

Towards Shipborne Emission Monitoring and Satellite Validation of CO₂, CH₄, CO, and NO₂ Through Simultaneous Columnar and In Situ Observations



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Importance

For the global stocktake, we need:

- Improvement of **emission inventories**
- Assessment of the **reduction potential** of anthropogenic GHG and air pollutant emissions
- Precise observations with high spatial and temporal coverage

Current situation

The global coverage of in situ observations by public and private networks (ship-, aircraft-, ground-based) and satellite observations is increasing.

New generation satellite missions combine CO₂ and NO₂ observations to better constrain fossil fuel-related emissions and plumes (GOSAT-GW, CO2M).

Problem

Over oceans and coastal regions, reference datasets for carbon cycle studies and satellite validation **remain scarce** (e.g. by TCCON).



TCCON: Total Carbon Column Network
(<https://tccondata.org/>)

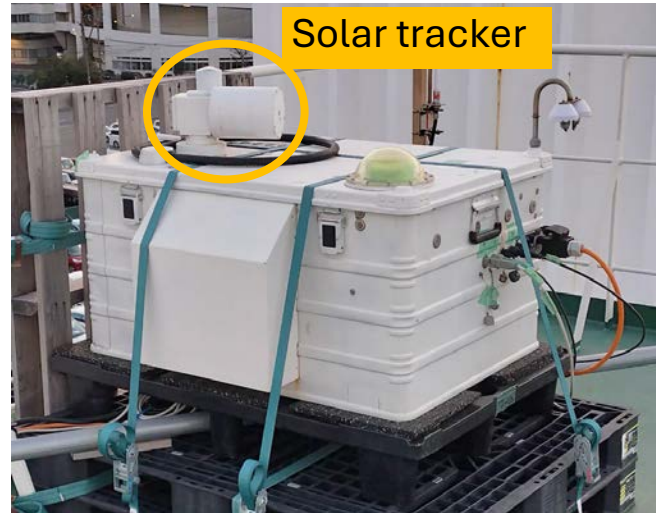
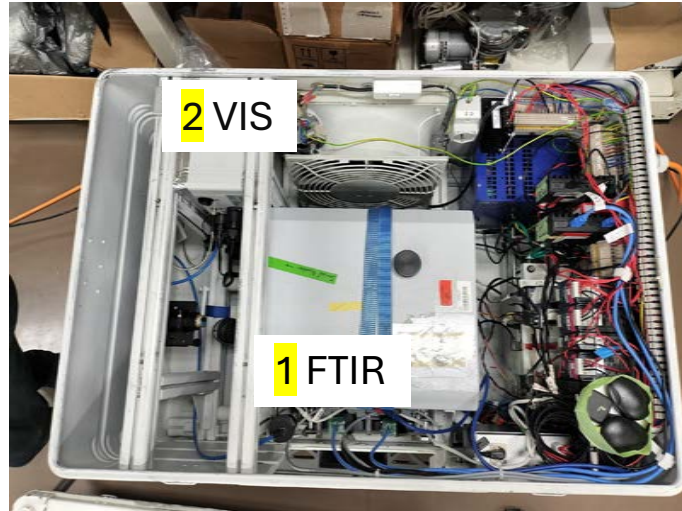
We use **new ship-based remote sensing techniques** as complement to stationary networks for measuring XCO₂, XCH₄, XCO, and VCD NO₂, combined with surface in situ observations.

GOSAT-GW: Global Observing SATellite for Greenhouse gases and Water cycle
CO2M: Copernicus Anthropogenic Carbon Dioxide Monitoring

VCD: vertical column density
X[species]: column-averaged dry air mole fraction

a) Semi-automatic FTIR–VIS Spectrometer

(FTIR: Fourier Transform Infrared, VIS: visible spectral range)



- 1 FTIR spectrometer (Bruker Optics, EM27/SUN) (spectral range 0.91–2.5 μm)
 Target: total column (**TC**) & column-averaged dry air mole fractions (**Xgas**) of CO_2 , CH_4 , CO
 (retrieval: *PROFFAST* v2.4, KIT, 2024, <https://www.imk-asf.kit.edu/english/3225.php>)
- 2 VIS spectrometer (Ocean Optics, QE-Pro) (spectral range 400.7– 495.9 nm)
 Target: vertical column density (**VCD**) of NO_2
 (retrieval: *pre-processor* (Enders, V. et al., in prep.); *QDOAS* (Danckaert et al., 2017))

b) Surface in situ observations

- CAPS NO₂ analyzer (Shoreline Science, CAPS-NO-B-7003C). Target: **NO₂**.
- NO/NO₂/NO_x Analyzer (Thermo Scientific, 42iTL). Target: **NO**.
- CRDS analyzer (Picarro, G2401). Target: **CO₂, CH₄, CO**.
- O₃ analyzer (Thermo Scientific, 49i). Target: **O₃**.

