

Characterization of atmospheric ammonia near Fort Worth, TX – Part I. Dynamics of gaseous ammonia

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1 **Abstract**

2 The present work reports the experimental results from the first field investigation of
3 atmospheric ammonia (NH₃) in the Fort Worth, TX area. The NH₃ measurements were
4 conducted in the early summer of 2011 (30 May – 30 June) using a 10.4-μm external cavity
5 quantum cascade laser-based sensor employing conventional photo-acoustic spectroscopy;
6 supplementary data for other gaseous species were collected simultaneously. NH₃ mixing
7 ratios showed a large amount of variability, ranging from 0.35 to 10.07 ppb, with a mean of
8 2.68 ± 1.59 (1σ) ppb. The diurnal profile of NH₃ exhibited a daytime increase, likely due to
9 increasing temperatures affecting temperature-dependent sources in the study region. A
10 large church near the sampling location caused unusual traffic patterns. Automobiles might
11 be potential sources of NH₃ on Sundays according to the Pearson’s correlation coefficient
12 between NH₃ and carbon monoxide, but the relationship did not exist on weekdays and
13 Saturdays, probably due to decreased traffic volume and different traffic composition.
14 Daytime-nighttime comparisons suggest insignificant changes in the correlation coefficients
15 between NH₃ and other air pollutants. According to the results from the EPA PMF 3.0
16 model, biogenic (primarily vegetation and soil) emissions were major contributors to
17 gas-phase NH₃ levels measured at the suburban site during the campaign. In addition,
18 agriculture (especially livestock-related activities) also was expected to be a potentially
19 significant source of NH₃ based on the nature of the region. The dynamic behavior of NH₃
20 highlights its importance in atmospheric chemistry and indicates its potential effects on the
21 local and regional air quality.

22 **Keywords:** ammonia, air quality, Pearson’s correlation, source attribution.

1 **1. Introduction**

2 As a primary basic trace gas, ammonia (NH_3) plays a significant role in atmospheric
3 chemistry. It is emitted into the atmosphere from a variety of sources, and the ambient
4 mixing ratios of NH_3 usually vary between 0.1 and 10 parts per billion (ppb), depending on
5 the proximity to the source [*Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006*]. In the past decade, there have been
6 increasing concerns about atmospheric NH_3 due to its impact on the formation of particulate
7 matter (PM), also known as atmospheric aerosol. NH_3 can lead to the production of
8 ammonium salts such as $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, NH_4NO_3 , and NH_4Cl through chemical reactions with
9 sulfuric, nitric, and hydrochloric acids, respectively. These secondary aerosols have strong
10 implications for a series of environmental issues (e.g., atmospheric visibility and nutrient
11 cycling). In addition, they can alter the Earth's energy flow via direct effects, and influence
12 the cloud albedo and lifetime via indirect effects. The largest uncertainties among all
13 radiative forcing components in global climate models are associated with PM [*IPCC, 2007*].
14 Enhanced levels of PM also have been linked statistically to increased rates of morbidity and
15 mortality among the exposed populations [*Dockery, 2001; MacNee and Donaldson, 2003*].

16 Previous measurements of atmospheric NH_3 were conducted mainly near source areas
17 (e.g., concentrated animal feeding operations, croplands, and forests) [*Barthelmie and Pryor,*
18 *1998; Lefer et al., 1999; Pryor et al., 2001; Bajwa et al., 2006; Wilson and Serre, 2007; Todd*
19 *et al., 2008*]. Recently, researchers have paid more attention to NH_3 studies at urban
20 sampling locations where relative contributions from industrial processes and traffic
21 emissions are more significant [*Ianniello et al., 2010; Gong et al., 2011; Meng et al., 2011;*
22 *Pandolfi et al., 2012*]. Many techniques have been developed and utilized for NH_3

1 measurements including wet chemistry, laser absorption spectroscopy, cavity ring down
2 spectroscopy, chemical ionization mass spectrometry, ion mobility spectrometry, and fourier
3 transform infrared spectroscopy [von Bobruzki *et al.*, 2010]. Schwab *et al.* [2007] pointed
4 out that the instrument response time, as a critical parameter in environmental measurements,
5 was sensitive to sample handling materials and varied among different methods, which posed
6 substantial difficulties for inter-comparison. Photo-acoustic spectroscopy (PAS) used in this
7 study enables the direct measurement of atmospheric NH₃, improves the temporal resolution
8 and detection limit, and eliminates the interference from particulate ammonium.

9 The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) of the United States Environmental Protection
10 Agency (U.S. EPA) highlights the importance of NH₃ as an air pollutant in urban
11 communities nationwide [U.S. EPA, 2010]. Figure 1 (a) presents the total air releases (2.4
12 million pounds) by species in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) metropolitan area according to
13 the TRI in 2010 [U.S. EPA, 2010]. It can be seen that NH₃ has the largest individual
14 magnitude of emissions compared to other air wastes. According to the U.S. EPA National
15 Emissions Inventory (NEI), agricultural and automobile activities are major contributors to
16 gaseous NH₃ emissions. Figure 1 (b) summarizes the NEI NH₃ emissions (642.6 million
17 pounds) by source categories specifically for all of Texas in 2008 and indicates that livestock
18 waste and fertilizer application account for approximately 90% of the annual NH₃ emissions
19 [U.S. EPA, 2008]. In addition, Corsi *et al.* [2000] reported the first estimation of non-point
20 source NH₃ emissions in Texas. Measurements of NH₃ emissions from pine and oak forests
21 further improved the non-industrial NH₃ emissions inventory in Texas [Corsi *et al.*, 2002;
22 Sarwar, *et al.*, 2005].

1 Despite the emissions information described above, there is limited information about
2 measured atmospheric NH₃ levels in Texas. Recently, *Nowak et al.* [2010] and *Gong et al.*
3 [2011, 2013a] characterized gas-phase NH₃ in Greater Houston, suggesting that the heavily
4 industrialized Houston Ship Channel is a major NH₃ hotspot and indicating the impact that
5 NH₃ can have on atmospheric particle number and mass concentrations. However,
6 observational data regarding NH₃ concentrations in the DFW area currently are very scarce in
7 the published literature. This particular region, with a population of 6.4 million people, has
8 experienced rapid economic growth. Nevertheless, air pollution problems threaten
9 sustainable development [*Grodach*, 2011]. Therefore, relevant field investigations of the
10 dynamics of gaseous NH₃ in the DFW area are highly valuable and provide new insights into
11 local and regional air quality, especially the impact of NH₃ on PM formation which is
12 described in Part II [*Gong et al.*, 2013b].

