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1 **Estimation of biogenic VOC emissions and their corresponding impact on**
2 **ozone and secondary organic aerosol formation in China**

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19 **Abstract**

20 Biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOC) play an important role in global environmental
21 chemistry and climate. In the present work, biogenic emissions from China in 2017 were
22 estimated based on the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN). The
23 effects of BVOC emissions on ozone and secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation were

24 investigated using the WRF-CMAQ modeling system. Three parallel scenarios were developed
25 to assess the impact of BVOC emissions on China's ozone and SOA formation in July 2017.
26 Biogenic emissions were estimated at 23.54 Tg/yr, with a peak in the summer and decreasing
27 from southern to northern China. The high BVOC emissions across eastern and southwestern
28 China increased the surface ozone levels, particularly in the BTH (Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei), SCB
29 (Sichuan Basin), YRD (Yangtze River Delta) and central PRD (Pearl River Delta) regions, with
30 increases of up to $47 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ due to the sensitivity of VOC-limited urban areas. In summer, most
31 SOA concentrations formed over China are from biogenic sources (national average of 70%).
32 And SOA concentrations in YRD and SCB regions are generally higher than other regions.
33 Excluding anthropogenic emissions while keeping biogenic emissions unchanged results that
34 SOA concentrations reduce by 60% over China, which indicates that anthropogenic emissions
35 can interact with biogenic emissions then facilitate biogenic SOA formation. It is suggested that
36 controlling anthropogenic emissions would result in reduction of both anthropogenic and
37 biogenic SOA.

38 **Keywords: BVOC, Ozone, Modeling, MEGAN, SOA**

39 **1 Introduction**

40 Biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) emitted from terrestrial ecosystems have
41 substantial effects on the global climate and environmental chemistry. Previous studies have
42 shown that up to 90% of the total VOC emissions are derived from biogenic sources (Guenther et
43 al., 1995). BVOCs such as isoprene, monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes participate in oxidative
44 chemical reactions in the atmosphere with oxidants such as ozone, OH and NO_3 radicals. In
45 addition, BVOCs are major sources of secondary organic aerosols (SOA) and new particle
46 formation (Hallquist et al., 2009; Kulmala et al., 2004; Paasonen et al., 2013; Kota et al., 2015).

47 Measurements and modeling of BVOC emissions are of vital importance to understand the
48 carbon cycle, biosphere-atmosphere interactions and climate change (Gu et al., 2017; Hantson et
49 al., 2017).

50 Over the past few decades, research has been focused on four objectives: (1) developing
51 and improving BVOC instruments and technology, (2) quantifying the effects of BVOC
52 emissions, (3) developing and improving BVOC emission models, and (4) understanding the
53 mechanisms underlying the interactions of BVOCs with anthropogenic volatile organic
54 compounds (AVOCs). Most BVOCs are highly reactive and readily interact with oxidants,
55 consequently influencing the atmospheric composition. Therefore, accurately estimating the
56 BVOC emissions can improve the results of studies of the effects of BVOCs on the regional and
57 global air quality and climate systems (Makkonen et al., 2012).

58 BVOC emissions are calculated with models, and the Model of Emissions of Gases and
59 Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) is one of the models commonly used (Guenther et al., 2006).
60 The standard emission potential of a plant depends on the plant functional type (PFT) and its
61 biomass. Moreover, the driving factors of emission activities are the PFT type, leaf area index
62 (LAI), temperature, radiation, wind speed, humidity and soil moisture content. The
63 meteorological variables can be obtained from observations, reanalysis data and weather
64 forecasting models, and the PFT type, biomass and LAI are obtained from remote sensing
65 databases.

66 BVOC emissions have been studied regionally and globally for the past several decades
67 (Graedel et al., 1993). Global emissions of biogenic isoprene and monoterpenes were estimated
68 to be 400-600 Tg/yr and 33-147 Tg/yr, respectively (Arneth et al., 2011). In China, BVOC
69 emissions from plants are estimated to be approximately 1.5 times those from anthropogenic

70 sources. And several studies have been conducted for analyzing the characteristics of BVOC
71 emission in China. However, most studies mainly focused on local and regional scale for the
72 Pearl River Delta (PRD), Beijing, Hong Kong, and Yangtze River Delta (YRD) regions based on
73 various methodologies (Liu et al., 2018; Ou et al., 2015; Pan et al., 2015; Situ et al., 2013; Tsui
74 et al., 2009). Furthermore, in the context of global warming, Fu and Liao (2012) reported that
75 isoprene and monoterpene emissions in China displayed large interannual variations of 15-42%
76 and 10-32% from 2001-2006, respectively. Li and Xie (2014) studied the changes in emissions in
77 China from 1981-2003 and discovered an increase in BVOC emissions induced by a biomass
78 increase. Due to the large interannual variations of BVOC emissions, it is expected that previous
79 estimates of national BVOC emissions in China which concentrated on early time may not
80 reflect their current characteristics. Therefore, updating BVOC emissions is necessary to provide
81 scientific support for air quality improvements in China.

82 Modeling and laboratory studies have shown that BVOC emissions can affect surface
83 ozone and SOA. With the remarkable economic development and rapid increase of fossil fuel
84 consumption, the air quality in China has deteriorated in recent years. Ground-level ozone
85 pollution has become a major air quality issue in China. In addition, heavy pollution episodes
86 exceeding 120 ppbv often occur in metropolis clusters such as Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, the
87 Yangtze River Delta and Sichuan Basin. A better understanding of the causes of elevated ozone
88 in China is critical to develop effective emissions control strategies. Biogenic SOA (BSOA) is a
89 major pollutant worldwide. Because of the large anthropogenic emission sources in China,
90 anthropogenic SOA could be comparable to BSOA. Ding et al. (2014) analyzed SOA tracers
91 from isoprene, monoterpenes, sesquiterpene and aromatics in China and found that isoprene and
92 aromatics are primary contributors to SOA. Mo et al. (2018) investigated the contribution of

93 biogenic isoprene emissions to ground-level ozone formation based on ground-based
94 measurements in Beijing and found that isoprene emissions accounted for half of the total ozone
95 formation potential. Qin et al. (2018) employed the CMAQ model to simulate isoprene-derived
96 and monoterpene-derived BSOA formation in China, and the results indicated that isoprene-
97 derived BSOA dominates BSOA formation in China. However, those studies focused only on a
98 specific temporal period or regional scale. The overall impact of BVOC emissions on ground-
99 level ozone and SOA formation in China remains unclear and must be addressed.

100 In this study, the objectives are to estimate BVOC emissions in China at a high spatial
101 resolution and probe the effects of BVOC emissions on ground-level ozone and SOA formation
102 in China. **MEGAN** version 2.1 and **Weather Research and Forecasting model coupled with the**
103 **Community Multiscale Air Quality (WRF-CMAQ model)** were adopted to estimate BVOC
104 emissions and investigate the impacts of BVOC emissions on ground-level ozone and SOA. The
105 year 2017 was selected as the base year to simulate the spatiotemporal variations in BVOC
106 emissions. The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the methodologies and
107 databases used to estimate biogenic emissions, as well as the WRF-CMAQ framework. The
108 model performance is described in Section 3, with comparisons of meteorological data on BVOC
109 emissions with model results. Moreover, the effects of BVOC emissions on summertime O₃ and
110 SOA formation are described in Section 3. The conclusions are presented in Section 4.

111 **2 Methodology**

112 ***2.1 WRF configuration***

113 The WRF model version v3.9.1 was adopted to provide meteorological conditions for
114 high spatiotemporal resolution data to determine the diurnal relative humidity, temperature, solar
115 radiation, and wind speed. The spatial and temporal resolutions were 27 km × 27 km and 1 h,

116 respectively. The vertical dimensions were 27 levels with a 100 hPa model top. The initial and
 117 boundary conditions were obtained from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction
 118 (NCEP) FNL $1.0^\circ \times 1.0^\circ$ reanalysis data (<http://dss.ucar.edu/datasets/ds083.2/>). To improve the
 119 model performance, the NCEP ADP Operational Global Surface Observations were used for
 120 surface reanalysis and four dimensional data assimilation. And we chose proper strength of
 121 nudging coefficients, i.e., 0.00001 sec^{-1} is used for nudging of water vapor mixing ratio and
 122 0.00005 sec^{-1} is used for nudging of both u/v-wind potential temperature (Hogrefe et al., 2015;
 123 Xing et al., 2015; Xing et al., 2017). The components of the model setup are listed in Table 1.

