

**1 Supplemental Information of**

**2 Interferences on Aerosol Acidity Quantification due to Gas-phase Ammonia Uptake onto**

**3 Acidic Sulfate Filter Samples**

**4**

**5 Benjamin A. Nault et al.**

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8 **S1 GEOS-Chem Model**

9 We used a global chemical transport model (GEOS-Chem 11-02-rc, (Bey et al., 2001)) to  
10 estimate sulfate mass concentration distributions in the troposphere. The GEOS-Chem model  
11 was driven by assimilated meteorological fields from the Goddard Earth Observing System  
12 Forward Processing (GEOS-FP) for a year (May 2013 to June 2014, with the first two months  
13 discarded for spin-up). The simulation was conducted at  $2^\circ$  (latitude) $\times 2.5^\circ$  (longitude) with 47  
14 vertical layers up to 0.01 hPa and  $\sim 30$  layers under 250 hPa. We used the EDGAR v4.3 global  
15 anthropogenic emissions (Crippa et al., 2018). The global fire emissions database version 4  
16 (GFED4) was used for biomass burning emissions (Giglio et al., 2013). Gas-particle partitioning  
17 of inorganic aerosols was calculated with the ISORROPIA II thermodynamic model (Fountoukis  
18 and Nenes, 2007; Pye et al., 2009), but we excluded sea salt in the ISORROPIA calculation  
19 based on Nault et al. (2020).

20

21

22 **S2. Equations for the Ammonia Flux Model**

23

24 
$$v_{NH_3} = \sqrt{\frac{8 \times k_B \times T_{cabin} \times 1000 \times Av}{\pi \times MW_{NH_3}}} \quad \text{Eq. S1}$$

25

26 
$$AeroConc = \frac{\frac{4}{3} \times \pi \times (0.5 \times D_{particle} \times 10^{-7})^3 \times \rho_{particle} \times Av}{MW_{particle}} \quad \text{Eq. S2}$$

27

28 
$$NH_{3,Flux} = \pi \times (0.5 \times D_{particle} \times 10^{-9})^2 \times v_{NH_3} \times \alpha \times [NH_3] \times (J/J_c) \quad \text{Eq. S3}$$

29

$$Time = \frac{AeroConc}{NH_3Flux} \quad \text{Eq. S4}$$

31

32 Above, are the equations used in the theoretical ammonia uptake model (Sect. 2.4) (Seinfeld and  
 33 Pandis, 2006).  $v_{NH_3}$  (Eq. S1) is the velocity of ammonia gas (m/s). AeroConc (Eq. S2) is the  
 34 aerosol concentration, in molecules, for a given aerosol diameter.  $NH_{3,Flux}$  (Eq. S3) is the flux of  
 35 ammonia (molecule s<sup>-1</sup>). Finally, *Time* is the time needed for one ammonia molecule to interact  
 36 with one sulfuric acid (s).

The remaining variables are defined here. In Eq. S1,  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant ( $1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$ ),  $T_{cabin}$  is the temperature in the cabin of the DC-8 (298 K),  $Av$  is Avogadro's number ( $6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules mol}^{-1}$ ),  $MW_{NH_3}$  is the molecular weight of gas-phase ammonia (17 g mol<sup>-1</sup>), and the 1000 is a conversion factor from g to kg. For Eq. S2,  $D_{particle}$  is the diameter of the particle in nm (100 – 1000 nm),  $10^{-7}$  is a conversion factor from nm to cm,  $\rho_{particle}$  is the density of sulfuric acid (1.8 g cm<sup>-3</sup>), and  $MW_{particle}$  is the molecular weight of sulfuric acid (98 g mol<sup>-1</sup>). In Eq. S3,  $D_{particle}$  is the diameter of the particle (100 – 1000 nm),  $10^{-9}$  is a conversion factor from nm to m,  $v_{NH_3}$  is from Eq. S1 (m/s),  $\alpha$  is the accommodation coefficient for ammonia with sulfuric acid (1),  $[NH_3]$  is the concentration of ammonia in ppbv, and  $J/J_c$  is the Fuchs-Sutugin correction for a transition regime.

47 The above equations assume a spherical aerosol on the filter. It is possible that the liquid  
48 particle adopts a more elongated shape upon contact with the filter fiber. To estimate the impact  
49 of change of liquid aerosol into more cylindrical shape, we use the following equations:

$$volume_{cylinder} = volume_{sphere} \quad \text{Eq. S5}$$

51  $r_{cylinder} = \sqrt{volume_{sphere}/(\pi h_{cylinder})}$  Eq. S6

52 where  $r$  is the radius of the sphere,  $r_{cylinder}$  is the radius and  $h_{cylinder}$  is the height for the cylinder.

53 We assume volume of the sphere is conserved, and take a few values for  $h_{cylinder}$ :  $h_{cylinder}$  is 1 nm,  
 54  $h_{cylinder}$  is 25 nm, or  $h_{cylinder}$  is radius of the sphere.  $r_{cylinder}$  from Eq. S6 is then used in Eq. S3 to  
 55 calculate flux.

