

Variational regional inverse modeling of reactive species emissions

with PYVAR-CHIMERE-v2019

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Abstract

Up-to-date and accurate emission inventories for air pollutants are essential for understanding their role in the formation of tropospheric ozone and particulate matter at various temporal scales, for anticipating pollution peaks and for identifying the key drivers that could help mitigate their **concentrations**. This paper describes the Bayesian variational inverse system PYVAR-CHIMERE, which is now adapted to the inversion of reactive species. Complementarily with bottom-up inventories, this system aims at updating and improving the knowledge on the high spatio-temporal variability of emissions of air pollutants and their precursors. The system is designed to use any type of observations, such as satellite observations or surface station measurements. The potential of PYVAR-CHIMERE is illustrated with inversions of both CO and NO_x emissions in Europe, using the MOPITT and OMI satellite observations, respectively. **In these cases, local increments on CO emissions can reach more than +50%, with increases located mainly over Central and Eastern Europe, except in the south of Poland, and decreases located over Spain and Portugal. The illustrative cases for NO_x emissions also lead to large local increments (> 50%), for example over industrial areas (e.g., over the Po Valley) and over the Netherlands. The good behavior of the inversion is shown through statistics on the concentrations: the mean bias, RMSE, standard deviation and correlation between the simulated and observed concentrations. For CO, the mean bias is reduced by about 27% when using the posterior emissions, the RMSE and the standard deviation are reduced by about 50% and the correlation is strongly improved (0.74 when using the posterior emissions against 0.02); for NO_x, the mean bias is reduced by about 24%, the RMSE and the standard deviation are reduced by about 7% but the correlation is not improved.**

37 **1. Introduction**

38 The degradation of air quality is a worldwide environmental problem: 91% of the world's
39 population have breathed polluted air in 2016 according to the World Health Organization (WHO),
40 resulting in 4.2 millions of premature deaths every year [WHO, 2016]. The recent study of
41 Lelieveld et al. [2019] even suggests that the health impacts attributable to outdoor air pollution are
42 substantially higher than previously assumed (with 790,000 premature deaths in the 28 countries of
43 the European Union against the previously estimated 500,000 [EEA, 2018]). The main regulated
44 primary (i.e. directly emitted in the atmosphere) anthropogenic air pollutants are carbon monoxide
45 (CO), nitrogen oxides ($\text{NO}_x = \text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), ammonia (NH_3), volatile organic
46 compounds (VOCs), and primary particles. These primary air pollutants are precursors of secondary
47 (i.e. produced in the atmosphere through chemical reactions) pollutants such as ozone (O_3) and
48 Particulate Matter (PM), which are also threatening to both human health and ecosystems.
49 Monitoring concentrations and quantifying emissions are still challenging and limit our capability
50 to forecast air quality to warn population and to assess i) the exposure of population to air pollution
51 and ii) the efficiency of mitigation policies.

52
53 Bottom-up (BU) inventories are built in the framework of air quality policies such as The
54 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP, <http://www.unece.org>) for air
55 pollutants. Based on national annual inventories, research institutes compile gridded global or
56 regional, monthly inventories (mainly for the US, Europe and China) with a high spatial resolution
57 (currently regional or city scale inventories are typically finer than $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$). These inventories are
58 constructed by combining available (economic) statistics data from different detailed activity
59 sectors with the most appropriate emission factors (defined as the average emission rate of a given
60 species for a given source or process, relative to the unit of activity **in a given administrative**
61 **area**). It is important to note that the activity data (often statistical data) has an inherent uncertainty
62 and that its reliability may vary between countries or regions. In addition, the emission factors bear
63 large uncertainties in their quantification [Kuenen et al., 2014; EMEP/EEA, 2016; Kurokawa et al.,
64 2013]. Moreover, these inventories are often provided at the annual or monthly scale with typical
65 temporal profiles to build the weekly, daily and hourly variability of the emissions. The
66 combination of uncertain activity data, emission factors and emission timing can be a large source
67 of uncertainties, if not errors, for forecasting or analyzing air quality [Menut et al., 2012]. Finally,
68 since updating the inventories and gathering the required data for a given year is costly in time,
69 manpower and money, only a few institutes have offered estimates of the gaseous pollutants for
70 each year since 2011 (i.e, **European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme** EMEP updated
71 until the year 2017, MEIC updated until the year 2017 to our knowledge). Nevertheless, using

72 knowledge from inventories and air quality modeling, emissions have been mitigated. For example,
73 from 2010 to nowadays, emissions in various countries have been modified and/or regional trends
74 have been reversed **downwards** (e.g., the decrease of NO_x emissions over China since 2011 [de Foy
75 et al., 2016]), leading to significant changes in the atmospheric composition. Consequently, the
76 knowledge of precise and updated budgets, together with seasonal, monthly, weekly and daily
77 variations of gaseous pollutants driven, amongst other processes, by the emissions are essential for
78 understanding their role in the formation of tropospheric ozone and PMs at various temporal scales,
79 for anticipating pollution peaks and for identifying the key drivers that could help mitigate these
80 **concentrations**.

81
82 In this context, complementary methods have been developed for estimating emissions using
83 atmospheric observations. They operate in synergy between a chemistry-transport model (CTM)
84 which links the emissions to the atmospheric concentrations, atmospheric observations of the
85 species of interest, and statistical inversion techniques. A number of studies using inverse modeling
86 were first carried out for long-lived species such as greenhouses gases (GHGs) (e.g., carbon dioxide
87 CO₂ or methane CH₄) at the global or continental scales [Hein et al., 1997; Bousquet et al. 1999],
88 using surface measurements. Later, following the development of monitoring station networks, the
89 progress of computing power, and the use of inversion techniques more appropriate to non-linear
90 problems, these methods were applied to shorter-lived molecules such as CO. For these various
91 applications (e.g., for CO₂, CH₄, CO), the quantification of sources was solved at the resolution of
92 large regions [Pétron et al., 2002]. Finally, the growing availability and reliability of observations
93 since the early 2000s (in-situ surface data, remote sensing data such as satellite data), the
94 improvement of the global CTMs, of the computational capacities and of the inversion techniques
95 have increased the achievable resolution of global inversions, up to the global transport model grid
96 cells, i.e. typically with a spatial resolution of several hundreds of square kilometers [Stavrakou and
97 Muller, 2006; Pison et al., 2009; Fortems-Cheiney et al., 2011; Hooghiemstra et al., 2012; Yin et
98 al., 2015; Miyazaki et al., 2017, Zheng et al., 2019].

99
100 Today, the scientific and societal issues require an up-to-date quantification of pollutant emissions
101 at a higher spatial resolution than the global one and imply to widely use regional inverse systems.
102 However, although they are suited to reactive species such as CO and NO_x, and their very large
103 spatial and temporal variability, they have hardly been used to quantify pollutant emissions. Some
104 studies inferred NO_x [Pison et al., 2007; Tang et al., 2013] and VOC emissions [Koohkan et al.,
105 2013] from surface measurements. Konovalov et al. [2006, 2008, 2010], Mijling et al. [2012, 2013],
106 van der A et al. [2008], Lin et al. [2012] and Ding et al. [2017] have also shown that satellite

107 observations are a suitable source of information to constrain NO_x emissions. These regional
108 inversions using satellite observations were often based on Kalman Filter (KF) schemes [Mijling et
109 al., 2012, 2013; van der A et al., 2008; Lin et al., 2012; Ding et al., 2017].

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111 **Variational inversion systems allow solving for high dimensional problems, typically solving**
112 **for the fluxes at high spatial and temporal resolution, which can be critical to fully exploit**
113 **satellite images.** Here, we present the Bayesian variational atmospheric inversion system PYVAR-
114 CHIMERE for the monitoring of anthropogenic emissions **of reactive species at the regional scale.**
115 It is based on the Bayesian variational assimilation code PYVAR [Chevallier et al. 2005] and on the
116 regional state-of-the-art CTM CHIMERE [Menut et al., 2013; Mailler et al., 2017]. CHIMERE
117 **is dedicated to the study of regional atmospheric pollution events [e.g., Ciarelli et al., 2019;**
118 **Menut et al., 2020], included in the operational ensemble of the Copernicus Atmosphere**
119 **Monitoring Service (CAMS) regional services. The main strengths of PYVAR-CHIMERE**
120 **come from the strengths of CHIMERE and from its high modularity for the definition of the**
121 **control vector. CHIMERE is indeed an extremely flexible code, in particular for the definition**
122 **of the chemical scheme.**

123 The PYVAR-CHIMERE system takes advantage of the previous developments for the
124 quantification of fluxes of long-lived GHG species such as CO₂ [Broquet et al., 2011] and CH₄
125 [Pison et al., 2018] at the regional to the local scales, but now solves for reactive species such as CO
126 and NO_x. It has also a better level of robustness, clarity, portability, and modularity than these
127 previous systems. Variational techniques require the adjoint of the model to compute the sensitivity
128 of simulated atmospheric concentrations to corrections of the fluxes. CHIMERE is one of the **few**
129 **CTMs for which the adjoint has been coded.** For global models, **they include:** GEOS-CHEM
130 [Henze et al., 2007], IMAGES [Stavrakou and Muller, 2006], TM5 [Krol et al., 2008], GELKA
131 [Belikov et al., 2016] and LMDz [Chevallier et al., 2005; Pison et al., 2009] ; for limited-area
132 models **they include:** CMAQ [Hakami et al., 2007], EURAD-IM [Elbern et al., 2007],
133 RAMS/CTM-4DVAR [Yumimoto et Uno, 2006], WRF-CO2 4D-Var [Zheng et al., 2018]).

