Measurement report: Method for evaluating CO₂ emissions from a cement plant using atmospheric $\delta(O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂ measurements and its implication for future detection of CO₂ capture signals

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- 10 Abstract. Continuous observations of atmospheric $\partial (O_2/N_2)$ and CO_2 amount fractions have been carried out at Ryori (RYO), Japan since August 2017. In these observations, the $O_2:CO_2$ exchange ratio (ER, $-\Delta y(O_2)\Delta y(CO_2)^{-1}$) has frequently been lower than expected from short-term variations in emissions from terrestrial biospheric activities and combustion of liquid, gas, and solid fuels. This finding suggests a substantial effect of CO_2 emissions from a cement plant located about 6 km northwest of RYO. To evaluate this effect quantitatively, we simulated CO_2 amount fractions in the area around RYO by using a fine-scale
- 15 atmospheric transport model that incorporated CO₂ fluxes from terrestrial biospheric activities, fossil fuel combustion, and cement production. The simulated CO₂ amount fractions were converted to O₂ amount fractions by using the respective ER values of 1.1, 1.4, and 0 for the terrestrial biospheric activities, fossil fuel combustion, and cement production. Thus obtained O₂ and CO₂ amount fraction changes were used to derive simulated ER for comparison with the observed ER. To extract the contribution of CO₂ emissions from the cement plant, we used $y(CO_2^*)$ as an indicator variable, where $y(CO_2^*)$ is a conservative
- 20 variable for terrestrial biospheric activities and fossil fuel combustion obtained by simultaneous analysis of observed δ (O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fractions and simulated ERs. We confirmed that the observed and simulated ER values and also the *y*(CO₂^{*}) values and simulated CO₂ amount fractions due only to cement production were generally consistent. These results suggest that combined measurements of δ (O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fractions will be useful for evaluating CO₂ capture from flue gas at carbon capture and storage (CCS) plants, which, similar to a cement plant, change CO₂ amount fractions without changing O₂
- 25 values, although CCS plants differ from cement plants in the direction of CO₂ exchange with the atmosphere.

1 Introduction

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Simultaneous analysis of atmospheric δ (O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fractions has been used to estimate the global CO₂ budget since the early 1990s (e.g. Keeling and Shertz, 1992). Recently, these analyses have also been applied to separate the contributions of different sources to the local CO₂ budget in an urban area (e.g. Ishidoya et al., 2020; Sugawara et al., 2021; Pickers et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2023). This approach uses $-O_2$:CO₂ exchange ratios (ER) or oxidative ratios (OR) ($-\Delta \nu$ (O₂) Δ

 $v(CO_2)^{-1}$) for terrestrial biospheric activities and fossil fuel combustion. Strictly speaking, there is a distinction between ER and OR: the ER refers to the exchange between the atmosphere and organisms or ecosystems while the OR indicates the stoichiometry of specific materials (Faassen et al., 2023). For terrestrial biospheric O₂ and CO₂ fluxes, ORs of 1.1 or 1.05 are

generally used (Severinghaus, 1995; Resplandy et al., 2019), and for the fluxes due to fossil fuel combustion, ORs of 1.95 for 35 gaseous fuels, 1.44 for oil and other liquid fuels, 1.17 for coal and other solid fuels, and 0 for cement production are typical (Keeling, 1988). Therefore, atmospheric O₂ amount fraction varies in opposite phase with CO₂ amount fraction, owing to terrestrial biospheric activities and fossil fuel combustion. The ORs are typically very stable, and the global average OR for fossil fuels is about 1.4 (e.g. Keeling and Manning, 2014).

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In the cement production process, calcium carbonate is burned and calcium oxide and CO₂ are produced as follows:

$$CaCO_3 \rightarrow CaO + CO_2. \tag{1}$$

- Because this chemical reaction emits CO₂ to the atmosphere without O₂ consumption, its OR is 0. It should be noted that the cement kilns are usually fired with fossil fuels, so that the overall ER for cement production is not 0. CO₂ emissions from 45 cement production account for about 2 % of global fossil fuel CO₂ emissions (Friedlingstein et al., 2022). However, because it is difficult to separate the cement production signal from CO₂ emissions due to fossil fuel combustion and terrestrial biospheric activities, no study has reported direct evidence of variations in the atmospheric CO₂ amount fraction due to cement production at the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) program of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) stations. In
- this context, simultaneous observations of $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂ amount fractions are expected to be useful for separating out the 50 cement production signal owing to its characteristic OR value. Moreover, Keeling et al. (2011), who examined the possibility of verifying rates of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and direct air capture of CO₂ (DAC) by using changes in the atmospheric constituents, suggested that combined measurements of the $\partial (O_2/N_2)$ and CO_2 could powerfully constrain estimated rates.

To investigate CO₂ leak detection from a CCS site, van Leeuwen and Meijer (2015) observed $\partial (O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂ from a 6-m-tall mast that was 5–15 m away from artificial CO₂ release points. They estimated that their measurement system could 55 detect a CO₂ leak of 10³ t a⁻¹ at a location up to 500 m away from the leak point. Pak et al. (2016) monitored the air for CO₂ plumes at locations between 1 and 100 m from an artificial CO₂ release point, and collected air samples typically between 9 and 20 m from the point where the CO₂ amount fraction was 100–600 µmol mol⁻¹ above ambient. They then analysed the air

samples for O₂ and CO₂ amount fractions and found much lower ERs than those expected from fossil fuel combustion and

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terrestrial biospheric activities. These studies support the suggestion by Keeling et al. (2011) regarding the usefulness of $\partial (O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂ measurements. As the next step to verify the usefulness of combined measurements of $\partial (O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂. their applicability to the detection of not only CO₂ leaks but also CO₂ capture from flue gas should be examined. In this regard, CCS/DAC plants remove CO₂ from the atmosphere without causing any O₂ changes, just as cement plants do, differing only in the direction of CO_2 exchange between the plant and the atmosphere. Therefore, it should be possible to evaluate the ability

of combined measurements to detect a CO₂ capture signal by showing that they can be used to detect a cement production signal.

In this paper, we present evidence of the successful detection of a cement production signal by combined measurements of $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and CO_2 at a ground station (a designated WMO/GAW local site) located near a cement plant. We also examine the usefulness of the measurements for future detection of CCS/DAC signals by using a fine-scale 3-D atmospheric transport

70 model to investigate the consistency between the observed signal and the simulated CO₂ emissions from the plant.

2 Methods

2.1 Observations of atmospheric $\delta(O_2/N_2)$ and CO_2 amount fractions

Atmospheric *δ*(O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fractions have been observed continuously at a coastal station Ryori (RYO: 39°
2' N, 141° 49' E, 260 m a.s.l.; Fig. 1), Japan, since 2017, by using a paramagnetic O₂ analyzer (POM-6E, Japan Air Liquid)
and a non-dispersive infrared CO₂ analyzer (NDIR; LI-7000, LI-COR), respectively. RYO is a designated WMO/GAW station, and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has also observed CO₂, CH₄, and CO amount fractions there since 1987, 1991, and 1991, respectively (e.g. Wada et al., 2011). The CO₂, CH₄, and CO amount fraction data observed by JMA are available online at the WMO World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases (WMO/WDCGG; https://gaw.kishou.go.jp/). A cement plant (Taiheiyo Cement Ofunato plant) is 6 km away from RYO (Fig. 1). It should be noted that the CO₂ amount fraction data posted

80 on WDCGG have already been classified into the data for background air and those affected by local fossil fuel combustion including the cement production discussed in this study. The annual cement production at the plant is 1.966×10^6 t a⁻¹ (https://www.taiheiyo-cement.co.jp/english/index.html).

The $\delta(O_2/N_2)$ is reported in per meg, where 1 per meg is 0.001 ‰:

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$$\delta(O_2/N_2) = \frac{R_{\text{sample}}({}^{16}O^{16}O^{/14}N^{14}N)}{R_{\text{standard}}({}^{16}O^{16}O^{/14}N^{14}N)} - 1,$$
(2)

where the subscripts "sample" and "standard" indicate the sample air and the standard gas, respectively. Because O₂ amount fraction in dry air is 0.2093 to 0.2094 mol mol⁻¹ (Tohjima et al., 2005; Aoki et al., 2019), the addition of 1 µmol of O₂ to 1 mol of dry air increases ∂ (O₂/N₂) by 4.8 per meg (= 1/0.2094). If CO₂ is converted one-for-one into O₂, it causes ∂ (O₂/N₂) to

90 increase by 4.8 per meg, which is equivalent to an increase of 1 μ mol mol⁻¹ of O₂ for each 1 μ mol mol⁻¹ decrease in CO₂. Therefore, observed relative changes in ∂ (O₂/N₂) were converted to those in O₂ amount fraction by multiplying by 0.2094 μ mol mol⁻¹ (per meg)⁻¹.

