1 Article)

Diurnal and seasonal variations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration in urban, suburban and rural

4 areas around Tokyo-city

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9 Abstract: Site environments and instrumental characteristics of carbon dioxide (CO₂) 10 measurements operated by local governments in the Kanto Plain, the center of which is Tokyo were 11 summarized for this study. The observation sites were classified into environments of three types: 12 urban, suburban, and woodland. Based on a few decades of accumulated hourly data, the diurnal 13 and seasonal variations of CO₂ concentrations were analyzed as a composite of anomalies from 14 annual means recorded for each site. In urban areas, the highest concentrations appear before 15 midnight in winter. The second peak corresponds to the morning rush hour and strengthening of 16 the inversion layer. Suburban areas can be characterized as having the highest concentration before 17 dawn and the lowest concentration during the daytime in summer in association with the 18 activation of respiration and photosynthesis of vegetation. In these areas, concentration peaks also 19 appear during the morning rush hour. Woodland areas show background features, with the 20 highest concentration in early spring; higher than the global background by about 5 ppmv.

21 Keywords: CO₂; Carbon dioxide; mega-city; diurnal cycle; CO₂ emission; GOSAT

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23 1. Introduction

24 Since the 1990s, studies of CO₂ emissions and uptake using global scale inverse models [1] have 25 been conducted based on in situ measurements to monitor background levels using data from global 26 meteorological networks [2-4]. Source/sink strengths have been evaluated by these studies as a time 27 series on sub-continental scales [e.g., 5]. However, because the number of observation sites are 28 limited particularly over the ocean, satellite observation of CO₂ has been sought for a long time for 29 more accurate evaluation of phenomena. Responding to this demand, earth observation satellites 30 such as the Greenhouse gases observing satellite (GOSAT) and Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 31 (OCO-2) were launched. Ever since, they have been provided global observations [6,7]. Source/sink 32 invers analyses have also been conducted [e.g., 8]. Recently, regional through city-scale emissions 33 assessment has attracted attention as a target of satellite observations [e.g., 9,10,11].

In the context of general interest in the global environment, local governments have conducted CO₂ observations in each prefecture of Japan. Although it has been expected that these data shall be used to estimate CO₂ emissions from large cities in conjunction with satellite data, characterizations of observation sites and data have not been studied synthetically, except for a few studies, despite more than a decade that datasets have been available to researchers [12].

39 This study summarizes site locations and instrumental characteristics of CO₂ measurements 40 conducted by local governments in the Kanto Plain, Japan. These are the only data officially 41 available in digital format to researchers for the region. Based on data observed during more

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Figure 1. Locations of observation sites. Closed red circles with an open circle represent sites for which hourly data are available. Closed red circles represent older sites. Closed blue circles denote the locations of MRI/JMA and Narita Airport, where tower data and vertical profiles of CO₂ concentration are available, respectively. Names of prefectures are underlined.

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Figure 2. Aerial photographs of (a) Koto (Tokyo), (b) Kamisu (Ibaraki), (c) Mito (Ibaraki), (d) Kisai (Saitama), and (e) Dodaira (Saitama). Images are based on Google Earth (https://www.google.co.jp/intl/ja/earth/).

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Site name (Prefecture)	Latitude Longitude Altitude (m)	Classification	NDIR Model No.	Dehumidifier temperature ($^{\circ}$ C)	Filter pore size (µm)	Operational period
<i></i>	Thindae (III)					
Koto (Tokyo)	35°40'07"N 139°49'27"E	Urban (dense city near Tokyo bay)	Shimadzu URA-207	+2	0.045	1993.1- 2015.8
	8 (Inlet:+25)					
Kamisu (Ibaraki)	35°53'20"N 140°39'58"E	Urban (industrial district)	Horiba VA-3000	-	-	2000.1 - present
Mito	3 (IIIIet: -)	Suburban	AIC-500	+2 5	0.3	2000 1
(Ibaraki)	149°25'35"E	(residential)	\rightarrow Horiba VA300)1	0.5	present
	36 (Inlet: -)		(after 2008)			
Kisai*	36°05'04"N	Suburban (paddy	Horiba	+5, -30, -65	5, 1, 0.0	2000.5 -
(Saitama)	139°33'38"E	field, residential)	VIA-510R			present
	17 (Inlet:+20)					
Dodaira*	36°00'02"N	Woodland	Horiba	+5, -30, -65	5, 1, 0.01	1992.4 -
(Saitama)	139°11'09"E		VIA-510R			present
8	831 (Inlet:+20)					-
*WDCGG	site					

Table 1. Site characteristics and instruments.

