

Emissions and topographic effects on column CO₂ (X_{CO₂}) variations, with a focus on the Southern California Megacity

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Key Points:

- In the SoCAB, 20–36% of spatial variance in X_{CO₂} is explained by topography on scales <~ 10 km.
- In Pasadena, X_{CO₂} is enhanced by $2.3 \pm 1.2 (1\sigma)$ ppm above background levels, at 1300 (UTC-8) with seasonal variation.
- The SoCAB X_{CO₂} enhancement is in agreement for 3 different observation sets (TCCON, GOSAT, and OCO-2).

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Abstract

Within the California South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB), X_{CO_2} varies significantly due to atmospheric dynamics and the non-uniform distribution of sources. X_{CO_2} measurements within the basin have seasonal variation compared to the “background” due primarily to dynamics, or the origins of air masses coming into the basin. We observe basin–background differences that are in close agreement for 3 observing systems: TCCON 2.3 ± 1.2 ppm, OCO-2 2.4 ± 1.5 ppm, and GOSAT 2.4 ± 1.6 ppm (errors are 1σ). We further observe persistent significant differences (~ 0.9 ppm) in X_{CO_2} between two TCCON sites located only 9 km apart within the SoCAB. We estimate 20% ($\pm 1\sigma$ CI: 0%, 58%) of the variance is explained by a difference in elevation using a full physics and emissions model, and 36% ($\pm 1\sigma$ CI: 10%, 101%) using a simple, fixed mixed layer model. This effect arises in the presence of a sharp gradient in CO_2 (or another species) between the mixed layer (ML) and free troposphere. Column differences between nearby locations arise when the change in elevation is greater than the change in ML height. This affects the fraction of atmosphere that is in the ML above each site. We show that such topographic effects produce significant variation in X_{CO_2} across the SoCAB as well.

1 Introduction

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is the single most important human influenced (anthropogenic) greenhouse gas (GHG) [Myhre et al., 2013]. Atmospheric CO_2 concentrations have increased from 278 ± 2 ppm in 1750 [Etheridge et al., 1996] to more than 400 ppm today (<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/global.html>). The change in radiative forcing (RF) over the industrial era for all well-mixed anthropogenic greenhouse gases (WMGHGs) is $2.83 \pm 0.29 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$; and the change in CO_2 alone accounts for $1.82 \pm 0.19 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ [Myhre et al., 2013]. Changes in radiative forcing due to CO_2 increases have been directly observed [Feldman et al., 2015].

A significant fraction of anthropogenic CO_2 emissions are a result of activities within urban areas. Central estimates of CO_2 emissions related with urban final energy use are 76% globally and 86% of the total emissions in North America [Seto and Dhakal, 2014]. Because some CO_2 emissions related with urban use are from outside urban areas (e.g. due to imported electricity), primary or direct CO_2 emissions from urban areas are lower (30–56%, central estimate 43%). These fractions are somewhat disproportionate as ur-

53 ban areas house 54 % of the world's population [United Nations, 2014], and cover only
54 ~0.5 % of ice-free terrestrial land [Schneider et al., 2009].

55 Large urban agglomerations, or megacities, are particularly large anthropogenic
56 emitters, with the 50 largest cities globally emitting more CO₂ equivalent than any coun-
57 try besides the United States and China [Hoornweg et al., 2010]. One of these megaci-
58 ties is the greater Los Angeles (LA) area which fills much of the South Coast Air Basin
59 (SoCAB) in California (CA). The SoCAB has ~17 million inhabitants sprawled over 4
60 counties (Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside) and more than 160 cities.
61 SoCAB emissions have been estimated to be on order of 167 Tg CO₂ yr⁻¹ [Wunch et al.,
62 2016a] which is ~3.2 % of fossil fuel and cement production CO₂ emissions from the
63 United States or approximately 0.4 % of the total global anthropogenic CO₂ emissions.

64 The SoCAB is a favorable test bed location for quantifying CO₂ emissions by re-
65 mote sensing because of the unique wealth of available data. Los Angeles was chosen as
66 one of 2 cities (besides Paris) in a pilot program to study megacity emissions [Duren and
67 Miller, 2012]; Sao Paulo, Brazil has since been chosen as a third city (<https://megacities.jpl.nasa.gov/portal/>).
68 There have been several previous studies that have analyzed CO₂ activity within the So-
69 CAB. Affek et al. [2007] used isotopic measurements of CO₂ from flask samples to ana-
70 lyze the seasonality and sources of air in Pasadena (~14 km NE of downtown LA). New-
71 man, et al. [2008, 2013, 2016] have studied CO₂ mixing ratios and isotopic composition
72 since 1972 (primarily in Pasadena), and have used both isotopologues and air composition
73 to partition sources of CO₂. Djuricin et al. [2010] used isotope analysis on air samples
74 collected ~58 km S of LA to apportion anthropogenic and biogenic CO₂ sources. Brioude
75 et al. [2013] used aircraft measurements of CO₂ with the Weather Research and Forecast-
76 ing Model (WRF) to estimate basin fluxes. Wunch et al. [2009] studied diurnal patterns of
77 column averaged CO₂ observed by ground-based remote sensing at a TCCON (Total Car-
78 bon Column Observing Network) site. Kort et al. [2012] studied the average column en-
79 hancement in the SoCAB using satellite observations. Feng et al. [2016] used a high reso-
80 lution (1.3 km) WRF model to study CO₂ patterns across the basin. Finally, Verhulst et al.
81 [2016] described patterns of CO₂ variation observed using the SoCAB megacity tower
82 network.

83 In addition to the atmospheric measurements of CO₂ just described, there are sev-
84 eral detailed bottom up inventories that cover the SoCAB. Under California's Health and

85 Safety Code (H&SC) 39607.4, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is responsi-
 86 ble to report California’s GHG inventory. CARB combines various datasets on reported
 87 petroleum product use throughout the state to create GHG emission estimates. Other CO₂
 88 emission products that cover the SoCAB are available, including the Hestia-LA Project™
 89 by Arizona State University. The Hestia project quantifies fossil fuel CO₂ (FFCO₂) emit-
 90 ting activity at the building and street level [Gurney et al., 2012], and is the higher spatial-
 91 resolution successor to the Vulcan product for cities where it is available. A map of Hestia-
 92 LA v. 1.0 emissions is shown in Fig. 1, along with maps of nightlights and topography.

93 The SoCAB is roughly 140 km × 50 km and is surrounded by mountains on three
 94 sides and the Pacific Ocean on the fourth. Prevailing midday winds at the surface are on-
 95 shore caused by the sea breeze and heated-slope mountain-valley flows, with return winds
 96 aloft [Shultz and Warner, 1981]. Typical wind speeds are maximum ~5–10 m s⁻¹, which
 97 leads to polluted air accumulating in the north and eastern parts of the basin. Local pol-
 98 lution enhancements primarily stay in the mixed layer (ML), which is the layer of the
 99 atmosphere near the surface that responds to surface forcings on the timescale of about
 100 an hour or less (for a discussion of lidar ML measurements in Pasadena, see Ware et al.
 101 [2016]). Pollution continues to accumulate until the ML height increases enough, and the
 102 sea-breeze front travels far enough for aged air to be pushed out over the mountains or
 103 vented through mountain passes. These effects cause CO₂ gradients within the basin, large
 104 diurnal changes of the column averaged dry-air mole fraction (DMF) CO₂ (X_{CO₂}) inland
 105 (2–8 ppm, [Wunch et al., 2009]), and consistent mid-day X_{CO₂} enhancements compared
 106 to the nearby rural desert region (3.2 ± 1.5 (1σ) ppm, [Kort et al., 2012]). All of the en-
 107 hancement in X_{CO₂} is expected to occur because of a CO₂ enhanced ML and is attributed
 108 almost completely to anthropogenic emissions [Kort et al., 2013; Newman et al., 2013].

115 Column-averaged DMFs (e.g. X_{CO₂}) have been suggested to be important tools for
 116 Measurement, Reporting, and Verifying (MRV) of emissions from urban areas [Kort et al.,
 117 2012; McKain et al., 2012; Hase et al., 2015; Wunch et al., 2016a]. X_{CO₂} is measured
 118 long-term with remote sensing instruments (e.g. by satellites or ground-based solar view-
 119 ing spectrometers). It is defined as [Wunch et al., 2011]:

$$X_{\text{CO}_2} = \frac{\text{column}_{\text{CO}_2}}{\text{column}_{\text{dry air}}} \quad (1)$$

120 Because X_{CO₂} is dominated by the free troposphere, column measurements are less sensi-
 121 tive to local CO₂ concentrations than in situ measurements, but more sensitive to regional



109 **Figure 1.** Maps of the SoCAB. The SoCAB boundary is shown in black (or gray). County boundaries are
110 in blue. Red and cyan stars are for the Caltech and AFRC TCCON sites respectively. (a) Annually averaged
111 gridded Hestia version 1.0, 2012 emissions. The two magenta lines are shown to draw the eye from the ocean
112 to the two boxes with largest FFCO₂ emissions (2200+ kg m⁻² yr⁻¹), otherwise the boxes are too small to
113 distinguish from surroundings. (b) Terrain of the area from the ASTER GDEM. (c) Nightlights intensities
114 from January 2015 as measured by the Suomi NPP satellite.

122 levels. Remote sensing of X_{CO₂} from space-borne instruments allows for observations
123 where there are no ground-based X_{CO₂} measurements.

124 MRV by column DMFs can be used to evaluate progress towards emission goals.
125 Generally emission goals are stated as percent decreases, so only relative (rather than ab-
126 solute) changes in emissions over the observation period are needed. California, for exam-
127 ple, has a goal to cut emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80 % below 1990 levels by
128 2050 [Pavley and Nunez, 2006]. The city of Los Angeles has a goal to cut emissions to
129 35 % below 1990 levels by 2030 [Villaraigosa, 2007]. In this study, we are interested in
130 assessing the potential for using X_{CO₂} for MRV in a city with well-studied emissions. In
131 particular, we would like to understand contributions to X_{CO₂} variations over small areas
132 (a few km), and across the basin.

