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Life–cycle impacts of South Korean air pollution on tropospheric ozone and methane: sensitivity to dispersion time

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Supplement: Life–Cycle Impacts of South Korean Air Pollution on Tropospheric Ozone and Methane: Sensitivity to Dispersion Time

Contents

Supplement references

S1. Emission temporal profiles

Our temporal distributions for emissions profiles are derived using sectoral-resolved emissions from EDGAR v4.3.2 and separate temporal profiles (Crippa *et al*., 2020). They are resolved diurnally (every hour), by day-of-the-week (weekday, Saturday, and Sunday), and by month for the following emission sectors: agricultural waste burning, energy for buildings, fugitive emissions from refining, fuel exploitation, off-road transport, road transport, power generation, and combustion for manufacturing (see Figure S1). Our derived temporal profiles are a linear combination of the EDGAR sector-specific temporal profiles, and are applied equally to all KORUS v5 emissions (Woo *et al*., 2020) in each grid-cell.

In each model grid-cell, we estimate a single, fractional contribution of the eight emission sectors to the grid-cell emissions; these weightings are used to average the EDGAR temporal profiles over the sectors. The sector contributions are computed as the EDGAR sector-to-total emission ratio (kg m^{-2} s^{-1}) summed over the inventoried air pollutants (NO_x, CO, and 25 VOCs; see Table S1 for totals), but with the emission densities weighted by the approximate inverse lifetimes of the species in the BL. The reactivity weightings ensure our calculated diurnal emission cycles represent the sectors in proportion to their influence on the BL-RL model chemistry.

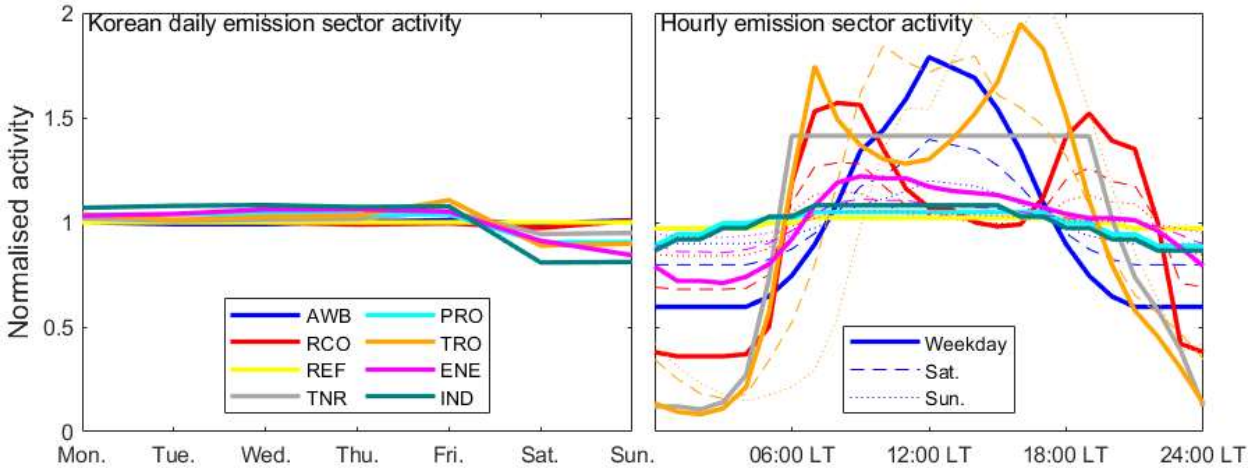

Figure S1: Days of the week (left) and hours of the day (right) temporal scale factors for EDGAR v4.3.2 emissions for the month of May. *The sectors are denoted as follows: AWB (agricultural waste burning), RCO (energy for buildings), REF (fugitive emissions from refining), TNR (off-road transport, i.e., rail, shipping, aircraft landing & take-off), PRO (fuel exploitation), TRO (road transportation), ENE (power generation), and IND (combustion for manufacturing). Solid, dashed, and dotted lines in the hourly profiles (right) indicate weekday, Saturday, and Sunday diurnal cycles respectively. Local time for all cells is Korean Standard Time.*

Table S1: Total South Korean emission rates and reactivity lifetimes used to derive our emission temporal scale factors.

