

### Modelling segregation effects of heterogeneous emissions on ozone levels in idealised urban street canyons: Using photochemical box models

Zhong, Jian; Cai, Xiaoming; Bloss, William

DOI:

[10.1016/j.envpol.2014.02.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2014.02.001)

License:

None: All rights reserved

*Document Version*

Early version, also known as pre-print

*Citation for published version (Harvard):*

Zhong, J, Cai, X & Bloss, W 2014, 'Modelling segregation effects of heterogeneous emissions on ozone levels in idealised urban street canyons: Using photochemical box models', *Environmental Pollution*, vol. 188, pp. 132-143. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2014.02.001>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

#### **Publisher Rights Statement:**

NOTICE: this is the author's version of a work that was accepted for publication in *Environmental Pollution*. Changes resulting from the publishing process, such as peer review, editing, corrections, structural formatting, and other quality control mechanisms may not be reflected in this document. Changes may have been made to this work since it was submitted for publication. A definitive version was subsequently published in *Environmental Pollution* Volume 188, May 2014, Pages 132–143. DOI: 10.1016/j.envpol.2014.02.001

#### **General rights**

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

#### **Take down policy**

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact [UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk](mailto:UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk) providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

1 **Modelling segregation effects of heterogeneous emissions**  
2 **on ozone levels in idealised urban street canyons: using**  
3 **photochemical box models**

4  
5 **Jian Zhong, Xiao-Ming Cai<sup>\*</sup> and William James Bloss**

6 School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston,  
7 Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK

8 <sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author. Tel.: (0121) 4145533; Fax: (0121) 4145528.

9 *Email address: [x.cai@bham.ac.uk](mailto:x.cai@bham.ac.uk) (X.-M. Cai).*

10 **Abstract**

11 Air quality models include representations of pollutant emissions, which necessarily entail  
12 spatial averaging to reflect the model grid size; such averaging may result in significant  
13 uncertainties and/or systematic biases in the model output. This study investigates such  
14 uncertainties, considering ozone concentrations in idealised street canyons within the urban  
15 canopy. A photochemical model with grid-averaged emissions of street canyons is compared  
16 with a multiple-box model considering each canyon independently. The results reveal that the  
17 averaged, ‘one-box’ model may significantly underestimate true (independent canyon mean)  
18 ozone concentrations for typical urban areas, and that the performance of the averaged model  
19 is improved for more ‘green’ and/or less trafficked areas. Our findings also suggest that the  
20 trends of 2005-2020 in emissions, in isolation, reduce the error inherent in the averaged-  
21 emissions treatment. These new findings may be used to evaluate uncertainties in modelled  
22 urban ozone concentrations when grid-averaged emissions are adopted.

23 **Capsule:**

24 A grid-based urban air quality model, if adopting a grid-averaging scheme of emissions from  
25 segregated street canyons, may significantly underestimate the street-level ozone abundance.

26 **Keywords:** Segregation effect; urban street canyon; emission heterogeneity; photochemical  
27 box model; urban ozone concentrations.

## Nomenclature

$C_{i,m}$ : Concentration of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species in Box  $m$  ( $m=0,1,2$ ) (ppb);

$C_{bi,m}$ : Background concentration of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species for Box  $m$  ( $m=0,1,2$ ) (ppb);

$C_{i,1+2}$ : Averaged concentration of Boxes 1 and 2 of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  species (ppb);

$E_{i,m}$ : Emission rate of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  species in Box  $m$  ( $m=0,1,2$ ) ( $\text{ppb s}^{-1}$ );

$H_m$ : Height of the street canyon of Box  $m$  ( $m=0,1,2$ ) (metre);

$I_{S(A+B)}$ : Intensity of segregation between species A and B;

$k_{(A+B)}$ : Second-order rate constant for species A and B in a well-mixed box;

$\langle k_{\text{eff}(A+B)} \rangle$ : Effective second-order rate constant in the ‘two-box’ model;

RSL: Region Split Line;

$t$ : Time (s);

$w_{i,m}$ : Exchange velocity between street canyon and background for Box  $m$  ( $m=0,1,2$ ) ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ );

$\Delta S_{i,m}$ : Net chemical production rate of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  species in Box  $m$  ( $m=0,1,2$ ) ( $\text{ppb s}^{-1}$ );

$\varepsilon$ : Heterogeneity of emissions;

$\phi_i$ : Percentage of overestimation for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  species by the ‘one-box’ model (%);

28

## 29 **1 Introduction**

30 Atmospheric chemical and physical processes are tightly coupled in air quality simulations  
31 (Karamchandani et al., 2012). A general operating hypothesis of most urban air quality grid-  
32 based models is that primary air pollutants emitted from vehicles, industry or other sources  
33 are instantaneously well-mixed or distributed within the entire model grid-cell which contains  
34 the emissions (Auger and Legras, 2007). The grid-averaged emission rates of primary air  
35 pollutants are normally used as an input representing the mean gridded emissions (Denby et  
36 al., 2011) in atmospheric chemical models and the concentration in the canopy layer is  
37 modelled as one box representing the canopy layer for the entire grid cell. However, in reality  
38 these surface emissions vary, and exhibit a high temporal and spatial heterogeneous  
39 distribution at the sub-grid scale, referred to as surface sub-grid emission heterogeneity  
40 (Galmarini et al., 2008). This leads to segregation effects due to incomplete mixing. In the  
41 grid-averaging procedure, all sub-grid scale processes and features (Ching et al., 2006) are

42 lost and secondary pollutants (e.g. O<sub>3</sub>) may therefore be systematically under- or over-  
43 estimated.

44 Several model approaches have been suggested to account for the impacts of sub-grid  
45 emission heterogeneity. Nested-grid or high-resolution modelling is a simple approach to  
46 resolve sub-grid scale variability. Examples of such approach can be seen from the  
47 Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) model (Sokhi et al., 2006; Shrestha et al., 2009),  
48 the Weather Research and Forecasting/Chemistry (WRF/Chem) model (Grell et al., 2005),  
49 and the Comprehensive Air Quality Model with extensions (CAMx) (Shen et al., 2011). A  
50 shortage of this approach is that it is only effective locally to a fixed area where the finer  
51 resolution grid is located. In order to overcome the limitation, adaptive grid modelling  
52 (Srivastava et al., 2000; Constantinescu et al., 2008; Garcia-Menendez et al., 2010) was  
53 developed to allow dynamic change of the grid system during a simulation. Garcia-Menendez  
54 and Odman (2011) discussed the details and reviewed the advances of the adaptive grid  
55 modeling. Another approach to incorporate sub-grid emission heterogeneity is hybrid  
56 modeling, which combines a regional grid-based model with a local Gaussian dispersion  
57 model (e.g. ADMS (Arciszewska and McClatchey, 2001) and AERMOD (Zou et al., 2010)).  
58 This approach has been extensively implemented, such as the CMAQ-ADMS model (Chemel  
59 et al., 2011; Beevers et al., 2012; Stocker et al., 2012), the CMAQ-AERMOD model (Stein et  
60 al., 2007; Isakov et al., 2009; Johnson et al., 2010) and the WRF-AERMOD model (Kesarkar  
61 et al., 2007). A more promising approach is the plume-in-grid (PinG) modelling  
62 (Karamchandani et al., 2002), which imbeds a non-steady-state plume model inside the grid.  
63 Vijayaraghavan et al. (2006) implemented the plume-in-grid (PinG) modelling approach in  
64 the CMAQ-APT model to reduce sub-grid scale variability in a simulation of central  
65 California. They found that the sub-grid treatment can lead to up to 10 ppb less O<sub>3</sub> under the  
66 condition of O<sub>3</sub> formation and up to 6 ppb more O<sub>3</sub> under other conditions, compared with a  
67 base simulation without the PinG treatment. The approach offers a more realistic  
68 representation of the elevated point emission sources and their atmospheric fate. Galmarini et  
69 al. (2008) developed a Reynolds-average model to parameterize sub-grid emission  
70 heterogeneity in the meso- and global scale. Their study built upon the assumption that  
71 concentrations can be divided into a mean part, depending upon the average emissions, and a  
72 fluctuation component which depends on the variability of emissions, respectively.  
73 Alternatively, Cassiani et al. (2010) developed a stochastic fields method to address surface  
74 sub-grid emission heterogeneity in a mesoscale dispersion model. The advantage of this

75 method is that the sub-grid scale emission variability is well-represented by the probability  
76 density functions. Some of the above approaches to address sub-grid scale errors are also  
77 reviewed and discussed in details by Touma et al. (2006) and Karamchandani et al. (2011).  
78 Currently, strategies to address sub-grid emission heterogeneity are mostly focussed upon  
79 large scale grid-based models. However, for the small scale, there is little research focusing  
80 on the effects of sub-grid emission heterogeneity.

81 Here, we extend consideration of emissions heterogeneity to the small scale, i.e. the canyon  
82 scale. The canopy layer is a major source for emissions into the overlying atmosphere /  
83 boundary layer and is normally within the lowest grid-cell of a grid-based model. From the  
84 canopy layer perspective, urban street canyons are typical sub-grid scale features separated  
85 by rows of buildings. These emissions into the canyon layer may be pre-processed within  
86 urban street canyons before they enter to the entire grid-cell in the lowest part of the grid-  
87 based model (Fisher et al., 2006). Urban street canyons, where human exposure takes place,  
88 are the area of interest in this paper. The additional information between the grid-averaging  
89 implementation and the sub-grid calculation taking the emission heterogeneity into  
90 consideration may be of importance in terms of accurately calculating air pollutant abundance  
91 and their associated adverse health effects.

92 The aim of this study is to investigate segregation effects of heterogeneous emissions on O<sub>3</sub>  
93 levels in idealised urban street canyons, and to identify how segregation effects are  
94 influenced by the balance between chemistry and dynamics. The paper is structured as  
95 follows. In Section 2, the methodology based on photochemical box models is described in  
96 details, as well as the corresponding concept of intensity of segregation and the model  
97 scenarios. In the following sections, the results for prediction of ozone levels and the intensity  
98 of segregation are discussed.

## 99 **2 Methodology**

100 There are a large number of possible arrangements of street canyons in the urban canopy  
101 layer. In this study, we select two typical idealised urban street canyons as a representation.  
102 One large photochemical box model (hereafter referred to as the ‘one-box’ model) with  
103 averaged emissions of the two street canyons is used to represent the deterministic calculation  
104 based on the grid-average process; alternatively two small photochemical boxes (hereafter  
105 referred to as the ‘two-box’ model) are combined to represent two segregated street canyons  
106 with their own respective emissions. The photochemical box models (which assume that

107 chemical species inside each box are well-mixed) can be simply applied and computationally  
 108 inexpensive simulated. The model is written in FORTRAN77 language and run using  
 109 FACSIMILE 4 integrator (Curtis and Sweetenham, 1987). A reduced chemical scheme  
 110 (RCS), developed by Bright et al. (2013), is used as the chemical mechanism within the  
 111 photochemical box models. The detailed model configuration is described as follows.

