

Impacts of different
plant functional types
on ambient ozone
predictions

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Impacts of different plant functional types on ambient ozone predictions in the Seoul Metropolitan Areas (SMA), Korea

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Abstract

Plant functional type (PFT) distributions affect the results of biogenic emission modeling as well as O₃ and PM simulations using chemistry-transport models (CTMs). This paper analyzes the variations of both surface biogenic VOC emissions and O₃ concentrations due to changes in the PFT distributions in the Seoul Metropolitan Areas, Korea. Also, this paper attempts to provide important implications for biogenic emissions modeling studies for CTM simulations. MM5-MEGAN-SMOKE-CMAQ model simulations were implemented over the Seoul Metropolitan Areas in Korea to predict surface O₃ concentrations for the period of 1 May to 31 June 2008. Starting from MEGAN biogenic emissions analysis with three different sources of PFT input data, US EPA CMAQ O₃ simulation results were evaluated by surface O₃ monitoring datasets and further considered on the basis of geospatial and statistical analyses. The three PFT datasets considered were “(1)KORPFT”, developed with a region specific vegetation database; (2) CDP, adopted from US NCAR; and (3) MODIS, reclassified from the NASA Terra and Aqua combined land cover products. Comparisons of MEGAN biogenic emission results with the three different PFT data showed that broadleaf trees (BT) are the most significant contributor, followed by needleleaf trees (NT), shrub (SB), and herbaceous plants (HB) to the total biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs). In addition, isoprene from BT and terpene from NT were recognized as significant primary and secondary BVOC species in terms of BVOC emissions distributions and O₃-forming potentials in the study domain. Multiple regression analyses with the different PFT data (δO_3 vs. $\delta PFTs$) suggest that KORPFT can provide reasonable information to the framework of MEGAN biogenic emissions modeling and CTM O₃ predictions. Analyses of the CMAQ performance statistics suggest that deviations of BT areas can significantly affect CMAQ isoprene and O₃ predictions. From further evaluations of the isoprene and O₃ prediction results, we explored the PFT area-loss artifact that occurs due to geographical disparity between the PFT and leaf area index distributions, and can cause increased bias in CMAQ O₃. Thus, the PFT-loss artifact must be a source

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of limitation in the MEGAN biogenic emission modeling and the CTM O₃ simulation results. Time changes of CMAQ O₃ distributions with the different PFT scenarios suggest that hourly and local impacts from the different PFT distributions on occasional inter-deviations of O₃ are quite noticeable, reaching up to 10 ppb. Exponentially diverging hourly BVOC emissions and O₃ concentrations with increasing ambient temperature suggest that the use of representative PFT distributions becomes more critical for O₃ air quality modeling (or forecasting) in support of air quality decision-making and human health studies.

1 Introduction

Biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) emitted from vegetated areas play an important role in the chemistry of the lower troposphere and atmospheric boundary layer via a series of oxidation reactions with the OH and NO₃ radicals and O₃ (Finlayson-Pitts and Fitts, 2000; Atkinson and Arey, 2003). It has been known that BVOC emissions can enhance O₃ formation in the areas with high NO_x concentrations, because the BVOC oxidation increases the concentrations of hydroperoxy and organic peroxy radicals (HO₂ and RO₂) that can convert NO into NO₂ without depleting O₃. In addition, the BVOC emissions can reduce O₃ concentrations in the areas with low levels of NO_x, because the reaction of O₃ and BVOC reduces hydroxyl radicals and leads to decreased O₃ formation (Finlayson-Pitts and Fitts, 2000; Hogrefe et al., 2011). For example, a regional air-quality modeling study reported that biogenic emissions are associated with at least 20 % of surface O₃ concentrations in most areas of the continental United States (Tao et al., 2003). A global chemistry transport modeling with MOZART-4 (Model for Ozone and Related Chemical Species, version 4) reported that biogenic isoprene emissions cause –5 ppb to 10 ppb changes in surface O₃ concentrations over the Amazon region, Indonesia, and parts of South Africa during the spring season (Pfister et al., 2008).

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The flux of biogenic emission is a strong function of vegetation area, biomass density, and other environmental factors (Guenther et al., 1995, 2006). In biogenic emission modeling, vegetation area has been commonly considered to be one of the most important driving variables because it reflects the phenological emission capacity of the area of interest. In order to more efficiently prepare vegetation area information as an input to biogenic emission modeling, plant functional type (PFT) data have been used (Guenther et al., 2006; Pfister et al., 2008; Arneth et al., 2011). Conceptually, PFTs are classes of vegetation species that share similar responses to environmental factors, similar functioning at the organismic level, and/or similar effects on ecosystems (Smith et al., 1997; Sun et al., 2008). In a biogenic emissions modeling approach, the PFT datasets specify the type and composition of vegetation classes in a grid cell to determine the capacity of biogenic emissions. Thus, careful consideration of PFT distributions is needed for the estimation of biogenic emissions and subsequent predictive works such as the O₃ prediction with CTM.

Several recent modeling studies have reported sensitivities of PFT to the biogenic emissions and O₃ concentrations. For example, Guenther et al. (2006) reported about –13 to 24% changes in global annual isoprene emissions from standard Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) modeling using the 11 different PFT datasets. Pfister et al. (2008) reported a factor of two or more differences in monthly isoprene emissions on global to regional scales through the examination of the MEGAN sensitivity to three different sets of satellite-derived leaf area index (LAI) and PFT datasets. Pfister et al. (2008) also reported an inter-difference of up to 5 ppb in monthly mean O₃ concentrations from the global scale simulations of MOZART /MEGAN with three different sets of satellite-derived LAI and PFT input data.

Although the previously summarized modeling studies produced valuable findings, none of the studies represents a local scale and a more detailed situation. For example, Pfister et al. (2008) adopted a coarse grid resolution (i.e., 2.8° × 2.8°) in their study and use only satellite-based PFT distributions for their global modeling study to carry out. In addition, they also showed that the sensitivity or uncertainty (e.g., a factor of 2 or

more differences in isoprene and up to 5 ppb of surface O₃ inter-deviation) is not only related to changes in LAI data but also changes in PFT data.

The purpose of our study is to investigate the impacts of different PFT distribution data on O₃ concentrations. Carrying out biogenic emission model and CTM simulations, we investigated changes in surface biogenic emissions and ambient O₃ concentrations with different PFT distribution datasets. Our approach has several distinctive features. First, in this study, we included a region-specific high-resolution PFT distribution dataset: the Korean PFT database (KORPFT). The KORPFT was derived from 3 datasets: (1) Korean land cover classification maps; (2) tree stock maps; and (3) Korean vegetation survey data. Secondly, we adopted a 3 km by 3 km fine grid system in order to more closely investigate spatial patterns of biogenic emissions and O₃ behaviour in accordance with more fine PFT distribution patterns. Thirdly, we changed only PFT datasets without changing any other model input configurations, such as LAI, meteorological or chemical variables, in order to isolate the impacts of the different PFTs on atmospheric chemistry (or O₃ concentrations).

