Measuring and modeling investigation of the net photochemical ozone production rate via an improved dual-channel reaction chamber technique

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Abstract. Current process-based research mainly uses box models to evaluate photochemical ozone production and destruction rates, and it is unclear to what extent the photochemical reaction mechanisms are elucidated. Here, we modified and improved a net photochemical ozone production rate (NPOPR, $P(O_3)_{net}$) detection system based on the current dual-channel reaction chamber technique, which makes the instrument applicable to different ambient environments, and its various operating indicators were characterized, i.e., "airtightness", light transmittance, wall losses of the reaction and reference chambers, conversion rate of O_3 to NO_2, air residence time, and performance of the reaction and reference chambers. The limits of detection of the NPOPR detection system were determined to be 0.07, 1.4, and 2.3 ppbv h^{-1} at sampling flow rates of 1.3, 3, and 5 L min^{-1}, respectively. We further applied the NPOPR detection system to field observations at an urban site in the Pearl River Delta (China). During the observation period, the maximum value of $P(O_3)_{net}$ was 34.1 ppbv h^{-1}, which was ~ 0 ppbv h^{-1} at night within the system detection error and peaked at approximately noon local time. The daytime (from 06:00–18:00 LT) average value of $P(O_3)_{net}$ was 12.8 (± 5.5) ppbv h^{-1}. We investigated the detailed photochemical O_3 formation mechanism in the reaction and reference chambers of the NPOPR detection system using a zero-dimensional box model. We found that the photochemical reactions in the reaction chamber were very close to those in ambient air, but there was not zero chemistry in the reference chamber because the reaction related to the production and destruction of RO_2 ($= HO_2 + RO_2$) continued in the reference chamber, which led to a small amount of $P(O_3)_{net}$. Therefore, the $P(O_3)_{net}$ measured here can be regarded as the lower limit of the real $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the atmosphere; however, the measured $P(O_3)_{net}$ was still ~ 7.5 to 9.3 ppbv h^{-1} higher than the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ value depending on different modeling methods, which may be due to the inaccurate estimation of HO_2 / RO_2 radicals in the modeling study. Short-lived intermediate measurements coupled with direct $P(O_3)_{net}$ measurements are needed in the future to better understand O_3 photochemistry. Our results show that the NPOPR detection system can achieve high temporal resolution and continuous field observations, which helps us to better understand photochemical O_3 formation and provides a key scientific basis for continuous improvement of air quality in China.

1 Introduction

Surface O_3 pollution has become a major challenge in air quality management in China (Shen et al., 2021). Elevated surface O_3 mixing ratios exert severe adverse effects on public health, such as respiratory diseases, and the estimated annual mortality attributable to surface O_3 exposure exceeds 150 000 deaths in China (Malley et al., 2017). O_3 pollution is also detrimental to key staple crop yields, reducing the yields of wheat, soybean, and maize by up to 15 %, and is threatening global food security (Avnery et al., 2011; Mills et al., 2018; Karakatsani et al., 2010; Berman et al., 2012; O'Neill et al., 2003). As a greenhouse gas, O_3 also contributes significantly to climate change (Bell et al., 2004). With the rapid economic development and urbanization in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region in China, O_3 pollution is pretty severe, especially in summer and autumn (Zou et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2021).

The variation in O_3 in the planetary boundary layer is predominantly influenced by deposition, advection transport, vertical mixing (i.e., entrainment from the stratosphere), meteorological factors, and chemical reactions. Therefore, the O_3 budget in the boundary layer can be expressed as Eq. (1):

$$\frac{\partial[O_3]}{\partial t} = \underbrace{P(O_3) - D(O_3)}_{P(O_3)_{net}} \underbrace{-\frac{v}{H}[O_3]}_{S_D} + \underbrace{u_i\frac{\partial[O_3]}{\partial_{x_i}}}_{A} + STE, \quad (1)$$

where S_D, A, and STE represent the surface deposition, advection, and stratosphere–troposphere exchange (STE), respectively; $[O_3]$, $P(O_3)$, and $D(O_3)$ are the ambient O_3 mixing ratios, photochemical O_3 production and its loss rate, respectively; v, H, and u_i represent the O_3 deposition velocity, mixing layer height, and velocity in three directions, respectively; and A consists of u_i times the O_3 gradient in those three directions.

Tropospheric O_3 is a key component of photochemical smog that is mainly formed by photochemical reactions of nitrogen oxides ($NO_x = NO + NO_2$) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (Lee et al., 2010). The specific process of the photochemical reaction is the photolysis of NO_2 at < 420 nm to generate $O(^3P)$ atoms, thereby promoting the formation of O_3 (Sadanaga et al., 2017). Simultaneously, there is a RO_x ($RO_x = OH + HO_2 + RO_2$) radical cycle in the troposphere, which continuously provides HO_2 and RO_2 to oxidize NO to NO_2, resulting in the accumulation of O_3 (Shen et al., 2021; Sadanaga et al., 2017; Cazorla and Brune, 2010).

Typical meteorological scenarios for the occurrence of O_3 pollution episodes in polluted urban centers are usually characterized by weak winds, strong solar radiation, and high temperature (T). Under such conditions, local formation of O_3 plays a crucial role in the rapid increase in surface O_3 in daytime. In addition, in Eq. (1) the surface deposition and advection of O_3 are proportional to ambient O_3 mixing ratios, $[O_3]$, which is mainly generated by local photochemistry (Carzorla and Brune, 2010). If $P(O_3)_{net}$ can be reduced by

regulatory measures, overall O_3 levels will decline proportionately over time (Cazorla and Brune, 2010); thus, the investigation of the $P(O_3)_{net}$ formation mechanism is urgently needed.

Current studies on $P(O_3)_{net}$ estimation mainly rely on modeling methods. The gas-phase chemical mechanisms were frequently used to identify key drivers of O_3 pollution events and provide guidance for making effective O_3 reduction strategies, such as the Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM), the Regional Atmospheric Chemistry Mechanism (RACM), the Carbon Bond Mechanisms (CBMs), and the Mainz Organic Mechanism (MOM) (Shen et al., 2021; Kanaya et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2014; Tadic et al., 2020; Ren et al., 2013; Lu et al., 2010; Zhou et al., 2014; Mazzuca et al., 2016). However, uncertainties in emission inventories, chemical mechanisms, and meteorology make it difficult to perfectly reproduce real atmospheric processes, which can lead some bias in modeling the $P(O_3)_{net}$. According to the existing field observations, researchers found that the mixing ratios of HO_2 or RO_2 obtained from the model simulation were inconsistent with those obtained from the direct measurement, leading to the deviation of $P(O_3)_{net}$ between observation and model simulation results (Wang et al., 2014; Tadic et al., 2020; Ren et al., 2013; Martinez, 2003). Therefore, we urgently need a method that can directly measure the $P(O_3)_{net}$.

Recently, researchers have developed sensors that can directly measure $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the atmosphere using the dual-channel chamber technique (Sadanaga et al., 2017; Cazorla and Brune, 2010; Baier et al., 2015, 2017; Sklaveniti et al., 2018), where ambient air is introduced into two chambers of identical size: one UV transparent chamber (reaction chamber) and one UV protection chamber (reference chamber). In the presence of solar UV light, O_3 is produced by photochemical reactions in the reaction chamber but not in the reference chamber. The system does not directly measure O_3 mixing ratios, it measures the combined mixing ratios of O_3 and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). $P(O_3)_{net}$ is determined by the difference in O_x ($O_x = O_3 + NO_2$) mixing ratios between the reaction and reference chambers. These studies have greatly helped us to understand the O_3 photochemical formation mechanism, but defects still exist in current studies; for example, the sensors developed by Cazorla and Brune (2010) and Baier et al. (2015) both have an NO_2-to-O_3 converter unit and use a modified O_3 monitor (Thermo Scientific, Model 49i, USA) to measure O_x, but the zero point of the O_3 monitor is easy to drift, and together with the limitation in the conversion efficiency of NO_2 to O_3 (~ 99.9 %) and the effects of the T and relative humidity (RH) to O_3 monitor, this method can introduce large measurement uncertainties. Sklaveniti et al. (2018) have shortened the average residence time in the chambers to 4.5 min, which reduced the scattering and increased the time resolution of ΔO_x measurement, but large wall loss still exists in their system at 5 % and 3 % for O_3 and NO_2, respectively. Sadanaga et al. (2017) passed

the NO standard gas into the perfluoroalkoxy (PFA) tube to convert O_3 into NO_2 to detect O_x, which is easy to operate, but the laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) NO_2 detector is less portable and maintainable. Furthermore, all the current sensors have different degrees of wall loss of NO_2 and O_3 that can even reach 15 %, which greatly affect the accuracy of the evaluation of $P(O_3)_{net}$.

In this study, we modified and improved a $P(O_3)_{net}$ sensor based on the dual-channel technique as described above and named it the net photochemical ozone production rate (NPOPR) detection system. Section 2 discusses the improvement and characterization of the NPOPR detection system. Furthermore, we applied the NPOPR detection system to an observation campaign conducted at Shenzhen Meteorological Gradient Tower (SZMGT) in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region in China. A zero-dimensional box model based on the Framework for 0-D Atmospheric Modeling (F0AM) v3.2 coupled with MCM v3.3.1 was used to simulate the photochemical reactions inside both the reaction and reference chambers in the NPOPR system, which allowed us to assess the ability of the current modeling method to model $P(O_3)_{net}$, as described in Sect. 3. The current research could help us study the source and formation mechanism of O_3 and provide effective theoretical support for the prevention and control of O_3 pollution. Because the system can directly obtain real-time $P(O_3)_{net}$ under different environmental conditions, it can meet richer and more specific research needs.

2 Method and materials

2.1 Development of the NPOPR detection system

A schematic and an actual image of the NPOPR detection system are shown in Fig. 1. The integral construction is similar to the $P\text{-}L(O_x)$ measurement system built by Sadanaga et al. (2017) and Sklaveniti et al. (2018), which mainly consists of reaction and reference chambers with the same geometry and made of quartz (190.5 mm inner diameter and 700 mm length; more details can be found in Fig. S1 in the Supplement). To prevent photochemical reactions inside the reference chamber, an ultraviolet (UV) protection Ultem film (SH2CLAR, 3 M, Japan) was used to cover the outer surface to block sunlight with wavelengths < 390 nm. During the experiment, both the reaction and reference chambers were located outdoors and exposed to sunlight directly to simulate genuine ambient photochemistry reactions. Ambient air was introduced into the reaction and reference chambers at the same flow rate, and a Teflon filter was mounted before the chamber inlet to remove fine particles. A stream of air from the two chambers was alternately introduced into an NO reaction chamber every 2 min to convert O_3 in the air to NO_2 in the presence of high mixing ratios of NO ($O_3 + NO = NO_2$), and the O_x mixing ratios from the outlet of the NO reaction chamber, i.e., the total NO_2 mixing ratios including the inherent NO_2 in the ambient air and that con-