## 112 2.1 Model Setup

113 Figure 1 illustrates the overview of the box model configuration. It is assumed that in a cell of  
 114 an urban air quality model, there are two street canyons with heterogeneous emissions  
 115 represented by Box 1 and Box 2 with the same volume of air as indicated in the right panel  
 116 (i.e. ‘Two-box model’) of Figure 1. There is no exchange between the two boxes, i.e. total  
 117 segregation is assumed; we only consider exchange between the within-canyon air and the  
 118 background air above the canopy layer. It is also assumed that the ‘two-box’ model  
 119 represents the reality and the mean concentration,

$$120 \quad C_{i,1+2} = (C_{i,1} + C_{i,2}) / 2 \quad (1)$$

121 represents the ‘true’ concentration of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  species in the canopy layer corresponding to this  
 122 cell, with the concentrations in the ‘one-box’ model departing from this truth due to  
 123 segregation effects. If a simplified approach of one single box (Box 0 indicated in the left  
 124 panel of Figure 1) is adopted in which the volume of Box 0 is the sum of the volumes of Box  
 125 1 and Box 2 (indicated in the right panel of Figure 1) and  $C_{i,0}$  is the modelled concentration  
 126 from the ‘one-box’ model (Box 0 in Figure 1), there would be an error for  $C_{i,0}$  (either an  
 127 overestimation or an underestimation) in comparison with the ‘true’ mean concentration  $C_{i,1+2}$   
 128 derived from the ‘two-box’ model (Box 1 and Box 2 in Figure 1). This error is expressed as

$$129 \quad \Delta C_i = C_{i,0} - C_{i,1+2} \quad (2)$$

130 We may also interpret  $\Delta C_i$  as the concentration difference due to heterogeneity of emissions,  
 131 or the overestimated concentration by Box 0. For individual reactive species in the ‘one-box’  
 132 model (Box 0), the mass transport can be described as the following equation (Liu and  
 133 Leung, 2008):

$$134 \quad \frac{d}{dt} C_{i,0}(t) = E_{i,0} - \frac{w_{t,0}}{H_0} (C_{i,0} - C_{bi,0}) + \Delta S_{i,0} \quad (3)$$

135 Where,  $C_{i,0}$  (ppb) is the concentration of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species by volume in Box 0,  $t$  (s) is the time,  $E_{i,0}$   
 136 (ppb  $s^{-1}$ ) is the emission rate of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species by volume in Box 0,  $w_{t,0}$  ( $m s^{-1}$ ) is the exchange  
 137 velocity between the street canyon and background for Box 0,  $H_0$  (m) is the height of the  
 138 street canyon of Box 0,  $C_{bi,0}$  (ppb) is the background concentration of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species of Box 0  
 139 and  $\Delta S_{i,0}$  (ppb  $s^{-1}$ ) is the net production rate of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species due to chemical reactions in Box 0.  
 140 Similarly, the system of equations in the ‘two-box’ model (Box 1 and Box 2) can be  
 141 expressed as follows:

$$142 \quad \frac{d}{dt} C_{i,1}(t) = E_{i,1} - \frac{w_{t,1}}{H_1} (C_{i,1} - C_{bi,1}) + \Delta S_{i,1} \quad (4)$$

$$143 \quad \frac{d}{dt} C_{i,2}(t) = E_{i,2} - \frac{w_{t,2}}{H_2} (C_{i,2} - C_{bi,2}) + \Delta S_{i,2} \quad (5)$$

144 In Equations (4) and (5), all symbols are as those in Equation (3) but for Box 1 and Box 2,  
 145 respectively. In our model, we assume that  $w_{t,0} = w_{t,1} = w_{t,2}$ ,  $C_{bt,0} = C_{bt,1} = C_{bt,2}$ ,  
 146  $E_{i,1} = E_{i,0}(1 + \varepsilon)$  and  $E_{i,2} = E_{i,0}(1 - \varepsilon)$ , where  $\varepsilon$  is the heterogeneity of emissions for the two-  
 147 box model (e.g.  $\varepsilon = 0$ : homogeneous emissions for the two boxes;  $\varepsilon = 1$ : all emissions into  
 148 Box 1 and no emissions into Box 2). When the systems reach the steady state (or a quasi-  
 149 steady state) as  $t \rightarrow t_s$ , then  $\frac{d}{dt} C_{i,m}(t) \rightarrow 0$  ( $m=0,1,2$ ), and Equations (3)-(5) yield:

$$150 \quad C_{i,0}(t_s) = \frac{H_0}{w_{t,0}} [E_{i,0} + \Delta S_{i,0}(t_s)] + C_{bi,0} \quad (6)$$

$$151 \quad C_{i,1}(t_s) = \frac{H_1}{w_{t,1}} [E_{i,1} + \Delta S_{i,1}(t_s)] + C_{bi,1} \quad (7)$$

$$152 \quad C_{i,2}(t_s) = \frac{H_2}{w_{t,2}} [E_{i,2} + \Delta S_{i,2}(t_s)] + C_{bi,2} \quad (8)$$

$$153 \quad C_{i,1+2}(t_s) = [C_{i,1}(t_s) + C_{i,2}(t_s)] / 2 \quad (9)$$

154 Thus the concentrations  $C_{i,m}$  and the chemical production rate  $\Delta S_{i,m}$ , for  $m=0,1,2$ , are related  
 155 by above respective equations. The relationships are a function of the corresponding emission  
 156 rates and background conditions, respectively. It is noted that, from (2), (6)-(9), we have

$$157 \quad \Delta C_i(t_s) = \frac{H_0}{w_{i,0}} \left[ \Delta S_{i,0}(t_s) - \frac{\Delta S_{i,1}(t_s) + \Delta S_{i,2}(t_s)}{2} \right] \quad (10)$$

158 If the emission is a passive scalar (i.e. a species which does not undergo chemical reaction),  
 159 then the difference  $\Delta C_i(t_s)$  is zero. For reactive species, the differences depend on the  
 160 heterogeneity of emissions and the nonlinear nature of photochemical reactions, together with  
 161 the exchange velocity caused by dynamic effects. Therefore the characteristics of  $\Delta C_i(t_s)$   
 162 can be complex and will be examined in depth in the following sections.

163

164 Finally, we define the *percentage of overestimation* by the ‘one-box’ model (Box 0) for the  $i^{\text{th}}$   
 165 species as:

$$166 \quad \phi_i(t) = \frac{\Delta C_i(t)}{C_{i,1+2}(t)} \times 100\% \quad (11)$$

167  $\phi_i(t)$  may also be interpreted as the overestimated concentration by the the ‘one-box’ model  
 168 relative to the ‘true’ concentration by the ‘two-box’ model. If  $\phi_i(t) = 0\%$ , it means that the  
 169 ‘one-box’ model provides the true answer; if  $\phi_i(t) = 10\%$  or  $-10\%$ , it means that Box 0 over-  
 170 or under-estimates the concentration by 10%, respectively.

## 171 **2.2 Intensity of segregation**

172 In order to characterise the sub-grid scale variability due to incomplete mixing, a widely used  
 173 dimensionless number, the *intensity of segregation* (Krol et al., 2000) between two chemical  
 174 species A and B,  $I_{S(A+B)}$ , is introduced and defined as

$$175 \quad I_{S(A+B)} = \frac{\langle A'B' \rangle}{\langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle} \quad (12)$$

176 where the angle brackets represent the volume average, the prime denotes the local deviation  
 177 from the volume-averaged concentration, and  $A'B'$  stands for the covariance between A and  
 178 B. For any species A in the ‘two-box’ model of this study,  $\langle A \rangle = \frac{1}{2}(A_1 + A_2)$  is A’s mean  
 179 concentration of the two boxes,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are A’s concentrations in Box 1 and Box 2,  
 180 respectively,  $A'_1 = A_1 - \langle A \rangle$ ,  $A'_2 = A_2 - \langle A \rangle$  and  $\langle A'B' \rangle = \frac{1}{2}(A'_1B'_1 + A'_2B'_2)$ . The intensity of



181 segregation between A and B is a proper measure of the effect of segregation on nonlinear  
182 chemical processes (Hilst, 1998). For a second-order reaction  $A+B \rightarrow C$  in a heterogeneously  
183 system (i.e. the ‘two-box’ model in this study), the formation of C (Vinuesa and de Arellano,  
184 2005) can be described as follows,

$$185 \quad \frac{d\langle C \rangle}{dt} = \langle k_{eff(A+B)} \rangle \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle \quad (13)$$

186 where  $\langle k_{eff(A+B)} \rangle$  is the effective second-order rate constant for formation of C in the ‘two-  
187 box’ model which can be represented by

$$188 \quad \langle k_{eff(A+B)} \rangle = k_{(A+B)} (1 + I_{S(A+B)}) \quad (14)$$

189 where  $k_{(A+B)}$  is the original rate constant of the reaction in the well-mixed ‘one-box’ model.  
190 Such a constant is normally obtained from laboratory experiments in a well-mixed chamber.

191 If  $I_{S(A+B)} = 0$ , it means that species A and B can be regarded as well-mixed; If  $I_{S(A+B)} > 0$  or  
192  $I_{S(A+B)} < 0$ , it implies that  $\langle k_{eff(A+B)} \rangle$  in the ‘two-box’ model is larger or smaller than  $k_{(A+B)}$  in  
193 the ‘one-box’ model due to the effect of segregation.

## 194 **2.3 Model Scenarios**

### 195 **2.3.1 Initial and background conditions**

196 The initial conditions of the box models in this study were taken from those used in Bright et  
197 al. (2013) which in turn were based upon atmospheric field data from the Tropospheric  
198 Organic CHEMistry (TORCH) experiment (Lee et al., 2006). The photochemical box model  
199 is run without emissions for the first 30 minutes in order to spin up the model, which allows  
200 concentrations of intermediate species to be calculated. Then the concentrations of all species  
201 at 30 min are used as the background conditions in the boundary layer for exchange with the  
202 inside canyon environment for all the simulations.

### 203 **2.3.2 Emissions and case settings**

204 Drawing upon the UK Road Vehicle Emission Factors (Boulter et al., 2009), emission rates  
205 for  $\text{NO}_x$ , VOCs and CO of 620, 128 and 1356  $\text{g km}^{-1} \text{hr}^{-1}$  were used respectively, which  
206 represent an urban continuous road traffic of 1500 vehicles  $\text{hr}^{-1}$  with an average speed of 30

207 mph for the year of 2010 (Bright et al., 2013). The emission rates into a volume of urban  
208 street canyons ( $18\text{ m} \times 18\text{ m} \times 1\text{ m}$ ) are equivalent to  $E_{NO_x}=0.28$ ,  $E_{VOCs}=0.22$  and  $E_{CO}=1.0$  ppb  
209  $s^{-1}$  (here referred to a ‘Typical Real-world Emission Scenario’, TRES) for the  $NO_x$ , VOCs  
210 and CO, respectively. This canyon geometry was used by Bright et al. (2013) for their large-  
211 eddy simulations. In this study,  $E_{CO}$  is set as  $1.0$  ppb  $s^{-1}$  for all the scenarios, and the  
212 representative  $E_{NO_x}$  and  $E_{VOCs}$  are scaled by different factors between 0.1 and 2 in order to  
213 characterize a wide range of real scenarios, i.e.  $E_{NO_x}$  varies from  $0.028$  to  $0.56$  ppb  $s^{-1}$  in steps  
214 of  $0.028$  ppb  $s^{-1}$ , while  $E_{VOCs}$  varies from  $0.022$  to  $0.44$  ppb  $s^{-1}$  in steps of  $0.022$  ppb  $s^{-1}$ . The  
215 ratio of primary NO to  $NO_2$  emission rate is 9:1, while the relative fractional VOCs emission  
216 rates are 44% for  $C_2H_4$ , 19% for  $C_3H_6$ , 25% for HCHO and 12% for  $CH_3CHO$  (as mixing  
217 ratio by volume) for all the scenarios.