In this study, $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ of each air sample was measured with a paramagnetic analyzer using high- and low-span standard air of which $\delta(O_2/N_2)$ had been measured against our primary standard air (Cylinder No. CRC00045; AIST-scale) using a mass

- 95 spectrometer (Thermo Scientific Delta-V) (Ishidoya and Murayama, 2014). The scale based on the primary standard air is our original scale, called as "EMRI/AIST scale" in Aoki et al. (2021). Sample air was taken at the tower heights of 20 m using a diaphragm pump at a flow rate higher than 10 L min⁻¹ to prevent thermally-diffusive fractionation of air molecules at the air intake (Blaine et al., 2006). The tower situates on the windward side of prevailing wind direction, and the surface below the tower consists of short grass. Then, a large portion of the air is exhausted from the buffer, with the remaining air allowed to
- 100 flow into the analyzers from the center of the buffer. It is then sent to an electric cooling unit with a water trap cooled to -80° C at a flow rate of 100 mL min⁻¹, with the pressure stabilized to 0.1 Pa and measured for 90 minutes. After the measurements, high-span standard gas, prepared by adding appropriate amounts of pure O₂ or N₂ to industrially prepared CO₂ standard air, was introduced into the analyzers with the same flow rate and pressure as the sample air and measured for 5 minutes, and then low-span standard gas was measured by the same procedure. The dilution effects on the O₂ mole fraction measured by the
- 105 paramagnetic analyzer were corrected experimentally, not only for the changes in CO_2 of the sample air or standard gas measured by the NDIR, but also for the changes in Ar of the standard gas measured by the mass spectrometer as $\delta(Ar/N_2)$.

The analytical reproducibility of the $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and CO_2 amount fraction measurements by the system was determined by repeated measurements of standard gas and found to be about 5 per meg and 0.06 µmol mol⁻¹, respectively, for 2-minute-average values. For more information see Ishidoya et al. (2017). In this study, we use about 70-minute-average mean values

- 110 for analysis. It should be noted that gaps in the data seen at the end of August to beginning of September 2017 are due to maintenance and technical issues other than routine calibrations described above. The number of $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ (and CO₂ amount fraction) data points shown in Fig. 2 is 9220. Note that we used a mass spectrometer to measure both $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and the CO₂ amount fraction of the working standard air, whereas we determined the CO₂ amount fraction on the TU-10 scale using a gravimetrically prepared air-based CO₂ standard gas system (Nakazawa et al., 1997). However, we found that the CO₂ amount
- 115 fractions observed in this study were systematically higher by about 1 μ mol mol⁻¹ than those observed by JMA and reported on the WMO scale (X2007), which is larger than that expected from the scale difference of about 0.2 μ mol mol⁻¹ between the TU-10 and WMO scales (Tsuboi et al., 2016). This discrepancy might be related to the LI-7000 NDIR used in this study because no significant difference has been found between the TU-10 and WMO scales at Minamitorishima, where a different NDIR (LI-820, LI-COR) has been used for continuous measurements of δ (O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fractions (Ishidoya et al.,
- 120 2017). However, we found no significant difference in span sensitivities between the CO₂ amount fractions observed in this study and those observed by JMA. Therefore, the systematic difference between the observed CO₂ amount fractions and those observed by JMA does not affect the ER values, discussed in section 3, which were calculated from changes in O₂ and CO₂ amount fractions.

2.2 Simulation of atmospheric CO₂ and O₂ amount fractions using an atmospheric transport model

125 To calculate local transport of CO₂ around RYO, we used the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) Mesoscale Model (AIST-MM) fine-scale regional atmospheric transport model (Kondo et al., 2001). AIST-MM is a one-way nested model with an outer domain that covers East Japan with an approximately 10-km grid interval and an inner domain that covers an area of 120 km by 120 km near Ryori with a grid interval of approximately 1 km (Fig. 1). The EAGrid2010-Japan emissions inventory (Fukui et al., 2014), an update of the EAGrid2000-Japan inventory (Kannari et

- 130 al., 2007) to the year 2010, was used for fossil fuel combustion. In this study, fossil fuel combustion means anthropogenic CO₂ sources other than cement production. Spatial resolution of EAGrid2010-Japan is approximately 1 km, and temporal resolution is monthly average of 1 hour. No further inter-annual correction of emissions is employed, but EAGrid2010-Japan considers the difference in traffic volume between weekdays and holidays. To calculate the CO₂ budget for vegetation, the NCAR Land Surface Model (Bonan, 1996) was used as a sub-model, replacing the simple function of temperature and solar insolation used
- 135 in the original AIST-MM for this calculation. The cement plant source was set at the location of the plant's stack, at the effective stack height of 275 m. The CO₂ emissions from the cement plant were estimated from the clinker production capacity of the Ofunato plant in 2018 (Japan Cement Association 2020). The clinker is a solid material produced in the cement manufacture as an intermediary product of Portland cement, mainly consisting of CaO, SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and Fe₂O₃. The annual emissions were calculated using the method of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (https://www.env.go.jp/earth/ondanka/ghg-140 mrv/methodology/material/methodology 2A1.pdf, in Japanese) as

$$E = P \times F \times D,\tag{3}$$

where *E* is the annual emissions of CO₂ from the cement plant (t a^{-1}), *P* were the annual production capacity of clinker at the cement plant (t a^{-1}), *F* is the CO₂-to-clinker mass ratio of 0.516, and *D* is the cement kiln dust of 1. For initial and boundary conditions, we used GPV/MSM (grid point value of meso-scale model) meteorological data of wind, temperature, and humidity

- 145 from JMA (https://www.jma.go.jp/jma/en/Activities/nwp.html). As a result, CO₂ amount fractions at RYO are calculated by summing up the contributions of CO₂ amount fraction for fossil fuel combustion, terrestrial biospheric activities, and cement production. In this study, not only CO₂ amount fractions but also ER are compared between the observed and simulated data. For this purpose, O₂ amount fractions are calculated by summing up the respective contributions of CO₂ amount fractions for fossil fuel combustion, terrestrial biospheric activities, and cement production multiplied by the –OR values of –1.4, –1.1, and
- 150 0. Here the 1.4 and 1.1 are typical OR for fossil fuel combustion and terrestrial biospheric activities, respectively. For comparison, we also calculate ER values for the O₂ and CO₂ amount fractions simulated without including the contribution of cement production. In this regard, it should be noted that Faassen et al. (2023) carried out continuous observations of δ (O₂/N₂) and the CO₂ amount fraction at a forest site in Finland, and they found higher ER (referred to as "ER_{atmos}" in their study) than 2.0 during the morning transition for the average diurnal cycle in summer. Such high ER cannot be obtained from summing
- 155 up the contributions of fossil fuel combustion and terrestrial biospheric activities at the surface, so that they suggested the ER signal not only represented the diurnal cycle of the forest exchange but also includes other factors, including entrainment of air masses in the atmospheric boundary layer before midday, with different thermodynamic and atmospheric composition characteristics. Considering their results, we examined average diurnal cycles of $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and the CO₂ amount fraction at RYO in October 2017 and August 2018 (Fig. A1a-d in Appendix A). We found the ER values are close to 1 throughout the day both
- 160 for the observed and simulated diurnal cycles. Therefore, we consider the entrainment of air masses do not change the ER at

RYO substantially, and the atmospheric transport processes in the AIST-MM is appropriate to compare the observational results in the present study.

