

1 Intra-urban spatial variability of surface ozone in Riverside, CA: 2 viability and validation of low-cost sensors

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7

8 **Abstract.** Sensor networks are being more widely used to characterize and understand compounds in the atmosphere like ozone
9 (O_3). This study employs a measurement tool, called the U-Pod, constructed at the University of Colorado Boulder, to investigate
10 spatial and temporal variability of O_3 in a 200 km² area of Riverside County near Los Angeles, California. This tool contains low-
11 cost sensors to collect ambient data at non-permanent locations. The U-Pods were calibrated using a pre-deployment field
12 calibration technique; all the U-Pods were collocated with regulatory monitors. After collocation, the U-Pods were deployed in the
13 area mentioned. A subset of pods was deployed at two local regulatory air quality monitoring stations providing validation for the
14 collocation calibration method. Field validation of sensor O_3 measurements to minute resolution reference observations resulted
15 in R^2 and root mean squared errors (RMSE) of 0.95 – 0.97 and 4.4 – 5.9 ppbv, respectively. Using the deployment data, ozone
16 concentrations were observed to vary on this small spatial scale. In the analysis based on hourly binned data, the median R^2 values
17 between all possible U-Pod pairs varied from 0.52 to 0.86 for ozone during the deployment. The medians of absolute differences
18 were calculated between all possible pod pairs, 21 pairs total. The median values of those median absolute differences for each
19 hour of the day varied between 2.2 and 9.3 ppbv for the ozone deployment. Since median differences between U-Pod concentrations
20 during deployment are larger than the respective root mean square error values, we can conclude that there is spatial variability in
21 this criteria pollutant across the study area. This is important because it means that citizens may be exposed to more, or less, ozone
22 than they would assume based on current regulatory monitoring.

23 1 Introduction

24 Tropospheric ozone formation and destruction is a complex chemical process involving a series of interdependent chemical
25 reactions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the presence of ultraviolet (UV) radiation (Jacob,
26 2000). The reactants are produced and consumed both naturally and through anthropogenic activities, as well as through
27 atmospheric chemical reactions. In urban areas, the sources of these emissions and their impact on ozone formation vary in time
28 and space. For example, trucks and cars, acting as mobile sources of primarily NO_x and VOCs, respectively, contribute to the
29 formation and/or destruction of ozone depending on mixing ratios of each and the presence of UV radiation. Due to the health
30 implications of increased ozone exposures, local, regional and national regulatory bodies have the obligation to measure, report
31 and mitigate ambient ozone levels according to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (EPA, 2013).

32

1 The equipment employed at air quality monitoring stations (AQMS) is relatively expensive (>\$100k/station) and requires
2 substantial resources to maintain (e.g., technical expertise, shelter, land and power). As such, increasing the spatial resolution of
3 the AQMS network is not readily feasible. Thus, one benefit of low-cost, portable sensing technology is the ability to collect data
4 at more locations, increasing spatial resolution of existing AQMS. These technologies typically range in cost of \$1-5k yet often
5 require significant data retrieval and processing resources in addition to extensive characterization of the sensor in a given
6 application. These technologies, in virtually all applications, still depend on reference grade measurements or standards in order
7 to fulfil most research objectives. As such, many view these tools not as replacements of regulatory measurements but rather a
8 supplement to them (Clements et al., 2017). Detecting pollutant variability between the regulatory AQMS supports the idea that
9 more detailed information can be obtained by increased monitoring between existing stations.

10

11 Regulatory monitoring for compliance with the ozone NAAQS is undertaken as dictated by the Code of Federal Regulations, which
12 states, “The goal in locating monitors is to correctly match the spatial scale represented by the sample of monitored air with the
13 spatial scale most appropriate for the monitoring site type, air pollutant to be measured, and the monitoring objective.” (EPA,
14 2006). Ozone monitoring site types include: highest concentration, population oriented, source impact, general/background and
15 regional transport, and welfare-related impacts. Siting involves choosing a monitoring objective, selecting a location that best
16 achieves those goals, and determining a spatial scale that fits the monitoring objective.

17

18 The minimum number of ozone monitoring sites required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) via the Code of
19 Federal Regulations (CFR) in the Riverside and San Bernardino counties is three, given the population is between four and ten
20 million. As of 2013, there were 20 active regulatory sites measuring ozone in Riverside and San Bernardino counties (California
21 Air Resources Board, 2013). While this monitor density is more than sufficient for regulatory requirements, recent studies suggest
22 that the current spacing is not sufficient to capture high spatial resolution of concentration variations (Bart et al., 2014; Moltchanov
23 et al., 2015). This variability could potentially be used to inform exposure assessment for health studies as well as improve our
24 understanding of pollutant sources and fate (Simon et al., 2016; Lin et al., 2015; Blanchard et al., 2014).

25

26 Networks of air quality sensors have been deployed in various settings. Moltchanov et al. (2015) measured O₃, NO₂ and VOCs in
27 Haifa, Israel in the summer of 2013 to test the viability of sensor networks measuring small scale (100s of meters) intra-urban
28 pollution. Two of the sites used in that study, sites A and B, had correlations between 0.82 and 0.94 with each other, but correlations
29 between A or B and a third site, C, were much lower, between 0.04 and 0.72. Their finding of spatiotemporal variability on a
30 neighbourhood scale means that spatiotemporal variability on the scale of <10km can also be expected. This finding of spatial
31 variability at that temporal and spatial scale was not linked with robust in-field sensor validation that would ensure the result was
32 actual concentration differences instead of measurement artifacts. Sensor validation is an important component of using low-cost
33 sensors because they are subject to drift and confounding species. Drift is the change in measured concentration with time because
34 of factors inherent to the sensor, not necessarily the environment that is being measured. Many metal-oxide sensors have been
35 found to be affected by high temperatures and humidity (Rai et al., 2017). In 2013, Williams et al. (2013) quantified a tungstic
36 oxide ozone sensor in the lab while addressing some of the main drawbacks associated with metal oxide (MO_x) ozone sensors (i.e.
37 drift/long term stability, material degradation and sensitivity fluctuations). The ozone sensors in that study were held in a
38 temperature-controlled environment, as the tungsten oxide sensor’s conductivity varies strongly with temperature and may affect
39 the concentrations. In the work presented here, temperature was included as a term in the model in an effort to address this issue
40 after, rather than before, data collection. Researchers also deployed these gas semiconductor sensors in British Columbia over

1 roughly 10,000 km² for three months finding low errors (3 ± 2 ppbv) between hourly averaged sensor and reference instruments
2 while documenting the challenges of using, in this instance, wireless sensor networks (Bart et al, 2014). Lin et al. (2015)
3 demonstrated high correlations (0.91) between tungsten oxide semiconductor ozone sensors and hourly averaged Federal Reference
4 Method (FRM) chemiluminescence gas analyzer measurements in Edinburgh, UK with similar magnitudes. While many of these
5 studies show good agreement between metal oxide sensors and reference instruments; there is still a need for uncertainty estimation
6 and framing of the deployment results in light of those uncertainties.

7

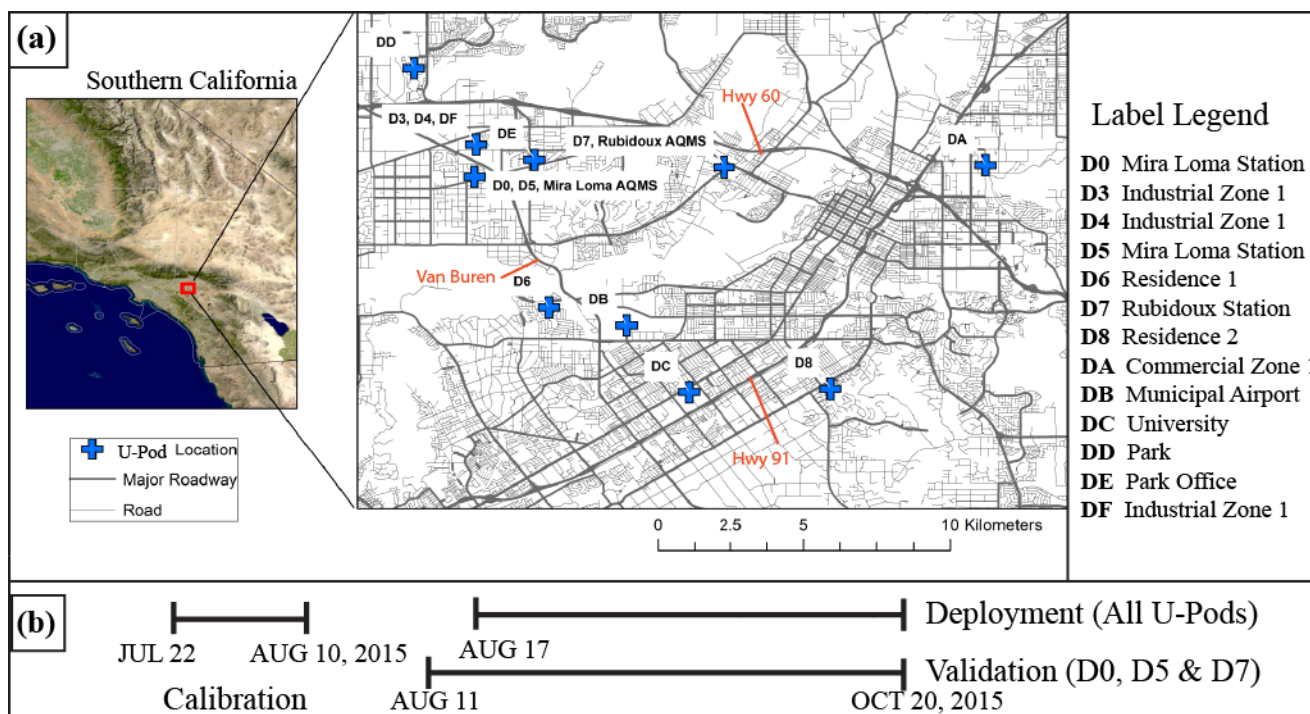
8 Here we specifically seek to answer the question, are these metal oxide sensors able to detect significant differences on scales that
9 are smaller than current EPA reference stations, given their quantification uncertainty? This study is unique in that the Inland
10 Empire region of the greater Los Angeles frequently experiences high levels of ozone resulting in nonattainment of the NAQQS
11 ozone standard. The combination of abundant sunlight and high VOC concentrations in the presence of NO_x is conducive for the
12 formation of ozone. The Pacific inversion layer over southern California and mountains that form a natural basin act together to
13 keep pollutants from dissipating (Littman and Magill, 1953). Moreover, the regional air quality regulatory body, South Coast Air
14 Quality Management District (SCAQMD), has expressed increased interest in low-cost air quality sensor applications and recently
15 installed the nation's first testing center for such technologies. As such, Riverside, CA is an ideal test bed to answer our research
16 question.

