

# Complex interplay between organic and secondary inorganic aerosols with ambient relative humidity implicates the aerosol liquid water content over India during wintertime”

Amar Krishna Gopinath<sup>1,2</sup>, Subha S. Raj<sup>2,3</sup>, Snehitha M. Kommula<sup>2,3</sup>,

Christi Jose<sup>2,3</sup>, Upasana Panda<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Yukti Bishambu<sup>2,3</sup>, Narendra Ojha<sup>5</sup>, R.

Ravikrishna<sup>1,2</sup>, Pengfei Liu<sup>6</sup>, Sachin S. Gunthe<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory for Atmospheric and Climate Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India

<sup>3</sup>EWRE Division, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India

<sup>4</sup>Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), Department of Environment and Sustainability, CSIR – Institute of

Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar, India

<sup>5</sup>Space and Atmospheric Sciences Division, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad 380 009, India

<sup>6</sup>School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA

Pengfei Liupengfei.liu@eas.gatech.edu

Sachin S. Gunthes.gunthe@iitm.ac.in

## Contents of this file

1. Tables S1 to S4
2. Figures S1 to S8

**Table S2.** Summary of the average chemical composition of atmospheric aerosols at locations across India reported in literature.

| Reference   | Location           | Type  | Period                | Duration   | Mode   | Species mass concentration in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ air (mass fraction) | $\text{NH}_4^+$ | $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ | $\text{NO}_3^-$ | $\text{Cl}^-$ | OC            | Org  | $\text{K}^+$ |
|---|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|------------|--------|--|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Gai et al. (2019)                                 | New Delhi          | Urban | Dec 2017 to Feb 2018  | 2.5 months | ACSM   | 20.0 (0.10)  | 16.0 (0.08)     | 24.0 (0.12)        | 23.1 (0.12)     | -             | 112.0 (0.57)  | -    | -            |
| Thamban et al. (2019)                             | Kapur              | Urban | 1-31 Jan 2016         | 1 month    | AMS    | 46.4 (0.11)  | 52.3 (0.13)     | 7.2 (0.18)         | 19.3 (0.05)     | -             | 217.2 (0.053) | -    | -            |
| Kommula et al. (2021)                             | Chennai            | Urban | 5 Jan-1 Feb 2019      | 1 month    | ACSM   | 3.6 (0.12)   | 10.1 (0.33)     | 1.3 (0.04)         | 0.83 (0.03)     | -             | 14.4 (0.48)   | -    | -            |
| Mukherjee et al. (2018)                           | Mahabaleshwar      | Rural | 5 Jan-1 Feb 2019      | 1 month    | ACSM   | 1.28 (0.10)  | 3.0 (0.24)      | 0.96 (0.08)        | 0.11 (0.01)     | -             | 7.02 (0.57)   | -    | -            |
| Kompalli et al. (2020)                            | Bhubaneswar        | Urban | Dec 2016-Feb 2017     | 3 months   | AMS    | 2.08 (0.10)  | 5.47 (0.27)     | 2.1 (0.10)         | 0.52 (0.03)     | -             | 9.82 (0.49)   | -    | -            |
| Ajith et al. (2022)                               | Thiruvananthapuram | Urban | Winter 2017-2020      | -          | ACSM   | 3.45 (0.06)  | 10.50 (0.20)    | 1.69 (0.03)        | 0.24 (0.00)     | -             | 37.5 (0.70)   | -    | -            |
| Rastogi et al. (2016)                             | Patiala            | Urban | Dec 2011-Feb 2012     | 3 months   | Filter | 16.5 (0.12)  | 24.87 (0.18)    | 22.34 (0.16)       | 3.9 (0.03)      | 42.58         | 68.13 (0.50)  | 2.73 | -            |
| Rengarajan et al. (2011)                          | Ahmedabad          | Urban | 8 Dec 2006-7 Jan 2007 | 1 month    | Filter | 3.2 (0.07)   | 9.7 (0.22)      | 1.2 (0.03)         | 0.05 (0.00)     | 18.3          | 29.28 (0.67)  | 0.9  | -            |
| S. Kumar and Ramau (2016); Samiksha et al. (2021) | Bhopal             | Urban | Jan-Feb 2012-2013     | 2 months   | Filter | 7.54 (0.09)  | 23.25 (0.08)    | 5.99 (0.13)        | 1.08 (0.03)     | 31.48         | 50.37 (0.67)  | 2.85 | -            |
| S. Kumar et al. (2018)                            | Aurangsar          | Urban | Dec 2011-Feb 2012     | 3 months   | Filter | 4.08 (0.09)  | 3.95 (0.26)     | 6.08 (0.07)        | 1.3 (0.01)      | 19.56         | 31.29 (0.57)  | 0.81 | -            |
| A. Kumar and Saini (2010)                         | Mount Abu          | Rural | Jan-Feb, Oct-Dec 2007 | 5 months   | Filter | 1.83   | 4.98            | 0.34               | 0               | -             | -             | 0.36 | -            |
| Agarwal et al. (2020)                             | Sikandarpur        | Rural | Dec-Feb 2015-17       | 3 months   | Filter | 13.12  | 13.25           | 13.03              | 13.25           | -             | -             | 3.36 | -            |
| A. Kumar et al. (2020)                            | Patna              | Urban | Jan-Feb, Dec          | 3 months   | Filter | 6.21   | 3.73            | 3.34               | 0.43            | -             | -             | 1.08 | -            |

**Table S1.** Quantitative parameters used to identify the dominance of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  in aerosol chemical composition.

