

Response to Reviewer #1's comments

The authors present comprehensive speciation of ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources, including shoemaking, plastic surface coating, furniture coating, printing, and ship coating industries. They use the combination of a PTR-ToF-MS in H_3O^+ and NO^+ to capture OVOCs and long chain alkanes, respectively, alongside a GC-MS to identify individual molecules and smaller alkanes. They highlight the important contribution of OVOCs not only to the overall emissions but also to the reactivity, ozone, and SOA formation potential. Finally, they evaluate the performance of ROG treatment devices used to reduce ineffectively emissions from these VCP sources. This paper provides unique insights on the emission fingerprint of VOCs and OVOCs from industrial VCPs in China and is suitable for publication after the following minor comments.

Reply: We would like to thank you for your insightful comments, which helped us tremendously in improving the quality of our work. Please find our responses to individual comments below.

Comments:

1. I recommend that the authors thoroughly proofread and improve the English, especially in the supplement and captions.

Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. We have checked all these comments and checked the grammar and syntax throughout the manuscript and the supplement.

2. Line 38-39: The meaning of this sentence is unclear to me.

Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. We have re-wording this sentence.

The sentence in the Abstract (line 39-41) is modified to:

We find that a few species can contribute the majority of the ROG emissions, and also their OHR and OFP from various industrial VCP sources.

3. Line 66: Delete the word "on."

Reply: We have deleted "on".

30

31 *4.Lines 97-98: This sentence feels somewhat out of place.*

32 Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. We have re-wording this sentence.

33 The sentence in the Introduction (line 103-104) is modified to:

34 **More evidence shows that the contribution of VCP sources to anthropogenic**
35 **ROG emissions is gradually becoming more prominent.**

36

37 *5.Line 100: Add "...attributed to a VCP-dominated..."*

38 Reply: We have added "a" in this sentence.

39

40 *6.Line 126: I'm unsure about the definition of ROG treatment devices. It would be*
41 *helpful to define this term early on, as it is used extensively throughout, including in*
42 *figure captions.*

43 Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. We agree with you that the definition of ROG
44 treatment devices should be much early in our manuscript. We have removed
45 descriptions in the Section 3.1 and Section 3.3, and added some description in the
46 Section 2.1. We have modified them accordingly.

47 The sentence in the Introduction (line 131-135) is modified to:

48 **We investigated emission characteristics of ROGs across these industries,**
49 **and utilized the dataset to analyze the contributions of different ROG components**
50 **to total ROG emissions, OH reactivity (OHR), ozone formation potential (OFP),**
51 **and volatility in various industrial VCP sources.**

52 The sentences in the Section 2.1 (line 150-162) are modified to:

53 **Typically, workshop waste gases are routed through collection devices (e.g.**
54 **gas-collecting hoods, airtight partitions), and then processed in ROG treatment**
55 **devices (e.g. ultraviolet-ray (UV) oxidation, activated carbon adsorption,**
56 **combustion, and biodegradation). These treated gases are then released into the**
57 **atmosphere through exhaust stacks. ROG treatment devices play a crucial role in**
58 **reducing ROG emissions by employing recovery and destruction technologies**

59 (Wang et al., 2023;Kamal et al., 2016). Recovery processes involve enriching and
60 separating VOCs by means of temperature or pressure changes and selective
61 absorbents, while destruction processes converts VOCs into harmless substances
62 such as CO₂ and H₂O through combustion (Wang et al., 2023). In this study, we
63 evaluate two types of ROG treatment devices: activated carbon adsorption
64 combined with UV photolysis devices (installed in shoemaking, plastic surface
65 coating, furniture coating, and printing industries) and catalytic combustion
66 devices (installed in printing and ship coating industries).

67

68 *7.Line 149: These sampling lines are quite long. Is there any treatment for wall losses,*
69 *especially for sticky OVOCs?*

70 Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. The sampling tubings used varied in length
71 from 10 m to 50 m for most sampling sites. A tubing with a length of 100 m were
72 employed for sampling at the ROG treatment device at the shoemaking industry, as the
73 treatment device is located on the 9th floor of the building. During the campaign, all
74 sampling tubing were shielded with aluminum foil during the campaign. To investigate
75 the potential wall losses resulting from the use of long tubes, we conducted an
76 assessment of the uncertainty related to the sampling techniques in laboratory tests. The
77 results indicated that the tubing had a minimal impact on most ROG species, affirming
78 the feasibility of measurements using the long PFA tubing. Further details can be found
79 elsewhere (Li et al., 2023).