The main idea behind our approach is that because PFT distributions affect the magnitudes of biogenic emission capacity in the domain of interest, the use of different PFT data can affect biogenic emission estimations and consequently O₃ prediction performances. The proposed idea and method was tested over the Seoul Metropolitan Areas (SMA) in Korea, in which both tremendously developed urban area and densely vegetated areas actually coexist. Recently, the Korean Ministry of Environment (MoE) promulgated the Special Act on Metropolitan Air Quality Improvement (SAMAQI) Phase-II that will be enforced in 2015 (Ministry of Environment, 2012a). To support air quality control activities associated with SAMAQI Phase-II, the MoE has decided to execute over 4.7 trillion Korean Won (4.11 billion USD) for the fiscal period of 2015–2024 (KEI and KOSAE, 2012). Originally, the SAMAQI Phase-I was enacted in December 2003 and enforced in January 2005 with an aim to attain the air quality levels for SO₂, CO, NO₂ and PM₁₀ in the SMA comparable to those in the major cities of the developed countries (Tokyo, New York, Paris, etc.). Through the SAMAQI Phase-I involving

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a number of and high cost of air quality control activities, the SMA has achieved the remarkable improvement in SO_2 and CO air quality but not in PM_{10} and NO_2 air quality (Ministry of Environment, 2012b). The SAMAQI Phase-II places considerable emphasis on $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, NO_2 , VOC and O_3 pollutions that underscore the priority on improving the quality of human life and protecting human health from air pollution. Under the SAMAQI Phase-II, the SMA municipal government has to establish the implementation plans (IPs) for air quality attainment for those pollutants across the SMA (Ministry of Environment, 2012a). In these circumstances, biogenic source emissions are considered as one of the basis for IP planning and modeling inventories to manage O_3 and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ air quality in the SMA. Moreover, it is commonly accepted that there are big uncertainties for characterizing biogenic emission sources and determining emission amounts although many efforts to improve emission inventory have been made in the past decade in Korea. The findings presented in this study can provide important implications to air quality supporting groups of the municipal governments for designing and implementing biogenic emission estimation strategies in the SMA.

Section 2 of this manuscript describes the PFT distribution datasets developed for or used in this study together with the simulation framework used for biogenic emission estimation and O_3 predictions and some statistical measures used for the evaluation of the modeling results. Sect. 3 presents and discusses comparison and evaluation results for biogenic emissions and O_3 . Finally, Sect. 4 presents some conclusions for this study.

2 PFT datasets and simulation experiment

2.1 Development of the PFT dataset

2.1.1 Korean PFT database

A high-resolved PFT distribution dataset (resolution of $150 \times 150 \text{ m}^2$) for the Korean Peninsula was established in this study (hereafter KORPFT) by compiling various local sources of vegetation data, such as Korean land cover map (produced in 2007 and renewed in 2009) and vegetation survey (collected for the consecutive years 1994–2004) from the Korea Ministry of Environment, and tree stock maps (produced and renewed for the consecutive years 1996–2005) from the Korea Forest Service.

A four-PFT scheme in which multiple vegetation species were classified into four types, broadleaf (BT), needleleaf (NT), shrub (SB), and herbaceous (HB), was applied. The fraction of individual PFT groups (PFTF_k) was calculated by applying the canopy density weighted focal average as follows:

$$\text{PFTF}_k (\%) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{fm}_{\text{PFT}_{k,i}} / \text{SA} \times \delta_{\text{PFT}_{k,i}} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where SA is a selected grid region (m^2) with n -grid cells; PFTF_k denotes the percent area of an individual PFT in the SA (%); k denotes the individual PFT type (e.g., BT, NT, SB, and HB); n denotes the number of unit grid cells in the SA ; $\text{fm}_{\text{PFT}_{k,i}}$ is the spatial moving averaged value (m^2) of the i -th unit grid cell for a PFT in the SA calculated by the focal average method; and $\delta_{\text{PFT}_{k,i}}$ is the vegetation canopy density factor for an individual PFT at i -th grid cell ($0 \leq \delta_{\text{PFT}_{k,i}} \leq 1$).

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The focal average of individual PFTs at every focal grid cell (the i -th grid cell) can be defined as follows:

$$fm_{\text{PFT}_{k_i}} = \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{\{j:j \sim i\}}^n a_{j_{\text{wrt PFT}_k}}, \quad (2)$$

where N_i denotes the number of all neighbors of the i -th unit grid cell, the set $\{j : j \sim i\}$ contains all the neighboring locations j of unit i , and $a_{j_{\text{wrt PFT}_k}}$ is the area sum (m^2) of all neighboring grids of a focal grid cell with respect to an individual PFT group.

2.1.2 CDP and MODIS PFT

Two other PFT distribution datasets used in this study are based on satellite observations. The former PFT distribution dataset (resolution of $1 \times 1 \text{ km}^2$) was developed for the global isoprene emission study (Guenther et al., 2006) and derived from Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) land cover product in 2001. As this PFT dataset is downloadable from the community data portal (URL: <http://cdp.ucar.edu>) maintained by US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), we refer to this dataset as CDP for brevity in this study. The latter PFT distribution dataset (resolution of $0.5 \times 0.5 \text{ km}^2$) was reclassified for this study from the MODIS land cover type 5 products of the Terra and Aqua satellite sensors in 2008 (hereafter MODIS). The MODIS land cover type 5 data, with a PFT scheme including eight vegetation and four non-vegetation classes (Bonan et al., 2002; Friedl et al., 2002; Strahler et al., 1999), were processed to generate the MEGAN PFT. The MODIS vegetation classes were converted into MEGAN PFT classes by straightforward mapping of the eight MODIS vegetation classes into the four MEGAN PFTs (i.e., BT, NT, SB, and HB). For example, the PFT distribution was calculated by adopting land-cover class descriptions provided by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) (Friedl et al., 2002; Strahler et al., 1999). As an example, the MEGAN BT was calculated by $80\% \times [\text{broadleaf evergreen trees} + \text{broadleaf deciduous trees}]$.

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2.2 Framework of the simulation experiment

A modeling framework, the Fifth-Generation NCAR/Pennsylvania State Meso-scale Model (MM5)/the Sparse Matrix Operator Kernel Emissions (SMOKE)/the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN)/the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) was established for meteorological modeling, anthropogenic and biogenic emissions processing and modeling, and chemistry-transport model simulations for May–June 2008. In this modeling study, 3-step nested-gridding was conducted. Horizontal resolutions of $27 \times 27 \text{ km}^2$ for the largest domain, $9 \times 9 \text{ km}^2$ for the second largest domain, and $3 \times 3 \text{ km}^2$ for the smallest domain were used (Refer to Fig. 1a). In the framework, the model settings for 3 step simulations were the same, except for the biogenic emissions input. The three sets of hourly, gridded, and speciated biogenic emissions (based on KORPFT, CDP, and MODIS datasets) were merged with anthropogenic emissions (described in Sect. 2.2.2 “Anthropogenic emissions modeling”).

Because we changed only PFT datasets without changing any other model input configurations, the specific simulation scenarios are hereafter referred to as KORPFT, CDP, and MODIS (Table 1).

2.2.1 Meteorological and chemical transport modeling

For meteorological inputs to the CMAQ model, MM5 modeling was carried out for a period of May–June 2008. Each of the three domains (i.e., 27 km, 9 km, and 3 km) consisted of 20 vertical layers resolving the atmosphere between the surface and 100 hPa in sigma coordinate. Applying a two-way nesting technique, the meteorological outputs from coarse-grid to fine-grid domains (i.e., 27 km to 9 km to 3 km) were derived. NCEP/DOE AMIP-II Reanalysis data (Reanalysis-2) were used for the initial and boundary conditions (IC/BC). The Grell scheme (Grell et al., 1994), based on the rate of destabilization or quasi-equilibrium, was employed for cumulus parameterization. The Medium-Range Forecast (MRF) Planetary Boundary Layer (PBL) scheme was applied to obtain high-resolution in the PBL (Hong and Pan, 1996). For an explicit

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ral surrogate databases, such as 38 source classification codes (SCCs), 2752 administrative division codes, and some regionalized temporal profiles. Details of SMOKE-Asia are described in Woo et al. (2012). A merged version of the INTEX 2006 (Zhang et al., 2009) and TRACE-P 2000 inventories (Streets et al., 2003) was used as a base inventory, and was allocated into our study domain using spatial surrogates in SMOKE-Asia. Through further processing with temporal and chemical speciation (SAPRC99 chemical mechanism) profiles, we generated hourly gridded CMAQ-ready emissions data for this study.