17 **2 Methods**

18 This field study was conducted within a 200 km² area of northwestern Riverside county, California, a region frequently designated
19 as nonattainment for failing to meet requirements for ozone and particulate matter designated by the EPA (EPA, 2016). Thirteen
20 low-cost ozone monitors were deployed within an 8 km radius in Riverside in the summer of 2015 (Fig. 1). These monitors were
21 sited in the cities of Riverside and Jurupa Valley with the aid of SCAQMD. Sites were chosen based on availability and power
22 access. Ten locations were identified (Fig. 1) representing a variety of site conditions ranging from university campuses and
23 residential neighbourhoods to commercial and industrial zones. Within this area, there are two regulatory AQMS that measure O₃:
24 Rubidoux and Mira Loma. The transportation authority in California, Caltrans, records traffic volume information for many large
25 highways. Annual average daily traffic (AADT) is recorded at many road intersections. On two major roads in the study area in
26 this region, specifically Hwy 91 and Hwy 60, the averaging of all the milepost traffic count data between junctions shows AADTs
27 of 180,500 and 220,500, respectively ("2015 Traffic Volumes", 2017). Van Buren Avenue does not have AADT data. However,
28 it has two lanes each way, while the other highways have more than four. In general, there is a large number of vehicles traveling
29 around and through this study area daily; these vehicles likely represent the dominant sources of NO_x, and VOCs, precursors to
30 ozone formation.

31

32



1
2 **Figure 1. (a) A map of the deployment area. The crosses indicate U-Pod locations, with the AQMS labelled by name and (b) a timeline**
3 **of project phases, from calibration to deployment. Validation overlapped with the deployment time period.**

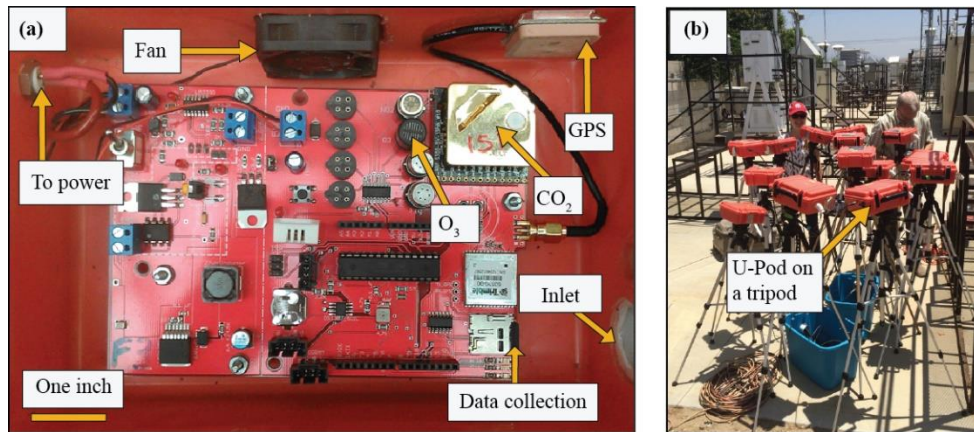
4 **2.1 Low-Cost Monitor**

5 Measurements were taken using the University of Colorado U-Pod air quality monitoring platform (mobilesensingtechnology.com)
6 described in previous work (Piedrahita et al. 2011). Briefly, the U-Pod consists of an Arduino data acquisition system and a suite
7 of environmental sensors enclosed in a small, ventilated, portable case (Fig. 2). Specifically, O_3 is measured using a metal oxide
8 (MO_x) sensor, (MiCS 2611, SGX Tech. formerly e2v ~ \$11). Enclosure air temperature and relative humidity were also measured.
9 U-Pod locations were verified using an on-board GPS chip and all data were saved to a micro SD card. Logged data were collected
10 into minute medians to match the highest temporal resolution of nearby regulatory air quality stations. Median values were used
11 to reduce the influence of outliers within each minute. Duplicate O_3 sensors were included in most U-Pods to investigate sensor
12 variability and model performance.

13

14 MO_x sensors operate through reduction/oxidation processes at the gas-semiconductor surface resulting in changes in electrical
15 resistance (Barsan and Weimar, 2001; Korotcenkov et al. 2007). This change in resistance is in part a function of the concentration
16 of the target gas (i.e., ozone) in the surrounding air, as well as temperature and humidity. Comprehensive reviews of MO_x gas
17 sensors (Korotcenkov et al., 2007) and experimental tests (Masson et al., 2015; Rai et al., 2017) document potential concerns of
18 using sensors in long term ambient monitoring campaigns and other sensing applications. A variety of environmental factors such
19 as long-term exposure to water causing hydration of the oxide surface layer can lead to drift in the sensing chemistry, as well as
20 cross sensitivity to other oxidizing species like NO_x . This poses special concern for conditions amenable to condensation. The
21 MiCS 2611 datasheet warns specifically of overheating, a cause of sensor degradation or possibly permanent damage. Heating
22 power supplied to the sensing resistor at 80mW is recommended to keep this element at 430°C (e2v MiCS-2611). Lower sensor
23 resistor temperatures can result in decreased sensitivity and longer response times making measurements of heater element voltage
24 and/or well-regulated circuits valuable in regards to long term sensor integrity (Masson et al., 2015). The magnitude and sources
25 of sensor variability from this study are discussed further in Section 3.1.

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5 **Figure 2. Demonstration of the U-Pod layout (a), including sensor locations and other features. (b) A photo of the field calibration**
6 **collocation at Rubidoux AQMS.**

7 2.2 Field Calibration

8 Sensors were calibrated using a field calibration technique commonly employed with low-cost sensor networks which involves
9 collocating sensors with a reference grade monitor for an extended period of time prior to and/or directly following a field
10 deployment (Piedrahita et al, 2011). The concept of field calibration is straightforward: develop regressions between the reference
11 measurement and gas sensor signal using combinations of concurrently collected environmental data. All U-Pods were calibrated
12 at the SCAQMD Rubidoux AQMS (elev. 248m above sea level) for three weeks, July 22 – Aug 10, prior to the field deployment.
13 The Rubidoux station sampling scale is classified as “urban” for ozone and is located 119 m from Hwy. 60 (SCAQMD, 2015).
14 Reference ozone is measured using a designated Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) Thermo 49i dual cell UV photometric monitor.
15 This monitor is equipped with temperature and pressure compensation, which adjusts for changes in sensor signal due to changes
16 in the sample gas. Numerous field calibration relationships were developed using a suite of custom MATLAB codes. This process
17 involves performing linear and nonlinear regressions using sensor signal, measured U-Pod enclosure temperature, absolute
18 humidity and time (to account for sensor drift) against the reference gas concentrations. MO_x sensor signals are the ratio of
19 instantaneous resistance to a reference resistance defined during the field calibration. To evaluate the resulting regression fit, we
20 used coefficient of determination (R^2), root mean square error (RMSE) and explored residuals with relation to each input variable,
21 specifically looking for normal distributions. An interaction term between temperature and ozone concentration improved the
22 model fit at higher mixing ratios leading to overall higher correlations, lower error, and improved residual distributions (see Table
23 1 in Section 3). The best performing model for ozone during calibration incorporates temperature, absolute humidity, and time,
24 and is also referred to as the linear 4T model (Eq. 1).

$$25$$
$$26 S = p_1 + Cp_6(T + p_2) + Tp_3 + Ap_4 + (t - t_o)p_5 \quad (1)$$
$$27$$

28 In Equation 1, S is the sensor signal in R/R_o , where R is the sensor resistance and R_o is a specific normalizing resistance value. C
29 is the pollutant concentration in ppbv, T is the temperature in Kelvin, A is absolute humidity in mole fraction, $t - t_o$ is the duration
30 since the start of the calibration and the p variables are coefficients determined by the regression minimising least squares.
31 Throughout this paper, concentration refers to the ozone mixing ratio. In this model, a global absolute humidity term was employed;

1 this absolute humidity was calculated using Rubidoux reference station temperature and relative humidity, and a constant pressure,
 2 and was used in all U-Pods throughout the measurement campaign. The values of these coefficients are described in section 3.1.

4 2.3 Field Deployment

5 Following the field calibration, the U-Pods were relocated throughout the study area to the sites shown in Fig. 1. Sites were chosen
 6 based on availability and zoning. A mix of industrial, residential and commercial areas were selected including a university campus
 7 and public parks. U-Pod D7 remained at Rubidoux station while D0 and D5 were relocated to Mira Loma Reference station for
 8 the purpose of validation.

9 2.4 Field Validation of Model Performance

10 To quantify the performance of the calibration model coefficients, a nearly three month long validation dataset was collected
 11 comparing reference grade gas concentration measurements to sensor data after applying the model coefficients to the raw sensor
 12 data. Previous air quality sensor campaigns have either had mixed results when performing validation in the field or no validation
 13 was included. Moreover, no study, to our knowledge, has validated ozone sensor measurements to reference grade monitors at one-
 14 minute resolution. Two validation approaches were investigated. First, we compared sensor measurements to reference grade
 15 observations in the *same* location as was used for the field calibration. Second, we compared sensor measurements to reference
 16 grade observations in a *different* location from the field calibration site. The second approach can be used to address error associated
 17 with site specific confounders, such as NO_x or transient temperature effects present away from the initial collocation site. U-Pod
 18 D7 was validated using the first approach, as it remained at Rubidoux AQMS for the duration of the deployment. U-Pods D0 and
 19 D5 were moved from Rubidoux AQMS, after the calibration, to Mira Loma AQMS and validated using the second approach. The
 20 outcome of the field validation is presented in the results.

