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1 **Large eddy simulation of reactive pollutants in a deep urban street**
2 **canyon: Coupling dynamics with O₃-NO_x-VOC chemistry**

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8

9 **Abstract:**

10 A large eddy simulation (LES) model coupled with O₃-NO_x-VOC chemistry is implemented to
11 simulate the coupling effect of emissions, mixing and chemical pre-processing within an idealised
12 deep (aspect ratio = 2) urban street canyon under a weak wind condition. Reactive pollutants exhibit
13 significant spatial variations in the presence of two vertically aligned unsteady vortices formed in
14 the canyon. Comparison of the LES results from two chemical schemes (simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry
15 and a more comprehensive Reduced Chemical Scheme (RCS) chemical mechanism) shows that the
16 concentrations of NO₂ and O_x inside the street canyon are enhanced by approximately 30-40% via
17 OH/HO₂ chemistry. NO, NO_x, O₃, OH and HO₂ are chemically consumed, while NO₂ and O_x (total
18 oxidant) are chemically produced within the canyon environment. The within-canyon pre-
19 processing would increase oxidant fluxes released from the canyon to the overlying boundary layer,
20 and this effect is more crucial for deeper street canyons (as found in many traditional European
21 urban centres) than shallower (lower aspect ratio) streets. There is clear evidence of distinct
22 behaviours for emitted chemical species and entrained chemical species, and positive (or negative)
23 values of intensities of segregations are found between pairs of species with a similar (or opposite)
24 behaviour. The simplified two-box model underestimated NO and O₃ levels, but overestimated NO₂
25 levels for both the lower and upper canyon compared with the more realistic LES-chemistry model.
26 This suggests that the segregation effect due to incomplete mixing reduces the chemical conversion

27 rate of NO to NO₂. This study reveals the impacts of nonlinear O₃-NO_x-VOC photochemical
28 processes in the incomplete mixing environment and provides a better understanding of the pre-
29 processing of emissions within canyons, prior to their release to the urban boundary layer, through
30 the coupling of street canyon dynamics and chemistry.

31 **Capsule:**

32 The impacts of nonlinear O₃-NO_x-VOC photochemical processes in an incomplete mixing
33 environment are revealed by an LES-chemistry model.

34 **Keywords:**

35 Large eddy simulation; Street canyon; Nonlinear photochemistry; Segregation effect.

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48 **1 Introduction**

49 Urban air pollution associated with road transport is a major environmental issue (Murena et al.,
50 2009). Air pollutants in urban areas may be classified into two categories. The first category is
51 primary air pollutants (Mayer, 1999), which are released directly into the atmosphere from emission
52 sources (normally resulting from the combustion of fuels) and consist of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) -
53 primarily NO, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO) and components of
54 particulate matter (PM) (Dunmore et al., 2015). The second category is secondary air pollutants,
55 which are produced into the atmosphere while primary air pollutants undergo chemical reactions
56 (Jacobson, 2005). As one of the important secondary air pollutants, ozone (O_3) is formed by
57 chemical reactions involving primarily the oxidation of VOCs and NO_x while the sunlight is present.
58 Fast-reacting chemical radicals (e.g. the hydroxyl radical (OH), and hydroperoxy radical (HO_2))
59 govern the cycle of the chemical degradation of VOCs (O_3 precursors) converting NO to NO_2 and
60 hence O_3 formation (Bloss, 2009).

61 The street canyon is normally the basic geometric unit in the built environment of many cities and
62 typically describes a place with surrounding buildings on both sides of the street (Li et al., 2008b).
63 Buildings are the artificial obstacles to urban atmospheric flow (Salim et al., 2011) and give rise to
64 limited ventilation, especially for deep street canyons. The deterioration of urban air quality occurs
65 due to the combined effects of traffic emissions, dynamics and chemistry within such an
66 atmospheric compartment (Li et al., 2008b). Investigation of urban air pollution in street canyons
67 has become a focus of environmental research (Zhong et al., 2016). A variety of approaches, from
68 full-scale field measurements, reduced-scale physical modelling (e.g. water-channel experiments
69 and wind-tunnel experiments), numerical modelling (e.g. Computational fluid dynamics (CFD)
70 models) to parametric (operational) modelling (e.g. street canyon box models), have been
71 undertaken over recent years to investigate street canyon air quality in urban areas (Vardoulakis et
72 al., 2003; Ahmad et al., 2005; Li et al., 2006; Yazid et al., 2014). Details of individual aspects of
73 these approaches can be found in several reviews, e.g. Vardoulakis et al. (2003) focused on full-

74 scale field measurements and parametric (operational) modelling; Ahmad et al. (2005) examined
75 wind tunnel experiments; Li et al. (2006) used CFD models to understand the dynamical processes
76 and Yazid et al. (2014) carried out field measurements and modelling studies. Recently, Zhong et al.
77 (2016) presented a comprehensive review of numerical modelling studies that couple street canyon
78 dynamics with chemistry of reactive pollutants. Coupling dynamics and chemistry accommodates
79 the mixing, and photo-chemical processes of emissions. The CFD approach (including mainly
80 Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) and Large-eddy Simulation (LES) models) has become
81 a powerful tool to investigate high spatial and temporal resolution simulations of wind and pollutant
82 fields within urban street canyons (e.g. Bright et al., 2013; Kwak et al., 2013; Li et al., 2012).
83 RANS only provides the information about the mean time-averaged properties, while LES can
84 predict the additional unsteadiness and intermittency of turbulence (Li et al., 2006). However,
85 RANS is normally computationally faster than LES (Li et al., 2006).

86 Zhong et al. (2015) employed an LES model to investigate the dispersion and transport of the
87 reactive species NO, NO₂ and O₃ in a deep urban street canyon by coupling with simple NO_x-O₃
88 chemistry. The turbulent flow derived from the LES model was evaluated against a water-channel
89 experiment (Li et al., 2008a) and the model agreed well with the experiment in terms of the
90 velocities, turbulent intensities and flow structure (Zhong et al., 2015). There were spatial
91 distributions of reactive pollutants driven by the two canyon vortices. A simplified two-box model
92 coupled with the NO_x-O₃ chemistry was then developed in the presence of two vortices. This study
93 further extends the framework used in Zhong et al. (2015), with a focus upon the coupling of the
94 O₃-NO_x-VOC chemistry, rather than simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry.

95 **2 Methodology**

96 **2.1 Large-Eddy simulation**

97 The numerical model employed to simulate the incompressible turbulent flow under neutral
98 conditions in the canyon is based on the LES technique, which computes the larger, grid-resolved

99 eddies explicitly and parameterises the smaller, unresolved eddies (Liu et al., 2005). The one-
100 equation sub-grid scale (SGS) turbulence model is adopted to model the SGS motions. The near-
101 wall treatment is based on the logarithmic law of the rough-wall model (Schlichting and Gersten,
102 2000) . The LES model is solved by OpenFoam v2.1.1 (OpenFOAM, 2012). The detailed numerical
103 model is described by Zhong et al. (2015).

104 **2.2 Coupling with O₃-NO_x-VOC chemistry**

105 The filtered governing equations for the transport of reactive pollutants are:

$$106 \quad \frac{\partial \bar{c}_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\bar{u}_j \bar{c}_i) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\left[\frac{\nu + \nu_{SGS}}{Sc} \right] \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{c}_i}{\partial x_j} \right) + \Delta S_i + E_i \quad (1)$$

107 Here, \bar{c}_i is the resolved-scale concentration of the i^{th} chemical species; Sc (=0.72) is the Schmidt
108 number (Liu et al., 2005); ΔS_i is the chemical source term of the i^{th} chemical species; E_i is the
109 emission of the i^{th} chemical species; j (=1, 2, 3) denotes the Cartesian component. Due to the
110 computational limitation of LES, a reduced chemical scheme (RCS) with 51 chemical species and
111 136 chemical reactions (Bright, 2013) is employed as the chemical mechanism in the present study.
112 The RCS was developed and reduced based on the Common Representative Intermediates
113 mechanism version CRI v2-R5 (Jenkin et al., 2008), which included 555 chemical reactions of 196
114 species. This CRI v2-R5 is a subset of the near-explicit chemical mechanism, i.e. the Master
115 Chemical Mechanism (MCM) (Jenkin et al., 1997) which involves about 13,500 chemical reactions
116 of 5,900 species for MCM v3.1 (Pinho et al., 2007). The MCM has been evaluated against multiple
117 chamber and field datasets (Bloss et al., 2005; Saunders et al., 2003; Jenkin et al., 1997; Jenkin et
118 al., 2003) and can be a benchmark mechanism for the development and evaluation of reduced
119 chemical mechanisms. Both the RCS and CRI have been evaluated regarding the abundance of key
120 oxidants for the daytime scenarios compared to the MCM (Bright, 2013; Bright et al., 2013). The
121 largest difference of OH between the RCS (reduced from CRI) and MCM was about 6% over a four

122 hour box model simulation (Bright, 2013; Bright et al., 2013), which was acceptable compared with
123 the errors associated with the OH measurement of 7-16 % (Heard and Pilling, 2003).

124 A challenge to solve the transport equations for reactive pollutants (especially fast-reacting
125 chemical radicals, e.g. OH and HO₂) is to derive the chemical source terms. According to Hertel et
126 al. (1993), the ordinary differential equations of a chemical system can be described as follows:

$$127 \quad \frac{dc_i}{dt} = P_i - L_i c_i \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, nc \quad (2)$$

128 Here, nc is the total number of the chemical species, i represents the i^{th} chemical species, c_i is the
129 concentration, P_i is the chemical production term and L_i is the chemical loss rate ($L_i c_i$ therefore
130 represents the chemical loss term). Both P_i and L_i are non-negative functions of concentrations, i.e.

$$131 \quad P_i = P_i(t, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{nc}) \quad (3)$$

$$132 \quad L_i = L_i(t, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{nc}) \quad (4)$$

133 The chemical timescale of the i^{th} chemical species τ_i (Neophytou et al., 2004) is defined as follows:

$$134 \quad \tau_i = \frac{1}{L_i} \quad (5)$$

135 The chemical system is normally stiff due to the variability (from very fast to rather slow) of the
136 chemical time scale (Verwer and Simpson, 1995). The QSSA (quasi-steady-state approximation)
137 algorithm has been widely used to handle stiff chemical systems in air pollution modelling (e.g.
138 Hesstvedt et al., 1978; Verwer and Vanloon, 1994). The QSSA algorithm is described below.

