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Validation of emission inventories by measurements of ambient volatile organic compounds in Beijing, China

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Abstract

Understanding the sources of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is essential for ground-level ozone and secondary organic aerosols (SOA) abatement measures. We made measurements at 28 sites and online observations at an urban site in Beijing from July 2009 to January 2012. From these we determined the spatial and temporal distributions of VOCs, estimated their annual emission strengths based on their emission ratios relative to CO, and quantified the relative contributions of various sources using the chemical mass balance (CMB) model. The results from ambient measurements were compared with existing emission inventories to evaluate the spatial distribution, species-specific emissions, and source structure of VOCs. The measured VOC distributions revealed a hotspot in the southern suburban area of Beijing, whereas current emission inventories suggested that VOC emissions were concentrated in downtown areas. Compared with results derived from ambient measurements, the annual inventoried emissions of oxygenated VOC (OVOC) species and C₂–C₄ alkanes might be underestimated, while the emissions of styrene and 1,3-butadiene might be overestimated by current inventories. Source apportionment using the CMB model identified vehicular exhaust as the most important VOC source, contributing 46%, in good agreement with the 40–51% assumed by emission inventories. However, the relative contribution of solvent and paint usage obtained from the CMB model was only 5%, significantly lower than the values reported by emission inventories (14–32%). Meanwhile, the relative contribution of industrial processes calculated using the CMB model was 17%, slightly higher than that in emission inventories. These results suggested that VOCs emission strengths in southern suburban area of Beijing, annual emissions of alkenes and OVOCs, and the contributions of solvent and paint usage and industrial processes in current inventories, all require significant revision.

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1 Introduction

5 Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) play important roles in atmospheric chemistry because they can be photochemically oxidized to form ground-level ozone (O_3) and secondary organic aerosols (SOA) (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). In Beijing and its surrounding areas, air pollution complex characterized by concurrent high ground-level O_3 and fine particle ($PM_{2.5}$) concentrations has become a severe problem (Shao et al., 2009). Obtaining accurate knowledge on VOC emissions and sources is essential to understanding their roles in ozone and SOA formation, and in establishing effective control measures to reduce the ambient concentrations of these secondary pollutants (Liu et al., 2013).

10 VOCs can be directly emitted to the atmosphere from both natural and anthropogenic processes, and they may also be formed as products of the photochemical oxidation of other VOC species. On a global scale, natural emissions are the most important VOCs sources, whereas anthropogenic emissions are dominant in most urban areas (Atkinson and Arey, 2003). Emission inventories can provide information on emission magnitudes, the spatial and temporal distribution of emissions, and the source characteristics of individual VOC species. The construction of emissions datasets is achieved using a “bottom-up” approach, summing the products of activity data and emission factors for known individual sources. However, the establishment of emission inventories for non-methane VOCs (NMVOCs) is not only time- and resource-consuming, but also plagued by large and inherent uncertainties due to the inaccurate and incomplete local knowledge of NMVOCs emissions (e.g., source profiles, emission factors, and source activities). Several studies have built emission inventories for anthropogenic VOCs in Beijing (Klimont et al., 2002; Streets et al., 2003; Ohara et al., 2007; Bo et al., 2008; Wei et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2009; Su et al., 2011; Zhao et al., 2012); however, their results have been inconsistent with each another (Fig. S1). Zhang et al. (2009) reported that the annual emission of anthropogenic NMVOCs from Beijing in 2006 was 496 Gg, higher than the year 2005 emissions of 333 Gg reported by Wei et al. (2008) and 301 Gg

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15 reported by Bo et al. (2008). In addition, the spatial distribution of NMVOC emission strengths in Beijing reported by Zhang et al. (2009) illustrated that the largest emission sources were in southern areas, whereas Zhao et al. (2012) reported NMVOC emission sources were mainly concentrated in the downtown area. Although each of these inventories indicates that vehicular emission is the most important NMVOC source in Beijing, the contributions from industrial processes and solvent and paint utilization showed significant disagreements (see Table 1). Zhang et al. (2009) reported that industrial processes contributed 41 % of NMVOCs emissions in Beijing, whereas Zhao et al. (2012) estimated that industrial processes contributed only 3 %. The contribution of solvent and paint utilization estimated by Wei et al. (2008) was 32 %, significantly higher than the value of 14 % reported by Bo et al. (2008). Comparisons among different emission inventories reveal uncertainty regarding NMVOCs sources in terms of annual emissions, spatial distribution, and source structure. However, this comparison could not quantify the uncertainty, nor could it evaluate the accuracy of NMVOC emission inventories. An alternative method of proceeding is to use measurement data to evaluate and improve the degree of consistency between measurements and emission inventories, a technique that is often termed a “receptor-oriented” or “top-down” method. Since the measured concentration of NMVOCs is actually the result of emissions after physical (transport/mixing/deposition) and chemical transformations, various approaches need to be employed to build relationships between measurements and emission data.

20 Previous studies applied tracer ratio methods to estimate the anthropogenic emissions of individual NMVOC species (Hsu et al., 2010; Shao et al., 2011; Yao et al., 2012). In this method, carbon monoxide (CO) is usually chosen as the reference tracer because the measured mixing ratios of CO showed significant correlations with the measured levels of most anthropogenic VOCs (Baker et al., 2008; von Schneidmesser et al., 2010). Another reason for using CO as a reference tracer is that CO emissions inventories in China have recently been validated using measured atmospheric data (Tang et al., 2013; Heald et al., 2003) and that CO emissions are relatively well un-

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derstood. However, the measured ratios of VOCs levels relative to CO (VOC/CO) will change with photochemical processing because CO is less photochemically reactive than most VOC species and further some carbonyl compounds may be photochemically produced. De Gouw et al. (2005) and Warneke et al. (2007) examined the oxidation of VOC species by OH radicals and developed parameterization equations to describe the photochemical evolution of VOC/CO ratios and to calculate the emission ratios of anthropogenic VOCs relative to CO. The anthropogenic emissions of VOC species were then calculated based on the derived VOC emission ratios and the known emission rate of a reference compound.

Three-dimensional air quality models are increasingly being used to evaluate and validate VOC emission inventories through comparing simulated and observed concentrations. Coll et al. (2010) and Chen et al. (2010) compared VOC surface observations in Marseille (France) and Taiwan with regional-scale model simulations and found large differences between measurements and emission model outputs, indicating that many VOC emissions from inventories require correction. Fu et al. (2007) and Liu et al. (2012a) applied inverse modeling techniques based on chemical transport models to constrain formaldehyde (HCHO) and glyoxal (CHOCHO) precursor emissions in China based on satellite observations, respectively. In the study by Fu et al. (2007), the total emissions of HCHO precursors constrained by HCHO columns were higher than the total emissions from bottom-up inventories. In addition, Liu et al. (2012a) found that the discrepancy between modeled CHOCHO and observed CHOCHO columns was likely caused by the underestimation of aromatic emissions in current inventories.

Receptor models based on ambient and source measurements can be used to evaluate the accuracy of different source contributions to VOCs in inventories (Fujita et al., 1995; Niedojadlo et al., 2007). Recently, VOC source apportionment has been intensively studied in Beijing using receptor models (Wang et al., 2010; Song et al., 2007). These studies showed motor vehicles (in particular gasoline-powered vehicles) to be the main source of ambient non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs), with relative contributions of 52–69%. However, the vehicular contribution to NMVOCs in the most recent

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emission inventory was only 41%, compared with a solvent utilization estimate of more than 30% (Su et al., 2011). Besides the inherent uncertainties in both VOC emission inventories and receptor model results, another possible reason for this discrepancy is that the previous receptor models were based on ambient data from limited sites over short time periods, whereas emission inventories have generally been established on an annual basis for an entire city. Therefore, in order to compare VOC source structures between these two methods, more ambient city-scale measurements, over annual intervals, are required.

