there is a long-term monitoring station with aerosol measurements at Ny-Ålesund (<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/iasoa/stations/nyalesund>). It is not the same exact location as the Chinese site, but close enough to at least use those routine, publically-available measurements to provide some broader spatial and temporal context.

Response: this is now being revised. We've added L127-130

“The sampling site is about 2 km far away from the Zeppelin observatory station (78.9N 11.88E) running by the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee (<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/iasoa/stations/nyalesund>). Two to three samples were regularly collected at 9:00, 16:00, 21:00 (local time) of each day, with a total of 46 samples during 7-23 August, 2012.”

There is only basic mentioning of biogenic VOCs, but none of biogenic or biological aerosol. The Arctic summer, especially in remote coastal sites, is largely affected by gases and aerosol from primary productivity due to the availability of sunlight and open water. There is no discussion on if the OM is biogenic/biological, and in general, the definition of OM is vague.

Response: The methodology we use cannot identify the sources of the SOAs, whether biogenic or non-biogenic. In the arctic atmosphere, Leck and Svensson (2015) found some biogenic aerosols like gel-aggregate containing bacterium in ultrafine particles. In our study, we didn't collect ultrafine particles using the sampler.

We've added the following to line L405-408

"Similarly, besides the OM coating in the Arctic particles, Leck and Svensson (2015) found some biogenic aerosols like gel-aggregate containing bacterium in ultrafine particles. However, we didn't find any gel-like particles in the samples because our sampler had very low efficiency for ultrafine particles."

Technical corrections:

There are many typos, grammatical issues, and a lack of necessary explanation (e.g., the 3 sets of bars in Figure 6, SEM a short paragraph with no numbers, etc.).

Response: Thanks. We revised them.

References:

- Buseck, P.R., Posfai, M.: Airborne minerals and related aerosol particles: Effects on climate and the environment, *P. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 96 (7), 3372-3379, 1999.
- Chi, J.W., Li, W.J., Zhang, D.Z., Zhang, J.C., Lin, Y.T., Shen, X.J., Sun, J.Y., Chen, J.M., Zhang, X.Y., Zhang, Y.M., Wang, W.X.: Sea salt aerosols as a reactive surface for inorganic and organic acidic gases in the Arctic troposphere, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 15 (19), 11341-11353, 2015.
- Laskina, O., Morris, H.S., Grandquist, J.R., Estillore, A.D., Stone, E.A., Grassian, V.H., Tivanski, A.V.: Substrate-Deposited Sea Spray Aerosol Particles: Influence of Analytical Method, Substrate, and Storage Conditions on Particle Size, Phase, and Morphology, *Environ. Sci. Tech.*, 49 (22), 13447-13453, 2015.
- Leck, C., Svensson, E.: Importance of aerosol composition and mixing state for cloud droplet activation over the Arctic pack ice in summer, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 15 (5), 2545-2568, 2015.
- Maahn, M., de Boer, G., Creamean, J.M., Feingold, G., McFarquhar, G.M., Wu, W., Mei, F.: The observed influence of local anthropogenic pollution on northern Alaskan cloud properties, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 17 (23), 14709-14726, 2017.

24 **Abstract**

25 Interaction of anthropogenic particles with radiation and clouds plays an important
26 role on Arctic climate change. Mixing state of aerosols is a key parameter to influence
27 aerosol-cloud and aerosol-radiation interaction. However, little is known on this
28 parameter in the Arctic, preventing an accurate representation of this information in
29 global models. Here we used transmission electron microscopy with
30 energy-dispersive X-ray spectrometry (TEM/EDS), scanning TEM, scanning electron
31 microscopy (SEM), nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometry (NanoSIMS), and
32 atomic forces microscopy (AFM) to determine the size and mixing properties of
33 individual particles at 100 nm – 10 μ m, with a particular focus on sulfate and
34 carbonaceous particles. We found that non-sea salt sulfate particles with size range at
35 100-2000 nm were commonly coated with organic matter (OM) in summer. 20% of
36 sulfate particles also had soot inclusions which only appeared in the OM coating. The
37 OM coating is estimated to contribute to 63% of the particle volume on average. **To**
38 **understand how OM coating influences optical properties of sulfate particles, the Mie**
39 **theory of the core-shell model was applied to calculate optical properties of individual**
40 **sulfate particles. The result shows** that absorption cross section (ACS) of individual
41 OM-coated particles significantly increased **when assuming the OM coating as**
42 **light-absorbing brown carbon (BrC) and the ACS also increased following the**
43 **increasing particle size.** The microscopic observations suggest that OM modulates the
44 mixing structure of fine Arctic sulfate particles, which may determine their
45 hygroscopicity and optical properties.

46

47 **1. Introduction**

48 Surface temperatures are rising faster in the Arctic than the rest of globe (IPCC,
49 2013). Although increased human-induced emissions of long-lived greenhouse gases
50 are certainly one of the driving factors, air pollutants, such as aerosols and ozone, are
51 also important contributors to climate change in the Arctic (Law and Stohl, 2007;
52 Shindell, 2007). It is well known that aerosols from northern mid-altitude continents
53 affect the sea ice albedo by altering the heat balance of the atmosphere and surface
54 (Hansen and Nazarenko, 2004; Jacob et al., 2010; Shindell, 2007). These aerosols in
55 Arctic atmosphere include sea salt, sulfate, particulate organic matter (OM), and to a
56 lesser extent, ammonium, nitrate, black carbon (BC) (Hara et al., 2003; Quinn et al.,
57 2007) and mineral dust particles (Dagsson-Waldhauserova et al., 2013). Studies show
58 BC in the Arctic absorbs solar radiation in the atmosphere and when deposited on
59 snow (Iziomon et al., 2006; Koch and Hansen, 2005; Sand et al., 2013; Shindell,
60 2007). Moreover, Maahn et al. (2017) used aircraft in situ observation of clouds and
61 aerosols and found that concentration of BC are enhanced below the clouds in the
62 Arctic and further influence the mean effective radii of cloud droplets which lead to
63 the suppressed drizzle production and precipitation.

64 BC, commonly called “soot” is derived from the combustion sources such as
65 diesel engines, residential solid fuel, and open burning (Bond et al., 2013). Some
66 studies investigated the possible sources of these BC particles, including natural gas
67 flaring (Qi et al., 2017) and ship emissions in the Arctic (Browse et al., 2013;
68 Weinbruch et al., 2012) and emissions of biomass burning and fossil fuels in the
69 northern hemisphere (Winiger et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2017). For example, Winiger et
70 al.(2017) showed that most Arctic BC is sourced from domestic activities (35%) and
71 transportation (38%), with only minor contributions from gas flaring (6%), power
72 plants (9%), and open fires (12%).

73 Accumulation of secondary organic aerosols, a significant fraction of the new
74 particles grows to sizes that are active in cloud droplet formation in the Arctic (Abbatt
75 et al., 2019). More than 100 organic species have been detected in the Arctic aerosols
76 and polyacids are the most abundant compound class, followed by phthalates,

77 aromatic acids, fatty acids, fatty alcohols, sugars/sugar alcohols, and n-alkanes (Fu et
78 al., 2008). Recently, certain organic aerosols, referred to as brown carbon (BrC), have
79 been recognized as an important light-absorbing carbonaceous aerosol after BC in the
80 troposphere (Alexander et al., 2008; Andreae and Gelencser, 2006; Feng et al., 2013;
81 Lack et al., 2012). BrC can be directly emitted from combustion sources or formed in
82 the atmosphere via photo-chemical aging (Jiang et al., 2019; Saleh et al., 2013;
83 Updyke et al., 2012). **Moreover**, aging of secondary organic aerosols can significantly
84 contribute to BrC during atmospheric transports (Laskin et al., 2015). Feng et al.(2013)
85 estimated that on average, BrC **accounts** for 66% of total OM mass globally and its
86 light absorption is about 26% of BC.

