Main revisions and response to reviewers' comments

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Title: Improvement from the satellite-derived NOx emissions on air quality modeling and its effect on ozone and secondary inorganic aerosol formation in Yangtze River Delta, China

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We thank very much for the valuable comments and suggestions from the two reviewers, which help us improve our manuscript. The comments were carefully considered and revisions have been made in response to suggestions. Following are our point-by-point responses to the comments and corresponding revisions.

Reviewer #1:

0. The authors developed a "top-down" methodology based on the inversed chemistry transport modeling and satellite data to estimate the NOx emissions for four seasons in YRD region in 2016. The results show that the improved NO₂, O₃, and SNA simulation results can be achieved with top-down estimates comparing to current bottom-up estimates. Further sensitivity study of O₃ formation indicates the effectiveness of controlling VOCs emissions on O₃ pollution abatement for PRD region and reducing NH₃ emissions was crucial to alleviate SNA pollution of YRD in winter. The manuscript was generally well written, the research presented is innovative and the results can guide the policymaking. I recommend this paper to be published in ACP after some comments have been addressed.

Response and revisions:

We appreciate the reviewer's positive remarks.

1. Please revised the introduction part thoroughly to improve the narrative logic, the current version is a little hard to follow and some statements need to be summarized.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's comment. We thoroughly checked and revised the introduction. The section was better paragraphed to make the narrative logic clear. Some distracting sentences were deleted, and some summarizing phrases were added in corresponding positions. Now the main contents of introduction include 1) the importance of NO_X emission inventory and its bottom-up development method; 2) the top-down method; 3) the more application of the top-down method at the global/national scale compared to the regional scale (limitation); 4) the evaluation of the top-down emission estimates and limitation; and 5) summary of main tasks of this work.

2. Line 259-265: The description of Table S3 does not agree with Table S3 shown in the Supplement file. And please clarify the meaning of "-" in Table S3, preferably with a footnote.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's reminder and we are sorry for the error. The description for Table S3 was corrected in the revised manuscript (Lines 271-277) and now the statement agrees with Table S3. The meaning of "-" in the original table was that the emissions was not changed, and "No change" in the revised table is applied instead of "-" to avoid the confusion.

3. Line 386-389: Why did the authors only perform an extra simulation of exploring the influence of BVOCs emissions with top-down estimate instead of with both top-down and bottom-up estimates to prove that a better O_3 simulation can be achieved based on top-down NOx estimates? Please clarify it.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's very valuable comment. The evaluation of emission inventory could be complicated with different species included. In this work, as shown in Figure 4c (Figure 3c in the original submission) in the revised manuscript, very clear improvement in NO₂ simulation was found with the top-down NO_X estimates for July, implying the improved emission estimation with the satellite constraint. The O₃ simulation for July, however, was poorer when top-down estimate was applied (Figure 6c). We expected many other factors contributed to the uncertainty in O₃ simulation, besides the NO_X emission input. One possible factor could be the overestimation of BVOCs emissions. That's why we performed an extra case by reducing half of BVOCs emissions in the YRD region. Although the model performance was improved compared to the case without BVOCs reduction (Figure S3 in the revised supplement), still it was poorer than the case with bottom-up NO_X emission estimates applied (note the NMBs with bottom-up NO_X emissions applied was very small at 1.1% in Figure 6c). This comparison thus suggested that the complicated mechanism for summer O_3 formation was insufficiently considered in current model, and it is partly out of scope of current paper. We clarified this in lines 393-396 and lines 404-407 in the revised manuscript.

4. Line 409-413: Please add references after these two statements.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's comment. We add references (Wang et al., 2019 and Li, 2019) after the two statements.

Reference:

Wang, N., Lyu, X., Deng, X., Huang, X., Jiang, F., Ding, A.: Aggravating O3 pollution due to NOx emission control in eastern China, Sci. Total Environ., 677, 732-744, 2019.

Li, L.: Application of new generation natural source emission model in Yangtze River Delta and its influence on SOA and O_3 (in Chinese), The 4th application technology seminar on air pollution source emission inventory in China, Nanjing, China, September 18-19, 2019.

5. Line 423-426: Please explain more to support the inference and can authors replot figure S2? The current one is blurring.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's comment. We explain more to support the inference in lines 440-445 in the revised manuscript: As east-central YRD was located in a VOC-limited region, the O_3 concentrations of the region would be elevated along with the reduced NO_X emissions (Wang et al., 2019). The comparison between Figure 7 and Figure S2 (original submission) thus reflects the negative effect of NO_X control on O_3 pollution alleviation in the region. We also replot Figure S2 and improve the figure quality in the revised supplement. We move to the figure to the main manuscript as Figure 3 (please see our response to Question 7 of Reviewer #2).

Reference:

Wang, N., Lyu, X., Deng, X., Huang, X., Jiang, F., Ding, A.: Aggravating O₃ pollution due to NOx emission control in eastern China, Sci. Total Environ., 677, 732-744, 2019.

6. Line 427: I think changing SIA to SNA would be better to keep the consistency of the full text.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's comment and have changed SIA to SNA in the full text.

7. Line 451-453: Sha et al. (2019) reported that SO₂ heterogeneous oxidation can largely improve the sulfate simulation results in Nanjing. Authors may incorporate the related mechanisms to perform the simulation, if possible, or at least mention this potential reason when discussing the factors influencing the accuracy of SNA simulation. References: Sha T, Ma X, Jia H, Tian R, Chang Y, Cao F, Zhang Y. Aerosol chemical component: Simulations with WRF-Chem and comparison with observations in Nanjing. Atmospheric Environment. 2019 Dec 1; 218: 116982.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's important comment. We agree with the author that the chemical mechanisms in the model could be important for model performance. We have added the reference (Sha et al., 2019) and the statement that SO_2 heterogeneous oxidation can largely improve the sulfate simulation results in Nanjing in lines 472-475 in the revised manuscript.

Reference:

Sha, T., Ma, X., Jia, H., Tian, R., Chang, Y., Cao, F., Zhang, Y.: Aerosol chemical component: Simulations with WRF-Chem and comparison with observations in Nanjing, Atmos. Environ., 218 (116982), 1-14, 2019.

Reviewer #2:

This manuscript has presented a top-down estimate of NOx emissions in the Yangtze River Delta (YRD) region and demonstrated that air quality modeling using the top-down NOx emissions could improve the simulations of ozone and secondary inorganic aerosol (SIA) over this region. A set of sensitivity simulations are conducted to better understand the formation of ozone and SIA under perturbed precursor emission conditions. This manuscript offers some new knowledge on the regional secondary pollution over YRD including an improved estimate of NOx emissions and predicted effectiveness of various emission controls on secondary pollution formation. This study is overall well conducted and analyzed. The manuscript is well written, and fits the scope of ACP. I think the following comments shall be addressed for merit publication.

Response and revisions:

We appreciate the reviewer's positive remarks.

Specific Comments:

1. Sect. 2.1, top-down estimation method:

My main concern lies on the top-down method. The present description in this section is not clear. The section states "the a posterior daily emissions were used as the a priori emissions of the next day, and the monthly top-down estimate of the NOx emissions was scaled from the average of the a posterior daily emissions of the last three days in the month". Do you mean the NOx emissions were calculated day by day for each month? In that case, there shall exist strong day-to-day variations in the top-down estimates, reflecting either true emission changes or uncertainties in satellite measurements and model results. It is then not proper to derive the monthly emission estimate based on only daily emissions in the last three days. This needs to be clarified in the manuscript and the daily emission variations if significant should be discussed.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's important comment. Currently, the inverse model we applied in this work assumed that the daily emissions were similar (Zhao and Wang, 2009; Gu et al., 2014; Cooper et al., 2017). For example, the daily variation was expected to be negligible over most regions of east China (Zhao and Wang, 2009). In our previous work (Yang et al., 2019), we evaluated the robustness of the method, by applying the "synthetic" TVCDs from air quality simulation based on a hypothetical "true" emission inventory, instead of those from satellite observation. We found that sufficient iteration times could result in a relatively constant emission estimate (the top-down estimate) close to the "true" emission input, implying the reliability of the inverse modeling method.

The assumption would bring some uncertainty as the daily variation of emissions did exist. Due mainly to the fair missed values of satellite detection, however, the daily variation could not be precisely captured by the top-down method, particularly at regional scale with relatively high horizontal resolution. Such method was designed for monthly mean of emissions. From a bottom-up perspective, the difference in NO_X emissions between weekday and weekend was within 5% in the YRD region (Zhou et al., 2017), indicating an insignificant bias from ignoring the daily variation of emissions. We have added those descriptions in line 166 and lines 171-179 in the revised manuscript.

Reference:

Zhao, C., and Wang, Y. X.: Assimilated inversion of NOx emissions over East Asia using OMI NO2 column measurements. Geophys. Res. Let., 2009, 36(L06805): 1-5.

Gu, D.S., Wang, Y.X., Smeltzer, C., Boersma, K.F.: Anthropogenic emissions of NOx over China: Reconciling the difference of inverse modeling results using GOME-2 and OMI measurements, J. Geophys. Res.: Atmosphere, 119, 7732-7740, 2014.

