

Estimation of NO_x emissions from Delhi using Car MAX-DOAS observations and comparison with OMI satellite data

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Abstract. We present the first Multi-Axis-(MAX-) DOAS observations in India performed during April 2010 and January 2011 in Delhi and nearby regions. The MAX-DOAS instrument was mounted on a car roof, which allowed us to perform measurements along individual driving routes. From car MAX-DOAS observations along closed circles around Delhi, together with information on wind speed and direction, the NO_x emissions from the greater Delhi area were determined: our estimate of 4.4×10^{25} molecules s⁻¹ is found to be slightly lower than the corresponding emission estimates using the EDGAR emission inventory and substantially smaller compared to a recent study by Gurjar et al. (2004). We also determined NO_x emissions from Delhi using OMI satellite observations on the same days. These emissions are slightly smaller than those from the car MAX-DOAS measurements. Finally the car MAX-DOAS observations were also used for the validation of simultaneous OMI satellite measurements of the tropospheric NO₂ VCD and found a good agreement of the spatial patterns. Concerning the absolute values, OMI data are, on average, higher than the car MAX-DOAS observations close to strong emission sources, and vice versa over less polluted regions. Our results indicate that OMI NO₂ VCDs are biased low over strongly polluted regions, probably caused by inadequate a-priori profiles used in the OMI satellite retrieval.

1 Introduction

Delhi, home of 19 million people, second largest metropolitan city (<http://www.indiaonlinepages.com/population/delhi-population.html>) is located in the Indo-Gangetic plains in India. The growing population and human activities increase the atmospheric pollution which is e.g. the cause of the dense fog, smog and haze during winter season (December and January) every year (Singh et al., 2004, 2005; Ramanathan and Ramana, 2005; Ramanathan et al., 2005; Gautam et al., 2007). In the years 2005 and 2006, about 4.8 million vehicles were in operation in Delhi.

In the last three decades the atmospheric trace gas and aerosol loading has increased in the Indo-Gangetic plains due to intense urbanization, anthropogenic activities, industrial growth and energy demand. Especially in the northern part of India, the pollutants swing in the Indo-Gangetic basin depending upon the meteorological conditions. The sources of atmospheric pollutants are localized and heterogeneous and depended on season (Gurjar et al., 2004; Goyal et al., 2006; Lal, 2007).

The measurements of atmospheric pollutants are important for monitoring the air quality and for understanding the radiative forcing and its impact on climate (Ravishankara et al., 2004; Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). Currently, still large uncertainties exist with respect to the total emissions of pollutants and their impact on local, regional, and possibly also global scale. The corresponding uncertainties are especially large for many megacities.

In this study, we present top-down emission estimates for nitrogen oxides (NO_x = NO + NO₂) for Delhi from car MAX-DOAS observations. Nitrogen oxides are formed in combustion processes (e.g. from vehicles, and power plants);



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they are toxic (Elsayed, 1994; World Health Organization, 2003) and also involved in important photochemical processes. Together with the emissions of volatile organic compounds, they control tropospheric ozone chemistry and oxidising capacity (Jacob, 1999; Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006).

We use Multi-Axis-Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (MAX-DOAS) measurements (Hönninger et al., 2002; Van Roozendaal et al., 2003; Wittrock et al., 2004; Wagner et al., 2004; Brinkma et al., 2008 and references therein) to quantify the NO_x emissions of Delhi. The MAX-DOAS instrument was mounted on a car roof, and continuous measurements were performed on closed driving routes around the city center on three days during April 2010 and one day in January 2011. In combination with wind data, the total emissions from the encircled area can be determined (Johansson et al., 2008, 2009; Rivera et al., 2009; Ibrahim et al., 2010; Wagner et al., 2010).

In addition to the quantification of the NO_x emissions, the MAX-DOAS results are also used for the validation of satellite observations of the tropospheric NO₂ VCD. Car MAX-DOAS observations yield valuable information about the horizontal heterogeneity of the NO₂ distribution, which can not be resolved by the satellite observations, making them advantageous compared to validation with MAX-DOAS measurements at fixed locations.

The paper is organized as follows: in Sect. 2, we give details of the instrument, the measurement campaign and the retrieval of the tropospheric NO₂ VCD. Section 3 presents the determination of the NO_x emissions of Delhi and comparison with the EDGAR emission inventory. In Sect. 4, the MAX-DOAS tropospheric NO₂ VCDs are compared to simultaneous satellite observations from the Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI).

2 MAX-DOAS observations and data analysis

2.1 Car MAX-DOAS instrument

The Mini-MAX-DOAS instrument is a fully automated, light weighted spectrometer (13 cm × 19 cm × 14 cm) designed for the spectral analysis of scattered sunlight (Bobrowski et al., 2003). It consists of a sealed aluminium box containing the entrance optics, a fibre coupled spectrograph and the controlling electronics. A stepper motor mounted outside the box rotates the whole instrument to control the elevation of the viewing angle (angle between the horizontal and the viewing direction). The entrance optics consists of a quartz lens of focal length $f = 40$ mm coupled to a quartz fibre bundle which leads the collected light into the spectrograph (field of view is $\sim 1.2^\circ$). The light is dispersed by a crossed Czerny-Turner spectrometer (USB2000+, Ocean Optics Inc.) with a spectral resolution of 0.7 nm over a spectral range from 320–460 nm. A one-dimensional CCD (Sony ILX511, 2048 individual pixels) is used as detector. The measurements were

controlled from a laptop using the DOASIS software (Kraus, 2006).

2.2 Overview on measurements around Delhi

For the mobile observations measurements around Delhi, the Mini-MAX-DOAS instrument was mounted on the roof top of a car with the telescope mounted parallel to the driving direction, pointing backward (April 2010)/forward (January 2011). The measurements started from Greater Noida to Delhi and around Delhi; the routes are shown in Fig. 1 for all the four days (13, 14, and 15 April 2010 and 15 January 2011).

The sequence of elevation angles was chosen to: $1 \times 90^\circ$, $5 \times 22^\circ$, $1 \times 45^\circ$, $5 \times 22^\circ$ and the duration of an individual measurement was about 60 s. For the measurements on 15 January 2011, an elevation angle of 30° was set up instead of 22° during April 2010. The temperature setpoint of the mini MAX-DOAS was 15°C in April and 5°C in January. A handy GPS was used to track the coordinates of the route along which the observations were made.

All the three days in April 2010 were cloud-free, the aerosol optical depth derived from MODIS satellite was found in the range of 0.2–0.5 at 550 nm (data taken from the AERONET data synergy tool, http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/bamgomas_interactive). On 15 January 2011, the AOD was found to be only 0.1 in the afternoon. During the start of the measurements at 11 am the AOD may be higher, but we do not have any estimate due to non availability of MODIS aerosol data. The range of AOD is consistent with those measured by AERONET in Delhi for January and April 2009 (see <http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/>). They are also consistent with those reported in the study of Satheesh et al. (2011) for the city of Bangalore and of Rehman et al. (2011) for the city of Kanpur. In April 2010 the wind direction was mostly north-westerly, and the temperature was found in the range 35 – 45°C . On 15 January 2011 the wind is found to be westerly and temperature to vary in the range 15 – 20°C . The time to complete one full circle around the route (Fig. 1) took about 3 to 5 h.

In contrast to MAX-DOAS observations at fixed locations, during car MAX-DOAS observations we have used rather high elevation angles to avoid shades from nearby obstacles (e.g. buildings or trees). From such high elevation angles usually no profile information can be retrieved, but we can obtain the total tropospheric trace gas column density. Measurements at high elevation angles are less affected by aerosols than observations at more low elevation angles.

2.3 Spectral analysis

The measured spectra are analysed using the DOAS method (Platt and Stutz, 2008). A wavelength range 435–456 nm was selected for the analysis. Several trace gas absorption cross sections (NO₂ at 298 K (Vandaele et al., 1996), H₂O at 298 K

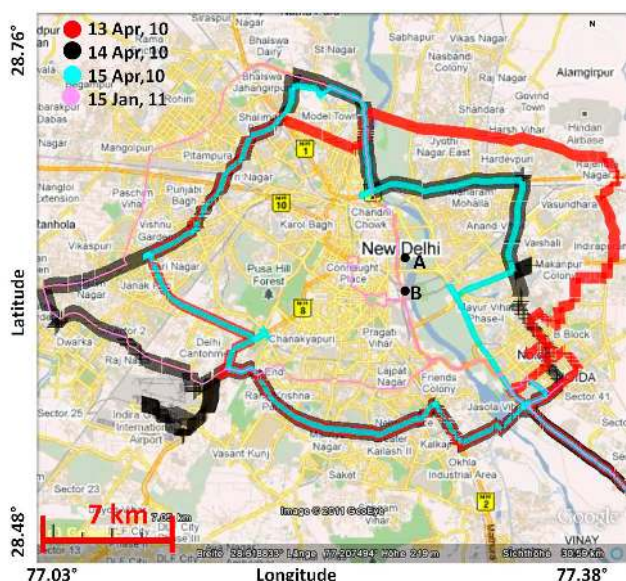


Fig. 1. Different driving routes around Delhi. The points A and B indicate the locations of two power plants Rajghat Power Station and Pragati Gas Power Station, respectively.