verted from O_3, were measured by a cavity-attenuated phase shift (CAPS) NO_2 monitor (Aerodyne research, Inc., Billerica MA, USA) to avoid other nitrogen oxide interference in the NO_2 measurement (such as alkyl nitrates, peroxyacyl nitrates, peroxynitric acid, nitrogen pentoxide). Compared to previous studies that used a dual-channel UV absorption O_3 monitor (Cazorla and Brune, 2010) or a laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) NO_2 monitor (Sadanaga et al., 2017) for O_x measurements, our choice could make the NPOPR detection system have a more stable zero baseline and be more portable by assembling each part together, i.e., putting the CAPS NO_2 monitor, the automatic sampling system, and the automatic data sampling system onto the indoor cabinets with the push–pull base and putting the dual chambers onto the outdoor shelf with the push–pull base. Additionally, we modified the air sampling system to adjust the total airflow rates freely from 1.3 to 5 L min^{-1} in the reaction and reference chambers, which enabled us to achieve different air residence times from 3.8 to 21 min. This time range covered all the residence times from previous studies using different O_x measurement techniques, which ranged from 4.5 to 20.5 min (Cazorla and Brune, 2010; Baier et al., 2015; Sadanaga et al., 2017; Sklaveniti et al., 2018). According to the simulation results described in Sect. 3, the reaction rates of O_3 formation and destruction pathways and the radicals that play critical roles in photochemical O_3 formation, such as HO_2, RO_2, and OH, reached quasi-steady states in approximately 3 min; thus, it was reasonable for CE1 us to set the airflow rate highest at 5 L min^{-1}, where the sampled air has already reacted for 3.8 min in the reaction and reference chambers. On the other hand, this also demonstrated that it was reasonable to set the alternate sampling time for the reaction and reference chambers at 2 min, where the sampled air actually has already reacted for at least 3.8 min in the reaction and reference chambers. The switch system was controlled by two Teflon three-way solenoid valves (001-0028-900, Parker, GER) located before the NO reaction chamber (see Fig. 1). We used homemade circuit control software (four-channel valves boxed) and a solenoid valve (001-0028-900, Parker, GER) to automatically switch the sampling lines every 2 min. To keep the flow rates in the reaction and reference chambers the same and avoid gas flow accumulation in the chamber, a pump (pump 3) was connected to the Teflon three-way solenoid valves in parallel with the NO reaction chamber to evacuate the air that was not introduced into the NO reaction chamber. To reduce NO interference, the system used O_x to infer the amount of O_3 generated by photochemical reactions (Liu, 1977; Pan et al., 2015; Lu et al., 2010). The difference between the O_x mixing ratios in the reaction and reference chambers, denoted by ΔO_x, represents the amount of O_3 generated by the photochemical reaction. $P(O_3)_{net}$ was obtained by dividing ΔO_x by the average residence time of air in the reaction chamber $\langle \tau \rangle$:

$$P(O_3)_{net} = P(O_x) = \frac{\Delta O_x}{\tau}$$
$$= \frac{[O_x]_{reaction} - [O_x]_{reference}}{\tau}. \quad (2)$$

Igor Pro version 6 was used to calculate $P(O_3)_{net}$ through the following steps: (1) separate the data of the reaction and the reference chambers into two sets using the recorded valve number of 1 (reaction chamber) and 0 (reference chamber) during the sampling time; (2) for each 2 min period of data, delete the first 20 s and the last 20 s when the signal was not stable, then average the rest of the data and do the interpolation calculation for the reference chamber dataset; (3) calculate the difference between the O_x mixing ratios in the reaction and reference chambers (i.e., ΔO_x) at the time when the reaction chamber measured O_x; and (4) divide ΔO_x by the average residence time of air in the reaction chamber $\langle \tau \rangle$ and obtain $P(O_3)_{net}$ at a time resolution of 4 min.

The major improvements of the NPOPR detection system described here compared to previous studies to optimize $P(O_3)_{net}$ measurements are as follows: (1) we improved the design of the reaction and reference chambers to ensure that they have good "airtightness", which will increase the measurement accuracy of different species inside the chambers (more details can be found in Sect. 2.2 and Sect. S1 in the Supplement). (2) Two pumps (labeled pump 1 and pump 2 in Fig. 1) were added directly after the reaction and reference chambers to continuously draw ambient air through the two chambers (as the makeup flow) to adjust the total airflow rates freely from 1.3 to $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$ in the chambers. By doing this, we were able to achieve different limits of detection (LODs) of the NPOPR system (see Sect. 2.4), making the instrument applicable to different ambient environments, i.e., in highly polluted areas, we could use higher airflow rates to reduce the wall loss effects of the chambers, and in less polluted areas, we could use lower flow rates to increase the instrument LOD. (3) We characterized the NPOPR detection system at different airflow rates (including 1.3, 2, 3, 4, and $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$) and tested the conversion efficiency of O_3 by NO to NO_2 in the NO reaction chamber at different NO mixing ratios and NO reaction chamber lengths. These efforts enabled us to better understand the running parameters of the NPOPR system and perform data corrections under different airflow rates (see Sect. 2.2). (4) We tested the performance of both the reaction and reference chambers by combining the field measurements and MCM modeling, which indicated that reaction pathways of $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ and the radicals that play critical roles in photochemical O_3 formation, such as HO_2, RO_2, and OH, reached quasi-steady states in approximately 3 min, thus ensuring that the lowest air residence time of 3.8 min (at an airflow rate of $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$) in the reaction and reference chambers was long enough to obtain accurate $P(O_3)_{net}$ values (see Sect. 3.2). These efforts made the NPOPR system less prone to biases than other systems and increased its applicability.

2.2 Characterization of the NPOPR detection system

We characterized the NPOPR detection system following the same procedures as previous researchers, including the residence time of the air, the wall losses of NO_2 and O_3, the transmittance of light and temperature differences in the reaction and reference chambers, and the quantitative conversion efficiency of O_3 to NO_2 (α) in the NO reaction chamber. Additionally, we investigated the residence time of the air and the wall losses of NO_2 and O_3 in the reaction and reference chambers at different flow rates (including 1.3, 2, 3, 4, and $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$) and the conversion efficiency of O_3 by NO to NO_2 in the NO reaction chamber at different NO mixing ratios and NO reaction chamber lengths. The detailed experimental performances and data analysis are shown in Sect. S1, and the corresponding results are described as follows.

2.2.1 The residence time

We tested the residence time of air in both chambers under different airflow rates, including 1.3, 2, 3, 4, and $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$, and the obtained related residence time in the reaction chamber was 0.35, 0.16, 0.11, 0.07, and 0.06 h, respectively. By setting different airflow rates, we were able to obtain different residence times and thus different limits of detection CE2 of the NPOPR system, which make it applicable to different ambient environments. To make sure that the mean residence time of air is the same in the reaction and reference chambers, we also tested the residence time of air in the reference chamber in parallel, which were not much different to the values in the reaction chamber, as shown in Table S1. The experimental schematic diagram is shown in Fig. S2, and the related results of different airflow rates are shown in Fig. S3 and Table S1.

2.2.2 Wall losses of NO_2 and O_3

At airflow rates of 1.3, 2, 3, 4, and $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$, the wall losses of O_3 in the reaction chamber were found to be approximately 2 %, 0 %, 0 %, 0 %, and 0 %, respectively, and the wall losses of O_3 in the reference chamber were found to be approximately 2 %, 1 %, 1 %, 0 %, and 0.7 %, respectively. While the wall losses of NO_2 in the reaction chamber at airflow rates of 1.3, 2, 3, 4, and $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$ were found to be approximately 4 %, 4 %, 2 %, 0 %, and 0.3 %, respectively, the wall losses of NO_2 in the reference chamber were found to be approximately 2 %, 1 %, 0 %, 0 %, and 0.6 %, respectively. The experimental schematic diagram is shown in Fig. S4, and the related results of different airflow rates are shown in Figs. S5–S6 and Tables S2–S5. We further compared the wall losses of O_3 and NO_2 in the reaction and reference chambers at $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$ with previous studies (as shown in Table S6)
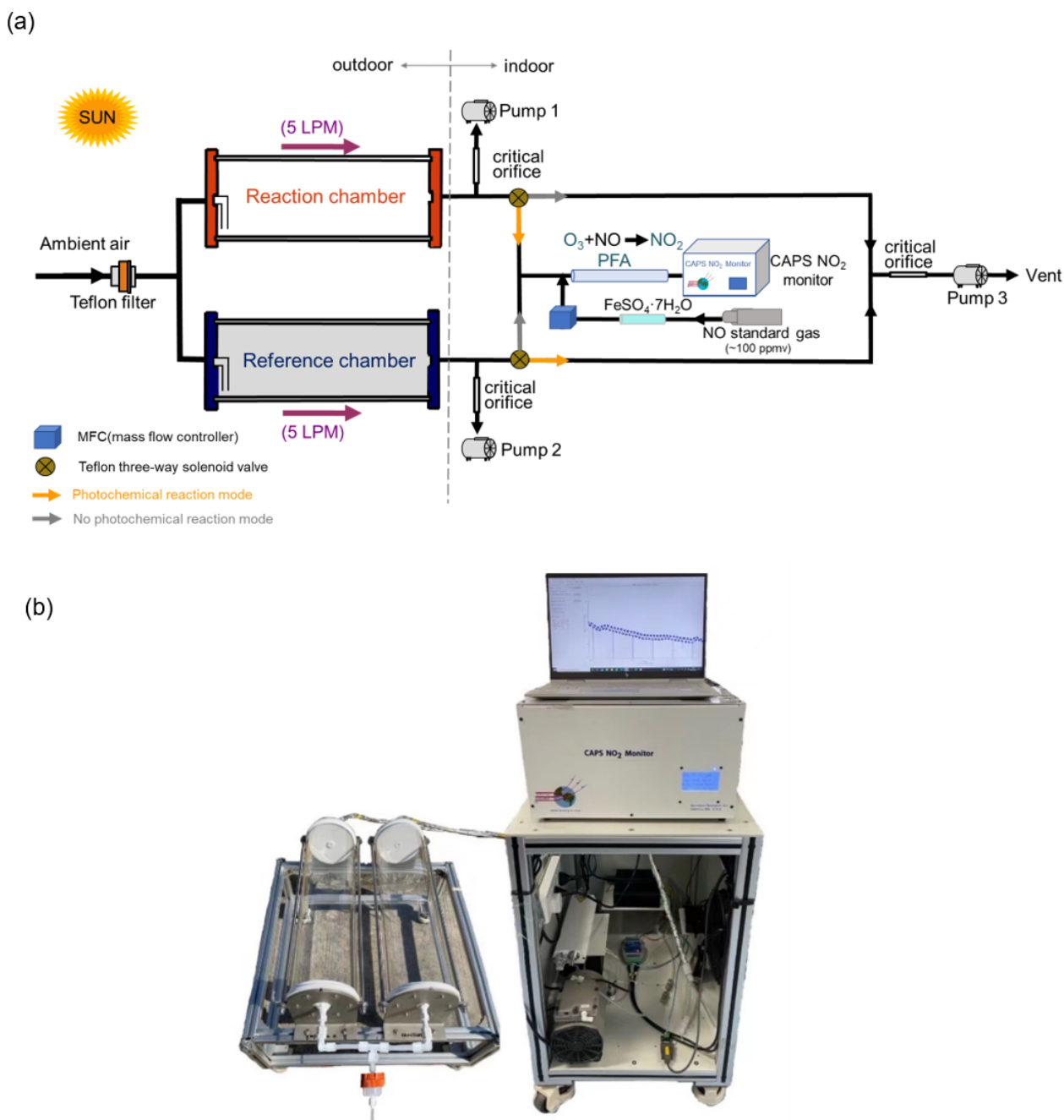
Figure 1. (a) Schematic and **(b)** actual image of the NPOPR detection system.

and found that they were significantly smaller, but even with a flow rate of $1.3\,\mathrm{L\,min^{-1}}$, the wall losses were still smaller than 4 % and 2 % in the reaction chamber and the reference chambers, respectively. We also tested the wall losses of NO_2 and O_3 in the chamber at a $5\,\mathrm{L\,min^{-1}}$ flow rate at different humidities of 35 %–75 %; the detailed results are shown in Figs. S7 and S8, which shows that the variation in humidity changed the wall loss of NO_2 and O_3 by 0.03 %–0.12 % and 1.06 %–1.19 %, respectively, which is much smaller than

the instrument detection error (which is 2 % at ambient NO_2 mixing ratios of 0–100 ppb), indicating the small effect of O_x loss on $P(O_3)_{net}$ measurements in our NPOPR detection system.