139 c_i^n denotes the concentration of the i^{th} chemical species at $t = t_n$. It is assumed that P_i and L_i in
140 Equation (2) are constant over a given time step Δt (Hertel et al, 1993),

$$141 \quad t_{n+1} = t_n + \Delta t \quad (6)$$

142 Equation (2) may be solved analytically by the following formula:

$$143 \quad c_i^{n+1} = \frac{P_i^n}{L_i^n} + (c_i^n - \frac{P_i^n}{L_i^n})e^{-L_i^n \Delta t} \quad (7)$$

144 Depending on the chemical timescales and time steps, three categories of formulae are derived

145 (Alexandrov et al., 1997). (i) If $\tau_i < \frac{\Delta t}{10}$, it means that the chemical reaction is very fast over the

146 given time step. The steady state at the end of the time step can be assumed and Equation (7) can be

147 expressed by the following approximation,

$$148 \quad c_i^{n+1} = \frac{P_i^n}{L_i^n} \quad (8)$$

149 (ii) If $\Delta t / 10 \leq \tau_i \leq 100\Delta t$, it means that the chemical reaction is at a medium rate over the given

150 time step and Equation (7) is applied. (iii) If $\tau_i > 100\Delta t$, it means that the chemical reaction is

151 rather slow over the given time step and the forward Eulerian formula can be employed,

$$152 \quad c_i^{n+1} = c_i^n + (P_i^n - L_i^n c_i^n)\Delta t \quad (9)$$

153 The QSSA algorithm has simple formulae and can be easily employed in large air pollution models.

154 However, there are also some drawbacks. At each cell for each species, there are three formulae to

155 be conditionally determined. It demands more computational time for the air pollution models with

156 a huge number of cells. In addition, the computational cost to compute the exponential function in

157 Equation (7) is expensive. Therefore, an attempt has been conducted (Alexandrov et al., 1997) to

158 improve the performance of the QSSA algorithm. The exponential function can be rationally

159 approximated by the following expression based on the Taylor expansion in the second order:

$$160 \quad e^{-L_i^n \Delta t} \approx \frac{1}{1 + L_i^n \Delta t + 0.5(L_i^n \Delta t)^2} \quad (10)$$

161 Then Equation (7) can be rewritten as:

162
$$c_i^{n+1} = \frac{c_i^n + (1 + 0.5L_i^n \Delta t)P_i^n \Delta t}{1 + L_i^n \Delta t + 0.5(L_i^n \Delta t)^2} \quad (11)$$

163 In this study, the chemical species in the RCS chemical mechanism can be separated into two
 164 groups, i.e. slower chemical species (e.g. NO_x and O₃) and faster chemical species (e.g. OH and
 165 HO₂). For slow chemical species, a time step of 0.03 s (Bright et al., 2013) is adopted and Equation
 166 (9) is used. For fast chemical species, the above-mentioned QSSA algorithm with Equation (11)
 167 (with a smaller time step of 0.003 s) (Bright et al., 2013) is adopted.

168 **2.3 Model setup**

169 The computational domain in the study is same as that in Zhong et al. (2015), shown as Figure S1
 170 (in the Supplementary Materials), which consists of an idealised deep street canyon (AR=2, i.e.
 171 $H=36$ m and $W= 18$ m). A constant pressure gradient above the canyon (perpendicular to the street
 172 axis) is used to drive the street canyon flow. Symmetry boundary conditions are used at the domain
 173 top for both the flow and pollutants. Cyclic boundary conditions are used in both the x - and y -
 174 directions for the flow. For pollutants, the inlet adopts “fixed-value” boundary conditions. A
 175 photochemical box model (including the RCS mechanism) is run without emissions for 30 mins in
 176 order to achieve a photochemical pseudo-equilibrium condition. Then concentrations of all
 177 chemical species at $t =30$ min are used as their inlet boundary conditions. For the outlet, the
 178 advective boundary condition

179
$$\frac{\partial \bar{c}_i}{\partial t} + \bar{u} \frac{\partial \bar{c}_i}{\partial x} = 0 \quad (12)$$

180 is employed. On the solid boundaries, the near-wall treatment (Schlichting and Gersten, 2000) is
 181 employed for the flow and zero-gradient conditions are used for pollutants (assuming no pollutant
 182 deposition). At $t =30$ min, the chemistry mechanism and emissions modules are switched on in the
 183 presence of canyon dynamics, i.e. a statistically steady turbulent flow derived from the LES model
 184 (Zhong et al., 2015), for a 210 min duration window ($t = 30$ to 240 min).

185 Emissions are represented by two traffic lanes with a Gaussian distribution located at $z = 1$ m and at
 186 2.5 m from both sides of the street centre (Zhong et al., 2015). Based on the UK Road Vehicle
 187 Emission Factors (Boulter et al., 2009), emission rates for NO_x , VOCs and CO of 620, 128 and
 188 $1,356 \text{ g km}^{-1} \text{ hr}^{-1}$ (equivalent to $1,000 \text{ ppb s}^{-1}$, $3,593 \text{ ppb s}^{-1}$, and 691 ppb s^{-1} respectively released
 189 into a typical LES model cell, i.e. $0.3 \text{ m} \times 1 \text{ m} \times 0.3 \text{ m}$ in the x -, y - and z -directions) were used.
 190 This emission scenario approximately represents urban continuous road traffic of $1,500 \text{ vehicles hr}^{-1}$
 191 with an average speed of 30 mph (Boulter et al., 2009). The fractional NO_x emission rate by volume
 192 is 90% for NO and 10% for NO_2 (Baker et al., 2004). The fractional VOCs emission rate by volume
 193 is 44% for ethane (C_2H_4), 19% for propene (C_3H_6), 25% for formaldehyde (HCHO) and 12% for
 194 acetaldehyde (CH_3CHO) (Bright et al., 2013).

195 Computation of the LES model coupling the RCS mechanism (LES-chemistry) was performed in
 196 the University of Birmingham's Linux-based High Performance Computing (HPC) cluster. In this
 197 research, the total number of cores used was 32, i.e. the LES-chemistry model was run in parallel on
 198 2 nodes, each of which consists of 16 cores with 64-bit 2.2 GHz processors and 32 GB of memory.
 199 The total computation time for the LES-chemistry was about 10 days.

200 **3 Post-processing of LES output**

201 The 3-D fields (at each grid) for wind and concentrations were stored in interval time step of 3s and
 202 the final hour of the simulation ($t = 180$ to 240 min) was used to analyse the resolved-scale
 203 turbulent statistics. The temporal average over $t \in [t_1, t_2]$ and spatial average over $y \in [0, L_y]$ of any
 204 resolved-scale quantity $\bar{\phi}$ gives a 2D function $\langle \bar{\phi} \rangle(x, z)$, i.e.

$$205 \quad \langle \bar{\phi} \rangle(x, z) = \frac{1}{L_y(t_2 - t_1)} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \int_0^{L_y} \bar{\phi}(x, y, z, t) dy dt \quad (13)$$

206 and $\phi'(x, y, z, t) = \bar{\phi}(x, y, z, t) - \langle \bar{\phi} \rangle(x, z)$ denotes the resolved-scale fluctuation component of $\bar{\phi}$
207 about $\langle \bar{\phi} \rangle$.

208 **3.1 Decomposition of contributions from emission and chemistry**

209 For a passive scalar (i.e. a non-reactive scalar), abundance within a street canyon is determined by
210 the emission rate and the background concentration of the passive scalar once the street canyon
211 turbulent flow is given. We denote its t - and y -averaged spatial field as $\langle \bar{C}_{ps} \rangle$. For a reactive scalar
212 (e.g. NO₂), in addition to the contribution from its emission rate and background concentration, the
213 contribution from chemistry also affects its abundance within the street canyon. If the mean
214 concentration for any chemical species inside an idealised 2D street canyon derived from LES is
215 denoted by $\langle \bar{C} \rangle(x, z)$, we can then define the contribution to its abundance from chemistry, denoted
216 by $\langle \bar{C}_{chem} \rangle$, using the following equation (without loss of generality, the overbar and the angle
217 brackets of all terms are dropped for the purpose of presentation):

$$218 \quad C_{chem}(x, z) = C(x, z) - C_{ps}(x, z) \quad (14)$$

219 Further,

$$220 \quad C_{ps}(x, z) = C_b(x, z) + C_{emn}(x, z) \quad (15)$$

221 Here, ‘b’ is for ‘background’ and ‘emn’ is for ‘emission’. $C_{emn}(x, z)$ is the field of the passive scalar
222 induced by the given emission and corresponding to ‘zero background’. $C_b(x, z)$ is the spatial
223 distribution induced by an upwind background concentration of C_0 . It is assumed that

$$224 \quad C_b(x, z) = C_0 = const \quad (16)$$

225 This assumption is true if the system is allowed to achieve a steady state; air inside the canyon will
226 be in balance with the above-roof concentration and should be constant. Thus,

227
$$C_{ps}(x, z) = C_0 + C_{em}(x, z) \quad (17)$$

228 It is assumed that $C_{em}(x, z)$ linearly scales with the emission rate. It is further defined that
229 $C_{em,1}(x, z)$ is the concentration for a unit emission rate and $C_{em,1}(x, z)$ can be derived from the LES
230 simulation for a passive scalar (with zero background). Therefore,

231
$$C_{em}(x, z) = E * C_{em,1}(x, z) \quad (18)$$

232 where E is the emission rate for this species. In such a way, a spatial pattern of a passive scalar can
233 be used to reconstruct the pattern for any other passive scalars, or the emission-induced component
234 of a non-passive scalar.