Emitted Species (SAPRC ID)	EDGAR ID	KORUS v5 flux (kg hr^{-1})	EDGAR flux (kg hr^{-1})	Lifetime (hr)	1-hr decay fraction
CO	CO	20200	33200	2100	0.000
NO	NO_x	85300	143000	6.0	0.154
NO_2		17900			
Ethane (ALK1)	VOC02	3400	1400	3000	0.000
Propane (ALK2)	VOC03	3900	8440	560	0.002
n-Butane (ALK3)	VOC04	5300	5300	250	0.004
n-Pentane (ALK4)	VOC05	65000	719	140	0.007
n-Hexane (ALK4)	VOC06		22000	100	0.010
n-Heptane (ALK5)		16000		80	0.012
Ethene	VOC07	7690	3750	43	0.023
Propene (OLE1)	VOC08	4100	1470	9.0	0.105
Isoprene	VOC10	650	16	3.8	0.231
Butadiene (OLE2)	VOC12	5400	3520	6.2	0.149
Benzene (ARO1)	VOC13	33000	3170	460	0.002
Toluene (ARO1)	VOC14		4710	95	0.010
m-Xylene (ARO2)	VOC15	17000	5560	24	0.041
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene (ARO2)	VOC16		564	17	0.057
Cresols	VOC17	100	4590	12	0.080
HCHO	VOC21	990	308	6.6	0.141
Acetaldehyde	VOC22	560	564	27	0.036
Propionaldehyde (RCHO)		300		13	0.074
Methylglyoxal		90		2.1	0.379
Benzaldehyde		30		33	0.030
Diacetyl		30		1.0	0.632
Acetone	VOC23	340	2560	71	0.014
Methyl ethyl ketone		570		99	0.010

South Korean emissions from KORUS v5 and EDGAR v4.3.2 are shown as sums over the BL-RL model domain for the month of May. Named species in the model are represented by both explicit and lumped categories, e.g., "ALK1" in KORUS v5, and "VOC06" in EDGAR. KORUS v5 fluxes are converted from mol s^{-1} to kg hr^{-1} for comparison with EDGAR using the masses of the representative "emitted species" in our modelling system. EDGAR emission fluxes were

partitioned into sectors, scaled by the 1-hr decay fractions, then used as weightings to estimate the sector activity fraction in each terrestrial BL-RL grid-cell. The reactivity scalings are computed from OH rate constants in MCM v3.3.1 (Bloss et al., 2005; Jenkin et al., 1997; Jenkin et al., 2003; Jenkin et al., 2015; Saunders et al., 2003) using [OH] = 5 x 10^5 molec cm^{-3} and temperature = 288 K. In each grid-cell, the sector activities are used as weightings to average the sector-based temporal profiles shown in Figure S1.

S2. BL-RL model vertical levels

Table S2: The ERA5 vertical coordinates used in the BL-RL model stage.

