AQUARIUS - Air QUAlity Research In the western US

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Photo: Erik Crosman

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 Kathmandu Valley

Central Valley, CA



Salt Lake Valley, UT



Po Valley, Italy



Denver, CO



Los Angeles, CA





Wintertime PM_{2.5}





Wintertime PM_{2.5}





Coupling between meteorology and wintertime PM





ENGINEERING

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Evolution of the vertical structure of the atmosphere



Prabhakar et al. (2017); San Joaquin Valley - Fresno

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Science Question: How do meteorological "cold-air pool" conditions contribute to poor wintertime basin air quality, and how can meteorological observations and modeling efforts be designed to most effectively inform emissions and chemistry research?



PM_{2.5} Composition

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OA, NO₃⁻, SO₄²⁻, NH₄⁺, Cl⁻



Particle Composition: Relationship with total PM



Based on Franchin et al. (2018); Utah

Young et al. (2016); San Joaquin Valley

Spatial Distribution

- Homogeneous?
- Cities versus rural?
- Altitude?





27 Stritude

34

-123

-122



Nitrate gas-particle partitioning



Vertical structure: Chemistry + Meteorology Coupling





Diel Variability and Process Understanding



Young et al. (2016): San Joaquin Valley



Science Question: What are the relevant physical (including meteorological), chemical and thermodynamic processes that govern winter particulate matter formation and loss, what are the uncertainties, and how can these be addressed through measurements and modeling?



Sources of PM Pollution







vs.









Science Question: What are the relevant emissions of short-lived pollutants that are most relevant to winter air quality in the western U.S. and what are the major uncertainties in quantifying them? What approaches are required to reduce these uncertainties?



Particulate Nitrate Formation

Daytime

 $O_3 + hv \rightarrow O(^1D) + O_2$ $H_2O + O(^1D) \rightarrow 2 OH$ $HONO + hv \rightarrow OH + NO$ $CH_2O + hv \rightarrow OH + CH$ $OH + NO_2 \rightarrow HNO_3$ NH₃ AN

Nighttime

 $O_3 + NO_2 \rightarrow NO_3 + O_2$ $NO_3 + NO_2 \leftrightarrow N_2O_5$ $NO_3 + VOC \rightarrow products$ N_2O_5 + particles_(aq) \rightarrow 2 HNO₃ \rightarrow HNO₃ + CINO₂ \mathbf{NH}_{2} AN

VIRONMENTAL

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CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL

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McDuffie et al. (2019)



Chemistry + Meteorology Coupling



Implications for Control Strategies





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Secondary Organic Aerosol



Local vs. Regional

Daytime vs. Nighttime

Dry vs. Wet (fog/clouds/aerosol)

Source of VOC's?





Young et al. (2016); Fresno

Science Question: How do winter oxidation cycles impact winter air quality, and how should these oxidation cycles be approached from a measurement and modeling standpoint ?





Science Question: How are urban GHG emissions changing in the western U.S., which sectors are responsible for the changes, and how are shifts in GHG emissions associated with changes in short-lived pollutants?



Science Questions Summary

- 1. Meteorology-Chemistry Coupling and PCAPS
- 2. Physical, chemical and thermodynamic processes that govern PM formation and loss
- 3. Emissions of short-lived pollutants
- 4. Air pollution—Climate co-benefits
- 5. Winter oxidation cycles



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The AQUARIUS Organizing Committee

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https://atmos.utah.edu/aquarius/index.php

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