80 The sentences in the Section 2.1 (line 169-172) are modified to:

81 **The use of long tubing was assessed through laboratory tests, which showed**
82 **that the tubing had a negligible and minor influence on most ROG species. This**
83 **confirmed the feasibility of measurement using long PFA tubing, more detail can**
84 **be found elsewhere (Li et al., 2023).**

85

86 *8.Line 188: Remove the double dot.*

87 Reply: We have removed the double dot.

88

89 *9.Lines 221-223: This sentence is unclear. Please rephrase it.*

90 **Reply:** Thanks for your suggestion. Considering that this sentence seem to be
91 **abrupt here, we removed it in the revised manuscript.**

92

93 *10.Lines 235-238: One could argue that this agreement is not ideal when both axes are*
94 *in logarithmic scale. The differences are often greater than a factor of 2. More*
95 *discussions on these differences would be great, especially considering the*
96 *fragmentation interferences for both ionization methods.*

97 **Reply:** Thanks for your suggestion. The correlation between two modes are
98 slightly weaker than the ambient measurements reported in our previous study. Here,
99 we have added some descriptions about the differences between both ionization
100 methods.

101 The sentences in the Section 2.3 (line 255-260) are modified to:

102 **Finally, the comparison between PTR-ToF-MS with H₃O⁺ and NO⁺**
103 **chemical ionization is shown in Fig. S4-S5. Previous studies have shown good**
104 **agreement between measurements obtained using PTR-ToF-MS with H₃O⁺ and**
105 **NO⁺ chemical ionization in ambient measurements (Wang et al., 2020). However,**
106 **a slightly weaker correlation was observed in industrial VCP sources, potentially**
107 **due to the large changes for different species between the switch of the two reagent**
108 **ions.**

109

110 *11.Section 3.1: The current organization of the paper, with frequent references to*
111 *Figures 1 and 2, makes it difficult for the reader to follow. I suggest reconstructing the*
112 *paper to address each emission source separately, with overview graphs that combine*
113 *information from both (or more) figures. The comparison of all sources could be*
114 *presented in a separate figure.*

115 **Reply:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have reconstructed Section 3.1 by added
116 subheadings (3.1.1 and 3.1.2), each emission source is now individually introduced in

117 Section 3.1.1. In addition, we presented combine information from Fig. 1 and Fig. 2
118 could better compare the emission characteristics of various emission sources, and we
119 have included a graph (Fig. S9) to compare the fraction of different ion categories
120 measured by the PTR-ToF-MS across various industrial VCP sources.

121 The subheadings in the Section 3.1(line 280-382) is modified to:

122 3.1.1 Emission characteristics from industrial VCP sources

123 A. Shoemaking industry

124 B. Plastic surface coating industry

125 C. Furniture coating industry

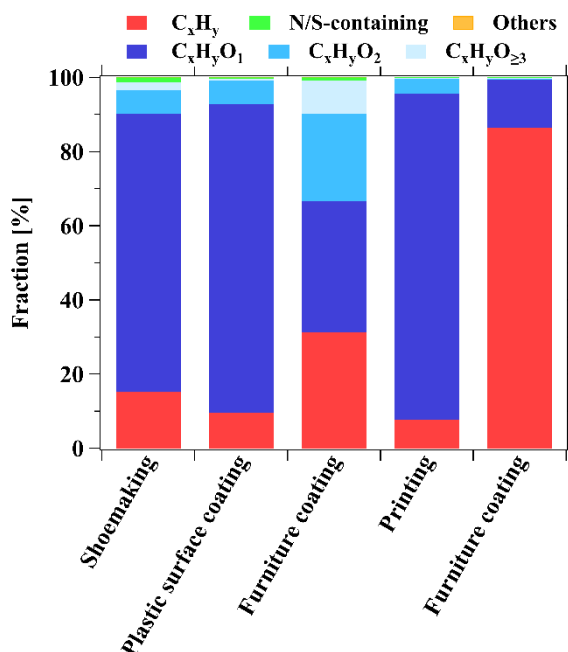
126 D. Printing industry

127 E. Ship coating industry

128 3.1.2 Comparison of ROG composition from industrial VCP sources

129 The sentence in the Section 3.1 (line383-384) is modified to:

130 The quantification of the proportions of different ion categories measured
131 by the PTR-ToF-MS across various industrial VCP sources is shown in Fig.2 and
132 Fig. S9.



