



Supplement of

Causes of a continuous summertime O₃ pollution event in Jinan, a central city in the North China Plain

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Text S1 Validation of the WRF-CMAQ modeling

Due to the inevitable uncertainties inherent in chemical transport models, such as the uncertainties in emission inventory, meteorological simulation and chemical mechanisms (Hu et al., 2016), it is difficult to deduce the reasons of the discrepancies between the simulated and observed O₃ mixing ratios. However, the observations indicated extremely high levels of some VOCs on the three days when O₃ values were under-predicted. Specifically, 13.5 ppbv of ethene was observed at 14:00 LT on August 1. On August 7, 5.6 ppbv of isoprene, 16.2 ppbv of HCHO and 2.3 ppbv of hexanal were measured during 12:00 – 14:00 LT. On August 10, 22.7 ppbv of propene and 12.7 ppbv of *i*-butane were recorded at 08:00 and 16:00 LT, respectively. It is noteworthy that these mixing ratios were 5 – 10 times higher than the average mixing ratios of these VOCs. Further, most of these VOCs are highly reactive in O₃ photochemistry and may make great contributions to local O₃ production. With the setting of constant emissions of O₃ precursors, WRF-CMAQ did not reproduce these extremely high levels of VOCs, which was a plausible reason for the under-prediction of O₃ on August 1, 7 and 10. Ji'nan was behind a low pressure trough on August 9 – 10. However, vertical transport was simulated to make negative contributions to O₃ between 10:00 LT and 18:00 LT on August 10, according to the process

analysis. In addition, the simulated O_3 in the upper atmosphere on August 10 was relatively low compared to that on August 5, 6 and 9 (Figure S9). Namely, the model might fail to reproduce the O_3 enhancement driven by the low pressure trough on August 10.

The process analysis indicated that horizontal and vertical transport dominated the sources of O_3 at noon (10:00-12:00 LT) and the other time periods on July 20, respectively. While vertical transport explained the high O_3 at night (Figure 2), it was not likely that horizontal transport built up O_3 at noon, because the southwesterly airflows were originated from South China and passed central China (Figure 4), where O_3 values were relatively low on that day (high O_3 occurred in Hebei province to the northwest of Ji'nan). Therefore, the overestimate of the transport effect led to the higher simulated O_3 on July 20.

Despite these discrepancies, overall the observed O_3 at the sampling site was well reproduced. In addition, the spatial distribution of the simulated O_3 was highly consistent with the observed O_3 distribution, as shown in Figure S10. The average concentrations of the simulated VOCs were also compared with the observations (Figure S11). While the day-to-day and diurnal variations of the observed VOCs were not well reproduced (not shown), which is a proverbial drawback of the WRF-CMAQ, the model reasonably simulated the magnitudes of VOCs. Moreover, the averages of the observations (Avg. Obs.) and simulations (Avg. Sim.), difference between Avg. Obs. and Avg. Sim. (Diff.), root mean square error (RMSE), normalized mean bias (NMB), normalized mean error (NME) and index of agreement (IOA) were calculated to reflect the agreements between the simulated and observed temperature (Temp.), relative humidity (R.H.), wind speed (W.S.), pressure (Press.), NO_2 and O_3 , as listed in Table S4. Generally, the lower Diff., RMSE, NMB and NME, but higher IOA indicate better agreement between the simulated and observed values (Willmott et al., 1985). The validation of the simulations of air pollutants was carried out at 8 AQMSs of CNEMC in and around Ji'nan, and at the sampling site, while the meteorological parameters monitored at 6 airports in eastern and northern China and at the sampling site were used to validate the simulated meteorological conditions. The metrics calculated in this study were well within the ranges of those reported in previous studies involving WRF-CMAQ simulations (Table S4) (Jiang et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2015), suggesting good performance of the model in reproducing the meteorological conditions and air pollutants. Thus, the simulated results were accepted for further analyses.

Text S2 Source apportionment of O_3 precursors

The positive matrix factorization (PMF) model was employed to identify the sources of O₃ precursors. Details about the operation principles of PMF can be found in Paatero and Tapper (1994). Briefly, the model treats the matrix of input concentrations as the product of two matrixes (*i.e.*, factor contribution and factor profile). Here, hourly concentrations of 31 VOCs, CO, NO and NO₂ in 54 samples were input into the model. The VOCs applied for source apportionment (termed as VOCs* hereafter) were either tracers of specific sources (*e.g.*, isoprene for biogenic emissions), or having high concentrations (detectable in at least 80% samples). On average, VOCs* accounted for 79.5±11.7% of the total quantified VOCs. The uncertainties of the input concentrations of O₃ precursors were set as $\frac{5}{6} \times DL$ and $\sqrt{(10\% \times concentration)^2 + (0.5 \times DL)^2}$ for the concentrations lower than and higher than DLs, respectively.

The model was run for 20 times with a random seed and the best resolution automatically given by the model was accepted. A total of 6 sources of O₃ precursors were resolved by PMF in this study. The number of sources was chosen based on the criteria that the tracers indicating different sources were not allocated in the same source, and all the sources were interpretable according to the tracers. The Bootstrap method integrated in PMF was used to estimate the uncertainties of the modelling results.

Figure S13 shows the profiles of the six sources of O₃ precursors extracted from PMF. The first source contained high levels of *n/i*-pentanes and aromatics, likely representing gasoline exhaust (Ho et al., 2009; Ling and Guo, 2014). The heavy hydrocarbons (C₈-C₁₀) dominated the second source, with great abundances of the combustion tracers, such as C₂-C₃ hydrocarbons, CO, NO and NO₂. These are in line with the features of diesel exhaust (Liu et al., 2008). The third source was assigned as BVOC, due to the exclusively high loading of isoprene (Guenther, 2006). The fourth source was rich in C₄ hydrocarbons, including *n/i*-butanes and 1,3-butadiene. It was defined as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) usage, since butanes and butenes are present in large quantities in China's LPG (Song et al., 2008 and references therein). Solvent usage was represented by the fifth source, in view of the high loadings of hexane isomers (2,3-dimethylbutane, 2-methylpentane and 3-methylpentane) and moderate loadings of *n*-hexane, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (Guo et al., 2011). At last, most of styrene, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes were allocated to the sixth source, which also contained moderate levels of light (C₂-C₅) hydrocarbons. Since styrene is a common

petrochemical product (Jobson et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2008), this source was designated as petrochemical industry.

The source contributions to the O₃ production rates were obtained from the differences in simulated O₃ production rates between a base run and a constrained run. In the base run, the O₃ production rate was simulated with the observed concentrations of air pollutants except for the carbonyls, while the concentrations of air pollutants attributable to a specific source were deducted from the observed concentrations for the input of the constrained run. To account for the influence of primary hydrocarbons on the formation of carbonyls, and the subsequent impact on O₃ production, carbonyls were not constrained to observations in either the base run or the constrained runs. However, the source-specific primary emissions of carbonyls and their contributions to O₃ production were not considered in this approach. Therefore, the source-specific contributions to net O₃ production rates were expected to be underestimated, as carbonyls are generally of high O₃ formation potentials (Cheng et al., 2010; Dong et al., 2014). The method was applied to each of the six sources, derived from the PMF analysis, thereby acquiring the contribution to O₃ production rates of each source.

Text S3 Definitions of the O₃ formation regimes

As shown in Figure 8, O₃ formation was divided into VOC[#]-limited regime and NO_x-limited regime with the method used in Lyu et al. (2017). Briefly, at a given $OH\ reactivity_{VOCs^{\#}}$ value, the simulated O₃ production rate generally got the maximum at a specific $OH\ reactivity_{NOx}$ value due to the dual role of NO_x in O₃ formation. This specific $OH\ reactivity_{NOx}$ value was treated as the dividing point between NO_x-limited regime and VOC[#]-limited regime at the given $OH\ reactivity_{VOCs^{\#}}$ value. Since the scenarios involved 14 gradients of $OH\ reactivity_{VOCs^{\#}}$ (10% - 140% with the step of 10%), 14 pairs of $OH\ reactivity_{NOx}$ and $OH\ reactivity_{VOCs^{\#}}$ were obtained, as shown in the orange crosses in Figure 8. A dividing line was acquired from the linear regression between $OH\ reactivity_{VOCs^{\#}}$ and $OH\ reactivity_{NOx}$ in these scenarios (presented in orange dashed line in Figure 8). O₃ formation was limited by VOCs[#] and NO_x in the lower right and upper left areas of the dividing line, respectively. Since the horizontal and vertical coordinates were the percentages relative to the average $OH\ reactivity_{VOCs^{\#}}$ and $OH\ reactivity_{NOx}$ during O₃ episodes, rather than the actual values of OH reactivity, we did not calculate the dividing ratio of $\frac{OH\ reactivity_{VOCs^{\#}}}{OH\ reactivity_{NOx}}$ here. Further, it was found that the O₃ production rates were also enhanced with the increase of

$OH\text{ reactivity}_{VOCs^\#}$ in the upper left area close to the dividing line. We defined it as a transitional regime where the O_3 formation was comparably sensitive to $VOCs^\#$ and NO_x . Beyond the transitional regime in the upper left area of the dividing line, the sensitivity of O_3 formation to NO_x was generally ten times higher than to $VOCs^\#$, which was designated as NO_x -limited regime. The transitional regime and the NO_x -limited regime were divided by the blue dashed line in Figure 8.

