

Spatiotemporal variation of ozone precursors and ozone formation in Hong Kong: Grid field measurement and modelling study

X.P. Lyu¹, M. Liu¹, H. Guo^{*1}, Z.H. Ling¹, Y. Wang¹, P.K.K. Louie², C.W.Y. Luk²

1. *Air Quality Studies, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong*

2. *Air Group, Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department, Hong Kong*

*Corresponding author. ceguohai@polyu.edu.hk

Abstract

Grid field measurements of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) covering the entire territory of Hong Kong were simultaneously carried out twice daily on 27 September 2013 and 24 September 2014, respectively, to advance our understanding on the spatiotemporal variations of VOCs and ozone (O₃) formation, the factors controlling O₃ formation and the efficacy of a control measure in Hong Kong. From before to after the control measure on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fueled vehicles, the VOCs originated from LPG vehicle exhaust decreased from $41.3 \pm 1.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($49.7 \pm 1.5\%$) to $32.8 \pm 1.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($38.8 \pm 1.7\%$) ($p < 0.05$). In contrast, the contribution to VOCs made by gasoline and diesel vehicle exhaust and solvent usage increased ($p < 0.05$). VOCs and nitric oxide (NO) in LPG source experienced the highest reductions at the roadside sites, while the variations were not significant at the urban and new town sites ($p > 0.05$). For O₃ production, LPG vehicle exhaust generally made a negative contribution (-0.17 ± 0.06 ppbv) at the roadside sites, however it turned to a slightly positive contribution (0.004 ± 0.038 ppbv) after the control measure. At the urban sites, although the reduction of VOCs and NO was minor ($p > 0.05$), O₃ produced by LPG vehicle significantly reduced from 4.19 ± 1.92 ppbv to 0.95 ± 0.38 ppbv ($p < 0.05$). Meanwhile, O₃ produced by LPG at the new town sites remained stable. The analysis of O₃-precursor relationships revealed that alkenes and aromatics were the main species limiting roadside O₃ formation, while aromatics were the most predominant controlling factor at urban and new town sites. In contrast, isoprene and sometimes NO_x limited the O₃ formation in rural environment.

Keywords: VOCs; source apportionment; photochemical O₃; Eulerian box model; MCM

1 **1 Introduction**

2 Well known as a major air pollutant in the atmosphere, ozone (O₃) has attracted increasing
3 concerns in recent years due to its adverse effects on human health, visibility and ecosystem
4 (Louie et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2008). O₃ is formed by a series of complex photochemical
5 reactions involving volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the
6 presence of sunlight (Seinfeld and Pandis, 1997). Since photochemical O₃ formation has a
7 nonlinear relationship with its precursors, *i.e.*, VOCs and NO_x, it is difficult to remediate the
8 photochemical pollution, especially in the regions with frequently high O₃ events, such as the
9 Pearl River Delta (PRD).

10 Continuously rapid urbanization and population growth in Hong Kong coupled with high surface
11 VOCs and NO_x emission, high solar radiation and hot weather make this region a
12 photochemically polluted area. Previous studies have reported that the photochemical O₃
13 formation in Hong Kong is generally VOC-limited (Cheng et al., 2010a, b; Zhang et al., 2007).
14 Furthermore, a number of studies were carried out on the contributions to O₃ in Hong Kong of
15 regional transport from PRD and superregional transport from eastern China (Xue et al., 2014; Li
16 et al., 2012, 2013; Ling et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2009), and several efforts have been made to
17 study formation mechanism of O₃ pollution in Hong Kong (Ling et al., 2014; Xue et al., 2014).
18 Although Ling et al. (2014) revealed that photochemical reactivity and ozone production were
19 absolutely different between a semirural site and an urban site in Hong Kong, there is little
20 knowledge about the spatial patterns of the relationship between O₃ and its precursors.

21 In addition, a series of control measures have been implemented in Hong Kong to reduce VOCs
22 emitted from different anthropogenic sources, including VOC-containing products, road
23 transport and industry emissions to mitigate O₃ pollution (HKEPD, 2015a; Louie et al., 2013).
24 Hence, grid field measurements pre- and post- a control measure would help assess the
25 effectiveness of the measure. For example, promotion of LPG as a substitute fuel for taxi and
26 public light buses in Hong Kong was the most striking measure to reduce VOC emissions in the

27 past decade. However, recently, LPG usage was found to become major contributor to ambient
28 VOCs in Hong Kong due to poor maintenance (Lau et al., 2010; Ling et al., 2014). In general,
29 the catalytic converters in the LPG-fueled vehicles should be replaced every 1-2 years,
30 depending on maintenance and mileage. In Hong Kong, about 80% of taxis and 45% of public
31 light buses using LPG as fuel have defective converters, resulting in excessive emissions of
32 vehicle exhaust (HKEPD, 2013). As such, to reduce LPG-fueled vehicle emissions, the Hong
33 Kong government set aside \$150 million to replace the catalytic converters and associated
34 components on LPG-fueled taxis and public light buses, which commenced in October 2013 and
35 completed in April 2014. It is well known that properly functioning catalytic converters in the
36 LPG-fueled vehicles could reduce emissions up to 90%.

37 Therefore, the objectives of this study were to evaluate the benefit of replacing catalytic
38 converters and oxygen sensors on LPG-fueled vehicles, to examine the spatiotemporal variations
39 of O₃ production by LPG, and to study the spatial characteristics of O₃-precursor relationships in
40 Hong Kong.

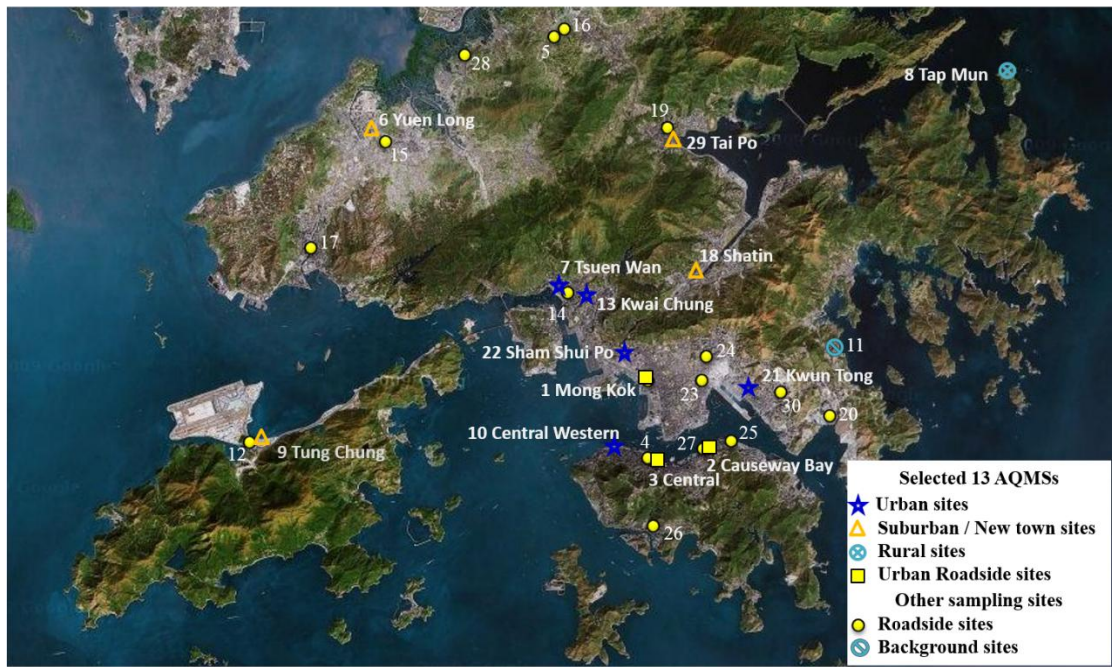
41 **2 Methodology**

42 **2.1 Grid sampling campaigns**

43 Totally 30 sampling sites were selected in different districts covering the entire territory of Hong
44 Kong. The grid measurement campaigns were conducted on 27 September 2013 and 24
45 September 2014, respectively. At each of the 30 sites, 3-minute VOC canister samples were
46 collected once in the morning between 9:00 and 11:00 and another in the afternoon between 2:00
47 and 4:00. Two of the 30 sites had duplicate samples. In total, 64 samples were collected for each
48 campaign. The 30 sites included 24 roadside sites and 6 general sites (Figure 1 and Table S1).

49 Thirteen out of the 30 sites were the Hong Kong Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS)
50 (<http://epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICDI/air/station/>) (Table 1), where trace gas data were available. These
51 sites covered the entire territory of Hong Kong and could provide a full picture of photochemical
52 O₃ formation. The 13 AQMSs were categorized into four types according to the land usage and

53 the distance from urban center, *i.e.*, 3 urban roadside sites, 5 urban sites, 4 new town sites and 1
 54 rural site (Figure 1 and Table 1).



55
 56 Figure 1 Geographic location of the sampling sites and surrounding environments.
 57

58 Table 1 Description of the 13 AQMS sites

Type	Site	No.*	Description
Urban	Central Western (CW)	10	General urban air quality monitoring stations in residential areas and some mixed with commercial and/or industrial areas.
	Kwun Tong (KT)	21	
	Sham Shui Po (SSP)	22	
	Kwai Chung (KC)	13	
	Tsuen Wan (TW)	7	
Suburban/ New Town	Yuen Long (YL)	6	Mainly residential areas in new territories.
	Tung Chung (TC)	9	
	Tai Po (TP)	29	
	Sha Tin (ST)	18	
Rural	Tap Mun (TM)	8	Remote island off the northeast coast of Hong Kong
Roadside	Causeway Bay (CWB)	2	Commercial centers with high-rise buildings along the streets, high traffic and pedestrian flow, and frequent traffic jam in
	Central	3	

59 * Sequence number in Figure 1.

60

61 **2.2 Collection and analysis of VOC samples**

62 Ambient VOC samples were collected using cleaned and evacuated 2 L electro-polished stainless
63 steel canisters. The canisters were prepared and delivered to Hong Kong by the Rowland/Blake
64 group at University of California, Irvine (UCI). A flow-controlling device was used to collect the
65 samples for 3 minutes.

66 Before sampling, all canisters were cleaned at least five times by repeatedly filling and
67 evacuating with humidified pure nitrogen gas (N₂). To test for any contamination in the canister,
68 the evacuated canister was filled with pure N₂, stored for at least 24 h, then checked by the same
69 VOC analytical methods to ensure that all the target compounds were not found or were under
70 the method detection limit (MDL). In addition, duplicate samples were regularly collected to
71 check the precision and reliability of the sampling and analytical methods. After sampling, the
72 VOC samples were returned to the laboratory at UCI for chemical analysis. The analytical
73 system, which was fully described in [Simpson et al. \(2010\)](#), used multicolumn gas
74 chromatography (GC) with five column-detector combinations. The oven parameters employed
75 for each GC can be found in [Colman et al. \(2001\)](#). In total, 39 non-methane hydrocarbons
76 (NMHCs), methane (CH₄) and carbon monoxide (CO) were quantified from the canister samples.
77 VOCs were identified via their retention time and mass spectra. The quantification of target
78 VOCs was accomplished using multipoint external calibration curves, obtained from a
79 combination of National Bureau of Standards, Scott Specialty Gases (absolute accuracy
80 estimated to be within ±5 %) and UCI made standards. The detection limit, measurement
81 precision and accuracy for each VOC varied and were listed in [Simpson et al. \(2010\)](#). Generally,
82 alkanes, alkenes and aromatics had a detection limit of 3 pptv, a precision of 3%, and an
83 accuracy of 5%.

84 For on-line measurements of VOCs, which were mainly used in section 2.5, a built-in
85 computerized program, including auto-linearization, auto-calibration and calibration with span
86 gas, was adopted to control the quality. The accuracy and precision of VOC measurements were
87 1.0-10.0% and 2.5-20.0 %, respectively.

88 **2.3 PMF model**

89 US EPA PMF model (version 5.0) was applied to the measurement data for receptor-based
90 source appointment. The PMF model is a multivariate factor analysis tool that decomposes a
91 matrix of speciated sample data into two matrices - factor contributions and factor profiles which
92 can be interpreted by an analyst as to what sources are represented based on observations at the
93 receptor site (Paatero, 1997; Paatero and Tapper, 1994).

94 The details of PMF applied to VOC data for source profiles and the contributions of individual
95 VOC species have been introduced somewhere else (Guo et al., 2011a; Ling et al., 2011; Ou et
96 al., 2015). Briefly, 18 NMHCs were input into the PMF model and the uncertainties for each
97 sample/species were determined as the sum of 5-15% of VOC concentration and two times the
98 method detection limit (MDL) of the species (USEPA, 2008). Values below the MDL were
99 replaced by half of the MDL values and their overall uncertainties were set as 5/6 of the MDL
100 values. Results were constrained so that no samples had negative source contributions. Different
101 number of factors and uncertainties were tested, and an optimum solution was determined based
102 on a good fit to the observed data and the most meaningful results by comparing with previous
103 studies (Guo et al., 2011a, b; Lau et al., 2010).

104 **2.4 Calculation of VOCs diurnal profiles**

105 Since VOCs canister samples at the 30 sites were only collected at ~10:00 and 15:00,
106 respectively, it was impossible to use them for a photochemical box modeling as the model
107 required hourly data input for consecutive hours. Hence, it is necessary to derive time-dependent
108 concentrations from the two canister samples for the use in the photochemical box model
109 incorporating master chemical mechanism (PBM-MCM). The procedures to obtain hourly VOC

110 profiles from two samples were similar to the method described in [Zhang et al. \(2007\)](#). Briefly,
 111 the method was based on the mass conservation of a species inside a fixed Eulerian box, namely,
 112 the Eulerian box model ([Seinfeld and Pandis, 1997](#)). The entraining equations are:

$$113 \quad \frac{dC_i}{dt} = \frac{q_i}{H(t)} + R_i - \frac{v_{d,i}}{H(t)} C_i + \frac{C_i^0 - C_i}{\tau_\gamma} \quad \text{for } \frac{dH}{dt} \leq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$114 \quad \frac{dC_i}{dt} = \frac{q_i}{H(t)} + R_i - \frac{v_{d,i}}{H(t)} C_i + \frac{C_i^0 - C_i}{\tau_\gamma} + \frac{C_i^a - C_i}{H(t)} \frac{dH}{dt} \quad \text{for } \frac{dH}{dt} > 0 \quad (2)$$

115 where, C_i : Concentration of species i ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$),

116 q_i : Emission rate of species i ($\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$),

117 $H(t)$: Mixing height as a function of time t (m),

118 R_i : Chemical destruction rate of species i ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$),

119 $v_{d,i}$: Dry/wet deposition rate of species i (m s^{-1}),

120 C_i^0 : Background concentration of species i ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$),

121 τ_γ : Residence time of air over the area (s),

122 C_i^a : Concentration of species i above the boundary layer ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$).

123

124 Equations (1) and (2) mathematically describe the concentration of species above a given area,
 125 assuming that the corresponding airshed is well mixed, accounting for emissions, chemical
 126 reactions, removal, advection of material in and out of the airshed, and entrainment of material
 127 during growth of the mixing layer. Before the numerical solutions of equations (1) and (2) are
 128 solved with Gear's backward differentiation formula ([Jacobson, 2005](#)), the parameters in
 129 equations (1) and (2) need to be determined.

130 Emission Rates: the Hong Kong emission inventory of total anthropogenic VOCs from different
 131 sources in 2013 was used to estimate the annual emission amount ([HKEPD, 2015b](#)). This annual
 132 emission amount was then equally allocated to 52 weeks and the area of 1104 square kilometers
 133 covering Hong Kong territory. The area of Hong Kong was obtained from [Censtatd \(2016\)](#), while
 134 the days were classified as weekdays and weekends, and the emission factors of each day of a

135 week were determined by [Cardelino \(1998\)](#). Hence, the daily initial emission amount of total
136 VOCs per unit area was calculated. This value was multiplied by the typical profile of ambient
137 VOCs, which was obtained by averaging all canister data at different sites, to derive the daily
138 initial emission rates of speciated VOCs at different sites. The diurnal variations of the
139 anthropogenic VOC emissions were estimated according to source types. Industry and power
140 generation were assumed to have no diurnal variations, while mobile emission had the same
141 pattern as traffic flow in Hong Kong ([Lam et al., 2006](#); [Xia and Shao, 2005](#)). The diurnal
142 variation of biogenic VOCs (*i.e.*, isoprene) was estimated by considering the temperature
143 variations and the best fit value coefficient T_M , which affected the predicted emission behavior at
144 high temperatures ([Guenther, 1993, 1999](#)). In this way, the speciated VOCs emission rates from
145 different sources were determined.

