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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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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.

5 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  
10 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.

### 20 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 moderate 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  $0.50^\circ$  longitude  $\times$   $0.25^\circ$  latitude, approximately  $25 \times 25$  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

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,  $R_{\text{stom}}$  and  $R_{\text{mes}}$  represent stomatal and mesophyll resistances of leaves, respectively.  $R_{\text{inc}}$  and  $R_{\text{soil}}$  are resistances representing in-canopy vertical transport to the soil that bypasses leaves and branches.  $R_{\text{ext}}$  is an external resistance that represents transport via leaf and stem surfaces, especially when these surfaces are wet.

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The DEPAC module contains values or formulae for each of the resistances described above and for various land-use types. The module includes the following gaseous components:  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ , and  $\text{NH}_3$  and provides a dry deposition velocity and a so-called effective canopy resistance on an hourly basis as a function of meteorological parameters, month of the year and time of the day. Meteorological parameters are: friction velocity, Monin-Obukhov length, global radiation, wind speed at canopy height, relative humidity and a surface wetness indicator. Other parameters are land-use class, roughness length and an indicator for the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{SO}_2$  ratio. Since its development, some of the values and formulae have been revised, with the latest version of the module described in Van Jaarsveld et al. (2004).

In contrast to what is described in Van Jaarsveld et al. (2004), the parameterization of Wesely et al. (1989) for the stomatal pathway was replaced by the parameterization of Emberson et al. (2000a, b) in LOTOS-EUROS.

### 2.2.2 Description of the “DEPAC3.11” module

The dry deposition module “DEPAC3.11” is an update of the previously described DEPAC module and includes new insights for the different removal pathways (Van Zanten et al., 2010). The external leaf surface pathway is parameterized with the external leaf surface resistance,  $R_w$ , and an external leaf surface compensation point,  $\chi_w$ .  $R_w$  is parameterized according to Sutton and Fowler (1993), which is amongst the lowest resistances found in literature. This resistance accounts for the wetness of the surface under ideal uptake conditions, as it is derived for a rather acid environment with optimal ammonia uptake. The external leaf surface compensation point is parameterized as an empirical formula and is strongly dependent on the atmospheric ammonia concentration (Wichink Kruit et al., 2010; Van Zanten et al., 2010). In this way, the saturation of leaf surface water with ammonium is taken into account and the parameterization accounts for different ammonia pollution climates. The external leaf surface compensation point is further weakly dependent on temperature, which accounts for some seasonality.



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accounting for the seasonal variation in the compensation point above sea water. This fixed  $\Gamma$  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  $\Gamma$  values. As a first guess for the  $\Gamma$  values for the European domain in LOTOS-EUROS, we scaled the observed  $\Gamma$  values with the modeled dry deposition of  $\text{NH}_x$  over water from a model run without a compensation point for water (see Fig. 2). The multiplication factor by which the dry deposition of  $\text{NH}_x$  [in  $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ] is multiplied to obtain the  $\Gamma$  values over water, is 250. The resulting  $\Gamma$  values for two transect perpendicular to the coastline at Noordwijk (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  $\Gamma$  values obtained from the scaling correspond better with the observed  $\Gamma$  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.

### 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  $\text{NH}_3$  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 “DEPAC3.11”. For each set we performed a simulation for 2007 on a European domain bound at  $35^\circ$  and  $70^\circ$  North and  $10^\circ$  West and  $40^\circ$  East. The grid resolution in this domain is  $0.50^\circ$  longitude  $\times$   $0.25^\circ$  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.

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

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 comparison with the emissions of SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, 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 (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 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. 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 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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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  $\text{NH}_3$  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  $\text{NH}_3$  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 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.

### 3.2 Surface-atmosphere exchange

Figure 4 shows the yearly mean  $\text{NH}_x$  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  $\text{NH}_x$  depositions with the two DEPAC schemes. The largest reductions in the  $\text{NH}_x$  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  $\text{NH}_x$  deposition of more than 50 % over sea. The figure also shows that the remote areas in Scandinavia receive up to 30 % more  $\text{NH}_x$ . 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  $\text{NH}_3$ .

