1	Clumped isotopes in near surface atmospheric CO2 over land, coast and ocean in
2	Taiwan and its vicinity
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25 Abstract

Molecules containing two rare isotopes (e.g., ¹³C¹⁸O¹⁶O in CO₂), called clumped isotopes, in 26 atmospheric CO_2 are powerful tools to provide an alternative way to independently constrain 27 the sources of CO_2 in the atmosphere because of their unique physical and chemical 28 properties. We presented clumped isotope data (Δ_{47}) in near surface atmospheric CO₂ from 29 urban, sub-urban, ocean, coast, high mountain (~3.2 km a.s.l.) and forest in Taiwan and its 30 vicinity. The primary goal of the study was to use the unique Δ_{47} signature in air CO₂ to show 31 the extents of its deviations from thermodynamic equilibrium due to different processes such 32 as photosynthesis, respiration, local anthropogenic emissions, which the commonly used 33 tracers such as δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O cannot provide. We also explored the potential of Δ_{47} to 34 identify/quantify the contribution of CO₂ from various sources. Atmospheric CO₂ over ocean 35 was found to be in thermodynamic equilibrium with the surrounding surface sea water. 36 37 Respired CO₂ was also in close thermodynamic equilibrium at ambient air temperature. In contrast, photosynthetic activity result in significant deviation in Δ_{47} values from that 38 39 expected thermodynamically. The disequilibrium could be a consequence of kinetic effects associated with the diffusion of CO_2 in and out of the leaf stomata. We observed that $\delta^{18}O$ 40 41 and Δ_{47} do not vary similarly when photosynthesis was involved unlike simple water-CO₂ exchange. Additionally we obtained Δ_{47} values of car exhaust CO₂ that were significantly 42 lower than the atmospheric CO_2 but higher than that expected at the combustion temperature. 43 In urban and sub-urban regions, the Δ_{47} values were found to be lower than the 44 thermodynamic equilibrium values at the ambient temperature, suggesting contributions from 45 local combustion emissions. 46

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54 **1. Introduction**

The budget of atmospheric CO_2 is widely studied using the temporal and spatial variations in 55 concentration and conventional isotopic compositions (δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O) of CO₂ (Francey and 56 Tans, 1987; Francey et al., 1995; Yakir and Wang, 1996; Ciais et al., 1995a,b, 1997; Peylin et 57 al., 1999; Cuntz et al., 2003; Drake et al., 2011; Welp et al., 2011; Affek and Yakir., 2014). 58 δ^{13} C is useful to differentiate the exchange of CO₂ with the ocean and land-biospheres. This 59 is due to the fact that the photosynthetic discrimination against ¹³C during exchange with land 60 plants is higher than that associated with the chemical dissolution of CO_2 in the ocean (e.g., 61 Tans et al., 1993; Ciais et al., 1995a; Francey et al., 1995; Ito, 2003; Bowling et al., 2014). 62 The major limitation of δ^{13} C is that it cannot distinguish CO₂ produced by high temperature 63 combustion or low temperature respiration (Affek and Eiler, 2006; Laskar et al., 2016a). 64 δ^{18} O in atmospheric CO₂ is mainly controlled by various water reservoirs (ocean, leaf and 65 soil). In urban locations, a significant fraction of CO₂ may have combustion origin possessing 66 δ^{18} O signature of atmospheric O₂ (Kroopnick and Craig, 1972; Ciais et al., 1997; Yakir and 67 Wang, 1996). δ^{18} O is used for partitioning net CO₂ terrestrial fluxes between soil respiration 68 and that exchange with plant leaves, the exchange rate is enhanced by the presence of 69 70 carbonic anhydrase in plants and soils (Francey and Tans, 1987; Farquhar and Lioyd, 1993; Yakir and Wang, 1996; Ciais et al., 1997; Peylin et al., 1999; Murayama et al., 2010; Welp et 71 al., 2011). This is because δ^{18} O of CO₂ fluxes originated from soil respiration are different 72 from that exchanged with leaf water. $\delta^{18}O$ in soil water reflect the $\delta^{18}O$ value of local 73 meteoric water while leaf water is relatively enriched due to transpiration. The δ^{18} O values 74 from these processes and interactions are different and hence the tracer is widely used for 75 constraining the gross production of CO₂ (Francey and Tans, 1987; Ciais et al., 1997; Gillon 76 and Yakir, 2001; Cuntz et al., 2003; Welp et al., 2011). However, due to rapid exchange of 77 oxygen isotopes between CO₂ and different water reservoirs with diverse δ^{18} O and processes 78 such as evapotranspiration complicate its interpretation (Riley et al., 2003). 79

80 The doubly substituted isotopologues or clumped isotopes such as ${}^{13}C^{18}O^{16}O$ in CO₂, denoted 81 by Δ_{47} , provides an additional and independent constraint to study the atmospheric CO₂ 82 budget. Δ_{47} in air CO₂ can help to identify the mechanisms for CO₂ production and 83 consumption. Unlike conventional isotopes, clumped isotope studies for the atmospheric CO₂ 84 are very limited mainly because of challenges to apply it to the atmospheric study (Eiler and 85 Schauble, 2004; Affek et al., 2007; Yeung et al., 2009). The available data are not sufficient 86 to address some key issues such as quantification of CO₂ from different sources and to what extent the air CO₂ is in thermodynamic equilibrium with leaf and surface waters, especially in 87 regions with strong anthropogenic activities such as urban areas. Also the effect of 88 photosynthesis on the Δ_{47} of air CO₂ has not been studied rigorously. δ^{18} O and Δ_{47} were 89 reported to have similar time-scales for the isotope exchange between CO₂ and water (Affek, 90 2013; Clog et al., 2015), but no comparative study on their behavior in presence of other 91 processes such as photosynthesis and respiration was done. A combined assessment from all 92 the three aforementioned isotopic tracers can better constrain the budget of CO₂ and 93 associated processes than δ^{13} C or δ^{18} O alone. 94

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Theoretically it is shown that in thermodynamic equilibrium, Δ_{47} values of CO₂ are 96 temperature dependent (Eiler and Schauble, 2004; Wang et al., 2004), verified over a wide 97 range from 10 to 1000 °C (Dennis et al., 2011). Processes that involve CO₂ and liquid water 98 as medium, such as isotopic exchange with ocean water are expected to have Δ_{47} values close 99 to the thermodynamic equilibrium. Δ_{47} values in ambient air CO₂ should reflect a balance of 100 CO₂ fluxes between biosphere-atmosphere exchange, ocean-atmosphere exchange, and 101 102 emissions from combustion sources. Photosynthesis involves gas phase diffusion of CO₂ into 103 leaves, fixes $\sim 1/3$ of the CO₂, and returns the rest back to the atmosphere. CO₂ molecules inside a leaf are generally expected to be in thermodynamic equilibrium with leaf water 104 105 because of presence of enzymatic carbonic anhydrase that greatly enhances the isotopic exchange (Cernusak et al., 2004). Δ_{47} values of soil respired CO₂ is also not well constrained, 106 107 though it is believed to be in thermodynamic equilibrium with the soil water (Eiler and 108 Schauble, 2004).

Here, we present clumped and conventional isotope data in near surface air CO_2 covering a wide variety of processes and interactions. Air samplings were made in South China Sea, two coastal stations in northern Taiwan, an urban traffic street, a sub-urban location, a forest site, a greenhouse, top of a high mountain and car exhausts. The study was designed and aimed to show the extents of the deviations of near surface atmospheric CO_2 from thermodynamic equilibrium with local surface water. Possible influences from other processes such as anthropogenic emission, respiration, and photosynthesis on clumped isotopes were explored.

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118 2. Materials and methods

Stable isotopic compositions of CO_2 including mass 47 were measured using a Finnigan MAT 253 gas source stable isotope ratio mass spectrometer configured to measure ion beams corresponding to M/Z 44 through 49. The instrument registers the major ion beams (44, 45 and 46) through resistors 10^8 , 3×10^{10} , and 10^{11} Ohm, respectively, and minor ion beams (47, 48 and 49) through 10^{12} Ohm. All the measurements were carried out at Research Center for Environmental Changes, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

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Air samples were collected in 2 L flasks and compressed to 2 atmospheric pressure using a 126 127 membrane pump. The flasks, equipped with two stopcocks, were first flushed with the ambient air for ~10 mins before starting the sample collection. We then closed the 128 downstream end stopcock, allowed the pressure to build to 2 atm and then isolated by closing 129 the other stopcock. The air pumping for flushing and sampling was carried out through a 130 column packed with magnesium perchlorates to remove moisture. The moisture content was 131 reduced from the ambient value of 70-90 % to less than 1 % relative humidity, checked using 132 a LI-COR infrared gas analyzer (model 840A, LI-COR, USA). See, for example, Liang and 133 Mahata (2015) for more details of air sampling. 134

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136 To show how photosynthesis and respiration affect the abundances of CO₂ isotopologues and 137 to demonstrate what different information the Δ_{47} can give from the other isotopologues, we performed analyses for CO₂ collected in a controlled greenhouse with cemented floor located 138 in the top (3rd) floor of the Greenhouse Building, Academia Sinica. The size of the 139 greenhouse was about 8m long, 5m wide and 5m high. It was closed at least one day before 140 141 each experiment and the ventilation was kept off. More than 70 % of the ground area inside the greenhouse was occupied with Cinnamomum cassia plants, each of ~2 m height kept in 142 pots. Samples were collected at intervals of less than half an hour to a few hours on three 143 sunny days and one cloudy day to investigate the influence of photosynthesis and respiration 144 on the isotopologues of CO_2 . Inside the room relative humidity was ~50-70 % for the three 145 sunny days and was above 90 % for the cloudy day. 146