218 In this study we focus on the effects of two parameters,  $\varepsilon$  (heterogeneity of emissions) and  $w_t$   
219 (exchange velocity), on  $\phi_i$  and other characteristics. Table 1 gives an overview of the two  
220 parameters for all cases. For each case, the corresponding one photochemical box model (i.e.  
221 the ‘one-box’ model, Box 0) and two segregated photochemical box models (i.e. the ‘two-  
222 box’ model, Box 1 and Box 2) were run. The heterogeneity of emissions ( $\varepsilon$ ) is set at a value  
223 of 0.5 and the exchange velocity ( $w_t$ ) is set as  $0.02\text{ m s}^{-1}$  in the base case, ‘BASE’. The value  
224 of  $\varepsilon=0.5$  implies that the emissions into Box 1 (or Box 2) is 50% higher (or lower) than the  
225 averaged emissions parameterized into Box 0. In reality, this is often the case; within an  
226 Eulerian cell of an urban air quality model, some streets may have a much higher level of  
227 traffic than others. The value of  $w_t=0.02\text{ m s}^{-1}$  is adopted based on the result from a large-  
228 eddy simulation for a street canyon with a  $18\text{ m} \times 18\text{ m}$  cross-section under a neutral  
229 condition if the reference wind speed is about  $2\text{ m s}^{-1}$  (Cai, 2012).

230 In order to account for the segregation effect due to variations of  $\varepsilon$  and  $w_t$ , we examine in  
231 detail the cases in which  $\varepsilon$  and  $w_t$  are perturbed by 40%, respectively. Case HE-L and HE-H  
232 (see Table 1 for definitions) have been configured for 40% lower and higher  $\varepsilon$ , respectively,  
233 than 0.5, while keeping the same  $w_t$  as that of Case BASE. To consider the effect of exchange  
234 velocity ( $w_t$ ), we set up the cases of EX-L and EX-H for 40% lower and higher  $w_t$ ,  
235 respectively, than  $0.02\text{ m s}^{-1}$ , while keeping the same  $\varepsilon$  as that of Case BASE. The range of  
236 values of  $w_t$  from  $0.012\text{ m s}^{-1}$  to  $0.028\text{ m s}^{-1}$  is justified based on previous findings that  $w_t$   
237 varies when the canyon aspect ratio ( $H/W$ , where  $H$  is the building height and  $W$  is the street

238 width) is altered from 1 to a higher or lower value (e.g. Chung and Liu, 2013) and that urban  
239 surface heating may enhance  $w_t$  significantly (e.g. Cai, 2012).

## 240 **3 Results and discussion**

### 241 **3.1 Overestimation of ozone levels**

242 Figure 2 depicts  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  (ppb), i.e. the ‘true’ concentration derived from the ‘two-box’ model,  
243 for all cases listed in Table 1 as a function of  $E_{NO_x}$  and  $E_{VOC_s}$ , once the simulations had  
244 reached a quasi-steady state (here defined as at  $t=4$  hr). The ranges of  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  for all cases are  
245 listed in Table 2, which reveals that the range of  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  strongly depends on the variation of  
246  $w_t$  (indicated in Figure 2(d) and Figure 2(e)) rather than the variation of  $\varepsilon$  (indicated in Figure  
247 2(b) and Figure 2(c)) and that the maximum range of  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  is (5.62, 160.82) ppb for Case  
248 EX-L with the lowest exchange velocity (0.12 m s<sup>-1</sup>). In this study, the background O<sub>3</sub>  
249 concentration is approximately 43.61 ppb and by using a Region Split Line (RSL) we divide  
250 the plot area into 2 regions, i.e. Region I (with the ratio of  $E_{VOC_s}$  to  $E_{NO_x}$  lower than the slope  
251 of RSL) for which  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  is lower than 43.61 ppb and Region II (with the ratio of  $E_{VOC_s}$  to  
252  $E_{NO_x}$  higher than the slope of RSL) for which  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  is higher than 43.61 ppb. The RSL for  
253 all cases is marked in Figure 2. Figure 2(f) indicates that the RSL for Cases BASE, HE-H and  
254 HE-L exhibits the same slope with the  $E_{VOC_s}:E_{NO_x}$  ratio (by volume) of 2.6, and the slopes of  
255 the RSL are 1.9 for Cases EX-L and 3.4 for Cases EX-H (listed in Table 2). Therefore, we  
256 may conclude that the slope of the RSL depends on  $w_t$  but not on  $\varepsilon$ , and that the higher  $w_t$ , the  
257 higher the slope of the RSL. In Region I, the titration effect of O<sub>3</sub> by NO is dominant and  
258 therefore leads to the net destruction of O<sub>3</sub> (i.e. lower than the background levels). However,  
259 in Region II, OH oxidation processes are dominant and sufficient VOCs are present to  
260 promote the conversion of NO to NO<sub>2</sub> by peroxy radicals, thereby causing net ozone  
261 formation. It is therefore not surprising that  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  is higher than its background level in  
262 Region II. The TRES (i.e.  $E_{NO_x}=0.28$  ppb s<sup>-1</sup>,  $E_{VOC_s}=0.22$  ppb s<sup>-1</sup>) defined in Section 2.3.2 is  
263 marked in the plots (triangle symbol); this emissions scenario, with the  $E_{VOC_s}:E_{NO_x}$  ratio (by  
264 volume) of 0.786, falls into Region I for all cases. This represents the typical situation in an  
265 urban area, namely that the ozone concentration inside a street canyon is lower than that in  
266 the overlying background atmosphere. It is noted in Figure 2(f) that the TRES is relatively  
267 closer to the RSL for Case EX-L, in which the exchange velocity between the canyon and the

268 boundary layer aloft,  $w_t$ , is 40% lower than the base case. A low  $w_t$  might be caused by a  
269 calm, stable meteorological condition or by a high canyon aspect ratio (i.e. large  $H/W$ ). The  
270 trajectory from 2005 to 2020 in Figure 2 represents the emission scenarios of these years,  
271 which are derived from the UK fleet composition projections (NAEI, 2003) and the UK Road  
272 Vehicle Emission Factors (Boulter et al., 2009) assuming constant traffic volume and speed  
273 same as the ‘TRES’ for 2010. Figure 2 shows that the trajectory from 2005 to 2020 falls into  
274 Region I and is approaching to the RSL with the reduction of VOCs and  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions due  
275 to current and future control technologies, assuming constant activity (i.e. traffic) levels.

276

277 Figure 3 illustrates the transects of  $C_{\text{O}_3,1+2}$  (ppb) through the emission scenarios in Figure  
278 2(f). The rationale behind the choices is explained as follows. The dashed line, the dotted line  
279 and the dot-dash line all pass through the point for the TRES, as marked in Figure 2(f). The  
280 emission profile along this dashed line at the fixed  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$  of  $0.28 \text{ ppb s}^{-1}$  (Figure 3(a))  
281 represents a technology of targeting only  $E_{\text{VOCs}}$  from vehicles, or the roads with a varying  
282 coverage of vegetation which may emit further VOCs into the urban canopy (Loughner et al.,  
283 2012). The emission profile along this dotted line at the fixed  $E_{\text{VOCs}}$  of  $0.22 \text{ ppb s}^{-1}$  (Figure  
284 3(b)) represents a technology of targeting only  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$ . The emission profile along the dot-dash  
285 line (Figure 3(c)) represents a technology of both  $E_{\text{VOCs}}$  and  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$  (“TRES-2010”) with the  
286 proportional traffic-emitting rate of both VOCs and  $\text{NO}_x$  for the TRES. This dot-dashed line  
287 may also represent control of the number of vehicles in streets or scenarios for different areas  
288 (busier or less busy roads) with the same fleet composition as the TRES. The trajectory  
289 (Figure 3(d)) indicates emission scenarios for the years 2005 to 2020 with the same traffic  
290 volume and speed as the TRES. Figures 3(a) & 3(b) demonstrate that  $C_{\text{O}_3,1+2}$  increases with  
291  $E_{\text{VOCs}}$  for the “Fixed  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$ ” scenario, but decreases with  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$  for the “Fixed  $E_{\text{VOCs}}$ ” scenario.  
292 Figure 3(c) suggests that for less busier roads than the TRES,  $C_{\text{O}_3,1+2}$  is higher, and vice  
293 versa. Figure 3(d) shows that as control technologies are applied,  $C_{\text{O}_3,1+2}$  increases. By 2020 it  
294 will be very close to the background level, particularly for Case EX-L for which the canopy  
295 layer is less ventilated. A higher ozone concentration also occurs to Case EX-L when  $E_{\text{VOCs}}$  is  
296 very high for the “Fixed  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$ ” scenario (Figure 3(a)) or when  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$  is very low for the “Fixed  
297  $E_{\text{VOCs}}$ ” scenario (Figure 3(b)). The results show a nonlinear relationship between the  $\text{O}_3$   
298 concentration and  $E_{\text{VOCs}}$  and/or  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$ , which is in line with many previous studies (e.g. Liu

299 and Leung, 2008). The TRES is indicated by a solid line in Figure 3(a)-(d) and  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  for all  
300 cases with the TRES are about 20 ppb with a small variation across those scenarios tested.  
301 However, the analysis below demonstrates that these concentrations by the ‘two-box’ model  
302 will be significantly underestimated by the ‘one-box’ model.

303

304 Figure 4 shows the values for  $\phi_{O_3}$  (the percentage of overestimation for  $O_3$  by the ‘one-box’  
305 model) for all cases listed in Table 1 at  $t=4$  hr. It is interesting to notice that the RSL (defined  
306 above) of each case splits the plot area into two regions, i.e. Region I where  $\phi_{O_3}$  is negative  
307 and Region II where  $\phi_{O_3}$  is positive. In Region I,  $\phi_{O_3}$  is negative, which means the modelled  
308  $O_3$  concentration by the ‘one-box’ model is lower than the ‘true’ value by the ‘two-box’  
309 model (i.e. the ‘one-box’ model will underestimate  $O_3$  levels). It is further shown that if only  
310  $\varepsilon$  is changed from 0.5 (Figure 4(a)) to 0.7 (Figure 4(c)) and to 0.3 (Figure 4(b)), respectively,  
311 a rapid change in  $\phi_{O_3}$  is found. The maximum underestimation could be up to -35.24 % for  
312 Case HE-H (Figure 4(c)), and the minimum underestimation could be -6.12 % for Case HE-L  
313 (Figure 4(b)). The larger  $\varepsilon$  is, the higher the maximum level of  $\phi_{O_3}$  will be. It is also noted  
314 that if only the exchange velocity ( $w_t$ ) is changed from  $0.020 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (Figure 4(a)) to  $0.012 \text{ m s}^{-1}$   
315 (Figure 4(d)) and to  $0.028 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (Figure 4(e)), respectively, there is a less significant change  
316 in the maximum level of  $\phi_{O_3}$  (listed in Table 2). However, there are noticeable shifts of the  
317 RSL (discussed above) and the isopleths patterns associated with the variation of  $w_t$ . The  
318 trajectory from 2005 to 2020 falls into the underestimation area (i.e. Region I), and is marked  
319 in the plot for each case. In Region II for all the cases, the  $O_3$  levels will be slightly over-  
320 estimated up to 3.07 % obtained for Case HE-H (Table 2).