56

## 57 S3. DC-8 Cabin Air Exchange Rates

Air inside the cabin of the DC-8 is constantly being exchanged with ambient air to minimize build-up of carbon dioxide mixing ratios from human emissions, to increase comfort, and to improve human health (Hunt and Space, 1994; Hocking, 1998; Brundrett, 2001; National Research Council, 2002). This exchange rate is factors to an order of magnitude higher than the exchange rates in typical indoor environments (Hunt and Space, 1994). The exchange rate will impact the ammonia mixing ratio in the cabin, as ambient ammonia can be drawn into the airplane and the ventilation will generally reduce the ammonia mixing ratio due to human emissions, similar to carbon dioxide.

To calculate the exchange rate, a mass balance method . (Pagonis et al., 2019) was used where the cabin of the DC-8 is assumed to be well-mixed (Eq. S7 and Eq. S8 below). For this method, ambient carbon dioxide, measured by AVOCET (Vay et al., 2003, 2011), and cabin carbon dioxide, measured by the HOBO MX1102 Carbon Dioxide Data Logger, were used. The maximum number of passengers on the NASA DC-8 during FIREX-AQ was 40 people, which is used in this calculation. Finally, the volume of the portion of the DC-8 accessed by passengers is

72 ~258 m<sup>3</sup> (Anon, 2011). These values are used in Eq. S7 and Eq. S8 to estimate the exchange rate.

73 Here, we assumed that carbon dioxide was in steady-state to estimate the air exchange rate.

74

$$75 \frac{dCO_{2,DC-8}}{dt} = \frac{AER_{DC-8}([CO_{2,ambient}] - [CO_{2,DC-8}]) + (E_{CO_{2,Person}} \times N)}{V_{DC-8}} \quad \text{Eq. S7}$$

76

$$77 AER_{DC-8} = \frac{(-(E_{CO_{2,Person}} \times N) / V_{DC-8})}{([CO_{2,ambient}] - [CO_{2,DC-8}])} \quad \text{Eq. S8}$$

78

79 Above, for Eq. S7 and Eq. S8, AER<sub>DC-8</sub> is the air exchange rate, in hr<sup>-1</sup>, [CO<sub>2,ambient</sub>] is the ambient  
80 mixing ratio of carbon dioxide, [CO<sub>2,DC-8</sub>] is the carbon dioxide mixing ratio in the cabin of the  
81 DC-8, E<sub>CO<sub>2,Person</sub></sub> is the emission rate of carbon dioxide per person (21 g hr<sup>-1</sup> person<sup>-1</sup> (Tang et al.,  
82 2016)), N is the number of people in the cabin (40), and V<sub>DC-8</sub> is the volume of the cabin (258  
83 m<sup>3</sup>).

84 After solving for the exchange rate (AER<sub>DC-8</sub>), Eq. S8 can be rearranged to estimate the  
85 mixing ratio of ammonia in the cabin of the DC-8. Using 1940 µg hr<sup>-1</sup> person<sup>-1</sup> as the ammonia  
86 emission rate per person, the cabin ammonia mixing ratio is 43.4 ppbv. There have been minimal  
87 studies (two to the best of our knowledge) that have measured total ammonia emissions from  
88 human activity. For one study, which investigated the emissions from hard activity (workout), the  
89 value of 1940 µg hr<sup>-1</sup> person<sup>-1</sup> is at the lower end (Finewax et al., 2020); however, the total  
90 human emissions during this study were potentially higher to higher sweating from exercise,  
91 which leads to the hydrolysis of urea to form gas-phase ammonia (Healy et al., 1970; Sutton et  
92 al., 2000). For the other study that measured total ammonia emission (Li et al., 2020), the value

93 of 1940  $\mu\text{g hr}^{-1}$  person $^{-1}$  is similar to the values observed for humans doing low to medium  
94 activity.

