

[We appreciate two anonymous reviewers' constructive comments. Here are the line-by-line responses.](#)

Anonymous Referee #5

This manuscript presented a detailed analysis on radical levels at a rural site around Seoul based on an observational dataset and box models. The observational data on HONO and VOCs is interesting, and gave valuable insight into the HONO concentration in Korea. The results gave lend insight into radical recycle. This manuscript should be of interest to ACP readers and would be suitable for publication with minor revisions.

1. Line 170-172. The author used a Thermo 42i TL to observe NO/NO_x. I am afraid that NO₂ measurements systematically overestimate the true value because of interferences of these compounds especially when Sampling photochemically aged air masses. The Mo converter could other oxidized nitrogen compounds such as peroxyacetyl nitrate and nitric acid are also partly converted to NO. The author should discuss the uncertainties on results caused by NO/NO₂ observations.

[In the method section \(2.1\) and the result section \(3.3\), we clearly mentioned about the potential systematic overestimation as the reviewer suggested with proper referencing.](#)

2. The author mentioned that TRF is not directly influenced by Seoul pollution plume by comparing NO₂ concentrations at two sites. This is not enough. In some cases, although NO₂ is not transported, other chemical compounds like PAN and nitrate are likely transported a longer distance. The author had better examine the wind direction and velocity. If the manuscript can provide TRF is not located in the downwind site of Seoul but prevailed winds, the statement will be more evident.

[It should be also noted that not all of NO_x is converted to reservoir species such as peroxyacyl nitrates \(PANs\) or alkylnitrates. PANs usually serve as a reservoir species for long-range transport processes involved with free tropospheric transport, as their chemical lifetime gets longer in low temperature environments. As TRF is located only 30 km away from the city center, highlighting PANs as a significant NO_x sources is not appeared to be reasonable.](#)

Previous studies found that the Heterogeneous chemistry on HONO and HNO₃ is important on NO_x and O₃ chemistry. In particular, radicals like OH and HO₂ are mostly affected by O₃ and NO_x. Thus, discussion on Heterogeneous chemistry should be discussed.

[We added the discussion about recently found HONO sources from heterogeneous chemical processes in the revised manuscript.](#)

Page 396 . "is about 40 times" should be "are about 40 times" .

[We corrected as suggested in the revised manuscript.](#)

Line 389 "the impacts to" should be "the impacts on"

[We corrected as suggested in the revised manuscript.](#)

Anonymous Referee #4

The manuscript has been improved mainly by employing up-to-date consensus knowledge of the HOx-isoprene chemistry. However still some revision is necessary:

1. Title: Although isoprene chemistry is heavily studied here, roles of anthropogenic hydrocarbon are almost unstudied. Therefore, "urban-rural interactions govern ..." in the current title is too much. "Impact of isoprene and HONO chemistry on ozone and OVOC formation in a semirural South Korean forest" might be better.

[We corrected the title as suggested in the revised manuscript.](#)

2. My previous request to mention observation or assumption of J values is neglected. Please include some explanation.

[We included an extensive discussion about the photostationary state in the resubmitted manuscript to discuss the point the referee raised about J. The calculated J is based on the assumption that photostationary state is valid for all time but as we discussed it is not necessarily that the photostationary state is hold even in the remote region as discussed. As the referee suggested, it could be caused by the interferences on observed NO₂ due to the Mo-converter. We also included the discussion in the resubmitted manuscript.](#)

3. Now the authors conclude that impact of isoprene chemistry on OH/HO₂/RO₂ radicals is less important than the impact of the HONO treatment. But still, most description in Introduction is on isoprene chemistry, and HONO is almost unmentioned. More balanced Introduction section is necessary.

[We added descriptions on the potential importance of HONO in radical cycle in the introduction.](#)

4. Line 153. Maybe 2012?

[It is actually 2013. However, we realized that there is some confusion in notating the observation year. We re-read the whole manuscript and made sure that the year is corrected notated as 2013.](#)

5. How will the possible interference of PANs etc in the NO₂ measurement, now mentioned in sections 2.2 and 3.1, affect the discussion on $2P(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2)/P(\text{HNO}_3)$? $P(\text{HNO}_3)$ should be largely affected. Discussion on this point is also critical.

[We added discussion on uncertainty that can be caused by the systematically overestimated NO₂. If we assume ~ 50% of NO₂ overestimation, the ratio will be doubled. Therefore the NOX and VOC limited regime border will set on 0.5. Still, our findings would not be significantly affected.](#)

6. line 402. four different model scenarios

[We corrected the typo as suggested.](#)

7. lines 448-449. In Table 3 the authors discussed that HO₂ is slightly increased and RO₂ is decreased. Why the RO₂+HO₂ reaction rates increased here?

[We rephrase the sentence to reflect the model calculated and analysis results.](#)

8. line 452. Considering relatively high NO_x concentrations at TRF, this is surprising ...

[We think so too. That is why we extensively discussed about it in the manuscript. The critical fact is that NO was observed quite low in the afternoon.](#)

9. lines 499. For more rural condition at the top of Mt. Tai, China, Kanaya et al. (ACP 2009) mentioned that ozone production is basically NO_x limited.

[We included the reference with a proper introduction in the revised manuscript.](#)

10. line 519. Some more explanation is necessary for the lower P(peroxide)/P(HNO₃). Previously in Figure 4, the authors mentioned that P(peroxide) is increased in Scenario 2. Here, the authors mean that P(HNO₃) is MORE ENHANCED because of high OH in this scenario, resulting in the LOWER P(peroxide)/P(HNO₃)?

[As the referee commented in the line item 7, there were some miss-statements about the radical distributions from the different model scenarios. In the revised manuscript, both analysis results are consistently described.](#)

11. line 558. Where did the author discuss on the "factor of 2-3" missing OH reactivity for this campaign?

[In the revised manuscript, we did not include this quantitative statement, which may cause confusion.](#)

12. line 560, SOA, not VOCs

[We corrected the typo in the revised manuscript.](#)

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Impact of isoprene and HONO chemistry on ozone and OVOC formation in a semirural South Korean forest

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To be submitted to Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics “East Asian Megacity”
Special Issue

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48 **Abstract**

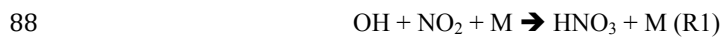
49 Rapid urbanization and economic development in East Asia in past decades has
50 led to photochemical air pollution problems such as excess photochemical ozone and
51 aerosol formation. Asian megacities such as Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai, Gangzhou, and
52 Beijing are surrounded by densely forested areas and recent research has consistently
53 demonstrated the importance of biogenic volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from
54 vegetation in determining oxidation capacity in the suburban Asian megacity regions.
55 Uncertainties in constraining tropospheric oxidation capacity, dominated by hydroxyl
56 radical, undermine our ability to assess regional photochemical air pollution problems.
57 We present an observational dataset of CO, NO_x, SO₂, ozone, HONO, and VOCs
58 (anthropogenic and biogenic) from Taehwa Research Forest (TRF) near the Seoul
59 Metropolitan Area (SMA) in early June 2012. The data show that TRF is influenced both
60 by aged pollution and fresh BVOC emissions. With the dataset, we diagnose HO_x (OH,
61 HO₂, and RO₂) distributions calculated using the University of Washington Chemical
62 Box Model (UWCM v 2.1) with near-explicit VOC oxidation mechanisms from MCM
63 3.2 (The Master Chemical Mechanism). Uncertainty from unconstrained HONO sources
64 and radical recycling processes highlighted in recent studies is examined using multiple
65 model simulations with different model constraints. The results suggest that 1) different
66 model simulation scenarios cause systematic differences in HO_x distributions especially
67 OH levels (up to 2.5 times) and 2) radical destruction (HO₂+HO₂ or HO₂+RO₂) could be
68 more efficient than radical recycling (RO₂+NO) especially in the afternoon. Implications
69 of the uncertainties in radical chemistry are discussed with respect to ozone-VOC-NO_x
70 sensitivity and VOC oxidation product formation rates. Overall, the NO_x limited regime

71 is assessed except for the morning hours (8 am to 12 pm) but the degree of sensitivity can
72 significantly vary depending on the model scenarios. The model results also suggest that
73 RO₂ levels are positively correlated with oxygenated VOCs (OVOCs) production that is
74 not routinely constrained by observations. These unconstrained OVOCs can cause higher
75 than expected OH loss rates (missing OH reactivity) and secondary organic aerosol
76 formation. The series of modeling experiments constrained by observations strongly urge
77 observational constraint of the radical pool to enable precise understanding of regional
78 photochemical pollution problems in the East Asian megacity region.

