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Modeling the distribution of ammonia across Europe including bi-directional surface-atmosphere exchange

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Abstract

A large shortcoming of current chemistry transport models for simulating the fate of ammonia in the atmosphere is the lack of a description of the bi-directional surface-atmosphere exchange. In this paper, results of an update of the dry deposition module DEPAC in the LOTOS-EUROS model are discussed. It is shown that with the new description, which includes bi-directional surface-atmosphere exchange, the modeled ammonia concentrations increase almost everywhere, in particular in agricultural source areas. The reason is that by using a compensation point the ammonia life time and transport distance is increased. As a consequence, deposition of ammonia and ammonium decreases in agricultural source areas, while it increases in large nature areas and remote regions especially in Southern Scandinavia. The inclusion of a compensation point for water reduces the dry deposition over sea and allows reproducing the observed marine background concentrations at coastal locations to a better extent. A comparison with measurements shows that the model results better represent the measured ammonia concentrations. The concentrations in nature areas are slightly overestimated, while the concentrations in agricultural source areas are still underestimated. Although the introduction of the compensation point improves the model performance, the modeling of ammonia remains challenging. Important aspects are emission patterns in space and time as well as a proper approach to deal with the high concentration gradients in relation to model resolution. In short, the inclusion of a bi-directional surface atmosphere exchange is a significant step forward for modeling ammonia.

1 Introduction

Eutrophication and acidification due to nitrogen deposition is an important aspect in the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity (Fangmeier et al., 1994; Bobbink et al., 1998). For ecosystems close to populated areas with intensive animal housing, the dry deposition of ammonia is the most important form of nitrogen input (Pitcairn

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et al., 1998; Walker et al., 2008). Measurements of dry deposition of ammonia, i.e. flux measurements, are however difficult and expensive. Therefore, estimates of dry deposition of ammonia are generally made by model calculations with atmospheric chemistry transport models (CTMs). Large uncertainties exist in the current scheme of dry deposition of ammonia in CTMs due to neglecting of compensation points as well as uncertainties in the emission description (Skjøth et al., 2011). In this paper, we will investigate the effect of including compensation points for ammonia in the modeling of dry deposition of ammonia by CTMs.

It is long been known that ammonia is not only taken up by the surface, thus reducing its concentration in the atmosphere, but that emissions from soils and grazed pastures can also significantly contribute to the concentration of atmospheric ammonia (Denmead et al., 1978). Since then, several flux measurement campaigns have been carried out to measure ammonia fluxes over all kind of vegetated surfaces (Flechard and Fowler, 1998; Plantaz, 1998; Milford et al., 2001a, b; Horvath et al., 2005; Wichink Kruit et al., 2007; Neiryck and Ceulemans, 2008). Even in nature areas this bi-directional behavior of ammonia has been shown (Duyzer et al., 1992; Wyers and Erisman, 1998; Nemitz et al., 2004; Neiryck and Ceulemans, 2008). In the nineties bi-directional exchange of ammonia was first included in a 1-D inferential model, which basically had the purpose to simulate the observations (Sutton et al., 1993, 1998). Based on this model approach, many simulation studies have been carried out, which increased our knowledge about the important processes that contribute to the observed net exchange of ammonia over vegetated surfaces (e.g. Smith et al., 2000; Nemitz et al., 2001; Vieno, 2005; Flechard et al., 2010, 2011; Wu et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2010; Massad et al., 2010). Although inferential models have shown that bi-directional ammonia exchange with the surface can be simulated rather well nowadays, the implementation of these parameterizations in CTMs is still difficult (Flechard et al., 2011). Especially the detailed process descriptions for the different exchange pathways require detailed meteorological and plant physiological parameter input, which is generally not available for regional and global CTMs. Therefore, the detailed model descriptions need to be generalized

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to make them applicable in CTMs. Especially the representation of the dependency on the pollution regime seems to be important (Nemitz et al., 2001). Wichink Kruit et al. (2010) derived a generic model description for the surface-atmosphere exchange of ammonia based on the measurement campaigns used in above mentioned studies. This new scheme is supposed to be widely applicable because it accounts for the local pollution climate.

The impact of the inclusion of a bi-directional surface-atmosphere exchange on the European ammonia budget is largely unknown. It is anticipated that both concentration distributions and deposition patterns are significantly affected. To make such an assessment requires the inclusion of the new scheme in a full CTM. As the scheme by Wichink Kruit et al. (2010) was integrated in a new version of the more general dry deposition module DEPAC (van Zanten et al., 2010) this is now feasible. We aim to improve the modeling of ammonia in the CTM LOTOS-EUROS and quantify the impact of the new scheme on the modeled ammonia distribution. We report a first assessment of the impact of the compensation point approach on the model results and performance.

2 Methods

In this section, we describe the LOTOS-EUROS chemistry transport model, the implementation of the compensation point approach, the model simulations performed and the observational data used for model evaluation.

2.1 LOTOS-EUROS model description

The model employed in this study is the 3-D chemistry-transport model LOTOS-EUROS (Schaap et al., 2008), which is aimed at simulating air pollution in the lower troposphere. The model is of intermediate complexity in the sense that the relevant processes are parameterized in such a way that the computational demands are modest enabling hour-by-hour calculations over extended periods of several years within

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acceptable CPU time. Scientific studies have been performed to address secondary inorganic aerosol (Schaap et al., 2004c; Erisman and Schaap, 2004), black carbon (Schaap et al., 2004a; Schaap and Denier van der Gon, 2007), sea salt (Manders et al., 2009b; Manders et al., 2010), PM (Manders et al., 2009a), and ozone (Vautard et al., 2006; Schaap et al., 2008). The model has participated frequently in international model comparisons aimed at ozone (Van Loon et al., 2007; Hass et al., 2003), PM (Cuvelier et al., 2007; Stern et al., 2008) and Source Receptor Matrices (Thunis et al., 2008). Recently, data assimilation techniques have been used to perform assessments of the air pollution levels using an optimal combination of model and observational data (e.g. Denby et al., 2008; Barbu et al., 2009). A new direction is the use of satellite data in combination with these data assimilation techniques (van de Kassteele et al., 2006; Timmermans et al., 2010). LOTOS-EUROS is used to provide daily forecasting of air pollution over Europe and the Netherlands. For a detailed description of the model we refer to these studies. Here, we describe the most relevant model characteristics of LOTOS-EUROS version 1.7, which is used in this study.