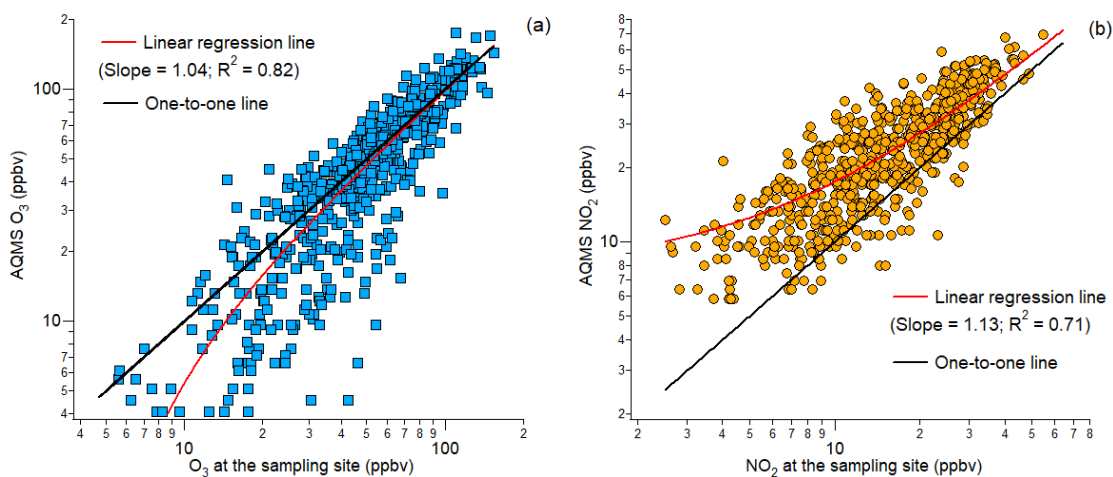
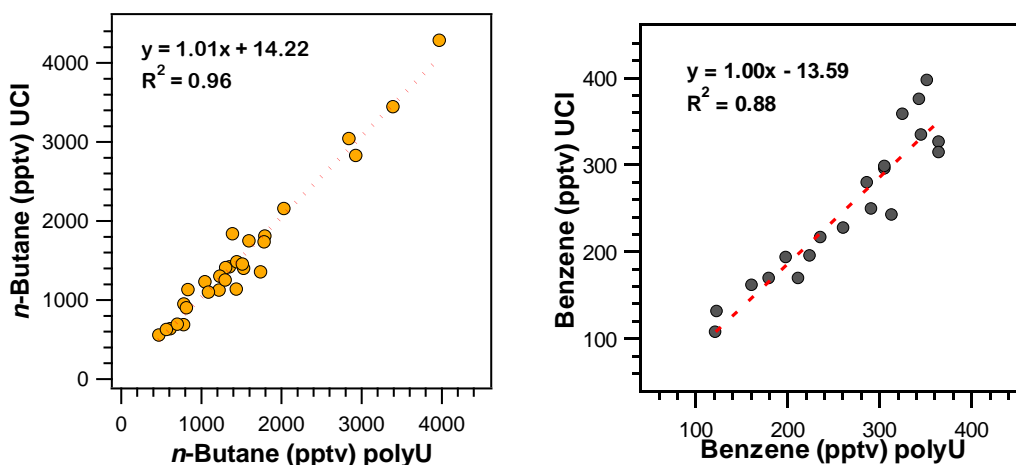


Figure S1. Agreement of the hourly (a) O_3 and (b) NO_2 between our observations on the campus of Shandong University and those monitored at the nearest AQMS by CNEMC.



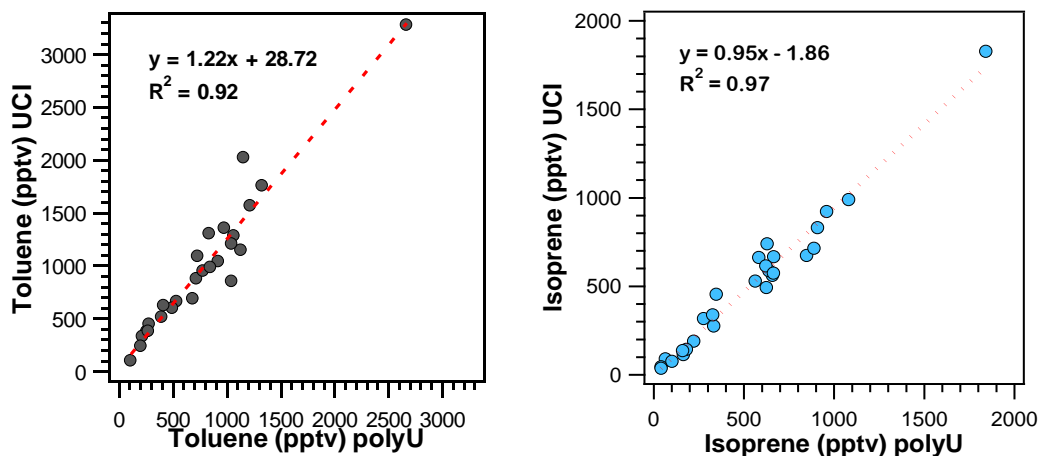


Figure S2. Inter-comparison of VOC analysis results between our laboratory (x axis) and Prof. Donald Blake's group (y axis). *n*-butane, benzene, toluene and isoprene are selected as examples. The red dashed line represents the linear regression between VOCs analyzed in two laboratories.

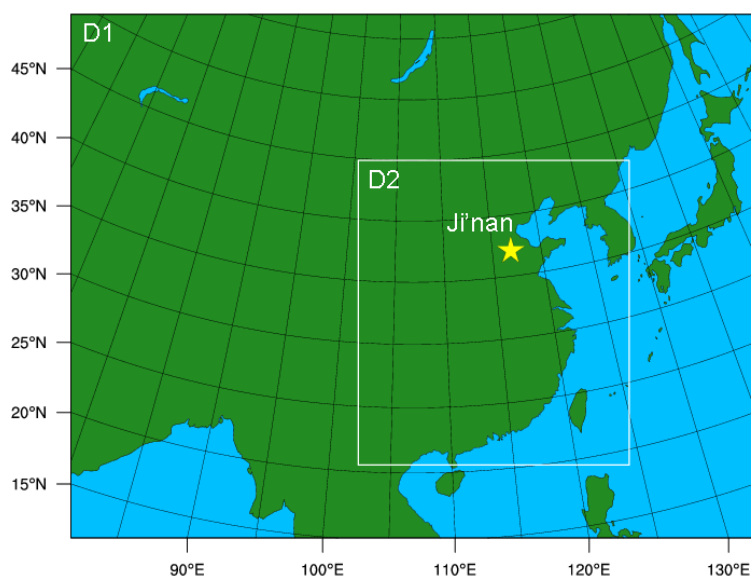


Figure S3. Settings of the two-nested domains for the WRF-CMAQ model. D1 and D2 are the outer and inner domains, covering the entire continental area of China and eastern China, respectively. The yellow star represents Ji'nan.

