

Supporting Information for

**Direct thermal enhancement dominates over emission-mediated pathways in heatwave-induced O<sub>3</sub> and SOA increases across China**

Peng Wang<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Wenxuan Yu<sup>4,5</sup>, Zhaolei Zhang<sup>4</sup>, Jianyan Lu<sup>1,6</sup>, Shenxin Li<sup>7</sup>, Hongliang Zhang<sup>7,2,5\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Fudan University, Shanghai 200438, China.

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Eco-Chongming (IEC), Shanghai 202151, China.

<sup>3</sup>Shanghai Key Laboratory of Ocean-land-atmosphere Boundary Dynamics and Climate Change, Shanghai 200438, China.

<sup>4</sup>Department of Environmental Science & Engineering, Fudan University, Shanghai, 200438, China.

<sup>5</sup>IRDR ICoE on Risk Interconnectivity and Governance on Weather/Climate Extremes Impact and Public Health, Fudan University, Shanghai 200438, China.

<sup>6</sup>Shanghai Frontiers Science Center of Atmosphere-Ocean Interaction, Shanghai 200438, China.

<sup>7</sup>School of Environment and Architecture, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Shanghai 200093, China

*Correspondence to:* Peng Wang ([w\\_peng@fudan.edu.cn](mailto:w_peng@fudan.edu.cn)) and Hongliang Zhang ([zhanghl@usst.edu.cn](mailto:zhanghl@usst.edu.cn))

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### Text S1. Adjustment of MEIC emissions for 2021 and 2022

The transportation, industrial and power sectors are major sources of emissions and the latest emissions inventory of MEIC is only updated until 2020, so adjustments need to be made for 2021 and 2022 emissions. For the transportation sector, we used passenger turnover and cargo turnover (<https://www.mot.gov.cn/tongjishuju/gonglu/index.html>, last access: April 2023) to adjust NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs emissions (see **Tables S4** and **S5** for adjustment factors). For the industry sector, the same adjustment ratio was also applied to VOC emission, and an average annual NO<sub>x</sub> reduction rate of 2% was used according to a previous study<sup>1</sup>. For the SO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter (PM), we used the change rates between 2017 and 2019 to adjust the emission in 2022, assuming the same rate of change within 2020 to 2022 as Eq.1.2:

$$\delta_{i,j,k,2022} = \frac{E_{i,j,k,2019}}{E_{i,j,k,2017}} \quad (1.1)$$

$$E_{i,j,k,2022} = \delta_{i,j,k,2022} \times E_{i,j,k,2020} \quad (1.2)$$

where,  $E_{i,j,k,t}$  and  $\delta_{i,j,k,t}$  ( $t=2017, 2019, 2020, 2022$ ) are the emission rates and the adjustment factor of pollutant  $k$  (SO<sub>2</sub>, PM) in year  $t$  at the grid  $(i, j)$ .

For the power sector, the adjustment factor  $\delta_{power}$  is calculated based on the national thermal power generation (<https://cec.org.cn/detail/index.html>, last access: April 2023) as shown in Eq.1.3:

$$\delta_{power} = \frac{E_{power,2021}}{E_{power,2020}} = 1.01 \quad (1.3)$$

where  $E_{power,2021}$ , and  $E_{power,2020}$  are the national thermal power generation in 2021 and 2020, respectively.

The residential and agricultural sectors remained the same with MEIC 2020.

## Text S2. statistical equations

The mean bias (MB), gross error (GE), and root mean square error (RMSE) were used for the evaluation of WRF model performance, while the mean normalized bias (MNB), mean normalized error (MNE), mean fractional bias (MFB) and mean fractional error (MFE) were used for the validation of CMAQ model performance.

$$MB = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (C_{m,i} - C_{o,i}) \quad (1)$$

$$GE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |C_{m,i} - C_{o,i}| \quad (2)$$

$$RMSE = \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (C_{m,i} - C_{o,i})^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (3)$$

