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Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics

Variations of O_3 and CO in summertime at a rural site near Beijing

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Abstract. Large intra-season differences in mixing ratios of CO and O_3 were detected at Miyun, a rural site north of Beijing, in summer 2006. Despite an increase in mean daytime mixing ratio of CO from 500 ppbv in June to 700 ppbv in July, mean daytime O_3 dropped from 67 ppbv in June to 50 ppbv in July and August. The observed changes in CO and O_3 are attributed to the influence of the summer monsoonal circulation that develops over the North China Plain in July. Photochemical production of O_3 is reduced as a consequence of increased cloudiness during July and August, as indicated by the strong negative correlation observed between O_3 and satellite observations of cloud optical depth, with cloudiness having little effect on CO. The analysis suggests a strategy for emission controls that could be implemented in an economically efficient manner to minimize the frequency of high levels of O_3 during summer in Beijing.

1 Introduction

China's rapid economic growth in recent years has been fueled largely by fossil energy especially coal (NBS, 2007), resulting in large increases in pollutant emissions (Zhang et al., 2007) with implications for tropospheric chemistry on both regional and global scales. It is an urgent need for the scientific community to understand the chemical and dynamical transformations of Chinese emissions as well as to evaluate three-dimensional chemical transport models employed to simulate their implications. Previous studies analyzing the few short-term measurements of trace gases within and downwind of China (Wang et al., 2002, 2004b; Jacob et al., 2003) have provided valuable constraints on Chinese emissions of carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) (Wang et al., 2004a; Tan et al., 2004; Heald et al., 2004). In comparison to North America and Europe, however, near-source and long-term atmospheric measurements of important trace gases such as ozone (O_3) have been sparse, if not absent, in China.

Ozone is produced in the troposphere by photochemical oxidation of volatile organic carbons (VOCs) and CO in the presence of NO_x. It is also transported from the stratosphere to the troposphere. High concentrations of O_3 near the surface have an adverse impact on human health and vegetation (NRC, 1991). In view of the importance of O_3 to air quality and atmospheric chemistry, several groups have put forth great effort to obtain in-situ measurements of O_3 in China (Wang et al., 2002, 2005; Lin et al., 2008; Ding et al., 2008; Gao et al., 2005), as summarized below. But the current understanding of the temporal and spatial distribution of tropospheric ozone in China is far from complete.

Previous year-long observations at a rural site (Lin An) near the Yangtze River Delta region in central east China (Wang et al., 2002) and a coastal site (Tai O) near Hong Kong in south China (Wang et al., 2005) showed that O_3 did not show high levels in summer, in contrast to the pattern observed typically in North America and Europe (maxima in summer). Instead, surface ozone was found to peak in spring at Lin An (Wang et al., 2002) and in autumn at Tai O (Wang et al., 2005). Earlier observations of surface ozone at two non-urban sites in north China indicated peaks in autumn and early winter with relatively low concentrations in summer (Luo et al., 2000). Seasonal cycles of surface ozone measured at a rural site (Shangdianzi) near Beijing (Lin et al., 2008) and derived from multi-year records of the MOZAIC aircraft data over Beijing (Ding et al., 2008) showed a narrow seasonal maximum of ozone in June followed by a substantial decrease in July and August. These studies suggested that the monsoonal circulation in East Asia had significant influences on seasonal variability of ozone in China, but the mechanism controlling ozone levels in summer was not well

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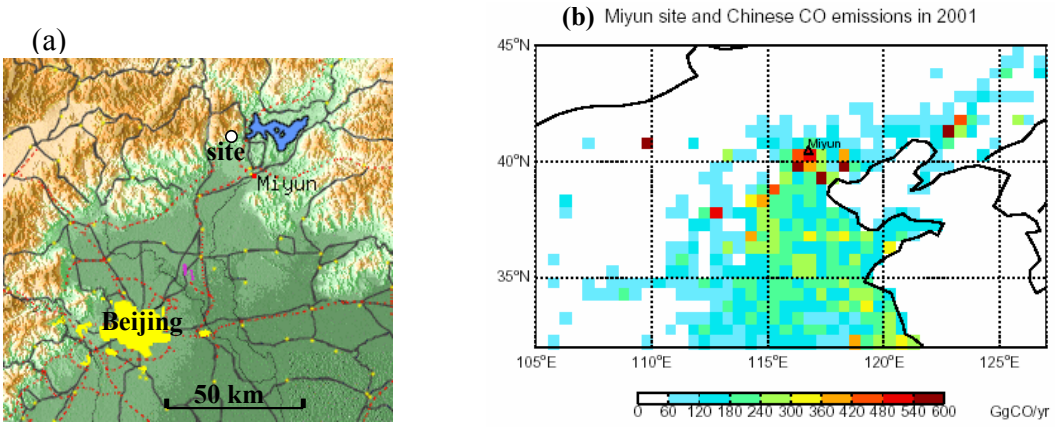


