

1 **10–year satellite–constrained fluxes of ammonia improve**  
2 **performance of chemistry transport models**

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4 **Nikolaos Evangeliou<sup>1,\*</sup>, Yves Balkanski<sup>2</sup>, Sabine Eckhardt<sup>1</sup>, Anne Cozic<sup>2</sup>, Martin**  
5 **Van Damme<sup>3</sup>, Pierre-François Coheur<sup>3</sup>, Lieven Clarisse<sup>3</sup>, Mark W. Shephard<sup>4</sup>,**  
6 **Karen E. Cady-Pereira<sup>5</sup>, Didier Hauglustaine<sup>2</sup>**

7  
8 <sup>1</sup>Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), Department of Atmospheric and Climate  
9 Research (ATMOS), Kjeller, Norway.

10 <sup>2</sup>Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (LSCE), CEA-CNRS-UVSQ,  
11 91191, Gif-sur-Yvette, France.

12 <sup>3</sup>Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Spectroscopy, Quantum Chemistry and Atmospheric  
13 Remote Sensing (SQUARES), Brussels, Belgium.

14 <sup>4</sup>Environment and Climate Change Canada, Toronto, Ontario M3H 5T4, Canada.

15 <sup>5</sup>Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc., Lexington, MA, USA.

16  
17 \* Corresponding author: N. Evangeliou ([Nikolaos.Evangeliou@nilu.no](mailto:Nikolaos.Evangeliou@nilu.no))

18

19 **Abstract**

20 In recent years, ammonia emissions have been continuously increasing being almost four  
21 times higher than in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although an important species as its use as a fertilizer  
22 sustains human living, ammonia has major consequences both for humans and the environment,  
23 because of its reactive gas phase chemistry that makes it easily convertible to particles. Despite  
24 its pronounced importance, yet, ammonia emissions are highly uncertain in most emission  
25 inventories. However, the great development of satellite remote sensing nowadays provides the  
26 opportunity for more targeting research in constraining ammonia emissions. Here, we used  
27 satellite measurements to calculate global ammonia emissions over the period 2008–2017.  
28 Then, the calculated ammonia emissions were fed to a chemistry transport model and ammonia  
29 concentrations were simulated for the period 2008–2017.

30 The simulated concentrations of ammonia were compared with ground measurements  
31 from Europe, North America and Southeastern Asia, as well as with satellite measurements.  
32 The satellite-constrained ammonia emissions represent global concentrations more accurately  
33 than state-of-the-art emissions. Calculated fluxes in the North China Plain were seen more  
34 increased after 2015, not due to emission changes, but due to changes in sulfate emissions that  
35 resulted in less ammonia neutralization and hence in larger atmospheric loads. Emissions over  
36 Europe were also twice as much as those in traditional datasets with dominant sources to be  
37 industrial and agricultural applications. Four hot-spot regions of high ammonia emissions were  
38 seen in North America characterized by large agricultural activity, animal breeding, animal  
39 farms and animal breeding and agricultural practices. South America is dominated by ammonia  
40 emissions from biomass burning, which cause a strong seasonality. In Southeastern Asia,  
41 ammonia emissions from fertilizer plants in China, Pakistan, India and Indonesia are the most  
42 important, while a strong seasonality was observed with a spring and late summer peak due to  
43 rice and wheat cultivation. Measurements of ammonia surface concentrations were better  
44 reproduced with satellite-constrained emissions, so as measurements from CrIS (Cross-track  
45 Infrared Sounder).

46

## 47 **1 Introduction**

48 Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) has received a lot of attention nowadays due to its major implications  
49 for the population and the environment (Erisman, 2004; Erisman et al., 2007). These include  
50 eutrophication of semi-natural ecosystems and acidification of soils (Stevens et al., 2010),  
51 secondary formation of particulate matter in the atmosphere (Anderson et al., 2003), and  
52 alteration of the global greenhouse balance (De Vries et al., 2011). More specifically in the  
53 troposphere, ammonia reacts with the abundant sulfuric and nitric acids (Malm, 2004)  
54 contributing 30 % to 50 % of the total aerosol mass of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> (Anderson et al., 2003).  
55 Ammonium aerosols are therefore a very important component in regional and global aerosols  
56 processes (Xu and Penner, 2012) also having significant implications for human health (Aneja  
57 et al., 2009). Ammonia alters human health indirectly mainly through formation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Gu  
58 et al., 2014) that penetrate the human respiratory systems and deposit in the lungs and alveolar  
59 regions (Pope III et al., 2002) causing premature mortality (Lelieveld et al., 2015). As regards  
60 to the climate impact, the same ammonium aerosol particles affect Earth's radiative balance,  
61 both directly by scattering incoming radiation (Henze et al., 2012) and indirectly as cloud  
62 condensation nuclei (Abbatt et al., 2006). They may also cause visibility problems and  
63 contribute to haze effect due to secondary PM formation.

64 Sources of ammonia include wild animals (Sutton et al., 2000), ammonia-containing  
65 watersheds (Sørensen et al., 2003), traffic (Kean et al., 2009), sewage systems (Reche et al.,  
66 2012), humans (Sutton et al., 2000), biomass burning (Sutton et al., 2008) and domestic coal  
67 combustion (Fowler et al., 2004), volcanic eruptions (Sutton et al., 2008) and agriculture  
68 (Erisman et al., 2007). The latter is responsible for the majority of ammonia global atmospheric  
69 emissions. Specifically, in the United States and Europe about 80% of all emissions is related  
70 to agriculture (Leip et al., 2015). Emissions have increased considerably since pre-industrial  
71 times and are unlikely to decrease due to the growing demand for food and feed (Aneja et al.,  
72 2008).

73 The growing attention in ammonia levels has enabled many monitoring actions in Europe  
74 (European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme, EMEP), in Southeastern Asia (East Asia  
75 acid deposition NETwork) and in the North America (Ammonia Monitoring Network in the  
76 US, AMoN-US; National Air Pollution Surveillance Program (NAPS) sites in Canada) to  
77 record surface concentrations of ammonia continuously. Recently, several satellite products  
78 have been also developed in an effort to identify global levels of ammonia considering that the

79 relatively sparse existing monitoring network has an insufficient coverage for this purpose.  
80 These are derived from satellite sounders as the Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer  
81 (IASI) (Van Damme et al., 2017), the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) (Warner et al.,  
82 2017), the Cross-track Infrared Sounder (CrIS) (Shephard and Cady-Pereira, 2015), the  
83 Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer (TES) (Shephard et al., 2015), and Greenhouse Gases  
84 Observing Satellite (Someya et al., 2020). Both IASI and CrIS ammonia products are being  
85 continuously compared and evaluated against other observations and products. Relevant  
86 analyses include comparison against column-integrated levels measured by Fourier transform  
87 infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) (Dammers et al., 2016, 2017), ground-based measurements (Van  
88 Damme et al., 2015; Kharol et al., 2018), bottom-up emissions (Van Damme et al., 2018;  
89 Dammers et al., 2019) and atmospheric chemistry transport models (CTMs) (Shephard et al.,  
90 2020; Whitburn et al., 2016a).

91 Despite its importance, ammonia is a poorly quantified trace gas, with uncertainties over  
92 50% on the global emission budget and even higher on temporal and local scales (Dentener and  
93 Crutzen, 1994; Faulkner and Shaw, 2008; Reis et al., 2009) and up to 300% for the agricultural  
94 sector in Europe (European Environment Agency, 2019). In the present paper, we grid 10 years  
95 (2008–2017) of satellite measurements of ammonia retrieved from IASI to calculate monthly  
96 surface emissions (hereafter named NE) (see section 2). The same is done using the gridded  
97 IASI ammonia column concentrations from Van Damme et al. (2018) (named as VD0.5 and  
98 VDgrlf) (see section 2). The three different emission inventories together with a state-of-the-  
99 art one, which is more often used by models (named as EGG), are then imported in a CTM to  
100 simulate ammonia for the same 10-year period. More details of the different emissions used  
101 here are shown in sections 2.4 and 2.1. Finally, an evaluation of simulated surface  
102 concentrations against ground-based measurements from different monitoring stations and  
103 satellite products allow to quantify the improvements in ammonia emissions.

## 104 **2 Methods**

### 105 **2.1 LMDz-OR-INCA chemistry transport model**

106 The Eulerian global CTM LMDz-OR-INCA was used to calculate ammonia lifetime, as  
107 well as to simulate ammonia concentrations from the emission fluxes calculated from IASI  
108 satellite products. The model couples the LMDz (Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique)  
109 General Circulation Model (GCM) (Hourdin et al., 2006) with the INCA (INteraction with  
110 Chemistry and Aerosols) model (Folberth et al., 2006; Hauglustaine et al., 2004) and with the

111 land surface dynamical vegetation model ORCHIDEE (ORganizing Carbon and Hydrology In  
112 Dynamic Ecosystems) (Krinner et al., 2005). In the present configuration, the model has a  
113 horizontal resolution of  $2.5^{\circ} \times 1.3^{\circ}$ , the vertical dimension is divided into 39 hybrid vertical  
114 levels extending to the stratosphere. Large-scale advection of tracers is calculated from a  
115 monotonic finite-volume second-order scheme (Hourdin and Armengaud, 1999), deep  
116 convection is parameterized according to the scheme of Emanuel, (1991), while turbulent  
117 mixing in the planetary boundary layer (PBL) is based on a local second-order closure  
118 formalism. More information and a detailed evaluation of the GCM can be found in Hourdin et  
119 al. (2006).

120 The model simulates atmospheric transport of natural and anthropogenic aerosols  
121 recording both the number and the mass of aerosols. The aerosol size distribution is represented  
122 using a modal approach that consists of the superposition of 5 log-normal modes that represent  
123 both the size spectrum and whether the aerosol is soluble or insoluble (Schulz, 2007). The  
124 aerosols are treated in three particle modes, sub-micronic (diameter  $< 1 \mu\text{m}$ ) corresponding to  
125 the accumulation mode, micronic (diameter  $1\text{--}10 \mu\text{m}$ ) corresponding to coarse particles, and  
126 super-micronic or super coarse particles (diameter  $> 10 \mu\text{m}$ ). LMDz-OR-INCA accounts for  
127 emissions, transport (resolved and sub-grid scale), and dry and wet (in-cloud/below-cloud  
128 scavenging) deposition of chemical species and aerosols interactively. LMDz-OR-INCA  
129 includes a full chemical scheme for the ammonia cycle and nitrate particle formation, as well  
130 as a state-of-the-art  $\text{CH}_4/\text{NO}_x/\text{CO}/\text{NMHC}/\text{O}_3$  tropospheric photochemistry. Further details  
131 about specific reactions, reaction rates and other information entering into the description of  
132 the ammonia cycle can be found in Hauglustaine et al. (2014).

133 The global transport of ammonia was simulated from 2007 to 2017 (2007 was the spin-  
134 up period) by nudging the winds of the 6-hourly ERA Interim Reanalysis data (Dee et al., 2011)  
135 with a relaxation time of 10 days (Hourdin et al., 2006). For the calculation of ammonia's  
136 lifetime, the model ran with traditional emissions for anthropogenic, biomass burning and  
137 oceanic emission sources using emissions from ECLIPSEv5 (Evaluating the CLimate and Air  
138 Quality ImPacts of Short-livEd Pollutants), GFED4 (Global Fire Emission Dataset) and GEIA  
139 (Global Emissions InitiAtive) (hereafter called EGG) (Bouwman et al., 1997; Giglio et al.,  
140 2013; Klimont et al., 2017).