The model projection is normal longitude-latitude and the standard grid resolution is 0.50° longitude \times 0.25° latitude, approximately 25×25 km. The actual domain for a simulation can be set and it is possible to increase or decrease the resolution up to a factor 8 or 2, respectively. In the vertical, the model follows the well mixed dynamic boundary layer concept. There are three dynamic layers and a surface layer. The model extends in vertical direction 3.5 km above sea level. The lowest dynamic layer is the mixing layer, followed by two reservoir layers. The height of the mixing layer is obtained from the ECMWF meteorological input data used to drive the model. The height of the reservoir layers is determined by the difference between ceiling and mixing layer height. A surface layer with a fixed depth of 25 m is included as part of the mixing layer.

The advection in all directions is handled with the monotonic advection scheme developed by Walcek (2000). Gas phase chemistry is described using the TNO CBM-IV scheme, which is a condensed version of the original scheme by Whitten et al. (1980). Hydrolysis of N_2O_5 is described following Schaap et al. (2004c). Aerosol chemistry is

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represented using ISORROPIA (Nenes et al., 1998). The dry deposition in LOTOS-EUROS is parameterized following the well-known resistance approach following the DEPAC scheme (Erisman et al., 1994). Updates to this scheme are described below. The aerodynamic resistance is calculated for all land use types separately. Below cloud scavenging is described using simple scavenging coefficients for gases (Schaap et al., 2004c) and particles (Simpson et al., 2003).

2.2 Changes in the dry deposition module

The compensation point description of Wichink Kruit et al. (2010) was included by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in the Netherlands in an updated version of the dry deposition module DEPAC (Van Zanten et al., 2010), called “DEPAC3.11” hereafter. The most important difference between the previous version of the DEPAC module, called “DEPACold” hereafter, and “DEPAC3.11” is that “DEPACold” did not explicitly account for an ammonia concentration at the surface and was mainly based on the IDEM description developed since the early 1990s (e.g. Erisman et al., 1994). “DEPAC3.11” assumes that ammonia is present in the vegetation, water surfaces and soils, being a potential for emission under certain atmospheric conditions. Below we first summarize the main features of the “DEPACold” and the “DEPAC3.11” module and afterwards focus on the implementation of the compensation point approach.

2.2.1 Description of the “DEPACold” module

This module was developed by Erisman et al. (1994) on the basis of experimental data. In this module, R_{stom} and R_{mes} represent stomatal and mesophyll resistances of leaves, respectively. R_{inc} and R_{soil} are resistances representing in-canopy vertical transport to the soil that bypasses leaves and branches. R_{ext} is an external resistance that represents transport via leaf and stem surfaces, especially when these surfaces are wet.

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accounting for the seasonal variation in the compensation point above sea water. This fixed Γ value is shown by the dashed black line in Fig. 1. This approach is valid close to the Dutch coast for which the module was originally developed, but for the European domain, this assumption would lead to an overestimation of Γ values. As a first guess
5 for the Γ values for the European domain in LOTOS-EUROS, we scaled the observed Γ values with the modeled dry deposition of NH_x over water from a model run without a compensation point for water (see Fig. 2). The multiplication factor by which the dry deposition of NH_x [in $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$] is multiplied to obtain the Γ values over water, is 250. The resulting Γ values for two transect perpendicular to the coastline at Noordwijk
10 (Midwest of the Netherlands) and Terschelling (North of the Netherlands) are shown by the solid black lines in Fig. 1. It is shown that the Γ values obtained from the scaling correspond better with the observed Γ values than the fixed values in the official release of DEPAC3.11. More experimental data are needed to verify and improve the extrapolation of the North Sea data to other European seas.

15 2.3 Run description

In this study we have performed two sets of LOTOS-EUROS simulations to investigate the effect of the “DEPAC3.11” module on the concentration and deposition of NH_3 compared to the “DEPACold” module. The first set is obtained with the original version of the “DEPACold” module and the second set with the updated dry deposition module
20 “DEPAC3.11”. For each set we performed a simulation for 2007 on a European domain bound at 35° and 70° North and 10° West and 40° East. The grid resolution in this domain is 0.50° longitude \times 0.25° latitude. Using a one-way zoom option, a high resolution simulation over the Netherlands and its direct surroundings with an increase in resolution of a factor 4 has been obtained.

25 Anthropogenic emissions are prescribed following the MACC emission database (Kuenen et al., 2011). The horizontal resolution of the emission data is equal to the model resolution of the zoom run, avoiding the need to interpolate and securing consistent emissions in both model resolutions. The temporal variation of the emissions is

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represented by time factors. For each source category a monthly factor breaks down the annual total into monthly value. This value is divided by a factor for the day of the week and finally by a factor for the hour of the day (local time). Except for ammonia, these factors are obtained from the TROTREP project (Bultjes et al., 2003). In compar-
5 ison with the emissions of SO_x , NO_x , and VOC, the emission of ammonia is uncertain and not as well understood. Ammonia emissions in Europe are for the largest part (80–95 %) associated with agricultural activities (van der Hoek, 1998). The seasonal variation in ammonia emissions is uncertain and may differ regionally as function of farming procedures and climatic conditions. The seasonal variation in the ammonia emissions is modeled based on experimental data representative for the Netherlands
10 (Bogaard and Duyzer, 1997; Schaap et al., 2004c). The seasonal variation shows a distinct maximum in March and a slight maximum in August due to the application of manure on top of a function that roughly scales with duration of daylight. Following Asman (2001) we assumed a diurnal cycle in the emission with half the mean value at
15 midnight and twice the mean at noon.