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135 The principle of variational atmospheric inversion and the configuration of PYVAR-CHIMERE are
136 described in Section 2 and in Section 3, respectively. Details about the forward, tangent-linear and
137 adjoint codes of CHIMERE are also given. Then, the potential of PYVAR-CHIMERE is illustrated
138 in Section 4 with the optimization of European CO and NO_x emissions, constrained by observations
139 from the Measurement of Pollution in the Troposphere (MOPITT) and from the Ozone Monitoring
140 Instrument (OMI) satellite instruments, respectively.

141

142 **2. Principle of Bayesian variational atmospheric inversion**

143 **In what follows, we use the notations and equations used in the inverse modeling community**
144 **[Rayner et al., 2019].** The Bayesian variational atmospheric inversion method adjusts a set of
145 control parameters, including parameters related to the emissions whose estimate is the primary
146 target of the inversion.

147 **The prior information about the parameters \mathbf{x} to be optimized during the inversion process is**
148 **given by the vector \mathbf{x}^b . The parameters to be optimized can be surface fluxes but may also**
149 **include initial or boundary conditions for example, as explained in Section 3.4.** The
150 adjustments are applied to prior values, usually taken, for the emissions, from pre-existing BU
151 inventories. The principle is to minimize, on the one hand, the departures from the prior estimates
152 of the control parameters, which are weighted by the uncertainties in these estimates (called
153 hereafter “prior uncertainties”), and, on the other hand, the differences between simulated and
154 observed concentrations, which are weighted by all other sources of uncertainties explaining these
155 differences (called hereafter all together “observation errors”). In statistical terms, the inversion
156 searches for the most probable estimate of the control parameters given their prior estimates,
157 observations, CTM and their associated uncertainties. The solution, which will be called posterior
158 estimate, is found by the iterative minimization of a cost function J [Talagrand et al., 1997], defined
159 as:

$$160 \quad J(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b) + (H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y})^T \mathbf{R}^{-1}(H(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}) \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

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162 H is the non-linear observation operator that projects the **control** vector \mathbf{x} onto the observation
163 space. In most of the variational atmospheric inversion cases (such as those described in Section 4),
164 **the observation operator includes the operations performed by the CTM in linking the**
165 **emissions to the concentrations and any other transformation to compute the simulated**
166 **equivalent of the observations such as an interpolation or an extraction and averaging of the**
167 **simulated concentration** fields (see Section 3.5). The observations in \mathbf{y} could be surface
168 measurements and/or remote sensing data such as satellite data. The prior uncertainties and the
169 observation errors are assumed to be **unbiased** and to have a Gaussian distribution. Consequently,
170 the prior uncertainties are characterized by their covariance matrix \mathbf{B} and the observation errors are
171 characterized by their covariance matrix \mathbf{R} . By definition, the observation errors combine errors in
172 both the data and the observation operator, in particular measurement errors and errors in the
173 conversion of satellite measurement into concentration data, errors from the CTM, representativity
174 errors due to the comparison between point measurements and gridded models or due to the
175 representation of the fluxes as gridded maps at a given spatial resolution, and aggregation errors
176 associated with the optimization of emissions at a given spatial and/or temporal resolution (as

177 specified in the control vector) that is different from (usually coarser than) that of the CTM [Wang
178 et al., 2017].

179

180 For inversions with observation and control vectors having a high dimension, the minimum of J
181 cannot be found analytically due to computational limitations. It can be reached iteratively with a
182 descent algorithm. In this case, the iterative minimization of J is based on a gradient method. J is
183 calculated with the forward observation operator (including the CTM) and its gradient relative to
184 the control parameters \mathbf{x} is provided by the adjoint of the observation operator (including the
185 adjoint of the CTM). The gradient is defined as:

$$186 \nabla J(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b) + \mathbf{H}^* \mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}) \text{ (Eq. 2)}$$

187 where \mathbf{H}^* is the adjoint of the observation operator.

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189 The high non-linearity of the chemistry for reactive species makes it difficult to use its tangent-
190 linear to approximate the actual observation operator, and, more generally, it makes the inversion
191 problem highly **non-linear**. Therefore, in PYVAR-CHIMERE, we use the M1QN3 limited memory
192 quasi-Newton minimization algorithm [Gilbert and Lemaréchal, 1989], which relies on the actual
193 CHIMERE non-linear model to compute J at each iteration of the minimization. As most quasi-
194 Newton methods, it requires an initial regularization of \mathbf{x} , the vector to be optimized, for better
195 efficiency. We adopt the most generally used regularization, made by minimizing in the space
196 defined by:

$$197 \boldsymbol{\chi} = \mathbf{B}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^b) \text{ (Eq. 3)}$$

198 instead of the control space defined by \mathbf{x} . Although more advanced regularizations can be chosen,
199 the minimization with $\boldsymbol{\chi}$ is preferred for its simplifying the equation to solve. In the $\boldsymbol{\chi}$ -space,
200 Equation 2 can be re-written as follows:

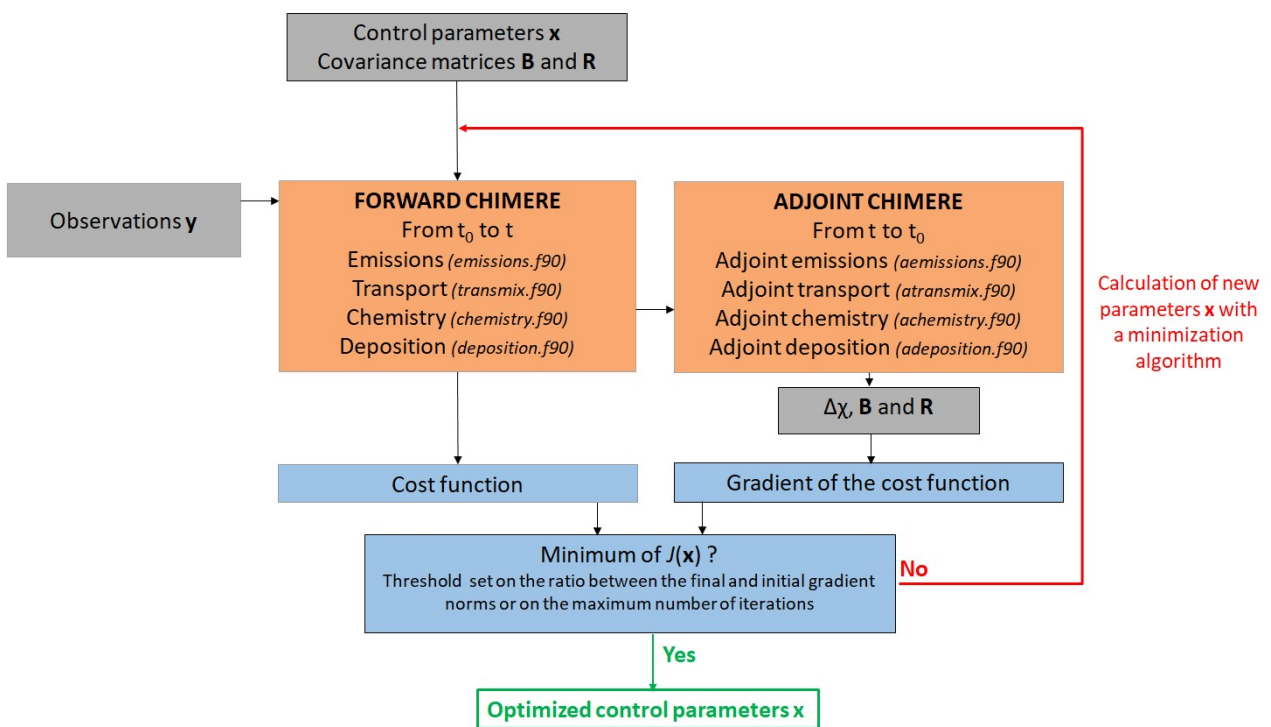
$$201 \nabla J \boldsymbol{\chi} = \boldsymbol{\chi} + \mathbf{B}^{\frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{H}^* (\mathbf{R}^{-1}(\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y})) \text{ (Eq. 4)}$$

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203 The criterion for stopping the algorithm is based on a threshold set on the ratio between the final
204 and initial gradient norms or on the maximum number of iterations to perform. **As shown in Figure**
205 **1, the minimization algorithm repeats the forward-adjoint cycle to get an estimate close to the**
206 **optimal solution of the inversion problem for the control parameters. This approximation of**
207 **the optimal estimate is found by satisfying the convergence criteria of the minimizer with a**
208 **given reduction of the norm of the gradient of J . Nevertheless, due to the non-linearity of the**
209 **problem, the minimization may reach a local minimum only, instead of the global minimum.**