133 Non-emissions related changes (e.g. from relative ML fractions) over small scales
134 may be misinterpreted as a flux, which could bias results. This is important to recog-
135 nize because X_{CO_2} can vary significantly in the SoCAB. As an example, assume 2 sites
136 9 km apart have a consistent 0.9 ppm difference in X_{CO_2} , and a surface pressure of about
137 980 hPa. This is approximately what the mean difference is between Caltech and JPL.
138 This is a $\sim 0.28 \text{ mol m}^{-2}$ difference, or assuming an equal gradient along the full path be-
139 tween each sites $35 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ m}^{-1}$. With a horizontal wind speed of 5 m s^{-1} and no verti-
140 cal mixing, this simple difference would require a $170 \mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ uptake or emis-
141 sion flux depending on wind direction—about $9\times$ the Hestia-LA flux at the Pasadena site
142 [Feng et al., 2016] or about $7\times$ the largest diel gross ecosystem exchange from a temper-
143 ate forest [Wehr et al., 2016].

144 If all of the difference is attributed to a surface flux in the example above, the result
145 is unreasonably large. We explore other reasons for inner-basin X_{CO_2} variance. In particu-
146 lar, we consider the effect of non-uniform weighting of the ML (e.g. by local topography
147 changes) on X_{CO_2} variations within the region due to a strong gradient between the ML
148 and free troposphere. Here, the strong gradient is from emissions, but variation due to to-
149 pography could also occur in an area with high uptake, such as a productive forest. We
150 evaluate whether X_{CO_2} variability can be explained by different factors using models
151 that include the underlying emissions and simulation of the atmospheric transport. We also
152 determine how X_{CO_2} within the basin compares to nearby background levels.

153 In Sect. 2 we describe the datasets and the models. In Sect. 3 we examine how the
154 X_{CO_2} enhancement within the basin has varied with time. In Sect. 4 we describe reasons
155 for X_{CO_2} variations within the SoCAB. We conclude in Sect. 5 with our main findings.

156 **2 Datasets**

157 We use 3 observational datasets (Sect. 2.1–2.3) as well as 3 simulated X_{CO_2} prod-
158 ucts (Sect. 2.4–2.5). These are described in more detail below.

159 **2.1 TCCON**

160 Ground based measurements of X_{CO_2} were made at three TCCON sites [Wunch
161 et al., 2011]. The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) site in Pasadena, Califor-
162 nia (34.136° N , 118.127° W , 240 m a.s.l.) is located within the SoCAB. The Caltech site

163 has been operational since September 2012 [Wennberg et al., 2014b]. TCCON measure-
164 ments at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), were concurrent with Caltech TCCON mea-
165 surements from January–June 2013 [Wennberg et al., 2014a]. This site is also within the
166 SoCAB (34.202° N, 118.175° W, 390 m a.s.l.) and less than 9 km from Caltech. In July
167 2013, the former JPL instrument was moved outside the SoCAB 95 km away to Arm-
168 strong Flight Research Center (AFRC) (34.960° N, 117.881° W, 700 m a.s.l.). This in-
169 strument has remained at AFRC since July 2013 [Iraci et al., 2014]. Retrievals from the
170 measurements at all three sites use the GGG2014 algorithm [Wunch et al., 2015].

171 **2.2 The Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 (OCO-2), ACOS version 7r**

172 The OCO-2 satellite launched in 2014 [Eldering et al., 2016]. Data from routine
173 measurements are available from September 2014 onward. OCO-2 X_{CO_2} measurements
174 are tied to TCCON measurements [Wunch et al., 2016b], which are in turn tied to the
175 World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standards [Wunch et al., 2010]. The OCO-2
176 observations are tied to the TCCON by scaling observations at all sites across the globe
177 rather than just the nearest ground site, thus OCO-2 provides a separate and distinct set
178 of X_{CO_2} from the TCCON that agrees on average globally. For this study we used data
179 from the NASA Atmospheric CO₂ Observations from Space (ACOS) version 7r algorithm
180 [Crisp et al., 2012; O’Dell et al., 2012]. OCO-2 measures X_{CO_2} globally at a resolution
181 of about 1.3 km × 2.25 km, across 8 longitudinal pixels. It is in a sun-synchronous orbit
182 and has an equatorial crossing time of around 1 pm local solar time. Worden et al. [2016]
183 found typical land measurement precision (1σ) and accuracy to be 0.75 ppm and 0.65 ppm
184 with the caveat that the precision estimate includes effects of synoptic variability. We de-
185 scribe the filtering of OCO-2 data and ‘background’ selection in Appendix A.

186 **2.3 GOSAT-ACOS version 7.3**

187 The Greenhouse gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT) was developed by the Japan
188 Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and measures thermal and near IR spectra from
189 which X_{CO_2} and X_{CH_4} can be retrieved [Kuze et al., 2016]. GOSAT footprints are ~ 10.5 km
190 in diameter [Kuze et al., 2009]. The ACOS algorithm used for X_{CO_2} retrievals from OCO-
191 2 has also been used to retrieve X_{CO_2} from GOSAT measurements. As of 2016, the latest
192 version is 7.3 and uses the V201 radiance spectra [Kuze et al., 2016]. Data from April
193 2009 through May 2016 were used in this study.

figures/diurnal_hestia_v1.pdf

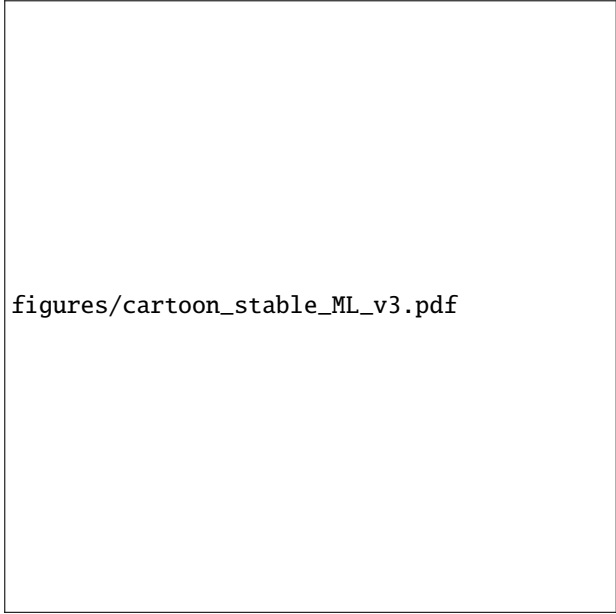
195 **Figure 2.** Time variation of Hestia-LA v1.0 fossil fuel emissions over the time period of this study (Jan–
196 Apr 2015). Top: Average daily or hourly emissions compared to yearly average. Dots are daily averages
197 centered on local noon. Higher emissions are shown for weekdays compared to weekends. Bottom: Aver-
198 age diurnal profile of emissions compared to yearly average. On the right axis is the normalized temporal
199 contribution of air parcels passing through the ML in the SoCAB to measurements at 1300 (UTC-8).

194 **2.4 WRF Model with Hestia-LA**

200 Hestia-LA estimates FFCO₂ emissions at the scale of buildings and street segments
201 for the five counties associated with the SoCAB region [Gurney et al., 2012]. The version
202 1.0 data product generated estimates for the 2010–2012 time period, and was used in this
203 study. (Version 2.0 is now available upon request to kevin.gurney@asu.edu. Version 2.0
204 covers the 2010–2015 time period). Hestia-LA is resolved temporally to the hourly scale,
205 accounting for diurnal, weekly, and monthly differences. The average weekday to weekend
206 emission ratio is ~ 1.23 (Fig. 2) for the Hestia-LA product and dates used in this study.
207 The version of Hestia used in this simulation does not include CO₂ emissions from non-
208 fossil fuel sectors, which are estimated to be 19 % of California’s total CO₂ emissions
209 [Hanemann et al., 2008].

210 Hestia-LA was coupled with a 50 layer, 1.3 km \times 1.3 km WRF simulation described
211 in more detail by Feng et al. [2016]. The function of the WRF model is to simulate the
212 atmospheric transport. This simulation was run for the January–April 2015 time period us-
213 ing unscaled emissions from 2012 that were shifted by a few days to maintain the correct
214 day of week. This WRF model has an extent of 228 \times 228 grid boxes over and around the
215 SoCAB. For the March–April time period, we also explored simulations that have uniform
216 emissions across the full WRF domain (see Fig. 1a by Feng et al. [2016]). This model
217 provided two simulated X_{CO₂} fields, 1) from Hestia FF emissions and 2) from uniform
218 emissions.

219 To compare the WRF results with measured data, we use the WRF grid box with a
220 center point nearest the measurement site. The center coordinates for the Caltech box are



figures/cartoon_stable_ML_v3.pdf

225 **Figure 3.** A cartoon visualization of the simple ‘toy’ model which has 2 above ground layers (the ML, and
226 everything above the ML). The average ML height is flat with pressure in the model. The text labels show
227 various pressures and average CO₂ mixing ratios. At the bottom are column abundances and their differences
228 at the Caltech and JPL sites. Values in red for the afternoon are for the case when excess CO₂ is mixed into a
229 deeper layer.

221 34.134°N, 118.123°W, 212 m a.s.l. The center coordinates for the JPL box are 34.199°N,
222 118.172°W, 376 m a.s.l. The center coordinates for the AFRC box are 34.960°N, 117.879°W,
223 688 m a.s.l.

224 2.5 Simple CO₂ model

230 In addition to the full physics WRF simulations, we consider a simple ‘toy’ model
231 to estimate X_{CO₂} gradients due to topography. It was constructed for only one purpose,
232 namely to answer: How much of a difference in X_{CO₂} is there between Caltech and JPL if
233 at any moment in time the CO₂ mixing ratio is uniform throughout the ML, and the ML
234 height (a.s.l.) is the same at both locations? It does not provide a full description of the
235 atmosphere, and a more detailed description is in the Supporting Information [McKain
236 et al., 2012; Ware et al., 2016; Newman et al., 2013; Verhulst et al., 2016; Hersey et al.,
237 2013] . This model provides a third and final source of simulated X_{CO₂}.

238 In this model, we assume CO₂ is uniform both horizontally and vertically in the
239 ML. The ML height is set to vary diurnally with a Gaussian shape each day. We also in-
240 clude an independent diurnal change in the ML CO₂ mixing ratio driven primarily from
241 dilution by free tropospheric air and uptake by the biosphere [Newman et al., 2013] that
242 varies with time of year. The range of the model ML CO₂ enhancement values above
243 that in the free troposphere are in line with those seen at urban LA sites [Verhulst et al.,
244 2016]. Free tropospheric CO₂ levels are obtained using the TCCON a priori profiles. The
245 model was run over the years 2011–2015.