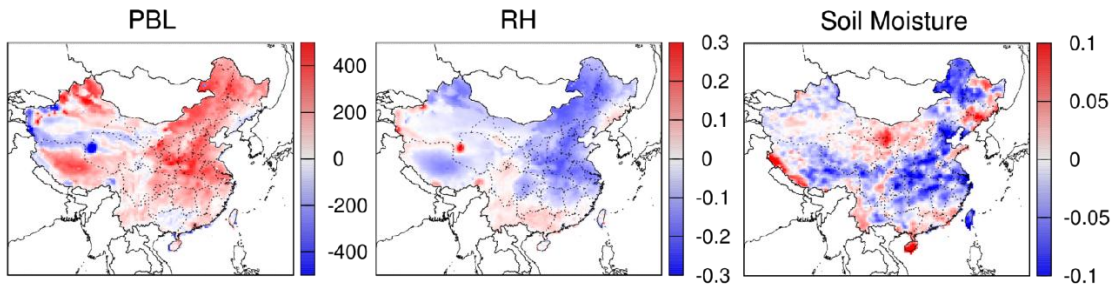
$$MNB = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{C_{m,i} - C_{o,i}}{C_{o,i}} \quad (4)$$

$$MNE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{|C_{m,i} - C_{o,i}|}{C_{o,i}} \quad (5)$$

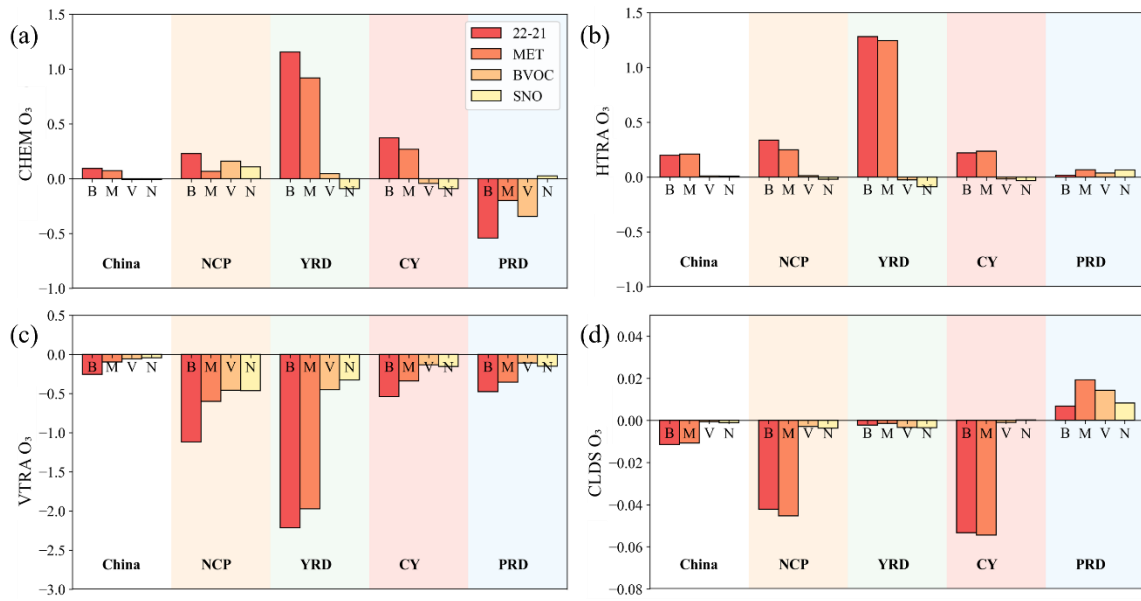
$$MFB = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{C_{m,i} - C_{o,i}}{C_{m,i} + C_{o,i}} \quad (6)$$

$$MFE = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{|C_{m,i} - C_{o,i}|}{C_{m,i} + C_{o,i}} \quad (7)$$

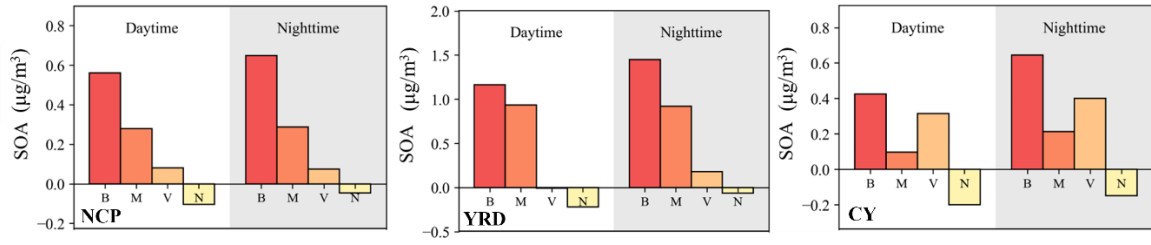
where  $C_{m,i}$  and  $C_{o,i}$  refer to the  $i^{\text{th}}$  predicted and observed value, respectively.  $N$  is the number of prediction-observation pairs drawn from all measurement sites.