Fig. 1. (a) A regional map shows the location of the site (white circle) relative to Beijing urban area and other population centers(yellow), major roads (red), airport (magenta), and terrain. The color shading indicates elevation from low (green – near sea level) to high (darkest brown corresponding to 1400 m). Miyun city is indicated by the red dot. **(b)** Annual emissions of CO from fossil and bio-fuel combustion ($0.5° \times 0.5°$) in North China (Streets et al., 2006). The Miyun site is indicated.

understood. The summer monsoon with its typical maritime inflow could impact ozone levels in many different ways, such as diluting ozone and its precursors by convection, removing precursors by wet scavenging, or reducing photochemical production of ozone by increasing cloudiness. At the few rural sites in China, monthly mean daytime mixing ratios of O_3 for the peak month range from 50 to 60 ppbv. In contrast to these rural observations, very high mixing ratios of O_3 (1-h O_3 up to 286 ppbv) were reported in urban plumes of Beijing in June (Wang et al., 2006). Analysis of the Beijing plume showed that O_3 was strongly correlated with total reactive nitrogen (NO_y) and this positive relationship extended to very high concentrations of NO_y, suggesting the important role of NO_x in the formation of O_3.

Scarcity of high quality, near-source, long-term observations of O_3 and relevant chemical species in China prompted a decision by the Harvard China Project and Tsinghua University to collaboratively deploy an atmospheric observation station at Miyun, a rural site 100 km northeast of Beijing. The location was selected to capture the dichotomy between relatively clean continental air and the Beijing urban plume. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the effect of the summer monsoon on ozone production within the aged Beijing pollution plume and to use data from the Miyun site to evaluate atmospheric models. Variations of O_3 and CO at Miyun in summer (June, July, and August; JJA) 2006 will be examined and interpreted using a three-dimensional global chemical transport model (CTM) validated against a variety of measurements from other regions of China (Wang et al., 2007a, b). O_3 data and CTM simulations will be used to develop an understanding of the meteorological factors influencing summertime variations of O_3 over Beijing. Limiting O_3 to acceptable levels poses a difficult challenge for air quality regulators. Better understanding of the relevant physics and chemistry of O_3 formation can play an important role in the introduction of cost effective measures to mitigate what has proved to be a difficult problem not only for China but also for other regions of the developed and developing world.

2 Site description

The Miyun site (40°29′ N, 116°46.45′ E) is located at an elevation of about 152 m in Miyun County (population of about 420 000), about 100km northeast of the Beijing urban area (Fig. 1a). Mountains rise steeply to the north of the site, while the terrain to the south falls off gradually to about 90 m in a region characterized by a mix of agriculture and small villages. The prevailing monsoonal winds switch direction annually from cold, dry, northwesterly in winter to warm, moist, southwesterly in summer.

The station was established through a collaboration between the Harvard China Project and Tsinghua University. The latter assumed operational responsibility for the station in 2007. The measurements began in November 2004 and includes a suite of gases (CO, CO_2, O_3) complemented by basic meteorological data (temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction). The present study focuses on measurements of CO and O_3 for the summer of 2006.