Cooper, M., Martin, R.V., Padmanabhan, A., Henze, D.K.: Comparing mass balance and adjoint methods for inverse modeling of nitrogen dioxide columns for global nitrogen oxide emissions, J. Geophys. Res.: Atmosphere, 122, 4718–4734, 2017.

Yang Y., Zhao Y., Zhang L., Lu Y.: Evaluating the methods and influencing factors of satellite-derived estimates of NO_X emissions at regional scale: A case study for Yangtze River Delta, China. Atmos. Environ., 219, 1-12, 2019b.

Zhou, Y.D., Zhao, Y.D., Mao, P., Zhang, Q., Zhang, J., Qiu, L.P., Yang, Y., 2017. Development of a high-resolution emission inventory and its evaluation and application through air quality modeling for Jiangsu Province, China. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics 17, 211-233.

2. Page 4, Line 94 and Line 110:"0.4 Tg N/yr" and "69.6 x 10¹³ molecules cm-2". Please also provide relative percentage numbers from the two studies, so that the magnitudes can be better understood.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's comment. The relative percentage number for 0.4 Tg N/yr was 5.8% (Gu et al., 2014) and provided **in line 96 in the revised manuscript**, while that for 9.6 x 10^{-13} molecules cm⁻² was unavailable in the original paper (Jena et al., 2014).

3. Page 7, Sect. 2.2 Model configuration: What is domain 3 (D3) labelled in Figure 1? Is it used in this study?

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's reminder. The domain 3 (D3) in the original figure is not used in this study and thus removed in the revised Figure 1.

4. Page 8, Line 204-210:

Which year of data is used for the MEIC emission estimates?

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's reminder. The MEIC emission data for 2015 were used in this study and we have added the information in lines 213 in the revised manuscript.

5. Page 9, Line 228-232:

Some previous studies (e.g., Lamsal et al., 2008; Liu et al. ACP 2018) suggested that the NO_2 measurements obtained from the molybdenum-catalyzed conversion technique might be overestimated due to interference from other nitrogen species. Would this affect your results?

Lamsal, L. N., et al.: Ground-level nitrogen dioxide concentrations inferred from the satellite-borne Ozone Monitoring Instrument, J. Geophys. Res.- Atmos., 113, D16308, https://doi.org/10.1029/2007JD009235, 2008.

Liu, M., et al.: Spatiotemporal variability of NO₂ and PM_{2.5} over Eastern China: observational and model analyses with a novel statistical method, Atmos. Chem. Phys., 18, 12933–12952, https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-18-12933-2018, 2018.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's very valuable comment. We agree with the reviewer that the NO₂ concentration could be overestimated with the molybdenum-catalyzed conversion technique, while the effect of such overestimation on our results is expected to be limited. On one hand, the top-down estimates of NO_x emissions were derived from satellite observation instead of ground observation. The observed ground NO₂ concentrations were only used to evaluate the model performance with the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO_x emissions. On the other hand, as shown in Figure 4 in the revised manuscript, the simulation of NO₂ concentration with the top-down estimates were improved by 30%-100% (indicated by the NMBs) compared to that with the bottom-up emission data, substantially larger than the common overestimation in NO₂ observations with the measure around 15%. Therefore, the overestimation in ground-level NO₂ concentrations could hardly change the basic judgment of this study that application of top-down estimates in NO_X emissions would improve the model performance of NO_2 concentration in the YRD region.

6. Page 10, Line 258:

According to Figure 5 and 6, peaking ozone concentrations in YRD are also shown in the July month, and many previous studies have suggested more active ozone formation in summer. Some sentences are needed here to explain why this study focused on April and did not discuss July.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's comment. In the YRD region, on one hand, the peaking time of O_3 concentrations has gradually moved forward from summer to late spring. In this work, for example, the mean observed O_3 concentration of YRD in April was 72.5 $\mu g/m^3$, even larger than that (71.9 $\mu g/m^3$) in July. On the other hand, the model performance of O_3 in this work was better for April than that for July (Fig. 6 in the revised manuscript). Therefore, we selected April to explore the sensitivity of O_3 formation to precursor emissions. The corresponding revision was shown in lines 264-269 in the revised manuscript.

7. Page 10, Sect. 3.1:

The spatial distribution of top-down vs. bottom-up NOx emission changes in YRD as shown in Figure S2 is an important finding of this study for explaining and supporting improvements in the top-down estimates. I suggest move Figure S2 to the main manuscript, e.g., combine with the present Figure 2.

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's comment. We replot Figure S2 in the original submission and improve the figure quality. We move the figure to the main manuscript (Figure 3 in the revised manuscript).

8. Page 13, Line 363 and 364: Here "Fig. 5" should be "Fig. 4"

Response and revisions:

We are sorry for the error and thank the reviewer's reminder. "Fig. 5" should be "Fig. 4" in the original submission. As we add a figure in the revised manuscript (see our response to Question 7), now it should be Fig. 5 again. Hopefully this explanation is not confusing.

9. Page 17, Line 465-469: The decreases in the nitrate aerosol concentration in July with the top-down NOx emissions are interesting and worth further discussion. Reductions in NOx emissions would lead to increases in the nitrate aerosol concentration in other months (January, April, and July). Can you explain why the response in July is different from those in other months? Is it because the percentage reduction of top-down NOx emissions in July is much larger?

Response and revisions:

We thank the reviewer's important comment. It could result from two factors. First, the reduction of top-down NOx emissions in July was much larger, as suggested by the reviewer. Second, the VOC-limit mechanism in O₃ formation was found weaker in summer than winter (see Fig. 7e and Fig. 7g), resulting in less O₃ formation and thereby nitrate aerosol through oxidation. **The corresponding revision was shown in lines 491-496 in the revised manuscript.**

10. Page 19, Line 538: Should "Fig. 9b" here be "Fig. 9c"?

Response and revisions:

We are sorry for the error and thank the reviewer's reminder. "Fig. 9b" is now corrected to "Fig. 10c" (we add a new figure in the revised manuscript).

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2	Improvement from the satellite-derived $\mathbf{NO}_{\mathbf{X}}$ emissions on
3	air quality modeling and its effect on ozone and secondary
4	inorganic aerosol formation in Yangtze River Delta, China
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Abstract

We developed a "top-down" methodology combining the inversed chemistry 26 27 transport modeling and satellite-derived tropospheric vertical column of NO2, and estimated the NO_X emissions of Yangtze River Delta (YRD) region at a horizontal 28 resolution of 9 km for January, April, July and October 2016. The effect of the 29 30 top-down emission estimation on air quality modeling, and the response of ambient ozone (O₃) and inorganic aerosols (SO₄²⁻, NO₃⁻, and NH₄⁺, SNA) to the changed 31 precursor emissions were evaluated with the Community Multi-scale Air Quality 32 (CMAQ) system. The top-down estimates of NO_X emissions were smaller than those 33 in a national emission inventory, MEIC (i.e., the "bottom-up" estimates), for all the 34 35 four months, and the monthly mean was calculated at 260.0 Gg/month, 24% less than the bottom-up one. The NO_2 concentrations simulated with the bottom-up estimate of 36 NO_X emissions were clearly higher than the ground observation, indicating the 37 possible overestimation in current emission inventory attributed to its insufficient 38 consideration of recent emission control in the region. The model performance based 39 40 on top-down estimate was much better, and the biggest change was found for July with the normalized mean bias (NMB) and normalized mean error (NME) reduced 41 from 111% to -0.4% and from 111% to 33%, respectively. The results demonstrate the 42 improvement of NO_X emission estimation with the nonlinear inversed modeling and 43 satellite observation constraint. With the smaller NO_X emissions in the top-down 44 estimate than the bottom-up one, the elevated concentrations of ambient O₃ were 45 simulated for most YRD and they were closer to observation except for July, implying 46 47 the VOC (volatile organic compound)-limit regime of O₃ formation. With available ground observations of SNA in the YRD, moreover, better model performance of 48 NO_3^- and NH_4^+ were achieved for most seasons, implying the effectiveness of 49 precursor emission estimation on the simulation of secondary inorganic aerosols. 50 Through the sensitivity analysis of O₃ formation for April 2016, the decreased O₃ 51 concentrations were found for most YRD region when only VOCs emissions were 52 53 reduced or the reduced rate of VOCs emissions was two times of that of NO_X,

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implying the crucial role of VOCs control on O_3 pollution abatement. The SNA level for January 2016 was simulated to decline 12% when 30% of NH₃ emissions were reduced, while the change was much smaller with the same reduced rate for SO₂ or NO_X. The result suggests that reducing NH₃ emissions was the most effective way to alleviate SNA pollution for YRD in winter.