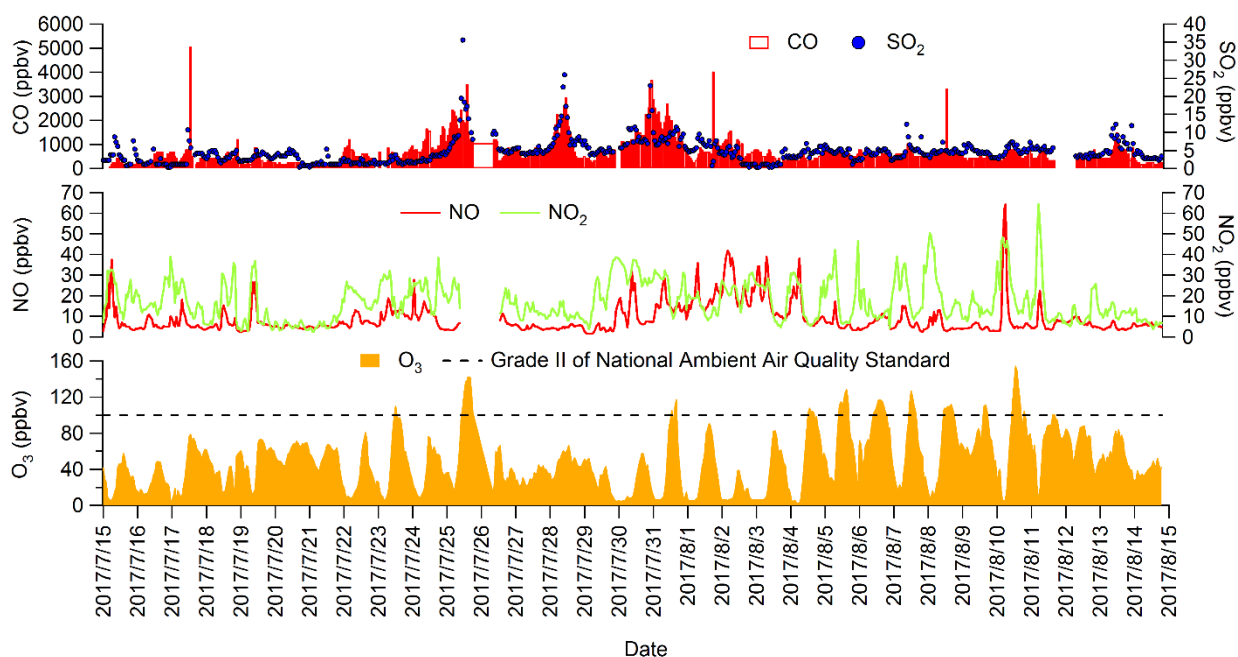
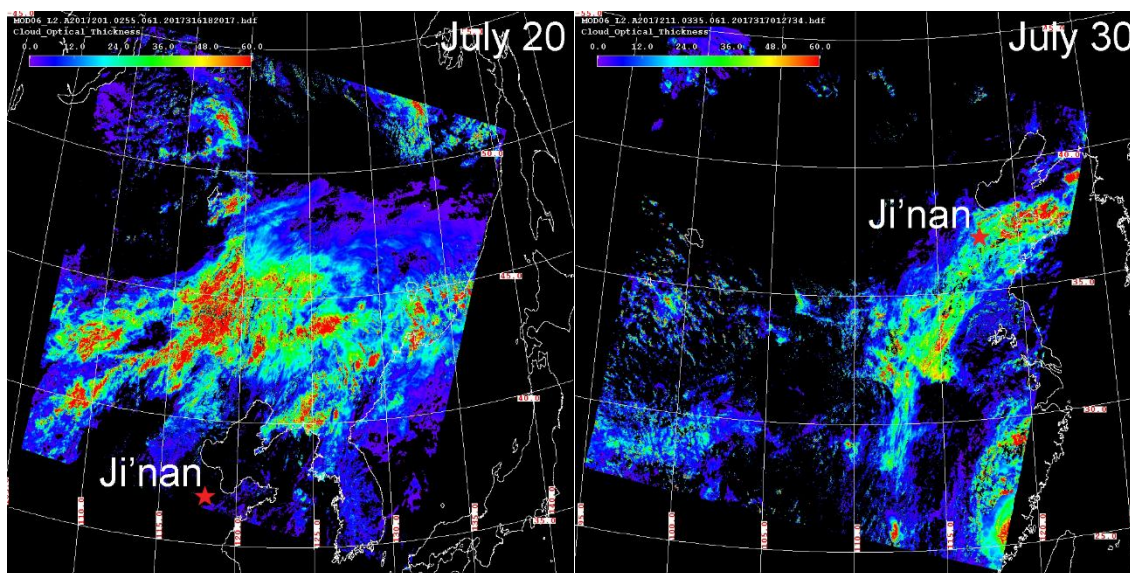
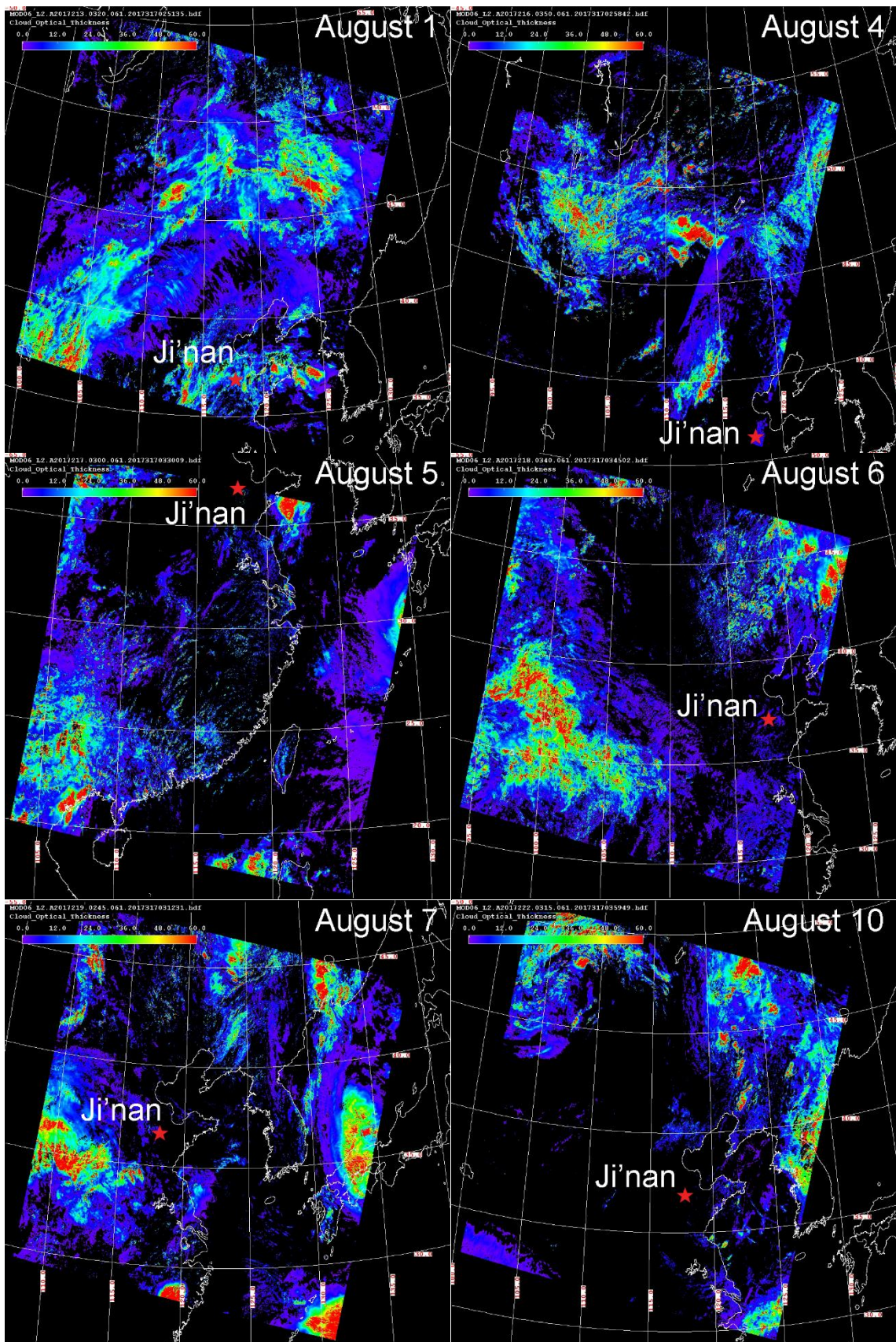


Figure S4. Hourly variations of trace gases monitored at the sampling site (O₃, NO and NO₂) and at the nearest AQMS (CO and SO₂) during July 15-August 14, 2017.