The instruments are configured to allow precise, high accuracy measurements of the selected gases and are calibrated ultimately to NOAA/GMD primary standards allowing the new results to be merged with global trace-gas data sets. Ozone mixing ratios are measured by UV absorption (Thermo Environmental Instruments Model 49c). Sample air is drawn from an inlet above the roof on an instrument shed 5 m above ground level. CO mixing ratios are measured by infrared absorption (Thermo Environmental Instruments

48CTL). Sample air is drawn from the same inlet as the O_3 sample and pressurized to 10 psi with excess air vented through a backpressure regulator. The sample is dried by a cold trap held at 2°C and Nafion drier in series. A flow controller upstream of the analyzer and a pressure controller downstream maintain constant pressure in the cell and regulate flow. Exhaust air from the analyzer is used to purge the Nafion dryer before venting to the room. Instrument zero is determined by diverting sample air through an oxidizing catalyst to remove CO (Foulger and Simmonds, 1993) for 3 min every 15 min. Twice daily the instrument gain is determined by supplying NIST traceable standards (Scott-Marrin). In 2005 two standards were used at nominal mixing ratios of roughly 100 and 500 ppbv. In 2006 a third standard at 2500 ppbv was added to the system. Mixing ratios are determined by subtracting the zero value from measured voltage and computing concentration from a quadratic fit to the calibration data. Details of the instruments are described in more detail elsewhere (Munger et al., 2008).

3 Model description

The GEOS-Chem global 3-D model for tropospheric chemistry is employed in the present study to simulate surface concentrations of O_3 and CO at the Miyun site. The model is driven by meteorological data assimilated by the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS-4) at the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO). The meteorological data include 3-D fields updated every 3 h for surface fluxes and mixing depths, and every 6 h for other variables. We use version 7-04-09 of GEOS-Chem (www-as.harvard.edu/chemistry/trop/geos) with a horizontal resolution of 2° latitude by 2.5° longitude and 30 vertical hybrid eta levels, extending from the surface to 0.01 hPa. The lowest 2km is resolved using five layers with midpoints at 60, 250, 620, 1200, and 1990 m altitude for a column based at sea level.

The GEOS-Chem model includes a detailed tropospheric O_3-NO_x-hydrocarbon-aerosl simulation. The aerosol and oxidant chemistry are coupled through the formation of sulfate and nitrate, heterogeneous chemistry, and aerosol effects on photolysis rates. Photolysis frequencies are computed using the Fast-J radiative transfer algorithm (Wild et al., 2000) which allows for Rayleigh scattering as well as for Mie scattering by clouds and aerosols. Simulation of wet and dry deposition follows the schemes developed by Bey et al. (2001). Application and evaluation of the model over China has been described by Wang et al. (2004a, c). The model was spun-up for a 12-month period beginning 1 January 2005 and run through 2006. Hourly model output sampled at the grid box that includes Miyun is used for comparison with observations.

Combustion sources of NO_x over China were taken from a recent bottom-up inventory developed by Zhang et al. (2007) for 2004. The annual total is 17.8 $TgNO_2$ in 2004. This inventory was based on the work of Streets et al. (2001) and included many improvements on both emission factors and energy statistics. The model includes seasonally resolved microbial sources of NO_x for China (3.3 $TgNO_2$/yr), which were derived based on multi-year satellite observations of tropospheric NO_2 columns up to 2000 (Wang et al., 2007a). Combustion sources of CO over China were adopted from the inventory of Streets et al. (2006). This inventory represents annual emissions of CO for 2001 (146 TgCO/yr; Fig. 1b). Anthropogenic emissions of other species (e.g. NMVOCs) over China were taken from the work of Streets et al. (2001). The biomass burning inventory is based on satellite observations of fires by van der Werf et al. (2006), and emission factors from Andreae and Merlet (2001).

4 Variability of O_3 and CO in summer

Figure 2 presents monthly means and selected cumulative probability percentiles for daytime (9 a.m.–6 p.m.) mean mixing ratios of CO (2a) and O_3 (2b) observed at Miyun in JJA 2006. CO is included as a tracer indicating the frequency and magnitude of the influence from urban pollution plumes which contain O_3 precursors, notably NO_x and hydrocarbons. At Miyun the mean daytime mixing ratios of CO are 600 ppbv (ppbv = nmol $mole^{-1}$) in summer 2006, higher than the mean summertime CO levels observed at Lin An in the Yangtze River Delta (Wang et al., 2002) and at a coastal site (Tai O) near Hong Kong in south China (Wang et al., 2005) by 220 ppbv and 400 ppbv, respectively. As will be shown below, the higher CO levels at Miyun reflect the influence of CO sources from the Beijing urban area located upwind of the site under the prevailing southwesterly winds in summer. By comparison, mean summertime CO mixing ratios at rural low-elevation sites in eastern North America are generally less than 200 ppbv (Chin et al., 1994; Liang et al., 1998; Mao et al., 2004).