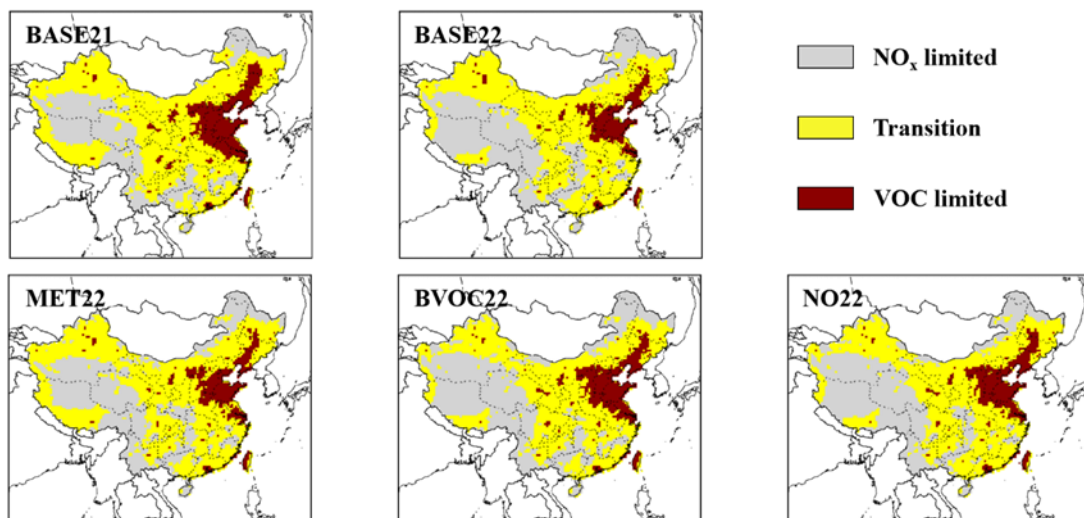
**Figure S1.** The differences of simulated planetary boundary layer (PBL), relative humidity (RH) and soil moisture between 2022 and 2021 (2022–2021). The units are m (meter), % (percentage) and  $m^3 m^{-3}$ , respectively.



**Figure S2.** (a) Differences in impacts of gas-chemistry on  $O_3$  concentrations (unit:  $ppb\ h^{-1}$ ) between different cases (11:00-18:00 BJT). (b-d) Same with panel a but for horizontal transport, vertical transport and cloud processes. Units are  $ppb\ h^{-1}$ .



**Figure S3.** Diurnal differences of SOA in the NCP, YRD, and CY regions, respectively. Daytime is from 8:00 to 20:00 and nighttime is from 20:00 to 8:00.



**Figure S4.** Sensitivity regime of BASE case in 2021 and 2022, MET22, BVOC22 and SNO22 based on the indicator of  $\text{HCHO}/\text{NO}_y$ . A value below 0.303 indicates a VOC-limited regime, above 1.26 indicates a  $\text{NO}_x$ -limited regime, and values in between are transition area (Wang et al., 2022). The grey, yellow and brick red areas are  $\text{NO}_x$ -limited, transition and VOC-limited regimes. The threshold of different regimes is referenced from Wang, Zhu <sup>5</sup>.

**Table S1.** Correlation coefficient of MDA8 O<sub>3</sub> and SOA to daily maximum temperature (T<sub>max</sub>), daily average temperature (T), BVOC emissions (BVOC), and SNO emissions (NO) in different regions.

	Variable	China	NCP	YRD	CY	PRD
MDA8 O <sub>3</sub>	T <sub>max</sub>	0.28	0.44	0.62	0.48	0.43
	T	0.28	0.45	0.65	0.50	0.45
	BVOC	0.16	0.56	0.31	0.27	-0.16
	SNO	0.25	0.65	0.53	0.39	0.15
SOA	T <sub>max</sub>	0.50	0.58	0.86	0.80	0.18
	T	0.53	0.60	0.89	0.82	0.05
	BVOC	0.62	0.54	0.59	0.63	0.12
	SNO	0.70	0.61	0.82	0.77	0.25

**Table S2.** Adjustment factors for MEIC by sector and species.

	NO <sub>x</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	VOCs	CO	PM
Industry	0.98	$\delta_{i,j,k,2022}^*$	Table S7	—	$\delta_{i,j,k,2022}$
Transportation	Table S7	—	Table S7	—	—
Power			1.01		
Residential			—		
Agriculture			—		

\*: The details of  $\delta_{i,j,k,2022}$  is from Text S1.

