
1 **Real-world emission characteristics of VOCs from typical cargo ships and their**
2 **potential contributions to SOA and O₃ under low-sulfur fuel policies**

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32 **Abstract**

33 Mandatory use of low-sulfur fuel according to global sulfur limit regulation has
34 reduced the emissions of SO₂ and PM significantly on ships, while it also leads to very
35 large uncertainty on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emission. Therefore, on-board
36 test of VOCs from 9 typical cargo ships with low-sulfur fuels in China were carried out
37 in this study. Results showed that emission factor of VOCs (EF_{VOCs}) varied largely from
38 0.09 to 3.01 g kg⁻¹ fuel, with domestic coastal cargo ships (CCSs) had the highest levels,
39 followed by inland cargo ships (ICSs) and ocean-going vessels (OGVs) ~~the lowest.~~
40 The switch of fuels from heavy fuel oil (HFO) to diesel increased EF_{VOCs} by 48% on
41 average, which enhanced both O₃ and secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation
42 potentials, especially for OGVs. Besides, the use of low-sulfur fuels for OGVs also lead
43 to significant increase of naphthalene emission. These indicated the implementation of
44 globally ultra-low-sulfur oil policy in the near future needs to be optimized. Moreover,
45 aromatics were the most important common contributors to O₃ and SOA in ship
46 exhausts, which need to be controlled with priority. It was also found that benzene,
47 toluene, and ethylbenzene ratio of 0.5:0.3:0.2 on average could be considered as a
48 diagnostic characteristic to distinguish ship emission from other emission sources.

49 **Keywords:** cargo ships, low-sulfur fuel, VOCs, ozone, secondary organic aerosol

50 **1. Introduction**

51 Maritime transport accounts for more than 80% of global trade by volume (United
52 Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2020), leading to significant
53 environmental and health effects (Corbett et al., 2007;Liu et al., 2016;Wang et al.,
54 2021a). As a non-ignorable anthropogenic emission source of air pollutants, shipping
55 emission has caused more and more attentions in recent decades. However, most of the
56 previous studies focus on primary pollutants, such as SO₂, NO_x, CO_x, HC, particulate
57 matter (PM) and its components, particulate number (PN), etc. (Zhang et al.,

58 2022b;Santos et al., 2022;Zhou et al., 2019b;Chu-Van et al., 2017;Reda et al.,
59 2015;Buffaloe et al., 2014;Beecken et al., 2014;Moldanova et al., 2013;Fu et al.,
60 2013;Moldanova et al., 2009;Lack et al., 2009;Lack et al., 2008). Only few studies
61 estimate the influence of ship exhaust on secondary photochemical oxidation products,
62 such as O₃ and secondary organic aerosol (SOA), and concern their relative precursors
63 (Jonson et al., 2009;Song et al., 2010;Lang et al., 2017;Wu et al., 2019;Wang et al.,
64 2019;Wu et al., 2020). Results from these limited studies show that the ozone formation
65 potential (OFP) and secondary organic aerosol formation potential (SOAFP) of
66 shipping emissions are much greater than from on-road vehicles due to their higher
67 VOCs emission factors and normalized reactivities (Wu et al., 2019;Wu et al., 2020).
68 Therefore, the neglect of secondary pollutants such as O₃ and SOA would vastly
69 underestimate the actual influence of shipping emissions on environment air.

70 Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are typical O₃ and SOA precursors. Generally
71 speaking, alkanes, alkenes, aromatics and carbonyls with carbon number > 6 in VOCs
72 can form SOA (Grosjean, 1992;Grosjean and Seinfeld, 1989). While O₃ is formed from
73 the photochemical interactions of volatile organic VOCs and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x),
74 with alkenes having the highest Maximum Incremental Reactivity (MIR), followed by
75 aromatics and OVOCs (Carter, 1994). Typical aromatics, alkenes, and alkanes are the
76 most concerned VOCs from diesel exhausts. For example, Previous studies find that
77 aromatics and alkanes contribute most to SOAFP from diesel exhaust, with single-ring
78 aromatics such as toluene, benzene and xylene et al. are the most contributors (Gentner
79 et al., 2012;Che et al., 2023). Wang et al. (2020) point out that naphthalene, butene,
80 toluene, benzene, and dodecane et al. are the most contributors to OFP from exhausts
81 of diesel trucks. Even though concentrations of PM_{2.5} decreased rapidly in recent years,
82 O₃ presented continuous upward trends in most of China (Lu et al., 2020). More and
83 more strict limitations of VOCs have been applied to the main sources such as industrial
84 emission, vehicle exhaust etc., while VOCs from shipping haven't gained much
85 attention. Most of previous studies just give the characteristics of total non-methane

86 hydrocarbons (NMHCs) from ships, but not specific VOC species (Cooper, 2003;Zhang
87 et al., 2016a). Only few studies have reported the VOCs emission factors (EFs) and
88 their composition from specific type of ships under specific operating conditions (Wu
89 et al., 2020;Wang et al., 2020;Wu et al., 2019;Xiao et al., 2018;Zetterdahl et al.,
90 2016;Huang et al., 2018b;Cooper et al., 1996). The limited measured VOCs data cannot
91 reflect the actual situation of shipping emissions. More on-board VOCs measurement
92 for typical ships with representative fuels under different operating conditions need to
93 be carried out, especially after the implementation of low-sulfur fuel policies.

94 According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the maximum fuel
95 sulfur content has been set to be 0.5% (m/m) worldwide by 2020, and 0.1% (m/m) in
96 emission control areas (ECAs). The Chinese government also has set the coastal ECAs
97 that require the sulfur content of 0.5% (m/m) since 2019, and 0.1% (m/m) in inland
98 ECAs since 2020 ([Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China, 2018](#)). The
99 use of ultra-low sulfur fuel (< 0.1% (m/m)) globally is an inevitable trend in the near
100 future. Fuel quality could affect the pollutants from ship exhausts significantly. For
101 example, a large amount of PM, SO₂ and NO_x have been reduced since the
102 implementation of ship emission control policies (Weng et al., 2022;Wang et al.,
103 2021b;Zhang et al., 2019;Viana et al., 2015;Repka et al., 2021). While it also reveals
104 that the switching of high-sulfur content fuels (sulfur content $\geq 0.5\%$) to low-sulfur
105 content fuels ($0.1\% < \text{sulfur content} < 0.5\%$) leads to significant uncertainties of VOCs
106 emissions from the results of previous studies. For example, Wu et al. (2019) show that
107 the reduction in EF of VOCs (EF_{VOCs}) is 67% when switching from high-sulfur content
108 heavy fuel oil (HFO) to low-sulfur content marine diesel oil for a container ship. While
109 another study finds that after limiting fuel sulfur content, the EF_{VOCs} are approximately
110 15 times that of before implementation of the fuel switch policy (IFSP) from ships at
111 berth in Guangzhou, China. This leads to nearly 29 times greater OFP and
112 approximately 2 times greater SOAFP than those before IFSP (Wu et al., 2020). Huang
113 et al. (2018) also presented similar results of larger SOAFP when switch fuel from high-

114 sulfur content HFO to diesel oil for a large cargo vessel. It seems the low-sulfur fuel
115 regulation has different effects on VOCs emission for different types of ships. Therefore,
116 it is essential to figure out the actual emission of VOCs as well as formation potentials
117 of SOA and O₃ under the condition of low-sulfur fuel regulations. This will greatly
118 reduce the uncertainties in VOCs inventory estimation and provide basic data for the
119 formulation of optimal emission control policies of ships after considering
120 comprehensive impacts on various pollutants.

121 By the end of 2022, China had 121,900 water transport vessels (Ministry of
122 [Transport of the People's Republic of China](#) ~~Transportation~~, 2022), 15 ports in China
123 were listed among the top 20 ports in the world for cargo throughput, and 7 container
124 ports were listed among the largest 10 container ports in the world. The large amount
125 of active ships in China has resulted in serious impact on ambient air and human health,
126 particularly in coastal, inland and port areas (Huang et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2017; Liu
127 et al., 2016). Researches reveals that most of the pollutants are from cargo-transport
128 ships compared with other types of ships (Wan et al., 2020). Clarifying the EF of VOCs,
129 profiles, influence factors, and their contribution to O₃ and SOA formation potentials
130 of the typical cargo ships are the basis to estimate the VOCs inventory and to establish
131 proper control measures. Besides, it is also a very important breakthrough point to
132 further improve the ambient air quality in port and nearshore areas by controlling the
133 VOCs emission from ship exhaust.

134 Therefore, on-board test of exhaust pollutants from 9 typical cargo ships in China,
135 including 2 coastal cargo ships (CCSs), 3 ocean-going vessels (OGVs) and 4 inland
136 cargo ships (ICSs) were carried out in this study. VOCs samples from different types of
137 engines with different fuels under actual operating conditions were collected and 106
138 VOC species were analyzed. Based on the data, the following factors were ~~evaluated~~
139 ~~valuated~~ and discussed in this study: (1) fuel-based emission factor of VOCs (EF_{VOCs})
140 and their components, (2) influence factors, (3) profiles of VOCs, (4) O₃ and SOA
141 formation potentials.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Test ships and fuels

VOCs samples from 9 different ships were collected in this study, including 2 coastal cargo ships, 3 ocean-going vessels, and 4 inland cargo ships in Yangtze River. The detailed technical parameters of the sampling ships are shown in Table 1. Different types of cargo ships had different technical parameters in China. For example, the tonnage-engine powers of coastal cargo ships varied largely, with about 57% are equipped with engines of more than 500 kW. Of the other left coastal cargo ships, 17% of which are ranging from 150 kW to 250 kW. Therefore, one large coastal cargo ship with main engine power of 1470 kW and another small coastal cargo ship with main engine power of 178 kW were selected here. Coastal cargo ships typically transport cargos among different coastal ports, with one to several days per voyage. The main operating modes are cruise (~75% engine load), maneuvering (low and variable engine loads), and idling.