321

322 Figure 5 shows the transects of  $\phi_{O_3}$  through the lines in Figure 4(f). For the TRES emission  
323 scenario for the year of 2010 indicated by the solid line in Figure 5, underestimates of  $O_3$   
324 concentration by the ‘one-box’ model are -12.37% for Case BASE, -4.31% for Case HE-L, -  
325 25.07% for Case HE-H, -8.90% for Case EX-L and -12.30% for Case EX-H, respectively,  
326 suggesting that the effect of emission heterogeneity is more significant than the effect of  
327 exchange velocity.

328

329 Figure 5(a) shows that as  $E_{VOCs}$  increases at the fixed  $E_{NOx}$  of  $0.28 \text{ ppb s}^{-1}$ , the modelled  $O_3$   
330 concentrations by the ‘one-box’ model are underestimated compared with the ‘true’ values,  
331 indicated by the negative  $\phi_{O_3}$ . The lower  $E_{VOCs}$  is, the larger the extent of underestimation  
332 will be. Figure 5(a) also indicates that by keeping traffic-emission rate  $E_{NOx}$  unchanged, extra  
333  $E_{VOCs}$  (e.g. from vegetation or anthropogenic activities) will reduce  $\phi_{O_3}$ , resulting in the  
334 improved performance of the ‘one-box’ model. However, future reduction in vehicle-related  
335  $E_{VOCs}$ , anticipated to arise from renewal of the vehicle fleet and implementation of more  
336 stringent emissions reduction technologies, will lead to an increase in the magnitude of  $\phi_{O_3}$ .  
337 This also suggests that the performance of the ‘one-box’ model for  $O_3$  concentration might be  
338 expected to be better for a more ‘green’ area, with biogenic VOC emissions, assuming such  
339 emissions were not incorporated in the model scenario / conditions.

340

341 Figure 5(b) illustrates the results of  $\phi_{O_3}$  along the dotted line of Figure 4(f), i.e. varying  $E_{NOx}$   
342 for a fixed  $E_{VOCs}$  corresponding to the TRES level of  $0.22 \text{ ppb s}^{-1}$ . The modelled  $O_3$   
343 concentrations by the ‘one-box’ model largely underestimate the ‘true’ values, indicated by  
344 the negative  $\phi_{O_3}$  (within Region I), with small positive values for  $\phi_{O_3}$  only obtained at the  
345 lowest  $E_{NOx}$  (within Region II). The magnitude of  $\phi_{O_3}$  increases while  $E_{NOx}$  increases and the  
346 maximum level of  $\phi_{O_3}$  can be more than -30%. A large slope at the TRES for Case HE-H  
347 suggests that reductions in vehicle  $NO_x$  emissions anticipated to arise from renewal of the  
348 vehicle fleet and implementation of more stringent emissions reduction technologies, will  
349 lead to a reduction in the magnitude of  $\phi_{O_3}$ , i.e. an improvement in model performance  
350 overall.

351

352 Figure 5(c) shows the results of  $\phi_{O_3}$  along the dot-dash line of Figure 4(f), i.e. varying  $E_{VOCs}$   
353 and  $E_{NOx}$  with the same emission ratio (i.e. 0.786) for the TRES (e.g. less or more trafficked  
354 areas). It is noted that the performance of the ‘one-box’ model for a less trafficked  
355 area/scenario (e.g. Birmingham) is better than that for a more trafficked area/scenario (e.g.  
356 London). Figure 5(c) also shows that the effect of  $w_t$  on  $\phi_{O_3}$  is relatively small for all cases.

357 However it is worth mentioning some secondary features that are counter intuitive, and thus  
 358 not easily interpreted. Firstly, there exists a threshold of  $(E_{NO_x}, E_{VOC_s})$  below which, and  
 359 another threshold of  $(E_{NO_x}, E_{VOC_s})$  above which,  $\phi_{O_3}$  for Case EX-L and  $\phi_{O_3}$  for Case EX-H are  
 360 on the opposing sides of  $\phi_{O_3}$  for the base case; the first threshold of  $(E_{NO_x}, E_{VOC_s})$  is about  $6 \times$   
 361  $(0.028, 0.022)$  ppb  $s^{-1}$  and the second threshold of  $(E_{NO_x}, E_{VOC_s})$  is about  $10 \times (0.028, 0.022)$   
 362 ppb  $s^{-1}$ . Between the two thresholds, the values of  $\phi_{O_3}$  for both Case EX-L and Case EX-H are  
 363 larger than that for the case BASE. Secondly, according to intuition and linear reasoning, a  
 364 higher  $w_t$  (Case EX-H) implies a better ventilation of the two street canyons with the  
 365 background and in consequence a smaller difference between the two canyons; this effect  
 366 would be similar to a smaller  $\varepsilon$  (Case HE-L) that implies a smaller difference between the  
 367 two canyons. Therefore the points for Case EX-H (■) and Case HE-L (△) should appear on  
 368 the same side of Case BASE (○); likewise the points for Case EX-L (▲) and Case HE-H  
 369 (□) should appear on the same side of Case BASE (○). However, the results for  $O_3$   
 370 concentration in Figure 3 do not always support the reasoning, neither do the results for  $\phi_{O_3}$   
 371 in Figure 5. These all indicate the complexity of the nonlinear chemical system and suggest  
 372 the necessity of in-depth analysis for specific scenarios.

373

374 Figure 5(d) shows the results of  $\phi_{O_3}$  along the trajectory from the year of 2005 to 2020 as  
 375 indicated by Figure 4(f). It is noted that the level of extent of underestimation decreases with  
 376 year, which indicates that in the future the performance of the ‘one-box’ model will be better.  
 377 The underestimates of  $O_3$  concentration by the ‘one-box’ model for the year 2020 are -3.91%  
 378 for Case BASE, -1.41% for Case HE-L, -7.60% for Case HE-H, -2.27% for Case EX-L and -  
 379 3.47% for Case EX-H, respectively.

### 380 **3.2 Intensity of segregation between $O_3$ and NO**

381 Figure 6 illustrates the results of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$ , the intensity of segregation between  $O_3$  and NO,  
 382 for all cases listed in Table 1 at the quasi-steady state ( $t=4$  hr) as a function of  $E_{NO_x}$  and  $E_{VOC_s}$ .  
 383 It is interesting to notice that the RSL (defined above) of each case divides the plot area into  
 384 two regions, i.e. Region I where  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  is negative and Region II where  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  is  
 385 positive as indicated in Figure 6(a)-(e). The trajectory from the year of 2005 to 2020 falls into

386 the negative region (i.e. Region I), and is marked in the plot for each case. It can be shown  
 387 that the range of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  (listed in Table 2) increases rapidly while  $\varepsilon$  increases from 0.3 to  
 388 0.7, i.e. (-7.78 %, 1.79 %) for Case HE-L, (-21.29 %, 5.21 %) for Case BASE and (-40.98 %, 11.02%)  
 389 for Case HE-H. The range of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  does not change significantly with the change  
 390 of the exchange velocity from  $0.012 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  to  $0.028 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , i.e. (-21.12 %, 6.78 %) for Case  
 391 EX-L, (-21.29 %, 5.21 %) for Case BASE and (-21.18 %, 3.57) for Case EX-H. It is noted  
 392 that the plots of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  (Figure 6) are strongly correlated with those of  $\phi_{O_3}$  (Figure 4). In  
 393 Region I for each case, the heterogeneity of emissions will lead to negative values of  
 394  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$ , which means that the effective rate constant of the titration reaction ( $\text{NO} + \text{O}_3 \rightarrow$   
 395  $\text{NO}_2 + \text{O}_2$ ) to consume  $\text{O}_3$ ,  $\langle k_{\text{eff}(O_3+NO)} \rangle = k_{(O_3+NO)}(1 + I_{S(O_3+NO)})$ , in the ‘two-box’ model is lower  
 396 than the original rate constant,  $k_{(O_3+NO)}$ , in the ‘one-box’ model. In other words, adopting the  
 397 classical rate constant  $k_{(O_3+NO)}$  in the ‘one-box’ model results in too much titration. As a  
 398 result, the ozone level in the ‘two-box’ model (i.e. the ‘true’ value) is higher than the  
 399 modelled ozone level from the ‘one-box’ model, which agrees well with a negative value of  
 400  $\phi_{O_3}$ , i.e. the modelled ozone level from the ‘one-box’ model is underestimated. In Region II  
 401 for each case, a positive value of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  is observed, which indicates that  $\langle k_{\text{eff}(O_3+NO)} \rangle$  is  
 402 larger than  $k_{(O_3+NO)}$  and the ‘true’ value of  $\text{O}_3$  is less than the modelled value of  $\text{O}_3$  by the  
 403 ‘one-box’ model. Therefore, a positive value of  $\phi_{O_3}$  is also observed in Region II, although  
 404 the maximum overestimation only reaches 3.07 % (Table 2) for those scenarios considered  
 405 here. Our findings also indicate that the slope of the RSL is determined by  $w_t$  (discussed  
 406 above), while the pattern and range of  $\phi_{O_3}$  and  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  in Region I and Region II depend  
 407 more closely on  $\varepsilon$ . It is also interesting to note that increasing  $\varepsilon$  will enhance the effect of  
 408 segregation and therefore promote sub-grid scale variability and potentially systematic error  
 409 in modelled  $\text{O}_3$  abundance. It appears that the impact of change in  $\varepsilon$  and  $w_t$  on  $\phi_{O_3}$  and  
 410  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  is nonlinear to  $E_{\text{NO}_x}$  and  $E_{\text{VOC}_s}$  due to the fact that  $\text{O}_3$  is a secondary, rather than the  
 411 primary, pollutant.

412



413 Figure 7 shows the cross-sectional analyses, as indicated in Figure 6(f), of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  (%). For  
 414 the TRES emission scenario for the year of 2010 indicated by the solid line in Figure 7, the  
 415 values of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  are -15.47% for Case BASE, -5.38% for Case HE-L, -31.34% for Case  
 416 HE-H, -9.93% for Case EX-L and -17.37% for Case EX-H, respectively. It is noted that at the  
 417 fixed  $NO_x$  emission (Figure 7(a)), the magnitude of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  for all cases decreases (becomes  
 418 more negative) with reduced  $E_{VOCs}$ . However, at the fixed  $E_{VOCs}$  (Figure 7(b)), the value of  
 419  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  for each case decreases from positive to exclusively negative values with increased  
 420  $E_{NOx}$  in Region II and then becomes increasingly negative as  $E_{NOx}$  continues to increase in  
 421 Region I. It is interesting that the smaller the values of  $\varepsilon$  or  $w_t$  (Figure 7(a) and Figure 7(b))  
 422 are, the smaller the magnitude of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  (compared with Case BASE) will be. It can be  
 423 seen from Figure 7(c) that  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  becomes less negative for less trafficked area/scenario  
 424 and seems to be stable for the more polluted area/scenario. Figure 5(d) shows that the  
 425 magnitudes of  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  decrease with year, suggesting that in the future the segregation  
 426 effect on ozone levels would be less significant. The comparison between the plots in Figure  
 427 7 with their equivalents in Figure 5 also indicates a strong relationship between  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  and  
 428  $\phi_{O_3}$ .