13

14 **2. Experimental Methods**

15 **2.1 Instrumentation**

16 In this study, atmospheric NH₃ measurements were performed using a 10.4- μ m
17 external cavity quantum cascade laser (EC-QCL) based-sensor employing conventional PAS
18 previously described in more detail [*Gong et al.*, 2011]. This state-of-the-art optical
19 technique achieves a detection limit of 0.7 ppb with a response time of seconds and an
20 accuracy of $\pm 7\%$. The high sensitivity and selectivity allows effective capture of the
21 fast-changing behaviors of NH₃. The sensor box and inlet were heated to ~ 38 °C, and a 1.7
22 m length of 13 mm (outside diameter) PTFE Teflon® tubing was used as the sampling line to

1 minimize NH₃ adsorption. NH₃ data below the detection limit were substituted with one
2 half of the detection limit in the data analysis in the following sections [*U.S. EPA, 2008*].
3 Auxiliary data of other important trace gases (e.g., carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide
4 (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), total reactive nitrogen species (NO_y), nitric acid (HNO₃),
5 soluble chloride (presumably hydrochloric acid (HCl)), and volatile organic compounds
6 (VOCs)) also were collected simultaneously. Detailed information about measurement
7 techniques can be found in Table 1.

8

9 **2.2 Site Description**

10 A one-month campaign was conducted at the Eagle Mountain Lake continuous
11 ambient monitoring station (CAMS 75) operated by the Texas Commission on Environmental
12 Quality (TCEQ) at 32°59'16"N and 97°28'37"W in Tarrant County. It is ~17 miles
13 northwest of downtown Fort Worth and ~42 miles northwest of downtown Dallas. The
14 CAMS is equipped with an automated gas chromatograph, ozone (O₃) and NO_x analyzers,
15 and meteorological instrumentation. Real-time monitoring has been active since 6 June
16 2000. The Texas National Guard manages the land, which is flat, has an elevation of 226 m
17 above sea level, and is surrounded by shrubs, grasses, and trees.

18 NH₃ was measured as a complement to a summer project that focused primarily on
19 the examination of O₃ formation mechanisms in the DFW area. All instruments except the
20 mist chamber-ion chromatography system were deployed in a climate-controlled trailer at
21 ground level. The NH₃ sensor had an inlet height of ~2.5 m above the surface. This site is

1 expected to be influenced by urban (e.g., regional transport from the city center), industrial
2 (e.g., natural gas operations), and biogenic (e.g., vegetation) sources. The U.S. Department
3 of Agriculture (USDA) Texas livestock inventory estimated 15,000 cattle in Tarrant County
4 in 2011, and 57.8% of county land was classified as pasture in the 2007 Census of
5 Agriculture [USDA, 2007, 2011]. Cows sometimes were observed near the site during the
6 measurements. Figure 2 shows the sampling location as well as the nearby point sources of
7 NH₃ specified in the U.S. EPA's NEI and TRI, which include food manufacturing, chemical
8 production, and an electricity station.

10 **3. Results and Discussion**

11 **3.1 NH₃ Mixing Ratio Profile**

12 A time series of hourly-averaged NH₃ data over the entire campaign (30 May 2011 –
13 30 June 2011) is given in Figure 3. The gaps in the time series indicate sensor calibration
14 and system resetting. The mixing ratios of NH₃ showed a large amount of variability,
15 ranging from 0.35 to 10.07 ppb with a mean of 2.68 ± 1.59 (1σ) ppb, comparable to the
16 results observed at some other suburban sites [Ellis *et al.*, 2011]. The statistics of the
17 datasets for NH₃ as well as other measured gaseous species are listed in Table 2. Since no
18 comparison can be made at this time due to the lack of NH₃ information in the DFW area in
19 the literature, long-term continuous NH₃ monitoring in the future is necessary to explore
20 inter-annual variation and seasonality of NH₃. The prominent variability on the hourly time
21 scale also emphasizes the significance of the use of high time-resolution instruments to

1 measure NH_3 , which is considerably affected by physical and chemical processes in the
2 atmosphere.

3 Moreover, NH_3 levels were relatively larger during the first week (4.35 ± 2.13 ppb)
4 compared to other periods of the measurements (2.31 ± 1.32 ppb). This phenomenon was
5 probably related to weaker air movement resulting from lower wind speed. Similarly,
6 relatively higher levels of CO (173.04 ± 48.65 ppb) and NO_x (5.46 ± 5.91 ppb) were observed
7 during the first week compared to other periods of the measurements (125.67 ± 32.33 ppb
8 and 2.95 ± 3.18 ppb, respectively), suggesting that stronger local fuel combustion sources
9 might have influenced the site and contributed to the elevated mixing ratios of these air
10 pollutants during the first week. Further discussion can be found in Section 3.4.

11

12 **3.2 Diurnal Variation**

13 Figure 4 presents the diurnal profiles of NH_3 mixing ratios and ambient temperatures
14 (the bottom whisker, box bottom, line inside the box, box top, and top whisker represent the
15 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles of the data, and the continuous solid lines
16 represent mean values, respectively). In general, NH_3 increased in the morning starting
17 from 05:00 CST and peaked in the early afternoon between 14:00-15:00 CST, after which the
18 levels decreased and remained relatively low during nighttime, presumably due to the
19 decrease of sources. The daytime behavior of NH_3 was likely associated with increasing
20 temperatures (30.2 ± 4.2 °C) affecting temperature-dependent sources such as volatilization

1 of animal waste and vegetation/soil through photosynthetic processes [Krupa, 2003; Mukhtar
2 *et al.*, 2009; Bash *et al.*, 2010; Riddick *et al.*, 2012].

3 The dynamics of LIDAR-measured planetary boundary layer (PBL) heights were
4 consistent from day to day over the entire campaign. The height remained low (~500 m)
5 during nighttime and the PBL did not break up until 07:00 CST, while NH₃ mixing ratios
6 began to increase at 05:00 CST. Therefore, downward vertical mixing of NH₃ from the
7 residual layer is ruled out as a contributing source of NH₃ in the morning.