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Forest air CO_2 was collected from a dense natural forest at the west end of the Academia Sinica Campus. The vegetation mainly consists of medium to big size trees with canopy heights varying between 10 to 20 m. The samples were collected ~100 m inside the forest on a small plateau at a height of ~30 m from the ground in the slope of a hill; the dense

vegetation allowed little sunlight penetrating to the surface. The relative humidity at the site 152 was 80-90 % during the sampling days and wind speed was nearly zero due to presence of 153 hills on three sides of the sampling spot. Marine air was collected during a cruise in the South 154 China Sea (for the cruise track see Figure 1) at a height of ~10 m a.s.l. and from two coastal 155 stations: Keelung (25°09'6" N, 121°46'22" E) and Fuguei Cape (25°18' N, 121°32' E) (Figure 156 1) at a height of ~5 m and ~20 m a.s.l. respectively. Sea surface temperatures were measured 157 at the time of sampling. Urban air was collected at a bus stop on Roosevelt Road, a busy 158 street in Taipei. Sub-urban air was collected from an open roof (~30 m above ground) of 159 Institute of Earth Science Building, Academia Sinica (AS; 25°2'41" N, 121°36'52" E); 160 161 grassland air was collected from a grass field in front of the Department of Atmospheric Science, National Taiwan University Campus (NTU; 25° 1' N, 121°30' E), Taipei. In 162 addition, we collected air from the summit of the Hehuan mountain (24°8'15" N, 121°16'32" 163 E, 3.2 km a.s.l.) (Figure 1) on 9th October, 2013. All air samplings were made when there was 164 no rain to avoid direct interaction with the rainwater. Car exhausts were collected from a 165 166 Mazda 3000cc TRIBUTE and a Mitsubishi 2400cc New Outlander, using evacuated 2L glass flasks from ~20 cm inside the exhaust pipes through a column of magnesium perchlorate. 167

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CO₂ was extracted from air using a glass vacuum line connected to a turbo molecular pump 169 by cryogenic technique. The vacuum line as well as the sample flask connection assembly 170 including its head space was pumped to high vacuum before starting the CO₂ extraction. Air 171 in the flask was pumped through a series of five coiled traps, with the first two immersed in 172 dry ice-acetone slush (-77 °C) for trace moisture removal followed by three in liquid nitrogen 173 (-196 °C). CO₂ was collected from the traps immersed in liquid nitrogen by repeated freeze-174 thaw technique at liquid nitrogen and dry ice temperatures for further removal of traces of 175 water (see Mahata et al., 2012 and Liang and Mahata, 2015 for details). The air was pumped 176 for 40-45 minutes at a controlled rate of ~90 mL/min using a mass flow controller; the 177 pressure on the post mass flow controller was ~10 mm of Hg. No measurable isotopic 178 fractionation caused by mass flow controller at this flow rate was observed, checked using 179 180 several aliquots of air from a high volume compressed air cylinder (~40 L at 2000 psi). For car exhaust, an aliquot of exhaust air was transferred to a 60 mL bottle and CO₂ was fully 181

extracted cryogenically following the same protocol as discussed above (but with mass flowcontroller step skipped).

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CO₂ was further purified from other condensable species like N₂O, CH₄, and hydrocarbons 185 by means of gas chromatography (Agilent 6890N, with a 3.0 m \times 0.3 cm stainless steel 186 column packed with PorapakQ 80/100 mesh, supplied by Supelco Analytical, Bellefonte, PA, 187 USA) with the column kept at -10 °C. High purity helium (>99.9999 % supplied by Air 188 Products and Chemicals, Inc.) at 20 mL/min was used as carrier gas. CO₂ was eluted first, 189 followed forthwith by N₂O, and CH₄, hydrocarbons and traces of water came out much later. 190 To get an optimized condition for CO₂, we checked the separation of CO₂ from N₂O with 191 varying proportions and at various temperatures (25 °C to -20 °C) and found a temperature of 192 -10 °C at which column separated CO₂ from N₂O perfectly (see Laskar et al., 2016b for 193 details). The column was baked at 200 °C for more than 2 hours prior to use. The conditioned 194 column is good for purifying three samples. At the end of the day, long baking (8-10 hours) 195 was performed. At the initial phase the working gas was taken from a high purity commercial 196 CO₂ called AS-2 (δ^{13} C = -32.54 ‰ with respect to VPDB and δ^{18} O = 36.61 ‰ with respect to 197 VSMOW) procured from a local supplier (Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.). As the 198 difference between the isotopic compositions of samples and AS-2 was high, we later 199 changed the reference to Oztech CO₂ (δ^{13} C = -3.59‰ and δ^{18} O = 24.96 ‰) (Oztech Trading 200 Corporation, USA) from December 2014 onward. No detectable difference in isotopic 201 compositions including Δ_{47} was observed between the analyses from different working 202 references. All δ^{13} C values presented in this work are expressed in VPDB scale and δ^{18} O in 203 VSMOW scale, unless specified otherwise. Δ_{47} is calculated following (Affek and Eiler, 204 205 2006):

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$$\Delta_{47} = \left[\frac{R^{47}}{2R^{13}R^{18} + 2R^{17}R^{18} + R^{13}(R^{17})^2} - \frac{R^{46}}{2R^{18} + 2R^{13}R^{17} + (R^{17})^2} - \frac{R^{45}}{R^{13} + 2R^{17}} + 1\right] \times 1000 \quad (1)$$

where R^{13} and R^{18} (ratios ${}^{13}\text{C}/{}^{12}\text{C}$ and ${}^{18}\text{O}/{}^{16}\text{O}$) are obtained by measuring the conventional masses 44, 45 and 46 in the same CO₂ sample and R^{17} is calculated assuming a mass dependent relation with R^{18} given by $R^{17} = R^{17}{}_{VSMOW} \left(\frac{R^{18}}{R^{18}} \right)^{\lambda}$, where exponent $\lambda = 0.5164$ is used for all Δ_{47} calculations (Affek and Eiler, 2006). The value of λ varies between 0.516 and 0.523 (Hoag et al., 2005; Barkan and Luz, 2012; Hoffmann et al., 2012; Thiemens et al., 2014). The variation in Δ_{47} was less than 0.01 ‰ at 25 °C when the exponent

was varied over the aforementioned range. This variation was comparable to the 213 measurement uncertainty and hence not considered here; all the calculations were based on 214 λ =0.5164. Δ_{47} is obtained by measuring CO₂ with respect to which the isotopes among 215 various CO₂ isotopologues are distributed randomly ($\Delta_{47} \sim 0$ %). Practically, this random 216 distribution is approached by heating CO₂ at 1000 °C for more than two hours (Eiler and 217 Schauble, 2004; Affek and Eiler, 2006). Measurements were made with a stable ~12 volt 218 signal at mass 44, with peak centring, background scanning, and pressure-balancing before 219 each acquisition started. Each sample was analyzed for 10 acquisitions, 10 cycles each at an 220 221 integration time of 8 s; the total analysis time was approximately 2.5 h. Masses 48 and 49 were monitored to check isobaric interferences due to contamination of hydrocarbons (Ghosh 222 et al., 2006). Details about the corrections due to nonlinearity related to Δ_{47} measurements in 223 the mass spectrometer, reference frame equation for expressing the measured Δ_{47} values in 224 absolute reference frame (ARF) were discussed in Laskar et al. (2016b). To obtain the 225 temperature from the Δ_{47} values, we used the following relation (Dennis et al., 2011): 226

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$$\Delta_{47} = 0.003 \left(\frac{1000}{T}\right)^4 - 0.0438 \left(\frac{1000}{T}\right)^3 + 0.2553 \left(\frac{1000}{T}\right)^2 - 0.2195 \left(\frac{1000}{T}\right) + 0.0616$$
 (2)

The reproducibility (1- σ standard deviation) for air CO₂ measurements was established from three aliquots of CO₂ extracted from a compressed air cylinder with CO₂ concentration ([CO₂]) of ~388 ppmv. The 1- σ standard deviations were 0.07, 0.08, and 0.01 ‰ for δ^{13} C, δ^{18} O, and Δ_{47} , respectively (Table S1 in Supplement). The long-term reproducibility in Δ_{47} measurements was found to be 0.014 ‰ (Laskar et al., 2016b) and the accuracy in Δ_{47} values in terms of temperature, based on CO₂ equilibrated with water at known temperatures were better than 3 °C (see Table S2 in Supplement).

For [CO₂] measurements, flasks of volume 350 cc were used. These small flasks were 236 237 connected in series with the larger flasks used for isotopic measurements. [CO₂] was measured using a LI-COR infrared gas analyzer (model 840A, LI-COR, USA) at 4 Hz, 238 smoothed with 20-s moving average. The analyzer was calibrated against a working standard 239 (air compressed in a cylinder) with a nominal [CO₂] of 387.7 ppmv and a CO₂ free N₂ 240 cylinder. The reproducibility of LI-COR was better than 1 ppmv. The working standard was 241 calibrated using a commercial Picarro analyzer (model G1301, Picarro, USA) by a series of 242 243 NOAA/GMD certified tertiary standards with [CO₂] of 369.9, 392.0, 409.2, and 516.3 ppmv,

with a precision (1- σ standard deviation) of 0.2 ppmv. The [CO₂] in car exhausts were estimated by gravimetric technique using an MKS Baratron gauge.