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211 Finally, the calculation of the uncertainty in the estimate of emissions from the inversion, known as
 212 “posterior uncertainty”, is challenging in a variational inverse system [Rayner et al., 2019]. Even
 213 though the posterior uncertainty can be explicitly written in various analytical forms, it requires the
 214 inversion of matrices that are too large to invert given the current computational resources in our
 215 variational approach. As a trade-off between computing resources and comprehensiveness, the
 216 analysis error may be evaluated by an approach based on a propagation of errors through sensitivity
 217 tests (e.g., as in Fortems-Cheiney et al., [2012]). It can also be estimated through a Monte Carlo
 218 Ensemble [Chevallier et al., 2007], implemented in PYVAR. **Nevertheless, it should be noted that**
 219 **the cost of the Monte Carlo experiments used to derive these posterior uncertainties is huge.**
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 222 **Figure 1.** Simplified scheme of the iterative minimization in PYVAR-CHIMERE. PYVAR,
 223 CHIMERE and text sources are displayed in blue, in orange and in grey, respectively.
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225 3. The PYVAR-CHIMERE configuration

226 3.1. PYVAR adapted to CHIMERE

227 The PYVAR-CHIMERE inverse modeling system is based on the Bayesian variational assimilation
 228 code PYVAR [Chevallier et al. 2005] and on a previous inversion system coupled to CHIMERE
 229 [Pison et al., 2007]. PYVAR is an ensemble of Python scripts, which deals with preparing the
 230 vectors and the matrices for the inversion, drives the required Fortran codes of the transport model
 231 and computes the minimization of the cost function to solve the inversion. Previously used for
 232 global inversions with the LMDz model [e.g., Pison et al., 2009; Chevallier et al., 2010; Fortems-
 233 Cheiney et al., 2011; Yin et al., 2015; Locatelli et al., 2015; Zheng et al., 2019], PYVAR has been

234 adapted to CHIMERE with an adjoint code without chemistry by Broquet et al. [2011]. In order to
235 couple PYVAR to the new state-of-the-art version of CHIMERE (see Section 3.2), to include
236 chemistry, and to increase its modularity, flexibility and clarity, the new system described here has
237 been developed. It includes elements of the inversion system (coded in Fortran90) of Pison et al.
238 [2007].

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240 **3.2. Development and parallelization of the adjoint and tangent-linear codes of** 241 **CHIMERE**

242 To compute the sensitivity of simulated atmospheric concentrations to corrections to the fluxes, the
243 adjoint of CHIMERE has been developed. Originally, the sequential adjoint was coded [Menut et
244 al., 2000; Menut et al., 2003; Pison et al., 2007]. The adjoint has been coded by hand line by line,
245 following the principles formulated by Talagrand [1997]. It contains exactly the same processes as
246 the CHIMERE forward model. **The code has been parallelized, which** required a redesigning of
247 the **entire** code, associated with a full testing scheme (see Section 3.3). Furthermore, the tangent-
248 linear (TL) code has been developed and validated (see Section 3.3). Changes have been
249 implemented in the forward CHIMERE code embedded in PYVAR-CHIMERE to match
250 requirements of the studies **conducted with this system**. These changes have been implemented in
251 both the adjoint and the TL codes. **Compared to the CHIMERE 2013 version [Menut et al.,**
252 **2013], the most important of these changes are, regarding geometry, the possibility of polar**
253 **domains and the use of the coordinates of the corners of the cells instead of only the centers,**
254 **allowing the use of irregular grids. Regarding transport, the non-uniform Van Leer transport**
255 **scheme on the horizontal has been implemented, which is consistent with the use of irregular**
256 **grids. Finally, various switches have been added to keep the system consistent for GHG**
257 **studies. For example, we can avoid going into the chemistry, deposition or wet deposition**
258 **routines when the focused species do not require them (e.g., no chemistry for methane or**
259 **carbon dioxide at a regional scale).**

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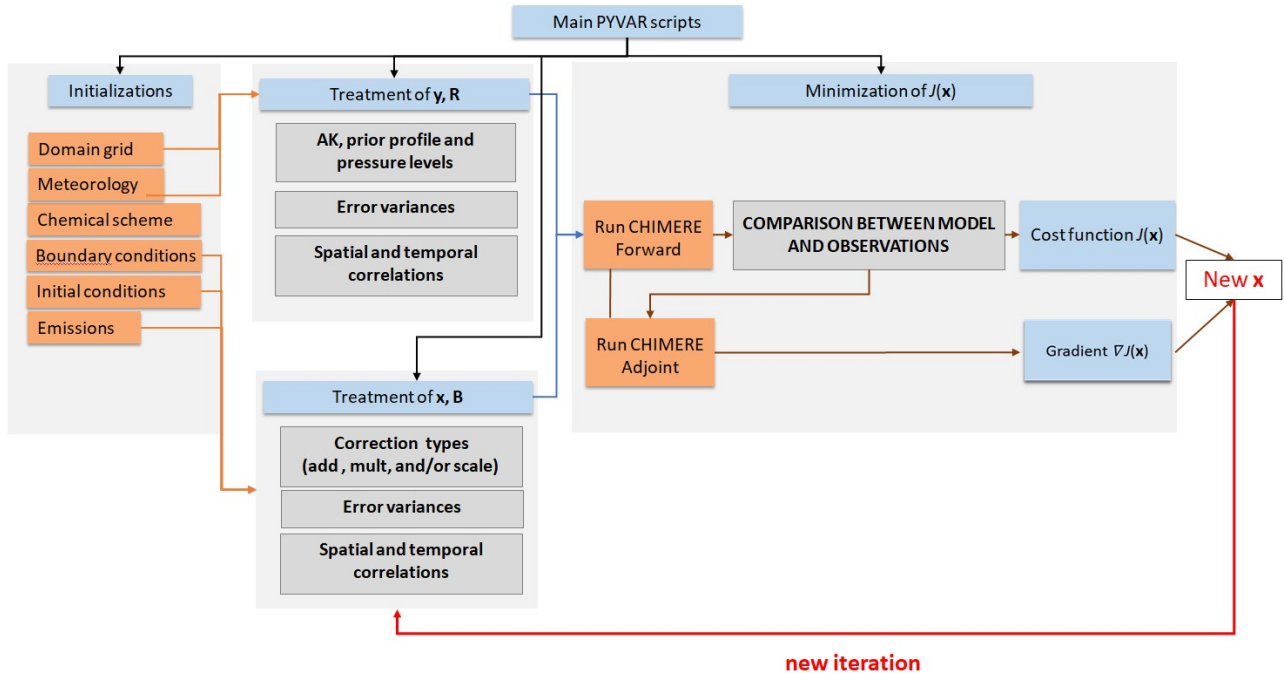
261 PYVAR-CHIMERE is currently **implemented with** a full module of gaseous chemistry. As a
262 compromise between the robustness of the method for reactive species, the time required coding the
263 adjoint and the computational cost with a full chemical scheme, the aerosols modules of CHIMERE
264 have not been included in the adjoint of CHIMERE yet and are therefore not available in PYVAR-
265 CHIMERE. The development and maintenance of the adjoint means that the version used is
266 necessarily one or two versions behind the distributed CHIMERE version
267 (<http://www.lmd.polytechnique.fr/chimere/>). It should also be noted that PYVAR-CHIMERE only

268 infers anthropogenic emissions at this stage. The optimization of biogenic emissions, which are
 269 linearly interpolated at the sub-hourly scale in CHIMERE, is currently under development.

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271 As an example, Figure 2 presents a simplified scheme of how PYVAR scripts are used to drive this
 272 version of CHIMERE for forward simulations and inversions using satellite observations.

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275 **Figure 2.** Simplified scheme of how PYVAR scripts are used to drive CHIMERE for an inversion
 276 using satellite observations. PYVAR, CHIMERE and text sources are displayed in blue, in orange
 277 and in grey, respectively. “AK” refers to Averaging Kernels as detailed in Section 3.5.

