



Sensitivity Assessment of the Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter Pollution Using a Regional-to-Local Coupling Model

Xuguo Zhang^{1,2}, Jenny Stocker³, Kate Johnson³, Yik Him Fung², Teng Yao²,
Christina Hood³, David Carruthers³, and Jimmy C. H. Fung^{1,2,*}

¹ Department of Mathematics, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HK

² Division of Environment and Sustainability, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HK

³ Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants, Cambridge, UK.



■ Research Motivation

Part I: Coupled regional-to-local scale model system

Part II: Sensitivity scenario setting

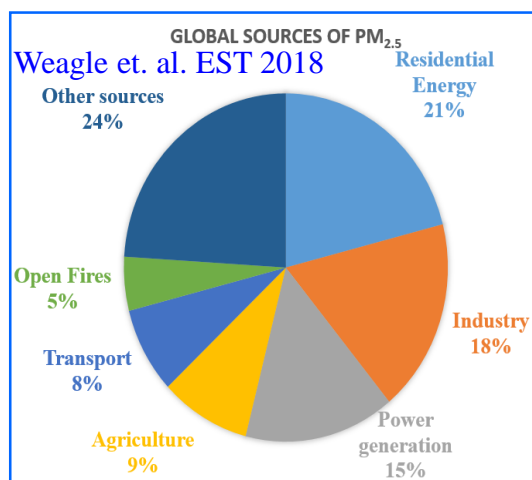
Part III: Major model results

■ Conclusion

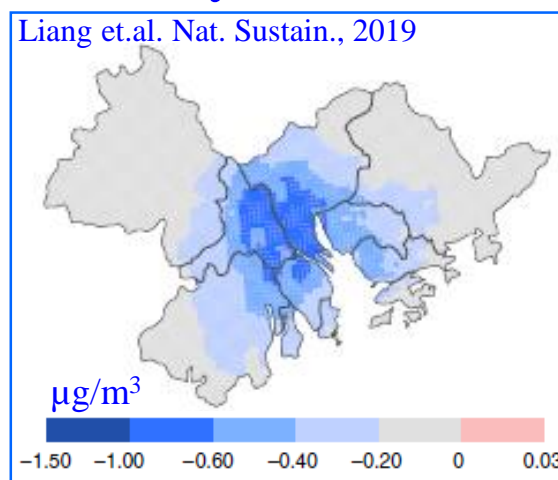


- Air pollution is severe!!! Health, climate mitigation, policy-making (Zhang et. al. EP 2020).
- **Carbon Neutral (30-60) Plan & 14th Five-Year-Plan (2021-2025).**
- **4.2 million deaths** in 2016 (attributable to PM_{2.5}). (WHO report 2021)
- **In 2019, >90% of global people** reside in the areas in which the WHO air quality guideline (annual mean of 10 μg/m³) for PM_{2.5} is exceeded. (WHO report 2021)
- High resolution modeling (ADMS-Urban) resolving the concentration gradient would be more accurate for health calculation.
- To implement a coupled model system (CMAQ-ADMS-Urban) and test the sensitivities are urgently needed in an urban area of GBA.