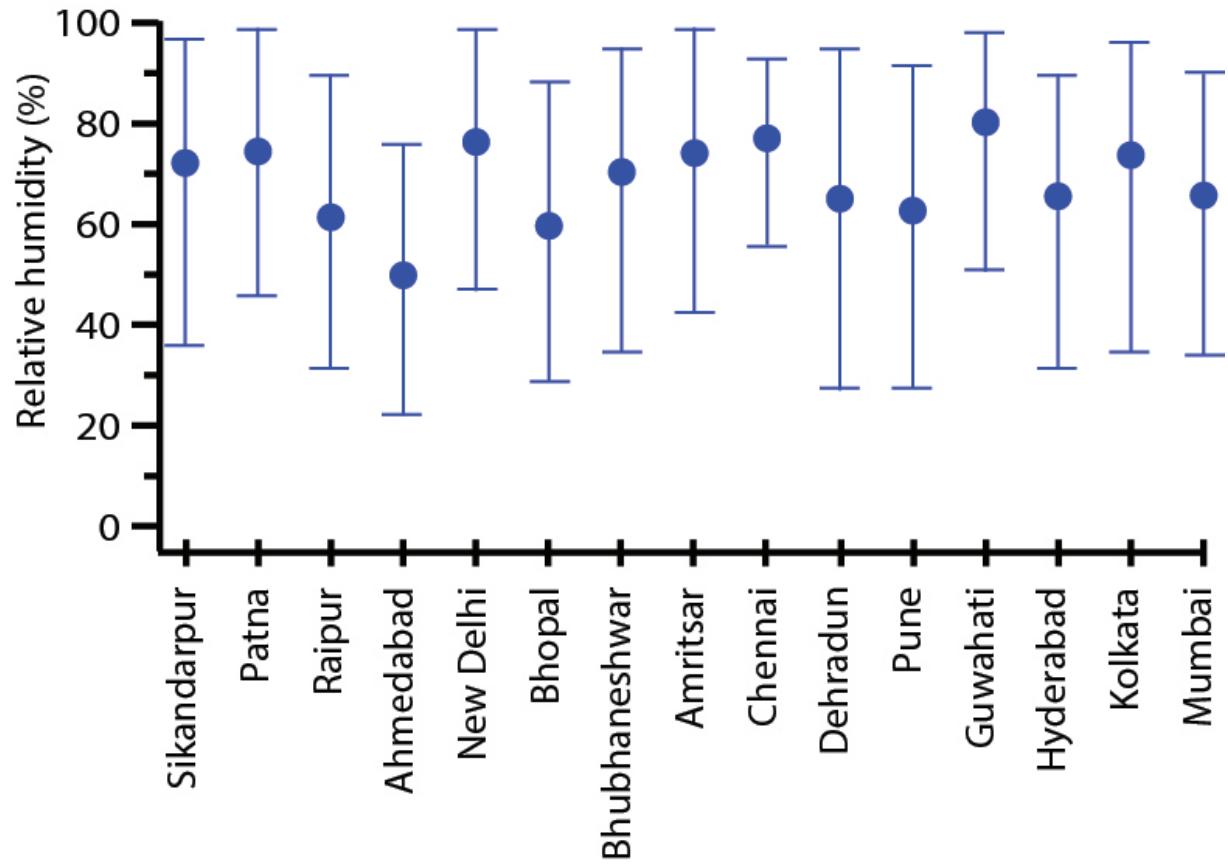
| Location    | $\text{NH}_4^+$ equivalent fraction | $\text{NH}_4^+/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Patiala     | 0.90                                | 3.55                             |
| Ahmedabad   | 0.72                                | 1.76                             |
| Amritsar    | 0.73                                | 1.73                             |
| Bhopal      | 0.75                                | 5.51                             |
| Mount Abu   | 0.80                                | 1.96                             |
| Sikandarpur | 0.71                                | 5.28                             |
| Patna       | 0.77                                | 8.88                             |

**Table S3.** Estimates of  $\kappa_{inorg}$  and overall  $\kappa$  for all locations. The fit parameter  $R^2$  for  $\kappa$  estimates are also shown.