235 Therefore, the contribution from chemistry to any non-passive scalar can be diagnosed by following
236 equation:

237
$$C_{chem}(x, z) = C(x, z) - E * C_{em,1}(x, z) - C_0 \quad (19)$$

238 in which both $C(x, z)$ and $C_{em,1}(x, z)$ are derived from LES with prescribed E and C_0 . This formula
239 can be applied for all emitted species (e.g. NO, NO₂, NO_x and O_x). In particular, for any non-
240 emitted species (e.g. O₃, OH and HO₂), the contribution from emission is effectively ignored and
241 therefore the contribution from chemistry is simply obtained:

242
$$C_{chem}(x, z) = C(x, z) - C_0 \quad (20)$$

243 A negative (positive) value of C_{chem} means the chemical consumption (production). A zero value of
244 C_{chem} means no chemical consumption or production. For higher-order reactions, C_{chem} is also a
245 function of the background concentrations and the emission rates of relevant chemical species. This
246 complexity due to the nonlinearity of the chemical processes, however, does not limit the

247 application of such analysis for the purpose of diagnosis under a given set of conditions (i.e.
248 background concentrations and emission rates).

249 The Damköhler number (Da), defined as the ratio of the turbulent mixing timescale (T_{mix}) to the
250 chemical timescale (T_{chem}), can be used to investigate the combined effect between dynamics and
251 chemistry (Auger and Legras, 2007). When $Da \ll 1$, chemical processes are rather slow compared
252 with dynamical processes and chemical species may be regarded as well-mixed scalars with
253 minimal segregation effects. When $Da \gg 1$, chemistry is very fast and can achieve a chemical
254 equilibrium before the flow mixes together chemical species. In such situations, the interaction
255 between dynamics and chemistry is very important with substantial segregation effects.

256 **3.2 Vertical advective and turbulent fluxes of pollutants**

257 The vertical advective flux of any species at the resolved-scale is defined:

$$258 \quad F_{adv}(x, z) = \langle \bar{w} \rangle(x, z) \langle \bar{\phi} \rangle(x, z) \quad (21)$$

259 and the vertical turbulent flux is defined:

$$260 \quad F_{turb}(x, z) = \langle w' \phi' \rangle(x, z) = \frac{1}{L_y(t_2 - t_1)} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \int_0^{L_y} w'(x, y, z, t) \phi'(x, y, z, t) dy dt \quad (22)$$

261 Thus the vertical total flux is obtained as follows:

$$262 \quad F_{total}(x, z) = F_{turb}(x, z) + F_{adv}(x, z) \quad (23)$$

263 These quantities of fluxes represent the 2D spatial variation. For the purpose of discussion, these
264 quantities are further averaged horizontally and vertical profiles are derived:

$$265 \quad F(z) = \frac{1}{W} \int_{-0.5W}^{0.5W} F(x, z) dx \quad (24)$$

266 3.3 Intensity of segregation

267 In order to characterise the segregation effect due to incomplete mixing of chemical species, a
268 widely used dimensionless number, the *intensity of segregation* (Krol et al., 2000) between two
269 chemical species A and B, $I_{S(A+B)}$, is introduced and defined as:

$$270 \quad I_{S(A+B)} = \frac{1}{W * H} \int_{-0.5W}^{0.5W} \int_0^H \frac{A'(x, z) * B'(x, z)}{[A] * [B]} dx dz \quad (25)$$

271 where $[A]$ and $[B]$ represent the canyon averages of $\langle \bar{A} \rangle(x, z)$ and $\langle \bar{B} \rangle(x, z)$, respectively, in which
272 $\langle \bar{A} \rangle(x, z)$ and $\langle \bar{B} \rangle(x, z)$ are derived from Equation (13); the prime $A'(x, z) = \langle \bar{A} \rangle(x, z) - [A]$ (or
273 $B'(x, z) = \langle \bar{B} \rangle(x, z) - [B]$) denotes the local spatial deviation from the canyon-averaged
274 concentration, and $A'(x, z) * B'(x, z)$ stands for the spatial covariance between A and B. The
275 intensity of segregation is a proper measure of the effect of spatial segregation on nonlinear
276 chemical processes (Hilst, 1998) and represents the deviation from a well-mixed environment due
277 to the coupling between dynamics and chemistry (Zhong et al., 2014). For a second-order reaction
278 $A+B \rightarrow C$ in a heterogeneous system, the rate of formation of C (Vinuesa and de Arellano, 2005)
279 evaluated for the *whole* volume of air *inside* the street canyon in the framework of one-box model
280 can be described as follows,

$$281 \quad \frac{d[C]}{dt} = k_{eff(A+B)} [A][B] \quad (26)$$

282 where $k_{eff(A+B)}$ is the effective second-order rate constant for formation of C in the heterogeneous
283 system, i.e.

$$284 \quad k_{eff(A+B)} = k_{(A+B)} (1 + I_{S(A+B)}) \quad (27)$$

285 where $k_{(A+B)}$ is the original rate constant of the reaction in a well-mixed system. Such a constant is
286 normally obtained from laboratory experiments in a well-mixed chamber. If $I_{S(A+B)} = 0$, it means
287 that species A and B can be regarded as well-mixed; If $I_{S(A+B)} > 0$ or $I_{S(A+B)} < 0$, it implies that
288 $k_{eff(A+B)}$ in the heterogeneous system is larger or smaller than $k_{(A+B)}$ in the well-mixed system due to
289 the effect of segregation. Segregation effect for the street canyon environment will be investigated
290 in this study.

291 **4 Results and discussion**

292 **4.1 Spatial variation of reactive pollutants**

293 **4.1.1 Spatially and temporally averaged concentrations**

294 Figure 1 illustrates the spatial variation of (a) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle$, (b) $\langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$, (c) $\langle \overline{O_3} \rangle$, (d) $\langle \overline{NO_x} \rangle$, (e) $\langle \overline{O_x} \rangle$, (f)
295 $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle / \langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$, (g) $\langle \overline{OH} \rangle$ and (h) $\langle \overline{HO_2} \rangle$ (See Equation (13); averaged from 180 to 240 min).
296 These plots show the influence of two primary vortices on pollutant dispersion as observed by
297 Zhong et al. (2015) with simple NO_x - O_3 chemistry. Figure 1a-c show similar spatial patterns of NO,
298 NO_2 and O_3 as those in Zhong et al. (2015) (Figure 4a-c in their study). There are sinks of NO_x and
299 sources of O_x in the current study (with the O_3 - NO_x -VOC chemistry). However, NO_x and O_x are
300 effectively conserved in Zhong et al. (2015) (with simple NO_x - O_3 chemistry). NO_x plays a key role
301 in the street-canyon atmospheric chemistry. NO_2 levels are largely determined by the within-canyon
302 processing through the chemical reactions of NO with other species (e.g. O_3 titration and also
303 OH/ HO_2 chemistry). Both NO_x and O_x are useful measures of the street-canyon atmospheric
304 chemistry (Figure 1d-e). The ratio of NO/ NO_2 (Figure 1f) is a useful indicator of chemical
305 interactions within the street canyon, reflecting the conversion of NO to NO_2 through chemistry.
306 The NO/ NO_2 ratio also had a similar pattern driven by two vortices, ranging from about 3.6 (vs 6 in
307 Zhong et al., 2015) at the right of lower canyon to about 1.4 (vs 3 in Zhong et al., 2015) at the

308 canyon roof level. The NO/NO₂ ratio within the street canyon was much lower compared to the raw
309 emission ratio of NO/NO₂ (assumed as a value of 9). This reflected the contributions of directly
310 emitted NO₂ and chemical oxidation of emitted NO to increased levels of NO₂. The fast reacting
311 chemical radicals (OH and HO₂) played a key role in the additional conversion of NO to NO₂
312 through OH/HO₂ chemistry. The spatial distributions of OH and HO₂ (Figure 1g-h) had similar
313 patterns to that of O₃, in which their background mixing ratios were much higher than those within
314 the canyon (averagely by a factor of about 2 for OH, 5 for HO₂ and 3 for O₃).

315 **4.1.2 Simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry vs O₃-NO_x-VOC chemistry**

316 Figure 2 illustrates spatial variations of the overestimation of the spatially and temporally averaged
317 concentrations (%) by simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry (Zhong et al., 2015) compared with the RCS
318 mechanism (O₃-NO_x-VOC chemistry) in this study for (a) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle$, (b) $\langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$, (c) $\langle \overline{O_3} \rangle$, (d) $\langle \overline{NO_x} \rangle$, (e)
319 $\langle \overline{O_x} \rangle$ and (f) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle / \langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$. Generally, simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry overestimates the levels of NO, NO_x
320 and NO/NO₂, but underestimates the levels of NO₂, O₃ and O_x. Such findings suggest that using
321 simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry may provide a reasonable prediction of air pollution in street canyon (for
322 NO₂ - i.e. predicted levels are biased low) while in reality the NO₂ level may exceed the air quality
323 standards, which may mislead a policy-maker to make an inappropriate decision with respect to air
324 quality management. There are some common features for these overestimations (biases) in Figure
325 2. At the canyon roof level, a sharp decrease of the magnitudes of those biases was observed and
326 those values approach to zero for the wider background. The largest values of the magnitudes of
327 overestimation (about 30 % for NO, about -38% for NO₂, about -52% for O₃, about 4% for NO_x,
328 about -40% for O_x and about 115% for NO/NO₂) were found close to the centre of the upper vortex.
329 For air pollution problems related to higher levels of NO₂ in urban areas, an underestimation of NO₂
330 by 40% could be a substantial issue (Defra, 2008). In the lower part of the canyon, the magnitudes
331 of those overestimations were comparatively low and generally decrease down to the street ground -
332 this is of significance as the region in which receptor / population exposure occurs (at heights of 1 -
333 2 m). It is noted that there was a slight overestimation for NO_x by the simple chemistry and this was

334 due to the extra sink of NO_x to other N-contained species (such as Nitric acid (HNO_3) and Nitrous
335 acid (HONO)) presented in the more comprehensive RCS. It is interesting that there is a large
336 underestimation for the oxidants (NO_2 , O_3 and O_x) by the simple chemistry. This is attributed to the
337 additional conversion of NO to NO_2 by the OH/HO_2 chemistry in the RCS, exacerbated by limited
338 exchange in this deep canyon scenario.