ERA5 level index (l)	Lower edge-level quantities				Mid-level quantities		
	η_A (Pa)	η_B	p (hPa)	z (m)	δp (hPa)	T (K)	δz (m)
99	16262	0.411	574	4566	NA	NA	NA
100	15597	0.438	594	4287	20.6	268.9	278
101	14898	0.466	615	4017	20.6	270.4	270
102	14173	0.494	636	3755	20.5	271.8	262
103	13428	0.522	656	3503	20.4	273.2	253
104	12668	0.549	676	3260	20.1	274.5	243
105	11901	0.577	696	3028	19.7	275.7	232
106	11133	0.604	715	2806	19.3	276.9	222
107	10370	0.630	734	2595	18.8	278.0	211
108	9618	0.656	752	2394	18.2	279.0	200
109	8880	0.681	769	2205	17.5	280.0	189
110	8163	0.705	786	2026	16.9	280.9	179
111	7470	0.728	802	1858	16.1	281.8	168
112	6804	0.750	818	1701	15.4	282.7	158
113	6169	0.771	832	1553	14.6	283.5	148
114	5564	0.791	846	1415	13.9	284.3	138
115	4994	0.810	859	1286	13.1	285.1	129
116	4457	0.827	872	1167	12.4	285.8	120
117	3956	0.844	883	1055	11.6	286.4	111
118	3489	0.859	894	952	10.9	287.1	103
119	3057	0.874	905	856	10.2	287.6	96
120	2659	0.887	914	768	9.5	288.2	88
121	2294	0.900	923	686	8.8	288.7	82
122	1962	0.911	931	611	8.2	289.1	75
123	1659	0.922	939	541	7.6	289.5	69
124	1388	0.932	946	478	7.1	289.9	64
125	1143	0.941	952	419	6.5	290.2	59
126	926.5	0.949	958	365	6.0	290.5	54
127	735.0	0.957	964	315	5.6	290.7	50
128	568.1	0.963	969	270	5.1	290.9	45
129	424.4	0.970	974	228	4.7	291.1	42
130	302.5	0.975	978	190	4.3	291.2	38
131	202.5	0.980	982	155	4.0	291.4	35
132	122.1	0.985	986	123	3.7	291.6	32
133	62.8	0.989	989	94	3.4	291.7	29
134	22.8	0.992	992	67	3.1	291.9	27
135	3.76	0.995	995	43	2.8	292.0	24
136	0.000	0.998	998	20	2.6	292.0	22
137	0.000	1.000	1000	0	2.4	292.0	20

ERA5 levels index mid-level meteorological variables (e.g. T and q; Hersbach et al., 2025) and lower-edge pressure levels (p) defined by hybrid parameters ηA and ηB, for a surface pressure of 1000 hPa. Layer thicknesses (δz) are computed from the hydrostatic equation using pressure thicknesses (dp), T, and q (not shown), then integrated from the surface to obtain the lower-edge heights (z).

S3. Model-observation comparison

Table S2 and Figures S2-S6 compare O_3, CO, and NO_x mole fractions in the "boundary layer-residual layer" (BL-RL) modelling stage, resolved as mixed BL column values, with NIER surface site data gridded to model resolution (0.1°x0.1°, hourly). Our comparisons are decomposed into four time periods characterised according to meteorology by Peterson et al., 2019: dynamic (01-16 May), anticyclone (17-22 May), transport (25-31 May), and rex-block (01-07 June). Figure S7 shows the geography of NASA DC-8 sampling during the KORUS-AQ mission, as used for model-observation comparison in the "plume" (PL) modelling stage.

Table S3: Model vs. observation performance metrics in the South Korean boundary layer (BL).

Meteorological Phase	Mean daytime bias (ppb)	Correlation (Pearson-*r*)	Model daytime max (ppb)	Obs. daytime max (ppb)	Model daytime min (ppb)	Obs. daytime min (ppb)
O_3						
Dynamic	21.6	0.58	79.5	64.3	59.5	32.1
Anticyclone	-0.8	0.78	87.1	95.8	51.0	52.0
Transport	-1.4	0.75	98.9	101.2	48.2	47.5
Rex block	21.6	0.74	111.0	83.2	61.5	39.0
CO						
Dynamic	-136.8	0.35	232.8	571.7	114.1	132.9
Anticyclone	-126.3	0.26	623.1	799.4	119.2	151.1
Transport	-236.4	0.28	525.5	808.4	117.3	194.6
Rex block	-123.7	0.30	449.2	692.4	115.3	123.8
NO_x						
Dynamic	-16.7	0.54	41.8	45.3	0.5	10.1
Anticyclone	-9.4	0.50	89.5	57.6	1.5	10.6
Transport	-9.7	0.53	93.9	57.5	1.6	11.9
Rex block	-12.5	0.51	71.8	51.5	1.3	9.0

Model data are BL column values from the BL-RL model. Data were sampled in grid-cells observed by at least five effective NIER sites, during the full days defined by the meteorological

phases (see text in Section 4). Pearson's correlation coefficients were computed over the full diurnal cycles while mean daytime bias (model minus observation), daytime max, and daytime min columns were sampled during the period from 13:00-17:00 LT. Daytime maxes and mins were computed on individual days during the phases, then averaged over those meteorological stages.

