

1 **Emission characteristics of reactive organic gases from**  
2 **industrial volatile chemical products (VCPs) in the Pearl**  
3 **River Delta (PRD), China**

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16 **Abstract:**

17 Volatile chemical products (VCPs) have become an important source of reactive  
18 organic gases (ROGs) in urban areas worldwide. Industrial activities can also utilize a  
19 large amount of VCPs and emit many organic gases into the atmosphere. Due to  
20 multiple sampling and measurement challenges, only a subset of ROG species is usually  
21 measured for many industrial VCP sources. This study aimed to investigate the  
22 emissions of ROGs from five industrial VCP sources in the Pearl River Delta (PRD)  
23 region of China, including shoemaking, plastic surface coating, furniture coating,  
24 printing, and ship coating industries. More comprehensive speciation of ROG  
25 emissions from these industrial VCP sources was developed by the combination of the  
26 proton transfer reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-ToF-MS) along with  
27 gas chromatography-mass spectrometer/flame ionization detector (GC-MS/FID). Our  
28 study identified oxygenated ROG species (OVOCs) as representative ROGs emitted  
29 from these sources, which are highly related to specific chemicals used during the  
30 industrial activities. Moreover, mass spectra similarity analysis revealed significant  
31 dissimilarities among the ROG emission from industrial activities, indicating  
32 substantial variations between different industrial VCP sources. Except for the ship  
33 coating industry utilizing solvent-borne coatings, the proportions of OVOCs range from  
34 67% to 96% in total ROG emissions and 72% to 97% in total OH reactivity (OHR) for  
35 different industrial sources, while the corresponding contributions of OVOCs in the  
36 ship coating industry are only  $16\% \pm 3.5\%$  and  $15\% \pm 3.6\%$ . The industrial VCP sources  
37 associated with solvent-borne coatings exhibited a higher ozone formation potential  
38 (OFP), reaching as high as 5.5 and 2.7  $\text{g O}_3 \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  ROGs for ship coating and furniture  
39 coating industries, primarily due to contributions from aromatics. We find that a few  
40 species can contribute the majority of the ROG emissions, and also their OHR and OFP  
41 from various industrial VCP sources. Our results suggest that ROG treatment devices  
42 may have limited effectiveness for all ROGs, with treatment efficiencies ranging from  
43 -12% to 68%. Furthermore, we found that ambient measurements in industrial areas  
44 have been significantly impacted by industrial VCP sources, and ROG pairs (e.g.,

45 methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) /C<sub>8</sub> aromatics ratio) can be utilized as reliable evidence by  
46 using high time-resolution ROG measurements from PTR-ToF-MS. Our study  
47 demonstrated the importance of measuring a large number of ROGs using PTR-ToF-  
48 MS for characterizing ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources.  
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## 50 **1. Introduction**

51 With the successful control of vehicular emissions, emission from volatile  
52 chemical products (VCPs) have become an increasingly significant source in cities all  
53 around the world (Sun et al., 2018;McDonald et al., 2018;Li et al., 2019;Khare and  
54 Gentner, 2018;Seltzer et al., 2022;Sasidharan et al., 2023). Reactive organic gases  
55 (ROGs), organic gases other than methane, from VCPs emission can contribute  
56 substantially to both anthropogenic secondary organic aerosol (SOA) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)  
57 in urban environments (Seltzer et al., 2022;Khare et al., 2022;Sasidharan et al.,  
58 2023;Coggon et al., 2021;Gkatzelis et al., 2021b;Qin et al., 2021). With the  
59 development of economy and industrialization, the emissions of industrial VCPs  
60 contribute to approximately 25%-45% of ROG emissions in China (Ou et al., 2015;Wei  
61 et al., 2011;Huang et al., 2011;Sha et al., 2021;Zhou et al., 2020b). To effectively  
62 control atmospheric pollution in urban areas and surrounding regions, it becomes  
63 imperative to gain a comprehensive understanding of the emission characteristics of  
64 ROGs from industrial VCP sources.

65 Extensive research has been conducted to investigate ROG emissions from  
66 industrial VCP sources, mainly focusing on sampling within manufacturing workshops  
67 and exhaust stacks (Zheng et al., 2013;Yuan et al., 2010;Wang et al., 2014). Previous  
68 studies have demonstrated that the use of individual chemicals (i.e. coatings, inks, and  
69 adhesives) significantly impact ROG emissions (Gkatzelis et al., 2021a;Zheng et al.,  
70 2013;He et al., 2022a), and these chemicals used for printing, furniture, and shoemaking  
71 industries has seen rapid growth and widespread adoption in recent years (Gkatzelis et  
72 al., 2021a;McDonald et al., 2018;Seltzer et al., 2022;Coggon et al., 2021). Consequently,  
73 the diverse emission sources and emission factors from industrial VCP sources have  
74 contributed to large uncertainties (Mo et al., 2021;Zhong et al., 2018). To mitigate the  
75 emissions of most primary pollutants, stricter emission standards have been  
76 implemented along with advancements in ROG treatment technologies in China.  
77 Specifically, water-borne VCPs has substituted solvent-borne VCPs in several  
78 industries, such as printing, interior wall coating, and automotive manufacturing.

79 However, the replacement in steel structures, automotive plastic parts manufacturing  
80 and ship building industries remains below 3% (Mo et al., 2021;Li et al., 2019;Shi et  
81 al., 2023;Wang et al., 2023). As a result, the emission characteristics of ROGs from  
82 industrial VCP sources may undergo changes in response to the ongoing development  
83 of VCPs and ROG treatment technologies. It is imperative to regularly updated the  
84 understanding of ROG emission characteristics associated with industrial VCP sources.

85 The emissions of oxygenated ROG species (OVOCs) have been identified as  
86 significant components in industrial VCP emissions (Chang et al., 2022;Mo et al.,  
87 2021;Sha et al., 2021). For instance, it has been found that more than 80% of total ROG  
88 emissions for shoemaking and printing industries are attributed to OVOC emissions  
89 (Zheng et al., 2013). This notable contributions of OVOCs, such as acetone, methyl  
90 ethyl ketone (MEK), ethyl acetate, and isopropanol, can be primarily attributed to the  
91 use of individual industrial chemicals (Zheng et al., 2013;Wu et al., 2020b).  
92 Traditionally, the collection of ROGs involved the use of canisters or Tedlar bags, and  
93 their analysis was conducted using gas chromatography-mass spectrometer/flame  
94 ionization detector (GC-MS/FID) techniques, with a primary focus on hydrocarbon  
95 emissions (Yuan et al., 2010;Wang et al., 2014). Previous studies commonly employed  
96 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) cartridges for collection and analyzed them using  
97 high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) to detect carbonyl species such as  
98 aldehydes and ketones. However, this approach is both time-consuming and susceptible  
99 to contaminations (Mo et al., 2016;Han et al., 2019).

100 Due to the intricate chemical compositions of industrial VCPs, it is essential to  
101 characterize ROG emissions with higher mass resolution. The proton-transfer-reaction  
102 time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-ToF-MS) has been extensively utilized for the  
103 identification of VCP sources. More evidence shows that the contribution of VCP  
104 sources to anthropogenic ROG emissions is gradually becoming more prominent. For  
105 instance, ROG emissions from VCP contribute 50%-80% of anthropogenic ROG  
106 emissions in US cities (Gkatzelis et al., 2021b;McDonald et al., 2018). The large  
107 fractions (~50%) of ROGs have been attributed to a VCP-dominated source in

108 Guangzhou, highlighting its importance in urban environments (Li et al., 2022).  
109 Through high mass resolution analysis, tracer compounds for various VCP categories  
110 have been identified (Gkatzelis et al., 2021a; Coggon et al., 2018; Stockwell et al., 2021).  
111 In addition, OVOCs such as acetates, acrylates, alcohols (e.g. benzyl alcohol), glycols  
112 (e.g. propylene glycol, ethylene glycol), and glycol ethers, have been found to make  
113 significant contributions to VCPs emission (Seltzer et al., 2021; Li and Cocker, 2018; Li  
114 et al., 2018; Khare et al., 2022). With the ability to measure whole mass spectra and  
115 offer high mass resolution, the PTR-ToF-MS enables more comprehensive detection of  
116 a wide range of ROGs (Cappellin et al., 2012; Yuan et al., 2017; Huangfu et al., 2021).  
117 By employing parameterization methods to determine instrument sensitivity, more  
118 ROGs can be quantified from the obtained mass spectra (Sekimoto et al., 2017; Wu et  
119 al., 2020a). Furthermore, previous studies have demonstrated that higher alkanes,  
120 including acyclic, cyclic and bicyclic alkanes can be measured using PTR-ToF-MS with  
121  $\text{NO}^+$  chemical ionization ( $\text{NO}^+$  PTR-ToF-MS) (Inomata et al., 2014; Koss et al.,  
122 2016; Wang et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2022). Higher alkanes are significant species in  
123 vehicle and combustion emissions (Gao et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2021; Zhao et al., 2018b),  
124 and they were not included in previous measurements of industrial VCP sources. Thus,  
125 by combining hydrocarbons measured by offline GC-MS/FID, PTR-ToF-MS shows  
126 promise as a method for developing more comprehensive speciation relevant to  
127 industrial VCP emissions (Gao et al., 2023).

128 In this study, we applied a PTR-ToF-MS employing  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  and  $\text{NO}^+$  chemical  
129 ionization along with a GC-MS/FID to comprehensively measure ROG emissions from  
130 five industrial VCP sources, including shoemaking, plastic surface coating, furniture  
131 coating, printing, and ship coating industries in the PRD region of China. We  
132 investigated emission characteristics of ROGs across these industries, and utilized the  
133 dataset to analyze the contributions of different ROG components to total ROG  
134 emissions, OH reactivity (OHR), ozone formation potential (OFP), and volatility in  
135 various industrial VCP sources. Furthermore, we conducted intercomparisons of the  
136 mass spectra characterizations of ROG emissions, which revealed significant variations

137 in ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources.

## 138 **2. Materials and methods**

### 139 **2.1 Tested industrial VCP sources and sampling methods**

140 Based on comprehensive analysis of written data, consultation with relevant  
141 experts, and thorough on-site investigations, we selected five representative factories  
142 and industries from various industrial VCP sources. The selection criteria for these  
143 industries were based on relevant emission inventory research conducted in the PRD  
144 region of China (Zhong et al., 2018). Sampling methods focused on capturing ROG  
145 emissions generated during the main manufacturing processes, such as coatings  
146 spraying and adhesives usage in the factories. Both online measurements and offline  
147 sampling were carried out in semi-open workshops, as well as ROG treatment devices  
148 (i.e. before and after emission treatment, generally located at the front and rear sampling  
149 ports of the ROG treatment devices) in the factories (Table. S1).

150 Typically, workshop waste gases are routed through collection devices (e.g. gas-  
151 collecting hoods, airtight partitions), and then processed in ROG treatment devices (e.g.  
152 ultraviolet-ray (UV) oxidation, activated carbon adsorption, combustion, and  
153 biodegradation). These treated gases are then released into the atmosphere through  
154 exhaust stacks. ROG treatment devices play a crucial role in reducing ROG emissions  
155 by employing recovery and destruction technologies (Wang et al., 2023;Kamal et al.,  
156 2016). Recovery processes involve enriching and separating VOCs by means of  
157 temperature or pressure changes and selective absorbents, while destruction processes  
158 converts VOCs into harmless substances such as CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O through combustion  
159 (Wang et al., 2023). In this study, we evaluate two types of ROG treatment devices:  
160 activated carbon adsorption combined with UV photolysis devices (installed in  
161 shoemaking, plastic surface coating, furniture coating, and printing industries) and  
162 catalytic combustion devices (installed in printing and ship coating industries).