## 141 **2.2 Satellite ammonia**

### 142 **2.2.1 IASI ammonia**

143 The Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI) onboard the MetOp-A satellite  
144 measures Earth's infrared radiation twice a day in a spectral range of 645–2,760  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with an  
145 elliptical footprint with a diameter of 12 km at nadir (Clerbaux et al., 2009). Due to the larger  
146 thermal conditions that lead to smaller uncertainties, only morning data were used in the present  
147 assessment (Clarisse et al., 2010). Van Damme et al. (2018) reported limited impact of the IASI  
148 overpasses of  $4\% \pm 8\%$  on ammonia. The 10-year dataset used here is ANNI-NH<sub>3</sub>-v2.1R-I  
149 product (Van Damme et al., 2017) and relies on ERA-Interim ECMWF meteorological input  
150 data (Dee et al., 2011). The Artificial Neural Network for IASI (ANNI) algorithm converts the  
151 hyperspectral range index to an column-integrated NH<sub>3</sub> value (Whitburn et al., 2016a). The  
152 latter relies on the fact that the indices can be converted to a column by taking into account the  
153 spectral sensitivity to the ammonia abundance in the observed scene. The hyperspectral range  
154 indexes are derived from linear retrievals using a constant gain matrix which includes a  
155 generalized error covariance matrix (Van Damme et al., 2014b; Whitburn et al., 2016a). The  
156 dataset also provides cloud coverage for each measurement (August et al., 2012). Only  
157 measurements with a cloud fraction below 10% were processed in consistency with Van  
158 Damme et al. (2018). Cloud coverage was not provided for all measurements until March 2010  
159 resulting in smaller data availability before that date. Van Damme et al. (2014a) reported that  
160 IASI better measures ammonia in spring and summer months, due to the strong dependence on  
161 thermal contrast (error below 50%). For an individual observation, an IASI-retrieved column  
162 is considered detectable when the vertical column density exceeds  $9.68 \times 10^{15}$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2}$   
163 (surface concentration  $> 1.74 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) at a thermal contrast of 20 K, while the vertical column  
164 density should be larger than  $1.69 \times 10^{16}$  molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2}$  ( $3.05 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) at 10 K (Van Damme et  
165 al., 2014a). Although the retrieval algorithm uses a fixed vertical profile, extended validation  
166 of the resulting dataset has verified small uncertainties (Van Damme et al., 2015, 2018;  
167 Dammers et al., 2016; Whitburn et al., 2016b). For instance, Van Damme et al. (2018) reported  
168 a difference of  $2\% \pm 24\%$  (global average) in column-integrated ammonia using different  
169 vertical profiles in the retrieval algorithm.

### 170 **2.2.2 CrIS ammonia**

171 The Cross-Track Infrared Sounder (CrIS) was first launched on the NASA Suomi  
172 National Polar-orbiting Partnership (S-NPP) satellite on 28 October 2011 in a sun-synchronous  
173 low Earth orbit. The CrIS sensor provides soundings of the atmosphere with a spectral

174 resolution of  $0.625\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Shephard et al., 2015). One of the main advantages of CrIS is its  
175 improved vertical sensitivity of ammonia closer to the surface due to the low spectral noise of  
176  $\sim 0.04\text{K}$  at  $280\text{K}$  in the  $\text{NH}_3$  spectral region (Zavyalov et al., 2013) and the early afternoon  
177 overpass that typically coincides with high thermal contrast, which is optimal for thermal  
178 infrared sensitivity. The CrIS Fast Physical Retrieval (CFPR) (Shephard and Cady-Pereira,  
179 2015) retrieves an ammonia profile (14 levels) using a physics-based optimal estimation  
180 retrieval, which also provides the vertical sensitivity (averaging kernels) and an estimate of the  
181 retrieval errors (error covariance matrices) for each measurement. As peak sensitivity is  
182 typically in the boundary layer between 900 and 700 hPa ( $\sim 1$  to  $3\text{ km}$ ) (Shephard et al., 2020),  
183 the surface and total column concentrations are both highly correlated with the retrieved levels  
184 in the boundary layer. Shephard et al. (2020) reports estimated total column random  
185 measurement errors of 10–15%, with estimated total random errors of  $\sim 30\%$ . The individual  
186 profile retrieval levels have estimated random measurement errors of  $\sim 10$  to  $30\%$ , with  
187 estimated total random errors increasing to 60 to 100% due to the limited vertical resolution.  
188 These vertical sensitivity and error output parameters are also useful for using CrIS  
189 observations in applications (e.g. data fusion, data assimilation; model-based emission  
190 inversions (e.g., Cao et al., 2020; Li et al., 2019) as a satellite observational operator can be  
191 generated in a robust manner. The detection limit of CrIS measurements has been calculated  
192 down to  $0.3\text{--}0.5\text{ ppbv}$  (Shephard et al., 2020). CrIS ammonia has been evaluated against other  
193 observations over North America with the Ammonia Monitoring Network (AMoN) (Kharol et  
194 al., 2018) and against ground-based Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy  
195 observations (Dammers et al., 2017) showing small differences and high correlations.

### 196 **2.3 Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) interpolation**

197 To process large amounts of measurements in a 2-dimensional grid of high resolution,  
198 oversampling methods (Streets et al., 2013) can be used (Van Damme et al., 2018). However,  
199 considering that the resolution of the CTM is  $2.5^\circ \times 1.3^\circ$  (see section 2.4), there is no need to  
200 process the measurements on such a high-resolution grid and therefore an interpolation method  
201 was used. The method has been extensively used after the Chernobyl accident in 1986 to  
202 process more than 500 thousand deposition measurements over Europe (De Cort et al., 1998;  
203 Evangeliou et al., 2016).

204 IASI total column ammonia measurements were interpolated onto a grid of  $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$   
205 using a modified Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) algorithm described by (Renka, 1988).

206 This method is preferred due to its ease of use and to its high quality of interpolation. The IDW  
 207 interpolation is defined by:

$$208 \quad \hat{v}(x, y) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i v_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

209 where  $\hat{v}(x, y)$  is the interpolated value at point  $(x, y)$ ,  $w_1, \dots, w_i$  are the relative weights and  
 210  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  are the observation values. The weights are defined by the inverse distance functions:

$$211 \quad w_i = \left( \frac{r_w - d_i}{r_w d_i} \right)^2 \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

$$212 \quad \text{for } (r_w - d_i) = \begin{cases} r_w - d_i & \text{if } d_k < r_w, \\ 0 & \text{if } d_k \geq r_w. \end{cases}$$

213 where  $r_w$  denotes the radius of influence of the point  $(x_i, y_i)$ ,  $d_i$  the Euclidean distance  
 214 between point  $(x, y)$  and  $(x_i, y_i)$ , and  $d_k$  is the threshold distance. We used a threshold  
 215 distance ( $d_k$ ) of 50 km, which is similar to the size of each grid cell; different  $d_k$  values were  
 216 included in a sensitivity study (see section 4.2). The Euclidean distance is calculated using  
 217 Vincenty's formulae (Vincenty, 1975). Finally, the gridded IASI total column ammonia was re-  
 218 gridding to the model resolution ( $2.5^\circ \times 1.3^\circ$ ) using bilinear interpolation.

## 219 **2.4 Emission flux calculation of ammonia**

220 The emission fluxes of ammonia were calculated using a 1-dimensional box model that  
 221 assumes first-order loss terms for ammonia and has been already used previously (Van Damme  
 222 et al., 2018; Whitburn et al., 2016b). It takes into account the gridded column concentrations of  
 223 ammonia that were calculated with the IDW interpolation method and all the potential removal  
 224 processes of ammonia occurring in a hypothetical atmospheric box according to the following  
 225 equation:

$$226 \quad E_{NH3} = M_{NH3} / \tau \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

227 where  $M_{NH3}$  is the mass of ammonia in each atmospheric box (grid-cell) in molecules  $\text{cm}^{-2}$  and  
 228  $\tau$  is the lifetime of ammonia in the box (given in seconds).

229 Van Damme et al. (2018) assumed a constant lifetime for ammonia, admitting that this is  
 230 a limiting factor of their study on the basis that chemical loss and deposition are highly variable  
 231 processes that can change the lifetime drastically. To tackle the large variability of the lifetime  
 232 of ammonia, we used monthly gridded lifetime calculated from a CTM. This gives robustness  
 233 in the calculated emissions fluxes considering that at regions where sulfuric and nitric acids are  
 234 abundant, the chemical loss will be more intensive and, thus, lifetime will be much shorter  
 235 affecting emissions dramatically.

236 The lifetime ( $\tau$ ) of ammonia in each grid-box results from the three processes affecting  
 237 ammonia concentrations: transport ( $t_{trans}$ ) in and out of the grid-cell, chemical loss ( $t_{chem}$ )  
 238 and deposition ( $t_{depo}$ ):

$$239 \quad \frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{1}{t_{trans}} + \frac{1}{t_{chem}} + \frac{1}{t_{depo}} \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

240 In a CTM, the lifetime can be easily calculated from the species mass balance equation (Croft  
 241 et al., 2014):

$$242 \quad \frac{dC(t)}{dt} = S(t) - \frac{C(t)}{\tau(t)} \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

243 where  $C(t)$  is the atmospheric burden of ammonia at time  $t$ ,  $S(t)$  is the time-dependent source  
 244 emission fluxes and  $\tau(t)$  is the removal timescale. Assuming steady-state conditions and  
 245 considering that emission fluxes of ammonia are continuous, there is a quasi-equilibrium  
 246 between sources and removals of ammonia (Dentener and Crutzen, 1994), and the modeled  
 247 lifetime of ammonia  $\tau_{mod}$  can be defined as:

$$248 \quad \tau_{mod} = C_{NH3} / L_{NH3}^{trans,chem,depo} \quad \text{Eq. 6}$$

249 where  $C_{NH3}$  is the atmospheric burden of ammonia and  $L_{NH3}^{trans,chem,depo}$  is the total loss due to  
 250 any process affecting ammonia in the model (transport, chemical reactions, deposition).

251 We calculate ammonia emission fluxes using IASI satellite measurements that we  
 252 interpolated (see section 2.3) to the model resolution ( $2.5^\circ \times 1.3^\circ$ ) and applying a variable  
 253 lifetime taken from a CTM (hereafter NE emissions). We also calculate ammonia emissions  
 254 from the oversampled IASI data of Van Damme et al. (2018), after bilinear re-gridding to the  
 255 model resolution ( $2.5^\circ \times 1.3^\circ$ ), applying a constant lifetime for ammonia of 12 hours (hereafter  
 256 VD0.5 emissions) and the same variable lifetime from a CTM as in the NE emissions (hereafter  
 257 VDgrlf emissions).

### 258 **3 Results**

259 In this section, the main results of the monthly emissions (NE) are presented for the 10-  
 260 year period (2008–2017) of IASI observations. We first describe the monthly modelled  
 261 ammonia lifetimes (section 3.1). Then, we explain the main characteristics of the obtained  
 262 emissions (section 3.2) and compare them with those calculated using the IASI gridded  
 263 products from Van Damme et al. (2018) (VD0.5 and VDgrlf), as well as the ones from the state-  
 264 of-the-art inventories of EGG and EDGARv4.3.1-GFED4 (Crippa et al., 2016; Giglio et al.,

265 2013) that are often used in CTMs (section 3.3). We finally turn our focus to emissions at  
266 continental regions and document their seasonal variation in emissions (section 3.4).

### 267 **3.1 Modelled lifetime of ammonia**

268 The lifetime of ammonia has been reported to range from a few hours to a few days  
269 (Behera et al., 2013; Pinder et al., 2008) so ammonia can only be transported over relatively  
270 short distances. This short spread of ammonia is also due to the fact that (a) the majority of its  
271 emissions are surface ones (major source is agricultural activity), and (b) its surface deposition  
272 velocities are high for most surfaces (Hov et al., 1994). The atmospheric lifetimes of ammonia  
273 were summarized in Van Damme et al. (2018). Specifically, Quinn et al. (1990) and more  
274 recently Norman and Leck (2005) reported lifetimes of a few hours in the West Pacific, South  
275 Atlantic and Indian Oceans, which is in agreement with Flechard and Fowler (1998), who  
276 reported a 2-hour lifetime in an area of Scotland where most sources are of agricultural origin.  
277 Similar to them, Dammers et al. (2019) recently reported a lifetime estimated from satellite  
278 measurements of  $2.35 \pm 1.16$  hours for large point sources based on satellite measurements. The  
279 majority of ammonia lifetimes reported regionally or globally fall within 10 and 24 hours  
280 independently of the different approaches (Hauglustaine et al., 2014; Hertel et al., 2012; Möller  
281 and Schieferdecker, 1985; Sutton et al., 1993; Whitburn et al., 2016b), while Dentener and  
282 Crutzen (1994) reported slightly higher lifetimes within a range between 0.9 and 2.1 days  
283 depending on ammonia emission fraction of natural origin. Monthly averaged atmospheric  
284 ammonia lifetimes in the present study were derived using the version of the LMDz-OR-INCA  
285 that includes non-methane hydrocarbons (Hauglustaine et al., 2004).