(Rothman et al., 2005), Glyoxal at 296 K (Volkamer et al., 2005), O₃ at 243 K (Bogumil et al., 2003), O₄ at 296 K (Hermans et al., 1999), as well as a Fraunhofer reference spectrum, a Ring spectrum (calculated from the Fraunhofer spectrum) and a polynomial of third order) were included in the spectral fitting process, using the WinDOAS software (Fayt and van Roozendaal, 2001). The wavelength calibration was performed based on a high resolution solar spectrum (Kurucz et al., 1984). A typical fit result is shown in Fig. 2. Note that from all fitted trace gases, for the Delhi measurements only the NO₂ and H₂O absorptions were above the detection limit for most measurements.

The output of the spectral analysis is the slant column density (SCD), the integrated trace gas concentration along the light path through the atmosphere. From the spectral analysis, also the uncertainty of the retrieved SCD is determined; for the NO₂ analysis it is typically < 15 %.

Since a measured spectrum is used as Fraunhofer reference, the retrieval result represents the difference of the SCDs of the measurement at low elevation angle α and the Fraunhofer reference spectrum taken at 90° elevation, the so called differential SCD or DSCD:

$$\text{DSCD}_\alpha = \text{SCD}_\alpha - \text{SCD}_{\text{Fraunhofer}} \quad (1)$$

We have considered elevation angles (α) of 22° for measurements during April 2010 and of 30° during January 2011. We considered DSCD _{α} s with RMS of residuals smaller than 2.5×10^{-3} .

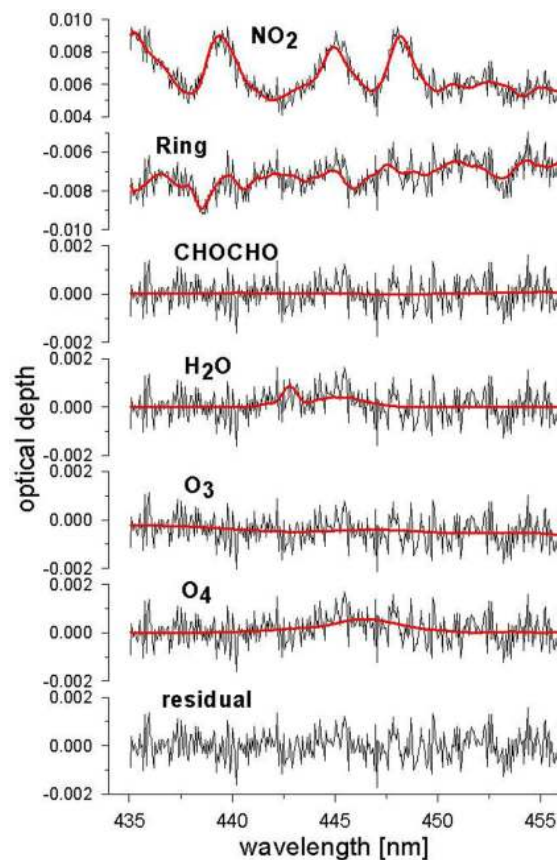


Fig. 2. Typical result of the DOAS fit. Shown are the NO₂ cross-section scaled by the respective absorption of the measured spectrum (black). The red curve shows in addition the fit residual.

2.4 Estimation of the tropospheric VCD

To determine the SCD _{α} of a measurement, the SCD_{Fraunhofer} (together with the change of the stratospheric SCD) has to be added to the DSCD _{α} as discussed earlier by Wagner et al. (2010) and Ibrahim et al. (2010). The VCD_{trop} is obtained from the SCD _{α} by dividing by the air mass factor (AMF):

$$\text{VCD}_{\text{trop}} = \text{SCD}_\alpha / \text{AMF}_\alpha \quad (2)$$

For many applications, the AMF is retrieved from radiative transfer simulations (Solomon et al., 1987), but here the so called geometric approximation (Brinksma et al., 2008, A. Richter, personal communication, 2006) is used:

$$\text{AMF}(\alpha) = 1 / \sin(\alpha) \quad (3)$$

Using Eq. (3), the tropospheric AMF were found to be 2.67 and 2 for elevation angles of 22° and 30°, respectively. Depending on the aerosol load, cloud condition and vertical trace gas profile, the true AMF can show substantial deviations from the geometric approximation. However, NO₂ is generally located near the surface; therefore the deviations for our measurements are expected to be small (see next section).

2.5 Effect of aerosols on the measurements

The geometric approximation for the tropospheric AMF (Eq. 3) is only valid if the light path through the trace gas layer of interest can be well approximated by a simple geometric path. This assumption is usually fulfilled for shallow trace gas layers and low aerosol loads, since the observed light is typically scattered from above the trace gas layer. But in the presence of high aerosol extinction, a substantial fraction of the observed light might be scattered from inside the trace gas layer and the geometric approximation is not appropriate for the complete trace gas layer.

Depending on the elevation angle and the amount and properties of the aerosols, scattering inside the trace gas layer may either increase (for high elevation angles) or decrease (for lower elevation angles) the true AMF compared to the geometric approximation (Wagner et al., 2004). Thus, the true tropospheric trace gas VCD will be either over- or underestimated.

We have quantified these deviations from the geometric approximation using the Monte Carlo radiative transfer model McARTIM (Deutschmann et al., 2011) for various aerosol scenarios and NO₂ layer heights (see Fig. 3). For these sensitivity studies the aerosol optical parameters were chosen as follows: single scattering albedo: 0.95 and asymmetry parameter: 0.68 (see Dubovik et al., 2002). To investigate the effect of different aerosol optical properties we performed similar sensitivity studies as in Fig. 3, but for different values of the single scattering albedo and the asymmetry parameter (see Appendix A). The differences to the results in Fig. 3 are small compared to the effects of the aerosol optical depth and the NO₂ and aerosol layer heights. The most important result of these simulation studies is that for NO₂ layer heights ≤ 500 m and for moderate aerosol optical depth (about <1), the deviations from the geometric approximation are found to be in the order of up to $\pm 20\%$ (see results for elevation angle of 22° in Fig. 3). For measurements at an elevation angle of 30° (15 January 2011) similar results are found (not shown). Here it is important to note that recent MAX-DOAS measurements indicated that the height of the NO₂ layer is typically systematically lower than the mixing layer height. For example, MAX-DOAS observations in Milan in September 2003 (Wagner et al., 2011) show rather low NO₂ layer heights typically <500 m. Interestingly, for these measurements the layer heights for HCHO and aerosols were found to be systematically higher. These findings can be understood by (a) the rather short lifetime of NO_x compared to aerosols and (b) the fact that HCHO and aerosols might even be formed when air masses are lifted up, while NO_x is gradually destroyed. Even for measurements downwind of strong NO_x emission sources like at Cabauw, The Netherlands, NO₂ layer heights of the order of 500 m or below were often found (Piters et al., 2011). These findings indicate that usually the NO₂ profile is systematically lower than the mixing layer height.

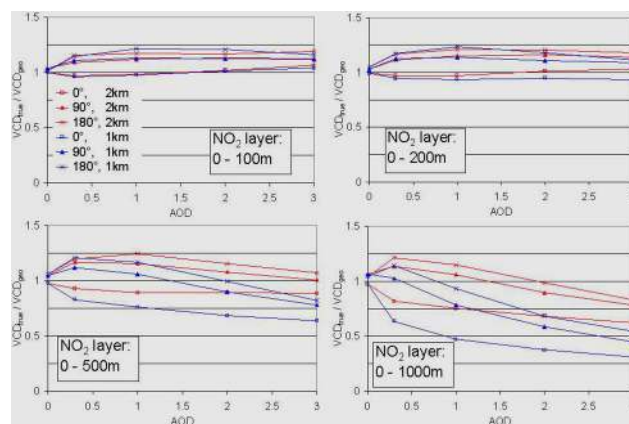


Fig. 3. Relative deviation of the true tropospheric VCDs (derived from radiative transfer simulations) from the geometric VCD for different trace gas layer heights, aerosol optical depth, aerosol layer heights and relative azimuth angles (i.e. the difference of the azimuth angles of the sun and the viewing direction at the telescope). Calculations are performed for an elevation angle of 22° ; the results for an elevation angle of 30° (not shown) are similar.

As shown in Fig. 3 and in the appendix, the relative azimuth angle between the viewing direction and the sun position has a systematic effect on the sensitivity of the MAX-DOAS measurements. In general, measurements with relative azimuth angles close to zero tend to underestimate the true NO₂ VCD, while measurements at larger relative azimuth angles tend to overestimate the true NO₂ VCDs. This systematic dependence on the relative azimuth angle is found for all combinations of NO₂ layer heights and aerosol properties (although with different amplitudes). Future studies might explicitly consider this azimuth dependence if tropospheric trace gas VCDs are retrieved from MAX-DOAS observations using high elevation angles. For simplicity, in this study, we only applied an azimuth dependent correction for measurements with strongly enhanced NO₂ VCDs (see Fig. 4), because they have the strongest influence on the derived emission estimate. For this correction we assumed a NO₂ layer height of 500 m and an aerosol layer height of 2000 m. With this simple correction we took already into account part of the variability shown in Fig. 3. Remaining error due to the dependence of the AMF on the NO₂ profile, aerosol layer height and aerosol optical properties is estimated to about 20%. Here it is interesting to note that the possible presence of uplifted aerosol layers (e.g. Babu et al., 2011) has only negligible influence on the NO₂ AMF (see Appendix A).