~~therefore, one large tonnage ship and one small tonnage ship were selected here.~~
Ocean-going vessels usually ~~had~~ have large tonnages with large power main engines, ~~Statistical AIS data show that engines with power of 4 kW to 10 kW account for the largest proportion (~25%) of the total OGVs in China, followed by 2 kW to 4 kW (~23%) and 10 kW to 20 kW (~20%). Besides, newly built OGVs have a tendency to have larger and larger engine powers. hence~~ Hence, three ocean-going vessels with different ~~tonnages-engine powers ranging from 13.5 kW to 15.7 kW~~ were tested in this study. They are designed for transporting goods across borders, usually with several months per voyage. The main operating mode is cruise in the open ocean. While during the processes of in and out of the port, the engines of OGVs typically active in maneuvering mode with relative lower and variable engine loads, which could have great influence on the nearshore environment due to higher emission levels of pollutants.

Most inland cargo vessels ~~in Yangtze River were~~ are generally equipped with high-speed small main engines of power within ~~500-1000 kW~~ (~70-%). Among them, the

170 vast majority are below 500 kw. Therefore, four typical inland cargo ships of engine
171 power between 138 kW and 300 kW were chosen in this study. The inland cargo vessels
172 typically active among different inland ports or coastal ports near inland rivers, with
173 several hours to several days per voyage. Affected by the complicated water conditions
174 of inland rivers, cruise and maneuvering are the most important operating modes for
175 inland cargo ships.

176 In brief, the measured ships in this study could represent the typical cargo ships in
177 China to a certain extent. It's worth noting that the ocean-going vessels were newly
178 constructed ships, while the inland cargo ships had older engines (6 to 14 years)
179 compared with other types of ships (less than 10 years).

180 Besides, most large cargo ships are equipped with both main engine and auxiliary
181 engine. The main engine provides navigation power, and the engine loads vary greatly
182 with the different operating modes. While the auxiliary engine mainly provides
183 domestic electricity or heating on board, and the engine load is relatively stable with
184 about 75% load. Small cargo ships are equipped only with main engines, such as the
185 tested inland cargo ships and small coastal cargo ships in this study.

186

Table 1 Technical parameters of the sampling ships

Ship ID	Type	Tonnage (kt)	Main engine	Auxiliary engine	Ship age (year)	Implementation standard of fuel
CCS1	Coastal cargo ship	9.17	4-stroke, 1470 kW, 850 rpm	4-stroke, 182 kW, 1500 rpm	3	S<0.5% (m/m)
CCS2	Coastal cargo ship	0.30	4-stroke, 178 kW, 1500 rpm	-	10	S<0.5% (m/m)
OGV1	Ocean-going vessel	180	2-stroke, 15748 kW, 75 rpm	4-stroke, 1280 kW, 900 rpm	0	S<0.5% (m/m)
OGV2	Ocean-going vessel	110	2-stroke, 13500 kW, 91.1 rpm	4-stroke, 900 kW, 900 rpm	0	S<0.5% (m/m)
OGV3	Ocean-going vessel	210	2-stroke, 15745 kW, 75rpm	4-stroke, 1180 kW, 900 rpm	0	S<0.5% (m/m)
ICS1	Inland cargo ship	0.90	4-stroke, 255 kW, 1000 rpm	-	14	S<0.1% (m/m)
ICS2	Inland cargo ship	0.98	4-stroke, 300 kW, 1000 rpm	-	12	S<0.1% (m/m)
ICS3	Inland cargo ship	0.80	4-stroke, 145 kW, 1000 rpm	-	6	S<0.1% (m/m)
ICS4	Inland cargo ship	0.39	4-stroke, 138 kW, 1500 rpm	-	10	S<0.1% (m/m)

189 Characteristics of HFO and diesel oil used for the test ships in this study are shown
190 in Table S1. In order to meet the requirements of diesel engines of non-road mobile
191 machinery of China, regular diesel (0#) was used for all inland cargo ships here. Results
192 showed that the sulfur contents of all the fuels were no more than 0.5% (m/m), which
193 were within both current ship emission control standards of China and IMO. As typical
194 tracers of high-sulfur content HFO, nickel and vanadium content levels and their ratios
195 were still higher but not distinguishable enough in low-sulfur content HFO compared
196 with diesel oil, which further evidence that it needed to be cautious when they were
197 used as tracers of ship emissions under current low-sulfur regulation. While it should
198 be noted that much higher levels of calcium and zinc were detected in lubricating oils
199 of OGVs.

200 2.2 Sampling system and samples

201 A portable dilution sampling system was used in this campaign, whose
202 components and principles were described elsewhere (Zhang et al., 2018). Briefly, two
203 separate sampling pipes were placed into the exhaust stacks (about 1.5 m deep of the
204 exhaust outlet) to route emissions from the main engine and auxiliary engine to
205 sampling system on the highest deck of ship, respectively. Then, the probe of a flue gas
206 analyzer (Testo 350, testo, Germany) was placed into the sampling pipe to test the
207 gaseous matters directly to get online data (CO₂, O₂, CO, NO, NO₂, SO₂). Another
208 probe was used to extract the flue gas for the diluted system. The dilution ratios ranged
209 between 1-10 in this study. ~~Then particulate samplers and 8-Stage Anderson Cascade~~
210 ~~Impactor (TE-20-800, Tisch Environmental Inc, USA) were used to collect PM samples.~~
211 ~~I/OVOCs samples were obtained by automatic sampler to get IVOCs and OVOCs~~
212 ~~samples that had been reported in other study (Liu et al., 2022).~~ VOCs samples ~~that~~
213 ~~were mainly concerned in this study~~ were collected ~~directly~~ by summa canister from
214 both main engines and auxiliary engines of all the ships listed in Table 1. The sampling
215 time was 20-30 minutes for each sample according to actual operating condition.-

216 A total of 48 VOCs samples were obtained for the test ships, involving different

217 engine types with different fuels under different operating modes (seen Table S2 for ~~the~~
 218 detailed information). For the coastal/inland cargo ships, all samples were collected
 219 based on actual operating modes (about one to several days from one trip). While for
 220 ocean going vessels, samples from much more operating modes could be obtained
 221 thanks to the testing of the newly constructed ships (about one week from one trip).

222 2.3 Chemical and data analysis

223 As shown in Table S3, a total of 106 volatile organic compounds were detected in
 224 this study according to USEPA TO15-1999, including 11 oxygenated volatile organic
 225 compounds (OVOCs), 17 aromatics, 29 alkanes, 11 alkenes, 35 halohydrocarbons and
 226 4 other species. These measured VOCs species were typical concerned VOCs and could
 227 be considered as main VOC components referring to relative studies (Huang et al.
 228 2018;Wu et al. 2020;Araizaga, Mancilla and Mendoza 2013), and could reflect the
 229 emission conditions of ship exhaust. As shown in formulas (1) and (2), carbon balance
 230 method was used to calculate the EF_{VOCs} , which was also~~that was~~ introduced in our
 231 previous study (Zhang et al., 2016a).

$$232 \quad EF_x = \frac{\Delta X}{\Delta CO_2} \cdot \frac{M_x}{M_{CO_2}} \cdot EF_{CO_2} \quad (1)$$

233 where EF_x is the EF for VOC species X (g/kg fuel), ΔX and ΔCO_2 represent
 234 the concentrations of X and CO_2 with the background concentrations subtracted (mol
 235 m^{-3}), M_x represents the molecular weight of species X ($g\ mol^{-1}$), M_{CO_2} is the
 236 molecular weight of CO_2 ($44\ g\ mol^{-1}$), and EF_{CO_2} is the EF for CO_2 ($g\ (kg\ fuel)^{-1}$).

$$237 \quad EF_{CO_2} = \frac{C_F}{c(C_{CO})+c(C_{CO_2})+c(C_{PM})+c(C_{HC})} \cdot c^*(CO_2) \cdot M_{CO_2} \quad (2)$$

238 where C_F represents the mass of carbon in 1 kg diesel fuel ($g\ C\ (kg\ fuel)^{-1}$), $c(C_{CO})$,
 239 $c(C_{CO_2})$, $c(C_{PM})$, and $c(C_{HC})$ represent the mass concentrations of carbon as CO,
 240 CO_2 , PM, and HC ($g\ C\ m^{-3}$), respectively, in the flue gas, and $c^*(CO_2)$ is the molar
 241 concentration of CO_2 ($mol\ m^{-3}$).

242 Detailed calculation processes of normalized ozone reactivity (R_{O_3} , $g\ O_3\ g^{-1}$
 243 VOCs), OFP ($g\ O_3\ kg^{-1}\ fuel$), normalized secondary organic aerosols reactivity (R_{SOA} ,
 244 $mg\ SOA\ g^{-1}\ VOCs$) and SOA formation potential (SOAFP, $mg\ SOA\ kg^{-1}\ fuel$) are given

245 as follows:

246 Normalized ozone reactivity (R_{O_3} , g O₃ g⁻¹ VOCs) and OFP (g O₃ kg⁻¹ fuel) were
247 calculated using the maximum incremental reactivity (MIR)
248 MIR coefficient method (Carter, 2010a), which represents the maximum contribution
249 of VOC species to the near-surface O₃ concentration under optimal conditions. The
250 equations are as follows:

$$251 \quad R_{O_3} = \sum_i(\omega_i \times MIR_i) \quad (43)$$

252 where ω_i is the mass percentage of the total VOC emissions for species i , MIR_i
253 is the MIR coefficient for VOC species i , which was referenced from Carter (2010b),
254 seen in Table S3 for details.

$$255 \quad OFP = \sum_i(MIR_i \times [VOC]_i) \quad (24)$$

256 where OFP is the ozone formation potential (g kg⁻¹ fuel), $[VOC]_i$ is the emission
257 factor for VOC species i (g kg⁻¹ fuel).

