

Interactive comment on “Measurement and model analyses of the ozone variation during 2006 to 2015 and its response to emission change in megacity Shanghai, China” by Jianming Xu et al.

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Responses to Reviewers:

Reviewer 1:

We thank the reviewer for the careful reading of the manuscript and helpful comments. We have revised the manuscript following the suggestions as is described below.

(1) This manuscript apparently focused on the daytime O₃ formation mechanisms (VOC-limited or NO_x-limited). But most of the analysis is conducted for daily mean O₃ concentration. Daytime O₃ and nighttime O₃ are affected by totally different pro-

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cesses/mechanisms and they may have different variations/trends. The trend of daily mean O₃ discussed mostly in this manuscript may be dominated by the trend of nighttime O₃, which are not governed by the daytime O₃ formation mechanisms (VOC-limited or NO_x-limited). Given that this manuscript wants to focus on NO_x-limited or VOC-limited, I would recommend the authors change their analysis to focus on daily maximum O₃.

According to the excellent suggestion of the reviewer, we analyzed the variation of daily maximum O₃ concentration instead of daily mean O₃ concentration in Sect. 3.1. The new results were re-plotted in Fig. 2. It was showed that the annual variation of daily maximum O₃ concentration also presented significant increasing trend in XJH and PD sites which was same as that of daily mean O₃ concentration. The increasing rate was 0.808 ppbv.yr⁻¹ at XJH site, which was lower than that at PD site of 1.374 ppbv.yr⁻¹. The above new results were included in the revised version. Furthermore, we calculated the variability of daily maximum 8h-O₃ concentration, which also exhibited the same increasing trends at the rate of 1.063 and 1.403 ppbv.yr⁻¹ at XJH and PD sites respectively.

Fig. 2, Annual variation of daily maximum O₃ concentration during 2006 to 2015 at (a) XJH and (b) PD respectively.

(2) Showing change of mean diurnal variation of O₃ would be helpful to identify the different trends of daytime/nighttime O₃. In the few places when daytime/nighttime O₃ are separately discussed in this manuscript, the time ranges for the “daytime”/“nighttime” are not specified. Thus, it is hard for this reviewer to judge whether the “daytime” O₃ is only affected by O₃ formation mechanisms or the “daytime” O₃ is still affected by the O₃ removal processes during nighttime and early morning. Thus, showing the trend of mean diurnal variation is critical.

Thanks for the reviewer’s suggestion. We calculate the variability of hourly O₃ concentration during 2006 to 2015 to investigate the diurnal variations of O₃ trend in Sect.

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3.4. The O₃ concentration showed increasing trend both in daytime (8:00-18:00, LST) and nighttime (19:00-07:00, LST) at XJH and PD sites. The nighttime O₃ increased more significantly than daytime O₃ at XJH, with the increasing rate of 1.239 and 0.956 ppbv.yr⁻¹ respectively. While at PD the O₃ concentration increased by 1.338 ppbv.yr⁻¹ in daytime which was higher than that in nighttime of 1.028 ppbv.yr⁻¹. In comparison, nighttime O₃ presented higher increasing rate at downtown site XJH than that at sub-urban site PD due to more NO emissions at urban center or the enhanced urban effects (Hu et al., 2013). The new results were re-plotted in Fig. 6. In addition, we also compared the seasonal variability of daytime and nighttime O₃ concentrations at XJH. The larger O₃ variability in nighttime than daytime was observed in spring, summer and autumn. For example, the nighttime O₃ concentration increased at 1.341, 1.159 and 1.525 ppbv yr⁻¹ in spring, summer and autumn respectively, which are more significant than that of 1.008, 0.378 and 1.370 ppbv yr⁻¹ in daytime. The variability of winter O₃ concentrations in daytime and nighttime are generally close perhaps due to the lower O₃ photochemical productions. The seasonal results were plotted in the Fig. 7.

Fig.6 The variability of hourly O₃ concentration during 2006 to 2015 at XJH and PD respectively

Fig.7 The variability of daytime (08:00-18:00, LST) and nighttime (19:00-07:00, LST) O₃ concentration during 2006 to 2015 at XJH in (a) spring, (b) summer, (c) autumn, (d) winter respectively.

(3) The current writing sounds like nighttime O₃ is only affected by NO titration. Actually nighttime O₃ is affected by three main processes, i.e., NO titration, dry deposition and vertical mixing (Hu et al., 2013). Both of the latter two processes are related to nighttime turbulence, which are further related to extent of urbanization. Thus the increasing trend of nighttime O₃ may reflect reduced NO titration, as well as enhanced nighttime vertical mixing, or say less stable nighttime boundary layer, which may be induced by enhanced urban effects through the years (Hu et al., 2016).

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Thank for this comment. We agreed that both dry deposition and nighttime turbulence influenced the nighttime O₃ concentration according to the work by Hu et al. (2013). We checked the vertical temperature gradient between 1000 hpa and 950 hpa at 20:00 (LST) in Shanghai to indicate the nighttime turbulence intensity based on sounding data, while presented no significant trend during 2010 to 2015. Furthermore, the PBL height at 20:00 (LST) retrieved from MPL measurements also varied insignificantly (slight decreasing trend) during the same period. Based on the above measurements, the variation of turbulence at night may have only minor contribution to the nighttime O₃ increasing in Shanghai. However the effect of dry deposition could not be excluded by lacking of measurements, which need further investigation. Such discussion has been included in Sect. 3.4.