2.4 Description of measurements

Evaluation of the model performance for ammonia and ammonium salts of nitrate and sulfate is a challenge. For the European domain we use observations of the EMEP network. Within this network a few sites ($n = 17$) provide ammonia concentration data.
20 However, most of the daily data are obtained by filter packs, which provide an upper limit for ammonia due to potential evaporation of ammonium nitrate from the front filter (Schaap et al., 2004b; Vecchi et al., 2009). For this reason many sites ($n = 33$) report total ammonia, which is the sum of ammonia and particulate ammonium, either obtained by means of a filter pack or an impregnated filter. Mountain stations have been
25 excluded for the model to measurement comparison.

Within the Netherlands, the National Air Quality Monitoring network (NAQMN; www.lml.rivm.nl) provides 8 stations with hourly ammonia concentrations obtained with wet annular denuder systems (AMANDA) (Wyers et al., 1993, 1998).

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A major issue for the comparison is the representation issue. Many sites in the EMEP and NAQMN networks are located in rural and agricultural areas. For many components these sites can be regarded as background, but the exception is ammonia. Many sites are prone to be influenced by nearby agricultural activities such as stables. For example, in the Netherlands the annual mean concentration at agricultural sites is about $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ higher than in large nature areas (Stolk et al., 2009). In addition, due to the short atmospheric life time of ammonia concentrations gradients are expected to be high, complicating the comparison. Fortunately, a monitoring network exists for nature areas in the Netherlands (Stolk et al., 2009). In 29 nature areas scattered throughout the Netherlands and at several locations within each nature area passive samplers are used to monitor ammonia levels on a monthly basis. The uncertainty in the individual monthly values is large, i.e. about 20 % in the high concentration range (nature areas close to agricultural areas), about 40 % in the normal concentration range (most nature areas) and up to 80 % in the low concentration range (coastal nature areas). The uncertainty in the annual mean concentrations from the passive samplers is lower due to the large number of measurements and is estimated to be 10–15 % for inland locations and about 25 % for coastal stations (Thijssen et al., 1998; Stolk et al., 2009). Therefore, we compare the model results to annual mean concentrations instead of the single monthly data points. The measurement heights in this network are variable and generally below 2.5 m, which is the height for the modeled concentration output. As the measurement height in this network is not constant, the measured concentrations are corrected for the difference between the measurement height and the model output height using the wind profile power law, i.e. $C_{\text{observation}}/C_{\text{model}} = (z_{\text{observation}}/z_{\text{model}})^{1/7}$. For the model evaluation, only measurements in nature areas larger than 500 hectare (approximately $2 \times 2 \text{ km}$) are selected to avoid extremely local pollution effects. This selection reduces the number of nature areas from 29 to 18, which is a reduction of 38 %, and the number measurement locations within these nature areas from 117 to 90, which is a reduction of 23 %.

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Measurements over sea are extremely scarce. Therefore, we compare our model results for 2007 with the results of a measurement campaign from May 1999 to August 2000 on two different North Sea ferry routes (Tamm and Schulz, 2003). The first track is between Hamburg in Germany and Newcastle in the United Kingdom and the second track is between Hamburg in Germany and Harwich in the United Kingdom. Each track is divided into three parts, which represent different subregions. Although the measured and modeled periods are not equal, this comparison gives us some information about the general model performance over sea.

3 Results

In this section we describe the distributions of the annual mean ammonia concentration and surface atmosphere exchange with the two deposition modules in the LOTOS-EUROS chemistry transport model. We evaluate these distributions with the described measurement networks and campaigns and discuss the effect on secondary inorganic aerosol formation.

3.1 Concentration distribution

Figure 3 shows the yearly mean NH_3 concentration distribution as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model using “DEPAC3.11” (upper right panel) and “DEPACold” (upper left panel) and the absolute (lower left) and relative (lower right) differences between them for the year 2007. The ammonia distribution largely follows the emission density distribution as the atmospheric lifetime of ammonia is rather short. Not surprisingly, the highest concentrations are modeled in the Po Valley, Brittany, the Netherlands and north western Germany with NH_3 concentrations in the range of 4 to $10 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. Concentrations between 1 and $4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ occur over large regions in central Europe, whereas lower concentrations are modeled across remote continental and marine regions. Including the compensation point approach causes the modeled ammonia

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concentrations to increase almost everywhere. The largest absolute increase in ammonia concentrations is observed in agricultural areas, where the increase generally amounts $1\text{--}2\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, while in the Po Valley an increase up to $4\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ is found. In a relative sense, concentrations increase by about 30–40 % in agricultural areas, whereas
5 at a certain distance from the important source regions the increase is less than 10 %. In general, the transport distance and the concentration of ammonia increase everywhere. The introduction of the compensation point for water leads to the largest relative increase in the concentrations of more than 300 %. This is because the calculated concentrations over sea with the “DEPACold” scheme were extremely low.

10 3.2 Surface-atmosphere exchange

Figure 4 shows the yearly mean NH_x deposition as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model using “DEPAC3.11” (upper right figure) instead of the “DEPACold” (upper left figure) for the year 2007. The lower figures show the absolute (left) and relative (right) difference in the calculated NH_x depositions with the two DEPAC schemes. The largest
15 reductions in the NH_x deposition ($< -2\ \text{kg N ha}^{-1}$) are calculated in the agricultural source areas in the Netherlands, Ireland, Brittany and the Po Valley, while the largest increases are found in the larger nature areas, the coastal areas and Southern Scandinavia. This indicates that deposition is shifted towards the non-source areas. The lower right figure shows that the introduction of the compensation point for water leads to a relatively large reduction in the NH_x deposition of more than 50 % over sea. The figure
20 also shows that the remote areas in Scandinavia receive up to 30 % more NH_x . This is mainly because the concentrations in the tail of the distribution away from the main source regions are relatively more sensitive to the increase in lifetime of NH_3 .