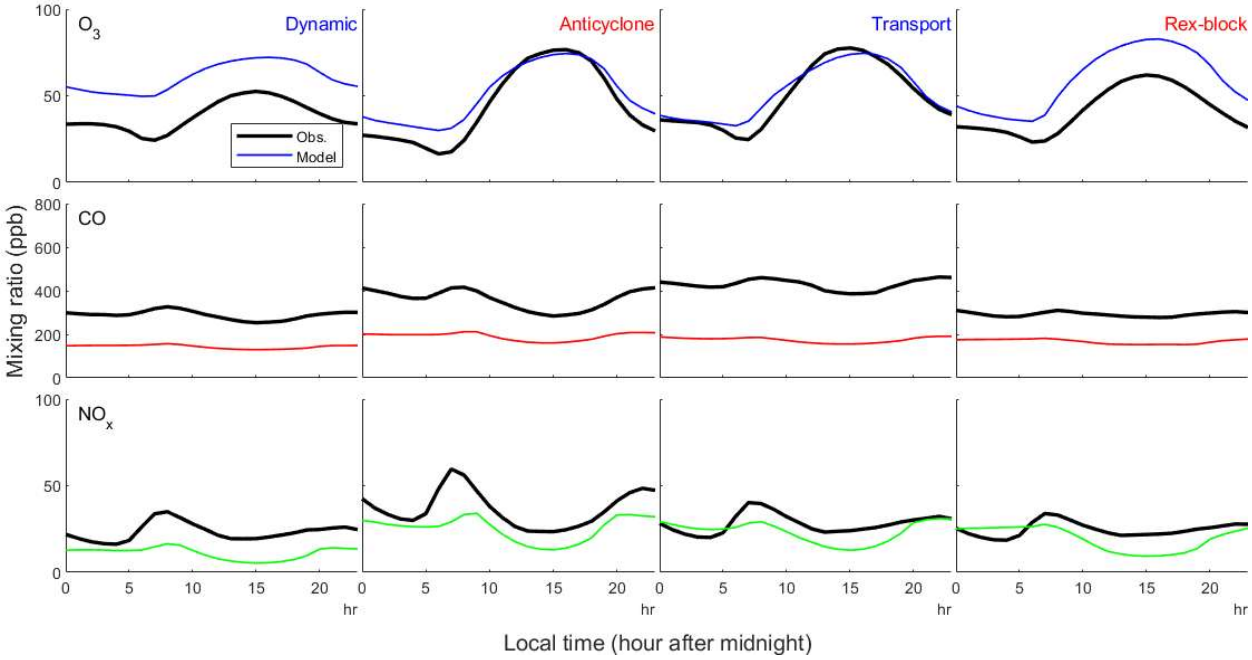

Figure S2: Mean diurnal cycles of surface observations (black lines) and model output (Coloured lines) for O_3 (top), CO (middle), and NO_x (bottom). *All data were sampled in grid-cells observed by at least five effective NIER sites. Diurnal averages were sampled separately within the meteorological stages as described in Peterson et al. (2019).*