246 In this model, the difference in X_{CO₂} between Caltech and JPL is due solely to dif-
247 ferences in the terrain height. The total column abundances over higher altitude terrain
248 contain a smaller fraction of the ML relative to the entire column, and thus we expect
249 X_{CO₂} to decrease with increasing surface altitude. A basic cartoon of the model relating
250 Caltech and JPL X_{CO₂} at different times of the day is shown in Fig. 3.

251 **3 Temporal variations and persistent enhancements**

252 **3.1 Diurnal variation**

257 Wunch et al. [2009] noted significant diurnal variations in X_{CO₂}, X_{CH₄}, and X_{CO}
258 measured at the JPL TCCON site. Though we focus on X_{CO₂}, we include other gases
259 for reference. The diurnal variations for all these gases are highly correlated due to the
260 advection within the basin. In Fig. 4 are example diurnal profiles, which show larger di-
261 urnal variations and larger DMFs at Caltech than at other sites. Chen et al. [2016] have
262 also made column DMF observations around Pasadena using EM27/SUN spectrometers
263 and noted similar features in the diurnal profiles. The average diurnal difference between
264 sites is shown in Fig. 5. We assume, as did Wunch et al. [2009], that the differences in
265 X_{CO₂} between sites are caused by enhancements near the surface, and so the differences
266 have been divided by the surface averaging kernels of the measurements. For Fig. 5 these
267 data were filtered as described in Appendix B to show only ‘typical’ differences. These
268 datasets do not necessarily cover the same time periods.

276 There are several possible mechanisms that drive these diurnal patterns. JPL is an
277 area with more vegetation than Caltech and so some of the higher X_{CO₂} difference in the
278 mornings compared to afternoons is likely due to respiration from the biosphere at night
279 [Djuricin et al., 2010; Newman et al., 2013]. The difference in X_{CO₂} compared with the



figures/example_TCCON_v3.pdf

253 **Figure 4.** Example diurnal profiles of TCCON observations. Variations in column DMFs of different gases
254 at the Caltech site are correlated. DMFs tend to be largest at Caltech. Caltech and JPL variations are similar.
255 AFRC variations throughout the day are smaller and primarily from synoptic scale variability. In Fig. 5 are
256 differences between sites.

280 AFRC site can be attributed to a growth of the ML until midday, after which the ML
281 height decreases and the difference returns to morning levels. The X_{CH_4} difference in Fig.
282 5 between Caltech and JPL is similar to the Caltech-AFRC difference in the morning.
283 This feature could be from air with high methane loading being advected from the Cali-
284 fornia San Joaquin Valley, where there is high agricultural activity, to the AFRC site. Typ-
285 ically X_{CO_2} , X_{CH_4} , and X_{CO} are enhanced at Caltech relative to AFRC and JPL. Enhance-
286 ments compared to AFRC can be attributed to polluted air being trapped in the basin. An

figures/diurnal_Xgas_variation_v9.pdf

269 **Figure 5.** Diurnal differences in X_{gas} between sites from measured and modeled data over their respective
 270 time series. TCCON observations were filtered as described in Appendix B to give ‘typical’ diurnal profiles.
 271 T=TCCON, W=WRF+Hestia-LA, s=simple model (Fig. 3), C-J=Caltech-JPL difference, C-A=Caltech-
 272 AFRC difference. Error bars (1σ) are shown for the TCCON differences, but are omitted from model values
 273 for clarity. Top panel: X_{CO_2} differences. TCCON $\sigma_{\text{C-J}} = 0.7$ ppm, $\sigma_{\text{C-A}} = 1.3$ ppm. WRF $\sigma_{\text{C-J}} = 0.5$ ppm,
 274 $\sigma_{\text{C-A}} = 1.0$ ppm. Simple model $\sigma_{\text{C-J}} = 0.1$ ppm, $\sigma_{\text{C-A}} = 0.2$ ppm. Center panel: X_{CH_4} differences. TCCON
 275 $\sigma_{\text{C-J}} = 3.8$ ppb, $\sigma_{\text{C-A}} = 8.7$ ppb. Bottom panel: X_{CO} differences. TCCON $\sigma_{\text{C-J}} = 3.4$ ppb, $\sigma_{\text{C-A}} = 7.8$ ppb.

287 increase in the ML height above Caltech may cause the difference compared to AFRC to
 288 1) increase if polluted air flows horizontally to fill the rising ML, 2) decrease if the ML
 289 increases enough for polluted air to flow out of the basin over the mountains, or 3) stay
 290 the same if the polluted air is simply mixed vertically into a deeper ML.

291 Interestingly, differences between Caltech and JPL are at certain times of the day
 292 about as large as the differences between Caltech and AFRC, despite the JPL site also
 293 being within the basin and its proximity to Caltech. Over their full time-series, the en-
 294 hancement compared to JPL is about one-third of that compared with AFRC. The en-
 295 hancement relative to AFRC can be ascribed to the proximity of sources and to polluted
 296 air being trapped within the basin. However, this enhancement compared to AFRC can
 297 vary depending on the origins of the air masses which changes throughout the year [Ver-
 298 hulst et al., 2016]. This can also affect the intra-basin enhancements—ML air masses



309 **Figure 6.** An example of target mode data from 19 Sept (Caltech) and 21 Sept (AFRC) 2014 overlaid on
310 the MODIS image from 21 Sept 2014. These data were averaged into $0.01 \times 0.01^\circ$ bins.

299 less enhanced in CO_2 will lead to smaller horizontal gradients in X_{CO_2} . We examine the
300 Caltech–AFRC difference in the next section. We explore reasons for the differences be-
301 tween Caltech and JPL in Sect. 4.

302 **3.2 Full time-series**

303 Here we focus on quantifying the X_{CO_2} enhancement in the SoCAB relative to back-
304 ground. We use observations at approximately 1300 (UTC-8) when the ML height is gen-
305 erally stable and well-developed, and the error due to the ML height determination in the
306 WRF model is at a minimum [Feng et al., 2016]. This is also the approximate time OCO-
307 2 makes observations within the SoCAB on some days. An example of OCO-2 target data
308 of the Caltech and AFRC sites is shown in Fig. 6.

311 Data from different sites and datasets were first averaged into 1 week time bins,
312 before calculating differences. Because we assume most of the difference between loca-
313 tions inside and outside the basin are near the surface, we divide the TCCON and OCO-2
314 datasets by their surface averaging kernels from measurements within the basin. For OCO-
315 2 non-target mode SoCAB data, any point within 60 km is used for comparison. For times

figures/innout_basin_diffs_timeseries_v10.pdf


320 **Figure 7.** Timeseries of differences between data at different locations. T=TCCON, W=WRF, O=OCO-2,
321 G=GOSAT, C=Caltech, A=AFRC, J=JPL, S=SoCAB, B=background. OCO-2 and GOSAT points are sized
322 according to distance from Caltech, with points further away represented by smaller dots. Wind vectors in the
323 bottom panel point to the direction the wind at 500 m a.s.l. originated from at 50 km from Caltech.

316 when OCO-2 targeted the Caltech site and obtained many nearby observations, we only
317 use data within 5 km of Caltech. This approach yields a similar number of observations
318 for target and non-target overpasses; if all target observations were used the basin average
319 enhancement is larger.

324 The Caltech-AFRC and Caltech-JPL differences with time in the TCCON X_{CO_2} are
325 shown in Fig. 7. In general, X_{CO_2} measured at Caltech is greater than at JPL or AFRC.
326 In late spring 2014, and winters 2015, 2016 there are lower enhancements of X_{CO_2} than

327 at other times of year observed in the TCCON data. As noted in previous studies, the air
328 trajectories to Caltech vary with season [Newman et al., 2016; Verhulst et al., 2016] and
329 this likely contributes to the variability with more efficient ventilation of the basin during
330 times of lower enhancements. The X_{gas} variability is weaker in the X_{CO} and X_{CH_4} data.
331 The WRF data match in 2015, but the model time period is too short to observe the an-
332 nual variability. The changes in X_{CH_4} , X_{CO} , $X_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$, and wind trajectories indicate part of
333 the X_{CO_2} fluctuations are due to atmospheric transport. Some of the X_{CO_2} variability is
334 likely due to the biosphere of the SoCAB. Because of landscaping, there is significantly
335 more vegetation within the SoCAB than at AFRC, and artificial irrigation may affect CO_2
336 seasonality [Newman et al., 2016]. Newman et al. [2013] calculated that, at the surface,
337 50 % of excess CO_2 in Pasadena at night is from soil and plant respiration, which is pre-
338 sumably balanced throughout the year by uptake during the daytime. Because there are
339 co-incident observations for Caltech and JPL for only ~6 months, this limits our under-
340 standing of the intra- SoCAB difference. The Caltech–JPL difference has a profile that
341 peaks in spring, with lower enhancements in the early and mid-year. This behavior could
342 arise from air masses originating from the desert in winter, and higher ML heights in
343 summer which could decrease the ML to free troposphere gradients and hence the spatial
344 X_{CO_2} differences.

345 If observations are concentrated at one location, they may not match basin-wide
346 variations both in magnitude and in variation. Thus, in Fig. 8 we plot correction coef-
347 ficients for variations in X_{CO_2} between single grid points and the average X_{CO_2} for the
348 SoCAB as a whole using the WRF simulations. These variations are for 1300 (UTC-
349 8), and X_{CO_2} at the AFRC site has been subtracted as background. Locations towards
350 the center of the basin and towards the southeast are most correlated with the basin as
351 a whole. However, the largest X_{CO_2} enhancements are observed more towards the west;
352 the western part of the basin is also where the majority of oil and gas exploration oc-
353 curs. Typical X_{CO_2} values are $3\times$ as large as the basin average just north of the Palos
354 Verdes Peninsula ($\sim 33.9^\circ\text{N}$, 118.2°W) where GOSAT frequently made observations dur-
355 ing 2009–2010. Towards the central and eastern ends of the basin, the magnitude of the
356 ratio $X_{\text{CO}_2,\text{local}}:X_{\text{CO}_2,\text{SoCAB}}$ depends on the terrain, with larger ratios (or scaling factors)
357 where the surface altitude is lower. To track small changes in X_{CO_2} enhancements that are
358 related to changes in emissions requires the enhancements to be larger than the measure-
359 ment sounding uncertainty and to correlate with the region emissions as a whole.



figures/basin_scale_map_v2.pdf

360 **Figure 8.** Comparisons between individual pixels and basin averaged fossil fuel X_{CO_2} from the simulated
 361 WRF data at 1300 (UTC-8). Shown are averages across all days. (a) Correlation coefficients between pixels
 362 and the basin average tend to be closer to 1 towards the east central part of the basin. (b) Scaling factors of
 363 basin compared to individual points. Points near the Palos Verde Peninsula are 3.5 \times as large as the SoCAB on
 364 average. Points near Caltech are 2.3 \times as large as the SoCAB average.