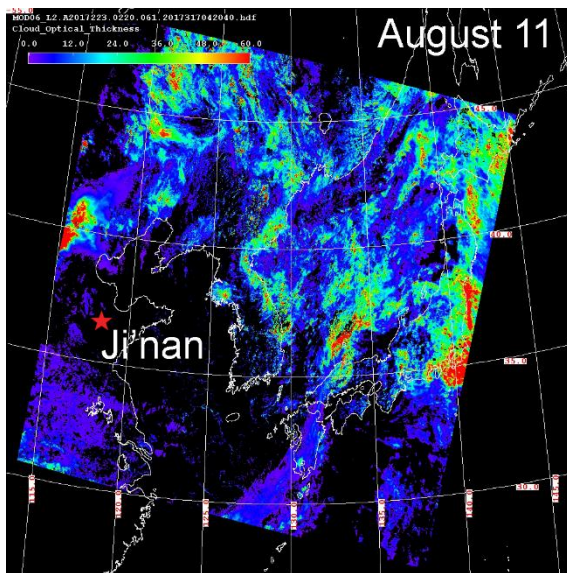
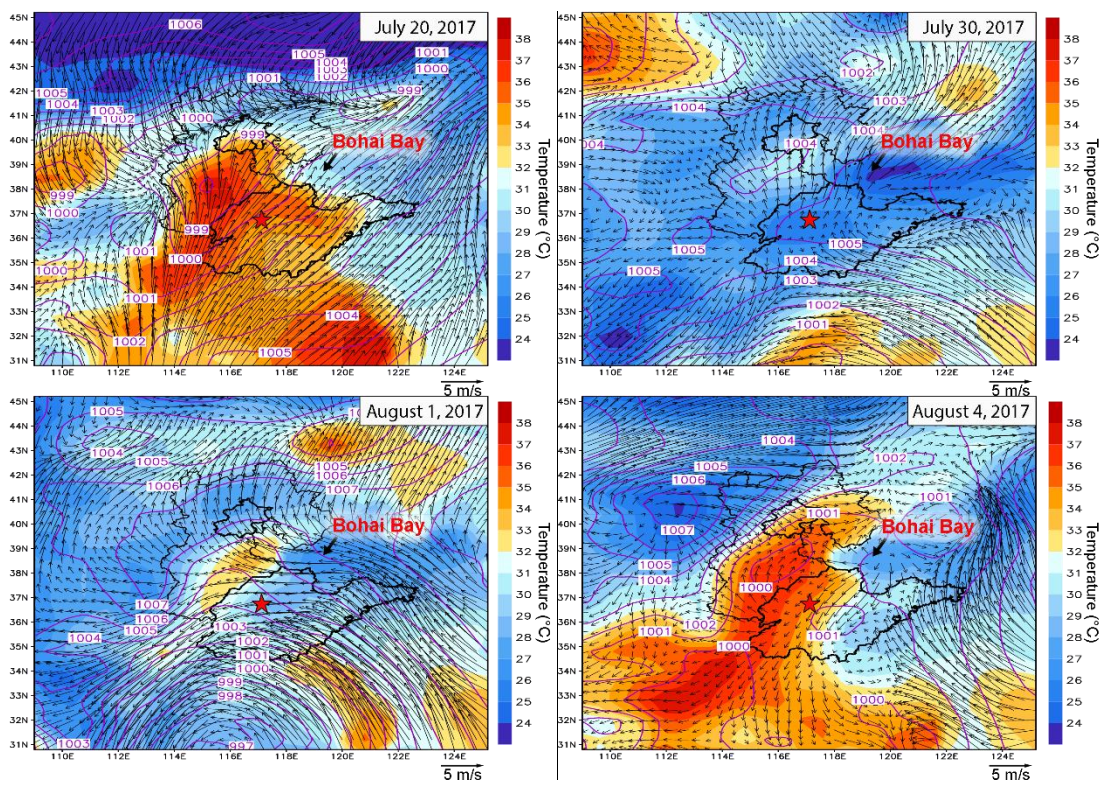


Figure S5. Cloud optical depth (COD) retrieved from terra/MODIS at noon (10:30 – 12:00 LT) of the canister sampling days. The color scale