163 During the campaign, a mobile monitoring vehicle was equipped with online  
164 measurement equipment and strategically parked near the sampling ports of both  
165 workshops and ROG treatment devices emissions (Fig. S1). A CO<sub>2</sub> / H<sub>2</sub>O gas analyzer

166 (LI-COR 840A, Inc., USA) was used to measure the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O.  
167 To ensure continuous sampling, air from various factories was drawn through a length  
168 of Perfluoroalkoxy (PFA) Teflon tubing, ranging from 10 to 100 meters, at a controlled  
169 flow rate of 6 L/min facilitated by an external pump. The use of long tubing was  
170 assessed through laboratory tests, which showed that the tubing had a negligible and  
171 minor influence on most ROG species. This confirmed the feasibility of measurement  
172 using long PFA tubing, more detail can be found elsewhere (Li et al., 2023).

## 173 **2.2 ROG measurements**

174 In this study, ROG were measured using a proton transfer reaction quadrupole  
175 interface time-of-flight mass spectrometer (PTR-QiToF-MS) (IONICON Analytik,  
176 Innsbruck, Austria) (Sulzer et al., 2014) and a combination of canister sampling and  
177 offline GC-MS/FID analysis system (canister-GC-MS/FID). More comprehensive  
178 speciation of ROG was achieved by analyzing hydrocarbons by canister-GC-MS/FID,  
179 quantifying all signals using H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> PTR-ToF-MS, and supplementing by acyclic, cyclic,  
180 and bicyclic alkanes from NO<sup>+</sup> ionization of PTR-ToF-MS. The selection of  
181 overlapping ROGs was similar to a previous study (Table. S2) (Gao et al., 2023).

182 To capture the real-time emission characteristics of ROGs from industrial VCP  
183 sources, the mass spectra of PTR-ToF-MS was recorded every 10 s. Prior to each test,  
184 background measurements of the instrument were carried out by passing sampling air  
185 through a custom-built platinum catalytical converter that had been preheated to 365 °C  
186 for 1 minute. Throughout the campaign, the PTR-ToF-MS instrument automatically  
187 alternated between two reagent ions (H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> and NO<sup>+</sup>) every 10 minutes. Detailed setting  
188 parameters for H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> and NO<sup>+</sup> chemical modes in this instrument can be found in  
189 previous studies (Wu et al., 2020a; Wang et al., 2020; He et al., 2022b). The Tofware  
190 software package (version 3.0.3, Tofwerk AG, Switzerland) was employed to facilitate  
191 accurate data analysis (Stark et al., 2015).

192 Calibration for ROGs measure by PTR-ToF-MS were carried out both in the  
193 laboratory and during the campaign. The PTR-ToF-MS was regularly calibrated using  
194 a 23-component gas standard (Linde Spectra) throughout the campaign. During the later



195 period of the campaign, two gas standards (Apel Riemer Environmental Inc.) were used  
196 for the calibration of other ROGs, specifically for acyclic and cyclic alkanes using  $\text{NO}^+$   
197 chemical ionization. (Wang et al., 2020;Chen et al., 2022;Wang et al., 2022). A total of  
198 11 organic acids and nitrogen-containing compounds were calibrated using the liquid  
199 calibration unit (LCU, IONICON Analytik, Innsbruck, Austria) (Table. S3-S5). In order  
200 to account for the humidity dependence of some ROGs in the PTR-ToF-MS (Yuan et  
201 al., 2017;Koss et al., 2018), humidity-dependence curves established in the laboratory  
202 were utilized for correction (Wu et al., 2020a;He et al., 2022b;Wang et al., 2022).  
203 Sensitivities of uncalibrated species were determined based on the kinetics of proton-  
204 transfer reactions of  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  with ROGs (Fig. S2) (Cappellin et al., 2012;Sekimoto et al.,  
205 2017), with an associated uncertainty of approximately 50% for the concentrations of  
206 uncalibrated species.

207 Simultaneously, offline sampling was conducted near the sampling ports of  
208 workshops and ROG treatment devices. Whole air samples were collected using  
209 canisters for determination of hydrocarbons in industrial VCP sources, and analyzed by  
210 an offline GC-MS/FID system. The GC-MS/FID system was calibrated using  
211 photochemical assessment monitoring stations (PAMS) and TO-15 standard mixtures,  
212 which enabled the identification and quantification of a total of 94 hydrocarbons. More  
213 information about this instrument and dataset for canister sampling and offline GC-  
214 MS/FID system can be found elsewhere (Li et al., 2020).

### 215 **2.3 Calibrations of esters and isopropanol based on $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ and $\text{NO}^+$** 216 **ionization**

217 Since ester species (including acetates and acrylates) play a significant role in  
218 industrial VCP sources, it is important to accurately quantify their concentrations  
219 (Khare et al., 2022). Previous studies have demonstrated that ethyl acetate exhibits  
220 notable fragmentation, resulting in interference at  $m/z$  61 (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2\text{H}^+$ ) and  $m/z$  43  
221 (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+$ ) (Haase et al., 2012;de Gouw and Warneke, 2007;Rogers et al.,  
222 2006;Fortner et al., 2009). Therefore, we employed the PTR-ToF-MS to directly  
223 measure high-purity ester chemicals and identify the characteristic product ions

224 produced by esters under  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  and  $\text{NO}^+$  chemical ionization. Several common esters  
225 including methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, and vinyl acetate, were  
226 selected to investigate instrument fragmentation under different ionizations. As shown  
227 in Table. S6, it is intriguing to observe that high-molecular-weight acetates tend to  
228 exhibit more fragmentation, resulting in interference at  $m/z$  61 (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2\text{H}^+$ ) and  $m/z$   
229 43 (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+$ ). Methyl acetate (95%) and ethyl acetate (72%) displayed limited  
230 fragmentation in the instrument, while isopropyl acetate accounted for only 13% of the  
231  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2\text{H}^+$  ions. Additionally, esters with different chemical structures may undergo  
232 distinct modes of fragmentation. For example, vinyl acetate primarily fragmented to  
233 produce interfering fragments at  $m/z$  43 (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+$ ) with a fraction of 78%.  
234 Furthermore, considering the PTR-ToF-MS mass spectra from various industrial VCP  
235 sources, it is conceivable that other ester compounds might also contribute to these mass  
236 channels, emphasizing the need for cautious consideration of  $m/z$  61 (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}_2\text{H}^+$ )  
237 and  $m/z$  43 (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+$ ) signals measured by  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  PTR-ToF-MS in industrial VCP  
238 sources. The use of  $\text{NO}^+$  chemical ionization exhibits various reaction pathways with  
239 ROGs (Wang et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2022), which can partially mitigate interference  
240 from fragment ions (Table. S6). The identified results of acetates based on  $\text{NO}^+$   
241 ionization demonstrated considerable improvements for methyl acetate (83%) and ethyl  
242 acetate (80%), whereas vinyl acetate exhibited more fragmentation, with the largest  
243 contribution (47%) at  $m/z$  43 (e.g.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{OH}^+$ ).

244 Additionally, it is challenging to calibrate isopropanol in the  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  PTR-ToF-MS  
245 since alcohols split off water during ionization (Buhr et al., 2002). To overcome this  
246 challenge, we implemented daily calibrations of isopropanol under ambient humidity  
247 conditions throughout the campaign (Fig. S3). The  $\text{NO}^+$  PTR-ToF-MS was also  
248 employed to calibrate isopropanol by identifying the characteristic product ions  
249 produced under  $\text{NO}^+$  ionization (Table. S6). The dominating product ion of isopropanol  
250 was observed at  $m/z$  59 (e.g.  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{O}^+$ ) (88%), which corresponds to acetone ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{OH}^+$ )  
251 ions in the  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  PTR-ToF-MS. Although the dominant product ion for acetone under  
252  $\text{NO}^+$  ionization was observed at  $m/z$  88 (e.g.  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}(\text{NO})^+$ ) (77%), the interfere at  $m/z$

253 59 (e.g.  $C_3H_6OH^+$ ) (23%) was not insignificant. Therefore, the concentration of  
254 isopropanol measured by  $NO^+$  PTR-ToF-MS in this campaign has eliminated the  
255 influence of acetone. Finally, the comparison between PTR-ToF-MS with  $H_3O^+$  and  
256  $NO^+$  chemical ionization is shown in Fig. S4-S5. Previous studies have shown good  
257 agreement between measurements obtained using PTR-ToF-MS with  $H_3O^+$  and  $NO^+$   
258 chemical ionization in ambient measurements (Wang et al., 2020). However, a slightly  
259 weaker correlation was observed in industrial VCP sources, potentially due to the large  
260 changes for different species between the switch of the two reagent ions. Our results  
261 demonstrated that the  $NO^+$  PTR-ToF-MS can also provide a complementary approach  
262 for characterizing ester species and isopropanol in ambient air as well as emission  
263 sources.

## 264 2.4 Mass spectra similarity analysis

265 We conducted a comprehensive comparison of various ROG emission sources by  
266 considering the entire range of species in mass spectra as dimensions in a vector, and  
267 calculating the cosine angle ( $\theta$ ) similarity (Humes et al., 2022;Ulbrich et al.,  
268 2009;Kostenidou et al., 2009). The angle  $\theta$  between the two mass spectra ( $MS_a$  and  $MS_b$ )  
269 is given by the following:

$$270 \cos \theta = \frac{MS_a MS_b}{|MS_a||MS_b|} \quad (1)$$

271 The  $\theta$  angles between two mass spectra is divided into 4 groups, including  $0^\circ$ -  
272  $15^\circ$ ,  $15^\circ$ - $30^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$ - $50^\circ$ , and  $>50^\circ$ , which correspond to excellent consistency, good  
273 consistency, many similarities, and poor consistency, respectively. Due to the distinct  
274 ionization methods of the instruments, our classification of angle similarity is not as  
275 strict as that reported in previous studies (Kostenidou et al., 2009;Zhu et al., 2021). As  
276 these previous studies utilize the similarity analysis on mass spectra of aerosol mass  
277 spectrometer (AMS) obtained from electron ionization, leading to very similar mass  
278 spectra for different sources.

## 279 3. Results and discussions

### 280 3.1 Time-resolved ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources

281 Time series of several ROGs measured by the  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  PTR-ToF-MS from five  
282 industrial VCP sources are shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. S6. More information for these  
283 sources can be found in Sect. S1 in the Supplement. Online measurements were carried  
284 out in semi-open workshops (workshops emission) and from ROG treatment devices  
285 (i.e. before and after treatment emission). As the waste gas was directly discharged into  
286 the ambient air from exhaust stacks, the after treatment emission was can be considered  
287 as stack emission (Zheng et al., 2013). The average concentrations of eight  
288 representative ROGs, including aromatics, ketones, alcohols, and esters, between  
289 workshops emission and stack emission for all factories is presented in Fig. S7. The  
290 evaluation of the ROGs treatment efficiency is based on the analysis of emission  
291 characteristics before and after treatment in the ROG treatment devices, which is  
292 discussed in greater detail in Section 3.3. Along with the typical ROGs, the PTR-ToF-  
293 MS measured a wide range of ions in abundance in the mass spectra. Fig. 2 displays  
294 mass spectra representing the average concentrations of stack emissions from five  
295 industrial VCP sources for all detected ROGs. These ROGs measured by the PTR-ToF-  
296 MS were categorized based on their chemical formula, namely hydrocarbon species  
297 ( $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y$ ), OVOCs ( $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_1$ ,  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_2$ , and  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_{\geq 3}$ ), species containing nitrogen and/or  
298 sulfur atoms (N/S-containing), species containing siloxanes (Si-containing), and other  
299 ions (others).