339 4.1.3 Vertical profiles of concentrations

340 Figure 3 depicts vertical profiles of (a) $\langle \overline{\text{NO}} \rangle$, (b) $\langle \overline{\text{NO}_2} \rangle$, (c) $\langle \overline{\text{NO}_x} \rangle$, (d) $\langle \overline{\text{O}_x} \rangle$, (e) $\langle \overline{\text{NO}} \rangle / \langle \overline{\text{NO}_2} \rangle$,
341 (f) $\langle \overline{C} \rangle / C_b$ along the leeward and windward buildings, respectively. For the upper (or lower) vortex,
342 NO , NO_2 , NO_x , O_x and NO/NO_2 at the vicinity of the leeward building were generally higher (lower)
343 than those of the windward building (Figure 3a-e). But for O_3 , the situation is reversed (Figure 3f).
344 For the $\text{AR}=1$ case, there are higher concentrations of emitted pollutants towards the leeward
345 building at the pedestrian level (e.g. Baker et al., 2004; Kwak and Baik, 2012). However, for the
346 $\text{AR}=2$ case, higher concentrations of emitted pollutants (e.g. NO_x) are observed towards the
347 windward building at the pedestrian level (due to the opposite direction between the upper vortex
348 and lower vortex) (Figure 3a-e). It was also interesting to note that just above the canyon roof level
349 ($z/W=2$), there were much higher levels of pollutants (e.g. NO_x) at the windward side (i.e. the
350 canyon outlet) than those at the leeward side (i.e. the canyon inlet) (Figure 3a-e). This reflected
351 increased levels of pollutants transferred from the canyon to the wider ambient environment, which
352 highlighted the importance of the coupling effect of emissions, mixing and chemical pre-processing
353 within the street canyon. The windward side was the main location of this street canyon ventilation
354 system, potentially taking ambient air into buildings. The vertical profiles of OH and HO_2 have
355 similar patterns to that of O_3 , in which their levels along both the leeward and windward walls
356 increased with the vertical height and approach to their corresponding background concentrations at
357 approximately $z/W=2.4$. In the upper (or lower) part of the canyon, the mixing ratios of OH and
358 HO_2 along the windward wall were slightly higher (or lower) than those along the leeward wall. For

359 comparison, levels of O_3 , OH and HO_2 are normalised by their background concentrations (Figure
360 3f). It was observed that HO_2 had the sharpest drop near the canyon roof level while O_3 decreased
361 the least. This suggested that either HO_2 or OH is more rapidly consumed (sharp shift) than O_3 at
362 the canyon roof level as the above canyon air is entrained into the canyon. Within the canyon, there
363 was a similar consumption rate for OH and HO_2 , but much slower than that for O_3 . The rapid O_3
364 consumption inside the canyon can be explained by NO_x (NO) emissions from the street level,
365 which had a strong titration effect thereby leading to the rapid consumption of O_3 .

366 4.1.4 Contributions from emission and chemistry

367 Figure 4 illustrates the spatial variations of (a) $C_{em,1}$ and C_{chem} of (b) NO, (c) NO_2 , (d) NO_x , (e) O_x ,
368 (f) O_3 , (g) OH and (h) HO_2 (See Equations (18), (19) and (20)). The spatial pattern of a passive
369 scalar with a unit emission rate is depicted in Figure 4a. It was observed that the distribution of the
370 passive scalar can be characterised by the two unsteady vortices formed inside the street canyon
371 (Cross-sectional flow structure can be seen from Fig. 3 of the LES simulation in Zhong et al. 2015).
372 The emission of the passive scalar was mainly trapped inside the lower vortex closer to the
373 windward wall. This unit emission rate scenario was used to reconstruct the spatial pattern based on
374 Equation (19) for the chemistry-induced component of a non-passive scalar in Figure 4 b-e. It was
375 found that NO, NO_x , O_3 , OH and HO_2 were chemically consumed (negative values of C_{chem}). For
376 NO_2 and O_x , however, chemical production occurred inside the street canyon (positive values of
377 C_{chem}). The chemical consumption of NO and O_3 was largely caused by the titration effect and by
378 the (slow, but important near emission source) $NO + NO + O_2$ reaction. The concentration
379 contributed from the chemical consumption for NO_x was about 14% of that for NO. The slight
380 chemical consumption of NO_x indicated that there was a sink of NO_x in the chemical processing,
381 but this rate was relatively slow on the canyon timescale. The concentration contributed to the
382 chemical production for O_x was about 67% of that for NO_2 . This was partially attributed to the
383 chemical consumption of O_3 in the canyon. The chemical production of O_x was due to VOC

384 oxidation processes through the chemistry associated with fast radicals (e.g. HO_x) which effectively
385 convert NO to NO₂. It was observed that C_{chem} for OH and HO₂ were negative, i.e. chemically
386 consumed in the street canyon environment. The spatial patterns for these C_{chem} were dependent
387 upon the vortex structure inside the street canyon. There were also sharp gradients at the canyon
388 roof level and a clear separation at the interface between the lower and upper vortices. It is
389 interesting to note that the greatest magnitudes of either positive or negative values were observed
390 close to the windward wall in the lower vortex. These may be explained by the trapped emissions
391 due to the anti-clockwise vortex in the lower canyon and the relatively longer retention time than
392 that in a much shallower canyon with an AR=1. These magnitudes for the upper canyon were
393 slightly lower than those for the lower canyon. It was also noted that in the background atmosphere
394 above the canyon, there was no chemical production or consumption (the values of C_{chem} being
395 close to zero). This was due to that the background atmosphere was already in the quasi-equilibrium
396 state, in the simulation approach adopted here (although not necessarily in reality, with upwind
397 heterogeneity). The turbulent mixing timescale (T_{mix}) can be estimated as the length scale of the
398 canyon divided by its velocity scale. The length scale of the canyon is H (=36 m) and the velocity
399 scale of turbulent mixing is estimated as 0.058 m s^{-1} , i.e. the square root of the mean resolved-scale
400 turbulent kinetic energy (Salizzoni et al., 2009). The turbulent mixing timescale was calculated as
401 621 s. The chemical timescales (T_{chem}) within the canyon (calculated based on Equation (5) using
402 the canyon averaged quantities over the last 60 min period) was estimated as 185 s for NO, 108 s
403 for NO₂, 9 s for O₃, 0.0043 s for OH and 0.014 s for HO₂. The Damköhler number (Da) was
404 calculated as 3.4 for NO, 5.8 for NO₂, 69 for O₃, 1.44×10^5 for OH, and 4.44×10^4 for HO₂. This
405 reflected that the chemical production or consumption for these species was limited by dynamical
406 processes in the street canyon environment (Figure 4 b-h). In other words, the local chemistry
407 dominated the relative abundance of HO_x and probably O₃ (Da \gg 1), but for NO and NO₂, the
408 interaction between dynamics and chemistry was of vital importance (the turbulent mixing
409 timescale was comparable to the chemical timescale, as Da was in the same order as 1).

410 **4.2 Pre-processing of emitted pollutants**

411 Figure 5 shows vertical profiles of the horizontally averaged total (Equation 23), turbulent
412 (Equation 22) and advective (Equation 21) fluxes, for (a) NO, (b) NO₂, (c) O₃, (d) NO_x, (e) O_x and
413 (f) NO/NO₂. The relative total fluxes for non-passive scalars were reconstructed based on a passive
414 scalar with a unit emission rate (Figure 4a) and were denoted by the red solid lines. The departure
415 of the total fluxes (black solid lines) away from the red solid lines represents chemically induced
416 fluxes. Negative (or positive) values of fluxes mean that pollutants are entrained downward (or
417 upward) to the street canyon. It was observed that advective fluxes were higher than turbulent
418 fluxes for both upper and lower vortices, but lower for shear layers, which indicated that advective
419 fluxes acted as a dominant mechanism for the transport of pollutant within a vortex while turbulent
420 fluxes played an important role for the exchange of pollutants within the zone between the vortices.
421 There was also clear evidence that both advective fluxes and turbulent fluxes change rapidly close
422 to the canyon roof level and the level where two vortices formed in the deep street canyon
423 interacted. This sensitivity to the vertical height at the canyon roof level was also found by Cheng
424 and Liu (2011a), in which LES simulations of a passive scalar in the street canyon with AR=1 were
425 conducted. A positive (upward) total flux was observed for emitted species (e.g. NO and NO₂)
426 while a negative (downward) total flux was observed for entrained species (e.g. O₃). Total fluxes for
427 emitted species (e.g. NO and NO₂) increased rapidly from the ground to the level at $z/W=0.1$
428 (where the centre of the elevated emissions is located), and then decreased with height in the
429 canyon for NO, but increased with height for NO₂. This reflects the chemical conversion of NO to
430 NO₂ through within-canyon pre-processing of emissions. The NO/NO₂ ratio of total fluxes was
431 about 1.7 (vs 4 in Zhong et al., 2015) at the canyon roof level, smaller than the NO/NO₂ ratio of the
432 emission fluxes (assumed as 9:1). Therefore, the within-canyon processing resulted in increased
433 levels of NO₂ through the chemical conversion of NO to NO₂ and changed the partitioning of total
434 NO_x emissions at the canyon roof level. This indicated that apart from the emitted NO₂, the
435 chemical processing within the canyon had a substantial contribution to the high level of NO₂

436 released to the overlying canopy layer. For NO_x , the total flux remained almost constant with height
437 (about 5 ppb m s^{-1}) except a rapid increase near the ground level, which was ascribed to the
438 simulation approach here, in which the near-vehicle dispersion was assumed to exhibit a Gaussian
439 distribution. For O_x , the total flux increased with an increase in the vertical height up to about 1.4
440 ppb m s^{-1} at the canyon roof level, which was about 2.8 times its raw emission flux (about 0.5 ppb
441 m s^{-1}). This ratio was higher than that found by Bright et al. (2013) for the AR=1 case (about 1.3
442 times). This was due to the HO_x chemistry, which converted NO to NO_2 and thereby resulting in an
443 increase in O_x . Without the HO_x chemistry, O_x flux would be nearly constant in the canyon
444 environment because titration does not change the abundance of O_x . It was the longer retention
445 time of pollutants in the deep street canyon (AR=2) that allowed the accumulation of O_x generated
446 from the HO_x chemistry. This was very different for the case with an AR=1 (Bright et al., 2013)
447 with a much shorter retention time (residence time) for pollutants. The fluxes increased further with
448 the vertical height for the deep street canyon (AR=2) in this study (with the canyon roof fluxes
449 around 2 times compared to those for the canyon with an AR=1). These findings suggested that the
450 within-canyon pre-processing results in an increase in the oxidant flux and this effect is more
451 significant for the deeper street canyon.