denotes for the COD within the range of 0 (purple) to 60 (red). The red star denotes Ji'nan.



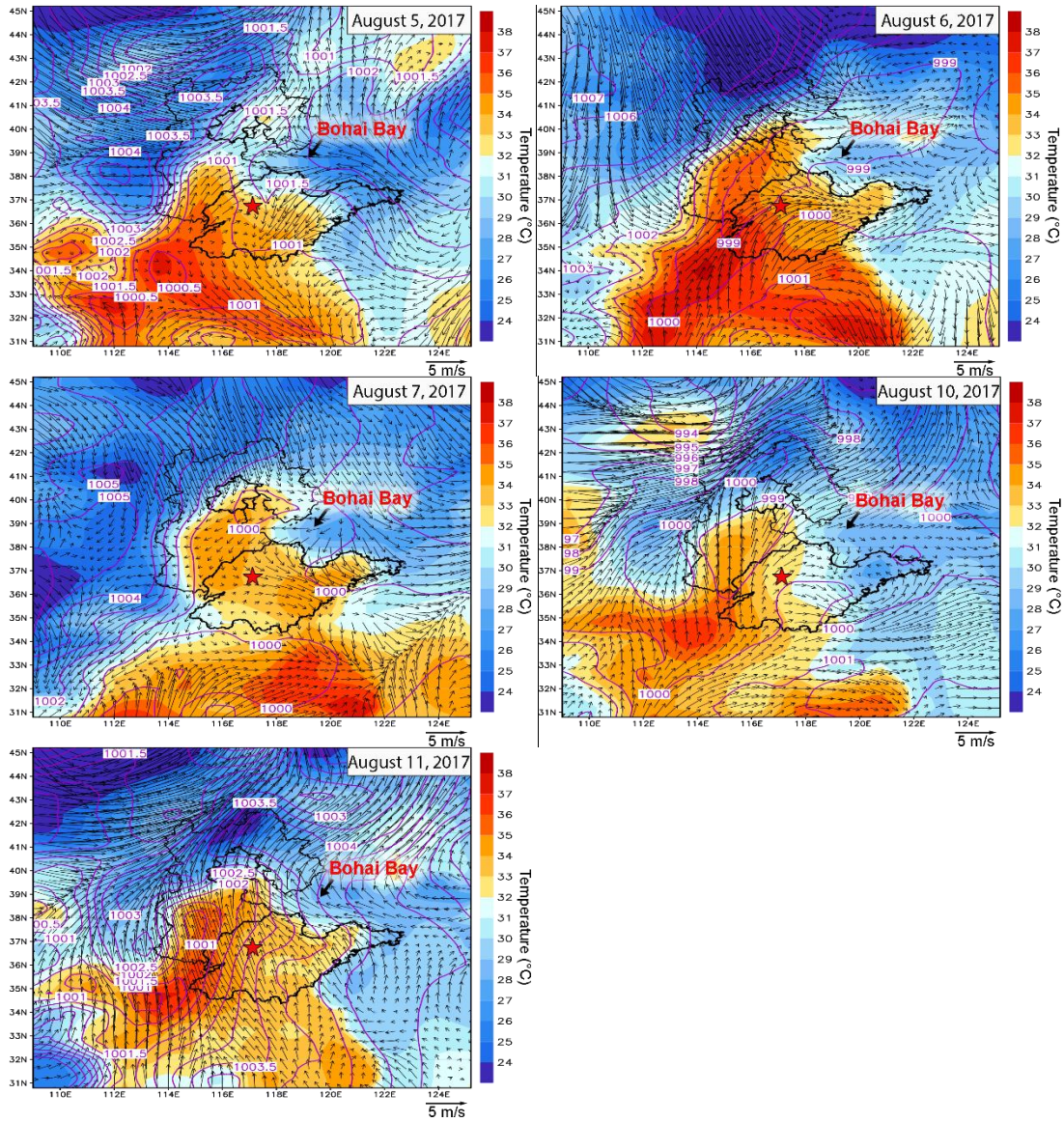
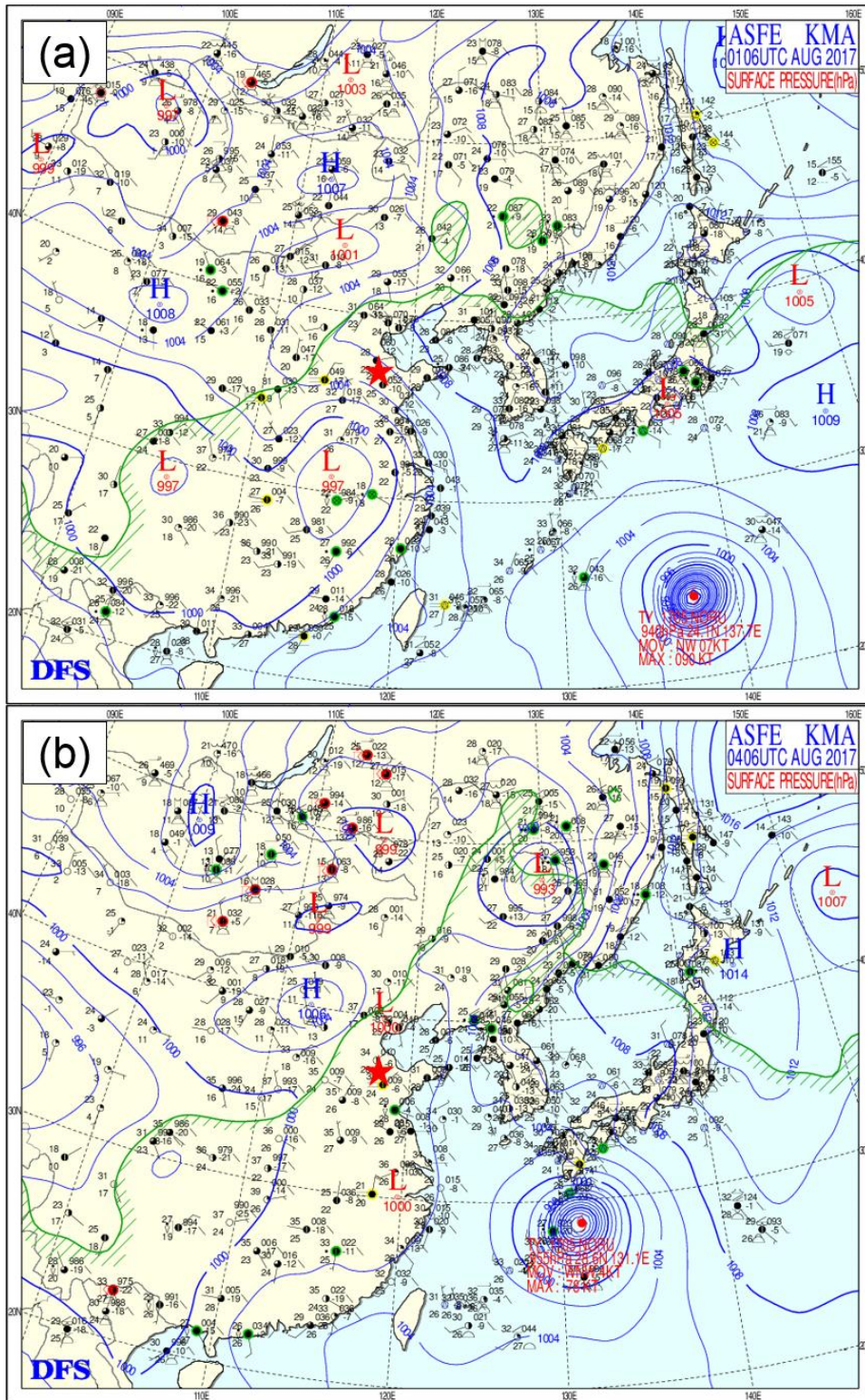
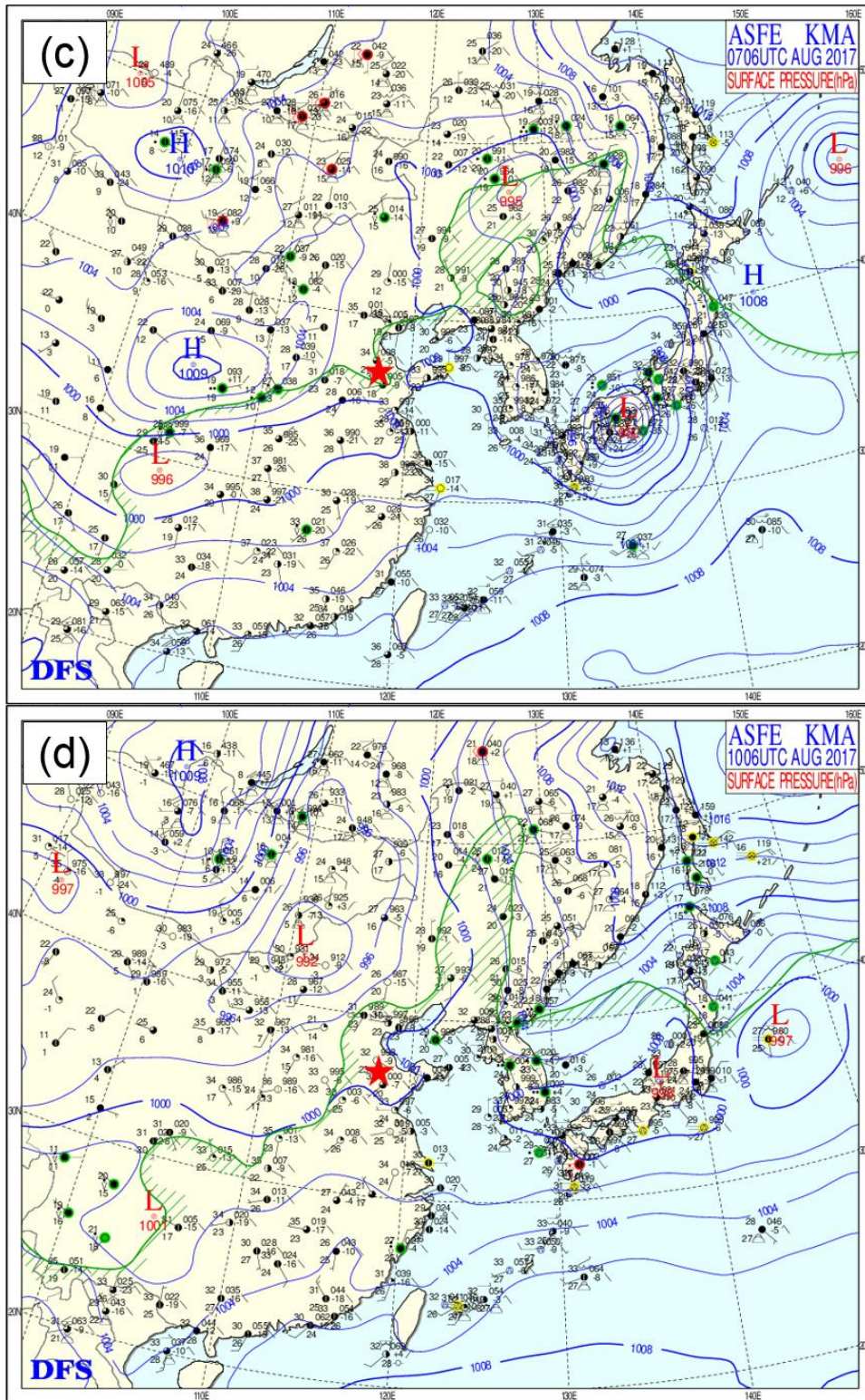