8 Figure 5 summarizes the hourly-averaged data for NH₃, CO, SO₂, NO_x, HNO₃, and
9 HCl, displaying distinctive characteristics and dynamics among species. As good indicators
10 of vehicular emissions, CO and NO_x had similar trends, with levels that increased in the early
11 morning (04:00-05:00 CST), reached maximum values at 06:00 CST, and dropped quickly
12 and dramatically until second peaks occurred in the late afternoon (18:00-21:00 CST). The
13 increases were a result of enhanced traffic volume during rush hour together with the
14 lingering effect of a shallow nocturnal boundary layer (morning) or a developing nocturnal
15 boundary layer (evening). However, none of these spikes were exactly coincident with
16 temporal patterns of NH₃. Motor vehicles were unlikely to have been major sources of NH₃
17 during the measurement periods, despite the fact that three-way catalytic converters have
18 been found to be significant producers of NH₃ [Shelef and McCabe, 2000; Heck and
19 Farrauto, 2001; Kašpar *et al.*, 2003; Heeb *et al.*, 2006]. In the rural/suburban area of the
20 present study, heavy-duty diesel trucks, which have minor contributions to NH₃ but emit
21 tremendous amounts of NO_x, account for a large fraction of traffic composition, as opposed
22 to light-duty gasoline cars, which have the largest emission factors of NH₃ among all on-road

1 vehicles [Harley, 2009; Kean *et al.*, 2009]. This is a likely explanation for these
2 observations. Additionally, a cargo/freight rail near the site was not considered as a NH₃
3 source according to the NEI.

4 Sulfur dioxide mixing ratios did not change significantly during the daytime, but they
5 became elevated at night, indicating that PBL dynamics played a vital role. Based on this
6 profile, SO₂ likely was emitted from sources different than those of NH₃.

7 The changes in HNO₃ and HCl levels tracked one another closely. For both acidic
8 trace gases, morning enhancements and mid-day peaks were observed. Nitric acid is
9 primarily formed by oxidation of NO_x in the atmosphere, and strong solar radiation facilitates
10 photochemical processes. In this work, total photosynthetically available radiation (W m⁻²)
11 reached maximum values at 12:00 CST. Hydrochloric acid is mainly produced by biomass
12 burning/coal combustion and the salt metathesis reaction between HNO₃ and sodium chloride.
13 In addition, NH₃ was more abundant than HNO₃ and HCl. The average ratio of NH₃ to the
14 summation of HNO₃ and HCl (calculated in units of μmol m⁻³) during the measurements was
15 4.13 ± 4.02 . Larger ratios (>10) sometimes were observed when higher NH₃ levels and
16 significantly lower HNO₃ and HCl levels were present in the early morning (06:00-07:00
17 CST) as shown in Figure 6. Some removal mechanisms and/or processes other than
18 gas-phase chemistry may govern the concentration levels of these acidic gases.

19 Remarkable differences in behavior exist between rural/suburban- and urban-scale
20 NH₃ measurements. For example, at a near-downtown Houston site, Gong *et al.* [2011]
21 observed a sharp decrease in NH₃ around mid-day when the ratio of NO_x to NO_y, as an
22 indicator of the photochemical age of air masses or plumes, also reached the minimum value.

1 By contrast, no such phenomenon occurred in the present work in which NH_3 mixing ratios
2 continuously increased through the early afternoon (14:00-15:00 CST). Although HNO_3
3 and HCl peaked at mid-day, increased emissions from temperature-dependent sources under
4 the most intense sunlight at noon might significantly replenish NH_3 and outweigh any loss
5 mechanisms.

6

7 **3.3 Weekday-Weekend and Daytime-Nighttime Behaviors**

8 As will be shown in the next section, the winds uniformly emanated from the
9 southeast sector throughout the campaign, offering little variability in source regions. In
10 this section we consider variability arising from weekday-weekend and daytime-nighttime
11 differences. In order to further investigate NH_3 behavior, the datasets were divided into
12 weekday/weekend and daytime/nighttime. Here, daytime and nighttime are consistently
13 defined as periods of 06:00-19:00 CST and 19:00-06:00 CST, respectively. Table 3
14 summarizes the Pearson's correlation coefficients between NH_3 and other trace gases during
15 different time periods. The coefficient between NH_3 and CO was significantly larger on
16 Sundays (0.62) than weekdays (0.09) and Saturdays (0.11), but there was no statistically
17 meaningful difference between daytime and nighttime. There was a significant increase in
18 traffic volume due to human activities on Sundays because of a large church very close to the
19 site. It is known that gasoline engines emit ~10 times more CO compared to diesel engines
20 [Fairbanks, 1997]. Also as discussed above, gasoline-powered cars have much larger
21 emission rates of NH_3 than other vehicles. The combined effects were likely responsible for

1 the observation, suggesting that automobiles might be contributing NH_3 on Sundays when the
2 maximal mixing ratio of CO also occurred.

3 The weak relationships between NH_3 and SO_2 were consistent during all periods,
4 while the correlation coefficients between NH_3 and NO_x , NO_y , NO_z ($=\text{NO}_y-\text{NO}_x$), and HNO_3
5 displayed a similar trend for that of NH_3 versus CO, indicating stronger relationships on
6 Sundays. This is probably due to the co-emission of NH_3 and NO_x from motor vehicles and
7 subsequent rapid oxidation of NO_x via rapid photochemical processes. The relationship
8 between NH_3 and HCl was slightly stronger on weekdays than weekends, though the reason
9 for this remains unclear. HNO_3 and HCl have similar diurnal variations as shown in Figure
10 5, but the correlation coefficient between two species is only 0.09 using the entire dataset. It
11 is also noted that the good relationship between HNO_3 and HCl was observed within nearly
12 any given day, but it is not the case after combining several different days. The contribution
13 from different source regions was eliminated as a plausible reason for this phenomenon
14 because the wind direction was relatively consistent during the measurement period. The
15 algorithm used in the regression analysis can not solve the HNO_3 -HCl puzzle and can not
16 explain the large discrepancy between NH_3 - HNO_3 and NH_3 -HCl correlations.

17

18 **3.4 Source Attribution**

19 During the one-month campaign, the wind mainly blew from the southeast sector at
20 the site, illustrated by Figure 7. Because of this relative consistency, almost no information
21 about the dependence of NH_3 on wind direction can be drawn. There are six specific point

1 sources of NH₃ in the study region listed in the NEI and TRI. Most of the time, the site was
2 downwind of these sources. As shown in Figure 2, they are in the range of ~13 to ~22 miles
3 southeast of the site. Given an average wind speed of 12 miles per hour, emissions events at
4 those facilities could possibly affect measured NH₃ mixing ratios at the site within one to two
5 hours.

6 Besides industry, agriculture, especially livestock-related activities, is an additional
7 potential contributor to NH₃. A review paper reported average emission factors of NH₃ for
8 dairy farms (59 g milk cow⁻¹ day⁻¹) and beef feedlots (119 g beef cow⁻¹ day⁻¹) using data from
9 forty relevant studies in North America and Europe [*Hristov et al.*, 2011]. Based on the
10 cattle population in Tarrant County, the estimated emissions of NH₃ from cows are about 1.3
11 tons day⁻¹. However, the tracks from animals (not only cattle but also deer and other
12 wildlife) near the site could not be documented. Hence, it is hard to pinpoint the accurate
13 source location and to evaluate quantitatively these effects with respect to observed values.