79 **1. Introduction**

80 NO_x (NO+NO₂) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are two important
81 precursors that drive HO_x radical cycles (Levy, 1971). In the presence of NO_x, VOC
82 oxidation processes recycle OH and produce photochemical oxidation products such as
83 ozone and oxygenated VOCs (OVOCs). This reaction cycle is highly non-linear. For
84 example, excess NO₂ may expedite nitric acid formation (R1), limiting ozone production.
85 In the same context, excess VOCs may expedite peroxy radical production (R2), which
86 limits OH regeneration from peroxy radicals.

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91 The non-linearity in tropospheric photochemistry has been relatively well studied
92 in the urban regions of developed countries and applied in ozone reduction policy. The
93 Los Angeles Metropolitan Area has accomplished significant ozone reduction by
94 implementing aggressive emission reductions of both NO_x and VOC especially from
95 mobile sources (Ryerson et al., 2013). The remarkable ozone abatement was possible due
96 to the fact that there is no significant pollution transport from other metropolitan areas
97 and no significant natural emission sources especially volatile organic compounds from
98 vegetation (BVOCs; biogenic volatile organic compounds) compared with anthropogenic
99 VOC mostly from mobile sources (Pollack et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2013). In the late 80s,
100 Trainer et al. (1987) first demonstrated the importance of isoprene (C₅H₈) as a peroxy
101 radical source that can contribute significant ozone production in rural areas. The

102 importance of isoprene in ozone production in urban areas has also been highlighted, e.g.
103 in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area (Chameides et al., 1988).

104 Isoprene is a hemiterpenoid species and is the globally dominant VOC emission
105 from vegetation (Arneth et al., 2011;Guenther, 2013). Arguably, isoprene is the most
106 frequently studied BVOC from the perspective of atmospheric oxidation processes and
107 their implications for ozone and aerosol formation. However, significant uncertainty
108 hinders assessing the roles of isoprene in regional and global photochemistry in three
109 fronts. First, there is still significant uncertainty in estimating emission rates from each
110 individual plant species on regional scales (Guenther, 2013). Second, limited isoprene
111 inter-comparison results (Barket et al., 2001) suggest that there are large systematic
112 biases among different analytical techniques. Lastly, recent laboratory, theoretical and
113 field observations suggest significant uncertainty in tropospheric isoprene oxidation
114 processes initiated by OH. Until early 2000, it was thought that three first generation
115 isoprene oxidation products (methyl vinyl ketone, methacrolein, and formaldehyde) from
116 OH oxidation were enough to constrain isoprene tropospheric oxidation processes for
117 modeling purposes (e.g. Spaulding et al. (2003) and Dreyfus et al. (2002)). This is an
118 interesting evolution of thoughts considering that Paulson and Seinfeld (1992), one of
119 pioneering works describing isoprene oxidation, clearly claimed that 22 % of first
120 generation isoprene oxidation products from the reaction with OH was not identified and
121 likely included multifunctional C5 compounds. Recent advances in analytical techniques
122 (Kim et al., 2013a) have shown that indeed significant C5-hydroxy carbonyl (e.g.
123 isoprene hydroperxyenals, HPALE) and peroxide compounds are produced as first
124 generation isoprene oxidation products (Crouse et al., 2011;Paulot et al., 2009;Wolfe et

125 al., 2012;Zhao and Zhang, 2004). The product yields appeared to be a strong function of
126 NO concentrations (Peeters and Muller, 2010). In general, at low to intermediate NO
127 levels (~ 100 pptv or lower), the yields of C5-hydroxy carbonyl compounds become
128 higher. These new findings in the isoprene oxidation process are also closely related with
129 recent findings in unexpectedly high OH concentrations (Hofzumahaus et al.,
130 2009;Lelieveld et al., 2008) and substantial missing OH sinks also known as
131 unexpectedly high OH reactivity in high isoprene environments (Di Carlo et al.,
132 2004;Edwards et al., 2013;Kim et al., 2011;Lou et al., 2010).

133 These new findings have significant implications for regional air quality
134 especially regarding photochemical ozone and SOA production. Despite the strong
135 anthropogenic pollutant emissions in East Asia (China, Japan and South Korea), recent
136 research has shown that isoprene accounts for a major OH chemical sink in suburban
137 areas near Beijing (Ran et al., 2011), the Pearl River Delta region (Lu et al., 2012), Taipei
138 (Chang et al., 2014) and Seoul (Kim et al., 2013d;Kim et al., 2013b). Consequently,
139 modeling studies also clearly show that isoprene contributes significantly to ozone
140 formation in Asian megacity regions. Kim et al. (2013d) reported that simulated ozone
141 levels with isoprene chemistry are up to 30 % higher than ozone simulation without
142 isoprene chemistry using the WRF-Chem model, indicating an urgent need to implement
143 improved isoprene chemistry schemes in these models in order to simulate the
144 unexpected higher levels of OH in isoprene rich environments. This could become an
145 especially serious issue as Hofzumahaus et al. (2009) reported significantly higher (~ 2.6
146 times at noon) than expected OH levels in the Pearl River Delta region in China.
147 Therefore, the current assessments based on the conventional OH photochemistry could

148 significantly misdiagnose regional air-quality status and mislead policy implementation
149 to reduce photochemical air pollution in the East Asian region. Furthermore, as the
150 importance of BVOC in regional air-quality issues in ozone and SOA formation has been
151 also highlighted in Europe and North America, the uncertainty in isoprene
152 photochemistry has significant implications in urban and suburban air quality in general
153 (Zhang et al., 2008a;Sartelet et al., 2012). It should be also noted that HONO has been
154 observed in high-levels in the East Asian region even in the daytime (~ hundreds ppt,
155 (Song et al., 2009;Hao et al., 2006;Li et al., 2012)). The data analysis has consistently
156 indicated that well-known HONO sources cannot account the observed level. Therefore,
157 the implications of HONO as a radical source should also be comprehensively addressed.

158 We present atmospheric observations of NO_x, CO, VOCs, ozone, and HONO in
159 the Taehwa Research Forest (TRF) in the Seoul Metropolitan Area (SMA), South Korea.
160 We use observed data from June, 2013 to conduct observationally constrained box model
161 (University of Washington Chemical Box Model; UWCM) calculations to estimate OH,
162 HO₂ and RO₂ concentrations with different sets of observational parameters. We discuss
163 current uncertainty in OH-isoprene photochemistry with perspectives of constraining
164 photochemical ozone production and OVOCs precursors of secondary organic aerosols in
165 addition to the roles of unconstrained HONO sources in radical distributions.
166

167 2. Methods

168 The Taehwa Research Forest (TRF) is located ~ 35 km from the center of Seoul,
169 South Korea. The TRF is located at the southeastern edge of the Seoul metropolitan Area
170 (SMA, population of ~ 23 million). TRF has a sampling tower located in the middle of a

171 coniferous tree plantation (200 m by 200 m) with the canopy height of 18 m (*Pinus*
172 *koraiensis*) surrounded by a deciduous forest mostly composed by oak. The TRF
173 instrumentation has previously been described by Kim et al. (2013d) along with the
174 previous trace gas observational results. Therefore, just brief descriptions of analytical
175 techniques are given in this paper.