The reduced dry deposition in the “DEPAC3.11” scheme due to the introduction of
25 the compensation points, is partly compensated by an increased wet deposition due to the higher ambient air concentrations, as is shown in Fig. 5. The figure clearly shows that the wet deposition is largest close to the source areas of ammonia, but also that the wet deposition of NH_x is more evenly distributed or less localized than the dry

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deposition of NH_x . This makes the nitrogen input by wet deposition more important than the input by dry deposition of NH_x for more remote areas and especially over sea. The absolute change in the wet deposition due to the new deposition scheme (lower
5 left figure) shows that besides the increase in the wet deposition in the agricultural areas due to the higher ammonia concentrations, the wet deposition in the coastal areas is also increased, due to the higher ammonia concentrations over sea. This is also shown in the lower right figure in which the relative difference due to the new deposition scheme is presented. The largest relative increase in the wet deposition of
10 NH_x of more than 30 % is observed over especially the Mediterranean Sea, while it is shown that the relative increase is in the order of 10–20 % in the areas with the largest absolute increase.

3.3 Validation with measurements

Fig. 6 shows a comparison of the model runs with the “DEPACold” and “DEPAC3.11” with the available ammonia measurements in the EMEP database. It is shown that the model generally underestimates the concentrations at the 17 EMEP stations. With the
15 “DEPACold” module, an increasing underestimation is present with increasing measured ammonia levels. The only EMEP station that is located in one of the intensive agricultural areas is Eibergen, which is located in the eastern part of the Netherlands, with an annual mean measured concentration of almost $9\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The “DEPAC3.11”
20 module especially increases the modeled concentrations with a few $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ at this station, while increases in the lower concentration range are more modest. The slope of the regression between the simulated and measured concentrations is improved from 0.68 to 0.92, while the high correlation coefficient of 0.9 is maintained. The regression is strongly influenced by the EMEP station in Eibergen. The only EMEP station for which
25 both the “DEPACold” and the “DEPAC3.11” modules overestimate the ammonia concentration is Tange in Denmark. This station is located close to a lake surrounded by forest, while the wider surroundings consist of arable lands. It is likely that the grid cell in which Tange is located in the model contains a considerable amount of agricultural

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land and thus emissions of ammonia, which leads to an overestimation of the annual mean concentration in this grid cell by the model.

A similar picture is obtained if we compare the model results of both deposition modules with the annual mean total ammonia concentration (ammonia and particulate ammonium) at the 33 EMEP stations in Fig. 7. Again, the largest increases occur in the higher observed concentration range. The three points with the highest observed total ammonia concentrations are Jerczew (PL), Payerne (CH) and Els Thorms (ES), of which the latter two are located at elevation heights larger than 400 m with some agricultural activity in their surroundings. Although the ammonia levels that are calculated by the model run with the “DEPAC3.11” module are better than those calculated with the “DEPACold” module, the scatter between the measurements and the model calculations is not reduced. The slope of the regression, however, is improved from 0.62 to 0.72, but is strongly determined by the three points on the right hand side of the figure.

As we have seen in Figs. 6 and 7, the EMEP network contains a range of station types with locations in remote areas as well as in areas with intensive agriculture such as Eibergen in the Netherlands. For a better understanding of the model performance, we now zoom in on the area with intensive agricultural activity in the Netherlands and compare the modeled concentrations with measurements from the NAQMN in Fig. 8. The figure shows that the concentrations at most of the stations are still underestimated by the LOTOS-EUROS version in which the “DEPAC3.11” module is implemented. The underestimation is largest in the areas with the most intensive agricultural activity at Wekerom (area with many poultry farms) in the center and Vredepeel (area with many pig farms) in the southeast of the country. The observed annual mean concentrations at these stations of about 14 and 18 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, respectively, are not well captured by the model simulations. This is likely caused by the presence of farms next to the measurement sites, which locally influence the measurements and make them less representative on the regional scale. Altogether, the bias in the regression is reduced by using the “DEPAC3.11” module, but the scatter has slightly become larger, resulting in a lower correlation coefficient of 0.65. The deterioration of the correlation is mainly caused by

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the large increase in the modeled annual mean ammonia concentration in Eibergen, and is not considered to be interpretable.

Figure 9 shows a comparison of the model results with measurements of the Monitoring network of Ammonia in Nature areas (MAN) in the Netherlands, a passive sampler network operated by RIVM (Stolk et al., 2009). The figure shows that the LOTOS-EUROS model underestimates the ammonia concentrations in the nature areas with about 12% with the “DEPACold” module. This underestimation is consistent with the previous figures. However, the model overestimates the concentrations in nature areas with the “DEPAC3.11” module with about 13%. Reason for the overestimation by the “DEPAC3.11” module is likely that the horizontal grid size resolution of the model is generally larger than the size of nature areas, such that most grid cells contain ammonia emissions, which are spread over the grid cell and consequently raise the concentration in the grid cell. If a selection of nature areas larger than 2000 ha, which is approximately $4.5 \times 4.5 \text{ km}^2$, would be made, only 10 out of the 29 nature areas would be selected and less than 50% of the measurement locations would stay in the comparison. Besides, most of the nature areas in the MAN network are located in the southeast and east of the Netherlands, which are the most intensive agricultural parts of the country. Stolk et al. (2009) found a strong dependency between the distance to the edge of the nature area and the concentration, especially for the nature areas that are exposed to higher ammonia levels. Locations close to the border of the nature area, i.e. close to agricultural land, show much higher concentrations than sites in the middle of the nature areas. The largest distance in the MAN network to the border of the nature area is generally less than 10 km, but the majority of the measurements, especially the ones that are exposed to the higher ammonia levels, are located less than 5 km away from the border. This is less than the $7 \times 7 \text{ km}^2$ grid size resolution of the model, which supports the above explanation for the overestimations of the concentrations by the model. In the low concentration range ($<3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$), there is a cluster of coastal measurement points that was largely underestimated with the “DEPACold” module. This cluster is much better modeled with the “DEPAC3.11” module, due to

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the introduction of the compensation point for water, which increases the background concentration at these coastal stations.