#### 429 **4 Conclusions**

430 Segregation effects of heterogeneous emissions have been examined by considering the  
 431 surface sub-grid emission heterogeneity in two idealised urban street canyons within the  
 432 urban canopy layer and investigated how differing chemical effects (arising from the  
 433 heterogeneity of emissions) and dynamic effects (i.e. exchange velocity) influence the error  
 434 in  $O_3$  if implementing the grid-averaging parameterization for heterogeneous emissions. This  
 435 study offers a better understanding of the parameterization of raw emissions for urban air  
 436 quality models by highlighting the importance of segregation effects of heterogeneous  
 437 emissions within the typical city-blocks (i.e. urban street canyons) and by providing a 2D  
 438 pattern of overestimation for  $O_3$ . The common situations in urban areas are found to fall into  
 439 Region I where the modelled  $O_3$  concentration in street canyons (lower than that in the  
 440 overlying background atmosphere) by the ‘one-box’ model will be underestimated compared  
 441 with the ‘true’ value by the ‘two-box’ model. Our findings also indicate that the performance  
 442 of the ‘one-box’ model for  $O_3$  concentration is better for a more ‘green’ area with extra VOCs

443 sources and for the less trafficked area/scenario. Future emission trends are expected to lead  
444 to the error in the 'one-box' model approach falling. The error in ozone levels is strongly  
445 linked to segregation effects of heterogeneous emissions and is balanced by both dynamics  
446 and chemistry. This study is restricted to two boxes by considering only two typical street  
447 canyons with emission heterogeneity, which are totally segregated, neither transported nor  
448 mixed with each other. Future studies should take more photochemical boxes into  
449 consideration and model more scenarios well represented by more street canyons. Our final  
450 remark is that finding an appropriate real-world dataset to evaluate the box-averaged  
451 concentrations of this study is challenging due to the fact that concentrations of chemical  
452 species such as ozone are non-uniform inside a street canyon (Bright et al., 2013). Therefore  
453 high spatial density observations of pollutant concentrations inside street canyons are needed  
454 in support of a rigorous evaluation of the modelling approach. Recent development of low-  
455 cost sensors (e.g. Mead et al. 2013) provides a potential for the task to be completed in the  
456 future.

457

458

#### 459 **Acknowledgements**

460 The authors would like to thank Dr Vivien Bright for provision of the reduced chemical  
461 scheme (RCS). JZ thanks to the University of Birmingham for the award of a Li Siguang  
462 Scholarship, which is offered in partnership with the China Scholarship Council (CSC). The  
463 helpful comments of the anonymous reviewers are gratefully acknowledged.

464

465

466

467

468 Table 1. Overview of the model scenarios

Case	Heterogeneity of emissions ( $\epsilon$ )	Exchange velocity $w_r$ (m.s <sup>-1</sup> )
BASE	0.5	0.02
HE-L	0.3	0.02
HE-H	0.7	0.02
EX-L	0.5	0.012
EX-H	0.5	0.028

Note: 'BASE' is the base case. 'HE' denotes the heterogeneity of emissions, while 'EX' means the exchange velocity. 'L' or 'H' represents a lower or higher value than the corresponding component in the base Case BASE.

469

470

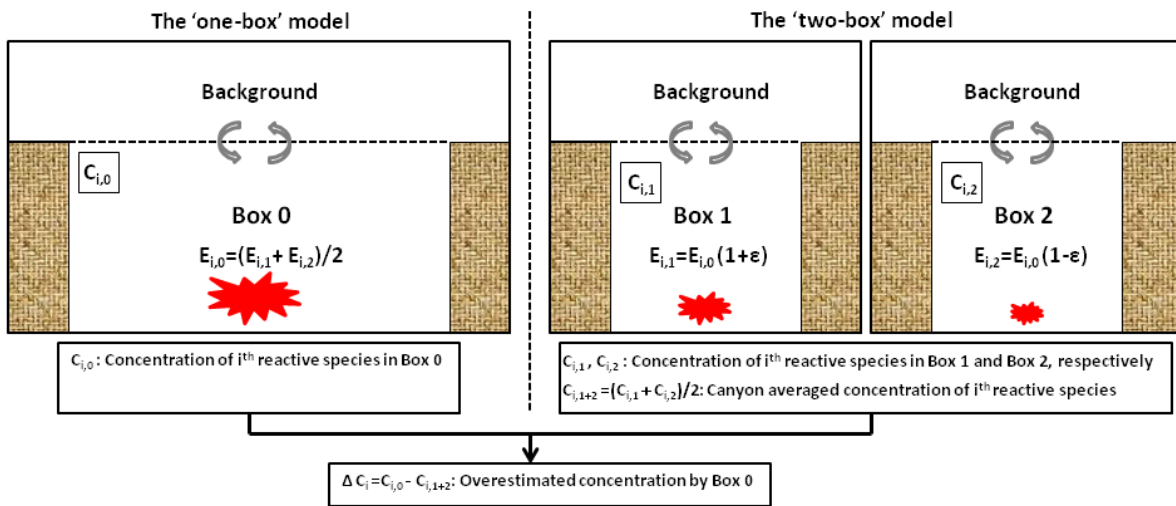
471 Table 2. Overview of the range of values among emission scenarios for all cases

Case	$C_{O_3,1+2}$ (ppb) (min, max)	$\phi_{O_3}$ (%) (min, max)	$I_{S(O_3+NO)}$ (%) (min, max)	Slope of RSL ( $E_{VOCs}$ ; $E_{NOx}$ )
BASE ( $\varepsilon=0.5$ , $w_r=0.02$ m s <sup>-1</sup> )	(7.56, 88.51)	(-17.35, 1.48)	(-21.29, 5.21)	2.6
HE-L ( $\varepsilon=0.3$ , $w_r=0.02$ m s <sup>-1</sup> )	(6.70, 89.16)	(-6.12, 0.52)	(-7.78, 1.79)	2.6
HE-H ( $\varepsilon=0.7$ , $w_r=0.02$ m s <sup>-1</sup> )	(9.69, 87.34)	(-35.24, 3.07)	(-40.98, 11.02)	2.6
EX-L ( $\varepsilon=0.5$ , $w_r=0.012$ m s <sup>-1</sup> )	(5.62, 160.82)	(-17.31, 2.26)	(-21.12, 6.78)	1.9
EX-H ( $\varepsilon=0.5$ , $w_r=0.028$ m s <sup>-1</sup> )	(9.58, 68.13)	(-17.25, 0.82)	(-21.18, 3.57)	3.4

Note: 'BASE' is the base case. 'HE' denotes the heterogeneity of emissions, while 'EX' means the exchange velocity. 'L' or 'H' represents a lower or higher value than the corresponding component in the base Case BASE.  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  denotes the true concentration of  $O_3$  (ppb);  $\phi_{O_3}$  means the *percentage of overestimation* for  $O_3$  by the 'one-box' model (%);  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  is the *intensity of segregation* between  $O_3$  and NO (%); RSL represents the Region Split Line;  $E_{VOCs}$  and  $E_{NOx}$  are the emission rates of VOCs and  $NO_x$ , respectively (ppb s<sup>-1</sup>).

472

473



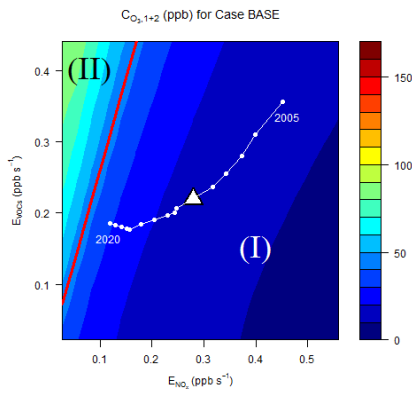
474

475 Figure 1. Overview of the model setup.  $E_{i,m}$  means the emission rate of  $i^{\text{th}}$  species in Box  $m$  ( $m=0,1,2$ ) ( $\text{ppb s}^{-1}$ );

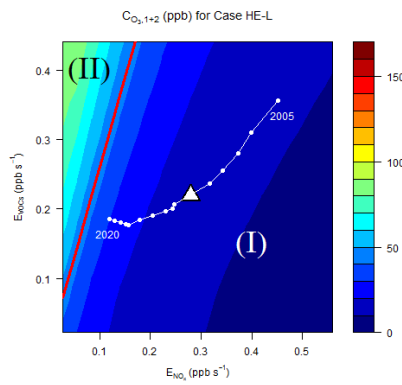
476  $\epsilon$  is the heterogeneity of emissions.

477

(a)



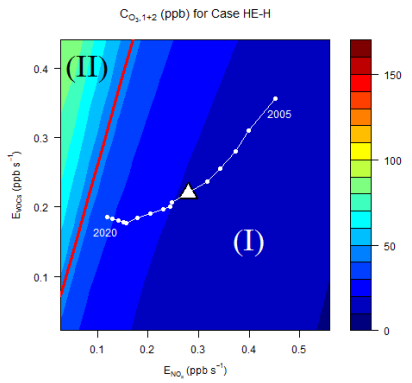
(b)



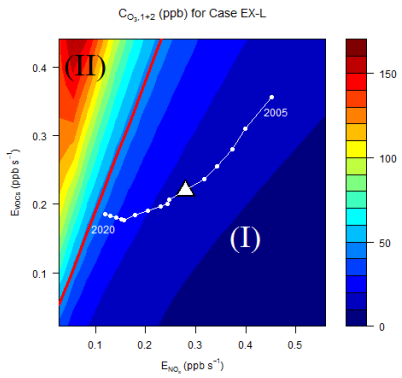
478

479

(c)



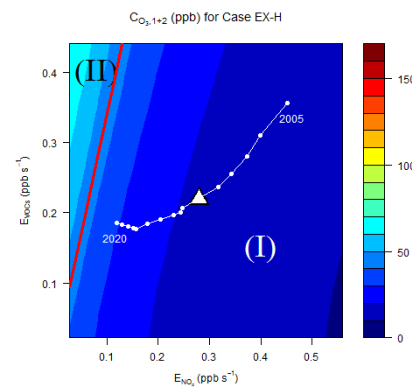
(d)



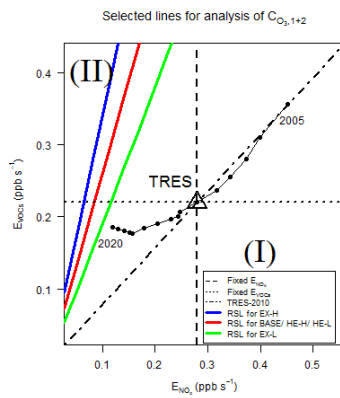
480

481

(e)



(f)



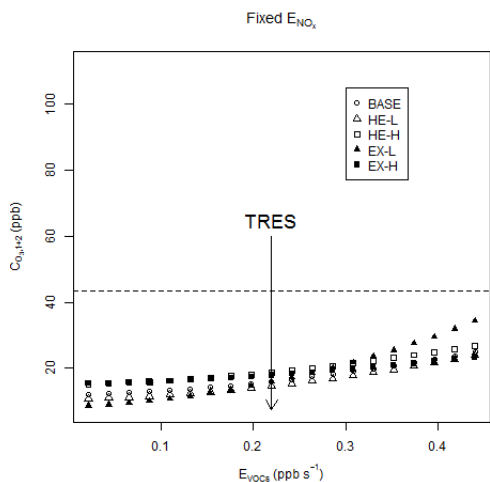
482

483 Figure 2.  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  (ppb), the ‘true’ concentration of  $O_3$  derived from the ‘two-box’ model, in the (a) Case  
 484 BASE, (b) Case HE-L, (c) Case HE-H, (d) Case EX-L, (e) Case EX-H and (f) Selected lines for analysis.  $E_{VOCs}$   
 485 and  $E_{NO_x}$  are the emission rates of VOCs and  $NO_x$ , respectively ( $ppb s^{-1}$ ); RSL means Region Split Line;  $\triangle$  represents  
 486 the ‘Typical Real-world Emission Scenario’, TRES, for the year of 2010; The trajectory from 2005 to 2020  
 487 represents the emission scenarios for 2005 to 2020, assuming constant traffic volume and speed.

