Supplement of

Variations of ground-level O₃ and its precursors in Beijing in summertime between 2005 and 2011

Q. Zhang et al.

Correspondence to: M. Shao (mshao@pku.edu.cn)
I. Description of simplified total oxidant production calculation method

The reactions describing HO\textsubscript{x} chain propagation and termination are used to derive the equations about ozone production, assuming that these radicals and peroxynitrates are in steady state, which means that $P(\text{HO}_x) = L(\text{HO}_x)$. The branch reaction producing alkyl nitrates is considered, $\alpha$ is denoted as this production probability (Farmer et al., 2011; Geddes et al., 2009).

Reactions that propagate the HO\textsubscript{x} cycle include:

\begin{align*}
\text{VOC} + \text{OH} &\rightarrow \text{RO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} & (\text{R1}) \\
\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO} &\rightarrow \text{NO}_2 + \text{RO} \rightarrow \text{O}_3 & (\text{R2a}) \\
\text{HO}_2 + \text{NO} &\rightarrow \text{NO}_2 + \text{OH} \rightarrow \text{O}_3 & (\text{R2c})
\end{align*}

Reactions referred to HO\textsubscript{x} chain termination include:

\begin{align*}
\text{M} + \text{OH} + \text{NO}_2 &\rightarrow \text{M} + \text{HNO}_3 & (\text{R3}) \\
\text{M} + \text{NO} + \text{RO}_2 &\rightarrow \text{M} + \text{RONO}_2 & (\text{R2b}) \\
\text{RO}_2 + \text{R'}\text{O}_2 &\rightarrow \text{R'}\text{OOR} + \text{O}_2 & (\text{R4}) \\
\text{RO}_2 + \text{HO}_2 &\rightarrow \text{ROOH} + \text{O}_2 & (\text{R5}) \\
\text{HO}_2 + \text{HO}_2 &\rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{O}_2 & (\text{R6})
\end{align*}

Considering R2b, R3-R6, terminal loss rate of HO\textsubscript{x} can be formulated as:

\[
L(\text{HO}_x) = k_3 [\text{OH}][\text{NO}_2] + \alpha k_{2b} [\text{RO}_2][\text{NO}] + 2k_4 [\text{RO}_2][\text{R'}\text{O}_2] + 2k_5 [\text{RO}_2][\text{HO}_2] + 2k_6 [\text{HO}_2][\text{HO}_2]
\]

(1)
Assuming \([\text{HO}_2] = [\text{RO}_2]\) (this can be acceptable for two radicals over Beijing are at the same magnitude in closure modeling (Liu et al., 2012)) and peroxy radicals are in steady state \(P[\text{HO}_x] = L[\text{HO}_x]\), we can yield that:

\[
P(\text{HO}_x) = k_3[\text{NO}_2][\text{OH}] + \alpha k_{2b} [\text{HO}_2][\text{NO}] + 2(k_4 + k_5 + k_6)[\text{HO}_2]^2 \quad (2)
\]

Apart from the alkyl nitrates production reaction between NO and RO_2 (R2b), the main reaction (R2a) consumes most RO_2 radicals, thus:

\[
[\text{HO}_2] = [\text{RO}_2] = k_1[\text{VOC}][\text{OH}] / (1 - \alpha)k_{2a} \quad [\text{NO}] \quad (3)
\]

Substituting equation (3) into equation (2) yields:

\[
P(\text{HO}_x) = k_3[\text{OH}][\text{NO}_2] + \alpha k_{2b} \frac{k_1[\text{VOC}][\text{OH}]}{(1 - \alpha)} [\text{NO}]
\]

\[+ 2(k_4+k_5+k_6)[k_1[\text{VOC}][\text{OH}]/(1 - \alpha)k_{2a} \quad [\text{NO}])^2 \quad (4)
\]

\[
P(\text{O}_x) = k_{2a}[\text{RO}_2][\text{NO}] + k_{2c}[\text{HO}_2][\text{NO}] = 2k_1[\text{VOC}][\text{OH}] \quad (5)
\]

\(\text{HO}_x\) production rate \(P(\text{HO}_x)\) mainly consist of HONO, OVOCs and ozone photolysis.