CAPS: Cavity Attenuated Phase Shift

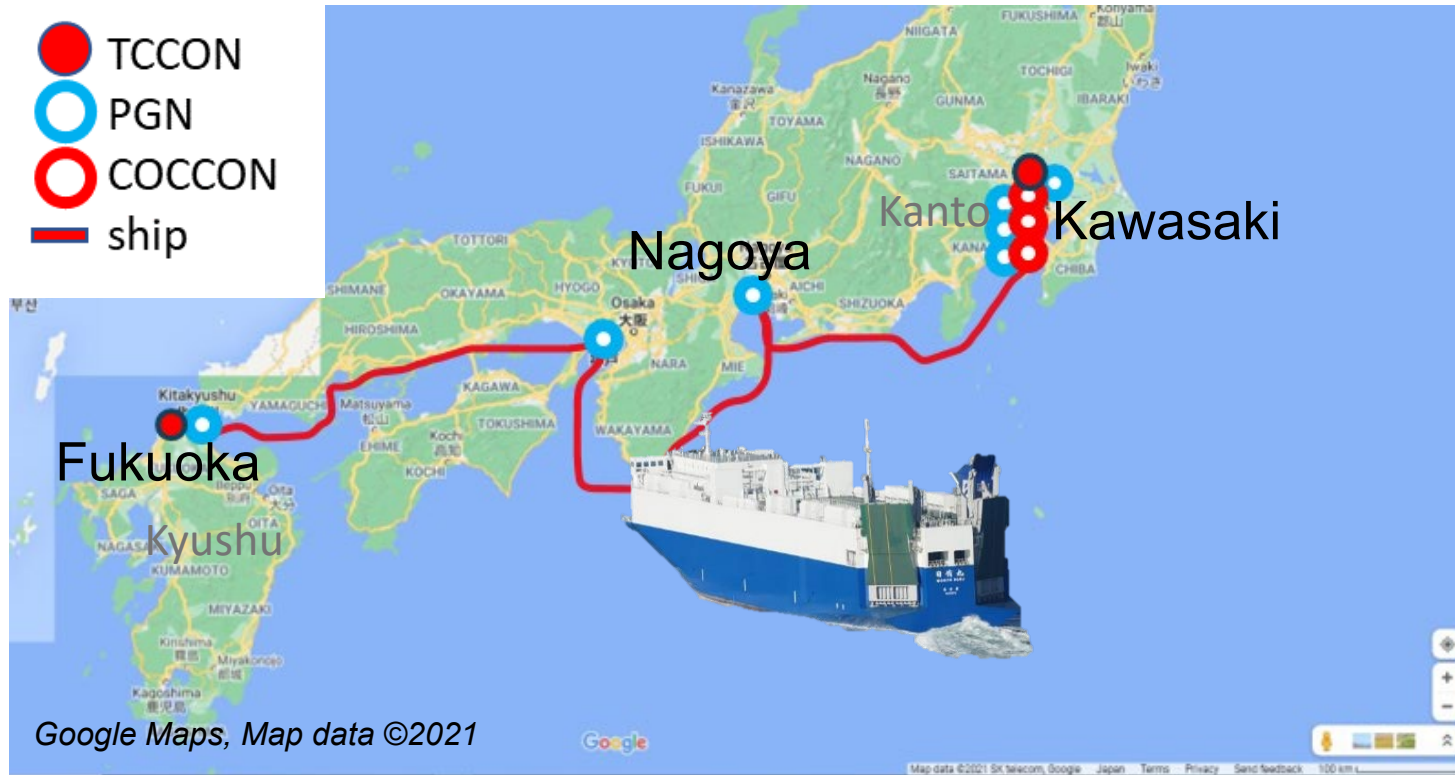
CRDS: Cavity Ring-Down Spectroscopy



c) Additional data and filtering

- ERA5 hourly data on pressure levels (*Hersbach et al., 2023; Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store, 2023*)
- Climate TRACE (2023). *Climate TRACE Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions*. Retrieved from <https://climatetrace.org>.
- Hysplit backward trajectories (<https://www.ready.noaa.gov>)
- Filtering ship exhaust:
 - a) wind direction & speed vs. ship direction & speed (rear funnel)
 - b) abrupt increase and decrease of NO and O₃, respectively.
- 5 min averages