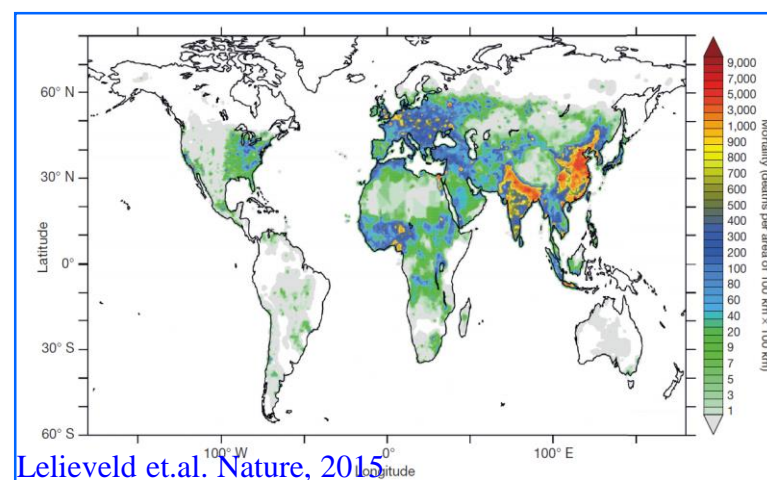
Source contribution

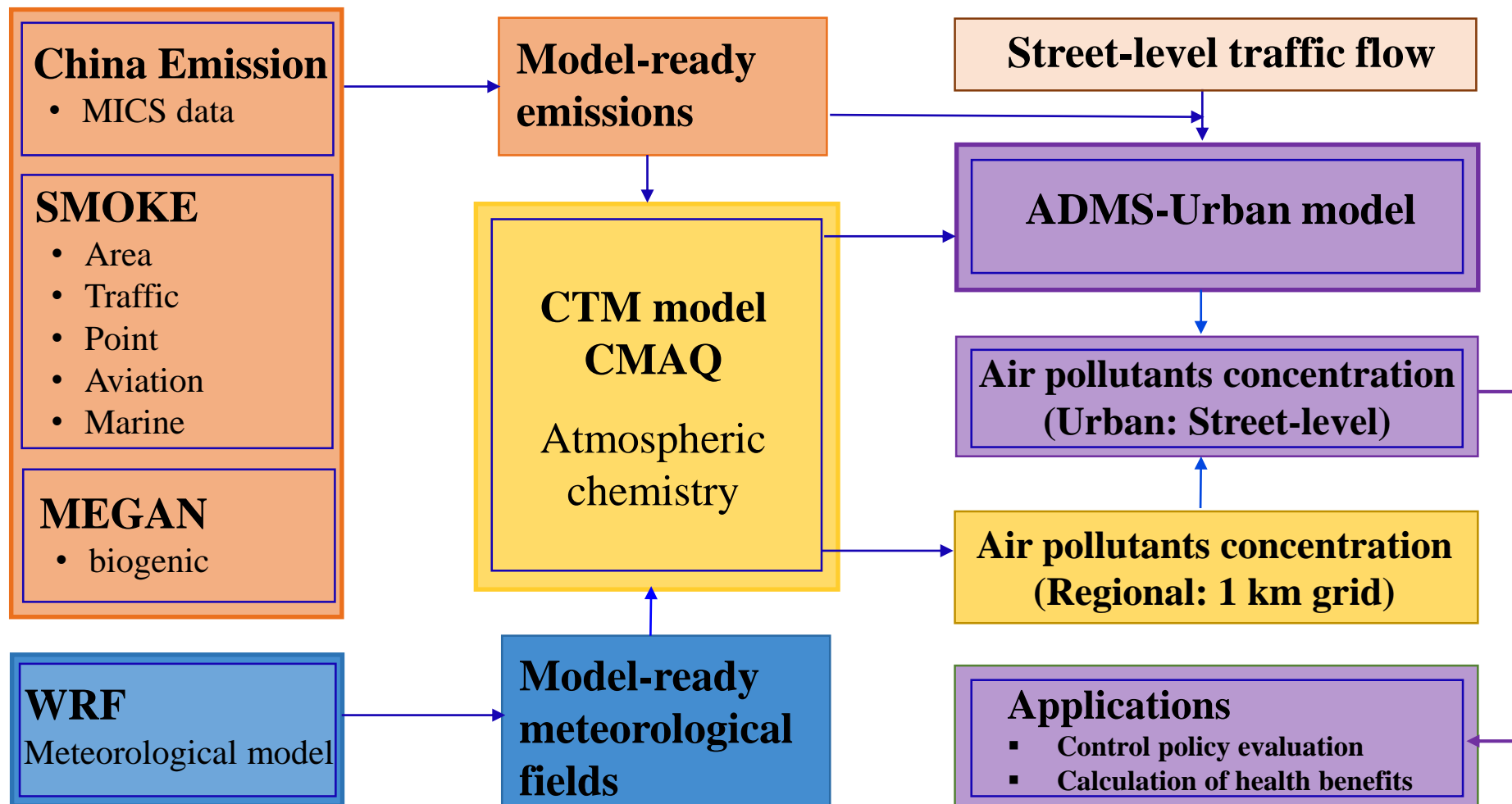


Policy Evaluation

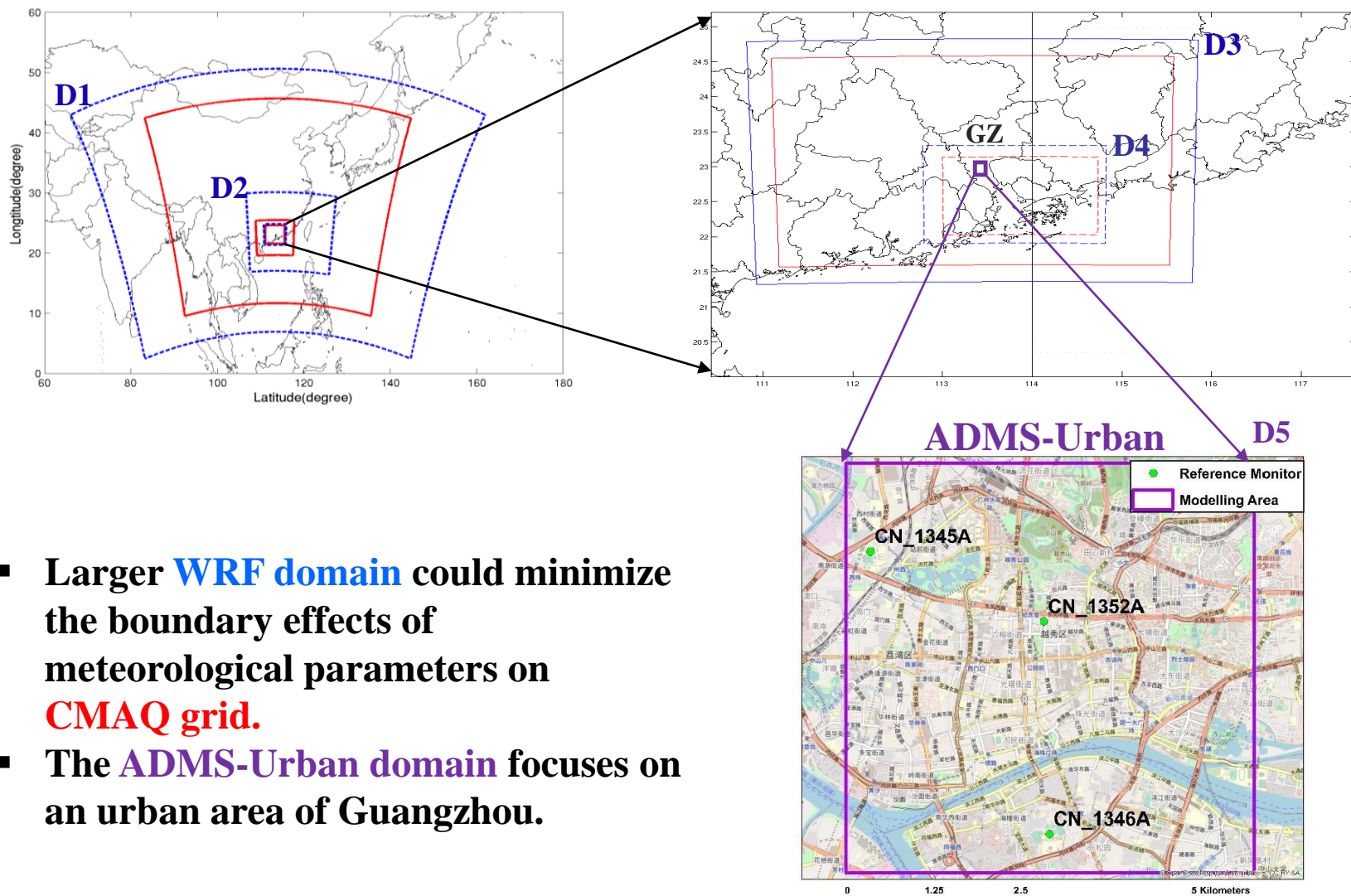


Health Risks





Domain setting of coupled modeling system



- Larger **WRF domain** could minimize the boundary effects of meteorological parameters on **CMAQ grid**.
- The **ADMS-Urban domain** focuses on an urban area of Guangzhou.



- Four sensitivity scenarios for the coupled model system.
- Model running** period: April and May, 2019.
- Emission changes only focus on Guangdong province.
- Focusing on **traffic and industry sectors** since NO_x and VOC are two important precursors of O_3 formation and both sectors contribute substantially to $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and O_3 from previous studies.

Scenarios	I. Base case	II. Half Traffic case	III. Half Industry VOC case	IV. Both Control case
Scenario description	Business As Usual (BAU)	50% reduction in traffic emissions	50% reduction in industrial VOC emissions	Scenarios II & III
Regional model emissions	BAU	50% emission reduction in Mobile sector (all pollutants)	50% emission reduction in VOC from Industrial sector	50% emission reduction in a) mobile sector (all pollutants) and b) VOC emissions from the industrial sector
Local model emissions	BAU	50% reduction in emissions from explicitly defined road traffic sources	BAU	50% reduction in emissions from explicitly defined road traffic sources



- The emissions changes are as same as expected.
- The maximum reduction for NO_x is approximately 17% and for PM_{2.5} is only 5%.
- For VOCs, which are impacted by both control measures, emissions are reduced by a much larger amount, 47%.