Figure S6. Weather charts at 14:00 LT on individual VOC sampling days. The red star denotes for Ji'nan. The dark black line is the boundary of Shandong province. Bohai Bay is located to the northeast of Shandong province. Numbers in the figure are sea-level pressures in unit of hPa.





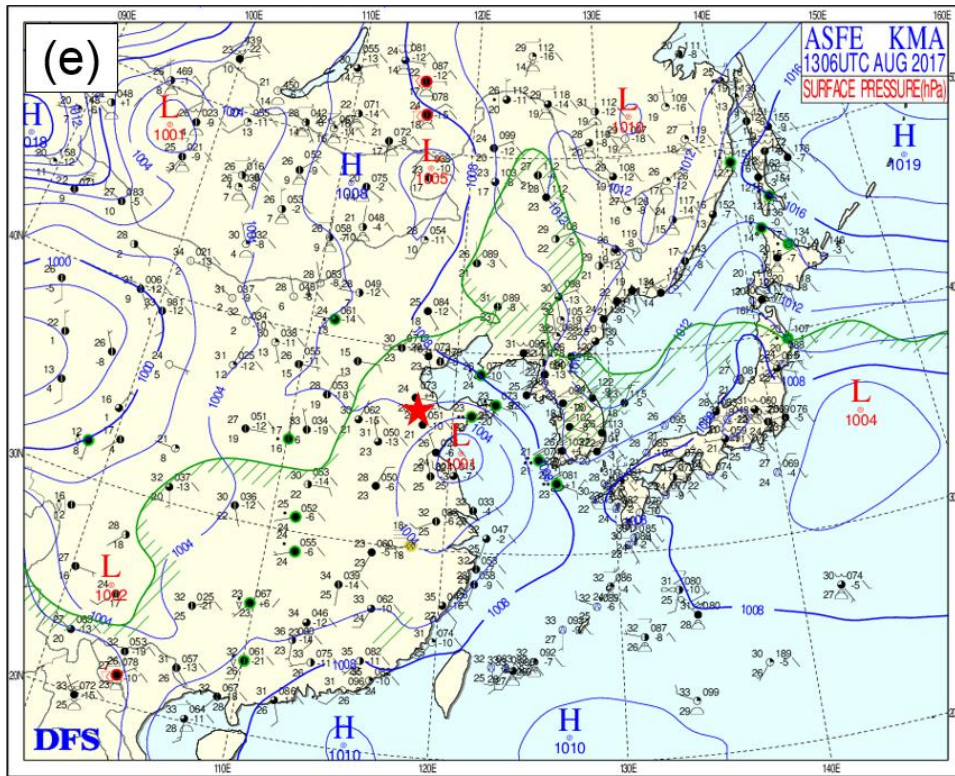
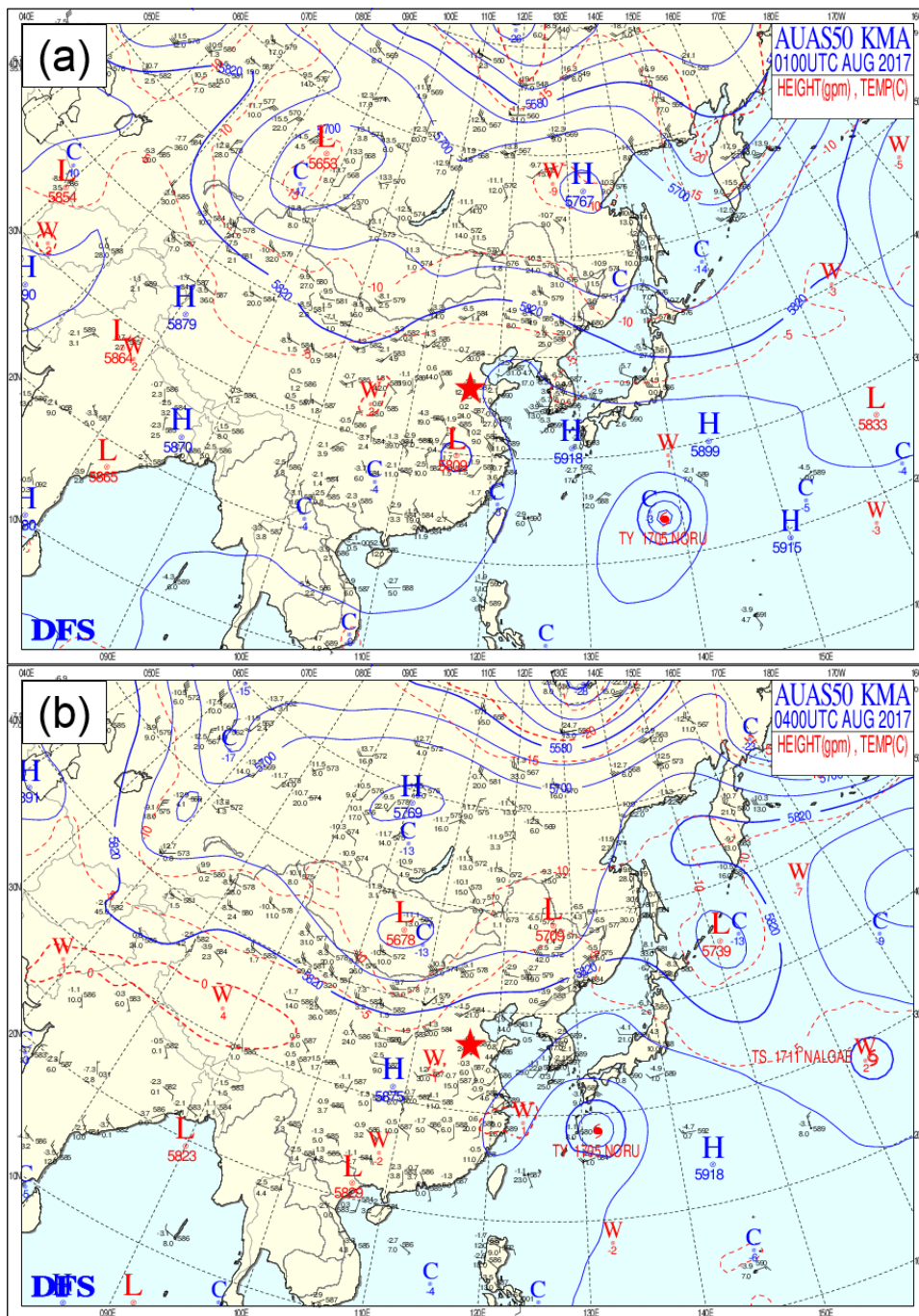
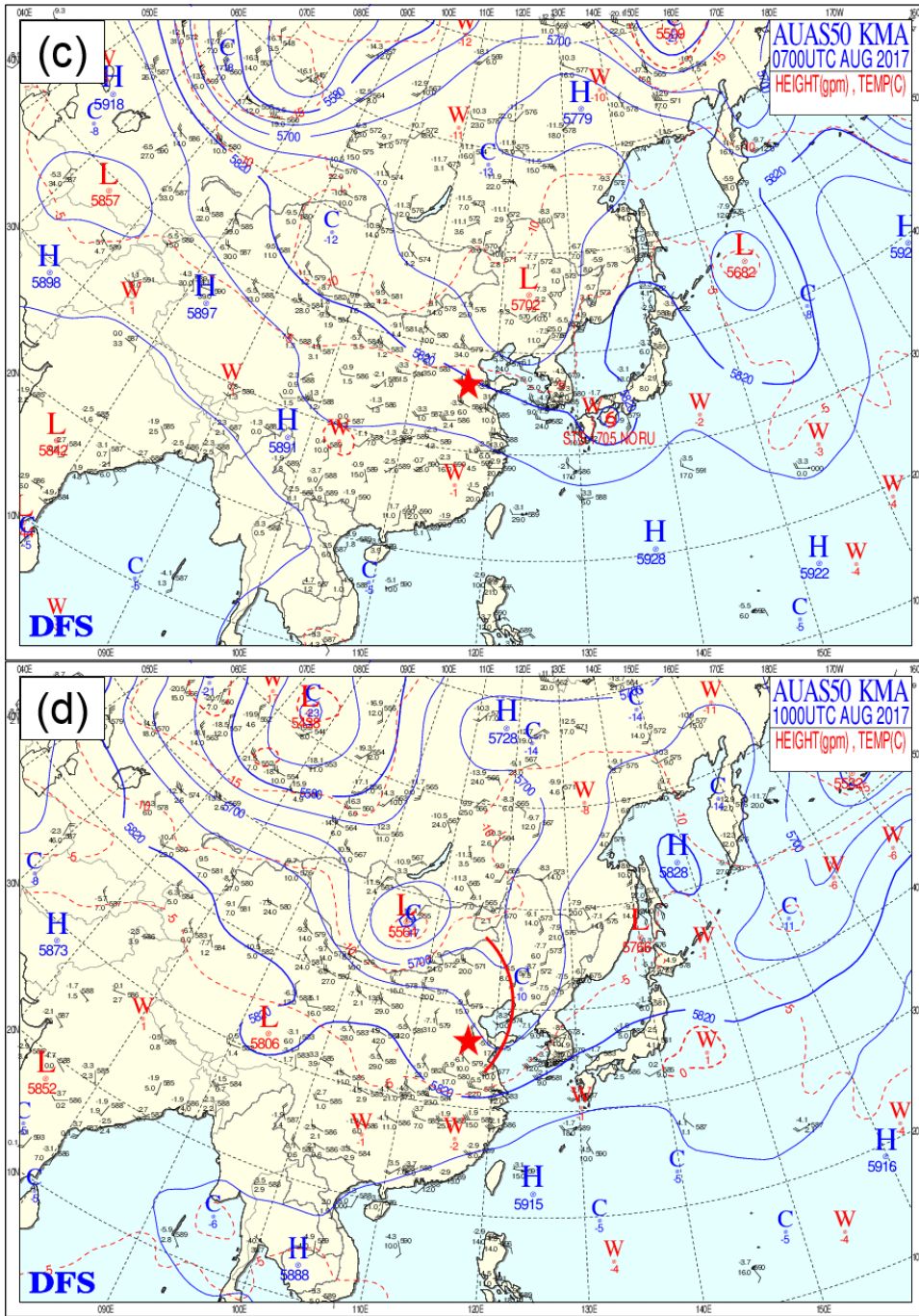


Figure S7. Weather chart over the Northeast Asia on (a) August 01, (b) August 04, (c) August 07, (d) August 10 and (e) August 13 at 06:00 UTC (14:00 LT) at surface level. The red star denotes Ji'nan city. The capital letters "H" and "L" represent high pressure center and low pressure center, respectively. Blue lines are the sea level isobars. Green line is the isometric humidity line with the specific humidity of $\geq 15\text{g/kg}$ on the grid side. All the charts can be accessed through the link: <http://222.195.136.24/forecast.html>.





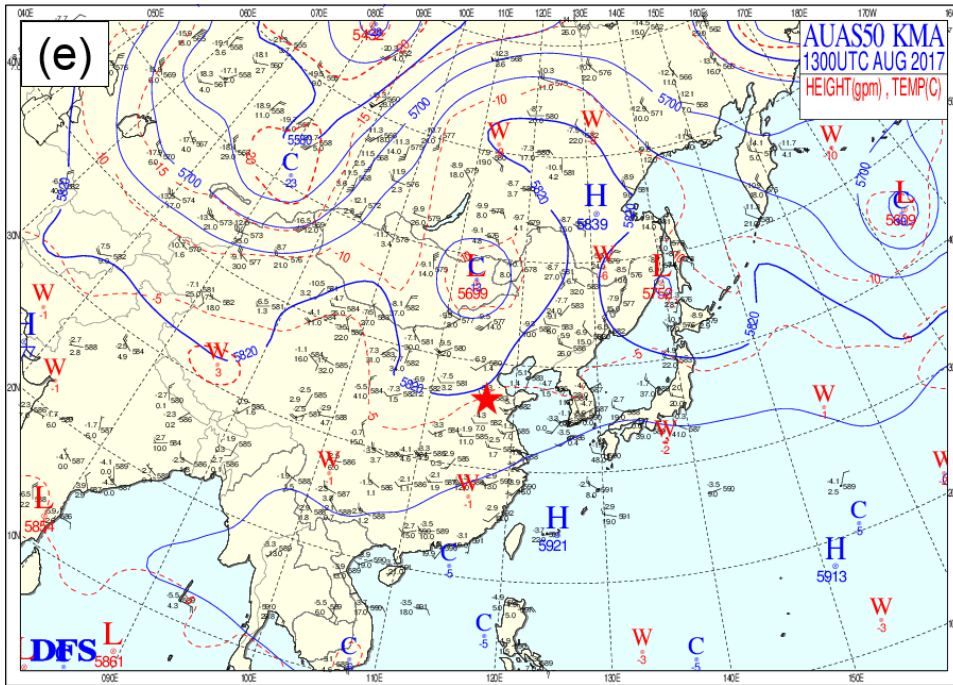


Figure S8. Weather chart over the Northeast Asia on (a) August 01, (b) August 04, (c) August 07, (d) August 10 and (e) August 13 at 00:00 UTC (08:00 LT) at altitude of 500 hPa. The red star denotes Ji'nan city. The capital letters "H" and "L" represent high pressure center and low pressure center, respectively. Blue lines are the 500 hPa geopotential height (gpm) lines. The red curve in panel (d) demonstrates the low pressure trough. All the charts can be accessed through the link: <http://222.195.136.24/forecast.html>.