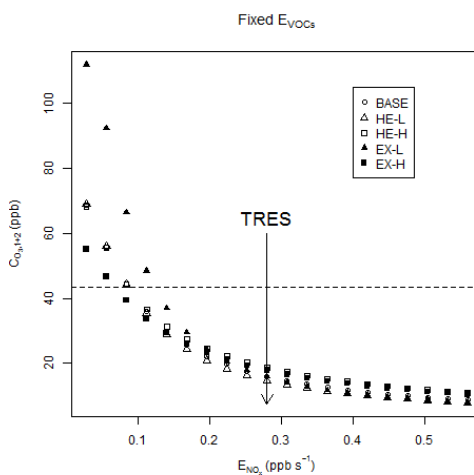
488

489

490 (a)

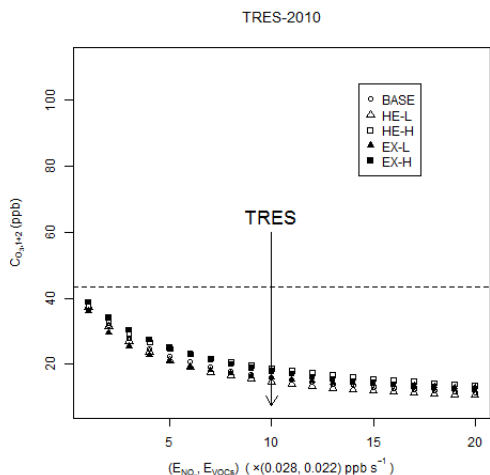


(b)

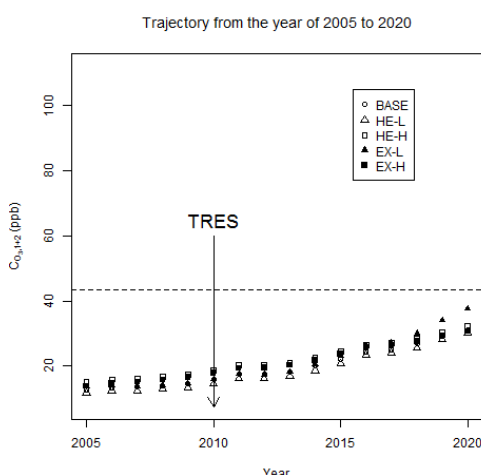


491

492 (c)



(d)



493

494 Figure 3.  $C_{O_3,1+2}$  (ppb), the ‘true’ concentration of  $O_3$  derived from the ‘two-box’ model, for (a) ‘Fixed  $E_{NO_x}$ ’

495 at a fixed  $NO_x$  emissions ( $0.28 \text{ ppb s}^{-1}$ ), (b) ‘Fixed  $E_{VOCs}$ ’ at a fixed VOCs emissions ( $0.22 \text{ ppb s}^{-1}$ ), (c) ‘TRES-

496 2010’ varying the total traffic volume only and (d) ‘Trajectory from the year of 2005 to 2020’ assuming

497 constant traffic volume and speed.  $E_{VOCs}$  and  $E_{NO_x}$  are the emission rates of VOCs and  $NO_x$ , respectively ( $\text{ppb s}^{-1}$ ); The

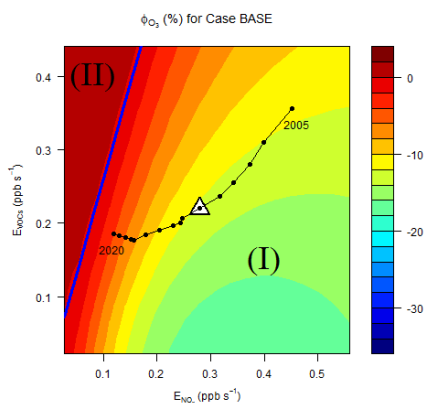
498 dashed line indicates the background  $O_3$  level of 43.61 ppb; The solid line indicates the ‘Typical Real-world

499 Emission Scenario’, TRES, for the year of 2010.

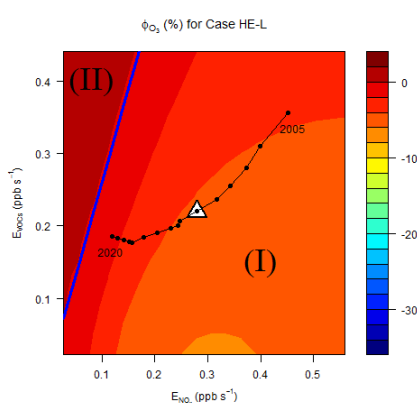
500

501

(a)



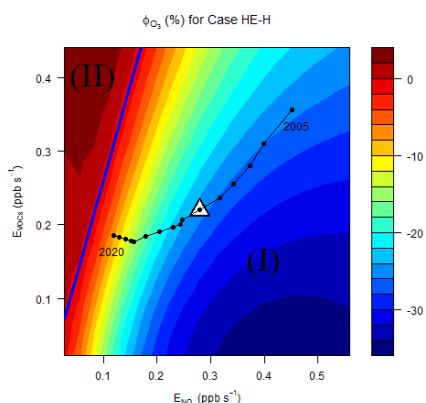
(b)



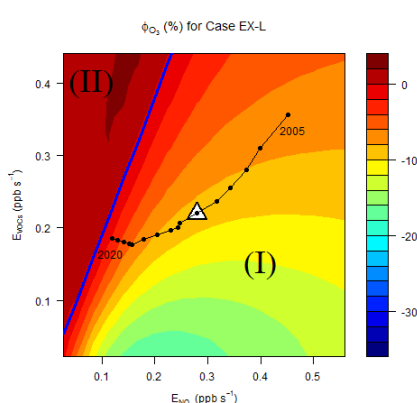
502

503

(c)



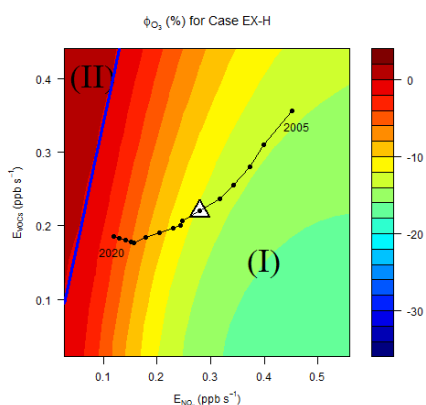
(d)



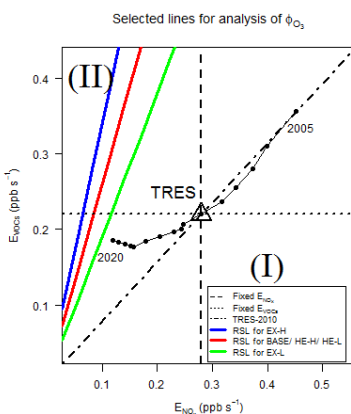
504

505

(e)



(f)



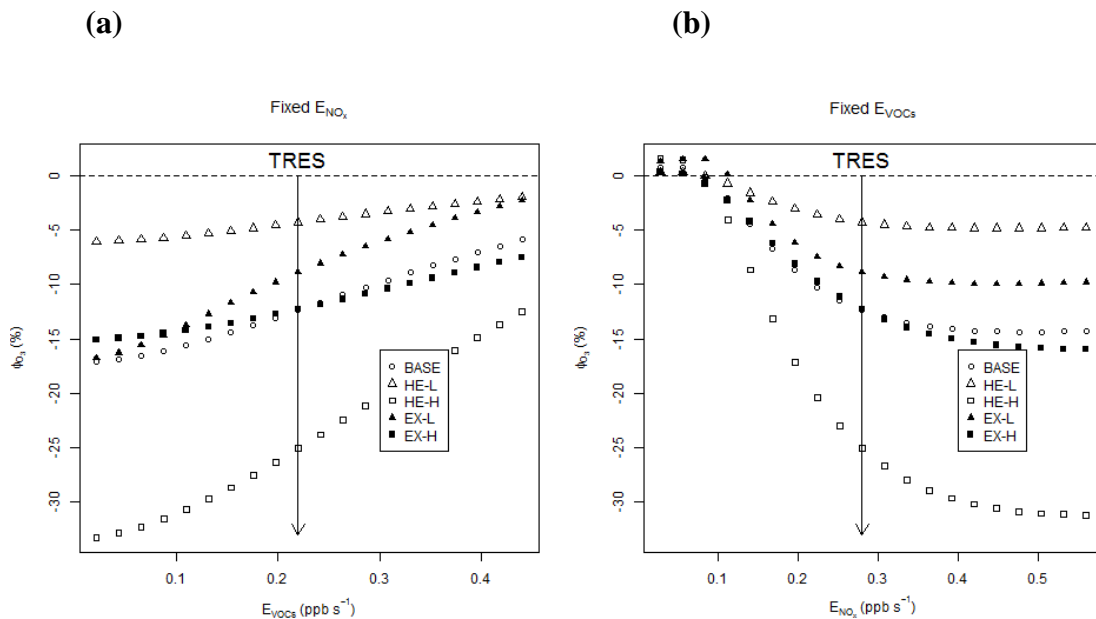
506

507 Figure 4.  $\phi_{O_3}$  (%), the percentage of overestimation for  $O_3$  by the ‘one-box’ model, in the (a) Case BASE, (b)  
 508 Case HE-L, (c) Case HE-H, (d) Case EX-L, (e) Case EX-H and (f) Selected lines for analysis.  $E_{VOCs}$  and  $E_{NOx}$  are  
 509 the emission rates of VOCs and  $NO_x$ , respectively ( $ppb s^{-1}$ ); RSL means Region Split Line;  $\Delta$  represents the ‘Typical  
 510 Real-world Emission Scenario’, TRES, for the year of 2010; The trajectory from 2005 to 2020 means the  
 511 emission scenarios for 2005 to 2020, assuming constant traffic volume and speed.