258 The same as O₃, normalized secondary organic aerosols reactivity (R_{SOA} , mg SOA
259 g⁻¹ VOCs) and SOA formation potential (SOAFP, mg SOA kg⁻¹ fuel) were also
260 calculated, whose equations are as follows:

$$261 \quad R_{SOA} = \sum_i(\omega_i \times Y_i)$$

$$262 \quad (35)$$

$$263 \quad SOAFP = \sum_i(EF_i \times Y_i)$$

$$264 \quad (46)$$

265 where Y_i is the SOA yield for VOC species i (seen in Table S4 for details). Both
266 SOAFP of VOCs under high-NO_x and low-NO_x conditions were calculated.

267 **2.4 Quality assurance and quality control**

268 Rigorous quality assurance and quality controls were conducted during the whole
269 experiment. Ambient air blanks were analyzed in the same way as mentioned above to
270 determine background concentration. The VOCs concentrations of each sample were
271 obtained by subtracted ambient air blank results. Duplicate samples as well as standard
272 gas were examined after analyzing a batch of 10 samples to ensure that the error was

273 within 5%.

274 **3. Results and discussion**

275 **3.1 Emission factors and components of VOCs**

276 EF_{VOCs} for the test ships are shown in Fig.1 and Table S5. In order to calculate the
277 EF_{VOCs} and investigate their influence factors, EFs of other gaseous pollutants such as
278 CO₂, CO, NO, NO₂ were also given and discussed briefly. For CO₂, the emission factors
279 ranged from 2622 to 3185 g kg⁻¹ fuel that influenced by both fuel type and operating
280 mode. CO showed opposite trend with CO₂, varying from 0.62 to 180 g kg⁻¹ fuel,
281 reflecting the condition of combustion efficiency. The EF_{NO_x} ranged from 6.26 to 92.8
282 g kg⁻¹ fuel, with 60% to 99% of whom were NO, which inferred the condition of
283 combustion temperature in cylinder.

284 Results showed that the EF_{VOCs} for all the test ships presented wide differences,
285 which were ranging from 0.09 to 3.01 g kg⁻¹ fuel. Ship type, engine type, operating
286 mode and fuel type could influence the EF_{VOCs} that would be discussed in more detail
287 in Section 3.2. Briefly, higher VOCs had been observed both in low-load and high-load
288 operating modes such as maneuvering and idling, while in medium-load operating
289 modes, the EF_{VOCs} presented lower levels (detailed result was also shown in Fig. [2-3](#)
290 (a)). Main engines presented obviously higher EFs levels than auxiliary engines (Fig. [2](#)
291 [3](#) (c) for details). And CCSs and ICSs had relatively higher EFs compared with OGVs
292 (Fig. [2-3](#) (d) for details). It was worth noting that when the fuels were switched from
293 HFO to marine diesel oil for OGVs, increasing trends were presented for EF_{VOCs} in this
294 study. While the CCSs showed the opposite trend with a slight decrease for EF_{VOCs}.

Table 2 EFs of VOCs from ships in this study and previous studies

Ship type	Sulfur content (%)	Operating mode	EF of VOCs (g kg ⁻¹ fuel)	Number of detected VOCs species	Data sources
Coastal cargo ship / Ocean going vessel					
CCS (main-HFO)	0.39	Cruise	2.24	106	This study
CCS (main-diesel)	<0.05	Actual operating conditions	1.59	106	This study
CCS (auxiliary-diesel)	<0.05	Actual operating conditions	0.60	106	This study
OGV (main-HFO)	0.43-0.50	Actual operating conditions	0.52	106	This study
OGV (main-diesel)	<0.05	Actual operating conditions	0.82	106	This study
OGV (auxiliary-HFO)	0.43-0.50	Actual operating conditions	0.25	106	This study
OGV (auxiliary-diesel)	<0.05	Actual operating conditions	0.33	106	This study
Coastal cargo ship (high sulfur oil)	>0.5	At berth	0.12	68	(Wu et al., 2020)
Coastal cargo ship (low sulfur oil)	<0.5	At berth	1.81	68	(Wu et al., 2020)
Ocean going vessel (HFO)	2.07	Actual operating conditions	0.48 ^a	57	(Wu et al., 2019)
Ocean going vessel (diesel)	0.12	Actual operating conditions	0.06-0.18 ^a	57	(Wu et al., 2019)
Bulk carrier (HFO)	1.12	Actual operating conditions (main engine)	0.019-0.133	86	(Huang et al., 2018b)
Bulk carrier (diesel)	<0.5	At berth (main engine)/auxiliary engine	0.25-0.72	86	(Huang et al., 2018b)
Container ship	1.6-2.9	At berth	0.09-0.17	57	(Huang et al., 2017)
Passenger ferry α	0.08	At berth	0.57-0.99	-	(Cooper, 2003)
Passenger ferry β -1	0.53	At berth	0.29-0.57	-	(Cooper, 2003)
Passenger ferry β -2	0.09	At berth	1.71	-	(Cooper, 2003)
Passenger ferry γ	1.20	At berth	0.87-1.14	-	(Cooper, 2003)
Car/truck carrier	0.23	At berth	0.89-1.08	-	(Cooper, 2003)
Container/ro-ro	2.20	At berth	0.79-0.88	-	(Cooper, 2003)
Chemical tanker	0.06	At berth	1.36-1.40	-	(Cooper, 2003)
Passenger ferry (gas oil)	0.06	Actual operating conditions	0.875 ^b	-	(Cooper et al., 1996)
Passenger ferry (fuel oil)	0.48	Actual operating conditions	0.135 ^b	-	(Cooper et al., 1996)
River ship					
Inland cargo ship (diesel)	<0.05	Actual operating conditions	0.94	106	This study
River vessels	<0.5	At berth	3.36	68	(Wu et al., 2020)

River cargo ships	<0.5	Actual operating conditions	1.46	121	(Wang et al., 2020)
River speedboat	<0.5	Actual operating conditions	0.44	121	(Wang et al., 2020)
Engineering vessel	0.08	Actual operating conditions	23.7	-	(Zhang et al., 2016a)
Research vessel α	0.05	Actual operating conditions	1.24	-	(Zhang et al., 2016a)
Research vessel β	0.13	Actual operating conditions	4.18	-	(Zhang et al., 2016a)

313

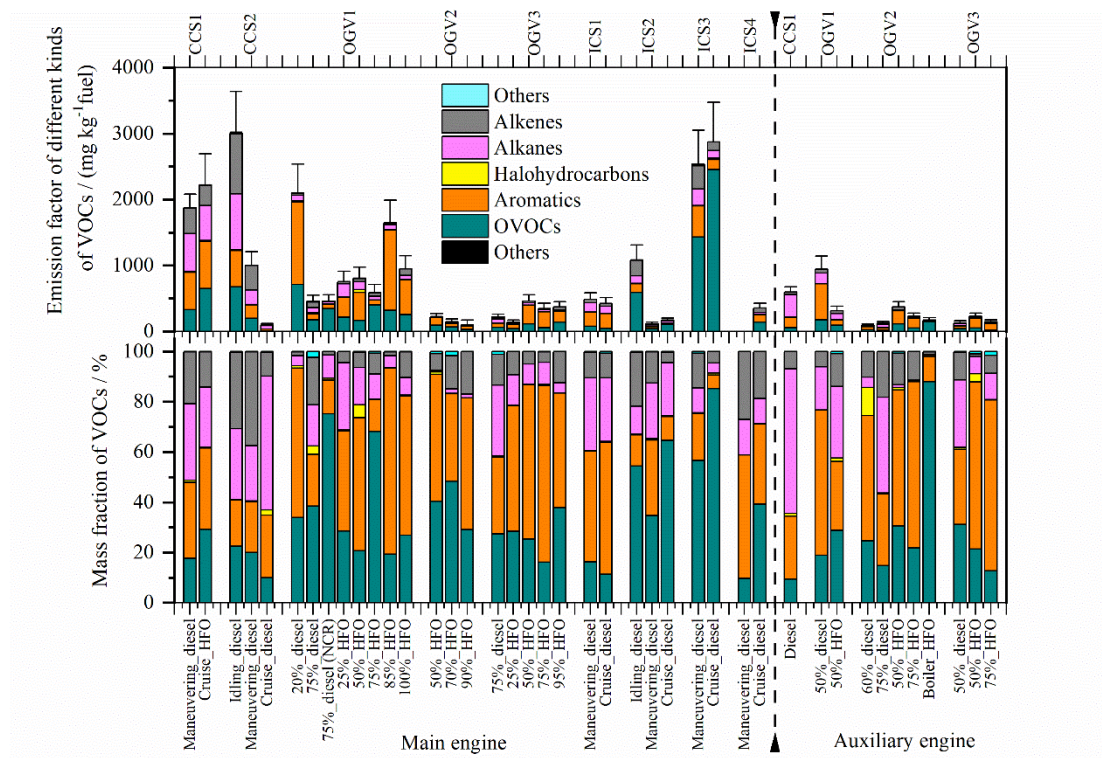
a, the EFs values were estimated based on Fig.22. b, the EFs were calculated by assuming that the fuel consumption rate for the test ships was 200 g fuel kWh⁻¹

314

315 Components and mass fractions of VOCs from the test ships are shown in Fig. S1
316 2 and Fig. S2S1. OVOCs and aromatics were the main components of the detected VOC
317 species, accounting for 9.38% - 88.0% and 5.38% - 74.0% of total VOCs, respectively.
318 Alkanes also accounted for non-ignorable fractions, which were ranging from 0.2% to
319 57.2%. While alkenes, halohydrocarbons and other quantified species only contributed
320 small fractions of the total VOCs. The results in this study were consistent with that of
321 Huang et al. (2018) about a large ocean-going bulk carrier, but showed different VOCs
322 components with that of Wu et al. (2019) for a coastal container ship and Wu et al.
323 (2020) for auxiliary engines at berth. The different detected VOCs species in different
324 studies played an important role for the differences, while the fuel type and its chemical
325 composition might also have considerable impacts.