21 3 Results

22 3.1 Field Calibration Results

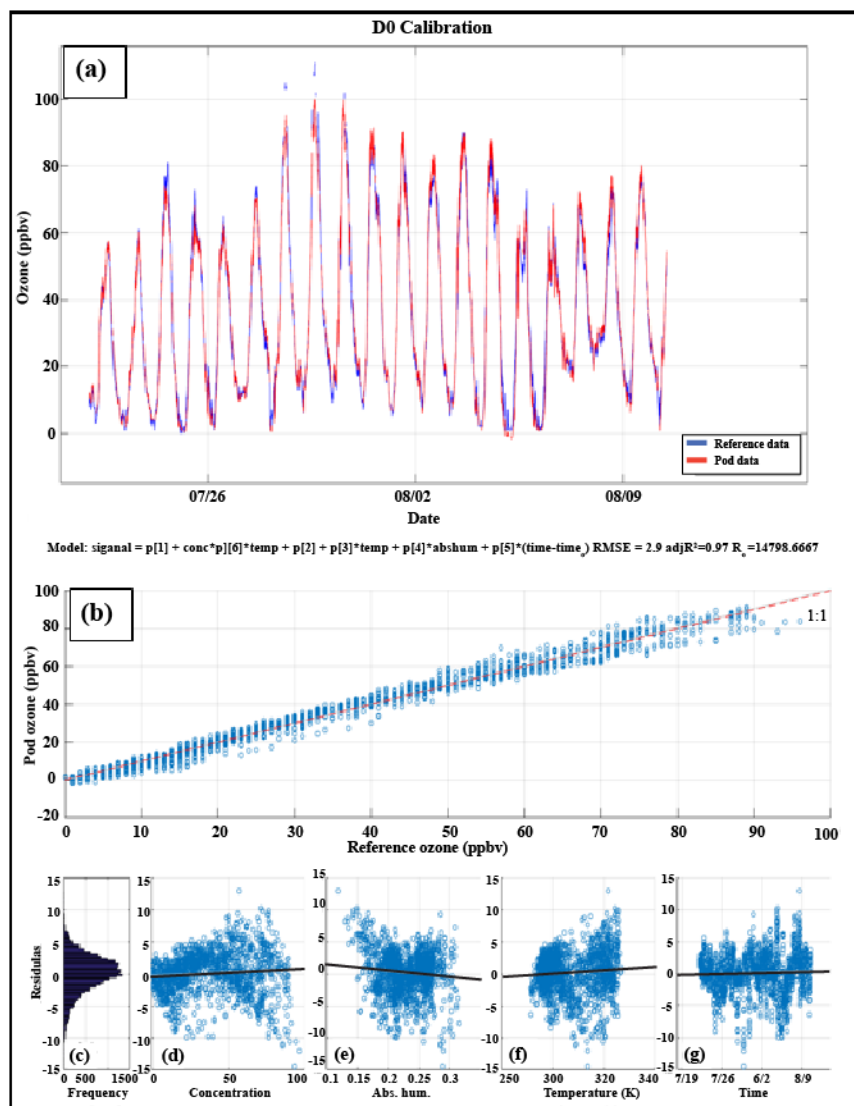
23 Calibration results for various models showing correlation and RMSE of the calibrated ozone data against the reference monitor
 24 data are provided in Table S1. For the sake of simplicity, results from the overall best performing model, see Eq. 1, are shown in
 25 Table 1. R² values and errors (RMSE) range from 0.97 – 0.99 and 1.8 – 3.9 ppbv, respectively.

26
 27 **Table 1: Field calibration results of the model, see Eq. 1, for ozone sensors showing R² and RMSE with the reference monitor data.**
 28 **Two O₃ entries means there are two different sensors in the same U-Pod.**

U-Pod ID	D0	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	DA	DB	DC	DD	DE	DF
Sensor 1													
R²,	0.98,	0.98,	0.98,	0.99,	0.98,	0.98,	0.98,	0.97,	0.98,	0.99,	0.99,	0.97,	0.98,
RMSE	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.7	3.5	2.8	3.0	3.9	2.8	2.6	1.8	3.4	3.1
Sensor 2													
R²,	0.98,	0.98,	0.98,	0.98,	0.99,	0.98,		0.97,		0.98,	0.99,	0.98,	0.98,
RMSE	3.2	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.4	3.0		3.9		2.7	1.8	2.9	3.0

29

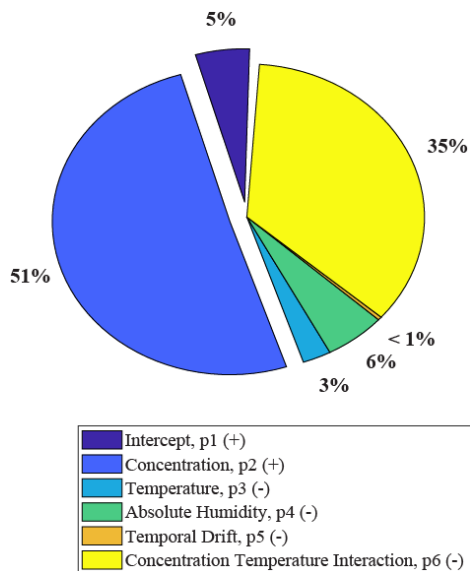
1 Figure 3 illustrates the calibration results for U-Pod D0. Residuals were calculated as modeled minus reference instrument
 2 concentrations. The normally distributed residuals shown in panel c were indicative of an unbiased model. Residuals were plotted
 3 versus various model parameters to assess bias in the model performance as a function of the predictors. The slightly negative
 4 slope of the trend line in panel e indicated under predicting at increasing absolute humidity whereas positive slopes in panels d and
 5 f shows the opposite trend, slight over-prediction at higher values of concentration and temperature. The R^2 and RMSE values for
 6 the calibration of this sample U-Pod were 0.97 and 2.9 ppbv respectively.



7
 8 **Figure 3.** Example calibration results for one ozone sensor in U-Pod D0. Panel (a) shows the modeled ozone sensor time series (red)
 9 with the reference measurements (blue) along with the model expression below and (b) shows a scatterplot of the minute
 10 measurements, (c) the distribution of residuals and the relationship between residuals and model variables: (d) concentration, (e)
 11 absolute humidity, (f) temperature, and (g) time.

12
 13 The quickly expanding sensor community has been convening to discuss practical and theoretical considerations of low-cost sensor
 14 applications in the modern landscape identifying a need for increased understanding of inter-sensor variability (Clements et al.,
 15 2017). Few groups have thoroughly investigated the physiochemical relationships governing MO_x (and more specifically tin oxide)
 16 sensor operating principles. Yet, Barsan and Weimar (2001) and subsequently Masson et al. (2015) lay forward an in-depth
 17 discussion on MO_x conduction models and how those models incorporate chemical kinetics and semiconductor electrical

1 properties in explaining sensor signals. Masson et al. focused particular attention to temperature effects finding ambient
 2 temperature to be one of the most significant confounders in ambient air monitoring using CO sensors (MiCS-5525). Petersen et
 3 al. explored the experimental effects of power supply fluctuations on O₃ (MiCS-2614) and NO₂ (MiCS-5914) sensors as it relates
 4 to acute sensor response and long term sensor stability finding different responses from sensors exposed to the same environment
 5 – crediting these differences to mainly manufactural discrepancies (Petersen et al., 2017).
 6 Additional insight into this effort can be gleaned by exploring the results of sensor-specific model parameters from the nearly
 7 three-week calibration period of this study. To directly compare model parameters (i.e., coefficients), standardized regression
 8 coefficients were generated by rescaling model input variables from 0 to 1. Rescaling was achieved by dividing the difference
 9 between each variable data point from its respective distribution minimum by the maximum difference measured (e.g., $[v_i -$
 10 $v_{\min}]/[v_{\max} - v_{\min}]$). This process allows one to directly compare the magnitude of one predictor variable to any other; an advantage
 11 of dimensionless analysis. Figure 4 shows the fractional contribution of each model parameter during the calibration period towards
 12 estimating the sensor signal (R/R_o). Concentration (reference, ppbv) and the concentration temperature interaction term combined
 13 explain 86% of the predictive capability of Eq.1 for the average sensor used in this campaign. The temporal drift coefficient (p5)
 14 contributes less than one percent to the overall regression indicating minimal signal drift during the 19 days of calibration and also
 15 explaining the minimal improvements in the descriptive statistics from the “Linear 3” and “3T” models to the calibration models
 16 including a temporal drift term (e.g., “Linear 4” and “4T”, see Table S1). Absolute humidity, temperature and the intercept,
 17 combined, are less than 15% of the total predictive contribution. Figure 4 acts as visual evidence as to the significance of the
 18 concentration-temperature interaction feature in this sensor model and perhaps other gas-specific MOx sensor models. This
 19 interaction term could be capturing what Masson et al. discovered when performing MOx sensor signal regressions with
 20 temperature and CO reference gases; namely, “this improvement of fit with concentration coincides with the observation that the
 21 response data $[R/R_o]$ becomes more linear with temperature as concentration is increased” (Masson et al., 2015). Figure S1
 22 illustrates the inter-sensor standardized regression coefficient variability.



24 **Figure 4: Average relative effect size of model parameters predicting sensor signal (R/R_o) from standardized regression coefficients.**
 25 **The direction of the parameter effect is shown in the legend (+ or -).**

26
 27
 28 It is important to note that the reference resistance, R_o , which is the resistance in clean air, had moderately high inter sensor
 29 variability; a coefficient of variance (standard deviation divided by the mean) of 0.92. This reference resistance corresponds to the

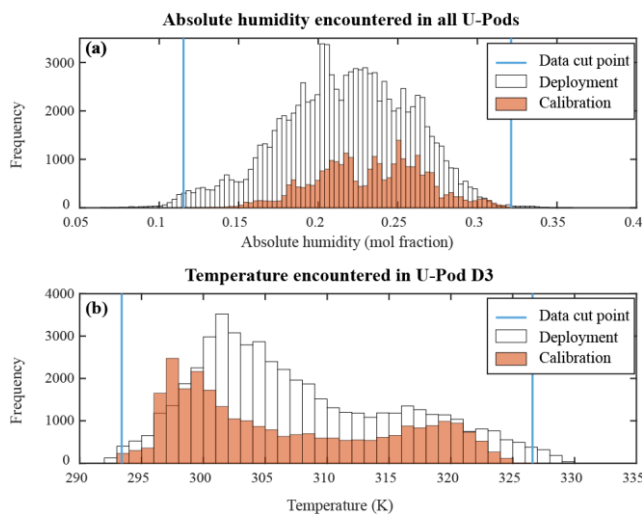
1 minimum resistance at 25 °C, and each sensor has a different R_0 . Differences in R_0 could possibly be explained by sensor age or
2 even MO_x nanostructure as posed by some research (Sun et al., 2012). Manufacturer heterogeneity, sensor age and lifetime
3 exposure to oxidants are posed as potentially contributing to this variation but more investigation is recommended in future
4 sampling (Rai et al., 2017).