124 **Table 1.** WRF analysis options.

Component	Option
Microphysics	Scheme of Lin et al.
Longwave radiation	RRTM scheme
Shortwave radiation	Goddard shortwave
Surface layer	MM5 similarity
Land surface	Noah Land Surface Model
Planetary boundary layer	Yonsei University scheme
Cumulus parameterization	Grell 3D

125

126 **2.2 MEGAN configuration**

127 MEGAN v2.1 (Guenther et al., 2012) was utilized to estimate BVOC emissions in China
 128 with a 27-km horizontal grid spacing domain (shown in Fig. 1). The inputs for MEGAN include
 129 the LAI, PFTs, emission factors, and meteorological data (e.g., solar radiation, temperature,
 130 relative humidity and soil moisture). The monthly average LAI was obtained from the 8-day
 131 MODIS LAI product (MOD15A2, 2017) with the same horizontal resolution as the study domain,
 132 as shown in Fig. 2. The PFT map was obtained from the MODIS MCD12Q1 product and
 133 regridded into the WRF domain to compute the fraction of each PFT in each grid. The default

134 MEGAN emission factors ($\text{mg m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$) with a resolution of 30 s (~ 1 km), which reflect the
135 BVOC emission rate under standard canopy conditions, were leveraged
136 (<http://lar.wsu.edu/megan/guides.html>). Meteorological conditions were simulated by the WRF
137 model. A one-year MEGAN simulation was performed for 2017 in China.

138 **2.3 CMAQ configuration**

139 We set up Community Multiscale Air Quality model (CMAQ version 5.2.1, Foroutan et
140 al. (2017)) (<https://www.cmascenter.org/cmaq/>) to simulate the atmospheric composition over
141 China with the same domain and grid resolution for WRF and MEGAN. **The initial and**
142 **boundary conditions for CMAQ simulation were based on the CMAQ default profiles which**
143 **represent unpolluted atmosphere.** The CB05 represented the gas phase, and AERO6 represented
144 the aerosol chemical mechanisms (Appel et al., 2013). **For the simulation of SOA, we used the**
145 **default SOA module of the CMAQv5.2.1. It simulates NMVOC-derived SOA with a two-**
146 **product model, treats primary organic aerosol (POA) as nonvolatile and nonreactive, and ignores**
147 **IVOC emissions. Carlton et al. (2010) provided a detailed description of aerosol chemistry in**
148 **CMAQ, including SOA formation from benzene, isoprene and sesquiterpenes. The POA**
149 **oxidation mechanism is described in Simon & Bhave (2012). The new updates in CMAQ v5.2.1**
150 **accounts for the semivolatile partitioning and gas-phase aging of these POA compounds**
151 **consistent with experimentally derived parameterizations (Murphy et al., 2017), SOA properties**
152 **and IEPOX organosulfate formation rate constant were updated (Pye et al., 2017). We selected**
153 July as representative of summertime and acquired anthropogenic emissions for the CMAQ
154 domain from the MEIC emission inventory 2016 developed by Tsinghua University
155 (<http://www.meicmodel.org/>), which contains monthly gridded ($0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$) emissions

156 information for anthropogenic emissions in the CB05 mechanism. The biogenic emissions were
157 modeled using MEGAN (described in Section 2.2).

158 **3 Results and discussion**

159 *3.1 Evaluation of the performance of the WRF model and MEGAN*

160 Fig S1 and S2 show the seasonal spatial distribution of temperature at 2m (T2) and the
161 daily downward shortwave radiation (DSW) simulated by the WRF model. And these
162 meteorological factors were evaluated using in situ measurement data from 824 and 84 national
163 meteorological sites, respectively. The in situ measurement data are from the China
164 Meteorological Data Sharing Service System (<http://data.cma.cn/>). Table 2 presents the
165 verification statistics for the average daily T2 and DSW among all sites. As shown in Table 2,
166 the mean error (ME), mean bias (MB), correlation coefficient (r) and root mean square error
167 (RMSE) of station-averaged hourly T2 series are 2.47, -1.26, 0.95 and 2.59 °C, respectively.
168 The simulation yields cooling biases of -0.98, -0.90, -1.70 and -1.18 °C in spring, summer, fall
169 and winter, respectively. The ME, MB, r and RMSE values for the annual DSW series are 36.00,
170 -29.88, 0.80 and 81.33 W m⁻², and the DSW simulation yields underestimations of 32.12, 43.61,
171 24.25 and 19.38 W m⁻² in spring, summer, fall and winter, respectively. It is because that the
172 WRF model overestimate the cloud coverage which lead to the slightly underestimation on T2
173 and DSW (Wang et al., 2010; Wen et al., 2014). Compared with other studies on yearly long
174 WRF simulation in China (Wang et al., 2014; Ying et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2012), these biases
175 are relatively small and the simulations on temperature and radiation are correlated with the
176 observations under a confidence level of 0.01, indicating both seasonally and yearly significant
177 correlations in this study. Therefore, the WRF model performances of meteorological conditions
178 can be considered reasonable for driving MEGAN.

179 **Table 2.** Verification statistics for the WRF simulations of temperature at 2 m (T2) and
 180 downward shortwave radiation (DSW).

Variable	Season	Mean		ME	MB	<i>r</i>	RMSE
		Obs.	Sim.				
T2 (°C)	Spring	14.47	13.49	2.03	-0.98	0.96	2.26
	Summer	25.31	24.41	1.72	-0.90	0.95	2.21
	Fall	14.49	12.79	2.43	-1.70	0.92	2.45
	Winter	3.04	1.86	2.67	-1.18	0.94	3.28
	Year	14.32	13.06	2.47	-1.26	0.95	2.59
DSW (W m ⁻²)	Spring	200.80	232.92	37.09	-32.12	0.83	72.36
	Summer	229.85	273.46	52.33	-43.61	0.75	84.15
	Fall	137.93	162.18	30.85	-24.25	0.86	60.52
	Winter	108.30	127.68	23.72	-19.38	0.92	42.28
	Year	169.18	199.06	36.00	-29.88	0.84	62.83

181 ME: mean error; MB: mean bias; RMSE: root mean square error.

182 Table 3 illustrates the estimated annual emissions of BVOCs in this work and other
 183 studies. The estimate of annual BVOC emissions was 23.54 Tg, which is within the range
 184 reported in previous estimates, ranging from 12.83 Tg to 42.5 Tg between 1990 and 2006.
 185 Estimates in the present work are greater than the 20.6 Tg for 2000 estimated by Klinger et al.
 186 (2002) and 12.83 Tg for 2003 estimated by Chi et al. (2011). However, the estimates in the
 187 present study are lower than the results of Guenther et al. (1995) and Li et al. (2013), who
 188 obtained values of 28.4 Tg for 1990 and 42.5 Tg for 2003, respectively. Differences among the
 189 discussed studies can be attributed to various factors. It is reported that the forest coverage, the
 190 percentage of which increased from 16.6% in 2003 to 21.63% in 2014, and the forest area
 191 increased from 1.59×10^8 hm² in 2003 to 2.08×10^8 hm² in 2014 (CFB, 2014), which may be the
 192 main reasons for large discrepancies. In addition, BVOC emissions were largely followed by
 193 LAI changes (Souri et al., 2017). Chen et al. (2019) utilized satellite data to analyze the annual

194 average MODIS LAI in China from 2000-2017 and observed a significant increasing trend in
 195 eastern China (the trend was higher than $18 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2$ per m^2 per decade; see Fig. S3 in the
 196 Supporting Information). Therefore, the interannual variation of LAI is also an important factor
 197 which cause the differences. Besides, some of the discrepancies can also be explained by the use
 198 of different algorithms and emission factors. In this study, the MEGAN default global average
 199 EFs were applied to estimate BVOC emissions. Li et al. (2012) used a simplified isoprene
 200 algorithm (PCEEA) and neglected the effect of soil moisture and detailed canopy information,
 201 which resulted in a much lower estimate of 12.97 Tg in 2006 than our study. Fu and Liao (2012)
 202 adopted lower EFs and leaf biomass densities for each plant type derived from a small number of
 203 local measurements, which caused an underestimation of emissions. There is a large difference
 204 of isoprene emission between our results and those of Klinger et al. (2002). It is mainly because
 205 that Klinger et al. (2002) did not include emissions from the shrubs and assumed that BVOC
 206 emissions emitted from forests in China with 251,283 km^2 which is smaller than the domain of
 207 our study. Therefore, variations in these factors in different years may be the cause of the
 208 uncertainty in the modeling simulations. However, large discrepancies in the emission estimates
 209 still exist among this study and previous studies. These differences result from the use of
 210 different emission factors, land cover distributions, meteorological conditions and model
 211 algorithms in developing the emission inventories, as discussed above.