326 The main VOCs components of OVOCs, aromatics, alkanes and alkenes presented
327 different variation patterns under different operating modes, fuel types, and engine
328 types due to their different formation mechanisms (Fig. S12). For example, OVOCs
329 from diesel engines are typically from the oxidation of small molecular weight yet
330 uncomplete combustion hydrocarbons (Hao et al., 2014;Pan, 2008), therefore,
331 operating mode and engine type could influence the EF levels obviously, but not fuel
332 type. The direct emission of unburned fuel components and pyrosynthesis (formation
333 of aromatics by regeneration of fragmented radical species) are the two main formation
334 processes of PAHs (Radischat et al., 2015). EFs of aromatics showed relatively higher
335 levels in medium operating modes compared with other modes in this study. One main
336 reason was that the higher temperature in medium operating modes promoted the
337 polymerization, resulting in the processes of dehydrogenation and PAH formation
338 (Zhang et al., 2021), which exceeded the direct emission of unburned fuel components
339 (Radischat et al., 2015). Alkanes are mainly from the incomplete combustion of fuels,
340 therefore, alkanes from diesel fuel presented higher EFs than HFO because of the higher
341 aliphatic compounds in diesel fuel (Liu et al., 2022;Sippula et al., 2014). While alkenes
342 emitted from diesel engine are always related to the pyrolysis process of the fuel

343 combustion in the cylinder (Alotaibi et al., 2018;Zhang et al., 2022a). As a result, in
 344 high operating modes of more than 90% engine loads, it had higher EF_{alkenes} levels in
 345 this study due to the pyrolysis process under higher temperature and incomplete
 346 combustion because of the less air to fuel ratios in the cylinder.



347 **Figure 2** EFs of VOC components and their mass fractions

350 3.2 Influence factor analysis

351 It was mentioned above that influence factors such as operating condition, engine
 352 type, ship type and fuel type could affect the emission level and component of VOCs
 353 from ship exhaust. Box-whisker plots of VOC emission factors under these different
 354 drivers are presented in Fig. 23. As shown in Fig. 2-3(a), engine load could affect the
 355 VOCs emission significantly. EF_{VOCs} had the lowest level when the engines were
 356 operating in medium loads, and the highest in low loads. This was consistent with the
 357 results of VOCs emission reported by [previous studies such as Huang et al. \(2018\)](#), Wu
 358 et al. (2019) and Radischat et al. (2015), [which were also shown in Fig. S2](#). The
 359 combustion condition in the cylinder could be responsible for the variation of VOCs

360 emission, which meant incomplete combustion was one principal reason for the high
361 VOCs emission.

362 Engine type is also one significant influence factor of VOCs emission. The engines
363 were classified into three types in this study according to their engine speed, including
364 low-speed engines (LSE, rated speed < 100 rpm), medium-speed engines (MSE, 100
365 rpm ≤ rated speed < 1000 rpm) and high-speed engines (HSE, rated speed ≥ 1000 rpm).
366 It could be seen from Fig. 2-3 (b) that with the increase of engine speed, the EF_{VOCs}
367 showed an increasing trend. This could be explained by that compared with HSEs, LSEs
368 with high engine power usually had higher combustion efficiencies that led to lower
369 levels of VOCs emission (Zhang et al., 2018).

370 The EF_{VOCs} between main engines and auxiliary engines also varied obviously.
371 The average EF_{VOCs} from the main engines was 2.3 times that of auxiliary engines in
372 this study (seen in Fig. 2-3 (c)). Similar result was also reported by Liu et al. (2022)
373 about the intermediate volatile organic compounds (IVOCs) emission for the same test
374 OGVs. Even though the auxiliary engines were mainly high-speed or medium-speed
375 engines that had higher VOCs emissions mentioned above. Owing to the much lower
376 VOCs emission in medium loads that the auxiliary engines have been using, it could be
377 inferred that the impact of operating condition exceeded that of the engine type to VOCs
378 emission.

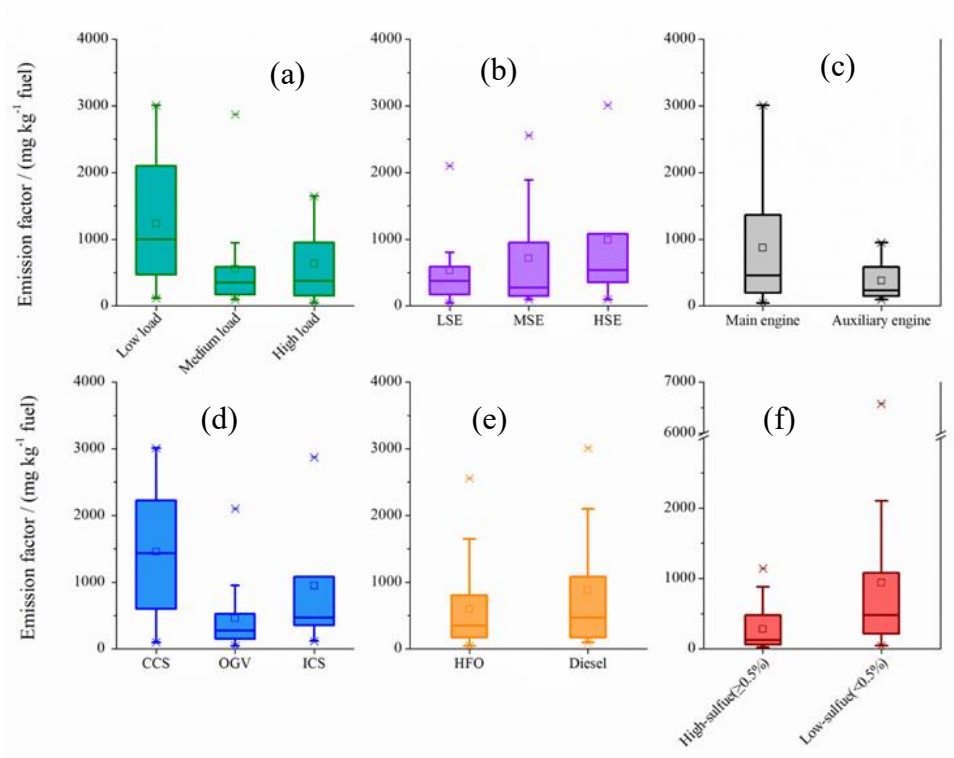
379 As seen in Fig. 2-3 (d), the EF_{VOCs} varied obviously under different types of ships,
380 with CCSs having the highest levels and OGVs the lowest. This could be explained by
381 the combined influence of operating condition and engine type as mentioned above.
382 Firstly, as shown in Fig. 3 (b), high-speed and medium-speed engines were equipped
383 for the CCSs, they could lead to higher EF_{VOCs} compared with low-speed engines that
384 equipped for OGVs.~~Firstly, the CCSs equipped with high-speed or medium-speed~~
385 ~~engines emitted higher VOCs compared with OGVs that with low-speed engines.~~
386 Besides, the unstable operating conditions of SSCs and ICSs, such as maneuvering and
387 low-load, also promoted the emission of VOCs (Radischat et al., 2015). Therefore, it

388 could be indicated that coastal areas with high population density need get more
389 attention due to the higher VOCs emissions from CCSs and ICSs.

390 As mentioned before, fuel type could influence the ~~emission of~~ EF_{VOCs}
391 significantly (Wu et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2020), which also would be one of the most
392 important influence factors in the future under the background of increasingly strict
393 ship oil policy. Under the condition of low-sulfur content fuels in China, the average
394 EF_{VOCs} were 592 mg kg^{-1} fuel and 878 mg kg^{-1} fuel for diesel and HFO in this study,
395 respectively (seen in Fig. 2-3(e)). In addition to the direct emission of unburned fuel
396 components, VOCs also could be emitted from the pyrosynthesis process of the fuel in
397 the cylinder (Radischat et al., 2015). In order to explore the relationship between
398 chemical composition of low-sulfur content fuel and VOCs emission, n-alkanes, b-
399 alkanes and aromatics in the fuels from OGVs were tested (Liu et al., 2022) (seen in
400 Table S6 for details). Obviously, diesel had higher content of n-alkanes and b-alkanes
401 than HFO, and aromatics were the opposite. It could be seen from Fig. S3-S3 that both
402 the $EF_{Alkanes}$, $EF_{Alkenes}$ and $EF_{halohydrocarbons}$ from ships with diesel presented higher levels
403 compared with that of HFO. $EF_{Aromatics}$ and other components showed the opposite
404 trends. While no obvious difference of EF_{OVOCs} was observed between diesel and HFO.
405 Emission characteristics of VOC main components were basically consistent with fuel
406 composition in this study. It could be provided that the composition of fuel did have
407 significant impact on VOC emissions.

408 To further explore the impact of sulfur content of fuel on VOCs emissions, EF_{VOCs}
409 of low-sulfur content fuel ($<0.5\% \text{ m/m}$) and high-sulfur content fuel ($\geq 0.5\% \text{ m/m}$) in
410 this study and previous studies were summarized in Fig. 2-3(f). The average EF_{VOCs}
411 from low-sulfur content fuel was significantly higher than that of high-sulfur content
412 fuel, with almost 3.4 times. This indicated that when the fuels were switched from high
413 sulfur to low sulfur, there was dramatic increase in VOCs emissions. Low-sulfur
414 content fuels are usually produced in three ways, including blending technique that use
415 light low-sulfur oils mixed with heavy high-sulfur oils, heavy oil hydrogenation

416 technology that remove sulfur through hydrogenation of high-sulfur residual oil, and
 417 biological desulfurization technology that use microbial enzymes catalyze and oxidate
 418 the organic sulfur in oil, convert it into water-soluble sulfide and then remove (Kuimov
 419 et al., 2016). Among these, blended low-sulfur oils are the most widely used oils (Zhang,
 420 2019; Han et al., 2022). Except for light low-sulfur oils mixed during the production of
 421 low-sulfur oils, other non-petroleum refined oils, such as coal tar and chemical waste
 422 are also added. Consequently, emission factors as well as the composition of VOCs
 423 have changed significantly. Since low-sulfur content fuels (<0.5% m/m) have been
 424 using worldwide since 2020, and 0.1% (m/m) in ECAs since 2015, it would imply that
 425 the impact of fuel type on VOCs emissions needed to be given sufficient attention.