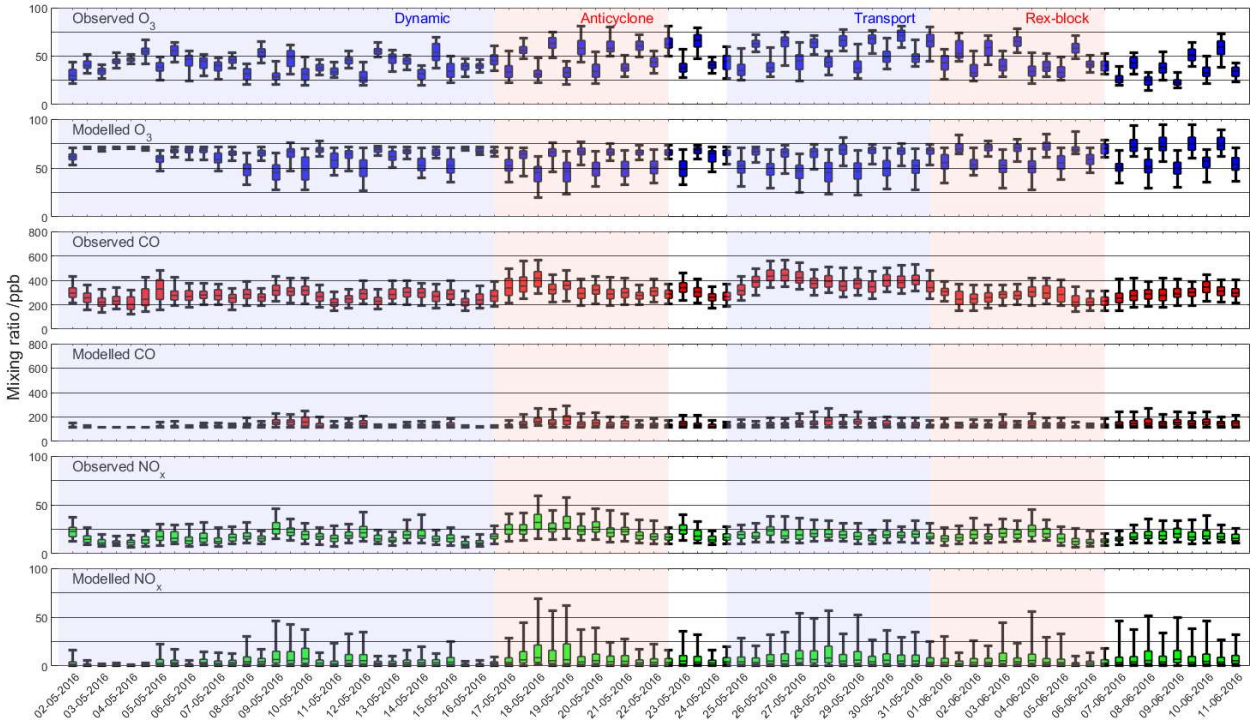

Figure S3: Surface Observation and BL-RL model statistics for O_3 (blue), CO (red), and NO_x (green). *Boxes represent the medians, quartiles, 5th, and 95th percentiles of ozone observations (top) and model output (bottom), where observations were interpolated to the model grid (see Wilson and Prather, 2025). Data were averaged over twelve-hourly intervals between 06:00 and 18:00, and the meteorological stages described by Peterson et al. (2019) are highlighted by blue and red shading.*