212 **Table 3.** Comparison of previous BVOC emission estimations in China (unit: Tg yr^{-1}).

Method	Area	ISOP	TERP	OVOCs	Total BVOCs	Year(s)	Reference
MEGAN	China	13.3	3.09	7.15	23.54	2017	This study
MEGAN	China	15	4.3	9.1	28.4	1990	Guenther et al. (1995)
MEGAN	China	4.1	3.5	13	20.6	2000	Klinger et al. (2002)
MEGAN	China	7.45	2.23	3.14	12.83	2003	Chi and Xie (2011)
MEGAN	China	20.7	4.9	13.5	42.5	2003	Li et al. (2013)

MEGAN	China	7.7	3.16	\	\	2004	Tie et al. (2006)
MEGAN	China	9.36	3.61	\	12.97	2006	Li et al. (2012)
MEGAN	China	9.59	2.83	\	\	2001-2006	Fu et al. (2012)

213 OVOCs: other VOCs

214 3.2 Spatial distribution of BVOC emissions

215 BVOC emissions exhibit overt spatial variations due to the differences in vegetation
 216 types, topography and climatic conditions. Previous studies have shown that broadleaf forests
 217 and shrubs have strong isoprene emission potentials, coniferous forests have high terpene
 218 emission potential, and crops and grasses are generally considered to have low or no isoprene
 219 emissions (Wiedinmyer et al., 2006; Chen et al., 2018). Therefore, the distribution of high
 220 isoprene emissions is generally associated with the distribution of **broadleaf forests and shrubs**.

221 As shown in Fig. 4, BVOC emissions in China are mostly centralized in the northeast and
 222 southeast and in southern Yunnan, Hainan and Taiwan Provinces. Specifically, the forest area in
 223 Yunnan accounts for nearly 10% of all forest cover in China. Therefore, Yunnan Province has
 224 the highest BVOC emissions, and the large area of tropical rainforest cover in southern Yunnan
 225 leads to substantially higher BVOC emissions in the southern region than in other regions. **The**
 226 **high emissions in the northeast are due to the high forest coverage of the genus and eucalyptus**
 227 **forest which have the highest isoprene emission potential**. Taiwan's high emissions originate
 228 from evergreen broadleaf forests. The distribution of various deciduous, hardwood and mixed
 229 broadleaf trees account for the high emissions in southeastern China and the Qinglin Mountains.
 230 Owing to the wide coverage of tropical rainforests, the BVOC emissions in Hainan Province are
 231 consequently high. Because of the principal contribution of isoprene to total BVOCs, the spatial
 232 distribution of total BVOC emissions is similar to that of forest distribution. Terpene emissions
 233 are concentrated in the southern part of China (especially in the southeast) because of the high-

234 density coniferous forests there. In southwestern China, especially in the Sichuan-Tibet region,
235 high altitudes and low temperatures on the Tibetan Plateau have led to low levels of emissions in
236 the region. In the Sichuan Basin (SCB), although the forest and shrub coverages are high,
237 isoprene emissions are relatively low. This trend may be caused by the low temperatures in
238 western Sichuan and the low solar radiation in eastern Sichuan, coupled with the closed terrain
239 and extensive cloud cover in the atmosphere (Lin et al., 2016). In addition, high OVOC
240 emissions lead to high total BVOC emissions in most parts of southern China.

241 *3.3 Seasonal variations*

242 The modeling results from this study indicate different seasonal BVOC emissions in
243 China (Fig. 5). Isoprene and terpene are the most dominant BVOC emissions. The quantity of
244 seasonal BVOC emissions varies as follows: summer > spring > autumn > winter. The
245 distribution pattern of isoprene in spring and autumn is quite consistent and mainly concentrated
246 in southern China due to the relatively dense vegetation cover in southern China. Additionally,
247 decreasing temperature and solar radiation from south to north contribute to the distribution of
248 isoprene emissions in southern China. In summer, eastern China has high temperatures, intense
249 radiation and vigorous forest growth, subsequently resulting in obviously higher BVOC
250 emissions. Except for Inner Mongolia, which is dominated by grassland desert, the monthly
251 emission intensities of isoprene and terpene are 30×10^6 g/month or higher in most areas. Due to
252 dieback of vegetation and the presence of snow cover in winter, which cause the LAI to sharply
253 decrease, the emissions of isoprene and terpene are relatively low (generally below 4×10^6
254 g/month), especially in the northeastern region, where temperate deciduous forests are dominant.

255 Fig. 6 illustrates the different monthly evolution patterns of BVOC emissions in China.
256 BVOC emissions are concentrated between April and September and reach a maximum of 5.8

257 Tg in June. As seasons transit, accompanied by a decrease in temperature, radiation and
258 vegetation cover, the emissions intensity of BVOC drops sharply and reaches a minimum of 23
259 Tg in December. The monthly isoprene emissions oscillated between the maximum (3.56 Tg) in
260 July and the minimum (0.09 Tg) in December. The monthly emissions of monoterpene are
261 similar to those of isoprene, which reach a peak of 0.64 Tg in July and a bottom of 0.05 Tg in
262 December. It is noteworthy that the relative contribution of isoprene to monthly total BVOC
263 emissions ascends from January to July and descends from July to December, while terpene and
264 sesquiterpene do not exhibit this characteristic and their seasonal changes are not as obvious as
265 that of isoprene. Therefore, we can reach a conclusion that isoprene is more sensitive than
266 terpene and sesquiterpene to seasonal changes.

267 ***3.4 Impact of BVOC emissions on summertime O₃ and SOA formation in 2017***

268 Since the control of precursors can only be directed at anthropogenic rather than biogenic
269 emissions, it is of great importance to understand how biogenic emissions interact with
270 anthropogenic emissions and contribute to air quality that is below national standards. Therefore,
271 to further investigate the influence of BVOC emissions on SOA and ozone in China, we
272 performed three parallel CMAQ simulations, the first of which included both anthropogenic and
273 biogenic emissions, while the NB case only considered anthropogenic emissions to quantify the
274 effects of BVOC emissions on ground-level ozone in the real atmosphere, and the NA case
275 excluded anthropogenic emissions to reflect a clean atmosphere (see Fig. S5 in supporting
276 information).

277 Fig.7a–c shows the simulated and observed daily 1-h maximum O₃ (DMIO₃)
278 concentration over China in July 2017. In general, the model successfully captured the spatial
279 pattern over the simulated domain with highest DMIO₃ areas centralized in the east, especially

280 in the BTH, PRD, YRD and SCB regions due to the relatively large NO_x and VOC emission and
281 favorable meteorological conditions for ozone formation in these areas (e.g., little rain and strong
282 solar radiation). And model performance of DMIO_3 in different regions is evaluated in Table 4.
283 As shown in Table 4 and Fig.7, the model well reproduced DMIO_3 in most cities except for
284 slightly underestimates DMIO_3 concentrations in BTH, YRD, PRD and SCB. The
285 underestimation might be caused by uncertainty of meteorological condition simulated by WRF
286 (such as T2 and DSW discussed in section 3.1). Besides, the relatively coarse spatial resolution
287 in the model and underestimation of anthropogenic emissions in these megacities may also
288 contribute to the underestimation.