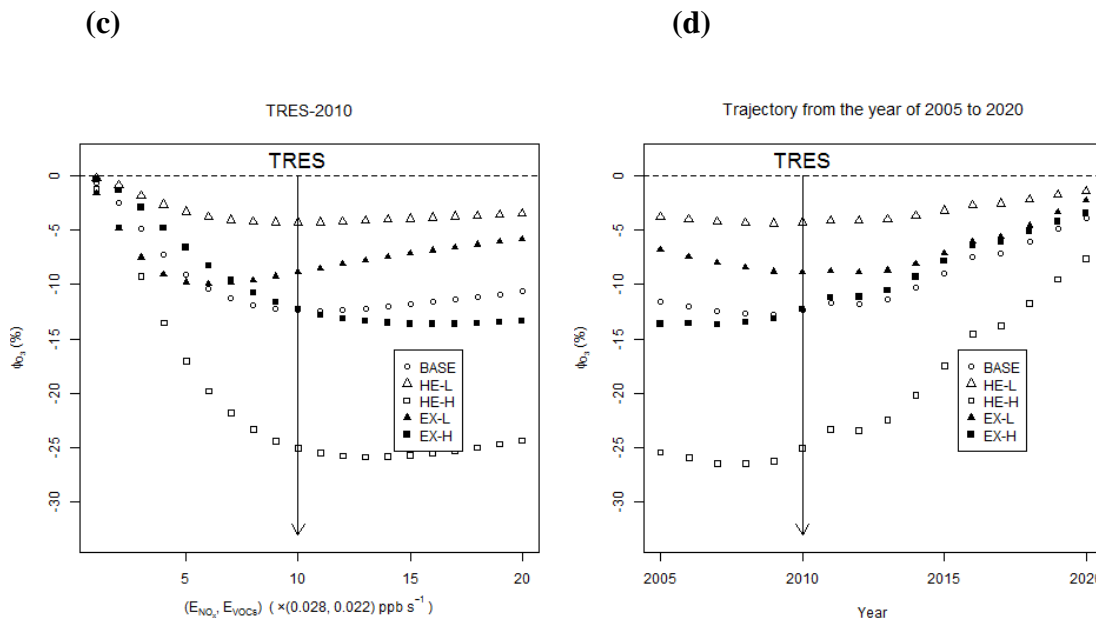
512

513



514

515



516

517 Figure 5.  $\phi_{O_3}$  (%), the percentage of overestimation for O<sub>3</sub> by the ‘one-box’ model, for (a) “Fixed  $E_{NO_x}$ ” at a

518 fixed NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (0.28 ppb s<sup>-1</sup>), (b) “Fixed  $E_{VOCs}$ ” at a fixed VOCs emissions (0.22 ppb s<sup>-1</sup>), (c) “TRES-

519 2010” varying the total traffic volume only and (d) “Trajectory from the year of 2005 to 2020” assuming

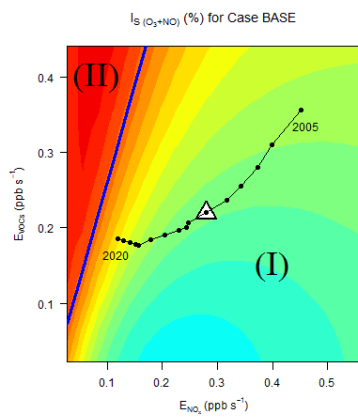
520 constant traffic volume and speed.  $E_{VOCs}$  and  $E_{NO_x}$  are the emission rates of VOCs and NO<sub>x</sub>, respectively (ppb s<sup>-1</sup>); The

521 solid line indicates the ‘Typical Real-world Emission Scenario’, TRES, for the year of 2010.

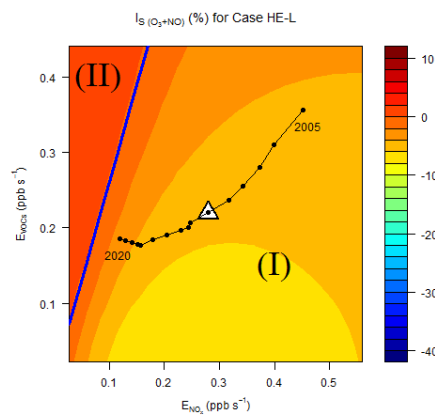
522

523

(a)



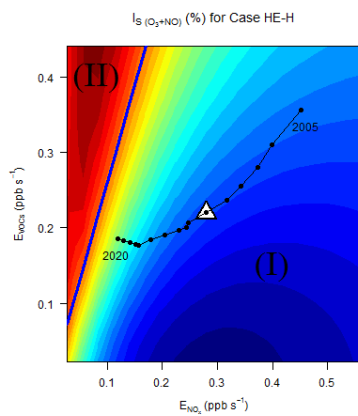
(b)



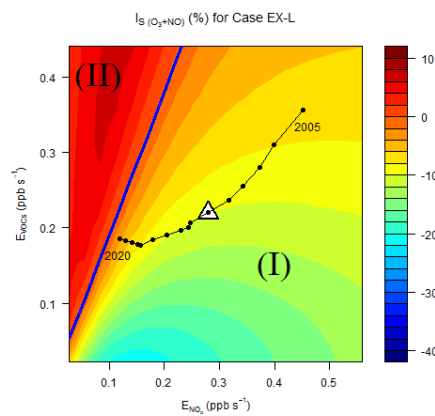
524

525

(c)



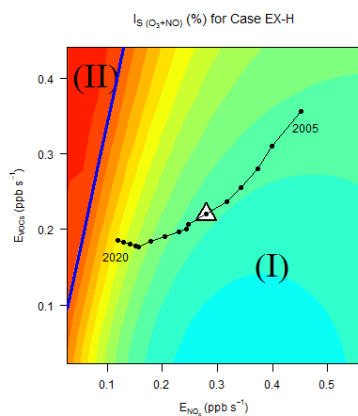
(d)



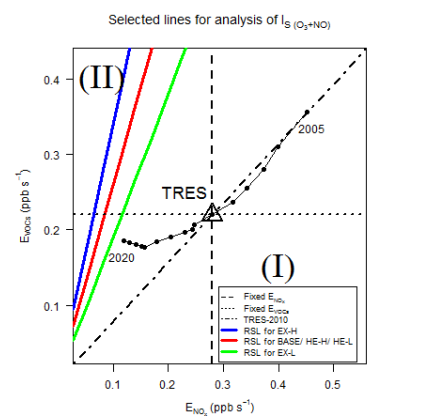
526

527

(e)



(f)



528

529

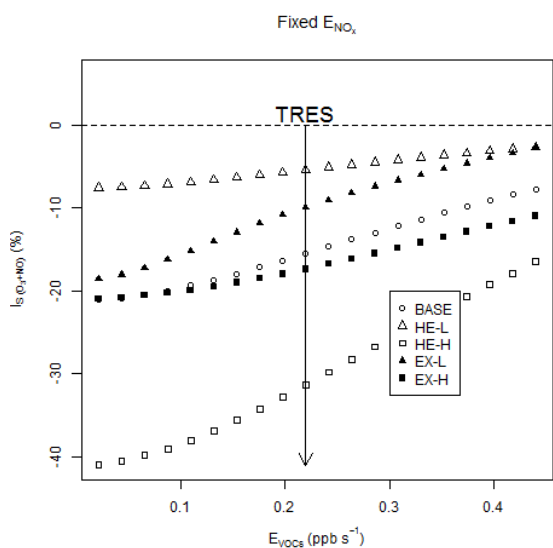
530

531

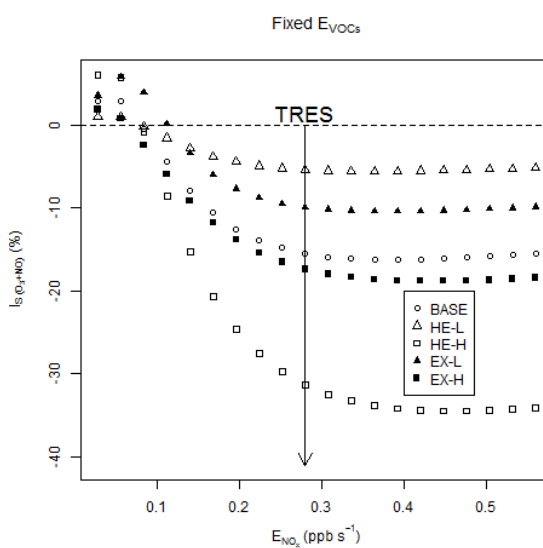
Figure 6.  $I_{S(O_3+NO)}$  (%), the intensity of segregation between  $O_3$  and  $NO$ , in the (a) Case BASE, (b) Case HE-L, (c) Case HE-H, (d) Case EX-L, (e) Case EX-H and (f) Selected lines for analysis.  $E_{VOCS}$  and  $E_{NOx}$  are the emission rates of VOCs and  $NO_x$ , respectively ( $ppb s^{-1}$ ); RSL means Region Split Line;  $\Delta$  represents the ‘Typical’

532 Real-world Emission Scenario', TRES, for the year of 2010; The trajectory from 2005 to 2020 indicates the  
 533 emission scenarios for 2005 to 2020, assuming constant traffic volume and speed.

534 (a)

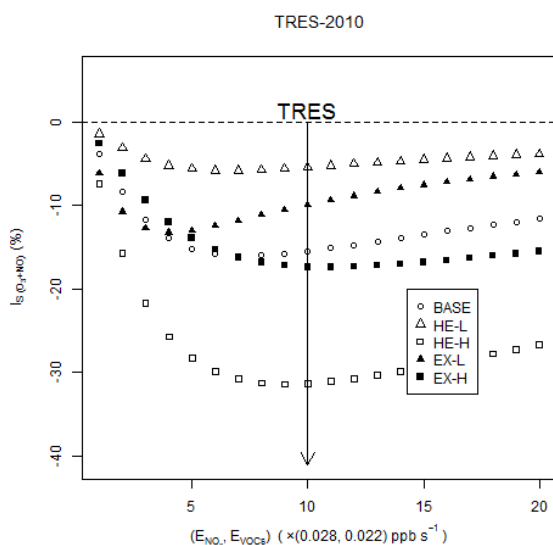


(b)

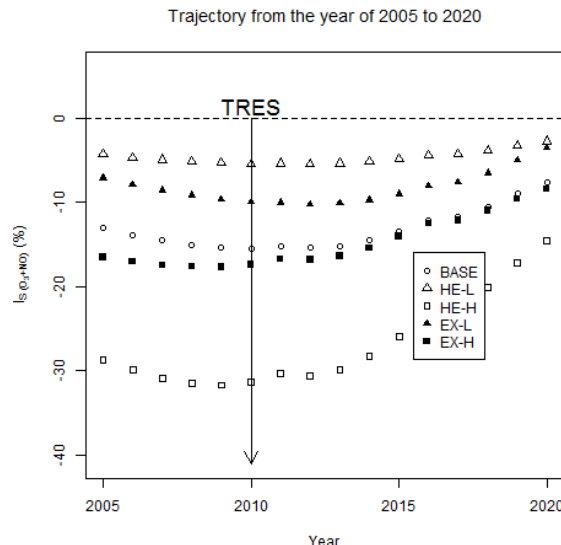


535

536 (c)



(d)



537

538 Figure 7.  $I_{S(O_3+NO)} (%)$ , the intensity of segregation between  $O_3$  and  $NO$ , for (a) "Fixed  $E_{NO_x}$ " at a fixed  $NO_x$   
 539 emissions ( $0.28 ppb s^{-1}$ ), (b) "Fixed  $E_{VOCs}$ " at a fixed  $VOCs$  emissions ( $0.22 ppb s^{-1}$ ), (c) "TRES-2010" varying  
 540 the total traffic volume only and (d) "Trajectory from the year of 2005 to 2020" assuming constant traffic  
 541 volume and speed.  $E_{VOCs}$  and  $E_{NO_x}$  are the emission rates of  $VOCs$  and  $NO_x$ , respectively ( $ppb s^{-1}$ ); The solid line  
 542 indicates the 'Typical Real-world Emission Scenario', TRES, for the year of 2010.