176

177 **2.1. CO, NO_x, SO₂, ozone, VOCs, and meteorological parameters**

178 Thermo Fisher Scientific Enhanced Trace Level Gas Analyzers are used for CO,
179 NO_x, SO₂, and ozone observations as summarized Table 1. A molybdenum (Mo)
180 converter is used to convert NO₂ to NO for the NO_x analyzer. Although Mo converters
181 are still widely used for NO₂ observations, some of thermally unstable oxygenated
182 reactive nitrogen compounds, especially peroxyacyl nitrates, could be also converted to
183 NO₂ by a Mo-converter (Villena et al., 2012). VOC observations are conducted by a
184 High-Sensitivity Proton Transfer Reaction-Mass Spectrometer (PTR-MS, Ionicon
185 GmbH). The atmospheric application of this technique is thoroughly reviewed by de
186 Gouw and Warneke (2007). In addition, the instrument suite at TRF is thoroughly
187 described in (Kim et al., 2013d). PTR-MS can quantify atmospheric VOCs that have
188 higher proton affinity than the proton affinity of H₂O (691 kJ mol⁻¹). Most alkanes have
189 lower proton affinity than water but alkene, aromatic and some OVOCs have higher
190 proton affinity and are suitable for quantification using PTR-MS (Blake et al., 2009).
191 These compounds are more reactive than alkane compounds so PTR-MS has capability to
192 observe reactive atmospheric compounds. The TRF PTR-MS system was set to measure
193 acetaldehyde, acetone, acetic acid, isoprene, methylvinylketone (MVK) + methacrolein

194 (MACR), MEK, benzene, xylene (*p*, *m*, and *o*), and monoterpenes (MT). Each compound
195 was set to be monitored for 1 second each resulting in a sample cycle of 15 seconds.
196 Lower detection limits for the observed VOCs are estimated to be 20 ppt for a 5 second
197 integration with sensitivity of 70 counts ppb⁻¹ (2 σ). The uncertainty is estimated as 12 %
198 (2 σ) for the same integration time. Meteorological parameters such as temperature and
199 humidity are monitored by LSI LASTEM Meteorological Sensors. All the presented data
200 is from the 15 m (the canopy height is 18 m) sampling line and meteorological sensors
201 collocated at this height too.

202 PTR-MS with a quadrupole mass filter has an intrinsic limitation that isobaric
203 compounds are all collectively quantified with the same channel (*m/z*) with a resolution
204 of unit mass. This limitation particularly becomes an issue for investigating the roles of
205 different isomers of MT and sesquiterpenes (SQTs) in photochemistry. For this reason,
206 we also occasionally collect sorbent cartridge samples to analyze MT and SQT speciation
207 in both ambient air and branch enclosure emissions near the sampling tower. As
208 described in (Kim et al., 2013d), Tenax GR and Carbotrap 5TD packed sorbent cartridges
209 (Markes Int, Llanstrisant, UK) were used for sampling. The sampled cartridges were
210 shipped to National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Boulder CO, USA for
211 gas chromatography-mass spectrometer (GC-MS) analysis. An Agilent 7890 GC/5975 C
212 Electron Impact Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS/FID) in conjunction with a MARKES
213 Unity1/Ultra thermal desorption system optimized for terpenoid analysis quantifies
214 speciated MT and SQT in the sorbent samples. Cartridge samples are both collected from
215 ambient and branch enclosure air. Ambient samples were collected in the mid-day to
216 early afternoon with a volume of 6 L. Ozone in the ambient air was removed using a

217 Na₂SO₃ filter. Branch enclosure samples were also collected, mostly in the mid-day time
218 frame, with a volume of 1 L without an ozone filter as zero air was introduced to the
219 branch enclosure. To explore the diurnal differences in BVOC emissions, branch
220 enclosure samplings were conducted every two hours for three consecutive days in mid
221 June of 2013. We present these analytical results from GC-MS analysis limited to the
222 qualification purpose to examine MT and SQT speciation.

223

224 **2.2 HONO quantification**

225 HONO was measured with an ion chromatography (IC) coupled with diffusion
226 scrubber. Air was introduced to diffusion scrubber (Lab solutions Inc., IL, USA) through
227 a 2 m PFA tubing (1/4" i.d.) at 1.5 L m⁻¹ using a filtered orifice restrictor (F-950, air
228 logic, WI, USA). Air flowing through diffusion scrubber interfaced with deionized water,
229 into which HONO was extracted. 50 µL of solution was injected into the IC system
230 through a PEEK loop (Rheodyne, WA, USA) and 6-way valve (EV750-100, Rheodyne,
231 WA, USA). Eluent was a mixture of Na₂CO₃ and NaHCO₃, which was pumped by a
232 HPLC pump (DX-100, Dionex, CA, USA) into a guard column (Ionpax® AG 14,
233 4x50mm, Dionex, CA, USA) and then analytical column (Ionpax® AS 14, 4x250mm,
234 Dionex, CA, USA). The column effluent passed through a suppressor (ASRS 300,
235 Dionex, CA, USA) and HONO was detected as nitrite ion in conductivity detector (550,
236 Alltech, IL, USA). The entire measurement processes of sampling, chemical analysis, and
237 data acquisition were controlled by a digital timer and data acquisition software
238 (DSchrom-n, DS science, Korea), by which we obtained two measurements every hour.
239 The system was calibrated using a NO₂⁻ standard solution (Kanto chemical Co., Inc.,

240 Tokyo, Japan) whenever reagents were replaced. The detection limit was 0.15 ppb
241 estimated from 3σ of the lowest working standard. Specific analytical characteristics are
242 described in Simon and Dasgupta (1995) and Takeuchi et al. (2004).

243

244 **2.3 UWCM box model**

245 UWCM 2.1 is an open source box model coded by MATLAB (MathWorks®).
246 The model platform can be downloaded from a website
247 (<http://sites.google.com/site/wolfegm/code-archive>). The box model is embedded its own
248 HO_x (OH+RO₂)-RO_x (peroxyradical and alkoxy radical)-NO_x coupling chemical
249 mechanism. UWCM utilizes Master Chemical Mechanism version 3.2 (MCM 3.2)
250 (Jenkins et al., 1997; Saunders et al., 2003) for near-explicit VOC photo-oxidation
251 schemes. A more detailed model description can be found in Wolfe and Thornton (2011).
252 To minimize uncertainty from the parameterizations of transport and emission, we
253 constrained relatively long-lived trace gases presented in Figure 1. This box modeling
254 technique has been commonly used for examination of OH levels that can be justified by
255 the short chemical lifetime of OH (Kim et al., 2014; Kim et al., 2013c; Mao et al.,
256 2012; Mao et al., 2010). Recently developed isoprene photo-oxidation mechanisms
257 shown in Archibald et al. (2010b) are also incorporated in the model. In addition, Kim et
258 al. (2013c) and Wolfe et al. (2013) applied the model in the identical fashion as used for
259 this study to probe radical distributions using comprehensive observational datasets. This
260 study used the UWCM to simulate the diurnal variations of radical pool (OH+HO₂+RO₂)
261 distributions as observational parameters such as CO, NO_x, ozone, and VOCs are
262 constrained. To fully account for roles of OVOCs in the box model as radical sources, we

263 simulated three consecutive days and presented diurnal variations from the third day. The
264 specific parameters (CO, NO_x, ozone, HONO and VOCs), constrained by
265 observations are described in section 2.1 and 2.2 and presented in Figure 1.

266

267 3. Results and Discussion

268 3.1. Observational Results

269 Diurnal averages of observed trace gases (June 1st 2013 to June 6th 2013) are
270 shown in Figure 1. The TRF observatory is in continuous operation and we choose this
271 six day period because a regional high-pressure system caused a stagnant air pollution
272 event in this period. In the center of Seoul (the real-time data available at
273 <http://www.airkorea.or.kr>), carbon monoxide was observed in the similar levels during
274 the focused period (June 1st to June 6th, 2013). On the other hand, the NO₂ level observed
275 in central Seoul was much higher (20-50 ppb) compared with observed levels at TRF.
276 The reason can be attributed to differences between the chemical lifetime of CO (~a
277 month) and NO₂ (~a few hours to a day). The observations clearly indicate that the TRF
278 is not directly influenced by fresh SMA pollution plumes although the TRF is very close
279 to the center of Seoul (30 km away from the city center) as a regional modeling study
280 shows most of CO and NO_x sources are located in the city center (Ryu et al., 2013).
281 Similar observations were also reported for other East Asian megacities such as Beijing
282 (Ma et al., 2012), where ~ 30 ppb and ~ 15 ppb of NO₂ were observed at noon in the
283 urban and the adjacent rural sites, respectively. In contrast, there were no noticeable
284 differences in CO levels between the urban and rural sites (~ 1-2 ppm). The observed
285 CO, NO_x and SO₂ levels in TRF were much lower than those observed in the suburban

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289 regions of Chinese megacities such as Beijing (Ma et al., 2012), Shanghai (Tie et al.,
290 2013), and the Pearl River Delta Region (Lu et al., 2012) and similar with the observed
291 levels in Tokyo, Japan (Yoshino et al., 2012).