289 As shown in Fig.7d-e, ozone concentration simulated by NB case is significantly higher
290 than NA case which indicated that effect of biogenic emissions on ozone concentration is less
291 than that of anthropogenic emissions. To clarify the change in ozone concentration after removal
292 of BVOC, Fig. 8 shows the relative difference in ozone concentration with/without BVOC
293 emissions. The high BVOC emissions across the eastern and southwestern areas of China
294 increased DMIO_3 , particularly in BTH, YRD, SCB and central PRD, by up to $47 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. This
295 phenomenon is likely due to the combined effects of BVOC emissions and O_3 - NO_x -VOC
296 sensitivity in these regions. As shown in Fig. 5, the major source of BVOCs in July is isoprene
297 and terpene, which are most abundant in summer (discussed in Section 3.3). In addition, Jin and
298 Holloway (2015) reported that the NO_x -limited regime is dominant in southern China and that
299 northern China is dominated by VOC-limited and transitional regimes (see Fig. S4 in the
300 Supporting Information). In areas (especially rural areas) where NO_x is limited but VOC
301 emissions are already abundant, biogenic emissions have little effect on ozone formation; in

302 areas where VOC emissions are low, however, mounting VOC emissions (i.e., inclusion of
303 biogenic emissions) will result in more ozone formation.

304 Fig. 9 presents the SOA concentrations simulated by base case, NA and NB case,
305 respectively. In summer, SOA concentrations in central and eastern China typically exceed $1 \mu\text{g}$
306 m^{-3} and can reach up to $3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. There is also a relatively high SOA concentration in other
307 southern provinces and the Sichuan Basin. The simulated SOA concentrations are low in
308 northern and northeastern China. Removing anthropogenic VOC emissions in July causes a
309 decrease of SOA in major areas by relative change of approximately 60% while eliminating
310 biogenic emissions results in an approximately 70% reduction of the simulated SOA
311 concentrations. Therefore, the removal of biogenic emissions affects both biogenic and
312 anthropogenic compounds of SOA.

313 As shown in Fig. 10, biogenic emissions are the most important contributors to SOA in
314 summer. In China, biogenic emissions account for approximately 70% of SOA. In most areas,
315 biogenic emissions are the most crucial contributors; even in areas where there are no significant
316 isoprene emissions, the relative contribution of biogenic emissions to SOA formation is as high
317 as 80% (Hu et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2018). In addition, due to the influence of the summer
318 monsoon, precursors from high biogenic emissions in southern China are transported to central
319 and northern China. High temperatures and intense solar radiation in summer enhance biogenic
320 VOC emissions and photochemical generation of SOA, resulting in high national contributions
321 of biogenic emissions to the formation of SOA. Xu et al. (2015) showed that monoterpene-
322 derived SOA are mediated by SO_2 and NO_x . By providing an absorptive organic mass, the
323 biogenic compounds of particles facilitate the condensation of anthropogenic compounds. The
324 SOA yield of the oxidized products of monoterpene and isoprene can be enhanced at high NO_x

325 concentrations, favoring the formation of organic nitrate, which is a low-volatility product and is
 326 likely to partition into seed particles. When the NO_x level is low, isoprene oxidation occurs via
 327 the ISOPOOH pathway to form IEPOX-SOA, which favorably forms organic sulfate in acidic
 328 environments. This reaction has been incorporated into CMAQ; thus, the inclusion of both
 329 anthropogenic and biogenic emissions reflects these products, but including only one of them is
 330 unable to account for their reaction.

331 **Table 4.** Model performance on DMIO₃ in different regions during July 2017 (Units: $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)

		BTH	YRD	PRD	SCB	Other	China
O ₃ -1h	Obs.	198.2	170.5	110.4	185.6	137.6	160.5
	Sim.	173.1	156.3	102.3	173.4	124.6	145.9
	MB	-25.1	-14.2	-8.1	-12.2	-13.0	-14.6
	ME	27.3	16.2	10.2	14.4	16.7	18.1
	<i>r</i>	0.82	0.85	0.92	0.90	0.87	0.86

332

333 **3.5 Discussion of uncertainties in model driving variables**

334 The meteorological parameters, emission factors and parameterization method are
 335 essential driving variables for MEGAN and the uncertainties of estimated BVOC emissions and
 336 their corresponding impacts on surface ozone and SOA are related with uncertainties in these
 337 inputs (Hogrefe et al., 2011; Jiang et al., 2019). In this part, we discussed the uncertainties to
 338 better understand the results and improve future research directions.

339 **3.5.1 Meteorological parameters**

340 The WRF model performance in this study was comparable to other studies (Wang et al.,
 341 2014; Hu et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2012). Although we employed four-dimensional data
 342 assimilation for improving model performance, some meteorological parameters are still biased.
 343 For example, the WRF model underestimated T2 and DSW, especially in summer. On the one
 344 hand, considering the significant impact of solar radiation and temperature on photochemical

345 reaction, underestimation of T2 and DSW may lead to corresponding underestimation on BVOC
346 emission and ozone. On the other hand, it may cause underestimation on SOA because it is
347 expected to form more SOA due to higher VOCs emissions and higher atmospheric reactivity
348 during summer. Therefore, improvements on WRF model capability are urgently needed for
349 accurate BVOC estimation.

350 *3.5.2 Parameterization method*

351 It has been reported that soil moisture could impact biogenic emissions and subsequent
352 ozone concentrations (Wang et al., 2017; Jiang et al., 2018). In our study, soil moisture is
353 simulated by using Noah Land Surface Model parameterization in WRF. And the reduction of
354 isoprene emissions due to potential soil moisture limitation was not considered because MEGAN
355 2.1 simplified soil moisture's impact on BVOC estimation. Hence, soil moisture's impact on
356 BVOC estimation should be considered by further detailed parameterization method in future
357 research.

358 **4 Conclusion**

359 In this study, we utilized MEGAN to estimate the BVOC emissions in 2017 throughout
360 China, then further applied the WRF-CMAQ model to quantify the contributions of BVOCs to
361 surface ozone and SOA formation in China in July 2017. BVOC emissions in China were
362 estimated to be 23.54 Tg in 2017, decreasing from south to north, which is related to the
363 vegetation distribution. Additionally, BVOC emissions exhibited strong seasonal variations due
364 to changes in temperature and solar radiation, with the highest emissions in summer.

365 Ozone concentrations mainly peaked in the eastern and southwestern China, particularly
366 in the BTH, YRD, PRD and SCB regions because of their considerably large NO_x and VOC
367 emission sources and advantageous meteorological conditions for ozone formation. **Even though**

368 the effect of biogenic emissions on O₃ is less profound than that of anthropogenic emissions (as
369 shown in Fig.7(d)(e)), the BVOC emissions still made a significant contribution to summertime
370 ozone due to the influence of the southerly wind, transporting precursors from high biogenic
371 emission regions in southern China to central China and the BTH area. And the regions where
372 the influence of biogenic emissions is high match with those where ozone formation is VOC
373 limited.

374 BVOC emissions make a large contribution to summertime SOA (national average of
375 70%). Locally, the effects of biogenic emissions tend to be greater in the southern region than in
376 the northern region, as the megacities are surrounded by regions of high biogenic emissions. In
377 summer, the impact of biogenic emissions on SOA is much greater than that of anthropogenic
378 emissions. However, the impact of anthropogenic emissions in individual regions may be rather
379 high (up to 50%), indicating that even BSOA can be significantly controlled by limiting
380 anthropogenic emissions. When anthropogenic emissions are not considered, the reduction in
381 BSOA depends on the chemical precursor. In particular, isoprene SOA is more easily reduced
382 than monoterpene SOA due to their different volatilities. ASOA are also affected by biogenic
383 emissions (the absorption of organic matter by SOA), and the relative impact may be as high as
384 40%. In order to accurately simulate SOA, it is necessary to precisely simulate both ASOA and
385 BSOA (Pye et al., 2019).