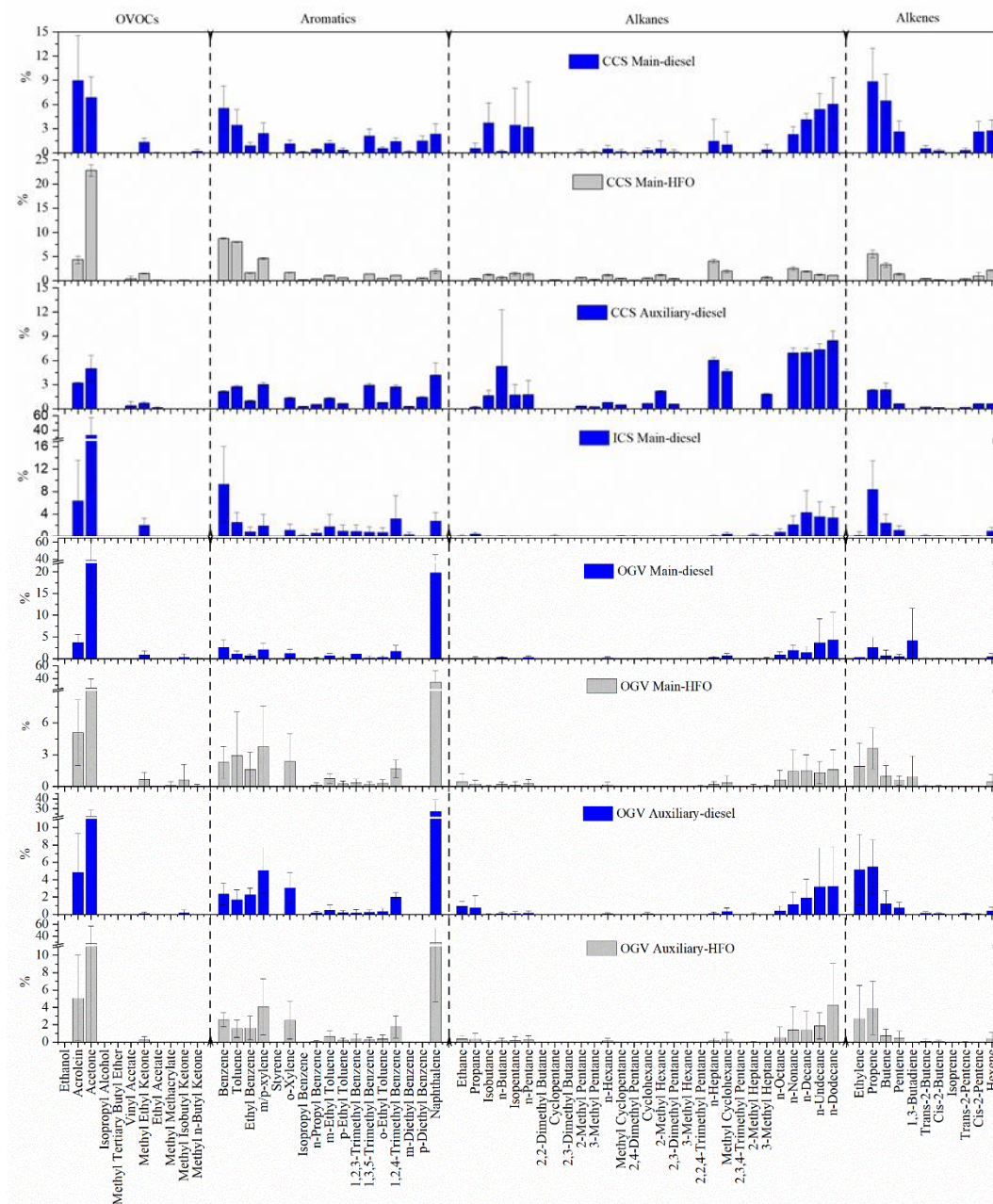
426
 427 Figure 2-3 Box-whisker plots of VOC emission factors under different influence factors

428 3.3 Profiles and diagnostic characteristics of VOCs

429 3.3.1 Profiles of VOCs

430 Fig. 4 presents the mass fractions of VOCs (except halohydrocarbons,
 431 tetrahydrofuran, carbon disulfide, and 1,4-dioxane and due to their very small mass
 432 fractions (0.55%-3.06% of total VOCs)) Profiles of VOCs from the three types of test

433 ships (CCS, OGV and ICS) under different engine types (main engine and auxiliary
434 engine) and fuels (HFO and diesel) ~~showed obvious differences (Fig. 3).~~ Detailed mass
435 fractions of all the test VOC species in this study were also given in Table S7. As shown
436 in Fig. 4, the profiles of VOCs showed obvious differences. To be specific, the most
437 abundant VOC species were acetone and acrolein in OVOCs, propene and butene in
438 alkenes, n-Nonane, n-Decane, n-Undecane, n-Dodecane in alkanes for almost all the
439 test ships. As for aromatics, the OGVs showed big differences compared with other
440 types of ships that had large amounts of naphthalene, while benzene, toluene and m/p-
441 xylene were the highest content aromatic substances for other ships. Previous studies
442 about OGVs showed the similar high naphthalene and acetone contents in the exhaust
443 when use low-sulfur fuels (Agrawal et al., 2010;Huang et al., 2018b). Besides, high
444 levels of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde were also found in exhausts from OGVs
445 (Agrawal et al., 2010). Unfortunately, because of the limitation of testing methods, they
446 were not measured in this study. Due to the high reactivity and the important role in
447 formation of secondary organic aerosols, formaldehyde and acetaldehyde needs to get
448 more attention from ship exhausts, especially for OGVs. In addition, a small scientific
449 research ship (499 t, 5 years, high-speed engine, 0# diesel) was also tested in this study,
450 whose VOCs profile was given in Fig. S4 for comparison. Obviously, the VOCs profile
451 pattern was very similar with that of inland cargo ships with the same small high-speed
452 engines and 0# diesel as fuel, indicating the significant impact of engine type and fuel
453 type.



454

455 Figure 3-4 Mass fractions of individual VOCs from test ships under different engine
 456 types and fuels Profiles of VOCs from test ships under different engine types and
 457 fuels(except halohydrocarbons, tetrahydrofuran, carbon disulfide, and 1,4-dioxaneand
 458 due to their very small mass fractions)

459 The top 25 VOC species from the test cargo ships are presented in Table S7S8. It
 460 could be seen that most of the top 25 VOC species emitted from exhausts were the same
 461 but with different rankings for different engine types under different fuels. For example,
 462 OVOCs, alkenes and aromatics were the most abundant VOC species for the main

463 engines of CCS and ICS, while alkanes were ranked as the highest content VOC species
464 for auxiliary engine. As mentioned above, naphthalene and acetone were the absolute
465 highest two VOC species for OGVs, followed by alkenes, OVOCs and aromatics from
466 exhausts of HFO fuel; but alkenes, OVOCs and alkanes from exhausts of diesel fuels.
467 This high naphthalene emission has also been shown in other studies (Radischat et al.,
468 2015;Huang et al., 2018c;Yeh et al., 2023). The unusually high naphthalene from OGVs
469 needed to be noted. Naphthalene was mainly formed during the pyrolyzation from
470 incomplete combustion and direct emission of unburned fuel components (Radischat et
471 al., 2015). A recent study reported that the addition of additives of naphthalene-based
472 lubricants to low-sulfur fuel during the blended fuel manufacturing process to improve
473 stability could lead to an increase in PAHs emission in exhaust, with naphthalene being
474 the main pollutant (Yeh et al., 2023).~~A recent study reported that the addition of~~
475 ~~additives including naphthalene to low-sulfur fuel during the blended fuel~~
476 ~~manufacturing process to improve stability could lead to an increase in PAHs,~~
477 ~~especially naphthalene (Yeh et al., 2023).~~ To further explore the extent to which the
478 content of naphthalene in fuel affects EFs of naphthalene in ship exhaust, several
479 chemical compositions such as alkanes and aromatic contents in fuels of the test OGVs
480 were measured and shown by Liu et al. (2022) (Seen in Table S6). Results showed that
481 the average naphthalene content in HFO was almost 30 times higher than that in diesel.
482 When the engine was operated in the same operating condition, higher $EF_{\text{naphthalene}}$ was
483 observed from HFO than diesel. Therefore, we infer that chemical component in fuel
484 does influence the emission of PAHs including naphthalene in the exhaust. Besides,
485 VOCs with lower molecular weights such as acetone and acrolein were the dominant
486 OVOCs compounds in this study. The main reason is probably as follows: OVOCs
487 compounds are typically derived from the oxidation of VOCs with incomplete
488 combustion (Hao et al., 2014), while VOCs with lower molecular weights have a higher
489 chance to be oxidized to form oxides than those with higher molecular weights which
490 are often broken up to VOCs with less carbon number during the oxidation process

491 (Wang et al., 2020).