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3.3. Accuracy of tangent-linear and adjoint codes

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281 **Different procedures have been implemented to test the accuracy of the TL and adjoint codes.**
 282 **To test the linearity of the TL, we compute a Taylor diagnostic. It consists in computing the**
 283 **TL at x_0 for given increments Δx , $dHx_0(\Delta x)$, then the TL at x_0 for $\lambda \times \Delta x$ with λ an arbitrary**
 284 **small number, $dHx_0(\lambda \Delta x)$. Theoretically, if the TL is well coded, $\lambda dHx_0(\Delta x) = dHx_0(\lambda \Delta x)$ by**
 285 **definition. In practice, the difference must be lower than 10 times the precision of the machine**
 286 **on which it is run.**

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287 **The adjoint code is also tested, by verifying that $\langle H \cdot \Delta x, H \cdot \Delta x \rangle = \langle \Delta x, H^T H \cdot \Delta x \rangle$ where H^T stands**
 288 **for the adjoint at x . What is actually computed is the ratio of the difference between the two**
 289 **scalar products to the second one and the accuracy of the computation. The difference should**
 290 **be a few times the precision of the machine on which it is run.**

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3.4. Definition of the control vector

The control vector is specified by the user in a text file. This file is formatted following Table 1. The parameters to **be inverted** may be fluxes and/or initial conditions and/or boundary concentration conditions, at the grid-cell resolution or for one region encompassing up to the whole domain. Several types of corrections can be applied, they are defined in the code as "add", "mult" or "scale". Both the corrections "add" and "mult" are applied to gridded control variables. For correction type "add", the control variables are increments added to the corresponding components of the model inputs. For correction type "mult", the control variables are scaling factors multiplying the corresponding components of the model inputs. The difference between the two options "add" and "mult" plays a role when inverting fluxes which can switch from positive to negative values (like CO₂ natural fluxes). **For type "scale", the control variables are scaling factors applied to maps different from the maps of emissions used as prior input of the forward model: for example, activity maps can be used and scaled to get emissions; the obtained values are then added to the corresponding components of the model inputs. With these various types, it is possible to define the control variables as the budgets of emissions for different regions, types of activities, and/or processes, which can thus be directly rescaled by the inversions, similarly to what is done in systems where the control vector is not gridded [Wang et al., 2018]).**

Different simple but efficient ways of building the error covariance matrix **B** are implemented in PYVAR-CHIMERE. The variances and correlations are defined independently. The variances are specified by the user through standard deviation coefficient (Table 1), which can be a fixed value ("fx") or a percentage ("pc") to define the diagonal standard deviation matrix Σ . For correction types "mult" and "scale", as well as for correction type "add" with a fixed value, the value is directly used as the standard deviation of the uncertainty in the corresponding components of the control vector. For correction type "add" with a percentage provided, maps of standard deviation of uncertainty are built by applying this percentage to the matching input fields (fluxes, initial conditions, boundary conditions). The user may also provide a script to build personalized maps of variances.

Potential correlations between uncertainties in different types of control variables, e.g. between fluxes and boundary conditions, and correlations between uncertainties in different species, e.g. between fluxes of CO and NO_x, are not coded yet. Only correlations for a given type of control variable and a given species are so far taken into account so that the **B** matrix is block diagonal. For a given type of control variable and a given species (in the illustration in section 4.2.2: CO, NO or NO₂ fluxes), spatial and temporal correlations can be defined using correlation lengths through time Lt and space Ls. Those lengths are used to model temporal and/or spatial auto-correlations using an

326 exponentially decaying function: the correlation r between parameters and at a given location but
 327 separated by duration $d(x_i, x_j)$, or at a given time but distant by $d(x_i, x_j)$ is given by $r(x_i, x_j) =$
 328 $\exp\left(\frac{-d(x_i, x_j)}{L}\right)$ (**Eq. 5**) where $L = L_T \vee L_S$ is the corresponding correlation length. There is no
 329 correlation between uncertainties in land and ocean flux. Note that the spatial correlations are
 330 computed for each vertical level independently when dealing with control variables with vertical
 331 resolution (3D fields of fluxes when accounting for emission injection heights, or boundary/initial
 332 conditions). Vertical correlations in the uncertainties in such variables have not been coded yet.
 333 Apart from this, the system assumes that temporal correlations and spatial correlations depend on
 334 the time lag and distance but not on the specific time and location of the corresponding parameters.
 335 It also assumes that the correlation between uncertainties at different locations and different time
 336 can be derived from the product of the corresponding autocorrelation in time and space.

337 Each block of \mathbf{B} can thus be decomposed based on Kronecker products: $\mathbf{B} = \sum C_t \otimes C_s \sum$ (**Eq. 6**)
 338 where \otimes is the Kronecker product, C_t and C_s are the temporal and spatial correlations, respectively.
 339 The calculations involving $\mathbf{B}^{1/2}$ (**in Eq. 3, Eq. 4**) are simplified in PYVAR-CHIMERE using the
 340 Eigen-decomposition of C_t and C_s . Its square root can be calculated according to: $C_t^{1/2} =$
 341 $V_{C_t} D_{C_t}^{1/2} V_{C_t}^T$ (**Eq. 7**) (and similarly for C_s), where V_{C_t} is the matrix with the Eigenvectors as
 342 columns, and D_{C_t} is the diagonal matrix of Eigenvalues of C_t . It is possible to chose a threshold
 343 under which the eigenvalues are truncated when computing the spatial correlations in order to save
 344 computation **time** and memory, but not when computing the temporal correlations.

Constrained species	Correction type : - Add - Mult - Scale	Spatial resolution - at the grid-cell resolution - for one region	Temporal resolution (in hours)	Input to constrain: -Fluxes -Initial conditions -Lateral Boundary conditions -Top Boundary conditions	B variance coefficient: -fx -pc	Decorrelation time (in hours)	Decorrelation length on land (in km)	Decorrelation length on sea (in km)
CO	add	0.5°x0.5°	168	Fluxes	100 %	-	-	-
CO	add	0.5°x0.5°	1	Initial conditions	15%	-	-	-
CO	add	0.5°x0.5°	168	Lateral Boundary conditions	15%	-	-	-
CO	add	0.5°x0.5°	168	Top Boundary conditions	15%	-	-	-

NO	add	0.5°x0.5°	24	Fluxes	50 %	-	50	50
NO	add	0.5°x0.5°	1	Initial conditions	15%	-	-	-
NO ₂	add	0.5°x0.5°	24	Fluxes	50 %	-	50	50
NO ₂	add	0.5°x0.5°	24	Initial conditions	15%	-	-	-

345 **Table 1. Examples for the definition of the control vector and for the construction of the B**
346 **matrix, as illustrated in Section 4.**

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3.5. Equivalents of the observations

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3.6. Numerical language

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During forward simulations, the equivalents of the components of \mathbf{y} (i.e, the equivalents of the individual data) are calculated by PYVAR-CHIMERE. It includes the CTM and an interpolation (see below the vertical interpolation from the model's grid to the satellite levels) or an extraction and averaging (e.g. extracting the grid cell matching the geographical coordinates of a surface station and averaging over one hour). As a compromise between technical issues such as the time required for reading/writing files, the observation operator H that generates the equivalent of the observations by the model (i.e. $H(\mathbf{x})$) has been so far partly embedded in the code of CHIMERE. It makes it easier to use finer time intervals than available in the usual hourly outputs of CHIMERE to compute the required information (e.g., within the finer CTM physical time steps).

To make comparisons between simulations and satellite observations, the simulated vertical profiles are first interpolated on the satellite's levels (with a vertical interpolation on pressure levels) **in CHIMERE**. Then, the averaging kernels (AKs), when available, are applied to represent the vertical sensitivity of the satellite retrieval. Two types of formula, depending on the satellite observations used, have been detailed in PYVAR-CHIMERE for the use of AKs: $C_m = AK \cdot C_{m(o)}$ (**Eq. 8**) or $C_m = x_a + AK(C_{m(o)} - x_a)$ (**Eq. 9**) where C_m is the modeled column, AK contains the averaging kernels, x_a is the prior profile (provided together with the AKs when relevant) and $C_{m(o)}$ is the vertical distribution of the original model partial columns interpolated to the pressure grid of the AKs.

The PYVAR code is in Python 2.7, the CHIMERE CTM is coded in Fortran90. The CTM requires several numerical tools, compilers and libraries. The PYVAR-CHIMERE system was developed and tested using the software versions as described in Table 2.

		URL	Version
Software	Python	https://www.python.org/downloads/	2.7
	Fortran compiler ifort	https://software.intel.com/en-us/fortran-compilers	Composer-xe- 2013.2.146
Libraries or packages	UnidataNetCDF	https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/	3
	Open MPI	https://www.open-mpi.org/	1.10.5
	GRIB_API	https://confluence.ecmwf.int/display/GRIB/Releases	1.14
	nco	http://nco.sourceforge.net/#Source	4.6.3

375 **Table 2.** URL addresses for the development and the use of the PYVAR-CHIMERE system and its
376 modules.

377
378 PYVAR-CHIMERE’s computation time for one node of 10 CPUs is about 4h for 1 day of inversion
379 (with ~10 iterations) for the European domain size of 101 (longitude) x 85 (latitude) x 17 (vertical
380 levels) used in Section 4. The model **parallelization** results from a Cartesian division of the main
381 geographical domain into several sub-domains, each one being processed by a worker process. To
382 configure the parallel sub-domains, the user has to specify two parameters in the model parameter
383 file: the number of sub-domains for the zonal and meridian directions. The total number of CPUs
384 used is therefore the product of these two numbers plus one for the master process.

385 386 **4. Potential of PYVAR-CHIMERE for the inversion of CO and NO_x emissions**

387 The potential of the PYVAR-CHIMERE system to invert emissions of reactive species is illustrated
388 with the inversion of CO and NO_x anthropogenic emissions in Europe respectively based on
389 MOPITT CO data and OMI NO₂ data. We have chosen to present an illustration of CO inversion
390 over a 7-day window, the first week of March 2015. Considering the short lifetime of NO_x of a few
391 hours [Valin et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2016], we have chosen to present illustration of NO_x inversion
392 over a 1-day window, 19 February 2015. These particular periods have been chosen as they present
393 **a representative** number of super-observations during winter, and as the emissions are high during
394 that period. All the information required by the system to invert CO and NO_x emissions is listed in
395 Table 1.