5

6 3.2 Deployment Data Filtering and Processing

7 Some temperature and humidity values were experienced by the U-Pods during the deployment that were not experienced during
8 the calibration time period. This means that the environmental parameter space sampled during the calibration time did not cover
9 the parameter space experienced during the deployment. Deployment data were filtered for conditions that would require
10 extrapolation, an example of which is shown in Fig. 5. Because ozone measurements are dependent on temperature and humidity,
11 one way to reduce error in the deployment data is to only use ozone data points whose temperature and humidity were in range of
12 that of the calibration data. All U-pod data from the deployment period were filtered to eliminate points that had temperature and
13 relative humidity values out of the ranges recorded during calibration. The global absolute humidity in Fig. 5a is the same for all
14 U-Pods. Normally, the absolute humidity would be calculated for each U-Pod using its individual recorded temperature, relative
15 humidity, and pressure. However, during the deployment, the relative humidity sensors failed in several U-Pods. The relatively
16 high chance of sensor failure in the field is one of the limitations of low cost sensor networks. Four of the U-Pods experienced RH
17 values below zero. However, the RH sensor sets these values to zero. Therefore, there was no way to recover any data below zero.
18 All of the U-Pods experienced, at some point, at least one week of missing data. Because of this, temperature and relative humidity
19 data from Rubidoux AQMS, along with a constant pressure value, were used to calculate the global absolute humidity for the
20 Riverside area for each minute. During calibration, the same values of absolute humidity were used for each U-Pod, but
21 temperatures were U-Pod specific.

22



23

24 **Figure 5. Example filtering for a U-Pod (D3) showing lower absolute humidity (a) and higher temperatures (b) occurred during the**
25 **deployment than during the calibration. The data cut point shows where minimum and maximum values of the variables included in**
26 **the data were excluded.**

27

28 In addition, deployment data were filtered for maximum values of O_3 . In some instances, the ozone data spikes to unrealistically
29 high levels. The 95th percentile of the absolute differences between the two reference stations during the calibration period was 11

1 ppbv. The maximum one-minute value recorded by either station during this time was 160 ppbv. As such, we employed 171 ppbv
 2 as a realistic maximum level of ozone to expect across the study area. Concentrations that were over this threshold were removed.
 3 No minimum filtering was needed for O₃.
 4
 5 Lastly, data were filtered using consecutive differences. Data were omitted when they fell more than eight standard deviations
 6 away from the mean consecutive difference in values. This is a standardized way to cut out spikes in data caused by power control
 7 issues. The results of the deployment data filtering, including percent of data lost, are shown in Table S2. Most U-Pods (except D8
 8 and DB) have two ozone sensors. For U-Pods with two ozone sensors, only one was used for the analysis. The data from the
 9 calibration time period for each sensor was compared to the reference data at Rubidoux. Whichever sensor had the highest
 10 correlation and lowest RMSE with the reference was chosen for subsequent analysis.

11
 12 U-Pod DD was omitted from this analysis due to a lack of data. This pod lost almost 46% of its data after the filtering process and
 13 collected significantly less data than the others due to site security issues. U-Pods D4, D5, D6, D8 and DF required a modification
 14 be made to their electronics boards. This modification to the U-Pod system appeared to have shifted ozone baseline signal values
 15 resulting in biased values for D5 (see section 3.3 below). In a conservative effort, all U-Pods that were modified as described above
 16 were removed from the subsequent ozone analysis. Since some U-Pods were at the same location, the removal of these U-Pods
 17 resulted in the loss of three sites from the study. All the remaining sites were left with one U-Pod each.

18 3.3 Validation of Field Calibration

19 Validation of the field calibration models was achieved by deploying U-Pods next to reference instruments during times when the
 20 others were spread out over the study area. The validation time period (Aug 11 – Oct 25) overlapped with the deployment time
 21 period (Aug 17 – Oct 20). Coefficients generated from the regression models (Table S1) were applied to the filtered data from D7,
 22 D0 and D5. The best performing model was selected based on R², RMSE and residual distributions. Ozone concentrations were
 23 best modeled over the entire validation time period using the model shown in Eq. 1, similar to what was observed for the calibration.
 24 The purpose of this comparison was to verify that the model that resulted in the best statistics for the calibration, also did so for
 25 the deployment time period. In order to gain a better understanding of the dependency of model performance on the selection of
 26 the validation data, we randomly selected 10% of the validation data and calculated validation statistics for this subset of the
 27 validation period and repeated this process 200 times. This iterative method allows us to assess the sensitivity of the validation
 28 statistics to the data randomly selected. The resulting distributions for the performance metrics are shown in Table 2. Tight
 29 distributions show little dependence on the data selected. Detailed results from the entire validation period are presented in Figs.
 30 S2, S3 and S4 for pods D0, D5 and D7, respectively.

31
 32 **Table 2. Overall validation sensitivity results showing mean residuals, median residuals, R² and RMSE of sensor measurements against**
 33 **Rubidoux or Mira Loma AQMS O₃ (ppbv) observations. Two-hundred iterations of 10% randomly selected minute-data were used for**
 34 **validation statistics (± 1 SD).**

U-Pod ID	mean residual	median residual	mean R ²	mean RMSE	validation method
D7 O ₃ Sensor 1	2.4 ±0.1	1.2 ±0.1	0.965 ±0.001	5.6 ±0.1	Same location
D7 O ₃ Sensor 2	2.8 ±0.1	1.5 ±0.1	0.963 ±0.001	5.9 ±0.1	Same location
D0 O ₃ Sensor 1	0.7 ±0.1	0.8 ±0.1	0.974 ±0.001	4.4 ±0.1	Different location

D0 O ₃ Sensor 2	1.1 ±0.1	1.0 ±0.1	0.971 ±0.001	4.9 ±0.1	Different location
*D5 O ₃ Sensor 1	5.5 ±0.1	5.1 ±0.1	0.971 ±0.001	5.0 ±0.1	Different location
*D5 O ₃ Sensor 2	6.4 ±0.1	3.9 ±0.1	0.953 ±0.001	7.2 ±0.1	Different location

1 *D5 experienced an electrical issue resulting in data omission from analysis

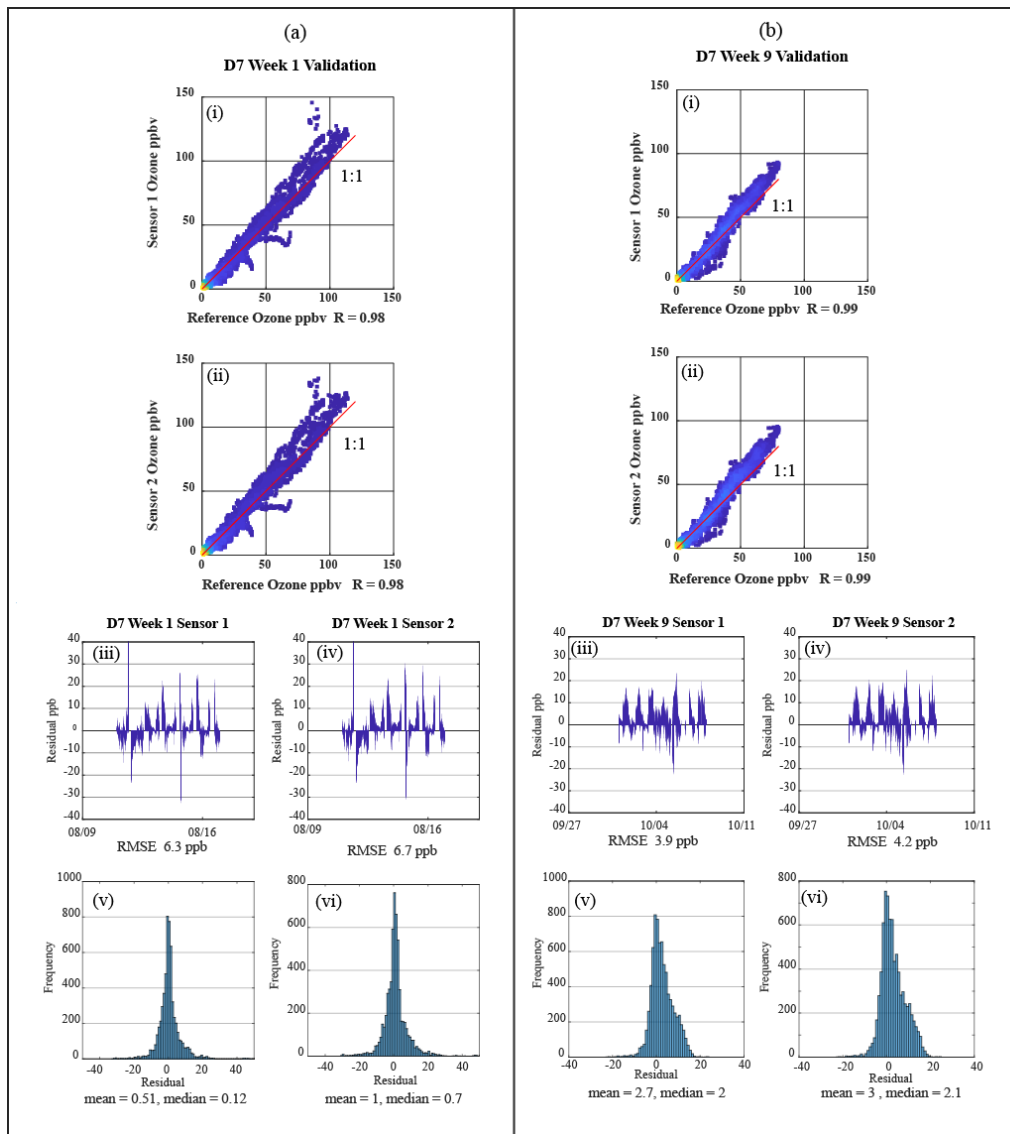
2

3 The first validation method (U-Pod in the same location as the reference station, D7) would be expected to have better validation
4 statistics than U-Pods validated using the second method (U-Pod relocated to a different location, D0 and D5) because the
5 environmental conditions (e.g., temp, humidity, distance to roadway and other site-specific conditions) encountered by the pods
6 were the same as the reference for the first validation method. However, in viewing the statistics, this is not the case as both O₃
7 sensors in D0 show better or similar performance to the Mira Loma station reference data than the two sensors in D7 compared to
8 the Rubidoux station reference concentrations. For transparency, validation results from D5 were presented in Table 2 to show the
9 effect of the electrical modification; the mean residuals for D5 are biased at 5.5 and 6.4 ppbv and much higher than those from D7
10 and D0. The mean RMSE from D0 and D7 sensors in Table 2 can be equated to the overall U-Pod uncertainty for the deployment.