d) Location



Along major anthropogenic emission sources on Japan's coast between Kanto (Tokyo Metropolitan Area) and Kyushu.

The location was chosen for testing the performance of the semi-automatic FTIR–VIS spectrometer and its application to monitor anthropogenic emissions.

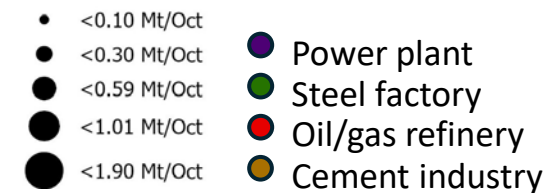
PGN: Pandonia Global Network

TCCON: Total Carbon Column Observing network

COCCON: COllaborative Carbon Column Observing Network

Case study Hiroshima - Kanda

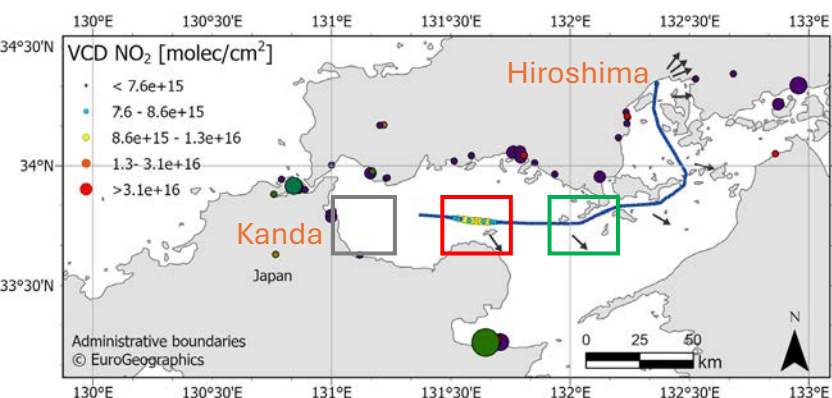
CO₂ emissions
[Mt/Oct 2023]



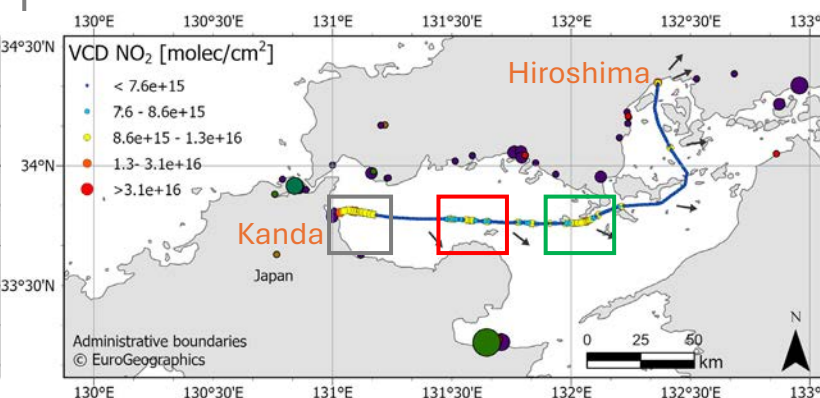
(source: Climate TRACE (2023))