133

134 **Figure S9. The fractions of different ROG categories measured by the PTR-ToF-**
135 **MS from stack emissions across various industrial VCP sources.**

136

137 *12.Lines 251-252: Please provide more elaboration on what is meant here. Is it that*
138 *the angle θ approach was previously only used for AMS spectra, which have substantial*
139 *fragmentation compared to PTR?*

140 **Reply:** Thanks for your suggestion. We changed this part:

141 The sentences in the Section 2.4 (line275-278) are modified to:

142 **As these previous studies utilize the similarity analysis on mass spectra of**
143 **aerosol mass spectrometer (AMS) obtained from electron ionization, leading to**
144 **very similar mass spectra for different sources.**

145

146 *13.Lines 260-262: It's unclear what is meant by collection devices and collection and*
147 *treatment devices, as well as their differences.*

148 **Reply:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have added some descriptions about these
149 two devices in the Section 2.1 in the revised manuscript.

150 The sentences in the Section 2.1 (line 150-154) are modified to:

151 **Typically, workshop waste gases are routed through collection devices (e.g.**
152 **gas-collecting hoods, airtight partitions), and then processed in ROG treatment**
153 **devices (e.g. ultraviolet-ray (UV) oxidation, activated carbon adsorption,**
154 **combustion, and biodegradation). These treated gases are then released into the**
155 **atmosphere through exhaust stacks.**

156

157 *14.Lines 263-264: How do these treatment devices work? How do they ensure fewer*
158 *ROG emissions?*

159 **Reply:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have added some descriptions about the
160 operation of treatment devices. in the Section 2.1 in the revised manuscript.

161 The sentences in the Section 2.1 (line154-159) are modified to:

162 **ROG treatment devices play a crucial role in reducing ROG emissions by**
163 **employing recovery and destruction technologies (Wang et al., 2023;Kamal et al.,**
164 **2016). Recovery processes involve enriching and separating VOCs by means of**

165 **temperature or pressure changes and selective absorbents, while destruction**
166 **processes converts VOCs into harmless substances such as CO₂ and H₂O through**
167 **combustion (Wang et al., 2023).**

168

169 *15.Lines 265-266: I'm unsure about the meaning of this sentence. Please define what*
170 *stacked emissions are.*

171 **Reply:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have modified this description here.

172 **The sentence in the Section 3.1 (line 285-287) is modified to:**

173 **As the waste gas was directly discharged into the ambient air from exhaust**
174 **stacks, the after treatment emission can be considered as stack emission (Zheng et**
175 **al., 2013).**

176

177 *16.Line 327: Replace "are" with "have".*

178 **Reply:** We have replaced "are" with "have".

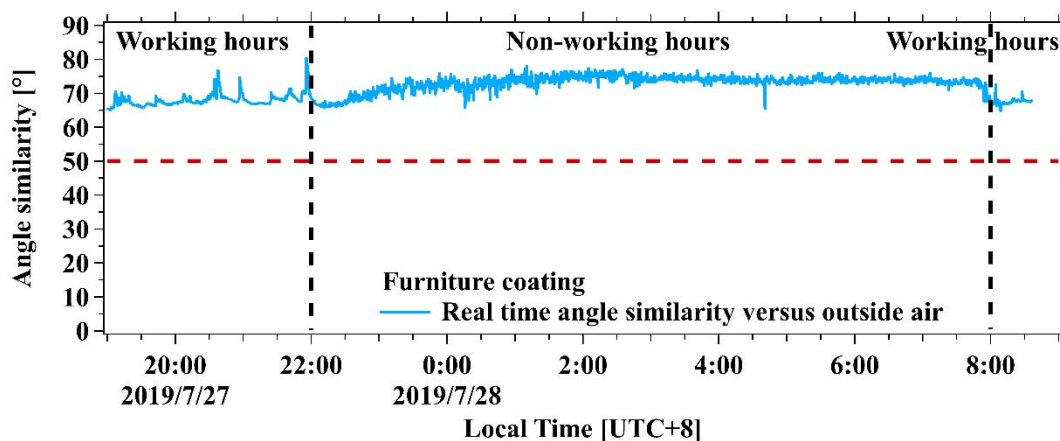
179

180 *17.Lines 327-331: Did the authors measure outside air and consider its influence on*
181 *the measured spectra? Could there be any influence from outside air on the factory*
182 *spectra? Given that later on, ambient measurements are discussed, it might be worth*
183 *comparing the two in more detail.*

184 **Reply:** Thanks for your suggestion. We have measured outside air before and
185 after each industrial VCP source. We compared the similarity between the mass spectra
186 obtained during non-working hour and those for outside air. As shown in Fig.S8, the
187 results indicate the outside air has almost no influence on ROG emissions during non-
188 working hours. We have added some descriptions in the Section 3.1.