2.3 Extraction of a cement signal from the observed data

We extract signals of cement production based on the simultaneous measurements of $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and CO_2 amount fractions. 165 For this purpose, we use $y(CO_2^*)$ as an indicator:

$$y(\text{CO}_2^*) = y(\text{CO}_2) + \frac{X(\text{O}_2)}{\alpha_{B+F}} \delta(\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2),$$
(4)

where $X(O_2)$ (= 0.2094) is the fraction of atmospheric O₂, and α_{B+F} is the expected ER for terrestrial biospheric activities and fossil fuel combustion. The $y(CO_2^*)$ is closely related to atmospheric potential oxygen (∂ (APO)), which is conserved for terrestrial biospheric activities (Stephens et al., 1998). Here, *y* stands for the dry amount fraction of gas, as recommended by the IUPAC Green Book (Cohen et al., 2007). In our previous study, we calculated ∂ (APO) as:

$$\delta(\text{APO}) = \delta(O_2/N_2) + \frac{\alpha_B}{\chi(O_2)} y(\text{CO}_2) - 2000 \times 10^{-6},$$
(5)

where 2000 is an arbitrary reference (Ishidoya et al., 2022). For α_{B+F} values, we use monthly average ER values calculated from the simulated O₂ and CO₂ values without considering the contribution of cement production (black dotted line in Fig. 5, bottom, discussed below). If there are no substantial contributions from air–sea O₂ and CO₂ exchanges, then $y(CO_2^*)$ indicates

- 175 the change in the atmospheric CO₂ amount fraction due only to cement production. No air–sea exchanges can be assumed if the wind field, surface ocean biological production and ocean temperature are constant throughout the month. Actually, dayto-day variations in ∂ (O₂/N₂) due to the contribution of oceanic signal cannot be ignorable within a month as reported by past studies (e.g. Goto et al., 2017). However, as discussed in Figs. 5 and 6 below, variations in CO₂ amount fraction due to cement production occurred over periods of less than a day. Taking these findings into consideration, we derived the baseline variation
- 180 in $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$, which does not include a substantial contribution from cement production, as follows. First, we calculated the standard deviation (1 σ) of each $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ value from the 24-h running means of $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$. Then, we removed $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ values greater than the 24-h running mean of $y(\text{CO}_2^*) + 1\sigma$ from the analysis. Finally, we recalculated the 24-h running means by using the residual $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ values, and regarded them as the baseline variation. Accordingly, the $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ anomaly obtained by subtracting the baseline variation from each $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ value is considered to indicate CO₂ changes due mainly to the contribution
- 185 of the cement production.

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3 Results and discussion

From August 2017 to November 2018, δ(O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fractions observed at RYO varied cyclically in opposite phase to each other on timescales from several hours to seasonal (Fig. 2); however, variations in CO₂ and CO amount fractions
were roughly in phase. The opposite-phase variations of δ(O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fractions were driven by fossil fuel

combustion and terrestrial biospheric activities. In contrast, the atmospheric O_2 variation (umol mol⁻¹) due to the air-sea exchange of O_2 is much larger than that of CO_2 on timescales shorter than 1 year because of the difference in their equilibration times between the atmosphere and the surface ocean; the equilibration time for O_2 is about a month and CO_2 is about a year because of the carbonate dissociation effect on the air-sea exchange of CO₂ (Keeling et al., 1993). The in-phase variations of

- 195 the CO₂ and CO amount fractions were also driven by fossil fuel combustion and biomass burning. CO:CO₂ ratios for fossil fuel combustion and biomass burning reported by past studies are about 0.01-0.04 and >0.1, respectively (e.g. Nara et al., 2011; Tohjima et al., 2014; Niwa et al., 2014). The short-term (several hours to several days) variations in CO:CO₂ ratios were about 0.01 from late autumn to early spring, but they were much smaller in summer (Fig. 2). These results suggest, therefore, that the short-term variations in $\partial O_2/N_2$) and CO₂ amount fractions were driven mainly by fossil fuel combustion in winter
- and mainly by terrestrial biospheric activities in summer. Over one year of measurements CO amount fractions also showed a 200 seasonal cycle with a summertime minimum that is attributed to the air mass around Japan: in winter the air mass is of continental origin and in summer it is of maritime origin.

In this study, we focused on the short-term variations in $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and the CO₂ and CO amount fractions (Fig. 2) to extract local effects of cement production. Therefore, we subtracted 1-week rolling average values of $\partial O_2/N_2$ and the CO₂ and CO amount fractions from the observed values to exclude their baseline variations, and examined the relationships among 205 the residuals ($\Delta v(O_2)$, $\Delta v(CO_2)$, and $\Delta v(CO)$; Fig. 3a). Here, $\Delta v(O_2)$ is the equivalent value in μ mol mol⁻¹ converted from $\partial (O_2/N_2)$. We also plotted the ER values calculated by least-squares fitting of regression lines to the observed $\Delta y(O_2)$ and $\Delta v(CO_2)$ values during successive 24-h periods in Fig. 3b. As seen in the figure, both ER values higher and lower than 1.1 were observed throughout the observation periods. When terrestrial biosphere emits CO_2 to the atmosphere, i.e. respiration

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signal is larger than photosynthesis signal, the ER values ranging from 1.05 to 2.00 are expected from combination fluxes of terrestrial biospheric activities, gas, liquid, and solid fuels combustion. Similar ER values have been observed at other Japanese sites (e.g. Minejima et al., 2012; Goto et al., 2013; Ishidoya et al., 2020).

On the other hand, when photosynthesis signal is larger than respiration signal, ER for the combination fluxes could be variable and potentially even become lower than 1.05. Therefore, we consider the observed low ER values with high $\Delta y(CO)$

- and $\Delta y(CO_2)$ are attributed to substantial CO₂ flux from cement production, of which ER value is 0, rather than the 215 photosynthesis signal. These characteristics can be seen from the typical ER, Δy (CO) and Δy (CO₂) in August 2018 plotted in Fig. 3c. Therefore, it is considered that the air mass having ER lower than 1.05 and $\Delta y(CO_2)$ and $\Delta y(CO_2)$ higher than 0 simultaneously indicates CO₂ flux from cement production mixes with the surrounding air that has already been influenced by terrestrial biospheric activities or fossil fuels combustion. Similar characteristic relationships have previously been observed
- only in artificial CO₂ release experiments of which OR value is 0, such as those described by van Leeuwen and Meijer (2015) 220 and Pak et al. (2016). Therefore, we used the AIST-MM model to calculate atmospheric CO₂ amount fractions, with or without taking into account the CO₂ flux from the cement plant near RYO, and to convert the calculated CO₂ amount fractions to O_2 amount fractions using the respective OR values of fossil fuels and terrestrial biospheric activities. Then we compared the

observed and simulated ER values. Figure 4 shows examples of the performance of the AIST-MM at the present calculation.

- Figure 4a shows monthly average of hourly CO_2 amount fraction is slightly overestimated at night and underestimated in the daytime except for February, however, absolute value of the difference is less than 2 µmol mol⁻¹ in most case. Figure 4b is a scatter plot of the difference from 391.14 µmol mol⁻¹ (the minimum concentration of observed CO_2 in the 7 months) between calculated and observed concentration for all the hourly data in the 7 months. FAC2 (fraction of calculations within a factor 2 of observations) is 0.976, where model acceptance criterion of FAC2 is greater than 0.5 (Hanna and Chang, 2012), and
- 230 Pearson's correlation coefficient is 0.69. The discrepancies between observed and simulated values can be attributed to the limited resolution of the model in the complex terrain, or to problems in the parameterization of transport processes, or in the CO₂ sources/sinks incorporated into the AIST-MM.

In October 2017, short-term variations in observed CO₂ and $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ were opposite in phase, and the amplitudes (in μ mol mol⁻¹) of some CO₂ variations were larger than those of the corresponding $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ variations (Fig. 5). If the short-term

- variations were driven by terrestrial biospheric activities and the consumption of gas, liquid, and solid fuels, then the amplitudes of CO₂ should be smaller than those of the δ (O₂/N₂). Therefore, this result suggests an effect of cement production superimposes on fossil fuel combustion and/or terrestrial biospheric activities. Similar characteristic variations suggesting a cement production effect were also seen in the observations made at RYO in November 2017 and in January, February, April, May, and August 2018 as presented in Appendix B. The simulated CO₂ amount fraction, calculated from the sources and sinks
- 240 in East Japan area with no background amount fraction by the AIST-MM, is also shown in Fig. 5. The contribution of CO_2 amount fraction for the three components (cement production, terrestrial biospheric activities, and fossil fuel consumption other than cement production) are also shown in Fig. 5. The results demonstrate that cement production contributed substantially to the simulated CO_2 amount fraction. We examined the effect of cement production on ER values by calculating ER values by fitting regression lines to the observed and simulated O_2 and CO_2 amount fractions during successive 24-h periods
- (Fig. 5, bottom). Both the observed ER values and those simulated are frequently lower than 1.1, while the ER values simulated without including cement production show lower values than 1.1 occasionally (Fig. 5 and Fig. B1a-f in Appendix B). Therefore, CO₂ emissions from the cement plant must be incorporated into the transport model to reproduce the detailed variations in atmospheric O₂ and CO₂ amount fractions at RYO.
- Next, we extracted signals of cement production based on $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ calculated from the simultaneous measurements of $\partial(\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2)$ and CO₂ amount fractions (see details in section 2.3). In October 2017, $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ and CO amount fraction maxima at RYO appeared at the same time that the wind was blowing from the northwest (most frequently over the range of 270-300°) (https://www.data.jma.go.jp/env/data/report/data/download/atm_bg_e.html) (Fig. 6). This result suggests that the short-term variations in $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ were driven mainly by air masses transported from the cement plant, which is about 6 km northwest of RYO. These findings also indicate that it is possible to extract CO₂ amount fraction data from background air at RYO by
- 255 selecting observed ER and CO amount fraction data. We have confirmed the present method of JMA used to select background air for the data posted on WDCGG is sufficient to exclude the effect of cement production, nevertheless the use of ER may

provide an additional constraint. Note that CO is emitted during fossil fuel combustion at the cement plant to supply electricity and heat for cement production. This means CO_2 is presumably released as well, so that the overall ER for the CO_2 emitted from cement plant (cement production + fossil fuel combustion) would not be 0.