286 Ammonia lifetime depends on numerous factors such as the presence of ammonia's  
287 reactants (sulfuric and nitric acids, through  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions), meteorological parameters  
288 (atmospheric water vapour, and temperature, atmospheric mixing and advection) and ammonia  
289 emissions. In ammonia-poor conditions, all ammonia is rapidly removed by neutralising  
290 sulfuric acid with an intermediate production of bisulfate. If ammonia increases further  
291 (ammonia-rich conditions), then reaction with nitric acid occurs forming nitric ammonium. At  
292 this point, the ammonia/sulfuric acid/nitric acid equilibrium becomes very fragile. If sulfate  
293 concentrations decrease, then free ammonia is produced, which gradually reacts with nitric acid  
294 resulting in production of aerosol phase nitric ammonium. But if particles are aqueous, then  
295 sulfate ions in solution increase the equilibrium vapour pressure of ammonia with nitric acid  
296 reversing the reaction towards gaseous phase reactants. So, sulfate reductions are linked with

297 non-linear increases of aerosol nitrates and decreases of aerosol ammonium and water (Seinfeld  
298 and Pandis, 2000).

299 The calculated ammonia lifetime is shown in [Figure 1a](#) averaged for the whole study  
300 period. The average lifetime was calculated to be  $11.6 \pm 0.6$  hours, which is in the range of the  
301 previously reported values. Lower values ( $\sim 10$  hours) were observed in clean remote areas  
302 characterized by low ammonia emissions (e.g., Amazon forest, Sahara and Australia), while in  
303 the rest of the globe the lifetime was closer to the average value. The highest lifetimes ( $\sim 16$   
304 hours) occur over Southern Brazil and Venezuela, which are both areas with relatively high  
305 ammonia emissions and low sulfuric and nitric acid concentrations ([Figure 1c](#)). These  
306 conditions are characterized by a low atmospheric sulfuric and nitric acids availability to  
307 remove ammonia rapidly, hence causing an increase in lifetime.

### 308 **3.2 Satellite-constrained emissions**

309 The average ammonia emissions calculated from the 10-year IASI observations are  
310 shown in [Figure 1b](#) (also in [Figure S 1a](#)), the reactants' atmospheric burden in [Figure 1c](#) and  
311 their seasonal variability in [Figure 1d](#) together with monthly modelled lifetimes. The year-by-  
312 year total ammonia emissions are depicted in [Figure S 1](#) with a monthly temporal resolution.  
313 Emissions decline from  $242 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  in 2008 to  $212 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  in 2011. In 2012 – 2014, emissions  
314 show little variation ( $194$ ,  $204$  and  $195 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ , respectively), before they increase steeply to  
315  $248 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  in 2015. Finally, in 2016 and 2017 they remain at the same high level ( $197$  and  $227$   
316  $\text{Tg yr}^{-1}$ , respectively).

317 The global average annual emission calculated from VD0.5 amounts to  $189 \text{ Tg}$  (9-year  
318 average), which is comparable to the average of the 10-year period that we have calculated in  
319 the present study (average $\pm$ sd:  $213 \pm 18.1 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). The increase in the emissions we calculate  
320 during 2015 and 2017 stand out. The explanation for these increases could be twofold. If sulfur  
321 dioxide (a precursor of sulfates) emissions decreased over time, less sulfates are available to  
322 neutralize ammonia, hence resulting in higher ammonia column concentrations seen by IASI  
323 that could be attributed to new emissions erroneously (see section 2.4). This has been already  
324 reported for the North China Plain. To improve air quality, the Chinese government  
325 implemented new emission regulations aimed at decreasing the national total  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions  
326 by 10% between 2011 and 2015 (Liu et al., 2017). Several recent studies (Duncan et al., 2016;  
327 Krotkov et al., 2016) have highlighted the effectiveness of the air quality policy, as evidenced

328 by a decreasing trend in nitrogen dioxide columns over China since 2012. The same has been  
329 reported for the sulfur dioxide emissions (Koukouli et al., 2018; Krotkov et al., 2016; Wang et  
330 al., 2013). If sulfur dioxide and sulfates presented a constant year-by-year pattern or even  
331 increased, then the calculated ammonia emissions would be likely realistic.

332 To sort out between these two possibilities, we used sulfur dioxide measurements from  
333 NASA's Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI, Yang et al., 2007) instrument, whereas sulfate  
334 column concentrations were taken from the Modern-Era Retrospective Analysis for Research  
335 and Applications, Version 2 (MERRA2, Gelaro et al., 2017) reanalysis data from NASA's  
336 Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO). [Figure S 2](#) shows timeseries of column  
337 concentrations of sulfur dioxide and sulfates from OMI and MERRA2 averaged globally, for  
338 continental regions (Europe, North America, South America, Africa), as well as for regions  
339 where ammonia emissions are particularly high (India and Southeastern Asia, North China  
340 Plain). Although column concentrations of both sulfur dioxide and sulfates present strong  
341 interannual variability ([Figure S 2](#)), their global concentrations show a strong decreasing trend  
342 after 2015. The observed decrease indicates that sulfate amounts that neutralize ammonia and  
343 form ammonium sulfate, thus it is likely that the higher ammonia concentrations seen from  
344 IASI after 2015 are not necessarily a result of emission increases. This is not seen from the  
345 respective precursor of the atmospheric nitric acid, nitrogen dioxide ([Figure S 2](#)).

346 Looking closely into regions with large changes in ammonias reactants and/or their  
347 precursors after 2015 ([Figure 2](#)), we immediately see that a region of interest is the North China  
348 Plain. The North China Plain has been identified as an ammonia hotspot mainly due to extensive  
349 agricultural activities (Clarisse et al., 2009; Pan et al., 2018). Liu et al. (2018) reported a sulfur  
350 dioxide reduction of about 60% over the recent few years in the North China Plain, sulfates  
351 decreased by 50%, while ammonia emissions declined by only 7% due to change in agricultural  
352 practices. The suggested decrease in ammonia reactants over the North China Plain is illustrated  
353 by the calculated sulfur dioxide column concentration anomaly from OMI ([Figure 2](#)) and by  
354 the sulfate concentration anomaly from MERRA-2 after 2015 (the highest calculated one)  
355 ([Figure S 3](#)). Nitrogen dioxide concentration do not show any noticeable annual change, despite  
356 their strong seasonal cycle ([Figure S 2](#)). The IASI-constrained ammonia emissions calculated  
357 here show only a tiny increase of  $0.19 \pm 0.04 \text{ kt y}^{-1}$  after 2015 in the North China Plain and of  
358  $10 \pm 3.1 \text{ Tg y}^{-1}$  globally with respect to the 10-year average ([Figure 2](#)). This is due to the change  
359 of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emission regulations in China, which in turn led to reduced

360 inorganic matter (sulfates, nitrates and ammonium) resulting in regional increases of gaseous  
361 ammonia (Lachatre et al., 2019).

362 It should be noted here that decreases in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide have been  
363 reported to have occurred since 2005, at least in Eastern USA and to a lesser extent in Eastern  
364 Europe (Krotkov et al., 2016). At the same time, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide  
365 concentrations had started increasing after 2005 in India, a country that shows the largest  
366 agricultural activity in the world. The latter has balanced the global sulfur dioxide and nitrogen  
367 dioxide budget, explaining that the decreasing trend after 2015 that we report has been affected  
368 by our choice to present global averages.

### 369 **3.3 Comparison with traditional emission datasets**

370 In this section, we quantify the main differences of our IASI-constrained emission dataset  
371 with other state-of-the-art inventories used in global models and for different applications (air  
372 quality, climate change etc...). Aside from comparing our emissions with those calculated using  
373 Van Damme et al. (2018) data with a constant lifetime (hereafter called VD0.5), we extend our  
374 comparison to more traditional datasets such as those of ECLIPSEv5-GFED4-GEIA (EGG) for  
375 2008–2017, and EDGARv4.3.1-GFED4 (Crippa et al., 2016; Giglio et al., 2013) for 2008–2012  
376 period. Finally, the ammonia emissions presented in this study (NE emissions) are compared  
377 to emissions calculated from Van Damme et al. (2018) gridded IASI column data applying a  
378 variable (modelled) ammonia lifetime presented in [Figure 1b](#) (hereafter referred as VDgrlf).

379 The 10-year comparison of our calculated emissions with VD0.5 is shown in [Figure 3](#).  
380 The 10-year average difference amounts to  $29 \pm 15$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> (average  $\pm$ sd). In all years, the largest  
381 differences could be seen over Latin America and over tropical Africa. Our emissions (NE)  
382 show a different structure in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and situated slightly more northerly than  
383 those in VD0.5. The difference might be due to the IDW interpolation used to process the IASI  
384 ammonia in the NE emissions compared with the oversampling method used in VD0.5 (see  
385 section 2.3). Nevertheless, Northern India has been identified as a hot-spot region for ammonia,  
386 mainly due the importance of agricultural activities in the region (Kuttippurath et al., 2020;  
387 Tanvir et al., 2019).

388 [Figure S 4](#) and [Figure S 5](#) present a comparison of our calculated emissions (NE) with  
389 the basic state-of-the-art datasets of EGG and EDGARv4.3.1-GFED4, respectively. In both  
390 datasets, ammonia emissions remain almost constant over time (average  $\pm$ sd:  $65 \pm 2.8$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>

391 and  $103 \pm 5.5$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, respectively). The total calculated ammonia emissions in EGG and  
392 EDGARv4.3.1-GFED4 are up to three times lower than those calculated from NE (average $\pm$ sd:  
393  $213 \pm 18.1$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>) or from VD0.5 (9-year average: 189 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>). This results in 10-year annual  
394 differences that are very significant (average $\pm$ sd:  $150 \pm 19.3$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> and  $111 \pm 19.2$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>,  
395 respectively); the largest differences appear over South America (EGG:  $7.1 \pm 0.3$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, VD0.5:  
396  $22$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, NE:  $28 \pm 3.0$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, VDgrlf:  $24 \pm 1.3$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>), while European emissions are  
397 practically identical in all datasets except EGG (EGG:  $6.9 \pm 1.1$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, VD0.5: 11 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, NE:  
398  $15 \pm 2.2$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, VDgrlf:  $11 \pm 1.0$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>). Emissions from South China Plain are much higher in  
399 the two traditional datasets than those presented in this paper (EGG:  $25 \pm 1.2$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, VD0.5: 36  
400 Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, NE:  $38 \pm 2.8$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>, VDgrlf:  $39 \pm 1.8$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup>). Ammonia emissions derived over China  
401 in this work (NE) are among the highest worldwide ([Figure S 1](#)), which agrees well with the 9-  
402 year average emissions calculated in VD0.5 inventory over China (see [Figure 3](#)). To assess to  
403 which extent emissions from EGG and EDGARv4.3.1-GFED4 are underestimated can only be  
404 done by comparing ammonia with ground or satellite observations.

405 The comparison of the annual ammonia emissions in the NE dataset to the modified  
406 VDgrlf emissions is shown in [Figure S 6](#). The latter showed a better agreement to the emissions  
407 presented in this study with mean annual difference of  $14 \pm 19$  Tg yr<sup>-1</sup> (average $\pm$ sd). Previously  
408 observed emission differences in the two state-of-the-art inventories over South America and  
409 Africa have been now minimized, as well as the displacement north of the Indo-Gangetic Plain  
410 emissions remains important. Nevertheless, the smaller differences of our emissions (NE) from  
411 those of VDgrlf as compared with the respective difference from the VD0.5 emissions, show  
412 the large impact that a more realistic variable lifetime might have in emission calculations with  
413 this methodology in these regions.

### 414 **3.4 Site-specific ammonia emissions and seasonal variation**

415 [Figure 4](#) illustrates specific regions that show the largest ammonia emissions (Europe,  
416 North America, South America and Southeastern Asia). These emissions correspond to the  
417 IASI-constrained emissions calculated in this study (NE) and are presented as total annual  
418 emissions averaged over the 10-year period of study. At the bottom panels of the same figure,  
419 the seasonal variation of the emissions is shown for each of the four hot-spot regions and each  
420 of the 10 years of the study.