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254 **3. Results**

255 **3.1 Greenhouse CO**₂

256 Diurnal variation in the concentration and isotopic compositions of CO₂ inside the controlled greenhouse is shown in Figure 2. The lowest CO₂ concentration [CO₂] and highest δ^{13} C and 257 δ^{18} O values were observed during late morning hours while highest [CO₂] and lowest δ^{13} C 258 and δ^{18} O values were observed during night time and early morning before sunrise (Table 1 259 260 and Figure 2A-2C), indicating that respiration and photosynthesis played the major role in controlling the variations of the $[CO_2]$ and isotopic compositions. Keeling plot, a graphical 261 262 approach plotted between isotopic composition and the inverse of the concentration is used to determine the isotopic composition of the source (Pataki et al., 2003). It is valid for a mixing 263 of two components; the intercept of the plot gives the source isotopic composition. 264 Respiration was the main source of CO₂ here added to the background CO₂. Keeling analysis 265 for δ^{13} C had an intercept of -26.32±0.40 % (Figure 2D), a value expected for C₃ plant 266 respired CO₂. The Keeling plot for δ^{18} O had an intercept of 30.68±0.73 ‰ (Figure 2E), which 267 could be explained by a combined effect of respired CO₂ equilibrated with soil water and 268 kinetic fractionation associated with the diffusion of CO₂ from soil to the air. A Keeling plot 269 for δ^{13} C with the early morning and night time greenhouse data, when photosynthesis was 270 absent, was found to have same intercept as observed with all the data, only the correlation 271 was better for the latter (R^2 =0.999, not shown). The tight correlations among [CO₂], $\delta^{13}C$ and 272

 δ^{18} O (Figure 2D-2F) suggest that photosynthesis and respiration were the dominant processes controlling their variations while mixing with ambient air and anthropogenic contribution of CO₂ were insignificant.

In contrast, Δ_{47} shows different patterns of diurnal variability due to the effect of 276 photosynthesis and respiration. Figures 3A-3D detail diurnal variations in Δ_{47} in the 277 greenhouse CO₂ in four different days. The first three were bright sunny days with 278 photosynthesis as the dominant process while the last one was a dark cloudy day affected 279 more by respiration. To further reduce photosynthetic activity on the last day, two layers of 280 281 black cloth that cut down the incident sunlight by ~50% were deployed. The measured Δ_{47} 282 values were also compared with the thermodynamic equilibrium values. The maximum value of Δ_{47} was observed in the morning before ~8 AM and at night and the values were similar to 283 the thermodynamic equilibrium values at the ambient temperatures. This indicates that the 284 respired CO₂ was in close thermodynamic equilibrium with the leaf and soil water. The 285 daytime (from 9 AM to 5 PM) Δ_{47} values, for the three sunny days were higher than the 286 287 thermodynamic equilibrium values. The Δ_{47} values were observed to decrease steadily in the early morning before ~9 AM and increased afterwards (Figure 3). By comparing the Δ_{47} 288 289 values acquired in the sunny days with that in the cloudy day, we noticed that when photosynthesis was weak, the Δ_{47} value was close to the thermodynamic equilibrium with soil 290 and leaf water (Figure 4). The correlation between Δ_{47} and [CO₂], δ^{13} C or δ^{18} O (Figure 3D) 291 was observed only when the photosynthesis was weak. This suggests that Δ_{47} carries 292 information different from concentration and conventional isotopic composition when 293 photosynthesis occurs. See Section 4.1 for detailed discussion. 294

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296 **3.2 Car exhaust**

The [CO₂], δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O values of car exhaust CO₂ were 39350±50 ppmv, -27.70±0.03 ‰ and 25.35±0.07 ‰, respectively (Table 2). δ^{13} C value was similar to that reported elsewhere (Newman et al., 2008; Popa et al., 2014), the δ^{18} O was slightly higher than the atmospheric O₂ (~23.5 ‰), the source of O₂ for combustion. The average value of Δ_{47} for the exhausts from the two cars was 0.273±0.021 ‰, which gave a temperature of 282±17 °C (Table 2). This temperature is much higher than the fuel combustion temperatures (>800 °C). The possible reason for higher values of δ^{18} O and Δ_{47} in the exhaust CO₂ than expected was post 304 combustion partial exchange with water and other gaseous species, released during
 305 combustion, inside the catalytic converter and the exhaust pipe (see discussion in Sec. 4.2).

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307 3.3 Atmospheric CO₂ over ocean and coasts

308 Isotopic compositions including Δ_{47} values obtained for CO₂ over ocean and coasts are presented in Table 3. The averaged [CO₂] over ocean between latitudes 18°03' N and 21°17' 309 N was 395±7 ppmv, and the values of δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O were -8.43±0.19 ‰ and 40.72±0.20 ‰, 310 respectively (Table 3). In the coastal stations, the averaged values of $[CO_2]$, $\delta^{13}C$, and $\delta^{18}O$ 311 were 397 ± 10 ppmv, -8.48 ± 0.11 %, and 40.70 ± 0.29 %, respectively. Both the [CO₂] and δ^{13} C 312 values over the ocean and coasts were similar to those observed at Mauna Loa during the 313 sampling period, suggesting little contribution from local/regional anthropogenic sources. 314 The Keeling analysis for δ^{13} C gave in intercept of -13.61 ‰ (Figure 5A) for the air CO₂ 315 collected over the ocean and coasts. δ^{18} O of air CO₂ over the ocean were close to the isotopic 316 equilibrium values with the surface sea water at the sea surface temperatures (see Sec 4.3). 317 The Δ_{47} values varied between 0.880 ‰ and 0.946 ‰ for the marine and coastal CO₂ (Table 318 3, Figures 5B), similar to that predicted at thermodynamic equilibrium at sea surface 319 temperatures (obtained using Eq. (2)). Therefore, both δ^{18} O and Δ_{47} values suggest that the 320 air CO_2 over the ocean was in close thermodynamic equilibrium with the underlying sea 321 322 water.

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324 **3.4 Atmospheric CO₂ over land**

To show how anthropogenic emission affects the isotopic composition especially the Δ_{47} 325 values, we analyzed atmospheric CO₂ samples collected near Roosevelt Road, a busy street in 326 downtown Taipei. The averaged values of [CO₂], δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O obtained were 500±50 ppmv, 327 -11.05±0.90 ‰, and 39.32±0.94 ‰, respectively (Table 4). A significantly higher [CO₂] and 328 lower δ^{13} C, and δ^{18} O values compared to the marine CO₂ showed signatures of a significant 329 contribution from vehicular emissions. Δ_{47} values near Roosevelt Road were found to be in 330 the range of 0.754% to 0.833%, with an average of $0.807\pm0.028\%$ (Table 4). The values 331 were lower by ~0.15 ‰ compared to the thermodynamic equilibrium value at 20 °C, the 332

- ambient temperature around the sampling time, indicating a significant fraction of CO₂
 produced at higher temperatures, i.e., of combustion origin.
- In the sub-urban location (Academia Sinica Campus), [CO₂] averaged over four months was 335 410 ± 10 ppmv (Table 4), which was ~15 ppmv higher than that observed over the South 336 China Sea and that at Mauna Loa Observatory during the time of sampling. The higher [CO₂] 337 suggests contribution from local anthropogenic emissions. δ^{13} C values varied between -7.83 338 and -10.30 ‰, with an average of -8.78±0.50 ‰. Keeling analysis for δ^{13} C gave an intercept 339 of -26.16±1.58 ‰ (Figure 6), indicating source of CO₂ from C₃ plant respiration and/or 340 combustion. Δ_{47} values here varied between 0.853 ‰ and 0.972 ‰ (Table 4) with an average 341 of 0.897 ± 0.027 %, which were significantly less than the thermodynamic equilibrium values 342 (assuming water bodies had the same temperature as the ambient) (Figure 7). 343
- The averaged [CO₂], δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O over the grassland (inside National Taiwan University 344 Campus) were 410±33 ppmv, -8.95±0.70 ‰ and 39.74±1.00 ‰, respectively. The Keeling 345 plot for δ^{13} C gave an intercept of -16.98±1.02 ‰ (Figure 6), indicating that a significant 346 fraction of CO₂ originated from C₄ vegetation. This is not surprising as the CO₂ was sampled 347 over a C₄ dominated grassland (area: ~50 m x 50 m). Unlike greenhouse CO₂, no statistically 348 significant correlation between δ^{18} O and $1/[CO_2]$ in air CO₂ in these sites was observed (not 349 shown), probably due to influence of multiple sources and processes on oxygen isotopes of 350 atmospheric CO₂. Figure 7C shows the Δ_{47} values in air CO₂ over the grassland at National 351 Taiwan University Campus. A large variation in Δ_{47} was observed (0.885 - 0.989 ‰) with an 352 average of 0.937±0.030 ‰. Some of the values were close to the thermodynamic equilibrium 353 354 while the others deviated significantly.
- In a small and dense forest near Academia Sinica Campus (Figure 1), average values of 355 [CO₂], δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O in air CO₂ were 438±16 ppmv, -9.99±0.50 ‰ and 40.39±0.63 ‰, 356 respectively (Table 4) during summer (Jul-Aug) of 2015. A significantly higher [CO₂] and 357 lower $\delta^{13}C$ values than the background indicate strong contribution of CO_2 from local 358 respiration. Δ_{47} values fall in the range of 0.887 ‰ to 0.920 ‰, with an average of 359 0.895±0.012 ‰ (Table 4). The values were similar to that expected at thermodynamic 360 equilibrium (Figure 7D) except on 11^{th} August, when a significant increase in Δ_{47} was 361 observed. The deviation was probably due to influence of a super typhoon, which passed over 362 the region on previous days mixing and transporting air masses regionally. 363

Over the top of the Hehuan mountain (~3.2 km a.s.l), $[CO_2]$, $\delta^{13}C$, and $\delta^{18}O$ values in air CO₂ samples collected on 9th October, 2013 were 364 ppmv, -8.23±0.02 ‰ and 40.59±0.30 ‰, respectively (Table 4). The lower $[CO_2]$ and higher $\delta^{13}C$ than Mauna Loa suggests photosynthetic uptake, which was also seen at grassland site and inside greenhouse on a few occasions. Here the averaged value of Δ_{47} was 0.904±0.009 ‰, slightly less than that expected at the ambient temperature (Table 4).