The error in the spectral retrieval is of the order of 15% (see Sect. 2.3). Thus, we estimate the total error in the estimation of retrieved tropospheric NO₂ VCD to be about 25%.

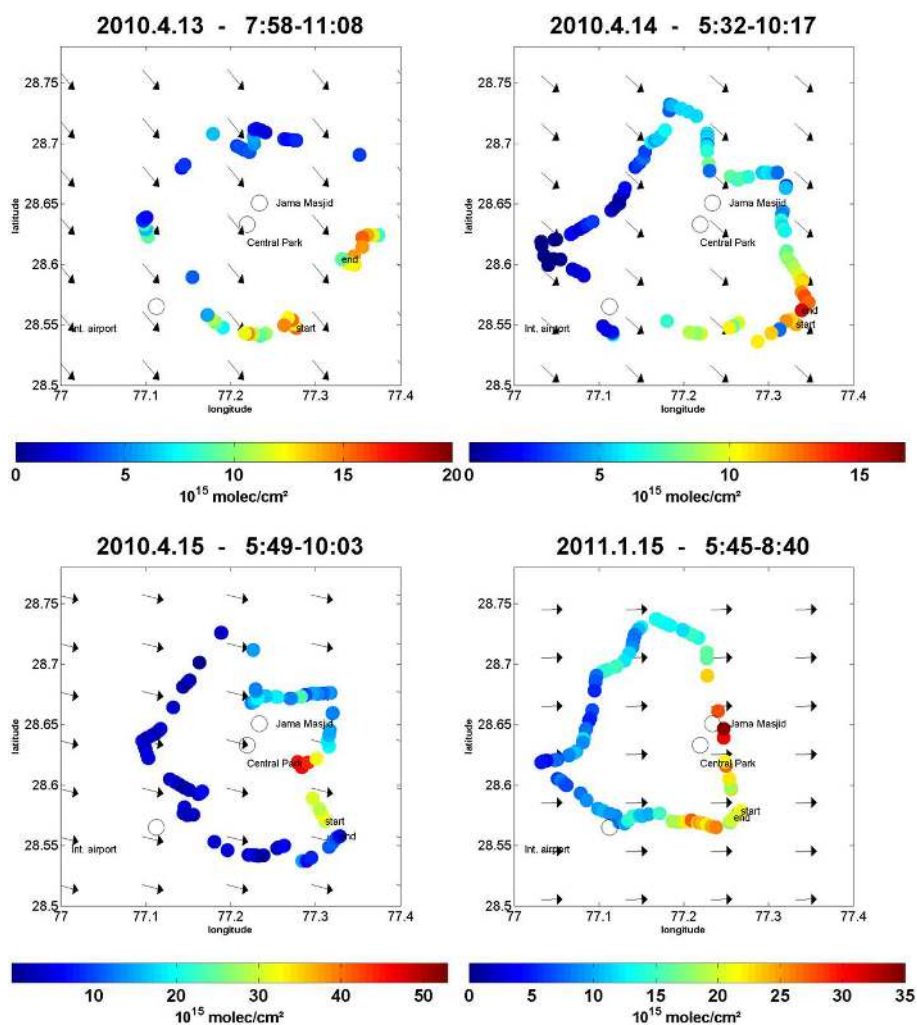


Fig. 4. Tropospheric NO₂ VCDs derived from car MAX-DOAS observations around Delhi on different days. The arrows indicate the average wind direction.

3 Estimation of NO_x emissions

3.1 Emissions from the encircled area

The total NO₂ emissions from the encircled area are determined from the following equation (Ibrahim et al., 2010):

$$F_{\text{NO}_2} = \oint_S \text{VCD}_{\text{NO}_2}(s) \cdot \bar{w} \cdot \bar{n} \cdot ds \quad (4)$$

Here $\bar{n}(s)$ indicates the normal vector parallel to the Earth's surface and orthogonal to the driving direction at the position s of the driving route; \bar{w} is the average wind vector within the trace gas layer. The integral of Eq. (4) is evaluated for the MAX-DOAS measurements around Delhi. Because of the finite integration time of individual spectra, the integral is approximated by a sum of the individual polygonal lines.

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{NO}_2} &= \sum_i \text{VCD}_{\text{NO}_2}(s_i) \cdot \bar{w} \cdot \bar{n} \cdot \Delta s_i \\ &= \sum_i \text{VCD}_{\text{NO}_2}(s_i) \cdot w \cdot \sin(\beta_i) \cdot \Delta s_i \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The location, length and direction of each segment is taken from GPS data, which were stored at each second using a GPS-Logger (HOLUX, m.247). The distance between two measurements Δs_i is taken as the geometric difference between the locations at the beginning of two successive measurements. From the same segment, the angle β_i between the driving route and the wind direction is calculated.

Wind fields are taken from analyses of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF, full scientific and technical documentations are found from the website <http://www.ecmwf.int/research/ifsdocs/CY33r1/index.html>). We considered wind speeds up to 1000 m and

weighted them by an assumed exponentially decreasing NO_x profile with a scale height of 500 m. Since the strongest changes in wind speed and direction occur below about 200 m altitude, the exact scale height of the assumed NO_x profile has only little influence on derived effective wind speed and direction. The wind data are linearly interpolated in time for the average MAX-DOAS time.

We estimate the uncertainty of the flux estimation due to the choice of wind fields by (a) varying the scale height of the assumed NO_x profile by ± 200 m (causing variations within 12 %), and (b) taking the closest ECMWF output times at 06:00 and 12:00 UTC instead of interpolating (causing variations within 10 % except for January 15, where the wind fields at 12 UTC have changed significantly, whereas the measurements were taken close to 06:00 UTC). Overall, we estimate the error due to wind fields as 15 %.

The measured NO₂ VCDs together with the wind fields for the four measurement days are shown in Fig. 4. In general, the highest values of NO₂ VCDs are found at the lee side of the city, as expected.

On some days, due to instrument problems, gaps along the driving route occurred; this was mainly due to disturbances caused by uneven road conditions. Due to such problems, NO₂ data are missing at some locations, which has contributed to the larger uncertainties in the estimation of the total emissions. We estimate these uncertainties in a simple way: in a first calculation, we determine the total emissions clockwise, in a second calculation counter-clockwise. In both cases, the NO₂ VCD from the last measurements at the beginning of the gap is considered as the true value for the whole gap. From both calculations, we determine the average emissions and the corresponding uncertainties.

In the next step, correction factors accounting for the partitioning between NO and NO₂ (c_L) and for the finite lifetime of NO_x (c_τ) are applied (see Ibrahim et al., 2010) to derive the complete NO_x emissions from the encircled areas:

$$F_{\text{NO}_x} = c_L \cdot c_\tau \cdot F_{\text{NO}_2} \quad (6)$$

Here c_L is simply the ratio of NO_x and NO₂ in the polluted layer; in urban pollution conditions during daytime we have considered its value to be about 1.32 (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006) with an uncertainty of about 10 %. c_τ describes the ratio of the measured NO_x and the originally emitted NO_x; it can be estimated from the NO_x lifetime τ , the wind speed w and the distance of the emission source from the measurements:

$$c_\tau = e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} = e^{-\frac{r}{w\tau}} \quad (7)$$

Here t is the ratio of the radius (r) of the circle and the wind speed (w). Assuming a typical urban plume daytime NO_x lifetime of 5 h (Spicer, 1982) and taking into account the wind speed of the individual days, using Eq. (7), we found c_τ in the range of 1.09–1.18 with uncertainties of about ± 0.1

(assuming uncertainties of the lifetime of ± 2 h). As mentioned in the previous section corrections for the azimuth dependence of the AMF were applied for the measurements with the highest NO₂ VCDs along the driving routes. These correction factors were calculated for the exact solar zenith angle, solar azimuth angle and viewing direction under the assumption of a NO₂ layer height of 500 m and an aerosol layer height of 2000 m (see Sect. 2.5). The respective correction factors are: 13 April 2010: 0.84; 14 April 2010: 0.90; 15 April 2010: 0.90; 15 April 2011: 0.84.

The total NO_x emissions from within the circles on the different days are shown in Fig. 5. Here the error bars show uncertainties due to missing data at some locations (green) or total uncertainties (black). The total NO_x emissions are found to be similar for the different days within the range of uncertainties between $1.3\text{--}1.9 \times 10^{25}$ molecules per second.

It should be noted that especially close to strong emission sources, part of the emitted NO might not be quickly converted to NO₂ if the NO mixing ratios locally exceed those of O₃. In such cases complete establishment of the NO₂/NO steady state will eventually take place only after ambient air has mixed with the emitted plume (see also Ibrahim et al., 2010). However, for our study such effects can be neglected: First, according to the study of Gurjar et al. (2004) the relative contributions from power plants to the total NO_x emissions is small (below 10 %). Thus even if the emissions from power plants were systematically underestimated, the effects on the total emissions would be small.