87 BC and BrC are often internally mixed with other non-absorbing aerosols, such as
88 sulfate (Lack et al., 2012; Laskin et al., 2015). **Internal mixing means that a single**
89 **particle simultaneously contains two or more types of aerosol components (Li et al.,**
90 **2016).** This internal mixing can enhance BC absorption by a factor of up to two (Bond
91 et al., 2013) and change the activity of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) in the Arctic
92 atmosphere (Leck and Svensson, 2015; Martin et al., 2011). Spatial and temporal
93 variations of aerosol composition, size distribution, and sources of Arctic aerosols
94 **have been** studied extensively in numerous ground-based, ship, airborne observations,
95 **and various atmospheric models** (Brock et al., 2011; Burkart et al., 2017; Chang et al.,
96 2011; Dall'Osto et al., 2017; Fu et al., 2008; Hara et al., 2003; Hegg et al., 2010;
97 Iziomon et al., 2006; Karl et al., 2013; Latham et al., 2013; Leck and Bigg, 2008;
98 Leck and Svensson, 2015; Moore et al., 2011; Raatikainen et al., 2015;
99 Wohrnschimmel et al., 2013; Winiger et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2018; Zangrando et al.,
100 2013). A few previous studies also looked at the mixing states of coarse aerosol
101 particles in Arctic troposphere (Behrenfeldt et al., 2008; Chi et al., 2015; Geng et al.,
102 2010; Hara et al., 2003; Leck and Svensson, 2015; Moroni et al., 2017; Raatikainen et
103 al., 2015; Sierau et al., 2014), but those of fine non-sea salt particles, including the
104 most important short-lived climate forcers – BC and BrC (Feng et al., 2013; Fu et al.,
105 2008; Kirpes et al., 2018; Laskin et al., 2015; Leck and Svensson, 2015), are poorly
106 characterized. **The poor understanding on mixing state of BC and BrC in individual**

107 particles will prevent the further simulation of atmospheric climate and aerosol-cloud
108 interaction in the Arctic through the current atmospheric models (Browse et al., 2013;
109 Samset et al., 2014; Zanatta et al., 2018).

110 In this study, individual aerosol particles were collected in the Arctic during 7-23
111 August, 2012. We combined the data from various microscopic instruments to
112 systematically determine the size, composition, and mixing properties of individual
113 particles, with a particular focus on sulfate and carbonaceous particles. Mie theory
114 was used to test how OM coating influences optical properties of sulfate particles in
115 the Arctic when OM was assumed as BrC. The results are discussed in the context of
116 aerosol-radiation and cloud interaction.

117

118 **2. Experimental section**

119 **2.1 Field campaign**

120 The Svalbard archipelago includes all landmasses between 74 and 81 degrees
121 North and 10 and 35 degrees East (Figure 1). The islands cover 63000 km².
122 Ny-Ålesund town is situated on the west coast of the largest island, Spitsbergen.
123 Ny-Ålesund town is situated only 1200 km from the North Pole and represents a
124 central platform for Arctic research. The sampling place represents remote Arctic
125 conditions.

126 An individual particle sampler at Chinese Arctic Yellow River Station (78°55'N,
127 11°56'E) collected individual particles (Chi et al., 2015; Geng et al., 2010). The
128 sampling site is about 2 km far away from the Zeppelin observatory station (78.9N
129 11.88E) running by the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee
130 (<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/iasoa/stations/nyalesund>). Two to three samples were
131 regularly collected at 9:00, 16:00, 21:00 (local time) of each day, with a total of 46
132 samples during 7-23 August, 2012.

133 A sampler containing a single-stage impactor with a 0.5-mm-diameter jet nozzle
134 (Genstar Electronic Technology, China) was used to collect individual particles by the
135 air flow rate at 1.5 l min⁻¹. Aerosol particles were collected onto copper TEM grids
136 coated with carbon film. This sampler has a collection efficiency of 31% at 100 nm

137 aerodynamic diameter and 50% at 200 nm if the density of the particles is 2 g cm^{-3} .
138 The sampler can collect particles with $< 10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ aerodynamic diameter on TEM grids.
139 Sampling times varied from twenty minutes to two hours in clean remote Arctic area.
140 After collection, each sample was placed in a sealed dry plastic tube and stored in a
141 desiccator at $20 \pm 3\%$ RH for analysis. Ambient laboratory conditions (17–23% RH
142 and 19–21 °C) is effective at preserving individual hygroscopic aerosol particles and
143 reducing changes that would alter samples and subsequent data interpretation
144 (Laskina et al., 2015). The sample information such as local sampling date and time
145 and meteorological conditions (e.g., temperature (T), relative humidity (RH), pressure
146 (P), wind direction (WD), wind speed (WS)) are listed in Table S1.

147

148 2.2 TEM measurement

149 Individual particle samples were examined by a JEOL JEM-2100 transmission
150 electron microscopy operated at 200 kV with an energy-dispersive X-ray
151 spectrometry (TEM/EDS). TEM can observe the mixing structure of different aerosol
152 components within an individual particle on the substrate because electron beam
153 transmit through the specimen to form an image. EDS spectra were acquired for a
154 maximum time of 30 s to minimize potential beam damage and collect particle X-ray
155 spectra with sufficient intensity. TEM grids are made of copper (Cu) and covered by a
156 carbon-reinforced substrate, so Cu is excluded from the quantitative analyses of the
157 particles. Because of the substrate contribution, C content in TEM grid coated by
158 carbon film might be overestimated in EDS spectra of individual particles.

159 The distribution of aerosol particles on TEM grids was not uniform, with coarser
160 particles occurring near the center and finer particles on the periphery. Therefore, to
161 ensure that the analyzed particles are representative, five areas were chosen from the
162 center and periphery of the sampling spot on each grid. Through a labor-intensive
163 operation, 2002 aerosol particles with diameter $< 10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ in 21 samples were analyzed
164 by TEM/EDS (Table S1). To check elemental composition of individual particles,
165 EDX was manually used to obtain EDS spectra of individual particles. In the clean
166 Arctic air, there are simply particle types including sea salt, sulfate, soot, and OM.

167 Because soot particles have chain-like aggregation, it is not necessary to check their
168 elemental composition. Sea salt particles display spherical or square shapes and are
169 stable under the electron beam in TEM but sulfate particles are spherical but flats on
170 the substrate and produce unstable bubble under the electron beam (Buseck and Posfai,
171 1999; Chi et al., 2015). TEM observations also can clearly identify sulfate particles or
172 sulfate with OM coating. Therefore, we can easily identify Arctic particle types based
173 on their morphology. Because of the time-consuming in the experiment, it is not
174 necessary to frequently check elemental composition of the same particle type. For
175 the data statistic in this study, we randomly checked elemental composition of 20-30
176 particles in each sample (Table S1). EDS spectra of 575 particles were manually
177 selected and saved in the computer for elemental composition analysis. Particles
178 examined by TEM were dry at the time of observation in the vacuum of the electron
179 microscope. In our study, the effects of water and other semi-volatile organics were
180 not considered as they evaporate in the vacuum.