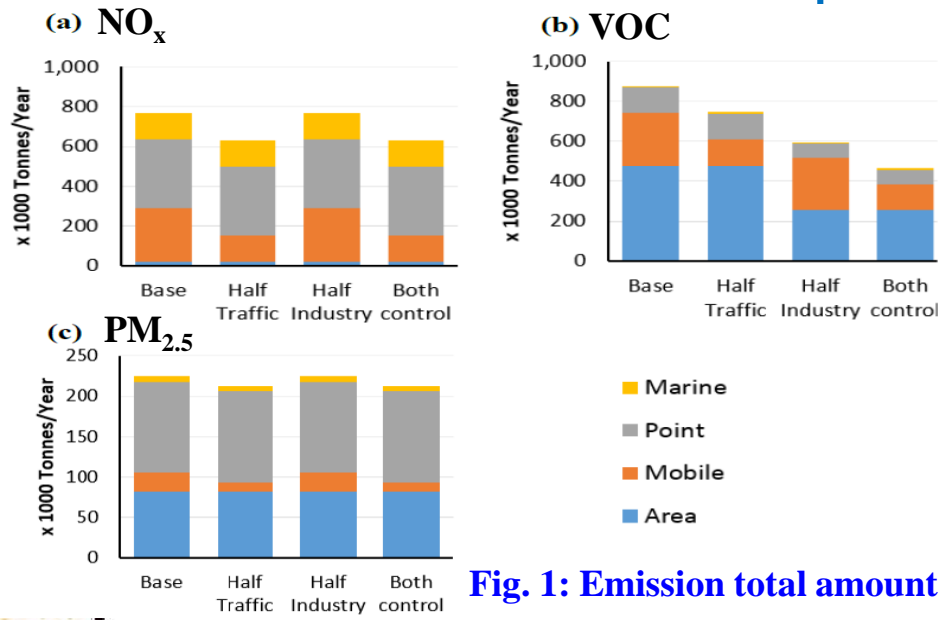


Fig. 1: Emission total amount

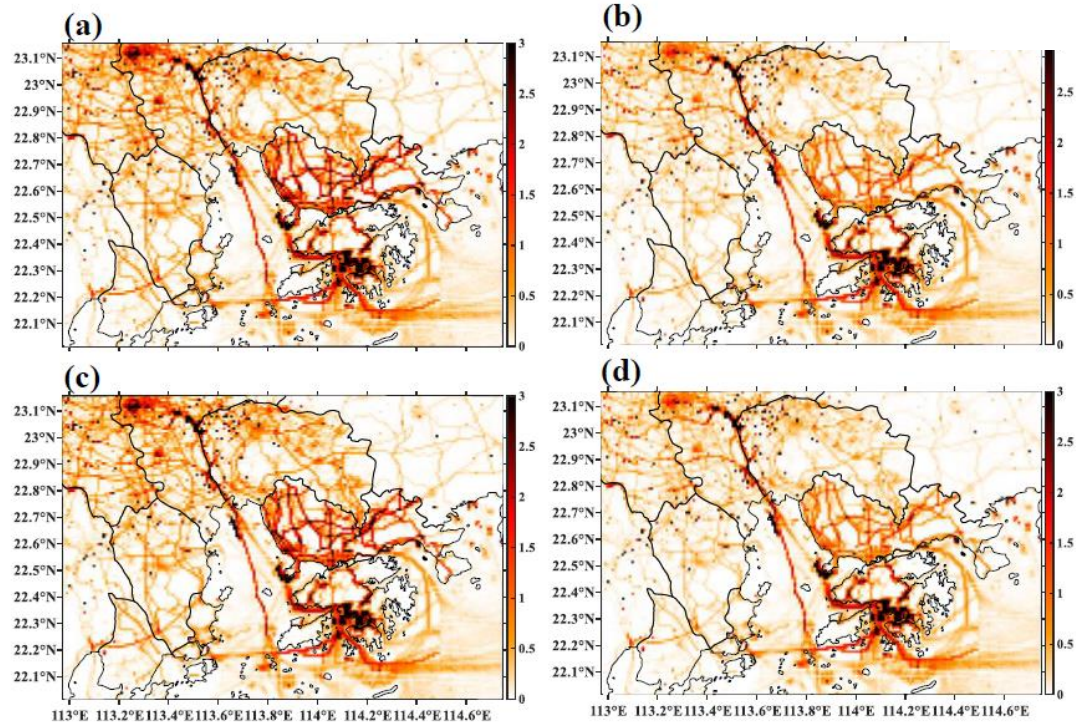
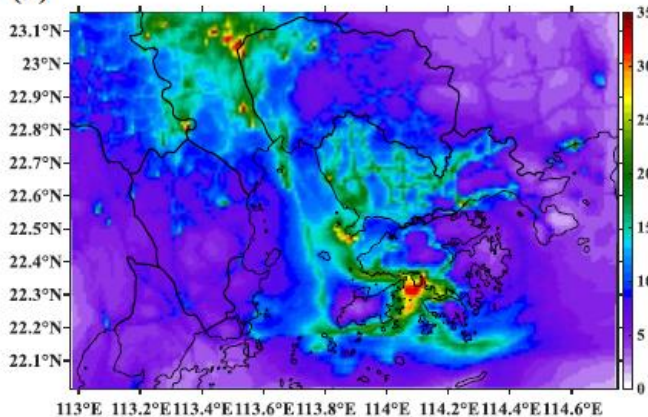


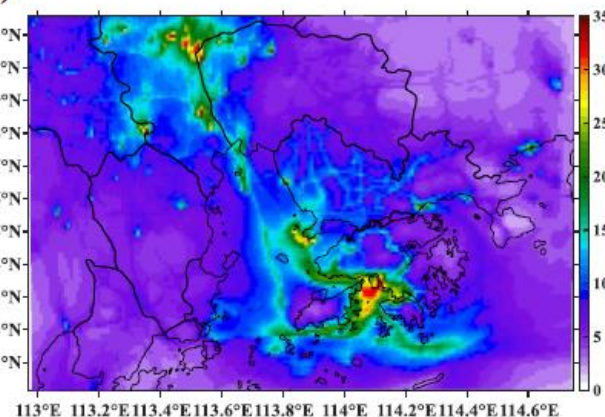
Fig. 2: Daily column emission comparison of anthropogenic NO_x for (a) Base case, (b) Half Traffic case, (c) Half Industry VOC case, (4) Both control case. Unit: moles/s.