11

12 Organizations using or planning to use sensors to monitor ambient air quality are interested in how frequently sensors require
13 calibration as to keep them within a specified “tolerance” of reference-grade measurements. As a precautionary note, durations
14 between suggested calibrations are highly dependent on the environment, quality and robustness of the calibration, and gas species
15 of interest. The validation statistics presented so far have been aggregated over the entire deployment period (or have been selected
16 at random) in the case of the iterative validation described above. However, to further inform the sensor community on how robust
17 calibration models can be through time and environmental space (e.g., humidity and temperature), validation was performed
18 independently for the first week and last full week of the deployment and the results for each week are shown below in Figure 6.

19



1
 2 **Figure 6: Validation results from the (a) first week and (b) ninth week of the deployment period for D7 ozone sensors separated by the**
 3 **red line. Subpanels (i) show a scatterplot of sensor 1 and reference measurements with warmer shading showing a higher density of**
 4 **points, (ii) show a scatterplot of sensor 2 and reference measurements with warmer shading showing a higher density of points, (iii)**
 5 **Depict residuals over time for sensor 1 with RMSE, (iv) depict residuals over time for sensor 2 with RMSE, (v) is a histogram of**
 6 **residuals with mean and median residual for sensor 1, (vi) is a histogram of residuals with mean and median residual for sensor 2.**

7
 8 Within the first week of the validation (panel a), the range of reference ozone concentrations (~0 to 115 ppbv) is much larger than
 9 those found in week nine (panel b, ~0 to 80 ppbv) although the Pearson's correlation coefficients (R) are remarkably high (≥ 0.98)
 10 for both sensors in both weeks (i, ii). The red lines are 1:1 lines, not lines of best fit. The residuals plotted as a function of time
 11 over each week (iii, iv) are similar in magnitude but by week nine (b; v-vi) there is a slight bias (mean = 2.7-3.0 ppbv) towards
 12 higher sensor measurements even though the RMSEs are lower in week nine (3.9 and 4.2 ppbv) than in week one (6.3 and 6.7
 13 ppbv). Calibrations performed more frequently than every 9 weeks may reduce slight shifts in mean residuals. Monthly calibrations
 14 could balance monitoring resources and quality of ozone sensor data for a region like Riverside, but should be done on a case-by-
 15 case basis.

16

1 Figure 6 has two identifiable deviations from the 1:1 line. These two events, identifiable as the “claws” in week one (shown in
2 panel (a (i-ii)), demonstrate higher reference measurements than both D7 sensors leading to large residuals. These claws are
3 separated in time but each claw is a single event (consecutive measurements) lasting one and eight hours in duration. To explore
4 these claws further, a scatterplot for each sensor colored by temperature and humidity at each time point were created (Fig. S5).
5 They show that the two events visible for D7 occur at drastically different temperatures and humidity. The first (lower) claw has
6 low temperature and high humidity, and the second has the reverse conditions. This finding provides evidence for a separate
7 confounding variable, as it is not the same condition in temperature or humidity that causes these under predictions in ozone
8 measurements. In future studies, the U-Pod could be outfitted with sensors to detect other possibly confounding gasses, such as
9 NO_x or VOCs.

10

11 SCAQMD performed nightly precision checks (PC) consisting of measuring the ozone concentration of a known gas standard that
12 typically ranges between 90-100 ppbv for one hour. When PC measurements deviated more than 5% from expected values
13 (corresponding to approximately 5 ppbv), subsequent data would be flagged and a work order would be generated for service or
14 calibration. Values that are within 5% of the standard would not be flagged. This serves as a reference point for the quality of the
15 reference ozone measurements. During validation, O₃ sensors had measurement error (RMSE), median residual and mean residual
16 ranges of 4.3 – 7.3, 1.7 – 5.2, and 0.6 – 6.5 respectively. Both median and mean of the residuals were calculated to assess bias. As
17 discussed earlier, D5 experienced an electrical issue during the calibration period which resulted in a clear bias throughout the
18 validation dataset. This particular electrical issue points to the challenges of using such sensor platforms in an ambient monitoring
19 context, a topic widely discussed in the air sensor community (Kumar et al. 2015). Median bias for the other U-Pods was relatively
20 small and on the order of 1-2 ppbv.

21 **3.4 Deployment Data**

22 As mentioned above, U-Pods were deployed, spread out across 200 km² area in Riverside, CA; as such, the aim of our data analysis
23 is to present spatial differences of U-Pod measurements that include measurement uncertainty, and thus allow us to understand the
24 ability of the sensors to detect variability. To examine this spatial variability, we computed the R² values and median absolute
25 differences for all possible U-Pod pairs. Unless otherwise stated, median minute time resolution data recorded during the
26 approximately 10 week deployment were used in the following analysis. The model coefficients obtained during the calibration
27 time period (collocation with the reference monitor) were applied to all data during both the calibration and deployment time
28 periods. Applying the model to the data collected during the collocation yields the best possible accuracy of the U-Pod sensors, as
29 the model is being applied to the data from which it was derived. As such, comparisons of deployment data to collocation data are
30 useful to assess the variability observed when the U-Pods are deployed vs. when they are collocated. This allows us to observe
31 actual spatial and temporal differences. In all following figures, hours of the day are given in local time.

32

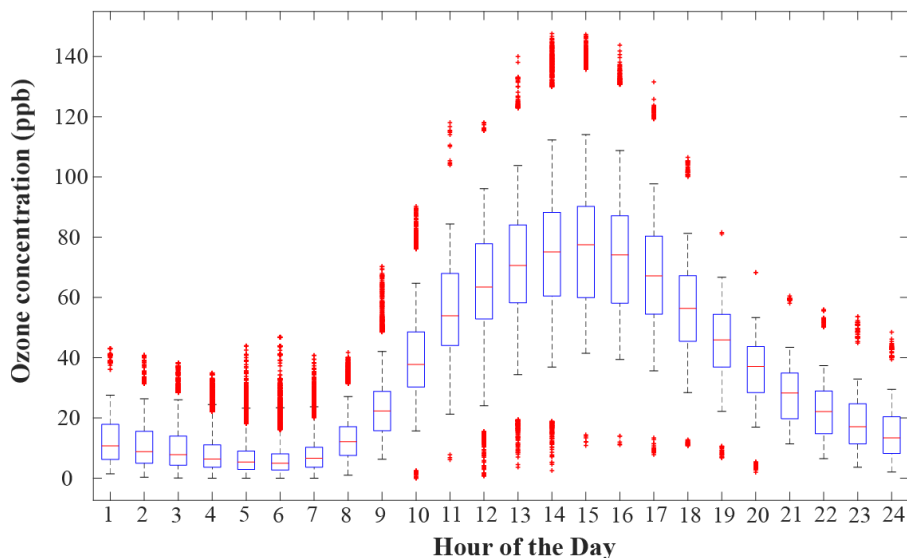
33 The U-Pods sampled for approximately 2900 hours total, 58% of which consisted of the deployment period data. The medians of
34 ozone value distributions during the calibration range from 29-30 ppbv. During calibration, the 5th and 95th percentiles ranged from
35 2-5 ppbv and 70-83 ppbv, respectively. During deployment, the median ozone values were between 14 and 31 ppbv while the 5th
36 and 95th percentile ranges were 0-6 ppbv and 67-99 ppbv, respectively.

37

38 Ozone concentrations experience a diurnal cycle. This cycle usually incorporates low ozone at night and during the early morning,
39 and a peak in concentration sometime during the day. Gao (2007) used hourly ozone measurements recorded over southern

1 California from June 16th to October 15th, 1997 and found that ozone began to increase in the region around 8:00, peak between
2 noon and 15:00, and then undergo reduction until about 21:00. The precursors to forming ozone: sunlight, VOCs and NO_x also
3 have daily cycles, that in turn affect the ozone cycle profile (Gao, 2007). Figure 7 shows the diurnal cycle for ozone based on
4 concentrations collected during this study.