The anthropogenic VOC and NO_x emissions processed by SMOKE-Asia for the study period are shown in Table 2, and their spatial distributions are displayed in Fig. 2.

Biogenic emissions modeling

We used the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGANv2.04) (Guenther et al., 2006) to produce BVOC emission inputs to CMAQ. The BVOC flux is a function of emission factor, vegetation area, and various environmental factors:

$$ER = EF \cdot A \cdot \gamma_F \cdot \gamma_S \cdot \gamma_W \cdot \phi, \quad (3)$$

where, ER is the net emission rate (μg of compound h^{-1}); EF is the an emission factor that represents the net in-canopy emission rate expected at standard conditions ($\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$ at 303 K); A is the vegetation cover area represented by the PFT ($A = \text{grid area} \times \text{PFTF}$); and γ includes environmental activity factors that account for the emission changes due to activity deviations from standard conditions, such as changes in leaf area and age (γ_F), stress due to soil moisture content (γ_S), and environmental effects (i.e., temperature and solar radiation) within the canopy (γ_W), and ϕ is a factor that defines chemical production and loss within plant canopies (Guenther et al., 2006).

In this study, detailed soil-moisture and plant-canopy information was not considered, so γ_S and ϕ were set to 1. For MEGAN utilization in this study, we only changed PFT inputs without changing any other input configurations, such as meteorological

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and chemical variables. For EF, we applied PFT-specific emission factors tabulated in MEGAN module. For γ_W , MM5-derived solar radiation and temperature datasets were used. For the leaf area and age (γ_F) input calculation, we utilized monthly averaged LAIv data using 2008 MODIS LAI (leaf area index, 8-day coverage and 1-km resolution) and each source of PFT distribution data. In order to isolate the different impacts of each source of PFT data on the O_3 predictions, we applied those PFT datasets with a single source of LAI (i.e., MODIS LAI) rather than multiple sources of LAI data. It should be noted that the LAIv is the LAI averaged over the fraction of vegetated area.

The estimated biogenic VOC and NO emissions from the MEGAN model with the three different PFT scenarios for the study period are shown in Table 2. Overall, the biogenic VOC emissions (BVOC) contribute 44.5% of the total VOC emissions (anthropogenic + biogenic). The inter-differences of BVOC emissions between the three PFT scenarios ranged from 1.8 Gg (MODIS-KORPFT) –4.2 Gg (MODIS-CDP) for the study period (May–June 2008). Biogenic NO_x (specifically NO) showed marginal contributions ($\sim 0.4\%$) to the total NO_x emissions and inter-differences (e.g., 0.02 Gg between CDP and KORPFT) between the three different PFT datasets. Investigating the distribution of the VOC/ NO_x ratio across the domain revealed that consistently low values of the VOC/ NO_x ratio were distributed across the domain for the case of only anthropogenic emission (i.e., VOC/ $NO_x < 3$), whereas noticeably increased VOC/ NO_x ratios were distributed over some suburban and border areas for the case of combined anthropogenic and biogenic emissions.

2.3 Statistical measures for quantitative evaluation

We investigated the impacts of different sources of PFT distributions on CTM O_3 predictions by examining the deviation of each dataset (i.e., PFT, BVOC emissions, and O_3) from the norm (here, their mean values). The deviation of an individual dataset at each grid cell (δGV) was calculated as follows:

$$\delta GV_{X|(i,j)} = GV_{X|(i,j)} - \overline{GV}_{(i,j)}, \quad (4)$$

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where $GV_{X|(i,j)}$ is the grid cell value of an individual source of PFT X at a given grid cell location (i, j) , and $\overline{GV}_{(i,j)}$ is the mean value for every source of PFT data at a given grid cell location (i, j) . We consider the mean value as the best guess at what the true values of each variable (PFT areas or biogenic emissions or O_3 concentrations) were since the mean value for each set of variable data from the given scenarios describes each central tendency for those variable datasets. Beginning with a comparison of PFT area deviations, we consecutively investigated these PFT deviations on the results of MEGAN BVOC and CTM O_3 predictions. Hourly O_3 , NO_x , and isoprene data gathered from the ambient air quality monitoring network, 148 ambient monitoring stations (AMS) and 8 photochemical air monitoring stations (PAMS) of the National Institute of Environmental Research were used to evaluate CMAQ O_3 predictions over the Seoul-Kyunggi Metropolitan Area for the study period.

The effect of using different PFT datasets on CTM performances was investigated based on some statistical measures: mean bias (MB); normalized mean bias (NMB); and normalized mean error (NME):

$$\text{Mean Bias (MB)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - O_i), \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Normalized Mean Bias (NMB)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - O_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n O_i} \times 100, \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Normalized Mean Error (NME)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |P_i - O_i|}{\sum_{i=1}^n O_i} \times 100, \quad (7)$$

where P is model prediction and O is observation.

The US EPA suggested the informal performance standards for regulatory modeling practices of ± 5 to ± 15 % for NMB and ± 30 to ± 35 % for NME (Russell and Dennis, 2000).

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Comparison of PFTs and biogenic emissions distributions

In our modeling domain, CDP (25 333 km²) delivered the largest PFT area followed by KORPFT (25 128 km²) and MODIS (24 101 km²). Although the three sources of the PFT data delivered similar cover areas, clear differences were identified in the composition of the PFT classes (i.e., BT, NT, SB, and HB). For example, for BT (the major source of biogenic isoprene), MODIS (10 115 km²) delivered the largest area followed by KORPFT (5318 km²) and CDP (4539 km²). For NT (the major source of biogenic terpene), KORPFT (8019 km²) delivered the largest area followed by CDP (4967 km²) and MODIS (1258 km²). For SB (the second-most major source of biogenic isoprene), CDP (3920 km²) delivered the largest area followed by KORPFT (2569 km²) and MODIS (769 km²). For HB (the major source of biogenic, or soil, NO), MODIS (11 959 km²) delivered the largest area followed by CDP (11 907 km²) and KORPFT (9223 km²).

A comparison of the spatial patterns of the PFT area deviations allowed us to understand qualitative discrepancies among the sources of PFT data. Figure 3 shows the spatial distributions of the δ PFT areas for each PFT scenario for the total vegetation and PFT classes (i.e., BT, NT, SB, and HB). The δ PFT area of each PFT scenario in the study domain was produced based on Eq. (4). The resulting maps show several noticeable features in the δ PFT area distributions:

1. KORPFT delivered larger BT covers over the Seoul and Incheon Metropolitan Areas, and other regions (Fig. 3b1).

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three BVOC emissions groups from the different PFT scenarios (Fig. 5). From these investigations, we found that isoprene was the most important BVOC compound showing the largest contributions to the total BVOC emission amounts and potential O₃ formation.

In the analyses, we reconstructed the 22 SAPRC99 VOC species of MEGAN into 10 BVOC compound groups for a clearer presentation of the BVOC emission distributions. The 10 reconstructed compound groups were ALKs (sum of ALK1–ALK5), AROs (sum of AROs1 and 2), CCHO (CCHO), ETHENE (ethene), HCHO (HCHO), ISOPRENE (isoprene), MEOH (MEOH), OLEs (sum of OLEs 1 and 2), Other Ox-Orgs (sum of ACET, BALD, CCO_OH, HCOOH, MEK, RCHO, and RCO_OH), and TERPENE (terpene). To examine the OFP of each PFT scenario, we employed the maximum incremental reactivity (MIR) (Carter, 2000b). The MIR is a useful quantitative measure of the impact of a VOC on O₃ under high NO_x conditions (i.e. grams of O₃ generated/grams of VOC added) under which O₃ is most sensitive to VOCs and which represent near-source or urban areas (Carter, 2000b). The MIR was derived from several box model scenarios representing various urban areas with NO_x inputs adjusted to yield maximum sensitivities of ozone to changes in VOC levels (Carter, 2000b). The MIR has been adopted in the state of California for the purpose of implementing reactivity-based regulations (CARB, 1993) and often used as a general reactivity scale to study the impact of VOC on O₃ formation (Xie et al., 2008; Zheng et al., 2009; Carter and Seinfeld, 2012).