According to measurement or modeling results of \(\text{HO}_x\) budget, given a certain value of \(P(\text{HO}_x)\) and other proper parameters, the instantaneous \([\text{OH}]\) and corresponding \(P(\text{O}_x)\) can be solved through a quadratic equation to indicate the variations of total oxidant:

\[
OH [\text{OH}]
\]

\[
-\left( k_3[\text{NO}_2] + \frac{\alpha k_1[\text{VOC}]}{(1 - \alpha)} \right) + \sqrt{k_3[\text{NO}_2] + \frac{\alpha k_1[\text{VOC}]}{1 - \alpha}}^2 + \frac{8P(\text{HO}_x)(k_4+k_5+k_6)(k_1[\text{VOC}])^2}{((1 - \alpha)k_{2a}[\text{NO}])^2} = \frac{4(k_4+k_5+k_6)(k_1[\text{VOC}]/(1 - \alpha)k_{2a}[\text{NO}])^2}{2P(\text{HO}_x)}
\]

\[
\left( k_3[\text{NO}_2] + \frac{\alpha k_1[\text{VOC}]}{(1 - \alpha)} \right) + \sqrt{k_3[\text{NO}_2] + \frac{\alpha k_1[\text{VOC}]}{1 - \alpha}}^2 + \frac{8P(\text{HO}_x)(k_4+k_5+k_6)(k_1[\text{VOC}])^2}{((1 - \alpha)k_{2a}[\text{NO}])^2}
\]
\[ P(O_x) = 2k_1[VOC] \cdot [OH] \]

\[
= \frac{2k_1[VOC] \cdot 2P(HO_x)}{(k_3[NO_2] + \frac{\alpha k_1[VOC]}{1 - \alpha}) + \sqrt{\left(k_3[NO_2] + \frac{\alpha k_1[VOC]}{1 - \alpha}\right)^2 + \frac{8P(HO_x)(k_4+k_5+k_6)(k_1[VOC])^2}{((1 - \alpha)k_{2a}[NO])^2}}}
\]

\[
= \frac{4P(HO_x)}{(k_3[NO_2] + \frac{\alpha}{(k_1[VOC] + 1 - \alpha)) + \sqrt{\left(k_3[NO_2] + \frac{\alpha}{k_1[VOC] + 1 - \alpha}\right)^2 + 8P(HO_x)(k_4+k_5+k_6)(1 - \alpha)k_{2a}[NO])^2}}}
\]

In above equations, \( k_1[VOC] \) is the total VOC reactivity; \( k_{2a}=k_{2b}=k_{2c} \) is the effective reaction constant between NO and RO\(_2\) in the normal atmosphere (Tyndall et al., 2001); \( k_3 \) is the reaction constant between OH and NO\(_2\), \( k_4, k_5 \) and \( k_6 \) are the reaction constants between RO\(_2\) themselves, RO\(_2\) and HO\(_2\), HO\(_2\) and itself, respectively (Farmer et al., 2011).
II. Explanation of inter-comparison of VOC measurements

VOC measurements were done by on-line instruments in three laboratories (Table S1): Peking University (PKU), NOAA Aeronomy lab, and Research Center for Environmental Changes, Academia Sinica of Taiwan (RCEC). During each campaign we conducted calibration of instrument and inter-comparisons when two labs were involved. Two ways of inter-comparisons were performed: first is a check of VOC standards used by different labs, second is measurement of the same blind samples by different labs. The standard deviations for VOC standard check were less than 10% for all species except for isoprene (which was around 15%), ratios of PKU results and RCEC results varied between 0.87 and 1.11 for all measured species, the inter-comparison between PKU lab and NOAA lab agreed between 0.85-1 (Liu et al., 2008; Shao et al., 2009). Figure S1 and S2 illustrate inter-comparison of measurement results by GC-FID/PID and GC-FID/MSD both in PKU lab in 2010. Different measurements show good consistency in time-series data, regression and bias analysis also demonstrate acceptable ratios between them. We were confident that the VOC data in this work were obtained under reliable QA/QC procedures.