146 **Mixing Height Profile:** The mixing height was estimated using the Holzworth method
147 ([Holzworth, 1967](#)). The Holzworth method provides twice-per-day (morning and afternoon)
148 mixing heights based on calculations using routine upper-air data and minimum and maximum
149 temperature of the day. The upper air sounding data were obtained from the University of
150 Wyoming (<http://weather.uwyo.edu/upperair/sounding.html>). The minimum temperature was
151 determined from the data of King's Park station operated by Hong Kong Observatory (HKO)
152 (<http://www.hko.gov.hk/>) for the time period of 0200-0600 local standard time (LST). Here, we
153 followed the method of [Zhang et al. \(2007\)](#), which also calculated the mixing height in Hong
154 Kong by using “plus 2 °C” to the morning minimum surface temperature to calculate the
155 morning mixing height. The afternoon mixing height was calculated using the maximum surface
156 temperature observed at 1200-1600. The hourly mixing heights, often used in regulatory
157 dispersion modeling, were interpolated from these twice-per-day estimates. The recommended
158 interpolation procedure is provided in the user’s guide for the Industrial Source Complex (ISC)
159 dispersion model ([USEPA, 1985](#)).

160 The dry/wet deposition rate and the concentration above the boundary layer were assumed to be

161 zero for all VOCs. Background concentrations of VOCs were expressed as geometric mean
162 concentrations at general sites. Residence time of air over the area was the ratio of length of the
163 box to wind speed, and the time-dependent wind speed was determined by curve fitting using the
164 in-situ hourly wind speed obtained from the HKO. Since length of the box and emission rates of
165 VOCs at different sites were different and the VOC chemical destruction rates were unknown,
166 we adopted an iterative approach to determine these parameters based on canister data at 10:00
167 and 15:00. We first used a typical OH profile in clean marine atmosphere ([Creasey et al., 2003](#))
168 and the initial emission rate of propane to calculate the temporal variations of propane from
169 10:00 to 15:00 with the box length ranging from 0 to 60 km (*i.e.*, beyond the longest range of
170 Hong Kong territory). Propane was selected due to its high concentration and lower reactivity
171 with OH compared to alkenes. The optimal emission rate and the length of box were adjusted by
172 matching the calculated propane level at 15:00 with the observed value, using a 5% agreement
173 for consistency. The ratio of optimal emission rate to initial emission rate of propane was defined
174 as emission rate factor. The temporal variation of more reactive propene from 10:00 to 15:00 was
175 calculated in the same way, but the length of box was fixed and the emission rate of propene was
176 modified by multiplying the initial emission rate of propene by the emission rate factor
177 determined by propane above. As such, the original OH profile used above was refined to fit the
178 real situation in Hong Kong. The refined OH profile was then used to recalculate the temporal
179 variation of propane. The entire procedure was called iteration. Iterations were repeated until
180 convergence was obtained. Thus the length of box, emission rates of VOCs and OH profiles at
181 different sites were obtained via this iterative approach.

182 **2.5 PBM-MCM model**

183 The photochemical box model (PBM) incorporating Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM) is a
184 near-explicit chemical mechanism which describes the detailed gas-phase chemical processes
185 involving the tropospheric degradation of a series of primary VOCs. The chemical mechanistic
186 information was extracted from the Master Chemical Mechanism, MCM v3.2 ([Jenkin et al., 1997](#);

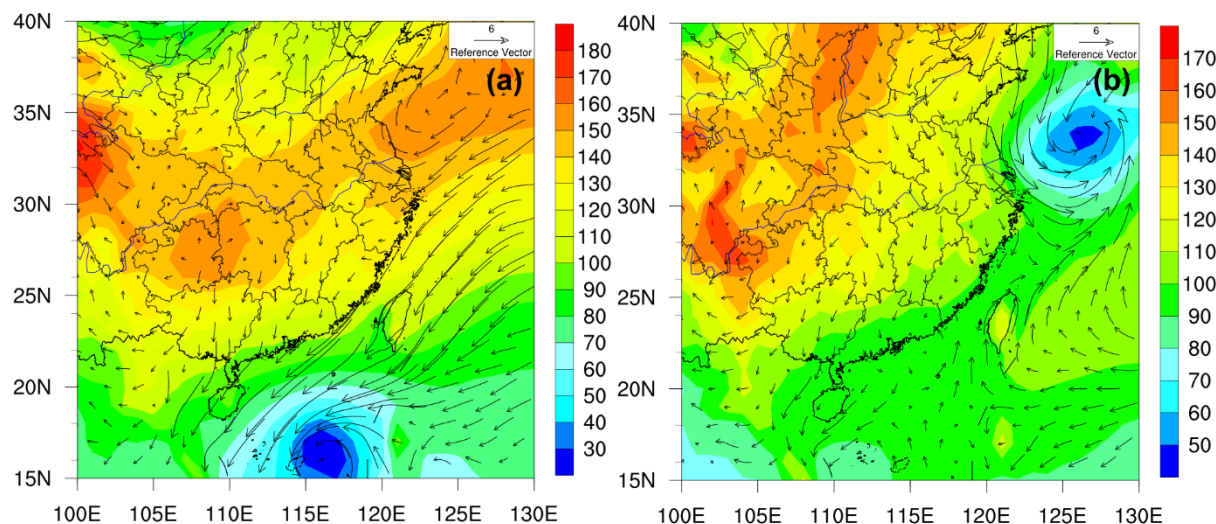
187 [Saunders et al., 2003](#)), via website <http://mcm.leeds.ac.uk/MCM>.

188 The model was constructed with measured CO, NO, NO₂, SO₂, C₂-C₉ NMHCs, temperature and
189 relative humidity. Data were read every hour to calculate the in-situ rates of O₃ production and
190 destruction. The model has been widely used in Hong Kong ([Ling et al., 2014](#); [Lyu et al., 2015b](#),
191 [2016](#)).

192 **3 Results and discussion**

193 **3.1 Meteorological conditions**

194 [Figure 2](#) shows the average geopotential height (HGT) and wind field on 1000 hPa for East Asia
195 during the two sampling campaigns. The pressure (represented with HGT) over Hong Kong was
196 comparable between the two campaigns. The wind was northeasterly on 27 September 2013,
197 while it was calm on 24 September 2014 in Hong Kong. The lower wind speed in the latter
198 campaign was expected to elevate the VOC concentrations. However, the levels of most VOCs
199 remained similar, whereas those emitted from LPG source decreased between the two campaigns
200 (see sections 3.2 and 3.3), indicating that meteorological parameters did not have substantial
201 influence on the VOC levels of the two campaigns.



202
203 Figure 2 Average geopotential height and wind field on (a) 27 September 2013 and (b) 24
204 September 2014. The figures are made using NCEP FNL (final) data with a horizontal resolution
205 of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$.
206

207 3.2 Comparison of VOCs between the two campaigns

208 Table 2 presents the average mixing ratios of VOCs at the 24 roadside sites and 6 general sites
 209 during the two campaigns. It is noteworthy that the average VOC values for the sites should
 210 reflect the real situation though uncertainties could exist for the samples at individual sites. It
 211 was found that the alkanes dominated the total VOC composition, followed by aromatics and
 212 alkenes, and the mixing ratios at roadside sites were much higher than those at general sites due
 213 to their proximity to the emission sources ($p < 0.05$). From September 2013 to September 2014,
 214 values of most species remained unchanged except for *n/i*-pentanes, which increased at the
 215 general sites ($p < 0.05$), indicating possibly increased emission of gasoline-fueled vehicles.
 216 Furthermore, aromatics such as xylenes and propylbenzenes increased significantly ($p < 0.05$),
 217 perhaps due to the increase of solvent usage and/or vehicular emissions. In contrast, LPG related
 218 VOCs (propane and *n/i*-butanes) remained unchanged, while propene, the tracer of LPG
 219 combustion, even decreased at the roadside sites ($p < 0.05$). In view of the above fact, to examine
 220 whether the replacement program was actually effective, it is necessary to conduct source
 221 apportionments to obtain the emission variations of LPG-fueled vehicles before and during the
 222 replacement program.

223
 224 Table 2 Mixing ratio of VOCs collected at the 30 sampling sites during the 2 sampling
 225 campaigns (average \pm 95% confidence interval, pptv)

Species		Roadside sites (n=24) ^a		General sites (n=6) ^a	
		Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014
Alkanes	Ethane	2518 \pm 209	2704 \pm 206	1833 \pm 179	1884 \pm 280
	Propane	7723 \pm 1872	6996 \pm 1039	3631 \pm 2478	2849 \pm 1076
	<i>n</i> -Butane	11166 \pm 3104	9003 \pm 1645	2828 \pm 1876	2694 \pm 1247
	<i>i</i> -Butane	6413 \pm 1726	5455 \pm 931	1866 \pm 1227	1762 \pm 799
	<i>n</i> -Pentane	773 \pm 197	1209 \pm 457	331 \pm 74	866 \pm 321 *
	<i>i</i> -Pentane	1331 \pm 324	2097 \pm 1127	608 \pm 112	1372 \pm 499 *
	<i>n</i> -Hexane	323 \pm 92	529 \pm 86 *	148 \pm 42	415 \pm 177 *
	2,3-	118 \pm 46	186 \pm 51	48 \pm 22	137 \pm 58 *
	Dimethylbutane				
	2-Methylpentane	593 \pm 193	847 \pm 223	301 \pm 137	754 \pm 408
	3-Methylpentane	315 \pm 95	588 \pm 153 *	174 \pm 85	552 \pm 285 *
	<i>n</i> -Heptane	437 \pm 242	480 \pm 122	122 \pm 35	226 \pm 93 *
	2-Methylhexane	444 \pm 235	416 \pm 82	151 \pm 51	255 \pm 123

	3-Methylhexane	449±243	510±90	145±51	353±156 *
	<i>n</i> -Octane	106±37	137±46	47±10	74±24
	2,2,4-Trimethylpentane	255±132	316±81	37±8	109±66 *
Alkenes	Ethene	4631±917	3748±669	1097±327	1082±398
	Propene	1798±417 *	1084±230	233±70	201±93
	1-Butene	197±40	161±32	53±21	48±25
	<i>i</i> -Butene	566±145 *	371±87	150±58	94±33
	<i>trans</i> -2-Butene	132±36	99±26	20±8	21±8
	<i>cis</i> -2-Butene	82±25	56±15	14±4	13±5
	1-Pentene	55±11	93±49	19±6	28±11
	1,3-Butadiene	149±37	119±24	29±5	17±10
	Isoprene	531±90	627±115	500±230	777±285
Alkyne	Ethyne	3916±671	3375±391	1978±426	2037±404
Aromatics	Benzene	886±138 *	662±64	556±67	518±105
	Toluene	3270±1751	3371±527	1634±610	2745±1136
	Ethylbenzene	643±127	674±87	438±150	703±230
	<i>p</i> -Xylene	291±85	420±69 *	130±39	378±163 *
	<i>m</i> -Xylene	483±178	703±153	161±50	602±296 *
	<i>o</i> -Xylene	337±103	471±79	142±44	428±180 *
	<i>i</i> -Propylbenzene	39±13	42±6	17±4	34±10 *
	<i>n</i> -Propylbenzene	92±39	79±14	30±9	53±16 *
	3-Ethyltoluene	380±210	212±59	66±23	113±47
	4-Ethyltoluene	187±112	119±28	37±10	75±30 *
	2-Ethyltoluene	164±76	87±22	41±12	53±22
	1,3,5-TMB	234±127 *	78±24	40±14	37±15
	1,2,4-TMB	821±486 *	288±85	128±54	145±67
	1,2,3-TMB	228±102	84±22	56±24	45±19

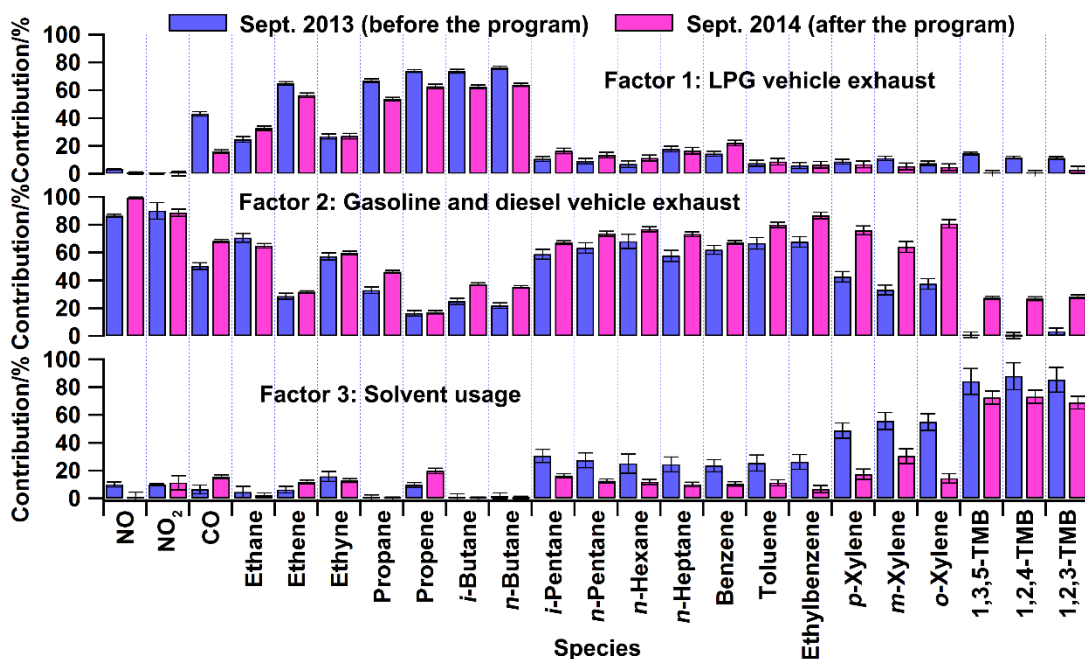
226 ^a Number of sites; * higher mixing ratios as compared to those in another sampling campaign at
 227 the confidence level of 95% ($p < 0.05$). TMB refers to the trimethylbenzene isomers hereafter.

228

229 3.3 Source apportionments of VOCs and trace gases

230 Twenty main anthropogenic VOC species quantified in the 64 samples were applied to PMF for
 231 source apportionment for the two campaigns, respectively. The source profiles before and after
 232 the intervention program are similar (Figure 3). Three factors were extracted from the PMF
 233 model simulation. Since most of the samples were collected at roadside sites, it is expected that
 234 vehicular emissions were the dominant sources of VOCs in this study. The first factor was
 235 distinguished by the dominance of propane, *n*/*i*-butanes, ethene and propene, representing LPG-
 236 fueled vehicle exhaust. Factor 2 had high percentages of all VOCs and trace gases except LPG
 237 related component and the trimethylbenzene isomers. It was assigned as gasoline and diesel
 238 vehicle exhaust. The third factor was closely associated with solvent usage because of high

239 loadings of xylenes and trimethylbenzenes. The profiles of factors identified were based on the
 240 results of previous source apportionment studies (Guo et al., 2007, 2011a; Lau et al., 2010; Ling
 241 et al., 2011) and VOCs source emission studies (Borbon et al., 2002; Guo et al., 2006, 2011b; Ho
 242 et al., 2009). Many different starting seeds were tested and no multiple solutions were found. In
 243 addition, good correlations were found between the observed and predicted VOC concentrations
 244 for the whole dataset ($R^2 = 0.95$ and 0.96 , respectively) before and after the replacement program.
 245 Moreover, all of the selected species had scale residuals normally distributed between -3 and 3 ,
 246 confirming that the measured data were well reproduced (USEPA, 2008).



247
 248 Figure 3 Source profiles of the three sources extracted from PMF in September 2013 (before the
 249 program) and September 2014 (after the program). The standard errors are estimated with the
 250 bootstrap in the PMF model.

251
 252 To sum up the VOC concentrations in each source, the mass and percentage contributions of the
 253 sources to VOCs are summarized in Table S2. Noticeably, the vehicle emissions were the
 254 dominant source of VOCs, with the contribution of $71.1 \pm 1.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($85.5 \pm 2.1\%$) and 77.7 ± 1.3
 255 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($92.0 \pm 1.6\%$) before and after the program, respectively. From 2013 to 2014, the VOCs
 256 emitted from gasoline and diesel vehicles increased remarkably ($p < 0.05$), whereas those

257 originated from LPG vehicle exhaust decreased significantly ($p < 0.05$) from $41.3 \pm 1.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 258 ($49.7 \pm 1.5\%$) to $32.8 \pm 1.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($38.8 \pm 1.7\%$). Table 3 shows the average concentrations of VOCs
 259 and trace gases in LPG vehicle exhaust. Clearly, CO, ethene, propane, propene, *n/i*-butanes and
 260 trimethylbenzene isomers all reduced significantly from before to after the replacement program
 261 ($p < 0.05$). The emissions of NO and NO₂ from LPG-fueled vehicles were minor, and the decrease
 262 of NO was insignificant ($p > 0.05$). Table 4 presents the reductions of VOCs and NO at different
 263 sites. The mass and percentage contribution of LPG vehicle exhaust to VOCs experienced the
 264 greatest decrease at the roadside sites ($p < 0.05$), with the contributions of $54.7 \pm 23.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 265 ($54.6 \pm 10.0\%$) before and $25.0 \pm 11.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($30.8 \pm 9.9\%$) after the program, respectively. The
 266 effects were much weaker at the urban and new town sites, where the mass and percentage
 267 contribution to VOCs decreased slightly or even increased ($p > 0.05$). Similarly, NO decreased
 268 noticeably ($p < 0.05$) (before: $0.66 \pm 0.28 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; after: $0.04 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) at roadside sites, while the
 269 reductions were not significant at the urban and new town sites ($p > 0.05$). This inter-site
 270 difference was possibly caused by higher traffic flow and more dense LPG-fueled vehicles
 271 (particularly taxis) in the vehicle fleet at roadside sites.