- To examine the consistency between the observed $y(CO_2^*)$ and simulated CO_2 emissions from the cement plant, we compared 5-h means of $y(CO_2^*)$ anomalies with changes in the CO_2 amount fraction due to the contribution of cement production as simulated by the AIST-MM (hereafter referred to as " $y(CO_2, cement)$ ") (Fig. 6, bottom). The result shows that variations in the $y(CO_2^*)$ anomaly and $y(CO_2, cement)$ are of the same order of magnitude, although they do not necessarily occur simultaneously. This result suggests that we succeeded in using $y(CO_2^*)$ to detect a signal of CO_2 emissions owing to
- 265 the cement production, and that this signal can be used to validate a fine-scale atmospheric transport model. In this context, van Leeuwen and Meijer (2015) suggested that a CO₂ leak of 10^3 t a⁻¹ is detectable at a location up to 500 m away from the leak point based on their observations of atmospheric O₂ and CO₂ amount fractions. If this relationship follows an inverse square law, a CO₂ leak of 1.44×10^5 t a⁻¹ should be detectable at locations up to 6 km from the leak point. Therefore, about 10^6 t a⁻¹ of the CO₂ emissions from the cement plant in this study, calculated with Eq. (3), is large enough to be detected at
- 270 RYO. Features during November 2017, January, February, April, May and August 2018 were similar (Fig. B2a-f in Appendix B), although the short-term variations in $y(CO_2^*)$ in May 2018 (Fig. B2e) were noisier than in the other months, probably because of an effect of short-term variations in the air–sea O_2 flux due to high primary production during the spring bloom in the nearby coastal ocean (e.g. Yamagishi et al., 2008).

The monthly mean $y(CO_2^*)$ anomalies shown in Fig. 7 were calculated using the ER (α_{B+F}) value calculated by the AIST-

- 275 MM for terrestrial biospheric activities and fossil fuel consumption excluding cement production. In Fig. 7, these $y(CO_2^*)$ anomaly values as well as those calculated using α_{B+F} values of 1.4 and 1.1 are compared with monthly mean $y(CO_2$, cement) values. The monthly mean $y(CO_2^*)$ anomalies were generally consistent with the monthly mean $y(CO_2$, cement) values from October, November, February and April, while those were smaller in January and larger in May and August. The discrepancy between the monthly mean $y(CO_2^*)$ anomaly and $y(CO_2$, cement) is not explained by month-to-month changes in the cement production, since the production of clinker at the cement plant for each month was not markedly different with each other
- 280 production, since the production of clinker at the cement plant for each month was not markedly different with each other (personal communication with Taiheiyo Cement Co.). We have also confirmed monthly mean $y(CO_2, \text{ cement})$ values were related to the occurrence of northwesterly winds (i.e. wind blowing from the cement plant). However, the average wind direction simulated by the AIST-MM when high $y(CO_2, \text{ cement})$ values appeared (around 300°) was slightly but systematically different from that for observed wind direction (around 270°) (Fig. B3a and B3b in Appendix B). This discrepancy is probably
- 285 due to the underestimation of the altitude of Ryori ridge which is located between the cement plant and the RYO site. Such the underestimation makes it easy to transport the CO₂ emitted from the cement plant directly to RYO over the ridge since the cement plant is located around 300° from the RYO site. This is also consistent with the fact that the larger monthly mean $y(CO_2$, cement) than the monthly mean $y(CO_2^*)$ anomalies are found in January and February when prevailing wind direction is northwesterly. The complex terrain around RYO such as Ryori ridge would also contribute to the discrepancy between the
- 290 monthly mean y(CO₂*) anomaly and y(CO₂, cement) in May and August at least partly. In May, it is considered that an effect

of the oceanic O₂ flux on $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ anomaly is also substantial, since we can distinguish short-term variations in δ (O₂/N₂) without simultaneous changes in CO₂ amount fraction (Fig. B1e).

It was also found from Fig. 7 that the monthly mean $y(CO_2^*)$ anomaly did not depend on the α_{B+F} value used to calculate $y(CO_2^*)$ except August, 2018. In addition, the average monthly mean $y(CO_2^*)$ anomaly values and the average $y(CO_2, \text{ cement})$

- 295 during the 7 months (right side of Fig. 7) agreed within their monthly variabilities. These results suggest that it is not necessary to use the α_{B+F} value simulated by the AIST-MM to estimate the contribution of cement production to the atmospheric CO₂ amount fraction at RYO; rather, it can be estimated from only the observed $y(CO_2^*)$ by assuming an α_{B+F} value of 1.1 or 1.4. This is also applicable on shorter time scales (Figures B4a and B4b in Appendix B). Therefore, we can derive the observed $y(CO_2^*)$ at RYO is without using any simulated value by an atmospheric transport model, and the observed $y(CO_2^*)$ can be
- 300 used to validate hourly to annual average CO₂ fluxes from cement production simulated by a fine-scale atmospheric transport model. It should also be noted that we did not use CO amount fraction for the calculation of $y(CO_2^*)$. This is an important advantage to apply $y(CO_2^*)$ to detect CO₂ capture and/or CO₂ leak which do not emit CO.

 $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ is expected to be an indicator for detecting the signal of CO₂ capture from the flue gas at the cement plant. At a cement plant, CO₂ is removed from the flue gas without any O₂ changes. Therefore, if the CO₂ emitted during cement production, which is about 10⁶ t a⁻¹ at this plant, is removed from the flue gas, then the 7-month mean $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ anomaly would change from 0.4 to 0 µmol mol⁻¹. Thus, a cement plant can be a useful site not only for demonstrating carbon capture from flue gas but also for monitoring its efficiency based on combined measurements of $\delta(O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂. In addition, during the future operation of a large-scale DAC plant, a negative annual mean $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ anomaly value should be observed because a DAC plant removes CO₂ from the atmosphere without emitting O₂ to the atmosphere.

310 4 Conclusions

We analysed atmospheric $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂ and CO amount fraction data observed continuously at RYO to extract a CO₂ emissions signal from a cement plant located about 6 km northwest of RYO. The observed $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂ amount fractions varied cyclically in opposite phase to each other on timescales from several hours to seasonal. From the CO:CO₂ ratios, the short-term variations in $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂ amount fraction were inferred to be driven mainly by fossil fuel

- 315 combustion in winter and by terrestrial biospheric activities in summer. We found that an ER lower than 1.1 was frequently associated with short-term variations, especially when the CO amount fraction was high; this result suggests a substantial effect of cement production, which has an ER of 0. We compared observed CO₂ amount fractions with those simulated by the AIST-MM for October and November 2017 and January, February, April, May, and August 2018. FAC2 for the data throughout the observation period was 0.976, which was greater than model acceptance criterion of 0.5. Therefore, the AIST-MM reproduced
- 320 general characteristics of the observed CO₂ amount fraction were reproduced by the AIST-MM.

We calculated the simulated ER values by using simulated δ (O₂/N₂) values obtained from simulated CO₂ amount fractions and OR values of 1.1, 1.4, and 0 for terrestrial biospheric activities, fossil fuel combustion, and cement production, respectively. As in the observations, simulated ER values lower than 1.1 were frequently associated with short-term variations. y(CO₂^{*}) was calculated from the observed δ (O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fractions and the simulated α_{B+F} to extract the cement

- 325 production signal. Variations in the $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ anomaly relative to baseline values were generally of the same order of magnitude as CO₂ amount fraction changes due to contribution of cement production simulated by the AIST-MM ($y(\text{CO}_2, \text{cement})$). The monthly mean $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ anomaly averaged over the 7 months examined in this study and the 7-month average of $y(\text{CO}_2, \text{cement})$ agreed within their variabilities.
- These results confirm that monthly to annual average CO_2 emissions from a cement plant can be detected by using $y(CO_2^*)$, and, therefore, that a cement plant will be a useful site for demonstrating and monitoring CO_2 capture from flue gas in the future. As a remaining topic, some of the more detailed variations in the CO_2 amount fractions were not reproduced by the AIST-MM. This is at least partially due to the spatial resolution of the AIST-MM which limited its ability to reproduce air transport from a point source, such as the cement plant in the present study. In the future this work could be expanded on by using a higher resolution atmospheric transport model to improve the agreement between the observed and simulated CO_2
- amount fractions. An additional step could be developing a more accurate method for extracting $y(CO_2^*)$ due only to cement production, especially for the period when air-sea O₂ flux is substantial. This would improve the estimation of the amount of CO₂ capture and/or CO₂ leak around the observation site from an inversion analysis using the higher-resolution atmospheric transport model.