421 European total ammonia emissions were estimated to be  $15 \pm 2.2 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  (average  $\pm$ sd),  
422 more than double compared with those reported in EGG ( $6.9 \pm 1.1 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and similar to those  
423 in VD0.5 ( $11 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) or those in VDgrlf ( $11 \pm 1.0 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). The greatest emissions were  
424 calculated for Belgium, the Netherlands and the Po Valley in Italy (Figure 4). High emissions  
425 are also found in North and Northwestern Germany and over Denmark. In contrast, very low  
426 emissions are found in Norway, Sweden and parts of the Alps. It is not possible to quantitatively  
427 distinguish between different sources of ammonia. It has been reported that approximately 75%  
428 of ammonia emissions in Europe originate from livestock production (Webb et al., 2005), and  
429 90% from agriculture in general (Leip et al., 2015). More specifically, ammonia is emitted from  
430 all stages of manure management, from livestock buildings during manure storage and  
431 application to land, as well as from livestock urine. These emissions are strong over most of  
432 Northwestern European countries, although sources like fertilization and non-agricultural  
433 activities (traffic and urban emissions) can be also important. An example is Tange in Germany,  
434 which shows a late summer peak due to growing crops application. No obvious seasonality in  
435 the emissions can be seen for Europe as a whole, as the hot-spot regions are rather few compared  
436 to the overall surface of Europe. An exception to this stable emission situation over the year  
437 occurs during 2010 and during 2015, years for which a late summer peak. In 2010, large  
438 wildfires in Russia resulted in high ammonia emissions (R'Honi et al., 2013), while year 2015  
439 has been also characterized as an intense fire year (though not like 2010), with fires occurring  
440 in Eurasia (Min Hao et al., 2016).

441 North America and in particular the US (Figure 4) has been characterized by four hot-  
442 spot regions. First, a small region in Colorado, Central US, which is the location of a large  
443 agricultural region that traditionally releases large ammonia emissions (Malm et al., 2013).  
444 Another example is the state of Iowa (home to more than 20 million swine, 54 million chickens,  
445 and 4 million cattle), northern Texas and Kansas (beef cattle), and southern Idaho (dairy cattle)  
446 (McQuilling, 2016). Furthermore, the three major valleys in Salt Lake, in Cache, and in Utah  
447 in the midwestern US show an evident, but lower intensity hot-spot, as they are occupied by  
448 massive pig farms associated to open waste pits. The largest emissions were calculated for the  
449 San Joaquin Valley in California (vegetables, dairy, beef cattle and chickens) and further to the  
450 South (Tulare and Bakersfield), an area characterized by feedlots (Van Damme et al., 2018;  
451 McQuilling, 2016). North American annual ammonia emissions over the 10-year period were  
452 averaged  $1.1 \pm 0.1 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  (average  $\pm$ sd). These values are over two orders of magnitude higher  
453 than those in EGG ( $0.062 \pm 0.0013 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). Note that his estimate is three times lower than those

454 reported in VD0.5 ( $3.1 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) or in VDgrlf ( $3.4 \pm 0.5 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). The 2008–2017 interannual  
455 variability ([Figure 4](#)) all show a minimum in winter. Maximum emissions were observed in late  
456 spring, due to the contribution from mineral fertilizer and manure application, in summer, due  
457 to influence of livestock housing emissions, and some years both in spring and summer (Makar  
458 et al., 2009; Zhu et al., 2013, 2015). A topographical dependence was also seen in midwest  
459 emissions that peaked in April, whereas over the rest of the US maximum emissions were  
460 appeared in summer (Paulot et al., 2014).

461 Ammonia emissions have different characteristics in South America and in Western  
462 Africa as both are fire-dominated regions. For simplicity we only present South America in  
463 [Figure 4](#). This region is dominated by natural ammonia emissions mainly from forest, savanna  
464 and agricultural fires (Whitburn et al., 2014, 2016b) and volcanoes (Kajino et al., 2004;  
465 Uematsu et al., 2004). This causes a strong seasonal variability in the ammonia emissions with  
466 the largest fluxes observed from August to October in all years ([Figure 4](#)). This strong  
467 dependence of South America from biomass burning emissions was first highlighted by Chen  
468 et al. (2013) and by van Marle et al. (2017). It also became particularly pronounced during the  
469 large wildfires in the Amazon rainforest in summer 2019 (Escobar, 2019). We estimated the  
470 10-year average ammonia emissions to be  $28 \pm 3.0 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  (average  $\pm$  sd) in agreement with  
471 VD0.5 ( $22 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and VDgrlf ( $24 \pm 1.3 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). The respective emissions in EGG are four  
472 times lower than these estimates ( $7.1 \pm 0.3 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ).

473 The last column to the right of [Figure 4](#) presents the 10-year average annual ammonia  
474 emissions and their respective interannual variability in Southeastern Asia. We define this  
475 region spanning from  $70^\circ\text{E}$ – $130^\circ\text{E}$  in longitude and from  $0^\circ\text{N}$ – $45^\circ\text{N}$  in latitude. Ammonia  
476 emissions were estimated to be  $38 \pm 2.8 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  (average  $\pm$  sd) similar to VD0.5 ( $36 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and  
477 VDgrlf ( $39 \pm 1.8 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and slightly higher than those presented in EGG ( $25 \pm 1.2 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). They  
478 comprise ammonia fertilizer plants, such as in Pingsongxiang, Shizuishan, Zezhou-Gaoping,  
479 Chaerhan Salt Lake, Delingha, Midong-Fukang and Wucaiwan (China), Indo-Gangetic Plain  
480 (Pakistan and India), Gresik (Indonesia). China and India contribute more than half of total  
481 global ammonia emissions since the 1980s with the majority of these emissions to originate  
482 from rice cultivation followed by corn and wheat (crop-specific emissions). More specifically,  
483 emissions from these crops due to synthetic fertilizer and livestock manure applications are  
484 concentrated in North China Plain (Xu et al., 2018). Considering that Southeastern Asia is the  
485 largest agricultural contributor in the global ammonia budget, a strong seasonality in the

486 emissions was observed. Temporal ammonia emissions peak in late summer of most years,  
487 when emissions from rice cultivation, synthetic fertilizer application and livestock manure  
488 spreading (Xu et al., 2016) are important, and in spring when wheat cultivation dominates  
489 (Datta et al., 2012). Of course, the respective emissions from biomass burning should also be  
490 mentioned. However, these are difficult to be distinguish and are expected to be a relatively  
491 small source compared to agricultural emissions.

## 492 **4 Discussion**

493 In this section, we conduct simulations over the 10-year period (2008–2017, 1-year spin-  
494 up), with all the emissions derived and compare the NH<sub>3</sub> concentrations with ground-based  
495 observations over Europe, North America, Southeastern Asia (section 4.1), and observations  
496 from CrIS (section 4.1). These simulations consist in: (i) a simulation using traditional  
497 emissions using EGG; (ii) a simulation using emissions calculated from IASI data from Van  
498 Damme et al. (2018) applying a constant lifetime of 12 hours for ammonia (VD0.5); (iii) a  
499 simulation using gridded emissions presented in the present paper (NE) calculated as described  
500 in section 2; and (iv) a simulation using emissions calculated from IASI data from Van Damme  
501 et al. (2018) applying a variable (modelled) lifetime (VDgrlf). Finally, we perform a sensitivity  
502 analysis in order to define the levels of uncertainty of our emissions in section 4.2 and discuss  
503 potential limitation of the present study in section 4.3.

### 504 **4.1 Validation against ground-based observations and satellite products**

505 **Figure 5** shows a comparison between modelled surface concentrations of ammonia with  
506 ground measurements from Europe (EMEP, <https://emep.int/mscw/>), North America (AMoN,  
507 <http://nadp.slh.wisc.edu/data/AMoN/>) and Southeastern Asia (EANET,  
508 <https://www.eanet.asia>). To avoid overplotting, the Gaussian kernel density estimation (KDE)  
509 was used, which is a non-parametric way to estimate the probability density function (PDF) of  
510 a random variable (Parzen, 1962):

$$511 \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{Nh} \sum_{i=1}^N K\left(\frac{x-x_i}{h}\right) \quad \text{Eq. 7}$$

512 where  $K$  is the kernel,  $x_i$  the univariate independent and identically distributed point of the  
513 relationship between modelled and measured ammonia and  $h$  is a smoothing parameter called  
514 the bandwidth. KDE is a fundamental data smoothing tool that attempts to infer characteristics  
515 of a population, based on a finite dataset. It weighs the distance of all points in each specific  
516 location along the distribution. If there are more points grouped locally, the estimation is higher  
517 as the probability of seeing a point at that location increases. The kernel function is the specific

518 mechanism used to weigh the points across the data set and it uses the bandwidth to limit the  
 519 scope of the function. The latter is computed using the Scott's factor (Scott, 2015). We also  
 520 provide the mean fractional bias (MFB) for modelled and measured concentrations of ammonia  
 521 as follows:

$$522 \quad MFB = \frac{1}{N} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (C_m - C_o)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{C_m + C_o}{2}} \times 100\% \quad \text{Eq. 8}$$

523 where  $C_m$  and  $C_o$  are the modelled and measured ammonia concentrations and  $N$  is the total  
 524 number of observations. MFB is a symmetric performance indicator that gives equal weights  
 525 to under- or over-estimated concentrations (minimum to maximum values range from -200%  
 526 to 200%). Furthermore, we assess the deviation of the data from the line of best fit using the  
 527 root mean square error (RMSE) defined as:

$$528 \quad RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (C_m - C_o)^2}{N}} \quad \text{Eq. 9}$$

529 From 134 European stations, nearly 300,000 measurements made at a daily to weekly  
 530 temporal resolution over the period of study (2007–2018) are presented on [Figure 5](#). All  
 531 emission datasets underestimate ammonia surface concentration over Europe. The most  
 532 accurate prediction of concentrations was achieved using the traditional EGG emissions that  
 533 underestimated observations by 67%, also being the least scattered from the best fit  
 534 ( $RMSE_{EGG} = 4.06 \mu g N m^{-3}$ ), followed by the emissions presented in this paper ( $MFB_{NE} =$   
 535  $-72\%$ ,  $RMSE_{NE} = 4.65 \mu g N m^{-3}$ ), although they were more variable. VD0.5 or VDgrlf  
 536 emissions further underestimated observations, though they were less sparse ([Figure 5d](#)). About  
 537 12% of the modelled concentrations using EGG were outside of the 10-fold limit from the  
 538 observations, in contrast to only 17% and 15% in VD0.5 and VDgrlf, and 20% in NE. With  
 539 regards to the spatial comparison with the observed concentrations, all datasets cause  
 540 overestimations in the ammonia concentrations predicted in Western Europe. EGG appears to  
 541 be the most accurate in Central Europe (all stations with suffix DE00), NE emissions in all  
 542 Spanish stations (suffix ES00) and VD0.5 and VDgrlf emissions in Italian stations ([Figure S](#)  
 543 [7](#)).

544 The comparison of simulated ammonia concentrations to observations over North  
 545 America includes 119 stations, which represent nearly 27,000 observations ([Figure 6](#)) with a  
 546 weekly, bi-weekly or monthly resolution. The only emission dataset that lead to an  
 547 underestimation of ammonia concentrations was EGG ( $MFB_{EGG} = -28\%$ ). Two others,  
 548 VD0.5 and VDgrlf caused ammonia observations to be strongly overestimated ( $MFB_{VD0.5} =$

549 **52% and  $MFB_{VDgrlf} = 54%$** ), while NE slightly ( $MFB_{NE} = 32%$ ). All inventories resulted  
550 in about the same variability in ammonia concentrations with RMSEs between 4.15 and 4.17  
551  $\mu\text{g N m}^{-3}$  (Figure 6). About 10% of the predicted concentrations using EGG emissions were at  
552 least 10 times off from the measured ones, more than twice the number of measurements  
553 compared to the other dataset. NE emissions better capture levels in the easternmost stations of  
554 the US (AL99, AR15, CT15, IL37, IN22, MI52, NY56, ON26) and in California (CA83) and  
555 Oklahoma (OK98), which are close to hot-spot regions (see section 3.4). EGG emissions  
556 perform better in Northwestern (ID03), Central (KS03) and several stations located over the  
557 Eastern United States (KY03, KY98, OH09, AR03, IL46, KS03, GA41). The emission  
558 inventory VD0.5 leads to a very good agreement in ammonia concentrations over all stations  
559 of the North American continent (AL99, GA40, ID03, GA41, IL37, IL46, IN20, IN22, KS97,  
560 PA00, MD99, MI52, TN04, NM99, NY96, OH99, OK98) (Figure S 8).