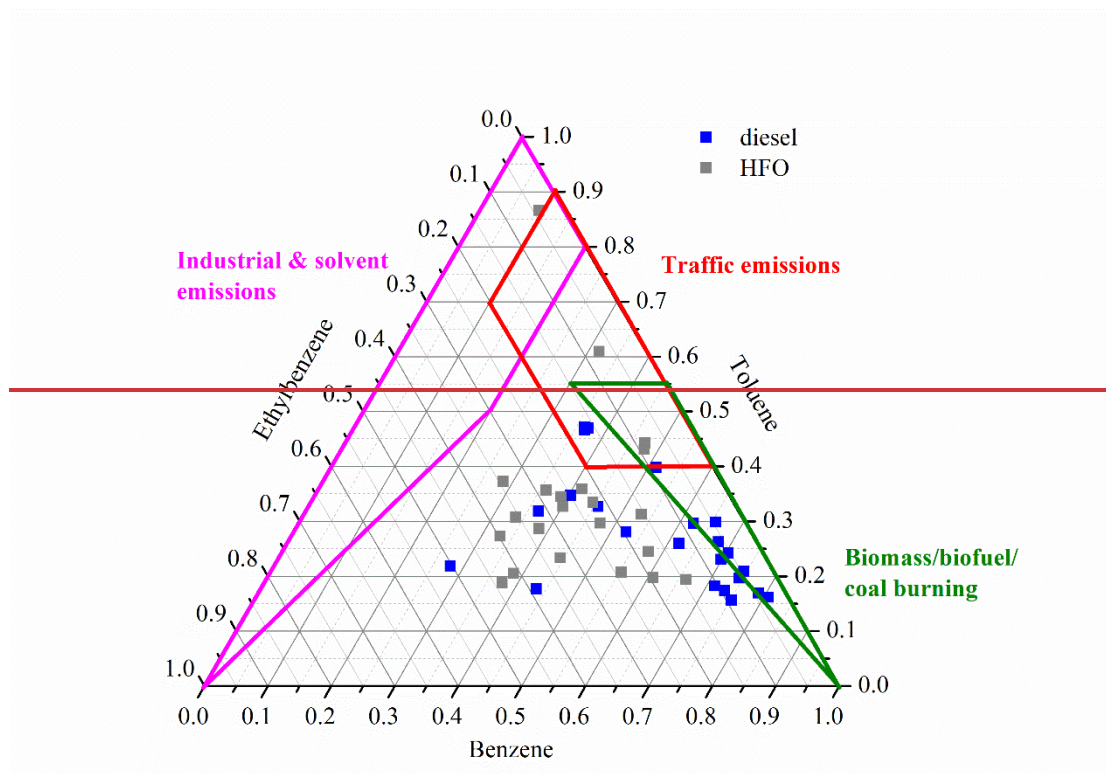
492 Furthermore, characteristics of VOCs based on carbon number are also given and
493 discussed in this study. The detected VOC species were classified into 12 groupings,
494 from C1 to C12 (Fig. S5). Different types of ships with different fuels showed obvious
495 differences in components. For example, C3 VOCs were found to be the most important
496 species for all test ships, while C10 showed much higher mass fractions from OGVs
497 than other ships, which was caused by the high naphthalene content. The same as VOCs
498 profiles, ICSs and scientific research ships presented very similar VOCs mass fraction
499 distributions of the 12 groupings. Besides, except for the auxiliary engine of CCS with
500 diesel oil, the OGVs emitted comparatively higher high-carbon number (C7-C12)
501 components than low-carbon number (C1-C6) components.

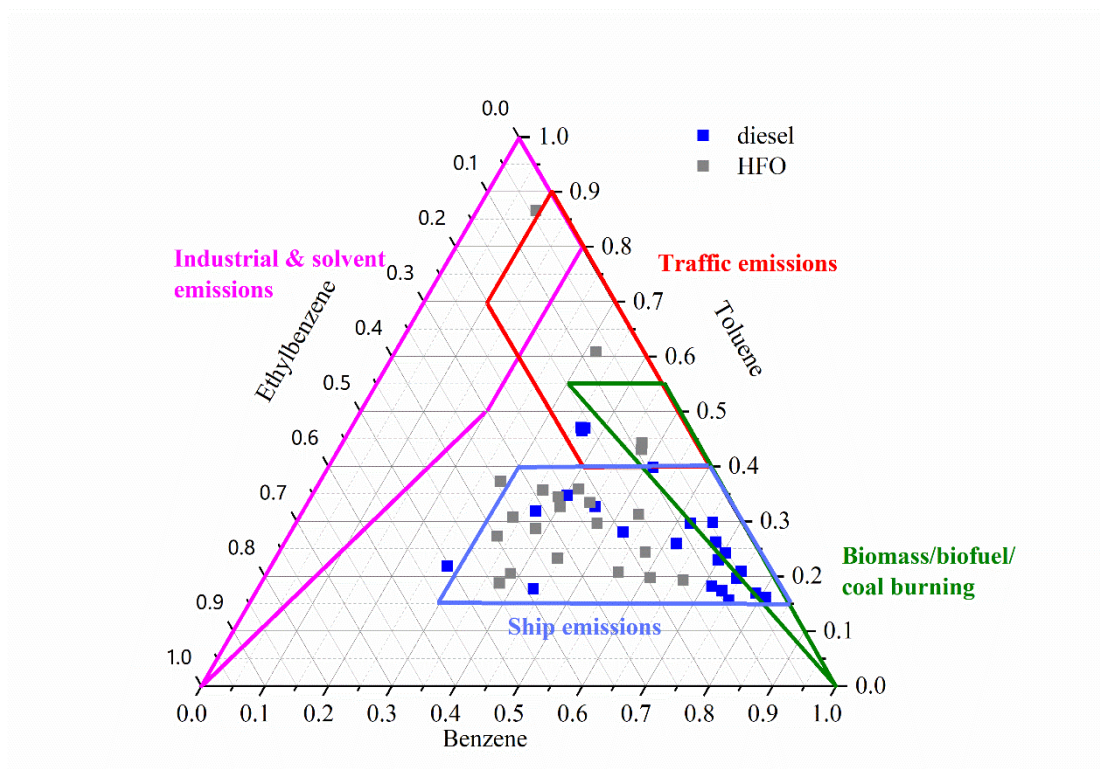
502 3.3.2 Diagnostic characteristics of VOCs

503 Diagnostic ratios of pair species, such as toluene to benzene (T/B), ethylbenzene
504 to m,p-zylene (E/X), n-butane to isopentane (n-Bu/i-Bu) and isopentane to n-pentane
505 (i-P/n-P), are always used to identify potential emission sources (Zhang et al., 2016b;Li
506 et al., 2021;Song et al., 2018;Song et al., 2020). These ratios from ship exhausts in this
507 study are shown in Table S8S9. T/B was further analyzed here as it is the most wildly
508 used diagnostic ratio among them. It was reported in previous study that the T/B ratios
509 were <1 for biomass/biofuel/coal burning, 1 to 10 for vehicle emissions, and >1 for
510 solvent applications or industrial processes (Zhang et al., 2016b). In this study, the T/B
511 ratios varied between 0.29 and 1.28 from ship exhausts, which were overlapped with
512 biomass/biofuel/coal burning sources to some extent. However, it could be considered
513 to distinguish on-road diesel vehicles with a T/B ratio of 1.5 ± 0.8 (Wang et al.,
514 2013;Yao et al., 2015) and non-road diesel construction vessels with a T/B ratio of 1.4
515 ± 1.3 . The results were similar with that of 0.45 - 0.57 from Wu et al. (2020) and 1.07
516 from Xiao et al. (2018), but significantly differed from that of 4.81 - 42.8 from Huang
517 et al.(2018c).

518 In order to overcome the overlapping effects of the T/B ratio among different

519 emission sources and better distinguish ship emissions from other emission sources, a
 520 ternary diagram of the relative compositions of Benzene, Toluene, and Ethylbenzene
 521 from ship exhausts in this study was presented in Fig. 45. The B:T:E ratios were
 522 0.50:0.30:0.20 on average from the test ships, differed from that of 0.69:0.27:0.04 for
 523 biomass /biofuel/coal burning, 0.06:0.59:0.35 for industrial emissions, and especially
 524 0.31:0.59:0.10 for traffic emissions, respectively (Zhang et al., 2016b). Besides, most
 525 of the relative compositions of B, T, and E from ship exhausts in this study were
 526 relatively stable and mainly concentrated within certain area that was seldom
 527 overlapped with other emission sources in the ternary diagram. This indicated that the
 528 B: T: E ratios could be considered as a diagnostic characteristic to distinguish ship
 529 emission from other emission sources, especially the traffic emissions.





531

532 Figure 4-5 Relative proportions of benzene, toluene and ethylbenzene from the ship
 533 exhausts. B:T:E ratios from other sources were cited from Zhang et al. (2016b) that
 534 summarized 28 examples from biomass burning, 35 examples from biofuel burning, 17
 535 examples from coal burning, 11 examples from diesel vehicle exhaust, 31 examples
 536 from gasoline vehicle exhaust, 24 examples from gasoline evaporation, 25 examples
 537 from roadside or tunnel tests, and 66 examples from industrial processes and solvent
 538 applications.

539 3.4 Ozone and SOA formation potential

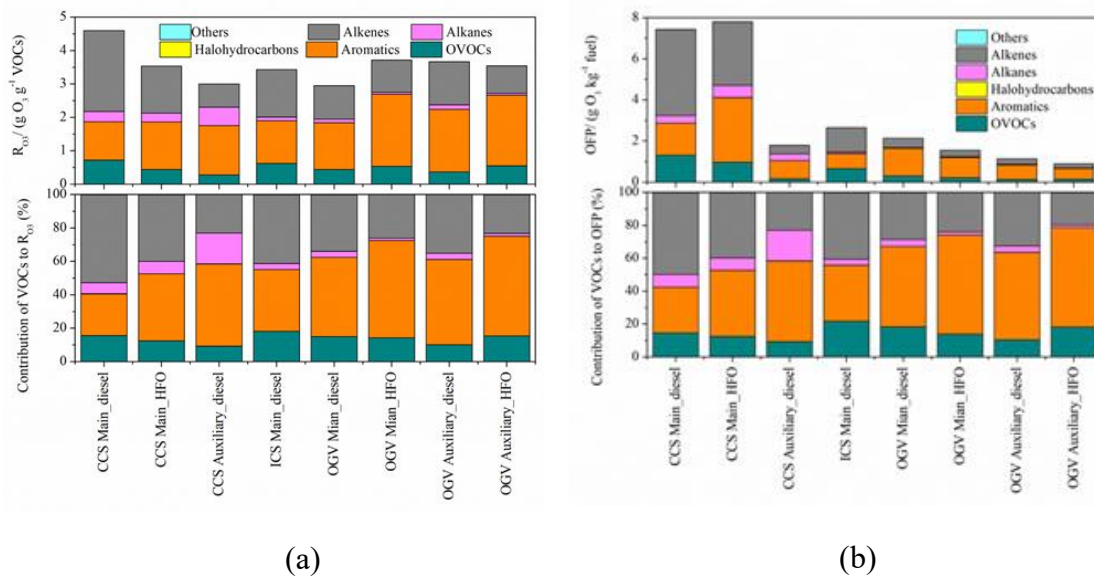
540 3.4.1 Ozone formation potential

541 The normalized ozone reactivities (R_{O_3}) ranged between 2.95 and 4.60 g O₃ g⁻¹
 542 VOCs for the test ships (presented in Fig. 5-6 and Table S9S10) in this study, meaning
 543 there was diversity of ozone reactivities in VOCs from different ships, which was due
 544 to the different shares of VOC species emitted from different ships with different fuels.
 545 The R_{O_3} values were within the range of previous reported results estimated by Wu et
 546 al. (2020) (2.62 to 5.41 g O₃ g⁻¹ VOCs) and Wu et al. (2019) (approximately 4.5 to 6.0
 547 g O₃ g⁻¹ VOCs), but showed different fragments of VOC species to R_{O_3} . The different