340 Appendix A: Additional figures to evaluate the effect of entrainment of air mass on the observed ER

As we described in 2.2, Faassen et al. (2023) found higher ER ("ER_{atmos}" in their study) than 2.0 at a forest site in Finland during the morning transition for the average diurnal cycles of δ(O₂/N₂) and the CO₂ amount fraction in summer. On the other hand, Ishidoya et al. (2013) reported ER values ("ER_{atm}" in their study) close to 1 at a Japanese forest site in summer, for the average diurnal cycles throughout the day. Considering the discrepancy between Faassen et al. (2023) and Ishidoya et al.
(2013), we derive the average diurnal cycle of δ(O₂/N₂) and the CO₂ amount fraction at RYO. For this purpose, deviations of δ(O₂/N₂) and the CO₂ amount fraction from their 24-h mean values were calculated, and the Δδ(O₂/N₂) were converted to Δ*y*(O₂) by multiplying *X*(O₂) (=0.2094). Figures A1a-b show the average diurnal cycles of Δ*y*(O₂) and Δ*y*(CO₂) in October 2017, and their relationship. Those for August 2018 are also shown in Figs. A1c-d. As seen from the figures, the observed Δ*y*(O₂) took maxima in the daytime, and the ER values for the average diurnal cycles at RYO were close to 1 throughout the

AIST-MM were also shown in Figs. A1a-d. Similar to the observations, it was found that the simulated $\Delta y(O_2)$ took maxima

in the daytime and the ER were close to 1 throughout the day. These facts indicate the observed ER at RYO can be reproduced by the AIST-MM generally, including the period during the morning transition. Therefore, an entrainment of air mass to yield high ER during the morning suggested by Faassen et al. (2023) may be a characteristic phenomenon at their observational site.

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Appendix B: Additional figures to evaluate the effect of cement production on the observed and simulated CO₂ amount fractions

In the main text, variations in CO₂ amount fractions and $\partial(O_2/N_2)$ observed at RYO, CO₂ amount fraction simulated by the AIST-MM, and ER calculated from the observed and simulated data in October 2017 were shown in Fig. 5. We also show the corresponding figures in November, 2017, and January, February, April, May, and August, 2018 in Fig. B1a, B1b, B1c, B1d, B1e, and B1f, respectively. Variations in $y(CO_2^*)$, CO amount fractions in October 2017, and five-hour-averages of the $y(CO_2^*)$ anomalies from the $y(CO_2^*)$ baseline variation and those of $y(CO_2$, cement) simulated by the AIST-MM were shown in Fig. 6. We also show the corresponding figures in November, 2017, and January, February, April, May, and August, 2018 in Fig. B2a, B2b, B2c, B2d, B2e, and B2f, respectively. General characteristics of Fig. B1a-f and B2a-f are found to be similar

to those discussed in the main text for Fig. 5 and 6, respectively. However, we can distinguish short-term variations in δ (O₂/N₂) without simultaneous changes in CO₂ amount fraction in May 2018 (Fig. B1e), which may be attributed to substantial oceanic O₂ flux due to high primary production during the spring bloom.

Figure B3a shows relationships between $y(CO_2^*)$ and wind direction at RYO. Same as in B3a but for $y(CO_2$, cement) simulated by the AIST-MM is shown in B3b. The average wind direction when high $y(CO_2$, cement) values appeared is around

370 300°, while that for observed wind direction is around 270°. This discrepancy is probably due to insufficient spatial resolution of the AIST-MM as discussed in the main text.

Figures B4a and B4b show the bottom panels of Fig. 6 and A2a, respectively, but for adding the $\Delta y(CO_2^*)$ calculated by using the α_{B+F} values of 1.4 and 1.1. As seen from the figures, several hours to day-to-day variations in the $\Delta y(CO_2^*)$ did not change substantially depending on the α_{B+F} value used to calculate $y(CO_2^*)$. Therefore, the contribution of cement production

375 to the atmospheric CO₂ amount fraction at RYO can be estimated from the observed $y(\text{CO}_2^*)$ by assuming an α_{B+F} value of 1.1 or 1.4, not only for monthly time scale but for shorter (hourly to day-to-day) time scale.

Data availability.

The δ (O₂/N₂) and CO₂ amount fraction data at RYO site presented in this study are included as electronic supplement to the manuscript. We will deposit the data in the WDCGG before the manuscript is accepted for publication, and the URL and DOI will be shown here.

Author contributions.

SI designed the study and drafted the manuscript. Measurements of O₂ and CO₂ amount fractions were conducted by SI, KT,

and KS. KH conducted the AIST-MM simulations. NA prepared the standard gas for the O₂ measurements. KI and HM examined the results and provided feedback on the manuscript. All authors approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests.

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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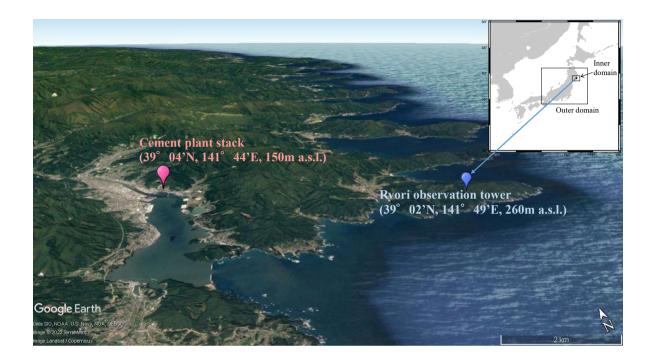
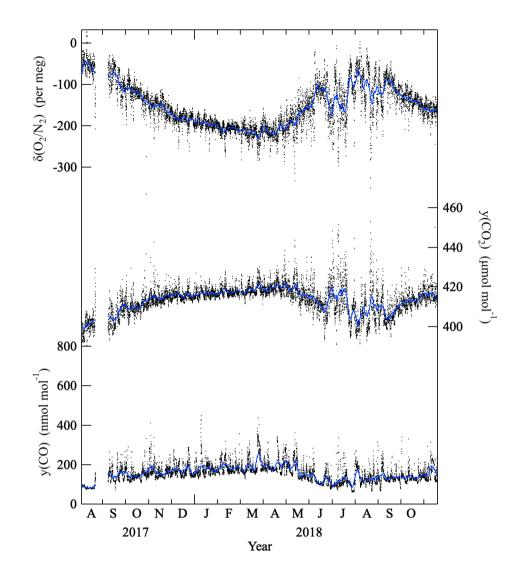
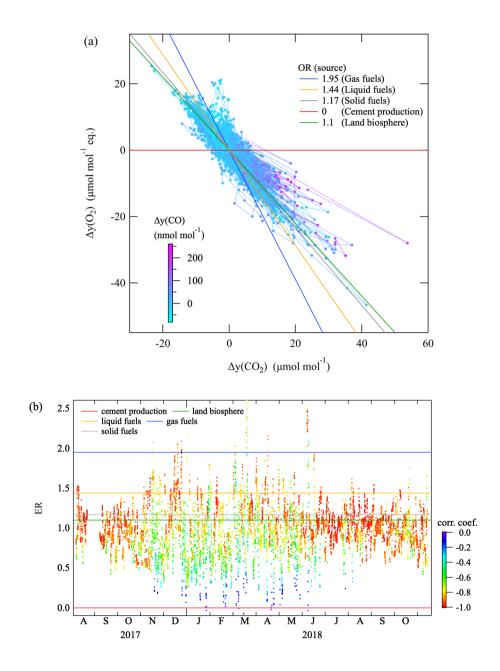


Figure 1: Location of the Ryori site (RYO) and the cement plant on an aerial photograph from Google Earth. The cement plant is about 6 km northwest of RYO. Inner and outer domains of the fine-scale 3-D atmospheric transport model (AIST-MM) used in the present study are also shown.



530 Figure 2: δ(O₂/N₂) and CO₂ and CO amount fractions (black dots) and their 1-week rolling average values (blue lines) observed at Ryori (RYO), Japan, from August 2017 to November 2018. δ(O₂/N₂) and CO₂ y-axes are scaled to be visually comparable.