While median CO levels increased by about 300 ppbv from June to July, monthly mean O_3 decreased by 17 ppbv, from 67 ppbv in June to around 50 ppbv in July. The reduction in O_3 is observed both in peak values and minima. Mixing ratios of O_3 and CO observed in August are similar to values detected in July. In contrast to the maximum in O_3 observed in springtime at Lin An in central-east China (Wang et al., 2002), O_3 exhibits a clear peak in June at Miyun (daytime mean O_3 is 55 ppbv in May, not shown). The O_3 levels were found to peak also in June at another rural site north of Beijing (Shangdianzi) (Lin et al., 2008) and at a mountain site in the North China Plain (Mt. Tai) (Li et al., 2007). The surface ozone climatology over Beijing derived from the MOZAIC aircraft data (Ding et al., 2008) exhibits a narrow seasonal maximum in June.

The number of hours in each month with 1-h average O_3 exceeding 200 $\mu g/m^3$ (Chinese air quality standard at 1 atm and 25°C, corresponding to 102 ppbv) decreases from 36 h

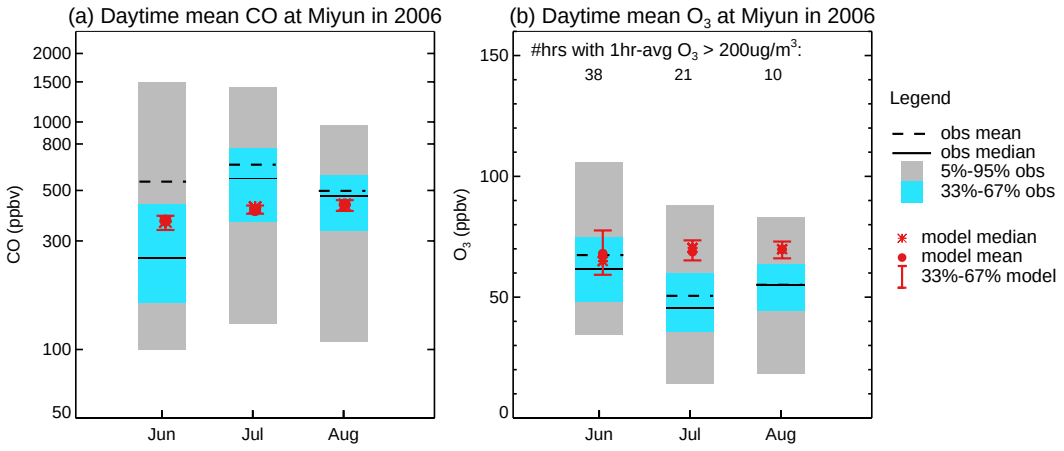


Fig. 2. (a) Daytime (9 a.m.–6 p.m.) mean mixing ratios of CO at the Miyun site in summer (JJA) 2006. Measurements are shown as bars and model simulations are in red. **(b)** Same as a, but for O_3. The number of hours in each month with measured 1-h mean O_3 exceeding 200 μg/m^3 is indicated.

in June, to 21 in July, to 10 in August at Miyun. Wang et al. (2006) reported higher O_3 in the summer of 2005 at a site slightly closer to the Beijing urban center. The correlation between O_3 and CO used in previous studies to examine the influences of anthropogenic precursors on O_3 (Chin et al., 1994; Parrish et al., 1998) is moderately positive in June (r=0.6), insignificant in July (r=0.1), and weak in August (r=0.4). Although the figures present only summertime data for 2006, measurements in 2005 and 2007 exhibit similar decreases of O_3 from June to July and August.

Model results sampled at the time of measurements (red) are compared with observations of CO and O_3 in Fig. 2. Although the model is limited in resolution ($2^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$) and restricted by the accuracy of emission inventories, it succeeds in capturing the increase in CO from June to July (Fig. 2a) (although the magnitude is underestimated, as is often the case with comparisons of point measurements with grid-averaged model predictions). The model fails, however, to account for the decrease in O_3 from June to July and August. It tends to overestimate concentrations for the latter months (Fig. 2b).