452 **4.3 Segregation effects**

453 Table 1 lists intensities of segregation (in percentage) between selected pairs of chemical species for
454 the street canyon. It is interesting to note that $I_{S(A+B)}$ for A=B are positive, with the largest value
455 of 28.49 % for $I_{S(\text{NO}+\text{NO})}$, and the smallest value of 0.36 % for $I_{S(\text{OH}+\text{OH})}$. This can be explained by
456 the fact that the auto-covariance of any chemical species was always positive if the chemical
457 species was not homogeneously distributed within the canyon. $I_{S(A+B)}$ (where A=B) reflected the
458 spatial variability of the chemical species within the canyon relative to its mean concentration.

459 It was found that there were positive values for intensities of segregation between NO, NO_2 and
460 VOCs, indicating that ‘emitted chemical species’ have similar correlations and are driven by the

461 dynamical processes acting upon emissions. The highest value was found to be 22.32 % for
462 $I_{S(NO+VOCs)}$. These emitted chemical species were carried by the canyon vortices and removed from
463 the canyon roof level to the background atmosphere. Positive values of intensities of segregation
464 between O_3 , OH and HO_2 were also clearly observed, but these magnitudes were lower (below 3%) .
465 This can be explained by considering that O_3 , OH and HO_2 are ‘entrained chemical species’ with
466 higher levels in the background environment than those inside the street canyon and thereby
467 exhibiting similar behaviour. This implied that segregation effect would enhance the rate of a
468 reaction between pairs of species with similar origins.

469 It was also noted that negative values are found for intensities of segregation between emitted and
470 entrained chemical species. This was attributed to the opposite origin of those chemical species.
471 Negative correlations between those species were therefore expected. As shown in Table 1, these
472 pairs of both emitted and entrained chemical species generally undergo the chemical reactions
473 within the canyon. The average chemical reaction rates across the canyon domain were expected to
474 be reduced due to the incomplete mixing in such an environment. Segregation effects were
475 relatively larger between O_3 and emitted species than those between OH (or HO_2) and emitted
476 species. It is noted that intensity of segregations are -11.09 % between NO and O_3 (featured by O_3
477 titration) and -2.37 % between VOCs and OH (linked by fast radical reactions), which were about
478 twice those calculated for a regular street canyon with an AR= 1 in Bright et al. (2013). It is not
479 surprised that the segregation effect for a deep street canyon with two primary vortices is more
480 significant than that for a regular street canyon with only one primary vortex (Bright et al., 2013).
481 These findings showed that the NO and O_3 titration to generate NO_2 within the street canyon was
482 reduced by 11.09 % and the conversion rate of NO to NO_2 by the VOCs oxidation chemistry via
483 the OH/ HO_2 chemistry was reduced by 2.37 % due to segregation effects, compared with a well-
484 mixed system. In other words, if the whole street canyon was treated by a single well-mixed box,
485 effective chemical reaction rates (Equation (25-27)) should be adopted, e.g. 11.09% smaller for NO
486 and O_3 and 2.37 % smaller for VOCs and OH, than the standard kinetic values for a well-mixed

487 system (or for the individual reactions in isolation). Such effective chemical reaction rates would
 488 compensate for the immediate and total mixing assumption inherent in the single box approach - but
 489 the change required would vary for each scenario (emissions, background chemistry, aspect ratio)
 490 due to the non-linearity. Auger and Legras (2007) suggested that due to the nonlinear nature of
 491 chemical processes, even a small value for intensity of segregation (e.g. 1 %) may lead to
 492 substantial effects on the mean concentrations, especially where the pollutant residence time is short.

493 **4.4 A coupled two-box model approximation**

494 Zhong et al. (2015) developed a simplified two-box model coupled with simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry
 495 to capture the concentration contrast between the lower canyon (box) and the upper canyon (box),
 496 reflecting the potential segregation effect caused by the two counter-rotating vortices. By using a
 497 plane at the level of $z/H = \alpha$ (where α is the box height ratio determined by the flow structure
 498 with the street canyon; a value of 0.25 was approximated based on their LES results), the two-box
 499 model framework for the deep street canyon was developed (Figure S2 in the Supplementary
 500 Materials). The mathematical description of the two-box model is as follows:

$$501 \quad \frac{dC_{i,L}}{dt} = -\frac{w_{i,L}}{H_L}(C_{i,L} - C_{i,U}) + E_{i,L} + \Delta S_{i,L} \quad (28)$$

$$502 \quad \frac{dC_{i,U}}{dt} = \frac{w_{i,L}}{H_U}(C_{i,L} - C_{i,U}) - \frac{w_{i,U}}{H_U}(C_{i,U} - C_{i,b}) + \Delta S_{i,U} \quad (29)$$

503 where C_i (ppb) represents the concentration of i^{th} species; t (s) is the time; H (m) represents the
 504 height; w_i (m s⁻¹) represents the exchange velocity; E_i (ppb s⁻¹) represent the emission rate of i^{th}
 505 species ; ΔS_i represents the chemical source term of i^{th} species; “L” represent the properties for the
 506 lower box while “U” represent the properties for the upper box. The exchange velocities employed
 507 in the two-box model are 0.018 m s⁻¹ for $w_{i,L}$ and 0.014 m s⁻¹ for $w_{i,U}$, which are derived based on
 508 the LES model for the exchange of a passive scalar in Zhong et al. (2015). In this study, these

509 chemical sources terms in Equations (28) and (29) are derived from the RCS O₃-NO_x-VOC
510 chemistry rather than simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry in Zhong et al. (2015).

511 **4.4.1 Time evolution of volume-averaged concentrations**

512 Figure 6 shows time evolution of volume-averaged concentrations of NO, NO₂, O₃, NO_x, O_x, OH
513 and HO₂ for the lower and upper canyon (box) calculated by the LES-chemistry model and the two-
514 box model, respectively. In Figure 6, it is interesting that there were fluctuations for the LES
515 approach due to its inherently unsteady (dynamical) nature. It was observed that there were rapid
516 changes in mixing ratios when the emissions were released into the street canyon from 30 min.
517 Compared with the LES-chemistry model over the period of 180-240 min (volume- and time-
518 averaged mixing ratios listed in Table 2), the two-box model underestimated NO levels by about
519 5.25 % and 5.8 % for, but overestimated NO₂ levels by about 8.47 % and 5.94 % for the lower and
520 upper boxes respectively. Levels of O₃ derived from the two-box model were about 1.97 % and
521 1.83 % lower than those derived from the LES-chemistry model for the lower and upper boxes
522 respectively. These differences were small, suggesting that the two-box approach performs pretty
523 well compared with the “more realistic” LES-chemistry model. These results also showed that
524 segregation effects caused by incomplete mixing (i.e. spatial inhomogeneity represented by the
525 LES-chemistry model) reduced the conversion rate of NO to NO₂ through chemistry (dominated by
526 NO and O₃ titration with an additional pathway through VOCs chemistry), which was consistent
527 with negative values of intensities of segregation between NO and O₃, and between OH and VOCs
528 (Table 1). It was also observed that NO₂/NO ratios in the two-box model were generally higher than
529 those in the LES-chemistry model, i.e. about 14.47 % for the lower box and about 12.50 % for the
530 upper box. Therefore, there were higher levels of O₃ and NO, but lower levels of NO₂ in the LES-
531 chemistry model than those in the two-box model for both lower and upper boxes. The LES-
532 chemistry model had slightly higher levels of NO_x (about 1.59 % for the lower box and 1.69 % for
533 the upper box) compared with the two-box model, which suggests that segregation effects slightly
534 reduced the NO_x loss rate to other species (e.g. HNO₃ and HONO). This was also consistent with

535 negative values of intensities of segregation between OH and NO₂, and between OH and NO (Table
536 1). Lower levels of O_x were observed in the LES-chemistry model compared with the two-box
537 model, i.e. about 7.89 % for the lower box and 5.15 % for the upper box. This indicated that
538 segregation effects generally reduced the rate of oxidation chemistry for both the lower and upper
539 boxes. It was also observed that the two-box model slightly underestimated levels of both OH and
540 HO₂ (generally around 1%) compared with the LES-chemistry model. This may be explained as
541 levels of OH and HO₂ were low within street canyons and their reactions with other chemical
542 species were very fast. Segregation effects can reduce the rate for some of these chemical reactions,
543 but increased the rate for other chemical reactions (Table 1). The total segregation effect may be
544 somewhat balanced out - depending upon the metric under consideration, i.e. which species is
545 concerned. In terms of overall performance, the two-box model generally matched the LES
546 approach in the volume averaged concentrations of pollutants for both the lower and upper boxes.

547 **5 Conclusions**

548 An LES model coupled with O₃-NO_x-VOC chemistry (the RCS mechanism) was implemented to
549 simulate the coupling effect of emissions, mixing and chemical pre-processing within a deep urban
550 street canyon (AR=2). There were significant spatial variations of reactive pollutants in the
551 presence of two vertically aligned unsteady vortices formed in the canyon. Compared with the RCS
552 mechanism, simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry overestimated NO level, but underestimated levels of NO₂
553 and O₃, indicating the additional conversion of NO to NO₂ through OH/HO₂ chemistry. NO, NO_x,
554 O₃, OH and HO₂ were chemically consumed, while NO₂ and O_x (oxidants) were chemically
555 produced within the canyon environment. The within-canyon pre-processing would lead to
556 chemical conversion of NO to NO₂ and an increase in the oxidant fluxes released from the canyon
557 to the overlying canopy layer, and this effect was more significant for the deeper street canyon than
558 the regular canyon (AR=1) (Bright et al., 2013). Consequently, urban canopy layer air quality in
559 cities will vary systematically with the street architecture (aspect ratio), with greater release of NO₂

560 and O_x , for the same traffic emissions, where street canyons are taller - for example in many
561 traditional European city centres, in contrast to more open suburban regions. Such findings can be
562 of importance in guiding the development of atmospheric pollutant flux parameterisation schemes
563 for larger scale (e.g. city or regional scale) models, and for urban planning considerations. There
564 was clear evidence of two distinctive behaviours for emitted chemical species and entrained
565 chemical species. Positive (or negative) values of intensities of segregation were found between
566 pairs of species with a similar (or opposite) behaviour. Such findings indicated that segregation
567 effects were of importance in the incomplete mixing environment (e.g. the street canyon) with
568 chemical processing involved. The simplified two-box model underestimated NO and O_3 levels, but
569 overestimated NO_2 levels for both the lower and upper boxes compared with the LES-chemistry
570 model. NO_2/NO ratios in the two-box model were found to be much higher than those in the LES-
571 chemistry model. Segregation effects due to incomplete mixing may reduce the conversion rate of
572 NO to NO_2 through chemistry.