Table 1. Transmissivities of photolysis frequencies J (s^{-1}) of different species in the reaction and reference chambers. The normal and bold fonts correspond to the transmissivities of J in the reaction (clear) and reference (Ultem-coated) chambers, respectively. The "transmissivities" column shows the transmissivities of the tested species from the measurements conducted with the set photolysis frequencies using SERIC XG-500B sunlight (this study) and ambient values (literature). It should be noted that the errors listed here are relatively large and may not reliable due to a limited number of measurement points (three points for each species). The calculated transmittivity errors are 0.07 for all species based on the $\pm 5\%$ measurement error of the instrument.

	Transmissivities			
	Averaged (this study)	Cazorla and Brune (2010)	Baier et al. (2015)	Sadanaga et al. (2017)
$J(NO_2)$	0.985 ± 0.037	0.974	0.990	0.986
	0.094 ± 0.014	**0.021**	**0.01**	**0.121**
$J(O^1D)$	1.020 ± 0.04	0.991	0.978	1.030
	0.019 ± 0.011	**0.0058**	**0.001**	**~ 0**
$J(HONO)$	0.983 ± 0.037	0.976	0.982	0.988
	0.002 ± 0.0002	**0.0067**	**~ 0**	**0.017**

2.2.3 The light transmittance and temperature differences in the reaction and reference chambers

It is worth noting that there was still low transmittance of light ranging from 390 to 790 nm through the UV protection film, so the reference chamber could not be regarded as completely dark; thus, we tested the solar UV transmittance through the reaction and reference chambers of the NPOPR detection system in the laboratory using a sunlight simulation lamp (SERIC XG-500B, Japan) to provide different intensities of illumination. The photolysis frequencies of NO$_2$, O$_3$, HONO, H$_2$O$_2$, NO$_3$_M (photolysis of NO$_3$ generates NO + O$_2$), NO$_3$_R (photolysis of NO$_3$ generates NO$_2$ + O), HCHO_M (photolysis of HCHO generates H$_2$ + CO), and HCHO_R (photolysis of HCHO generates H + HCO) inside and outside the reaction and reference chambers were measured using an actinic flux spectrometer (PFS-100; Focused Photonics Inc., China). Table 1 presents the $J(NO_2)$, $J(O^1D)$, and $J(HONO)$ results for the outside and inside chambers from this study and from the literature. $J(H_2O_2)$, $J(NO_3\_M)$, $J(NO_3\_R)$, $J(HCHO\_M)$, and $J(HCHO\_R)$ are shown in Table S7.

The photolysis frequencies of all species inside the reaction chamber were in agreement with those measured outside the reaction chamber within 4 %. Table S7 shows that the transmissivities of $J(H_2O_2)$, $J(NO_3\_M)$, $J(NO_3\_R)$, $J(HCHO\_M)$, and $J(HCHO\_R)$ in the reaction chamber were more than 90 %. However, we have observed that the transmissivities of $J(O^1D)$ were even higher than those of

$J(HONO)$ (as shown in Table 1) in the reference chamber (which blocks sunlight at wavelengths < 390 nm); theoretically, this is not possible according to JPL Publication 19-5 (Burkholder et al., 2020), where the absorption cross section of HONO at wavelengths of 390–395 nm ranged from approximately 4.0 to 17.1×10^{-21} cm^2, which is about 2 or 3 orders of magnitude higher than that of ozone (which ranged from approximately 0.8 to 2.6×10^{-23} cm^2 at wavelengths of 390–410 nm), and the photolysis quantum yield of HONO at wavelengths of 390–395 nm is unity, which is about 10 times higher than that of ozone (~ 0.08). This will surely make the J values of HONO inside the reference chamber (which only has sunlight with wavelengths > 390 nm) higher than that of ozone according to the Eq. (S9). We also found that the transmissivities of photolysis frequencies of HONO and O$_3$ in the reference chamber obtained from the tropospheric ultraviolet and visible (TUV) model simulation (as described in Sect. 3.2) were 0.01 and 0, respectively, as shown in Table S13. Therefore, we believe the non-zero measurement results of the transmissivities of photolysis frequencies of O$_3$ shown in Tables 1 and S7 are mostly probably due to the instrument measurement error, this error is relatively large due to a limit number of measurement points (three points for each species). We further evaluated the measurement error of J values based on the instrument measurement error of the actinic flux spectrometer, which can reach $\pm 5\%$ according to Bohn and Lohse (2017), and re-evaluated the transmittivity error listed in Tables 1 and S7 following the procedures described in the Supplement (Sect. S1.5). The calculation result from Eq. (S5) shows that the transmissivity errors are 0.07 for all species; within this error range, $J(O^1D)$, $J(HONO)$, $J(H_2O_2)$, $J(HCHO\_M)$, and $J(HCHO\_R)$ can be considered statistically indistinguishable from 0 in the reference chamber. However, $J(NO_2)$, $J(NO_3\_M)$, and $J(NO_3\_R)$ still show distinctly positive values. Specifically, the transmissivities of $J(NO_3\_M)$ and $J(NO_3\_R)$ of the reference chamber were more than 90 % (Table S7). The influence of the measurement error of J values of all species on $P(O_3)_{net}$ will be discussed in Sect. 3.

We further detected the temperature in both the reaction and reference chambers when running the NPOPR system in an ambient observation campaign during November 2022 on the Panyu Campus of Jinan University in Guangzhou, China (23°02′ N, 113°36′ E). We found that the UV protection Ultem film on the reference chamber did not block the heat outside the chamber, and the temperature remained the same in the reaction and reference chambers during the measurement test, as shown in Fig. S10.

2.2.4 The quantitative conversion efficiency of O$_3$ to NO$_2$ (α)

The quantitative conversion efficiency of O$_3$ to NO$_2$ (α) in the NO reaction chamber is crucial for accurate measurement of $P(O_3)_{net}$. Here, we used a perfluoroalkoxy (PFA)

tube (outer diameter of 12.7 mm, inner diameter of 9.5 mm) as the NO reaction chamber. The experimental schematic diagram is shown in Fig. S12. Known mixing ratios of O_3 and NO standard gas were introduced into the NO reaction chamber, and NO reacted with O_3 to produce NO_2. To avoid the influence of small amounts of NO_2 impurity in the NO standard gas used for conversion, we added a cylinder filled with partialized crystals of $FeSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ to reduce NO_2 in the NO / N_2 gas cylinder to NO. We injected ~ 1800 ppbv NO into the NO reaction chamber and tested the NO_2 mixing ratios from its outlet using a CAPS NO_2 monitor, as shown in Fig. S13. We found that the standard deviation of the NO_2 mixing ratios was lower than 0.027 ppbv, which is smaller than the baseline drifts of the CAPS (which were 0.043 and 0.030 ppbv (1σ) at integration times of 35 and 100 s, respectively, as mentioned in Sect. 2.3), and thus we believe the particulate crystals of $FeSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ performed well and that the potential bias introduced by the impurity in NO mixing ratio for $P(O_3)_{net}$ was negligible. Finally, the total NO_2 mixing ratios, including that from the ambient air, were measured using a CAPS NO_2 monitor ($[NO_2]_{CAPS}$). The O_3 mixing ratios were controlled at approximately 310 ppbv according to its maximum mixing ratio range in the normal ambient atmosphere (to ensure that all ambient and newly generated O_3 can react with NO and produce equivalent amounts of NO_2). An O_3 generator equipped with a low-pressure mercury lamp was employed to generate O_3, and the generated O_3 mixing ratios ($[O_3]_g$) were measured by a 2B O_3 monitor as mentioned above. Here, we note that the O_3 mixing ratios were diluted by the added NO / N_2 gas (with a flow rate of 20 mL min^{-1}) in the NO reaction chamber (with a total flow rate of 1.11 L min^{-1}). Taking 1800 ppbv NO / N_2 gas as an example, the relationship between $[NO_2]_{CAPS}$ and $[O_3]_g$ can be described by Eq. (3):

$$[NO_2]_{CAPS} = \frac{1.09}{1.11}[O_3]_g\alpha. \tag{3}$$

To determine the optimal length of the NO reaction chamber and NO mixing ratios, we performed a cross test of α under the following scenarios: the NO-reaction chamber lengths were increased from 30 to 650 cm in 50 cm steps, and the NO standard gas (102.1 ppmv) was diluted to 600, 900, 1200, 1500, 1800, 2100, and 2400 ppbv in the NO reaction chamber. The results are shown in Fig. 2. We found that at $[O_3]_g$ of approximately 310 ppbv, with NO mixing ratios ≥ 1800 ppbv in the NO reaction chamber, α reached 99 %, 99.6 %, and 99.9 % with NO reaction chamber lengths of 50, 70, and 100 cm, respectively, where the corresponding O_3 residence times in the NO reaction chamber were 1.95, 2.74, and 3.91 s, respectively. Considering both the optimal reaction time in the NO reaction chamber and α, we selected the NO reaction chamber length of 100 cm with an NO mixing ratio of 1800 ppbv for the NPOPR detection system.
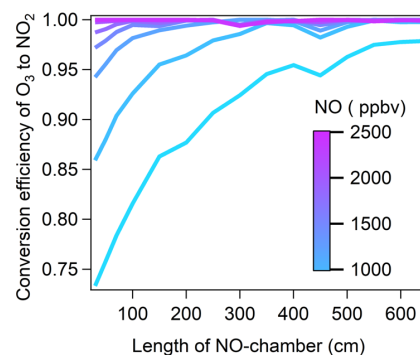
Figure 2. The conversion efficiency of O_3 by NO to NO_2 in the NO reaction chamber as a function of the NO chamber length (color coded by NO mixing ratio).
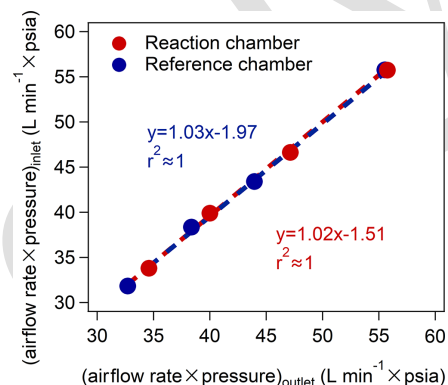
Figure 3. The relationship of the values of (airflow rate × pressure) between the inlet and outlet of the chambers (psia: pounds per square inch absolute, 1 psia ≈ 6895 Pa).

2.2.5 The airtightness of the reaction and reference chambers

We also checked the airtightness of the reaction and reference chambers by passing through gases with different flow rates based on the schematic diagram shown in Fig. S14 and compared the values of (airflow rate × pressure) between the inlet and outlet of the chambers (as indicated in Fig. 3). We found that the deviations in (airflow rate × pressure) at the inlet and outlet of the reaction and reference chambers at different flow rates were < 3 % (as shown in Table S8), indicating the good airtightness of the reaction and reference chambers. This ensured that the photochemical reactions in the reaction and reference chambers would not be affected by the ambient air outside the chambers.

2.2.6 The flow states in the reaction and reference chambers

We calculated the Reynolds number to check the gas flow state in the reaction and reference chambers. The Reynolds number (expressed as Eq. 4) is a dimensionless number that

can be used as the basis for judging the flow characteristics of a fluid:

$$Re = \rho v d / \mu, \tag{4}$$

where v, ρ, and μ are the flow velocity, density, and viscosity coefficient of the fluid, respectively. In this study, the fluid is air, and d is the equivalent diameter of the reaction and reference chambers. The calculated Reynolds numbers in the two chambers under flow rates of 1.3, 2, 3, 4, and 5 L min^{-1} were 9.39, 14.58, 21.75, 29.05, and 36.34, respectively, indicating laminar flows in both chambers at different flow rates.