4.1 Changes in meteorological conditions from June to July

Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) data (http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/datapool/TRMM/; $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ gridded monthly product comprised of mean hydrometeor profiles from the **T**RMM **Mi**crowave **I**mager (TMI) instrument on board the TRMM satellite) indicate that 85% of annual precipitation for the Beijing region during 2006 occurred in July and August. Monthly rainfall for July and August 2006 was 130 mm and 110 mm respectively, as compared to 10 mm for June, associated with the onset of East Asian summer monsoon rainfall.

Wind direction measured at the site exhibits distinctly different behavior between June and July. Although the prevailing winds were generally southwesterly during both months, northwesterly flow was observed frequently in June but not in July. The decrease in the frequency of northerly flow in July is associated with the full development of the summer monsoonal circulation which at this time brings moist, southerly, air to the region. In June, 40% of observations sampled at the site had less than 200 ppbv of CO, characteristic of cleaner continental air masses from the north. This cleaner air was encountered only 15% of the time in July, while the majority of the data indicated mixing ratios of CO exceeding 500 ppbv reflecting the influence of polluted air masses from the Beijing urban area to the south (c.f. spatial distribution of CO sources in Fig. 1b). The increase in CO observed at Miyun from June to July can be attributed to more frequent transport of urban pollution to the site, consistent with the change in mean wind direction. The observed changes in mean flow pattern are reproduced by the GEOS-4 assimilated meteorology employed by the model.

Despite the increasing influence of urban pollution as indicated by CO, O_3 decreases in July. Increasing mixing ratios of CO indicate that dilution of O_3 and its precursors by convective vertical mixing associated with the monsoonal rainfall in July has at most a minor influence. Observed daytime relative humidity (RH) at Miyun was 50% higher in July than in June. For southerly flow, daytime RH was about 50% on average in June, compared with about 80% in July. As expected from the increases in RH and precipitation, cloud optical depth (COD) retrieved from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument aboard the Aqua satellite (Platnick et al., 2003; MYD08_M3, level-3 monthly global product at $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ resolution) over the Beijing-Miyun region showed an increase of 83% from an average of 13 in June to 22 in July. Changes in COD, as

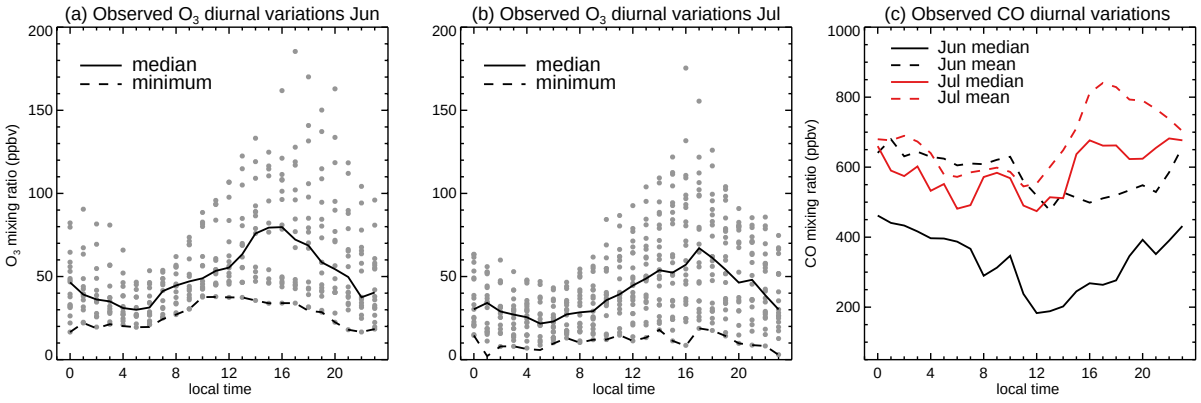


Fig. 3. Diurnal variations of O_3 **(a, b)** and CO **(c)** observed at Miyun in June and July 2006. (a, b) Each point refers to hourly mean mixing ratios. Median and minimum O_3 are indicated in the figures. (c) Median and mean CO as a function of local time in June and July. The large difference between mean and median CO in June implies a much skewed distribution including both the clean continental flow from the north and urban pollution plumes from the south.

shown below, have an important influence on photolysis rates of key species involved in ozone chemistry.