In this study, we first present the temporal and spatial distributions of VOCs in Beijing based on a VOCs grid study and other online measurements conducted in Beijing from July 2009 to January 2012. Then, the emission ratios of individual VOC species to CO are determined in order to calculate the annual emissions of individual VOC species. Finally, the relative contributions of different sources to NMHCs are quantified using the chemical mass balance (CMB) receptor model. These results from ambient measurements are compared with existing emission inventories to evaluate the accuracy of those inventories from the perspectives of spatial distribution, emissions of individual VOC species, and the relative contributions from different sources.

2 Methods

2.1 VOC sampling and analysis

2.1.1 Online measurements of VOCs

Online measurements of VOCs were conducted during summer (30 July to 20 September 2011) and winter (29 December 2011 to 18 January 2012) from the top of a six-story building on the Peking University campus in Beijing (the PKU site, 40.00° N, 116.31° E). This site, which is located 10 km northwest of Beijing city center and about

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200 m north of the fourth ring road, represents a typical urban environment in Beijing (Liu et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2010).

Ambient C₂–C₁₂ non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs), C₃–C₆ carbonyl compounds, C₁–C₂ halocarbons, and C₁–C₄ alkyl nitrates were measured using an on-line automated gas chromatography (GC) system, coupled with a low-temperature, cryogen-free pre-concentration device. Detailed analytical methods, quality control, and quality assurance (QA/QC) procedures for this system have been described elsewhere (Wang et al., 2013; Yuan et al., 2012). Formaldehyde and acetaldehyde were measured using a commercial high-sensitivity (HS) proton transfer reaction mass spectrometer (PTR-MS) (Ionicon Analytik, Innsbruck, Austria). The PTR-MS set-up and QC/QA details have been reported by Yuan et al. (2012).

Ambient levels of CO, O₃ and NO_x were measured using a commercial infrared filter correlation analyzer (Model 48i, TEI, USA), a UV photometric analyzer (Model 49i, TEI) and a chemiluminescence trace-level analyzer (Model 42i-TL, TEI), respectively.

2.1.2 Offline VOC measurements at 27 sites in Beijing

Whole air samples were collected at 27 sites in Beijing from July 2009 to January 2011 (see the blue triangles in Fig. 1). These sites were grouped into five categories based on their geographic locations, prevailing monsoon wind directions, and proximity to major roadways (Table S1). *Urban*, *Suburban_South*, *Suburban_North*, and *Rural* categories included sites located in the central downtown, southern suburb, northern suburb, and western rural areas of Beijing, respectively. Most sites were placed ~ 3–20 m a.g.l. in well-ventilated areas, such as parks and schools, to avoid the potential influences of local sources. The *Roadside* sites were near roadways to investigate the influences of traffic-related sources. The sites, along with environmental automatic air quality monitoring stations, were given priority.

Ambient air was instantaneously sampled using 3.2 L fused silica stainless steel canisters (Entech Instruments, Simi Valley, CA, USA) that had been pre-cleaned with high-purity nitrogen and evacuated with an Entech 3100 automated canister cleaner (Entech

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Instruments, USA). Most sampling campaigns were conducted on days characterized by low wind speed, high relative humidity, and poor visibility. After sampling, these canisters were returned to the laboratory in Peking University within one week to analyze the target compounds using a three-stage cryofocusing pre-concentration system (Entech 7100, Entech Instruments) and analyzed with a GC (HP-7890A, Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The analytical methods and QC/QA procedures for this system have been described in detail by Liu et al. (2008b) and Wang et al. (2010). The 55-NMHCs standard gas (Spectra Gases, Inc.) was used to calibrate the C₂–C₁₂ NMHCs. The MDLs of C₂–C₁₂ NMHCs were in the ranges of 0.003–0.012 ppbv.

Carbonyl compounds were measured at 27 sites in Beijing by in situ derivatization sampling using dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH)-coated C18 cartridges (Waters and Associates, Milford, MA, USA) during July–September 2010 and January 2011. Ambient air was collected at a flow rate of 100 L min⁻¹ through a KI ozone scrubber over two 3 h sampling periods on each sampling day (i.e., 09:00–12:00 LT and 13:00–16:00 LT). The cartridges were then eluted with 5 mL acetonitrile in the laboratory and analyzed using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), following the TO-11A procedure recommended by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, Washington, DC, USA).

The CO levels in ambient air were quantified using an improved GC-FID system with a home-built low-pressure injector. The air in the canisters was first compressed to 1 atm and then each 10 mL aliquot was injected into the gas chromatograph system (HP-6890A, Hewlett Packard, USA) using two molecular-sieve-packed columns in series to separate the CO and methane. The first column was filled with 5 Å particles and was 1.8 m long, while the second was packed with TDX01 and was 2 m long. During this analysis, the GC was operated isothermally at a column temperature of 105 °C. Column elutes were allowed to pass through the methane reformer using nickel as a catalyst, operated at 400 °C, to convert CO into methane, which was subsequently detected by the FID. Details of this system are provided in Wu et al. (2010).

Ambient O₃, NO, and NO₂ data were obtained from automatic air monitoring stations operated by the Beijing Municipal Environment Monitoring Center.

2.2 Receptor model

The chemical mass balance model (CMB version 8.2), which was developed by the US EPA, was used to conduct VOC source apportionment (Wang et al., 2010). The contribution from each source was estimated based on the source profiles and chemical speciation of ambient samples using the following mass balance equation:

$$c_i = \sum_{j=1}^J \alpha_{ij} S_j \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, I) \quad (1)$$

where c_i is the ambient mass concentration of compound i measured at receptor sites, α_{ij} is the percentage of compound i in an emission source j , S_j is the contribution of source j to the ambient sample, and I and J are the number of compounds and sources, respectively. Therefore, ambient VOC concentrations and source profiles are the two CMB model inputs. The source profiles used in this work were measured in China (Liu et al., 2008a).

The “fitting” species were selected based on the following criteria: (1) they are major constituents of ambient samples and source emissions, and (2) their atmospheric lifetime is longer than that of toluene (i.e., more reactive VOC species such as alkenes and C8–C9 aromatics were not included). Consequently, 25 VOC species were selected as fitting species, including C2–C9 alkanes, acetylene, benzene, toluene, and isoprene. It should be noted that isoprene was included as a fitting species even though it is more reactive than toluene, because it is the only compound that was present in the biogenic source profile.

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3 Results and discussion

3.1 Spatial distribution of VOC mixing ratios

The gridded measurements in Beijing were conducted during periods with wind speeds $< 1.5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$, and therefore the spatial distribution of measured VOC mixing ratios could to some extent reflect the spatial patterns of VOC emission strengths. Based on the annual average mixing ratios of trace gases at each site, the universal Kriging method was applied to predict contour plots of NMHCs (i.e., the summed mixing ratios of measured NMHC species), carbonyls (i.e., the summed mixing ratios of measured carbonyl compounds), CO, and NO_x in Beijing (Fig. 1a–d).