Instrument viewing direction ↘

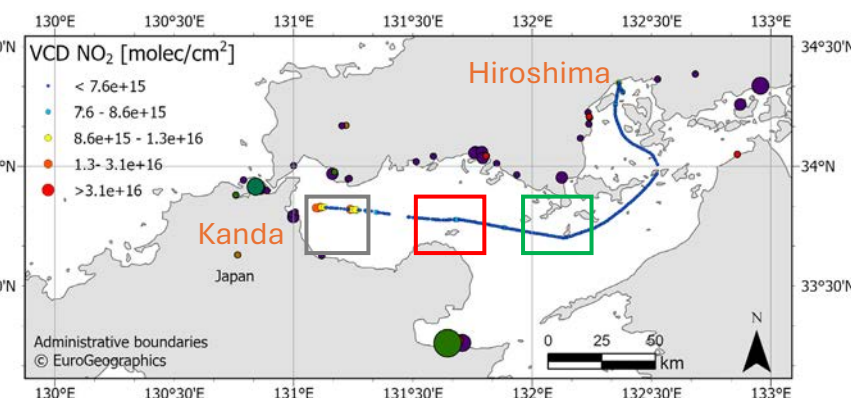
18 October 2023



25 October 2023



10 April 2024



VCD NO₂ [molec/cm²]

Low

Increased

Increased

Increased

Low

Low

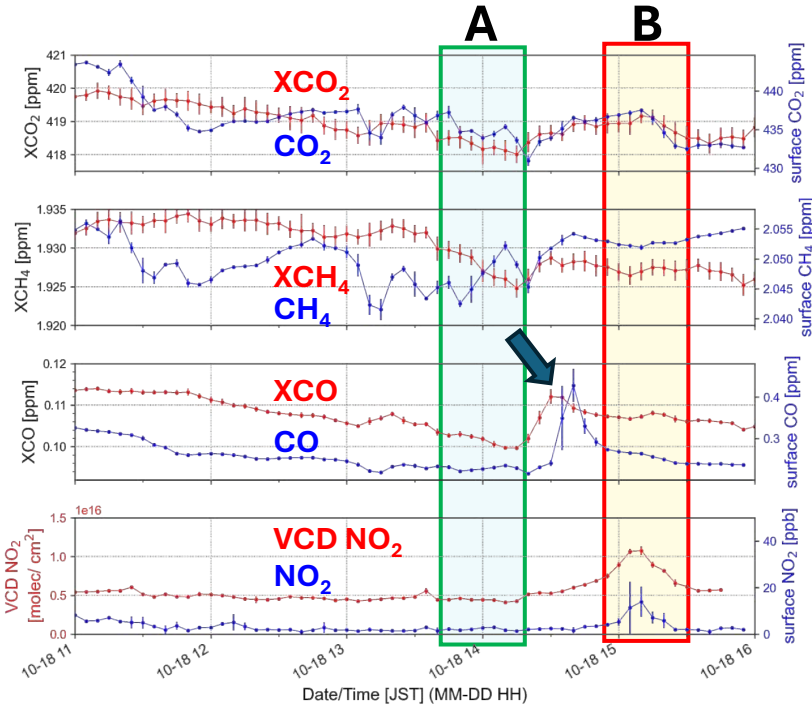
Ship exhaust contaminated

← Ship's direction: Hiroshima to Kanda

3 Results

Observations

18 October 2023



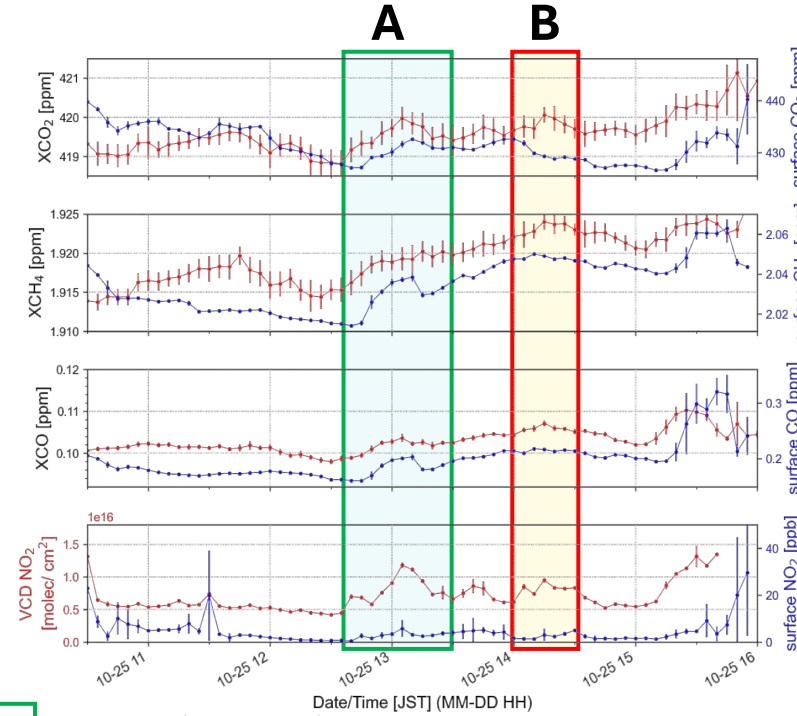
- Decreasing trends; lower values than at **B**
- Peaks in CO_2 , NO_2 ; higher values than at **A**
- ➡ CO peaks in the column before the surface