14 Natural emissions of NH₃ from vegetation and soil have been found to be important,
15 and they often increase as ambient temperatures increase [*Robarge et al.*, 2002; *Sutton et al.*,
16 2009]. Forests emit NH₃ more strongly than grassland and shrub land [*Battye et al.*, 2003].
17 Simultaneous measurements of NH₃ fluxes in the future are desirable to better understand the
18 NH₃ exchange between plants, soil, and atmosphere, and to better quantify the related
19 contributions from biogenic sources. Based on the emission factors in the literature and
20 geographic/geological information in Tarrant County, the estimated emissions of NH₃ from
21 soils and vegetation are about 0.15 ton day⁻¹ [*TPWD*, 1984; *BEG*, 2000; *Battye et al.*, 2003].

1 Air masses rarely were transported from the south-southwest (occurrence frequency =
2 2.3%) and passed over Eagle Mountain Lake (~0.5 mile from the site). It is known that NH₃
3 has a relatively large Henry's law constant. Thus, the occasional plumes coming in that
4 direction over the water body probably had a very small impact on NH₃ levels. There are
5 likely less animals (especially cows) and vegetation along the lake area than in the pastures
6 close to the site. In addition, fewer industrial activities in the southwest region might
7 contribute to relatively lower NH₃ levels. Specifically, the mean NH₃ mixing ratio was 2.0
8 ppb (a decrease of ~26% compared to the campaign-average value of 2.7 ppb) when the wind
9 blew from that sector.

10 The EPA Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) 3.0 model was used to conduct source
11 attribution in which NH₃ and ancillary data for other gaseous species (e.g., VOCs including
12 ~40 compounds) were employed as inputs [*Paatero and Tapper, 1994; Paatero, 1997*]. In
13 addition to a concentration file, an uncertainty file associated with the collected samples/data
14 was used, which can be derived based on the user guide. PMF requires the user to have a
15 general understanding of the dataset (e.g., potential sources influencing the study region) and
16 to choose the number of source categories or factors. It also allows the user to examine the
17 initial assumption for factors according to the base run results and make the relevant model
18 reconstruction if needed. In this work, a four-factor solution was found including biogenic
19 (isoprene/monoterpene), natural gas/industry (ethane/ethylene/propane/propylene), heavy
20 duty motor vehicles (*n*-decane), and light duty motor vehicles (*o*-xylene/toluene). These
21 were identified using dominant or key species accordingly while other measured trace gases
22 and VOCs were also fed into the model. The simulation results explicitly show that

1 biogenic (74.1%) is the largest source category of NH₃, followed by light duty vehicles
2 (12.1%), natural gas/industry (9.4%), and heavy duty vehicles (4.4%). As unique chemical
3 signatures of biogenic emissions, isoprene and monoterpene as well as the non-indicator, NH₃,
4 were predominantly apportioned to this particular factor resolved by PMF. The preliminary
5 analysis for biogenic sector implies that livestock might account for approximately 66.4% of
6 total NH₃ emissions in the present study assuming that biogenic source category mainly
7 consists of soil, plants, and animals (especially cows). This upper bound estimate is
8 calculated by multiplying the entire contribution from the biogenic source category (74.1%)
9 by the estimate proportion of cows in biogenic emissions derived from previously estimated
10 emission rates of cows (1.3 tons day⁻¹) and soils and vegetation (0.15 tons day⁻¹). Future
11 work with updated species categorization and additional exploration of sources in the area is
12 needed to improve the constraints in the model. In addition, long-term datasets are required
13 in PMF to investigate the aggregate contributions (e.g., yearly and seasonal contributions)
14 from different factors.

15 PMF also was used to examine the observation of higher NH₃ levels during the first
16 week of the campaign. The simulation results clearly show that the relative contributions
17 from industry increase from 9.4% to 18.9% using the dataset only covering that period.
18 This prominent change is likely due to the enhanced tracers of industry. For example,
19 elevated levels of ethane (9.48 ± 9.22 ppb), ethylene (0.27 ± 0.21 ppb), propane (3.47 ± 3.40
20 ppb), and propylene (0.15 ± 0.09 ppb) were measured during the first week compared to other
21 periods of the measurements (4.76 ± 4.32 ppb, 0.15 ± 0.09 ppb, 1.96 ± 1.75 ppb, and $0.09 \pm$
22 0.04 ppb, respectively). It suggests that local industrial activities have potentially

1 significant influences on atmospheric NH₃ mixing ratios in the study region. Improved NH₃
2 emission inventories with better documentation and monitoring of anthropogenic sources
3 (especially industry) are also needed.

4

5 **4. Conclusions**

6 Atmospheric NH₃ measurements were made northwest of Fort Worth in the early
7 summer of 2011 (30 May – 30 June) using a 10.4- μ m EC-QCL-based sensor employing
8 conventional PAS. Ammonia mixing ratios showed a large amount of variability, ranging
9 from 0.35 to 10.07 ppb with a mean of 2.68 ± 1.59 ppb. A daytime increase was observed in
10 the diurnal profile of NH₃, likely due to increasing temperatures affecting
11 temperature-dependent sources (e.g., volatilization of animal waste and vegetation). A
12 moderate correlation ($r = 0.62$) between NH₃ and CO was found on Sundays, indicating that
13 motor vehicles might be potential sources of NH₃ during those periods, but there was no
14 relationship on weekdays and Saturdays as a consequence of lower traffic volume and
15 different traffic composition. The correlation coefficients between NH₃ and other air
16 pollutants did not change significantly during daytime versus nighttime. Biogenic and
17 agricultural emissions appear to be major contributors to gaseous NH₃ levels measured at the
18 suburban site in this study. However, detailed source identification was impeded by many
19 factors, such as the lack of relevant NH₃ data in the literature and the paucity of sufficient
20 emission inventory data. Extended measurements in the future are needed to fully examine
21 the seasonality of NH₃ and to further investigate the influence of local and regional sources
22 on NH₃ levels in the DFW area.

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Table 1. Measurement techniques for gaseous species, planetary boundary layer (PBL) dynamics, and meteorological parameters.