Fig. The retrieved PBL height at 20:00 (LST) from MPL measurements, which presented slight decreasing trend.

Minor Comments (1) LN33, in->for LN48-49, I believe these should be in one sentence. LN153, either remove this sentence or move it to the beginning of this paragraph. LN329-342, these basic O₃ reactions should be put in the introduction, rather than in the results. LN355-356, or more intensified urbanization in XJH (thus more enhanced downward mixing of O₃ (Hu, et al., 2013)) Thanks for the corrections, which have been revised.

(2) anti-correlation for what time period? Nighttime anti-correlation does not indicate VOC-limited mechanism. The NO_x and O₃ measurements were strongly anti-correlated during noontime (10:00-13:00, LST), which has been revised.

(1) LN76, what is the definition of “non-attainment days” in terms of O₃ in China? LN81, what is the “Chinese National Ambient Air Quality Stand” in terms of O₃? The “non-attainment days” of O₃ was defined in the ambient air quality standard (GB3095-2012) by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China, providing the condition of daily maximum O₃ concentration exceeding 200 ug/m³, or

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daily maximum 8h-O₃ concentration exceeding 100 ug/m³.

(2) LN104 “However, such O₃ variation responding to emission change has not been clearly investigated”. You just wrote “Gao et al. (2017) reported that O₃ concentration in Shanghai downtown increased 67% from 2006 to 2015, whereas NO_x concentration decreased about 38%”; LN120, I thought Gao et al. analyzed 10 yr data as in this study. Gao et al. (2017) has investigated the O₃ variation during 2006 to 2015 in Shanghai, while only limited in the downtown XJH site. In this study, we calculated and compared the variability of mean daily maximum O₃ concentration, and mean daily maximum 8h-O₃ concentration at downtown site XJH and sub-urban site PD by more comprehensive measurements. In addition, we further illustrated the O₃ increasing trend in the larger scale by using the O₃ measurements from 31 sites over Shanghai, which were not reported by Gao et al. (2017). Furthermore, this study explored the O₃ enhancement response to NO_x reduction in Shanghai by WRF-Chem models. The effects of emission changes on long term O₃ variability were evaluated by WRF-Chem and compared with measurements. In addition, the shift of O₃ photochemical regime relative to the variations of NO_x and VOCs concentrations in the past ten years was discussed by O₃ isopleths diagram combined with WRF-Chem to provide more insights into the O₃ control strategy. Moreover, the future O₃ levels and its possible chemical regime in Shanghai were also discussed according to the Shanghai Clean Air Action Plan. This was complemented in the part of Introduction.

(3) LN124, high-resolution? Figure 7 looks like very coarse resolution. What is the resolution in Fig. 7? Fig. 7 should be combined into Fig. 1; LN141-142, why these point sources do not show up on Fig. 7? Please mark these major point sources in Fig. 7 LN204, Fig. 7 appears to have a resolution coarser than 6km. The horizontal resolution set in WRF-Chem was 6km. However the emission inventory used in WRF-Chem was extracted and combined from the MEIC (0.25o) and MIRAGE-Shanghai (0.16o) emissions and equally allocated to model grids with 6 km resolution. Thus the emission in Fig.7 seemed to be a little coarse due to the coarse resolution of the

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emission inventory data. According to the suggestion from the reviewer, the Fig.7 was combined into Fig.1, and the major point source around BS site was marked in Fig.1.

Fig.1 (a) The distribution of land-use category in Shanghai. The blue dots denote the locations of 6 sites (XJH, BS, PD, SS, JS, DT), in which XJH site is located at the downtown of Shanghai, with large emission from transportation, PD site is located at the sub-urban area with the mixed emissions of transportation and residential, JS site is located in the south of Shanghai with several large chemical industries, BS site is located in the north of Shanghai with some big steel and power plants, SS site is located at the top of the sole hill (100 m a.g.l.) with influence from regional transport, DT site is located at a remote island without anthropogenic activities. (b) The NO_x emission of 2009 scenario in Shanghai.

(4) LN193, what aerosol module? LN197, what is the “non-traditional SOA module”
The WRF-Chem model used in this study was not the standard version from the WRF DOWNLOAD website. It was mainly improved by Tie et al. (2007) and Li et al. (2010; 2011). The aerosol module was developed by the US EPA (Binkowski and Roselle, 2003) and used in CMAQ model. The secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formation is simulated using a non-traditional SOA model including the volatility basis-set modeling method in which primary organic components are assumed to be semi-volatile and photochemically reactive and are distributed in logarithmically spaced volatility bins (Li et al., 2011). The partitioning of semi-volatile organic species is calculated using the algorithm suggested by Koo et al. (2003), in which the bulk gas and particle phases are in equilibrium and all condensable organics form a pseudoideal solution (Odum et al., 1996). Nine surrogate species with saturation concentrations from 10⁻² to 10⁶ μg m⁻³ at room temperature are used for the primary organic aerosol (POA) components following the approach of Shrivastava et al. (2008). The SOA contribution from glyoxal and methylglyoxal is also included (Li et al., 2011). These were added to the revised version.

The complete response file including text and figures were in the supplement.

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Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/acp-2019-160/acp-2019-160-AC1-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2019-160>, 2019.

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