The measured NMHCs, carbonyls, CO, and NO_x levels displayed similar spatial patterns, with the highest concentrations in central (urban) and southern areas of Beijing. However, the emission inventories reported by Tang et al. (2010) and Wang et al. (2009) suggested that VOC and NO_x emissions in Beijing were concentrated in downtown areas, with emission strengths that exceeded those in suburban areas by factors of ~ 5 –20. It should be noted that the NMVOC emission inventories reported by Wang et al. (2009) and Tang et al. (2010) were established based on activity data collected in 2000 and 2006, respectively, whereas our measurements were conducted from 2009 to 2012. During the last two decades, the spatial distribution of industry in Beijing has been evolving. High pollution industries have gradually moved out of the urban center of Beijing; and meanwhile, industrial clusters have been developed in suburban areas (Beijing Municipal Commission of Economy and Information Technology, <http://www.bjeit.gov.cn/>). The Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area (BDA) – located in the southern area of Beijing (see BOS1 in Fig. 1), one of the fast-growing industrial zones contributed 16.3% of Beijing’s total industrial production in 2010 (Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics, <http://www.bjstats.gov.cn/>). In parallel with rapid economic development, southern suburban areas of Beijing have become more urbanized during recent years. As a result of these spatial changes, hotspots of anthropogenic pollutant emissions have potentially extended into southern suburban areas

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of Beijing. The differences between measurements and emission inventory records of VOC spatial distribution indicated that current emission inventories might not accurately reflect the spatial distribution of anthropogenic VOCs emissions in Beijing. Therefore, an updated VOC emission inventory for Beijing with a high spatial resolution is urgently needed for to gain a better understanding of the regional pollution from O₃ and SOA based on chemical transport models.

3.2 Temporal variations in VOC species

The chemical composition of ambient VOCs can be affected by their emission and their photochemical removal or formation. In order to investigate seasonal variations in VOC sources and photochemistry, the monthly variations in some representative VOC ratios were examined at urban sites in Beijing. Figure 2a–c shows seasonal variations in the ratios of *i*-pentane to acetylene, toluene to ethene, and isoprene to 1,3-butadiene, respectively. These three hydrocarbon pairs have similar reactivity, but different sources. Vehicular exhaust was found to be the dominant source of acetylene, ethene, and 1,3-butadiene in Beijing (Wang et al., 2010), while *i*-pentane, toluene, and isoprene were also influenced by gasoline evaporation (Liu et al., 2008a), solvent and paint utilization (Yuan et al., 2010), and biogenic emissions (Fuentes et al., 1996), respectively. The ratios of both *i*-pentane to acetylene and toluene to ethene, exhibited higher values in summer than in winter (Fig. 2a and b), because the high ambient temperatures in summer can increase the evaporation rate of VOCs from gasoline and paint. Isoprene and 1,3-butadiene levels measured from November to March showed a significant correlation ($r = 0.75$) with an average ratio of isoprene/1,3-butadiene of $0.29 \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$, close to the value from a tunnel study of $0.34 \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$ in Beijing (Wang et al., 2010), indicating that vehicular exhaust was the dominant source of wintertime isoprene. However, measured ratios of isoprene/1,3-butadiene from May to September were $16\text{--}43 \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$, higher than wintertime ratios by factors of > 50 (Fig. 2c), indicating that biogenic emissions dominate summertime isoprene. Figure 2d shows the monthly variations in ethene and acetylene. Although these two species are both

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mainly from combustion sources (Wang et al., 2010), they have different atmospheric lifetimes (Atkinson et al., 2006), and therefore the variation in their ratios may reflect the photochemical degree of sampled air masses. The ratios of ethene/acetylene from June to October were $0.6\text{--}0.8 \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$, significantly lower than the ratios from November to March ($1.0\text{--}1.5 \text{ ppbv ppbv}^{-1}$), indicating the influence of photochemistry on the chemical composition of VOCs during the summer.

To further investigate the effect of photochemistry on the chemical composition of VOCs during the summer, the average diurnal profiles for the ratios of benzene, *trans*-2-pentene, *i*-BuONO₂, and acetaldehyde to acetylene measured at the PKU site were examined (Fig. 3). The atmospheric lifetime for benzene ($k_{\text{OH}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) is similar with that for acetylene ($k_{\text{OH}} = 1.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$), and therefore the ratios of benzene/acetylene exhibited relatively flat diurnal variations (Fig. 3a). Conversely, the measured ratios of *trans*-2-pentene/acetylene exhibited a significant decrease during the morning ($\sim 05:00\text{--}09:00 \text{ LT}$), since *trans*-2-pentene was photochemically removed more rapidly than acetylene (k_{OH} for *trans*-2-pentene is $6.7 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$). In contrast to the average diurnal profile for *trans*-2-pentene/acetylene, the measured ratios of *i*-butyl nitrate (*i*-BuONO₂) and acetaldehyde to acetylene both exhibited a significant increase from $07:00 \text{ LT}$ until they reached maximum values in the afternoon ($\sim 13:00$ to $16:00 \text{ LT}$), indicating the strong photochemical production of these species during summer daytime hours. These findings suggest that photochemistry is another important factor to influence VOC ratios in atmosphere besides the difference of VOC chemical composition from various sources; therefore, to derive VOC emission characteristics from measurements, the photochemical removal or production of VOC must be considered and excluded.

3.3 Annual anthropogenic emissions of VOC species

The anthropogenic emissions of VOC species can be estimated by their emission ratios to a reference compound and the known emissions of the reference compound. This

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hydrocarbon oxidation, and by the possible influence of biogenic sources and background concentrations. De Gouw et al. (2005) developed a multivariable regression method to calculate OVOC emission ratios as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\text{OVOC}] = & \text{ER}_{\text{OVOC}} \times [\text{CO}] \times \exp(-k_{\text{OVOC}} - k_{\text{CO}})[\text{OH}]\Delta t \\
 & + \text{ER}_{\text{precursor}} \times [\text{CO}] \times \frac{k_{\text{precursor}}}{k_{\text{OVOC}} - k_{\text{precursor}}} \\
 & \times \frac{\exp(-k_{\text{precursor}}[\text{OH}]\Delta t) - \exp(-k_{\text{OVOC}}[\text{OH}]\Delta t)}{\exp(k_{\text{CO}}[\text{OH}]\Delta t)} \\
 & + ([\text{biogenic}] + [\text{background}])
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

where ER_{OVOC} and $\text{ER}_{\text{precursor}}$ are the emission ratios of OVOC and their anthropogenic precursors, respectively. In Eq. (3), the first and second terms represent the photochemical removal of OVOC species from primary emissions and the secondary production by anthropogenic precursor oxidation, respectively. The [biogenic] term represents OVOC from biogenic emissions or produced by biogenic NMHC oxidation. The [background] term means the background mixing ratios of OVOC.

In the latter method, determining the extent of photochemical aging of air masses (i.e., OH exposure) is the basis of deriving VOC emission ratios. The OH exposure can be calculated based on the measured ratio of two hydrocarbons with similar sources but different lifetimes, using the following equation:

$$[\text{OH}]\Delta t = \frac{1}{k_{\text{HC}_1} - k_{\text{HC}_2}} \times \left(\ln \left(\frac{[\text{HC}_1]}{[\text{HC}_2]} \right)_{t=0} - \ln \left(\frac{[\text{HC}_1]}{[\text{HC}_2]} \right) \right) \tag{4}$$

where $[\text{HC}_1]/[\text{HC}_2]$ is the measured ratio of HC_1 to HC_2 . $([\text{HC}_1]/[\text{HC}_2])_{t=0}$ is the emission ratio of HC_1 to HC_2 . The value of $([\text{HC}_1]/[\text{HC}_2])_{t=0}$ is estimated at the highest ratio of HC_1/HC_2 during the night from its diurnal variation profile (see the dashed line in Fig. 5a).