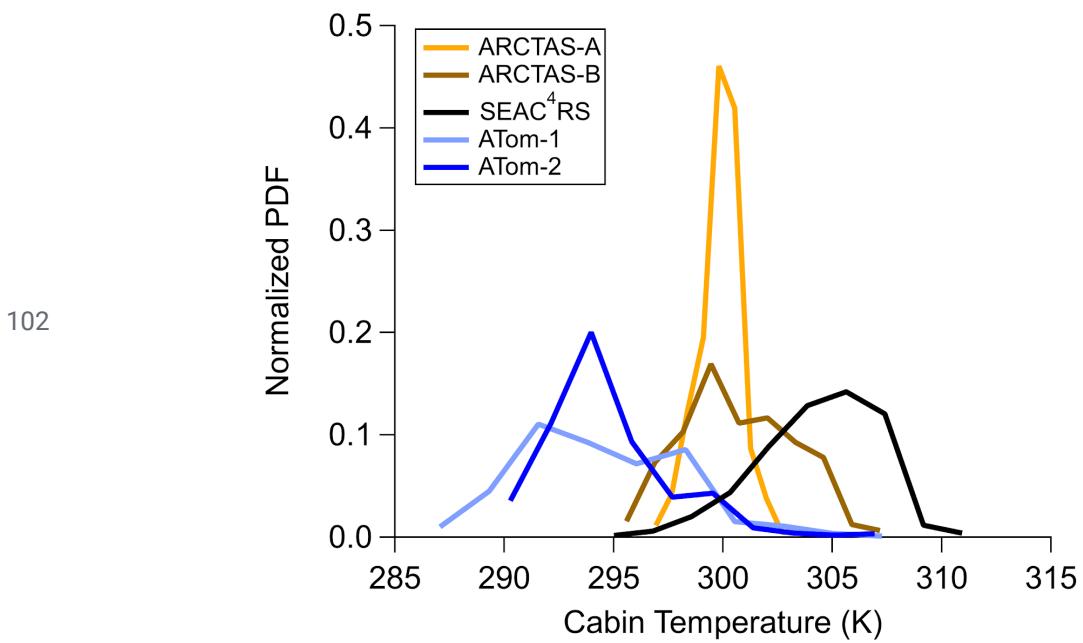
95 **Figures**

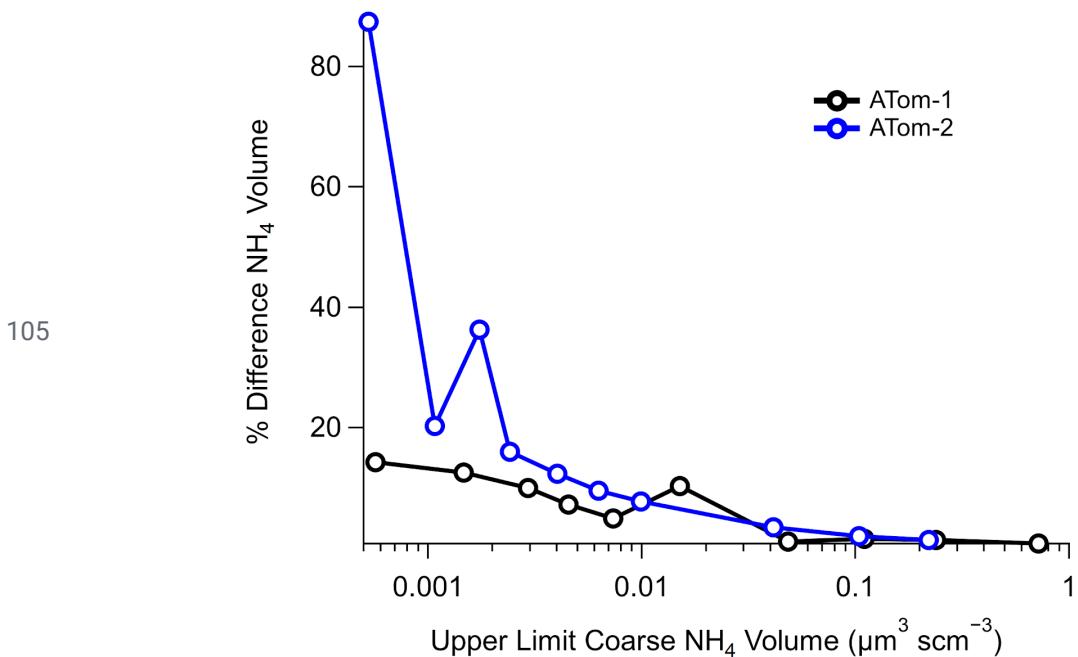


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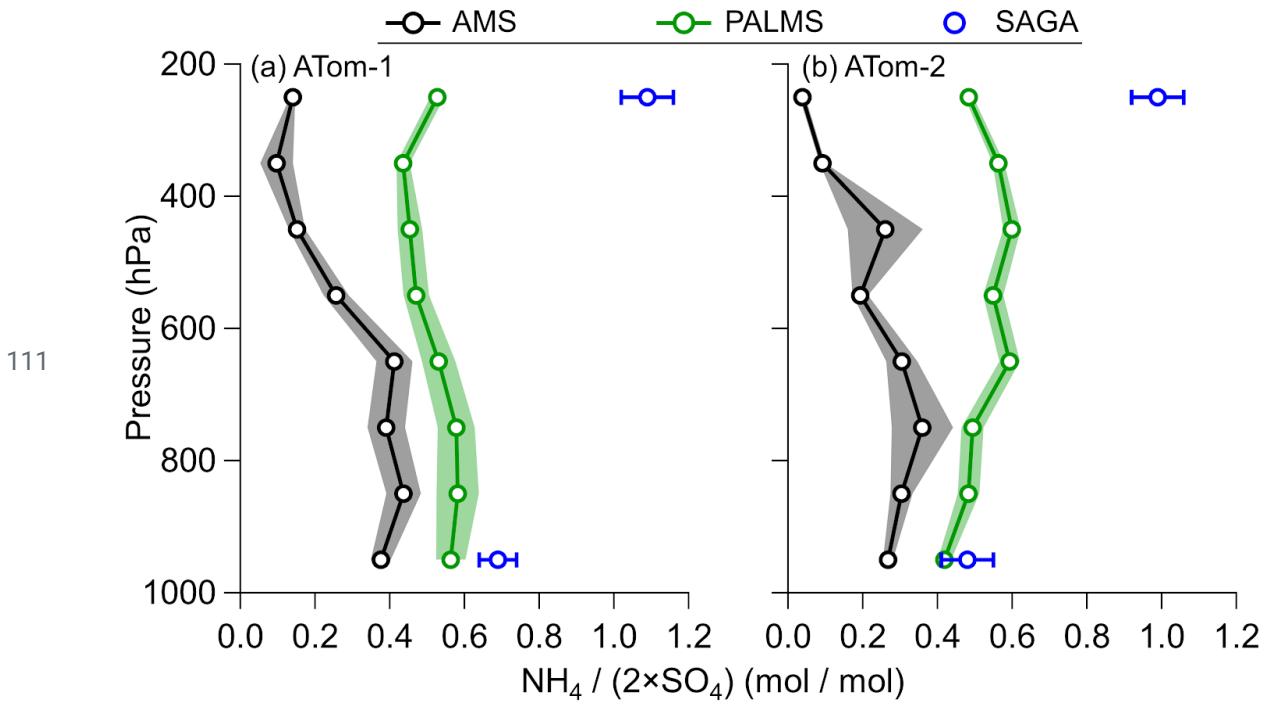