Among the 10 BVOC compound groups, isoprene is shown to have the largest contribution to the total BVOC emissions (about 52%) followed by MEOH, terpene, and other VOCs (Fig. 5a). Among the different PFT scenarios applied to the MEGAN biogenic emission modeling, MODIS derived the highest isoprene emissions, because of the highest BT areas, followed by KORPFT and CDP (Fig. 5b). A distinct result with the KORPFT scenario is the highest terpene emissions, shown in Fig. 5b, due to the larger NT areas of KORPFT (Fig. 3c1) compared to the other PFT scenarios.

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By simply multiplying BVOC emissions with MIR values (Fig. 5c), we calculated domain-wide total OFPs of BVOC emissions. The calculated distributions of OFPs for each PFT scenario (Fig. 5d) were mainly affected by the spatial distributions of isoprene emissions. For example, most locations with higher OFPs were overlapped with the BT and the isoprene emission hotspots in the study domain (Figs. 3b and 4b). From the ozone forming potential computation, we derived the following proportion for the maximum O_3 -forming potentials in the study domain: MODIS : KORPFT : CDP = 1 : 0.82 : 0.78. Assuming that under high NO_x level our study domain experience optimal balance between VOC and NO_x to generate O_3 , this rough estimation implies that about 22 % of the maximum inter-difference in the O_3 concentrations can occur between the different PFT scenarios. For example, when the MODIS scenario estimates 60 ppb of domain average O_3 concentration, the probable O_3 concentrations from the KORPFT and CDP scenarios would be 49.2 and 46.8 ppb, respectively. There are two points to be noted here because the MIR values used for OFP calculations are from the chamber experiments (Carter, 2000b). Firstly, the proportional expression (i.e., MODIS : KORPFT : CDP = 1 : 0.82 : 0.78) we obtained were simply rough ones and it may cannot represents the relevant atmospheric conditions for O_3 formation over some areas. From Fig. 5d, we can easily recognize that the estimated proportional expression is not applicable to some areas, e.g., areas with missing BVOC reactivity zones due to the missing BVOC emissions and areas with small OFP gaps between the different PFT scenarios. Secondly, the MIR scale based OFP calculation may cannot duplicate the relevant atmospheric conditions and chemistry of VOC associated with O_3 formation for the period and domain of this study. Thus, we can only expect that the areas with higher OFP levels could have more possibility to experience higher level of O_3 formation in the presence of higher NO_x condition. This MIR-OFP application issue will be further discussed in Sect. 3.4.

Despite the mentioned limitations of MIR-OFP, this approach helps to evaluate the relative importance of biogenic VOC compounds in the production of ground-level ozone in the current study domain. In our OFP calculation, both the isoprene and

terpene emission amounts were the first and second largest contributors to the O₃ concentrations (about 79 % contribution by isoprene and 9 % contribution by terpene). The result suggests that the primary and secondary BVOC species of concern are isoprene and terpene because of their high reactivities and large emissions across the domain.

3.3 Relationship between PFT area deviations and CMAQ O₃ deviations

The results in Sects. 3.1 and 3.2 suggest some qualitative evidences of a causal link between the δ PFT areas, δ BVOC emission estimations, and the δ O₃ predictions. To analyze this link more quantitatively, first-order multiple regression (MR) models that include δ BT, δ NT, δ SB, and δ HB as quantitative independent variables were fitted by the least-square method. Due to the short photochemical lifetimes of BVOC (e.g., isoprene \sim 2 h) (Atkinson and Arey, 2003), the emitted BVOC from local biogenic emission sources (i.e., PFT area distributions) immediately affect the levels of local surface O₃ concentrations rather than move over long distance. The fine grid resolution system applied in this study can allow us to resolve these immediate impacts of biogenic emissions from the different sources of PFT distributions on the spatial distributions of O₃ concentrations. In this study, we assumed a linear relationship between the δ PFTs and δ O₃. From an analysis of the MR equations in Table 3, we could assume the expected deviations in O₃ concentration per unit change in the deviation of each individual PFT area. Furthermore, we could recognize which PFT scenario was appropriate for representing the biogenic emission capacity of the PFT distributions in our modeling domain. To explain the MR results connecting the δ PFTs and δ O₃, referring to the documented findings about the relative balance between VOC and NO_x can be very useful. Specifically, under VOC-limited atmospheric condition (i.e. NO_x is abundant relative to VOCs), NO_x behaves as a net O₃ inhibitor and the amount of VOC tends to limit the amount of O₃ formed. To the contrary, under a NO_x-limited condition, NO_x tends to generate O₃ and the amount of NO_x limits the amount of O₃ formed (Finlayson-Pitts and Fitts, 2000; Seinfeld and Pandis, 1998).

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The MR for KORPFT demonstrates that gaining areas of the two major biogenic isoprene sources (i.e., $+0.016 \cdot \delta BT$ and $+0.001 \cdot \delta SB$) and the one major biogenic terpene source (i.e., $+0.002 \cdot \delta NT$) contributes to O_3 increase, whereas gaining area of the major soil NO_x source (i.e., $-0.001 \cdot \delta HB$) contributes to O_3 decrease across the domain.

As an example, respective gains of BT, SB, and NT areas (Fig. 3b1, d1, and c1) can inject more isoprene and terpene species into VOC-limited regions so that those regions tend to change to the favorable condition for O_3 formation (Fig. 2d); whereas HB area gains (Fig. 3e1) feed more NO into VOC-limited regions (Fig. 2d) so that these regions tend to change slightly toward the unfavorable condition for O_3 formation. Spatially, a negative correlation ($r = -0.4$) between the δBT (Fig. 3b1) and δHB (Fig. 3e1) patterns was found across the VOC-limited regions (Fig. 2d). From the first-order MR equation for KORPFT, we can assume that unit area (here, 1 km^2) increases in BT, NT, and SB in KORPFT will lead to increases of 0.016, 0.002, and 0.001 ppb in O_3 concentration, respectively, whether the increase is from, 1 to 2 km^2 or from 10 to 11 km^2 . However, every additional increase in HB area is assumed to produce a 0.001 ppb decrease in O_3 concentration (statistically significant and the most efficient model: $P < 0.0001$, F value = 783, adjusted $R^2 = 0.51$, and significant parameters).

The MR for MODIS indicates positive contributions from gaining BT, SB, NT, and HB areas to O_3 increase in the domain. For example, the respective area gains for BT, SB, NT, and HB (Fig. 3b3, d3, c3, and e3) can add more isoprene, terpene, and NO into regions with the O_3 -favorable condition or regions with the NO_x -limited condition (Fig. 2d), so these regions tend to become more favorable for O_3 formation. Spatially, a good negative correlation ($r = -0.53$) between the δBT (Fig. 3b3) and δHB (Fig. 3e3) patterns is found across the O_3 -favored and NO_x -limited regions (Fig. 2d). From the first-order MR equation for MODIS, we can assume that a 1 km^2 increase in BT, NT, SB, and HB will lead to 0.021, 0.002, 0.006, and 0.002 ppb increases in O_3 concentration, respectively (statistically significant and the second most efficient model: $P < 0.0001$, F value = 407, adjusted $R^2 = 0.35$, and significant parameters).