189 **The sentence in the Section 3.1 (line 351-354) is modified to:**

190 **Additionally, the poor similarity observed between real-time concentrations**
191 **in workshops during non-working hours and those in the outside air suggests that**
192 **outside air has minimal influence on ROG emissions during non-working hours**
193 **(Fig. S8).**



194
195 **Figure S8. The θ angles of mass spectra among real-time concentrations versus**
196 **outside air measurement in the furniture coating industry.**

197
198 *18.Line 354: Change to "a quantification."*

199 **Reply: We have replaced "quantified" with "quantification ".**

200
201 *19.Line 427: Delete the word "in."*

202 **Reply: We have deleted "in".**

203
204 *20.Lines 453-457: It would be helpful to provide a more detailed description of how O_3*
205 *sensitivity was calculated here, rather than limiting it to previous citations.*

206 **Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. We have added some descriptions in the**
207 **Section 3.2.**

208 **The sentences in the Section 3.2 (line 481-488) are modified to:**

209 **To facilitate for making controlling strategies of ozone, we determine the**
210 **OFP from a unity of emission from different sources for comparison (Yuan et al.,**
211 **2010;Na and Pyo Kim, 2007), which represent the ability to ozone formation from**
212 **ROG sources on a relative basis (Fig. 6), and calculated using the following**
213 **equation:**

$$214 \quad OFP_i = \sum_{j=1}^n f_{ji}MIR_j \quad (2)$$

215 Where $OF P_i$ is the estimated ozone formation amount when 1 g ROG is
216 emitted from source i , f_{ji} is the mass fraction of species j in source i , and MIR_j is
217 the maximum incremental reactivity (MIR) of species j (Carter, 2007).

218

219 *21.Lines 536-530: The definition of treatment devices should be introduced earlier and*
220 *discussed at the beginning of the paper.*

221 Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. We agree with you that the definition of ROG
222 treatment devices should be much early in our manuscript. We have removed
223 descriptions in the Section 3.1 and Section 3.3, and added some description in the
224 Section 2.1. We have modified them accordingly.

225 The sentences in the Section 2.1 (line150-162) are modified to:

226 **Typically, workshop waste gases are routed through collection devices (e.g.**
227 **gas-collecting hoods, airtight partitions), and then processed in ROG treatment**
228 **devices (e.g. ultraviolet-ray (UV) oxidation, activated carbon adsorption,**
229 **combustion, and biodegradation). These treated gases are then released into the**
230 **atmosphere through exhaust stacks. ROG treatment devices play a crucial role in**
231 **reducing ROG emissions by employing recovery and destruction technologies**
232 **(Wang et al., 2023;Kamal et al., 2016). Recovery processes involve enriching and**
233 **separating VOCs by means of temperature or pressure changes and selective**
234 **absorbents, while destruction processes converts VOCs into harmless substances**
235 **such as CO₂ and H₂O through combustion (Wang et al., 2023). In this study, we**
236 **evaluate two types of ROG treatment devices: activated carbon adsorption**
237 **combined with UV photolysis devices (installed in shoemaking, plastic surface**
238 **coating, furniture coating, and printing industries) and catalytic combustion**
239 **devices (installed in printing and ship coating industries).**

240

241 *22.Section 3.3: This discussion is based on a double logarithmic graph that shows a*
242 *highly variable scatter by a factor of 10 to 100. In many cases, most compounds are*
243 *increasing, not just the ones highlighted by the authors. It would be beneficial for the*

244 *authors to provide a more detailed analysis for this section. They should describe the*
245 *trends by group of compounds and dive into the reasons for the observed differences,*
246 *supported by clear graphs indicating the efficiency of the treatment devices e.g.,*
247 *histogram percentage differences per source category.*