365 3.3 Persistent enhancements

366 GOSAT-ACOS v2.9 level 2 X_{CO_2} data within the basin have a robust $3.2 \pm 1.5 (1\sigma)$ ppm
 367 ($n = 34$), enhancement compared to the X_{CO_2} observed over the desert from June 2009
 368 to August 2010 [Kort et al., 2012]. Results were similar for other studies using GOSAT
 369 observations ($2.75 \pm 2.86 (1\sigma)$ ppm, $n = 8$) [Janardanan et al., 2016]. Kort et al. [2012] es-
 370 timated a 0.7 ppm change in X_{CO_2} (22% of emissions) could be detected using GOSAT
 371 observations on a yearly time-scale. We repeat the analysis using the GOSAT-ACOS v7.3
 372 data, and average weekly rather than in 10-day blocks. Over the same time we note a sim-
 373 ilar enhancement of $2.9 \pm 2.0 (1\sigma)$ ppm. When we also include similar latitudinal ocean
 374 observations as background with a 21-day adjustment to better match the AFRC TCCON
 375 data, the enhancement is $2.3 \pm 1.8 (1\sigma)$ ppm. Over the full June 2009–May 2016 time pe-
 376 riod the SoCAB enhancement determined by GOSAT observations is $2.4 \pm 1.6 (1\sigma)$ ppm
 377 ($n = 118$). Enhancements observed by the OCO-2 satellite are similar at $2.4 \pm 1.5 (1\sigma)$ ppm
 378 ($n = 26$).

379 Average differences from weekly averaged TCCON data are shown in Table 1. We
 380 emphasize that the Caltech–JPL X_{CO_2} difference is a significant fraction ($\sim 40\%$) of the

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Table 1. TCCON X_{gas} differences.

Caltech–AFRC ^a	Difference	1σ
X_{CO_2} (ppm)	2.3	1.2
X_{CH_4} (ppb)	17	8
X_{CO} (ppb)	19	7
Caltech–JPL ^b	Difference	1σ
X_{CO_2} (ppm)	0.9	0.6
X_{CH_4} (ppb)	6	3
X_{CO} (ppb)	0.6	3.5

Differences in X_{gas} observed using weekly averaged TCCON data at 1300 (UTC-8) \pm 1 hr. ^a From August 2013–June 2016 ($n = 128$). ^b From January 2013–June 2013 ($n = 22$).

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Caltech–AFRC difference. It should also be noted that site-to-site biases on order of 0.1–0.2 ppm may exist among TCCON sites which could bias these enhancements [Hedelius et al., 2017]. The CARB reported CO emissions of 0.91 Gg CO yr⁻¹ for 2012 (<https://www.arb.ca.gov/app/emsinv/2013/en>) and 160 Gg CO₂ yr⁻¹ after scaling state emissions by 0.42 for the population only in the SoCAB (<https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/data/data.htm>). The inventory estimated CO:CO₂ emission ratio is 9.0 (ppb ppm⁻¹). Observed ratios are 8.3 and 0.7 (ppb ppm⁻¹) for the Caltech-AFRC and Caltech-JPL differences respectively. The Caltech-AFRC is in agreement with the inventory ratio, and the ratio of 11 (ppb ppm⁻¹) from Wunch et al. [2009]. The CO enhancements for Caltech-JPL are lower than expected for reasons not fully understood.

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4 Spatial SoCAB variations

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In this section we seek to answer: what causes X_{CO_2} variability on the scale of a few km in the SoCAB as noted from Sect. 3? This increased variation can also be seen in OCO-2 data, with a median standard deviation of 1.04 (90% CI: 0.60, 1.71) ppm for points within 9 km, compared with 0.68 (90% CI: 0.48, 1.70) ppm for the desert. We focus on emissions, dynamics, and topography to explain this variability. For example, the enhancement at Caltech relative to the nearby JPL site may be due to a combination of emission source locations and dynamics, we consider these effects separately in Sect. 4.1

and 4.2. Caltech is closer to downtown Los Angeles and polluted plumes of air may not reach JPL before being advected eastward. In Sect. 4.3 we consider the impact of topography on X_{gas} in areas where the in situ DMF in the ML differs significantly from the rest of the column. A discussion of average surface CO_2 and the relationship with general wind patterns and topography is available from Feng et al. [2016] (Sect. 4 therein).

4.1 Local emissions and X_{CO_2} variance

The relationship between nearby Hestia FF emissions and simulated X_{CO_2} from the WRF dataset is analyzed. For each grid box in the WRF model output we calculate Pearson's r correlation coefficient between the simulated X_{CO_2} product generated by advecting Hestia emissions and the raw Hestia v1.0 emissions themselves for the set of spatially close points. The radii defining the small area of spatially close points are varied from 1.3 km to 30 km. We compute the average value of r at 1300 (UTC-8). We use r as an indicator of correlation because 1) it is unaffected by scaling factors—for example, it would not change if all emissions were doubled—and 2) is unaffected by a constant offset, eliminating the need for a background value. If point source emissions were constant at all times and there were no wind and diffusion (i.e., no transfer of CO_2 between boxes), it would be expected that the surface flux into each box would explain all variance among boxes and $r(X_{\text{CO}_2}, \text{FF}) = 1$. In the data, we note only a weak r . The largest values (~ 0.18) are for areas with a radius < 4 km and minimum FF emission gradients of at least $1 \text{ g CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ hr}^{-1}$. This suggests that the size of emission sources in each box by itself is only a weak predictor of X_{CO_2} variance.

4.2 Dynamical influences on X_{CO_2} variability

To estimate the impact of dynamics on the variation of X_{CO_2} within the basin, we analyze simulations performed with geographically uniform fluxes over the full WRF domain driven by the same dynamics as the simulations using Hestia-LA v1.0. We compare with the advected Hestia-LA v1.0 product, which is taken as ‘truth’ and denoted X_{CO_2} . If polluted air accumulates in the ML in the same locations due to meteorology without regards to the locations of emission sources, we would expect $r(X_{\text{CO}_2}, X_{\text{CO}_2, \text{uniform}}) = 1$.

We observe no significant correlation between these products on scales of 1.3 km to 30 km across the basin (r values, Md : -0.045 , 90% CI: $-0.250, 0.161$). There was

435 also no significant correlation for the points north of, and within 9 km of Caltech (Md :
436 -0.009 , 90% CI: $-0.766, 0.712$). In Fig. 9 are maps of the average X_{CO_2} and surface CO_2
437 for the uniform emissions case. (For the uniform emissions case we use arbitrary units
438 which should not matter so long as there is no numerical diffusion in the model.) Over
439 the ocean, X_{CO_2} is enhanced due to high CO_2 above the ML from return winds aloft (see
440 SI Fig. S5). Because emissions were uniform over the entire domain, this air with en-
441 hanced CO_2 from the desert region also contributes to the larger X_{CO_2} values seen over
442 the ocean. If the surface CO_2 is taken as a first order approximation of how X_{CO_2} would
443 behave without emissions from the desert, we see that enhanced CO_2 is seen in the east-
444 ern parts of the SoCAB. However, the finer features that relate with topography in Fig. 10
445 are not seen in Fig. 9.

446 Dynamics alone cannot explain a significant fraction of the difference observed
447 between the Caltech and JPL sites. An extension of this test we did not try would be
448 to include uniform emissions only within the geographical SoCAB boundaries and see
449 how they relate when compared with the Hestia run. The distribution of emission sources
450 needs to be considered concurrently with dynamics to explain X_{CO_2} variations in the So-
451 CAB.

452 **4.3 Terrain effects**

458 To the extent that the same excess CO_2 is simply mixed into a deeper ML, column
459 measurements are insensitive to ML height [Yang et al., 2007]. For areas with ML DMFs
460 that are enhanced compared to free tropospheric levels, this causes in situ DMFs within
461 the ML to drop and become closer to free tropospheric levels as the ML height increases
462 [McKain et al., 2012; Newman et al., 2013]. However, if the fractional change in ML
463 height is different between sites the column difference will also change. This is consid-
464 ered in the ‘toy’ model (Fig. 3). Note that Fig. 3 also provides a numerical example of
465 this concept. Going from morning to afternoon requires a horizontal flow of CO_2 from
466 Caltech to JPL. If the surface were at a uniform altitude the Δ between Caltech and JPL
467 would be zero.

468 Differences in the ML height above ground level explain part of the variation in
469 X_{CO_2} between Caltech and JPL. Part of the remaining discrepancy is because $\langle CO_2 \rangle_{ML}$
470 (where bracket notation indicates the average here) is not the same at both locations. This

471 model further assumes that the ML height is at the same pressure height p_{ML} at both lo-
 472 cations. This assumption is better inland than closer to the coast—for example Ware et al.
 473 [2016] noted a sharp transition in ML height between the shallow marine layer (about 2–
 474 3 km onto land) and the convective regime further inland. Though the ML may fluctuate
 475 by a few hundred meters over a distance of several kilometers due to updrafts [Nielsen-
 476 Gammon et al., 2008], these are averaged out with downdrafts over an hour or so. Over
 477 smaller areas, average variations in the ML height pressure are smoother than changes
 478 in surface pressure as noted by streamlines over topographic features [Perry and Snyder,
 479 2017]. Maps of the average surface pressure p_s and ML X_{CO_2} are shown in Fig. 10. Over
 480 small areas $\sim 0.1^\circ$ many features are reflected in the average ML X_{CO_2} at 1300 (UTC-8).