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1. Introduction

Nitrogen oxides ($NO_X = NO_2 + NO$) play an important role on the formation of 62 ambient ozone (O₃) and inorganic aerosols (SO₄²⁻, NO₃⁻, and NH₄⁺, SNA). The NO_X 63 64 emission inventory is a necessary input of the air quality model (AQM), and has a great influence on NO₂, O₃ and SNA simulation (Zhou et al., 2017; Chen et al., 65 2019a). Moreover, it is crucial for exploring the sources of atmospheric pollution of 66 O₃ and fine particles (particles with aerodynamic diameter smaller than 2.5µm, PM_{2.5}) 67 with AQM. The inventories were usually developed with a bottom-up method, in 68 69 which the emissions were calculated based on the activity data (e.g., fuel consumption 70 and industrial production) and emission factors (the emissions per unit of activity data) by source category and region. Bias existed commonly in the bottom-up inventories, 71 72 due mainly to the uncertainty of economic and energy statistics and to the fast changes in the emission control measures, especially in developing countries like 73 74 China (Granier et al., 2011; Saikawa et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2019). To improve the emission estimation, an inversed "top-down" method has been 75 developed based on satellite observation and AQM (Martin et al., 2003; Zhao and 76 Wang, 2009; Zyrichidou et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2019a). The emissions were 77 78 corrected based on the difference between the modeled and observed tropospheric vertical column densities (TVCDs) of NO2, and the response coefficient of NO2 79 TVCDs to emissions (Martin et al., 2003; Cooper et al., 2017). With higher temporal 80 and spatial resolution than other instruments, the NO2 TVCDs from Ozone 81 Monitoring Instrument (OMI) were frequently used (Kurokawa et al., 2009; Gu et al., 82

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2014; de Foy et al., 2015; Kong et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2019a).

97	Currently, the top-down methods were mainly developed at the global or national
98	scale with relatively coarse horizontal resolution (Martin et al., 2003; Miyazaki et al.,
99	2012; Jena et al., 2014 <u>; Gu et al., 2014</u>). <u>At the global scale, for example, Martin et al.</u>
100	(2003) and Miyazaki et al. (2012) estimated the NO _X emissions at the horizontal /
101	resolution of 2°×2.5° and 2.8°×2.8°, respectively. Martin et al. (2003) found that the
102	satellite-derived NO _x emissions for 1996-1997 were $50-100\%$ larger than the
103	bottom-up, estimates, in the Po Valley, Tehran, and Riyadh urban areas. Miyazaki et al.
104	(2012) suggested that the bottom-up method underestimated the NO _X emissions over
105	eastern China, eastern United States, southern Africa, and central-western Europe. At
106	the national scale with the horizontal resolution of $0.5^{\circ} \times 0.5^{\circ}$, the annual NO _X
107	emissions in India 2015 derived with the top-down method was 7-60% smaller than
108	various bottom-up, estimates (Jena et al., 2014). With the TVCDs from OMI and
109	another instrument (Global Ozone Monitoring Experiment, GOME), the difference in
110	national NO _x emissions for China was quantified at 0.4 Tg N/yr (5.8% relative to
111	OMI) at the resolution of 70×70 km (Gu et al., 2014). Compared to national and
112	regional ones, limited estimates were available at the regional scale with finer
113	resolution. In China, great differences exist in the levels and patterns of air pollution
114	across the regions, attributed partly to a big variety of air pollutant sources across the
115	country. To achieve the target of air quality improvement required by the central
116	government, varied air pollution control plans were usually developed and
117	implemented at the city/provincial levels. Therefore, the top-down estimates in $\ensuremath{\text{NO}_X}$
118	emissions at finer horizontal resolution are in great need for understanding the
119	primary sources of NO_2 pollution and demonstrating the effect of emission control at
120	the regional scale.
121	At present, the reliability and rationality of the top-down emission estimates \int
122	were <u>commonly</u> evaluated with <u>AQM and</u> satellite observation. For example, the bias

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	top-down estimates resulting from the
	uncertainties of the inversed method
	and satellite observation (Cooper et al
	2017; Dilig et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2019: Yang et al., 2019: b) and they
	could further influence the reliability
	of AQM and the rationality of control
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between the NO2 TVCDs from OMI observation and AQM based on the top-down

 NO_X emission estimation was -30.8+69.6×10¹³ molecules cm⁻² in winter in India

(Jena et al., 2014). The linear correlation coefficient (R^2) between OMI and AQM

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with the top-down emission estimates could reach 0.84 in Europe (Visser et al., 2019).

Compared to the satellite observation with relatively large uncertainty (Yang et al., 173 174 2019b; Liu et al., 2019), surface concentrations that better represent the effect of air pollution on human health and the ecosystems were less applied in the evaluation of 175 176 the top-down estimates of NO_X emissions. Limited assessments were conducted at the 177 national scale. For example, Liu et al. (2018) found that the normalized mean error (NME) between the observed and simulated NO2 concentrations based on the 178 top-down estimate of NO_X emissions could reach 32% in China at the resolution of 179 $0.25^{\circ}\times 0.25^{\circ}$. Besides NO₂, the estimation of NO_x emissions also play an important 180 and complicated role on secondary air pollutant simulation including O_3 and SNA, 181 and the response of secondary pollution to the primary emissions was commonly 182 183 nonlinear. The simulated O₃ concentrations in Shanghai (the most developed city in eastern China) could increase over 20% with a 60% reduction in NO_X emissions in 184 summer 2016, implying a clear "VOC-limit" pattern for the O_3 formation in the mega 185 186 city (Wang et al., 2019). For the response of SNA to NO_X emissions, the NH₄⁺ and SO₄²⁻ concentrations at an urban site in another mega city Nanjing in eastern China 187 were simulated to increase 1.9% and 2.8% with a 40% abatement of NO_X emissions 188 189 in autumn 2014, respectively, due to the weakened competition of <u>SNA</u> formation against SO₂ (Zhao et al., 2020). To our knowledge, however, the relatively new 190 191 information from the inversed modeling of NO_X emissions has not been sufficiently 192 incorporated into the <u>SNA</u> and O₃ analyses with AQM in China. 193 Located in eastern China, the Yangtze River Delta (YRD) region including the 194 city of Shanghai and the provinces of Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang is one of the most developed and heavy-polluted regions in the country. The air quality for most cities in 195 196 YRD failed to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) Class II in 2016 (MEPPRC, 2017). NO_X emissions made great contributions to the severe air 197

2016 (MEPPRC, 2017). NO_X emissions made great contributions to the severe air pollution in the region. Based on an offline-sampling and measurement study, for example, the annual average of the NO₃⁻ mass fraction to the total PM_{2.5} reached 19% in Shanghai in 2014, and it was significantly elevated in the pollution event periods (Ming et al., 2017). In this study, we chose the YRD to estimate the NO_X emissions

with the inversed method and to explore their influence on the air quality modeling.

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The top-down estimates in NO_X emissions were firstly obtained with the nonlinear 216 inversed method and OMI-derived NO2 TVCDs for 2016. The advantage of the 217 top-down estimation against on the bottom-up one was then evaluated with the AQM 218 219 and abundant ground-based NO2 concentrations. The influences of the top-down estimation in NO_X emissions were further detected on O₃ and <u>SNA</u> modeling. 220 Sensitivity analyses were conducted by changing the emissions of precursors to 221 investigate the sources and potential control approaches of O₃ and <u>SNA</u> pollutions for 222 223 the region.

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2. Data and Methods

225 2.1 The top-down estimation of NO_X emissions

The top-down estimation of NO_X emissions was conducted for January, April, July, and October of 2016, representing the situations of the four seasons in the YRD region, and the horizontal resolution was 9×9 km. The inversed method assumed a nonlinear and variable correlation between NO_X emissions and NO_2 TVCDs (Cooper et al., 2017), and the a posterior daily emissions (top-down estimates) were calculated with the following equations:

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$$E_{t} = E_{a} \left(1 + \frac{\Omega_{o} - \Omega_{a}}{\Omega_{o}} \beta \right)$$
(1)

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$$\frac{\Box E}{E} = \beta \frac{\Box \Omega}{\Omega}$$
(2)

where E_t and E_a represent the a posterior and the a prior daily NO_X emissions, respectively; Ω_o and Ω_a represent the observed and simulated NO₂ TVCDs, respectively; β represents the response coefficient of the simulated NO₂ TVCDs to a specific change in emissions, and was calculated based on the simulated changes in TVCDs ($\Delta\Omega$) from a 10% changes in emissions (ΔE).

The inversed method assumed that the daily emissions were similar. For a given month, the a posterior daily emissions were used as the a priori emissions of the next day, and the monthly top-down estimate of the NO_X emissions was scaled from the average of the a posterior daily emissions of the last three days in the month, as the 删除的内容: SIA

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245	top-down estimate of daily $\ensuremath{\text{NO}}_{\ensuremath{\text{X}}}$ emissions usually converged within a one-month
246	simulation period (Zhao and Wang, 2009; Yang et al., 2019b). In our previous work
247	(Yang et al., 2019b), we demonstrated the robustness of the method, by applying the
248	"synthetic" TVCDs from air quality simulation based on a hypothetical "true"
249	emission inventory, instead of those from satellite observation. We found that
250	sufficient iteration times could result in a relatively constant emission estimate (the
251	top-down estimate) close to the "true" emission input. From a bottom-up perspective,
252	the difference in NO_X emissions between weekday and weekend was within 5% in the
253	YRD region (Zhou et al., 2017), indicating an insignificant bias from the ignorance of
254	the daily variation of emissions.