The reduced dry deposition in the “DEPAC3.11” scheme due to the introduction of 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  $\text{NH}_x$  is more evenly distributed or less localized than the dry

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deposition of  $\text{NH}_x$ . This makes the nitrogen input by wet deposition more important than the input by dry deposition of  $\text{NH}_x$  for more remote areas and especially over sea. The absolute change in the wet deposition due to the new deposition scheme (lower 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  $\text{NH}_x$  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 “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” 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 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

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.  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ ,  $\text{NH}_4\text{HSO}_4$  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  $\text{SO}_2$  was reduced to synchronize the DEPAC versions used in OPS and LOTOS-EUROS model. This update generally resulted in lower atmospheric  $\text{SO}_2$  concentrations due to larger deposition and led to a small reduction in the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations of less than 0.15  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ . The reduction in  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations also led to a small reduction in the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  concentrations in Southern Germany, Austria and Northern Italy.

Interestingly, in the Mediterranean Sea the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  concentrations increase while the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations decrease and the  $\text{NO}_3^-$  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  $\text{NH}_3$  reacts with  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and therefore, the  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentrations are not really affected here.

Only in north western Europe, the increase in ammonia concentrations results in more  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  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  $\alpha_{SN}$ , 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  $\text{NH}_3$  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  $\text{NH}_3$  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  $\Gamma$  values for sea water from the dry deposition of  $\text{NH}_x$ . However, the potentially large effect of the outflow of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  rich water from estuaries on the  $\Gamma$  values is not taken into account. Altogether, the first order approximation to use a scaling of the dry deposition of  $\text{NH}_x$  for the  $\Gamma$  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  $\text{NH}_3$  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  $\text{NH}_3$  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  $\text{NH}_3$  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  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentrations appear to be higher due to more  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  formation. Due to a smaller surface resistance for  $\text{SO}_2$  in the “DEPAC3.11” module, the  $\text{SO}_2$  and consequently the  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  concentrations decrease almost everywhere. Due to the lack of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  there is a decrease in the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  formation, which also resulted in a decrease of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  in southern Germany, Austria and northern Italy, as not sufficient  $\text{HNO}_3$  is available to replace the  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . As a consequence,  $\text{NH}_3$  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  $\text{SO}_2$ .

Within the ECLAIRE project ([www.eclaire-fp7.eu](http://www.eclaire-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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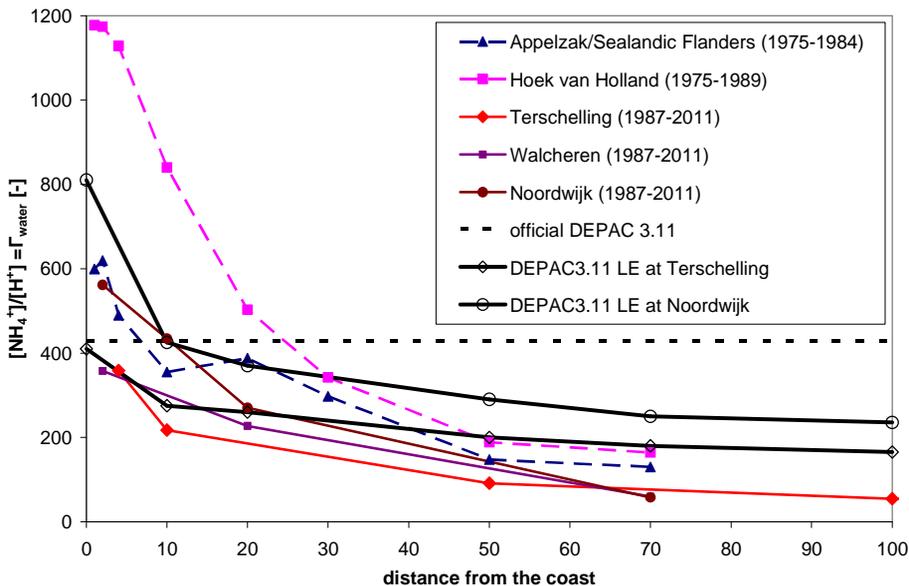
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**Fig. 1.** Molar ratio between the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{H}^+$  concentration in sea water for 7 transects perpendicular to the coast in the Netherlands (data from [www.waterbase.nl](http://www.waterbase.nl)).