481 X_{CO_2} (c) can be calculated by considering the weighting of the ML and rest of the
 482 column separately:

$$c = \frac{p_s - p_{ML}}{p_s} \langle CO_2 \rangle_{ML} + \frac{p_{ML}}{p_s} \langle CO_2 \rangle_{aboveML} \quad (2)$$

483 where $\langle CO_2 \rangle_{aboveML}$ is the average CO_2 DMF from the top of the ML to the top of the
 484 atmosphere. Equation 2 can be rewritten as:

$$c = \langle CO_2 \rangle_{ML} + \frac{p_{ML}}{p_s} (\langle CO_2 \rangle_{aboveML} - \langle CO_2 \rangle_{ML}). \quad (3)$$

485 If the above assumptions were perfect, then all variation in X_{gas} between locations would
 486 be linearly related with p_s^{-1} . If $\langle CO_2 \rangle_{ML} > \langle CO_2 \rangle_{aboveML}$ then the correlation is negative.

487 We evaluate this relationship using r over small areas with the simulated FF X_{CO_2}
 488 from the WRF model. We choose 1300 (UTC-8) as the analysis time because it is local
 489 midday when the ML is more stable, and it corresponds to the approximate time of OCO-
 490 2 and GOSAT measurements. Figure 11 includes a map of $r(X_{CO_2}, p_s^{-1})$ for areas of radii
 491 9 km for 9 March 2015 and $\nabla p > 7$ hPa. In general, we note a strong negative relation-
 492 ship in areas within the SoCAB where the terrain changes rapidly. For example, $r < -0.5$
 493 towards south side of the San Gabriel Mountains ($\sim 34.2^\circ$ N) and around the Santa Ana
 494 Mountains at 33.7° N and 117.5° W. The relationship is weaker towards the peak of the
 495 San Gabriel range. Towards the base of the San Gabriel range on the northern side, we
 496 note a positive relationship in places. The increase in X_{CO_2} with the surface altitude may
 497 be from basin outflow, where further distances from the basin coincide with a decrease in
 498 altitude. We also note strong negative relationships towards the southern end of the Cali-
 499 fornia Central Valley (35° N and 119° W). The correlation coefficient r is highly variable
 500 across the Mojave desert surrounding the AFRC site.

We analyze the mean r in the SoCAB for different small area radii and different minimum pressure differences for four different months (Fig. 11). On average r is negative, with stronger correlations for smaller areas as well as over areas with larger pressure differences. Across the full basin for 9 km areas the median is -0.37 (90% CI: -0.52 , -0.15). The correlation becomes weaker in April as the temperature increases and the ML becomes less stable. For points north of (where terrain is steeper), and within 9 km of Caltech, the median for January to April is $r = -0.45$ ($\pm 1\sigma$ CI: -0.76 , -0.04). The median coefficient of determination (R^2) is thus 20 % ($\pm 1\sigma$ CI: 0 %, 58 %), suggesting about 20 % of the variance in X_{CO_2} between Caltech and JPL can be explained by changes in topography.

The toy model (Fig. 3) provides another measure for how much of the X_{CO_2} difference can be explained by differences in surface altitude. Based on the current parameterization of the simple model, the median ratio between model:measured values is 36 % ($\pm 1\sigma$ CI: 10%, 101%). A site-to-site TCCON bias of up to ± 0.2 ppm would make the median value 29–46 % [Hedelius et al., 2017]. Thus, approximately 36 % of the X_{CO_2} difference between Caltech and JPL can be attributed to differences in altitude using this simulation.

5 Conclusions

Observations of X_{CO_2} within the SoCAB are enhanced compared to the nearby Mojave Desert. This typical enhancement is due to the proximity of anthropogenic sources of CO_2 combined with the basin topography which can lead to the trapping of polluted air. Enhancements of X_{CO_2} within the SoCAB are 2.3 ± 1.2 (1σ) ppm based on the TCCON observations. OCO-2 v7r enhancements are similar (2.4 ± 1.5 (1σ) ppm). These are smaller than the 3.2 ± 1.5 (1σ) ppm derived from GOSAT observations by Kort et al. [2012], but is more in line with the 2.75 ± 2.86 (1σ) ppm results of Janardanan et al. [2016]. We also observed lower enhancements with GOSAT-ACOS v7.3 data (2.4 ± 1.6 (1σ) ppm) over a longer time period with a different seasonal sampling weighting. There is also seasonality in the TCCON data but it is not apparent in the GOSAT observations, which may be because air in Pasadena is more strongly influenced by seasonal wind patterns. All of the basin enhancements from different observation sets are within 1σ agreement.

539 There is significant X_{CO_2} variation within the SoCAB, even in locations less than
540 10 km apart. Between the Caltech and JPL TCCON sites, the difference is $0.9 \pm 0.6 (1\sigma)$ ppm,
541 which is a significant fraction ($\sim 40\%$) of the Caltech–AFRC difference. Both dynamics,
542 and the locations of sources need to be considered simultaneously to account for these
543 variations. Topography also appears to play a significant role in some locations in the
544 basin. Using the difference in X_{CO_2} between Caltech and JPL, we estimate 20% ($\pm 1\sigma$ CI:
545 0%, 58%) (from the WRF analysis, Sect. 4.3) to 36% ($\pm 1\sigma$ CI: 10%, 101%) (from our
546 simple climatology model) of the difference is explained by changes in topography alone.
547 Though other factors such as emissions and dynamics together explain more than half of
548 the difference, topography changes in the presence of a sharp gradient between the mixed
549 layer and free troposphere contribute significantly to the difference.

550 The importance of topography in driving variation in X_{CO_2} has implications beyond
551 the urban area studied here. Such influence is undoubtedly important in forested and agri-
552 cultural regions as well. Though previous papers have included comments on column
553 measurements having reduced sensitivity to the ML height, this sensitivity is not zero.
554 Thus, correctly parameterizing the ML is important in models using column measure-
555 ments. This is especially important for studies of fluxes within small areas using column
556 measurements (e.g. Chen et al. [2016]), as errors in the ML height can lead to significant
557 errors in the retrieved fluxes.

558 **A: OCO-2 Data, filtering and background**

559 Included in the OCO-2 dataset are two types of data quality filters—warn levels
560 (WLs) and a binary X_{CO_2} quality flag. WLs are derived using the Data Ordering Ge-
561 netic Optimization (DOGO) algorithm [Mandrake and Doran, 2015a]. Generally, WLs
562 increase as the data quality becomes less reliable. WLs are based on specific retrieval pa-
563 rameters such as surface roughness and the retrieved aerosol optical depth [Mandrake and
564 Doran, 2015b]. DOGO also assigns lone outliers to higher WLs [Mandrake and Doran,
565 2015a]. For our analysis we are primarily concerned with lone outliers on scales less than
566 ~ 10 km, which are not always flagged by higher WLs or the binary flag. When included
567 in an inversion, these types of outliers can significantly change flux estimates.

568 We create a custom filter based on small area analysis. Though this paper focuses
569 on determining reasons for X_{CO_2} variations over areas of similar size, the values that are

570 removed by this filter are significantly different from other values in the small area, even
571 though some true variance is expected. Our custom filter is based on analyzing areas of
572 radius < 8 km. We check for low and high outliers. Data are flagged if 1) the furthest
573 points are ≥ 0.7 ppm to the next nearest point or 2) the furthest points are ≥ 0.4 ppm away
574 with a z-score ≥ 2.58 (corresponding to a 99 % range). This filter removes an additional
575 1.3 % of data at $WL = 0$ and 3.8 % of data at $WL \leq 14$. Low outliers are 10–100 % more
576 frequent than high outliers. The ratio of high to low outliers is closer to one at lower
577 WLs.

578 For our analysis we also require ‘background’ measurements of X_{CO_2} . Kort et al.
579 [2012] used satellite observations made over the nearby rural desert when calculating the
580 SoCAB X_{CO_2} enhancement using observations collected by the GOSAT. This choice was
581 made because the desert is geographically close to the basin which minimizes sensitivity
582 to global or zonal observational bias. We use the TCCON observations at AFRC as back-
583 ground. We also considered ocean observations at similar latitude out to 179° W, but these
584 OCO-2 observations were shifted in time and biased low in comparison with the AFRC
585 TCCON data. While this bias may reflect real X_{CO_2} gradients due to atmospheric dynam-
586 ics, it may also result from bias between the OCO-2 data taken over land (in nadir and
587 glint modes) versus data taken over the ocean in glint mode only. The comparability of
588 the different modes is being evaluated [Wunch et al., 2016b].

589 **B: TCCON Data filtering**

590 For Fig. 5 we filtered the binned TCCON data based on what were considered atyp-
591 ical events following methodology similar to Wunch et al. [2009]. Days at Caltech with
592 changes in $X_{CO_2} > 6.5$ ppm, $X_{CH_4} > 40$ ppb or $X_{CO} > 30$ ppb were flagged as bad which
593 eliminated 53 of the original 1101 days with measurements from 1 Jan 2013 onward.
594 Atypical CO:CO₂ ratios > 20 ppb:ppm were flagged, which was 34 more days. We also
595 filtered for Santa Ana wind events, characterized by unusually low variations through-
596 out a day. Days with changes of $X_{CO_2} < 0.8$ ppm or $X_{CH_4} < 5$ ppb or $X_{CO} < 2.5$ ppb were
597 eliminated which was an additional 111 days. In total 18 % of the total days were flagged
598 by all filters. Of the 158 days with measurements at JPL, 37 were filtered by the Caltech
599 flags. JPL data were flagged similarly to Caltech, except low outlier flag limits were set at
600 75 % because we expect average enhancements to be less at JPL. This eliminated 20 more
601 days for a total of 101 comparison days between Caltech and JPL.

602 AFRC is considered a ‘background’ site and there are 514 comparison days with
603 Caltech that are not filtered by the Caltech flags (of 640 days through June 2016). Days
604 with changes of $X_{\text{CO}_2} > 2.0$ ppm or $X_{\text{CH}_4} > 23$ ppb or $X_{\text{CO}} > 15$ ppb were eliminated,
605 which was an additional 42 days, for a total of 472 comparison days between Caltech and
606 AFRC.

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616 TCCON data are available from the CDIAC, and will also be available through the
617 Caltech library archive by 2018 [Iraci et al., 2014; Wennberg et al., 2014b,a]. Model data
618 are available upon request.

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453 **Figure 10.** Averages from the WRF simulation at 1300 (UTC-8). (a) Average surface pressure and (b) the
 454 contribution of ML CO₂ to the total column. Over areas $\sim 0.1^\circ$ many features in the surface pressure map
 455 are reflected in the ML X_{CO₂}. This could arise from different fractional contributions of the ML to the total
 456 column (see Fig. 3). Small white diamonds shown are to highlight some areas where this can be seen more
 457 clearly.