The NO₂ TVCDs were from OMI onboard the Aura satellite. It crosses the 255 equator at 1:30 PM of local time. The horizontal resolution of OMI was 24×13 km at 256 nadir (Levelt et al., 2006), one of the finest resolutions available for NO₂ TVCD 257 observation before October 2017. We applied the Peking University Ozone 258 Monitoring Instrument NO₂ product (POMINO v1, Lin et al., 2014; Lin et al., 2015) 259 to constrain the NO_X emissions. POMINO v1 modified the retrieval methodology of 260 the Dutch Ozone Monitoring Instrument NO2 product (DOMINO v2) in China, and 261 provided better linear correlation of NO2 TVCDs between the satellite and available 262 263 ground-based observations with the multi-axis differential optical absorption spectroscopy (MAX-DOAS) (Lin et al., 2015). The original NO2 TVCDs from 264 265 POMINO v1 (level 2) were resampled into an 18×18 km grid system based on the 266 area weight method, and then downscaled to 9×9 km with the Kriging interpolation. As an example, the NO_2 TVCDs for July 2016 in the YRD are shown in Figure S1 in 267 268 the supplement, and larger TVCDs were found in the east-central YRD.

269 2.2 Model configuration

The Models-3 Community Multi-scale Air Quality (CMAQ) version 5.1 was used to conduct the inversed modeling of NO_X emission estimation and to simulate the ground-level concentrations of NO₂, O₃ and <u>SNA</u>. As a three-dimensional Eulerian model, CMAQ includes complex interactions of atmospheric chemistry and

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276 physics and is one of the most widely applied AQM to evaluate the sources and processes of air pollution in China (UNC, 2012; Xing et al., 2015; Zheng et al., 2017). 277 As shown in Figure 1, the two nested modeling domains were applied with their 278 horizontal resolutions set 27 and 9 km, respectively. The mother domain (D1, 279 177×127 cells) included most parts of China, and the second (D2, 118×121 cells) 280 covered the YRD region. The model included 28 vertical layers and the height of the 281 first layer (ground layer) was approximately 60 m. The carbon bond gas-phase 282 mechanism (CB05) and AERO6 aerosol module were used in the CMAQ. The initial 283 284 concentrations and boundary conditions for the D1 were derived from the default clean profile, while those of D2 were extracted from the CMAQ Chemistry Transport 285 286 Model (CCTM) outputs of its mother domain. The first 5 days of each simulated month were chosen as the spin-up period. Details on model configuration were 287 described in Zhou et al. (2017) and Yang and Zhao (2019). 288

289 The Multi Resolution Emission Inventory for China (MEIC, http://www.meicmodel.org/) for 2015 was applied as the initial input of anthropogenic 290 emissions in D1 and D2, with an original horizontal resolution at $0.1^{\circ} \times 0.1^{\circ}$. In this 291 292 study, the MEIC emissions from residential source were downscaled to the horizontal 293 resolution of 9×9 km based on the spatial density of population, and those from power, 294 industry and transportation based on the spatial distribution of gross domestic product (GDP). The NO_X emissions from soil were originally obtained from Yienger and Levy 295 296 (1995) and were doubled as advised by Zhao and Wang (2009). The emissions of Cl, 297 HCl and lightning NO_X were collected from the Global Emissions Initiative (GEIA, Price et al., 1997). Biogenic emissions were derived from the Model Emissions of 298 299 Gases and Aerosols from Nature developed under the Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate project (MEGAN MACC, Sindelarova et al., 2014). 300

Meteorological fields were provided by the Weather Research and Forecasting Model (WRF) version 3.4, a state-of-the-art atmospheric modeling system designed for both numerical weather prediction and meteorological research (Skamarock et al., 2008). The simulated parameters from WRF for D2 in January, April, July and October of 2016 were compared with the observation dataset of US National Climate Data Center (NCDC), as summarized in Table S1 in the Supplement. The index of agreement (IOA) of wind speed for the four months between the two datasets was larger than 0.8. The Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) of wind directions for the four months was smaller than 40°, and the index of agreement (IOA) of temperature and Relative humidity between the two datasets was larger than 0.8 and 0.7, respectively. The simulated meteorological parameters in D2 could reach the benchmarks derived from Emery et al. (2001) and Jiménez et al. (2006).

The hourly NO_2 and O_3 concentrations were observed at 230 state-operated 313 314 stations of air quality monitoring in 41 cities within the YRD region, and they were applied to evaluate the model performance. Locations of the stations are indicated in 315 316 Figure 1, and the observation data were derived from the China National Environmental Monitoring Center (<u>http://www.cnemc.cn/</u>). The observations of SO₄²⁻, 317 NO_3^- and NH_4^+ (SNA) concentrations in $PM_{2.5}$ for the YRD region during 2015-2017 318 were collected and applied to evaluate the influence of the top-down estimation of 319 NO_X emissions on SNA simulation. In particular, the hourly SNA concentrations of 320 PM_{2.5} at Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Environmental Science, an urban site in the 321 capital city of Jiangsu Province, Nanjing (JSPAES; Chen et al., 2019b), were 322 observed with the Monitor for Aerosols and Gases in ambient Air (MARGA; 323 324 Metrohm, Switzerland) for January, April, July and October 2016. Meanwhile, the daily average concentrations of SNA were also available from MARGA measurement 325 326 for the four months at the Station for Observing Regional Processes and the Earth 327 System, a suburban site in eastern Nanjing (SORPES; Ding et al., 2019). Besides, the seasonal average concentrations of SNA were available at another four sites in YRD, 328 329 including the Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology site in Nanjing (NUIST, Zhang, 2017), and three sites respectively in the cities of Hangzhou 330 (HZS; Li, 2018), Changzhou (CZS; Liu et al., 2018) and Suzhou (SZS; Wang et al., 331 332 2016). Details of the collected SNA measurement studies are summarized in Table S2 in the supplement, and the locations of those sites are illustrated in Figure 1. 333

334 2.3 Scenario setting of sensitivity analysis

335 In general, there are two categories of chemical regimes (VOC-limited and NOx-limited) in O₃ formation (Wang et al., 2009; Jin et al., 2017). In the VOC-limited 336 regime, growth in O₃ concentrations occurs with increased VOCs emissions and 337 338 declined NO_X emissions, while the increased NO_X emissions result in enhancement of O₃ concentrations in the NOx-limited regime. To explore the sources and potential 339 control approaches of O₃ pollution, the sensitivity of O₃ formation to its precursor 340 341 emissions for April was analyzed with CMAQ modeling in the YRD region. In YRD, the peaking time of O_3 concentration has gradually moved from summer to late spring. 342 and the mean observed O₃ concentration in April was 72.5 µg/m³, slightly higher than 343 that in July (71.9 μ g/m³). In addition, the model performance of O₃ was better for 344 April than that for July in this work (see details in Section 3.2). Therefore, we selected 345 April to explore the sensitivity analysis of O₃ formation in the region. As summarized 346 in Table S3 in the supplement, eight cases were set besides the base scenario with the 347 top-down NO_X estimates for April 2016, Cases 1 and 6 reduced only the NO_X 348 emissions by 30% and 60%, and Cases 2 and 7 reduced only the VOC_S emissions by 349 30% and 60%, respectively. To explore the co-effect of VOCs and NO_X emission 350 controls on O3 concentrations, cases with different reduction rates of VOCs and NOX 351 emissions were designed. The emissions of NO_X and VOCs in Case 4 were decreased 352 by 30% and 60%, and in Case 5 by 60% and 30%, respectively. Both NO_X and VOCs 353 emissions were reduced 30% and 60% in Cases 3 and 8, respectively. 354 355 The response of SNA concentrations to the changes in precursor emissions was influenced by various factors including the abundance of NH₃, atmospheric oxidation, 356 and the chemical regime of O_3 formation (Wang et al., 2013; Cheng et al., 2016; Zhao 357 358 et al., 2020). To explore the sensitivity of SNA formation to its precursor emissions, four cases were set besides the base scenario for January 2016, the month with the 359 largest observed SNA concentrations. As shown in Table S4 in the supplement, the 360

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363 Case 12.