2.2.7 The HONO production in the reaction and reference chambers

We tested the HONO production in the reaction and reference chambers under weather conditions similar to those during the SZMGT observations (humidity of 60 %–90 % at a temperature of $\sim 20\,°C$ and $J(NO_2)$ of ~ 0–$8 \times 10^{-3}\,s^{-1}$) at a 5 L min^{-1} sampling flow rate. We found that the HONO mixing ratios in the reaction and reference chambers were almost the same and not statistically different from that in the ambient air within the standard deviation, as shown in Fig. S9; therefore, we assumed that the HONO production in the reaction and reference chambers would not cause a significant difference in $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the two chambers. Unfortunately, we did not test HONO during the field observation period, but we have added the modeled HONO produced from the precursors before the ambient air was injected into the NPOPR system, as described in Sect. 3.2.

2.3 Calibration and measurement error of the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor

The O$_x$ in the NPOPR detection system was measured by the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor. Detailed descriptions of this technique can be found elsewhere (Kebabian et al., 2008, 2005). We calibrated the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor using a NO$_2$ standard gas (with an original mixing ratio of 2.08 ppmv), which was calibrated using the gas-phase titration method using NO standard gas and excessive O$_3$. The related experimental results are shown in Fig. S15. The detailed calibration procedure is as follows. First, (a) inject ~ 10–100 ppbv of NO$_2$ standard gas for 30 min to passivate the surfaces of the monitor and then inject dry pure air for ~ 10 min to minimize the zero-point drift, which was 0.043 and 0.047 ppbv at integration times of 35 and 100 s, respectively, and resulted in LODs of CAPS of 0.13 and 0.14 ppbv (3σ), respectively. Second, (b) inject a wide range of NO$_2$ mixing ratios (from 0–160 ppbv) prepared by mixing the NO$_2$ standard gas with ultrapure air into the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor and repeat the experiments three times at each NO$_2$ mixing ratio. The final results are shown in Fig. 4. To check the baseline drift of the CAPS at different humidities, we added another two sets of tests (as shown in Fig. S11) using ambient air and wet pure
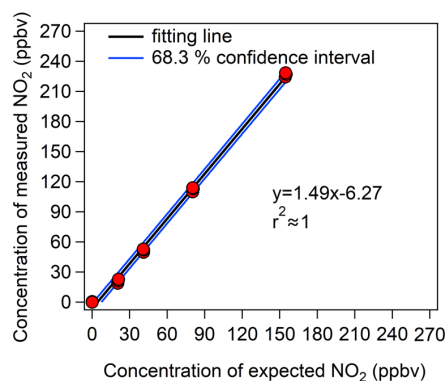
Figure 4. Calibration results of the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor with different NO$_2$ mixing ratios. The y axis represents the NO$_2$ mixing ratios measured by the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor, and the x axis represents the prepared NO$_2$ mixing ratios from the diluted NO$_2$ standard gas.

air and found that (a) when injecting ambient air into the CAPS (RH ranged from ~ 30 %–35 %), the baseline drifts were 0.035 and 0.032 ppbv (1σ) at integration times of 35 and 100 s, respectively, and (b) when injecting wet pure air into the CAPS (RH ranged from 35 %–70 %), the baseline drifts were 0.043 and 0.030 ppbv (1σ) at integration times of 35 and 100 s, respectively. These baseline drifts were smaller than those when injecting dry pure air to estimate the LOD of the CAPS. We chose the largest baseline drift when injecting dry pure air to estimate the $P(O_3)_{net}$ error in the following analysis; by doing this, we were able to include all the short-duration baseline drifting in the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor under different humidities.

To obtain an accurate measurement error of the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor $((O_{x_{CAPS}})_{error})$, we fitted the calibration results with a 68.3 % confidence level, and the blue line in Fig. 4 represents the maximum fluctuation range under this confidence level. $(O_{x_{CAPS}})_{error}$ was then calculated from the fluctuation range of the 68.3 % confidence interval of the calibration curve. The relationship between $(O_{x_{CAPS}})_{error}$ and the measured O$_x$ value ($[O_x]_{measured}$) can be expressed as a power function curve, as shown in Eq. (5):

$$\left(O_{x_{CAPS}}\right)_{error} = 9.72 \times [O_x]_{measured}^{-1.0024}. \tag{5}$$

Subsequent $P(O_3)_{net}$ error estimation according to the instrument measurement error of the CAPS NO$_2$ monitor and the O$_3$ light-enhanced loss in the reaction and reference chambers are described in Sect. S2.

2.4 The measurement error of $P(O_3)_{net}$ and the LOD of the NPOPR detection system

To assess the measurement error of $P(O_3)_{net}$ and the LOD of the NPOPR detection system, dry pure air was introduced into the NPOPR detection system in sequence to adjust the system for ~ 2 h, followed by dry pure air or ambient air

when the time resolution of the CAPS NO_2 monitor was 1 s and the integration time period was 100 s (the measurement durations for the reaction and reference chambers were both 2 min). The LOD of the NPOPR detection system was obtained as 3 times the measurement error of $P(O_3)_{net}$, which was determined at a time resolution of 4 min by propagating the errors of the O_x measured by the CAPS NO_2 monitor when ultrapure air or ambient air was introduced into the NPOPR detection system, combined with the related $\langle \tau \rangle$ under different flow rates, i.e., $\langle \tau \rangle$ was 0.063 h at a flow rate of $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$. The detailed calculation method is shown in Eq. (6):

$$LOD = \frac{3 \times \sqrt{\left([O_x]_{rea\_SD}\right)^2 + \left([O_x]_{ref\_SD}\right)^2}}{\tau}, \quad (6)$$

where $[O_x]_{rea\_SD}$ and $[O_x]_{ref\_SD}$ represent the standard deviation of O_x in the reaction and reference chambers measured by the CAPS NO_2 monitor with an integration time period of 100 s, respectively.

However, considering that the background O_x mixing ratios (measured by the CAPS NO_2 monitor of the air in the reference chamber) changed when measuring the ambient air, the measured O_x errors in the reaction and reference chambers changed with the O_x mixing ratios (as shown in Sect. 2.3), and the LOD must also be a function of the intrinsic ambient and photochemically formed O_3 and NO_2 mixing ratios (i.e., the O_x mixing ratios measured by the CAPS NO_2 monitor). It is worth noting that the measured O_x errors may also be influenced by the light-enhanced loss of O_3 in the reaction and reference chambers under ambient conditions when the light intensity (especially $J(O^1D)$) and O_3 mixing ratios are high, as tested and shown in Sect. S1, but this effect is included in the measured O_x errors. Therefore, when injecting ambient air into the NPOPR system, the error and LOD of $P(O_3)_{net}$ with a residence time of τ can be calculated using Eqs. (7) and Eq. (8), respectively:

$$P(O_3)_{net\_error} =$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{\left(O_{x_\gamma}\right)^2_{rea\_error} + \left(\left(9.72 \times [O_x]^{-1.0024}_{rea\_measured}\right)_{rea\_SD}\right)^2 + \left(O_{x_\gamma}\right)^2_{ref\_error} + \left(\left(9.72 \times [O_x]^{-1.0024}_{ref\_measured}\right)_{ref\_SD}\right)^2}{\tau}}, \quad (7)$$

$$LOD = 3 \times P(O_3)_{net\_error}, \quad (8)$$

where $\left(O_{x_\gamma}\right)_{rea\_error}$ and $\left(O_{x_\gamma}\right)_{ref\_error}$ represent the measurement error caused by the light-enhanced loss of O_3 in the reaction and reference chambers, respectively, and $\left(9.72 \times [O_x]^{-1.0024}_{measured}\right)_{rea\_SD}$ and $\left(9.72 \times [O_x]^{-1.0024}_{measured}\right)_{ref\_SD}$ represent the standard deviation of O_x in the reaction and reference chambers caused by the CAPS NO_2 monitor with an integration time period of 100 s, respectively. More details

about the $(O_{x_\gamma})_{rea\_error}$ and $(O_{x_\gamma})_{ref\_error}$ estimation method can be found in Sect. S2.

In conclusion, the LOD of the NPOPR detection system is determined to be 3 times $P(O_3)_{net\_error}$, where $P(O_3)_{net\_error}$ is mainly determined by the measurement error of O_x (including the O_x measurement error of the CAPS NO_2 monitor, the light-enhanced loss of O_3, and the chamber O_x losses). Because the measurement error of the CAPS NO_2 monitor decreases with increasing O_x mixing ratios (as shown in Sect. 2.3), higher LODs could be obtained when injecting dry pure air into the NPOPR detection system, which were approximately 0.07, 1.4, and $2.3 \, ppbv \, h^{-1}$ at airflow rates of 1.3, 3, and $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$, respectively. The results are summarized in Table S9.

During the field observations, the LOD values were highly dependent on the ambient conditions, especially the light intensity and the O_x mixing ratios, and higher O_3 mixing ratios and lower light intensity will likely result in lower LOD values.

2.5 Laboratory tests of the NPOPR detection system

We conducted an experiment in the laboratory to test the performance of the NPOPR detection system at Jinan University Panyu Campus (23.0° N, 113.4° E) on 26 March 2021. Ambient air ($5 \, L \, min^{-1}$) was simultaneously injected into the reaction and reference chambers of the NPOPR detection system in parallel, and the sunlight simulation lamp mentioned above was used to simulate sunlight radiation. The light intensities of the sunlight simulation lamp were decreased from 26 000 to 0 cd in steps of 3700 cd, where cd indicates the SI light intensity unit candela. $P(O_3)_{net}$ was $28.6 \, ppbv \, h^{-1}$ at a light intensity of 26 000 cd and gradually approached $0 \, ppbv \, h^{-1}$ at 0 cd (as shown in Fig. 5), indicating that the $P(O_3)_{net}$ change due to the different sunlight radiation could be captured well by the NPOPR detection system.

3 Atmospheric study and discussion

3.1 Field observations

The self-built NPOPR detection system was employed in the field campaign conducted at SZMGT, which is located in Shenzhen, China (as shown in Fig. S17), from 7 to 9 December 2021. During the campaign, to achieve the lowest O_3 and NO_2 wall loss, we used a $5 \, L \, min^{-1}$ airflow rate in the reaction and reference chambers (with a residence time of $\sim 4 \, min$). The photolysis frequencies of different species were measured using the actinic flux spectrometer as mentioned above. O_3 and NO_x ($NO + NO_2$) mixing ratios were measured using a 2B O_3 monitor and a chemiluminescence NO_x monitor (Model 42i, Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA), respectively. T and RH were measured by a portable weather station (Met Pak, Gill Instruments Ltd, UK). Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were measured by high-resolution pro-
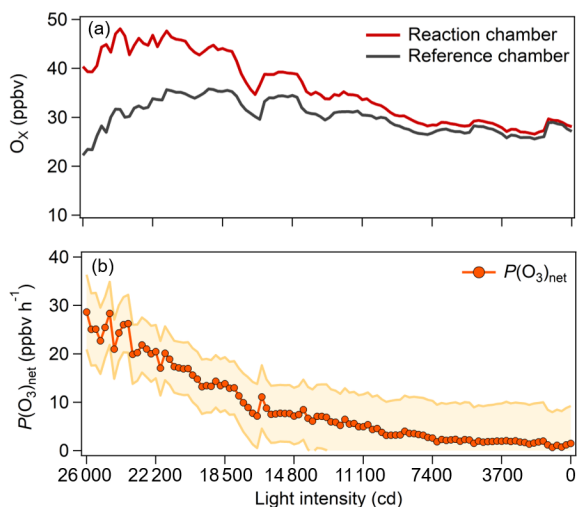
Figure 5. (a) Measured O_x mixing ratios in the reaction and reference chambers and **(b)** the related $P(O_3)_{net}$ as a function of the light intensity during the experiment.

ton transfer reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometry (PTR-ToF-MS, Ionicon Analytik, Austria) (Wang et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2020) and an offline gas chromatography mass spectrometry flame ionization detector (GC-MS-FID) technique (Wuhan Tianhong, Co. Ltd, China) (Yuan et al., 2012) (Table S11). Additionally, a self-built formaldehyde analyzer was used to detect formaldehyde (HCHO) (Zhu et al., 2020). Figure 6 presents the temporal and diurnal variations in the $P(O_3)_{net}$, O_x, O_3, NO, NO_2, NO_x, T, RH, $J(O^1D)$, and $J(NO_2)$ mixing ratios at SZMGT during the campaign.