| Location           | $\kappa_{inorg}$ | $\kappa_{org}$ | $\kappa$ |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|
| New Delhi          | 0.59             | 0.08           | 0.28     |
| Kanpur             | 0.55             | 0.08           | 0.28     |
| Chennai            | 0.37             | 0.08           | 0.22     |
| Mahabaleshwar      | 0.42             | 0.13           | 0.24     |
| Bhubhaneshwar      | 0.33             | 0.08           | 0.20     |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 0.39             | 0.08           | 0.17     |
| Patiala            | 0.51             | 0.08           | 0.28     |
| Ahmedabad          | 0.41             | 0.08           | 0.18     |
| Amritsar           | 0.36             | 0.08           | 0.19     |
| Bhopal             | 0.58             | 0.08           | 0.23     |

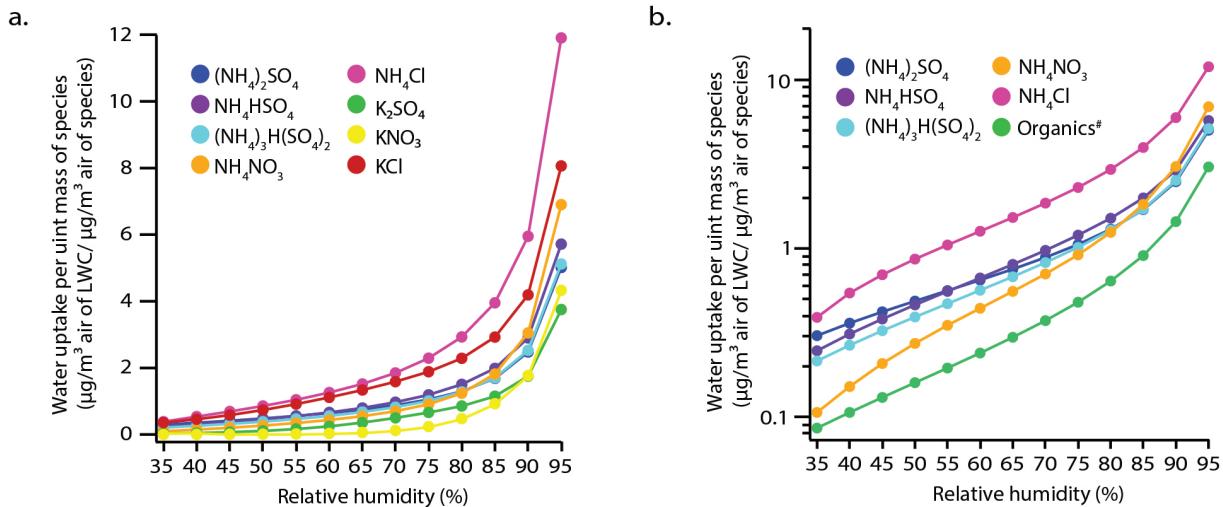
**Table S4.** Regimes of salt species modelled in ISORROPIA2.1 (considering only  $\text{NH}_4^+$ )

| Regime | $R_{SO_4} = \text{NH}_4^+/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ | Aerosol type        | Salt species  |
|--------|---|---------------------|---|
| (i)    | $R_{SO_4} < 1$                              | Sulphate super rich | $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , $\text{NH}_4\text{HSO}_4$   |
| (ii)   | $1 \leq R_{SO_4} < 2$                       | Sulphate rich       | $\text{NH}_4\text{HSO}_4$ , $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{H}(\text{SO}_4)_2$ , $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ |
| (iii)  | $R_{SO_4} \geq 2$                           | Ammonium rich       | $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ , $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ , $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$                    |