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emissions of NO_X, SO₂ and NH₃ were reduced by 30% in Cases 9-11, respectively,

and the emissions of NO_X, SO₂ and NH₃ were simultaneously decreased by 30% in

3. Results and discussion

388 3.1 Evaluation of the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO_X emissions Figure 2 compares the magnitude of the NO_X emissions estimated based on the 389 bottom-up (MEIC) and top-down methods by month in the YRD region. The 390 391 top-down estimates were smaller than the bottom-up ones for all the concerned four months, and the average of the monthly NO_X emissions were calculated at 260.0 392 393 Gg/month for 2016 with the top-down method, 24% smaller than the bottom-up estimation. The comparison indicates a probable overestimation in NO_X emissions 394 with current bottom-up methodology, attributed partly to the insufficient consideration 395 of the effect of recent control on emission abatement. Stringent measures have 396 gradually been conducted to improve the local air quality in the YRD region. For 397 398 example, the "ultra-low" emission policy for power sector started in 2015, requiring the NO_X concentration in the flue gas of coal-fired unit the same as that of gas-fired 399 unit. The technology retrofitting on power units have been widely conducted, 400 significant improving the NO_X removal efficiencies of selective catalytic reduction 401 (SCR) systems. Those detailed changes in emission control, however, could not be 402 403 fully and timely incorporated into the national emission inventory that relied more on 404 the routinely reported information and policy of environmental management over the 405 country. With the on-line data from continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS) 406 incorporated, the NO_X emissions from power sector were estimated to be 53% smaller than MEIC for the China in 2015 in our previous work (Zhang et al., 2019). The bias 407 408 between the top-down and bottom-up estimates could be larger in earlier years and reduced more recently. According to Yang et al. (2019b) and Qu et al. (2017), for 409 example, the top-down NO_X emissions were 44% and 31% smaller than bottom-up 410 ones for the YRD region and the whole China in 2012. Benefiting from the better data 411 availability, the bottom-up inventory has been improved with the inclusion of more 412 information on individual power and industrial plants for recent years (Zheng et al., 413 414 2018).

415 The differences in the spatial distribution of NO_X emissions between the

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bottom-up and top-down estimates are illustrated by month for the YRD in Figure 3. 416 The top-down estimates were commonly smaller than the bottom-up ones in the 417 418 east-central YRD with intensive manufacturing industry and population, and larger 419 than those in most of Zhejiang Province with more hilly and suburban regions. The 420 bias might result from following issues. From a bottom-up perspective, on one hand, more stringent control measures were preferentially conducted for power and 421 422 industrial plants in regions with heavier air pollution like east-central YRD. As 423 mentioned above, the effects of such actions were difficult to be fully tracked in the 424 bottom-up inventory, leading to the overestimation in emissions for those regions. Due to the lack of precise locations of individual industrial plants (except for large 425 426 point sources), moreover, the spatial allocation of the emissions relied commonly on the densities of population and economy, assuming a strong correlation with 427 emissions for them. Such assumption, however, would not still hold in recent years, as 428 429 a number of factories in the relatively developed region were moved to the less developed suburban regions (e.g., southern Zhejiang) for both environmental and 430 economic purposes. The insufficient consideration of the movings of emission sources 431 was thus expected to result in overestimation in emissions for developed regions and 432 433 underestimation for the less developed. On the other hand, the satellite-derived 434 TVCDs were relatively small in southern Zhejiang (Fig. S1), and larger error in satellite retrieval and thereby emission constraining with the inversed modeling was 435 expected. 436

437 Figure 4 illustrates the observed and simulated hourly NO₂ concentrations using the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO_X emissions in the CMAQ by month. 438 The NO₂ concentrations simulated with the bottom-up estimates were clearly larger 439 than the observation in all the four concerned months, with the largest and smallest 440 normalized mean bias (NMB) reaching 111% and 34 % for July and January, 441 respectively. The result suggests again the overestimation in NO_X emissions in the 442 current bottom-up inventory for the YRD. The model performance based on the 443 top-down estimates was much better than that based on the bottom-up ones, indicating 444 445 that the inversed modeling with satellite observation constraint effectively improved 12

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the estimation of NO_X emissions. The biggest improvement was found for July, with the NMB reduced from 111% to -0.4% and the NME reduced from 111% to 33%. As shown in Fig. 2, relatively big reduction from the bottom-up to top-down estimation in NO_X emissions was found for July compared to most of other months.

453 Scatter plots of the annual means of the observed and simulated surface NO₂ concentrations are shown in Figure $\underline{S2}$ in the supplement. The slope between the 454 observation and simulation with the top-down estimate (0.99) was much closer to 1 455 456 than that with the bottom-up one (1.57), indicating clearly the advantage of the 457 top-down method on the constraining of the magnitude of the total emissions in the YRD region. The difference in the two slopes implies that the surface NO₂ 458 459 concentrations simulated with the bottom-up estimation were over 50% larger than those based on top-down ones. As a comparison, the total emissions in the bottom-up 460 inventory were only 30% larger than the top-down estimation for the whole YRD 461 462 region. The larger overestimation in the concentrations than the emissions from the 463 bottom-up inventory could result partly from the bias of the locations of state-operated ground observation sites. Most of those sites were located in the urban 464 areas where excess emissions were allocated according to the high density of 465 466 economy and population, and elevated concentrations were thus simulated compared 467 to rural areas. The similar correlation coefficients (R) suggested that the spatial distribution of NO_X emissions was not greatly improved in the top-down estimation 468 on an annual basis of urban observation. Uncertainty existed in the satellite 469 470 observation: the NMB between NO2 TVCDs in POMINO and available ground-based MAX-DOAS observations was 21% in cloud-free days (Liu et al., 2019). Due mainly 471 472 to the NO_X transport, moreover, a bias of 13%-33% on the spatial distribution of emissions was estimated for the inversed method at the horizontal resolution of 9 km 473 or finer (Yang et al., 2019b). Inclusion of more available observation in rural areas 474 helps improve the comprehensive evaluation of emission estimation. 475

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Figure 5 illustrates the spatial distribution of monthly mean NO₂ concentrations

477 simulated based on the top-down estimates and the differences between the 478 simulations with the top-down and bottom-up ones. The larger NO₂ concentrations 13

481	existed in the east-central YRD for all the months (left column in Fig. 5), and the		删除的内容:5
482	difference in spatial distribution of NO_2 concentrations (right column in Fig. 5) was		删除的内容:4
483	similar with that in NO _x emissions (Fig. 3). Larger reduction in NO ₂ concentrations		删除的内容:5
191	based on the top down estimates was commonly found in east central VRD, while the	\backslash	删除的内容:4
404	based on the top-down estimates was commonly round in east-central TKD, while the		删除的内容:S2
485	increased concentrations were found in most of Zhejiang.		

3.2 Evaluation of the O_3 simulation based on the top-down NO_X estimates 486

487 Figure 6 shows the observed and simulated hourly O_3 concentrations based on 488 the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO_X emissions by month. Indicated by the smaller NMBs and NMEs, the model performance of O₃ based on the top-down 489 estimates was better than that based on the bottom-up ones for most months. It 490 suggests that the constrained NO_X emissions with satellite observation could play an 491 492 important role on the improvement of O₃ simulation. The largest improvement was found in January, for which the NMB and NME were changed from -44% and 49% to 493 13% and 40%, respectively, attributed to the biggest change in NO_X emissions 494 between the top-down and bottom-up estimates for the month. The worse O₃ 495 496 modeling performance was found for July when the top-down estimate instead of the 497 bottom-up one was applied in the simulation, indicated by the increased NMB and 498 NME. Since the top-down estimation of NO_X emissions was justified by the improved NO_2 simulation in July (Fig. 4c), the worse O_3 simulation might result from the 499 500 uncertainty in emissions of the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and the chemical mechanism of AQM in summer. As suggested by Li (2019), the biogenic VOCs 501 502 (BVOCs) emissions of the YRD region could be overestimated by 121% in summer attributed to ignoring the effect of droughts, and such overestimation might elevate 503 the O₃ concentrations in AQM. In order to explore the influence of uncertainty of 504 505 BVOCs emissions on O_3 model performance, we conducted an extra case in which the BVOCs emissions were cut by 50% in CMAQ. As shown in Figure \$3 in the 506 507 supplement, the NMB between the observed and simulated O_3 based on the top-down 508 estimate of NO_X emissions and the reduced BVOCs emissions declined 27% in July. However, it was still larger than the NMB at 1.1% when the bottom-up estimate of 509

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NOx emissions was applied (Fig. 4c). This comparison thus suggested that the complicated mechanism for summer O₃ formation was insufficiently considered in 521 current model. A recent study conducted an intercomparison of surface-level O_3 522 523 simulation from 14 state-of-the-art chemical transport models, and implied that the larger overestimation of summer O₃ than winter for eastern China resulted possibly 524 from the uncertainty in the photochemical treatment in models (Li et al., 2019). 525