Species/parameter	Measurement technique
NH ₃	Daylight Solutions External Cavity Quantum Cascade Laser (Photo-acoustic Spectroscopy)
CO	Thermo Electron Corp. 48C Trace Level CO Analyzer (Gas Filter Correlation)
SO ₂	Thermo Electron Corp. 43C Trace Level SO ₂ Analyzer (Pulsed Fluorescence)
NO _x	Thermo Electron Corp. 42C Trace Level NO-NO ₂ -NO _x Analyzer (Chemiluminescence)
NO _y	Thermo Electron Corp. 42C-Y NO _y Analyzer (Molybdenum Converter)
HNO ₃	Mist Chamber coupled to Ion Chromatography (Dionex, Model CD20-1)
HCl	Mist Chamber coupled to Ion Chromatography (Dionex, Model CD20-1)
VOCs	IONICON Analytik Proton Transfer Reaction Mass Spectrometer and TCEQ Automated Gas Chromatograph
PBL height	Vaisala Ceilometer CL31 with updated firmware to work with Vaisala Boundary Layer View software
Temperature	Campbell Scientific HMP45C Platinum Resistance Thermometer
Wind speed	Campbell Scientific 05103 R. M. Young Wind Monitor
Wind direction	Campbell Scientific 05103 R. M. Young Wind Monitor

Table 2. Statistics of gaseous species data collected during the measurement period.

	NH ₃ (ppb)	CO (ppb)	NO _x (ppb)	NO _y (ppb)	SO ₂ (ppb)	HNO ₃ (ppt)	HCl (ppt)
Mean	2.68	137.12	3.52	5.84	0.42	533.24	350.53
Standard Deviation	1.59	42.43	4.21	4.61	0.52	519.02	277.12
Maximum	10.07	359.71	28.53	31.62	6.82	5039.31	1883.61
Minimum	0.35	75.94	0.51	1.12	0.01	44.55	23.84
Median	2.33	127.55	1.92	4.33	0.35	376.82	283.86
10th Percentile	0.35	93.82	0.71	2.34	0.12	125.26	92.45
25th Percentile	1.53	106.23	1.02	3.08	0.23	210.47	153.06
75th Percentile	3.62	153.14	4.34	6.75	0.42	648.62	470.87
90th Percentile	5.13	197.92	8.55	11.36	0.83	1104.34	676.59

Table 3. Pearson's correlation coefficients (r) between NH₃ and other air pollutants during different measurement periods.

	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Daytime	Nighttime
NH ₃ vs. CO	0.09	0.11	0.62	0.31	0.41
NH ₃ vs. NO _x	0.11	0.09	0.43	0.11	0.26
NH ₃ vs. NO _y	0.09	0.08	0.57	0.21	0.26
NH ₃ vs. NO _z	0.03	0.13	0.63	0.09	0.11
NH ₃ vs. SO ₂	0.06	0.03	0.20	0.12	0.10
NH ₃ vs. HNO ₃	0.06	0.12	0.67	0.11	0.12
NH ₃ vs. HCl	0.46	0.36	0.21	0.18	0.08

List of figures

Figure 1. (a) Annual total air releases (2.4 million pounds) by species in the DFW area [U.S. EPA, 2010]; (b) Annual NH₃ emissions (642.6 million pounds) by source categories in Texas [U.S. EPA, 2008].

Figure 2. The location of the sampling site (black star, ~17 miles northwest of downtown Fort Worth) and six point sources (black dots) of NH₃ specified in the EPA's NEI and TRI (point source 1: chemical production; 2: chemical production; 3: food manufacturing; 4: food manufacturing; 5: electricity station; 6: chemical production). The map includes the entire Tarrant County.

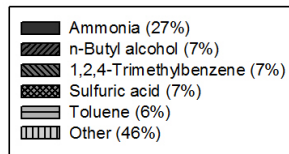
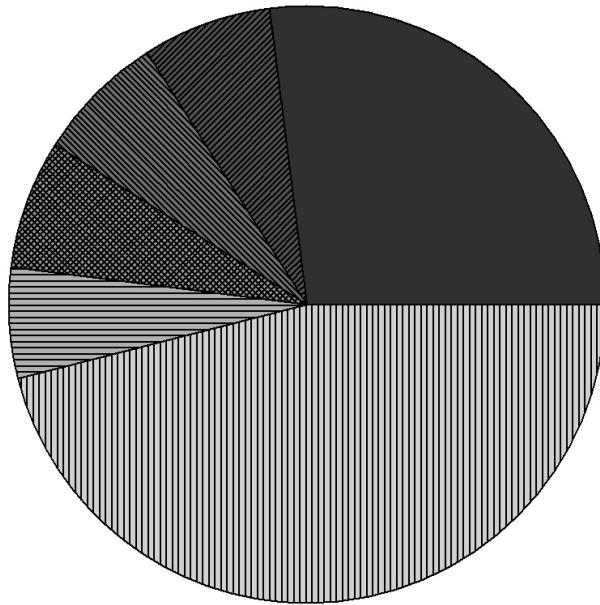
Figure 3. Time series of mixing ratios of NH₃, SO₂, CO, HNO₃, HCl, NO_x, and NO_y measured at the Eagle Mountain Lake site in the early summer of 2011.

Figure 4. Diurnal profiles of NH₃ mixing ratio and ambient temperature during the measurement period.

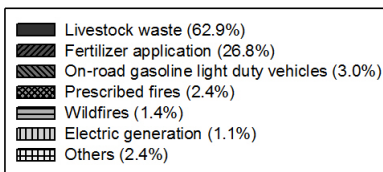
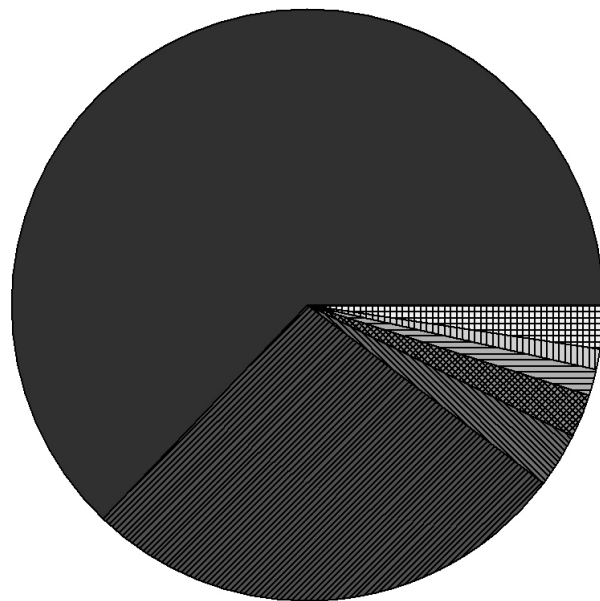
Figure 5. Diurnal hourly average mixing ratios of NH₃, CO, NO_x, SO₂, HNO₃, and HCl during the measurement period.