### 300 **3.1.1 Emission characteristics from industrial VCP sources**

#### 301 **A. Shoemaking industry**

302 Real-time concentrations of toluene, acetone, ethyl acetate, and isopropanol from  
303 the shoemaking industry are displayed in Fig. 1a. The variable manufacturing processes  
304 conditions are demonstrated by inconsistent emission levels in the workshops. This  
305 variation may be attributed to different emission intensities during different periods.  
306 Notably, the significant emissions from the shoemaking industry are primarily  
307 attributed to a few low-molecular-weight OVOCs (Fig. 2a), including acetone, MEK,  
308 isopropanol, and formaldehyde, followed by a fraction of hydrocarbon species (e.g.  
309 toluene). Our results align with previous findings (Zheng et al., 2013; Zhao et al., 2018a),

310 emphasizing that raw chemicals used during the industrial activities play crucial roles  
311 in determining the constituents of the industrial VCP emissions.

### 312 **B. Plastic surface coating industry**

313 Significant variations in ROG concentrations were also observed from the plastic  
314 surface coating industry (Fig. 1b). These variations could be attributed to different  
315 manufacturing process conditions and the use of different chemicals in workshops as  
316 well. As shown in Fig. 2b, OVOCs contribute significantly to emissions from this  
317 industry. Representative OVOCs for  $C_xH_yO_1$  ions consist of isopropanol, acetone,  
318 formaldehyde, methanol, and cyclohexanone.  $C_xH_yO_2$  ions refer to acetates and  
319 acrylates such as  $C_3H_6O_2$  (e.g. methyl acetate),  $C_6H_{12}O_2$  (e.g. butyl acetate),  $C_9H_{16}O_2$   
320 (e.g. allyl hexanoate) and  $C_{12}H_{20}O_2$  (e.g. linalyl acetate). Notably, there are some  
321 differences from the main components compared to previous results (Zhong et al.,  
322 2017), which may be attributed to the substitution of solvent-borne chemicals with  
323 water-borne chemicals in industrial VCPs.

### 324 **C. Furniture coating industry**

325 Due to the wide variety of industrial coatings used in the furniture coating  
326 industry, numerous ROGs can be observed in the measured mass spectra (Fig. 2c).  
327 Notably,  $C_xH_yO_2$  (24%) and  $C_xH_yO_3$  ions (9%) contribute significantly in this industry.  
328 Among the identified species,  $C_8$  aromatics exhibit the highest concentrations,  
329 consistent with previous research from industries utilizing solvent-borne coatings (Yuan  
330 et al., 2010; Wu et al., 2020b; Wang et al., 2014). Other OVOCs such as MEK, ethanol,  
331 and formaldehyde for  $C_xH_yO_1$  ions,  $C_6H_{12}O_2$  (e.g. butyl acetate),  $C_5H_8O_2$  (e.g. methyl  
332 methacrylate, acetylacetone) for  $C_xH_yO_2$  ions, and  $C_6H_{12}O_3$  (e.g. propylene glycol  
333 methyl ether acetate, PGMEA) and  $C_7H_{14}O_3$  (e.g. butyl lactate) for  $C_xH_yO_3$  ions had  
334 been found may be associated with emissions from water-borne coatings. This finding  
335 underscores the importance of considering high-molecular-weight OVOCs in this  
336 industry, further emphasizing the ability of PTR-ToF-MS to better characterize these  
337 important OVOCs that serve as raw chemicals for industrial VCPs.

338 Moreover, by employing online PTR-ToF-MS technology, we can gain deeper

339 insights into the emission characteristics of ROGs during both working and non-  
340 working hours. We conducted an analysis of ROG emissions in the furniture coating  
341 factory during non-working hours (from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the next day) and  
342 compared them with emissions during working hours (Fig. 1c). Most ROGs exhibited  
343 a gradual decrease in concentration during non-working hours, with the exception of  
344 formaldehyde which maintained a constant concentration. Notably, the concentrations  
345 of other typical ROGs, such as MEK and C<sub>8</sub> aromatics, were 2-5 times lower during  
346 non-working hours compared to working hours. This observation suggests that ROGs  
347 may still be emitted even when the painting activities in the factory is halted, with night-  
348 time emissions accounting for approximately 20% of total daily emissions. The  $\theta$  angles  
349 of mass spectra between real-time concentrations versus working hours shows that  
350 ROG emissions have many similarities during both working and non-working hours  
351 (Fig. 1d,  $\theta < 30^\circ$  in most times). Additionally, the poor similarity observed between real-  
352 time concentrations in workshops during non-working hours and those in the outside  
353 air suggests that outside air has minimal influence on ROG emissions during non-  
354 working hours (Fig. S8). Given that some ROGs were still more abundant and  
355 continued to be released into the atmosphere even during non-working hours (e.g. from  
356 the volatilization of chemicals), the ROG emissions in factories during non-working  
357 hours should not be ignored.

#### 358 **D. Printing industry**

359 The real-time concentrations of typical ROGs measured from the printing  
360 industry is shown in Fig. S6a, with an emphasize on the performance of two different  
361 ROG treatment devices, namely activated carbon adsorption combined with ultraviolet-  
362 ray (UV) photolysis devices and catalytic combustion devices (specifically,  
363 regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) devices) installed in this factory. Isopropanol was  
364 found to have the highest concentration in the printing industry (Fig. 2d), which is  
365 consistent with previous studies (Zheng et al., 2013). The higher concentrations of other  
366 typical species, such as C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (e.g. ethyl acetate), C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (e.g. isopropyl acetate),  
367 and C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (e.g. dipropylene glycol methyl ether, DPM) substantiate the correlation

368 between ROG emissions and industrial inks utilized in the printing industry. It was  
369 found that ROG treatment devices exhibit varying treatment efficiencies for ROGs,  
370 particularly for OVOCs (such as isopropanol and ethanol), that may not have been  
371 effectively removed by these treatment devices.

### 372 **E. Ship coating industry**

373 In comparison to other industrial VCP sources, the ship coating industry exhibits  
374 the highest emissions of hydrocarbons (86%), specifically C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>11</sub> aromatics (Fig. 2e,  
375 also in Fig. S6b, Sect. S1). This may be attributed to the utilization of solvent-borne  
376 industrial coatings for ship coating remains prevalent due to stringent requirements for  
377 anti-rust and anti-corrosion properties (Malherbe and Mandin, 2007). A few OVOCs,  
378 such as methanol and MEK, were identified as significant emissions. These results  
379 confirm that ROG emissions from solvent-borne coatings, predominantly composed of  
380 C<sub>8</sub> aromatics, continue to be the primary contributors in the ship coating industry, which  
381 is consistent with a previous study conducted in the PRD region (Zhong et al., 2017).

### 382 **3.1.2 Comparison of ROG composition from industrial VCP sources**

383 The quantification of the proportions of different ion categories measured by the  
384 PTR-ToF-MS across various industrial VCP sources is shown in Fig.2 and Fig. S9.  
385 OVOCs make up the largest fractions in the printing (94%), plastic surface coating  
386 (90%), shoemaking (84%), and furniture coating (68%) industries, while they only  
387 account for 13% of emissions from the ship coating industry. The fractions of different  
388 OVOC groups exhibit a general decline from C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>O<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>O<sub>≥3</sub>, and OVOCs with  
389 more than two oxygen atoms are present in small proportions (0.3%-8.5%) in all  
390 industrial VCP sources except for the furniture coating industry (33%), indicating little  
391 emissions of these species. However, although these OVOCs with two or more oxygen  
392 atoms do not contribute significantly to the overall emissions, some of them may serve  
393 as tracer compounds for particular emission sources as they were only detected in single  
394 source. Previous studies have identified octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4 siloxane),  
395 texanol (C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and para-chlorobenzotrifluoride (PCBTF, C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>4</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>) as tracer  
396 compounds for individual chemicals (adhesives and coatings) in U.S. cities (Gkatzelis

397 et al., 2021a). We also observed that the concentrations of texanol and PCBTF emitted  
398 by relevant industrial VCP sources were unique and almost non-existent in other  
399 sources. Texanol was only detected in samples from the plastic surface coating and  
400 furniture coating industries that utilize water-borne coatings. Similarly, PCBTF was  
401 only found in samples from the ship coating and furniture coating industries that use  
402 solvent-borne coatings. These findings suggest that texanol and PCBTF may be  
403 applicable as tracer compounds for industrial VCPs in China. On the contrary, D<sub>4</sub>  
404 siloxane was not found to be specific to emissions from adhesive-related industrial (i.e.  
405 shoemaking industry) (Fig. 2), indicating that D<sub>4</sub> siloxane may not be an appropriate  
406 tracer compounds for identifying industrial VCPs in China.

### 407 **3.2 Distributions of ROG emissions, OHR, OFP, and volatility**

408 We compared the mass spectra of these industrial VCP sources and calculating  
409 the  $\theta$  angles similarity (Fig. 3) (Table. S7). The ROGs showed a diverse similarity  
410 among different types of industrial VCP sources. Only plastic surface coating industry  
411 versus printing industry demonstrated good consistency (27°), other mass spectra  
412 exhibited poor consistency ( $\theta > 60^\circ$ ). Combined with mass spectra of vehicular  
413 emissions (Wang et al., 2022), the  $\theta$  angle similarities among the mass spectra of  
414 industrial VCP sources (62°-90°) were worse than those of vehicular emissions (41°-  
415 75°) (Fig. 3). It is interesting to observe that the  $\theta$  angle similarity among the mass  
416 spectra in different workshops in printing and ship coating industries ranged from 1.6°  
417 to 9.0° (Table. S8), similar to the mass spectra in various emission standards for  
418 gasoline vehicles (4.9°-17°) (Table. S9). Conversely, the  $\theta$  angle similarity among the  
419 mass spectra of workshops in other industrial VCP sources ranged from 13° to 60°,  
420 indicating significant differences in ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources. These  
421 substantial differences indicate that ROG emissions from industrial VCPs are more  
422 complex and diverse than vehicular emissions. Consequently, a more accurate  
423 classification of industrial VCP emissions is necessary, as they cannot be directly  
424 unified as a single class of emission sources.

425 The combination of PTR-ToF-MS and canister-GC-MS/FID measurements



426 allowed for more comprehensive speciation of ROG emissions from industrial VCP  
427 sources. This comprehensive approach enabled the determination of the fractions of  
428 ROGs in total ROG emissions for various industrial VCP sources (Table. S10, Fig. S5,  
429 details in Sect. S2 in the Supplement). Additionally, ROGs reactivity plays a crucial  
430 role in characterizing the contributions of different ROGs to atmospheric chemical  
431 reactions and the formation of secondary pollutants (Wu et al., 2020a; Yang et al., 2016).  
432 The overall OHR of ROGs was calculated to comprehend the role of ROGs emitted by  
433 industrial VCP sources. The calculation only employed ROGs with known reaction rate  
434 constants with the OH radical, which were taken from previous studies (Atkinson and  
435 Arey, 2003; Atkinson et al., 2004; Atkinson et al., 2006; Koss et al., 2018; Wu et al.,  
436 2020a; Zhao et al., 2016). The fractions of ROGs in the total OHR of ROGs can be  
437 determined for various industrial VCP sources (Table. S11). ROGs are grouped into  
438 categories, including OVOCs, N/S-containing, and heavy aromatics and monoterpenes  
439 measured by  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  PTR-ToF-MS, higher alkanes (including  $\text{C}_{10}$ - $\text{C}_{20}$  acyclic, cyclic, and  
440 bicyclic cycloalkanes) measured by  $\text{NO}^+$  PTR-ToF-MS, and alkanes, alkenes, aromatics,  
441 and halohydrocarbons measured by canister-GC-MS/FID.