292 Previous VOC observations in the SMA consistently have shown that toluene is
293 the dominant anthropogenic VOC followed by other aromatic compounds such as xylene
294 and benzene (Kim et al., 2012; Na and Kim, 2001). Na and Kim (2001) reported high
295 concentrations of propane from house hold fuel use. However, recent observation results
296 from the photochemical pollution observational network managed by National Institute of
297 Environmental Research (NIER) of South Korea in the SMA clearly indicate that propane
298 levels have declined and are now much lower than the levels previously observed (NIER,
299 2010). This is probably caused by the implementation of a policy changing household
300 fuel sources from propane to methane. Kim et al. (2012) presented detailed aromatic
301 VOC distributions in the SMA from four different urban observational sites. In average,
302 toluene concentrations were observed ~ 7 times higher than the observed levels of xylene
303 and benzene. At the TRF, a similar anthropogenic VOC speciation distribution was
304 observed as shown in Figure 1. The observed toluene and MEK (methyl ethyl ketone)
305 mixing-ratios were much higher than benzene and xylene. MEK is detected in m/z of 73^+
306 by PTR-MS. Although methyl glyoxal, an atmospheric VOC oxidation product, is also
307 detected on the same mass, we assumed that 73^+ of m/z signals are mostly from MEK, an
308 anthropogenic VOC, since the temporal variation follows that of anthropogenic VOC
309 such as toluene and xylene. In addition, atmospheric lifetime of methyl glyoxal is much
310 shorter than MEK.

311 As the observation facility is located in the middle of a pine tree plantation (*Pinus*
312 *koraiensis*), monoterpenes (MT) are consistently observed. The temporal variation of
313 monoterpenes is affected by the planetary boundary layer evolution with a pattern of
314 higher MT levels during night than those of mid-day as has been often reported in other
315 forest environments (Bryan et al., 2012; Kim et al., 2010) This can be explained by
316 interplays between boundary layer evolution and temperature dependent MT emission. It
317 should also be noted that the continuous branch enclosure BVOC emission observations
318 indicate that the daily maxima of MT and SQT emissions were observed in the midday
319 (between noon to 2 pm in the local time). The observed MT and SQT speciation
320 information in the midday is summarized in Table 2. Table 2a summarizes branch
321 enclosure sample analysis results and ambient sample analysis results are summarized in
322 Table 2b. In general, observed MT and SQT in the ambient air are consistent with
323 previously observed distributions (Kim et al., 2013d). α -pinene and β -pinene were the
324 dominant monoterpene and longifolene was the only detected SQT species. In contrast,
325 the branch enclosure observation results, reflecting BVOC emission, indicate high
326 emission of very reactive MT and SQT species such as β -myrcene, α -caryophyllene, and
327 β -caryophyllene. The fast oxidation of these highly reactive terpenoid species is expected
328 to limit the atmospheric presence of the compounds. Therefore, photochemical oxidation
329 processes of these compounds may have been neglected. Investigating emissions and
330 photochemistry of these reactive terpenoid compounds can constrain potential missing
331 OH reactivity and SOA production from highly oxidized reaction products.

332 Isoprene is produced from carbon recently fixed through photosynthesis resulting
333 in higher emissions and atmospheric concentrations during the daytime. The temporal

334 variation shown in Figure 1 reveals an isoprene concentration maximum between 17:00
335 to 20:00. In addition, the ratios of MVK+MACR, major isoprene oxidation products and
336 isoprene at this period, are significantly lower than those of late morning to early
337 afternoon. The enhanced isoprene levels in the late afternoon or early evening have been
338 also reported in previous studies (Apel et al., 2002; Bryan et al., 2012). The branch
339 enclosure observations demonstrate that isoprene is not emitted from the pine plantation
340 but rather transported from surrounding broadleaf forests as right outside of the pine
341 plantation (200 m × 200 m) is a forested area dominated by oak trees. Oak comprises 85 %
342 of broadleaf trees in South Korea (Lim et al., 2011). Lim et al. (2011) quantified isoprene
343 emission rates for five representative oak species in South Korea and report a wide
344 emission range from oaks that are negligible isoprene emitters ($<0.004 \mu\text{gC dw}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$;
345 standard emission rates) to others with very high isoprene emission rates of $130 \mu\text{gC dw}^{-1}$
346 h^{-1} . It is also noticeable that isoprene is observed in high levels (up to 1 ppb) even during
347 the night. Observational results from the Pearl River Delta region in China also show
348 high isoprene concentration episodes of more than 1 ppb during the night (Lu et al.,
349 2012). As there are some speculations on potential artifacts on isoprene measurements
350 using PTR-MS in environments with large oil and gas evaporative sources (Yuan et al.,
351 2014), the assessments of the potential artifacts should be investigated further in the
352 Asian megacity region.

353 Contributions from each trace gas species towards ambient OH reactivity are
354 shown in Figure 2. This is calculated as the product of the observed species concentration
355 and its rate constant for reaction with OH. Observed OH reactivity from VOCs are much
356 higher than from other trace gases such as CO, NO_x, SO₂, and ozone. Among the

357 observed VOC species, BVOCs such as isoprene, α -pinene and β -pinene accounted for
358 significantly higher OH reactivity in comparison with the observed AVOCs such as
359 toluene, benzene, xylene and MEK. Isoprene accounts the highest OH reactivity
360 especially during the daytime. This analysis is consistent with reports from other
361 suburban observations from East Asian megacities such as Beijing (Ran et al., 2011), the
362 PRD region, China (Lou et al., 2010), and the Kinki region Japan (Bao et al., 2010).

363 HONO levels up to 1 ppb were observed in the early morning and were
364 consistently higher than 0.5 ppb during the daytime. These observed levels are
365 substantially higher than reported observations from forest environments in North
366 America (Ren et al., 2011; Zhou et al., 2011), where NO_x (~ 1 ppb) is substantially lower
367 than the level observed at TRF. Ren et al. (2011) reported 30 – 60 ppt of HONO at the
368 Blodgett Forest Research Station in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains
369 in the late summer of 2007. Zhou et al. (2011) also reported the similar levels of HONO
370 (below 100 ppt) from the PROPHET forest, a mixed hardwood forest in northern
371 Michigan (Pellston, MI). However, significantly higher HONO levels (~ 200 ppt to ~ 2
372 ppb) were reported by Li et al. (2012) from a rural observational site in the Pearl River
373 Delta region near Guangzhou, where comparable NO_2 levels with TRF were observed.
374 The high HONO levels (a few hundred ppt) especially during the daytime have been
375 consistently reported near Eastern Asian megacities such as Beijing (Li et al., 2012),
376 Shanghai (Hao et al., 2006), and Seoul (Song et al., 2009). Still these are limited datasets
377 and further comprehensive analysis, especially more extensive observation is required.

378 However, recently proposed HONO production mechanisms may be able to explain the
379 higher levels in the Eastern Asian megacity region. One is HONO production from NO_2

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381 photo-excitation (Wong et al., 2012) as the region usually has high NO₂ concentrations.
382 Zhou et al. (2011) claimed that significant HONO could be generated from nitrate
383 photolysis processes on forest canopy surface by presenting observational data from a
384 hardwood forest in Pellston, MI. Finally, HONO emission from soil bacteria is also
385 proposed (Oswald et al., 2013). Oswald et al. (2013) found differences as much as two
386 orders of magnitude in HONO emissions from soil samples from different environments
387 (e.g. pH and nutrient contents). In addition, as most of observations in the East Asia
388 regions were conducted with ion chromatography based methods, more direct HONO
389 quantification techniques such as a chemical ionization mass spectrometry technique
390 (Roberts et al., 2010) need to be used to characterize any potential interferences such a
391 high NO_x environment (e.g. N₂O₅).

392

393 **3.2 HO_x Model calculations to examine different isoprene photo-oxidation scenarios** 394 **and the roles of unconstrained HONO sources.**

395 The presented observational results are used to constrain the UWCM box model.
396 We evaluate uncertainties in the tropospheric oxidation capacity and how it affects our
397 ability to constrain ozone and OVOCs production. The observational results clearly
398 indicate that isoprene is the most dominant OH sink among the observed VOCs. In
399 addition, NO concentrations were higher in the 600 to 800 ppt range in the morning. On
400 the other hand, afternoon levels were substantially lower in the 50 to 100 ppt range. The
401 environment provides a unique opportunity to examine implications of isoprene
402 photochemistry in various NO conditions.

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~~Deleted:~~ the other is HONO emission from soil bacteria (Oswald et al., 2013).