During the measurement period, $P(O_3)_{net}$ ranged from ~ 0 to 34.1 ± 7.8 ppbv h^{-1}, with an average daytime (from 06:00–18:00 LT) value of $12.8 (\pm 5.5)$ ppbv h^{-1}. The maximum $P(O_3)_{net}$ at SZMGT was lower than that measured in the urban area of Houston in the United States (40–50 and 100 ppbv h^{-1} in autumn and spring, respectively) (Baier et al., 2015; Ren et al., 2013), close to that measured in Indiana in the United States (~ 30 ppbv h^{-1} in spring) (Sklaveniti et al., 2018), and much higher than that measured at the Wakayama Forest Research Station in a remote area of Japan (10.5 ppbv h^{-1} in summer) (Sadanaga et al., 2017) and in an urban area of Pennsylvania in the United States (~ 8 ppbv h^{-1} in summer) (Cazorla and Brune, 2010). The result indicates the rationality of the measured $P(O_3)_{net}$ in this study. From previous studies, the O_3 pollution in the PRD area is more severe in summer and autumn than in winter and spring (Zhang et al., 2021). In this study, $P(O_3)_{net}$ was measured in wintertime, which was already high, so we believe that the O_3 pollution of the PRD is severe and urgently needs to be controlled. More measurements of $P(O_3)_{net}$ worldwide are listed in Table S10, and we found that $P(O_3)_{net}$ was much higher in urban areas than in

remote areas using both modeling and direct measurement methods.

According to the diurnal variation in all the measured pollutant indicators, $P(O_3)_{net}$ started to increase at approximately 07:00 LT, which may be due to two reasons: (1) the rise in O_3 precursors (i.e., VOCs) due to air from the high-altitude atmospheric residual layer transported downward near the surface at this time and (2) the increase in solar radiation intensity after 07:00 LT, which increased the atmospheric oxidation capacity. These two factors jointly enhanced the photochemical oxidation reaction of VOCs and gradually increased $P(O_3)_{net}$. $P(O_3)_{net}$ then peaked at approximately 12:00 LT; this was consistent with $J(NO_2)$, but this peak time occurred earlier than that of O_3, which peaked at approximately 14:00 LT, which may be due to the photochemical reactions dominating O_3 mixing ratio changes between 12:00 and 14:00 LT. After 14:00 LT, the O_3 mixing ratios started to decrease, which may be due to other processes dominating the O_3 mixing ratio changes at this time, such as O_3 reacting with other pollutants or surface deposition and the outflow of O_3 by physical transport. In conclusion, the changes in O_3 mixing ratios were influenced by both photochemical production and physical transport. Because HO_2 and RO_2 were not well captured in the model, the simulations could lead to an underestimation of $P(O_3)_{net}$.

3.2 Model simulation of $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the reaction and reference chambers

3.2.1 Modeling method

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the ozone production rate $P(O_3)$ and ozone destruction rate $D(O_3)$ during a 4 min photochemical reaction in the reaction and reference chambers, we modeled $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ at 12:00 LT on 7 December 2021 based on field observation data using a zero-dimensional box model based on the F0AM v3.2 coupled with MCM v3.3.1, which contains a total of 143 VOCs, more than 6700 species, involving more than 17 000 reactions (Jenkin et al., 2015). $P(O_3)_{net}$ can be expressed by the difference between $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$, and $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ can be expressed as Eqs. (9) and (10), respectively.

$$P(O_3) = k_{HO_2+NO}[HO_2][NO]$$
$$+ \sum_i k_{RO_{2,i}+NO}[RO_{2,i}][NO]\varphi_i, \qquad (9)$$

$$D(O_3) = k_{O(^1D)+H_2O}[O(^1D)][H_2O]$$
$$+ k_{OH+O_3}[OH][O_3] + k_{HO_2+O_3}[HO_2][O_3]$$
$$+ \sum_i \left(k_{O_3+Alkene_i}[O_3][Alkene_i]\right)$$
$$+ k_{OH+NO_2}[OH][NO_2]$$
$$+ k_{RO_{2,i}+NO_2}[RO_{2,i}][NO_2], \qquad (10)$$

where k_{M+N} represents the bimolecular reaction rate constant of M and N and φ_i is the yield of NO_2 from the
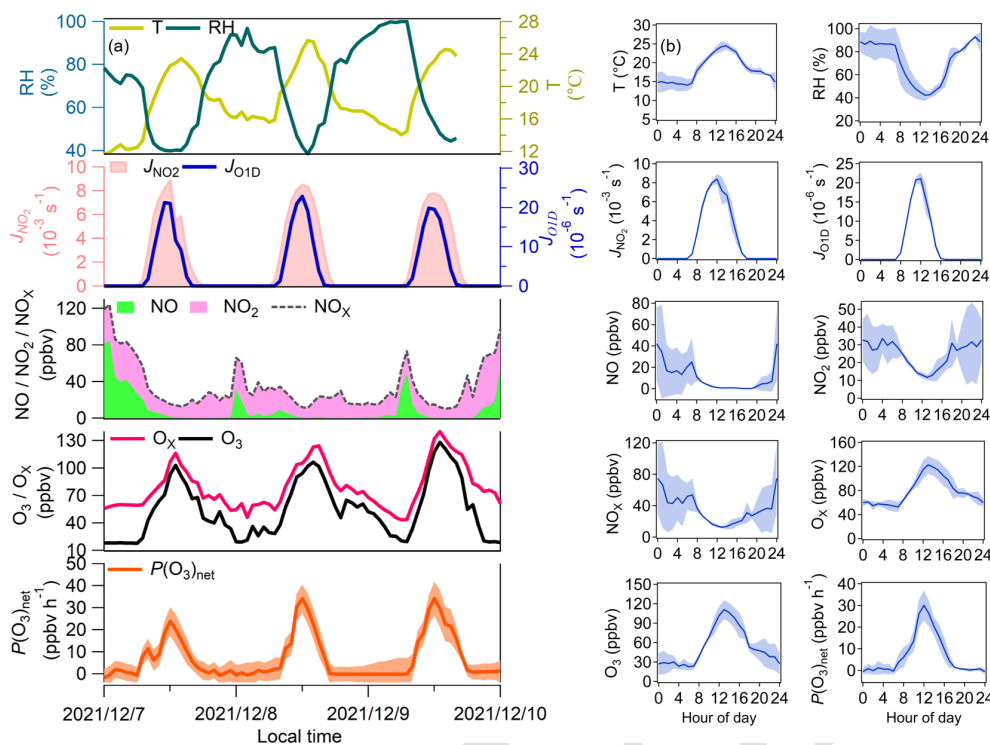
Figure 6. (a) Time series and **(b)** average diurnal variations in $P(O_3)_{net}$, $J(NO_2)$, $J(O^1D)$, T, RH, O_x, NO_2, and NO measured at SZMGT from 7 to 9 December 2021. The shaded areas represent the error of each measured species, where the error of $P(O_3)_{net}$ was calculated according to the method described in Sect. 2.4.

$RO_{2,i} + NO$ reaction. The relevant reaction rates of $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ and the VOC mixing ratios from 7–9 December 2021 at the SZMGT used in the model are listed in Tables 2 and S11.

Three-stage simulations were carried out to obtain the 4 min photochemical reactions in the reaction and reference chambers, and all three-stage models were operated in a time-dependent mode with a 1 s resolution. In the first stage, to establish a real atmospheric environment system, all observations on 7 December 2021 from 06:00–11:30 LT were used to constrain the model to obtain the mixing ratios of the unmeasured species in the ambient atmosphere, including oxygenated VOCs (OVOCs, in total 16 species), and non-methane hydrocarbons (in total 47 species), O_3, NO, NO_2, J values, T, RH, and pressure (P). Because O_3–NO–NO_2 was not in a steady state when all species were constrained, we conducted a second-stage simulation from 11:30–12:00 LT. In this stage, we used the output mixing ratios of the unmeasured species from the simulation in the last 1 s of the first-stage simulation as the input, which were not constrained after providing initial values. For the measured species, O_3, NO, and NO_2 were no longer constrained after providing initial values, while all other variables (including NO_x, VOCs, J values, RH, T, P) were still constrained in a time-dependent mode with a 1 s resolution after providing initial values. In the third-stage, we modeled the 4 min pho-

tochemical reactions in the reaction and reference chambers. We used the output mixing ratios of the unmeasured species (i.e., OH, HO_2, RO_2, SO_2, HONO) from the simulation in the last 1 s of the second-stage simulation and all measured values (i.e., O_3, NO, NO_2, VOCs, J values, RH, T, P) as the model input, which were not constrained after providing initial values. In addition, while maintaining the setup conditions for the second-stage of the simulation, we extended the simulation of the environment to 12:04 LT to obtain the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the environment in the third-stage simulation. The result is shown as an orange point in Fig. 10d. Figure 7 shows an explicit explanation of the third-stage simulation in the reaction and reference chambers.

Specifically, because the photolysis frequencies play critical roles in the simulation of $P(O_3)_{net}$, the J values obtained from two methods (labeled methods I and II) were used in the third-stage 4 min simulation. The J values used in method I were obtained from the measured values (including $J(NO_2)$, $J(O^1D)$, $J(HONO)$, $J(H_2O_2)$, $J(NO_3\_M)$, $J(NO_3\_R)$, $J(HCHO\_M)$, and $J(HCHO\_R)$), and the simulated values were obtained using the TUV model (version 5.3) (including $J(HNO_3)$, $J(CH_3CHO)$, $J(MACR)$, $J(MEK)$, $J(HOCH_2CHO)$, $J(C_2H_5CHO)$, $J(C_3H_7CHO)$, and $J(C_4H_9CHO)$), while the J values in method II were all obtained from the simulated values using the TUV model;

Table 2. O_3 production and destruction reactions and the relevant reaction rates used in the model.