In addition we estimated the plume extension and the respective NO_x mixing ratios at the location of the car MAX-DOAS measurements according to the atmospheric stability (see Appendix B). We considered the actual wind direction and speed and the distance between the car MAX-DOAS measurements and power plants (see Fig. 1) for the different days. On 13 and 14 April the dilution of the plumes was very effective and NO_x mixing ratios at the location of the car MAX-DOAS measurements were below the O₃ mixing ratios of the ambient air. On 15 April, the NO_x mixing ratios at the location of the car MAX-DOAS measurements are similar to the O₃ mixing ratios of the ambient air and conversion of part of the emitted NO_x might be hindered. However, on that day the determined emissions are even larger than on the two previous days. On 15 January 2011 the driving route did not surround the power plants. From the overall good consistency of the results for the different days we conclude that the possible limited conversion efficiency of NO_x to NO₂ close to strong emission sources does not play an important role for our study.

3.2 Up-scaling of emissions for Delhi

The NO_x emissions for the different days (Fig. 5) only reflect the emissions from the encircled areas. In order to make these results comparable within each other and to existing emission inventories, the results have to be up-scaled

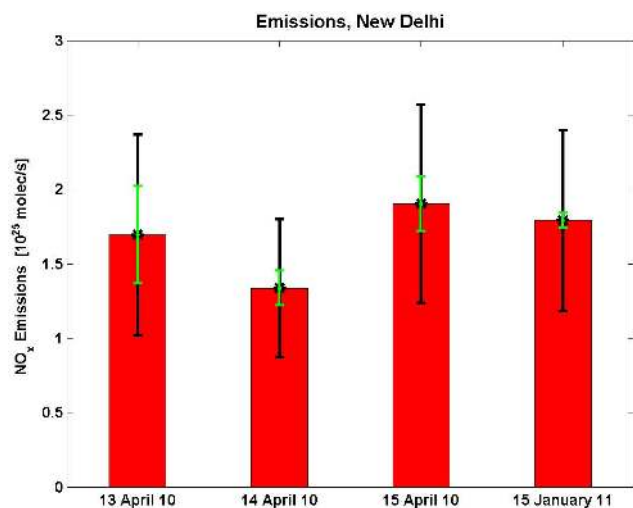


Fig. 5. NO_x emissions obtained from the car MAX-DOAS measurements for the surrounded areas. The green error bars indicate the uncertainties related to the gaps in the measurements; the black error bars represent the total uncertainty.

to the greater Delhi area (bounded in the region indicated in Fig. 1, latitude 28.5° N to 28.77° N and longitude 77.0° E to 77.4° E).

For the up-scaling, we used different proxies for the spatial distribution of the NO_x emissions across the considered area. First, we use the EDGAR emission inventory (version 4.1 for 2005, see Olivier et al., 1998; European commission, 2010), but the spatial resolution of this data set is rather coarse (0.1°). Second, we use data on the population density (obtained from CIESIN, GWPv3, 2010, <http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/gpw/global.jsp>) with a spatial resolution of 2.5 arc min. Third, we apply the distribution of night-time lights measured from satellite during night (NOAA, National geophysical Data Center, 2006, http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/dmsp/download_radcal.html, Ziskin et al., 2010) with a spatial resolution of 0.5 arc min. The respective maps of the different proxies, together with the driving routes of the different days are shown in Fig. 6. For all selected proxies the encircled areas include a substantial fraction of the total Delhi emissions (between 30 and 50 %), but a slightly larger fraction lies still outside of these circles (see Table 1).

Surprisingly, the calculated fractions using the different proxies are found to be quite similar, that gives us confidence of our up-scaling procedure to determine the total emissions of the selected area. Figure 7 summarises the total NO_x emissions using the different proxies; it also includes the corresponding NO_x emissions from the EDGAR data base and a study by Gurjar et al. (2004). Compared to these emission estimates, our results are found to be mostly lower indicating that the existing emission inventories might overestimate the true emissions. However, it should be taken into account

Table 1. Fraction of the EDGAR NO_x emissions, population, and light within the surrounded areas for the different days.

day	fraction based on EDGAR emission density	fraction based on population density	fraction based on night-time lights
13 April 2010	43 %	45 %	42 %
14 April 2010	49 %	42 %	43 %
15 April 2010	42 %	35 %	35 %
15 January 2011	36 %	29 %	33 %

that our results represent only the conditions during a few measurements, while the other inventories are annual averages. Unfortunately, it seems that currently no information on the seasonality (and on the diurnal variation) of the NO_x emissions is available, which could be used to upscale our emission estimates to the annual average. Unfortunately, existing time series of the NO_x mixing ratios at the surface (e.g. Guttikunda, 2009) can not be directly used for this purpose, because they not only represent the NO_x emissions but also variations of the mixing layer height and NO_x lifetime, which also vary with season. In Fig. 7 also the NO_x emission estimates from OMI satellite observations are included (see Sect. 4.1), which are mostly slightly lower than those from the car MAX-DOAS measurements.

Table 2 lists the different errors of the derived NO_x emissions. If we assume these errors to be independent, we obtain total uncertainties of about 40 % (see also Ibrahim et al., 2010).

4 Comparison with OMI satellite data

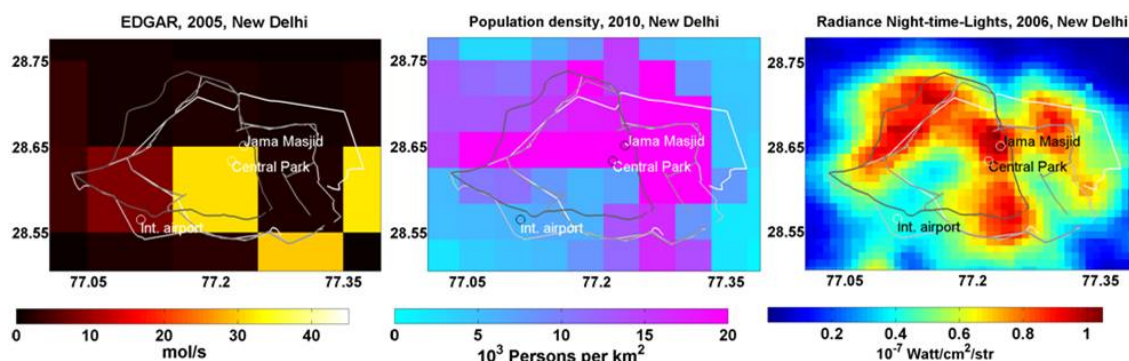
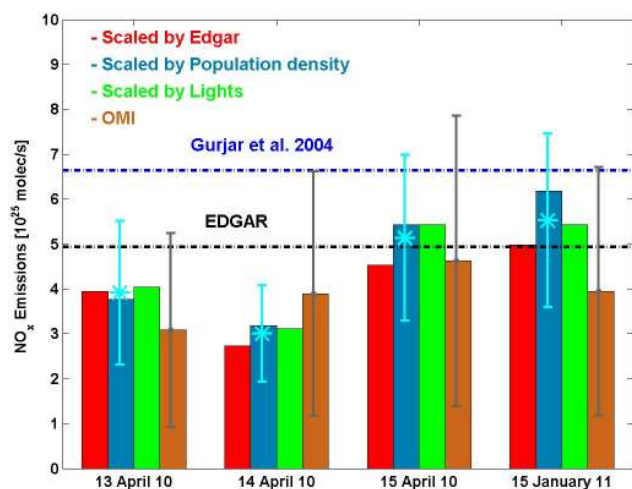
In this section we compare the results from the car MAX-DOAS measurements to OMI satellite observations in two ways. First, we determine emission estimates for Delhi from the satellite observations and compare them to the respective emissions derived from the car MAX-DOAS observations. Second we compare the NO₂ VCDs derived from car MAX-DOAS directly to the satellite observations. We use the DOMINO product, v1.02, <http://www.temis.nl/airpollution/no2.html>, see Boersma et al. (2007).

4.1 Estimation of NO_x emissions from satellite observations

Satellite observations can be directly used to estimate emission (e.g. Leue et al., 2001; Martin et al., 2003; Beirle et al., 2011). By integration of the tropospheric NO₂ VCD from satellite observations across a selected area, the total number of NO₂ molecules in the volume above that area can be determined. With the knowledge of the mean NO_x lifetime the

Table 2. Uncertainties of the different steps of the emission estimate.