**Table S3.** NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs adjustment factors by province. The abbreviation adopts ‘Administrative Division Names’ regulated by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology in China.

Province	Abbreviation	NO <sub>x</sub> -May	NO <sub>x</sub> -Jun	NO <sub>x</sub> -Jul	NO <sub>x</sub> -Aug	VOCs
Beijing	BJ	0.87	0.90	1.17	0.93	0.99
Tianjin	TJ	0.89	0.96	0.88	0.84	0.97
Hebei	HE	0.78	0.70	0.77	0.74	0.97
Shanxi	SX	0.75	0.71	0.75	0.57	0.98
Inner Mongolia	NM	0.80	0.75	0.87	0.75	0.99
Liaoning	LN	0.72	0.65	0.74	0.73	0.98
Jilin	JL	0.87	1.62	0.69	0.65	0.96
Heilongjiang	HL	1.53	1.53	1.06	1.01	0.99
Shanghai	SH	0.47	0.89	0.89	0.96	0.99
Jiangsu	JS	0.42	0.64	0.68	0.72	0.96
Zhejiang	ZJ	0.84	0.91	0.99	0.93	0.97
Anhui	AH	0.75	0.65	0.74	0.74	0.98
Fujian	FJ	0.92	1.10	1.03	0.98	0.98
Jiangxi	JX	0.66	0.69	0.75	0.75	0.99
Shandong	SD	1.03	0.83	0.89	0.88	0.96
Henan	HA	1.12	0.99	1.02	1.04	0.97
Hubei	HB	1.18	0.84	1.01	0.83	0.98
Hunan	HN	0.86	1.06	0.98	0.96	0.98
Guangdong	GD	0.68	0.74	0.67	0.66	0.96
Guangxi	GX	0.84	0.86	0.83	0.80	0.99
Hainan	HI	1.03	0.94	0.85	0.38	0.99
Chongqing	CQ	0.84	0.92	0.70	0.62	0.99
Sichuan	SC	0.95	1.00	0.93	0.81	0.98
Guizhou	GZ	0.79	0.81	0.74	0.77	0.97
Yunnan	YN	1.15	1.10	1.26	1.10	0.99
Tibet	XZ	1.47	1.67	1.30	0.41	0.99
Shaanxi	SN	0.82	0.65	0.74	0.67	0.98
Gansu	GS	0.71	0.76	0.81	0.77	0.99
Qinghai	QH	0.70	0.84	1.06	0.62	1.00
Ningxia	NX	0.90	1.05	1.12	1.04	0.99
Xinjiang	XJ	2.36	2.31	1.95	1.59	0.99

Note: National Statistical Yearbook lacks relevant traffic data for Tibet in August 2022, which is substituted by the Tibet adjustment coefficients for August 2021.

**Table S4.** Model performance of WRF model: temperature (T2), wind speed (WS), wind direction (WD), and relative humidity (RH) in June, July and August in 2021 and 2022 (PRE: mean prediction; OBS: mean observation; MB: mean bias; GE: gross error; RMSE: root mean square error). The values that do not meet the criteria are denoted in bold.

		2021			2022			
		Jun	Jul	Aug	Jun	Jul	Aug	Benchmark
T2 (K)	OBS	296.2	298.5	296.8	296.6	298.7	298.1	
	PRE	296.1	298.5	296.6	296.4	298.7	298.1	
	MB	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0	$\leq \pm 0.5$
	<b>GE</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	$\leq 2.0$
	RMSE	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.3	
WS (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	OBS	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.2	
	PRE	3.9	3.9	3.6	4.1	3.9	3.8	
	MB	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	$\leq \pm 0.5$
	GE	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.4	$\leq 2.0$
	RMSE	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.9	$\leq 2.0$
WD (°)	OBS	175.2	166.6	166.2	173.2	174.1	171.9	
	PRE	181.9	170.5	168.4	179.7	181.4	175.7	
	<b>MB</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>	
	GE	46.4	45.1	45.6	44.5	45.3	43.9	$\leq \pm 30$
	RMSE	63.5	62.3	62.5	61.4	62.2	60.6	
RH (%)	OBS	68.2	70.9	72.7	68.8	68.9	68.4	
	PRE	63.7	66.8	69.1	64.6	63.5	62.4	
	MB	-4.6	-4.2	-3.5	-4.2	-5.4	-6.0	
	<b>GE</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>13.2</b>	
	RMSE	15.9	15.3	14.6	15.3	16.1	17.1	