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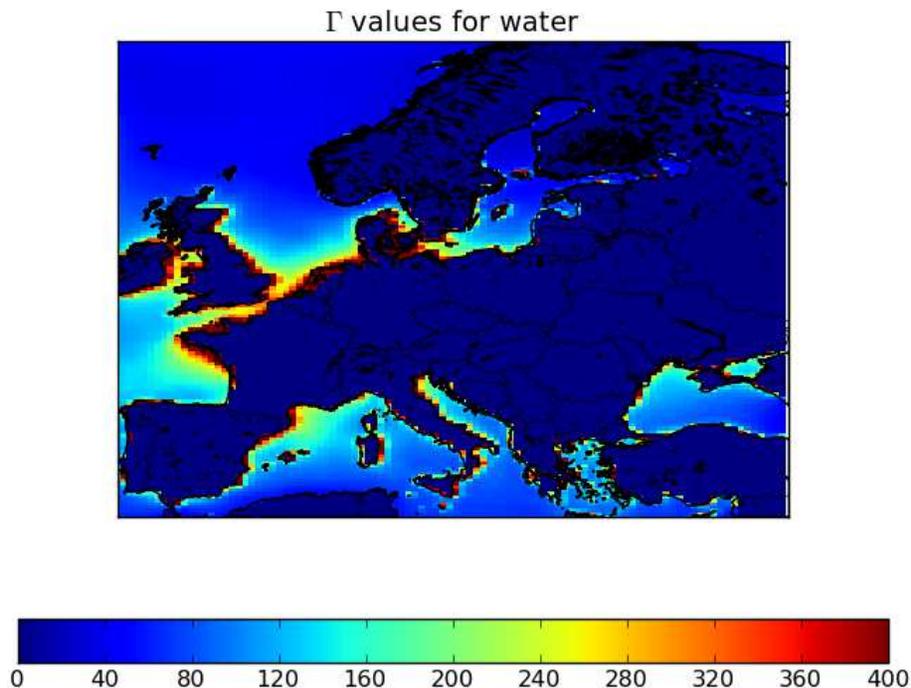
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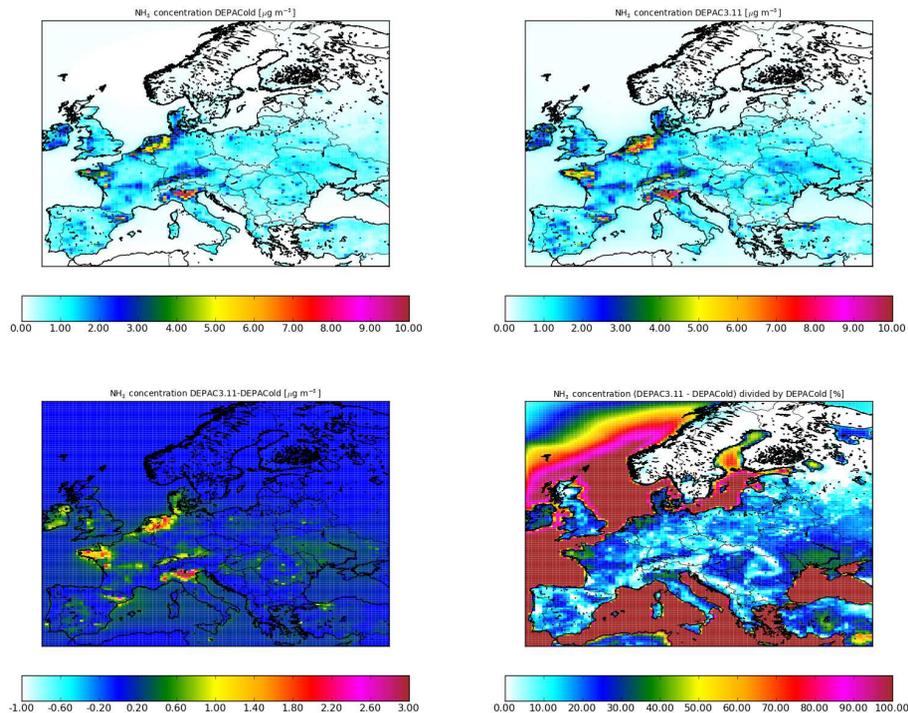