Reactions	Rate coefficient (unit)	Number
O_3 production pathways – $P(O_3)$		
$RO_2 + NO \rightarrow RO + NO_2$	$2.7 \times 10^{-12} \times \exp(360/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R1)
$HO_2 + NO \rightarrow OH + NO_2$	$3.45 \times 10^{-12} \times \exp(270/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R2)
O_3 loss pathways – $D(O_3)$		
$O_3 + h\nu \rightarrow O^1D + O_2$	Measured JO^1D (s^{-1})	(R3)
$O_3 + C_2H_4 \rightarrow HCHO + CH_2OOA$	$9.1 \times 10^{-15} \times \exp(-2580/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R4)
$O_3 + C_3H_6 \rightarrow CH_2OOB + CH_3CHO$	$2.75 \times 10^{-15} \times \exp(-1880/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R5)
$O_3 + C_3H_6 \rightarrow CH_3CHOOA + HCHO$	$2.75 \times 10^{-15} \times \exp(-1880/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R6)
$O_3 + C_5H_8 \rightarrow CH_2OOE + MACR$	$3.09 \times 10^{-15} \times \exp(-1995/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R7)
$O_3 + C_5H_8 \rightarrow CH_2OOE + MVK$	$2.06 \times 10^{-15} \times \exp(-1995/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R8)
$O_3 + C_5H_8 \rightarrow HCHO + MACROOA$	$3.09 \times 10^{-15} \times \exp(-1995/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R9)
$O_3 + C_5H_8 \rightarrow HCHO + MVKOOA$	$2.06 \times 10^{-15} \times \exp(-1995/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R10)
$O_3 + HO_2 \rightarrow OH$	$2.03 \times 10^{-16} \times (T/300)^{4.57} \times \exp(693/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R11)
$RO_2 + NO_2 \rightarrow$ peroxy nitrates	$\left(3.28 \times 10^{-28} \times 7.24 \times 10^{18} \times P/T \times (T/300)^{-6.87} \times 1.125 \times 10^{-11} \times (T/300)^{-1.105}\right) \times 10^{(\log 10(0.30))} / \left(1 + \left(\log 10(2.93 \times 10^{-17} \times 7.24 \times 10^{18} \times P/T \times (T/300)^{-5.765})/0.75 - 1.27 \times \log 10(0.30)\right)^2\right) / \left(2.926 \times 10^{-17} \times 7.24 \times 10^{18} \times P/T \times (T/300)^{-5.765}\right)$ `TS1` (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R12)
$NO_2 + OH \rightarrow HNO_3$	$\left(3.2 \times 10^{-30} \times 7.24 \times 10^{18} \times P/T \times (T/300)^{-4.5}\right) \times 3 \times 10^{-11} \times 10^{\log 10(0.41)} / \left(1 + \left(\log 10\left(3.2 \times 10^{-30} \times 7.24 \times 10^{18} \times P/T \times (T/300)^{-4.5}/3 \times 10^{-11}\right)/(0.75 - 1.27 \times (\log 10(0.41))^2)\right) / \left(3.2 \times 10^{-30} \times 7.24 \times 10^{18} \times P/T \times (T/300)^{-4.5} + 3 \times 10^{-11}\right)$ `TS2` (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R13)
$O_3 + OH \rightarrow HO_2$	$1.70 \times 10^{-12} \times \exp(-940/T)$ (molec.$^{-1}$ cm^3 s^{-1})	(R14)

* The rate coefficient obtained from the MCM v3.3.1 model.

detailed information on these two methods is introduced in Sect. S4 (Tables S12 and S13, respectively).

3.2.2 Radical chemistry in the reaction and reference chambers

The variations in the radical mixing ratios (i.e., HO_2, OH, RO_2) and NO_3, NO, NO_2, and O_3 mixing ratios obtained from methods I and II during the third-stage 4 min model simulation are shown in Figs. 8 and S18, respectively. The production and destruction reactions of HO_2, OH, RO_2, and NO_3 in the reaction and reference chambers obtained from methods I and II are shown in Figs. 9 and S19, respectively;

the production and destruction reactions of RO_x in the reaction and reference chambers obtained from methods I and II are shown in Fig. S20; the detailed RO_x production pathways of $NO_3 + VOCs$ are shown in Fig. S21; and the final modeling results are shown in Figs. 10 and S22.

From Fig. 8, in the reaction chamber the HO_2, OH, RO_2, and NO_3 concentrations first slightly increased and then became stable, and their final concentrations were 2.00×10^8, 7.64×10^6, 1.08×10^8, and 8.47×10^6 molec. cm^{-3}, respectively. In the reference chamber, the HO_2 and RO_2 concentrations dropped during the first half minute and rose afterward. The final HO_2 concentration (1.35×10^8 molec. cm^{-3}) was lower than that in the reaction chamber, while the
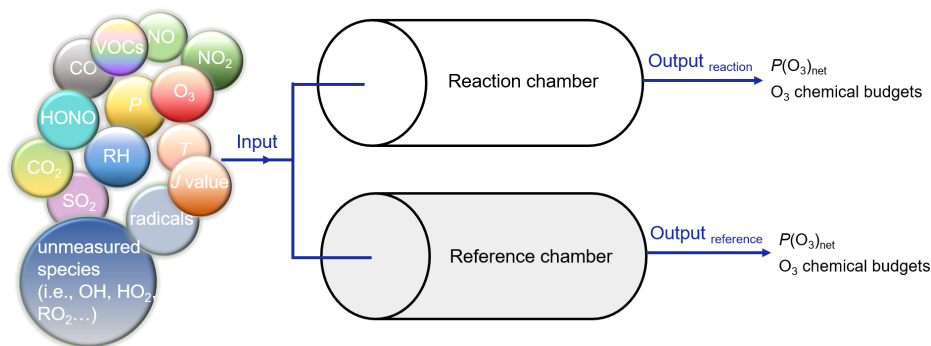
Figure 7. Explicit explanation of the third-stage model simulation. The input meteorological conditions are as follows: P is 1015.3 hPa, T is 295.6 K, and RH is 39.7 %).
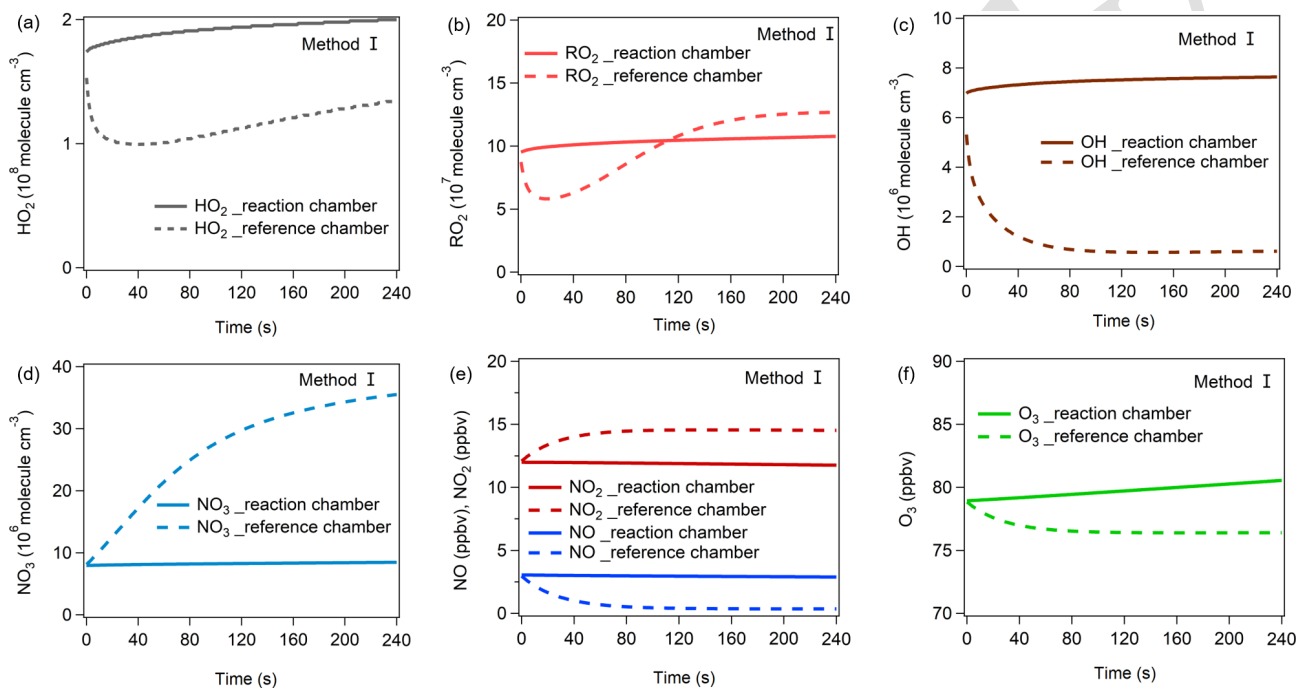
Figure 8. The variations in **(a)** HO_2, **(b)** RO_2, **(c)** OH, **(d)** NO_3, **(e)** NO, NO_2, and **(f)** O_3 mixing ratios during the third-stage 4 min model simulation using method I. The mixing ratio changes in these items for method II are shown in Fig. S18.

RO_2 concentration exceeded that in the reaction chamber at the end of the second minute and gradually became stable at 1.27×10^8 molec. cm^{-3}. The OH concentration dropped significantly at the first minute and then became stable at approximately 6.16×10^5 molec. cm^{-3}. The NO_3 concentration rose significantly during the 4 min simulation and reached 3.55×10^7 molec. cm^{-3} at the end, which was much higher than that in the reaction chamber.

The OH, HO_2, RO_2, and NO_3 concentrations greatly impact the O_3 production and destruction rate. To better understand the factors that drive the OH, HO_2, RO_2, and NO_3 concentration changes, we have added their production and destruction pathways in Fig. 9. We found that the decrease in HO_2 and RO_2 concentrations in the reference chamber

in the first half minute was mainly due to NO titration effects, as high NO mixing ratios existed during the first half minute. The increase in HO_2 concentrations afterward was largely attributable to $RO + O_2$ reaction / RO decomposition, $OH + CO$ / VOC reaction, OVOC photolysis (i.e., $C_3H_4O_2$, $C_2H_2O_2$, $C_4H_6O_2$), and $NO_3 + VOC$ reactions, and the increases in RO_2 concentrations afterward were largely attributable to $OH + VOC$ oxidation, OVOC photolysis, and $O_3 + VOC$ reactions. The main OH sources in the reference chamber were $HO_2 + NO$ in both methods I and II. Due to sufficiently high $J(NO_3)$ ($\sim 90\%$ of that in the reaction chamber) and NO_2 concentrations in the reference chamber, the NO_3 photolysis and $NO_2 + NO_3$ reaction consumed NO_3 in the reference chamber, but the NO_3 concentrations
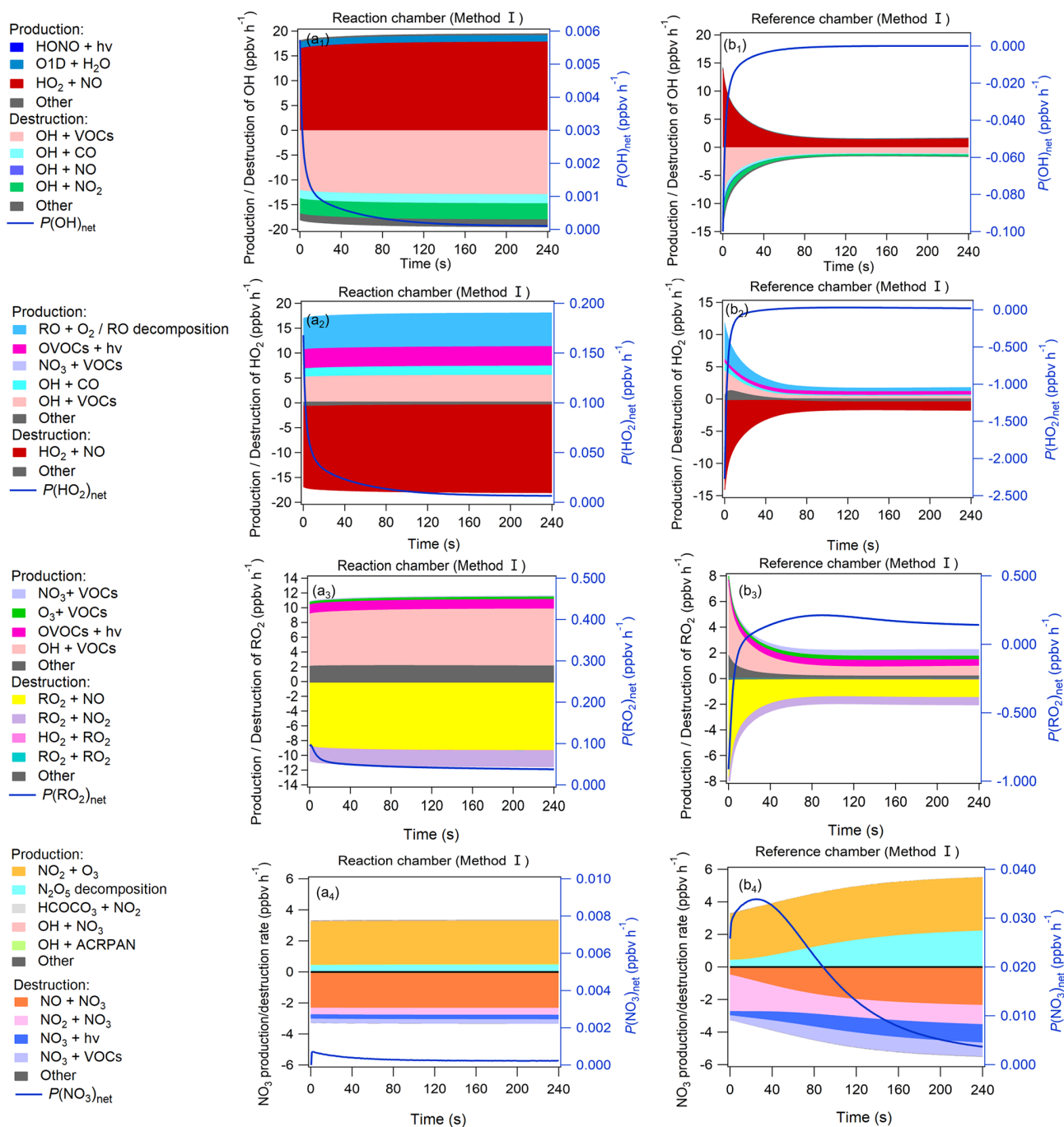
Figure 9. Production and destruction pathways of OH **(a1, b1)**, HO₂ **(a2, b2)**, RO₂ **(a3, b3)**, and NO₃ **(a4, b4)** during the third-stage 4 min model simulation in the reaction and reference chambers in method I. The related content for method II **(c–d)** is shown in Fig. S19 in the Supplement.