4.2 Influence of cloudiness on O_3

Diurnal variations of O_3 measured at Miyun in June and July are presented in Fig. 3a and b respectively. It is typical for ozone at low-elevation sites to peak in the late afternoon, resulting from photochemical production of ozone over the course of the day (Logan, 1989). O_3 decreases in the evening reaching a minimum around 5am, before sunrise. On sunny days in July, highest mixing ratios of O_3 occur at 5 p.m., coincident with the peak in CO mixing ratios (Fig. 3c), indicating the arrival of more polluted air, consistent with the change in mean flow pattern. Mixing ratios of CO in June exhibit a minimum in mid-day associated with the maximum boundary layer height and peak vertical mixing (Fig. 3c). The amplitude of the diurnal variation of O_3 averaged about 50 ppbv in June. In July, however, the typical afternoon peak in O_3 was not observed during one-third of the measurement days. During these days, mixing ratios of O_3 were relatively low in the afternoon (below 20 ppbv in many cases), leading to a flat diurnal pattern with little enhancement in O_3 from morning to afternoon (Fig. 3b). Days with relatively low afternoon O_3 in July were associated generally with rain or thunderstorm events. RH measured at the site during these days approached 100%.

Photochemical production of O_3 is suppressed in the presence of the increased cloudiness associated with the monsoon rainfall. Transmission of solar radiation below cloud level is reduced significantly during these periods with implications for photochemical production of O_3 near the surface (Lefer et al., 2003; Liu et al., 2006). A significant negative correlation (r=-0.7, n=29) was found in July between the daily mean COD retrieved from MODIS over the Beijing-Miyun region and mean afternoon O_3 measured at the site (Fig. 4). Relatively low levels of O_3 were associated usually with high COD retrieved from MODIS. The temporal correlation between the two independent datasets is striking, especially since the data were obtained from different platforms and since cloudiness is only one of the factors responsible for regulating levels of ozone, supporting the suggestion that the increase in cloudiness in July is primarily responsible for the decrease in O_3 observed during this month. Since cloudiness has little effect on CO, this can account for the insignificant correlation between CO and O_3 observed in July.

The model fails to capture the observation of a less pronounced diurnal cycle during periods of precipitation (when afternoon O_3 levels are comparatively low). COD from the GEOS-Chem model averages 60% lower than COD retrieved from MODIS in July (Fig. 4), differences reaching a factor of 10 for some low ozone days. The correlation between GEOS-Chem COD and COD retrieved from MODIS is weak (r=0.4). The heterogeneity of COD on the scale of the model grid (2°×2.5° resolution) is significant, as illustrated in Fig. 4 showing the range of COD retrieved by MODIS over a region of 2°×3° surrounding the Miyun site. In a sensitivity analysis, we scaled model COD at the Miyun grid to match values of COD retrieved from MODIS for the same location, and found a reduction of up to 10 ppbv in afternoon mixing ratios of O_3 simulated by the model during low ozone days. By comparison, O_3 varied by less than 1 ppbv in conjunction with further sensitivity tests in which we explored other consequences of increased cloudiness, such as increased wet scavenging of soluble O_3 precursors (formaldehyde for example). This suggests that the model overestimate of O_3 relates primarily to its underestimate of local COD at Miyun, especially during precipitation events. The adjustments in COD implemented in our simple sensitivity test cannot correct for the full extent of the model overestimate. The model,