**Fig. 2.** Molar ratios between the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{H}^+$  concentration, i.e.  $\Gamma$  values, in sea water as used in the LOTOS-EUROS model for the European domain.

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**Fig. 3.** The yearly mean  $\text{NH}_3$  concentrations as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model with the “DEPACold” (upper left) and “DEPA3.11” 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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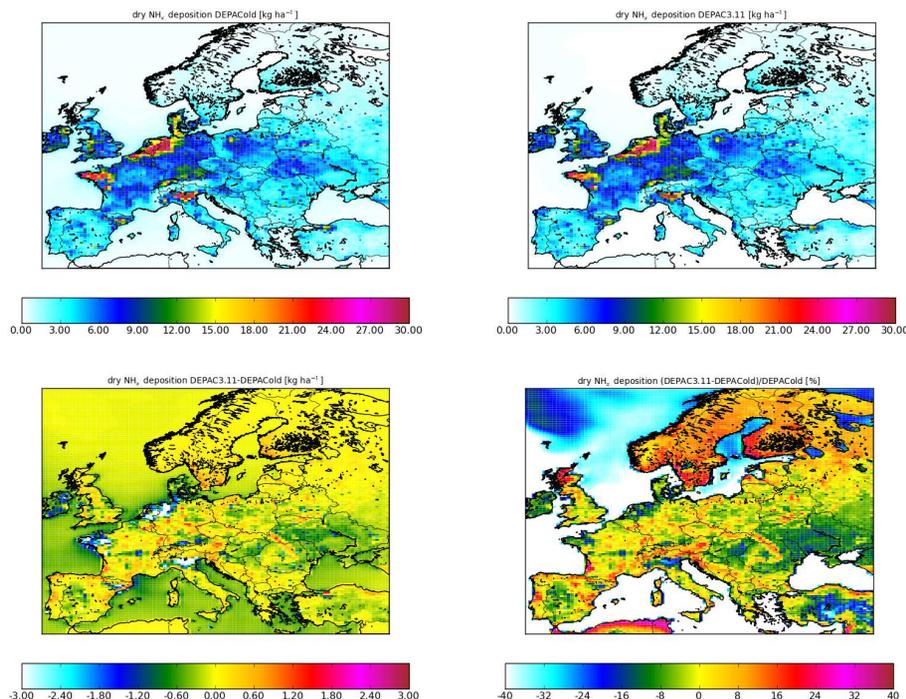
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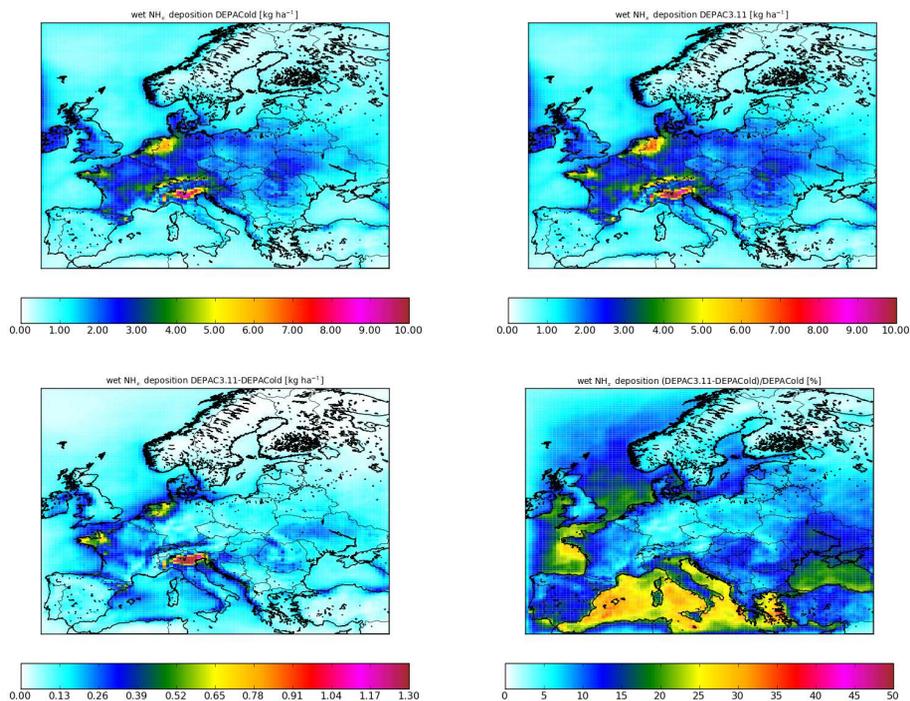