396 397 **4.1. Data and model description**

398 **4.1.1. Observations y**

399 We use CO data from the MOPITT instrument [Deeter et al., 2019]. MOPITT has been flown
400 onboard the NASA EOS-Terra satellite, on a low sun-synchronous orbit that crosses the equator at
401 10:30 and 22:30 LST. The spatial resolution of its observations is about 22x22 km² at nadir. It has
402 been operated nearly continuously since March 2000. MOPITT CO products are available in three

403 variants: thermal-infrared TIR only, near-infrared NIR only and the multispectral TIR-NIR product,
404 all containing total columns and retrieved profiles (expressed on a ten-level grid from the surface to
405 100 hPa). We choose to constrain CO emissions with the MOPITT surface product for our
406 illustration. Among the different MOPITTv8 products, we choose to work with the multispectral
407 MOPITTv8-NIR-TIR one, as it provides the highest number of observations, with a good
408 evaluation against in situ data from NOAA stations [Deeter et al., 2019]. The MOPITTv8-NIR-TIR
409 surface concentrations are sub-sampled into “super-observations” in order to reduce the effect of
410 errors that are correlated between neighboring observations: we selected the median of each subset
411 of MOPITT data within each $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid-cell and each physical time step (about 5-10 minutes).
412 After this screening, 8437 “super-observations” remain in the 7-day inversion (from 10667 raw
413 observations). It is important to note that the potential of MOPITT to provide information at a high
414 temporal resolution, up to the daily scale, is hampered by the cloud coverage (see the blanks in
415 Figure 5b).

416

417 The observational constraint on NO_2 emissions comes from the OMI QA4ECV tropospheric
418 columns [Muller et al., 2016; Boersma et al., 2016, Boersma et al., 2017]. The Ozone Monitoring
419 Instrument (OMI), a near-UV/Visible nadir solar backscatter spectrometer, was launched onboard
420 EOS Aura in July 2004. It has been flown on a 705 km sun-synchronous orbit that crosses the
421 Equator at 13:30 LT. Our data selection follows the criteria of the OMI QA4ECV data quality
422 statement. As the spatial resolution of the OMI data is finer than that of the chosen CHIMERE
423 model grid ($13 \times 24 \text{ km}^2$ against $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$, respectively), the OMI tropospheric columns are sub-
424 sampled into “super-observations” (median of the OMI data within the $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid-cell and each
425 physical time step and its corresponding AK).

426

4.1.2 CHIMERE set-up

427 CHIMERE is run over a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ regular grid (about $50 \times 50 \text{ km}^2$) and 17 vertical layers, from the
428 surface to 200hPa (about 12km), with 8 layers within the first two kilometers. The domain includes
429 101 (longitude) x 85 (latitude) grid-cells (15.5°W - 35°E ; 31.5°N - 74°N , see Figure 3). CHIMERE is
430 driven by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) meteorological
431 forecast [Owens and Hewson, 2018]. The chemical scheme used in PYVAR-CHIMERE is
432 MELCHIOR-2, with more than 100 reactions [Lattuati, 1997; CHIMERE 2017], including 24 for
433 inorganic chemistry. The prior anthropogenic emissions for CO and NO_x emissions **are obtained**
434 from the TNO-GHCco-v1 inventory [Super et al., 2020], the last update of the TNO-MACCII
435 inventory [Kuenen et al., 2014]. **This inventory is based on the EMEP/Centre on Emission**
436 **Inventories and Projections (CEIP) official country reporting for air pollutants done in 2017.**

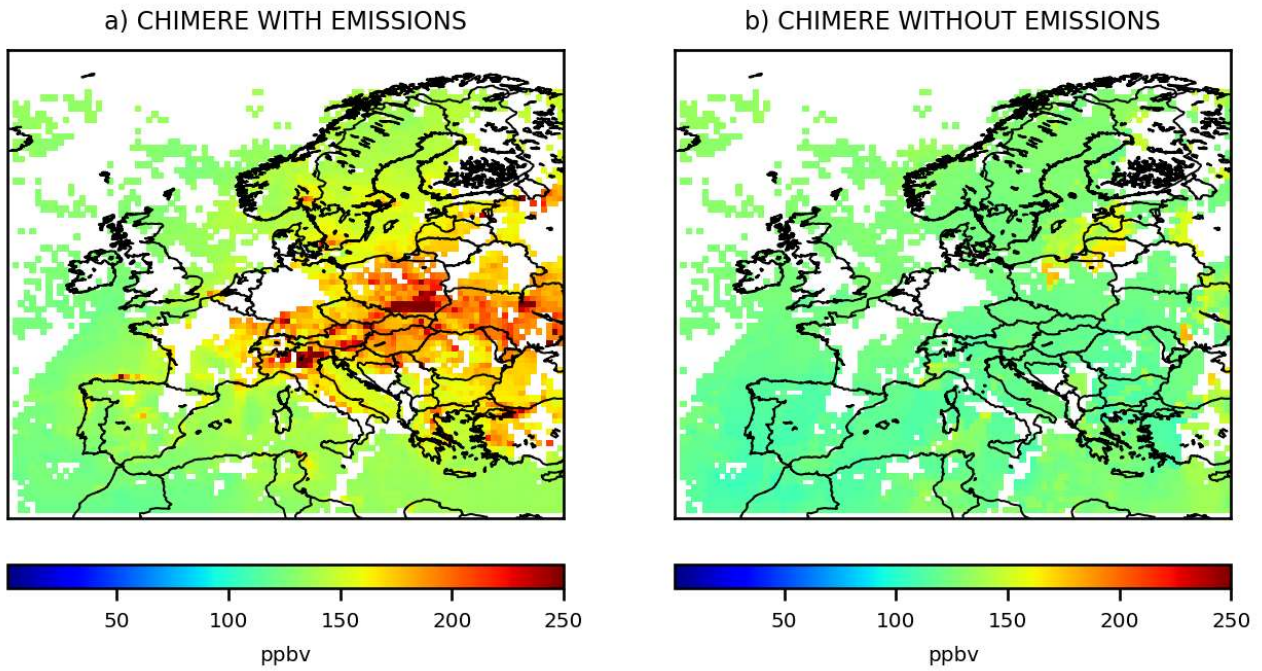
437 **It is an inventory at 6kmx6km horizontal resolution. From the annual and national budgets,**
438 **each sector is assigned to a specific proxy to quantify the spatial variability of the emissions**
439 **within each country. Temporal profiles are also provided per Gridded Nomenclature For**
440 **Reporting (GNFR) sector code (variations due to the month, weekday and hour). Following**
441 **the Generation of European Emission Data for Episodes (GENEMIS) recommendations**
442 **[Kurtenbach et al., 2001; Aumont et al., 2003], NO_x emissions are speciated as 90% of NO,**
443 **9.2% of NO₂, and 0.8% of nitrous acid (HONO). The TNO-GHGco-v1 inventory has been**
444 **aggregated to the CHIMERE grid.**

445

446 The prior anthropogenic emissions for VOCs **are obtained** from the EMEP inventory [Vestreng et
447 al., 2005; EMEP/CEIP website]. Biogenic emissions come from the **Model of Emissions of Gases**
448 **and Aerosols from nature (MEGAN)** [Guenther et al., 2006]. Different climatological values
449 from the LMDZ-INCA global model [Szopa et al., 2008] or from a Monitoring Atmospheric
450 Composition and Climate (MACC) reanalysis are used to prescribe concentrations at the lateral and
451 top boundaries and the initial atmospheric composition in the domain. Full access to and more
452 information about the MACC reanalysis data can be obtained through the MACC-II web site
453 (<http://www.copernicus-atmosphere.eu>). In order to ensure realistic fields of simulated CO and NO₂
454 concentrations from the beginning of the inversion period, runs have been preceded with a 10-day
455 spin-up.

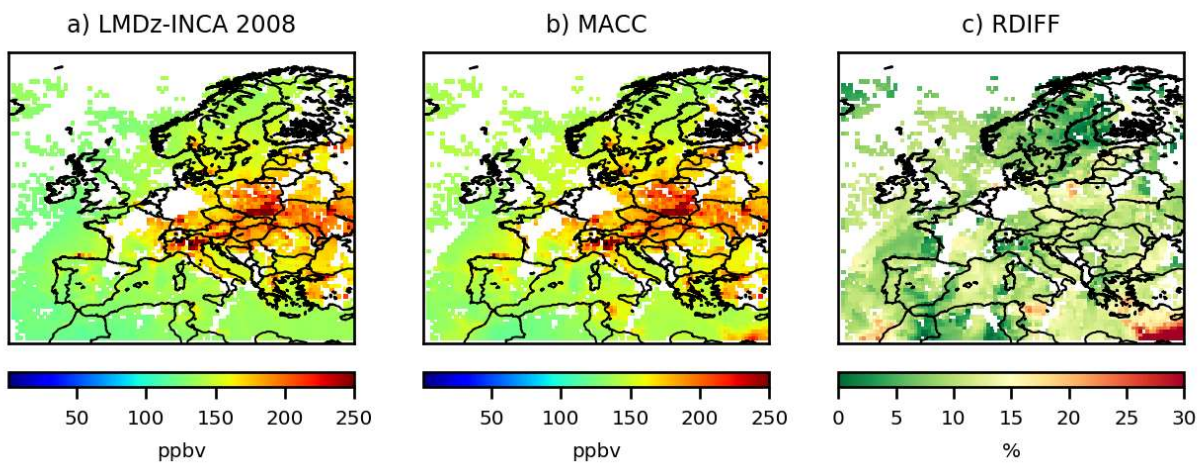
4.1.3. CO Sensitivity to emissions and to initial and boundary conditions

456 With its lifetime of about two months, CO could be strongly **influenced** by the initial and lateral
457 boundary conditions prescribed in the CTM. In fact, as seen in Figure 4b, initial and boundary
458 conditions provide a relatively flat background and the patterns which appear clearly over the
459 background are linked to surface emissions (Figure 4a). To characterize the uncertainties in the
460 concentration fields due to the initial and lateral boundary conditions, we performed a sensitivity
461 test by using either climatological values from LMDZ-INCA or a MACC reanalysis: **maximum**
462 **relative differences in concentrations of about 15% over continental land are estimated**
463 **(Figure 4c). The errors assigned to initial and boundary conditions in Section 4.2.2 are based**
464 **on this sensitivity test.**



465

Figure 3. Mean CO surface concentrations from the 1st to the 7th, March 2015 simulated by CHIMERE a) with anthropogenic and biogenic emissions, and b) without emissions, in ppbv, at the 0.5°x0.5° grid-cell resolution.