573 **6 Implications and future research**

574 The LES-chemistry model in this study reveals the impacts of nonlinear O_3 - NO_x -VOC
575 photochemical processes in the incomplete mixing environment (e.g. street canyons) and provides a
576 better understanding of the pre-processing of emissions in the presence of both the street canyon
577 dynamics and chemistry. This research may guide the location of new urban air quality stations, to
578 ensure these are representative of human exposure and/or understand the measurement bias that
579 may accrue from a particular location within a canyon. Because of the high computational cost, this
580 study was limited to one typical emission scenario, with relatively poor air ventilation under neutral
581 conditions. Also, due to the simple assumption of the idealised street canyon geometry under
582 perpendicular ambient wind, flow field within the canyon was dominated by flow recirculation (i.e.
583 two vortices). However, the current LES model of idealised scenarios does not capture lateral
584 channelling flow (e.g. Longley et al., 2004) or even helical flow (e.g. Dobre et al., 2005; Barlow et

585 al., 2009) present in real, complex urban street canyons (Smalley et al., 2008). Future studies may
586 consider the effects of other factors, such as complex urban configurations, wind speed, oblique
587 wind directions, emissions and thermal/shading effects (e.g. Li et al., 2015; Li et al., 2016; Cheng
588 and Liu, 2011b), on both the dynamic and chemical processing of reactive pollutants.

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606 **Table 1 Intensities of segregation (in percentage) between pairs of chemical species for the street canyon. Values**
 607 **shown in parentheses and bold denote those pairs of chemical species that react directly with each other in the**
 608 **RCS O₃-NO_x-VOC chemistry. Positive (negative) values mean that these pairs of chemical species have similar**
 609 **(opposite) behaviours.**

	O ₃	NO	NO ₂	VOCs	HO ₂	OH
O ₃	6.34	-	-	-	-	-
NO	(-11.09)	(28.49)	-	-	-	-
NO ₂	(-5.10)	11.18	4.73	-	-	-
VOCs	(-8.91)	22.32	8.86	17.51	-	-
HO ₂	(2.87)	(-5.67)	(-2.44)	(-4.51)	(1.39)	-
OH	(1.25)	(-3.03)	(-1.17)	(-2.37)	(0.66)	0.36

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612 **Table 2 Volume- and time-averaged (over the period of 180-240 min) mixing ratios in the lower and upper boxes**
 613 **derived from the LES-chemistry model (LES-RCS) and the two-box model (BOX-RCS), respectively. Positive**
 614 **(negative) values represent the amount of overestimation (underestimation) by BOX-RCS compared with LES-**
 615 **RCS.**

180-237m	Mixing ratio (ppb) for Lower Box			Mixing ratio (ppb) for Upper Box		
	(A) LES-RCS	(B) Box-RCS	[(B)-(A)]/(A) %	(C) LES-RCS	(D) Box-RCS	[(D)-(C)]/(C) %
O ₃	9.7858	9.59	-1.9722	14.25	13.9900	-1.8367
NO	462.4665	438.18	-5.2507	231.31	217.8370	-5.8252
NO ₂	168.1708	182.41	8.4653	125.36	132.8130	5.9425
OH(pppt)	0.103619	0.1023	-1.2482	0.1115	0.1111	-0.4080
HO ₂ (pppt)	0.265364	0.2640	-0.4991	0.3210	0.3186	-0.7387
NO _x	630.6373	620.5910	-1.5930	356.6747	350.6500	-1.6891
O _x	177.9566	191.9999	7.8914	139.6151	146.8030	5.1484
HO _x	0.3690	0.3664	-0.7095	0.4325	0.4297	-0.6534
NO ₂ /NO	0.3636	0.4163	14.4761	0.5420	0.6097	12.4956

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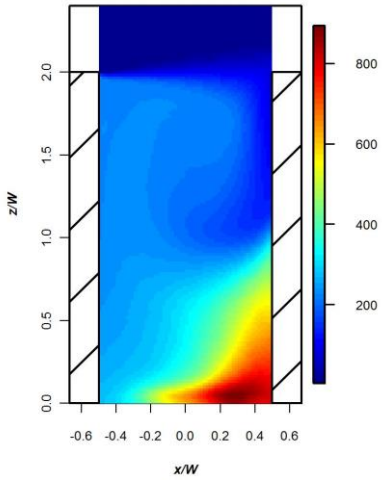
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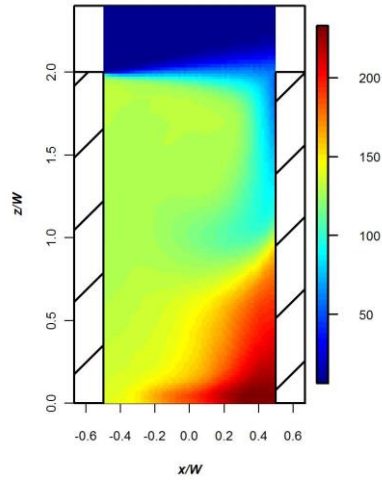
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(a) NO



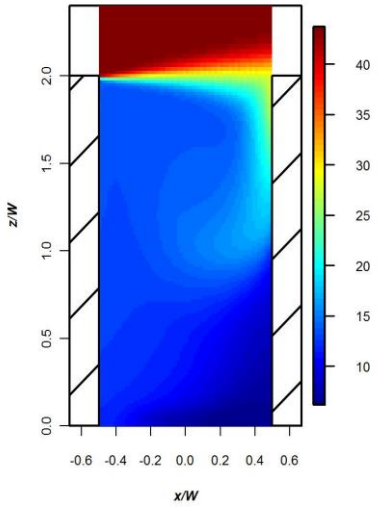
(b) NO₂



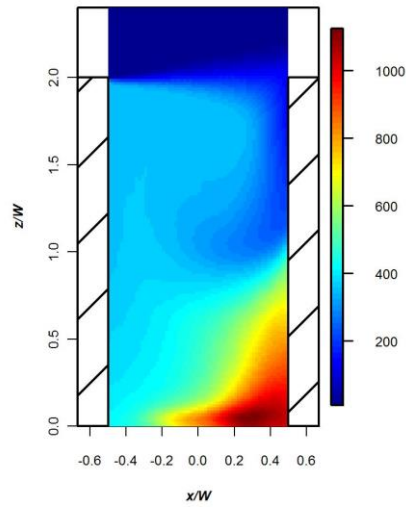
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(c) O₃



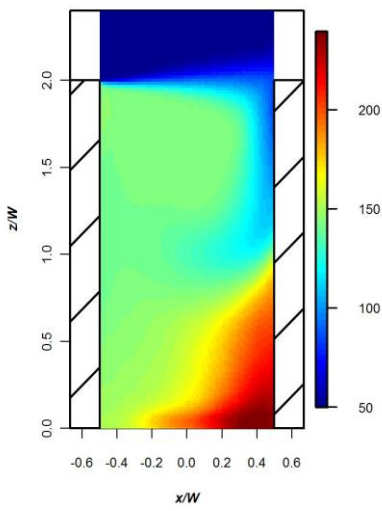
(d) NO_x



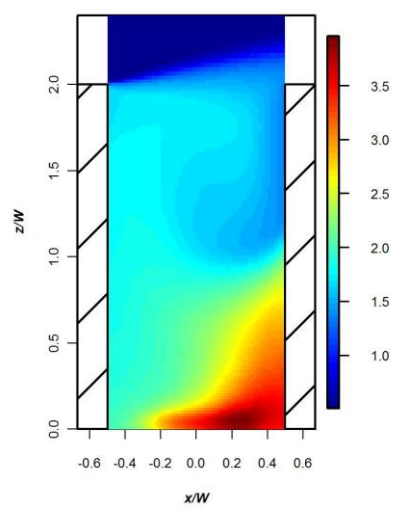
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(e) O_x



(f) NO/NO₂

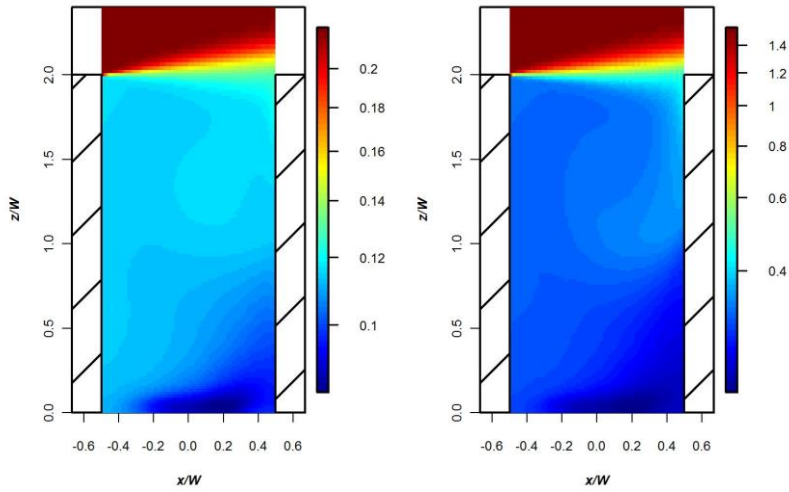


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(g) OH

(h) HO₂



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630 **Figure 1 Spatial variation of (a) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle$ (ppb), (b) $\langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$ (ppb), (c) $\langle \overline{O_3} \rangle$ (ppb), (d) $\langle \overline{NO_x} \rangle$ (ppb), (e) $\langle \overline{O_x} \rangle$ (ppb), and**
 631 **(f) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle / \langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$, (g) $\langle \overline{OH} \rangle$ (ppt) and (h) $\langle \overline{HO_2} \rangle$ (ppt). Logarithmic colour scales are applied for $\langle \overline{OH} \rangle$ and $\langle \overline{HO_2} \rangle$.**