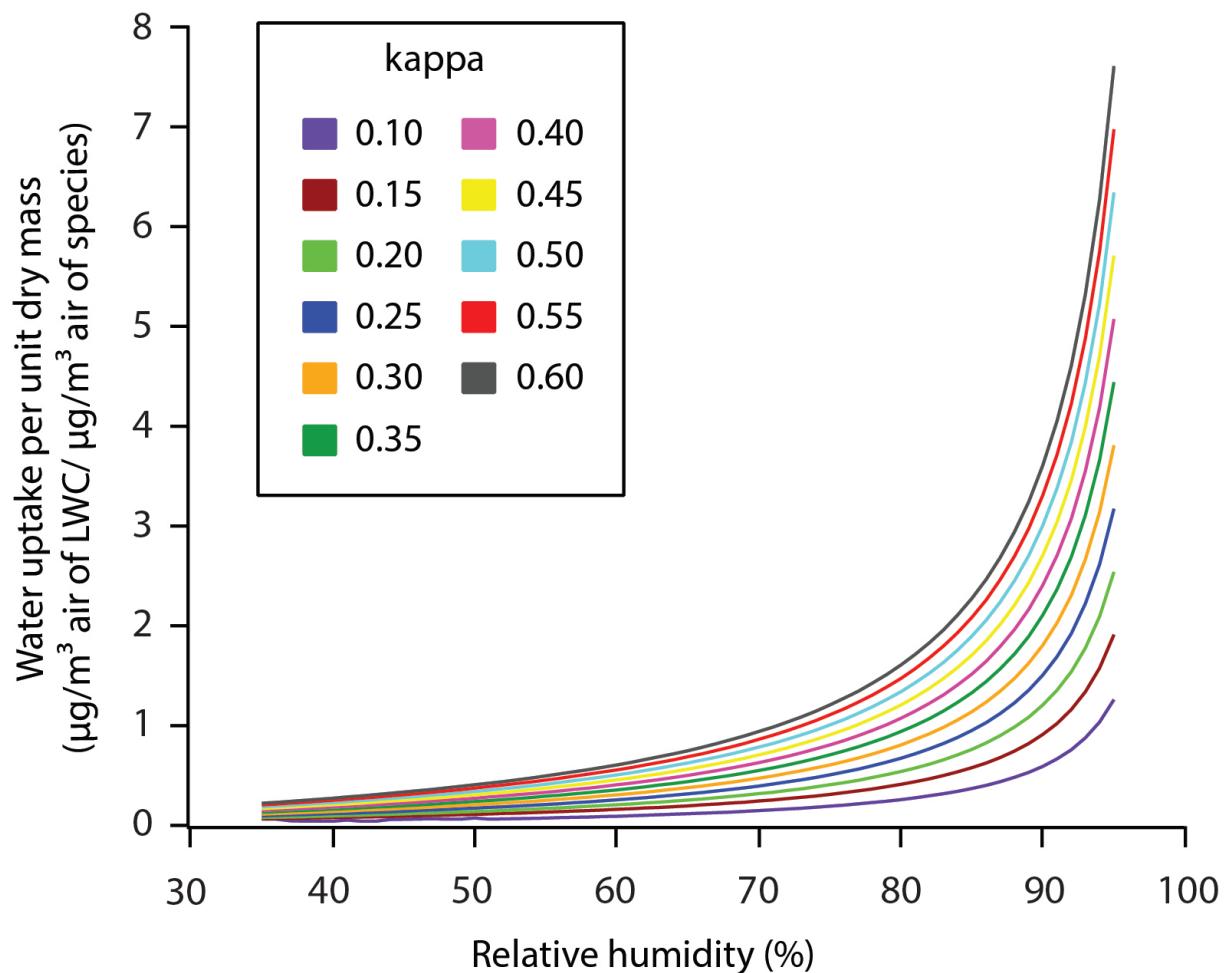


**Figure S1.** Overview of the atmospheric RH over Indian locations during wintertime.

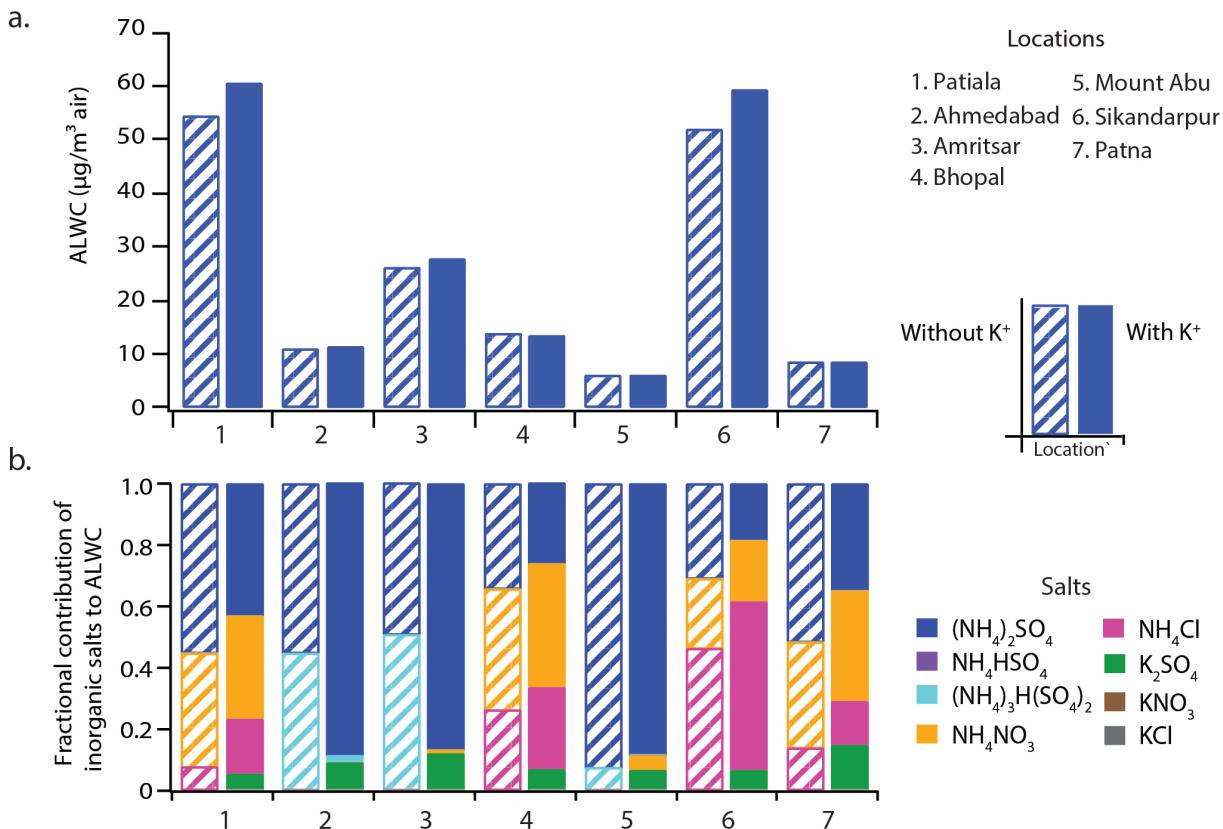
The dots represent the average RH while the whiskers represent the maximum and minimum RH for the corresponding locations.