A: Background conditions

B: Fresh fossil fuel combustion

➡ Lofted, aged CO -rich plume

25 October 2023

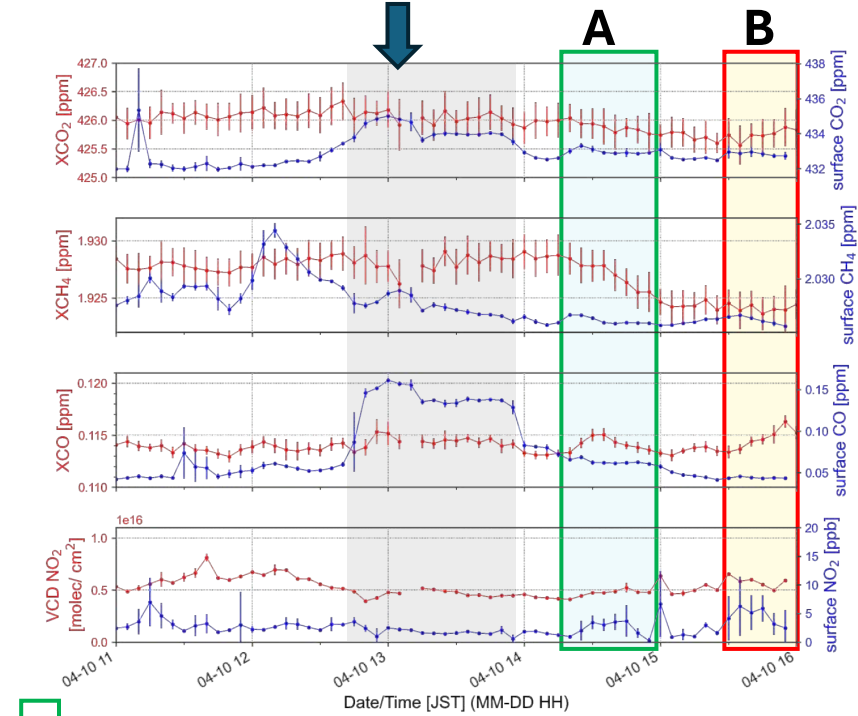


- Peaks in all variables
- Column: Elevated CO_2 , NO_2 and CH_4
Surface: decreasing CO_2 and low NO_2

A: Fresh combustion + CH_4 leaks?

B: Mixed aged industrial emissions

10 April 2024



- Small peaks in column CO and surface NO_2
- ➡ Small peaks in surface CO_2 , CH_4 , CO

A, B: Lofted CO residual from incomplete combustion/ships?