272
 273 Table 3 Concentrations of VOCs and trace gases emitted from LPG-fueled vehicles ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Species	LPG vehicle exhaust	
	before	after
NO	0.49 ± 0.44	0.03 ± 0.44
NO ₂	0.00 ± 0.94	0.00 ± 1.05
CO	336.24 ± 12.71	149.5 ± 11.1
Ethane	0.71 ± 0.06	1.03 ± 0.05
Ethene	2.83 ± 0.05	2.00 ± 0.05
Ethyne	0.89 ± 0.06	0.87 ± 0.07
Propane	7.63 ± 0.16	6.07 ± 0.14
Propene	1.76 ± 0.02	0.91 ± 0.02
<i>i</i>-Butane	8.93 ± 0.16	6.98 ± 0.13
<i>n</i>-Butane	16.00 ± 0.26	11.52 ± 0.20
<i>i</i> -Pentane	0.30 ± 0.05	0.75 ± 0.09
<i>n</i> -Pentane	0.14 ± 0.03	0.38 ± 0.06
<i>n</i> -Hexane	0.05 ± 0.02	0.17 ± 0.03
<i>n</i> -Heptane	0.14 ± 0.01	0.20 ± 0.03
Benzene	0.37 ± 0.05	0.44 ± 0.04
Toluene	0.56 ± 0.16	0.94 ± 0.25
Ethylbenzene	0.13 ± 0.05	0.17 ± 0.06

<i>p</i> -Xylene	0.08 ± 0.02	0.10 ± 0.04
<i>m</i> -Xylene	0.14 ± 0.02	0.11 ± 0.05
<i>o</i> -Xylene	0.08 ± 0.02	0.08 ± 0.04
1,3,5-TMB	0.12 ± 0.01	0.00 ± 0.01
1,2,4-TMB	0.32 ± 0.03	0.00 ± 0.03
1,2,3-TMB	0.11 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.01

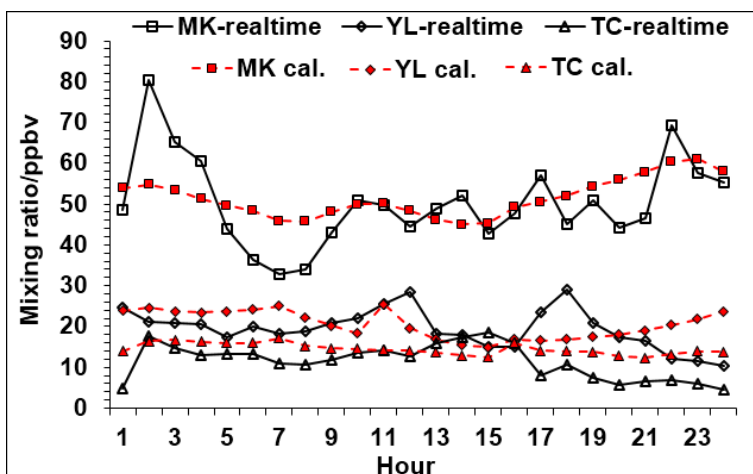
274 Bolded are the species with significant reduction in LPG vehicle exhaust ($p < 0.05$).

275
276 Table 4 Mass and percentage contribution of LPG vehicle exhaust to VOCs and NO at different
277 sites before and after the program

Species	Site	Mass concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)		Percentage contribution (%)	
		before	after	before	after
VOCs	Urban roadside	54.7 ± 23.2	25.0 ± 11.2	54.6 ± 10.0	30.8 ± 9.9
	Urban	28.7 ± 35.8	23.7 ± 11.8	29.3 ± 30.3	31.1 ± 10.5
	New town	11.5 ± 9.8	16.5 ± 17.1	27.9 ± 23.6	20.8 ± 20.3
NO	Urban roadside	0.66 ± 0.28	0.02 ± 0.01	0.04 ± 0.02	0.005 ± 0.002
	Urban	0.34 ± 0.42	0.02 ± 0.02	0.03 ± 0.03	0.005 ± 0.004
	New town	0.14 ± 0.12	0.02 ± 0.02	0.01 ± 0.01	0.003 ± 0.004

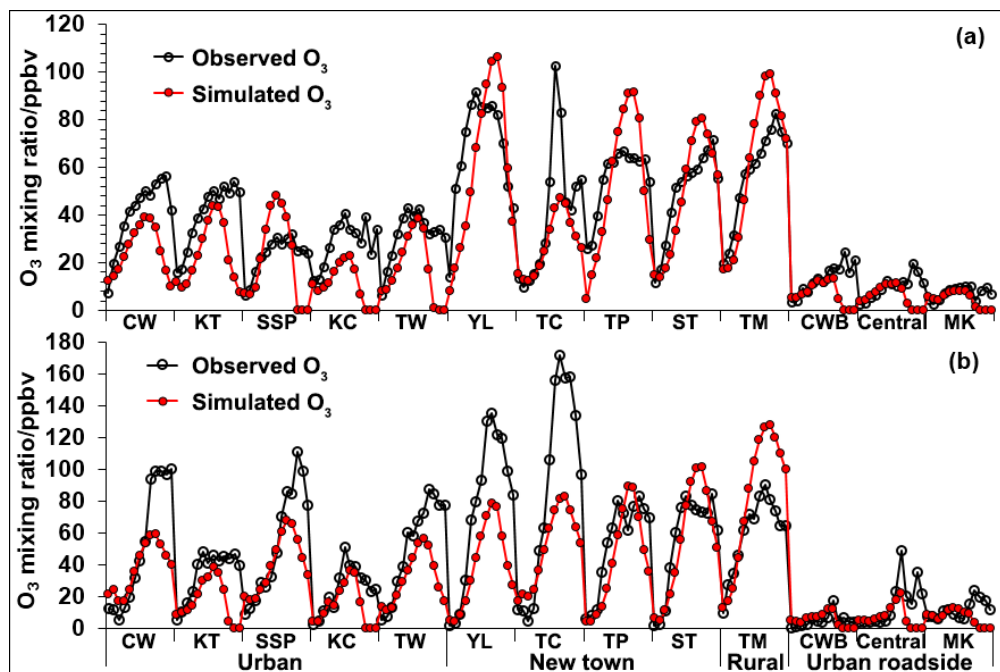
278
279 **3.4 Impact of replacement program on O₃ formation**
280 **3.4.1 Model validation and O₃ simulation**
281 Since the estimated diurnal profiles of VOCs were used to simulate O₃, it is necessary to validate
282 the results with the online measured VOCs. Figure 4 shows the estimated and online measured
283 diurnal patterns of total VOCs at MK, YL and TC, where the real-time VOCs data were available.
284 26 VOC species were included in the total VOCs for calculation. The diurnal patterns of total
285 VOCs estimated from the two points of canister sample data agreed well with the real-time
286 measurements. Table S3 lists the Index of Agreement (IOA) values between the calculated and
287 measured data of the 26 VOC species. Within the range of 0~1, higher IOA value indicates better
288 agreement (Wang et al., 2015; Jiang et al., 2010). Fair to good agreement between the calculated
289 and measured profiles of individual VOCs at these three types of sites suggested that the
290 proposed method provided a reasonable estimate of VOC profiles based on the two canister
291 samples. It is noteworthy that the measured and estimated VOC profiles during 01:00-09:00 did
292 not fit very well at MK, probably due to the fact that the concentrations of VOCs, on one hand,
293 were significantly influenced by in-situ traffic emissions as MK was a roadside site. On the other

294 hand, the method for estimating VOC diurnal profiles in this study was based on emission
295 inventory, which was an averaged profile. This discrepancy in early morning would not
296 substantially influence the simulation of O₃ formation, because O₃ formation was mainly
297 simulated at daytime hours (*i.e.*, 07:00~19:00), and the photochemical reactions of VOCs were
298 weak between 01:00 and 09:00.



299
300 Figure 4 Estimated and real-time measured diurnal profiles of total VOCs at MK, YL and TC.

301
302 The calculated VOC diurnal profiles were then input into the PBM-MCM model for O₃
303 simulation. Figure 5 shows the daytime (07:00~19:00) simulated and observed O₃ in 2013 and
304 2014 at 13 sites where the online data of trace gases were available from the air quality
305 monitoring network of HKEPD. In general, the simulated O₃ agreed well with the observations,
306 with the consistence of the peaks and troughs. The IOA between the simulated and observed O₃
307 was 0.7, indicating fairly acceptable performance of the model. In other words, in-situ O₃
308 formation dominated its ambient level at most sites. The difference between model simulation
309 and observation at some other sites was likely due to the fact that the PBM-MCM model only
310 considers O₃ produced from photochemical reactions while the observed O₃ is also influenced by
311 the downward transport of stratospheric O₃, dry deposition and horizontal transport from other
312 regions/locations (Cheng et al., 2010a; Creilson et al., 2003; Lam et al., 2013; Xue et al., 2011).



313
 314 Figure 5 Comparison between simulated and observed O₃ in (a) September 2013 and (b)
 315 September 2014.

316

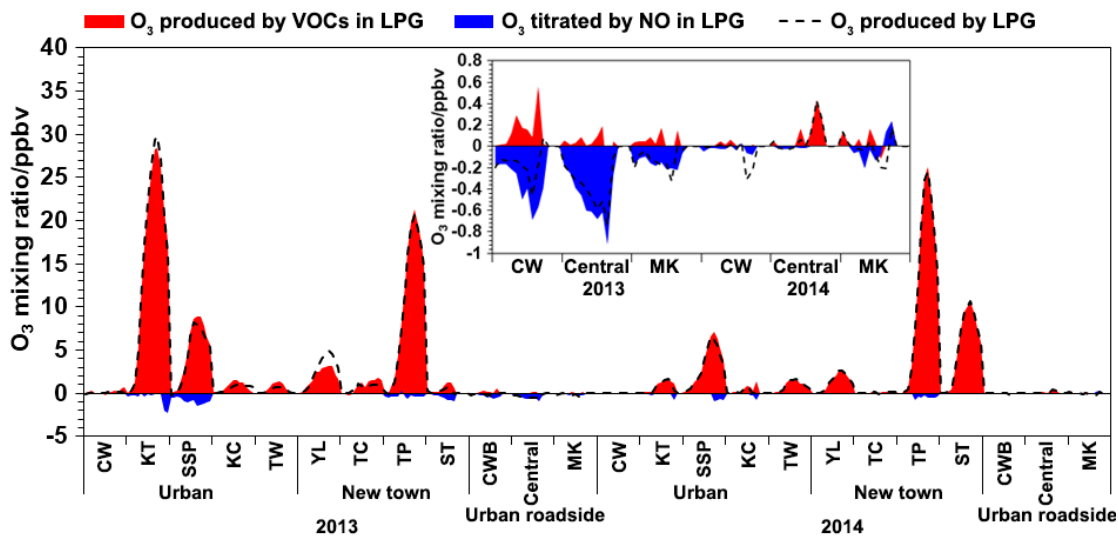
317 3.4.2 Impact of the program on O₃ formation

318 Given the reduction of VOCs and NO emitted from LPG-fueled vehicles, it is interesting to
 319 explore the impact of these changes on O₃ formation at different sites.

320 Sensitivity experiments give the differences in O₃ production between the scenarios with and
 321 without the LPG source as input. Through this approach, the O₃ produced by LPG source before
 322 and after the program were obtained (Figure 6). Since O₃ formation was usually limited by
 323 VOCs and suppressed by NO titration, the VOCs and NO in LPG made positive and negative
 324 contributions to O₃ production, respectively. Considering the combined effect of VOCs and NO
 325 on O₃ formation, LPG generally made a net positive contribution to O₃. However, the
 326 contribution of LPG vehicle to O₃ formation at roadside sites was negative before the program,
 327 mainly due to higher levels of NO emitted from LPG-fueled vehicles ($0.66 \pm 0.28 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) than
 328 those at urban ($0.34 \pm 0.42 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and new town sites ($0.14 \pm 0.12 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), resulting in higher NO
 329 titration to O₃.

330 Table 5 lists the average contributions of LPG vehicle exhaust to O₃ at different types of sites

331 before and after the replacement program. At the roadside sites, the contribution of LPG vehicle
 332 turned from O₃ destruction (-0.17 ± 0.06 ppbv) before to O₃ formation (0.004 ± 0.038 ppbv) after
 333 the program. However, the resulting O₃ increase was minor (only 0.18 ppbv, 3.1% of the average
 334 roadside O₃ value). Although the decrease of VOCs and NO was not significant at the urban sites
 335 ($p > 0.05$), O₃ produced by LPG source decreased significantly ($p < 0.05$), reflecting nonlinear
 336 relationship between O₃ and its precursors, and also indicating the effectiveness of the program
 337 on O₃ production at urban sites. At the new town sites, no significant change in the contribution
 338 of LPG vehicle to O₃ production were observed ($p > 0.05$).



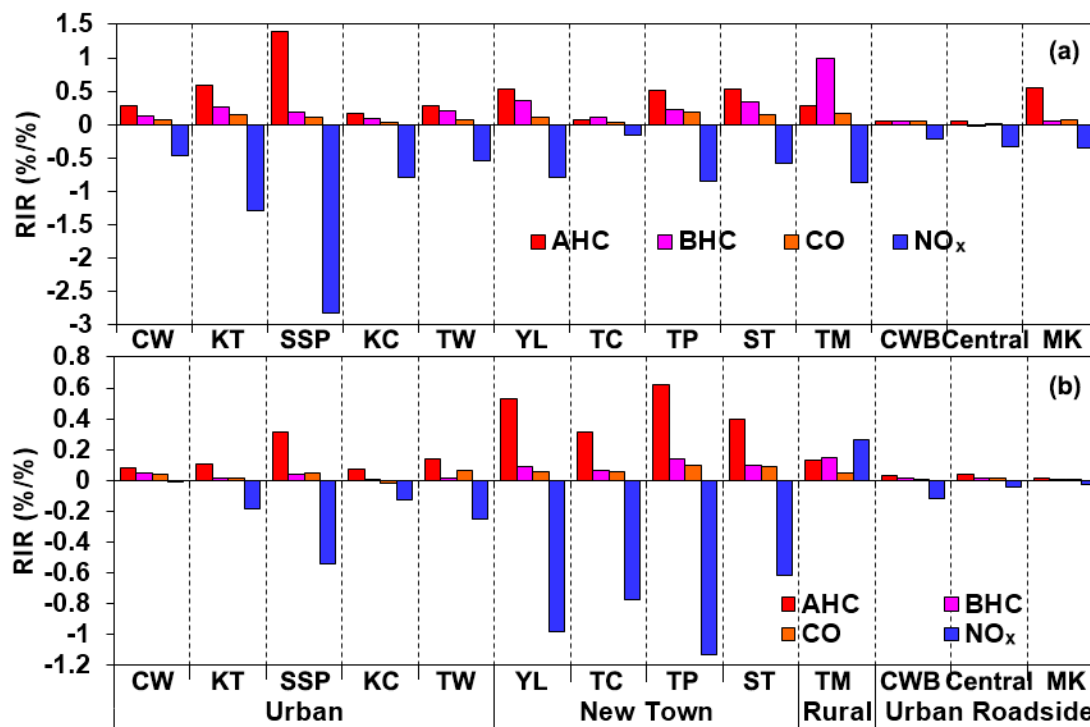
339
 340 Figure 6 Contribution of LPG vehicle exhaust to O₃ production before and after the program. O₃
 341 production by LPG at the roadside sites is enlarged in the insert panel.
 342

343 Table 5 Site-dependent average contributions of LPG vehicle exhaust to O₃ production (Unit:
 344 ppbv)

	Before	After
Urban roadside	-0.17 ± 0.06	0.004 ± 0.038
Urban	4.19 ± 1.92	0.95 ± 0.38
New town	3.37 ± 1.56	4.47 ± 1.89

345
 346 **3.5 Spatial characteristics of O₃-precursor relationship**
 347 Figure 7 shows the relative incremental reactivity (RIR) of anthropogenic VOCs (AHC),
 348 biogenic VOCs (BHC), CO and NO_x, as a measure of the sensitivity of O₃ formation to the

349 changes of the precursors (Cardelino and Chameides, 1995). The VOC groups and CO had
350 positive RIR values, and the RIR values of VOC groups were higher than that of CO, indicating
351 that O₃ production was VOC-limited. The RIR values of AHC were mostly the highest, followed
352 by BHC and CO. In contrast, the average RIR for NO_x was negative, suggesting that cutting NO_x
353 led to O₃ increase. Different from other sites where O₃ formation was limited by AHC, BHC at
354 the rural site TM was the most predominant reagent limiting O₃ formation in September 2013,
355 whereas the RIR of NO_x in September 2014 became positive, same as VOCs and CO, indicating
356 that O₃ formation was limited by both VOCs and NO_x. To understand the dominant VOC
357 groups/species responsible for O₃ formation, Table 6 shows the average RIR values of VOC
358 groups/species at different types of sites (The RIR value of each VOC species is given in Table
359 S4). The alkenes (6.91) and aromatics (7.01) had comparable RIR values and were the highest at
360 the roadside sites, indicating that vehicular emissions were the most important sources of O₃
361 formation at roadside sites. On the other hand, the aromatics at the urban and new town sites
362 were the most predominant VOCs for O₃ formation, with the RIR values of 20.48 and 24.15,
363 respectively. Solvent usage and traffic emissions were likely the main contributors at these two
364 types of sites. In contrast, isoprene was responsible for O₃ formation at rural site with the RIR of
365 19.38.