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Another method to determine OH exposure is based on the sequential reaction model of alkyl nitrates (RONO_2) developed by Bertman et al. (1995):

$$[\text{OH}]\Delta t = \frac{[\text{OH}]}{k_A - k_B} \times \left(\ln \left(\frac{[\text{RONO}_2]}{[\text{RH}]} - \frac{\beta k_A}{k_B - k_A} \right) - \ln \left(\left(\frac{[\text{RONO}_2]_0}{[\text{RH}]_0} \right) - \frac{\beta k_A}{k_B - k_A} \right) \right) \tag{5}$$

where $k_A = k_{\text{RH}}[\text{OH}]$ and $k_B = k_{\text{RONO}_2}[\text{OH}] + J_{\text{RONO}_2}$ are the pseudo-first-order rate constants for the production and destruction of RONO_2 , respectively. k_{RH} and k_{RONO_2} are the rate constants of parent alkane RH and RONO_2 reactions with the OH radical, respectively. J_{RONO_2} is the photolysis rate of RONO_2 , the values of which were taken from Bertman et al. (1995). [OH] is the average abundance of the ambient OH radical from emission time to measurement time, which was assumed to be 5×10^6 and 1×10^6 molecule cm^{-3} in summer and winter, respectively, according to measured and modeled OH abundance in Beijing (Takegawa et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2012b; Lu et al., 2013). The factor β is the fraction ratio of RONO_2 production from the reaction of RH with the OH radical, the values of which were taken from Kwok and Atkinson (1995). The $[\text{RONO}_2]_0/[\text{RH}]_0$ is the initial ratio of RONO_2 with CO at emission time before undergoing photochemical processing, the values of which were estimated to be lowest during the nighttime based on its diurnal variation profile (see the dashed line in Fig. 5b). The values of the VOC rate constants with OH radicals were taken from Atkinson et al. (2006). In this study, the ratios of *o*-xylene to ethylbenzene (X/E) and *i*-BuONO₂ to *n*-butane were selected to estimate OH exposure ($[\text{OH}]\Delta t_{\text{X/E}}$ and $[\text{OH}]\Delta t_{\text{AN}}$) using Eqs. (4) and (5), respectively.

Figure 6a and b compares the summertime emission ratios for individual VOC species calculated using the $[\text{OH}]\Delta t$ method and the ODR linear regression method at the PKU site. The VOC emission ratios calculated based on $[\text{OH}]\Delta t_{\text{X/E}}$ and $[\text{OH}]\Delta t_{\text{AN}}$ correlated well ($r = 0.997$), with a linear regression slope of 1.08. The VOC emission ratios from the ODR linear regression method were generally within a factor of two of values from the $[\text{OH}]\Delta t$ method. However, the emission ratios (ERs) for some OVOC species (e.g., propanal, methyl ethyl ketone [MEK]) were overestimated by the linear

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calculated using the following equation:

$$E_{\text{VOC}, A} = (ER_{\text{VOC}, S} \times E_{\text{CO}, S} + ER_{\text{VOC}, W} \times E_{\text{CO}, W}) \times MW_{\text{VOC}}/MW_{\text{CO}} \quad (6)$$

where $E_{\text{VOC}, A}$ (Ggyr^{-1}) is the annual emission of a particular VOC species; $ER_{\text{VOC}, S}$ and $ER_{\text{VOC}, W}$ are the emission ratios of VOCs to CO in the summer and winter, respectively; MW_{VOC} and MW_{CO} are the molecular weights of VOC and CO, respectively; and $E_{\text{CO}, S}$ and $E_{\text{CO}, W}$ are the emission strengths of CO during the summer (non-heating season, April–October) and winter (heating season, November–March), respectively. The magnitude of CO emissions is actually the most important factor affecting the accuracy of the calculation of VOC emissions using Eq. (6). Several studies have found that there are large uncertainties in CO bottom-up emissions inventories (Streets et al., 2006; Carmichael et al., 2003). Therefore, in order to calculate VOC emissions, we used CO emission data from Tang et al. (2013), which were obtained by the inverse modeling of online CO observations at 25 sites in Beijing. The values of $E_{\text{CO}, S}$ and $E_{\text{CO}, W}$ were estimated at 2392 and 2280 Gg, respectively, according to the inverse model results and the monthly variation in CO emission strength from Zhang et al. (2009). Annual anthropogenic emissions for individual VOC species estimated using this method are listed in Table S2.

The calculated annual emission strengths for individual VOC species were compared with the TRACE-P (Streets et al., 2003) and INTEX-B (Zhang et al., 2009) bottom-up inventories (Fig. 9a and b, respectively). The annual emission strengths for most NMHC species from the TRACE-P inventory were within a factor of two from the values calculated using Eq. (6); whereas, the emission strengths of benzene, ketones, and aldehydes were underestimated by $\geq 50\%$ in the TRACE-P inventory. The OVOC species emission strengths in INTEX-B inventory were also lower by a factor of ≥ 2 compared with the values derived from measurements. The underestimation trend for OVOC species in the bottom-up emission inventories may be caused by the following: (1) some OVOC sources were neglected or underestimated in bottom-up inventories; or (2) the emission factors for OVOC species from some sources were under-

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estimated. There is some support for each of these possibilities in the literature. De Gouw et al. (2005) and Warneke et al. (2007) suggested that the primary sources of OVOC species in urban areas were not yet well understood, but that they were unlikely to be automobile emissions. This is consistent with the first hypothesis. Meanwhile, Zavala et al. (2009) compared the VOC emission factors derived from on-road measurements and those applied to calculate the gasoline vehicle inventory in Mexico City. They found that the emission factors for formaldehyde and acetaldehyde seemed to be underestimated by factors of three and two, respectively. This provides evidence for the second hypothesis. In addition, there are strong discrepancies for some NMHC species, with the INTEX-B inventory underestimating the emission strength of C2–C4 alkanes but overestimating both 1,3-butadiene and styrene emissions. Previous studies have found that C2–C4 alkanes can be emitted from the usage of natural gas (NG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (Blake and Rowland, 1995) and gasoline. The lower emissions of C2–C4 alkanes in the INTEX-B inventory indicate that VOC emissions from NG, LPG and gasoline usage might be underestimated. Industrial sources were the most important contributor to 1,3-butadiene and styrene emissions in the INTEX-B inventory, with relative contributions of 70% and 100%, respectively. Therefore, the comparison results suggest that the INTEX-B inventory might overestimate the contribution of industrial emissions.

Several studies have used field measurement data for O_3 (Tang et al., 2011) and satellite data for glyoxal (Liu et al., 2012a) as constraints to validate VOC emission strengths in Beijing. Tang et al. (2011) suggested that emission strengths of total VOC might be overestimated in INTEX-B inventory, whereas Liu et al. (2012a) found aromatics might be underestimated in this inventory. However, the total emission for measured VOC species (see in Table S2) was estimated to be $419 \pm 201 \text{ Ggyr}^{-1}$ in our study, slightly higher than the emission provided by INTEX-B inventory (313 Ggyr^{-1}). In addition, the calculated annual emissions for toluene and xylenes in our study agreed relatively well with values from INTEX-B inventory, with the relative difference of $\sim 20\%$. These findings are inconsistent with results from previous studies (Tang et al., 2011;

and solvent usage (7%), chemical industry (5%), coal combustion (4%), diesel exhaust (3%), and biogenic emissions (1%). Compared with NMHC sources in summer, the relative contribution of coal combustion increased to 19% in winter, whereas the contributions from LPG usage, gasoline evaporation, paint and solvent usage, and biogenic emission decreased to 16%, 3%, 4%, and 0.08%, respectively. This significant seasonal difference in NMHC sources at the PKU site could be explained by the following reasons: (1) more coal was burned in winter for heating; (2) the high ambient temperatures in summer promote the evaporation of LPG, gasoline, and solvent emissions into atmosphere; and (3) biogenic emissions are favored by high light intensity and high ambient temperatures during the summer.