386 It should be noted that the simulated SOA concentrations in this study have not been
387 compared with direct measurements of organic particulate matter and SOA because of the data
388 limitations. Extensive measurements of organic components have been conducted in megacities
389 and major clusters in China by aerosol mass spectrometers (AMS), which provides details about
390 various organic aerosols (Hu et al., 2016; Yang et al., 2016). And these data can be used as

391 model validation for future local scale SOA modeling studies which can promote the
392 understanding of SOA formation. Besides, a great deal of additional research is needed to further
393 address the remaining questions. For example, to better quantify the separate and synergistic
394 effects of anthropogenic and VOC emissions based on sensitivity testing, it is necessary to
395 investigate the spatial distribution of ozone changes by comparing NO_x and VOC emissions.
396 Both chamber studies and field measurements have shown that HOMs (highly oxygenated
397 molecules) can substantially increase the SOA mass because of their low volatility (Ehn et al.,
398 2014). This mechanism has already been incorporated into box models (Öström et al., 2017) with
399 detailed chemistry, and it would be interesting to observe the impact of this mechanism on SOA
400 formation from BVOCs at the regional scale.

401 **Author contributions**

402 The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval
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650 **Figure captions**

651 **Fig. 1.** Simulation domain

652 **Fig. 2.** Seasonal spatial distribution of the LAI in the model domain

653 **Fig. 3.** Seasonal distributions of the proportions of PFTs in the model domain

654 **Fig. 4.** Annual emissions of isoprene, terpene, other VOCs and total BVOCs in 2017

655 **Fig. 5.** Monthly BVOC (four types) emissions in China in 2017

656 **Fig. 6.** Seasonal emissions of isoprene, terpene, other VOCs and total BVOCs in 2017

657 **Fig. 7.** Observed and simulated monthly average of the daily 1-h maximum O₃ concentrations

658 ((Base case: anthropogenic emissions+biogenic emissions; NB case: only anthropogenic

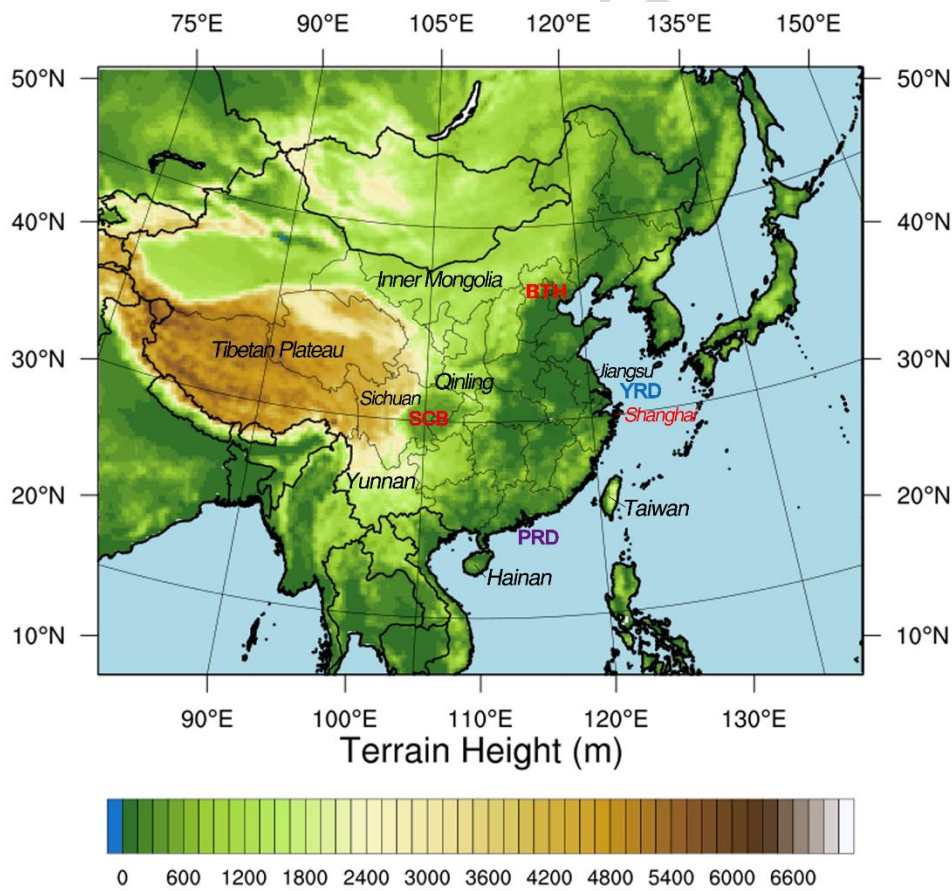
659 emissions; NA case: only biogenic emissions, $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)

660 **Fig. 8.** Relative difference between the surface O_3 averaged in July with and without biogenic
 661 emissions (monthly average of the daily 1-h maximum, $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)

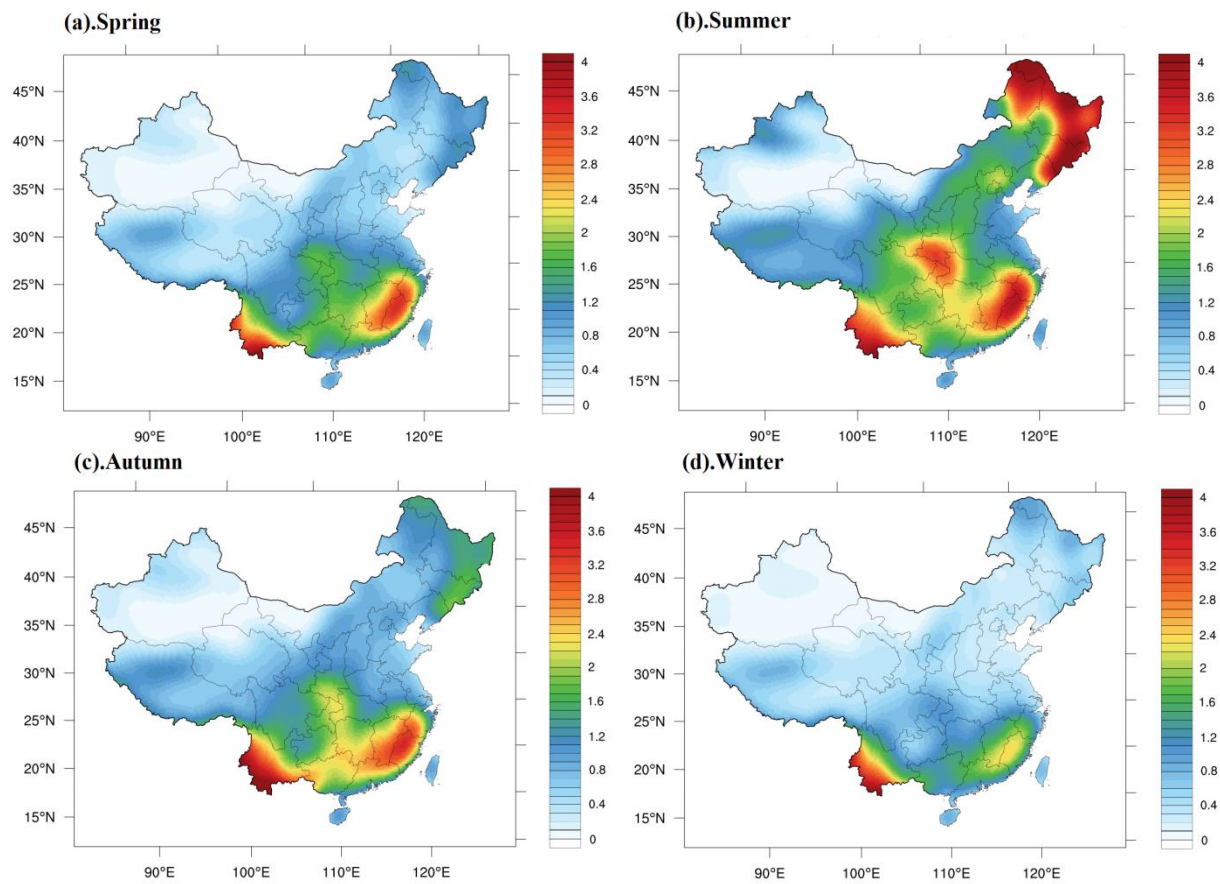
662 **Fig. 9.** Spatial distribution of SOA simulations in July 2017 (Base case: anthropogenic
 663 emissions+biogenic emissions; NB case: only anthropogenic emissions; NA case: only biogenic
 664 emissions)