366
 367 Figure 7 RIR values of VOC groups, CO and NO_x at different sites on (a) 27 Sept. 2013 and (b)
 368 24 Sept. 2014
 369

370 Table 6 Average RIR of VOC groups or species at different sites (Unit: %/%)

	Urban roadside	Urban	New town	Rural
Alkanes	4.22	8.72	9.67	7.98
Alkenes	6.91	10.24	11.35	8.35
Aromatics	7.01	20.48	24.15	15.19
Isoprene	1.31	4.18	8.56	19.38
Ethyne	0.02	0.19	0.31	0.81

371
 372 **4 Conclusions**
 373 VOC canister samples were collected at 30 sites in Hong Kong before and after the LPG
 374 converter replacement program. Source apportionment revealed that the VOCs emitted from
 375 LPG-fueled vehicles significantly decreased at urban roadside sites after the program, while they
 376 remained unchanged at urban and new town sites. LPG vehicle exhaust was destructive to O₃
 377 formation at the roadside sites before the program, whereas it switched to positive contribution
 378 after the program. Nevertheless, the resulting O₃ increase was minor (3.1%). Although the
 379 decrease of VOCs and NO in LPG emissions was insignificant at the urban sites, O₃ produced by

380 LPG vehicle reduced significantly during the program. The above results confirmed the success
381 of the program, particularly in roadside and urban environments. Furthermore, O₃ formation was
382 mainly limited by VOCs regardless of locations, while VOCs and NO_x could co-control the O₃
383 formation in rural areas. In addition, anthropogenic VOCs were the main species dominating O₃
384 formation, *i.e.*, alkenes and aromatics in urban roadside environments, and aromatics at urban
385 and new town sites, while O₃ formation at rural sites was most sensitive to biogenic VOCs. The
386 spatial characteristics of O₃-precursor relationships provided useful guideline for the formulation
387 and implementation of O₃ abatement strategies in different-function areas of Hong Kong.

388 **Acknowledgments**

389 We thank HKEPD for providing us the data. This study was supported by the Research Grants
390 Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region via grants (PolyU5154/13E,
391 PolyU152052/14E, CRF/C5022-14G and CRF/C5004-15E), the HKPolyU PhD scholarship
392 (project #RTUP), and the HKPolyU internal grants (1-ZVCX and G-YBHT). This study is partly
393 supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (41275122).

394 **References**

- 395 Aliche B, Geyer A, Hofzumahaus A, Holland F, Konrad S, Pätz HW, et al. OH formation by
396 HONO photolysis during the BERLIOZ experiment. *Journal of Geophysical Research-*
397 *Atmospheres* 2003; 108: PHO 3-1-PHO 3-17.
- 398 Borbon A, Locoge N, Veillerot M, Galloo JC, Guillermo R. Characterisation of NMHCs in a
399 French urban atmosphere: overview of the main sources. *Science of the Total Environment*
400 2002; 292: 177-191.
- 401 Cardelino C. Daily Variability of Motor Vehicle Emissions Derived from Traffic Counter Data.
402 *Journal of Air & Waste Management Association* 1998; 48: 637-645.
- 403 Cardelino CA, Chameides WL. An Observation-Based Model for Analyzing Ozone Precursor
404 Relationships in the Urban Atmosphere. *Journal of Air & Waste Management Association*
405 1995; 45: 161-180.

406 Censtatd. Census and Statistics Department HKG. Geography and climate, Hong Kong.
407 http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/FileManager/EN/Content_810/geog.pdf retrieved 27 January 2016.

408 Cheng HR, Guo H, Saunders SM, Lam SHM, Jiang F, Wang XM, et al. Assessing photochemical
409 ozone formation in the Pearl River Delta with a photochemical trajectory model. *Atmospheric*
410 *Environment* 2010a; 44: 4199-4208.

411 Cheng HR, Guo H, Wang XM, Saunders SM, Lam SHM, Jiang F, et al. On the relationship
412 between ozone and its precursors in the Pearl River Delta: application of an observation-based
413 model (OBM). *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 2010b; 17: 547-560.

414 Colman JJ, Swanson AL, Meinardi S, Sive BC, Blake DR, Rowland FS. Description of the
415 Analysis of a Wide Range of Volatile Organic Compounds in Whole Air Samples Collected
416 during PEM-Tropics A and B. *Analytical Chemistry* 2001; 73: 3723-3731.

417 Creilson JK, Fishman J, Wozniak AE. Intercontinental transport of tropospheric ozone: a study of
418 its seasonal variability across the North Atlantic utilizing tropospheric ozone residuals and its
419 relationship to the North Atlantic Oscillation. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* 2003; 3:
420 2053-2066.

421 Guenther AB. Modeling biogenic volatile organic compound emissions to the atmosphere. In
422 *Reactive hydrocarbons in the atmosphere*, Nicholas Hewitt edited. Elsevier Inc., London,
423 1999: 98-116.

424 Guenther AB, Zimmerman PR, Harley PC, Monson RK, Fall R. Isoprene and monoterpene
425 emission rate variability: Model evaluations and sensitivity analyses. *Journal of Geophysical*
426 *Research-Atmospheres* 1993; 98: 12609-12617.

427 Guo H, Cheng HR, Ling ZH, Louie PKK, Ayoko GA. Which emission sources are responsible
428 for the volatile organic compounds in the atmosphere of Pearl River Delta? *Journal of*
429 *Hazardous Materials* 2011a; 188: 116-124.

430 Guo H, So KL, Simpson IJ, Barletta B, Meinardi S, Blake DR. C-1-C-8 volatile organic
431 compounds in the atmosphere of Hong Kong: Overview of atmospheric processing and source

432 apportionment. Atmospheric Environment 2007; 41: 1456-1472.

433 Guo H, Wang T, Blake DR, Simpson IJ, Kwok YH, Li YS. Regional and local contributions to
434 ambient non-methane volatile organic compounds at a polluted rural/coastal site in Pearl River
435 Delta, China. Atmospheric Environment 2006; 40: 2345-2359.

436 Guo H, Zou SC, Tsai WY, Chan LY, Blake DR. Emission characteristics of nonmethane
437 hydrocarbons from private cars and taxis at different driving speeds in Hong Kong.
438 Atmospheric Environment 2011b; 45: 2711-2721.

439 HKEPD. Characterisation of VOC Sources and Integrated Photochemical Ozone Analysis in
440 Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region. Internal Report, 2013.

441 HKEPD. Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network Report
442 http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/resources_pub/publications/m_report.html 2015a.

443 HKEPD. Hong Kong Air Pollutant Emission Inventory. <http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english>
444 [/environmentinhk/air/data/emission_inve.html](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/data/emission_inve.html) 2015b.

445 Ho KF, Lee SC, Ho WK, Blake DR, Cheng Y, Li YS, et al. Vehicular emission of volatile organic
446 compounds (VOCs) from a tunnel study in Hong Kong. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics
447 2009; 9: 7491-7504.

448 Holzworth GC. Mixing Depths, Wind Speeds and Air Pollution Potential for Selected Locations
449 in the United States. Journal of Applied Meteorology 1967; 6: 1039-1044.

450 Jacobson MZ. Fundamentals of Atmospheric Modelling: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

451 Jenkin ME, Clemitshaw KC. Ozone and other secondary photochemical pollutants: chemical
452 processes governing their formation in the planetary boundary layer. Atmospheric
453 Environment 2000; 34: 2499-2527.

454 Kleffmann J, Gavriloaiei T, Hofzumahaus A, Holland F, Koppmann R, Rupp L, et al. Daytime
455 formation of nitrous acid: A major source of OH radicals in a forest. Geophysical Research
456 Letters 2005; 32.

457 Lam SHM, Saunders SM, Guo H, Ling ZH, Jiang F, Wang XM, et al. Modelling VOC source

458 impacts on high ozone episode days observed at a mountain summit in Hong Kong under the
459 influence of mountain-valley breezes. *Atmospheric Environment* 2013; 81: 166-176.

460 Lam WHK, Tang YF, Chan KS, Tam ML. Short-term hourly traffic forecasts using Hong Kong
461 Annual Traffic Census. *Transportation* 2006; 33: 291-310.

462 Lau AKH, Yuan ZB, Yu JZ, Louie PKK. Source apportionment of ambient volatile organic
463 compounds in Hong Kong. *Science of the Total Environment* 2010; 408: 4138-4149.

464 Li Y, Lau AKH, Fung JCH, Ma H, Tse YY. Systematic evaluation of ozone control policies using
465 an Ozone Source Apportionment method. *Atmospheric Environment* 2013; 76: 136-146.

466 Li Y, Lau AKH, Fung JCH, Zheng JY, Zhong LJ, Louie PKK. Ozone source apportionment
467 (OSAT) to differentiate local regional and super-regional source contributions in the Pearl
468 River Delta region, China. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2012; 117.

469 Ling ZH, Guo H, Cheng HR, Yu YF. Sources of ambient volatile organic compounds and their
470 contributions to photochemical ozone formation at a site in the Pearl River Delta, southern
471 China. *Environmental Pollution* 2011; 159: 2310-2319.

472 Ling ZH, Guo H, Lam SHM, Saunders SM, Wang T. Atmospheric photochemical reactivity and
473 ozone production at two sites in Hong Kong: Application of a Master Chemical Mechanism-
474 photochemical box model. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2014; 119.

475 Ling ZH, Guo H, Zheng JY, Louie PKK, Cheng HR, Jiang F, Cheung K, Wong LC, Feng XQ.
476 Establishing a conceptual model for photochemical ozone pollution in subtropical Hong Kong.
477 *Atmospheric Environment* 2013; 76: 208-220.

478 Louie PKK, Ho JWK, Tsang RCW, Blake DR, Lau AKH, Yu JZ, et al. VOCs and OVOCs
479 distribution and control policy implications in Pearl River Delta region, China. *Atmospheric*
480 *Environment* 2013; 76: 125-135.

481 Lu K, Zhang Y. Observations of HO_x Radical in Field Studies and the Analysis of Its Chemical
482 Mechanism. *Progress in Chemistry* 2010; 22: 500-514.

483 Lyu XP, Chen N, Guo H, Zhang WH, Wang N, Wang Y, et al. Ambient volatile organic

484 compounds and their effect on ozone production in Wuhan, central China. *Science of the Total*
485 *Environment* 2016; 541: 200-209.

486 Lyu XP, Guo H, Simpson IJ, Meinardi S, Louie PKK, Ling ZH, et al. Effectiveness of replacing
487 catalytic converters in LPG-fueled vehicles in Hong Kong. *Atmospheric Chemistry and*
488 *Physics Discussion* 2015a; 15: 35939-35990.

489 Lyu XP, Ling ZH, Guo H, Saunders SM, Lam SHM, Wang N, et al. Re-examination of C1–C5
490 alkyl nitrates in Hong Kong using an observation-based model. *Atmospheric Environment*
491 2015b; 120: 28-37.

492 Mao JQ, Ren XR, Chen SA, Brune WH, Chen Z, Martinez M, et al. Atmospheric oxidation
493 capacity in the summer of Houston 2006: Comparison with summer measurements in other
494 metropolitan studies. *Atmospheric Environment* 2010; 44: 4107-4115.

495 Ou J, Guo H, Zheng J, Cheung K, Louie PKK, Ling Z, et al. Concentrations and sources of non-
496 methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) from 2005 to 2013 in Hong Kong: A multi-year real-time
497 data analysis. *Atmospheric Environment* 2015; 103: 196-206.

498 Paatero P. Least squares formulation of robust non-negative factor analysis. *Chemometrics and*
499 *Intelligent Laboratory Systems* 1997; 37: 23-35.

500 Paatero P, Tapper U. Positive matrix factorization: A non-negative factor model with optimal
501 utilization of error estimates of data values. *Environmetrics* 1994; 5: 111-126.

502 Ren X, Brune WH, Oliger A, Metcalf AR, Simpas JB, Shirley T, et al. OH, HO₂, and OH
503 reactivity during the PMTACS–NY Whiteface Mountain 2002 campaign: Observations and
504 model comparison. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2006; 111: D10.

505 Ren XR, van Duin D, Cazorla M, Chen S, Mao JQ, Zhang L, et al. Atmospheric oxidation
506 chemistry and ozone production: Results from SHARP 2009 in Houston, Texas. *Journal of*
507 *Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2013; 118: 5770-5780.

508 Seinfeld JH, Pandis SN. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics: From Air Pollution to Climate*
509 *Change*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997.

510 Simpson IJ, Blake NJ, Barletta B, Diskin GS, Fuelberg HE, Gorham K, et al. Characterization of
511 trace gases measured over Alberta oil sands mining operations: 76 speciated C-2-C-10 volatile
512 organic compounds (VOCs), CO₂, CH₄, CO, NO, NO₂, NO_y, O₃ and SO₂. Atmospheric
513 Chemistry and Physics 2010; 10: 11931-11954.

514 Sommariva R, Haggerstone AL, Carpenter LJ, Carslaw N, Creasey DJ, Heard DE, et al. OH and
515 HO₂ chemistry in clean marine air during SOAPEX-2. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics
516 2004; 4: 839-856.

517 USEPA. EPA Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) 3.0 Fundamentals & User Guide.
518 www.epa.gov 2008.

519 USEPA. User's Guide for the Industrial Source Complex (ISC3) Dispersion Models, Volume II
520 Description of Model Algorithms. EPA-454/B-95-003b. U.S. Environmental Protection
521 Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC. 1985.

522 Wang J-L, Wang C-H, Lai C-H, Chang C-C, Liu Y, Zhang Y, et al. Characterization of ozone
523 precursors in the Pearl River Delta by time series observation of non-methane hydrocarbons.
524 Atmospheric Environment 2008; 42: 6233-6246.

525 Wang T, Wei XL, Ding AJ, Poon CN, Lam KS, Li YS, et al. Increasing surface ozone
526 concentrations in the background atmosphere of Southern China, 1994–2007. Atmospheric
527 Chemistry and Physics 2009; 9: 6217-6227.

528 WebMET. Met Monitoring Guide, The Meteorological Resource Center.
529 http://www.webmet.com/met_monitoring/622.html accessed on 30 July 2015 2015; 6.2.2
530 Vector computations.

531 Xia L, Shao Y. Modelling of traffic flow and air pollution emission with application to Hong
532 Kong Island. Environmental Modelling & Software 2005; 20: 1175-1188.

533 Xue LK, Wang T, Guo H, Blake DR, Tang J, Zhang XC, et al. Sources and photochemistry of
534 volatile organic compounds in the remote atmosphere of western China: results from the Mt.
535 Waliguan Observatory. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics 2013; 13: 8551-8567.

536 Xue LK, Wang T, Louie PKK, Luk CWY, Blake DR, Xu Z. Increasing External Effects Negate
537 Local Efforts to Control Ozone Air Pollution: A Case Study of Hong Kong and Implications
538 for Other Chinese Cities. *Environmental Science & Technology* 2014; 48: 10769-10775.

539 Xue LK, Wang T, Zhang JM, Zhang XC, Deliger, Poon CN, et al. Source of surface ozone and
540 reactive nitrogen speciation at Mount Waliguan in western China: New insights from the 2006
541 summer study. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2011; 116: D07306.

542 Zhang J, Wang T, Chameides WL, Cardelino C, Kwok J, Blake DR, et al. Ozone production and
543 hydrocarbon reactivity in Hong Kong, Southern China. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*
544 2007; 7: 557-573.