97 *Figure S1. (Top) Floor plan of the DC-8 for the FIREX-AQ campaign (Webster, 2019). Location  
98 of where the Picarro instrument, aerosol filter sampling, and sampling of cabin ammonia  
99 locations (red circles) during the campaign are shown. Photos of the sampling by the filter  
100 collection (bottom left) and mid-cabin sampling (bottom right) are shown. The actual filter  
101 holder in the bottom left is in the direction of the arrow and not pictured.*



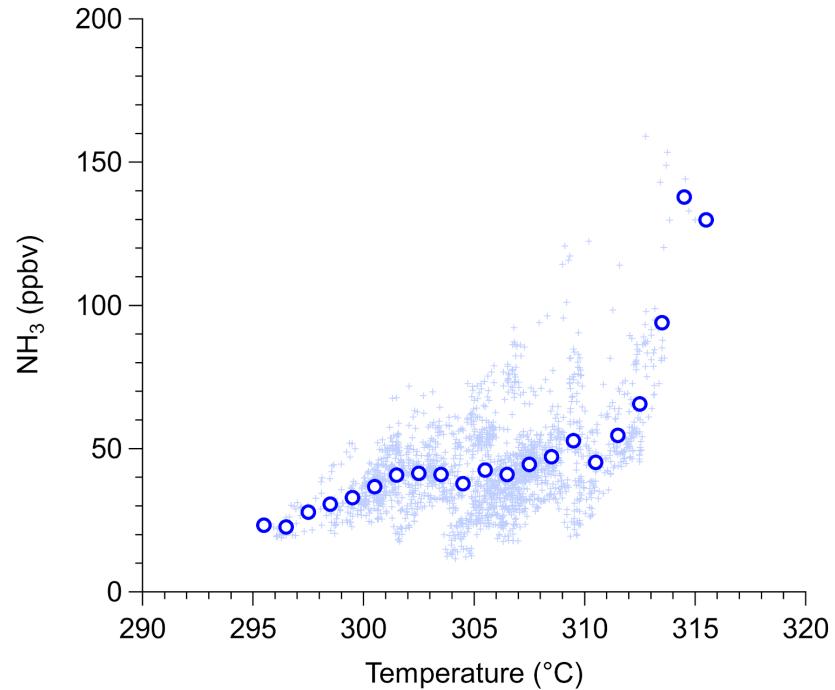


106 *Figure S3.* Percent difference in measured ammonium volume (((filter NH<sub>4</sub> - AMS  
107 NH<sub>4</sub>)/1.78)/(AMS NH<sub>4</sub>/1.78)×100) versus upper limit coarse NH<sub>4</sub> volume. The 1.78 is the density  
108 of ammonium in g cm<sup>-3</sup> (Rumble, 2019), and the upper limit coarse NH<sub>4</sub> volume was estimated by  
109 multiplying the coarse volume (from LAS) by 0.1, the highest fraction of ammonium observed in  
110 coarse aerosol from prior studies (Kline et al., 2004; Cozic et al., 2008).