442 OVOCs contributed significantly to total ROG emissions (Fig. 4a), and fractions  
443 of OVOCs in total ROG emissions are comparable to previous studies (Fig. 5). Notably,  
444 OVOCs account for 67% of total ROG emissions from the shoemaking industry, which  
445 is slightly lower than findings from other studies in the PRD region (Zheng et al., 2013)  
446 but higher than those reported in previous studies (Zhou et al., 2020a; Zhao et al., 2018a).  
447 The fractions of OVOCs in total ROG emissions from plastic surface coating, printing,  
448 and furniture coating industries are  $96\% \pm 0.2\%$ ,  $85\% \pm 6.5\%$ , and 77%, respectively.  
449 Compared to previous studies (Zhong et al., 2017; Zheng et al., 2013; Fang et al.,  
450 2019; Zhao et al., 2018a; Wang et al., 2019; Zhou et al., 2020a; Zhao et al., 2021),  
451 determined OVOC fractions for these industrial VCP sources are much higher (Fig. 5),  
452 which may be related to two reasons: (1) more OVOC species are detected in this study;  
453 (2) water-borne coatings and inks are more widely employed in the recent year which  
454 may enhance OVOC fractions. Moreover, OVOCs account for  $16\% \pm 3.5\%$  of total ROG

455 emissions from the ship coating industry by using the solvent-borne coatings, and the  
456 fraction is also higher than findings from one previous study (Zhong et al., 2017).  
457 Additionally, OVOCs also contribute to the largest fraction in total OHR of ROG<sub>s</sub> from  
458 all industrial VCP sources (72%-97%) except for the ship coating industry (15%±3.6%)  
459 (Fig. 4b). In contrast to the important contribution of OVOCs, the fractions of  
460 hydrocarbons measured by canister-GC-MS/FID only made considerable contributions  
461 in specific industrial VCP sources (Fig. 4). For instance, aromatics were found to be the  
462 major contributors to both total ROG emissions and OHR in the ship coating industry,  
463 making up 74%±6.1% and 79%±4.8% respectively. Alkanes measured by canister-GC-  
464 MS/FID only make contributions in the shoemaking industry, comprising 26% of the  
465 total ROG emissions. Overall, the total OHR of ROG<sub>s</sub> was dominated by OVOCs and  
466 aromatics, and the contributions of other species were in the range of 1.8%-21% (Fig.  
467 4b). These results stress the importance of measuring a broad range of OVOCs using  
468 PTR-ToF-MS in characterizing ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources.

469 The application of NO<sup>+</sup> PTR-ToF-MS provided the opportunity for detecting  
470 emissions of higher alkanes from industrial VCP sources. We show that the contribution  
471 of higher alkanes can be significant for VCP sources. Specifically, the printing industry  
472 demonstrates a noteworthy presence of higher alkanes, accounting for 27%±2.7% and  
473 8.2%±2.4% in workshop and stack emissions, respectively (Table. S10). This can be  
474 attributed to the use of lubricating oil, a primary component of industrial inks, which  
475 contains substantial amounts of alkanes (Liang et al., 2018). Furthermore, emissions  
476 from forklifts transporting products in printing workshops also contribute to the  
477 emission of higher alkanes (Li et al., 2021), suggesting non-road vehicles may  
478 contribute to the emissions from industrial VCP factories. In addition, the fractions of  
479 higher alkanes in stack emission are lower than in workshops, suggesting that ROG  
480 treatment devices effectively reduce emissions of higher alkanes.

481 To facilitate for making controlling strategies of ozone, we determine the OFP  
482 from a unity of emission from different sources for comparison (Yuan et al., 2010; Na  
483 and Pyo Kim, 2007), which represent the ability to ozone formation from ROG sources

484 on a relative basis (Fig. 6), and calculated using the following equation:

$$485 \quad OFP_i = \sum_{j=1}^n f_{ji}MIR_j \quad (2)$$

486 Where  $OFP_i$  is the estimated ozone formation amount when 1 g ROG is emitted  
487 from source  $i$ ,  $f_{ji}$  is the mass fraction of species  $j$  in source  $i$ , and  $MIR_j$  is the  
488 maximum incremental reactivity (MIR) of species  $j$  (Carter, 2007). Among the  
489 industrial VCP sources considered, the ship coating industry exhibited the highest OFP,  
490 reaching as high as  $5.5 \text{ g O}_3 \cdot \text{g}^{-1} \text{ ROG}$ s, followed by the furniture coating industry, with  
491 a value of  $2.7 \text{ g O}_3 \cdot \text{g}^{-1} \text{ ROG}$ s. The OFP for other industrial VCP sources ranged from  
492  $0.79 \text{ g O}_3 \cdot \text{g}^{-1} \text{ ROG}$ s to  $1.4 \text{ g O}_3 \cdot \text{g}^{-1} \text{ ROG}$ s. Among all industrial VCP sources, aromatics  
493 (ranging from 4.2% to 91%) and OVOCs (ranging from 6.7% to 94%) were identified  
494 as the primary contributors to OFP. Compared to vehicular emissions, the OFP from the  
495 ship coating and furniture coating industries are significantly higher (Fig. 6), suggesting  
496 that these sources should be controlled in priority. Given the higher reactivity value for  
497 ship coating industry relative to other sources, it is evident that controlling ROG  
498 emissions from solvent-borne industrial chemicals would have a more substantial  
499 impact on reducing ozone formation compared to other sources. Moreover, it is  
500 important to note that the emissions of solvent-borne chemicals surpass those of  
501 vehicles, while water-borne chemicals have lower emissions compared to vehicles. This  
502 observation implies that the substitution of solvent-borne chemicals with water-borne  
503 chemicals in China holds considerable importance in mitigating and controlling ozone  
504 pollution.

505 We further compare centralization for species among different ROG sources by  
506 determining the contribution from the top ten species in terms of concentrations, OHR,  
507 and OFP (Fig. 7 and Fig. S10, also in Table S12). We show that the top ten ROG  
508 account for over 50% on ROG emissions, OHR, and OFP (Fig. 7). With the exception  
509 of furniture coating industry, the fractions on the top ten species in total emissions, OHR,  
510 and OFP from industrial VCP sources were in range of 89%-96%. The lower fractions  
511 (ranging from 69% to 86%) of the top ten species in the furniture coating industry may  
512 be a result of the wider range of industrial coatings (i.e. both solvent-borne and water-

513 borne coatings) utilized in this industry. ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources are  
514 apparently more centralized compared to vehicular emissions (ranging from 51% to  
515 87%). Additionally, the cumulative fractions of the top one hundred species in overall  
516 ROG emissions, OHR, and OFP in various industrial VCP sources is further indicated  
517 the highly centralized of ROG emissions from various emission sources (Fig. S10).  
518 More than half of the top ten species in ROG emissions, OHR, and OFP from industrial  
519 VCP sources were OVOCs (Table S13). Among them, isopropanol made a notable  
520 contribution to the printing, plastic surface coating, and shoemaking industries. Other  
521 OVOCs such as MEK, acetone, and ethyl acetate contributed to total ROG emissions  
522 in each industry, while formaldehyde, acetaldehyde contributed to total OHR and OFP.  
523 It should be noted that the proportions of C<sub>13</sub>, C<sub>14</sub>, and C<sub>15</sub> cycloalkanes from printing  
524 industry (account for 6.3% in ROG emissions), as well as the proportion of C<sub>11</sub>  
525 aromatics from ship coating industry (account for 1.0% in ROG emissions) are not  
526 negligible. Additionally, acetylacetone is a common species with broad industrial  
527 applications, and contributes importantly to secondary pollutants formation under  
528 polluted environments (Ji et al., 2018). Although it only contributes 8.7% to total  
529 emissions from the furniture coating industry, its fraction in terms of total OHR can be  
530 as high as 30%. These findings demonstrated that previously underreported ROGs  
531 should receive greater attention in future research.

532 The updated measurements of OVOC emissions by using the PTR-ToF-MS  
533 substantially improve our understanding of the emission of industrial VCP sources. The  
534 effective saturation concentrations (C\*) of high-molecular-weight OVOCs were found  
535 to be lower, which were corresponding to intermediate-volatility organic compounds  
536 (IVOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). Since these S/I-VOCs are  
537 crucial precursors for the SOA in urban environments (Zhao et al., 2014), it is important  
538 to comprehend their contributions from the emissions of industrial VCP sources across  
539 various volatility classes, including volatility organic compounds (VOCs), IVOCs, and  
540 SVOCs (Guenther et al., 2012; Li et al., 2016). Fig. 8 illustrates the distribution of ROG  
541 species in a two-dimensional volatility basis set (2D-VBS) space for various industrial

542 VCP sources, categorized based on volatility bins (Li et al., 2016; Donahue et al., 2011).  
543 It is worth noting that the volatility distributions exhibit substantial variation across  
544 industrial VCP sources (Fig. 8a). Generally, VOCs constitute the predominant fraction  
545 of emissions from industrial VCP sources, accounting for 59% to 98% of the total  
546 emissions. The fractions of IVOCs are largest in the printing industry (40%), compared  
547 to the range of 2.1%-9.6% in other industrial VCP sources. Conversely, the contribution  
548 of SVOCs from industrial VCP sources are negligible in our study, accounting for less  
549 than 1%. Considering the importance of S/I-VOCs in SOA formation, particularly with  
550 the increasing adoption of improved online mass spectrometry technologies, the S/I-  
551 VOCs emissions from industrial VCP sources should be paid more attention in future  
552 research.

### 553 **3.3 Evaluate ROGs treatment efficiency in industrial VCP sources**

554 The analysis of the PTR-ToF-MS mass spectra offers valuable insights into the  
555 impact of ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources. This comprehensive  
556 information provided by the PTR-ToF-MS also allows for a systematic comparison of  
557 emissions before and after the treatment of ROGs. The scatterplot of the concentrations  
558 of various ROGs before and after treatment in industrial VCP sources are shown in Fig.  
559 9 and Fig. S11. The observed treatment efficiency, represented by 1-slope, did not reach  
560 the desired levels, ranging from -12% to 68%. Among the industrial VCP sources  
561 investigated, the shoemaking industry exhibited the highest treatment efficiency  
562 (slope=0.32) with the activated carbon adsorption combined with UV photolysis device.  
563 This remarkable efficiency can be attributed to the large-scale nature of the factory and  
564 meticulous regulation of the ROG treatment devices. Following closely behind is the  
565 printing industry, utilizing catalytic combustion devices, with a slightly higher efficacy  
566 (slope=0.67) than another treatment device in the same factory (slope=0.80).  
567 Nonetheless, it is evident that the treatment efficiency has not reached the desired levels  
568 for all ROG groups (Fig. S11), which possibly due to the challenges associated with  
569 effectively removing majority ROG emissions using current treatment technologies.  
570 Additionally, we also observed that some OVOCs may be generated as byproducts after

571 the implementation of treatment devices. For instance, the concentrations of CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (e.g.  
572 formic acids), C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (e.g. propylene carbonate), and C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O (e.g. nonanal) were  
573 found to be higher after the application of activated carbon adsorption combined with  
574 UV photolysis devices (Fig. 9d). Similarly, the concentrations of C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O (e.g. acrolein)  
575 and C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (e.g. dibutyl squarate) were also higher following the utilization of  
576 catalytic combustion devices (Fig. 9e). Therefore, it is crucial to consider the potential  
577 contribution of these ROGs when assessing the emissions released into the atmosphere.  
578 The lowest treatment efficiency of ROG was obtained in the furniture coating industry  
579 (slope=1.12). This treatment device demonstrates inefficiency for all ROG groups (Fig.  
580 S11). The inadequate performance of the ROG treatment devices in this specific facility  
581 may be attributed to a number of possible reasons, e.g., delayed replacement of  
582 activated carbon and other adsorption materials, and the implementation of the UV  
583 photolysis device could potentially result in the generation of more ROGs as byproducts.