**Figure S2.** The water uptake per unit mass of species ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  air of LWC /  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  air of species) over a range of RH (35-95%) of (a) major salts of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$  on linear scale (b) major salts of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and organic matter on log scale

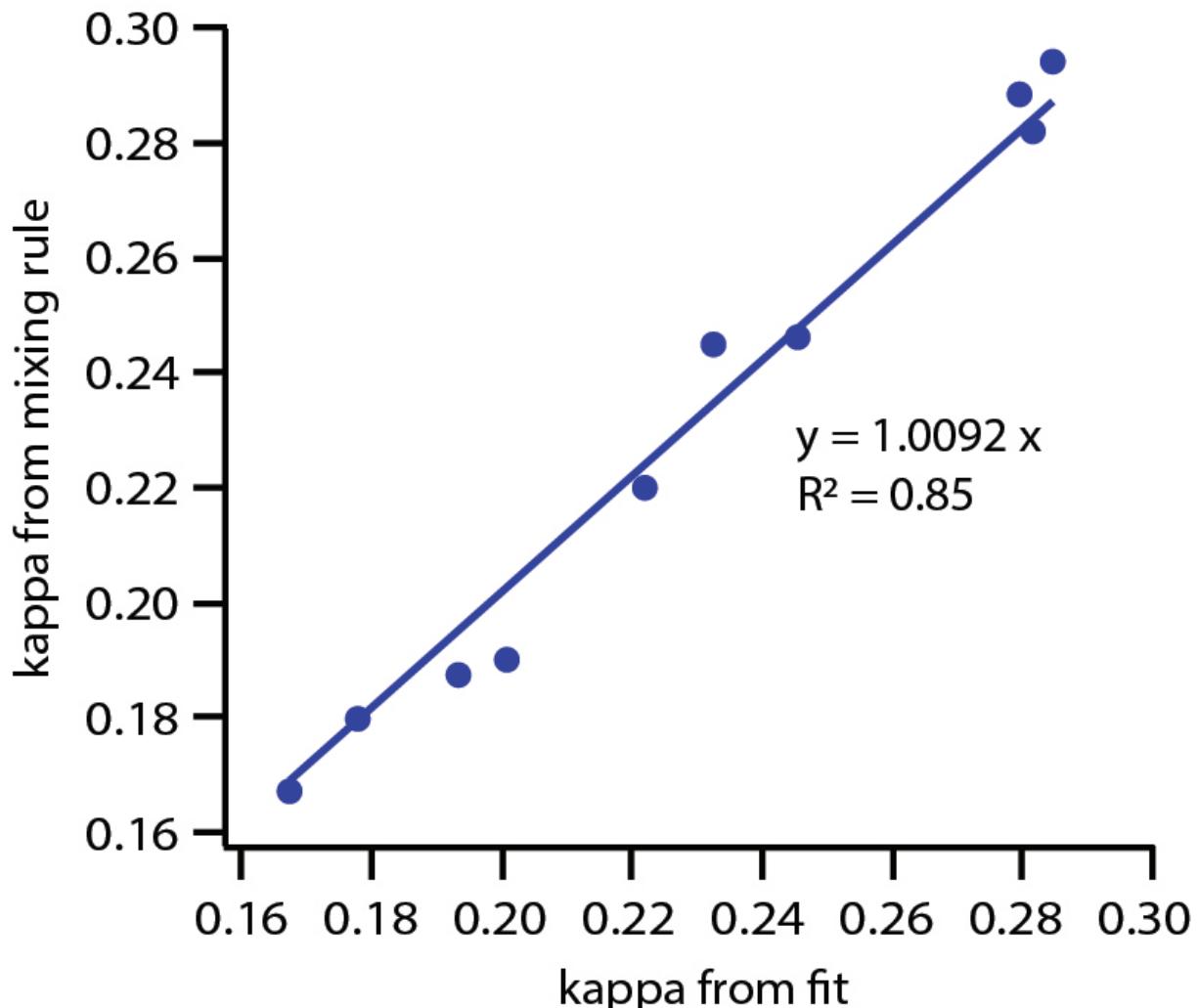


**Figure S3.** Variation of water uptake per unit dry mass ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  air of LWC/  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  air of species) with RH for  $\kappa$  ranging from 0.1 to 0.6.