III. Speciated VOC trends from measurements in Beijing between 2005 and 2011

All derived trends of VOC species herein were listed in Table S2 and S3. We treated linear regressions via both means and medians of mixing ratios of VOCs. The regression performances among these species differed largely: Propene, n-butane, i-pentane, n-pentane, benzene, toluene, and o-xylene were likely to show decreasing
trends, whereas the rest showed no clear trends. I-pentane and n-pentane, which decreased at a rate of 8-10%/yr significantly, are usually regarded as trace gases for gasoline evaporation (Liu et al., 2008). Benzene and toluene in the urban atmosphere have various emission sources, in which traffic emissions could also play an important role (Barletta et al., 2005). All these evidences tend to infer that VOC emissions from gasoline vehicles in Beijing were decreasing in the past 7 years.

References:
Shao, M., Lu, S., Liu, Y., Xie, X., Chang, C., Huang, S., and Chen, Z.: Volatile organic compounds measured in summer in Beijing and their role in ground-level ozone

Table S1 Summary of information about VOC measurements at PKU site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Instruments</th>
<th>Laboratory</th>
<th>Time resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>GC-FID/MSD</td>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>GC-FID</td>
<td>RCEC</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>GC-FID/PID</td>
<td>PKU</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>GC-FID/MSD</td>
<td>RCEC</td>
<td>60 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>GC-FID/PID</td>
<td>PKU</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>GC-FID/PID</td>
<td>PKU</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>GC-FID/MSD</td>
<td>PKU</td>
<td>60 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table S2 Linear regression performances of VOC species via means

(Hereafter, CI: confidence interval; AAGR: average annual growth rate, * p<0.05)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Trends, ppbv/yr</th>
<th>95% CI, ±ppbv/yr</th>
<th>r²</th>
<th>AAGR, %/yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propane</td>
<td>-0.09</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propene</td>
<td><strong>-0.06</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.02</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.65</strong></td>
<td><strong>-6.3%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i-Butane</td>
<td>-0.05</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n-Butane</td>
<td><strong>-0.12</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.06</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.57</strong></td>
<td><strong>-5.1%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i-Pentane</td>
<td><strong>-0.41</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.08</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.89</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>-9.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n-Pentane</td>
<td><strong>-0.13</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.03</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.84</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>-7.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t-2-Butene</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>-5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Butene</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>-6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c-2-Butene</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>-5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t-2-Pentene</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>-7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Pentene</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>-9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n-Hexane</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>-11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benzene</td>
<td><strong>-0.14</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.05</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>-7.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toluene</td>
<td><strong>-0.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.04</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.81</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>-4.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items</td>
<td>Trends, ppbv/yr</td>
<td>95% CI, ±ppbv/yr</td>
<td>$r^2$</td>
<td>AAGR, %/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethyl-benzene</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>-4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m/p-Xylene</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o-Xylene</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>-8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isoprene</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table S3 Linear regression performances of VOC species via medians
Figure S1 Inter-comparison among GC-FID/PID (GC955 811 or 611 analyzer), GC-MS/FID at PKU site in 2010. Isoprene (right) represents C3-C6 species detected by GC955-811 VOC analyzer and benzene (left) represents C6-C9 species detected by GC955-611 VOC analyzer. Blue and green lines represent slopes of orthogonal distance regression (ODR) between these two instruments in PKU lab.

Figure S2 Time-series comparison among GC-FID/PID, GC-MS/FID and PTR-MS (if available) at PKU site in 2010. Toluene (left) and propane (right) are two of most abundant VOC species as examples and red dot and sticks represent relative differences between GC-FID/PID and GC-MS/FID, which appears less than 20% in general.