- Clear reduction is observed in Guangzhou and Shenzhen.
- NO₂ concentrations are substantially higher in the HK, and the industrial areas towards Guangzhou, and also along shipping lanes.
- Diff plot showed the reduction up to 5 ppb in central Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

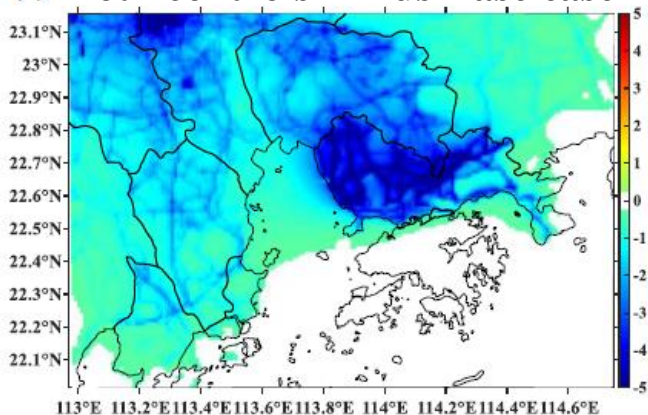
(a) Base case



(b) Half traffic case



(c) Both controls minus Base case

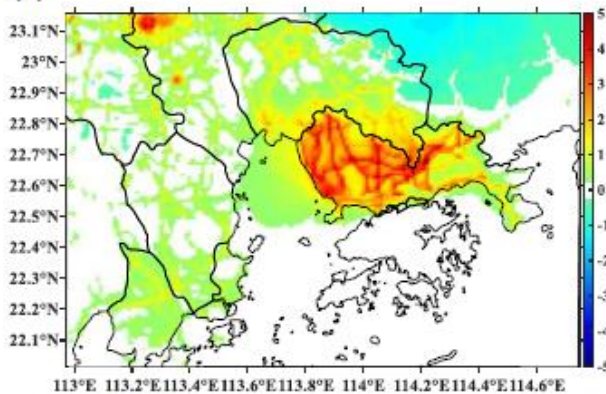


NO₂, Unit is in ppb.

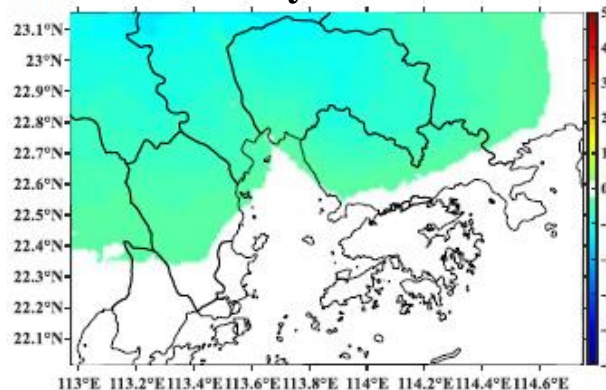


- **Half-traffic case:** the O_3 increases in the urban areas and decrease in the rural (upper right) areas, due to reduced NO_x titration and lower oxidant emissions. It indicates a VOC-limited O_3 formation regime in urban.
- **Reduced VOC case:** O_3 is reduced throughout the domain because lower VOCs correspond to lower levels of reactive species, resulting in less oxidant (in this case, O_3) being generated.
- **Both controls:** O_3 increases in urban of Guangzhou and Shenzhen, but with a lower magnitude comparing with Fig. a, due to the reduced VOC case effects.

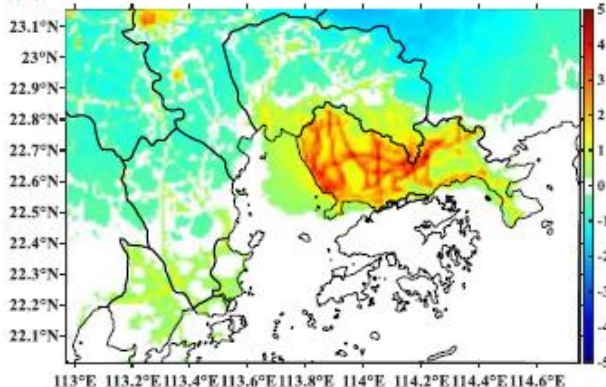
(a) Half traffic minus Base



(b) Half industry VOC minus Base



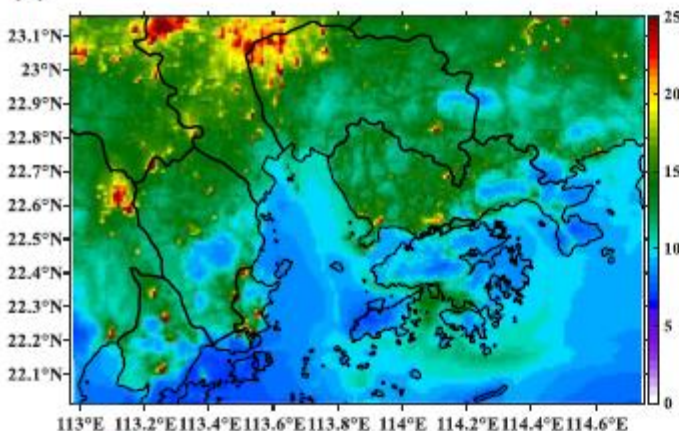
(c) Both controls minus Base



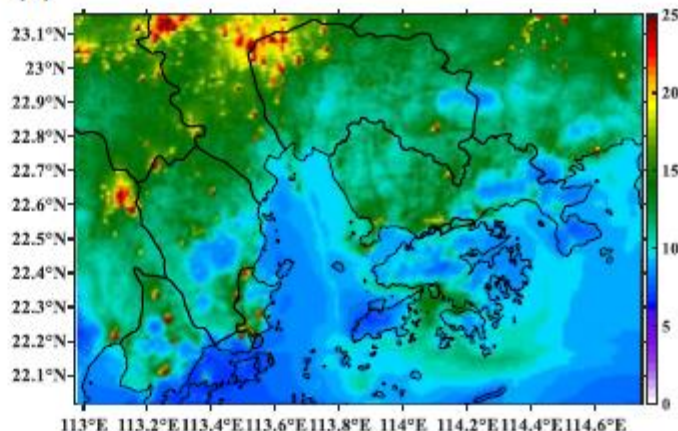
O_3 , Unit is in ppb.