Figure 6. A time series of the molar concentration ratio of NH₃ to the sum of HNO₃ and HCl.

Figure 7. Wind direction distributions over the entire campaign.



(a)



(b)

Figure 1.

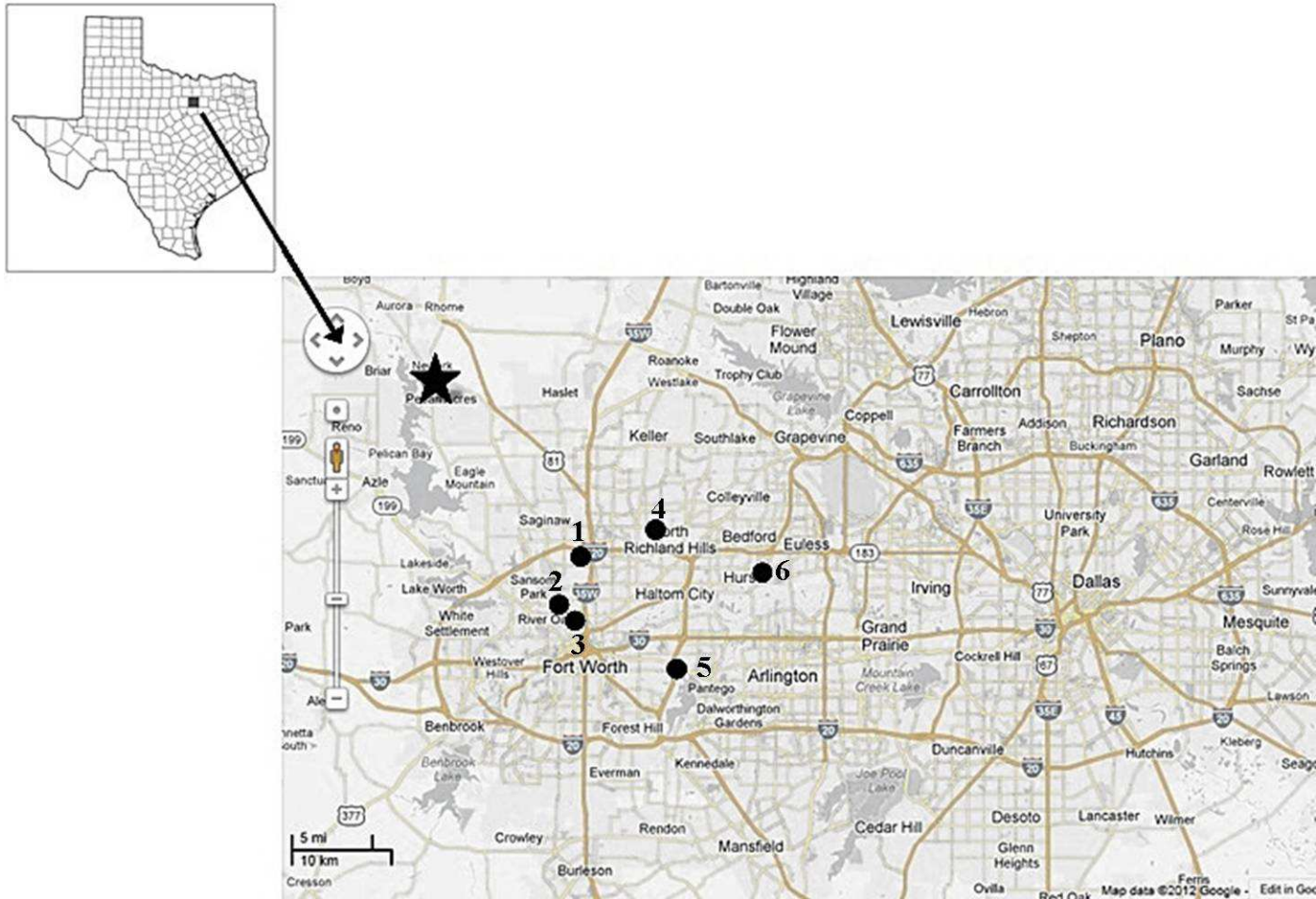


Figure 2.

