Refining ammonia emissions estimates with satellite-based observations using a novel framework and an air quality model

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in prep.

Ammonia in the atmosphere

5-year mean of surface NH₃ from CrIS (2013-2017)



Challenges modeling ammonia

- Emissions estimation from variable sources
- Volatility of gas
- Potential for bidirectional flux



Uncertainty in ammonia emissions

- Between 25% and 50% spread in emissions estimates exists across inventories.
- Select agricultural contributions are equivalent to other estimates of total emissions.



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CrIS satellite-based observation



$$x_c^{est} = x_a + A(x_c^{mapped} - x_a)$$

where x_a is a profile based on clean, moderate, or polluted conditions

Shephard and Cady-Pereira, Atmos. Meas. Tech., 2015

Simulating CrIS observations



Comparing CrIS observations of ambient & CMAQ ammonia

$$J = \frac{1}{2} \sum \left(x_{c,CMAQ}^{est} - x_c^{est} \right)^T S_{obs}^{-1} \left(x_{c,CMAQ}^{est} - x_c^{est} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \gamma (\sigma - \sigma_a)^T S_a^{-1} (\sigma - \sigma_a)$$



Development of an ammonia-active CMAQ-adjoint model

run time changes

- Forward sweep: NH₃-active forward = 67% full forward
- Backward sweep:

 NH_3 -active backward = 8% full backward



Refining emissions with CrIS observations



Refining emissions with CrIS observations



Observing system simulation experiment (OSSE)



Py4D-Var OSSE results

- Modeling domain: 12-km*12-km resolution Georgia benchmark domain
- Three days simulation (06/10/2007 06/12/2007)
- CrIS data v1.5, 2016
- 16 cores
- 22 minutes to finish one forward sweep and one backward sweep for a line-search
- Up to 20 line-searches for an iteration
- Time consuming

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1e1

NH₃ emission rates 20070610



Lamsal et al., GRL, 2011; Cooper et al., JGR, 2017

Emissions Rates

Modeled Concentrations

















Finite Difference Mass Balance (FDMB) with Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW)



FDMB with IDW OSSE results

- Modeling domain: 12-km*12-km resolution Georgia benchmark domain
- Three days simulation (06/10/2007 06/12/2007)
- CrIS data v1.5, 2016
- 16 cores
- 10 minutes to finish two forward sweeps for an iteration
- Time saving



FDMB vs. 4D-Var



- Fast: two forward sweeps per iteration
- Lower accuracy: scaling for grid cells without observations are estimated by IDW, which tends to introduce uncertainties
- Local influence: assumes a linear relationship between local emissions and concentrations



- Slow: one forward sweep and one backward sweep per line-search, multiple line-searches per iteration
- Higher accuracy: constrains emissions in the whole domain using heterogeneous sensitivities
- Grid-to-grid transportation

FDMB + 4D-Var hybrid framework



Li et al., JGR Atmospheres., 2019

FDMB + 4D-Var hybrid framework OSSE

- Modeling domain: 12-km*12-km resolution CONUS domain
- Six days simulation (04/01/2017 04/06/2017)
- CrIS data v1.5, 2017



Future work

- Assimilating CrIS v1.6 observations (The first weeks of April through June 2017 are selected for assimilation)
- Determining the γ regulation parameter in the cost function through an L-curve approach
- Evaluating posterior modeled concentrations against independent surface measurements

Conclusions

- We designed/evaluated a hybrid framework of FDMB with IDW and Py4DVar
- Py4DVar performs well but it is time consuming especially on high-resolution large domain applications
- FDMB is at least two times faster than Py4DVar
- A hybrid approach of the two can take advantage of the shorter run time of the FDMB and still using 4DVar to do the refinement at the end

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Thanks! Questions? Comments?