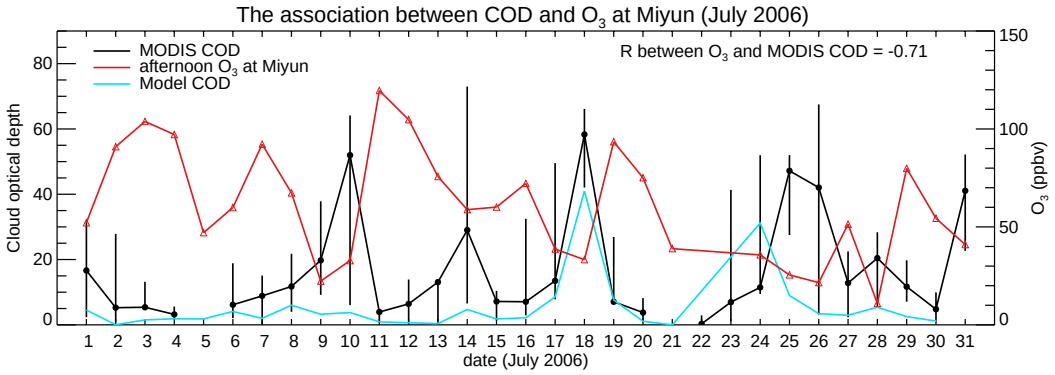


Fig. 4. The association between afternoon O_3 measured at Miyun (red) and cloud optical depth retrieved from MODIS (black) for an area of $1°\times1°$ including the site (MYD08_D3, level-3 daily global product) in July 2006. The range of COD retrieved from MODIS over a region of $2°\times3°$ surrounding the Miyun site is indicated as vertical lines. COD from the GEOS-Chem model is indicated in blue.

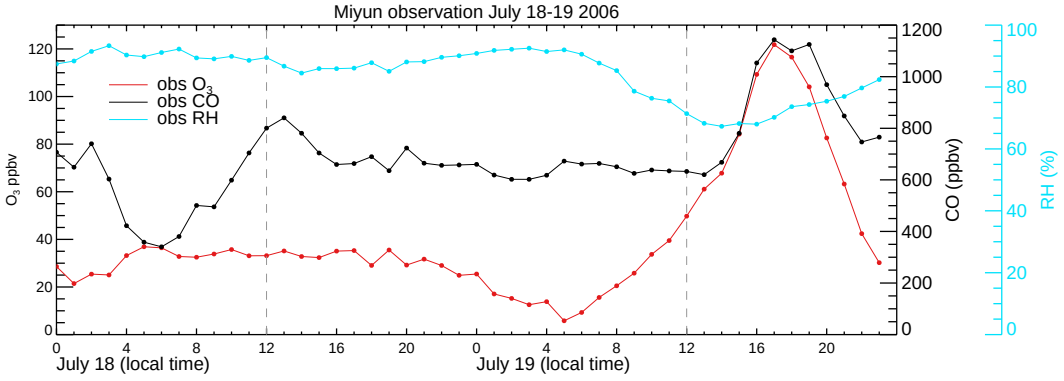


Fig. 5. Hourly measurements of O_3 (red), CO (black), and RH (blue) at the Miyun site for the period of 18 and 19 July 2006. The gray dashed line indicates local noon.

given its relatively coarse resolution, underestimates CO and probably also concentrations of NO_x in the urban pollution plume reaching the site, underestimating consequently the titration effect of NO on O_3.

The monsoonal cloud cover is a more predictable seasonal phenomenon than the scattered cumulus or intermittent frontal passages that control cloudiness in non-monsoon regions. The model demonstrates the significance of the radiative impact of monsoonal clouds on ozone. Ding et al. (2008) suggested two other causes of the seasonal peak of O_3 in June over Beijing derived from multi-year records of the MOZAIC aircraft data: more intense crop residue burning in June contributing to emissions of ozone precursors, and prevailing southerly winds in June facilitating long-range transport of regional emissions to Beijing. Our observations at Miyun in summer 2006 present an interesting case that when CO levels were higher in July than in June, the O_3 levels still decreased in July. This suggests that at least in 2006 it is the radiative effect of monsoonal clouds on surface ozone, rather than changes in local and regional precursor emissions, that plays the dominant role in reducing surface ozone levels in July. As the East Asian summer monsoon circulation prevails across all of east China (east of the Tibetan Plateau), we expect the radiative impact of monsoonal clouds on ozone to be significant on a regional scale during summer. Consistent with our speculation, previous observations at other surface sites in east China do not show a maximum of O_3 in summer (Wang et al., 2002; Luo et al., 2000).