584 Furthermore, the  $\theta$  angles between the mass spectra of ROG from workshops,  
585 before and after ROG treatment devices for various industrial VCP sources were  
586 calculated and summarized in Fig. S12 (also in Table. S13). A comparison between the  
587 correlation of mass spectra among workshops versus after treatment devices (ranging  
588 from 6.2° to 49°) and workshops versus before treatment devices (ranging from 4.2° to  
589 41°) demonstrated a poorer correlation in the former case. The similarities between  
590 workshops and stack emissions in the shoemaking industry were lower compared to  
591 other industrial VCP sources. This discrepancy can potentially be attributed to the  
592 inclusion of ROG emissions from non-VCP usage manufacturing processes (e.g. sole  
593 injection molding) in the collection process of ROG treatment devices. Additionally,  
594 the  $\theta$  angles similarity between the mass spectra from before and after ROG treatment  
595 devices in various industrial VCP sources also providing insight into the efficacy of the  
596 devices in removing ROGs (Fig. 9). The  $\theta$  angles in ROG treatment devices from five  
597 industrial VCP sources were found to range from 1.8° to 27°, indicating good  
598 consistency between the mass spectra before and after treatment of ROGs. This  
599 alignment suggests that the chemical compositions of ROG emissions remain

600 comparable before and after treatment ( $R \geq 0.87$ ), implying that the relative proportions  
601 of various ROG components are not significantly affected by the ROG treatment  
602 devices in these industrial VCP sources.

### 603 **3.4 Impact of industrial VCP sources on ambient air**

604 To gain deeper insights into the atmospheric impact of emissions from industrial  
605 VCP sources, an in-situ measurement was carried out at a monitoring station nearby the  
606 furniture coating industry, located 2 km northeast from the industry site. The  
607 measurement was conducted using a PTR-ToF-MS (Kore Inc., U.K.), which enabled  
608 the quantification of various common ROGs. More information about this instrument  
609 and dataset for in-situ measurement can be found elsewhere (Gonzalez-Mendez et al.,  
610 2016; Song et al., 2023). Concordant with expectations, the average concentrations of  
611 representative ROGs generally demonstrate a discernible decline from the furniture  
612 coating industry (including stack emission and workshops during working and non-  
613 working hours) to the ambient measurement (Fig. 10). C<sub>8</sub> aromatics and MEK  
614 performed considerable emissions from furniture coating industry, while the  
615 concentrations of them in the ambient air are orders of magnitude lower than those  
616 observed in the industry. However, ambient concentrations of OVOCs, specifically  
617 MEK ( $6.8 \pm 8.2$  ppb) and ethyl acetate ( $7.5 \pm 5.9$  ppb) are still significantly higher than  
618 clean environments and are among the highest measured concentration in the literature  
619 (Wu et al., 2020a; He et al., 2022b; Khare et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2022). It is confirmed  
620 that OVOCs should be paid attention to industrialized urban areas, thereby further  
621 substantiating the significance of OVOC emissions from industrial VCP sources to  
622 atmospheric pollution. These results stress the invaluable insights provided by PTR-  
623 ToF-MS in comprehensively characterizing ROG compositions in both emission  
624 sources and urban air.

625 The preceding discussions illustrate that the emission characteristics of ROGs  
626 significantly vary among industrial VCP sources. As a result, the ratio of ROG pairs  
627 can be used to distinguish emissions of industrial VCP sources. MEK and C<sub>8</sub> aromatics  
628 emerge as key species in industrial VCP emissions, and the reaction rate constants of

629 C<sub>8</sub> aromatics with OH radical ( $k_{OH} = (1.4-2.3) \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{molecule}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) are higher  
630 than MEK ( $k_{OH} = 5.5 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{molecule}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) (Atkinson and Arey, 2003; Wu et al.,  
631 2020a). Fig. 11 illustrates the correlation of MEK with C<sub>8</sub> aromatics in stack emission,  
632 workshops during working hours and non-working hours in the furniture coating  
633 industry, as well as ambient measurement near the industry. Positive correlations  
634 between MEK and C<sub>8</sub> aromatics are observed in both emission sources and ambient  
635 measurements, indicating a shared source for these compounds. Additionally, the  
636 observed ratios of MEK to C<sub>8</sub> aromatics in ambient measurement are also comparable  
637 with the ratios of MEK to C<sub>8</sub> aromatics measured in emissions from the furniture  
638 coating industry (0.97 ppb·ppb<sup>-1</sup> for the stack emission and 0.75 ppb·ppb<sup>-1</sup> for the  
639 workshops emission), suggesting that industrial VCP emissions (specifically furniture  
640 coating) may account for the enhancement of MEK and C<sub>8</sub> aromatics in this industrial  
641 area. The peak concentration of MEK exceeding 200 ppb from the ambient  
642 measurements are among the highest in the literature (Fig. 11). Therefore, we conducted  
643 a comparison of MEK and C<sub>8</sub> aromatics concentrations in this study with those in clean  
644 environments (urban, rural, forest, and coastal sites) from previous studies (Fig. S13)  
645 (Wu et al., 2020a; Coggon et al., 2024; Yuan et al., 2012; Seco et al., 2011; Acton et al.,  
646 2016; Tan et al., 2021; He et al., 2022b). It is indicating that ambient measurements in  
647 industrial areas have been significantly impacted by industrial VCP sources, and the  
648 MEK / C<sub>8</sub> aromatics ratio can serve as good evidence by using high time-resolution  
649 ROG measurements from PTR-ToF-MS.

#### 650 **4. Conclusion**

651 In this work, we conducted a field campaign to measure more comprehensive  
652 speciation of ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources, including shoemaking,  
653 plastic surface coating, furniture coating, printing, and ship coating industries. To  
654 achieve this, we employed the PTR-ToF-MS in combination with canister-GC-MS/FID  
655 techniques. Our study demonstrated that OVOCs have been identified as representative  
656 ROGs emitted from these sources, which are highly related to specific chemicals used  
657 during the industrial activities. Furthermore, we performed a mass spectra similarity



658 analysis to compare the ROG emissions across different emission sources. The poor  
659 consistency of the similarity between the mass spectra in emission sources indicating  
660 that substantial differences between industrial VCP sources, as they cannot be directly  
661 categorized as a single class of emission sources.

662 In addition, the fractions of ROGs in total ROG emissions and OHR are  
663 determined by combining measurements from canister-GC-MS/FID and PTR-ToF-MS.  
664 Except for the ship coating industry utilizing solvent-borne coatings, the proportions of  
665 OVOCs range from 67% to 96% in total ROG emissions and 72% to 97% in total OHR  
666 for different industrial sources. Large fraction of OVOCs may be related to two reasons:  
667 (1) more OVOC species are detected in this study; (2) water-borne coatings and inks  
668 are more widely employed in the recent year which may enhance OVOC fractions. This  
669 highlights the importance of measuring these OVOC emissions from industrial VCP  
670 sources. The industrial VCP sources associated with solvent-borne coatings exhibited a  
671 higher OFP, reaching as high as 5.5 and 2.7 g O<sub>3</sub>·g<sup>-1</sup> ROGs for ship coating and  
672 furniture coating industries, primarily due to contributions from aromatics, suggesting  
673 that these sources should be controlled in priority. The fractions of the ten most  
674 abundant species in total ROG emissions, OHR, and OFP indicate the highly centralized  
675 of ROG emissions from various emission sources.

676 Our results suggest that ROG treatment devices may have limited effectiveness  
677 in removing ROGs, with treatment efficiencies ranging from -12% to 68%. In addition,  
678 OVOCs should be paid more attention to industrialized urban areas due to the  
679 substantial impact of industrial VCP sources. Our study demonstrated that ROG pairs  
680 (e.g., MEK / C<sub>8</sub> aromatics ratio) can be utilized as reliable evidence for indicating the  
681 impact of industrial VCP sources on ambient measurements in industrial areas.

682 This study highlights the significant role of OVOCs to ROG emissions from  
683 industrial VCP sources, particularly those utilizing water-borne chemicals. As a result,  
684 these industrial VCP sources may significantly contribute to the primary emissions of  
685 OVOCs in urban regions. The current emission inventories do not fully account for the  
686 emissions of many ROGs, which can compromise the predictive accuracy of air quality

687 models in urban areas. In this study, a broader range of ROG species was quantified  
688 using PTR-ToF-MS measurements, which highlights the effectiveness of PTR-ToF-MS  
689 in characterizing ROG emissions from industrial VCP sources.

690

### 691 **Data availability**

692 Data are available from the authors upon request.

### 693 **Author contribution**

694 BY designed the research. BY and SHW organized industrial VCP source  
695 measurements. SHW, XJH, RC, CHW, and CMW contributed to data collection. SHW  
696 performed the data analysis, with contributions from XS and YBC. SHW and BY  
697 prepared the manuscript with contributions from YBH, XBL, BGW and MS. All the  
698 authors reviewed the manuscript.

### 699 **Competing interests**

700 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or  
701 personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this  
702 paper.