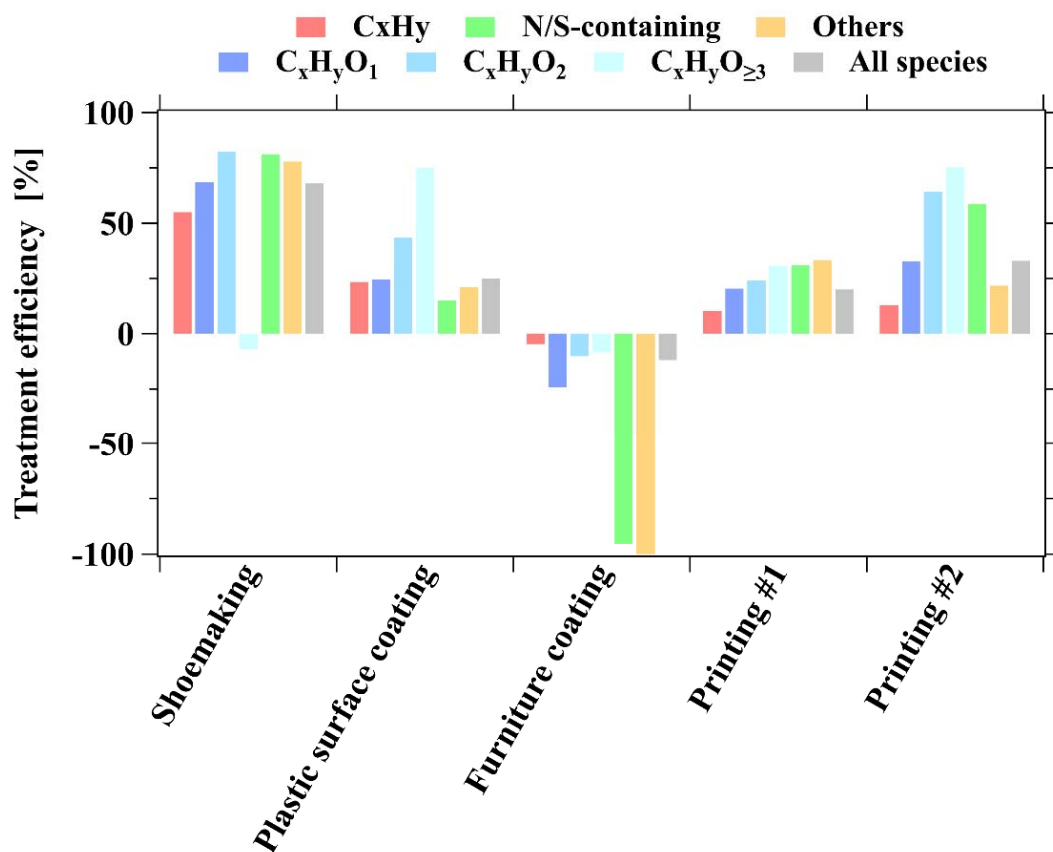
248 Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. We added a graph depicting treatment
249 efficiencies of various groups of ROGs from industrial VCP sources as Fig. S11. These
250 treatment efficiencies are obtained from the slope of each group (Fig. R1). The analysis
251 reveals an overall increase in most groups of ROGs, we have revised the descriptions
252 in Section 3.3 accordingly.

253 The sentence in the Section 3.3 (line 567-569) is modified to:

254 **Nonetheless, it is evident that the treatment efficiency has not reached the**
255 **desired levels for all ROG groups (Fig. S11), which possibly due to the challenges**
256 **associated with effectively removing majority ROG emissions using current**
257 **treatment technologies.**

258 The sentences in the Section 3.3 (line 578-583) are modified to:

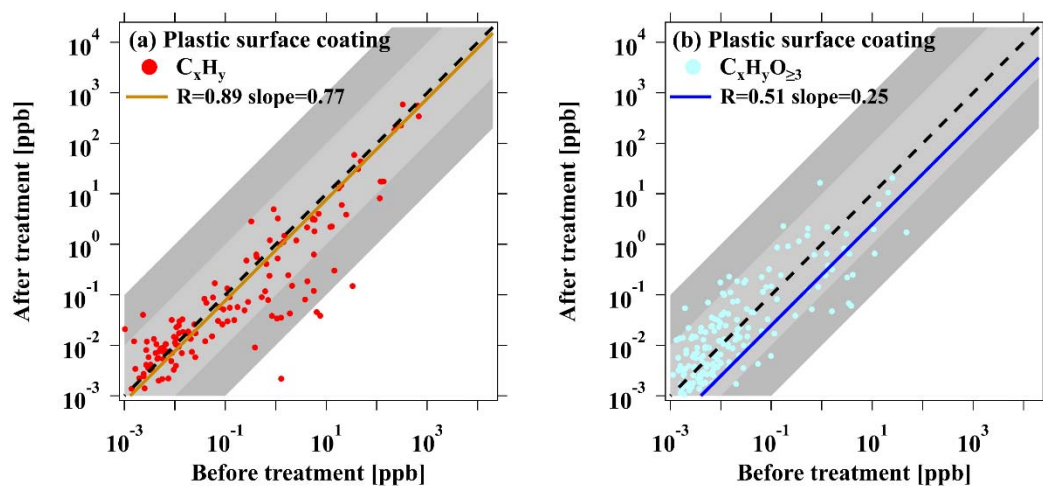
259 **The lowest treatment efficiency of ROG was obtained in the furniture**
260 **coating industry (slope=1.12). This treatment device demonstrates inefficiency for**
261 **all ROG groups (Fig. S11). The inadequate performance of the ROG treatment**
262 **devices in this specific facility may be attributed to a number of possible reasons,**
263 **e.g., delayed replacement of activated carbon and other adsorption materials, and**
264 **the implementation of the UV photolysis device could potentially result in the**
265 **generation of more ROGs as byproducts.**