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371 4. Discussion

372 A detailed discussion of the results obtained from different locations is presented below.

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4.1 Greenhouse air CO₂

To minimize anthropogenic alteration and air mixing/transport and to maximize the 375 376 variations of CO₂ isotopologues by biological processes, a controlled greenhouse provides an ideal environment. Diurnal variation was observed in [CO₂], δ^{13} C, δ^{18} O (Figure 2), and Δ_{47} 377 (Figure 3) in the greenhouse. Good correlations between [CO₂], δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O suggest 378 common processes affecting all of them, and they were photosynthesis and respiration. 379 Giving July 31st as an example, we estimated the rates of night-time respiration and daytime 380 photosynthetic uptake using the conventional isotopic compositions (analysis of Δ_{47} is 381 discussed separately below). The dimension of the greenhouse room was 8m, 5m and 5m 382 (length, width and height). The night-time respiration rate was then estimated to be about ~ 10 383 ppmv per hour (considering change of [CO₂] from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM; Figure 2A), or 384 $\sim 4 \times 10^{13}$ molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹. Using simple isotopic mass balance, this increase of [CO₂] could 385 be satisfactorily explained assuming C₃ respiration as the main source of CO₂ (δ^{13} C \approx -26 ‰; 386 intercept in Figure 2D) added to the background (-8.5 %). Similarly, the same conclusion 387 could be derived by analyzing δ^{18} O considering δ^{18} O of respired and background CO₂ of 388 30.68 ‰ (intercept in Figure 2E) and ~40 ‰ respectively. Thus, we conclude that the main 389 factor that affected the changes in concentration as well as the isotopic compositions in night-390 391 time was respiration.

The daytime net uptake rate can be estimated by taking the changes from early morning to noon time; the [CO₂] reduced by 110 ppmv, δ^{13} C increased by 3.46 ‰, and δ^{18} O by 2.23 ‰ in about six hours. We calculated the number of molecules and their changes inside the greenhouse assuming simple gas laws. The estimated net photosynthetic uptake was ~1×10¹⁴ molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹ assuming constant respiration rate that was observed in the night. The photosynthetic discrimination can be calculated using the Rayleigh distillation model

398

$$R = R_{a} f^{\alpha - 1} \tag{3}$$

where R_a and R are the initial and modified ${}^{13}C/{}^{12}C$ or ${}^{18}O/{}^{16}O$ ratios (due to photosynthetic 399 activity), respectively, f is the fraction of the material left, and α is the fractionation factor. 400 The estimated discrimination in ¹³C defined by (α -1), following equation (3), was -16.5 ‰, 401 which was slightly higher than that expected for C_3 type vegetation (~ -20 ‰) (Farquhar et 402 al., 1989). For ¹⁸O, in addition to photosynthetic uptake, one has to consider an additional 403 effect due to temperature-dependent water-CO₂ equilibrium fractionation. That is, the process 404 decreases δ^{18} O by ~0.2 ‰ for an increase of 1 °C in temperature (Brenninkmeijer et al., 405 1983); from morning to noon time, the temperature effect reduced δ^{18} O by 4.4 ‰. Adding 406 this factor to the observed change in δ^{18} O vielded a discrimination factor of -12.0 %; the 407 value becomes -7.0 ‰, if this additional temperature-dependence is ignored. The value (-12.0 408 409 ‰) observed considering the additional exchange with the soil water was slightly higher than that observed previously (-14.4 ‰) (Flanagan et al., 1997). Here the δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O values of 410 the respired components were assumed to be -26 ‰ and 30 ‰ respectively (see Sec. 3.1). 411

We assume that ca. 1/3 of the CO₂ molecules in stomata are fixed photosynthetically and the 412 remaining retro-diffuse back to the atmosphere (Farquhar and Lloid, 1993) implying that the 413 CO₂-water isotopic exchange rate was $\sim 2 \times 10^{14}$ molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹. Also we assume that the 414 CO₂ molecules that enter into the leaf stomata get isotopically equilibrated with the leaf water 415 416 before diffusing back to the atmosphere. This implies an approximately 8 hours of oxygen isotope exchange time for CO_2 in the greenhouse room. As a result, we do not expect that 417 CO₂ reached to complete isotopic equilibrium with the substrate water in a few hours inside 418 the room. Δ_{47} values in the leftover CO₂ could be used to check the disequilibrium. The 419 respired CO₂ were found to be in thermodynamic equilibrium at the ambient temperature, 420 shown by the Δ_{47} values of CO₂ in the early morning and night-time (Figure 3A-3C) and that 421 collected on a cloudy day with suppressed photosynthetic activity (Figure 3D). The close-422 423 thermodynamic equilibrium at reduced photosynthetic condition is also shown in Figure 4A

that deviation in Δ_{47} from that expected at ambient temperature is small. On sunny days, the 424 $[CO_2]$, $\delta^{13}C$, and $\delta^{18}O$ values change by 50-115 ppm, 2-4 ‰, and 1.1-2.2 ‰, respectively, in 425 a time period of ~5 hours in the morning (Figure 2). Figure 3 shows that the Δ_{47} values 426 427 retained the thermodynamic equilibrium values in the morning hours (until 9 AM) and then deviate from the thermodynamic equilibrium later of the day. The maximal reduction in the 428 Δ_{47} values during these morning hours was ~0.05 % (Figures 3A-3C) which is significant, as 429 this value is much higher than the uncertainty of the measurements. An increase in Δ_{47} values 430 after ~9 AM was observed. We attribute these changes in the Δ_{47} values of the residual CO₂ 431 to photosynthesis as it is seen when photosynthesis is strong. Also we note that there was no 432 significant correlation/anti-correlation between δ^{18} O and Δ_{47} when photosynthesis was strong 433 (Figure 3A-3C), but became significant when the photosynthesis was weak (Figure 3D). 434 Therefore, the plant photosynthesis decouples Δ_{47} and δ^{18} O; in contrast to pure water-CO₂ 435 isotopic exchange where the two behave similarly as far as isotopic equilibration is concerned 436 (Affek, 2013; Clog et al. 2015). 437

Strong influence of photosynthesis on Δ_{47} was also reported by Eiler and Schauble (2004). 438 They observed decrease in the Δ_{47} values of the residual CO₂ due to photosynthetic 439 440 assimilation though the effect observed was different for different species. Here we observed 441 a decrease in Δ_{47} value of the residual CO₂ initially (first 2 hours) due to photosynthesis similar to that observed by Eiler and Schauble (2004) but later it starts increasing in response 442 to the photosynthesis. Photosynthesis as a source of disequilibrium was also shown recently 443 by analyzing the clumped isotopes of O₂ (Yeung et al., 2015). Though enzymatic carbonic 444 445 anhydrase catalyzes the water-CO₂ isotopic exchange toward equilibrium (Peltier et al., 1995; Cernusak et al., 2004) its activity varies. A large variation in the activity of carbonic 446 anhydrase in different vegetation types (C_3, C_4) or within the same type was noted previously 447 (see Gillon and Yakir, 2001 and references therein). Therefore, the reaction may be 448 incomplete which is limited by the enzymatic activity inside leaves. Furthermore, a box 449 modeling by Eiler and Schauble (2004) demonstrated that gas diffusion through leaf stomata 450 during photosynthesis fractionates the remaining air CO₂ Δ_{47} value deviating it from the 451 thermodynamic equilibrium set by leaf water. Mixing of more than one component can also 452 cause change in Δ_{47} when δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O of the components are different (Affek and Eiler, 453 2006; Laskar et al., 2016a), but this can easily be ruled out as it was not observed when 454 photosynthesis was not very strong (Figure 3D). More rigorous investigations with controlled 455

456 experiments using different plants with diverse carbonic anhydrase activities are needed to457 resolve the issue.