561 In Southeastern Asia 62 stations from 13 countries were included in the comparison from  
562 the EANET monitoring network (Figure 7). These included about 8,000 surface measurements  
563 in monthly or 2-weekly resolution. As a whole, all emission inventories underestimate station  
564 concentrations of EANET with MFBs between -102% (EGG) and -61% (VD0.5 and VDgrlf).  
565 The least spread model concentrations were those simulated using VD0.5 and VDgrlf  
566 ( $RMSE = 4.61 - 4.65 \mu\text{g N m}^{-3}$ ). Around 19% of model concentrations using EGG were  
567 outside the 10-fold limit of the 1×1 line with observations, 12% using NE emissions and only  
568 5% and 6% using VD0.5 and VDgrlf, respectively. VD0.5 and VDgrlf emissions capture well  
569 the Japanese (suffix JPA) and Taiwanese stations (suffix THA). Given the short lifetime and  
570 the relatively coarse spatial scales, the model fails to capture the variability that exists within  
571 each gridbox (Figure S 9).

572 To give an overview of the comparison of the modelled surface concentrations of  
573 ammonia from the four different simulations, each with different emissions (EGG, VD0.5, NE  
574 and VDgrlf), we present station-by-station calculated MFB values in Figure 8. Although the  
575 traditional EGG emissions capture many stations very well, there are large MFB values  
576 observed in Eastern and Western USA (AMoN), Northern Europe (EMEP), whereas large  
577 overestimations are observed in most of the Southeastern Asian stations (EANET). The large  
578 bias at several AMoN stations decrease when using satellite-derived emissions. All datasets  
579 miscalculated surface concentrations in Southeastern Asia, although some stations present  
580 lower MFBs when using IASI constrained emissions. Note that large differences when

581 comparing bias from all measurements versus station-by-station bias have been calculated as a  
582 result of the different frequency of measurements in each station.

583 To further show whether the satellite-derived emissions presented here (NE) capture  
584 surface concentrations of ammonia or not, we used surface ammonia concentrations from CrIS  
585 from 1st May 2012 to 31st December 2017. The comparison is shown as PDF of surface  
586 modelled against CrIS concentrations of ammonia calculated with the Gaussian KDE for North  
587 America, Europe and Southeastern Asia in [Figure 9](#). NE emissions slightly overestimate  
588 ammonia (  $MFB = 0.09 - 0.10$  ). NE emissions generally result in higher surface  
589 concentrations, also showing large *RMSEs* ( $3.28 - 3.51 \mu\text{g N m}^{-3}$ ). However, 90% of the  
590 modelled concentrations were within a factor of 10 from the CrIS observation. .

## 591 **4.2 Uncertainty analysis**

592 A sensitivity analysis in order to calculate the level of uncertainty that each of the  
593 parameter gives to the modelled surface concentrations of ammonia was also performed. The  
594 relative uncertainty was calculated as the standard deviation of ammonia's surface  
595 concentrations from a model ensemble of 10 members ([Table 1](#)) divided by the average. The  
596 first six members are the surface concentrations that resulted from simulations of ammonia  
597 emissions after perturbation of the Euclidian distance  $d_k$  in the parameters of the IDW  
598 interpolation. The remaining four members are simulated concentrations using the previously  
599 reported emissions datasets (EGG, VD0.5, NE and VDgr1f). The results are shown as a 10-year  
600 (2008–2017) annual average relative uncertainty in [Figure 10](#) and as annual average relative  
601 uncertainty of surface concentrations for every year of the 10-year period in [Figure S 10](#).

602 The surface concentrations resulting from the different calculated emissions mainly  
603 affects oceanic regions, with values reaching 100%. The reason for this could be threefold.  
604 First, the IDW interpolation shows to be affected by severe outlier values, which are found in  
605 several oceanic regions ([Figure S 11](#)); this creates high gridded column ammonia  
606 concentrations and, in turn, fluxes at regions that are not supported by previous findings or  
607 measurements. Second, the methodology with which ammonia concentrations are retrieved in  
608 IASI has certain limitation, with respect to (i) the use of constant vertical profiles for ammonia,  
609 (ii) potential dependencies of total column ammonia and temperature that are not taken into  
610 account, and (iii) instrumental noise that can cause bias (Whitburn et al., 2016a). Third, there  
611 is much less ammonia over the Ocean, hence the relative error bars are much larger. Large  
612 uncertainties in surface ammonia concentrations were observed in regions characterized by

613 large anthropogenic contribution, such as North India, North China Plain and Central USA.  
614 Smaller uncertainties were found in Central Africa and in Amazonia, regions that are linked  
615 with episodic biomass burning emissions ([Figure 4](#)).

### 616 **4.3 Limitations of the present study**

617 We discuss the importance of certain limitations in the methodology of the present study  
618 and in the validation of the results. These limitations will also be commented upon in the overall  
619 conclusion of the paper.

620 Regarding the methodology, emissions of short-lived species are determined, among  
621 other methods, using top-down approaches. When only satellite measurements are available,  
622 they are usually averaged over a particular location and surface emissions are calculated using  
623 a mass balance approach (Lin et al., 2010; Zhao and Wang, 2009). This is done by assuming a  
624 1-dimensional box-model, where atmospheric transport between grids is assumed to be  
625 negligible and loss due to deposition or chemical reactions very fast. The solution to this  
626 problem is the use of Kernels (Boersma et al., 2008), which makes the computation of the  
627 emissions very intense. It has been reported that for resolutions, such as those used in the  
628 present paper ( $2.5^{\circ}\times 1.3^{\circ}$ ), non-local contributions to the ammonia emissions are relatively  
629 small (Turner et al., 2012). Although, the use of Kernels is the proper way to account for non-  
630 local contributions, we believe that negligible transport here is a fair assumption, due to the  
631 small lifetimes of ammonia calculated from the CTM ( $11.6\pm 0.6$  hours); therefore,  
632 transportation from the adjacent grid-cells should be small. Note that although this method has  
633 been suggested for short lived climate pollutants, it is not suitable for species with lifetime from  
634 days to weeks (e.g. black carbon, Bond et al., 2013).

635 Another limitation of the present study is that the same model is used for the calculation  
636 of the modelled lifetimes and for the validation of the emissions that were calculated using  
637 these lifetimes (NE and VDgrlf). A more accurate validation would require an independent  
638 model for the simulations of surface concentrations using these emissions. Nevertheless, the  
639 IASI-constrained emissions of ammonia presented here are publicly available for use in global  
640 models.

## 641 **5 Conclusions**

642 In the present paper, satellite measurements from IASI were used to constrain global  
643 ammonia emissions over the period 2008–2017. The data were firstly processed to monthly  
644 ammonia column concentrations with a spatial resolution of  $2.5^{\circ}\times 1.3^{\circ}$ . Then, using gridded

645 lifetime for ammonia calculated with a CTM, monthly fluxes were derived. This contrasts with  
646 previously reported methods that used a single constant lifetime. This enables a more accurate  
647 calculation in regions where different abundances of atmospheric sulfuric and nitric acid, as  
648 well as in their precursors (sulfur and nitrogen dioxide, respectively) can neutralize ammonia  
649 through heterogeneous chemical reactions to sulfate and nitrate aerosols. The calculated  
650 ammonia emission fluxes were then used to simulate ammonia concentrations for the period  
651 2008–2017 (referred to as NE). The same simulations were repeated using baseline emissions  
652 from ECLIPSEv5-GFED4-GEIA (referred to as EGG), emissions constrained by Van Damme  
653 et al. (2018) IASI data using a constant lifetime for ammonia (named as VD0.5) and emissions  
654 based on Van Damme et al. (2018) retrievals using a modelled lifetime from a CTM (named as  
655 VDgrlf). The simulated surface concentrations of ammonia were compared with ground  
656 measurements over Europe (EMEP), North America (AMoN) and Southeastern Asia (EANET),  
657 as well as with global satellite measurements from CrIS. The main conclusions can be  
658 summarized as follows:

- 659 • The 10-year average annual ammonia emissions calculated here (NE) were estimated to be  
660  $213 \pm 18.1 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ , which is 15% higher than those in VD0.5 ( $189 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ), and 6% higher  
661 than those in VDgrlf ( $201 \pm 10.4 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). These emission values amount to twice the  
662 published from datasets, such as EGG ( $65 \pm 2.8 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and EDGARv4.3.1-GFED4,  
663 ( $103 \pm 5.5 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ).
- 664 • In the North China Plain, a region characterized by intensive agricultural activities, a small  
665 increase of ammonia emissions is simulated after 2015. This is attributed to decreases in  
666 sulfur species, as revealed from OMI and MERRA-2 measurements. Less sulfates in the  
667 atmosphere leads to less ammonia neutralization and hence to larger loads in the  
668 atmospheric column as measured by IASI.
- 669 • In Europe, the 10-year average of ammonia emissions were estimated at  $15 \pm 2.2 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$   
670 (NE), twice as much as those in EGG ( $6.9 \pm 1.1 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and similar to those in VD0.5 ( $11$   
671  $\text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) or VDgrlf ( $11 \pm 1.0 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). The strongest emission fluxes were calculated over  
672 Belgium, Netherlands, Italy (Po Valley), Northwestern Germany and Denmark. These  
673 regions are known for industrial and agricultural applications, animal breeding activities,  
674 manure/slurry storage facilities and manure/slurry application to soils.
- 675 • Some hot-spot regions with high ammonia emissions were distinguished in North America:  
676 (i) in Colorado, due to large agricultural activity, (ii) in Iowa, northern Texas and Kansas,  
677 due to animal breeding, (iii) in Salt Lake, Cache, and Utah, due to animal farms associated

678 with open waste pits and (iv) in California, due to animal breeding and agricultural  
679 practices. Ammonia emissions in North America were  $1.1 \pm 0.1 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$  or two orders of  
680 magnitude higher than in EGG ( $6.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ kt yr}^{-1}$ ) and three times lower than those in VD0.5  
681 ( $3.1 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) or in VDgrlf ( $3.4 \pm 0.5 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ), with maxima observed in late spring, due to  
682 fertilization and manure application and summer, due to livestock emissions.

683 • South America is dominated by natural ammonia emissions mainly from forest, savanna  
684 and agricultural fires causing a strong seasonality with the largest fluxes between August  
685 and October. The 10-year average ammonia emissions were as high as  $28 \pm 3.0 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$   
686 similar to VD0.5 ( $22 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and VDgrlf ( $24 \pm 1.3 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and four times higher than EGG  
687 ( $7.1 \pm 0.3 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ).

688 • In Southeastern Asia, the 10-year average ammonia emissions were  $38 \pm 2.8 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ , in  
689 agreement with VD0.5 ( $36 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and VDgrlf ( $39 \pm 1.8 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ) and slightly higher than  
690 those in EGG ( $25 \pm 1.2 \text{ Tg yr}^{-1}$ ). The main sources were from fertilizer plants in China,  
691 Pakistan, India and Indonesia. China and India hold the largest share in the ammonia  
692 emissions mainly due to rice, corn and wheat cultivation. A strong seasonality in the  
693 emissions was observed with a late summer peak in most years, due to rice cultivation,  
694 synthetic fertilizer and livestock manure applications and in spring due to wheat  
695 cultivation.

696 • Large bias was calculated in several ground-based stations when using the state-of-the-art  
697 emissions EGG. The bias decreased substantially when satellite-derived emissions were  
698 used to simulate surface concentrations of ammonia.

699

700 *Data availability.* All data and python scripts used for the present publication are open through  
701 the web address <https://folk.nilu.no/~nikolaos/acp-2020-1008/> or can be obtained from the  
702 corresponding author upon request.

703

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705

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710

711 *Author contributions.* N.E. performed the simulations, analyses, wrote and coordinated the  
712 paper. S.E. contributed to the lifetime calculations. Y.B., D.H. and A.C. set up the CTM model.  
713 M.V.D., P.-F.C. and L.C. provided the IASI data, while M.W.S. and K.E.C.-P. provided the  
714 observations from CrIS. All authors contributed to the final version of the manuscript.