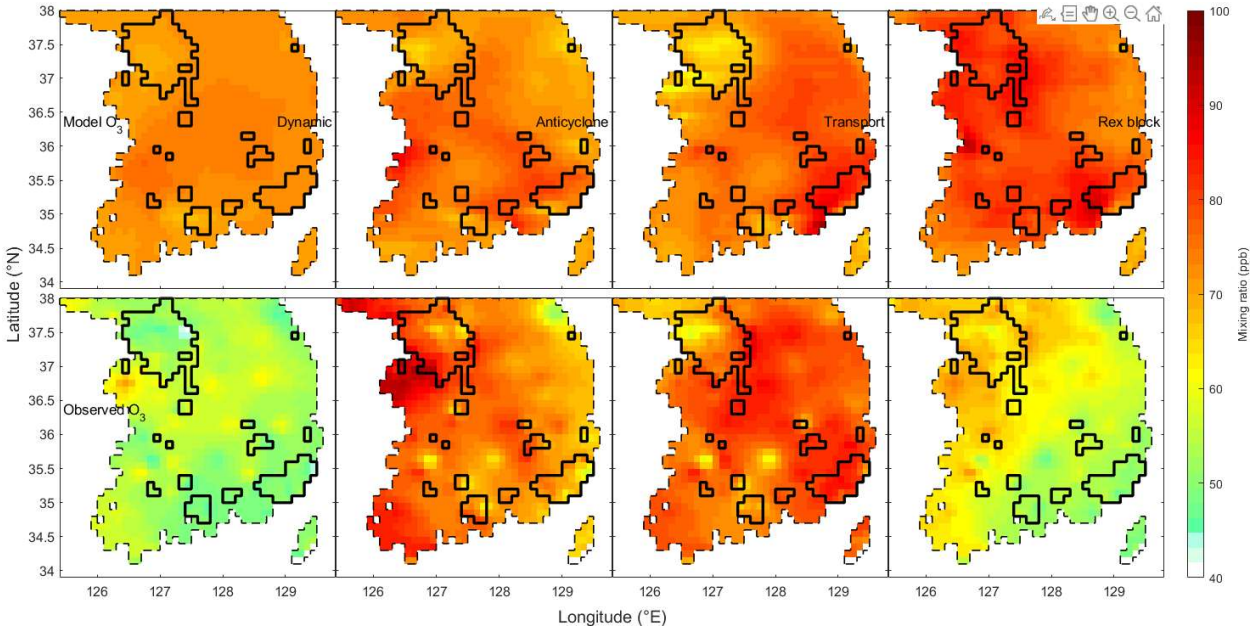

Figure S4: Mean daytime O_3 concentration in the model (top) and gridded observations (bottom). *Grid-cell means were computed between 13:00 and 18:00 during the four meteorological phases (left-to-right): 01-16 May (dynamic), 17-22 May (anticyclone), 25-31 May (transport), and 01-07 June (rex-block). Bold lines enclose grid-cells that were effectively observed by at least five NIER sites during the KORUS-AQ period. Dashed lines enclose the BL-RL model domain*

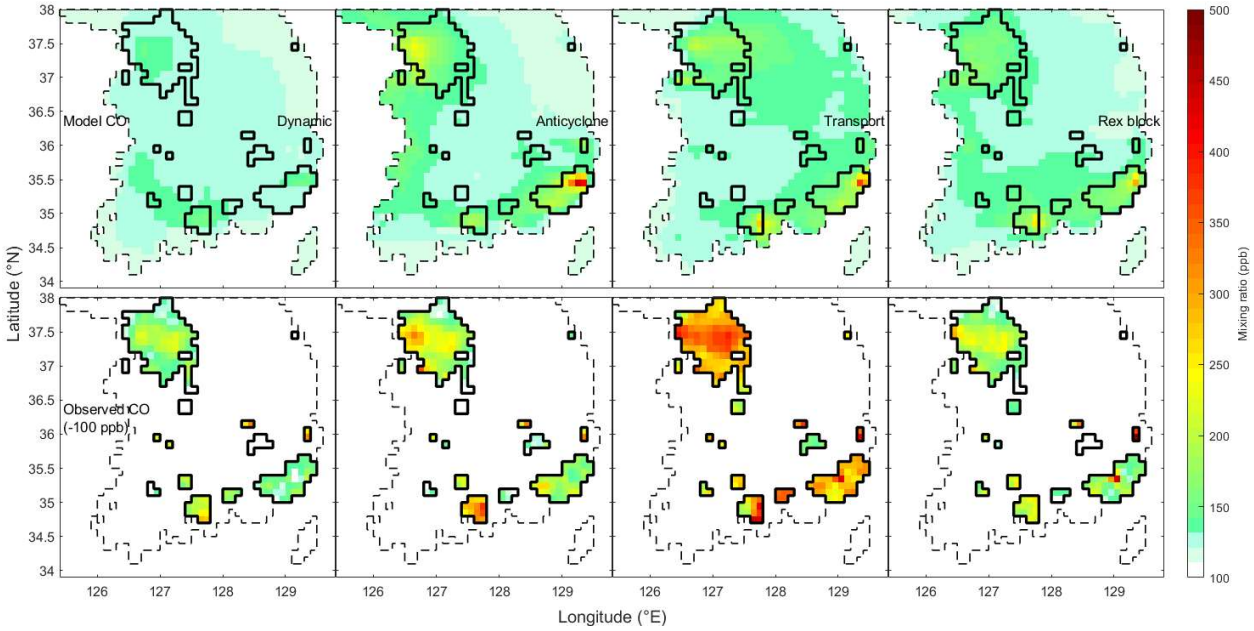

Figure S5: Mean daytime CO concentration in the model (top) and gridded observations (bottom). *As in Figure S4, but for CO. Gridded observations produced from fewer than five effective NIER sites are not shown, and a 100 ppb correction has been subtracted from the observations to better represent DC-8 boundary layer observations (Wilson and Prather, 2025).*