Considering the discrimination for δ^{13} C, δ^{18} O and variation in the concentration it is possible 458 to model the observed isotopic profile. Rayleigh model (Eq. 3) in terms of δ notation can 459 approximately be written as $\delta = \delta_0 + \varepsilon \times \ln(f)$, where δ_0 is the initial δ value, f is the fraction of 460 material left and ε is the enrichment factor. Figure 8A shows the concentration profiles for 461 31^{st} Jul, 2015 inside the greenhouse. With the calculated discrimination factors (ϵ) of -16.5 % 462 and -12.0 % for δ^{13} C, δ^{18} O, the modeled isotopic profiles along with actual data are shown in 463 464 Figure (8B&8C). The model data are generated using Rayleigh fractionation relation. Assuming this relation valid for Δ_{47} , a discrimination factor of 0.065 ‰ due to photosynthesis 465 was observed in the morning hours of 31^{st} July, 2015. Figure (8C) shows the Δ_{47} profile for 466 the same day along with the actual observed values. The observed data match well with the 467 model plots. Unlike δs , Δ_{47} is not a linear quantity as discussed later, the discrimination factor 468 calculated may slightly change when non-linearity is taken into account. With more data, 469 probably at leaf level will allow to estimate the photosynthetic discrimination for Δ_{47} . 470

471

472 **4.2 Car exhaust CO**₂

473 Ideally, the Δ_{47} value of car exhaust CO₂ should reflect the temperature of fuel combustion 474 inside the combustion chamber which is >800 °C. However, the temperature estimated from Δ_{47} was found to be 283±18 °C. It is likely that interaction of the sample CO₂ with the 475 exhaust gases and water inside catalytic converter and exhaust pipe modified the Δ_{47} values. 476 Catalytic converter which oxidizes CO and hydrocarbons to CO₂ probably reset the clumped 477 signatures at relatively lower temperature. During combustion water-vapor is also released. 478 We observed that the exhaust gas contained a large amount of water vapor, part of which got 479 condensed on the exhaust pipe and the front part of the magnesium perchlorate column. 480 Partial equilibration with the stream of the exhaust gas and water inside catalytic converter 481 and the exhaust pipe was the likely cause for higher Δ_{47} values than that expected. This was 482 also supported by the higher δ^{18} O values than atmospheric O₂, the source of O₂ for water and 483 CO_2 here. Normally isotopes in CO_2 do not exchange with water vapor, but exchange may 484 take place at higher temperature in presence of catalyst. Inside catalytic converter, exchange 485 could take place on the surface of the catalyst at elevated temperatures of 200 – 400 $^{\rm o}{\rm C}$ 486

487 (Farrauto and Heck, 1999; Kašpar et al., 2003; Klingstedt et al., 2006). Affek and Eiler (2007) 488 also observed elevated Δ_{47} values for car exhausts and estimated a temperature of CO₂ 489 production to be ~200 °C. The temperature estimated here (283 °C) is significantly higher 490 than that observed by Affek and Eiler (2007). Difference could be due to different car models 491 and the variations in the temperatures of the catalytic converters from car to car.

492

493 **4.3 Marine and coastal air CO**₂

Carbon Keeling plot for marine and coastal air CO₂ gave an intercept of -13.61±1.14 ‰ 494 (Figure 5A), the source signature. The South China Sea is net source of CO_2 to the 495 atmosphere (Zhai et al., 2005). The CO₂ released over ocean is mainly originated from the 496 remineralization of organic matter in the deeper ocean (Francois et al., 1993; Goericke and 497 Fry, 1994). The δ^{13} C value of such organic matter ranges between -20 and -30 % in the 498 tropical to subtropical oceans, the intercept observed here (-13.6 ‰) is much higher than this 499 range, though the associated uncertainty is high due to a small span of isotopic values of the 500 501 samples. A possibility is that the remineralized CO₂ gets equilibrated with the dissolved inorganic carbon before releasing to the atmosphere. Again a complete equilibration of the 502 CO_2 with the dissolved inorganic carbon would lead to a $\delta^{13}C$ value of released CO_2 to be -9 503 to -10 ‰ (Mook, 1986; Boutton, 1991; Zhang et al., 1995; Affek and Yakir, 2014), the 504 observed value of the intercept (-13.6 ‰) was significantly less than this. Therefore, we 505 conclude that the CO₂ produced in the deeper ocean is partially equilibrated with the 506 dissolved inorganic carbon before releasing to the atmosphere. 507

The δ^{18} O values of the surface sea water in the South China Sea region in summer (July-508 September) and winter (December-February) were about -1.7 ‰ and -0.6 ‰ (Ye et al., 509 2014). The sea surface temperatures in the summer and winter are about 28 and 24 °C, and 510 the equilibrated δ^{18} O values of the atmospheric CO₂ should be 38.9 ‰ and 40.7 ‰, 511 respectively assuming fractionation factors at the respective temperatures (Brenninkmeijer et 512 al., 1983). Our observed values lie in the range of 40.4 ‰ to 41.0 ‰ (Table 3), consistent 513 with the isotopic equilibrium values with the surface water. Therefore, we conclude that 514 oxygen isotopes in near surface air CO₂ over ocean are close to the isotopic equilibrium with 515 the surface sea water. This conclusion was further supported by the observed Δ_{47} values 516 which were found to be close to thermodynamic equilibrium with the underlying sea surface 517

water at the sea surface temperature (Figure 5B). This is due to the same water- CO_2 exchange 518 time for the two species (Affek, 2013; Clog et al., 2015). Comparing this observation with the 519 greenhouse data above, we conclude that δ^{18} O and Δ_{47} behave similarly when equilibrium is 520 achieved by simple water-CO₂ exchange but respond differently when photosynthesis is the 521 522 main governing factor. Though carbonic anhydrase are also present in the surface ocean and marine phytoplankton does photosynthesis, δ^{18} O and Δ_{47} in air CO₂ over the ocean show the 523 values at thermodynamic equilibrium unlike greenhouse. The degree of deviation from 524 thermodynamic equilibrium probably increases with the increase in photosynthetic activity. 525 Normally photosynthesis by oceanic plants is much less compared to their terrestrial 526 counterparts, the deviation from thermodynamic equilibrium by the oceanic photosynthesis, if 527 present, is probably not detectable with the present measurement precision. Compared to 528 δ^{18} O, Δ_{47} is process sensitive and is not affected by the isotopic composition of substrate 529 water. Given that the surface air temperature is better measured, we believe the clumped 530 isotopes potentially provide good tracers for global carbon flux study involving CO₂, 531 complementing the commonly used species like [CO₂], δ^{13} C, and δ^{18} O. 532

In the coastal stations, Δ_{47} values were similar to the thermodynamic equilibrium with the sea 533 534 surface water at the temperature of ~27 °C (Figure 5B). The recoded air temperature during the sampling period over the coasts varied between 14 and 24 °C and was not reflected in the 535 Δ_{47} values. We note that the samples were collected from two open spaces in the coasts where 536 strong north and northeasterly winds overwhelmed, carrying air masses from the oceans 537 towards the sampling locations (See Table S3 in Supplement). Therefore, we expect the 538 major contribution was marine air with little influence from local processes, which could 539 occasionally cause deviation from the thermodynamic equilibrium values. 540

541

542 **4.4 Urban and sub-urban air CO₂**

A significant fraction of anthropogenic CO₂ was present in the air CO₂ over the urban site, indicated by the [CO₂] as well as isotopic compositions including Δ_{47} . Anthropogenic contribution can be estimated following a two component mixing: $\delta = f_{anth} \times \delta_{anth} + (1$ $f_{anth}) \times \delta_{bgd}$, where δ 's can be δ^{13} C or δ^{18} O or Δ_{47} and f's, the corresponding weighting factor, and subscripts 'anth' and 'bgd' refer to anthropogenic and background, respectively. We take the 'anthropogenic' end member as the isotopic compositions of the car exhaust values

(Table 2) and 'background' end member as that values observed over the ocean (for $\delta^{13}C$ and 549 δ^{18} O, Table 3) and thermodynamic equilibrium value at the mean ambient temperature of ~20 550 ^oC in December (0.95 ‰ for Δ_{47}) at the sampling site, respectively. Assuming that the excess 551 in [CO₂] above the background was originated from vehicular emissions, the values of the 552 δ^{13} C, δ^{18} O, and Δ_{47} in the urban site obtained using the mixing equation were -12.26 ‰, 553 37.68 ‰, and 0.809 ‰, respectively, which were similar to those observed (Table 4). Δ_{47} is 554 not a conserved quantity and a linear mixing is not valid when the $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{18}O$ of the 555 components are widely different (Affek and Eiler, 2006; Laskar et al., 2016a). In the present 556 case, the isotopic compositions of the two components were not drastically different and 557 fraction of anthropogenic CO_2 was much less (<1/4) than the background CO_2 , and hence the 558 error due to linear approximation was small (comparable to the uncertainty of measurement). 559 Anthropogenic CO_2 can also be quantified using radiocarbon (¹⁴C) as fossil fuels are highly 560 depleted in ¹⁴C (Miller et al., 2012); however, it cannot distinguish difference between CO₂ 561 from two sources with modern carbon. 562