To further investigate the model behavior at coastal stations we focus at the EMEP station in Westerland in Germany for which daily data are available. We show the time series in Fig. 10 and the corresponding scatter plot in Fig. 11. Figure 10 shows that the observed underestimation of ammonia concentrations is partly reduced by the introduction of the compensation point for sea water in “DEPAC3.11”. The “DEPAC3.11” module gives a background concentration of approximately $0.5\text{--}1.0\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in summer and autumn, while the background concentration was almost zero with the “DEPACold” module. The peaks occurring during offshore wind episodes are caused by agricultural activities. The timing of the main events is rather well reproduced by the model, but it also shows that although the compensation point is an improvement, there are additional challenges remaining to improve the modeling of ammonia. Despite the improvements from the “DEPAC3.11” module, the modeled concentrations at Westerland are still more than a factor 2 too low.

In Fig. 12, we compare the model results with the two deposition schemes for 2007 with the data of a 15 months measurement campaign at two North Sea ferry routes from May 1999 to August 2000 (data from Tamm and Schulz, 2003).

It is obvious that the modeled annual mean concentration over the North Sea has significantly increased by the “DEPAC3.11” module. With the “DEPACold” module, the concentrations fell off rather quickly from values higher than $1.0\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ on land, to values below $0.2\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ further offshore. With the “DEPAC3.11” module, concentrations decrease more gradually due to the reduced deposition on water, which is the result of the compensation point for water. The displayed values represent the mean concentrations (medians in italic) for the different subregions during the whole measurement campaign (Tamm and Schulz, 2003). As it is difficult to designate a single model point or a cluster of model points to a subregion, we roughly evaluate the surroundings of the displayed values. We can conclude that a significant part of the gap between observed and modeled concentrations is closed by the introduction of “DEPAC3.11” module. The

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median values compare better with the modeled fields than the mean values, especially for the two most northerly points. This is likely due to a few high concentration events during the measurement campaign, which is expressed by the maximum observed concentrations of 4.5 and $3.4\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in the upper left and upper middle subregions, respectively.

3.4 Effects on Secondary Inorganic Aerosol (SIA) components

Although the increase in the ammonia concentrations is large in some agricultural areas, the effect on the Secondary Inorganic Aerosol (SIA) formation, i.e. NH_4NO_3 , NH_4HSO_4 and $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, is rather limited. Over land, the changes in modeled annual mean concentrations due to the use of “DEPAC3.11” instead of the “DEPACold” are generally lower than $0.1\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The right panel in this figure shows the influence of one of the updates in the “DEPAC3.11” module that was not mentioned before. The surface resistance of SO_2 was reduced to synchronize the DEPAC versions used in OPS and LOTOS-EUROS model. This update generally resulted in lower atmospheric SO_2 concentrations due to larger deposition and led to a small reduction in the SO_4^{2-} concentrations of less than $0.15\ \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The reduction in SO_4^{2-} concentrations also led to a small reduction in the NH_4^+ concentrations in Southern Germany, Austria and Northern Italy.

Interestingly, in the Mediterranean Sea the NH_4^+ concentrations increase while the SO_4^{2-} concentrations decrease and the NO_3^- concentrations remain very low. This seems to be rather contradictory, but it is explained by the fact that the sulfate in the base case is not fully neutralized. Hence, the ammonia background over sea causes more ammonia to be converted to particulate ammonium. All available NH_3 reacts with H_2SO_4 and therefore, the NO_3^- concentrations are not really affected here.

Only in north western Europe, the increase in ammonia concentrations results in more NH_4NO_3 formation over sea. The impact on the model performance of LOTOS-EUROS for the SIA components in comparison to measurements is very small (not

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shown), as expected due to the small changes in modeled concentrations over the European main land.

4 Discussion and conclusions

This study is among the first to implement the compensation point approach in a regional CTM. Although inferential models (Flechard et al., 2011) have shown that bi-directional ammonia exchange with the surface can be simulated rather well nowadays, the implementation of these parameterizations in CTMs is still difficult. Especially the detailed process descriptions for the different exchange pathways require detailed meteorological and plant physiological parameter input, which is generally not available for regional and global CTMs. Therefore, the detailed model descriptions need to be generalized to make them applicable in CTMs. The generalization step is often a shortcoming as parameterizations are derived for just one certain land use class, which is located in one certain pollution climate. Especially the pollution climate seems to be important, because the surface in polluted areas becomes saturated with ammonia and the uptake of ammonia at the surface is reduced. Therefore a strong link between the surface-atmosphere exchange of ammonia and pollution climate seems to be obvious. Nemitz et al. (2001) found a log-linear relation between the external leaf surface resistance and the pollution climate through a factor α_{SN} , which is the ratio between SO_2 and NH_3 concentration. In this study, the pollution climate is taken into account by including the mean ambient ammonia concentration of the previous month for the stomatal compensation point and the ambient ammonia concentration of the previous hour for the external leaf surface concentration. However, we did not explicitly account for the co-deposition effect of NH_3 and SO_2 yet. In the Netherlands SO_2 concentrations and consequently the ratio between the molar SO_2 and NH_3 concentrations are generally very low (<0.1) and are not expected to influence the NH_3 uptake much in the Netherlands for which the module was originally developed. For the European domain, this could be important though, because especially in Eastern Europe, SO_2

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concentrations can be relatively high, making the surface more acid and therefore more favorable for uptake of ammonia.

RIVM showed that the “DEPAC3.11” module in the Lagrangian OPS model reduces the previous underestimation of the modeled NH_3 concentrations in the Netherlands almost completely and results in approximately 20 % higher concentrations compared to previous calculations with the “DEPACold” module (Van Pul et al., 2008). In this study, the “DEPAC3.11” module (compared to the “DEPACold” module) in the Eulerian LOTOS-EUROS model results in an increase in the NH_3 concentrations of up to 30–40 % in the most intensive agricultural areas. Over sea, increases are much larger (>300 % in the Mediterranean Sea) because the compensation point for sea water in “DEPAC3.11” was not present in the “DEPACold” module. The limited numbers of measurements that are available over sea indicate that the concentrations with the “DEPAC3.11” module are more realistic than the concentrations of almost zero with the “DEPACold” module (Tamm and Schulz, 2003). The introduction of a compensation point for sea water also resulted in a higher and more realistic background concentration at coastal measurement stations. As well for the coastal measurement stations in the MAN network in the Netherlands as for the EMEP station Westerland in Germany, the concentrations are much better represented when using the “DEPAC3.11” module in the LOTOS-EUROS model. The concentrations still appear to be on the low side, which suggests that we might have been too conservative in the choice of the scaling factor of 250 to derive Γ values for sea water from the dry deposition of NH_x . However, the potentially large effect of the outflow of NH_4^+ rich water from estuaries on the Γ values is not taken into account. Altogether, the first order approximation to use a scaling of the dry deposition of NH_x for the Γ values for sea water seems to be quite successful.