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The MR for CDP suggests that gaining areas of BT and HB, respectively, contributes to increase O_3 , whereas gaining NT and SB areas contributes to decrease O_3 across the domain. For instance, respective gains of BT and HB (Fig. 3b2 and e2) can inject more isoprene and NO into regions with the O_3 -favorable condition (Fig. 2d), so these regions tend toward a more favorable condition for O_3 formation. However, respective gains in NT and SB can feed more terpene and isoprene into NO_x -limited regions (Fig. 2d), so these regions tend toward a more unfavorable condition for O_3 formation. No spatial correlations were found between the δPFT patterns (Fig. 3b2, c2, d2, and e2) across the O_3 -favored and NO_x -limited regions. From the first-order MR equation for CDP, we can assume that a 1 km^2 increase in BT and HB will lead to 0.007 and 0.0003 ppb increases in O_3 concentration, respectively, but every additional increase in NT and SB areas is assumed to produce a 0.002 and 0.001 ppb decrease in O_3 concentration, respectively (statistically significant but inefficient model: $P < 0.0001$, F value = 57, adjusted $R^2 = 0.07$, and partly significant parameters).

The MR analysis results quantitatively suggest that the CMAQ with KORPFT scenario can derive more accountable O_3 predictions in terms of the impacts of PFT distribution changes on surface-level O_3 changes (Adjusted R^2 : KORPFT > MODIS \gg CDP).

3.4 Impact of PFT distribution differences on model performance

The CMAQ-simulated O_3 , NO_x , and isoprene concentrations were compared with the observed concentrations at 148 monitoring sites in the domain. Figure 6 shows a comparison between the observed and modeled O_3 , NO_x , and isoprene concentrations for the period of 1 May–30 June 2008. The CMAQ predictions follow the observations reasonably well with a tendency for under-prediction for O_3 and isoprene and a tendency for over-prediction for NO_x . It should be noted that we displayed the averaged value of the CMAQ simulations with the different PFT scenarios in Fig. 6 because the time variations of the individual concentrations were not substantially separated in the graph.

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In general, the under-predictions in O_3 concentration could primarily be caused by the combined effect of multiple sources of uncertainty, such as in O_3 precursor (e.g., NO_x and VOC) emissions, meteorological fields, and so forth. For example, an overestimation of NO_x emissions and an underestimation of VOC emissions may have contributed to the overall under-prediction of O_3 concentration under a VOC-limited condition. The over-prediction of surface wind speeds and under-prediction of ambient temperature for the simulation period may also have contributed to the O_3 under-prediction. The over-prediction of NO_x concentrations is primarily due to the overestimation of anthropogenic NO_x emissions, and the under-prediction of isoprene concentrations is due to the combined effects of the overestimations in NO_x and underestimations VOC and ambient temperature (i.e., under-predictions).

Table 4 shows a summary of the statistical measures indicating the CMAQ performance for O_3 , NO_x , and isoprene for each PFT scenario at 148 monitoring sites in the domain. While the impacts of the different PFT distributions on CMAQ O_3 and NO_x performance were not readily recognized, those on CMAQ isoprene performance were clearly recognized.

For O_3 , the overall evaluation statistics fall within the US EPA performance standards (i.e., ± 5 to ± 15 % for NMB and ± 30 to ± 35 % for NME), although CMAQ under-predicts against the hourly O_3 observations. Because urban sites account for about 82 % of the total datasets (121 urban sites in 148 sites) in our comparison, the under-predictions at the urban sites contribute significantly to the overall CMAQ performance, resulting in under-predictions for the 1-h average O_3 concentrations. CMAQ shows the best performance at suburban sites, followed by background, urban, and roadside. For example, the respective values of MB, NMB, and NME for 1 h average O_3 are about -0.86 ppb, -2.14 %, and 21.64 at the suburban sites, about -2.76 ppb, -5.48 %, and 22.86 % at the background sites, about -8.10 ppb, -23.49 %, and 34.60 % at the urban sites, and about -5.37 ppb, -23.17 %, and 41.02 % at the roadside sites.

Comparing the CMAQ O_3 for the three different PFT scenarios (i.e., KORPFT, CDP, and MODIS), the MODIS case provides slightly better agreement against the observa-

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respective values of MB, NMB, and NME for 1 h average NO_x are about 14.47 ppb, 40.55 %, and 71.39 % for all sites, about 19.68 ppb, 66.22 %, and 85.34 % at the urban sites, about -8.20 ppb, -9.78 %, and 59.01 % at the roadside sites, about -4.16 ppb, -31.43 %, and 63.23 % at the suburban sites, and about -12.85 ppb, -75.16 %, and 85.12 % at the background sites.

In contrast, for isoprene, another important O_3 precursor, CMAQ under-predicts against the average value of 1 h observations at PAMS distributed over urban (4 sites), suburban (3 sites), and background (1 site) areas in the domain. The respective values of MB, NMB, and NME for 1 h average isoprene are about 0.05 ppb, -21.07 %, and 63.15 % throughout all the sites. Among the three CMAQ isoprene results, the CMAQ provided values closer to the observations with MODIS (MB = -0.02 ppb and NMB = -7.78 %) than with the others (MB = -0.05 and NMB = -22.62 % with KORPFT; MB = -0.08 and NMB = -32.82 % with CDP). However, the CMAQ shows noticeably better performance for isoprene time variation with KORPFT ($r = 0.622$) than with the others ($r = 0.598$ with MODIS and $r = 0.591$ with CDP) (Fig. 7).

Meanwhile, we consider that the KORPFT is the representative sources of PFT data (region-specific PFT distribution dataset) in the current study domain. Why then does the CMAQ simulation with the KORPFT scenario not provide isoprene predictions that are closer to observations than those for other scenarios? We discovered a critical clue to this question from the missed PFT areas, which were briefly described in Sect. 3.1 (see Fig. 4). Table 5 shows the areas originally proposed by each PFT distribution dataset before the BVOC modeling process and the missed area (%) for each PFT distribution dataset during the BVOC emission modeling process. It is worthwhile to note that the loss of PFT areas occurs during the LAI_v derivation process due to the geo-location mismatch between the PFT and the LAI distributions. The current MEGAN modeling system is designed to adopt only an external source of LAI distribution data, and no LAI distribution data source cannot beat MODIS LAI data in terms of data accessibility and user friendliness. Although PFT area loss might be inevitable at this point in time, it must be resolved in the near future to obtain more accurate biogenic emis-

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more dynamically by the meteorological factors (e.g. wind direction, temperature, light intensity, etc.) and the locations and magnitudes of source emissions in this region. This discussion points out that developing region-specific reactivity scale for BVOC can be an important tool to better characterize the impact of ozone precursor emissions on regional ozone formation mechanisms and support the O₃ air quality management strategies in this region. In this sense, accurate BVOC inventory based on the representative PFT information would be an essential prerequisite to yield appropriate MIR-OFP information in this region.

In addition, the resultant high inter-differences in the CMAQ 1 h O₃ predictions with the different PFT scenarios could have important implications for air quality decisions and human health studies. For example, the Korea O₃ alert system provides a warning at 120 ppb and an alarm at 300 ppb for 1 h O₃, and the Korea NAAQS (national ambient air quality standard) values for 1 h O₃ and 8 h O₃ are 100 ppb and 60 ppb, respectively. In the short term, the highly biased forecasting (e.g., bias up to 10 ppb) of high O₃ episodes may result in the incorrect issuance of O₃ alerts. Moreover, such inaccurate mean O₃ forecasting may result in the suggestion of incorrect regulatory design values to O₃ air-quality decision supporting authorities. Ji et al. (2011) reported that emergency hospitalizations for total respiratory disease increased by about 3% per 10 ppb 24 h O₃ among the elderly. This result suggests a critical point at which chemistry transport modeling with highly biased PFT distribution scenarios would predict highly biased O₃ concentrations and subsequently provide misleading information for studying the relationship between O₃ air quality and human health outcomes.