181 Elemental mapping and line profile of individual aerosol particles were obtained
182 from the EDX scanning operation mode of TEM (STEM). The STEM information can
183 clearly display elemental distribution in the targeted individual particles which cannot
184 be provided by the above EDS examination. Based on preliminary individual analysis,
185 we further chose the typical samples containing abundant sulfate with OM coating for
186 the STEM analysis. The high-resolution details of elemental distribution in individual
187 particles can further prove the details of the mixing structure of sulfate and OM in
188 individual particles.

189 The iTEM software (Olympus soft imaging solutions GmbH, Germany) is an
190 image analysis platform for electron microscopy. In this study, it was used to
191 manually or automatically obtain area, perimeter, and equivalent circle diameter
192 (ECD) of individual particles through identifying boundary of every particle in TEM
193 images. In these analyzed samples, we found there were abundant fine sulfate
194 particles in 11 samples collected during 9-15 August, 2012. In other samples, there
195 were only a few sulfate particles and more sea salt particles. Based on the TEM
196 observations, we selected the samples containing more sulfate particles to further do

197 other microscopic analyses as below.

198

199 **2.3 NanoSIMS measurement**

200 Because the sulfate particles collected in the Arctic had good consistent property
201 (e.g., elemental composition and mixing state) from TEM observations, we just
202 selected three samples containing abundant fine sulfate particles (Table S1) for further
203 studies. These three samples listed in Table S1 were analyzed using a nanoscale
204 secondary ion mass spectrometry (NanoSIMS) 50L (CAMECA Instruments,
205 Geneviers, France) instrument. A micro-cesium source was used to generate Cs^+
206 primary ions, with an impact energy of 16 kV for sample interrogation. The primary
207 beam was stepped across the sample to produce element specific, quantitative digital
208 images. The Cs^+ primary ion beam was used to obtain $^{16}\text{O}^-$, $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$, $^{14}\text{N}^{16}\text{O}^-$, $^{32}\text{S}^-$,
209 $^{35}\text{Cl}^-$, and $^{16}\text{O}^{23}\text{Na}^-$ ions in this study. The NanoSIMS analysis can obtain ion mapping
210 of particles with nanometer spatial resolution over a broad range of particle sizes
211 (Figure S1). Because the substrate of TEM grid is carbon, CN^- is adopted to represent
212 OM in individual particles (Chi et al., 2015; Ghosal et al., 2014). S^- is used to infer the
213 presence of sulfates in individual particles (Li et al., 2017). Finally, the NanoSIMS
214 obtained ion mapping of 32 sulfate particles.

215

216 **2.4 SEM and AFM measurement**

217 Because TEM could not vertically observe OM coating and sulfate core, we
218 conducted one special experiment using a Zeiss ultra 55 scanning electron microscopy
219 (SEM) with EDS. The TEM grids were mounted onto an aluminum SEM stub and
220 directly observed in secondary electron image mode. SEM analysis was operated at
221 10 kv of extra high tension (EHT) and 9.7 mm of work distance (WD). Processes such
222 as sample moving, analysis region selection and imaging were controlled by computer.
223 The specimen stage in SEM was tilted at the range of 0-75°, and then we vertically
224 observed thickness of OM coating and sulfate core on the substrate. To verify vertical
225 property of individual S-rich particles impacting on the substrate, we observed two
226 typical samples containing abundant sulfate particles using the SEM (Table S1).

227 AFM with a digital nanoscope IIIa instrument operating in the tapping mode was
 228 used to observe surface morphology of individual aerosol particles and measure
 229 particle thickness. The tapping AFM has a cantilever and conical tip of 10 nm radius.
 230 By using AFM, a general image of the particles is taken at 10 μm full scan size, which
 231 generally includes 1-2 particles depending on the exact location. In this study, we are
 232 only interested in the sulfate-containing particles. AFM provides surface information
 233 and morphology of 17 particles but no composition. Samples were firstly quickly
 234 examined by the TEM under low magnification mode. In case, the operation roughly
 235 identified S-containing particles and didn't damage the secondary sulfate particles
 236 under the electron. Because TEM grids have coordinates letters, we can exactly find
 237 the same particles on the substrate in AFM examined in TEM experiments. The
 238 procedures can exclude sea salt particles in the AFM image. As a result, the same
 239 samples observed by TEM were then examined in AFM to obtain 3-D image of
 240 secondary sulfate particles and their volume. Because individual particles collected in
 241 Arctic air were scattered on the substrate, we only obtained 17 effective data. After we
 242 obtained AFM images of sulfate particles, the NanoScope analysis software can
 243 automatically obtain bearing area (A) and bearing volume (V) of each analyzed
 244 particle according to the following formula.

$$245 \quad A = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^2 = \frac{\pi d^2}{3} \rightarrow d = \sqrt{\frac{3A}{\pi}} \quad (1)$$

$$246 \quad V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 = \frac{4}{3} \times \frac{\pi D^3}{8} \rightarrow D = \sqrt[3]{\frac{6V}{\pi}} \quad (2)$$

247 Where x is the equivalent circle diameter (ECD) and y is the equivalent spherical
 248 diameter (ESD).

249 ECD of individual aerosol particles measured from the iTEM software can be
 250 further converted into ESD. Based on these data, we estimate one good linear
 251 correlation ($y=0.38x$) between ESD and ECD of sulfate particles impacting on the
 252 substrate. The value was further used to correct all the analyzed particles in TEM
 253 images (Chi et al., 2015).

254

255 **2.5 Calculation of BrC optical properties**

256 The refractive index used for the non-light-absorbing sulfate component was set to
257 $m=1.55$ at 550 nm (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). The refractive index of OM (as BrC)
258 is not known so we considered three scenarios: strongly absorbing ($1.65-0.03i$ at 550
259 nm), moderately absorbing ($1.65-0.003i$ at 550 nm), and non-absorbing OM (1.65 at
260 550 nm) (Feng et al., 2013). **Although the refractive index has dependence on the**
261 **wavelength between 350-870 nm, we tried to select the 550 nm as a case to test how**
262 **OM coating influence sulfate particles in Arctic air.**

263 BHCOAT Mie code by Bohren and Huffman (1983) was used to calculate the
264 optical properties, including scattering cross section (SCS), absorption cross section
265 (ACS), and single scattering albedo (SSA), assuming a core-shell structure. We firstly
266 calculated these parameters assuming a sulfate core and OM shell structure only
267 (ignoring some of the particles that contain soot core). **Because the Mie code only can**
268 **calculate the core-shell structure or homogeneous models, we assume sulfate as a core**
269 **and OM as a shell in individual particle to build the core-shell model. Based on the**
270 **core-shell standard mode (Li et al., 2016), we can calculate optical properties of**
271 **individual internally mixed particles.**

272 **2.6 Back trajectories of air masses and Lagrangian particle dispersion model**

273 Three-day (72 h) back trajectories of air masses were generated using a Hybrid
274 Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model at the Chinese
275 Arctic Yellow River Station during August 2012, at an altitude of 500m above sea
276 level (Figure 1). Most air masses originate in the Arctic Ocean, and are restricted to
277 this vast marine region during the sampling periods. Based on the TEM observations,
278 air masses from North America and Greenland brought abundant sulfate particles into
279 the sampling area in summertime.