406 We conducted model simulation under four different scenarios. Each scenario is
407 described in Table 3. The quantitative assessments of the impacts on radical
408 concentrations (OH, HO₂, and RO₂) from unknown HONO sources are evaluated by
409 examining the outcomes of the model simulations with and without observed HONO. To
410 evaluate the impacts of hydroperoxy-methyl-butenal (HPALD) photolysis and isoprene
411 peroxy radical recycling in the radical pool, each chemical mechanism is selectively
412 constrained by different scenarios. For HPALD chemistry, we adapted two different
413 HPALD formation rate constants published by Peeters and Muller (2010) and Crouse et
414 al. (2011). The formation rates from Peeters and Muller (2010) are about 40 times faster
415 than those from Crouse et al. (2011) in 298 K. Although there have been speculations
416 about other radical recycling mechanisms such as peroxy radical-peroxy radical reactions
417 (Lelieveld et al., 2008) and unknown reducing agents showing similar chemical
418 behaviors as NO (Hofzumahaus et al., 2009), we do not evaluate these possibilities as
419 there are no specific chemical mechanisms.

420 Modeled OH, HO₂, and RO₂ from the four different model scenarios are shown in
421 Figure 3. A summary of averaged OH, HO₂, and RO₂ concentrations in the morning
422 (08:00 – 11:00) and the afternoon (13:00 – 16:00) from each simulation is shown in
423 Table 4. With respect to the base run results (Scenario I), Scenario III with the lower
424 HPALD formation rate does not cause noticeable differences in radical concentrations.
425 Adapting higher HPALD formation rates (Scenario II) cause significant differences in
426 radical distribution especially in RO₂. This difference is likely caused by the fact that
427 significant isoprene peroxy radical is converted to HPALD. The higher levels of
428 discrepancy is found in RO₂ between Scenario I and Scenario II in the afternoon when

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432 low NO concentrations are observed, which efficiently facilitates HPALD formation.
433 Similarly, a larger OH discrepancy (~ 20 %) between Scenario I and Scenario II is
434 observed in the afternoon.

435 Striking differences can be found in the model simulation results with or without
436 constraining observed HONO as shown in Figure 3. Model calculation results from
437 Scenario IV indicate significantly smaller OH, HO₂, and RO₂ concentrations than the
438 concentrations calculated from the counter part (Scenario I), which contains identical
439 constraints and isoprene photochemistry except constraining observed HONO. Again,
440 this clearly indicates that more thorough evaluations of the impacts of HONO on air
441 quality are needed to precisely constrain photochemical processes in the region along
442 with evaluations of the currently available analytical techniques as argued in section 3.1.

443

444 **3.3 Implications of the uncertainty in HO_x estimations in assessing photochemical** 445 **ozone and OVOC production.**

446 Two competing chemical reactions (R3 vs. R4,5,6) determine radical distribution
447 regimes.



452

453 When the rate of R3 gets much faster than the sum of reaction rates of R4, R5,
454 and R6 then radical recycling processes become more efficient than radical destruction

455 processes. In this radical recycling regime, OH, a universal tropospheric oxidant, is well
456 buffered to maintain the elevated OH levels. On the other hand, the radical destruction
457 regime can be defined when the radical recycling rates (R3) are slower than the radical
458 destruction reaction rates (R4+R5+R6). Although some recent field studies (e.g.
459 Lelieveld et al. (2008)) suggest that we may need to reconsider R4 as a radical recycling
460 process rather than a radical destruction process, in this study, we follow the conventional
461 classification of radical chemistry regimes since recent laboratory characterizations have
462 shown that OH recycling from the RO_2+HO_2 reaction should be insignificant (Liu et al.,
463 2013; Villena et al., 2012; Fuchs et al., 2013). The temporal variations of radical-radical
464 reaction rates from the model simulation scenarios are shown in Figure 4. In general, the
465 radical reaction rates are elevated as much as twice once observed HONO is constrained
466 in the model calculations (e.g. Scenario IV). This is because unaccounted HONO in the
467 model calculations cause significant underestimations in the radical pool ($\text{OH}+\text{HO}_2+\text{RO}_2$)
468 size with respect to the constrained HONO scenarios as shown in Figure 4. In addition, in
469 the afternoon when NO concentration becomes lower, the $\text{RO}_2 + \text{HO}_2$ reaction rates get
470 close or slightly higher than those of $\text{RO}_2 + \text{NO}$ in the afternoon for the all model
471 scenarios, constrained by observed HONO. This is surprising, as the radical destruction
472 regime is usually associated with low NO_x conditions. Suburban regions of megacities
473 including the TRF in general show high NO_x conditions. However, radical recycling
474 rates are determined by concentrations of NO. The fraction of NO in the NO_x pool is
475 determined by competing reactions between NO_2 photolysis and oxidation reactions of
476 NO by ozone, HO_2 , and RO_2 radicals. Once we assume the pseudo-steady state of NO,
477 then NO in NO_x pool (Leighton, 1961) can be expressed as

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485

486
$$[\text{NO}] = J_{\text{NO}_2}[\text{NO}_2]/(k_{\text{NO}+\text{O}_3}[\text{O}_3] + k_{\text{NO}+\text{HO}_2}[\text{HO}_2] + k_{\text{NO}+\text{RO}_2}[\text{RO}_2]) \text{ (Eq 1)}$$

487

488 This mathematical expression clearly shows that NO levels are dependent on NO_x
489 mostly composed of NO₂. At the same time, the fraction of NO in NO_x is anti-correlated
490 with ozone, HO₂, and RO₂ concentrations. Therefore, the size of the radical pool
491 composed of HO₂ and RO₂ is relevant for determining the fractions of NO in given NO_x
492 levels. High HO₂ and RO₂ are likely observed in high VOC regions such as forested areas.
493 This could cause a smaller fraction of NO in the given NO_x pool so radical recycling gets
494 relatively weaker compared with radical destruction reaction pathways. More quantitative
495 approaches are required to categorize radical reaction pathways rather than qualitative
496 categorization such as high or low NO_x regimes. One should keep in mind that the
497 pseudo-steady state assumption requires precise NO₂ quantification, which may not be
498 the case in our study as the Mo-converter used for the NO₂ quantification could have
499 interferences (Table 1). The overestimation due to thermal dissociations of reactive
500 oxygenated nitrogen species has been reported to be 20 % to 83 % (Ge et al.,
501 2013;Steinbacher et al., 2007). In addition, Mannschreck et al. (2004) presented the NO-
502 NO₂-ozone photostationary state analysis using a four year dataset from a rural
503 observational site in Hohenpeissenberg, Germany. The results indicate that the pseudo
504 steady state assumption considering only NO-NO₂-ozone deviates about a factor of two
505 from the stationary state on average. Even with the consideration of peroxy radical
506 chemistry the pseudo steady state assumption is only valid for 13-32 % of the
507 observational period. The authors speculated that local NO₂ sources, local NO or ozone

508 sinks, or rapid changes in J_{NO_2} and ozone can break the pseudo-steady state. Nonetheless,
509 the argument that NO is a more critical parameter in determining radical distributions
510 than NO_x levels still holds.

511 Conventionally, efficient ozone production can be achieved by the balance
512 between nitric acid production rates (P_{HNO_3} , $\text{OH} + \text{NO}_2$) and peroxide production rates
513 (P_{ROOH} , $\text{HO}_2 + \text{RO}_2$ or $P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}$, $\text{HO}_2 + \text{HO}_2$) (Sillman and He, 2002). The imbalance will cause
514 ozone production sensitivity towards either NO_x or VOCs. A comprehensive
515 photochemical model analysis (Tonnesen and Dennis, 2000a, b) demonstrated that in a
516 wider range of ozone concentrations, the VOC and NO_x limited regimes can be
517 determined by the ratios of $P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}$ and P_{HNO_3} . Kleinman (2000) and Sillman and He (2002)
518 presented an observation-based ozone production regime evaluation method comparing
519 peroxide production rates ($P(\text{peroxide})$) and nitric acid production rates ($P(\text{HNO}_3)$). This
520 categorization has guided policy-making processes whether NO_x or VOC controls will be
521 more effective in ozone reduction. A series of modeling studies have been conducted to
522 characterize ozone production regimes in the suburban regions of East Asian megacities
523 and have consistently concluded that the role of isoprene is important in ozone
524 production. However, most of these studies have concluded that East Asian megacity
525 regions are mostly in the VOC limited regime (Tseng et al., 2009; Zhang et al.,
526 2008b; Lim et al., 2011; Cheng et al., 2010; Shao et al., 2009a; Shao et al., 2009b; Xing et
527 al., 2011). Recently, however, a modeling study by Li et al. (2013) in the Pearl River
528 Delta region in China demonstrated the time dependence of ozone production regimes.
529 Specifically, with high NO_x emissions in the morning, the regional ozone production
530 regime is categorized as VOC limited. In contrast, in the afternoon when the highest