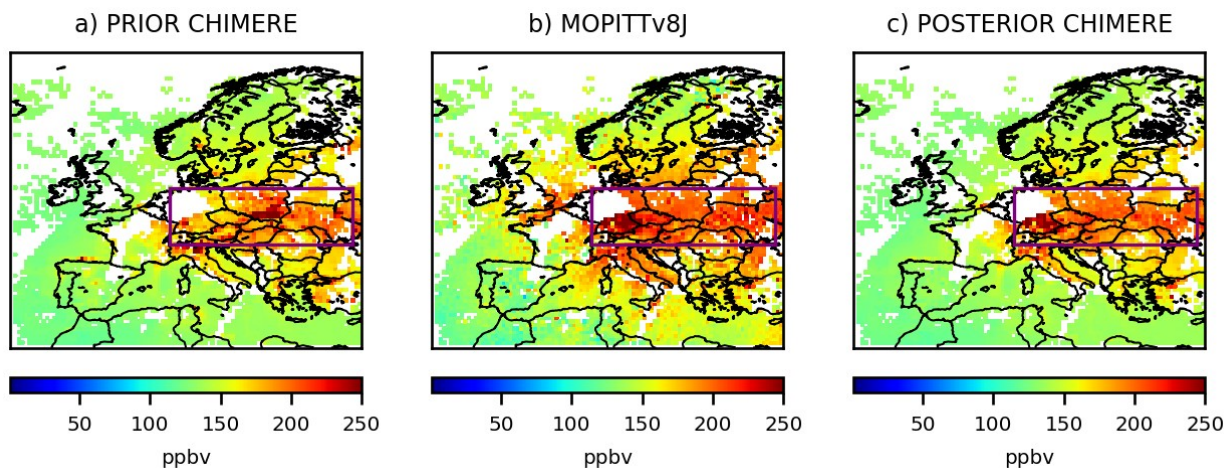
466

Figure 4. Mean CO surface concentrations from the 1st to the 7th, March 2015 simulated by CHIMERE using for initial and boundary conditions, a) the climatological values from the LMDZ-INCA global model b) the climatological values from a MACC reanalysis, in ppbv, and c) the relative differences between these two simulations, in %, at the 0.5°x0.5° grid-cell resolution.

4.1.4. Comparison between CHIMERE and the observations

467 Large discrepancies are found between the MOPITT CO observations (Figure 5b) and the prior
 468 simulation by CHIMERE over Europe (Figure 5a). For the first week of March 2015, CO

469 concentrations are generally under-estimated by CHIMERE, particularly over Central and Eastern
 470 Europe (excepted in the south of Poland). On the contrary, CO concentrations seem to be over-
 471 estimated over Spain and Portugal. Large discrepancies are also found between the OMI NO₂ super-
 472 observations and the prior simulation by PYVAR-CHIMERE (Figure 6), as **already noticed by**
 473 **Huijnen et al. [2010], with an inter-comparison of NO₂ OMI-DOMINO tropospheric columns**
 474 **with an ensemble of European regional air quality models including CHIMERE.** Over Europe,
 475 the prior simulation strongly underestimates the tropospheric columns over industrial areas (e.g.,
 476 over the Netherlands and over Po Valley). **These discrepancies might be due to different causes,**
 477 **which can all interact. A source of uncertainties is related to the observations. For example,**
 478 **satellite data inter-comparison studies reveal large differences between different retrievals of**
 479 **the same compound [Qu et al., 2020]. It can be explained by uncertainties from the CTM (e.g.,**
 480 **through the underestimation of the atmospheric production or the underestimation of the**
 481 **species lifetime). It could also be explained by an underestimation of the anthropogenic**
 482 **emissions in the BU inventory.**
 483



484

Figure 5. Mean CO collocated surface concentrations from the 1st to the 7th, March 2015 a) simulated by CHIMERE using the prior TNO-GHGco-v1 emissions and the climatological values from the LMDZ-INCA global model for initial and boundary conditions, b) observed by MOPITTv8-NIR-TIR and c) simulated by CHIMERE using the posterior emissions, in ppbv, at the 0.5°x0.5° grid-cell resolution. Statistics for the comparison between simulations and observations are given in Table 4 for the area in the purple box.

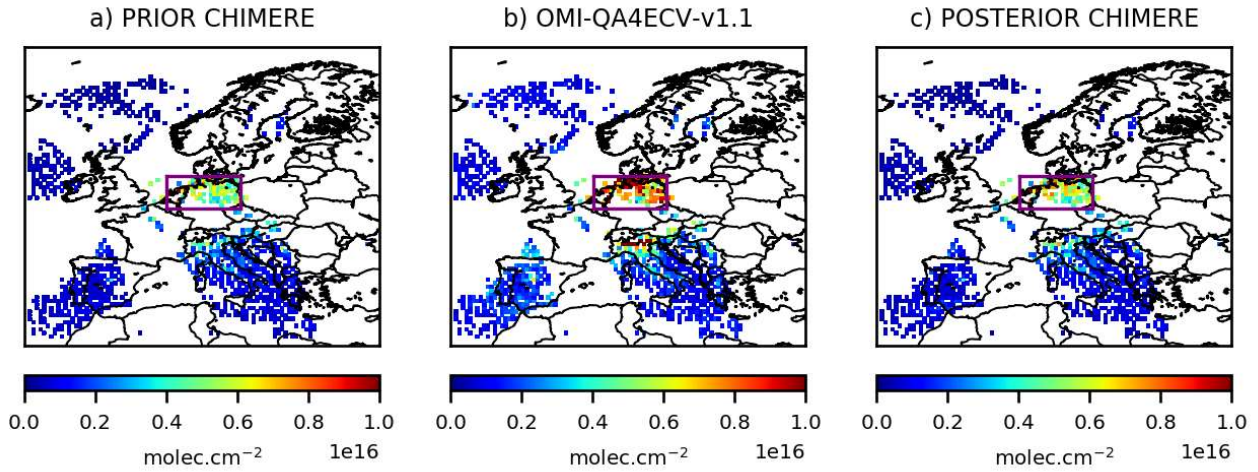


Figure 6. NO_2 collocated *tropospheric columns* a) simulated by CHIMERE using the prior TNO-GHGco-v1 emissions and the climatological values from the LMDZ-INCA global model for initial and boundary conditions, b) observed by OMI and c) simulated by CHIMERE using the posterior emissions, in $10^{16} \text{ molec.cm}^{-2}$, at the $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid-cell resolution, the 19th, February 2015. Statistics for the comparison between simulations and observations are given in Table 5 for the area in the purple box.

485

4.2. Inversions

486

4.2.1. Control vector \mathbf{x}

487

For the CO inversion, the control vector \mathbf{x} contains:

488

- the CO anthropogenic emissions at a 7-day temporal resolution, a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ (longitude, latitude) horizontal resolution, and 8 vertical levels, i.e. $101 \times 85 \times 8$ components in \mathbf{x} ,

489

490

- the CO 3D initial conditions at a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ (longitude, latitude) resolution \times 17 vertical levels,

491

492

- the CO lateral and top boundary conditions at a 7-day temporal resolution, at a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ (longitude, latitude) resolution, i.e. $(2 \times 101 + 2 \times 85)$ and 17 vertical levels.

493

494

Considering its short lifetime, there is no boundary conditions for NO_2 . For the NO_x inversion, the control vector \mathbf{x} contains:

495

496

- the NO and NO_2 anthropogenic emissions at a 1-day temporal resolution, at a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ (longitude, latitude) resolution and 8 vertical levels, i.e. $101 \times 85 \times 8$ grid cells,

497

498

- the NO and NO_2 3D initial conditions at a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ (longitude, latitude) resolution and 17 vertical levels.

499

500

501

4.2.2. Covariance matrices \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{R}

502

To our knowledge, there are few available studies dealing with the estimates of the uncertainties in gridded bottom-up emission inventories at the $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ resolution or higher.