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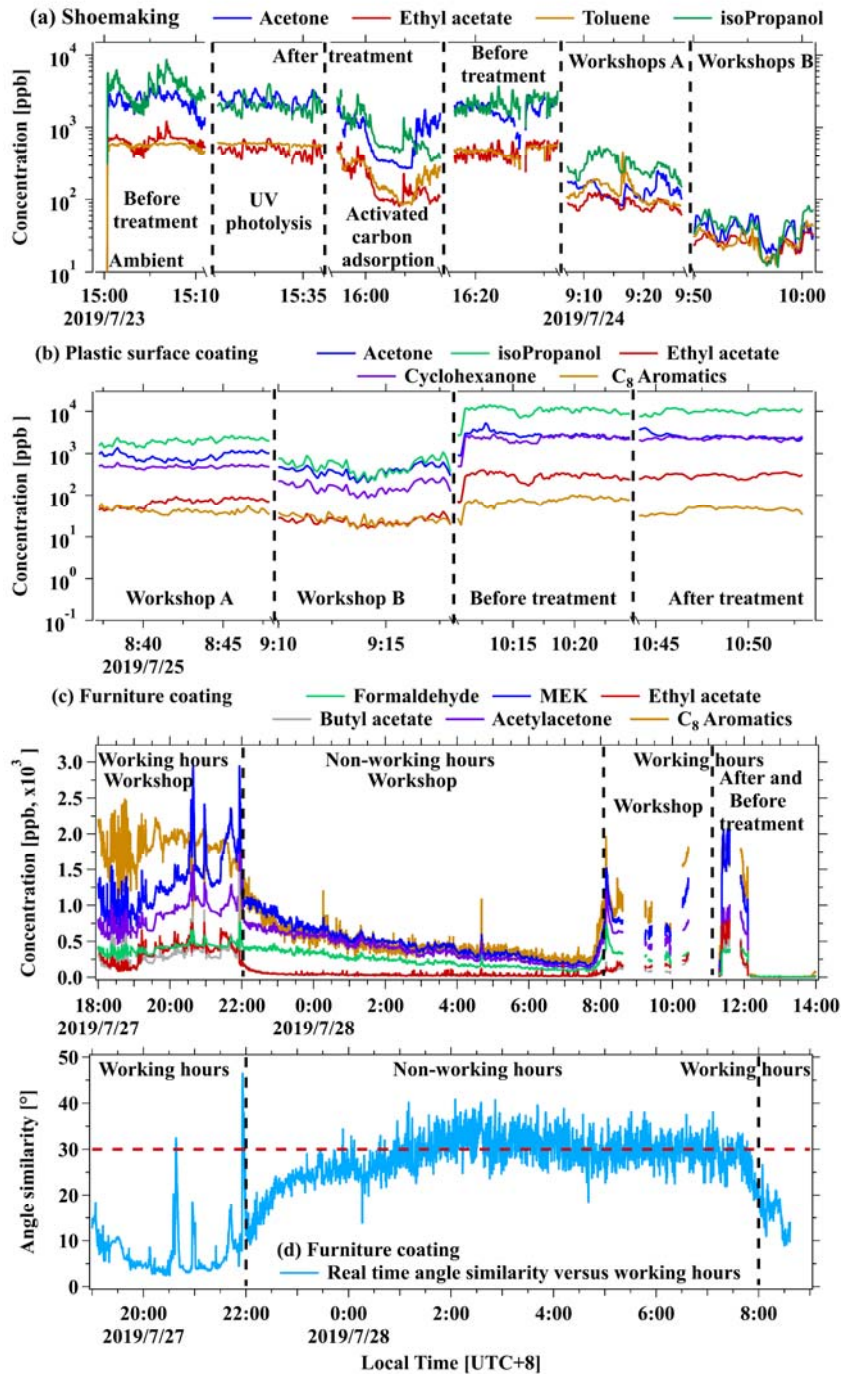
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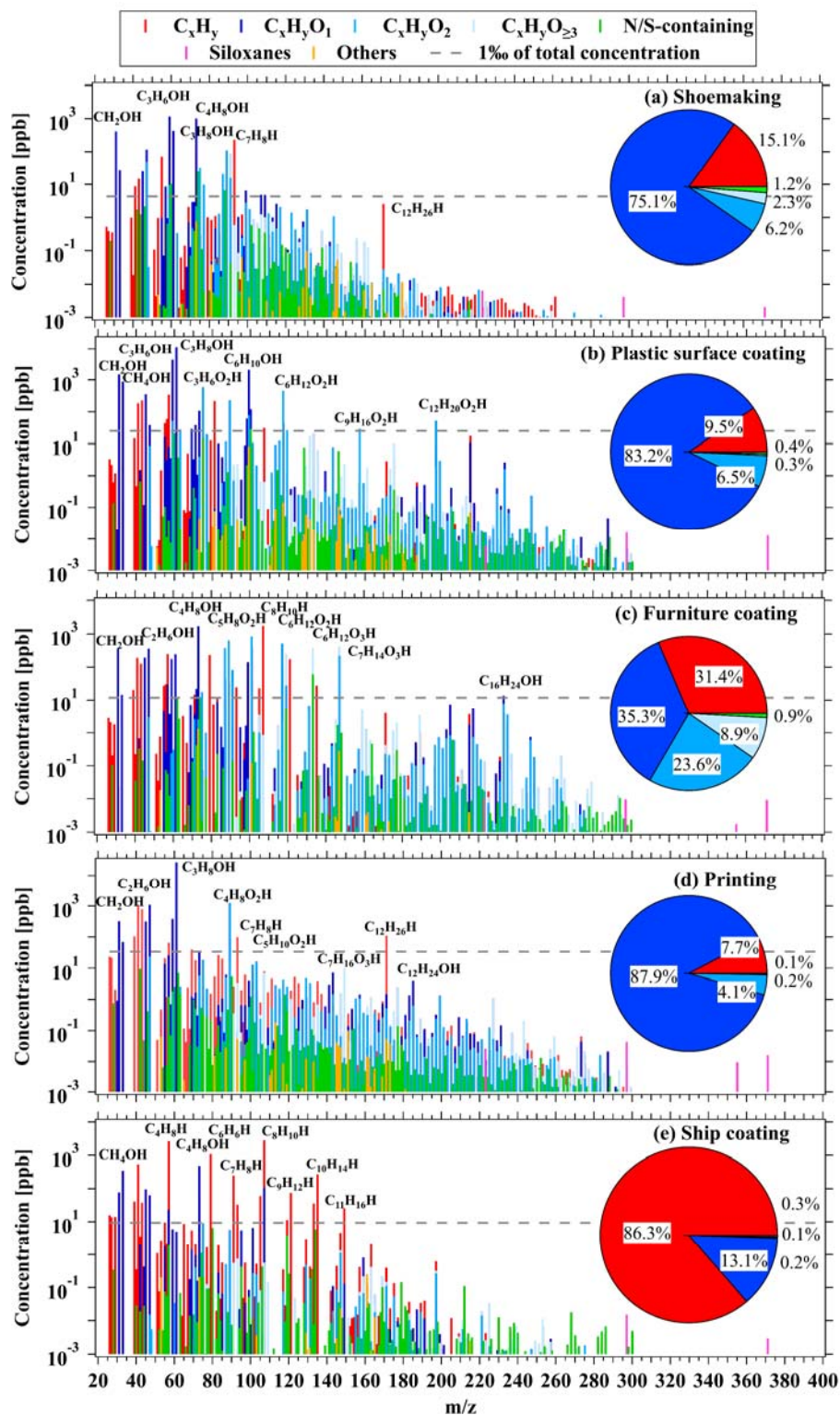


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1100 **Figure 1.** Real-time concentrations of representative ROG from workshops, before  
 1101 and after the ROG treatment devices in (a) shoe making industry, (b) plastic surface  
 1102 coating industry, and (c) during working hours or non-working hours in the furniture  
 1103 coating industry. (d) The  $\theta$  angles of mass spectra among real-time concentrations  
 1104 versus average concentration during working time (19:00-22:00) in the furniture  
 1105 coating industry.

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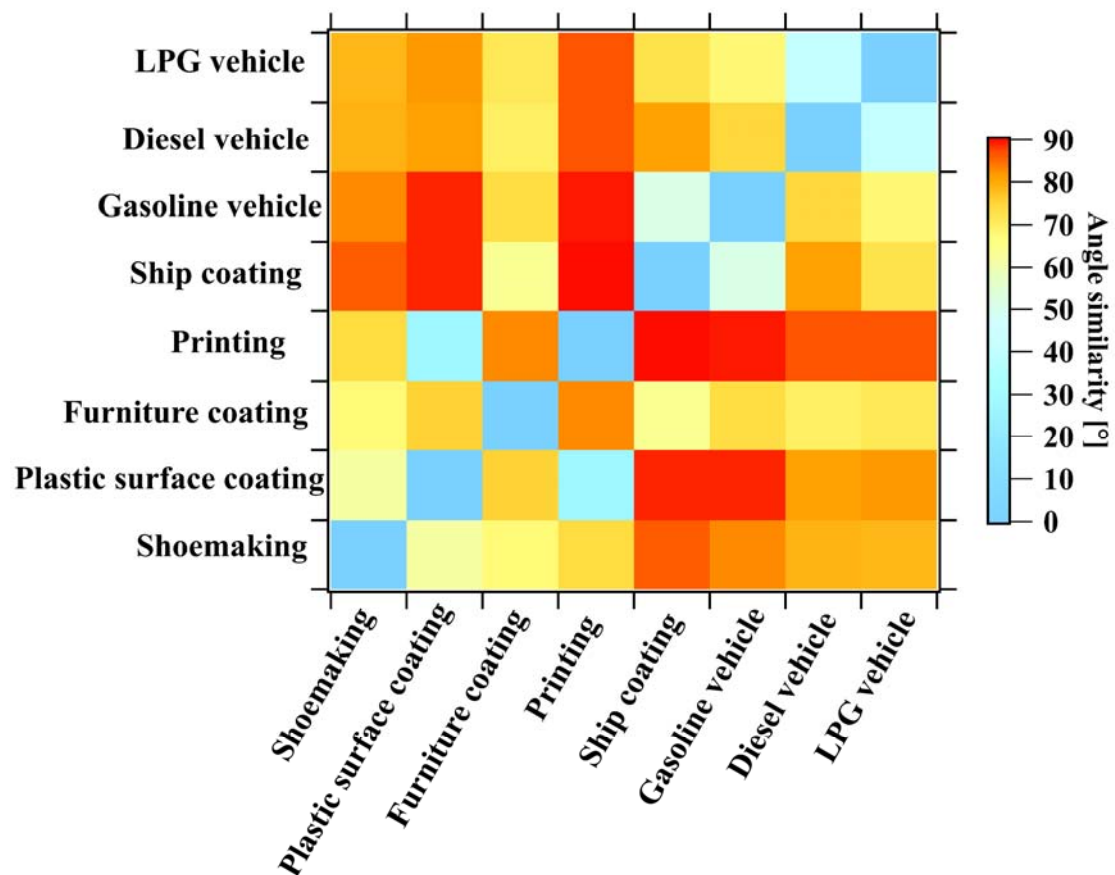




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1108 **Figure 2.** Average concentrations and fractions of ROGs measured by PTR-ToF-MS  
 1109 from stack emissions in (a) shoemaking, (b) plastic surface coating, (c) furniture coating,  
 1110 (d) printing, and (e) ship coating industries.

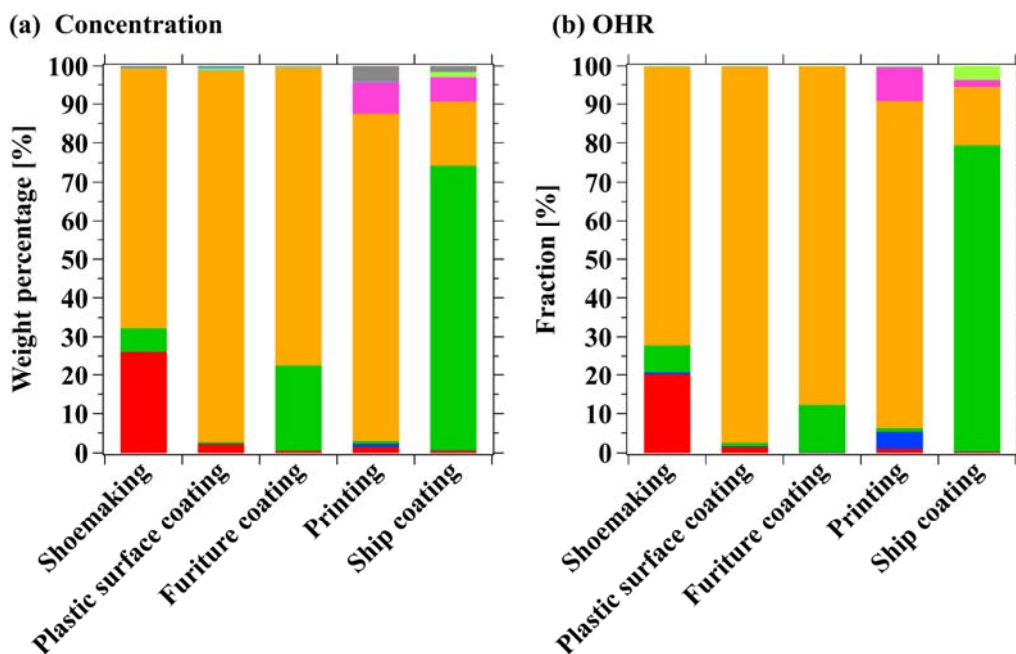
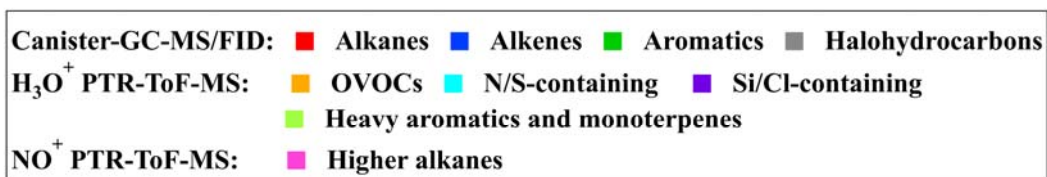
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1113 **Figure 3.** The  $\theta$  angles among the mass spectra of industrial VCP sources in this study  
 1114 and vehicular emissions from previous study (Wang et al., 2022).