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58 than a decade, diurnal and seasonal variation of CO₂ concentrations were analyzed to characterize

59 site environments of each class.

60 2. Observation sites, instruments, and analysis

61 Figure 1 portrays the locations of the observation sites operated by local governments or 62 government-funded research institutes. Names of prefectures are underlined in the figure. Closed 63 red circles with an open circle represent sites for which hourly data are available as digital data for 64 all observation periods. Site information, instrumentation, and results of data analyses are presented 65 for these five sites in this report. Closed red circles represent older sites for which data are no longer 66 provided in digital files. One closed blue circle in Figure 1 denotes the location of the Meteorological 67 Research Institute of the Japan Meteorological Agency (MRI/JMA) where there was a 200 m high 68 tower and where CO₂ concentrations had been measured at 1.5 m, 25 m, 100 m, and 200 m heights 69 during 2000–2010 [13]. Another closed blue circle in the figure shows the location of Narita Airport, 70 where vertical profiles of CO2 concentration have been measured by passenger aircraft in 71 conjunction with a the Japan Airlines project: Comprehensive Observation Network for TRace gases 72 by AIrLiner (CONTRAIL) [14,15].

Figure 2 presents aerial photograph of five sites: (a) Koto (Tokyo), (b) Kamisu (Ibaraki), (c) Mito (Ibaraki), (d) Kisai (Saitama), and (e) Dodaira (Saitama). For these sites, hourly data are available as digital data. Judging from photographs and field surveys conducted by the authors, these five sites are classified into environments of three types: urban, suburban, and woodland. Information related to these five sites and instruments is presented in Table 1.

Regarding the Tokyo metropolitan government, the Tokyo Metropolitan Research Institute for Environmental Protection has conducted CO₂ measurements. Koto is the only site in Tokyo. Measurements there continued through August 2015. Because the site is located in an industrial area near Tokyo Bay, it is classified as an urban area. The measurement system is placed in an upper level of the institute building. The inlet for air sampling is placed at the top of the building. Other observation sites in Tokyo are presented in Figure 1. The measurements were conducted at Shinjuku and Machida during 1993–1998. Hinohara site was used during 2000–2001.

One site in Ibaraki prefecture, Kamisu, is an urban site located in the Kashima coastal industrial zone. The observation shed is placed in an area used for a fire station. The other site in Ibaraki prefecture is in Mito city. The site is located in a residential area, but the area is only a few kilometers, surrounded by rice paddy fields with some woods. This site can be regarded as suburban. Measurements at these two sites are conducted by the Ibaraki Prefectural Government, but operations have been consigned to a private company.

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Site name	Gas type	CO ₂ concentration (ppmv)		Accuracy	Calibration
(Prefecture)		Reference gas	Span gas	(ppmv)	frequency
Koto (Tokyo)	Commercially sold gas (Sumitomo Chemical)	480	340	1	Every 13 hours
Kamisu (Ibaraki)	Commercially sold gas (Sumitomo Seika Chemical)	450	0 (N ₂)	1	Every week
Mito (Ibaraki)	Commercially sold gas (Sumitomo Seika Chemical)	450	0 (N ₂)	1	Every week
Kisai (Saitama)	Calibrated by JMA* secondary gas	390,410,430,450	380	0.1	Every 2 hours
Dodaira (Saitama)	Calibrated by JMA* secondary gas	390,410,430,450	380	0.1	Every 2 hours

Table 2. Calibration gas and frequency.

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94 Kisai in Saitama prefecture is another suburban site. It is surrounded mainly by rice paddy 95 fields, with houses studding the fields. Dodaira site is located almost at the top of Dodaira 96 Mountain, which is located at the west end of the Kanto Plain. The site is in a woody area with 97 evergreen conifers. Its altitude is 831 m, the highest among the sites. Both sites, Kamisu and Dodaira, 98 have been registered with the World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases (WDCGG) [4]. Earlier, there 99 was a site at Urawa. It was used during 1991-2002 before measurements started at the Kisai site.

100 In Kanagawa prefecture, there is no observation site for which data are available now, but there 101 were five sites, at Tsurumi (operated in 1992–2006), Yokohama (1992–2006), Miura (1992–2006), 102 Nishitanzawa (2000-2006), and Aikawa (2002-2006). During March 1998 through May 2000, 103 measurements using a helicopter were conducted seven times to observe the three-dimensional 104 distribution of CO₂ over the cities in Kanagawa prefecture. We investigated official reports and 105 newsletters published by the local government, but no record of CO₂ observations exists for Chiba 106 prefecture.