503

504 The characterization of their statistics in the inversion configuration is consequently often based on
 505 crude assumptions from the inverse modelers. **Consequently, as an example for the NO_x**
 506 **inversion, different sensitivity tests described in Table 3 have been performed for the**
 507 **construction of the B matrix.** For both the prior NO and NO₂ emissions at 1-day and 0.5°
 508 resolution, the prior error standard deviations are first assigned to 50% of the prior estimate of
 509 the emissions (test A), as in Souri et al. [2020]. Sensitivity tests have also been performed with
 510 prior error standard deviations assigned to 80 and 100% of the prior estimate of the emissions
 511 (test C and test D, respectively, Figure 8).

512 **With prior error standard deviations set at 15% of the initial conditions, the changes in initial**
 513 **conditions are very small (not shown) and do not affect the posterior emissions (test B, Figure**
 514 **8).** As indicated in Section 3.4 and in Table 1, it is possible to use correlations in **B**, as in Broquet et
 515 al. [2011], in Broquet et al. [2013] and in Kadygrov et al. [2015]. **We demonstrate the strong**
 516 **impact of spatial correlations, defined by an e-folding length of 50km over land and over the**
 517 **sea, on our inversions results (test E, Figure 8).**

518

Name of the sensitivity tests	Prior error standard deviations in B		Spatial correlation in B	Number of iterations	Reduction of the norm of the gradient of <i>J</i>
	On prior emissions	On prior initial conditions			
A	50%	-	-	4	99%
B	50%	15%	-	6	98%
C	80%	15%	-	7	97%
D	100%	15%	-	6	95%
E	50%	15%	50km	5	92%

519 **Table 3. Description of the different sensitivity tests performed for the construction of the B**
 520 **matrix for the NO_x inversion.**

521

522 Even though annual CO emissions in Western Europe may be well known, with uncertainties of 6%
 523 according to Super et al., [2020], larger uncertainties could affect Eastern Europe. Moreover, large
 524 uncertainties still affect bottom-up emission inventories at the 0.5° resolution: spatial
 525 disaggregation of the national scale estimates to provide gridded estimates causes a significant
 526 increase in the uncertainty for CO [Super et al., 2020]. For the inversion of CO emissions, the error

527 standard deviations assigned to the prior CO emissions at 7-day and 0.5° resolution are 100%. **This**
528 **value of 100% has already been chosen in Fortems-Cheiney et al. [2011] and in Fortems-**
529 **Cheiney et al. [2012].** For this CO illustration, the covariance matrix **B** of the prior errors is defined
530 as diagonal (i.e. only variances in the individual control variables listed in 4.2.1 are taken into
531 account). With such a set-up, in theory, we could **obtain** negative posterior emissions since the
532 inversion system does not impose a constraint of positivity in the results. Nevertheless, **even an**
533 **uncertainty of 100%** leads to a prior distribution mostly (>80%) on the positive side. The
534 assimilation of data showing an increase above the background (at the edges of the domain; not
535 shown) further drive the inversion towards positive emissions for both CO and NO_x inversions. In
536 practice, our inversion does not lead to negative posterior emissions (Figure 7b). Spatial and
537 temporal correlations in **B** would further limit the probability to get negative emissions locally by
538 smoothing the posterior emissions at a spatial scale at which the “aggregated” prior uncertainty is
539 smaller than 100%. However, a positivity constraint should be implemented in future versions of
540 the system.

541

542 Based on the sensitivity test in Figure 4, the errors assigned to the CO lateral boundary conditions
543 and to their initial conditions are set at 15%. As these relative errors are significantly lower than
544 those for the emissions and as variations in the CO surface concentrations are mainly driven by
545 emissions (Figure 3), we assume a small relative influence of the correction of initial and boundary
546 conditions on our results. The variance of the individual observation errors in **R** is defined as the
547 quadratic sum of the measurement error reported in the MOPITT and the OMI data sets, and of the
548 CTM errors (including chemistry and transport errors and representativity errors) set at 20% of the
549 retrieval values. The representativity errors could have been reduced with the choice of a finer CTM
550 resolution (e.g., with a resolution closer to the size of the satellite pixel). Error correlations between
551 the super-observations are neglected, so that the covariance matrix **R** of the observation errors is
552 diagonal.

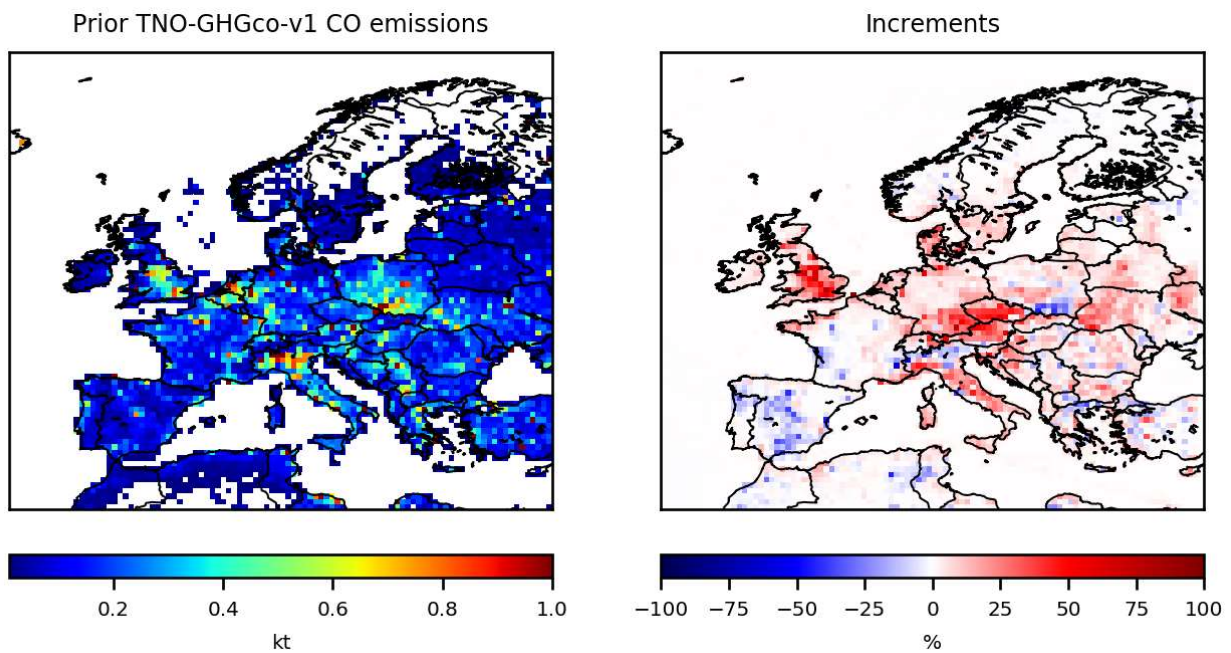
553

4.2.3. Inversion of CO emissions

554

555 Ten iterations are needed to reduce the norm of the gradient of J by 90% with the minimization
556 algorithm M1QN3 and obtain the increments, i.e. the corrections provided by the inversion. The
557 prior CO emissions over Europe for the first week of March 2015 and their increments are shown in
558 Figure 7. As expected from the large differences between the prior surface concentrations (Figure
559 5a) and the MOPITT observations (Figure 5b), local increments can reach more than +50% (Figure
560 7b). CO emissions are increased over Central and Eastern Europe, except in the south of Poland. On

561 the contrary, CO emissions are decreased over Spain and Portugal. The analyzed concentrations are
 562 the concentrations simulated by CHIMERE with the posterior fluxes: as expected, the optimization
 563 of the fluxes improves the fit of the simulated concentrations to the observations (Figure 5c),
 564 particularly over Central and Eastern Europe. Over this area (see the **purple** box in Figure 5), the
 565 mean bias between the simulation and the observations has been reduced by about 27% when using
 566 the posterior emissions (**mean bias of 11.6 ppbv against 15.9 ppbv with the prior emissions,**
 567 **Table 4).** The RMSE and the standard deviation have been reduced by about 50% and the
 568 correlation has been strongly improved (0.74 when using the posterior emissions against 0.02).
 569



570
 571 **Figure 7.** a) TNO-GHGco-v1 CO anthropogenic prior emissions, in ktCO/grid-cell and b)
 572 increments provided by the inversion with constraints from MOPITTv8-NIR-TIR from the 1st to the
 573 7th, March 2015, in %.
 574