501 **Figure 11.** Correlation coefficients relating X_{CO₂} and p_s^{-1} . Large negative correlations (red) indicate that
 502 increases in X_{CO₂} are highly correlated with lower surface heights. Left panel: Shown spatially for areas of
 503 radii 9.1 km (~ 7 WRF boxes). Data are from 9 March 2015, 1300 (UTC-8). Correlations are stronger over
 504 steeper terrain. Right panel: Correlation as functions of area radii and minimum pressure differences (rather
 505 than spatially). Shown are averages over the entire SoCAB for data from 1300 (UTC-8). The star marks
 506 the distance and ∇p between Caltech and JPL. Starting in the bottom right corners (large p gradient, small
 507 radius) the correlation is strong. Going up (larger radii) the correlation weakens. Going right to left (smaller
 508 minimum p gradient) the correlation also weakens.

figures/r_xco2_p1_map_monthly_v2.pdf

Figure 1.

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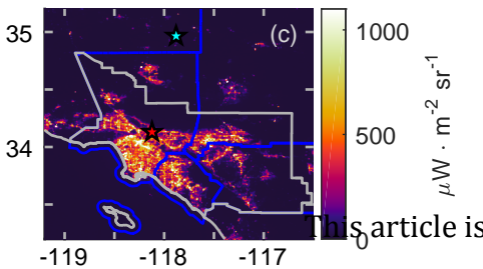
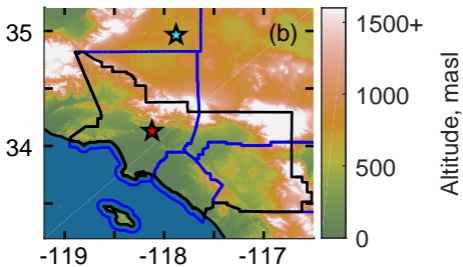
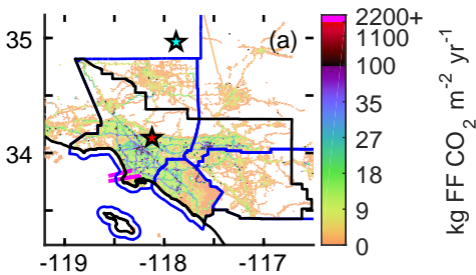
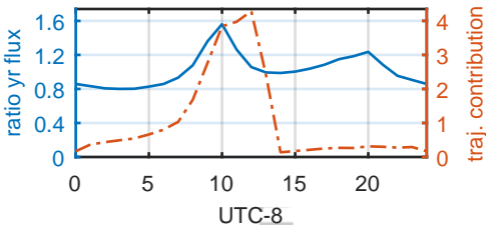
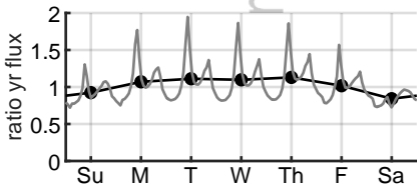


Figure 2.

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Figure 3.

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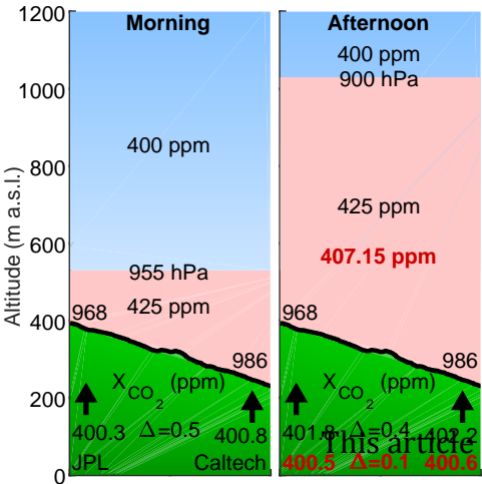
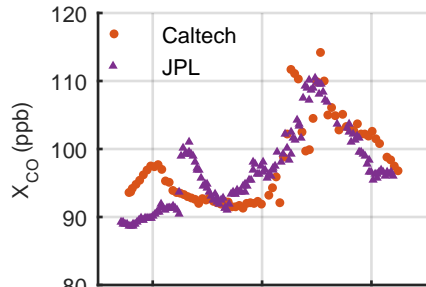
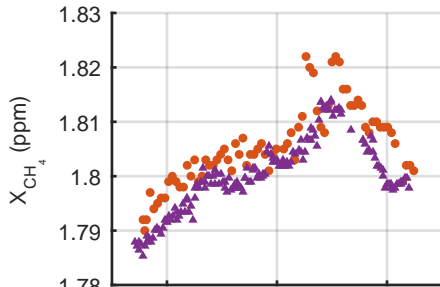
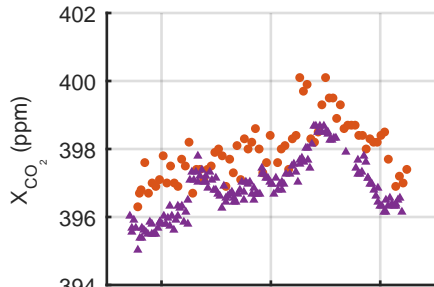


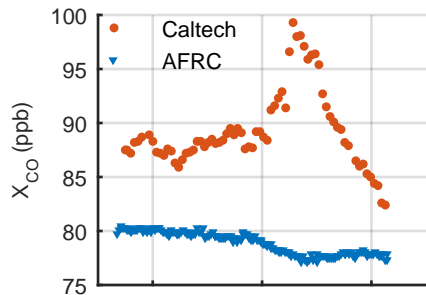
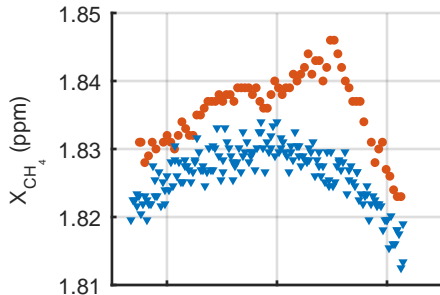
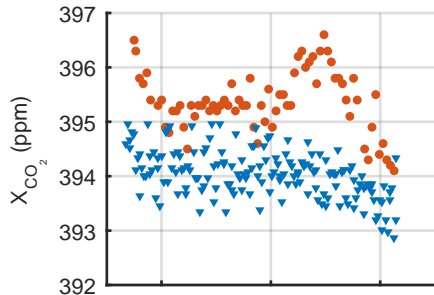
Figure 4.

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Figure 5.

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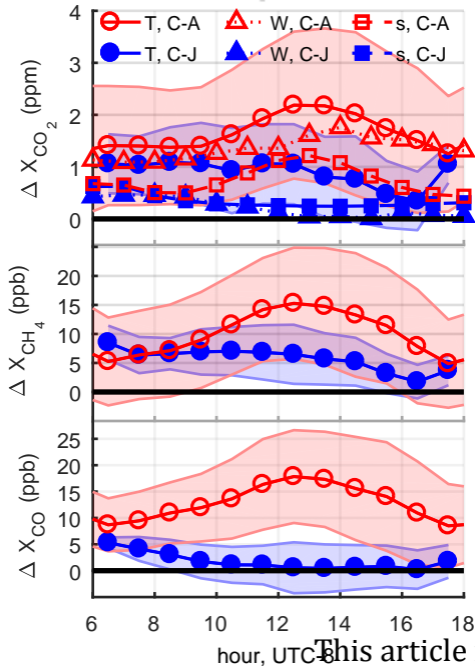


Figure 6.

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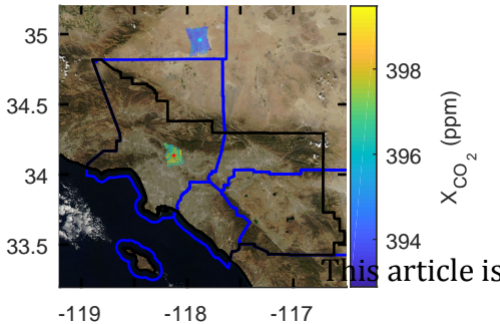


Figure 7.

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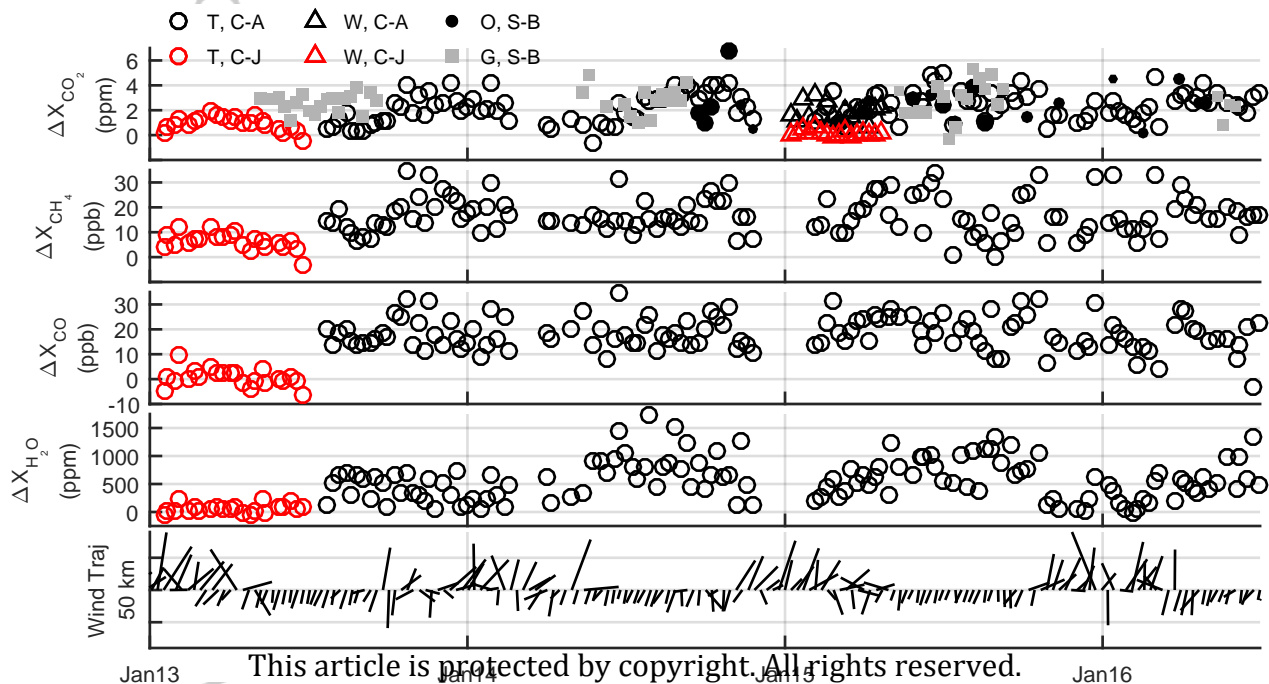


Figure 8.