266

267 **Figure S11. Treatment efficiencies of different ROG categories provided by**

268 **treatment devices in various industrial VCP sources.**



269

270 **Figure R1. Scatterplots of (a) C_xH_y ions and (b) C_xH_yO_{≥3} ions concentrations between**

271 **before and after treatment for the plastic surface coating industry. The brown and blue**

272 **lines are the fitted results for C_xH_y ions and C_xH_yO_{≥3} ions data points. The black dashed**

273 **lines represent 1:1 ratio, and the shaded areas represent ratios of a factor of 10 and 100.**

274

275 *23.Line 591: Delete the word "in."*

276 **Reply: We have deleted “in”.**

277

278 *24.Lines 612-614: It would be valuable if the authors could verify these ratios by*
279 *running a PMF on the ambient data. Observing whether they can separate different*
280 *sources and extract the aromatic to MEK ratio would provide more confidence in using*
281 *this ratio as an indicator of different VCP emissions. Was the site downwind of the*
282 *industry? Meteorological data could also help narrow the influence of the different*
283 *industrial sectors.*

284 **Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. In this section, we observed that the**
285 **concentration of selected ROG species is significantly higher than those reported in**
286 **previous studies conducted in other environments. The peak concentrations of MEK**
287 **exceeding 200 ppb from the ambient measurements are among the highest reported in**
288 **the literature. The MEK / C₈ aromatics ratio can serve as good evidence for the impact**
289 **of industrial VCP sources on ambient measurements in industrial areas. Due to a lack**
290 **of meteorological data, we are unsure whether the site is downwind of the industry in**
291 **this study. However, the consistency in concentrations of MEK and C₈ aromatics**
292 **suggests a substantial influence of industrial VCP sources on ROG emissions in**
293 **industrial areas. We have modified Fig. 10 and some discuss on Fig. 11, and added**
294 **Fig. S13 to compare the concentration of MEK and C₈ aromatics bwtween our study**
295 **and previous studies. We have modified these comments accordingly.**