No systematic diurnal or temporal trend was observed in the Δ_{47} values in the sub-urban CO₂ 563 during the sampling period (Figure 7B). However a weak trend was seen in $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{18}O$ 564 (not shown) in response to the seasonal variation of the carbon assimilation and oxygen 565 isotopes in the rainwater (Peng et al., 2010; Laskar et al., 2014). This furthermore 566 demonstrates that Δ_{47} behaves differently from [CO₂], δ^{13} C, and δ^{18} O. Almost all measured 567 Δ_{47} values were lower than that expected at the ambient temperature except two days: 9th 568 November, 2013 and 3rd February, 2014. δ^{13} C values were also slightly lower than the 569 background values. The reduced values of Δ_{47} could be due to contribution of CO₂ from 570 combustion processes which produced CO₂ with low Δ_{47} values as discussed in Section 4.2. 571 We estimated the contribution of local anthropogenic emissions in δ^{13} C and Δ_{47} using the two 572 components mixing discussed above. The components were the background air CO2 and car 573 exhausts. The expected $\delta^{13}C$ and Δ_{47} values of the mixture were -9.1 ‰ and 0.92 ‰, 574 respectively. The observed Δ_{47} value was significantly different from that estimated from 575 simple two component mixing, though it was not different for $\delta^{13}C$. After subtracting the 576 local anthropogenic contribution from the observed Δ_{47} values, a difference of ~0.026 ‰ 577 between the observed and estimated remains for sub-urban station and it disappeared for 578 urban station (see Table S4 in Supplement). This was not obvious in $\delta^{13}C$ probably due to 579 larger variation. The lower Δ_{47} values in sub-urban station could possibly be due to kinetic 580

effect during photosynthetic assimilation, partial contribution of marine air, or a combination 581 of them. It could also be due to underestimation of the anthropogenic CO₂ at the sampling 582 spot. The regional background $[CO_2]$ here could be lower than that assumed and the actual 583 anthropogenic fraction of CO₂ could be higher. The marine air in the vicinity of Taiwan, 584 which was at thermodynamic equilibrium with the surface sea water as discussed earlier, 585 might have contributed partially to the air CO₂ at the sampling site. Varying contribution of 586 marine air could explain the lower Δ_{47} values to some extent. The most plausible cause for 587 observed deviation in the Δ_{47} values that cannot be accounted for by anthropogenic and 588 marine alterations was photosynthesis, as discussed earlier for greenhouse CO₂. This is not 589 unreasonable, as the Academia Sinica Campus is surrounded by thick greeneries. 590

On 9th Nov, 2013 and 3rd February, 2014, the Δ_{47} values were close to that expected at 591 thermodynamic equilibrium (Figure 7B). The Δ_{47} values on 9th November were not very 592 different from the values reported for the previous or next days. However, the calculated 593 thermodynamic equilibrium values on that day were relatively low due to high ambient 594 temperatures; air CO₂ probably did not get enough time to equilibrate. On 3rd Febrauray, 595 2014, the Δ_{47} values were higher and comparable to the thermodynamic equilibrium values 596 597 expected at ambient temperatures. A likely explanation is that the air on that day was a mixture of two components at the sampling region. A relatively strong wind from the 598 southern land (Table S3 in Supplement) contributed the air CO₂ and the higher Δ_{47} values 599 were probably due to mixing of the local air with that transported from the south of Taipei. 600

601

602 **4.5 Grassland, forest and high mountain air CO₂**

In the grassland station in Taipei city, the Keeling plot intercept for $\delta^{13}C$ (-17.0±1.0 ‰) 603 (Figure 5D) indicated some sources of CO₂ with higher δ^{13} C values compared to the most 604 expected sources, namely, C₃ vegetation and vehicle emission with a δ^{13} C value of ~ -27 ‰. 605 Though the sampling station was located in an urban region, the sampling spot was at least 606 ~150 m away from traffic streets, such as Keelung road, along with ~60 m wide, ~10 m high 607 C_3 trees in between. As a result, anthropogenic signals were not very prominent. The samples 608 were collected just above the surface of the grasses. Tropical warm grasses are mainly C₄ 609 type with δ^{13} C in the range of -9 to -19 ‰ and a global average of -13 ‰ (Deines, 1980). We 610 measured $\delta^{13}C$ values of a few grass samples and found values in the range of -15 to -17 ‰. 611

The soil and grass respired CO₂ with higher δ^{13} C contributed significantly to the near surface 612 CO₂, resulting in a higher value of intercept (-17 ‰). The concentration was observed to be 613 less than the background level sometimes, probably due to strong CO₂ uptake by plants. The 614 temperature gradually decreased from 26 to 20 °C during the consecutive three days and 615 clumped isotope followed similar trend, reflecting the influence of temperature on CO₂ Δ_{47} 616 and rapid equilibration with the leaf and surface waters. One low value observed on the 617 second day was probably due to plumes of vehicle exhausts, also supported by the elevated 618 level of [CO₂] and depletion in δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O (Table 4). Effect of photosynthesis on the CO₂ 619 was also expected specifically due the collection of samples at the grass level. However, in an 620 open system, it is difficult to assess this with limited data points. 621

An elevated CO₂ concentration and low δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O values indicated significant 622 contribution of respiration and/or anthropogenic CO2 in the forest station (Table 4) near the 623 Academia Sinica Campus. Though the samples were collected at 10-11 AM under bright 624 sunlight, the vegetation was so dense that little sunlight reached the ground. Probably 625 photosynthetic activity was not very strong at the ground level in the morning hours and the 626 dominant process was respiration. Also poor circulation of air due to presence of high heels 627 on the three sides of the sampling spot made the site nearly isolated from the surroundings. 628 As a result the Δ_{47} values were observed to be similar to the thermodynamic equilibrium 629 expected at the ambient temperatures except on 11th August, 2015 (Figure 7F). This also 630 supports our hypothesis, made in the case of greenhouse CO_2 , that respired CO_2 is always in 631 close thermodynamic equilibrium with the substrate water. On 11th August, 2015 a 632 633 significantly higher Δ_{47} value was observed. The higher value was likely due to the influence of the super Typhoon 'Soudelor' which passed over Taipei during 8-10 August, 2015 causing 634 a decrease in temperature by 3-4 °C and air masses mixing in a larger spatial scale. 635

For high mountain CO₂, the observed Δ_{47} values (Table 4) were lower than that expected at ~10 °C, the ambient temperature at the top of the mountain site during sampling. The Δ_{47} values were similar to that observed in the plain and over the ocean. We note that during the sampling period, the site was affected significantly by winter monsoons. HYSPLIT 24 hours back trajectory showed marine origin of air (not shown) during the sampling time. The air CO₂ on the mountain probably did not get sufficient time to isotopically equilibrate with the local surface and leaf water but showed the signature of the marine CO₂. The deviations in Δ_{47} from the thermodynamic equilibrium values in different atmospheric environments and processes are summarized in Figure 9. It is obvious that the urban and suburban CO₂ deviate the most towards lower Δ_{47} values, mainly contributed by CO₂ originated from high temperature combustions, i.e., vehicular emissions. The respired CO₂ are always in close thermodynamic equilibrium at the ambient temperature. On the other hand, CO₂ affected by strong photosynthesis show significant increase in the Δ_{47} values compared to the thermodynamic equilibrium values.

650

651 **5. Summary**

We presented a compilation of Δ_{47} analyses for car exhaust, greenhouse and air CO₂ over a 652 wide variety of interactions in tropical and sub-tropical regions including marine, coastal, 653 urban, sub-urban, forest, and high mountain environments. Near surface marine air CO₂ is in 654 close thermodynamic equilibrium with the underlying surface water at the sea surface 655 temperature. Car exhaust, urban, sub-urban and greenhouse air CO₂ significantly deviate 656 657 from the thermodynamic equilibrium values. While respired CO₂ is in thermodynamic equilibrium with leaf and soil surface waters, photosynthesis significantly deviates the Δ_{47} 658 values from the thermodynamic equilibrium or more precisely increases the Δ_{47} values 659 660 probably due to kinetic effect associated with the diffusion of CO₂ out of leaf stomata. The Δ_{47} values in urban and sub-urban air CO₂ are lower than that expected under thermodynamic 661 662 equilibrium at the ambient temperature. The deviation is mainly due to contributions from fossil fuel emissions and to some extent due to photosynthesis especially in regions with 663 dense vegetation. 664

We showed that Δ_{47} can serve as an independent tracer for studying photosynthesis. Though 665 the deviation from equilibrium during photosynthesis is also observed in oxygen clumped 666 isotopes CO₂ and O₂ are affected and produced from different processes and sources; the 667 former is affected seriously by water (water-CO₂ isotopic exchange) while the latter is 668 derived from water. We believe the analyses of the clumped isotopes for both CO₂ and O₂ are 669 of great importance in the atmospheric carbon cycling study, providing a new angle for 670 tackling the chemistry chain in photosynthesis. More systematic study in controlled 671 environments including leaf level experiments will help to better understand the role of 672 673 photosynthesis on Δ_{47} .

674 Data availability

All the data used in the manuscript are also presented in the form of Tables.

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Figures



Figure 1. Left panel: map of Taiwan and South China Sea with the locations of marine air sampling stations (A to E). The coastal stations 1 and 2 are Fuguei Cape and Keelung and 3 is the high mountain station Hehuan (~3.2 km a.s.l.). Right panel: Part of Taipei city with sampling stations Roosevelt Road (RR), grassland in the National Taiwan University (NTU) Campus, sub-urban site inside the campus of Academia Sinica (AS) and Forest site.





Figure 2. Top panels show the diurnal variation of (A) concentration, (B) δ^{13} C, and (C) δ^{18} O of CO₂ sampled in the greenhouse. Bottom panels are the Keeling plots for (D) δ^{13} C and (E) $\delta^{18}O$ and (F) scatter plot of $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{18}O$ to show their covariance.