107 For measuring CO₂, the Non-dispersive Infrared absorption (NDIR) system is used at all sites. 108 The model numbers are presented in Table 1. The most important factor affecting its measurement 109 accuracy is calibration of the instrument. Gas types used for calibration, CO₂ concentration of the 110 reference and span gases, their accuracy, and frequency of calibration are presented in Table 2. In 111 Saitama prefecture, the secondary gases calibrated by the JMA and their accuracy are evaluated as 112 0.1 ppmv. They are used for calibrating reference gases. By calibrating the system every 2 hour, the 113 representability of measurements is estimated as better than 0.2 ppmv (T. Muto, personal 114 communication, 2014). In other prefectures, commercially sold gases are used for the calibration. 115 Their concentration accuracy is labeled as 1 ppmv. The calibration frequency is every 13 hour at 116 Koto, and one week at Kamisu and Mito. Also affecting the measurement accuracy are the 117 dehumidifier and aerosol filter. Their dew point temperature and filter pore size are presented in 118 Table 1. Although we visited Kamisu site and read all documents related to the system configuration 119 kept at the office of Ibaraki Prefectural Government, we found no description of the dehumidifier 120 component and aerosol filter of the system.

121 From all sites, hourly data were distributed to users upon request for disclosure except for the 122 data of Saitama prefecture, which are obtainable from the WDCGG website. For this study, hourly 123 data are simply averaged to obtain daily mean values as far as more than 50% of data are valid data. 124 Monthly mean values are obtained using the same manner of averaging.

125 3. Results

126 Monthly mean CO₂ concentrations for all sites in the Kanto Plain are shown as a function of 127 time in Figure 3. At all sites, concentrations have increased almost constantly, showing the seasonal 128 cycle clearly. The growth rates are uniformly about 2 (ppmv/year). The annual mean value is highest

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Figure 3. Monthly mean CO₂ concentrations observed at five sites.

131 132 at Koto (Tokyo) and lowest at Dodaira (Saitama). It is recorded that CO₂ concentrations decreased 133 drastically for a few months immediately after the Great East Japan earthquake in 2011. At the Mito 134 (Ibaraki) site, the values in 2004-2007 are remarkably smaller than those expected from the trend line 135 compared with other years. Reportedly, the measurement system was replaced in 2004. The system 136 was not well calibrated during the period.

137To extract the diurnal and seasonal variations of CO2 concentration at each site, anomalies of138hourly data from annual means centered at each time are composited for each site. The results for all139observation periods up to 2014 are presented in Figure 4.

At the Koto site, the highest concentration appears before midnight in winter; the second peak appears at 7–10 A.M. in all seasons [Figure 4(a)]. The daily minimum appears at around 3 P.M. in all seasons, and their lowest concentration has been recorded in September. Kamisu (Ibaraki) is another site classified as an urban area showing similar features to those of the plot for the Koto site [Figure 4(b)]. However, the highest concentration before midnight in winter is lower than that at the Koto site. Furthermore, the minimum value in August is lower.

Mito (Saitama) and Kisai (Saitama), which are classified as suburban areas, show mutually similar features [Figure 4(c) and 4(d)]. These areas can be characterized having the highest concentration before dawn and the lowest concentration in the daytime during summer. At the Mito site, an increase of concentration appeared before midnight, as in urban areas in winter.

Dodaira (Saitama) site is a woodland area. The features of diurnal and seasonal variation differ from those of other sites [Figure 4(e)]. The daily average is highest in springtime and lowest in late summer. Although the scale range of presented values is expanded for the Dodaira site to emphasize the relative variation, the variation amplitude is two or three times lower than those of urban and suburban areas.

155 4. Discussion

156 As presented in Section 2, the measurement accuracy differs among prefectures. In Saitama 157 prefecture, the accuracy and representativity are about 0.2 ppmv using officially released calibration



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159Figure 4. Diurnal-monthly anomalies of CO2 concentration for five sites. Anomalies are calculated as160composites of differences between hourly data and annual mean values calculated using the running161mean centered at each hourly datum with a one year window. Observational periods used for162calculations are shown in the respective plots.