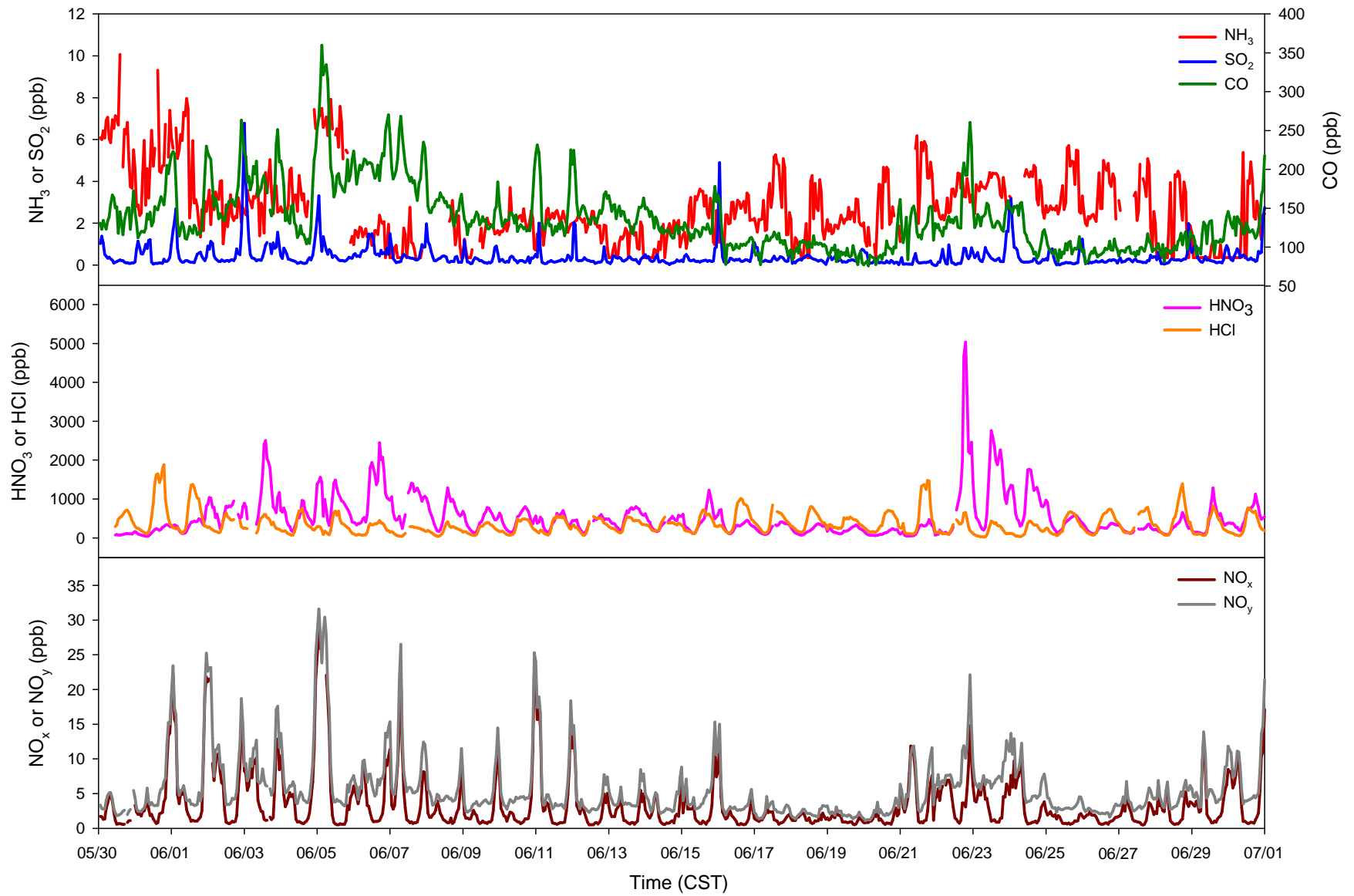


Figure 3.

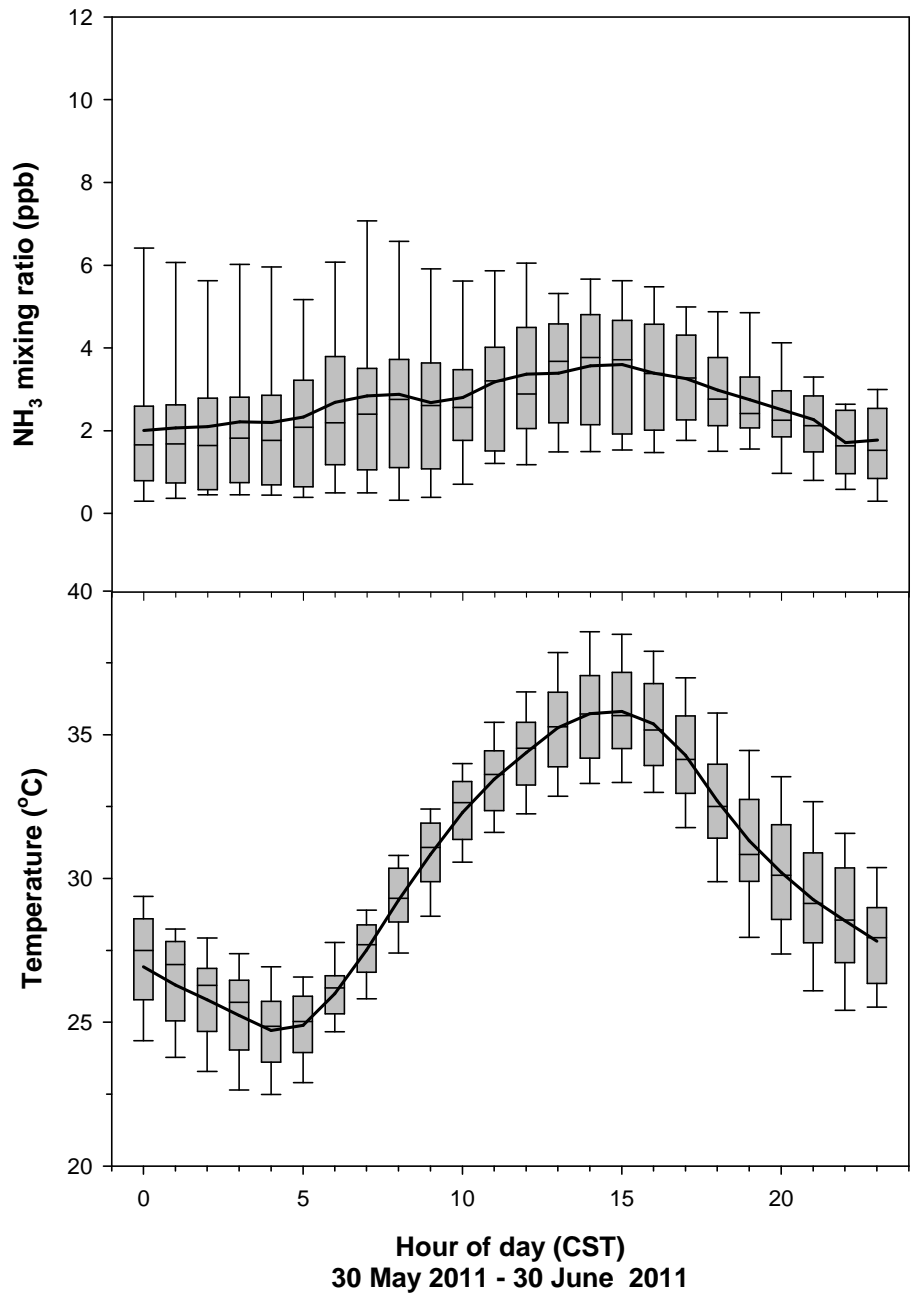


Figure 4.