280 In order to determine the particle origins, the lagrangian particle dispersion model
281 FLEXPART-WRF 3.1 (Brioude et al., 2013) was used. The FLEXPART-WRF model
282 is using meteorological parameters from WRF dynamical simulation. The domain
283 resolution is 50×50 km with 64 vertical levels. The FLEXPART-WRF simulations
284 were launched in a backward mode over 10 days, with the Chinese Arctic Yellow

285 River Station as an origin. For each simulation (one per sample), 20000
286 pseudo-particles were released in a small volume around the station position. Each
287 single particle position evolution backward in time was determined by Lagrangian
288 dispersion calculation. Based on the TEM experiments **and back trajectory of air**
289 **masses (Figure 1)**, we found that there were more S-rich with OM coating particles in
290 the samples collected on August 11, 12, 14 and 15, 2012. Therefore, we **further** did the
291 FLEXPART-WRF simulation of these four days **(Figure 2)**. The emission intensity in
292 the Arctic area has been also shown in Figure **S2**.

293 **3. Results**

294 **3.1 Composition and sources of aerosol particles**

295 We summarized average elemental weight and frequency of individual **Arctic**
296 particles derived from the TEM/EDX. The result shows that O, Na, S, and Cl in
297 individual particles are dominant elements (Figure S3). On basis of the composition
298 and morphology of individual particles, we classified the particles into four major
299 groups: Na-rich (i.e. NaCl, Na₂SO₄, and NaNO₃), S-rich (i.e. ammonium sulfate and
300 sulfuric acid), and carbonaceous (soot and OM). The classification criteria of different
301 particle types and their sources have been described in a separate study (Li et al.,
302 2016). S-rich particles representing secondary inorganic particles (e.g., SO₄²⁻, NO₃⁻,
303 and NH₄⁺) are transformed from gaseous SO₂, NO_x, and NH₃. OM can be divided into
304 primary organic matter (POM) and secondary organic matter (SOM). SOM is
305 produced from the chemical oxidation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and
306 **often** exhibits OM coating on S-rich particles. Na-rich particles in the marine air are
307 from sea spray and have typical near cubic shape. Soot particles, which contain C
308 with minor O, appear as a chain-like aggregate of carbon-bearing spheres. Our
309 previous study well characterized aging mechanism of sea salt particles in summer
310 Arctic air (Chi et al., 2015). **Here** we focused on S-rich, soot, and OM particles as the
311 major non-sea salt particle (NSS-particle, **39 ±5%**) in the analyzed samples, which are
312 approximately **29 ±7% of 2002** particles (Figure 3).

313

314 **3.2 OM coating on sulfate particles**

315 TEM observations revealed a common core-shell mixing structure in fine sulfate
316 particles (Figure 4a). Elemental mapping of such internally mixed sulfate particles
317 shows C signals in the coating (C map, Figure 4b) and S and O signals in the center (S
318 and O map, Figure 4c, d). The elemental line profile of a sulfate particle also shows
319 sulfate core and C coating (Figure S4). Furthermore, ion maps of individual particles
320 from the NanoSIMS further exhibit $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ signals in the coating (red color in Figure
321 4e, f) and $^{32}\text{S}^-$ signals in the core (green color in Figure 4e, g). These results provide
322 strong evidence that the coating is OM and the core is sulfate.

323 A majority of 781 analyzed NSS-particles (74% by particle number) have a sulfate
324 core and OM coating (Figures 4 and 5). ~20% of them also contain small soot
325 inclusions but they only appeared in organic coating, rather than as the core mixed in
326 sulfate (Figure 5b). The mixing structure is different from our previous findings in
327 polluted air that soot is normally mixed with sulfate instead of OM coating (Li et al.,
328 2016). Moreover, we noticed that a few chain-like soot aggregates (1.3% in all
329 analyzed particles) (Figure S5) only occurred in three samples during the sampling
330 period (Table S1). Considering the remoteness of the sampling site, such fresh soot
331 particles are likely to be of local origin, including shipping and flaring (Gilgen et al.,
332 2018; Peters et al., 2011). Indeed, we found a few of ships moving in Arctic Ocean
333 during these days from the Ny-Ålesund town.

334 TEM observations showed that some sulfate particles had unique morphology that
335 a sulfate particle was surrounded by some smaller particles (Figure 5a). They are
336 often called “satellite” particles as they were distributed from the central particles
337 when impacted on the substrate during sample collection. 16% of the analyzed sulfate
338 particles with satellite particles as shown in Figure 5a were detected in the samples
339 (Table S1) collected during 9-15 August. NanoSIMS analysis further provided more
340 information that the satellite particles selected from the samples (Table S1) have
341 strong $^{32}\text{S}^-$ (Figure 6a, c) and $^{16}\text{O}^-$ signals (Figure 6d) as well as weak $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ signals
342 (Figure 6a, b). The CN^- signal normally can represent organic aerosols (Chi et al.,
343 2015; Ghosal et al., 2014). Previous studies showed that the similar satellite particles
344 are normally considered as acidic sulfate (Buseck and Posfai, 1999; Iwasaka et al.,

1983). Therefore, we can conclude that these acidic satellites not only contain sulfuric acid but also some OM or organic acids. Indeed, Fu et al. (2008) found that polyacids are the most abundant organic compounds, followed by phthalates, aromatic acids, and fatty acids in Arctic aerosol particles. As a result, these Arctic sulfate particles with satellites contain certain amounts of sulfuric or organic acids with liquid phase. Back trajectories of air masses and FLEXPART both shows abundant sulfate particles and some containing satellite particles were transported from Greenland and North American (Figures 1 and 2).

AFM was used to obtain 3D image of individual secondary particles impacting on the substrate. Figure 7a shows that the secondary particles normally have smooth surface which is different from uneven surface of the Arctic fresh and aged NaCl particles (Chi et al., 2015). Furthermore, we observed particle thickness through tilting the specimen stage up to 75° in SEM. Figure 7a-b both shows that the secondary particles look like thin pancake sticking on the substrate. Furthermore, the sections of two secondary particles in the AFM images shows that the highest heights of particles are only 0.15 (green line) and 0.26 (red line) of the corresponding horizontal size (Figure 7a). Here we can conclude that shape of individual particles was modified when they impacted on the substrate following the airflow. Therefore, the measured ECDs of individual particles in TEM images are much larger than the real particle diameter. To calibrate the particle diameter, we obtained volume of dry particles on the substrate and then calculated their equivalent sphere diameter (ESD) in the AFM images (Figure 7c). ESD distribution of the secondary Arctic particles displayed a peak at 340 nm, ranging from 100 nm to 2000 nm (Figure 7d). The core particles, as sulfate or soot, had a peak at 240 nm and 120 nm, respectively (Figure 7d). In the core-shell particles, we knew size in all the analyzed particles and further calculated volume of sulfate, OM, and/or soot within individual particles. We can estimate that OM on average accounted for 63 ± 23% of the dry sulfate particle volume. Our result shows that the OM volume increases following the particle size increase (Figure S6).

374

375 4. Discussion

376 4.1 Mixing mechanism of organic, soot, and sulfate

377 Lagrangian particle dispersion modeling using the FLEXPART-WRF 3.1 showed
378 that air masses arriving at the sampling site during our field measurement periods
379 were likely originated from the Greenland and North America (Figure 2). Previous
380 studies reported that air masses from North America or Greenland during the summer
381 contain higher concentration of black carbon, OM, and sulfate (Burkart et al., 2017;
382 Chang et al., 2011; Fu et al., 2008; Moore et al., 2011; Park et al., 2013). Indeed, there
383 is strong emission intensity of OC and SO₂ around the Arctic area from emission
384 simulation as shown in Figure S2. However, Weinbruch et al. (2012) observed soot
385 particles when cruise ships were present in the area around Ny-Ålesund town. It is
386 possible that **minor** soot particles are sourced from the ship emissions **and most of**
387 **them are** transported from out of Arctic area in the free troposphere (Figure S2).

