

NO_x emission estimation over Japan based on satellite data with wind field divergence

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Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a form of NO_x as important air pollutants, that leads to acid rain, ozone formation, and adverse impacts on human health. Anthropogenic activities involving the fossil fuel combustion such as vehicle engines and power plants are big sources of atmospheric NO₂. Despite their importance, it is not easy to create high-resolution emission maps with top-down estimation by direct measurement. In this study, we investigated the wide and detailed NO₂ emission map over Japan, based on the divergence of the NO₂ horizontal fluxes calculated from the datasets of satellite observation and meteorological model. According to the continuity equation for steady state, the divergence of NO₂ flux yields the net balance of sources and sinks. This approach has been demonstrated for the urban scale estimations (Shaiganfar et al., 2011, Shaiganfar et al., 2017, Beirle et al., 2019), and for a global catalog of point sources (Beirle et al., 2020). We also applied this local form of conservation laws to the NO₂ emission maps over Japan. Our method used datasets of tropospheric NO₂ vertical column density derived from the Sentinel-5P/TROPospheric Ozone Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI) satellite and wind vector derived from The Meso-Scale Model (MSM). TROPOMI Level 2 data products has daily spatial coverage with high resolution for; 3.5 x 7.0 km² at beginning of mission in 2018, 3.5 x 5.5 km² since 6 August 2019. MSM which is one of the numerical weather prediction models operated by JMA provides 51-hour or 39-hour forecasts every 3 hours on 5 km grid all over Japan. Using these datasets, divergence calculations for daily estimation with high spatial resolution can be conducted. Our temporal averaged results showed well linear correlation with NO_x emission from EAGrid2010-Japan (Fukui et al., 2014) and revealed clear distribution of point sources.

Keywords: Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), Emission estimation, Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), TROPOMI, Satellite data