Error of	due to	see Sect.	13 April 2010	14 April 2010	15 April 2010	15 January 2011
SCD	Spectral analysis	2.3			15 %	
VCD	Geometric Approx.	2.5			20 %	
NO ₂ flux	Wind fields	3.1			15 %	
	Measurement gaps	3.1	21 %	8 %	9 %	1 %
NO _x flux	c_L	3.1			10 %	
	c_τ	3.1			10 %	
New Delhi emissions	Upscaling	3.2			10 %	
Total	Squareroot of quadratic sum	3.2	40 %	35 %	35 %	34 %

**Fig. 6.** Spatial distribution of the NO_x emissions from the EDGAR data base (left), of the population density (center), and the night-time lights (right) for the selected Delhi area (see Fig. 1). Also shown are the driving routes for the different days.**Fig. 7.** Comparison of the up-scaled NO_x emissions from the car MAX-DOAS measurements (using different proxies) and existing emission estimates. The cyan points show the mean emission estimate for each day with the respective total error, as explained in Table 2. The brown columns show emission estimates derived from OMI observations (Sect. 4.1).

corresponding emissions can then be simply derived by the following formula:

$$F_{\text{NO}_x} = c_L \cdot \frac{\int \text{VCD}_{\text{NO}_2} \cdot dA}{\tau} \quad (8)$$

The area over which the satellite measurements are integrated have to be chosen carefully. First, it should include the emission source of interest. Second, it should not be significantly influenced by other strong sources from outside or inside the selected area. Third, it should be large enough to contain most of the emitted NO_x, which is advected from the source. In practice this means that the distance between the emission source and the borders of the selected area should be larger than the product of the wind speed and the NO_x lifetime. Like for the determination of the NO_x emissions from the car MAX-DOAS observations (Sect. 3.1) we assume the NO_x lifetime to about 5 h. According to wind speeds on the selected days between 3 and 9 m s⁻¹ this results in a minimum distance between 50 km and 160 km.

It is interesting to note that in contrast to the car MAX-DOAS measurements the uncertainty of the derived NO_x emissions using equation 8 is directly proportional to the uncertainty of the assumed NO_x lifetime. While an uncertainty of ±2 h leads to an uncertainty of about ±10 % for the NO_x emission estimate from car MAX-DOAS measurements, it

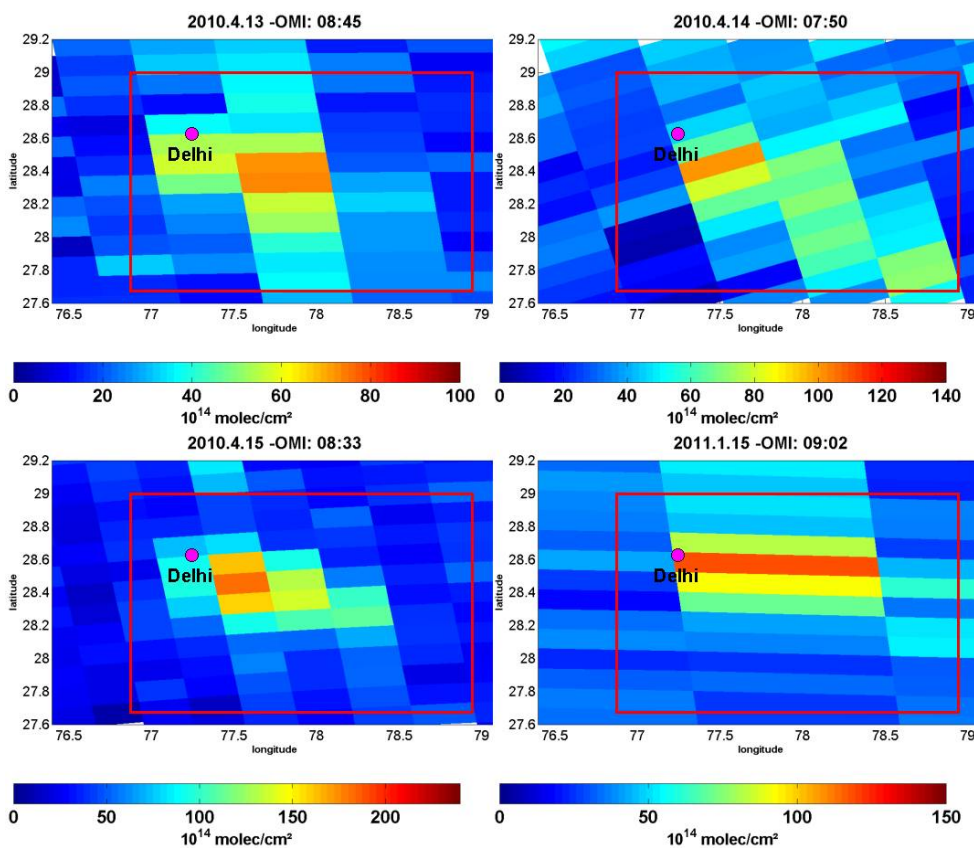


Fig. 8. Tropospheric NO₂ VCD measured by OMI around Delhi for the four days, for which the NO_x emissions were obtained from the car MAX-DOAS measurements. The outflow from the city is clearly visible and follows the wind patterns (see Fig. 4). For the determination of the NO_x emissions the satellite observations inside the red rectangle were considered. Note the different colour scales.

leads to $\pm 40\%$ for the NO_x emission estimate from satellite observations.

In Fig. 8 the spatial distributions of the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs observed by OMI around Delhi are shown for the four days on which the NO_x emissions were determined from car MAX-DOAS measurements. Also shown is the area (red rectangle) over which the satellite NO₂ VCDs are integrated. Since the wind was blowing from mainly westerly directions (see Fig. 4), we chose the area to include large parts of the downwind plume in easterly and southerly directions. On all days the pollution outflow from Delhi is clearly visible in the satellite images.

The next step is to estimate the “background” NO₂ VCDs at the side of the inflow into the city. This “background” NO₂ VCD is then subtracted from the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs before Eq. (8) is applied. We determined the “background” NO₂ VCD from the closest OMI measurements at the inflow side, which were not yet affected by the emissions from the city.

The NO_x emissions from Delhi derived with this method are also shown in Fig. 7. They are typically slightly lower than those derived from the car MAX-DOAS measurements

for the same days. However, the uncertainties of this method are rather large (about 70%). Several sources contribute to the total uncertainty: the exact choice of the area over which the satellite measurements are integrated leads to uncertainties of about 40%. We determined this uncertainty by sensitivity studies varying the selected area. In a similar way we determined the uncertainties related to the determination of the “background” NO₂ VCD to about 15%. The uncertainties of the satellite VCDs are about 35%. Finally, the errors caused by the uncertainties of the assumed NO_x lifetime are about 40%.

4.2 Validation of OMI measurements using car MAX-DOAS measurements

Validation of tropospheric trace gas products from satellite observations is a challenging task for several reasons. First, since satellites measure the vertically integrated tropospheric column density, observations of in-situ surface concentrations can not be directly used for validation purposes. Even if vertical profiles are available from aircraft measurements (e.g. Heland et al., 2002) or balloon soundings (e.g. Sluis et al., 2010), they are often not representative for the whole

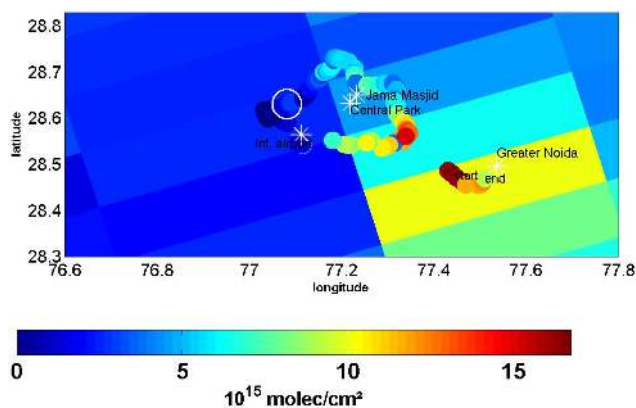


Fig. 9. Comparison of the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs on 14 April 2010 measured from OMI and car MAX-DOAS. MAX-DOAS observations were carried out between 05:20 and 10:57 UT; OMI overpass was at 07:50 UT. The large circle indicates MAX-DOAS observations during the OMI overpass.

spatial extent of the satellite ground pixel, which is typically of the order of several hundreds of km² or more. Similar arguments hold for observations of the integrated tropospheric column measurements e.g. from MAX-DOAS observations at fixed locations (e.g. Brinkema et al., 2008). Here it is important to note that close to strong emission sources like megacities, where the validation of tropospheric satellite products is of highest importance, the largest variability and strongest gradients are typically found (Chen et al., 2009).

Information about the spatial variability across a satellite ground pixel can be obtained from mobile measurements like car MAX-DOAS observations (e.g. Volkamer et al., 2006; Wagner et al., 2010), thus we also use the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs obtained during our measurement campaigns in Delhi for the validation of the simultaneous observations of the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs from the OMI instrument. We selected OMI satellite observations (Levelt et al., 2002), because the ground pixel sizes are much smaller ($\sim 13 \times 26$ km² in nadir geometry) compared to observations from SCIAMACHY and GOME-2. One important aspect of tropospheric satellite observations is the use of a-priori information on the (relative) trace gas profile. For the DOMINO tropospheric NO₂ product from OMI observations profile data from from model simulations (TM4) are used for that purpose. The specific choice of the NO₂ profile has a strong effect on the retrieved NO₂ VCD, since the sensitivity of the satellite observations strongly depend on altitude (Boersma et al., 2011). One particular critical aspect of the use of model data is that the spatial resolution of the model (2° latitude and 3° longitude) is much coarser than the spatial scales of tropospheric NO₂ field close to strong emission sources (see Heckel et al., 2011). Thus for model grid cells including strong emission sources the average NO₂ profile must necessarily be a compromise between those over the source regions and those of the outflow regions.