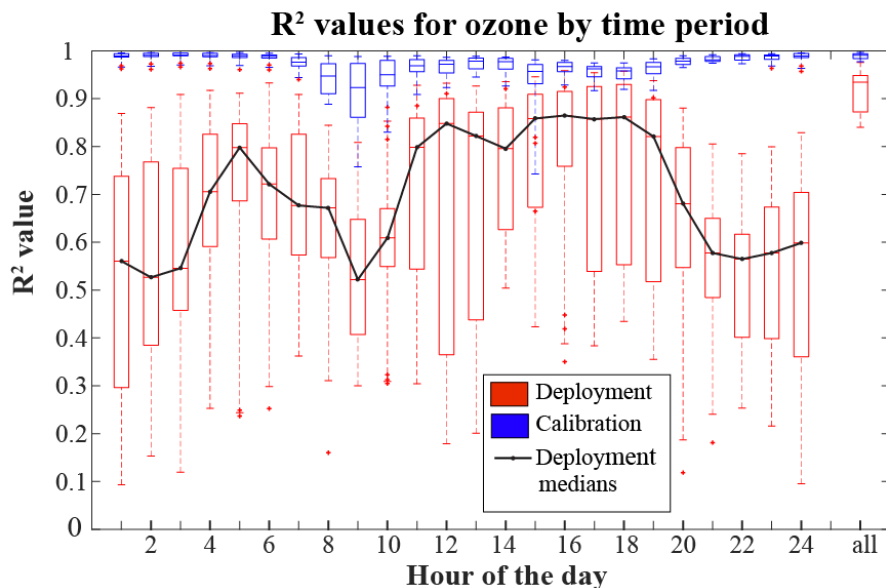
Concentration distributions of ozone during the deployment



5
6 **Figure 7. The diurnal cycle of ozone during the deployment. Distributions are concentrations from all U-Pods during each hour.**
7 **Whiskers indicate the 5th and 95th percentile, with + marks falling outside of this range. The box boundaries span the 25th to 75th**
8 **percentiles.**

9
10 Figure 7 offers context of what the temporal variability in ozone concentrations in this study looks like. There are trends in ozone
11 concentrations across Southern California that would be expected. Ozone is lowest from midnight to 6:00. Then the accumulation
12 period takes place between 6:00 and 14:00. Peak concentrations occur between 14:00 and 16:00, and for the remaining hours,
13 concentrations decrease again.

14
15 In order to assess spatial variability, we examined the R² values for all possible U-Pod pairs for each hour of the day. The larger
16 the spread and smaller the magnitude of the R² values, the more spatial variability was likely present in that hour across the study
17 region. Figure 8 shows correlation information between U-Pods for each hour of the day for ozone. For this plot, all data were
18 binned by hour. Then within those bins, correlations were performed for every possible U-Pod pair. As such, each boxplot consists
19 of 21 points.



1

2 **Figure 8.** Each boxplot is a collection of the R² values between every pair of U-Pods for each hour of the day. There are 21 points in
 3 each boxplot. Medians of distributions are marked by horizontal lines. Whiskers indicate the 5th and 95th percentile, with + marks
 4 falling outside of this range. The box boundaries span the 25th to 75th percentiles. The “all” category includes all hours of the day.

5

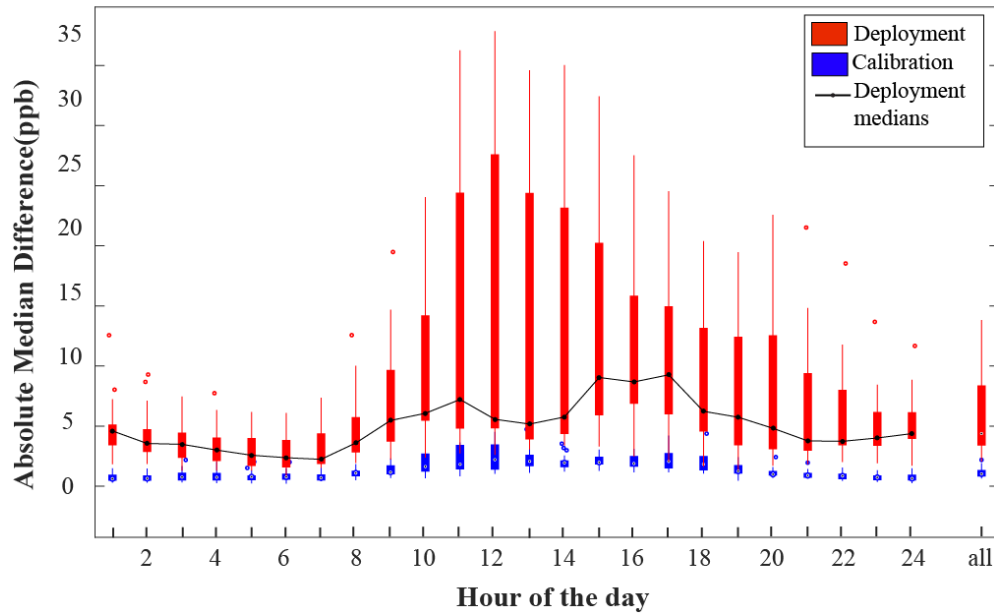
6 U-Pod ozone measurements are more correlated to each other during calibration than deployment. The R² values between
 7 collocated pods are very high, with their medians varying from 0.92-0.99 ppbv. Conversely, spatially distributed pods were less
 8 correlated with each other, leading to R² distribution medians between 0.52 and 0.86. The “all” category in Fig. 8 represents the
 9 R² values between U-Pods, without binning by hour. The medians for the calibration and deployment in this column, respectively,
 10 are 0.99 and 0.93 ppbv, with slightly more skewness towards lower R² in the deployment distribution. It is only when binning by
 11 hour that greater differences are seen. U-Pods are most different from each other during the hours from 21:00 to 3:00, and at 9:00.
 12 U-Pods are most similar around 5:00 and between 11:00 and 19:00. Relationships in R² values between pods are changing most
 13 quickly through time between 3:00 and 11:00, and again between 19:00 and 21:00.

14

15 Absolute O₃ concentration differences between pairs of U-Pods were also examined to understand temporal and spatial variability.
 16 Figure 9 shows distributions of median absolute differences. All the minute median data were time-matched and binned by hour.
 17 Hourly datasets were paired to include every possible U-Pod pair. Within the time matched pairs, the median absolute difference
 18 between the two U-Pods was calculated. The distributions in Fig. 9 consist of those 21 points for each hour. The median values of
 19 these boxplots increase during the middle of the day, with two major increases observed at hours 10:00 and 15:00, and were lower
 20 during the night and early morning.

21

Deployment vs Calibration Differences for Ozone



1

2 **Figure 9. Distributions of medians of absolute differences between all pairs of pods for each hour of the day. Whiskers show 95%**
3 **intervals. The black line connects the medians of the deployment. The “all” category includes all hours of the day.**

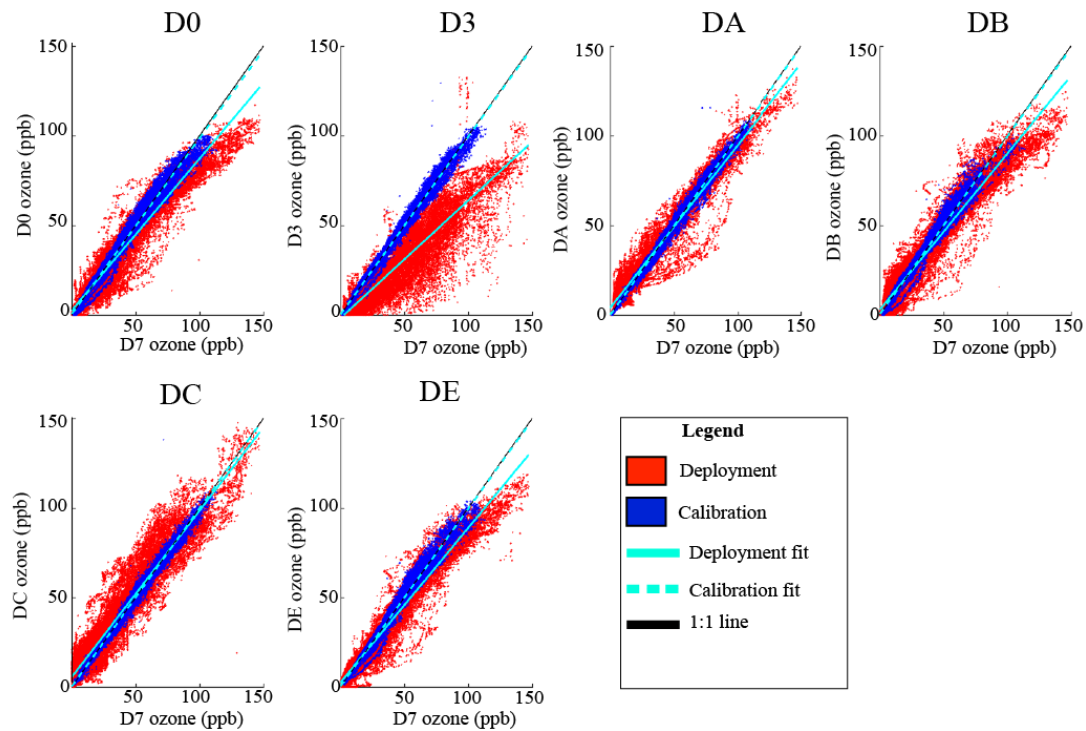
4

5 We expected that times of day where the spatial variability was the lowest (R^2 highest) the smallest values of absolute differences
6 would be observed. In other words, the deployment medians in Figs. 8 and 9 were expected to have an inverse relationship. There
7 is an increase in R^2 while there is a decrease in absolute median differences around 4:00 to 5:00. There is also an increase in the
8 differences that correspond to increasing R^2 with a peak around 9:00. The absolute median differences reach their minimums and
9 maximums later than the R^2 values reach theirs by a few hours. Sometimes however, this inverse relationship between large R^2 and
10 smaller differences does not appear. The second jump in median absolute differences between 15:00 and 17:00 was not reflected
11 in reduced R^2 values during those same hours. From 6:00 to 10:00, the slope for the deployment medians in Fig. 9 is steep,
12 indicating that pod differences were increasing quickly across the region, and over that same time period the spatial correlation
13 was lower. The slope between 13:00 and 15:00 looks similar, but the R^2 values were roughly stable and relatively high. In other
14 words, we observed spatial concentration differences and low correlation during the morning commute times, but in the afternoon
15 when we observed the maximum concentration differences, we also observed relatively high spatial correlation. Absolute
16 differences are growing during the morning period and into the afternoon, but since the whole area is experiencing accumulation,
17 there is an increase in correlation as well. Furthermore, although Fig. 7 shows high concentrations during the day, Fig. S6
18 demonstrates that percent differences at these times are lower.

19

20 Towards the end of daylight hours, between 16:00 and 20:00, the medians of absolute concentration differences have a decreasing
21 trend in time of day, which should be indicating that the U-Pods are becoming more similar because their differences are smaller.
22 However, in the same hours and later, the R^2 values between all U-Pods decrease over time and remain low during the night,
23 indicating that U-Pods are more different from each other than during the afternoon. Some studies have assumed negligible ozone
24 precursor spatial differences in the first hours of the day and therefore spatial ozone homogeneity during the early morning hours
25 (Moltchanov et al., 2005; Jiao et al., 2016). Figure 9 shows that the range of spatial absolute differences in O_3 is smallest at night.
26 However, Fig. 8 suggests that spatial correlation at night is relatively low, causing concern for assumptions about the homogeneity
27 of ozone concentrations at night for this location, although this assumption could be valid for other areas (Moltchanov et al., 2015).