Comparison between the LOTOS-EUROS model results and measurements showed that with the “DEPAC3.11” module, the NH_3 concentrations are slightly overestimated in nature areas and underestimated in source regions. Several studies in the UK showed that significant differences may occur between measured and modeled ammonia

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concentrations due to the grid size resolution. The modeled mean concentration from a $7 \times 7 \text{ km}^2$ model grid cell may therefore significantly differ from the measured concentration at a specific location within the grid cell. Especially, the highly localized nature of NH_3 emissions is causing this difference (Dragosits et al., 2002; Dore et al., 2007; Van Pul et al., 2009). These studies have also shown that a further increase in resolution enables better discrimination between agricultural and natural areas. However, using such resolutions for the full European domain is not feasible. A potential way out may be to keep track of the local contribution within each grid cell using a source apportionment tool such as developed by Wagstrom et al. (2008) and compare the non-local part of the total modeled concentration to the nature areas. Alternatively, the plume in grid approach (e.g. Geels et al., 2012) may provide a good means to overcome the scale issues involved in the modeling of ammonia.

Despite the generally higher NH_3 concentrations, the concentrations of the Secondary Inorganic Aerosol (SIA) components, which are in thermodynamic equilibrium with ammonia, are only slightly affected. Especially close to the coast, the NH_4^+ and NO_3^- concentrations appear to be higher due to more NH_4NO_3 formation. Due to a smaller surface resistance for SO_2 in the “DEPAC3.11” module, the SO_2 and consequently the H_2SO_4 concentrations decrease almost everywhere. Due to the lack of H_2SO_4 there is a decrease in the SO_4^{2-} formation, which also resulted in a decrease of NH_4^+ in southern Germany, Austria and northern Italy, as not sufficient HNO_3 is available to replace the H_2SO_4 . As a consequence, NH_3 concentrations in these areas will be slightly higher, but it is difficult to distinguish how much of the observed increase is caused by the compensation points for ammonia or by the reduced surface resistance for SO_2 .

Within the ECLAIRE project (www.eclair-fp7.eu), a comparison between several CTMs and several years of data collected within the NitroEurope project will be carried out.

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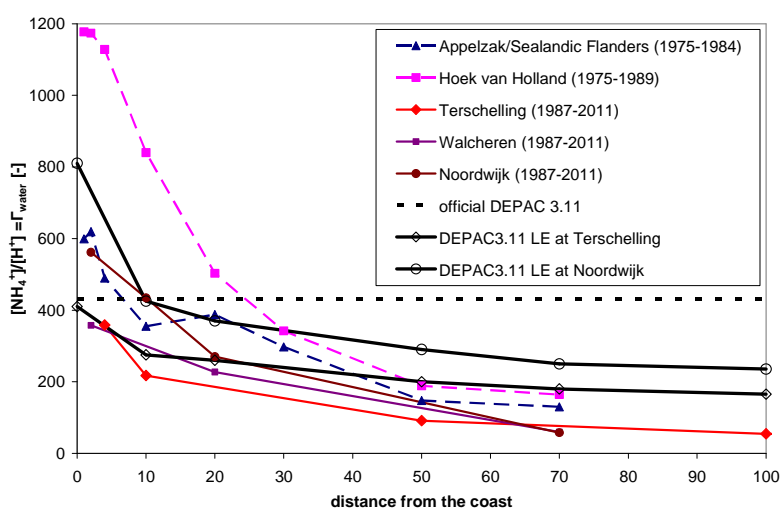


Fig. 1. Molar ratio between the NH_4^+ and H^+ concentration in sea water for 7 transects perpendicular to the coast in the Netherlands (data from www.waterbase.nl).

4906

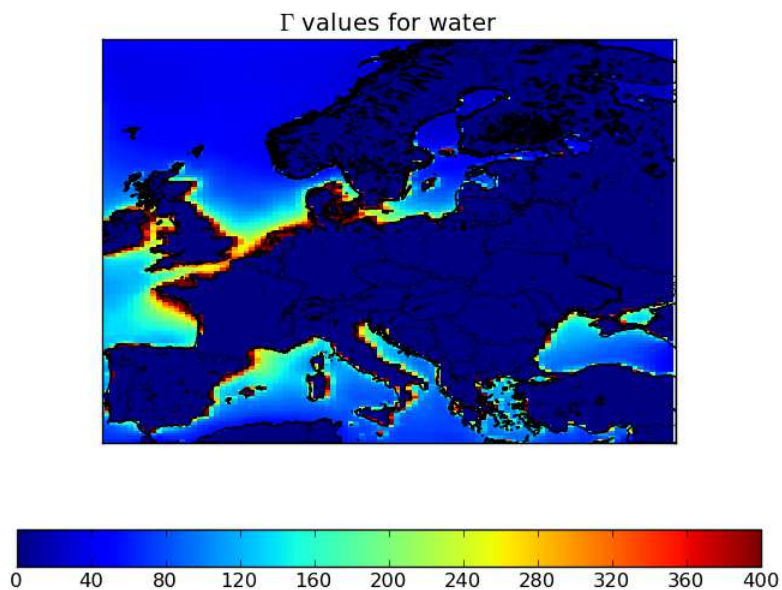


Fig. 2. Molar ratios between the NH_4^+ and H^+ concentration, i.e. Γ values, in sea water as used in the LOTOS-EUROS model for the European domain.