NO_2 : Local fossil fuel combustion





➡ Local incomplete combustion, LNG

Observations

6h backward trajectory 500 m 

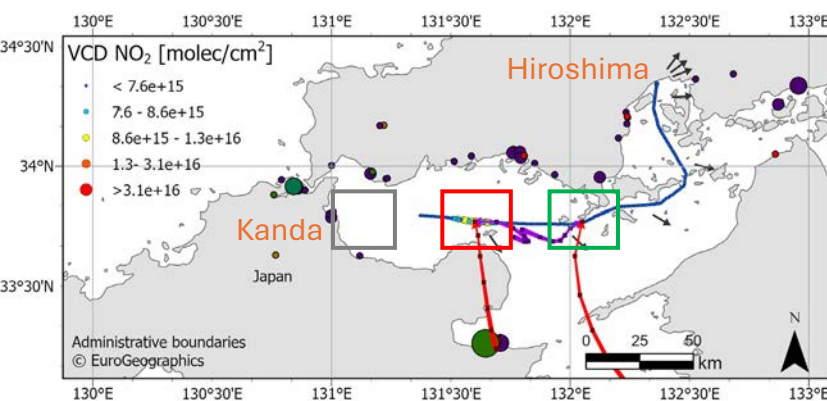
6h backward trajectory 100 m 

Source: HYSPLIT trajectory model, <https://www.ready.noaa.gov>

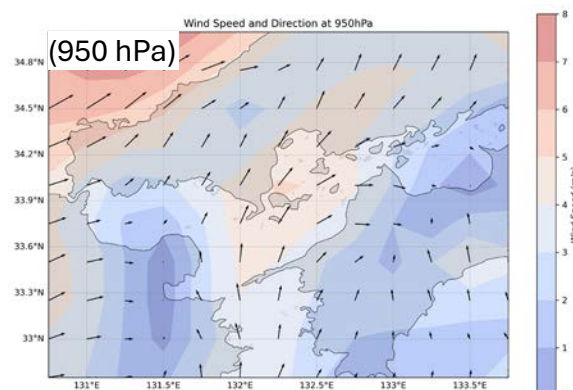
-  Power plant
-  Steel factory
-  Oil/gas refinery (source: *Climate TRACE (2023)*)
-  Cement industry