665 **Fig. 10.** Relative difference between the SOA concentrations averaged in July with and without
 666 biogenic emissions ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)

667 **Figures**



668 **Fig. 1**
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Fig. 2

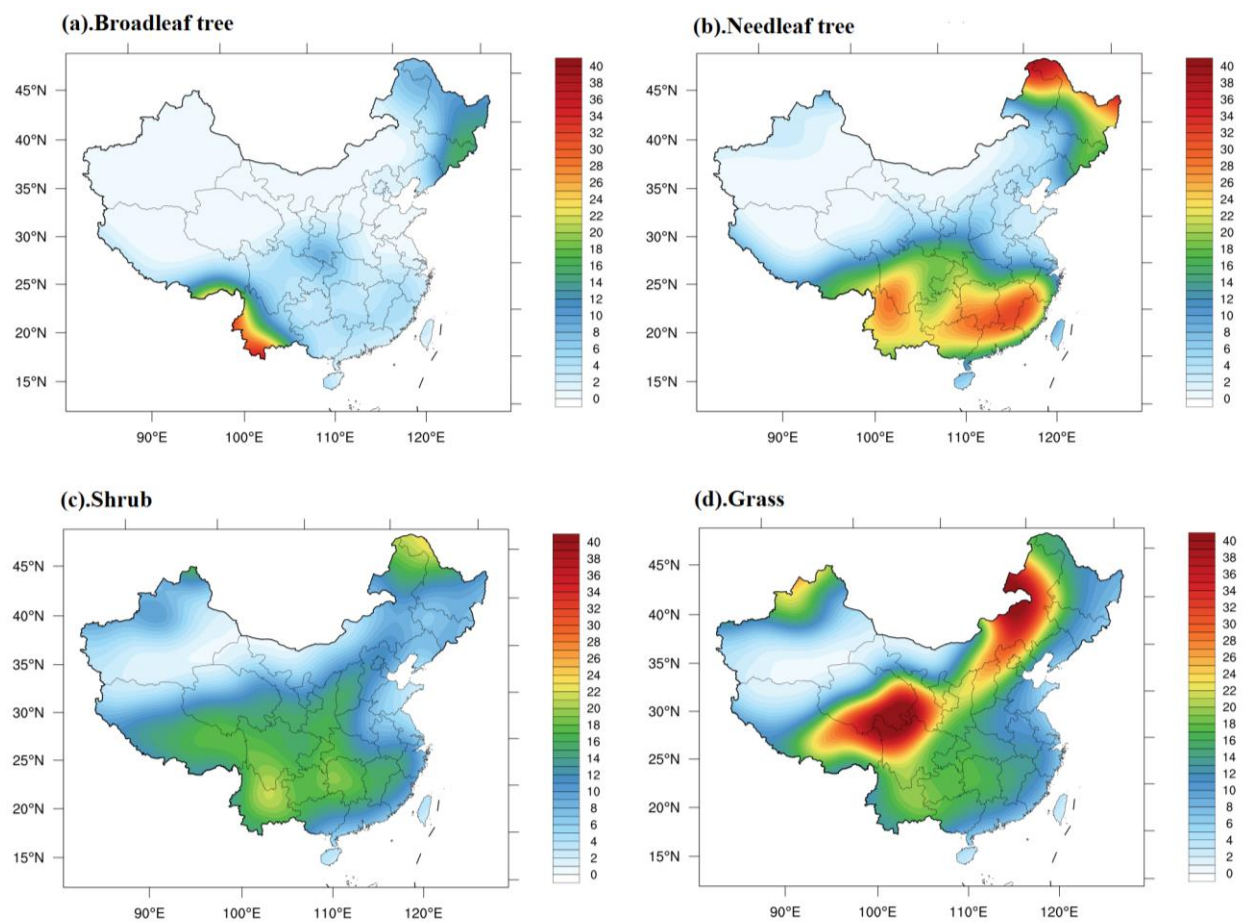
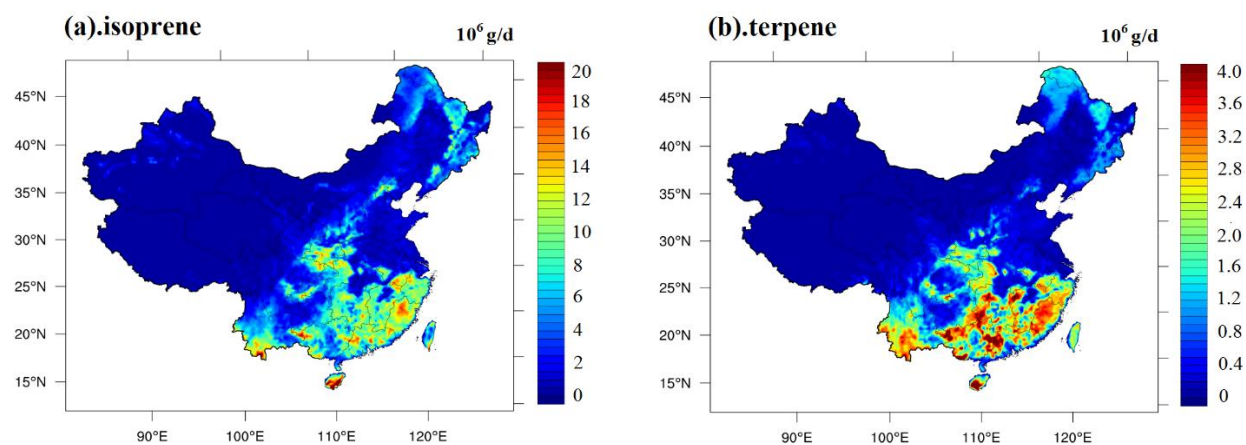
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Fig. 3