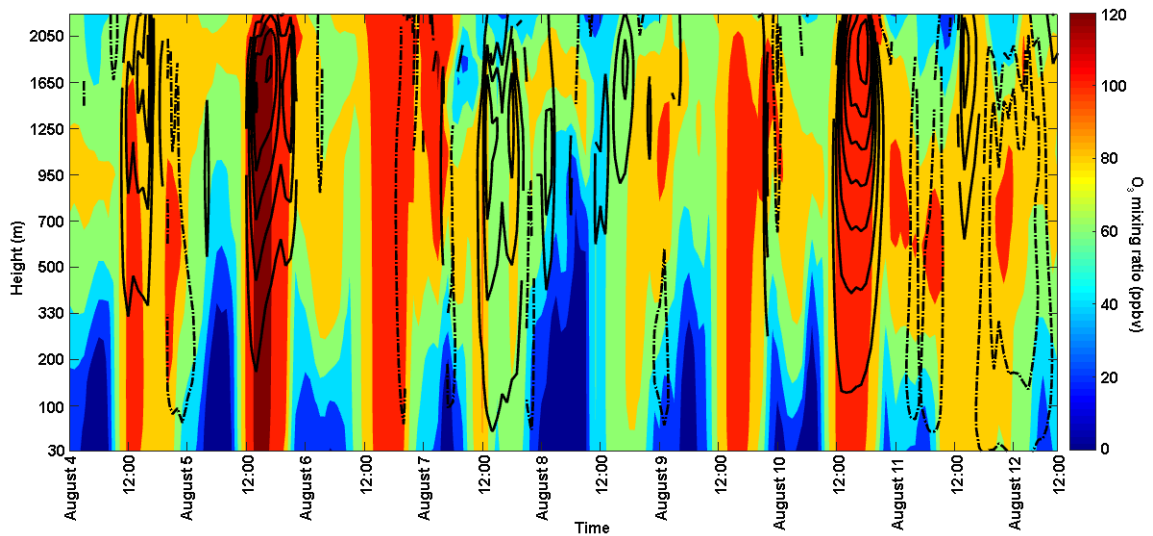


Figure S9. Vertical profile of the simulated O_3 over Ji'nan during August 4-11. The black solid and dotted lines represent the updraft and downdraft simulated by WRF-CMAQ, respectively. The areas with no line indicate that there were no simulated winds in vertical direction.

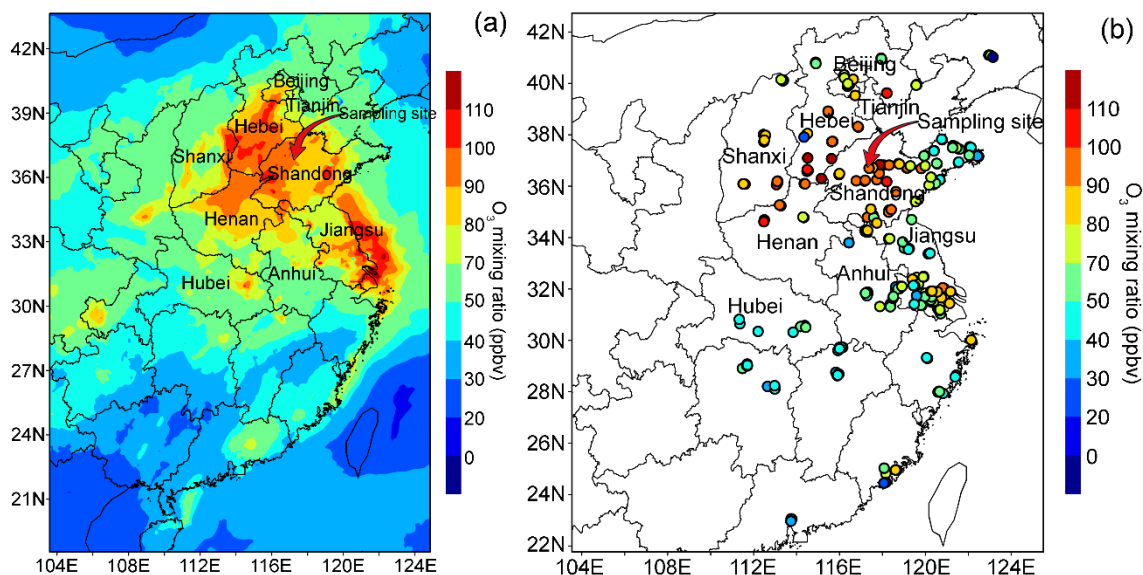


Figure S10. Comparison between the spatial distributions of (a) the WRF-CMAQ simulated O₃ and (b) the observed O₃ at 14:00 LT averaged over August 4-11. The observed O₃ is acquired from the AQMSs of CNEMC.

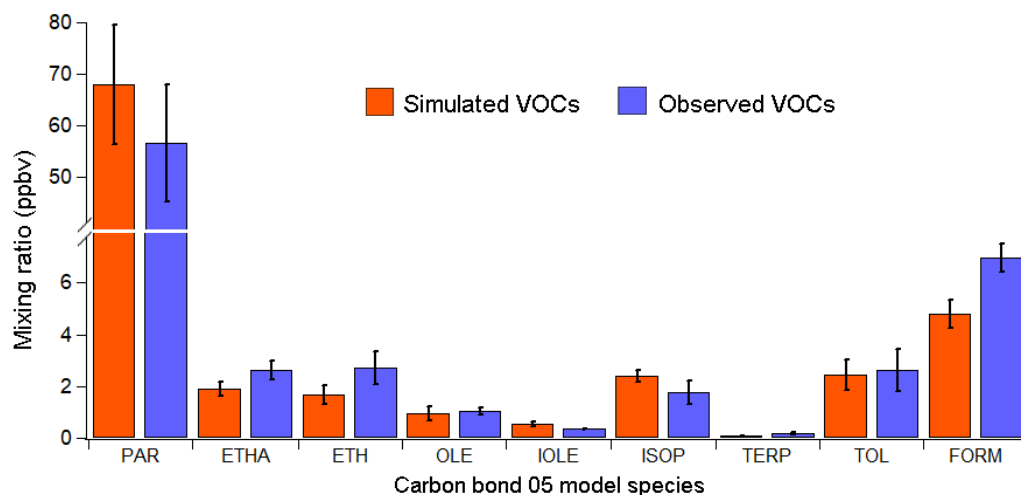


Figure S11. Comparison between the averages of the hourly observed and WRF-CMAQ simulated VOCs. PAR: paraffin carbon bond; ETHA: ethane; ETH: ethene; OLE: terminal olefin carbon bond; IOLE: internal olefin carbon bond; ISOP: isoprene; TERP: terpene; TOL: toluene and other monoalkyl aromatics; FORM: formaldehyde. The matrix of assignments from real compounds to carbon bond 05 model species can be found in Yarwood et al. (2005).

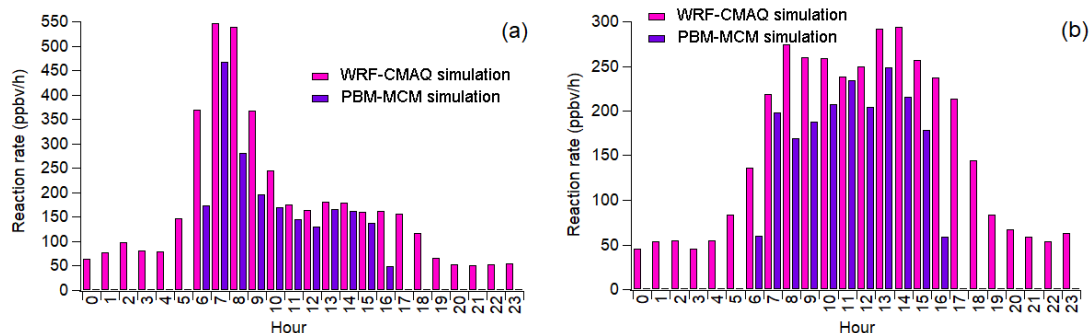


Figure S12. Average diurnal cycle of "NO+O₃" reaction rates simulated by WRF-CMAQ and PBM-MCM during (a) O₃ episodes and (b) non-episodes.

