First Simultaneous Visualization of SO\textsubscript{2} and NO\textsubscript{2} Plume Dispersions using Imaging Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy

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Imaging Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (Imaging-DOAS) has been utilized in recent years to provide slant column density (SCD) distributions of several trace gas species in the plume. The present study introduces a new method using Imaging-DOAS data to determine two-dimensional plume structure from the plume emissions of power plant in conditions of negligible aerosol effects on radiative transfer within the plume. We demonstrate for the first time that two-dimensional distributions of sulfur dioxide (SO\textsubscript{2}) and nitrogen dioxide (NO\textsubscript{2}) in power plant emissions can be determined simultaneously in terms of SCD distribution. The SO\textsubscript{2} SCD values generally decreased with increasing distance from the stack and with distance from the center of the plume. Meanwhile, high NO\textsubscript{2} SCD was observed at locations several hundred meters away from the first stack due to the ratio change of NO to NO\textsubscript{2} in NOx concentration, attributed to the NO oxidation by O\textsubscript{3}. The results of this study show the capability of the Imaging-DOAS technique as a tool to estimate plume dimensions in power plant emissions.

Key Words : Plume dimension, Plume dispersion, Imaging-DOAS, Nitrogen dioxide, Sulfur dioxide

Introduction

Sulfur dioxide (SO\textsubscript{2}) and nitrogen oxide (NO\textsubscript{x} = NO + NO\textsubscript{2}) are both known to play important roles in local and global atmospheric chemistry. A large proportion of the sulfur as sulfur dioxide induces aerosol formation and acid deposition as it is quickly oxidized in the atmosphere after being emitted in fossil fuel combustion, resulting in deleterious effects on human health.\textsuperscript{1} In addition, NO\textsubscript{x} is associated with the surface-level catalytic formation of ozone and is known to have adverse effects on vegetation and human health.\textsuperscript{2} Among the various anthropogenic activities involving fossil fuel combustion, power plant operation is a major contributor as an emission source to global anthropogenic emissions, which releases these two trace gases.

Many studies have analyzed NO\textsubscript{x} and SO\textsubscript{2} plume emissions from power plant stacks in an effort to clarify their chemical and physical characteristics either at the emission source, the stack outlet, or at ground sites in some distance from the stack using conventional trace gas measurements at the source using in-situ instruments.\textsuperscript{3-6} Several types of remote sensing techniques are available for observing the temporal and spatial characteristics of these gases in plume emitted from various point sources such as power plants and volcanoes, such as Correlation Spectrometer (COSPEC) method,\textsuperscript{7} the SO\textsubscript{2} camera technique,\textsuperscript{8} Fourier-Transform spectroscopy in the IR (FT-IR),\textsuperscript{9,11} and passive differential optical absorption spectroscopy (DOAS). However, these methods do not support simultaneous measurements of multiple trace gases.

For this reason, we carried out the techniques using Multi-Axis Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy\textsuperscript{12} and Imaging-DOAS\textsuperscript{13} to investigate plume dimensions and the spatial characteristics of multiple trace gases for their simultaneous observation.\textsuperscript{14-20} During observation, passive DOAS techniques directly measure the slant column density (SCD) of the absorber that is the integral of the absorber concentration present over the path between a light source and the detector. The spatial distribution of SCD over the plume area provides information about the plume dimensions and reveals the distribution of absorbers in a single direction.

Using the passive Imaging-DOAS technique, this study introduced the characteristics of two-dimensional SO\textsubscript{2} and NO\textsubscript{2} distributions, measured simultaneously in terms of SCD in power plant emissions for the first time. Detailed studies on the characterization and the potential application of Imaging-DOAS measurements for remote sensing of spatial distributions are described in this investigation.

Experimental

Field Measurement and Instrument Description. The Imaging-DOAS technique measures the two-dimensional (2D) spatial distribution of ambient trace gases using scattered sunlight as a source of radiation that has passed through a 2D area of interest, measured via sequential scanning of the vertical columns comprising the target using a horizontally rotating mirror.

Figure 1(a) illustrates the horizontal and vertical measurement geometries with the locations of the first (westernmost)
Spectra acquired from a direction opposite to the wind direction were used as Fraunhofer reference spectra (FRS). Dividing each FRS by the respective spectrum recorded at the same binned rows of the CCD chip allowed the removal of Fraunhofer features and elimination of background SO$_2$ and NO$_2$ absorption signals in the measured spectra. A hyperspectral solar spectrum was fitted to the FRS to retrieve wavelength information. The absorption cross-sections of SO$_2$, NO$_2$, ozone (O$_3$) at temperatures of 243 and 293 K, and O$_4$ were convoluted with individual slit functions, determined for each binned row of the CCD chip. NO$_2$ and O$_3$ were Io-corrected using WinDOAS software. Ring spectra were calculated from the individual FRS using DOASIS software. To retrieve SO$_2$ SCDs, the convoluted SO$_2$, NO$_2$, O$_3$, the Ring spectra, and a 3rd order polynomial that accounts for slowly varying absorption characteristics due to aerosol and air molecules were simultaneously fitted to the measured optical densities, which is obtained from the logarithm of each FRS divided by the respective spectrum over the wavelength interval between 312 and 321 nm encompassing the three SO$_2$ absorption bands. In order to retrieve NO$_2$ SCDs, the convoluted NO$_2$, O$_4$, the Ring spectra, and a 3rd order polynomial were fitted to the measured optical densities at a different wavelength interval between 379 and 393 nm containing five NO$_2$ absorption bands.