Another point of concern is the impact from uncertain meteorological variables, especially temperature. Figure 8 shows the deviation tendencies of the simulated BVOC emissions and O₃ concentrations as a function of temperature for the three different PFT scenarios. KORPFT shows a comparatively gentle declining tendency for both δ BVOC and δ O₃ whereas the other two PFT scenarios show steeper inclining (MODIS) and declining (CDP) tendencies for both δ BVOC and δ O₃ as temperature increases.

chemistry transport model O₃ simulations at this point in time and must be resolved in the near future.

The temporally and spatially averaged effects of the different PFT distributions on CMAQ O₃ simulation results can be regarded as marginal because the usual inter-difference of CMAQ O₃ simulations with different PFT scenarios is less than 0.4 ppb. However, the hourly and local impacts of these are quite noticeable, showing occasional inter-differences of O₃ of up to 10 ppb.

Exponentially diverging hourly BVOC emissions and O₃ concentrations were found as a function of temperature change in our modeling domain. Thus, we conclude that the PFT distributions could play the role of a large uncertainty source in hourly O₃ air quality modeling (or forecasting) in support of air quality decision-making and human health studies. The higher the ambient temperature applied to air quality simulation, the larger the bias likely bias related to PFT distributions.

Based on the findings and conclusions presented here, we suggest that the use of representative PFT distribution data can provide less biased results in regional or local biogenic emission and photochemical O₃ predictions and that other sources of PFT distribution data (e.g., MODIS) can serve as an alternative.

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Table 1. List of model simulation scenarios and the PFT datasets used for biogenic emissions modeling.

Simulation name	D1 (27 km)	D2 (9 km)	D3 (3 km)
KORPFT	MODIS	KORPFT	KORPFT
CDP	MODIS	CDP	CDP
MODIS	MODIS	MODIS	MODIS

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Table 2. Anthropogenic and biogenic NMVOC and NO_x emissions and deviations between different PFT-input cases (Unit: Gg period⁻¹).

	Anthropogenic emissions	Biogenic emissions						
		Mean	KORPFT	CDP	MODIS	δKORPFT	δCDP	δMODIS
NMVOC	37.24	29.83	29.98	27.68	31.83	0.15	-2.15	2.00
NO _x	43.37	0.18	0.17	0.19	0.18	-0.01	0.01	0.00

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Table 4. Performance statistics for CMAQ O₃ with the three different BVOC emission scenarios against the measured O₃ concentrations.

	Mean (ppb)			MB (ppb)			NMB (%)			NME (%)			Correlation coeff.			
	Obs.	KORPFT	CDP	MODIS	KORPFT	CDP	MODIS	KORPFT	CDP	MODIS	KORPFT	CDP	MODIS	KORPFT	CDP	MODIS
O ₃ (Overall 148 sites, Urban 121 sites, Roadside 18 sites, Suburban 6 sites, Background 3 sites)																
Overall	30.16	25.69	25.66	25.77	-4.47	-4.50	-4.39	-14.82	-14.92	-14.56	29.54	29.54	29.53	0.740	0.740	0.739
Urban	34.49	26.37	26.32	26.47	-8.12	-8.17	-8.02	-23.54	-23.68	-23.25	34.61	34.58	34.62	0.671	0.672	0.670
Roadside	24.75	19.00	18.97	19.07	-5.75	-5.77	-5.68	-23.23	-23.33	-22.96	41.00	40.99	41.07	0.658	0.659	0.657
Suburban	40.24	39.35	39.31	39.46	-0.88	-0.92	-0.78	-2.19	-2.29	-1.94	21.63	21.67	21.63	0.790	0.789	0.788
Background	50.43	47.67	47.59	47.73	-2.76	-2.83	-2.69	-5.47	-5.62	-5.34	22.86	22.84	22.87	0.494	0.495	0.493
NO _x (Overall 148 sites, Urban 121 sites, Roadside 18 sites, Suburban 6 sites, Background 3 sites)																
Overall	35.69	50.15	50.16	50.15	14.47	14.48	14.46	40.54	40.57	40.53	71.38	71.39	71.38	0.539	0.539	0.539
Urban	29.71	49.39	49.40	49.38	19.67	19.68	19.67	66.21	66.25	66.20	85.33	85.34	85.33	0.567	0.567	0.567
Roadside	83.82	75.62	75.63	75.61	-8.20	-8.19	-8.21	-9.79	-9.77	-9.79	59.01	59.01	59.01	0.264	0.264	0.264
Suburban	13.25	9.08	9.10	9.08	-4.17	-4.15	-4.17	-31.46	-31.35	-31.49	63.26	63.20	63.23	0.320	0.320	0.320
Background	17.10	4.25	4.25	4.25	-12.85	-12.86	-12.85	-75.15	-75.17	-75.17	85.10	85.14	85.11	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
Isoprene (PAMS 8 sites)																
PAMS	0.23	0.18	0.15	0.21	-0.05	-0.08	-0.02	-22.62	-32.82	-7.78	60.98	63.69	64.78	0.622	0.591	0.598

N.C.: not correlated.

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Table 5. Proposed vegetation areas by PFT dataset and area loss due to the geo-location disagreement between PFT and LAI data at each grid cell.

	PFT area proposed (km ²)			PFT area loss (%)		
	KORPFT	CDP	MODIS	KORPFT	CDP	MODIS
Overall (148 sites)						
BT	114.92	29.98	89.44	65.33	20.41	23.48
NT	127.81	127.44	37.05	32.00	51.28	30.89
SB	37.41	325.71	47.26	32.70	64.75	36.13
HB	188.31	555.35	216.30	25.34	57.25	18.87
Total	468.44	1038.48	390.04	37.56	57.81	23.16
Urban (121 sites)						
BT	94.75	21.47	56.39	69.95	27.15	35.42
NT	92.62	100.39	24.31	37.71	56.95	32.30
SB	28.58	272.33	42.54	36.22	64.73	34.64
HB	154.60	468.10	185.69	26.36	56.77	19.98
Total	370.55	862.29	308.93	41.10	58.57	25.79
Roadside (18 sites)						
BT	9.69	2.94	8.10	81.79	9.86	12.69
NT	7.90	10.86	1.70	52.42	75.32	95.76
SB	2.92	40.29	1.18	43.96	85.98	79.80
HB	10.19	64.84	11.64	30.02	80.46	31.95
Total	30.70	118.93	22.62	53.46	80.11	32.34
Suburban (6 sites)						
BT	8.82	5.57	21.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
NT	15.82	11.57	5.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
SB	5.20	11.14	1.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
HB	14.47	21.13	15.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	44.32	49.41	43.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
Background (3 sites)						
BT	1.65	0.00	3.62	52.70	0.00	0.00
NT	11.47	4.62	5.66	16.02	0.00	34.69
SB	0.70	1.95	2.19	84.59	0.00	64.03
HB	9.05	1.29	3.30	43.22	0.00	0.00
Total	22.87	7.86	14.76	31.53	0.00	22.78
PAMS (8 sites)						
BT	10.08	3.24	12.15	46.92	8.04	12.24
NT	11.19	12.52	7.56	33.88	27.39	35.07
SB	3.61	16.11	2.91	34.71	46.92	70.70
HB	14.59	22.89	9.11	48.53	49.84	21.42
Total	39.47	54.76	31.72	42.70	41.38	25.67