- Period-average PM_{2.5} concentrations for the PRD.
- **Half-traffic case** leads to a moderate decrease in PM_{2.5} concentration.
- Considerable PM_{2.5} concentration differences result from the traffic restrictions imposed in the urban areas (Up to 3 μg/m³ in Shenzhen in **Both-control case**).

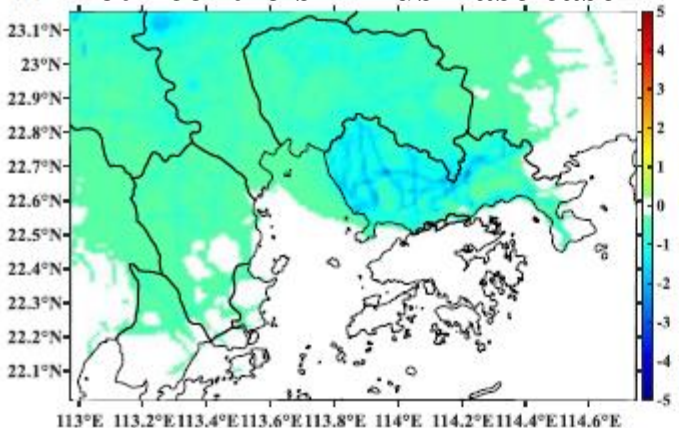
(a) Base case



(b) Half traffic case



(c) Both controls minus Base case

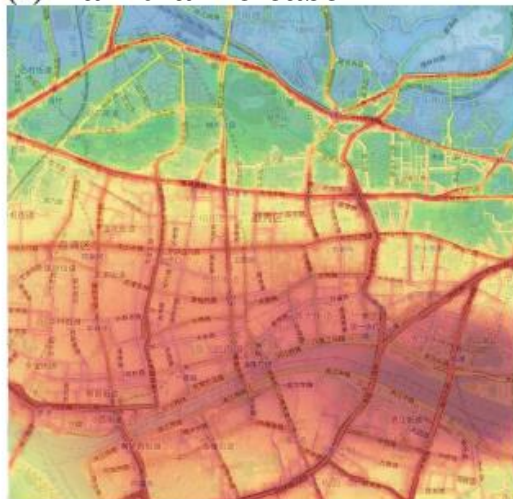




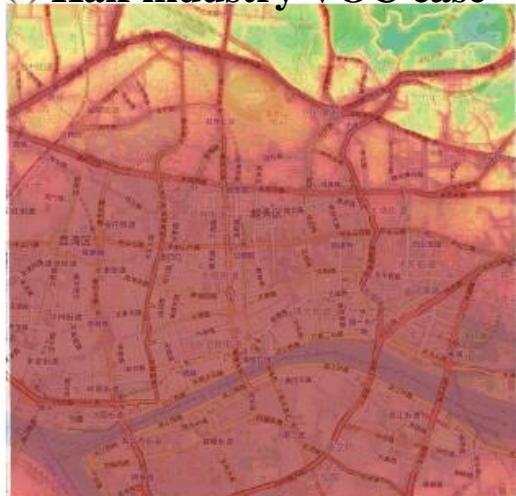
(a) Base case



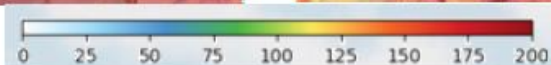
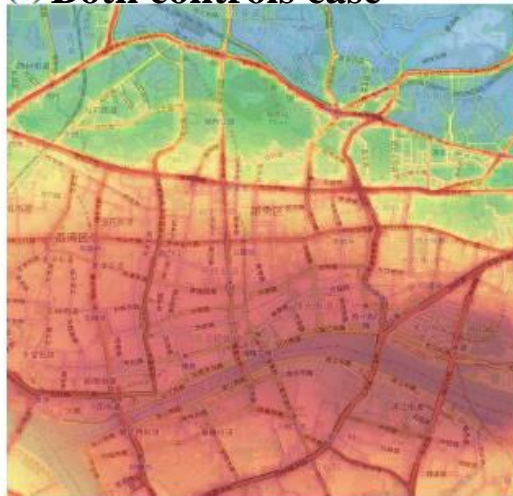
(b) Half traffic case



(c) Half industry VOC case



(d) Both controls case



- Shows a case for the Guangzhou domain where NO₂ concentrations exceed the hourly limit value (200 µg/m³) in the middle of the day during May.
- Figures b and d show that the area of exceedance of the limit value of 200 µg/m³ is significantly reduced when the traffic emissions are halved.
- Local NO₂ concentrations are not seen to change with variations in the VOC emissions (Figures c).