4907

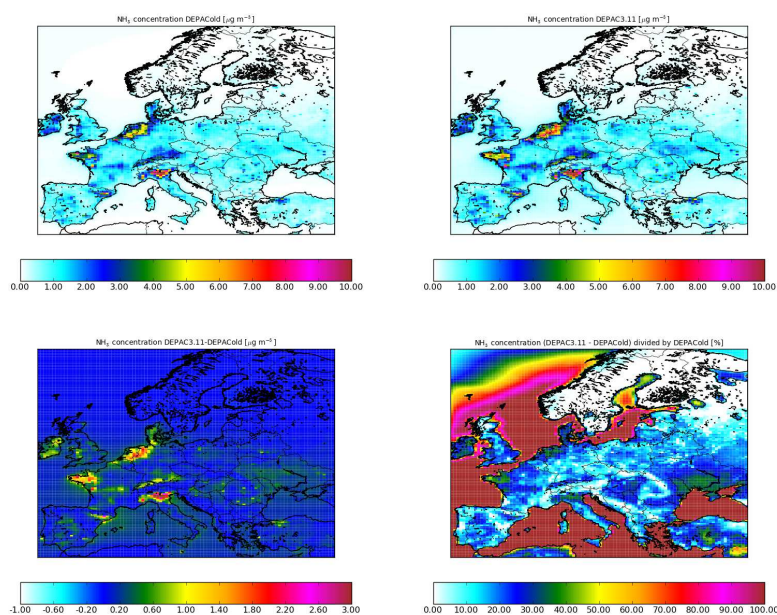


Fig. 3. The yearly mean NH_3 concentrations as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model with the “DEPACold” (upper left) and “DEPAC3.11” module (upper right) for the year 2007. The lower left figure shows the absolute difference and the lower right figure shows the relative difference between the two model calculations.

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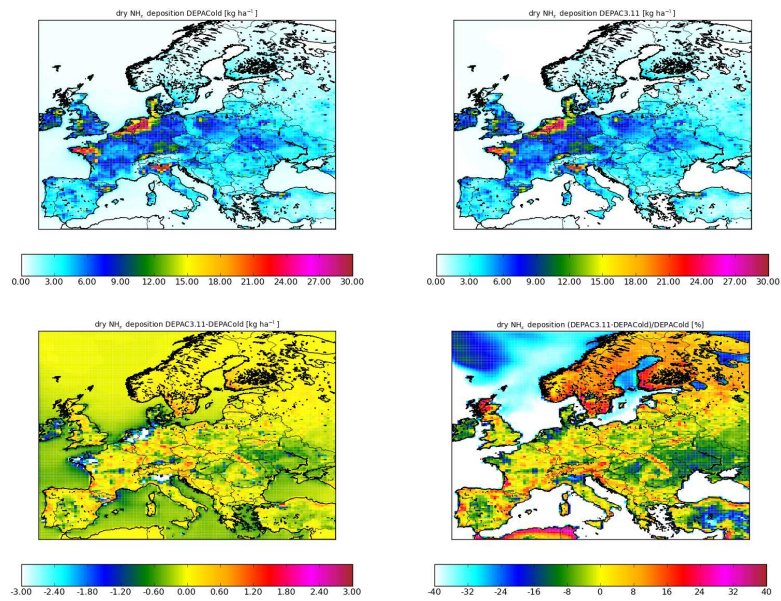


Fig. 4. The yearly mean dry NH_x deposition as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model with the “DEPACold” (upper left) and “DEPAC3.11” module (upper right) for the year 2007. The lower left figure shows the absolute difference and the lower right figure shows the relative difference between the two model calculations.

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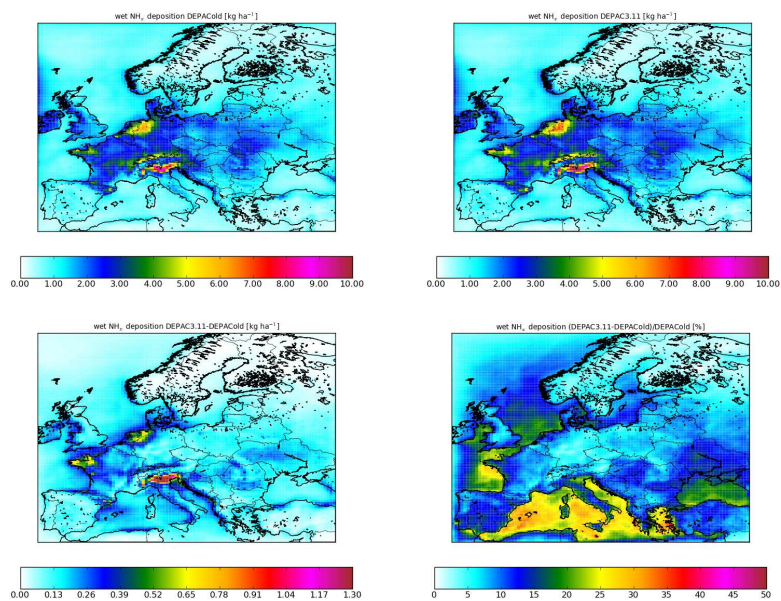


Fig. 5. The yearly mean wet NH_x deposition as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model with the “DEPACold” (upper left) and “DEPAC3.11” module (upper right) for the year 2007. The lower left figure shows the absolute difference and the lower right figure shows the relative difference between the two model calculations.

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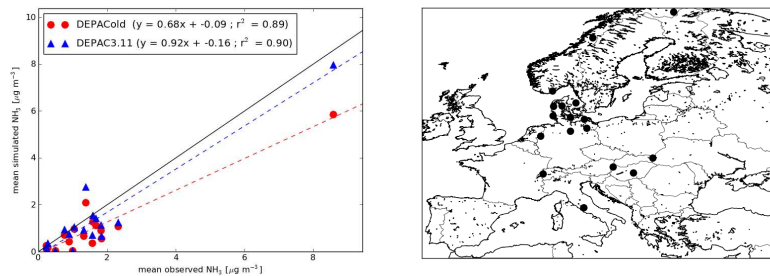


Fig. 6. Comparison of the modeled ammonia concentrations (with “DEPACold” and “DEPAC3.11”) with the measured concentrations at the EMEP stations in Europe ($n = 17$) in 2007.