were still sufficiently high due to high production rates of NO₃ at the same time. The main NO₃ source in the reference chamber was the NO₂ + O₃ reaction, followed by N₂O₅ decomposition. The NO concentrations were relatively high in the first minute and consumed NO₃ very quickly, but due to continuous NO₃ sources, the net NO₃ production rates

(P(NO₃)$_{net}$) were positive (as shown in Fig. 9), which caused the NO₃ concentration to continue to increase (as shown in Fig. 8d). The main difference in NO₃ production in the reference chamber compared to that in the reaction chamber was the much higher N₂O₅ decomposition, which was mainly due to the high NO₂ concentrations in the reference chamber. On
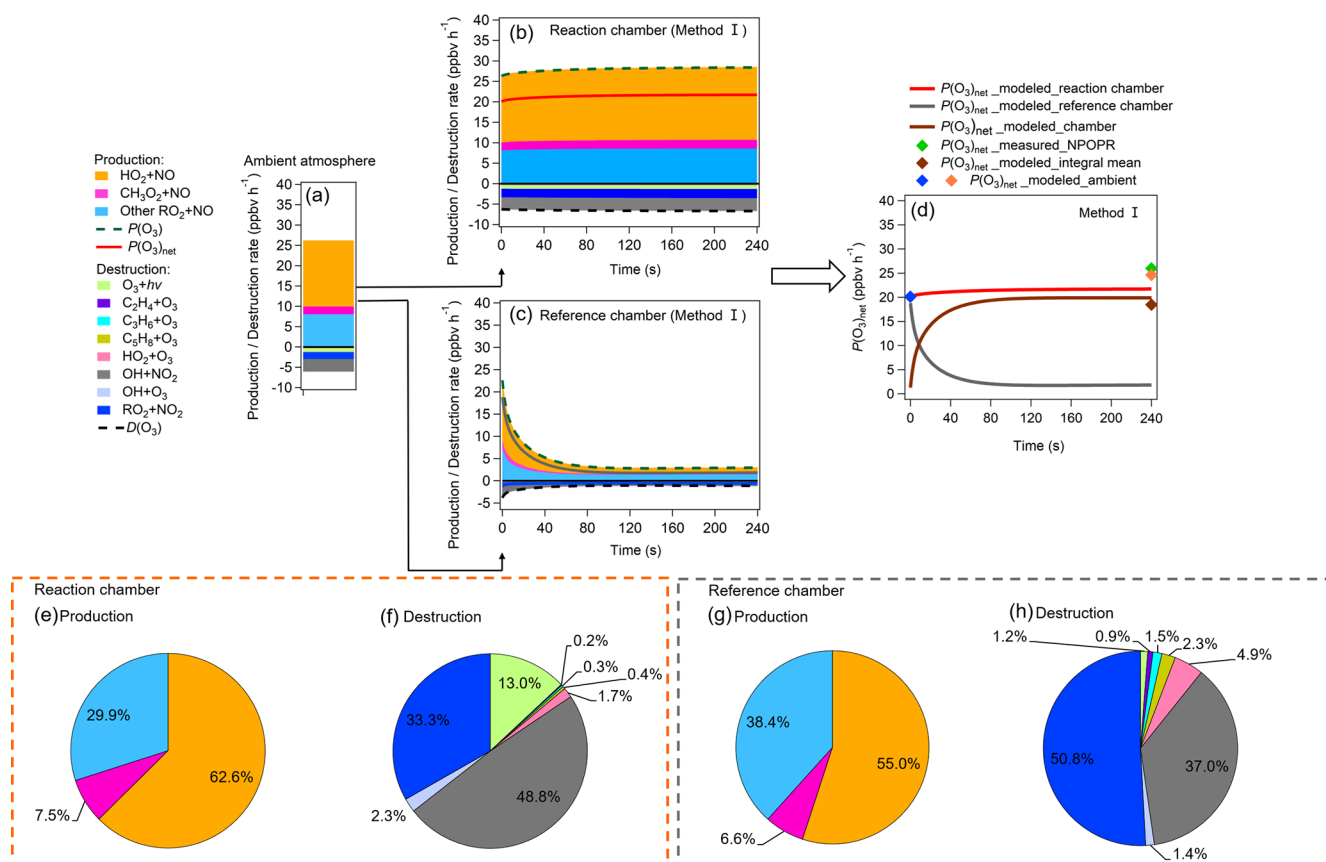
Figure 10. (a–c) Modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ values and O_3 chemical budgets in **(a)** ambient air when injected into the reaction and reference chambers and **(b–c)** the reaction and reference chambers during the 4 min model simulation. **(d)** $P(O_3)_{net}$, where $P(O_3)_{net}$_modeled_ambient represents the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the ambient air at the time before (blue point) and after (orange point) the sampled ambient air was injected into the dual-channel reaction chamber. $P(O_3)_{net}$_modeled_reaction chamber and $P(O_3)_{net}$_modeled_reference chamber represent the $P(O_3)_{net}$ change trends during the 4 min photochemical reactions in the reaction and reference chambers, respectively. $P(O_3)_{net}$_modeled_chamber represents the difference of $P(O_3)_{net}$_modeled_reaction chamber and $P(O_3)_{net}$_modeled_reference chamber, and $P(O_3)_{net}$_modeled_integral mean represents the integral mean of the $P(O_3)_{net}$_modeled_chamber. Moreover, $P(O_3)_{net}$_measured_NPOPR is the $P(O_3)_{net}$ measured by NPOPR detection system. **(e–h)** Reaction weights of each production and destruction reaction process of O_3 in the reaction and reference chambers in method I.

the other hand, although the $NO + NO_3$ reaction was also one of the dominant NO_3 destruction pathways, NO_3 consumed by the $NO + NO_3$ reaction was significantly smaller than NO_3 produced by the $NO_2 + O_3$ reaction. Furthermore, in order to check if the $NO_3 + VOC$ reaction exists, we extracted all the $P(RO_x)$ pathways related to $NO_3 + VOC$ reactions during the third-stage 4 min model simulation in the reaction and reference chambers in method I, as shown in Fig. S20. We found that the $NO_3 + VOC$ reactions are mostly related to the OVOCs (i.e., 6-ethyl-m-cresol and 3-ethyl-6-methylbenzene-1,2-diol) in Fig. S21. The production and destruction rates of RO_x are shown in Fig. S20.

3.2.3 $P(O_3)_{net}$ formation and destruction pathways in the reaction and reference chambers

Figure 10a–d show the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ and the sources and sinks of various species during the third-stage 4 min simulation. Figure 10a shows the steady state of $P(O_3)_{net}$ and the various species in the ambient atmosphere achieved in the last 1 s of the second-stage simulation. Figure 10b and c show the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ and the O_3 chemical budgets in the reaction and reference chambers during the model simulation period. Figure 10d summarizes the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the ambient air (represented as blue and orange points at the time when the ambient air was going in and out of the NPOPR system, respectively) and the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the reaction and reference chambers. To compare the modeled results with our measured results, we calculated the integral mean of the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the reaction and refer-

ence chambers and appended the related measured $P(O_3)_{net}$ value during the 4 min simulation time onto Fig. 10d (green maker). Furthermore, the reaction weights of different production and destruction reaction processes of O_3 are shown in Fig. 10e–h.

Figure 10a–h show the contributions of different reaction pathways to $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$. $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ were almost the same within the 4 min reaction in the reaction chamber (all species reached a steady-state condition), while $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ in the reference chamber significantly decreased within the first minute and remained stable in the following minutes. In the reaction chamber, the $HO_2 + NO$ reaction contributed the most to $P(O_3)$, accounting for 62.6 % of the total $P(O_3)$, with an integral mean value of 17.5 ppbv h^{-1} in the reaction chamber. The second important pathway of $P(O_3)$ was $RO_2 + NO$ (accounting for 37.4 % of the total $P(O_3)$). The $RO_2 + NO$ core reaction accounts for more than approximately 1200 types of RO_2 radicals, and the pathway of $CH_3O_2 + NO$ contributed 7.5 % to the total $P(O_3)$. The most important contributor of $D(O_3)$ was $OH + NO_2$ (48.8 %), followed by $RO_2 + NO_2$ (33.3 %), O_3 photolysis (13.0 %), $O_3 + OH$ (2.3 %), $O_3 + HO_2$ (1.7 %), $C_5H_8 + O_3$ (0.4 %), $C_3H_6 + O_3$ (0.3 %), and $C_2H_4 + O_3$ (0.2 %). In the reference chamber, the integral mean value of the $HO_2 + NO$ reaction was 2.3 ppbv h^{-1}, which had the largest contribution to $P(O_3)$ (accounting for 55.0 %). The second-largest contributor to $P(O_3)$ was $RO_2 + NO$ (accounting for 45.0 % of the total $P(O_3)$), in which the pathway of $CH_3O_2 + NO$ contributed 6.6 % to the total $P(O_3)$. The most important contributor of $D(O_3)$ was $RO_2 + NO_2$ (50.8 %), followed by $OH + NO_2$ (37.0 %), $O_3 + HO_2$ (4.9 %), $C_5H_8 + O_3$ (2.3 %), $C_3H_6 + O_3$ (1.5 %), $O_3 + OH$ (1.4 %), O_3 photolysis (1.2 %), and $C_2H_4 + O_3$ (0.9 %). For all $P(O_3)$ reactions, the weight of the $RO_2 + NO$ reaction in the reference chamber was 7.5 % higher than that in the reaction chamber; however, for all $D(O_3)$ reactions, the weight of the $RO_2 + NO_2$ reaction in the reference chamber was 17.5 % higher than that in the reaction chamber, which mitigated the high $P(O_3)$ value caused by $RO_2 + NO$ in the reference chamber. Furthermore, the weight of the $OH + NO_2$ reaction in the reference chamber was 11.9 % lower than that in the reaction chamber, which may be the main reason that led to NO_2 mixing ratios in the reference chamber being much higher than those in the reaction chamber. It is worth noting that the different reaction pathways of $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ stabilized at approximately 1.5 min for both methods I and II (as shown in Figs. 10 and S22, respectively), and the radicals that play critical roles in photochemical O_3 formation, such as HO_2, RO_2 and OH, reached quasi-steady states in approximately 3 min (as shown in Figs. 8 and S18). As the lowest experimental residence time in the reaction and reference chambers was 3.8 min at an airflow rate of 5 L min^{-1}, the photochemical reaction time at different airflow rates in the NPOPR system was sufficient for $P(O_3)_{net}$ investigation, and it is reasonable

for us to set the alternate ambient air sampling time for the reaction and reference chambers to 2 min, where the ambient air actually had already reacted for at least 3.8 min in the chambers.