531 | ozone concentrations are observed, a NO_x limited regime is often found. In addition, a
532 | box modeling study constrained by observation on top of Mt. Tai in Central East China
533 | also reported NO_x limited ozone production regime (Kanaya et al., 2009). The obvious
534 | issue to be addressed is that all of the above studies neglected how the uncertainty in
535 | hydroxyl radical chemistry would affect the ozone production regime. Moreover, HONO
536 | has been rarely constrained by observations in the previous modeling studies. Figure 5
537 | shows the temporal variations of $2 P(\text{peroxide})/P(\text{HNO}_3)$ from all four different model
538 | scenarios. As shown in the figure, the ratio above 1 indicates the NO_x limited regime and
539 | the VOC limited regime can be determined when the ratio is below 1. The NO_x limited
540 | ozone formation regime occurred on most days except the morning when high NO_x
541 | levels were observed regardless of the HO_x simulation scenarios. This is consistent with
542 | the recent modeling study for the Pearl River Delta region by Li et al. (2013). Differences
543 | among the scenarios are not noticeable in the morning when NO is high but noticeable
544 | differences can be found in the afternoon which may cause uncertainty in assessing the
545 | optimal level of NO_x and VOC emission controls from a policy perspective. In general,
546 | the model calculation results with faster HPALD formation rates indicate lower
547 | $2P(\text{peroxide})/P(\text{HNO}_3)$ in the afternoon. This analysis indicates that it is difficult to
548 | determine an effective policy implementation for NO_x or VOC controls to achieve ozone
549 | abatement around Asian megacities where isoprene is a significant OH sink without
550 | accurate understanding of radical-isoprene interactions (e.g. Kim et al. (2013b)). Again, it
551 | should be noted the possibility of systematic NO₂ overestimations from the Mo-converter
552 | use as discussed. The overestimation will directly translate into overestimated P(HNO₃).

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553 Therefore, it is likely that the ozone production regime at TRF is shifted towards the NO_x
554 limited regime in reality.

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555 Another unresolved uncertainty in understanding tropospheric OH is its chemical
556 loss rates. The limited observations of OH reactivity in BVOC dominant environments
557 show consistent unaccounted OH chemical loss with observational datasets (Di Carlo et
558 al., 2004; Edwards et al., 2013; Kim et al., 2011; Lou et al., 2010; Nolscher et al.,
559 2012; Nakashima et al., 2014; Sinha et al., 2010). Two different processes are speculated
560 to cause unaccounted OH loss known as missing OH reactivity: 1) primary emissions of
561 unmeasured or unknown compounds and 2) oxidation products of well-known BVOCs
562 especially isoprene. Most studies conducted in coniferous forests where monoterpenes
563 are dominant primary BVOC emissions have concluded that unmeasured or unknown
564 primary BVOC emissions caused missing OH reactivity (Sinha et al., 2010; Nakashima et
565 al., 2014). On the other hand, studies conducted in isoprene dominant environments in
566 mostly broadleaf or mixed forests have concluded that the main cause of missing OH
567 reactivity is the oxidation products of isoprene (Edwards et al., 2013; Kim et al., 2011).
568 Edwards et al. (2013) presented a thorough analysis on potential impacts of isoprene
569 oxidation products that are not routinely constrained by observations. The authors found
570 significant contributions from secondary oxidation products such as multi-functional
571 oxygenated compounds.

572 Figure 6a shows the temporal variations of total OH reactivity calculated from
573 five different model scenarios (I through IV). The highest and the lowest OH reactivity
574 levels were predicted from model calculations of Scenario I and Scenario IV, respectively.
575 This observation is directly correlated with calculated RO₂ levels as the lowest and

576 highest RO₂ levels were calculated from Scenario I and Scenario IV, respectively. Since
577 VOC precursors and trace gases were all constrained by observations in the model
578 calculations, the differences in model calculated OH reactivity should be mainly caused
579 by the oxidation products of VOCs. This can be confirmed by the comparisons of model
580 calculated formaldehyde concentrations from Scenario I and IV as formaldehyde is a
581 dominant oxidation product of isoprene (Figure 6b). The differences in formaldehyde
582 levels suggest differences in OH reactivity levels from OVOCs in each model simulation.
583 In summary, uncertainty in radical distributions especially RO₂ levels is directly
584 propagated into uncertainty in OVOC formation.

585 These calculated results provide an upper limit of potential contributions from the
586 oxidation products of the constrained VOC precursors considering that the box-model
587 does not consider dry-deposition processes as Karl et al. (2010) and Edwards et al. (2013)
588 suggested that there is significant uncertainty associated with the parameterizations of dry
589 deposition especially OVOCs. Still, this analysis suggests that significant missing OH
590 reactivity can be found without constraining OVOCs. OVOCs, especially multi-
591 functional highly oxidized compounds are precursors for secondary organic aerosols
592 (SOA). Therefore, uncertainty surrounding missing OH reactivity significantly
593 undermines our ability to constrain SOA formation and aerosol growth.

594

595 **4. Summary and conclusions**

596 We presented trace gas observation results from the TRF near the center of Seoul,
597 South Korea. The dataset provides important constraints to evaluate the HO_x pool at the
598 site where both anthropogenic and biogenic influences become important factors in

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601 determining oxidation capacity. Although the site is in the vicinity of a megacity with 25
602 million people, isoprene accounted for most of the OH loss from observed atmospheric
603 hydrocarbon species during the 6-day focus period in early June 2013 during a regional
604 pollution episode. In addition, observed NO_x levels were substantially lower than
605 observed values in the center of the SMA. These observations indicate that impacts of
606 megacity pollution on suburban BVOC photochemistry can be observed at the TRF.

607 Four different model scenarios are employed to investigate the radical (OH, HO₂,
608 and RO₂) distributions using the UWCM box-model. The observed trace gas data were
609 constrained and the photochemical mechanisms (MCM 3.2) of seven VOC species with
610 high levels at the TRF were integrated. The uncertainty in isoprene peroxy radical
611 chemistry results in a wider range of OH, HO₂, and RO₂ distributions. Unconstrained
612 HONO sources also cause a quite high level of underestimation in a radical pool
613 (OH+HO₂+RO₂). OH simulation from the different model scenarios indicates much
614 larger discrepancies (up to three times) than simulations for HO₂ and RO₂ (up to twofold).
615 OH is simulated in higher levels with the consideration of an additional OH recycling
616 channel from fast HPALD formation chemistry Peeters and Muller (2010). On the other
617 hand, the RO₂ simulations result in lower levels as HPALD formation depletes the RO₂
618 pool, which mostly composed by isoprene peroxy radicals. These results suggest that
619 direct HO₂ and RO₂ observations can provide pivotal information about radical recycling
620 and isoprene peroxy radical chemistry (Kim et al., 2013c; Wolfe et al., 2013). More
621 studies on characterizing existing techniques to quantify HO₂ (Fuchs et al., 2011) and
622 developing new techniques (Horstjann et al., 2013) are needed. In addition, the
623 simulations with recently developed isoprene photo-oxidation chemistry show that

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625 radical termination processes (e.g. peroxide formation) get more efficient than radical
626 recycling processes in the afternoon. This may come as a surprise as in general we expect
627 the high NO_x conditions in the suburban regions of a megacity to have effective radical
628 recycling. However, the critical factor determining competing reaction channels of
629 recycling and peroxide formation is NO concentrations. Ratios of NO to NO_2 are not only
630 correlated with NO_2 concentrations and photolysis constants but also anti-correlated with
631 RO_2 , HO_2 and ozone concentrations and relevant kinetic constants as shown in (Eq 1).
632 Therefore, a semi-quantitative term such as the high ' NO_x ' regime is not a proper term to
633 define radical recycle regimes especially in high radical environments (e.g. HO_2 and RO_2)
634 such as forest environments.