The NMHCs source apportionment results from regional measurement data showed similar seasonal variation characteristics with those at the PKU site. Vehicular exhaust (i.e., the sum of Exhaust_G and Exhaust_D) was the predominant NMHC source in Beijing, with relative contributions in the range of 41–53%, but it did not show a clear seasonal variation pattern. Biogenic emissions and gasoline vaporization exhibited maximum contributions during the summer (May–August), with values of 3–4% and 8–9%, respectively (Fig. 12a). The relative contributions of LPG and paint and solvent usage also showed higher values in the summer compared to those in the winter. In contrast, chemical industry and coal combustion exhibited higher contributions in the winter (Fig. 12b). Possible explanations for the seasonal variation patterns in different NMHC sources have been discussed based on receptor model results at the PKU site, except for the petrochemical industry source. The largest petrochemical industry (Beijing Yanshan Petrochemical) is located in the southwest of Beijing (site I in Fig. 1). During the winter, the prevailing wind direction in Beijing is from the northwest or west, and thus this petrochemical industry could affect the NMHC measurement data obtained at those sites in southern areas of Beijing. However, the influence of this petrochemical industry would be lower during summer due to the south and southeast prevailing winds and the lower wind speeds.

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3.4.2 Spatial variation in source contributions

Figure 11c shows the average relative contribution of NMHC sources based on all observations conducted at 27 sites from July 2009 to January 2011. Compared with the NMHC source structure at the PKU site, the relative contributions of industrial emission, diesel exhaust, and biogenic emissions were larger, with values of 17%, 6%, and 2%, respectively, whereas the average contribution from gasoline vehicular exhaust decreased to 39%.

To further investigate the spatial distribution of NMHC sources, the relative contributions of each source at the 27 sites were plotted on a map of Beijing. Figure 13a–d presents the annual average relative contributions of gasoline vehicular exhaust, diesel vehicular exhaust, chemical industry, and biogenic emissions at different sites in Beijing, respectively. Gasoline vehicular exhaust displayed the highest relative contribution in the downtown area (> 50%) and the lowest contribution at the suburban or rural sites (< 25%). The high density of gasoline vehicles in central Beijing may explain this finding. In contrast to the spatial distribution of gasoline vehicular exhaust, diesel vehicular exhaust exhibited higher contributions (> 10%) in suburban and rural areas than in urban areas. This spatial distribution was likely associated with an increased use of diesel vehicles for agricultural activities in suburban and rural areas. Petrochemical industrial emissions showed the highest relative contributions (> 20%) in the southern areas of Beijing, where industrial zones are located, such as the Beijing Development Area (the BOS1 site) and Beijing Yanshan Petrochemical site (the I site). For biogenic emissions, the largest contributions (> 4%) were found in suburban and rural areas with higher vegetative cover. The relative contributions from the other three sources of gasoline vaporization, paint and solvent usage, and LPG usage did not show clear spatial distribution characteristics.

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3.4.3 Comparison with bottom-up emission inventories

Table 1 compares the relative contribution of anthropogenic sources for Beijing city obtained in this study using the CMB model and those values from the bottom-up emission inventories (Su et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2009; Bo et al., 2008; Wei et al., 2008). Both the CMB result based on ambient measurement data and the emission inventories show that vehicular emissions are the most important NMVOC source in Beijing, with relative contributions of 40–51 %. However, the relative contribution of solvent and paint usage obtained from the CMB model (5 %) was significantly lower than values from emission inventories (14–32 %). Meanwhile, the contribution from industrial processes estimated using the CMB model (17 %) was higher than that from emission inventories (10–14 %). However, it should be pointed out that the industrial emissions in the INTEX-B emission inventory also included industrial solvent utilization (Zhang et al., 2009). Since residential solvent utilization was small compared with industrial solvent usage, the relative contribution of industrial emissions from Zhang et al. (2009) can be considered to correspond to the sum of contributions from industrial processes and solvent and paint utilization in other studies (Industry & Solvent). The relative contribution of “Industry & Solvent” sources from the CMB model was 22 %, similar to that reported by Bo et al. (2008) (24 %); however, it was significantly lower than that of other inventories (43–46 %). The sum of LPG usage and gasoline evaporation contributions from CMB model was 21 %, significantly larger than the sum of petroleum storage and transportation from the emission inventories (5–6 %). The relative contributions of fossil fuel combustion showed large discrepancies among these emission inventories, with values ranging from 3 % to 15 %. The coal combustion contribution obtained from the CMB model was 10 %, within the range of emission inventories. Owing to the colinearity of NMVOC profiles between bio-fuel, biomass burning, and coal combustion, the former source was not included in CMB source apportionment. In addition, it should be noted that open biomass burning processes were included in the emission inventory established by Bo et al. (2008), whereas only bio-fuel combustion was considered in

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other inventories. Wei et al. (2008) and Zhang et al. (2009) estimated that bio-fuel combustion contributed 11 % and 7 % to anthropogenic NMVOCs emissions, significantly higher than values from the other two inventories (2–4 %).

4 Conclusions

Ambient VOCs and CO mixing ratios were measured in Beijing and its surrounding areas from July 2009 to January 2012. Seasonal variations in VOC levels were observed in Beijing, with higher anthropogenic NMHCs but lower carbonyl mixing ratios in winter. The spatial distributions of measured VOC mixing ratios revealed a hotspot in southern suburban areas of Beijing, while the highest VOC emission strengths in current emission inventories were located in urban areas. Most of the measured VOC species exhibited significant correlations with CO, and the emissions ratios of individual VOC species were calculated based on the photochemical aging of air masses. The anthropogenic emissions of VOCs were then estimated based on the derived emission ratios and CO emissions calculated using an inverse modeling approach. The OVOC emissions estimated from measurements were larger than those of existing inventories, whereas alkene emissions were higher in inventories. Vehicular exhaust was identified as the largest contributor to VOCs in Beijing using the CMB model, with a contribution of 46 %, which agreed well with the range of 40–51 % given by current inventories. However, the contribution of solvent and paint utilization from the CMB was only 5 %, significantly lower than the values of 14–32 % in inventories. In addition, the LPG contribution from the CMB model reached 15 %, whereas the importance of LPG usage to VOC emissions was not reported by emission inventories. Using VOC measurement data to evaluate and validate the existing emission inventories is helpful in improving the prediction accuracy of air quality models. Additionally, identifying the reasons for the discrepancies between VOC emissions from measurement and inventory will help researchers to find out how to reduce the uncertainty of VOCs inventories.

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Table 1. Comparison of the relative contributions (%) of anthropogenic NMVOC sources for Beijing city in this study and in bottom-up emission inventories.

Sources	This study	Wei et al. (2008)	Bo et al. (2008)	Zhang et al. (2009)	Su et al. (2011)
	2009–2011	2005	2005	2006	2008
Transportation	46	40	51	42	41
Industrial processes	17	14	10	43 ^b	14
Solvent and paint utilization	5	32	14	–	32
Petroleum storage and transport	6 ^a	–	6	–	5
LPG usage	15	–	–	–	–
Fossil fuel combustion	10	3	15	8	6
Bio-fuel and/or biomass combustion	–	11	4 ^c	7	2

^a The relative contribution of petroleum storage and transport from the CMB results in this study correspond to the contribution of gasoline evaporization.