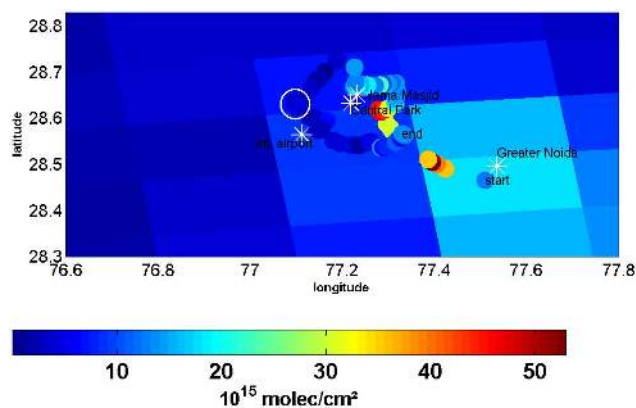


Fig. 10. Comparison of the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs on 15 April 2010 measured from OMI and car MAX-DOAS. MAX-DOAS observations were carried out between 05:05 and 10:06 UT; OMI overpass was at 08:33 UT. The large circle indicates MAX-DOAS observations during the OMI overpass.

Figure 9 shows the comparison of the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs on 14 April 2010 from mobile MAX-DOAS and OMI observations. On that day, OMI observes Delhi at relatively slant viewing angles, and the ground pixel sizes are rather large. Thus, the car MAX-DOAS observations cover only relatively small fractions of the individual ground pixels. Nevertheless, in both data sets the same general distribution of NO₂ is observed: highest values of NO₂ are found in the south east, which is consistent with the wind direction on that day (north-westerly wind, see Fig. 4). The car MAX-DOAS observations reveal much finer spatial patterns with stronger spatial gradients, which are not resolved from the OMI data.

The comparison of the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs for 15 April 2010 is shown in Fig. 10. On that day the OMI observations were made almost vertically (nadir geometry), and the satellite pixels are much smaller compared to the observations made on 14 April 2010. Both satellite ground pixels over Delhi are well covered by the car MAX-DOAS observations and similar spatial patterns were observed in both data sets. Again, the car MAX-DOAS observations resolve details on a much finer scale.

Figure 11 shows another validation example from 16 January 2011, when MAX-DOAS observations were carried out along a route from Delhi to Agra (about 225 km). Like in the previous examples the general distribution of the tropospheric NO₂ VCD is found to be similar in both data sets with the highest values at or close to Delhi. An interesting finding is that OMI underestimates the high values over Delhi, but overestimates the low values over rural regions along the route Delhi to Agra.

Figure 12 shows a correlation analysis of all car MAX-DOAS observations (during April 2010 and January 2011) and the coincident OMI satellite data (blue points). Here, all MAX-DOAS observations within an OMI ground pixels were averaged. The error bars indicate the OMI error

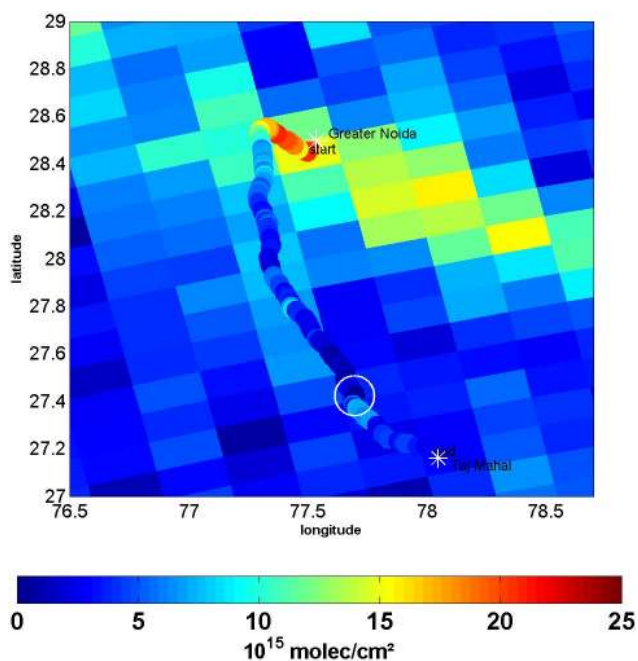


Fig. 11. Comparison of the tropospheric NO₂ VCDs on 16 January 2011 measured from OMI and car MAX-DOAS from New Delhi to Agra (Taj Mahal). MAX-DOAS observations were carried out between 04:33 and 09:05 UT; OMI overpass was at 08:06 UT. The large circle indicates MAX-DOAS observations during the OMI overpass.

and the standard deviation of the MAX-DOAS observations, respectively. Using these errors, we performed an orthogonal regression (Cantrell, 2008). A reasonable correlation (coefficient of determination $r^2 = 0.48$) is found, but the slope (0.38) deviates strongly from unity. In contrast, the ratio of the average of all OMI VCDs ($5.7 \pm 2.7 \times 10^{15}$ molec cm⁻²) to the average of the MAX-DOAS observations ($8.5 \pm 4.4 \times 10^{15}$ molec cm⁻²) is 0.77, and the average of the individual ratios is even 1.07.

In order to investigate the effect of limited spatial sampling in the presence of strong gradients in more detail, a second comparison was made including only observations, for which the car MAX-DOAS observations cover large fractions of the OMI pixels (at least 50 % in east-west direction (defined by the most eastern and most western MAX-DOAS observation within the OMI pixel) like e.g. shown in Fig. 10). Only five measurements fulfilled this criterion. If only these observations are considered, a better correlation (coefficient of determination $r^2 = 0.79$) is obtained, but the results of the orthogonal regression are almost unchanged.

A general finding of this comparison is that over polluted sites the OMI tropospheric NO₂ VCDs are systematically smaller than those from the car MAX-DOAS measurements, while for areas with low pollution levels the opposite behaviour is found.

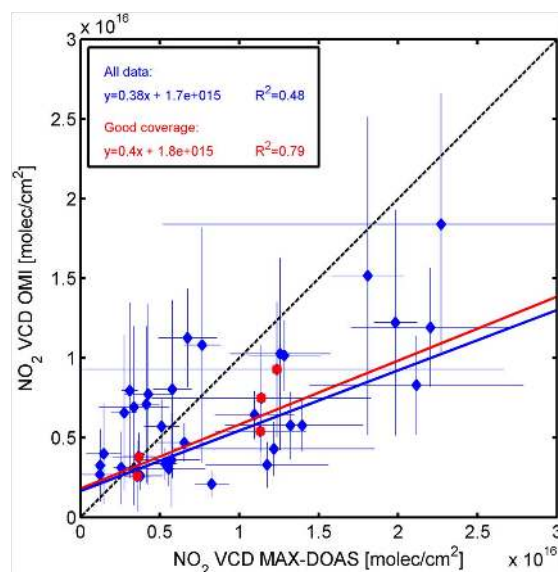


Fig. 12. Correlation analysis of OMI and car MAX-DOAS observations of the tropospheric NO₂ VCD during April 2010 and January 2011. Blue dots represent all coincident measurements; red dots represent measurements where the OMI ground pixels were mostly covered (at least 50 % in east-west dimension) by the car MAX-DOAS measurements (like in Fig. 9).

The underestimation of high tropospheric NO₂ VCDs by OMI might be partly caused by the shielding of the surface-near NO₂ by aerosols. Here it should, however, be noted that the (effective) cloud fractions for the OMI observations used in our study are found to be very low: 2.3 % on average for all observations; <1.2 % for the sub-set of OMI pixels, which are well covered by the car MAX-DOAS observations. Thus, effects of cloud shielding is considered to be negligible here. Part of the underestimation might also be related to differences between the true (relative) NO₂ height profiles and those assumed in the satellite retrieval. If e.g. the assumed profiles contain a smaller fraction close to the surface compared to the true profiles, the respective tropospheric AMFs overestimate the true tropospheric AMFs, and consequently, the retrieved tropospheric NO₂ VCDs underestimate the true tropospheric NO₂ VCDs (Boersma et al., 2009). Of course also the uncertainties of the car MAX-DOAS measurements might contribute to the deviations, but especially for NO₂ profiles with low layer heights, the uncertainties of the car MAX-DOAS measurements are smaller than for the satellite observations.

Different conclusions can be drawn for the less polluted areas. Here the OMI tropospheric NO₂ VCDs probably overestimate the true NO₂ VCDs, because the NO₂ profile assumed for the retrieval probably overestimates the NO₂ concentrations close to the surface. But for less polluted regions, also the uncertainties of the car MAX-DOAS observations probably substantially contribute to the discrepancies between

both data sets. Because of the larger fraction of the NO₂ at higher altitudes the uncertainties of the car MAX-DOAS observations become larger than for measurements close to strong emission sources (see Fig. 3). Moreover, for the measurements between Delhi and Agra on 15 January 2011 the car MAX-DOAS observations might systematically underestimate the true tropospheric NO₂ VCD, because the relative azimuth angle is close to zero for large parts of the driving route (Fig. 3 and Appendix A).