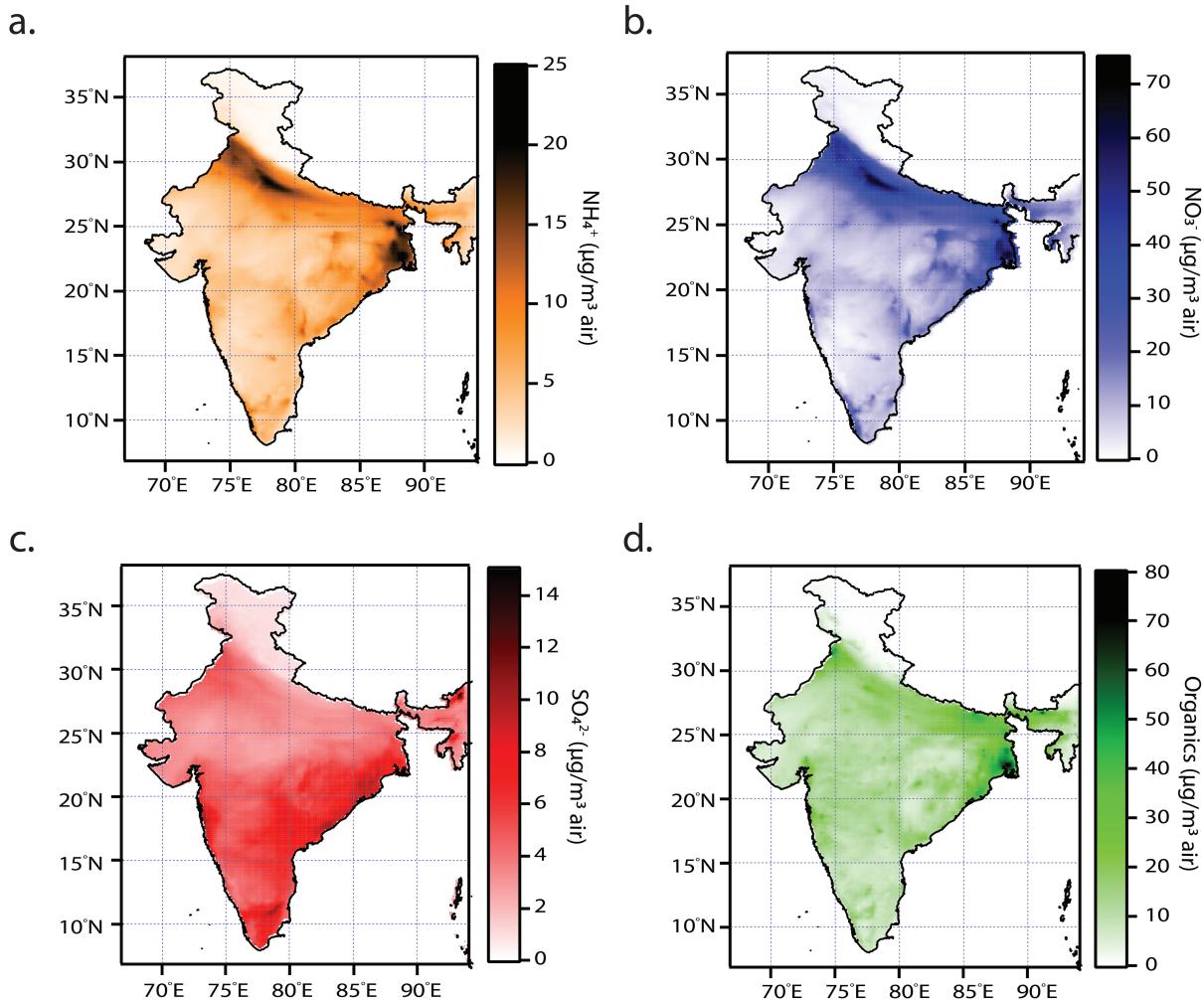


**Figure S4.** Sensitivity analysis of the effect of including  $K^+$  in the ALWC calculations.

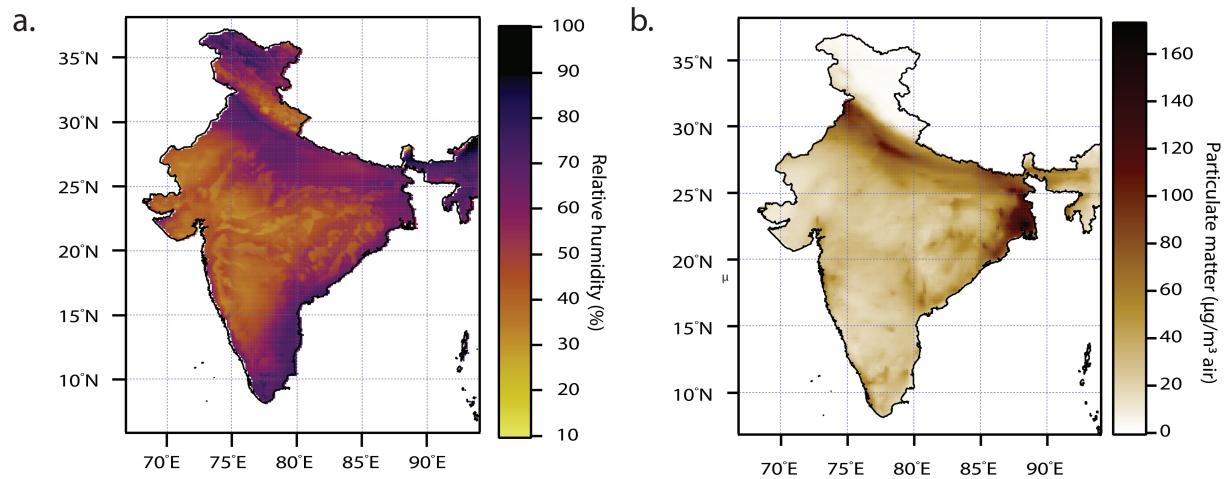
For every location, two bars represent data without and with  $K^+$ . (a) Comparison of the absolute ALWC ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  air) contributed by inorganic species without and with  $K^+$ . (b) The fractional composition of inorganic species (represented as salts) without and with  $K^+$ .



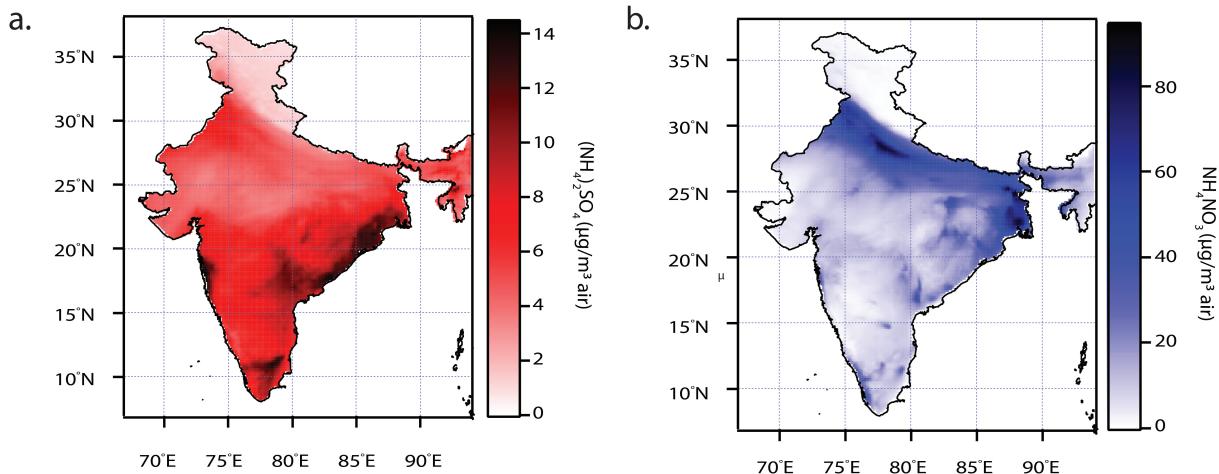
**Figure S5.** Comparison of the overall kappa from fit with kappa from mixing rule.



**Figure S6.** Spatial variation of the mass concentration of the chemical species (a)  $\text{NH}_4^+$  (b)  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , (c)  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and (d) organic matter over India using data from WRF CHEM model (concentrations in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  air).



**Figure S7.** Spatial variation of various parameters calculated from WRF CHEM model for the month of January (a) Relative humidity (%) (b) Total dry aerosol mass ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  air).



**Figure S8.** Spatial variation of the mass concentration of the chemical species (a)  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  (b)  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  over India predicted by ISORROPIA2.1 using data from WRF CHEM model (concentrations in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  air) for the month of January.