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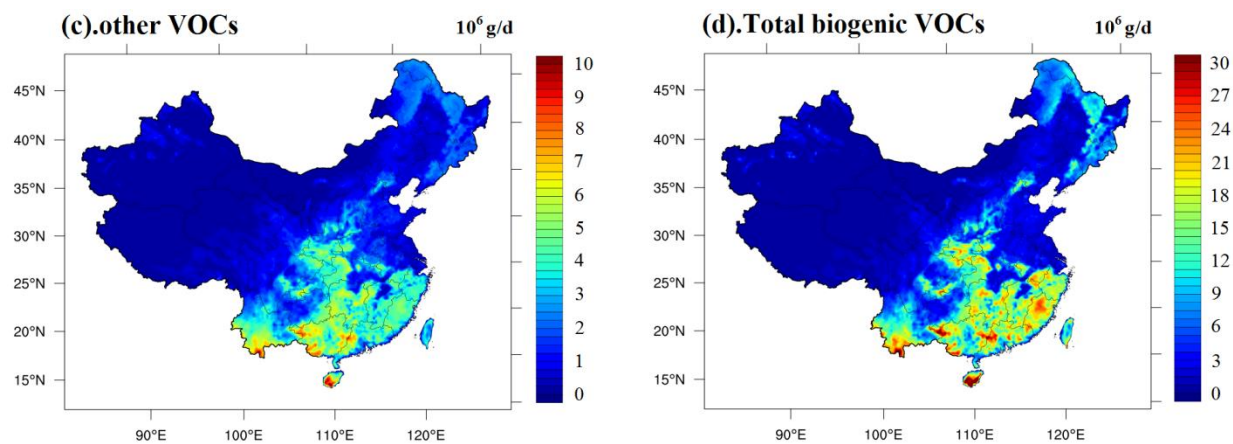
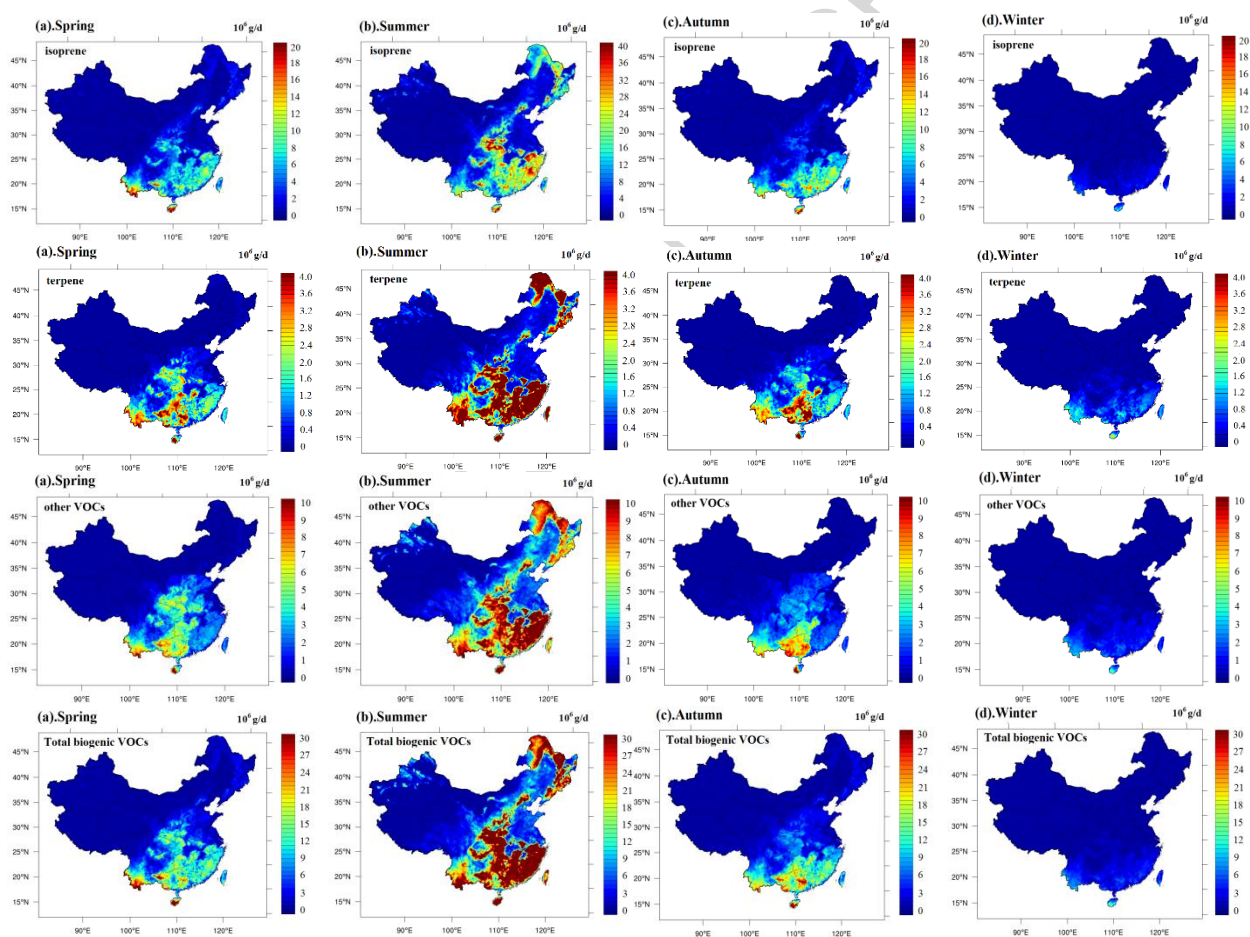
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Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

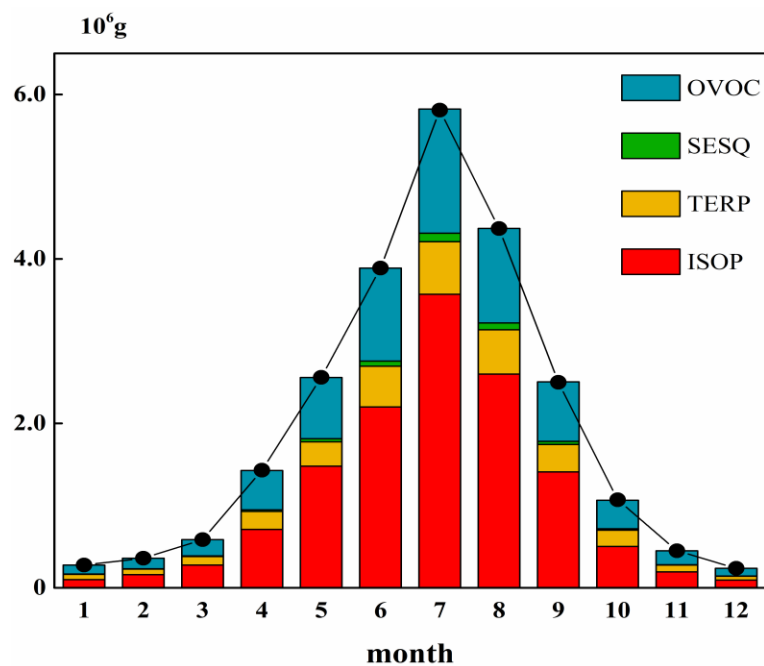
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Fig. 6