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Table 1 summarizes the observed and simulated daily maximum 8-hour averaged 526 (MDA8) O_3 concentrations based on the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO_X 527 528 emissions are summarized by month for the YRD region. The MDA8 O_3 concentrations simulated with the top-down estimates were larger than those with the 529 530 bottom-up ones, and were closer to the observation for most months. As most of the YRD was identified as the VOC-limited region (Li et al., 2012; Zhou et al., 2017), the 531 reduced NO_x emissions with the top-down method enhanced the O_3 levels in the 532 AQM. Similar to the hourly concentrations, the most significant improvement for 533 MDA8 was found in January, with the NMB and NME reduced from -35% and 39% 534 to 11% and 28%, respectively. Moreover, the improvement of April and October for 535 MDA8 was larger than that for the hourly concentrations, indicating that the improved 536 NO_X emissions were more beneficial for the simulation of daytime peak O_3 537 concentrations in spring and winter. Figure <u>7</u> illustrates the spatial distribution of the 538 monthly mean O₃ concentrations simulated based on the top-down NO_X estimates and 539 540 the differences between the simulations with the top-down and bottom-up estimates 541 by month. In contrast to NO_2 , the smaller O_3 concentrations existed in the east-central YRD for most months, as it was identified as the VOC-limited region with relatively 542 543 high NO₂ level (Wang et al., 2019). Larger O₃ concentrations were found for the surrounding regions in the YRD, e.g., southern Zhejiang, attributed partly to the 544 relatively abundant BVOC emissions (Li, 2019). An exception existed for July, with 545 546 clearly larger O₃ concentrations in east-central YRD. With the largest population density and most developed economy in YRD, the area contains a large number of 547 chemical industrial plants and solvent storage, transportation and usage (Zhao et al., 548 549 2017). High temperature in summer promoted the volatilization of chemical products 15

and solvent, and thereby enhanced the seasonal VOCs emissions more significantly 551 compared to other less developed YRD regions. Moreover, the lowest NO₂ 552 553 concentration found in summer helped increase the O_3 concentration for the region 554 (Gu et al., 2020). Regarding the simulation difference with two emission estimates, 555 application of the top-down estimates instead of the bottom-up ones elevated the O_3 concentrations in most of the YRD region. In particular, the big reduction in NO_X 556 emissions for the east-central YRD (Fig. 3) was expected to be responsible for the 557 evident growth in O_3 concentrations. As east-central YRD was identified as a 558 VOC-limited region in terms of O_3 formation, the O_3 concentration in the region 559 would be elevated along with the reduced NO_X emissions, reflecting the negative 560 effect of NO_X control on O₃ pollution alleviation (Wang et al., 2019). 561

562 **3.3 Evaluation of SNA simulation based on the top-down NO_x estimates**

Shown in Table 2 is the comparison between the observed and simulated SNA 563 (SO₄²⁻, NO₃⁻ and NH₄⁺) concentrations by season. Larger observed and simulated 564 SNA concentrations were found in winter and spring, and smaller were found in 565 566 summer and autumn. For most seasons, the simulations of NO_3^- concentrations were moderately improved with the top-down estimates of NO_X emissions for all the 567 concerned YRD cities, with an exception of Nanjing in autumn. The largest 568 improvement was found in summer, with the mean bias between the simulation and 569 570 observation reduced 35% for all the involved cites. Compared to the bottom-up inventory, the commonly smaller NO_X emissions in the top-down estimates limited 571 572 the NO₂ concentration and suppressed the formation of NO₃, while the enhanced O₃ from the reduced NO_X emissions promoted it (Cai et al., 2017; Huang et al., 2020). In 573 summer, the former dominated the process with the most evident improvement in NO₂ 574 simulation (Figure 4), thus the reduced NO₃⁻ concentrations that were closer to 575 576 observation were simulated for all the cities.

The simulations with both top-down and bottom-up estimates of NO_X emissions underestimated the NH_4^+ concentrations for most cases, and such underestimation was slightly corrected with the application of the top-down estimates except for summer. 删除的内容: ure S2 删除的内容: resulted in 删除的内容: more 删除的内容: , 带格式的: 下标 删除的内容: abatement 删除的内容: control in the VOC-limited regions 删除的内容: Since east-central YRD was located in VOC-limited region, the O₃ concentrations of the region increased due to reduction of NO_X emissions (Wang et al., 2019).

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NO ₃ ⁻ at 14%. The moderate improvement in NH ₄ ⁺ simulation with the reduced NO _X emissions in the top-down estimates resulted partly from the enhancement of the simulated O ₃ concentrations and thereby the promoted NH ₄ ⁺ formation. In summer, however, the significant drop in the simulated NO ₂ concentration was assumed to reduce the NO ₃ and NH ₄ ⁺ formation, and to weaken the consistency between the simulated and observed NH ₄ ⁺ . The difference between the simulated SO ₄ ⁻² with the bottom-up and top-down NO _X emission estimates were small for most seasons, implying a limited benefit of improved NO _X emissions on SO ₄ ⁻² modeling. Besides emission data, the chemical mechanisms included in the model should be important for the model performance. For example, adding SO ₂ heterogeneous oxidation in the model could largely improve the sulfate simulation in Naning (Sha et al., 2019) Figure 8 shows the differences in the spatial distribution of SNA concentrations simulated with the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO _X emissions by month. In most of the region, the differences in spatial pattern of NO ₃ was similar to that of O ₃ for January, and the larger growth attributed to the application of the top-down estimates was found in northern Anhui and eastern Zhejiang (Fig. 8a). The result implies that the change in NO ₃ ⁺ concentration in winter could result partly from the increased NO ₃ ⁺ was found for more than half of the YRD region in April, along with the growth of O ₃ concentrations (Fig. 8d). For July, however, the difference in spatial pattern of NO ₃ ⁺ (Fig. 8g) was similar with NO ₂ (Fig. 5g), and the larger reduction attributed to the application of the top-down estimates was found in northern YRD. The result suggests that the declining NO _x emissions and thereby NO ₂ concentration attributed to the application of the top-down estimates was found in northern YRD. The result suggests that the declining NO _x emissions and thereby NO ₂ concentration dominated the r	594	The average change in $\mathrm{NH_4^+}$ concentrations was 2.3%, much smaller than that of		
emissions in the top-down estimates resulted partly from the enhancement of the simulated O ₃ concentrations and thereby the promoted NH ₄ ⁺ formation. In summer, however, the significant drop in the simulated NO ₂ concentration was assumed to reduce the NO ₃ ⁺ and NH ₄ ⁺ formation, and to weaken the consistency between the simulated and observed NH ₄ ⁺ . The difference between the simulated SO ₄ ⁻² with the bottom-up and top-down NO _X emission estimates were small for most seasons, implying a limited benefit of improved NO _X emissions on SO ₄ ⁻² modeling. Besides emission data, the chemical mechanisms included in the model should be important for the model performance. For example, adding SO ₂ heterogeneous oxidation in the model could Jargely improve the sulfate simulation in Nanjing (Sha et al., 2019) Figure <u>8</u> shows the differences in the spatial distribution of SNA concentrations simulated with the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO _X emissions by month. In most of the region, the differences in Spatial pattern of NO ₃ was similar to that of O ₃ for January, and the larger growth attributed to the application of the top-down estimates was found in northern Anhui and eastern Zhejiang (Fig. <u>8a</u>). The result implies that the change in NO ₃ ⁺ concentration in winter could result partly from the increased NO ₃ ⁺ was found for more than half of the YRD region in April, along with the growth of O ₃ concentrations (Fig. <u>8d</u>). For July, however, the difference in spatial pattern of NO ₃ ⁺ (Fig. <u>8g</u>) was similar with NO ₂ (Fig. <u>5g</u>), and the larger reduction attributed to the application of the top-down estimates was found in northern YRD. The result suggests that the declining NO _x emissions and thereby NO ₂ concentration attributed to the application of the top-down estimates was found in northern YRD. The result suggests that the declining NO _x emissions and thereby NO ₂ concentration was much, larger for July compared to <u>spring</u> or autumn (Fig 2). In addition, the	595	$\mathrm{NO}_3^{\text{-}}$ at 14%. The moderate improvement in $\mathrm{NH}_4^{\text{+}}$ simulation with the reduced NO_X		
simulated O ₃ concentrations and thereby the promoted NH ₄ ⁺ formation. In summer, however, the significant drop in the simulated NO ₂ concentration was assumed to reduce the NO ₃ ⁻ and NH ₄ ⁺ formation, and to weaken the consistency between the simulated and observed NH ₄ ⁺ . The difference between the simulated SO ₄ ⁻² with the bottom-up and top-down NO _X emission estimates were small for most seasons, implying a limited benefit of improved NO _X emissions on SO ₄ ⁻² modeling. Besides emission data, the chemical mechanisms included in the model should be important for the model performance. For example, adding SO ₅ heterogeneous oxidation in the model could Jargely improve the sulfate simulation in Nanjing (Sha et al., 2019) Figure & shows the differences in the spatial distribution of SNA concentrations simulated with the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO _X emissions by month. In most of the region, the differences of NO ₃ ⁺ concentrations were larger than those of NH ₄ ⁺ and SO ₄ ⁻² for all seasons, and they were mainly controlled by the changed ambient NO ₂ or O ₃ level. The difference in spatial pattern of NO ₃ ⁺ was similar to that of O ₃ for January, and the larger growth attributed to the application of the top-down estimates was found in northern Anhui and eastern Zhejiang (Fig. &a). The result implies that the change in NO ₃ ⁺ concentration in winter could result partly from the increased NO ₃ ⁺ was found for more than half of the YRD region in April, along with the growth of O ₃ concentrations (Fig. &d). For July, however, the difference in spatial pattern of NO ₃ ⁺ (Fig. &g) was similar with NO ₂ (Fig. 5g), and the larger reduction attributed to the application of the top-down estimates was found in northern YRD. The result suggests that the declining NO _X emissions and thereby NO ₂ concentration was much, larger for July compared to spring or autumn (Fig 2). In addition, the was much, larger for July compared to spring or autumn (Fig 2). In addition, the	596	emissions in the top-down estimates resulted partly from the enhancement of the		
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Fig. 7e and Fig. 7g), resulting in less O₃ formation and thereby nitrate aerosol through 644 oxidation. In October, the growth in NO₃⁻ concentrations was found again in most 645 646 YRD when the top-down estimates were applied (Fig. §i). The growth in the north resulted mainly from the increased O₃ level, while that in the south was associated 647 with the increased NO₂. The differences in spatial patterns of simulated NH₄⁺ 648 concentrations were similar to those of NO₃⁻ for the four months, suggesting that the 649 change in NH4⁺ was associated with formation and decomposition of NH4NO3. 650 However, the changes of spatial distribution of SO_4^{2-} were similar with those of O_3 651 concentration. Since NH₄⁺ was preferred to react with SO₄²⁻ rather than NO₃⁻ (Wang 652 et al., 2013), the formation of SO_4^{2-} was mainly influenced by the atmospheric 653 oxidizing capacity when only NO_X emissions were changed. 654