## References

- Agarwal, A., Satsangi, A., Lakhani, A., & Kumari, K. M. (2020). Seasonal and spatial variability of secondary inorganic aerosols in PM<sub>2.5</sub> at Agra: Source apportionment through receptor models. *Chemosphere*, 242, 125132. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2019.125132>
- Ajith, T., Kompalli, S. K., Nair, V. S., & Babu, S. S. (2022). Mesoscale variations of the chemical composition of submicron aerosols and its influence on the cloud condensation nuclei activation. *Atmospheric Environment*, 268, 118778. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2021.118778>

- Gani, S., Bhandari, S., Seraj, S., Wang, D. S., Patel, K., Soni, P., Arub, Z., Habib, G., Hildebrandt Ruiz, L., & Apte, J. S. (2019). Submicron aerosol composition in the world's most polluted megacity: the Delhi Aerosol Supersite study. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 19(10), 6843–6859. doi: 10.5194/acp-19-6843-2019
- Kommula, S. M., Upasana, P., Sharma, A., Raj, S. S., Reyes-villegas, E., Liu, T., Allan, J. D., Jose, C., Pöhlker, M. L., Ravikrishna, R., Liu, P., Su, H., Martin, S. T., Pöschl, U., Mcfiggans, G., Coe, H., & Gunthe, S. S. (2021). Chemical Characterization and Source Apportionment of Organic Aerosols in the Coastal City of Chennai, India: Impact of Marine Air Masses on Aerosol Chemical Composition and Potential for Secondary Organic Aerosol Formation. *ACS Earth and Space Chemistry*, 5(11), 3197-3209. doi: 10.1021/acsearthspacechem.1c00276
- Kompalli, S. K., Suresh Babu, S. N., Satheesh, S. K., Krishna Moorthy, K., Das, T., Boopathy, R., Liu, D., Darbyshire, E., Allan, J. D., Brooks, J., Flynn, M. J., & Coe, H. (2020). Seasonal contrast in size distributions and mixing state of black carbon and its association with PM<sub>1.0</sub> chemical composition from the eastern coast of India. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 20(6), 3965–3985. doi: 10.5194/acp-20-3965-2020
- Kumar, A., & Sarin, M. (2010). Atmospheric water-soluble constituents in fine and coarse mode aerosols from high-altitude site in western India: Long-range transport and seasonal variability. *Atmospheric Environment*, 44(10), 1245-1254. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2009.12.035>
- Kumar, A., Yadav, I., Shukla, A., & Devi, N. (2020, 08). Seasonal Variation of PM2.5 in the Central Indo-Gangetic Plain (Patna) of India: Chemical Characterization and Source Assessment. *Journal of Applied Sciences*. doi: 10.1007/s42452-020-3160-y

Kumar, S., Nath, S., Bhatti, M., & Yadav, S. (2018, 06). Chemical Characteristics of Fine and Coarse Particles during Winter Time over Two Urban Cities in North India. *Aerosol and Air Quality Research*, 18. doi: 10.4209/aaqr.2018.02.0051

Kumar, S., & Raman, R. (2016, 08). Inorganic ions in ambient fine particles over a National Park in central India: Seasonality, dependencies between SO<sub>4</sub>2-, NO<sub>3</sub>-, and NH<sub>4</sub>+, and neutralization of aerosol acidity. *Atmospheric Environment*, 143. doi: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2016.08.037

Mukherjee, S., Singla, V., Pandithurai, G., Safai, P., Meena, G., Dani, K., & Anil Kumar, V. (2018). Seasonal variability in chemical composition and source apportionment of sub-micron aerosol over a high altitude site in Western Ghats, India. *Atmospheric Environment*, 180, 79-92. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2018.02.048>

Rastogi, N., Singh, A., Sarin, M., & Singh, D. (2016). Temporal variability of primary and secondary aerosols over northern India: Impact of biomass burning emissions. *Atmospheric Environment*, 125, 396-403. (South Asian Aerosols And Anthropogenic Emissions: Regional And Global Climate Implications) doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2015.06.010>

Rengarajan, R., Sudheer, A., & Sarin, M. (2011). Wintertime PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> carbonaceous and inorganic constituents from urban site in western India. *Atmospheric Research*, 102(4), 420-431. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosres.2011.09.005>

Samiksha, S., Kumar, S., & Raman, R. (2021, 04). Two-year record of carbonaceous fraction in ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> over a forested location in central India: temporal characteristics and estimation of secondary organic carbon. *Air Quality Atmosphere Health*, 950. doi: 10.1007/s11869-020-00951-2

Thamban, N. M., Joshi, B., Tripathi, S. N., Sueper, D., Canagaratna, M. R., Moosakutty,

S. P., Satish, R., & Rastogi, N. (2019). Evolution of Aerosol Size and Composition in the Indo-Gangetic Plain: Size-Resolved Analysis of High-Resolution Aerosol Mass Spectra. *ACS Earth and Space Chemistry*, 3(5), 823-832. doi: 10.1021/acsearthspacechem.8b00207