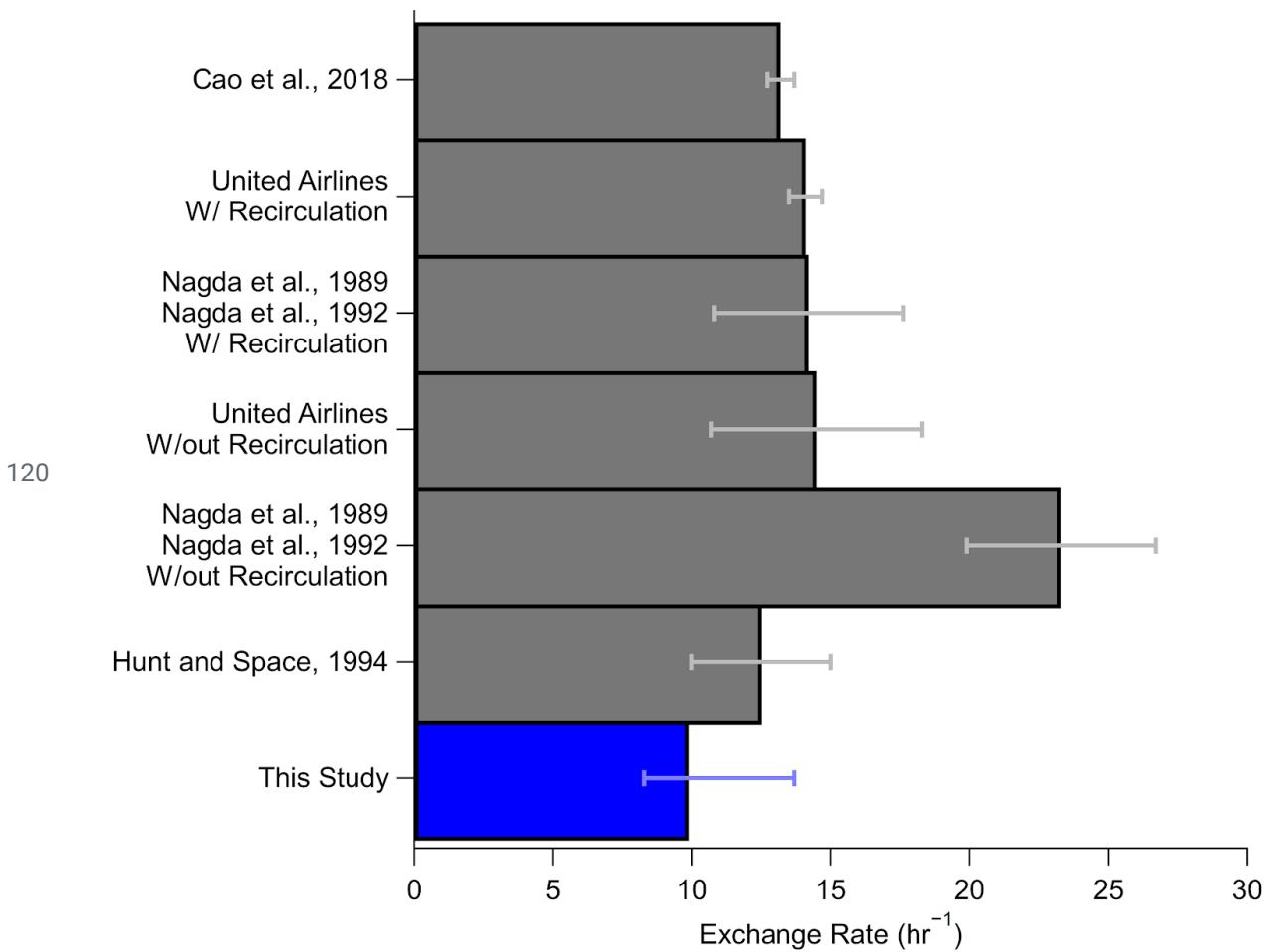


112 *Figure S4. Similar to Fig. 3, but for AMS, PALMS, and SAGA during ATom-1 (a) and ATom-2 (b).*  
 113 *However, unlike Fig. 3, the x-axis is defined as  $\text{NH}_4 / (2 \times \text{SO}_4)$  instead of  $\text{NH}_4 / (2 \times \text{SO}_4 + \text{NO}_3)$ , to*  
 114 *be consistent with the data product from PALMS (Froyd et al., 2009). The shaded area and error*  
 115 *bar is the standard error about the mean.*