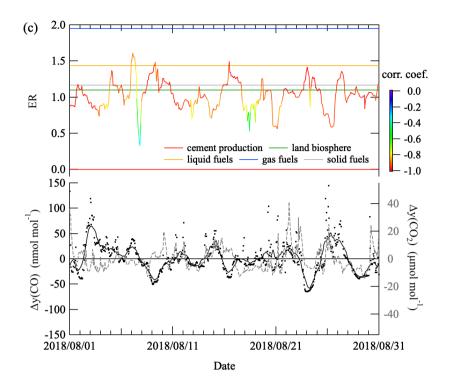


Figure 3: (a) Relationship between $\Delta y(O_2)$ and $\Delta y(CO_2)$ at RYO for the period from August 2017 to November 2018. $\Delta y(O_2)$, $\Delta y(CO_2)$, and $\Delta y(CO)$ were calculated by subtracting the 1-week mean values of $\delta (O_2/N_2)$, CO₂ and CO amount fractions from their observed

- values; then $\Delta \delta (O_2/N_2)$ values were converted to the equivalent $\Delta y(O_2)$. $\Delta y(CO)$ values are shown by the color scale. The plotted ER values are from Keeling (1988) and Severinghaus (1995). (b) ER values calculated by least-squares fitting of regression lines to the observed $\Delta y(O_2)$ and $\Delta y(CO_2)$ values shown in (a) during successive 24-h periods (before and after 12-h of each point) throughout the observation period. (c) Same ER as in (b) but for August 2018. $\Delta y(CO)$ (black dots) and its 24-h averages (black solid line), and
- 545 $\Delta y(CO_2)$ (gray dashed line) are also shown.

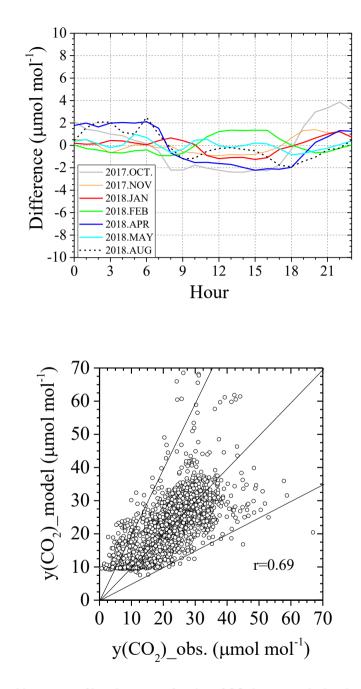


Figure 4: (a) Difference of monthly average of hourly amount fraction of CO₂ between calculated and observed concentration at RYO. (b) Scatter plot between observed and calculated CO₂ amount fraction deviation for all the hourly data of 7 months at RYO. 391.14 μmol mol⁻¹ (the minimum value of observed CO₂ amount fraction in 7 months) was subtracted from both of the data groups. Straight lines indicate the range of FAC2.

(b)

550

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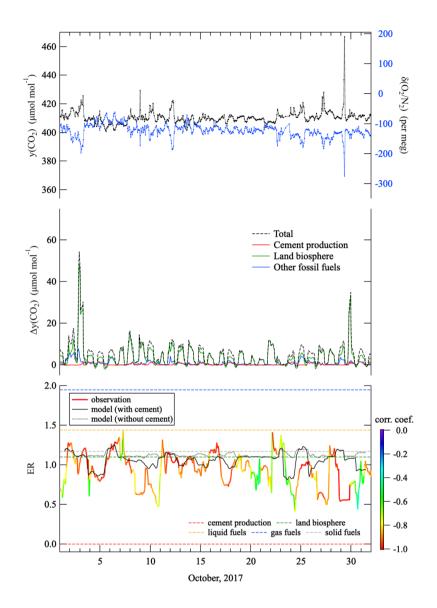


Figure 5: (top) Variations in CO₂ amount fractions and ∂ (O₂/N₂) observed at RYO in October 2017. (middle) Variations in the total CO₂ amount fraction simulated by the AIST-MM (black dashed line, see text), and the contributions of CO₂ amount fraction for cement production (red solid line), terrestrial biospheric activities (green solid line), and fossil fuel consumption other than cement production (blue solid line). The simulated CO₂ amount fraction were calculated from the sources and sinks in East Japan area with

- 565 no background amount fraction, i.e. Δ denotes deviations from the background amount fraction. (bottom) Variations in ER calculated by least-squares fitting of regression lines to the observed $\delta(O_2/N_2)$ and CO₂ values during successive 24-h periods (thick colored line, where the line color indicates the value of the correlation coefficient). The corresponding ER values calculated from the simulated O₂ and CO₂ amount fractions by the AIST-MM with and without considering the amount fraction of cement production are shown by black solid and dotted lines, respectively. Dashed horizontal lines show the expected OR values for the consumption
- 570 of gas, liquid, and solid fuels (Keeling, 1988); terrestrial biospheric activities (Severinghaus, 1995); and cement production.

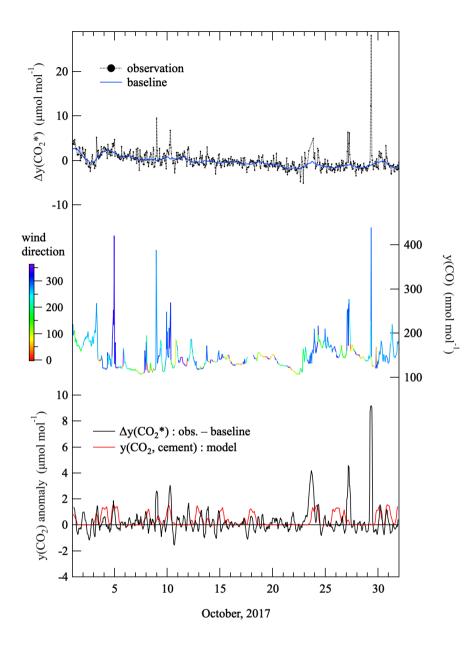


Figure 6: (top) Variations in $\Delta y(CO_2^*)$ calculated from the observed CO₂ amount fractions and $\delta(O_2/N_2)$ (black filled circles) in October 2017, and the baseline variation (blue solid line). Δ denotes deviations from their monthly mean values. See text for the definition of $y(CO_2^*)$ and the method used to obtain the baseline variation. (middle) Variations in CO amount fractions in October 2017 and the simultaneously observed wind direction (in degrees). (bottom) Five-hour-average $\Delta y(CO_2^*)$ anomalies from the $\Delta y(CO_2^*)$ baseline variation and the corresponding variation in the CO₂ amount fraction due only to cement production ($y(CO_2, cement)$) simulated by the AIST-MM (same as the red line in the middle part of Fig. 4).

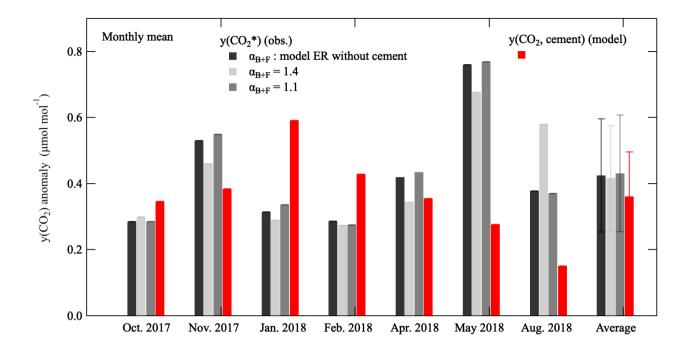
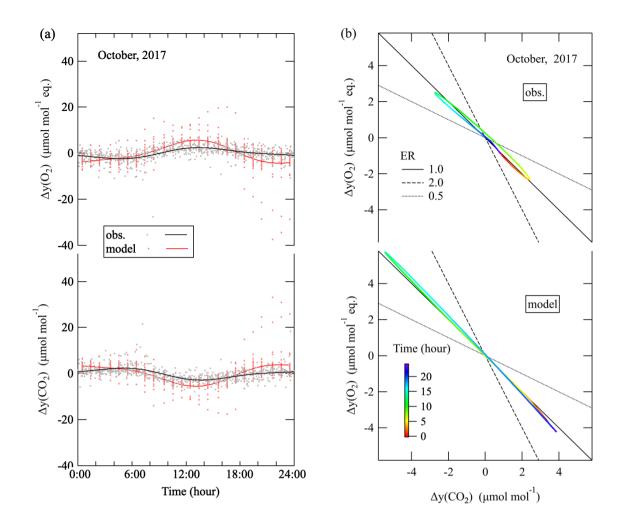
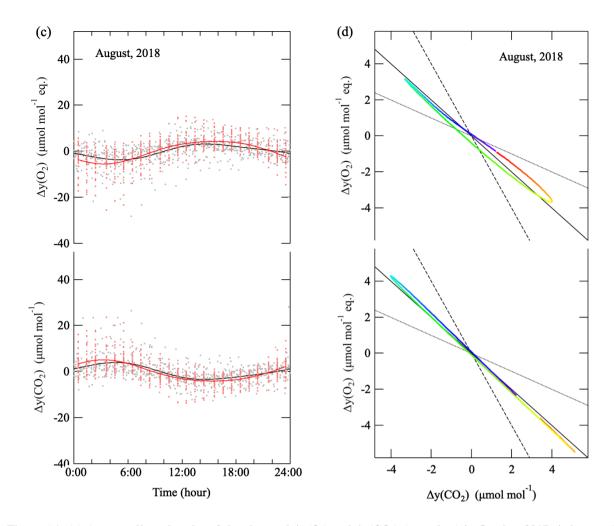