Instrument viewing direction 

18 October 2023

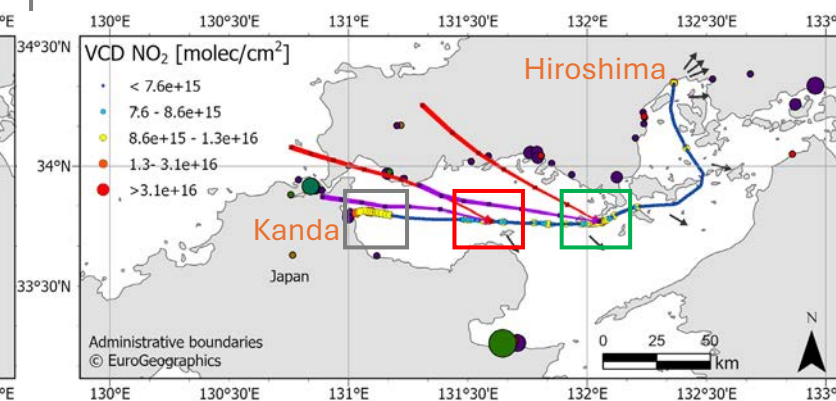


Southerly winds

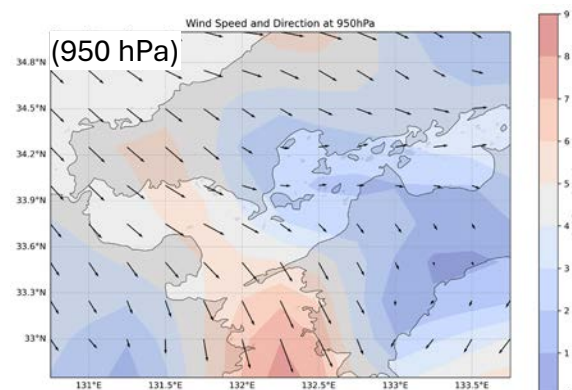


Boundary layer wind direction & speed

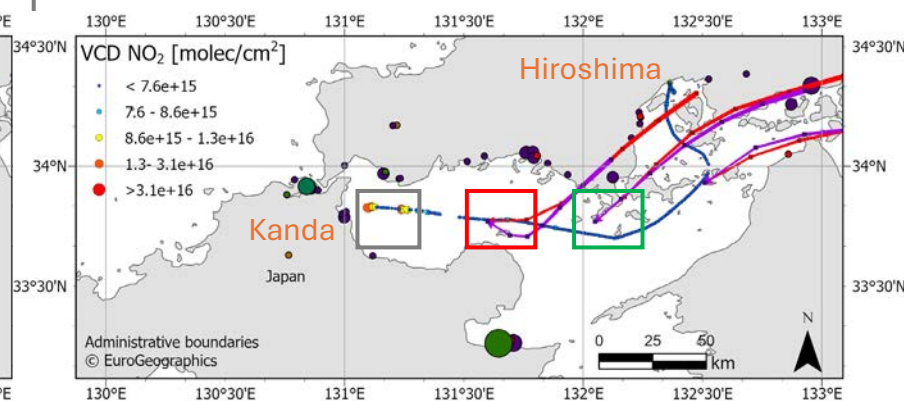
25 October 2023



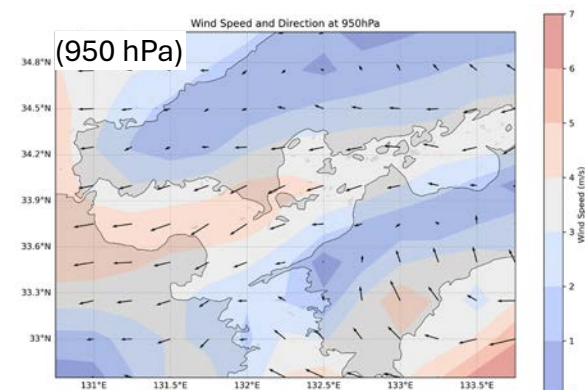
Northwesterly winds



10 April 2024



Easterly/ Northeasterly winds



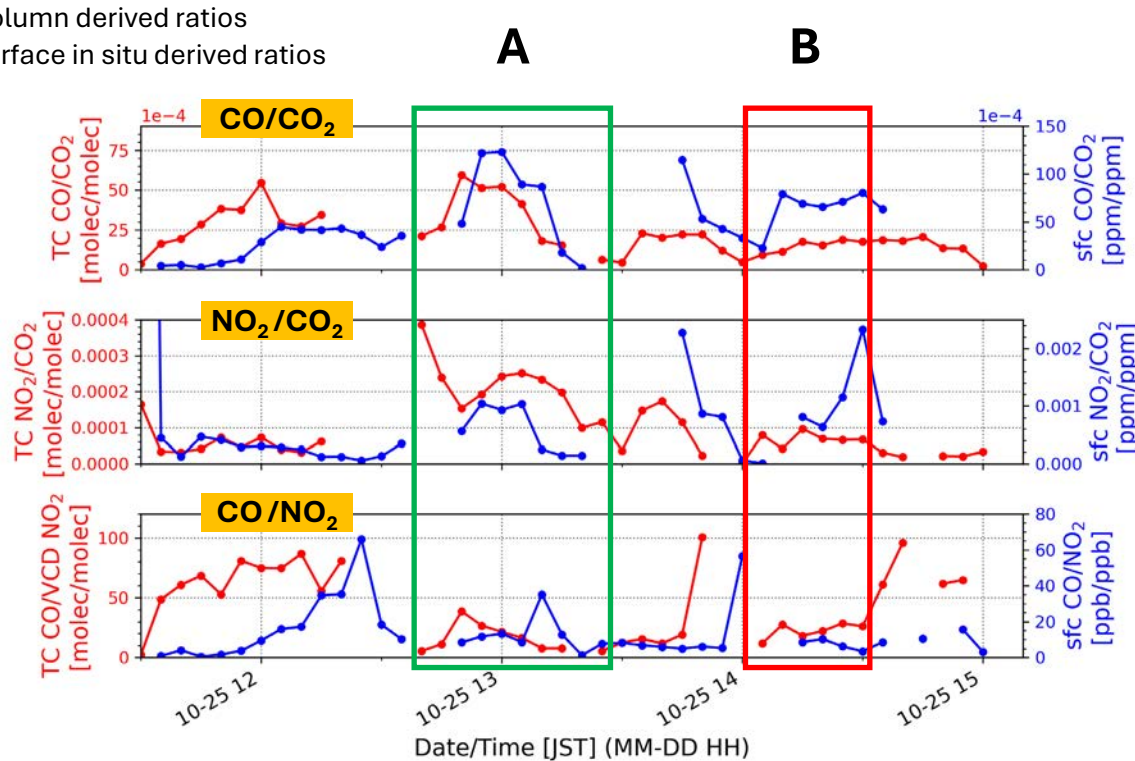
Source: ERA5, C3S Climate Data Store, 2023

3 Results

Comparison of column-derived and surface in situ ratios

Example 25 October 2023

Background removal: Subtraction of the rolling 5th percentile over a 1-hour centered window (preliminary)



A

B

CO/CO₂ = indicator for combustion efficiency

- Higher ratio
- Lower ratio
- Column ratio is half the surface ratio
- Column ratio is 1/3 the surface ratio