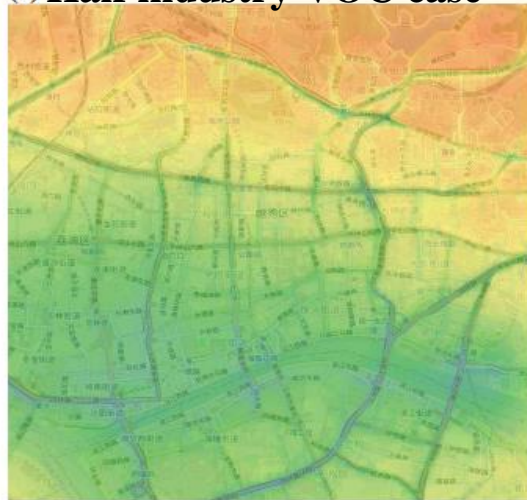
(a) Base case



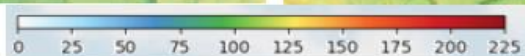
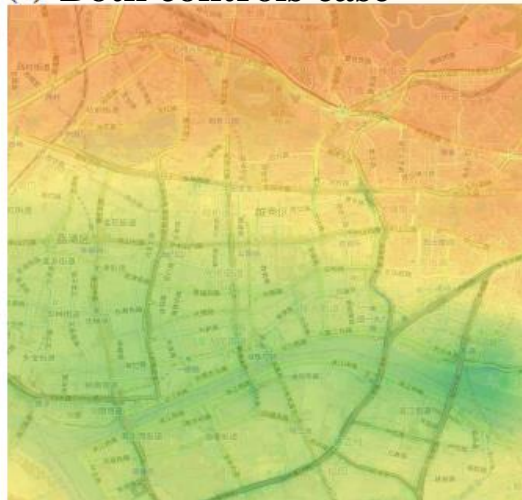
(b) Half traffic case



(c) Half industry VOC case

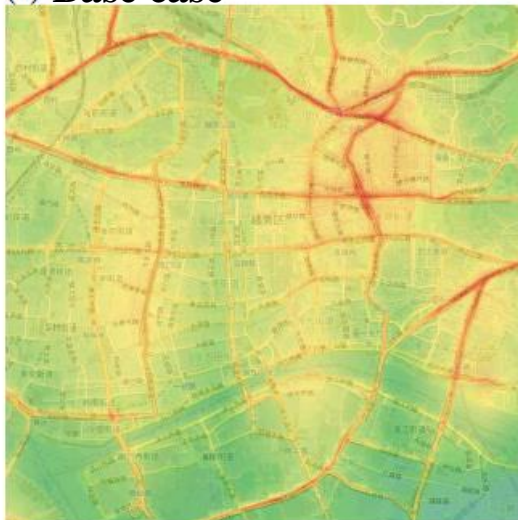


(d) Both controls case

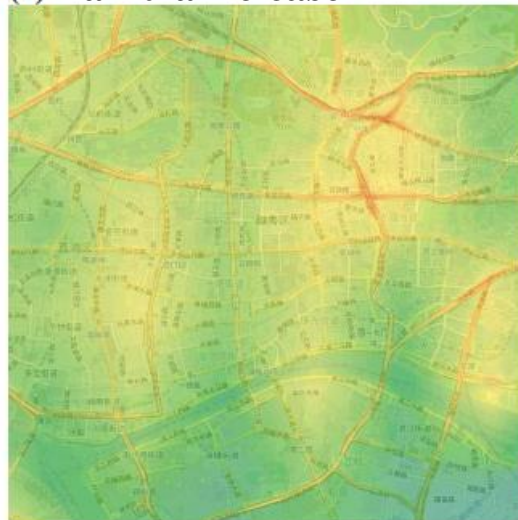


- O_3 concentrations in the Guangzhou domain during the same pollution episode.
- Reducing traffic emissions increases the spatial extent of the O_3 exceedances in urban areas due to reduced NO_x titration of O_3 .
- Conversely, reducing VOCs leads to a reduction in the area of O_3 exceedance within this local domain.
- When both controls are applied in the local area (comparing a and d), the net effect is a slight increase in near-road O_3 concentrations, but a decrease in concentrations elsewhere.