548 detected VOC species was also one inferred reason for the variation of R_{O_3} in different
549 studies. Aromatics and alkenes were the most significant contributors to R_{O_3} in this
550 study due to their high reactivities. Aromatics had relatively higher contributions for
551 the OGVs, and the CCSs and ICSs were more affected by alkenes, excepted for the
552 auxiliary engine with diesel oil of CCSs. Besides, it also can be seen from Fig. 5-6 (a)
553 that when the fuels were switched from diesel to HFO, more aromatics were contributed
554 to R_{O_3} because of the higher aromatic but lower aliphatic compounds in HFO (Sippula
555 et al., 2014). On the contrary, alkenes showed reverse trends with aromatics, which
556 were attributed to engine combustion and operation conditions of the test ships, as well
557 as the high content of alkenes in diesel fuel in China (Mo et al., 2016).

558 As described in Fig. 5-6 (b), the OFP varied significantly from 0.91 to 7.81 g O₃
559 kg⁻¹ fuel, with the main engines of CCSs presented the highest levels, but auxiliary
560 engines of OGVs the lowest, even though the R_{O_3} showed no such big differences
561 among all the test ships. The main reason was the huge variation of EF_{VOCs}, as well as
562 the difference in component of VOC species emitted from different ships with different
563 fuels. The same as R_{O_3} , aromatics and alkenes were the most significant contributors
564 to OFP, accounting for 28-61% and 20-50% of the total OFP, respectively. It's worth
565 noting that when the fuels were switched from HFO to diesel for the OGVs, there were
566 obvious increasing OFP trends. This was similar with result of Huang et al. (2018b)
567 that HFO had lower OFP compared with diesel fuel about an ocean-going vessel and
568 Wu et al. (2020) that after implementation of the fuel switch policy for ships at berth,
569 OFP increased from 0.35 to 10.37 g O₃ kg⁻¹ fuel. However, the CCS had slightly higher
570 OFP value with HFO than diesel in this study. A previous study also reported that OFP
571 from HFO was ~3.3-fold higher than from burning diesel for a coastal container ship
572 (Wu et al., 2019). It seemed that when the fuels were switched from high sulfur to low
573 sulfur, there was obvious increase in OFP, especially for OGVs. While when the fuels
574 were switched from low sulfur HFO to ultra-low sulfur diesel (sulfur content <0.1%),
575 the OFP would be also influenced by other factors, such as engine type, which needs to

576 be further explored by more on-board measurements. Besides, river ships and costal
 577 ships had higher OFP than OGVs, and main engines had higher OFP than auxiliary
 578 engines, which were consistent with previous study (Wu et al., 2020).



579
 580 Figure 5-6 (a) The normalized ozone reactivity (R_{O_3} , $g\ O_3\ g^{-1}\ VOCs$) and contribution
 581 of VOC species to R_{O_3} , (b) ozone formation potential (OFP, $g\ O_3\ kg^{-1}\ fuel$) and
 582 contribution of VOC species to OFP

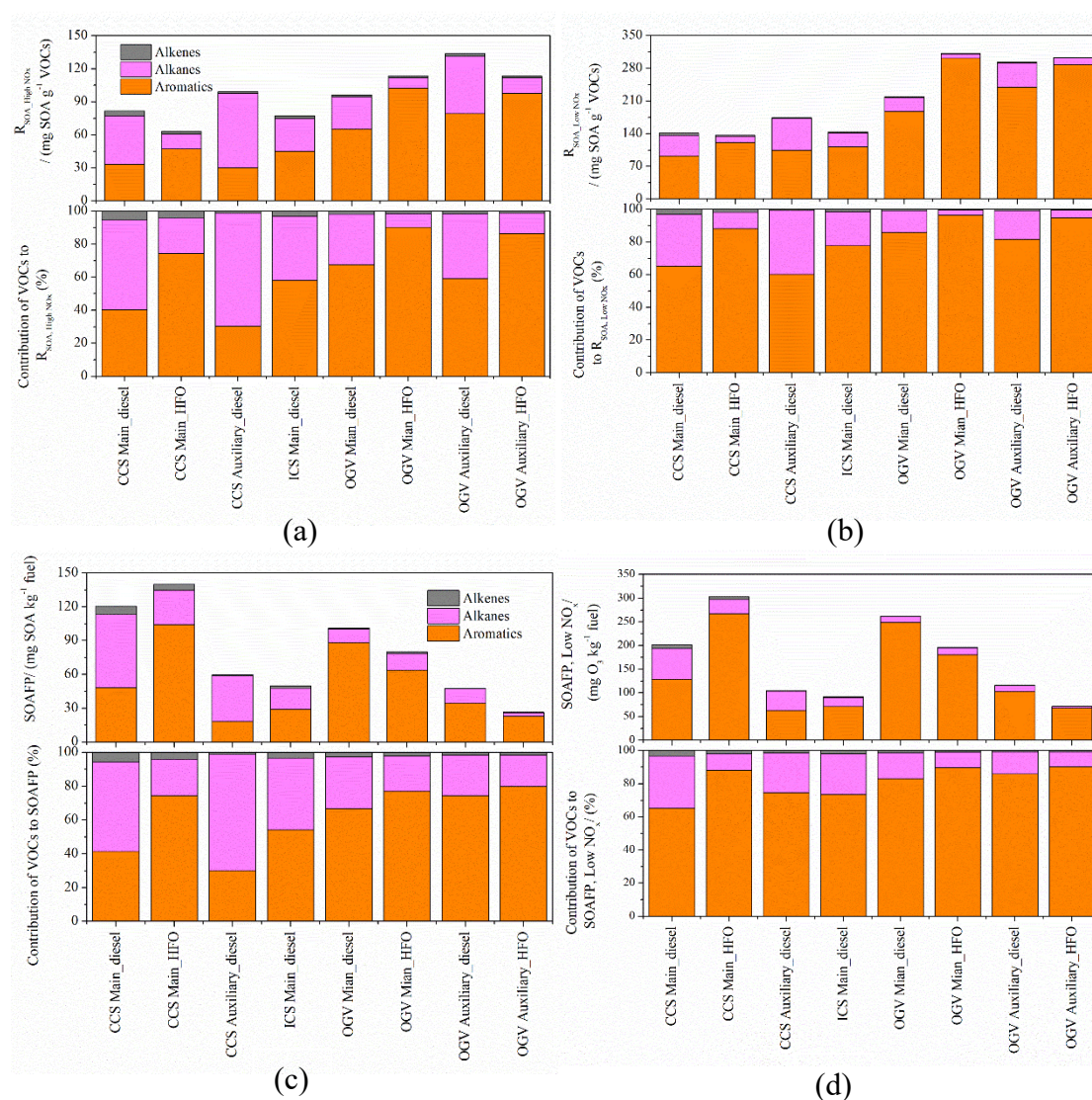
583 3.4.2 SOA formation potential

584 The same as R_{O_3} , normalized SOA reactivities (R_{SOA}) under high- NO_x and low-
 585 NO_x conditions were also estimated and presented in Fig. 6-7 (a), (b), and Table S9S10.
 586 The R_{SOA} ranged from 63.2 to 134 $mg\ SOA\ g^{-1}\ VOCs$ under high- NO_x condition and
 587 137 to 312 $mg\ SOA\ g^{-1}\ VOCs$ under low- NO_x condition in this study, which were within
 588 the range of previous reported results (Wu et al., 2020; Huang et al., 2018b; Xiao et al.,
 589 2018; Wu et al., 2019), but at relatively higher levels compared with these studies.
 590 Unlike R_{O_3} , the R_{SOA} showed relatively higher values for OGVs compared with CCSs
 591 and ICSs. The main reason for this was the content difference of heavy organic
 592 compounds in VOCs, such as higher proportion of naphthalene that has high SOA yield,
 593 which is also presented above in Table S4 and Fig. 34. Huang et al. (2018c) also showed
 594 the similar R_{SOA} levels about a test OGV. Almost all the R_{SOA} were contributed from
 595 aromatics and alkanes in this study. There were different variation trends of the total

596 R_{SOA} between different fuels for different types of ships, but obvious higher proportions
597 of aromatics for ships with HFO than diesel fuel due to the higher aromatic contents in
598 fuels, while alkanes were the opposite. Besides, the R_{SOA} of ship exhausts in this study
599 showed much higher levels compared with other traffic sources presented in previous
600 study (Xiao et al., 2018), including diesel trucks and gasoline vehicles, which suggested
601 that VOCs from ship exhaust deserved special attention.