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164 gases. Data screening criteria follows that recommended by WDCGG. On the other hand, the 165 accuracies can be about a few parts per million by volume (ppmv) for data observed in Ibaraki 166 prefecture and Tokyo city, mainly because of the low accuracy of calibration gases and low 167 frequency of calibration operation, particularly in Ibaraki prefecture where the calibration frequency 168 is only once per week. However, the room temperature and dehumidifier temperature are kept 169 constant. As it is expected that the measurement systems have not been unstable, measurement 170 accuracies can be on the order of a few parts per million by volume. As a consequence, measurement 171 accuracy of a few parts per million by volume is achieved and is sufficiently accurate to represent the 172 diurnal and seasonal variations presented in Section 3 because the amplitude of the variation is 173 about 10 times greater than the measurement accuracy.

Many studies have been made to characterize the CO₂ concentration or flux in areas of various types classified in the same way as we described as a result of this study [5,16-27]. Although many of them are made based on CO₂ flux measurements using the eddy covariance method, the characteristics of concentrations and fluxes can show almost identical features because the concentration is strongly affected by the flux (emission/up take) in a limited spatial and temporal scale.

180 Results of this study demonstrated that urban areas are characterized by high concentrations
181 before midnight in winter and in the morning during all seasons. Many studies conducted for urban
182 areas show similar features. One can infer that the former is attributable to emissions from private

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183 household, heating, or from businesses [21]. The latter is attributable to emissions corresponding to 184 the rush hour [19,28,29]. Some reports [e.g., 12] describe that the increase in CO₂ concentration 185 derives from an increase of atmospheric stability during nighttime. If that is true, then the 186 concentration can be expected to increase constantly up to the time of sunrise. However, the actual 187 concentration shows a decrease once immediately after the midnight; then it increases again until 188 sunrise. Therefore, it can be concluded that the increase of CO₂ concentration before midnight is 189 mainly attributable to the increase of CO₂ emission in this area. The minimum concentration 190 appearing in the daytime in summer at Kamisu is lower than that at Koto because the Kamisu site is 191 surrounded by more vegetation than the Koto site is, and CO₂ uptake by vegetation around Kamisu 192 site is stronger than that around Koto.

High and low concentrations were respectively found during nighttime and daytime in
suburban areas in summer as reported by some studies for the Mito and Kisai sites [18,30]. They
correspond to the respiration and photosynthesis of vegetation in the area.

Smaller amplitude of variation and the highest concentration in spring time are the characteristics of the background concentration of CO₂ [2,31]. At the Dodaira site, diurnal and seasonal variations are similar to those of the background, but the average level is higher than the global background by about 5 ppmv [4]. At the Dodaira site, high concentrations of CO₂ before drawing have not been observed in spite of the existence of vegetation in the area because the inversion layer near the surface is not easily formed near a mountain top.

202 To estimate the total amounts of CO₂ emissions and uptake precisely, numerical simulation 203 models used for estimation should be able to represent the nature of CO₂ concentration not only 204 spatially but also temporally, as observed. From this perspective, characteristics of the diurnal and 205 seasonal variation of CO₂ concentration presented by this study for urban, suburban, and woodland 206 areas around Tokyo can be the standard features to be presented by the models. This study also 207 showed that CO₂ concentration characteristics vary depending on the type of the surrounding 208 environment. Measurements must be made operationally for every environment. Nevertheless, 209 measurements at the Koto site stopped in August 2017; no official observation site exists in Tokyo 210 anymore. Because the reduction of CO₂ emissions from the city has recently attracted great attention,

211 CO₂ measurements are expected to begin again in Tokyo.

212 5. Conclusions

213 CO₂ measurement sites operated the local governments in the Kanto Plain have been classified 214 as urban, suburban and woodland. Characteristics of diurnal and seasonal variation of CO2 215 concentration have been presented for the environments of three types. Although the measurement 216 accuracy varies among prefectures depending on the types of calibration gases and frequency of 217 calibration operation, it is by no means accurate enough to represent the diurnal and seasonal 218 variations presented in this study. This study demonstrated clearly that continuous measurements 219 at fixed observation sites can elucidate the effects of CO₂ emissions and uptake around the site. On 220 the other hand, satellite instruments can target arbitrary locations. However, because the 221 observation times are generally limited to around noon, the diurnal cycle of CO₂ emission is difficult 222 to observe by satellites. Therefore, it can be inferred that satellite measurement data should be used 223 synergistically with ground-based measurements to estimate CO₂ emissions and uptake from a city 224 effectively.

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