Spatiotemporal variation of ozone precursors and ozone formation in Hong Kong: Grid field measurement and modelling study

X.P. Lyu¹, M. Liu¹, H. Guo^{*1}, Z.H. Ling¹, Y. Wang¹, P.K.K. Louie², C.W.Y. Luk²

1. *Air Quality Studies, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong*

2. *Air Group, Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department, Hong Kong*

*Corresponding author. ceguohai@polyu.edu.hk

Abstract

Grid field measurements of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) covering the entire territory of Hong Kong were simultaneously carried out twice daily on 27 September 2013 and 24 September 2014, respectively, to advance our understanding on the spatiotemporal variations of VOCs and ozone (O₃) formation, the factors controlling O₃ formation and the efficacy of a control measure in Hong Kong. From before to after the control measure on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fueled vehicles, the VOCs originated from LPG vehicle exhaust decreased from $41.3 \pm 1.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (49.7±1.5%) to $32.8 \pm 1.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (38.8±1.7%) ($p < 0.05$). In contrast, the contribution to VOCs made by gasoline and diesel vehicle exhaust and solvent usage increased ($p < 0.05$). VOCs and nitric oxide (NO) in LPG source experienced the highest reductions at the roadside sites, while the variations were not significant at the urban and new town sites ($p > 0.05$). For O₃ production, LPG vehicle exhaust generally made a negative contribution (-0.17 ± 0.06 ppbv) at the roadside sites, however it turned to a slightly positive contribution (0.004 ± 0.038 ppbv) after the control measure. At the urban sites, although the reduction of VOCs and NO was minor ($p > 0.05$), O₃ produced by LPG vehicle significantly reduced from 4.19 ± 1.92 ppbv to 0.95 ± 0.38 ppbv ($p < 0.05$). Meanwhile, O₃ produced by LPG at the new town sites remained stable. The analysis of O₃-precursor relationships revealed that alkenes and aromatics were the main species limiting roadside O₃ formation, while aromatics were the most predominant controlling factor at urban and new town sites. In contrast, isoprene and sometimes NO_x limited the O₃ formation in rural environment.

Keywords: VOCs; source apportionment; photochemical O₃; Eulerian box model; MCM

1 **1 Introduction**

2 Well known as a major air pollutant in the atmosphere, ozone (O₃) has attracted increasing
3 concerns in recent years due to its adverse effects on human health, visibility and ecosystem
4 (Louie et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2008). O₃ is formed by a series of complex photochemical
5 reactions involving volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the
6 presence of sunlight (Seinfeld and Pandis, 1997). Since photochemical O₃ formation has a
7 nonlinear relationship with its precursors, *i.e.*, VOCs and NO_x, it is difficult to remediate the
8 photochemical pollution, especially in the regions with frequently high O₃ events, such as the
9 Pearl River Delta (PRD).

10 Continuously rapid urbanization and population growth in Hong Kong coupled with high surface
11 VOCs and NO_x emission, high solar radiation and hot weather make this region a
12 photochemically polluted area. Previous studies have reported that the photochemical O₃
13 formation in Hong Kong is generally VOC-limited (Cheng et al., 2010a, b; Zhang et al., 2007).
14 Furthermore, a number of studies were carried out on the contributions to O₃ in Hong Kong of
15 regional transport from PRD and superregional transport from eastern China (Xue et al., 2014; Li
16 et al., 2012, 2013; Ling et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2009), and several efforts have been made to
17 study formation mechanism of O₃ pollution in Hong Kong (Ling et al., 2014; Xue et al., 2014).
18 Although Ling et al. (2014) revealed that photochemical reactivity and ozone production were
19 absolutely different between a semirural site and an urban site in Hong Kong, there is little
20 knowledge about the spatial patterns of the relationship between O₃ and its precursors.

21 In addition, a series of control measures have been implemented in Hong Kong to reduce VOCs
22 emitted from different anthropogenic sources, including VOC-containing products, road
23 transport and industry emissions to mitigate O₃ pollution (HKEPD, 2015a; Louie et al., 2013).
24 Hence, grid field measurements pre- and post- a control measure would help assess the
25 effectiveness of the measure. For example, promotion of LPG as a substitute fuel for taxi and
26 public light buses in Hong Kong was the most striking measure to reduce VOC emissions in the

27 past decade. However, recently, LPG usage was found to become major contributor to ambient
28 VOCs in Hong Kong due to poor maintenance (Lau et al., 2010; Ling et al., 2014). In general,
29 the catalytic converters in the LPG-fueled vehicles should be replaced every 1-2 years,
30 depending on maintenance and mileage. In Hong Kong, about 80% of taxis and 45% of public
31 light buses using LPG as fuel have defective converters, resulting in excessive emissions of
32 vehicle exhaust (HKEPD, 2013). As such, to reduce LPG-fueled vehicle emissions, the Hong
33 Kong government set aside \$150 million to replace the catalytic converters and associated
34 components on LPG-fueled taxis and public light buses, which commenced in October 2013 and
35 completed in April 2014. It is well known that properly functioning catalytic converters in the
36 LPG-fueled vehicles could reduce emissions up to 90%.

37 Therefore, the objectives of this study were to evaluate the benefit of replacing catalytic
38 converters and oxygen sensors on LPG-fueled vehicles, to examine the spatiotemporal variations
39 of O₃ production by LPG, and to study the spatial characteristics of O₃-precursor relationships in
40 Hong Kong.

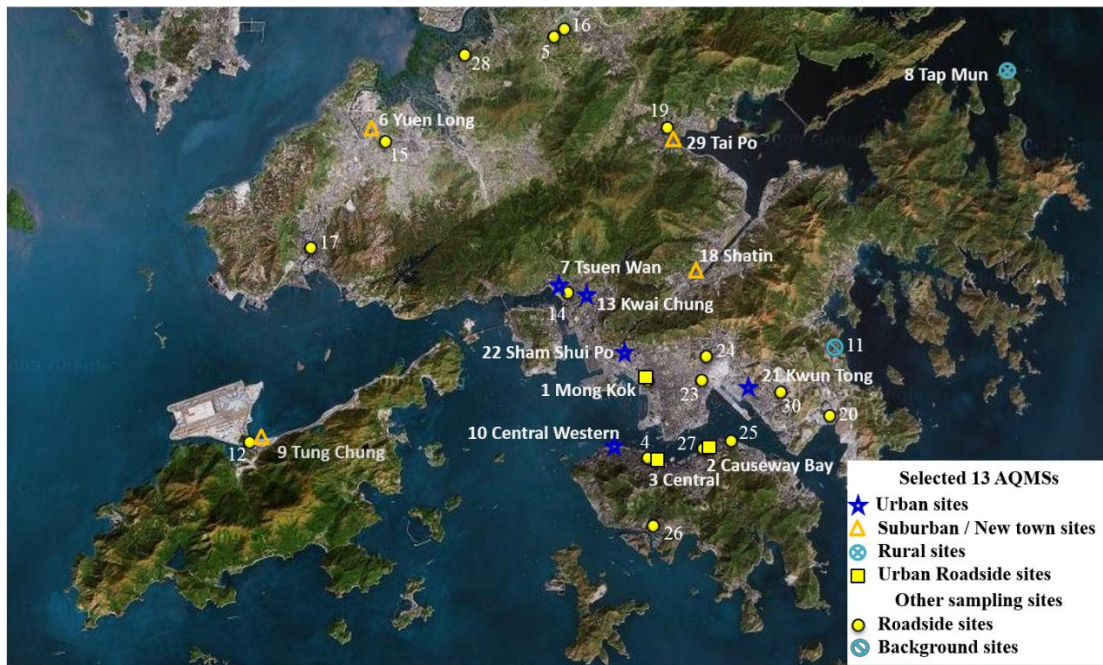
41 **2 Methodology**

42 **2.1 Grid sampling campaigns**

43 Totally 30 sampling sites were selected in different districts covering the entire territory of Hong
44 Kong. The grid measurement campaigns were conducted on 27 September 2013 and 24
45 September 2014, respectively. At each of the 30 sites, 3-minute VOC canister samples were
46 collected once in the morning between 9:00 and 11:00 and another in the afternoon between 2:00
47 and 4:00. Two of the 30 sites had duplicate samples. In total, 64 samples were collected for each
48 campaign. The 30 sites included 24 roadside sites and 6 general sites (Figure 1 and Table S1).

49 Thirteen out of the 30 sites were the Hong Kong Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS)
50 (<http://epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICDI/air/station/>) (Table 1), where trace gas data were available. These
51 sites covered the entire territory of Hong Kong and could provide a full picture of photochemical
52 O₃ formation. The 13 AQMSs were categorized into four types according to the land usage and

53 the distance from urban center, *i.e.*, 3 urban roadside sites, 5 urban sites, 4 new town sites and 1
 54 rural site (Figure 1 and Table 1).



55
 56 Figure 1 Geographic location of the sampling sites and surrounding environments.
 57

58 Table 1 Description of the 13 AQMS sites

Type	Site	No.*	Description
Urban	Central Western (CW)	10	General urban air quality monitoring stations in residential areas and some mixed with commercial and/or industrial areas.
	Kwun Tong (KT)	21	
	Sham Shui Po (SSP)	22	
	Kwai Chung (KC)	13	
	Tsuen Wan (TW)	7	
Suburban/ New Town	Yuen Long (YL)	6	Mainly residential areas in new territories.
	Tung Chung (TC)	9	
	Tai Po (TP)	29	
	Sha Tin (ST)	18	
Rural	Tap Mun (TM)	8	Remote island off the northeast coast of Hong Kong
Roadside	Causeway Bay (CWB)	2	Commercial centers with high-rise buildings along the streets, high traffic and pedestrian flow, and frequent traffic jam in
	Central	3	

59 * Sequence number in Figure 1.

60

61 **2.2 Collection and analysis of VOC samples**

62 Ambient VOC samples were collected using cleaned and evacuated 2 L electro-polished stainless
63 steel canisters. The canisters were prepared and delivered to Hong Kong by the Rowland/Blake
64 group at University of California, Irvine (UCI). A flow-controlling device was used to collect the
65 samples for 3 minutes.

66 Before sampling, all canisters were cleaned at least five times by repeatedly filling and
67 evacuating with humidified pure nitrogen gas (N₂). To test for any contamination in the canister,
68 the evacuated canister was filled with pure N₂, stored for at least 24 h, then checked by the same
69 VOC analytical methods to ensure that all the target compounds were not found or were under
70 the method detection limit (MDL). In addition, duplicate samples were regularly collected to
71 check the precision and reliability of the sampling and analytical methods. After sampling, the
72 VOC samples were returned to the laboratory at UCI for chemical analysis. The analytical
73 system, which was fully described in [Simpson et al. \(2010\)](#), used multicolumn gas
74 chromatography (GC) with five column-detector combinations. The oven parameters employed
75 for each GC can be found in [Colman et al. \(2001\)](#). In total, 39 non-methane hydrocarbons
76 (NMHCs), methane (CH₄) and carbon monoxide (CO) were quantified from the canister samples.
77 VOCs were identified via their retention time and mass spectra. The quantification of target
78 VOCs was accomplished using multipoint external calibration curves, obtained from a
79 combination of National Bureau of Standards, Scott Specialty Gases (absolute accuracy
80 estimated to be within ±5 %) and UCI made standards. The detection limit, measurement
81 precision and accuracy for each VOC varied and were listed in [Simpson et al. \(2010\)](#). Generally,
82 alkanes, alkenes and aromatics had a detection limit of 3 pptv, a precision of 3%, and an
83 accuracy of 5%.

84 For on-line measurements of VOCs, which were mainly used in section 2.5, a built-in
85 computerized program, including auto-linearization, auto-calibration and calibration with span
86 gas, was adopted to control the quality. The accuracy and precision of VOC measurements were
87 1.0-10.0% and 2.5-20.0 %, respectively.

88 **2.3 PMF model**

89 US EPA PMF model (version 5.0) was applied to the measurement data for receptor-based
90 source appointment. The PMF model is a multivariate factor analysis tool that decomposes a
91 matrix of speciated sample data into two matrices - factor contributions and factor profiles which
92 can be interpreted by an analyst as to what sources are represented based on observations at the
93 receptor site (Paatero, 1997; Paatero and Tapper, 1994).

94 The details of PMF applied to VOC data for source profiles and the contributions of individual
95 VOC species have been introduced somewhere else (Guo et al., 2011a; Ling et al., 2011; Ou et
96 al., 2015). Briefly, 18 NMHCs were input into the PMF model and the uncertainties for each
97 sample/species were determined as the sum of 5-15% of VOC concentration and two times the
98 method detection limit (MDL) of the species (USEPA, 2008). Values below the MDL were
99 replaced by half of the MDL values and their overall uncertainties were set as 5/6 of the MDL
100 values. Results were constrained so that no samples had negative source contributions. Different
101 number of factors and uncertainties were tested, and an optimum solution was determined based
102 on a good fit to the observed data and the most meaningful results by comparing with previous
103 studies (Guo et al., 2011a, b; Lau et al., 2010).

104 **2.4 Calculation of VOCs diurnal profiles**

105 Since VOCs canister samples at the 30 sites were only collected at ~10:00 and 15:00,
106 respectively, it was impossible to use them for a photochemical box modeling as the model
107 required hourly data input for consecutive hours. Hence, it is necessary to derive time-dependent
108 concentrations from the two canister samples for the use in the photochemical box model
109 incorporating master chemical mechanism (PBM-MCM). The procedures to obtain hourly VOC

110 profiles from two samples were similar to the method described in [Zhang et al. \(2007\)](#). Briefly,
 111 the method was based on the mass conservation of a species inside a fixed Eulerian box, namely,
 112 the Eulerian box model ([Seinfeld and Pandis, 1997](#)). The entraining equations are:

$$113 \quad \frac{dC_i}{dt} = \frac{q_i}{H(t)} + R_i - \frac{v_{d,i}}{H(t)} C_i + \frac{C_i^0 - C_i}{\tau_\gamma} \quad \text{for } \frac{dH}{dt} \leq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$114 \quad \frac{dC_i}{dt} = \frac{q_i}{H(t)} + R_i - \frac{v_{d,i}}{H(t)} C_i + \frac{C_i^0 - C_i}{\tau_\gamma} + \frac{C_i^a - C_i}{H(t)} \frac{dH}{dt} \quad \text{for } \frac{dH}{dt} > 0 \quad (2)$$

115 where, C_i : Concentration of species i ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$),

116 q_i : Emission rate of species i ($\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$),

117 $H(t)$: Mixing height as a function of time t (m),

118 R_i : Chemical destruction rate of species i ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$),

119 $v_{d,i}$: Dry/wet deposition rate of species i (m s^{-1}),

120 C_i^0 : Background concentration of species i ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$),

121 τ_γ : Residence time of air over the area (s),

122 C_i^a : Concentration of species i above the boundary layer ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$).

123

124 Equations (1) and (2) mathematically describe the concentration of species above a given area,
 125 assuming that the corresponding airshed is well mixed, accounting for emissions, chemical
 126 reactions, removal, advection of material in and out of the airshed, and entrainment of material
 127 during growth of the mixing layer. Before the numerical solutions of equations (1) and (2) are
 128 solved with Gear's backward differentiation formula ([Jacobson, 2005](#)), the parameters in
 129 equations (1) and (2) need to be determined.

130 Emission Rates: the Hong Kong emission inventory of total anthropogenic VOCs from different
 131 sources in 2013 was used to estimate the annual emission amount ([HKEPD, 2015b](#)). This annual
 132 emission amount was then equally allocated to 52 weeks and the area of 1104 square kilometers
 133 covering Hong Kong territory. The area of Hong Kong was obtained from [Censtatd \(2016\)](#), while
 134 the days were classified as weekdays and weekends, and the emission factors of each day of a

135 week were determined by [Cardelino \(1998\)](#). Hence, the daily initial emission amount of total
136 VOCs per unit area was calculated. This value was multiplied by the typical profile of ambient
137 VOCs, which was obtained by averaging all canister data at different sites, to derive the daily
138 initial emission rates of speciated VOCs at different sites. The diurnal variations of the
139 anthropogenic VOC emissions were estimated according to source types. Industry and power
140 generation were assumed to have no diurnal variations, while mobile emission had the same
141 pattern as traffic flow in Hong Kong ([Lam et al., 2006](#); [Xia and Shao, 2005](#)). The diurnal
142 variation of biogenic VOCs (*i.e.*, isoprene) was estimated by considering the temperature
143 variations and the best fit value coefficient T_M , which affected the predicted emission behavior at
144 high temperatures ([Guenther, 1993, 1999](#)). In this way, the speciated VOCs emission rates from
145 different sources were determined.