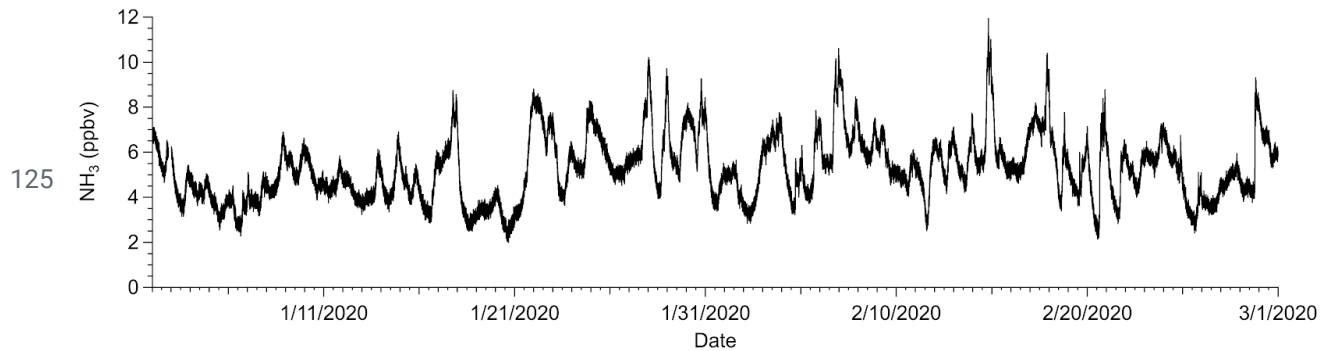
116



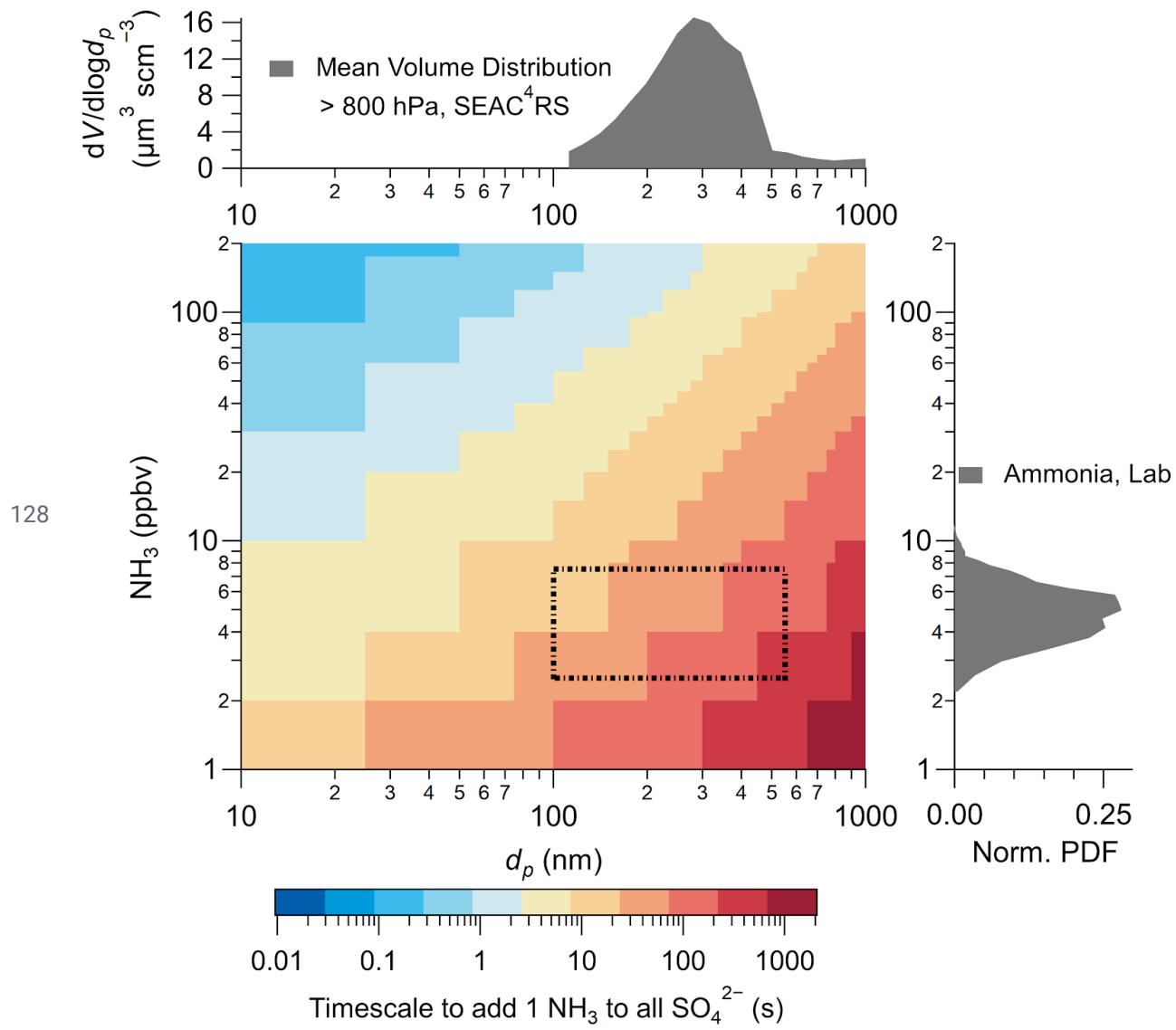
117 *Figure S5.* Gas-phase ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) versus temperature, measured inside the cabin of the  
118 NASA DC-8, during FIREX-AQ. Light blue crosses are all data, and the blue circles are the  
119 binned data.