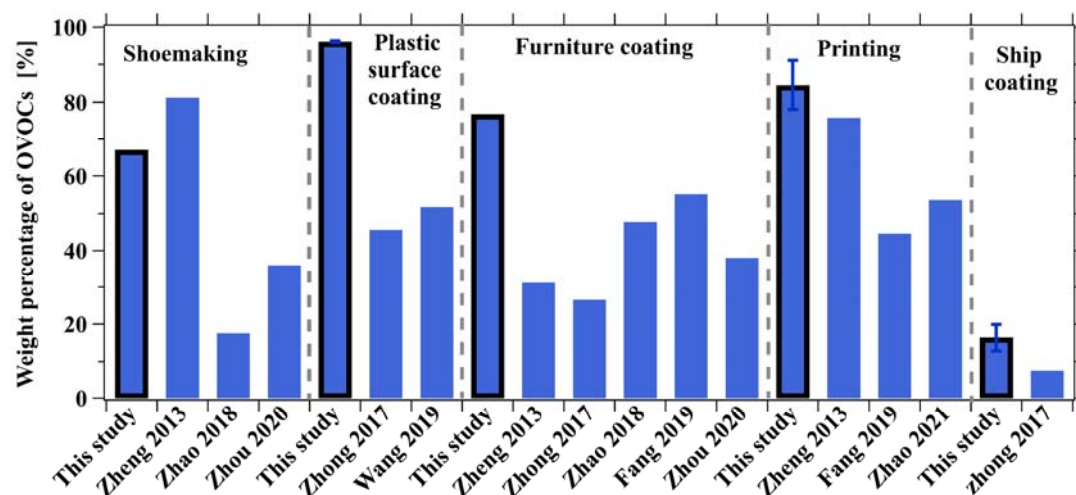
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1117 **Figure 4.** Fractions of (a) concentrations and (b) OHR for ROG components to total  
 1118 ROG from stack emissions in shoemaking, plastic surface coating, furniture coating,  
 1119 printing, and ship coating industries.

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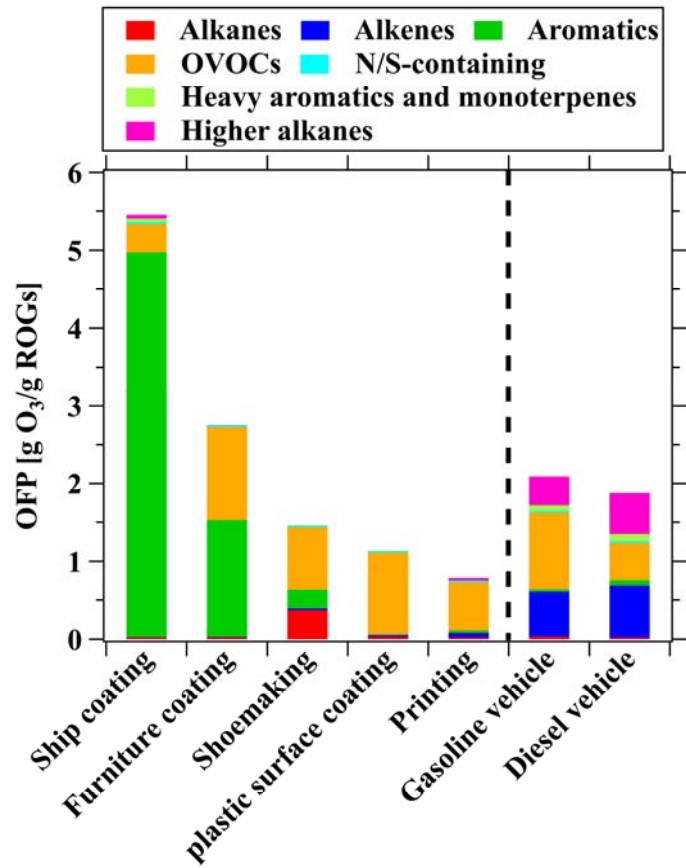


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1122 **Figure 5.** Comparison of OVOC fractions determined from stack emission of industrial  
 1123 VCP sources in this study and those in previous studies. Error bars represent the  
 1124 standard deviations of the weight percentage of OVOCs.

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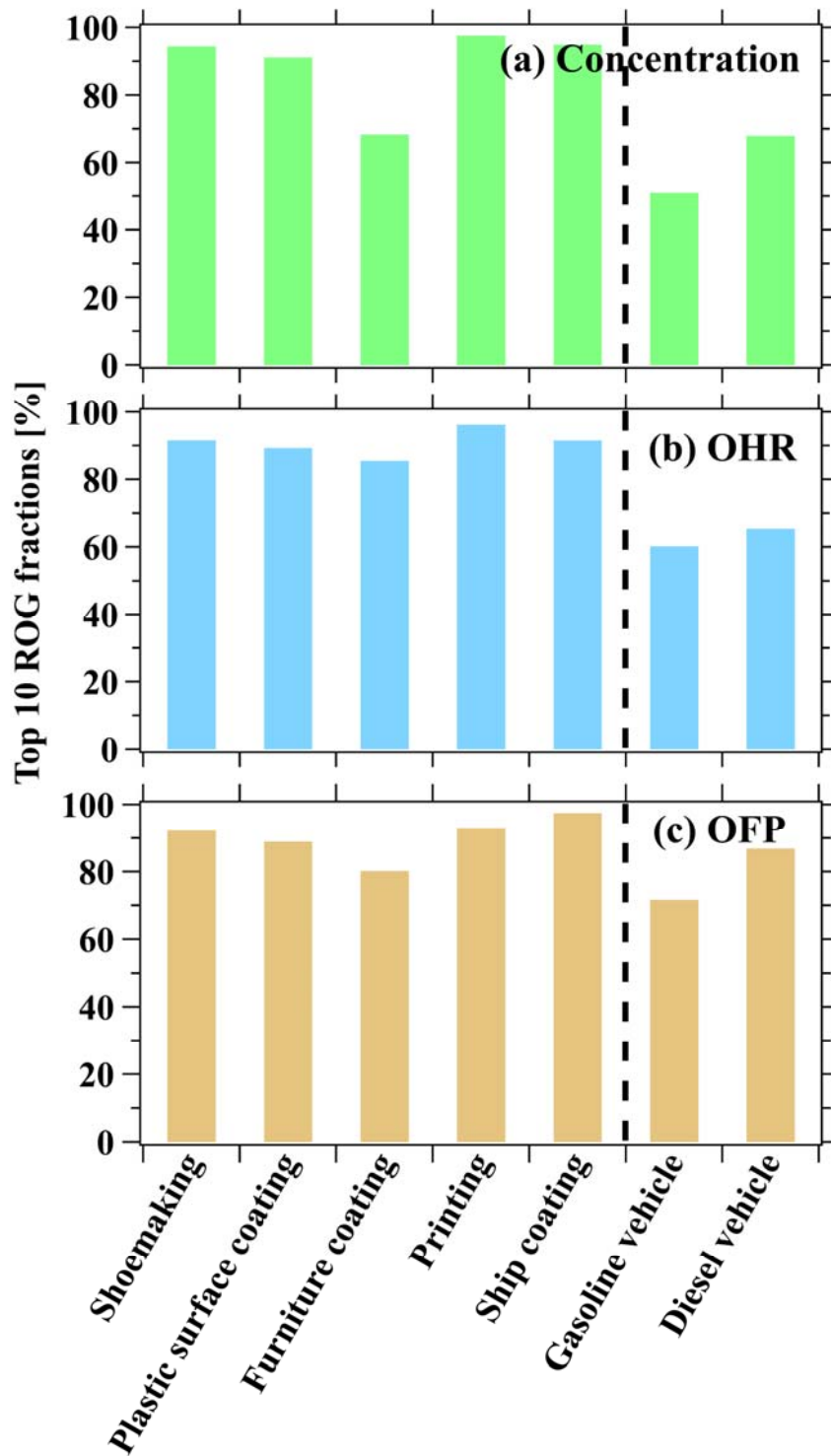


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1127 **Figure 6.** Comparison of OFP among various industrial VCP sources in this study and

1128 vehicular emissions from previous study (Wang et al., 2022).

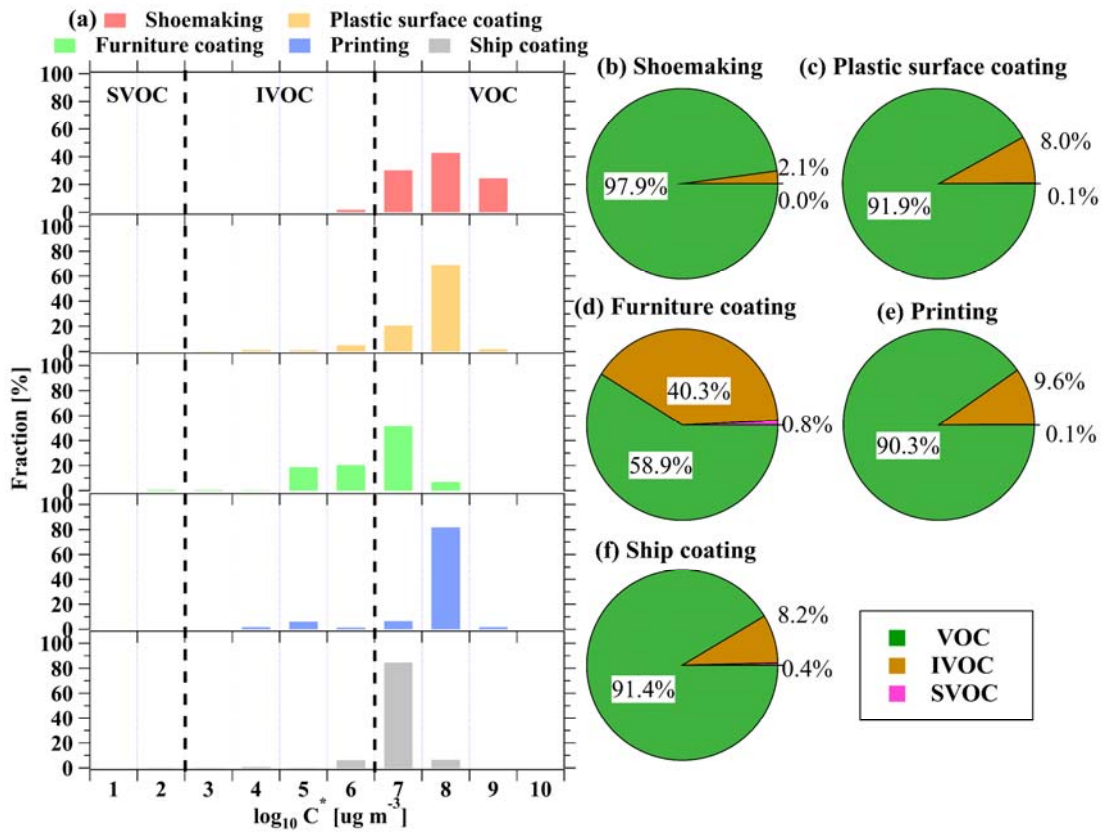
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1131 **Figure 7.** Accumulated fractions of the top ten species in total (a) ROG emissions, (b)  
 1132 OHR, and (c) OFP from industrial VCP sources in this study and vehicular emissions  
 1133 from previous study (Wang et al., 2022).

