Towards isoprene measurements from CrIS: Gaining space-based information on key biogenic VOCs

Kelley Wells¹, Dylan Millet¹, Vivienne Payne², Dejian Fu²

¹University of Minnesota; ²JPL, Caltech

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Biogenic volatile organic compounds impact air quality and climate



Isoprene: highest emitted BVOC

- Short lifetime (~1 hr)
- Source of HCHO, O₃, SOA
- Key player in atmos oxidation and Nitrogen cycling

Methanol: most abundant BVOC

- 5-7 day lifetime
- Source of CO, HCHO, O₃



As anthropogenic emissions decline in the US, the relative importance of biogenic VOCs increases



50× decrease in anthropogenic VOCs in LA since 1960, despite fuel use tripling over same time



Biogenic VOCs dominate chemical reactivity everywhere outside of major urban centers



Emissions weighted by their OH-reactivity:



Large emission uncertainties due to:

- Sparse in-situ constraints on emission rates
- Uncertainties in land cover, meteorological data, stress effects in plants
- e.g., recent estimates for global isoprene emissions range from ~270-1000 Tg yr⁻¹

Aura TES methanol provides constraints on regional to continental-scale methanol emissions and seasonality



- Validated using aircraft data and GEOS-Chem model indirect comparison
- Comparison to TES revealed model overestimate in tropics, underestimate from arid regions

Aura TES methanol provides constraints on regional to continental-scale methanol emissions and seasonality



- Seasonal bias in comparison to TES and IASI revealed underestimation of emissions from young, new leaves
- Terrestrial flux increased 60% in 4D-Var inversion: from 76 to 122 Tg yr⁻¹

Methanol emission scaling factors



Wells et al. [2014]

Optimized emissions highlight role of methanol in spring photochemistry, improve agreement with aircraft obs



Methanol [ppb] Wells et al. [2014]

C130-INTEXB

TEXAQSII

(S_US)

ARCTAS

(CANADA)

8

10

(W_US)

• Methanol contributes up to 50% of secondary CO, HCHO April-June

[%]

 Missing sources (desert plants, agricultural sources?) still apparent in the western US-- more work to do!

Methanol from SNPP-CrIS gives us the chance to extend Aura TES record with enhanced spatial resolution



Preliminary retrieval for 12 Sept 2014 over Amazon

DOFS generally > 0.5



Potential SNPP-CrIS measurements of acetylene (C₂H₂) will help us further separate methanol sources





Space-based HCHO often used as a proxy for isoprene emissions, but some limitations exist





Recent lab measurements of isoprene TIR cross section will allow direct isoprene retrievals from SNPP-CrIS



Brauer et al. [2014]

Recent lab measurements of isoprene TIR cross section will allow direct isoprene retrievals from SNPP-CrIS



Calculated with LBLRTM

As a first step we have employed a brightness temperature difference approach



BT difference approach: $\Delta BT = BT_{rhs} - BT_{peak}$

- e.g., for IASI NH₃ (Clarisse et al., 2009), methanol and formic acid (Razavi et al., 2011)
- Start from single footprint Level 1B radiances
- Pro: relatively quick way to look to a large dataset
- Con: does not provide any sensitivity information

Preliminary SNPP-CrIS BT difference maps reveal some features consistent with known isoprene sources



Next steps

Simulated CrIS isoprene AK



- OE retrievals
- Validation against available aircraft data
- Inverse modeling in combination with concurrent HCHO and NO_x measurements

Summary

- TIR measurements of biogenic VOCs provide powerful information to constrain emission processes and associated impacts on atmospheric chemistry
- Measurements from SNPP-CrIS will allow us to extend the data record at higher spatial resolution and further refine emission quantification and source characterization
- Initial work on SNPP-CrIS shows promise in providing retrievals of methanol and isoprene

Thank you!

Cloud screening based on BT900 cm⁻¹ – Tsfc difference



Representative Volume Mixing Ratio, RVMR