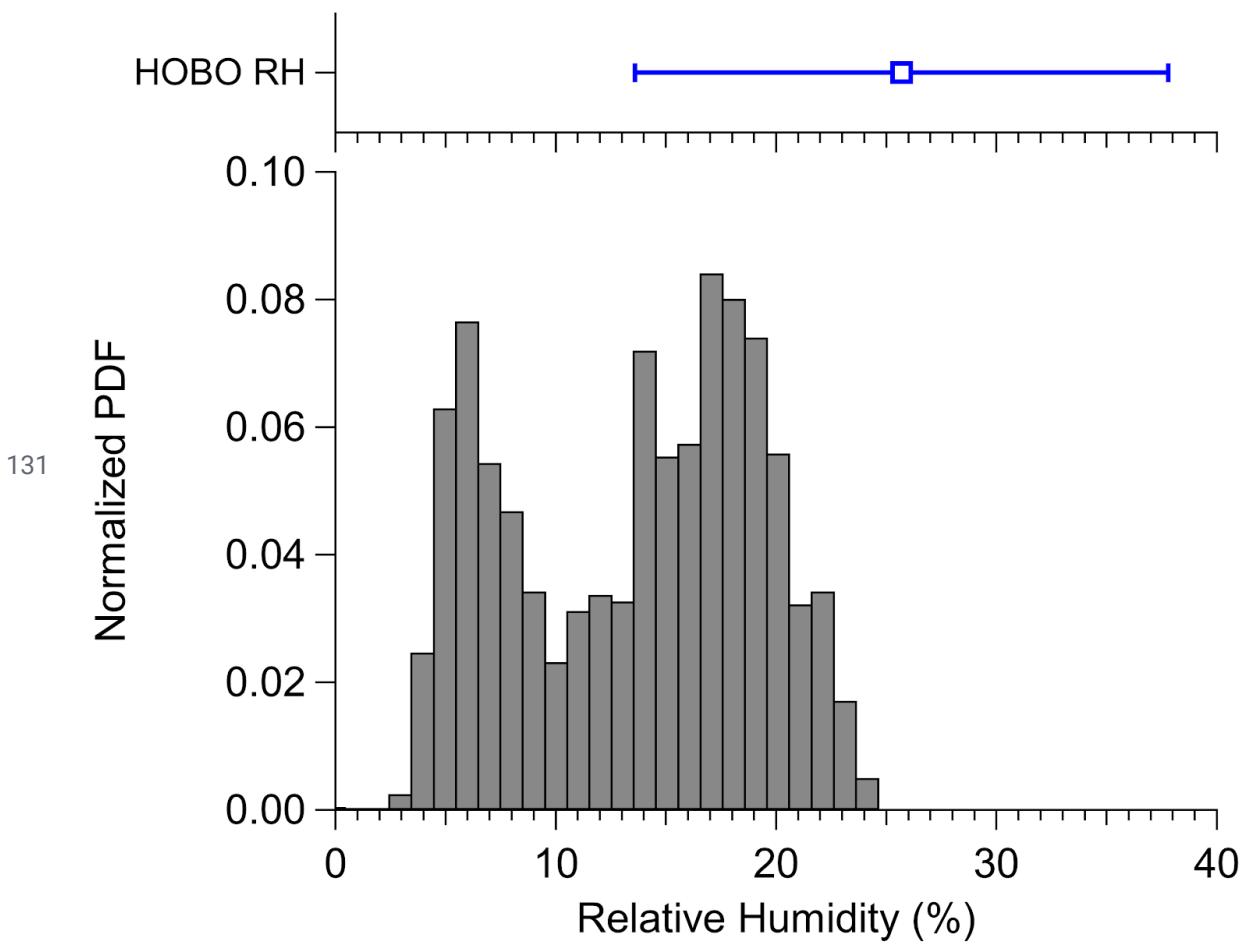
121 *Figure S6. Exchange rates for air in the cabin of the DC-8 (blue), determined by the methods*  
 122 *described in SI Sect. 2, compared with exchange rates cited in other studies from various aircraft*  
 123 *cabin (Nagda et al., 1989, 1992; Hunt and Space, 1994; United Airlines, 1994; Cao et al.,*  
 124 *2019).*



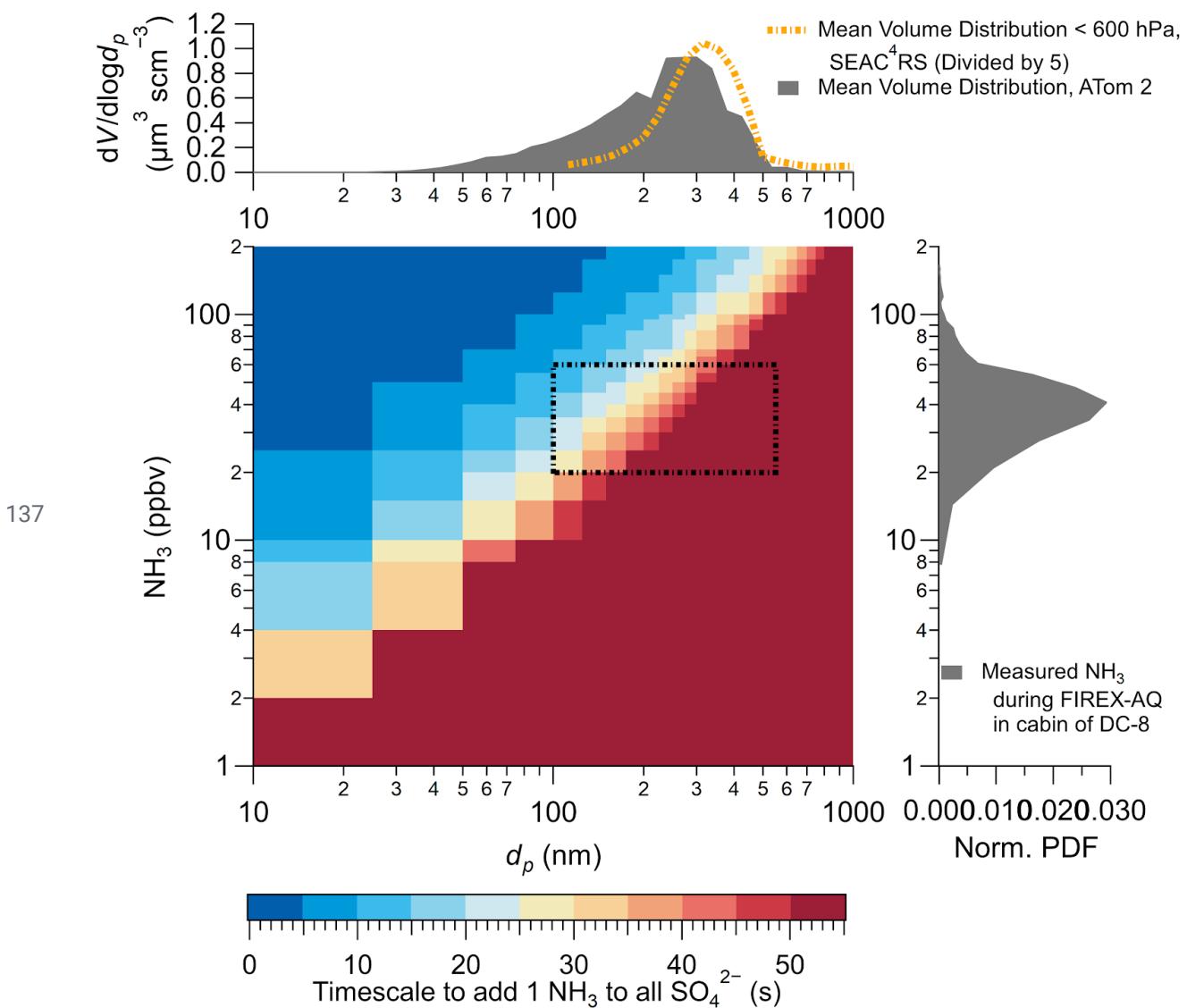
126 *Figure S7. Gas-phase ammonia measured in the Jimenez Group laboratory at the University of*  
127 *Colorado at Boulder (room Cristol 343) for ~2 months.*