VOC-limit mechanism in O₃ formation was found weaker in summer than winter (see

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Figure 9 illustrates the observed and simulated hourly NO₃⁻ concentrations based 655 on the bottom-up and top-down estimate of NO_X emissions by month at JSPAES. The 656 NMBs and NMEs for simulation with the top-down emissions were smaller than those 657 with bottom-up ones in January and July, implying the benefit of the improved NO_X 658 emissions on hourly NO3⁻ concentration simulation in winter and summer. The best 659 660 model performance with the top-down estimates was found in January, with the 661 hourly variation commonly caught with AQM. However, the NO₃⁻ concentration was seriously overestimated and the model failed to catch the hourly variations in summer 662 indicated by the large NMB and NME. As shown in Figure <u>\$4</u> in the supplement, both 663 the NO₂ and O₃ concentrations at JSPAES were significantly overestimated for July 664 except O_3 with the bottom-up NO_x emission estimate, and it partly explained the 665 elevated NO₃⁻ level from CMAQ simulation. 666

Figures <u>S5</u> and <u>S6</u> in the supplement compare the observed and simulated hourly concentrations at JSPAES by month for NH_4^+ and SO_4^{2-} , respectively. The NMBs and NMEs for NH_4^+ simulation with the top-down estimates were smaller than those with the bottom-up ones for most months, while the changes in SO_4^{2-} concentration were small. The NH_4^+ and SO_4^{2-} concentrations were largely underestimated with the top-down estimates in January, indicated by the NMB at -44% and -38%, respectively. 删除的内容:

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679 Meanwhile, as shown in Figure <u>S7 in the supplement, the SO₂ concentrations were</u> 680 overestimated by 61% at the site. The results thus imply a great uncertainty in the 681 gas-particle partitioning of $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ formation in the model in winter, attributed 682 probably to the missed oxidation mechanisms of SO₂ (Chen et al., 2019c).

683 3.4 Sensitivity analysis of O_3 and SNA formation in the YRD region

Table 3 summarizes the relative changes in the simulated O_3 concentrations for April 2016 in different cases. The mean O_3 concentration would decline by 8.9% and 19.5% with 30% and 60% VOCs emissions off (Cases 2 and 7), while it would increase by 14.2% and 23.7% with 30% and 60% NO_X emissions off (Cases 1 and 6), respectively. The result confirmed the VOC-limited regime of O_3 formation in the YRD region: controlling VOCs emissions was an effective way to alleviate O_3 pollution, while reducing NO_X emissions alone would aggravate O_3 pollution.

The growth of O_3 concentrations was also found when the reduction rate of NO_X 691 emissions was equal to or larger than that of VOCs. The O₃ concentration would 692 increase by 7.1% and 14.5% respectively when both NO_X and VOCs emissions were 693 reduced by 30% and 60% (Cases 3 and 8), and it would increase by 19.8% when NO_X 694 695 and VOCs emissions were respectively declined by 60% and 30% (Case 5). In contrast, small abatement of O_3 concentrations (2.1%) was achieved from the 30% 696 and 60% reduction of emissions respectively for NO_X and VOCs (Case 4), implying 697 698 that the O₃ level could be restrained when the reduction rate of VOCs was twice of or more than that of NO_X. To control the O₃ pollution effectively and efficiently, 699 700 therefore, the magnitude of VOCs and NO_X emission reduction should be carefully planned and implemented. In actual fact, controlling VOCs is more difficulty than 701 702 NO_X. Compared to NO_X that comes mainly from fossil fuel combustion (Zheng et al., 703 2018), it is more complicated to identify the sources of specific VOCs species that are most active in O_3 formation (Wei et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2017). Moreover, 704 705 substantial VOC emissions are from area or fugitive sources, for which the emission 706 control technology can hardly be effectively applied. Therefore, it is a big challenge to control O₃ pollution by reducing more VOCs than NO_X. 707

709 Figure <u>10</u> illustrates the differences in spatial patterns of the simulated monthly mean O₃ concentrations between the base and sensitivity cases in April. The O₃ 710 concentrations were expected to decline for the whole YRD region in the cases of 711 712 30% and 60% VOCs emissions off (Fig. <u>10b</u> and <u>10d</u>), indicating the VOC-limited regime of O₃ formation for the entire YRD. For other cases, the O₃ concentrations 713 were clearly elevated in the central-eastern YRD with relatively large population and 714 developed industry, particularly for the cases with NO_X control only (Fig. <u>10a</u> and <u>10c</u>) 715 or relatively large NO_X abatement together with VOC control (Fig. <u>10f</u> and <u>10g</u>). 716 717 Even for the case with 60% of VOCs reduction and 30% of NO_X (Fig. 10h), there was still small increase in O₃ concentration in central-eastern YRD, in contrast to the 718 719 slight O3 reduction found for most of YRD areas. Those results reveal the extreme difficulty in O₃ pollution control for the region. In southwestern Zhejiang, the O₃ 720 concentrations were found to decline in the cases with large abatement of NO_X 721 emissions (Fig. <u>10c</u>, <u>10f</u> and <u>10g</u>), suggesting a shifting from VOC-limited to NO_x 722 limited region for the O₃ formation. 723

Table 4 summarizes the change in the simulated monthly means of SNA (NO₃⁻, 724 NH_4^+ and SO_4^{2-}) concentrations between the base case and sensitivity cases in January. 725 The SNA concentrations were decreased in most cases, implying that the reduction in 726 727 precursor emissions was useful for mitigating the SNA pollution. Compared to that of 728 precursor emissions, however, the reduction rate of SNA was much smaller attributed to the strong nonlinearity of SNA formation. The largest reductions were found at 729 11.7% and 12.4% when emissions of NH_3 and all the three precursors were decreased 730 by 30% (Cases 11 and 12), respectively. In contrast, the SNA concentrations declined 731 slightly by 1% and increased by 0.5% when NO_X and SO₂ emissions were reduced by 732 30% (Cases 9 and 10), respectively. The results suggest that most of YRD was in an 733 NH₃-neutral or even NH₃-poor condition in winter, consistent with the judgment 734 through AQM based on an updated NH3 emission inventory (Zhao et al., 2020), as the 735 NH₃ volatilization in winter was much smaller than other seasons. Reducing NH₃ 736 emissions was the most efficient way to control SNA pollution for the region in winter. 737 738 In Case 11 with NH₃ control only, the reduced NO₃⁻ and NH₄⁺ were much larger than

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that of SO_4^{2-} . As NH₃ reacted with SO₂ prior to NO_X, NH₄NO₃ was assumed easier to decompose than (NH₄)₂SO₄ when NH₃ emissions were reduced. The growth of NO₃⁻ concentrations was found for Case 10 (SO₂ control only), since the free NH₃ from the reduced SO₂ emissions could react with NO_X in the NH₃-poor condition. Similarly, the SO₄²⁻ concentrations increased for Case 9 (NO_X control only), as the elevated O₃ attributed to the reduction of NO_X emissions promoted the SO₄²⁻ formation.