388 The sulfate core-OM shell structure observed in the Arctic summer atmosphere is
389 similar to those in the background or rural air in other places (Li et al., 2016; Moffet
390 et al., 2013). Based on the images from electron microscopies, we can infer that OM
391 coating thickness in the **Arctic air** was comparable with them in rural places **but**
392 **higher than them in urban places**. During the transports, organic coatings on sulfates
393 were considered as the secondary organic aerosols and their masses increase
394 following particle aging and growth (Li et al., 2016; Moffet et al., 2013; Sierau et al.,
395 2014). **Figures 1 and 2 show that most of particles in the air masses transported long**
396 **distance from North American. The result indicates that these long-range**
397 **transportation of secondary sulfate particles have enough time to experience the**
398 **possible atmospheric heterogeneous reactions on particle surfaces or cloud processes**
399 **in the Arctic air. Similarly**, Moffet et al. (2013) found that soot inclusions occurred in
400 OM coating when OM coating on sulfates built up through photochemical activity and
401 pollution buildup the Sacramento urban plume aged. On the other hand, the
402 sulfate/OM particles with soot inclusions are probably formed in a similar way as
403 those found elsewhere (Li et al., 2016) – e.g., soot particles may have acted as nuclei
404 for secondary sulfate or organic uptake during their transports (Riemer et al., 2009).

405 Similarly, besides the OM coating in the Arctic particles, Leck and Svensson (2015)
406 found some biogenic aerosols like gel-aggregate containing bacterium in ultrafine
407 particles. However, we didn't find any gel-like particles in the samples because our
408 sampler had very low efficiency for ultrafine particles.

409 TEM images show that most of the internally mixed sulfate particles display
410 sulfate core and OM coating on the substrate (Figures 4a and 5b, c). The sulfate and
411 OM separation in individual particles were defined by You et al. (2012) as
412 liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS). Concerning the knowledges of the LLPS can
413 better understand particle hygroscopicity, heterogeneous reactions of reactive gases on
414 particle surface, and organic aging (You et al., 2012). They also reported that the
415 LLPS can reflect the O:C ratio in the OM, which is roughly ≤ 0.5 . In this study, we
416 did observe the LLPS in almost all the fine sulfate particles, which indicates that the
417 secondary OM in the coating might be not highly aged. Therefore, we speculate that
418 the thick OM coatings were consistently built up during the long-range transport of
419 sulfate particles and part of secondary OM in the coating likely formed in Arctic area.
420 Indeed, some studies reported that there are various sources of organic precursors
421 during the Arctic area, such as biogenic VOCs from ice melting and open water
422 (Dall'Osto et al., 2017) and anthropogenic VOCs from shipping emissions in
423 summertime (Gilgen et al., 2018). The dependence of OM volume on particle size
424 (Figure S6) suggests that the suspended sulfate particles are initially important surface
425 for secondary OM formation. Moreover, the common OM coating on sulfate particles
426 indicates that secondary OM as the surfaces of fine particles might govern the
427 possible heterogeneous reactions between reactive gases and sulfate particles in the
428 Arctic air.

429 It should be noted that most of secondary OM not only occurred on the surfaces
430 of sulfate particles but also its mass (mean mass at $63 \pm 23\%$) dominated in individual
431 particles (Figure 7d). The OM dominating in individual particles can influence the IN
432 and CCN activities of secondary sulfate particles (Latham et al., 2013; Martin et al.,
433 2011). For example, some studies found that an increase in organic mass fraction in
434 particles of a certain size would lead to a suppression of the Arctic CCN activity

435 (Leck and Svensson, 2015; Martin et al., 2011). Moreover, OM as particle surfaces
436 can significantly influence **hygroscopicity and IN activity** of sulfate particles (Wang et
437 al., 2012).

438

439 **4.2 Potential impact of OM on optical properties of sulfate-containing particles**

440 The internal mixing of soot, sulfate, and OM can change optical properties of
441 individual particles in the atmosphere. Recent studies showed that BrC has been
442 detected in the OM in the polluted and clean air and even in upper troposphere
443 (Laskin et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2018). Feng et al. (2013) further calculated the
444 contribution up to 19% of the optical absorption of the strongly absorbing BrC in
445 global simulations which is after the absorption BC aerosols. Although we didn't
446 directly measure the optical absorption and BrC in the Arctic atmosphere, various
447 colored OM (e.g. nitrated/polycyclic aromatics and phenols), referred as BrC, were
448 detected in the Arctic atmosphere in different seasons (Fu et al., 2008;
449 Wöhrensimmel et al., 2013; Zangrando et al., 2013) and in surface ice or snowpack
450 (Browse et al., 2013; Doherty et al., 2013; Hegg et al., 2010). We also noticed that the
451 $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ signal generally occurred in all analyzed OM coating in sulfate particles
452 (Figure 4e-f). Herrmann et al. (2007) **considered that $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ from NanoSIMS**
453 **represents nitrogen-containing organic in the detected materials. In this study,**
454 **although we could not determine that all the organic materials in the OM coating were**
455 **nitrogen-containing OM, the NanoSIMS data as shown in Figure 4 indicated that the**
456 **OM coating more or less homogenously contained nitrogen-containing OM. As a**
457 **result, the nitrogen-containing OM indicates that the OM coating could contain**
458 **certain amounts of secondary BrC (Jiang et al., 2019; Laskin et al., 2015).**

459 To understand **how OM coating influence optical properties of sulfate particles,**
460 **we assume three scenarios of OM coating as BrC:** strongly absorbing (case 1),
461 moderately absorbing (case 2) or non-absorbing OM (case 3) with a refractive index
462 of 1.65-0.03i, 1.65-0.003i, and 1.65 at 550 nm according to *Feng et al.* (2013). Based
463 on the size measurements shown in Figure 7d, we can calculate volume of sulfate and
464 OM within each particle. We input volume of each component and the corresponding

465 refractive index into the Mie code and then calculated optical properties of individual
466 sulfate particles in the samples. Based on optical data statistic of 575 particles, Figure
467 8a show that the OM coating is strongly absorbing BrC (referred to case Abs1), as by
468 Feng et al.(2013), the average absorption cross section (ACS) of individual particles is
469 estimated to be $2.67 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m}^2$. This value is 8.30 times higher than the aerosol ACS
470 ($3.22 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}^2$) when assuming that the BrC is moderately absorbing (referred to case
471 Abs2, Figure 8a). However, the scattering cross section (SCS) of individual particles
472 only shows a small change (Figure 8b). Figure 8c also shows that the single scattering
473 albedos (SSAs) of individual particles are 0.92, 0.99, and 1 when assuming the BrC as
474 strongly, moderately and non-absorbing (cases SSA1 to SSA3). These results suggest
475 whether we consider organic coating as BrC may have a significant influence on the
476 absorption properties of individual sulfate particles.