146 Mixing Height Profile: The mixing height was estimated using the Holzworth method
147 ([Holzworth, 1967](#)). The Holzworth method provides twice-per-day (morning and afternoon)
148 mixing heights based on calculations using routine upper-air data and minimum and maximum
149 temperature of the day. The upper air sounding data were obtained from the University of
150 Wyoming (<http://weather.uwyo.edu/upperair/sounding.html>). The minimum temperature was
151 determined from the data of King's Park station operated by Hong Kong Observatory (HKO)
152 (<http://www.hko.gov.hk/>) for the time period of 0200-0600 local standard time (LST). Here, we
153 followed the method of [Zhang et al. \(2007\)](#), which also calculated the mixing height in Hong
154 Kong by using “plus 2 °C” to the morning minimum surface temperature to calculate the
155 morning mixing height. The afternoon mixing height was calculated using the maximum surface
156 temperature observed at 1200-1600. The hourly mixing heights, often used in regulatory
157 dispersion modeling, were interpolated from these twice-per-day estimates. The recommended
158 interpolation procedure is provided in the user’s guide for the Industrial Source Complex (ISC)
159 dispersion model ([USEPA, 1985](#)).

160 The dry/wet deposition rate and the concentration above the boundary layer were assumed to be

161 zero for all VOCs. Background concentrations of VOCs were expressed as geometric mean
162 concentrations at general sites. Residence time of air over the area was the ratio of length of the
163 box to wind speed, and the time-dependent wind speed was determined by curve fitting using the
164 in-situ hourly wind speed obtained from the HKO. Since length of the box and emission rates of
165 VOCs at different sites were different and the VOC chemical destruction rates were unknown,
166 we adopted an iterative approach to determine these parameters based on canister data at 10:00
167 and 15:00. We first used a typical OH profile in clean marine atmosphere ([Creasey et al., 2003](#))
168 and the initial emission rate of propane to calculate the temporal variations of propane from
169 10:00 to 15:00 with the box length ranging from 0 to 60 km (*i.e.*, beyond the longest range of
170 Hong Kong territory). Propane was selected due to its high concentration and lower reactivity
171 with OH compared to alkenes. The optimal emission rate and the length of box were adjusted by
172 matching the calculated propane level at 15:00 with the observed value, using a 5% agreement
173 for consistency. The ratio of optimal emission rate to initial emission rate of propane was defined
174 as emission rate factor. The temporal variation of more reactive propene from 10:00 to 15:00 was
175 calculated in the same way, but the length of box was fixed and the emission rate of propene was
176 modified by multiplying the initial emission rate of propene by the emission rate factor
177 determined by propane above. As such, the original OH profile used above was refined to fit the
178 real situation in Hong Kong. The refined OH profile was then used to recalculate the temporal
179 variation of propane. The entire procedure was called iteration. Iterations were repeated until
180 convergence was obtained. Thus the length of box, emission rates of VOCs and OH profiles at
181 different sites were obtained via this iterative approach.

182 **2.5 PBM-MCM model**

183 The photochemical box model (PBM) incorporating Master Chemical Mechanism (MCM) is a
184 near-explicit chemical mechanism which describes the detailed gas-phase chemical processes
185 involving the tropospheric degradation of a series of primary VOCs. The chemical mechanistic
186 information was extracted from the Master Chemical Mechanism, MCM v3.2 ([Jenkin et al., 1997](#);

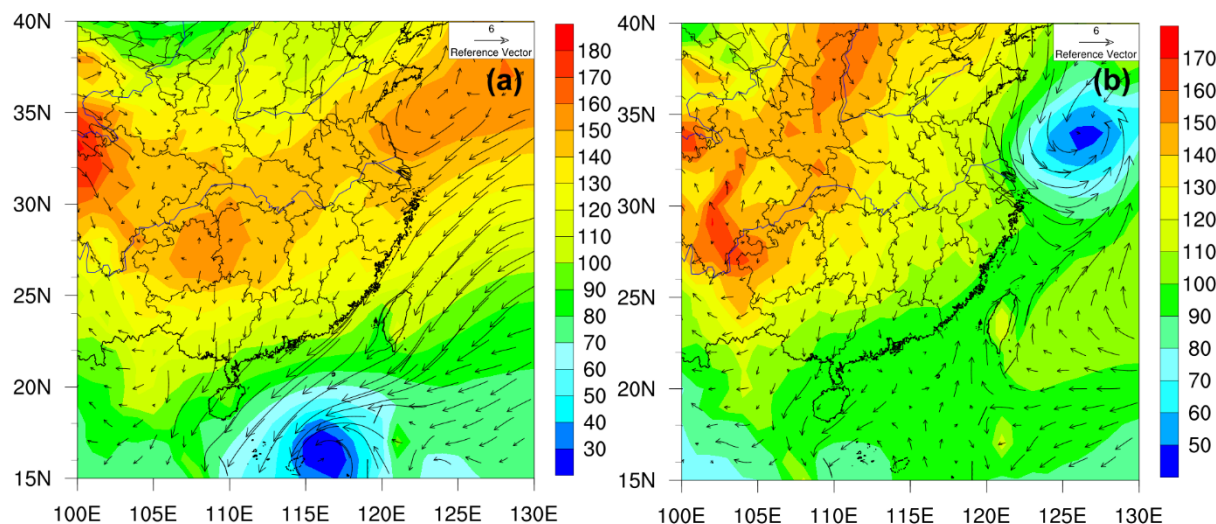
187 [Saunders et al., 2003](#)), via website <http://mcm.leeds.ac.uk/MCM>.

188 The model was constructed with measured CO, NO, NO₂, SO₂, C₂-C₉ NMHCs, temperature and
189 relative humidity. Data were read every hour to calculate the in-situ rates of O₃ production and
190 destruction. The model has been widely used in Hong Kong ([Ling et al., 2014](#); [Lyu et al., 2015b](#),
191 [2016](#)).

192 **3 Results and discussion**

193 **3.1 Meteorological conditions**

194 [Figure 2](#) shows the average geopotential height (HGT) and wind field on 1000 hPa for East Asia
195 during the two sampling campaigns. The pressure (represented with HGT) over Hong Kong was
196 comparable between the two campaigns. The wind was northeasterly on 27 September 2013,
197 while it was calm on 24 September 2014 in Hong Kong. The lower wind speed in the latter
198 campaign was expected to elevate the VOC concentrations. However, the levels of most VOCs
199 remained similar, whereas those emitted from LPG source decreased between the two campaigns
200 (see sections 3.2 and 3.3), indicating that meteorological parameters did not have substantial
201 influence on the VOC levels of the two campaigns.



202
203 Figure 2 Average geopotential height and wind field on (a) 27 September 2013 and (b) 24
204 September 2014. The figures are made using NCEP FNL (final) data with a horizontal resolution
205 of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$.
206

207 **3.2 Comparison of VOCs between the two campaigns**

208 **Table 2** presents the average mixing ratios of VOCs at the 24 roadside sites and 6 general sites
 209 during the two campaigns. It is noteworthy that the average VOC values for the sites should
 210 reflect the real situation though uncertainties could exist for the samples at individual sites. It
 211 was found that the alkanes dominated the total VOC composition, followed by aromatics and
 212 alkenes, and the mixing ratios at roadside sites were much higher than those at general sites due
 213 to their proximity to the emission sources ($p<0.05$). From September 2013 to September 2014,
 214 values of most species remained unchanged except for *n/i*-pentanes, which increased at the
 215 general sites ($p<0.05$), indicating possibly increased emission of gasoline-fueled vehicles.
 216 Furthermore, aromatics such as xylenes and propylbenzenes increased significantly ($p<0.05$),
 217 perhaps due to the increase of solvent usage and/or vehicular emissions. In contrast, LPG related
 218 VOCs (propane and *n/i*-butanes) remained unchanged, while propene, the tracer of LPG
 219 combustion, even decreased at the roadside sites ($p<0.05$). In view of the above fact, to examine
 220 whether the replacement program was actually effective, it is necessary to conduct source
 221 apportionments to obtain the emission variations of LPG-fueled vehicles before and during the
 222 replacement program.

223
 224 **Table 2** Mixing ratio of VOCs collected at the 30 sampling sites during the 2 sampling
 225 campaigns (average \pm 95% confidence interval, pptv)

Species		Roadside sites (n=24) ^a		General sites (n=6) ^a	
		Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014
Alkanes	Ethane	2518 \pm 209	2704 \pm 206	1833 \pm 179	1884 \pm 280
	Propane	7723 \pm 1872	6996 \pm 1039	3631 \pm 2478	2849 \pm 1076
	<i>n</i> -Butane	11166 \pm 3104	9003 \pm 1645	2828 \pm 1876	2694 \pm 1247
	<i>i</i> -Butane	6413 \pm 1726	5455 \pm 931	1866 \pm 1227	1762 \pm 799
	<i>n</i> -Pentane	773 \pm 197	1209 \pm 457	331 \pm 74	866 \pm 321 *
	<i>i</i> -Pentane	1331 \pm 324	2097 \pm 1127	608 \pm 112	1372 \pm 499 *
	<i>n</i> -Hexane	323 \pm 92	529 \pm 86 *	148 \pm 42	415 \pm 177 *
	2,3-	118 \pm 46	186 \pm 51	48 \pm 22	137 \pm 58 *
	Dimethylbutane				
	2-Methylpentane	593 \pm 193	847 \pm 223	301 \pm 137	754 \pm 408
	3-Methylpentane	315 \pm 95	588 \pm 153 *	174 \pm 85	552 \pm 285 *
	<i>n</i> -Heptane	437 \pm 242	480 \pm 122	122 \pm 35	226 \pm 93 *
	2-Methylhexane	444 \pm 235	416 \pm 82	151 \pm 51	255 \pm 123

	3-Methylhexane	449±243	510±90	145±51	353±156 *
	<i>n</i> -Octane	106±37	137±46	47±10	74±24
	2,2,4-Trimethylpentane	255±132	316±81	37±8	109±66 *
Alkenes	Ethene	4631±917	3748±669	1097±327	1082±398
	Propene	1798±417 *	1084±230	233±70	201±93
	1-Butene	197±40	161±32	53±21	48±25
	<i>i</i> -Butene	566±145 *	371±87	150±58	94±33
	<i>trans</i> -2-Butene	132±36	99±26	20±8	21±8
	<i>cis</i> -2-Butene	82±25	56±15	14±4	13±5
	1-Pentene	55±11	93±49	19±6	28±11
	1,3-Butadiene	149±37	119±24	29±5	17±10
	Isoprene	531±90	627±115	500±230	777±285
Alkyne	Ethyne	3916±671	3375±391	1978±426	2037±404
Aromatics	Benzene	886±138 *	662±64	556±67	518±105
	Toluene	3270±1751	3371±527	1634±610	2745±1136
	Ethylbenzene	643±127	674±87	438±150	703±230
	<i>p</i> -Xylene	291±85	420±69 *	130±39	378±163 *
	<i>m</i> -Xylene	483±178	703±153	161±50	602±296 *
	<i>o</i> -Xylene	337±103	471±79	142±44	428±180 *
	<i>i</i> -Propylbenzene	39±13	42±6	17±4	34±10 *
	<i>n</i> -Propylbenzene	92±39	79±14	30±9	53±16 *
	3-Ethyltoluene	380±210	212±59	66±23	113±47
	4-Ethyltoluene	187±112	119±28	37±10	75±30 *
	2-Ethyltoluene	164±76	87±22	41±12	53±22
	1,3,5-TMB	234±127 *	78±24	40±14	37±15
	1,2,4-TMB	821±486 *	288±85	128±54	145±67
	1,2,3-TMB	228±102	84±22	56±24	45±19

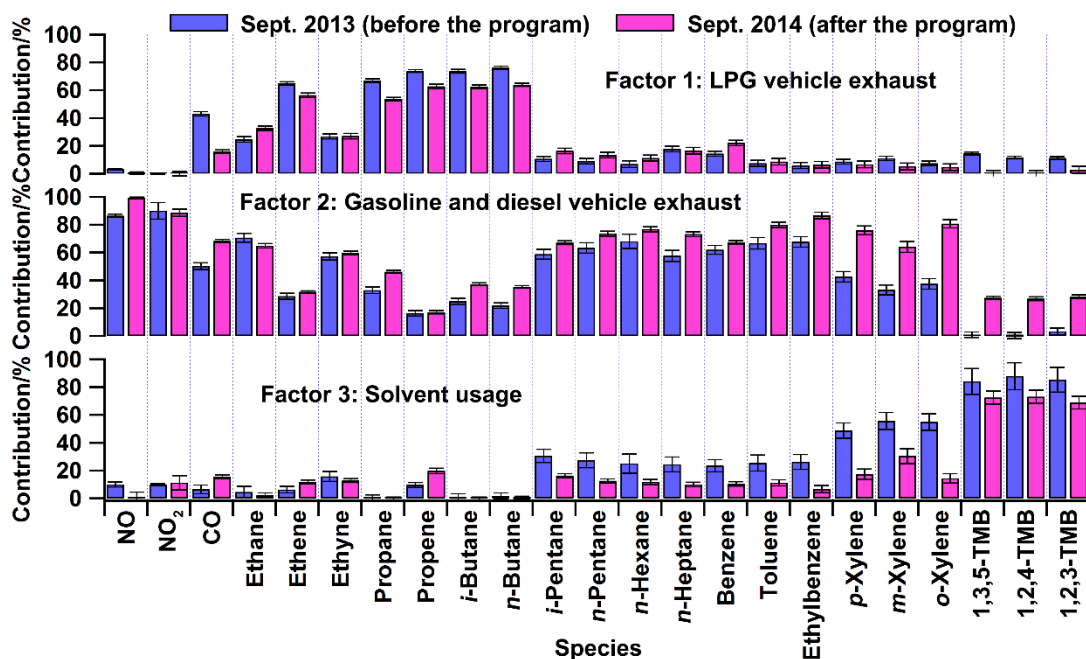
226 ^a Number of sites; * higher mixing ratios as compared to those in another sampling campaign at
227 the confidence level of 95% ($p < 0.05$). TMB refers to the trimethylbenzene isomers hereafter.

228

229 3.3 Source apportionments of VOCs and trace gases

230 Twenty main anthropogenic VOC species quantified in the 64 samples were applied to PMF for
231 source apportionment for the two campaigns, respectively. The source profiles before and after
232 the intervention program are similar (Figure 3). Three factors were extracted from the PMF
233 model simulation. Since most of the samples were collected at roadside sites, it is expected that
234 vehicular emissions were the dominant sources of VOCs in this study. The first factor was
235 distinguished by the dominance of propane, *n*/*i*-butanes, ethene and propene, representing LPG-
236 fueled vehicle exhaust. Factor 2 had high percentages of all VOCs and trace gases except LPG
237 related component and the trimethylbenzene isomers. It was assigned as gasoline and diesel
238 vehicle exhaust. The third factor was closely associated with solvent usage because of high

239 loadings of xylenes and trimethylbenzenes. The profiles of factors identified were based on the
 240 results of previous source apportionment studies (Guo et al., 2007, 2011a; Lau et al., 2010; Ling
 241 et al., 2011) and VOCs source emission studies (Borbon et al., 2002; Guo et al., 2006, 2011b; Ho
 242 et al., 2009). Many different starting seeds were tested and no multiple solutions were found. In
 243 addition, good correlations were found between the observed and predicted VOC concentrations
 244 for the whole dataset ($R^2 = 0.95$ and 0.96 , respectively) before and after the replacement program.
 245 Moreover, all of the selected species had scale residuals normally distributed between -3 and 3 ,
 246 confirming that the measured data were well reproduced (USEPA, 2008).



247
 248 Figure 3 Source profiles of the three sources extracted from PMF in September 2013 (before the
 249 program) and September 2014 (after the program). The standard errors are estimated with the
 250 bootstrap in the PMF model.

251
 252 To sum up the VOC concentrations in each source, the mass and percentage contributions of the
 253 sources to VOCs are summarized in Table S2. Noticeably, the vehicle emissions were the
 254 dominant source of VOCs, with the contribution of $71.1 \pm 1.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($85.5 \pm 2.1\%$) and 77.7 ± 1.3
 255 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($92.0 \pm 1.6\%$) before and after the program, respectively. From 2013 to 2014, the VOCs
 256 emitted from gasoline and diesel vehicles increased remarkably ($p < 0.05$), whereas those

257 originated from LPG vehicle exhaust decreased significantly ($p < 0.05$) from $41.3 \pm 1.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 258 ($49.7 \pm 1.5\%$) to $32.8 \pm 1.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($38.8 \pm 1.7\%$). Table 3 shows the average concentrations of VOCs
 259 and trace gases in LPG vehicle exhaust. Clearly, CO, ethene, propane, propene, *n/i*-butanes and
 260 trimethylbenzene isomers all reduced significantly from before to after the replacement program
 261 ($p < 0.05$). The emissions of NO and NO₂ from LPG-fueled vehicles were minor, and the decrease
 262 of NO was insignificant ($p > 0.05$). Table 4 presents the reductions of VOCs and NO at different
 263 sites. The mass and percentage contribution of LPG vehicle exhaust to VOCs experienced the
 264 greatest decrease at the roadside sites ($p < 0.05$), with the contributions of $54.7 \pm 23.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
 265 ($54.6 \pm 10.0\%$) before and $25.0 \pm 11.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ($30.8 \pm 9.9\%$) after the program, respectively. The
 266 effects were much weaker at the urban and new town sites, where the mass and percentage
 267 contribution to VOCs decreased slightly or even increased ($p > 0.05$). Similarly, NO decreased
 268 noticeably ($p < 0.05$) (before: $0.66 \pm 0.28 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; after: $0.04 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) at roadside sites, while the
 269 reductions were not significant at the urban and new town sites ($p > 0.05$). This inter-site
 270 difference was possibly caused by higher traffic flow and more dense LPG-fueled vehicles
 271 (particularly taxis) in the vehicle fleet at roadside sites.