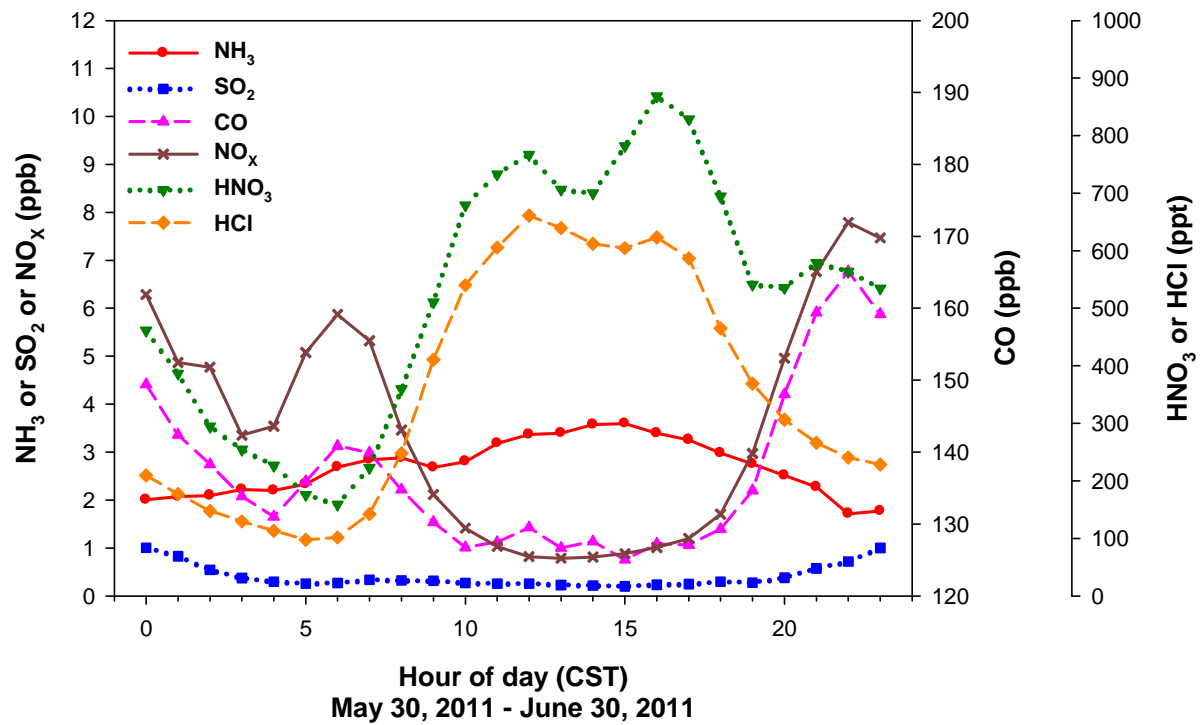


Figure 5.

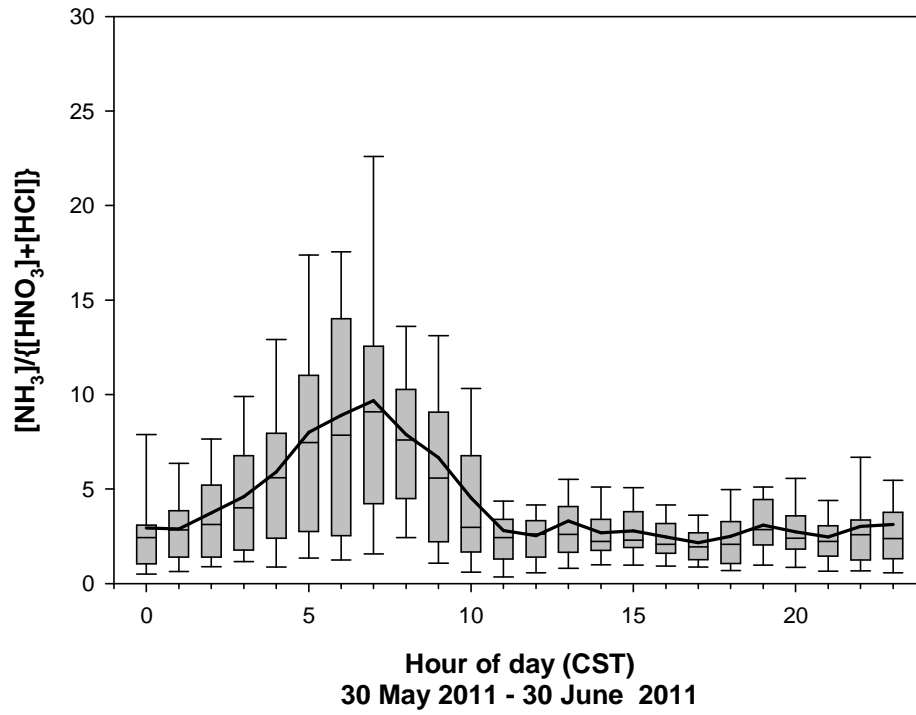
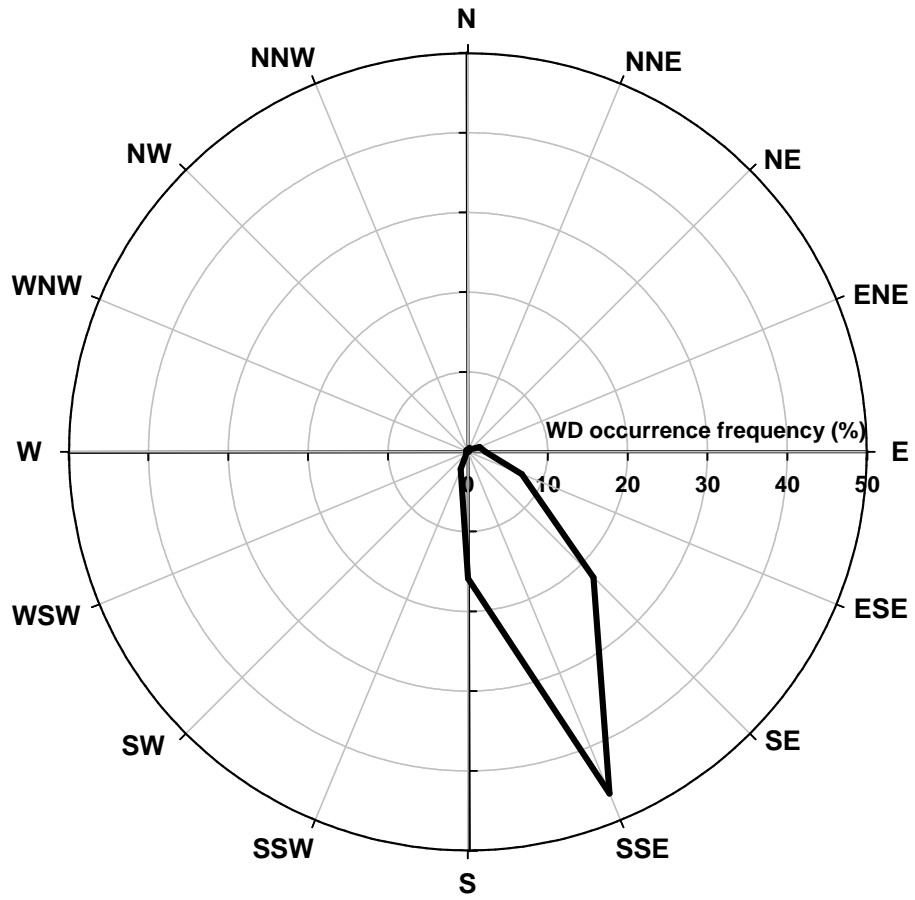


Figure 6.



May 30, 2011 - June 30, 2011

Figure 7.