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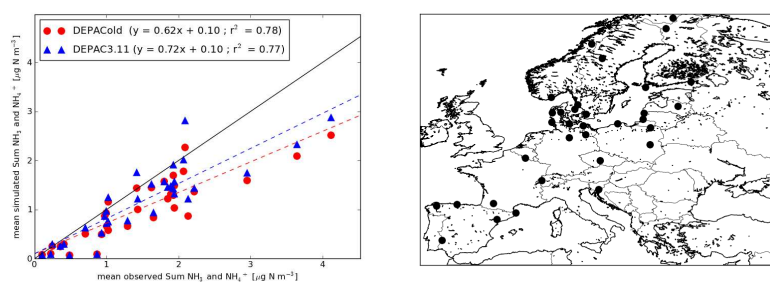


Fig. 7. Comparison of the modeled total ammonia concentrations (sum of ammonia and particulate ammonium modeled with “DEPACold” (red) and “DEPAC3.11” (blue)) with the EMEP measurement stations ($n = 33$) in Europe in 2007.

4912

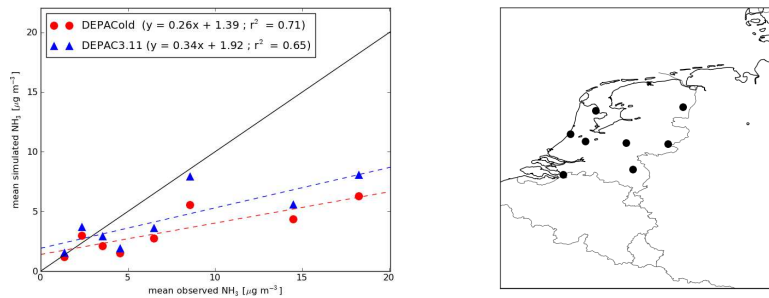


Fig. 8. Comparison of the modeled ammonia concentrations with “DEPACold” (red) and “DEPAC3.11” (blue) with the measurements of the NAQMN ($n = 8$) in the Netherlands in 2007.

4913

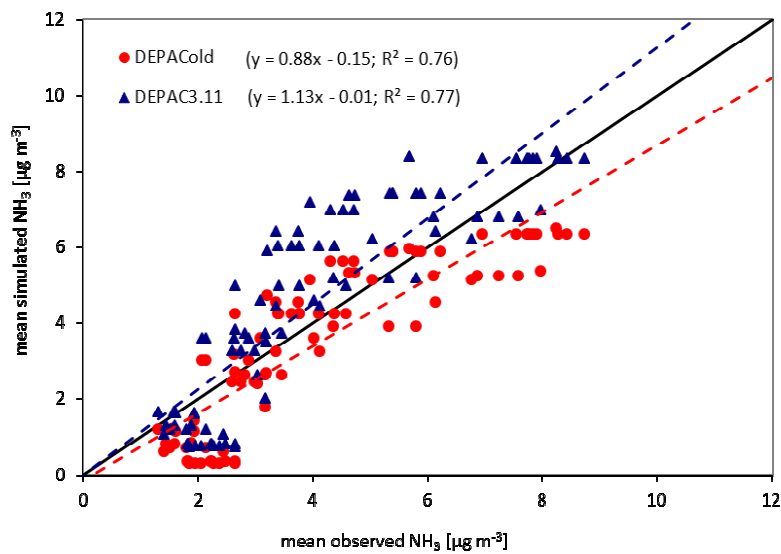


Fig. 9. Model comparison of annual mean ammonia concentrations modeled with LOTOS-EUROS using the two deposition modules and measurements of the Monitoring network of Ammonia in Nature areas in the Netherlands in 2007 (Stolk et al., 2009).

4914

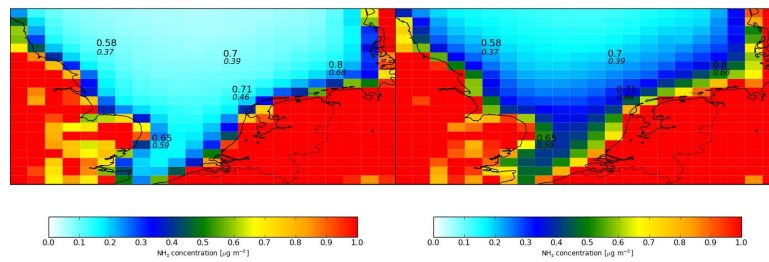


Fig. 12. The yearly mean NH_3 concentrations as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model with the “DEPACold” (left) and “DEPAC3.11” module (right) for the year 2007 zoomed in on the North Sea and focusing on the lower concentration range between 0 and $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The mean and median (in italic) concentrations of the measurement campaign are displayed as numbers in the modeled distributions.

4917

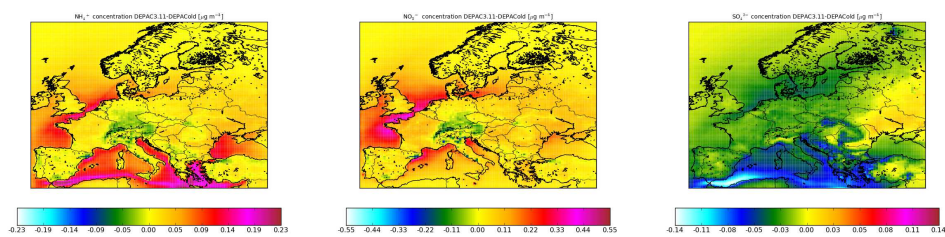


Fig. 13. Absolute difference in the NH_4^+ (left), NO_3^- (middle) and SO_4^{2-} (right) concentration due to the use of “DEPAC3.11” instead of the “DEPACold” module for the year 2007.

4918