272
 273 Table 3 Concentrations of VOCs and trace gases emitted from LPG-fueled vehicles ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Species	LPG vehicle exhaust	
	before	after
NO	0.49 ± 0.44	0.03 ± 0.44
NO ₂	0.00 ± 0.94	0.00 ± 1.05
CO	336.24 ± 12.71	149.5 ± 11.1
Ethane	0.71 ± 0.06	1.03 ± 0.05
Ethene	2.83 ± 0.05	2.00 ± 0.05
Ethyne	0.89 ± 0.06	0.87 ± 0.07
Propane	7.63 ± 0.16	6.07 ± 0.14
Propene	1.76 ± 0.02	0.91 ± 0.02
<i>i</i>-Butane	8.93 ± 0.16	6.98 ± 0.13
<i>n</i>-Butane	16.00 ± 0.26	11.52 ± 0.20
<i>i</i> -Pentane	0.30 ± 0.05	0.75 ± 0.09
<i>n</i> -Pentane	0.14 ± 0.03	0.38 ± 0.06
<i>n</i> -Hexane	0.05 ± 0.02	0.17 ± 0.03
<i>n</i> -Heptane	0.14 ± 0.01	0.20 ± 0.03
Benzene	0.37 ± 0.05	0.44 ± 0.04
Toluene	0.56 ± 0.16	0.94 ± 0.25
Ethylbenzene	0.13 ± 0.05	0.17 ± 0.06

<i>p</i> -Xylene	0.08 ± 0.02	0.10 ± 0.04
<i>m</i> -Xylene	0.14 ± 0.02	0.11 ± 0.05
<i>o</i> -Xylene	0.08 ± 0.02	0.08 ± 0.04
1,3,5-TMB	0.12 ± 0.01	0.00 ± 0.01
1,2,4-TMB	0.32 ± 0.03	0.00 ± 0.03
1,2,3-TMB	0.11 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.01

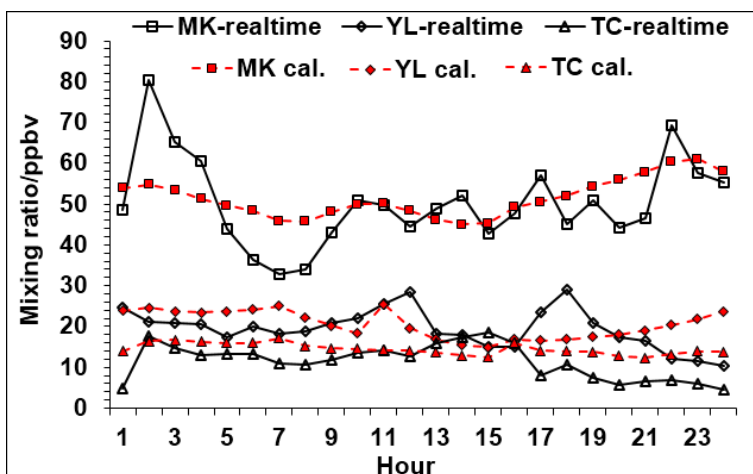
274 Bolded are the species with significant reduction in LPG vehicle exhaust ($p < 0.05$).

275
276 Table 4 Mass and percentage contribution of LPG vehicle exhaust to VOCs and NO at different
277 sites before and after the program

Species	Site	Mass concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)		Percentage contribution (%)	
		before	after	before	after
VOCs	Urban roadside	54.7 ± 23.2	25.0 ± 11.2	54.6 ± 10.0	30.8 ± 9.9
	Urban	28.7 ± 35.8	23.7 ± 11.8	29.3 ± 30.3	31.1 ± 10.5
	New town	11.5 ± 9.8	16.5 ± 17.1	27.9 ± 23.6	20.8 ± 20.3
NO	Urban roadside	0.66 ± 0.28	0.02 ± 0.01	0.04 ± 0.02	0.005 ± 0.002
	Urban	0.34 ± 0.42	0.02 ± 0.02	0.03 ± 0.03	0.005 ± 0.004
	New town	0.14 ± 0.12	0.02 ± 0.02	0.01 ± 0.01	0.003 ± 0.004

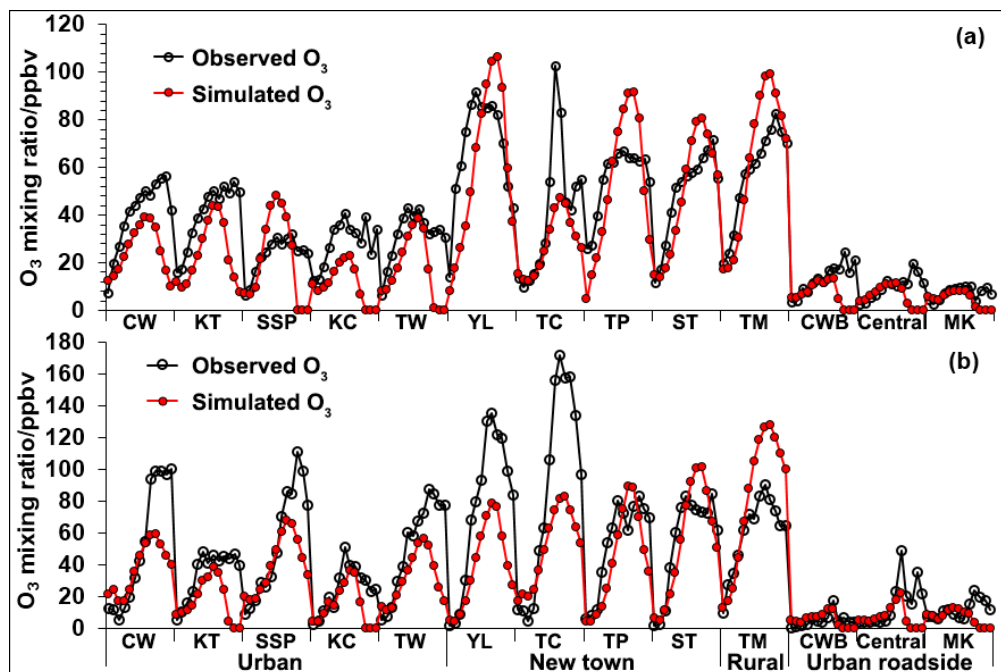
278
279 **3.4 Impact of replacement program on O₃ formation**
280 **3.4.1 Model validation and O₃ simulation**
281 Since the estimated diurnal profiles of VOCs were used to simulate O₃, it is necessary to validate
282 the results with the online measured VOCs. Figure 4 shows the estimated and online measured
283 diurnal patterns of total VOCs at MK, YL and TC, where the real-time VOCs data were available.
284 26 VOC species were included in the total VOCs for calculation. The diurnal patterns of total
285 VOCs estimated from the two points of canister sample data agreed well with the real-time
286 measurements. Table S3 lists the Index of Agreement (IOA) values between the calculated and
287 measured data of the 26 VOC species. Within the range of 0~1, higher IOA value indicates better
288 agreement (Wang et al., 2015; Jiang et al., 2010). Fair to good agreement between the calculated
289 and measured profiles of individual VOCs at these three types of sites suggested that the
290 proposed method provided a reasonable estimate of VOC profiles based on the two canister
291 samples. It is noteworthy that the measured and estimated VOC profiles during 01:00-09:00 did
292 not fit very well at MK, probably due to the fact that the concentrations of VOCs, on one hand,
293 were significantly influenced by in-situ traffic emissions as MK was a roadside site. On the other

294 hand, the method for estimating VOC diurnal profiles in this study was based on emission
295 inventory, which was an averaged profile. This discrepancy in early morning would not
296 substantially influence the simulation of O₃ formation, because O₃ formation was mainly
297 simulated at daytime hours (*i.e.*, 07:00~19:00), and the photochemical reactions of VOCs were
298 weak between 01:00 and 09:00.



299
300 Figure 4 Estimated and real-time measured diurnal profiles of total VOCs at MK, YL and TC.
301

302 The calculated VOC diurnal profiles were then input into the PBM-MCM model for O₃
303 simulation. Figure 5 shows the daytime (07:00~19:00) simulated and observed O₃ in 2013 and
304 2014 at 13 sites where the online data of trace gases were available from the air quality
305 monitoring network of HKEPD. In general, the simulated O₃ agreed well with the observations,
306 with the consistence of the peaks and troughs. The IOA between the simulated and observed O₃
307 was 0.7, indicating fairly acceptable performance of the model. In other words, in-situ O₃
308 formation dominated its ambient level at most sites. The difference between model simulation
309 and observation at some other sites was likely due to the fact that the PBM-MCM model only
310 considers O₃ produced from photochemical reactions while the observed O₃ is also influenced by
311 the downward transport of stratospheric O₃, dry deposition and horizontal transport from other
312 regions/locations (Cheng et al., 2010a; Creilson et al., 2003; Lam et al., 2013; Xue et al., 2011).



313
 314 Figure 5 Comparison between simulated and observed O₃ in (a) September 2013 and (b)
 315 September 2014.

316

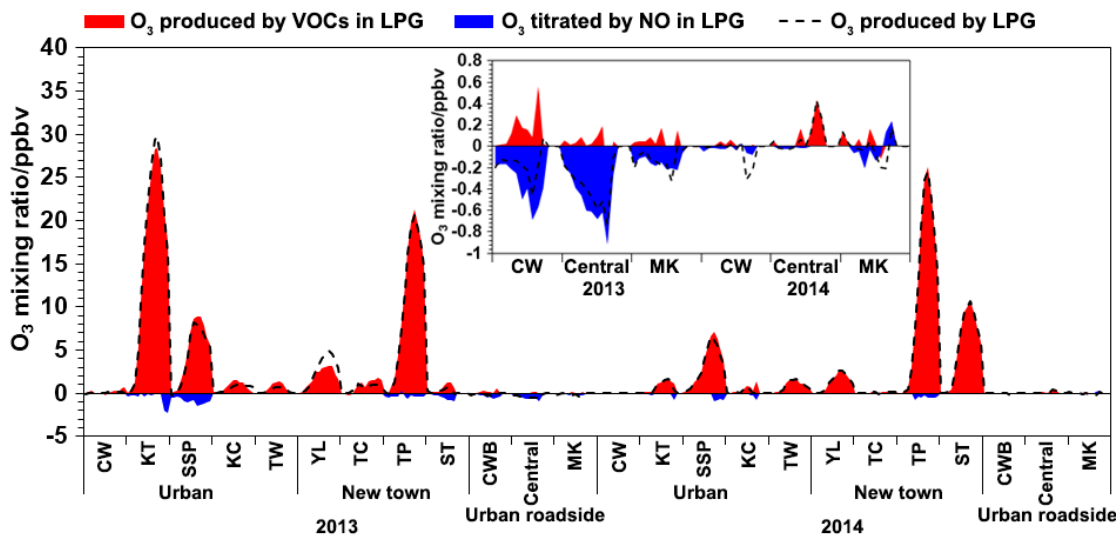
317 3.4.2 Impact of the program on O₃ formation

318 Given the reduction of VOCs and NO emitted from LPG-fueled vehicles, it is interesting to
 319 explore the impact of these changes on O₃ formation at different sites.

320 Sensitivity experiments give the differences in O₃ production between the scenarios with and
 321 without the LPG source as input. Through this approach, the O₃ produced by LPG source before
 322 and after the program were obtained (Figure 6). Since O₃ formation was usually limited by
 323 VOCs and suppressed by NO titration, the VOCs and NO in LPG made positive and negative
 324 contributions to O₃ production, respectively. Considering the combined effect of VOCs and NO
 325 on O₃ formation, LPG generally made a net positive contribution to O₃. However, the
 326 contribution of LPG vehicle to O₃ formation at roadside sites was negative before the program,
 327 mainly due to higher levels of NO emitted from LPG-fueled vehicles ($0.66 \pm 0.28 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) than
 328 those at urban ($0.34 \pm 0.42 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and new town sites ($0.14 \pm 0.12 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), resulting in higher NO
 329 titration to O₃.

330 Table 5 lists the average contributions of LPG vehicle exhaust to O₃ at different types of sites

331 before and after the replacement program. At the roadside sites, the contribution of LPG vehicle
 332 turned from O₃ destruction (-0.17±0.06 ppbv) before to O₃ formation (0.004±0.038 ppbv) after
 333 the program. However, the resulting O₃ increase was minor (only 0.18 ppbv, 3.1% of the average
 334 roadside O₃ value). Although the decrease of VOCs and NO was not significant at the urban sites
 335 ($p>0.05$), O₃ produced by LPG source decreased significantly ($p<0.05$), reflecting nonlinear
 336 relationship between O₃ and its precursors, and also indicating the effectiveness of the program
 337 on O₃ production at urban sites. At the new town sites, no significant change in the contribution
 338 of LPG vehicle to O₃ production were observed ($p>0.05$).



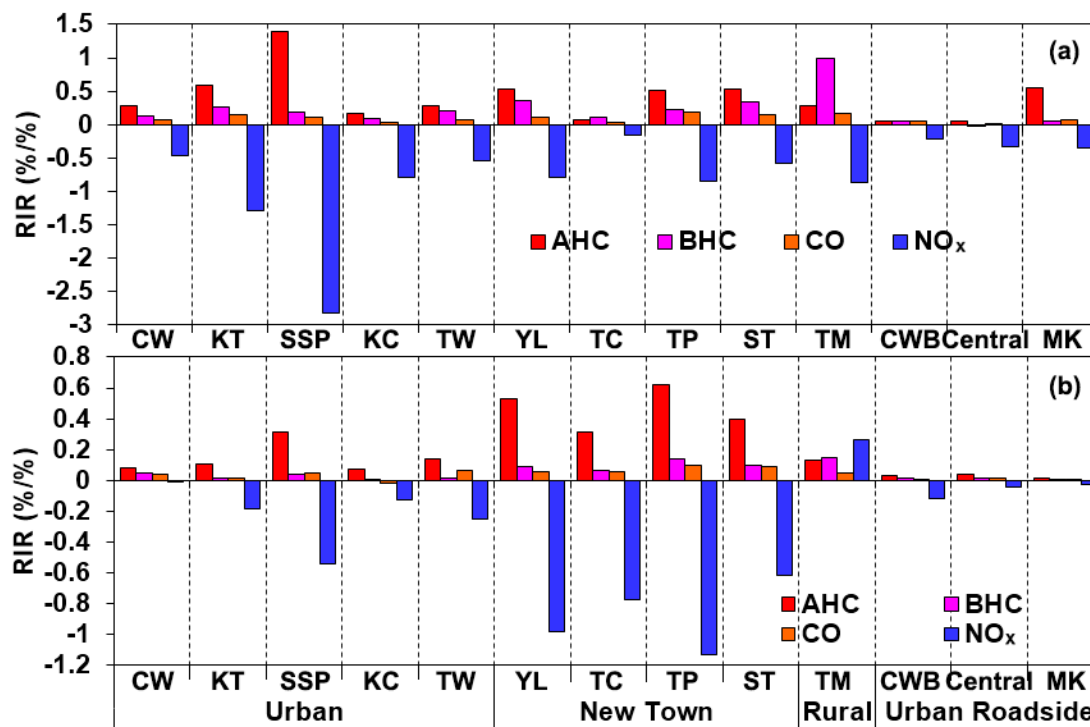
339
 340 Figure 6 Contribution of LPG vehicle exhaust to O₃ production before and after the program. O₃
 341 production by LPG at the roadside sites is enlarged in the insert panel.
 342

343 Table 5 Site-dependent average contributions of LPG vehicle exhaust to O₃ production (Unit:
 344 ppbv)

	Before	After
Urban roadside	-0.17 ± 0.06	0.004 ± 0.038
Urban	4.19 ± 1.92	0.95 ± 0.38
New town	3.37 ± 1.56	4.47 ± 1.89

345
 346 **3.5 Spatial characteristics of O₃-precursor relationship**
 347 Figure 7 shows the relative incremental reactivity (RIR) of anthropogenic VOCs (AHC),
 348 biogenic VOCs (BHC), CO and NO_x, as a measure of the sensitivity of O₃ formation to the

349 changes of the precursors ([Cardelino and Chameides, 1995](#)). The VOC groups and CO had
350 positive RIR values, and the RIR values of VOC groups were higher than that of CO, indicating
351 that O₃ production was VOC-limited. The RIR values of AHC were mostly the highest, followed
352 by BHC and CO. In contrast, the average RIR for NO_x was negative, suggesting that cutting NO_x
353 led to O₃ increase. Different from other sites where O₃ formation was limited by AHC, BHC at
354 the rural site TM was the most predominant reagent limiting O₃ formation in September 2013,
355 whereas the RIR of NO_x in September 2014 became positive, same as VOCs and CO, indicating
356 that O₃ formation was limited by both VOCs and NO_x. To understand the dominant VOC
357 groups/species responsible for O₃ formation, [Table 6](#) shows the average RIR values of VOC
358 groups/species at different types of sites (The RIR value of each VOC species is given in [Table](#)
359 [S4](#)). The alkenes (6.91) and aromatics (7.01) had comparable RIR values and were the highest at
360 the roadside sites, indicating that vehicular emissions were the most important sources of O₃
361 formation at roadside sites. On the other hand, the aromatics at the urban and new town sites
362 were the most predominant VOCs for O₃ formation, with the RIR values of 20.48 and 24.15,
363 respectively. Solvent usage and traffic emissions were likely the main contributors at these two
364 types of sites. In contrast, isoprene was responsible for O₃ formation at rural site with the RIR of
365 19.38.