**Fig. 4.** The yearly mean dry NH<sub>x</sub> deposition as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model with the “DEPACold” (upper left) and “DEPAC3.11” module (upper right) for the year 2007. The lower left figure shows the absolute difference and the lower right figure shows the relative difference between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

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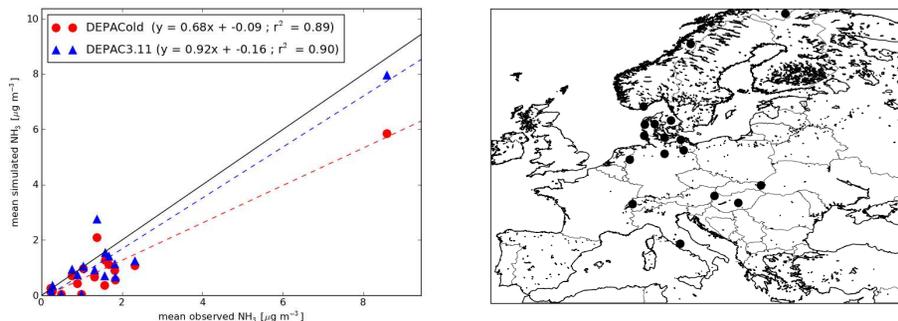


**Fig. 5.** The yearly mean wet  $\text{NH}_x$  deposition as calculated by the LOTOS-EUROS model with the “DEPACold” (upper left) and “DEPAC3.11” module (upper right) for the year 2007. The lower left figure shows the absolute difference and the lower right figure shows the relative difference between 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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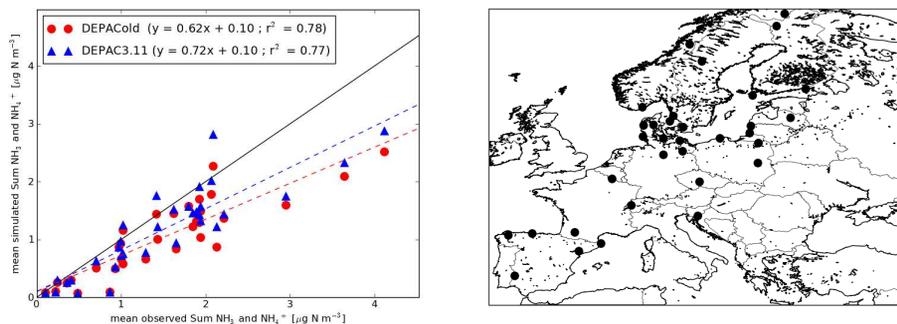
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**Fig. 7.** Comparison of the modeled total ammonia concentrations (sum of ammonia and particulate ammonium modeled with “DEPACold” (red) and “DEPAC3.11” (blue)) with the EMEP measurement stations ( $n = 33$ ) in Europe in 2007.