The $P(O_3)_{net}$ value measured by the NPOPR detection system at 12:04 LT was 26.0 ppbv h^{-1}, which is 1.4 ppbv h^{-1} higher than the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ value in the ambient air (orange point in Fig. 10d; 24.6 ppbv h^{-1}) and 7.5 ppbv h^{-1} higher than the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ value of the NPOPR system (brown point in Fig. 10d; 18.5 ppbv h^{-1}, as calculated from the integral mean of $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the third-stage 4 min simulation in the reaction and reference chambers). Here, we note that for a better comparison between the measured and modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ values, the measured $P(O_3)_{net}$ used here was obtained from a 4 min time resolution, which is 1.4 ppbv h^{-1} higher than the measured $P(O_3)_{net}$ value used in Fig. 6 (1 h time resolution). The ratio of the measured and modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ values was 1.4, which is consistent with the measured-to-modeled ratio of the cumulative $P(O_3)_{net}$ (1.3 and 1.4) obtained from previous studies (Cazorla et al., 2012; Ren et al., 2013), where $P(O_3)_{net}$ values were also directly measured in the atmosphere and were independent of the OH and HO_2 measurements. The reason for the difference between the measured and modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ here may be due to the inaccurate estimation of HO_2 / RO_2 radicals; for example, Ren et al. (2013) found that $P(O_3)$ calculated from the modeled HO_2 was lower than that calculated from the measured HO_2. The unknown HO_2 source should be identified for a more accurate estimation of $P(O_3)_{net}$ in future studies.

Additionally, the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ using the J values obtained from method II was 9.3 ppbv h^{-1} lower than the measured $P(O_3)_{net}$, and this discrepancy was slightly larger than that using method I, as shown in Sect. S2 TS3 (Fig. S22). The differences in the measured and modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ using methods I and II were 28.8 % and 35.8 %, respectively. This difference was mainly due to the transmittance of $J(NO_2)$ in method II (30 %) being much higher than that in method I (9 %), and NO_2 photolysis products were involved in the main reaction of O_3 production through $HO_2 + NO$ and $RO_2 + NO$, so the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the reference chamber was slightly overestimated in method II, thus leading to an underestimation of the final $P(O_3)_{net}$.

Furthermore, because the NO_2 data used here were measured by a commercially available chemiluminescence NO_x monitor, the NO_2 and NO_x mixing ratios could be overestimated due to NO_z interference (i.e., HNO_3, peroxyacetyl nitrate (PANs), HONO) (Dunlea et al., 2007). According to our results, the chemiluminescence technique could bias NO_2 by 5 % compared to the CAPS technique, which is regarded as a trustworthy NO_2 measurement technique without chemical interference. Therefore, we simulated the interference of NO_2 measured by a chemiluminescence NO_x monitor in method I by reducing and increasing the ambient NO_2 mixing ratios in the reaction and reference chambers by 5 % in

the third-stage 4 min simulation. The results showed that increasing and decreasing NO_2 by 5 % resulted in a decrease in $P(O_3)_{net}$ by 1.64 % and 3.68 %, respectively (as shown in Fig. S23), which is much smaller than the biases caused by $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the reference chamber (which were 13.9 % and 22.3 % for methods I and II, respectively). To evaluate the $P(O_3)_{net}$ error caused by the measurement error of J values, we introduced a ± 5 % error to the measured J values during the third stage of the 4 min simulation in method I. The modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ results are presented in Fig. S24 in the Supplement. We observed that the inclusion of a -5 % measurement error in J values led to a decrease in $P(O_3)_{net}$ of 7.27 %, while adding a $+5$ % measurement error in J values caused an increase in $P(O_3)_{net}$ of 3.08 %. This implies that the maximum bias of $P(O_3)_{net}$ caused by the measurement error of J values falls within the error range of the currently assessed $P(O_3)_{net}$ error, which was 13.9 % for method I. Therefore, we conclude that this type of error will not influence our final modeling results and conclusions.

In conclusion, modeling tests demonstrated that the radicals and gas species in the reaction chamber of the NPOPR detection system were similar to those in genuine ambient air, and these radicals also unexpectedly existed in the reference chamber. This was mainly because the UV protection film used by the reference chamber did not completely filter out sunlight, which led to the low transmittance of light ranging from 390 to 790 nm. The $P(O_3)_{net}$ biases caused by this interference modeled in methods I and II were 13.9 % and 22.3 %, respectively, which ensured that the measured $P(O_3)_{net}$ by the NPOPR detection system should be regarded as the lower limit values of real $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the atmosphere. We recommend that the J values obtained from method I should be used in the model simulation, which can better explain the photochemical formation of O_3 in the actual atmosphere, but if direct J value measurements cannot be achieved during field observations, the J values obtained from method II would also be acceptable in modeling studies.

4 Conclusions

We modified and improved a net photochemical ozone production rate (NPOPR) detection system based on a dual-channel reaction chamber technique that provides more accurate results and has broader application potential compared to previous studies. The main improvements of the NPOPR detection system compared to previous studies were as follows: (1) the improvement of the design of the reaction and reference chambers to make sure they have good airtightness; (2) a change to the air sampling structure to enable the total airflow rates to change freely from 1.3 to 5 L min^{-1} in the reaction and reference chambers, which can make the NPOPR detection system achieve different limits of detection (LODs) and applicable to different ambient environments; (3) char-

acterization of the NPOPR detection system at different airflow rates to optimize the $P(O_3)_{net}$ measurements, where the LODs of the NPOPR detection system are 0.07, 1.4, and 2.3 ppbv h^{-1} at airflow rates of 1.3, 3, and 5 L min^{-1}, respectively; and (4) testing of the performance of both reaction and reference chambers by combining the field measurement and the MCM modeling method.

The NPOPR detection system was employed in the field observation at the Shenzhen Meteorological Gradient Tower (SZMGT), which is located in the PRD, China. During the measurement period, the $P(O_3)_{net}$ was around zero during nighttime and ranged from ~ 0 to 34.1 ± 7.8 ppbv h^{-1} during daytime (from 06:00–18:00 LT), with an average value of $12.8 (\pm 5.5)$ ppbv h^{-1}. In addition, $P(O_3)_{net}$ starts to increase at around 07:00 LT; CE3 this may be due to the rise in the O_3 precursors (i.e., VOCs) transported down from the high-altitude atmospheric residual layer to near the surface and the increase in solar radiation intensity increasing the atmospheric oxidation capacity. $P(O_3)_{net}$ then reaches a peak at around 12:00 LT, and by coupling this with diurnal O_3 mixing ratio trends, we confirmed that the ground-level O_3 mixing ratios were influenced by both photochemical production and physical transport.

In order to clarify the detailed photochemical reaction processes in the reaction and reference chambers of NPOPR detection system, we modeled the $P(O_3)_{net}$ on 7 December 2021 at 12:00–12:04 LT in the reaction and reference chambers using MCM v3.3.1. As the photolysis frequencies of different species (J values) play critical roles in the formation of $P(O_3)_{net}$, the J values obtained from two methods were used in the 4 min chamber photochemical reaction (labeled as methods I and II); in method I, eight main J values (e.g., $J(NO_2)$, $J(O^1D)$, $J(HONO)$) were measured directly, and other J values were obtained from the simulated values using the tropospheric ultraviolet and visible (TUV) radiation model, while in method II, J values were all obtained from the simulated values using the TUV model (as described in Sect. 3.2). Modeling tests demonstrated that the mixing ratios of different radicals and gas species (i.e., OH, HO_2, RO_2, NO_3, NO, NO_2, and O_3) in the reaction chamber were similar with those in the real ambient environment, but because the UV protection film used by the reference chamber does not completely filter out the sunlight, there was low transmittance of light that ranged from 390 nm to 790 nm, which caused a low amount of $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the reference chamber. In the reaction chamber, the contribution of different reactions to $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ modeled by methods I and II were quite similar, where the $HO_2 + NO$ reaction contributed most to $P(O_3)$ (~ 62.6 %), followed by the $RO_2 + NO$ reaction (~ 37.4 %). The $OH + NO_2$ reaction contributed most to $D(O_3)$, which accounted for ~ 48.9 %, followed by the $RO_2 + NO_2$ reaction O_3 photolysis, which accounted for ~ 33.3 % and 13.0 %, respectively. In the reference chamber, the contribution of different reactions to $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ modeled by method I and II were dif-

ferent, where the $HO_2 + NO$ reaction contributed $\sim 55.0\%$ and $\sim 58.2\%$ to the total $P(O_3)$, respectively, and $RO_2 + NO$ contributed $\sim 44.9\%$ and 41.8% to the total $P(O_3)$, respectively. The most important contributor of $D(O_3)$ modeled by method I was $RO_2 + NO_2$ (50.8%), followed by $OH + NO_2$ (37.0%), while the most important contributor of $D(O_3)$ modeled by method II was $OH + NO_2$ (46.8%), followed by $RO_2 + NO_2$ (44.1%). For all $P(O_3)$ reactions, the weight of the $RO_2 + NO$ reaction in the reference chamber was 7.5% and 4.3% higher than that in the reaction chamber in method I and II, respectively; however, for all $D(O_3)$ reactions, the weight of $RO_2 + NO_2$ reaction in the reference chamber was 17.5% and 10.9% higher than that in the reaction chamber in method I and II, respectively, which somewhat mitigates the high $P(O_3)$ caused by $RO_2 + NO$ in the reference chamber. The different reaction pathways of $P(O_3)$ and $D(O_3)$ had stabilized at around 1.5 min, and the radicals that play critical roles in photochemical O_3 formation, such as HO_2, RO_2, and OH, reached quasi-steady states in about 3 min; the long-enough ambient air residence times in the reaction and reference chambers (≥ 3.8 min) make the photochemical reaction time at different airflow rates in the NPOPR detection system sufficient enough for investigating the $P(O_3)_{net}$, and it is reasonable for us to set the alternate ambient air sampling time for the reaction and reference chambers at 2 min as the ambient air has actually already reacted for at least 3.8 min in the chambers.

The biases of the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ caused by the interference of the reactions in the reference chamber in methods I and II were 13.9% and 22.3%, respectively; thus, the measured $P(O_3)_{net}$ by the NPOPR detection system should be regarded as the lower limit values of the real $P(O_3)_{net}$ in the atmosphere. Nevertheless, the measured $P(O_3)_{net}$ values were 7.5 and 9.3 ppbv h^{-1} higher than the modeled $P(O_3)_{net}$ values obtained from methods I and II, respectively, which may be due to the inaccurate modeling of HO_2 / RO_2 radicals. Short-lived intermediate measurements coupled with direct $P(O_3)_{net}$ measurements are needed in a future study in order to better understand the photochemical O_3 production and destruction mechanisms. We recommend that the J values obtained from method I should be used in the model simulation, which can better explain the photochemical formation of O_3 in the actual atmosphere, but if direct J value measurements cannot be achieved during field observations, the J values obtained from method II would also be acceptable in modeling studies.

The self-built NPOPR detection system in this study filled the gap in the observation method in China. The research results not only help us to better understand the tropospheric O_3 budget but also provide an important data basis for formulating correct O_3 pollution prevention measures and control strategies.

Data availability. The observational data used in this study are available from the corresponding authors upon request (junzhou@jnu.edu.cn).

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Author contributions. JZ, BY, and MS designed the experiment. JZ and YHa developed and assembled the NPOPR detection system. YHa, JZ, JPZ, BY, YWa, YWu, ShY, YP, JQ, XH, XS, and YC collected and analyzed the data. YHa and JZ wrote the manuscript. All authors revised the manuscript.

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