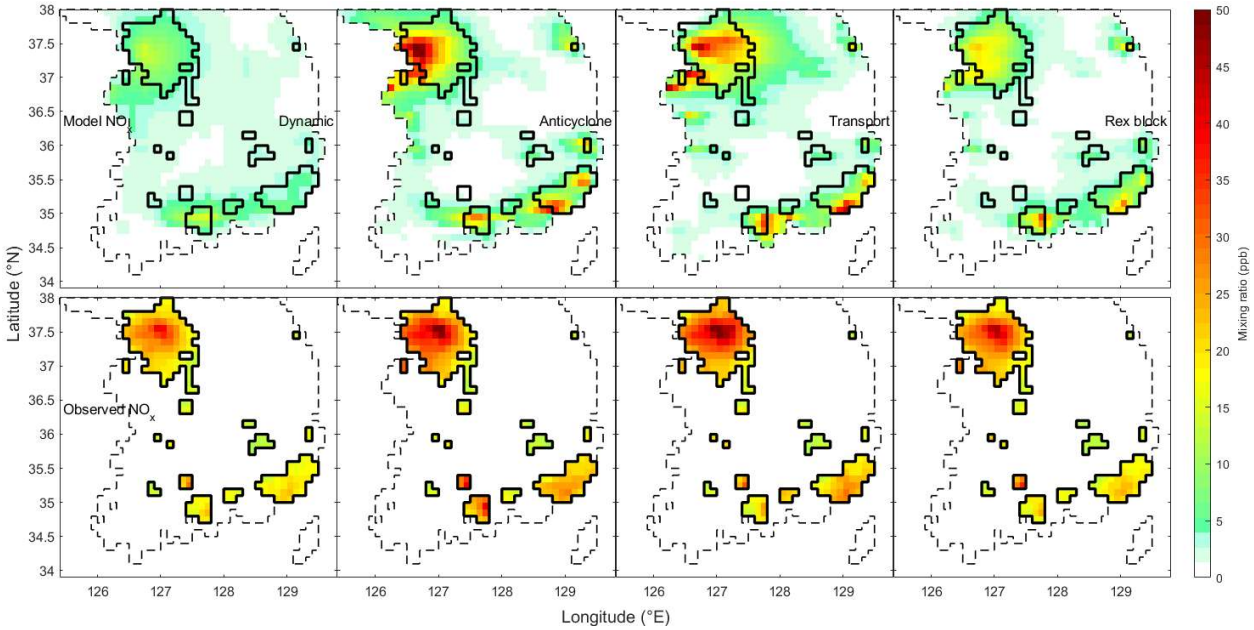

Figure S6: Mean daytime NO_x concentration in the model (top) and gridded observations (bottom). *As in Figure S4, but for NO_x. Gridded observations produced from fewer than five effective NIER sites are not shown.*