602 The SOAFP in this study were ranging from 26.5 to 140 mg SOA kg^{-1} fuel and
603 71.5 to 303 mg SOA kg^{-1} fuel under high- NO_x and low- NO_x conditions, respectively
604 (Fig. 6-7(c) and (d)). The SOAFP values in this study were within the range of previous
605 studies but showed relatively higher levels, which might be mainly caused by both the
606 different detected VOCs species and the variation of VOCs EFs. Even though OGVs
607 had relatively higher R_{SOA} levels, due to the variation of EFs among the test ships,
608 SOAFP showed different patterns with R_{SOA} . Main engines in this study had higher
609 SOAFP values than auxiliary engines, no matter what type of fuel was used, indicating
610 the important effect of engine type. The same as OFP, the switch of fuel from HFO to
611 diesel could increase SOAFP for OGVs. Similar results were also found from Wu et al.
612 (2020) that after IFSP, the SOAFP increased 1.6 times and 2.5 times under high- NO_x
613 and low- NO_x conditions, and Huang et al. (2018b) that higher SOAFP was presented
614 from diesel than from HFO. The CCSs showed opposite SOAFP variation trend with
615 OGVs, also similar with Wu et al. (2019) that SOAFP from HFO was 2.1-fold higher
616 than that of diesel. Moreover, the same as R_{SOA} , aromatics and alkanes were the most
617 significant contributors to SOAFP, and there were also obvious higher proportions of
618 aromatics to SOAFP for ships with HFO than diesel fuel. The main reason for this was
619 that EFs of aromatics from engines with HFO were higher than that of diesel fuel due
620 to the higher content of aromatics of HFO than diesel. It has been indicated that
621 intermediate VOCs (IVOCs) were significant SOA precursors with high yields
622 (Robinson et al., 2007; Tkacik et al., 2012). In another of our study, IVOCs from the test
623 OGVs were also detected, and the SOAFP of IVOCs from several selected conditions

624 (main engine and auxiliary engine of cruising loads, using MGO and HFO, respectively)
 625 were calculated (Liu et al., 2022). Results showed that the SOAFP from IVOCs of the
 626 main engine by using diesel and HFO were 540.5 and 482.1 mg SOA kg⁻¹ fuel,
 627 respectively, 542.2 and 451.3 mg SOA kg⁻¹ fuel for auxiliary engine, respectively.
 628 Obviously, the switch from low-sulfur fuel of HFO to ultra-low-sulfur fuel of diesel
 629 could also increase the SOAFP from IVOCs. Even though SOAFP from VOCs were
 630 lower than that of IVOCs, they were still not negligible, especially under low-sulfur
 631 fuel policies.



632
 633 Figure 6-7 The normalized SOA reactivity (R_{SOA} , mg SOAg⁻¹ VOCs) and contribution
 634 of VOC species to R_{SOA} under (a) high NO_x , (b) low NO_x ; and the SOAFP (mg SOA
 635 kg⁻¹ fuel) and contribution of VOC species to SOAFP under (c) high NO_x , (d) low NO_x

3.4.3 Top 20 contributing VOC species to OFP and SOAFP

Due to the significant contribution of VOCs to O₃ and SOA, it is essential to distinguish the most contributing VOC species for the formulation of emission reduction policies. Therefore, the top 20 contributing VOC species to OFP and SOAFP are presented in Table [S10-S11](#) and Table [S11-S12](#). Most of the listed VOC species to OFP and SOAFP among different engine types and fuels were the same but with different rankings. For example, propene was the most contributing VOC species to O₃ for the main engines of CCSs and ICSs, followed by acrolein, trimethyl benzene, butene etc. While trimethyl benzene, propene and acrolein were ranking as the top VOCs species to OFP for the auxiliary engine of CCSs. As for OGVs, naphthalene was the most contributing VOC species to O₃, followed by propene, acrolein, 1,3-butadiene and xylene etc. As shown in Table [S11-S12](#), the top VOCs species contributed to SOAFP were benzene, naphthalene, n-dodecane, n-undecane and xylene etc. for all the test ships. Naphthalene was undoubtedly the most contributing VOC species to SOAFP for OGVs. In conclusion, it was obvious that as the important common contributors to both O₃ and SOA, aromatics should be prioritized in control. Besides, VOCs species with high O₃ reactivities also need to be paid enough attention, such as alkenes, even though with low emission factor levels.

4. Conclusions and atmospheric implications

Shipping emission is a non-ignorable anthropogenic emission source of air pollutants, especially in coastal areas. Therefore, more and more strict emission control regulations have been implemented globally. For example, the maximum fuel sulfur content has been set to be 0.5% (m/m) worldwide by 2020, and 0.1% (m/m) in ECAs. The Chinese government also has set the coastal ECAs that require the sulfur content of 0.5% (m/m) since 2019, and 0.1% (m/m) in inland ECAs since 2020. The mandatory use of low-sulfur fuels has reduced the emissions of SO₂ and PM significantly on ships, while it also leads to very large uncertainty on VOCs emission. In view of this, on-board test of VOCs from 9 typical cargo ships with low-sulfur fuels in China were

664 carried out in this study.

665 Results showed that EF_{VOCs} varied largely from 0.09 to 3.01 g kg⁻¹ fuel, with
666 domestic coastal cargo ships (CCSs) had the highest levels and ocean-going vessels
667 (OGVs) the lowest. The test ships in this study presented comparable EF_{VOCs} level with
668 other studies. However, the measured EF_{VOCs} varied largely among different studies
669 due to complex reasons such as different detected VOC species, different engine types
670 and fuel qualities. OVOCs and aromatics were the main components of the detected
671 VOC species, followed by alkanes, while alkenes, halohydrocarbons and other
672 quantified species only contributed small fractions.

673 The emission level and component of VOCs from ship exhaust could be affected
674 by complex influence factors such as operating condition, engine type, ship type and
675 fuel type. For example, EF_{VOCs} had the lowest level when the engines were operating
676 in medium loads, and the highest in low loads. Besides, with the increase of engine
677 speed, the EF_{VOCs} showed an increasing trend. The average EF_{VOCs} from the main
678 engines was 2.3 times that of auxiliary engines in this study. Moreover, the EF_{VOCs}
679 varied obviously under different types of ships, with CCSs having the highest levels
680 and OGVs the lowest. It needs to be noted that fuel type could influence the emission
681 of EF_{VOCs} significantly. The switch of fuels from heavy fuel oil to diesel increased
682 EF_{VOCs} by 48% on average in this study. A bigger cause for concern is that from the
683 summarized results in this study and previous studies, the average EF_{VOCs} from low-
684 sulfur content fuel was significantly higher than that of high-sulfur content fuel, with
685 almost 3.4 times.

686 The most abundant VOC species were acetone and acrolein in OVOCs, propene
687 and butene in alkenes, n-Nonane, n-Decane, n-Undecane, n-Dodecane in alkanes for
688 almost all the test ships. As for aromatics, the OGVs showed big differences compared
689 with other types of ships that had large amounts of naphthalene due to the use of low-
690 sulfur fuels, while benzene, toluene and m/p-xylene were the highest content aromatic
691 substances for other ships. We also found that benzene, toluene, and ethylbenzene ratio

692 of 0.5:0.3:0.2 on average could be considered as a diagnostic characteristic to
693 distinguish ship emission from other emission sources.

694 The OFP in this study varied significantly from 0.91 to 7.81 g O₃ kg⁻¹ fuel, with
695 the main engines of CCSs presented the highest levels, but auxiliary engines of OGVs
696 the lowest. The SOAFP in this study were ranging from 71.5 to 303 mg SOA kg⁻¹ fuel
697 under low-NO_x conditions. Main engines in this study had higher SOAFP values than
698 auxiliary engines, no matter what type of fuel was used, indicating the important effect
699 of engine type. It's also worth noting that when the fuels were switched from high sulfur
700 to low sulfur, there was obvious increase in OFP and SOAFP, especially for OGVs.
701 Moreover, aromatics were the most important common contributors to O₃ and SOA in
702 ship exhausts, which need to be controlled with priority.

703 It could be concluded from this study and previous studies that either the switch
704 of high-sulfur HFO to low-sulfur HFO, or low-sulfur HFO to ultra-low-sulfur diesel,
705 VOCs emissions from OGVs increased significantly, which further promoted the
706 formation potential of O₃ and SOA, especially in coastal areas. Therefore, the
707 implementation of the ultra-low-sulfur oil policy in the near future is likely to further
708 increase the emission of VOCs, which needs to be optimized. Besides, the results herein
709 indicated that aromatics are absolutely the most important common contributors to OFP
710 and SOAFP, which need to be controlled with priority in ship exhausts. Since aromatics
711 are typically from the polymerization, improving engine combustion conditions of ship
712 engine is an effective way to reduce O₃ and SOA from ship exhausts, especially in
713 coastal and inland areas. Moreover, organic matters such as naphthalene from ship
714 exhausts with low-sulfur HFO should be explored and considered to be potential tracers
715 to identify ocean going ships from coastal and inland ships. Lastly, the EFs and profiles
716 of VOCs emitted from ship exhausts varied significantly, one important reason was that
717 the sample size of on-board measured VOCs was too small, in addition, the detection
718 methods and detected VOCs species differed greatly among different studies. Therefore,
719 much more on-board tests need to be implemented and standard VOCs detection

720 method as well as essential VOCs species should be clarified, especially under current
721 low-sulfur regulation.

722 **Author contributions**

723 FZ, YZ, CH, HW, YC and GW conceptualized and designed the study; BX, ZL,
724 CT, XW, YH, MC, and YC performed the measurements; FZ, RL, CW, YL, SZ, and
725 GW analyzed the data. FZ wrote the manuscript draft; All the authors reviewed, edited,
726 and contributed to the scientific discussion in the manuscript.

727 **Competing interests**

728 The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing
729 interests.

730 **Acknowledgements**

731 This study was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China
732 (42377096, 42130704 and 42077195), State Environmental Protection Key Laboratory
733 of Formation and Prevention of Urban Air Pollution Complex (No. 2021080547), and
734 the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China (No. MC-202019-C08).

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