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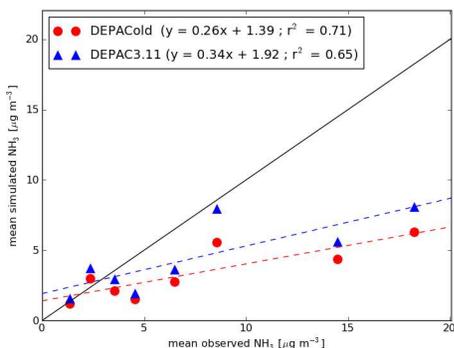
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**Fig. 8.** Comparison of the modeled ammonia concentrations with “DEPACold” (red) and “DEPAC3.11” (blue)) with the measurements of the NAQMN ( $n = 8$ ) in the Netherlands in 2007.

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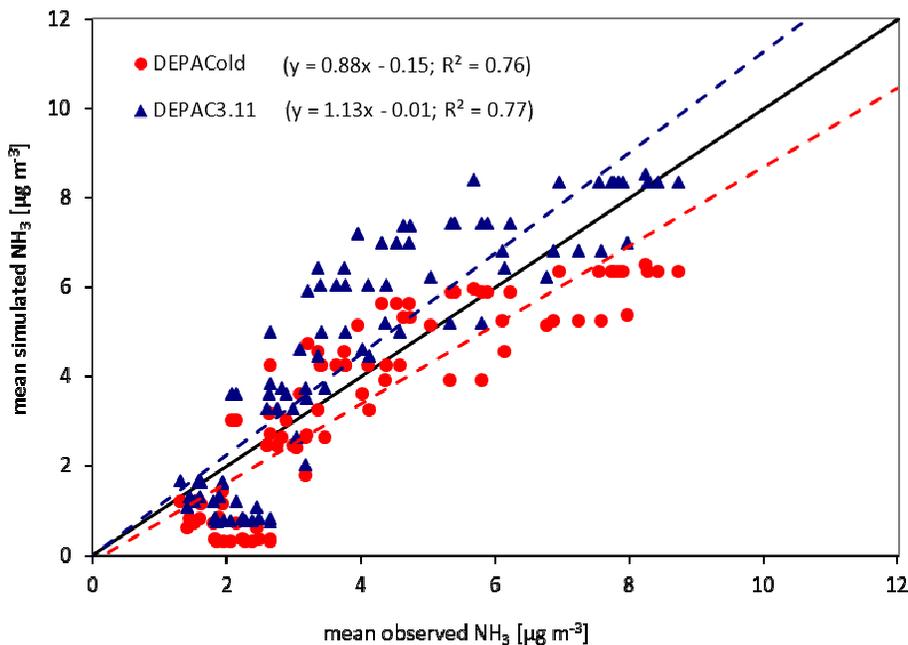
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**Fig. 9.** Model comparison of annual mean ammonia concentrations modeled with LOTOS-EUROS using the two deposition modules and measurements of the Monitoring network of Ammonia in Nature areas in the Netherlands in 2007 (Stolk et al., 2009).