It should be noted that existing validation studies show quite controversial results: studies based on in-situ observations (at the surface or from aircraft) and LIDAR observations indicate that the tropospheric NO₂ VCD (DOMINO, v1.02) derived from OMI observations is biased high (Boersma et al., 2011; Hains et al., 2010 and reference therein). In contrast, studies based on MAX-DOAS observations (Brinksma et al., 2008; Celarier et al., 2008) indicate that the tropospheric NO₂ VCD derived from OMI is biased low. The latter results are in agreement with the findings of our validation study.

5 Conclusions

Car MAX-DOAS observations were performed in the greater Delhi area during April 2010 and January 2011. The aims of the measurements were first the determination of the total NO_x emissions of the greater Delhi area and second the validation of satellite observations.

The total NO_x emissions were derived from observations along closed circles around the city. Since the MAX-DOAS observations encircled only part of the entire Delhi area, we had to up-scale our results. For that purpose we used three different proxies: the spatial distribution of (a) the NO_x emissions from the EDGAR emission inventory, (b) the population density, and (c) the light intensity observed from satellite during night. Although the first two proxies have rather coarse spatial resolution, the up-scaled results using the three proxies agree well (within 20 %). Two additional corrections were applied to account for the partitioning of NO and NO₂ and for the limited lifetime of NO_x (leading to destruction of part of the emitted NO_x between the locations of the emission source and the observation). The overall uncertainty of our emission estimate is about 40 %, taking into account measurement uncertainties and uncertainties of the various assumptions. From four measured circles around Delhi (three during April 2010 and one in January 2011) an average NO_x emission of 4.4×10^{25} molecules s⁻¹ was derived. The results from the four days were found to agree within ± 40 %.

Our NO_x emission estimate is slightly lower than NO_x emissions from the EDGAR data base (v4.1) (4.94×10^{25} molec s⁻¹) and substantially lower than from a recent study by Gurjar et al. (2004) (6.42×10^{25} molec s⁻¹). However, no exact agreement should be expected, because our measurements represent short periods during two months

of two contrast seasons (winter and summer), whereas the values from emission inventories are annual averages.

We also NO_x emissions from Delhi using OMI satellite observations on the same days as for the car MAX-DOAS measurements. These emissions are slightly smaller than those from the car MAX-DOAS measurements.

The MAX-DOAS observations were also used for the validation of tropospheric OMI NO₂ VCDs. We chose OMI observations because of its relatively small pixel sizes. In general, similar spatial patterns are found in both data sets, but with a much finer spatial resolution in the car MAX-DOAS data. The comparison of absolute values show overall a fair agreement. However, over highly polluted regions the OMI observations are systematically smaller than the car MAX-DOAS measurements. Most probably, this difference is caused by the a-priori vertical NO₂ profile assumed in the OMI retrieval. In less polluted regions, OMI tropospheric NO₂ VCDs are larger than those from car MAX-DOAS observations, but under such conditions large part of the differences might be also caused by the errors of the car MAX-DOAS observations.

Appendix A

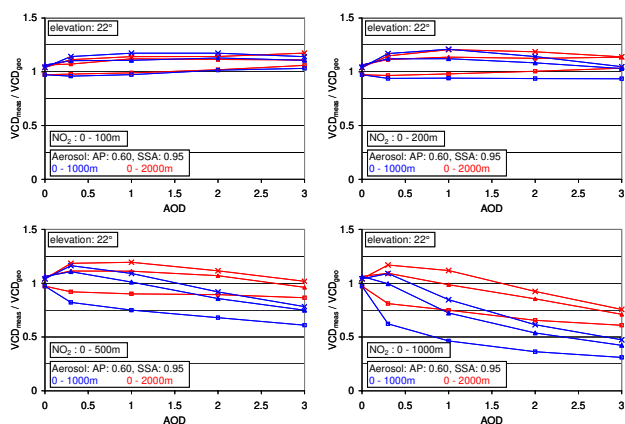
Investigating the effects of aerosols on the car MAXDOAS measurements

As shown in the main text of the paper (Sects. 2.5 and Fig. 3), aerosols cause modifications of the atmospheric radiation field compared to clear sky. These modifications lead to deviations from the assumptions of geometric light paths through the trace gas layers of interest. In Fig. 3 of the main text the relative differences to the so called geometric approximation (Eq. 3) are shown for various NO₂ and aerosol profiles and aerosol optical properties. The differences become particularly large for cases of strong aerosol optical depth and high trace gas layer height. The results shown in Fig. 3 represent aerosols with asymmetry parameter of 0.68 and single scattering albedo of 0.95 which are typical for polluted urban regions (see Dubovik et al., 2002). In this appendix we explore the effects of variations of aerosol optical properties. In addition, we also investigate the effects of elevated aerosol layers.

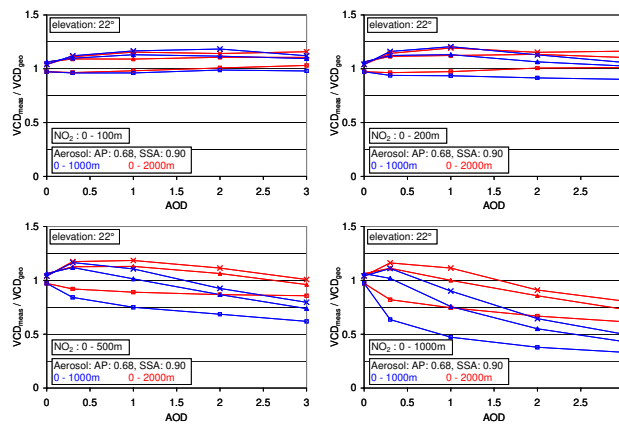
In Fig. A1 the optical properties of the aerosol are changed. The single scattering albedo is varied from 0.9 to 1.0, and the asymmetry parameter is varied from 0.6 to 0.75. Both variations have additional systematic effects on the sensitivity of the measurements but compared to the main effects (aerosol optical depth and trace gas layer height) these changes are small.

In Fig. A2 we investigate the effect of elevated aerosol layers (between 2 and 3 km and between 8 and 9 km), which were e.g. observed by Babu et al. (2011). We used the same NO₂ profiles as in Fig. 3 and Fig. A1. Compared to aerosol

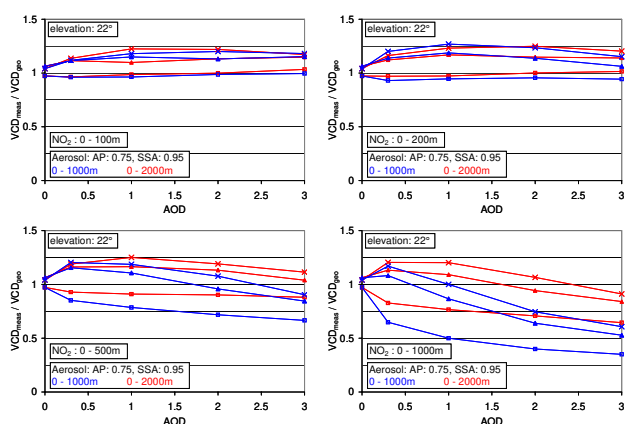
a) Asymmetry parameter: 0.6, Single scattering albedo: 0.95



c) Asymmetry parameter: 0.68, Single scattering albedo: 0.9



b) Asymmetry parameter: 0.75, Single scattering albedo: 0.95



d) Asymmetry parameter: 0.68, Single scattering albedo: 1

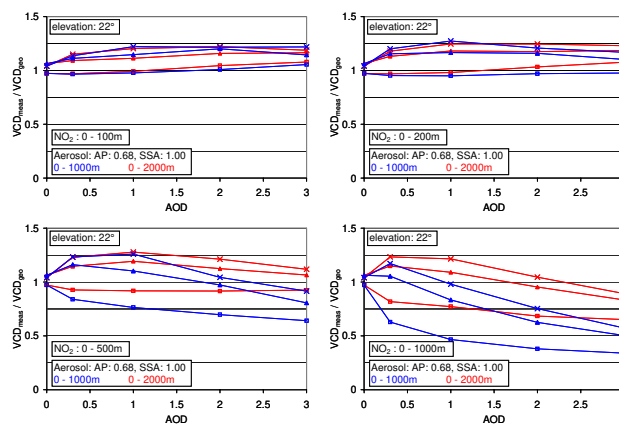


Fig. A1. Relative deviation of the true tropospheric VCDs (derived from radiative transfer simulations) from the geometric VCD for different trace gas layer heights, aerosol optical depth, aerosol layer heights and relative azimuth angles. Panels (a) to (d) show the results for different aerosol optical properties.

layers close to the surface, elevated aerosol layers lead only to rather small deviations from the geometric approximation. This finding indicates that elevated aerosols have only small influence on the light paths in the line of sight of the instrument close to the surface. We conclude that the possible presence of elevated aerosol layers can be neglected for the interpretation of our measurements.