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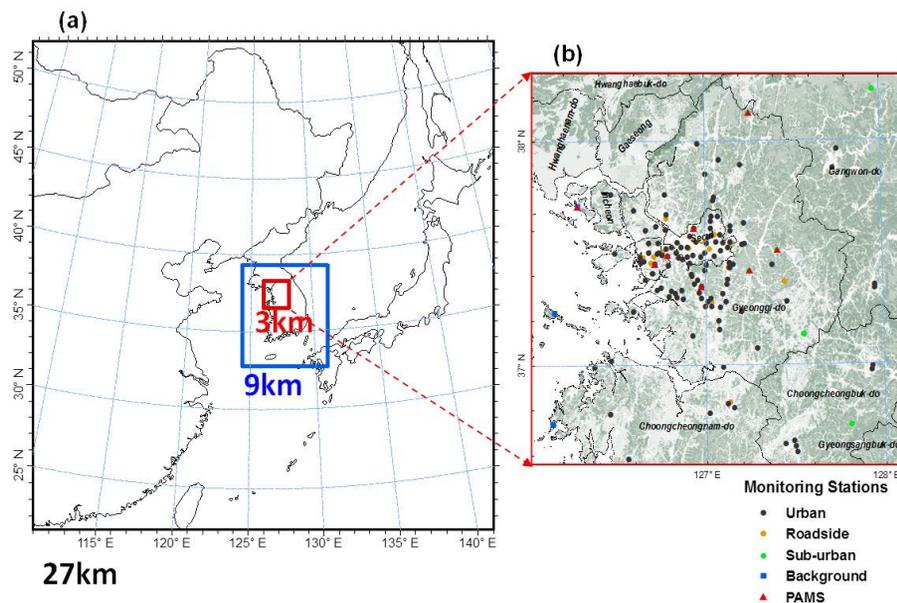
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Fig. 1. The modeling domain. The target domain is a $3 \times 3 \text{ km}^2$ grid system domain covering the Seoul, Kyunggi, and Incheon Metropolitan Areas.

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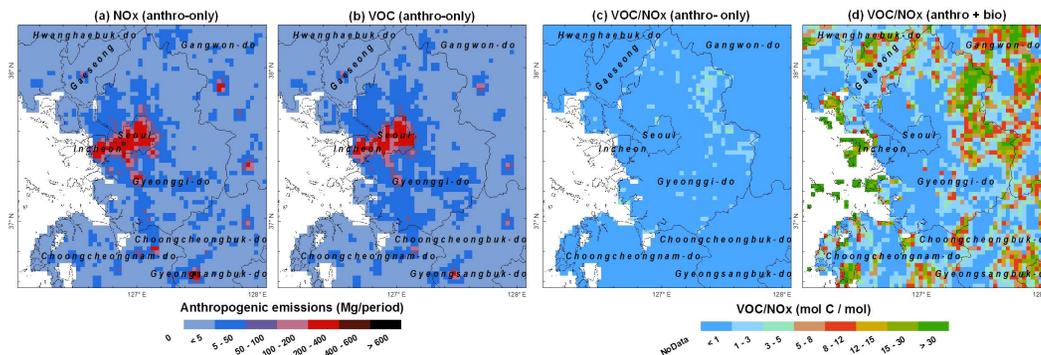


Fig. 2. Geospatial distributions of estimated anthropogenic emissions for NO_x and VOCs and their ratios for the study period (May–June 2008). The VOC/NO_x ratio for the “anthro-only” case includes only the anthropogenic VOCs and NO_x emissions; the “anthro + bio” case includes both the anthropogenic and biogenic VOCs and NO_x emissions.

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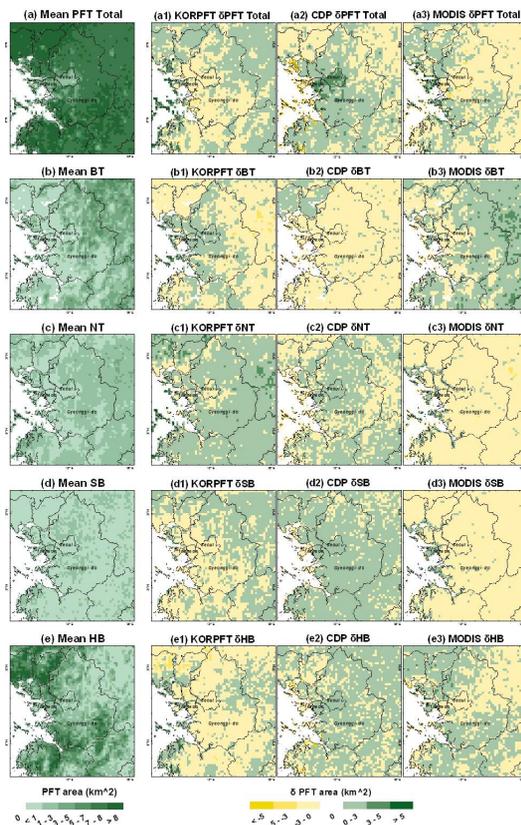


Fig. 3. Spatial distribution of the PFT area deviations for each PFT scenario. The mean spatial distributions for PFT total and the PFT classes (BT, NT, SB and HB) were derived by averaging the three different distribution data sources.

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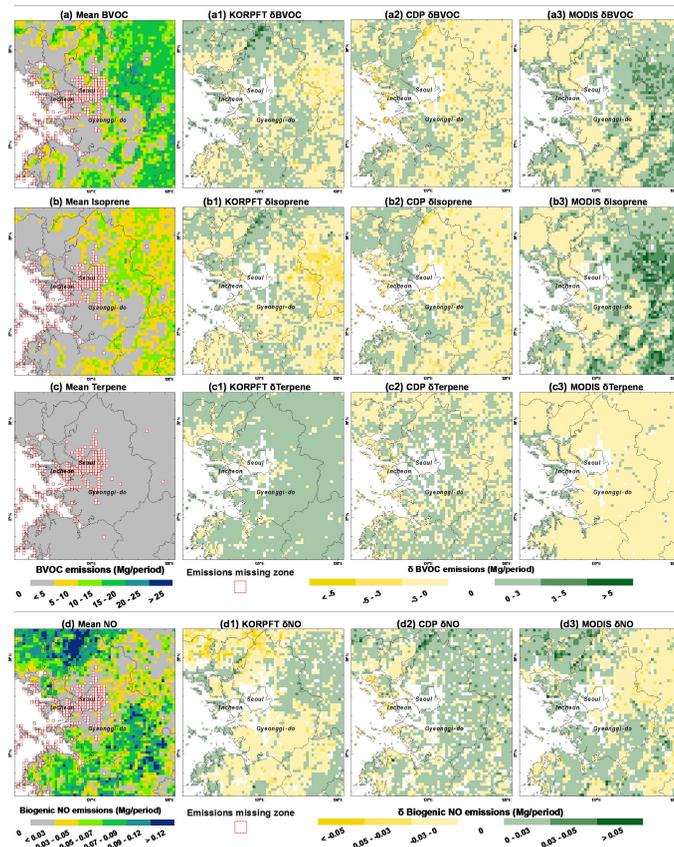


Fig. 4. Spatial distribution of biogenic emission deviations for each PFT scenario. The red-dotted squares denote the zones missing biogenic emissions during the MEGAN emission modeling.