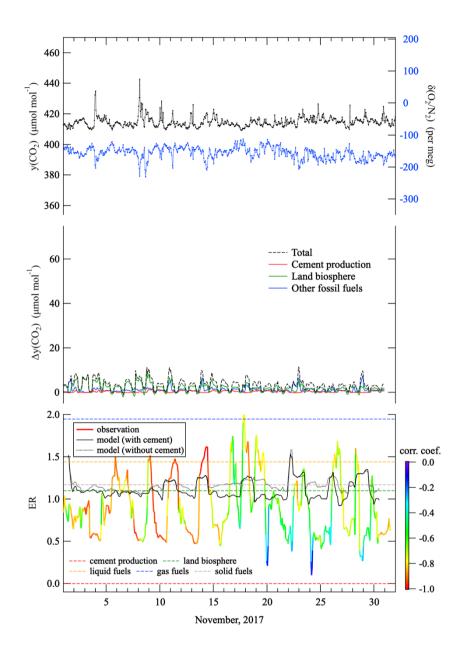
Figure 7: Monthly means of $y(CO_2^*)$ anomalies, obtained using model-simulated α_{B+F} values (as in Fig. 5a–e) and α_{B+F} values of 1.4 and 1.1, and $y(CO_2$, cement). The monthly mean values averaged over the 5 months are shown at the right. Error bars indicate monthly variability (±1 σ).



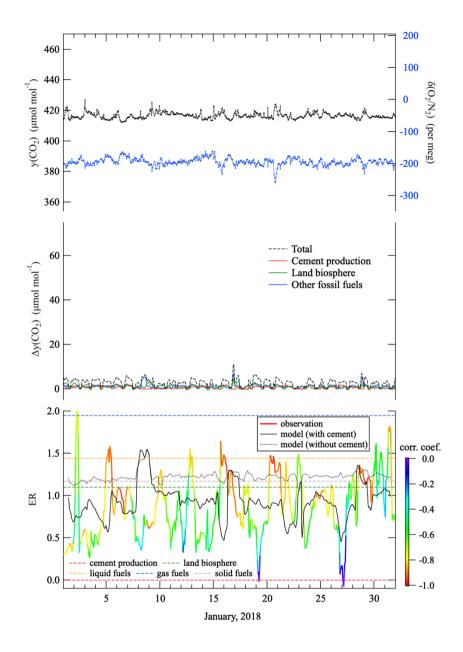


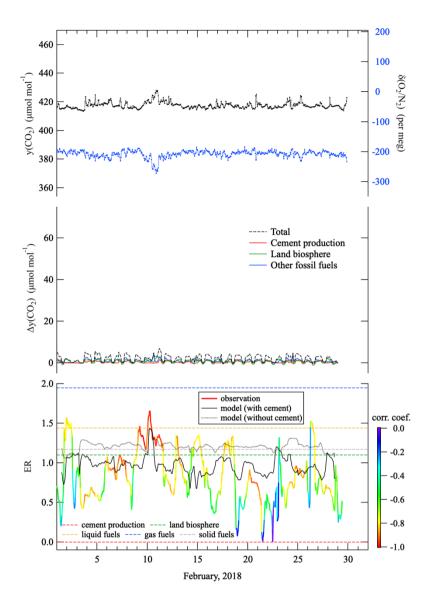
595 Figure A1: (a) Average diurnal cycles of the observed $\Delta y(O_2)$ and $\Delta y(CO_2)$ (gray dots) in October 2017. Δ denotes deviations of $\delta(O_2/N_2)$ and $y(CO_2)$ from their 24-h mean values. The $\Delta\delta(O_2/N_2)$ was converted to $\Delta y(O_2)$ by multiplying $X(O_2)$ (=0.2094). Best-fit curves to the data, represented by the fundamental and its first harmonics (periods of 24 and 12 hours) terms, are also shown (black lines). Those of $\Delta y(O_2)$ and $\Delta y(CO_2)$ (red dots) and best-fit curves (red lines) simulated by the AIST-MM are also shown. (b) Relationships between the best-fit curves of the observed (top panel) and simulated (bottom panel) $\Delta y(O_2)$ and $\Delta y(CO_2)$ shown in (a). The colour scale denotes the time of the day. The relationships expected from the ER of 1.0, 2.0 and 0.5 are also shown by black

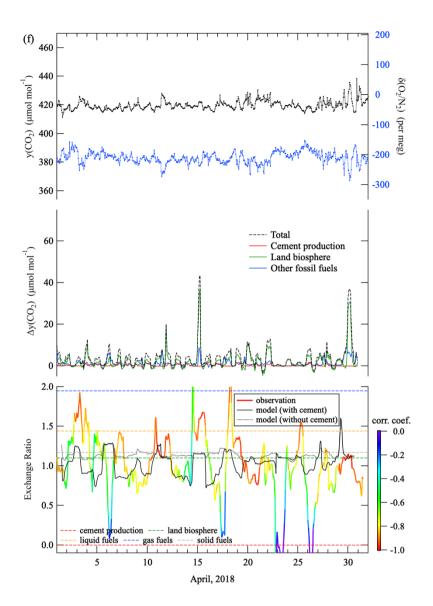
solid, dashed and dotted lines, respectively. (c) Same as in (a) but for in August 2018. (d) Same as in (b) but for in August 2018.

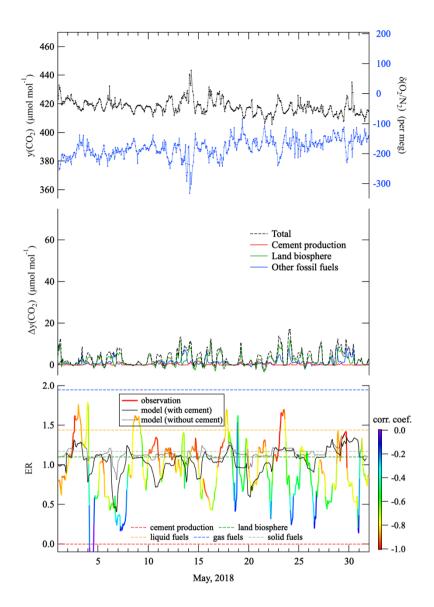


(a)