In Fig. A3 we present similar data as shown in Fig. 3, but they are displayed now as function of the relative azimuth angle or SZA. For small SZA, the geometric approximation generally leads to an overestimation of the trace gas VCD, while for large SZA also an underestimation is found. This underestimation is especially strong for high trace gas layers, relative azimuth angles and SZA around 50–60°.

The azimuth dependence is shown in more detail in Fig. A4. While for an aerosol-free atmosphere the azimuth dependence is weak, it increases with aerosol optical depth and aerosol layer height.

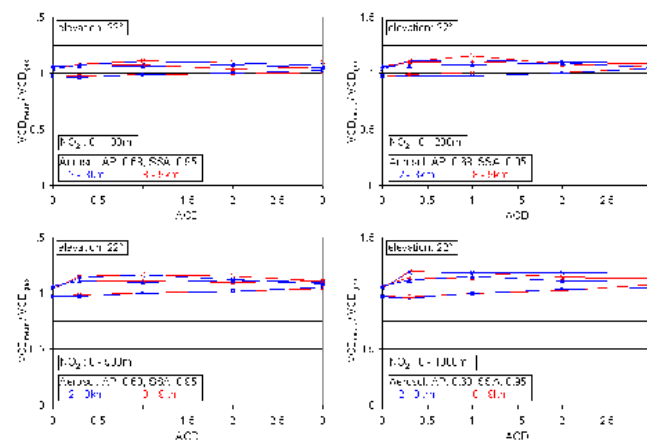


Fig. A2. Like Fig. A1a, but for elevated aerosol layers (2–3 km, blue; 8–9 km, red).

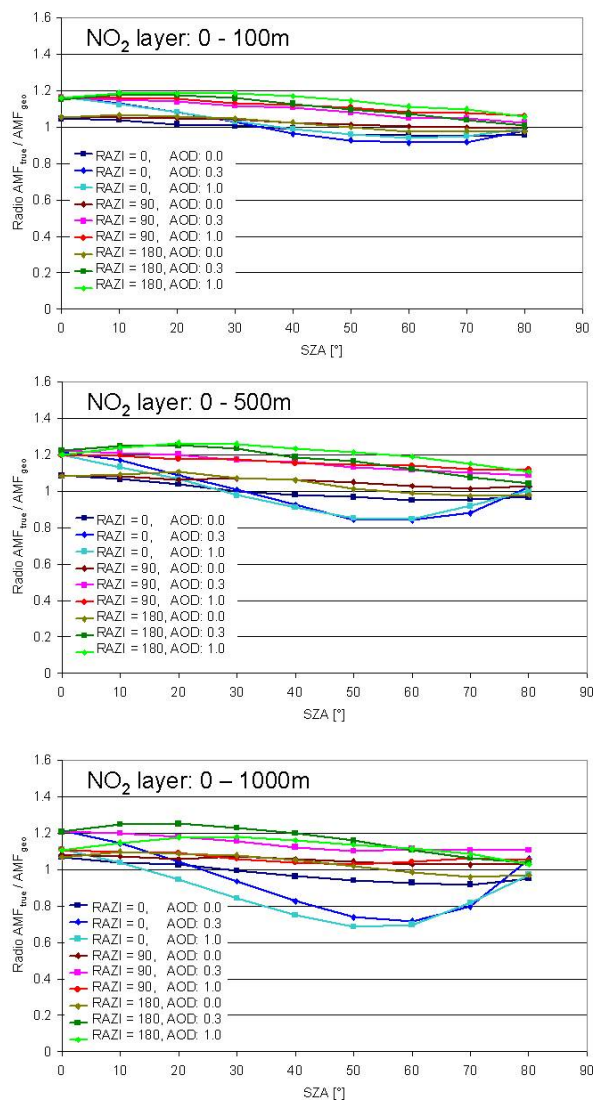


Fig. A3. Relative deviation of the true tropospheric VCDs (derived from radiative transfer simulations) from the geometric VCD for aerosol optical depth, aerosol layer heights and relative azimuth angles as a function of the solar zenith angle. Panels (a) to (c) show the results for different NO_2 layer heights.

Appendix B

Potential effects of localised emissions on the NO to NO_2 ratio

In the main part of the paper it was mentioned that for strong and localised NO_x sources, like e.g. power plants, the atmospheric NO_x mixing ratios close to the source might be higher than the O_3 mixing ratios of the surrounding air. Since the NO to NO_2 ratio depends on the ozone mixing ratio, in such cases less NO_x will be converted to NO_2 which eventually can be detected by our measure-

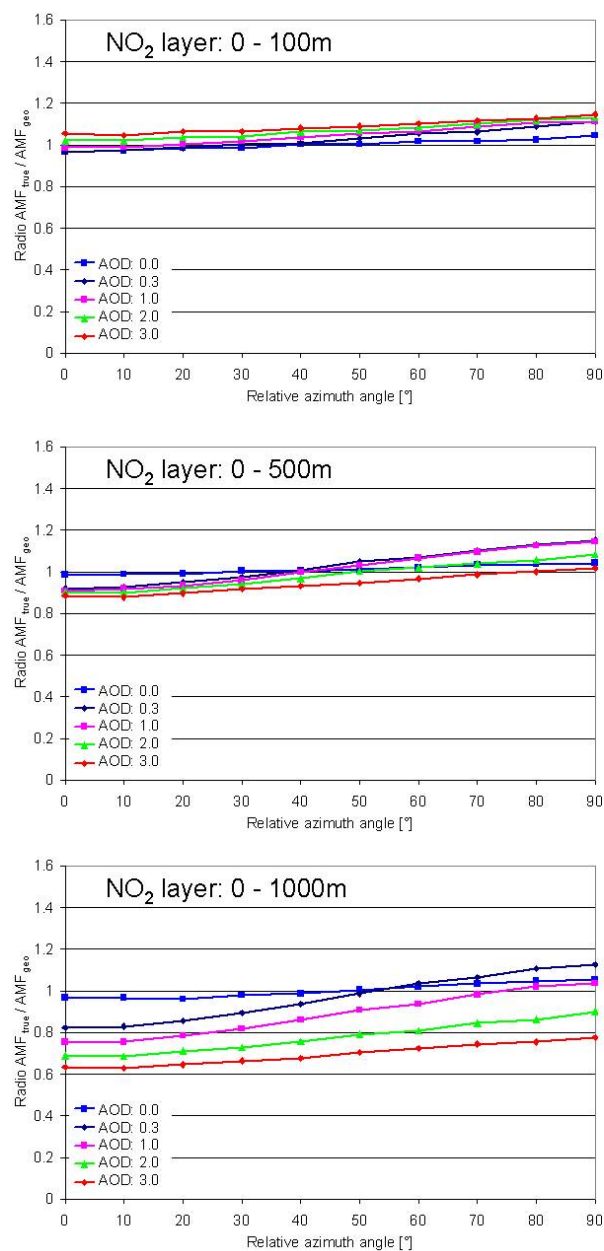


Fig. A4. Relative deviation of the true tropospheric VCDs (derived from radiative transfer simulations) from the geometric VCD for aerosol optical depth, aerosol layer heights and relative azimuth angles as a function of the relative azimuth angle. Panels (a) to (c) show the results for different NO_2 layer heights.

ments. Here we estimate the NO_x mixing ratios in the plumes from two fossil fuel power plants which are located within the surrounded area: Rajghat Power Station and Pragati Gas Power Station (see Fig. 1). The Rajghat Power Station is fired by Sub-bituminous coal and has a capacity of 135 MW. The Pragati Gas Power Station is fired by gas and has a capacity of 330 MW (<http://en.wikipedia.org/>

wiki/List_of_power_stations_in_India). Using emission factors from the study by Gurjar et al. (2004), the NO_x emissions from the Rajghat Power Station are estimated to about 0.5×10^{24} molec cm⁻² s⁻¹ and from the Pragati Gas Power Station to about 1.2×10^{24} molec cm⁻² s⁻¹.

On 13 and 14 April 2010 the distance from both power plants to the car MAXDOAS measurements is about 10 km and the wind speed is about 6 m s⁻¹. On 15 April the distance from the power plants to the car MAXDOAS measurements is about 3 km and the wind speed is about 3 m s⁻¹. On 15 January 2011 both power stations are outside of the driving circle. According to the solar irradiation and the wind speed the Pasquill-Turner stability classes (e.g. Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006) are C (slightly unstable) for 13 and 14 April 2010 and B (unstable) for 15 April 2010. Thus the plumes are strongly diluted before they were observed by the car MAXDOAS measurements. On 13 and 14 April the average NO_x mixing ratios in the plumes of both power plants are reduced to values of about 20 ppb and 8 ppb, respectively. On 15 April the average NO_x mixing ratios in the plumes of both power plants are reduced to values of about 40 ppb and 17 ppb, respectively.

During noon and afternoon O₃ average mixing ratios in Delhi are typically in the range of 45 ppb (Guttikunda, 2009). Thus on 13 and 14 April most of the emitted NO_x is already converted to NO₂ at the location of the car MAXDOAS measurements. On 15 April the conversion might be slightly reduced for the emissions from the Pragati Gas Power Station, because the NO_x is of the same order as the O₃ mixing ratios.

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