4.3 Case study

A two-day period, 18 and 19 July 2006, was selected as a case study of day-to-day variations in O_3 and CO as they relate to dynamical and/or chemical factors. Hourly O_3, CO, and RH observed at the Miyun site during the two days are presented in Fig. 5. Mixing ratios of O_3 were about 35 ppbv on 18 July with little buildup from morning to afternoon. O_3 levels were significantly higher on the following day exhibiting a distinct peak in the afternoon with a maximum of 120 ppbv. RH measured at the site decreased from about 90% on 18 July to 75% on 19 July, consistent with the changes in COD retrieved from MODIS (Fig. 4) indicating a greater

influence for rain events on 18 July. CO was generally above 600 ppbv throughout the period after a low of 400 ppbv on the morning of 18 July. A peak of up to 800 ppbv in the afternoon of 18 July indicates transport of polluted air to the site, but there was no corresponding increase in O_3. In contrast, the peak of 1200 ppbv in CO during the afternoon of 19 July coincided with the peak in O_3, indicating the transport patterns may differ from the previous day. The association between changes in O_3, RH and COD suggests that the low O_3 levels on July 18 reflected suppression of O_3 production associated with high COD. Simultaneous peaks in O_3 and CO around 5pm on 19 July illustrate the significance of O_3 produced from anthropogenic precursors transported from the Beijing urban area. The shift in the peak of O_3 to 5 p.m. on 19 July as compared to 3 p.m. observed typically in June represents the lag associated with the transport of these precursors.

Wild et al. (2004), using a global chemical transport model, examined the influence of different regional meteorological processes on regional ozone production over East Asia in spring time and its global impact. Their work demonstrated in detail that cloudy, cyclonic weather systems unfavorable for boundary layer ozone production over East Asia typically allow for efficient lifting of precursors into the free troposphere where ozone is formed downwind, having a great impact on global ozone. In contrast, they found that stagnant, anticyclonic events conducive to strong ozone production over East Asia tend to keep ozone and precursors within the boundary layers, having relatively small impacts on global ozone. In light of their study, we examined the variation in NO_x, an important ozone precursor, during the two-day period. Although measurements of NO_x are not available, we adopted model fields as the GEOS-Chem model was found to reproduce the observed variation of O_3, RH, and COD between 18 and 19 July. The NO_x to NO_y (reactive nitrogen family, the sum of NO_x and its oxidation products) ratio in the boundary layer at Miyun as predicted by the GEOS-Chem model is 0.7 on 18 July (cloudy day with low mixing ratio of surface O_3) as compared to 0.4 on 19 July (clear day with high O_3). Simulated mixing ratios of NO_x in the boundary layer are also higher on 18 July than on 19 July, partly because of an increase in the chemical lifetime of NO_x below clouds. Consistent with Wild et al. (2004) springtime study, our analysis suggests that although local photochemical production of ozone is suppressed below the optically thick clouds, there is still a lot of NO_x available for future ozone production when the polluted air mass is exported downwind (toward northeast in summer) or lifted to the free troposphere by convection with implications for global ozone production.

5 Concluding remarks

Large intra-seasonal differences in CO and O_3 were detected at Miyun in summer. Despite the observed increases in mean daytime CO, about 200 ppbv from June to July, mean daytime O_3 decreased over the same period by 17 ppbv. Observed changes in CO and O_3 are attributed to meteorological influences associated with the summer monsoonal circulation that develops over the North China Plain in July. The change in flow pattern associated with the onset of the summer monsoon circulation results in more frequent transport of polluted air from the Beijing urban region to the area of the north represented by Miyun. This change in circulation accounts for the increase in CO from June to July. The increase in COD associated with the increase in RH and precipitation in July has an important contrary influence on photochemical production of O_3. Transmission of solar radiation to the near surface region is reduced by the presence of optically thick clouds, leading to a decrease in the photochemical production of O_3 as reflected in the strong negative correlation of O_3 with COD observed during July.

The analysis suggests that strategies to minimize the incidence of high levels of O_3 over Beijing in summer should focus on times when forecast models suggest that upcoming conditions are likely to be relatively cloud-free. Reduction in emissions of O_3 precursors during such times are likely to be most effective in limiting the number of occasions where summertime levels of O_3 exceed the existing Chinese ozone air quality standard (1-h concentration of 200 μg/m^3 at 1 atm and 25°C, corresponding to a mixing ratio of 102 ppbv).

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