Results and Discussion

Spatial Distributions of SO$_2$ and NO$_2$ SCDs. The leftmost (westernmost) stack is hereafter referred to as the ‘first’ stack and the rightmost (easternmost) is referred to as the ‘last’ stack. The plume from these stacks was invisible in actual measurement, implying a negligible water vapor plume from the stack emission compared to those with a visible plume, but SO$_2$ and NO$_2$ emissions are shown simultaneously in Figures 2-4. With regard to stack location, the first stack exit location is easily recognized in Figure 4(a), as explained later in this section.

Figures 2(a) and 2(b) show the distributions of SO$_2$ and NO$_2$ SCDs, respectively, measured by the Imaging-DOAS instrument from 10:30–10:39 on October 14, and Figures 3(a) and 3(b) show those measured from 14:20–14:31 on October 15. The spatial distributions of the SO$_2$ SCDs clearly differ from those of NO$_2$ SCDs in both figures. In Figure

Analysis of Spectra. The recorded Imaging-DOAS data were analyzed to derive SO$_2$ and NO$_2$ SCDs using WinDOAS software and the DOAS analysis method. After each measurement, the CCD noise (including dark current and offset signals) was subtracted from each measured spectra.
by the chemical reactions of NO with O

directly affected by the fresh plume emission. In contrast,
right-hand side of the image, which is not thought to be

The distributions of SO\textsubscript{2} and NO\textsubscript{2} shown in Figure 3 are similar to, but slightly different from those shown in Figure 2. Because the high SO\textsubscript{2} SCDs were observed near the stacks, the gases shown at the bottom of the image and the SO\textsubscript{2} plume likely rose up and simultaneously moved toward the instrument, which was located southward from the stacks because the northerly wind was dominant at that time. Interestingly, the distributions of enhanced SO\textsubscript{2} were similar to those of NO\textsubscript{2} with high SCDs near the stacks and on the right side of the plume images, suggesting that plume propagation was directed toward the instrument or in a completely opposite direction, in which case the light path lengthened significantly within the plume along the line-of-sight. Otherwise, the SO\textsubscript{2} and NO\textsubscript{2} distributions differed although high NO\textsubscript{2} SCDs are distributed over a much larger area compared to SO\textsubscript{2}.

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Figures 4(a) and 4(b) show the distribution of SO\textsubscript{2} and NO\textsubscript{2} SCDs, respectively, measured by the Imaging-DOAS instrument from 10:05–10:17 on October 17 when a westerly wind was dominant. As mentioned previously, the location of the first stack exit, which is the starting point of the leftmost and bottommost pixel of the SO\textsubscript{2} plume, is easily distinguished in Figure 4(a). According to the SO\textsubscript{2} SCD distribution, the plume appears to have propagated from the first stack to the last stack and toward the right-hand side of the observed SO\textsubscript{2} image area, following the wind direction. Enhanced SO\textsubscript{2} SCDs were observed at the center of the plume image while values decreased from the center to the edge of the plume. NO\textsubscript{2} was not observed at the first stack exit location, but high NO\textsubscript{2} SCD values were observed at some distance downwind from the first stack. This was likely the result of the time needed for the oxidation of NO to NO\textsubscript{2}.

Conclusion

This study developed a new way to estimate the two-dimensional distributions of the SO\textsubscript{2} NO\textsubscript{2} plume simultaneously, according to their slant column density (SCD) distributions. The SO\textsubscript{2} SCD gradually decreased with an increase in distance from the power plant stack. On the other hand, the high NO\textsubscript{2} SCD was still observed at the locations of several hundred meters away from the emission stack. It is found that the ratio of NO to NO\textsubscript{2} in NO\textsubscript{x} concentration has been changed with downwind distance from the stacks due to the oxidation of NO by ozone (O\textsubscript{3}), leading to the continuous observation of NO\textsubscript{2} SCD. The findings of this study demonstrate the potential capability of Imaging-DOAS measurements not only for remote sensing of spatial distributions of atmospheric trace gases, but also for estimating the two-dimensional distribution of the plume, which is useful for improving and validating plume dispersion models. To improve the results obtained using this application, further efforts need to focus on the three-dimensional distribution of the plume and the distributions of SO\textsubscript{2} and NO\textsubscript{2} mixing ratio.
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References