^b The relative contribution of industrial emissions from Zhang et al. (2009) correspond to the sum of industrial processes and solvent and paint utilization contributions in other studies.

^c Open biomass burning was also included in this emission inventory.

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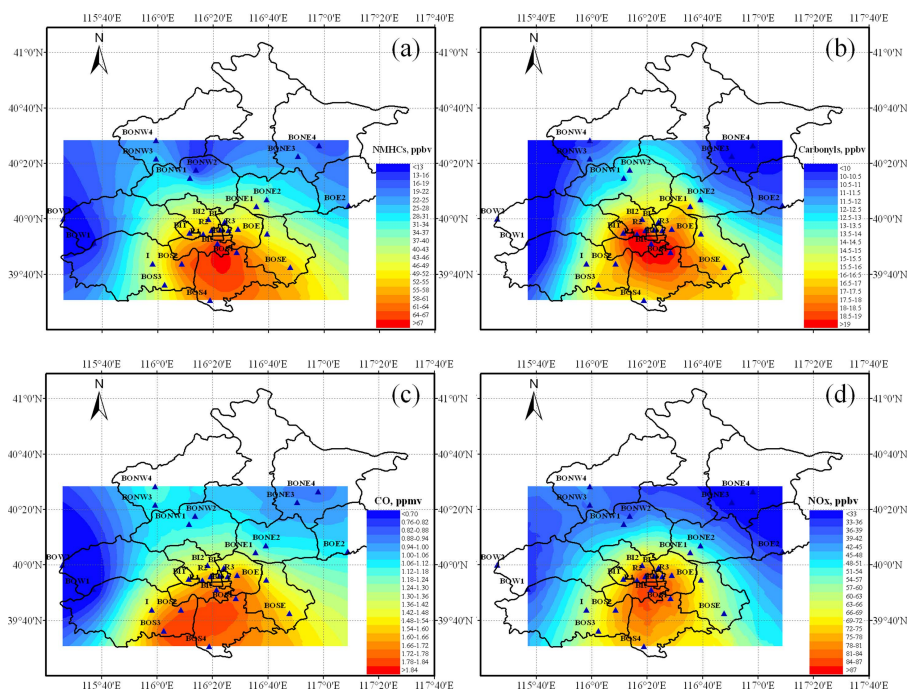


Fig. 1. Contour maps of annual average mixing ratios of (a) total NMHCs, (b) total carbonyls, (c) CO, and (d) NO_x in Beijing. Blue triangles indicate sampling locations and the names of these sites were listed in Table S1.

26967

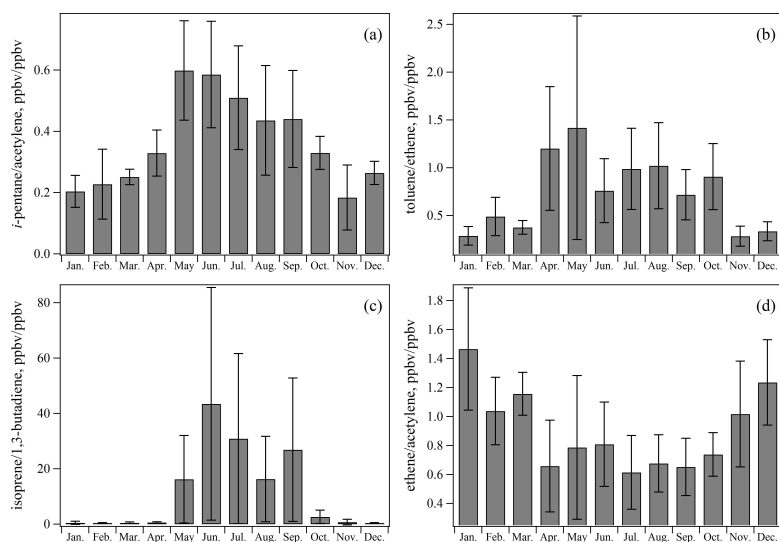


Fig. 2. Monthly variations in the average ratios of (a) *i*-pentane to acetylene, (b) toluene to ethene, (c) isoprene to 1,3-butadiene, and (d) ethene to acetylene at urban sites in Beijing. Error bars represent one standard deviation from the mean.

26968

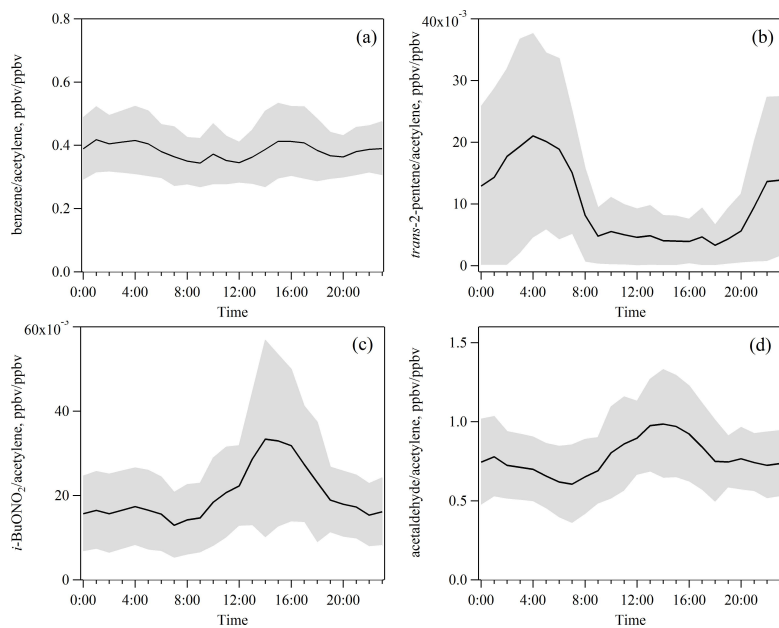


Fig. 3. Average diurnal variations in (a) benzene/acetylene, (b) *trans*-2-pentene/acetylene, (c) *i*-BuONO₂/acetylene, and (d) acetaldehyde/acetylene, measured during August 2011 at the PKU site. Grey areas represent one standard deviation from the hourly average ratio.

26969

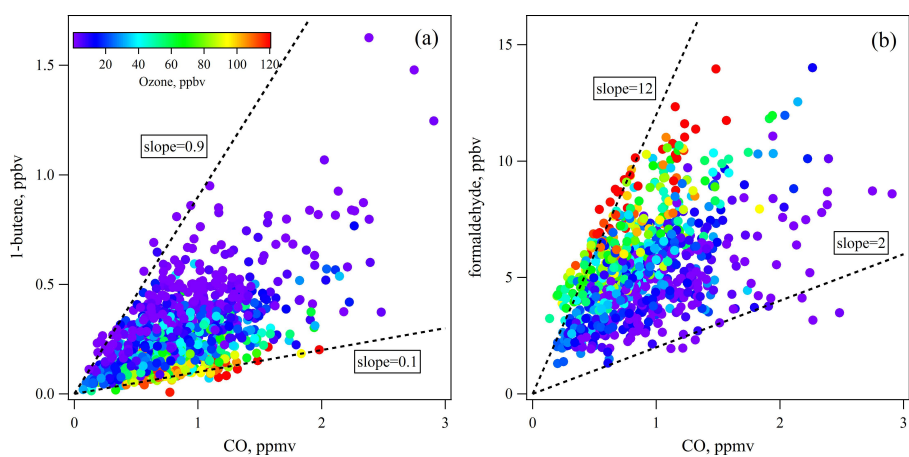


Fig. 4. Scatter plots of (a) 1-butene and (b) formaldehyde vs. CO measured at the PKU site during the summer in 2011. Data points are colored by O₃ levels.