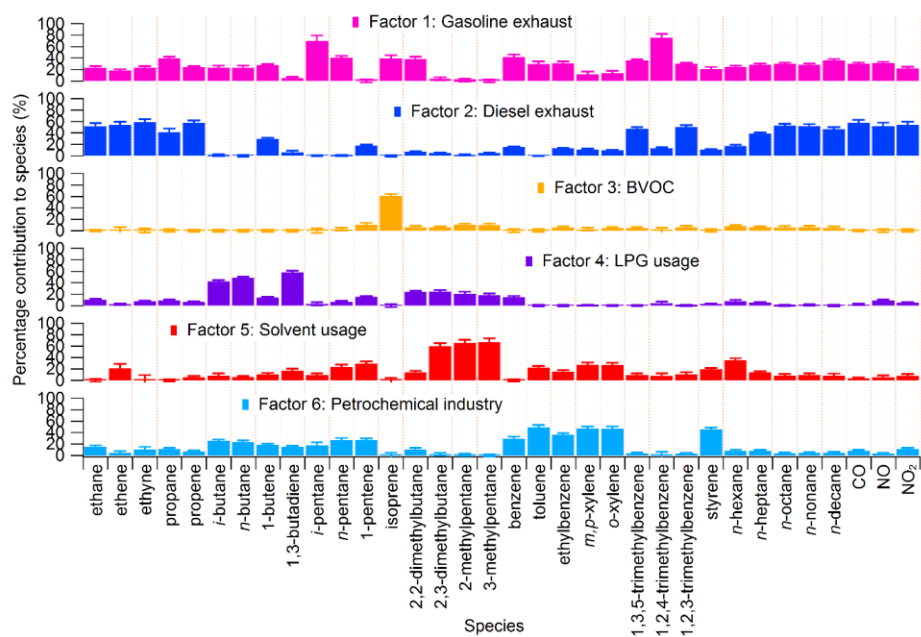


Figure S13. Profiles of the six sources of O₃ precursors identified for the samples collected in daytime of the VOC sampling days in Ji'nan.

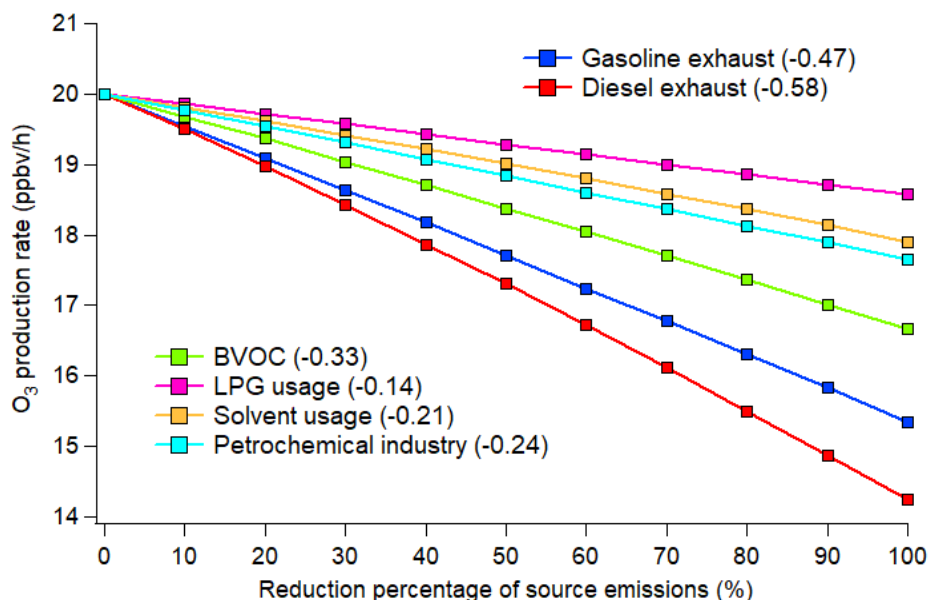


Figure S14. Average O₃ production rate at 12:00 LT during O₃ episodes as a response of the reduction percentages of source emissions. Numbers in the brackets are the average O₃ reduction efficiencies (ppbv/10% reduction in source emissions).

| Species | Site | Instrument | | Resolution | Accuracy | Precision | Detection limit |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| SO ₂ | AQMS* | API, 100 E | Model | 20 sec | <20% | 0.5% of reading above 50 ppbv | 0.4 ppbv |
| CO | AQMS | API, 300 E | Model | 10 sec | <20% | 0.5% of reading | 40 ppbv |
| NO-NO ₂ -NO _x | AQMS | API, 200E | model | 20 sec | <20% | 0.5% of reading | 0.4 ppbv |
| | Campus site # | Thermo, Model 42C | | 1 min | <15% | 0.4 ppbv | 0.4 ppbv |
| O ₃ | AQMS | API, 400E | model | 10 sec | <20% | <0.5% of reading | 0.6 ppbv |
| | Campus site | Thermo, Model 49C | | 20 sec | <15% | 1.0 ppbv | 1.0 ppbv |

* An air quality monitoring station of China National Environmental Monitoring Center closest to our sampling site in the campus of Shandong University; # Our sampling site on the campus of Shandong University.

Table S1. Descriptions of the trace gas analyzers used in this study.

| Date | Episode/Non-episode | J(O ¹ D) (s ⁻¹) | JNO ₂ (s ⁻¹) |
|---------|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| July 20 | Non-episode | 3.40×10^{-5} | 9.27×10^{-3} |
| July 30 | Non-episode | 1.02×10^{-5} | 2.73×10^{-3} |

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| August 1 | Non-episode | 2.71×10^{-5} | 7.50×10^{-3} |
| August 4 | Episode | 2.85×10^{-5} | 7.95×10^{-3} |
| August 5 | Episode | 2.69×10^{-5} | 7.50×10^{-3} |
| August 6 | Episode | 2.75×10^{-5} | 7.70×10^{-3} |
| August 7 | Episode | 2.34×10^{-5} | 6.52×10^{-3} |
| August 10 | Episode | 3.07×10^{-5} | 8.72×10^{-3} |
| August 11 | Episode | 2.90×10^{-5} | 8.25×10^{-3} |

Table S2. Daily maximum photolysis rates of O₃ and NO₂ on VOC sampling days in Ji'nan.

| OH reactivity of species X | Full name of species/VOC groups | Species included |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| RNO | Nitric oxide | Nitric oxide |
| RNO ₂ | Nitrogen dioxide | Nitrogen dioxide |
| RCO | Carbon monoxide | Carbon monoxide |
| RCarbonyls | Carbonyls | Formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acetone, hexanal |
| RBVOCs | Biogenic VOCs | Isoprene, α -pinene, β -pinene |
| RAromatics | Aromatics | Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, <i>m/p</i> -xylenes, <i>o</i> -xylene |
| RAkenes | Alkenes | Ethene, ethyne, propene, 1- <i>i</i> -butene, 1,3-butadiene, <i>trans</i> -2-butene, <i>cis</i> -2-butene, 1-pentene |
| RAkanes | Alkanes | Ethane, propane, <i>n/i</i> -butanes, <i>n/i</i> -pentanes |

Table S3. Full name of inorganic trace gases and VOC species for the calculation of OH reactivity.

| Meteorological parameter/Air pollutant | Avg. Obs. | Avg. Sim. | Diff. | RMSE | NMB | NME | IOA |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------|------|--------|-------|------|
| Temp. (°C) | 30.0 | 30.7 | 0.7 | 2.4 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.89 |
| R.H. (%) | 72.7 | 67.5 | -5.2 | 14.4 | -0.06 | 0.15 | 0.82 |
| W.S. (m/s) | 2.8 | 3.3 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.38 | 0.56 | 0.74 |
| Press. (hPa) | 1000.5 | 998.8 | -1.7 | 4.0 | -0.002 | 0.003 | 0.56 |
| NO ₂ (ppbv) | 26.7 | 28.4 | 1.7 | 16.7 | 0.18 | 0.58 | 0.73 |
| O ₃ (ppbv) | 62.8 | 52.4 | -10.4 | 24.0 | -0.07 | 0.48 | 0.89 |

Table S4. Statistical comparisons of the WRF-CMAQ simulated and observed meteorological parameters, O₃ and NO₂. The comparisons are made for the hourly data in 24 hours on all the VOC sampling days.

| O ₃ production pathway | O ₃ destruction pathway |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| HO ₂ + NO | OH + NO ₂ |
| RO ₂ + NO | O ¹ (D) + H ₂ O |
| | O ₃ + OH |
| | O ₃ + HO ₂ |
| | O ₃ + alkenes |

Table S5. Production and destruction pathways of O₃.

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