635 These uncertainties in estimating the radical pool size and distribution directly
636 affect our ability for constraining photochemical ozone and OVOC production. The non-
637 linear response of ozone production to NO_x and VOC abundances are determined by OH,
638 HO_2 , RO_2 and NO_2 concentrations. Regardless of which model calculation scenario we
639 adapt, the TRF photochemical state appears to be a NO_x limited ozone production regime,
640 except for the morning when the VOC limited regime is observed. A noticeable range of
641 NO_x sensitivity was calculated from the four different model scenarios, especially in the
642 afternoon. These analysis results, therefore, suggest that an accurate scientific
643 understanding of isoprene-OH interactions should form the basis for an effective policy
644 implementation to reduce photochemical pollution in the suburbs of Seoul and similar
645 East Asian megacities. In addition, OVOC production is predicted to significantly vary
646 depending on the model simulation scenarios. The fate of these OVOCs is uncertain and
647 can include deposition, photolysis, or condensation. Our limited understanding of

648 OVOCs contributes substantially to the overall uncertainty in radical photochemistry and
649 should be addressed by studies that quantify the processes controlling OVOC production
650 and loss.

651

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656

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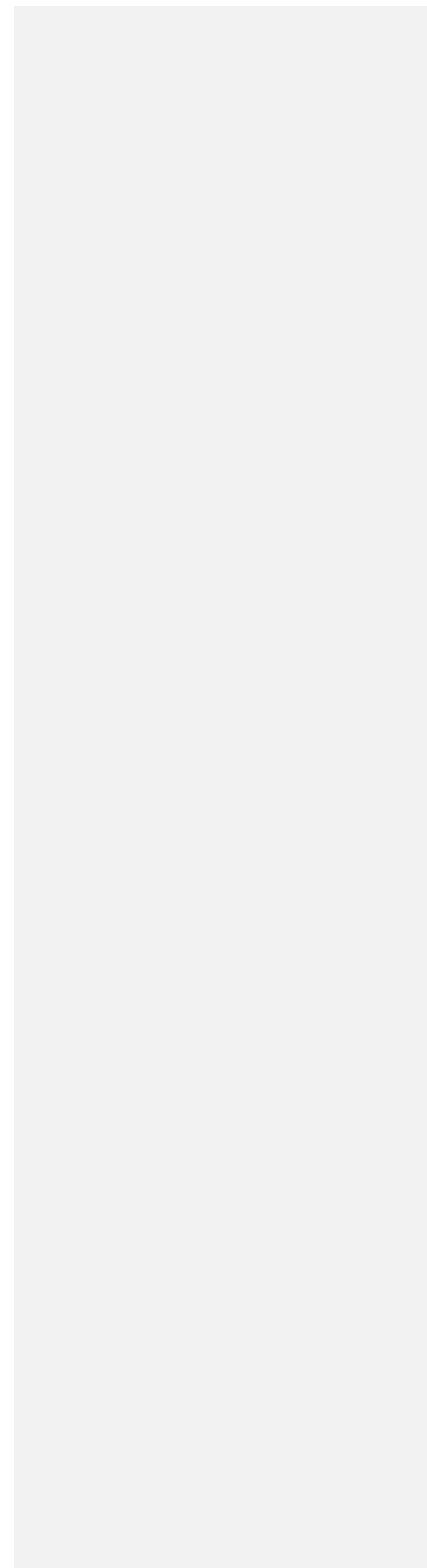
1016 Table 1. Analytical characteristics of trace gas analyzers at TRF

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Chemical Species	Manufacturer and Model Number	Uncertainty	Lower Limit of Detection
CO	Thermo Scientific 48i TLE	10%	40 ppb
NO_x	Thermo Scientific 42i-TL with a Mo-converter	15%	50 ppt
SO₂	Thermo Scientific 43i-TLE	10%	50 ppt
ozone	Thermo Scientific 49i	5%	< 1 ppb

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1021 Table 2. Terpenoid speciation analysis results from GC-MS a) branch enclosure and b)
1022 ambient air samples.

1023

1024 a)

Terpenoids	*Composition(%)	Speciation	*Composition(%)
Isoprene	0.5		
		α -pinene	36.7
		camphene	13.1
Monoterpenes	92.9	β -pinene	12.0
		β -myrcene	27.7
		α -terpinolene	1.9
		d-limonene	8.6
		β -caryophyllene	53.2
Sesquiterpenes	6.6	α -caryophyllene	46.8

1025

1026 b)

Terpenoids	*Composition(%)	Speciation	*Composition(%)
		α -pinene	38.8
Monoterpenes	98.6	β -pinene	36.5
		camphene	13.5
		d-limonene	11
Sesquiterpenes	1.4	longifolene	100

1027 *Composition is calculated based on the mixing ratio scale

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1032 Table 3. A summary of critical differences in input parameters for four different model
1033 simulation scenarios presented in this study. The isoprene chemical scheme is
1034 based on Archibald et al. (2010a).

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	HPALD chemistry	Observational Constraints
Scenario I	No	⁻ All
Scenario II	[#] Peeters and Muller (2010)	⁻ All
Scenario III	⁺ Crouse et al. (2011)	⁻ All
Scenario IV	No	⁻ All but HONO

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1037 [#]k₂₉₈ = ~ 0.08 for isoprene peroxy radical isomerization rate leading to produce HPALD,

1038 ⁺k₂₉₈ = 0.002 for isoprene peroxy radical isomerization rate, ⁻All the observed diurnal
1039 variations, appeared in Figure 1 are constrained in the model along with ambient pressure
1040 and humidity.

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1058 Table 4 A summary for radical distributions from the observationally constrained box-
1059 model simulation results
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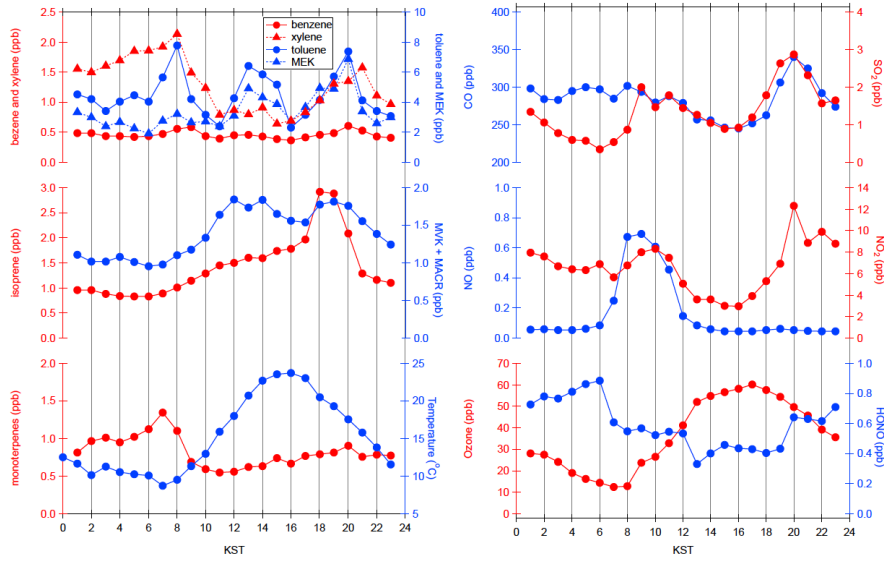
Local Time	OH		HO ₂		RO ₂		Constraints
	8:00-12:00	13:00-16:00	8:00-12:00	13:00-16:00	8:00-12:00	13:00-16:00	
Scenario I	3.85×10^6	3.08×10^6	4.10×10^8	7.02×10^8	3.65×10^8	1.14×10^9	All
Scenario II	3.99×10^6	3.69×10^6	3.99×10^8	7.86×10^8	3.51×10^8	9.62×10^8	All
Scenario III	3.86×10^6	3.13×10^6	4.09×10^8	7.09×10^8	3.64×10^8	1.12×10^9	All
Scenario IV	1.61×10^6	1.61×10^6	1.95×10^8	4.82×10^8	1.75×10^8	7.25×10^8	All but HONO