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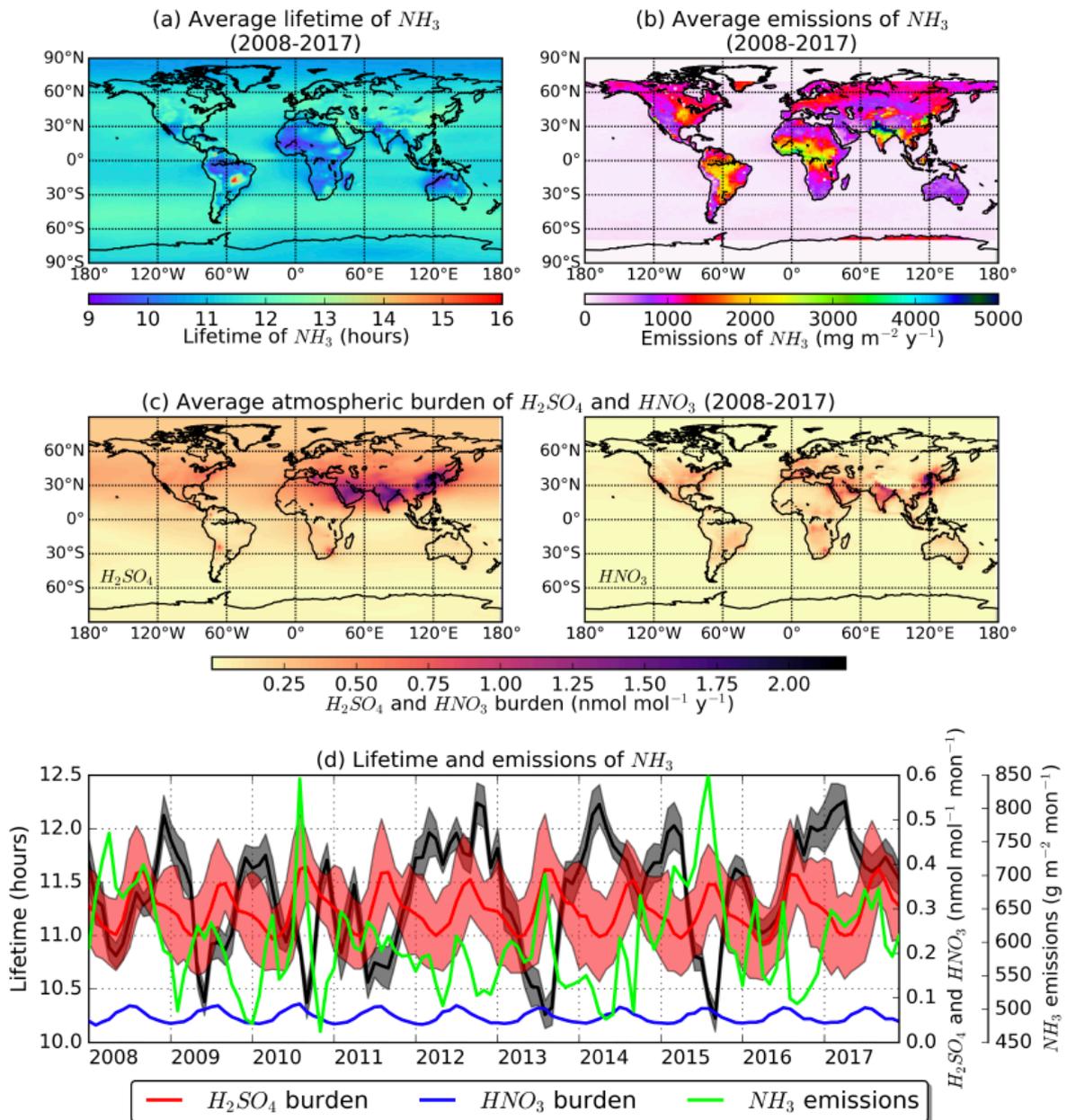
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1162 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

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1164

1165 Figure 1. (a) 10-year average model lifetime of ammonia calculated from the LMDz-OR-INCA,

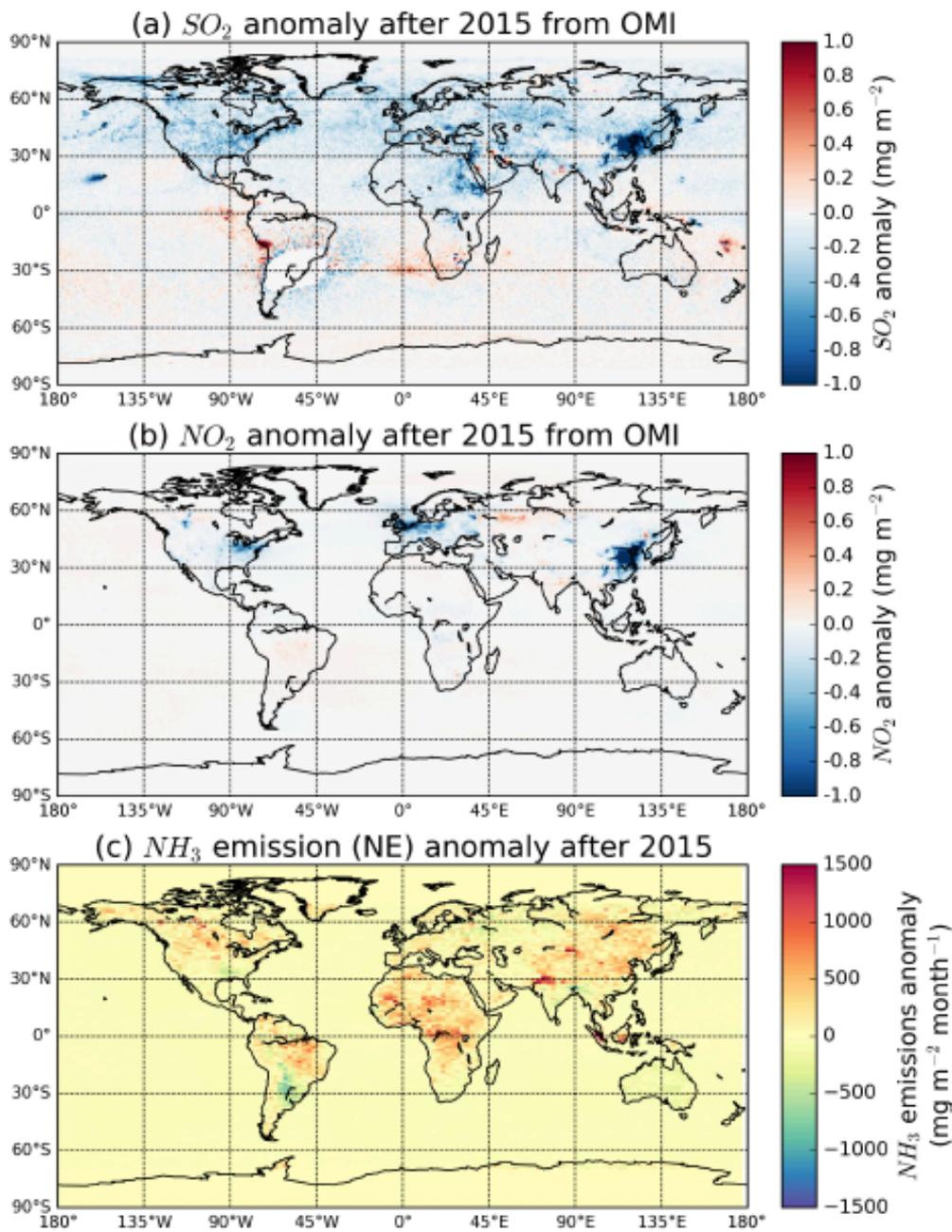
1166 (b) total annual emissions averaged over the 10-year period (NE emissions), (c) atmospheric

1167 burden of the reactants sulfuric and nitric acid calculated in the model, and (d) monthly

1168 timeseries of lifetime (black), ammonia emissions (green), sulfuric (red) and nitric acid column

1169 concentrations (blue) for the whole 10-year period.

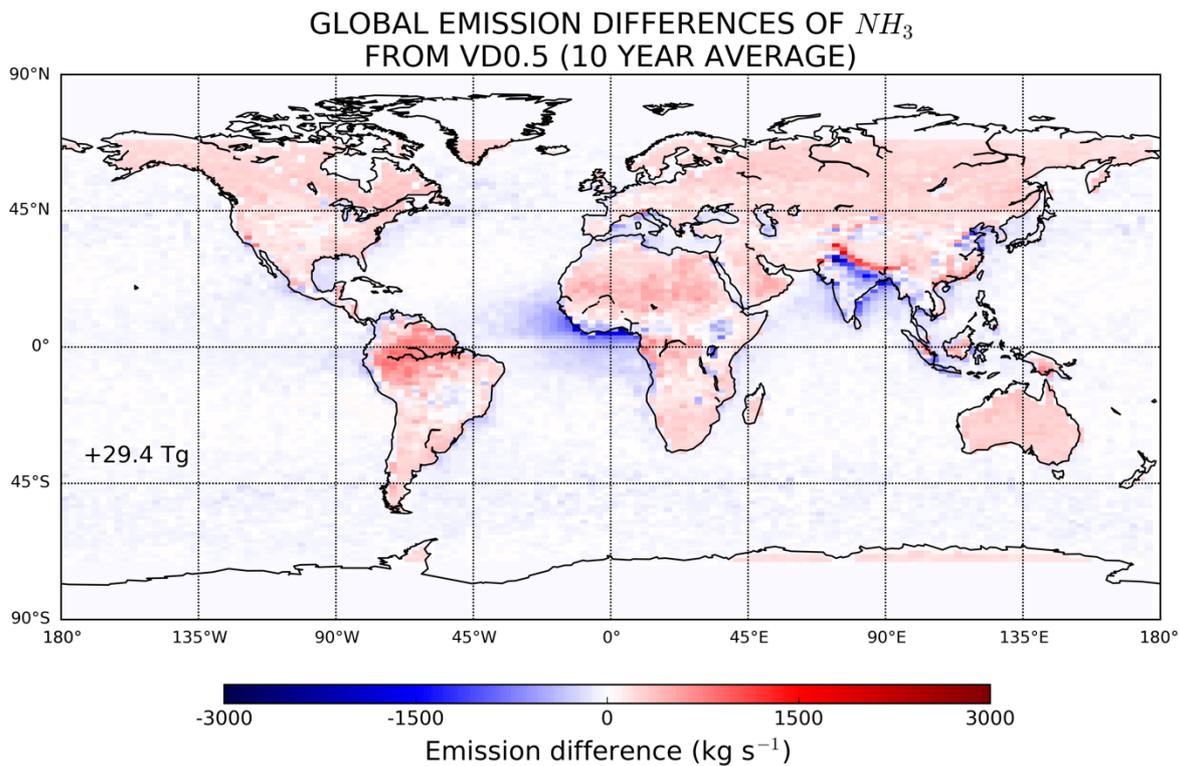
1170



1171

1172 Figure 2. Annual average total column (a) sulfur dioxide and (b) nitrogen dioxide anomaly  
 1173 after 2015 from OMI, and (c) annual average emission anomaly of ammonia calculated from  
 1174 IASI in the present study (NE).

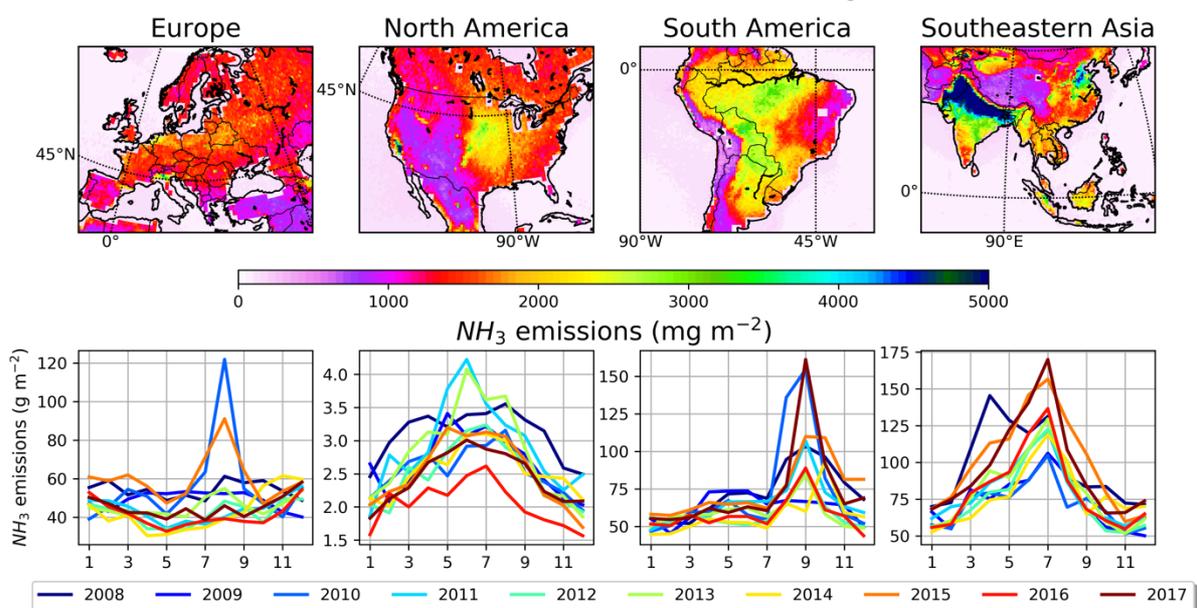
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1176  
1177 Figure 3. Global differences of ammonia emissions calculated in the present study (NE) from  
1178 those calculated using Van Damme et al. (2018) gridded concentrations applying a constant  
1179 lifetime of 0.5 days (VD0.5). The results are given as 10-year average (2008–2017) and the  
1180 number denotes the annual difference in the emissions.