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Figure 3. Diurnal variation of the Δ_{47} and δ^{18} O values in the greenhouse for samples collected on four days of 2015: (A) 28th July, (B) 31st July, (C) 4th August, and (D) 12th October. The first three days (A-C) were bright sunny days and the last one (D) a cloudy day with covered rooftop (see texts for details). The error bars are 1 standard error associated with the measurements.

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Figure 4. Correlation between the observed and thermodynamic equilibrium Δ_{47} values for greenhouse CO₂ samples collected when (A) photosynthesis ass weak and respiration was strong and (B) photosynthesis was strong and respiration was weak.



Figure 5. (A) Carbon Keeling plot for air CO₂ collected over South China Sea and coastal stations (Keelung and Fuguei Cape). (B) Δ_{47} values observed over the South China Sea and coastal stations. The error bars are the 1 standard error associated with the measurements. Lines show Δ_{47} values for the CO₂ in thermodynamic equilibrium at ambient temperatures.



921 Figure 6. Carbon Keeling plots for air CO₂ collected over (A) sub-urban Academia Sinica

- 922 Campus and (B) grassland at National Taiwan University Campus.



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Figure 7. Δ_{47} values in the near surface atmospheric CO₂ from (A) urban site near Roosevelt Road on 30th December, 2015, (B) sub-urban station (Academia Sinica Campus), (C) grassland in the National Taiwan University Campus and (D) forest site near the Academia Sinica Campus. The error bars are the 1 standard error associated with the measurements. Lines show Δ_{47} values for the CO₂ at thermodynamic equilibrium at ambient temperatures.



Figure 8: (A) CO₂ concentration inside greenhouse on 31^{st} Aug, 2015: observed concentration (star) and decrease in concentration by photosynthesis after subtracting the respiration (solid circle) are also shown. Comparison of observed (B) δ^{13} C, (C) δ^{18} O and (D) Δ_{47} values with that modeled using discrimination factors of -16.5 ‰, -12.0 ‰ and 0.065 ‰ for δ^{13} C, δ^{18} O and Δ_{47} respectively.





Figure 9. A summary of Δ_{47} values in near surface air CO₂ obtained at different environments and compared with the thermodynamic equilibrium values. Combustion temperature for car exhausts is assumed to be 800 °C (minimum value). Greenhouse CO₂ are divided into two categories: photosynthesis dominated (green open circle) and respiration dominated (green open triangle).

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Date	Time	Conc. (ppmv)	δ ¹³ C(‰) (VPDB)	δ ¹⁸ O(‰) (VSMOW)	δ ⁴⁷ (‰)	Std. err.	Δ_{47} (‰) (ARF)	Std. err.	Δ_{48} (‰)	Estimated temp. (°C)	Air temp. (°C)
	4:50	481	-11.60	39.61	6.99	0.02	0.927	0.016	0.2	24	25.5
	6:00	462	-10.90	39.92	8.16	0.02	0.936	0.018	0.6	21	26
15	7:06	435	-9.80	40.54	9.71	0.02	0.911	0.017	0.2	28	29
8/20	8:10	428	-9.60	40.92	10.38	0.02	0.883	0.014	-0.2	33	33.5
7/2:	9:15	416	-9.06	41.36	11.30	0.01	0.908	0.011	0.2	24	39
	10:15	422	-9.55	40.82	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	12:40	407	-8.77	41.58	11.75	0.01	0.898	0.010	0.2	27	48
	5:00	522	-12.72	38.66	5.10	0.01	0.926	0.015	0.3	24	26
	6:00	512	-12.37	38.95	5.94	0.01	0.926	0.014	0.5	25	26
	7:00	451	-10.08	40.36	9.39	0.02	0.923	0.011	0.4	25	28
2	8:15	405	-8.82	40.98	11.25	0.02	0.912	0.020	0.4	28	33
201	9:10	412	-9.12	41.07	11.26	0.02	0.880	0.020	0.6	34	37.5
/31/	10:00	414	-9.35	40.83	11.52	0.01	0.906	0.010	0.6	23	43.5
Ľ	11:20	411	-9.26	40.99	11.12	0.02	0.896	0.025	0.5	31	48
	15:00	432	-9.90	40.36	9.55	0.02	0.877	0.015	0.5	34	41.5
	17:25	423	-9.22	41.07	12.48	0.02	0.929	0.013	0.7	25	32
	21:30	462	-10.92	39.99	7.90	0.01	0.911	0.012	0.4	28	27
	4:50	465	-11.03	40.37	8.41	0.01	0.936	0.012	0.27	23	24
2015	5:50	455	-10.82	40.26	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
8/4/2	6:28	448	-10.27	41.00	10.01	0.02	0.931	0.017	0.7	24	25.5
œ	6:50	439	-9.90	41.32	10.10	0.02	0.942	0.009	0.6	22	26

Table 1. Diurnal variation of δ^{13} C and δ^{18} O and clumped isotopes (Δ_{47}) for greenhouse CO₂. Temperatures estimated using Δ_{47} values and actual air temperatures inside the greenhouse at the time of sampling are also presented.

	7:15	420	-9.34	41.22	11.05	0.01	0.914	0.013	0.6	28	28.5
	7:40	419	-9.18	41.22	11.05	0.01	0.927	0.011	0.3	25	30
	8:10	405	-8.55	41.56	12.79	0.02	0.900	0.015	0.6	31	32.5
	9:45	427	-9.75	40.73	10.81	0.02	0.870	0.023	0.3	36	40
	14:00	414	-9.20	41.01	11.02	0.01	0.896	0.011	0.6	31	46
	16:15	414	-9.09	41.11	11.11	0.01	0.944	0.014	0.7	22	36.5
	19:15	413	-9.01	41.38	13.28	0.01	0.921	0.010	0.9	26	29.2
	22:30	450	-10.58	40.61	9.34	0.02	0.924	0.022	0.4	25	26.5
	5:45	418	-9.30	40.87	10.80	0.01	0.934	0.013	0.5	23	22
2	7:00	413	-9.08	41.18	10.95	0.02	0.940	0.021	0.4	22	22
/201	10:00	390	-7.78	41.66	13.00	0.02	0.918	0.014	0.6	26	25
10/12/2	11:50	388	-7.84	41.71	15.25	0.01	0.919	0.010	0.6	26	27
	14:30	382	-7.82	42.24	14.27	0.02	0.891	0.017	0.4	31	28
	20:10	418	-9.17	40.61	10.85	0.02	0.933	0.017	0.5	23	23

976	Table 2. Stable carbon and oxygen isotopic composition and clumped isotopes (Δ_{47}) for car exhaust CO ₂ . Temperatures estimated using Δ_{47} values and lowest
977	possible combustion temperatures are given.

Car model	Conc. (ppm)	δ ¹³ C(‰) (VPDB)	δ ¹⁸ O(‰) (VSMOW)	δ ⁴⁷ (‰)	Std. err.	Δ_{47} (‰) (ARF)	Std. err.	Δ_{48} (‰)	Estimated temp. (°C)	Combustion temp. (°C)
Mazda 3000cc TRIBUTE	39400	-27.73	25.43	-22.20	0.01	0.251	0.013	-0.4	300	800
Mitsubishi 2400cc New Outlander	39300	-27.67	25.27	-23.08	0.02	0.294	0.007	-0.3	265	800
Average $\pm 1\sigma$	39350±50	-27.70±0.03	25.35 ± 0.07	-22.64±0.44		0.273±0.021			283±18	

Table 3. Stable isotopic composition including Δ_{47} for air CO₂ collected over South China Sea and two coastal stations (see Figure 1 for sampling locations).

983 Temperatures estimated using Δ_{47} values and the sea surface temperatures at the time of samplings are also presented.

Marine air CO ₂												
				Sou	th China	Sea						
Date time	Conc. (ppm)	δ ¹³ C(‰) (VPDB)	δ ¹⁸ O(‰) (VSMOW)	δ ⁴⁷ (‰)	Std. err.	Δ_{47} (‰) (ARF)	Std. err.	Δ ₄₈ (‰)	Estimated temp. (°C)	Sea surface temp. (°C)		
10/15/2013 8:15 (A)*	403	-8.42	40.85	28.752	0.016	0.901	0.017	1.9	30	28.3		
10/15/2013 13:15 (B)	400	-8.46	40.80	28.441	0.012	0.919	0.011	2.6	26	28.3		
10/15/2013 18:00 (C)	406	-8.75	40.54	28.133	0.013	0.933	0.013	2.2	24	28.3		
10/16/2013 7:00 (D)	391	-8.76	40.53	27.916	0.024	0.903	0.023	3.9	29	28.2		
10/16/2013 12:05 (E)	397	-8.44	40.86	28.535	0.015	0.910	0.015	3.3	28	28.2		
10/16/2013 14:00 (E)	391	-8.30	40.96	28.922	0.021	0.934	0.021	3.0	23	28.2		
10/16/2013 17:20 (E)	395	-8.31	41.02	28.944	0.017	0.908	0.016	1.9	29	28.1		
10/16/2013 20:20 (E)	388	-8.19	40.52	28.909	0.018	0.930	0.018	3.8	24	28.1		
10/17/2013 8:40 (E)	383	-8.26	40.41	28.194	0.018	0.925	0.018	4.3	25	28.1		
Average $\pm 1\sigma$	395±7	-8.43±0.19	40.72±0.20	28.52±0.36		0.918±0.012			27±2	28.2±0.1		
Keelung												
10/03/2013 11:30	380	-8.31	40.31	28.053	0.020	0.896	0.021	3	31	27.5		
10/03/2013 12:30	384	-8.40	40.92	29.089	0.017	0.917	0.016	1.9	27	27.5		