**Table S5.** Model performance of O<sub>3</sub>-1h (ppb), PM<sub>2.5</sub> (μg m<sup>-3</sup>), PM<sub>10</sub> (μg m<sup>-3</sup>), CO (ppm), NO<sub>2</sub> (ppb) and SO<sub>2</sub> (ppb) of BASE case in China in June, July and August in 2021 and 2022. MNB: mean normalized bias, MNE: mean normalized error, MFB: mean fractional bias, MFE: mean fractional error. The performance criteria are suggested by *Emery, Liu*<sup>2</sup>. The values that do not meet the criteria are denoted in bold.

		2021			2022			Criteria
		Jun	Jul	Aug	Jun	Jul	Aug	
O <sub>3</sub> -1h (ppb)	OBS	61.73	57.29	57.76	62.31	58.63	57.21	
	PRE	67.51	64.01	64.74	67.15	65.18	61.98	
	MFB	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.14	0.11	
	MFE	0.20	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.23	0.20	
	MNB	0.13	0.15	0.15	0.08	0.10	0.08	≤ ±0.15
	MNE	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.19	0.20	0.18	≤ 0.3
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (μg m <sup>-3</sup> )	OBS	27.31	22.33	25.04	25.97	23.71	24.02	
	PRE	25.10	21.62	28.63	22.52	21.47	21.01	
	MFB	-0.17	-0.10	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.00	≤ ±0.6
	MFE	0.50	0.44	0.48	0.53	0.49	0.45	≤ 0.75
	MNB	0.07	0.10	0.31	-0.21	-0.13	-0.16	
	MNE	0.57	0.52	0.67	0.49	0.45	0.43	
PM <sub>10</sub> (μg m <sup>-3</sup> )	OBS	46.41	36.14	39.39	44.58	39.00	37.50	
	PRE	29.22	24.71	31.65	25.21	25.65	25.05	
	MFB	-0.46	-0.40	-0.27	-0.26	-0.18	-0.19	
	MFE	0.68	0.60	0.57	0.58	0.53	0.53	
	MNB	-0.18	-0.17	-0.02	-0.54	-0.40	-0.41	
	MNE	0.60	0.54	0.58	0.71	0.60	0.60	
CO (ppm)	OBS	0.47	0.44	0.49	0.44	0.44	0.45	
	PRE	0.24	0.21	0.25	0.22	0.22	0.22	
	MFB	-0.64	-0.71	-0.70	-0.42	-0.41	-0.43	
	MFE	0.73	0.78	0.77	0.54	0.54	0.55	
	MNB	-0.41	-0.45	-0.44	-0.66	-0.66	-0.68	
	MNE	0.54	0.56	0.55	0.73	0.74	0.76	
NO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	OBS	18.81	16.93	17.20	17.94	16.78	16.11	
	PRE	22.61	21.40	22.38	21.19	21.36	22.03	

	MFB	0.14	0.18	0.21	0.32	0.39	0.48
	MFE	0.42	0.40	0.42	0.54	0.57	0.61
	MNB	0.34	0.38	0.43	0.12	0.19	0.25
	MNE	0.56	0.56	0.60	0.40	0.41	0.42
SO <sub>2</sub> (ppb)	OBS	15.07	14.56	15.92	15.10	15.02	16.71
	PRE	15.07	13.07	16.14	14.77	14.06	14.76
	MFB	0.01	-0.10	0.02	0.08	0.03	0.02
	MFE	0.32	0.28	0.34	0.34	0.28	0.29
	MNB	0.13	-0.03	0.14	-0.01	-0.03	-0.06
	MNE	0.38	0.27	0.39	0.32	0.28	0.30

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