1181

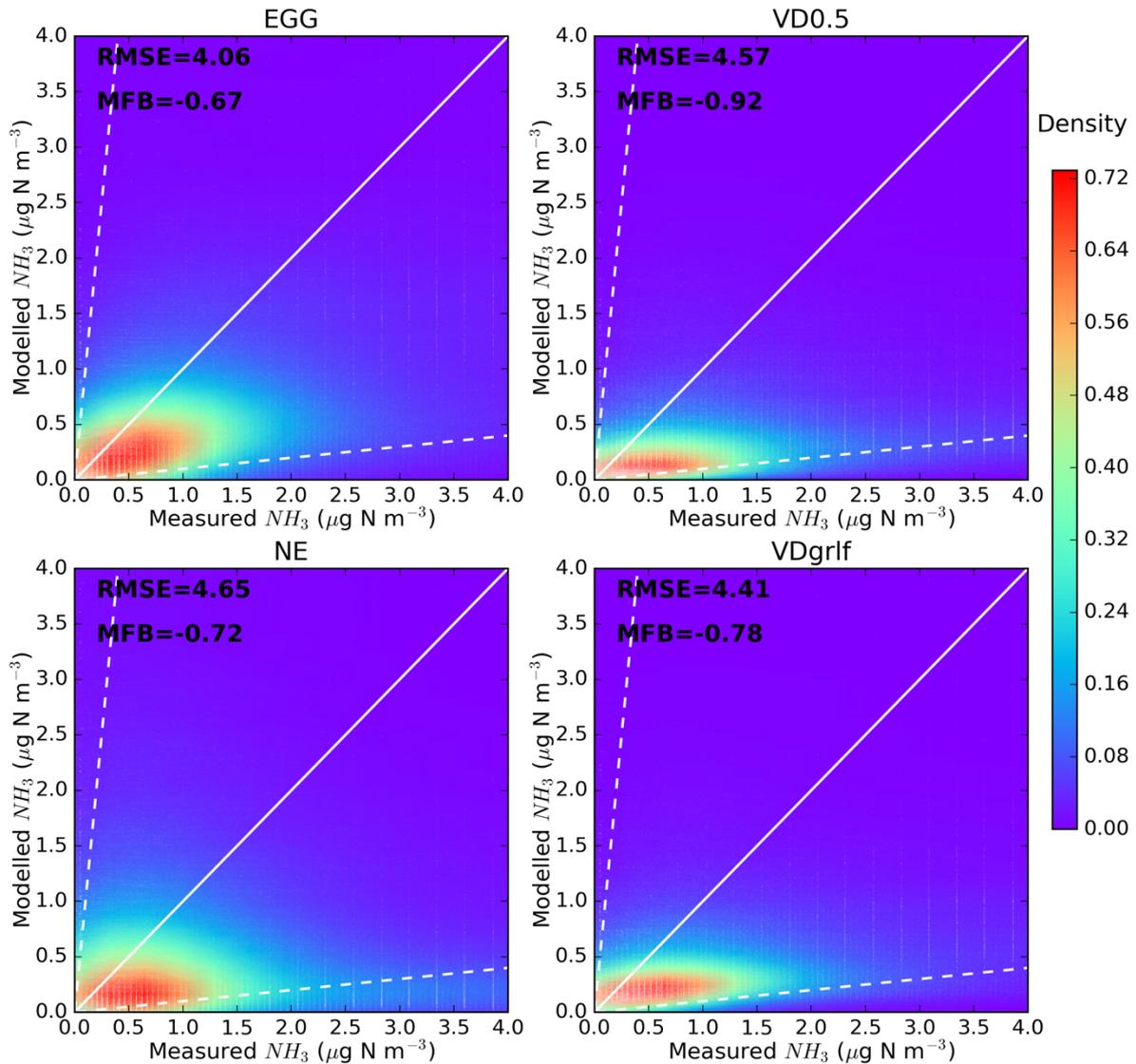
### HOT-SPOT REGIONS AND SEASONALITY OF $NH_3$ EMISSIONS



1182  
1183 Figure 4. Total annual emissions of ammonia averaged over the 10-year period (2008–2017) in  
1184 Europe, North and South America and Southeastern Asia, which are regions characterized by  
1185 the largest contribution to global ammonia budget. In the bottom panels the monthly variation  
1186 of the emissions is shown for each year of the study period.

1187

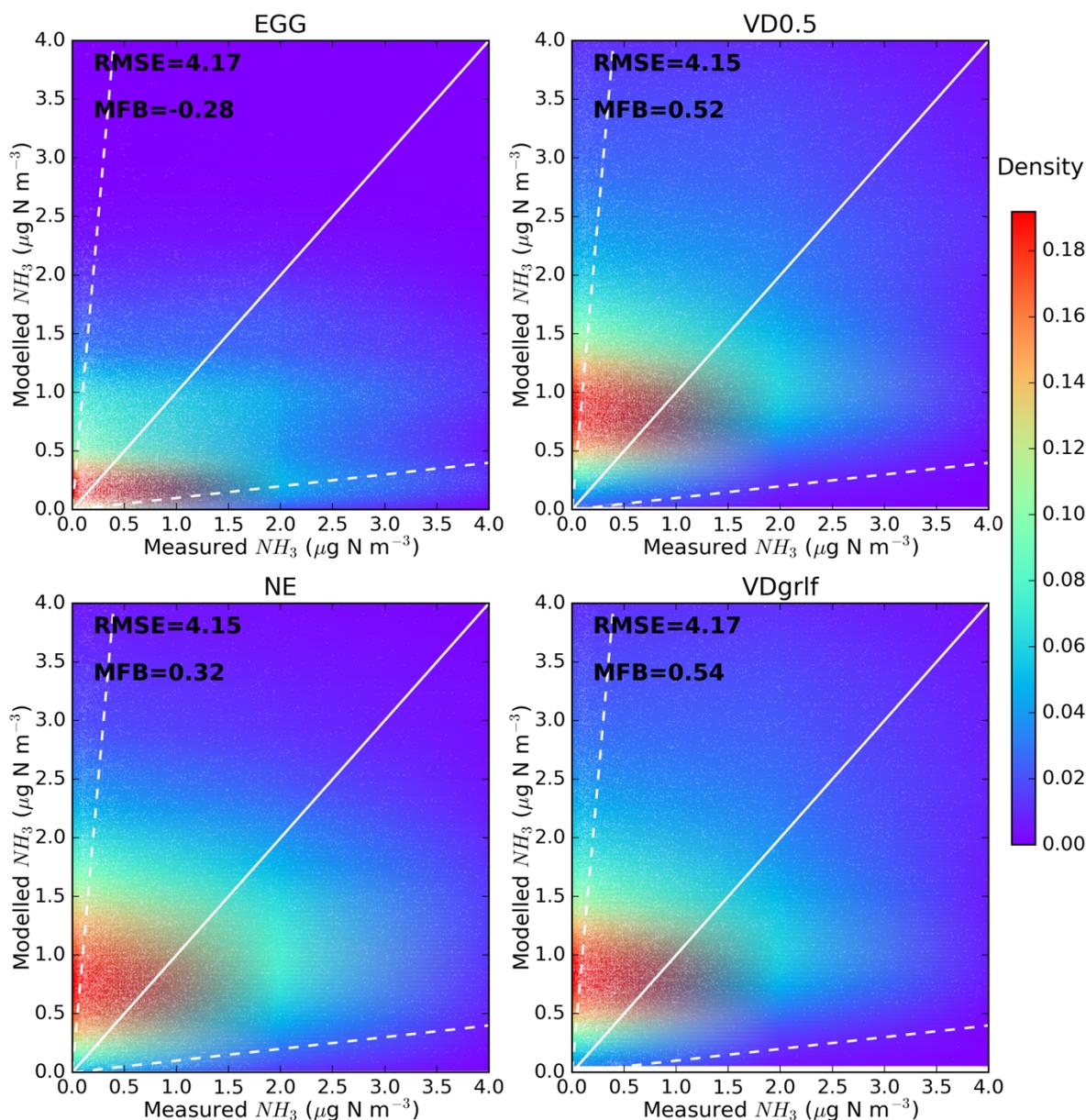
**COMPARISON WITH OBSERVATIONS FROM EMEP  
(N=299075)**



1188  
1189 Figure 5. Validation of modelled concentrations of ammonia for different emissions datasets  
1190 (EGG, VD0.5, NE and VDgrlf) against ground-based measurements from EMEP for the 10-  
1191 year (2008–2017) study period. Scatterplots of modelled against measured concentrations for  
1192 the aforementioned emission inventories were plotted with the Kernel density estimation, which  
1193 is a way to estimate the probability density function (PDF) of a random variable in a non-  
1194 parametric way.

1195

**COMPARISON WITH OBSERVATIONS FROM AMON  
(N=27096)**

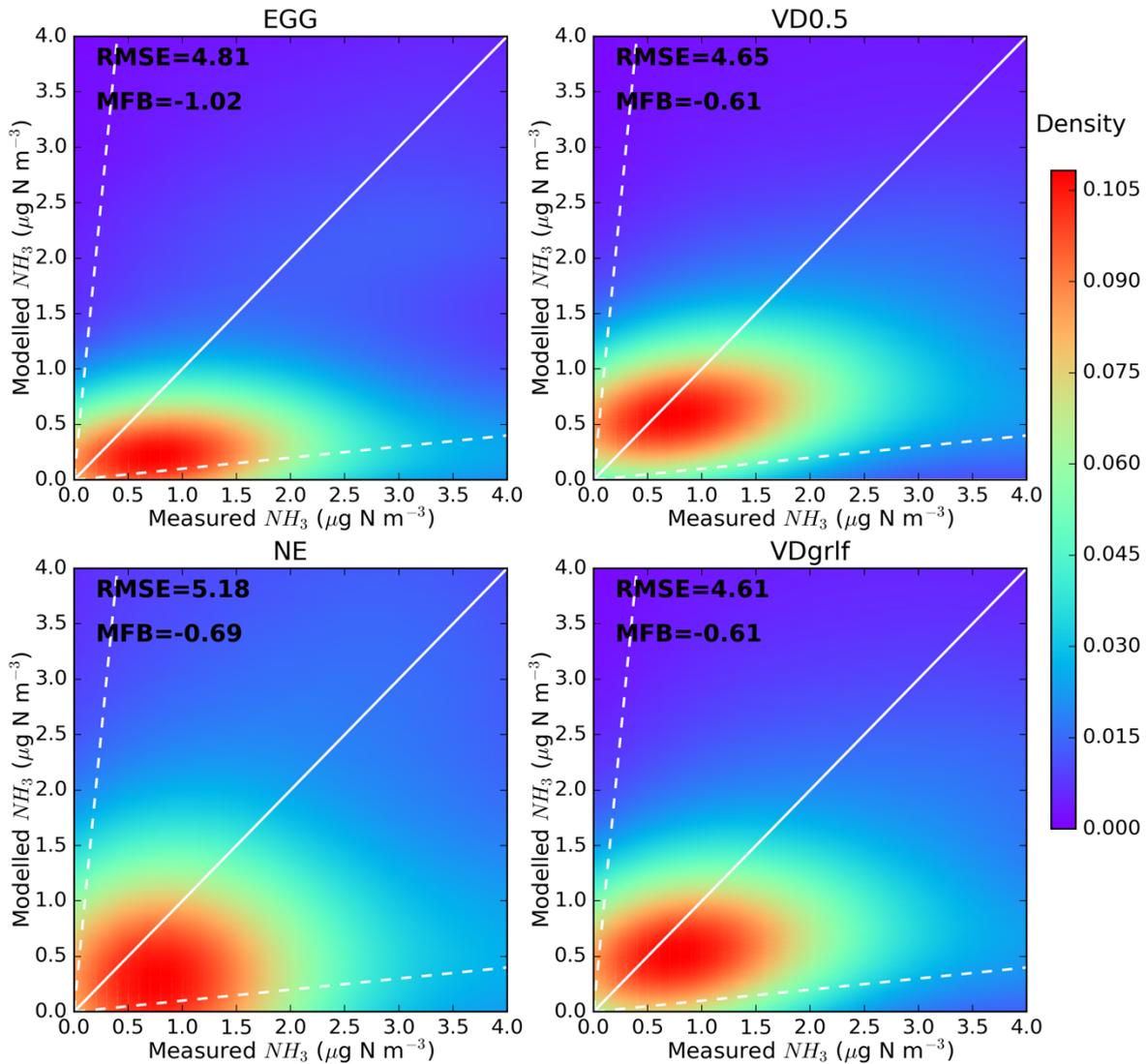


1196

1197 Figure 6. Validation of modelled concentrations of ammonia for different emissions datasets  
 1198 (EGG, VD0.5, NE and VDgrlf) against ground-based measurements from AMON for the 10-  
 1199 year (2008–2017) study period. Scatterplots of modelled against measured concentrations for  
 1200 the aforementioned emission inventories were plotted with the Kernel density estimation, which  
 1201 is a way to estimate the probability density function (PDF) of a random variable in a non-  
 1202 parametric way.