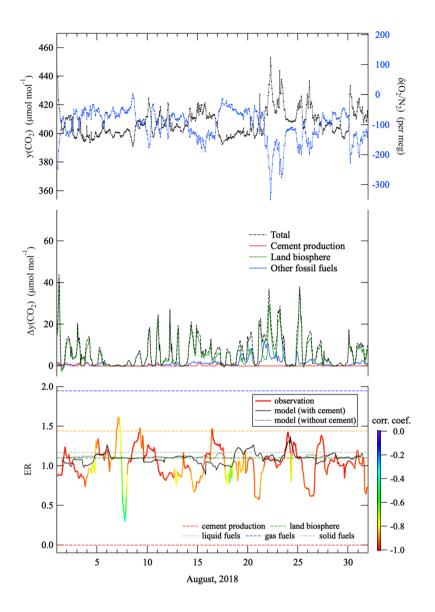




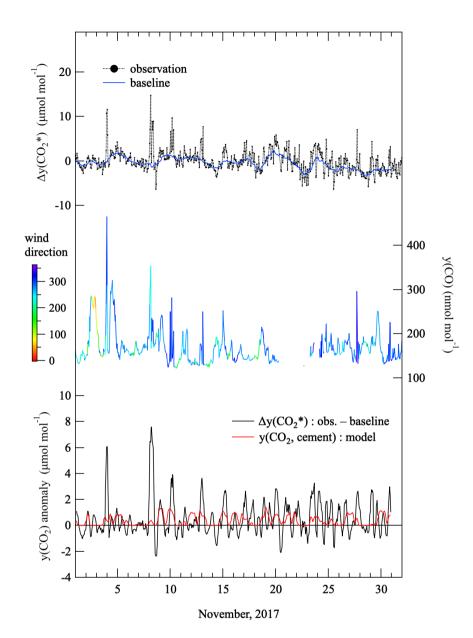


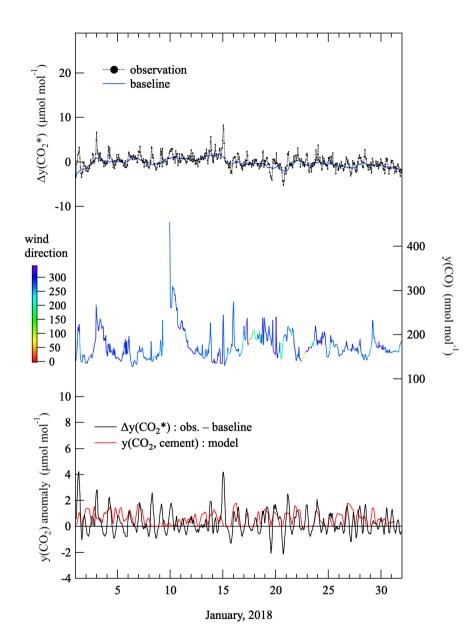


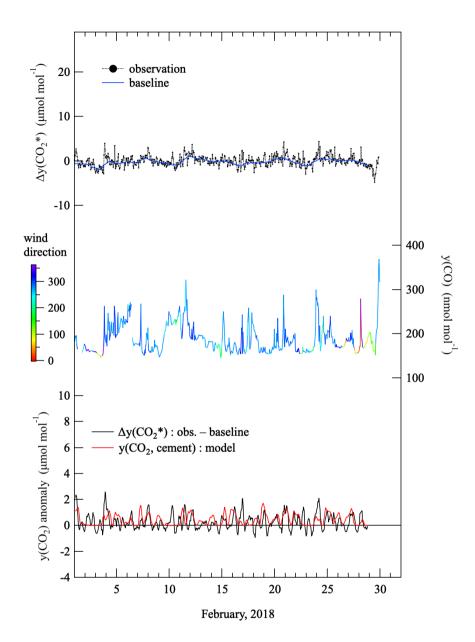
(e)

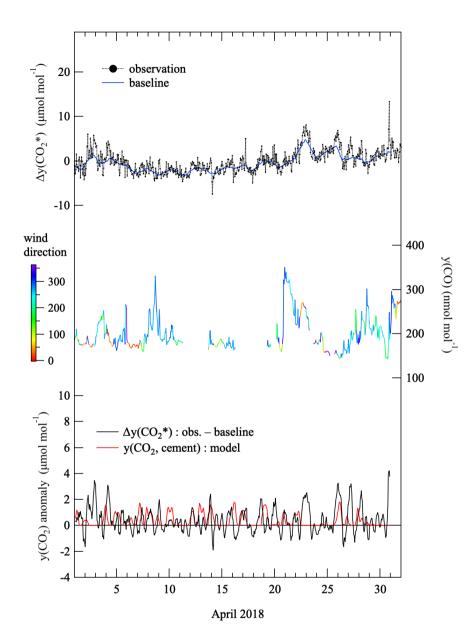


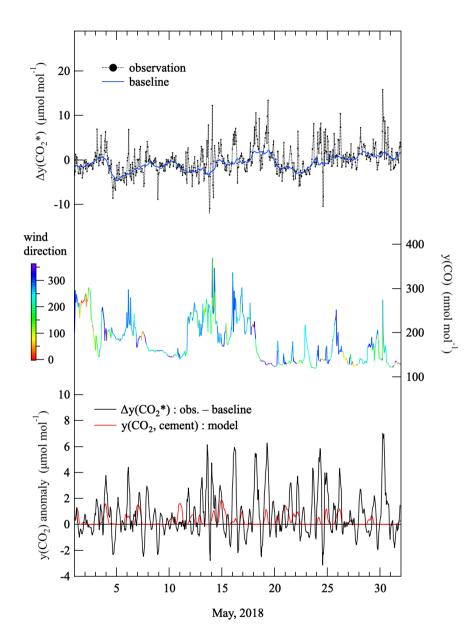
635 Figure B1: (a) Same as in Fig. 5, but for November 2017. (b) As (a), but for January, 2018. (c) As (a), but for February, 2018. (d) As (a), but for April, 2018. (e) As (a), but for May, 2018. (f) As (a), but for August, 2018.











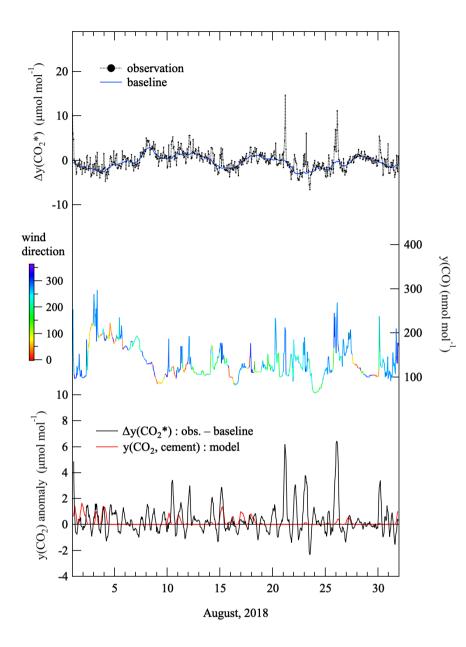


Figure B2: (a) Same as in Fig. 6, but for November 2017. (b) As (a), but for January, 2018. (c) As (a), but for February, 2018. (d) As (a), but for April, 2018. (e) As (a), but for May, 2018. (f) As (a), but for August, 2018.

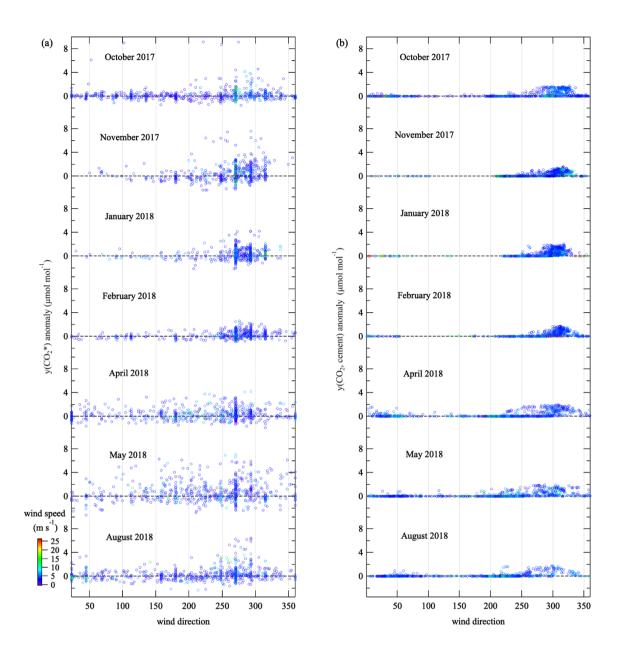


Figure B3: (a) Relationships between $y(CO_2^*)$ anomaly shown in Fig. 6 and Fig. B2 and wind direction at RYO. (b) Same as in (a) but for $y(CO_2$, cement). It is noted that the $y(CO_2^*)$ anomaly are five-hour-average similar to Fig. 6 and Fig. B2 but the $y(CO_2, CO_2)$ cement) are hourly values.

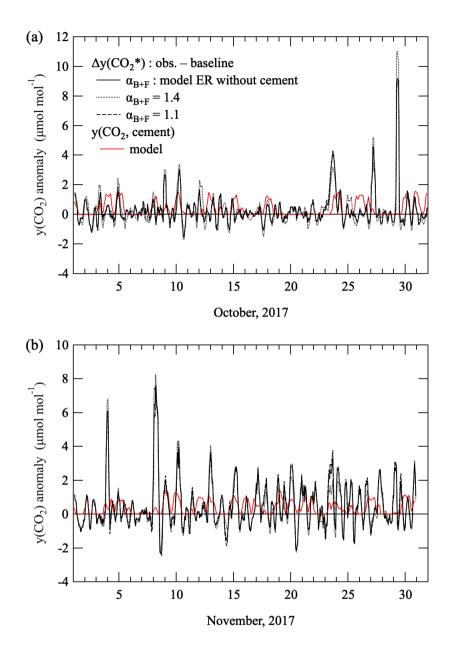


Figure B4: (a) Same as in the bottom panels of Fig. 6, but for $\Delta y(CO_2^*)$ calculated by using model-simulated α_{B+F} values (black solid line), and α_{B+F} values of 1.4 (black dotted line) and 1.1 (black dashed line). (b) Same as in (a) but for the bottom panels of Fig. B2a.