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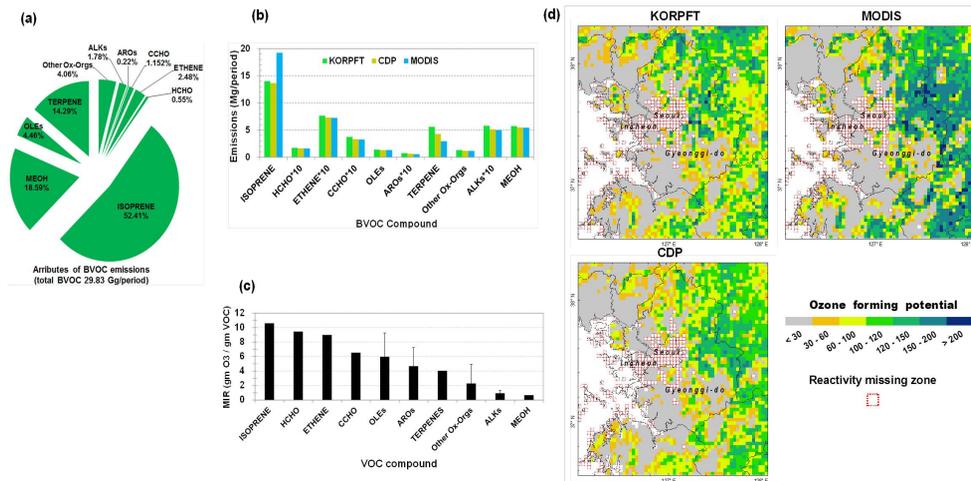


Fig. 5. Composition and distribution of the estimated BVOC emissions, along with spatial distribution of the estimated net ozone forming potentials of biogenic VOC emissions. The total BVOC in (a) was derived by averaging the total BVOC emissions of the three sources of data. The 10 BVOC compound groups in (b) are arranged in descending order following their O₃ reactivity, i.e., MIR shown in (c). The distributed net ozone forming potentials in (d) were calculated by aggregating the O₃-forming potentials (OFPs) for 10 BVOC compound groups calculated by multiplying the emissions by their corresponding MIR values at each grid cells. The red-dotted squares denote the zones missing BVOC reactivity due to the missing biogenic emissions during the OFP calculations.

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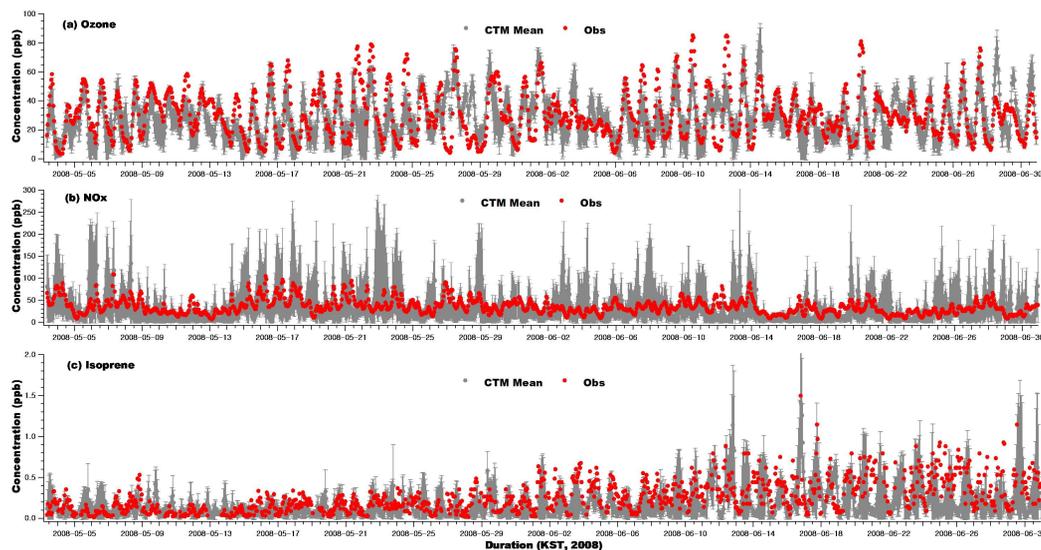


Fig. 6. Evaluation of CMAQ results for hourly O_3 concentrations. Note that “CTM Mean” represents the average of the CMAQ predicted O_3 concentrations from the three different BVOC scenarios, and “Obs” represents the average of measured O_3 concentrations at monitoring stations across the domain.

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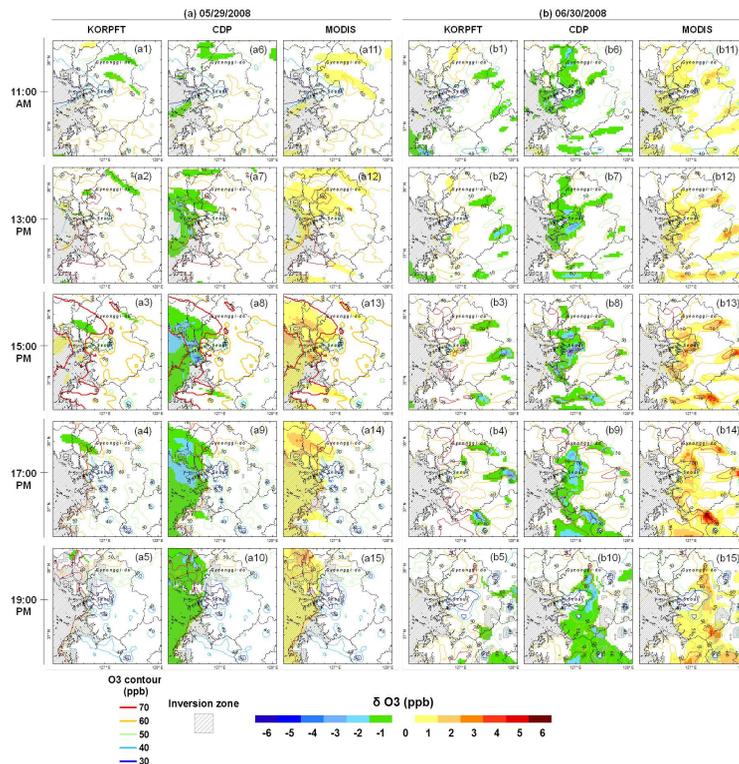


Fig. 8. Spatial distributions of CMAQ O₃ hourly deviations for each BVOC emission scenario and CMAQ mean O₃ hourly concentrations. The CMAQ mean O₃ hourly concentrations are the averaged values of CMAQ O₃ concentrations for the three PFT scenarios. These CMAQ O₃ concentrations were illustrated by the contour. The grey-hatched lines represent the temperature inversion zone.

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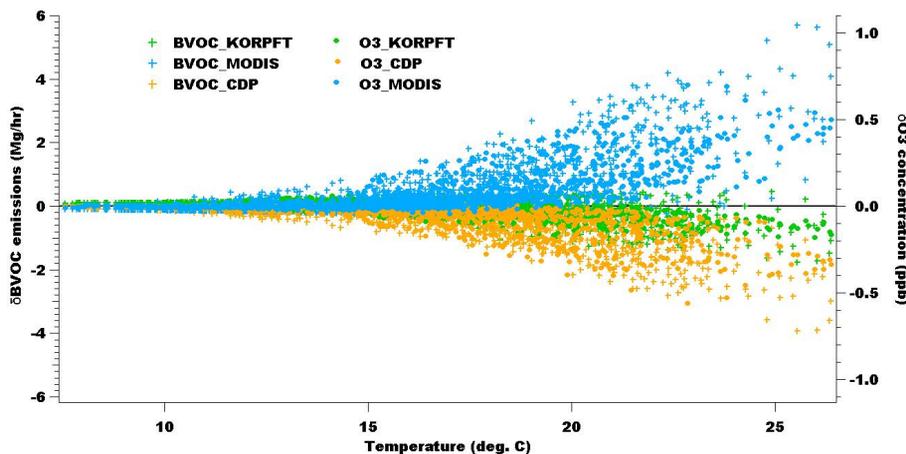


Fig. 9. Divergence of the predicted hourly BVOC emissions and O_3 concentrations with temperature change in the modeling domain. Every displayed value for $\delta BVOC$ and δO_3 in this figure was derived from the hourly domain averaged values of the MEGAN BVOC emissions and CMAQ O_3 concentrations for the three PFT scenarios (e.g., KORPFT, CDP, and MODIS). The temperature on the horizontal axis in this figure represents averaged values of MM5-predicted ambient temperature.

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