1061 unit: molecules cm⁻³

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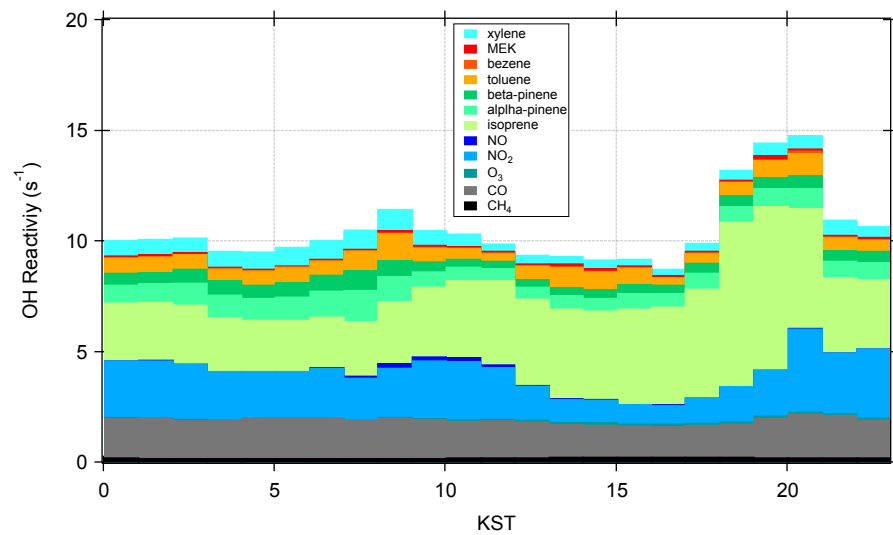
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1064 Figure 1. Averaged temporal variations observed trace gases and ambient temperature at
1065 TRF (June 1st to June 6th, 2012, KST stands for Korean Standard Time GMT+9). The
1066 uncertainty for each observable is listed in the main text.
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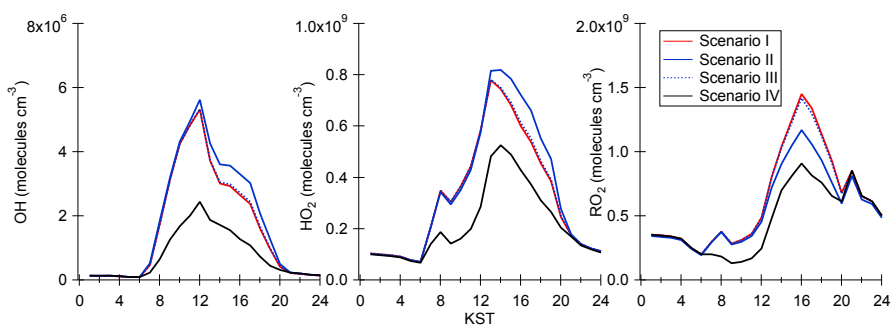
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1072 Figure 2. The temporal variations of OH reactivity calculated from the observed dataset
1073 at TRF (Figure 1).
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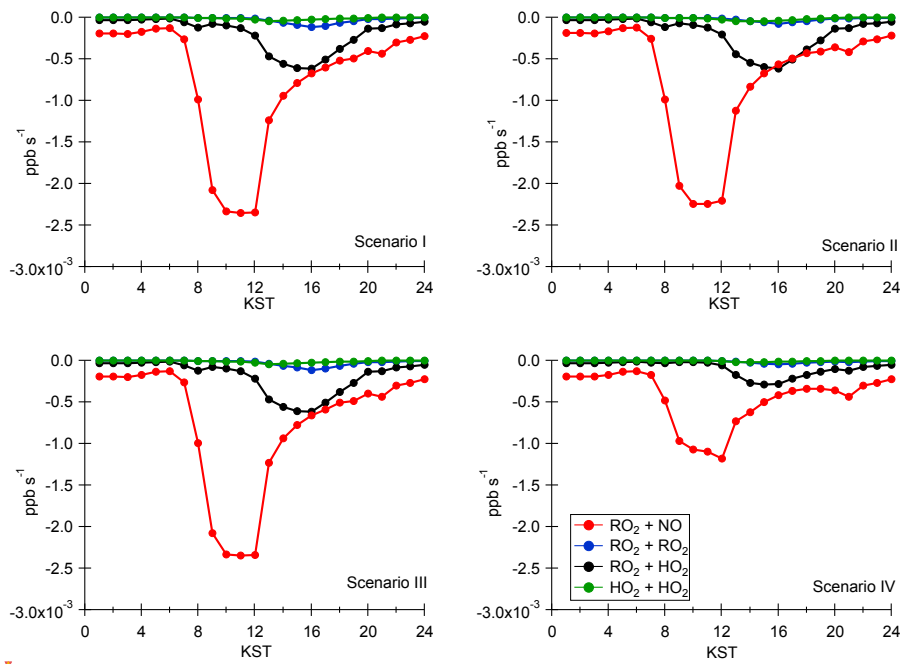
1080 Figure 3. The temporal variations of OH (a), HO₂ (b), and RO₂ (c) calculated by four
1081 different observationally constrained UWCM box model scenarios.
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Figure 4 The temporal variations of radical recycling (red) and destruction (blue, black and green) rates calculated using the UWCM box model for different model scenarios



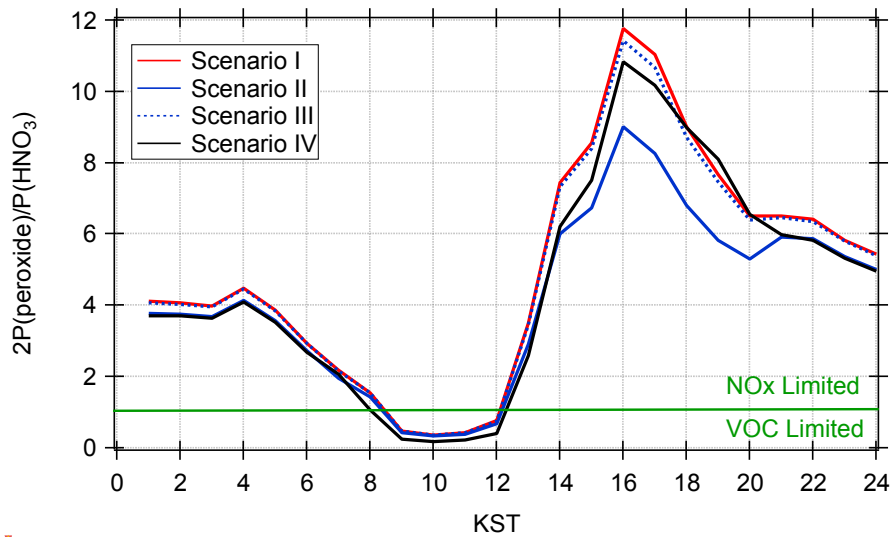
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The zoomed-in graphs show the radical recycling and destruction rates for Scenario I (top) and Scenario II (bottom). The y-axis is ppb s^{-1} (scaled by 10^{-3}) and the x-axis is KST (0-12). The red line represents the recycling rate, which drops sharply from 0 to approximately -2.5 around 10 KST. The other lines (blue, black, green) represent destruction rates and remain near zero.

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1096 Figure 5. The temporal variations of $P_{H_2O_2}/P_{HNO_3}$ calculated from the UWCM box model
1097 from four different model scenarios
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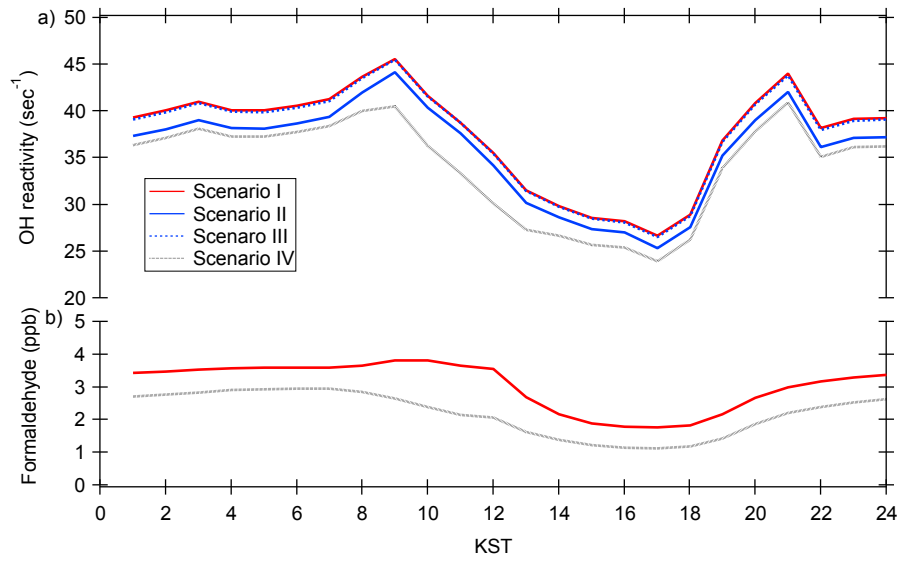


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1104 Figure 6. The temporal distributions of UWCM calculated OH reactivity (a) and
1105 formaldehyde (b) from different model calculation scenarios



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