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4. Summary

From a "top-down" perspective, we have estimated the monthly NO_X emissions 758 for the YRD region in 2016, based on the nonlinear inversed modeling and NO₂ 759 TVCDs from POMINO, and the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO_x emissions 760 were evaluated with AQM and ground NO₂ observation. Due to insufficient 761 consideration of improved controls on power and industrial sources, the NO_X 762 emissions were probably overestimated in current bottom-up inventory (MEIC), 763 resulting in significantly higher simulated NO₂ concentrations than the observation. 764 765 The simulated NO_2 concentrations with the top-down estimates were closer to the 766 observation for all the four seasons, suggesting the improved emission estimation with satellite constraint. Improved O₃ and SNA simulations with the top-down NO_X 767 768 estimates for most months indicate the importance role of precursor emission 769 estimation on secondary pollution modeling for the region. Through the sensitivity 770 analysis of O_3 formation, the mean O_3 concentrations were found to decrease for most YRD when only VOCs emissions were reduced or the reduced rate of VOCs was 771 twice of NO_X , and the result indicates the effectiveness of controlling VOCs 772 773 emissions on O₃ pollution abatement for the region. For part of southern Zhejiang, however, the O_3 concentrations were simulated to decline with the reduced NO_X 774 775 emissions, implying the shifting from VOC-limited to NO_X-limited region. Compared to reducing NO_X or SO₂ only, larger reduction in SNA concentrations was found when 776 30% of emissions were cut for NH₃ or all the three precursors (NO₂, NH₃ and SO₂). 777 The result suggests that reducing NH₃ emissions was crucial to alleviate SNA 778 pollution of YRD in winter. 779

Limitations remain in this study. Due to the limited horizontal resolution of OMI, 780 relatively big bias existed in the spatial distribution of the constrained NO_X emissions 781 at the regional scale compared to national or continental one, and the uncertainty 782 783 could exceed 30% for the YRD region (Yang et al., 2019b). Therefore the improvement on the top-down estimates of NO_X emissions can be expected when the 784 more advanced and reliable products of satellite observation get available at finer 785 horizontal resolution (e.g., TROPOspheric Monitoring Instrument, TROPOMI). 786 Besides, more SNA observations from on-line measurement are recommended for a 787 788 better space coverage and temporal resolution, to explore more carefully the response of SNA to the changes in emissions of NO_X and other precursors. 789 790 Data availability 791 All data in this study are available from the authors upon request. 792 793 794 **Author contributions** YY developed the strategy and methodology of the work and wrote the draft. YZ 795 improved the methodology and revised the manuscript. LZ provided useful comments 796 797 on the methodology. JZ and XH provided observation data of secondary inorganic aerosols. XZ, YZ, MX and YL provided comments on air quality modeling. 798 799 800 **Competing interests** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest. 801 802 803 Acknowledgements 804 This work was sponsored by Natural Science Foundation of China (91644220 and 删除的内容: and 41575142), the National Key Research and Development Program of China 805 (2017YFC0210106), and the Key Program for Coordinated Control of PM_{2.5} and 806

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. The modeling domain and locations of meteorological and air quality monitoring sites. The map data provided by Resource and Environment Data Cloud Platform are freely available for academic use (<u>http://www.resdc.cn/data.aspx?DATAID=201</u>), © Institute of Geographic Sciences & Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Figure 2. The bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO_X emissions by month for the YRD region in 2016.

Figure 3, The spatial differences between the bottom-up and top-down estimates of NO_X emissions for January, April, July and October 2016 (Top-down minus Bottom-up, mol N/s).

Figure <u>4</u>. The observed and simulated hourly NO₂ concentrations based on the bottom-up and top-down NO_x emissions for January, April, July and October 2016.

Figure 5. The spatial distribution of the simulated monthly mean NO_2 concentration with the top-down estimates and differences between the simulations with the top-down and bottom-up NO_X emissions in January, April, July and October 2016 (top-down minus bottom-up).

Figure \oint . The observed and simulated hourly O₃ concentrations with the bottom-up and top-down NO_x emission estimates for January, April, July and October 2016.

Figure <u>7</u>. The spatial distribution of the simulated monthly mean O_3 concentration with the top-down NO_X estimates and the spatial differences between the simulations with the top-down and bottom-up NO_X emissions in January, April, July and October 2016 (top-down minus bottom-up).

Figure <u>8</u>. The spatial differences between the simulated SNA concentrations with the bottom-up and top-down NO_X emission estimates for January, April, July

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and October 2016 (top-down minus bottom-up).

Figure <u>9</u> . The observed and simulated hourly NO ₃ concentrations with the	删除的内容:8
bottom-up and top-down $\ensuremath{\mathrm{NO}}_X$ emission estimates for January, April, July and	
October 2016 at JSPEAS.	

Figure <u>10</u>. The spatial differences of monthly mean O_3 concentrations between the simulations based on base case (top-down estimates) and sensitivity cases in April 2016 (sensitivity case minus base case).

TABLES

Table 1. The model performance statistics of daily maximum 8-hour averaged (MDA8) O_3 concentrations in January, April, July and October 2016 with the bottom-up and top-down NO_X emissions.

Month	Emission input	Observed (µg/m ³)	Simulated $(\mu g/m^3)$	NMB	NNE
Ionuomu	Bottom-up	50.6	33.0	-34.8%	38.6%
January	Top-down	50.6	56.3	11.3%	27.7%
Annil	Bottom-up	101.5	87.2	-14.1%	20.2%
Арт	Top-down		108.5	6.9%	16.1%
Inte	Bottom-up	107 4	117.3	9.2%	15.7%
July	Top-down	140.7	31.0%	31.0%	
October	Bottom-up	65.0	53.9	-18.3%	23.2%
October	Top-down	03.9	73.4	11.3%	21.7%

Table 2. Comparison of observed and simulated NO_3 , NH_4^+ and SO_4^{2-} concentrations by site and season in 2016 (unit: $\mu g/m^3$). The information of SNA observation sites is provided in Table S2 in the supplement. BU and TD indicate the CMAQ modeling with the bottom-up and top-down estimate of NO_X emissions, respectively.

	Spring Summer			Autumn			Winter					
	NO ₃ ⁻	$\mathrm{NH_4}^+$	SO4 ²⁻	NO ₃ ⁻	$\mathrm{NH_4}^+$	SO4 ²⁻	NO ₃ -	$\mathrm{NH_4}^+$	SO4 ²⁻	NO ₃ -	$\mathrm{NH_4}^+$	SO4 ²⁻
JSPAES	19.1	16.5	12.7	5.7	9.3	10.5	10.3	6.1	9.7	31.1	16.5	20.3
CMAQ (BU)	20.7	8.5	12.0	14.4	6.0	9.1	10.9	5.0	9.0	25.6	9.3	12.8
CMAQ (TD)	22.3	9.0	12.2	11.8	5.4	9.5	11.6	5.2	9.1	26.2	9.4	12.8
SORPES	14.1	8.6	13.2	7.5	6.6	11.5	8.8	5.2	8.3	23.0	13.4	15.7
CMAQ (BU)	18.5	7.3	8.0	12.2	4.3	5.2	9.3	4.0	5.4	23.6	8.7	10.9
CMAQ (TD)	18.0	7.0	7.4	8.3	3.7	5.0	9.8	4.2	5.4	23.6	8.8	10.1
NUIST	16.9	11.0	15.9	6.8	7.1	13.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.9	14.3	16.8
CMAQ (BU)	20.0	7.9	9.9	14.0	5.8	7.5				24.3	9.0	11.3
CMAQ (TD)	21.8	8.5	9.9	11.8	5.3	7.8				24.6	9.1	11.3
HZS	19.9	6.6	19.9	1.9	2.8	6.2	12.7	8.3	13.3	25.3	6.6	19.5
CMAQ (BU)	14.1	5.7	8.8	5.0	1.5	2.1	8.3	3.6	6.5	18.5	6.6	9.1
CMAQ (TD)	16.0	6.3	8.6	3.7	1.3	2.8	9.3	3.9	6.6	19.9	6.8	8.9
CZS	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.1	5.1	10.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.4	11.8	10.9
CMAQ (BU)				11.6	4.9	7.1				23.1	9.1	11.3
CMAQ (TD)				10.7	5.0	7.3				23.1	9.1	11.3
SZS	17.8	10.2	14.7	7.9	8.0	14.9	14.2	9.0	13.1	23.2	12.5	15.1
CMAQ (BU)	14.5	6.0	7.1	13.3	5.3	7.1	6.2	2.9	6.3	19.6	7.8	11.7
CMAQ (TD)	15.5	6.3	7.1	11.7	5.0	7.7	6.9	3.0	6.3	19.9	7.9	11.7
Mean	17.6	10.6	15.3	5.8	6.5	11.2	11.5	7.1	11.1	24.0	12.5	16.4
CMAQ (BU)	17.6	7.1	9.1	11.7	4.6	6.3	8.7	3.9	6.8	22.5	8.4	11.2
CMAQ (TD)	18.7	7.4	9.1	9.7	4.3	6.7	9.4	4.1	6.8	22.9	8.5	11.0

No reduction		-30% VOCs emissions	-60% VOCs emissions		
No reduction	-	-8.9% (Case 2)	-19.5% (Case 7)		
-30% NO _X emissions	14.2% (Case 1)	7.1% (Case 3)	-2.1% (Case 4)		
-60% NO _X emissions	23.7% (Case 6)	19.8% (Case 5)	14.5% (Case 8)		

 Table 3. The changed percentages of ozone concentration based on the sensitivity analysis for April 2016.

	NO ₃ ⁻	$\mathrm{NH_4}^+$	SO4 ²⁻	SNA
-30% NO _X emissions (Case 9)	-3.3%	-1.2%	3.8%	-1.0%
-30% NH ₃ emissions (Case 10)	-16.3%	-14.5%	-0.6%	-11.7%
-30% SO ₂ emissions (Case 11)	2.0%	0.2%	-2.4%	0.5%
-30% (NO _X +NH ₃ +SO ₂) emissions (Case 12)	-15.5%	-15.5%	-4.0%	-12.4%

Table 4. The changed percentages of NO_3^- , NH_4^+ and SO_4^{2-} concentrations based on the sensitivity analysis for January 2016.



















Difference (Top-down minus Bottom-up)







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