129 *Figure S8. Same as Fig. 7, but with histogram of laboratory ammonia (Fig. S7) and average  
130 boundary layer volume distribution, measured during SEAC<sup>4</sup>RS.*

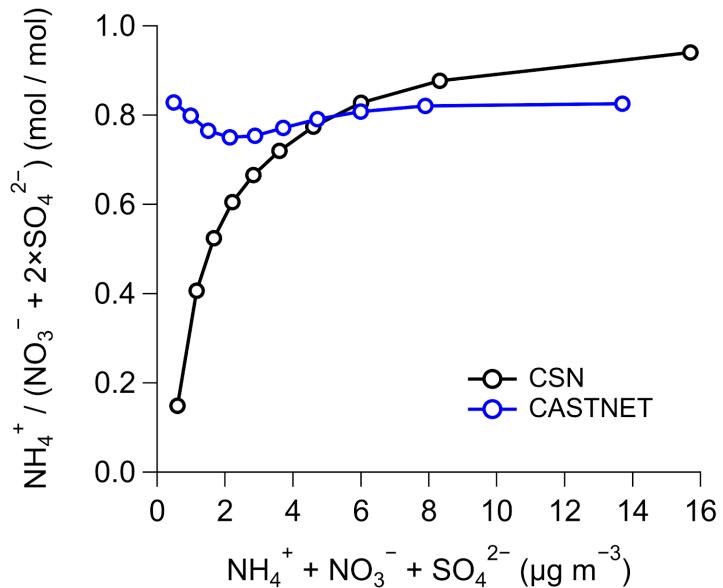


132 *Figure S9. (top) Mean and standard deviation of relative humidity measured inside the NASA*  
 133 *DC-8 cabin by the HOBO sensor. (bottom) Normalized probability distribution function (PDF) of*  
 134 *relative humidity for inside the cabin of the NASA DC-8, calculated from the water vapor*  
 135 *measured by the Picarro. Note that the periods of measurement of the two sensors do not*  
 136 *completely overlap, therefore some difference is expected.*



138 *Figure S10. Same as Fig. 7, but with accommodation coefficient of 0.1 instead of 1.*

139



140 *Figure S11. Comparison of binned data from Chemical Speciation Monitoring Network (CSN)*  
141 (*Solomon et al., 2000, 2014*) and *Clean air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET)* (*Lavery et*  
142 *al., 2009; Solomon et al., 2014*) ammonium balance versus total inorganic mass concentration  
143 *for the continental United States.*

144 **Tables**

145

146 Table S1. *References for studies used in Fig. 6.*

Name of Study in Fig. 6	Reference for Measurement/Predicted NH <sub>3</sub>
ATom-1 & -2	(Nault et al., 2020)
DISCOVER-AQ CO	(Battye et al., 2016)
CalNex	(Guo et al., 2017)
SOAS	(Guo et al., 2015)
WINTER	(Guo et al., 2016)
Cabauw Netherlands	(Guo et al., 2018)
Beijing	(Wang et al., 2016)
HomeChem	(Ampollini et al., 2019)
Average Homes	(Brauer et al., 1991; Atkins and Lee, 1993; Tidy and Neil Cape, 1993; Suh et al., 1994; Leaderer B P et al., 1999; Tuomainen et al., 2001; Fischer et al., 2003; Lunden et al., 2003; Järnström et al., 2006)
Average Offices	(Šišović et al., 1987; Salonen et al., 2009)
Average Schools	(Li and Harrison, 1990; Gomzi, 1999; Meininghaus et al., 2003)
ATHLETIC, All	(Finewax et al., 2020)

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