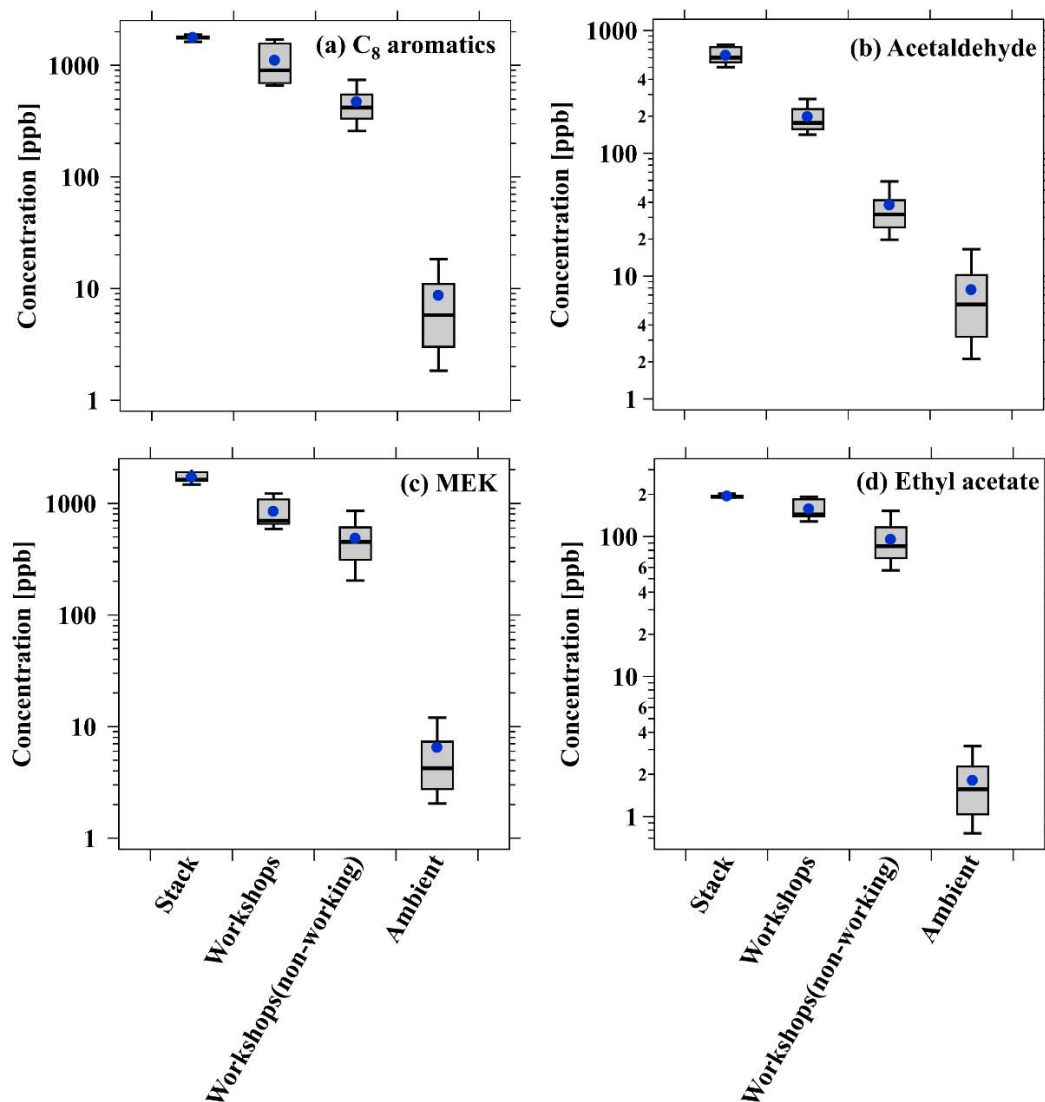
296 **The title of the Section 3.4 (line 603) is modified to:**

297 **3.4 Impact of industrial VCP sources on ambient air**

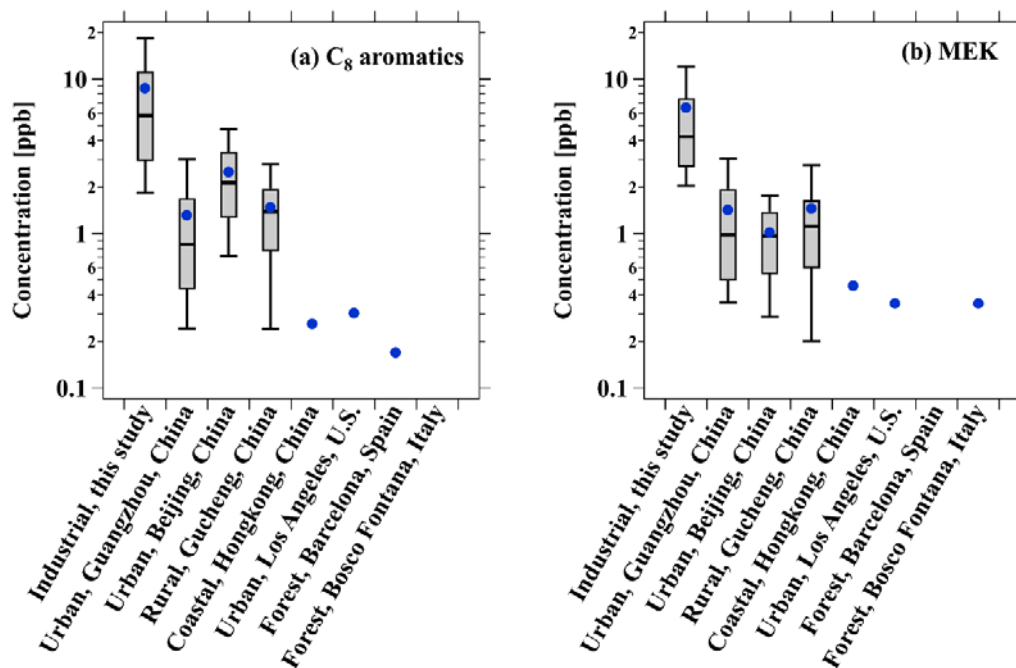
298 **The sentences in the Section 3.4 (line 641-649) are modified to:**

299 **The peak concentration of MEK exceeding 200 ppb from the ambient**
300 **measurements are among the highest in the literature (Fig. 11). Therefore, we**
301 **conducted a comparison of MEK and C₈ aromatics concentrations in this study**
302 **with those in clean environments (urban, rural, forest, and coastal sites) from**

303 previous studies (Fig. S13) (Wu et al., 2020;Coggon et al., 2024;Yuan et al.,
304 2012;Seco et al., 2011;Acton et al., 2016;Tan et al., 2021;He et al., 2022). It is
305 indicating that ambient measurements in industrial areas have been significantly
306 impacted by industrial VCP sources, and the MEK / C₈ aromatics ratio can serve
307 as good evidence by using high time-resolution ROG measurements from PTR-
308 ToF-MS.