543

544 **References**

- 545 Arciszewska, C. and McClatchey, J.: The importance of meteorological data for modelling air  
546 pollution using ADMS-Urban. *Meteorological Applications*, 8, 345-350, 2001.
- 547 Auger, L. and Legras, B.: Chemical segregation by heterogeneous emissions. *Atmospheric*  
548 *Environment*, 41, 2303-2318, 2007.
- 549 Beevers, S. D., Kitwiroon, N., Williams, M. L. and Carslaw, D. C.: One way coupling of  
550 CMAQ and a road source dispersion model for fine scale air pollution predictions.  
551 *Atmospheric Environment*, 59, 47-58, 2012.
- 552 Boulter, P. G., Barlow, T. J., Latham, S. and McCrae, I. S.: Emission Factors 2009: Report 1  
553 - a review of methods for determining hot exhaust emission factors for road vehicles.  
554 TRL: Wokingham, 2009.
- 555 Bright, V. B., Bloss, W. J. and Cai, X. M.: Urban street canyons: Coupling dynamics,  
556 chemistry and within-canyon chemical processing of emissions. *Atmospheric*  
557 *Environment*, 68, 127-142, 2013.
- 558 Cai, X.-M.: Effects of differential wall heating in street canyons on dispersion and ventilation  
559 characteristics of a passive scalar. *Atmospheric Environment*, 51, 268-277, 2012.
- 560 Cassiani, M., Vinuesa, J. F., Galmarini, S. and Denby, B.: Stochastic fields method for sub-  
561 grid scale emission heterogeneity in mesoscale atmospheric dispersion models.  
562 *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 10, 267-277, 2010.
- 563 Chemel, C., Sokhi, R. S., Dore, A. J., Sutton, P., Vincent, K. J., Griffiths, S. J., Hayman, G.  
564 D., Wright, R. D., Baggaley, M., Hallsworth, S., Prain, H. D. and Fisher, B. E. A.:  
565 Predictions of UK Regulated Power Station Contributions to Regional Air Pollution  
566 and Deposition: A Model Comparison Exercise. *Journal of the Air & Waste*  
567 *Management Association*, 61, 1236-1245, 2011.
- 568 Ching, J., Herwehe, J. and Swall, J.: On joint deterministic grid modeling and sub-grid  
569 variability conceptual framework for model evaluation. *Atmospheric Environment*,  
570 40, 4935-4945, 2006.
- 571 Chung, T. N. H. and Liu, C.-H.: On the Mechanism of Air Pollutant Removal in Two-  
572 Dimensional Idealized Street Canyons: A Large-Eddy Simulation Approach.  
573 *Boundary-Layer Meteorology*, 148, 241-253, 2013.
- 574 Curtis, A. R. and Sweetenham, W. P.: FACSIMILE/CHECKMAT user's manual. UKAEA  
575 Atomic Energy Research Establishment Computer Science and Systems Division,  
576 1987.
- 577 Constantinescu, E. M., Sandu, A. and Carmichael, G. R.: Modeling atmospheric chemistry  
578 and transport with dynamic adaptive resolution. *Computational Geosciences*, 12, 133-  
579 151, 2008.
- 580 Denby, B., Cassiani, M., de Smet, P., de Leeuw, F. and Horalek, J.: Sub-grid variability and  
581 its impact on European wide air quality exposure assessment. *Atmospheric*  
582 *Environment*, 45, 4220-4229, 2011.
- 583 Fisher, B., Kukkonen, J., Piringer, M., Rotach, M. W. and Schatzmann, M.: Meteorology  
584 applied to urban air pollution problems: concepts from COST 715. *Atmospheric*  
585 *Chemistry and Physics*, 6, 555-564, 2006.

- 586 Galmarini, S., Vinuesa, J. F. and Martilli, A.: Modeling the impact of sub-grid scale emission  
587 variability on upper-air concentration. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 8, 141-  
588 158, 2008.
- 589 Garcia-Menendez, F. and Odman, M. T.: Adaptive Grid Use in Air Quality Modeling.  
590 *Atmosphere*, 2, 484-509, 2011.
- 591 Garcia-Menendez, F., Yano, A., Hu, Y. T. and Odman, M. T.: An adaptive grid version of  
592 CMAQ for improving the resolution of plumes. *Atmospheric Pollution Research*, 1,  
593 239-249, 2010.
- 594 Grell, G. A., Peckham, S. E., Schmitz, R., McKeen, S. A., Frost, G., Skamarock, W. C. and  
595 Eder, B.: Fully coupled "online" chemistry within the WRF model. *Atmospheric*  
596 *Environment*, 39, 6957-6975, 2005.
- 597 Hilst, G. R.: Segregation and chemical reaction rates in air quality models. *Atmospheric*  
598 *Environment*, 32, 3891-3895, 1998.
- 599 Isakov, V., Touma, J. S., Burke, J., Lobdell, D. T., Palma, T., Rosenbaum, A. and Ozkaynak,  
600 H.: Combining Regional- and Local-Scale Air Quality Models with Exposure Models  
601 for Use in Environmental Health Studies. *Journal of the Air & Waste Management*  
602 *Association*, 59, 461-472, 2009.
- 603 Johnson, M., Isakov, V., Touma, J. S., Mukerjee, S. and Ozkaynak, H.: Evaluation of land-  
604 use regression models used to predict air quality concentrations in an urban area.  
605 *Atmospheric Environment*, 44, 3660-3668, 2010.
- 606 Karamchandani, P., Seigneur, C., Vijayaraghavan, K. and Wu, S. Y.: Development and  
607 application of a state-of-the-science plume-in-grid model. *Journal of Geophysical*  
608 *Research-Atmospheres*, 107, 2002.
- 609 Karamchandani, P., Vijayaraghavan, K. and Yarwood, G.: Sub-Grid Scale Plume Modeling.  
610 *Atmosphere*, 2, 389-406, 2011.
- 611 Karamchandani, P., Zhang, Y. and Chen, S. Y.: Development and initial application of a sub-  
612 grid scale plume treatment in a state-of-the-art online Multi-scale Air Quality and  
613 Weather Prediction Model. *Atmospheric Environment*, 63, 125-134, 2012.
- 614 Kesarkar, A. P., Dalvi, M., Kaginalkar, A. and Ojha, A.: Coupling of the Weather Research  
615 and Forecasting Model with AERMOD for pollutant dispersion modeling. A case  
616 study for PM10 dispersion over Pune, India. *Atmospheric Environment*, 41, 1976-  
617 1988, 2007.
- 618 Krol, M. C., Molemaker, M. J. and de Arellano, J. V. G.: Effects of turbulence and  
619 heterogeneous emissions on photochemically active species in the convective  
620 boundary layer. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres*, 105, 6871-6884,  
621 2000.
- 622 Lee, J. D., Lewis, A. C., Monks, P. S., Jacob, M., Hamilton, J. F., Hopkins, J. R., Watson, N.  
623 M., Saxton, J. E., Ennis, C., Carpenter, L. J., Carslaw, N., Fleming, Z., Bandy, B. J.,  
624 Oram, D. E., Penkett, S. A., Slemr, J., Norton, E., Rickard, A. R., Whalley, L. K.,  
625 Heard, D. E., Bloss, W. J., Gravestock, T., Smith, S. C., Stanton, J., Pilling, M. J. and  
626 Jenkin, M. E.: Ozone photochemistry and elevated isoprene during the UK heatwave  
627 of August 2003. *Atmospheric Environment*, 40, 7598-7613, 2006.

- 628 Liu, C.-H. and Leung, D. Y. C.: Numerical study on the ozone formation inside street  
629 canyons using a chemistry box model. *Journal of Environmental Sciences-China*, 20,  
630 832-837, 2008.
- 631 Loughner, C. P., Allen, D. J., Zhang, D.-L., Pickering, K. E., Dickerson, R. R. and Landry,  
632 L.: Roles of Urban Tree Canopy and Buildings in Urban Heat Island Effects:  
633 Parameterization and Preliminary Results. *Journal of Applied Meteorology and*  
634 *Climatology*, 51, 1775-1793, 2012.
- 635 Mead, M.I., Popoola, O.A.M., Stewart, G.B., Landshoff, P., Calleja, M., Hayes, M., Baldovi,  
636 J.J., McLeod, M.W., Hodgson, T.F., Dicks, J., Lewis, A., Cohen, J., Baron, R.,  
637 Saffell, J.R., Jones, R.L.,. The use of electrochemical sensors for monitoring urban air  
638 quality in low-cost, high-density networks. *Atmospheric Environment* 70, 186-203,  
639 2013.
- 640 NAEI: UK fleet composition projections. URL: <http://naei.defra.gov.uk/data/ef-transport>,  
641 2003.
- 642 Shen, J., Wang, X. S., Li, J. F., Li, Y. P. and Zhang, Y. H.: Evaluation and intercomparison  
643 of ozone simulations by Models-3/CMAQ and CAMx over the Pearl River Delta.  
644 *Science China-Chemistry*, 54, 1789-1800, 2011.
- 645 Shrestha, K. L., Kondo, A., Kaga, A. and Inoue, Y.: High-resolution modeling and evaluation  
646 of ozone air quality of Osaka using MM5-CMAQ system. *Journal of Environmental*  
647 *Sciences-China*, 21, 782-789, 2009.
- 648 Sokhi, R. S., San Jose, R., Kitwiroon, N., Fragkou, E., Perez, J. L. and Middleton, D. R.:  
649 Prediction of ozone levels in London using the MM5-CMAQ modelling system.  
650 *Environmental Modelling & Software*, 21, 566-576, 2006.
- 651 Srivastava, R. K., McRae, D. S. and Odman, M. T.: An adaptive grid algorithm for air-quality  
652 modeling. *Journal of Computational Physics*, 165, 437-472, 2000.
- 653 Stein, A. F., Isakov, V., Godowitch, J. and Draxler, R. R.: A hybrid modeling approach to  
654 resolve pollutant concentrations in an urban area. *Atmospheric Environment*, 41,  
655 9410-9426, 2007.
- 656 Stocker, J., Hood, C., Carruthers, D. and McHugh, C.: ADMS-Urban: developments in  
657 modelling dispersion from the city scale to the local scale. *International Journal of*  
658 *Environment and Pollution*, 50, 308-316, 2012.
- 659 Touma, J. S., Isakov, V., Ching, J. and Seigneur, C.: Air quality modeling of hazardous  
660 pollutants: Current status and future directions. *Journal of the Air & Waste*  
661 *Management Association*, 56, 547-558, 2006.
- 662 Vijayaraghavan, K., Karamchandani, P. and Seigneur, C.: Plume-in-grid modeling of summer  
663 air pollution in Central California. *Atmospheric Environment*, 40, 5097-5109, 2006.
- 664 Vinuesa, J. F. and de Arellano, J. V. G.: Introducing effective reaction rates to account for the  
665 inefficient mixing of the convective boundary layer. *Atmospheric Environment*, 39,  
666 445-461, 2005.
- 667 Zou, B., Zhan, F. B., Wilson, J. G. and Zeng, Y. N.: Performance of AERMOD at different  
668 time scales. *Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory*, 18, 612-623, 2010.