11/13/2013 11:00	401	-8.45	40.62	29.645	0.015	0.946	0.016	4.0	21	27.5	
11/21/2013 12:30		-8.47	40.78	29.866	0.017	0.890	0.010	1.1	32	27.5	
11/28/2013 12:00	410	-8.60	40.21	28.992	0.011	0.908	0.010	2.2	28	27.5	
Average $\pm 1\sigma$	394±12	-8.45±0.09	40.57±0.26	29.12±0.63		0.911±0.020			28±4	27.5	
Fuguei Cape											
11/13/2013 13:30	401	-8.47	40.76	29.56	0.02	0.916	0.016	1.1	27	27.5	
11/21/2013 15:30	399	-8.41	40.89	29.37	0.01	0.880	0.012	2.5	34	27.5	
11/28/2013 15:00	407	-8.70	41.16	30.11	0.01	0.886	0.010	3.1	33	27.5	
Average $\pm 1\sigma$	402±3	-8.53 ± 0.12	40.94±0.16	29.68±0.29		0.894 ± 0.015			31+3	27.5	

985 *Sampling Stations (see Figure 1 for locations in South China Sea)

989Table 4. Stable isotopic composition including clumped isotopes (Δ_{47}) for air CO2 collected in urban and sub-urban stations, grassland, forest and high990mountain environments. Temperatures estimated using Δ_{47} values and air temperatures are also presented.

	Urban CO ₂ : Roosevelt Road, Taipei City												
Date	Time	Conc. (ppm)	δ ¹³ C(‰) (VPDB)	δ ¹⁸ O(‰) (VSMOW)	δ^{47} (‰)	Std. err.	Δ_{47} (‰) (ARF)	Std. err.	Δ_{48} (‰)	Estimated temp. (°C)	Air temp. (°C)		
	12:30	510	-10.41	40.00	25.26	0.014	0.823	0.010	2.3	46	20		
	15:00	478	-11.50	38.49	22.63	0.012	0.754	0.008	0.9	62	19.5		
12/30/ 2015	17:00	461	-9.69	40.70	26.74	0.017	0.833	0.013	0.9	44	17		
2010	18:00	594	-12.30	38.14	21.56	0.014	0.819	0.015	1.5	47	16		
	20:00	457	-11.34	39.24	23.61	0.022	0.806	0.022	3.1	50	15		
Avera	ige±1σ	500±50	-11.05±0.90	39.31±0.94	23.96±1.84		0.807 ± 0.028			50±6	17±2		

Sub-urban air CO ₂											
				Academia	a Sinica Ca	mpus					
Date time	Conc. (ppm)	δ ¹³ C(‰) (VPDB)	δ ¹⁸ O(‰) (VSMOW)	δ ⁴⁷ (‰)	Std. err.	Δ_{47} (‰) (ARF)	Std. err.	Δ_{48} (‰)	Estimated temp. (°C)	Air temp (°C)	
10/17/2013 10:00	400	-7.83	40.44	28.47	0.015	0.899	0.008	3.7	30	25	
10/17/2013 14:30	402	-8.05	40.25	28.07	0.017	0.889	0.008	2.2	32	25	
10/17/2013 17:20	409	-8.44	39.90	27.26	0.019	0.877	0.020	2.3	34	22	
10/30/2013 10:00	395	-8.48	40.57	28.47	0.012	0.876	0.010	2.8	35	25.2	
10/30/2013 14:30	400	-8.25	41.08	29.03	0.016	0.893	0.016	3.9	31	27.4	
11/04/2013 10:30	411	-8.78	40.51	28.67	0.011	0.902	0.009	2.7	29	22.5	
11/04/2013 14:30	406	-8.64	40.62	28.97	0.017	0.895	0.016	2.2	31	22	
11/04/2013 18:30	415	-9.02	40.38	28.33	0.013	0.907	0.009	2.8	28	22.5	
11/09/2013 10:30	405	-8.34	41.09	29.79	0.019	0.917	0.015	1.9	27	28.5	
11/09/2013 14:00	407	-8.25	41.25	30.63	0.015	0.919	0.009	1.6	26	30.6	
11/09/2013 18:30	425	-9.43	40.32	27.49	0.020	0.923	0.019	2.1	25	28	
11/19/2013 10:00	419	-8.74	40.60	29.27	0.012	0.927	0.011	3.7	25	19.5	
11/19/2013 14:00	418	-8.71	40.52	29.59	0.019	0.881	0.012	1.2	33	19.6	
11/19/2013 18:00	414	-8.91	40.56	28.58	0.012	0.872	0.006	1.1	35	18.5	
01/27/2014 10:30	403	-8.52	41.32	30.13	0.008	0.897	0.010	2.9	30	19.2	
01/27/2014 15:20	400	-8.68	41.23	30.03	0.011	0.914	0.010	0.7	27	19.6	
01/27/2014 18:00	404	-8.64	41.32	29.29	0.017	0.923	0.010	4.6	25	18.5	
02/03/2014 11:00	408	-8.80	41.20	29.67	0.015	0.957	0.017	1.7	19	24.5	
02/03/2014 14:30	409	-8.86	41.39	NA		NA		NA			
02/03/2014 19:30	409	-8.95	41.41	30.57	0.011	0.972	0.010	3.0	16	19.3	

02/17/2014 10:30	445	-10.30	40.40	27.60	0.016	0.878	0.010	3.0	34	22.4		
02/17/2014 14:30	408	-8.74	41.53	30.58	0.014	0.895	0.011	0.6	31	25		
02/17/2014 18:30	437	-9.92	41.07	28.49	0.012	0.893	0.008	1.3	31	22		
02/19/2014 10:00	418	-9.12	40.61	29.12	0.020	0.895	0.018	0.9	31	13.3		
02/19/2014 18:00	424	-9.38	40.40	28.49	0.020	0.895	0.013	2.4	31	12.4		
02/20/2014 14:30	410	-8.81	40.96	29.68	0.023	0.866	0.010	1.9	37	12.9		
02/20/2014 18:00	417	-9.02	40.66	29.59	0.018	0.863	0.014	1.6	37	12.5		
02/22/2014 12:15	401	-8.44	41.49	30.63	0.013	0.872	0.013	0.6	35	17.5		
02/22/2014 17:00	402	-8.36	41.51	30.63	0.013	0.853	0.012	4.2	40	17.1		
02/24/2014 17:30	406	-8.63	41.57	30.70	0.014	0.863	0.013	3.8	37	22		
Average $\pm 1\sigma$	411±11	-8.78±0.50	40.87±0.46	29.23±1.00		0.897 ± 0.027			30±5	21±5		
Grassland: NTU Campus												
11/14/2013 10:10	353	-7.95	40.96	30.18	0.02	0.885	0.013	0.4	33	23		
11/14/2013 14:05	366	-8.02	41.31	30.79	0.01	0.906	0.014	0.4	29	26		
11/14/2013 19:20	462	-9.94	38.33	25.64	0.02	0.907	0.019	0.2	29	24		
11/15/2013 10:40	416	-9.12	39.42	29.51	0.01	0.954	0.013	0.6	20	22		
11/15/2013 14:10	421	-9.19	39.36	29.78	0.02	0.942	0.018	0.3	22	21		
11/15/2013 19:12	438	-9.92	38.28	28.08	0.04	0.989	0.009	0.0	13	20		
11/16/2013 10:50	412	-8.78	40.03	28.54	0.02	0.948	0.018	1.8	21	21		
11/16/2013 17:10	408	-8.70	40.26	26.06	0.02	0.969	0.021	1.6	17	20		
Average $\pm 1\sigma$	409±33	-8.95±0.70	39.74±1.00	28.57±1.77		0.937 ± 0.030			23±6	22±2		
			For	est site near A	cademia S	inica Campus						
07/07/2015 10:30	411	-9.07	41.43	11.54	0.01	0.890	0.017	0.3	32	32		
07/14/2015 10:30	458	-10.43	39.74	9.01	0.02	0.890	0.017	0.4	32	31		
07/28/2015 10:40	441	-9.99	40.86	10.07	0.02	0.887	0.015	0.2	32	30		
08/11/2015 10:40	448	-10.46	40.09	9.50	0.01	0.920	0.009	0.5	26	30		

08/18/2015 10:30	433	-9.99	39.80	8.99	0.02	0.888	0.016	0.4	32	30		
Average $\pm 1\sigma$	438±16	-9.99 ±0.50	40.39±0.66	9.82±0.94		0.895±0.012			31±2	31±1		
High mountain: Hehuan												
10/09/2013 13:20	364	-8.21	40.89	28.79	0.02	0.895	0.016	3.2	31	10		
10/09/2013 17:00	NA	-8.25	40.28	28.41	0.01	0.914	0.014	2.9	27	10		
Average $\pm 1\sigma$	364	-8.23 ±0.02	40.59±0.30	28.60±0.19		0.904 ± 0.009			30±2	10		