366
 367 Figure 7 RIR values of VOC groups, CO and NO_x at different sites on (a) 27 Sept. 2013 and (b)
 368 24 Sept. 2014
 369

370 Table 6 Average RIR of VOC groups or species at different sites (Unit: %/%)

	Urban roadside	Urban	New town	Rural
Alkanes	4.22	8.72	9.67	7.98
Alkenes	6.91	10.24	11.35	8.35
Aromatics	7.01	20.48	24.15	15.19
Isoprene	1.31	4.18	8.56	19.38
Ethyne	0.02	0.19	0.31	0.81

371
 372 **4 Conclusions**
 373 VOC canister samples were collected at 30 sites in Hong Kong before and after the LPG
 374 converter replacement program. Source apportionment revealed that the VOCs emitted from
 375 LPG-fueled vehicles significantly decreased at urban roadside sites after the program, while they
 376 remained unchanged at urban and new town sites. LPG vehicle exhaust was destructive to O₃
 377 formation at the roadside sites before the program, whereas it switched to positive contribution
 378 after the program. Nevertheless, the resulting O₃ increase was minor (3.1%). Although the
 379 decrease of VOCs and NO in LPG emissions was insignificant at the urban sites, O₃ produced by

380 LPG vehicle reduced significantly during the program. The above results confirmed the success
381 of the program, particularly in roadside and urban environments. Furthermore, O₃ formation was
382 mainly limited by VOCs regardless of locations, while VOCs and NO_x could co-control the O₃
383 formation in rural areas. In addition, anthropogenic VOCs were the main species dominating O₃
384 formation, *i.e.*, alkenes and aromatics in urban roadside environments, and aromatics at urban
385 and new town sites, while O₃ formation at rural sites was most sensitive to biogenic VOCs. The
386 spatial characteristics of O₃-precursor relationships provided useful guideline for the formulation
387 and implementation of O₃ abatement strategies in different-function areas of Hong Kong.

388 **Acknowledgments**

389 We thank HKEPD for providing us the data. This study was supported by the Research Grants
390 Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region via grants (PolyU5154/13E,
391 PolyU152052/14E, CRF/C5022-14G and CRF/C5004-15E), the HKPolyU PhD scholarship
392 (project #RTUP), and the HKPolyU internal grants (1-ZVCX and G-YBHT). This study is partly
393 supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (41275122).

394 **References**

- 395 Aliche B, Geyer A, Hofzumahaus A, Holland F, Konrad S, Pätz HW, et al. OH formation by
396 HONO photolysis during the BERLIOZ experiment. *Journal of Geophysical Research-*
397 *Atmospheres* 2003; 108: PHO 3-1-PHO 3-17.
- 398 Borbon A, Locoge N, Veillerot M, Galloo JC, Guillermo R. Characterisation of NMHCs in a
399 French urban atmosphere: overview of the main sources. *Science of the Total Environment*
400 2002; 292: 177-191.
- 401 Cardelino C. Daily Variability of Motor Vehicle Emissions Derived from Traffic Counter Data.
402 *Journal of Air & Waste Management Association* 1998; 48: 637-645.
- 403 Cardelino CA, Chameides WL. An Observation-Based Model for Analyzing Ozone Precursor
404 Relationships in the Urban Atmosphere. *Journal of Air & Waste Management Association*
405 1995; 45: 161-180.

406 Censtatd. Census and Statistics Department HKG. Geography and climate, Hong Kong.
407 http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/FileManager/EN/Content_810/geog.pdf retrieved 27 January 2016.

408 Cheng HR, Guo H, Saunders SM, Lam SHM, Jiang F, Wang XM, et al. Assessing photochemical
409 ozone formation in the Pearl River Delta with a photochemical trajectory model. *Atmospheric*
410 *Environment* 2010a; 44: 4199-4208.

411 Cheng HR, Guo H, Wang XM, Saunders SM, Lam SHM, Jiang F, et al. On the relationship
412 between ozone and its precursors in the Pearl River Delta: application of an observation-based
413 model (OBM). *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 2010b; 17: 547-560.

414 Colman JJ, Swanson AL, Meinardi S, Sive BC, Blake DR, Rowland FS. Description of the
415 Analysis of a Wide Range of Volatile Organic Compounds in Whole Air Samples Collected
416 during PEM-Tropics A and B. *Analytical Chemistry* 2001; 73: 3723-3731.

417 Creilson JK, Fishman J, Wozniak AE. Intercontinental transport of tropospheric ozone: a study of
418 its seasonal variability across the North Atlantic utilizing tropospheric ozone residuals and its
419 relationship to the North Atlantic Oscillation. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* 2003; 3:
420 2053-2066.

421 Guenther AB. Modeling biogenic volatile organic compound emissions to the atmosphere. In
422 *Reactive hydrocarbons in the atmosphere*, Nicholas Hewitt edited. Elsevier Inc., London,
423 1999: 98-116.

424 Guenther AB, Zimmerman PR, Harley PC, Monson RK, Fall R. Isoprene and monoterpene
425 emission rate variability: Model evaluations and sensitivity analyses. *Journal of Geophysical*
426 *Research-Atmospheres* 1993; 98: 12609-12617.

427 Guo H, Cheng HR, Ling ZH, Louie PKK, Ayoko GA. Which emission sources are responsible
428 for the volatile organic compounds in the atmosphere of Pearl River Delta? *Journal of*
429 *Hazardous Materials* 2011a; 188: 116-124.

430 Guo H, So KL, Simpson IJ, Barletta B, Meinardi S, Blake DR. C-1-C-8 volatile organic
431 compounds in the atmosphere of Hong Kong: Overview of atmospheric processing and source

432 apportionment. Atmospheric Environment 2007; 41: 1456-1472.

433 Guo H, Wang T, Blake DR, Simpson IJ, Kwok YH, Li YS. Regional and local contributions to
434 ambient non-methane volatile organic compounds at a polluted rural/coastal site in Pearl River
435 Delta, China. Atmospheric Environment 2006; 40: 2345-2359.

436 Guo H, Zou SC, Tsai WY, Chan LY, Blake DR. Emission characteristics of nonmethane
437 hydrocarbons from private cars and taxis at different driving speeds in Hong Kong.
438 Atmospheric Environment 2011b; 45: 2711-2721.

439 HKEPD. Characterisation of VOC Sources and Integrated Photochemical Ozone Analysis in
440 Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region. Internal Report, 2013.

441 HKEPD. Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network Report
442 http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/resources_pub/publications/m_report.html 2015a.

443 HKEPD. Hong Kong Air Pollutant Emission Inventory. [http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/data/emission_inve.html)
444 [/environmentinhk/air/data/emission_inve.html](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/data/emission_inve.html) 2015b.

445 Ho KF, Lee SC, Ho WK, Blake DR, Cheng Y, Li YS, et al. Vehicular emission of volatile organic
446 compounds (VOCs) from a tunnel study in Hong Kong. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics
447 2009; 9: 7491-7504.

448 Holzworth GC. Mixing Depths, Wind Speeds and Air Pollution Potential for Selected Locations
449 in the United States. Journal of Applied Meteorology 1967; 6: 1039-1044.

450 Jacobson MZ. Fundamentals of Atmospheric Modelling: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

451 Jenkin ME, Clemitshaw KC. Ozone and other secondary photochemical pollutants: chemical
452 processes governing their formation in the planetary boundary layer. Atmospheric
453 Environment 2000; 34: 2499-2527.

454 Kleffmann J, Gavriloaiei T, Hofzumahaus A, Holland F, Koppmann R, Rupp L, et al. Daytime
455 formation of nitrous acid: A major source of OH radicals in a forest. Geophysical Research
456 Letters 2005; 32.

457 Lam SHM, Saunders SM, Guo H, Ling ZH, Jiang F, Wang XM, et al. Modelling VOC source

458 impacts on high ozone episode days observed at a mountain summit in Hong Kong under the
459 influence of mountain-valley breezes. *Atmospheric Environment* 2013; 81: 166-176.

460 Lam WHK, Tang YF, Chan KS, Tam ML. Short-term hourly traffic forecasts using Hong Kong
461 Annual Traffic Census. *Transportation* 2006; 33: 291-310.

462 Lau AKH, Yuan ZB, Yu JZ, Louie PKK. Source apportionment of ambient volatile organic
463 compounds in Hong Kong. *Science of the Total Environment* 2010; 408: 4138-4149.

464 Li Y, Lau AKH, Fung JCH, Ma H, Tse YY. Systematic evaluation of ozone control policies using
465 an Ozone Source Apportionment method. *Atmospheric Environment* 2013; 76: 136-146.

466 Li Y, Lau AKH, Fung JCH, Zheng JY, Zhong LJ, Louie PKK. Ozone source apportionment
467 (OSAT) to differentiate local regional and super-regional source contributions in the Pearl
468 River Delta region, China. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2012; 117.

469 Ling ZH, Guo H, Cheng HR, Yu YF. Sources of ambient volatile organic compounds and their
470 contributions to photochemical ozone formation at a site in the Pearl River Delta, southern
471 China. *Environmental Pollution* 2011; 159: 2310-2319.

472 Ling ZH, Guo H, Lam SHM, Saunders SM, Wang T. Atmospheric photochemical reactivity and
473 ozone production at two sites in Hong Kong: Application of a Master Chemical Mechanism-
474 photochemical box model. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2014; 119.

475 Ling ZH, Guo H, Zheng JY, Louie PKK, Cheng HR, Jiang F, Cheung K, Wong LC, Feng XQ.
476 Establishing a conceptual model for photochemical ozone pollution in subtropical Hong Kong.
477 *Atmospheric Environment* 2013; 76: 208-220.

478 Louie PKK, Ho JWK, Tsang RCW, Blake DR, Lau AKH, Yu JZ, et al. VOCs and OVOCs
479 distribution and control policy implications in Pearl River Delta region, China. *Atmospheric*
480 *Environment* 2013; 76: 125-135.

481 Lu K, Zhang Y. Observations of HO_x Radical in Field Studies and the Analysis of Its Chemical
482 Mechanism. *Progress in Chemistry* 2010; 22: 500-514.

483 Lyu XP, Chen N, Guo H, Zhang WH, Wang N, Wang Y, et al. Ambient volatile organic

484 compounds and their effect on ozone production in Wuhan, central China. *Science of the Total*
485 *Environment* 2016; 541: 200-209.

486 Lyu XP, Guo H, Simpson IJ, Meinardi S, Louie PKK, Ling ZH, et al. Effectiveness of replacing
487 catalytic converters in LPG-fueled vehicles in Hong Kong. *Atmospheric Chemistry and*
488 *Physics Discussion* 2015a; 15: 35939-35990.

489 Lyu XP, Ling ZH, Guo H, Saunders SM, Lam SHM, Wang N, et al. Re-examination of C1–C5
490 alkyl nitrates in Hong Kong using an observation-based model. *Atmospheric Environment*
491 2015b; 120: 28-37.

492 Mao JQ, Ren XR, Chen SA, Brune WH, Chen Z, Martinez M, et al. Atmospheric oxidation
493 capacity in the summer of Houston 2006: Comparison with summer measurements in other
494 metropolitan studies. *Atmospheric Environment* 2010; 44: 4107-4115.

495 Ou J, Guo H, Zheng J, Cheung K, Louie PKK, Ling Z, et al. Concentrations and sources of non-
496 methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) from 2005 to 2013 in Hong Kong: A multi-year real-time
497 data analysis. *Atmospheric Environment* 2015; 103: 196-206.

498 Paatero P. Least squares formulation of robust non-negative factor analysis. *Chemometrics and*
499 *Intelligent Laboratory Systems* 1997; 37: 23-35.

500 Paatero P, Tapper U. Positive matrix factorization: A non-negative factor model with optimal
501 utilization of error estimates of data values. *Environmetrics* 1994; 5: 111-126.

502 Ren X, Brune WH, Oliger A, Metcalf AR, Simpas JB, Shirley T, et al. OH, HO₂, and OH
503 reactivity during the PMTACS–NY Whiteface Mountain 2002 campaign: Observations and
504 model comparison. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2006; 111: D10.

505 Ren XR, van Duin D, Cazorla M, Chen S, Mao JQ, Zhang L, et al. Atmospheric oxidation
506 chemistry and ozone production: Results from SHARP 2009 in Houston, Texas. *Journal of*
507 *Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2013; 118: 5770-5780.

508 Seinfeld JH, Pandis SN. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics: From Air Pollution to Climate*
509 *Change*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997.

510 Simpson IJ, Blake NJ, Barletta B, Diskin GS, Fuelberg HE, Gorham K, et al. Characterization of
511 trace gases measured over Alberta oil sands mining operations: 76 speciated C-2-C-10 volatile
512 organic compounds (VOCs), CO₂, CH₄, CO, NO, NO₂, NO_y, O₃ and SO₂. Atmospheric
513 Chemistry and Physics 2010; 10: 11931-11954.

514 Sommariva R, Haggerstone AL, Carpenter LJ, Carslaw N, Creasey DJ, Heard DE, et al. OH and
515 HO₂ chemistry in clean marine air during SOAPEX-2. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics
516 2004; 4: 839-856.

517 USEPA. EPA Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) 3.0 Fundamentals & User Guide.
518 www.epa.gov 2008.

519 USEPA. User's Guide for the Industrial Source Complex (ISC3) Dispersion Models, Volume II
520 Description of Model Algorithms. EPA-454/B-95-003b. U.S. Environmental Protection
521 Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC. 1985.

522 Wang J-L, Wang C-H, Lai C-H, Chang C-C, Liu Y, Zhang Y, et al. Characterization of ozone
523 precursors in the Pearl River Delta by time series observation of non-methane hydrocarbons.
524 Atmospheric Environment 2008; 42: 6233-6246.

525 Wang T, Wei XL, Ding AJ, Poon CN, Lam KS, Li YS, et al. Increasing surface ozone
526 concentrations in the background atmosphere of Southern China, 1994–2007. Atmospheric
527 Chemistry and Physics 2009; 9: 6217-6227.

528 WebMET. Met Monitoring Guide, The Meteorological Resource Center.
529 http://www.webmet.com/met_monitoring/622.html accessed on 30 July 2015 2015; 6.2.2
530 Vector computations.

531 Xia L, Shao Y. Modelling of traffic flow and air pollution emission with application to Hong
532 Kong Island. Environmental Modelling & Software 2005; 20: 1175-1188.

533 Xue LK, Wang T, Guo H, Blake DR, Tang J, Zhang XC, et al. Sources and photochemistry of
534 volatile organic compounds in the remote atmosphere of western China: results from the Mt.
535 Waliguan Observatory. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics 2013; 13: 8551-8567.

536 Xue LK, Wang T, Louie PKK, Luk CWY, Blake DR, Xu Z. Increasing External Effects Negate
537 Local Efforts to Control Ozone Air Pollution: A Case Study of Hong Kong and Implications
538 for Other Chinese Cities. *Environmental Science & Technology* 2014; 48: 10769-10775.

539 Xue LK, Wang T, Zhang JM, Zhang XC, Deliger, Poon CN, et al. Source of surface ozone and
540 reactive nitrogen speciation at Mount Waliguan in western China: New insights from the 2006
541 summer study. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres* 2011; 116: D07306.

542 Zhang J, Wang T, Chameides WL, Cardelino C, Kwok J, Blake DR, et al. Ozone production and
543 hydrocarbon reactivity in Hong Kong, Southern China. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*
544 2007; 7: 557-573.

Supplementary material for on-line publication only

[Click here to download Supplementary material for on-line publication only: Supplementary material_Submitted.docx](#)