477 In this study, we explored the relationship between ACS of individual particles and
478 particle diameters. Interestingly, Figure 8d shows that ACS of individual fine
479 OM-coating sulfate particles increased following the increasing particle size. The
480 result shows that the ACS can be enhanced following particle size growing and
481 particle aging. In other word, OM-coating sulfate particles transported more longer
482 distances and they might have stronger optical absorption in the Arctic air.

483 Current climate models estimated the radiative force of Arctic BC (Sand et al.,
484 2013; Shindell, 2007; Winiger et al., 2017; Zanatta et al., 2018), but none specifically
485 considered optical properties of Arctic BrC. Our study well revealed OM coating on
486 sulfate particles and this detail microphysical complexity of aerosol particles will be
487 useful to construct the atmospheric radiation and CCN/IN simulation in Arctic
488 atmospheric models in the future.

489

490 5 Summary

491 Different individual particle techniques, such as TEM/EDS, STEM, SEM,
492 NanoSIMS, and AFM, were applied to study S-rich, soot, and OM particles in the
493 Arctic air in summer. Sulfate particles accounted for approximately $29 \pm 7\%$ by
494 number of all analyzed particles in Arctic air. TEM and NanoSIMS commonly

495 observed OM coating and sulfate core individual sulfate particles, defined as the
496 LLSP. The common OM coating on sulfate particles indicates that secondary OM as
497 the surfaces of fine particles might govern the possible heterogeneous reactions
498 between reactive gases and sulfate particles in the Arctic air. Moreover, 20% of them
499 also contain small soot inclusions but they only appeared in organic coating, rather
500 than as the core mixed in sulfate. The mixing structure is totally different from the
501 previous findings that soot is internally mixed with sulfate instead of OM coating in
502 urban polluted air.

503 Size distribution of the secondary Arctic particles displayed a peak at 340 nm,
504 ranging from 100 nm to 2000 nm. The core particles, as sulfate or soot, had a peak at
505 240 nm and 120 nm, respectively. Furthermore, we can estimate that OM on average
506 accounted for $63 \pm 23\%$ of the dry NSS-particle volume. Based on microscopic
507 measurements of individual particles, we not only built up one core-shell model but
508 also quantify volume of OM and sulfate in individual particles. The Mie code was
509 used to calculate optical properties of internally mixed sulfate/OM particles when we
510 considered OM as non-absorbing, moderately absorbing BrC, and strongly absorbing
511 BrC. We found that the aerosol ACS is 8.30 times higher than the BrC as moderately
512 absorbing. We concluded that whether we consider organic coating as BrC may have a
513 significant influence on the absorption properties of individual particles in the Arctic
514 air. Moreover, individual fine OM-coating sulfate particles increased following the
515 increasing particle size. Therefore, we proposed that further studies should focus on
516 the BrC in Arctic aerosols: What mass concentrations of BrC are in fine particles?
517 What kinds of BrC are in fine particles? The optical mass absorption of BrC in fine
518 particles should be investigated? These results can be used to evaluate how BrC
519 aerosols influence the Arctic climate.

520

521 **Author Contributions:** WL and ZS designed the study. YZ and XS collected aerosol
522 particles. WL, HY, and JZ contributed laboratory experiments and data analysis. HY
523 and WL performed optical calculation and wrote part of first draft. PT and MD
524 provided the online measurement data of new particle formation and growth. JS and
525 XZ coordinated the field campaign. All authors commented and edited the paper.

526

527 **Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing financial interests

528

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Figure Captions

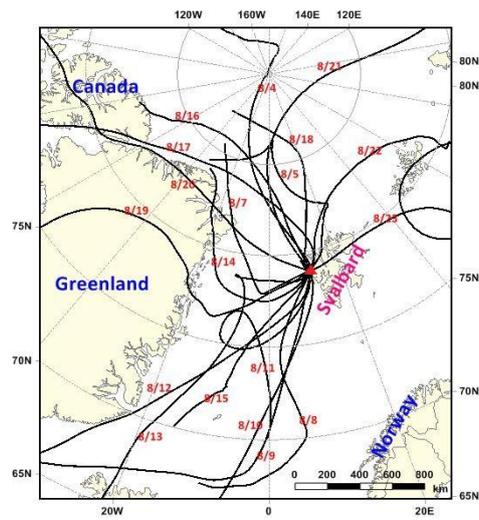


Figure 1 72 h back trajectories of air masses at 500m over Arctic Yellow River Station in Svalbard during 3–26 August 2012, and arriving time was set according to the sampling time

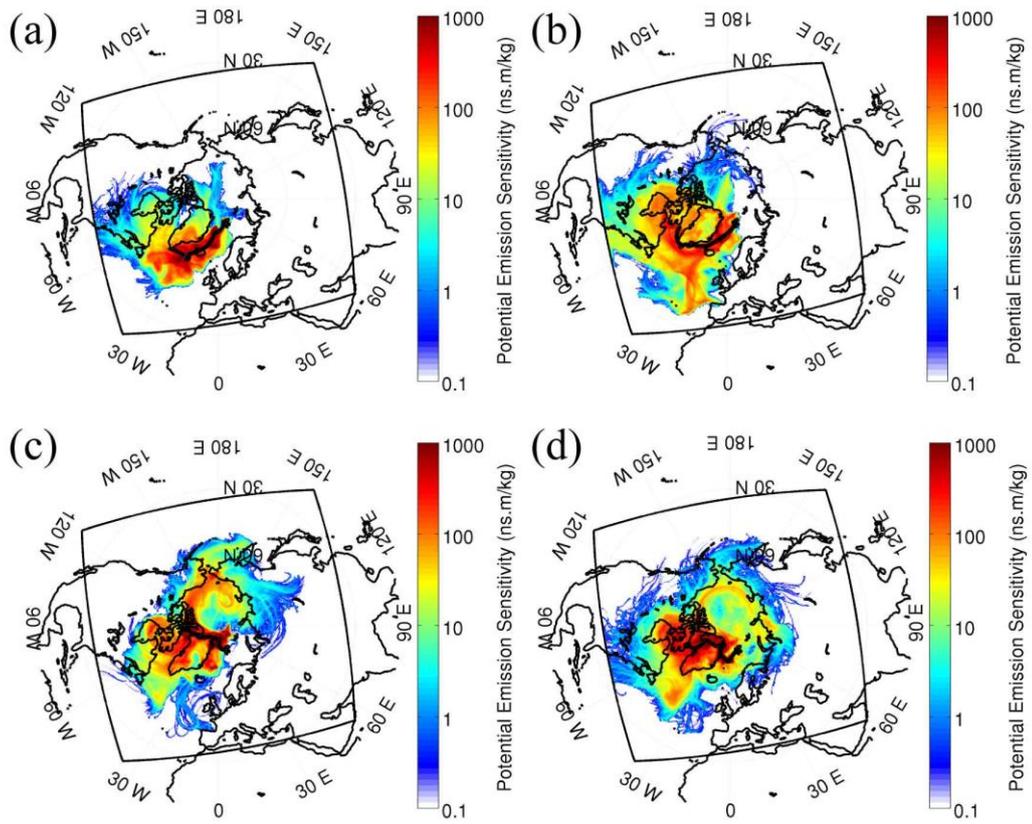


Figure 2 FLEXPART-WRF PES on August 11, 12, 14, and 15, 2012. Black square is showing the WRF domain used to initiate the FLEXPART-WRF simulation.