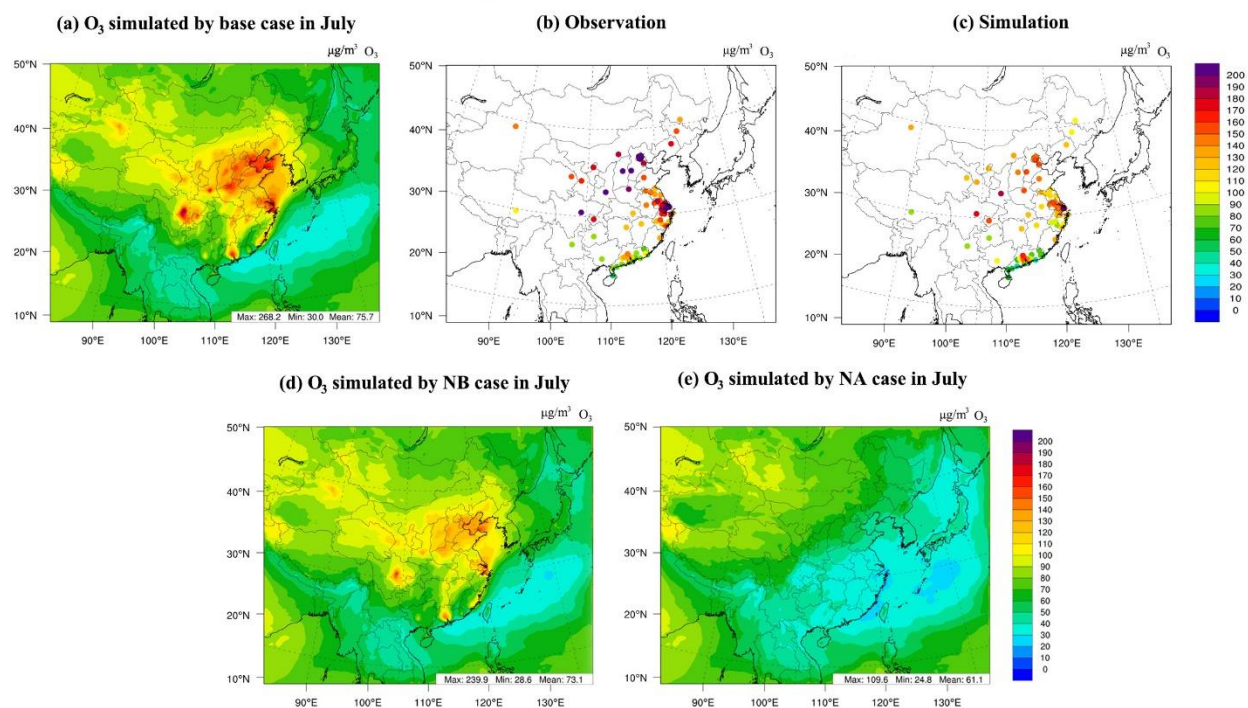
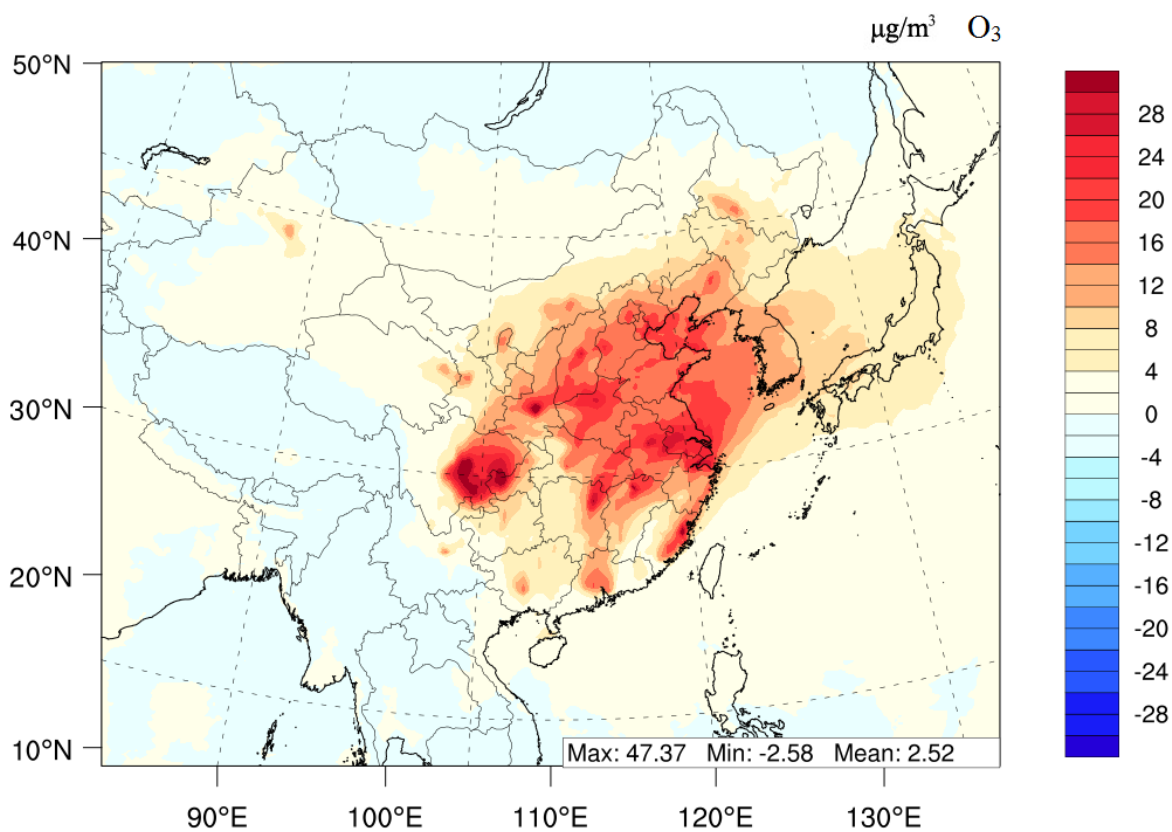
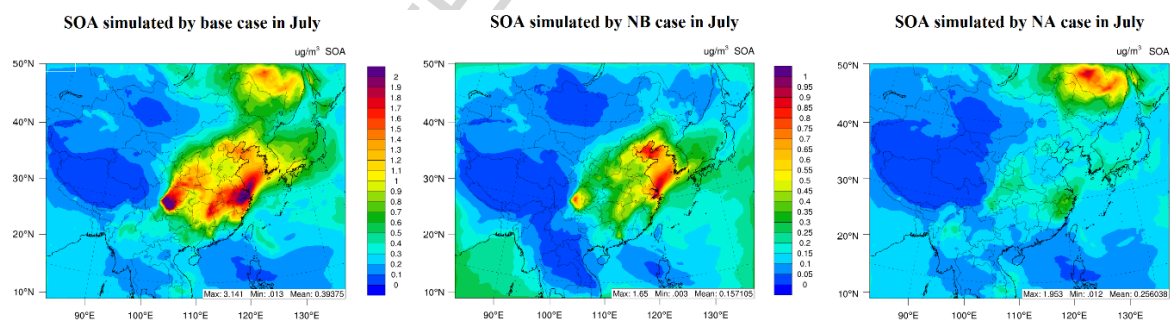
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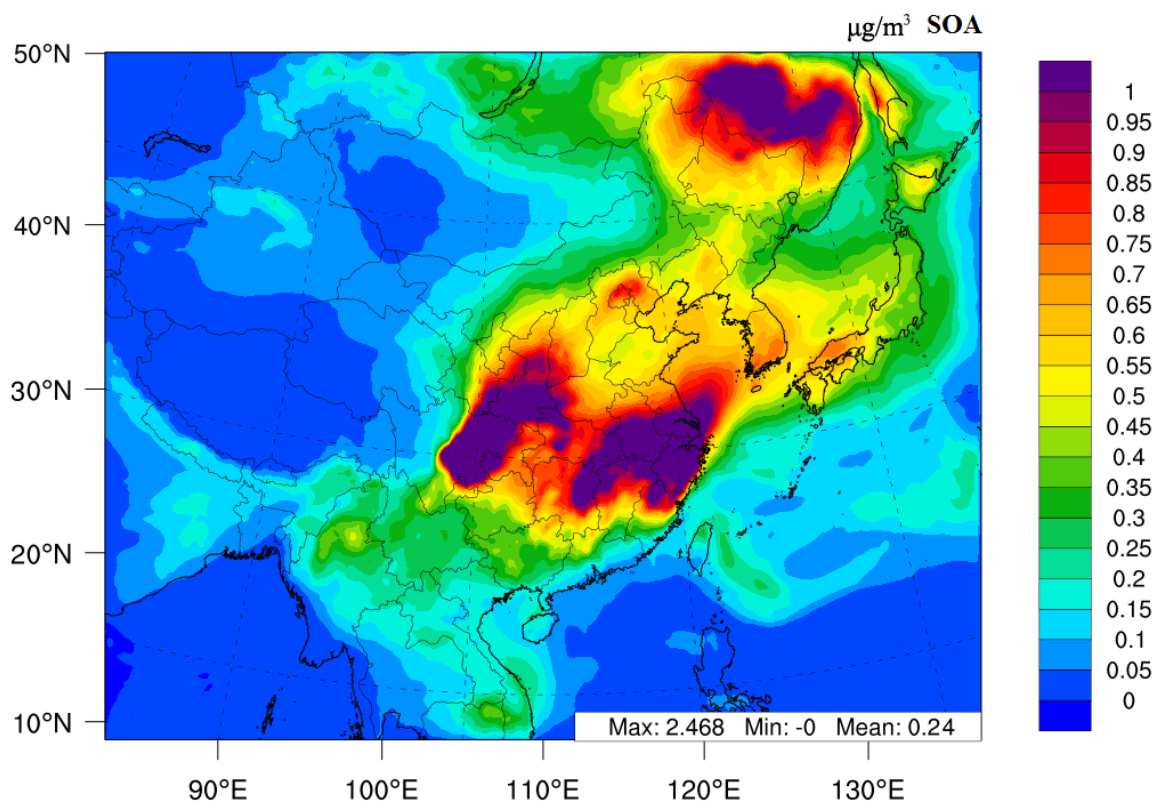
Fig. 7



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688 **Fig. 8**



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690 **Fig. 9**



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692 **Fig. 10**

693 **Highlights:**

- 694 • BVOC emissions in China were estimated at high spatial resolution by MEGAN in 2017.
 695 • The impact of BVOC emissions on O_3 and SOA in China was analyzed by WRF-CMAQ
 696 model.
 697 • BVOC emissions were 23.54 Tg with a peak in summer and decreasing going north.
 698 • BVOC emissions significantly increased surface O_3 and SOA concentrations in China.
 699 • Controlling anthropogenic emissions would reduce both ASOA and BSOA.