26970

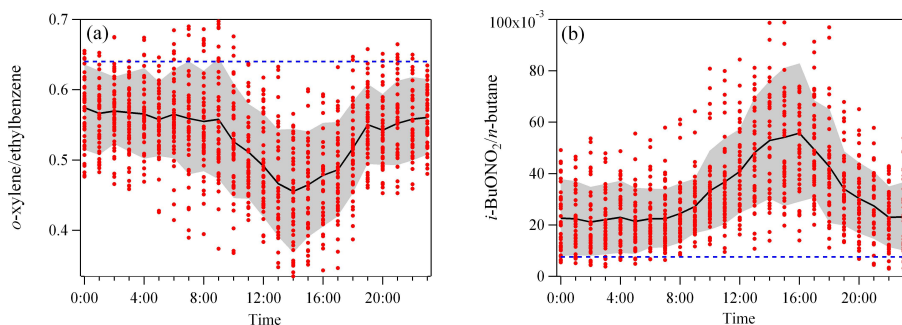


Fig. 5. Diurnal variation in hourly average ratios of **(a)** *o*-xylene/ethylbenzene (X/E), and **(b)** *i*-BuONO₂/*n*-butane. The red dots correspond to the measured ratios. The grey areas represent one standard deviation from the hourly average ratios. The blue dashed line corresponds to the average ratio at the time of emission.

26971

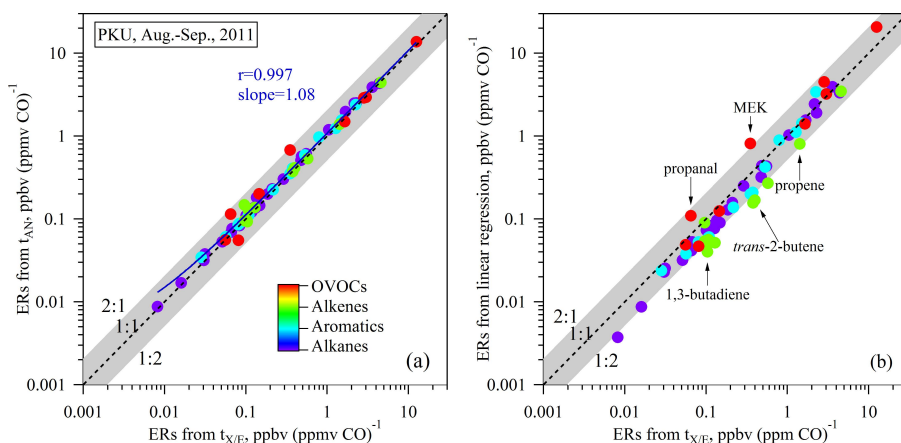


Fig. 6. Emission ratios of individual VOC species calculated based on photochemical ages derived from *o*-xylene/ethylbenzene ($t_{X/E}$) and compared with those obtained from **(a)** *i*-BuONO₂/*n*-butane (t_{AN}) or **(b)** ODR linear regression of nighttime measurement data. Each data point represents an individual VOC species, which is colored by VOC categories. The grey area represents the uncertainty range ($\pm 100\%$). The black dashed lines and the blue line mean the 1 : 1 line and the best fit, respectively.

26972

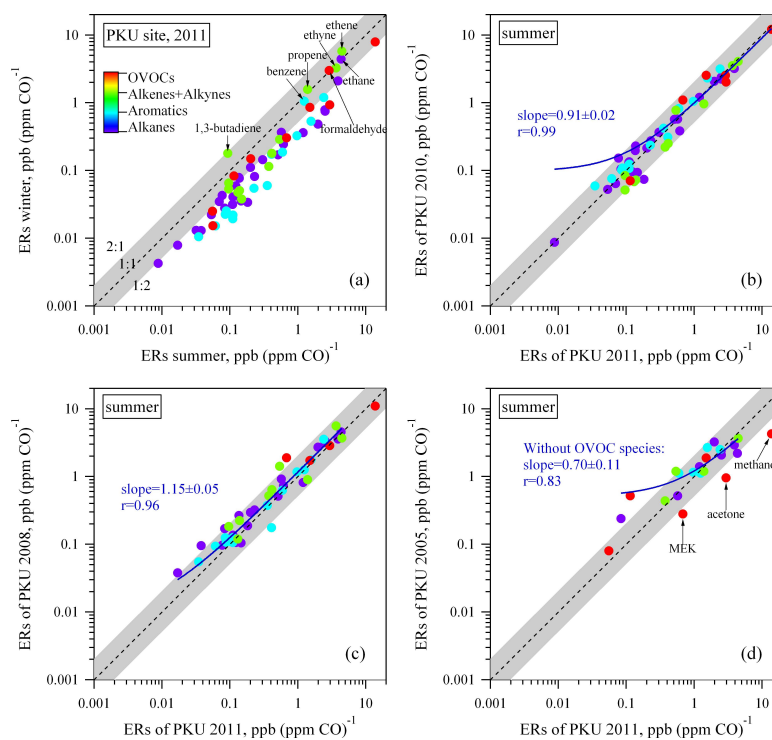


Fig. 7. Comparison of emission ratios of VOC species obtained at the PKU site: **(a)** winter vs. summer, **(b)** 2010 vs. 2011, **(c)** 2008 vs. 2011, and **(d)** 2005 vs. 2011.

26973

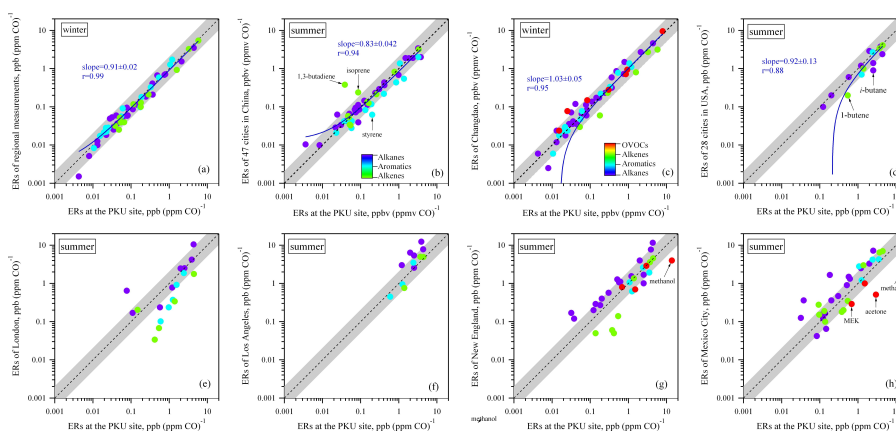


Fig. 8. Comparisons of the emission ratios of VOC species at the PKU site with values from **(a)** grided measurements in Beijing; **(b)** 47 cities in China (Wang et al., 2013); **(c)** the Changdao site in China (Yuan et al., 2013); **(d)** 28 cities in the USA (Baker et al., 2008); **(e)** London, UK (McMeeking et al., 2012); **(f)** Los Angeles, USA (Warneke et al., 2007); **(g)** New England area, USA (Warneke et al., 2007); and **(h)** Mexico City, Mexico (Bon et al., 2011).