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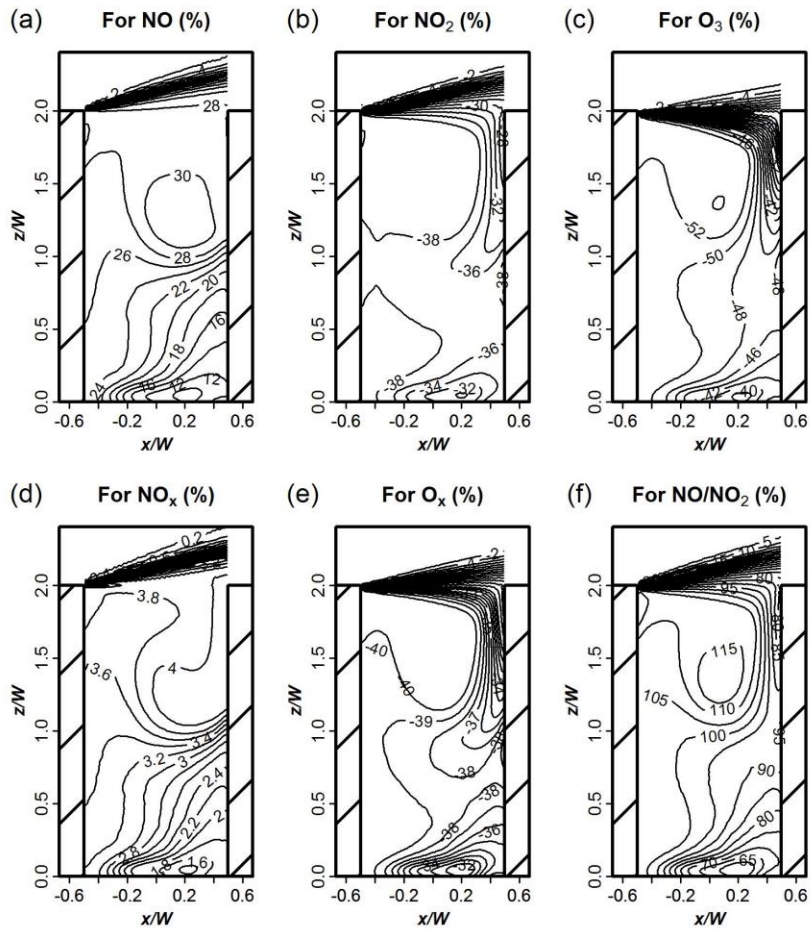
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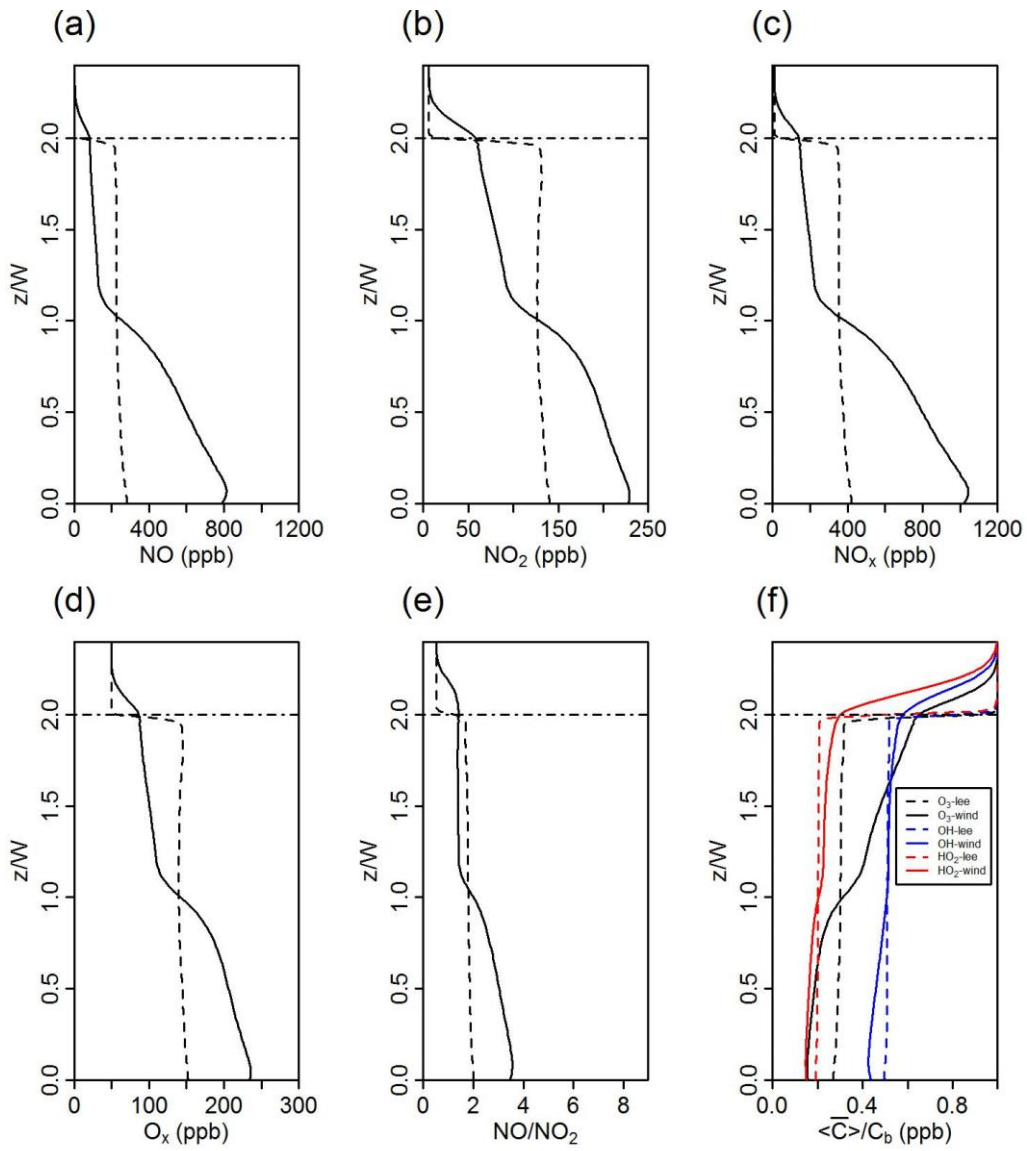


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655 **Figure 2** Spatial variations of the overestimation of the spatially and temporally averaged concentrations (%) by
 656 simple NO_x-O₃ chemistry compared with the RCS chemical mechanism for (a) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle$, (b) $\langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$, (c) $\langle \overline{O_3} \rangle$, (d)
 657 $\langle \overline{NO_x} \rangle$, (e) $\langle \overline{O_x} \rangle$ and (f) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle / \langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$.

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661 **Figure 3** Vertical profiles of (a) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle$, (b) $\langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$, (c) $\langle \overline{NO_x} \rangle$, (d) $\langle \overline{O_3} \rangle$, (e) $\langle \overline{NO} \rangle / \langle \overline{NO_2} \rangle$, and (f) $\langle \bar{C} \rangle / C_b$ (for O_3 , OH
 662 and HO_2 normalised by their background levels) along the leeward and windward walls, represented by the dash
 663 and solid lines respectively.

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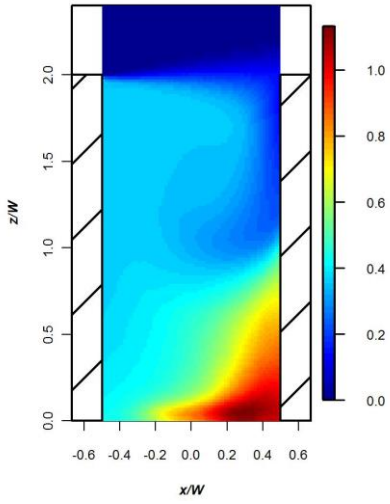
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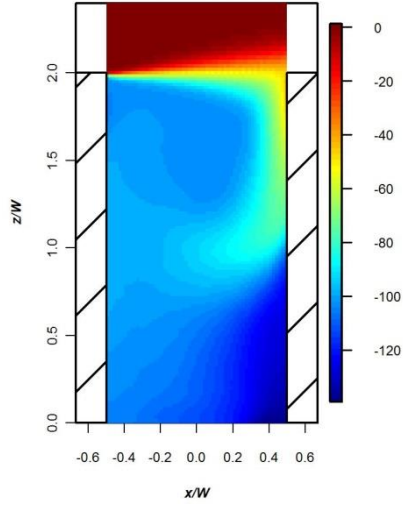
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(a) $C_{emn,1}$



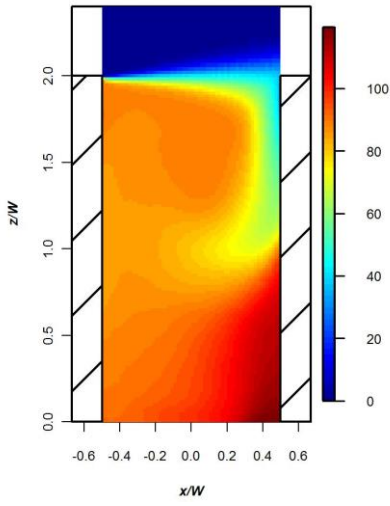
(b) C_{chem} for NO



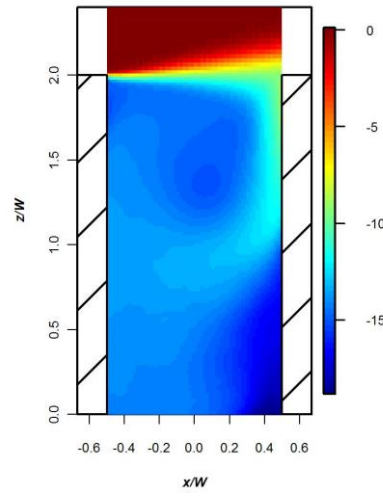
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(c) C_{chem} for NO₂