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1136 **Figure 8.** (a) Volatility-binned fractions from stack emissions of various industrial VCP

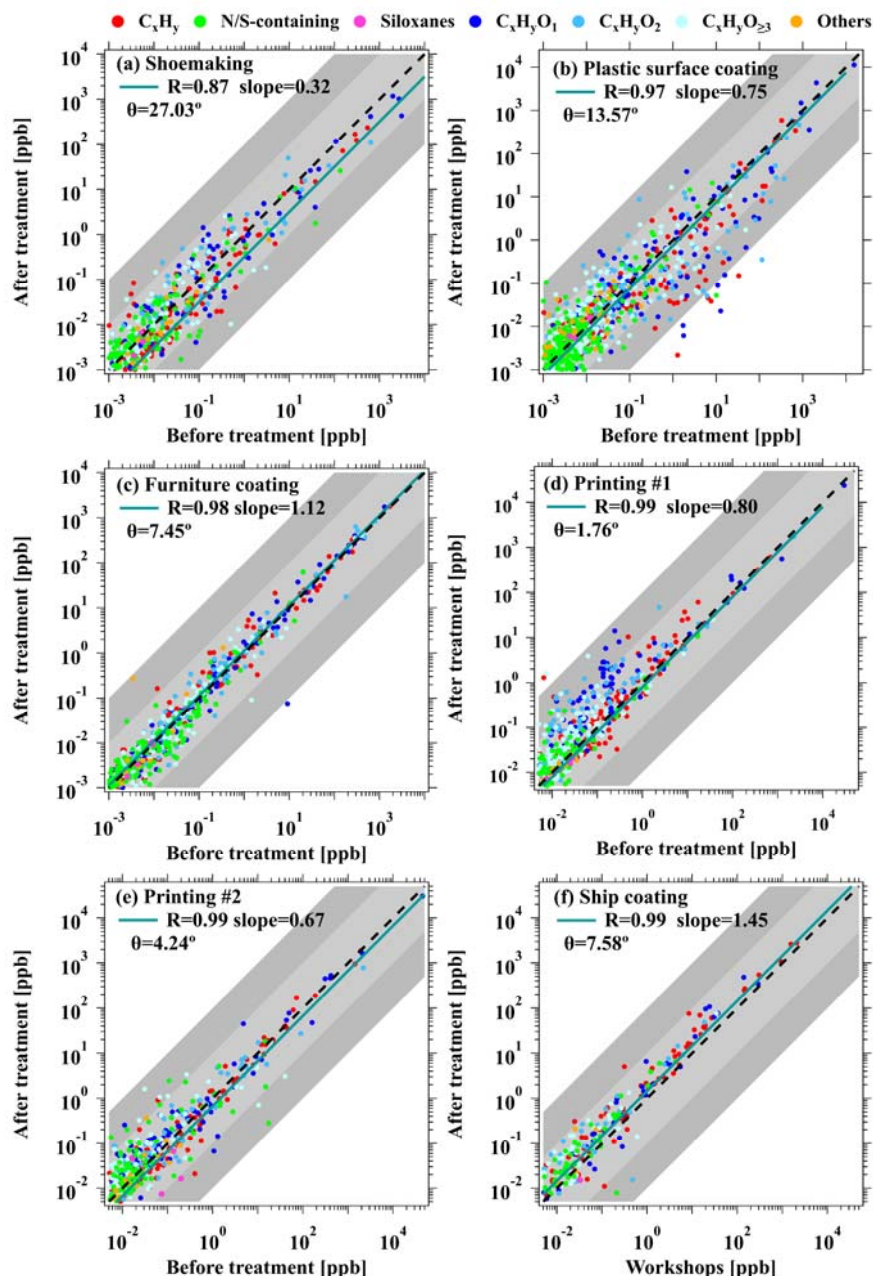
1137 sources, and volatility-binned fractions from different ROG categories in (b)

1138 shoemaking, (c) plastic surface coating, (d) furniture coating, (e) printing, and (f) ship

1139 coating industries.

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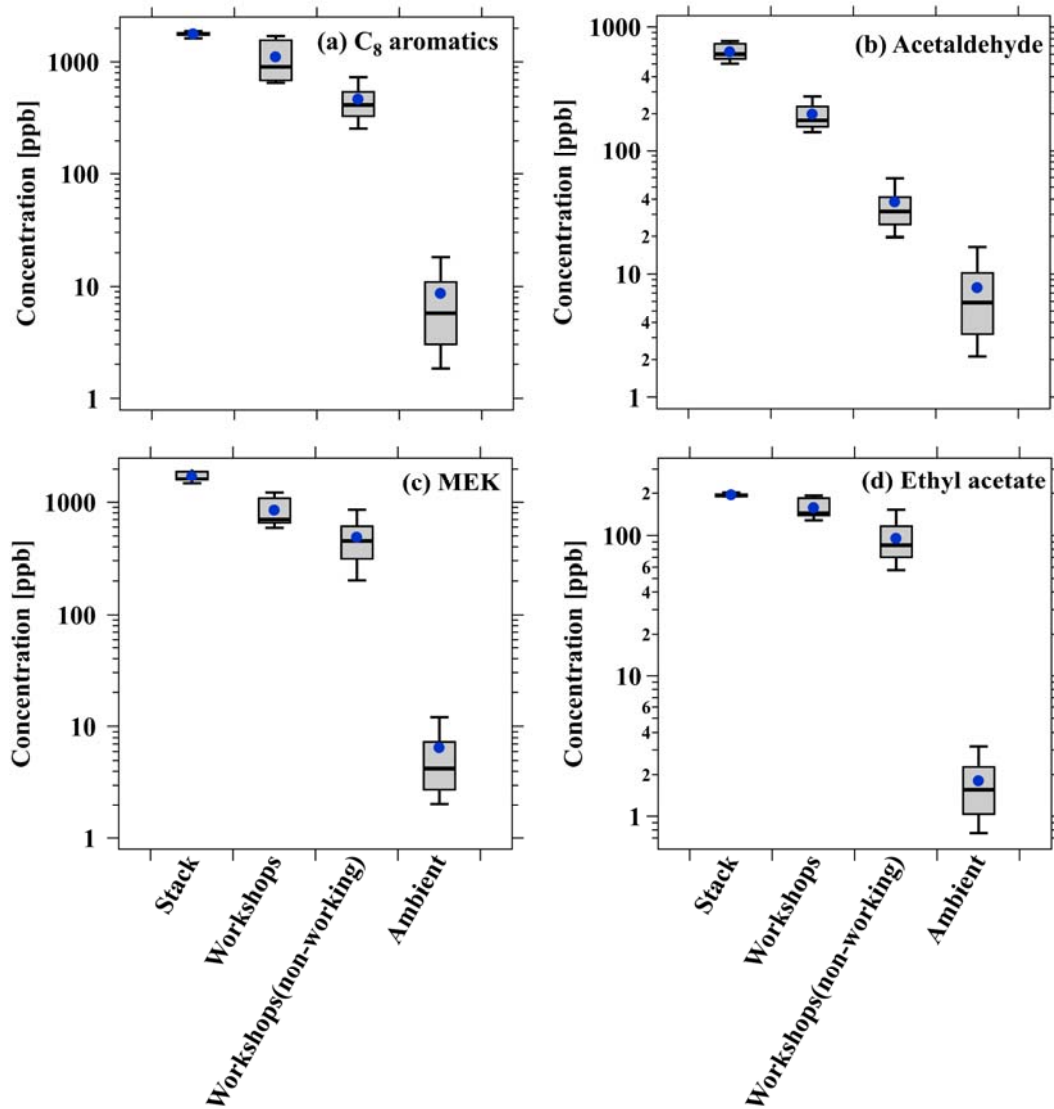
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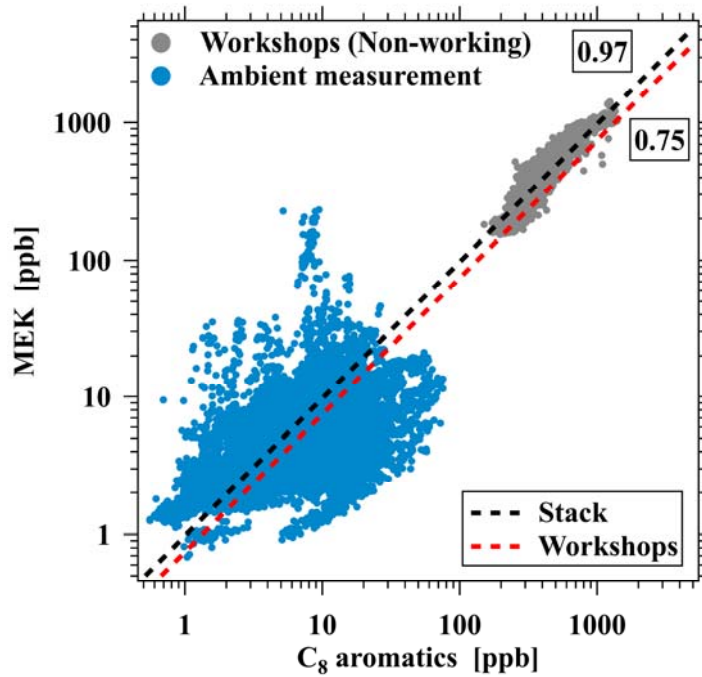
**Figure 9.** Scatterplots of ROG concentrations between before and after treatment with activated carbon adsorption + UV photolysis in (a) shoemaking, (b) plastics surface coating, (c) furniture coating, and (d) printing industries. Scatterplots of ROG concentrations between before and after treatment with catalytic combustion in (e) the printing industry, and ROG concentrations between workshops and after treatment with catalytic combustion in (f) the ship coating industry. The green lines are the fitted results for all data points. The black dashed lines represent 1:1 ratio, and the shaded areas represent ratios of a factor of 10 and 100.



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1153 **Figure 10.** Boxplots of (a) C<sub>8</sub> aromatics, (b) acetaldehyde, (c) MEK, and (d) ethyl  
 1154 acetate concentrations across the stack, workshops during working and non-working  
 1155 hours in the furniture coating industry, and ambient measurement near the industry,  
 1156 respectively.

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1159 **Figure 11.** Scatterplot of MEK versus C<sub>8</sub> aromatic concentrations from workshops  
 1160 during non-working hours in the furniture coating industry and ambient measurement  
 1161 near the industry. The black and red dashed line represent ratios of ROG pairs for stack  
 1162 and workshops emission in furniture coating industry.

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