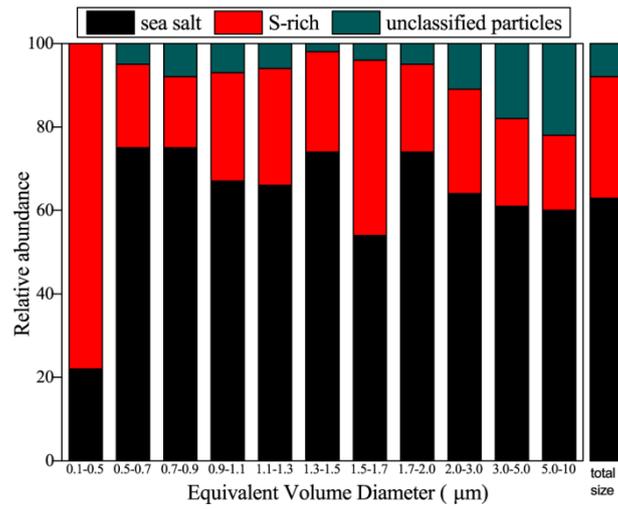


Figure 3 Morphology and relative abundances of typical individual aerosol particles in the 21 analyzed samples.

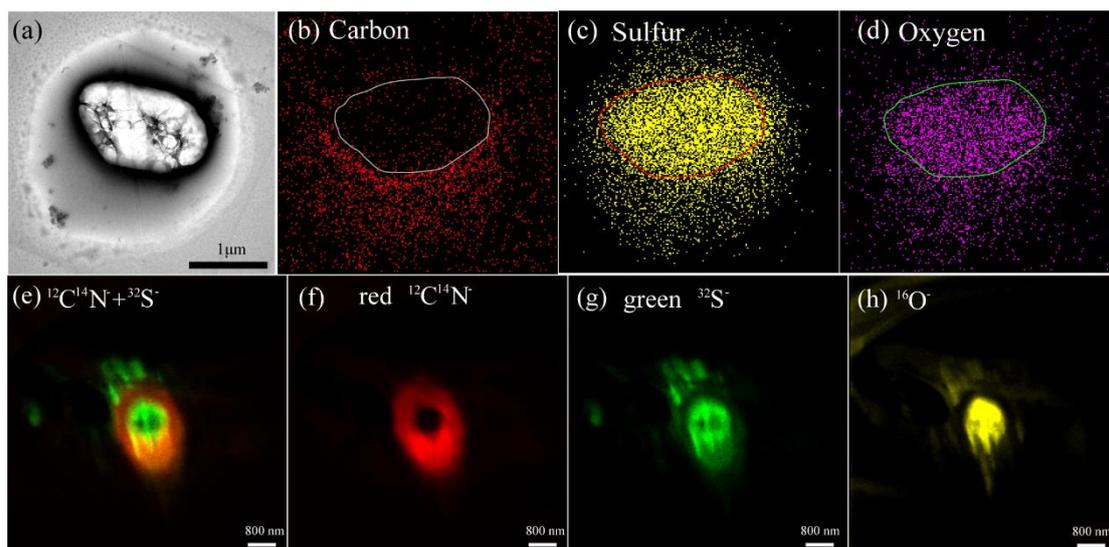


Figure 4 TEM Observations of a secondary particle and NanoSIMS intensity threshold maps of an aerosol particle with sulfate core and OM coating. (a) Bright-field TEM image of an internally mixed particle; (b) elemental carbon (c) sulfur and (d) oxygen maps of the internally mixed particle shown in 1(a); (e) Overlay of $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ and $^{32}\text{S}^-$ ion maps in an internally mixed particle; (f) CN^- map (g) S^- (h) O^- secondary ion maps. Ion maps with a set of aerosol particles were shown in Figure S1.

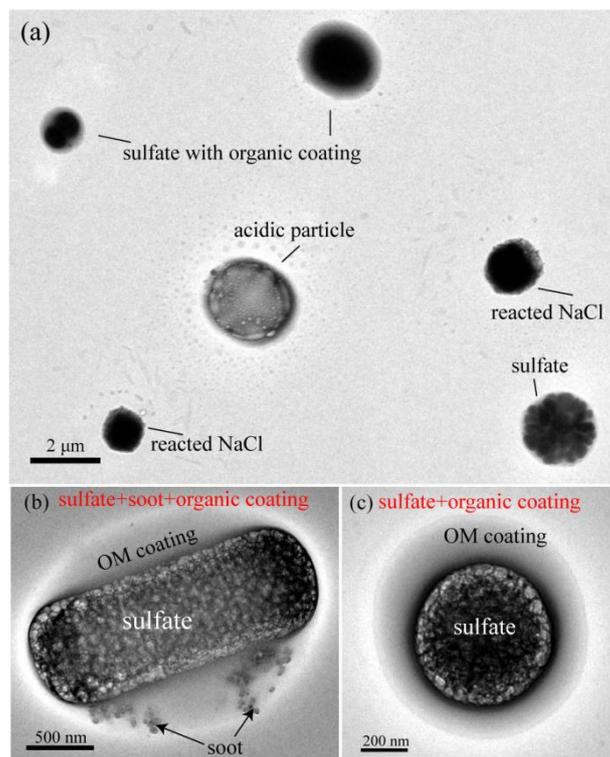


Figure 5 TEM images of individual particles containing sulfate, OM, and soot. (a) Low magnification TEM image showing sulfates, sulfate with OM coating, and reacted NaCl particles. (b) an internally mixed particle of sulfate and soot with OM coating (c) a particle with sulfate core and OM coating.

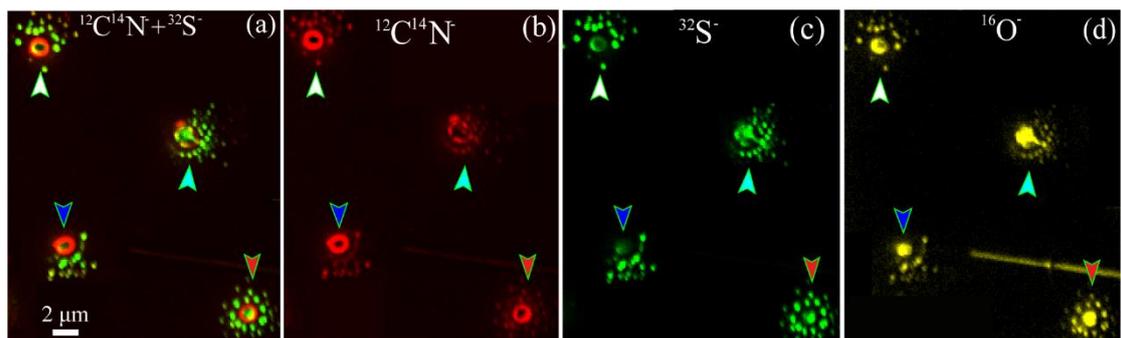


Figure 6 NanoSIMS intensity threshold maps of individual aerosol particles surrounded by satellite particles. (e) Overlay of $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}^-$ and $^{32}\text{S}^-$ ion maps of individual particles. (f) CN^- (g) S^- (h) O^- maps. Four particles were indicated by white, pink, blue, and red arrows.