NO₂/CO₂ = indicator for fossil fuel combustion

- Higher ratio
- Lower ratio

CO/NO₂ = indicator of combustion type

Similar ratios

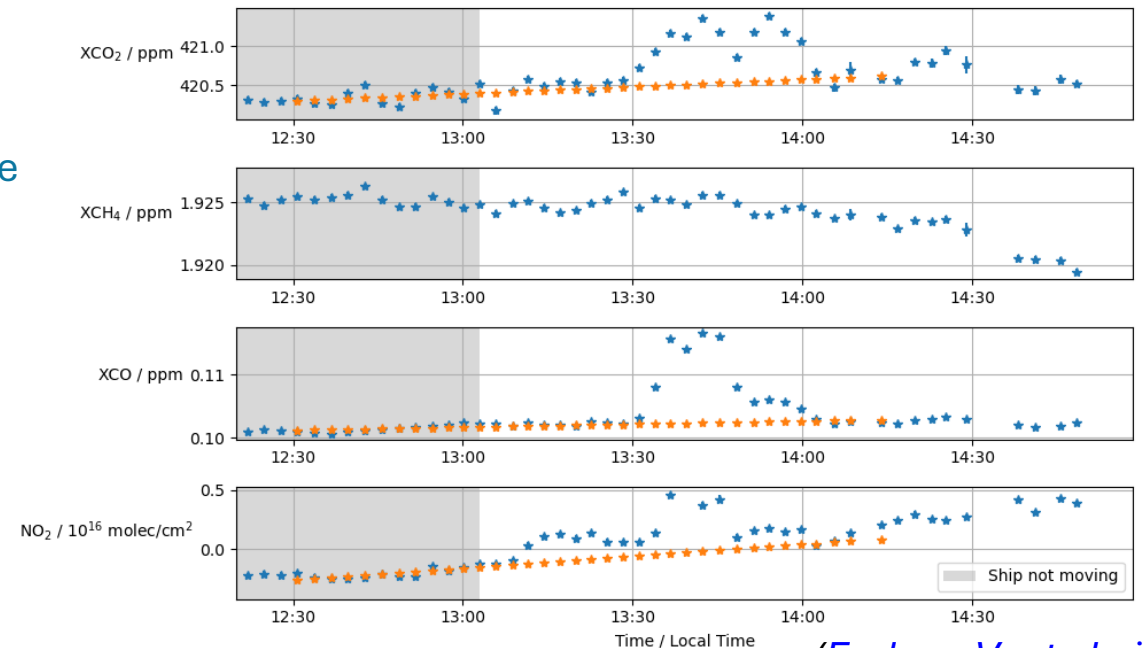
- Location **A** shows higher CO and NO₂ enhancements relative to CO₂ compared to **B**, suggesting recent, inefficient fossil fuel combustion, while **B** might reflect either more aged emissions or the influence of power plants with emissions controls (NO_x-poor).
→ Emission sources can be power plants (NO₂-rich), mixed with industrial sources and ship exhaust (NO₂ + CO-rich).
- Similar CO/NO₂ ratios at location **A** and **B** suggest similar emission types.

4 Conclusion & Outlook

- Combining observations by the [semi-automatic FTIR-VIS Spectrometer with in situ surface observations](#), we demonstrate in the initial analysis the potential for emission plume detection and its contribution to a better understanding of the vertical distribution of anthropogenic emissions
- Further analysis includes**
 - A [more robust background removal method](#) for estimating enhancement ratios in highly mixed emission regions
 - An assessment of the [contribution of the surface emissions to the column observations](#)
 - A more detailed emission source identification, including [comparison with high-resolution model results](#).
 - EM27/SUN retrieval with the [upcoming PROFAST v2.4.1 release](#) (Feld, L., KIT), which is capable of handling mobile data.

A detailed description of the instrument setup and a case study comparing emission ratios with inventories is in preparation.

In that case study, distinct plumes allowed the background removal by using least-square line fitting to pre- and post-plume observations (Luther et al., 2019).



(Enders, V. et al., in prep.)

4 Conclusion & Outlook

Further outlook

- The future goal is to deploy the setup on a ship crossing the Pacific Ocean from North to South for direct validation of columnar satellite observations.
- Ship- and aircraft-based in situ data will complement the observations.