1 Furthermore, the discrepancy between low absolute differences, but also low R^2 values may show that correlations alone are not
 2 enough to determine how similar two sites are. The actual differences in concentrations can reveal elements of spatial variability
 3 not captured by correlations, especially since correlations can be influenced by leveraging fewer high data points.
 4
 5 To further understand the factors impacting the observed spatial variability, we examined U-Pods individually in more detail. We
 6 undertook this investigation by comparing each U-Pod to a common reference U-Pod, to illuminate differences between locations
 7 in a normalized way. If no spatial variability was observed, then comparing two U-Pods' ozone measurements would show a 1:1
 8 relationship with spread near the RMSE values determined in the validation (4.4-5.9 ppbv). To explore this analysis, D7 was used
 9 for normalization. U-Pod D7 was never moved from Rubidoux station throughout the project and as such was employed in the
 10 validation effort mentioned previously. This U-Pod was used as the normalization instead of an AQMS reference monitor in order
 11 to compare two similar types of measurement. The U-Pod to U-Pod comparisons are shown with the differences between
 12 calibration period trends and deployment trends in Figure 10 as well as hourly patterns in Figure 11.



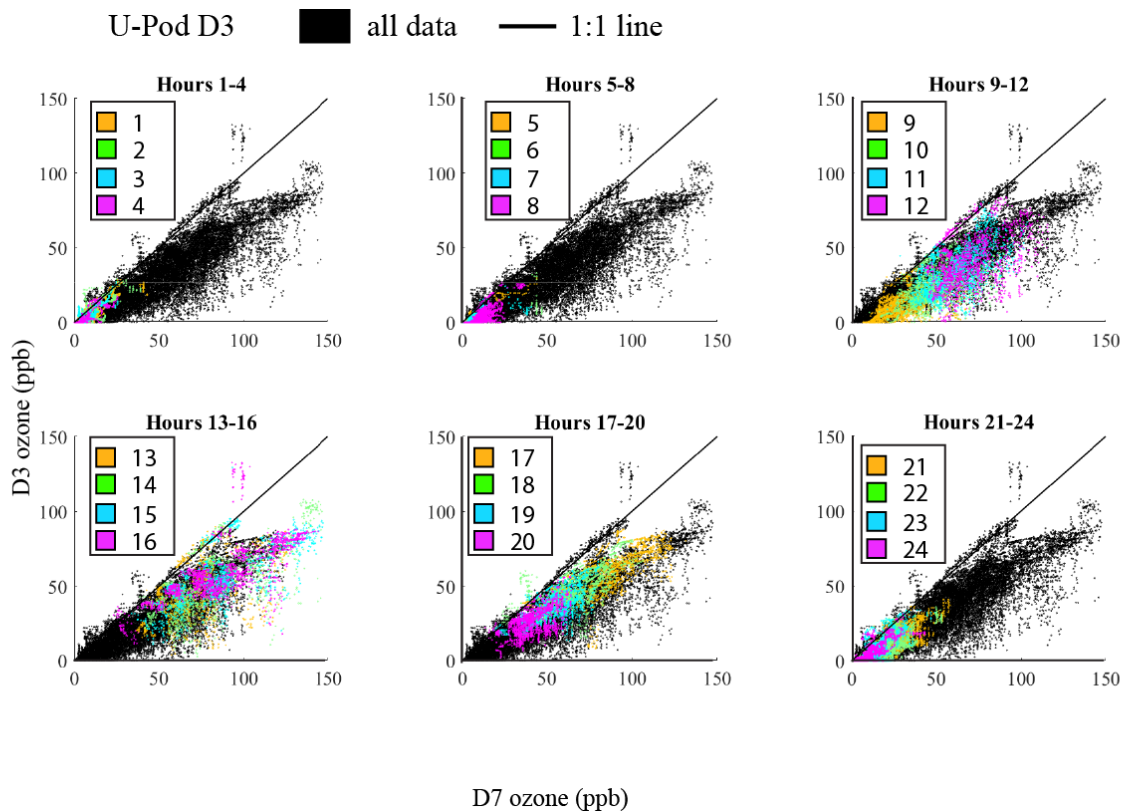
13
 14 **Figure 10. U-Pod D7 ozone concentrations are plotted on the x-axis and other U-Pod ozone concentrations recorded at the same times**
 15 **are on the y-axis. The sets are color coded according to time period their data were taken, and each color is fit with a linear line.**
 16
 17 In Fig. 10, the calibration data points, representing collocated O_3 measurements, are consistently more densely grouped than the
 18 red data points which show the spatial deployment data. This further demonstrates that individual U-Pods were observing spatial
 19 differences in O_3 . Also, D0, DA, DB, and DE have interesting deviations of O_3 concentrations away from the central cloud of
 20 deployment points, in the form of curved areas away from the center line. The deployment trend line slopes (solid line) are lower
 21 than the calibration slopes (dotted line). As such, D7 at the Rubidoux site typically measured higher O_3 than the other U-Pods that
 22 were spatially deployed (excluding DC and DA).
 23

1 Examining the data in this way allows for detailed comparison of U-Pods at different sites. For example, sites D0, D3 and DE were
 2 not more than 1.8 km away from each other, near Van Buren Blvd. in the north west of the project area, and all were less than 1.2
 3 km from the road. Therefore, one might expect data from these U-Pods to be very similar. Indeed, D0 and DE have similar data
 4 cloud shapes in Fig. 10. However, data from D3 looks to be rather different. This could indicate that a localized source is affecting
 5 the ozone concentrations at that site. Perhaps a local emission of NO was scavenging ozone at Industrial Zone 1 as a result of
 6 industrial operations. Alternatively, this difference could be caused by unique meteorological conditions at this site. However,
 7 when investigated further, the lower ozone values of D3 compared to D7 also appears more pronounced on weekdays (Fig. S7)
 8 reinforcing the hypothesis of industrial activities causing such differences.

9
 10 U-Pod DA was the farthest away from the other monitors (~7.5km from any other U-Pod, in the north east), while DC and DB
 11 were closer together (3 km). However, it was DA and DB that have a similar spread of data around the 1:1 line, and a similar curve
 12 of data points below the main data cloud. In other words, DA and DB were more similar than DC and DB even though these two
 13 U-Pods were closer together. A possible explanation for this may be proximity to roads; DC is closest (0.6 km) to highway 91, a
 14 major freeway. Another explanation could be the environment these pods are in. DB and DA are in areas with industrial activity,
 15 whereas DC is in a more residential location.

16
 17 Temporal variation in ozone values can be visually examined in more detail by singling out certain hours of data, compared to the
 18 full set. Figures 11 and 12 demonstrate this concept.

19

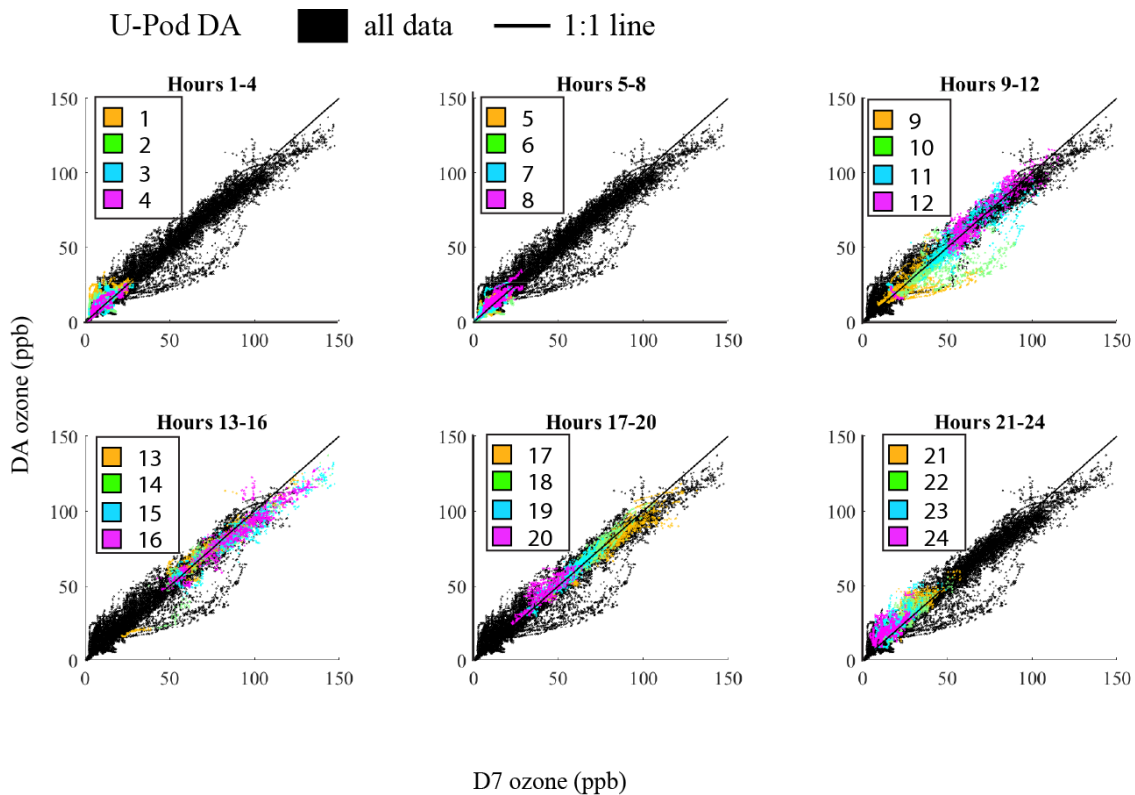


20
 21 **Figure 11. Data from D3, at Industrial Zone 1, plotted against D7 (at Rubidoux). In each scatterplot, colored data in the legend**
 22 **represents four hours of the day, and the black data represents the complete deployment dataset (all hours). The black line is a 1:1 line,**
 23 **not a line of best fit.**

24

1 Figure 10 and 11 show that the deployment data for D3 is consistently lower when compared to D7 than the other U-Pods. D3 is
 2 7 km from D7, in the north of the project area. U-Pod D3 was sited at a company in an industrial area where there are potentially
 3 more VOCs in the air. This site was half a kilometer from the Van Buren roadway and as such there is also the potential for elevated
 4 levels of NO_x. The NO_x reduction hypothesis posits that depending on the ratio of NO_x to VOCs in an area, increasing NO_x can
 5 increase or decrease the concentration of ozone. The titration of ozone with NO_x can deplete concentrations of ozone. The proximity
 6 of D3 to Van Buren and the potential for increased local industrial sources of VOCs affecting the ratio, may cause ozone at D3 to
 7 appear lower when compared to that of D7. Beginning in hour 9:00 and extending through hour 12:00, there were general increases
 8 in the ozone concentrations recorded, and the points start to spread out, demonstrating significant spatial variations that are
 9 temporally relevant. From hours 13:00 to 16:00, there was less of a trend in terms of generally increasing or decreasing, and values
 10 cover a large range of ozone. From 17:00 – 20:00, we observed a reversal of the trend in the 9:00 – 12:00 hour block as ozone
 11 starts to decrease again and becomes more densely clustered. The reversed color trend from left to right in these two subplots is
 12 very clear. Lastly, for the remaining hours of the day, the measurements become very dense and values decrease again, completing
 13 a daily cycle.