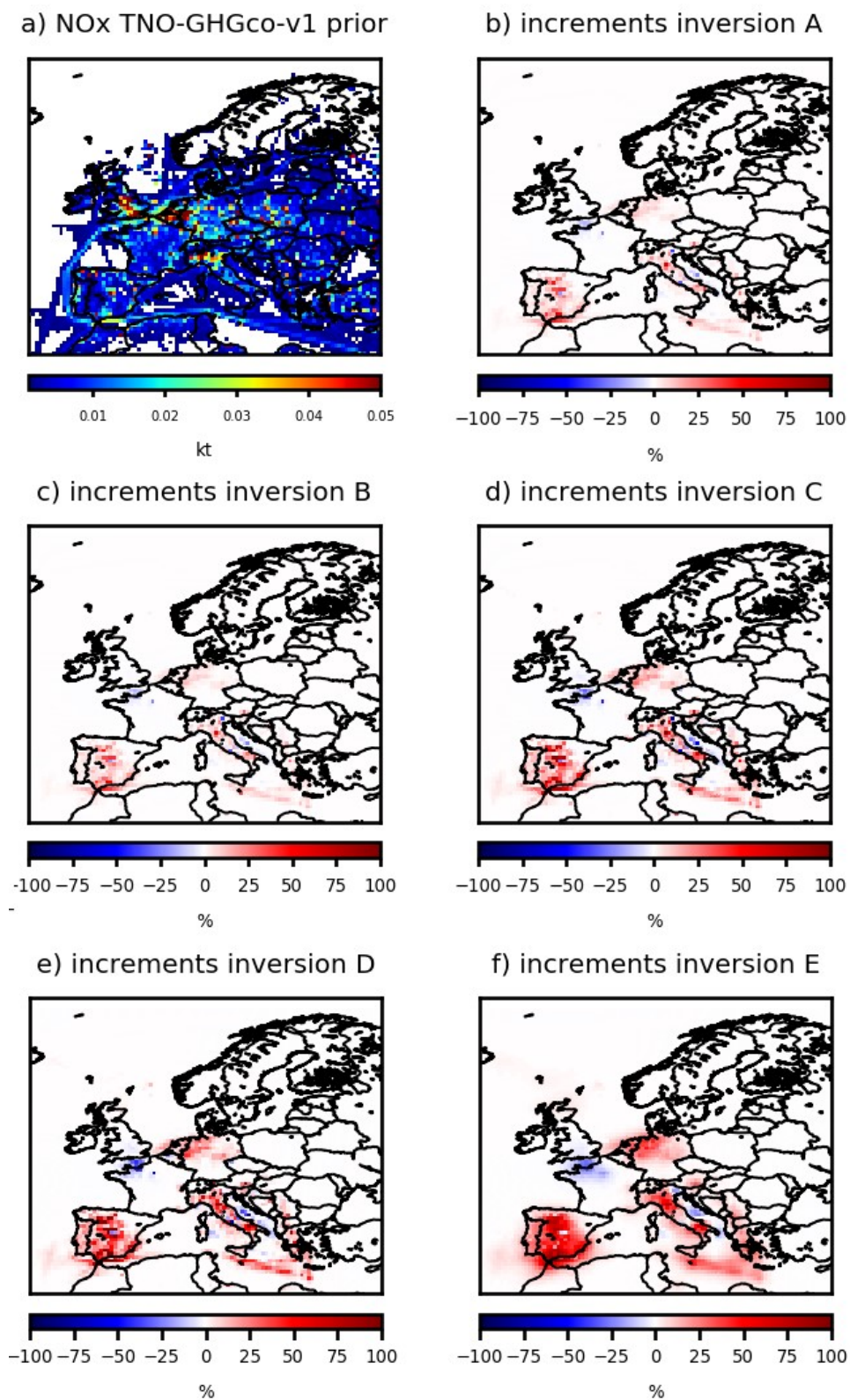
prior				posterior			
MB	RMSE	STD	r	MB	RMSE	STD	r
15.88	41.95	38.82	0.02	11.58	21.14	17.69	0.74
			(p value = 0.99)				(p value = 2.08x10 ⁻¹¹)

575 **Table 4.** Statistics for the comparison between simulated and observed CO surface
 576 concentrations over Central and Eastern Europe (see the area in purple in Figure 5). MB= Mean
 577 Bias, RMSE= Root Mean Square Error, STD= Standard Deviation are in ppbv. The spatial
 578 correlations r are presented with their p value.
 579

4.2.4. Inversion of NO_x emissions

580 The prior NO_x emissions and the corrections provided by the **different sensitivity tests of Table 3**
581 **are shown in Figure 8. Here, we analyzed the results from inversion E.** As expected from the
582 underestimation of the prior tropospheric columns in Figure 6, local increments may be large, for
583 example over industrial areas (e.g., over the Po Valley) and over the Netherlands, with increments
584 of more than +50% (Figure 8b). The analyzed NO₂ tropospheric columns in Figure 6c are the
585 columns simulated by CHIMERE with the NO₂ posterior fluxes: as expected, the optimization of
586 the fluxes improves the fit of the simulated concentrations to the observations over the Netherlands.
587 Over this area (see the **purple** box in Figure 6), the mean bias between the simulation and the
588 observations has been reduced by about 24% when using the posterior emissions (mean bias of
589 1.9×10^{15} molec.cm⁻² **against 2.6×10^{15} molec.cm⁻² with the prior emissions, Table 5).** The RMSE
590 **and the standard deviation have been reduced by about 7%. The correlation has not been**
591 **improved. Even with high emission increments, the impact on the tropospheric columns is**
592 **rather small.** The posterior emissions and their uncertainties will have to be evaluated and may
593 bring hints to the cause of the discrepancies **between simulated and observed NO₂ tropospheric**
594 **columns. The biases between OMI and simulated NO₂ tropospheric columns is a complex**
595 **topic that is not related to our CHIMERE simulations only [Huijnen et al., 2010; Souri et al.,**
596 **2020; Elguindi et al., 2020]. It requires a fully comprehensive scientific study which is out of**
597 **the scope of this paper.**

598



599

600 **Figure 8.** *a) TNO-GHGco-v1 NO_x anthropogenic prior emissions, in ktNO₂/grid-cell and*
 601 *increments provided by the inversion b) A, c) B, d) C, e) D and f) E with constraints from OMI*
 602 *the 19th, February 2015, in %. The description of the different inversions is given in Table 3.*

603

604

	prior				posterior			
	MB	RMSE	STD	r	MB	RMSE	STD	r
NO ₂	2.6x10 ¹⁵	4.0x10 ¹⁵	3.0x10 ¹⁵	0.008 (p=0.96)	1.9x10 ¹⁵	3.74x10 ¹⁵	2.9x10 ¹⁵	0.01 (p=0.91)

Table 5. *Statistics for the comparison between simulated and observed NO₂ tropospheric columns for the inversion E, mainly over the Netherlands (see the area in purple in Figure 6). MB= Mean Bias, RMSE= Root Mean Square Error, STD= Standard Deviation are in molec.cm⁻². The spatial correlations r are presented with their p value.*

605 5. Conclusion/Discussion

606 This paper presents the Bayesian variational inverse system PYVAR-CHIMERE, which has been
607 adapted to the inversion of reactive species such as CO and NO_x, taking advantage of the previous
608 developments for long-lived species such as CO₂ [Broquet et al., 2011] and CH₄ [Pison et al.,
609 2018]. We show the potential of PYVAR-CHIMERE, with inversions for CO and NO_x illustrated
610 over Europe. PYVAR-CHIMERE will now be used to infer CO and NO_x emissions over long
611 periods, e.g. first for a whole season or year and then for the recent decade 2005-2015 in the
612 framework of the H2020 VERIFY project over Europe, and in the framework of the ANR
613 PolEASIA **project** over China, to quantify their trend and their spatio-temporal variability.

614

615 The PYVAR-CHIMERE system can handle any large number of both control parameters and
616 observations. It will be able to cope with the dramatic increase in the number of data in the near
617 future with, for example, the high-resolution imaging (pixel of 7x3.5 km²) of the new Sentinel-
618 5P/TROPOMI program, launched in October 2017. These new space missions with high-resolution
619 imaging have indeed the ambition to monitor atmospheric chemical composition for the
620 quantification of anthropogenic emissions. Moreover, a step forward in the joint assimilation of co-
621 emitted pollutants will be possible with the PYVAR-CHIMERE system and the availability of
622 TROPOMI co-localized images of CO and NO₂. This should improve the consistency of the
623 inversion results and can be used to inform inventory compilers, and subsequently improve
624 emission inventories. Moreover, this development will help in further understanding air quality
625 problems and addressing air quality related emissions at the national to subnational scales.

626

627 Author Contribution

628 All authors have contributed to the manuscript writing (main authors: AFC, GB, IP and GD) and to
629 the development of the present version of the PYVAR-CHIMERE system (main developer: IP). IP
630 and GD have parallelized the adjoint version from Menut et al., [2000], Menut et al., [2003] and

631 Pison et al., [2007]. IP has complemented the adjoint of new parameterizations since the CHIMERE
632 release in 2011 and the tangent-linear model.

633

634 **Code and Data Availability**

635 OMI QA4ECV NO₂ product can be found here: <http://temis.nl/qa4ecv/no2.html>.

636 MOPITTv8-NIR-TIR CO product can be found here: <ftp://15ftl01.larc.nasa.gov/MOPITT/>

637 The CHIMERE code is available here: www.lmd.polytechnique.fr/chimere/.

638

639 The associated documentation of PYVAR-CHIMERE is available on the website
640 <https://pyvar.lsce.ipsl.fr/doku.php/3chimere:headpage>. The documentation includes a whole
641 description of PYVAR-CHIMERE and several tutorials on how to run a first PYVAR-CHIMERE
642 simulation or how to run an inversion.

643

644 **Competing interests**

645 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

646

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652 the OMI sensor from <http://temis.nl/qa4ecv/no2.html> and the free use of CO surface concentrations
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