26974

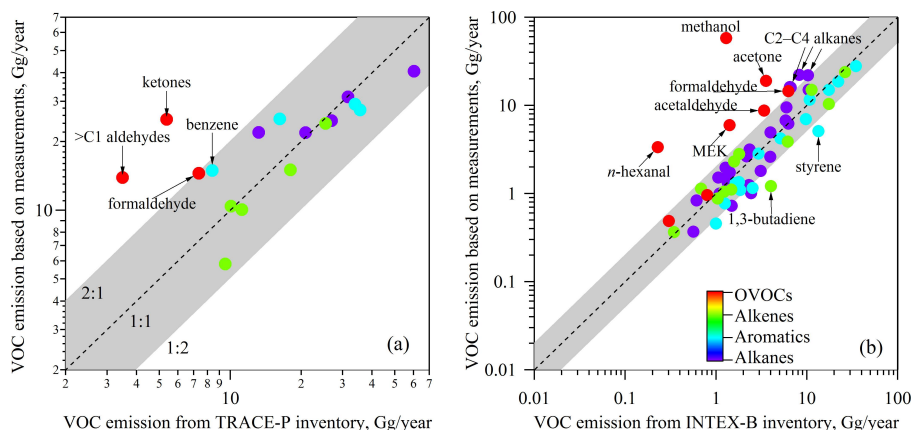


Fig. 9. Comparison of the annual emissions of VOC species estimated based on measurements in **(a)** TRACE-P (Streets et al., 2003) and **(b)** INTEX-B (Zhang et al., 2009) bottom-up emission inventories.

26975

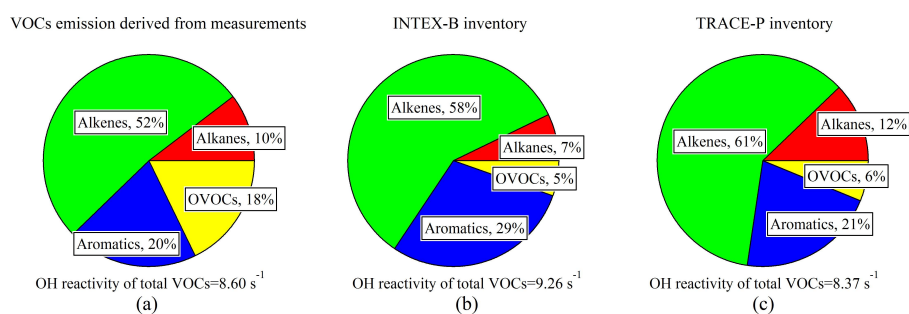


Fig. 10. Comparison of the relative contributions of VOC groups to the total OH reactivity of measured VOC species from **(a)** measurements, **(b)** the INTEX-B emission inventory (Zhang et al., 2009), and **(c)** the TRACE-P emission inventory (Streets et al., 2003). The OH reactivity for each VOC species was calculated as the product of its emission ratio, rate constant with OH (k_{OH}), and an assumed CO mixing ratio (1.0 ppmv).

26976

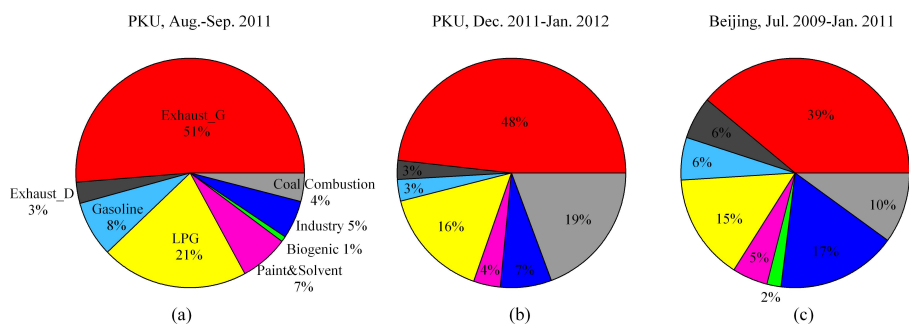


Fig. 11. Comparison of the average relative contributions of different sources to ambient NMHCs at the PKU site during (a) summer and (b) winter and (c) at 27 sites in Beijing from July 2009 to January 2011.

26977

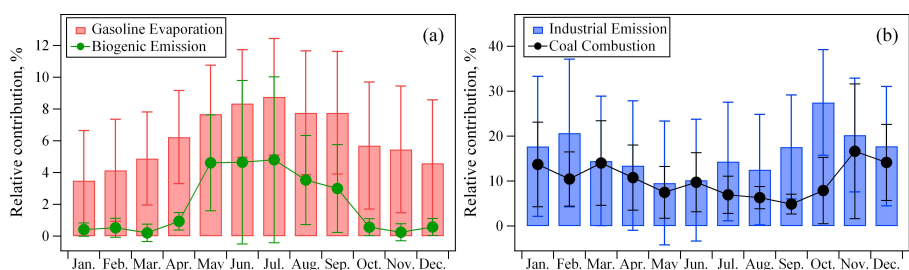


Fig. 12. Monthly variations in the average relative contributions of (a) gasoline evaporation and biogenic emissions, and (b) industrial emissions and coal combustion, at 27 sites of Beijing. The error bars reflect one standard deviation from the average relative contributions.

26978

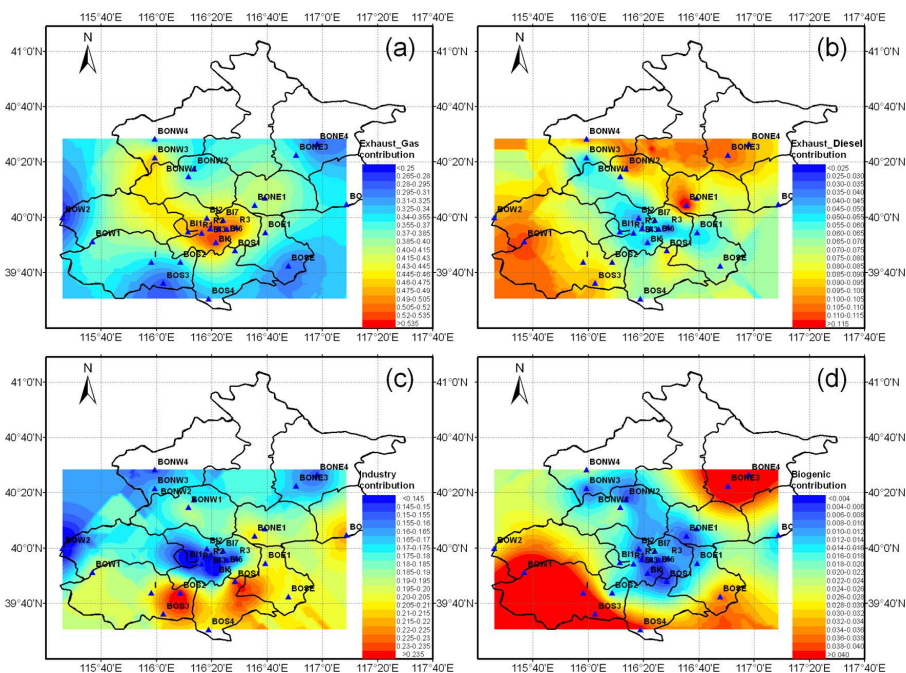


Fig. 13. Spatial distributions of the relative contributions of (a) gasoline vehicle exhaust (Exhaust_Gas), (b) diesel vehicle exhaust (Exhaust_Diesel), (c) chemical industry, and (d) biogenic emissions to ambient NMHC in Beijing.