14



15

16 **Figure 12. Data from DA, located at Commercial Zone 1, plotted against D7 (Rubidoux). Each scatterplot is four hours of the day, with**
 17 **the black data representing the complete deployment dataset (all hours) and data points recorded within each hour bin are marked by**
 18 **the colors and times in the legend. The black line is a 1:1 line, not a line of best fit.**

19

20 Figure 12 shows the relationship between DA and D7 at varying hours during the day, highlighting some interesting observations.
 21 First, there was far less spread around the 1:1 for DA (compared to D3) indicating that ozone measurements from D7 and DA were
 22 more similar than D7 and D3. DA is similarly distanced from D7 as D3, about 7.5 km away, but still in the northern area of the
 23 study. These plots show concentrations from DA are more similar to D7 than those of D3, because there is much less deviation
 24 from the 1:1 line in data points. Also of interest is the strange claw shape on the underside of the black data cloud. The analysis in

1 Fig. 12 was conducted for all pods, but not all are shown here. It appears that many of these points occur mostly in hours 9:00
2 through 11:00 for all affected U-Pods. The data points from the claws in DA occur in a few consecutive hours on three different
3 days, similar to D7. The claw in D7 is not causing this effect in DA, because they occur at different times. One possible explanation
4 for this may be the presence of one or more gas species that is not captured by the model which affects either the sensor directly,
5 or the concentration of ozone in the vicinity for a short time. These gases could be localized ozone precursor emissions such as
6 NO_x or reactive organic gases (ROGs) which happen to correlate with morning rush hour. This claw-shape occurs at the D0, DB,
7 and DE sites as well, all of which are closest to Van Buren Blvd. Also, the data within this claw shape appear to happen more often
8 on the weekend than on weekdays (Fig. S7). We do not have sufficient data on NO_x concentrations or high-resolution traffic
9 information to draw specific conclusions about how these may be affecting ozone at different sites. This could be an area for future
10 research.

11 **4 Conclusions**

12 In the region of Riverside, CA, we were able to observe spatial and temporal variability of ozone across an area of roughly 200
13 km². Field validation of sensor O₃ measurements to minute resolution reference observations resulted in R² and RMSE of 0.95-
14 0.97 and 4.4-7.2 ppbv. The Thermo Scientific Model 49i Ozone Analyzer that SCAQMD uses for FRM has an acceptable
15 measurement noise of 5% of the precision gas input, or around 5 ppbv for ozone. The measurements from the MiCS 2611 ozone
16 sensor should not be thought of as a way to replace regulatory AQMS or prevent future stations from being built, but rather
17 supplement that information. After all, these sensors not only depend on reference grade measurements but also the quality control
18 and assurance carried out at those stations. These low-cost sensors can help in deciding where future AQMS be erected as well as
19 inform the existing gaps between stations.

20

21 Technological difficulties of obtaining sensor data through environmental extremes, increased sensor variability with high ozone
22 values, electrical issues and data retrieval are all issues encountered when using a U-Pod sensor network. Although the sensors
23 themselves are low-cost, the data retrieval, validation and analysis are not. Data were retrieved on a biweekly basis which required
24 a field visit to each site. Sensor platforms that wirelessly transmit data (or stream data) require additional hardware and may limit
25 sensor placement yet are promising for many applications. The U-Pod has since evolved to incorporate wireless data transmission
26 in some units. Processing (e.g., QAQC, filtering) and analysis of these data (~2 MB/pod/day) constitutes the majority of time for
27 such campaigns. Future projects may involve very large numbers of sensors, therefore time expenditure for this network method
28 needs to be reduced.

29

30 The highest amount of variability between U-Pods based on the R² values of all their possible pairs to occur between 21:00 and
31 3:00, as well as at 9:00. U-Pods are more correlated around 5:00 and the period between 11:00 and 19:00. Based on the median
32 absolute differences between all possible U-Pod pairs, the U-Pods are most similar at 6:00, and peaks in differences (least similar)
33 occur at 10:00 and 15:00-6:00. The uncertainty of these measurements, as determined by the validation results of D0 and D7 is 4.4
34 – 5.9 ppbv.

35

36 For future sensor research, an analysis of the amount of time spent collocating (calibrating) to the amount of time deployed
37 (applying calibration) would be very beneficial for the sensor community. This information can inform how long sensors can be
38 deployed in given region under given environmental conditions before recalibration is warranted. In this study, for nearly three

1 weeks of collocation time, sensors were deployed for more than nine weeks with only slightly variation of performance from week
2 one to week nine. It is important to collocate the sensors as frequently as possible while balancing other resources. Sensor
3 quantification using different mathematical approaches to linear regression could improve the performance. Since higher values of
4 ozone are of the greatest interest to regulators and the public from a human health standpoint, and the sensor variability increases
5 at those higher values, perhaps the regression could be fit differently to suit those needs. An example could be to fit a piecewise
6 function, to better capture the low-ozone and high-ozone regimes separately, or other non-linear models.

7

8 Additionally, including measurements of other compounds in the study could help to explain causes for spatial and temporal
9 variability in both ozone. For example, including information on nitrogen oxides could help inform the effects on traffic on these
10 compounds, while land use data could reveal the effect of vegetation or industrial operations on measurements. Furthermore, this
11 study was conducted in an area with relatively high levels of ozone, which can be simpler to detect. Many people live in areas that
12 have ozone levels closer to EPA required levels, though they still experience some periods of non-attainment. To make this research
13 more relevant to all people, the next step could be to try and detect the same spatial and temporal variability in these places as well.

14 **Code and Data availability**

15 The final, filtered dataset and the codes used to make the plots in this manuscript are available on Mendeley at DOI:
16 10.17632/j36zwxv8v4.1. All codes used to perform the linear regression are not included. Raw data are not included because they
17 cannot be interpreted in concentrations without the regression model codes, and results from raw voltages could be misleading.
18 Reference data provided by SCAQMD did not undergo usual procedures of quality assurance and quality control before they were
19 provided to us.

20 **Author Contributions**

21 K. Sadighi helped conduct the field experiment and analyze deployment data, and prepared the manuscript with contribution from
22 all authors. E. Coffey was the lead field scientist, performed the calibrations and validation analysis, and conducted the literature
23 review. A. Polidori and B. Feenstra facilitated collaboration between the Hannigan group and the South Coast Air Quality
24 Management District and provided useful information on air quality conditions in Riverside County. Q. Lv, D. K. Henze, and M.
25 Hannigan provided guidance and academic support for the project.

26 **Competing Interests**

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

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32 participants that accommodated U-Pods during the deployment.

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21 **Tables**

22 **Table 1: Field calibration results of the Linear 4T model for ozone sensors showing R2 and RMSE with the reference monitor data.**

23 **Two O3 entries means there are two different sensors in the same U-Pod.**

U-Pod ID	D0	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	DA	DB	DC	DD	DE	DF
R², RMSE	0.98, 3.1	0.98, 3.0	0.98, 2.6	0.99, 2.7	0.98, 3.5	0.98, 2.8	0.98, 3.0	0.97, 3.9	0.98, 2.8	0.99, 2.6	0.99, 1.8	0.97, 3.4	0.98, 3.1
	0.98, 3.2	0.98, 3.0	0.98, 2.7	0.98, 3.0	0.99, 2.4	0.98, 3.0		0.97, 3.9		0.98, 2.7	0.99, 1.8	0.98, 2.9	0.98, 3.0

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Table 2. Overall validation sensitivity results showing mean residuals, median residuals, R² and RMSE of sensor measurements against Rubidoux or Mira Loma AQMS O₃ (ppbv) observations. Two-hundred iterations of 10% randomly selected minute-data were used for validation statistics (± 1 SD).

U-Pod ID	mean residual	median residual	mean R ²	mean RMSE	validation method
D7 O ₃ Sensor 1	2.4 \pm 0.1	1.2 \pm 0.1	0.965 \pm 0.001	5.6 \pm 0.1	Same location
D7 O ₃ Sensor 2	2.8 \pm 0.1	1.5 \pm 0.1	0.963 \pm 0.001	5.9 \pm 0.1	Same location
D0 O ₃ Sensor 1	0.7 \pm 0.1	0.8 \pm 0.1	0.974 \pm 0.001	4.4 \pm 0.1	Different location
D0 O ₃ Sensor 2	1.1 \pm 0.1	1.0 \pm 0.1	0.971 \pm 0.001	4.9 \pm 0.1	Different location
*D5 O ₃ Sensor 1	5.5 \pm 0.1	5.1 \pm 0.1	0.971 \pm 0.001	5.0 \pm 0.1	Different location
*D5 O ₃ Sensor 2	6.4 \pm 0.1	3.9 \pm 0.1	0.953 \pm 0.001	7.2 \pm 0.1	Different location

*D5 experienced an electrical issue resulting in data omission from analysis