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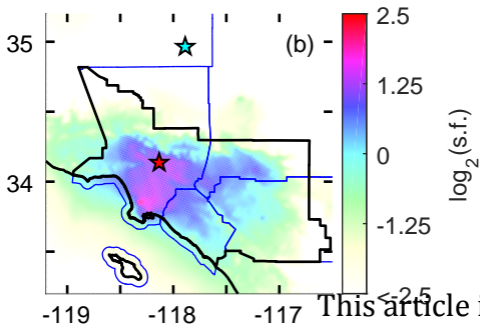
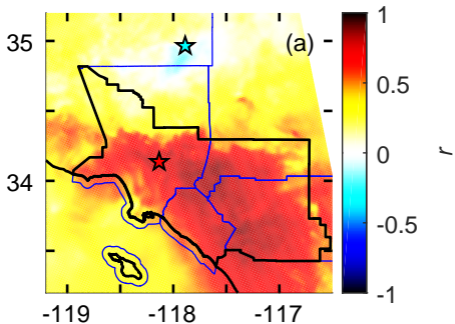


Figure 9.

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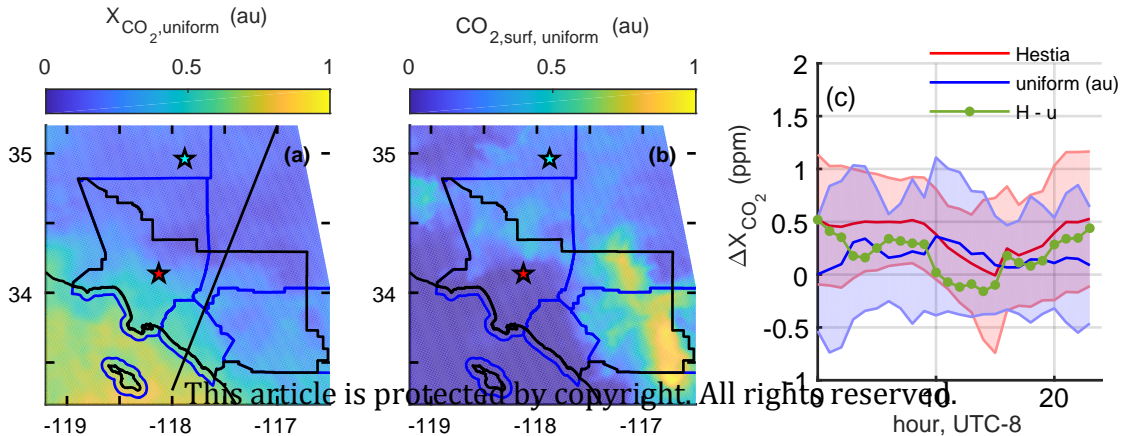


Figure 10.

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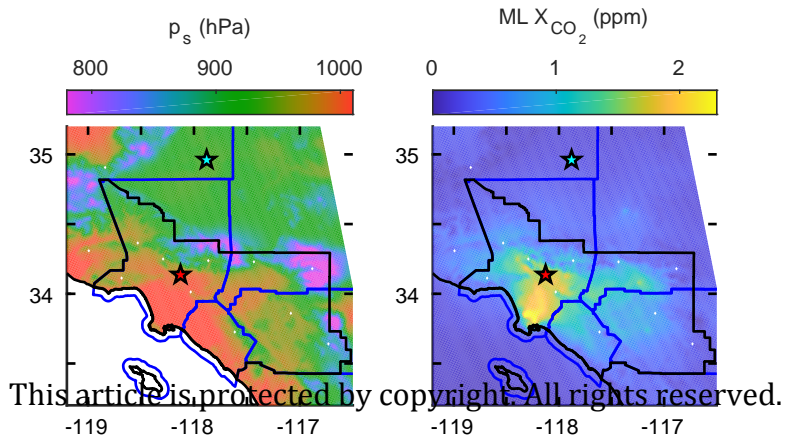
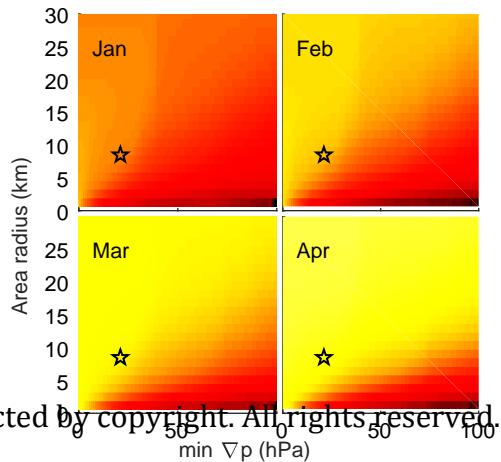
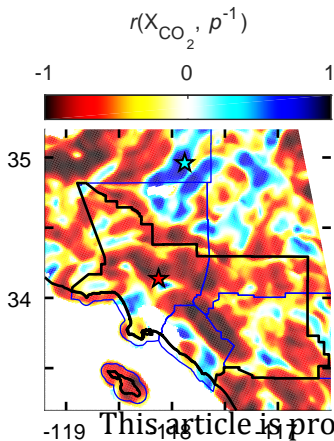
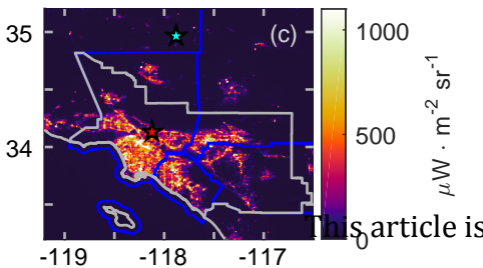
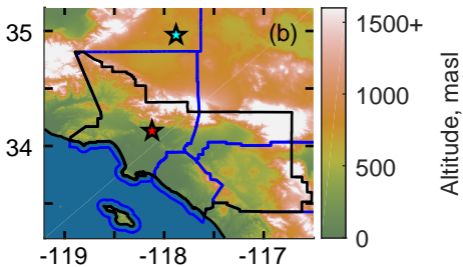
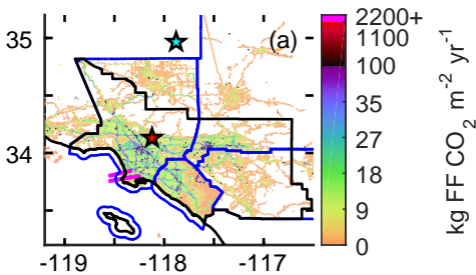


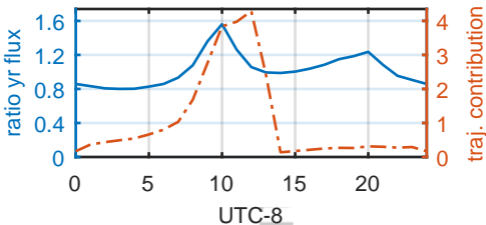
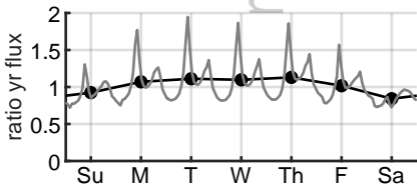
Figure 11.

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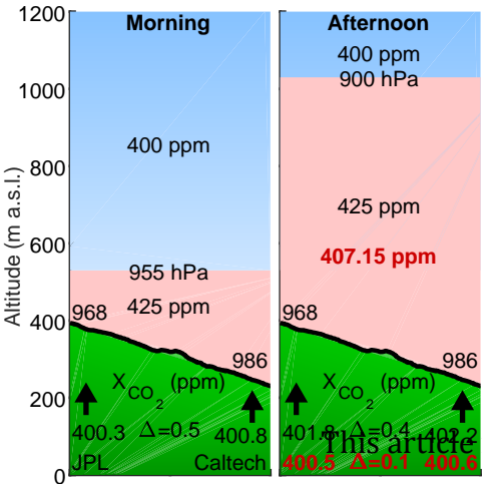


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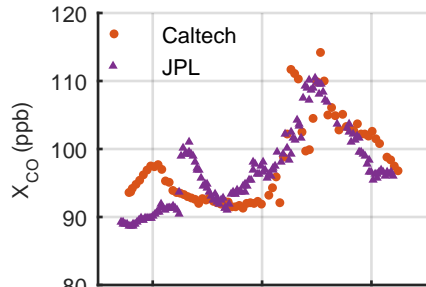
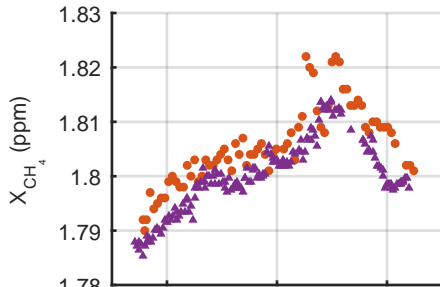
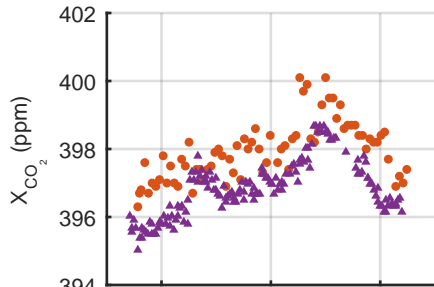