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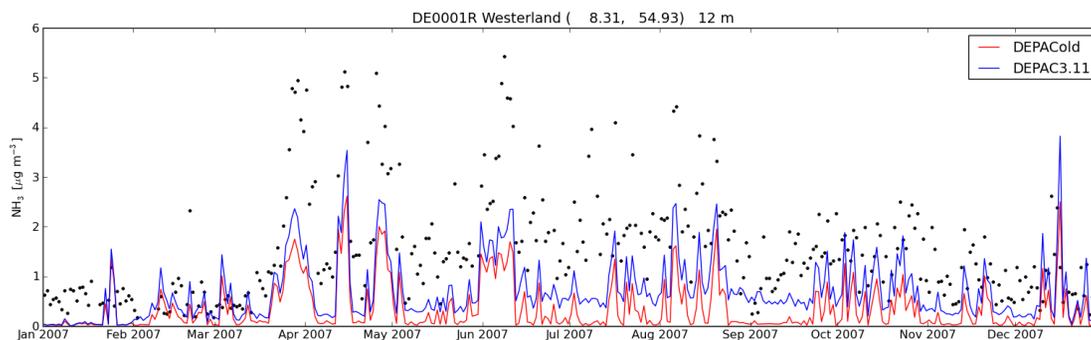
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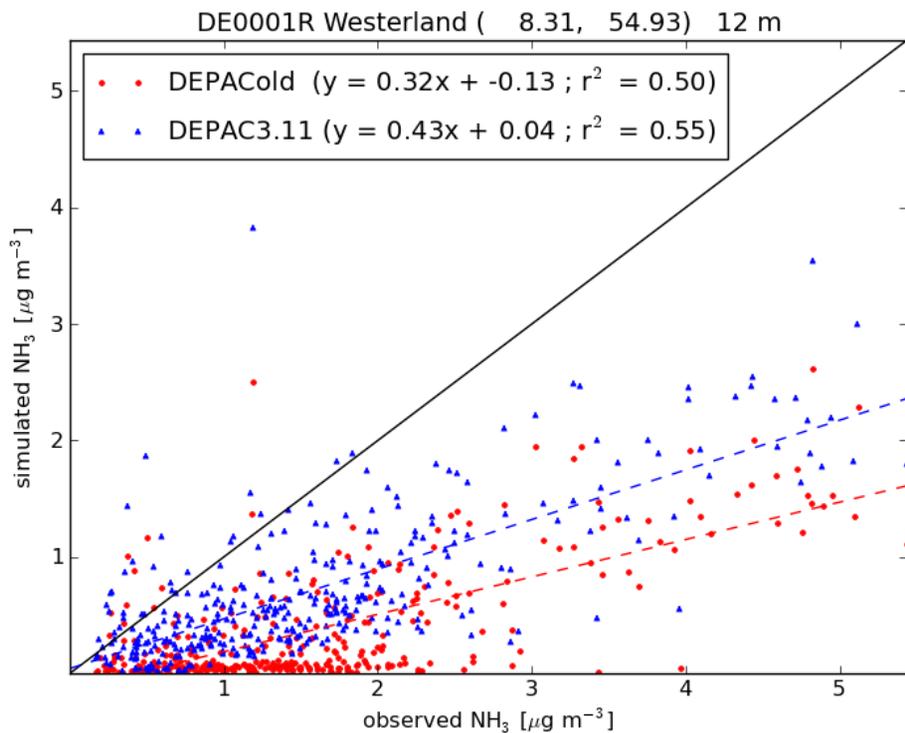
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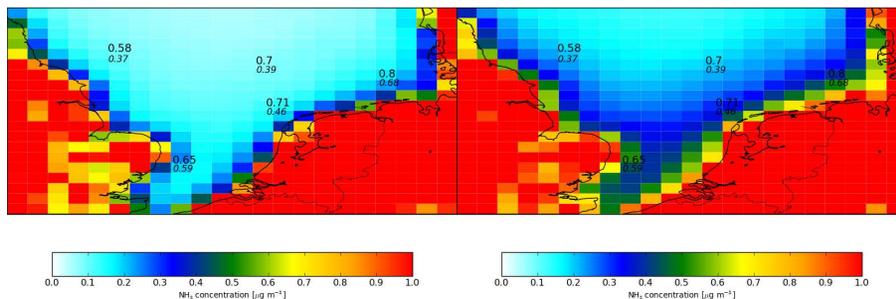


**Fig. 10.** Time series for the measured and modeled ammonia concentrations with the “DEPA-Cold” module (red line) and the “DEPAC3.11” module (blue line) at EMEP station Westerland in Germany in 2007. Black dots are the daily measurements.

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**Fig. 11.** Scatter plot for the daily mean measured and modeled ammonia concentrations with the “DEPACold” module (red dots) and the “DEPAC3.11” module (blue dots) at EMEP station Westerland in Germany in 2007.



**Fig. 12.** The yearly mean  $\text{NH}_3$  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.

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