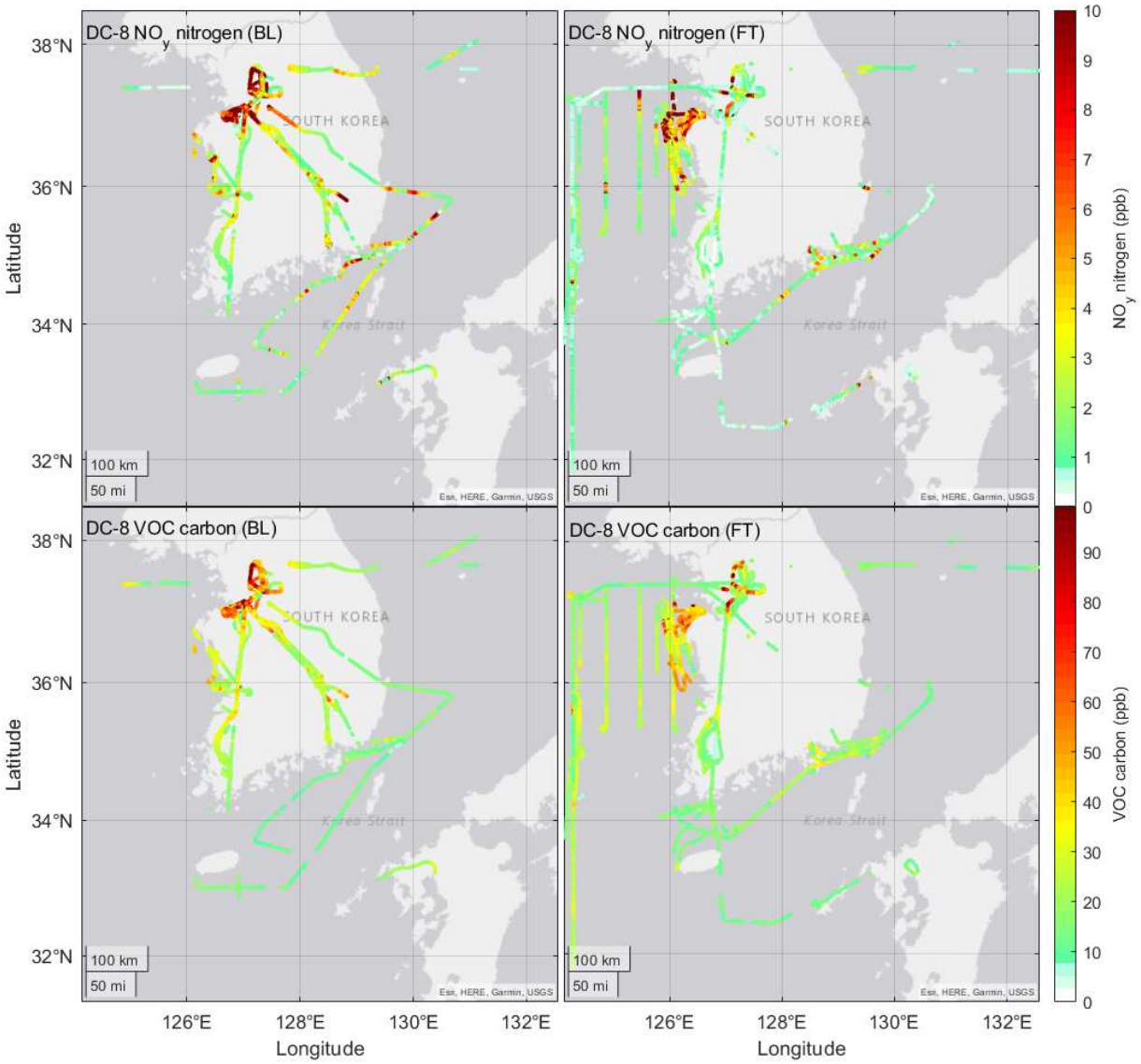

Figure S7: Map of DC-8 observations in the BL (left) and FT (right) coloured by NO_y-nitrogen (top) and VOC-carbon (bottom) mole fraction. *Flight segments (coloured circles) are 10 s merges of 1 Hz KORUS data (KORUS-AQ Science Team, 2019), sampled above (left) and below (right) the hourly, 0.25°x0.25° ERA5 BL height (Hersbach et al., 2023). NO_y includes NO and NO_2 measured by the NCAR four-channel chemiluminescence instrument (Weinheimer et al., 1993) with PAN and PPN from the Georgia Tech Chemical Ionization Mass Spectrometer (GT-CIMS; Huey, 2007). For carbon, VOCs include ethane, benzene, toluene, isoprene, methacrolein, acetaldehyde, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, and methyl vinyl ketone by Proton Transfer Reaction Mass Spectrometry (PTR-MS; Müller et al., 2014) and formaldehyde by the Compact Atmospheric Multispecies Spectrometer (CAMS; Richter et al., 2015; Spinei et al., 2018). Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS | Powered by Esri.*

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