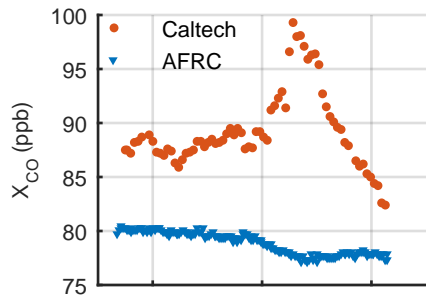
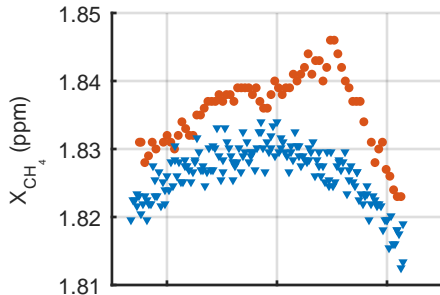
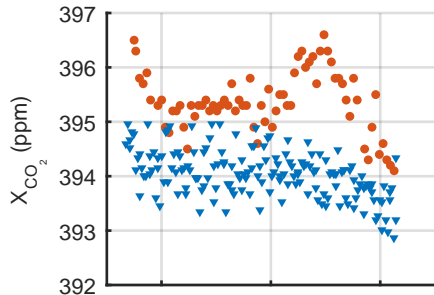
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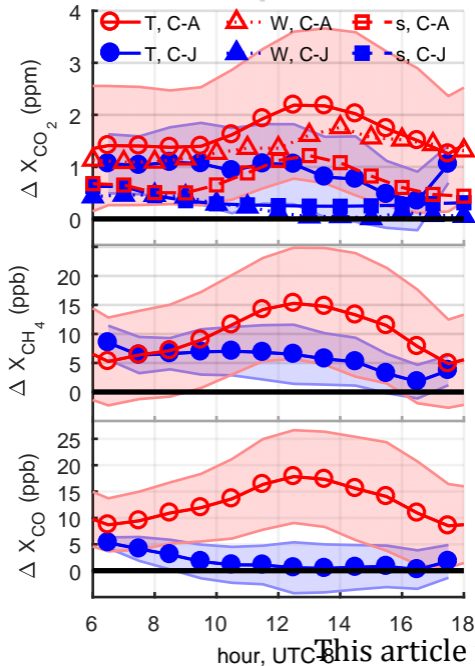
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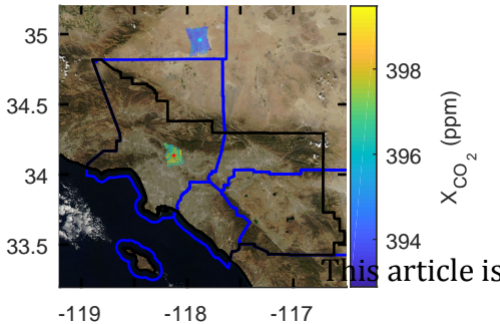


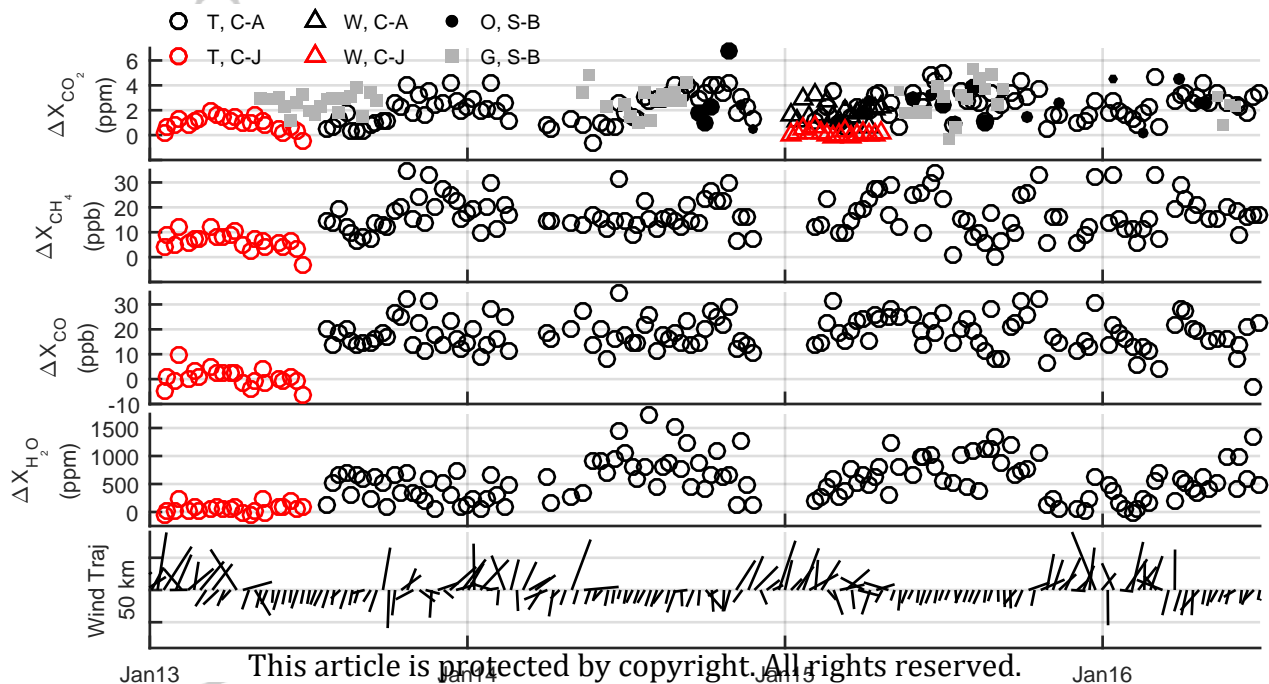
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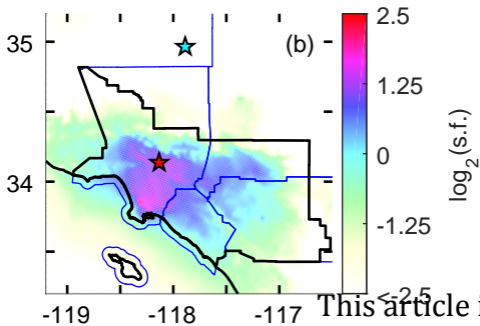
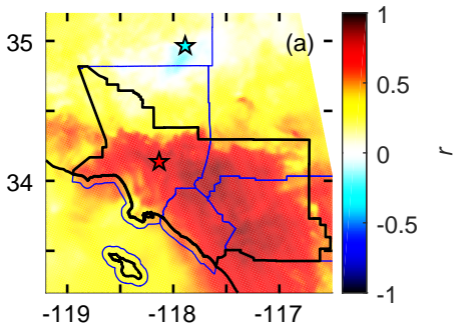


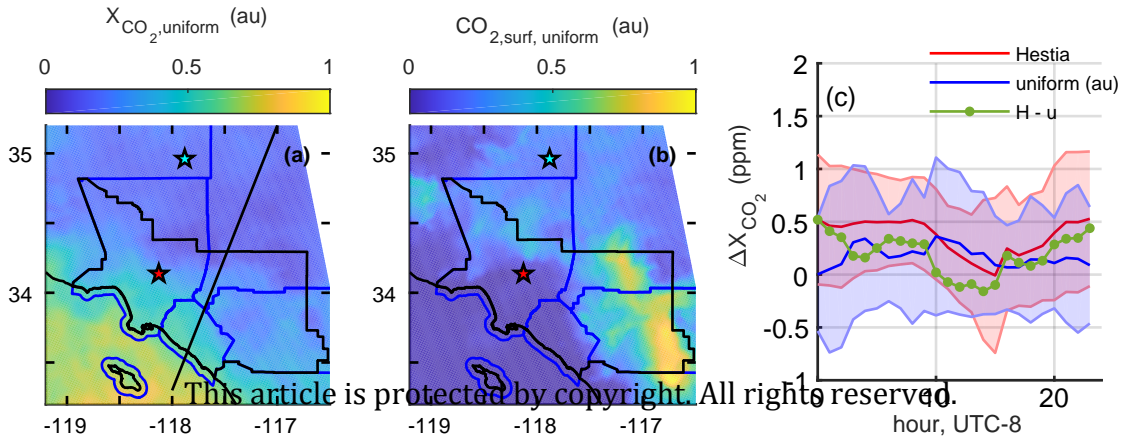
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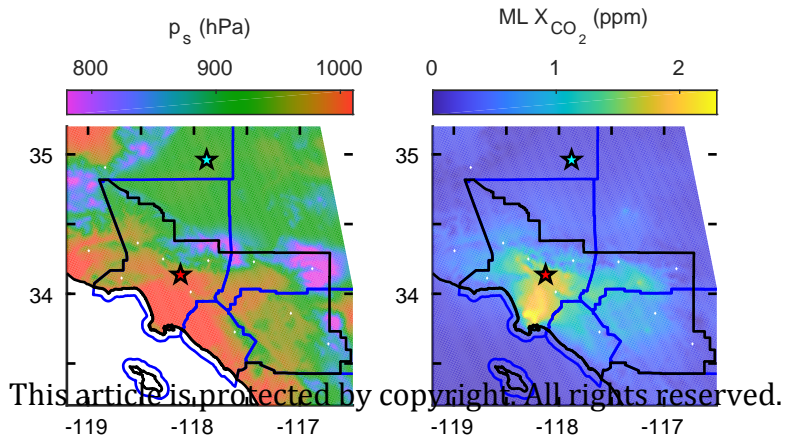


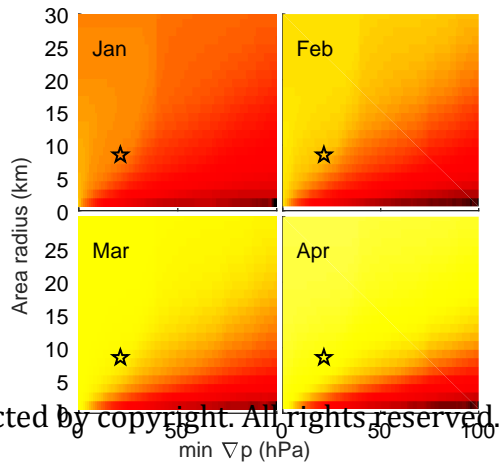
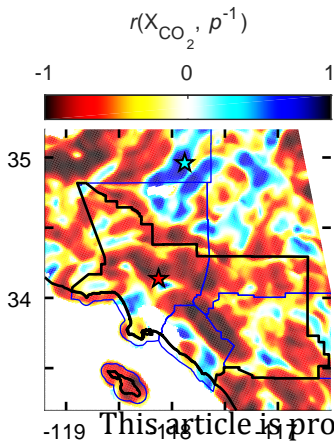












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