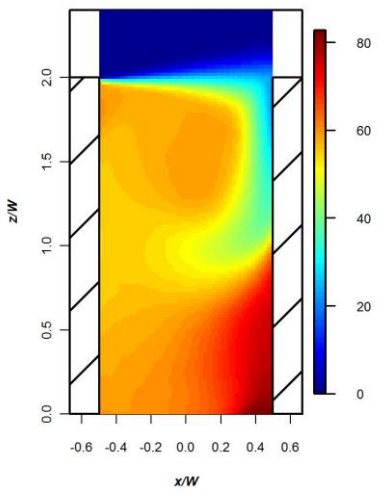
(d) C_{chem} for NO_x



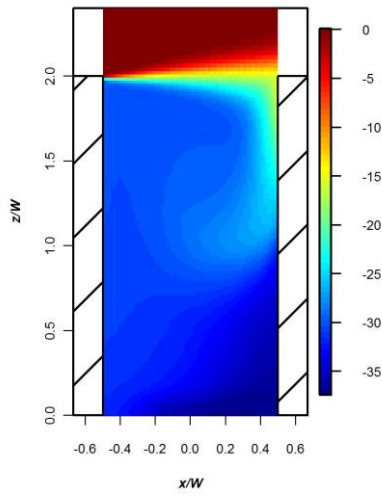
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(e) C_{chem} for O_x



(f) C_{chem} for O₃



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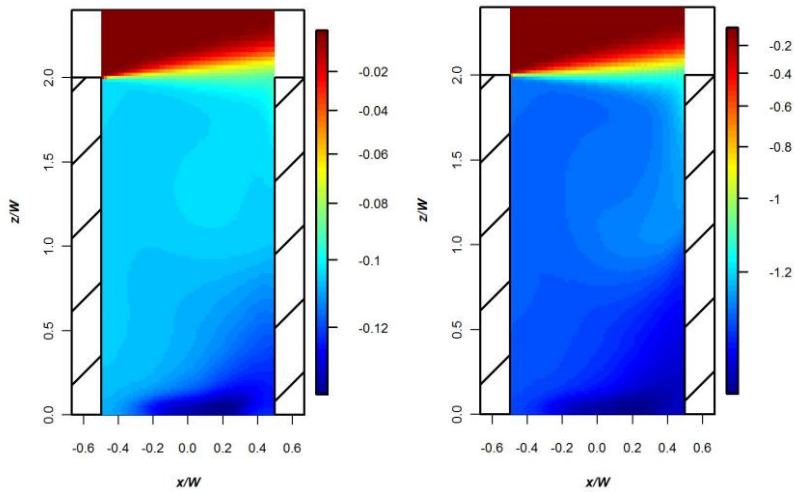
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(g) C_{chem} for OH



(h) C_{chem} for HO₂

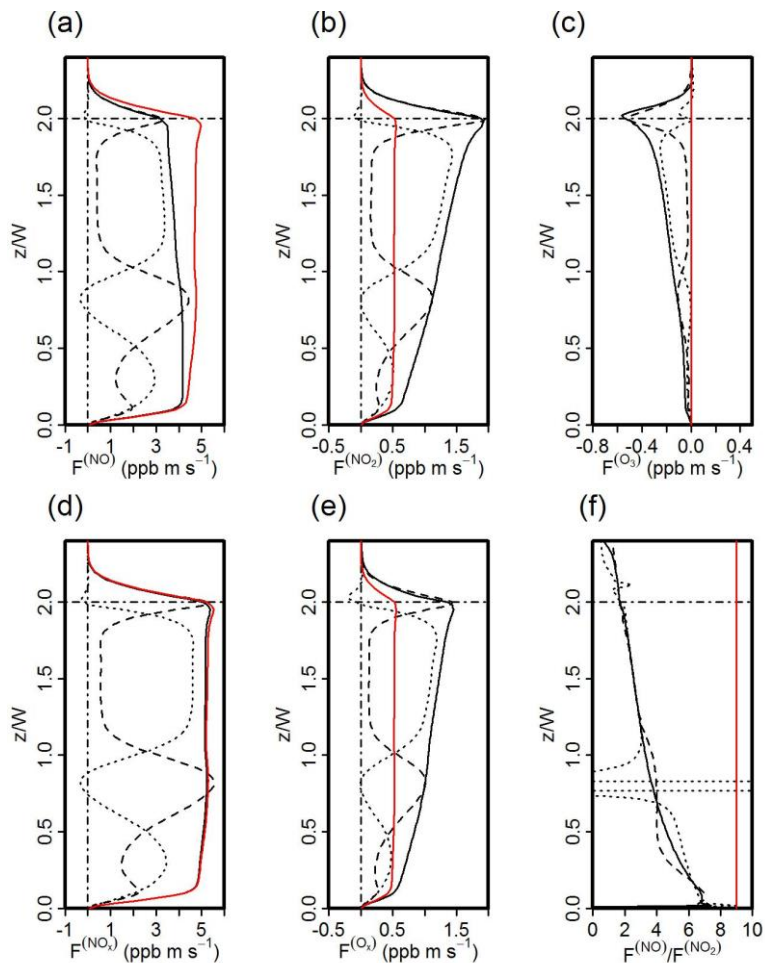




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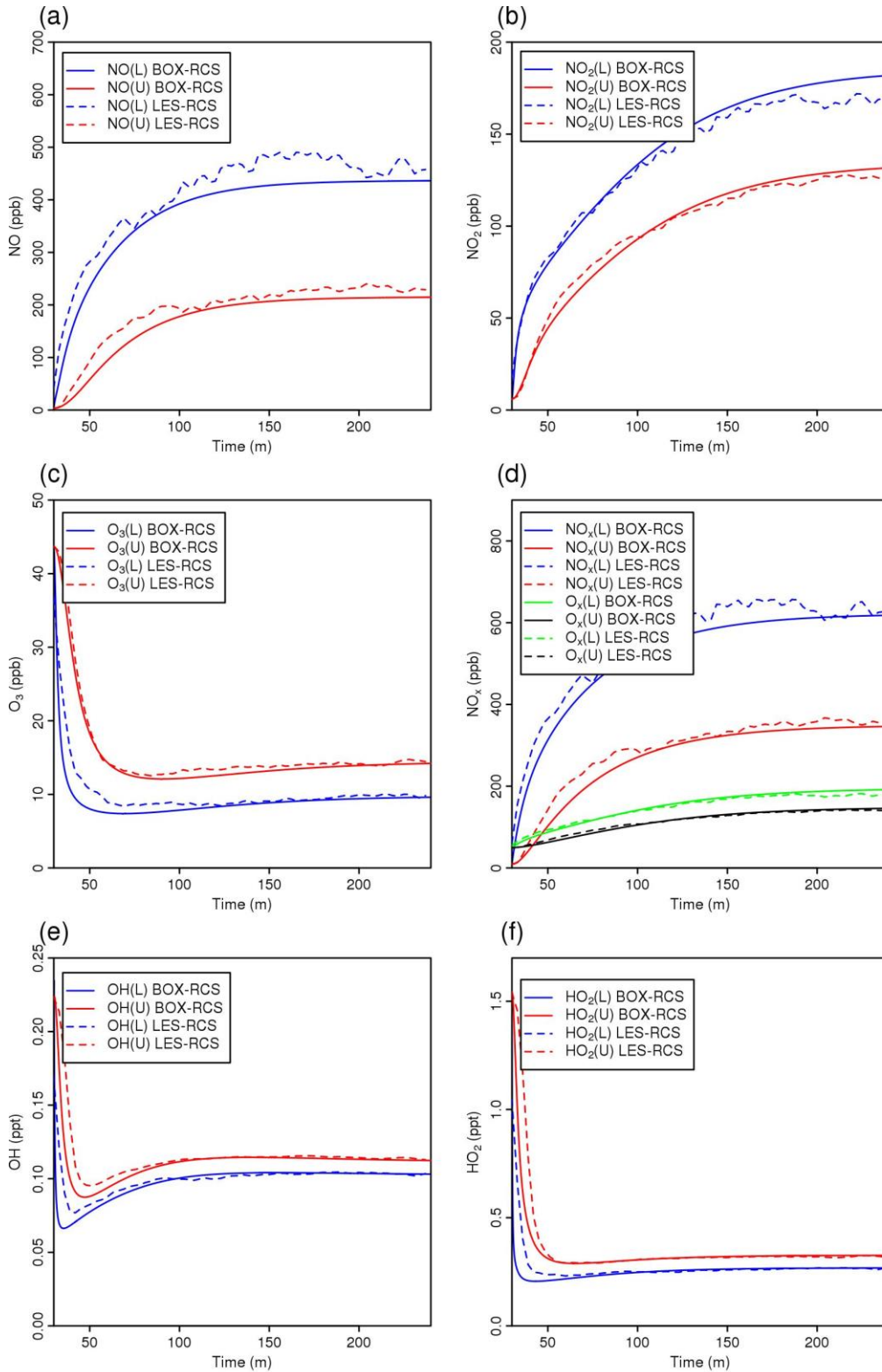
678 **Figure 4** Spatial variation of (a) $C_{em,1}$ (ppb) and C_{chem} of (b) NO (ppb), (c) NO₂ (ppb), (d) NO_x (ppb), (e) O_x (ppb),
 679 (f) O₃ (ppb), (g) OH (ppt) and (h) HO₂ (ppt). Logarithmic colour scales are applied for OH and HO₂. Note very
 680 different colour scales for different species.

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683 **Figure 5** Vertical profiles of the horizontally averaged total, turbulent and advective fluxes for (a) NO, (b) NO₂,
 684 (c) O₃, (d) NO_x, (e) O_x and (f) NO/NO₂. The total, turbulent and advective fluxes for each quantity are
 685 represented by the black solid, dash and dotted lines, respectively. The total fluxes for non-passive scalars
 686 assuming no chemical reactions (i.e. reconstructed based on a passive scalar with a unit emission rate) are
 687 denoted by red solid lines.



690 **Figure 6** Time evolution of the volume averaged concentrations of (a) NO, (b) NO₂, (c) O₃, (d) NO_x and O_x, (e)
 691 OH and (f) HO₂ derived from the LES-chemistry model (LES-RCS) and the two-box model (BOX-RCS),
 692 respectively. 'L' represents the lower box while 'U' represents the upper box.

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