1203

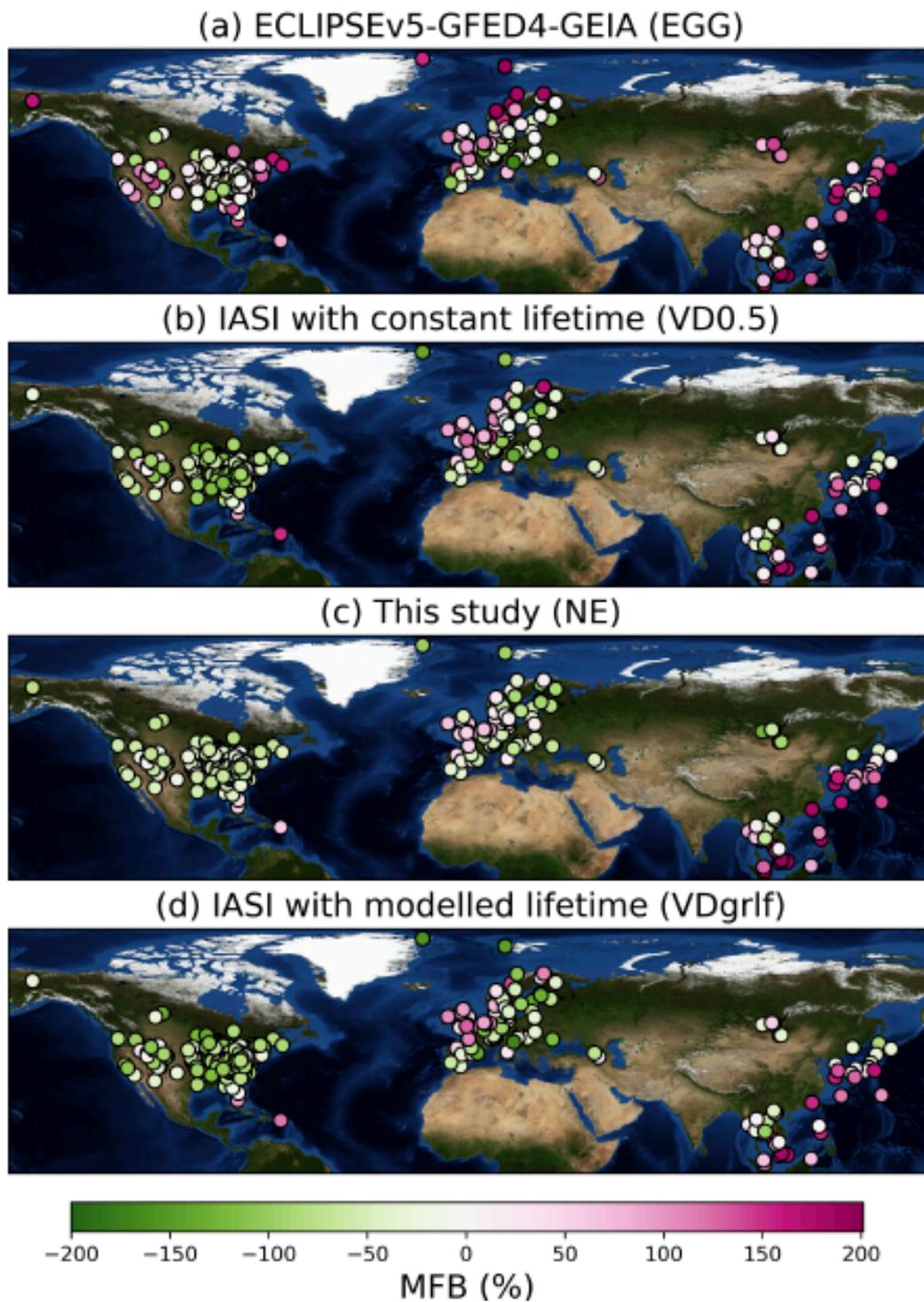
**COMPARISON WITH OBSERVATIONS FROM EANET  
(N=7740)**



1204

1205 Figure 7. Validation of modelled concentrations of ammonia for different emissions datasets  
 1206 (EGG, VD0.5, NE and VDgrlf) against ground-based measurements from EANET for the 10-  
 1207 year (2008–2017) study period. Scatterplots of modelled against measured concentrations for  
 1208 the aforementioned emission inventories were plotted with the Kernel density estimation, which  
 1209 is a way to estimate the probability density function (PDF) of a random variable in a non-  
 1210 parametric way.

1211

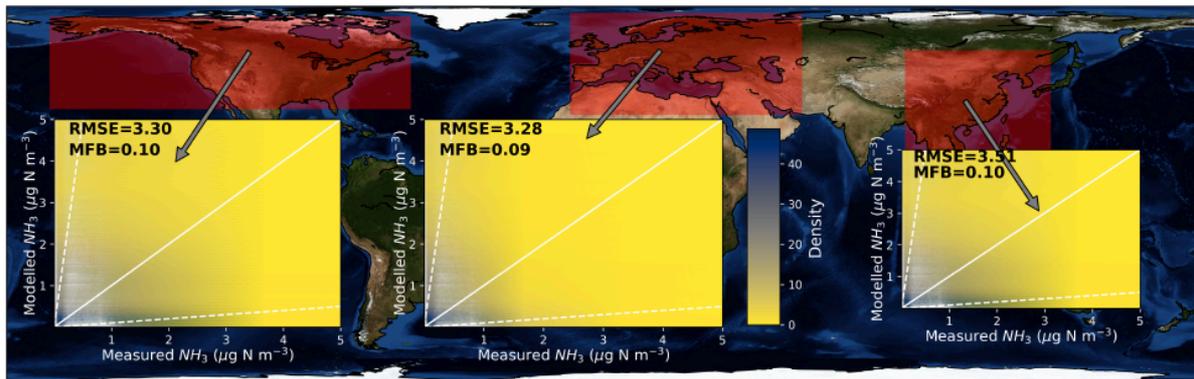


1212

1213 Figure 8. Overview of the comparison with ground-based measurements of ammonia. MFB  
 1214 for each of the stations from AMoN, EMEP and EANET monitoring stations calculated after  
 1215 running LMDz-OR-INCA with the emissions of EGG, VD0.5, NE and VDgrlf for the period  
 1216 2008–2017.

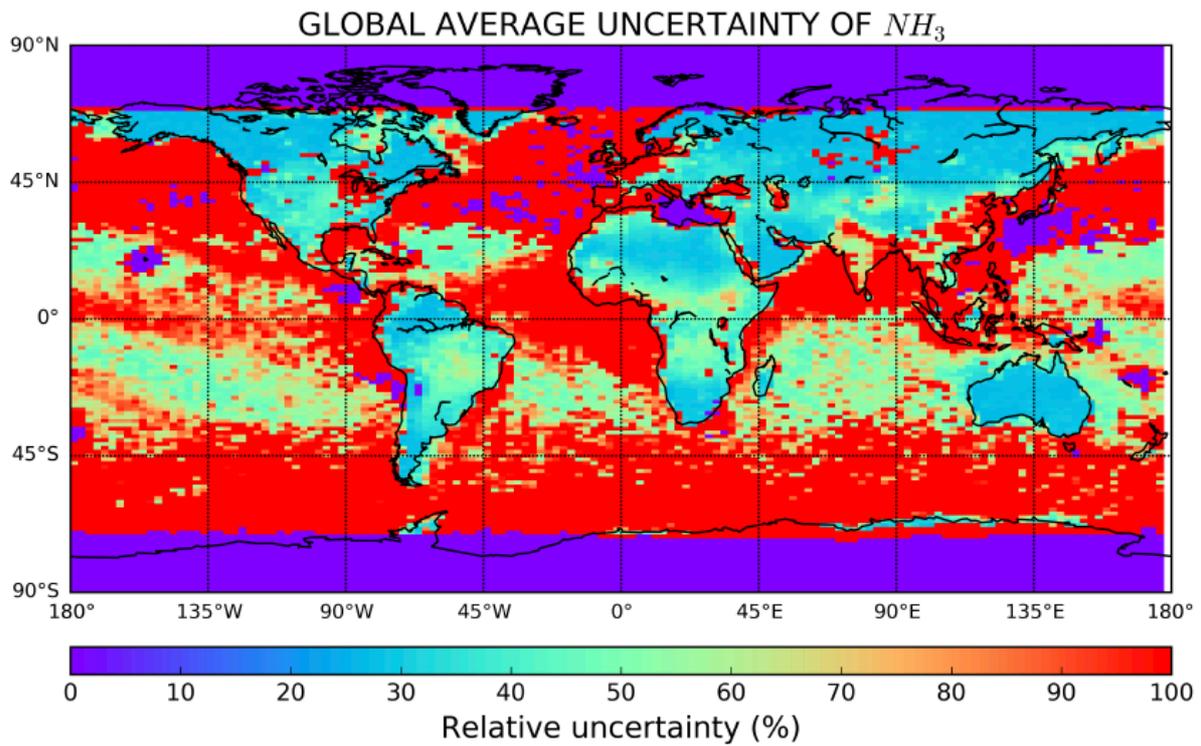
1217

### COMPARISON WITH OBSERVATIONS FROM CRIS



1218  
1219 Figure 9. Kernel density estimation (KDE) of the probability density function (PDF) of  
1220 modelled versus CrIS concentrations of ammonia in a non-parametric way. Modelled  
1221 concentrations are results of simulations using NE emissions datasets for the period 2012–2017,  
1222 for which CrIS data were available. The comparison is shown for North America, Europe and  
1223 Southeastern Asia.

1224



1225  
 1226 Figure 10. 10-year average relative uncertainty of modelled surface concentrations expressed  
 1227 as the standard deviation of surface concentrations from a model ensemble (Table 1) divided  
 1228 by the average.

1229

1230 Table 1. Model ensemble simulations using different emissions for ammonia that were used in  
 1231 the calculations of uncertainty. Uncertainties were calculated as the standard deviation of the  
 1232 surface concentrations of ammonia from the 10 ensemble members for the 10-year period  
 1233 (2008–2017).

	Parameter perturbed	10-year average emissions (Tg yr <sup>-1</sup> )
Ensemble 1	$d_k = 0$ in Eq. 2	121±50.6
Ensemble 2	$d_k = 10$ in Eq. 2	175±33.3
Ensemble 3	$d_k = 20$ in Eq. 2	189±28.7
Ensemble 4	$d_k = 60$ in Eq. 2	218±15.5
Ensemble 5	$d_k = 100$ in Eq. 2	208±51.8
Ensemble 6	$d_k = 500$ in Eq. 2	223±26.5
Ensemble 7	EGG	65±2.8
Ensemble 8	VD0.5	189
Ensemble 9	NE	213±18.1
Ensemble 10	VDgrlf	201±10.4

1234

1235

1236 **SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS**

1237

1238 Figure S 1.

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1240 Figure S 2.

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1242 Figure S 3.

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1258 Figure S 11.