(a) Base case



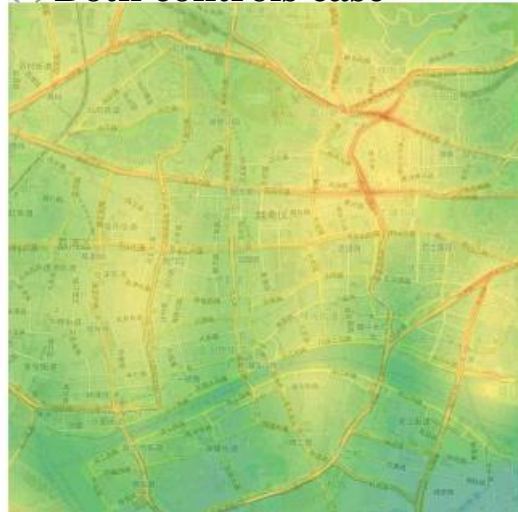
(b) Half traffic case



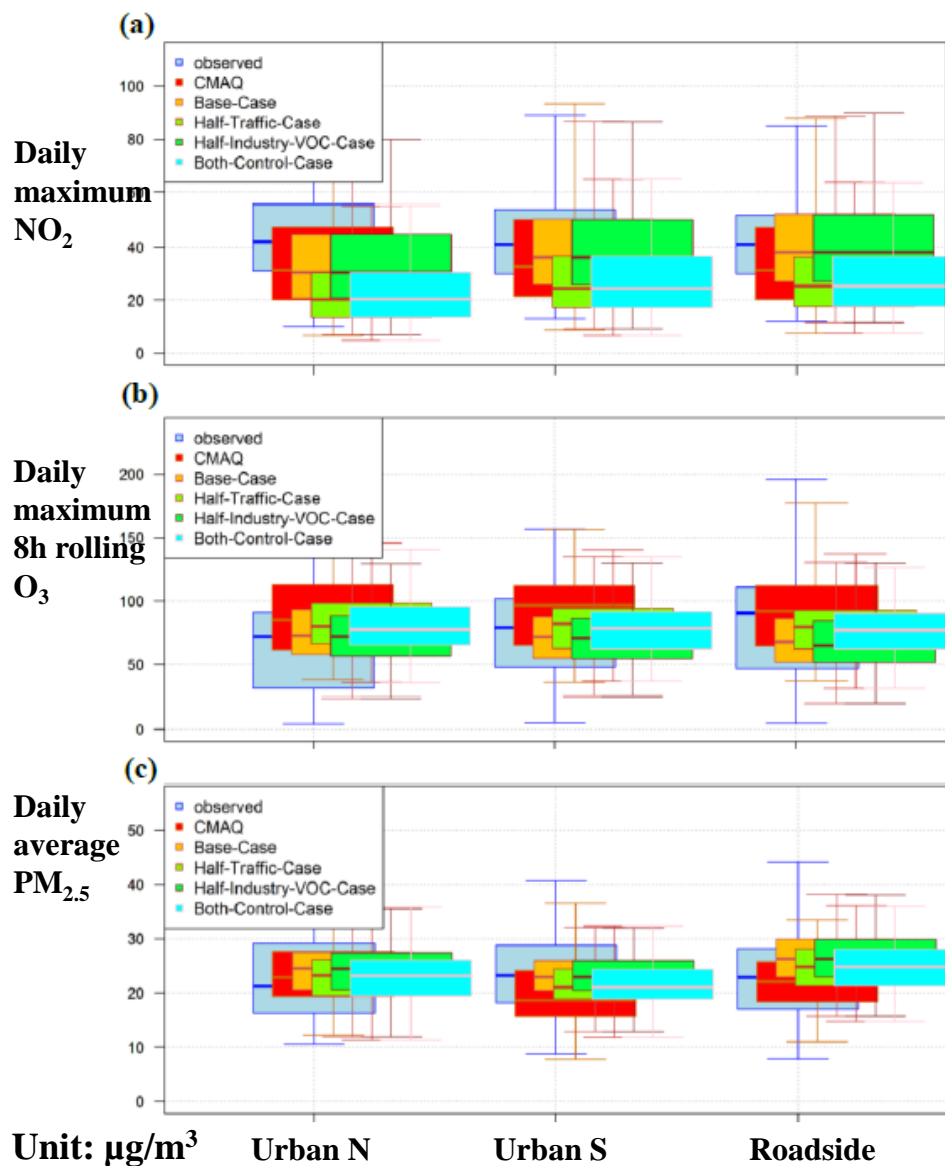
(c) Half industry VOC case



(d) Both controls case



- Modelled concentrations for a different time are presented for $PM_{2.5}$, as the atmospheric conditions associated with $PM_{2.5}$ pollution episodes differ from those associated with O_3 and NO_2 episodes.
- Although there is a very small relative reduction in $PM_{2.5}$ emissions, the impact in urban areas is significant during this episode (compare a and b), as this emissions reduction relates to near-ground traffic sources.
- The change in VOC emissions has a negligible effect on $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations at this scale (7a and 7c), indicating the half-VOC strategy does not appear to be an effective control strategy for PM during the model period.



- Modelled concentrations to the measurements recorded at three sites, for the base case and three coupled model scenarios in addition to the base case regional model.
- For NO₂ and PM_{2.5} at the majority of sites, the coupled system predicts higher concentrations than the relatively coarse resolution regional model, and for O₃, the coupled system predicts lower concentrations.
- Fig. a shows that the NO₂ concentrations are dominantly contributed from the traffic sector.
- The NO_x titration effects on the O₃ concentration in Fig. b drive up the O₃ concentration.
- Cutting the industry VOC emission sources is more effective for the O₃ control, revealing a VOC-limited regime in this region.

- The implemented coupled regional-to-local air quality model system allows a thorough assessment of the impact that NO_x and VOC emissions from traffic and industry have on ambient O_3 and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, drawing a holistic pollution mitigation picture at a range of spatial resolutions.
- Half-traffic scenario leads to reductions of NO_2 and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, but increases in O_3 concentrations in urban areas (and decreases in rural areas), revealing a VOC-limited O_3 formation regime.
- The reduced industrial VOC emissions scenario leads to reduced O_3 concentrations throughout the mitigation domain, suggesting more stringent VOC control measures in the industrial sector will substantially alleviate the worsening O_3 pollution.



Thank you!

xzhangbg@connect.ust.hk