309
310 **Figure 10. Boxplots of (a) C₈ aromatics, (b) acetaldehyde, (c) MEK, and (d) ethyl**
311 **acetate concentrations across the stack, workshops during working and non-**
312 **working hours in the furniture coating industry, and ambient measurement near**
313 **the industry, respectively.**



314
 315 **Figure S13. Boxplots of (a) C₈ aromatics and (b) MEK concentrations across the**
 316 **industrial site in this study and clean environments from previous studies.**

317 The sentence in the Abstract (line 43-46) is modified to:

318 **Furthermore, we found that ambient measurements in industrial areas have**
 319 **been significantly impacted by industrial VCP sources, and ROG pairs (e.g.,**
 320 **methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) /C₈ aromatics ratio) can be utilized as reliable evidence**
 321 **by using high time-resolution ROG measurements from PTR-ToF-MS.**

322 The sentences in the Conclusion (line 677-681) are modified to

323 **In addition, OVOCs should be paid more attention to industrialized urban**
 324 **areas due to the substantial impact of industrial VCP sources. Our study**
 325 **demonstrated that ROG pairs (e.g., MEK / C₈ aromatics ratio) can be utilized as**
 326 **reliable evidence for indicating the impact of industrial VCP sources on ambient**
 327 **measurements in industrial areas.**

328
 329 *25.Line 623: Add "that have been..."*

330 Reply: Thanks for your suggestion. We have re-wording this sentence.

331 The sentence in the Conclusion (line 655-657) is modified to:

332 **Our study demonstrated that OVOCs have been identified as representative**
333 **ROGs emitted from these sources, which are highly related to specific chemicals**
334 **used during the industrial activities.**
335

336 **Reference:**

- 337 Acton, W. J. F., Schallhart, S., Langford, B., Valach, A., Rantala, P., Fares, S., Carriero,
338 G., Tillmann, R., Tomlinson, S. J., Dragosits, U., Gianelle, D., Hewitt, C. N., and
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340 volatile organic compounds from a mixed oak and hornbeam forest in northern Italy,
341 *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 16, 7149-7170, 10.5194/acp-16-7149-2016, 2016.
342 Carter, W. P.: Development of the SAPRC-07 chemical mechanism and updated ozone
343 reactivity scales, Citeseer, 2007.
- 344 Coggon, M. M., Stockwell, C. E., Claflin, M. S., Pfannerstill, E. Y., Xu, L., Gilman, J.
345 B., Marcantonio, J., Cao, C., Bates, K., Gkatzelis, G. I., Lamplugh, A., Katz, E. F., Arata,
346 C., Apel, E. C., Hornbrook, R. S., Piel, F., Majluf, F., Blake, D. R., Wisthaler, A.,
347 Canagaratna, M., Lerner, B. M., Goldstein, A. H., Mak, J. E., and Warneke, C.:
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349 other urban volatile organic compounds, *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques*, 17,
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- 351 He, X., Yuan, B., Wu, C., Wang, S., Wang, C., Huangfu, Y., Qi, J., Ma, N., Xu, W.,
352 Wang, M., Chen, W., Su, H., Cheng, Y., and Shao, M.: Volatile organic compounds in
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360 L., Zhang, Y. X., Bo, Y., Su, H., Cheng, Y. F., and He, K. B.: Persistent growth of
361 anthropogenic non-methane volatile organic compound (NMVOC) emissions in China
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- 364 Li, X.-B., Zhang, C., Liu, A., Yuan, B., Yang, H., Liu, C., Wang, S., Huangfu, Y., Qi, J.,
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366 Qin, G., Zhou, J., and Shao, M.: Assessment of long tubing in measuring atmospheric
367 trace gases: applications on tall towers, *Environmental Science: Atmospheres*,
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- 369 Mo, Z., Cui, R., Yuan, B., Cai, H., McDonald, B. C., Li, M., Zheng, J., and Shao, M.:
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394 important contributions of higher alkanes to secondary organic aerosols in China,
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