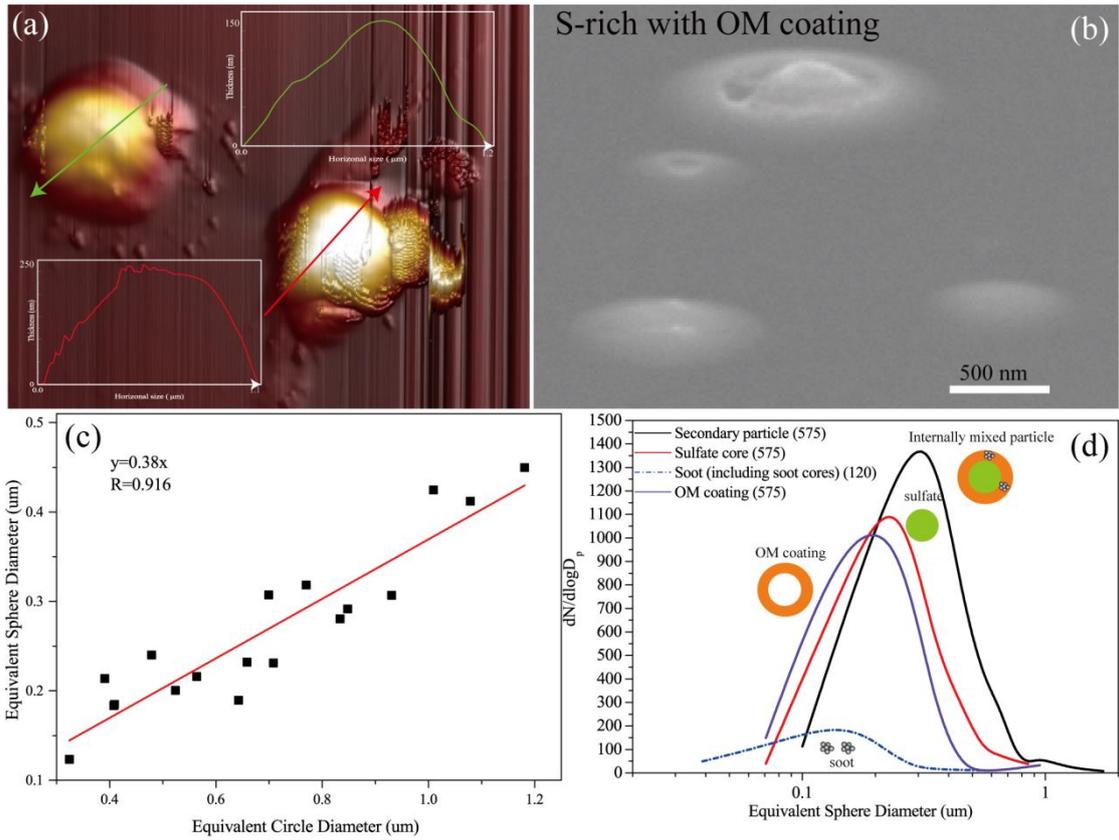


Figure 7 Secondary particles on the substrate. (a) 3-D AFM image of secondary sulfate particles. The colorful arrows represent particles surface properties of the particle section. (b) SEM image of S-rich with OM coating obtained from 75° tilt of the SEM specimen stage (c) The near linear relationships between ECD and ESD based on S-rich particles with thick OM coating by Atomic force microscopy. (d) Size distribution of individual particle with OM coating and sulfate cores based on the estimated ESD diameter from TEM image. Sizes of soot particles are equal to the equivalent circle diameter.

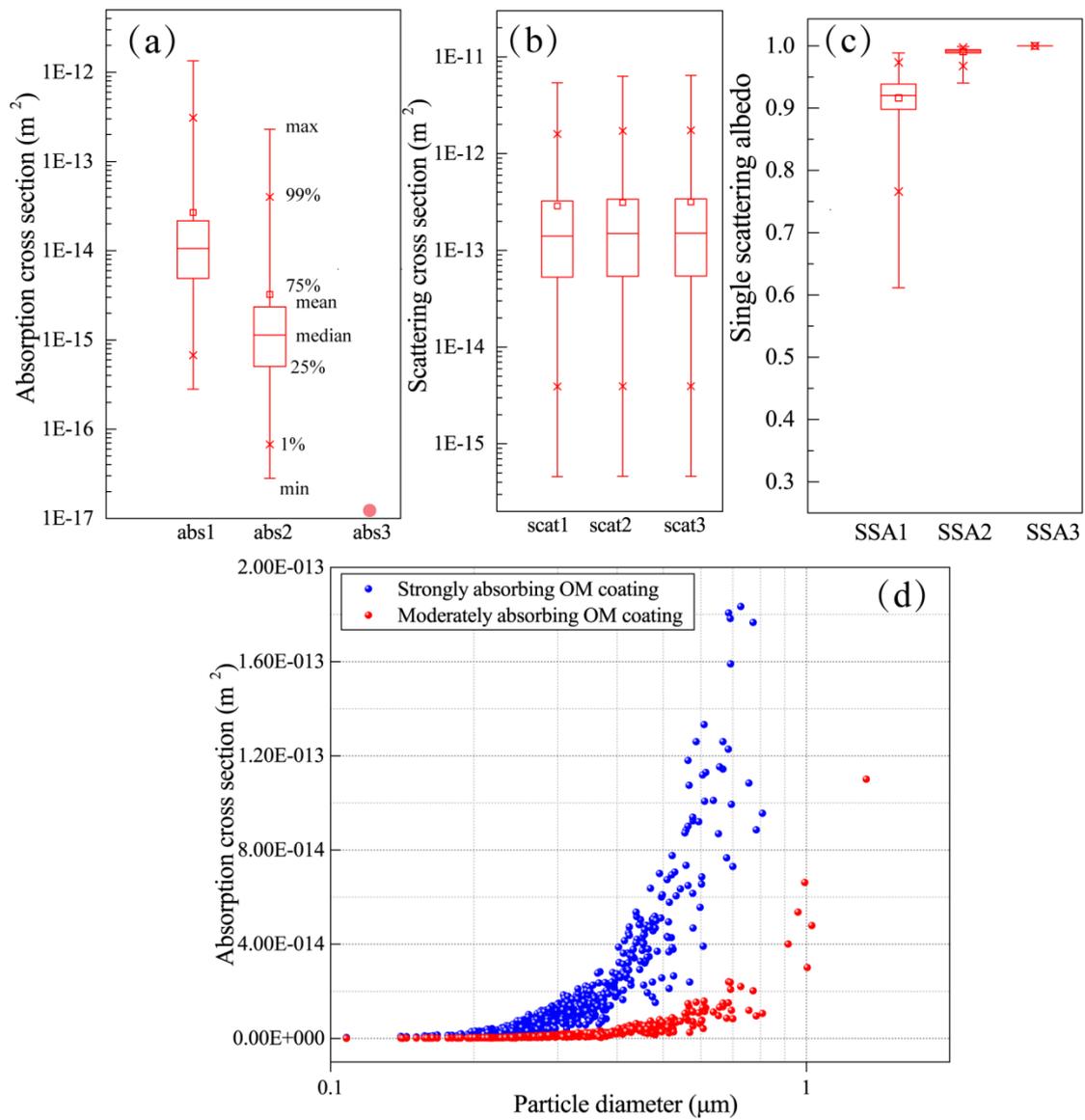


Figure 8 Optical properties of Box-and-whisker plots showing optical parameters of all analysed particles assuming sulfate core and BrC shell (not considering soot cores in the particles). (a) Scattering cross section (b) Absorption cross section (c) Single scattering albedo. Top to bottom markers in the box-and-whisker represent max, 99%, 75%, mean, median, 25%, 1%, min values. (d) Absorption cross section along with particle diameter assuming strongly absorbing BrC and Moderate absorbing BrC as the particle OM coating.